

# The Sabbath Recorder

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

**BATTLE CREEK, MICH.** — At its December meeting the diaconate voted to have midweek cottage prayer meetings throughout the month of January, in keeping with the Universal Week of Prayer emphasis of the first week.

Wayne N. Crandall, president of General Conference, was the guest speaker on Sabbath morning December 27. The Commission began its midyear meetings that evening after a church vesper service in which Commission members spoke on various phases of "Extension and Growth." After the vesper service there was a Family-Night supper in honor of the guests. — From church bulletin.

## Marriages

**Hevener - Lowman.** — Willard Hevener, of Roanoke, W. Va., and Barbara Lowman of Jane Lew, W. Va., were united in marriage at Weston, W. Va., on December 14, 1958, by the Rev. U. E. Wills of Weston and the Rev. Duane L. Davis of Lost Creek.

**MacIntyre - Fitz Randolph.** — Hugh D. MacIntyre and Virginia Fitz Randolph, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Esle Fitz Randolph, were united in marriage December 24, 1958, in the First Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon, New York.

## Obituaries

**Fowler.** — Mrs. Florence M., daughter of Joseph and Mary Blair Bowen, was born August 27, 1874, at Eau Galle, Wis., and died December 14, 1958, at Bonnie Vista Nursing Home, Whitewater, Wis.

On May 26, 1897, she was married to Gordon H. Fowler who died September 15, 1949. She had been a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Exeland, Wis. Survivors are: a daughter, Mrs. Charles C. Burdick of Milton, Wis.; a son, Kenton O. Fowler of Whitewater, Wis.; 2 sisters, Mrs. Fannie Stokes of Chetek, Wis., Miss Cora Bowen of La Crosse, Wis.; and a brother William Bowen of Marble Falls, Texas; 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

Funeral services were held at Whitewater, Wis., conducted by the Rev. Francis Foulke of the Methodist Church. Graveside services were Wednesday, December 17, at Exeland, Wis. — Mrs. Charles C. Burdick.

**Armstrong.** — Reuben A., son of Andrew J. and Elnora Crandall Armstrong, was born in Portville, N. Y., January 24, 1871, and died at his home in Alfred, N. Y., November 10, 1958.

He was baptized May 26, 1893, and joined the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred of which he continued a faithful member.

He was married to Miss Grace Hood in 1897. To this union were born three children: two sons, Robert H. (who died in 1938) and Leland R., of Washington, Pa.; and a daughter, Maxine (Mrs. Glenn E. Bucher) of Rochester, N. Y. In 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Mrs. Armstrong passed away in 1950.

In 1956 Mr. Armstrong married Mrs. Mamie R. V. Thomas.

Besides his son and daughter and widow, eight grandchildren survive.

Memorial services were conducted from the Alfred Church by his pastor, the Rev. Hurley S. Warren. Interment was in Alfred Rural Cemetery. — H.S.W.

**Kenyon.** — Gertrude, daughter of the Rev. Earl P. and Carrie Briggs Saunders, was born in Ashaway, R. I., May 2, 1891, and died at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, N. Y., November 25, 1958.

After special preparation Gertrude Saunders became secretary of the International Institute of Providence, R. I., sponsored by the YWCA. She devoted sixteen years to the work there as well as four years to similar work in Lawrence, Mass.

She was united in marriage with M. Elwood Kenyon, Alfred, N. Y., November 27, 1937, after which time Alfred became her home.

She joined the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Alfred on February 23, 1946, by letter from the First Hopkinton Church, Ashaway, R. I. She always had time for service in the church and was deeply interested in the welfare of her immediate neighborhood as well as that of the larger community.

There survive her besides her husband: two brothers, Harold B. Saunders of Pittsford, N. Y., and Capt. E. E. Saunders (USN Ret.) of Asheville, N. C.; one sister, Mrs. Ethel Henley of Biloxi, Miss., and several nieces and nephews.

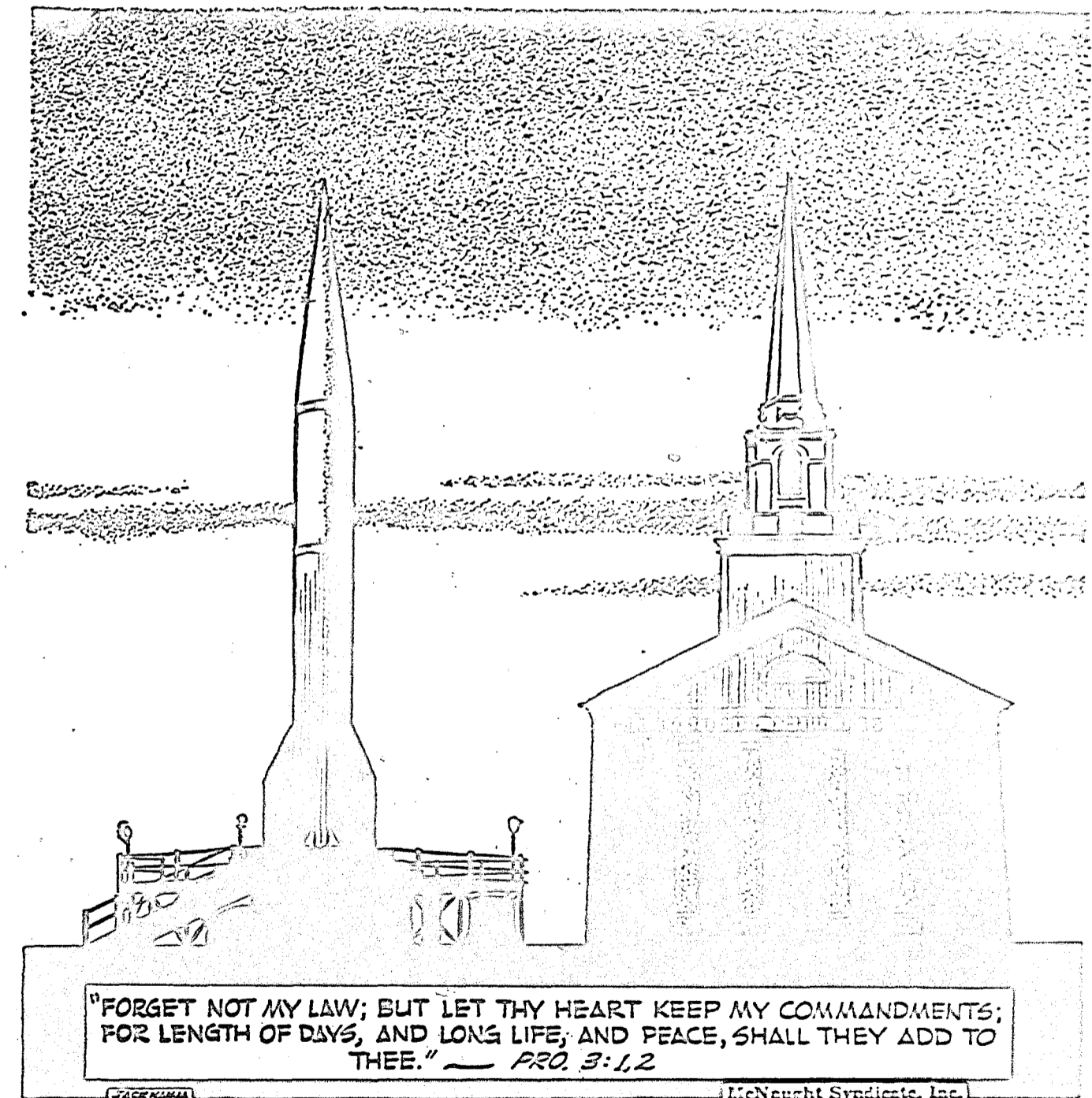
Memorial services were conducted from the First Alfred Church by her pastor, the Rev. Hurley S. Warren. Interment in Alfred Rural Cemetery will be at the convenience of the family. — H.S.W.

