

baptist herald

January 1978





Mrs. Wong and I completed a visit to seven countries in Middle America during 1977. We met with Baptist brothers and sisters and visited their churches. We were shown seminaries, hospitals, clinics, schools, homes for the aged, housing projects, and refugee camps for earthquake and other disaster victims.

Upon our return we received letters from our brethren in these countries expressing their appreciation for the experience of fellowship in our Lord Jesus Christ, and the responsibilities as disciples of Christ. The following excerpt was written by a brother in Mexico:

"Your coming has helped to remind us of our important role in the worldwide family of Baptists. At the same time, we realize anew that we have a very definite responsibility to become more aware of and more involved in the lives and activities of such baptists."

"I believe that each of us, as a Baptist in Mexico, will in the future be more aware of the importance of the Baptist World Alliance, and more ready and anxious to participate in its life and organization."

From our travels to many parts of the world during the past two years, we have come to realize more and more how the world-wide family of Baptist Christians—the Baptist World Alliance—has been able to share the message of Christ, to render help in time of need, and to build love and understanding.

As a world-wide fellowship of more than 33 million Baptist Christians, the BWA has enabled Baptists to hold international meetings; to cooperate with other Christian groups in wide scale evangelistic programs, relief, and development projects; and to promote human rights, religious freedom, peace and justice. On many occasions, when national conventions or unions found it difficult to share ideas and programs in another country, the BWA has served as a channel through which such endeavors were made possible.

On the other hand, we found that the image of the BWA is not too familiar in the minds of many Baptists. That is why the BWA is requesting that more than 137,000 Baptist churches in the world join in an effort to promote the work of the Alliance by setting aside one Sunday in the month of February each year as BWA DAY.

We hope that all the 33 million Baptists will take this opportunity to think about the BWA, talk about the BWA and to promote the ideals of the BWA under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. It is Your program. We need Your support and Your prayers.

David Y.K. Wong

DAVID Y.K. WONG
PRESIDENT 1975-80

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Eldridge Cleaver Accepts Christ

Eldridge Cleaver, former Black Panther leader and for seven years a fugitive and in exile in Cuba, Algeria and France, has told a Wheaton, Illinois, audience: "America is the freest and most democratic country in the world." He was featured speaker at the opening ceremony for Bibles For The World's new international headquarters building.

Cleaver told his audience in Wheaton College's Edman Chapel how his disillusionment mounted in the Communist countries that hosted him and his family during the years of his exile. Under an overwhelming compulsion to "come home and face the music," he returned to the United States and surrendered to federal authorities on fugitive charges.

It was in a California prison that Cleaver made a personal decision to receive Jesus Christ, and this began the transformation that established what he calls "a totally new direction" in his life. He now takes his witness for Jesus Christ from coast to coast through TV, radio, seminars and personal appearances. □

The picture of the magi can usually be found in the Christmas issue of various magazines. Why does the BAPTIST HERALD carry it in the January issue, when most of the readers seemingly have dropped the matter of Christmas for another twelve months?

Read Paul L. Maier's interesting and informative article and understand why you have been singing the partridge-in-a-pear-tree-song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

The celebration of Christmas is getting lopsided in America. The decorations in our streets and stores go up much too soon, even before Thanksgiving, but then they are torn down much too quickly. Just a day or two after Christmas, the tinsel and lights are snatched away like some kind of embarrassment. Homes have the decency to wait until New Year's Day, but the family that leaves a tree blazing on until Epiphany almost invites frowns and whispering from the neighbors.

This is a mistake. Europeans, who let the joys of Christmas linger a little longer, have the pleasant custom of celebrating the twelve days after Christmas with almost as much verve as the great festival itself, which is what that delightful partridge-in-a-pear-tree song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," is all about.

They have history and church tradition on their side, for early Christianity seems to have begun celebrating the Nativity not on December 25 but January 6, Epiphany. The familiar Greek word means simply appearance, and, in Christian usage, the revelation of the newborn Christ also to Gentiles in the person of the Magi at Bethlehem.

The story of the Wise Men, then, actually offers a "second chance at Christmas," a biblical incentive to continue celebrating. More than that, the mysterious men from the East and the incredible star they followed on their trek westward to Bethlehem add some of the most spectacular and intriguing dimensions to the story of Christmas.

FACT OR FANCY?

"We three kings of Orient are . . .," so the familiar carol begins, but already it has made at least two, if not three errors. In the first place, we have no idea how many wise men made the trip to Bethlehem. And they were not "kings" in our political sense of the term. And they did not come from as far away as the Orient, that is, the Far East.

But this symbolizes the difficulty in trying to identify the Magi, and some have given up the task as hopeless. In fact, many have dismissed the entire story as a well-meaning but crude attempt to call attention to the importance of the Nativity, a mere literary device mounting a cast of characters too farfetched for belief. A caravan of eastern sages traipsing across a desert to find a baby? Using a star to guide them? Sooner find a pot of gold at the end of a chased rainbow. The tale, vivid and dramatic for Sunday school purposes, tends to stagger an adult's belief.

And yet the historical underpinnings of the story are impressive. There were indeed magi—wise men, astrolo-

the mysterious

by Paul L. Maier

Magi

gers, priest-sages—in the Near East during this era, particularly in Mesopotamia and Persia. These scholars, extremely well educated for their day, were specialists in medicine, religion, astronomy, astrology and divination, and their caste eventually spread across much of the East.

As in any other profession, there seem to have been both good and bad magi, depending on whether they did research in the sciences or practiced necromancy and magic. The Magi of the Nativity story were probably Persians. The term originates among the Medo-Persians; early church traditions give the Wise Men Persian names, and primitive Christian art in the Roman catacombs dresses them in Persian garments.

How many made the trip to Bethlehem is not clear. Tradition, of course, has placed their number at three, probably because of the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that they presented to the infant Jesus, the assumption being one gift—one giver. Legend calls them Melchior, Casper and Balthasar, but these names arise first in the sixth century A.D., too late for any authenticity. Other traditions, however, make quite a caravan of their visit, setting their number as high as twelve.

Thomas, the apostle to the East, supposedly found and baptized the Magi into the Christian faith, ordaining them as priests. Later they suffered martyrdom, and their relics were presumably buried in Constantinople, but then transferred to the cathedral at Cologne in Germany during the twelfth century, where they rest today. But no one takes such claims seriously.

A GUIDING STAR?

But that a star should have led them to Bethlehem taxes all belief, so it is claimed. Anyone setting his sights at night on a planet or star and trying to follow it would be led westward and then northwestward in a great, sweeping arc, but would never be guided to any specific location.

The Magi, however, may have been a bit more sophis-

ticated in their knowledge of the stars, for astronomy had much greater vogue per capita in the ancient world than today. Stars had a profound effect on the daily lives of people in the Near East, who were forever interpreting their future on the basis of what they saw each night in the sky. In that region of clear air, and in that time of poor artificial lighting, the nights were long, and the heavens extraordinarily impressive. It is no accident that the present mania for astrology is traceable historically to exactly this area of the world, and it was the Babylonians who first set up the signs of the zodiac.

Various theories as to the Star of Bethlehem are explained in my book, FIRST CHRISTMAS, but the most convincing is the planetary conjunction hypothesis. In 7 B.C., about two years before the birth of Christ, magi all over the Middle East witnessed something spectacular in the skies—a phenomenon so rare that it happens only once in eight centuries. The planets Jupiter and Saturn came into extraordinary, repeated conjunction in that sign of the zodiac called Pisces, the Fishes. Several months later, Mars joined the pair to form a tight, spectacular stellar triangle.

In the astrological lore of the time, which all magi knew, Jupiter was deemed the king's planet, symbolizing the rule of the universe, while Saturn was regarded as the shield or defender of Palestine, which was also associated with the constellation of the Fishes. The stars' message, then, was clear: a king or cosmic ruler was about to visit Palestine. Hanging in the southwestern

night sky, the conjunction even pointed out the route to the Magi.

And if the Wise Men of the Nativity story were also acquainted with Hebrew lore, as many certainly were because of the Jewish colony in Babylon, they would have known that a star was expected to herald the birth of the Messiah (Numbers 24:17). Even Roman authors of the time, like Suetonius, wrote of the grandiose things expected in Palestine: "There had spread all over the East an old, established belief that men coming from Judea were fated to rule the world." (VESPASIANUS, iv). So when the Magi inquired of King Herod, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" their question was not really spoken out of a vacuum, and the story of their visit is not so fanciful after all.

But why did Christianity build an entire festival—Epiphany—on this one event, reported only in Matthew's Gospel? Because the Magi served a simple but very profound purpose in the story of Christmas. They delivered a fourth gift at Bethlehem, along with the gold, incense, and perfume: the charter for the universality of the Christian faith. The Magi were pagans, not Hebrews, and the fact that Gentile sages performed the same adoration as Jewish shepherds symbolized the universal outreach for future Christianity.

"And Gentiles shall come to your light," the book of Isaiah had foretold, "and kings to the brightness of your rising." (60:3). And so Epiphany has well been styled "The Gentiles' Christmas." □

Congratulations

Baptist Manor, North American Baptist retirement and nursing home in Portland, Oregon, has received special commendation.

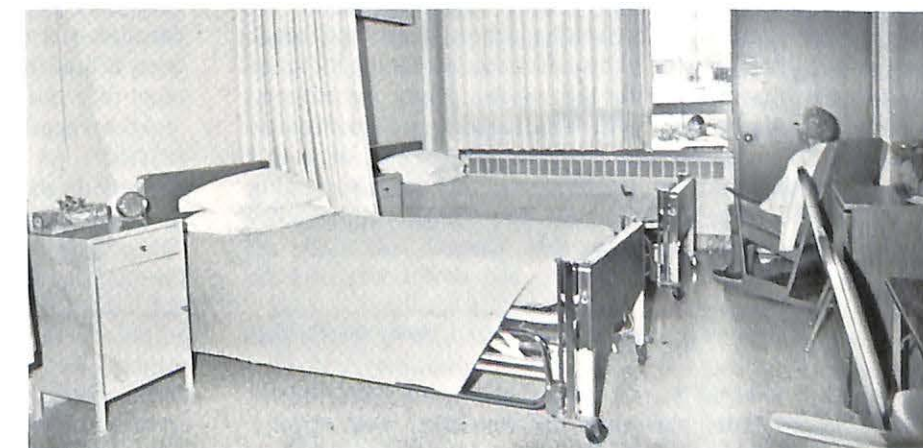
The *Oregon Journal* reported on October 4 the findings of a county survey of 50 nursing homes. The assessment team gave highest marks in all 3 categories to six of the 50 homes surveyed. Top scores in environment, nursing care and psycho-social services were given the Manor.

Baptist Manor has a retirement home and an intermediate care nursing home with 94 beds. It is the nursing section which has been commended. The Manor was incorporated in 1915. The Nursing Home was opened in August, 1969.

Director of Nursing is Lois Williamson, R.N. Jack G. Ingamells has served Baptist Manor as Administrator since March, 1971. President of the Board of Directors is Douglas B. Graf, member of the Bethany Baptist Church in Portland. □



Existing plant.



Interior of nursing home patient room.

the Miracle

by Elaine Strobel

In James 4:14 we read, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away."

There is a park in Beatrice, Nebraska, that holds delightful memories for our two oldest children and myself. While my husband was serving his first pastorate in that city, "Aunt Mabel" would take our two children and her four nieces and nephews to this park every fall, and what a delightful time the children would have running and rolling in the leaves on the ground. Susan, our oldest, and "Aunt Mabel's" oldest nephew, Marvin, or Buddy as we knew him, were the same age and eventually started kindergarten together. Other experiences were shared, as Susan and Buddy both accepted the Lord as Savior and were baptized at the same time. Little did I think then that the verse quoted above would come true of Buddy's life just a few years later.

Cars are important to all teen-age boys, and 16-year old Marvin Hill was no exception. His parents, Daryl and Maxine Hill, bought him an older car for his birthday. This was his first car, and when it broke down, he decided to buy another one with money he had saved



Marvin "Buddy" Hill at age 16 (October 1975).



Johnny Hill before the accident.



Johnny Hill ten months after the accident (November 1976).

from a paper route and working for a local businessman.

Marvin was an outgoing, warm-hearted person who was more concerned about people than things. He was a friend to everyone: from young children, whom he helped find their way to Sunday school class and made sure they had money for the offering, to senior citizens. On his way home from his after-school job, he stopped to help an elderly lady who was bagging leaves because "she had so many to move out to the street." It didn't matter to him that he might miss out on his evening meal. Or the elderly gentleman he stopped to help because "he was too old to do that himself." It made no difference if he was paid or not. His desire was to help people.

It was a Friday evening, January 23, 1976, just a few

Mrs. Elaine Strobel lives in Kansas City, KS. Her husband, Chester, was the pastor of the West Side Baptist in Beatrice, NE, from 1964-68, where the Hill family has its membership.

days after he had purchased his own car. Marvin came in the house and, not wanting to waste even a few minutes, asked his mother, "How long until supper?" She replied, "Oh, about 15 or 20 minutes." "Good," he said, "I'm going to go see Ralph." Ralph was a neighbor and had suffered several heart attacks. "I saw Ralph today," Marvin said, "he doesn't look very good. I don't think I'll get to visit him many more times." He went to visit Ralph and was back in about ten minutes. Again he asked, "How long until supper?" Asking why he was in such a hurry, what he had going on, his reply to her was, "Mom, you worry too much. If you worry you are going to get gray hair." Later, those loving, but chiding words, "Mom, you worry too much," would be a comfort to Maxine.

When the meal was over that evening, Marvin, his younger brother Johnny and three of their friends went to play basketball. This five-some had been friends and had worked together for the father of one of the boys for some time. After playing basketball, they stopped for hamburgers and then decided to drive around a while, as they still had some time before they needed to be home. Marvin drove to an area of Beatrice that was

not fully developed and had a lot of dead-end streets. One particular road had been recently blacktopped, but there were no streetlights and no signs or other indications that this was a dead-end road. Turning onto that road, they soon reached the dead-end, went directly through the ditch and hit a power pole. If the car had been a few feet to the right, or the left, they would have gone into a driveway, or into an open field.

At a farmhouse nearby, several couples were visiting together. As the impact of the car against the lightpole was made, the lights in the house blinked, and they heard a crash. Someone thought it was thunder and lightning. One of the ladies jumped up to look out and saw the car lights in the ditch by the driveway. She ran out and, seeing that the boys were injured, called the ambulance and police. One of the boys had only minor injuries and was able to give authorities his parents' name. They were called first and notified the other parents.

As Daryl and Maxine Hill left their home that night, they could hear the ambulance, and the siren sounded

like the call of death to them. They had been told to go immediately to the hospital, but at this time did not know the condition of any of their boys. As they drove through town, Daryl cried out, "Why God? Why does it have to be our boys?" Maxine told her husband, that if any of the boys had been killed, she hoped it was Marvin, because she was certain he was prepared to die, and she wasn't sure about the others.

