

The Sabbath Recorder

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

WESTERLY, R. I.—The Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, general secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, will serve as Missioner in the communities of Ashaway and Westerly, R. I., from February 11 through March 2. The overall theme for this effort is "Christ Above All." Mr. Wheeler will speak in each of the churches on the weekend of Feb. 11-12. This will be followed by directed calling in both parishes during the week of Feb. 13. Special evangelistic meetings will be held in Westerly beginning on February 18 and through the 20th. This will be followed by three special group interest meetings on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of February. "Life at Its Best" is the sub-theme that is being used in Westerly.

Evangelistic meetings in Ashaway will be held beginning on February 24 and continuing through the 27th. This will be followed by special group interest meetings on Feb. 28 and March 1 and 2. An evaluation will follow the conclusion of the missioner effort.

DODGE CENTER, MINN.—Early in December the auxiliary societies had special programs. The Christian Fellowship presented a guest speaker who showed missionary slides. The community was invited. The Aid held a Christmas party, at which time a gift was presented to Mrs. Donald Richards, who was leaving for her new field in Verona. Mrs. Richards had been a great help to the Aid and she will be missed. (The pastor and family left December 15.) On the evening of December 19, the Junior Society, with their sponsors went out caroling at several homes. Later all returned to the church basement where treats were served.

On Christmas eve, there was a vesper service with carols by the Revival Choir and other special music. Miss Mary Thorngate gave the Scripture and meditation. A candlelight testimony service in which the entire attendance took part was inspirational. On Christmas day, the Sabbath School was in charge. The graded department gave two selections. The young folks of Mary Thorngate's class cared for the regular morning

service which followed the general plan of the church program. In place of the sermon, the Claston Bond family presented a play "The Blanket" which brought out many deep thoughts. The people gave money for a white Christmas gift to be sent to the Missionary Board to be used as seems fit. Throughout the church service there was deep reverence, in honor of the birth of Jesus.

— Correspondent.

Is This the Way for Churches to Meet Membership Quotas?

In nineteen hundred sixty-six
Our records we can surely fix
The more we have the better!

For nineteen hundred sixty-seven
Will show a group removed to heaven
We can transfer each letter!

By nineteen hundred sixty-eight
Another crowd will make the Gate
And some may be remoter!

Then if we drop them from our list
No one will even note them missed
But we'll have made our quota!

—Rev. Craig Skinner
in *Christianity Today*.

Accessions

Milton, Wis.

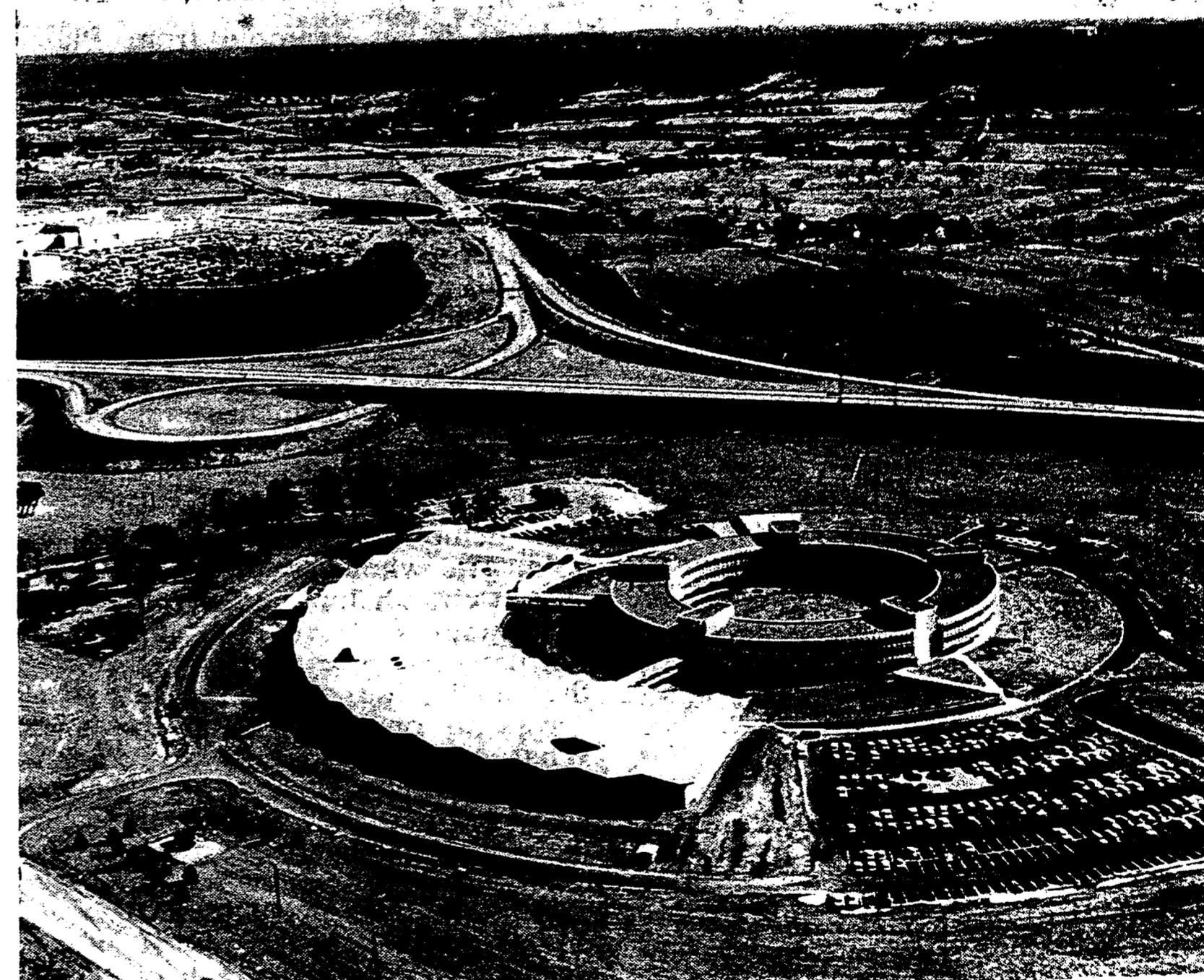
By Baptism:
Alice (Mrs. Lawrence) Lippincott
Loren Lippincott
Dale Harris.