## Tape Library at Christian Radio City

National Christians and missionaries from every major country outside the Bamboo Curtain prepare programs in their languages on tape recordings. To keep the steady flow of programs, Far East Broadcasting Co.'s tape library at Manila numbers more than 9,000 individual tapes.

The 50,000-watt station gets reports from listeners on every continent. A new 1,000-watt station is under construction at Okuma in Northern Okinawa. The director of the work on that island using a snorkel, personally explored the sea floor of the inlet at Okuma to make sure that the barges carrying the heavy transmitter could land the costly equipment.

Contending Steeples



# The Sabbath Recorder

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

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WOMEN'S WORK ..... Mrs. A. Russell Maxson  
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## What Price Progress?

Churches and denominations sometimes become gravely concerned over the money they have spent on buildings or in the development of mission fields that are later abandoned. Leaders experience some heart searching when they discover, as sometimes happens, that the projects they fostered did not succeed or that some other plan would have been better. This heart searching is more acute because they have committed other people's dedicated gifts and they feel responsible. They are keenly aware that the greatest qualification of a steward, according to the teaching of the Bible is that he be found faithful.

What is the price of progress? As we see it, progress is achieved in missions and evangelism as in science or business by the proper balance between implementing a great vision and the exercise of due caution. Without an ever-expanding vision and a constant willingness to venture much, there can be no progress in the spread of saving grace. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained," is an adage that our people — any people — must keep in mind. On the other hand, if too much is ventured the loss may outweigh the gain. There must be a reasonable estimation of available resources but, in the case of Christian advance, this must not be so reasoned that it rules out the tremendous element of faith.

The Internal Revenue Department has established a well-reasoned, statistically supported pattern of behavior in the giving of the average taxpayer. Some Seventh Day Baptist contributors of moderate means have experienced the annoyance of an investigation because they reported gifts to denominational work far in excess of the established norm. The taxgatherers do not take into consideration the power of faith — until they are shown. Churches should plan for and plan on greater faith to precede larger acts of faith.

Before going further may it be pointed out that, in our opinion, our denominational leaders, who have attempted to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet. 4: 10), have not in times past or times present ventured too much. They have more often erred on

the side of conservatism. This is perhaps partly due to the fact that in a small denomination we know each other well and are aware of local conditions in most of our churches. To be sure, we have experienced some seeming failures. New churches in which we invested money with high hopes have sometimes closed their doors after a short time. Personnel on whom we depended have not always been true to our trust. Students upon whom we spent considerable effort and money have not in every case lived up to our expectations. All these failures, however, have been relatively inexpensive. They do not constitute ground for discouragement. Most of them must be taken in the stride of progress.

There is a vast difference between national expenditures for development of defense equipment and what our churches spend to develop new areas of Gospel extension. Perhaps the difference is so great that comparison is impossible. Let us, however, point out what we as citizens have demanded of Congress for our protection. We have demanded expenditures sufficient to keep our nation equal in aerial power to the nations that we consider to be threatening the world and seeking to destroy for their own aggrandizement the ideals that we hold as dear as life.

Vivid in the memory of this writer is a plane ride back in 1944. He was a passenger for an hour or more in a B24 which was in flight formation over California. At that time the B24 was one of our heaviest bombers, soon to be replaced by a bigger one. The pilot, just completing his training, urged the chaplain to try his hand at the controls in the co-pilot's seat after reminding him that the plane cost the government \$250,000. We quickly returned the controls when we got into the slipstream of the plane ahead. The responsibility was too great.

Seven or eight years later a pilot friend who had just flown a B36 across the country attended our church service. This 10-engine plane was the last word in long-distance bombers capable of carrying 84,000 pounds nonstop from Maine to Japan. The cost of each plane — not a quarter of a million but three million.

JANUARY 12, 1959

## MEMORY TEXT

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1: 27.

Now the advent of supersonic missiles makes this plane obsolete and most of the 300 now on hand are to be scrapped.

Two days after the above report appeared in the papers, another notice was published to the effect that the order for B58s was to be cut down. There was speculation that this newest bomber, costing between \$17 million and \$50 million, would be discontinued entirely. The government is said to have spent on this aircraft \$1,500,000,000. Years ago when visiting a battleship at Philadelphia we were told that its cost was \$2 million. Times have changed.

There is no doubt that military expenditures are astronomically wasteful. Yet some of it can be charged off to scientific progress, and possibly without it we would now be dead or suffering under the heel of ruthless dictatorship. Without some if it we would certainly be unable to have carried on the missionary work to which we believe God has called us. The now commonplace communication facilities could have been developed through other than military expenditures but they might not have been.

Now we cannot match for religious causes the increases in funds required for progress in national defense, but the above comparison may help us to see that we cannot be content with the slow pace of bygone years in Christian work. Popular sentiment requires our representatives at the Capitol to expend large sums of money. What does popular sentiment demand of the boards and agencies of our denomination? Are we willing to make the extra sacrifices needed to insure progress?

## Ancient Bible Manuscripts Newly Published

On December 30 the New York Times published a news story about the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis which had just met in the city. It called particular attention to an address by the highly reputed Bruce M. Metzger, a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Professor Metzger spoke of the publication of new fragments of the Papyrus Bodmer II, the oldest known manuscript of any considerable part of the Greek text of the Gospel of John.

Another is the papyrus codex of St. John in the Boharic dialect of the Coptic language spoken in Egypt in the early Christian era. This copy was dated by the editor in the fourth century. The significant thing mentioned in connection with this manuscript is that it omits John 5: 4, the verse that speaks of the angel troubling the water of the pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the man who had been unable to walk for 38 years. In the eighth chapter of John this Boharic copy also omits the first 11 verses, the whole story of the woman taken in adultery. Bible scholars engaged in trying to determine exactly what was contained in the New Testament as it came from the hands of the original writers are keenly interested in this newly published papyrus codex because it is older than so many manuscripts.

