

# The Sabbath Recorder

Sabbath, July 9, Pastor Wheeler was back to conduct the Lord's Supper. His sermon, "Let A Man Examine Himself," left a lasting impression. Elder E. S. Ballenger, as usual, assisted in the service and drew some pointed comparisons between the celebration of the Fourth of July in his boyhood and now, and between the attitude of the early disciples to the Lord's Supper and our own.

Close attention was given to the splendid message of K. Duane Hurley, president of Salem College, as he spoke to us on July 23. His text, "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," came as a climax to his well-supported assertions favoring the denominational college with a strong Christian emphasis.

Ten fully persuaded persons joyously presented themselves for baptism July 30. All but two of these made their decision at camp.

On the evening of the 30th a large group gathered in the social room to honor recent newcomers to our midst. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Don Richards, pastor-elect of the Berea, W. Va., Church; President and Mrs. K. Duane Hurley of Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Darvil Boatman; Mr. and Mrs. John Easterly, Jr.; Pastor and Mrs. Mynor Soper, summer assistant at the Los Angeles Church; and Pastor and Mrs. Leon Lawton of Los Angeles. A hand-shaking game was first and the pleasant evening was concluded with a short talk by Pastor Wheeler. — Correspondent.

## Annual Meeting of the American Sabbath Tract Society

The annual meeting of the members of the American Sabbath Tract Society for the election of officers and trustees and for the transaction of such business as may properly come before them will be held in the Seventh Day Baptist Building, 510 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, N. J., on Sunday afternoon, September 18, 1955, at two o'clock, at which time the amendments to the constitution proposed at the July 17 board meeting and approved by General Conference will be considered.

Franklin A. Langworthy,  
President,  
Frederik J. Bakker,  
Recording Secretary.

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### MEMORY TEXT

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14: 6.

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### CUT IT DOWN

From an old family hymnbook, sent in by Mrs. Helen Heilman.

#### Justice

Cut it down, cut it down,  
Spare not the fruitless tree;  
It spreads a harmful shade around,  
It spoils what else were useful ground,  
Cut it down, cut it down.

#### Mercy

One year more, one year more,  
Oh, spare the fruitless tree;  
Behold its branches broad and green,  
Its spreading leaves have hopeful been,  
Some fruit thereon may yet be seen,  
One year more, one year more.

#### Justice

Cut it down, cut it down  
And burn the worthless tree:  
For others' use the soil prepare.  
Some other tree will flourish there,  
And in my vineyard much fruit bear,  
Cut it down, cut it down.

#### Mercy

One year more, one year more  
For mercy spare the tree;  
Another year of care bestow  
On its fair form some fruit may grow;  
If not — then lay the cumberer low  
One year more, one year more.

#### Judgment

Still it stands, still it stands  
A fair, but fruitless tree,  
The Master seeking fruit thereon  
Has come — but griev'd at finding none  
Now speaks to Justice — Mercy flown,  
Cut it down, cut it down.

## Obituaries

**Tomlinson.**—Alma Bailey Ennis, was born in New York City, March 12, 1874, and departed this life on July 23, 1955, at her home in Marlboro, N. J.

She was married to the late Walter G. Tomlinson in 1900, and moved to Marlboro where she joined her husband's church.

She is survived by a daughter, Ella J. Dolbow. Farewell services, held on Tuesday, July 26, 1955, from the Johnson Funeral Home in Bridgeton, N. J., were conducted by Pastor Paul Osborn. Interment was in the Shiloh Cemetery. P. B. O.



Photo by Arkansas American.

### CONFERENCE DIGNITARIES IN A HAPPY MOOD.

Left to right: Clarence Rogers, president of Conference; Dr. Wayne R. Rood, just back from a visit to Nigeria; Mrs. O. B. Bond, home from mission work in Jamaica; Albyn Mackintosh, chairman of Commission; and Dr. O. B. Bond, principal of Crandall High School, Jamaica, for the past two years.

# The Sabbath Recorder

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Member of the Associated Church Press

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The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Berlin, N. Y., is planning to observe its 175th anniversary on September 24, 1955, with a Home-coming. All nonresident members and friends are cordially invited.

Remember the 250th anniversary of the Piscataway Church at New Market, N. J., September 17, as previously announced.

## CONFERENCE AND THE BOARDS

The relation between the incorporated boards and the General Conference is illustrated by what happened to the annual report of the Missionary Society when it came up for consideration at the annual Conference recently held in Fayetteville, Ark. It might logically be assumed that each board has a right to insist that its annual report, exclusive of recommendations and requests for funds, should stand as written by its responsible officers and as approved by the board as an annual statement. But, just as the Conference sometimes votes to change the Commission's report, so it may vote to alter the report of a board before that report goes into the Year Book.

When the Committee on Missionary Interests appointed by the president of Conference considered the annual report of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, it recommended three minor amendments to the report which were sustained by vote of the majority of the Conference delegates. (We believe there was no dissenting voice.) The changes suggested were only for clarity. The principal addition was the following paragraph which replaced a 4-line item about the work of our missionaries in Nyasaland:

"Miss Beth Severe served as acting head of the mission from the time of the effective resignation of Rev. Ronald Barrar until the Pearsons arrived. She continued as the treasurer of the mission. Both Miss Beth Severe and Miss Joan Clement as well as Mrs. Bettie Pearson have been teaching this year in double sessions due to the crowded conditions and large enrollment. David Pearson teaches Bible classes. Beth and Joan share the medical work and have a splendid native helper who does much of the routine work of the dispensary. This man's wife is dean of girls at the mission and teaches sewing to the village women."

The committee was presided over by Rev. Leon R. Lawton, editor of Mission Notes, who has been intimately connected with the promotion of the Nyasaland work.

This group also noted that the Commission had cut out of the society's proposed budget the items which would make possible the sending of a missionary to British

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## MEMORY TEXT

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Hebrews 2: 9.

Guiana during the coming Conference year. The committee commended the board for its efforts along this line in the following words:

"We would commend the board for its efforts to send a full-time worker to British Guiana as soon as possible, and call the attention of the General Conference to the need in the near future for securing a person who might be training to go when sufficient funds would be available. Looking toward such, we recommend that an item of one half the estimated transportation expense to the field (\$500) be added to the Missionary Society budget for 1955-56 and that the society be requested to go ahead with plans for securing and preparing the right ones to go." (Recommendation adopted.)