Arriving at the hospital, they were not allowed to see any of the boys and could only sit and wait. By this time their pastor, the Rev. Walter Weber, had been notified; he came and stayed with them. Also the other parents were waiting. One of the mothers, a registered nurse, had arrived first and had been allowed to go into the emergency room. After she returned to wait with the rest of the parents, Maxine noticed that each time she looked at them, she would break down and cry. Maxine said, "I felt at first, this was because of bitterness toward us. I later realized why she was crying. She knew of Marvin's death and the severeness of the injuries of the other boys, but she was not allowed to tell." At 11:15 that night, Daryl and Maxine were officially notified of the death of Marvin. He had been killed instantly.

Telephone calls were made and prayer vigil began for all those involved. Daryl and Maxine's oldest daughter, Mary, was in college in Hesston, Kansas. She was notified and her classmates there began praying. Two sisters of one of the boys were in college in Goshen, Indiana. Also they were notified and prayer was started there. Other calls were made, and each started a chain reaction, and God answered and upheld those in need. All three families involved were Christian families and a spirit of love prevailed.

The three other boys were all injured seriously. Johnny, Marvin's younger brother, was in surgery several hours, and his parents did not have word about him until 5:00 a.m. Saturday. His injuries were extensive: one ear was severed, (but was successfully sewed back on); there were severe facial cuts; both legs were broken. At 7:30 they were able to see him; his head was completely covered with bandages, except one eye. Maxine walked up to his bed and said, "Hi, Johnny." He answered "Hi," and they knew he was okay.

The following Sunday morning, after going to the hospital to see Johnny, and satisfied that he was doing alright, they started for home. One of the girls said, "Can we go to Sunday school today?" "Sure," Maxine said, "I think we'll go too. There is nothing to go home for." As they arrived at the church, one of God's precious saints, an 81-year old lady, was waiting at the door for them with a card and a cash gift. "I was expecting you at the Lord's house today," she said.

The funeral for Marvin was held on Tuesday. Maxine states: "We knew that Marvin loved the Lord and that he was a friend of the Lord as well as a friend to all others. We chose the song "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "A Child of the King," to show the assurance we had that Marvin knew the Lord. As the song, "A Child of the King," was being sung, peace and joy came over me and I felt my heart lightened. It seemed more like a Sunday worship service than a funeral. We truly thank the Lord for this."

After we were notified of Marvin's accident and

death, my husband, the ex-pastor of the Hills, wrote a letter conveying our sympathy and prayers. A part of the letter read: "Though at times the shock of life makes our minds cry out, 'Why, oh God, why?' there is in our beings and our spirits something that can still sing, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.'" Concerning this Maxine relates: "On the day of the funeral, as we rose to go to the car following the service at the cemetery, the words of the song came to my heart, 'It is well, it is well with my soul.' I had the peace of knowing that Marvin was with his Lord. The next day this letter came in the mail. Once again, this is the strange and wonderful way in which God works."

Both Daryl and Maxine shared how it seemed the Lord was preparing them for this experience, both in their lives and in Marvin's. One incident in particular Maxine related: "Marvin had been asked to sing in the choir at church, but each week he either had to work late or something else came up. He had planned to go the Wednesday before the accident, but since the weather was so nice, he wanted to play basketball instead. He said, 'But Mom, I promise you I'll go next week.' By the next week he was singing in the Lord's choir."

Maxine further shares this testimony: "Even now we sorrow not at our loss; we know God did not make a mistake. He knew what he was doing when he called Marvin home." And Daryl states: "I feel that Marvin's work here on earth was done; and that his reward was waiting in heaven."

Victories do not always come easy though. "Marvin's death didn't get to me for about three months, and then it hit me hard," Daryl admits. "I couldn't sleep; and then I started blaming the Lord and forgot to think of the things He had done for us. But I am getting back to where I belong and thank the Lord for these blessings: having Marvin with us for 16 years; having so many good friends; bringing our family closer together; getting a lot of other people closer to the Lord; and making Johnny okay with very little scar on his body or soul."

The struggle for Johnny was not an easy one. But being a proud and determined young man was to his advantage. He wanted to do all he could on his own. He spent 30 days in the hospital following the accident. Six weeks later, the first leg cast was removed. He doggedly tried to ride his bicycle and succeeded. As soon as possible, after the cast on the other leg was removed, he began to take part in sports activities in gym class, and even began to swim. Because of this self-imposed therapy, he has overcome the limp of his right leg. The scars of the facial cuts are not visible. There is no doubt that his recovery has to be termed miraculous.

The pain of losing a brother was also very real for Johnny. But through prayer, loving support of his family, and time, Johnny has made a remarkable recovery here too.

Our minds can still go back to the question, "Why, God, why?" and we still do not have an answer. The miracle comes, though, in receiving God's provision of strength and peace for the heart and soul.

May God help us all to be aware that our lives are "... as a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." □

VISITING THE

SPANISH-

AMERICAN

MISSION FIELD

BAPTIST WORK IN MONTE VISTA

As I have breakfast at the Monte Vista Inn, I think back to yesterday's visit at Center and Del Norte. It almost seems impossible that only one and one half days have passed since my arrival at the airport in Alamosa, Colorado; too much has happened during these not quite two days. I am grateful that, after having seen our mission work in Japan, Cameroon, Nigeria and Brazil, I now can visit our mission work among the Spanish speaking Americans in Colorado.

Today I will be staying in Monte Vista. I am anxious to meet Dr. Ahrens who will be my guide for the day. Just before I finish my breakfast, Delicia, one of the young girls of the church, who is working in the hotel kitchen, recognizes me and sits down at my table. She is a heavy-set girl, but her words and movements are very swift. She is all smiles and bubbles over with happiness in the Lord. Her home is anything but conducive to her Christian maturing process, but she trusts in the Lord for her future.

At the Ahrens home, I discover that Dr. Ahrens left the house early on mission business. This is nothing unusual. Because of his involvement in various kinds of social and spiritual work, he is constantly on the go.

Mrs. Louis Ahrens takes me to the Grace Baptist Church where the Interdenominational Women's Bible Study Group is to meet. About nine to ten women are waiting for us. They are from Monte Vista and Alamosa. All of them are "Anglos," so the meeting is conducted in the English language. This is one of the marks of our Baptist work in Monte Vista, that most of the people of Mexican descent prefer the English language when they are at church, even though they may speak Spanish in their homes. Because of an extended question and answer period, our meeting lasts until noon.

Brother Earl Ahrens joins us for lunch in his home. However, a sudden phone call changes our plans again, because he has to see an official in town.

"I'll be back soon," he calls back, while standing in the door frame. I do hope so. And indeed, about one hour later, when visiting the home of Pete and Josie Romero, he walks into the house, ready to take over as my guide. After a short devotional thought and a prayer, we bid the Romero home farewell. Then Rev. Ahrens takes me through all of the facilities of our mission ministries.

FEED THE POOR AND HEAL THE SICK

Rev. Ahrens' office is decorated with

Text and Photos by the Editor Part II

many souvenirs, reminding him and his visitors of his almost 20 years of missionary service in Cameroon, Africa. The next room contains blueprints and model charts of houses he has to offer to his clients. His consultation includes everything, down to the matching of colors and landscaping.

In the Food Distribution Center, we meet Mr. Malachi Garcia. He is Dr. Ahrens' faithful helper. The supply is part of the government's free food distribution plan, which has been discontinued since summer of 1977.

The Health Clinic is presently deserted, because it is open only during certain hours. Our missionary Kay Hunt is the head nurse here, assisted by Cecilia Stevens, LPN. A doctor from the nearby city hospital sees low-income patients mainly for pre- and post-natal care. The patients pay on a scale according to their income. Many of them get free treatment provided for by Medicare or Medicaid. The clinic also cares for children up to age six. The youngsters get vitamins, immunization shots and are treated for minor illnesses.

(Note: The Baptist Health Center was subsidized by the State Department of Public Health. On July 31 funding from the Department was cut. To terminate the Health Center's ministries entirely would be a severe setback for the mission work in the Valley. It has therefore been converted to a Maternity Service Center. Kay Hunt has training in midwifery and, in the meantime, has been licensed to practice as midwife in the State of Colorado. The Board of Missions is subsidizing the Center temporarily.)

Next door to the clinic is the Halfway House. Alcoholics of all ages stay here for one month at a time in the attempt to readjust to society.

"Touring our facilities, you must not miss the thriftshop," Earl Ahrens advises me, holding open the door to this shop. This thriftshop holds anything a "good-will shopper" might be looking for. North American Baptist churches and women's groups are keeping the shop manager, Mrs. Evangeline Madril, busy. She unpacks the parcels, sorts out the usable from the unusable items (unfortunately there are still a number of N.A.B. women's and men's organizations that are sending clothing they would not want to wear themselves),



Monte Villa Inn



A part of the Interdenominational Women's Bible Study Group meeting at Grace Baptist Church. (Mrs. L. Ahrens in center.)



Main street in Monte Vista.



Pete and Josie Romero with baby Julie. Pete is a skilled mechanic, and Josie helps a lot at church.



Missionary Earl Ahrens in his office.



Mrs. Evangeline Madril manages the Thrift Shop.



Dr. Ahrens heads the Monte Housing Sales. Here he displays the various models he can offer his clients.



Mr. Malachi Garcia helps Dr. Ahrens in the Food Distribution Center.



Mrs. Lois Ahrens is the organist at Grace Baptist Church.



Mr. Leonard Deacon stops his machine for a quick chat with missionary Ahrens.



Monte Vista youth like to smile. These three youngsters attend the Grace Baptist Church.



The old health clinic in Monte Vista which served for six years.



Patient Art Garcia with nurse, both members of Grace Baptist Church.



Part of the Baptist Health Center complex. In foreground the Thrift Shop and Halfway House.

and prepares them for sale. For 5-10 cents, the poor of Monte Vista can purchase here their supply for summer and winter. Although the price is so low, the Thrift Shop annually clears more than \$2,000, of which one half goes back into the mission fund of the Health Center.

Then Dr. Ahrens takes me to an adobe log building on Clay and Pennsylvania Streets nearby.

"This is where it all began," he says, pointing to the two-room cabin, a big smile on his face. "Water had to be carried into Lariat (the 24-block low-rent area where our missionaries work; Ed.) from Monte Vista for the treatment of patients, because the city had planned neither for water nor sanitation up to that point."

I am impressed with the work that is being done here in the name of Christ. And I feel very sad that most likely this ministry will come to an end soon, at least in its present form. May God see to it that our mission work in Monte Vista will continue just as effectively as heretofore.

Before the evening service, there is still time for a quick visitation tour to some of the homes of the members. We meet Mr. Leonard Deacon at his heavy equipment business. Rev. Ahrens knows where to find his people! A quick but in-depth chat, then we are on our way again.

Just when we are about to drive back to his home, Rev. Ahrens remembers that Art Garcia, the manager of the Halfway House, is in the hospital. "Are you still fresh enough for a hospital call?" he asks me. But before I can answer in the affirmative, we are already heading for the hospital. Also, the nurse is a member of Grace Baptist Church, thus our brief visit turns into a miniature worship service.

While Dr. Ahrens has taken me around all afternoon, Mrs. Ahrens has called on many homes to invite members and friends to the special evening service. I am delighted that she had no time to prepare an evening meal. That gives me a chance to invite the Ahrens family to a restaurant. Tomorrow is Mrs. Ahrens' birthday. So we are celebrating it one day in advance.

PROSPERITY IS A RELATIVE TERM

The evening meeting at the church originally was to be a youth rally. But

now I see how more and more adults and quite aged people are filling the sanctuary. "This is quite an ecumenical meeting tonight," whispers Mrs. Ahrens, "we have people from at least four different denominations."

I have arranged with Missionary Ahrens to show my movies which I took during my visit of the Soviet Union in 1976. I tell them about the spiritual victories of our spiritual brothers and sisters behind the Iron Curtain which often enough are forgotten. At the end of the meeting, I make an interesting discovery. Only the younger generation has been interested enough (or perhaps bold enough?) to ask questions. But even from their questions, I can see that the movies have had a totally different effect on the Valley people from Lariat, than on any other of our N.A.B. people who saw them in their churches. The cleanliness in Russia, the highrise apartments in the capitals of the various republics, the huge monuments and fountains in public places—all these seemingly have impressed them more than the fact that the believers in the USSR face privation and danger, whenever they stand up for their faith in Jesus Christ. And suddenly I understand these people. Their average income is about \$3,000 per year (Anglos at the same job may make about \$5,000). Many of them live in quite primitive two-room houses. Most of the men work for nine months in the potato processing plants. During the other three months, they draw unemployment, or if they have to, go on welfare. Hearing of harassments in Russia did not shock them, because as Spanish-Americans they are used to that kind of life-style. The Anglos look down at the Latinos; the Latinos try to outsmart the Anglos; the wetbacks (Mexican laborers who illegally have crossed the U.S. border) are a threat to the naturalized ex-Mexicans' labor opportunities; the Latinos report the wetbacks to the police for deportation; and so it goes on and on in a vicious circle.

Our missionaries are caught in the power struggle of these ethnic groups and clans. They want to minister to all, but serving one group makes them suspicious to the other group. The Grace Baptist Church in Monte Vista faces hostility even from the Catholic Church, because some of the Catholic leaders feel that Baptists are destroying the Latino culture by drawing them away from Catholicism. If our missionaries are speaking up against vices such as prostitution and alcohol, the Latinos look at it as an infringement upon their freedom; although at the same time they complain that the Anglos have come

(Continued on page 31)

GOD OPENED THE DOOR FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE

by Fred Folkerts

INTRODUCING KEITH AND LINDA EITEL, MISSIONARIES IN CAMEROON

The Rev. Keith and Mrs. Glenda Eitel are now adjusting to their new life and work at Ndu, Cameroon, where they teach at the Cameroon Baptist Theological College. Less than a year ago they had no idea that God would open the door for them to serve overseas. When that door opened, they gladly followed the call of God's word and responded to the urgent need for a couple with theological education to teach at the pastor's training college at Ndu.

Keith sees their new life and work as an opportunity to grow. He says, "I must grow in the Lord in order to understand and fulfill my commitments. I must come to the Cameroonian people with a genuine Christian love for them and their culture. By this we will gain a new way of life, new Christian brothers and sisters, and the peaceful satisfaction that comes from performing God's will."

Keith and Glenda are now happily immersed in their growing missionary life. A year ago they served at the Central Baptist Church in Waco, TX, where Keith was responsible for youth work and visitation. Keith had enrolled in a Masters degree program in Religion at Baylor University in 1976 and was attracted to worship and service at the Central Baptist Church. He and Glenda joined the church, and Keith was employed as a part-time youth worker, until he completed his degree in mid 1977. Keith was ordained by the church in August, 1977, and worked full-time on the staff with the Rev. Richard Lord until he and Glenda left for Cameroon in October.

