

**CHURCH NEWS**

ALFRED, N. Y. — Rev. Elmo F. Randolph of Milton, Wis., has been with us for three Sabbath days. He accompanied Pastor Harris on calls in and around Alfred and met with Church committees and groups, bringing fresh insight to the Church's task of "Efficiency for Evangelism."

Recently, two fellowship dinners following the Church services have been held in the parish house. November first, the Seventh Day Baptist college and seminary students and our Rochester friends were guests of honor. November 15, several of our Second Alfred friends remained for the dinner, and Rev. and Mrs. Albert Rogers were guests of honor. This was the occasion for the giving of a farewell gift of appreciation to Mr. Elmo Randolph. Over one hundred were present.

On the evening of November 9, about sixty Seventh Day Baptist men of the Western Association met at the parish house of the Alfred Church for an evening of fellowship. There was group singing led by Fred Palmer. Mr. Randolph spoke on the theme, "The Place of Laymen in the Work of the Church," with a message from the Vocational Committee, and a set of Kodachrome slides were shown. Ice cream, wafers, and coffee were served.

November 12, "World Community Day" was observed in Alfred under the auspices of the Women's Evangelical Society. The program was planned jointly with the Union Church Guild and the Christ Chapel Auxiliary. Several boxes for overseas relief were dedicated at this service. They included nine school kits and eight clothing bundles.

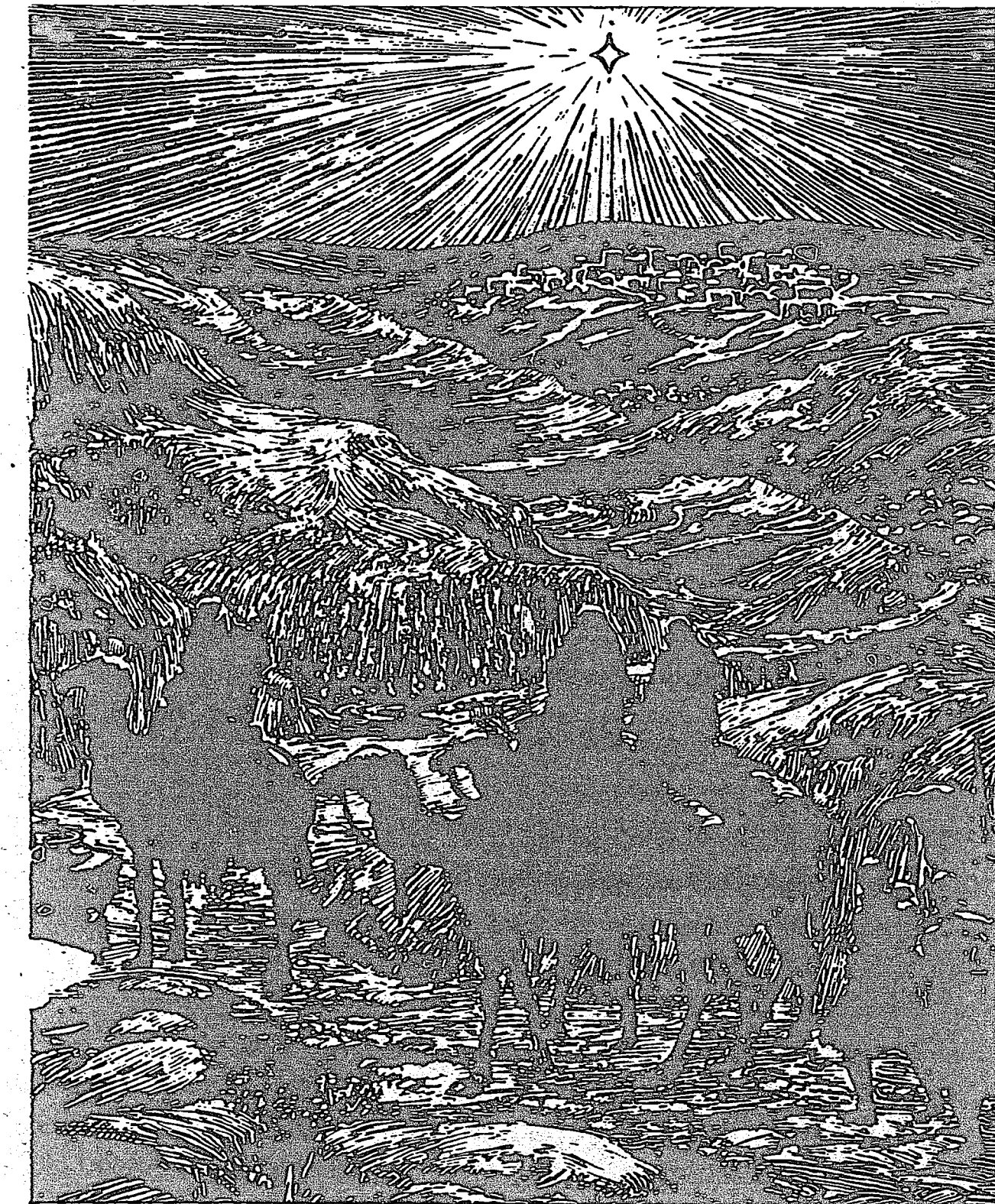
Friday evening, November 14, the young people presented a program in the Church which consisted of a worship service and the presentation of the drama, "Give Us This Day," which was written by Donald Gray of Milton and presented first at Conference. Leading parts were taken by Ronald Hargis, Mrs. Gerald Bond, Carl Maxson, Willard Sutton, and Mary Jane Ormsby. Voice parts were taken by Judith Burdick, Benjamin Berry, Allen Bond, and Stanley Harris.

Recently the Ladies' Aid held a rummage sale at which time an amount of over \$300 was received. Clothing and shoes that day were given to the needy at home and abroad.

There was a community Thanksgiving service held in the Church on Monday evening, November 24. The high school choir sang two selections and Dr. Rowland Warren gave the address. Alfred people expressed the spirit of the season by giving generously of clothing and money.

Mrs. Lynn Langworthy, Correspondent.

# The Sabbath Recorder



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# The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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Our Policy

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

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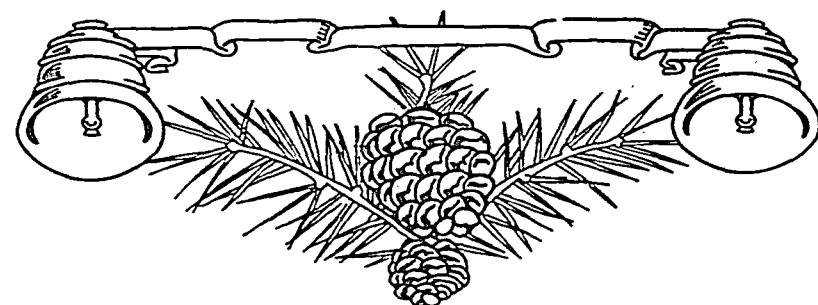
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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO YOU

FROM THE ENTIRE STAFF

OF

THE SABBATH RECORDER



A young Seventh Day Adventist missionary, Charles Crider, formerly of Washington, D. C., has recently begun mission work among the Turkoman tribes of northeastern Iran, adding another dialect to the more than 600 languages and dialects in which the denomination is now carrying on religious work. The tribesmen, according to Missionary Crider, live in portable homes on the vast grasslands just on the borders of Russia. They are Mohammedans, or in some areas retain their ancient animistic beliefs. — W. W. Reid.

