The Debt Liquidation Drive, which was initiated nearly a year ago, is having a good response. Some students went home to their communities and organized fund-raising projects with other alumni. Others planned their own private fund-raising projects. And others simply shared from their job earnings.

Alumni in the Upper Deer Creek Church, Kalona, IA, planned a pie auction, hoping that each participating alumnus could come up with the suggested $65.00 per person. Each one was encouraged to bring a friend from another church. Approximately twenty alumni participated. The sale was held at the Kalona Rec Center in September with William Swartzentuber serving as auctioneer. Total contributions from the sale of around sixty items came to $1,775.00.

Dan Martin organized a bread sale in the Lancaster County, PA area. Dan had been employed at Shady Maple Farm Market, Terre Hill, PA prior to coming to RBI. Marvin Weaver, owner of the market, consented to let the PA students use his building and baking facilities free of charge. All the students had to pay was the cost of the ingredients used. Five students worked from 6:30 to 1:30 a.m. Others joined them the next day to sell the bread. They delivered 665 loaves of white and whole wheat bread and were gratified with the positive comments from customers. The group was able to send $554.00 to RBI. They hope to send $1,000.00 in 1981.

The Sunnyside Congregation, Kalona, IA, sponsored a pig roast with a full menu and skits and music by alumni after dinner. Contributions came to $1300.00.

Various small groups and individuals have contributed their talents and work to the project also. Donna Helmuth, Rushville, OH, sold a calf she had raised and sent in her $65.00. Elaine Hess, Mt. Airy, MD, built her own greenhouse and raised an early tomato crop. The Ambassadors Quartet designated some of their offerings to the Drive.

Lloyd Kauffman, who is heading up the Drive, hopes to liquidate the debt by January 1, 1981. "There's still $38,390.48 to go," he says. "That means $13,000 per week! But I still feel pretty optimistic about being able to get close." Lloyd also points out that while alumni have responded well, over half of the contributions have come from individuals, churches, and businesses other than alumni.
The Classroom:

? and Answers

Does God Answer All Our Prayers?

-- by Willard Mayer

Prayer is not motivating a reluctant God. Rather, it is expressing confidence in our God who is perfect in all His ways. Prayer is fellowshipping with God; it is love's response to love which includes adoration, praise, thanksgiving, and petition.

God chose to create the human family because He is agape love. Agape love reaches out to bless, ever seeking the best welfare of another. It creates fellowship on the highest level. Throughout Scripture, God invites people to share intimately with Him.

There are two main Greek words translated "ask" in the KJV. 

Altheo is used when one who is consciously inferior seeks a response from one who is superior. He has confidence that the superior one knows best and has the power to respond to his need. He leaves the decision with Him.

Enatao (sometimes prefixed with "epi" which makes it more emphatic) is used to designate someone requesting from another of equal standing, often to the extent of predetermining the course of action. Nowhere in Scripture are we invited to pray thus to God, although Jesus prayed thus because He is equal with the Father. We are not promised answers to prayer if we assume the dictating role of telling God what He ought to do. We dare not use God to satisfy selfish goals. Shall the creature lord it over the Creator? Shall the finite seek to control the infinite? God forbid. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa.55:8,9).

But whenever a child of God approaches Him with altheo (humble, loving trust) God promises to answer. There is no flaw in God's character, and all His works are perfect. What a privilege to pray (altheo) to Him, leaving the response fully to Him who is all knowing and whose answers cannot be improved upon.

What's going on?

RBI students and community persons will be presenting portions of Handel's Messiah on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. The 140-voice choir will be accompanied by Clyde McDaniel from Mechanicsburg Methodist Church. This is the first time that RBI has presented the Messiah. Admission is free and ALL ARE WELCOME.

LeRoy Yoder is on leave during second term. He is ministering in Canada under Northern Light Gospel Missions from Nov. 25-Dec. 20. He will be speaking in week-end meetings in churches and also will be visiting missionaries who are in isolated situations. Willard Mayer is spending this term in ministry in various states. He was one of the teachers at Leadership Seminar at RBI in November. He is scheduled to be at Bethany in Hartville, OH on Dec. 13 and 14 and in Cochran, PA Dec. 15-21.

