PAUL expressed the sentiment of all Christians this Christmas season with the statement, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15). Paul was not toying with exaggerated superlatives. The immortal Handel’s “Messiah;” the 56 Madonnas of the great artist Raphael; the poetry, hymns, and expressions from thousands join to express the gratitude felt by millions who worship Christ with thankful and obedient hearts at this Christmas season.

The influence of God’s gift upon history is unforgettable. Tiny Bethlehem with its 7,000 inhabitants is a quiet little town on the edge of the desert. Its lights sparkle, however, at this season for the millions whose hearts are turned in adoration to the Babe born there 2,000 years ago. Because Jesus prayed on its mountainsides, preached on its hillsides, and walked the streets of its villages, the land of Palestine has become the Holy Land to the world. The Church of the Nativity sits on the world’s most valuable property because it marks the spot of the manger where Christ was born. Jesus touched and brought together the calendar. The Jews calculated the calendar from the Exodus, the Greeks from certain Olympic games, and the Romans from the founding of Rome. Christ touched time, and forever after the calendar has been recorded in relation to His coming.

The influence of God’s unspeakable gift is greatest in its effect upon mankind. Jesus came to bring reconciliation between God and sinful humanity. He is the world’s Redeemer, prophesied in the Old Testament and heralded in the New. Matthew quotes Him thus: “I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (9:13). Mark describes Him thus, “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (10:45). Luke says, “The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). John quotes Jesus in this way, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whatsoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Dr. James Allen Francis penned these words about Christ; “I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned—together, have not affected the life of man and earth so powerfully as has that one solitary life.”

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift.
A T CHRISTMASTIME a schoolteacher in England supervised the construction of a manger scene in a corner of the classroom. It delighted her pupils to set up the model barn and cover the floor with real straw and then arrange the clay figures of Mary and Joseph and the shepherds and the wise men and the animals, all facing a little crib wherein lay a tiny doll representing the infant Jesus.

One fellow simply could not tear himself away from it. He kept returning to it, and each time stood there completely engrossed and wearing a puzzled expression on his face.

The teacher noticed him and asked, "Is anything bothering you? Do you have a question to ask? What would you like to know?"

His eyes still glued to the manger scene, the boy said slowly, "What I'd like to know is—where does God fit in?"

Ask the bright-eyed modern child what Christmas means and he will say, "Tops, tinsel, and toys." Ask the harried parent what Christmas is and he will say, "Buying, baking, biliousness, and bankruptcy." Ask the businessman what Christmas means and he will say, "Bustling crowds, bright lights, bargains, and balances."

But ask the thoughtful Christian what Christmas is and he will say, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

What is the real meaning of Christmas? Christmas speaks to us of a gift—a lasting gift. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Do you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas? Then I want to tell you that this gift, this present from God, must be received. It is true that Jesus came into the world, born of a virgin, and lived among men, but He also was put to death for our sins, He rose from the dead and now lives. The Child of Bethlehem is the Christ of the centuries—King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

To experience and know eternal life, you must open your heart to Jesus. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

Your Christmas, this year, can be the most wonderful Christmas that you have ever known. If you receive the gift of God—which is Christ himself—this Christmas will have true meaning for you. Receive Jesus Christ into your life by faith and this Christmas you will have peace with God and peace in your heart!

This is worth celebrating!

—ALICE HANSCH MORTENSON
Racine, Wisconsin

How Can We Celebrate Christmas?

Oh, how can we celebrate Christmas in a world so troubled and torn, where men, who were made in His image, are forgetting that Jesus was born!

Born to bring peace where there's conflict, born to bring love where there's hate, born to die for the sinner and open the heavenly gate to all who will kneel down before Him, Who was born in a humble stall, to all who will stop . . . and listen . . . and come when they hear Him call.

Oh, how can we celebrate Christmas today on this war-torn earth? By living for Jesus and sharing with others The wonderful news of His birth!

—ALICE HANSCH MORTENSON
Racine, Wisconsin

MORRIS CHALFANT is pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Norwood, Ohio.
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COMPLEX COMMENT
The following is a comment on your September 1 answer concerning whether believers go to heaven immediately after death, or after the Second Coming, or some more complex interpretation of the Word.

With a degree and graduate work in physics, and a graduate degree in engineering, I have completed preliminary work on space/time quantization theory/experiments that involved considerable contemplation of the nature of time.

Given that God existed before time, created time, controls time, and when He wills, shall end time itself, and He will still exist, it seems reasonable to believe that upon “death,” He will immediately propel us to the time of the Second Coming; i.e., immediately to heaven.

Dave Goodwin
Virginia Beach, Virginia

DISAGREE AGREEABLY
I am so glad your editors are not afraid to print negative reactions to some of the articles. I see there have been some very strong reactions to “Who Is Really for Peace?” and “Deploy More Nukes?” Personally I rejoiced in my heart when I read Brother Chalfant’s article.

The Communist philosophy is atheistic. One has only to listen to Bill Murray’s testimony to hear how “humane” and “honest” communism (atheism) is. Keeping promises is not one of Soviet Russia’s strong points!

Let us disagree “agreeably” and love one another as Christ commanded us to!

Lois Cole
Bethel, Ohio

SAVED IN MILLER’S MEETING
It was good to read of Dr. Nettie Miller’s return to active evangelism. As a young lad, I often sat spellbound under her ministry. We kids knew when Nettie Miller came for revival, we’d better behave. On one occasion, during Sister Miller’s

(Continued on page 20)
announcing the birth of their Savior. They would find Him wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger in Bethlehem. They went and saw this newborn child and believed in Him. Their hope rested in Him. It was Christmas! In the midst of the routine, new life and hope had been born into them. Their Savior was now present. It was Christmas! It hadn’t seemed like Christmas, but now it was Christmas! A Savior had been born into their lives. This baby brought them life. They now had joy. They now had meaning. What did they do? They went back to the routine; but now through the birth of that child, the routine was filled with the breath of Life. They knew Christmas.

So what is Christmas? Why doesn’t it seem like Christmas? If those shepherds could speak to us, I think they would tell us that we’re asking the wrong questions. Christmas is not a what. Christmas is not a feeling. Christmas is a who. That’s right, a who. Who is Christmas? Christmas is Jesus. Unto us, in the midst of the routine, a Savior has been born. He is Jesus, lying in a manger. In Him lies our hope. In Him lies our joy. In Him lies Christmas! Christmas is Jesus! Thus, Christmas is not just a feeling or an expression. Christmas is a who. Christmas is Jesus! I pray that sometime in the routine of this season, regardless of what hillside we’re sitting on or what sheep we’re watching, that Jesus will be born into our lives and that we will know Christmas.

I T’S CHRISTMAS AGAIN. How are you doing? What’s on your mind this holiday season? Does it seem like Christmas to you? Often we say that it doesn’t, but then, what does Christmas feel like? If there’s no feeling, is there no Christmas? What is Christmas?

Usually around this time of the year we take stock of the past and try to peer into the future. Just monitor a few of your thoughts and conversations if you don’t believe it. We examine the past, laugh about the good times, and try to figure out where we’ve been and what we’ve learned. When we’re not doing this, we’re looking into the coming year, wondering what it will bring, where our friends will be, and what’s in store for us. Will we be here this time next year? Such thoughts just seem to flow naturally during this cold month.

Go back 2,000 years and I imagine you will find some shepherds sitting on a hillside, keeping watch over their flock, wondering the same things. Where have they been? What’s in the future? Who will be where? They probably thought about their country Israel. Does she have hope, or will she remain in bondage to Rome forever? We think about ours. Do we have hope, or are we doomed to nuclear war? We wonder what we’re doing in life—where is our meaning and purpose? They probably wondered the same thing. How many more years would they tend sheep? In fact, why did they tend sheep in the first place? Sitting through those cold winter nights, keeping watch, they must have encountered several doubts about life. Perhaps they were having doubts that first Christmas Eve, perhaps not. One thing is for certain, however—it didn’t feel like Christmas. How could it? It was just another cold, routine night of watching sheep.

But then it happened! An angel of the Lord appeared

STEVES RODEHEAVER is a student at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri.

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the Purpose

He came . . .

not to be an example,
not to present a code of ethics,
but to die on a cross.

He came . . .

not to be an earthly king,
not to bring social reform,
but to redeem mankind.

He came . . .

not to ease man’s suffering,
not to teach a new philosophy,
but to offer eternal life.

—GERALDINE NICHOLAS
Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada
by G. FREDERICK OWEN

The city of Bethlehem, so familiar to us from childhood, lies six miles south of Jerusalem. It, Jerusalem, and Nazareth are the three most famous cities of history and the world.

Bethlehem means “house of bread.”

“Beth” means house, and “lehem” means bread.

This name “Beth” (house) is the prefix to other places:

Bethshemesh—the house of the sun
Bethshan—the house of rest
Bethsaida—the house of fishing
Bethphage—the house of figs
Bethhoron—the house of the hollow

Bethesda—the house of mercy
Bethel—the house of God
Thus, Bethlehem is the house of bread.

Bread is for the body. The beautiful rolling hills about Bethlehem are fertile and productive. About it are vineyards, and almond, olive and fig orchards. And stretching away in almost every direction are fields of wheat, barley, and rye. It has long been the “bread-basket” of Palestine.

Bread for the soul. It has indeed provided the “Bread of Life” for earth’s millions. Christ said: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever” (John 6:51). Here at Bethlehem is where He came down from heaven.

Associated with Bethlehem are some of the most stirring events in the history of the world. What mighty influences for good have gone forth from this place upon the human race during the past 4,000 years—love, romance, tragedy, bereavement, the birth of God in human form, and the singing of angels. It is impossible to approach the place without deep emotions.

Humanity will ever cherish the memory of that beautiful story of how “Jacob loved Rachel” and served seven years for her, and “they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her” (Genesis 29:20). Yet, he buried his treasure at Bethlehem and “set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day” (Genesis 35:20).

Joseph and Jacob looked on and wept together. This was some 3,800 years ago, yet today Rachel’s Tomb stands out in bold relief in the edge of beautiful Bethlehem. Jew, Christian, and Mohammedan reverence it as one of the most authentic places in Palestine.

Naomi, her husband, and two sons left Bethlehem in time of famine, and journeyed to Moab. After 10 years she was returning to Bethlehem with two daughters-in-law. One wept, said good-bye and went back. The other said:

Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried . . . so they two went until they came to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:16-17, 19).

Here Ruth gleaned after the reapers of Boaz. She married Boaz and became the great-grandmother of David.

David was born in Bethlehem. Here he kept his father’s sheep, here he learned to play his flute, his harp, and other instruments of music. Here much of the 23rd psalm formed in his mind and soul, and here he was anointed to be king of Israel. What a place to rear the world’s greatest king!

Micah prophesied it would be the birthplace of Christ. “Thou, Bethlehem . . . out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel” (Micah 5:2).

Jesus was born here. Joseph and Mary came here. The rooms were all taken in the inn. They regis-
tered for a bed in the barn, where that night Baby Jesus was born.
   Angels sang a serenade.
   Shepherds left their flocks and worshiped Baby Jesus.
   Wise men came from the East with gifts and devotion. At heaven’s command Joseph took the mother and child to Egypt.
   King Herod had the infants slain here.
   Queen Helena had the Church of the Nativity built here in A.D. 326.
   Jerome translated the Bible here.
   King Baldwin of crusader fame was crowned here on Christmas Day, A.D. 1100.
   A silver star now marks the traditional place where Christ was born.
   Pilgrimages are made to Bethlehem at all seasons of the year. On Christmas Eve thousands from over the world throng Bethlehem and worship until midnight. But—
   Though Christ a thousand times
   In Bethlehem be born,
   If he’s not born in thee,
   Thy hope is forlorn.

