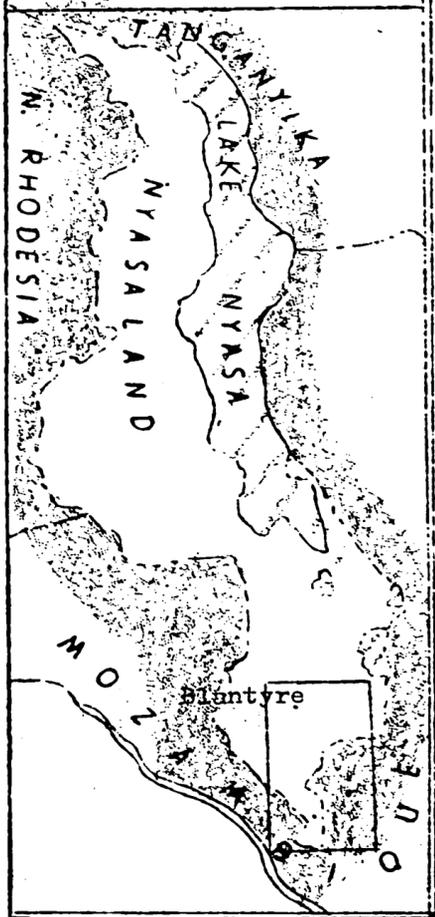
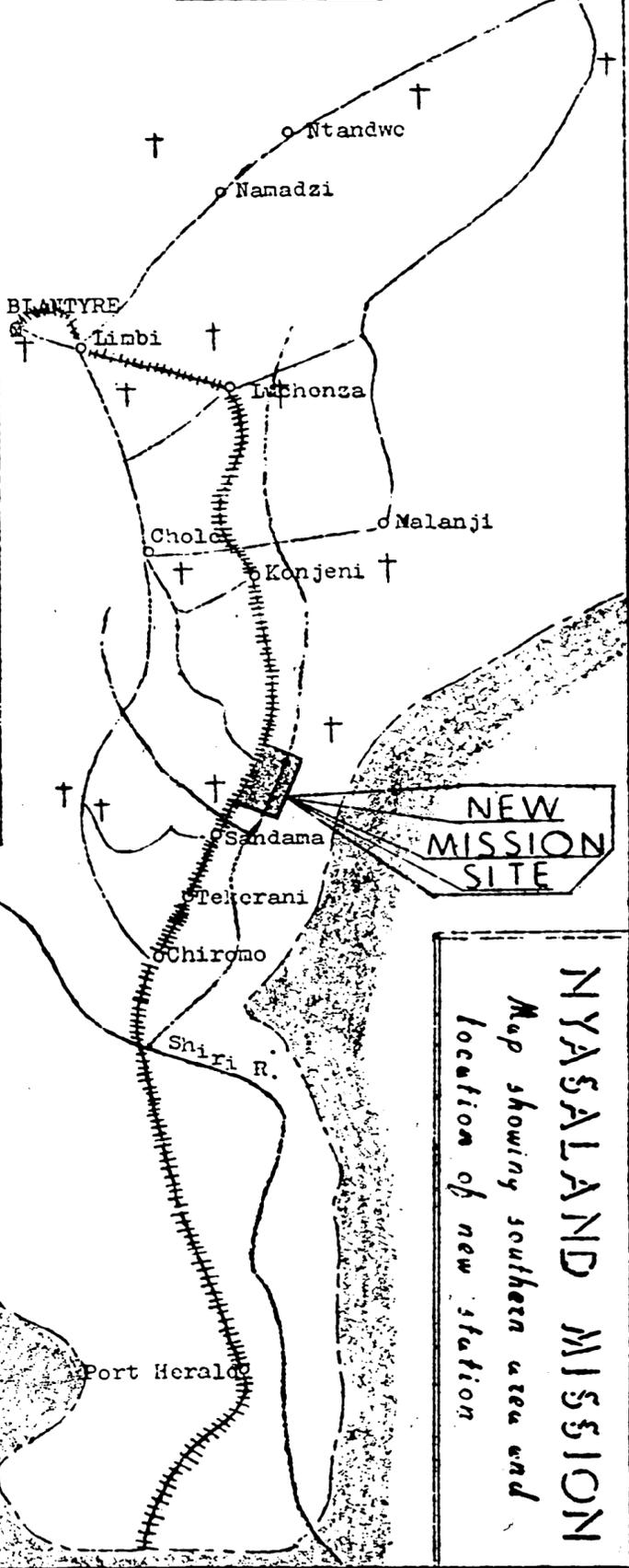


Nyasaland in Relation to Surrounding Countries. Located in S. E. Africa



AREA IN SQUARE ON SMALL MAP AT LEFT, ENLARGED



KEY -
 — ROADS
 — RIVERS
 |||| RAILROAD
 † SDB CHURCHES
 SCALE - NONE

NYASALAND MISSION
 Map showing southern area and location of new station



The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration

HURLEY S. WARREN, D.D., Editor
L. H. NORTH, Manager of the Publishing House

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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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Conference President's Corner

FERVENT IN SPIRIT (In our listening)

While listening to the last of a long series of papers at a recent medical meeting, I became impressed with the fact that few people were listening. Everyone was tired, the topic seemed unusually dull, the speaker was discouraged and uninteresting. I decided to try an experiment. I leaned forward and fixed my attention on the speaker in the most interested fashion I could assume. It wasn't long before he caught my eye. The transformation that took place was remarkable. He stood more erect and started directing his speech at me with more enthusiasm than I dreamed was at his disposal. Those near me noted my interest and started listening also. Before long, nearly everyone was listening.

