

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

VERONA, N. Y. — Worldwide Communion was observed at our church on October 3 at the Sabbath morning service. The Junior Choir conducted by Mrs. Orville Williams presented special music.

Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Davis motored to Nortonville, Kans., to attend the ordination to the Gospel ministry of their son, Duane, which occurred October 10. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. George Stone.

The Helpers Sabbath school class has been helping in publishing the quarterly newsheet, *The Verona Messenger*.

There was no service at our church October 10 as most of the congregation attended the Fall Association held in the Leonardsville Church. The Men's Chorus from Verona gave several selections and conducted the closing devotional service.

The wall for the addition to the church is up and the men are working on the structure.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davis of Rochester were recent guests at the home of his brother George. Mr. Davis is connected with the public relations department of Rochester Institute of Technology and spoke at Rome Free Academy and other schools in this area on "Vocational Guidance" during his stay here. — Correspondent.

EDINBURG, TEX. — During the Sabbath morning worship service Sept. 26, the Edinburg Church had a dedication service for 19 hymnbooks (Tabernacle Hymns No. 3) which are a gift to the church from the Edinburg W.C.T.U. in memory of Mrs. Angeline P. Allen. Highlight of the service was a solo by Mrs. James M. Mitchell, "If I Can Help," written by Mrs. Allen. Pastor Mitchell spoke briefly of the importance of hymns in our worship of God. The congregation joined in singing from the memorial books some of Mrs. Allen's favorite songs, including "Jesus Loves Even Me," and "I Am Happy in the Service of the King."

Mrs. Allen had been active in the W.C.T.U. for years. At present another member of our church is president of the Edinburg group. Two others of our members have started an L.T.L. organization to be held bimonthly in our church. Ten boys and girls attended the first

meeting Sept. 28. Fifteen were present the next time.

After the prolonged drought which killed many Rio Grande Valley lawns our church lawn is a beautiful green carpet because of the use of city water, irrigation, and rain.

The Benevolent Society has had a number of work meetings during August and September with one all-day meeting at which some quilted and others prepared rags for sale. The proceeds from the quilting and sale of rags go into our Building Fund.

We hope that some of our Seventh Day Baptist brethren will seek out the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas for their 1953-54 winter vacation. Ours is a lovely vacationland, next door to Mexico. The Edinburg Seventh Day Baptist Church is farther south than any other of our own churches in the United States, and hence is cut off from the denomination to a great extent. We need you, we covet your presence for any time — from one Sabbath to a year-round residence. — M.H.V.H.

Obituaries

Sanford. — Grace M., 74, widow of Albert C. Sanford, and a lifelong resident of Little Genesee, died Sept. 26, 1953, at her home after several months' illness.

The daughter of H. Benson and Flora Barber Clark, she was born Sept. 10, 1879, in the Town of Genesee. She was a member of the Little Genesee Seventh Day Baptist Church for 65 years.

Surviving are two sisters: Miss Anna Clark and Mrs. Leslie Bliss, both of Little Genesee; a brother, Virgil A. Clark, North Sacramento, Calif.; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Amy Crandall; and two stepsons: John A. and Mark R. Sanford, all of Little Genesee.

Funeral services were conducted Sept. 28, 1953, at the residence with Pastor Delmer Van Horn officiating, and burial was in the Little Genesee Cemetery. D. V. H.

ATTENTION — SABBATH OBSERVERS

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NOVEMBER 16, 1953

The Sabbath Recorder



The First Thanksgiving

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor

Contributing Editors:

MISSIONS Everett T. Harris, D.D.
WOMEN'S WORK Mrs. A. Russell Maxson
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Neal D. Mills, M.A., B.D.
CHILDREN'S PAGE (Mrs.) Mizpah S. Greene

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Prayer Thought

Don't lay down a veritable barrage on heaven's gate when all you seek are trivial favors from the divine portals. Withhold the heavy guns and nightlong reverberations for the Gethsemanes of life.

THANKSGIVING

A Truly Religious Holiday

Have you ever noticed that those nationally observed holidays which lend themselves to seasonal business promotion have a tendency to mushroom like Jonah's gourd? Correspondingly those holidays which do not so lend themselves are in danger of disappearing, again like Jonah's gourd. Where are the Christians willing to think against the flood tide of shallow sentimentality that swallows up Thanksgiving Day in the mad Christmas rush? Are there still some people made of that "sterner stuff" which was so conspicuous in our Pilgrim fathers? They thought clearly; they acted courageously; they rendered thanks devoutly.

We have come a long way since that first Thanksgiving Day. Our material progress has been great. Spiritual progress is not a heritage. Very little of it carries over from one generation to the next. We alone are accountable for the religious thinking of our own generation. Just as Christian standards are being severely buffeted by what many call the pseudoscientific Kinsey reports on sex behavior, just so worldliness and Catholic-inspired Christmas practices have undermined the sturdy emphasis on Thanksgiving that once was ours. We note in passing that our New England forefathers on the "stern and rockbound coast" set up no manger shrines with dolls and dummy sheep; they prayed earnest prayers of thanksgiving. Life was real. Religion was not fanciful.

Thanksgiving Day can of course become little more than a day of gluttony but it is essentially a national religious holiday broad enough to take in the three major faiths and deep enough to express the most profound truths of Protestantism. Perhaps it has declined in popularity partly because it is so definitely religious. It is not easy to water down or glamorize the giving of thanks. No one has invented a Santa Claus to rob the day of its prayer content. The merchants have buried it with Christmas displays. The churches have followed suit. Far too often our music departments seem to regard it as a day which they grudgingly give up in their schedule of Nativity rehearsals.

Thanksgiving never has been easy. Jesus healed ten lepers. He later had occasion to ask one thankful man, "Where are the

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nine?" Seventh Day Baptists were there in New England not many years after the Pilgrims landed. Our denomination was not born in the lap of ease and plenty. With consistent Bible interpretation we struck out against the current popular Sundaykeeping. We have a heritage in that rugged individualism which characterized our forefathers.

Let us not be content to ride the crest of any wave of holidayism in our generation. It is our generation that has submerged Thanksgiving. Let us shake our heads clear and strike out to rescue this day as we once did the Sabbath.

