

The Sabbath Recorder

us his interpretation of an expanded "Program for Extension and Growth." We realize that we are at a crossroads but under his leadership of courage and conviction we must redouble our efforts to let our city know of Seventh Day Baptists and the truths for which they stand. We have a great work to do in Denver. Through our ministration we pray that many may come to know and accept Christ and His Sabbath. — Correspondent.

MILTON JUNCTION, WIS. — About sixty were present October 15 for the party honoring the Rev. Kenneth Smith and family. Farewell messages were given by President Percy Dunn of Milton College, the Rev. A. H. Lambright, representing the local Ministers' Council, and the Rev. Elmo F. Randolph of the Milton Church. A piece of silver and a gift of money were presented to the Smiths by the church. Our best wishes go with them.

We had no services at our church October 12. About 20 of our members were privileged to attend meetings of the North Central Association at New Auburn, Wis. Pastor Smith preached his final sermon on October 19. The morning service on October 26 was conducted by the Rev. Cecil Dawson of the local Methodist churches. The Rev. John F. Randolph brought us the morning message on November 2. We accepted the invitation of the Milton Church to join with them for morning worship and "Meal of Sharing" on November 9. Our pulpit supply on November 16 was Justin Camenga, a Milton College student who has assisted us in various ways in the past. The Rev. Elmo F. Randolph brought us the message on November 23 when our Lord's Acre projects for the year were dedicated. Deacon Charles Burdick was in charge of the worship service on November 30.

Prayer meetings have been conducted by the laymen during the period in which we are awaiting the arrival of our new pastor, the Rev. Victor Skaggs.

Plans have been made for a joint service of the Albion and Milton Junction Churches at Milton Junction on December 7. Mr. Skaggs will be installed as pastor of the two churches at the morning worship service. There will be an afternoon of fellowship following dinner which will be served by the host church. — Correspondent.

Marriages

Price-Hall. — On Sabbath, August 10, 1957, B. Hampton Price of Palatka, Fla., and Leah Mary Hall of Georgetown, Fla., were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Padgett Hall of Georgetown, by Pastor Clifford A. Beebe.

Births

Brauer. — A daughter, Vicki Lynn, to Alice (Hemming) and Roger Brauer of Urbana, Ohio, on August 19, 1957.

Burdick. — A daughter, Patricia Ruth, to Robert and Barbara Burdick of Milton, Wis., on Nov. 6, 1957.

Clarke. — A son, George Douglas, to Rev. and Mrs. David S. Clarke of Boulder, Colo., on Nov. 20, 1957.

Obituaries

Beebe. — Clarence V., son of DeLoss and Helen MacIntire Beebe, was born in Brookfield, N. Y., Sept. 2, 1881, and was killed instantly when struck by an automobile in front of his home at Orange, Conn., Nov. 21, 1957.

For the past several years Mr. and Mrs. Beebe have made their home with their daughter, Mrs. Howard E. Kuehn. Mr. Beebe was a faithful member of the Westerly Church and never failed to send a message to be read at the covenant meeting and attended services when his health and transportation permitted.

Besides his wife, Susan Saunders Beebe, and the daughter mentioned, he leaves a son, James D., and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday, November 24, with his pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Bond, officiating. Burial was in the Oak Grove Cemetery, Ashaway, R. I. — C. H. B.

Lewis. — Elizabeth Allis, daughter of Jere P. and Farozina St. John Allis, was born in Unadilla Forks, N. Y., May 26, 1876, and died at her home in Plainfield, N. J., Sept. 15, 1957.

When a young child her parents moved to Plainfield, N. J. She was baptized and joined the Seventh Day Baptist Church March 2, 1888. Her love for the church was manifested by her active participation in and generous support of all its interests. She was distinguished for her love of young people.

She was married to Nathan E. Lewis, April 29, 1902. To them were born two sons: Donald Earle, of Ashaway, R. I., and Kenneth Ward, of Scotch Plains, N. J. She is survived by her husband and sons and six grandchildren.

Farewell services were conducted at the Memorial Funeral Home, Sept. 18, 1957, by Rev. Roland Bahnsen. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Plainfield. E. S.



In a land of abundance, in comfortable homes that know no want, will be heard the patter of little feet down open stairways. Christian families the world over will gather 'round the glistening tree thankful for toys and useful gifts; thankful for the greatest gift of God's love to us.

The Sabbath Recorder

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Star in the East

Almost 2000 years ago wise men from the East who had probably spent long years in contemplation of the stars saw a strange star appear. These men, whose names are only traditional, were recognized in their own day as wise men by the kings of the earth. History has verified that terminology. Wise in their own right, they were doubly wise in recognizing the significance of that strange star. It led them to the cradle of a King whom they honored with royal gifts and whom they worshiped as one who was greater than a king. Somehow they knew. They were wise.

Today, men from the East are worldly wise, men whose minds are remarkably filled with scientific data have succeeded in setting in motion that which appears as a star circling the earth in an established orbit. None can question the wisdom of these men. It must be recognized, however, that their knowledge has limitations which could be removed if they would give heed to the example of the wise men mentioned in the second chapter of Matthew. Unfortunately they live in a vast eastern land where the ruling party is openly hostile to what might be called "Caravans to Bethlehem." They are practically forbidden to look beyond earth-bound satellites or to bow the knee before Him to whom the star of Bethlehem pointed.

Millions of people have seen a strange star in the heavens. They are disturbed and distressed, for it does not seem to be connected in any way with heaven or with peace on earth. There is danger that many insecure people whose thoughts might turn under other circumstances to the star of Bethlehem, will think instead about a little man-made moon carrying a dead dog which at nighttime picks up the reflection of the sun and throws it back to the skywatchers.

We can be wise men in such a time as this. Wisdom, after all, is not so much a matter of scientific knowledge evidenced by astronomical calculations and engineering achievements; it is the interpretation of things temporal in the light of things eternal. We can interpret the temporarily disturbing implications of this strange "star" in the heavens if we relate it to Christ. Instead of being thrown into a

DECEMBER 16, 1957

panic as was Herod of old, we can conclude with the wise men from outside the recognized "church" that now is the time to recognize God's provision for our salvation and eternal security.

We who have wisdom will calm the fears of others "whose hearts fail them for fear," those who forget the natal star of the King as they gaze furtively into space. There is no change in the eternal significance of the entrance into the sphere of men's vision of the star of Bethlehem. If fears arise, we should echo the voice of the angels assuring the shepherds that God's message is one of great joy. Now is the time to bow in worship.

