

The Sabbath Recorder

A WITNESSING FAITH

From the time of the Exodus, the Israelites have believed in a special relationship with God. Their rulers and prophets interpreted natural and civil disaster in terms of this relationship. God was remembered in terms of relationship—God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. Slowly this concept of “a chosen people” grew within the thinking of the people. This gave the early Israelite a feeling of worth or value, *a sense of belonging*.

From this sense of belonging we have the beginning of witness. For we now have the embryonic *reason* behind a witnessing faith. Significantly the Hebrew historians state that Israel was chosen because of God’s love and promise. “It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love upon you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you, and is keeping the oath which he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage” (Deut. 7:7-8). Here we find expressed the thought so necessarily a part of a sense of belonging, that of God’s initiating the relationship in the giving of life and love. This concept is remembered as part of the verse (John 3:16) we memorized in our youth, “. . . God so loved the world”

It is for this reason that each of us can witness to another of this unique relationship that exists between God and the world. In a day of diminishing “person to person” contact, we grope for a reason to express our faith to another. This is it—that we share this sense of belonging to God. It is a basic relationship in desperate need of cultivation.

Convinced of God’s initiation of the relationship in the giving of life and love—of our belonging—we are faced with responding in an open act of love or in a closed act of withdrawal. *Our response* is conditioned by our backgrounds, either to love to some degree or to reject as irrelevant. If we choose to commit ourselves to return this love, we are no longer as free as we were prior to *commitment*. We now find that the devoting or pledging of one’s life to a specific direction is a process. It is not completed with the mental thought “to commit.” It is worked out in very specific decisions in the minutia of living. But as we are faithful—within our human framework—to this commitment, so the process of conditioning works within us making us gradually closer to the goodness or truth of which we aspire.

The *result* for the Christian is *concerned Christlike action*. We claim as Christians to be the Church in the world. How great is our love for the world—its people? Like it or not, you and I find the answer to the question “Who am I?” in the world. Should we not bring to it God’s love? It is urgent that we be the Church IN the world in the manner of Jesus Christ. —Editor.

Ministers Conference Participants
North Loup, Neb., April 26—May 3



Front row, from left: Dr. C. R. McBride, Kansas City, Kan.; Paul S. Burdick, Waterford, Conn.; Duane L. Davis, North Loup, Neb.; Mynor G. Soper, Los Angeles, Calif.; Glen Warner, Riverside, Calif.; Mr. Joseph Lewis, St. Louis, Mo.

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difficulty in comprehending the idea of something dying which was never born. If there is a more obscure meaning, this was as poor a choice of terms as "Black Power" used by civil rights leaders. In either case, it is unfortunate that the Christian church allowed it to gain the publicity which it did. The church is vital and its message is not criticized and distorted by the world and its members without a thought for the living. The church must be able to stand against the world's pressure of wanting that has been distorted and perverted in the past.

The church really faces a difficult challenge. It may be necessary for the church to change if it would effectively speak to modern man. Yet consider this dilemma. Which is better, to have something to say and be unable to say it, or to be able to communicate and have nothing to say? The church must never forget its basic message and purpose. The church must be society's servant but not society's slave. Man, himself, is incompetent to create the "good" society. One need merely study but a few cultures in the world to realize that something which may be very acceptable in one is strictly taboo in another. The church then has the responsibility of helping to shape society based upon the example of Jesus Christ. The church must not be merely a slave, following society

sponsive relations with people . . . They need a church and religious teachers and members that have a sense of mission, a reason and purpose for living that is related to all the exciting meanings of human life"* If a church, through its working Christian education program, can produce this type of model to be a participating member of the world, then it has fulfilled its purpose.

Do You Care?

Planned from June 15-17, 1964, at Camp Holston. A Sabbath afternoon Bible study group is being planned. Trips by bus to Camp Holston for a swim or a ball game have been organized.

What are the results? We really don't know. I am sure Dave, our referee, would like to know that the best fist fighter of that first camp is attending church regularly and hopes to join in the near future, along with his sister. Another girl has asked for baptism. All in all, we have about seven youngsters attending, and their parents occasionally, because they know we care.

