
The Ohio Independent Baptist

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The OIB

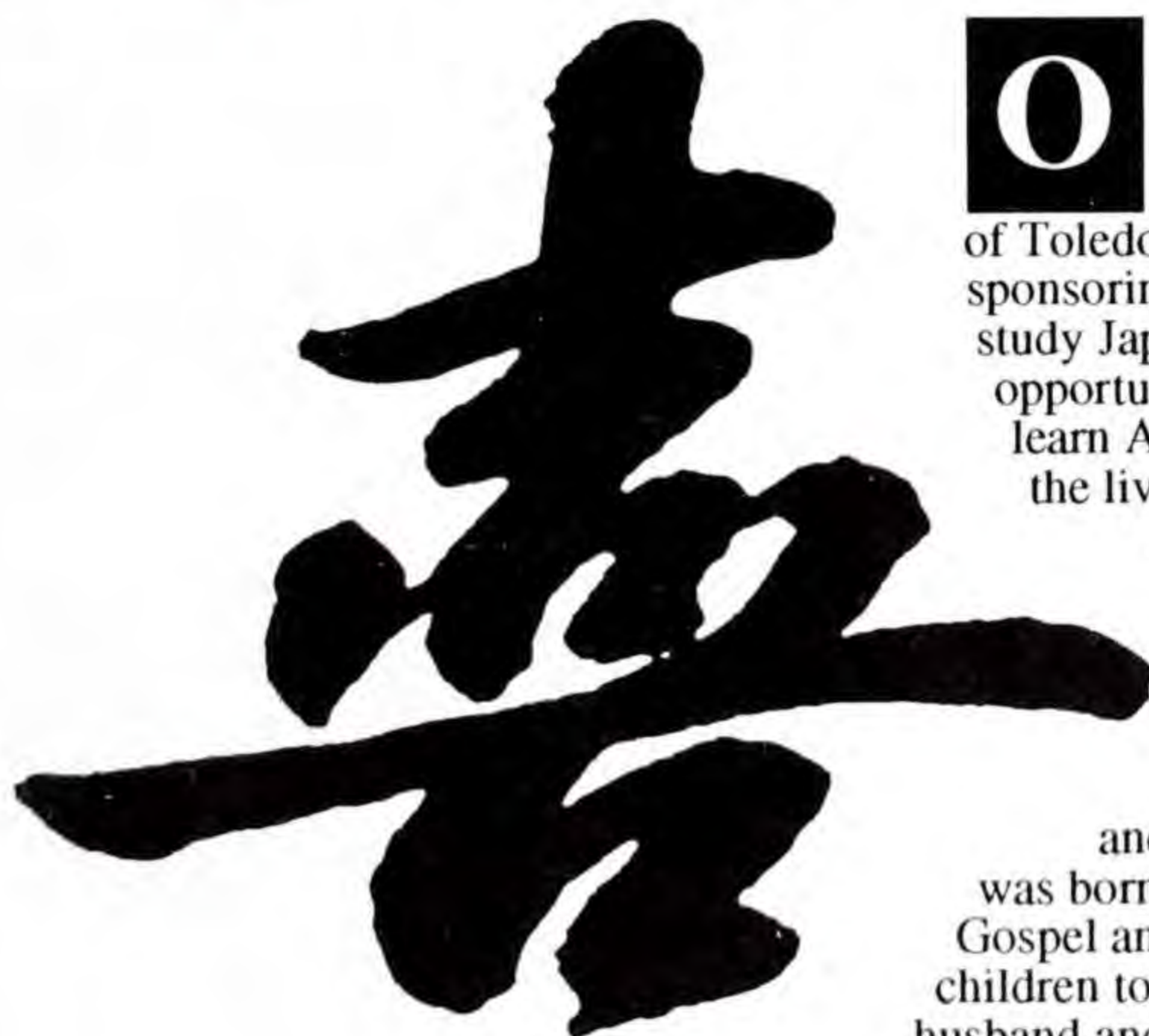
The Ohio Independent Baptist

The Newsletter of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Vol. 65 No. 3

April 1992

Reaching Chinese Students Requires Team Effort



One. Just one young Chinese student who agreed to attend an Emmanuel Baptist Church of Toledo home Bible study with her sponsoring family. At that Bible study Japing found more than opportunities to practice English and learn American customs; she found the living Christ as her Savior. Japing's salvation prompted other members of Emmanuel to reach out to their Chinese contacts at the University of Toledo, and an all-Chinese Bible study was born. A Chinese man heard the Gospel and wanted his wife and children to hear; a woman wanted her husband and children to believe. Soon the study outgrew the university students'

apartments, and in August of last year moved to the home of Robert and Peggy Latham.