To my surprise, I received much more information from the speech than I had believed possible.

I believe more fervent listeners in our Churches would encourage the ministers to deliver more fervent sermons, and we would all benefit. As each Sabbath day comes around, I hope every Seventh Day Baptist will be somewhere — **listening.**

Lloyd D. Seager.

WANTED \$5,000

as a special offering on the first Budget Sabbath, December 31, and 50 individuals, families, and groups to pledge at least one full day's support (\$102) of the Denominational Budget by December 31.

Copying God

The Sabbath is not only the most venerable, it is likewise the most living of all the sacramental realities of our religion. . . . The principle underlying the Sabbath is formulated in the Decalogue itself. It consists in this, that man must copy God in his course of life. — Vos.

WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN

WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN — the word of the Lord was fulfilled.

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.' And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.'

"And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem." Luke 2: 25-38 (R.S.V.).

Although the devout Simeon and the Prophetess Anna did not visit the manger of Bethlehem when Christ was born, yet they were the first to recognize Him when His parents took Him to the temple at Jerusalem. Great was their joy at beholding the "consolation of Israel" and the "redemption of Jerusalem."

Our joy today will be great if we but behold Him in devotion and worship, as we proclaim Him as the "consolation" of all chosen ones and the "redemption"

of every race and nation which will come to Him.

The word of the Lord is being fulfilled in mighty power as Christ the Saviour is born in the hearts of men.

What of your heart and mine? Is Christ today reborn therein?

WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN — the angels sang.

"And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among men with whom he is pleased!'" Luke 2: 8-14 (R.S.V.).

This world needs to turn aside to hear the angels sing. If once the folks of this earth grasp the significance of the angel's song, and are gripped by it, peace will come. When glory is given "to God in the highest," "peace among men" will come.

Are we giving God the glory? Then peace is ours through our Saviour and Lord.

WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN — the shepherds came.

"When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2: 15-19 (R.S.V.).

The shepherds did not hesitate to accept the message of the angel's song nor delay in going over to Bethlehem to see what had happened, which the Lord had revealed to them.

If we hear the angel's song we forthwith will return to Bethlehem to behold again what has taken place, even as the Lord makes it known to us.

Do we not hear the angel's song? Will we go? Will we see?

WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN — the shepherds returned.

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2: 20 (R.S.V.).

As the shepherds returned they glorified and praised God for all that they had heard and for all that they had seen. Hearing, they went to the Bethlehem manger. Seeing, they returned giving God the praise and glory. They were different shepherds as they went back to their sheep.

Simple, you say? Simple, yet profound!

S O S R

(Send Out Sabbath Recorder)

The Sabbath Recorder Fund from which subscriptions are paid for those who could not otherwise have the Sabbath Recorder is in great need of being replenished.

All who will help to keep this fund active, please send their contributions to the Sabbath Recorder, Seventh Day Baptist Building, Plainfield, N. J., designated for the Sabbath Recorder Fund.

We thank you.

DID YOU KNOW THAT —

Melvin G. Nida, student at the School of Theology, Alfred University, Alfred, N. Y., is serving as supply pastor of the Richburg, N. Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church? A reliable source also informs us that a member of the Richburg Church has loaned Mr. Nida a car in the interest of convenience, effectiveness, and efficiency.

FROM THE EDITOR'S MAILBOX

(Note: The following letter was sent to us by Mrs. William Parry with the expressed hope that there would be "room in the Recorder" for it. Readers are referred to the Sabbath Recorder of November 14 for Mrs. Parry's letter.)

Mrs. William Parry,
713 N. 25th Street,
Philadelphia 30, Pa.

Dear Nellie (and Bill, too):

Your letter in the current issue of the Recorder I read with great interest. A number of things I would like to talk to you about, but I will confine myself to your reference to my sermon at the Philadelphia Fellowship on November 5. I am writing not contentiously, but in a searching Christian spirit, to give you the Scriptural authority for my statement concerning the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God.

You understood me correctly, but "infer" is not exactly the right word. There is no "brotherhood" outside of the family of God. Only those who have accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord are members of His family, having thus become "the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3: 26.

All through the New Testament believers are referred to as "the brethren." 1 John treats at length of "loving the brethren" — i.e., other Christians. Remember the old song:

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of Love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands then, brothers of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.

That is right — it is "in Christ" that we are brethren. "Ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3: 28.

Humanity is not one family, except in species. True, God "hath made of one blood all nations of men." Acts 17: 26.

Human blood and human flesh, the world over, has the same chemical composition, and is different from animal flesh and blood. But in the Scriptural sense, spiritually, there are two families of mankind. This is very clear from 1 John 3: 10: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." These are the "Haths" and the "Hath-nots." "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5: 12. We "have the Son" by accepting Him for all that He is and offers Himself as.

