

# Congregational Profiles

Articles from the *Congregationalist*, 1958-1997

Readings in the History and Polity of the National  
Association of Congregational Christian Churches

Readings in the History and Polity of the National Association of  
Congregational Christian Churches

## Congregational Profiles

Articles from the *Congregationalist*, 1958-1997

Rev. Dr. Arlin T. Larson, editor

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

## FOUNDERS

- Executive Committee Chairmen.* Louis Gerhardt , "The Executive Committee and its Chairmen" 74-6  
*Executive Secretaries.* Cary Mead , "Our First Magnificent Five" 74-06  
*John Alexander, first Executive Secretary.* Karen Hoffman, "Dad & His Church: A Portrait of Dedication" 82-6  
*Malcolm Burton, founder.* John Alexander, "A Prince Has Fallen" 84-6  
*Harry R. Butman.* "The Gospel We Preach" 58 - 2 (the first issue of *The Congregationalist*)  
*John Claxton, founder of CFTS .* "A Memorial Service for Dr. John W. Claxton" 76-11  
*Howard Conn, minister in Minneapolis.* "The Personal Accent On Dedicated Service" 65-01  
*James Fifeld, minister in Los Angeles.* "The Personal Accent On Dedicated Service" 65-01  
*Henry David Gray, first editor of the Congregationalist.* Harry Butman "A Tribute: Henry David Gray" 66-10  
*Henry David Gray, minister.* John Alexander, "World Christian Statesman" 94-12  
*Cary Mead, lay stalwart.* Harry Butman , "Tribute to Cary Mead" 90-10  
*Arthur Rouner, Sr. .* Malcomb Burton, "A Memorial: Rev. Arthur Acy Rouner, Sr." 81-10  
*Philotheos Zikas, missionary.* Henry David Gray, "Tribute to the Reverend Philotheos Zikas" 90-10

## HISTORICAL FIGURES

- Famous Congregationalists, series.* Arvel Steece, Jan.,1961 through Aug.,1968  
*Henry Ward Beecher, preacher supreme.* Harry Butman, "Emporer of American Preachers" 87-4  
*William Brewster, Pilgrim leader.* Eleanor Miller, "William Brewster, Man With Ideas" 69-11  
*Antoinette Brown, first ordained woman.* W.T. Keefe, "Women in the Pastoral Ministry" 82-10  
*Winston & Jennie Churchill, English statespersons.* Sam Ellis "A Great Man\_\_an Extraordinary Mother" 74-3  
*Lloyd Douglas, author of "The Robe".* George Bohman, "Who Was Lloyd Douglas?" 85-8  
*Lloyd Douglas, author of "The Robe".* Gabe Campbell,. "The Secret Spiritual Teaching of Lloyd C. Douglas" 96-4  
*Timothy Dwight, Yale president.* Vincent Edwards, "The Chaplain Who Revised the Hymnal" 74-3  
*John Eliot, apostle to the Indians* Marjorie Neagle, "John Eliot's Indian Bible" 65-02  
*John Eliot, evangelist to Indians.* Anobel Armour, "John Eliot of Essex", 3 parts 69-1,2,3  
*John Eliot, evangelist to the Indians.* Stuart Garver, "Apostle to the American Indian" 70-04  
*Washington Gladden, leader of liberalism.* C. George Fry, "Washington Gladden: Congregationalist" 75-3  
*Sarah Hale, inventor of Thanksgiving.* Marie Wood, "Sarah Hale and the Thanksgiving Proclamatin" 79-Fall  
*Samuel Hidden, early New England pastor.* Harry Butman "The Legacy of Samuel Hidden" 70-02  
*Kaahumanu, queen of Hawaii.* W. Lee Roddy , "Hawaii's Most Amiazing Queen" 66-01  
*David Livingstone, missionary to Africa.* Betty Learmont , "David Livingstone, the Magnificent Failure" 69-02  
*Betsy Lyons, missionary to Hawaii.* W. Lee Roddy, "My Betsy" 65-04  
*Henry Obookiah, native missionary.* "From Hawaii to Connecticut" 69-3  
*Ray Palmer, hymn writer.* Blanche Richardson , "Ray Palmer, Hymn Writer" 68-05  
*Stephen Peet, circuit rider.* Julia McCleary, "From Whence We Grew" 90-6  
*John Robinson, Pilgrim pastor.* R. Tudur Jones , "Congregational Lecture: John Robinson" 85-10  
*Samuel Sewall, Psalm setter.* Albert Butler, "Samuel Sewall, Singer of Psalms" 79-06  
*Charles Sheldon, best selling author.* Harry Butman, "Following in His Steps" 84-6

*Martha Sheldon, missionary to Tibet.* Aldena Greer, "The Story of Martha Sheldon and Her Visit to Tibet" 70-04  
*Squanto, Indian friend of the Pilgrims.* Clinton Parker, "Squanto, the Man Sent by God" 77-11  
*Amos Alonzo Stagg, football great.* Duane Valentry, "Let Me Do My Best!" 68-10  
*Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin".* Peter Bagley, "The Little Lady Who Started the War" 85-8  
*Marcus Whitman frontier evangelist.* Lucille Goodyear, "Missionary Trailblazer" 78-01  
*Roger Williams, Puritan dissenter.* George Bohman, "Pioneer for Separation of Church and State and Man of Conflicts" 77-11

## CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS

*A. Ray Appelquist, NACCC Executive Secretary.* Erwin Britton, "Dr. A. Ray Appelquist: Irenic in Spirit" 85-8  
*Richard Bower, Moderator of the NACCC.* Helen Thuman, "A Man Called Richard" 83-4  
*Erwin Britton, Executive Secretary.* "Britt" 75-12  
*Carol DiBiasio-Snyder, clergy couple.* Mary Woolsey, "A Shared Ministry--A Shared Life" 83-10  
*Richard Ellison, engineer turned minister.* "From Engineer to Minister" 92-4  
*John Green, Maine pastor.* "One Man's Ministry" 66-04  
*Alfred Grey, interim minister.* "Rev. Alfred D. Grey, Interim Minister Extraordinaire" 65-01  
*Mary Lane, academician and minister.* Terence Johnson, "God Has Opened a Way for Me" 77-06  
*Elaine Marsh, minister of education.* Anita Buck, "Elaine Marsh: Traveling on in Her Ministry" 83-10  
*Betsey Mauro (Audette), seminarian.* "My Vocation Was Not Geology" 87-6  
*Harold Ockenga, pastor of Park Street Church.* "Presenting Harold John Ockenga" 66-11  
*Daphne Resch, seminarian.* Judy Herseman, "Daphne Faces Challenge of Parish Internship" 77-02  
*Karl Schimpf, young minister.* Walton Deming, "Profile of a Young Minister" 74-10  
*Gordon Taylor, minister to Indians.* "Prison is His Parish" 81-4  
*Orvin Titus, contractor & minister.* Judy McCleary, "The Tent Minister - 1975" 75-11  
*James Walter, college president.* "James E. Walter, 1906-1989" 89-8  
*Don Ward, minister.* "Our Man for All Seasons" 94-12  
*Edie Winter, seminarian.* "A Preacher in the Family" 82-12  
*Walter York, tentmaker minister.* Douglas Drown, "Down East 'Tentmaker'" 79-01

## LAY MEN and WOMEN

*William H. Ahrens Moderator, engineer.* Richard Kurrasch, "Special Churchman" 93-10  
*Donald Bentley, Moderator.* Elizabeth Bingham, "Math Professor Leads the NACCC" 94-12  
*Helen Joan Berkaw, NACCC stalwart.* Erwin Britton, "In Memoriam: Helen Joan Berkaw" 87-2  
*Josephine Swift Billings, hospital chairwoman.* Janet Elliott, "A Lifetime Commitment to Care of the Sick" 87-4  
*Majken Broby, missionary.* Walter Boring, "A Life-Long Servant of the Lord" 84-6  
*Dave Brubeck, contemporary composer.* Stuart Bullion, "The Light in the Wilderness" 76-02  
*Taylor Caldwell, author & moralist.* John Bennett, "Embrace of Life" 69-1  
*Jerold Cochrane, Exec. Committee Chair.* Robert Coates, "Combines Spirituality, Pragmatism with Humor" 96-10  
*Wayne Crockett, medical doctor.* John Drag, "Meet Dr. Wayne Crockett, a committed Congregational Christian layman" 73-11  
*Keith Deacon, banker.* Nancy Manser, "Meet Keith Deacon" 73-12  
*Helen Eastes, song writer.* "The Musician of Galesburg" 78-9  
*James England, comic.* Jerry England, "J.D. England, the Sit-down Comic" 89-4  
*Sherry Fast, hospital clown minister.* Lois Dick, "In Kansas There's a Rainbow" 84-2  
*George Gullen, business man and academician.* Erwin Britton, "A Man for All Seasons" 67-02  
*Walter Judd, Congressman.* "Dr. Walter H. Judd: World Renowned Congregationalist"

*Lynne Kalbfleisch, aspiring musician.* Roxy Rice , "I Know Where I'm Going" 78-09  
*Anne Kuester NACCC secretary* J. Fred Rennebohm "Call Anne" 92-6  
*Marion Luenberger, Los Angeles activist.* Don Ward, "Thank You, Crumley Cousins" 84-4  
*May McMillan, literacy advocate.* Jane Scanland, "One Woman Can Make a Difference" 76-10  
*Frances McGill, fighter.* Cyril Nute , "Rebel Against Death...Singer of Life" 78-1  
*Terry Meeuwsen, Miss America, 1972.* Michael Halcomb , "Miss America 1972" 88-4  
*Paul Miller, engineer.* Kathryn Calhoun, "Man on the Wing" 66-10  
*George Shangrow, young musician.* Don Duncan, "Music Makes His World God 'Round" 69-12

## INTRODUCTION

Of all the articles compiled for this course, those about people, these Profiles, caused the most anxiety. Who should be highlighted? For what reasons? How accurate a picture of the people of the NACCC do these particular profiles paint?

I do not pretend to have firm answers to any of these questions. It remains for qualified historians, sociologists, and others to conduct a thorough study of the NACCC, weighing the events and personalities from a more scientific perspective. These articles will, however, bring to your attention many people who have been highlighted in the pages of the *Congregationalist*. Whether there has been over the years any consistent basis of selection, I cannot say. Some of those profiled are leaders at the national level. Others are historical figures who someone (the editor him/herself?, an editor just glad to receive some material) thought worthy of notice. Many profiles are more on the order of human interest stories, exemplary instances, or “people in the news.”

What does it say about the NACCC that we honor, recognize, choose to lead us, listen to these particular people? There are certainly lessons to be gleaned by an observant reader. What conclusions do you draw?

**Congregational Profiles**

# Lay Men and Women

## *Profile—William H. Ahrens, Moderator, NACCC*

# Special Churchman

### *Promotes Congregational Way at All Levels*

Every church needs at least one and happy is the church with several ... goodwill ambassadors, that is, those special folk who make everyone, especially visitors, feel welcome and at home. For 39 years, Bill Ahrens has been one of the chief ambassadors among the Congregationalists of Royal Oak, Michigan, and as many of us know, he carries his enthusiasm for our Congregational Way and people in general to regional and national gatherings as well.

He was elected moderator of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches at the 1993 Annual Meeting and will have the primary responsibility for the 1994 Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa.

Having begun our relationship many years ago at Annual Meetings of the NACCC, I know first hand of Bill's warmth, and I have always been struck (even humbled) by the price he paid to attend our yearly gathering ... vacation time! We ministers are more or less expected to attend and frequently have the means to cover most or all of our expenses, but to give up one's vacation time and write his own check just to sit through discussions on the budget in frequently uncomfortable surroundings ... now there is devotion worthy of praise!

I have long honored Bill's wide-

ranging commitment to his church and our wider fellowship. At the national level, Bill has served on (and was chair of) the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies, the Nominating Committee, and the Executive Committee, and he has served both the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches and the Southeastern Michigan Association of Congregational Churches. He was the first Moderator of the Royal Oak Church and for his leadership on many fronts was named an Honorary Deacon.

An engineer by vocation, Bill recently retired from General Motors after 43 years. Now, when not at church, he can be found with camera (ask him sometime about mushrooms) or golf club or bat in hand (he is in his forty-sixth year of organized softball).

Equally delightful, enthusiastic, and committed is Bill's partner of 44 years, Lee. They have two sons and seven grandchildren.

Happy is the pastor, and now the National Association, with such ambassadors and fellow-pilgrims as Bill and Lee who warm the heart and make glad the day. ■

*Profile contributed by the Rev. Dr. Richard R. Kurrasch, senior minister, First Congregational Church of Royal Oak, Mich. who serves on the NACCC executive committee.*





## Profile—NACCC Executive Committee Chairman Prof. Donald L. Bentley

# Math Professor Leads NACCC

## Long History of Congregational Service

I first tangled with Don Bentley when he, as chair of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS), and I, as chair of the Division for Ministry, had to come to a compromise on a problem that seemed earthshaking at the time (I no longer remember what it was). In Harry Clark's (former NACCC Associate Executive Secretary) company we talked late into the night during meetings in Milwaukee, and somehow figured out how to make two independent groups agree.

After that we met often at NACCC Annual Meetings and at times in between. We sometimes sparred, sometimes agreed, but most often enjoyed our conversations. When I was elected to the Executive Committee at the 1992 meeting in Mansfield, I was pleased that Don and I would be serving together. This way, I thought, we could end up on the same side of the issue.

He sat next to me at my first Executive Committee meeting in October, 1992, as I prepared to preach a candidating sermon at his church! I agreed with him on almost everything, since he promised to call back home and tell people whether or not to vote for me.

That was the last time we agreed on everything. Not only was Don on the Executive Committee but he also was moderator-elect at Pilgrim Church, Pomona, Calif. Despite it all we guided each other through a

good year for Pilgrim, and I expect that Don as chairman will guide the Association through a very good year too.

His career as a professor at Pomona College has kept him alert to the needs and concerns of young people. Not satisfied to teach five days a week, his service at Pilgrim began in the Sunday School when he and his wife Penny taught second graders for a number of years. They then served as adult advisors to the PF program at Pilgrim, which was an important part of the life of their three children, Jill, Jim, and Janet, all of whom have pursued teaching careers of their own.

Although his hobby of genealogy emphasizes his family history, his Congregational history has deep roots too. He was raised at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles and there met Penny. They lived in Northern California while Don studied at Stanford, where he got his Ph.D., and then went to Colorado and North Carolina. They returned to Claremont, California, where Don has taught in the Math department of Pomona College since 1964. The family arrived at Pilgrim the same year.

Always active in the local church, Don became involved at the national level with the encouragement of the late Rev. Dr. Donald B. Ward when Dr. Ward served as interim at Pilgrim Church. His collegiate background and interest in young people made the Congregational Founda-



*Donald Bentley accepts the Executive Committee Chairman's gavel at the 1994 NACCC Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa.*

tion for Theological Studies (CFTS) a natural place for him. He served as a member and later chair of that division. He was elected to the Executive Committee in 1991, and has served on the Publications, Budget, and Personnel and Administration subcommittees. ■

—the Rev. Elizabeth E. Bingham  
Senior Minister, Pilgrim  
Congregational Church, Pomona,  
Calif.

