

The Sabbath Recorder

HOPE OF THE WORLD

Georgia Harkness

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great Compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let Thy spirit unto us be given
To heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
Showing to wandering souls the path of light;
Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways
Lure us away from Thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us;
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to Thy gospel glorious:
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!



The above hymn won first place among 500 entries in a contest sponsored by the Hymn Society of America. The purpose of the contest was to recognize the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches. This prayer hymn can be sung to the tune "Ancient of Days" or "Donne Secours."

The Sabbath Recorder

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Member of the Associated Church Press

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Reduced Price on "Beliefs"

At the quarterly meeting of the Tract Board June 20 it was voted to reduce the price of the 100-page paper-bound book, **Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs**, from 60 cents to 25 cents in order to make it more available to those who wish to distribute it in quantity. This means that the Tract Board is taking a 50 per cent production cost loss to further the work.

FIRE ON THE ALTAR

The story is told of a church that was burning. The anguished minister noticed an unbeliever watching the blaze with undisguised interest. Somewhat bitterly the pastor remarked, "This is the first time I ever saw you taking an interest in the church." The equally cutting reply was, "This is the first time I ever saw the church on fire."

At the contest at Carmel a vast throng stood by all day waiting to see some fire on the altar. People of Israel who knew how their forefathers had been led by a pillar of fire were now waiting for the Baal god to kindle a fire on a heathen altar, and some of their leaders were among those false prophets. Still Israel was the recognized people of God, and it was to win them back to God that Elijah had proposed the answer by fire.

We know not how many of those present were like Christians behind the iron (alloyed with atheism) curtain secretly confident of the triumph of the true prophet. We are told a little later that Elijah was mistaken when he thought he stood alone, for the Lord said there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

Fire on the altar was what the congregation waited vainly to see through the long hours of blistering sun in that dry and thirsty land. At eventide the true prophet repaired the broken-down altar, and after drenching it with water to remove all possibilities of human deception called down fire from heaven.

It is always glorious to see fire on the altar even when the issues are not as sharp as those of 1 Kings 18. There are other fires besides the heaven-cracking brilliance which at times accompanied the sin-denouncing sermons of evangelists like Elijah and John the Baptist.

Unquenchable, we know, are the fires reserved for the wicked, but more unquenchable is the flame of truth kindled from torch to torch through countless generations of the children of faith. Every believer receives that torch as a fire upon his own altar.

Fires of persecution licking at the foundations of the church through the ages find relatively little that is combustible if there is a fire of holiness within the church.

JULY 5, 1954

Passion is an uncontrolled burning of fleshly desires; but a passion for souls is the driving force of faithful pastors, laymen, and missionaries. Is there such a fire in your pulpit — and pew?

What do you take to church with you each Sabbath? Is it a stony heart, a stony face, and a determination not to be kindled to new love? Do you bring coins in your pocket rather than paper lest the altar fire might claim too much of your finances? The time was when godly preachers saw evidence of internal fires generating tears which streamed down the faces of the listeners. It may be that the picture has changed in your church. Is it possible that the fire in the pulpit is being quenched, as it were, by squirt guns in the pews? Crude as this may seem there is truth in it.

Ministers of our faith, in general, have a burning desire to serve Christ acceptably. Their courage is somewhere between that of Elijah at Carmel and Elijah at the cave in Horeb. There would be more fire on the altar if there was not so much fear of it in the pew.

A MATURE PERIODICAL

We point with pardonable pride to the maturity of the Sabbath Recorder. Its age is printed without embarrassment in the masthead each week.

A representative of the church press in England brought a brief greeting to the members of the Associated Church Press assembled in New York, April 23. Mr. George Lee, editor of a Unitarian periodical, *The Enquirer*, told of the deplorable lack of religious interest in his country where churchmen struggle with a situation in which only 10% of the people attend church.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Lee said he could not resist informing us that his paper was the oldest Nonconformist periodical in England, having had practically continuous publication for 112 years. He felt that with only 20,000 Unitarians in England his paper held a record for tenacity. When Mr. Lee took his seat, we handed him a Sabbath Recorder with a note that Seventh Day Baptists with a membership only one third as large as his had been continuously publishing this paper since 1844. He seemed surprised and pleasurably impressed.