Jesus told those who rejected Him, "Ye do the deeds of your father." They replied, "We have one Father, even God." To which the Lord replied, "If God were your Father, ye would love me. . . . Ye are of your father the devil." John 8: 38-44. That sounds harsh, but it is Scriptural truth. It is a tragedy! Those who have not become "children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" are members of the devil's family. They are not my "brothers" for we belong to different families.

Over and over the Bible tells believers to "love one another." But what about our relation to those outside our family? You speak of regarding "a Jewish neighbor as a brother." We cannot do that, for he rejects Christ, does not have faith in Him, so he is not in the same family as we who believe in Christ. The other word is right — "neighbor." The Bible tells us "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Yes, even to "love your enemies." We certainly should not take the attitude of your friend whom you mention — contemning, disparaging, shunning. No! We should love them, and be "neighbors" to them. Who is called the neighbor in the story of the Good Samaritan? The one who ministered to the need of his unfortunate fellow man! The best way to show our love for our neighbors, and to be a neighbor to them, is to bring them to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, so that by that faith they may become our brethren in the family of God — His children, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

This is a basic matter, for once we get the truth of our "family relationship" straight, and the need of our neighbors for

the Saviour, evangelism, Church membership, and Christian life and service will, as you say, "take care of themselves."

I hope I have made this clear, for it is important. Please don't think that I take the attitude which you describe toward those who are not my brethren in Christ! If I did, I would not be in the ministry. For my purpose is to win men and women, boys and girls, to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to train others to do the same, so that people may become members of God's family, and be released from the dominion of "their father the devil."

Well, this is too long, and you will probably be tired before you get through it. But I feel that you want to know the truth. Your letter sounds that way. Take this as it is written, in Christian love, and as an evidence of my interest in you and your family, and in our "neighbors."

I do enjoy our occasional visits to the Fellowship. We are looking forward to you people spending a weekend with us here in Shiloh.

With kindest regards, and praying God's blessing on your testimony for Him, I am

Your brother in Christ,

Lester G. Osborn.

Shiloh, N. J.,
November 14, 1949.

Dear Editor Warren:

I just read "My Face Was Red" — Recorder, November 14, and believe the answer is simple, very simple; it is found in Leviticus 27: 30. If our people could get this vision, there would be no problem. . . .

Sincerely yours,
O. A. Davis.

1046 W. Taylor,
Phoenix, Ariz.,
November 17, 1949.

. . . I must say the Recorder is more satisfying every week, just food for the soul, and I enjoy every article as I am almost a shut-in.

Mrs. A. V. Ford.
Dysart, Iowa.

WHEAT FOR INDIA

The appeal of the Golden Rule Foundation for gifts of wheat for the starving people in India is receiving wide attention and generous response. Hundreds of letters have come, enclosing gifts to aid in broadcasting this appeal and to help meet necessary expenses. We believe that this demonstration of interest and compassion represents the feeling of our American people who desire earnestly to relieve distress and remove deep lying causes of unrest in which the seeds of Communism and war so easily take root.

The appeal is made in co-operation with the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) which is doing magnificent work by gathering and shipping gifts of food to the neediest people in other lands. CROP welcomes more emphasis on Asia, where mass hunger and human need are great and the threat of destructive forces immediate.

Some letters have come asking why we make this personal appeal when vast quantities of wheat and other foods have been secured and stored by our government. The clearest statement on this has been made by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., in The New York Times on Sunday, October 30. He quotes figures showing that 190,600,000 bushels of wheat are being held by the Commodity Credit Corporation, valued at \$451,722,000, all provided for out of taxes paid by our people. He outlines, from his intimate knowledge, the difficulties in the way of securing the release of these food supplies, including necessary action by Congress, which has to deal with many interests, national and international, before the way can be cleared.

The Golden Rule Foundation is seeking the aid of Mr. Morgenthau and other leading citizens in developing a public demand on the part of our American people so strong that the unselfish heart of America may be revealed, and the way opened to share our surpluses with those in deepest need.

But this is a long-term program which may take months to become effective. Our immediate appeal, with CROP, is for gifts out of our overflowing elevators and barns and our billions of income and savings to meet India's need now. Starving people

THE BIRTHPLACE OF CHRIST

The birthplace of Christ was predicted 700 years before it came to pass, by the prophet Micah. Micah 5: 2, 3. The records show the prophecy fulfilled. Matthew 2: 4, 5. The question now arises, "In what part of Bethlehem?" Let the psalmist answer. Psalm 132: 1-7. What kind of wood was in that field? Song of Solomon 8: 1-5. We infer from this that the wood in the field was an apple orchard.

There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus (the first Roman Emperor) that all the world shall be taxed. Luke 2: 1-7.

We imagine we see those large caravans from all parts of Palestine, on horse, mule, and camel, on their way to the city of David (Bethlehem). Is it any wonder that there was room for no more in the inn? Wisdom will teach us the manger in which Christ was laid was one of the mangers in an open field accommodation.

Thus Christ was born at Bethlehem, in a field, under an apple tree, then wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

What does Christ say about it? Luke 24: 44. We conclude each prophetic prediction to be one of "all things" mentioned in Luke.

Addendum

On the birth of Christ the shepherds were made the recipients of the angelic carol. Luke 2: 8-15.