A commission of five of China's best legal minds are now in the United States, and are soon to visit Europe, sent by the Chinese Government for a triple purpose: to say "Thank you" to the Western nations that have recently abrogated extraterritoriality in China; to study the laws of the Western democracies; and to secure Western comment on the new constitution of China and its code of law. Of the five men, four are members of Christian Churches and two are graduates of mission-operated Soochow University Law School; while three are members of that school's faculty. The chairman of the commission is Dean Robert Sheng, of the Soochow institution, and holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Northwestern University Law School. — W. W. Reid.

## EDITORIALS

### Christmastide

#### Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Stars and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours, and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

—Christina Georgina Rosetti.

#### Christmastide Brings Love

Who knows not love, cannot know Christmas. For, where love is, there is Christmas. God is love. He sent His only Son into the world as His love gift.

Love renewing,  
Love confiding;  
Love abounding,  
Love abiding;  
Love forgiving,  
Love restoring;  
Love excelling,  
Love adoring—  
**Love.**

Where hate is, Christmas cannot be. For, love and hate cannot dwell in the same heart at the same time. A heart that loves cannot hate. And a heart that hates cannot love. Who of God's created beings is capable of loving and hating, save man? And how can man hate when he beholds God's glorious purpose at Christmas time?

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast our our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

—Philips Brooks, 1868.

#### Christmastide Brings Hope

Who knows not hope knows not Christmas. God's love gift brought hope to a hopeless world. Up through the centuries since Christ came, Kingdom progress can be measured by the hope experience of men. When men have had a Christlike "desire accompanied with expectation of obtaining what is desired, or belief that it is obtainable," they have moved Godward. One of the tragedies of our day is that we are cherishing a desire without expectation. We are wishing for a better world order, but do we expect it? Are we doing our best to bring in a better order?

Increasingly we become impressed with the vision and spirit of men and women who have caught the hope of true Christmastide. They cherish a desire with expectation. They have hope in Him who is our only hope and that of the world.

#### Christmastide Brings Faith

Where loyal faith is found, there is glad Christmastide. For Christmastide bereft of faith sinks to the slough of selfish commerce. We cannot separate sacrificial giving and the spirit of the Christ child. To do so violates the purpose of our Saviour's coming. To do so denies the great Giver's love gift.

God's plan for man unfolds as folks everywhere grasp anew the realities of His grace and compassion. Man's faith in God is vindicated as folks everywhere seek His forgiveness and accept His power. When men live as though grace and compassion, forgiveness and power are real, knowing them personally, Christmastide comes with joy and gladness.

If the love and hope and faith of Christmas were channeled through the conduits of our highly-developed systems of communication,

## AN ANGEL SPEAKS

By Marie Hunter Dawson  
Tarentum, Pa.

Long ago when the infant Jesus came  
I was there with the angel throng.  
While shepherds watched their resting flocks  
We sang the glorious song.  
The Wise Men came with their offering  
To lay at the manger-side,  
While Mary and Joseph watched gratefully  
As their baby slept or cried.

I see across this war-torn world  
With homes demolished today  
New parents, countless, lay their babes  
On little pallets of hay.  
Through want and sorrow an angel song  
Resounds in divine caress  
As bright stars cast their heavenly gleam  
On the sheds in the wilderness.  
Wise men in the Christ-child's name send gifts  
To the babies of other lands—  
Milk from cows that graze in the sun,  
Food pure and strained in silvery cans,  
Vitamins, oil and powder and soap,  
Blankets and clothing, soft and clean,  
For health and comfort and nutriment,  
Gifts to the babes they have never seen!

And I join in the ageless song again:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men!"

—Used by permission of  
The Church Woman,  
November, 1947.

"But unto you that fear my name shall  
the Sun of righteousness arise with healing  
in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow  
up as calves of the stall." — Malachi 4: 2.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and  
thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall  
save his people from their sins."

—Matthew 1: 21.

and all peoples of the earth would accept  
these expressions of Christmas at their face  
value and act accordingly—nations weak and  
nations strong could scrap their armaments  
as a means of barbaric dealing with one an-  
other. But, woe is us! The same cantank-  
erous cussedness that keeps us from thinking,  
speaking, and acting at our best, keeps nations  
from living at peace with each other.

There is one spirit that makes peace pos-  
sible in our time. It is the spirit of true  
Christmastide.

Will 1947 mark true Christmastide?

## NEWS ITEMS

Your Board of Directors is crippled. Since  
the first day of the Conference in Westerly,  
our editor of "Woman's Work," Frances  
Davis, has been unable to carry on. In and  
near Westerly, R. I., she has been conva-  
lescing after a serious operation, hoping to save  
one of her eyes. Recently a card from Mrs.  
Davis in her own clear handwriting says,  
"Monday Dr. Grenolds told me that Decem-  
ber 20 would be my dismissal date, if im-  
provement continues; then there will be  
monthly checkups. Always there is prog-  
ress, but recovery seems protracted."

Another member, Mrs. Ottis Swiger, chair-  
man of the Christian Culture Committee,  
is at home again in Salem after a major  
operation. She will be unable to continue  
her usual activities for several months.

Another member has a very ill husband  
to whom it is a joy to devote much of her  
time and strength. To all of these we say,  
may the joys of the Christmas season creep  
into your hearts in full measure and remain  
to bless through the year.

It has been with deep regret that the resig-  
nation of Irma Van Horn, vice-president, was  
accepted. She is moving to Brookfield, N. Y.,  
where Rev. Marion Van Horn is to be pastor  
of the Brookfield and Leonardsville Churches.

Thus is the working membership of your  
board depleted for the present. How can  
you help us? We would appreciate any news  
items, reports from societies, programs held,  
brief articles of personal experience in evan-  
gelism, etc. Please send to (Mrs.) Hettie W.  
Skaggs, Acting Editor, 110 Randolph St.,  
Salem, W. Va.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a  
son is given: and the government shall be  
upon his shoulder: and his name shall be  
called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty  
God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of  
Peace.

"Of the increase of his government and  
peace there shall be no end, upon the throne  
of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it,  
and to establish it with judgment and with  
justice from henceforth even for ever. The  
zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

—Isaiah 9: 6, 7.