The people of America revolted at the attempt of a former President to change the date of Thanksgiving to suit the convenience of business. An aroused American Protestantism would also revolt against what the preachers and church boards are doing. They are moving it to the nearest Sunday or Sabbath. Will we follow this tide? I hope not. If we allow all our religion to become weekend religion and can't do anything as a church even once a year in the middle of the week then let us not be surprised to find our religion becoming weak at the ends and without much heart in the middle.

ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN

It is far easier to degrade a Scriptural expression than to bring our thoughts and actions up to its sublime level. Paul's expression "I am made all things to all men" is one such passage that is often lightly spoken and wrongfully applied. We hope we may be pardoned for suggesting here an application to stewardship that is somewhat below the glorious intent of the verse.

The Apostle in 1 Cor. 9: 20-22 gives a glimpse of his own life and mission when he tells to what lengths he has gone to gain Jews, to gain Greeks, to gain those who have the law and those who have it not, to gain the weak and to gain the strong. Then he changes from the word "gain" to "save" in the final verse referred to. The full expression is: "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." There can be no question about his meaning; Paul was an evangelist. We might note also that in this case there is no mention

of evangelism by words only, for the emphasis is upon what he did, what he became, in order to save them. In his evangelistic efforts he was determined to make an appeal on their own ground to all classes of people. It is a challenging example to follow.

In our present-day evangelism, though we are aware that the same appeal is not effective for all, there is a persisting tendency for us to fall far short of what we may well assume that Paul would do in our modern society. I call it a persisting tendency because some types of mass evangelism which Christian history has proved to be highly successful were pretty much outlawed among the "upper crust" of church membership a generation ago. With modifications these same methods are now reaching greater numbers than ever before; and still some good church members are slow to get into the pulling harness of this mid-century evangelistic team. There is danger that we will find ourselves desperately bobbing along behind trying to hang on to the tailgate.

What matters it if our dignity is slightly offended in the freedom and informality of some meetings? What do we want out of a series of meetings? Do we want to see lasting decisions made by various kinds of people? Do we want to see souls saved? Are we willing to go to all lengths as Paul did at Athens and Corinth? Let us withhold judgment of men and methods till the harvest is in. The chief Apostle did not criticize unorthodox methods of other evangelists; he only criticized unorthodox messages of false "apostles." Becoming all things to all men has its dangers unless safeguarded by the consuming desire to save souls. Certainly Paul would not advocate compromising the Gospel or Christian standards of life in order to extend the Gospel.

Becoming all things to all men may well have a secondary application — to Christian stewardship. Your editor believes in and practices tithing. There is a joy in it. We wish that none of our Christian brethren were falling short of the tithe. In our opinion tithing should be presented on a spiritual-blessing basis much like the emphasis of Mal. 3: 10.

We keep saying, "If all would tithe, what prosperity would come to our de-

President's Column

MEMORY TEXT

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4: 20.

nominational work!" At the same time we know we cannot persuade all church members to do it.

Suppose we turn back to the New Testament record. Though it is highly probable that nearly every Jew converted to Christianity continued to tithe because his new-found faith called forth greater consecration of self and substance, still the apostles do not clearly lay down tithing as the one and only system of giving. One cannot escape the conclusion that the inspired Paul fitted his stewardship talks like his Gospel talks to the audience before him. Compare his various Epistles and you will find him stressing different Christ-centered motives for giving. He became all things to all men.

Some of our people, of great consecration, almost need to be restrained from giving beyond their means. Others, with generous spirit, "let not the left hand know what the right hand doeth." A considerable number want to be told a definite amount or percentage to give. Many may rejoice in a weekly envelope system. Some will give generously only when personally canvassed. There may be those who want their stewardship thinking done for them in an all-inclusive budget, while others find general budgets as lifeless as the corpse of a general. Some for reasons of conscience and others for glorified selfish reasons are not willing to support every item of the budget and give only to special projects.

It adds up to the fact that no one person, message, system, or method will equally touch the hearts of all church members who ought to be increasing their gifts to the Lord's work. Giving must largely be stimulated on the local church level where ministers and responsible officers can, under the Spirit's guidance, become all things to all men.

"HEREBY WE KNOW"

First John gives us certain tokens or indications by which we can "know that we know Him," that we are "in Him" and "He abideth in us," that we "have fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ," that we are "born of God" and "have eternal life." Here are a few. Check them, and add others from your own study.

A true child of God according to 1 John:
 Walks in the light, not in darkness — 1: 6, 7.
 Keeps God's commandments — 2: 3-5; 3: 24.
 Walks as Jesus walked — 2: 6.
 Has love for the brethren — 2: 9-11; 4: 11, 20, 21.
 Does not love the world — 2: 15.
 Practices righteousness — 2: 29.
 Cleans up his life — 3: 2.
 Does not habitually sin — 3: 9, 10.
 Confesses that Jesus is the Christ — 4: 2, 3; 5: 1.
 Overcomes the world — 5: 4, 5.

And the world does not know him (3: 1). That is, the world does not understand him and his separation, does not accept his beliefs and statements, wants nothing to do with him. The feeling goes beyond this, even to hatred (3: 13).

"Prove your own selves" by these signs. If you find that you do not measure up, then "examine yourself whether you be in the faith" (2 Cor. 13: 5). Get down on your knees before God and pray as the Psalmist did, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me." If there is, surrender it to Him, "purge out the old leaven," and rededicate yourself to Him 100 per cent. Then get up from your knees to "walk in newness of life," out-and-out for Christ, giving Him first place in your heart and in your service.

Keep reading First John. An interesting and helpful exercise is to list and study the "ifs" in the book, and their application. If you have questions, we will try to answer them.

L. G. O.



STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN BELIEF

Duane L. Davis

To attempt to set forth one's belief in a concise statement becomes more difficult than most of us imagine. We find that it is difficult to interpret religious experience and the mystic relation of believer with the awe-inspiring AGAPE love. Perhaps the best current example of this feeling of inadequacy in defining beliefs is the recently published book, "This I Believe," compiled by Edward R. Murrow. Nearly all of the writers tell of difficulties in expressing their faith in words. However, we can effectively attempt to express our own beliefs, and by so doing, we come to understand them ourselves, and we also give others help in their quest for Christian faith.