Are we proud? No, we have just reached a few. There are so many just waiting, not for a hand-out but for love and concern. Does Jesus care? Do you care? Be that good Samaritan.

much about the major problems the world faces—wars, famine, mass starvation, racial strife—we must learn to settle for lesser glories, choosing a plan to improve in some way our own small spot in the universe and being satisfied that if enough of us would do this, the world's problems would have to shrink as our corners improved.

No matter what vocation a person may choose there is always an opportunity to think of others. A Christian attitude is what we need. It is not easy to give a soft answer when provoked, a smile when disappointed. Nor is it easy to make the first amendment in a quarrel. It is even more difficult to be ever thoughtful. Anyone can be considerate sometimes, but being consistently considerate even when it is inconvenient requires a great deal more determination and practice.

When our Lord Jesus walked about the earth, He took every opportunity to heal, to comfort, and to teach. How could He say, "I'm sorry I can't heal your wounds today. I must hurry to preach the Sermon on the Mount." And yet even with a goal of service in mind we find it easy to put off today's small service because we are so busy preparing for a much greater one.

Many times, in many ways, we are tempted to turn aside, to do unto others the same "low tricks" someone has done

arise to tempt and confuse us.

Each person is free to make his choice. Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Nobel Prize winning poet, once said, "I have on my table a violin string. It is free. But it is not free to do what a violin string is supposed to do to produce music. So I take it, fix it in my violin and tighten it until it is taut. Only then is it free to be a violin string." By the same token we are free when our lives are uncommitted, but not what we were intended to be. Real freedom is not freedom from but freedom for.

A person accepting his responsibility in life will not look for freedom from the elements of life which help create a broken world, but will use his freedom for the purpose of doing what he can to make the world a better place in which to live.

We can improve our destiny in this world by small acts of kindness within every day. In our jobs as students, teachers, healers, no matter what it may be, opportunities are always presented if we are to only open our eyes and look for them.

Melodie Palmiter. Sophomore at Alfred-Almond Central School, N. Y. Member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church. Secretary of the Sabbath School and member of the church choir. Active in school band and choir.

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Travel by Air Is Rewarding

There is much to be said for travel by car; it is often the most convenient way. There is also much to commend travel by air. If this were not so, Chicago's International Airport would not see fully loaded giant planes lined by the dozen on two runways ready to lift into the air every few seconds at busy times of the day. If this were not so, one airline would not count its annual passengers in millions.

What can be said for air travel and for public transportation in general? Aside from the fact that it saves valuable time and that its costs are competitive it puts one with people, many people. Most of us like to observe human nature and to mingle with people whose experiences can be compared or contrasted with our own. The Christian has a special interest in the casual contacts he makes in travel because there is at least a little opportunity to witness after showing an interest in the experiences of fellow passengers.

When one travels by private automobile he sees many things, he observes beautiful landscapes and notices the life and work of countless people along his route. He is, however, isolated within his little vehicle of steel and glass and for hours on end talks to no one except those close companions—or perhaps just to himself—if he is driving alone. The writer was never more aware of the difference in human relations between public and private transportation than when he was an Army chaplain in Japan at the close of World War II. He chafed under the lack of authorized transportation—of having no Jeep. He had to get around in off-duty hours as best he could by over-crowded trains—and they were really over-crowded most of the time. Then he got his Jeep. Suddenly he was all alone or had only his assistant with him. Picking up civilians was frowned upon. The contacts that had been so varied and abundant by public transportation were limited to the people met at destination points. He was no longer a chaplain wedged in with all kinds of people, some of whom could understand a little English; he was just another vehicle on the road passing the people by.

A recent plane trip involving several stops, changes of planes, and changes of seatmates reminded your editor of the mutual benefits of this kind of air travel.

There was the highly intelligent private in the Army who was critical of Army life because he had to wear glasses and could not use his knowledge as a flying instructor. He was being sent to Vietnam for a mission and a work that did not interest him. He needed a little encouragement to bear up under the things that could not be changed.

Then there was the Air Force major who had been called to Washington for an important conference and was returning to his home at Omaha—an interesting companion who had looked as if he was not interested in the people at the airport, but was found to be ready to talk and to share Christian experiences.

Waiting for a plane at the little, but well-appointed Frontier Airlines airport at Grand Island, Neb., is a business man who sells irrigation pipe couplings to distributors all over the nation. He is an interesting person who is glad to hear about a conference of Seventh Day Baptist ministers who had spent much time talking about a ministry to town and country churches.