The Lathams say there are thousands of Chinese students like Japing studying in American universities, and many seek friendship and opportunities for exposure to customs of their host country. The Lathams regard the Chinese ministry as a team effort. Their co-workers, Pat and Lori Ryan, keep in contact with the students during the week, and pick them up for Bible study. Several times they've even gone to court with a Chinese student involved in an accident. Most students arrive with little to set up their apartments, so one team member spends time shopping for bargains in furniture and household goods. At their monthly social nights, college students from the church show up to play volleyball and interact with Chinese students on a one-on-one basis. Two women disciple student wives who speak little English.

In like manner the Cleveland Chinese Evangelical Church, sponsored by Cedar Hill Baptist in Cleveland, reaches out to touch the lives of Chinese university students. Originated and directed by Dr. Peter Tang and his wife, Mei-Mei, the ministry goes beyond a weekly Bible study attended by 40-50 Chinese to language instruction in Mandarin and English, pot-luck suppers, recreational events, and classes for children and youth. According to Dr. Tang, a pathologist at St. Luke's hospital in Cleveland, special speakers such as mainland China pastors bring as many as 250 to hear the Gospel. In November of last year the group began Sunday worship services in the Cedar Hill fellowship hall, with services in Mandarin and English.

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The Lathams offer some advice for those interested in cross-cultural ministry.

- ☐ Establish a friendship. Be concerned enough to spend time with them. Invite them into your home.
- ☐ Ask them to come to a Bible study where English is spoken slowly. Latham recommends the use of Child Evangelism flannelgraph to teach the Gospel. He has seen PhDs on the edge of their chairs, straining to see what picture was being placed on the flannelboard.
- ☐ Find a team worker who will phone prospects and pick them up for Bible study.
- ☐ Present the Scriptures in a loving way. Be willing to let the love of Christ radiate through your life.
- ☐ Be ready to have more Chinese tea and "goodies" next week, because more will come.



Hats Off to Grace Community Church, Washington Court House. The new church, under the direction of Dr. Robert Gromacki, recently had a record attendance of 118 in their morning service.

Mark the date:
National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 7, 1992
Of all people, surely God's people should be faithful in prayer for our country.

Having an Impact on Ohio



Larry Fetzer
State Representative

Right now it is possible for our Ohio people to have the opportunity to participate in world missions without even getting a passport.

Many of our churches support missionaries under the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE). Because of soaring housing costs in and around Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where the mission office is located, ABWE has found it necessary to relocate in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The mission has purchased a beautiful property which will require some major construction in order to accommodate the needs of the growing mission family.

ABWE has added Pastor Ralph Gruenberg, from Rochester, New York, to their staff to superintend the construction project. Before entering the pastorate, Gruenberg had vast experience in the construction industry. The mission is asking for people from all across our fellowship who have skill in the trades, or could be general laborers, or cooks, to consider giving a period of time to help in this project. Work will begin soon and continue for several months.

Perhaps you could give a week or a month to this project to benefit the Lord's work and save the Lord's money for the work overseas. What a blessing this would be, to you, your church, and the work of the Lord.

For information, call Pastor Gruenberg at 717-774-0544.

Larry Fetzer

Ouch, It Hurts!

The only money available to pay claims is the money that we ourselves contribute in the form of premiums.

Pain, injury, sickness, surgery, hospital bills; ouch, it hurts.

Perhaps the most difficult, painful issue facing our association has been the recent problems involving our hospitalization program.

