

# The Sabbath Recorder

Glenn Warner, assistant summer pastor of the Los Angeles church, and presently a student at Whittier College, preached the Sabbath sermon at the worship service, October 14. No stranger to us, his fine assistance at Pacific Pines Camp gave weight to his words.

Pacific Coast Association met in Los Angeles, October 20-22. The theme "Call to Obedience" was well chosen, with the Rev. Francis D. Saunders the main speaker. Our church furnished the music and devotions for the evening service following the Sabbath.

Sabbath, Nov. 4, was a "high Sabbath" in Riverside — a long-awaited day. Seated behind the pulpit, Pastor Wheeler delivered his first sermon in many weeks. "Where Is Your God?" he asked. Since "things happen alike to all men," where is your God?

The following Sabbath, November 11, Pastor Wheeler stood behind the pulpit. His question this time — "Where Are God's People?" Following the Fellowship Luncheon that day the annual planning meeting got under way and continued well into the afternoon. It was resumed again on Sunday night when the plans of the various committees were crystalized, the annual budget adopted, and coming events calendared. With Elmer Maddox, church president, in charge the meeting was enthusiastic and well attended.

Responding to Rev. Bingham's invitation that our congregation meet with his at the Victoria Avenue Presbyterian Church for the Thanksgiving Day Service resulted in nearly filling their beautiful new sanctuary. Our Pastor Wheeler offered the opening prayer and led alternately with Mr. Bingham in reading the minister's portion of the litany. The blue robes of our choir members distinguished them from the others, but the voices blended as one. Mr. Bingham gave the address. The combined offering was given to provide a chaplain for the Riverside and San Bernardino County Hospitals.

"Does It Cost to Be a Christian?" Obviously yes. Pastor Wheeler made this clear in his sermon November 25. Very fittingly, Sharon and Diana Boatman sang a beautiful duet, "It Pays to Serve Jesus."

Plan now for . . .

## CHURCH-VOCATIONS SABBATH

December 30, 1961

"all work is empty save  
when there is love . . ."

Sponsored by the Youth Work Committee  
of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of  
Christian Education.

## Births

Unland.—Gerhard H. and Hildegard (Schmid) Unland of Verona, N. J., announce the adoption on August 31, 1961, of a son, Mark Horst, who was born in Rotenburg, Hanover, Germany, December 14, 1956, and has been in their home for about two years.

## Obituaries

Palmiter.—Bertha Pierce, daughter of John and Mary Hawks Pierce, was born near Alfred Station on Jan. 25, 1887, and died at the Harris Nursing Home, Hornell, N. Y., on Sept. 28, 1961.

She grew up in a Christian home, was baptized and joined the Second Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church in May, 1904. She was married to Earl L. Palmiter on August 1, 1911. They lived all their married life on their own farm near Alfred Station.

She is survived by her husband; two sisters, Mrs. Edna Lewis and Mrs. Ella Clarke, both of Alfred Station; three brothers, Harry of LaMirada, Calif., Fred and Ira, both of Alfred Station.

The funeral service was held at the Second Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, Rev. Albert N. Rogers and Rev. J. Paul Green officiating, with burial at the Alfred Rural Cemetery.  
— J. P. G.

## Sabbathkeepers' Calendars

Sabbaths in red is one of the features of the calendars prepared for so many years by the Bible Sabbath Association of Fairview, Okla. Many of our readers have in previous years bought these calendars for their homes, have appreciated the Sabbath emphasis, and have pondered the thoughts on each page. They may be ordered from Fairview at 25 cents each.

Sabbathkeepers wishing to live or spend the winter in Florida near a Seventh Day Baptist church write to James A. Price, Route 1, Box 203, Palatka, Florida, for information on houses or trailer space for rent.



"And, lo, the star . . . went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was."

# The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration  
Member of the Associated Church Press  
REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor

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## The Birth of Christ, What Does It Mean?

Are we taking undue advantage of a sentimental celebration of the traditional birthday of Jesus to call on each other to think seriously about the meaning today of an event of history dating back nearly 2,000 years? No, we are not. Every year church leaders locally and at higher levels call on their people to re-think the significance of the unique manner in which the Son of God entered the stream of history in the conception and birth of that One whose coming was announced to certain poor shepherds on Bethlehem's hills.

Our attempts to get people to think in the days just preceding December 25 are too often half-hearted. People are in the mood for sweet sentimentality and deceptive folklore, and pastors and editors are to a certain extent caught up in that mood. Not much of Christmas is Christ-centered. Thinking is negated, as in the spirit of the children in the familiar poem who had "visions of sugar plums" dancing in their heads.

On the other hand we are faced with some real dangers when we start to think about the religious side of Christmas, the danger of discovering unsavory or superstitious origins of some of the practices that have gradually crept into our American churches. It is not necessary to make a list of them, for they are acknowledged by most of us. Even the name Christmas pays homage to Rome and to an order of worship (the mass) which is repugnant to those who see no scriptural basis for the apostolic succession of the priesthood. Too much thinking about church practices and their unscriptural origins is likely to lead us into an agnostic or skeptical position that will rob us of whatever good might be derived from our elaborate emphasis on special programs.

What then shall we think? How shall we direct our thoughts, and how shall we teach our children the better things? We have no Christian obligation to defend substitute saints put in the place of biblical saints or pagan practices sanctified by long usage. We do have an obligation to emphasize again and again the biblical story of the incarnation and the blessings that are ours because Christ the Son of God was willing to take upon Him the

form of a servant through human birth. To do that in ways understandable to children and meaningful to educated adults presents a challenge that ought to be gladly accepted and implemented.

The lily needs no gilding; the true gem needs no garnishing; truth is not bettered by embellishment. The birth of Christ has all the glory, mystery, beauty, and tenderness that anyone can legitimately desire. Here is the only authenticated story of the coming of the Savior and the way people of that time reacted to this divine intervention into human history. The Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John give us the truth; we need not ask for more or add anything that is not logically derived from these accounts. Does a yearly celebration help us to appreciate the whole plan of salvation? Let the unconverted and the uninstructed celebrate as custom dictates but let Christians and their church organizations keep their thinking clear, and devout. If churches do not make their annual rehearsals of the Nativity Christ-centered, who then will pass on the truth to the oncoming generation?