Keith Eugene Eitel was born on Oct. 13, 1954, at Dallas, TX, as the only child to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Eitel. Though he had a rather confused life through primary school and high school, the Lord saw fit, as he says, to send Robert Livesay to share the "Good News" with him. He responded in simple faith and accepted Christ as his Savior. In the fall of 1973 he was baptized by Dr. H. E. East and became a member of the First Baptist Church of Arlington, TX. Keith graduated from the Sunset High School in Dallas in June, 1972. That fall he enrolled at Dallas Baptist College and graduated in 1976 with a B.A. degree in Religion and Philosophy. He received a M.A. degree in Religion from Baylor University in August, 1977. On Aug. 31, 1973, Keith married Glenda Ann Robbins.

Mrs. Glenda Eitel was born on July 25, 1954, at Carlsbad, NM, to Mr. and Mrs. John E. Robbins as the oldest of four children. When a senior in high school she was convicted of her need of Christ and accepted him as

Fred Folkerts is the associate secretary for Overseas Missions of the North American Baptist Missionary Society, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



her Savior. In March 1972 she was baptized by Dr. H. E. East and became a member of the First Baptist Church in Arlington, TX. Along with her husband she is now a member of Central Baptist Church in Waco. Glenda graduated from the Arlington High School in 1972. In January 1973 she enrolled at the Arlington Memorial Hospital and received a diploma in vocational nursing one year later. She has also studied at Dallas Baptist College and McLennan County Junior College in Waco.

Keith and Glenda left for the field in October with some apprehension and much anticipation for their new work. Glenda wrote before her departure: "There are mixed emotions about leaving the country. The feelings are of sadness for leaving our families and loved ones and yet excitement for the opportunity to serve God."

Pray for Keith and Glenda that the Lord will give them all the strength they need. And pray also that God will richly bless their ministry as they train pastors and are involved in sharing the Good News with people in Cameroon. □

"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what the Lord requires; God will satisfy them fully" (Matt. 5:6 T.E.V.). This verse along with others were encouragements and directives as God recently lead us on an adventure that still, when recalled, almost overwhelms us. Yet through these experiences God has taught us that a life committed to Christ is the most exciting and abundant way to live. I would imagine that many, like us, have found themselves secure in position, dependent on themselves for most things, and including God only when major needs arise. Boy! were we sitting on the sidelines!

Don't misunderstand. We loved God, served him where our talents and abilities were most useful. But God chose to test our desires, and as we yielded ourselves to his control, our adventure of faith began.

Through the winter of '76-77 a restlessness began inside of my husband Wayne. I was somewhat aware of it but had no idea how deep-seated it was until he came to me one day and said, "Jude, I think we ought to move and go into business on our own."

That comment really threw me. Six years prior we had returned to Wayne's hometown to go into business with his dad selling sticks and boards. God had so richly blessed and the business had grown and prospered. We were established in church, community and a home. Assuming we'd be there "forever," we had established deep and meaningful friendships. We could sense a need to satisfy the longings and desires we had, and through these God led.

We began to talk about different areas for a lumber yard; and through an uncle's advice we ended up at the home of Mr. M. We claimed the promise "Seek and ye shall find" as we sat in front of his house. I'm so glad God is abrupt in his promises. He doesn't give you the runaround. As Wayne went to the door I prayed that God would give us an answer and a sense of direction at Mr. M's. In fact I said, "Let this man tell us the town where you want us," and I trusted God for that specific need. As many of you can empathize, these decisions are hard and our emotions were definitely feeling the struggle. We needed answers. God knew that, and as we sat and talked to Mr. M., he repeatedly said, "Wayne, I think you ought to go to Washburn." God had answered, and to this day I know an all powerful God took control of that man and what he said.

Mrs. Jude Heringer is a member of the Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn, ND.

I Believe In Miracles...

...And In a God Who Performs Them

by Jude Heringer

The following weeks lent themselves to one miracle after another. We thought it would perhaps take a year to make the move, but in two short months God had us here, land purchased, house bought and construction underway. Do I believe in miracles? I have seen God control man and element in order to accomplish his purpose for us.

Take the land. We came to look for land expecting to pay twice what we did. God knew what we could afford. He gave us land level enough to set our buildings on, with the exception of one small corner of the pole building.

Through my dear mother-in-law's encouraging words of, "What's it going to hurt to look?" God gave us a home that far exceeded any of our expectations. It's big! And throughout the construction work of the lumber yard it housed up to eight extra sleepers. God knew we'd need room.

Wayne sat up one night and did all the financial projection sheets that banks require when money is loaned for business, only to have the banker repeatedly question him on his source for the figures. Wayne excels in many areas but bookkeeping is not one. Yet when he mailed in those sheets he was only one to two percent off from textbook figures.

One of my biggest struggles was the idea of helping get the business started and leaving the children, ages five, three and one, in competent hands for the summer. Emotionally exhausted I stood weeping before the verse in Matt. 5:6 one Saturday night and told the Lord I didn't feel satisfied. I had accepted the fact he was requiring us to move, but this area was shaky. "Ye have not because ye ask not." Placing before him my need I waited for him to either change my attitude or to change the circumstance. Sunday noon a call came from the mother of the best babysitter I know. "Tami is quitting her job in Bismarck today and wants to know if you have work for the summer." Boy, did I have work!

God did not say, "If you go through the high waters," but, "When." We're going to go whether we like it or not. The higher the waters have been, the more real God has been and the more rewarded has been our faith.

We have seen him replace dead sod at no expense to us because we trusted him to take care of it. Our hot water heater ran for two months on one element. We have a new couch in our living room as a direct gift from God. Beyond material needs he has provided a spiritual home here in Washburn in the church. He has provided friends who love him and care for him and for us. He has provided a mission field of a growing community in a coal development area. When the longings for all the friendships and loved ones we left behind sort of got control, he has again come with assurance of his concern and provision. As Wayne has said, "Until God stretches us we don't grow." We've at times been stretched beyond our capability to handle things only to see God handle them for us. And through it all he has required of us a thankful heart and willing obedience. Thank God, he is even gracious to assist in these areas too.

At times, when we've shared our experiences, people have gotten the idea all has been perfect. Not so. We are human and sanctification is a long process. But we have learned that through praise and thanksgiving we give God the liberty to open the storehouses of heaven. Promises from the Scriptures that were once trite quotes are now realities in our lives. God has met needs, and as we believed what he said, he has gone beyond our desires.

God has taught us how to live with inner peace, knowing that not one thing happens in our lives without his consent and his power to change us or the circumstance.

Wagon Wheel Lumber is born as a direct gift from God. Wayne and Jude have grown. May God be praised. □



Putting it together

by Ernie Zimbleman

A question which is frequently posed to me in the classroom and in conferences is: "Does accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Savior guarantee me a life of emotional stability?"

Dr. Ernie Zimbleman is professor of Pastoral Counseling at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, and is in charge of the Sioux Falls Psychological Services Clinic. Address letters to Dr. E. Zimbleman, 1605 S. Euclid Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

book reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

You Are Somebody. By Ben Johnson, Waco, TX: Word Books. \$2.95. The value of some books cannot be judged by their purchase price. This is one of them. Actually, the first chapter, in the form of free verse poetry, is already worth the price.

Ben Johnson had a Christian ministry that had everything going for him on the outside but nothing going for him on the inside. Success was written all over his exterior, but failure and a sense of worthlessness was all too evident in his mind.

After some prayer and self-examination, he began with the affirmation that he was a unique, unrepeatable miracle of God. As a result he developed a feeling of worth that brought him joy, confidence and effectiveness. His identity is no longer "out there," because he lives

The answer is "No." In fact, there needs to be no necessary relationship between the salvation experience and emotional stability. However, there is a great relationship between living the Christian lifestyle and effective meaningful living and emotional stability. Proverbs 3:6 correctly states: "In all your ways acknowledge (be like) Him, and He will make straight your paths."

The thief on the cross had salvation, but no effective Christian living. Jesus said: "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it" (Luke 18:17). Further, Paul says: "God showed His love in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). These texts and many others show us that contact with God means we can be his just as we are. We can be saved for eternity. But how we will live life from the day of our salvation experience to the end of our lives will depend on factors other than our salvation experience alone.

There are many Christians who are exceedingly miserable because they feel, since they are Christians, they ought to experience deliverance from literally all of life's difficulties. These difficulties can relate to emotional problems, physical handicaps, social conflicts, or the achievement of a variety of goals.

There is no doubt that the person who has the "mind of Jesus" (Philippians 2:5) and knows how to "live in union with Him" (Colossians 1:18 Good News) will be able to cope with all kinds of stress, frustration and difficulties

from the inside out. In his new found freedom, he also accepts the freedom to fail occasionally. Life, on the whole, is now a celebration, because he can count on the presence of the Holy Spirit.

A Way of Seeing. By Edith Schaeffer, Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co. \$7.95. Mrs. Schaeffer, like her husband, Frances, is a prolific writer. As the co-founder of L'Abri, world traveler, mother and homemaker, she has some unusual experiences to write about.

Readers of *Christianity Today* will recognize these Christian essays which appeared in her column. They are real life experiences; therefore more meaningful than anything written from a philosophical point of view. She not only expresses her way of seeing things but even more important, her way of experiencing things.

Mrs. Schaeffer does not waste any words. The chapters are short and seem to give the readers freedom to expand their thinking and imagination.

The Great Commission for Today. By David M. Howard, Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press. \$1.95. Some of the Inter-Varsity publications are a little on

more effectively than the person who does not have a deep relationship with Christ.

There are many people who believe by being Christians they somehow have a miraculous source of power they can call into action any time a problem appears. This simply is not a biblical concept. Paul says: "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

To be joyful, victorious Christians we must come to grips with the concept of responsible Christian living. Galatians 2:18-19 states clearly that those "who belong to Jesus Christ" shall have the fruit of the Spirit which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

The salvation experience is the beginning of the journey to a rich and full Christian life. The Apostle Paul saw himself as a struggling, but growing, person. "Not that I . . . am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own . . ." (Philippians 3:12).

The Apostle Paul's life was full of struggles and suffering. He had poor health; he worried; he was lonely; he endured all kinds of hurt—hunger, shipwreck, beatings—but in all of this he had contentment. (Philippians 4:11)


We can be Christians who, by the grace of God, are growing and continuing to grow all through our lifetime at various rates and levels. God has no absolute standards by which he is daily measuring our progress. □

the "heavy" side theologically. Because they minister to college and university students, this is often necessary. *The Great Commission for Today*, however, is as the author states in his preface, "not primarily a book for scholars."

The Great Commission passages are brought into focus, evaluated, explained in plain language and interspersed with real life experiences. Christians who sincerely and honestly are seeking God's will for their lives will have no difficulty in relating to what the author is trying to say. His emphasis is on motivation and not so much on direction. □

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youth SCENE

Twice Blessed

by Kathy Sharp

My heart was pounding as I took the mail out of my box and saw the letter I had awaited so long. I thought back to the night that I'd given my heart to Jesus Christ at a God's Volunteer Crusade in our church. At that time I knew that someday I would be a God's Volunteer; now, 13 years later, I held the opportunity for that dream to come true in my hand. As I opened that so-important letter, my mind was filled with thoughts of acceptance but also thoughts of rejection. I scanned the letter and then read, "We are glad to inform you that you have been selected to serve on the 1975-76 God's Volunteers team. Me! A Volunteer! I could hardly believe that God had granted a dream that I'd had ever since I was seven.

Since that day in February 1975, my life has been changed. God opened a new chapter in my life. I would like to share with you some of the thrilling learning experiences God allowed me to have during my years as a Volunteer.

The remaining semester at University seemed to drag as did the summer. But then finally in September, my parents and I drove into Central Baptist Camp at Lansing, Iowa, where the Volunteers were to train for a month. This was to be my first time away from home for this long a time. I didn't know a single person and, to be honest, deep inside I was scared. But the Lord brought a verse to mind: "Faithful is he who calls you who will also bring it to pass" (1 Thess. 5:24). With that I said a sad farewell to my parents and started into the most exciting experiences and challenges of my life.

That month of training was precious to us as a team because it was there that we learned about each other—our likes

Miss Sharp is presently a student at Washington State University, Pullman, WA.

as well as our dislikes. We each took a close look at our personal relationship with the Lord. Discipline, study habits and etiquette were just a few things we learned during that month. We were taught ways to deal and counsel with people old and young. Since I was on the follow-up section of the team, we had the responsibility of evangelism and discipleship. This included learning to conduct seminars in areas such as "How to share your faith in Christ." That scared me at first because we had to learn it in order to train others in it. We were given books and papers on how to do it, and we spent hours studying and working on our approach. One day our director, the Rev. Ray Harsch, told us, "Experience is the best teacher." So he took us out on the street. We went door to door taking a survey and sharing our faith in Christ. I had to learn to rely on the Lord when it came to handling questions that at times we could not answer. But it was exciting to see how the Lord led us to just the right people whom he had prepared.

Training was not all work. There were times of fun—volleyball, hikes in the beautiful Iowa countryside, times of relaxation as we watched the golden sunset at the end of a busy day. Soon it was time to say good-bye to Camp and start on the road to our first crusade.

The first crusade was exciting. Here we had to put our training to work. In that crusade I had one of my biggest thrills, the joy of leading a seven-year-old girl to Jesus Christ. I will always cherish her words. She looked up to me and said, "Someday I'm going to be a Volunteer!" Tears came to my eyes as I said, "Thanks, Lord." I saw myself in that little girl.

Although God's Volunteers is nine months of rich blessings of sharing and meeting thousands of beautiful people it has hard times as well. Times when I got tired, physically as well as spiritually. Volunteers is a ministry where it is necessary to forget yourself and think of others at all times. We were representing God as well as families and churches; self sacrifice was required, and at times it was hard. Living with 13 other people every day for nine months was also a challenge, but we love each other and we will always have close ties. Frustrations would always arise as we strived to train others as we were trained. Satan tried to discourage us many times, but he never won unless we let him.

As team members, we each had different responsibilities. Perry Kallis and I were given the job of reporting for the *Baptist Herald*. It was hard work and sometimes frustrating, but we enjoyed it. My favorite ministry was with children. With the aid of puppets, Leona

Miller and I had a lot of fun in many children's rallies. Poor Bob Walther! We often put him to work helping set up a home-made puppet stage usually consisting of old sheets, yarn, coat racks, etc. I think we all had more fun than the kids!

As the year went on, I began to think about where I would go next. It was that question that the Lord used to lead me to apply for my second year with God's Volunteers. After praying a lot about it, I sent in my application. Much to my surprise I made it! I knew that God had a reason and, as I prepared for the second year, I was looking and praying that God would use this next year to prepare me to serve him more effectively.