Town and City Churches

Three quarters of the churches affiliated with the American Baptist Convention are in town and country places with populations under 10,000. . . . But over half the American Baptist membership lives in cities of 10,000 or more population!

Would someone like to check the situation in the Seventh Day Baptist denomination? The best source of information might be the master-mailing list maintained by the Women's Board. There are certainly a large number of nonresident members of village churches living in urban centers.

The problem of the urban church is far different for a major denomination than for a small one. Baptists as others have two big questions to answer: whether to stay in the downtown section and serve a community that is culturally and racially different from that which established the church, or to fan out into the suburbs with more churches to meet the needs of city-centered population increases in those areas.

The smaller denomination with distinctive beliefs such as ours faces primarily the problem of having one accessible church which will draw its attendance from all suburbs. An added problem in that case is the probability that the church will not be able to draw any substantial attendance from its immediate area. Pastoring such a church has its difficulties, especially in Christian education — building up the Sabbath School or the young people's

MEMORY TEXT

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. Psalm 72: 10, 11.

work. How can a distant church provide the Christian social life desired when there is so little feeling of community.

For an informative, graphic report on the situation throughout the nation in the American Baptist Church, see the December Crusader. In a very large block of states they show a decline in membership. The maps seem to show Baptist decline in most of the states where Seventh Day Baptist churches are more numerous. Our denomination has also declined. Is there something lacking in zeal or have our people moved to states where there are no churches?

God in Space

Communism and atheism cannot be sifted apart. The Christian is practically compelled to think of both as chaff blown out of the fanning mill. The Bible says that the ungodly are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. But this chaff can be quite irritating when it gets in the eyes of those who are cleaning the golden grain.

The case in point is an item in Neues Deutschland, the East German Communist newspaper, quoted in the New York Times. The paper (Dec. 4) claims that the Soviet earth satellites "demonstrate to the masses of the people very clearly that space beyond our earth is neither at the mercy of a god nor of any other supernatural or imaginary powers." It appears that the Communist press is trying to get every possible advantage out of this scientific achievement. We believe that the paper has misjudged the intelligence of "the masses of the people." The people know that these excursions into the edge of space no more disprove the existence and power of God than does the exploration of the atom. God is not measured

by miles of space. Rather, God is measuring man, particularly those men who scoff at the judgment to come. We may be slightly irritated by this chaff. It would perhaps be better to laugh (as God is sometimes pictured as doing). But while we laugh at the absurdities, let us pray for the people who spread them and those who breathe in such dust.

No educated people can think of an orbiting object sent up from the surface of the earth as the first look into space. Astronomers have been telling us about the immensity of space, lo, these many years, and it has not ruled out our concept of the Ruler of space. In the May 8 *Westerly Sun* there was a photograph of the comet Arend-Roland taken by telescope at Mt. Palomar observatory by Dr. George O. Abell. It was said to be at that time 170 million miles from the earth. When it approached the earth next April, the item stated, it would make a spectacular appearance visible to the naked eye. We have a big God in a planned universe, but also a God who is interested in your soul and mine — and the souls of those who seek to deny His existence.

Baptist World Congress

When the Baptist World Congress meets in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1960, such large crowds are expected that new ships and planes are now being built to carry the people. A wholesale travel organization, Brownwell Tours, of Birmingham, Ala., has been engaged to co-ordinate the travel through local travel agencies in 48 states. Already, in 1957, whole blocks of hotel rooms in Rio and throughout South America have been reserved for the 1960 Congress.

The Baptist World Alliance, with which Seventh Day Baptists are affiliated, is interested in encouraging a maximum number of people to attend. It might be an opportune time for some of our people who are financially able to do so to visit some of the people who are carrying on work in our name. Travel will undoubtedly be much more economical in connection with these tours than at other times.

Children's Happy Faces

The happiest season of the year is now with us. Christmas time has come to be very largely a time when our thoughts turn to making our children happy. Something is lacking, definitely lacking, if we have no little ones somewhere in the family circle to whom we can give presents. Call it selfish if you will, but it does give us much more joy to give to children than to adults.



In the accompanying picture two sisters from a Midwest Sabbathkeeping home are happy with their dolls. We cannot be sure that the dolls are the source of their happiness. Knowing the faith of the mother, we are inclined to think that the source of their smiles lies deeper than the dolls they hold. Gifts bestowed once a year are an expression of love but those whom we really love are made to feel that love almost constantly.

There are some rich gifts that are continuously poured out upon us by a loving heavenly Father. Others come to us in response to prayer in times of need. Still others we receive on a once-in-a-lifetime basis. Salvation, the Scripture says, is the gift of God; it is in this last class. The receiving of that gift, whenever it comes, flavors all the remaining years of life with

glowing joy if we stay close to the Giver.

What we celebrate at this season is the anniversary of a gift which, by its very nature, could be presented to the world but once in all history, the gift of God's Son. "His name," said the angel of the Lord to Joseph, "thou shalt call 'Jesus,' for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1: 21). The shepherds on Judea's hills, though they were rugged men, accepted the news of that birth when it came with the joy of children. The angel spoke clearly to them of "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2: 10). Not until many years had passed and the full measure of the Messianic gift had been bestowed, did the truth of this announcement begin to bring that individual joy which throughout history has come to those who personally accept the gift of salvation.

God thinks in terms of children whom He longs to make happy. He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to eternal life. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He reminded them that as parents they liked to give good gifts to their children. "How much more," He suggested, "shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" The indwelling Spirit is the source of the Christian's joy.

Is it wrong to make our children happy with dolls or other appropriate gifts by which they are made to look forward in imagination to the time when they will be like their parents in love and responsibility? Not at all — unless in so doing we forget the unfortunate children of the world who are being reared in physical and spiritual poverty — children for whom Christ died.

Next Issue

It is expected that the back page of the December 23 issue will carry the report of the denominational treasurer for the month of November. What will it reveal about the level of giving? Be sure to read it carefully. Note what your own church did in relation to its possibilities and in relation to others of like size.

MISSIONS — Sec. Everett T. Harris

Nyasaland News

Mrs. David Pearson (Bettie Butler Pearson) has written a challenging article for this issue of the Sabbath Recorder in which she tells of new opportunities for missionary service in the Chikwawa district. From a study of our map this area seems to be approximately 50 miles distant from Makapwa Mission.

Mrs. Pearson adds a bit of news as to the progress of the work at the Mission Center. She writes, "School started according to schedule on October 2 and kept things going in quite a swirl for the first two or three weeks until we got settled. Enrollment is down slightly from last year, but we still have plenty of students. I am teaching the older girls handwork two days each week as our new girls' supervisor has had no training in sewing. David is teaching the Standard V Bible class, and we all get our hands in the problems."