Obituaries

Fraser.—Mrs. Elizabeth (Law) Frazer was born in County Down, Ireland, July 16, 1880, and died at the Elms Nursing Home in Westerly, R. I., Nov. 5, 1965. Private funeral services were held at the Buckler Funeral Home on Nov. 9 by her pastor, the Rev. Earl Cruzan. Interment was in River Bend Cemetery. — E. C.

Morgan.—Mrs. Elizabeth (Clarke) Morgan was born April 6, 1867, at Fitchburg, Conn., and died at the Westerly Hospital Dec. 27, 1965. For a number of years she had been a patient at Shelter Coves Nursing Home. Graveside services were conducted at Elm Grove Cemetery, Mystic, Conn., Dec. 29, 1965, by her pastor, the Rev. Earl Cruzan.

— E. C.



An aerial view of the National Office Building of the American Baptist Convention, Valley Forge, Pa., showing the Valley Forge interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the expressway leading to downtown Philadelphia. The offices are located in the center circle and the Graphic Arts Departments are located in the fan shaped area. See story on page 5.

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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

Contributing Editors:

MISSIONS Everett T. Harris, D.D.
WOMEN'S WORK Mrs. Lawrence W. Marsden
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Rex E. Zwiebel, B.D., M.A.

Terms of Subscription

Per Year.....\$4.00 Single Copies.....10 cents
Special rates for students, retired Seventh Day
Baptist ministers, and servicemen

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents per year additional. Gift and newlywed subscriptions will be discontinued at date of expiration unless renewed. All subscriptions will be discontinued six months after date to which payment is made unless renewed. The Sabbath Recorder cannot pay for contributed articles but will send the writer, upon request, up to 10 free copies of the issue in which an article appears.

Published weekly (except August when it is published by-weekly for Seventh Day Baptists by the American Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, N. J. 07061

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, New Jersey. The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles. All communications should be addressed to the Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, New Jersey.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. JANUARY 17, 1966
Vol. 180, No. 3 Whole No. 6,177

Editorials:

Thoughts on Renewal 2
American Baptist Article 3
Youth Week Coming 3
December OWM Giving Low 4

Features:

American Baptist Convention 5
Why Is Church Attendance Down? 7
Mid-Continent Association Held at North
Loup 8
O God, Get Through to Us 11
Christian Endeavor Week 14
Vocational Committee Materials Sent to
Churches 14
Flowers Now 15

Missions:

The Shape of Our Calling to Mission 9
Pastor Duane Davis in Jamaica 10
Correspondence Study Offered to All 10

Christian Education:

The Information Explosion 13
Youth Work 13

Our World Mission Back Cover

Thoughts on Renewal

Renewal is a bright new word in the parlance of city planners and social betterment enthusiasts. Our papers, journals and books are saying much about urban renewal which strikes a responsive chord in the ears of all of us who want to see improvement. We will not get more beautiful cities nor better business and social conditions until somebody has some dreams and plans with money to back them up. But both in the economic and the religious realms care needs to be exercised lest the zeal for tearing down is not matched by equal zeal and wisdom in building up.

Here is an example from Plainfield, N. J. The central part of the city was crowded. The highway a mile north was building up with discount stores, and some of the old-line businesses were moving out to catch some of the highway business, a rather familiar pattern in other cities. Then came the urban renewal planners with a concept of removing the buildings from several blocks in the downtown section and rebuilding in such a way as to attract new business to the city. Government funds were available to help in purchasing and demolishing some very good buildings (along with some that were quite out of date). The demolition was something to behold. The whole area with the exception of one church building has been leveled. The main street of the city has been ventilated, to use a popular term. From the north side of the street one looks across to open sky for several blocks. What comes as a shocking surprise to many residents and probably to some who lost their places of business beneath the wheels of progress is that there seems to be no definite plan for anything substantial to take place of what was torn down. Some of the area is used as a parking lot, but not much of it is really needed for that. Perhaps time will bring something valuable, but up to now the term "renewal" does not seem to fit. All we can say is that we do not have any old buildings in that area to look at. There are some in adjoining areas.

When I was a boy I was like most other boys in that I could tear down or take apart, but was not so good at putting back together or skilful in creating some-

thing new and better. Is it true that "Men are only boys grown tall; folks don't change much after all"? There are those who say that the church as we know it has outlived its usefulness; it has to go to make way for some new institution that will better serve this modern age.

Again there are people who would discard the old theology of a personal God who hates sin and sent His only begotten Son to redeem all those who will put their trust in Him. Some of us wonder if those who would tear down the old in the name of renewal or progress really have anything substantial to put in its place. What outside the church or apart from the faith that raised up the New Testament Church will transform the lives of sinners and change educated pharisees like Saul into apostles like Paul? It is amply proven in history and in contemporary life that the leveling of old institutions is no guarantee of being the forerunner of a bright new day. But where the Holy Spirit leads in the old or in the new there will be power and progress.

"Renewal" is a good word; it is very little different from that old word "revival" which describes the process by which churches take on new life or "regeneration" which describes the change within the heart.

American Baptist Article

At a "Conversations" meeting between Seventh Day Baptist and American Baptist leaders held last year at the Valley Forge headquarters a suggestion was made by Paul Allen, editor of **Crusader**, the American Baptist Newsmagazine. This suggestion was that they should publish an informational article on our people and that the **Sabbath Recorder** should print a similar story written by someone in their office. This has been worked out between the editors. Mr. Allen made a trip from Valley Forge to Plainfield to take the kind of pictures he wanted to illustrate the Seventh Day Baptist article—written by the Rev. Victor W. Skaggs. (The **Crusader** specializes in picture stories.) It is now our turn to print a Baptist article. The

article, just received, was written by the Rev. R. Dean Goodwin, executive director of the Division of Communication of the Convention. Mr. Goodwin has been a close associate of your editor for the past several years in the co-operative work of the Baptist Jubilee Advance and the World's Fair exhibit.