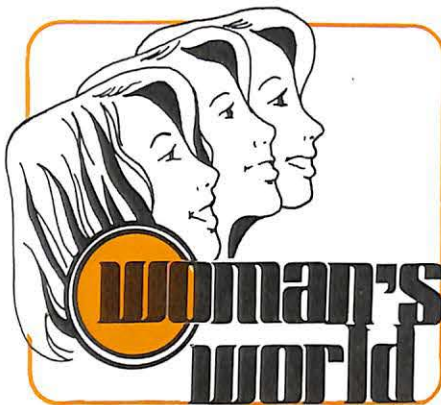
I can't really say that my second year meant more to me than my first, but I truly believe that God used that second year to bring me to a greater commitment to him.

I started my second year by making a lot of adjustments. There were new team members, new places to see, new experiences and a whole new ministry. I began working with lay people and pastors much more than with children. I led Bible studies and did much more training in discipleship. These were the areas I began to love and God used them to teach me. After challenging others to share Christ, I realized that he wanted me to share too, not just as a Volunteer but, more important, at all times.

The two years I spent on God's Volunteers were the most precious years of my life. God planned it that way. There were hard times, as I stated, but God promised victory and he gave it to me many times. I did not want to see this past year end and, at times, I really miss it; but God allowed me to experience it and I'm so thankful. God used this past year to show me he wanted me for full-time service. In what? Well, I'm not sure yet, maybe missions. If so, God will lead. He taught me to trust him at all times no matter how hard it may seem.

I'll always cherish these years, and I want to encourage every young person reading this to consider God's Volunteers service. Maybe this is where God wants you! I challenge you: pray about it and let God lead.

I want to extend my prayers to the present 1977-78 God's Volunteers and challenge all reading this to pray for them too. They are a great team with a great ministry, and they need our prayers. God has kept his promise in my most cherished verse: "Call upon me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3). □



Peter: God's Gift To Us

by Emily Corneil,
Burlington, Ontario

Two thousand years ago God give us his greatest gift—his Son. Thirty-three years later this Son Jesus, gave us his gift—his life, that through him we may have eternal life.

On Feb. 26, 1975, God gave Allan and me a beautiful gift also—a son whom we called Peter Jason. From the nurses and doctors attending reactions, I knew something serious was wrong with our son. Two days later, after many x-rays and consultations with specialists, we were told Peter was born with a rare bone disorder—osteogenesis imperfecta—and that his case was very severe as he had skull and chest fractures and both legs were broken. X-rays indicated that he also had had fractures in uterus. With this condition his bones were brittle and would break very easily. There is no cure for the problem, only surgery could be performed when a break oc-



Peter at 15 months with his parents, Allan and Emily Corneil.

curred. The doctors gave us very little hope that Peter would live, and, if he did, they could not foresee that he would ever walk. His legs would never be able to hold his body weight. Because the x-rays showed his spine to be his strongest point, they felt he could cope in a wheelchair as he grew older.

What a shock! Was this really happening to us? I wanted to pray, but it was so difficult to find the words. How my heart ached!

Dear Christian family and friends upon hearing the news immediately started prayer groups in their churches, and then Allan and I together prayed our simple prayer: "Lord, you gave Peter to us, and if you are going to take him back, please give us the strength to accept this, for we can't do it alone . . . but if you are going to let Peter live, please let him walk, all in your own time."

Peter remained in the hospital and Allan and I visited him daily. We were not too encouraged by the doctors regarding taking him home. They felt we would become too attached and if he should die, the emotional pain would be difficult. After much persuasion on our part, we learned special techniques on how to care for our special child. One day, three and a half weeks later, our family doctor called, saying we could take Peter home the following morning.

What an exciting day! I thanked God for this day, and then mixed emotions arose in me—happiness, then fear. Could I care properly for Peter, this child who required such careful handling? I did know that, as Peter's parents, we could give him much love, and Jesus reminded me of two of his promises: "Lo, I am with always" (Matt. 28:20) and "With me all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26).

Four weeks later, at seven and a half weeks, Peter broke his right femur. He had to return to the hospital and remained there for three weeks in traction. Once again our days were spent in the hospital, for I would not let Peter forget his parents. I'd care for him as much as possible, and how I ached to hold him, but this was impossible due to traction. Every evening Allan and I returned to the hospital to get him ready for the night.

During these days I'd search the Scriptures for comfort and strength. One day I came upon Mark 11:24 and God really spoke to me through it: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." Jesus was saying, "Emily, trust me, believe me. You know that 'all things work together for good to those who love God' (Rom. 8:28)."

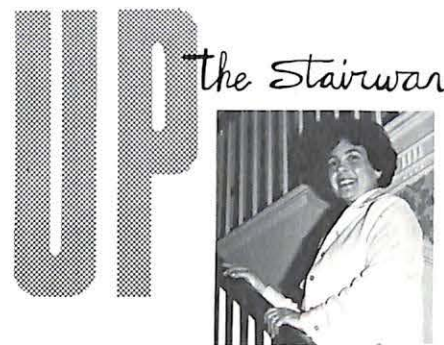
From that moment on, I had complete assurance that God would allow only the best for all of us!

God worked a beautiful miracle in our lives. At 17 months Peter took his very first step independently. We cannot thank him enough!

Peter is now two and a half years old, a beautiful healthy and happy boy, walking and talking. He is very precious and special to us. Doctors have marveled at his progress! We have only to thank our Lord for the gift of life and walking for our Peter. □



Peter at 27 months.



by Dorene Walth,
W.M.U. president,
Sioux Falls, SD

The new calendar on the wall tells me another year has fled by. The clean white pages and different pictures cause a little uneasiness in facing the unknown.

The old calendar is gone with last year's failures. Those failures can be stepping stones to successful strides forward in the new year.

Analyzing failures can result in goal setting for the future. Practical and realistic resolutions can give relief to boredom and stagnation in one's Christian life.

If you've been lazy and complacent, maybe you should do some dreaming in your rocking chair. Ask yourself, "If Jesus Christ were in my place, what would he change? What desires would he have? What would he plan for my home, my church, my family, my companions, my community?"

One who schemes and dreams often has a positive approach to life and an expectant personality which is refreshing.

If you have been avoiding work or not enjoying it, or if you are getting through the day doing things out of a sense of duty and obligation, you need to ask God what he wants for your life. Surely, he wants a richer experience for you.

Imagine how Christ would see your job. If what you are doing is not glorifying him, then evaluate and see if you must change what you are doing or if

you should change your master. If you are a slave to yourself or to another person, you are not free. If you are God's slave, then you are free indeed! Free from frustration and aimlessness. Free to set reachable resolutions that will radiate the abundant life. Free to resist temptation to sit and smolder in mundane sameness.

Resolve to be all God wants you to be with the help of the Holy Spirit's guidance. Attempt adventure even though there may be risks involved. If you move in the will of God, the results are worth the cost. Reaching and risking sometimes go hand in hand.

Try teaching a Sunday school class instead of being a board (bored) member on a committee. Try a women's action circle instead of the traditional meeting. Join a hobby club and let Jesus shine

there. Invite people in—the pastor and his family, the neighbor, the recent church dropout. How about a potluck dinner in your home for the church widows? Take a course of study that would "better equip the saint." Give up your job (two income family) and buy a cheaper home, enabling you to enjoy your mate and family in a more relaxing way.

Is your TV-viewing spot on the couch getting threadbare? Is the back of your skirt wearing thin from being a Sunday morning pew-warmer only? Then change your bad habits. Allow God to help you. He is able and willing.

The new year can be exciting for you, and you can bear fruit for eternity these next 12 months!

"I alone know the plans I have for you; plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster; plans to bring about the future you hope for" (Jer. 29:11).

African Woman's Prayer

Author unknown

Our kind Father who art in heaven.

Give us some seam to sew.

Thou, O Lord, art the shining needle;

We are the twisted thread.

As thread can do nothing of itself,

No more can we—except we be threaded in thee.

We thank thee that the needle has need of the spool,

And that thou dost call us to work

together with thee.

Grant that there be no tangles or knots

In the thread of our lives to hinder thy sewing.

May we, as the thread with perfect obedience,
Follow thy leading this day and every day.

And grant, O Father, that when the spool is empty
And the thread of our earthly lives has come to an end,

We may look at the finished robe and marvel
At the perfect pattern thou hast perfected
While using the thread of our imperfect lives.

We ask in the name of thy Son who has given us
His seamless robe to wear so that we may come
Into thy presence, unashamed, Amen.

kilo
boxes



by LaVerna Mehlhaff

I have received many words of gratitude from our missionaries for the kilo packages they are receiving. Our missionaries appreciate your

deeds of kindness in taking the time to prepare and send packages.

Instruction sheets for mailing kilo packages and lists of items to include are available from our office in Oakbrook Terrace. Please write to us if you are in need of this information. It is extremely important to adhere to the information on these sheets so that as the packages arrive at their destination, they will be of most value to our missionaries. The needs are different on our four overseas fields. Please check the list of needs of each field before beginning the packing. The instruction sheet has been confirmed by our missionaries.

Some things to remember:

Don't include soap items with food items.

Don't include items you yourself would not use.

Don't take mixes out of boxes.

Don't send suckers or wrapped candy.

Do pack the items well into the carton. Tin can items are good.

Do check your lists carefully as you prepare packages for the various fields.

Do tie packages securely.

Thank you, ladies, for your faithfulness in loving service.

Remember:

Annual report blanks are due in our office on Feb. 1, 1978.

Begin plans for World Day of Prayer on March 3, 1978.

Blessing Box offering for 1978 will go toward the new White Cross room; this project is a part of our \$400,000 goal. □



Bill Kosachuk, Paul Dystra and Jan Streuber take a break between practice sessions.



Fellowship time around a cup of tea!



Time for some volleyball!



A treat after a long day of studying and practicing.

God's Volunteers Report

by Marlene Ginter
and Karen Trax

"Breaker 19 for the 'Blue-Whaler' " . . .
 "You got the 'Blue-Whaler' " . . .
 "Make a right at the next stop sign and you'll be at
 that next church. Stop and unload."
 "That's a 10-4. This is the Blue-Whaler over and
 out."

"This is the 'Brown-noser' on the side."
 Through the use of C.B. communication, God's Vol-
 unteers have been able to keep in close contact while
 traveling as to directions, locations and team plans. The
 follow-up van has been dubbed "Bert, the Brown-nos-
 er." "Ernie, the Blue-Whaler" is the name given to the
 music section's van. All the team members including
 Bob Walther, the "Bob-cat," team director, have their
 own "handle" or code-name.

On October 1 both vans left Central Baptist Camp,
 Lansing, IA, to begin the 1977-78 tour. The camp was
 home for God's Volunteers for their one month of train-
 ing. With fond memories, good-byes were said to their



Packing to leave on tour.

adopted mom and dad, the caretakers of the camp, Vern
 and Margaret Heckman.

This year's tour of God's Volunteers involves an ex-
 panded ministry. The team will be ministering in several
 of the North American Baptist churches for 15 days.
 The music section begins the crusade with musical pro-
 grams and outreach evangelism to motivate and encour-
 age church members in sharing their faith.

The follow-up section joins the music section several
 days later to complete the total ministry of God's
 Volunteers within a church. The follow-up section begins
 an intense training with a group of six to eight church
 members, training them in a life-style of sharing their
 faith. Through these longer crusades, a firmer founda-
 tion will be made in the area of discipleship.

The two sections form one team. There is a great feel-
 ing of team unity among the members. With high hopes,
 fervent prayers and willing spirits, God's Volunteers are
 experiencing an exciting and rewarding year of ser-
 vice. □



Paul Dykstra and Barry Seifert learning new music.



LeAnn Williams and Bill Kosachuk studying.

The senior year at the North American Baptist Seminary is the most exciting year. This is true for students in both two year and three year programs. It is the time when each student begins to realize that the goals and objectives of years of preparation are close at hand. It is a time of great anticipation, as students look to graduation activities. Parents and pastors, family and friends will share the joy with their son or daughter, as they watch them begin their service to Christ.

portunity to stay in the homes of the Conference staff exposed each student to the loving spirit of God's people at work there.

The next two days were thrilling. We students, not all of whom were N.A.B. affiliated, and some spouses as well, were exposed to the total ministry of the N.A.B. Conference. The Executive Secretary, Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, and all department officers shared their involve-

ment in it for them? Is the leadership in the Conference competent? All of these questions received an affirmative answer. In varying degrees each participant in this year's visit was encouraged by the exposure to the work of the N.A.B. Conference.

When meetings were concluded each day, the group was provided with delicious meals from various restaurants in the Chicago area. Entertainment in-



Seventeen senior students of the North American Baptist Seminary visited the N.A.B. Conference International Office. (Dale Axt is not pictured.)

ment in the ministry carried on by the N.A.B. both in the U.S. and Canada. Students were allowed, even encour-



Douglas Bittle, senior class president, handing Dr. G.K. Zimmerman a box of candy and a thank-you card as a token of appreciation for the visit at the Conference office.

aged, to ask as many questions as they liked. Not all students, whether N.A.B. or not, were sure that they knew enough about the Conference. Many had little or no exposure to the work carried on by the N.A.B. Is it a good organization? Does it have a future? Is its ministry relevant? Does Christ have a

clined for all a tour of the Sears Tower, for some sights along Lake Shore Drive, and even a showing of Dr. Kerstan's films from his visit to Cameroon and Nigeria in his home.

The mood for the entire visit was set by the inspirational message given by Student Body President, Doug Bittle. The text he used for the devotional which began our meetings was taken from Isaiah 54:2-3, "Enlarge the place of your tent, . . . lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes."

In the tradition of William Carey, Doug declared that as seniors we ought to "expect great things from God, and attempt to do great things for God" in our Conference, as we seek to do the Lord's work in our lives.

Each one shared that vision of expanding their ministry to reach more souls for Christ. Seventeen seniors returned to the seminary at Sioux Falls more fully exposed to the growing influence of the N.A.B. Conference in the work of our Lord. In our very own case, we returned more committed than ever to the work of our Conference. You can "expect great things" from the N.A.B. Conference, because this class of seniors, together with the other members of the Conference, will "attempt great things." □

insight into christian education

Improve Your Missionary I.Q.

by Ardath Effa

"And bless all the missionaries on the corn field." So prayed a child imitating the grown-ups. Her understanding of "foreign field" as "corn field" only emphasizes the generalities and vagueness of the prayers of her elders that she had heard so often. So many times our prayers are "and Lord bless all the missionaries wherever they are (and we could add 'whoever they are')." What is the reason for our lack of specifics when we pray for missionaries? Is it that we don't have the mission education we need or information about the missionaries themselves and their needs? Or is it that we just haven't taken the time or shown the interest necessary to be informed? Perhaps we aren't using the materials available through our Conference Office. See if the following suggestions won't help your Missionary I.Q.

Become Informed

1. Read, clip and file all letters from missionaries, articles by or about them, articles by others who have visited the mission fields or by our Conference leaders and any mission materials, such as *Contact*, *Update*, *NAB News*, that come from the International Office in Oakbrook Terrace. File these items under each particular field so that when you need something on Japan, these materials will be in the Japan file, etc. If you do this, you will avoid having to burden a missionary for information, articles or letters from them personally.