Paradox in Bethlehem

Here time and space were intersected by
God’s love! A glowing star enriched the sky
While angels sang of peace, good will on earth.
Glad was the moment of salvation’s birth!
For God reached down into our earthly spheres:
The Timeless came, to move through measured years;
Creation’s King slept in a stable shed,
A halo bright around His infant head.
Helpless He lay within the manger fold
Who was the greatest Gift the world could hold.
Softly He slept, as shepherds hailed His birth
Who was the Shepherd of the sons of earth.
God’s love invaded time and space to lie
A baby, dreaming to a lullaby.

—JEAN HOGAN DUDLEY
Harlingen, Texas

“Christ is not only the perfect revelation of God to man, but the perfect response of man to God.” Herald of Holiness, September 19, 1936.
   “A victorious conquest of evil! ‘He ever liveth.’ God’s conquest with sin did not end with the resurrection of Jesus... the resurrection, as glorious as it was, as complete as its victory, is [but] a token of the final victory in God’s conquest with evil.” Herald of Holiness, March 20, 1937.
   “The plan of redemption is a whole and can hardly be divided into separate units. The crucifixion, the resurrection, and Pentecost are inseparable; they are all comprehended in the complete program of redemption.” Herald of Holiness, March 20, 1937.
   “[The Great Commission] is more than a program, it is a passion. In the heart of our Lord it was an unquenchable desire. It led Him to the cross with its humiliation and shame; and when He arose from Olivet’s brow and returned to His glory, He left with the Church this noble idea the redemption of the lost.” Herald of Holiness, May 18, 1935.

H. Orton Wiley (1877-1961) will be long remembered as a senior theologian for the Church of the Nazarene during the 1930s through the 1950s. His three-volume work, Christian Theology, and the eight years spent as the editor of the Herald of Holiness, left an imprint on our denomination from a sensitive man who blended heart and intellect, spirit and scripture, experience and understanding.

STEVE COOLEY, Director of Archives
 CHRISTMAS is a powerful reminder of how God chooses people to fulfill His amazing plans for the good of the whole world. He uses the ordinary as well as the talented. As we examine the situation, we marvel at God's wisdom.

He was looking for various people and objects to assist Him when He was bringing His Son to earth to fulfill His plan of salvation. He needed a man and woman of fine character to form the family into which Jesus should be born.

The man required must be so virtuous that he would avoid the slightest suspicion of loose living, let alone immorality. He must be obedient to God's commands whether they pleased him or not.

God found that man in Joseph, a carpenter. Five times God gave him instructions; five times Joseph responded with perfect obedience.

God wanted a girl who was unquestionably a virgin. She needed to have the strongest trust in God. That faith would be tried to the limits because she would have to suffer shame and misunderstanding and almost lose her betrothed in giving the required cooperation with the will of God.

God found that person in Mary. Though quite young, probably a teenager, she was willing to suffer all that was necessary to bring about God's purposes of blessing for all mankind.

God used a heathen ruler to fulfill His purposes. Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, but Bethlehem was the place where Jesus was to be born. Hundreds of years before, God had foretold this through the prophet Micah (5:2).

The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem was about 90 miles. Why should Mary and Joseph make that journey?

Rome had ordered a census taken throughout the Empire, which included Palestine. Every man had to return to his ancestral home for this enrollment. Joseph was a descendant of David, and his home was in Bethlehem. Joseph had to make the journey and Mary accompanied him.

The reason she arrived when she did was Rome's generous attitude toward Herod. Difficulties between Rome and Herod led to a delay of the enrollment. Rome allowed Herod to
take the census several months later than it took place in other parts of the world, so Mary was in Bethlehem just in time for Jesus Christ to be born there.

God heralded the unique birth in a unique way. An angel came to some shepherds in the fields and said: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10-12). Soon a multitude of angels praised God for His goodness in sending His Son to earth to die for our sins.

God wanted some scientists from an eastern country to know His Son had been born and to make the difficult journey to visit Him. The God who made the star called on one to announce Jesus' birth to them.

It was not a fixed star, but one that could move as and when God wanted it to change its position. It went before the wise men just over the road on which they were traveling and moved from north to south. When needed again, it reappeared and guided the men to the exact spot where Jesus was. It was not a recognized star in the sky, for it was so near the earth that its beams could indicate the exact house the men were to visit.

When the three visitors arrived, they worshiped Jesus and gave Him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Knowing something of how the Eastern mind works, we can see significance in their gifts.

Even so, these gifts had another purpose. God knew that Herod would try to kill Jesus. To avoid this, God told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt for safety. The wise men's gifts would provide essential funds to make the journey, to stay in Egypt, and to meet the cost of the return journey.

Only God could bring out the wonder of Christmas, for only He had the wisdom and power to bring it about. Only He could speak to people and things and urge them to do His will even though they did not know they were doing it. Using both ordinary and extraordinary events, God alone could work out such far-reaching and significant purposes. God alone could cause the events to coincide in time.

As we watch God at work at Christmas, we see that His choice was different from what many people would have expected. God did not choose a regal setting for Jesus' birth. Instead, He was born in a stable. There was more poverty, squalor, and filth than glamour.

The first Christmas shows us what God has done already. He is still the same in power and wisdom. As He works in our lives, we wonder and worship. This Christmas, and all succeeding days, will disclose God's wisdom in carrying out His plans in our lives. God's wisdom shines at Christmas!
God Waited Patiently for Me
by LOUIS G. SNYDER

IN FEBRUARY 1978 I wrote a farewell note to my wife and six children. I was an alcoholic, the down-and-out staggering drunk that you'd avoid on the street because you wouldn't know what to say and I wouldn't care anyway. I'd tried Alcoholics Anonymous, but each attempt failed and my final plan was to run, hide, and try again. I decided to go to my sister's and make a real attempt at sobriety. One daughter chose to go with me and with two duffle bags of possessions, we set out for the better life.

The long bus trip gave me an opportunity to reflect on my life. AA had taught of a higher power, something more powerful than ourselves in which we were to place our trust. I considered the possibility that God might be the higher power but then rejected that idea because I had rejected Jesus Christ as a teenager and only thought of Him as someone to blame for all the wrongs in my life. The fact that I had turned from Jesus to alcohol did not seem significant at that point. I knew that Jesus promised help to those who asked, but I hadn't done much asking for a long time. As the bus rumbled across the country, I sensed a change within me. I found myself asking for forgiveness and praying for guidance and strength. I was delirious with excitement by the time we reached Des Moines. Jesus was in my heart; I was ready to go to battle for Him. The world wasn't going to believe the new me. I was so renewed that the first thing I did to celebrate my newness was buy a 12-pack of beer to toast my victory over alcoholism.

Needless to say, the victory was short-lived. Within four months, my daughter had returned to her mother, I was faced with court appearances for child support, and three beers in 11 hours were enough to cause me to pass out. Jesus was getting much of the blame—hadn't I turned my life over to Him? Look where it got me!

He must not have given up on me because I found myself at a local AA club. I didn't want anything but a shoulder to cry on and some well-deserved pity. Instead of pity, I was confronted by a fellow alcoholic who had learned the lessons well. He looked me square in the eye and said, "You know where the answer is. AA has offered you the tools. You can pick them up and use them or return to the streets, stay drunk, and die. Quite frankly, I don't care what you do; it's your decision."

I made the decision to live. I began attending daily AA meetings and faithfully working the 12 steps to recovery. The higher power now became a reality to me and it was Jesus Christ. A few months of sobriety found me working as custodian at the AA club. Two close friends and a number of AA members kept a nearly constant vigilance with me for the next nine months while I (with God's help!) overcame the need to drink. Life began to take on new meaning and it was beautiful. I thanked God daily for His deliverance and vowed continued allegiance to Him.

My life was going well. I trained for a position and was employed at a local hospital. I had sober friends, I was helping others in AA, and Jesus was walking with me. The only thing missing in my life was someone to share my love. Again I turned to prayer.

Christmas Eve's AA meeting brought me the greatest gift of all. She also was a recovering alcoholic, enjoying the blessing of a sober Christ-filled life. The holy season was a truly joyful time for us. We were married in February of 1980. My wife had a nine-year-old son, so I now was part of a sober, happy family. God was indeed showing the way.

As we both enjoyed the outdoors and felt the need for more "space," we decided in August to move to Wyoming. Jobs were plentiful, opportunities unlimited, and we felt it would be the ideal place to raise our son. We would both work hard, spend wisely, pray daily, and enjoy our new lives. We quit our Iowa jobs, sold most of our belongings, and sure that God was with us, set out for our new life.

It was a prayer answered; we quickly found an apart-
ment, good school, and well-paying jobs. God was with us and we'd found our place in His plan.

Seventeen days later my leg was broken in an accident at work. It was treated and a metal pin was inserted to aid the healing. The pain was intense, but the doctors did not act alarmed and even called my complaints psychosomatic.

The pain was not psychological, the infection that formed was a reality, thus beginning a three-year ordeal to treat the infection. The 19 operations to attempt to remove the infection failed. The massive dosages of drugs and pain killers were pure torture on a body that had fought so hard to overcome addiction. The three years that passed seemed an eternity. During the course of treatment, we moved to Minnesota to be nearer the specialist. Life became a series of uncertainties. Hopes and dreams would be shattered one day only to be rebuilt the next as a new medical procedure was attempted. Good days were clouded with fear of what the next day would bring, and bad days were made tolerable by hope for a better day. The greatest certainty during that time was the comfort of God's love. I could feel His presence and strength within me as I fought back into consciousness following surgery. He walked closely with my wife and gave her the strength and will to deal with the fear and the unknown. He stepped in as protector and comforter of our son who was entering his teen years in a very unpredictable world. He was the only constant comfort and strength in our troubled, anguished lives.

In August of 1983, the decision to amputate my leg was made. I had been preparing myself for this for quite some time. Even my prayers had changed from, “Lord, if it is Your will, heal my leg so I may become whole again,” to “Lord, I am ready to accept Your will, whatever the conditions.” My relationship with God had become a type of partnership. I knew He had a plan, and my duty was to remain faithful and place all my trust in Him.

My wife and I, plus numerous concerned Christians, were praying for success of the surgery and my release from the pain and fear of spreading infection. The day following surgery we again prayed that the pain would go, if it were God’s will. A calm, peaceful aura seemed to descend on that hospital bed, and I felt the pain and mental anguish being lifted from my body. From that moment, I no longer needed the pain-killing drugs, and my rapid recovery amazed everyone. I was fitted with an artificial limb well ahead of schedule and gratefully began the rigorous therapy and training to adapt to my new body.

Facing my remaining years as a handicapped person holds little fear for me. I’m sure there are going to be inconveniences and moments of frustration, but God and I will get through them. My wife says the greatest benefit is that now we can put our arms around each other without contending with crutches or loss of balance. Our son is now 13 and has dedicated his life to God and is an outstanding athlete and student. God is good.