A CFTS graduate and former minister of First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska, Elizabeth E. Bingham was called as senior minister, Pilgrim Congregational Church, in 1992, the same year she was elected to the NACCC Executive Committee.

In Memoriam  
HELEN JOAN  
BERKAW

by Dr. Erwin R. Britton

With the death of Helen Joan Berkaw on September 24, Congregationalism lost one of its most stalwart and articulate advocates. Helen Jo, as she was known by a host of friends, devoted a significant portion of her energies to the Congregational movement from the earliest days of the founding of the National Association to the present. Her contributions touched every level of church life.

With her husband, George, she was an active member of First Congregational Church of Detroit and held a variety of offices including that of moderator. She was involved in the Southeastern Michigan Association and the Michigan Conference.

Her involvement on the national level included the Women's Commission, Christian Education, the Executive Committee, and during the 25th Anniversary year (1979-80) she presided over the Association's affairs as Moderator. She published many articles reflecting her deep convictions concerning the Congregational Way and prepared a study guide for junior and senior high school students entitled "*We Would Be Free*." She traveled extensively in order to tell the Congregational story. No task was too humble to engage her fullest efforts. When asked to accept responsibilities at any level, her ready response was "Yes!"

She did not seek public recognition nor private approbation for her work. In 1980 at the Galesburg meeting, which she moderated, Olivet College bestowed upon her the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters.

Her convictions concerning the Congregational Way were carefully thought out and were an expression of her deep faith. In an article published many years ago in the *Detroit Free Press*, she wrote:



Helen Jo Berkaw

"In my church—since I chose a completely autonomous fellowship of which Christ alone is the head—I have an obligation to help make it a mirror for the teaching of Christ, a consecrated fellowship radiating friendship, compassion, and simple honesty. Three of God's gifts I must use to the utmost in the service of his church: The mind to reason, the conscience to be guided, the heart that I may be moved to love."

Devoted as she was to her church, her outlook and interests were never parochial. A graduate of Wayne State University, she was active in the alumni association as well as the Olivet College Women's Board. Other interests which involved her active participation, included the Silver Bay Association (YMCA), the English Speaking Union, the Women's City Club and several neighborhood and civic organizations.

Even though—as this brief account illustrates—she was significantly engaged in a wide variety of activities, her home and family commanded her primary loyalty. In the best sense of the phrase, she was a devoted homemaker. Surviving her, in addition to her husband George, are two daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, a sister and a brother.

A Memorial Service for her was held at First Church, Detroit, on Sunday afternoon, October 5. A large number of friends, in addition to her family, attended this service, nearly filling the spacious meeting house.

Her life makes it abundantly clear that she took seriously the Apostle Paul's directive to the Christians in Rome:

"Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the spirit, serve the Lord. (Rom. 12:11)



Josephine Swift Billings

## A lifetime commitment to care of the sick

by Janet M. Elliott

If planes had been flying over the City of Brooklyn, New York, in the early years of this century, the pilot might have thought from the peaked construction of the roof of a certain building that it housed a church. This edifice, the Brooklyn Thoracic Hospital for those afflicted with tuberculosis of the lungs, had been established by women from Plymouth Congregational Church in that city and they wanted even the structure to have a Christian character.

The hospital was opened in 1881. In later years Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims contributed an incalculable service to this hospital through the leadership of two of its members, Jessie Anderson Swift and her daughter Josephine Swift Billings.

The youngest daughter in a family of four children—two sisters, Dorothy and Harriet, and a brother, Warren—Josephine grew up in a warm family atmosphere in which the church to which they belonged, the Church of the Pilgrims, was the center of religious and social activity. It was in the beautiful sanctuary of the church on Brooklyn Heights that Josephine

Swift and George Billings were married, a marriage that has lasted a lifetime.

In 1934 the church to which the Swift and Billings families belonged decided to merge with Plymouth Church, made famous by the ministry of Henry Ward Beecher. The name also was joined and became Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims.

Josephine and her mother, Mrs. Swift, continued to be active in the affiliated congregation. When asked to fill important positions they were willing to accept responsibility. Mrs. Swift became the first woman to be elected to the Board of Deacons in the church at a time when women were first being asked to serve on church boards. Later, Josephine occupied the responsible position as chairman of the Church Executive Committee.

Service in the Home-Hospital for Jessie Anderson Swift had commenced before the merger of the two churches. Outstanding women from a number of churches were represented on the Board of Managers, which was composed mostly of women. In later years several men were elected to share their responsibility. In 1931 Mrs. Swift became the President of the Board. With the brilliant assistance of Dr. Luther Fiske Warren as head of the medical staff, the Home-Hospital

became an accredited hospital with the name "Brooklyn Thoracic Hospital."

It was under their leadership that young Jo Billings began to absorb her initial education in how to administer a hospital.

Of those days Jo says, "I was not only young, I was very shy, but all along the way, Mother encouraged me. She always made me feel I could cope with the next breathtaking position I was asked to assume."

And this slight, animated woman successfully filled a number of important hospital-related positions, until now at the end of a long corridor marked "Administration," an office bears the name, "Josephine Swift Billings, Chairman of the Board of Brooklyn-Caledonian Hospital."

Beginning with a small hospital that was throwing off its Victorian caste was probably the best way to absorb what was basic knowledge concerning hospitals. The insight gained at this time was exciting for it was in this period that amazing advances in medicine were taking place, including discoveries that were applied as curative measures for tuberculosis.

"I recall your mother telling me about lung inflation keeping the lung static and so, at rest, it could heal," I told Jo.

Janet M. Elliott is a free lance writer from Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Another wonderful cure for the lungs was streptomycin," Jo put in. "That came after the Second World War when the United States Government sent us men who had contracted T.B. during their enlistment. We had some city patients, too. It was a wonderful cure!"

"The Federal Government paid us fairly well but the city only paid the munificent sum of three dollars a day," Jo laughed. "It didn't somehow seem as hard to keep the bills paid then as it does now. An account was kept of every penny. I remember in my first years on the Board we had a treasurer named Mrs. Edwards who reported on the price of fish and butter, etc. at every meeting. All our work was voluntary, you know."

And as the time slipped by Josephine Billings was absorbing the intricacies of hospital management. In 1951 when Mrs. Swift felt it necessary to turn over the reins of the Presidency to another, Josephine was the natural choice to succeed her mother. With the enthusiastic support of board members and a professional staff, the Brooklyn Thoracic Hospital continued to progress in modern methods of administration and in methods of restoring health to patients under Josephine Billings' leadership and that of Dr. Warren who was succeeded by Dr. Richard Bennett as head of the medical staff in 1953.

During this period Jo found time to become a member of the United Hospital Fund. In 1955 she was made a vice president of that more than a century-old organization, the oldest of its kind in the country.

During her 50-year membership in the United Hospital Fund Jo became a member of a Visiting Committee, whose function in the words of its founder, Louisa Lee Schuyler, was to be an aid to the State, asking no money or power, except the right of entrance.

The aim of the Visiting Committees was to visit all the City Hospitals once a month.

"We always went in pairs but we traveled by subway mostly. We observed the housekeeping as to cleanliness, and supplies to see if

they had enough on hand. We reported broken windows. I remember once when we had to appeal several times before needed repairs were made."

The findings of the visitors were always reported to the administrator. A cooperative director who wanted to be helped would welcome the committee but sometimes an administrator would be inaccessible.

"At one Brooklyn Hospital the administrator always managed to be in a meeting when we arrived, but I had wonderful rapport with the head of Kings County Hospital, which was the Hospital I was assigned to visit. I visited King Hospital every month for 20 years," Jo said. "It was awfully hard on the feet—that was the way I got my jogging in—but I'm glad I did it. I hope we did some good."

Every year, in addition to this astonishing record, Josephine went from top to bottom of all departments in Kings County Hospital and wrote an annual report.

In spite of the vitality generated in the drive for funds for small urban hospitals during and after the Second World War, it became increasingly evident that the day of the small hospital was passing. One by one they joined their resources with hospitals with more bed capacity. Expensive equipment was out of the reach of the small hospital and doctors preferred a central hospital, eliminating travel from one hospital to another. In 1957 the Board of Managers of the Brooklyn Thoracic Hospital, Josephine Billings, president, decided that the time had come for their hospital to unite with one of the larger Brooklyn Hospitals.

"It was then we were wooed by most of the major voluntary hospitals in our borough," Jo said. "We had approval for 129 beds and we had an endowment of a million dollars.

"However did you get all that?" I asked.

"People had given us gifts over the years. Henry Ward Beecher was one of the early donors and it gradually built up. And then we had the proceeds from the sale of the Brooklyn Thoracic building."

Bidding ran high for this prize among the small hospitals, but when Brooklyn Hospital offered the Board of Managers of Thoracic Hospital a section of a floor to be designated by their name, the choice was made.

Josephine Billings was at once made a vice-president of Brooklyn Hospital. In addition to her duties to Brooklyn, Jo kept up her visits to Kings County. She also took an active part in the establishment of a desperately needed Community Blood Council. This organization held its first meetings in an apartment, but with the help of John Reed and other community-minded financiers they were able to purchase a building.

"After it was re-done the owner told us he wished he hadn't sold it, it was so beautiful," Jo said. "But it was a suitable place where discrimination could be used as to the acceptance of blood donors."

In 1970 John Madden, chairman of the Nominating Committee for the Brooklyn Hospital Board of Trustees, tried to persuade Josephine to take the position of president of that board.

"You're going to do it, aren't you?" her mother, Mrs. Swift, asked.

"My heart says, 'yes,' but my head says, 'no.'"

"Do what your heart tells you," Dr. Grant Adams, executive director of the United Hospital Fund and long-standing friend, advised Josephine.

So following the dictates of her heart, Josephine Billings became President of the Brooklyn Hospital, a hospital of 609 beds. All of her work has been voluntary.

"Granted a secretary and an office and the use of a car, I have never received any remuneration for my services," Jo reflects.

Like a fief traveling over his kingdom incognito, Jo sometimes goes on a little excursion in order to see how the hospital is functioning. On one trip, she came to a patient in a wheelchair and asked him if he would like her to push him back to his room. Noting that she wore civilian dress, the patient asked if she worked in the hospital.

—continued on page 14

**A Lifetime**—from page 11

"Yes," Jo said, "in administration."

"Well," the patient replied, "I have been in five hospitals lately, and this one is run the best of any of them."

"You have no idea how good that made me feel," Jo said, walking toward the entrance to the Pavilion that has recently been dedicated to her. Just inside the entrance is a citation:

**The Josephine Swift  
Billings Pavilion**

In honor of a lifetime commitment  
To the compassionate care  
of the sick

It was the inspired leadership of  
Mrs. Billings which helped prepare  
the Brooklyn Hospital  
for the Twenty-First Century  
November 8, 1984

In 1982 Brooklyn and Caledonian had merged and become Brooklyn-Caledonian Hospital.

About the present Jo says, "Administration had become increasingly difficult. We are asked such puzzling questions as 'does your hospital have something special to offer?'"

"In order to reply we inquired of the nine groups that make up the hospital," Jo wrote in her report. From Operations which is the lifeblood of the hospital, reporting a thousand patient meals served a day, 400 telephone calls an hour, through all the other groups, doctors, nurses, trustees, social service, community, education, administration to volunteers, who contributed 42,000 hours of volunteer service, came reports of past achievements—achievements born of hard experience. A belief in the future had been voiced.

"Proud and Confident" is the title of the report. "We are proud of our accomplishments and confident of our future," Josephine says.

"A great deal of the accomplishment of the hospital must be accredited to Josephine Swift Billings," says Arthur M. Cristy, a member of the Board of Trustees; "she serves by example." ■

# A Life-Long Servant of the Lord

By Dr. Walter A. Boring

*(Editor's note: On January 6, 1984, Majken Broby, along with a few close friends and associates, met Mayor Fernando Chieng Navarro in his office in La Lima, Honduras. There he presented her with a hand-written certificate making her an honorary citizen of La Lima. What follows is a brief resume of this remarkable missionary and, in her own words, a description of her latest project, reprinted from the booklet Foundation: Help to Children In Need edited by Ruben Moen.)*

Swedish by birth, American by naturalization, a nurse by profession, a missionary by calling, Majken Broby is a life-long servant of the Lord known on several continents as the lady who gets things done.

She began her career shortly after World War II when she joined forces with Pastor Christian Schreiber at Eckernfoerde, West Germany, where he had founded Mission-Kinderheim, a home for war orphans. Majken was instrumental in making the home's work and needs known throughout the world.

Eventually Mission-Kinderheim was to become a home for orphans from far and near. It is now a large self-supporting institution providing professional care for children with special needs.

An outgrowth of Mission-Kinderheim was a new work on Oasis Bou-Rbia in Morocco. While making arrangements there for taking orphans to Mission-Kinderheim, Pastor Schreiber, Miss Broby, and others became so involved with the needs of the people they began to give part of each year to help the people help themselves and to bring them the Gospel of Christ.

Many acres were brought under cultivation, wells were dug, homes were built, a clinic was established. The mission is now served by a missionary couple and a registered nurse.

*Dr. Walter A. Boring is an Assistant Executive Secretary for the N.A. As part of his responsibilities he works closely with the Missionary Society.*

Earthquakes and floods in Honduras drew Majken's attention in 1975. She, a co-worker, and her adopted daughter Christine, went to see what could be done to help suffering humanity in the name of Christian love.

The results of her work are witness to Majken's great vision in which she

sees God able to do anything she is willing to work for herself. One hundred and forty homes have been built, families moved in and presented with the deeds to the property. A whole new village exists with a sewage system and water wells, streets, trees, flowers, and children at play.

*Continued on page 14*



*Majken Broby displays the certificate presented to her by Mayor Fernando Chieng Navarro on behalf of the people of La Lima, Honduras, in appreciation of the work she has done there. The certificate honored her by making her an honorary citizen of La Lima.*

6/84

## Life-Long Servant—from page 13

A church has been built and given to the congregation. A large school has been built and given to the community. A sewing school is there, fully equipped, where girls learn how to make a respectable living for \$10, the tuition for a nine month course. Even materials are supplied. Majken pays the teachers even as she pays the salary of the pastor of Emmanuel Church.

There are two large commissaries where village children get a hot meal each day at no charge. Health care is provided at a clinic, built by Majken, given to the community. A medical doctor and nurse are there daily. Majken provides most of the medicines.

The money for all these projects comes from wherever Majken can tell her story. Much of the money comes from Sweden and from the National Association through the Missionary Society. Her work is completely integrated into our N.A. missions program.

I am serving on the board of directors for the new school on Roatan and in May of this year, I received Emmanuel Church as a National Association of Congregational Christian Churches associate member and assisted in the ordination of its minister.

### Help For Children In Need

By Majken Broby

From the little town of Coxen Hole we drive the dirt road which winds along the Caribbean seacoast. The many deep holes that the rugged road has, makes it impossible to drive

faster than 5 miles an hour without damaging the car, but to make sure that nobody is speeding, there is a sign "DRIVE SLOW SCHOOL." The many tiny bridges that we must pass over are made from simple wooden boards, sometimes broken . . . I recommend to keep the truck near the edge of the bridge (naturally there is no railing) as the bridges are not much wider than a truck.