The work of Seventh Day Baptists carried on by several major boards and agencies is a unified work rather than many independent projects. The voice of the people assembled at a General Conference is a valuable expression of that unity of effort. It is conceivable that committees gathered from many churches and without much previous study of the problems of the boards may sometimes err in judgment, but the process is democratic. Everyone in attendance has a right to be heard. Everyone has a vote not only on motions made on the floor of Conference but also on recommendations having to do with the internal affairs of any one of our agencies. When we have thus voted we should feel that we are responsible for the total work of the denomination. The majority of our readers, of course, were not able to be present when the voting was done. However, Conference is made up of just such people, your friends and neighbors, your fellow church members. It is presumed that most of those who were not at Conference would have voted the same (after due consideration) as those who were present.

## EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES

We were a little startled at two headlines in our local city paper early in August. On page one was a strong invitation to the Russian Orthodox Church to enter into fellowship with the World Council of Churches. On page two we found a brief article describing the strong appeal of the Roman Catholic Church to certain elements of the Orthodox Church to come back into the Roman fold. Perhaps we should not have connected the two appeals. The connection may not be significant. There is a difference between the centuries-old invitation of the Catholic Church and the newer call to co-operation that is issued by the World Council.

These two news items raise the question in our mind as to the direction in which the World Council may move. Is it possible that it may become the agent that will eventually bring some sort of union between Catholics and Protestants? There are those who would like to include the Roman Church in the ecumenical movement, though such leaders are at present in the minority. If Rome can persuade some national branches of the Eastern Church to come into her fellowship and if other branches unite with the World Council, a bridge might be formed between the two bodies by way of the Eastern Church which is essentially Catholic rather than Protestant in doctrine.

Here follows the action of the 90-member policy-making committee of the World Council adopted during its recent (August 2-9) meeting in Switzerland, as reported by Religious Newsweekly. The committee:

"Invited the Russian Orthodox Church to enter into 'full and free relationship' with the 165 member churches of the World Council. The committee sent a message to the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church suggesting as a first step, personal meetings between World Council representatives and the Russian church. The message was the Council's reply to a letter last February from the Moscow patriarchate urging the World Council to promote 'peaceful co-existence.'"

Some of us would be very apprehensive of any movement that tended toward

wiping out the distinctions between Catholicism and Protestantism. Strong doctrinal and ecclesiastic differences do exist. They are as much worth fighting for now as in the days of Luther, Calvin, and the English reformers who were our denomination forefathers. Furthermore, it is doubtful if our loosely organized 165 denominations could match the political strategy of the highly centralized Roman Church whose aims are well defined. It is our opinion that only by remaining distinct and separate can we preserve that witness for which our forefathers struggled so nobly.

### Growing Use of Tape Recorders

The music and messages of General Conference will not be lost — not at least until heard a second time in many church gatherings throughout the country. Three years ago there were only one or two tape recordings made of any portions of the Conference program. Last year, at Milton, several were conveniently plugged into the hearing-aid outlets in the church pews. This year the number of machines increased greatly and several were virtually unused because of inadequate electrical and microphone connections.

It was observed on Thursday evening that the machines in operation represented most of the geographic divisions of the denomination. Dr. Ruth Rogers of Daytona Beach in the Southeastern Association was recording. The Sabbath Recorder editor in the Eastern Association was preserving the message for the Tract Society. Gerald Coalwell of the Southwestern Association was prepared to take the meeting back to the Mississippi delta. The pastor of the Los Angeles, Calif., Church, a pioneer in denominational recording, would carry most of Conference to the Pacific Coast. Arthur Millar, somewhat of a technician in the field, represented the Battle Creek Church and the Northern Association. Mrs. Lillian Tompkins, a new member of the Denver Church, with one of the finest machines, was recording what she wanted for the Mid-Continent Association.

Later in the week two more recorders were in operation. As the meetings drew to a close, extra hours were spent tran-

scribing from one recorder to another the programs that were most wanted. Immediately after Conference, tape recordings might be played in other places such as Nortonville, Kan., Ashaway, R. I., and Marlboro, N. J. It is probable that copies will go in due time also to Nyasaland and to many other churches in the homeland. Those who operated machines this year foresaw a definite need for Conference-owned electrical equipment that would make use of the amplifying system and guarantee better results. The splendid music of Conference, for instance, would bring greater blessing to the folks at home, and might even be used in radio work if the facilities for recording were better.

Certain of the messages of past Conferences, particularly the voices of missionaries preparing to go to foreign fields, will be preserved at denominational headquarters for future reference. Most of the business discussion is also kept for at least one year so that questions about the minutes of the meetings can be settled if the need arises. In view of these many recordings mentioned above, it behooves all who enter into discussions on the floor of Conference to speak charitably and in moderate tones. Some of the microphones pick up both the voice and the tone of voice that come from well back in the audience. We believe that nothing was spoken or recorded this year that would prove embarrassing to the speakers later on.

### Tract Ministry

The ministry of tracts expands even in a day when we are tempted to think that people read less of such material than formerly. It is amazing to note that the interdenominational American Tract Society is producing this year almost twice as many pieces of literature as last year at this time (total 8,000,000). While our own Sabbath Tract Society cannot claim any such figures, we are happy to report that publication and distribution are definitely on the increase and may reach similar proportions.

"The trouble with most modern Christians is that they are starched before they are washed." — Harry Kruener.

## Secretary's Column

September is the final month for meeting the 1955 Denominational Budget. As this is being written, the receipts for August are not yet known, but judging from the Conference collection, August ought to show up reasonably well. July giving was much better than it was last year.

It is obvious, however, from receipts up through July that September giving will have to be generous in order for Conference to reach the end of its fiscal year with all obligations met. We know of at least two churches which are planning for a special Denominational Budget drive throughout the month of September. If all of our churches were to do this, we undoubtedly could end the year with the budget met.