She adds a bit of personal news concerning their daughter Deborah, born at the Mission Center in December 1955: "Debby is not a baby any more, but a real little girl that keeps everything alive. Her vocabulary is about one part Chinyanja to three of English."

New Opportunities

By Mrs. David C. Pearson

There is a large area in the southeast portion of Nyasaland where we have had no Seventh Day Baptist work. We have had students to come to our school from there, and some of them have proved to be very fine and consecrated boys. Our ministerial candidate, Otrain Manan, lives in the Chikwawa district, in that area. He has witnessed to his family and friends when home for holidays, and we thought it would be a step forward in our efforts here to work toward establishing a church in his home community.

One Friday morning a group of us started out southward. Our party consisted of Pastor Leman Mungoni and his nephew, Armson Makwere; one of our former students from that area, Paul Ngirazi;

Debby's "nannie," Ethel Kalonga; and we three Pearsons. After a stop here and a stop there, a brief call at one mission and then another, and a long dusty ride first through the hills, then down in the plains, we arrived and were greeted by Otrain and his relatives. In the clean, neat home of his brother we were shown our place to stay and provided with the necessary aids to comfortable village living.

We had good meetings on Sabbath eve, Sabbath morning, and the following night. Our students who were there took an active part in the services and showed their interest and ability. The Sabbath morning service was especially rewarding as we saw more than 20 who stated their desire to take the Lord into their hearts. Our burden was great as we prayed with them and tried to give encouragement. Knowing that they would have with them no one older in the faith to give them help after the boys left, we had to give them the most possible at that time. It was interesting to work with people in a place where our churches had not been established, and to see their attitude toward our message. Sabbath afternoon we went out to neighboring villages for services, and found very few Christians among all those present at each place.

On our return Otrain came with us to continue his newly begun pastoral work with the Chikanda Church. He has had correspondence with his family and reports that they are meeting together each Sabbath, but desire further help. Plans are being made for one of our pastors and an assistant to go soon and nourish this group in the Christian way.

When Otrain had been planning and announcing the meetings, he had gone to a prominent pastor in the area (a member of a Sundaykeeping mission) to tell him of our coming. This man was quite antagonistic toward our entry into the area and claimed that it was "his" and no other group had a right to enter. Otrain replied, "But there are still heathen here, and we want to preach to them." And we found that to be quite true. We regret this attitude of another mission, but feel that it is our duty here to preach the Gospel and teach the commandments of God as

we Seventh Day Baptists understand them. We believe that God would also have these people of Chikwawa district to hear our message.

Before returning to Makapwa, we visited with Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Barr of Chididi Mission, several miles further south, and had a good time of fellowship with them and others of their mission.

Giving the Bible Back to the Greeks

The New Testament was written in Greek and its message first went to the world in that language both in spoken and written form during the first centuries of the Christian era. But the Greeks lost the Bible through the centuries as their language underwent changes. The American Mission to the Greeks points out that few modern Greeks can read the Greek New Testament which is found on the desk of every well-educated minister. They must have it taken to them in their present language.

In co-operation with the Million Testaments Campaign of Philadelphia, Pa., the American Mission to the Greeks has published a Modern Greek New Testament which is also used extensively by the American Bible Society.

Christians across America are welcoming a new and unusual type of radio broadcast. "The Voice of Greece" program, heard on several 50,000 watt stations, is a new expository-missionary broadcast sponsored by the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., with headquarters in New York, and featuring the mission's general secretary, Rev. Spiros Zodhiates.

The "Voice of Greece" broadcast has a twofold objective. The first is to bring a true-to-the-Word diet of spiritual food to Christians and to seekers of the truth as it is in Christ. The second is to enlist interest and sympathy in behalf of a people as needy as are to be found anywhere in the world today. The American Mission to Greeks has been used of God mightily in its fifteen years of existence to bring life, hope, and healing to thousands in that stricken land, by the will and assistance of the Lord's people in America.

The Christ of Christmas . . .

By Rev. Oswald J. Smith

Nearly two thousand years ago there was born in Bethlehem of Judea a babe whose life was destined to affect countless millions. That babe was Jesus Christ.

The time was ripe for His birth. Roman roads had been built throughout the civilized world in preparation for the feet of His future messengers. The Greek language had become almost universal in readiness for the proclamation of His Gospel.

The people among whom He was born were poor and despised, having been conquered by the Roman power. In the heart of every man was a cry for deliverance.

The world knew not of His birth. Work went on as usual. There was no tremendous upheaval announcing a new order. Kings and potentates continued to rule as before. Nothing outwardly heralded His advent into the world.

Only heaven appeared to be interested. In fact God had to arrange a welcome for Himself, and so legions of angels circled the skies and heralded His birth. Wise men from the East, studying the stars and observing an unusual phenomenon in the heavens, came with their gifts from afar.

Rulers learned of His birth and became fearful and afraid. Anger filled their hearts. Murder was conceived and executed. Fearful of losing their power, they sought His death by every possible means.

Every diabolical plan that satanic ingenuity could devise was used to destroy Him. Demons trembled. Satan became enraged. All hell was allied against Him. But God was watching and He lived in spite of it all.

He did not come to a palace with marble halls and carpeted stairs. No luxurious bed chamber was prepared for His birth.

Neither nurses nor doctors were in attendance. Cathedral bells failed to toll; bands were silent. No royal choruses burst forth in song. Only the heavenly orchestras were heard. He came to a stable, and was laid in a manger.

He was destined, however, to be recognized by countless millions as the greatest of all prophets, the mightiest of all the mighty, the Savior of the world, God incarnate.

And now for nearly two thousand years His birth has been commemorated. More than nineteen hundred Christmas days have come and gone since that never-to-be-forgotten night, and boys and girls, as well as men and women the world over, have kept sacred the memory of His birth.

God grant that throughout the land hearts may be turned to Christ as Savior and receive through Him the gift of eternal life, not only to the Babe born so long ago, but to the One who lives today and lives to save. For He it is who became flesh and dwelt amongst us. He, the resurrected, living Christ of God, was the Babe of Bethlehem's manger.

God commendeth His love toward us through the gift of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Make this Gift yours this Christmas Day and rejoice with the Lord, who said, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5: 24).

(May be obtained in beautiful tract form by writing to the American Tract Society, 513 West 166th Street, New York 32, N. Y.)