The Sabbath Interpreter — A New Publication

At the Southeastern Association which met with the Middle Island, W. Va., Church, June 25-27, there appeared the first copies of an eight-page paper called *The Sabbath Interpreter*. To be published monthly by the Salem Church for the Coordinating Council of the association, this Sabbath-evangelistic paper is edited by Rev. Clifford W. P. Hansen and printed at the denominational publishing house at Plainfield.

It contains no news and no editorial comment as such. The purpose is to set forth the distinctive witness of Seventh Day Baptists to those not yet members of the denomination. Having this single purpose, it is felt that it fills a need in the propagating of our faith which will supplement the work of the Sabbath Recorder, not be in competition with it. In this first issue two of the four articles have previously appeared in our pages.

If future issues come up to the standard of attractiveness and content of this first issue, Sabbathkeepers will do well to purchase many copies at 10 cents each to hand out as tracts.

MISSION NOTES

The April issue of *Mission Notes* has just been received on the East Coast. This faith project for which Rev. Leon Lawton of Los Angeles is largely responsible is always challenging and is unusually so this time. If there is any mission-minded Recorder reader who has not asked to be on the mailing list we would urge him to do so. You may write to the church address — 4976 North Figueroa St., Los Angeles 42, Calif.

Some of the material has already appeared in the Sabbath Recorder, but most of it is new. The face of the man pictured on the cover has been blotted out with a big question mark, not to obscure his identity but perhaps to raise the question in the mind of many ministers, "Is it I?" Someone must face that question, "Is it I whom the Lord would send to supervise the mission work in Nyasaland, Africa?"

One of the most outstanding articles in this little 16-page paper is the one by

TRACT BOARD MEETING

About half of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society were present at the quarterly meeting held in the denominational building Sunday afternoon, June 20. This was an important meeting since it included all the reports which will go into the 1954 Year Book in addition to the business centering around the quarterly reports of committees. The minutes have been mimeographed by the Recorder Press office staff and mailed to all trustees.

From the annual report of the corresponding secretary it is learned that we have published about 10,000 more tracts than last year and have distributed 22,000 more.

The editor of the Sabbath Recorder noted a relatively normal year with a substantial though not large net gain in subscriptions. The over-all cost of the Recorder for the year June 1, 1953, to May 31, 1954, was \$12,762. Last year it was \$11,898, and the previous year \$13,140. Nearly one half of this total cost comes from the earnings of invested funds, it may be noted.

The Committee on Distribution of Literature headed by David Sheppard, Cedarville, N. J., asked for approval of its plans to prepare 1,000 tract packets to be distributed on the way to Conference. Requests for the attractive envelopes containing three tracts should be sent to him. The board did not accept one of the other recommendations of this committee — that the matter of giving 200 copies of the current issue of the Helping Hand to the Girls' Industrial School at Salem, W. Va., be referred to the Board of Christian Education. Instead, this item (about \$45) was charged to the Distribution of Literature Fund.

Another action recommended by the Publications Committee was the reduction in price from 60 to 25 cents of the book, "Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs — A Manual

Associate Editor Melvin G. Nida entitled, "Who Will Go for Us?" which sets forth very clearly the qualifications, the problems, and the opportunities of the new leader being sought for the Nyasaland field.

for Study." In effect, the board is contributing about \$75 of the cost of the remaining 300 copies to make possible a wider distribution.

The treasurer's annual report and the comprehensive report of the publishing house will both be found in the statement to the General Conference in August. Since there have been questions raised in some quarters in regard to the current and probable deficit on the Helping Hand which is published by the Tract Society for the Board of Christian Education, we are extracting here a portion of the report of L. H. North, manager. Though he does not mention the budget item for next year it should be noted that the anticipated deficit for the next year has been reduced from \$750 to \$300 due to the increase in price which will be in effect, and to an attempt by the publishing house to cut off \$150 from the cost.

We quote:

HELPING HAND

Cost of printing and mailing.....	\$3,027.19
Receipts	2,353.68
Average number sold per quarter.....	2,954

For the thirty years ending May 31, 1954, there have been 11 years when the receipts were greater than expenses, and 19 years when the cost was greater than the income. The deficit for the 30 years is \$877.44.

Of course, to offset that amount is the money still due on subscriptions which as of May 31 was \$396.69 foreign and \$136.45 domestic, or a total of \$533.14. It is doubtful if much will be realized on the foreign arrears.