## See and Believe

From the editor of the *Desert Journal*, Joshua Tree, California, comes an article on the value of printed advertisements in newspapers. He maintains with good reasoning that a visible ad creates a mental picture far better and more lasting than a salesman's spoken word or the noisy spiel of the barker at the County Fair Midway.

If this is true in the selling of merchandise, how much more is it true in the dispensing of religious ideas. There was a time in our country when Protestant denominations put more emphasis on printed tracts to spread the Gospel than they have in the past one or two generations. During all this time nondenominational tract agencies have continued to advertise the Gospel and various phases of Christian living with ambitious programs of publication and distribution. Within the last few years the Soviet Union has adopted many of the proven techniques of missionaries. They have begun to flood the non-communist world with their

## MEMORY TEXT

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1: 35.

literature which is cleverly designed to undermine Christian doctrine and principles and to build up atheistic-communist philosophy. They know that when they have captured a man's mind, they have him body and soul.

Merchants know the value of making their claims in print. The prospective customers can then compare one product with another and develop confidence in the concern that lives up to its written promises.

Christian people must learn again to present the claims of Christ clearly and forcefully not only from the pulpit, but also in the press and in easily read tract form. We must match the false claims of communism as a panacea for the ills of the world with the true claims of Christianity. Let us publish material that calls on the uncommitted people of the world to examine the product of missionary work — changed lives. Then, too, let us earnestly strive in our own hearts to make our professions of faith and brotherly goodwill ring true.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### Cuban Problems Come to Miami

Now that Fidel Castro has openly boasted that he is a dedicated communist and that he had been hiding the fact during his rise to power the problems confronting our nation are more clearly seen. But Cuban problems have been coming to Miami ever since Mr. Castro took over the government. There are about 2,000 Latin Americans (mostly Cubans) arriving in Miami every week. Only about 450 of them are able to move on each week to other places of residence. Thus Miami has an ever-increasing population of Spanish-speaking people who need jobs and who need a vital Christianity.

One of the problems that pulls at the heartstrings of Christians who are close to the situation is that many parents in Cuba are placing their children on planes, not knowing anyone in the United States and having no one to meet the children when they arrive. Several denominations have voted relief money for the Cubans in Miami and for Gospel work among them. Here again is an example of foreign mission work on home soil. Every Christian needs to ask himself the question, "Is there anything I can do to help?"

We need to pray for our executive leadership and the State Department as they attempt to steer a proper course toward our southern neighbor which has been taken over by the all-too-familiar techniques of unscrupulous communism. It should serve to remind a nation presently agitated by the accusations and publicity of right wing extremists that the subversive aims of communism have not changed. This country does face dangers from within. As Christians we must redouble our efforts to seek first "the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Just as evil trees are recognized in due time by their evil fruit, so must we who profess to be renewed from the root up bring forth fruits of righteousness.

#### New Church Encourages COs

The General Synod of the newly organized United Church of Christ (union of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed denominations) has adopted resolutions which "affirm its recognition of the right of conscientious objection to participation in or support of war; extend moral and spiritual support to the members of its constituent congregations who for conscience' sake seek exemption from military service and elect the alternative of civilian national service provided in the law; call upon its pastors and congregations to hold closely within the fellowship of the church those who take this position . . ."

What the United Church of Christ has done in this resolution will probably meet with general approval in other denominations, our own included. Two observations may be in order: (1) That

it is easy to pass such resolutions in times of peace when patriotism is at ebb tide — not so easy when thousands of our sons are dying for us on land and sea; (2) That in times of national emergency local church leaders in the past have faced strong opposition when they tried to implement the attitude of "holding closely within the fellowship of the church those who take this (conscientious objector) position." Will the easy resolutions, not needed today, be heeded when the time comes that they are needed?

#### What's Happening in France?

"Less than five years ago France was branded as a decadent country. Today evidence grows that the Holy Spirit is moving here with great power," writes Robert P. Evans, European director, Greater European Mission.

In a nominally Roman Catholic country there has been an appalling lack of knowledge of Christ which is becoming a real hunger for what the missionaries tell the people Christ can do in their lives. From within France Mr. Evans writes:

"In country districts superstition and fear lead peasants to make pacts with the devil. France has more licensed sorcerers and spiritualist healers than she has medical doctors." He goes on to describe the futility that pervades the country and quotes the characteristic statement in a Paris paper of one university girl: "We have given up what ideals we had. We believe in nothing. Our sole interest is the struggle for personal subsistence."

In spite of this dark picture Mr. Evans claims that the Spirit of God is at work in France, although the average visitor may not see the evidences. He cites the fact that in Billy Graham's five-day campaign in France the ration of conversions was greater than in England, even though he had to speak through an interpreter. Other mass evangelism efforts are succeeding and Protestant churches are again springing up. An ad in the French edition of *Reader's Digest* (costing \$2,000) brought 4,500 letters requesting Bibles or correspondence courses. The number of missionaries in France ten years ago was less than 12; now it is 194.

#### Echoes From New Delhi

Sunday, December 3

#### Seventh Day Baptist Delegate Writes

The Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches nears its close. Actions of far-reaching importance have been taken. After days of thinking together on the part of delegates, study documents for the churches are taking their final form. There will be much to report when it is over and much to consider. Meanwhile, here is a greeting from all Baptists attending the Assembly. To me the fellowship of fellow Baptists is the most spiritually-enriching aspect of the meeting. Baptists have an important witness to give to the ecumenical movement. May God help us to fill well our place in this witness. — Clifford W. P. Hansen.