Another Subscription Reminder

Now is the time to write to your friends and acquaintances that you are arranging to have the **Sabbath Recorder** sent to them for the next calendar year — a lasting gift which may be much appreciated and passed on to others. You can be billed later if necessary. Don't let your good intentions wither on the vine. Make your Christmas more Christian by giving a Christian magazine — this one.

WOMEN'S WORK — Arabeth M. DeLand

Family Worship for Christmas

There is not much connection between Christmas and Christ for far too many people in America. Santa Claus and commercialism have taken over the holiday. Yet without Christ there is really nothing about which to sing or rejoice. So I would like to suggest that each family plan a worship service for Christmas Eve and experience the true joy of Christmas in your family circle. Of course, each family will differ in its interests and the ages of its members, so you can choose what will be the most appropriate for your family. Here are a few suggestions of the type of things my family enjoys.

The Family Sings Together

Do members of your family sing as they do their tasks around the house? Singing together is an added joy of family sharing. Have each member name a Christmas song and see if he can look up a passage of Scripture to go with it, such as:

Joy to the World — Ps. 98: 4-9.

Silent Night — Luke 2: 7, 8, and 11.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing — Luke 2: 13, 14.

While Shepherds Watched — Luke 2: 8-14.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (v. 4)
— Isaiah 9: 6, 7.

We Three Kings — Matt. 2: 1-11.

Sing a carol whose words are most familiar to all, such as "Silent Night" or "Away in a Manger." Then perhaps you would like to choose a less familiar song and all learn a stanza or two to be sung from memory. If the tune is not familiar to all, some member of the family could play it through on whatever instrument he plays, before it is sung together.

The Family Story Time

Younger children always enjoy a colored picture, so perhaps the oldest child could find a Christmas picture of the Madonna, or the angels appearing to the shepherds, or a manger scene, and then tell the Christmas story to the others. The younger children can participate by telling what they see in the picture. Or perhaps the

father would like to read some favorite Christmas story to the family.

The Family Meditation

Luke 2: 11: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. "Unto you" is a personal message. "This day" is the present, and we must confess our sins and accept the Savior before we will really know the blessings of Christmas. Repeat in unison John 3: 16. What means most to us at Christmas time? What presents do we like best — the most expensive, or the thoughtful ones received from loved ones who have given of themselves with their gift? Christ is God's personal gift to us. God's gift was expensive, as it cost Him suffering and death for our sake. Christmas makes us thankful receivers, and in turn Christmas gladness shines in our hearts when we give to others. We pray that Christmas joy and peace will come to the whole world, as we know that all people belong to God's family.

"Better than the observance of Christmas Day is the idea of keeping Christmas. Are you willing, for example, to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what they have done for you? To put your rights in the background, your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground?"

"Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children? To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old? To stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough? Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world — stronger than death — and that the blessed Life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

"And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone."
— From "Keeping Christmas" by Henry van Dyke.

The Family Plans Together

What is our response to God for His most precious gift? Do we love, honor, and worship Him? You have remembered your family and friends with gifts at this season, but have you forgotten whose birthday we celebrate? Is there "no room in the inn" of our hearts as we busy ourselves with the many holiday preparations? Let each one of us think of some gift we can make to Jesus, or some way to share our Christmas joy with others. It would be easy to think of doing something special for a close neighbor or friend, so try to think of someone you do not know well, or even do something for someone you have differed with, or someone you may think does not like you very well. Make definite plans to carry out your ideas between Christmas Day and the next Sabbath.

"Hosanna, Master, lo we bring
our offerings to Thy throne:
Not gold, or myrrh, no mortal thing,
but hearts to be Thine own."

The Family Prays Together

Ask each member to give a short sentence prayer and close with this litany.

Reader: O God, for the gift of Thy dear Son, whose birth we celebrate this Christmas Eve, and who suffered death to be our Savior,

All: We give You grateful praise.

Reader: For His example, and promise to always be with us if we but seek His guidance,

All: We give You grateful praise.

Reader: For love that gives, and love that receives, for family love, and love of friends, and for the vision of the brotherhood of mankind,

All: We give You grateful praise.

Reader: May the spirit of joy be with us in all we do each day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

When your girl decided that you and she were going to be married, she wanted you to say your vows before a man of God, over the Word of God, in the house of God. — From "The Church," a tract.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

Christian Higher Education

A special issue of the *International Journal of Religious Education* which will be published in February, 1958, will deal with the relationship of "Church and College." The issue is being done at the request and with the help of the National Council's Commission on Christian Higher Education. Every pastor and every parent of a child eligible for college will find articles of interest. A copy of this special publication can be purchased for 50¢ from the *International Journal of Religious Education*, Box 238, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y., or through the Board of Christian Education, Box 15, Alfred Station, N. Y.

Sabbath Truth

(The following is from the foreword and preface of a forthcoming tract called "Sabbath Truths and Their Propagation" by George A. Main.)

It is the self-evident privilege and duty of those who hold some distinguishing belief, considered by them as sufficiently important to justify separate denominational existence, to thoroughly publicize such belief, even though such policy may reduce in other spheres their evangelistic efforts.

The Ten Commandments are exalted throughout both the Old and New Testaments as the eternal law of Jehovah and His Son. They have always been and still are recognized as the most perfect of all moral codes, with the single exception of the Fourth Commandment, which is not only almost universally disobeyed but which is generally repudiated, being nominally changed by substituting the first day for the specified seventh day of the week.

The average church-member knows little about the origin and history of the religious observance of either the seventh or the first day of the week, generally being satisfied to accept the religious habits, if any, of his parents, denominations, or churches, without question. They are not often encouraged to ascertain the facts as to the weekly rest-day which

might disclose unpopular or unpleasant findings.

Here are a few of the duties incumbent on all Sabbath believers who wish to share the blessings of obedience with their fellow men:

1. Encourage greater emphasis upon the importance of Sabbath observance.
2. Try to increase interest in all Sabbath facts.
3. There should always be available in some form the principal Sabbath truths, not only the Biblically recorded facts, but also those so marvelously preserved in human history and revealed through natural science.
4. It should be especially stressed that Christianity means "the precepts and doctrines taught by Christ" while upon earth personally, and that He specifically exalted the Law of God and its Sabbath, but definitely warned His followers against the substituting of the traditions of men for the Law of God.
5. Endeavor to develop enthusiasm for Sabbath reform commensurate with the importance of the Sabbath to the welfare and happiness of mankind.
6. Instruct the uninformed as to where to procure the facts concerning the Sabbath and Sunday and related matters.
7. Give all possible assistance in employing the best methods of teaching and otherwise publicizing Sabbath truths and of arousing all to their vital importance.