At this time, I feel God has revealed truth to me in the ways herein expressed. We must bear in mind, that "now we see through a glass darkly," and, in the words that Pastor Robinson gave his little flock when they left Holland to sail for America, on the Mayflower, "I am verily persuaded that God has yet more truth to break forth from His holy Word."

I believe in God. "God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

We cannot understand or fathom or measure God. The purple mountain mystery of His majesty looms above and beyond us. But we can find trails leading upward, and we can search these trails.

God is Spirit. I believe God is the Creator of the universe. The order and beauty of nature are His — the "works of His fingers." He is not just the First Cause of creation, a watch-maker God who set into action the program of the world, but He creates "in continuo acti"; He sustains the universe in its every moment of existence. The world and creation are not God, but they are the instruments of His Spirit. God created the universe alone out of the void, from nothing; and all things, though distinct from God, are dependent upon Him for their existence and sustenance. Law and order are not contrary to God, nor His character. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." There is no real problem between the so-called natural and the supernatural; they are both the marvel of God's order and reliability.

I believe that the universe shows us God's power and majesty and unity. The delicate balance of light and heat that are necessary for life, the dependence of astronomical units upon each other, the order and the evidence of a plan in the program of nature, show us the handiwork of this God.

I believe God is omnipotent. He is all-powerful and this power is far beyond our comprehension. Will, purpose, and action are simultaneous with God. I believe God's sovereignty is supreme. We find difficulty in understanding how God can be supreme, and yet allow men freedom to choose. To me this is not a limitation on the part of God; it is voluntary and a part of His supremacy.

God is omniscient — all-knowing, all-wise. I do not understand God's knowledge of the future, nor of the events to come, but we can never measure these attributes. To recognize them, to admit that they are beyond comprehension is a part of faith. "I believe; Lord, help thou my unbelief."

God is defined as all-present and ever-abiding. His omnipresence was felt by the

writer of the 139th Psalm when he said:

Whither shall I go from thy spirit?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold thou art there.

If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there shall thy hand lead me,
And thy right hand shall hold me. . . .
The darkness and the light are both alike to thee. . . .

When I awake, I am still with thee.

God's presence is with us. It is both transcendence and immanence. Aulen says, "The Christian concept of God is the twofold aspect of nearness and remoteness, fellowship and separation." The God, then, who is present everywhere is with us — "closer to us than breathing, nearer than hands or feet."

God's quality of justice — of righteousness and goodness — is not that of man. This is a place where it is not difficult to become anthropomorphic in our understanding of the Divine. It is blasphemy to try to measure God's quality of justice with the quality of justice of ancient Roman or American law.

This then brings us to the greatest conception of God that man can ever know. God is love. This is not human love nor is it measured by human standards. This is AGAPE love. AGAPE is characterized by self-giving, unselfish love which seeketh not its own. EROS, or human love, is selfish, egocentric, a demand for self-assertion, and the desire to become God. God's wrath is a part of this AGAPE love; it is from God — self-giving, a facet of God's own love. It is not the same as human hate, which is selfish and which desires to hurt and to find revenge. The incarnation — God living on earth — is the expression of AGAPE love — giving Himself for us.

God is, I believe, the source of all good, of moral goodness, of uprightness. He is the source for ethical behavior. Georgia Harkness has commented that man's attempt to be God is blasphemy, but when man attempts to live like God, his life is transformed into richness and power. When AGAPE love is found in the life of a human, it is God-given — "which cometh from above."

God is Personal Spirit. He is actively concerned with the affairs of all human endeavor. This is the God who, as Jesus explained, knows when a sparrow falls and cares for us in even deeper ways. We can see God in His majesty and power or in the handiwork of His creation, or in the guiding of the cosmic forces of the universe. But, it is when we realize that God — the same God — is actively interested in us, that He becomes our God. Jesus called Him Father. Our Heavenly Father knows our needs and provides for us.

I believe that God reveals Himself to man. He is not completely known, but we can know God. We see God in the evidence of nature and the universe. We see Him revealed through the insights others have received. His revelation comes from the Bible, as its writers received inspiration, and we receive as we read.

But in the greatest sense, and in a way far beyond the rest, God is revealed in Jesus Christ. "If you have seen me you have seen the Father," Jesus said.

(To be continued)

Emphasis on First John

Church bulletins and other publicity coming to the editor's desk indicate that many of the pastors are following the Conference president's suggestion about emphasizing the First Epistle of John. Pastors from East to West and North to South are studying it in prayer meetings, choosing sermon texts from it, and urging the people to read it. Perhaps some of you have noticed that for many weeks the memory texts printed in the Sabbath Recorder have been taken from 1 John. The little book is full of assurance. It is positive about the positive. It calls on Christians to recognize that they have something far better than the product which the confident modern salesman claims recognizes no competitors.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

Christian Compassion for a Needy World

Scripture: Matt. 9: 35-36;

Mark 1: 32-34a; 8: 1-9

Contributed by Trevah R. Sutton

PRAYER LIST

(The following topics for prayer were suggested by Miss Mabel West and used first in the China Prayer Room at the Battle Creek General Conference last August. She has consented to assist in preparing prayer lists for other mission fields. These suggestions will appear in these columns during coming weeks and it is urged that our people unite their prayers from these suggestions.)

Pray that our Shanghai Church members may continue active in the service of Christ, that their love for Him may be strengthened in spite of restrictions, that the spirit of evangelism may continue to grow, that their new fields of service not be neglected but widened, and that their concern for the sister church at Liuho not be lessened.

Pray that the leaders in our churches in China may grow in wisdom and all Christ-like graces.

Pray that Pastor Tshaung may be free from financial worries, and that his health may be equal to the task that is his.

Pray that Mrs. Koo, our faithful Bible woman, may have the physical strength and financial support needed. May she continue giving encouragement to the church people, as well as teaching the new members to read and understand the Bible and how to pray. May her son, Jay Koo, be able to continue in his purpose of life service in the Christian Church.

Pray that Mary Woo Chang, our evangelist, be given health and food for herself and family. May she continue to be the living example of faith, and the evangelistic leader that she has been since girlhood.

