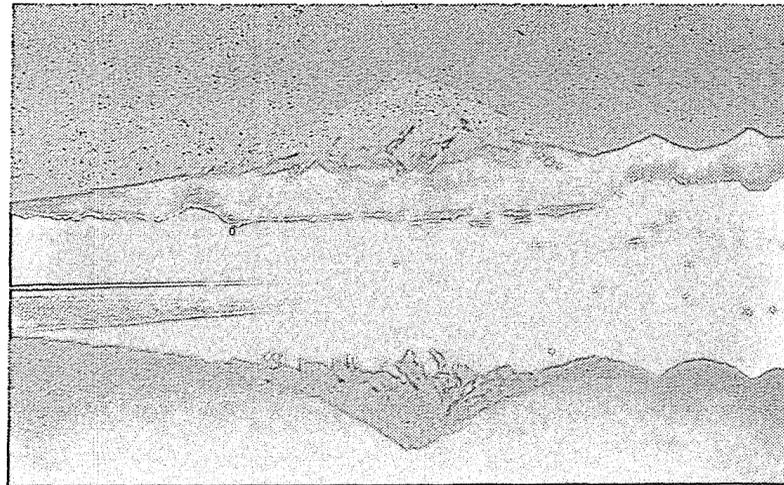


NEW ZEALAND



ONE OF THE BEAUTY SPOTS OF NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is just one of the areas where Seventh Day Baptists are striving to bring about the "beauty," in daily affairs, of a God-centered society and Christ-centered lives.

Your contribution to the Second Century Fund will give you a part in this great work, helping not only our brethren in New Zealand but others in all parts of the world.

Send your check or money order, today, to Karl G. Stillman, Westerly, R. I.

Homes—the Heart of the Universe

By Helen Angel

New Zealand is literally God's own country, and if it only follows the Light, great things lie ahead for it. By providing a peaceful, beautiful, tranquil home, we are helping forward peace and serving our Creator.

Don't you see? Homes are the essence of God's power on earth. Homes he intended to be his sanctified sanctuary of the souls dwelling within them. Homes—the emblem of the Godhead on earth, the center from whence all sally forth to do deeds great or small and give their services to the world.

Through a harmonious home we gather strength of body and mind by procuring tranquillity and poise. These centers are the crux of the universe, the core and heart of life. As a home is in miniature, so is the country that home represents. Make your home as beautiful as possible in material ways and in mental ways. Then tranquillity, love, poise, thoughtfulness to others will spread therefrom over these fair isles—yes, overflowing beyond to lands afar.

Mother Love and Father Strength make your homes as beautiful as possible, attractive to the eye, and attractive in good will, the absence of which will cause the young of that home to seek undesirable channels of life to the detriment of their own lives and the community in which they live. Open your homes to Light. Joy unutterable will be yours, and children, instead of wander-

ing off for thrills anew in places of din and dust, will walk joyfully homewards to a sanctuary of security, gladness, laughter, and Light Divine.

Homes, the heart of the universe, should send forth the young built up in strength of body, mind and soul, with harmony inculcated in their hearts, so they will spread this spirit of Light around the world and do their part in frustrating cruelty and wickedness. Home builders, this is your duty—yes, your responsibility.

THE BIBLE

By O. G. Russell

O Blessed Book for every age,
Wiser than the wisest sage,
Guiding mortals on their way
To the land of endless day;
Giving courage in the fight,
Shedding on my path its light.
In place of doubt and dark despair,
It points me to a city fair;
Gives joy in life and in death peace.
It buoys the soul for its release,
And helps me love my fellowman,
Revealing God's eternal plan
To save a lost and ruined world.

Then let the banner be unfurled
To every caste, and creed, and race,
To show the saving plan of grace,
Its rich treasures to unfold
That shine within as precious gold.

(See also pages 430 and 431.)

The Sabbath Recorder



The Sabbath Recorder

A Seventh Day Baptist Weekly Published by the American Sabbath Tract Society, Plainfield, N. J.

Entered as second-class matter at Plainfield, N. J.

ESTABLISHED IN 1844

Editorials

NOT HALF LONG ENOUGH

"If the Christmas spirit could only last the year around." How often we hear such a lament at this season of the year, when people's hearts are warmed by kind thoughts for others and a high degree of gay comradeship is in evidence.

There is a glimmering of eternal and divine longing in the desire to have Christmas ideals last throughout the year and permeate all of mankind's activities; it is God within, that part of a man's being that inevitably and persistently reaches out toward the Creator, whether the individual will accept the Christian truth or not. For, if the true spirit of Christmas were to be applied in daily living, the world would soon come into the full glory of that "peace on earth, good will toward men" declared at Christ's birth.

While it is not feasible continually to celebrate the Nativity, it is highly desirable to keep in daily communion with the Power evidenced on that holy night. Such contact with the Divine is possible for all; those who accept God's gift of salvation rejoice in the privilege of coming to the throne of grace through prayer.

Perhaps the Recorder can bring double emphasis to the significance and meaning of Christmas by publishing two issues which carry the messages of Christmas. Realizing that some subscribers do not receive their copies until nearly a week after the publication date, we are making this December 17 Recorder a Christmas special. However, other inspirational material appropriate for the season will appear next week, and it is our prayer that the blessing and peace of Christmas will remain with you throughout the year, and that every number of our denominational publication will bring you closer to Him, the Christ of Christmas.

A good conscience is a continual Christmas.
—Franklin.

STARS IN THE SKY

Christmas is the time of year when we focus our attention on the stars—and particularly the Star of the East!

A saying popularly expressed through the years testifies that all we need to do is hitch our wagon to a star, and there we are. To have a goal as high as the stars is commendatory, that is true. High desires inspire us to high attainment.

To be certain, however, that we have hitched our wagon to a really "high" star is sometimes difficult, especially in these days when the sky of human ambition is filled with a multiplicity of stars, all of them made to appear lofty and exalted.

Take the star of prejudice and racial hate, for example. Because of the exigencies of war we have been led in many subtle ways to feel animosity for certain members of the world's family of people. To wage war successfully, experts say, it is imperative to hate. But now that that bloody business is over, with all of its evils, the job of rebuilding the world faces us. Can a society at peace be maintained on the basis of hate?

Look at the world's great need. Observers back from Asia and Europe say: "The plight of the people increases. . . . Young women and girls from good families stand

before us, now homeless and with bitterness and hopelessness on their tongues. . . . Children are wandering about the country, begging, stealing, ragged, uncared for. . . . The armies of the old and ill, from all classes of society, are sentenced to death, and cry for help." As Christians can we continue to follow the star of malice and hate?

Then there is the star of selfish interests. It glitters brightly before many this Christmas. For several years the Yuletide season has not been as joyous as it once was; families have not been together; limited merchandise has somewhat curbed the giving (and receiving!) of gifts. But now the war is over; people have money to spend, and are intent on spending it lavishly for themselves. The attitude is reflected in a comment made in reference to the Thanksgiving issue of the Recorder. "I liked the serious, prayerful attitude reflected. Thanksgiving is a time to be thoughtful," this person said. "But Christmas—that's the time for fun and happiness. Christmas this year ought to be particularly happy, don't you think?" I wonder!

Christmas is traditionally a gay time for children. Yet one million European children will perish during the coming months unless Americans send food, clothing, and vitamins overseas immediately, according to the estimate of experts on the Church Committee on Relief and Reconstruction. Perhaps this year when we send Christmas greetings, we should think, too, of sending to those in need some substantial gifts of necessities. Perhaps our "Merry Christmas" should have the same attitude behind it that prompted the first gift earmarked for Japanese relief and Christian reconstruction. It came from an infantry outfit in France, which sent a \$100 check to the Church Committee for Relief to Asia, with this message:

"Love your enemies" has been ringing in our hearts for some time. We were eager to do something about it.

Those men, it seems safe to assume, had caught the true Christmas spirit. They were not dazzled by the false stars in the sky; they were led, as in all things and always we ought to be, by the brightest star of them all—the Star of Bethlehem.

May we, throughout the year, be as the Wise Men were on the Nativity eve. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with ex-

ceeding great joy." Matthew 2: 10. Let that same joy be our joy this Christmas season and on through the new year, as we constantly strive to keep in view and follow—with exceeding great joy—the Star that marks the path of Christian service.

GUEST EDITORIAL

WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

By Leslie B. Moss

Executive Director, Church Committee
on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction

The birth of the Saviour was first announced to earth's loneliest people, the shepherds. For them, out in the open fields at night, the angels of heaven sang the most beautiful of choruses, "A saviour is born—peace and good will among men." The heart of compassion is the heart of a shepherd. The Babe of Bethlehem grown to man's estate yearned over the lonely crowding people, who were "as sheep without a shepherd." Our Lord himself drank from the wells of loneliness. Misunderstood, reviled, and finally crucified, his unrequited love kept on, persistently reaching out to bring the transforming glory of God's love to every lonely human heart.

Such is the world today; lonely, seeking, untended—as sheep without a shepherd. They know not where to turn to wipe the awful destruction of war and persecution from their minds. How shall the bitterness of hate be dissolved? Can little children once more lift up their eyes in faith and unafraid? Or must they cower in the thickets of fear because there is no shepherd? Must those who still exist today, and those who will grow up tomorrow be blighted because there are no true shepherds to speak the needed compassion and salvation to weary hearts?