We have arrived at Gravel Bay where our property is located. Our land reaches from the high hills down to the Caribbean seacoast which is surrounded by coral reefs.

An area about 300 feet long is staked out for the building site. The architect and builder, Bill Brady; the former governor for the Bay Islands, Glen Solomon; a board member of the organization Help for Children in Need, Johannes Alsbo and I met at 10:00 A.M. on January 10, 1984 to start this pioneer work.

The sun is baking but hardly any of us feel that we have over 100 degree heat because we are so taken up by this new project and a jubilant joy fills our hearts. Our dreams, our plans during the past years have now become reality. We stand here on the island Roatan, a small group of friends, and break the ground—the beginning of a new mission—a home shall be built where one day girls and boys will receive love, care and education.

I wish that each one of our friends who so faithfully have prayed and sacrificed for this mission in Honduras could have been with us at the ground breaking ceremony and could have experienced the overwhelming joy and gratitude that so many peo-

ple on this island show. Underprivileged children, children who spend their nights in the open will come to a home, the first such home on the Bay Islands.

*"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."*  
*1 Thess. 1:2-3.*

The home for children that we build is about 4700 square feet and includes, beside the rooms for children, also rooms for those who will care for the children, dining-living room, kitchen, storage rooms, laundry room, sanitary facilities. In order to have electricity we must buy a good generator.

We count on having the building ready by Christmas 1984 if funds will allow this. All material for the building must be shipped from the mainland of Honduras and some from the U.S.A. To furnish the building will take a longer time and I do not think we can have the home completed until some time in 1985.

During the ground breaking service we have also in prayer asked for the Lord's guidance in this great entire undertaking, for His blessing on each one who has a part in making this project possible and also that we will be able to reach and help those children who most need our help.

We start this new mission, the first home for underprivileged children on the Bay Island, in complete trust that God has sent us here and that He will guide us.

# The Light in the Wilderness

By *STUART BULLION*

Dave Brubeck dedicated his oratorio, "The Light in the Wilderness," to his children, "for theirs is the generation of them that seek Him."

The 54-year-old jazz pianist and composer has been a celebrated creative presence in American music since the end of the Second World War, and his musical apprenticeship began in early childhood. Today, were his flowing hair not grey

where it touches the collars of his flowered shirt and suede suit coat, it would be hard to guess his age as he chats and jokes or makes music with his three sons, all in their twenties.

Brubeck and his sons, Darius, Chris and Dan, who play electric piano, drums, trombone and electric bass, make up the new Brubeck quartet, "Two Generations of Brubeck." The group was in Minneapolis recently for a two-night stand. A Saturday evening performance at the newly completed Orchestra Hall

was a sell-out. Sunday, every pew in Central Lutheran Church was filled for a jazz worship service featuring the Brubeck combo, the Plymouth Congregational and Bethlehem Lutheran church choirs and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony performing major portions of "The Light in the Wilderness." The jazz service, conducted by Philip Brunelle, music director at Plymouth Congregational, was presented under the auspices of the Plymouth Music Series 1974-75.

Brubeck is a writer's dream: he interviews himself. As he discusses his oratorio, his philosophy of art and life, his perceptions of faith and humanity, Brubeck's aquiline features and thin, strong hands are as much a part of his expression as his crisp and eventimbered voice. They are constantly in motion, calmly punctuating smiles, frowns, easy laughter. Brubeck's communication over the breakfast table is as thoughtful and creative as at the keyboard.

He explains that his oratorio, which he has recorded with Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, began as a small piece inspired by the death of his 17-year-old nephew. "I wanted to write something that would relieve the terrible feeling in my family," he recalls.

That original piece, "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled," is now one passage among many in the two-part oratorio that takes up to 75 minutes to perform from end to end.

Brubeck started composing "The Light in the Wilderness" not as part of his performing repertoire, but for use in the Unitarian church he attends at home. His wife, Lola, helped him select Bible passages, primarily from the Apostles, and added original texts of her own. The work had its premiere performance in January, 1968, in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The work draws on several musical traditions as well as various books of the New Testament and the Psalms. It has the surging intensity of gospel, the solemnity of spirituals, the dignified pomp of





Handel and Bach and the captivating beat of rhythm and blues. But jazz is at its core, and Dave, Darius, Chris and Dan lace frequent improvisations through the oratorio's 18 sections.

Few great choral works have dealt with the Temptations of Christ. Brubeck's work follows Jesus from His baptism by John through "Forty days alone in the desert, / Days and nights of constant pray'r, / Seeking in the wailing wind an answer to despair..."

Returning from the wilderness, Jesus pronounced the Ser-

mon to be as practical as we can be and as Christian as we can be, but we haven't gone the whole round.

"So you just have to take one little sentence of the text of 'The Light in the Wilderness' and analyze it as to where you are in your thinking, where you are in your community. Where your church is . . . because most churches don't accept this. The average church is proud of the kids who went off to war — there's often a big plaque. So they really haven't analyzed what makes you a Christian.

"In the middle of the night, you might hear a soldier or a train man or a bum whistle something you know was inspired and had great feeling and there could be more in that than in 20 hours of so-called classical music."

Brubeck deplores the blind traditionalism of many churches in their reluctance to experiment with new forms of worship, especially those involving arts not usually associated with the liturgy. "I've been fighting that all my life," he declares.

Alternative forms of worship



mon on the Mount, in which He exhorted His followers, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you . . ."

In their musical form in "The Light in the Wilderness," these words of Jesus constitute "the most moving part of the piece," according to the composer.

To truly love one's enemies, Brubeck believes, is "the one big thing that makes you a Christian.

"This is a whole new concept. Just think if we as a Christian nation really believed 'love your enemies . . . ' We could never be in a war. We'd be putting people in jail because they went to war — just the opposite of what we're doing now.

"We're truly a great country, but we're truly not Christian. We

"This is the toughest thing in the world, to love your enemies and do good to those who hate you, yet it's the only thing that's going to keep humanity from destroying itself."

Brubeck is not concerned whether "The Light in the Wilderness" will be remembered along with such works as Handel's "Messiah." History will have to judge whether the work has "true inspiration," he says. Inspiration is what makes a musical work "meaningful," Brubeck believes.

One could fall asleep during a lecture or a sermon by a learned speaker, he says, "but you come outside and hear a bum on skid row say something that was more meaningful than anything you heard from the trained man. It's the same way in music.

involving popular music, dance and other arts that have been rejected by "traditional" churches, Brubeck says, were rejected by "people who hadn't read the Psalms of David." Brubeck cites frequent references in the Bible to the use of musicians and dancers in worship. "It's always the people who don't know tradition who do the most hollering and demanding," he smiles.

"There are different ways to praise the Lord. Most of them are connected with dancing, with the lyre and the drum and the flute."

For Dave Brubeck, the foot-tapping sounds of the jazz piano, the trombone and the electric guitar have just as much place before the altar as the "traditional" organ does.

# "EMBRACE OF LIFE"

## SPOTLIGHT ON TAYLOR CALDWELL

by John Lewis Barnett

*Taylor Caldwell may very well be the conscience of America and possibly the world.*

For many years the most beloved American author has been Taylor Caldwell. Taylor Caldwell has established herself as one of the most outstanding authors of our contemporary world. Anyone not familiar with the works of this great woman has missed so very much. Certainly, her adult themes go beyond the normal limits of quality. If the late Walt Disney could ring in the peoples ears as entirely wholesome for children then Taylor Caldwell can ring in the peoples ears as perfectly wholesome for adults.

The Taylor Caldwell technique is a genuine embrace of life in all its forms of gaiety, love, sordidness, perversion, cruelty, and so forth. She is able to completely delve into the secret recesses of the mind and create only the most realistic of characters. Nothing about her characters is left unknown to the reader. It is as though the characters live and breathe. Few authors have this power of gathering human emotions and weaving them into a totally astounding, but believable, hypnotic characterization.

Her themes are also provocative and tantalizing: misuse of armaments, wealth and its hold on people, communism, Satanic possession, and a score of other interesting topics.

What adds lustre and polish to Miss Caldwell's novels is her over-

whelming degree of concern for humanity. Sex is never overplayed. As a matter of fact it is almost completely left out. She sums this up herself in one of her novels during a conversation, about sex, when one of the protagonists asks if the discussion could be turned to a similar topic — constipation. By leaving out sexual circumstances she has been able to remain on the best seller lists for years both as a historical as well as modern fiction writer.

A Taylor Caldwell novel is an adventure into a world of magic because it is a world of idealists and realists living life and not forgetting for one moment that behind their outward presence is an inward force commanding them.

As a serious writer she has difficulty getting over much dreary description of setting and characters. What could be explained in a few sentences she often takes chapters to do so. This is because people are complex and fictional characters must relate themselves as living beings and what makes up life involves so very much.

To sum up the talent of Taylor Caldwell one could not be specific. She is a 'great' in her chosen field and has so much ability her brilliance tends to develop as the years progress. Only a woman who is well educated and well traveled could write a novel such as "Grandmother and the Priests." Such a work takes a special kind of skill only the most gifted of writers could create.

### The Woman

Here is Taylor Caldwell's own summation of American women:

"My sisters, it is a marvelous thing to be a woman. It is a fine and prideful thing. Who is more majestic than a wife and mother? Be proud you women! Demand the reverence to which you are entitled." Taylor Caldwell speaks out in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Taylor Caldwell is the complete woman. She is entirely feminine in her views but sincerely believes the way to peace lies not only in women but Christian love. She is a wife, mother, career woman, opinion maker and an influence on a great number of people.

Born Janet Taylor Caldwell September 7, 1900 in Manchester, England, she is the daughter of Arthur F. Caldwell and Anna (Marks) Caldwell, both of Scottish descent. The Caldwell's do have Irish blood but the family stems from the clan of McGregor. Taylor Caldwell came to America as a young girl and served as a yeomanette during World War I. In private life Taylor Caldwell is known as Mrs. Marcus Reback. Mr. Reback acts as her business manager, researcher and editor and partner.

Miss Caldwell is the mother of two daughters, one by a previous marriage. At present she resides in Buffalo, New York, where, before her writing career began, she worked in the immigration service. She is Roman Catholic.

Before "Dynasty of Death" she had nothing published not even a 'letter to the editor.' This novel, among her best works and certainly her instrument in attaining the great fame she now enjoys, was be-

gun in 1934 and completed in 1938.

In all her novels the women's view is dramatically carried over making them enjoyable to women and invaluable to men for their extraordinary insight. Since she is Catholic her novels very often are of a religious nature, making her, also, one of the most outspoken as well as outstanding Catholics alive. Knowing this one could never think lightly of her for theology seems to come natural to her, especially mystical theology. Of course, all writers must have great insight but Taylor Caldwell goes even beyond normal insight.

The cult of Taylor Caldwell must be widespread or at least it should be. She states ideas plain and simple and directs them to all of humanity. The simple man can fall in love with her immense wisdom, humor and intelligence. The articulate intellectual can find power in her literary efforts and can identify with her characters who are often the very wealthy or the otherwise influential. Materialism is denounced and so is Godlessness.

Miss Caldwell manages to embrace all of life. She seems to have a special gift for communicating and getting a hold on people. The world needs Taylor Caldwell for she is the powerful reminder that man is not so perfect and that his world is not going in the direction God desires. God gave her the gift to see ahead in time and for thirty years she has been attempting to get this message across to man. She doesn't blame a certain race of people for the calamities of life but everyone who wages force against force. She calls a spade a spade and at times can singe the hair of the troublemakers, bigots, and these others who exploit man and inveigle him into their evil ways.

Taylor Caldwell is among the last of the great people the early part of this century produced. Let us not shortchange or underestimate this gallant and powerful woman — the finest woman author in America.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- 1) *Saturday Evening Post*  
May 25, 1963
- 2) *Who's Who in America* 1967
- 3) *20th Century Authors*  
Edited by Stanley J. Kuntz

*Profile—Executive Committee Chairman  
Jerold R. Cochran*

## Combines Spirituality, Pragmatism with Humor



*The gavel passes from the former chairman of the Executive Committee, Richard Kurrasch, to the new chairman, Jerold R. Cochran (right).*

**“In many ways,** Jerry Cochran typifies the business personality, thinking in terms of bottom lines, long range plans, goals and efficiency. Yet there is more, much more. He also brings a faith shaped by the constant winds of life’s joys and tragedies.”

So comments the Rev. Robert B. Coates, Jerry Cochran’s former pastor at the First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City, Utah, about the new Chairman of the NACCC Executive Committee, Jerold R. Cochran, now of Pacific Grove, Calif.

Jerry faces the challenge of presiding over an effort to bring new vision to the faith of the Pilgrims in shaping the structure of the NACCC to expand and strengthen membership, and to communicate to those outside our fellowship the Good News of Congregationalism.

Or as Bob Coates sees the challenge: “He, like most of us, struggles to maintain a balance between the pragmatic demands of an organization with much diversity

and richness in thought and action, and the desire to discern the vision of what God would have us be, here and now and into the future.”

The path that brought Jerry Cochran to the chairmanship of the Executive Committee started with his birth in Pocatello, Idaho, and continued with graduation from Idaho State University, and a diverse business career that ended with his retirement as purchasing manager for EIMCO Manufacturing Co., Salt Lake City, Utah. His career took him and his family (wife Dorothy and sons Jim and Jeff) to many parts of the world, including Southeast Asia, South America and Europe, besides many stops in the United States.

At the same time he served church, community, and ultimately the NACCC, where he served on the CFTS board before being elected to the Executive Committee.

His community services and awards abound, ranging from a Shrine Clown to Illustrious Potentate of El Kalah Temple in Salt Lake City. He was honored by the city’s tourist and convention bureau for outstanding effort on its behalf.

In First Congregational Church, he did it all ... treasurer, moderator, pulpit committee and member of many boards and commissions.

“If through his leadership of the Executive Committee, he can help us laugh a bit more deeply, staying in touch with the child within us, he will again have earned his clown name of ‘Janglz.’ He will lighten our hearts as we search diligently and creatively to find God’s way for us and our Association,” Bob Coates said. ■

*Rev. Coates and Blaine Simons, member of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies board and long-time friend, contributed material for this profile.*

# MEET



## Dr. Wayne Crockett a committed Congregational Christian layman

John J. Drag

I'm proud to say that Dr. Crockett is a member of the church where I minister; proud because of the example that he is. Dr. Crockett is a committed Christian and a committed Congregationalist who believes that his faith should relate in a relevant manner to the community in which he lives and works. Take a look at the following community activities in which he bears witness to Christ:

He has been on the Official Board of his church;

He is a past chairman (2 terms) of the board of trustees of Indiana State University;

He was twice chairman of the Board of Overseers of the Swope Art Gallery;

He has worked actively with the 232-DRUG Crisis center in Terre Haute;

He is a medical consultant at St. Mary of the Woods College;

He is a past president and a board member of the Terre Haute Symphony Association;

He is on the Terre Haute High School Building Corporation;

He is on the new building Plan-



ning Commission for St. Anthony's Hospital;

At the national level of our denomination, Dr. Crockett is a member of the Executive Committee of

the N.A.C.C.C. and is a member of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies.