Pray that Theodore Chang and family be strengthened both spiritually and physically; that he may find some means of support and that Mrs. Chang may be restored to health.

Pray that Dr. Esther Pan may be kept in safety. That she be guided and strengthened in faith to meet the needs of her new life.

Pray that the lay leaders may be given guidance in their efforts to teach the Christian way of life to children, youth, and grown people.

Pray that the former teachers of our school may not lose vision and courage.

Pray that all Christians of whatever church in China may grow closer to the Christ in whom they believe.

Pray that those Chinese and Americans, too, who at some time in their lives have had the teachings of Christian homes and schools, may come to feel that after all Christ has something to offer which will remove the ills of society as no other theory of the present time can ever do.

Pray that the Chinese in this country, America, may learn the best that we have to give. May they not be discouraged in these difficult times. May we do what we can to encourage them.

Pray that we as Seventh Day Baptists may continue always to remember our people in China even though the means of communications are closed to us. Prayers, not money, for China these days!

E. T. H.

BRITISH GUIANA NOTES

Reports of the four ordained pastors serving Seventh Day Baptist churches and groups in British Guiana have been received from the supervisor of that field, Rev. Wardner T. Fitzrandolph.

Rev. Benjamin Berry writes of a visit from Miss Josie Willis of Hornell, N. Y. We understand that Miss Willis has recounted her visit and experiences to the Seventh Day Baptist churches in the vicinity of Alfred, N. Y. Brother Berry writes: "She only spent six days in British Guiana and was only able to see Vergenoegen and Parika brethren for which we were very sorry." A handbill received from Brother Berry told of special meetings being held at Wakenaam where meetings were "well attended and responded to."

Rev. Joseph Tyrrell reported "making of a new rail and other decorations for the beautifying of the church" and reported as a special need of the field: "We need help for the painting of the church and a few Bibles."

Rev. C. C. Belgrave reported from Georgetown: "The great need of the work in Georgetown is a place to worship. There were those who were willing to come in but we have no place to house them. The remnant continues to meet for Sabbath school at my home." He reports eighty-two calls have been made

during the quarter and having added one to the group.

Rev. Alexander Trotman wrote from Henrietta, Essequibo Coast: "We are over in our new district and are doing our best." He reports two being added to the church during the quarter. His letter contained a postscript which calls forth our deepest sympathy. It is as follows: "Dr. Ho, the specialist for eye, nose, ear, and mouth, calls my wife to an eye operation which he says is a major type. His fee will be around a hundred dollars. He declares her position is bad. The left eye is 80% blind and the right is fast going to be except with very careful care. Even the operation will not improve the state of the left."

E. T. H.

HOME MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

We are told that a great population shift is taking place from city to country and from one section of the country to another. Not since the days when Horace Greeley wrote "Go west, young man, go west" has such a migration taken place. The motive is the search for better employment. It is a different kind of gold rush from that which took place in '49 and yet it is a kind of gold rush.

Americans today travel in cars, trailers, and jalopies, leaving behind home town friends, their churches, and quite often, leaving behind their religion as they search for new jobs.

These travelers find employment and settle down usually in a community that has just grown up near a new manufacturing plant. It is often a suburb of a city but not always. Usually there are no churches or Sabbath schools in these communities. They are pioneer villages in many ways. They present a great challenge to the older established churches. Vacation Bible Schools can be established for children and can grow into year-round Sabbath schools. The older folks love to sing and can be drawn into fellowship groups. Young adults will appreciate someone taking an interest in their new home and children. Churches can be established in these new communities.

Who among us has the alert pioneering spirit to enter into these fields? The people need Christ. Who will take Him to them?

E. T. H.

Pastor Bahlke of Hamburg Writes

A letter of fellowship and encouragement has recently come from Pastor Johannes Bahlke of Hamburg, Germany. He wrote concerning a recent visit of Pastor E. J. P. Hansen of the newly recognized Copenhagen Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Hansen gave an address at the church in Hamburg and a deepened fellowship of the brethren resulted. "He took the boat from Copenhagen via Travemunde-Luebeck overnight and arrived in Hamburg on Sabbath 29th of August, stayed during the service and left late in the afternoon to sail back overnight, as he wanted to be back in Copenhagen on Sunday morning." He took much literature with him on his return, especially copies of the late Brother L. R. Conradi's tract regarding salvation as interpreted by Seventh Day Baptists in distinction from the interpretation of Seventh Day Adventists. Among the concluding remarks of Pastor Bahlke's letter is this greeting: "All our German Brothers and Sisters in the Lord as well as Brother Bruhn and myself are in good remembrance and gratefulness to all our dear brothers and sisters in the United States. Our Heavenly Father's love and grace be with you."

E. T. H.

IT'S OUR AIM TOO

A denominational weekly in a southern state recently carried the following note on its editorial page:

"The (paper's) aim is to carry not only the news and the program of the church into the homes of its readers, but also the Gospel of Christ. Its purpose is to carry enough of the Gospel — the actual Gospel — to save any sinner who may be reading it. It seeks to carry nourishment for every saint. We believe it deserves a place in every (denomination) home in Alabama and West Florida. Your co-operation with . . . your new editor, in circulating the paper will be an even greater help to your people."

Millions respect it, other millions suspect it; it is the most loved and the most hated; it is — a book, the Bible.

CHRIST CALLS TO MISSION AND UNITY

Miss Marjorie Burdick

Condensed from a message given on the Women's Hour at the General Conference.

You and I have been on this earth for several years. What is your mission? What is my mission? As Christian women let us consider what our mission should be. We must turn to the source of power and authority to learn what He would have us do in order that we may have a definite plan for Christian service.

Consider Christ's words: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11: 28).

This implies that Christ's call is to those who labor and are carrying burdens. If we labor, we need help as we carry our load, and He continues, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me" (RSV).

Here is another simple but necessary injunction. First, we must "come" to our Great Teacher. Then, we must "tarry," as did His disciples in Jerusalem, until we are "imbued from on high." If we are to learn from Him, we must spend much time in prayer and meditation. In our busy lives, that is not easy. However, we can do that at definite times by the use of daily meditations and prayers. This will prepare us for the problems ahead of us; we are ready to meet them, not alone, but in the yoke with Christ.