When the shepherds on the Galilean hills had heard the songs of the angels and had seen the child in the manger, "they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." Those with experience in loneliness could most sympathetically appreciate the yearning of human hearts for this message of cheer and new life. We, the members of the Christian Church, are the inheritors of this high mission "to make known abroad . . . concerning this child." Every member of us

stands in the direct lineage of the shepherds to those who are in need.

After the sufferings of these years, must we be urged to take up our God-given task? Shepherds should push eagerly into all the dark places to bring the light of Christ's love to staggering and struggling humanity. Humanity needs the comfort; it is ours to give, but not to keep. All our Christian work of relief and reconstruction is a confirming evidence of Christ's Shepherd-hood. We must pour out our love—we must indeed pour out Christ's love—in a refreshing, continually-swelling stream to the "sheep without a shepherd." The task is great and absorbing. True, the unbelieving spirits of men finally nailed him to a cross, but he kept on loving and giving, because that is the only way. The world without a shepherd? Not while WE are members of Christ's family here on earth. Christ is the great shepherd; he is pointing out to us his tired, underfed and suffering children who need the care that we can give in his name.

With the song of the angels ringing in our ears once more this Christmas, let us do as the shepherds of Galilee did long ago, "make it known abroad"—by gifts of money, of supplies, of fellowship, of prayer—that Christ is come. For he has come, and so are we, that mankind shall not be without a shepherd.

PIN POINT EDITORIALS

Charity with too many people begins at home and then becomes too weak to venture out.

* * *

"But Christmas is not only the mile-mark of another year, moving us to thoughts of self-examination: it is a season, from all its associations, whether domestic or religious, suggesting thoughts of joy. A man dissatisfied with his endeavors is a man tempted to sadness. And in the midst of the winter, when his life runs lowest and he is reminded of the empty chairs of his beloved, it is well he should be condemned to this fashion of the smiling face. Noble disappointment, noble self-denial, are not to be admired, not even pardoned, if they bring bitterness. It is one thing to enter the kingdom of heaven maimed; another to maim yourself and stay without. And the kingdom of heaven is of the child-like, of those who are easy to please, who love and who give pleasure."—"Across the Plains," R. L. Stevenson.

* * *

"A man who doesn't care shouldn't share."

EDITORIAL FROM THE PAST

CHRISTMAS

[The editorial which follows was penned during the first Christmas season in the twentieth century, the beginning of a new era. Today our leaders say we are entering another new age—the Atomic Age. Thinking of this parallel as you read, you may be led to some interesting and inspiring conclusions.]

Seen from the ordinary superficial standpoint, nothing can be said concerning Christmas that is new. Its origin and the various phases of celebration through which it has passed are well known. But we are glad to believe that the deeper meaning of Christmas time is understood better year by year. It is not a time for thoughtless gaiety, nor uproarious folly, although gift giving, within proper bounds, is a commendatory feature of Christmas observance.

Concerning its deeper meaning we are not to think the Divine love was unknown before the Babe of Bethlehem was born. For although the highest expression of God's helping and redeeming love is found in Christ, that love had not been wanting either as to extent or richness before the night which listened to the angel chorus singing over the newborn King. We, to whom so much of this everlasting and never-failing love has been revealed, ought to gain deeper insight and richer experiences in spiritual things, with each returning year. If we do this, the pagan superstitions and follies which other years associated with Christmas will drift away and a new Christmas will be ours.

Coming with the closing days of the year—and this Christmas standing at the grave of the century—the time is opportune for those rich meditations, and helpful, backward looks that beget repentance, and close communion with God. He is unfortunate and unwise who comes to Christmas time only to complain of its origin and to condemn its follies. Rather let us ask what this time can bring to us. How can we become filled yet more with the Christlike, and thus be fruitful in Christlike deeds? How can we come into closer spiritual touch with the Risen One? How can we give ourselves to more joyous surrender, to the service of Christ, through service for the truth and for men whom Christ lives to serve, as he lived and died to redeem them? . . .

FIRST THINGS FIRST

More Hope

Last year I was very anxious to increase the Recorder circulation. I would have been very happy if we had succeeded in putting a Recorder in the home of each family of the denomination. Let's continue to try.



P. B. Hurley

I thought we had nearly accomplished this in our own church; so I ceased making special appeals. Recently, however, it has been my privilege to send in several new subscriptions again. I am made hopeful by this

because some of our young people are subscribing so they may have the denominational paper go with them where they are and not depend on the family paper.

Another hopeful sign is that these same young folks are giving very liberally of their time and talents to aid and direct younger groups in church and church school. They are helping in class organization, classroom decoration, in the Sabbath school choir, and other church activities. I have observed this splendid spirit of earnest loyalty in so many of our young people in so many places it gives me GREAT HOPE.

We older folks may have "fumbled the ball" in years past, but these young folks are going to "carry on." Constantly searching to know the truth through daily devotionals and with a determination to "seek first the kingdom," and make things of the world secondary, they are sure to win. When we see them start with the truth of Christ and the Sabbath, we can help materially in removing "interference" by careful example in right living ourselves, and so make it easier for them to push forward and "make the goal."

Perley B. Hurley,
Conference President.

Let the dead past bury the dead follies of this golden week of the year. Let your thanksgiving be deep and your rejoicing akin to the song of the angels, because it is given to you to share in the service and extending of the kingdom of peace and good will among men. . . .

May this be a Merry Christmas because it is crowned with stronger faith and sanctified by more earnest endeavor.

A. H. Lewis.

December 24, 1900.



STUDY to show
thyself approved
UNTO GOD

CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS

By Rev. George B. Shaw
(For Sabbath Day, December 22)
Christmas and the Poor Family

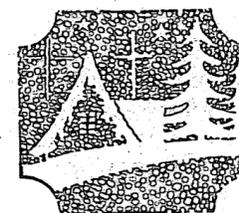
And laid him in a manger.—Luke 2: 7.

Jesus was born in a stable in a strange town, not because the family was poor, but because other folks had all the comfortable and otherwise desirable places.

We used to hear of families that were "well off" or comfortably rich, or of families that were "hard up." Thinking back over the years of my experience and observation I am very glad that my folks were comfortably poor. While there are doubtless exceptions, it is a general rule that boys and girls who came from homes that were comfortably poor have a much better chance to live happy and successful lives than do others. Agur the son of Jekeh says, "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me." Proverbs 30: 8.

I am sorry for the very poor who are unable to make gifts as they would be glad to, but I am sorry for one so rich that others

(Turn to page 450)



"For somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you;
And the more you spend in blessing the poor and the lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing, returns to make you glad."

—Whittier.

Christmas Season Has New Significance

— Thinking of Mankind Revolves Around Christ

By J. Lowrey Fendrich, Jr.

Leader and Dean of Institute of Religious Science,
Cincinnati, Ohio

The message of Christmas is the message of hope. The star shining above Bethlehem has ever been the symbol to mankind of that which is to be. Instinctively, the race has hoped and increasingly hopes in the Christ around whom, in these difficult postwar days, the thinking of all of humankind increasingly revolves. The Christmas season, this year, dawns with the new and special significance very much as though for the first time in history the mind of the race is beginning to understand the implications of the message of Jesus.

In times of world catastrophe and chaos, it is difficult for the individual to sense the hidden factors which underlie the objective exhibition of destruction and confusion. As students of Truth, it would be an indictment of the central tenet of our philosophy were we to miss the glorious and tremendous implications of this hour.

Materialistic Processes

The war which has just ended must in itself be seen by every thoughtful mind as the culmination and crystallized expression of the materialistic processes by which our modern culture has been coerced for one hundred years. From the point of view of the forward-looking mind, nothing could have conspired with such conclusive effect to the elimination of our confidence in materialism in all its concomitant expressions and results. For the first time in history, the whole of humankind, and particularly the populations of the West, have been reduced on the harsh anvil of blood and tears to the emotional and intellectual bedrock of reality. The war has sounded the death knell of every materialistic device upon which, for so long, we have naively depended for our fulfillment and happiness. The individual for the first time in experience finds himself without artificial resources and props upon which he may lean to bolster his self-seeking and greed. From here on out it is a new world

and it is for us to face it realistically. Politically, the old devices and forms are gone. Economically, we are adventurers in a strange land. Glorious new methods are being formulated in education, destined to completely replace the old. In religion, the expressions of formalism and credalism will never reappear importantly in the affairs of man. Never before have the forces of adventurous good faced such an opportunity for conquest.

In these considerations, among others, is written large the expanding purpose of the inevitable Divine Process.

1. Twelve million young men will presently return to the arena of civilian life and action. In them will be a strong desire for new techniques and philosophies; new bases of living upon which they may build hope and exchange these for their weariness and disillusionment.

2. The vast field of educational procedure is ready for new emphases and techniques which techniques and emphases are regnant in religious institutional programs.

3. Religion is increasingly forsaking conventional forms and is reaching out, promising a resurgence of vitality and life, as we make our religion vital in practice.

4. In the field of scientific medicine, many old prejudices are being forsaken. Keeping abreast with the new scientific techniques marches a new appreciation of religious faith. This, too, challenges the movement of which we are a part.