It is essential for our morale that we meet the budget. This applies not only to the agencies receiving their support from the budget but to us as givers also. As long as our agencies are faced with an almost certainty that they will not receive the amount allotted to them in the budget, their willingness and determination to proceed with a forward-looking program is of necessity dampened. As long as we as givers are content to see the budget approximately ninety per cent raised, we are not taking our obligations with sufficient seriousness. It is therefore necessary from both points of view that the budget be raised. Let's change our thinking in this particular before this Conference year finally ends, and face the new budget year with a clean slate.

Conference purposely approved a budget for next year but slightly higher than this year's. Many essential programs of our boards and agencies were held back in order to do this. Nationally we are still in an inflation spiral, so that a budget such as Conference approved for next year in reality represents no genuine increase in values — in fact the opposite, if anything. The services we can purchase with our giving shrink as the dollar decreases in purchasing power.

Let's face the new budget year with the old one paid up and a determination to keep abreast.

### Evangelistic Meetings in Paint Rock Church

Mrs. R. L. Butler, Sr.

Just prior to Conference Pastor Lester G. Osborn answered the call of the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church to hold evangelistic services each evening from August 11 through August 14.

The membership felt a great spiritual stirring. The messages woven around the theme of "Clothes," clearly presented the vital imperative of being clothed in righteousness, the climax showing the urgency of being "Clothed for Glory."

These services were feasts for Christian growth for all who know Christ, and were truly as "bread cast upon the waters" for the lost. Men and women whom we had never before seen at any church service came to these meetings bringing their families.

At least two weeks' services were needed rather than only four evenings and Sabbath day. In this area two weeks are usually required to break the ice of stony hearts.

We are deeply thankful for these services and trust that this blessing may be repeated. The force of God's love fills us with a burning zeal to give the message of salvation to these people. We pray for help in this great task of the Kingdom.

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**Scenes from Conference**

The serious side of Conference is pictured in the upper left snapshot on the opposite page. It is A. Burdet Crofoot conducting a 4-day Workshop on Church Stewardship and Finance. In the foreground are the registration tables.

Two pictures of the more carefree younger set follow, the larger picture appearing to be a game in which the teen-agers are effectively keeping one of their number from breaking through the Seventh Day Baptist line.

Again, on the left, is a glimpse of the outdoor vesper service held every evening.

In the center, some of the people moving away from the large auditorium at the close of a meeting.

On the right, the tail end of a long queue of adults at one entrance of the dining hall. Our people learned to be punctual, for to be late was to go hungry.

Bottom left, a shady lane, along which the delegates walked toward the auditorium and the next meeting.

Bottom right, the gleaming cross on Vesper Point, scarcely visible against the sky.

**Home and Foreign Missionary Work Stressed in Conference Program**

In a very real sense the 1955 Seventh Day Baptist General Conference was a missionary Conference. For two hours every morning a Home Missions Workshop was conducted under the direction of Rev. Everett T. Harris, executive secretary of the Missionary Society. Under different leadership each day, subjects relating to nearly every phase of Christian outreach were presented through lecture and discussion. This, we believe, was the most popular and, perhaps, the most stimulating of the five simultaneously held workshops. It was one which reflected, as we understand it, the major emphasis of the Conference president in his public appearances during the year. Attendance was estimated between 40 and 50, at least on the two days your reporter was present.

In addition to the four 2-hour workshops on home missions, the program de-

voted 45 minutes or more of every morning session of the Conference to either home or foreign missions. On Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:15, Rev. Charles Bond told about home field problems and plans; Doyle Zwiebel described the work of the evangelistic quartet; and Rev. Loyal F. Hurley looked into the future of our efforts at home field evangelism. The Wednesday morning program featured the Jamaica Mission field with Dr. and Mrs. O. B. Bond giving the delegates part of the story of that work in two 40-minute messages. On Thursday, Secretary Harris was given the morning period to tell how Seventh Day Baptists are serving and are called to serve in British Guiana and Nyasaland. Doctor Wayne R. Rood, just returned from an investigation of the Nigerian Seventh Day Baptist groups, reported on that work with the aid of projected Kodachrome pictures on Friday forenoon. This trip, it should be noted, was a project, to a considerable extent, of the Conference president supported by funds from New Zealand and from interested people in this country.

Added to these formal missionary items on the program, there were the frequent meetings of the Committee on Missionary Interests, the prayer meetings with mission emphasis, and the showing of additional pictures from Nigeria after the Sabbath eve service. Undoubtedly the discussions of Women's Board activities were also strongly flavored with our home and foreign missions outreach. Some of these things will be reported in separate articles as time and space permit.

Dr. Ira W. Moomaw, executive secretary of Agricultural Missions, Inc., disclosed that at present there are 158 agricultural missionaries representing 45 Protestant communions serving in 45 countries of the world. At the same time, he said, more students in colleges of agriculture and home economics are volunteering for rural mission service. He said the agency was in touch through correspondence with more than 500 of these young people and that with continued support by denominational mission boards, it was hoped that the number of missionaries now serving on the field could be doubled in five years.

## Missions

### The Jamaica Conference

As described by a newcomer, Mrs. Grover Brissey, in a letter to the editor of the Sabbath Recorder.

The 1955 Jamaica, B. W. I., Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches was held with the people of the Post Road Church beginning July 16. This church is located about 30 miles from Kingston.

The people at Post Road are surely very hard workers. Regardless of the fact that there are only two men in the church, they have built a nice concrete block church. They made the blocks themselves but hired masons to lay them. Whether they do the work themselves or hire it done, it means a lot of work and sacrifice on the part of the few people connected with the church.

Pastor and Mrs. FitzRandolph took us with them on a visit to Post Road to see how they were progressing with the plans for their conference. To me it seemed they surely could not be ready with only two days to do so much. Palm leaves had to be woven together to enclose the dining section built over the concrete floor usually used to dry coffee. At the church a booth was to be enclosed the same way for committee meetings. Palm leaves were woven to form shelters for the windows and the doors. Brother Gordon, one of the two men of the church, predicted we would have no rain. He was nearly right for we had only a light shower Sunday. When we arrived at conference everything was in perfect readiness. The lawn around the church had been beautified. The grass had been cut with a machete and raked with a branch which supports the coconut fruit. Flower beds were here and there.