2. Become acquainted with the countries or areas where we have missionaries. Learn the geographical location of the fields and try to find out about the climate, type of people, government, religions, produce, industries, topography, language and customs of that area. Most atlases and encyclopedias can give you this information.

3. Become acquainted with the missionaries themselves. It is difficult to acquaint yourself with all of them, but

Mrs. Effa, her husband, Herman, and children, Allan and Jerilyn, were missionaries in Brazil for ten years. Rev. Effa is now pastor at Napier Parkview Baptist Church, Benton Harbor, MI.

choose, perhaps, those whom your church is supporting or those who come from your area, those whose ages and families are similar to yours or some from each field. Find out about their background, type of work they do, number of children and their ages, how long they have been on the field, etc. Much of this information can be received from the International Office in Oakbrook Terrace without writing to the missionary. When they are on furlough, try to meet them personally, and perhaps entertain them in your home.

Write to the Missionaries

They love to receive letters from home, but here are some do's and don'ts to observe.

1. *Don't* write a letter that requires an answer unless you absolutely cannot find the information you need from any other source. Many missionaries will reply regardless, but don't make them feel obligated to do so.

2. *Do* write letters that are interesting. Tell about your family, your church, some denominational news, news about other churches or pastors, some new ideas in crafts, news on a national level, new recipes or new ways to prepare certain foods, helpful hints, your vacation trips, new thoughts that the Lord has given you, gleanings from sermons you've heard or retreats or seminars you've attended, etc. Anything new from home usually hits foreign soil months or even years later, so it's appreciated while it's fresh!

3. *Don't* just send a card with a bunch of signatures without some personal word or news. These are disappointing.

4. *Don't* expect the missionary to remember what you wrote in your last letter or all that you wrote about your family. Also, when you meet him personally, don't expect him to remember that you had written to him unless you wrote many, many times.

5. If you are requesting an article or letter in return, *do* give the missionary adequate time, remembering to allow at least a month for the letter to get there and back again and a few weeks for the missionary to think about, pray about and receive inspiration to write it. Avoid pressuring a missionary by setting a close deadline date.

6. *Do* write intelligent letters that show the missionary you have taken time to find out about them and where

they work. There is nothing quite so deflating as to have people think you are working in the Amazon area, when you are really thousands of miles from that region.

7. *Don't* write to the nationals. In a land where a language other than English is spoken, this will cause more work for the missionary who must translate your letter. Also many nationals (even Christians) seize this opportunity to try to get financial help or a scholarship from a "rich" North American. This could create a real problem on the field and for the missionary. Sometimes national-missionary relations are somewhat strained and you could be given a biased and inaccurate picture of the situation which could distort your missionary perspective and interest.

Support the Missionary in a Material Way

1. If your church does not support any missionaries in particular, encourage it to do so. The personal interest created by having your "own" missionaries is tremendous. Also, these missionaries are usually scheduled to be with your church when they are on furlough. Write to the General Missionary Society at the International Office in Oakbrook Terrace, asking for names of missionaries you can support as a church, or informing them of which particular ones you would like to support, should there still be an opening for support.

2. Send them an occasional kilo package, but remember that items needed in one country may not be needed in another country. It is best to have the Missions Chairman find out what items should be included.

3. Our missionaries are allowed to receive limited monetary gifts from home and supporting churches. Often it is complicated to cash a foreign check in their country. The best way to send them money is either to send it to the International Office in Oakbrook Terrace to be included in their next salary check, or send it to the one in charge of their bank account in the U.S. or Canada to deposit it to their personal account here. Sending money through the mail is very risky and also against the law in some countries.

4. Small gift items are welcome. A missionary away from home for four years can become very "out of touch" with the world, so new books, song books and magazine subscriptions are especially helpful and go through the mails easily with no custom problems. Don't send large, expensive items which could cost the missionary much time and money to try to clear them through customs. □

Expect Great Things

by Art and Chris Bollaert

But the senior year is exciting for another reason, because as part of senior activities a trip is scheduled each November to the North American Baptist International Office in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Maybe this does not sound like such an exciting occasion. If so, consider the events that took place for this year's class.

A group of seventeen seniors left Sioux Falls in a caravan of station wagons (two of the three equipped with C.B. radios) on Wednesday morning and arrived in Chicago that same evening. The fellowship on the road (songs, stories, laughs, siestas and meals) was a welcome substitute for the disciplines of studies. Upon arrival at the International Office, the group was greeted by various staff people. Everyone was taken to a home and provided with a snack and a warm bed. The accommodations were excellent, and the op-

Mr. Art Bollaert is a senior student at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. His wife Chris is employed in Sioux Falls. They have two children.



Eliezar and
Silvia D'Avila
from Brazil.

Brazilian Flavor

by Becky Heerts

The beginning of the new school year at North American Baptist Seminary brought people from many states and provinces of North America. At the same time we welcomed a young couple from Brazil, South America! Mr. and Mrs. Eliezer D'Avila came to Sioux Falls on July 23 and are both enrolled in classes this semester.

As their English teacher, I have spent time with them every day and have seen their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn as much as possible—as quickly as possible! Not only are they very personable and warm-hearted, but their trust in the Lord is deep and constant—evidence of a faith which began when they were both children.

Silvia's family is an example to their community of God's love and compassion, as their home is always open. People feel free to come at any time for help, advice and even for meals.

Perseverance exemplifies Eliezer's family, and this quality has helped to nurture their faithful church attendance and daily lives. Eliezer has worked hard on the family farm, being the oldest of eight children.

Miss Becky Heerts served as short-term missionary in Japan, 1972-77. She is presently studying at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. The Board of Missions has granted her request and appointed her as a full-time missionary, to return to Japan by 1979.



Miss Becky Heerts,
the English tutor
of the D'Avilas.

From these backgrounds God led them to the seminary in Rio de Janeiro, where they met, fell in love, and were married in 1975. While at seminary, Eliezer spoke at various evangelistic meetings, and the Lord blessed his ministry through the conversions of eight people who were later baptized and joined the church. He also enjoyed singing in a quartet during the four years he was in school. Following graduation, the D'Avilas were called to the First Baptist Church of Tenente Portela, Brazil, where they served faithfully in a number of capacities for a year and one half before coming to Sioux Falls.

Eliezer was state director for a Christian growth program for boys, and Silvia was the girls director. In addition to these groups, which met every Sunday, Eliezer had a weekly twenty-minute music and evangelistic radio program. He also preached at the Baptist Church of Alto Uruguaí once a month. His work wasn't finished on Sunday evening, however, as he taught history and social and political science at the high school in Tenente Portela.

Now, as they study and work at North American Baptist Seminary, the fellowship here will be enriched through them. Helping others and seeing people come to the Lord are their desires, and as they continue to prepare themselves for this ministry, we're confident of God's blessing on them. □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



CANADIAN ESTATE

by Everett A. Barker

The articles in this column have been written to motivate readers to give thought and prayer to their wills and estate plans. The purpose of estate planning is to provide living benefits, help for the family and gifts to local churches and Conference ministries. We have had a few articles directed to our Canadian readers, but it has been difficult for me to get qualified people to write these articles. Part of the problem is that the Federal Government in 1972 opted out of succession duties and has left provinces to determine their own requirements. As a result, the provinces have different regulations, so that it is virtually impossible to write comprehensive articles relating to tax matters. Laws regarding wills in most provinces and states in Canada and the United States have many similarities because our legal systems stem from English law. When considering your will, it is advisable to seek good legal counsel from a lawyer.

In spite of the diversity of succession laws, charitable giving is alive and well in Canada. Larry Bienert and myself recently attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities in Winnipeg. The membership of this organization is comprised of sixty-nine evangelical groups in Canada. Their overall purpose is to provide a service function for charitable organizations ministering in Canada. Besides

providing seminars, information and literature, they are now providing the following services for charitable organizations:

1. Group life insurance for personnel serving charitable organizations;
2. Group dental care;
3. A pooled investment fund through the Royal Trust so that the charitable investments of member organizations can have professional management and diversification;
4. Legal and other professional persons representing charitable organizations to government.

Another definite step that our Conference has taken is to form a Canadian Estate Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is to consider matters relating to Canadian estate planning concerns and to make recommendations to the Conference Finance and Stewardship Committee. The members of this committee are Larry Bienert, William Konnert, Milton Ohlhauser, Ed Sardachuk, Ed Streuber and Everett Barker. William Konnert is the chairman and Everett Barker is the secretary. This committee recently had its first meeting following the sessions of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. Out of this meeting comes the following recommendations:

1. That Canadian gift annuity rates be raised to be in conformity to those recommended by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.
2. That a Canadian brochure on estate planning be prepared.
3. That the Conference become official members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

Several other decisions await additional information.

For the last two years and more, our Pacific Northwest Estate Planning Counselor, Larry Bienert, has been serving our people in British Columbia. Since last Spring he has extended his service to the province of Alberta. The next step needs to be to extend our service to more provinces.

Our estate planning ministry in Canada has been slow in developing. I believe that we have finally taken several good steps to provide estate planning service to our people. Your prayers will be appreciated. In order for gifts through wills to qualify for any tax benefits, they should be designated to North American Baptists, Inc. (Canada), 5303 Dalhurst Cr. NW, Calgary, AB T3A 1P6, Canada. Since provincial law varies, you should consult legal counsel in your province as to acceptable procedures for making gifts to local churches and Conference ministries.



Real Estate Gifts

In recent years, good real estate has been profitable for many people. There are advantages in giving real estate.

WHEN SHOULD YOU
GIVE REAL ESTATE?

WHEN SHOULD YOU AVOID
GIVING REAL ESTATE?

WHAT WAYS CAN YOU
GIVE REAL ESTATE?

For additional information write: Everett A. Barker, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

Please send me the following brochure:

Advantages of Giving Real Estate from Four Families Who Know.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Code _____



CHURCH EXTENSION BUILDERS REPORT

MAUMEE, OH, CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT

by Ron Heisler

January 1978

The Southside Baptist Temple, Maumee, Ohio, is located approximately 15 miles southwest of downtown Toledo. The city is rapidly moving towards Maumee and growing tremendously in population. New housing and apartment developments are going up faster than we can survey.

In the last three years, the church has met in elementary schools. Because of the energy situation in our area, we were forced to move from one school heated by gas to a newer elementary school heated by electricity. The burden, financially, has been great because of the high cost of renting the school. We have seen many won to Christ and life-changing in the hearts of many individuals. Toledo is a predominantly Catholic town. The gospel is not always wanted, but truly is needed.

We have several family units, most have been saved through the ministry of the church. We have a regular weekly visitation program in which we use both methods of survey and house-to-house visitation. We also have a planned program for our young people who pass out church literature and flyers concerning the work. We now have a ladies Bible study group that is meeting on a regular basis. We are planning to branch this program into mission groups so that our ladies can meet some of the needs that arise in the mission field.

We have recently purchased and paid for five beautiful acres of land. Our land is located near the clover-leaf at U.S. 23 and Interstate 75, which enables easy access to our church. Less than two miles from our land, the newly constructed St. Luke's Hospital is located on the same side of the road. Plans are underway for one of the largest housing developments in Ohio to be constructed bordering the back of our five acres of land. We feel that our area will develop very quickly now and that our church will benefit in growth and blessings of the Lord. Our men have met regularly, discussing building plans and the goals toward beginning construction on the church.

We look forward to the blessings that the Lord has for our church. Burdens have been great, as they are in every new work, but we have seen God move in miraculous ways. The Lord has placed us in a needful area; much work has to be done. We try to emphasize a fully rounded program for every age where everyone can have an opportunity to work for the Lord. It's a challenge for our people to be a part of a new work. Those who are faithful will receive the blessings. Your prayers and support can help in building a local New Testament church in the Maumee area where hundreds of thousands of people need to be won to Christ. Your gifts at this most needful time will be greatly appreciated. Send them designated for Southside Baptist Temple, Maumee, OH, to North American Baptist Conference, 1 S. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

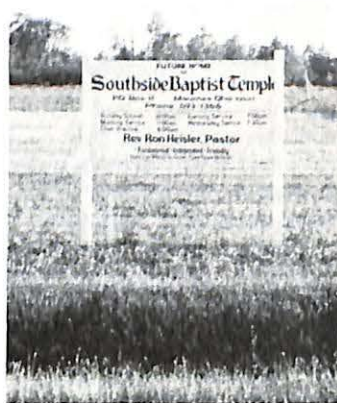
The Rev. Ron Heisler is the pastor of Southside Baptist Temple, Maumee, OH.



The men of the church meet regularly to discuss building plans and goals.



Pastor and Mrs. Ron Heisler, Jeff and Melanie.



The building site



The ladies Bible study group . . .

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from this law until all is accomplished" (Matt. 5:17-18).

To us, brought up on the fact that "Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified" (Romans 10:4), these are thought provoking words. Can we reconcile the clear teaching of the new Testament on justification by grace through faith, with our Lord's words that the law, and therefore its claim on us, "will not pass . . . until all is accomplished?" Yes we can, because all has been accomplished.

Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, fulfilled the law in totality. In life he met its every demand; in death he took upon himself its claim on us—the punishment for our sins; and, in his resurrection his life and death were vindicated. When Jesus said, "The law shall not pass till all is accomplished," not all was accomplished. The greatest part of his mission still lay ahead of him. The New Testament writers, on the other hand, speak after Jesus had proclaimed, "It is finished." Now the law had been fulfilled, and for those who in faith claim Christ and what he has accomplished as their own, the law is dead and no longer has any claim on them.

But we cannot stop there, for Jesus continues by saying, ". . . unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:20). To leave no question about how our righteousness should exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus gives specific examples in the verses that follow (Matt. 5:21-48). Again and again he takes the law and how it was applied by these men and contrasts it with the righteousness which exceeds theirs.

This righteousness is concerned not just with deeds, but much more with attitudes. ". . . it was said . . . 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment" (Matt. 5:21-22). It is not enough to keep from acting on our sinful desires and feelings, we must guard against the desires themselves, lest when Satan tempts us with them we entertain and allow our minds to revell in them. Even as faith is first of all an attitude, so a wrong attitude is in itself sinful when we allow it to take control of our minds, whether we carry

The Rev. Heinz D. Rossol is the pastor of South Hills Baptist Church, Erie, PA.

out the act or not.

This righteousness does not discard the law even though it has found its end in Christ. It does, however, look at the law differently; not in terms of limits but in terms of direction for life. The law, after all, is an expression of what God is like. As his children by faith in Christ, we seek to be like him in our actions, and therefore we look for direction in the law.

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist one who is evil. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matt. 5:38-39). The intent of the law was not primarily retribution, but an attempt to teach the sanctity of

what you say be simply 'Yes' and 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil" (Matt. 5:33, 34, 37). To have to use an oath to guarantee our word implies that without it our word is not trustworthy. But if we live positive lives, totally honest lives, there will be no need for an oath.