Another companion for nearly an hour was a woman from Hartford, Conn., making her first flight and returning from a visit to see her first grandchild. Her daughter is married to a service man. She, too, is glad to discuss matters of mutual interest with a Seventh Day Baptist minister-editor.

At Chicago there are fifteen starry-eyed girls with blue coats wearing little corsages. They have just been graduated from a five-week course and are traveling to Newark to get their assignments as airline hostesses. Surprised that all were able to get on the same plane, they were ready to talk to fellow passengers and to feel that they knew somebody after getting off the plane at Newark on their first trip to the big city. One was a farm girl from Oregon.

Then there was the woman coming to a national convention of Braille teachers

held in a New Jersey community. Hers was a life devoted to the service of sightless young students, who are now encouraged to stay with their classes in public schools rather than be segregated into schools for the blind. We had much in common as she added to my fund of knowledge and I to hers.

At Ministers Conference we had been reminded that our business was loving people and that if we didn't love people we were in the wrong business. Travel by air in short hops, when it is difficult to settle down to writing or to reading big books, gives a unique opportunity to make acquaintances whose names don't matter, but whose experiences weave themselves into our total life experiences.

Did You Give Up on Giving?

When the apostle Paul noticed a certain type of failure common to the churches of Galatia, he sent out a letter in which he wrote these words: "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" One would have expected him to end that question with something like, "Why didn't you keep on running until you reached the goal?"

Most of us apparently did some pretty good running during the first five or six months in this matter of giving to the OWM budget. We did not hold the pace during March and we slackened off even more during April according to the figures reported by Gordon Sanford, the denominational treasurer. The giving of very few churches was up to the average they had maintained from October through March. This is cause for individual concern, since church treasurers can send in only as much as they receive from the members during the month. We have to ask ourselves why we slowed down during April, why we gave up on giving. Perhaps you did not; you may be one who keeps a steady, strong pace. But the majority evidently are not running as well as in the past months.

There is not much point in trying to guess why the total giving for April was only \$6,151 as compared with a March

total of \$7,455, a February total of \$7,871, and a January figure of \$9,129. The important thing is for us to take a deep breath, a sip of water, or whatever it takes to renew our strength, "to run and not faint," as Isaiah says. Too many of us have let something hinder us. "Let us," as we read in Hebrews 12:1, "lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. . . ."

There is no good reason why we should not reach the giving goal that is set before us; it is not beyond our capability. But the amount now needed after the low giving of April is \$13,718 per month—\$1,000 more than the figure given in the last report. We must start catching up at once or our workers will not be paid in full and our denominational services to a needy world will be curtailed (to our shame).

Servicemen's Issue Next Week

As the month of May draws towards its close the thoughts of many turn toward Memorial Day and recognition of those who have served their country in military uniform. Fresh flags will wave over the graves of deceased veterans of all our national military conflicts in cemeteries throughout the length and breadth of our land. Sentimental poems will be recalled; patriotic speeches will be made; volleys will be fired by members of the VFW and military men still on duty. Much will be said in appreciation of those who gave some of their best years (or their lives) in the service of their country. We will be reminded that we would not today enjoy the privileges of citizenship in the country that has the highest standard of living in the world except for the sacrifices made in the Revolutionary War, the war to preserve the union, and the other wars that were fought to uphold the principles that we felt were necessary for a viable world order.

Mindful of the sacrifices of the past, we are also aware that, right or wrong, our government for the past twenty-five

MEMORY TEXT

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.—Acts 2:38.

years has maintained a large military establishment. It has drafted men for the Army and has continually offered inducements to enlistment and to the continuance in the service of trained men. The military has become a way of life with city-size units having their own family housing, churches, shopping centers, and entertainment. Again an increasing number of men recognize their duty to serve wherever they are sent on land and sea. Many are in physical danger and many others find unexpected opportunities for Christian service. It is a vast segment of national (and denominational) life that we must not forget.

The next issue (May 29) will carry articles about military life by men who are in that life temporarily or on a career basis. Among our people there are soldiers, sailors and marines scattered over the world. We have some who hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonel or its equivalent in the other branches. A few of these, our military friends and loved ones, have contributed articles that will give us at least a glimpse of some of the opportunities for Christian witness in the somewhat abnormal life of the men and women who are now serving their country.