Too much praise can't be said of Brother Gordon and family, Brother White and Sister Smikle, and other members for their great work.

The church is erected on Brother Gordon's land close to his house. Imagine having conference circulating around a single home, the cooking and other responsibilities centered there! They were here and there seeing to people's needs, and when the sessions began they were there.

The Jamaicans are very sincere, and long hours for meetings do not seem to tire them. Conference sessions began at 5:30 a.m. with Quiet Hour and continued until a late hour in the evening.

I did not seem to be equal to the 5:30 Quiet Hours but the other meetings were very impressive and helpful. The sermons during the evangelistic meetings were very good. In my opinion they would make wonderful reading in the Recorder if there is room.

Sunday afternoon there was a concert. To attend this concert everyone must pay a few shillings. This seemed to be a volunteer proposition. Many people took part with solos, quartets, a saw solo, readings, etc. One lady was encored. The practice here is that if you encore people you must pay to have them return.

I do not know how the more seasoned minds judged the success of the conference, whether what they hoped to accomplish was accomplished or not, but to me it seemed a religious success.

If everyone over the world would work as hard for their church as these few members at Post Road have worked, we would all make great progress.

### Field Worker and Evangelist On the Home Field

At the July 24, 1955, Missionary Board meeting the following action was taken, "Voted that the board extend a call to Dr. Loyal F. Hurley to serve as Field Worker and Evangelist on the Home Field under the direction of the Missionary Board, beginning services as of June 1, 1956, at a salary of \$100 a month and with travel allowance of \$100 a month." It is expected that Social Security retirement payments will make it possible for Mr. and Mrs. Hurley to live on the small salary being offered to them.

This call was formally accepted by Dr. Hurley and was announced at General Conference. Mr. Hurley spoke during the Conference sessions telling of his plans for outreach in the churches which may request his services and assistance. It is hoped that he will not only win souls to Christ through his dynamic preaching but

it is also his expressed hope "to inspire other people to win souls to Christ."

Dr. Hurley will complete the 1955-56 school year at the Alfred University School of Theology where he is currently employed as Professor of Biblical Interpretation.

### Contributions of the Sabbath to Life

Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo says, "If there were no Sabbath, men would have to invent one to keep the world from going mad." We agree heartily with Dr. Sizoo.

But men need not invent a Sabbath. God in His wisdom sanctified and hallowed a day in the very beginning. He knew our needs and He provided for those needs. In very truth the Sabbath was made for man — a time when he could lay down the work of the week and rest in body and mind and have fellowship with his Creator.

Men need to have their run-down spiritual batteries recharged. They need to take time to think deeply into the meaning of life, to note the way their lives are going, to gain perspective, and restore their long-range goals in life. Otherwise the weekly routine of duties is apt to make us feel like squirrels in a cage on a wheel that goes round and round and never arrives anywhere. The Sabbath provides opportunity to enrich life, to give it a sense of purpose and mission, to give zest and spice to living.

All these things God knew when He rested on the Sabbath day and hallowed it and later commanded, "Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God."

As we very well know, the Sabbath commandment is given in the middle of the Ten Commandments. It has been called the Keystone Commandment. Before it, God commanded that He alone should be worshiped, that He would tolerate no idol worship; after it, the laws governing our relationship to one another were given in regard to killing, stealing, adultery, covetousness, honoring father and mother. Between these two basic laws of the universe — to love God and man —

stands the Sabbath, upholding these laws, sustaining them, providing the opportunity for them to be engraven on the heart.

The keystone in an archway is that central stone on which the two sides balance and find strength. Take away the keystone and the whole arch crumbles. Take away the Sabbath and there will be little regard for either God or man in a very short time.

Does the Sabbath make a contribution to life? As well ask, "Do the Commandments of God make a contribution to life?" Of course they do. They are the basis of civilization, and the Sabbath their support and strength and interpreter.

God said through Isaiah, "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on any holy day and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable . . . then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth. . . ." This is one of the "if" promises of the Bible. "If you will find joy in Sabbathkeeping, I will enrich your life and make it meaningful and blessed," is the message of the Lord.

If it is true that God blesses the home that keeps holy day, if life in that home is enriched and happy, that should be a contribution to real life.

A former dean of Alfred University once said, "If I did not think that keeping the seventh day Sabbath made a better man of me I wouldn't bother to keep it." And he did not mean any Sabbath; he meant the seventh day. I went to him and asked him to explain the statement further. He did and his explanation was along this line. I cannot give it verbatim, but in general this was his reason:

"Seventh day Sabbathkeeping is a test of loyalty — it takes a certain amount of will power and depth of conviction to stand out and be different. This testing of loyalty ties into the whole realm of Christian practice. Sabbathkeeping when based on conviction is a builder of character and influences the whole of life. To keep God's Holy Day with reverence and appreciation has made a better man of me in many intangible ways. It has had bearing upon my personal integrity and

## Women's Society Annual Meeting with sidelights by the co-editor of the Women's Page

Mrs. Lester Nelson

Approximately 125 women were in attendance at the annual meeting held at 2:30 Thursday afternoon of Conference at Fayetteville, Ark. Mrs. Leland Davis led the devotions, using as her topic, "For Such an Hour as This." The very timely and inspirational message was accompanied by the Scripture used on this year's Prayer Card (1 Peter 2: 2-11).

Mrs. R. T. Fetherston, our retiring president, gave an interesting summary of the projects for the past year and, before turning the meeting over to the new president, left us with some very kindly remarks about her interest in the work and her joy to have served in this capacity. (Those who have been privileged to work with her during these past years know that at times there were many hours of uphill struggles and discouragement for her but know, also, that when she said, "It has been a joy and pleasure to serve in this capacity," she meant it from the bottom of her heart.) How happy we are that she is not leaving the board — just moving over to make room for another consecrated and conscientious member, Mrs. A. Russell Maxson, of whom you will be hearing more about in the months to come.

The report of the Nominating Committee was heard and accepted. Those who have served faithfully but felt it necessary to resign this year were Mrs. Lou Hurley, Mrs. Gladys Hemminger, Mrs. Ernest

honesty, upon my willingness to stand up for my convictions in other matters."