What is the effect of this upon the trustworthiness of the Bible? Little if any. It only adds another bit of evidence to what has long been agreed upon by the scholars. The verses in question (John 5: 4 and John 8: 1-11) are the only portions of any length that have ever been honestly and seriously questioned by those who have compared the oldest manuscripts. Some of the other old manuscripts did not have them. The Greek New Testament which has been in common use in all seminaries for quite a few years (Nelson's) lacks these verses but retains the verse numbering as in the King James Version. The Revised Standard Version does the same thing. The available Greek texts at the time the King James transla-

tors did their work were not sufficiently old and numerous to justify the scholars in omitting these short passages. Now for a long time it appears they are justified in doing so.

There are no intents or purposes other than truth and accuracy which motivate the omission of the above mentioned verses. The one in the fifth chapter is a verse that those who question the miraculous might want to get rid of because it is overly miraculous. (There is no question at all about the healing miracle of Jesus.) But if some might desire to discredit John 5: 4 the same people, in general, would be expected to want to retain John 8: 1-11. The attitude of Jesus toward this sinful woman is so in keeping with the fully authenticated stories in the Gospel that people would like to think that John had included it in his original account. Of course, even if it were not included, it could still be something that actually happened, for John says (John 20: 30), "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book." Be that as it may, true scholarship must not include or exclude on the basis of what one would like to have the Bible say.

Again let it be said that regardless of what newscasters and newswriters may say which would lead some to think that this new discovery casts doubt on the trustworthiness of the Bible, it is not so. We heard it on the radio and immediately bought a paper to get the fuller story. It was found to be only a little more confirmation of what was taught us in a conservative seminary more than a quarter of a century ago. We take off our hats to those who have the patience and learning to search out every bit of pertinent evidence pertaining to the Bible. The discoveries and experiences of the past 25 years have done much to establish faith in the Bible as an authoritative book — The authoritative Book.

The challenge of today, as so many have pointed out, is not the perfecting of inventions but the building of character strong enough to control the inventions already perfected.

## SPECIAL ISSUE ORDERS

### Let's Get Them In Time Is Short

The February special issue of the Sabbath Recorder must be ordered almost by return mail. Have you told your pastor how many copies you will be responsible for? By consolidating the orders you can afford twice as many, for the price is cut in half on orders of 100 to 1000 — only 8½ cents. Think of it — 24 pages of good material to give to friends and acquaintances — articles written to encourage people to live the Christian life in all its fullness.

Act now, the time is indeed short. That next evangelistic number, written almost entirely by laymen and for laymen will soon go on the presses. Once the printing is started the number cannot be increased.

Do not wait for church action! It isn't necessary if you take personal responsibility for 100, 50, 25, or 10 copies. If you think you cannot distribute as many as you think ought to be given out, provide some for those who have more contacts than you do.

Nonresidents who do not have time to contact the home church may send orders directly to the Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, N. J., P.O. Box 868. Do it now!

### Echoes from Christmas

Weekly newspapers, published in communities too small to support dailies, fulfill a real need and often reveal far more of the life of the community than the larger papers. The editors are closer to the people. There is a readily observable tendency to make more of religious and patriotic events than is customary in the larger city papers.

Christmas fell on Thursday this year, the day that most weeklies are dated. It is interesting to note how several of them emphasized the day with color, new format, and religious content. Among such papers regularly received at the Recorder office by the courtesy of editors and publishers are the Salem (W. Va.)

Herald, Alfred (N. Y.) Sun, Milton and Milton Jct. (Wis.) Courier, Dodge Center (Minn.) Star-Record, De Ruyter (N. Y.) Gleaner, and Brookfield (N. Y.) Courier. The Milton, Dodge Center, and De Ruyter papers used various combinations of red, green, and black ink and devoted a major portion or all of the front page to colorful greetings with emphasis on the church services being held.

Gordon T. Law, editor of the DeRuyter Gleaner, had invited eight ministers in communities served to some extent by his paper to prepare Christmas meditations for the much expanded editorial space, thus providing a good variety of sermons for the readers. The paper did not reach our office until December 30, but the thoughts were still as good as when they were prepared earlier in the month. On another page we are reproducing the message by Charles D. Swing, pastor of the local Seventh Day Baptist Church, entitled, "The Sign of the Manger."

## Times of Refreshing

By Irene Post Hulett

Blessed times of soul refreshing  
Sent to bring our spirits blessing  
From the Presence of the Lord;  
How they give the needed clearness;  
How they give a sense of nearness  
To the Person of the Lord.

Times refreshing, wondrous blessing  
Sent when we, our sins confessing,  
Lift our hearts to Him;  
Flowers of faith, of love, of striving,  
Light, where all was dim.

From the Presence, what wonder,  
Cleaving sin-wrought bands asunder  
By His matchless grace;  
Foretaste of that time bestowing  
When we no more dimness knowing  
Meet Him face to face.

The Bible is the only Book for thinkers, readers, scholars, speakers, men, women, children. If we can have only one Book, save us that. Jos. H. Choate.

## COMMISSION MEETS

By Mrs. R. T. Fetherston

The Commission of General Conference met in Battle Creek, Michigan, beginning Sabbath night, December 27, and continuing through Wednesday afternoon, December 31. The Rev. Earl Cruzan, Adams Center, N. Y., chairman; Wayne Crandall, Canisteo, N. Y.; Dr. C. LeRoy DeLand, Bellevue, Mich.; Philip Lewis, Riverside, Calif.; the Rev. Victor Skaggs, Edgerton, Wis.; and the Rev. Marion C. Van Horn, Fouke, Ark., members; and Mrs. R. T. Fetherston, executive secretary, were present.

Wayne Crandall, Conference president, outlined the tentative program for the Conference to be held in Salem, West Virginia, August 17 through 22, 1959. He was commended for his careful planning and was requested to proceed in its fulfillment.

The report of the Planning Committee was reviewed. The projection of programs of work into the next three years gave valuable insight in long-range planning. The preliminary thinking done by this group in regard to church extension and growth was very helpful.

By invitation, George Parrish, chairman of the Stewardship Promotion Committee and a member of the Ministerial Support Committee, met with Commission on Tuesday evening. He presented some of the plans of these committees and shared in the discussion of the need of increased ministerial support.

Tentative budgets for the year 1959-60 were received from the various boards and agencies and carefully reviewed. Commission would commend and thank all concerned for the thoughtful work done in projecting plans this far in advance. This projection of plans is of inestimable value in the preparation of Our World Mission budget not only for 1959-60 but for the years ahead. The proposed budgets are being returned for further consideration and necessary revision by the boards and agencies before the final formulation of the 1959-60 Our World Mission budget for presentation to General Conference.