#### A Baptist Greeting from New Delhi

We are 67 Baptists attending the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India. With Christian greetings we wish to send this message to our fellow-Baptists throughout the world:

We have come here from many parts of the world and from 14 different Baptist Conventions and Unions to spend 16 days in fellowship with Christians of many nations and many confessions. In this fellowship we have realized afresh our common experience of the grace of God in the churches in all their variety. We have been presented with the urgent challenges which churches are called upon to face, both in the light of the Gospel and through the times and seasons in which we live. We have been impressed with the extent of the service offered by the churches to humanity in the name of Christ.

In this world-wide Christian fellowship, we who are Baptists have been glad to share. We believe that in doing so, we are expressing the spirit of some of our forefathers in the faith; we think particularly of William Carey and his vision of a world won for Christ. We believe too, that in new ways we are expressing our faith in, and our commitment to Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.

An assembly of this nature is an opportunity for conversation between Chris-

tians. We have listened to points of view with which we have not agreed, but often in traditions other than our own we have discovered aspects of Christian truth and we have seen in those sharing them a genuine devotion to Jesus Christ. Christians of other traditions have also listened to us, so that where occasion demanded it, we have been able to bear clear witness to Baptist insights and convictions. We think that all our Baptist brethren would receive inspiration and enrichment by sharing in the fellowship, conversation, studies and activities promoted by the World Council of Churches, and are moved to suggest that an obligation is laid upon us as Baptists to make our distinctive contribution to this significant movement of the 20th century church.

We express the hope, therefore, that Baptists everywhere will study reports of this Assembly with sympathy and imagination, seeking to understand the true nature and work of the ecumenical movement, so that Christian fellowship may be promoted and Christ's ministry of reconciliation be more fully exercised both in the churches and in the world.

#### Sabbath Recorder News

Did you know that 1,000 extra copies of the *Recorder* of December 11 were printed and mailed to church members and prospective subscribers with a colored insert inviting them to subscribe to our weekly journal? The names were taken from the lists furnished by the churches last winter. It is suggested that all regular readers of the *Sabbath Recorder* pray definitely for those of our number who do not have our paper. In doing so we will be praying for the whole outreach program of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination which is promoted each week in the president's column, editorials, and the pages devoted to missions, Christian education, women's work, and church news.

Christmas suggestions . . . Choose all gifts carefully and let extravagance be reserved for gifts to mission or welfare projects.

—Little Rock Church bulletin.

### THREE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY LETTERS

By Evalois St. John

(Librarian, Seventh Day Baptist  
Historical Society)

To a prisoner confined at Dorchester Jail, England, in the year 1665 was delivered a letter. To receive a letter while imprisoned was not unusual. It was the contents of this letter which made it unique, for in it the prisoner was asked his opinion whether the first or the seventh day of the week was the true weekly Sabbath.

Now the prisoner to whom the letter was addressed was also no ordinary person. He had received ordination from two Bishops of the Church of England, he had licenses for preaching under the hands and seals of two kings — Charles I and Charles II. He had been "zealous against the parliament's war and Oliver's usurpation." Yet in spite of his having sided with the royal cause, when this minister advocated reforms in the Church of England his loyalty was forgotten and he was thrown into prison. To such a man was this letter addressed.

The letter remained unanswered. Then a second letter repeated the question — Which day is the true weekly Sabbath? To satisfy his own mind the prisoner began a study of the Scriptures. He was amazed to find how much importance was attached to the institution in the Old Testament. He turned to the New Testament. He found no explicit authority for the change of day; he found that Christ and His apostles uniformly observed the seventh day. He found that obedience to God's laws was made the test of love to Him. Why, the prisoner pondered, why had this subject never taken hold of his mind before. There was but one conclusion to be made — the observance of the seventh day was still obligatory. From that moment Francis Bampfield — the prisoner — observed, privately at first and then publicly, the seventh-day Sabbath.

Though Bampfield knew the announcement of his change of opinion would cause his friends to become his foes — and certainly a prisoner for conscience'

sake needed friends — though he was aware of this he spoke with firm voice: "My duty is as clear as the light to me through the Scriptures." From then on "he preached in prison, almost every day, and gathered a church there . . . and upon his discharge in 1675, he went about preaching the gospel in several counties."

Three years later on February 12, 1678, Francis Bampfield penned a letter with the approval of the church which he served. This letter, however, was not addressed to one individual alone but "to all the churches of seventh-day Sabbath observers, who keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

After expressing his thankfulness to God, "and his belief that a return to the Sabbath must precede the latter-day glory," he makes the following proposition:

"That by messengers from every Sabbath-keeping church in England, or by letters and messages from any such churches or brethren in Holland, New England, or elsewhere, we may meet if our Lord will, once every year, at London or elsewhere, to keep days of fasting or thanksgiving together; by these means to prevail with the Father for larger outpourings of his Spirit upon ourselves, for his special presence of grace with us, and that then and there we may consult how, by common stock, to promote any good work, for the maintenance of any church officers, for the training up of hopeful young men in the knowledge of the original tongue and other Scripture learning, and for the procuring of a more exact literal translation of the Old and New Testament into our mother tongue, for the religious education of children, for the relieving of the poor, and other good works; also, to inquire what may be our duty towards the two and ten tribes of Judah and Israel, to help forward their conversion; to inquire what the Spirit has to say to our churches and

others in this great providential day, and such like public-spirited inquiries."

Mr. Bampfield declared himself ready and anxious to join in carrying out this plan which might have resulted in the organization of a Conference of the Sabbathkeeping churches of that day.

Samuel Hubbard of Newport has recorded in his Journal the following: "Mr. Francis Bampfield and his church in London wrote this church Feb. 12, 1678, and proposed a general meeting from all their churches here and in Britain and in Holland to consult their general good; . . . Mr. Edward Stennett wrote a postscript, concurring with them and propose a meeting May 14, 1679." Mr. Hubbard adds these words: "But Mr. Bampfield died in prison 3 or 4 years after."

Are these letters the seed from which our General Conference sprang?

"God moves in a mysterious way. . . ."