Maybe tomorrow will bring another obstacle, but I don’t worry about that, nor do I anguish over the yesterdays with their pain and sorrow. For today, I praise God that through His tough love I am no longer a recovering alcoholic, but a recovered alcoholic. I praise God that His love and the love of my new family is strong enough to hold us together despite the physical and emotional trauma of the past years. I praise God that time has healed some of the pain that my leaving inflicted on my family. I have visited my children and I pray that they will in time understand and forgive my irresponsibility. I praise God that He waited patiently for me to return to Him. He never gave up on me. I thank Him for sobriety, health, life, and love, and I dedicate my life to His service. I pray that I may be honored to continue spreading His Word and forever witness to His love, compassion, and unconditional patience. I have truly put my faith in the Lord and am totally willing to let Him show me the way.

A Christmas Program

Don’t tell the tale of Scrooge
Or sing rock songs of outer space—
But reenact the story
Once acted out most everywhere.

Find a nervous little Mary
Straightening folds in her blue gown;
Use the pulpit for the stable
On the hillside out of town;
Put a rag doll in a wobbly box,
Half full of straw or hay;
Add a choir of bright-eyed children
Who wiggle, sing, and pray.

Make a star of crinkled foil
That jerks upon a string
And send a prissy angel
Fluttering past with just one wing.

Dress three kids up like kings—
Though they may miss a line or two—
Find a shepherd boy who’s faithful
To come in on the wrong cue.

Add a host of chubby angels,
Singing just a bit off key—
And you’ll have a Christmas program
That’s a Christmas gift to me!

—VIVIAN STEWART
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
OUR FAMILY had been on a two-week vacation. On our first Sunday back, my husband and I started down the aisle of the church when our son came running up to us.

"Mom, Dad, someone’s sitting in our pew," he yelled. "What are we going to do?"

Have you noticed any new faces in your congregation lately? Due to city-wide publicity, new visitation programs, spiritual hunger, or just plain curiosity, many people are beginning to check out the local churches.

And yet, while everyone wants the church to grow, it can be a bit traumatic—especially if you think of the church you attend as "your" church.

Here are some bits and pieces that you might expect to see as your church begins growing. Here are some tips on how your family can cope with the growth.

JANE LANDRETH is a free-lance writer residing in Clever, Missouri.

1. Some Sunday you may look around your church and realize that you do not know the names of half of the people there. Your comfortable "family" church has been invaded by strangers! What are you going to do?

Take time to get acquainted. Instead of rushing out to the car as the services end, go shake hands with the newcomers. Exchange names and welcome them.

Your family might invite the new family to visit in your home. Invite them for dinner or just for coffee and cake. Inform them of the activities of your church. Invite them to go with you to some of the activities, if they are not already going.

2. Now that new people are in our church, they seem to be getting all the attention. The pastor hasn’t been over to visit you lately. What are you going to do?

Remember that with new people comes responsibility. As the church grows, more needs arise. Your family
can check out the needs. Is there a place where you can share your time and talents? Are there some jobs that the pastor has been doing that your family can help do—mow the church lawn, type the church bulletin, clean the church, visit the sick, drive the church bus? If your church grows rapidly, it might be time to add another staff member.

3. New people are taking over some of the leadership jobs. Some of them are joining the choir, serving on committees, and some are even volunteering to teach! What are you going to do?

Just keep doing your job. Encourage the newcomers to use their gifts and talents for the Lord. Help them to find places of service in the church.

4. Some of the newcomers do not share the same views and ideas. Some come from other church groups and even other backgrounds. What will you do?

Social and cultural differences can sometimes be harmful to the church fellowship. And yet, new ideas are sometimes needed. Accept the newcomers as they are. Love them and encourage them. Teach them the way of the Lord. But keep an open mind to new ways that might help your church.

5. Church growth can be expensive! With more people coming to church, extra literature, additional Sunday School classrooms, and more buses will be needed. What are you going to do?

Be faithful as a tithing family! By your example, the new people will learn about tithing and offerings. But remember, when you give you invest in souls for Christ’s kingdom!

6. With all these added newcomers, the church is becoming too small. If you don’t come early, someone will be sitting in your pew. What will you do?

The building may not contain the crowd. Even with the use of added chairs, using the overflow sections, and sitting tightly in the pews, the church may be bulging. Even the parking spaces may be filled and overflowing.

There has to be a decision made if this is happening. Will you add on to your church auditorium or will you build a new one? If finances aren’t available to build yet, how about two church services?

You must be willing to be flexible and even to sacrifice sentimental attachments to an old church building. “I can’t see why we must change. It was good enough for Grandpa.” Or, “My Uncle John helped build this church. I’m sure he wouldn’t want this to change.” These statements will not stand up when the church begins to grow. Christ founded the Church and upon Him will it grow and prosper.

Yes, there are many adjustments that must be made in the event of new church growth. And new growth can catch us off guard and sometimes even make us defensive! It should be a time of rejoicing and excitement as we share the joy and love of God with other people, some for the first time. Church growth may bring growing pains. Would you really want it any other way?

So move over. Share your pew! You are also sharing the kingdom of God. You and your family have been chosen by God as channels of blessing to those who are hungering for spiritual life. And that is worth it all!
A S THE SOLOIST SANG, I watched the congregation. He is not one of the best singers I've ever heard—not even the best in our local congregation—yet somehow I'm always comfortable when he sings, for he sings without affectation from his heart and never fails to communicate the spiritual message of the music. Nodded heads, a raised hand, an occasional tear, and numerous whispered “Amens” indicated to me that once again the Lord was using this person to communicate to the congregation.

I couldn't help wondering to myself why it is that the singing of one person or a particular choir can be a spiritual experience while that of others is merely a performance. There is an element far greater than mere talent involved. The composer Aaron Copeland, writing about musical performance in the secular world, said that only a slim margin separates tasteless exhibitionism from a moving performance, and that the performer who can move past this mere exhibitionism to real communication with the audience is the one who succeeds.

If this is true in the secular world, then how much more it must be true in the world of Christian music where the performer can move past the realm of mere performance to become a vessel of the Holy Spirit.

The ultimate purpose of the Church and of its music is communication. The Great Commission directs us to go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. All of the programs and processes of the church, including its music, must be evaluated according to that commission. Unfortunately, when we attempt to evaluate whether the music of the church does indeed communicate the gospel to every creature, we tend to turn that evaluation into a debate over musical styles. When this happens we become sidetracked, for musical style is a variable, not a constant. When we try to designate a particular musical style as the one most suited for the church, we automatically jeopardize communication with those who do not favor or understand that style.

Musical style preferences are personal. They are closely tied to our associations, traditions, education, taste, and many other relative factors. It is easy for us to spiritualize our preferences. Is it not a human trait to prefer what we know and reject what we do not; to think something is best because it is ours; to fear change and shun what we do not understand?

In addition to the problems of personal taste, we find that musical style varies greatly from region to region, even in the United States. I have served congregations in Arkansas, California, and Idaho. Each of these three Nazarene churches operates from the same doctrinal basis, yet they have greatly different musical expectations.

When we focus upon communication in the church music, however, we must lay aside our preconceptions and seek to find the best language in which to speak to the particular audience to which we minister. Don Hustad, crusade organist for Billy Graham for many years, clarified this greatly for me when he wrote: “…music performance in church is neither spiritual or unspiritual in itself. It is spiritual exercise by performers when their best is offered with humility and sincerity. It becomes spiritual food to the listener when it is perceived and assimilated as sincere, mature, spiritual expression.”

In our humanness, we sometimes find it hard to trust the channels by which God chooses to communicate. As a newly graduated college music major, it was a hard blow to my pride to learn that a simple gospel choir arrangement often communicated better than my beloved choral anthems. It is still difficult, 13 years later, to listen to some forms of contemporary and country gospel music and comprehend that people could prefer those styles to the music that I love—but they do! God can use any musical style that is offered for His use with humility and sincerity, at the appropriate place and time.

I have seen a congregation deeply moved by a great classical selection, but turned cold at another time by a musical elitist who performed in a condescending manner. The difference was in the spirit of the performer, not in the style of the music itself.

I have seen the same gospel singing group sing the same popular song and set one crowd shouting and then fall flat on their faces with another audience. The spirit of the performers and the music were the same, but in one situation the song was appropriate while in the other it was not.

I have seen so-called Christian
rock groups blaspheme the name of Christ as they aped the antics of drug-culture performers. Yet I have also seen truly Christian young people legitimately seeking to take Christ to their own generation through the use of the rock idiom, the only musical language that their subculture can or will understand.

Throughout history Christians have set their faith to the music of their own background, culture, or tradition. In that way God has continually been able to use music to reach all cultures.

This is not to say that all music is suitable for all places. The writer of Ecclesiastes was right in saying that there is a time and place for everything. What is appropriate at a Friday night outreach concert for youth may not be appropriate for Sunday morning worship. What is acceptable in a large metropolitan church may not fit in a small rural setting. If, however, the performers consider who their audience is and prayerfully seek to communicate with them, inappropriate choices rarely happen.

Since communication is a two-way street, the congregation has a role to play as well. As we sit in the pew, we need to try to look past the style of what is being sung or played to the spirit of the person or group that is performing. If some of the music is not of our personal preference, there may be others in the audience to whom it is communicating in a way that our favorite music never could. And maybe, if we listen with an open mind and heart, that music can be used of the Lord for our benefit as well. If situations arise where the music is clearly inappropriate or in poor taste, we can find loving, constructive ways in which to communicate our concern to the musical leadership of the church.

The challenge of the Great Commission was to preach the gospel to every creature in every nation. Never, from the beginning of Christianity, have we expected every culture to learn our language in order to hear the gospel. Instead we have trained ourselves to speak to the lost in their language. Few would argue the power of music to communicate the gospel, yet we tend to try to limit the musical language of the church to one dialect. Which of us would be wise enough to choose which it should be?

We are called to love, acceptance, and understanding. To paraphrase the apostle Paul in Romans 12, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same musical tastes and preferences, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one member one of another." God help us that we, the redeemed, will not spend precious time debating personal preferences while a lost world waits for us to communicate the gospel to them in whatever spoken or musical language they can understand.

1. Aaron Copeland, Music and Imagination (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press), 1952

Book Brief
EVERY DAY WITH JESUS
EVERY DAY WITH THE PSALMS
EVERY DAY WITH PAUL

MENDELL TAYLOR
author

SEQUELS to popular books often tend to be disappointing, but Mendell Taylor’s series of daily devotions prove the opposite can be true. Every Day with Jesus was widely accepted, and the writing digs deeper in each book. Small wonder that these volumes are among the best devotional books around.

Every Day with Jesus is rich with alliteration, filled with organized, abbreviated gems, many in outline form. The 365 devotions follow the Gospels from the Christmas story through “The Theme Song of Eternity,” ending with a challenge to press on. The readings range from profound insight to poignant human interest stories that shed light on possible applications to daily life.

The daily readings in Every Day with Paul contain helpful background material for understanding Acts. This is a strong book, an excellent resource. Every Day with the Psalms is resonant and practical, with the maturity of the author showing through. I especially like the March 6 reading, based on Psalm 31:15: “We preaccept ‘interruption’ or ‘interferences’ in our well-made plans as appointments in His schedule.”

Quotable thoughts abound in all three books, usable in themselves, but more importantly, the kind of thoughts that stick in the mind for days (and years) to come—like, “A God with intelligence enough to run a universe can give us wisdom to run our lives in an orderly and harmonious manner.”

