

Dec./Jan. 1979-80

baptist herald





As the Baptist World Alliance celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 1980, many outstanding events will be recalled, progress will be noted, and challenging plans will be made. One truth presents itself in unmistakable force: the need for a unifying body of Baptist Christians throughout the length and breadth of our troubled world is greater now than at any point in our past history. If our goal of reaching all peoples of the world with the gospel is ever to be achieved, we must extend ourselves and unite with our brothers and sisters in Christ to minister and preach to every person. The Baptist World Alliance is a proper channel through which this work can be done.

Mrs. Wong and I are profoundly grateful to God for giving us the privilege of visiting in person with members of our world Baptist family during the past five years. In 1978, we travelled to Papua New Guinea to meet with one of the newest bodies of Baptists to join the Baptist World Alliance family. It was a high point of our travels to listen to the stories of how it came to pass that the gospel of Christ was brought there and to learn how God has prospered their work and performed miracles in their personal lives. Christians in Papua New Guinea are willing to walk for hours, even days, for the privilege of meeting together and studying God's word. The Australian Baptists, who started this ministry, continue to do an outstanding work in this remote land.

In 1979, we attended the first Asian Baptist Congress in Hyderabad-Secunderabad. It was thrilling indeed to gather with 6,000 Baptists from 35 countries in one huge tent and sing praises to God. Afterwards, we were taken to see the coastal areas which were devastated by cyclones and a tidal wave in 1977. Almost as soon as this tragedy occurred, aid began arriving through the Baptist World Alliance and other Christian organizations. Sad as the sights were, we rejoiced that the worldwide family of Baptists had expressed their love through such rehabilitation work. In a land dominated primarily by Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions, Christianity in action gave its own witness—bonds in Christ were strengthened and people were converted.

This year we commemorate the founding of the Baptist World Alliance in 1905 "to bring Baptists throughout the world together in common cause." May we not only celebrate this event as we gather in Toronto, Canada for the 14th Baptist World Congress, but let us also resolve to strive together to "attempt great things for God" to a degree we have not dared before.

Through your prayerful support and your participation in the World Congress and on-going programs of the Alliance, our common goal can be achieved.

David Y.K. Wong
BWA President 1975-80

president's message

baptist herald

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NEWS Flash

13,000 Attend World Premiere of "Joni"

Baltimore, MD—The world premiere of World Wide Pictures new film JONI took place in the Baltimore Civic Center on October 5. Billy Graham addressed the 13,000 in attendance by saying, "Baltimore is known for many things. Right now, it is known for the Orioles (who had just won the World Series playoffs) and I don't want to forget the Colts. But tonight it is better known as 'Joni Eareckson's hometown'."

All the tickets for the world premiere were sold out 10 days prior to the showing according to Lou Grasmick, chairman for the event. The JONI premiere was the third largest event in the Baltimore Civic Center—third only to an Elvis Presley concert and a Beatles performance.

Searchlights pierced the night sky as Joni arrived at the Civic Center with Billy Graham and Baltimore's Mayor Schaefer. The band and choir from Joni's alma mater, Woodlawn High School, serenaded her upon arrival. The Mayor presented her with a baseball hat and made her an honorary "Baltimore Oriole."

At the finish of the movie, Joni told the audience, "I think the exciting message of this film is not necessarily an explanation for my suffering, for my pain, but the exciting message of this film is that there is a God who cares and He's more than abundantly able to meet every one of our needs no matter how deep our longings."

After Joni spoke, Billy Graham extended an invitation to those present to "accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior" and literally hundreds raised their hands for prayer. □

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Christmas is Planning

by Joan Hutchinson

I have been asked, "What does Christmas mean to me?" It would be very interesting to reverse the question and ask you "What does Christmas mean to you?" It would be great to listen as you shared your answers. Some, I'm sure, would give very positive, happy answers. Perhaps others find Christmas a very difficult time.

When I was a little girl, Christmas day meant breakfast and gifts at home, then off to Grandma's for a turkey dinner and more presents. In those days Christmas meant school concerts, holidays, cousins, friends, shopping, tree lights, music, church and the story of Jesus' birth—all mixed in with love, warmth and excitement, just waiting for that special morning to arrive!

As I got older and started working, I would hear someone say, "I must remind Bill to restock the liquor cabinet before our neighbors start coming over for a Christmas drink," or "Christmas is for kids—with Santa Claus and the presents. Now that my kids are grown, Christmas is such a hassle and it costs so much—I'd rather forget it." I soon realized that not everyone enjoyed Christmas and not every child would have the lovely Christmases I remember.

Until I married and had a family of my own, it didn't occur to me that a meaningful, happy and relaxed Christmas season for our little family requires careful planning and preparation by the mom in our house—that means me!

It takes a lot of effort for me to organize the cards: buying, writing, stamping, and getting them into the mail. Shopping wisely, choosing the right gift, planning the food, and finding enough money for everything, all take work. When I take the time to plan well, we all have a beautiful Christmas.

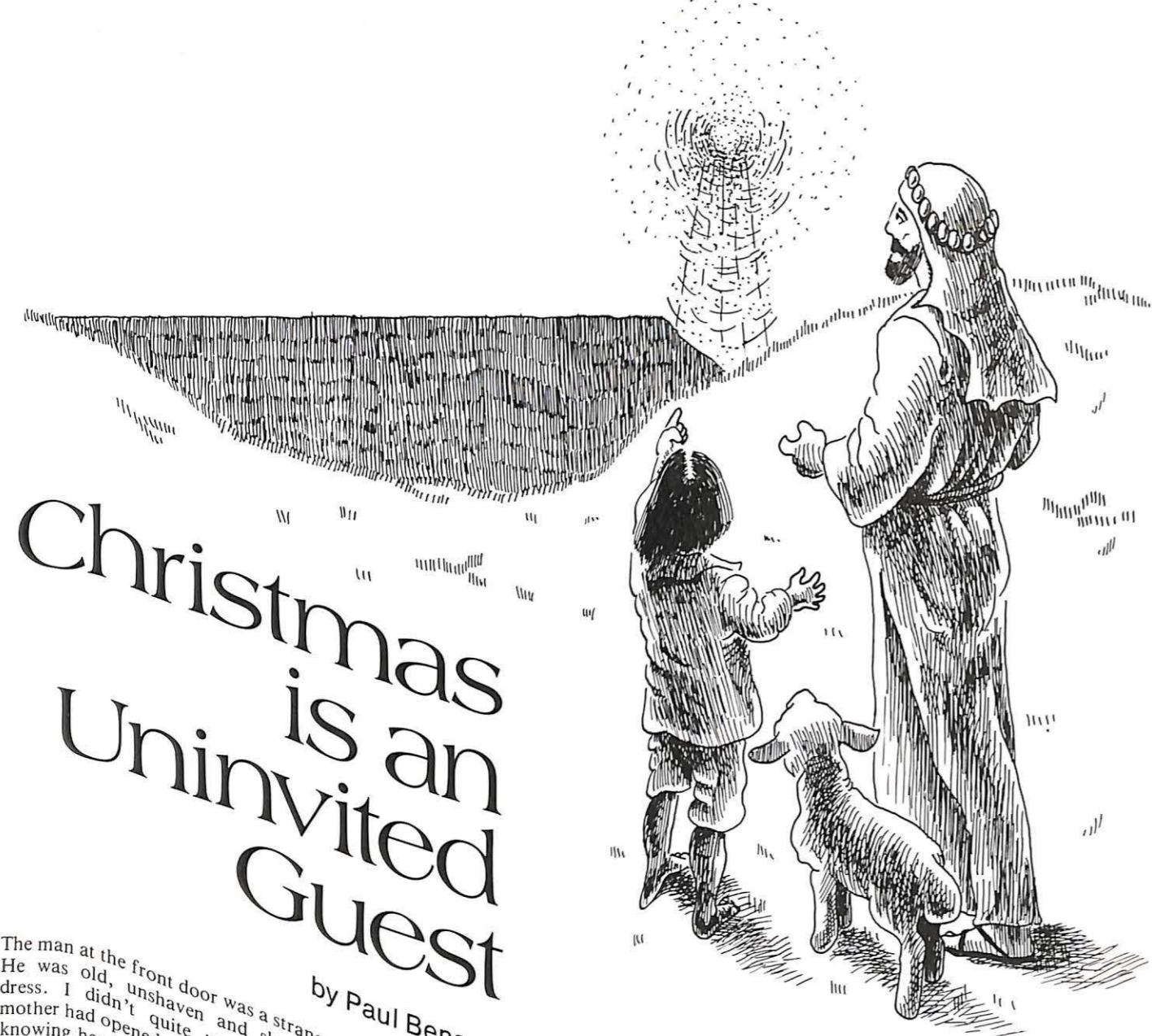
To me the most exciting part of Christmas is not my plan, but God's plan for a perfect Christmas. He didn't begin eight weeks, or six weeks before. His plans for the first Christmas were from the beginning of time and finally took place 2,000 years ago.

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own,

through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered with his love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to! God has told us his secret reason for sending Christ, a plan he decided on in mercy long ago; and this was his purpose: that when the time is ripe he will gather us all together from wherever we are—in heaven or on earth—to be with him in Christ forever. Moreover, because of what Christ has done we have become gifts to God that he delights in, for as part of God's sovereign plan we were chosen from the beginning to be his, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.

Ephesians 1:4-5, 9-11
(Living Bible)

God's plan for the very first Christmas was to send Jesus—God's perfect gift. We become gifts to God when we accept what Jesus has done for us in giving his life. A gift in exchange for a gift! God is offering his gift to you! □



Christmas is an Uninvited Guest

by Paul Benson

The man at the front door was a stranger. He was old, unshaven and shabby in dress. I didn't quite understand why mother had opened the door to him at all, knowing her busy schedule. "Yes, I'll let you sharpen some knives," she said cheerfully. "Thank you," he muttered the old man as he shuffled back to his cart. In spite of the busy life my parents lived, they always had the time to entertain uninvited guests. Everyone was special to them.

When auto makers introduce a new line of cars they select Detroit's Cobo Hall, Houston's Astrodome, or New York's Madison Square Garden for such an event. That's how the world tries to impress us with uninvented information. God broke all promotional rules when he chose to bring his Son into the world in the form of an infant. God acted to bring

about salvation without our request. He didn't try to impress the world's masses with the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ. No, the announcement was shared to a few lonely shepherds on the hillside by a host of angels; and a handful of wisemen followed a star of Bethlehem. When heads of nations about national important announcement of the birth of Jesus. Some of the most important people were not even aware of the birth of Jesus. Where was Caesar Augustus? King Herod treated the birth of Jesus Christ with contempt and launched a violent campaign to exterminate all male children under two years of age.

Those who participated in the recognition of that holy birth had their lives really changed. God's presence must have been so compelling on that Holy Night, that the absence of stained glass windows, robbed choirs and chanting theologians made no difference. The shepherds remained home oozing with joy.

witnessed the birth of the Savior. Many today shut out the real meaning of Christmas. A certain man upon hearing a carol over the loud speaker in a department store remarked, "Isn't it disgusting! People are trying to mix religion into everything—even Christmas." Somehow the birth of the Christchild gets lost amid the tinsel, trees, gifts and banqueting. Jesus Christ remains an uninvited guest in a celebration that should be in honor of him. In shutting the door of our life to the significance of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ we come dangerously close to missing the greatest discovery in our lives.

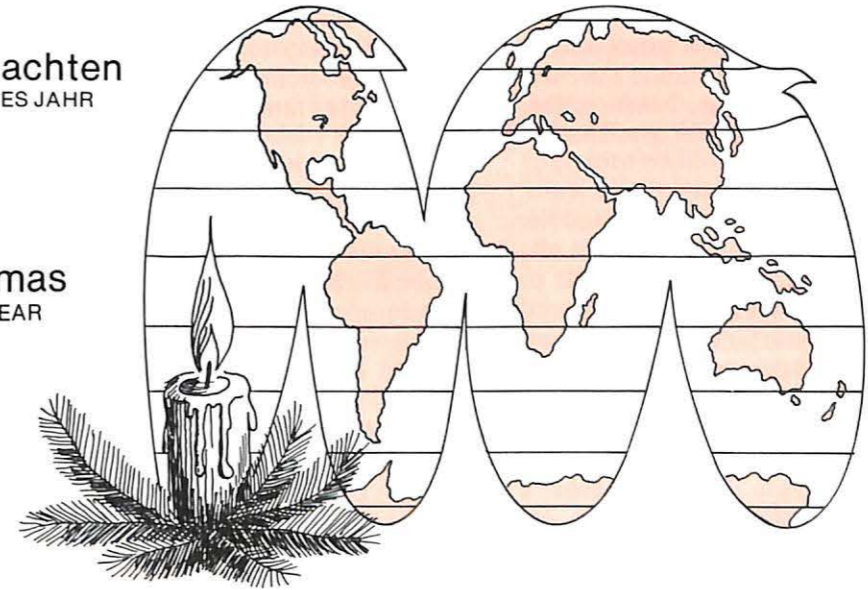
God offers eternal life through his son. His death on the cross opened heaven's door for us. His invitation still echoes forth, "Behold I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Why not make this the greatest Christmas ever by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. □

The Rev. Paul D. Benson is pastor of Forest City Baptist Church in London, ON. This article first appeared in Forest City Times.

Frohe Weihnachten
UND EIN GUTES NEUES JAHR

Joyeux Noël
ET BONNE ANNEE

Merry Christmas
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Felices Pascuas
Y PROSPERO ANO NUEVO

Zalig Kerstfeest
EN ZALIG NIEUWJAAR

God Jul
OCH GOTT NYTT AR

Buon Natale
E FELICE ANNO NUOVO

Barbara sat contentedly in her parents' living room, where lingered the aroma of Thanksgiving turkey, dressing and pie. Even the children were subdued, replete with food and companionship.

"It's wonderful to be here with all the family again after living in the East," Barbara said to her younger sister Linda, who was sitting beside her. "It's really been a fine Thanksgiving—and we'll all be together again at Christmas!"

Goodbye, Christmas

by Dorien K. Miles

Their father, sitting on Linda's other side, cleared his throat loudly as he always did when he wanted everyone's attention. "About Christmas—hasn't your mother told you she and I won't be here? You know how Charlie and Mabel Prosser always urge us to come to Arizona and spend Christmas with them. Well, this year we've accepted their invitation."

Barbara felt as she had years ago after being hit in the stomach by a hard-thrown baseball. She had looked forward to Christmas in this familiar room—what kind of Christmas could they have elsewhere? And with her parents away?