Even at that, the list is not complete.

He and his wife, Helen, are parents to six children: Rebecca, Catherine, Amy, and Melinda, Frederick, and Ann. Frequently, they are the gracious hosts to a variety of groups and people in their home on the East side of Terre Haute.

Maybe a better way to introduce you to Dr. Crockett would be to let you in on some parts of a conversation we had not too long ago...

Rev. D.: Dr. Crockett, how does your faith relate to your activity in social concerns?

Dr. C.: I believe that God has given us the opportunity to achieve and to develop ourselves. Our lives are in flux, they change from year to year. My life is more open and tolerant. I'm not as rigid as I once was. I feel like I'm becoming more humanistic with time. This is both distressing and exhilarating.

Rev. D.: Do you feel that Christ gave us something to go on for social action?

Dr. C.: Yes, I think Christ had a philosophy of social action, but it didn't come through direct commandments. There wasn't any, "Thou shalt love the Black." But he did give us the example of his life. That's our key. That's our model. We can't hang it on a plaque. Our religion must be a dynamic, personal, day to day living. Many youth today become so immersed in the Bible they miss the example. We bear witness by our every action. This is the way we find grace, and it does come through one's life and prayer. I find myself spending more time in prayer. And that prayer involves more and more listening.

Rev. D.: How do you see the connection between healing and faith?

Dr. C.: I've long been convinced about the power of God. God's heal-

ing power is the greatest power, but unfortunately it's been cloaked in a sort of witchcraft or hocus. It deserves a more scientific approach. We Christians need to keep an open mind. Very few physical illnesses are not related to what I refer to as the psychic—even heart attacks. Of course, I do believe in the physical aspects of disease, but the spirit can determine how long a person lives.

Rev. D.: Which brings up the topic of death and dying, which we seem to be able to talk about more openly today...

Dr. C.: Yes, all of us must come to terms with how we die, no matter



what the cause. It's interesting to note that certain times of the year death seems to be more prevalent. For example, after holidays. That might be because people wait until then. This is a great power that we don't understand, and may have theological portent.

Rev. D.: Are Medical Doctors any wiser than others in their work with people in such things?

Dr. C.: MD's probably are more wise now than they have been. Concerning my own work, I don't claim any special knowledge or ability. I tell my own children that they too have gifts which need to be developed.

Rev. D.: How do you feel about your involvement with the NACCC?

Dr. C.: I'm grateful for the NA. I've met some great and wonderful

people through it. I am receiving much through the NA, and I feel obligated to do what I can through my own energy and talents.

Rev. D.: How do you feel about the future of our National Association?

Dr. C.: God is with the NA. If I had any doubts about it before



this year, I'm convinced now. Humans were given vision this year, and we need to follow the opportunity given to us and be zealous of it *over* personal desire. Our kind of freedom as Congregationalists is being threatened by our society . . . we are being threatened by the idea of convenience and of taking shortcuts. We need to remind ourselves that we have a special mission. In all of this, if we have lacked anything, it's that we've been



shy about using modern techniques. Freedom is painful and expensive, but the cause is more important than any one of us.

---

John Drag is minister of the First Congregational Church, Terre Haute, Indiana.

# MEET



## KEITH DEACON

**"We all have a ministry to perform."**

**Nancy Manser**

To Keith Deacon banking isn't just a job—it's a ministry and a most satisfying one.

"It's a ministry to the financial needs of people who have different hangups, different worries and concerns," says the 46-year-old layman who belongs to Southfield, Michigan's North Congregational Church.

It's my philosophy we all have a ministry to perform whether it's in a church or a bank. It's still a ministry, equally vital and important."

Deacon looks at it this way:

"That ministry is searching for a little bit more than the book says you have to do on your job. It's more than just taking a deposit.

"It's a lonely world and a person is never so lonely as when he has financial problems. He goes to the banks and nobody touches him. He needs somebody to give him a lift. Persons have committed suicide over financial problems as much as anything else."

Deacon, who claims he's the "softest touch in town," isn't soft-headed in his loans. He sizes up the prospect for something which can't be found in written forms.

"A person has to show a little bit of genuine concern," says Deacon, a Detroit branch officer with Manufacturers National Bank.

One young couple showed that concern and the need for help when they came to Deacon at the referral of a Congregational minister. Severe illness of their children had put them in a tough financial position.

"They couldn't get assistance from anybody else but we put the guy back on his feet," says Deacon. "We got them out of their bind and helped them spread the payments.

"They've lived up to our expectations and are doing well."

What's the reward?

"The main thing is the look of gratitude and the feeling of their relief."

Being involved with people is important to Keith Deacon who came to MNB as a staff man, working on the inside. He chafed at this and requested branch work

where he could meet with people on a one-to-one basis.

This involvement with people began as a child in Kingsville, Ontario, near Windsor, where he worked in his mother's small store since he was "high enough to stick my nose up over the counter."

"And I peddled milk when I was in high school," he recalls. "Everything I did was person to person."

That included church life. Deacon attended a United Church of Canada congregation in his boyhood days in Canada.

"I went to church every Sunday and I belonged to the Young People's Union," he says.

"Everything circled around our church which was the largest in town and which had a memorial hall where meetings and banquets were held. And one of my closest friends was the minister's son."

Deacon's wife, Lois, also is a long active member of the Congregational Church. Their marriage was the first in North Church when the congregation moved from Detroit to suburban Southfield.

Deacon became involved in North Church by joining the ushers club, then becoming its chairman. He was on the board of trustees and served a term as chairman there. Becoming involved in the National Association, Deacon was appointed to the missionary society in 1970, serving a stint as chairman.

"The missionary society is so close to the dealings of a bank," says Deacon.

"We're dealing on that board with churches having financial problems who look to us for a little bit of direction.

"We look at their debts and try to make a judgment of their assets and what levels of assistance are needed.

"As chairman I instituted a program of getting the chairman on the scene of the churches, as close as possible, to see what's going on.

"We did help to carry the ball a little bit in raising a large chunk of money for new church development.

"Perhaps what we're doing in the Missionary Society is spending too much time being concerned with the churches which are very small and attempting to grow. Perhaps we should be looking at different churches which have more of a chance at succeeding."

Nancy Manser is Religion Writer for *The Detroit News* and a member of North Congregational Church, Southfield, Michigan.

Deacon, plain talking, says of the church:

"As an institution it's not supposed to be treated or thought of in a businesslike way, but I think it's one of the biggest businesses in the country. I'm not convinced you can't look at the churches in such a way.

"The church and my belief in God are very comforting factors in my life.

"These are the sources where I can get—through prayer and through the institution—a consolation, not necessarily through any one, but through the presence of the edifice itself. I find a real, solid comfort in the church.

"I can try to give something back to the church, some of the love, some of the comfort, I can try to hand it back to someone else."

That same thinking guides Deacon in his banking life where he feels the banker by "extending himself to help gives back a little of what he's gotten."

Deacon candidly admits he's not been very active in the church of recent days, but plans to be involved again this winter. He wants his children, Donna, 16, and Dan, 12, also involved.

"Neither Donna nor Dan are very interested in the church," says Deacon, who notes that part of the answer may be in the greater distances young people have to travel to church in contrast to his youth where he could walk to the church.

"I'd like them to be involved," he says of his children. "I would hope it would give them a direction, a way to find that comfort I found."

Besides involvement with the church, Deacon is heavily into community activities.

An athlete during and after his high school years in Canada he is active in Little League baseball and foot-

ball and is treasurer for the football league in Farmington, the Detroit suburb where he lives.

He's also treasurer of Future Farmington, a committee working for incorporation of the north suburb and recently was elected a member of the city council. He ran fifth in a field of 19, beating out two incumbents for the post.

He's an officer in the local Kiwanis Club and was involved with the Farmington Founders Festival.

"I'm involved in a lot of things," he says in an understatement.

"And yeah, I'm competitive. Most people are not good without a challenge or without setting a goal. I'm seldom on a committee that I don't wind up chairman of it."

Loneliness is a theme which runs through Keith Deacon's conversation.

"It's an awfully lonely world," he says. "You see the lonely people in the bus stations, the airport terminals. Hundreds of other people may be around them, but they're lonely as the deuce."

Deacon remembers clearly the loneliness he felt when he came to the United States in 1950 and lived in a rooming house.

"That really was a crisis to me," he says. "But I'm sure the inborn strengths of my religious background came through and they're still there.

"My mother didn't espouse religion at home, but she lived a good, clean life and this all came through.

"The church has to be a solid block of comfort to people when they need it. The NA must be a weak organization by necessity because of our culture.

"It cannot overpower anything our local church does, but should be a pillar or strength to those who need it."



# The Lonely Star

Peter Noel Knost

Helen M. Eastes  
ASCAP, N.E.A.P.W.

The mag-ic of this sea-son lives in heart, in mind, in chil-dren's eyes, Wait-ing,

wait-ing, just to hear If one voice calls: "O Christ, draw near!"

## The Musician of Galesburg

If you attend a service at Central Congregational Church in Galesburg, Illinois, you will hear the familiar words of The Lord's Prayer.

What is new is the musical accompaniment composed by a member of the congregation, Miss Helen Eastes.

During her 86 years the lifetime church member has written more than 300 musical compositions. Early in her life this talented musician would play not only songs others had written; she began to create her own musical arrangements.

"For as long as I can remember, I've always been attracted to the piano," Miss Eastes explains. "My older sister took lessons, but I could repeat her songs just playing by ear.

"I've never had to work hard at it because the melodies always just come to me."

Miss Eastes' song writing career spans more than half a century and is not limited to religious music. She has also written romantic instrumentals, ragtime tunes, novelty songs and even arrangements for a college pep rally.

Although Miss Eastes sometimes writes both the words and music, more often she furnishes the melody with the words written by someone else.

"It's the words written by others that appeal most to me," she says. "In fact, I don't really consider myself a poet at all. I'm a composer."

One of Miss Eastes' most recent creations was the musical accompaniment for The Lord's Prayer.

"I just had a notion to do it one day. I played it for our minister, the Rev. Richard Dunn, and he liked it so I made copies for the choir."



Helen M. Eastes

## Handwritten Copies

The frugal, grey-haired lady was speaking literally when she said she made copies—22 hand-written two-page copies of the score. Each copy took about 90 minutes to complete.

"I just thought I'd save the church some money by doing it that way," she commented.

When asked how it feels to sit in the church hearing the choir perform her music, the prolific musician is humble.

"I just hope they don't mention during the service because I don't like to have attention called to myself. I never have," was the response.

As an afterthought, she commented; "But I would notice if there was anything about it that was not as it should be.

"I know that would never happen at church, though, with our choir director, Mr. Hegg."

Roland Hegg, director of Central Congregational choir since September, 1977, spent 28 years as a music teacher in the Galesburg school system before his retirement in 1976.

"Miss Eastes is a very capable musician," was his assessment of the Galesburg native, adding her songs are very melodic and harmonious.

Most of Miss Eastes' life centers around music and the piano. A 1917 graduate of Knox College Music Conservatory in Galesburg, she taught music in her hometown schools in the 1940s and 1950s. She also gave private lessons for almost 40 years but no longer teaches, spending hours each week at the keyboard of the Packard baby grand she's had since 1932.

"Music is a central part of me. It's always taken precedence over everything else," says Miss Eastes.

"You know, whenever I go into a house and there is a piano, the first thing I want to do is see what kind it is. Then I like to try playing it."



## Religion Central in Life

Just as music has always been part of Miss Eastes' life, so has her religion.

Regular church attendance was always the rule around the Eastes house as Helen was growing up and she continued the tradition.

For several years she was a choir member at the stately old church on the Southwest corner of Galesburg's public square. She also enjoyed playing piano for the Sunday School classes. It is no coincidence many songs that were the youngsters' favorites were written by Miss Eastes.

Probably not many ministers are as lucky as Mr. Dunn to have an "instant music maker" in the congregation. Mr. Dunn is appreciative of Miss Eastes' musical abilities.

"I just mentioned to her there was a piece of music for a soloist that I would like to see arranged for a choir. Three days later she had the music ready."

When she talks about writing musical accompaniments, the phrase Helen Eastes uses is, "I fixed it."

She talks about finding poems she likes and putting them to music, or in her words, "fixing them."

## Melodies "Just Come"

A bit of wonderment is in Helen Eastes' voice when she speaks about her compositions.

"When I stop and think about it, it is almost spooky the way a new melody will just pop into my mind."

An example is the story behind the song, "Glory to Knox."

Miss Eastes was heating soup at home during a lunch hour when a melody began going through her mind.

# J. D. ENGLAND, THE SIT-DOWN COMIC

by Jerry England

A phone call to a minister in the middle of the night is not unusual, but it is usually bad news. A parishioner has died, someone is seriously ill, an accident has happened, someone is deeply troubled—these are the things that you might expect. When my phone rang at 12:30 a.m. on November 7, 1985, I was expecting bad news concerning one of my parishioners. I was not prepared to hear a good friend and neighbor tell me: "Jerry, I sure hate to tell you this, but your son, James, was in an accident on his motorcycle, and was seriously injured. The paramedics have treated him, and he's on the way by ambulance to the emergency room at St. Agnes Hospital. I know that you'll want to get down there right away."

I rather numbly thanked him, and began to dress for the 50 mile drive to the hospital. While on the road I imagined the worst, while praying for the best. You can imagine my joy at seeing him alive and talking to the nurses and other attendants when I entered the emergency room. When I walked over to his bedside and took his hand, he gripped mine in a desperate grip and said, "Well, I guess I messed up good this time, didn't I, Dad?" And then he asked the question that was to be the key to a painful, slow, yet remarkable recovery. The quest for the answer to that question led James from a paralyzing injury to a well adjusted adulthood, and into a successful career as a professional comedian. The question? "Well, where do we go from here?"

As I stood by his bed, looking at his lacerated and bruised face, bloody and mangled hands, dirt caked in his ears and nostrils, I hardly knew how to answer. I finally said, "We go forward, Son, one step at a time. And the first step is to find out just how badly you are injured. Then we'll go on from there."

The word on his injuries was not good. After several thorough examinations, and seemingly endless x-rays, the orthopedic surgeon informed us that James' spine had been severed at the T-7-T-8 vertebrae, and that the spinal cord had been severely mangled. He offered us absolutely no hope of recovery, and told us that James would always be a paraplegic, confined to a wheelchair for the

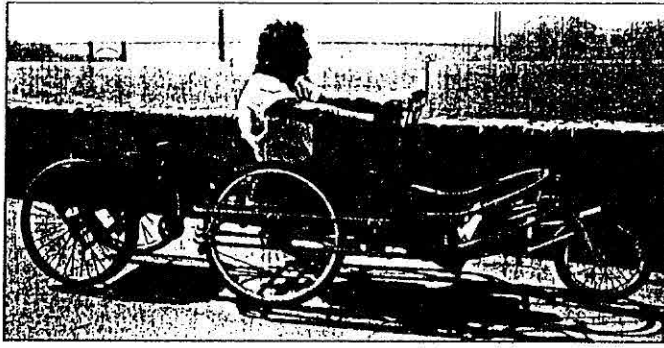
rest of his life. There would be at least two major surgeries to repair the damage as well as possible, and then about two months of recovery and therapy before he would be released from the hospital.