"You have heard . . . 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:43-44). Don't allow the negative in your life. It is only a short step from hating your enemy to hating your neighbor, and Jesus has already pronounced judgment on that. But, if we take the lesson of the Good Samaritan to heart, that any person who needs us

Fulfilling The Law

by Heinz D. Rossol

human life. Retribution was decreed because of the seriousness of harming another individual. And if that is what the law is trying to teach, Jesus says, then you ought never harm another, even though you may be provoked.

If the law says that another is entitled to your cloak, follow the direction of the law and give even more. If the law compels you to go one mile, follow where the law points and walk even farther. Don't look to what you can get away with without breaking the law, but look to the law as a road sign which points you in the right direction, but which you need to pass on the way to your destination.

And then, this righteousness does not look at the law as a series of minus signs, but realizes that the law can be fulfilled only through a positive life. "Again you have heard . . . 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you: Do not swear at all . . . Let

is our neighbor, then there is no longer any room for hate, only for love.

Negative Christians, living only according to a list of don'ts, do not attract others. Positive Christians, whose lives are filled with faith, hope and love, attract and bring glory to God.

To make sure we get his message, Jesus sums it all up: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matt. 5:48). Unless we are perfect we will never enter the kingdom of heaven, and who of us is perfect? Yet, while we know this, we are not without hope, for the same Jesus, who speaks these words, has himself been perfect in our stead. He accomplished what we cannot accomplish, and through faith in him, his perfect righteousness is imputed to us and we can enter his kingdom. All we need is an obedient faith in Christ to be accepted by the Father and to be helped in this life to become ever more like him in his perfection. □

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wichtel celebrated their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary on Oct. 7, 1977. They are members of Immanuel Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI, he for 61 years and she for 53 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Oldenstadt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 7, 1977. They are members of Stafford Baptist Church, Wilsonville, OR, where they had an afternoon reception on Sept. 11, 1977.

Rev. and Mrs. Heinrich Gartman celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Aug. 12, 1977, in Bad Eilsen, Germany. Since their immigration in 1966, he has served N.A.B. Conference



churches in Winnipeg, MB, and Kitchener, ON. After retiring to Duarte, CA, in 1974, he served as interim pastor in Ontario and California.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kallis, members of New Leipzig Baptist Church, ND, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on July 3, 1977. An open house for friends and relatives was held in their honor.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fischer observed their 55th wedding anniversary on Oct. 30, 1977, at an open house in their home attended by many friends. They are members of Ashley Baptist Church, ND.

ASHLEY, ND. The Men's Brotherhood of Ashley Baptist Church held their Father and Son Banquet at the Church on October 11. Approximately 200 men attended the dinner prepared by the wives of the men. Our pastor, the Rev. Allan Gerber, brought a challenging message. Gerald Luebeck was master of ceremonies. The men's chorus sang two numbers. (Mrs. Carl Fischer, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. A Thanksgiving celebration of 50 years of ministry was held in Ebenezer Baptist church from Oct. 7 to 9, 1977, with the theme being "Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us." As the central focus of these gatherings,

the church had invited each of the former pastors and their wives to be guests.

The opening service was one of recognition and gratitude. After a formal welcome by our moderator and a hymn of worship, the pastors and wives were presented and given an opportunity to greet the congregation. Seven charter members were able to be present; they, as well as two of the oldest members, received special recognition. A gold necklace and pendant was presented to Mrs. Winnie Sauer in recognition of fifty years as organist. Dr. A. S. Felberg reminisced briefly on events surrounding the building of the present church, followed by greetings from the daughter and sister churches.

In the lower auditorium, numerous photos of members, friends and pastors, and happenings through the years were displayed. A commemorative anniversary mug and booklet, "Fifty Years of Ministry," were available as souvenirs.

Saturday morning the men of the church served a pancake and sausage breakfast, which was extremely well attended. After appetites were satisfied, all gathered as the Rev. Fred Mueller told of many incidents at that small beginning fifty years ago.

In the afternoon many folk enjoyed a bus tour of the city. In the evening a multimedia presentation of Ebenezer's history was viewed by a capacity crowd in the auditorium of a local secondary school.

On the final day the Sunday school held an open house for the purpose of inviting our community and our visitors to observe our classes in action. Since this was the Canadian Thanksgiving Sunday, we had hearts full of praise and thanksgiving for all our many blessings. Dr. Arthur Patzia, our pastor, brought a challenging message, "Looking Beyond What Lies Behind."

The closing celebration was a triumphant occasion. The immediate former pastor, the Rev. Paul Siewert, spoke on "Reflections for a Hopeful Tomorrow."

We were reminded in both morning and afternoon services that now was the time to press forward. Our worship was enhanced by the beautiful singing of our male chorus, mass mixed choir and youth choir. (M. E. Gowe, reporter.)

CRESTON, BC. On June 29, 1967, the impressive ground breaking ceremony of the Baptist Church took place. This year in June, 1977, just ten years later, we have launched out on building an extension to the present building. This will give added space in the sanctuary as well as much needed room for the Christian education program.

On September 4 we were honored to have Miss Trudy Schatz, missionary to Cameroon, Africa, minister to us. (M. Johnson, reporter.)

DALLAS, OR. On Oct. 9, 1977, 17 new members were added to Salt Creek Baptist Church. Six persons came by baptism, four by profession of faith, and four by letter. The baptismal service was held during the morning worship hour with the celebration of communion climaxing the solemn occasion.

The boys and girls clubs have begun their fall activities with meetings each Wednesday evening during the adult Bible study time.



A Lay Evangelism Training Program by Dr. D. James Kennedy was introduced in September with the Rev. George Breikreuz, pastor, and his wife, Esther, serving as trainers for the first group of four people. The course stresses the one-to-one approach to evangelism and lasts for 15 weeks. Then we plan to organize a second one. (G. Voth, reporter)

MINOT, ND. A public reception was held to welcome the Rev. Ralph Cooke, his wife, Celesta, and son, Jon, on Oct. 16, 1977, to the pastorate of First Baptist Church.

Y. C. Crilly, church moderator, conducted the program which included welcomes from the city mayor, Chester Reiton; the Minot Ministerial Federation, the Minot Evangelical Ministerial Fellowship and the Dakota Camp Board.

Written greetings were received and shared from various places including the N.A.B. International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, IL, and our former pastor, the Rev. Paul Siewert, Rochester, MN. A solo, "To Be Used of God," was sung by Rodney Wetzal, a deacon. A response was given by Pastor Cooke and Celesta. (Mrs. Inez Rhone, reporter.)

VANCOUVER, BC. "Joy in Christ," based on Nehemiah 8:10, was the theme of the third lower mainland N.A.B. ladies' retreat. Approximately 150 women attended this one-day retreat sponsored by our greater Vancouver churches. Miss Cathy Nicoll, staff

member of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, was our guest speaker. The special music was supplied by the participating churches. During the latter part of the afternoon, we were offered a choice of four workshops: Our responsibility as women 1) to our physical health, led by a doctor; 2) to our husbands, led by the doctor's wife; 3) to our teenagers, led by a high school counselor; and 4) a workshop in German, "Unity in Christ," led by a pastor. Joy in Christ was evident as the ladies shared with each other, sang together and had a real time of fellowship. (Irma Dreger, secretary.)

ASHLEY, ND. A series of evangelistic meetings were conducted at Ashley Baptist Church Oct. 18-23, 1977 by the Rev. Ron Dalzell and his wife, Marjorie. The challenging messages in word and song were a spiritual uplift. The music played on the Musser vibraharp, piano harpsichord, accordion organ, electric and steel guitar, mainly played by Mrs. Dalzell enhanced the services and greatly added to the blessings of all.

A night of music is held every fifth Sunday of the month. On Oct. 30, 1977, a musical program consisting of a solo, a duet, ladies' trios, mixed quartets, men's quartets, youth group song, band selection, men's chorus, as well as a musical selection by the Rev. Allan Gerber and family, was presented. (Mrs. Carl Fischer.)

EDMONTON, AB. A missionary conference was held in Edmonton and area churches from Oct. 12-16, 1977. We were privileged to have with us the Rev. Fred Folkerts and the Rev. Connie Salios from N.A.B. International Office, Oak Brook Terrace, the Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Michelson, the Rev. David Burgess, Mr. Ed Hoepner, Miss Trudy Schatz and Miss Wilma Binder from Cameroon, West Africa, and the Rev. and Mrs. Peter Schroeder from Nigeria. Rallies were held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in various churches. A youth rally was held on Friday evening at North American Baptist College and one adult rally at Wetaskiwin.

The senior citizens also enjoyed fellowship with our missionary personnel on Thursday at a potluck luncheon. On Saturday morning all the churches par-



ticipated in a prayer breakfast at Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Peter Schroeder and the Rev. Fred Folkerts speaking. A children's rally was held at the same time.



On Sunday evening, a mass rally was held at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, at which time the Rev. Ed Michelson and the Rev. Fred Folkerts brought challenging messages. About 1,300 people attended and gave \$9,793.25 toward a project of \$9,000.00 which was given toward the building of a dormitory for men preparing for the pastorate at our new Bible School in Nigeria. (Margaret Benke, reporter.)

MILWAUKEE, WI. Temple Baptist Church celebrated its 90th anniversary on Oct. 29 and 30, 1977. Guest speakers were two former pastors, Dr. G. K. Zimmerman, N.A.B. executive secretary, and the Rev. R. I. Thompson, pastor, Lakeshore Baptist, Stevensville, MI.

Temple Baptist Church began in 1887 as a mission chapel and was called the Second German Baptist Church of Milwaukee. By 1924, services were conducted in English, and the church became known as the North Avenue Baptist Church. In 1949, the church relocated, again necessitating a name change to its present one.

On October 29, an anniversary banquet was held which included singspiration, recollections by older members, messages from sister churches, and slides and movies taken at past church activities.

On October 30 members came dressed in clothes of the 1890's. Songs and prayer were in German reflecting the heritage of our church. Dr. G. K. Zimmerman's message was "The Greatest of These."

The evening service was a time of commitment to the future. The spoken word was given by the Rev. R. I. Thompson; the message in music included "We've Come This Far by Faith" sung by the Danning quartet and "My Tribute" sung by the Rev. Elwyn Zimmerman, pastor of Temple Baptist Church. The festivities concluded with

fellowship around an anniversary cake—a time of rich blessing. (Ingrid Kalister, reporter.)

WASHBURN, ND. "Forward Steadfast 'til He Comes!" was the theme of the 75th anniversary celebration at Washburn Baptist Church, Oct. 8 and 9, 1977. The Rev. Richard Paetzel, instructor, North American Baptist College, Edmonton, AB, served as the special speaker. The Rev. G. W. Blackburn, Dickinson, and the Rev. Harry Haas, Okeene, were also on the program, as they were former pastors of the church.

The Edinger Brothers Quartet, consisting of Pastor Bernard Edinger, Ben of Fargo, and Martin and Clayton of Grand Forks, furnished much of the music for the event. The local ladies chorus and instrumental group and Mrs. Robert Mortvedt furnished additional music.

More than 250 attended the services on Sunday morning and afternoon, after nearly 200 had attended the Saturday night banquet. The church congregation was thrilled at the fine attendance and the many letters of greeting as well as the presence of many old friends who had been at the church in the past.

Anniversary booklets were printed and sold to those who desired them at the cost of \$1.50. Some are still available. Pictures of almost all the pastors who had served the church were on display and will be permanently displayed in the church building in the future. (Bernard Edinger, pastor.)

PHILADELPHIA, PA. On Oct. 2, 1977, a fellowship and welcome service was held for the Atlantic Association's new church extension body in Bensalem, PA. Over a hundred joyous people were gathered to welcome the pastor, Dennis Kee (pictured) and his family, and other members of the new Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church.

The Rev. Eldon Janzen, Valley Stream, NY, represented the Atlantic Association. Delegations from other churches were present to lovingly enfold this new "baby" into the Body of Christ. The Rev. Paul Meister, newly installed at Pilgrim Baptist Church led in the communion service.

The Rev. James Correnti welcomed the Kees into membership at Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church until Neshaminy Valley Baptist Church is granted official recognition. He emphasized the importance of supporting prayer. George Gerstlauer led the service. Harold Middleton presented a communion set from the members of Fleischmann Memorial Baptist Church.

Since June, Neshaminy Valley Church



has been meeting in a local elementary school. Twenty were present at the most recent service. In addition, three Bible study groups are meeting in various locations. (Robert Grant, reporter; Bill Doppler, photographer.)

BEULAH, ND. Six persons were baptized at Immanuel Baptist Church, Aug. 7, 1977. These were received into the fellowship of the church, August 14, during the communion worship service. The Rev. Herman Kesterke is the pastor.

Dr. Ernest Zimbelman, professor of Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, was guest speaker at the morning service on July 31. He also spoke at the ordination service for our pastor, the Rev. Herman A. Kesterke, in the afternoon. (See additional report in this issue.) (Ruby Boeckel, reporter.)

BILLINGS, MT. The annual meeting of the W.M.U. of the Central Montana-Dakota Association, July 2, began with the Prayer and Praise Breakfast at the Ramada Inn, hosted by the W.M.S. of Calvary Baptist Church, Billings. Laura Metz, association vice president presided. Dorene Walth, N.A.B. Conference W.M.U. president, was guest speaker.

The annual luncheon and business meeting was held at noon. Vi Kiemele, president of the association W.M.U. presided. Verna Ganstrom, Bismarck, ND, led the devotions. Mrs. Ron Stoller, Japan, was the enthusiastic missionary speaker.

New officers elected were Mrs. Alvin Auch, Billings, president; Mrs. Reuben Metz, Alfred, ND, vice president; Mrs. Daryl Birdsall, New Leipzig, ND, treasurer; Mrs. Amanda R. Fuchs, Billings, White Cross chairwoman; Mrs. Alma B. Kremer continues as secretary. Last year's goal was met; the new goal, \$1,500, is to be equally divided between projects in Japan and Nigeria. (Alma Kremer, secretary.)

MC CLUSKY, ND. It was with joy that we of McClusky Baptist Church witnessed the baptism of five young people and one adult. They and one other person, who joined the church by

testimony, were extended the hand of fellowship and welcomed into the church.

A mother-daughter banquet was held with the theme being "Hats off to Mother." Mrs. Bernard Edinger, Washburn, was our guest speaker.

The Rev. Myrl Thiesies is the pastor of our church. (Mrs. Alan Wahl, reporter.)

FORT QU'APPELLE, SK. The first 24 hour Ladies' Retreat of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association was held April 29-30 at Echo Valley Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle with 71 ladies attending.

Our W.M.U. president, Mrs. Isabel Hoffman, presided at the sessions with ladies from the various churches participating. The program consisted of song services, skits, poems, testimonies and musical selections by the women.

A highlight was the guest speaker, Miss LaVerna Mehlhaff, our N.A.B. Conference Women's Work Director, who very effectively spoke on the theme, "The Lord Is Your Strength," in the home, the church and the community. Miss Mehlhaff also related to us some valuable information and tips to enhance the local W.M.S. meetings.