The **Crusader** article about Seventh Day Baptists appeared in the January issue. It is proving to be of interest to their readers, some of whom are asking for more information. It should also be pleasant reading to many of our subscribers. Mr. Allen has promised us a quantity of extra copies without cost. Those interested may write to us or directly to the Baptist headquarters.

We commend to your reading the article in this issue by Mr. Goodwin. There are no present plans for a further exchange of articles between the two magazines.

Youth Week Coming

Of all the special weeks of the year long observed in Seventh Day Baptist churches none has had more general appeal and recognition than Youth Week. To be sure, it often boils down to a youth day rather than a whole week as originally scheduled by that great inter-denominational youth movement, Christian Endeavor.

Youth Day at church will be observed throughout our General Conference on Sabbath, February 5, in most places. At this time the whole congregation may observe what Christian Endeavor or Youth Fellowship has done during the year in developing leadership abilities. Young people may not only lead the morning worship service, but also bring thoughtful messages from their hearts in place of the regular sermon. Pastors and young people's leaders who have lent their counsel in the preparation of this special program may have a glow of satisfaction as the youth show their growth in spiritual things and challenge the older folks to greater zeal in Christian work.

Youth Week can be a gauge or thermometer, a time of assessment by the

church as to the effectiveness of its youth program. Happy the church that can see constant spiritual progress as well as physical and educational growth among the youth in the families of the church, whether numbers are small or large. Spiritual growth does not come easy for older people and certainly not for younger ones, but how joyous to behold! How satisfying to contribute something to it. Are we doing our part where we are?

December OWM Giving Low

It is with some disappointment and concern that we view the figures on the back page of this issue. The treasurer of Our World Mission, Gordon Sanford, reports the December gifts received from the churches and disbursed to the various agencies that carry on our total denominational work. His report shows a total that is much lower than many of us had confidently hoped for and expected. We thought we had reason to look for much higher year-end giving than a year ago. It did not come in. As a matter of fact, the total (\$7,162) was almost the same as December 1964 (\$7,123). A further superficial comparison shows that the number of churches sending in their people's contributions was the same for both years, 39. Of course the amounts from churches vary considerably; some are much higher, some much lower than a year ago.

Our accountability to God is not so much as a denomination; it is on an individual basis. We have a sense of unity as a people. We have agreed together to do a work for the Lord in an organized way. The figures showing our giving from month to month are an indication to us of how we as a local church or the whole United States Conference are doing in the furtherance of that work.

Those who administer the contributed funds cannot look into the hearts of the individuals comprising the membership as God does. Only the Lord and the individual can know why the giving was not better. Let us remind ourselves that God does know our individual ability.

MEMORY TEXT

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. — Heb. 13: 5.

He knows the full truth about what we did with our money in December. He knows, for instance, if we gave proportionately or gave to some special causes not represented by OWM budget. He may be waiting for some of us to confess to Him that we did not put "first things first" last month. By the same token He may be listening for us to promise that we will do better this month and in the months to come. It is not a matter of what our denominational leaders, agencies, and missionaries have a right to expect, but what God expects. There is reason to believe that His standard for us is far higher than the standard we set for ourselves by a vote at General Conference last August.

The fact remains that we are far behind our goal at this moment. The treasurer notes that to meet the minimum requirements of our expanding work we need \$11,000 per month. The figure given last year at this time was \$10,117.

Changes of Address

The 1965 **Yearbook** is a valuable source of addresses of church leaders. No **Yearbook** can be completely up-to-date, for pastors change churches and new officers are elected. There are more than a dozen ministers who have new addresses since the publication cut-off date. Most of these have been mentioned in earlier issues of the **Sabbath Recorder**. We could print them again as a group if people would like to write them in. If your church has elected a new clerk we would be glad to pass that along in the same list. Both the former and the new clerks will appreciate having the mail come to the right person. While we wait please note that the Denver clerk is Miss Shirley Crosby, Rt. 3, Box 868, Golden, Colo. 80401. Also note that Pastor Clifford Beebe is wintering at Micanopy, Florida 32667, Box 37.

American Baptist Convention

By R. Dean Goodwin

An exchange article with "Crusader." See p. 3



From one space capsule to another, Seventh Day Baptists and American Baptists are talking to each other to discover if there is a practical way to build one space ship that will carry all of them. The leaders who are face and talking are getting to know each other well, but the people who make up the congregations of one denomination hardly know the people of the other. I am an American Baptist, and I would like to introduce my people to you, a Seventh Day Baptist.

Like the Seventh Day Baptists, our beginnings in America go back to Rhode Island and the time of Roger Williams. The first Baptist church in America got its start about 1638 in Providence with the help of Roger Williams, and that church is now in the American Baptist Convention. From this beginning came most of the Baptist churches in America, including the 6,250 American Baptist churches, with their 1,600,000 members.

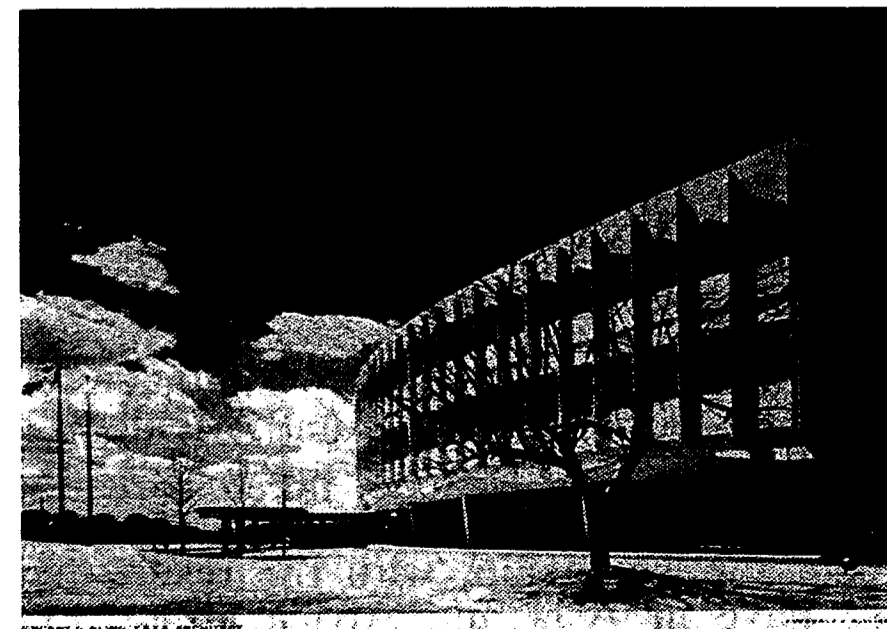
Even though its history is almost as old as English settlement in America, the American Baptist Convention was not organized until 1907. Before that date the churches worked together with-

out a national church structure. Instead, they had societies with specific and limited functions: The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, formed in 1814, and later, the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; also the American Baptist Home Mission Society, organized in 1832, and later, the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society. For Christian teaching, the American Baptist Publication Society was started in 1824. These societies and the Baptist state conventions joined forces in 1907 to bring into being the Northern Baptist Convention. The name was changed from "Northern" to "American" in 1950.