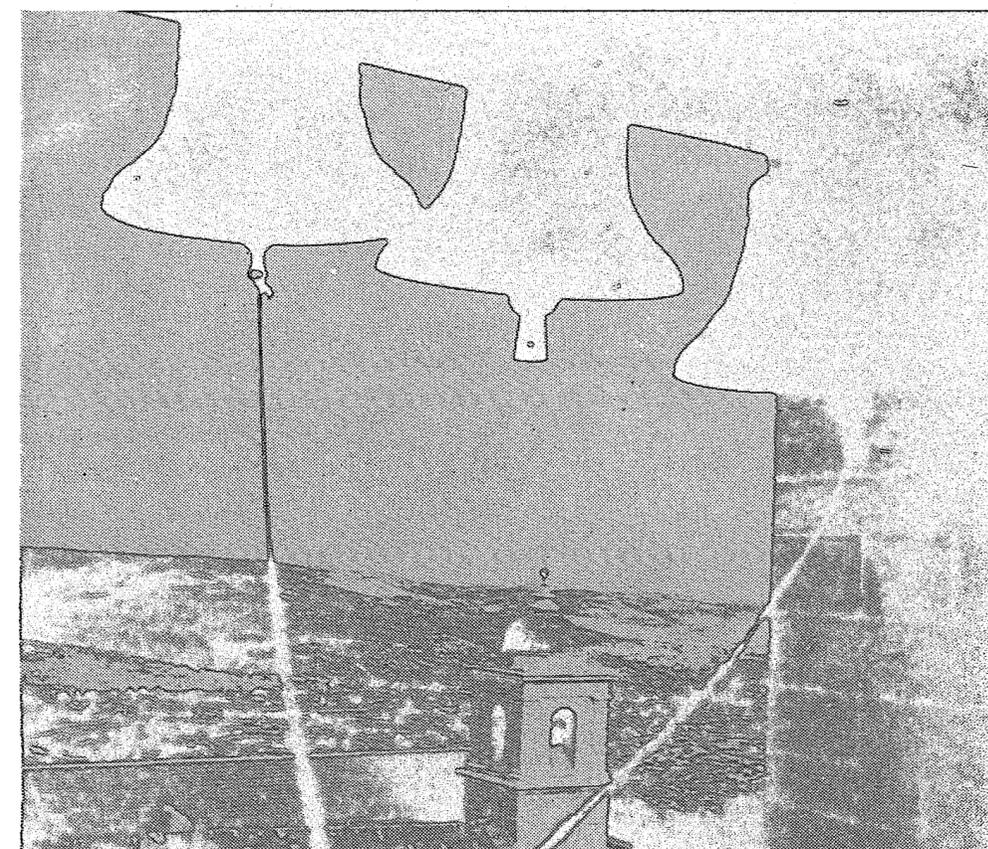
5. In the field of ordinary human happiness and integration, the field of psychology brings a new approach to the problem of tension infused as it increasingly is with religious therapy.

6. It may also be within the gift of Truth, as we know and practice it, to substantially resolve the problem of our capitalistic economy by the impregnation of the popular mind with those religious concepts which must be regarded by every thoughtful mind as the logical economic directive, working to preserve our system from the hysterical swing to the left.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOLY LAND

Bells of
Bethlehem

Religious News Service Photo



In the silent night, the bells of Bethlehem ring out over the town of David and the fields beyond, where 2,000 years ago shepherds keeping their watch were visited by an angel, who announced the joyful tidings: "This day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

7. Out of the World Peace Conference and its ratification by the States, permanent peace emerges as more than a poet's dream. But the implementation of that peace will be achieved out of the philosophies of the people. In our religious philosophy there is resident the workable means of brotherhood which can and will be the guarantee of any hope we hold for a better world.

It now remains for those who have a working concept of Truth to accept with eager purpose the challenge of this hour. This is not the threshold of a dark age; this is the doorstep of a challenge and opportunity unparalleled in the history of thought. This is the high hour of realization. This is the clarion call to Christians everywhere. This is our task. **THIS IS THE SHINING HOUR.**

TIME TO TALK WITH JESUS

By Elizabeth Fisher Davis

"Be still, and know that I am God."

—Psalm 46: 10.

In the morning, in the stillness,
After hours of quiet rest
Is the time to talk to Jesus:
Of all times—it is the best.

Quietly the new day cometh;
Quietly the sun doth rise;
Quietly the flowers open;
And the morning gilds the skies.

In "quietness and confidence"
Shall my strength ever be.
Before the rush and turmoil, Lord,
Let me ever turn to thee.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."
—Isaiah 30: 15.

Missions

Rev. William L. Burdick, D.D., Ashaway, R. I.

Correspondence should be addressed to Rev. William L. Burdick, Ashaway, R. I.
Checks and money orders should be drawn to the order of Karl G. Stillman, Westerly, R. I.

FICTION VERSUS TRUTH

There is a saying that fiction is more interesting than truth, and it is unfortunate that with a great many people this is a fact.

News writers are prone to misrepresent the facts for the sake of making an interesting story. They fail purposely to mention some things connected with the subject under consideration and emphasize others until the picture is distorted. Sometimes they carelessly put in things which they imagined might have happened but never did, and the description is falsified. They have made an interesting story, people are pleased, and the sale of their papers is increased. Fiction is more interesting than truth.

In writing history, it takes a vast amount of research to secure the facts, and because of this, writers are tempted to take a few facts which lie on the surface, paint and twist them according to their own imaginations and prejudices into an interesting story. Sometimes missionaries, denominational leaders, and promoters of good causes are careless about being accurate, having in mind the making of an interesting story. Sooner or later it leaks out that this is being done and people wonder when they read whether the descriptions are true to fact. Interesting to be sure, but what about their value? When Chief Justice Hughes was Secretary of State, he sent out a letter to the United States consuls over all the world telling them that they must be accurate in describing conditions or their reports were worse than worthless.

Missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and all Christian workers do not need to cater to the diseased desire for something new. They have a message for which the hearts of all men long consciously or unconsciously. Their message is the everlasting gospel. It is a message that God is love, that Christ is their advocate, that there is the continual presence and help of the Holy Spirit, that they can be co-workers together with God, that there is always something better ahead, and that truth and righteousness will finally triumph.

W. L. B.

WEEK OF PRAYER

Prayer for Churches Especially Urged During One Hundredth Observance

For one hundred years many Protestant churches around the world have observed the first full week in the new year as a Week of Prayer for the Churches. This centenary Week of Prayer will be held January 6-13, 1946.

A booklet of twenty-eight pages with suggestions and outlines for each meeting has been prepared and can be secured by sending to the Department of Evangelism, 297 Fourth Ave., New York. The price is four cents each in any quantity.

It is hoped that many churches will observe the Week of Prayer and that all Christians will pray especially for the church during that week.

W. L. B.

MISSIONARY PASTOR WRITES

Dear Secretary Burdick:

Perhaps you would like a brief report of our gospel meetings, October 12 to 21, when Dad (Rev. Erlo E. Sutton) was here. The meetings were well attended by our church people, and on the two Sunday and the one Sabbath nights there were a number from the community. The second Sabbath morning, October 20, the people of the "Brick" Church united with us in the Sabbath school and worship.

There was no response to the invitations given the last two nights; but a week is a short time to get far with any non-Christian from outside the Church. I did not know but one or two of our youngsters, 11 and 12 years old, might be ready. They are regularly with us each Sabbath, and thus come under our evangelistic program throughout the year and may be ready, as others may be, by next summer if not before.

From the standpoint of a revival interest I feel the meetings have been an uplift for us all, and it is my hope we can continue this spirit through the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Trevah R. Sutton.

New Enterprise, Pa.

NEWS FROM HOLLAND AND JAVA

Dear Brother Burdick:

Thanks for your letter of June 27. I am glad to read in recent Recorders which Brother Lawton handed to me that your health is much improved. My prayer is to God, that he may recover you wholly.

As to Brother Walter Losch, I wish to inform you that the date of his death was December 14, 1942.

Last week we got news from Java, telling us all our family is alive. They are partly in camps still. The sisters Graafstal and Mol-Vandersteur are also alive and in camps. The letters do not mention Sister Slagter. So we think she died in the meantime. Later letters will bring us more detailed news. Since they wrote these letters (about September 25) a chaotic situation has risen on Java. Now our family and friends are again in danger of life, now from the side of the extremists.

I do not yet receive the Sabbath Recorder. Last Sabbath Brother Lawton was again here; he gave me some Recorders, some numbers miss however. I hope it will soon be possible to ship printed matter here.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Yours faithfully,

G. Zijlstra.

K.v.d. Bergelaan 59A,
Hillegersberg, Holland,
October 18, 1945.

SHANGHAI IS NOT GREATLY CHANGED OBSERVER ASSERTS

(Items gleaned from a letter to Foreign Missions Conference.)

I am writing this month, as you will see, from Shanghai. On September 28, I came from Chungking in a Royal Air Force plane, landed at Kiangwan and arrived in the city at dusk. The first impression was of a city not greatly changed. I could see no bomb damage—there has been little damage in the town or even the docks. The streets appeared tidy, there were plenty of people, good lighting (including neon lights), cars and trams. A new feature is the "pedicabs," tricycles with seats for passengers either behind or in front. They came on the streets when motor cars ran out of fuel.

Under the new treaties, Chinese authorities are in control of the defunct International Settlement and French Concession. The police are Chinese, with a few Sikhs and Russians. Properties occupied by the Japanese are being taken over by their owners, though some difficulties have occurred. Private houses have been looted or furniture sold. Our piano, left in care of a friend, was sold by the Japanese occupier—they had a passion for pianos.

Fantastic Prices

The puppet government currency (CRB—Central Reserve Bank) is still in use, but inflation has produced fantastic prices—e.g., \$10,000 for a ricksha ride, \$60,000 for a meal. In 1942 all bank accounts were forcibly converted to CRB currency at half their value. That was one method used by the Japanese for fleecing China, and then they flooded the country with CRB notes, obtaining what they wanted by the simple use of the printing press. The cost of living has therefore risen prodigiously for those who live in Shanghai, especially those on fixed salaries. We who come from Chungking, if we bring Chinese National Currency, can get a fixed exchange of CRB \$200 to CNC \$1. So for us living here is cheaper than in Chungking, but not for local people.