With saddened heart I placed a call to his mother, June, who was visiting our daughter in Germany.

June immediately returned home, and, together, we began the task of helping our son recover, to make his way back to a normal life. The months that followed were filled with pain and frustration for all of us, but especially for our active, independent, 26 year old son. The two surgeries, the months of rehabilitation and the frustration of not being able to take care of even the most basic bodily functions was a most difficult time for him. He faced it all with great courage, and his triumph was a source of real pride for all of us.

James used laughter as a means of dealing with his difficulties. When his friends would visit and seem ill at ease, he would begin to tease them and joke with them to put them at ease. As a result, none of them pitied him. His nurses and therapists were amazed! This attitude resulted in faster healing, and also prevented the severe depression so common in these situations. He, in fact, was able to help others with similar injuries.





Because of his rapid recovery, James was given a short leave from the hospital to spend Christmas with the family. His presence, and his positive and cheerful attitude, brought a special JOY and warm spirit to our home that Christmas.

There were three major steps in James' recovery. The first was his "Homecoming" from the hospital. The second was when he got his new car and began to drive (using special controls) and the third was when he moved back into his own apartment in Fresno.

During his recovery at home, James had many letters and visits from members of our church family. I had been Pastor of the church for almost 18 years, and James was always a favorite of our folk. When they learned of his accident, a special fund was set up to help with some of the medical bills. As a special gesture of love, the church purchased a car (complete with hand controls) and, upon completion of a driving course for handicapped persons, James drove his own car home from the class.

After about six months, James felt that he was able to "be on his own" again. Since the landlords of his old apartment looked upon James as a son, they, looking forward to his recovery, had saved the apartment for him. We helped them make some necessary modifications (like the changes that we had made at our own home, ramps, suspended hand holds in bedroom and bathroom) and his place was made ready for him. He later told us that moving into his own place, again, was one of the happiest days of his life.

Throughout his entire ordeal, James had dealt with his challenges through comedy. Now, as he began to plan his life as a paraplegic, comedy became an ambition as well as a tool. He seriously considered becoming a professional comedian and began his preparations for it. He enrolled in an acting class at Fresno City College, and frequented several comedy clubs in the local area, listening, analyzing, and learning.

Billing himself as "J.D. England, The Sit-Down Comic—Rolling Laughter," he soon became a hit in the local clubs and received invitations to per-

form at such places as "The Improv" in Los Angeles, "The Comedy Playhouse" in Pasadena, "The Gaslight Room" at the Hilton Hotel, and the "Comedy Shop," both in Fresno.

One of the highlights of his comedy career was winning the National College Competition in 1988. He competed against 26 local comedians to win the local competition, and against more than 2,000 comedians to win the West Coast Regional finals. After winning the Regionals, James then competed against the other three Regional finalists in Daytona Beach, Florida. As a prize for winning this National Competition, he was given an all expense paid trip to New York, where he performed in Rodney Dangerfields' *Comedy Club*, and also another well known comedy club in New York, "The Comic Strip."

Upon his return home, James became associated with Bob Hope's USO Tours, and has been playing at USO Clubs on military bases on the West Coast.

Now, James would like to use his talents to help other young people. To do this, he has developed a program combining comedy and disability awareness. He travels to schools and churches sharing his talents for comedy while promoting awareness of the needs of persons who have physical disabilities.



## *Ministering with Laughter*



Photo by Timm Dower

# *In Kansas There's a Rainbow*

*Lois Hoadley Dick*

Sherry Fast stared at her son's little face in the hospital bed while her thoughts screamed, "You fool! All night long you never once prayed! Not once!"

The Lord seemed to reply: "You taught him to ride horses and motorcycles. You taught him to sing. You taught him so many things. What did you ever teach him about Me?"

Then the doctor was by her side saying quietly, "You better phone

your husband. I'm afraid your son may expire."

Ten-year-old Dale had been playing with his go-cart the day before and accidentally tangled his hand in the chain, cutting off the tip of his finger.

In the Emergency Room of the hospital he kept saying, "Don't cry Mom, everything will be alright," while Sherry stood in tears, the tip of her son's finger wrapped in a dish towel.

"I'm afraid we can't replace it," the doctor explained. "We'll just do a minor surgical repair."

Sherry decided to stay overnight at the hospital with her son and phoned

her boss, asking him to find another driver for the school bus. A pastor, who also drove a bus, offered to come to the hospital and pray with her.

Sherry laughed. "No thanks, that won't be necessary. We're fine." After all, she had always been a good mother, she could handle anything. And it was only a fingertip.

"I believe I was known by the angels at this point as a hard case," Sherry remembers. "God was about to show me who I wasn't."

The anesthesiologist soon appeared in the waiting room. "Your son is under just a little deeper than we ex-

pected, but we're sending him to his room. He'll be awake soon."

Sherry thought of her husband at home recovering from a bout of high blood pressure. Surely there was no need to worry him. She sat by the bed and talked softly to Dale, but he didn't respond.

All at once he sat straight up in bed, struggling to vomit, his jaws locked together tightly. Sherry cried out for a nurse, tried to pry his mouth open but within seconds Dale had aspirated the powerful fluids from the stomach that digest food, sucking them into his lungs.

The medical team rushed in with a suction machine and Sherry, who'd had nurses' training, controlled herself and kept out of the way. Soon Dale was breathing quietly and she was alone with him.

Then she heard it—a loud rattling gasp that almost stopped her own heartbeat. She screamed and the resuscitating team was there almost immediately shocking Dale's heart into action again and again.

Finally . . . "Call your husband," the doctor said quietly.

Laurence Fast arrived at the Intensive Care Unit, took one look at his son in the oxygen mask, turned his face to the wall and began to pray. Sherry broke down.

"Oh, Lord, give me another chance and I'll teach him about You. I've left You out of my life, but save me now, in Jesus' Name."

## 'You are nothing without Me.'

It was the longest night of her life. "God seemed to say, 'You are nothing without Me,' says Sherry, "And I believed. Only when I admitted I needed God's help was I forgiven and shown the way."

It was then that Sherry returned to church as an active member. She joined the First Congregational Church of Maize, KS and became an active worker, but she wanted to do more. She had performed as a clown while working with 4-H and had attended a clowning school. She enjoyed the work and decided to use her talent to bring youngsters closer to God, working through her church and community. She chose her clowning name "Rainbow" from the story of Noah in the Bible, honoring God for keeping His promises.

Sherry brought her clowning ministry first to the Sunday School. Opening her Bible, she asks her young audiences to turn to Genesis.

"I'll wait," she says with a smile, "grownups sometimes have a hard time finding passages in *their* Bibles." Everyone laughs and the kids don't feel self-conscious if they're slow.

She uses John 3:16 to explain God's love in Christ. Long, thin, "Pencil" balloons are used to show that the false promises of Satan are full of hot air, but the eternal promises of Jesus are everlasting. She uses her "gospel balloons" to illustrate the "Bee" of Christianity—"Bee-Saved," "Bee-a-Sunday-Schooler," "Bee-a-Christian," "Bee-Kind," writing on each with a magic marker.

Rainbow doesn't limit her ministry to the church. She goes out into the community and into hospitals both in Wichita and Topeka.

One Christmas, after performing in a pediatric ward, Sherry stopped at each child's bedside, distributing balloons. One little girl, with an arm and leg in traction, smiled up at her. Sherry almost asked the child her usual question—"What do you want for Christmas?"—but something held her back. As she was leaving the ward, the child's grandmother thanked her and told her that the little girl's mother had been killed in the recent automobile accident which had injured the child. The happy clown packed her props, went out to her little 'Luv' truck and cried all the way home.

"You see, clowns don't cry in public," Sherry explains. "I also thanked God for all the blessings I had, and for all I would receive that Christmas."

Sherry especially enjoys working with handicapped youngsters and enrolled in a sign language course in order to minister to deaf-mute children. "They are just great!" she enthuses. "To think they've never heard a balloon pop! We take so much for granted, but visiting hospitals and working with the handicapped has made me very thankful."

As Rainbow, Sherry also clowns for the Jayceettes' Cerebral Palsy Ranch, Kansas Special Olympics, nursing homes, libraries, and Vacation Bible Schools. She is supported in her work by Dale, now 15 and fully recovered from his ordeal, and her daughter, Amy, 13. They sometimes join their mother under the greasepaint as "Sparkle" and "Punchline." Her husband is also very supportive of her work, loading and unloading the clown truck and inflating the helium balloons she uses.

Rainbow is a member of the Clowns of America and was recently recognized for her work by being named one of the top 10 women clowns of America by the Spielman Brothers Clown Club of Palos Park, IL.

But Rainbow maintains the best reward of all is hearing a little voice say, "Clown, I love you!"



Photo by Jan White

*Rainbow performs for many community organizations as well as her church.*

# A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS



By Erwin Britton

"A man for all seasons" is the description offered of Sir Thomas More by sixteenth century Robert Whyntyn. "A man for all seasons" could be set down as the proper phrase to describe Michigan's George E. Gullen, Jr., member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches and prominent church and civic leader.

First, however, George Gullen is a family man. Son of the late George E. Gullen, Sr., prominent attorney and clergyman of Detroit, George Jr., with Ruth his charming wife, presides over a family of eight children. "This is how I developed techniques in labor relations" quips George. Since three of the children are married and two away at school, things are quiet at home with just three boys left. They live in a big, lovely old farm house, situated near Rochester, Michigan, some thirty-five miles north of Detroit.

From the earliest beginnings of the discussions relating to the merger, George Gullen took an active role, speaking all over the mid-west on behalf of Congregationalism. Delegate to the Claremont General Council in 1952, New Haven in 1954 and Omaha in 1956, he raised his voice on the floor of these councils with real effectiveness. When it came time to organize the South-eastern Michigan Association of Congregational Churches in 1962 he was selected its first moderator, thus being the only person to serve the old association and the new in that capacity. He has served on the Board of Trustees of Olivet College, various boards and committees of the Y.M.C.A., the Michigan United Fund, Governor's Advisory Council on Mental Health, World Federation for Mental Health, Michigan Society for Mental Health, Wayne State University Alumni Association.

As this sketch is being written Governor Romney of Michigan has just announced that he has appointed George to the highly sensitive and vitally important Civil Rights' Commission of the state. This year he also serves as President of the National Council of YMCA'S.

He surprised the business community last summer by resigning from the position of vice-president (Industrial Relations) of American Motors Corporation to become a vice-president of Wayne State University, his Alma Mater.

When asked what would induce him to terminate his ten year relationship with American Motors, and a thirty year relationship with industry, George replied, "Ours is an age of breathtaking changes and complex social tasks demanding highly trained and broadly educated persons. Wayne State University is touching the lives of thousands of our young people as they seek this training and education. I returned to Wayne State University to help in a direct way to make this possible and maybe effective."

Wayne State is in the very heart of a great throbbing, dynamic city. It is growing phenomenally. It is attracting some of the best leadership of our community to its service. Its ability to enlist men like George Gullen forecasts greater things to come, for here is the growing edge of one of the most important sectors of our society.

George's involvement in the Congregational enterprise began when he was a boy assisting his father in the establishment of Mayflower Church, Detroit in a newly developing area of the city. It continued through his own membership and activity in First Church, Dearborn and First Church, Detroit. When the office of moderator was initially provided for at First, Detroit, he became the first occupant of that post. The Gullen family was one of the pioneers in Church Family Camping in Michigan, serving several years as lay directors of one of the camps.

Congregationalists who attended the Annual Meeting in Detroit last June will recall with what real skill he handled the task of toastmaster at the Banquet.

"A man for all seasons." That describes George E. Gullen, Jr., devoted family man, skilled leader of men, persuasive advocate of fair play in human relations, devout Congregational Churchman, public servant without peer. □

*Erwin Britton is minister of First Church, Detroit*



## Dr. Frank Laubach

“ONE OF THE FIVE  
GREATEST MEN  
IN THE WORLD”

by Gordon P. Ralph

Getting the facts is important in the practice of law. As an attorney, I like to imagine what kind of evidence I could gather on Dr. Frank C. Laubach by taking testimony from people all over the world who have known him. The problem is where to start.

Some people would know him as a dedicated “student,” with 5 earned degrees including a Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia in 1915, and honorary doctorates of all kinds. Others know him as a “football hero” in his youth. He was ordained as a Congregational “minister” in 1914. In 1915 he sailed to the Philippine island of Luzon as a “missionary.” For seven years he was “Dean” of Union Theological Sem-

inary, Manila. Other witnesses might describe him as an avid “reader.” He consumed 600 classics in the small library of his home town of Benton, Pennsylvania, before he was 15, and he still reads a book a day. Thousands throughout the world know Frank Laubach as a modern “mystic” — an experimenter in prayer. His book *Prayer, the Mightiest Force in the World* has sold a quarter million copies. Which reminds us he’s an “author.” Dr. Laubach has written nearly 50

books and scores of articles and monographs in the fields of education, religion, biography, sociology, history and international affairs. Since his 80th birthday, he has published several more. As a “consultant,” he drafted a world plan for fundamental education for UNESCO in 1946, worked for Point Four in India for a year, and advised the Red Cross, Peace Corps, the old League of Nations, foundations, National and World Councils of Churches and various mission boards on the subject of how to teach the illiterate people of the world to read. He is certainly a “philanthropist.” Serving without salary, for years he has endorsed every check given for his personal use and turned it over to Laubach Literacy, Inc., the educational charity of which he is founder and chief “executive” in order to further the

Gordon P. Ralph, caught up in the contagious spirit of Dr. Laubach and leaving a successful business practice, now labors in the Laubach Literacy program. For the past twelve or more years Dr. Laubach has been committed full-time to this work and is presently President of the Board of Trustees of Laubach Literacy, Inc., Box 131, Syracuse, New York, 13210.



cause to which he has dedicated his life. As a "speaker," he often covers five states or 15 cities in one week. I know. I recently arranged his complete itinerary for a 10-day period in Wisconsin, and it was exhausting merely to accompany him on a part of it!

Dr. Laubach has an insatiable desire to teach. One morning, when

means Mender-of-Old-Baskets. In Cuba, they called him Man with the Flaming Heart. When he first met Ghandi, the concept of literacy for the masses was not favorably received, but four years later, Ghandi was one of his strong supporters. Last year, as a result of a successful literacy campaign started in Mexico nearly a decade ago by Laubach Literacy workers, that country's Minister of Education put his hands on Dr. Laubach's shoulders and said, "Laubach, as a result of your efforts here, Mexico was saved from Communism."

In 1965, when I was with Dr. Laubach and 50 American Laubach Literacy volunteers who launched a national literacy campaign in Kenya, that country's great President, Jomo Kenyatta, said to Dr. Laubach, "An illiterate man is only half a man."

How did Dr. Laubach become known as "Apostle to the Illiterates," "Champion of the Silent Billion," and, according to Norman Vincent Peale, "one of the five greatest men in the world?" In 1929, when Laubach lived among the fierce Philippine Moros, he devised his now famous "Each One Teach One" teaching method. He first reduced the Maranaw language to writing using only 16 letters, one for each sound. Then as he taught Each One to read, he suggested they, in turn, Teach One, and about 70,000 of them did. He started a newspaper which included articles on agriculture, sanitation, local politics and religion. News of his success spread, and he was invited to other countries. In each new place, he would huddle with local missionaries, educators and native interpreters. They would comb the language for words that could be linked by a picture-letter-sound technique.