When the name-change was voted, the following was affirmed: "We hold the name American Baptist Convention in trust for all Christians of like faith and mind who desire to bear witness to the historic Baptist convictions in a framework of co-operative Protestantism." American Baptists are always ready to talk with other Baptists about church union. As in all marriages, we must be accepted as we are, including our membership in ecumenical bodies. We are founding members of the Baptist World Alliance, the National Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches.

We are governed by the churches. Delegates from local churches go to the annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention to transact the business of the national organization. Delegates to the Convention elect officers annually. The General Secretary is elected for a three-year term. The present incumbent of that office is the Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Tuller, who lives at Flemington, N. J., and whose office is at Valley Forge.

At annual conventions, members of the General Council are chosen. It meets at least three times each year to conduct



Entrance to the new American Baptist Convention offices, at Valley Forge, Pa.



Rev. Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary.

the business of the Convention between annual sessions.

People in American Baptist churches hold a wide variety of beliefs. This is because we do not accept any creedal statement. The New Testament is central to our faith and there we are united. Among our standing resolutions is one adopted at the annual convention in 1946, meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich. It reads: "**Resolved**, that we reaffirm our faith in the New Testament as a divinely inspired record and therefore a trustworthy, authoritative and all-sufficient rule of our faith and practice. We rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and call our entire denomination to the common task of sharing the whole Gospel with the whole world."

Not long after the Northern Baptist Convention was organized, a Board of Education was formed to care for matters related to Christian higher education. This board was merged with the American Baptist Publication Society and in 1965, the merger completed, the name of the new organization became the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication. Among the educational concerns of American Baptists are (1) a

scholarship program to help worthy students get an education, (2) a campus Christian life program on the campuses of about 200 colleges, (3) nine theological seminaries, and (4) 27 colleges and universities, four junior colleges, 5 academies and one school of nursing education. These are in addition to Christian teaching in the local churches, for which a wide range of teaching materials and guides are offered.

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board was organized in 1911 to provide a pension program and other aid for ministers and missionaries who have served their denomination; also for their wives, widows, and dependent children. In addition, it promotes "interest in the better maintenance of the ministry."

Other concerns of the churches caused new instruments to come into being: A division of Christian social concern to educate the constituency and express their opinions as Christians on matters of public concern; divisions of work with men and women, a historical society, a division of world mission support to help the churches raise the money needed for their work, including their world wide mission. There is also a world relief committee concerned with aid to needy people wherever they are.

Our publications include fully graded materials for Christian teaching as well as uniform lesson quarterlies. We publish **Missions** magazine, the oldest church publication with a continuous life, going back to 1803; and **Crusader**, a popular news and picture magazine, with a circulation of about 380,000.

Our missionary work is in the Philippines, Japan, Okinawa, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, India (Bengal-Orissa, Northeast India, and South India), Europe, and Congo. Under the Home Mission Societies is mission work in the United States, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

Our missionaries have taken care not only to win converts but also to train them for leadership, with the result that we have in Asia and Africa about 333 missionaries and for each missionary about 30 trained workers. On the over-

seas mission fields are about 5,500 churches with 750,000 members.

We have roots deep in rural and small town America, and now we are in the city streets where we are trying to find our way. We must experiment and we are doing so; we must find new language, new forms. The good news of the love of God is always the same, but the ways we express God's love must change continually with the needs of people. If one thing characterizes American Baptists more than others it is this: That we try to maintain a relationship between the unchanging truth of God's revelation, and the ever changing needs of the people about us. This leads us into new types of ministry; it compels us to work with Christians of other denominations, and it confirms us in our belief that each person is responsible to God for the conduct of his life.

This brief introduction gives you a first impression of us. People who seriously want to know each other find ways to learn more, by reading and by personal acquaintances. Exchange visits would be in order, and also exchange subscriptions to each other's magazines. Thus we will be able to observe each other, and decide whether or not we want to occupy the same ship in space.

Why Is Church Attendance Down?

The Gallup Poll conducted annually since 1955 indicates that church attendance is dropping and that it was down to 44 per cent of the population in 1965. The drop is only 1 per cent since 1964 but 5 per cent since 1955. Figures are for the adult population on an average week.

Dr. Earle B. Pleasant, national director of the Religion In American Life Program, who has studied attendance figures carefully, believes that one of the reasons for the drop is the mobility of the American public, caused partly by national affluence resulting in more travel and getting away from home church ties. He also cites another factor:

"A second factor in the decline is the proportionately high growth rate of

the population in the 21-29 year age group. Predictions show that by 1970 more than half of the population will be under 25. This group has been well below the national average in attendance since the beginning of the poll, and a further drop this year to 37 per cent attending worship contributes significantly to the overall decline. This is confirmed by last year's opinion poll by Gallup which shows that 62 per cent of the college population believe the influence of religion to be declining as opposed to the national average of 45 per cent, a percentage which has grown from 14 per cent of the total population since 1957."

In spite of the decline in attendance, membership is at a new high. The National Council of Churches reported that 123,307,000 Americans are affiliated with some religious body, a growth of two per cent over the previous year. This is the seventeenth time in eighteen years that the membership growth rate exceeds the nation's population growth rate which averages about 1.5 per cent. While the growth rate of Protestant membership reflects the national average of 2 per cent, the growth rate for the Roman Catholic Church (1.7 per cent) is slightly less and the rate for the Eastern Orthodox churches (2.3 per cent) exceeds the average. Jewish congregations report the lowest growth rate with only .3 per cent during the past year.

"Membership growth in the context of declining attendance may be an ominous sign for America's religious bodies," warns Dr. Pleasant. "The indications are that a great many people view their membership as a status symbol — something one should not be without — but once 'in' should not be taken too seriously. We must ask ourselves, are we making religion too easy and in the process draining it of both challenge and meaning?"

A popular misconception is corrected by the results of the Gallup Poll which show that the more highly educated segments of the population attend worship with greater frequency than do those with less education.

Mid Continent Association Held at North Loup

By Duane L. Davis

The fiftieth anniversary of the present church building at North Loup, and members for fifty years and more were a part of the program featured at this year's annual Mid-Continent Association, held in October.



Pictured above are church members present to receive the commendation of their fellow members and Association delegates for their years of service to the Lord through the North Loup church. Including nonresident members, North Loup has forty-six members who have belonged to the church for from fifty to seventy-two years. Twenty were able to be there that Sabbath, and were given red rosebuds as a token of appreciation. Members in the picture, taken in front of North Loup's large brick building, are standing by a large open Bible display, which formed a part of a float for the community's annual Pop Corn Days celebration earlier in the fall. The present church building replaced a large frame structure destroyed by lightning in August 1914. Pictured above are, from the left, Fern Maxson (seated), Sadie Cox, Nina Johnson, Addie Gowen, Laura Robbins, Gladys Christensen, Orsen Davis (a former member, now a Denver deacon), Eva Haskins, Mary T. Davis, Vesta Farley, Maude Van Horn, Dell F. Barber, Leona Babcock, Bertha Williams, Matie Stillman, Arthur M. Stillman, Madge Fuller, Merle Davis, Riley U. Brannon, and Lloyd Van Horn. Present, but not pictured, was Hazel Ingraham. These 20

members represent 1,200 years of church membership.

The Association theme, "Follow Me, and I Will Make You Fishers of Men" was emphasized in Sabbath eve Communion services, in sermons by the Revs. Paul B. Osborn of Kansas City, and Albert N. Rogers of Denver. R. Clare Clement of the North Loup church presided over the business sessions. Mid-Continent Association is made up of five churches scattered from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, and their work is different from Associations more closely situated. The Association endorsed substantial help to be continued for the radio broadcast of the Kansas City church, voted funds for missionary-evangelism outreach in urban Colorado areas, decided to discontinue its student aid to college students that had been a project for about 15 years, voted to investigate participation in State Fair exhibits, and enlarged the work of the Association Executive Committee. Plans to hold the Association youth camp in the summer, at Rocky Mountain Camp near Boulder two years and the third year at Camp Riverview, North Loup, were made. Plans were started to include

(continued on page 15)

MISSIONS — Sec. Everett T. Harris

The Shape of Our Calling to Mission

(This article was prepared upon request by the Rev. David S. Clarke, Seventh Day Baptist delegate and Missionary Board representative to the first Assembly Meeting of the Division of Overseas Ministries of NCCC, meeting at Nashville, Tenn., October 4-6, 1965.)

At the same time that National Council of Churches mission leaders, assembled for the Division of Overseas Ministries uniting Church World Service's specifically "service" program with "missions," were exploring the outer edges of church influence in the world, Pope Paul spoke to the United Nations Assembly. In a single reference to the church's social action (according to an AP release), he said: "We intend to intensify the development of our charitable institutions to combat world hunger and fulfill world needs. It is thus, and in no other way, that peace can be built up."

Important as is the Pope's call for the devotional and intellectual pursuit of God's way, predominating his UN speech, these fall short of God's call to Christian mission. The church must work through Christians in every vocation in the world, serving as light, leaven, and salt from God. The church's charities must not be listed to alleviating hurts; charity must be organized to prevent hurts.

Dr. Arend van Leeuwen confronted the Assembly of Overseas Ministries personnel with a biblical and inclusive mission of prophecy in a secular world culture. The executives of the Division spelled out "the shape" of church missions. Dr. David Stowe, associate executive, characterized the church in mission as having: a new theological relevance and encounter with the world, unafraid of challenging either secular thought or rival faiths, a theology renewed in its partnership in mission; a new capacity in brotherly action across national and cultural lines; an ecumenical openness in study, survey planning and action including fellow-Christians of the very conservative denominations;

a new understanding of being a minority everywhere, but more deeply committed to being God's "leaven" in the world; and some awareness of a real crisis in America's support of missions demanding action to overcome localism, prejudice, and diversions to various secular charities.

Dr. Stowe pictured the world to which the church ministers as being driven by deeply ingrained forces. The church must face and understand these forces, such as:

1. Applied intellectual power, often denying the presence and work of God and "arriving" as controller of energy and time (in many respects). Elements of creativity, dizzy rates of change and communication, generalized knowledge, subtle pressures to standardization are part of the challenge and opportunity for the church.

2. The priority of politics in social power, supported by intellectual enterprises of all sorts, nationalism, revolutionary, and government-development programs.

3. Population control programs.

4. Urbanization with its crowding, noise, mobility, impersonality.

5. Unities of nations or cultures, with increasing divisions between the groups.

Dr. Stowe called for the Overseas Ministries Division to guide its work in the next few years with: (1) greater emphasis upon study, research and training for the sake of increased technical competence; heavier investments in study that will bring greater integrity and fruitfulness of mission; (2) enlarged missionary participation in current theological enterprise, and its correlation with actual field-work in mission; (3) active response to emerging evangelistic opportunities created by the rapid change in patterns of thought and faith; (4) increased effort in communications media; (5) acquiring effectiveness in politics, avoiding either false political means or restriction against political action; (6) reinforcement in the selecting and training of laity of the church for their mission in dispersion in the world; (7) recognition (and corresponding action) of primary significance

of the world community, American Christians communicating their faith internationally and ecumenically.

As one Seventh Day Baptist privileged to explore these views with about 500 participants in the first Division of Overseas Ministries Assembly, I heartily recommend a thoughtful self-examination in light of these terms of Dr. Stowe's. Individuals and churches of our faith need to be open to rays of truth from God which reflect from such studies and help us find the Sun of Righteousness.