The economic life of Shanghai is still in confusion, a legacy of the war. Foreign banks are not yet functioning. There is no



"We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star."

Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also . . . and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. Matthew 2: 8-10.

foreign exchange, except for American servicemen changing their notes. The Central Government had difficulty in providing enough currency for Free China. They cannot yet meet the needs of liberated areas. Prices are rising steadily. There is no acute shortage of food, but coal is scarce and shipping is greatly needed to bring coal, supplies, and food to replace the stocks that are rapidly disappearing.

Moral Degeneration

Those who have lived here these years have noticed the increasing moral degeneration in many quarters. As in West China, inflation causes people to be obsessed with the getting of money by whatever means. Also the puppet administration has had the services not of the best men but of the worst, so that the traditions which were being built up have suffered severe damage.

Nearly all American internees were repatriated in exchange for Japanese. Missionaries now released, therefore, are mostly British. Some have come out of the camps; but most are still living there, getting free quarters, food, and transport. This theater of war being an American army responsibility, the American relief team has been in charge of internees. They dropped cans and

boxes by parachute as a first effort—several internees had narrow escapes—and have since provided army rations in very ingenious packages which require no cooking. Now responsibility is being handed over to civil authorities, and the British representatives will deal with their own nationals.

I have visited several camps and spent a couple of nights in one of them, at Lunghua. There is more room now that some people have gone. But for two and a half years they have been living in very overcrowded quarters, with no heat in winter and poor food. Red Cross parcels sent in by friends kept them alive. In spite of everything, some internees look remarkably fit. Others have lost weight and are much thinner. Nearly all have felt the strain and need reconditioning at home.

I was impressed by the way these camps had organized themselves, electing a council, dividing the work to be done, running games, schools, lectures, entertainments, and religious activities. Missionaries have played a leading part in all departments and their stock is very high.

Sincerely yours,

Shanghai, China,

Ronald Rees

October 25, 1945.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS

(Continued from page 445)

cannot give to him. It is sad to think of those who live so well that they cannot live any better at Christmas time or on Thanksgiving day.

Giving and receiving presents on all sorts of occasions is a custom that is world wide and age old, but in our time is coming to be a real burden. Birthdays, marriages, graduation days, and anniversaries of all sorts vie with Christmas in using up nervous energy and money.

Christmas is a religious day, a family day, a children's day. While the simple shepherd saw and heard and obeyed, the rich and powerful were asleep in the inns at Bethlehem and the palaces of Jerusalem. Jesus prayed, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

Money is not bad, college degrees are all right, social security is desirable; but these

things are dangerous. We would not want any boy or girl to live just as those of two or three generations ago did, but no one should feel sorry for us. For example, we had very little store candy. Once at Christmas I was given a candy piece in shape of an animal. It may have been a dog. It was pink in color. I put it up on the clock shelf. Every day I took it down and licked it. It was real candy, but the pink was fast disappearing. I do not know how long it lasted, but I feel sure that it meant as much to me as any amount of candy could mean to a boy at the present time. I am glad that boys and girls now quite generally have an allowance and do their own Christmas shopping, but how could they ever be any happier or more contented than we who never thought of shopping and who had never heard of an allowance. Christmas was always a happy day, and I am glad that we were comfortably poor.

When our own girls were growing up their father and mother were often obliged to say,

"We can't afford it." That which was very good had to give way for the better and the necessary. It seemed hard for us to say it, and hard for the girls to hear it, but it was good for us all. It built into each of us something very worth while and lasting. Happy is the father who can say, "We can't afford it," and have that accepted as the end of all controversy.

But Christmas is first of all a religious day, and to be poor in spirit is more important than any condition in material matters. I want to be comfortably poor in spirit, always bearing in mind that our Lord Jesus became poor that we might be rich.

Jesus, the Growing Boy

(For Christmas Day)

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke 2: 52.

Christmas is a good time for us to think of Jesus as getting to be a big boy of whom everyone thought well. Of the details of his daily life in Nazareth, we know nothing. Except in one matter, the record does not say what he did or did not do that brought him into favor. It is not said that he went to the synagogue regularly, that he helped his father with the work, and came home when his mother had asked him to. We have to assume that he was gentle with his sisters and kind to his brothers.

There is just one thing that the Bible says he did do, and that is the thing that so many boys and girls resent doing. He was subject to his parents. Subjection may be by love and voluntary, or by force. Subjection that is forced upon boys or upon nations may be better than nothing, but is of very little permanent value. Wise parents never demand an unconditional surrender. A forced submission does not bring peace in families or among nations.

Our heavenly Father does not demand unconditional surrender from us, or compel us to become his subjects. Restraint is necessary to us all. Old people should welcome the yoke. "Take my yoke upon you."

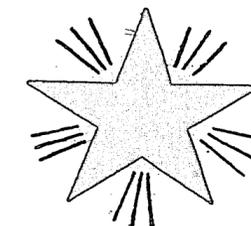
The resentment of properly constituted authority is the beginning of trouble in the home, the school, and the state. Teachers, parents, and the civil authorities must have patience and an affectionate sympathetic understanding of those for whom they are

responsible. For men and nations the fear of losing a little of our sovereignty may cost us all our liberty.

Our Lord taught subjection. His subjects were told to go the second mile and to take the lowest place. The greatest of all was to be the servant of all. There is no credit in being forced to go a mile or to become the servant of others. Jesus practiced what he taught. He was not compelled to go hungry in the wilderness, to sleep in the open fields or go to the Cross in my place. He got down on his knees and washed the feet of his disciples who were about to deny and desert him.

The apostle Paul taught and practiced the same. Speaking of his Lord he says, "Though he was divine by nature, he did not set store upon equality with God, but emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant; born in human guise and appearing in human form, he humbly stooped in his obedience even to die, and to die upon the cross. Therefore God raised him high and conferred on him a Name above all names . . ." Philippians 2: 6-9, Moffatt's Translation.

The wherefore of this quotation may well remind men and nations that Jesus said, "The meek shall inherit the earth." I do not know how early our Lord began to realize his unique relationship to God, but it may well have been when he went back to Nazareth and was subject to his parents.



CHRISTMAS STARS

In Bethlehem the stars bent down

From all their glory overhead—

In Bethlehem the stars bent down

To touch a Wee One's manger bed.

Tonight the stars hang clear and still;

Think you, though years have passed, their light

Will brighter grow, and near? Will they

Bend down to touch our hearts tonight?

—Selected.

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHAPLAIN INTERVIEWS KAGAWA

Vital Questions Asked Christian Leader

By Chaplain Wayne R. Rood
105th U. S. Army Division

I talked with Rev. Toyohiko Kagawa for an hour last night. We were three Americans, a sergeant, a corporal, and a chaplain, in the stationmaster's private office of the railroad depot of Fukushima. Kagawa had been whisked there in the Governor's private seven-passenger Packard sedan promptly at nine o'clock when he had finished a public lecture before a crowded hall of Japanese citizens. More than a dozen prominent citizens of Fukushima crowded around the huge table to hear me put my questions to Japan's famous Christian leader.

The introductions were made, and everybody bowed the proper number of times. Then the inevitable tea cups were passed. (There were some things that I wanted to know about Kagawa. When our troops were still pushing through the jungle islands of the Pacific, word came over the short-wave radios that Japan's outstanding Christian had gone all out against America.) We complimented each other on the successful occupation of Japan by American forces. I complimented him on the high regard with which he had been held in America. Then, in probable violation of the strict Japanese *shakai-do-toku*, I put my question.

"Yes, I deliberately attacked America," said Kagawa, and even through the thick lenses of his heavy rimmed glasses there came a gleam from his long infected eyes that emphasized the excitement in his voice. "I attacked America, for the American radio was telling the Japanese people to elect me president of Japan. The American propagandists thought that my election would divide the Japanese people. So I went to Shanghai because I was not permitted to speak on the radio in Japan, and told the Chinese people that I hate America. And that is true," he continued more softly, "for there are two kinds of America: Heaven America and Hell America. I love the Heaven America, but I hate the Hell America!"

Kagawa settled back into his heavy black overcoat with the frayed cuffs, and read-

justed his glasses. He held out his hands to the tiny charcoal fire set deferentially near to his chair at the head of the table. "America must forget Pearl Harbor," said the soft voice of my friend, Mr. Arata Abe, across the table from me. I tried to explain that some of us would never be able to forget the Japanese war machine, but that in spite of, and perhaps even because of the unfortunate bloodshed between our nations the Christian peoples of our two countries could find a more noble basis for unity and co-operation in years to come.

Inhuman Bombing

A murmur of assent passed around the table. But Kagawa came out of his silence like a black bear. "Never! Never! Never will Japan forget," he cried, "the utterly inhuman American bombing of Tokyo. The airplanes came over, and first they bombed in a circle," he was demonstrating with vicious jabs at the lacquered table top, "Then they bombed across and across again. Nothing could escape. The Japanese will never forget the destruction of that night."

In forgiving the evil of war, it appears to make some difference whether you were shooting or being shot at.