Each church provided a variety of crafts, hobbies, and recipes to take home. Christian literature and books were also sold. (Mrs. Lillian Paul, reporter.)

LINTON, ND. An ordination council was convened at First Baptist Church, Linton, ND, on July 22 to consider Mr. Robert Walther for ordination into the Christian ministry. Nine churches were represented by 23 delegates. The Rev. Ed Kopf served as moderator, and the Rev. A. J. Fischer as clerk. The council recommended that the church proceed with the ordination.

On August 14, a large host of friends and townspeople met at First Baptist Church for the ordination service for Robert Walther. The Rev. Ed Kopf presided; the Rev. Ray Harsch preached the ordination message. The Rev. Herbert Vetter, the father-in-law of the candidate, gave the ordination prayer; the Rev. Allen Gerber gave the charge to the church; the Rev. A. J. Fischer, the charge to the candidate; Mrs. Arthur Fischer, the charge to the candidate's wife, and the Rev. Gordon Huisinga, the welcome to the candidate. The Rev. Robert Walther gave the benediction.

BURLINGTON, IA. The Rev. Walter Damrau, interim pastor, at Oak Street Baptist Church, is pictured with eight of the nine new members baptized in July during his service at Oak Street Baptist Church.



The Rev. B. Lawrence Sweeney, senior pastor at Oak Street Baptist Church, was installed Aug. 21, 1977, at the evening service. (Phyllis C. McQuay, church clerk.)

WARREN, MI. Redeemer Baptist Church bid farewell to the Norris Helms family on August 14. Mr. Helms has accepted the position of Director of Visitation and Christian Education at Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA. Mr. Helms joined Redeemer in 1962 and has served in various capacities: Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, chairman of deacon board, director of visitation, assistant to pastor, and most recently as interim pastor. He has been a most capable servant of the Lord at Redeemer. Our love and prayers go with him and his lovely family as they accept the challenges, and the blessings, that are ahead of them in California. (Doris Kintzer, reporter.)

GLEN ELLYN, IL. Paul J. Loth and Fredric E. Spalding were ordained to the work of the Christian ministry by Village Green Baptist Church on Aug. 7, 1977.

Both men were recommended for ordination by a Council of delegates from the Illinois Association of N.A.B. churches.

Loth graduated from the Conservative Baptist Seminary, Denver, CO; Spalding graduated from the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

Participating in the service of ordination were the Rev. Robert S. Hess, pastor; the Rev. John McGarvey, minister of Christian Education; the Rev. Connie Salios, former pastor; the Rev. Arthur Garling, former associate pastor; Dr.

Paul E. Loth, president, Evangelical Teacher Training Association; Dr. Gerald Borchert, dean, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Also participating were Doug Vogt, minister of Christian Education and youth at First Baptist Church, Pekin; Jay Spalding, youth counselor, Christian Haven Homes, Wheatfield, IN.

Music was provided by Mrs. Nancy Salzman, director of music and organist; Mark Barnes, pianist; and Alan Addy, soloist.

BEULAH, ND. Mr. Herman W. Kesterke, a 1977 graduate of the North American Baptist Seminary, was ordained by Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND, where he is pastor, July 31, 1977.

Mr. Kesterke was examined by an Ordination Council consisting of 20 delegates from seven churches in the Northern Dakota and Central Dakota Association. At the Council meeting of July 30, he was recommended to Immanuel Baptist Church for ordination.

Various pastors in the two associations took part in the ordination service with Dr. Ernest Zimbelman, professor of Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, giving the ordination sermon. The Rev. Wesley Blackburn, Dickinson, gave the charge to the church; the Rev. Walter Klemp, father-in-law of the candidate, the charge to the candidate; the Rev. Wesley Gerber, Underwood, gave the ordination prayer, and the Rev. Randall Tschetter, Turtle Lake, gave the welcome into the ministry.

After special music from the local church and family members of the candidate, who were from Minitonas, MB, Mr. Kesterke's home church, the newly ordained pastor, the Rev. Herman W. Kesterke led in the closing prayer and benediction. (Wesley A. Gerber, clerk of the council.)

in memoriam

MARIE ELIZABETH BURFEINDT was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Burfeindt Oct. 19, 1903, near Avon, SD, and died Oct. 19, 1977. Marie spent her whole life in the Avon Community. She was active in the welfare of caring for the needy and aged for many years. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior in her youth, was baptized on March 27, 1921, and became an active member of First Baptist Church of Avon. She served as Sunday school teacher for 50 years, sang in the church choir, directed children's work, taught in vacation Bible schools, served as Sunday school superintendent, directed the church library, held many offices in the Ladies' Missionary Society, and served as dining room hostess at Crystal Springs Baptist Youth Camp, Medina, ND. Survivors include three sisters: Margaret Johnson, Grace Bleeker, and Bertha Bangert; and a host of other relatives and friends. Her parents, three brothers and two sisters preceded her in death. The Rev. Henry Lang officiated at the service.

ARTHUR L. SCHMELTEKOPF, 82, of Kyle, TX, was born in Maxwell, TX, Dec. 6, 1895, and died Oct. 10, 1977. He was a faithful member of Immanuel Baptist Church for 70 years, serving as treasurer of the church for more than 40 years. He was united in marriage to Meta Engelbrecht in 1930 who survives him. Other survivors are three children: Arthur Jr., Boulder, CO; Mrs. Rose Marie Toepfer, Eunice, LA; and Morris Schmeltkopf, Kyle, TX; four brothers: Henry, Emil, Walter, and Charlie; two sisters: Mrs. Mary Loewer and Mrs. Esther Lengfeld; five grandchildren and a host of friends. His pastor, Dr. W. H. Barsh, officiated at the service, assisted by a nephew, Dr. Edward Schmeltkopf.

MARIE ZIMMERMAN (nee Sukut) was born March 18, 1891, to August and Julia (Bogner) Sukut at Lehr, ND, and died Oct. 20, 1977. She accepted Christ as her personal Savior, was baptized in July 1912, and joined the Wishek Baptist Church. She married Carl Zimmerman Jan. 14, 1912. To this blessed union ten children were born. In 1922 they moved to Napoleon, joined the Napoleon Baptist Church, where she remained a faithful member until her passing. Due to illness she spent the last two years in the Baptist Home in Bismarck, ND. She was preceded in death by her husband; one son, Ruben; and is survived by five sons: Gideon, Walter, Alvin, Isador and Edward; four daughters: Ruth, Alma, Edna and Betty; two sisters; 25 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. The Rev. Edwin F. Walter officiated at the funeral service.

MAX BUSCH of Camrose, AB, passed away at the age of 53 years on Sept. 20, 1977. Surviving Max are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Busch, Camrose; one brother, Reinhard, Kelowna, BC; two sisters, Hertha (Mrs. A. F. Mahony), Calgary, AB, and Elsie Busch, Vancouver, BC. The Rev. Henry Schumacher, Fellowship Baptist Church, officiated at the funeral service.

BERT LINDAMAN was born Aug. 17, 1909, on a farm southeast of Bristow, IA, and died Oct. 9, 1977, at the age of 68 years. On March 4, 1936, Bert Lindaman married Marie Tellinghuisen. Both of them were baptized and became members of Aplington Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, John. He is survived by his wife, Marie; three sons: Robert, Windom, MN; Byron, Ogilvie, MN, and Gene, West Brook, MN; three daughters: Theda, North St. Paul, MN; Ellen, Marion, NY; and Carol, West Burlington, IA; 17 grandchildren; two sisters: Fannie (Mrs. Carl Allan) and Tjadie; one brother, Dan; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. The Rev. Donald Patet officiated at the funeral service.

MARTHA NELNER, 73, Vancouver, BC, died Aug. 27, 1977. She was born Sept. 11, 1903, in Ellerslie, AB. She married Edward Nelner on Dec. 19, 1924. In 1930 she accepted Christ as her Savior, was baptized and received into the fellowship of Central Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB. In 1942 the family moved to Vancouver, BC. She was a faithful member at Ebenezer Baptist Church until her death. Surviving her are her beloved husband, Edward; two daughters: Violet Bismeyer and Dorothy Konnett of Vancouver; twelve grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. Pastors Arthur Patzia and Len Kageler officiated.

THE REV. NORMAN A. BERKAN was born May 18, 1925, near Southey, SK, and died Sept. 14, 1977. He graduated from North American Baptist Seminary in 1951. That same summer he married Esther Ballantine of Denison, IA, and later was ordained in Elmo, KS. He pastored N.A.B. churches in Elmo, KS, two at Killaloe, ON, and in Gladwin, MI. Illness and accidents forced him out of pastorate for a few years, but he remained active in First Baptist Church, Auburn, MI. In 1976 he became church extension pastor in Standish, MI. He is survived by his wife, Esther; a daughter, Sharon Urbia, and a son Roger. The Rev. Fred Penner led the memorial service assisted by Pastors Ruben Herrmann, Jacob Ehman, Winston Decker and Dr. G. K. Zimmerman.

GEORGE NORBY, 78, of Carrington, ND, died on Oct. 1, 1977. He was born Nov. 1, 1898, at Hoffman, MN. On Aug. 15, 1926, he married Esther Albus. He accepted Christ, was baptized in 1941 and became a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington. He is survived by his wife, Esther; one daughter, Mrs. Keith (Eitel) Jensen, Carrington; two sons: Wayne, Fargo, ND; and Rodney, Champaign, IL; two sisters: Mrs. Millie Johnson, Fremont, CA, and Mrs. Emma Hall, Woodworth, ND; three brothers: Emil, Lisbon, ND;

Martin, Billings, MT; Oscar, Grants Pass, OR; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The Rev. Frank Unruh and the Rev. N. E. McCoy officiated at the funeral service.

ANDREW DELZER, 76, of Bismarck, ND, died Aug. 14, 1977. He was born on Nov. 20, 1900, in Venturia, ND. On Oct. 11, 1931, he married Bertha Dockter. He joined Bismarck Baptist Church in 1956 and served as trustee for several years. He leaves his widow; three sons: Milton, Williston; and Clarence and Dennis, both of Bismarck; two sisters: Mrs. Ed Buchholz and Mrs. Robert Dohn, and one brother, Emil. The Rev. Ronald Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

ADOLPH HAAS, 78, of Bismarck, ND, died Oct. 3, 1977. He was born in McIntosh County on March 29, 1899. Amelia, his first wife, died Aug. 20, 1960. In 1963 he married Katherine Kiesz Haas. Survivors include: three sons: Alfred, Bismarck; Herman, Dawson; and Edward, Minot; two daughters: Mrs. Art (Irene) Wolfer, Bismarck, and Mrs. Harvy (Luella) Sukut, Fargo; two stepsons: Alvin Haas, Bismarck, and Leo Haas, Venturia; and two stepdaughters, Mrs. Ted (Lorraine) Bertsch, Aberdeen, SD, and Mrs. Herbert (Lillian) Heupel, Eureka, SD; one brother, Reinhold. Mr. Haas was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Amelia, and one daughter, Mrs. Chester (Janet) Miller. He was a member of the Bismarck Baptist Church which he joined in 1954 transferring from the Hazelton Baptist Church. The Rev. Ronald Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

WILLIAM IBLINGS, 72, of Bismarck, ND, died Oct. 4, 1977. Born March 6, 1905, at Parkersburg, IA, Mr. Iblings moved later to New Leipzig, ND, where he farmed from 1924 to 1965. He married Esther Okken in 1933 and after her death in 1953, he married Elma Reich Dubs in 1959. Mr. Iblings leaves his widow; four children: Earl, Anaconda, MT; Melvin, Missoula, MT; Mrs. Dean (Frances) Neff, Bismarck, and Mrs. Duane (Marion) Jorstad, Sioux Falls, SD; three stepchildren: Harlan Dubs, St. Paul, MN; Robert Dubs, Rockford, IL; and Mrs. Delmar (Marjorie) Intved, St. Paul; a brother, Albert; four sisters: Mrs. Swannette Sprung, Mrs. Alice Schulte, Mrs. Ida Okken, and Rose. He was a member of Bismarck Baptist Church. The Rev. Ron Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

MRS. PETER (BERTHA) KLEIN, 73, of Bismarck, ND, died Oct. 11, 1977. She was organist, teacher and longtime member of Bismarck Baptist Church. Mrs. Klein was born Aug. 6, 1904, at Kulm, ND, and married Peter Klein, Sept. 16, 1924. She leaves her husband; two daughters: Mrs. Kurt (Evelyn) Peters, and Mrs. James (Darlene) Fuehrer; one son, Paul, all of Bismarck; three sisters: Mrs. Anna Ulrich, Mrs. Edna Washburn, and Mrs. Louise Janke; and four brothers: Emil Hehr, Edwin Hehr, Edward Hehr, and Albert Hehr. The Rev. Ronald Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

MRS. ADAM (SUSANA) RIEDLINGER, 71, of Bismarck, ND, died Oct. 15, 1977. She was born Nov. 14, 1905, to Christian and Rosina (Reister) Schatz at Medina, ND. She married Adam J. Riedlinger May 31, 1931, at Hazelton, ND, where they farmed until 1949 when they moved to Bismarck. In addition to her husband, she leaves two sons: Wilbert, Bismarck, and Kenneth, Lakota; two daughters: Mrs. Marvin (Arlene) Giese and Mrs. James (Delores) Feigel, both of Bismarck; two brothers: John and Chris Schatz; five sisters: Mrs. Jake Riedlinger, Mrs. Gottlieb Grenz, Mrs. Ted Weixel, Mrs. Ted Hillius, and Mrs. Emil Ebel. She was a member of Bismarck Baptist Church. The Rev. Ron Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.

JACOB HEER, 79, Mandan, ND, died Oct. 15, 1977. He was born June 20, 1898, in Russia, came to the U.S.A. with his parents in 1901, settling in a homestead west of Linton, ND. In 1918 he married Fredia Schnaible who died in 1921. He married Emma Walther in 1921 and she died in 1956. He married Ethel Johnson in 1957 at McKenzie, ND. He leaves his widow; two sons: Edward, Linton; and Herbert, Kent, WA; a daughter, Mrs. Elise Maier, Monroe, WA; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Marjorie Krein; a brother, Fred, Linton; and two sisters: Mrs. Ferdinando Kiemele and Mrs. Caroline Kiemele. He was a member of Bismarck Baptist Church. The Rev. Ron Norman was the officiating minister at the funeral service.



More Privileged Than Mary

by Adolph Braun

One of the most meaningful Christmas songs is "Mary's Magnificate" (Luke 1:46-57). "Magnificate" is Latin for "to magnify" (v. 46). Mary may have been a peasant girl, but she was unusual in her knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, since she quoted from 33 passages of the O.T.

Mary "magnified the Lord" as the just, the holy, the merciful and faithful God. She could not exaggerate God in her praise. Her scriptural praises bubbled out like a fountain. No wonder God passed up the rabbis and the priests and revealed his purpose to a peasant girl. The learned may have doubted God's method and his miracle.

She considered it a privilege to be a "handmaiden," unreservedly at his service. God chooses those who put his interests first. Mary honored him as the "Mighty and Holy One," for there was none like him. He "scattered the proud"—they gather against the Lord, but he will reverse many positions in his day. He will topple their thrones and exalt the humble who do his will. Those of "low degree" here qualify for the King's honor. He fills the hungry and sends the selfish rich away empty. The self-sufficient have no place with the King; his subjects hunger and thirst for his righteous rule.

Her praise recalled God's promises to Abraham and his descendants, that, "through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed." How blessed the people of North America have been, because their forefathers trusted in the God of Abraham and his Son, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for such a humble woman who put herself at God's disposal and accepted the place he chose for her.

The Rev. Adolph Braun is the pastor of Sunkist Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA. He has written this column for a full year. A cordial thank-you from all the readers and from the editor! During the future months another pastor will write for this column.

news & views

BAPTIST ALLIANCE OFFERS \$50,000 FOR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN USSR

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, USA—The General Council of the Baptist World Alliance has designated \$110,251 from its relief fund for interchurch aid for the theological education of ministerial students speaking one or more of the Slavic languages in eastern Europe.

A total of \$50,000 of this amount was "reserved for an institution of theological training in the USSR, to be paid to the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians/Baptists promptly upon request after the necessary permissions are obtained from the authorities for the opening of such an institution."

WOOD CHARGES IRS WITH ENCRoACHMENT ON FREEDOM

WASHINGTON (BPA)—Definitions of "church" and the mission of the church by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service pose a grave threat to religious freedom, according to James E. Wood, Jr., executive director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Wood said that current efforts of the IRS to define church and integrated auxiliaries of churches "pose a potential threat to all religious denominations which are involved in the body politic by the removal of the tax exemption and of the tax deductibility of contributions" made to churches.

Wood sketched the history of the Internal Revenue Code's relation to churches since 1934. Most recently, he said, the IRS has issued regulations which "eliminated the 'primary purpose' test and substituted in its place the test of whether the 'principal activity' of an organization or institution claiming to be an integrated auxiliary is 'exclusively religious.'"

This regulation "must be regarded as a serious encroachment of government on religion and an exercise of political authority totally unacceptable to the

According to two passages of Scripture, you can be more privileged than the mother of Jesus. When Jesus was told that his mother and brothers desired to see him, he replied, "Who is my mother or brethren?" Then looking at his disciples, he said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother" (Mark 3:33-35). Again, when a woman loudly revered Mary, Jesus immediately answered, "Yes, rather, blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it" (Luke 11:27-28). □

churches. . . . The IRS has violated both the letter and the spirit of the First Amendment," Wood charged.

"The church has both a right and a responsibility to speak out on public affairs by virtue of its mission and the guarantees of the First Amendment," Wood asserted. "The present IRS policy . . . can only have a chilling and 'inhibiting' effect on the churches in the area of public affairs."

U.S. NEEDS JESUS, NOT . . .

NASHVILLE (BP)—Jesus Christ, not nuclear weaponry, should be America's "first line of defense," former U.S. Senator Harold E. Hughes declared here during the state leadership prayer breakfast sponsored by the Religious Heritage of America.

"Peace will not come about by bringing more and more instruments of destruction into existence," said the former Iowa governor and senator. "We can't keep building bigger and better weapons. Man has always used weapons to kill and destroy. What makes you think we have changed? The only real change is through Jesus Christ, who changes the heart."

Trusting God as a nation's defense "is not a very pleasant thing to think about," Hughes admitted. "But," he added, "I'm totally convinced that if we trust Christ as our first line of defense that death and destruction caused by war will finally come to an end."

The prayer breakfast was one of several events sponsored by the Religious Heritage of America during its annual pilgrimage, held in Nashville for the first time. The national non-sectarian organization holds as its goal the preservation of the spiritual values proclaimed by America's founding fathers.

Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton, Lieutenant Gov. John Wilder and Tennessee Supreme Court Justice William Harbison participated in the brief program.

Hughes, a recovered alcoholic, stressed that America needs fewer "moral people" and more "committed Christians" if it is to realize its potential as a "nation under God."

The only way to have the inalienable rights sought by the founders of this nation is to find them in Jesus Christ, he said.

"We can pursue them politically, as men have done for centuries, and we can never find them," Hughes explained. "We must never distort or warp the Word of God. If this nation is to be 'under God,' then its people must live under the commandments of God.

"Are we doing that?" he questioned. "Absolutely not."

what's happening

■ *The Rev. George Victor* resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church of Dickinson County, Hope, KS, effective Nov. 30, 1977. He will be attending Talbot Theological Seminary, La Miranda, CA.

■ *The Rev. Arthur Kliever* resigned as pastor of Elim Baptist Church, Beausejour, MB, effective Jan. 31, 1978, where he has served since 1968.

■ *The Rev. William Mc Latchie* has accepted the call to become pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH, effective March 1, 1978. He has served as pastor of Forest Baptist Church, Winburne, PA, since 1974.

■ *The Rev. William Ehmann* resigned from the position of director of Christian education, Trinity Baptist Church, Portland, OR. He has served in that position since 1974.

■ *The Rev. Milton Falkenberg* has accepted the call to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Gackle, ND.

■ *Mr. Herbert W. Bachler* is the new pastor of Southey Baptist Church, Southey, SK, effective Nov. 1, 1977.

■ *The Rev. Robert J. Reid* has resigned as pastor of Southey Baptist Church, Southey, SK, and is living in Grande Prairie, AB.

■ *The Rev. Wenzel Hanik* assumes the duties of minister of youth and Christian education at Pineland Baptist Church, Burlington, ON, effective Feb. 1, 1978. He has served as youth pastor at German Baptist Mission Church, Winnipeg, MB, since 1976.

■ *Mr. Charles Whims* became the director of Christian education at Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, effective Dec. 5, 1977.

■ *The Rev. Randall Tschetter*, pastor of Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND, has resigned effective Jan. 15, 1978.

■ *The Rev. Bill Keith* was ordained Nov. 2, 1977, by Springside Baptist Church, Springside, SK, where he is pastor.

■ *The Rev. Sanvus Yuen* is the new pastor of discipleship at Willow Rancho Baptist Church, Sacramento, CA.

■ *Rev. D. Lee Grace* is serving as pastor of Creston Baptist Church, Creston, NE, as well as another church in a nearby town.

■ *The Rev. George Neubert* is the minister of visitation at Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND. He had served as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND, from 1965-1976. □

Pastors Given View of N.A.B. Conference



Pastors and church staff members participated in an orientation session for pastors new to the North American Baptist Conference, Oct. 10-11, 1977, at the N.A.B. International Office, Oakbrook Terrace, IL. Those attending were the Rev. Kent Carlson, Grace Baptist, Racine, WI; the Rev. and Mrs. Larry Friesen, Randolph Baptist, MN; the Rev. Michael Hagan, Meadow Hills Baptist Church, Aurora, CO; the Rev. Ron Heisler, Southside Baptist, Maumee, OH; Mr. Klaus Issler, Parma Heights Baptist, Cleveland, OH; the Rev. Larry Messer, Fellowship Baptist, Kalamazoo, MI; the Rev. Larry Parker, Calvary Baptist, Wetaskiwin, AB; the

Rev. John Rasko, Sherwood Park Baptist, Greeley, CO; Dr. and Mrs. James Reidling, Grace Baptist, Upper Sandusky, OH; the Rev. Lyle Spicer, First Baptist, Medina, ND; the Rev. Bert Sweeney, Oak Street Baptist, Burlington, IA; the Rev. Bill Taft, Grosse Pointe Baptist, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI; the Rev. John Trate, Northridge Baptist, Troy, MI; and the Rev. Peter Unrau, Redeemer Baptist, Warren, MI.

N.A.B. Office executive staff participated in sharing sessions with the pastors explaining the various aspects of the ministries and mission work of the North American Baptist Conference.

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editorial viewpoint

PRIORITIES FOR DISCIPLING

Guest editorial by
G. K. Zimmerman

This past year we have been focusing on the theme "Priorities for a Worthy Future," which has caused the Conference and local church leaders to sort out that which is most essential for immediate action. Our Conference goals have constantly motivated us to move forward. We can report that as a Conference we have now grown to more than 57,000 members. This growth is a commendable achievement. In Church Extension we established 12 new projects. This is ahead of our goal of 30 for the 1976-79 triennium. Our mission fields report excellent progress numerically as well as in quality of program. Both the North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, and the North American Baptist College in Edmonton, AB, report that their present enrollment is in keeping with the goal for the triennium. It has been a grand year as we move ahead toward realizing our worthy future.

Our theme for 1978 focuses on "Priorities for Discipling." We often think of a disciple as one who follows Jesus. However, upon examining discipleship, we immediately notice that being Christians does not necessarily mean we are disciples. Being disciples means recognizing Christ as Lord of our lives and ourselves as servants or slaves of Christ. Christian discipleship has no room for passiveness. We must be actively engaged in fulfilling the commands and proclaimers of the faith we treasure so much. Jesus said, "Ye call me Lord, Lord, but do not the things I have com-

manded you to do." Jesus expected that believers would be teachers. Pastors are charged to equip the saints to serve. When we engaged an architect to design the Conference office building, we did not expect the architect to build the structure. We charged him to design every detail, and then we engaged a builder with bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, painters and other workers to carry out the instructions of the architect. In like manner, Jesus is the Master Architect, who engages all of us to build his kingdom according to his divine plan. Just as persons with various abilities help to construct a building, so disciples with various gifts are needed to build the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discipling is more than winning persons to Christ. A great deal is being done in the United States and Canada and throughout the world to lead people to accept Christ as Savior. As a Conference we do much through evangelism to win people to Christ. Pastors preach and invite persons to receive Christ. We are grateful for the many people who are becoming believers. Yet that is not enough. It's only the beginning. After winning persons to Christ the greater task begins, namely to nurture and guide believers to greater maturity.

As a Conference we have placed much emphasis on youth and Sunday school ministries. We had a youth and Sunday school ministry before we established the General Council. We have at the present time one of the finest church ministries departments in the country. This is not stated boastfully but rather factually by what other denominations have said about our Church Ministries Department. In fact, our evangelism ministry and Christian education emphasis are viewed as models by others. One of our publications, "Stimulus," a compilation of very wide resources, is sought after by many groups. The Church Ministries Department emphasis on church growth has become contagious in our churches. It is a sure sign that we are geared to grow. How about gearing up in 1978 for discipling? You and I are the key to greater Christian service, that through it we and our fellow believers might become more mature in the faith.

The year 1978 has much in store for us, as we examine our own discipleship and upgrade our effectiveness. We must plan, as our priority, genuine discipling of all those who belong to our church, Association and Conference.

Just as 1977 was a great year of achievement, so 1978 can be a year of a new and growing discipling ministry.

1978—PRIORITIES FOR DISCIPLING! □

Dr. G. K. Zimmerman is executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.



letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago I received a letter from Nigeria which was very interesting to me. I will quote a bit from it for your benefit.

"I was reading through a magazine named BAPTIST HERALD. This magazine was found on the roadside near my father's compound. In reading through it I really enjoyed, though it was not a complete magazine, just a sheet. I became much interested in it.

Please, I would be very grateful if arrangement will be made so that I shall be getting it every month. My parents are Moslems. I believe this magazine will teach me more about the Lord Jesus Christ and to enable me to bring the lost ones to Him."

I would appreciate it if you would send a subscription to him and bill me for it. Wenzel Hanik, pastor, Winnipeg, MB.

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MISSION FIELD

(Continued from page 9)

and taken away their land and have driven them into alcoholism.

Seeing the movies of the Soviet land and society, they could not help but wonder why life would be worse in the USSR than in Monte Vista, or more specifically in the poor people's section, Lariat. Even Dr. Ahrens' closing prayer seems to refer to these discrepancies, for he asks the Lord to "help us understand that material blessings are not the most important things in life." Russia and material blessings—I never thought of this combination before. But I know what Earl Ahrens means and what he is trying to do, and I love him for it. . . .

The eventful day comes to a close over a cup of tea at the Ahrens'.

Next morning Dr. Ahrens joins me for breakfast at the hotel. On the way to the airport, we discover that another sandstorm, or perhaps snowstorm, is building up, hiding the mountains from our view.

"Will we get a sandstorm?" I ask Earl Ahrens. "Yes," comes his short answer. Suddenly we both break into laughter. Because a few minutes before at breakfast he had just told me how to distinguish the right from the wrong answer of a Spanish-surnamed person. "Yes may mean 'yes,' or yes may mean 'no,' and no often means 'maybe,'" he had instructed me. Now it was up to me to figure out what his 'yes' meant.

There are many people milling around at the airport. Most of them, especially the youth, are well dressed with shoes polished like a mirror. After a short delay, the plane takes off and allows the passengers a magnificent view of the *Sangre de Cristo* Range on one side and the San Juan Mountains on the other, bathed in the soft light of the morning sun. In my mind I roll back history several hundred years and see the young priest, Francisco Torres, as he is lying with deadly wounds in the San Luis Valley, after taking part in a fierce battle against the Indians. Seeing the eastern range of mountains light up in a blood-red reflection of the sunset, he musters all his strength and, rising on his arm, shouts: "Sangre de Cristo! Sangre de Cristo!" (The blood of Christ! The blood of Christ!). Upon his death, the Valley people honored him by naming the mountain range *Sangre de Cristo*. □

(To be continued. The concluding article will report of my visit to Rio Grande City, TX, and to the two Mexican towns, Camargo and Villa Nueva, where the Sandoval family is doing missionary service.)



A special packet is available to aid churches in their observance of Baptist World Alliance Day 1978 (the first week in February). Materials include a large map of the world family of Baptists, daily prayer guide, sermon suggestions, and other information. Order by writing the BWA office, 1628 - 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. A \$3 contribution will cover costs. Bulk prices reduced. Encourage your church to participate.

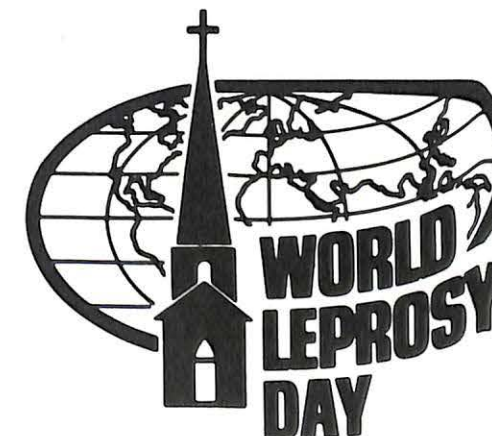
chuckle with bruno

"Ida, where did you get that gorgeous ring?" "When my husband died he left \$1,000 for a casket and \$5,000 for a stone. This is the stone."

Many people who claim they are self-made usually have a few parts missing.

Some people count their blessings on their fingers and their troubles on a computer.

Said the father to his son at the dinner table: "If your mother can take the time to defrost this meal, then you can take time to eat it."



January 29, 1978

baptist herald

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