Valuable Historical Books

By recent action of the Tract Board the price of our two-volume historical work "Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America" has been raised to \$12. This was done to conserve the dwindling supply, and also, because the previous price was less than the cost of binding and mailing. Such a price ought also make those who have copies value them more highly, and to make sure that copies are not carelessly discarded when death breaks up homes. Our new ministers in the next few years will not be able to secure copies unless some who have no further use for the books make them available.

President's Column

Women At Conference

Two luncheons are being planned by the Women's Board, to be held Wednesday and Friday noons at Conference. At the Friday luncheon the annual society meeting will take place. Extra time is allowed for this in the Conference program. At 3 o'clock is the board program before the delegates in attendance. The theme of this program, if the president's suggestions are followed, will be "Making Him Known Through the Local Church."

Men At Conference

We wondered how to work a "Laymen's Hour" into the Conference program. The Women's Board asking for extra time for their meeting gave us the opportunity for this. So on Friday afternoon from 1:45 to 3:00 the men of the Conference will have their "innings" with Charles F. Harris, of Shiloh, planning the program on "Men of the Church Making Him Known."

Of course, the traditional "Towner" session by the men will not be forgotten. Thursday night the opening part of the program will be "The Men Sing."

Youth Activities

While the men and women are having their special sessions on Friday afternoon, a Youth Tour is being planned by the Milton group in co-operation with the Young People's Committee of the Board of Christian Education.

At the same time the Junior and Midler Conferences, under the direction of Miss Ellen Swinney and Miss Ethel Wilson will be in session.

So . . . Come to Conference!

There will be special things for all age groups — even the babies, for there is to be a nursery for them.

As you plan to come to Milton, don't think of it just as a vacation trip, or a time to meet old friends. It will be that, but we want it to be a time of spiritual refreshment and deepening of Christian life, so come expecting a blessing from the Lord. And come ready to make your contribution to this purpose, too.

MEMORY TEXT

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16: 23b, 24.

Secretary's Column

Now that we are in the midst of association meetings, with several of them just completed and two to be held in the very near future, the importance of the associations in our denominational life is again re-emphasized. There is a growing feeling among denominational leaders that the association should play an even more important part in our denominational functioning than it does.

With this objective in view, the associations were requested by Conference to indicate their attitude on broader participation in denominational work. Reports so far received indicate that all of the associations which have met are willing to assume broader responsibility in these fields.

A year ago each of the associations was asked to appoint a Missions Committee; they all did so. This year they have been asked to appoint a Tract Committee, and we already know that some of the associations have done so. At least one association adopted a resolution directing each of its activities committees to demonstrate activity by meeting at least once a quarter.

Some of the associations are studying possibilities of utilizing some of their meeting time, or some special occasions, for instructional purposes in various possibilities of lay leadership. Such a program is particularly desirable if the associations are to become sufficiently strong so that the suggestion of biennial Conferences with alternating work meetings among the associations should be adopted.

Some time ago the executive secretary received a letter from a Recorder reader commenting on the suggestion of strengthening the associations to this effect: "Increasing definite activities of our associations is a wonderfully sensible project.



A LETTER TO MY CONGRESSMAN

Roberta Ann Randolph

This essay won First Prize for Wisconsin in a national contest sponsored by Christian Endeavor. The writer is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Randolph of Milton, Wis.

Mr. Congressman:

Have you stopped to think of the responsibility that lies on the youth of today? If you haven't, I wish you would take time to look into this important responsibility.

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our country will be run by the youth, which today, are faced with many important problems.

As a Christian youth, I would like to present the problems that are facing the youth of today.

Oftentimes you can hear older people saying, "What's this younger generation coming to?" Do they really think we are so bad? If everyone would take time to investigate the situation, they would find that the youth of today have many more problems than they and their ancestors had.

As the situation is now, the boys have nothing to look forward to. They know that when their time comes, they will be fighting for the freedom of our wonderful country.

If spirit-filled persons accept their assignments, the good that could be the outcome is limitless. . . . Many jobs for young people could be found associationally if the churches become enthusiastic over this plan."

Herein lies one of the most important possibilities of stronger associational activity, namely, giving more church responsibility to young people. The young people are the future strength of our denomination.

Communism has set a problem before us. What are we going to do to fight it? Our boys are giving their lives to keep our country free from the evils of Communism. Do we appreciate this? Sure, we honor our dead on Memorial Day, but what can we do every day to help keep our country free from Communism?