Then, we are ready to "go into all of the world" to live and preach Christ's gospel of love. Do we tarry long enough and often enough to cultivate the inward feeling of love that Jesus would have us share with others? Do we learn from Him what He meant in those words of direction and command: ". . . as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

There are definite aids to learning from Him the lessons we are to go out to live and to preach. Should you think you are not called to go out to teach, then there is much you can do in prayer. For instance, on occasion — you know not why — the thought of some person comes to you. There is an opportunity for a silent prayer for such a one. Pray that she feel God's presence, His strength and

guidance, whether in joy or sorrow. Make prayer a working power. You will be blessed in this mission.

In Luke 6: 12 we read that Jesus went into a mountain to pray. How much more we need to spend time to talk things over with God! Then, in verse 17 it says: "He came down (from the mountain) with them and stood in the plain." Crowds came to hear Him and to be healed.

Jesus' custom was to go to the synagogue each Sabbath for worship. He calls us to learn from Him the true blessing of a day spent in rest, one spent regularly in worship with others, and also one where we bring Sabbath joy to others. The day becomes a blessing to us only in the measure to which we seek to make it a Sabbath spent in the Christlike manner.

If we consider "unity" in our Christian work, someone may say, "Why continue our efforts to keep the seventh day Sabbath? What difference does it make?" Jesus calls us. Here is our mission: to show others that it does make a difference for us. Let us say, "For me and my house, we will be faithful."

Our numbers are so small. Yet, in the story of Jesus and the lad with the loaves and fishes, a disciple questioned, "What are they among so many?" There was enough when touched by the spirit of Jesus. That is true with our members, if we would learn from Jesus. His disciples were only a handful, but they set out on their mission of love, and down through the ages countless numbers have been blessed. He can take our poor best and make it enough to carry the blessing of true Sabbathkeeping to the world. What are we among so many? Everything, if we count on being in the yoke with Christ.

If we are to fulfill our mission, we need, in the first place, oneness with Christ in purpose. Each one of us should be firm in our beliefs, have the courage of our convictions, and ever seek for a deeper fellowship with Christ.

Our churches are the field for initial practice in unity; there, we should seek mutual agreement on the essentials and an understanding of our different interpretations of our Christian faith. None of us agrees on all points with his neighbor, but we can make a harmonious adjustment

because we have a common loyalty to Christ and His mission.

Next, we can practice unity in our local communities. The Christian churches of our villages can find many common interests through which they can work together. How much we need to talk over our likenesses, not our differences! The last five letters of the word community are U-N-I-T-Y. The groups of United Church Women in our cities and villages offer splendid opportunities for Seventh Day Baptist women to carry out Christ's mission with other Christian women.

Great is the need for carrying that message to wider areas, the need to go into other parts of our states, our nation, and the world, working in unity to build Christ's kingdom of love. His promise is, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

A year ago my class in school listened to Ranger Mac over the state station, when he told of an Arbor Day program. He said that before the trees were set out, an elderly man, sitting on the ground, slowly arose and expressed a desire to help in the planting. The man said something like this, "All of my life I have been enjoying the shade of trees, but never have I done anything to help plant more trees so others could enjoy the shade. Now, I would like to have a part before it is too late."

I thought, How true of the shade of the Christian Church! There are so many who enjoy the shade — babies are dedicated, marriages are performed, funerals held — but on everyday occasions, so many fail to exert themselves to share in the responsibility of continuing that blessing for others. Do you and I not have a mission to stir them into action? We can do it, if we will!

Throw It a Bone

You feed your body 21 times a week, whether it is hungry or not. Then why not throw your soul a bone once a week at least, even if it doesn't seem hungry? The poor thing may be too weak from starvation to make its wants known. — John Andrew Holmes.

Revenge is the abject pleasure of an abject mind. — Juvenal.

HOME, CHURCH, AND SCHOOL

Dr. Ben R. Crandall

Civilization has been advanced by the co-operation of a great triumvirate — the Home, Church, and School. The progress of our own beloved country is an outstanding illustration of the effectiveness of united effort by these three forces in behalf of mankind. The home is the all-important base, but leave out any one of the three sides and the triangle will fail to function.

A year's experience as your acting secretary has impressed upon me anew the tremendous importance of Christian education. The practical application of this field of service embraces all three sides of the triangle.

The home is the first teacher and in most cases the most potent influence, for the child acquires more information during the first six years of its life than in any other equal period of time. When we consider "character as a bundle of habits," the responsibility of the home becomes staggering.

The present terrible and growing wave of juvenile crime is a severe indictment of the present American home. With one out of every four marriages going on the rocks and 4,000,000 children in the United States from broken homes, our country, like Rome, is doomed unless we meet this appalling challenge. It is also evident that the remedy must be applied before the home is established. Religious education has been neglected in these years of youth and young adulthood, which should be vital years of preparation for future home building. The "forgotten individual" may prove to be the "lost generation." One of the large-member denominations of the National Council took as a goal the gathering of some one half million youth and juvenile delinquents from the street into church influence. We understand they accomplished their aim by putting their religious education program into full action.

Here is a vital field in our denominational program that has been sadly neglected. The time is at hand when the importance of the leader in Christian education will rank with that of the preacher. In our smaller communities and churches our already overworked and underpaid

pastors need special training in Christian education as much as in the ministry.

Two other largely neglected fields which are closely associated with the home are **weekday religious education** (recently made more effective by the decision of the Supreme Court) and **leadership education and church school administration**. The guidance and development of the neighbor's boys is as vital as that of your own for later they may become members of your family.

Administration and leadership courses are especially helpful for the laymen who hide behind the excuse "I am too busy." The facts of the case are that too often potential leaders and parents are like the Iowa farmer who was very proud of his Angus cattle. After Dr. Holden had inspected the carefully-cared-for stock, he asked the farmer what he was doing for his young people who seemed to be rather neglected. The old farmer replied with pride, "Them cattle is thoroughbreds." Just who is primarily responsible for the ancestry and the development of the most vital product of every farm and every home?

As the service of Christian education involves all three sides of our triangle, it also calls upon all the other boards in our denominational setup. It has need for the printed matter issued by the Tract Society and may well serve as one of the effective distribution agencies of their literature.