## ACTIVITIES OF DENVER, COLO., WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The Denver Ladies' Aid, after the regular  
Conference vacation, met in regular session  
September 25, with Dr. Rosa Palmberg as  
a guest who thrilled us with her talk on  
"Standing Alone With God." She was con-  
verted at the age of twelve. She told of the  
many, many times she has stood alone. First,  
as a young Christian after she was convinced  
of the Sabbath truth, she experienced the  
bitter trial of having her beloved Sun-  
day school teacher, her Church friends, and  
even her own father, stand against her. Then  
later in China, during the war crises, she  
had the experience of standing alone against  
the best judgment and advice of the Mis-  
sionary Board, Church friends, and govern-  
ment officials, vindicating her stand through  
prayer and God's Word.

Would that God were as real to all Chris-  
tians as He has been and still is to her! and  
that we might put into practice the following  
verse she quoted from the old song:

"Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone,  
Dare to have a purpose true,  
Dare to make it known."

Our Conference representative, Mattie  
Burdick, gave a most interesting report of  
her trip and the women's meetings, present-  
ing the book on "Prayer" recommended for  
the worship service, which was accepted for  
use the coming year.

The new goals were presented by our key  
worker, and accepted as read to be worked  
out, with God's help.

Four or five dozen garments have been  
made for the Red Cross, and eight or ten  
boxes have been sent for the German relief.  
Our fall rummage sale not only boosted our  
finances \$62, but furnished some good, warm  
clothing at reasonable prices.

We voted to send some white thread and  
bottles of saccharin to the Irvington Church  
for the need as requested in a recent Re-  
corder.

Sue Patterson,  
Correspondent.

The Christian spirit is the Christmas spirit  
extended through all the year. It is the atti-  
tude toward every person and every group in  
all of every day living.

H. W. S.

## "YOU AND THE UNITED NATIONS" BOOK REVIEW

Early last spring, the Children's Press,  
Inc., of Chicago, Ill., presented to the public  
a book entitled, "You and the United Na-  
tions." It is not a long, wordy book, but  
it is immensely significant. It was written  
and illustrated by Lois Fisher.

"You and the United Nations" is an  
illustrated explanation of the United Nations  
and the way in which it works, having its  
counterpart in the history of the United  
States, and showing the part each individual  
man, woman, and child plays in its success  
or failure. A line drawing and a few words  
present a message. A diagram and a brief  
story present facts. Quickly and concisely,  
the broad picture takes form and the lesson  
of individual responsibility is presented.

Dr. Ralph Sockman wrote of it: "The  
Churches will find this little book to be a  
great help in teaching the lessons of world  
peace to the younger generation and to  
adults as well." This statement is important  
because it indicates the truth that the book  
is prepared for those ten years of age and  
older.

The theme of the book, if one may be  
selected, seems best expressed in its closing  
words: "You, as an individual, have dignity  
and worth. You also have responsibility.  
The peace and security of the world depend  
on how you think, what you say, and how  
you act."

If you are interested in knowing how the  
United Nations works, and how you do  
assist in its success or contribute to its failure,  
this book will present you with information  
and message in such a way that you cannot  
fail to understand. It is sold at sixty cents  
per copy at your bookstore. The publishers  
are Children's Press, Inc., Throop and Mon-  
roe Streets, Chicago 7, Ill.

V. W. Skaggs.

A liberal education is intended to beget  
and to bring forth in a person power—all  
kinds of power—power of thought, of affec-  
tion, of will, of action; power to observe, to  
reason, to judge, to contrive, to adapt; power  
to govern one's self and to influence others;  
power to gain and to spread happiness. —  
Edwin Shaw, in Young People's Work, Sab-  
bath Recorder, Nov. 7, 1898.



## IMPORTANCE OF OUR MISSIONARY PROGRAM

One hesitates to undertake to describe the importance of our missionary program, because no words of pen or tongue are adequate for this purpose. Only eternity can reveal its importance. The following facts if kept in mind will help:

1. God, the Father, considered the mission program of so great importance that He sent His Son to earth to promote it and to die for it. The cross is the Father's measure of the value of missions.

2. The weal of the nations and the world is hanging more upon the missionary program of the Church than anything else. The world is in the throes of a crisis. The Church holds the key to the situation, and missions are the supreme agency of steady- ing a troubled world and saving it from complete collapse. To slacken the pace of missions under these circumstances is like burning food in time of famine.

3. The perpetuity of the Church depends upon the promotion of the missionary program. When the Church neglects and deserts missions, she neglects and deserts Christ and must eventually lose out; but if she presses her missionary program, she cannot fail. Christ's promise and power are back of those who, in His name, undertake to "make disciples of all nations."

4. Every Christian needs to engage in mission work for the sake of his own growth and joy.

5. It is important just now that Seventh Day Baptists do not falter in their missionary work, not alone because to do so means privation and hardship to our mission workers, but also because our mission program has reached a critical period. If we can weather the storm, we can soon begin to build up again.

For two thousand years missions have been the force transforming men and nations; the work is well begun; and Christian people with their vast resources must not suffer the work to decline. W. L. B.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." — Micah 5: 2.

## CHINA

By E. A. Fridell

China's physical need cannot be over-estimated. In 1946 one region was said to have had "the worst famine in forty-nine years." Most of the world never heard that another famine had struck.

Happily, the agencies of relief, both secular and under Church auspices, are busy in China. Aside from emergency relief there are substantial programs under Christian auspices looking toward a better day. . . .

China needs help in the field of education as well as in the area of physical relief. Students are flocking to the schools and colleges. These institutions are working with the aid of American and European Christians to rehabilitate themselves. There is a tremendous need for leaders trained in the more advanced fields of education, in technical subjects; and in theology. The educational institutions of the Church should be staffed with men and women of highest caliber. At present too small a proportion of Chinese pastors have attended college and seminary. Their salaries are pitifully low.

Some elements in the Church picture are encouraging. There are congregations which have crowded their services all through the war, having maintained youth groups and having continued to train their lay workers. Many of the Churches, after being subsidized for years, are making determined efforts to become self-supporting. There is need for much additional training in Christian stewardship. The Churches of China under the auspices of the National Christian Council are planning a nation-wide spiritual revival with a view to strengthening the Church both in numbers and in quality of spiritual living. The government schools are now open to the influence of Christian missionaries, as has probably not been true for many decades.

A discouraging aspect of the ideological conflict in the Far East is the aggressive presence of communism. Communism appeals to the disheartened and hungry. For many people it is a blind protest against the status quo. For this the Church must assume a measure of responsibility wherever the major emphasis has been "otherworldly" to the exclusion of an abundant gospel for the whole of man and for all of life.

## CHURCH NEWS

NORTH LOUP, NEB. — Gloria Babcock played the voluntary and offertory at the service Sabbath morning.

Mrs. Harlan Brennick, who underwent a serious operation some time ago, was welcomed back to her place as organist Sabbath morning.

A piano duet was played by Gary Cox and Theron Barber as a special during the Sabbath school hour.