Simeon's gratification. Luke 2: 25-32. Christ's first reception by the Gentiles. Matthew 2: 1-11.

When, subsequently, "He came unto his own, . . . his own received him not." John 1: 11.

A lesson (transcribed from the original "Sabbath School Quarterly," 2nd quarter, 1905), especially compiled for the German Seventh Day Baptists, by Jacob Kiehl, Ephrata, Pa., and copied at the request of Brother William Y. Zerfass.

can't wait. They suffer and die, especially the little children and weakened mothers. Every report from India stresses the urgency.

Thomas S. Donohugh,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
Golden Rule Foundation.
New York, N. Y.

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ATTENDS RURAL CHURCH INSTITUTE

Two minor records of a sort were set at the Alfred School of Theology in one week recently. On Tuesday, November 29, the class in Rural Sociology traveled over two hundred miles to meet, and on the next day the class in History of Christianity met for four consecutive hours.

Dr. Ben Crandall's class in Rural Sociology met Tuesday with the Rural Church Institute at Cornell University. The meeting, the first in a series of annual convocations of Church leaders interested in rural problems, was called to order in the morning by Rev. Carl Reppert, president of the New York Christian Rural Fellowship. The morning program was devoted to a symposium discussion of "the major Church problem," and the luncheon meeting was addressed by Dr. Paul M. Schroeder, president, and Dr. William T. Clemens, executive secretary, of the New York State Council of Churches. Dr. Clemens said that Churches are still using the "horse and buggy approach" to rural problems and suggested a plan for a combined rural parish with several Churches co-operating to meet enlarging opportunities for service. In the afternoon the speaker, a dairy farmer, suggested that the individual Church buy and co-operatively operate a Church farm with the minister as supervisor. Attendance at institutes of this sort and the discussion provoked among students and faculty as a result is considered an important part of the curriculum at Alfred.

The record for sustained discourse was set by Dr. Wayne Rood the next morning who lectured for four hours on the Calvinistic Reformation in Geneva and France. The prolonged session on Church History was the result of adjustments in the class schedule necessitated by special activities during the week, and there has been some discussion as to which — the lecturer or the listeners — emerged from the ordeal in the better condition.

—Contributed.

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
SALEM, W. VA., AUGUST 22-27, 1950

"PASSING THE BUCK"

Man has ever been eager to find some excuse for his failure to meet his personal responsibility. It began with Adam who blamed his wife for eating the forbidden fruit. She said, "The serpent beguiled me and I did eat."

About a century ago the words heredity, environment, and circumstances were much used to explain why men and women were not the kind of people they ought to be. Ancestors, bad neighborhoods, or misfortune were advanced as excuses for any kind of moral delinquency. You blame your grandparents, your neighbors, or what have you.

Just now our newspapers are regaling us with the escapades of a swindler who has bilked a dozen or more women across the nation out of their money and property. But he is not a criminal he says. He is a sick man! He is suffering from a soon to be discovered disease — "Womania." The police have pampered, fed, and coddled him as though he were a celebrity. Soon we shall have seminars, learned lectures, and theses on the cause, treatment, and cure of Womania.

"O judgment!

Thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason."

The subtle enemy of our country's sobriety and well-being, long put to it to find some excuse for the devastation it has caused in homes, on the highways, and in millions of lives, now tells us that their victims are poor, sick individuals who need our sympathy and our tender care, and that neither the victims nor the organized liquor traffic is responsible for the destruction of personality, life, or property which is increasing.

But the testimonies of high-grade medical men declare that "the alcoholic is an alcoholic as a result of his own wrong thinking" and that the "only one remedy for alcoholism is abstinence."

We must and will care for the sick, sad victims of the liquor traffic, but we must and will eliminate the cause of the "disease" drunkenness in America, as we will eliminate tuberculosis, polio, and cancer. With this disease must go those who fatten and grow rich on the manufacture, pro-

CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH —

The Church Is the Body of Jesus Christ

By Brother Alwin Hennig

(Sermon given during the conference, Sunday morning, October 10, 1949, at Hamburg, Germany. As sent in by Brother Heinrich Bruhn.)

Text: Ephesians 1: 9-23.

At the beginning Brother Hennig referred to Saul and his quest for the asses of his father, a quest which led him to find a kingdom. Brother Hennig wished that all attendants of the conference might there find a kingdom.

The object of this conference is the main concern (Hebrews 8: 1) compared to which everything else is but secondary. Our concern at this conference is Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God. Jesus Christ is the head, the Church His body.

However precious the individual may be, and his rebirth — here we are concerned with the whole: First comes the whole and then the parts follow: Any attempt at segregation is a sin against God's will to unity, which is shown in His words, "That they all may be one."

Christ is the head; the head is the seat of the spirit. The spirit again is the dominating power in a man. Thus Christ is the deciding and lasting power of His Church. What is a body without spirit? In Revelation 3: 1 the Lord says, "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and thou art dead," a Church without the spirit of the head.

Now the spirit of the head is the spirit of love, which comprises and moves all the physical being. If the Church wants to keep alive, then the spirit of the head must incessantly enter and fulfill her. The spirit of our Lord gives the Church its type and its character. In this way Jesus Christ becomes visible to men. It is and remains the task of the Church to make Jesus Christ transparent.

motion, and sale of the narcotic that causes the disease. — W. E. J. G., in the National Temperance Digest, September, 1949.