### Oppose Parochial School Aid and McCormack as House Speaker

By Glenn L. Archer

It is unfortunate that the Roman Catholic bishops have renewed their demand for financial special privilege in education. Our public school system is free to all. No one can argue discrimination in the use of public funds for public schools only, so long as these schools are open to all and all creeds are treated alike.

The Friday, (Nov. 17) statement of the Roman Catholic bishops is the final proof that the leaders of American Catholicism are prepared to put their sectarian interests ahead of the public schools and to oppose both the President and the Supreme Court. We do not believe that the majority of American Catholics will accept the bishops' position and we know that the overwhelming majority of the American people will oppose this proposed breach in the wall of separation between church and state.

Our national organization (POAU), with branches in all states, pledges an unremitting campaign against these sectarian demands for special privilege. We

believe that the whole future of our public school system and the very future of our open society are at stake in this battle.

Congress will soon choose a new Speaker of the House of Representatives. As Americans we have the right to scrutinize the record of any candidate for that high office, especially as he is in the line for succession to the Presidency. It is a record that all our citizens will be studying closely in the next few weeks.

There is cause for justified anxiety about church-state separation when one surveys the record of John W. McCormack in more than 30 years on Capitol Hill. It is not a matter of his being a Catholic; it is a matter of his having been for many years the foremost champion on Capitol Hill of the Catholic bishops' position on church and state. No one questions the right of Mr. McCormack or any other Congressman to be a sincere devotee of his faith, but when he seeks political favors for his own church he must bear the responsibility. He has consistently demanded government support for sectarian schools; he was the leading advocate of the appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican; he denounced the Supreme Court's interpretation of the separation of church and state in 1948; and he has been the sponsor of many bills in Congress conferring financial benefits upon his church.

While President Kennedy and the Supreme Court have sought to uphold and maintain church-state separation, Mr. McCormack has opposed them. Of course we are concerned about how he would use the greatly expanded powers of his prospective office.

### Daily Bible Readings Thanksgiving to Christmas

#### DECEMBER

24	.....	Luke 2: 1-20
25	Christmas	..... Philippians 2: 1-11
26	.....	Matthew 2: 13-23
27	.....	Matthew 3: 1-17
28	.....	Matthew 4: 1-11
29	.....	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
30	Sabbath	..... Ephesians 4: 1-24
31	.....	Ephesians 1: 1-23

### WISE MEN WORSHIP

Christmas is not just a season of the year, it is a worship experience. Until we have felt that annual worship experience renewed within us, until we have been brought to our spiritual knees before the Promised One, the only begotten of the Father, we know in our hearts that we haven't truly kept Christmas.

Have you heard anyone say, "It just doesn't seem like Christmas this year"? Perhaps we have felt like saying it ourselves. What is wrong when we feel this way? The answer surely must be that we haven't let ourselves go all out in a heartwarming Christmas worship experience.

Wise men worship and if we are wise we will seek those surroundings and do those unselfish acts of kindness which will bring us into a mood of awe and reverence before God. How can we do this? Let us think awhile of those things which hinder and of those experiences which may help to bring us into the mood for keeping Christmas aright.

Have you heard some say that they dread Christmas and wish it was over? What a shame! These are the ones that rush to work, rush home at night, rush through the evening meal and rush off to the movies or some other form of demanding activity. They never get caught up. Christmas is just an added burden.

If there is any one thing that hinders the Christmas worship experience more than any other, it is being too busy. It is this matter of getting caught in "a squirrel cage existence" that goes rushing through the days and taking no thought to the meaning of life or taking time to study and appreciate our spiritual heritage or to even appreciate the joy of abiding in Christ. We get so busy and tired we can't think straight.

It takes something just short of a miracle to make some folks stop short and take thought — take time to remember friends — take time to look up at the stars — take time to once more get a perspective on life. Thank God for the Christmas miracle that can do this for us.

Wonderful Christmas, which sings:

And ye, beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing.

There are certain things which may help to renew within us our annual Christmas worship experience. We listen to the singing of the "Messiah" and to the other songs of the master musicians as the choirs sing again the thrilling story of the birth of Jesus. We attend the annual Sabbath School program and listen to children sing with their fresh young voices and give their recitations with glowing faces. It brings back the memory of when we took part or perhaps our children did. The pastor brings a heartwarming message. As he reads the Scripture passage perhaps it stirs our hearts again with the ageless wonder of the angels' song of glory to God in the Highest.

And then, some of like to visit the older folks and get them to tell us about the old days and watch their eyes kindle as they tell of sleigh rides through the snow. And some of us like to watch the children's faces glow around the Christmas tree in our homes as they catch the spirit of expectancy that is at the heart of Christmas. This poem by Nancy B. Turner catches up our meaning:

We were all cross with the Christmas hurry  
(Lord forgive us), the wear and the worry,  
Things gone wrong without reason or rhyme,  
Too much bustle and too little time.  
Some were restless and some beset  
By last minute duties they mustn't forget.  
All but the youngest, the five year old,  
Still, so still, in her little chair.  
We had forgotten that she was there,  
The firelight on her golden hair. A knock at  
the door,  
Sudden and loud — and we fretted some more,  
Was it a guest, or a beggar man,  
Or a last minute message changing our plan?  
Something, no doubt, to hurry and push  
And all so tired with the Christmas rush!  
All but the youngest, she came to her feet  
Caught by a wonder wild and sweet  
Starry-eyed, breathless, with lifted head:  
"Listen! the Wise Men have come!" she said.

Oh, for the faith and the mood of expectancy of a little child! It is a fact that we get so immersed in our own private worries and discouragements that we really do not expect God to do anything for us. We get so discouraged by the daily news of the world's doings that we have forgotten that "God is the ruler yet."

The breaking through into time of the wonderful Christ Child 2,000 years ago, when the world had reached an impasse — this alone ought to teach us that God doesn't always do things in the expected way — that He does work out His will in sometimes strange and wonderful ways.

Then try to develop a mood of expectancy this Christmastime. Don't let your mind be cramped into a superficial, skeptical way of looking at things which some people assume as a way of appearing wise. Pause with a little child before a Christmas creche and let your heart go all out as you capture again the wonder and joy of the age-old Christmas worship experience.