The Missionary Circle met Wednesday afternoon in the basement of the Church. The lesson on the Recorder was planned by Mrs. Myra T. Barber. It consisted of talks by Mrs. Jessie Babcock, Mrs. Myra Hutchins, Mrs. Cora Hemphill, and devotionals were led by Mrs. Roy Cox. Roll call responses were given on "What I like about the Recorder."

The Dr. Grace Missionary Society met Tuesday to get ready for the Christmas bazaar which was held Wednesday afternoon.

A trifle over \$130 was taken in at the special collection for the Second Century Fund Sabbath morning. — Myra T. Barber, Correspondent.

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

"To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

"Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." — Luke 1: 76-79.

It is encouraging to note that Chinese Church leaders are aware of this struggle for the hearts and minds of the people; are facing frankly the thought-content and program of communism; and recognize that the acceptance and the implementation of the Christian message offers the only hope for China as well as for the rest of the world.— Taken from the Annual Report of the Foreign Missions Conference.

## BETTER SABBATH SCHOOLS

What kind of Sabbath schools are we preparing for the 10 per cent increase in enrollment?

Are you satisfied with the picture that new people see when they look into classrooms for the first time? Will they see hymnbooks piled high on the piano? Will the corners be full of old quarterlies, etc.? Perhaps the thought of new folks coming in will stimulate us to make classrooms more attractive.

Will new people find that our Sabbath school has a plan that looks forward to bigger and better things?

In a letter from Mr. P. B. Hurley of Riverside, he said that he would want new people to find our Sabbath schools studying the Bible and really learning about it, and living its teachings.

He thinks, too, that systematic calls from teacher, superintendent, and pastor will be most likely to win the delinquent or new person.

He told of a family near his home where there were several children who were not going to Church anywhere, and he thought that later he would see if he could get them to go to Sabbath school. Before he had done anything about it someone else had taken them to another Church on Sunday. His confession is one that most of us need to make. We all have the unreached persons around us and we are putting it off until later, which becomes too late! H. S.

### DON RICHARDS, PRESIDENT RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIF.

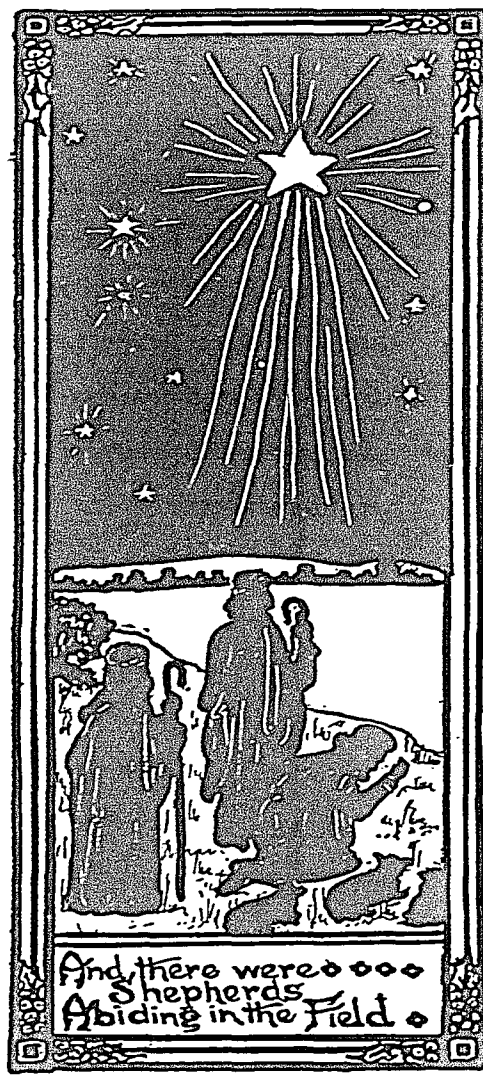
It was good news to hear that Don Richards, a member of the Riverside Church, has been elected president of the County Christian Endeavor Union. He will do a fine job.

Don is one of the many veterans who are taking hold of Church work where they left off to go into the armed service. He is also teaching the intermediate class in Sabbath school.

Not all of our young people can fill offices like these, but there is an important work that all can do, and that is to bring at least one new member to our Sabbath school class and help with the campaign to increase enrollment 10 per cent before October 1, 1948.

Harley Sutton.





## The Christmas Story

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

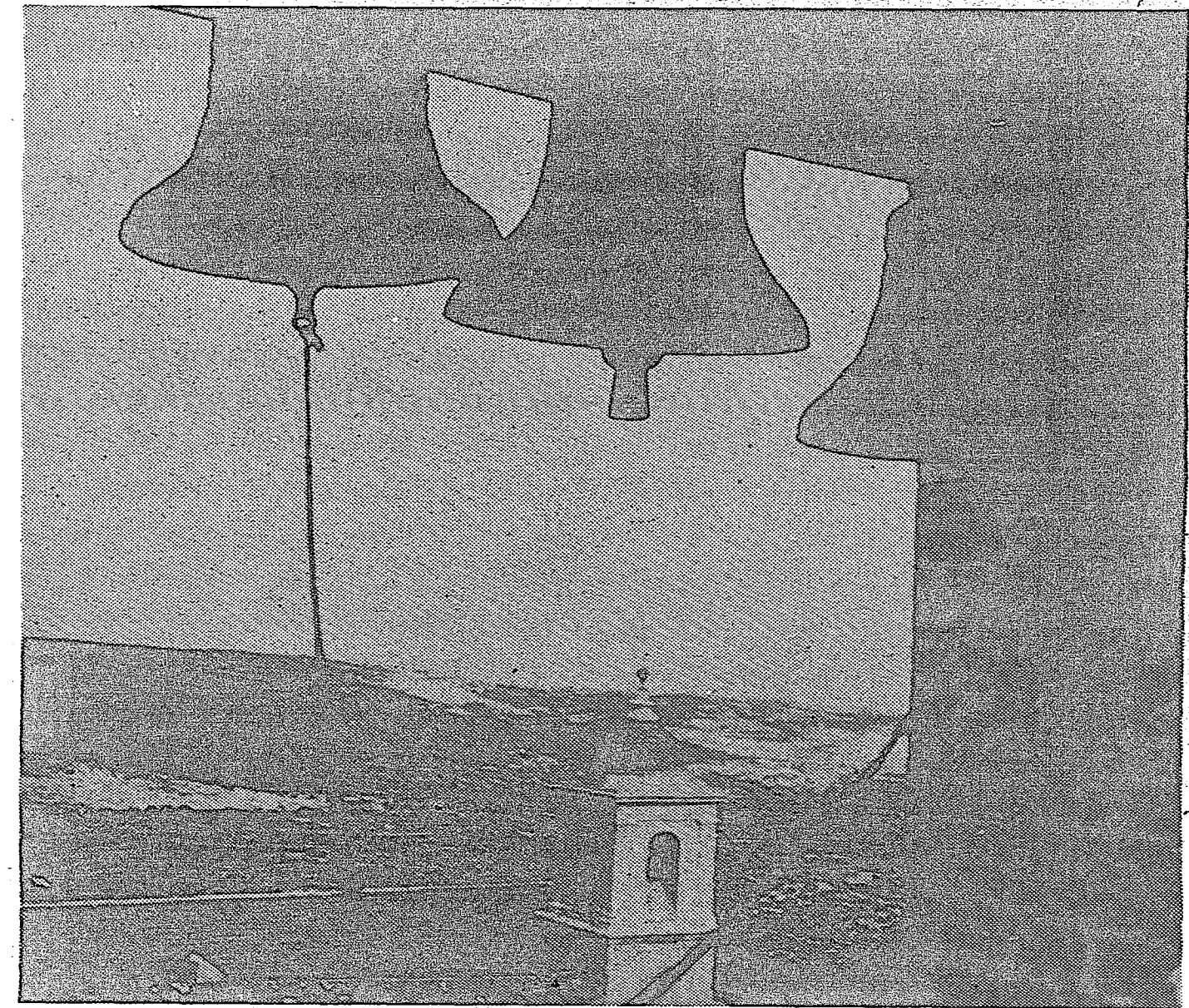
And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