Sabbathkeeping should make this practical difference in our lives — it should make us more loving and kind, more rich in the Christlike qualities of spirit, more willing to stand apart and be different from the careless, secular, worldly minded general run of the mill. I believe seventh day Sabbathkeeping could do this for us.

I pray that it may do this for us, and through us enrich the Christian faith of our day and all the world in which we live.

E. T. H.

Thorngate, Mrs. Leland Davis, and Mrs. Ellis Johanson.

New members replacing them are Mrs. Claire Merchant (new recording sec'y), Mrs. Percy Wright, Mrs. Ira Williams, Mrs. Leonard Wilkinson, and Mrs. Arnold Davis.

The new editor for the Women's Page is Mrs. George Parrish, who has named Mrs. Lester Nelson as co-editor.

The report of the Conference Committee on Women's Work was brought before the meeting. Two items that called for the most discussion were:

(1) Recommendation of the committee that the board investigate ways to use the services of young Seventh Day Baptist women trained for Christian service.

(2) The recommendation from the board that \$550 be used this year to assist wives of Seventh Day Baptist ministerial students in their own education.

Both recommendations were adopted.

Instead of a regular program at Conference this year, the Women's Board was asked to conduct a workshop each morning on "Music, Art, and Drama." Those attending these workshops felt they were very worth while and asked that workshops be continued during the year in associational meetings as well as next year at Conference. Many kind words were said about the "Program Packets," also the "Slides and Tape" concerning the Women's Board and its work. (Remember these are available upon request.)

The meeting was closed using the prayer written by Sarah Becker on this year's Prayer Card. Do you have your copy? If not, ask your key worker — she has one for you.

Remember: Every woman in the Seventh Day Baptist denomination is automatically a member of the Women's Society and has a vote. You are not only welcome but urged to attend and have a voice in every meeting possible! — G. N.

### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON for September 24, 1955

Renewed Allegiance to the Law

Lesson Scripture: Ezek. 20: 19-20;  
Neh. 9: 1-3; 10: 32, 35, 37-39.

## Children's Page

### Letter from Grandmother Lois Powell to Her Granddaughter

My dear Granddaughter:

There are, here and there, small and very lovely things to be found. One among many others is the music at dawn, in the early summertime, of a catbird, otherwise called the northern mockingbird. It is the prize songster of our morning chorus.

Some of my neighbors are surprised when I say the catbird is a beautiful singer, for they are never awake so early in the morning. After listening to radio or TV music until midnight, people prefer to sleep long after summer's beautiful dawn. As a result, those who have been night-hawks hear only the catbird's defense notes, uttered after enemies have begun to prey upon birds and their nestlings. So if snakes and other prowlers, including human beings, come too close to a catbird's nest, the parent birds fly excitedly about, or hop from twig to twig, imitating the mews of cats, or uttering other distressing and threatening cries.

The catbirds — both parents — are in appearance practically alike, about the size of robins, with plain slate-colored feathers. Their friendly manners when not frightened, and their fascinating songs, generally in early morning's dawn but sometimes in the daytime, have caused them to be called the northern mockingbird. Like their southern cousins they are very friendly birds.

I was favored by having a southern mockingbird come outside my window as a New Year's Day caller, the first winter I was in Florida. The bird seemed to like me, staying about fifteen minutes outside my window among the plants in a windowbox. Later in the season, when nesting and singing time came, it used to sit on the top of the chimney of the next house and give us frequent mockingbird solos, as we sat on the porch. I enjoyed the friendliness of that bird.

The northern mockingbird I have known more recently seems equally musical and friendly, and I marvel that it returns each

year to the same northern back yard, to sing at dawn, and later in the day to come to the porch for raisins, eating some and carrying some away to a tall maple tree where its nest is hidden. Its song has a spirit of triumph because it has been able to fly away south for the winter, and then return safely to this northern backyard.

It gives to me that sense of security it seems to sing about; and Psalm 124: 7 is really very true both to human lives and birds. May we be as confident, and say regarding the dangers around us, "Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken and we are escaped." Then in the words of verse 6, "Blessed be the Lord who hath not given us a prey to their teeth."

Watch for the lovely things you can find and tell us about them.

Grandmother Lois.

Dear Recorder Children:

I was sure I would receive letters from some of you, but not one single letter has made its appearance. Vacation time is a good time to write and it is almost over. I hope it has been an enjoyable vacation for all of you.

From the eighth to the sixteenth of this month my fifteen-year-old granddaughter and I spent visiting my son and family in Bridgeton and had a very enjoyable time. Neither flood nor tornado reached us but though the weather was pretty hot it was no warmer than Andover.

Now remember I'm hoping for several children's letters next time.

I'll close with the following verses:

#### God's Love and Care for Children

God cares for every little child

That on this great earth liveth.

He gives them home and food and clothes,  
And more than these God giveth.

He gives all their loving friends,

He gives each child its mother,

He gives them all the happiness

Of loving one another.

What can a little child give?

From His bright Heaven above

The great God smiles and reaches down  
To take His children's love.

In Christian love,  
Mizpah S. Greene.

## NEW MINISTERIAL RETIREMENT PLAN

Growing out of the suggestion of L. Harrison North in his report of the Conference Committee on Ministerial Retirement, came one of the most significant actions of the General Conference — an action which is expected to solve the serious problem of the relation between our denominational Ministerial Retirement plan and the Social Security program now available to those ministers who choose to pay into that fund.

Mr. North raised the problem which is posed to younger ministers who might find it almost impossible to pay for both the denominational and the government plan. Some have indicated that they desired to drop payments to and participation in the benefits of the present denominational plan. His committee suggested: "General Conference should consider the matter and take definite action so that our ministers will have this information before making their decision to join or not to join the Social Security plan."

The matter was taken up by the Committee on Reference and Counsel. Their solution of the problem was one of the most thoroughly discussed questions of Conference when it was presented at the 3-hour business meeting on Friday afternoon. With the help of a tape recording of that meeting, we here present that significant motion and some of the discussion which preceded its adoption:

"In order that ministers may, if they choose, elect to take Social Security, it is recommended that all ministers be relieved of their payments to the Retirement Fund and that an increase in the contributions of the churches be made from the present 4% to 6% of the pastor's salary; if parsonage is furnished, 15% to be added to the pastor's salary in determining the amount to be paid."