The duties and responsibilities of the executive secretary were again reviewed with referral to the original action of Conference in establishing this office (See 1951 Year Book, page 39): "That a full-time executive secretary be employed by Conference under the following conditions. . . ." The interpretation by Commission is that the executive secretary is the secretary of the General Conference appointed by and responsible to Commission. This officer is also recording secretary of Commission and corresponding secretary of the General Conference.

In reviewing the actions of Conference in consideration of our total program, the following items had discussion:

The plans for recruitment for the ministry by the Ministerial Training Committee.

The action to participate in the Baptist Jubilee Advance. We look forward to further information from the Ecumenical Committee as to how we may participate effectively in this program.

The Vocational Committee as authorized to study ideas for dedicated service work and also a Credit Union plan.

Note was taken that the Sabbath Promotion Committee is alerting our people to developments in the matter of religious legislation.

Discussion in General Conference focused attention on our Statement of Belief. Commission was asked to arrange a special study for three reasons (Refer to item 18, page 50, 1958 Year Book):

1. An objective study will help Seventh Day Baptists understand their basic similarities to and differences from other communions;
2. Some minor changes may be needed;
3. Without constant study and use such a statement becomes an ineffective instrument and an almost meaningless collection of words.

It is clearly recognized that the best, most effective study can be made only by devoted persons actually living their faith in daily contacts. Therefore Commission urges review and study of our beliefs by

our people. This is being referred to one of our major boards for implementation.

A major portion of the time of the meeting of Commission was spent in review of the field of extension and growth. Our needs as a denomination relative to this field of endeavor are so broad as well as so urgent that careful and prayerful consideration is the first essential. A growing enthusiasm throughout the denomination has been evidenced. The meeting of minds in Commission aided by valuable suggestions from several sources proved fruitful. A tentative program with its suggested assignments of responsibility was prepared. It will be reviewed by our Planning Committee and boards and returned to Commission for revision and referral to General Conference for action in 1959.

Items of correspondence were considered. An invitation from the Lost Creek Church to hold the pre-Conference sessions of Commission there was accepted.

The Commission adjourned to meet at Lost Creek, West Virginia, from the evening of August 8 through 14.

The growing emphasis throughout our denomination for planning farther into the future is a most hopeful trend. Each Seventh Day Baptist is challenged to find his place of service in the forward-looking Our World Mission program. It is with a sincere feeling of humility that we seek God's guidance in placing first things first. While there are very real problems facing our people, we look with confidence into the future.

### Board of Christian Education

The Directors of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education hold their regular quarterly meeting in the School of Theology Building at Alfred, N. Y., Sunday afternoon, January 18.

### Missionary Board Meeting

The regular time for the quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society is Sunday, January 25, at 2 p.m., in the vestry of the church at Westerly, R. I.

MISSIONS — Sec. Everett T. Harris

### New Evangelism Chart Soon Available

From "Tidings," order house for material on Christian Evangelism, comes word of a "major evangelistic tool." It is a new turn-over chart, "You and Christian Witnessing," prepared by Dr. G. Ernest Thomas and designed to train individuals to do one-by-one evangelistic work.

The descriptive folder states this is a new venture and a very significant approach to the whole responsibility of winning persons to Christ. Developed from widespread experience, this 79-page, colorful, 18 by 28-inch chart explains in graphic terms the "why" and "how" of personal witnessing in everyday living.

Its four sections deal with "Reasons for Sharing Faith," "Aids to Witnessing," "The Way to Witness," "The Rewards of the Witness." Discussed in these sections are such important matters as the nature of personal witnessing, the qualifications of the witness, personal resources for witnessing, the principles of personal witnessing, and the most effective steps in personal witnessing.

The chart describes the various types of persons to whom the Christian witness must be made and indicates the best ways in which to approach them for a decision to commit their lives to Christ. Each of the four sections of the chart is made distinctive by a change of color combinations between sections.

These charts are available from Tidings, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville, Tenn. The cost is twelve dollars per chart.

It is expected that the Missionary Board will soon have a chart available for loan to the churches.

### Missionary Church News

The former missionary pastor of the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Rev. Ralph M. Soper, is presently making his home at Arkadelphia, Ark. Our deepest sympathy goes to him and to the members of the family on the death of Mrs. Soper.

Assistance through the Missionary Board in support of a pastor is being continued

to the Paint Rock Church on a temporary basis. Word has come through the church clerk that Pastor Carlton W. Wilson began services with the church on Sabbath day, December 20, 1958. It is our understanding that the present arrangement with Brother Wilson is to be reviewed at the end of May, 1959.

Pastor Elizabeth F. Randolph resumed the pastorate of the Washington, D. C., Seventh Day Baptist Church in October, 1958. She writes of the appreciation of the church for having had Evangelist Loyal Hurley present and bringing messages on two Sabbaths — November 29 and December 6. Attendance was particularly gratifying on November 22 when Salem College students were present and took part in the service.

Prayerful and continuous efforts are being made to secure a shepherding pastor to locate at Hammond, La., serving that church and area. It is expected that such a worker would cooperate on the Associational level with the shepherding pastor, Rev. Marion Van Horn, located at Fouke.

Never has the lack of an adequate supply of pastoral leadership been quite so evident as now. Those pastors who have been contacted to fill this important opportunity for service have declined on the basis that their present work was sufficiently challenging all their talents so that they did not feel led to accept this call. There is no gainsaying such a response.

Meantime, we request that our people remember this matter in their prayers that God will lead the Hammond Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Missionary Board to jointly call just the right one to serve as our shepherding pastor at Hammond and that God will move the heart of that one to accept the call when it comes.

"Please send me four copies of the October 27 Recorder. . . . For a long time the Recorder seemed to be principally a family news magazine with very few real Bible studies. . . ." A Sabbathkeeper in Southern California.

An Appreciation for  
Rev. and Mrs. Grover S. Brissey

More news has come in regard to the Crandall High School Past-Students Dinner held at Kingston, Jamaica, on November 26, 1958. This happy event was a part of the tenth year of service of the school being observed there. A part of the observance was reviewed in the Sabbath Recorder, issue of December 29.

We now are informed that among the awards that were given as a part of the after-dinner program was an expression of appreciation by the students to Headmaster and Mrs. Grover Brissey. A very artistic folder, "A Souvenir of Appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Grover S. Brissey from Crandall High School," was presented to these consecrated workers. The presentation was accompanied by a heart-warming ovation from the students, faculty, and alumni friends present at the dinner.

"Besides the folder and typed thoughts," the communication states, the Brisseys were presented with a book by Norman Vincent Peale, entitled, "Faith Is the Answer."

General Director R. Kenneth Strachan of the Latin America Mission, in an article in *Christianity Today* (Dec. 22), says, "It becomes apparent that no coordinated effort is under way by the evangelical forces resident in the territory to complete the (Great) Commission in their area."