—*Luke 2: 8-20.*



Christmas in Bethlehem

## A Christmas Prayer

O Christ, grant us thankful hearts today for Thee, our choicest gift, our dearest guest. Let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for Thee and Thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise where Thou mayest find fit company, where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet spaces kept for Thee, where holy thoughts pass up and down, and fervent longings watch and wait Thy coming. So when Thou comest again, O Holy One, mayest Thou find all things ready, and Thy family waiting for no new master, but for one long loved and known. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Ralph M. Harper,  
from Church Management, December, 1947.



# A Christmas Sermon — THE VOICE OF A PROPHET

By E. Wendell Stephan

Pastor, Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ,  
Plainfield, N. J.

Text: "And this man shall be our peace."  
—Micah 5: 5 (A.S.V.)

Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes  
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,  
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;  
And then, they say, no spirit can walk abroad;  
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,  
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm;  
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

—Hamlet, Act I, Scene I.

Truly we are in a gracious time, the Christmas season which uniquely celebrates the coming forth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is a time of Advent, the first of three Advents concerning which our Bible speaks: His first coming forth, His coming into the hearts of men, and His final appearing whenever and however that may be—when He will measure the world by the plumb line of truth.

Today, we enter the celebration of the time of the First Advent, when He came forth as a little child. But even as we think about it, this Advent becomes for us three advents: the advent of beauty, the advent of hope, and the advent of a stern task for the Christian Church.

It is first an advent of beauty for we remember and celebrate the birth of a little baby, which is in itself a beautiful and universal experience. Homes are few which have not been gladdened by the first helpless but hopeful cries of a new, tiny bundle of life.

It is a time of beauty for the music is magnificently seasonal, singularly beautiful, and gloriously happy. Carols and chorals are on every heart and tongue and one hears the same kind of music from every home and every corner, from the large, highly trained choir, and from the young lad on the back seat of the little Church.

It is a time of beauty for the spirit of giving prevails, and in the hustle and confusion of the inevitable shopping, amid streets gaily lighted and decorated, despite what one may see of that which is unbeau-

tiful, there is in the heart of everyone the name of a loved one or friend for whom he is preparing a gift of remembrance and love.

It is again an advent of hope. I think we can say that every nation and every age is characterized by some great hope, and if we were to name the hope of our nation this Christmas time, we would not need to look far to find it, for in the heart of every man and woman is the same deep yearning that has been there for the past several years, the yearning, the hope for a wonderful, wonderful peace.

Israel had always a hope. In times of war the people hoped for a great military leader who would carry their armies to quick and decisive victory. In times of peace they desired a leader who could make them secure and abundant in that peace, and such leaders came as Moses, Gideon, Deborah, Samuel, Saul, and David.

It was Micah, the prophet, who first focused before the children of Israel a "kingly hope." It was a hope for a king for all the people of Israel, for the great families and the lesser ones, for the rich and for the poor.

This new king was to be born not in the big city, but in one of the humblest villages of the land, the city of David. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." Micah 5: 2.

Thus we see this king to be of common and lowly origin. His ancestors were shepherds, his mother a peasant girl, and He became a carpenter. Is it any wonder that the common people heard Him gladly? Can we not see His beautiful and striking stories coming from His own life experiences? Think of the story of the lost coin. The mother swept and cleaned diligently, the neighbors came in to help, and there was great rejoicing when the coin was found. Out of His own experience came Jesus' appreciation of the value of a single coin! Or think of the story of the lost sheep. Do you think Jesus did not know the worth of a sheep to a poor man? What if there were ninety-nine in the fold? One was lost and that one must be recovered!

Now Micah speaks again, This king "shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God." Small wonder that the people of Israel were full of hope. Had not David's faith in God made him great? And now the promised ruler was to stand in that faith—God would be his strength and shield!

But wait, that is not all. "Such an one shall be our peace!" Here Micah pointed to the great longing of the Hebrew people. They were weary of war, they hungered for a champion who could again drive the Assyrian from the gates, the Assyrian who laid waste their land and defiled their palaces.

And so the prophet calls them to their stern task. He denounces them for their idolatry, for their exploitation of the poor among their own people; he condemns them for the use of unjust scales and deceitful weights. He denounces the Church of his time for feeling weak and helpless in the face of the sin and corruption that was so great. And he thunders his answer, "Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me." Micah 7: 7.

He might well be speaking of our own day, for the situation which he faced brings to light our modern dilemma. We have hoped for peace, and yet we have not peace. The Saviour of the world has come, and yet the world is not saved. The Church in many ways feels weak and impotent, unable to cope with the sinfulness of the world.

Therefore we come to this Christmas season with the full knowledge that if this is truly to be the celebration of the advent of hope it must also be the advent of a stern task: the task of calling men to repentance, calling them to Christ and only Christ as the hope of the world!

We must have peace, but the peace which is our hope will not come as a gift from some kindly Santa. Some, I think, expect this to happen, so they look to the government to usher in that peace, forgetting that the government has only been able to lead us out of one war into another.

Others long for universal military training. That will surely save us — for something. Still others look to the power of wealth, or to the strength of labor unions.

The voice of Micah declares that "only God can be our salvation." Power of any

kind imposed from without only and always breeds power—and fear—and hatred. The world must be changed from within! "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit," saith the Lord. Power has no power to change a sinful heart—no power to change a heart filled with prejudice, or greed, or self.

At this Christmas time, the voice of the prophet gives the Christian Church but one message, "This man shall be our peace." The Christ must be reborn in every heart! The baby Jesus can mean nothing to us unless we accept Him anew, not only as the babe in the manger, but also as "the way, the truth, and the life," as the Saviour who lives with us and within us.