Our Ohio hospitalization plan grew out of a common concern on the part of some of our pastors 28 years ago. Pastor Harold Green took the leadership to open a group coverage policy which included about 17 churches.

Because of very high, out-of-control costs with Blue Cross, and upon the advice of expert consultants, the Council of Twelve voted five years ago to change over to a self-insured plan, and to contract with Employee Benefit Management Corporation of Columbus to handle the day-by-day administration of the plan. Thus the churches of the association became both the owners and the beneficiaries of the plan. The plan today serves not only pastors, but other workers in our churches, including school teachers and staff people. The Council of Twelve appoints a trustee board of three men to oversee the plan.

There are three factors at work that have contributed to our present crisis.

1. Radically increasing costs of medical care, far beyond what had been anticipated.
2. A large number of extremely high claims for major illness within our group.
3. The assumption on the part of our insured that we were part of a large insurance company that had unlimited funds to meet all our claims.

As a matter of fact, as a self-insured plan, the only money available to pay claims is the money that we ourselves contribute in the form of premiums. If claims exceed income, we run out of money. These factors combined to put us into a position of risk.

Your Council of Twelve, along with the plan trustees, have met frequently in the last few months, spending many hours trying to stabilize the program. EBMC

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has cooperated with us in working out new management procedures to ensure the health of the plan. It has been decided to establish an advisory panel of Regular Baptist men to provide expertise in the oversight of the plan.

Good progress has been made in the last four months in paying up back claims.

Crucial to the continuance of the plan at this point is maintaining a sufficient number of policy holders. If too many elect to leave the plan, it will put further pressure on the plan's ability to pay off claims.

The Council of Twelve will continue to keep you informed as to the progress in this facet of our ministry.



Congratulations to Faith Baptist and Pastor Floyd Stanfill for graduation to self-supporting status after 10 years of missionary status. The church was a daughter church of Lakeside Baptist in Dundee, with help from many other churches in mid-Ohio. The first two months of 1992 showed strong growth as an independent church.



Emmanuel Baptist, Columbus, will host the 1992 OARBC Conference October 26-28. Please note change of date from last year.

Fold, Count, Stamp, Sort, Package, Tape and Zone—These Young at Heart'ers Do It All.



With each issue of the OIB, 10,000 copies are processed by this capable crew, part of the Young at Heart group of the Washington Heights Baptist Church in Dayton. These volunteers have a big job, with 230 churches receiving anywhere from 5 to 200 copies, and an individual mailing list of over 200 addresses. OIB packages are sent bound printed matter, first and third class, and bulk rate, as well

as air mailed to missionaries around the world. The papers now go from printer's cartons to the post office in about four hours—that's the record; and it's a far cry from the three days it took to do the job without their help. We can't say it often enough—**Thank you, Young at Heart!**

40 Churches Needed

At the OARBC Annual Conference in Toledo, October 22, 1991, a motion to establish the position of new church developer passed with overwhelming support. The budget need is \$40,000 to cover salary and work expenses. Since then, the Council of Twelve has been contacting churches and pastors, encouraging them to get behind this project with their support. So far we are pleased to report that nine churches have taken on the support of the new church developer. The combined total of that support is \$660 per month, or 40% of the \$20,000 commitment needed before a man can be called. Other churches are in the process of considering the matter. We need 40 churches committed to giving \$85 per month support.

What can you do to help?

Submitted by Pastor Joel Harriman
Church Planting Chairman

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PO Box 293058
Kettering, OH 45429



OWMU Project News

Over \$4,000 as of February 20.

Two churches (First Baptist, Brunswick and First Baptist, Wellington) have requested 50 quarter savers each for their AWANA clubbers. That's \$500 worth of quarters for Skyview Ranch!

Mail offering to Elaine Veenhuis, Rt #2, Box 341, Dundee, OH 44624

• • • • •
• Camp Patmos asks you to note that the
• summer schedule dates listed in their
• brochure are incorrect. All of the
• camping weeks begin on Monday, not
• Sunday, as listed.
• • • • •

Across the State



Pastor Don
and Vivian
Ploesser

Rio Grande

On November 24, Don Ploesser began his ministry as pastor at **Trinity Baptist**. For nine and one-half years previously he pastored the First Baptist

Church of Seymour, Iowa. In the past he has pastored churches in Nebraska, Kansas and Ohio. Don is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Don and his wife, Vivian, have two children and four grandsons.