After it had been moved and seconded that this recommendation be adopted, Rev. Elmo F. Randolph asked, "In what position does this put the pastor of a church who does not choose to co-operate with the program (the denominational program)?"

Dr. Lewis May, a member of the Reference and Counsel Committee, an-

swered: "It was our opinion that it is the obligation of the church to provide in some small measure an amount of security for the ministers who serve our denomination. We did not feel that a cut in salary was indicated nor did we feel that we should involve ourselves in any way as to whether or not a minister wished to accept Social Security. Therefore it was decided by the committee that the burden of the Retirement Fund of the denomination should be assumed by the churches. This would leave the minister free to choose of his own accord whether he wished to participate in the Federal Social Security Act."

"Is this contradictory to the general trend of attempting to build up the fund?" asked someone.

Dr. May replied, "The increase, if collected, will provide an amount that is equal, and slightly in excess of the amount now being introduced into the fund. . . ."

"I would like to ask the question whether that minister who should choose to take Social Security should be eliminated from our denominational program or does he receive the same amount as the man who doesn't choose to take Social Security?" asked Rev. Duane Davis.

Courtland Davis replied both to Mr. Davis and to Mr. Randolph: "Our ministers have been contributing to the Ministerial Retirement Fund at the request of Conference — not all of them, some of them. Where does this put the minister who does not choose to contribute to our Retirement Fund? It puts him in a much better position than he has been before. His face no longer needs to be red, because Conference is now saying to him, 'You are no longer asked to contribute to the Ministerial Retirement Fund.' It puts the pastor who chooses to go into Social Security in complete freedom to do that. It leaves every one of our ministers participating in our Retirement Fund on the basis solely of their years of service to the denominational churches and agencies."

"Would this prohibit a minister from contributing to the Retirement Fund?" asked the president.

"Not at all," replied Mr. Davis, chairman of the committee, "as much as he

would like, through his church, or directly, or by bequest to the Endowment Fund."

"If this recommendation is approved by Conference, when will it go into effect?" inquired Rev. Elmo Randolph.

In the discussion which followed it was finally decided that in order to give the churches and agencies time to hold business meetings and adopt the 6% plan in place of the present 4% plan, a period of six months should be allowed.

Another suggestion made during the discussion, by Rev. Albert Rogers, we believe, was, "Perhaps it would be well for those of us in the ministry to abstain from voting on this question." It is presumed that the 40 or more ministers present did abstain from voting. Your editor remarked just prior to the vote: "If this is passed I would like to appeal to all brother ministers to continue payments until such time as the churches undertake it. It seems to me that that is only reasonable on the part of the ministers."

The motion to adopt this recommendation was finally passed without dissenting voice. A second recommendation provided that the Trustees of the Memorial Fund publicize this plan by sending out annual statements of the amount paid by and expected from the individual church. Suggestions were made about mimeographed letters to the churches, and quarterly instead of annual statements, but these were not written into the motion.

Much more will need to be said on Recorder pages and in church business meetings if this new plan is to succeed. It is a matter for the laymen to seriously consider.

**Other Gods.** The people of Israel had forsaken God for Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Milcom. We call that idolatry — and we still practice it.

A famous Chinese gentleman stood in the New York Stock Exchange not so long ago, after having visited our half-empty churches. He was so impressed with the furore and intensity of the Exchange that he cried, "Ah, this is their real religion! This is what they care about!" Well, is it? — Frank S. Mead in Tarbell's Teachers' Guide.

## RETURNED MISSIONARY SPEAKS

Mrs. O. B. Bond

"First of all I wish to bring you greetings from your friends in Jamaica. They love you though you have never met. It was really very difficult to leave when we felt that we had accomplished so little." So spoke Mrs. O. B. Bond just returned from two years of missionary teaching at Crandall High School. She and her husband, Dr. Bond, already at retirement age in the West Virginia school system, had given as much time to the mission work as their health would permit. They shared the missionary time available on the second morning of Conference.

"How I realized as never before how important it was to set a Christlike example, especially in patience, kindness, love, and humility," she pointedly remarked. Continuing: "I have a dream for the future young people of Jamaica in the curriculum of the new Crandall Vocational High School, and I only wish I could have been at least ten years younger. In fact, if I had it to do over again I would have started my dream in the present setup of Crandall High. I would like to see a course in Christian homemaking in our third and fourth year given under the guidance of a well-trained teacher, where the boys and girls would be trained in the importance to the new Jamaica of the establishment of Christian homes; where the father and mother share the home in Christian love, and the mother is a help-mate and not a servant obeying her husband; where the children feel loving and helpful attitudes toward parents, each other, and neighbors."

Speaking of the future of Jamaica as the possible capital of the proposed Federation of the West Indies she said, "I must pause here to say that Seventh Day Baptists have an opportunity to be in this expansion, and, if we act judiciously and with a well-planned program, we can. They will largely work through denominational schools as they have done in the elementary program, giving aid and assistance as standards are met. The Baptist people are making great advances, also the Presbyterians, the Christians, the Moravians. They are right now realizing the need for

secondary education, and they are rising to that need. How I wish that Seventh Day Baptists could do the same."

Mrs. Bond recounted her first experiences in Crandall High School and how her appreciation of the students changed:

"As I think back over the experience that first morning as I looked over that group of students — all black faces — I wondered if I would ever be able to know those children personally. I set myself that task the first week of school. I said, 'I am going to try to know every pupil in my class before the end of the week.' It was a difficult goal. So I began. It wasn't long until I never thought when I went into my classroom about the color of the faces — whether they were black, or a little lighter, or quite light, or very black. In fact, the only thing I would think of was that this is Sam that needs some help this morning and am I going to be able to help him to get what he needs today. I soon began to love those children to the point that when I left Jamaica I said, 'You are all my boys and girls and you always will be.'"

She reviewed their accomplishments thus: "We feel that we have left Crandall High School with a curriculum well planned, one that will work, and still fit into the British type of Cambridge examination which every student must pass if he expects to go into any kind of business or into any further school in Jamaica."