We can train the youth of today and tomorrow to face the problems with understanding and willingness to fight for democracy. Every year more money is spent for tobacco and liquor than is spent for the education of our young people. Whose fault is that? It's the people over twenty-one that spend the billions of dollars each year on tobacco and liquor. This money could be saved for the education of the youth of tomorrow.

What can the people of our churches do to help the confused youth? Our ministers do a fine job in the interests of the young people of their churches by having special Bible studies, services, and fellowships for the youth of the church. But why don't they do something about helping the unfortunate who don't have such opportunities? Everyone should invite a friend to come to church with him. If your neighbor doesn't belong to any special church, why not ask him to go with you? Maybe a little encouragement is all he needs.

Our schools could join in the campaign to train our youth to become better Christian citizens. Many schools have organizations which fight the evils of liquor, narcotics, and gambling. This is a very worth-while project and has helped many young people to get on the right road. Why not spend a little time working with the young people of our schools?

Our parents and homes play a very important part in our future. Do our parents include God in our families? Is He a part of our lives? If our home is centered around God, our lives will be more likely to be as they should. Our parents start our belief in God by taking us to church with them. Parents are the main influence on our lives. What we are used to at home, we will find in our own future homes, whether it be God, liquor, gambling, or Communism.

What does the government have to do

with the training of Christian citizens? The government shows us the responsibility of our lives. The government urges people to fight for democracy, uphold the freedoms of our country, and vote for our leaders. What better way could the youth of today learn the responsibility which is awaiting them? All of these present the problems of today and teach how they are handled. The leaders of our present government should stress the exercise of voting, fighting for freedom, and fighting Communism.

Community responsibility helps train the youth to become a better Christian citizen. Treat everyone with equality and fairness. Don't be prejudiced, fight Communism, liquor, narcotics, gambling, and crime. Win others to Christ and don't be afraid to speak for Christian citizenship.

Everyone in the community can help. They can provide interest in community affairs and take an active interest in the youth of the community. Are they providing enough interest to prevent juvenile delinquency?

If part of our lives can be devoted to Christian work to help others, we have made a success of our lives. But in order to win others to Christ, we must speak for Christian citizenship. We must not be afraid to show others our belief in God. We must fight for the freedoms of our country and we must strive to uphold our Christian beliefs and rights.

I speak for Christian citizenship!

Local Tract Committees

Several of the associations have taken action naming a Tract Committee in the association. The Tract Society secretary at Plainfield would appreciate it very much if the recording secretaries of all associations would send him a copy of the action taken.

It is evident that such committees cannot function properly unless each church has an active tract distribution chairman or committee. The Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society feels that it is carrying out the action of the 1952 and 1953 General Conferences in appealing to all local churches to re-evaluate their tract distribution programs and to make sure that well-chosen members are pushing this ministry.

SABBATHKEEPING CHURCH AT ESPY

A letter from K. Duane Hurley, president of Salem College, tells of an interesting visit to East Central Pennsylvania on the weekend of June 12. Accompanying President Hurley were his father, P. B. Hurley of Riverside, Calif., and Rev. Clifford W. P. Hansen, pastor of the Salem, W. Va., Church. They visited an independent Sabbathkeeping church at Espy, Pa., which was organized some 6 years ago under the leadership of E. E. Martz and his family.

We quote from the letter:

"They have a membership of twenty-five, and an attendance of about forty persons. A church building is under construction.

"Their membership includes a number of young people who have attracted a nice group of other young people. It was my privilege to talk to them at their meeting on Friday night, June 11.

"On Sabbath morning, a church service was held in the Martz home (the church building being not yet ready for use). Pastor Hansen spoke to them, giving ten practical and compelling reasons for keeping the Sabbath.

"They have been in correspondence with Pastor Hansen for some time, and have expressed an interest in joining the Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

"We also visited the Leroy Stone family, at Roaring Branch, near Canton, Pa. They are lone Sabbathkeepers. The family includes two teen-age daughters and two younger boys. They had written to Salem because they had heard there was a college there and a Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Hansen has been in correspondence with them, and visited them once, previous to this time.

"During this visit the daughters requested baptism, and the mother, father, and daughters requested membership in the Salem Church. Mr. Stone's mother lives with them, and she also is interested in the denomination and the church.

