

**DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET**  
Statement of the Treasurer, November 30, 1954

Receipts		November	2 months
Balance, Nov. 1	\$	12.38	
Albion		19.67	37.34
Alfred, First		353.35	353.35
Associations and groups			36.13
Battle Creek			428.88
Berlin		22.00	46.00
Boulder		32.17	73.94
Brookfield, First			10.00
Chicago		40.00	160.00
Daytona Beach		38.10	81.80
Denver		71.98	71.98
De Ruyter		272.00	613.63
Dodge Center		8.80	103.80
Edinburg		10.86	10.86
Farina		15.00	30.00
Hebron, First		24.68	24.68
Hopkinton, First		105.05	105.05
Independence		14.00	44.00
Indianapolis		5.00	20.90
Individuals			1,953.11
Irvington		200.00	200.00
Little Genesee			64.29
Los Angeles		50.00	126.50
Marlboro		293.00	610.82
Middle Island			16.13
Milton		272.65	636.40
Milton Junction		63.75	191.44
New Auburn			18.72
Nortonville		22.00	56.50
Philadelphia		20.00	40.00
Piscataway		21.00	33.00
Plainfield		159.75	367.25
Putnam County		6.00	16.00
Richburg		65.50	65.50
Ritchie		30.00	30.00
Riverside		496.66	496.66
Roanoke		25.00	25.00
Rockville			11.00
Salem		135.00	135.00
Salemville			68.00
Schenectady		15.00	115.00
Shiloh		350.00	580.00
Verona		55.00	55.00
Walworth			25.00
Waterford		50.19	71.54
White Cloud			31.59
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$3,375.54</b>	<b>\$8,291.79</b>

Disbursements		Budget 1954	Specials 1953
Missionary Society	\$	1,083.32	\$357.21
Tract Society		253.40	3.00
Board of Christian Education		495.32	35.00
Women's Society		122.92	55.00
Historical Society		45.08	
Ministerial Retirement		348.88	72.84
S. D. B. Building		48.44	
General Conference		392.84	
World Fellowship and Service		9.80	1.80
Balance, Nov. 30		50.69	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$2,850.69</b>	<b>\$524.85</b>

**Comparative Figures**

	1954	1953
Receipts in November:		
Budget	\$2,838.31	\$1,562.88
Specials	524.85	428.87
Receipts in 2 months:		
Budget	6,050.69	3,966.19
Specials	2,241.10	804.29
Annual Budget	70,750.00	63,121.22
Percentage of budget raised to date	8.55%	6.28%

L. M. Van Horn,  
Treasurer.  
Milton, Wis.

**A Voice from the Early Days**

Among the papers of Rev. Enoch David, Philadelphia, Pa., is a pamphlet entitled — **The Bible—Baptist**, author — John Leland, date of publication — 1789, in Baltimore. (Pamphlet is not complete.) This is a portion of the introduction (quite appropriate for the year 1954): "Truth is in the least danger of being lost, when free examination is allowed. As our government gives us this privilege, I am determined to improve it myself, and recommend it to others."

**Marriages**

**Parker - Hunting.** — Edward J. Parker and Miss Ruth V. Hunting, both of Plainfield, N. J., were united in marriage in the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, Nov. 6, with Rev. E. Wendell Stephan officiating, assisted by Rev. Lee Holloway.

**Obituaries**

**Stillman.** — George Alfred, son of Barton G. and Sophronia Wells Stillman, was born in De Ruyter, N. Y., March 13, 1862, and died Oct. 20, 1954.

He was united in marriage with Cora A. Stillman of Friendship, N. Y., June 2, 1886. They had four children: Raymond, now deceased; Laurence of Alfred; Vida (Mrs. Clarence E. Greene) of Spring Valley; and Ruth (Mrs. Edwin Huggler) of Rochester.

The Stillmans moved to Alfred in 1911. Mr. Stillman joined the church here in 1914.

Mrs. Stillman died in 1927. In 1928 he married Mrs. Edna Windus, who died in 1939.

Survivors other than children include a sister, Mrs. W. H. Cossum of Seattle, Wash.; ten grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Farewell services were held Oct. 23, at the First Alfred Church, with his pastor, Rev. Hurley S. Warren, officiating. Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery.  
H. S. W.

DECEMBER 27, 1954

# The Sabbath Recorder



*A Happy New Year!*

Sincere, warm greetings are extended to all the Recorder family along with appreciation for the kindly interest of so many readers during the past twelve months. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon all who love Him!

# The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration  
Member of the Associated Church Press

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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### Believe in Moses

Here is a labor of faith that, for the Jews at least, must precede faith in Christ. "Men cannot indolently neglect inferior light, and, at a single bound, spring up to the highest exercise of faith in Jesus, the Light of the world." — Daniel Steele.