Ashland

Calvary Baptist has begun a unique eight-week study called, "The Family God Wants Us to Be: Your Prescription for Healthier Church Relationships." The Adventure, sponsored by The

Chapel of the Air radio broadcast, explores ways to enrich relationships in the body of Christ. Participants in the 50-day study, which is open to children and teens as well as adults, receive a journal which provides instructions and a place to complete brief assignments.

Painesville

Calvary Baptist Fellowship has been making an impact in the Painesville area with a wide variety of outreach ministries. Many of their members are involved in such programs as a ministry for

troubled teenage boys, a Campus Bible Fellowship outreach to students at nearby Lake Erie College, AWANA, jail services, and several co-dependency groups such as Right Step, for people struggling with alcohol or drug abuse. Mom's Morning Out is a free weekly child care service for young mothers that begins with a brief Bible study. The church reports that many mothers have been saved through this program. Ronald Globig notes that, "these ministries are all reinforced by a caring, praying church that is seeing fruit through its labors."



Missionary
Dottie Esque

Gallipolis

Pastor Jim Lusher writes that the people at **Faith Baptist** have a special place in their hearts for their newest missionary.

Dottie Esque, who was commissioned by Faith Baptist last December, has been a member of Faith since 1971, and served as church organist for nearly all of that time. She was also active in the teaching and special music ministries. Though Dottie's intent, at the time of her commissioning, was to serve in Haiti, political turmoil in that country caused her to explore other opportunities, and the Lord opened the door for her to serve under ABWE in Togo, where she has been since February.



Pastor Don and
Michelle Harward

Valley City

First Baptist has called Don Harward as its new pastor. He attended Hyles-Anderson College and Liberty University, and is a graduate of Liberty Home Bible Institute. His wife, Michelle, is a graduate of West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Don and Michelle are expecting their first child in May.

Chardon

On Sunday, January 19, members of **Chardon Baptist** voted to proceed with a \$170,000 building campaign. The proposed new building will be a 40' x 76' educational wing which will provide the church with approximately 3,000 square feet of much needed space. Ground breaking for this facility will begin when \$25,000 in funds is in hand, of which \$10,000 has already been received. Church members and friends will provide the skill and muscle power necessary to construct the building.

The church presently operates the Sunday school, nursery and administrative ministries with less than 500 square feet of space.

Columbus

April is the 30th anniversary month for **Pine Hills Baptist**. For half of those years the church has been served by Pastor Loren

Schenck. Special events for the month include The Joyful Sounds ensemble and hand bell musicians of Maranatha Christian School and an anniversary dinner with Pine Hills founder George Myers.

Willoughby Hills

Nottingham Baptist has called William Harris as associate pastor of visitation. Harris, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, pastored churches for 39 years.

He and his wife, Glee, began their ministry at Nottingham on January 1. Scott Renstrom is senior pastor at Nottingham.

Dayton

Emmanuel Baptist has committed itself to a \$186,000 renovation project. The plan is to turn the church's original auditorium into a multi-purpose room.

The renovation will also include the addition of an elevator and a food service room. Pastor Drew Baker says the renovation will enable the church to provide a monthly luncheon for senior adults, minister to Dayton's college community, and extend its basketball evangelism ministry.

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**OIB news deadline
for May-June issue:
April 10**



Left to right, Pastor Brown, Debbie and Bill Tobias

Minford

Pastor Jim Brown of **Grace Baptist** reports, "Our church had the privilege of having the Tobiases, who serve with ABWE in Papua New Guinea, reside in our community while on furlough. One area of ministry Brother Tobias is very concerned with is the Goroka Baptist Bible College. Since our church was aware of this burden, we decided to initiate a special program to raise \$10,000 over our regular missionary support to meet this need.

We accomplished this goal, and before the Tobiases returned to the field we had a special ceremony to commemorate the event."