He concludes his article:

"The urgency of the times and the immensity of the task cry out to us to forsake our costly, overlapping, conflicting, competitive, independent ways of operation, and to determine to work together, lovingly respecting our differences of conviction and variety of gifts but ready to sacrifice our little ends for the sake of the 'Big End.' Our agreement on the fundamentals of the faith makes possible cooperation in evangelism if we but set our hearts on it. If we do not, we may well consider whether we are not sinning against the Lord and against the multiplying millions in Latin America for whom he died."

The Sign of the Manger

By Charles D. Swing  
De Ruyter, N. Y.\*

"And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2: 12).

Other babies were being born on that all-important night when the angels sang their first Christmas carol over the plains of Bethlehem, perhaps in Bethlehem itself.

So the angels brought a definite message. Not only did they name the day, the place, the event, and the Person; they also gave the shepherds a particular sign.

The sign was a double one, "wrapped in swaddling clothes," and more significant: "lying in a manger."

The sign of the manger is humility. The cradle of the Christ Child was not overlaid with gold. The cradle in which Jesus was laid was but a rude crib where the animals fed. When the King of Glory came to earth He came all the way. And the cross on Calvary and the borrowed sepulcher stood at the end of it. Truly He humbled Himself.

The sign of the manger is free admittance. One might hesitate to enter a private home. He might even hesitate to come uninvited to the room of an inn. But the barn where the manger stood was free to all.

The sign of the manger is transformation. Where the beasts had fed, the Christ Child was laid, and the place was transformed for all time. And wherever the Lord Jesus comes, be it a stable in Bethlehem, or the home in Bethany, or the heart of any human being, right then that place is transformed.

These were the signs of the manger: humility, free admission, and transformation. They hold true for this Christmas as well.

Those who seek the Christ Child today must come looking for One who, though

\*See editorial, "Echoes from Christmas." Mr. Swing, formerly a deacon in the Shiloh, N. J., Church, is pastor of the De Ruyter Seventh Day Baptist Church. This message appeared in the December 25 issue of *The De Ruyter Gleaner*.

the King of kings, has humbled Himself. And we must humble ourselves and come as a little child if we would find Him.

Today, too, admittance is free. Jesus pleads very patiently, "Come unto Me." It is without money and without price. The only requirement is being a penitent, humble, seeking heart.

Today, also, the Christ Child transforms every spot that His presence hallows. From that rude manger in Bethlehem there shines a glory that far exceeds the splendor of any earthly palace. In like fashion, wherever He comes, a transformation takes place. Jesus Christ can change this old world into a kingdom of peace. Yes, and He will do it in time. He will even transform our lives — your life and mine — if we will let Him. The coming of Christ means that God has gone as far in saving men as He can go. He has reached the limits, not of His great love, but of His part in saving man; for free moral agents can be saved only when they choose to be. And God has made every provision so that all men must do is to choose Him.

Today there are many who would observe Christmas, only they are preoccupied. But as we stand today before the manger we must surely choose to let Him in or keep Him out. Let us say: "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus; there is room in my heart for Thee."

The Red Sea port of Eilat, opened up to Israel's shipping after the Sinai campaign, when the Egyptian blockade was lifted, is growing by leaps and bounds, in rhythm with the increasing volume of goods passing through the port to and from East Africa and the countries of the Far East. But Eilat is also Israel's Miami Beach — an ideal winter playground, with perpetual sunshine, a blue sea, and no rainfall. New hotels are springing up fast to meet the daily swelling stream of visitors from northern Israel, as well as from Europe and overseas. Thus, natural resources, health-giving springs, and climatic conditions combine to bring life to the desert and a livelihood to its people.

— Israel Digest.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

February 13

Theme: "Lord, I believe"

We are all familiar with the origin of the World Day of Prayer in 1887. We know, too, that in 1919 women of all faiths spent the day, for the first time, in prayer for both home and foreign missions.

We know that each year offerings are given that mission work may be carried forward, but do we realize the magnitude of the movement? Forty short years ago just a few women in America met in prayer for home missions; today thousands upon thousands of women, in 144 countries completely encircling the globe, beside those in 20,000 communities in the United States, meet in groups to unite their voices in prayer for missionary efforts around the world.

The offering is used to support many ministries in whole or in part. It helped make these things and more come true . . .

From wherever the crops are ripe: Whenever a migrant sees the symbol of the Migrant Ministry, he knows he will find a friend nearby, a friend from the church.

From the superintendent of an Indian Boarding School in Arizona: "Thanks for the many ways in which you helped us. . . . We depend on your services in a spiritual way and in many other ways."

From Korea: "Young girls, leaving their families, come from north of the 38th Parallel to the southern part of Korea at the risk of their lives. They have no means of support except through the college. Funds for scholarships for them at E.W.H.A. Women's University come from the World Day of Prayer offering."

From West Pakistan: "Although the need is for ten pilot village schools, where ninety percent of the 275,000 Protestant Christians are illiterate, we are so grateful to the women

of the United States for the gift that made one possible this year. At least the seed has now been planted."

The service this year was written by the Christian women of Egypt, the country which is playing such an important role in the struggles of the people of the world. Although the committee included women from the Anglican and Evangelical churches, the majority were from the Coptic church. This church, which represents only a small minority in a predominantly Moslem country, has undergone many hardships, but it has kept its faith alive in spite of hostile forces.

It is heartening that these descendants of one of the oldest groups of Christians have chosen the theme, "Lord, I believe." Its ringing affirmation should strengthen the faith of those who participate in the service.

We quote from the Call to Prayer:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28).

Come, ye peoples of this troubled world with hearts bowed down with fear and anxiety. Let us go together before our Heavenly Father to ask for His guidance in the paths of peace, in the name of our Savior and Redeemer. Since He has said, "Seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you," we shall knock at the doors of heaven, confident they will be opened for our prayers to ascend to the throne of God.

A packet of materials to use in planning the World Day of Prayer observance may be obtained for 50¢ from P & D Dept., National Council of Churches, Box 140, Madison Sq. Station, New York 10, N. Y.

"The Gift of Prayer," a booklet of special worth, containing brief stories about people and places to which World Day of Prayer gifts are sent, may be used for devotions and as a resource for speakers. Order from above address, 40¢.

"The Share Our Surplus program, bringing food to hungry millions overseas every day in the year, is an outstanding proof that the Church has the longest arms of world service."

— Dr. Ralph W. Sockman.

Colorado Youth in

Christian Endeavor

Miss Frances Barr, a faithful member of the Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church and Youth Fellowship, has recently been elected secretary of the Colorado State Christian Endeavor Union, and Jerry Knox, a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church and Youth Fellowship, was elected treasurer of that same body. The Rev. David S. Clarke, pastor of the Boulder Church, is a pastor-counselor of the State Union.

Frances and Jerry were among 100 Christian Endeavor leaders from all parts of the United States and Canada who met in Columbus, Ohio, December 4-7, for the sessions of the Program Council of the International Society and the Christian Endeavor Executives' Conference.