And suddenly to your surprise  
You'll hear the whir of seraphim  
And find you're under God's own eyes  
And building palaces for Him.

### Encouraging Report from Daytona Beach

Pastor S. Kenneth Davis reports an encouraging outlook for the services of the Daytona Beach, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church. He writes that the Sabbath morning church attendance has continued to improve and "the Sabbath School has outgrown its present confines and we are talking about a second floor on the social hall to house the Sabbath School.

"It is wonderful to work in a situation where the problem is getting too big instead of getting too small. The youngsters for the children's message overflowed this week. We had to use part of the third pew back to get them all up front."

Pastor Davis tells of letters being sent to "over 100 Seventh Day Baptists and those interested throughout the state. The Executive Committee of the church approved plans to visit all these folks during the Christmas season."

### Universal Week of Prayer

The first full week in January of each year is designated as "The Week of Prayer in the Churches." Spiritually stimulating and helpful material is available this year, to be ordered from Tidings, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 5, Tenn.

The theme of the Week of Prayer is "A World at Peace Through a World at Prayer." A meditation folder has been prepared which offers prayer suggestions for each day of the week. Specific and concrete suggestions are also offered for implementing our prayers. Price of the "Meditation Folders" is fifteen cents each, 10 or more ten cents each. "A Guide for Universal Week of Prayer" is offered at ten cents each. Orders should be placed at once.

### Fund Shortage Emergency Continues

It was the hope and expectation of the Missionary Board that the emergency caused by shortage of funds for carrying on missionary services at home and abroad would be ended when the treasurer received the November Our World Mission receipts from the churches. But our hopes were ill-founded. The Missionary Board's share of receipts for November amounted to \$2,670.00, considerably short of amount needed each month (\$4,330.00).

So the emergency continues. To be more specific, the December salaries of mission workers at home and abroad for December cannot be paid at the end of the month. Again, we will have to wait until the December Our World Mission receipts arrive, sometime in January.

We sympathize deeply with those who will have to wait for their checks. We hope that this Christmas season will stir the hearts of our people to a generous outpouring of love gifts through Our World Mission channels, which will help us regain a financial position where we can meet our monthly salary obligations on time.

"God has given you His promise,  
That He hears and answers prayer;  
He will heed your supplication,  
If you cast on Him your care."

—Unknown.

## Fret Not Thyself

(A sermon preached on November 4, 1961, by Paul V. Beebe at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Putnam County, Fla.)

Scripture — Luke 12: 22-32.

Jesus said: "Fret not thyself." But this is a hard thing not to do. It is hard to obey today. How can we help but worry? What is the world coming to? We dig bomb shelters because we are afraid of what man may do. Man, not God, has put the world in the fix it is in. But, if we have given our hearts to Christ, we have no need to worry. He gives us the way of salvation. He is our hiding place.

The problem facing the world today is the Devil — and his works. He works among the communist people, and will rule the world if we don't bestir ourselves to tell the world of the peace and comfort which come from serving God.

"If God so clothe the grass of the field; which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more shall he clothe you, O ye of little faith?" (Luke 12: 28).

We have the nation, and we have the world, as our field. Yet we say, "What can Sabbathkeepers, so small a people, do?" But Christ had only twelve disciples. The smaller we are, the greater the challenge. Peace of soul can come only from the daily keeping of God's commandments, and from teaching others of them.

Are we spending our whole lives for God? Or are we spending only a couple of hours a week for Him?

We owe our all to Him, to bring His love to the world. Are we willing to make that sacrifice? Are we willing to go through hardship to do the will of God? Are we ready to tell Him, "Our lives are Yours, ready to do Your will, wherever the call, no matter the cost"?

Every day we meet temptations to lead us away from God. But when we get to the point where we can not help ourselves, He is there. This idea is summed up in a quotation from the final scene of "Green Pastures."

(The leadership of Israel was being taken from Moses and given to Joshua. Moses was not being allowed to go into the Promised Land. He who faced the wrath of Pharaoh, who believed when all others doubted, who pushed on when others wanted to turn back, was being left behind, all alone. If anyone ever had the right to question the goodness of God, it was Moses. Someone asked why God was treating him that way.)

Moses calmly replied, "God has got plans for me."

When the Hebrews were all gone, God stepped from behind the rock, and put His hand on Moses' shoulder.

The old prophet knew that hand. He had felt it many times before. Without even looking around, he said, "You're with me, ain't you, God?"

And God replied: "Co'se I is, Moses. Co'se I is."

**Fret not yourself. God has a plan for your life.**

God is with us, and if only we will have faith and trust to put our burdens into His care, we will find the way of peace and love.

In the Korean War, when all the other prisoners in a communist camp were fretting and quarreling among themselves, a chaplain loved and prayed for his fellow-prisoners and their guards. Through his example other prisoners found the way of love. This spirit of love spread until it even reached the soldiers in charge of the camp. They could no longer beat and abuse those who prayed for them.

When asked the reason for the change, the chaplain quoted this age-old verse:

"I sought my soul —  
My soul eluded me.  
I sought my God —  
My God I could not see.  
I sought my brother —  
And found all three."

With this love in our hearts, no one can resist. Communism has no chance against this love — if we Christians use it. Where true love exists, no power can stand against it. Are we Christians willing to use this love?

This is the way of peace.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

## Something to Ponder

The following problem was presented for our study in relationship to the annual meeting of the Baptist Denominational Executives in Christian Education held at Forest Park, Illinois, in November 1961:

"I know that it is the desire of every thoughtful parent, of every dedicated worker, of every pastor that any child having been approved for baptism should have come into a relationship with God through Christ. It is truism without need of documentation that thousands of boys and girls are being brought into church membership in our churches who have not had such an experience and do not live in such a relationship.

"Let me tell you about Linda. It was during a revival meeting that I went to speak with her at her home. She was a Junior girl and had made no profession of faith. Her mother was present as I spoke to her. I followed the procedure that had been taught me as being the best 'plan.' I began with Romans 3: 23 and discussed that all men are sinners and moved through the familiar Scripture, getting from the little girl only an occasional 'yes.' As I came to the end I asked her, 'Would you like to accept Jesus as your Savior?' She said she would and would also be willing to publicly confess Him and be baptized.

"This would sound very much like a testimony and I'm sure it would get a number of hearty amens were it to be dramatized a little more in the telling. My problem is that I know what happened to Linda.

"Four years later I was invited into an intermediate department to explain to them the nature of the Christian life. I had come to realize that very often boys and girls do not understand our 'church talk.' So this time I used 2 Corinthians 5 as a text and spoke on 'What it Means to Be In Christ.' When I finished discussing I asked the Intermediates to bow their heads and for those who know that they had never had this experience and were not living in this relationship to Christ to raise their hands.

"I looked in amazement as Linda, without any hesitation, raised her hand. I

wanted to say to her, 'Linda, put your hand down. I baptized you.' But I couldn't do it. I had asked an honest question. I had gotten an honest answer. I was the one responsible. I wonder how many Lindas there are in our churches."

— Dr. Kenneth L. Chafin.

Obviously there is no one answer to our problem. Each child is different from any other. A heart-moving experience for one will leave another cold.

Every contact that a child has either draws him toward God or away. You can talk and teach about Christian conversion and love every chance you have, but if the child does not see it demonstrated at home, at church, or wherever he finds himself, there is danger more of confusion than of salvation.

There are many facets that may be taught of the Christian commitment and life, and no one can be taught and said to be the only one for commitment unto eternal life.

What do you think?

## Suggestions for an Effective Church-Vocations Sabbath, December 30, 1961

1. Post announcements in conspicuous places for the edification of all, both youth and adults.
2. Utilize students who will be home for the holidays, both as resource persons and program participants.
3. Include Youth Fellowship meetings and the Sabbath morning service in your plans for presenting the challenge of a church vocation.
4. Invite speakers or discussion leaders with experience to help prepare and execute the program. Do not hesitate to go outside your denomination for representatives of church vocations.
5. Let youth know about and join in the planning of this program.
6. Arrange a display in a prominent place at the church suggestive of possible vocations.
7. Be aware of including educational requirements in vocations considered.
8. Visual aids such as pictures, films, and

slides make any program more interesting. Use them!

9. A packet of material has been sent to each church — to aid in making this Sabbath vital.

Sponsored by the Youth Work Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education.

Did you know that the World's Christian Endeavor Union embraces approximately three million members in fifty countries or island groups around the world, in eighty Protestant denominations. The International Society includes Christian Endeavorers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Headquarters for both the World's Union and the International Society is at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

### Let's Teach the Commandments

By H. N. Wheeler

Accounts of burglaries in our newspapers so often indicate they were acts of great daring and spectacular, perpetrated by heroes or supermen. Is it not a most cowardly thing for a man to stick a gun in the face of an unarmed man or point it at his body threatening to shoot unless he hands over the money, or to just shoot and clean out the cash register? Would it not be more reasonable to refer to a holdup by use of a gun as a despicable cowardly act, condemned by all decent people?

Have we somewhere failed to properly appreciate the property rights of other people? Every person from the youngest child to the aged regards his property and protects it often with his life. Why does he not have the same respect for other people's property?

Is it possible the Ten Commandments, in existence from the beginning of time, have not been inculcated into the conscience of men? The last 6 Commandments are the foundation of all civil and criminal laws in every civilized nation regulating human relations in every phase of our daily living. It would not be injecting religion into the schools if these 6 Commandments were a part of every school curriculum from kindergarten up.

— Boulder (Colo.) Camera.

WOMEN'S WORK — Mrs. Lawrence W. Marsden

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of Herod. After His birth astrologers from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who is born to be king of the Jews? We observed the rising of his star, and we have come to pay him homage." King Herod was greatly perturbed when he heard this; and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the chief priests and lawyers of the Jewish people, and put before them the question: "Where is it that the Messiah is to be born?" "At Bethlehem in Judea," they replied; and they referred him to the prophecy which reads: "Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are far from least in the eyes of the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a leader to be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Herod next called the astrologers to meet him in private, and ascertained from them the time when the star had appeared. He then sent them on to Bethlehem, and said, "Go, and make a careful inquiry for the child. When you have found him, report to me, so that I may go myself and pay him homage."

They set out at the king's bidding; and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay. At the sight of the star they were overjoyed. Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and bowed to the ground in homage to him; then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned home another way — Matthew 2: 1-12, The New English Bible.

The name "Jesus" in Hebrew means "Savior," or "help of the Lord." The name "Christ" comes from the Greek word CHRISTOS which means "anointed one."

No one knows the exact day of Jesus' birth but since the 300's Christians have celebrated December 25 as Christ's birthday.

Our custom of giving gifts at Christmas began in memory of the gifts brought

to the Christ child by the wise men and shepherds. It is good to give gifts to our friends and loved ones, but it is more important to give to the cause of Christ so His work may be carried on. After all, it's His birthday — let's show our love for Him.

### Report of the Advisory Council American Bible Society Nov. 14-15, 1961

What a fabulous world we live in — with its sights and sounds: color television, electric-eye doors, and electronic brains!

What a fast world we live in — with its inventions and improvements: men soaring into space, orbiting the earth, and rocketing across-country at more than 4,000 miles per hour!

What a fearful world we live in — with its cold wars and international tensions: nuclear testings, bomb shelters, concrete curtains!

Who knows what tomorrow may bring? Will this global struggle for the minds and souls of men result in world destruction? Will man annihilate himself? Is there any hope?

"The Word of the Lord endures forever." We have His unchanging Word for a changing world. The Bible is a Book of timeless truth, adapted to every age and relevant for every generation. The struggle for power, the moving of geographical boundaries, the advances of science, the development of technological skills, the encounter of conflicting ideologies have not brought forth any need for subtraction or addition to meet man's need.