The world must be changed by the spiritual might of the regenerate heart, and only Christ can regenerate the heart. May this be our message to the world. May Christ indeed be born in every heart!

"And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9: 6.

## SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS' VACATION

The Battle Creek Sabbath School is trying, this year, the plan of granting all teachers a two weeks' vacation.

The Religious Education Committee has completely staffed the school with substitute teachers.

This vacation will give fifteen more people, as the substitutes, the opportunity of getting acquainted with the work of the school.

Teachers were urged to call in the homes of each one of their pupils during the last two weeks of October, as part of the visitation program.

On Sabbath morning, October 25, a "Recognition" service for the teachers was part of the morning Church worship service. A charge and commendation was given to them and to the congregation, and a dedicatory prayer followed. The teachers had come to the front of the Church for this part of the service. Pastor Wheeler says they expect to make more of this service next year.

This is a challenge to all Sabbath schools to emphasize the work of the school in these important ways. I wish others would send me word of special efforts to improve the Sabbath school.

H. S.

## Christmas Needs the "Light" and a Child

A minister who was born north of Norway told about a fisherman and two sons who were caught in a bad storm on the water. Darkness came upon them and it seemed impossible to find their way to shore. They rowed with all their might. They prayed. One son, the smaller of the two, fainted away from rowing. After a long struggle the other son said, "I see a light!" The father feared that he was getting delirious. The boy kept insisting that they row toward the light, and when they did they came to the shore and before long were home. They found that the mother had put a candle in the attic window. The light had saved them. The world can come to the right shore only by following the "Light" which is Christ.

A group of soldiers stationed at a place far away from headquarters had grown careless about keeping cleaned up or in discipline. A little orphan boy came into their camp and they cared for him and came to think a lot of him. Christmas came and the tough sergeant in charge told the men that they would have to clean up for Christmas when there was a boy around, and he began to work on himself. The men cleaned up, got a Christmas tree, and wrapped up things for the boy, and put them around the tree. Then one dared to read from his New Testament the Christmas story. They sang the carols and had Christmas—because of a child! The world must keep the spirit of Christmas throughout the year and throughout all the relationships of men everywhere. H. S.

### SECOND CERTIFICATE OF PROGRESS

Just recently I mailed to Rev. Marion C. Van Horn at Lost Creek, W. Va., the Second Certificate of Progress for the following people: Mrs. O. B. Bond, Mrs. Marion Van Horn, and Rev. Marion Van Horn.

These people are the first to receive this award for advanced work in leadership training since I became executive secretary. It is very encouraging to know that our Churches are recognizing the need for more study and preparation for leadership in the work of the Church. Congratulations to these folks at Lost Creek. H. S.

### RECREATION HELPS FOR YOUTH

Recreation is important in Church work. So many times youth groups run out of ideas for parties. In order to help each other find new ideas the suggestions in the following article should be considered. Miss Ruth Collings of the Ashaway, R. I., Church, is the author of the article and she has done a good job. — H. S.

Dear Recreation Director:

At the Eastern Association I was appointed director of recreation. I will try to help you in planning worthwhile socials for your young people's society. If you have held a social recently which you think was very successful I would appreciate it if you would write to me, giving details of your plans, so that I may include it in one of my future letters, that others may try it.

**First**, what is recreation? Recreation means a different thing to nearly everybody. One definition is Webster's, "refreshment after toil; amusement; the act of creating anew."

**Second**, the recreation committee. Your job is to provide a period of recreation at each social, but no one person, however well qualified, should be solely responsible for a society's recreation. (Suppose he should break a leg.) The whole committee may help plan the program, but other helpers should be used to put it across. For instance, have an invitation, decorating, music, refreshment, and clean-up chairman, with you as master of ceremonies. The recreation committee should have a meeting before the social to plan and rehearse it in order to make it a success.

**Third**, be prepared. By rehearsing the program in your mind, imagining the room where the social is to be held, then the people that will be there, and where you will stand, will take much of the stiffness out of your manner. Prepare more material than you will need. If you are asked for one game, go ready to play three. Better to have too much than not enough.

**Fourth**, emergencies. If you are to direct a musical game, say to yourself, "If the pianist does not turn up, what then? Could we sing or clap the time and rhythm? If

not, what game shall I switch to?" It is that feeling of being equal to your job, of having a workable, fool-proof, fizzle-proof plan that gives you what it takes to do a good job.

**Fifth**, stand up, speak up, speed up, and stop. Stand where all can see you, even if you have to climb a chair. Speak slowly and distinctly and never shout. If chatterers will not subside, your co-leaders can silence them with joint hushing, "sh-sh." Speed up preparations necessary to get the game or whatever started. As you gain experience you will save time by choosing for your second game one that has the same formation. Stop the game, the program, the evening while people are still enjoying it. Stop with a snap, never let it run down slowly or peter out.

Material for this letter was adapted from "Country Gentleman League Bulletins."

I hope these suggestions may help you to understand your job better and help to put it in action. In my next letter I will send plans for a complete social, with games and refreshments for you to try.

Ruth Collings.

Bradford, R. I.,

### THE OWNER

(David L. Beebe, age 16, of the Gentry, Ark., Church)

O God, I stood in the house of man,  
And stubbornly fought against Thy plan.  
I said that the mountains wild and high,  
The sky and the billows of the sea  
Were Thine indeed; but I raised my cry,  
"O God, my soul belongs to me."

O God, I stood on the highest hill  
And saw that all obeyed Thy will.  
The mountains held me by their power,  
And the sky would not set me free.  
Thy streams entranced me hour by hour—  
O God, my soul belongs to Thee.

There is no commandment better calculated to bind the soul to God in intimate fellowship than the precept which calls upon men to reserve and use for spiritual ends His holy Sabbath day. — Ahva J. C. Bond.

If it costs much to keep the Sabbath, then it becomes a surer test of our love. If the sacrifice that we make seems great, then to make it gladly measures a greater love.

—Ahva J. C. Bond.

## PROTESTANT LEADERS INTERVIEW PRESIDENT TRUMAN

On November 14, 1947, a delegation of Protestant leaders had an interview with President Truman at the White House, following up the earlier conference of June 6, 1946, with reference to the continuation of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as his "personal representative" at the Vatican. The delegation consisted of Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, secretary of the Methodist Council of Bishops; Dr. Louie D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Winfred E. Garrison, associate editor of the "Christian Century"; Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, president of the Northern Baptist Convention; and Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

The delegation gave the following brief summary of the conference:

"The delegation understands that the President strongly feels a need for the united support of all the moral and religious forces of the nation and of the world in his efforts to secure a just and durable peace. With this position the delegation expressed its complete accord.

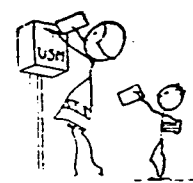
"The delegation pointed out that the equal treatment of all religious groups by the government, in so far as it has relations with them, is essential to such united support by them. With this conviction the President expressed his agreement.