Pastor Ron and Patty Sanderson

Struthers

Pastor Ron Sanderson, **Struthers Baptist Tabernacle**, was united in Christian marriage to Miss Patty Chugden on Saturday, February 15, before what was described as a "packed-out house." After a honeymoon in Florida they have taken up residence in the Struthers parsonage. An additional note: the couple forgot to light the unity candles. After the recessional, when they noticed the omission, the couple turned around and came back down the aisle to duly complete the ceremony, to the great delight of the crowd.

Cedarville College News

Former Cedarville College tennis player Mark Murdoch was one of six athletes nationwide to be named a Woody Hayes National Scholar-Athlete.

Murdoch, a presemenary Bible major at Cedarville, graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. He was the representative to the college family for Compassion International, an organization which helps feed the hungry. His efforts resulted in the student body supporting 16 children.

Murdoch is the son of Pastor and Mrs. Murray Murdoch, of Grace Baptist, Westerville. The senior Murdoch is also chairman of the Social Science and History Department at Cedarville.

The Cedarville College Spring Missionary Conference March 23-27 featured Dr. Wendell Kempton, president of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. The conference focused on ministry opportunities in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern Europe. Student awareness of the missionary effort in these areas was heightened during the Winter Enrichment Conference when over 250 students committed themselves to go to Russia unless God directs them otherwise.

Five teams of engineering students are competing in national collegiate design competitions this year. One team placed second behind Carnegie-Mellon University in a radio-controlled toy truck design competition in November. The teams will enter a robot walking machine competition this month.

For the third consecutive year, the Cedarville College forensics team won the Ohio forensics (speech competition) title. Team members took first place in nine categories. Cedarville's debate team also won the state title, placing first in the team competition and producing the state novice champion.

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Women's Page



Dear Ladies,

Yesterday morning I asked the Lord to give me some new, fresh thoughts about the OWMU spring meeting that I could convey to you through the OIB. Around four o'clock in the afternoon Karen Roloff called and said, "I felt I should call and let you know that the Lord is leading me to speak about 'friends' at the spring meeting." We chatted for awhile, and the more she told me, the more excited I got. God had not only answered my prayer, but He'd tied the whole meeting together with this theme that He brought to mind—"Forever Friends and Friendships."

So, ladies, get a group of your church friends together, come to Lakeview Baptist Church in Dundee on April 21, enjoy a day of fellowship with other friends around the state, and learn about the needs of other forever friends around the world.

In His Love,
Sue Miller

P.S. When you come, bring your filled quarter savers!

OWMU Spring Meeting

Date: April 21, 1992

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Lakeview Baptist Church
R. 2, Box 341
Dundee, OH 44624
216-756-2502

Morning Session:

Closing out the 1991-92 OWMU project
Speaker: Karen Roloff

Karen is very familiar with our 1991-92 project since her husband, Bill, is executive director of Skyview Ranch. She will share from her heart the needs, burdens and blessings of Skyview Ranch and what the women of Ohio can do to make the 1992 summer camping program the most profitable ever.

Lunch will be taken in area restaurants
Nursery provided during sessions but not during lunch