A highlight of the sessions was the fellowship banquet on Friday night with Dr. Earl W. Gates, president of the International Society, bringing the message. Harold E. Westerhoff, general secretary of the International Society, was the toastmaster. Theme of the banquet was "All Aboard for Philadelphia," with emphasis on plans for the 45th International Christian Endeavor Convention which will be held in the "City of Brotherly Love," July 6-11, 1959.

Over one third of the delegates were under 25 years of age; our delegates were among that number. The sessions came to a close at noon on Sunday, December 7, following a very meaningful communion service conducted by Dr. Gates.

The Program Council, composed of denominational youth workers and employed field, general, and executive secretaries of state and provincial unions, carries out its work through three committees: Educational, Topics, and Junior Work. The council surveys needs of Christian Endeavor, initiates educational policy, program, and materials, and proposes current emphases.

The Executives' Conference is made up of state, provincial, territorial, and national union presidents and employed secretaries, plus a youth representative from each

union, and the regional vice-presidents. The group meets annually to promote executive and field work, interpret program and methods, and provide mutual acquaintance and fellowship.

Those attending the sessions commented on the fine spiritual and evangelistic emphasis throughout, the wonderful Christian fellowship, increased enthusiasm, and the continuing emphasis on the basic fundamentals of Christian Endeavor.

We are very proud of our youth who participate wholeheartedly in ecumenical work. Our congratulations go to Frances Barr and Jerry Knox upon their election, and to their advisors, the Rev. Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Robert Randolph, a co-sponsor in the Denver Church.

Miss Barr was graduated from high school last June, and Mr. Knox is a senior at Littleton High School, Littleton, Colo.

Honor for Seventh Day Baptist Youth

Miss Helena Knox, a senior at Milton College and a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church, is one of the seven students to be named to "Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Miss Knox is a member of the Milton College choir and of the Choral Union; she has been on the staff of both Fides and the Wildcat for the past three years, and has served on the student council, social board, and athletic board, as well as being secretary of the senior class this year. In her sophomore year, Miss Knox was crowned Milton's Homecoming Queen.

Invest Your Summer

For any of our Seventh Day Baptist youth who want to know of summer service opportunities outside of our denomination, you may buy a pamphlet for 25¢ called "Invest Your Summer," from the Commission on Youth Service Projects, 257 Fourth Avenue, Room A1207, New York 10, N. Y. This is a 32-page booklet listing summer projects for young people from 15 to 35. You may serve and learn in underprivileged communities, mental hospitals, industries, international seminars, etc., in America and abroad. This is adventurous Christianity.

## ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW

By Dr. Willis E. Garrett  
(Continued from last week)

### A New Condition

#### FORGIVENESS OF SINS

In becoming a Christian you were forgiven all sin. It was to you the Savior said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee."

As an unsaved person you were under the double penalty of sin, the sin nature which you inherited from Adam as a member of the fallen human race, and the sins which you commit from day to day. One is the root, the other is the fruit, both of which condemn the unregenerate soul. Christ paid the price for sin. "The wages of sin is death" and Christ paid just that price: "Christ died for our sins. . . . God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (1 Cor. 15: 3; Rom. 5: 8). Since God is absolutely righteous and holy He could not let sin go unpunished; Christ His Son bore that punishment in giving His life's blood on the Cross of Calvary. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust . . . who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 3: 18; 2: 24). You will never have to stand before God to be judged for sin for, "There is therefore now no condemnation [no judgment] to them which are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8: 1).

Picture yourself sitting in a prison cell awaiting the day of execution. Forlorn and despondent, you face the oncoming hour of death — a criminal condemned to die. Presently the warden enters the door and hands you an envelope which you open with trembling hands. Across the sheet of paper which bears your name your incredulous eyes read the word "Pardoned." That's all, just "Pardoned," but who could ask for anything more? Your pardon was written in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and none can rescind His order.

Your sins have been forgiven, the penalty of death no longer hangs over your head as the sword of Damocles. Back in the fastness of Tibet there is a native tribe which has a custom that

illustrates this principle of divine forgiveness. When an offender has served his prison term he wears a bright red sash for a period of time after his release, so that all will know his sentence has been served and the penalty of his sin has been fully paid. The red sash you are now wearing is the scarlet blood of Christ, announcing to all the world that the penalty of your sin has been completely met, and no power in the universe can require you to pay it again.

Your sins have been forgiven; now as you live by the Christian life and are made aware of the fact that you commit sin, you need but to turn humbly to the Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest, and confess them to Him and He will put them under His blood, for "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1: 9).

### A New Life

#### CHRIST IN YOU

One of the most remarkable gifts you received when you believed was that gift of eternal life.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6: 23). Whereas, once death reigned in your body, now life has taken its place. What is eternal life? Is it simply an endless existence, merely a continuation of this present into the never-ending future? If that were all, it would not be much of a gift. Eternal life is not so much a quantity as a quality of life. Eternal life is the actual, abiding presence of Christ in your heart. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" is the way Paul puts it in Colossians 1: 27. And John expresses it: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5: 11, 12).

Your body may die and return to the dust from whence it came, to await the resurrection of the body, but you, the real you, will never die but will, at the death of the body, go to be with Christ to serve and worship Him who is the fairest among ten thousand, the Lily of the Valley.

### A New Power

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Another precious gift which was made to you at the time of your conversion was the coming of the Holy Spirit into your heart.

He is present now in your heart and will never depart from you. You may ignore Him, or crowd Him into a corner of your heart and life, but He is there to stay. His presence is your assurance of security, of growth in grace, of divine guidance and of useful and Christlike living. Your body is now the temple of the Spirit. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6: 19.) The indwelling Spirit will empower you for Christian service, He will develop in you a godly character, He will enlighten you as you study the Word of God (of which He is the author), He will convict you when you sin against the Lord, and He will be in you a well-spring of overflowing joy.

He has placed His seal upon you, establishing once and for all God's ownership of you and your subsequent security in Him. He has baptized you into the Body of Christ, thus making you a vital member of this mystical body, which is The Church of which Christ is the head. You are now related to Christ as a branch is to the vine, as a wife to her husband, as a hand to the body. You are "one with Christ." This intimate relationship was made possible by the working of the Holy Spirit. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12: 12, 13).

The indwelling Holy Spirit is the driving power of your new life.

Note: In the next issue Dr. Garrett will describe "A New Future," and "A New Nature."

Voltaire said, "I hate life, and yet I hate to die." Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain."

### College and Seminary Libraries Display Sabbath Recorder

From the California Baptist Theological Seminary (host to our 1958 General Conference) came this note recently from the librarian:

"Our first few issues of the Sabbath Recorder have arrived and we would like to express our appreciation. We know our students will profit by your generosity."

Other seminaries, particularly those that have had Seventh Day Baptist students, have been glad to add our denominational weekly to their list of periodicals. Among such schools now receiving the Recorder are: Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Alfred University School of Theology, Yale Divinity School, Drew Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, California Baptist Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, Garrett Bible Institute, Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology, Baptist Missionary Training School, Moody Bible Institute, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Some college libraries also have the Recorder as follows: Salem College, University of Missouri, University of Illinois, Milton College, Wm. Carter Bible College, Potomac University, and Des Moines Bible College.