Thus the body needs the head, but also, vice versa — what a benediction! — the head needs the body. Christ needs a completion. For a Saviour without those who are saved would be a saviour no longer.

Jesus is at work to fill this Church with His spirit. The Holy Spirit in all its fullness has been given us for almost 2,000 years. What matters is that we let ourselves daily be filled by it. According to Zechariah 4, the Church ought to be like an oil supply. In our prayers we should daily let our empty vessels be filled. Then comes the full development of the body, and then follows the removal from the earth, the marriage supper of the Lamb, the reunion of the head and the body.

Just as once upon a time Abraham let a bride be chosen for his son by Eliezer, thus today the Holy Spirit permeates the world in order to win the bride for the Son. Jesus wants His bride, He wants you and me. Do you also want Him? If in faith we surrender ourselves to the head and live in obedience to our faith and in the discipline of the spirit, then Jesus prepares us for the removal and soon the day will come when we may see Him as He is.

The Four C's

The Four C's — Character, Courage, Culture, and Citizenship — should be put first in everyday living. Our acts and words of everyday life help to make character. If we have strength to make the right decisions we soon find we have courage to carry on. The refinement of mind and morals adds a delightful culture, pleasing to all good citizenship.

If these had been stressed to a greater degree in all ranks of life, would we not feel more prepared for peace and under God have abundant faith so that all could feel they had done their share toward peace on earth and good will to men?

Let the Christmas cheer be followed with a brief prayer for better thoughts, words, and deeds throughout the year!

Cora June Sheppard.

Shiloh, N. J.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

(Suggestions in Evangelism by way of a quiz.)

- the Disciples of Christ have an excellent series of helps on ways of drawing non-resident members into active fellowship and participation?
- the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., has an inspiring leaflet for pastors who may have become **overburdened** with evangelistic problems? Written by Dr. Barlow, it is titled, "The Spiritual Basis of Evangelism."
- the Northern Baptist Convention has a new series of tracts for "printed-page evangelism"? Tracts especially suited for laborers and executives, for nominal Catholics, for women, and for youth are distributed successively at morning worship services. The pastor relates his sermon to the theme of the tract. Members are asked to read the tract and pass it on by personal contact with an outsider.
- the evangelism secretary of the National Lutheran Council feels no one has gained more from the United Evangelistic Advance than have the Lutherans?
- the Salvation Army has "Inquiring Salvationists" who use Church affiliation as an opener for witnessing and for persuading pedestrians in New York City's Times Square? Colonel Maltby of the Salvation Army recommends the method for Protestants generally; viz., an "Inquiring Christian" in busy city streets.
- Dr. and Mrs. Jesse Bader (Dr. Bader heads the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches) are spending their Christmas "vacation" in Jamaica, B. W. I., and will be seeing our missionaries while in Kingston? Dr. Bader will be speaking for the council of Churches there, as well as "vacationing" with Mrs. Bader.
- an attractive five-place black cardboard tract rack is available through the Disciples of Christ? These racks have been developed especially by the Disciples,

but have only "Free Literature" printed on them. (21" long, 10" high, 25c each.)

- Protestants will be endeavoring to begin the New Year with extensively promoted Week of Prayer services beginning with an all night Vigil of Prayer New Year's Eve?
- Seventh Day Baptists aren't alone in rural preponderance? The Disciples figure 69% of their membership is rural; Lutherans, 55% rural; United Presbyterians, 60%.
- "at no time in American history has there been a larger percentage of the nation's population in some religious body." (1880—19.9% affiliated; 1900—34.7%; 1920—39.8%; 1948—53.3%.)
- "the stark fact is that we are not making new disciples fast enough?" and "There is no other safe direction for our Churches to take but to go forward in an unprecedented Advance"? (The 11 denominations representing 73% of total Protestant strength made a 3% net increase over their 1947 memberships. The next 20 denominations averaged a 1.7% net increase.)
- most Protestants will plan for "Preaching Missions, October 29 - November 3, 1950, or any time in 1950," and for "Visitation Evangelism, December 3-7, 1950, or any time in 1950" as per the suggestion of the National Committee of the United Evangelistic Advance?
- Reformation Day, 1949, (October 31) drew thousands into great Protestant services in at least 121 American cities? Ten to fifteen thousand people were at each of three of the largest union services exalting the essentials of evangelical Christianity. The day will be emphasized again in 1950.
- the Seventh Day Baptist program of evangelism seems to have been founded on good principles when our ideas are compared with other Protestant groups? Many of you have vindicated the denomination's highest hopes. Is your Church working the plans in evangelism

THE BLESSEDNESS OF NEW LIFE AT CHRISTMAS

"Unto us a child is born,
unto us a child is given"

By Mrs. Howard G. Colwell
President, Northern Baptist Convention

In the eternal human cycle of birth, life, and death, and in every clime and age, mankind has made much of the coming of a new life into the world. The birth of the Babe in Bethlehem, heralded in song and story, has rightfully received adoration and adulation beyond the birth of any other child. The celebration of His birth has become a great religious festival in which almost all of the world participates in one way or another.