JUNIOR QUARTERLY

The Junior Quarterly of Seventh Day Baptist publication is still being printed. Reactions in favor of continuing the publication are coming in. If all our churches would support this endeavor by subscribing to the limit, we might be able to finish the cycle. When the cycle is finished, there will be copies on hand to supply all our Sabbath Schools for the next three-year cycle.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON for December 28, 1957

Brothers Through Christ

Lesson Scripture: Philemon, verses 1-16.

Religious Liberty and Premarital Pledges

C. Stanley Lowell, a prominent national speaker on the subject of religious liberty, has brought together in an article published in the *South Carolina Methodist Advocate* some interesting facts about the prenuptial agreement forced upon non-Catholics who are parties to mixed marriages before Catholic priests.

If a person is firmly convinced that his particular religious group embraces certain important Bible truths which other groups have failed to understand or accept, he is duty bound to try to get his intended wife as well as others to accept those truths and join his group. If it is the young lady who has such convictions, the same is true. Likewise, any minister with such convictions is bound by the same moral responsibility. This logically applies to the Roman Catholic as well as to the Protestant. We should expect a Catholic priest to use all the persuasion possible to gain converts if he thinks his is the one true church, just as we should expect the Protestant minister to point out to young Catholics those teachings which, in his opinion, grossly pervert the Gospel. If the matter could be left there, a balance could be achieved and marital bliss could in many cases accompany mixed marriages. However, Catholic policy does not allow for a solution based on persuasion or equality.

If a Catholic marrying a Protestant is unwilling to force the Protestant to sign the agreement to bring up the children in the Catholic faith, he may face excommunication. If the couple is married by a Protestant clergyman it is, in the eyes of the church, not a real, but only an "attempted marriage."

Suppose that the Protestant under the almost irresistible compulsion of love wavers, takes instruction and signs the antenuptial agreement, binding the children to the church — even if the Catholic parent dies. Is there any way of gaining freedom from this vow taken under duress? Legally there is a way out, says Mr. Lowell, who has made a study of it. He quotes case after case that has been tested in the courts.

The *Harvard Law Review* states unequivocally that "No mere agreement as to the religious education of children between father and mother, before or after marriage, is binding and it is always open to either parent to change his mind, as it is his privilege to inculcate upon his children those religious principles which for the time being seem best to him." (Quoted in Pferrer, Leo "Religion in the Upbringing of Children." *Boston University Law Review*, Vol XXXV, No. 3, June, 1955.)

(Quoting without comment from Mr. Lowell are the following paragraphs):

Fundamental Right

One reason for the unenforceability of the antenuptial agreement regarding the religious education of children is the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion. Freedom of religion has as one of its integral principles the right to change one's faith. If I choose a certain faith, that is freedom of religion. But if, having chosen this faith, I am not free to give it up and choose another, then I do not have freedom of religion.

It is conceivable that a person might give free consent that children yet unborn should be brought up in the Roman Catholic faith. It is equally conceivable that this person might later change his mind on the matter. It is basic to his religious freedom that he be free to make such a change. To try to freeze his religious thinking as it was at the time the agreement was signed is not merely to be unrealistic; it is also to deny the religious freedom which our Constitution guarantees.

Moral Ground

Is there moral dereliction involved in a parent's refusal to keep the Roman Catholic antenuptial agreement? Again the answer is No. The person who signs the agreement and awakens later to the enormity of his act, is, in fact, morally wrong to persist in keeping it. He must do as his conscience bids. When one becomes aware of a wrong there is no virtue in continuing the wrong. There is virtue only in repentance and change.

The right to repudiate the antenuptial agreement is, further, a right inherent in the nature of the agreement itself. Think of it! A woman signs away her right to the religious training of her children not yet born. Can she really do this? Can she have sufficient understanding of what is involved in such a step to take this step? Can she do it at all? The answer must be no. . . .

When the day of awakening comes, as it always comes for the Protestant or the Jew who has been so coerced, there is only one thing to do. Let the two persons involved sit down together and look clear-eyed at a problem which is uniquely their own. Let arrogant clerical counsel be disregarded for the interference it patently is. Let these two — and no others — think the problem through and arrive at their own solution. This is a hard thing; perhaps it is impossible. But there is one thing more impossible — the attempt to stand slavishly upon an agreement that was coercive from the first.

MY NEIGHBOR'S LIGHT

By Lois Fay Powell

When autumn days are mostly gray
And cast long shadows o'er my way,
I stand before my windowpane,
And look for cheer on field or lane.

What glimmers there to meet my sight?
It's just a glimpse of neighbor's light!
A tired soul at supper time,
May not care much about a rhyme!

But maybe now will see God's light,
If I help keep it clean and bright.
I know how good it made me feel,
When I was tired, down at the heel.

So I will give my light good care,
And send its beams across the air.
For light is free — God made it so.
Why not display it, to and fro?

It's just a simple thing to do,
A cheerful gift 'twixt me and you:
A comfort on cold winter nights,
To share such homelike neighbor lights.

News of Ministers

More exact information of the winter plans of Rev. and Mrs. John Fitz Randolph is now at hand. They left Milton Junction, Wis., in mid-November, planning to stay in Colorado until the first of the year. They are not yet in Daytona Beach, Fla., as previously reported. They expect to return home in April.

Dr. Walter E. Hancock, now of Stanberry, Mo., was guest minister at Nortonville, Kan., on November 2.

Dr. and Mrs. A. J. C. Bond left Alfred, N. Y., on November 19 to take up winter residence at Daytona Beach.

James M. Mitchell requests publication of a new address, 808 N. 22nd St., McAllen, Tex.

Monte Slusher was installed as student pastor of the Jackson Center, Ohio, Church on November 30. Leland Davis, who spent the Thanksgiving weekend in his home church there, assisted in the installation ceremonies. Mr. Slusher, soon to be released from the Air Force, will pursue studies at a nearby university under the G.I. Bill while serving the church.

Four of our ministers recently accepted the invitation of the Tract Board to edit the special issues of the Sabbath Recorder which are scheduled to appear in February, May, August, and November, 1958. They are: Loyal F. Hurley, Alton L. Wheeler, Victor W. Skaggs, and Edgar F. Wheeler.