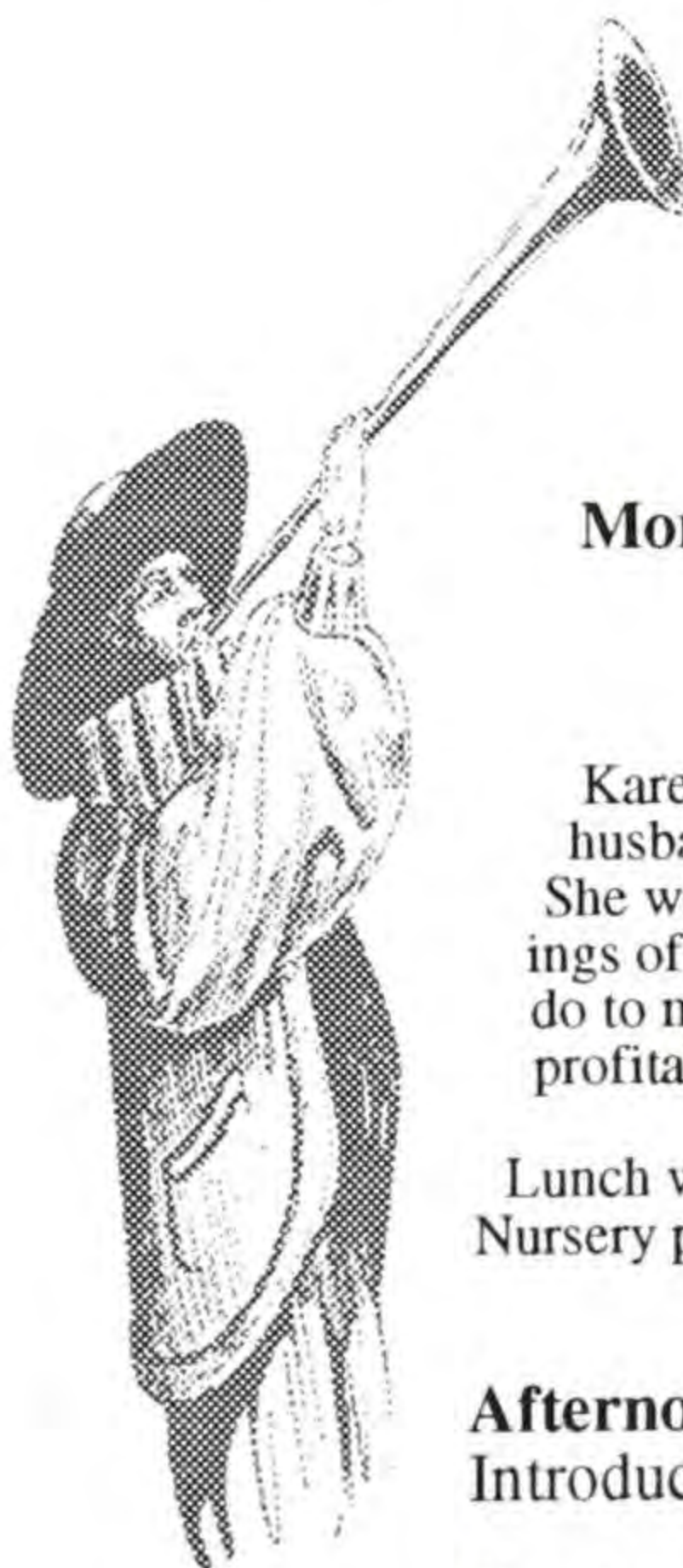
Afternoon Session:

Introduction of new 1992-93 OWMU project

Election of officers: Each church is to appoint
3 voting messengers

Special Attraction: Come a day early or stay a day after and enjoy the sights, crafts and foods of Amish country.
Accommodation listings were included in the OWMU mailing information sent to each church in March, and in SPAN.

Plan now to attend this great time of fellowship.



Keeping Up With Our Camps

Camp Patmos

We are eagerly looking forward to the coming camp season. Many improvements have been made over the winter and we plan to make several more before this season begins. The trustees are planning four work weekends in May. Should your church group be interested in helping, contact Dick Johnson, 2490 Benton Street, Akron, OH 44312 or call 216-794-8930.

If you haven't received registration forms or you need additional copies, contact Pastor Brad Quick at 216-458-5128 or registrar Pastor Todd Townsend at 216-365-7394.

Please pray for the camp and its outreach this summer. Pray for the hiring of staff, for the needed manpower to get the camp operational and to make needed repairs, and for the trustees as they seek to follow the Lord's direction.

The trustees have voted to establish a development fund to make some necessary capital improvements. The greatest need is to install a sewage treatment plant. A professional consulting firm informed us that the cost of this plant is \$176,000. Should your church, or you as an individual, be willing to contribute to this necessity, please designate your gift to the "Camp Patmos Development Fund" and send it to Dean Henry, 777 Rex Lake Road, Akron, OH 44319.

If you would like to know more about the details of this matter please feel free to contact any of the trustees.

