

## MEMORIALS

### Frank E. Gaebelein

Frank E. Gaebelein, evangelical educator, author and editor, died on January 19, 1983, at the age of 83. A man of Renaissance interests and many gifts, he enhanced the Christian witness in many ways.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York, on March 31, 1899, he was the son of Arno and Emma Gaebelein. His father, a pastor and writer deeply interested in Biblical prophecy, anticipated the regathering of dispersed Jewry in Palestine long before 1948 and edited the magazine *Our Hope*.

Frank Gaebelein served as platoon commander (second lieutenant) in the United States Army in 1918. He received the B.A. (Phi Beta Kappa) from New York University in 1920 and the A. M. from Harvard University in 1921.

Upon graduation from Harvard he organized The Stony Brook School, a Christian preparatory school on Long Island, and in 1922 he became its first headmaster. He married Dorothy Medd, and they were devoted companions until her death in November, 1981. During his 41-year tenure as headmaster the school sent many dedicated young graduates to university campuses to prepare for ministerial, teaching, professional and business careers.

When he retired as headmaster emeritus in 1963 he moved to Washington, D. C., to become co-editor until 1966 of *Christianity Today* magazine. He was author of some twenty books and editor of many others. His early writings included *Down Through the Ages* (1924), *A Brief Survey of Scripture* (1929), *Exploring the Bible* (1929), *The Hollow Queen* (1933), *Facing the Fact of Inspiration* (1934), *Philemon, the Gospel of Emancipation* (1939), *Looking Unto Him* (1941), *The Christian Use of the Bible* (1946), and *The Servant and the Dove* (1946). The volume *Christian Education in a Democracy* (1951) served as an important reference work. Later books included *The Pattern of God's Truth* (1954), *The Practical Epistle of James* (1955), *A Varied Harvest* (1967), *Four Minor Prophets: Their Message for Today* (1970), and *From Day to Day* (1975). He edited *A Christianity Today Reader* (1967).

After concluding his commitment at *Christianity Today* he undertook two major literary projects. One was his role, begun in 1971, as general editor of the 12-volume *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, which he had more than half completed by the time of his death. The other was his role as style editor for the translation committee of the *NIV*. He was a semantic craftsman, and the late Edwin H. Palmer, chairman of the *NIV* translation committee, credited his literary effort with a shaping influence upon the project.

Gaebelein was a member of numerous boards and advisory boards, including the publication committee of American Tract Society, Christian College Coalition, Evangelicals for Social Action, and Bread for the World. He was a member of the prestigious Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., serving for three years on its admissions committee and as a member of the board of directors. He fre-

quently addressed college and university chapels and was a popular Bible conference speaker and lecturer. He was honored by Wheaton College in 1931 with the Litt. D. degree, by Reformed Episcopal Theological Seminary in 1951 with the D.D. degree, and by Houghton College in 1960 with the Ll.D. degree.

He was a concert pianist and even in later years gave occasional church concerts. His interests at Cosmos Club included serving on the music committee. In 1968 he became leader of a weekly group study of the Bible attended regularly by a circle of Club members. His interest in great literature and in esthetics was frequently mirrored in his writing.

He excelled in mountain climbing and was a member of the Alpine Club in both the United States and Canada. For the last twenty years, however, he coped by medication with heart trouble. Knee surgery in 1980 somewhat impaired his walking. The loss of his wife in 1981, after a sustained illness, was a serious blow. He was, moreover, increasingly aware of his heart ailment, and hoped that surgery might enable him to complete his commentary project. A triple-bypass operation at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, Minnesota, was followed by supplementary surgery, and he succumbed to multiple organ failure. Funeral services and interment were held in Tarrytown, New York. Memorial services were held in The Stony Brook School and in the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C., with which he was actively associated.

### Valdis Mezezers

Valdis Mezezers was born in Latvia and arrived in America in 1949. He was a graduate of the University of Riga, Latvia. Dr. Mezezers did post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, Temple University, and the Berean Christian Seminary in Wichita, Kansas.

After coming to America he served Evangelical Lutheran churches in Maryland (Emmanuel, Stoney Creek, Baltimore; organized Magothy-Chelsea Community Church, Pasadena), Pennsylvania (Maidencreek, Blandon, Good Shepherd, Tuckerton Parish near Reading, St. Pauls, Sassamonsville), and in North Carolina (Antioch Church, Gaston County). Besides his involvement in church work and teaching Dr. Mezezers continued to pursue his deep interest in theology and writing. He was the author of *The Herrnhuterian Pietism in the Baltic*, an historical look at European history and religion in the Baltic region.

Dr. Mezezers passed away Sunday, June 6, 1982, in Lincolnton, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife Erica.