Dollars and Census

The number of Scriptures distributed (38,981,620) by the American Bible Society in the United States during 1966 alone, would provide more than one fifth of the population of the United States with the printed Word. This incurred a distribution cost of \$1,864,672. These figures are included in a report presented at the 151st annual meeting of the American Bible Society on May 11.

Civic-Minded Nebraskans



Rev. Duane L. Davis, Ronald Goodrich, Dell Barber, Merlyn Van Horn, Wayne Monk

One of the impressions of Nebraska gained by forty Seventh Day Baptist ministers enjoying the hospitality of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church April 26-May 3 was that the church members and pastor are definitely conscious of their community relationship and state citizenship. The ministers were immediately made aware that a centennial of Nebraska's statehood was in progress. Part of the celebration is a beard-growing contest. The accompanying photo shows some of the artistic attempts at beard-growing and whisker-trimming of some of the men who are most active in the church. It is all in good fun and does not detract from the work of the church. It was reported that some were going to keep their beards until the celebration in September while others had already shaved them off.

The women and girls of the church were also reminding each other of the pioneer days of the church and community. Every Thursday the girls in the public schools put on long simple dresses. Their mothers, who served meals to the visiting ministers also came attired in long skirts or dresses part of the time.

North Loup holds the distinction of being the popcorn center of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Van Horn, prominent in the contracting with the farmers for tremendous popcorn acreage and in managing the business, supplied two huge bags of the product for one of the coffee breaks taken by the ministers.

They also sent each minister home with a large bag of shelled popcorn for future use. The pastors will not soon forget how the North Loup church takes its place as a community booster. In a proper ceremony at the Sabbath night social that taxed the capacity of the church social rooms, each visiting minister was given a certificate signed by the governor making him an honorary citizen of Nebraska.

The Ministers Conference was so tightly scheduled that there was little opportunity to get outside the village during the week-long meetings. The weather showed great variety. Some of it was normal spring weather bringing dandelions into bloom, nurturing the growth of peony shoots and causing the lilacs to bud. For two days a cold wind blew with almost hurricane force, and on the last day, May 3, a light snow fell to a depth of five inches (9 inches farther south). Sabbath Day fortunately was beautiful.

Following the afternoon program an historical expedition was planned to the site where the first Seventh Day Baptist meeting in the North Loup region was held. Ministers and church people were transported by car and pick-up trucks several miles into the country across cattle grazing acreage and large fields where the original prairie grass was still growing—grass that would be as high as a horse's back if not pastured. The destination was a clearing in the woods along the river bottom where the covered wag-

ons had stopped for the Sabbath on May 18, 1872.

Those early settlers pulled a tall-backed rocking chair from one of the wagons to use for a preacher's pulpit



on that Sabbath. The original chair (or another like it) is stored in the historical rooms in the tower of the North Loup church. It was taken to the concrete marker erected much later by our church people. As the people gathered around on April 29 a young, slender preacher (Prince Albert coat), Edward Sutton of New Auburn, Wis., stood beside the black-bearded local pastor, Duane L. Davis, to reenact that pioneer church service for the camera man.

Many things have changed since 1872. As one looks out from the village-dominating tower of the North Loup church he sees a village of trees and a wide expanse of cultivated land between the rolling hills. It is said that when the first settlers came, they climbed the hill where Happy Jack, the trapper, lived in his dugout cabin. From that elevation they looked across the North Loup valley of waving prairie grass and saw but one lone tree. The Indians discouraged the growth of trees by burning the grass periodically, it is said. Hard times came

to North Loup and almost decimated one of our largest churches as people dependent on the land were unable to make a living and had to move away. Now irrigation canals carry water from the river from whence it flows or is pumped to keep the corn growing. Bottom land and hilly land now sell for as much as \$400 per acre.

The church has changed with better times and good pastoral and lay leadership. In days gone by it has furnished promising young men for the pastorate. At the present time there are three young men of the congregation who have been licensed to preach and are pursuing their education. Others from the church have volunteered for dedicated service.