We have this Word — the sure

promises of an unchanging and eternal God. But it is meant for all the world. The American Bible Society is an agent of the Christian Church in getting the timeless message of the Word out to the world.

### I — Areas of Crisis

The Council is compellingly aware of the very serious days to which we have come — days of unprecedented crisis. With startling rapidity, one crisis follows another. There are rapidly rising resentments among the nations; frantic demands for freedom and independence on the part of new nations, aroused and resurgent ancient non-Christian religions, conflicting ideologies among the world's populace, encroachments on the liberty of men and women to worship and to serve God in harmony with the dictates of their conscience, the excitement of growing millions of new literates and the threat of unprecedented destruction of human life and property.

These conditions must not be permitted to discourage us or to slacken our endeavors for God. Every crisis of the past constituted a challenge to the servants of God and again and again they rose to meet it with a service and a witness that resulted in triumph and advance for the Christian cause. This can and must occur again. The Christian Church, facing the rising perplexities and problems and the unmet challenges of our day, may rise to the accomplishment of its most spectacular deeds for God. The Council, therefore, solemnly and seriously urges the Christian men and women who comprise the membership of the churches represented in this gathering to move forward courageously with their God-given task of making the Scriptures available to people everywhere, so that this hour



1961 Advisory Council members: Back row (1) L. M. Maltby, (6) C. H. Dickinson.

might become the finest hour in Christian witness and service.

## II — Overseas Distribution

The "international situation," so much on the minds of all Americans today, has been challenging the vision and program resources of the Society for over a decade. The Advisory Council takes pride in noting how foresight in the planning of previous years has been justified in terms of the overseas program today. The preparation of production facilities in Korea and Brazil, stockpiling of Scriptures in Cuba and Congo, and the concerted movement toward national leadership are all bases for real strength in the Society's overseas program today.

But vision without resources is limited and, in a world situation as complex as that in the year of our Lord 1961, unforeseeable emerging conditions always arise. The Council takes seriously to heart the sobering picture unfolded before it of critical needs of the moment. These include: production facilities in Indonesia where the door is closing to future Bible imports this year; the intense competition in many lands with well-prepared ideological propaganda which vies for the attention of the newly literate; the increasing disparity between population-literacy rises and the combined efforts toward Bible distribution of all Bible Societies.

The overseas record today is impressive and we are privileged to have a role in the American Bible Society's program which takes Holy Scriptures to 100 nations on 6 continents and today accounts for two-thirds of the Scripture volumes distributed by Bible Societies throughout the world. If, in the year ahead, however, we hesitate to enter more fully into the opportunities open to us, or, if a failure of audacity holds us back from making the greatest advance ever made in a single year, we know that as a Bible Society we are failing in our mission to God's world.

NOTE: The above is the first portion of the report of representatives of 55 denominations to the Bible Society after considering the achievements of the past year and the larger budget for next year. We regret that space does not permit publishing all of the report.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Communication in Africa

In sixty countries and territories in Africa, with a combined population of 236,000,000 people, nearly 800 different languages and dialects are in use, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization reports. Both educational and economic development are hampered by the inadequacy of communication systems, a survey by the agency reveals, although efforts to improve them extend back for 40 years. There are 229 daily newspapers, with a total circulation of 2,900,000, yet fifteen countries have none at all, and some have not a single qualified journalist. In tropical Africa, messages between two points must often be routed through Paris or London.

— W. W. Reid.

### Tourists in Israel

One of the most important businesses in modern Israel is tourism. It brings money in without taking any out, and thus contributes to a favorable trade balance. The business is promoted by people who have little knowledge of Protestant Christianity, as may be noted in a recent news release from the tourist bureau which stated that in addition to the Catholic masses at Nazareth on Christmas eve there would also be a mass at the Baptist church.

Of real interest to prospective visitors in Israel is the welcome news that there are now accommodations available in some places at reasonable rates. Hotel rates for planned tours have been extremely high in most cases. Now at the Maccabiah Village just outside Tel Aviv rooms with private showers and breakfast are available at \$3.60 (per person) per day (two in a room). In some other places rooms or motels are within the range of those who have limited budgets.

## SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for December 30, 1961

Growth Toward Christian Maturity  
Lesson Scripture: Ephesians 4: 11-24.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

TEXARKANA, ARK. — On December 2, our church had an all-day meeting observing the 300th Anniversary of the martyrdom of John James and featuring a program of varied interest in the afternoon.

The John James program in the morning worship recounted briefly the Seventh Day Baptist history of 300 years ago and used most of the hymns and Scripture passages used in the London services on July 22 of this year. Selected passages were read from the John James Story written by Albert Rogers. Excerpts were read from an article in the special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* written by Beth Burdick. The pastor's message on "Sabbath Observance" was built around thoughts gleaned from the addresses given in the London meetings. Both laymen and youth shared in presenting the program.

After the fellowship dinner the program included a skit by the Ladies Aid showing the too frequent attitude of our church folk toward the work of the church. There was a brief meeting of each of the committees of the church followed by a singing of hymns for a time and then Bible games for both young and old together. The day was not even yet ended. Many remained to visit and plan and had supper together at the Church Center after darkness had already come. Such a day's program is scheduled for the Texarkana church on the first Sabbath of each month.

NORTONVILLE, KAN. — Our annual barbecue was held September 19 and, though we did not have as large a crowd as last year, we served 575 meals, and cleared \$661.91.

Thirty-nine new books were prepared for circulation and placed in the church library during the quarter. Fourteen pamphlets on Christian life have also been donated. A new bookcase which was made by Lee Stephan and paid for by the Explorer Sabbath School Class has been added to provide extra shelf space.

The quarterly "Our World Mission Sabbath" was observed September 2. A potluck dinner was enjoyed at noon with Conference reports following it. The

mission study was on evangelism and the filmstrip, "White Unto Harvest," was shown.