Laubach has developed charts in over 312 languages, primers and "ladder of literacy" books which gradually expand the reader's vocabulary. The *Story of Jesus* is a 3-book "ladder" which has been translated into over 100 languages. There is another "ladder" of how-to-do-it books which tell about health, farming, etc.

Laubach has prophesied that the impending world hunger crisis can only be blunted by a campaign to

help the world's one billion illiterate learn to read so they can discover how to feed and support themselves. An estimated 60 million people have already learned to read the Each One Teach One way. Even in the United States his *Streamlined English* has taught thousands of adults to read through volunteer programs sponsored by Laubach Literacy, Inc. and a network of cooperating literacy councils and state coordinating committees. Dr. Laubach and his co-workers have developed many new techniques for literacy instruction, including the use of television, programmed learning, and NEWS FOR YOU, a unique adult newspaper written with simple vocabulary on adult subjects (circulation 70,000). At 82, Dr. Laubach continues to innovate. Recognizing that English has in fact become a world language, he has developed a new system of spelling which follows consistent rules.

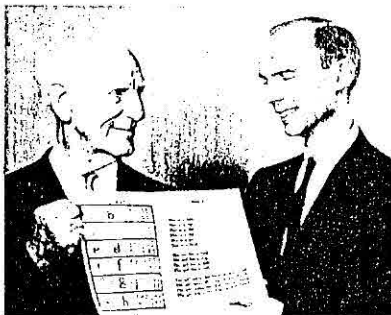
In writing about Dr. Laubach the problem is not only where to start but where to stop. The testimony will be forthcoming for decades. Like another man 2000 years ago, Dr. Laubach makes his home wherever the need is greatest. As Dr. Laubach himself has said, "I have noticed that when I forget other people I become fatigued quickly. When I am reminded of my purpose and start holding people, seen and unseen, before God, a new exhilaration comes to me, and all the fatigue vanishes. The joy which I have within cannot be described." □



Dr. Laubach

*Literacy by T.V. in Columbia*

he stayed in our home, I caught him teaching my grade school children phonics — in Hebrew! Lowell Thomas called him "the foremost teacher of our times." He has taught in over 103 countries, returning to 44 of them more than once. For example he worked in India in 11 different years. Such testimony would also qualify him as "a world traveler."



Dr. Laubach and Gordon Ralph

Dr. Laubach is one of America's best good will "ambassadors" and "diplomats." He holds the title of "Commander" from the President of Haiti and is the only foreigner to have received the Zisham Medal from the King of Afghanistan. A tribe in the Congo gave him the special title, Okombekombe, which

## "I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING"

By Roxy Rice

"If you were writing the story of your life so far, what would you title it?"

With little hesitation, Lynne Kalbfleisch exclaimed, "Finally I Know Where I'm Going!"

The 25-year-old member of Greenville, Michigan's First Church, Lynne spent the first three months of this year touring with the Norman Luboff Choir. Besides giving her a very respectable professional credit, the tour convinced her singing professionally is the career for her.

Dressed in comfortable corduroy jeans and tee-shirt, Lynne chatted recently about her climb into the "big time" and her plans for the future.

Her experience with the Luboff Choir had several benefits besides a new certainty about her life goals. The tour gave her a first-hand view of how tough the music business really is.

But along with that hard reality came a new conviction "I can do it!" With the contacts made on tour, the task of finding a job in the field becomes far easier.

Though Lynne's first love is musical comedy, she's realistic enough to know one doesn't just step into it. For a long time she will have to combine several singing jobs, perhaps opera, lighter works and nightclubs. This fall she plans a move to an area with more opportunities, hopefully Philadelphia. If she is still free next year, she will tour with Luboff again.

If the singing career does not work out, Lynne's two back-up plans include taking a job totally outside the field of music or teaching music.

As a "natural ham," Lynne always liked to sing and entertain people. She remembers waiting, waiting and *waiting* to turn eight years old so she could join the church's junior choir.

Then there was the sixth-grade school talent show when she sang and played the ukele. That year she also joined the school band playing clarinet and then oboe.

She didn't sing with the school choirs until her sophomore year in high school because rules prohibited taking both band and choir. Her choir director, Dick Hazzard, was the first

to convince Lynne her voice had professional potential.

From that point on Lynne snatched every chance to improve her musical abilities. Continuing in school with the acappella choir and symphonic wind ensemble, she studied oboe in nearby Grand Rapids and played with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony.

In her senior year she toured Europe with Musical Youth International, an Ann Arbor-based group. In college she sang in musicals with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society in East Lansing. Summers she toured with the Grand Rapids Circle Theatre.

At Michigan State University she studied music education, first concentrating on oboe and avoiding vocal music because she "didn't want to sing opera."

But late in her first year she switched to vocal and began the training that brought out the sweetness in her strong soprano voice.

After a friend at Michigan State told her about the audition procedures for the Luboff Choir, Lynne sent her audition tape in the summer of 1977. Months later, after she'd given up hope, a phone call came from Luboff himself. She had been accepted for the 1978 tour!

A tense but excited Lynne arrived in New York City early in January for two weeks of intensive rehearsals. Happily, she found her fellow tour members "zany" and fun-loving. But the biggest surprise was Norman Luboff himself.

"Over the phone he sounds so cultured and distinguished and he is."

But in rehearsals his manner is low-key and easy-going. To Lynne's relief he never raised his voice, expressing his wishes not as demands but with a gentle "I should like . . ."

As Lynne expected touring was hectic: Constant bus travel, living in hotels, a different town every night. It can be an exhausting, uprooting experience for a first-timer.

So how does a person maintain a sense of stability, of roots?

Lynne's answer: "It's difficult. I don't know if

# 'Call Anne'

## *Retiring CCCNA Secretary Has the Answers*

**T**hose of you who have attended a CCCNA Annual Meeting within the past nine years have witnessed the competency and pleasant manner of Anne Kuester, Association and Corporation Secretary of the CCCNA. Those serving on the Association's Executive Committee have known the pleasure of a closer relationship with this devoted scribe. Working tirelessly—typically with the close assistance of husband Gary—Anne could be called the glue that holds the Association together.

As a one-time Executive Secretary (1985-1991), I know there's a deep dependency on Anne for a myriad of procedural details and answers to questions relating to the Articles and Bylaws of the Association and Corporation. It's not uncommon to hear said in the Oak Creek office—following a difficult question to resolve—these words: "Call Anne."

Having "served her time," Anne plans to retire from her position as Secretary following the close of the 1992 Annual Meeting in Mansfield, Ohio. Nominated to succeed her is Lois Heilmann, Pittsburgh, Penn., an active participant in Association activities. Lois completes her term as chairman of Congregational Church Development Division at the Mansfield meeting.

Our Association's retiring Secretary was born in Excelsior, Minn., and soon moved to Wauwatosa, Wis., when her father, George Pryor, transferred there. Anne joined First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa on Maundy Thursday, 1942, the 100th Anniversary of the Church, which will soon complete its twelve-month celebration of 150 years of Congregational worship.



*Anne Kuester, CCCNA Secretary  
1983-1992*

Following graduation from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., in 1950, Anne joined a major department store in Minneapolis as an assistant buyer. It was a Sunday night meeting of a young adults' group at Plymouth Congregational Church that she met Gary. They were married on October 20, 1951, at First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa.

The newlyweds' residence in Minneapolis ended in one year when Gary was drafted by the U.S. Army and assigned to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, where Anne joined him. Upon completion of his service duty, they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Anne worked for the Social Security Administration until their daughter, Kathleen, was born.

With the transfer of Gary to Green Bay, Wis., in 1963, the family joined Union Congregational Church, just as the congregation—following 16 years of heated debate—voted to join the United Church of Christ. After backing out of Union Church for sev-

eral months, the Kuesters joined Pilgrim Congregational Church, a newly gathered group of those who were determined to hold to the Free Congregational Way.

An admired church member in the eyes of ministers and lay people alike, Anne has served as clerk of Pilgrim Church since 1978, sings in the choir and has served as President of the Pricillas Women's Fellowship and Chairman of the Church's Annual Bazaar. She has also been active in school and community groups.

For this writer, with 21 years' experience in the CCCNA, the Association's best organized and smoothest-running Annual Meeting was held in 1988 in Green Bay. This success story was put together by Anne and Gary Kuester, co-chairmen, who booked the city's brand new Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center before the facility was completed several years before the scheduled meeting. With the adult meeting rooms and most sleeping rooms in this spacious facility, and with young people at nearby St. Norbert College, plus the opportunity to easily get together, worked out beautifully.

A devoted wife, parent, and provider of loving service in the Congregational Way, Anne Kuester is a woman we look to with deserved respect and deep affection. This kind and capable lady serves her family, her community and her church extremely well.

God Bless, good friend! ■

—J. Fred Rennebohm,  
First Congregational Church of  
Wauwatosa, recently retired as  
Executive Secretary of the National  
Association of Congregational  
Christian Churches.



*Marion Luenberger*

## Thank You, Crumley Cousins

*Dr. Donald B. Ward*

Thank you, Crumley cousins!

At First Church Los Angeles we're grateful that Mrs. Oliver Crumley, Marion Luenberger's mother, had two cousins who were members of First Congregational Church of Los Angeles several decades ago.

Marion's father had died when she was but two years old in Providence, RI. Mrs. Crumley decided her future was on the West Coast. The two Los Angeles cousins were the draw that brought her to First Church. Who could have guessed that her two-year-old infant daughter would grow not only to great leadership stature at First Church but would one day be elected to the highest post in all of American Congregationalism—Moderator of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. All because there were Crumley cousins at First Church!

Marion was to grow to prominence in many directions. In early childhood she knew what it was to be poor. She attended many different schools as her breadwinning mother moved to various locations in different jobs. When Marion was eight years old Mrs. Crumley tried her hand at raising turkeys in Nevada City, a dismal failure after six months of struggle. Back they moved to the east coast where Marion attended junior high school at Newtonville, MA.

But Marion had tasted enough of the West Coast to know she wanted her secondary education at Los Angeles High School. Her persistent and persuasive campaigning finally paid off. Her mother agreed, and they returned to Los Angeles where Marion sailed through L.A. High, graduating with honors and membership in the Epehian Honorary Society, a distinction awarded to only one out of every forty graduates.

She yearned to enroll in the University of California at Los Angeles but in those depression years it was a school only for the affluent. Los Angeles High School awarded her a \$50.00 loan scholarship giving her the courage to register. She attended classes for a year, lunching daily out of her ubiquitous brown bag while her classmates dined in sorority or cafeteria splendor.

Yet it could not last. Her mother was an excellent seamstress working for an interior decorator making slip

covers and drapes but the depression deepened, eliminating her job. Marion could not afford another year at UCLA. It was the end of her college career so she took a job at Bullock's department store as a file clerk at \$16.00 a week, then was moved to the Claims Department at \$18.00. On this lavish sum, in the 1930s, she supported herself and her mother.

Throughout all these school years Marion was close to First Church. With no brothers or sisters and an ailing mother the Church became her "family." During those uncertain years of social and economic stress the Church represented a bed-rock consistency in her life. One could never be sure of job or school; home life knew its own stress and strain, but the Church was always there, an unchanging, dependable foundation one could count on.

Two years before her mother died she had met a handsome young engineer, Fred Luenberger, who would make certain she would not be alone in the world. They had met at a Tuesday night Youth Group roller skating party in First Church's gymnasium. She said "Yes" to his proposal on Palm Sunday, 1936; they were married a few months later on October 10th.

While there is nothing typical about Marion's life she followed the prevailing patterns of family development in those early years of marriage. She raised a family, took responsibility in the PTA, led a troop of Brownies, and established a crib room at First Church (there was none for her own babies). Later she was asked to teach 5th grade in Sunday School for just one Sunday to cover an absent teacher. One Sunday stretched into several and she was hooked for life, becoming one of Southern California's strong Christian educators.

After she superintended the Junior Department for several years, Dr. Fifield sent her to Union College in Schenectady, NY, where special training was available in the Character Research Project, a new concept in Christian education involving the participation of the entire family. She brought the new program back to First Church; became Director of Christian Education, a position she held from 1954 to 1961, during which time she created new curriculum which brought distinction to First Church Christian education.

She returned to Union for a short course on testing student vocational aptitudes and the results lured her into fascination with the field of psychology. But if she were to put her new found interest to work she would have to finish that long-delayed college degree. As a mature wife, mother and homemaker she enrolled in El Camino college in 1961 finishing the degree in a year and a half. Then on to California State University Los Angeles for

*Dr. Donald B. Ward, D.D., L.L.D. is senior minister of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles.*

her Masters Degree to be followed by her Ph.D. degree from U.S.C. During her studies she enhanced her psychological testing and therapeutic expertise by working in the Pasadena Child Guidance Clinic. It had taken 9 years to achieve her educational goals, but now "Dr." Luenberger was ready for full professionalism.

She quickly passed the California state examination for full licensure as a practicing psychologist, but fate would remove her once again from Southern California.

Husband Fred was called to an important engineering position in Milford, CT. "We just want you for two years, Fred," they said, but he stayed five. The moment the Child Guidance Clinic of Bridgeport, CT learned that Dr. Marion Luenberger was in the vicinity they persuaded her to join their staff. It was a happy and productive five year interlude in their lives.

First Church is grateful the Luenbergers came back to L.A. in 1979 where Marion established a small private practice and worked with small groups in Parent Training and retreats for ministers' wives.

The children now grown; David, a professor of Engineering at Stanford, Joanne, a U.S.C. Music graduate and now a Church soloist and Linda, creatively busy raising three daughters. Fred and Marion are grandparents nine times and I admonish you not to bring up the subject unless you have ample time to absorb their total enthusiasm. The massive family reunion at Fred's 70th birthday was a tribute to family love and loyalty that left all who attended aglow with gratitude for two such dedicated parents and grandparents.

In Fred's current retirement they are busier than ever with a lengthy project list but also find time for golf, bridge, reading mysteries and historical novels. Both Marion and Fred are heavily into word processing, a boon for all the writing and planning they must do in their various pursuits.

Through all the years Marion has given much of herself to the National Association. Since making her first report at the 1959 N.A. meeting in Los Angeles she has attended 17 Annual meetings, always serving on some committee, board or commission and was Chairman of the Executive Committee, 1974-75. As Moderator she has fulfilled her share of appearances at local, regional and national church gatherings, preaching in pulpits occasionally, always lifting up the joys, values and responsibilities of The Congregational Way. Because of her highly skilled organizational ability honors have gravitated to her.

This year, from her pinnacle as Moderator, she sees a revival of interest in Church life in general. She is optimistic that more and more people will seek to fulfill the principles of the Sermon On The Mount and that the Congregational Way is in the ascendancy in America's religious spectrum. Her one example of loyal service has set the tone for the continuing realization of that hope.