Amen! —Evelyn Stenbock

Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City
Hardcover Set of three books.
To order see page 23.
STANDPOINT

AN IMPLICATION OF CHRISTMAS

When God became incarnate in Jesus Christ, He took upon himself “the form of a servant.” This servant form was outlined centuries before the Incarnation in the prophecies of Isaiah. The Servant would fulfill His mission by the method of suffering for others. From the manger where He was laid at His birth, to the tomb where He was laid after His death, the life of Jesus was one of redemptive suffering. He allowed the infliction of the world’s sin and guilt upon himself, becoming “obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The church is the Body of Christ. This means that to truly be the church it must assume the form and enact the role of a servant. The church must suffer for the world, with the world, and often from the world. Its sufferings can never be redemptive in the sense that our Lord’s were. People are not saved by our crosses. They do not touch our wounds for the healing of their spirits, as Thomas touched the scars in the hands and side of the risen Savior. But the sufferings of the church do point men to the Lamb of God who, by His atoning sufferings, pardons and cleanses the sin of the world.

If a church becomes self-centered, power-hungry, affluent, and at ease, it betrays the servant form and servant role. In short, it betrays the Lord Jesus Christ. The church is not to be served but to serve. It is not to sit aloof from the conflict, but to engage the powers of darkness in serious warfare. It is not to function as an institution of self-congratulating people who celebrate weekly their privileged spiritual status, but as a message-bearing servant who follows the Lord into all the world with good news of salvation from all sin for all people.

The church is made up of individuals upon whom this same responsibility is resting. As individual Christians, we cannot faithfully represent Christ to our families and communities unless we are the servants of their needs.

As another Christmas approaches, we need to ask ourselves some serious questions about servanthood. Where servanthood is refused, the Lordship of Jesus is rejected. Let the church be the church!

LIVING DICTIONARIES

“The word was God … The word was made flesh.” These statements from the prologue to John’s Gospel remind us that God is not other or different from His word. When the word was made flesh, God was made flesh. The eternal Son became the earthly Son—the word was Jesus of Nazareth.

There is no radical difference, either, between us and our words. Our speech is simply an extension of ourselves, ourselves in another form. We say what we are. This is true even when men lie about themselves. If a man speaks a lie, it is because he is a lie. At the center of being he is false. Deception is in his nature. Each of us is the incarnation of a word or of words.

What words do you enflesh? Some are the incarnation of hatred, greed, lust, ambition, violence, selfishness. Others are the incarnation of love, mercy, service, forgiveness, consideration, comfort, cheer, help, and joy. Perhaps it would surprise us all to know what words immediately come to the minds of people when our names are mentioned. We might even be saddened by the knowledge.

The incarnation of any particular word in our lives is a matter of the grace of God and our choices. We can willingly be mean, petty, and small-souled. We can will to be made, by the life-saving and life-changing grace of God, kind, helpful, and unselfish. I am not advocating moral reform by self-determination. I am simply recognizing the fact that when God justifies, He also renews and sanctifies. Life becomes different and nobler when lived in fellowship with Christ.

Remember, when you put on your shoes and head for the office, school, plant, store, or church—wherever—words are walking into the lives of others. (That’s true even if you go barefooted.) You choose what those words will be.

Men and women form living dictionaries. They give meaning to words in the minds of others. For the Christian, this imposes a serious obligation. At stake is the honor of the Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. May we live to His glory by the words we ourselves enflesh!
If a church becomes self-centered, power-hungry, affluent, and at ease, it betrays the servant form and the servant role. In short, it betrays the Lord Jesus Christ. The church is not to be served but to serve.

GO WITH THE FLOW

Another year is ending, another year is beginning. Time flows along, an irreversible tide.

Sometimes the inexorable movement of time scares me. I have moments when I think, “Where have the years gone?” Was it not just yesterday that I was young, healthy, poised trembling with excitement on the threshold of marriage and ministry? The children whose births delighted me, whose childhood so filled my life with constant surprise, can they really be grown already, supplying me with grandchildren who are also zipping along at a furious pace of growth? Am I so near the exit now? The skills and powers I developed so slowly and awkwardly, eager to employ them in effective ministry, will they be retired by the church in a few more years?

At other times the flowing of time’s river comforts me. All the bad things that happen, all the tough places that challenge, they must pass. Something is going on, in the providence of God, that must reach its goal, something bigger than my life, my world, my dreams. God has a new creation planned, to be peopled by a redeemed humanity. The beauties and glories of that new creation exceed anything we have ever experienced or observed in this world. Eternity will outshine the richest moments of history. I’m glad that God’s future is coming and cannot be sidetracked or stopped. We are another year closer to it!

So I wave good-bye to 1984 and say hello to 1985 with mixed emotions. But I recognize the wisdom in a current saying, “You gotta go with the flow.” Those who resist time and try to capture the past and live in their yesterdays are unhappy and useless. Those who anticipate time and spend their days in idle dreaming about tomorrow while the present day slips through their hands are equally unsatisfied and unhelpful. All we have is now, with memories to guide us and promises to inspire us, but now is when we must live and work and help.

That’s my resolution—to live day by day as effectively and joyfully as I can, loving God and serving people in the power of the Holy Spirit. My aging will be invested, not resented. My times are in His hands, so I want to keep my hands in His time.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The editorial staff wishes all our readers holy and happy holidays!

May Christmas draw you closer to Christ, and may New Year’s Day be the threshold of an exciting, fulfilling year of spiritual growth and effective service!

W. E. McCumber
Mabel P. Adamson
Ivan A. Beals
Mark D. Marvin
MANY are so absorbed in what the glorious experience of entire sanctification is that they have neglected to ponder what it is not. There is real profit to be gained in a consideration of what sanctification is not.

In one sense sanctification is not a cause, rather it is an effect. The difference between cause and effect can be illustrated by the difference between a river and a lake. The lake, sparkling and beautiful, is the effect. The river, flowing into it, is cause. A producing desert orchard is an effect. The abundant irrigation system that supplies the water is the cause. The experience of sanctification (and the life of holiness), in the sense the words are here used, are only effects. The cause is the applied blood of Jesus. “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate” (Hebrews 13:12, NKJV). The cause is the incoming Holy Spirit. So says Romans 15:16: “. . . that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (NKJV).

The proper course for one, then, who seeks a pure heart, is to yield himself without reservation to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit’s “winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn” (Matthew 3:12, NKJV). Be assured that the Holy Spirit will clean house before He takes up residence!

Sanctification is not a period; it is a comma. A period in written communication means “Stop!” A comma means “Pause for a moment and then go on.” Many would make sanctification the period when it is only the comma; would make it the omega when it is only the alpha; would make it the end when it is only the beginning. When one is sanctified he comes into possession of his homestead, but it is undeveloped. He comes into his new land of Canaan, but it is unconquered. He has only stripped for the race; he has yet to gain his laurels. He finds that “there is yet much land to be possessed.” His constant prayer is, “Savior, make me more like Thee.” His steadfast purpose becomes, “I’m pressing on the upward way.” He has only begun!

Again sanctification is not immunity to disease; it is health to resist disease. Sanctification is not a cure-all that eliminates all temptation, trial, trouble. It does not make one immune to these things. It does, thank God, make one robust for the combating of them. So while one is subject to the fierce temptation, the fiery trial, dismal failure, yet the spiritual health imparted at the instant of sanctification will, if maintained, give power to resist temptation, overcome the trial, rise above the failure. The sanctified can sin, but they need not. It is possible for them to relapse, but it is not necessary!

Sanctification is not a hand; it is an arm. The hand is the symbol of the service to be performed, and this must, indeed, be offered. “Let us do with our might what our hand finds to do.” The arm represents strength for the performance, and this must be supplied by God himself. The arm is the driving power back of the hand as the hand performs its task. The heart, sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, is the dynamic back of the Christian as he engages in service. Receiving the experience of sanctification does not give victory in one’s work, however, unless one puts his all into his work. So, sanctified Christians must learn that it is only as they do their best that God will do the rest.

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J. MELTON THOMAS is a commissioned evangelist in the Church of the Nazarene and resides in Nampa, Idaho.
HOUSING INFORMATION

GREETINGS

The Anaheim Visitors and Convention Bureau is serving the church by handling all housing reservations for both delegates and visitors. Your request for housing should be made on the form opposite next page. The Housing Bureau will process these forms for housing delegates and visitors and will confirm the reservations within three to four weeks after the reservation has been received. The Anaheim Visitors and Convention Bureau is the only one authorized to process reservations for the General Assembly. Please do not contact hotels directly, for this will only delay the service. The Anaheim Convention Housing Bureau and local hotels have been most helpful in providing sufficient rooms exclusively for the 21st General Assembly and Conventions of the Church of the Nazarene. As you plan for the General Assembly, please also pray for a special visitation of the Holy Spirit on our gathering.

General Arrangements Committee
B. Edgar Johnson, Secretary

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

The ANAHEIM HILTON TOWERS has been named the Headquarters Hotel for the 21st General Assembly and Conventions. The ANAHEIM MARriott and other nearby hotels have been designated to be used in conjunction with the Hilton for preferential housing consideration for officially elected General Assembly and Convention delegates.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT YOUR HOUSING RESERVATIONS

   TELEPHONE REQUESTS WILL NOT BE HONORED.
   ALL REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING.

2. Your confirmation slip will read: “deposit requested.” Please send check immediately to the hotel, to guarantee your reservation. Deposit is refundable, if room is cancelled at least 72 hours before arrival date.

3. Prior to June 6, any cancellations or changes in arrival and departure times, must be made directly with the Housing Bureau. After June 6, all changes must be made directly with the hotel.

4. Please allow three to four weeks for the Housing Bureau to process your reservation request.

NAZARENE HOUSING • BOX 4270, ANAHEIM, CA 92803

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR HOTEL KEY NUMBERS
COMPLETE HOUSING FORM AND MAIL NOW!
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AND CHANGES THE AUTHORIZED WAY THROUGH THE ANAHEIM VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU
Hotels

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<th>Hotels</th>
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<th>Double Occupancy</th>
<th>Twin Occupancy</th>
<th>Quad Occupancy</th>
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(Most of the hotels/motels have provided family rates at the double occupancy pricing where there are children ages 16-19 and under. The age limit varies at each facility. There will be a charge if additional beds are required.)

Motels

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**HOTEL OR MOTEL CHOICES:** *(Please print or type)*

It is necessary that you list the hotels in your order of preference. Your first choice will be honored to the extent that the accommodations are available.

1st Choice_________________________ 3rd Choice_________________________

2nd Choice_________________________ 4th Choice_________________________

*(ALL HOTELS WILL REQUIRE ROOM DEPOSITS)*

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**Name of Occupant(s)** *(PLEASE BRACKET THOSE SHARING)*

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**I AM A DELEGATE:** *(Check One)*

- General Assembly [ ]: Convention: NYI [ ] NWMS [ ] Christian Life/Sunday School [ ] Visitor [ ]

**CONFIRM RESERVATIONS TO:** *(Only one confirmation will be sent for each reservation)*

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**MAIL TO:** Nazarene Housing
Box 4270
Anaheim, CA 92803
MY WIFE and I had been married four years in 1934 and were living in Chicago. Our first child, a son, was about 20 months old at the time. We were the most unlikely couple in the world to make a go of marriage. She was a native of West Virginia, and I was born in New Mexico and grew up in Texas. We met by correspondence, and in courting by mail for three years, we saw each other only on two short visits of about one week each before we were married.

Neither of us were raised in a home where church was considered—no Bible reading, no grace at the table. I had never been to any church more than five or six times in my 24 years of life. But God knew where we were and had plans for us!