"The delegation left with the President certain suggestions which it believed would insure the attainment of this end. The President stated that he would take these suggestions under careful consideration.

"Meanwhile, the President reaffirmed his statement, made to the delegation on June 6, 1946, that the appointment of Mr. Taylor was a temporary expedient."

When asked by representatives of the press about the "certain suggestions" made to the President, the delegation asked to be excused from making any further comment at this time. The delegation thought it preferable to give the President opportunity to consider the matter before making a detailed statement. — Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.





**OUR CHILDREN'S  
LETTER EXCHANGE**

Address: Mizpah S. Greene  
Andover, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

How are you? We are just fine down here in Edinburg. I like the letters and stories on the Children's Page.

At Church today a minister from California, Rev. Mr. Ray, preached to us. We are expecting a new pastor soon.

Jimmy Fisher, one of the boys in my Sabbath school class, is coming to spend the day with me tomorrow.

Last summer I went on the bus to Ft. Sumner, N. Mex., to visit my uncle and aunt and cousins, Jim and Edna May Huey. I earned \$2 one day picking apples and peaches.

I am nine years old and in the third grade at school. I study reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, English, American reader, art, and music. Every day we have a play period. Friday afternoon we have a newspaper report.

Your friend,  
Robert Marvin Boehler.

Edinburg, Tex.

Dear Robert:

I was very happy to receive your letter. Do you suppose you are a mind reader? I wrote last week begging for letters, and that urgent request will not appear in the Sabbath Recorder until next week. I do hope you will write often.

A little boy was asked if he was in good health and he answered, "Sure I am, from the top hair on my head to the skin on the bottom of my feet."

"And what time is it by your nose?" was the next question. And promptly came the answer, "I don't know. My nose ain't running." That's how I'm feeling, and though most of my neighbors have colds, I haven't a sign of one. We are having cold, real winter weather, with a good coating of snow which looks just right for coasting, and to judge by the number of times I just missed falling down on the icy pavement on my way down town I wouldn't be surprised if there were good skating. Do you ever have snow and ice in Texas? A little niece of ours from Panama, who spent a year with us, had never seen snow. When the first light snow

came, she went out in the middle of the street and patted the snow against her face. At last she came in and with a very sober face, said, "Will the snow always wash off like that?"

Before the winter was over she found the answer to her question, for it proved to be a very snowy season, with snowdrifts higher than her head. She loved it, and to our surprise really enjoyed the cold weather. When summer came and we complained of the heat, she said, "Do you call this hot? Over home we have blood heat."

Your schoolwork must keep you very busy, and I judge by the money you earned picking fruit that you are not idle during vacations. Do you know, I'm wondering how you spent that well earned \$2.

Your true friend,  
Mizpah S. Greene.

**The Blessing of the Leaves**

Not many weeks ago I looked out of my window toward the woods upon the hill and felt sure Jack Frost had been there, for the leaves had put on their autumn dresses and the trees were dressed in red and gold and brown. But in a few days, North Wind came rushing along in his rough, cold way and tender little plants seemed to bow their heads and say, "What shall we do? We are sure to freeze."

The gay little leaves high in the trees seemed to hear them and to say, "Dear Mother Tree, we love you and hate to leave you, but we must do something to help those plant people. May we not go down and make a warm cover for them?" And the trees seemed to say, "Of course, my pretty leaves, you have helped us all summer, but we are strong and do not need you now for the cold, rough wind cannot hurt us. You must go down to help the tender plants."

So down went the little leaves and made a warm cover for those tender plants. Soon the trees were quite bare and the sun smiled down on the leaves as if in praise. Can you think why, children? Of course you can, for you know that all their lives these leaves had been doing good and even now they are helping. Let us, too, try to spend our lives in helping others and thus gain God's blessing.

Mizpah S. Greene.

**Obituaries**

**Allen.** — Eugene Francis Allen, a grocer for many years, and a resident of Robins, Iowa, for thirty-two years, died at his home there on Monday, November 17, 1947, following a brief illness. He was born March 6, 1854, in Livingston, N. Y.

In 1883, he was married to Miss Ida Mentzer, who passed away in June, 1911. To this union were born three daughters, Mabel, Charlotte Amelia who died in infancy, and Leeta M. In 1915, he was married again to Mrs. Mary Sherman.

Mr. Allen is survived by his wife Mary; two daughters, Mrs. Mabel Wheeler of Nortonville, Kan., and Mrs. Leeta M. Domer of Marion, Iowa; a step-son, Emery Sherman of Alburnett, Iowa; fifteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Marion, Iowa, after which the body was brought to Nortonville, Kan., where services were also held in the Seventh Day Baptist Church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Verney A. Wilson. Interment was in the Nortonville Cemetery. V. A. W.

**Burdick.** — Clark Truman was born at West Clarks-ville, N. Y., April 21, 1856, and died October 22, 1947, at his late home in Alfred, N. Y.

He was one of six children born to Maxson and Martha Compton Burdick, of whom one sister, Mrs. William Jacox, survives. Also surviving are one son, Ira F. of Lombard, Ill.; and a daughter, Fredora Jones of Andover, N. Y.; three grand-daughters, and a great-granddaughter.

The wife and mother of his children, Ida Olive Allan, died in 1926. Later he was married to Mrs. Rosa Johnson of Alfred Station, who passed away in 1943.

He was baptized by Rev. N. V. Hull and joined the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he has maintained his membership for seventy-three years.

Farewell services were held at the home in Alfred, October 26, 1947, conducted by Pastor Everett T. Harris. Interment was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. E. T. H.

**Bennehoff.** — James D., son of Lyle and Emma Rosebush Bennehoff, for more than sixty years a resident of Alfred, died at his home in Alfred, N. Y., October 27, 1947.

He was a graduate of Alfred University and had taken postgraduate work at Cornell. He taught science at Alfred University and was curator of the Steinheim Museum for several years. For the past twenty years he has been active as a licensed veterinarian.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Ford Bennehoff, to whom he was married September 1, 1917. Also surviving are several cousins, among whom are William G. Nickols of Bolivar, N. Y.; Judson and Steven Rosebush of Port Edwards, Wis.; Waldo Rosebush of Milwood, Wash.; and several cousins on his father's side.

He joined the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church by baptism June 8, 1893. Farewell services were held at the First Alfred Church, October 30, 1947, Pastor Everett T. Harris officiating. Interment was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. E. T. H.

**Stillman.** — Albert C., son of Clark and Ella Witter Stillman, was born July 26, 1906, at Alfred, N. Y., and died November 6, 1947, at San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

He was employed by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company and was working as a lineman at the time of his death. He was a veteran of World War II, and spent two years with the U. S. Navy in the South Pacific.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Roberta Stillman of Hornell, N. Y.; two daughters, Mrs. John Hunt and Miss Roberta Stillman; three sons, Albert J., Eugene, and Pierre; his mother, Mrs. Ella Stillman of Jamestown, N. Y.; two sisters, Mrs. Anthony Gromacki of Buffalo and Mrs. Orville Williams of Verona, N. Y.; and one brother, Ellis of Clarksburg, W. Va.