The Missionary Board in co-operation with the Board of Christian Education has an opportunity for the most effective kind of home mission service. Instead of only one or two men in the field, every leader and student in Church School, Vacation Bible School, camp, and retreat should not only be informed but inspired with missionary zeal.

The relation of the Women's Board to this work of Christian education in home and church is very obvious. In fact these are associated sections in the organization of the National Division of Christian Education. In addition, our board has an opportunity and real responsibility in emphasizing the history and basic principles of our denomination.

Last, but not least, is the service which the Vocational Committee may render not

only in the selection of a lifework by our young people but in encouraging them and then aiding them financially or otherwise to settle among our own people. Every camp and retreat offers an excellent opportunity.

The information in the "Report on Christian Education in Our Denomination" which is to appear in the Year Book is both informative and challenging. However, the information is given on only four departments out of twelve which are a concrete part of Christian education to say nothing of the joint Departments of Family Life and Missionary Education.

One of the most encouraging elements in the reports from the churches is the number of association summer camps. This suggests the desirability of employing a trained religious education leader by each association, thus developing and correlating this important work in all the churches of the association.

As one studies these reports, it becomes more evident that if we are to survive, to say nothing of growing as a denomination, we must give more time and attention to the youth and young adults in the homes of our country. Our prospective ministers need more training in Christian education work in their seminary courses. But that is not enough. The crying need is for specifically trained personnel to develop lay leaders and by co-operating with the pastor to extend and strengthen the program of the local church.

To improve the Christian education program and to make an annual report more accurate and up to date, I would respectfully suggest that a comprehensive report blank be prepared and sent to each church soon after our General Conference closes. This would provide a suggestive program for the year and would call attention to the data requested for the annual report to be filed with the secretary at or previous to the meeting of the following Conference.

With this my final report, may I express my deep appreciation for the patience and co-operation of the members of the Board of Christian Education. It has been an interesting and revealing experience for me. I feel very keenly that this secretaryship is not a part-time job but rather that

with the responsibilities involved and the materials available two secretaries would find that the challenge would tax their utmost.

With Rev. Neal D. Mills go my hearty good wishes and prayers as he assumes his duties as secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education. May he have the vision, ability, and courage in co-operation with our denominational executive secretary to develop the type of Christian leadership that our denomination needs in order that it may fulfill its responsibilities in the great triumvirate of home, church, and school.

[The above message by the retiring acting secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education was presented to the board at its meeting at Alfred, N. Y., Oct. 11, and sent to the Recorder by the author. Ed.]

BOOK NOTES

"What Prayer Can Do" is a 95-page, wide-margined book with 15 full-page prayer photographs of unusual quality. This book, introduced by Norman Vincent Peale, edited by the editors of Guideposts, and published by Doubleday, Garden City, N. Y., has much to commend it for popular reading. Its 15 short chapters maintain the emphasis of the title in a warm, vibrant way. The writers take a healthy, believing attitude toward prayer and give many helpful suggestions for making it more real. Recognizing that man walks in a scientific world this book makes no apologies for stating for instance that prayer has been known to heal all manner of diseases.

A person who thoughtfully picks up this book will not readily lay it down unfinished, and it is short enough so he need not do so. We would not say it is a must in every minister's or layman's library — especially at the \$2.50 price mark. However, it is helpful, a good book to lend or borrow. It does not rank with some of your favorite older and larger volumes on prayer. Ed.

Light their life with Faith. Bring them to worship this week. — RIAL publicity.



OUR CHILDREN'S LETTER EXCHANGE

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

Dear Mrs. Greene:

We are so sorry we have not written you lately.

We are now at Christian Endeavor, and we are studying about our Japanese friends. Do you know any Japanese children?

We are going to start an L.T.L. here in our church now.

Rose Newton,
Juanita Newton,
Edinburg, Texas. Rose Mary Boehler.

Dear Rose, Juanita, and Rose Mary:

I was pleased to receive your letter, but of course it was a little late in reaching me since it went to the Sabbath Recorder first. Perhaps it would have been published two weeks ago had you sent it directly to me at Andover, N. Y. I do hope you will be sure to do that next time which I hope will be soon.

Just think, I have six children's letters to answer this time so you see I must make my answers short. I'll probably have only room for three letters and answers. Yours in Christian love,
Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

I should have written earlier, because I am writing about Conference. I went to Conference with my grandmother on the train. It was the first time I have traveled on a train that I can remember. We had a lot of fun.

When we got to Conference we went right to the meeting. We went to almost all the meetings. I also went to Junior Conference. I met some very nice girls there. We all had a fine time.

Sincerely yours,
Judy Wellman.
304 Roncroff Dr.,
North Tonawanda, N. Y.

Dear Judy:

It was nice to receive another good letter from you and I'll be looking forward to hearing from you much sooner next time.

I wanted to attend Conference, too, this year, but had to give it up. I have attended Conference twice at Battle Creek. The last time we had an automobile accident

on the way there and I had a broken nose and two black eyes to remember it by. One little girl wrote me afterwards, "I wish I could see you without two black eyes."

I took my first train ride when we moved to Chicago when I was about six years old. I can remember that it was fun.

Yours in Christian love,
Mizpah S. Greene.

Dear Mrs. Greene:

One of the ladies from our church asked if I would write to you. I have been wanting to tell you a lot of things. I have four brothers and one sister who is just one and a half months old.

I belong to the Junior Christian Endeavor club of our church. Pastor Al Keller is our leader.

We have moved to a different church building, but I hope we will have a church of our own.

I'm eleven years old and am in sixth grade. I like school very much and I like my teacher, too.

I am going to join the Girl Scouts. Two of my brothers are Boy Scouts.

The day we got out of school I broke my arm right below the shoulder, so I didn't have so much fun. I had to have an airplane splint on for six weeks.

I help my mother around the house and take care of my baby sister. I love to read books and the Bible, and I like to study birds and leaves and plants, too.

With love,
Margaret Dominguez.
5323 W. Ohio St.,
Chicago 44, Ill.

Dear Margaret:

I have enjoyed reading your interesting letter and am happy to add you to my band of Recorder children. I hope your arm is all well and as strong as ever.