I was working in a vacuum cleaner factory when a young man named McDaniel from Kentucky was hired in the stockroom. He started testifying to the employees, who were mostly Catholic, and they thought he was some kind of nut. He had never had a course in personal witnessing, but he had a good case of salvation. He invited me to go to church with him and to his home for Sunday dinner.

My wife was visiting her folks in West Virginia at the time, and I was lonely so I accepted the invitation. We went to Argo, Ill., for Sunday School and morning worship, then to his home for dinner. The McDaniels had also invited a Nazarene preacher by the name of Nelson, who had pastored at Olney, Ill., but was working in a factory at the time.

Brother Nelson insisted on taking me to Chicago First Church for Sunday evening service, and it happened to be only about four blocks from our little two-room apartment!

It's hard to describe my first impression of old Chicago First Church at 64th and Eggleston Avenue. I had never seen anything like it in my life! The orchestra was playing beautiful music under the direction of Rev. Harold Gardner, and the people were so friendly, I couldn't believe it. Even in my spiritual ignorance I could feel the Lord's Holy Spirit in the very atmosphere, even before the service started.

Dr. H. V. Miller was the pastor, and in those days the Sunday night service was packed with more people than the morning service. I didn't need any prompting to go to the altar, where I soon found the Lord, and thought I had already gone to heaven!

My wife came home the following week and she also went to the altar and found the Lord. Bless her heart, she never had any idea of holding back, but just plunged right in and went all the way. What a great wife! It didn't take but a couple of weeks for us to seek and find the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying power. We didn't wait until we understood all the theology of the matter.

Chicago First Church, in those days, seemed to be like a camp meeting all the time. There were many services when the Holy Spirit took over (often while the choir was singing), and people just flooded to the mourners' bench, so that Brother Miller didn't get to preach at all.

One revival just wouldn't stop. It started with Rev. Franklin, a former missionary to India, as the evangelist. He had to return to his church at Gary, Ind., after three weeks, so Brother Miller preached his own revival for several more weeks. As well as I remember, this revival ran about seven weeks in all. The weather was bitter cold, with snow falling part of the time, but we bundled up our son and baby girl and walked through the snow every night. We knew we would miss something if we stayed home!

We have moved several times since then and have been active in five other Nazarene churches. We have three wonderful children (our daughter is a pastor's wife), eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson. They are all active in the church and not one has ever caused any trouble or taken up a bad habit.

God is so good, He has answered prayer so many times. We are now 74 years young and enjoying life more all the time. My wife is a wonderful cook and homemaker, and over the years has invited hundreds of people home for dinner. I could not count the hosts of pastors, evangelists, district superintendents, and missionaries—besides the laymen, servicemen, and visitors—she has fed over the years. Even two general superintendents!

If Brother McDaniels is still alive, he will be glad to know that inviting one lost young man to Christ has resulted in reaching more people than he ever could have imagined. No wonder we believe in miracles!
Letters (Continued from page 4)

preaching, I was chewing gum. She continued preaching—came to my pew and had me place the gum in a Kleenex, not missing a word of the sermon. Needless to say, my pastor (who was also my father) got to the "bottom" of that matter when we got home!

Written in the back cover of my Bible: March 29, 1964, I was saved—Nettie Miller Evangelist.

Today, 20 years later, I am deeply appreciative of the holiness message rooted in my upbringing because of the ministry of such evangelists as Nettie Miller. My prayer is that God will continue to pour out His blessings in these renewed days of her ministry.

William E. "Bill" Hall
Lakeland, Florida

LOVES THE CHURCH

In her Sonnets from the Portuguese, Elizabeth Barrett Browning asked the question, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." I would like to write a "sonnet" to the Church of the Nazarene, but I would change the question to read, Why do I love thee?

I love thee because your altar and your arms have been, and still are, open to the young and the old, to the rich and the poor, to the learned and the unlearned, to the poorly dressed and the immaculate.

I love thee because your love has been extended whether victory at the altar came with a shout or with a blessed quietness, because your love covered the first-time seeker, the longtime seeker, and the chronic seeker.

I love thee for precious words in the Manual that move me spiritually, mentally, and emotionally when I read them or hear them read.

I love thee because I have confidence in thee. If, perchance, a "mixed multitude" (Numbers 11:4) were to develop strength among us, I have confidence that God would raise up an Isaiah or a Daniel or a Paul who would raise the battle cry, "This is the old path."

Even though I have been a Nazarene since 1920, I still have my first love for the church of my youth, my active life, and now in the years of lengthening shadows.

A. Ralph Boxwell
Clinton, Missouri

GOD GAVE STRENGTH

We would like to thank you for printing the wonderful article "A Gift of Love" by Roy L. Rhodes. When my husband and I realized our six-month-old daughter was handicapped, we were also shocked and felt despair. God gave us the strength to grow during those days and has given us other parents to talk to through a local support group. We love our daughter and feel that she is also "an added blessing." More articles of this kind would be a continuing comfort to those parents of special children.

JoAnn and Russ Collins
Bradley, Illinois

ROOM FOR JESUS

by CLIFF KRAFT

In THE EARLY FALL our little Nazarene church choir in Toms River, N.J., began to work on its Christmas cantata. I say "little" because there were only about 15 of us singing in the choir, and some of us had been choir members only one or two years. Our choir director, Mrs. Barbara Toronto, had quite a task ahead of her to prepare us for this presentation. She proved equal to the task, and she had a very willing and devoted group of singers.

The music we chose was a cantata by John W. Peterson, "Night of Miracles." We settled down to practice for many nights. The more we went over the music, the more we fell in love with the story of Christmas.

Barbara called for many extra practice sessions, some on Saturday afternoons or on Sunday after worship services. We worked on the parts, notes, breathing, and diction. We all wanted the message to be clear for the congregation when we presented it.

It was worth it all! I don't regret one single minute of the time spent. It was so rewarding. We in the choir had been praying earnestly for the Lord to speak to the hearts of the people in the congregation through the Christmas story as we sang it from our hearts. We wanted to see lives changed from darkness to light.

One beautiful Sunday morning in December we went into the sanctuary and began singing this grand cantata. We came to the place that tells how Mary and Joseph had gone to Bethlehem to be taxed, and when night came they could find no room at the inn. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon us as we sang the familiar hymn "Have You Any Room for Jesus?"

How beautiful! I can remember silently praying for someone in the church to make room in his heart for "Him."

And then it happened, for the Holy Spirit was moving in our midst. Our pastor, Dale Parry, rose from his seat and motioned for the choir to wait a moment. He turned to the audience and said the Spirit of the Lord was so close that we couldn't go on until he first opened the altar to anyone who wanted to make room in his heart for Jesus. Truly the Lord was speaking. There were three seekers that morning with whom we prayed around the altar. One of them was a college-age girl, Anne Stein, who invited Christ to enter her heart—and enter He did.

Several months later Anne was baptized. She gave a beautiful testimony and told how the Lord won her heart that day in December as He chose to use the "little" choir and its prayerful message in song to enlighten her soul.

It was worth every minute of our time to have a part in someone's conversion. Praise His name!
PEOPLE AND PLACES

Rev. Albert D. Stiefel, Ph.D., has been elected as Fellow with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Dr. Stiefel serves currently as director of the master's degree program in Pastoral Counseling at Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary, Portland, Oreg. and as director of the Christian Counseling Center, sponsored by WES primarily as a ministry to the community as well as a training center for senior counseling majors.

Previous to moving to WES in 1982, Dr. Stiefel served as professor and associate in guidance and counseling at Northwest Nazarene College for eight years. Prior to NNC, he was director of Counseling Services at Eastern Nazarene College for four years and also taught in psychology at Curry College and Quincy Junior College in Massachusetts. His doctorate is from Boston University in pastoral psychology and counseling.

Dr. Stiefel and his wife, Janet, are ministering regularly as certified co-leaders of Nazarene Marriage Enrichment and in Family Enrichment Seminars in churches and camp meetings.

Dr. Deborah E. Bembry of Bourbonnais, Ill., has recently received certification as a “Developmental Education Specialist,” from the Kellogg Institute for the Training and Certification of Developmental Educators. Dr. Bembry was 1 of 38 educators selected from across the United States to participate in the Kellogg Institute and its certification process during the 1983-84 academic year.

The institute is the only one of its kind in the country offering training and certification to educational professionals who work with academically underprepared students on college campuses. Each year, approximately 50 individuals participate in a summer training program followed by a semester’s practicum in which participants implement new techniques on their home campuses. Dr. Bembry was awarded certification as a result of her participation in the training program and completion of an implementation project at Olivet Nazarene College. The certification as “Developmental Education Specialist” is awarded through the Kellogg Institute in conjunction with Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

Paul B. Edmonds, M.D., FACOG, of Shawnee, Okla., has been elected chairman of the Oklahoma Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) for a three-year term beginning September 1984.

A 1957 biology graduate from Bethany Nazarene College in Bethany, Okla., Edmonds received his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, completing his residency at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Edmonds is a private practitioner in Midwest City, Okla., where he is affiliated with the Midwest City Memorial Hospital. He is also an associate clinical professor at the Oklahoma Health Science Center.

In addition to being a member of the American Medical Association, Dr. Edmonds is a member of the Oklahoma County Medical Society and the County’s Ob-gyn Society. He is a winner of ACOG’s 1982 national film award, and was elected as a member of the “10 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI” of 1981 by the Alumni Association of Bethany Nazarene College.

Rev. Wally Johnston, associate pastor of the Santa Monica, Calif., church, is the first-ever chaplain for the Santa Monica Police Department. He assumed the newly created volunteer position in August.

Chaplain Johnston’s duties include counseling police personnel, making hospital visits, leading group prayer and Bible studies, assisting in crisis intervention, and helping with death notifications.

Rev. Albert D. Stiefel

Dr. Deborah E. Bembry

Dr. Paul B. Edmonds

Dr. Wally Johnston

LAYMEN’S TAPE CLUB

January Selections

Side One:
Bible Reading: Colossians 1:9-18—John Corrigan
Bible Study: Psalm 22: Dealing with Despair—Don W. Dunnington
“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”—Lenny and Joy Whaistler
Adult Bible Stories: Abraham—Karen Dean
Devotional Nuggets

Side Two:
Sunday School Reflections—Gene Van Note
Pause of Spiritual Refreshment—Mendell Taylor

Mail today

Yes! I, too, want to be a member of the LAYMEN’S TAPE CLUB. Unless providentially hindered, I commit myself to a full year’s subscription and understand that unless I indicate a cancellation in writing, my subscription will continue indefinitely. Cassette tapes are $3.98 per month, but will be billed quarterly at $11.94. All cassettes are guaranteed.

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DECEMBER 15, 1984
Every church on the South Carolina District paid its General Budget in full. The district showed an overpayment of $21,699. Also, every church paid its Home Missions and Pensions and Benefits Budgets in full. Pictured is General Superintendent Eugene L. Stowe congratulating District Superintendent D. Moody Gunter. Looking on is Dr. Phyllis H. Perkins, general NWMS director, and Nina G. Gunter, South Carolina district NWMS president and Southeast Region general NWMS council member.

Far East retreat participants

FAR EAST SERVICEMEN’S RETREAT MEETS IN KOREA

Fifty-three service members attended the Far East Nazarene Servicemen’s Retreat September 14-16, 1984, at the U.S. Army Retreat Center, Seoul, Korea. The retreat was coordinated by Chaplain Grosse and CW4 Art Kilpatrick. Chaplain Curt Bowers,
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chaplaincy coordinator at Nazarene Headquarters, was the retreat speaker.
This was the largest Nazarene retreat ever held in the Far East. Every one of the Nazarene missionaries in Korea attended. Also present were Chaplain Moorland from Pusan and Chaplain Johnson from Okinawa.

NORTHWEST MISSION

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The theme of the retreat was “Renewing the Call to Love, to Discipleship, to Faithfulness.” The film The Sun Never Sets in the Morning, depicting the life of Phineas F. Bresee, founder of the Church of the Nazarene, was shown, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the church. The retreat concluded with a Communion service on Sunday morning.
A generous offering was taken and presented to the missionaries in Korea to purchase songbooks for the Nazarene Korean Bible College.

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NAZARENE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT MINISTRIES

The following couples have achieved certification after having served as a Provisional Leader Couple for a minimum of one year. Each has demonstrated a deep commitment to sharing the gospel of their marriage, for the gospel of Jesus Christ guides their relationship.

J. Paul and Marilyn Turner
Directors, Marriage & Family Life

Norman and Deborah Kruthof
Thornton, Ill.

Larry and Diane Hale
Swayzee, Ind.

Lt. John L. Ball (r., United States Navy), formerly a member of Jacksonville, Fla., Central Church, and now at Gainesville, Fla., First Church, recently received his third medal from the secretary of the Navy for outstanding services rendered. This Navy Achievement Medal was presented to John for professional achievement as Officer in Charge of a Seabee Detail to Adak, Alaska. John is a former honors graduate of Fletcher Senior High School (Jacksonville Beach, Fla.), Jacksonville University, and Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta). He is presently pursuing a masters degree at the University of Florida. He and his wife, Cathy (Cooley), of Biloxi, Miss., will transfer to the Public Works Center, Republic of the Philippines, in January 1985. John is the son of Frances and John Ball of Jacksonville.

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OUR COLLEGES AND SEMINARIES

MVNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMPLETE FALL MEETING

The Mount Vernon Nazarene College Board of Trustees recently completed their annual fall meeting. Planning for a new Chapel/Auditorium/Fine Arts complex, which will be the largest building undertaken by the college to date, was approved by the board of trustees.

The chapel, seating 2,000 will be built on the northwest corner of the campus facing Martinsburg Road. Architectural style will be in harmony with the campus and in the colonial tradition of the city. The primary portion (Chapel/Auditorium) will be approximately 34,300 sq. ft., and the Fine Arts portion will be about 18,473 sq. ft., for a total of 52,773 sq. ft.

Dr. Stanton P. Parry, vice president for finance and management, said the building is estimated to cost about $4 million. The expected date is set for May 1987, with completion by fall 1988.

The board of trustees reelected Dr. William J. Prince as president by unanimous vote and for the maximum term allowed in the bylaws. Dr. Prince was elected president of MVNC on November 1, 1980. He was previously superintendent of the Pittsburgh District. Prior to that, he served as president of the European Nazarene Bible College in Switzerland.

The board reviewed the annual audit, which showed the 11th consecutive year of balanced budget operations. Revenue in excess of $8 million was received for the year ending June 30, 1984. A record of $1,309,312 of the revenue was received through the supporting investment in plant, which increased by approximately $495,000.

The new $1.4 million classroom building, to be named Regent's Hall, is near completion. Dr. Parry reported this project will be completed without a mortgage.

The college reported a record enrollment for the fall 1984, with 1,065 students enrolled—up from 1,052 last year. The FTE (full-time equivalent) was 981. Eighty-two percent of the MVNC student body is from Ohio, including 255 (23.9 percent) who are from Knox County. Over 740 students live on campus.

Dr. Prince reported that Dr. Harold Graves, Middletown, is the chairman of the board of trustees; Dale Foster, Dr. Harold Graves (center), chairman of the Mount Vernon Nazarene College Board of Trustees, discussed the financial development of the college with Dr. Stanton Parry (l.), vice president of finance and management, and Dr. William Prince (r.), president of MVNC, during the annual board meeting held on the MVNC campus October 31 and November 1.

Mount Vernon, is the treasurer; and Dr. John May, Mount Sterling, Ky., is the secretary.

AN ENC EXTENSION

Eastern Nazarene College offered two graduate courses at out-of-state locations this past summer. Vice president for academic affairs, Donald L. Young, secured approval from state authorities in New Hampshire and Maine for the offering of these two courses.

In June, Dr. Gary Miner, professor of

PASTOR—STRETCH YOURSELF!

"Approved Workman" Series

This series is designed especially for you! It gives you opportunity to gain expertise in a variety of categories. It is an expansion of the previous continuing education format. You can obtain an "Approved Workman" certificate by:

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Certificates are presented to you at your district assembly. After receiving five certificates, you will receive an "Approved Workman" plaque, which will also be presented at your district assembly.

For more information contact Pastoral Ministries, 6401 The Paseo, Kansas City, MO 64131.
An important reference for regular contributors when figuring their income tax. Space is provided for filling in money given through the various departments. Be sure your treasurer has information about this form.

**ATTENTION CHURCH TREASURER**

**Contribution Receipt Form**

An important reference for regular contributors when figuring their income tax. Space is provided for filling in money given through the various departments. Be sure your treasurer has information about this form.

**R-70 Pad of 100 forms $1.85**

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Post Office Box 527, Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Price subject to change without notice.

life sciences, and Dr. Linda Miller, graduate coordinator of education, taught a course in brain dominance creativity at the Nashua, N.H., Community Chapel Church. The course surveyed recent research on brain dominance, laterality, and creativity, and engaged the students in experiments in learning, multimedia, painting, relaxation, imagery, biofeedback, and shifts in mental dominance.

The second course, in early childhood education, was offered in South Portland, Maine. This course involved students in examining and developing appropriate hands-on materials. Most of the students enrolled in both of these extension courses came from the staffs of day-care centers operated by the local Nazarene churches. Miss Pam Turner is director of the day-care center in Nashua, N.H., and Rev. Paul Basham is headmaster of the Lighthouse Day Care Center in South Portland, Maine. These courses will serve as pilot projects for the possibility of similar offerings in the future at off-campus locations.

**BNC JOURNALISTS PICKET PORNOGRAPHY OUTLETS**

In keeping with the church’s encouragement to participate in “Pornography Awareness Week” (Herald of Holiness, October 15, 1984), a group of students from Bethany Nazarene College picketed two Bethany, Okla., 7-Eleven stores from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, November 3.

The six students and one professor, most of whom are staff members of the campus student newspaper, The Reveille Echo, were joined in the afternoon by five men representing the National Christian Association.

The city newspaper, The Daily Oklahoman and Times, and the Oklahoma City affiliate of NBC News, KTVY, sent reporters to cover the protest. The local news station broadcasted its story twice that evening, and the newspaper published a letter to the editor and a photo of the group before and after the event.

The students issued the following statement in The Echo, November 2, explaining their position on pornography:

As journalists, do we stand by ... all publishers, no matter what is printed and say, “Yes, we approve”? As journalists who seek truth in all of its ethical framework, we must say, “No”—and take a stand. As Christians who believe in the eternal purification of mind, soul, and strength, we must say, “No”—and take a stand. Standing up against pornography is not censorship: it is, indeed, freedom of speech.

The students received supportive comments and gestures from passersby, but many other people found the picket either unnecessary or a violation of their tastes and rights.

The protest had been publicized both on campus and in the metropolitan area the week before.
NEW STAFF AND FACULTY AT PLNC

Dr. Harold Young has been appointed as registrar at Point Loma Nazarene College to replace Dr. Cecil Miller, who retired this past June. Dr. Young has been with the college since 1968 and has served in a number of capacities. He holds appointments in both sociology and education and has taught in both fields. For the past four years he has served the college as Title III coordinator. Prior to serving in this capacity, Dr. Young was director of graduate programs at the Pasadena Nazarene College to replace Dr. Cecil Miller.

Mr. Jack Morris has been appointed director of special projects. He will serve on a part-time basis, working as special counsel to the president in the important area of institutional planning. Mr. Morris has retired from 38 years with General Dynamics Corporation in San Diego, where he served as manager of an engineering research and development test department. He has been a leader in the local, district, and general areas of the church. Recently, Jack served as chairman of the Presidential Search Committee at Point Loma. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees at PLNC, serving as secretary. He is also a member of the PLNC Foundation Board. Jack is a graduate of Cal-Aero Technical Institute, where he majored in aeronautical engineering.

His experience includes both youth and associate pastorate positions. Nazarene churches where he held such posts are: Minneapolis First Church; Boise, Idaho, First Church; Olathe, Kans., Westside Church, and most recently as senior pastor at Carpenteria, Calif., church.

He graduated from Pasadena College in 1971, Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1982, and has done additional studies at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Four full-time professors and three part-time instructors have joined the faculty of Point Loma Nazarene College.

Miss Sharon Bull, a graduate of Canadian Nazarene College, has joined the library faculty as an instructional services specialist. Prior to coming to PLNC, Sharon served on the library staff at Canadian Nazarene College and has worked in the periodicals department of the University of Winnipeg. Sharon received a masters in library science at Peabody College for teachers. She has also done graduate work at Nazarene Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gerald Lashley joins PLNC after 20 years of teaching in other Nazarene schools. He has served as chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at both Eastern Nazarene College and Mount Vernon Nazarene College. He has also been a visiting fellow and lecturer at Ohio State University and has been an instructor at Quincy Junior College. Dr. Lashley holds degrees from ENC, Brown University, Ohio State University, and Boston University. He has just finished an additional masters in computer science at Ohio State University.

Pat Cummins, a graduate of Wheaton College and Michigan State University, is the newest addition to the Education Department. She will teach reading and methods.

Barbara May joins the staff as assis-

SPECIAL NOTICE

MEMO TO: Prospective Faculty
Faculty in Non-Nazarene Colleges

FROM: Mark R. Moore
Secretary of Education Services

I have listed below faculty needs as requested by the academic deans of Nazarene liberal arts colleges for the fall of 1985 and fall of 1986.

One assignment of Education Services is to provide colleges with names of prospective faculty. If you have interest in teaching in a Nazarene college, send me a current vita at the address below. I will share it in confidence and in keeping with your request.

Nursing
Computer Science
Church History
Career Development/Planning
Business Administration
Psychology
English
Dietetics
Family Medical, M.D.
Accounting
English Literature and Composition

Biology
Choral Music
Sociology
Religion & Old Testament
Voice
Zoology
Education
Physics, Ph.D. preferred
Physicians Assistant
Economics

Openings may occur in other areas and in staff administration.

Nazarene colleges are equal opportunity employers.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR:
FACULTY/ADMINISTRATORS,
ETC., IN NON-NAZARENE
COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES

We would like to contact Nazarene professors or administrators in Non-Nazarene Institutions regarding a possible meeting at the 1985 General Assembly in Anaheim, Calif. If you are interested, write me:

Mark R. Moore
Secretary of Education Services
6401 The Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64131
Trent professor of nursing. Most recently employed by Sioux Falls College, her specialty is psychiatric nursing.

Audrey Stutz will work part-time this coming year in the Biology Department. She is a graduate of Valparaiso and Northwestern universities.

The recent resignation of Diane Houghton left a vacancy in vocal music instruction. Pam Maran, a graduate of the University of Southern California, and Pat Flory, a Pasadena College alumna, are teaming up to teach voice this year.

FALK BRINGS RESEARCH INTO CLASSROOM AT MVNC

Mount Vernon Nazarene College biology professor Dr. Darrel Falk is helping the 17-year-old institution bring the frontiers of research into the classroom.

When Falk came to MVNC in August, he also brought a $250,000, three-year, genetic-related research grant. The grant funded by the National Institute of Health, has a long-range goal of developing an understanding of the mechanism of chromosome damage. The project is a continuation of the work Falk initiated at Syracuse University.

The research involves the study of the tiny fruit fly (drosophila). Scientists have been studying the genes of the fruit fly for 65 to 70 years and have found their molecular makeup similar to that of humans or mice. Therefore, he said, scientists can ask more questions about them.

"What we have done over the past four or five years is develop a system that allows us to obtain a large number of damaged chromosomes—special strains of flies, each one having a damaged chromosome," explained Falk.

"We are trying to find out how these chromosomes are damaged. By understanding how they are damaged, we hope to have practical applications," he continued. One of the major causes of cancer is damaged chromosomes.

Dr. Darrel Falk, professor of biology at MVNC, examines a container filled with fruit flies. The fruit fly plays an important part in Dr. Falk's research study, which is being funded by the National Institute of Health.

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Stewardship Services has released the 1984 Honor Roll in three categories: districts with the highest percentage of churches qualifying for the Honor Roll; the 10 churches with the highest percentage of giving to General Budget and mission specials; and churches that have qualified for the Stewardship Honor Roll for 30 or more consecutive years.

The districts with the highest percentage of qualifying churches are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>SUPERINTENDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>SACRAMENTO</td>
<td>WALTER M. HUBBARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>D. MOODY GUNTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>NORTHEASTERN INDIANA</td>
<td>BRUCE T. TAYLOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>CANADA WEST</td>
<td>ALEXANDER ARDREY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>NORTHWEST</td>
<td>WALTER LANMAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>ROY E. CARNAHAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>DALLAS</td>
<td>W. M. LYNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>KANSAS</td>
<td>ROBERT CERRATO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA</td>
<td>BILL E. BURCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.0</td>
<td>NEBRASKA</td>
<td>JIM DIEHL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The 10 churches with the highest percentage of giving to General Budget and mission specials are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>CHURCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>TOLEDO COMMUNITY (TOLEDO, OHIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.01</td>
<td>PALMER BETHLEHEM (PALMER, NEBR.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.82</td>
<td>CORA (CORA, OKLA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.53</td>
<td>HIGHLAND (HIGHLAND, CALIF.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.21</td>
<td>HOUSTON DENVER (HOUSTON, TEX.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.21</td>
<td>ASHLAND PLAZA (ASHLAND, KY.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.03</td>
<td>FORT RECOVERY (FORT RECOVERY, OHIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.22</td>
<td>CURTIS (CURTIS, NEBR.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.41</td>
<td>DE WITT (DE WITT, ARK.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.61</td>
<td>HARMATTAN (OLDS, ALTA., CANADA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The churches that have qualified for the Honor Roll for 30 or more consecutive years are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSECUTIVE YEARS</th>
<th>CHURCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>ALEXANDRIA (ALEXANDRIA, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>BRITT ZION (BRITT, IOWA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>ELKHART FIRST (ELKHART, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>HARRIS CHAPEL (SELMA, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>KANSAS CITY FIRST (KANSAS CITY, MO.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>MONONGAHELA (MONONGAHELA, PA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>MOUNT HOPE (BERNE, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>SUBLETTE (SUBLETTE, KANS.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>WARREN FIRST (WARREN, OHIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>WINCHESTER (WINCHESTER, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>MARION FIRST (MARION, OHIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>BEARSTOWN (BEARSTOWN, ILL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>CHATTANOOGA FIRST (CHATTANOOGA, TENN.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>COLUMBIANA (COLUMBIANA, OHIO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>NEW BRIGHTON (NEW BRIGHTON, PA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>HARMATTAN (OLDS, ALTA., CANADA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>LOWELL (LOWELL, MICH.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>PEORIA FIRST (PEORIA, ILL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>CONCORD (CONCORD, CALIF.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>EAST ROCKAWAY (LONG ISLAND, NY.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>WARREN (WARREN, PA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>BERNE (BERNE, IND.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>BRADFORD FIRST (BRADFORD, PA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>DINUBA (DINUBA, CALIF.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>DURANT (DURANT, OKLA.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>ELKHART (ELKHART, KANS.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>GRAND HAVEN (GRAND HAVEN, MICH.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>OTTAWA FIRST (OTTAWA, ILL.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>PASADENA BRESSE AVENUE (PASADENA, CALIF.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>TAMPA FIRST (TAMPA, FLA.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"We have just completed rewriting our will, making Pensions and Benefits our beneficiary. We want to do this inasmuch as the church has been so gracious to support us across the nearly 50 years of our ministry. We deeply appreciate our church and your department in being so kind and thoughtful in meeting our needs. We want to help perpetuate the Pension Fund for those who follow after us."

In other correspondence, the Pensions office received word from a 75-year-old retiree of his elation at receiving the "13th month" check issued October 1984. The writer went on to say that since his wife had just passed away and it was necessary to revise his will, he wanted to change it to remember the Board of Pensions so that the Pensions and Benefits Fund could continue to grow and meet the needs of retired ministers and their widows.

The Board of Pensions gratefully acknowledges all such remembrances and gifts. It is another important way in which the Pensions and Benefits Fund is assisted in "Honoring the Trust" that all Nazarene ministers have placed in it.

**MORE THAN 33,000 ENROLLED IN SUNDAY SCHOOL EMPHASIS**

Figures for the fall Sunday School emphasis, "People Reaching People," indicate that at least 33,642 persons enrolled in Nazarene Sunday Schools from September 30 to October 28. Overall attendance increased from 371,000 the first week to 423,594 the final Sunday.

The top 10 districts in new enrollments during the five-week campaign included:

1. Kansas City
2. Kansas
3. Washington Pacific
4. Sacramento
5. Southern Florida
6. South Arkansas
7. Northwestern Ohio
8. Iowa
9. Southwest Indiana
10. Northwest Indiana

**WILLS ASSIST THE PENSIONS AND BENEFITS FUND IN "HONORING THE TRUST"**

From time to time, the Pensions office receives news such as this quoted from a letter received in September:

```
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**FOR THE RECORD**

**MOVING MINISTERS**

RON L. CHRISTIE from associate, Baker, Ore., to associate, Lynnwood, Wash.

LAVINE GATES from Lynden, Wash., to Tacoma (Washington) Westgate

LAWRENCE McKEEN from Terra Bela, Calif., to Lynden, Wash.

DENNIS W. MADIES from Reno, Pa., to Toms River, N.J.

LARRY A. MANCINI from Glean, N.Y., to Bayshore, N.Y.

CHARLES W. PLUMB, JR., from associate, Coshocton (Ohio) First, to Lodi, Calif.

HOWARD R. ROBBINS to Madison (Ind.) First

ROBERT A. SCHULTZ to Greenville, Miss.

JERRY W. SMITH from Columbus, Miss., to Franklin, Tenn.

W. E. SWANSON from education to Shelton, Wash.

TERRENCE A. THOMPSON to Applegate-Veneta (Eminia, Ore.)

RICHARD D. TURNER from Fort Collins, Colo., to Camas, Wash.

WILLIAM G. WILLIAMS from Washington (Pa.) Hart Avenue to Marshall, Mo.

**MOVING MISSIONARIES**

MR. NEVILLE and JOYCE BARTLE, Papua New Guinea, Field address: Nazarene Mission, Box 30, Kundia, Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea

**WHEN SHOULD YOU PLAN YOUR WILL?**

(choose any 4)

- After the birth of your first grandchild.
- When one of the "old gang" expires suddenly.
- During your pastor's next sermon on heaven.
- Other ____________________________

Any of the above may serve to remind us that time is still marching—and today is a very good time to prepare your will, so that your heirs won't be at loose ends "tomorrow."

Your church, too, can benefit—or Christian education or missions. You can put the whole world in your will through a special bequest to the work of Christ.

**HOW TO START**

Use the coupon at right to request our free booklet, "How to Make a Will That Works." There's no obligation.
IRANIAN REFUGEES IN SPAIN NOW MORE OPEN TO THE GOSPEL. An increasingly open door for the gospel is being found among the 60,000 Iranians who fled their homeland and settled in Spain after the overthrow of the Shah.

World Evangelization Crusade (WEC) missionaries in Spain say that the hardships endured by the Iranians in adjusting to a new life have made them more open to the Christian message than ever before. Many of these refugees had enjoyed positions of wealth and influence in their own country, but most are now struggling to make a living.

Persian New Testaments and Christian literature being distributed by one missionary couple are being readily received. They are also able to use the film Jesus, with a Spanish soundtrack, showing it to small groups in their apartment.

RADIO SHOW WILL COMBAT SOVIET ATHEISTindoctrination. The Slavic Gospel Association is beaming a new weekly radio broadcast into the Soviet Union. "Conversations from the Heart" gives a Christian perspective on personal, family, and social problems. The program is co-hosted by recent émigrés from the Soviet Union and follows a talk show format. "We want to make our listeners feel as if we are all sitting around together, drinking traditional Russian tea, and talking from our hearts," says Misha, a co-host of the program.

The program, aimed primarily at married women, deals with a number of problems, including stress brought on by multiple roles of wife, mother, and working women; miscarriage and health; and alternatives to bribery and theft in the working world.

MURRAY WARNS PASTORS OF 1985 ATHEIST CONVENTION. Evangelist William Murray, son of noted atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, has sent a letter to over 5,000 preachers in Texas, warning them of the scheduled 15th Annual Convention of American Atheists, which will be held in Austin, Tex., during Easter of 1985.

This will be the first major atheist convention held in Texas in over 10 years, and the first since American Atheists opened their multimillion dollar building complex in Austin.

Murray wrote, "The atheists will show their strength in Texas. As many as several thousand atheists will descend upon the Austin area." Among groups scheduled to participate are Gay Athletes of America, the Freethought Association of the USSR, and the Hemlock Society.

At the atheist convention in San Francisco last year, the mayor of that city proclaimed Good Friday "Edward Lick Day," in honor of a famed California atheist. Murray said, "Don't be too surprised if Easter Sunday is named ... Madalyn O'Hair Day in Austin in 1985."

EFFORT TO BAN ALCOHOL ADS. Twenty-five national religious and public interest groups are supporting Project SMART (Stop Marketing Alcohol on Radio and Television) in its efforts to collect 1 million signatures on a petition asking the federal government to restrict liquor advertisements.

The coalition wants Congress to ban the "slick ... commercial messages" that encourage adolescents and adults to drink alcoholic beverages. Congress banned cigarette ads from TV 15 years ago.

ZIMBABWE BIBLE PROJECT. The two-year project of providing 78,000 New International Version Bibles to the public school system in Zimbabwe has been completed by the International Bible Society and the World Home Bible League.

The Bibles were requested for the Zimbabwean public schools by the country's Ministry of Education. Bible teaching is part of the curriculum in Zimbabwe.
If Job lost all his children, and they were grown and living in their own homes at the time, how could his wife have another set of 10 children? I realize they married young in those days, and I suppose these last 10 children could have been by another wife. Can you shed any light on this subject?

To paraphrase Will Rogers, all I know is what I read in Scripture, and the information needed to give a complete answer is not available. Job lived 140 years after the loss of his first 10 children, but how old he was, and the children were at the time we do not know. They may not all have been grown. No grandchildren are mentioned before Job's great trials. And there is a possibility of another wife, or other wives. Job's wife, mentioned in chapter 2, is not mentioned in chapter 42, though a wife (or wives) is certainly assumed. Maybe his first wife took the advice she gave him. We just don't know.

Is it the policy of our church today to appoint elders among the laymen? I have been a Nazarene all my life and have never seen this done before. It troubles me to see elders appointed, especially those who are really quite new in the church. The only "elder" recognized by the church generally is the ordained elder, who is, as Dr. Purkiser has put it, a minister who has lost his amateur standing.

The only "elder" recognized by the church generally is the ordained elder, who is, as Dr. Purkiser has put it, a minister who has lost his amateur standing.

If the miracle in John 19:34 (blood/water) is symbolic of the salvation process (1 John 5:1-13), why is baptism not part of the process in the church and taught as such?

In 1 John 5:6-12, well described by several commentators as an "enigmatic passage," the writer is not describing the "salvation process," but is affirming the Incarnation. Certain false teachers denied the true humanity of Christ. They argued that the human Jesus could suffer and die, but not the divine Christ. The divine Christ, they contended, came upon the human Jesus at the baptism in the Jordan, but left the human Jesus at the Crucifixion.

John is here declaring that the Son of God who came into the world, by way of the Incarnation, was both truly human and truly divine. He was the subject of both the baptism and the Crucifixion. Thus "he came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only [the baptism] but by water and blood [the crucifixion]."

The same insistence upon the reality of the Incarnation occurs at 4:2-3.

As for John 19:34, any link between it and 1 John 5:6-12 is furnished by the interpreter, not supplied by the passages themselves. The blood and water that flowed from our Lord's pierced side confirmed His death and made unnecessary the breaking of His legs to hasten death, thus helping to fulfill Psalm 34:20. Our church has not insisted that water baptism is essential for salvation because we do not believe Scripture teaches it. However, we do practice water baptism and we should urge our converts to be baptized in water as Christians have been since apostolic days.
news of evangelism

youth group sponsors zone revival meeting

the Peoria-Pekin Zone NYI recently sponsored a traveling youth revival for a week. Rev. Rick Eastman was the evangelist, and Olivet’s Praise-men Quartet provided music on the weekend.

“God moved in a wonderful way. Victories were evident all five nights, but Saturday night was the high point of the week when seekers filled the altar and the Spirit of the Lord came so that we dismissed the service, people would not leave,” says Bob Mansfield, Peoria-Pekin Zone NYI chairman. “Because of the wonderful results God has given and the financial support of the Northwestern Illinois District, the NYI plans to make this an annual event.”

pastor shares “reality of revival”

Rev. James Walker, pastor of Cullman, Ala., First Church, shares the “reality of revival” his church experienced last February.

Rev. Walker writes:

“Our church had been praying each evening for about a month before the first service. God had already begun working by breaking in on our services with great victories around the altar. We had been fasting a meal a day for about a month before the first service.

“The power of God was strong in every service as Mark and Debbie Liner sang and Dr. Ross Lee preached old-fashioned, rugged holiness.

“The Sunday evening service closed with great victories. When I asked if the people wanted to continue the services and if they would support them, almost everyone across the great congregation rose to their feet. The revival went on.

“Monday and Tuesday evenings Wally and Ginger Laxson led our music. On Wednesday Dr. John Dunn, our own minister of music, took over. Thursday through Sunday Jimmy Pinkard, our pianist and assistant choir director, carried on. Dr. Lee kept preaching that old-fashioned, rugged gospel.

“The second Sunday was the high-light of the revival. The Holy Ghost fell on that crowd in the morning service and wave after wave of glory swept across the sanctuary as the choir sang, ‘What a Meeting in the Air.’ Saints began to praise God, shout, and run the aisles as the unsaved and unsanctified ‘hit the altar!’ The evening service was a carbon copy of the morning service.

“Dr. Lee left after the second Sunday evening service, but the revival continued. The church is not the same. The tide is still rising. The attendance is up. The offering is up. We are running over 100 on Wednesday nights. A soul winning team was born out of the meeting.

“There were 75 to 100 seekers who bowed at the altar. Many gave clear-cut testimonies to entire sanctification. Several who were saved were also sanctified during the revival.”

spirit of revival draws seekers

Recently, 20 revival reports were received by Evangelism Ministries at International Headquarters in Kansas City. The combined reports suggest a

Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Jacobs, pastor and wife of the Brooklyn Miller Memorial Church, were invited by Superintendent Kuo Min-Hua, of the Republic of China, Taiwan District, for the Preachers’ and Wives’ Retreat in August. Pictured is the retreat group. Dr. Jacobs also preached in some churches across the district. He was impressed to see the churches among the mountain peoples built by Alabaster offerings. The Church of the Nazarene is said to be the fastest growing church in Taiwan today.
realistic idea of the scope of revival this past summer.
In these 20 revival meetings, there were 1,376 persons who responded to altar calls. Of these, 296 made a profession of faith. An additional 145 testified to being entirely sanctified. The 935 other seekers petitioned God for other needs. If revival is the sign of a healthy church, then these 20 revival reports are an indication of health and healing in the Church of the Nazarene.

THE CHURCH SCENE

June 15-17 a newly organized church in Woodville, Tex., had a tent revival. Neighboring Nazarenes from Nacogdoches, Lufkin First, Kirbyville, and Jasper, Tex., also attended. The Woodville church was organized last October and is currently meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Property has been bought and a building is under construction. By July the frame was nearly completed. Pastor David Brockmeier has served as pastor at Woodville since August of 1983.

Most of the 19 new members added to the Danville, Ill., Southside Church this year were won to Christ through personal evangelism. Pictured is the first Personal Evangelism Trainers’ Class, named “The Don Gibson Chapter for Personal Evangelism.” They are (l. to r.) Helen Mallinson, Francis Schmit, Susan Spicer, Delores Pilkington, Sonna Gross, Ron Gross, Sadie Campbell, Dale Campbell, Phyllis Powell, June Estes, Linda Wheeler, and Francis Wheeler. Lynn Simpson was not available for the photo. Pastor Vernon Hurles, instructor for the class (center), is on the platform. A second trainers’ class will be completed soon with eight more certified trainers added to the church’s corps of personal evangelists and trainers. In this class, the pastor from a neighboring Methodist church and three of his members are also enrolled.

August 12, the Anchorage, Alaska, Jewel Lake Church completed 40 days of prayer and praise with a rally service to raise funds to begin the design phase of construction for a new facility. The offering goal was $40,000. Almost $43,000 in cash and pledges was received. A spirit of optimism pervaded the service as the congregation brought their gifts to the altar. Dr. Al Woods (l.), who planted the church in 1969, was the featured speaker. From a humble beginning, the church, under the leadership of Rev. Lyle K. Coblenz (r.), now averages 130 in Sunday School and 165 in morning worship.

July 15, the Warren Woods Church of the Nazarene of Warren, Mich., was dedicated. Dr. Jerald D. Johnson, general superintendent, brought an inspiring message, and Dr. Marselle Knight, district superintendent, led the congregation in the act of dedication. The new sanctuary seats 1,000 and was built at a cost of $600,000. Hundreds of hours of donated labor enabled the congregation to keep the cost down. In May 1964, 20 adults organized the church. Rev. James Mellish has been their only pastor. Last year the Sunday School averaged 425, morning worship 512, and membership was 414. Wes Bittenbender has been full-time youth/special ministries director for 10 years. Chet Decker is director of Christian education, which includes a day-care center and school through the third grade, serving full time for the past 6 years. Dennis Wegner recently joined the staff as director of church music.

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MEMO

to church board members:

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ALASKAN CHURCH INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY BATTLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY

What began as a sermon on the evils of pornography has resulted in the organization of 15 churches in the city of Juneau, Alaska, into a powerful force against obscenity.

Rev. Paul Bentley, pastor of Juneau Church of the Nazarene, says 4,000 Christians have banded together in his city to protest the presence of pornographic materials and have succeeded in gaining the passage of a local ordinance restricting the sale and display of obscene materials where minors may be present.

Members of the group visited every store in the Juneau Burrough, making a list of those obscene magazines that were being sold. This activity was followed up by a letter from the mayor and personal visits to the stores by citizens asking that the magazines be removed. Although some managers were unfriendly, some were receptive and even the largest distributor conceded to place the magazines in a special rack where they cannot be seen.

Letters have also been sent to President Reagan, but Rev. Bentley says the most important thing that has been done by the group has been the activity of praying for those “trapped by the money-pornography whirlpool.”

The Alaska minister says his sermon on pornography was distributed around his community by the church’s tape ministry, and that the project to clean up the city’s magazine racks was the result. He adds that having the support of the mayor has been a great asset to the campaign.

—NN

NAZARENE FOOD SERVICES OPENS AT HEADQUARTERS

The long-awaited cafeteria at Nazarene Headquarters opened November 8, following a number of delays caused by the weather and meeting requirements of city inspectors.

Located between the King Conference Center and the seminary, the new cafeteria includes more than 4,200 sq. ft. and can seat up to 200 persons. Besides the main dining area, there are two smaller sections that can be partitioned for private luncheon meetings.

The new center is geared to serve the entire Headquarters complex, including Nazarene Theological Seminary, and will provide meals for special meetings on weekends and in the evenings upon request. The project was coordinated by Headquarter Services under the direction of Paul Spear.

—NN

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT RECOVERING FROM AMPUTATION

Rev. Jose Causing, Jr., Superintendent of the Western Visayan District, reports that he is adjusting well, after the horrible shock of losing his left hand in an automobile accident.

“I praise the Lord for answering prayers of our brethren throughout the world,” he said in a recent letter. “I can feel the rapid healing . . . and the inner peace and victory because of the intercession and prayers of our Nazarene family.”

Rev. Causing adds that he seeks the continued prayers of Nazarenes as he begins an evangelistic campaign in a new area of his district aimed at establishing four new churches.

—NN

TWENTY-FOUR CHURCHES IN TWO YEARS IN VENEZUELA

“Twenty-four congregations, with more than 500 members, in less than two years,” is the report from Rev. William Porter, superintendent of the Venezuela District. He says that 115 young people from 7 of the 20 states in Venezuela attended the first youth camp in August with many testifying they received spiritual help.

Several new preaching points have been started in recent weeks, and a Work and Witness team was in the country during October. Prayer is requested for Jim Bouldings and the building program, along with Mario Cintron, who is operating seven pastoral training centers.

“The Venezuelans are a wonderful people, thrilled to know the Lord and to be called Nazarenes,” said Rev. Porter.

—NN

ALAMO NAMED OFFICIAL CAR RENTAL FIRM OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONVENTIONS

Alamo Rent A Car has been designated as the official car rental firm for the 1985 General Assembly, with 1,500 cars set aside for use by Nazarenes during the conventions and assembly. Special rates are available, but all reservations must be placed through Wander World Travel, the official travel service for the assembly.

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Wander World may be contacted toll-free by dialing 1-800-255-5083; inside Kansas, phone 913-649-2382 collect.

—NN

SUPER SEPTEMBER IN MAC REGION

The Mexico, Central America, and Caribbean Region concluded a year of celebration of the 75th anniversary of the denomination with a special church growth emphasis in September, according to Dr. James J. Hudson, regional director.

Highlights of the month included the attendance of 104,935 in Sunday School on rally day, September 16—an increase of 32,747 more than the average attendance in 1983; 6,742 baptisms and new members were received; and 39 new churches were organized.

—NN

DECEMBER 15, 1984 35
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