If we could locate the graves of those two cousins who brought Marion and her mother to First Church many decades ago we would place flowers of gratitude annually. The N.A. is blessed with her leadership; we at First Church, Los Angeles are blessed with her presence, her loyalty, her loving witness in both words and deeds.

One woman who cares about the needs of others can make a big difference — she can influence a community and sometimes a nation. As Director of Training for volunteer Laubach Literacy work in the seven southwestern states, I've seen it happen many times. If one woman will accept the responsibility for writing the letters, making the phone calls, keeping records of those who want to help and those who need to be helped, she can hold an entire program together.



## One Woman Can Make A Difference

Others may do the public speaking or teaching and do it well, but some one needs to be the coordinator. I know of three women in my own city who have had a tremendous influence in the field of Literacy, just by taking the everyday step by step, prayerfully and with dedication.

Mary Louise Atsatt was a member of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles for 70 years. She edited their newsletter, taught Sunday school and served on numerous committees while she worked in a college and taught five languages in a private girl's school. From the time she met Dr. Frank Laubach in 1928 until his death in 1970, she dedicated herself to helping him in quiet ways that few knew about. For almost 40 years she kept a clipping service, cutting out articles from many newspapers and magazines that he would find interesting, and sending them to him wherever he might be traveling. She arranged his speaking engagements in California for 25 years and secured news and radio interviews each time he was in the area. For 27 years she helped students learn to speak English and to read, using the Laubach method. Most of all she prayed for literacy around the world, even until her death last August at the age of 92.

May McMillan of Alhambra, California first met Dr. Laubach in 1954 when she sold seventeen copies of one of his books to her friends and then took them to a meeting at First Congregational Church, where he was to speak and asked for autographs. He and Miss Atsatt were so impressed by her enthusiasm that they asked her to take the responsibility for securing speaking engagements and transportation for Dr. Frank. Later she helped raise funds for his new venture, Laubach Literacy, Inc. Dr. Laubach was 70 at the

time and had just retired from one job, but he felt that his work was not finished. Mrs. McMillan said to him "If you will open an office on the east coast, I'll see that your work is carried on in California." She found an office, persuaded the landlord to give her free rent and scrounged furniture and equipment. She launched a public relations campaign, a book store, and a training program, which are all still active, as is she! Her latest project has been putting Laubach Literacy into prisons and California Youth Authority facilities.

The person Dr. Laubach and Mrs. McMillan chose to be the Director of Training was Miss Alta Bell, a speech therapist from Pennsylvania who had just retired and moved west. She began training volunteers in the Laubach Method in a college, but there was such a demand for her workshops in other areas that she started traveling all over the state and later the Southwest. She trained on Indian reservations and also taught Peace Corps trainees going to South America. Wherever ten or more people wanted to learn how to teach others, she would go and give them 30 hours of instruction. Miss Bell retired a second time three years ago, but she has opened a literacy center at the retirement home where she is living, and is tutoring the gardeners and kitchen helpers who want to learn better English.

Miss Bell and I went to the same college, Ohio Wesleyan University, and she graduated the year that I was born. It's a special privilege to try to follow in her footsteps as California Literacy Training Director.

*Jane Scanland  
First Congregational Church  
Los Angeles*

# Rebel Against Death . . .

## Singer of Life

By Cyril H. Nute

Frances Dewey McGill lies utterly motionless in her Boston hospital bed, unable to control little more than the movement of her eyes but still living every moment of life to the fullest.

She is a unique patient in Jewish Memorial Hospital in the Roxbury section of Boston. It's not unusual for hospital personnel to see someone suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a gradually advancing paralysis inexorably ending in death.

But Frances Dewey McGill is unusual. Thanks to the loving aid of a number of her devoted friends and family, she spends two hours a day "dictating" letters in Morse code with only the movement of her eyes.

In addition, she has the use of a special device called the Tufts Interpretive Communicator (TIC) made available through the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Center.

The TIC uses a pointer on a television screen which sits at the foot of her bed. The pointer moves successively from character to character displayed in a square grid. When Frances sees a letter she wants to write, a slight twitch of her head against a special switch activates a print out on a slender strip of paper tape. In two hours she can express the equivalent of several lines on this page.

No Pollyanna, she looks at the shadows as well as the light. Yet in her own microcosm, bounded by a two-person ward with an outside window, all that happens in the world of both man and nature is exciting and newsworthy. One November day several years ago, she wrote:

"During the day seagulls wing their solitary and leisurely way across the sky while the light tips their wings according to the sun's position in the heavens. Smaller birds dart in groups — quick black diagonal patterns across the windows.

"At night, between six and nine o'clock, at least fifty planes build fire-fly designs in red, green and white lights. I see them from an underbelly view in the night sky. They seem to crawl up my window pane, crisscrossing, always upwards.

"Sometimes they look like Fourth of July sparklers, flashing and sputtering before they shed their ground headlights and take off into the ebon distances. Sometimes the clouds are illumined by the moon and other times an occasional star winks at me. Seldom is the sky without movement, color and designs."

In a December letter, she started with the following vignette:

"Yesterday a stretcher whisked past my door. A moment later I heard the ringing, warm voice of the ambulance attendant soothing the new arrival with the words, 'you're home now, mother.' I pondered the connotation of the words for the patient. Was she so confused and frightened that she really believed them?"

And with childlike delight, she reported on another occasion:

"One morning during quiet time, my eyes happened to linger on the cyclamen plant at the precise moment when a bud, nestling under a huge leaf, thrust upward and free of the protecting leaf. For a few seconds the adjacent leaves were in silent commotion. Those of you who are awake to nature's marvels will appreciate how wonder-filled and delighted I was to have been witness to such a moment."

Who is this silent and motionless woman and what kind of life developed her exquisite sensitivities?

### Childhood in Turkey

The daughter of American medical missionaries (Congregationalist), she spent much of her childhood in a remote city in Eastern Turkey.

Her memory goes back, however, to days when she was hardly past infancy when her parents worked in a huge orphanage in the Caucasus region of Russia soon after World War I.

Some of her earliest impressions of the world come from the sight of thousands of starving orphans housed in old barracks on a vast and desolate plain. Far in the distance rose the dim shape of Mt. Arrarat where Noah's Ark is said to have rested.

The lonely child would be moved by a melody played by a distant trumpeter, a tune that half a century later would haunt her in *Fiddler on the Roof*. On another day, in the silence of her room, she would earnestly test her Christian faith by praying Mt. Arrarat would move closer. The next morning she looked to see if she had lived up to her expectations of herself.

Frances McGill has spelled out the long and varied course of her life in a number of sensitive and humorous, sad and moving prose vignettes of



Frances McGill with her son, Paul, before the disease began taking its toll.

her experiences. Musically gifted, tending to be a loner, she early took up the cause of civil rights when she attended school in this country.

This interest arose at a time when it was not so fashionable as today. She has always been independent in thought and action and has been something of a rebel against established authority.

Two unfortunate marriages to members of minority groups left her scarred, but not embittered. A capable and devoted son, Paul, visits his mother daily and serves as one of her most trusted interpreters.

Much of her adult career, when not working on various causes, has been spent earning a slender living as a licensed vocational nurse in various Boston hospitals.

Frances first became aware something was wrong physically when she began to lose her beautiful singing voice in early 1974. Then her speech became slurred and later she had difficulty swallowing.

All her bodily movements became clumsy and awkward. At first the doctors were puzzled, trying one test after another until the tragic reality and its inevitable outcome became apparent: death within two to five years.

#### Time to Write

Frances had to quit work and she used her new-found leisure to wring out, in words, the best and most meaningful recollections of her life to leave as a heritage for her son and all her loved ones.

In the epilogue to an early draft of this volume, she wrote passionately of death's meaning, mentioning two themes. One was the "civil rights" of the dying, what they should be allowed, what decisions they should be allowed to make. The other was the clear and forthright

statement that knowledge of oncoming death is not so much an experience to be feared as shared with loved ones who survive.

She wrote:

"Some friends, especially those who do not know me very well, have remarked on my courage and bravery before the prospect of dying. Such comments astonish me because I am neither stoic nor gallant deliberately.

"In fact, I'm conscious of being very much alive even though my days are numbered. But whose days are *not* numbered? I am aware of such obvious facts as that it isn't the quality of each one and that, for me, it isn't death that is of moment, but the process of dying.

" 'Living' and 'dying' are both relative terms since each one of us is alive at the same time that we are in the process of dying. I think especially of the 'elderly' who most certainly are aware their days are numbered. Do people say to them, 'you should be congratulated on your great courage?'

"Everyone knows that they are dying but prefer to pretend the elderly don't know it. That is one of the reasons, I think, that some older folks find themselves feeling lonely as their energies and resources wane. Words like 'old' and 'dead' often become synonymous in the minds of people.

"I have been impressed with how a few folks have already consigned me to death as soon as they heard that I had a terminal illness. They have leaped over all the interim process in their thinking and made me a non-person. All of which leads me to ask, what are the civil rights of the dying person?"



*"Dying is preparing to say 'good-bye' . . . Even while my body is slowing dying, I soar in aliveness as I write."*

### Complete Honesty

Frances advocates complete candor and honesty by all parties when she discusses the civil rights of the dying. Observing some friends are repelled by her outspokenness, she adds:

"Other friends say that they have been greatly helped by the frankness with which I can discuss the complex of things associated with dying and that I deal directly with difficulties which they have with reference to the subject of dying; that my matter-of-factness eases their fright of it.



Mrs. McGill with the TIC.

"I think I am fortunate to have been told the truth . . . and that I have the chance to choose priorities and invest in things which are meaningful to me in ways that have not been previously possible, and that I have some choice about becoming a discard sort of property walled off from realities and that I am given time to adjust to my gradually increasing infirmities with dignity and an understanding of them.

"'Dying' is preparing to say 'good-bye.' There is a tear-provoking poignancy when the realization comes that a thing which has been often shared with another with deep enjoyment, such as listening to a favorite musical artist, will, on the part of the 'dying,' soon be a non-experience.

"Or to put it another way . . . a dear friend says, 'I'm going to miss you' . . . and I realize that despite my rush of responsive feeling, I can't say that after I'm dead I will miss that friend also.

"It is hard to conceive of non-experience. But

it brings me and my friend closer if I can share that thought with him or her. Such sharing is a true act of loving.

"Living and dying are all a part of the life process. It is important for all of us to communicate what is happening . . . that way we can help each other, ghosts are banished, and what should be natural *is* natural."

Not many months after Frances wrote these words, she lost the ability to use her electric typewriter and moved, reluctantly, to a hospital where she could get 24-hour daily care. Her autobiography completed, she has concentrated on a stream of monthly letters to dear friends.

It is impossible in a few words, or even pages, to describe all the letters touch upon. However, death, no matter how close, is not something she has accepted one instant before she has to.

Recently she wrote:

"I spend many hours thinking, planning, rehearsing the words in my mind so as to be ready to go right to it when the interpreter arrives or I am linked up to the TIC.

"Sometimes there are frustrations, but on the other hand, sometimes I have a day or a session in which I so nearly accomplish what I planned that I feel a surge of joyous excitement and begin to soar as I hope I have been able to express my thoughts well enough to catch fire in another's mind and heart.

"When sharing like that happens, I have a feeling of near perfection despite all of my limitations. Even while my body is slowly dying, I soar in aliveness as I write.

"'Oh, Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel!' I have been delivered, certainly over and over again. I wish every patient with a terminal illness could find a way of soaring."

What more can be said?

*Cyril Nute, a computer specialist, is a childhood friend of Frances McGill. He is a member of Avalon Community Church on Catalina Island, California.*



Note: Cards and letters may be sent Mrs. McGill c/o Social Service Office, Jewish Memorial Hospital, 59 Townsend Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119. ↓

# Miss America 1972

Terry Meeuwsen will share her story  
of love and commitment to Christ  
at annual meeting 1988.

**E**xcitement rippled through the room as the name of the speaker for the Monday night program of the CCC/NA 1988 Annual meeting was announced.

Terry Meeuwsen, Miss America 1972.

But accompanying the excitement was also the question: What could Miss America tell us? Was her's just a story of glamour and career-made-easy?

Terry Meeuwsen won the Miss America crown in 1972 in a big way—sweeping both the swimsuit and talent competitions. And that prestigious win did open personal and professional doors of opportunity to her.

Terry married two years after her win, but the marriage was fated to end disastrously. Recovering from her disappointment, Terry concentrated on her career in public media. She was co-host of the WTMJ-TV (Milwaukee) talk show "A New Day" and co-anchored the nationally broadcast "USam" show televised by the Christian Broadcasting Network. Through hard work and commitment, Terry moved into the position of special projects director at WTMJ-TV. Later, she added a daily 90 minute radio show, "Talk to the Experts," to her agenda.

In 1981 Terry married Andy Friedrich,

now executive director of Milwaukee Area Radio Stations.

So, Terry's is a story of glamour. It is also a story of family, sacrifice and a loving commitment to Christ. The Congregationalist asked Dr. Michael Halcomb, who pastored the church where Terry and her family are members, to talk to her for us.

**Dr. Michael Halcomb:** Andy and Terry, it seems that both of you are close to your families. Can you tell us a little bit about your growing up years? Who are the people and events that shaped your values?

**Terry Meeuwsen:** Our families are extremely important to us. Both of us grew up as the oldest of four children in homes where extended family and tradition were respected and celebrated. Our grandparents were a daily part of our lives as young children and I believe that I am a Christian today because of the influence and prayers of my grandmother.

I have a grandmother and grandfather still living and Andy's grandfather died just a few years ago at 95. Both of our families are extremely supportive of us and expect us to make right choices. We both attended church regularly and our families

raised us to respect and obey God's law, though neither of us knew of a personal relationship with Jesus.

**Halcomb:** I have heard you speak eloquently about your commitment to Christ. Can you tell us how you made that commitment?

**Terry:** I grew up with head knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, but no heart experience. When I became rebellious, I wanted to set my own rules and standards and God wasn't even part of the equation. I wanted a successful career in show business and thought all the drinking, partying, and drugs were glamorous . . . at first! As I became more successful, I felt more and more empty. Life had little meaning and I was committed to nothing.

After a sexual assault, I had to acknowledge that I could not control my own life and well-being. Nothing made sense any more. A young girl I'd never met before talked to me about a very *personal* Jesus who had a special and specific plan for my life. She gave me some scripture to read that made me realize how far from God my lifestyle was.

In my cynicism I wasn't even sure if there was a God. So I said, "God,

if there is a God, and Jesus, if you are real—then I give you all that's left of my life. And if you're not there, I guess I'm no worse off than I was before I said this prayer." It was cynical, but it was sincere. I gave what I could and Jesus met me right where I was at, and slowly began to change my life.

**Halcomb:** Do you believe that the Christian experience is primarily a single decision, or is it a pilgrimage; perhaps an on-going experience of growth and commitment?

**Terry:** I think it begins with a single decision, but it is a pilgrimage for a lifetime—a refining process that never ends until we go to be with the Lord. It's an adventure in learning to trust, to obey, to let go, to take hold, to serve, to follow, to lead others, to really let Jesus invade us and use us as He chooses.