## RESTRICTIONS OR OPPORTUNITIES

The world stands in direct conflict with godliness in many New Testament passages. Jesus spoke of the world as not knowing Him but of His disciples as really knowing Him. On another occasion we find mentioned together in one breath: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christians worthy of the name have in all ages found themselves scoffed at by the low-standard world pressing around them. Sabbathkeeping Christians even more than others have felt keenly the pull of contrary forces. We are particularly reminded of it as this year draws to a close.

Our calendar, with its months of unequal length, its days of changing sunlight, and its weeks that do not correspond to the months, is a bit confusing. As sometimes happens, Christmas and New Year's Eve fell this year on the Sabbath. The world has built up certain patterns of celebration for these events, and the pull of the world is strong. Some people ordinarily remembering to hallow God's Sabbath find themselves chafing under the restrictions that come when a weekly day of worship coincides with an annual day of merrymaking.

If we stop to think, it was not the religious character of Christmas that made it impossible in some cases to have full attendance at the usual Sabbath eve service of the church; it was either the family or the worldly aspect of it. Some of us who are impatient with the tradition basis of the worship habits of our neighbors compared with the Bible basis of our day of worship, perhaps sought to justify ourselves for not going to the Sabbath eve prayer service — and that on the basis of our own family tradition. How much better it would have been if we had grasped the Sabbath as an opportunity to make this Christmas a more religious, a more holy day than usual, rather than thinking of the restrictions!

New Year's Eve is far more taken over by the world than Christmas Eve. Thoughtful Christians have long campaigned for church-centered, prayer-centered programs to mark the beginning of the new year. Why should it not be so? It is not eternity alone that takes on new meaning when we accept Christ. Every division of time marks the end and beginning of a Christ-

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centered period of life and service. The year is the longest division of time with which we are repeatedly brought face to face. Birthdays are personal; the birthday of the year is universal. What business have we as Christians to usher it in at any time with anything less than soberness of thought and high resolve?

When New Year's Eve falls on Sabbath eve, we could think of the restrictions thus imposed, but far better to think of the glorious opportunity for a Christian prayer gathering or the singing of hymns at midnight. If it is not possible to have a meeting of people of like faith, and if the flesh cries out against remaining awake until the changing of the year, why not set the alarm for 11:30 and have some moments of individual or family prayers?

A special cause for thanksgiving is that the calendar has not been changed; the Sabbath has not become lost in the reckoning of time. Let us see to it that it is not lost in our experience this year.

## EDITOR TAKES VACATION

The editor of the Recorder was encouraged by his Advisory Committee to take a two-week vacation at his convenience. He elected to take it at Christmas time and to use the opportunity to get better acquainted with some of our southern churches, particularly in Florida and on the Island of Jamaica.

The itinerary as mapped out called for a motor trip to Florida with the family, leaving the two boys in the Daytona Beach area while the editor and his wife made a six-day get-acquainted visit by plane to Kingston and some of the outlying churches. We were invited to preach in the Kingston Church on Christmas Day and also to share in the services at Daytona Beach and Palatka on New Year's Day.

It is expected that these rich experiences will broaden our knowledge of our nearest foreign mission field and will enable us to visualize the needs of the people more clearly. The missionaries on the field have repeatedly encouraged people to come and see for themselves the beauties of the island and the evangelistic and educational work that is being done by and for its people by Seventh Day Baptists.

## TRACT BOARD MEETING HELD

L. M. Maltby, corresponding secretary

The fall quarter's work of the American Sabbath Tract Society and the plans for the months ahead were brought together in a concentrated business meeting held Sunday afternoon, December 19, from 2 to 4:15 p.m. in the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield, N. J.

The building showed considerable activity in the morning as final touches were put on some of the reports and preparations made for the afternoon. By 1 o'clock three or four rooms were busy with committee meetings that could not well be held until the members from the southern part of the state were present. One committee held a two-hour meeting while making the trip by car to Plainfield. Another met after the board had adjourned.

The usual reports of officers and employees were read and accepted. These showed normal or above normal work being done in the various offices. Then followed the reports of standing and special committees with recommendations which mapped out the work lying ahead.

The Committee on Distribution of Literature told of local gifts of Bibles and Bible study books which made it possible to meet part of the requests for such helps from the Seventh Day Baptist leaders in Nigeria. They recommended the sending of others books from the Tract Society. The committee did not see its way clear, in view of the reduced budget allowed by Conference, to recommend the financing of a block of subscriptions to the Sabbath Interpreter. It did take action to send to our churches, pamphlets on how to use tracts.

The Committee on Audio-Visual Aids, as already noted in the Recorder, was able to report considerable activity in the previewing and purchasing of a variety of filmstrips for the use of the churches.