Churches and individuals are encouraged to arrange with local city libraries to provide our magazine in cases where there are potential readers. Quite a few have already done so.

### Baptists Are Strong in Texas

Fantastic stories of Texas wealth and aggressiveness have spread around the world. It is interesting to note the findings of the latest survey of the Texas Poll which says that more Baptist adults worship regularly than any other denomination in the state. The poll also revealed that Baptists exceed other Texas denominations in personal evangelism, in visitation by laymen, and in emphasis on tithing. The survey said that 39 per cent of all adult worshipers in Texas churches on Sunday are Baptists.

## Teen Talk

### How Are Your Parents Doing?

Parents are reminded in a little book, *Light for Your Home*, just off the press, that into any home where children are growing, there must come "those turbulent years known as adolescence." They are told that instead of poking fun at the antics of the teen-ager they should realize that "what the teen-ager desperately needs is understanding help."



Have you been reading the weekly, or almost weekly messages in the Sabbath Recorder of the president of our General Conference, Wayne Crandall? If not, you should look up the back numbers which your parents have undoubtedly kept, and read those messages. Why? Because so many of them are concerned with understanding and helping youth.

The picture of President Crandall and his family gives you some reasons for his consuming interest in the problems of youth, particularly the Sabbath problems which he has chosen to emphasize in the year of his presidency. It looks as though he has four good reasons for talking to adults in terms of youth. There is a fifth reason also — he is a high school teacher working largely with boys.

We do not suggest in the title of this talk that you call your parents before a court in which you are the plaintiff, the judge, and the jury. Perhaps you have done that occasionally. It doesn't do much good for, after having found them guilty of unreasonable handling of the family problems and gross lack of understanding of yours, in particular, there isn't much you can do about it. Also, you may think better of your hasty judgment in a few days or weeks.

Just the same, you can help your parents. You can do your best to keep the gap of misunderstanding from widening during these "turbulent years." Try to remember that your parents do love you with a steady love which you never questioned when you were a few years younger and which you probably will not question when you are just a little older. Try to put yourself in their places. They just can't change their interests as fast as you change yours. Be patient. Remember that although they see many more pitfalls ahead than you can see, some of them do exist and they want to keep you out of them by their more mature wisdom.

The author of the book we mentioned in the beginning, Wilson Fagerberg, has spent years in studying the home and the family. He is convinced that the only real solution for the problems of youth is the ideal one. The turbulent years are shorter and less turbulent and the growing pains less painful in proportion to our commitment to Christ — both parents and teen-agers. The more we yield our hearts to Jesus the less we will view things in a selfish way.

If our parents sometimes disappoint us, let us remember Christ never does. The most satisfying outlet for abounding energy is in the cause of Christ. Probably you will discover that home frictions largely disappear if you pray for an understanding of God's will for you.

### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for January 24, 1959

Christ's Right to Command

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 21: 12-13, 23-27.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

### TV Drama "Treasures of Al Decker" Digs into "The Root of All Evil" January 18 on "This Is the Answer"

At what point does a man go beyond the normal need to "work hard for a living" and fall into the trap laid by "the root of all evil"? Which root is not money, as many think, but "the love of money." How do you recognize the fine line that separates commendable hard work from simple greed?

An answer to this not uncommon problem will be offered dramatically in the television drama, "Treasures of Al Decker," Sunday, January 18.

The story has an ironic twist. A garage owner is so intent on business profits that he cuts corners in workmanship and seriously neglects his family. To gain a quick fee, he fails to safety-check a rental-trailer and then finds his own son in deadly danger when the boy goes on a trip with a friend in the defective trailer. The money-hungry father faces a fearful ordeal as he waits for news of his son.

### New Testaments Convert Japanese

Each year between 8,000 and 10,000 Japanese people leave their homeland to settle in Brazil. Ships carrying these people stop for several days in the Los Angeles harbor before continuing their journey to South America. These ships are met by a representative of Church World Service and the Southern California Council of Churches. Each family is given a packet containing such things as clothing, soap, towels, games, gifts for the children, and, most important of all, a Japanese New Testament, provided by the American Bible Society. When they arrive in Brazil, they approach the Christian community with their Testaments in their hands, presenting these Testaments as if they were passports to the fellowship of the Christian Church. They come to the churches, saying, "See, our friends in America invite us to come to your church. Here is our Bible for you to see." The Rev. T. Miyakoda, secretary of the Japan Bible Society, who visited these Japanese settlers, reports that many of them became Christians through their study of their New Testaments.

### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

RIVERSIDE, CALIF. — It seemed significant that hymns of faith and complete trust in the Savior were sung at our Sabbath service, November 1, since only the day before, centuries earlier, a monk had nailed his ninety-five theses to a cathedral door and thereby reopened the portal of faith.

The following Sabbath, stewardship was stressed with an interesting message on "The Tradition of the Tithes." In the afternoon the youth groups made a tour of the local Jewish Temple with Rabbi Bernard Zeiger as guide. He explained their many customs and ceremonies. Sunday evening, an all-church potluck supper was held in the social hall of the church after which a special church business meeting convened where budget, additional church space, and camp problems awaited decision.

On Sabbath, November 15, Pastor Wheeler concluded his sermons from Ephesians with "Preparing to Face Life." At noon, the fellowship luncheon was resumed with Doris Parry, Dora Orr, and Evelyn Rymer in charge. Subsequently, luncheons will be served monthly, on the first Sabbath.

Sunday, November 23, was the final workday at camp to do some necessary work on the water lines before freezing weather. The day turned out to be one of the coldest days in local history.

A special service was held Thanksgiving Day.

December was filled with activity. The Youth Fellowship put on a successful rummage sale, December 2, netting over \$100 toward sending some young people to Pre-Con Retreat. Wednesday noon, the third, the Dorcas ladies had a Christmas luncheon at the parish home enlivened by a gift exchange. Handel's "Messiah," annually sponsored by the local Ministerial Association (of which Pastor Wheeler is president), was given in Calvary Presbyterian Church, Sunday afternoon, December 7. Paul Crandall represented our church in the chorus.

— Correspondent.

HAMMOND, LA. — We have quite a bit of news. After Secretary Rex Zwibel



# The Sabbath Recorder

left a few things began to happen. Our pastor, needing a rest, made his home in the hospital for two weeks. He is well now and back at work, thanks to the good Lord.

For quite a while we have been trying to get a church started in Walker, La. It seems that there have never been more people anxious in all the world to have a Seventh Day Baptist Church, for these people have taken it upon themselves to organize and build this church.

On December 26 at 3 p.m., twenty-three individuals, all of Walker, attended the service of dedication for the foundation of the church, which was already laid. Sunday, the 28th, work was continued and the rafters were put up. The men working on this project are not all members, yet are interested in a true investigation of our denomination. Such proved interest surely will be rewarded. We are starting with a small building and will add on later, changing this part of the building to the Sabbath School room. The Youth Fellowship in Hammond is raising money to help the Walker Church.

We believe God is with us and helping us, for we believe that this is His will. How could so much be done without being on the Lord's side? Pray with us and let's grow for His glory!

— Correspondent.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. — Our Sabbath School Promotion Day was held September 27, when all classes met together. Miss Lucy Whitford, the superintendent, was in charge of the program.

On Friday evening, December 12, at the prayer meeting, we had a presentation of the film "The Saga of the Bible," which presented a procession of characters and events which had to do with the writing, translating, and printing of the Bible down through the ages. Continuing the Bible Sabbath emphasis the next morning the pastor preached on the topic, "The Book that Lives."

The Pro-Con group held their Christmas party in the church social room on December 14 with a supper. White elephant gifts were exchanged.

On Christmas Sabbath, the choir presented a cantata, "The Adoration," by Nevin, and the pastor preached a Christmas sermon. At the Vesper Service, De-

cember 20, a dramatization, "The Message of the Bells," was given in addition to songs and recitations by the children. A "white gift" offering of canned goods and money was taken. The food was given to a family in the community and a part of the money was to be sent to a Seventh Day Baptist minister to show appreciation for the sacrificial service he renders to his small church.

We wish every church a Happy New Year, and hope the year ahead will be the best the Plainfield Church has enjoyed both spiritually and physically.

— Correspondent.

## New Veterans Benefits

Opportunity for veterans holding National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) to buy a low-cost new type of total disability income rider for their GI policies is now offered by the Veterans Administration.

Under the new-type rider now on sale, policyholders, who become totally disabled from any cause before age 60 and while their rider is in effect, will receive an income of \$10 per month for each \$1,000 face amount of their GI policies. Previous maximum was \$5 per month.

Information and application forms are available at any VA office.

## Marriages

Swerediuk - Sholtz. — Thomas S. Swerediuk of Rome, N. Y., and Janice Sholtz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Sholtz of Verona, N. Y., were united in marriage on November 15 at the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church by their pastor, the Rev. C. Rex Burdick. The new home is at 306 North Jay Street in Rome.

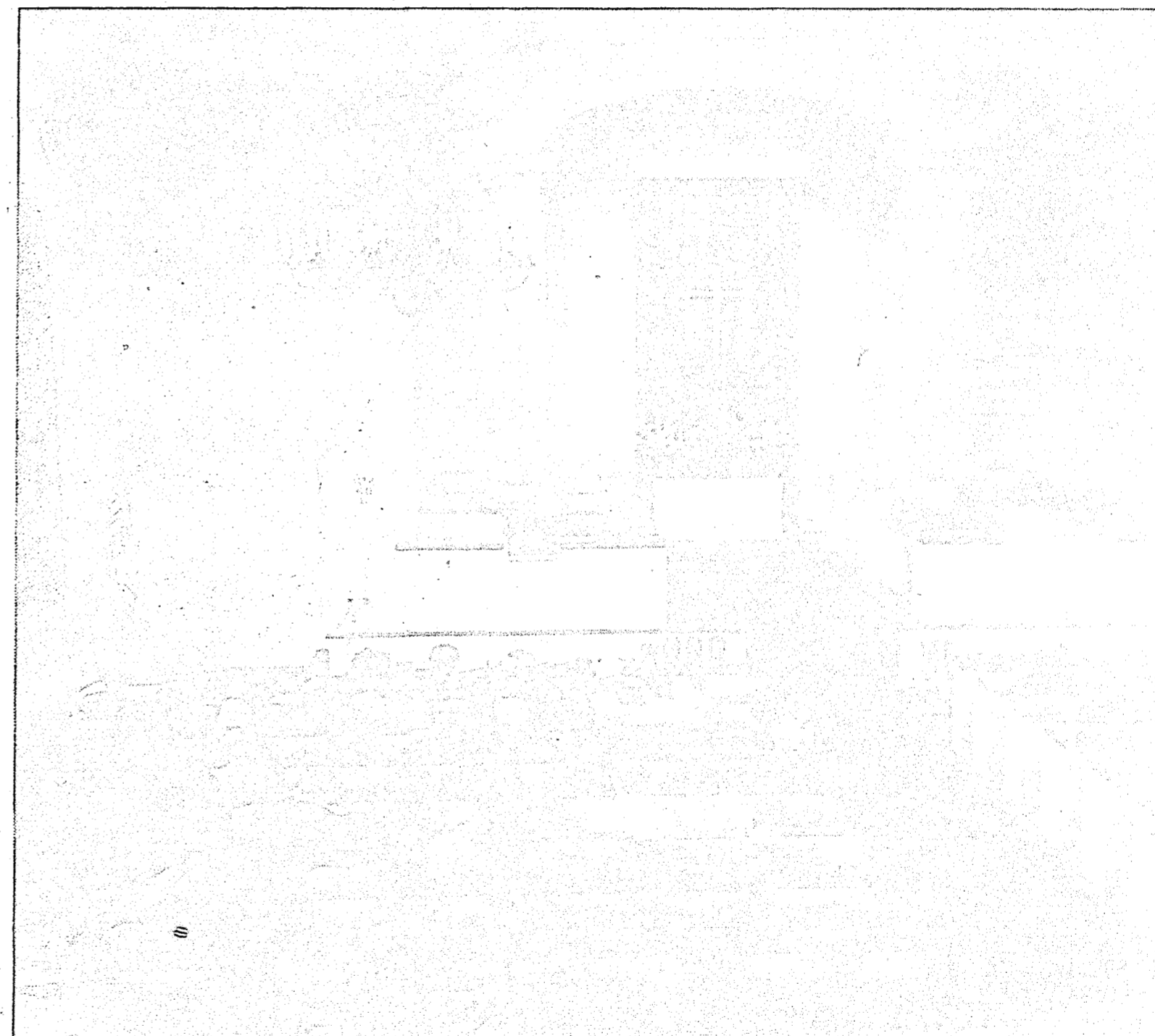
## Obituaries

Maris. — Hannah E., daughter of Edwin and Drusilla Fogg, was born February 16, 1863, at Damascus, Ohio, and died at her daughter's home in Nortonville, Kan., December 25, 1958.

She and her husband, who preceded her in death, moved to Kansas in 1892, at which time they became members of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was a faithful member and active in the church program.

She leaves besides her daughter, Mrs. Carroll (Alma) Davis, a son, Edwin, Sterling, Kan.; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held by her pastor, the Rev. Robert Lippincott, from the church. Interment was in the local cemetery. — R.P.L.



## Let's Fill Our Churches

When the choir and the minister take their places do they see every member in his place or do they find only half of them hungering and thirsting for the Word? Let us make answer with the Psalmist: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."