We are proud of one of our boys who last spring received his Eagle Scout award. Rusty Johnson received this award in a class of 432 boys, the largest class of Eagle Scouts in the history of scouting.

Six of our young people attended Rocky Mountain Camp in July. Mrs. Ruth Zeek took them out and was house-mother for the girls at camp.

There were about fifty who enjoyed the Sabbath School picnic at Jackson Park in Atchison, Kan., on Sunday afternoon August 27.

Rev. John Hodge of Easton, Kan., continues to serve as our pastor, even though he is the pastor of three other churches. We are being blessed by his generosity and spirit of love.

— Correspondent.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. — The Church Aid made, equipped, and donated six school bags for the World Community Day project in November.

Eighteen of our people joined with the Carroway church for a Thanksgiving Day dinner and meeting. Pastor Davis brought the message and Jean (Mrs. Davis) brought a message in song.

A dramatic reading, the John James Story, was presented on Sabbath afternoon, November 25, in commemoration of the 300th Anniversary of his death. Nearly twenty of us "acted" the different parts and Jean Davis was narrator. Following the reading, Ernest Bond, who visited his parents (the O. B. Bonds) over the Thanksgiving holiday, showed three films of the Crites Mountain project in W. Va., sponsored by the Lost Creek church.

Three boxes (30 gifts) of Christmas gifts for children of the migrants of South Florida were brought to the meeting of the United Church Women of Halifax area on November 28, as our contribution to the migrants' Christmas project. To enable the parents to select suitable gifts for their children gifts were not wrapped but wrappings were enclosed with each gift.

Open House was held for Mr. Sam Davis on November 27 at the home where he has resided for the past ten years.



# The Sabbath Recorder

The occasion was his 94th birthday, and to the knowledge of this correspondent, Mr. Davis is the senior member of our church. He attends regularly when his health permits. — Correspondent.

## Shiloh Church Pledges

When the Finance Committee met with the other workers Sunday evening, Dec. 3, to tally the results of the Every Member Canvass they were much pleased to discover that the pledges for 1962 showed a 16% increase over 1961.

Year	Local Church	O.W.M.	Total
1961	\$8,194	\$4,030	\$12,224
1962	9,179	4,776	13,955

Other giving showed cash \$165 and specials \$190.

The figures above do not show the giving of our church toward the camp building project. These pledges were made two years ago and were to extend over a three-year period. Total pledges — \$10,144.75. We are proud of the way individuals have lived up to their pledges. This is the third and final year for the camp pledges. What a thrill this project has been. — Church Bulletin, Shiloh, N. J.

Why is it that the fellow who has an hour to kill always spends it with someone who doesn't?

## Obituaries

**Crandall.**—Matilda Fogg, daughter of Isaac S. and Susan Ayers Fogg, was born in Shiloh, N. J., June 6, 1875, and died at Bethesda Hospital, North Hornell, N. Y., November 25, 1961.

She received her education at Shiloh Academy and Alfred University.

On April 12, 1900, she was married to Benjamin R. Crandall, principal of schools at Hammond, La. They made their home successively in Hammond, Rawlins, Wyo., Idaho Falls, Idaho, and for twenty-four years at several places in California. Their son, Dr. Burton B. Crandall, of Fayetteville, N. Y., was born at Rawlins.

Mrs. Crandall, always busy in church, club, social, and PTA work, placed her home first. She and Dr. Ben made a home for four girls at different times.

When prevented from being active in a Seventh Day Baptist church, they took their places in a church of the community in which they lived, at the same time retaining their membership in their home church. In 1939, upon coming to Alfred to live, they brought

their letters from the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church and united with the Alfred church, in which they have been faithful.

She is survived by her husband, her son, and four grandchildren.

Memorial services were conducted by her pastor, the Rev. Hurley S. Warren, and the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, at the Alfred church. Interment was in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

— H. S. W.

**Kennedy.**—Mary ("Mollie") Emma Elizabeth Kennedy, daughter of Lafayette and Esther Davis Blake, was born at Mt. Clare, W. Va., November 9, 1873, and died at Lost Creek, W. Va., November 25, 1961.

She was married to W. Gordan Kennedy, on October 4, 1894. One daughter, Thelma Allena, was born, and died at the age of 18. Mr. Kennedy died in 1952.

She was baptized on July 9, 1910, and was received into membership of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she remained a faithful and loyal member through life.

A number of nieces and nephews, and one brother-in-law, Stephon G. Kennedy, survive. Farewell services were conducted by her pastor, Duane L. Davis, at the church, and interment was in the church's Brick Church Cemetery.

— D. L. D.

**Sutton.**—Tolbert, son of Geriel and Tacy Jane Davis Sutton, was born at Lick Run, Doddridge Co., W. Va., Feb. 7, 1869, and died Nov. 30, 1961.

He was a retired lumberman and state road employee of Smithburg, W. Va. He was twice married, his first wife being Osee India Ireland and his second Venora Stutler. Both preceded him in death.

Surviving are two daughters: Mrs. Henderson Lowther, Aurora, and Mrs. Albert C. Baker of Belmont; one grandson, David Lee Lowther of Salem; and three great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church and in his early youth attended Salem Academy. Interment was in the Archibald Cemetery at Smithburg with Doyle K. Zwiebel officiating. — D. K. Z.

## Sabbathkeepers' Calendars

Sabbaths in red is one of the features of the calendars prepared for so many years by the Bible Sabbath Association of Fairview, Okla. Many of our readers have in previous years bought these calendars for their homes, have appreciated the Sabbath emphasis, and have pondered the thoughts on each page. They may be ordered from Fairview at 25 cents each.

Sabbathkeepers wishing to live or spend the winter in Florida near a Seventh Day Baptist church write to James A. Price, Route 1, Box 203, Palatka, Florida, for information on houses or trailer space for rent.



THE BIRTH MADE KNOWN

Artists with oils, like preachers with words, have admirably sought to make the wonder of the birth of Messiah known. Plockhorst's "Apparition to the Shepherds," beautifully enlightens the dividing moment of human history as recorded in Luke 2.