At the outset of the war, Kagawa told us, he was put in jail. That was because he had spent so much time in America, and had been such an outstanding devotee of the religion of America. "I said to them, 'Kill me if you wish.' And then because they would not, I went into exile on a small island near Japan. The government closed all the churches. The military police took over the church buildings, and stopped all the mission schools. They questioned all those who had attended the churches. Oh, the Christians had a very hard time in Japan." In Fukushima before the war there had been over three hundred Christians worshipping regularly in the three Protestant churches of the city. Now a combined service is attended by barely a sixth of that number.

I asked him what the situation was now that the war was over. Kagawa smiled. "It is amazing," he said. "It is unbelievable how

quickly things have changed. There are more opportunities than we can meet. I preached one Sunday in Tokyo, and there were one hundred sixty converts. I preached three days in Kobe, and there were over three hundred. There were over a hundred converts at one meeting in Yokohama. Everywhere people are inquiring about Christianity. If only America will feed the people this winter"

At the request of the Emperor, Kagawa has been appointed counselor on social welfare to the Prime Minister of Japan. Kagawa's first concern for his people is food. The Japanese no longer have the large shipments of wheat that once were taken from Korea, or the rice that has been coming from China and Manchuria. It appears to be no concern of Mr. Kagawa's that the Koreans and Manchurians and Chinese need flour and rice in their first winter with neither war nor Japanese occupation. The Japanese need food, and when they have been fed, they will be interested, as never before, in the religion of Christ.

Hopes for Reconstruction

But Kagawa has large hopes for the reconstruction of Japan. Jesus of Nazareth showed his people how to conquer in spite of the Roman Empire. Buddha raised his people from defeat. Kagawa will lead in Japan now. "A million Christians can shape the policies of Japan," he said, in reminiscence of his famous "Kingdom of God Movement" of two decades ago. "I am asking for three things: food, Bibles, and missionaries. We need many Bibles, for even our printing presses have been destroyed. And we need missionaries, not just for the large cities, but missionaries for the small towns and villages as well." Three types of mission work are indicated: evangelism, educational evangelism, and agricultural evangelism. And Kagawa is calling upon the churches of America to furnish the food, the Bibles, and the missionaries with which he believes a new and Christian Japan may be built upon the material and spiritual rubble of the fallen Japanese empire.

Fukushima, Japan,
November 24, 1945.

NEXT WEEK: The continuation of Karl G. Stillman's article, "Why I Am a Seventh Day Baptist." Be sure to read it.

THE GREATEST INSURANCE AGAINST WAR

By E. Stanley Jones
Missionary and Author

We must break down angers and hates by loving service to everybody. The Christian spirit is irresistible. It melts everything. We gave back the twenty-five million dollar indemnity to China after the Boxer uprising and immediately China's heart was melted. You could walk between fighting Chinese armies with an American flag and the fighting would stop. The Christian spirit broke down hates. It is the only way to break down hate. The only way to overcome evil is with good; the only way to banish darkness is with light.

Christian missions serve exploited peoples and wash the wounds of oppression. They are the flowers nature fills in to hide the scars of a hillside. They are the one unselfish movement in the world. They are the greatest insurance against war that civilization can provide. Let's support them—unreservedly.

If we are to live at all, we must live as men who recognize the whole world as neighbors.—Bishop Brent.



THE TIME DRAWS NEAR

Alfred Tennyson

The time draws near the birth of Christ:
The moon is hid; the night is still;
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,
From far and near, on mead and moor,
Swell out and fail, as if a door
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,
That now dilate, and now decrease,
Peace and good will, good will and peace,
Peace and good will, to all mankind.

Woman's Work

Frances Davis, Salem, W. Va.

AMERICAN CHURCHMEN CARRY MESSAGES TO CHRISTIANS OF JAPAN ON GOOD WILL MISSION

Time Predicted When the Two Countries Can Join Moral Resources in Effort to Heal War's Wounds

Bearing almost two hundred messages to Christians of Japan from the heads of co-operating communions, theological seminaries, mission boards, and from the members of the American section of the Riverside fellowship, four American churchmen arrived in Tokyo on October 24.

Upon their arrival in Tokyo, Dr. W. W. Van Kirk said in an Associated Press interview: "We were sent to Japan by the churches of our country, not by the government, and it is to the churches we shall report following our return to the United States."

"Ours is a mission of good will," Bishop J. C. Baker said. "Our dominant concern is laying the spiritual foundations for an enduring peace between the United States and Japan. We look forward to the time when Christians of the two countries can join their moral resources in a co-operative effort to heal the wounds occasioned by the war."

The churchmen explained their visit bore no relation to the occupation administration but said it had been approved by President Truman, General MacArthur, and the State Department. These men were: Dr. Douglas Horton, chairman of the American Committee for the World Council of Churches; Bishop James Chamberlain Baker of Los

EVANGELISTIC GOALS FOR 1946

Momentous events are happening hourly. Newspaper and radio announcements are continuously bringing reports of new events or problems which must be decided at once. In the midst of these epoch-making days, the opportunities for the Christian Church to use its influence to help set things aright were never greater or more imperative. Men are looking for an anchor by which they can feel secure. Jesus brought such assurance when he presented the gospel to men centuries ago. It is this faith which has saved the church through the ages and to which all must look now. Never was the challenge

Angeles, chairman of the International Missionary Council; Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, executive secretary of the Department of International Justice and Goodwill of the Federal Council; and Dr. Luman J. Shafer, chairman of the Japan Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference.

ONE LETTER TO JAPAN

To all Christian Men, Women,
and Children in Japan:

The Women's Society of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in America sends greetings.

Our hearts reach out to you in Christian love and sympathy during the dark hours through which we have been passing. With the end of war we trust the way will become brighter. No Christian of any land had a part in choosing this war, for it is contrary to the principles of the Great Master who long ago proclaimed himself "The Prince of Peace." Circumstances beyond our control threw us into the midst of this devastating and cruel struggle.

Only the all-wise God knows why the whole world should have been torn by such a catastrophe. But every one who professes the name of Christ and has taken him as his Lord and Master knows that only love can rule the hearts of his followers. The great common Father and his only Son, Jesus Christ, who died to redeem men of all climes and races, have taught us to help "bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."

May you know how earnestly we wish the restoration of your homes, and families, and churches, and trust that henceforth we may ever abide in peace. As Christ came to bring good will among men, may it be that it shall extend everywhere and that a brighter day shall shine in every land in the very near future.

Yours in Christian love,
L. O. Greene.

so great. The commission to "go" and invite the unsaved to "come" is facing us. Jesus Christ is the answer to this distracted generation. If men would practice the principles of Christian sacrifice and service and preach that Christ's way is the "way" to solve all problems of brotherhood, peace would become permanent and universal. Without him men become prodigals and vagabonds; without him the confused will be lost; without him men's souls will become atrophied; without him men will be carried away in this present storm; without him men will die in their sins.

A WORLD OF BEAUTY: A WORLD OF BREAD

By George C. Fetter

There is an old Chinese proverb which says, "Let him that hath two loaves sell one and buy a lily." The author saw that man lives his life in two worlds—a world of beauty and a world of bread. Jesus recognized both of these worlds. He bade us pray for our daily bread. But Jesus also said, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and he taught us to "consider the lilies."

Lilies stand for beauty of the snow-capped mountain, the glory of the sunrise, the sweet tones of a violin, and the mystic tie of love that binds us together as we gather as families for worship.

Bread takes us into the world of economic reality: the farmer tilling the soil, the freight car hauling the grain, the workmen grinding it into flour and the baker throwing the dough into hot ovens.

It is the business of religion to bring about a harmonious relationship between these two worlds. Religion is the achievement of a spiritual relationship between Christ's prayer on the mount and the needs of the underprivileged child in the valley. It is the business of religion to inspire men to work together with God to redeem coal and iron and beef and bread until these raw materials form the physical foundation of a Christian world order which promises to all men the conditions that make for the abundant life.

Our Father, we thank thee for thy loving care that makes provision for every need of our body and spirit. Help us to appreciate all thy good gifts and to use them wisely. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

—Selected.



CHRISTMAS BELLS

Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Christ is calling us to a great evangelistic advance. It is easy to die but to live is costly. Can Seventh Day Baptists pay the price? Shall we join with other Protestant denominations in planning a great crusade to help transform lives? The New Year, 1946, has been designated as a time for spiritual rebirth, both within the Church and among the millions who are unchurched. One leading denomination has set as its goal one million new members and five hundred new churches. Others are formulating their programs on a big scale. Estimates show that the average local church has eighty per cent as many prospects as members. This means for our churches at least five thousand prospects. With our proposed one thousand soul winners we can expect to win one in five. If each of our churches assumes its full share of the responsibility, we can bring in one thousand new converts next year. If ten churches win five converts each, ten more win ten each, ten win fifteen each, ten win twenty each, ten win twenty-five each, and ten win thirty each, the goal will be reached. Let each pastor call his members together at once and set up a goal. Some churches may feel they can set a higher goal than any here suggested. Write your absent members to go out into their communities and report home their successes. Many groups have been getting ready during the past year and more for this program of visitation evangelism. You need not wait for 1946 to arrive. Plan to do a certain amount each month. Set specific dates, if desired, for ingatherings, but keep at work the whole year. Let each worker determine to call upon some one each week. Kindly let me know before the holidays which goal you have chosen. Be sure you have to **stretch up** to meet the goal you select. Pastors should train their members for a successful campaign. Every Christian should constantly pray for a great revival throughout all our churches.

L. O. Greene.

The World Religious News says that a questionnaire sent to 18,000 high school students revealed that 16,000 of them could not name three prophets of the Old Testament, 12,000 could not name the four Gospels, and 10,000 could not name three of the twelve apostles.