Pastor Duane Davis in Jamaica

Just a few days before his departure from North Loup, Nebraska, for a month of "dedicated service" in Jamaica, Pastor Duane Davis wrote that his plane reservations were secured and other arrangements made which called for his arrival at Palisadoes Airport, Kingston, Jamaica, on January 6, 1966. Both Jamaica Conference Secretary Joe A. Samuels and Principal Courtland V. Davis had written that he would be met at the airport and would be given a hearty and cordial welcome.

Since Pastor Davis is to serve under the direction of the Jamaica Conference Executive Committee, Secretary Samuels passed on to Pastor Davis their requests for what they hope he will do while he is with them. These requests are: (1) assist in better organization of youth work; (2) assist in setting up a training program for candidates for the ministry; and (3) offer assistance to present pastors "on the work of a pastor and his calling ministry."

Pastor Davis has written very humbly of his feeling of inadequacy to do all that has been requested of him. But he added, "I will attempt, with God's leading, to do what I can."

Those of us who know and love Pastor Davis and are holding him up in our prayers feel confident that God can and will work through him to bring a blessing to our Jamaica brethren.

Pastor Davis has been asked by the Missionary Board to help prepare the "5th Sabbath" mailing to Missionary Keyworkers which will feature Jamaica

on Sabbath day, April 30, 1966. It is hoped that Pastor Davis will share some of his experiences and insights at that time.

This opportunity is taken to again express appreciation to the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church for willingness to release their pastor during this month of dedicated service and to Mrs. Duane Davis for carrying the burden of home duties during the absence of her husband. "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Correspondence Study Offered to All

A Correspondence/Reading course has been set up for those who have offered their Dedicated Service in the Summer Christian Service Corps. Beginning the first of February, it will run four months. Three paperback "texts" will be used as a guide in the study, which is under the direction of the Director of Evangelism.

Because some have expressed interest in such a study course though they are unable to be involved in the SCSC this summer, the opportunity is being given for anyone who may wish to become enrolled. Cost of books and other materials would be \$4.00. Anyone wishing to enroll or to obtain further details should write: Leon R. Lawton, 293 Highland Avenue, Battle Creek, Mich. 49015.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for January 29, 1966

Human Questions

Daily Family Readings

1. "Be Fruitful and Multiply"—Genesis 1: 26-31.
2. Joseph Refuses to Be Tempted—Genesis 39: 6b-23.
3. "Can a Man Carry Fire in His Bosom?"—Proverbs 6: 20-35.
4. Distinguish Between the Holy and the Common—Leviticus 10: 8-11.
5. Jesus Had Compassion on the Multitudes—Matthew 15: 29-39.
6. The Four Horsemen Ride Forth—Revelation 6: 1-8.
7. "Children Like Olive-shoots"—Psalms 127 and 128.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

O God, Get Through to Us

By Rev. Ralph M. Holdeman

Part of a prayer given January 4 at the opening session of a two-day meeting of the Program Board of the Division of Christian Life and Mission of the NCC, a meeting participated in by our director of evangelism, Leon R. Lawton, and the editor. Mr. Holdeman alludes to Epiphany, that special day in the church year (January 6) which commemorates the baptism of Jesus and the marriage feast at Cana.

God, in this Epiphany season
reveal yourself to us who are so far away
and who so greatly need light to guide us
in our search for truth and justice and love.
Give to us moments of intuitive perception
that we may know you are,
and that you have come, and are here,
and that you are worthy of our greatest gifts,
even our love and worship.

God, some of the people in your world
have thought that you are far away, out of reach,
exalted above any earthly matters,
or that you are always standing on ceremony
or are interested only in our proper respect
of your position and power,
or anxious only that your reputation and glory
shall be safeguarded,
or concerned only for those persons
who have proclaimed your name to each other;
And some who cannot believe in this kind of God,
or who have lost contact with any reality
that corresponds with their ideas of God,
think that you are dead!

In this Epiphany season, reveal yourself once more to us
as the living God—
Emmanuel—the God who is with us,
revealed in earthly, embodied form
in Jesus Christ,
that we might not miss seeing you,
or fail to hear your message for us
and for all the world.

God, we are not accusing you of hiding from us;
we are accusing ourselves of not looking for you
where you can be found,
of not perceiving what you are trying to say to us,
of not following you where you are trying to lead us.

God, what is it you're trying to tell us?
about yourself? about us?
— in the holy symbol-filled stories
your your love for and incarnation in our world?

What is it you're trying to tell us about the Jews,
among whom you chose to be born
and to mature as a man,
in the semitic group with its rich religious heritage,
its lawgivers, its prophets, its saints?

What is it you're trying to tell us about your evaluation
of the significance of lay people
as you passed by the temple priests
and made your announcement out on the hills
to the shepherds who are growing the sheep
for the religious sacrifices?

God, when you show us a Herod and the way a politician reacts
to anything he sees as a threat
to his power and prestige
and you have to delay sharing with him the good news
until you can save the little family
from his cruel designs,
what are you trying to get through to us
about the nature of power?

O God, the embodiment of the Gospel —
the Good News about things as they are meant to be,
the Redeemer of life at its best,
the One who stands in our midst in love
and at the same time in judgment
over things as they are,
the injustice and oppression and brokenness of life,
are you trying to reveal to us your salvation?

Revealer of the Gospel of love that is never separated from justice,
are you not calling us back from our practice
of separating souls from bodies —
of splitting the gospel with devastating, atom-smashing results —
of suggesting that people can get right with you, O God,
without getting right with each other,
that they can be sure of their own salvation
while being severed from their brothers for whom
the Savior came to die.
That they can be a church cut off from the world
carrying only a vertical beam of a dismembered cross?

God in this Epiphany season, reveal yourself once more,
to us who are strangers to all your ways
and sojourners in distant places,
who have the minds of outsiders,
not the mind of Christ.

Manifest yourself once more,
show forth your purposes to us,
make this a moment of intuitive perception of your presence
to us,
and call forth our best gifts
that they may be dedicated to you
and laid at the feet of Christ.