It is expected that Grover C. Brissey, headmaster of Crandall High School in Kingston, Jamaica, will be ordained to the Gospel ministry at Washington, D. C., Sabbath morning, December 21. A council has been called for that purpose by his home church. Invitations to participate were sent to the New Jersey churches and a number of denominational leaders.

Roger Cazziol of Milan, Italy, now a member of the Mill Yard Church in London, hopes to go to Nigeria soon to work for the Seventh Day Baptist cause. A visitor's visa (3 months), which can probably be made permanent, has been granted, according to a letter dated December 4. There remains one financial problem to be worked out with his immi-

gration office at Lagos, Nigeria. Mr. Cazziol writes that he is now back at Nogent, France, and expects to spend Christmas with Rev. James McGeachy in London. He was recently accepted as an associate member of the Evangelical Preachers' Association, a 61-year-old fellowship located in England. Although his primary interest is in preaching the Gospel, his employment will be as a headmaster of a new "teachers training college" with a very modest salary paid by the government. Approval of this "college" was arranged for by a native Seventh Day Baptist educator, Rev. R. Nwankwo.

Word just received from Los Angeles indicated that a Southern Baptist minister and his wife had decided to join the local Seventh Day Baptist Church. Other ministers in various states and one or two foreign countries are seeking membership with us or asking to work along with us as the Lord leads in forming new churches.

Further news of two or more of our ministers may be found under the heading of "Births" in this or previous issues.

The Salem Herald of December 5 announced a farewell church party for Rev. C. Rex Burdick and family on December 15 and stated that no replacement for him was yet announced. As previously noted, he goes to the Verona, N. Y., Church at the end of this month.

PHILIPPIANS 4: 8

By Irene Hulett

The more of beauty and of truth
Is welcomed to our hearts each day
When life is young, receptive, strong,
Responsive, free, and gay,

Into our thoughts will come again
After life's active days are o'er
To comfort, as we travel down
Toward life's inevitable shore.

And maybe on the other side
After we've safely crossed the tide
Sweet echoes of such memories
May yet with us abide;

To mingle with the joyful songs
Of those who have gone on before,
That heavenly host of the redeemed
Who praise our God forevermore.

Personal Contact

A brief Christmas editorial by the elderly English minister, Alfred Marshall, D. Litt., F. E. P. A., who is responsible for the quarterly organ of the Evangelical Preachers' Association located in Sussex, England.

Once again the Advent season is upon us, and the editor sends his greetings and good wishes to all into whose hands our magazine falls. Let those who will be ministering to young and old, and the in-betweens, make the most of the season, with its reminder that "the Word became flesh," and dwelt among men.

The verb, by the way, is not without doctrinal importance. The A.V., under the influence of the Latin *Verbum factum est*, has it that "the Word was made" flesh. Anyhow, not to labor that point here, it is worth noting the various ways in which a man may express himself. A musician expresses himself through his compositions, an architect through his buildings, an artist through his canvases. But while one may listen to an oratorio, or gaze at some noble edifice, or feast one's eyes on a painting, one does not thereby know the composer, or the architect, or the painter. There must be personal contact: the one responsible must speak, declaring his mind in intelligible language. So God, for all that He is behind the music of the spheres, and is the one who built all things, and paints the wayside flower, is not thereby really known: He must speak to us in language that we can understand. This He has done, in the person of His Son Jesus Christ (Heb. 1: 1-2). The Eternal Word took our human nature at Bethlehem, and in "the likeness of sinful flesh" became a sacrifice for sin at Calvary. So His earthly life linked the cradle with the cross.

May the Lord bless the telling once again of "the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

If we could only express ourselves without heat, but with truth, so that men would say, "Yes that is true," without stopping to attribute it to Northern, or Southern, or "pacifist" bias, how jolly that would be. — Paul S. Burdick.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

In 1955, according to the Council of State Governments, almost 60% of our entire population was living in 172 metropolitan areas located in 42 states and the District of Columbia. These ninety-five million metropolitan residents live in an area that covers only 7% of the entire territory of the United States. Furthermore, this human concentration continues — between 1950 and 1955, 9% of our 12 million population rise occurred in the metropolitan areas. — Economic Review.

American Leprosy Missions gives this report from workers in Hong Kong, China: "In a country where only a few years ago leprosy patients were caught in large nets and burned to death, a school received peacefully and with friendliness two former patients of the Hay Ling Chau Leprosarium in Hong Kong. The school is a short-term Bible school in the New Territories of Hong Kong, and the new students are two crippled, negative patients, ardent church workers at Hay Ling Chau, model sanitorium under the direction of the Mission to Lepers (London).

Prominent People

One of the prominent Seventh Day Baptists of the Washington, D. C., Church, the Honorable Jennings Randolph, was chosen as co-host at a Broadcasting Awards Luncheon held at the Sheraton Park Hotel Friday noon, November 15. This luncheon was sponsored by the Department of Radio and Television of the Council of Churches, National Capital Area. As the name suggests, the purpose was to recognize volunteers and broadcasting stations. Many noted artists of radio, television, screen, and stage were among the guests present. Under Miss Ella F. Harlee, director, this Washington Council has presented 2,000 programs a year, the largest volume of religious broadcasts of any community in the country. Twenty-six volunteer program producers were given awards at the luncheon. The commercial value of these 2,000 programs is estimated at \$500,000.

Teen Talk

Christmas Thoughts

What changes are taking place in your mind and in the minds of your friends of teen-age in regard to Christmas? Have you stopped to think about it? How much have you grown up during the year? In spite of all the growth in your thinking will you suddenly become a child again at Christmas time and think only of what you are going to get?

On the other hand, are you going to let yourself continue in the all-too-common attitude of not appreciating what your parents lovingly provide for you (if you have had that attitude)? Do you have a tendency to look at those extra clothes, those desired gifts as just what you have a right to expect from your father and mother?

These questions are just to stimulate your thinking. You have been doing a lot of thinking one way or another during the year. Keep it up. Don't stop just before Christmas. If you have grown up a lot, keep growing up right through this happy season. There have been some unpleasant moments during the year, perhaps, when you and your parents did not quite agree on such things as clothing, dates, privileges, or even church attendance. How do you feel about your parents now? Probably right now you are buying some little presents for them and have forgotten the times of disagreement.

Let's ask another question. Your folks will appreciate this one. Do you think that your parents show some evidence of having become a little more mature during the past few months in their attitude toward the problems of teen-agers? If so, it may be a sign that you, too, are growing up.