Sharing Around the World

"Sharing God's Love . . . Sharing God's Sabbath" is the theme for Sabbath Rally Day, May 20. Appropriately many of our churches are planning to observe this day with a special opportunity to share the Sabbath through the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. An appropriation for this international organization was placed in our budget (Our World Mission) for the current year, but as a "designated giving" item, which means that funds have to be contributed for that specific purpose. Some of our churches had special offerings for this purpose during the Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer in January. Others are finding it more convenient to emphasize it on Sabbath Rally Day. Check with your pastor or church treasurer. If your church is not planning to have a special offering for the S.D.B.W.F., you can send your gift directly (so designated) to:

Gordon Sanford
Treasurer of Our World Mission
Little Genesee, N. Y. 14754

If your local church name is included, it will be credited to your church's total O.W.M. giving. How better can we share God's Sabbath on a world-wide basis than through a gift to S.D.B.W.F.?

—S. Kenneth Davis.
May 8, 1967.

General Conference Publicity

(Eighth in a series)

The Use of Holston Camp

Young Adult Pre-Con, Aug. 9 - 13, will be held at Holston Camp on Cotton Lake, about 9 miles south of Battle Creek. This camp was purchased by the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1944, through the interest and efforts of our former pastor, the Rev. Edward M. Holston, and subsequently named for him. The original property consisted of a lake-front lot with a two-story cottage.

In 1956 the church purchased an additional 20 acres, giving us plenty of room for recreation and expansion. Part of this land is wooded and has been left in its natural state. In 1957 the Arthur Ellis Memorial Trail was laid out and dedicated to this former trustee of the church, who was interested in young people and their opportunity to study nature. Many of the trees are marked with permanent labels and some, it will be noted, are quite rare.

In 1960-61 a 30' x 60' lodge building was erected with mostly volunteer labor. This contains the kitchen, pantry, private twin-bed sleeping quarters for the cooks, and the dining or assembly room. The large fireplace in the lodge is bordered with sycamore wood twin benches and trim from the former home of the late Dr. and Mrs. John Harvey Kellogg. This beautiful wood held special memories for some of our congregation, so was removed from the house when it was razed, and stored until our lodge was built.

In 1962-63 a 20' x 48' building was added. This is a dormitory for 20 girls and has separate showers and toilet rooms for both girls and boys. Before camp opens this summer it is expected that the new wing being added on for a boys' dormitory will be finished. This will complete all the buildings contemplated at this time. When the boys move into their dorm, the original cottage will be used for staff, a health center, classrooms and handicraft.

The camp has a large ball diamond, volleyball and horseshoe courts, as well

as swimming and boating facilities. Last summer three "Sea Snark" sailboats were added. We hope the description of this fine camp will encourage many young adults to attend Pre-Con this year.

Conference Use of Camp

Now a word about the use of Camp Holston during Conference week. The local church usually rents the camp to other groups when we are not using it, but will reserve it for Conference guests if we have any requests before June 1. This will *not* be an ideal housing situation, since the camp is approximately 70 miles from the Conference site in Grand Rapids and will require 1.5 hours driving time one way, but if there are some families who could not attend under any other circumstances, these facilities are offered free of charge. It is expected that the camp would be shared if several families desire to use it. If you would like to make reservations for Camp Holston, send information on the number in your family and the dates you will need it to:

Mrs. George Parrish
205 Dogwood Trail
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.

If no requests are received before June 1, we will rent the camp to any local groups who might desire it.

—Madelene Parrish.

Bookmobiles

Just about fourscore and seven years after young Abe Lincoln trudged weary miles over the Indiana countryside to borrow books which he studied by fire-light, the nation's first bookmobile was being steered over the backwoods roads of western Maryland.

Since those first raw beginnings nearly 60 years ago the bookmobile concept has spread so that today there are an estimated 1,500 bookmobiles in use in the United States.

The typical bookmobile carries an average of 2,500 volumes. The readership of books carried aboard a bookmobile is reported to be three times that of volumes on the shelves of permanent libraries.

Washington Church Pastor Reports

(The following partial report of Pastor Delmer Van Horn to the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Washington, D. C., for quarter ending March 31, 1967, has been taken from copy of his full report, with his approval.)