It was good to hear from someone in the Chicago Church for I think of Chicago as "my old home town." I lived there from the time I was six until I was nine years old. Then when I was fifteen I went to live with my Aunt Phoebe in Chicago, attended high school, took teachers' training, and taught nine years there. I was a member of the Chicago Church.

Yours in Christian love,
Mizpah S. Greene.

MID-CONTINENT ASSOCIATION

As reported by Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson

The Mid-Continent Association met in annual session at Nortonville, Kan., Oct. 9-11. The importance of this gathering was further highlighted by the anticipated ordination of Nortonville's young pastor, Duane Davis, on Sabbath day. There were 250 in attendance including about 70 visitors and delegates from the North Loup, Neb., and Boulder and Denver, Colo., Churches, with others from various parts of the country. Rev. Albert N. Rogers represented the School of Theology, Alfred, N. Y.

Association opened on Sabbath eve with a Communion service conducted by Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson of Denver. This type of service, rapidly becoming traditional in the short history of the association, took place in an atmosphere of the "upper room," with participants seated around candlelighted tables. The lighting of candles was significant of the beginning of the Sabbath, and the message, "Purified for Service," during this hour of consecration, fitted in with the association theme, "Ambassadors for Christ," by bringing out the necessity for cleansing and spiritual preparation before going out to witness.

The Statement of Christian Experience and Belief presented by Pastor Duane Davis deeply touched the congregation. It was well prepared and evidenced deep convictions, as well as a clear, comprehensive understanding of theology and Seventh Day Baptist doctrine. The council, formed during the service, voted, following a question period, to proceed with the ordination. Rev. Alton Wheeler, en route to Riverside, Calif., preached the ordination sermon in the afternoon.

A vesper service was held after the Sabbath, followed by a social program. A fellowship breakfast on Sunday morning followed the pattern of the other meals served by the Nortonville people — plenty of good food.

In addition to the four pastors, Rev. Erlo E. Sutton of Boulder was present. His influence was felt in many of the meetings.

The business session, always an important part of the Mid-Continent Association, was characterized by enthusiasm and

a desire to be doing things for the Lord. Although smaller, it resembles a business session of Conference. Committees — executive, missionary - evangelistic, camp, student aid, and vocational — submit reports which are adopted and recommendations considered, often item by item. After the presentation of budget needs, a total budget is finally adopted to be sent to the churches for approval. For the year 1953-'54, the budget is \$775, to be raised equally by the four churches. Budget items consist of \$40 for the general fund, \$200 for missionary evangelism, \$400 for student aid, and \$135 for the associational camp traveling expenses.

The Missionary-Evangelistic Committee was set up four years ago with the formation of the Mid-Continent Association. This committee is primarily concerned with evangelistic outreach within the association, keeping a watchful eye on possible openings for fellowships or churches and Seventh Day Baptist prospects. Radio has been the concern of some, but thus far the churches have not approved plans beyond the study stage. A communication from Missionary Secretary E. T. Harris suggesting pulpit exchanges for evangelistic meetings within the association was considered and endorsed by the association with adaptation to fit our own needs.

The student aid project to help worthy young people attend one of our Seventh Day Baptist colleges or the seminary is taking final shape. A plan to offer \$50 per semester or \$100 per year to four students was approved. Three hundred dollars was voted out to three students already enrolled.

An invitation from the North Loup Church to have the young people's camp meet with them next summer was received and accepted. This is in line with the desire to make the camp truly associational by enabling the churches to have equal representation. It was voted that the staff include a vocational counselor and a recreational director.

In response to the Commission's recommendation that the associations be urged "to continue study of their relationship and responsibilities to the denomination," the specific questions were considered and action taken. In general the action was as follows:

BIBLE NEWS IN BRIEF

It is reported that the American Bible Society has recently furnished 78 Bibles to President Eisenhower for use in the White House. Our Chief Executive is called upon to entertain many distinguished foreign visitors. His 78 new Bibles are in 78 languages to meet the needs of his guests.

An illustrated edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be off the presses the first of the year, which will cost less than the larger edition. Thomas Nelson and Sons expects to sell a million and a half copies of the illustrated edition during the first year it is available. The "youth" edition of the Bible will appear in a maroon and gold gift box and will contain 992 pages.

1. We feel that the present distribution of churches in our association is sound from the standpoint of population and area.
2. We feel that "regional conferences," especially if the geographical area of three associations is combined, would be impractical for us. A desire was expressed, however, for a better training program for leaders, and a willingness to co-operate with denominational plans.
3. We voted No on the question of Conference meeting on odd numbered years and regional conferences on even numbered years.
4. The Commission's suggestion of Regional Commissioners was approved.

At the closing business session, Edwin Johnson of Nortonville was elected president for the coming year, and the invitation to meet next fall at Boulder, Colo., was accepted.

Meetings continuing through Sunday were packed with inspiration. Special music and participation by young people added much. Rev. Leland Davis of Boulder spoke forcefully Sunday afternoon regarding the meaning of "Ambassadors for Christ." Following the Sunday evening message by Rev. Francis Saunders, "Be Ye Reconciled to God," all present joined hands in a circle of friendship and consecration and sang, "God Be With You."

LETTERS FROM NYASALAND

A letter from our two nurses in Nyasaland indicates that they have already had opportunity to act as real missionaries of the Gospel. Beth Severe is the nurse in charge of the dispensary. Joan Clement is schoolteacher by day and nurse by night. She teaches the two older classes of boys which we believe to be a teaching load twice as heavy as any teacher carried last year. There are more pupils this year too.

The nurses write about delivering their first baby in the following words:

"We delivered our first baby the other night. The mother was sure she was going to die. We had quite a time. She began to sing a death chant. We really prayed hard. Talk about heathenism — and she was supposed to be a Christian — at least she said she was. We really lectured her about it, and everything went well in the end. She will be going home tomorrow. We must get a picture of them. She is all smiles and gratitude. If she will give God the glory and not us!"

The girls also ask permission through the pages of the Recorder to thank all the people "who were so kind to us as we traveled about from church to church." They are trying to send thank-you notes but can't do it all at once. They ask us to pray for them that the Lord's work will go forward in power.