Christian Education

Rev. Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, N. Y.

Sponsored by the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

VERONA COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HOLDS CONVENTION

Splendid Example of Seventh Day Baptist Co-operation in Inter-faith Efforts

With Mrs. Leon Maltby in charge of devotions which featured a talk from the theme, "More Things Are Wrought by Prayer than the World Dreams," Verona Town Council of Religious Education held its quarterly convention in the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Churchville, Tuesday night. Other Verona folks taking part were Floyd Sholtz who read the Scripture; William Arthur who led the prayer; and Mrs. G. Howard Davis, who is superintendent of the council.

During the period for business it was reported that the weekday school, in which the Verona Church co-operates, has one hundred thirty-one enrolled in all departments. It was suggested that a fund be started for the purchasing of Bibles for the pupils. This is another of the many splendid examples of Seventh Day Baptist co-operation in interdenominational efforts for the furtherance of Christian education.

Laymen Study

Verona people took part in a special school for leaders held at Oneida October 29 to November 2.

An outstanding leader in children's work used "The Faith of Our Children" by Mary Alice Jones in a study of why children act as they do; how children learn; how character grows; and how ideas of God develop.

Mr. Howard Knapp, principal of the Oneida High School, taught a course dealing with practical, simple ways of discovering needs and interests of the pupil; an appreciation of the normal development of adolescents; and also their problems.

"The Effective Adult Class" by Harry C. Munro was used in a class for the adult division in which such problems as the purpose of the class, and provision for the religious growth of class members through study courses, service activities, and fellowship were studied.

"Old Testament Prophets" was taught by Professor H. Neil Richardson of the Bible department of Syracuse University.

When interdenominational classes such as these are conducted, it will be very much worth while for our churches to send people and co-operate in every way possible. This does not take the place of classes for leadership development that are to be conducted in the local church.

CHRISTMAS

A Time to Teach Lessons of Stewardship

Christmas brings the best opportunity to teach children the all important lesson that being good stewards unto God means that we think more of what we give than of what we get.

Church and Sabbath school can help teach stewardship by planning to have classes or the whole church give money to worthy causes.

Salemville Plans Gifts

"The pastor recommends we bring on Sabbath morning, December 22, in addition to our regular offering, a white gift offering in marked envelopes for the Second Century Fund of the Missionary Society. This gift should represent at least one tenth of all we spend for Christmas on self, family, or friends. Remember, Christ gave his ALL for us.

"Sabbath, December 29, is a fifth Sabbath. This is the time for our offering to the Denominational Budget. Let us give freely for the co-operative work of the outer parish." —Salemville Bulletin.

Alfred Station Plans for Giving

A special committee is planning for the Christmas season at the Second Alfred Church. Already classes and other organizations of the church are making plans for gifts to be made to families of the community, the Second Century Fund, and other worthy causes.

Parents Can Teach Giving

In the home most of the teaching takes place. Plans made by the family for Christmas will influence the children most. Here plans can be made for the family as a group and the members individually to help those near at hand and those far away. H. S.

SERVING CHRIST THROUGH OTHERS

By Beulah Bond

(Given at the semiannual meeting of the New Auburn and Dodge Center Churches held at Dodge Center, Minn.)

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25: 40.

Most all of us have studied the poem, "Sir Galahad," written by Tennyson. As you recall, Sir Galahad prepared himself to go in quest of the Holy Grail, and as he left on the journey he passed a beggar at his own gate. Feeling he should give, he threw some money to the beggar. The beggar in turn did not accept the gift—not because it was not needed but because it was not given with the love and desire to give on the part of Sir Galahad. At the close of the poem you remember Sir Galahad returned to his own home an old man and dressed in such ragged clothes that his own relations did not recognize him. They would not admit him to his own home. He had to spend the night outside his own gate with a beggar. The beggar was cold and hungry. Sir Galahad divided his crust of bread and went to the stream and broke the ice to get a drink of water for the beggar. As Sir Galahad did these things, never thinking of himself, it seemed to him that the beggar turned into Christ and the cup into the Holy Grail. He found the thing he was searching for at his own gate.

Serve Self — Work Alone

From this we can gather that when we serve ourselves, we work alone. When we reach out to serve our brother, we work for and with God. "Who gives himself with his alms feeds three—himself, his hungry neighbor, and me."

Only service which involves cost to ourselves can honestly be entered upon our account as services rendered to Christ.

The love Jesus showed was an active love. Jesus' love goes out of its way to do loving things to unlovable people without being told to do so. Jesus knew the blessings that this kind of love would bring to those who would practice this love daily. He knew, too, that the practice of this love would bring his kingdom to earth among men. We really have to love people to give of ourselves to them, and this is what Christ wants. He

gave all for us. He gave himself for us so that we might be saved. All we have to do is receive the gift of salvation which he purchased with his life.

There are so many people in the world who don't seem to realize it is Christ they need. They are wandering and drifting here and there, searching for the unknown thing they want to make their life meaningful. A modern poet has written,

"For men are homesick in their homes and strangers under the sun,
And they lay their heads in a foreign land whenever the day is done."

But man can "find himself." He does not need to be alone and a stranger on the earth. Christ is the answer to his seeking, and when he has found Christ, he is at home everywhere upon the earth.

The greatest service to Christ, and in turn to others, is to bring the two together. It is our privilege to share the good news of the gospel with our friends and neighbors.

Isaiah has told us what it is like to be a bearer of the good tidings: "They shall see the glory of the Lord and the excellency of our God. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; Behold your God will come—he will come and save you."

Dodge Center, Minn.



CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY

By James Allen Kestle

Somehow God weaves the strangest things
Into a pattern fair;
He took an angel song, a star,
A Hebrew peasant pair,
Some shepherds on Judean hills
And unknown Wise Men three,
A stable cold and dark and damp,
A manger 'neath an inn—
And now
A weary world kneels hopefully
Before the Babe of Bethlehem.

—Christian Advocate.

VICTORIOUS LIVING BROADCASTS

"The Victorious Living program is to be carried another year by Station WBLK. This program is sponsored by the Clarksburg, W. Va., Ministerial Union and is supported by the churches of this section."
—Lost Creek Bulletin.

Stations in Other Sections

Providence, R. I., WPRO, 630 kc., 7:50 a.m.; Atlantic City, N. J., WFPG, 1450 kc., 7:49 a.m.; Schenectady, N. Y., WGY, 810 kc., 8:25 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and Sabbath; Troy, N. Y., 980 kc., 6:45 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; Clarksburg, W. Va., WBLK, 1400 kc., 12:40 and 11:06 p.m.; Jacksonville, Fla., WPDQ, 1270 kc., 8:25 a.m.; Hastings, Neb., KHAS, 1230 kc., 8:55 a.m.; Janesville, Wis., WRJN, 1400 kc., 7:25 a.m.; Long Beach, Calif., KGER, 1280 kc., 6:10 a.m.; San Diego, Calif., KFSD, 600 kc., 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday, and Sabbath; Austin, Tex., KNOW, 1490 kc., 2:25 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9:35 a.m., Sabbath; Houston, Tex., KTRH, 740 kc., 6:25 a.m.; Temple, Tex., KTEM, 1400 kc., 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and 9:30 a.m. Sabbath.

Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are held every day but Sunday. Let me know if you are listening to this program. H. S.

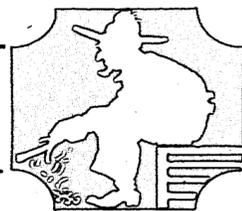
This nook is for "Beacon" readers!

Please, young people, send to Miss Wilma White at Alfred your news and short articles you have prepared for a church service or special program. Remember that the "Beacon" is what you make it in this respect.

Work done on the "Beacon" by busy college students is greatly appreciated. The only way the amount of work required to put out the "Beacon" can be realized is for you to help.

Speaking for the directors of the board, I wish to thank all the young folks of Alfred who help with the "Beacon." It would be nice if you Recorder and "Beacon" readers would take time to send the staff a word of thanks and encouragement. A Christmas card would be a good idea. H. S.

OLD-TIMER
S E Z . . .



"Funny how folks haint progressed much since Adam and Eve's time. Why, way back then, they had the ider that God couldn't see what folks is doin'."

**BERLIN CHURCH INSTALLS NEW
ORGAN IN LESS THAN A YEAR
AFTER INITIATING CAMPAIGN**

Less than a year ago the Berlin, N. Y., church initiated a fund to purchase an electric organ. Already the organ is installed, the church interior has been completely re-decorated to make it "worthy" of the organ, and the dedicatory ceremonies have been held—all within a twelve month period.

Dedicatory proceedings took place on Sabbath day, November 24. At the morning hour K. Duane Hurley, editor of the Sabbath Recorder, brought the message and prayer of dedication. In the afternoon, after a covered dish luncheon, an informal singing and visiting hour was enjoyed. Problems and plans of the denominational publication were discussed.

In the evening after the Sabbath an organ recital was played by Mr. Fred A. Bennett, principal of the Berlin school. His program was varied, including many old favorite classical numbers as well as music of the Church, and versatile enough to demonstrate all of the organ's shades of tones and volume. Mr. Earle Hewitt, recently returned veteran and teacher in the local school, was soloist of the evening; and Mr. and Mrs. Hurley were heard in a vocal duet.