The Information Explosion

While the birth rate has been booming, another kind of explosion has been building up in our modern societies which is having as much impact and far more promise for the future than the rocketing population problem.

It's an intellectual revolution which sometimes is called the "Information Explosion," and the flood of knowledge now being released on the world may provide many of the answers that our children will need to deal with the plethora of people scheduled to inhabit their future. In fact, illustrating the quantum-jump in man's knowledge during the past 2,000 years are these estimates from the National Education Association. The NEA says that the total body of human knowledge doubled in the period year 1 to the eve of the Industrial Revolution of the mid-18th century.

In other words, it took about 1,750 years of scientific and intellectual achievement for the early British and Dutch colonists who settled America to develop twice the brain power of the Roman Legions who occupied Jerusalem under Pontius Pilate. However, it was the Industrial Revolution which really produced mankind's first explosion of technology through the invention of new machines and power to run them. The NEA says that the body of knowledge doubled again in the 150 years between 1750 and 1900.

Then the process began to speed up. There was another doubling of human knowledge between 1900 and 1950, and then came the fourth — and biggest "Information Explosion" of all, again doubling the available knowledge and technology in just ten short years between 1950 and 1960. The Information Explosion is still going on at an appalling rate and no single human brain can ever hope to catch up with it all.

— Information Service.

"Courtesy is one of the best helps in traveling life's highways."—**John C. Beckett**, The Independent, Nashville, Tenn.

Youth Work

The Youth Work Committee in monthly session, January 4, makes the following announcements:

Youth Pre-Con Retreat — According to the director, Pastor Herbert Saunders, the main speaker for Youth Pre-Con Retreat at Pacific Pines next August will be Dr. Kenneth E. Smith, dean of Milton College. Dean Smith is a minister of superior talents and is much loved and respected across our denomination.

The Beacon — The Chi Rho Fellowship of the First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church has agreed to publish the **Beacon** starting with the February issue. Miss Nancy Cruzan, who previously edited it when she was at home, will resume the editorship. All news or items of interest for that publication may be sent to her, at 26 South Main St., Alfred, N. Y. (Alfred has door-to-door mail delivery now.)

We hope to have an announcement soon concerning the securing of a Youth Field Worker.

Board Publications

The Publications Committee has mailed to each Seventh Day Baptist church a sample copy of the Junior Quarterly and a mimeographed sample of the introduction and first lesson from the teacher's manual. The studies for the current quarter are on Seventh Day Baptist history, and the committee feels it would be very profitable for all our youngsters to have this quarterly for study whether it is used in the Sabbath School or not. They would be excellent for older children in the Junior SDBYF. The quarterly costs 40¢, and the teacher's manual costs 50¢. Orders may be sent to Miss Onnalee Saunders, Richburg, New York.



Christian Endeavor Week

January 30 - February 6

"God has allowed Christian Endeavor to live and do business for 85 years. He has a real reason for this," says Arch J. McQuilkin of Strafford, Pennsylvania, president of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

In speaking of Christian Endeavor Week January 30 through February 6, Mr. McQuilkin says, "Never has there been a greater opportunity to challenge young people. They respond to the Gospel and are eager to follow Christ. They want a better way of life."

Theme for the Week is "Jesus Christ — the Way." The pioneer Protestant youth movement will mark its 85th Birthday February 2. Christian Endeavor was founded in 1881 in the Williston Congregational Church, Portland, Maine, by Dr. Francis E. Clark.

"The purpose of Christian Endeavor," states Mr. McQuilkin, "is to lead young people to the Lord Jesus Christ and to train them for service for Christ and the church."

"Young people today are not a problem — but they face many problems," continues the president. "So many young people tell me they cannot talk to, or discuss with their parents the important matters which deeply concern them. This is tragic. Confidence and communication are so important."

In speaking of the Christian Endeavor movement today, Mr. McQuilkin says, "Wonderful things are happening! At our International Christian Endeavor Convention (in Dallas, Texas, last July) there were 577 decisions. In the Pennsylvania Convention there were 114 decisions, in the Virginia Convention there were 81 decisions, and I could go on and on. These were decisions made by young people to follow Christ."

"We can't make the gospel relevant. It is already relevant. We must make relevant our efforts to communicate the gospel."

—Allen Graves, Seminary Professor.

Vocational Committee

Materials Sent to Churches

By Denison D. Barber

The Vocational Committee has sent copies of "Sources of Financial Aid for Seventh Day Baptist College Students" and "Seventh Day Baptist Who's Who and What They Do" to every Seventh Day Baptist church that has a pastor, vocational representative, or Sabbath School superintendent and to all three wherever possible. The committee felt that these were the people who would be most helpful in making this information available to our youth, and those who work with our youth. If you would like to receive a copy of either of these documents, they will be available from the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education in Alfred, New York.

With the completion of this mailing, the work of the Vocational Committee has been taken over by the Board of Christian Education. Kenneth Kenyon will be in charge of this phase of the board's work. His address is Box 1172, Alfred, New York 14802. It would be a great help to him if every Seventh Day Baptist church that has not elected or appointed a vocational representative would do so at its very earliest convenience and notify Mr. Kenyon. The Vocational Committee can be effective only as the channels of communication between the committee and the membership of the local church are kept open.

Sabbath Bumper Stickers

Would you like to promote the Sabbath by encouraging the use of luminous car bumper stickers with some such wording as "The 7th Day (Sat.) is the Sabbath of the Lord"? If so, write the Tract Society, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N. J. 07061. Immediate response is needed. They are now ready for delivery. The price is 25 cents, 5 for \$1.00.

Flowers Now

It is refreshing to hear of 100 people who do not need to be reminded to send their flowers to the living rather than the dead. When an old lady in the second half of her 93rd year, one who would seem to have outlived nearly all of her generation of friends and relatives — when such a one writes that she received more than 100 Christmas cards there must be a reason. Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher Davis has earned the remembrances, the flowers, (7 poinsettias, etc.) that she now receives from a younger generation.

This is a busy age. People in general do not remember the aged and the infirm. But younger folks do remember what Mrs. Davis has done for them. Through all her seventy years and more of adult life she has been helping children and young people and leading them along spiritual paths by her teaching, her songs, and her prayers. It is no wonder they remember her now at Cumberland Manor, a rest home, Bridgeton, N. J. 08302.