The Christ Child has become almost smothered in the trappings of Christmas, although a glow of good will runs through all the celebrations. All mixed together are Santa Claus, reindeer, stockings hung at the mantel, a brief vacation, giving and receiving gifts, trees, bells, tinsel, family reunions, too much candy, and a little baby in a manger.

In this year of stewardship emphasis, let us remember that we are stewards of Christmas. "Unto us a child is born." In our homes as well as in our Churches,

which sow the seed that bring God's harvests? Don't wait for a national agency to step in and change your community. Wait on the Lord, and obey His call to evangelize now, in crucial 1950!

—suggestive materials from many denominations can be secured through your Missionary Society in Westerly?

—this society is anxious to further our total evangelistic work, but can work best through an evangelistic program adopted by you and your Church?

(P. S. Did you know that these ideas come from Department of Evangelism meetings in New York December 1, 2, 1949, at which Secretary Clarke was present?)
D. S. C.

we should make sure that the fact of the birth of Christ is made primary, and that everything else is made secondary. Children love birthday parties, and they understand a White Christmas when gifts are brought to celebrate the birth of Christ. A lovely picture of the Madonna and Child hung in the center of a wreath over the fireplace is a reminder of a Christ-centered Christmas. The singing of carols to shut-ins, attendance at an early service at the Church on Christmas morning, the decision to exchange simple gifts in the family in order that a large cash gift may be made to help relieve human want and suffering, the sharing of the family celebration with a lonely person or family, all are evidence of our understanding that, "unto us a child is born."

Like the humble shepherds on that first Christmas morning let us take counsel among ourselves and "see this thing which has come to pass." Devout Jews saw in the Child of Bethlehem the Messiah who had been promised to them. They saw Him as the One who would release the Jews from their yoke of bondage — the Roman occupation — and would give them freedom.

With the advantage of two thousand years of perspective we today see that the Christ is indeed the Messiah, bringing release from spiritual bondage to all who will receive Him. We see God coming into the stream of human history in order that all men might have salvation. We see God's free gift of His Son that men may have the words and the way of life. We, too, would offer a gift at the manger, the gift of a "humble and contrite heart," the gift of a life wholly dedicated to proclaiming "this thing which has come to pass." Then, like the shepherds, we, too, can return to the everyday hillside of living where we will be glorifying and praising God for all the things we have heard and seen. — Missions, December, 1949.

LETTER FROM MISS SARAH BECKER

Dear Mrs. Davis:

Your request for a few words about my studies in the Kennedy School of Missions came just a little while before the

General Gordon was due in San Francisco, so I decided to wait and see what news I could add from China.

Those of us who have returned have felt all along that, although our area of work is now in the occupied zone, conditions will change and we may be permitted to return to the Shanghai and Liuho work before very long. The mission boards of other denominations have not given China up as hopeless, and we have not either. Although the reports from various sections of China are still quite varied, the work at Liuho is going on much as before. Mrs. Mary Chang has added some responsibilities in teaching sewing to a class of twelve girls. Many more requests have come in so that she hopes to organize a second class. A small stocking knitting machine has been secured and perhaps there will be a little income to help with food and other necessities. Grace School, too, is quite busy. The enrollment is a little lower in the nursery and primary grades than usual. The staff is standing by, for which we can all be very thankful.

While I was at Liuho I found that it was a real handicap not to be able to speak to the people, yet there was little time to study. My studies at the Kennedy School of Missions are arranged to give me more of a background of Chinese religions and culture and the problems of the Christian movement, as well as some general courses in the practice of Missions and the Bible. I am hoping to do intensive language study nearer to the time of returning to China, the Lord willing.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Becker.

Hartford, Conn.,
October 28, 1949.

"Inasmuch —"

I planned an ultramodern home when priorities were lifted,
But a Belgian woman whispered: "I have no home at all!"

I started to purchase a new kind of washing machine . . .
But a Polish woman said softly: "I have nothing to wash."

" . . . AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM"

A star, a song, a manger, and The Little One — these are the symbols of God's love from long ago.

Brightly lighted homes, the radio playing carols, and happy children eager in the expectation of giving and receiving — these are for many of us the modern Christmas at its best.

A friend of mine who was a chaplain at a lonely Naval station in the South Pacific during the war told us how his men made a Christmas tree of bamboo, decorating it with stars cut from oil tins. They had a tableau of the Nativity, too, but the sailor who was to have impersonated the mother Mary became drunk and someone else had to take his place!

The efforts of some to celebrate any occasion are pathetic, and there were good grounds for the refusal of our Puritan fathers to have anything to do with Christmas. But the light of a child's eyes or the lilt of a song of hope cannot be tarnished even by the degradation of a holiday season.

Christmas is a time for reverent adoration by old and young through whatever observances best fit the customs of our several Churches. It is a time for drawing families together in their homes to share in happy hours what God has provided and what love has prompted. It is a time in which to remember the needy

I wanted a quick-freezing unit for storing quantities of food,
But across the waters came the cry: "I have no food!"

I ordered a new car for the pleasure of my loved ones . . .
But a war orphan murmured: "I have no loved ones . . ."