Commenting on what seemed to them to be an almost complete lack of equipment, she noted that when they looked around at the other independent secondary schools, "We began to find that really we were fortunate. In fact, the Education Department told us so."

During the course of her message she spoke high words of appreciation of all the special gifts of books and other school equipment which had been sent by interested friends — books which were put into use the day after they were received, microscopes, and office supplies.

She spoke of certain pupils whose lives had been changed, students of ability who said they wanted to teach in the school and be a credit to the denomination. "Now you see," she pointed out, "we have

in Jamaica prospects. If we can keep those prospects alive and keep them going, then we can answer our own teacher problem." Teachers like Rev. Socrates Thompson, who has a degree from Milton College, could get several times as much salary in a government school but he feels that he must be loyal to those who have helped him.

She closed with a story of one of the boys now being helped by the Ashaway, R. I., Church who wants to prepare to be a missionary: "They are thinking of their future and we must help them to build that future and build it well. I hope that I can inspire you to feel a challenge for mission work. I hope there may be in this audience some young person or young persons who will begin to think about work in Jamaica or other fields. There will be a need soon. Please take it as a challenge."

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

The American Social Hygiene Association in its publicity sheet, notes that blindness due to venereal disease has dropped 40% since 1940 and claims a large amount of credit for that improvement. Dr. Franklin M. Foote states that venereal disease is still a major cause of blindness in the U. S., being responsible for 5% to 9% of blindness, or 17,000 to 30,000 blind persons in this country.

In Europe, America, and elsewhere religious thought is returning hopefully to the Bible. The Bible has ever proven its authority when men have turned to it in times of crisis or calamity. It does not yield its deepest secrets when approached in a faithless or negative attitude. But when men reverently and lovingly turn to it as the Word of God, or to discover honestly if it be the Word of God, the search is rewarding and deeply satisfying. — From "Abiding Values in Christian Education" by Harold C. Mason (Fleming H. Revell Company).

Strange as it may seem, a recent survey indicates that there are twice as many churches in the U. S. which serve food in their community rooms than there are

hotels serving meals. When 30,000 churches serve food, the Hotpoint Company concludes that churches are as important a market for kitchen facilities as hotels. This does not necessarily imply that churches are placing more emphasis on goodies than the Gospel. It will be recalled that when our Lord conducted an all-day service He had compassion on the multitude and satisfied their physical as well as their spiritual hunger.

#### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SHILOH, N. J. — The pastor's sermons this summer have been on the theme "Opening the Doorway to God," designed to improve our devotional experiences. This theme was developed through the following: "Opening the Door Through Cleansing," "Opening the Door Through Meditation," "Opening the Door Through Prayer," "Through Bible Study," "Through the Family Altar," "Through Public Worship," "Through Consecration."

South Jersey Camp was held in July with 26 boys and girls attending. The theme for the year was "Rooted and Grounded in Christ." As a result of this camp experience eight of our young boys and girls accepted their Lord and asked to be baptized and join the church.

A one-day Retreat was held for the older youth group at Cobb's Mill. There were 19 who attended and the theme developed for the day was "Missions, at Home and Abroad."

As it is the custom of our choir each summer to take a vacation, we have enjoyed having special music each Sabbath by guest soloists or from our own local talent.

Four members of our church attended Conference this year and the reports were given on Sabbath afternoon, August 27. Secretary Everett T. Harris was present and also gave some of his impressions of this year's meetings.

Pastor Lippincott and his family left early Sunday morning, August 28, for an extended trip through the West. They expect to be gone five weeks. Our guest ministers during this time will be Rev. Amos Pepper and Rev. Robert DeRemer.

— Correspondent.

## Accessions

Shiloh, N. J.

By Baptism:

Mary Harris  
Eleanor Fogg  
Gretchen Swing  
Elizabeth Dickinson  
David Hitchner  
David Dunn  
Jeffrey Harris  
James Bonham

## Marriages

**Burdick - Brelsford.** — The wedding of Stanley B. Burdick, son of Rev. and Mrs. Paul S. Burdick, and Catherine Brelsford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Brelsford of Bristol, R. I., took place Aug. 21, 1955, at Silver Bay, N. Y., on Lake George. The father of the groom performed the ceremony. The couple will reside at Middletown, Conn.

## Obituaries

**Briggs.** — Paul, the son of Henry and Phebe Briggs, was born June 3, 1929, and died in a Boston hospital, July 30, 1955.

After serving for four years in the United States Navy, he was employed in the Pfizer Chemical Plant at New London, Conn. He was married to Therese Jennings of New London.

Mr. Briggs died after a brief illness, of obscure cause.

Funeral services and burial at the Waterford Cemetery took place on August 2. His wife, a son, Mark Paul, his parents, and several brothers and sisters remain. P. S. B.

**Fitzgerald.** — Annie Davis, daughter of David C. and Margaret Davis, was born in Wales and died after a lingering illness at the Andriola Convalescent Home at Groton, Conn., August 20, 1955, aged 73 years, 10 months.

Her first marriage was to William E. Pritchard, and to them were born two children: William, of East Hampton, Conn., and Margaret (Mrs. Arnold Holm), of Waterford, Conn. Her second marriage was to Walter E. Fitzgerald, and to them was born a son, Thomas, now of Poquonock Bridge, Conn.

Mrs. Fitzgerald had been a faithful member of the Waterford Seventh Day Baptist Church for twenty-nine years.