This was an unusual quarter as there were only twelve Sabbaths in the quarter. The Lord's Supper was observed the first Sabbath, January 7, and the annual business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Rosalind Edwards on January 8. During the week following the business meeting the pastor began conferences with committee chairmen concerning plans for their committees.

The choir was organized on January 14 by the Music Committee. Your pastor appreciates the loyalty, devotion and assistance as well as the worship leadership rendered by the choir and pianist during the quarter. Mrs. William Tamburrino, the pianist, has been a real help as she has tied the worship service together.

Your pastor would like to commend each of the committees of the Five Year Committee on their fine start, their accomplishments, and the forward looking program that they have planned for the coming year. Miss Rua Van Horn and the Evangelism Committee have led us in planning for further outreach and your pastor trusts that the Lord will use this to further advance His Kingdom through our church.

The Youth Fellowship has met four times during the quarter. In addition the Program and Project Committees have had meetings. The Youth Fellowship planned and led the Divine Worship Service on February 4. All of the youth carried a part.

One of the joys of living near the nation's capital is that family, friends, acquaintances, and denominational people stop and visit when they are coming to Washington. It has been the privilege of the pastor's family to entertain people for sometimes only a few minutes to sometimes as much as a day or more during the quarter.

Your pastor would like to thank Brother Grover Brissey and Miss Rua Van Horn for taking time to go with him to see possible church sites. Although nothing was found during the quarter which could be recommended for a permanent church home, various places have been eliminated by such visits.

The trustees of our church, the Rev. Grover Brissey, Charles T. Brissey, and Earl Hibbard along with your pastor recently met with the pastor, the chairman of the Board of Managements and two members of the building committee of the National Baptist Church. (The actual agreement with the National Baptist Church was reached on April 3, which is in the next quarter.) Arrangements were made for us to meet at the National Baptist Church, 16th St., and Columbia Rd., N. W., beginning May 1 to October 1. We will need to evaluate and decide during September if we wish to meet there after the first of October.

The radio spot announcements began March 9 and will end April 14. There have been a number of telephone calls. Those that call have received whatever information they have asked for. Your pastor will follow each contact using all the ways that are at his disposal.

Miss Andrea Crandall arrived on February 24 and remained to work for Christ and the Washington church until March 4. She met with the Youth Fellowship and with the Evangelism Committee. Five hundred brochures with two tracts in each were distributed while she was here.

The Rev. Alton Wheeler, general secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference, was with us March 4. He brought the message Sabbath morning and again challenged us in the afternoon as he presented to us denominational, church and personal "Frontiers with Faith."

It was our church's privilege to host the Washington Project Committee meeting, March 17-19.

During the quarter extensive mail and telephone contacts have been made with those who in some way have been connected with Seventh Day Baptists. Thirty-

five pastoral and/or evangelistic visits have been made. A number of attempts have been made to visit where it was discovered that no one was at home. There has been some call upon the pastor for counseling.

Your pastor represented our denomination at the North American Baptist Fellowship which met at the Washington Hilton Hotel, March 1.

Your pastor feels one of the essentials of the church's progress will be prayer. During the quarter two prayer groups have met each Sabbath afternoon. Thanks go to each of you who has participated and an especial thanks to Jim Chroniger for leading one group.

Evaluation of our denominational tracts for our use has been done during choir rehearsal time by those present who do not sing in the choir. Thanks go to each who have participated in this, and especially to Mrs. Grover Brissey for acting as chairman of this work.

The average attendance for Sabbath School during the quarter was for Jan., 24; Feb., 25; March, 28. Average attendance at church was for Jan., 31; Feb., 28; March, 34.

Your pastor would like to suggest the setting of a day for a fall spiritual retreat at the July meeting. The purpose of the retreat would be three-fold: (1) to gain further spiritual insights and inspiration; (2) to plan the year's church calendar; (3) to initiate certain aspects of the year's work as would be deemed wise by the Five Year Committee. I believe it would be appropriate for this committee as appointed in July to be charged with planning the retreat.

Your prayers are solicited on behalf of my family and myself and the work of that portion of Christ's Kingdom which has been delegated to us of the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Three Ways

There are three ways of doing things: my way, half way, and God's way. The real joy comes when we choose God's way and go "all the way with God."