*(Despite their hectic schedules, Terry and Andy eagerly welcomed their son, Drew, to the family in 1983. In 1985 their daughter, Tory, was born. About a year after Tory's birth, with time and child care a continuing concern, Terry made headlines by throwing over her exciting television and radio career to stay home and raise her children.)*

**Halcomb:** What were some of the factors leading up to your decision to rearrange schedules so that you could focus more on your family?

**Terry:** We realized that we were paying lip service to our priorities but that, in reality, we were controlled by our jobs.

I felt totally overwhelmed trying to do my television work, be prepared for an hour and a half of live "talk" radio every day, have quality time with my children, keep the groceries well stocked, the dry cleaning taken care of, laundry done, meals planned and prepared, etc., etc. There was no time for us as a couple and no time to myself. I felt tired, resentful and guilty. The worst part was that after all the striving and running around, I was still a day late and a dollar short in all categories. Talk about frustrating!

Our lives were out of control. Andy's work with the Brewers (at that time Friedrich was sales account executive for the Milwaukee Brewers) meant working all day and being at the ball park for all 80 some ballgames April to October. Our child care arrangements came to an end and we couldn't resolve having someone we didn't know take care of our children. And, finally, we realized our own relation-

ship had seriously suffered from all of this. An honest and painful appraisal was a necessity.

**Halcomb:** Have there been times when you have reconsidered that decision?

**Terry:** No! We've been offered job opportunities and we always discuss and pray about it. We've had some interesting moments financially. But we have not been willing to compromise our commitment to each other and family. Once we made right decisions for right reasons, God began to bless us and heal our home.

**Halcomb:** Andy played basketball at Marquette with Al McGuire, and, Terry, you are a former Miss America; both of you are seen as being successful in your vocations. Is it sometimes difficult to live with this image of success that others project upon you?

**Terry:** It's not that it's so difficult to live with the image of success that others project upon you, but it's being able to get past that to determine your own definition of success. When you're younger, I think being perceived as successful by other people is important to you. As you become older, you realize that every choice you make has a price tag attached to it. You might be able to sample it all, but you can't have it all. You have to make choices. Learning to make "right" choices when your life is very public remains in on-going challenge for us. We're always learning.

**Halcomb:** How would you define success?

**Terry:** I figured you'd ask that!

---

## Look to Jesus and He will gift and guide you day to day.

Success to me is being where you feel you are supposed to be, while doing what you feel you are supposed to be doing, with as much commitment, sacrifice and enthusiasm as it takes to do it well—always changing and growing and "becoming."

**Halcomb:** What would be your advice to the youth in a church such as Mayflower (Terry and her family are members of Mayflower Congregational Church of Milwaukee) who may be attracted to the YUPPIE view of success?

**Terry:** I think of the YUPPIE philosophy as "happiness by acquisition." Acquiring things, whether it's titles, money, homes, cars or power is an endless endeavor. The satisfaction is fleeting, leaving only a need to keep striving for more. A purpose for living, a reason for being here and a master plan are what Jesus offers us. One is fleeting and the other is eternal. The glamour of the acquisition and immediate satisfaction is the ultimate deception to YUPPIES.

**Halcomb:** There are so many things happening today in terms of women's roles in society. What do you see as being good about the changes? And what do you have difficulty with?

**Terry:** The best change is that women today can, with some exceptions, choose what they want to do with their lives. My concern is that women feel that careers and job choices are as important as family, and are unwilling to prioritize. I wish there were more free-lance and part-time positions available to women. And I wish our society understood, recognized and rewarded the homemaker for the valuable position it is. There is no tougher job. Men need to prioritize family and value wives again.

**Halcomb:** As your daughter, Tory, grows up, what advice do you plan to give her regarding the use of her gifts as a woman who will live in the twenty-first century?

**Terry:** I believe with all of my heart that God has a very personal and specific plan for each of our lives. I tell my children that now. Each night I pray with them that God will bring forth their gifts and talents and cause them to be all that He intends for them. I want Tory to love and treasure her femininity as I want my boys to love and cherish their masculinity (Joseph Phillip, affectionately known as "J.P.", joined the family in 1987). There



Terry  
and  
J.P.

is tremendous strength in both. I don't know that I would single out what I say to my daughter—to all my children I would say, 'Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith and He will gift and guide you day to day. And be willing to accept the responsibility that accompanies the choices you make.'

**Halcomb:** There are missionaries who have put their children in boarding schools hundreds of miles away from the parents and justified it by quoting verses such as Matthew 10:37 "He who loves mother or father more than Me is not worthy of Me, and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me . . ." What is the proper balance in this stewardship of family relationships? Can too much emphasis be put upon family?

**Terry:** Too much emphasis can be put on anything. When we have balance there is peace in the home and our relationships are growing. I believe that we need to stop separating family and ministry. My family is,

perhaps, the greatest ministry and responsibility God has given me. No-where will we be more refined, more convicted, more stretched and tested than in our family relationships. Why are we abdicating this responsibility?

For the same reason many women don't want to be home with their families. It's hard work, it's tedious, there is no great recognition and I have to see myself the way I really am. But you see, God gave me my family to rub off my rough edges. He tells me I'm responsible and accountable for them. And He says they are gifts from Him and I am to rejoice in them. Being able to do that requires relationships, and relationships take time and commitment. There are no shortcuts.

**Halcomb:** Andy and Terry, I have appreciated your willingness to use your many gifts in ministry, in the church, the community and across the country. With many requests coming your way, how do you prioritize them? How do the two of you decide which ministries you can give yourselves to?

**Terry:** That's tough one and we're still working on that.

There are certain ministries that God has laid on our hearts. Our greatest struggle is to find balance in our time. We try not to be away from our children on consecutive nights. We try to limit the number of engagements we accept a month. We use an answering machine so that we have time to consider a request before responding and don't get caught off guard.

Even if we can't put our finger on it, if we feel unsettled about accepting something, we decline it. This is not an easy one because you have to stay flexible so that God can make exceptions if he chooses. That's how He keeps us on our knees. Isn't it just like all of us to want a simple equation? Isn't it good God knows better!

**Halcomb:** Thank you for opening your home and your lives to us, Terry and Andy. In light of your busy schedules, I'm grateful that you have given us this time. We look forward to having you with us at our Annual Meeting in Green Bay next June. □

# "MAN ON THE WING"

By Kathryn B. Calhoun



Paul A. Miller

From the world of aviation comes the new chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Mr. Paul A. Miller, a preliminary design engineer of the Beech Aircraft Corporation, Wichita, Kansas, and a Congregationalist of many years active participation will now serve the Congregational Way in a new capacity.

Paul Miller first became a Congregationalist in 1935 under the guiding and warm friendship of the Rev. Charles M. Good, minister of the First Congregationalist Church, Eureka, Kansas. Though now retired, Rev. Good is still ardent and strong in his support of Congregationalism.

In 1943 Mr. Miller's membership was transferred to Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, Kansas, where the late Rev. John Henry Hornung was the minister. Rev. Hornung is fondly remembered for his activities in several bodies dedicated to continuing Congregationalism prior to the founding of the National Association.

Paul graduated from Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia, Kansas in 1940. After a brief teaching career, he went to Wichita for a summer job which he found in the Engineering Department of the Beech Aircraft Corporation. It proved to be a long summer, for he celebrated his 25th anniversary with Beechcraft on the same day he was elected chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

During this "long summer" Paul Miller's churchmanship grew in

sturdy proportion; there were church school classes to be taught; youth camps to assist and direct; the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses and the Board of Missions to serve in; church pulpits in the area to fill; there was the free church battle to fight; there was the founding of the Mid America Congregational Fellowship for churches and church members of the Congregational Way; there were commissions to serve for the National Association; and there were funds to be raised for it — there are few facets of the free church in which Paul Miller has not been engaged.

In addition to church work, he has been active for many years in Boy Scout activities and in Junior Achievement.

He met his wife, Margaret, in the Thayer, Kansas High School where they were both beginning teachers; they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in September, 1966. They have four children: Timothy, Michael, Gretchen, and Jeffrey. Tim is enrolled in the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies Program and is studying at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. Mike, a student at the University of Kansas, is also considering a ministerial career. Gretchen is a student in high school and Jeff is in elementary school.

Margaret teaches English at Wichita High School East. Paul never completely abandoned his pedagogical training. From time to time he teaches supplementary courses for new Beech employees. Both Paul and Margaret have held part-time

lectureships at Wichita State University.

When the Miller family schedule permits recreation, they choose travel and outdoor activities. They have camped in more than half of these United States plus 10 countries of Europe. They have climbed mountains on the east coast, the west coast, in the Rockies, and in the Alps. They have paddled their own canoe (literally and figuratively, since they built it of fiberglass themselves) on many rivers and lakes of the midwest. A float trip down a clear, rushing river, a campfire at the end of the day, and a night under the stars is their formula for an idyllic week-end. To enjoy the outdoors at other times, the Millers walk or bicycle together. Policemen have offered them a ride home on more than one late evening or early morning walk; several years ago people would stop Paul at work and say "You know, I saw someone on a bicycle last evening who looks enough like you to be your twin brother". But now most acquaintances are not surprised to see them riding a bright red tandem bicycle.

Paul has promised to desist from most service activities in another year so the Millers may continue to plan another camping trip in Europe during 1968.

Once again the Congregational Way has been fortunate to gain the services of a dedicated churchman whose family and friends are willing to share the free church dream of accomplishment with him. □

— Kathryn B. Calhoun is a member of Plymouth Church, Wichita.

## Featuring: Edgar Johnson, Active Congregationalist

By Deb Wendland

"I've gotten too much credit for too many things."

That's the viewpoint of Edgar Johnson, but not the viewpoint of the people who know him.

Meeting Edgar Johnson on the street, you probably wouldn't realize his great achievements in the business world, his contributions to his community or the honors bestowed upon him.

Johnson, an active Congregationalist, is founder and chairman of the board of the E. F. Johnson Co. in Waseca, Minnesota. The company, known throughout the country, manufactures Citizen Band radios and land mobile components.

In 1977 Johnson was awarded the University of Minnesota's most prestigious honor given school alumns, the Outstanding Achievement Award. The school's Board of Regents presents the award.

Johnson exemplified his modesty, saying, "If you live long enough, things are going to happen to you and some of them will be nice."

Success is based on numerous things, yet Johnson attributes much to the examples his parents set as he grew up.

He describes his mother and father as self-reliant, strong individuals. His mother immigrated to the United States at age 16 from Sweden. His father was raised on a farm.

"The things that I value they taught me," said Johnson. And today he lives those same values of high personal character.

During Johnson's youth the family walked to church and school. In both cases it didn't matter what the weather, the family didn't believe in missing either.

"It was just the natural thing and it had to be done."

Johnson graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1921 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. The unusual thing was that he knew what he wanted to do with his life the day he entered college, unlike the youth of today.

"I was interested and aroused in the electrical field when I was younger," explained Johnson.

Following the footsteps of older relatives and friends, he and a friend tried to construct a telegraph line. He recalls getting discarded wires and batteries from the local telephone company "with still a spark of life in them."

Asked if it worked, he admitted, "Not very well."

After graduating from the University, he and another Wasecan entered the electrical business. They were responsible for most of the electrical



Edgar Johnson (left) receives the University of Minnesota's most prestigious honor, the Outstanding Achievement Award. Presenting the award was Professor William G. Shepherd (right), director of the Space Science Center.

wiring in the county. In 1923 the partnership dissolved and Johnson tried his hand at radio parts. With his brothers and their wives, he started an industry which grew from manufacturing parts for amateur radio buffs to complex electronic equipment.

He recalls that with little or no money he put all he had into the business and watched it grow. Little did he know that it would develop into what it is today.

However, if he had it to do all over again, Johnson said he wouldn't dare take the chance under the same circumstances. "At that time there was nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Johnson's life has been anything but selfish. The rewards of his business can be seen throughout the local community. It can also be seen by those walking into First Congregational Church in Waseca each Sunday.

Johnson served on the church's building committee as liaison with the architect and chairman of trustees. He has always found time to serve on the church's committee and the board.

And, nearly every Sunday for 35 years he has sung in the church choir.

Truly a man to be noted for his professional accomplishments, Johnson's achievements also have been matched in every aspect of his personal life. □

## Dr. Walter H. Judd

### *World Renowned Congregationalist*

Dr. Walter H. Judd gained world renown as a Congregational medical missionary to China, crusader against Chinese Communism, U.S. Representative, and spokesman for freedom.

His accomplishments spanned more than 60 years. After graduating from the University of Nebraska Medical School he went to Nanking, China, in 1925 as a missionary for the Congregational Board of Foreign Missions. He stayed for five years before malaria forced him to return to the United States but went back to China in 1933 where his mission in Fenchow offered haven to Chinese fleeing the Japanese armies. He remained in the city for five months after it was captured.

After negotiating his release, Dr. Judd returned to the United States. He spoke to 1,400 groups in 46 states to warn of the dangers of Japanese imperialism. He practiced medicine in Minneapolis where he belonged to Plymouth Congregational Church.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1942, he exerted considerable influence on foreign policy, and, after World War II, strongly supported American efforts to restore Europe, under the Marshall plan.

He was a delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1957 and to the World Health Organization Assembly in 1950 and 1958. Dr. Judd wrote the 1952 legislation removing racial discrimination from American immigration and naturalization laws and sponsored Latin American aid programs that later became known as the Alliance for Progress. During the 1960 Republican National Convention Dr. Judd was prominently mentioned as a candidate for Vice President but the post went to Henry Cabot Lodge who ran with Richard M. Nixon only to be defeated by John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Dr. Judd died February 13, age 95, at Collington Life Care Community, Mitchville, Maryland. ■

## "Hymns—and the Men Who Wrote Them."

### ISAAC WATTS

by Mrs. Blanche T. Richardson

In the town of Southampton, in England, one can find a beautiful enclosure tastefully laid out with walks and trees and flower beds. It is known as Watts Park and contains a fine, full-length statue of the poet, which was unveiled when the Park opened in July 17, 1861. Such fame and honor rightly belongs to Isaac Watts for he must be regarded as the father of Modern Hymnology.

Isaac was the son of a Congregational Deacon who was thrown into prison for his faith. Isaac himself became a minister, and proved to be a man of vast learning, and was greatly loved by his congregation. Expressing his strong dislike for the

rude, unpoetical versions of the Psalms which his people sang, Isaac was challenged by his Church officials to "give them something better." Isaac promptly responded, and at the evening service that very day he presented his first hymn: "Behold the Glories of the Lamb." His work was warmly greeted and led to his composing a new hymn each week until he had written over six hundred. Isaac's work was not only large in quantity but fine in quality. His poetic spirit, balanced completeness of form, and buoyant faith make him to this day the easy leader of the hymn writers. Some excel Isaac in particular pieces, but none in the broad and general excellence of his work, and in our modern

hymnals he furnishes a larger proportion than that of any other writer. Most of us are familiar with and love his "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come," and "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past." His crucifixion hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," has been called "a masterpiece of impassioned contemplation."

In his hymns Isaac Watts aimed to give expression to the various phases of Christian experience, and set forth divine truth in simple song. The fact that he succeeded so thoroughly has advanced the happiness, helped the devotions and been a medium for expressing the praises of millions of people, to the infinite glory of God. □