She looked across the room at her mother, sitting in the favorite chair she had just slipcovered again because she said it was so comfortable. Her mother's eyes were downcast, which might have been because she was holding Linda's baby daughter, but there was also a pinched look about her mouth which alarmed Barbara. *It's him*, she thought, and the old irritation drowned her other senses. *He's making her do this.*

Before she could articulate her feelings, Linda spoke, her voice strident with outrage. "What do you think'll happen to this house if you go away? You'll be robbed or vandalized!"

"I thought we'd put in automatic light switches, and the neighbors will keep an eye on the place. You children can take turns stopping by." He added, "We may decide to take a swing around the South, and not come back until April. I've thought about retiring ever since Linda finished college, and this past week I started things in motion."

Linda's face crumpled. She said in a strangled tone to Barbara, "I've put in for substitute teaching so we can save up money for a down payment on a house, and I was counting on Mother to help with Beth. I couldn't bear to leave her with just anyone!"

Their brother Steve was speaking now. "This should

help Julie and me with our Christmas planning. Her folks have been asking us to spend Christmas with them—they see so little of our Amy. We'll probably go to California this year."

Eventually the hubbub died down and everybody went home. After Barbara finished herding the boys to bed she came to sit down by her husband Dick, who was watching the news on television. He groped for her hand and squeezed it without taking his eyes from the screen.



Barbara laid her head on his shoulder and mourned, "I feel as though we've been cast adrift. All the time we were away I dreamed of holidays like the ones we had when I was a girl. I hope it hasn't hurt you, Dick, that I'm such a family-minded person."

"I'm glad I could get transferred back here," Dick said. "I value your family as individuals, as well as believing in the extended family concept. It was no picnic being an only child, as I was, with my parents divorcing when I was so young. Our kids will be much luckier, growing up knowing aunts, uncles, cousins, and at least the one set of grandparents."

"Do you think I'm selfish, not wanting Mom and Dad to be away our first Christmas back home? I can see that Linda might be, if her most significant objection is that Mom won't be able to take care of Beth. I'm not sure Mom should anyway on a regular basis. She has her own activities."

"Well, maybe you're a little bit selfish. I've heard your father talk about wintering in the South."

"It's partly that I have this feeling Mom doesn't want to go. She was too quiet. She ought to put her foot down if she doesn't want it—but I don't suppose she will."

"You have a different impression of your mother than I do. I don't see her as any kind of doormat."

Barbara thought about that. "Well, actually she's more like the glue that has held our family together. Dad always

took care of the big things, like arranging for the mortgage when they bought the house, and deciding which car to buy, while Mom took care of the little things."

She laughed, remembering. "Some of the things she took care of weren't all that small, at least where we kids were concerned. She always made Linda's and my party dresses—at least until we learned to sew. But when I was asked to go to the Senior Prom I wanted a store-bought dress. I even had it picked out. Well, Dad said no, but Mother went with me to see the dress. She liked it too, and helped me buy it with some money she had laid aside. When Dad saw that dress hanging on my door he was furious. He stomped into the kitchen. I stood there quaking, but Mom looked him in the eye and said she felt that Linda's and my clothes were her department. He went outside then, until she called everybody for dinner, and nothing more was said about the dress."

She yawned. "No, you can't say she's a doormat—except where Dad is concerned." Sighing, she added, "It really was a good day, wasn't it. From sitting with the family at the Thanksgiving Service all the way to the awful ending?"

"It was a good day."

"But somehow I feel like it's goodbye, Christmas!"

The next morning, after taking the boys to a special children's movie at the neighborhood theater, Barbara stopped at her parents' home. Her mother was in the kitchen, and they sat down at the table with a cup of coffee, as had become their custom. Barbara searched her mother's face, noting again the new strained look about her mouth. Was she pale—or could it be the seasonal lack of sunshine? Barbara felt pain because she hadn't noticed the change until yesterday.

Slowly she said, "Is it really so—you and Dad are going South for Christmas?"

Her mother nodded. "He expects to have the details worked out by the end of next week."

"How do you feel about this—do you really want to go, or are you just letting Dad have his way? It's all so unexpected, I feel there must be something you aren't telling us. Is it—are you ill, Mom? You don't look quite yourself. I noticed that last night."

Under her scrutiny something flickered in the other's eyes, but the older woman shook her head.

"That's it," Barbara said, anguished, not accepting the denial. "You aren't well! Oh, how could we not have guessed! I feel terrible. Have you seen Dr. Weller?"

"Of course," her mother sounded more like herself, "and there's really nothing you should feel concerned about at this time. But the doctor thinks the trip might be good for us. It's something we've wanted to do."

"Something Dad has wanted to do!" Barbara could not help saying. "What about the things you've mentioned—like visiting Aunt Elizabeth. It's been years since you've seen your own sister! You talk about going and Dad brushes aside the idea. And you've talked about going to Hawaii, or maybe even abroad."

"Later, perhaps." Barbara saw that her mother's color was better now and she showed more animation.

Instead of the shopping she had planned, Barbara decided to find out if she could see Doctor Weller. The recep-

tionist looked doubtful but said she'd ask, coming back in a few minutes to report that the doctor would see Barbara if she could wait until he was free.

On being shown into the doctor's office, she said, "Thank you for letting me talk with you."

He looked at her thoughtfully. "I'm glad you came, because it means your parents have told you. I was hoping they would—I advised them to—but because of your father's attitude, I wasn't sure whether they would."

"I guessed, and got it out of my mother. There had to be something behind their deciding all at once to go South. But I can't understand my father's not wanting us to know."

"Your father's a proud man. And of course he doesn't want you children to worry. The thing is, this blood condition of his is something we can treat, but not cure, at least at the present time. There may be a breakthrough soon. We made the blood tests as part of a routine checkup, and I certainly didn't expect anything like this to turn up. Of course I'll send medical information South with them, and the names of doctors."

Barbara had become speechless almost as soon as the doctor started talking. *Her father!* It was her father who was ill! After Doctor Weller ceased speaking, she managed somehow to find enough voice to thank him again and say goodbye.

Letting herself in the door of her home, she was glad another of the mothers was picking her boys up after the movie. She needed to be by herself, to pray and meditate. She had to find some way to accept this monstrous thing.

She hadn't always gotten along with her father—they were both inclined to be stubborn—but she loved and respected him. It was true her mother had helped her have that precious formal, but her father had bought her bicycle and made her take care of it. He had taken her and Linda and Steve to all the parades when they were small, and popped popcorn for them on Friday nights when they complained there was nothing to do. Their mother always said he understood the popper better than she did.

As Doctor Weller had said, her father was proud. There Barbara could fault him, because he was better at giving help to friends and neighbors than at accepting help gracefully. Some might have thought him conceited, which he was not. Undemonstrative he was, not willing or able to show his feelings. With all his faults, he had always been there, and Barbara found it painful to know he might not always be.

She thought with exasperation and understanding of her mother, who had been willing to let it appear she was the ill one. There again, it was because of her knowledge of the man. He would find it hard to accept sympathy or help, even from his children.

The coming months would be bittersweet. Barbara recognized her mother's compassion in helping her father to realize some of his dreams. She feared for the situation of her parents if her father's condition deteriorated while they were traveling, but as Dick said, her mother was strong.

Barbara went to the telephone and called her parents' number. She said, "Mom, I went to see Doctor Weller. I

The following two reports should have appeared in previous issues. However, because of lack of space their publication had to be postponed. May they refresh our memory of the Triennial Conference, that has brought so much excitement and blessing to our Conference.

The Editor

A Successful Conference - Even for Those Behind the Scene

by Art Buchwitz

A businessman recently addressed a national organization, "North Dakota—what a great place to meet!" We are sure that the 4,500 North American Baptists who attended the 39th Triennial Conference will agree. We North Dakotans love our state and are glad our beautiful capital city of Bismarck did such a fine job in hosting the Conference. The Civic Center, motels and a private college for youth, furnished ample meeting places, lodging and related facilities. Numerous restaurants and eating places were adequate. All in all, physical requirements of a host city were well met.

Facilities are all important, but we would be remiss if we did not recognize the contribution of the dedicated people on the various committees, who planned ahead and worked hard to run the Conference well, for the enjoyment of the visitors. Recognition and commendation

is due all, but I would like to draw attention to several I worked with.

The Meal Events Committee was chaired by Mrs. Betty Herman of Jamestown, ably assisted by her husband Herb, Vi Grenz and Ron Noll of Bismarck. This committee, in addition to locating, negotiating and arranging all banquets, luncheons and breakfasts, had many other related duties. The Hermans are former motel and restaurant owners, and Betty put her professional knowledge and experience to good use.

The Finance Committee was chaired by Mr. Alvin Haas of Bismarck. Other members were Clarence Delzer of Bismarck, Art Bender of Wishek, and Art Buchwitz of Jamestown. This committee had the important task of swiftly counting, recording and providing security for all monies and offerings that came in during the meetings. Also helping the committee were Comptroller Robert May-



forth and secretaries Sarah Redlich and Christel Bussmann. Much commendation must be given to Chairman Haas. In everyday life Al is president of a Bismarck bank. He not only made the facilities of his bank available, but his hard work, organizing ability and professional knowledge enables finances to be handled in a proper and expeditious manner.

Thanks are in order to these, and all other workers!—even though, as one worker put it aptly, "it wasn't really us—the Lord was in it all the time!"

The 39th Triennial Conference is now history. The incredible upsurge in attendance and giving, the ministry of the word and the spirit of love and fellowship that prevailed, should encourage all of us. We should be reminded again that the Apostle Peter tells us that the Lord is not slack in his promises to us, and our faith should be deepened and strengthened. □

Mr. Art Buchwitz is a member of Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND. He served as a member of the Triennial Conference Finance Committee.

North American Baptist College Invested in Lives

by Joan Minke

Greetings were given to approximately 280 alumni and friends of the North American Baptist College by alumni president, Kurt Redschlag, as we gathered during the Triennial Conference for breakfast. Professor Ed Link then led in a song "The More We Get Together." Before partaking of the meal Dr. E. P.

Joan Minke is secretary of the North American Baptist College Alumni Association.

Wahl, founder of the former Christian Training Institute, offered a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

The Rev. Bruno Voss gave a devotional based on Acts 15:26: "Men who have risked



Some of the 280 alumni and friends who attended the N.A.B. College breakfast.

(handed over) their lives for Jesus Christ." We have a team of leaders and present and past students, who have a total commitment to God and are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

We were then favored with a duet by Professors Art Petrie and John Taylor, "I Sing of Thee." Then we sang "Deeper, Deeper in the Love of Jesus."

Mr. Len Semrau, chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke on their tasks as they work together with the staff. Prayer and input is required as they deal with the areas of credibility and accountability.

A slide presentation was shown which portrayed the past and present—the Christian Training Institute and the North American Baptist College. The College was granted accreditation at University of Alberta in 1969, and many courses are transferable.

Former president of the alumni, Elmer Breikreuz, and Kurt Redschlag, shared as to what we, as an Alumni Association, are doing for the furtherance of God's Kingdom. The alumni purchased 27 acres of land for \$35,000.00, the site of the present campus. It was a wise investment of funds. Each year two scholarships are given to students in the pastoral field, who will be returning to the College to further their education. The present alumni project is to raise and invest \$150,000.00. The yearly interest received from this investment would fund the salary of a full-time employee in alumni work. Your prayers and funds are required as we strive, with the Lord's help, to reach our goal.

Dr. Joseph Sonnenberg, president of the N.A.B. College, briefly shared the hopes and expectations of the College. It has developed beyond anybody's fondest dreams, as the student body increases year after year. Praise the Lord for young men and women who are willing to serve in the area of full-time Christian service! Dr. Sonnenberg stated: "The best is yet to be."

The song, "Living for Jesus," expressed our desire to be more committed. Then Area Secretary Milton Zeeb closed in prayer. □

The North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, announces two forthcoming DECISION CONFERENCES

Dec. 14-16, 1979, Regional Decision Conference at Ridgmont Baptist Church, East Detroit, MI.
March 14-16, 1980, Sioux Falls campus.

As in the past, all young men and women interested in church related vocations are cordially invited to attend these conferences.

LEPROSY: Its Not a Thing of the Past

To this day, leprosy is the world's greatest crippler. It cripples not only the body but the spirit as well. For centuries, the very thought of leprosy evoked a sense of panic and disgust. Victims were humiliated and ostracized. Today, in spite of modern medical knowledge, patients are burdened by stigma.

Fifteen million people have leprosy; five million of them are children. Leprosy can be treated. It is a disease caused by mycobacterium, as are many other illnesses. Yet, only one of every five people with leprosy is receiving treatment. This is tragic, for the key to preventing crippling deformities is early detection and medical care.

Our missionary doctors and nurses, along with national medical workers, at Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon have been helping these unfortunate people since 1952.

January 27, 1980, is World Leprosy Day. Especially on this day, remember those whom the world tries to forget! Jesus loved the unlovable, touched the untouchable. With the help of concerned individuals and churches who provide urgently needed financial resources, North American Baptist missionaries, in conjunction with the American Leprosy Mission, can minister in Jesus' name to people who otherwise are forgotten.

Help us reach out to men, women and children who now, or may in the future, feel rejected by man and God. Become partners in this healing ministry geared to restore body and soul.



Send your contributions to North American Baptist Missions Department, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. □

Because of budget cuts in the Stewardship and Communications Department, the December 1979 and January 1980 issues had to be combined.

We apologize for this shortage, which, however, was necessary in order to be able to operate within the available funds.

Remember: "No more deficit spending!"

Chief Visits NAB Office

Chaplain (Major General) Richard Carr, chief of chaplains, U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC, visited the N.A.B. Conference International Office late last spring in a courtesy visit. He addressed the Board of Missions briefly and met with the executive staff in an informal discussion regarding ministry in the military. Our own N.A.B. Chaplain, (Lt. Col.) David Samf, who is on the chief's staff, and one other chaplain accompanied the chief on this visit. This encounter was beneficial in creating a better understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities of ministry in the military. (Bruce A. Rich, N.A.B. chaplaincy endorsing agent)





Metropolitan Toronto's City Hall, winner of awards for its design, is only a few blocks from Maple Leaf Gardens, where the 14th Baptist World Congress will meet July 8-13, 1980. In the foregrounds is Nathan Phillips Square, popular location for summer concerts and winter ice-skating.

Consider a Scholarship

No, not one *you* will receive, but rather a scholarship you can make available to a Baptist from a Third World country, who would like to attend the 14th Baptist World Congress in Toronto, July 8-13, 1980.

Baptists in Canada, from various con-

ventions/unions, have set a goal of 200 scholarships, at a suggested cost of \$1,500 each. These scholarships will help Baptist leaders in developing countries, who are financially unable to pay for their trip, to participate in the world gathering of Baptists in Canada. The recipients of this aid will be restricted to official delegates named by various conventions/unions.