Camp Patmos Trustees

Robert Barrett
Faith Baptist Church
Box 308
Amherst, OH 44001

David Chapman (vice chairman)
Fostoria Baptist Church
Box 1005
Fostoria, OH 44830

David Hime
916 Strowbridge
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Akron, OH 44312

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Dean Henry (accountant)
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Akron, OH 44319

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Rt 2 Box 227
Dundee, OH 44624

Scioto Hills



Scioto Hills' "miracle sawmill"

On a certain Friday several months ago, the owner of a sawmill gave us his price for selling. As we left this man's home, we told him that God would have to provide this money in a miraculous way. Driving home, we prayed that God would provide one-half of the purchase price of the mill before the camp board meeting, which was in one month. Two days later God used someone to give a gift of over \$2,000. Other gifts were provided and the day before the board meeting God had provided the remaining \$500, the amount of one-half the price of the mill, through the sale of an old trailer. That was a miracle in itself, as the trailer was in such poor shape we thought we would have to pay someone to move it. This mill is housed under a 36' x 60' pole building, and will enable us to cut timber from our own land to use on other new projects. Next we are planning to cut lumber for a new A-frame for this summer.

Junior High camp changes pace this year as we run for the OUTBACK! Our goal is to meet the unique needs of this age group. An all new program and adventure await them.

Junior campers will be excited to hear that an all new trail awaits. They will experience camping out, large group activities and enormous outdoor fun as we study Philippians and the joy we experience through Christ in our everyday lives.

R&R is our focus during 1992 Family Camp. Take off your battle gear and get geared up for some rest and reflection. Rest in knowing that God is in total control of our lives and families, and reflect on how great God has been to each of us. Enjoy the comforts that our new facilities have to offer and a family vacation investment you'll not regret. Come on down for some rest and relaxation at Scioto Hills Baptist Camp and Retreat Center.

Shawnee Hills Baptist Launches Successful Community Service

by Sandi Harner

On September 15, 1991, Shawnee Hills Baptist Church of Jamestown launched a new Community Service, designed to meet the diverse needs of the community it serves. Primarily conceived as an outreach to the unsaved, this 8:15 a.m. service offers a non-traditional environment for worship.

Early arrivers find coffee, tea, and donuts available from 7:50 until 8:15. Enthusiastic husband and wife teams serve as greeters who welcome attenders at the door. A praise team, consisting of three singers, two guitarists, and a keyboard player begin the service with lively choruses. Drama is used in every service to focus the attention of the worshipers on the theme for the day. These skits, reader's theater, or interpretative monologues are used as introductions, conclusions, or an integral part of the pastor's message.

Statistics demonstrate the effectiveness of the new service. The average attendance from September 15 to December 1, 1990, was 191; the average attendance for the same period of time in 1991 is 223, an increase of 17 per cent.

Pastor Dennis Henderson attributes much of the success to planning and evaluation. The worship team, consisting of the pastor and assistant pastor, the music leaders for both the community service and the traditional service, the greeter leader, the sound director, the drama director, and the keyboard player, meets every Wednesday evening to plan and evaluate. Each member of the team carefully evaluates the following aspects of the past week's service: perceived audience response, song selection, music and song performance, drama, sound control, lighting, prayer, message, greeters and ushers. They comment on positive features, improvements to suggest, and rate the service with a numerical score. Finally, they coordinate practice times for the next week. Then the team fills out a worksheet for both the community service and the traditional, reporting on the music and drama which have been carefully planned to focus on the theme of that week's service.

It is obvious that people at SHBC have made a major commitment to excellence in the worship experience. It is equally obvious, as indicated by growing attendance, that many people seek this non-traditional format for worship.

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You expect a lot from us. And as your brothers and sisters in Christ, we honor Him by serving you. We pledge to you that we will help you grow...and we'll have fun growing together!

We're affordable, too. Cedarville's costs are well below those of most accredited, independent colleges. And most Ohioans are eligible to receive an Ohio Choice Grant to attend Cedarville.

Your choice of a college will be one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Come see what Cedarville College offers.

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- Accredited Baptist college of arts, sciences, and professional programs
- Worldwide Christian ministries
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