In the dedicatory address the editor of the Sabbath Recorder pictured the comparison between the harmony of organ music, in which each note must be in tune, and the workings of a church group, in which each member must be in accord with the others. "Sometimes," the speaker pointed out, "we get so much involved in the mechanics of church service that we fail to see the beauty and joy in that work which should give us most satisfaction in life." With an expression of gratitude for past achievements and a hope for greater accomplishments in the future, the editor revealed that Seventh Day Baptist history, when reviewed objectively through the pages of the Recorder, reveals a high degree of harmony and "music" throughout the years.

Rev. Paul L. Maxson, pastor of the Berlin Church, was complimented highly by the speaker for his leadership of the group in bringing the organ and redecorating project to so swift a completion. Mr. Maxson, in turn, emphasized the willing and untiring co-operation of each member of the church.

Children's Page

Mizpah S. Greene, Andover, N. Y.

OUR LETTER EXCHANGE

Dear Mrs. Greene:

My sister Barbara is writing to you, too. I am seven years old and in second grade at school. I like school.

We go to church every Sabbath. Pastor and Mrs. Sutton have interesting things for us to do in Junior Christian Endeavor every week, too.

We have a big kitty. His name is Pussy Cat. We like to play with him. Our dog's name is Jiggs. He is black, and likes to hunt rabbits and squirrels. We will write soon again.

Your new friend,

Mary Jean Robinette.

New Enterprise, Pa.

Dear Mary Jean:

I think kitties and dogs are two of the very nicest kinds of pets. We still miss our kitty, Skeezics, whom we had for nearly fifteen years. Of course that is old age for a cat.

Speaking of dogs, when my intermediate girls came to plan our Christmas program, a big, friendly dog came with them and wanted to come in, too. He has run away from a home where there is a large family of children who were unkind to him and is making his home with the family of two of my intermediate girls who are treating him like one of the family. He loves them one and all. Can you imagine boys and girls being unkind to a good dog?

Your true friend,

Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

This is the first we have written to you; so my sister, Mary Jean, is writing, too. I am eight years old and in third grade. I like school.

We have a little brother, David. He is five years old. He goes along to school with us sometimes. He is a good boy in school.

We live in our grandmother's house. Mary Jean and I help Mother wash the dishes and clean the house. This summer we had a little garden all our own.

We had our church decorated for Thanksgiving. They are going to decorate for

Christmas, too. They are having a program. That is all for this time.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Ann Robinette.

New Enterprise, Pa.

Dear Barbara Ann:

I am ever so pleased to receive two nice letters from two new Recorder girls, and I hope you will write often.

My Sabbath school class of intermediate girls just left the parsonage a short time ago. They met with me to plan our church Christmas program over which they are very enthusiastic. One of the girls has agreed to act as Santa Claus as we have no big boys at present, and she thinks it is great fun. Last year I acted as Santa and tried to make my voice as hoarse as possible, but one tiny boy asked if that was a witch in Santa's clothes, which made everyone laugh—even the female Santa Claus.

Your Christian friend,

Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

How are you? I saw your big boy, the doctor, in church this morning. Pastor Everett Harris and his family were at church this morning, too.

Thanksgiving morning my Daddy and I were out gunning with Pastor Harris and his brother Charles.

**A RECIPE**

Take bright tinsel and a star
And a slim, tall tree—
Take a sprig of mistletoe,
Take a bit of candleglow
And some childish glee.

Take a carol and a prayer,
And a sleigh bell's chime—
Take a slice of snowy weather,
And, with friends grouped close together,
You'll have Christmas time!

—Selected.

The Junior Christian Endeavor went to Daretown for the Christian Endeavor rally, and they had one hundred per cent attendance, so they brought home the banner. It's a pretty blue and white banner, and we have it up in front of our church.

In Christian Endeavor lately we have been studying about Ipse and Numan. Ipse was the bad man, Satan, and Numan was the good man, the Spirit of Christ. Mrs. Ayars gives us these lessons on the flannelboard. Our Junior Christian Endeavor had charge of the meeting at the County Home Sunday. We put the same program on at church for the Friday night service. The junior choir sang again Sabbath day. It hadn't sung for a long time. It is not called the junior choir any more but is called the young people's chorus. Mrs. Anita Harris is the director. Well, I guess this is all for this time.

Your Junior friend,
Sonny Ayars.

103 New St.,
Bridgeton, N. J.

Dear Sonny:

I'll have to add to my page a bit to answer your interesting letter. I am glad you saw our big boy and wish I could have been there to see him, too. He spent from Monday night to Friday morning with us very soon after he returned from overseas, and his visit was all too short. We are hoping we can get to Bridgeton and Shiloh during Easter vacation. You have such interesting things in the Shiloh church, Sabbath school and Junior that I'd like to be there to enjoy them, too. I heard what was then called the "junior choir" the last time I was there and enjoyed it very much.

I congratulate your one hundred per cent Junior Christian Endeavor. You surely have cause to be very proud of such an award.

Sincerely your friend,
Mizpah S. Greene.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR DECEMBER 29, 1945

World Fellowship of Christians
Basic Scripture—Acts 10; Galatians 3: 26-28;
1 John 1, 3, 4
Memory Selection—Romans 10: 12



LIGHT ON OUR WAY

By Pearle Halladay



Jesus said:

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask,

The promise is:

it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 18: 19.

James a servant of God said:

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your own lusts (pleasures).—James 4: 3.

Let this be our prayer:

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.—Psalm 25: 4, 5.

WHO IS MY BROTHER?

The train was crowded, the air-conditioning out of kilter. How could they fit more into the cars? The passengers literally poured in, filling every available space. Still one seat remained vacant—next to a Negro sailor. A fine, strapping young soldier came in and stopped at the colored boy's seat. The dad, seeing him off, expostulated: "Come, Dick, you can't sit here. There must be seats in the next coach."

The boy's voice was clear as he answered, "No, Dad, war taught me that color's only skin deep." With that, he flashed a smile in the direction of the sailor.

"May I join you, Mac? . . . Thanks."

Maeanna Cheserton-Mangle.



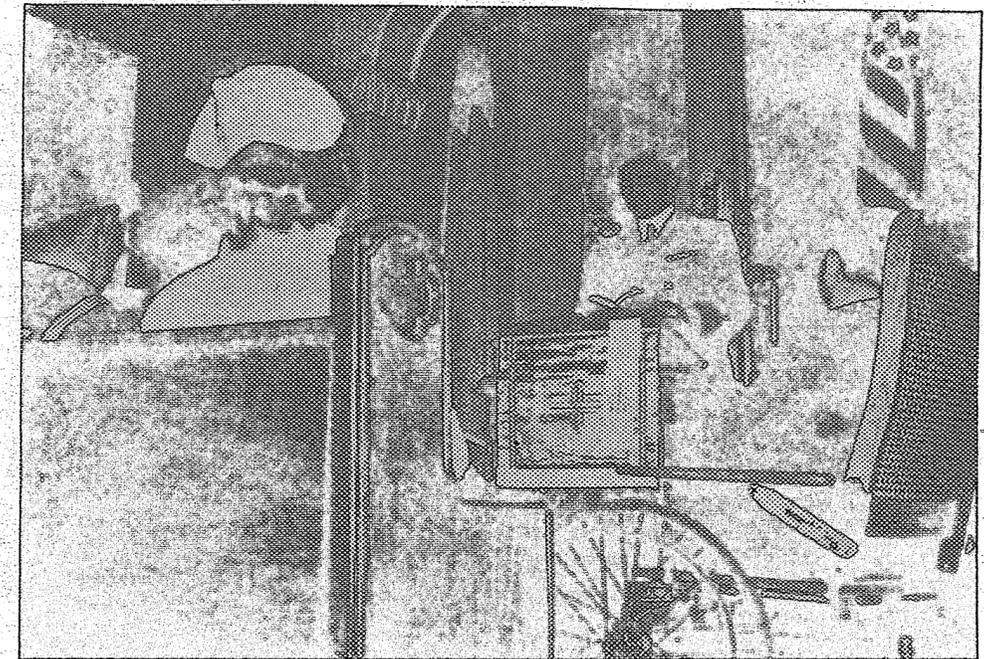
"Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.

"Joy to the world! the Saviour
reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy.

"He rules the world with truth
and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love."

STRENGTH FOR THE WOUNDED

World-wide
Bible Reading,
Thanksgiving to
Christmas



TO BE CHRISTIAN

To be a Christian means to hold convictions radically opposed to many if not most of the ideas which are constantly expressed over the radio, by the press, in the movies, by government officials, and from many church pulpits. A major problem for Christians then is how to hold loyally to our beliefs about the meaning of love in personal, international, racial, political, and economic relations, without permitting the constant tension of disagreement with personal friends, church associates, social institutions, and political policies to embitter or to crush us. There can be but one solution. It is to be found in more selective listening, reading, and meditation on what is good and true and beautiful; in more constant communion with God; in more daring ventures to bring in his kingdom of righteousness and peace.

James Myers.

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

It is said that Zinzendorf, when a boy, used to write little notes to the Saviour, and throw them out of the window, hoping that he would find them. Later in life, so strong was his faith in the friendship of Christ and in his own need of that friendship as a daily solace, that once, when traveling, he sent back his companion, that he might converse more freely with the Lord, with whom

he spoke audibly. So do we all need friendly converse with him, our soul's love. He alone is the world's friend. That man never knew what it was to be familiar with God who complains of the want of friends when God is with him. Cultivate the friendship of the Lord Jesus. Carry every burden of life to his loving heart, and this you may do with confiding trustfulness.

—The Church Advocate.

AT CHRISTMAS

By Edith Porteus Thayer



Tall fir trees powdered with a drifting snow;
Whiteness without; within, a hearth fire's glow;
Candles, and holly, and the mistletoe
This Christmas night.

Garlands will droop, the yule log crumbling lie,
Yet will the Christmas spirit glorify
The home where love, like a candle burning high,
Gives constant light.

Shiloh, N. J.

A Community Bible Class, sponsored by the church, with Pastor Osborn as leader, is being conducted weekly in the Grange Hall. A correspondence course from Moody Bible Institute, "Panorama of the Ages," is being taken up and is very helpful to those taking the course.

Shiloh entertained Marlboro at the semi-annual Joint Communion service on Sabbath morning, November 17. Pastor Francis Saunders of Marlboro brought a helpful message on "Life and Good, Death and Evil." In the afternoon the young people of both churches met together for a problem discussion period.

Our radio broadcast is in its fifth year. At present a series of Bible studies is being presented dealing with sin and salvation and the life of faith. Various members of our musical organizations furnish music at each broadcast. Sorry you can't all hear WSNJ of Bridgeton.

A Youth Choir has been organized with Mrs. Charles F. Harris as the director and Mrs. William Richardson, Jr., as accompanist. There were twenty young people and boys and girls on the platform for their first appearance.

It looked like "Old Home Week" at church recently, with about twenty-five of the 175 present being visitors or nonresident members here for Thanksgiving. Among them were E. Claire Greene and Norman Edward Davis who have just been discharged from the armed forces.

Some of our other service men recently discharged are William Henry Kuyper, Robert E. Probasco, Donald Probasco, and Norman Harris. Correspondent.

Adams Center, N. Y.

The Adams Center church observed World Order Sabbath, November 10. Rev. Miles Hutchinson preached a sermon appropriate to the day, and a collection of \$10 was taken to be used by the Community Service Men's Club for disabled war veterans.

The Ladies' Aid society recently packed and mailed two boxes to the Church Christmas Packages, New York City.

The Loyal S. S. Class and the Ladies' Aid sponsored a Thanksgiving supper for members of the church and their friends, Monday evening, November 19. About seventy at-

tended this enjoyable get-together party; our supply pastor, Rev. Miles Hutchinson, and his wife were guests. The menu included turkey and many of the seasonable accompaniments; a program consisting of community singing and readings provided entertainment.

Several families are using the nation-wide Bible readings, entitled Marching Orders for a New Day; these readings are most appropriate for this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Correspondent.

Salem, W. Va.

Rev. Alva L. Davis, professor of Bible at Salem College, has been seriously ill with pneumonia. He is reported to be improving satisfactorily. For a number of months Mr. Davis provided the editorials for the Recorder, and his many readers and friends will be wishing and praying for his speedy and complete recovery.

Richburg, N. Y.

From October 24 to November 2 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Prati and daughter, Linda, of Schenectady, held evangelistic meetings here. We were inspired by their message in gospel song and Mrs. Prati's gospel solos on the piano and accordion. Brother Prati's messages brought to us a warning of the influence of Satan in the world today, and a realization of the antidote through God's power. He emphasized the need of prayer in the life of a Christian and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The meetings were well attended and a large number from the community came. The First Baptist Church gave up one of their meetings to attend; a street meeting was held in Bolivar on Sabbath night, and prayer meetings were held each morning and have continued each Tuesday morning at the parsonage. Brother and Sister Prati brought us a real blessing, and we feel God is using them for his work.

Thanksgiving services were held at the church, Pastor Ralph Coon leading. A Christmas entertainment is being planned by the Misses Onnalee Saunders and Thelma Clark.

Prayer meetings and Bible study, with a special message by Pastor Coon for the children, depicted on the flannel board, are held every other Friday night.

—Mrs. Jesse Burdick.

Marriages

Baldrige - Pease. — William L. Baldrige, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Baldrige of Montgomery, Minn., and Miss Linn Pease of Chicago, Ill., were united in marriage at the home of the groom, Sabbath afternoon, November 24, 1945. Pastor Charles Thorngate, grandfather of the groom, officiated.

Hastings - Carlson. — Samuel Hastings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hastings of Battle Creek, Mich., and Miss Margaret I. Carlson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Carlson of Iron Mountain, were married in the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist church on November 11, 1945. Rev. Alton L. Wheeler officiated.

Obituary

Maxson. — Dollie Babcock, only daughter of Daniel C. and Amarilla Collins Babcock, was born January 8, 1856, in Johnstown, and departed this life October 24, 1945, in her home in Milton Junction, Wis.

With her parents she moved to San Jose, Calif., where she was graduated from the San Jose State College in 1876. Upon the death of her father she returned with her mother to Milton. On April 4, 1882, she was married to Dr. A. S. Maxson; they lived in Baraboo, Wis., and Motley, Minn., where Dr. Maxson practiced medicine, before returning to Milton Junction in 1885.

Mrs. Maxson joined the Milton Junction Seventh Day Baptist Church by personal testimony on October 4, 1884, and through the years was a faithful member, exemplifying by her deeds and kindly attitudes the deep faith she held in her Creator and Saviour. She was ordained and served as deaconess of her church for many years.

She is survived by two daughters, Miss Mabel Maxson of Milton Junction, and Mrs. Chester D. Newman of Milwaukee, and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held from the home and the church on the afternoon of October 26, conducted by Rev. Orville W. Babcock. Burial was in the Milton Junction Cemetery. O. W. B.

Burdick. — Dora Amelia Webster, the oldest daughter of John and Theresa Webster, was born on November 10, 1863, on a farm near Albion, Wis. She passed away after a six months' illness and a short confinement in the Edgerton Memorial Hospital on November 6, 1945.

Early in life she was baptized and became a member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church. She became the wife of Albert Clark Burdick on August 17, 1884. He preceded her in death on March 7, 1919.

She leaves to honor her memory a son, Roy; a daughter, Maude Whitford; and three sisters.

Services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Kenneth Van Horn, and interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery. K. V. H.

Socwell. — Charles Herbert, second son of Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Socwell, was born September 14, 1878, near West Hallock, Ill., and passed away November 3, 1945.

He was baptized and became a member of the Garwin, Iowa, Seventh Day Baptist Church when fourteen years old. When his father retired, Charles gave up his trades and they took up truck farming at Dodge Center, Minn. Charles was always interested in music, and for many years was chorister of Sabbath school and choir. He was acting deacon of the church for years, and was always interested in the welfare of children and young people. Not only was he always true to his Sabbath belief, but he was a good friend and neighbor and a loyal church worker.

He is survived by seven nieces and seven nephews.

Farewell services were conducted from the Seventh Day Baptist church, with Pastor Charles W. Thorngate officiating. He was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery. C. W. T.

Bonham. — Louise Coon, daughter of David and Hannah M. Coon, was born near Walworth, Wis., July 15, 1853, and passed away November 24, 1945, at the Elkhorn hospital.

On September 23, 1875, she was united in marriage to William Bonham, who preceded her in death. With the exception of a few years spent in Minnesota, Mrs. Bonham spent her entire life in the vicinity of Walworth. At the age of fourteen she was baptized and joined the Walworth Seventh Day Baptist Church where her membership remained for seventy-eight years. As long as strength and health permitted, she was active in the work of the church, Sabbath school, Christian Endeavor, and Ladies' Aid.

She leaves to honor her memory a son James and two grandchildren. K. V. H.

The Sabbath Recorder

Established in 1844

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All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to the Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, N. J.

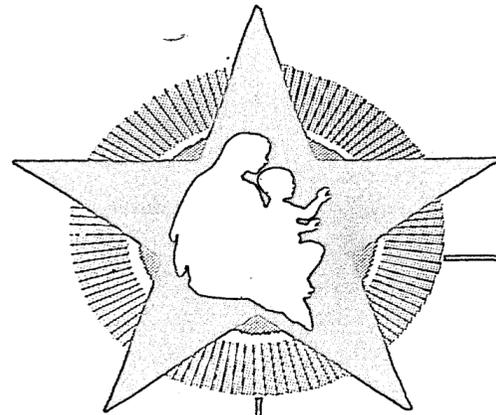
Terms of Subscription
Per Year.....\$2.50 Six Months.....\$1.25

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents per year additional.

Subscriptions will be discontinued at date of expiration when so requested.

All subscriptions will be discontinued one year after date to which payment is made unless expressly renewed.

The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles. For information about Seventh Day Baptist polity and beliefs write the American Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, New Jersey.



— THE DEAR CHRIST ENTERS IN

Once more Christmas is here with its joys, its charms, and its tender associations. The calendar would be the poorer without this holy and blessed season, for it seems to soften the hearts of all. Even the most selfish and unlikely folks wrap up parcels and write letters of good will.

Can we not make this Christmas season mean more to us than ever before? If God put himself into his great gift to the world, how can we put ourselves into our gifts? Try to live as if the very spirit of the Christ child is in your heart. Do everything for his sake in loyalty to him, and life will take on a new meaning for you. It will become as beautiful to you as the story of the Christmas manger-baby is to a child.

There is all about us a confused world. Shadows of moral darkness are over us. Human life is dreadfully cheap—as we think of the wars that have raged and the people who now die of hunger. In some ways, 'tis but a shabby inn, and there are ruthless Herods. But this is God's world; there was a Birth that changed history, and a Star that guides. Wise men are bringing gifts; the angels are not quite out of hearing. In the cradle of the present is the Christ!

“Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.”

—Rev. A. L. Davis.

The Sabbath Recorder



JUST A YEAR AGO (See page 483)