Surviving are her husband, three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. The funeral was held at the Waterford Church, and burial was in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

P. S. B.



## DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET

Statement of the Treasurer, July 31, 1955

Receipts		July	10 months
Balance, July 1	\$	81.74	
Adams Center	\$		475.00
Albion		36.67	373.32
Alfred, First		294.75	2,951.69
Alfred, Second			663.95
Associations and groups		1,170.50	1,546.92
Battle Creek		888.63*	4,263.33*
Berlin		18.00	293.50
Boulder		34.93	367.20
Brookfield, First		50.00*	168.00
Brookfield, Second			206.50
Buffalo		49.50*	157.50*
Chicago		140.00*	1,151.00*
Daytona Beach		32.95	608.11*
Denver		41.75	664.38
De Ruyter		63.50*	1,043.13*
Dodge Center		106.12*	476.62
Edinburg			69.36
Farina		15.00	170.00
Fouke		85.16*	227.10
Friendship		44.00*	100.00
Hammond		30.00*	130.10
Hebron, First		12.31	129.82
Hopkinton, First		227.50*	1,027.45
Hopkinton, Second		20.00	90.00
Independence		80.00*	697.00*
Indianapolis		43.00*	162.60*
Individuals		12.00	2,177.61
Irvington			300.00
Kansas City		25.00*	35.00*
Little Genesee		39.45	443.41
Los Angeles		25.00	700.80
Los Angeles, Christ's			50.00*
Lost Creek			886.55
Marlboro		179.29*	1,787.54*
Middle Island		28.00*	135.38
Milton		453.95	3,692.49
Milton Junction		158.02	1,335.03
New Auburn		20.71	94.02
New York		10.00	201.70
North Loup			514.97
Nortonville		68.53	559.03
Pawcatuck		325.00	3,551.18
Philadelphia			63.00
Piscataway		26.50	191.50
Plainfield		253.25	3,294.87
Putnam County			106.00*
Richburg		68.00*	233.00
Ritchie			55.00
Riverside			3,240.28*
Roanoke		10.00	133.00
Rockville		14.88	129.70
Salem		125.00	785.00
Salemville			245.63
Schenectady		45.00*	480.90*
Shiloh		254.00*	3,144.14*
Stone Fort			60.00
Syracuse			50.00*
Twin Cities		30.00*	103.50*
Verona		48.00	688.42
Walworth		45.00*	130.00
Washington		15.00	150.00
Waterford		47.58*	320.25
White Cloud		96.43*	614.05
Totals	\$	5,989.60	\$48,896.53

## Disbursements

	Budget	Specials
Missionary Society	\$2,260.26	\$ 184.58
Tract Society	465.55	
Board of Christian Education	430.44	
School of Theology	471.75	
Women's Society	248.89	
Historical Society	82.11	
Ministerial Retirement	635.46	267.49
S. D. B. Building	89.23	
General Conference	715.53	
World Fellowship and Service	17.85	
S. D. B. Memorial Fund		100.00
Bank of Milton, service charge	1.84	
Balance, July 31	18.62	
Totals	\$5,437.53	\$ 552.07

## Comparative Figures

	1955	1954
Receipts in July:		
Budget	\$5,355.79	\$2,939.00
Specials	552.07	494.10
Receipts in 10 months:		
Budget	43,984.78	33,433.46
Specials	4,861.75	9,003.23
Current Budget	70,750.00	63,121.22
Percentage of budget raised to date	62.2%	53.0%

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

The asterisks are for those churches which are currently ahead of their suggested targets.

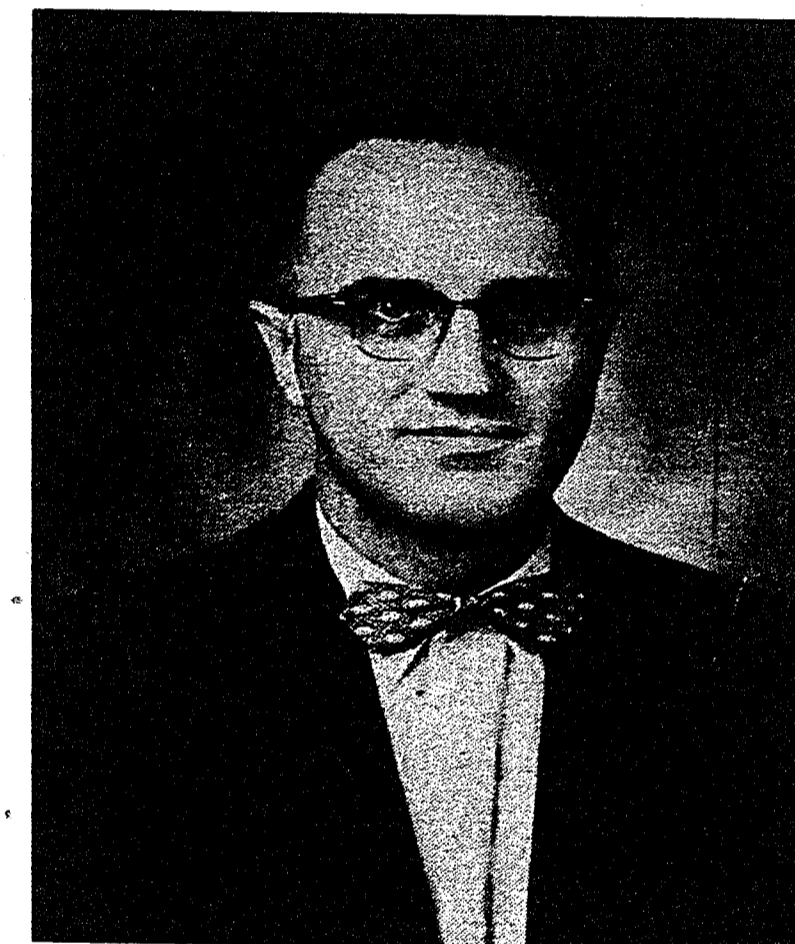
## Generosity

In a great burst of false generosity Louis XI once made a solemn deed and covenant giving the entire Province of Boulogne to the Virgin Mary in perpetuity. Louis reserved "all the revenues thereof" for himself. There are a great number of superficially pious people today who say, "We are living under grace and have given all that we have to God!" But you will notice that they still keep practically all of it for themselves. It seems reasonable that God would still prefer the tithe in cold cash. — From *Developing a Giving Church*, by W. E. Grindstaff. (Fleming H. Revell Company.)

"Grasshopper faith" and "grasshopper psychology" are the terms applied by Editor Kenneth Morse in "Gospel Messenger" to those who advocate missionary retrenchment in the face of such giants as Communism, nationalism, and revolution.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1955

# The Sabbath Recorder



REV. CHARLES H. BOND

President of the  
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference  
for the year beginning October 1, 1955

Scripture for the year: Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

Theme: Be happy — you are the light of the world. — Matt. 5: 11, 14.