As North American Baptist Confer-

ence, we have the opportunity to designate some of our own people from Cameroon, Nigeria, Japan or Brazil to be the recipients. N.A.B. churches may consider such an aid program and designate all or part of their communion offerings on Baptist World Alliance Day, February 3, 1980, for this purpose.

For further information write B.W.A. World Congress, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

chuckle with bruno

Another thing that is "so easy, a child can operate it" is a grandparent.

Father: "Get up, son. When Lincoln was your age, do you know what he was doing?"

Son: No, Dad, I don't. But I know what he was doing when he was your age."

Two women on tour of Mount Vernon, George Washington's beautiful home on the Potomac, were enthusiastically admiring the various rooms. "And did you notice," said one, "that everything is furnished in Early American?"

Two hundred years ago it took seven days for a letter to go from Philadelphia to Boston. Now there's a name for a Philadelphia to Boston. It is called "Special Delivery."

When we were children, our parents taught us how to meditate. They said, "Sit down and keep quiet."

The best time to end your speech is when you feel the listening is lessening.

It would be a lot easier to lose weight and keep it off, if the replacement parts weren't so easily available in the refrigerator.

Middle age is the awkward period when Father Time starts to catch up with Mother Nature.

"Daddy, what are those holes in the board for?"

"Those are knotholes."

"Well, if they are not holes, what are they?"

It is surprising how often people agree with you if you only keep your mouth shut.

"I've got something to tell you," whispered the gossip. "But listen carefully, because I can tell this only once. You see I promised not to repeat it."

Sign on entrance to cemetery: Due to strike by the employees, the graves will be dug by a skeleton crew.

A deficit is what you have when you don't have as much as you would have if you didn't have anything. □

PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING



Making Your Will—No Need For Worry

by Mr. Robert Ihrie

Making a will falls right behind going to the dentist on the list of things to put off. Properly planning one's estate is something most people prefer to do "tomorrow." This is so for many rational reasons.

Who enjoys contemplating, let alone planning for their death? Plus, getting a will usually means seeing an attorney, which probably will be unpleasant. Further, it just might be more expensive than I can afford at the present time. Not to mention the fact that my estate is most likely too small to require a will. Besides, aren't wills for old people?

Let's examine these common fears and myths about wills. First, the making of a will does require us to admit our mortality. However, as Christians are we not to approach death with an attitude of, at the very least, acceptance, at the very best, even joy? Fear of death is not an attractive attribute for a Christian.

Visiting an attorney need not be a traumatic experience. Most attorneys, who do estate planning, are anxious to help you properly prepare your estate with the least amount of cost or inconvenience to you. Most attorneys will lead you through the interview with questions that assist them in gathering information useful in recommending the best plan for you. You need not be prepared with detailed documents and exact values of your property. A simple telephone call to your lawyer will supply you with information on what to bring to the interview.

Next, what about money? How much will it cost me? Each lawyer sets his own

fee for his services based on several factors including his experience and expertise in the field and the complexities of the individual case. However, most people are in need of what lawyers call a simple will, which ranges in price from \$35.00 to \$150.00. Most lawyers will draw up a second will for a spouse at a reduced rate. Wills are an inexpensive legal service that can avoid numerous costly problems in the future.

One of the most common attitudes I encounter is embarrassment at not having enough money to justify a will. This indicates a misunderstanding of the role of a will. Wills are intended to direct what assets you do own to the proper people or organizations. Further, they are used to qualify the people you suggest to handle your affairs and take care of your minor children. Many people make wills who have no property, but plan on acquiring property in the future, or they may have little or no property but desire to name guardians for their minor children. There is no minimum amount of property that one need own to justify the making of a will.

Lastly, wills are not only for the elderly. Young people, especially those with children, should have wills. The orderly disposition of personal property and real property, the appointment of a testamentary guardian to care for your minor children, the specific bequest of certain items to certain people, the savings of estate taxes (if the estate is taxable), and the peace of mind that accompanies the knowledge that all of the above items and others are settled, are all good reasons to make a will. The young and the middle aged very often are even in greater need of a will than are the elderly. Often the details of life that need attending to at

Mr. Robert Ihrie is an attorney who lives in Grosse Pointe Woods and is a member of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church.

death are more numerous and complex for the young and the middle aged than the elderly.

In conclusion, the intent of this article is to allay unnecessary fears about the estate planning process. Proper estate planning is an inexpensive grief-saving experience. It should not be approached with anxiety but with confidence. Further, there are many Christian lawyers throughout the country who will understand and cooperate with you in achieving your family's goals. □

Urbana 79



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December 27-31 1979
12th Inter-Varsity Student Missions Convention

That All Nations
Might Believe And
Obey Jesus Christ

Inter-Varsity
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Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 257-0263

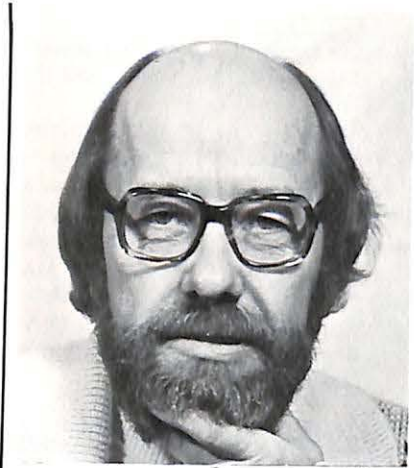
Nearer

Nearer than Bethlehem's manger stall or even Jerusalem's Old City wall, or olive trees beneath which He prayed, nearer than houses in which He stayed, nearer than pavement on The Street that felt the tread of His holy feet . . .

nearer than roads on which He walked, nearer than persons to whom He talked, nearer than hearing Him preach or teach or seeing His hand in healing reach to touch the palsied or leperous man . . . or streets where His childish little feet ran

is Jesus to me in a world of sin. For Jesus, Himself, now abides within.

Dorothy J. Buitendyk



putting it together

by Ernie Zimbelman

Dr. Ernie Zimbelman is professor of Counseling at North American Baptist Seminary at Sioux Falls, SD. He is also the director of the Sioux Falls Psychological Services Clinic.

The Pope's recent travels have gained wide news media coverage. For me it's a good experience to see thousands of people enthusiastically cheering a religious leader. In this age of secularism I feel it is a step in the right direction.

But not all Catholics were cheering, or at least they were not cheering all the way. Catholic women are demanding a greater voice in the Church's affairs. Although the Pope speaks to them of human rights, Catholic women are ready to be militantly demanding equal position. This means that women are to have the opportunity to be ordained to the priesthood.

The issue of women's rights to ordination is very controversial in many denominations. The Episcopal and Lutheran churches make the news related to the issue. For many other mainline denominations it is not an issue because, like the United Methodist Church, they readily ordain women.

For Baptists it is a regional issue. Some Baptist groups do and some don't openly encourage ordination. So the practice varies.

I feel the main issue to keep in mind is that for Protestants it is not a theological

issue. It is not even a conservative versus a liberal issue. Pentecostal groups, notably the Assembly of God Church, have been ordaining women for many years, and women are effective leaders in their churches. Theologically, the Assembly of God Church is considered to be fundamentalist.

Recently I attended a convention in New York City. One of the speakers stated that witchcraft societies are on a rapid increase. She stated that at the present time there are over 200 witchcraft societies operating in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. This speaker suggested that if the Christian Church does not allow women to function fully and freely within its circle, they may become leaders among women in anti-Christian movements. Witchcraft is an area in which women have traditionally been leaders.

I have already stated that I do not see the issue of ordination as a theological one, and therefore I will not attempt to prove or fortify any view with scriptural documentation, but Paul's request is appropriate. Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (NIV). □

Give of Your Best to the Master

INTRODUCING
SUSAN BEAN

by Larry & Bonnie Scheffler



Susan Bean

further the gospel of Christ.

Susan Bean was born on June 14, 1954, in St. Paul, MN. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bean, the oldest of four children. She

accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior as a young girl, was baptized at the age of eleven, and became a member of the Edgewater Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

Susan has not only been active in her church, but on numerous occasions she has volunteered her services to those in need. At the Home of the Good Shepherd, Susan served as a counselor for delinquent girls. At the Hammer School for the Mentally Retarded, Susan served as a houseparent, giving her the opportunity to work with those with special needs.

Missionary service is not entirely new for Susan. During the summer of 1978, she had the opportunity to go to Japan under the Scrum Dendo program of the Baptist General Conference. She spent the summer working closely with a Japanese pastor in home visitation as well as

teaching conversational English to Japanese students.

Having experienced real joy in reaching out to others in cross-cultural situations, Susan sensed God's leading to further service overseas. Africa has held a special interest for her. She had heard about the need for trained teachers in many African countries. After graduating from Bethel College in St. Paul, MN, in 1976 with a B.A. in Biology, she continued her education at St. Thomas College, where she received her M.A. in teaching. Susan taught sciences in the Bloomington Minnesota Public Schools and in Blake School, Hopkins, MN. Although she enjoyed her teaching responsibilities, she desired to be more directly involved in the Lord's work. Short-term service in Cameroon now provides her the opportunity not only to teach but also to encourage students to accept Jesus Christ and to grow in their spiritual lives.

Susan Bean has responded to a very real need in Cameroon. Her deep sense of commitment and her desire to serve the Lord will be a real asset to our mission outreach. Let us pray for Susan, as she attempts to share her life and faith with the youth of Cameroon. □

book reviews

by B.C. Schreiber

THE NEW LAITY, BETWEEN CHURCH AND WORLD. Edited by Ralph D. Bucy, Waco, TX. Word Books. \$7.95.

Until a generation ago, it was still thought that the responsibility of bringing Christ to the world belonged to the "professional" clergy. Over the last few decades there is an increasing interest in developing the skills and insights of lay persons, who are discovering what it means to work in a world for Christ.

This book grew out of a conference on the laity a few years ago, in which both ministers and lay persons took part, including Leon Jaworski, the celebrated prosecutor of Watergate.

Joseph Cunneen, one of the contributors at the conference, clearly expresses

the purpose of the church of Jesus Christ, "The church is formed by all those who believe. But it is not enough to know that one belongs to a family; one must take up one's place in it and feel responsible for the growth of that family. Lay people ought more and more to have their voice in the councils of the church, since they are the church."

LORD, HOW WILL YOU GET ME OUT OF THIS MESS? By Kay Galbeck with Irene Harrell, Lincoln, VA, published by Chosen Books. Distributed by Word Books, Waco, TX. \$6.95.

One of the first questions the reader may ask is, "Why doesn't God heal more often?" No doubt Miss Galbeck would not be able to answer that question either. In her case it was a combination of God's power and her faith. Hospitalized in Toronto, Ontario, with three different types of medically incurable arthritis for a period of eight years, she was given up for dead. She could neither move her body nor find relief for her pain. And then it happened . . . ! God did get her out of a hopeless mess. This is exciting

and inspiring reading. Once you pick up the book, you won't be able to lay it down.

DARK THREADS THE WEAVER NEEDS. By Herbert Lockyer, Old Tappan, NJ. Fleming H. Revell Company. \$5.95.

When someone writes a book about human suffering, one wonders whether the author writes as a spectator or participant. Herbert Lockyer does not leave us long in doubt. His first chapter is entitled, "I Sat Where They Sat." For the last seven years he has been ministering to his wife of sixty-six years, who has no consciousness and is totally helpless. Whether personal suffering or observing the suffering of a loved one is more painful is sometimes debatable. In this case the latter is certainly true.

The author has written more than forty books, and has been a conference speaker and Bible teacher for many years.

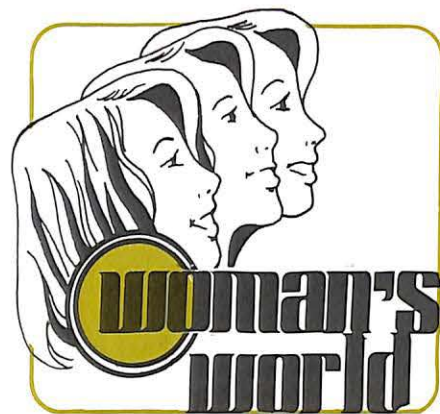
Although no one has given an absolutely clear understanding of suffering,

(Continued on page 29)

Introducing the Incoming Class, NAB Seminary



NAME	HOME TOWN		
Front row:		3. Geraldine DeMien	Plymouth, Indiana
1. Joseph Pengitore	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	4. Imogene McClung	Cleveland, Ohio
2. Richard Uhler	Norridge, Illinois	5. Latha Bandela	Hyderabad, India
3. Dennis Liesch	Edmonton, Alberta	6. Deborah Auch	Bismarck, North Dakota
4. John Hoffman	Plainfield, New Jersey	7. Deanna Milda	Crow Agency, Montana
5. James Leverette	Lodi, California	8. Mark Iblings	Elgin, North Dakota
Row 2		9. Craig Holmes	Dallas, Oregon
1. Bruce Richardson	Southgate, Michigan	10. Paul Miller	Calgary, Alberta
2. Perry Kallis	Mott, North Dakota	11. Lawrence Kittlitz	Edmonton, Alberta
3. Graham Kern	Miller, Alberta	12. James Grupp	Bellwood, Illinois
4. Rex Hildebrand	Stafford, Kansas	13. Dennis Ries	Freeman, South Dakota
5. Arnold Kirschner	Alpena, Michigan	14. Linda Opp	Goodrich, North Dakota
Row 3		15. Annemarie Hattenhauer	Hanover, West Germany
1. Miriam Bergen	Winnipeg, Manitoba	16. Fred Lacuesta	Fabrica, Negros Occidental, Philippines
2. Stephen DeMien	Plymouth, Indiana	Back Row	
		1. Larry Person	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
		2. Richard Hardy	Anaheim, California
		3. Samuel Bandela	Hyderabad, India
		4. Orland Rothlisberger	Vermillion, South Dakota
		5. Diana Clark	Austin, Texas
		6. David Vetter	Lorraine, Kansas
		7. Larry Lang	Avon, South Dakota
		8. Dean Buseman	Chancellor, South Dakota
		9. Lynn Heine	Hebron, North Dakota
		10. Allan Effa	Benton Harbor, Michigan
		11. Lyle Haerle	Calgary, Alberta
		12. Randall Knutson	Lodi, California
		FULL-TIME STUDENTS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PHOTOGRAPH WERE:	
		1. Timothy Nelson	St. Paul, Minnesota
		2. Jeffrey Patet	Aplington, Iowa
		3. Gladys Peterson	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
		4. Louis Stavrakis	Jamesburg, New Jersey



What Christmas Means To Us

by Deanne Barker and the
"Missionary Family"
in Japan

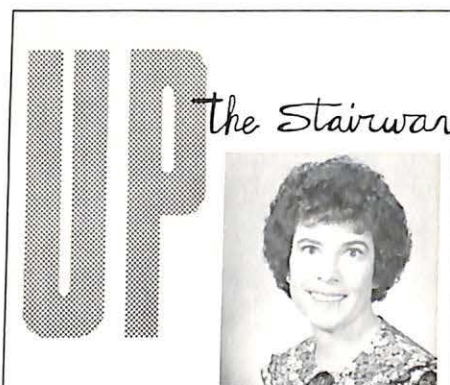
"This is the first time I have heard the story of Christmas," was the comment made by a 40-year-old Japanese English teacher. He lives in one of the most civilized and affluent nations in the world, yet he knows little of the life and claims of Christ. This is why we are in Japan. "For how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14b).