Has Christmas lost some of its glamour? Are you beginning to think much more about giving than receiving? Is it definitely becoming more Christian as you think more clearly about it? Does Christ become more central as the childhood attitude toward the day fades away? Isn't it wonderful that God was able to find

Gifts to the Lord's Work

December is not a dead-line month for church and denominational giving but it is for income tax credit. Those of us who are keeping account of percentages of income given for benevolent purposes in order to do our best for the Lord under current Income Tax provisions, would do well to make sure before the end of the year that our gifts are as large as we think they are.

Remorse will dampen the joy of the new year for some well-meaning Christians if they find out too late that they could have given more to missions and other Christian work without sacrifice. We have an obligation to pay our taxes to the government, to be sure; but if our records reveal that we have a choice between paying a certain amount or giving a certain amount to Christian work, should we not choose the latter?

The Internal Revenue Department allows up to 20 per cent deductions for such gifts before taxable income is figured. (Philanthropists may even figure as high as 30 per cent.) In many cases a larger amount given away changes the income tax bracket. Nearly everyone paying Withholding Tax has it figured on the basis of 20 per cent of wages. Some, of course, get money back on account of allowable deductions. Others, whose income is just a little higher, have to pay at a higher rate. In this case larger giving will reduce the adjusted income and lower the rate of tax. If one finds it possible to give up to 20 per cent instead of less, it will not cost him the full amount of that extra giving.

The figuring and the giving must be done before the end of the year. If you do not have time enough to go over your accounts carefully, the next best thing is to write a much larger check than usual and put it in the Christmas offering or mail it to Our World Mission treasurer, Olin C. Davis, Verona, N. Y.

— Editor.

a way to our hearts by sending His Son to be born of a virgin and to give His life for us?

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

VERONA, N. Y. — Two carloads of young people from our church attended the fall Retreat of the Western Association held at Camp Harley, September 27-29. A Youth Fellowship of the Central Association has been organized under the direction of Maurice and Dorothy Warner.

Several of our people attended some of the Billy Graham meetings in Madison Square Garden and some of them had the thrill of singing in the choir of 2,000 voices.

The Booster Class served a Swiss steak dinner to 115 people early in the summer, the proceeds of which went toward completing the class project of placing a stained glass window back of the new choir loft. Our ladies have held several food sales, one of which brought \$33 to be used toward the expenses of Joan and Beth from Nyasaland for their furlough. A turkey dinner was served to the choir of the Methodist Church of Oneida, and also an evening meal to the Official Board of the First Baptist Church of Rome when their annual retreat was held in our church.

The new hymnals, "Worship and Service," were dedicated on August 3. This project was sponsored by the Helpers Class.

The floor of the auditorium of the church has been refinished and new nylon runners with foam rubber base laid this fall. The fall meeting of the Central Association met with us on October 12 with the Rev. Earl Cruzan of Adams Center, president of Conference, as the morning speaker.

On Sabbath night, November 23, a farewell party was held in the social rooms of the church for Pastor Victor W. Skaggs and family who left on December 1 for their new home in Albion, Wis., where he will serve the Albion and Milton Junction Churches. A program of entertainment of song, readings, and original poems was enjoyed. Greetings from the Oneida Ministerial Association were voiced by the Rev. Mr. Barr of Oneida Castle Presbyterian Church. Pastor Swing of De Ruyter and Pastor Earl Cruzan of Adams Center were present and made

appropriate remarks. We were sorry to have them leave us after almost six years of service here. We trust that their way may be richly blessed in the place where God has called them to labor.

We are looking forward to the coming in a few weeks of our new pastor, Rev. C. Rex Burdick of Salem, W. Va., and praying for wisdom and guidance in the year ahead. — Correspondent.

DE RUYTER, N. Y. — Our pastor and family attended General Conference at Milton, Wis., and gave detailed reports the following Sabbath. Special emphasis has been placed on the work of our missions and the missionaries. Our Ladies' Society is co-operating in this endeavor also.

The last weekend in September our three eligible young people, Howard Meldrim, Charles Freidman, and Gretchen Swing, and the pastor accepted the invitation of the Western Association young folks to attend the retreat at Camp Harley. It was a great inspiration.

Several of our members attended the fall meeting of the Association at Verona. It was a privilege to hear our Conference president deliver the morning message.

The "York Room" was full to capacity when all had gathered for the fellowship dinner Sunday, October 20, after which the annual church business meeting was held. It was voted that Pastor Swing continue his work another year. From various reports that were read it was evident that there has been considerable activity by the organizations of the church.

The pastor was asked to give a history of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination and to explain why he was a Seventh Day Baptist to the young people of the Federated Church at their regular monthly meeting. This created much interest in the large group attending.

We were saddened by the loss of one of our faithful members and our friend Deacon Leon J. Parker on November 4, 1957. He was loved by all who knew him. — Correspondent.

Emotional reaction to the Gospel is not enough. — Billy Graham.

The Sabbath Recorder

DODGE CENTER, MINN. — On November 27 our church was host to the community churches for the annual Union Thanksgiving Service. Pastor Kenneth B. Van Horn led in the devotionals with the assistance of the Methodist and Congregational ministers. Norman Clapper of our church sang "My Prayer." The Assembly of God minister gave a spiritual message on the Thanksgiving theme, directly applicable to the heart of each person present.

We lay members wish to share a blessing with any who are in our vicinity. We welcome you and urge you to attend our worship services any Sabbath day. You will experience pleasure from fellowship with us, we hope. But greater than that you will gain spiritual uplift. The sermons you hear Pastor Van Horn preach will be soul searching and helpful, interesting and enlightening, profound and inspirational, yet simple enough that their truth cannot evade you. The Bible is our source book. We feel that we have a blessing large enough to share with all. If you are as close as Rochester, train connections are direct to Dodge Center, or possibly transportation could be arranged otherwise through individual cars. Do come and worship with us or recommend our church to any of your friends coming to the Mayo Clinic who may need spiritual as well as physical help.

Though some may fail to admit this need of a Savior who can supply all needs, we believe it is a great necessity in all human hearts. We wish to share His presence with any who desire Him. — Correspondent.

Accessions

Farina, Ill.

By Baptism:
Stephen Stewart

By Testimony:
Albert Appel

Plainfield, N. J.

By Testimony:
Mrs. Kizzie Rowland

By Letter:
Mrs. Muriel Babcock
Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson
Ethel Dickinson (Mrs. C. Harmon)
Alfred H. Dickinson

Births

Button. — A daughter, Linda Christine, to Dan and Marianne Button of Los Angeles, Calif., on November 17, 1957.

Soules. — A daughter, Kathrine, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Soules of Shinglehouse, Pa.