I planned a stained glass window above the prayer stalls,
But a Chinese pastor murmured softly: "My Church has no walls."

—Mayme Garner Miller
in Union Signal.

wherever they are and send them comfort. It is a time to greet our neighbors with joy because they share with us in God's everlasting mercy.

Christian education is sometimes the strenuous study and practice of the teachings of the Man Christ Jesus. But it is also being drawn by the winsome purity and power of the Babe of Bethlehem. For character is formed both intellectually and emotionally and only as we turn both mind and heart to Him can He shape us as we ought to be. A. N. R.

In Recognition of Board Secretary's Father

The following telegram was sent by the Board of Christian Education to Rev. Ronald Hargis, its executive secretary, following the death of his father, Rev. G. D. Hargis of Los Angeles, Calif.

"Sincere sympathy and Christian consolation to you and the family in your sorrow. Gerald was a spirited and spirit-filled leader who we can ill afford to lose from active service. We thank God for his work and for those who live on to continue it."

A. N. R.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS NOTES

By Rev. Albert N. Rogers

President, Seventh Day Baptist Board of
Christian Education

The love and joy of Christmas are appropriately expressed through gifts to others. May we suggest gifts of edible oil and fats, or of clothing for our German Seventh Day Baptists. Send packages to Pastor John G. Schmid, 27 Otsego Road, Verona, N. J.

Another way in which children may send gifts to needy children overseas is through the CARE-Swan Soap Wrapper Plan. For every two wrappers from Swan soap, sent to CARE, Boston 1, Mass., a bar of soap will be sent overseas where it is needed. Several Sabbath schools are already collecting their wrappers. The offer closes December 31.

In between rehearsals for the Christmas play or whatever the traditional Christmas observance in your Sabbath school, we hope someone will be thinking about the New Year. Attendance often falls off right after Christmas; wise planning might stop this before it starts.

Dr. Wayne R. Rood of the Alfred School of Theology spent December 2-4 at Salem, W. Va., interviewing candidates for the ministry.

Many pastors give special recognition to college young people home for the holidays. One good way would be to ask them to assist in one of the Church services.

Rev. Albert N. Rogers was invited to speak to the congregation of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of New York City, Sabbath day, December 10, in the interests of the Board of Christian Education and the Alfred School of Theology.

Watch for the new Christmas Cantata by the Robert Shaw Chorale to be broadcast over the ABC network. It is a Protestant Radio Commission project.

Seasonal Emphasis

We Seventh Day Baptists generally do not hold that December 25 as a date is of any significance other than a beautiful holiday centering in the home. Yet many of us believe our Churches should give some Christian emphasis to the season, pointing out the meaning of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Saviour of men. In view of the commercialization of the season, and also that so many people take selfish attitudes, Christian Churches ought to make strong religious appeals at the time as an influence for the better things of life. — Jackson Center, Ohio, Church Bulletin.

In 1821 there was a revival in Brookfield, N. Y. During the year 156 were added to the Church — some almost every Sabbath. — Contributed.

Our Children's Letter Exchange

Dear Mrs. Greene:

I have a dog; his name is Joe. Last night Joe and I went down to the barn.

I am eight years old and I am in the third grade. My mother, Mrs. Evelyn Avery, is my teacher.

Is it snowing in Andover on Sabbath morning? It is here in Adams Center. Snow plows are out.

Joe is having a bad dream. I rub his back and then he goes back to sleep and starts dreaming again.

I am staying this weekend with my grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. De Choix Greene.

Your new friend,
Diane Avery.

Adams Center, N. Y.

Dear Diane:

I am happy to gain a new Recorder friend. Of course I enjoy the old friends, too, but when they reach a certain age they begin to think they are too old to write. I never think so and am always sorry to have them stop writing.

Your Joe makes me think of Queenie, the little black and white dog next door. She often must have bad dreams for she wakes up howling. Woe betide anyone who tries to pet her then, though usually she is a good-natured doggie. One cold day lately she was "downtown" wearing a pretty, warm, brown coat.

I don't remember whether it was snowing here the day you wrote or not. It is snowing today, Sunday, December 4, and the ground is already buried under the snow.

Do write often.

Yours in Christian love,
Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

My name is Donny Gregoire. I am eight years old and in third grade at Milton school. Pastor Elmo Randolph is my pastor, and his boy Danny and I are good pals.

I have a baby sister, Delores Kay, who is seven and one half months old. We all love her so much; she is such a good baby. I have a brother, David, Jr. Every-

one calls him "Skip." He was asked to be in the midyear play last year. He is twelve years old. This will be his third year as "basketball boy" for Milton College. He looks after the balls at games here. He is in seventh grade. He belongs to A and B band, Boy Scouts, and has a Janesville Gazette route.

I am in Cub Scouts and like it so much. My daddy works at the Burdick Corporation. Mother says I help her so much. We have a dog Mazie.

I always enjoy your stories and letters. Mrs. Gladys Drake is my Sabbath school teacher, and Mrs. Gladys Lippincott is my superintendent.

Your friend,
Donald Gregoire.

352 College Street,
Milton, Wis.

Dear Donald:

I was very happy to receive your interesting letter and to hear about that darling baby sister of yours. I dearly love babies; yes, and all children. I know you are very proud of that big brother of yours, and I don't wonder. I am pretty sure you will follow in his footsteps; that is, be the same kind of a helpful, energetic boy.