Mrs. Davis, author and composer of "We Young Folks Are Seventh Day Baptists" shares a printed poem that has meant much to her and suggests some other brief verses to be used as helpful fillers in the **Sabbath Recorder**.

My Prayer

Lord, as each morn I see the sun
Thy mercies to our land I own;
I praise Thee, gracious God.
And as Thy Word instructeth me*
I pray for all authority,
By whom be Thou adored.

Lord, bless our nation at this time
Of rising wickedness and crime,
And threatenings of war;
May leaders all observe Thy Law;*
Be just, if they must use the sword
And honor Thee much more.

*1 Tim. 2: 1-3; Psalm 2.

(Additional copies of this poem may be secured free from Great Commission Prayer League, 1825 College Ave., Wheaton, Ill.)

Sharing the Good Grades

When the teacher in a high school economics class found his pupils were in favor of the theory of taking from those who had more than enough, and giving it to those in need, he announced he would put the system in operation in the class, in grading the students. The first month it worked pretty well. Then the situation changed. The top students saw no reason to put forth extra effort required to get good grades, with which they would not be credited. The medium students put forth less effort for they were assured passing grades. The dullards did not work at all, since they would pass with the aid of the grades from the others. So, while at first the system provided passing grades for all, within a very short time the entire class was failing. They then realized that this theory was impractical.

Mid-Continent Association

(continued from page 8)

the youth of the Association in a more official way.

Devotional services were led by several laymen, Martha Babcock of Norfolk, Neb., Philip Burrows of Kansas City, Duane D. Davis of Boulder, and others. The night after the Sabbath, a social hour was led by Mrs. Edward Christensen of the North Loup church. The church anniversary program on Sabbath afternoon was led by Miss Mary T. Davis of Clay Center, Neb. Youth activities included a youth breakfast on Sunday with guest speaker, Kerry Leggett, editor of the **Ord Quiz**.

Annual sessions will be held in 1966 early in October at Boulder, with Mrs. A. T. Bottoms, president. Mrs. Bottoms announced her theme at closing session of the Association on Sunday evening, "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths" (Prov. 3: 6).

About 75 delegates from Nortonville, Kan.; Kansas City, Mo.; Boulder and keepers and North Loup members for Denver, Colo., joined lone Sabbath-the Association weekend.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for December 1965

	Treasurer's		Boards'	Treasurer's		Boards'
	December	3 months		December	3 months	
Adams Center		\$ 5.00		Marlboro	347.16	912.16
Albion		64.00		Memorial Fund..		488.24
Alfred, 1st	\$ 397.47	1,260.67		Metairie		
Alfred, 2nd		871.01		Middle Island	25.00	64.00
Algiers				Milton		1,058.43
Assoc. & Groups		41.20		Milton Junction	107.08	307.30
Battle Creek	478.88	1,413.96	\$ 40.00	New Auburn	15.37	48.47
Bay Area				North Loup	10.00	10.00
Berlin		246.91	81.30	Nortonville	102.50	449.50
Boulder	27.50	139.35	25.00	Old Stonefort	20.00	60.00
Brookfield, 1st		40.00		Paint Rock		
Brookfield, 2nd	3.00	30.00		Pawcatuck	486.30	1,474.17
Buckeye Fellow-ship		35.00		Plainfield	743.05	1,611.58
Buffalo	100.00	100.00		Richburg	105.50	225.50
Chicago		117.50		Ritchie	50.00	91.00
Daytona Beach		190.00		Riverside	641.61	1,904.46
Denver	131.15	402.29		Roanoke		
De Ruyter		18.00		Rockville	39.50	232.34
Dodge Center	56.27	283.06		Salem	300.00	600.00
Edinburg				Salemville	29.13	115.54
Farina	138.00	167.90		Schenectady	44.00	44.00
Fouke	10.00	10.00		Shiloh	1,112.04	2,101.48
Hammond				Syracuse	25.00	25.00
Hebron, 1st	69.60	197.60		Texarkana		10.00
Hopkinton, 1st	348.75	348.75		Trustees of		
Hopkinton, 2nd	10.00	29.00		Gen. Conference		
Houston				Verona	94.00	244.87
Independence	147.00	244.75		Walworth	100.00	150.00
Individuals	35.00	385.00		Washington		103.00
Irvington				Washington,		
Jackson Center	500.00	500.00		People's		30.00
Kansas City	47.00	117.00		Waterford	99.95	292.65
Little Genesee	97.85	322.80		White Cloud	67.60	266.15
Little Rock				Yonah Mt.		30.00
Los Angeles		520.00		Totals	\$7,162.98	\$21,205.59
Los Angeles, Christ's		110.00		Non-Budget ..	5.00	\$251.30
Lost Creek		45.00		To Disburse ..	\$7,167.98	

The Sabbath Recorder



Rev. Lester G. Osborn — 1894-1966

This prominent Seventh Day Baptist servant of the Lord was called to rest with his hands on his typewriter composing a radio message on that glorious change from death to life. Recently retired, he was still very active. His ministry was characterized by evangelism and an emphasis on the Sabbath. Several of his tracts and Bible studies on that subject have been translated into a number of European and Asiatic languages. "Their works do follow them."

DECEMBER 1965 DISBURSEMENTS:

Board of Christian Education	\$ 508.86
Historical Society	30.13
Ministerial Retirement (Mem. Fund)	328.62
Ministerial Education	659.97
Missionary Society	3,063.40
Tract Society	791.31
Trustees of General Conference	33.42
Women's Society	113.97
World Fellowship and Service	164.30
General Conference	1,474.00
Total Disbursements	\$7,167.98

SUMMARY

1965-1966 Budget	\$120,554.00
Receipts for 3 months	
OWM Treasurer	\$21,210.50
Boards	241.30
	<u>21,461.89</u>
Amount due in 9 months	\$ 99,092.11
Needed per month	\$ 11,010.23
Percentage of budget year elapsed	25 %
Percentage of budget raised	17.80%

Gordon L. Sanford,
OWM Treasurer.

December 31, 1965.