"On Sunday morning Pastor Hansen baptized the daughters in a nearby stream, with my father, as a deacon, witnessing the services and assisting in it."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

WHITE CLOUD, MICH. — A new sign was erected in front of the White Cloud Church the middle of June replacing one which has served for many years. On it appears the name of the church in letters cut out of plywood and painted white. Inside the glass door is the message board on which, with removable letters, different messages may be placed. It is designed to be illuminated within, the lights being controlled by a time clock.

Clyde Branch, church moderator, made the case and presented his part in the labor and construction in dedication to the memory of his father, Mortimer Branch, first pastor of the church. This occurred in April, on the Sabbath nearest the birthday of his father.

Funds for the purchase of materials and the sign itself were made available by the Ladies' Aid Society.

New road signs have been placed on the highway approaches to the city. Thus information as to the existence of the church is placed before the public. — White Cloud Eagle.

ADAMS CENTER, N. Y. — Our church mourns the passing of two of our oldest members. Frank S. Jones, aged 84 years was an active member for more than 72 years. John P. Langworthy, aged 93 years, had been a faithful member for over 78 years. (Obituaries in June 14 issue.)

The Ladies' Aid Society held their annual meeting May 11 at the home of Mrs. Chauncey Reed. The annual report showed that we have contributed to the Denominational Budget, Women's Society, Jamaica Mission, School of Theology, U.C.W. Fellowship Fund, "Mission Notes," and Central Association Scholarship Fund, in addition to local items. Mrs. Clyde Ehret was elected president for the coming year.

As the host church, June 4-6, we feel that we have received abundant blessing from Christian fellowship with members of the Central Association and the visiting delegates. The sermons and meditations have increased our vision of larger service and deeper devotion in personal worship. — Mrs. Paul D. Greene, Correspondent.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON for July 17, 1954

Growing Through Bible Study

Scripture: Acts 17: 10-11; 1 Tim. 4: 13-16;
2 Tim. 2: 15; 3: 14-17; 2 Cor. 3: 4-6.

Therefore, if heaven enter a man's earthly duties, then the Lord has come to that man; and, if a man do anything in the Lord's name, the Kingdom of God has come to earth. — Lee.

Obituaries

McWhorter. — Henry M., son of Deacon Walter Field and Roana Davis McWhorter, was born April 7, 1863, and died at his home in Edelstein, Ill., June 4, 1954.

Baptized in 1874 by Elder C. M. Lewis he joined the Middle Island, W. Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church, later transferring his membership to Lost Creek, W. Va., and to Jackson Center, Ohio, where it was at the time of his death. In 1890 he was married to Rosa M. Davis at Alfred, N. Y. In 1920, five years after her death, he married Fronia Newman, who died 2 years later. A third wife, Elva Lippincott, taken in 1936, survives him. He also leaves a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in the Edelstein Congregational Church with burial in West Hallock Cemetery in Edelstein. — Edward K. Heininger, minister.

Dean. — Christine, daughter of Nels and Carna Nelson, was born Dec. 7, 1869 in Sweden, and passed away May 19, 1954 after a short illness.

She came to the United States in 1888 to live in Rockford, Ill., for a short time, finally moving to Gladbrook, Iowa. She was baptized and joined the Garwin, Iowa, Seventh Day Baptist Church. In 1928 she was married to Mr. Nels Dean of Byron, Minn., and moved to Dodge Center in 1932. She joined the Dodge Center Church in 1939. She leaves to honor her memory her husband; a niece, Mrs. Earl Cuthbertson of Toledo, Iowa; and a nephew, Marvin Lindahl of Dodge Center.

K. B. V. H.

Hevener. — Grace Mae, daughter of Andrew and Isabella Harkness Bertram and wife of J. L. Hevener of Roanoke, W. Va., was born in Ontario, Can., Sept. 18, 1887, and died in the Buckhannon Hospital June 17, 1954, the victim of an auto accident.

Besides her husband there survives one son, Willard, at home, and one sister, Anna E. Hassberger of Riverside, Ontario.

She was an active member in the Roanoke Seventh Day Baptist Church. Farewell services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, at the Alkire Funeral Home in Ireland, W. Va. Burial was in the Hevener Cemetery at Roanoke with burial rites by the ladies of the local Rebecca Lodge. R. E. Z.

JULY 12, 1954

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