One of my boys used to play basketball. One night I was quite sure he was coming down with the measles; a night they were to play a basketball game with near-by Whitesville team. I said, "I'll send for the doctor to be sure." He exclaimed excitedly, "I must play tonight. We have only enough boys on the team to play the game. I have to be there!" But when the doctor came he said, "Claire, you surely have a good case of measles, but your 'running mate' has them, too, so the game has been called off. Now I suggest you climb into bed," and he did.

I'll be looking for many more good letters from you.

We have Cub Scouts here in Andover and they also seem to have fine times. The older Boy Scouts also seem to be very enthusiastic.

Yours in Christian love,
Mizpah S. Greene.



OUR "PROUD" RECORD

- Shortage of Hospital Beds
- Non-employment of Disabled
- Disappearance and Neglect of Honor Rolls
- Inadequate Pensioning
- FORGETFULNESS!

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN

CHURCH NEWS

WHITE CLOUD, MICH. — The annual Thanksgiving dinner was held in the basement of the White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist Church on Thanksgiving night with about sixty-five members and friends of the Church present. The meal was centered around the traditional bird of the season, two good-sized ones being consumed, as well as the dressing, cranberries, and other dishes topped off with pumpkin pie.

Except for a few who were with their families on that day the congregation was well represented. Several brought their guests to the repast and the fellowship of visitation which followed. This plan of eating together on Thanksgiving has been carried out for several years, meeting with wide acclaim.

The committees were as follows: Mrs.

Nettie Fowler and Mrs. Orville W. Babcock, general planning; and Mrs. Clyde Branch and Mrs. Melvin Branch, dining room. — Contributed.

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. — Our morning service on Thanksgiving Day was attended by 175 people, an increase of 65 over last year's high attendance. The offering, which goes mostly to the Sherman Chapel, amounted to \$52.08. Edna Richards, head of the dinner committee, announced that 166 dinners were served, probably the greatest number ever fed in our dining room at one sitting. The dinner guests came by invitation or previous arrangement with the committee. A splendid after-dinner program, arranged by Miss Dora Hurley with Duane Hurley as master of ceremonies, included a local quartet, guest musicians from Long Beach and Pasadena, and beautiful motion pictures

presented by Miss Bertrice Baxter of Los Angeles. Our Thanksgiving Day program is the biggest and finest of any Church in Riverside, a city of over 50 Churches. —Church Bulletin.

NORTONVILLE, KAN. — Our Church has been very busy, although we haven't said much about it. The Church has been redecorated inside, and new carpets put down. The parsonage has had a nice bathroom put in, and several other things were done.

The Christian Church used our Church for services while their Church was being built.

We had a fine Church school from May 22 to Sabbath day, May 28. It closed with a very fine program Sabbath morning, the children giving parts of what they had learned during the school. The superintendent was Rev. Verney A. Wilson, and five teachers helped. There were 27 pupils enrolled, some from other denominations.

Then, we had the yearly Sabbath school picnic, which was held in Lloyd August's grove near Atchison.

The Gospel Forty-niners stopped here on their way to Conference and held a very fine meeting.

We had no way to send our young people to camp, so as Pastor Wilson's family were going to Conference, they started early and took two younger boys, Bobby Bond and Billy Stephan, arranging it so they had the chance to take in the Pre-Conference Retreat.

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson took three girls to the Mid-Continent Association held at Boulder, Colo. I think the young folks enjoyed themselves very much.

We enjoyed having a gospel team here, Rev. Francis Saunders and Elno Davis from Denver, Colo., and Rev. Leland Davis, William Saunders, and Daryl White from Boulder. Also, Will Wright came with them. We had several inspiring meetings, also some very fine spiritual singing which we all enjoyed very much. The missionary ladies held a chicken supper in the basement of the Church to raise money to help finance the gospel team. They raised about \$150.

The society had their annual picnic at Mrs. Edna Wheeler's. Also, they held their annual bazaar and food sale, and netted over \$200. They have more projects they wish to do.

We all hope to keep on working and praying. — Mrs. Rosa Stephan, Correspondent.

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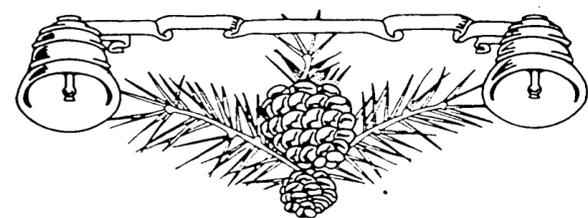
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The Sabbath Recorder



Christmastide

By AHVA J. C. BOND

When Jesus came to Bethlehem,
A babe to Mary born,
The world in darkness did not know
That it was Christmas morn.

The heavens knew; the angels sang
Glad songs to shepherds mild;
The star that drew the wise men on
Led to the Holy Child.

Today the Christmas anthems ring
Throughout the whole wide earth,
And Christmas stars in all our homes
Proclaim the Saviour's birth.

Newborn within our hearts today,
O Christ, with us abide;
By Thy great love make all the year
A happy Christmastide.

Alfred, N. Y.

From "Poems."
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