Burrows. — A daughter, Connie Jo, to Mr. and Mrs. Arvis Burrows of Cuba, N. Y.

Mickel. — A daughter, O'Deanne Mildred, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mickel, 47 Burton St., Cazenovia, N. Y., on Nov. 2, 1957.

Brannon. — A son, Kenneth Dean, to Dr. and Mrs. Warren Brannon, Rt. 1, Freeville, N. Y., on Nov. 9, 1957.

Appel. — A son, Joel Edwin, to Rev. and Mrs. Addison Appel, Farina, Ill., on Nov. 4, 1957.

Obituaries

Parker. — Leon J., only son of Stephen and Elsie Parker, was born in Otselic, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1878, and died at his home in Truxton, N. Y., Nov. 4, 1957.

He was educated in De Ruyter Training Class and taught school in the surrounding communities and later became a farmer. On New Year's Day, 1902, he married Maud Elinor Stevens. To this union were born two sons, Harry, who resides in Truxton, and Walter of Cincinatus, N. Y. His wife preceded him in death 10 years ago.

He was baptized and joined the De Ruyter Church early in life and continued a faithful member, having attended church the Sabbath before he passed to his heavenly home and reward.

He was elected to the office of deacon many years ago, and also served as trustee.

Surviving besides his sons are 4 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Farewell services were held in the De Ruyter Church, conducted by his pastor, Charles D. Swing. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery. — C. D. S.

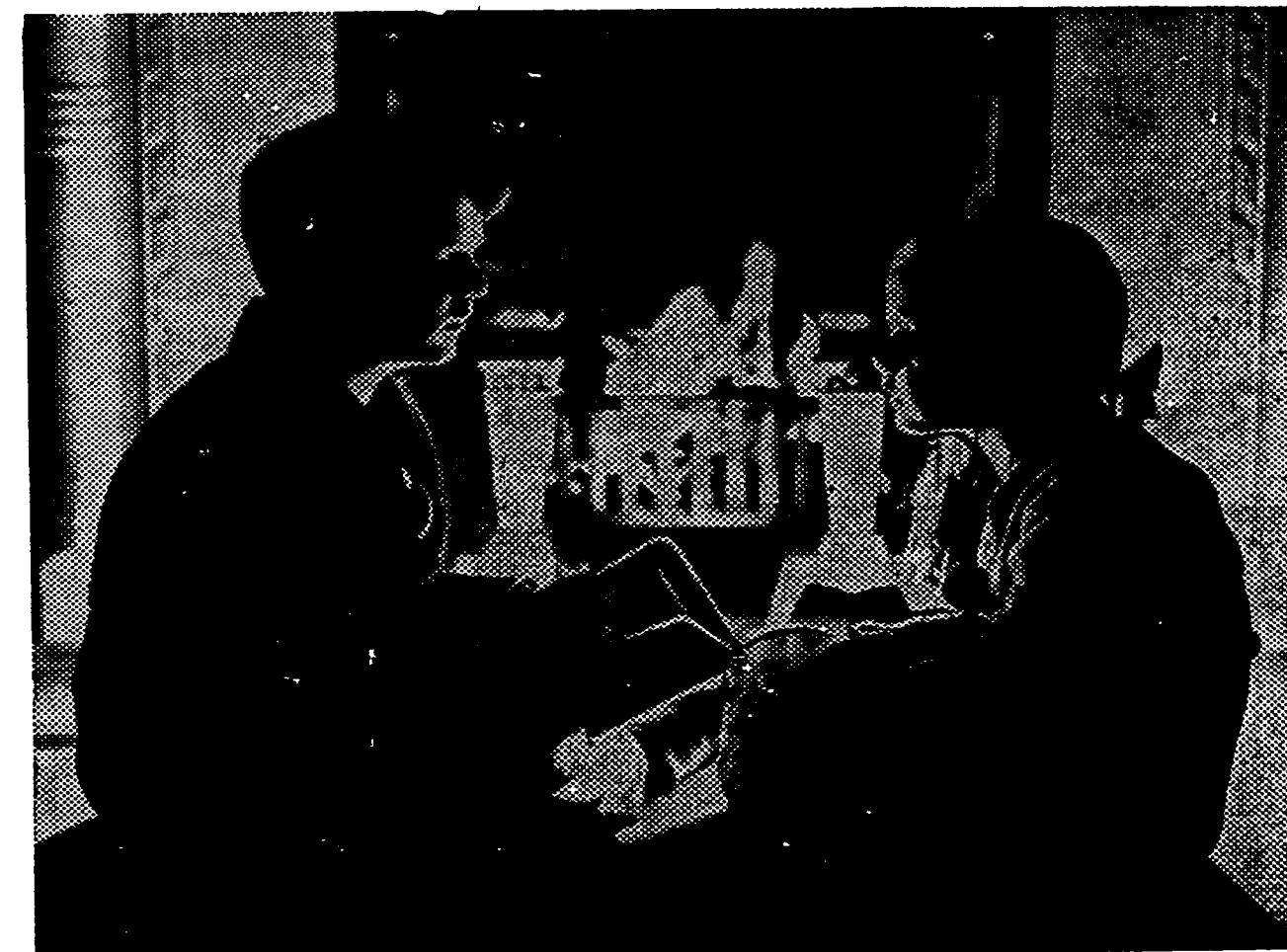
Sisson. — Ella, daughter of Jerome and Sarah Thomas Potter, was born at Five Corners near Alfred, N. Y., April 14, 1869, and died at Bethesda Hospital, North Hornell, N. Y., June 24, 1957.

She united with the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Alfred in 1886. Although she was able to hear with very great difficulty during her later years, her faithful attendance at Sabbath morning worship was a genuine inspiration. Mrs. Sisson was a past member of the Ladies' Aid Society.

She was married to J. Leon Sisson in March, 1894, who died in June, 1949.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Mary Potter Wilbur of Santa Ana, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Eeva Potter of Alfred; a niece, Mrs. LaVern Kenyon, also of Alfred; a nephew, Lloyd J. Allen of Hartsville; and several grandnieces, grandnephews, and cousins.

Memorial services were conducted at the Landon Funeral Home, Hornell, June 26, by her pastor, the Rev. Hurley S. Warren. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery. — H. S. W.



THE THOUGHTFUL GIFT

We do not forget the greatest gift, God's Son, the supreme picture of love, with which all other Christian giving must be compared. Young people in countless homes throughout the world lift thoughtful faces to the light after opening their Christmas gifts and finding among them the precious Book that tells them of the Christ.