Ronald Barrar, director of the mission, writes: "I don't know how we used to get on without Joan and Beth. It seems that when you get more staff you get more work. They are kept busy all day."

His letter of October 29 informs us that the rains are late in coming; the weather is very hot; the extra boarding pupils make more work; they have finished burning the bricks for the cottage; and they are hurriedly repairing roofs. He mentions the urgent need for an automobile road to the mission property.

Maj. Gen. Ivan L. Bennett, chief of Army chaplains, visited Korea recently accompanied by Editor Dan Poling. He observed that the U. S. Armed Forces in Korea are "chapel conscious" in sharp contrast to the opportunities for worship in World War I.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Billy Graham to go to London

London is now making its preparation for a Billy Graham evangelistic campaign next year. Executive committee members of the Greater London Crusade recently visited the Billy Graham Crusade in Syracuse, N. Y. The Right Reverend Hugh Gough, Anglican Bishop of Barking, said he hoped Dr. Graham would do for England what he has done for America. The London Crusade will be held in a "Dome of Discovery" on the banks of the Thames. It is a prefabricated structure built in America, which seats 14,000 people. The "Dome of Discovery" is being used in a Graham Crusade in Detroit. Made of aluminum, it is 300 feet in diameter. It is encouraging to note that London, the world's largest city, is preparing for revival. This should be true for centers, large and small, everywhere. The world needs saving, and the matter is urgent, and nothing but the Gospel of Jesus can save it. Not all of us can have the fire, the zeal, and the sense of urgency that mark Billy Graham.

At a luncheon of religious leaders in Minneapolis Dr. Gough said he is "sure" that Dr. Graham's evangelistic methods will appeal to the British.

Some officials of denominations in Britain, he said, "are suspicious of what they call fundamentalism because of unpleasant experiences with people who have been narrow and bitter." One of the first tasks of the sponsoring committee, he explained, is to convince people that Dr. Graham is not "one of the wrong type of evangelicals."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. — Church services began again on Oct. 3, after a vacation caused by the absence of so many members from Daytona Beach.

Because of Dr. J. W. Crofoot's serious eye trouble, which we hope is gradually improving, services are planned for by a pulpit supply committee.

On Oct. 3 the regular Communion service was conducted by Dr. Crofoot and Rev. Elizabeth F. Randolph. Conference reports were given by Dr. and Mrs. Crofoot and Mrs. L. E. Babcock. We were happy to welcome into our church, by

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letter from the Milton Church, Mrs. E. O. Jeffrey of DeLand, Fla.

For the rest of October, our church and Sabbath school services have been combined by following the regular church worship service up to sermon time, and then taking up the Sabbath school lesson. On October 10 and 17 Dr. Waldo Titsworth conducted the worship service, with Dr. Crofoot teaching the Sabbath school lesson. On Oct. 24 Rev. S. H. Davis conducted the entire service.

The Sabbath school promotion project which was voted last spring has started under the leadership of Rev. Elizabeth F. Randolph, assisted by Dr. Ruth Rogers and Mrs. John (Geraldine Thorngate) Leonard. The objective is, not only to give religious training to the children connected with our own church, but also to bring in other children who do not have such privileges. Very hopeful progress has already been made.

Some of our regular winter visitors have already arrived, and we hope many more old and new friends will be coming soon. Apparently Florida's "unusual" rainy season is over, and we have been enjoying some very lovely October weather since the rains stopped.

We have welcomed to our services recently, friends from Lake Helen, Fort Pierce, Orlando, DeLand, and Pomona Park. We hope that others located near enough to drive to Daytona Beach for services, will make the trip often. Services start at 10:30 A.M. We'll be looking for you! — Ruby C. Babcock, Correspondent.

ALBION, WIS. — Pastor Kenneth Smith again is attending the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Ill., and continues as pastor of the Milton Junction and Albion Churches.

We are glad to report some church improvements at Albion such as the lowering of the ceiling of the auditorium, the painting of all rooms above the dining room, and replacement of the old front doors with new ones.

The members have been busy with regular society meetings, as well as suppers, auctions, bake sales, collections of rags, paper, and scrap metal.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern Wisconsin and Chicago Churches was held here Oct. 23 and 24. The Friday night vesper service was conducted by Dale Thorngate with Don Gray giving the

meditation, the Milton College quartet, Paul Green, Richard Sterns, LeRoy Burdick, and Dale Thorngate, singing two selections. Denise Kagarise of the Salemville, Pa., Church also sang for the gathering.

The Sabbath morning sermon was by Pastor Alfred Keller of the Chicago Church. The anthem by the Albion choir was led by Mrs. Clarence Lawton with Mrs. Willis Stillman at the electric organ. Mrs. Clair Slagg of Stockton, Ill., sang a solo. The collection was over \$70. Over three hundred were served dinner in the church dining room.

In the afternoon meeting many questions of denominational and quarterly meeting interest were discussed under the direction of Rev. Elmo F. Randolph.

The January meeting is to be with the Milton Junction Church. — P. Sheldon.

MILTON, WIS. — The monthly "Meal of Sharing" of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church was served by the Student Christian Association of Milton College, Sabbath noon, Oct. 31, as a benefit for college students in war-torn lands. Approximately \$60 was cleared, which will be forwarded through the agency of World University Service.

The president of the S.C.A. is LeRoy Burdick, a senior from New Enterprise, Pa. Chairman of the meal committee was Miriam Seager, a junior from Little Rock, Ark., who was assisted by Mrs. Mary Van Horn, advisor to the group, and Mrs. J. Paul Green, Sr.

Marriages

Webster - Sutton. — On June 27, 1953, in the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred, N. Y., Lola May Sutton, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Harley Sutton of Alfred Station, N. Y., was married to William Webster of Alfred, N. Y., a ministerial student in Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and student pastor of the Andover Presbyterian Church. Rev. Everett T. Harris officiated. The couple resides in Andover.

Births

Patterson. — A daughter, Deborah Ann, to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Patterson, Denver, Colo., Oct. 11, 1953.

FOR SALE: Booklet, 15 stories for children. Pen and ink sketches by author. Order from author, R. Marion Carpenter, Alfred, N. Y. Price \$1.50 postpaid.



Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home: