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Evangelical Visitor - May 10, 1979 Vol. XCII. No. 9.

John E. Zercher

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Evangelical VISITOR

May 10, 1979

SEE!

**The Winter
is past;**

**The rains
are over
and gone.**

**Flowers
appear
on the earth;**

**The season
of singing
has come,**

**The cooing
of doves
is heard
in our land.**

**— Song of Songs
2:11, 12 (NIV)**

76

Spring Song.
by F. Mendelssohn Eartholdy.
Arrangement by GEORGE

Allegretto grazioso.

Piano.

p

mf

Religious News

One-parent Households Predicted For Nearly Half of 1978 Children

Some 45 per cent of children born last year in the U.S. may live part of their childhood with only one parent because of the rising divorce rate, according to a Census Bureau prediction.

Census analysts Paul Glick and Arthur Norton said 43 per cent of black youngsters are already growing up in one-parent households. Their predictions appeared in the current issue of *American Demographics* magazine.

Because of the high divorce rate in the overall population, "we have estimated that 45 per cent of all children born in 1978 will become members of one-parent families, for a while at least, before they reach the age of 18 years, if present circumstances continue, they said. "That is indeed a very large minority and the subject of concern for many about the potential damage to children and future society."

Wagner Predicts Unprecedented Spiritual Harvest During 80's

Dr. Peter Wagner, chairman of the strategy working group of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, says that many Christians are unaware of the sweeping spiritual movements taking place in the world today. "I believe that the

coming decade will see one of the greatest ingatherings in the history of the Christian church," he contends.

The evangelical leader points out that recent studies indicate that 63,000 new people become Christians each day. In addition, there are about 1,600 new churches established each week. Wagner suggests that the vast changes in the global Christian constituency since the beginning of this century are indications of the progress of the gospel. In 1900, most of the world's Christians were whites. By the end of this century, the prediction is that 60 per cent of the World's Christians will be non-whites.

He cites Latin America as an example of the transformation. In 1900, the evangelical community in that continent numbered about 50,000. The evangelical population now is growing at three times the rate of the population in general. Reliable estimates project an evangelical population of one hundred million by the end of this century.

The most rapid church expansion, however, is taking place in Africa. At the beginning of the century, about four million Africans were Christians. The estimate is that by the end of this century, they will number three hundred fifty-one million. In other words, Wagner points out, the Christian constituency will have grown from three per cent of the population to 48 per cent.

Shanghai Reported Reopening Protestant, Catholic Church

A United Methodist bishop who recently visited China has reported that there are

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From the Editor

Within the past month I received a phone call inquiring if I knew about the letter-writing effort directed towards Madalyn Murray O'Hair's efforts to remove religious programming from the air. So the issue to which the following NAE release speaks is still among us. In view of this I chose to devote this space to the sharing of this counsel from NAE.

Thousands of letters continue to pour into the offices of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) opposing an alleged campaign spearheaded by atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair to remove all religious programming from television and radio. But as Bob Dugan points out, the program was satisfactorily resolved 3½ years ago—and never involved Ms. O'Hair.

Dugan, who serves as director of NAE's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., said the estimated 10 million, largely anonymous letters are an embarrassing, uninformed response to the Lansman-Milan petition which sought to limit application by religious institutions for television and FM channels that are reserved for education systems. The FCC ruled against that petition on August 1, 1975.

In spite of that ruling, thousands of letters still flow into the FCC every month, Dugan said, with many of them encouraged by petitions circulated in evangelical churches.

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What's a Family For?

Dorothy Gish



In Colonial America family life was composed of father, mother and children, and in some cases, grandparents or other relatives. The family was basically an economic unit concerned with production. From children on up, each member played important, productive roles. Even a century ago most families lived on farms. In the cities family-run stores and shops were common.

While most boys in Colonial America attended school for a few years, most of the education occurred at home around the reading of the Scriptures or the learning of a trade. Less than a century ago, a person who had completed elementary school was considered educated. Higher education was high school and few went that far.

There were churches in Colonial America, but not on every street corner. People came together periodically to worship but the imparting of basic religious attitudes and teachings occurred in the home. Even the protective function was left to the family—the statutes provided for a man to protect his own property, and he was expected to have firearms to do so. The care of the aged, the relief of the poor and the care of the sick were all important family functions.

The structure of the family hasn't changed much over the years, but the function of the family has changed drastically, even within the last century. Today work and family life are separated. There is no common economic task except consumption.

The writer is Chairman, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Messiah College.

May 10, 1979

Children, once an economic asset, can now be regarded economically as liabilities. Very conservative estimates suggest that housing, feeding, and educating a child through high school cost more than \$35,000.

Last year approximately 50% of all high school graduates went on to college, and the highest percent ever of college grads went on to graduate school. Law enforcement agencies provide for our protection and other agencies care for the poor, the sick and the aged.

Thus, the family that was once basically an economic productive unit with educational, protective, religious and welfare responsibilities is now no longer totally or even primarily concerned with any of these functions. The family, having lost all of these traditional functions, now has as its major role what was once almost a by-product of its fulfilling those primary functions: emotional support.

Since the major functions which traditionally were part of the American family have been taken away from it, love and companionship are viewed as the only reason for marriage. When the quality of intimacy and emotional support begins to deteriorate, there is no other function to prevent the marriage from being dissolved. One out of three recent marriages, involving people under 40 years of age, will end in divorce because the people involved grew up accepting the idea that a marriage that isn't personally fulfilling may be ended. However, 50% of those divorced are remarried within a year of the time the divorce becomes final.

Once, people knew nearly everyone who lived nearby or with whom they

worked. Now that is no longer true. Industrialization and urbanization have led to impersonalization, but the human need for intimacy and personalization have not changed. Thus, it becomes important for the family of today not only to provide each individual member with a sense of identity, but also with a sense of self-esteem.

Parents today try to monitor a child's consumption of television and junk food. They meet with the child's teachers, choose the best health care, take the child for lessons in music and swimming. In short, parents today are what the Carnegie Report describes as "executives": "choosing, meeting, talking with and coordinating the experts, the technology and the institutions that help bring up their children." While each of these "experts" or "institutions" deal with part of the child, it is only the parent who sees the child as a whole.

Thus, it becomes increasingly important that parents view themselves as experts who see the total picture. For Christian parents, it is also important to realize that they, and only they, can help the child relate his faith and values to all of life. Faith learning is better caught from faith living than from an attempt to teach it in an artificial or contrived atmosphere. "Thou shalt teach them diligently to thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house and when thou walkest by the way and when thou liest down and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7)

Today's family plays a critical role in the well-being of its children. Only there can a child truly learn love, acceptance and identity.



Holiday Thoughts

Mrs. Charlotte Sider

Holidays, vacation, recreation. No matter the word, the description remains the same. Family time, apart from our normal routine of living is a family vacation.

In the past seven years of marriage our family has experienced a variety of vacation times. We've lazed and camped in provincial parks; we've motored thousands of miles; we've flown to Eastern Canada to spend long, leisurely hours with "Grandma and Grandpa." Amidst all the activities are memories of glad reunions, spilt milkshakes, shimmering lakes, long walks in the early morning, waiting in line for the zoo to open, happy children, tired children and many other keepsakes of great family holidays.

Good vacations, fun times and togetherness *do not* just happen—even wishing is *not* enough. Too often family quarrels, hot weather, rainy days, busy highways and cranky moms spell ruin for yearly vacation times. God, who created the first day of the week as a day of rest understood then and now our deepest need for "recreation." Philippians 4:19 reminds us that "God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory." He can give you a warm wonderful time of family fun this year.

And that brings me to three guidelines for a happy vacation.

Pray and Plan

Don't you secretly expect one type of holiday, your husband dreams of another and the children still another.

The writer and her husband, Doug, are the pastoral couple, Massey Place Brethren in Christ Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Get together as a family and plan your time—whether you are going to have three days or three weeks.

Take paper and write down the purpose of your holiday.

Do you want to rest, catch up on sleep?

Do you want to see interesting things, experience a new culture?

Do you just want to work together as a family—maybe we can paint the outside of the house.

At any rate decide your purpose.

Then plan! You'll need to work out a schedule. How many days driving? How much money do we have to spend? How much time is available?

Pray for your holiday. Offer it to the Lord and let him make it a beautiful experience for each member in your home.

Be Flexible

Although you have planned before, learn to be flexible during your vacation.

Once you leave your normal routine to begin your holiday, ask God to help you set an atmosphere of giving, loving and flexibility. Let Johnny go to bed with dirty feet, eat two hot-dogs for breakfast. Try water-skiing. Climb a mountain. Learn to be flexible.

Make "Yes, let's" the motto of your family vacation. The "But we can't . . ." attitude kills family fun.

Have Some "Myself" Times

During your vacation spend blocks of time alone.

With God. Pray by a campfire. Read your Bible as the sun rises. Celebrate your friendship with Jesus.

With your partner. Twenty-one days spent in the constant close companionship of small children can be a catastrophe for parental nerves. Somehow schedule a day, or an evening and date your own husband. Try it! Go boating, hike to the top of a mountain, bike, walk or eat in an exotic restaurant. At any rate, get alone with your mate and celebrate your marriage.

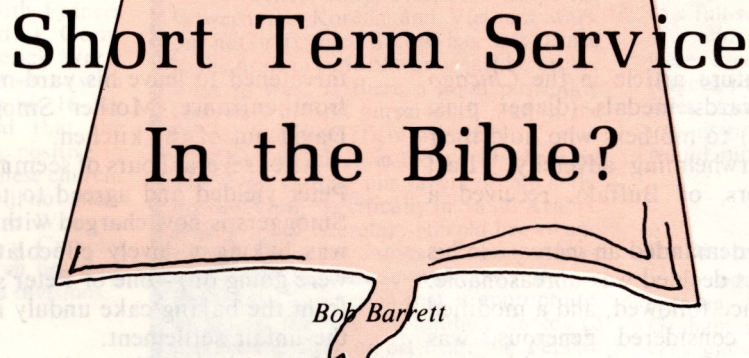
With each of your children. Endeavor to spend at least one-half a day alone with each child. Maybe mom with son, and dad with daughter. Concentrate on listening and loving and learning. Our children are individuals, wonderfully complicated human beings—not just a mass of flesh entitled "the kids."

And so with these beginning guidelines and that marvelous message from Phil. 4:19 I invite you to enjoy a happy and productive holiday.

From the editor
from page two

"The real problem will come when the religious community is faced with an issue demanding its response," Dugan said. "I'm afraid the people now responding so overwhelmingly to the supposed 'O' Hair petition' will fail to respond to a real crisis because their efforts here have been misguided.

"In essence, they've been burned, and the price has been embarrassment and thousands of dollars in wasted postage."



Short Term Service In the Bible?

Bob Barrett

Christians have been increasingly involved in short term service in this last decade. The term may vary from a year or two down to a few weeks. Teens through retirees have been involved in this seemingly new way to share the gospel. However, when we look in the Bible, we see that Jesus started short term service by sending out his twelve disciples and later 72 of his followers. Mark gives a concise account of the commissioning for this short-term service.

He called to him the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt but to wear sandals . . . So they went out and preached that men should repent.

The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.
Mark 6:7-12, 30 RSV

One could say that the disciples had been in "class" with Jesus. They had heard his lectures, had seen him do miracles, and observed him relating to individuals. They had been asking questions of the Master Teacher. Now it was time for what we call the practicum. The lesson learned from Jesus must be applied in the laboratory of life outside the school room.

Jesus gave the disciples special authority for their missions. However, post-resurrection Christians have this

authority and do not need to wait for this enduement. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus expresses His authority over everything in heaven and earth and promises to be with us. So we have all power to do what Jesus wants done because of his word, "Lo, I am with you always."

Only very simple preparations were to be made for the trip—sandals and a staff. They would do a lot of walking. Today's Christian doing short term service in the Bronx, a summer camp, or even Africa still finds good walking shoes a great asset. Jesus specifically said that the disciples were not to worry about money or food. In this special faith venture normal preparations would be laid aside. Many young people do not participate in this kind of service reasoning that they need to earn money instead. This obstacle may be just the mountain that faith can cast into the sea. Certainly Jesus and John could have said, "We need to help our father in the fishing business. The nets are in terrible shape." Matthew may have thought, "Summer is a rush time at the tax office, and the Romans will be doing an audit." No, all these things were set aside for a practical work experience.

It is obvious that the disciples were not "ordained" or graduates of Jesus' school. They were just laypersons stopping mid-course to do service. Walking with Jesus is the main preparation for a short term assignment.

A simple life style was indicated by Jesus to those who were sent out. They were to stay at one home and not try to work their way up into the homes of local leaders. Freely they had received, now they were to freely share what they knew of the gospel. They were

supposed to eat what was set before them and not to long for hamburgers and cokes.

It is wonderful to read that Jesus had time to hear all the stories of the disciples when they returned. Jesus sent them out and then received them back for further training. Today the local church is the body of Christ to both send out and receive back the short-term workers. The church commissions the lay person for the special assignment, stands behind the worker in prayer, and listens gladly to the report of all that God has done. This is a vital task for each church today.

The Bible indicates that Jesus was sympathetic and affirming in his reception of the disciples. He said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." (Luke 10:18). Then Jesus added a correction, "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject unto you but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Jesus affirmed the disciples and told of the effectiveness of their work, but he emphasized that the primary cause for rejoicing is our relationship to the Father.

One can obtain a brochure on summer service opportunities for youth in the church by writing the Director of Summer Service, P.O. Box 127, Nappanee, IN 46550. Information on short term service for any age from a variety of mission agencies can be obtained by writing to the Board for Missions, Box 149, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or 2519 Stevensville Road, Stevensville, Ontario L0S 1S0 or to World Missions Fellowship, c/o Bob Barrett, Messiah College, Grantham, PA 17027.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Physics at Messiah College. He has given leadership the past number of years to a student service ministry in Mexico over the Christmas holidays. This article is from a recent chapel talk given at Messiah College.

Medal for Mother

We like Joan Beck's feature article in the *Chicago Tribune*. She annually awards medals (diaper pins, spinach, and aspirin tablets) to mothers who hold their ground "against most overwhelming adversity." Last year Mrs. Philip Smoggers, of Buffalo, received a citation.

Peter Smoggers, her son, demanded an increase in his allowance, which the parents decided was unreasonable. Negotiations on the allowance followed, and a modified offer, which the parents considered generous, was proposed. Peter insisted on a guaranteed annual income, with an escalator clause related to the price of phonograph records and movie tickets.

The father suggested a 90-day cooling-off period. Peter

threatened to leave his yard-mowing job and picket the front entrance. Mother Smoggers threatened to lock David out of the kitchen.

After several hours of seemingly hopeless negotiations, Peter yielded and agreed to the original offer. Mother Smoggers is now charged with unfair labor practice (she was baking a lovely chocolate cake while discussions were going on)—one of Peter's pals thinks that the odor from the baking cake unduly influenced Peter to accept the unfair settlement.

In conclusion, the entire matter was dropped because Peter's mouth was too full of cake to protest further.

—Reprinted from *Light and Life*

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Church News

Messiah College

Sider Completes Chapter

Dr. E. Morris Sider has written a chapter for the three-volume history of the Mennonite Central Committee. The chapter is on C.N. Hostetter, Jr., for fourteen years chairman of MCC, and is a greatly condensed version of the book-length biography of Dr. Hostetter on which Dr. Sider is currently working.

Bert and Landis Cooperate in New Play

Dr. Norman Bert and Dr. Larry Landis have cooperated in the writing and composition of a new musical play, *Shake the Country*, based on incidents from the life of George Fox. It was given a showcase reading at the annual Theatre Association of Pennsylvania convention last month.

"More than Bread" Passes ¾ Mark

In exactly one year the Messiah College "More than Bread" fund drive for \$4 million has received enough cash and commitments to pass the ¾ mark. The total stood at \$3,040,735 as of April 9, 1979.

During the past few months the campaign for a new Fine Arts Center moved to the West Coast as well as to some of the eastern sections. Leaders involved in launching the Supporting Gifts Division include: Charles Wenger, Shippensburg Area; Wilbur Burkholder, Chambersburg Area; Myron Lady, Kansas; Melvin Eyster, Oklahoma; Mrs. Erma Diller, Grants Pass, Oregon; Rev. Glenn Ginder, Portland-Salem, Oregon; Rev. Don Kanaley, Los Angeles; Dr. Warren Hoffman, New Mexico; Rev. Verle Brubaker, Iowa; Dr. Fred Holland, Northern Illinois; Wayne Schiedel, Ontario; and Roy Davis, Western New York.

Conference News

Allegheny

The prize-winning missionary play, "For

Great Is Your Reward," was presented at the **Air Hill** church on Sunday evening, March 25, by a group from the **New Guilford** church. • **Lane Hostetter** has been appointed interim pastor by the **Carlisle** congregation with responsibilities in the area of preaching, with duties beginning, Sunday, June 17 and continuing for the remainder of 1979. Rev. Hostetter's interim ministry is called for because of the departure of pastor **Walter Winger** who has assumed the presidency of **Niagara Christian College**, Fort Erie, Ontario. A farewell dinner for the Wingers was held on Saturday, May 5, at Messiah College. • A Christian Education Seminar was sponsored by the **Cedar Grove** congregation on Thursday evening, March 29. Participating in the seminar were **Fern Peck** with the Primary Department; **Earl Robb** with the Youth Department; and **Luke Keefer, Sr.**, with the adults.

The adults of the **Clarence Center** congregation became involved in Youth Week by choosing teens with whom they were involved in various contacts during the week, including entertaining them at special events or having them as guests at meals. • The **Fairview** congregation, near Reeser's Summit, Pa., observed its twenty-fifth anniversary and homecoming on April 22. Adding to the significance of the homecoming and anniversary celebration was the presence of former pastors of the congregation: **Roy Zook**, **Sam Oldham**, **Lewis Byer**, and **Harvey Beinhower**. • The **Martinsburg** congregation conducted a "total growth" seminar March 10-18. The theme of the seminar was "Let My People Grow." Speakers were **Dr. Henry A. Ginder** and **Dr. Walter Winger**.

A series of meetings with a "deeper life" emphasis was sponsored by the **Montgomery** congregation with **Henry Landis**, pastor of the Abilene (Ks.) congregation, as the evangelist. These services were held April 2-11. **Mildred Myers** and **Eva Mae Melhorn** spoke of the recent events in Rhodesia and impressed upon the congregation the need to pray for the African church. • The **Van Lear** congregation (Hagerstown, Md.) sponsored a carry-in dinner on Sunday evening, March 18, at which **Bishop Alvin Book** was the honored guest. He also brought the evening message. **Richard Morris**

was installed as pastor of the **Mount Rock** congregation on Sunday, April 1. He succeeds **Avery Musser** as pastor of that congregation.

Atlantic

On Sunday morning, March 25, 24 persons were received into the membership of the **Elizabethtown** congregation. During the month of February, 18 persons had received the rite of Christian baptism. • A Bible Conference was sponsored by the **Manheim** church on Sunday, March 25, with **George Kimber**, Assistant Professor in Biblical Literature, Messiah College as the guest minister. • **Alden Long**, Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Messiah College, was guest speaker at the **Manor** congregation on Sunday evening, April 1. His topic was "Archeology, Confirming the Truth of God's Word."

John Hawbaker, pastor of the Manor congregation, was the evangelist for a series of meetings at the **Mount Pleasant** Brethren in Christ Church, April 1-8. • A Christian Education worship was conducted on Sunday morning, March 18, by the **Refton** congregation. **Robert Stoner**, a teacher at Octorora High School was the speaker. On March 25 a Campus Crusade for Christ team from Penn State University was present for the morning worship and Sunday school hour. • Jack Yost served as evangelist at the **Skyline View** congregation, March 18-25. • **Ronald Burgard**, pastor of the **Mechanicsburg** congregation served as evangelist at the **Speedwell Heights** church, April 4-9.

Canadian

The **Falls View** church observed Pioneer Girls Sunday on March 11. Special recognition at both the morning and evening services and a carry-in dinner for the girls and their parents marked the day. • A "Faith Banquet" was held on Friday, April 6, by the **Massey Place** congregation in the interest of the new building program which the congregation is undertaking. A feature of the evening was the unveiling of the architects' sketch of the new facility. The congregation has developed a lay-minister pastoral care program in which ten families or in-

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Evangelical Visitor

Religious News

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strong indications that a Roman Catholic church and a non-denominational Protestant church will reopen in Shanghai soon.

In a telephone interview with Frances Smith of United Methodist Communications, Bishop D. Frederick Wertz of Charleston, W. Va., said he spoke with four or five Christians during his 16-day visit. Bishop Wertz reported that the Chinese Christians "were very positive in saying the church will be a Chinese church. They say the Chinese people will not allow the denominationalism of the West to invade China. There will be a Catholic church and a Protestant church but they say there will not be Protestant divisions."

Indian Christians Demonstrate Against Bill on Conversions

Indian Christians have taken to the streets to protest against a parliamentary bill relating to religious conversions, which the Christians say would discriminate against minority religions in India.

The controversial "Freedom of Religion" bill now before the federal legislature, would outlaw conversions to a faith effected by "force, fraud, inducement, or deceit." During the weekend of March 24-25, more than 4,000 Christians marched through downtown Calcutta carrying posters and banners, protesting the bill and proclaiming, "We Christians Demand Fundamental Rights." Over a hundred similar demonstrations took place in other parts of India.

According to some critics of the bill, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the famed apostle of the sick poor, would be liable to two years' imprisonment because her charitable works could be interpreted as constituting an "inducement" to conversion.

60,000 More Refugees To be Admitted to U.S.

Plans to admit an additional 25,000 Soviet refugees and 35,000 Indochinese refugees between now and Sept. 30 under emergency measures have been approved by U.S. Attorney General Griffin B. Bell. They will be admitted under the attorney general's emergency "parole" authority in response to the continuing urgent needs.

The Carter Administration is presently pushing for passage of a proposed legislation which would ease the admission of refugees and do away with the need to use the attorney general's parole authority.

Christian Cantata Produced By Communist Opera House

Another sign of "springtime" in church-state relations was seen in Communist East Germany when the East Berlin National Opera produced "St. Matthew's Passion" by Johann Sebastian Bach. The production had not been permitted in the earlier years of the German Democratic Republic.

The Communist daily newspaper, *Berliner Zeitung*, recalled that it was 150 years ago that the performance had been revived by the Berlin Singing Academy under the direction of Felix Mendelssohn—4-7-79.

On the Draft

"... Historically, except for the period between the Korean and Vietnam wars, our nation [United States] has only turned to the draft in time of war or just before we went to war. Is there a good possibility that we will find ourselves at war in the coming months? If so, where?"

"The only place in the world where we have been rattling our sabers of late is the Persian Gulf, specifically in Saudi Arabia. Both Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger have said within the past several weeks that we must 'take any action that is appropriate, including the use of military force' to protect the flow of oil from the Persian Gulf.

"We must all ask ourselves if we believe it would be worthwhile to send our sons to die in the Persian Gulf so that we can continue to fuel our Winnebagoes. Is it worthwhile to go to war so that we don't have to wait in line at the gas station to buy gas we fritter away?"

"... This brings us to these critical questions:

"What are we willing to pay for oil? Does the true cost of energy include the cost of war?"

"Are we preparing for war so as to keep our excessive habits; the wasteful squandering of energy?"

"... Are we prepared to force compulsory service on our young people to prolong our sloppy wasteful ways?"

—Jim Weaver
Congressman
State of Oregon

On Nuclear War

"None of this potential flexibility changes my view that a full-scale thermonuclear exchange would be an unprecedented disaster for the Soviet Union as well as for the United States. Nor is it at all clear that an initial use of nuclear

weapons—however selectively they might be targeted—could be kept from escalating to a full-scale thermonuclear exchange... The odds are high, whether the weapons were used against tactical or strategic targets, that control would be lost on both sides and the exchange would become unconstrained... the resulting fatalities would run into the scores of millions."

—Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense

On Disarmament

He admits he was "rather late" in coming to the conviction, but Billy Graham now regards the \$400 billion-a-year global arms race as "insanity" and "madness." And he believes he typifies "a vast change" of thinking now taking place among his fellow conservative evangelical Christians in this country.

"I don't think that they were aware of the potential horror of what a nuclear war with present weapons could do to the human race," Mr. Graham said, in a recent interview on the CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite. "I think they are awakening to the fact that they have a responsibility to speak out..."

Jed Duvall, who interviewed him, said "it was on a crusade in Eastern Europe that Graham was shaken by the horror of Auschwitz, compared it to a nuclear holocaust, and began to take a new view of arms in the world."

Mr. Graham said he opposes unilateral disarmament but favors agreements to eliminate nuclear weapons. "Why," he asked, "should any nation have atomic bombs?"

On Peacemaking

"... for all who take the sword will perish by the sword."

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God."

—Jesus

Amnesty International Urges Pakistan to End Death Penalty

Amnesty International, the agency that monitors reports on political prisoners around the world, has urged the government of Pakistan to abolish the death penalty. It made the appeal in the wake of the execution of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and the reported executions of four other political prisoners who were convicted on charges of conspiring to murder a political opponent of Mr. Bhutto's in 1974.

Amnesty International had repeatedly called for commutation of the death sentences. Referring to Mr. Bhutto's execution, it said that "It will never be possible for any authority in Pakistan to redress the possible miscarriage of justice which may have taken place. Doubts will always remain about the unconvincing nature of the evidence produced against Mr. Bhutto and certain of his co-accused before the Lahore High Court."

Evangelical Missionaries Concerned About Limitations in Peru, Colombia

Southern Baptist mission officials have expressed concern about new and proposed visa limitations in Peru and Colombia which would seriously cripple missionary activities there.

The Peruvian government ruled in January that evangelical missions can't increase their number of missionaries, and that new visas will be approved only for missionary replacements, on a one to one basis, according to J. Bryan Brasington, secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for Western South America.

He said Colombia plans to actually reduce the number of missionaries by giving only one new visa for every two missionaries who leave the country. "The ultimate goal is to limit the presence of foreigners in Colombia—especially those who are working in the area of religion," Mr. Brasington said.

The Potential is Boundless

Brethren in Christ Community Church Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

God is at work in Prince Albert. He is working in and through the Community Church. April 30, 1978 marked the official organization and charter membership of our emerging congregation. Our growing membership now includes 35 persons, half of whom never belonged to any church before.

The Community Church is continuing to develop a program to meet the needs of people in this community. We offer an age-graded Sunday school, morning worship service, evening "body life" service, "power groups" (cell groups for Bible study, sharing, prayer), men's and women's prayer breakfasts, youth work, and unique drive-in church services during the summer months.

Ours is a positive, loving, and joyful fellowship. But we

have also encountered obstacles and problems along the way. We are learning to work through difficult situations together.

The rented facility in which we are presently meeting on Sundays is less than adequate. We are working toward the construction of a suitable church facility. Land has been acquired, and some preliminary plans have been prepared.

We anticipate that this will be our last year as an extension church. Growth projections call for an increase of 50% per year, and in light of our circumstances we believe this is possible and realistic. By the end of 1979 we anticipate a membership of 65.

As we move into the future, I believe that this church will be healing more homes, counselling more seekers, rescuing more alcoholics, preventing more suicides, comforting more heartbroken, than ever before. With God, all things are possible.

Herb Anderson, pastor

Wichita Brethren in Christ Church Wichita, Kansas

Building upon groundwork done by Aaron Stern in the fall of 1977 in visitation and the beginning of a Bible study group, the Wichita church held its first worship service January 8, 1978. Sunday school followed in May and regular Sunday evening services in July with regular group visitation efforts starting in September. Throughout the year special youth activities were the beginnings of a regular youth program. High points of the year included at least seven conversions, several of them in our public services; our first communion service; and a number of well attended social times. Perhaps most notable has been the way the Lord has, through death, serious illness and great financial loss among our congregation, used these trials as a most effective means of welding the hearts of our people together into a functioning body of believers with deep concern and commitment to Christ and to each other.

There are a number of families in Wichita with Brethren in Christ roots, but, as most of these had long been active

in other churches, only two of these individuals became part of our church, though others have been helpful in various ways. Other conference churches, especially of Kansas and Oklahoma, have been most helpful with visits and special programs. In the early months, visits from these churches helped our attendance, in recent months their visits have diminished but our over-all attendance has climbed, indicating significant local growth. Early months saw our people coming from all areas of Wichita. While these continue to attend, we are beginning to penetrate our local, West Wichita, area better with new attendants coming from a closer geographical area. The past two months have shown a marked increase of interest among teens, with improving attitudes and dedication. We have about 35 active attendants who meet in an excellent Junior High School facility. In January 1979 we received our first members (23) and I perceive them to be an excellent and committed group.

Entering the new year, we are hopeful of gaining at least a family per month, winning not less than ten souls to Christ, developing VBS, increased community penetration, and adding to our general church program such activities and opportunities as will be truly helpful to our people.

—Charles Norman, pastor

Evangelical Visitor

and Growing

Meadowvale Brethren in Christ Church Mississauga, Ontario

"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." These words of Christ spoken to Peter from the bow of the boat come to my mind as I consider the church planting ministry during 1978. It has been a year of launching out. We have begun the catch!

What are some of the nets that have been put down? We have continued to use the "telephone survey" approach in making our initial contact with families. The response to this has been good. Approximately 30% of the people called said that they would like to receive information concerning the beginning of our congregation. I now have a file of about 250 "interested families."

Each of these families have been visited during the year. We have endeavored to build bridges of friendship with them, and feel that definite progress is being made. A few have made commitments to Christ. Our hearts ache to see many more come to Him.

On June 4th we began having regular worship services. We are thankful that by December attendance averaged 27. The spirit of our worship services has been excellent, and the financial giving has been continuously increasing. Six different cultures are represented within our group giving it an international flavour.

In 1979, we plan to continue our fishing for men using each of the above mentioned methods: telephone surveys, visitations, varied and interesting worship services. We

Clearwater Brethren in Christ Church Clearwater, Florida

A little more than a year ago we arrived on the Sun Coast to begin the task of surveying our field of assignment as we followed the Spirit's guidance in planting a new Brethren in Christ congregation. This has been a graduate-school learning experience, for we discovered that Florida's total climate is very different, otherwise as well as weather-wise.

The Brethren in Christ were more unknown to Clearwater than the Tampa Bay area was to us. Over and over we answered the same questions;—Who are you? What are the BIC? What do they believe? Why are you here? Have you any churches in Florida? Where will your church be located? Do you have the land?

I was really glad to look back over 1978. I'm sorry that I don't know how to catch, on paper, the excitement of our group in Wichita seeing their first convert accept Christ in February at the end of a Bible study session, or the thrill this past Christmas eve morning to see two teenage girls come to receive Christ at the invitation time in a morning service. I wish, too, there was some way to tell of the backslidden preacher who came forward one Sunday to tell how he had drifted away, gone back to drink and totally dropped out of Christian life, and to hear him say, with his wife, "This week we came back to the Lord and we want to join this church." Needless to say, they are members now.

And how do you tell about the young couple, just married in January 1978, who began to attend, were greatly blessed, then in August moved 60 miles away but now are driving 60 miles each way to services because "we just couldn't stay away, we missed this church so much." I could tell of a couple who lost their business and a 14-year-old son by drugs, both in 1978 within about eight months of the time they had trusted the Lord. They plainly say, "we would not have made it without the Lord, and we would not have found Him without the Brethren in Christ."

—Charles Norman, pastor
Wichita Brethren in Christ Church

also plan to have our first baptismal service in early summer, followed by "chartered membership Sunday." Our goal is to have 20 members by year end.

We plan to not only catch men but to see others take the words of Christ seriously when He said, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will catch men."

Gerald E. Tyrrell, pastor

Legalities and requirements for church establishment necessitated investigation. Real estate regulations and prices were a shock. Observation of the population explosion, as thousands of middle class families move in, is a constant amazement. But the months and miles of research and exploring were a blessing. We became acquainted and accepted by both County Seat officials and City Hall. The Brethren in Christ are now a duly registered, incorporated, chartered, tax-exempt church in Pinellas County, and in the city of Clearwater, Florida.

In these days of "cults and isms" it was important to be known as a recognized, historically Bible-centered, evangelical body of believers. Other denominational pastors (also planting churches in this developing area), retired ministers, and district and general superintendents shared their moves and visions with us as we cultivated their acquaintance.

to page ten

More Sponsors Needed for Indochinese

MCC Release

Sponsors for Indochinese refugees will be needed for at least another year, reports Mennonite Central Committee. The flow of boat people should diminish if the reported understanding between the United Nations and the government of Vietnam for an orderly exit of Chinese who wish to leave is actually implemented. But there are about 200,000 refugees now in Southeast Asia camps who need to be resettled.

Presently about 57 per cent of the refugees are located in Thailand, 33 per cent in Malaysia and 10 per cent in



A Vietnamese baby gets a bath at Pulau Tengah refugee Camp, Malaysia. Camps such as Pulau Tengah are badly overcrowded with refugees awaiting placement.

other Asian countries, states Vern Preheim, secretary for Asia. People continue fleeing from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, although in fewer numbers than in November and December 1978.

A church group or Sunday school class is ideal for sponsorship, says Don Sensenig, who has been working with MCC in arranging refugee placements. A core group of two or three families is needed to do the "nitty gritty"—to take care of jobs,

housing and school arrangements, immunizations, English classes and to make sure the family or person sponsored is adjusting to the community and culture.

The sponsor's responsibility begins when the refugees arrive. The sponsoring group assumes responsibility for finding housing, clothing and other necessities, as well as financial support. Sponsors should realize that financing a refugee family or individual may involve major expense.

Clearwater Brethren from page nine

The Clearwater city code forbids on-street parking for church services, a church is defined as a business, and the code also disallows residence business. This changed our plans for beginning house-worship. However, we could have week-night services in St. Petersburg and Seminole, so here we began. Now we are also able to meet in Clearwater where the homes have adequate off-street parking, and where the neighbors are sympathetic with the activity.

During April and May we were provided the use of a large, furnished, United Methodist parsonage in Clearwater, pending arrival of a new minister. This home was adequate for both the Lord's Day and mid-week services. Previous to this we used the chapel of God's News Behind the News in St. Petersburg for two months. After the arrival of the new United Methodist pastor, we met in city park pavilions. All the while, earnestly searching for a hall to rent. None seemed to be available. By October we were at "Wit's End Corner." Then God led us to what he had been preparing—a new and much better place than the unavailable places we had been trying to secure, and at less

cost. Far beyond our expectation! Church school and occasional fellowship meals are now part of the program.

Our services have been rich in holy fellowship. The unorthodox serving of tea following dismissal has proved to be a strengthening practice to the mid-week assembly.

The task appears to be overwhelming—with temptations at times to feel like a drowning man. But God always gives reassurance of his presence and confirms his promise.

For 1979 we have set up a budget, made plans for outreach, have hopes for an assigned pastor, and trust in God.

Our support group is loyal, cooperative, dependable, and united as we look forward to future tasks and developments. Our chief concern and call for prayer support is for people with definite Christian experiences, for God to give positive direction in the locating of the necessary real estate, and for the money for its financing.

The potential is boundless and growing. By faith we answered the call, and by faith proceed every inch of the way. Human strength, wisdom, and resources are totally inadequate—BUT GOD!

Elam Dohner, pastor

Evangelical Visitor

Church News

continued from page six

dividuals, living in geographical proximity, are under the leadership of a lay person who assists the pastor in pastoral contacts.

A young member of the **New Life** congregation, Collingwood, Ontario, handed the pastor's wife a package held together by an elastic band. Hardly able to wait until the donor left and she could open the package, she discovered, upon opening the package that it contained \$925 which the young person was giving to Brethren in Christ mission work in **Nicaragua**. This left a balance in the youth's bank account of 55 cents.

The **Sherkston** congregation sponsored a Missionary Conference, March 21-25 which was planned for children, youth and adults. Speakers, which shared with the several groups in the course of the conference, included **Roy Sider, Aaron Stern, Louis Cober, and Elwyn and Meredith Hock**. • The newly planted **West Heights** congregation in Kitchener, Ontario, reported 100 in the morning worship service on Sunday, March 18.

Central

The **Carland-Zion** congregation near Owosso, Mi., conducted a "March to Sunday School in March" campaign in interest of increased attendance. • **The Living Water** musical group from the **Nappanee** congregation, under the direction of **Dwight Thomas**, presented a program at the **Christian Union Church**, Sunday evening, April 22. • **Paul Unruh**, Director of Family Counseling Service, Greencastle, Pa., was guest speaker at the **Mooretown Church** on Sunday morning, March 18 and the **Leonard** congregation in the evening. • **Eber Dourte**, Lancaster, Pa., was the speaker for Holy Week Services at the **Nappanee Church**, April 12-15. • The Children's Choir from the **Mooretown** congregation participated in the Sunday morning service at **Sippo Valley**, April 1. The pastor of Mooretown congregation, **Ronald Slabaugh**, brought the message.



When the **Dayton Sunday School** presented attendance awards for 1978 four of 21 awards went to one four-generation family. Mrs. **Josie Townsend** was given a 25-year bar; **Joann Simpson**, her daughter, a 22-year bar; **John Simpson**, Josie's grandson, a pin and a 21-year bar; and her great-granddaughter **Shannon-Marie** a one year **Robert Raikes Diploma**. (**Shannon** was one year old in January).

May 10, 1979

Midwest

Glen Pierce, secretary for Home Ministries, Board for Missions, was the guest speaker on Sunday, March 18 at the **Zion Church**. • **Henry and Faith Landis**, the pastoral couple at the **Abilene** congregation have accepted a call from the congregation to a second term of pastoral ministry.

Pacific

The **Alta Loma** Brethren in Christ Church held a ground-breaking service on Sunday afternoon, April 1. This is the start of the construction of the initial facility for this new congregation. • The **Azusa Pacific Bel Canto Choir** presented a program of sacred music at the **Labish** (Oregon) congregation on Friday evening, April 6. • **D. Ray Hostetter**, president of **Messiah College** was the guest speaker at the **Upland** congregation on Sunday, March 18, speaking at the Men's Fellowship Breakfast and later at the two morning worship services. The **Redwood Country Church** is starting, on a trial basis, two worship services to accommodate the growing attendance.

The *Mennonite Your Way Travel Directory II, 1979-1980*, is off the press and available for sale. "The interest in this project is phenomenal," echo **Leon and Nancy Stauffer**, originators of the *Mennonite Your Way Directory*. "We've had inquiries from people and places you wouldn't believe; this *Directory II* includes a greater response than ever from the larger Christian community in North America as well as more than 60 overseas locations."

The *Mennonite Your Way Directory*, first published in 1976, is a listing of 1700 North American contact persons offering to serve as hosts to brothers and sisters traveling through their community. This second *Mennonite Your Way Travel Directory II, 1979, 80*, while having about the same number of North American hosts is greatly expanded in other areas. Sixty-nine contact persons from 34 overseas countries have offered their services in varying degrees to visitors coming to their country. More than 120 hosts have listed some ideas for swapping—homes, farms, campers, recipes, sewing patterns, etc. Other features are included to make travel more meaningful; ideas for travel with children, suggestions for keeping travel memories, a map featuring significant church-related places enroute, some thoughts on worship for the traveler . . . and more.

While a large proportion of the North American hosts are from various Mennonite groups including Brethren in Christ and Amish Mennonite, numerous other denominations are represented.

Births

Allman: Devon, born Feb. 9, to Mr. and Mrs. Marson Allman, Bridlewood congregation, Ont.

Bamhart: Craig William, born Feb. 27, to Mr. and Mrs. William Bamhart, Paramount congregation, Md.

Ebersole: Glenn Eugene Jr., born March 15, to Pam and Glenn Ebersole, Hollowell congregation, Pa.

Harbrecht: Christina Lynne, born Feb. 16, to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harbrecht, Bridlewood congregation, Ont.

Helmer: Brett Ashley, born March 30, to Bradley and Donna (Knepper) Helmer, New Guilford congregation, Pa.

Hunt: Roberta (Robin) Alexandra, born March 14, to Robert and Mae Hunt, Rosebank congregation, Ont.

Kaiser: Michelle Lee, born March 31, to Ronald and Darlene Kaiser, New Guilford congregation, Pa.

Weddings

Betts-Ryan: Kathleen Theresa, daughter of Mrs. Ciare Ryan, Toronto, Ont., and Robert W., son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Betts, Islington, Ont., March 17, in the Bridlewood Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Leonard J. Chester officiating.

Corrall-Dobson: Janis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Dobson, and Mark, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Corrall, both of Kitchener, Ont., March 24, in the Rosebank Brethren in Christ Church with Rev. Ron Lofthouse officiating.

Hendershot-Slagenweit: Carol, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Slagenweit, and Earl, son of Kenneth and Stella Hendershot, April 14, in the Pleasant Ridge Church of the Brethren with father of the bride and Rev. Archie Graham officiating.

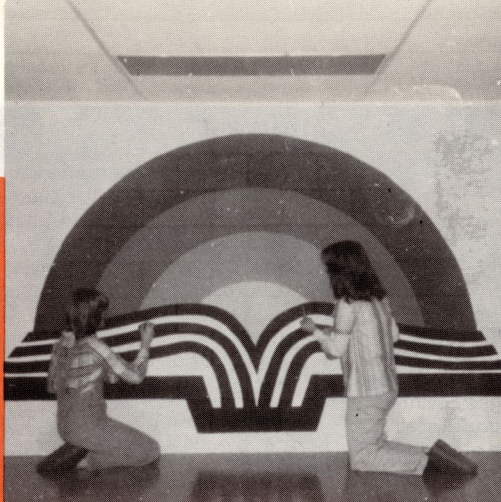
Obituaries

Landvater: Mrs. Catherine S. Landvater, Elizabethtown, Pa., born Jan. 6, 1897, died Apr. 1, 1979, in the Hershey Medical Center. She is survived by two sons: Riley A. Patrick and David W. Patrick Sr.; three daughters: Mrs. Dorothy I. Moyer, Mrs. Romaine E. Berkebile, and Mrs. Fern V. Shaffer; a sister, Mrs. Mary Custer; 15 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. The funeral service was held in the Bowser Funeral Home with Rev. Isaac Kanode officiating. Interment was in Shope's Mennonite Cemetery.

Long: Herman A. Long, born Feb. 5, 1936, died April 14, 1979, in the Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital. He was the son of Bruce M. and Emma Harpine Long. He is survived by his wife, Esther M. Rouse Long; three children: Chickie M., Lisa J., and Ray E.; two brothers; a sister; and a grandson. The funeral service was conducted in the Shenks Union Church by Rev. Isaac Kanode and Rev. John P. Ludwig, Jr. Interment was in the Shenks Cemetery.

Messersmith: Edgar Curtis (Curt) Messersmith, Shippensburg, Pa., died April 14, 1979, in Washington Co. Hospital, Hagerstown, Md., at the age of 34. He was the son of Edgar C. and Isabel M. Fultz Messersmith who survive. He is also survived by his wife, Mable L. Perkins Messersmith; a son, Kurt; a daughter, Michelle Lynn; maternal grandmother; a sister; a niece and four nephews. He was a member of the Mt. Rock Brethren in Christ Church. The funeral service was conducted in the James Scarpelli Funeral Home by Rev. Richard M. Morris and Rev. Avery Musser. Interment was in the Hill Crest Cemetery.

More
 With
 Step
 In



Mural Painting



Youth advisors Sam and Barb Yoder

Recycling a Parsonage Basement

Youth Week at Air Hill

James Sollenberger

Hectic, sometimes frustrating, yet rewarding, describes the efforts of the Air Hill Christ's Crusaders, February 10-18. Service was planned by the committee, to be the major emphasis for Youth Week this year; specifically, redecorating the parsonage basement, now called the Youth Center. Approval was granted by the church trustees, although concern was expressed about the quality of work that might be done. Fortunately, those fears were later dispelled. I will not attempt to summarize the activities of that busy week.

Saturday, Feb. 10—Clean-up day. Saturday morning was used for just that—at times. The basement was cleared and cleaned, cupboard doors removed, and curtains taken down. Painting was started.

In the evening, two vans and a car headed for Messiah College to see Messiah play basketball against Eastern Mennonite. We stopped for a delicious meal at that famous eating emporium—McDonald's! It proved to be an enjoyable evening.

The writer is a member of the Air Hill Christ's Crusaders. Mural painted on back of stage.

Sunday, Feb. 11—Although not particularly involving youth from the congregation, Sunday had a definite youth focus. The Pastor spoke on "Today's Youth." In the evening, a music ministry team from Messiah College, The Third Day, presented an inspirational program of song and testimony.

Monday, Feb. 12—Monday evening was scheduled as one of three work nights. The group was divided so the work area wouldn't be so congested. More painting was accomplished—including some on the floor which wasn't requested. Work started on new curtains. Painting was begun on a large "wallscape" behind the stage area. In the church kitchen, a group baked whoopie pies, beginning to get ready for an auction and bake sale, which will be described later.

Tuesday, Feb. 13—Bulletin boards, a picture, coat hooks and a clock were hung on the walls. Soft pretzels and candy were made for the sale.

Thursday, Feb. 15—The whole group was invited to help finish the project and to get ready for the auction. Curtains were hung and cupboard doors replaced. A large piece of carpet was laid in the central portion of the room. Items solicited from the congregation were arranged for the auction in the church annex.

Friday, Feb. 16—Open House and Auction night. This evening provided the congregation and visitors an opportunity to see the work that had been done, and also, a chance to financially support the youth group at the auction. Items to be sold ranged from handcrafts, furniture, and food to junk. A youth group member with his auctioneer's license donated his services to the cause. A snack-bar was

set up in the kitchen area of the Youth Center. Over \$400 was cleared in the effort.

Saturday, Feb. 17—In the evening a Youth Rally was planned with Bill Teate from the World Home Bible League. He presented the need for Christian literature in India, which is fast being closed to missionary work. This organization is attempting to fill a huge gap in this poverty stricken, largely Hindu nation; as well as give youth a practical way to become involved in missions. Having laid out a fund raising program, Bill challenged the Air Hill youth to raise \$3,000 for this project in a year. After prayer and discussion, the group decided to raise that goal to \$4,000. With God's help, it will be accomplished.

Sunday, Feb. 18—Sunday morning provided a chance for youth to experiment with new roles. Most were involved in some position of responsibility in the Sunday School including teaching, singing, and passing out bulletins. The Senior Sunday School was also staffed by youth.

The Youth Committee suffered much of the frustration as well reaped much of the satisfaction. They shouldered the responsibility of planning and coordinating the projects and programs. Many compliments were received and appreciated concerning the work done. The youth seemed to appreciate giving of themselves to a project of service. I'm sure the fruits will be enjoyed for a long time. I think the reward has been made visible, and I also feel a lesson can be learned from the experience. Young people really don't need or want all fun and games. A service project can be more lasting and more satisfying.

Carlisle BIC Promotes Summer Youth Ministry Program

Kenneth O. Hoke

In June, 1976, my wife and I observed a summer Youth ministry program (SYMP) at Faith Baptist Church, Brookhaven, Pa. Out of this contact came a number of ideas and the germination of a program within our congregation in Carlisle. The basic goal of this program is to give youth training and exposure in various ministry areas. We are now going into our third summer and youth seem to be excited about SYMP and what it can do in their lives.

The format of the program has three basic areas of emphasis. The first is several days of orientation and preparation for the weeks ahead. During this time the youth are led in preparing for teaching opportunities they will have in the next phase and are given limited exposure to other aspects of their summer experience.

The second phase consists of opportunities to be of ministry in the local community. Here the youth have helped in our congregational VBS program, have worked with our city parks program, and have led in backyard Bible studies in the neighborhoods of several congregational persons. Each of these experiences gives opportunity to be of service and to minister to others while still at home and in a daily report-back relationship with the leadership of the program.

The third phase consists of ministry at some point outside of our local community. Here there has been opportunity to cooperate with the denominational Summer Service Program and directly with church camps and institutions in the placement of young people for a week or several weeks of service. In each case the young people not only are able to give of themselves in service, but also receive valuable input and training into their own life.

Let me share the reflections of Bob Beachy, as an example of what the Lord has done.

During the two years I was involved in SYMP, I gained many invaluable experiences, and learned many lessons. My first year in SYMP, which saw me involved in playground supervision, backyard Bible studies, and camp counseling in New Yorik, taught me how to deal effectively with people. I was in a position where it was necessary to interact with my peers (other workers and counselors), adults (parents and directors), and children (campers and other participants.) In addition, I had my first real chance to put into action the witnessing techniques I had learned. It was during this first year while I was at camp that I led my first individual to Cesus Christ. Finally, the spiritual input and growth I experienced during this time of service was fantastic! The Lord was present in everuting I did, teaching me how to trust him at all itmes. The experience in witnessing, the improvement in my personal devotions, and a great knowledge of the Bible are some examples of the benefits I received from SUMP involvement.

In my second year in SYMP, my par-

ticipation was of a different sort. I served for six weeks at the Lifeline Mission in San Francisco in what proved to be a very eye-opening experience. For the first time in my life, I had the opportunity to actually live and work in a big city. I was involved with the operation of a mission which ministered to drug addicts and alcoholics. The people I met were very different from myself and were at times even scary, but gradually I became accustomed to it. As I look back on my time in San Francisco, I wouldn't exchange it for any other type of service. Instead of being isolated in a safe and sound community, I was able to see and experience many real problems in our world.

For all the Lord has done and will do through SYMP we thank Him and give Him the honor. We pray the Lord will continued to use this program as a means for growth in the lives of Christian young people the Lord entrusts to us at Carlisle.

Kenbrook 1979

Kenbrook Bible Camp announces its 1979 schedule of camping programs as follows:

June 17-23	Intermediate Boys (Ages 10-12)
June 24-30	Intermediate Girls (Ages 10-12)
July 1-7	Intermediate Co-ed (Ages 10-12)
July 8-14	Junior Boys (Ages 8, 9)
July 15-21	Junior Girls (Ages 8, 9)
July 22-28	Co-ed Teen Camp I (Ages 13-16)
July 29-Aug. 4	Co-ed Teen Camp II (Ages 13-16)

In addition to the resident camp programs listed above, two trip camps will be offered for high school youth (15 to 18).

June 17-23

Canoe Trip on the Delaware River. Joan Chamberlain and Vanne Breining, leaders.

June 24-30

Backpacking Trip on the Black Forest Trail. Ken Letner, trip leader.

A special Athletic Camp for high school boys will be offered August 4 to 11. The objective of this camp is to prepare fellows mentally,

All camp programs are \$59 per person for each week.

Kenbrook Bible Camp is the camping ministry of the Atlantic Regional Conference. Eugene Wingert is the manager and director of the camp and will be assisted in the resident camp programs by Jim Zook.

Three Loves

Dwight Paine
Lois Paine

1. Three loves our Sav-ior gave us, To live in, ev-ery day;
2. The first is: Love your Mak-er, Love Him with all you are.
3. The sec-ond: Love your neigh-bor, The neigh-bor God has made.
4. The new one: Love your broth-er, With- in the Christ-ian fold.
5. These loves are full of beau-ty; They make us like our Lord.

O Ho-ly Spir-it, save us From love-less-ness, we pray!
He makes you glad par-tak-er Of beau-ties near and far.
He's in your Fa-ther's im-age, And needs your friend-ly aid.
Our love for one an-oth-er Is glo-rious to be-hold.
Oh, ho-ly, hap-py du-ty, To live by Je-sus' word!

Three loves, three loves, To live in, ev-ery day.
Love Him, love Him; Love God with all you are.
Love him, love him: The neigh-bor God has made.
Sweet love, sweet love Is glo-rious to be-hold.
These loves, these loves, They make us like our Lord.

© 1979
written 1976

Grandparents and Deacons

Last Sunday morning three couples dedicated children during the worship service. It was a meaningful experience. In each case the child was the parents' first-born. The babies cooperated. The parents remembered their lines. The pastor conducted the ritual with dignity, grace, and warmth.

From my pew I observed the ceremony from three perspectives: as a parent, a grandparent, and a former pastor. By the time the ceremony had been concluded I had two ideas which, were I again serving as a pastor, I would try to incorporate into the ritual.

If possible, I would have the grandparents—paternal and/or maternal—join the parents in the act of dedication. This would be an effort to symbolize the need for family roots to be more than one generation deep. It would be a symbol of wider family support for the parents. This symbol would have special significance in a culture where the nuclear family has become the accepted model of family life.

Children never outgrow the demands of the Fifth Commandment. Even when they establish homes of their own their duty towards parents may change but never ceases. Nor are parents ever completely free of the responsibilities which parenthood brings. The concern is expressed differently as the children mature, marry, and leave home; but for responsible parents the concern never totally disappears.

This respect of children for parents and the concern for parents for children spanning two and three generations would be symbolized as the wider family unit joins in the dedication ritual.

Grandparents have a unique relationship to grandchildren. Often their wisdom is recognized and their counsel respected by the grandchildren when the wisdom and counsel of parents is downplayed and even ridiculed. It would be interesting to reflect on the reason that grandfathers' stories are more interesting and grandmothers' cookies more tasty. More important than stories and cookies is that unique relationship and influence which grandparents have with the grandchildren.

Fortunate is that child who has been born to wise and loving Christian parents. Doubly fortunate and twice blest is the child whose inheritance includes wise and loving Christian grandparents.

Now for my second idea. In cases where grandparents

are not residents in the community or are unavailable, I would suggest that a deacon couple stand with the parents during the ritual of dedication. For an increasing number of families the congregation becomes their extended family.

The youth of the congregation becomes the dominant peer group for the children and youth of the congregational families. Adults become models for youth and other adults. The congregation assists in determining standards of conduct and patterns of behavior. All of these have been in the past and in some cases continue to be unconscious functions of a closely knit, extended family with peer expectations as powerful influences in obtaining conformity.

It is difficult for a nuclear family unit—parents and children—to hold to patterns of conduct and life style and values significantly different from the accepted norms of a community unless there is a meaningful support group with similar values. This is where the congregation comes to the support of the family. It provides a community of support in determining and understanding what it means to live Christian in an evil world and provides support in living this out in daily life.

It is not unreasonable to assume that youth in a congregation may accept counsel from a respected member of that congregation when the parents, for some reason, have been unable to communicate.

The ritual, with the deacons present, says to the parents, "You are not alone in this awesome responsibility." The ritual says to the congregation, "This child is now a member of our congregational family." This means that in the uncertainties of our human existence and the reality of distance the child is never without the care and resources of a family—the congregation.

The support of the widows and the orphans was a classic New Testament expression of love and faith. Although we have higher hopes for those who bring their children to the altar of the church for dedication, it is predicted that one-half of children born in 1978 will spend part of their childhood and youth living with only one of their natural parents. Such projection adds a new dimension to the congregation's ministry to the orphaned and, indeed, to the widowed.

I do not find many favorable indicators for the future of the home and family in our Western culture. The contrast between the Christian home and marriage and society's family patterns will increase. I predict that one of the marks of the church of the future will be the quality of its homes and the biblical attitude towards marriage, which call us to do all we can to strengthen the home and support the parents. Z

Facing page: The hymn printed on the facing page is the winning hymn in the 1978 Hymn Writing Contest sponsored by the Commission on Music and Worship. The Paines are members of the Grahtham congregation.

Three Loves

C O WITTLINGER 1-8-81
MESSIAH COLLEGE
GRANTHAM PA 17027

Deight Paine
Luis Paine

Grandparents and Descendants

Rice Is Nice

Donna L. Zook

Rice is nice
garnished with broths,
deliciously flavored vegetables.

But on our plates was rice,
only rice,
not so nice.

We held in our hands
one slice of bread.

Bread is nice
with plenty of butter and jelly,
but dry bread, that's not so nice.

One more thing we had,
a glass of water.

We were very hungry,
at least we thought we were,
on second thought—
perhaps we've never really
experienced hunger.

It was a special Meal—a Sacred Meal—
not the usual table-laden
stomach-stuffer.

We were served what would likely be
the daily portion of one
living on starvation ration,
whose sunken eyes and protruding ribs
speak of desperate hunger,
whose hands eagerly reach for
the rice offered to him,
nice rice, extremely nice.

We left the table,
feeling not so nice.
But then, why should we feel nice
when so many fellow humans in our world
have never had enough
to satisfy their hunger?

“Thank you, Lord, for this reminder,
and help us to do what we can
to relieve their suffering.
And thanks, too, for the rice.”
Rice is nice!

*The writer is a member of the Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ
congregation near Mifflintown, Pennsylvania.*