He was a member of the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, joining by baptism July 6, 1918. Farewell services were held at the First Alfred Church, November 14, 1947, conducted by Rev. Everett T. Harris, and Rev. Glen Buscher of Hornell. The local organization of the American Legion assisted at the grave. Interment was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. E. T. H.

**Persels.** — Charles Elsworth, son of Albert and Lucretia Randolph Persels, was born at Farina, Ill., January 16, 1871, and died suddenly at Ft. Myers, Fla., November 16, 1947, where he and Mrs. Persels had arrived but two days earlier, prepared to spend the winter.

On March 12, 1892, he became a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Farina, and through the years was a faithful, efficient member. He served as trustee, as Sabbath school teacher, and was, at his death, the moderator of the Church.

He served the village and community in many ways: eight years as county supervisor, as president of the Community High School Board, president of the Farina State Bank, and of the Farina Building and Loan. He was a successful farmer and a prominent southern Illinois fruit grower. He was a man of strong convictions, with a sense of honesty and justice, purity and honor so highly developed that any infraction of these rules met with all the resistance of his strong character. He will not only be missed by his family, but by all who knew him, because of his business ability and his Christian associations.

He was united in marriage to Miss Lura Randolph on July 26, 1893, and fifty years later they celebrated their golden wedding. He is survived by his wife, and by two daughters, Mrs. Arlouine Seager of Farina and Mrs. Kathryn Lindman of Pasadena, Calif.; by two brothers, Allie of Kirkwood, Mo., and Frank of San Francisco, Calif.; by a cousin, Mrs. Bede McClellan of Milton, Wis.; and by three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a number of nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were conducted at the Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath morning, November 22, at the regular hour of worship, by his pastor, Rev. C. L. Hill, and burial was made in the Farina Cemetery. C. L. H.

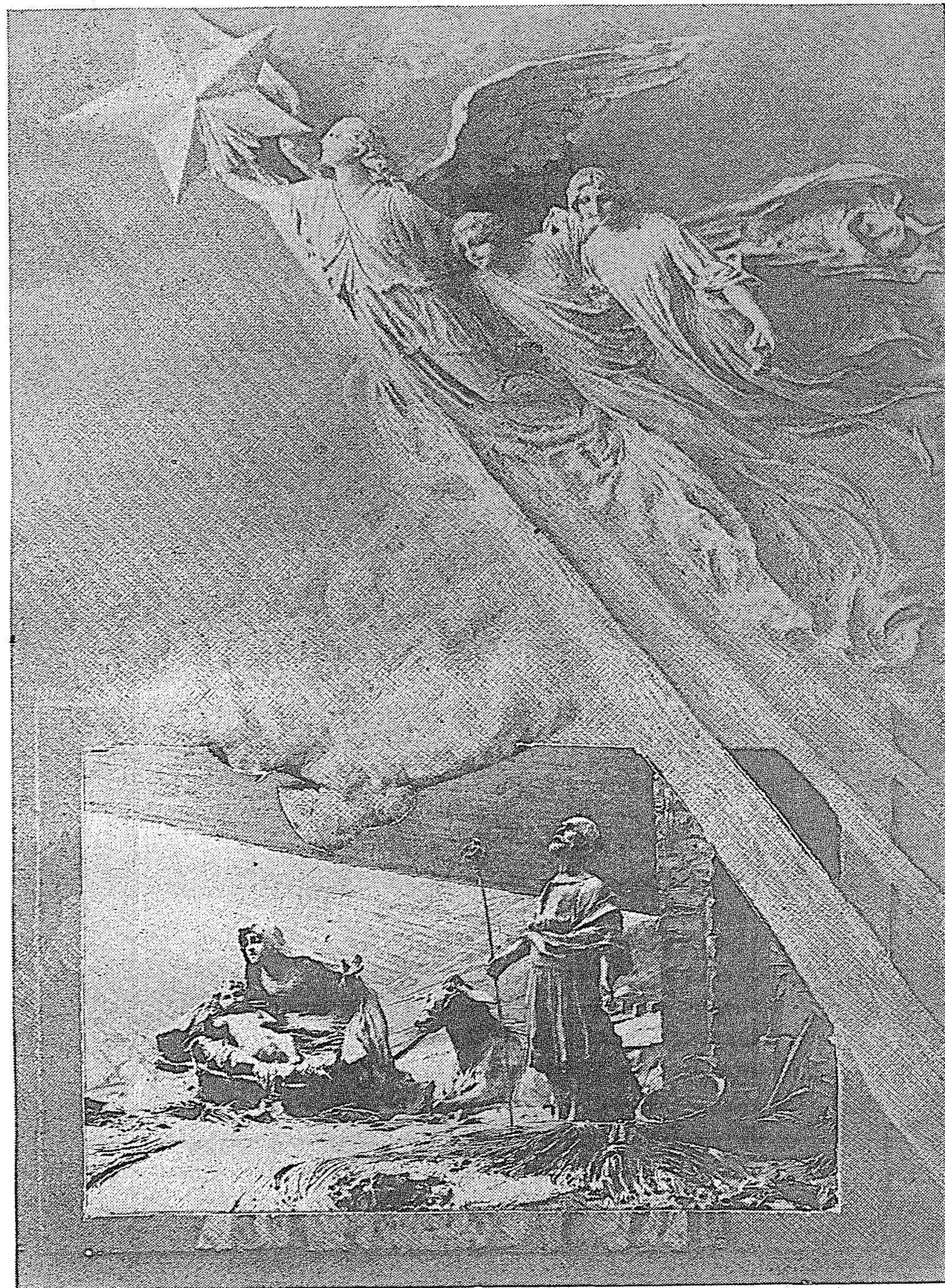


# The Sabbath Recorder

## *The New Year*

I am the New Year, and I come to you pure and unstained,  
Fresh from the hand of God.  
Each day, a precious pearl to you is given  
That you must string upon the silver thread of Life.  
Once strung can never be unthreaded but stays  
An undying record of your faith and skill.  
Each golden, minute link you then must weld into the chain of  
hours  
That is no stronger than its weakest link.  
Into your hands is given all the wealth and power  
To make your life just what you will.  
I give to you, free and unstinted, twelve glorious months  
Of soothing rain and sunshine golden;  
The days for work and rest, the nights for peaceful slumber.  
All that I have I give with love unspoken.  
All that I ask—you keep the faith unbroken!

—J. D. Templeton, in *Quotable Poems*,  
compiled by Clark-Gillespie.



—Religious News Service Photo.

## *The Nativity*

D. Mastroianni's Wax Sculpture of the Birth  
of the Saviour in Bethlehem.