The Publications Committee after a quarter of relatively little printing activity made some rather sweeping recommendations for reprints, revisions, and new tracts. It appears that the long-felt need for adequate tracts on the second coming of Christ is soon to be met. The board accepted the recommendation to print two

## Greetings

Clarence M. Rogers

As president of General Conference I take this occasion to send each of the readers of the Sabbath Recorder my personal best wishes for this Christmas and New Year season. Christ as a babe has long been symbolic of the humility and simplicity out of which the Christian experience is made. His babyhood is also meaningful to us today in that it demonstrates the fact that God in His infinite wisdom found it desirable to enter into the life of mankind by the process of birth as well as by the occurrence of death.

May we each, at this season of the year, give special attention to the birth and development of the spirit and presence of God within our lives, that others may glorify not us, but our Creator God, and the Father of us all.

God has built countless bridges to men's minds, but He has placed one limitation on Himself; He does not cross the fast drawbridge into our minds until we invite Him. It is a drawbridge which we open and close from within the castle of our souls. Don't ask me why; I don't know. I suppose it is because He wants His sons to have free wills. Whatever the reason, God's final problem in bridge-building is to get past the portal of our own minds. — From *Channels of Spiritual Power*, by Frank C. Laubach.

of the four manuscripts which had been submitted. One is a careful discussion of differing opinions about the Second Coming, the other a straightforward presentation of the doctrine as found in 1 Thess. 4 and related passages. It was thought that in many places the two could be used together and might do much to extend the work and fellowship of Seventh Day Baptists. The printing of these, and the other tracts authorized, will be delayed if funds are slow in coming in from the Denominational Budget.

A special committee was appointed by vote of the board to prepare a suitable testimonial to the life of Dr. Corliss F. Randolph who served as president of the board for 27 years.

## Secretary's Column

### Who Misses Christmas?

During November we gave to the Denominational Budget \$2,850. This is 44 per cent of the monthly requirement for meeting our budget adopted at Conference last August.

This giving amounts pretty close to tragedy on two counts. First and foremost, it indicates that we have not taken our responsibilities sufficiently to heart. Failure to meet our denominational obligations contributes to a spiritual loss to those who do not give. Second, the work for which we have obligated ourselves is hurt by inadequate financial support.

A large portion of our Denominational Budget goes for salaries for workers in God's vineyard. If all salaries are paid, other aspects of the work must suffer. But the tragedy in our giving for the first two months of the current Conference year lies in the fact that we are not even meeting the salary requirements. For instance:

Monthly salary checks for the Missionary Society amount to slightly over \$2,000. Budget giving to that board for November was \$1,083.

Monthly salaries for the Tract Society are a little over \$400. Giving during November was \$256.

Monthly retirement checks amount to over \$1,100. November budget distribution was \$422.

Fortunately none of these agencies depend exclusively on current giving to meet their bills. If they did, many of our workers both at home and abroad would indeed be in a serious predicament. Not only would they be wondering about Christmas — they would be wondering about their next meals. Even as it is, with the monthly budget less than half raised, there lies a serious threat to our continued meeting of salary needs for our workers. It has not been unknown for salary checks to be delayed, although so far as your secretary knows there has been no recent occasion when salary checks were not ultimately paid.

Let us keep constantly in mind that our budget is \$5,896 per month, rather than

the \$70,750 for the year that was set at Conference. Let us not threaten the pay checks, meager as they are, of those whom we have sent to Nyasaland and Jamaica to spread the Gospel Sabbath truth, or of those working the home vineyard whom we have undertaken to assist in subsistence. As we enjoy our own Christmases, let us give thought to whether others for whom we are directly responsible are enjoying theirs, or if they are waiting in vain for checks which we have failed to send in to our budget.

### PTL PROGRAM FOR AFRICA

In January, 1955, the Pocket Testament League will launch the greatest Scripture distribution campaign of its career — taking the Word of God to Africa.

Expert observers — both white and black — voice strong fears that Africa's problems may prove too much for her — that they may burst suddenly into a wild, continent-wide rebellion of black against white. If this happens, they say, the white man will be driven into the sea and Africa will lapse back into its centuries-old darkness — a continent lost forever to the white man — and to the Gospel.

Millions of Africans remain unreached by the Gospel. Time is running out in Africa. With ordinary missionary methods it would take years to reach these people. Only mass evangelism and mass Scripture distribution can do the job that must be done in Africa in the time that there is left.

The Pocket Testament League campaign has been urgently requested by mission leaders as a vital supplement to the mission work now being carried on.

The campaign will include Kenya, Congo, and Tanganyika. In response to a letter from your editor urging them to include Nyasaland in their Testament distribution, Alfred A. Kunz, the executive director, promised that he would try to visit the Makapwa Seventh Day Baptist Mission at Sandama on his way to South Africa from Tanganyika. The PTL leaders also expect to make a survey of Nigeria.

Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible. R. S. MacArthur.

## WHAT THE SECRETARIES DISCUSSED

A. Burdet Crofoot

Various areas of joint responsibility, and lines of demarcation between areas of specific responsibility were discussed at a meeting of the Co-ordinating Council held in the Seventh Day Baptist Building, Plainfield, N. J., on Friday, December 17. Administrative officers of each of our boards were present and participated in the discussions. Those participating were A. B. Crofoot, chairman, Rev. E. T. Harris, Rev. N. D. Mills, Mrs. Robert T. Fetherston, Miss Evalois St. John, and Rev. L. M. Maltby.

Among the areas considered were the possibilities of integrating our people into a closer sense of unity through use of visual methods of showing our various co-ordinated activities. The possible development of filmstrips and sets of slides to show some interesting parts of Sabbath history and the current work of our various boards received favorable consideration. Plans for summer evangelistic campaigns, offering both young men and young women opportunities for work for the Lord, are being developed by the appropriate boards.

As a broad matter of definition, it was the expressed feeling of the council that where an outside contact arose which required the presence of specially employed personnel, the matter was properly the responsibility of the Missionary Board. Otherwise the contact might equally well be handled by the Tract Board, the Board of Christian Education, or the Women's Board as the nature of the contact seemed to indicate.

Other matters that received some consideration without any necessary resultant decision included the possible necessity of a restudy of our ministerial retirement program in the light of the availability of Federal Social Security to our ministry, the development of a more adequate program for Lone Sabbathkeepers, Conference's suggestion of holding society annual meetings coincident with Conference, and the "package proposal" for biennial Conferences as asked for by the Milton Conference.



which was mine to look into the "engine room" and observe the more or less complicated machinery in motion at the Third General Assembly of the National Council of Churches which convened in Boston November 28 - December 3, 1954.

In 1950, twelve interdenominational bodies, including the Federal Council of Churches, were welded together into one giant organization. This new National Council continues the policies of the older Federal Council, and speaks the majority voice of its thirty-member denominations with a combined membership of more than thirty-five million people. According to a breakdown of the budget at one of the plenary business sessions at the General Assembly, the National Council operates on a budget of over ten million dollars annually, approximately one third of which supports Church World Service. It is our opinion that an exceedingly large portion of this tremendous budget is used in promoting the machinery of the Council, and all too small a portion is channelled into an objective outreach for Christ.

Of the approximately two thousand delegates who were in Boston for the Assembly, about five hundred were the voting representatives of the member bodies. A disproportionately large number of Council officials and denominational officials were among this group, and pastors were present in quite large numbers, with the result that the man in the pew had very small representation. Concern was expressed about this inequity of representation, and though nothing was done about it, it is to be hoped that a better balance will be sought in the future. This same situation is even more in evidence in the General Board, the policy-making body of the organization.

The major portion of time at the Assembly was spent in routine business, most of which had been done at a higher level and passed along to the Assembly for approval. A very fair policy of floor participation was adhered to, and any one could be heard on any subject. If a few persons did most of the business of the Assembly, as seemed to be the case, it was only because others did not seek the floor and express themselves. Hope was expressed from time to time that in the future more time might be given to the consideration of the message and work of the church, and less to routine business.

We wonder if this will be possible in such a large and complex body which will meet only triennially in the future.

### Concern

The leaders of the National Council are men who are concerned about the Church and the world. The intense earnestness of their concern could not escape our notice. These men had not come for a vacation, nor for a spiritual retreat. They had come with concern in their hearts for the Church and her program. They came seeking truth and expressing what they considered to be truth. We question their evaluation of the truth of the Bible at many points. We question their evaluation of the person of Christ. We question many of the ends at which they arrived, but that they were seeking truth in earnestness is beyond question.

Unfortunately, in our opinion, concern for the church as an organization seemed to overshadow concern for the Lord and for the evangelization of the world. It may have been partly a matter of terminology, but we had the feeling throughout the Assembly that the primary concern was for the enlargement of the church organization, and the strengthening of her ministry to the world along social and economic lines. It would seem to us that while this concern most certainly is not without merit, it should remain secondary to a concern for the evangelization of the world, and the salvation of souls for whom Jesus gave His life. A redeemed people will make a redeemed society, and only as people are won to a faith in the person and work of Christ will they unite in promoting a truly Christian society.

(To be continued)

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### ITEM OF INTEREST

Rev. Ivan L. Bennett (Maj. Gen.), retired Army Chief of Chaplains, has been appointed a secretary of the American Bible Society and the executive secretary of the Washington City Bible Society with headquarters in the nation's capital.

Dr. Bennett will serve as the society's liaison man with the Armed Forces in distributing Scriptures to men and women in the Armed Services and with the diplomatic corps in Washington for the society's world-wide work.