The Japanese have an insatiable curiosity about American life and "how we do things in America." The Japanese Christmas is based on the secular American idea: Santa Claus, gaudy miniature Christmas trees, exchange of gifts plus a Christmas Eve cake.

Because of the eagerness to learn American customs, we are able to share the Christian Christmas season and why we celebrate Christmas. People are more open to hearing the account of Christ and his life and love. This often leads to a continuing interest and desire to know more about Christ and his claims.

Christmas thus becomes a priority ministry, the single most important event for missionaries. The season starts early with planning programs and activities in the church. There is a buildup in the English classes for several weeks, sharing the event of God becoming man on earth. The Christmas story is even told in the public schools, with the Japanese teacher translating. One never gets tired of telling the story, because the look of awe and wonderment on the people's faces is so exciting. There are parties and having countless people in our homes, sharing the season and love with them on a more personal basis. Hundreds of cookies are baked to share with students and guests. Finally, the climax, Christmas Eve and

Day, with many people coming to church for the first time. There is usually a meal at the church which can be anything from Kentucky Fried Chicken or raw fish to sandwiches, followed by a program and candlelight service.



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

The stairway this time is loaded with gifts again! Speaking of gifts . . . what gifts do you have to offer those around you? Consider this "scripture" according to DW. (It is not inerrant, and is based on 1 Corinthians 12!)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, sisters. I do not want you to be unaware, and I do not want you to be jealous of what God has given to another.

There are varieties of gifts and ministries, but the same Spirit and the same Lord.

And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all women.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

To one woman the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; someone else may be especially good at studying and teaching, and this is her gift from the same Spirit.

He gives special faith to another, and to someone else power in prayer. He gives a music ministry to some, for some sing solos, others lead choirs; still others play the piano, organ, or other musical instruments.

One woman excels in baking pies or canning pickles, which she shares with newcomers in the community or brings to church fellowships. Another has pa-

But what are the personal feelings of the missionaries—so far away from home and family? What does Christmas mean to them?

"At Christmas time we gather for a day of fun and fellowship usually beginning

with a delicious noon meal and afternoon of fun. We sing familiar Christmas songs (in English) and have a short devotional. Supper is offered to all not yet stuffed. It's a time we all look forward to."

"Becoming a part of the missionary family when you are so far away from your own family."

tiency and love enough to care for others' little children in the nursery or in their homes.

Some can share God's love verbally before groups, while others cheer some by writing letters and notes of encouragement.

Some are gifted in making strangers feel comfortable and at home. Still others can easily cook for 200 at a church dinner!

He gives ability to sew beautiful garments and do handwork, while others can deftly cut, paint and glue to make clever decorations and favors for special occasions.

Some can have a sense of humor and cause others to laugh just when tension may be mounting, while some can express empathy and show compassion to one who has a trial.

To one he gives the ability to have financial success accompanied by joy in giving great amounts. Another has the gift of hospitality and enjoys hosting church guests and church members.

One can attractively arrange flowers for the sanctuary, another is a good photographer.

To organize and administrate may be fulfilling to one. Yet another enjoys housework and assists in cleaning for the disabled, the church, or the parsonage.

It is the same Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts, powers, talents and ministries, deciding which each should have.

All are vitally important. Each is fitted together into one working body. If just one part of that body fails to function and does not practice that in which she excels, the whole body suffers and lacks what is good.

If one woman is lacking that which another is able to do, she need not feel inferior, for she should be doing what she knows how to do best.

Should a hand want to do what the foot does? Of course not! Each has its own task and has need of the other.

So we are all needed and have functions unique to ourselves.

Unhappy is she who does not realize and accept this, and who remains jealous of others who do, what she cannot.

Blessed is she who is happy with her own talents and uses them for the glory of the Father, for she shall help build unity among others! □

What Christmas Means To Me

by Beth Gust,
Bowsman, MB

Only 20 days till Christmas? Time surely does fly and the most cherished and busiest of all holidays is just around the corner. Christmas programs and carols herald the beautiful story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of salvation for mankind. My memories of Christmas always include the main element of family. Sons, daughters, brothers and sisters travel many miles to make December 25th a special day. I will always remember the Sunday school programs on Christmas

"A green Christmas and being homesick for snow."

"Receiving a long distance phone call from my family."

After all the busyness dies down and one has time, loneliness can creep in and feelings of "Does anyone care that I am here?" can come. That's when God gives us a special sense of his presence and

Eve—memorizing songs and pieces and receiving the treasured candy and peanut-filled sacks! And, of course, would Christmas be complete without the festive meal of turkey and all the trimmings? There are also many gifts given and received, but the best gift of all is the love that so freely abounds! Each family has its own holiday traditions and, as a new wife, I find myself wanting to celebrate Christmas just the way I did when I was a child.

My husband, Cal, and I have been married a little over a year, and our first Christmas together was very meaningful. We decided to take our belated honeymoon in California during the holiday season. Therefore, we were away from our immediate families. Coming from Manitoba and South Dakota, Cal and I have grown up with very white and cold

peace. The warm, thoughtful cards from home bring us together. Remembering us in prayer helps so much during this time.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Son and the season to share him with millions who are lost. Thank you, too, for our N.A.B. family that cares and supports us during this time. Amen! □

Christmases. Seeing blooming flowers, cactus, swimming pools and green lawns was foreign to us, to say the least! We attended a Christmas program, and the warmth of the people made us feel welcome and at home. We even received candy sacks! On Christmas Day we were fortunate to be with relatives who treated us royally.

Last Christmas season made me realize something new. It may not always be possible to spend Christmas with my parents, but our love reaches across the many miles! The new family and Christian friends that I have are also a special "family." Wherever there's the bond of Christian love, there's a unifying spirit and fellowship from the heart. And that love comes from the wonderful event of our Savior's birth some 2,000 years ago. □

Christmas in our home is special this year as God gave us, in March, the gift of a son. Through his birth I know a love that I never knew existed. The depth of my love for him has made me realize the depth of God's love for us in the gift of his son. It's fantastic to know how much God loves us.

Christ at Christmas will come alive again and again as we gather with friends and our families around the tree. He will be with us as we gaze at the tinsel and the glitter of wrapped gifts under the tree. He will come alive again, too, as our church family gathers for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. When we worship, sing carols, and light candles, Christ will be whispering softly, "Come unto me." And, indeed, he has come into my heart. □

December is MK Month

by LaVerna
Mehlhoff,
women's
work director



Have you ever wondered where our missionaries' children get their education? Nine of our Cameroon and Nigeria children attend Hillcrest School at Jos, Nigeria. Our missionary children in Brazil, Japan, Colorado and Texas attend the local public schools. Our college age missionary children often return to the U.S. or Canada to attend the college or university of their choice.

N.A.B. women have set aside December as the month to remember missionary children in a special way. The offerings taken in our December W.M.F. meetings go toward their education. Take time to remember them in prayer—some living with their parents, others separated by many miles. Send them a letter or card during this special holiday season. Your pastor or W.M.F. president has the address list. □

What Christmas Means To Me



by Beverly
Taylor Stout,
Pittsburgh, PA

Christmas is the favorite time of the year for most of us, especially the Christian. It is the birthday of our King. Christmas to me is a great celebration within our hearts, homes and churches. During this season of the year, I feel a deep joy and love. It's the time when the whole world pauses to seek peace, good will and love for mankind. We all catch the Christmas spirit. The Holy Spirit baptizes us with the joy the world had many years ago with the birth of the newborn King. There's a certain excitement within me, for I know Christ as Savior and Lord. I want to sing that carol of old, "Joy to the World, The Lord Is Come." For as he came as a babe so long ago, he still comes to us as Savior. He comes every minute of the day. How near and close we feel him when facing the problems and trials of life!

OBERAMMERGAU & REFORMATION TOUR

See the 1980 Passion Play
Visit: Zurich, Wittenberg, Geneva,
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232 Woodfield Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
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In 1885 the English First Baptist Church of Winnipeg, now known as Broadway First Baptist Church, began a Sunday school class for German speaking people under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Eschelmann. The class grew rapidly, and on December 31, 1889, the First German Baptist Church was organized by the Rev. F. A. Petereit and 34 charter members. The congregation grew, and only a year later a parcel of land was purchased and a sanctuary was built for a total cost of less than \$2,000.00. Some of the money, as well as the first organ, were contributed by Toronto churches. During the seven and one half years of Rev. Petereit's ministry, five new churches were organized by our congregation in and around Winnipeg, including the Oakbank mission station which remained under the wing of the mother church until 1959. This initial interest in outreach ministry has set a pattern for subsequent generations at McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. The latest congregations to have profited from our concern for Church Extension are Grant Park Baptist Church, Fort Richmond Baptist Church and the Southdale Community Baptist Church.

With immigration in full swing, and new churches springing up in many areas, our first church missionary, Miss Minnie Mueller (later Mrs. J. L. Otto) was called by the church in 1901 and served in that capacity in 1910. Others followed. The rapid increase in the number of local churches also led to the organization of the Northern Conference in 1902, with our church as charter member.

In 1908 the congregation made its third and final move, this time to the present site on McDermot Avenue. A local newspaper described the church as

"a handsome, modern brick and stone edifice, which would not compare unfavorably with a dozen of the best churches of all denominations in the city if standing in a group with them; and this is in a part of the city which many people have been accustomed to think of as uninhabited prairie, and where they would not have dreamed of advising the erection of a church, not imagining a possibility of gathering a congregation there. The congregation filled the large edifice, both the main audience room and the galleries. The services of song were led by a regular choir, and there was also a people's choir, with an organ and orchestra.

The German Baptists were the pioneers in religious worship in Winnipeg, starting the first Sunday school, the first preaching service, and building the first church. But other denominations have come in since and have had good success, so that there are now several commodious churches with large congregations and smaller congregations numbering in all some 15 or more."

Mr. Charles Schultz was a member of the Building Committee for the church on McDermot Avenue, and remained a member with the congregation until his death in 1963. Mr. F. Dojacek, publisher of the local paper, *Der Nordwesten*, was a valued member of this early congregation and served as Sunday school superintendent for 24 years. By 1914 church membership reached its first peak of 430.

In 1919 the church was renamed McDermot Avenue

Mrs. Alice Parr is the church reporter of the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.



McDermot Ave. Baptist Church-90 Years of Service to God and Man

by Alice Parr

Baptist Church. Hard times followed World War I. The choir loft had to be closed to save on heating bills, and during one winter all services had to be held in the church basement. Membership declined to 292 in 1925. During the immigration wave that followed in the late 1920s, our church and its many mission stations and daughter churches received renewed impetus. One of those joining McDermot at that time was Mr. John Rogalski, who served our church faithfully from 1930 until his retirement to Kelowna in 1978, not only as deacon (since 1934) but also as lay preacher, Sunday school teacher, young people's leader and church moderator. His son, Hans, currently serves as church moderator while another son, Ernie, is a well known pastor in our Conference.

In 1947 English evening sessions were introduced and some difficult times followed as the church tried to reconcile equally valid positions on the language issue. As a result, the German Baptist Mission Church was established in 1949, deriving the core of its membership from our church. In 1953 the church again transferred the membership of 69 individuals to another daughter church, now

(Continued on page 20)

WHICH CHURCH IS OURS?

by Vi Tilleman

January 1953, was an exciting time in my life. I was leaving home to begin Nurse's training. The first three months was to be theory at Regina College, and then on to Moose Jaw, SK., for the remainder of the three years.

Can you imagine having lived in a village with a population of 350, and then going to the big city of Regina? I knew no one there. My mother had been in a Regina hospital and had met the Rev. Ed Link, who was pastor of the Victoria Avenue Baptist Church. He knew when I was arriving and met me at the train station. Rev. and Mrs. Link were gracious and friendly; so were all the other people of the church. I didn't feel alone as I thought I may. I still tell people, "that was the friendliest church I have attended." I remember with fond memories Harvey and Helen Fenske, Wins and Lorraine Knolls, the Cicansky family, Phil Bretz, Ross and Al Peters, and on and on, from only having been there three months. I want to repeat, "That was the friendliest church I have attended. The Links were friendly people, but so were the rest of the people of the church."

Mrs. Vi Tilleman is a member of Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB. The pastor of the church is the Rev. Norman Dreger.

Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas from NAB Press!

While on vacation two years ago, my husband and I attended a Baptist church on a Sunday morning. We were a little early and waited in the foyer of the church for about ten minutes. There were people around us, but no one as much as said "hello" before the service or after, except for the pastor's greeting at the door after the service. All this seemed a little strange but we weren't there for the purpose of making friends, but we could have been. We were there to worship the Lord. This we did, because it was a very good service with a good message.

This summer, while on vacation, our family experienced the same thing. Some friends from our church remarked that they had experienced much the same lack of fellowship which is so sweet in the family of God.

This time I can't forget the experience. I ask myself, "Is this happening in our church? Is this happening in your church?" It brought to mind a number of questions:

Are we so busy greeting each other that we don't get around to talk to that someone whom we don't remember seeing in church before or very often?

Are we leaving this up to the pastor and his wife?

Are we afraid that we won't know what to say, or we may be embarrassed if that person whom we think is new has been at church for several weeks or months?

Are we trying to tell ourselves we are too shy?

Are we not concerned about someone else who is passing through, or someone who just moved into our area, or perhaps someone who has come because they have a need? How do we know?

We are missing the boat if we are involved in outreach but can't even reach those who come through our church doors. It takes YOU, the people of the church, to make the church, along with the pastor and the preaching from the Word.



the GROWING edge

Features from your church ministries department

Brief, provocative articles to expand the growing edge of the mind and soul—to suggest, perhaps, new avenues of thought and action.

Denny's Column

by Denny Miller, Portland, OR



I figure that I'm a pretty accepting person. I can get along with most anyone.

Most anyone. There's this one girl who really irks me. She'll say anything to try to offend me. And it works. I lose my cool or just walk off. And the immaturity of my actions toward her get thrown in my face. (She has a very long memory.)

It really bothers me when I see friction

in my relationships. First I prayed, "Lord, change her." That's sort of like praying for sunshine on your day off while the farmer's crops are dying from no rain—selfish.

Next, "Mellow out my attitude." I couldn't agree with her, but I could avoid resentment—at least open hostility.

"Let me surround her with love." Whoa. That's moving too fast. I could do it in my head but not sincerely in my heart.

A friend said, "I wish you two could be friends." Sure, I'd like that. But no way it would work. (Everyone knows God can't do big things like that.)

Paul says we can have the gift of the "mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). Keith Miller (in *A Second Touch*) interprets it, not as a physical brain, but as having

available to us the living perspective of Christ.

To me friendship is an important part of Christ's perspective. Jesus offered friendship to many people he seemed to have little in common with.

Could I be a friend with someone that I disagreed with? Could we enjoy time spent with each other? Could this open doors to beginning to understand one another?

I'm working on finding out. Our friendship is still on a tiptoe basis.

I think it's kind of exciting. To pull together and to see our relationship as an alive aspect of Christ's love and actions. It's no longer my Christian "duty" to try to love her. It's a challenge and adventure to see others through Christ's perspective. □

What Would Singles Like?

1. Sports, such as volleyball, on a week-day evening at a local gym or YMCA with refreshments and a program afterwards.

2. Children's activities for single parents who have no babysitter.

3. A group for singles who are divorced

or widowed to help them meet needs such as finding Christian friends, feeling accepted, feeling wanted, feeling loved, feeling less alone, being assured that God does care, being able to relax, being able to laugh with someone, having an evening out, being understood.

4. Seminars on: Single Parent-Child Relationships; Where to Go for Help; Me and My Car; Self-Identity—Key to Self-Love; Single Women and Credit; The Single and His Taxes; Trying to Be a

Christian in a Work-A-Day World; Me and My Emotions; Marriage and Remarriage; Aloneness Versus Loneliness; The Single Parent and His Teenagers.

5. An occasional or holiday banquet at a hotel dining room or first class restaurant.

6. Retreats at a lodge or camp.

7. Exchange trips with singles groups in other cities.

(John D. Cochran made these suggestions.) □

Speaking of Singles . . .

Lorraine Eitel, writing in *The Standard* (Baptist General Conference magazine), reports the following four things single adults don't need from their churches:

1. Singles don't need to be perceived as looking at the world through "marriage-prospect" glasses. People are single for a variety of reasons. Even though many will eventually marry or marry again, they need freedom to form a variety of meaningful relationships right now. They

need to learn to live in the present, enjoying people as people. People around them need to give them room to breathe, to continue to discover themselves, to be able to sit next to someone in church without the choir whistling the wedding march.

2. Singles don't need a thinly disguised matchmaking society. Singles do need a chance to mingle with other singles; they like to talk about common problems, meet friends to go places with, get ideas for fixing up their homes. Often church-sponsored singles groups, formal or informal, are good places to do these things. But some singles stay away from these groups. I think this is because many

singles organizations are viewed (overtly or subconsciously) by their sponsoring churches as places for singles "to meet someone."

3. Singles don't need old-maid jokes and matchmaking banter. They do need the respect and dignity they deserve as people made in the image of God, fulfilling his will through what they see as his plan for them.

4. Singles don't need to be seen as a threat to The Family. It's interesting, but not unexplainable, that the married people, who are the most supportive of singles, are those who are in happy marriages. They are content with their lives

and allow others to be content with theirs. Single people and married people in the church need each other. They need the growth which comes from caring, understanding, affirming and from being cared for, being understood and being affirmed. □

Can You Keep Christmas?

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world . . . stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death . . . and that the blessed life, which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago, is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas! And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

—Henry van Dyke □

Christmas Family Values

Have each family member list ten things they love to do at Christmas. Then have each person do the following with his list:

-Put a star by the four you enjoy the most.

-Put a dollar sign by those that cost money.

-Put an "F" by those you do as a family.

Six Characteristics of Strong Families

From an extensive study of 130 "strong families," Dr. Nick Stinnet, chairman of the Department of Human Development and Family, University of Nebraska, reports these characteristics:

1. Such families do many things together as families.
2. Good communication patterns are evident.
3. Appreciation marks their interactions with each other.
4. They evidence a commitment to promoting family happiness and happiness for others in the family.
5. They show a high degree of

-Put an "A" by those you prefer to do alone.

-Put an "O" by those that involve doing something for other people.

-Put a "T" by those that involve a tradition in your family.

-Put a "C" by those that involve church.

-Put a "W" by those you wish you would do with your family.

After you have all studied your coded list for a few minutes, talk about the patterns you see regarding the things you love. Compare your top four with others

religious orientation.
6. They deal with crises in a positive way. □
(from *UPDATE*, July 1979)

A Sharing Party

A meaningful departure from the long list of parties we usually attend at Christmas time might be an evening of sharing—a Sharing Party—in which everyone presents a song, a reading, a food or a story which represents his/her deepest feelings, thoughts or talents related to God's gift to the world in Jesus. Each sharing would be given in the attitude of valuing who we are in Christ, what we feel, and what we can and like to do, more than what we can afford. If we're really going to share at a time when we celebrate Jesus' birth, it is much more meaningful when that sharing can come from our voices, pens and hands rather than from our ability to give things of monetary value. □

in your family. Can you come to an agreement on what is your favorite thing to do at Christmas as a family? How many preferences do you share with the other members of your family?

What is one thing you would like to see become a part of your family's celebration at Christmas? Why is it important to you? Are there some things you would like to change in your Christmas celebration? Which? Why not try them? (Adapted from *Values and Faith* by Roland and Doris Larson, Winston Press, Minneapolis, MN.) □

Our Changing Times

Today, more than half of all households consist of either one or two persons, and two out of five of these are one-person households, reports Lyle Schaller. Husband-wife couples without children under 18 at home are almost as numerous as couples with children. Single-parent families are almost as numerous as husband-wife couples with children at home and the husband as the only breadwinner.

He goes on to state that this has far-reaching implications for the church. Most will have to place a far greater emphasis on ministry to individuals than to families. This may include minor changes such as changing "Family Night" to "Fellowship Night", or adding a line to the potluck supper announcement, "Singles bring only one dish." Churches will

need to plan ministries and growth experiences for the never-married single adult as well as for the divorced or widowed." □

Gifts of Love

A Christmas Family Night service at Twin Grove Baptist Church, Buffalo Grove, IL, took this unique form. Following the portion of the program in which the children participated, the adults took part in a gift exchange. The gifts, however, were not store-bought but were gifts from the heart. The previous Sunday, one member of each household was asked to choose a name from a box. (The box contained the names of all the church families—singles included.) The family, whose name was drawn, was the person or family with whom a gift was shared. The gifts were in the form of

babysitting, an evening out, a shopping trip for someone without transportation, etc. Each shared with the other a gift of Christian love. □

in Conclusion, Remember . . .

-Nothing will run itself unless it is running down hill.

-To get anywhere it is necessary to start from where you are.

-The water in a well cannot be purified by painting the pump.

-The church will go no farther than the mind and purpose of its members.

-Church membership is a responsibility as well as a privilege.

-Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it. □

known as Rowandale Baptist Church. In the meantime, our own work flourished in both languages, the church reaching an all time high membership of 756 in 1953 and 755 in 1956.

The church still conducts some services in German, although most of our work is now in the English speaking community. In 1957 a two-story Christian Education wing was added to our church, and a new parsonage was built subsequently. In 1978 a major renovation program was initiated under the capable leadership of Mr. Dieter Hettig, and this program is still in progress.

We are particularly grateful for the spirit of unselfish service which has pervaded our church from its inception. In addition to the extension churches already mentioned, McDermot has started and supported at least a dozen mission stations in Winnipeg and other parts of Manitoba, many of which have since become established churches. In 1926, three members of our church, Mr. F. Dojacek, Rev. J. Luebeck and Mr. H. Streuber organized the Baptist Immigration and Colonization Society which was instrumental in facilitating Baptist immigration to all parts of Canada. Later Dr. William Sturhahn became prominent in the work of the Society. He has documented the labors of this worthwhile organization in the book, *They Came From East and West*. In 1926 the Ladies' Aid Society of the church also established Bethany House, which served as a home for young women. In 1946 a Relief Committee was organized for the distribution of gifts to needy people in Europe. The entire lower auditorium of the church was used as a relief center. Most recently the church has given

major support to the organization and operation of the camp program at Lake Nutimik, and to the construction and operation of Meadowood Manor, a home for the elderly and the chronically ill.

A large number of our members have gone into full-time Christian service, while others have served in God's Volunteers and on a variety of boards in our denominational work. From its inception the church has given generous financial support to missionary work, both at home and abroad and has almost always supported individual missionaries or doctors in the field.

In the past 90 years McDermot Avenue Baptist Church was served by some of the most capable men in our denomination and we are deeply grateful for their service to us: Rev. F. A. Petereit 1886-1893; Rev. W. H. Mueller 1894-1898; Rev. W. Schunke 1898-1906; Rev. F. Hoffman 1907-1911; Rev. J. A. H. Wuttke 1912-1920; Rev. J. Leyboldt 1920-1925; Rev. J. Luebeck 1926-1929; Rev. H. P. Kayser 1929-1934; Rev. Dr. A. S. Felberg 1934-1937; Rev. O. Patzia 1937-1947; Rev. D. Fuchs 1947-1952; Rev. Dr. C. H. Seecamp 1952-1954; Professor O. E. Krueger 1954; Rev. H. J. Waltereit 1954-1962; Rev. A. W. Bibelheimer 1962-1964; Rev. R. J. Kerstan 1962-1965; Rev. W. Stein 1965-1974; Rev. R. Goetze 1974-present; Rev. W. Kurtz 1978-present. Many pastors serving our denomination started their ministry as assistant pastors at McDermot, including Rev. H. Effa, Rev. H. Bushkowsky, and Rev. R. Orr. These, as well as all others, contributed to the spiritual growth of our people. To all we tender our thanks and expressions of deepest gratitude on the occasion of our 90th Anniversary, which the church celebrated on Oct. 13-14, 1979, with the Rev. Otto Patzia and Dr. R. J. Kerstan as guest speakers. □

WORLD HUNGER

WHEREAS we are an affluent body of believers who have been richly blessed with food and material goods,

WHEREAS we are living in a world that is crying out because of hunger, malnutrition and starvation,

WHEREAS the Word of God is explicit in its instruction to Christians regarding their responsibility to the poor and hungry,

BE IT RESOLVED that we channel funds through our N.A.B. Conference to evangelical organizations specializing in relief ministry,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we discipline ourselves, so that we may contribute more to the needs of others spiritually and materially.

REFUGEES

WHEREAS the plight of East Asian refugees is such that thousands are dying and are seeking freedom, and

WHEREAS the resources of the North American Continent are sufficient to absorb many thousands of these refugees, and

WHEREAS the love of Christ demands that we respond with compassion to these suffering refugees,

BE IT RESOLVED that we as North American Baptists encourage the political leaders of the U.S.A. and Canada to permit many more refugees to enter our countries than they are presently allowing to enter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we as North American Baptists do whatever we can to sponsor such refugees in helping them to settle in our respective countries and begin to rebuild their lives here.

My Paper Route

(A paperboy's analogy of
I Corinthians 13)

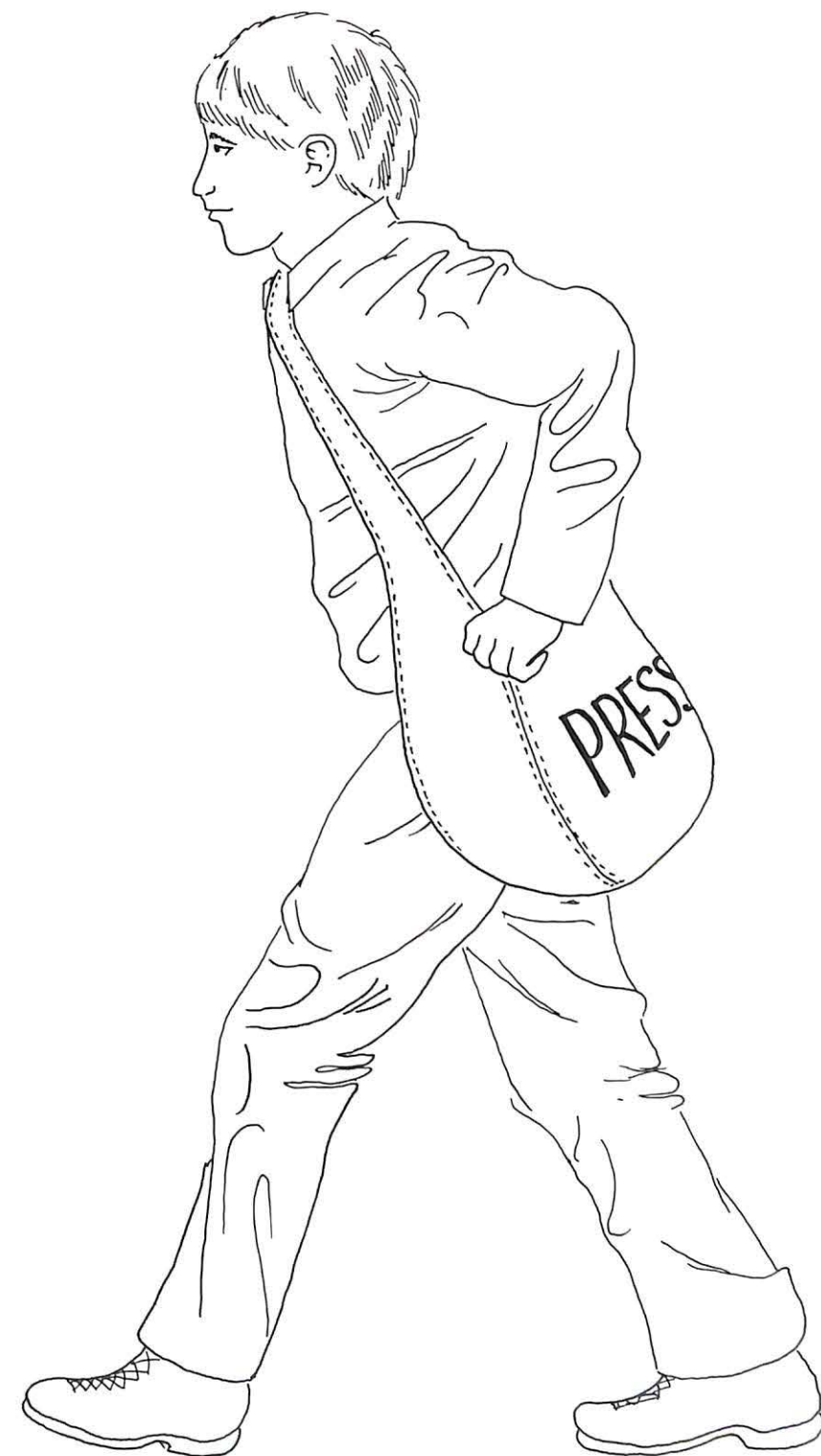
If I could do my paper route blindfolded, but did not have love for each one of my customers, I would be just as well off as sitting in a closet the rest of my life. And if I could porch any house I wanted to, using the back-hand shot, and did not have love, it would mean nothing. And if I could fold one hundred papers in five minutes, but did not have love, my time would be worthless.

Love is patient, when you have to go back to a customer five times to get them to pay you. Love is kind, when those mean kids in the court throw their football at you when you're passing by. Love isn't jealous, when you hear of another paperboy making one hundred fifty dollars a month and you only make fifty dollars a month. Love is not proud, when you have a history of never throwing a paper on a roof, or breaking a window. Love does not demand its own way when it's a rainy day and you would rather have your parents drive you.

Tired aching legs, rainy days, flat tires, and frightening dogs will come to an end, but love is everlasting. Customers that are difficult to please will come to an end, but love is eternal. Paper routes will come to an end, but love never will.

Before I had my route, I thought only of my own desires, but now I am aware of the need of a frail, old lady to be able to find her paper on her porch on a dark night. And of the weary business man returning home to find his paper there on time. These three things I have learned: Endurance, patience and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Greg Enos, 12 years old





CHURCH
EXTENSION
PROJECT

Changed Lives in San Ramon

by Donald Richter



Pastor Donald Richter leading home Bible study.



High school Sunday school class.



Women's Sunday school class.

Bob hadn't been to church for more than forty years except for the occasional wedding and funeral and nudge of conscience. His wife became cancerous and passed away amid a sea of debt. It was the concern of a Christian friend who reached out to him. Personal Bible study and a commitment to Christ changed his heart. It was a referral from a Christian real estate man to Pastor Richter that prompted a brief call. Bob was hesitant, but not indifferent to this [contact]. Many visits later Bob attended church once. More visits later Bob came to church with the settled conviction to go on with Christ, fully serving him.

Arnold, Brigitte, Karen and Andrew moved into San Ramon from Seattle, knowing that an N.A.B. church was to be started in the area. It was a new job for Arnold. Still, this commitment to his office work did not minimize his loyalty to Jesus Christ and his church. Weekly attendance, faithful giving and earnest effort are key helps that this family provides for the beginning of this new church.

Anita attended a women's area Bible study and found Christ as her personal Savior. Now she needed a local church, a friend and a loving group of Christians. She found all of these through the gentle invitation of the pastor's wife.

The San Ramon Valley, in which the town of San Ramon is located, is a population center of about 80,000, expected to increase to 110,000 in less than a decade. East

The Rev. Donald Richter is the pastor of Crow Canyon Baptist Church, San Ramon, CA.

of Oakland and in the greater San Francisco Bay area, it is part of a very large metropolitan area. Although there are churches and seminaries and Christian schools throughout the area, it is estimated that 95 people out of 100 do not regularly attend church. There is room for growth and a definite need to bring individuals to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The building site is almost 13 acres, near a major intersection. As land prices escalate, it is anticipated that a parcel will be sold to assist in building a second unit. Temporarily, the church meets in the pastor's home and in a rented gym on Sunday mornings. Presently, the first unit, a house on the land, is being remodeled.

More than 5,000 door-to-door visits have been completed. Hundreds of follow-up calls have been made. About 2,000 new resident letters of welcome have been sent. In addition, more than 12,000 tracts, brochures and invitations have been distributed. Average attendance is slowly moving up from the 20's into the 30's. Sunday school as well as a women's home Bible study have been started.

But still there are needs. First, pray for:

- 1) The interested individuals and families to attend regularly because first of all they have to give their hearts to Christ.
- 2) Revival in the San Francisco Bay area.

Second, give generously, so that we may complete the remodeling necessary to the house on our land. It is of good size and can be adapted for a group of 100 people. □

North American Baptists Enter Wyoming

by Harry Haas



Pastor and Mrs. Haas in their home.



The pastor's home, presently used for church services until other facilities can be found.



Long trains filled with coal are a common sight.



Pastor Harry Haas with his friend 'Hal', a ventriloquial character used to reach children with the Good News.

Can you imagine a piece of coal 200 miles long, north and south; 80 miles wide, east and west; and up to 100 feet thick? That is the size of the coal deposit near Gillette, WY, where Pastor and Mrs. Harry Haas and sons, Craig and Jeramy, are planning to start a North American Baptist Church under our North American Baptist Church Extension program.

Through the world-wide energy crisis, the Gillette area has received nation-wide attention, not only because of its coal but also its oil and uranium ore deposits. In the last four years the Gillette community has grown from 10,000 to nearly 30,000 people. The population is made up mainly of young couples. The average age in Gillette is between 23 and 27.

As is so common with many young couples, 75 percent of the Gillette population is not attending church on Sundays. This lack of religious interest also produces loneliness, worldliness and marital problems. However, this lit-tleness, worldliness and marital problems. However, this lit-tleness, worldliness and marital problems. However, this lit-

The Rev. Harry Haas is the pastor of the Church Extension project at Gillette, WY.

people that are ready to talk about spiritual things and who respond readily to love and friendship.

Pastor and Mrs. Haas arrived on the field on Aug. 15, 1979. At their arrival there was no nucleus of believers, no Bible study group, and there are at this writing no Sunday services being held. The first service is being planned for November 4, 1979. Mountain View Baptist Church of Spearfish, SD, is the mother church to the Gillette project.

At present the pastor is canvassing and calling on prospects in the community to find people who have an interest in starting a church. There are many people who express a slight interest in the work but not a total commitment. Once a congregation begins to meet, there will be many who will come. Some will stay and grow in their spiritual lives; others will stay away, because it is not to their liking, or they are not ready to accept the challenge of a surrendered Christian life.

We ask for your help in praying that people, who sincerely love the Lord, may join the Haases in establishing Gillette Baptist Church. We ask for your financial gifts, as the small congregation faces the great task of purchasing land and building a place of worship. □

our conference in action

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Berge celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Foster Avenue Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, on Sunday afternoon, April 1. Friends and



relatives met in the fellowship hall for a delightful program, fellowship and a buffet supper. Mr. and Mrs. Berge have been active in the church since 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Brust, Swan River, MB, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23, 1979. A lovely dinner at the Westwood Inn, Swan River, was served to about 95 guests. A program by the family followed. Mr. and Mrs. Brust



have five children, two boys and three girls, plus thirteen grandchildren. A come-and-go tea in their honor was held the following day. A celebration on their actual date Jan. 13, 1979, was held at their winter home in Wesleco, Texas.

The children and grandchildren of **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Betcher** hosted a 50th



anniversary celebration Aug. 4, 1979, to which friends and relatives were invited. A dinner in their honor was served to about 120 guests. A musical program followed with poems, skits and a slide presentation of the past fifty years. They have been blessed with eight children, six sons and two daughters, plus nineteen grandchildren. An open house tea was held the following day. This was a pre-anniversary celebration; their "Golden Wedding Day," God willing, will be Nov. 3, 1979. Mr. and Mrs. Betcher are members of the Temple Baptist Church, Swan River, MB.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gruber, members of Northgate Baptist Church, Edmonton, AB, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 25, 1979. The church



hosted a reception in their honor on Sunday afternoon, July 29, 1979, with many friends, relatives and neighbors attending, making this a memorable occasion for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stabbert were recently honored on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception



in the garden of their home, hosted by their children and grandchildren. Many friends came to extend their congratula-

tions and good wishes. The Stabberts were married Aug. 27, 1929, at Bethel Baptist Church, Anaheim, with Mrs. Stabbert's father, the Rev. O. R. Schroeder, then pastor of the church, officiating. They have been active members of that church during their entire married life. They have two daughters: Donna Stevens of San Clemente, and Joan Dermody of Capistrano Beach, and six grandchildren. Mr. Stabbert has been involved in civic and denominational activities, and has recently retired from the insurance business.

On July 1, 1979, relatives and friends celebrated with **Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kluck** on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. A program was pre-



sented by their eight children and a number of grandchildren at the McClusky Baptist Church. A reception was held at the elementary school later that afternoon.

McCLUSKY, ND. On promotion Sunday, Teresa Sease was presented with a Living Bible upon completion of nine years of Scripture Memory work.

The church was privileged to witness the baptism of three young people on Sept. 16: Valerie Stein, Kirk Dockter and Candis Dockter.

The Harvest Mission Festival was held on Sept. 30, with Missionary Ralph Nelson presenting a challenge from the work in Brazil. The following Thursday evening a special missions night featured a potluck supper, and missionary nurse Kathryn Ann Kroll, speaker. (Mrs. Allen Faul, reporter.)

GOODRICH, ND. The Harvest Mission Festival was celebrated at the First Baptist Church, Sunday, Sept. 16. Dr. Laura Reddig spoke at the morning worship service and narrated slides during the evening service, giving us new insights into our mission work in Cameroon and the needs there. Fellowship over coffee and refreshments followed the evening service.

Several ladies decorated the church, using grain, garden produce, flowers and branches creating an atmosphere which reminded us of God's many blessings. The Rev. Daniel Heringer is pastor. (Judie Seibel, reporter.)

GRAND FORKS, ND. On Oct. 6, 1979, the annual mission banquet was held at Grace Baptist Church. Miss Kathryn Kroll, missionary nurse at Mbem, Cameroon, shared the joys and sorrows of a missionary. A missionary's life can be lonely when living thousands of miles away from home and dealing with a different culture. As a nurse the blessing from God comes when she can help alleviate suffering and share how the great physician, our Savior and Lord, can give new and abundant life. The senior choir sang two songs. A solo was given by Joanna Derman.

Miss Kroll gave a missionary challenge to the congregation during the Sunday morning worship, Oct. 7. She showed slides of her work at Mbem during the evening service. (Mrs. Bonita J. Shambaugh, reporter.)

ABERDEEN, SD. Installation services were held at the Calvary Baptist Church for the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Hoffman. They came to our church from the Northside Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD. The Rev. Ron Mayforth was the guest speaker. The service was enjoyed by all and we are looking forward to serving together with the Hoffmans.

Special meetings with the Rev. and Mrs. Ron Dalzell were held at the Calvary Baptist Church. Many people received a blessing as the Dalzell's ministered to us in music and in the spoken word.

The Eureka Men's Brotherhood shared in a special program with us on Oct. 21. (Elaine Harms, clerk.)

JAMESBURG, NJ. The Rev. G. G. Rauser of Lodi, CA, was guest speaker at the First Baptist Church, Sept. 12-16. His talks each evening centered around Christ and his influence on the home. At the morning worship service on Sunday his topic was, "Walking With God," and in the evening he spoke on "The Next Great Event in God's Program of Redemption." On Saturday we enjoyed a supper with the Rev. Rauser and his wife, Sarah, who accompanied him. They favored us with inspiring vocal duets each evening.

The Rev. Rauser has been in the ministry 48 years. He is originally from Mercer, ND. He received his training at N.A.B. Seminary and Moody Bible Institute, and was ordained in Rosenfeld, ND. At present he is pastor of visitation at First Baptist Church, Lodi, CA. These servants of the Lord provided a memorable and blessed time for our church. (Marguerite Lee, reporter.)

RAPID CITY, SD. The 133rd South Dakota Association was held Sept. 27-30, 1979, at the South Canyon Baptist Church. The theme was "Biblical Resources for Better Relationships in the

Christian Community" (Eph. 3:16). Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Peterson, N.A.B. Seminary, were our resource people and directed our thoughts and challenged us with this theme. The Rev. David and Priscilla Keiry were our guest missionaries from the San Luis Valley, CO. They blessed our hearts with reports of how God is working, and challenged us to continue to support them in prayer and giving because so much still needs to be done among the Spanish-Americans. Association business was conducted in a warm spirit under the moderator, the Rev. Doug Bittle, Madison. A record budget of \$27,280 was adopted, 60 percent of which goes in support of three Church Extension projects: Spearfish, Brandon, and the newest, Gillette, WY. The Rev. Bob Brown, Spearfish, is our new moderator. (Rev. Darwin Stahl, reporter.)

EDMONTON, AB. A full fall program is underway at Northgate Baptist Church, with new and exciting opportunities. We are rejoicing that the building permit has finally come through to begin our new sanctuary. The groundbreaking ceremony (pictured) was on June 29, 1979. During



two weeks in August there was a special outreach to contact children of the community with the gospel by way of Backyard Bible Clubs. The Family Bible School has extended its elective adult classes to five various courses, with enthusiastic response. The Pioneer Girls and Christian Service Brigade held a kick-off potluck supper and registration night on Sept. 11, 1979. We are trusting the Lord to use us to share and glorify his name in these many areas. (I. Eggert, reporter.)

ALPENA, MI. A special program and "Prayer Partner" banquet was initiated April 27, at the Ripley Boulevard Baptist Church, attended by 180 persons. Russ Lewis was master of ceremonies for the occasion. This outreach in the community through the bus ministry, to bring boys and girls and also their families into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, is a home mission. Ninety children, grades 1-6 from the bus ministry

our conference in action

and Sunday school, participated in the song service, which included a group of young people of the church. Jack Klein played the guitar while Shirlene Liske and JoAnn Manning led the singing. Ninety previously assigned church members became prayer partners to these boys and girls during a "matching ceremony," then shared the remainder of the evening together. Following the program, a buffet dinner was served. The congregation then gathered for the viewing of a film, "Survival," a story of a family whose plane crashed in the jungle and their dependence on God for their safety.

At present, the church has four buses with George Koontz as personnel director and Bill Pollard, maintenance director. Many lay people have given freely of their time and effort as "unto the Lord" for this ministry. This program was planned and arranged by Carol Ehresman, Junior Church director and staff members, Russ and Carol Lewis, Shirlene Liske and JoAnn Manning, Jane Tripp and Jack Klein, with Pastor Jacob Ehman. (Doris Turnbull, reporter.)

PARMA, OH. Penn-Ohio Association Women's Retreat at Camp Burton was held Sept. 21-23, with LaVerna Mehlhoff as special speaker. The main theme was, "God's Beautiful Women." Discussion periods were held, using Jill Briscoe's book, *Prime Rib and Apple*. Twenty-three of the 68 women were from Redeemer Baptist Church and participated in a missions presentation, a fun-time brown-bag auction conducted by Diane Reidling, and general fellowship. Officers were elected to serve the next two years. (Ruth Strauss, reporter.)

DERBY, NY. The Building Fund of the Highland Baptist Church (Church Extension project of the Eastern Association) got a big boost. The North Evans Congregational Church, which had faithfully



served the community since 1833, presented a check for \$20,000 to help continue the Lord's work in this community. Left to right in the photo are Mr. Russell Gill and Mr. Whitney Frost presenting the check to Mr. Eugene Jost and Pastor

our conference in action

George Brite on Sept. 10, 1979. (George Brite, reporter.)

CORN, OK. The Southwestern Association was hosted by the Calvary Baptist Church of Corn, OK, on Aug. 3-5, 1979. The theme of the Association was "Overwhelming Confidence in Him." The theme verse was 1 John 5:14; the theme song was "I've Got Confidence." Inspirational messages were given by guest speakers: the Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Goodman, Nigerian missionaries, Dr. Herbert Dickerson, N.A.B. Seminary, and the Rev. Milton Zeeb, area secretary.

Newly elected officers were: the Rev. Will Dachtler, moderator; Mr. Bob Wendelberg, vice moderator; Mrs. Mildred Burroughs, secretary; Mr. Arlen Janssen, treasurer; the Rev. James Zier, statistician; the Rev. Earl Ahrens, Mr. Ken Whitehouse, Church Extension and Mission Committee; the Rev. Elton Kirstein, member at large; pastors Terry Chrisope, Kendall Mercer and Edwin Ollenberger, Credentials Committee. The Rev. Zeeb dedicated the newly elected officers, challenging them to "a new" service to the Lord.

Missionary Mrs. Kenneth Goodman gave an interesting resume of her work in Nigeria at the W.M.U. luncheon. Officers for the ensuing year are: president, Mrs. Willis Geis; vice president, Mrs. Herbert Vetter; 2nd vice president, Mrs. W. D. Dachtler; secretary, Mrs. Manuel Wolff; treasurer, Miss Helen Zimmerman; White Cross chairman, Mrs. Russell Winters, and statistician, Mrs. Lenora Friez.

Officers elected for the Baptist Men at their noon luncheon were: Mr. Willis Geis, president; Mr. Dale Burroughs, secretary; Mr. Bill Meier, treasurer. Guest speaker was Missionary Kenneth Goodman.

We are grateful to the host church for their friendly hospitality and delicious meals. Attending the Association gave us the renewed strength and "Overwhelming Confidence in Him." "And this is the confidence that we have in him, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14). (Mrs. Weldon Geis, reporter.)

LETHBRIDGE, AB. The Bethany Baptist Church is very grateful to God for the wonderful way he has blessed us so far this year. On Sept. 23, we celebrated our special Thanksgiving service at which time we were able to offer our expressions of gratitude through song and word. The church was beautifully decorated to re-

mind us of the many material blessings we so richly receive. After the service a fellowship meal was enjoyed by all.

As we continue our new fall programs we are again looking forward to the wonderful things God has in store for us.

It is our desire that the church will be a warm, happy and exciting place where each person will continue to show love for one another and give the Lord and Master all the praise. (Shirley Serfas, church clerk.)

MERCER, ND. On Sunday afternoon Aug. 26, 1979, we were privileged to share in a beautiful baptismal service at Postel's Lake north of Mercer. The outdoor setting under God's creation was marvelous to behold. Three young people



(pictured here with the pastor, the Rev. Perry Schnabel) were baptized. The service also included congregational singing to accordion accompaniment, various special numbers, and a message from the pastor. A wonderful blessing was received by all who attended.

WEST FARGO, ND. Dr. Laura Reddig was the speaker at our Harvest Mission Festival on Sept. 9, 1979. She shared with us during the morning services about the needs, changes, etc., of her many years spent in Cameroon. After a potluck dinner, she took us on a safari (via slides) through Cameroon, showing pictures of the schools, hospitals, people and scenery. She also showed pictures of patients "before and after" being treated for leprosy, and many happy faces of those who were cured. The Rev. Lester Bunning is pastor of the church. (Frances Abrahamson, reporter.)

DENVER, CO. The Church Extension Department has approved a church planting project in suburban Southwest Denver. The designated area includes sections of West Littleton, Morrison, and Southwest Denver. N.A.B. families living in this area are encouraged to participate in the project.

Dr. James T. Dyet, pastor of the Church Extension work, is Executive Editor of Accent-BP Publications in Denver. In addition to serving as interim pastor in Sierra Baptist Church, Arvada, CO, in 1978, Dr. Dyet has had extensive pastoral experience.

For further information about the Southwest Denver project, interested persons may contact the Church Extension Department or Dr. Dyet, whose address is 4487 S. Tennyson St., Denver, CO 80236, phone: (303) 795-1383.

MERCER, ND. Over a year and a half ago our church was inspired by the ordination service of our pastor. Delegates from nine churches of the Northern Dakota Association had sat in council and had recommended that Pastor Perry Schnabel be ordained. The Rev. Daniel Heringer of the First Baptist Church of Goodrich, (pictured with Pastor Schnabel), gave the ordination message. The Rev. Wesley Gerber of the First Baptist Church of Underwood led in the ordination prayer as the rest participated in the laying on of hands. Special music was provided by the Rev. and Mrs. Jim Arends, manager-director of the Crystal



Springs Baptist Camp who sang, "Everywhere;" the candidate's sister, Mrs. Daphne Kessler sang "Charity;" and Pastor Schnabel sang "My Tribute." Mrs. Arvid Wagner and Mrs. Harley Swanson were the organist and pianist. Other members taking part were deacons: Mr. Arvid Wagner, Mr. Jacob Rust, Mr. Lloyd Axt, and the church clerk, Mrs. Richard Neumiller. The Rev. Perry Schnabel then closed the service with a response of thanksgiving and the benediction. Following the service the ladies served lunch. Pastor Schnabel has been serving the First Baptist Church of Mercer since August of 1977. He is a graduate of Sioux Falls College and the N.A.B. Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD, where he received his Master of Divinity degree in May 1977.

in memoriam

REV. JAMES ARMSTRONG of Walkerton, ON, entered into the presence of the Lord on July 5, 1979. He served as pastor of the Baptist Church in Neustadt, ON, from Dec. 1965 to Oct. 1970, after which he retired from active ministry. He was born in Ireland, and is survived by his wife Mary.

FREDERICKA BUCHHOLZ (nee Delzer), 85, was born Oct. 9, 1893, near Ventura, ND, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christ Delzer. On March 25, 1914, she married Edward Buchholz who died in 1970. She died at Ashley, ND, on Sept. 3, 1979. She was a member of the Ashley Baptist Church at the time. Survivors include six children: Myrtle Draeger, Breckenridge, MN, Gilbert, Ashley, Ella Engel, Bismarck, ND, Herbert, Shandler, AZ; Alfred, Dickinson, ND, and Elvina Golz, Ashley; 23 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; one sister, Emma Dohn, Wishek, ND. The Rev. Allen Gerber officiated at the funeral service.

EMIL LITWIN was born in Poland on Oct. 30, 1883, and died on June 29, 1979, at the age of 95 years and 8 months. He immigrated to Canada with his parents, settling

in Winnipeg and then at Nokomis, SK. In 1909 he married Wilhelmina Stagman. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 21, 1979, with all their children present. Emil was active both in church and community, as member of the Nokomis Baptist Church for 60 years. He served as choir director, church secretary, Sunday school superintendent and youth leader. Emil is predeceased by one son, Clifford and one daughter, Madeline. He is survived by his wife, Wilhelmina; one son, George of Lethbridge, AB; five daughters: Ruth Rojem of Kelowna, BC, Olga Hein of Edmonton, AB, Lois Neison of Nokomis, SK, Trudy Wright of Spokane, WA, Connie McNeil of Calgary, AB; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; one brother, Oscar and one sister, Lydia Miller, both of Nokomis, SK. The Rev. Rudy Lemke conducted the funeral service.

NATHANIEL KOTH, 93, was born Sept. 3, 1886, at Parkston, SD, and died July 3, 1979, at Odessa, WA. He married Dina Schorzman on June 26, 1912. He became a Christian in 1910 and remained an active member of the local church until his death. He filled several offices in the Sunday school and church during the years of his active life. Survivors are his wife, Dina, of Odessa and one son, Franklin of Spokane, WA; three grandchildren; two sisters, Rose Weber and Emelia Schorzman. The Rev. Albert Richardson officiated at the funeral service.

JACOB MEIER, 83, was born in Rossochy, Russia, on Dec. 8, 1895. He went to be with the Lord on Sept. 22, 1979. On Oct. 12,

1920, he was married to Lydia Ostwald, and this marriage was blessed with four children, including one set of twins. He was drafted into the Russian Army and served on both the Russian and Turkish fronts. After the Revolution, he and his family migrated to Germany and lived there until they sailed to America in 1928. He settled with his family of four children in Tampa, KS, where he labored on the railroad. In 1933, the Meier family came to Marion, KS, where Mr. Meier purchased a shoe repair shop. Mr. Meier was baptized at the Baptist church in Insterburg, Germany. He loved the Lord, and proceeded to raise his family in a fine Christian environment. He was a deacon of the Emanuel Baptist Church for over 25 years. Mr. and Mrs. Meier celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970. Mrs. Meier went to be with the Lord in 1974. He leaves to mourn three daughters: Marie and her husband, Kenneth Nelson, of Little River; Lydia and her husband, Elmer Pankratz of Hillsboro; Ella and her husband, Jack Swain of Houston, TX; one son, Herbert E. Meier of Wichita; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; two sisters: Mrs. Pauline Krispense and Mrs. Martha Schafer both of Marion; two brothers: Ed Meier of Wichita and Alex Meier of Garland, TX, as well as many friends.

MARTHA ROLLER (nee Schmidt) of Edmonton, AB, was born in Kolowert, Poland, Aug. 18, 1904, and died on Dec. 26, 1978, at the age of 74 years. She accepted Christ and was baptized while still in Poland, and immigrated to Canada in 1929. She was married to Rudolf Roller in 1934, and was a member of the Central Baptist Church until the time of her death. She was survived by her husband, Rudolf; three sons: Donald of Burnaby, BC, Waldemar and Harvey of Edmonton; two grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Olga Ulbrich of Edmonton. The pastors G. Scheel and W. Ertis officiated at the funeral service.

RUDOLF ROLLER of Edmonton, AB, was born in Kolowert, Poland, Aug. 23, 1896, and died on Sept. 3, 1979, at the age of 83 years. He accepted Christ, was baptized, and became a member of the Kolowert Baptist Church about 1921, and immigrated to Canada in 1928. He attended Bible School at Trochu and Wetaskiwin during 1929 and 1930, and was married to Martha Schmidt in 1934. He remained a friend of Central Baptist Church until his death, and had used his building skills to help construct the original CTI (NABC) and other projects of Central Baptist Church. He was predeceased by his wife, Martha. He is survived by three sons: Donald, Waldemar and Harvey; two grandchildren; one brother, Ferdinand of Germany, and two sisters, Olga Wollenburg and Lydia Duesterhoeft, also of Germany. The pastors G.



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(Continued on page 31)

NABF ELECTS WEATHERFORD, SPOTLIGHTS HISPANICS

MEXICO CITY (BP)—The North American Baptist Fellowship's general committee took several historic steps and spotlighted Hispanic evangelism and enlistment during its meeting in Mexico City, October 9-11.

Meeting for the first time in Mexico, the NABF general committee elected its first woman chairman, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, and its first Mexican officer, Ernesto A. Uriegas, who will serve as vice chairman. Uriegas is pastor of Getsemani Baptist Church, Mexico City.

Charles F. Wills was named secretary, and Fred B. Rhodes, treasurer, by virtue of their respective roles as associate secretary and treasurer of the Baptist World Alliance. NABF is one of several regional fellowships operating under the umbrella of the BWA.

Leonard Ballesteros of the American Baptist Churches in the USA told 75 participants from nine national Baptist bodies in the U.S., Canada and Mexico that at least 19 million Spanish speaking

people live in the U.S. and that the number is growing rapidly.

He said these millions present a growing challenge to American churches, both in evangelistic outreach and social concern. "Many Hispanics who were not reached by the church in Latin America have found Christ in their new homes in the U.S.," Ballasteros said.

Fermin A. Whitaker, a Panamanian now on the staff of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, GA, added, "The world has come to our doorstep." He declared that "the largest Spanish Baptist group in the world is in the U.S.A."

Whitaker urged that Anglo churches develop "a spirit of mission" among Hispanics, at the same time avoiding a paternalistic attitude. Spanish language churches "must be self supporting," he said, to be of maximum influence in Spanish communities.

He said the work of Spanish language churches "is growing by multiplication," and that in some cases Spanish churches are starting Anglo missions.

In addition to the in-depth study of work among Spanish language people, NABF participants also conducted "sharing sessions" on evangelism and education, communications, social concerns, lay development and stewardship.

Agustin Acosta, general secretary of the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, reported that the number of Baptist churches in his country has more than doubled in the past 10 years, increasing from 200 in 1969 to the present 410. He said another "600 missions are now in the process of becoming churches."

The growth is even more dramatic in Mexico City, the country's booming metropolis and national capital, he said, with the number of churches jumping from 3 to 42 in the last 15 years.

NEW RUSSIAN TRANSLATION OF GOSPEL OF JOHN

OSLO, Norway—A new translation of the Gospel of John into modern Russian can prepare the way for a renewing of the language in the entire Russian Bible. Two thousand copies of the new translation have been published by the United Bible Societies in a separate edition of its technical papers for the Bible translator.

The work was done by a group of scholars at the University of Leningrad formed in 1969 at the initiative of Metropolitan Nikodim. They felt that the old translation was not close enough to the Greek text and that it did not represent current meanings of modern Russian. They hope that the whole New Testament can be translated along these lines.

■ *The Rev. Douglas Sathren* resigned from Bethel Baptist Church, Harvey, ND, to begin his ministry at the Church Extension project in Grafton, ND, on Oct. 14, 1979.

■ *The Rev. Rubin Herrmann* is pastor of the new Church Extension work in Lenexa, KS. He assumed this pastorate Nov. 1, 1979. He previously was pastor of Woodland Shores Baptist Church, Bridgman, MI, since 1974.

■ *The Rev. Henry Wilk* resigned from the Folsomdale Baptist Church, Cowlesville, NY, where he has been pastor since 1970. He will become the pastor of the Church Extension project at Middle Island, NY, on Jan. 13, 1980.

■ On October 7, 1979, *Corona Heights Baptist Fellowship*, Corona, CA, met for the first time in their own church building. The Rev. Ron Hartman is the pastor.

■ *The Rev. Irvin Schmuland* passed away Oct. 10, 1979. Born in 1918 in Fenwood, SK, he began the pastoral ministry with North American Baptist Conference at First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND, where he served from 1952-61. The following pastorates were: Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD, 1961-65; Temple

Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND, 1965-68; Temple Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, 1968-76; Grace Baptist Church, Medicine Hat, AB, 1976-77 (interim). Since 1977 he had taken up secular employment.

His death came as a sad surprise to his family and his many friends.

■ *Dr. Stephen Brachlow* was ordained Oct. 14, 1979, at Trinity Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD. He is assistant professor of Christian Heritage and Historical Theology at North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

■ *The Rev. Gary Thompson* has resigned as youth director of Fellowship Bible Church, Kalamazoo, MI, a position he has held since 1978.

■ *The Rev. George Robinson* resigned as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND, effective Dec. 1, 1979. He will become pastor of a non-N.A.B. church in Edmonton, AB.

■ *The Rev. Volker Klaue* has been employed by Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC, to serve as pastor of the mission work at Surrey, BC, an outreach ministry of the Immanuel Baptist Church.

■ *The Rev. Herbert Bluhm* resigned from Austin Street Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY, effective Sept. 30, 1979, to accept the pastorate of a non-N.A.B. church near Jamestown, NY.

■ *The Rev. Henry Ramus* is the new associate in Church Ministries at Oak Street Baptist Church, Burlington, IA. He began his ministry there Sept. 29, 1979.

■ *The Rev. Emilio Lopez-Cela* resigned from Walnut Street Baptist Church effective the end of August 1979. He was pastor there since 1975.

■ *The Rev. Frank Unruh*, since 1974 pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND, resigned effective Nov. 4, 1979. He is moving to San Diego, CA, and is awaiting the Lord's guidance.

■ *The Rev. William Crews*, '79 graduate of North American Baptist Seminary, accepted the pastorate of Northside Baptist Church, Sioux Falls, SD, on Nov. 1, 1979.

■ *The Rev. Jerry Pattillo* became the minister of Christian Education of Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND, on Aug. 1, 1979.

Celebrate with the world in Toronto

Celebrating Christ's Presence Through the Spirit. (John 16:13)

The 14th Baptist World Congress will be happening in Toronto, Canada from July 8 to 13, 1980. Thousands of Baptists from all over the world are coming to Toronto. It's a celebration and you can be part of it.

Together we are celebrating the presence of Jesus Christ in our world; we are celebrating 75 years of witness in the BWA; and we are celebrating our unity with Christians around the world.

On your way to and from the Congress

you can see the vast and beautiful country of Canada and take advantage of the hospitality being planned for you at Churches across the country.

Be sure to include the BWA Congress in your prayers and plans for July 1980.

Take this exciting opportunity to meet the world.

Write now, for more details, registration forms and tourist information.

Baptist World Alliance, 1628 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 U.S.A.

BWA TORONTO 1980

Angels For Effective Communications

The Angel Awards presented annually in Hollywood by Religion In Media for the purpose of encouraging excellence in the portrayal of religious concepts in the area of radio, television, books, movies, albums and athletic events has become the religious community's most sought after award. RIM's top award for the religious program of the year went to NBC for its production of *Holocaust*.

Some of the other featured award winners included B. J. Thomas for his album *Happy Man*, and Joni Eareckson for her book *A Step Further* written with Steve Estes. Winners in the area of television included *Little House On The Prairie* for its excellent presentation of moral and spiritual values; *The 700 Club* for the best in daily programming; *Future Survival*, written and narrated by Chuck Smith, the best documentary; Oral Roberts for the best hour length special. Winners for motion pictures were *Mystery of the Sacred Shroud*, best documentary; and *No Longer Alone* as the best feature-length film.



Jim Willems, Chairman of Religion in Media Awards, presents Angel to Joni Eareckson for her book "A Step Further."

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from page 13)

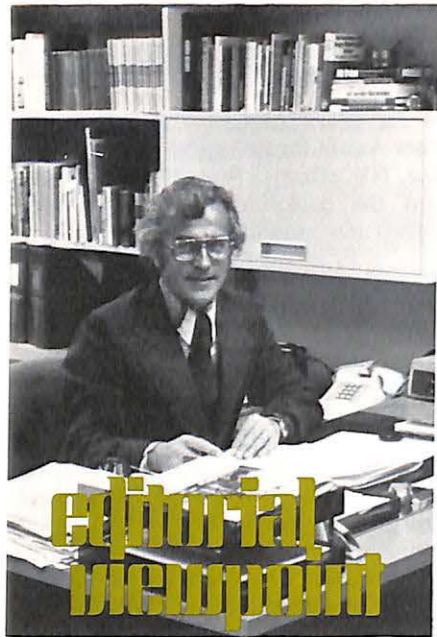
Lockyer, like others, have focused our attention on its acceptance and upon what we are able to learn. This is especially true in his chapter on "How to Meet Suffering," in which he emphasizes the different kinds of suffering: lawful suffering, compelled suffering, shared suffering, and the noblest of all—chosen suffering. In these, with enough study, plus experience, can be found four worthwhile sermons.

If there is any comfort to be found in suffering, then remember that the end justifies the means God employs to make us more like himself.

JESUS OF NAZARETH IN WORD AND DEED. By Charles C. Cochrane, Grand Rapids, MI. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. \$4.95.

To relate and develop the story of Jesus from the Annunciation to the Commission and the promise of the Spirit is nothing new. In this volume the author goes further and deeper. Basing his study on Mark and Luke, he answers the ques-

(Continued on page 31)



...As You Did It Not To One Of The Least Of These...

Let's first of all look at a larger portion of Scripture from which the title is taken. In Matthew 25 we read about the day "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats..."

Then the King will reward the nations and their people according to their merits. Those on the right will be called "blessed of my Father," and they will inherit the kingdom prepared for them. They will be the blessed ones because of their generosity toward those who were hungry, thirsty, lost, naked, sick and imprisoned.

But there are also the people whom the King put on the left side. Of them the Gospel writer reports, "Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt. 25:41-46).

Isn't it interesting that the Word of God tells us that it is not necessarily the wrong deed that gets us into trouble; even the act that was not committed can be sinful. "Whoever knows

what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17).

By now you must be wondering what I might have in mind. Haven't we as North American Baptists done whatever had to be done at all times? I would be the first to show my deep respect for what our Conference has been doing during the 130 plus years of its history. As the chairman of the N.A.B. History Committee, I was responsible for the production of Dr. Frank H. Woyke's book, *Heritage and Ministry of the North American Baptist Conference*. Thus I have read the manuscript at least three times before it appeared in book form. It was a tedious yet exciting job to plough through the pages of our history and see our forefathers often take the lead in social and moral issues. They dared to speak out against slavery, child labor, Sunday employment, corruption in government, and other vital issues of their times. Praise the Lord for the courage to do something about hunger, thirst, immigration restrictions ("I was a stranger and you welcomed me"), health care ("I was sick and you visited me") and prisons ("I was in prison and you came to me").

It seems that today we have lost some of the zeal and courage of our pioneering fathers. It is true, that certain functions have been taken over by government agencies, so that we as individuals are no longer responsible for the feeding and clothing of the needy. Yet, other matters are still very much our responsibility.

I am thinking especially of The International Year of the Child. Various governments, organizations and church groups agreed at the beginning of the year 1979, to accept the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to place the child in the center of their special attention and care. The idea was to invite the world community to renew and reaffirm its concern for the present condition and the future of its children.

In one of the IYC brochures the objective was outlined as follows:

"The International Year of the Child should be an occasion to reaffirm, not by words alone but by deeds, that the well-being of today's children is the concern of all people everywhere and that it is inseparably linked with the peace and prosperity of tomorrow's world."

The idea of the IYC did not originate with the religious community, but Protestants, Catholics, Jews and other religious bodies quickly took up the concept and adapted it for their purposes. That is, not all religious groups did so. Very soon it became apparent that especially in North America there were Christians who disliked the IYC promotion. To them it was made questionable because of the participation of socialist countries and non-Christian organizations.

My desk began to be flooded with mail warning all righteous Christians to abstain from any IYC programs. Congressman Robert Dornan, Mrs. Tim (Beverly) LaHaye, the Free Congress Foundation, the American Council of Christian Churches, U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the Concerned Women for America, these and many other organizations and individuals pronounced devastating judgment on the International Year of the Child. Many reasons were cited why every decent citizen and God-fearing Christian should be against it; they ranged from anti-family tendencies to a Communist

plot to destroy education in the free countries.

As editor of this magazine, I had hoped to feature some of the specific needs of children in our world. My approach was to be wholly biblical, Christ-centered and God-honoring. But I stayed away from it.

I looked at the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and read:

"Each child has the right to affection, love and understanding; to adequate nutrition and medical care; to free education; to full opportunity for play and recreation; to special care, if handicapped; to be among the first to receive relief in times of disaster... to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national or social origin."

I agreed with all the statements. But I did nothing to promote them.

Why did I remain silent and inactive? I yielded to the pressure applied by a small but very vocal minority among evangelicals.

I read the Baptist and non-Baptist magazines of various denominations and was excited about their emphasis on the ministry to the child. But I was afraid to come out into the open and make the *Baptist Herald* a part of the international group of Christian periodicals that spoke in favor of the child's right. I did it not to one of the least of these... At the same time I was ashamed that other Baptist groups, smaller than ours and existing in countries where Baptists are a minute minority, used the IYC program to feature the value of children.

So, as North American Baptists, we have done next to nothing with respect to The International Year of the Child. Does that make us feel good? Does that give us any right to look down on other religious groups that did not display such a standoffish attitude?

True, by getting involved we may not have been able to feed and clothe all the starving children in the world or to protect them from child abuse. But why did we do nothing?

The observance of Mother's Day does not guarantee that our children will be just as nice to mother throughout the year. Still, we appreciate their gesture to demonstrate their love in a special manner.

The International Year of the Child certainly did not do away with the 600 million children trapped in poverty, with its vicious cycle of disease and chronic hunger. But it called attention to a complacent world the fact that children are indeed not only a gift from God but a very real responsibility.

I doubt that the IYC emphasis was intended to weaken the family, just as Mother's Day certainly has no negative influence on my love to my mother.

Frankly, I think that the organizers of IYC really did not want to make it a religious issue. A person's love for a child should be the most natural emotion in the world. Jesus Christ loves the children. God loves children, all the children. Don't you?

One of my colleagues, David Olson of WORLD VISION, asks the question that goes right to the core of the matter: "Should not more Christians be action leaders where so much suffering is involved?"

The world is full of suffering children. They deserve a better future for Christ's sake, who came that we might have abundant life. As

North American Baptists—or let me be more humble and speak only for myself—from now on I will make my love of and for children a matter of everyday practice, not a theological issue. No longer will I listen to senators or organizations suspicious of programs designed to help eliminate the suffering in the world. I have God's Word, and he commands me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, and with all my soul, and with all my strength, and with all my mind, and my neighbor as myself (Luke 10:27). And many of my neighbors are children—I will love them and respect and protect their rights.

RJK

BOOK REVIEWS (Continued from page 29)

tions as to the "why" and "how" for the learner as well as the learned. Avoiding the popular topical approach, Dr. Cochran presents a sound biblical and theological exposition on the life of Christ. From reliable sources he gives us, through reasonable evidence, the reasons why these two gospels were written, their purpose, how they affected the lives of the first century Christians, and how they affect us today.

Quoting another writer, the author states, "To substitute 'Thus thinks the prophet' for 'Thus says the Lord', is like playing *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark." Dr. Cochran speaks as one who is ordained of God to say only what the Holy Spirit reveals to him. This must also be true in his position as minister to a large and influential Presbyterian church in Toronto, Ontario.

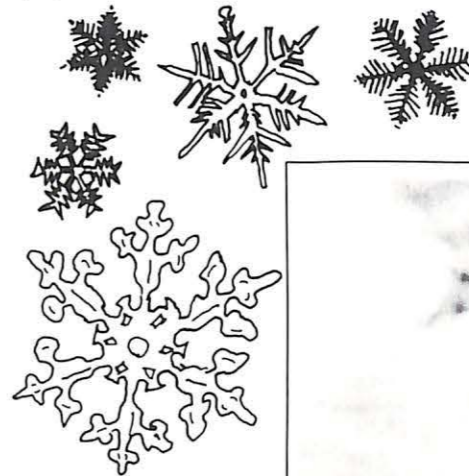
GOODBYE CHRISTMAS (Continued from page 7)

know everything now—he didn't realize you hadn't told me."

"Please, Barbara—" her mother began.

She interrupted. "It's all right—I won't tell anyone except Dick, although I hope Dad will see that Linda and Steve should know." She paused. "When I found out you and Dad were going away I thought 'Goodbye, Christmas.' Then I thought how foolish that was. Christmas is a condition of the spirit, and can be celebrated wherever we are. Dick and I will keep Christmas by attending church with Linda and her husband, and having them spend the day with us."

As she put down the phone Barbara thought to herself that she was really saying goodbye to her girlhood, and not *goodbye, Christmas*. □



"Have you ever felt that nobody cared? I did. My life was quite normal until I experienced a very difficult situation. I experienced feelings of loneliness, helplessness and complete despair. It was through this circumstance that I saw how God could take a hopeless individual like myself and give me the strength, comfort and courage to go on.

Yes—somebody does care. He cared for me, and he cares for you."

Dawn Clark will be presenting a concert on her newly released album, "Somebody Cares." It was recorded at Gaither's Pinebrook Recording Studio, Alexandria, IN, and was produced/arranged by John Innes, keyboard artist for Billy Graham.

For concert information contact:

Dawn Clark
2506 Dover Ln.
St. Joseph, MI 49085

(616) 429-2119

IN MEMORIUM (Continued from page 27)

Scheel and W. Ertis officiated at the funeral service.

MRS. GRACE STUKENBERG, nee Neeman, 79, of Aplington, IA, died Sept. 26, 1979. She was born on March 19, 1900, in Pleasant Valley Township, Grundy County, southeast of Aplington. Grace was united in marriage to Gus Stukenberg, April 7, 1923, in the bride's home in Aplington. They have been residents of Aplington area since their marriage. In 1924, they both were baptized in the Aplington Baptist Church and have been members since. Mrs. Stukenberg is survived by her husband, Gus, and a sister, Miss Flora Leffers of Aplington. She was preceded in death by a brother, Forrest Leffers. Funeral services were held Sept. 28, 1979, in the Aplington Baptist Church with the Rev. Donald Patet officiating. Mrs. Allan Ostercamp was the organist, with Mr. and Mrs. Harm Sherman the vocalists. Interment followed in Pleasant View Cemetery, Aplington, IA.

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Heavy Thinking

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Jesus
still appears
in the
most
unlikely
places



*May the Blessings of Christmas Be Yours
Now & Throughout the New Year*

The Staff of the North American Baptist Conference International Office