John R. Mumaw, Harrisonburg, VA is on campus this term, teaching two courses: Spiritual Leadership and Personal Life and Work. Brother Mumaw retired three years ago from seminary teaching at Eastern Mennonite. But, as a Jamaican pastor said when introducing him to his congregation last year, he is "retired, but not resigned." Brother Mumaw says of his experiences at RBI, "I have positive feelings. I enjoy the student interchange. I need to really sharpen my tools to keep ahead of them."

Happiness is...

-- an attentive class.

(Walter Beachy)
"EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE"

There were six of us—Ellis Miller, Glen Landis, Ransford Heatwole, Carol Schaefer, Bev Burkholder, and I on a gospel team that went to PA for a short weekend. Programs were given at the Gingerich, Erb, and Gantz Mennonite churches.

For two weeks we spent nearly every evening practicing diligently for the weekend that was rapidly approaching. Sometimes practice meant forfeiting volleyball and supper but we all enjoyed those times of working together.

Our program given was centered on thanksgiving. After the services we were blessed by the smiles, handshakes, and words of encouragement. At the Gantz Church we were given a delicious meal and a big box of food for the trip home. Apparently they didn't want us to have a wrong impression of the cooks in Lancaster.

I found this to be a meaningful, learning and growing experience. Getting to know each other better and having a common goal of wanting to honor Christ made it exciting! It was also neat to feel God's Spirit filling us when we were empty. I was blessed by the experience.

"OUR DAY OF THANKSGIVING"

The night before Thanksgiving the girls were astir, pressing their dresses and washing their hair. At six o'clock tomorrow a banquet was planned, to honor the RBites of second term land. The students all finally settled down in their beds, visions of Thanksgiving, away from home, dancing in their heads. A unique Thanksgiving awaited on that RBI afternoon. All classes were crammed into the hours before noon. For the hungry crowd, soup was next on. Later they all met for an inspiring time—"Put Thanksgiving in the Present" was the challenge they heard. With service concluded, volleyballs were served. Now the time had arrived for the banquet to prepare, so they dressed in their best and combed their hair. The cafeteria had changed from its schoolish face, into a banquet hall decorated in good taste. While some were seated in orderly form, the rest were escorted by members of the opposite dorm. The food was delicious, fit for a king, consisting of turkey, dressing and trim. Notes of sweet music floated on air, while conversation was pleasant and sweet to the ear. To tickle the funny bone, a film was provided. At the close of the evening, it was generally decided, that a profitable Thanksgiving had been provided.

—Fayetta Schrock; Arthur, IL

November 21, 1980
Cool, sparkling evening
Pinpricks of starlight
Full moon
Warmly dressed students
Four bale-filled wagons
Piled with people
Ambling out into the night
Songs, laughter
Misty clouds of breath
Winding, angling roads
Ahead once more—RBI
Cafeteria, cocoa, popcorn balls
An enjoyable, relaxing evening!

—Jerilyn Gingerich
Kalona, IA

—Lois E. Miller; Nashwauk, MN
Jesus is doing some very beautiful things in my life. Just recently He gave me the sense of joyous responsibility in loving my fellowmen, especially those who are Christians. "He that loveth His brother, abideth in the light..." I have been focusing my affections on Jesus, on His life and response to men. What an example we have to follow when we watch the Word! He has done more than set an example for me; He goes before me in life leading me in the paths of righteousness. A brother in our Lord challenged me one day to sit in a quiet place and just meditate on what it means to know Jesus, and what a privilege it is to be a Son of God; then simply rest in the peace of those thoughts. The most exciting feelings enveloped me when I did that. A whole new source of mental relaxation has resulted from my thinking about our relationship. Jesus is joy, peace, ambition and life to me, both now and forever!

-Jonathan Kauffman; Cochrane, ONTARIO

Jesus is my All, my Saviour and Redeemer. He's also my Prophet, Priest and King. What I love most about Jesus is that He's my closest friend and He has never let me down. I can confide the distressing situations or failures of my life to Him and He shares them with me. When I'm discouraged, He gives me a healthy sense of personal worth—a feeling of significance. In our world of power hunger, technological advancements, inflation and shortages, it's wonderful to have Jesus envelope me with His arms of love, giving me a security that cannot be surpassed. Because of my security in Jesus and His unconditional love and acceptance of me, I can love and accept others as they are. When I succeed, I am rewarded by Jesus with a good warm feeling of inner peace. I'm also thankful that Jesus disciplines me when I fail. It is then that I realize His divine plan for my life and His call for me to follow Him.

Stan Miller; Goshen, IN

REFLECTIONS ON JESUS

LORD,

You are so mighty! By a word from Your mouth the earth was formed. Your creativity is proclaimed from the highest snow-covered mountain peak to the lowest exotic ocean floor. You've stretched the star-studded heavens above me and rolled out the flowered carpet beneath my feet. You've filled the air around me with twittering birds and fleecy clouds. Thanks, Lord, for showing me Your love.

The greatest manifestation of Your love came when You sent Your only Son down to this sinful world. You in Your mighty power and love had formed man with Your own hands and now he has turned against You. That must really hurt. But the greatest hurt of all had to come when You watched them nail Him to the cross. You had the power to destroy those men, but You also had the love to save them. Thanks, Lord, for that love You have given me. My sins helped to drive those spikes through Your Son's hands and still You love me.

-Kris Maust; Accident, MD

"THE GIFT"

She handed me the gift. It wasn't much—
But it was her most prized possession.
I started to protest
But she looked at me—her child's eyes
pleading for me
to understand
the love she'd wrapped inside.
And suddenly I realized
the love God must have had for me
To send Jesus—His Son
and most prized possession
As my Christmas gift.

-Karen Steiner
Dalton, OH
LeRoy Yoder was recently asked to speak at a church banquet. On the appointed evening, he and Clara Mae showed up at Maranatha and joined the guests who had arrived for the banquet. After awhile, someone sitting next to Clara Mae said, "Excuse me, but this seems strange. I talked to a friend from Sharon Church today and she said LeRoy was going to be their guest speaker." LeRoy and Clara Mae made a quick and apologetic exit!

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Forty persons from fourteen different states and from Costa Rica came together on RBI's campus for Leadership Seminar, Nov. 17-21. The group represented 26 congregations and ten conferences. Each class met for three hours every day. One pastor commented on the last day, "I enjoyed every bit of it." Another person wrote a note to his teacher: "You have demonstrated the fruits of careful, patient study -- a challenge to me to do the same."

CLASS OF 1970

The four Institute graduates of 1970 have one thing in common. They all have three children! Three are members of Conservative Conference and one of a Fellowship Church. JAMES BONTRAGER lives in Sarasota, FL and is a carpenter. WILMA (HOSTETLER) MILLER is married to a farmer in Constantine, MI. PHIL SHETLER lives in Irwin, OH and is presently doing construction work. CAROLYN MAE (YODER) GERBER is married to a carpenter from Fairview, MI. Carolyn writes, "John Ropp's class in Christian Writing got me started in writing stories. I hated writing before that. Since then, I have written a number of children's stories for our church papers." She also says studying at RBI introduced her to doctrinal and theological reading which helps her in studying for Sunday School lessons, etc.
BIRTHS

Greta Marie was born Oct. 22 to Glenn (74) and Gloria Lichti, Millbank, Ont.

Paul Ashly was born Nov. 28 to Paul (73, 74) and Mary Lou (Yoder) (74, 75) Wesselhoeft, Blountstown, FL.

Peter Lynn was born Nov. 13 to Dave (72) and Loretta (Miller) (70-72) Burkey, Beaver Crossing, NE.

Daniel Mervin was born Sept. 16 to Mervin (73, 79S) and Rachel (73, 79S) Frey, Shively, PA.

Sonya Joy was born Oct. 17 to Jim (71-73) and Mary Alice (Ebersole) (71-73) Hoover, Lancaster, PA.

Crystal Joy was born May 12 to Roger (75, 76) and Wava (Shetler) (74, 75) Swartzentruber, Greenwood, DE.

Jeremy Mark was born Apr. 27 to Mark (74-76) and Polly (Heatwole) (76, 77) Yoder, Jr., Greenwood, DE.

Lolita Michelle was born Oct. 11 to J. J. (76, 77) and Joy (Miller) (76, 77) Nisly, Hutchinson, KS.

Christopher Chad was born May 20 to Henry (77) and Joan (Nisly) Yoder, Hutchinson, KS.

Ronda LaDawn was born Oct. 8 to John and Sally Hershberger (79S, 80S) Kalona, IA.

DEATH

Mervin Slaubaugh (71, 73, 78S) International Falls, MN died Nov. 25 after an illness of several weeks. He was pastor of Point of Pines congregation and is survived by his wife, Barbara, and four children.