Pre-Con Choir

Mrs. Oscar Burdick, Director
Oscar Burdick, Organist

The following is a list of music to be prepared for presentation in Concert on Tuesday night of General Conference. If you have access to the music and can bring copies to Pre-Con please write directly to Mrs. Oscar Burdick, 7641 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito, California 94530, by May 31, 1967.

"O Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord"
—Emma Lou Diemer.

Selections from "Rejoice!" —Herbert G. Draesel, Jr.

The Lord's Prayer.

Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God).

"Cause Us, O Lord" —Ron Nelson.

"Let All the People Praise Thee" —
Andreas Hammerschmidt.

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"—Randall Thompson.

"The Last Words of David"—Randall Thompson.

"As Men of Old Their First Fruits Brought"—Leland B. Sateren.

"Christ's Flock"—Martin Shaw.

Those of you who will be at Pre-Con and want to work on the music this summer may buy or borrow packets from Mrs. Burdick. They would need to be brought to Pre-Con since it is planned to have 50 copies available for the 100 campers. Packets cost \$2.70 each.

High Ranking Military in ABS

On the first American Bible Society Board of Managers were such high ranking Armed Forces personnel as General Stephen Van Rensselaer, who commanded the attack on Queenstown in 1812, the Honorable Smith Thompson, who was named Secretary of the Navy in 1820, and Richard Varick, one of General Washington's staff officers. The 150th anniversary of ABS service to the military was observed at the Society's annual meeting May 11. High ranking officers still serve on the Advisory Committee or the Board of Managers.

Ministers Conference Discussions

When most of the active Seventh Day Baptist pastors and ministers of the U. S. Conference gathered for a week of meetings at North Loup, Neb., April 26-May 3 it was to struggle with the question of how they could do their work better, not to make pronouncements. Naturally there was good fellowship, but that was not the purpose. The theme was "The Minister's Role in Church and Society."

Time was found to discuss the denominational growth program worked out by the Planning Committee for this next year of "Facing Frontiers with Faith." The study groups spent some time on evaluating and adding to the material prepared by the Planning Committee on how to strengthen the churches in 1967-68. (This material will be sent from the Conference office soon.) Other things of mutual interest and information were shared during announcement times, such as the latest developments in plans for the current Summer Christian Service Corps program.

The main theme of the conference was enhanced by the seven worship studies "Portraits of a Minister" by Leon R. Lawton, which will be reported in a separate article by Glen Warner. A preview of one of the major papers of the conference prepared by Marion C. Van Horn has also been promised for publication. It should be as stimulating to our readers as it was to the ministers.

All of the papers or addresses showed a great deal of preparatory work. They were educational and helpful, providing a basis for further discussion in several of the six simultaneously held work groups. These work groups met twice each day and were followed by a plenary session to which each group reported. There was general discussion of the statements prepared and the conclusions reached in the smaller groups. By sharing and combining the various thoughts expressed it was possible for the whole Ministers Conference to come to agree-

ment on quite a number of statements relating to the theme of the conference. The statements will be preserved, and it is possible that some of them will serve as guidelines for ministerial work and conduct and for the proposed revision of the Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedure.

The addresses mentioned above were as follows: "The Ethical Standards of the Pastoral Relationship" by Alton L. Wheeler, "A Call to Minister" by Earl Cruzan, "Obligations — Pastoral and Church" by Marion C. Van Horn, "The Pastor and Individuals" by Edgar F. Wheeler, "Pastor and Community and Inter-Church Relationships" by Ernest K. Bee, and "Training for the Minister" by Victor W. Skaggs.

In addition to these position papers there were several other messages, some of which were for the whole community. Dr. C. R. McBride gave a public address on the last evening stressing the importance of the rural church. He has accumulated at Central Baptist Seminary the largest collection of books in the United States on this field, it is understood. At various times during the conference he made helpful suggestions along the line of a better ministry to town and country. It was good to have an expert to give background information as the pastors struggled to give adequate expression to their concerns.

It is easier to give a report of the lesser events of the biennial Ministers Conference than to summarize the major discussions and the formulations of thought. The value of the gathering was in the discussions and the attempt to commit to writing the united judgment of the ministers assembled on the subjects discussed. The concerns were for the work of the pastors, for the effective organization and outreach of the church and for the whole denomination. These concerns will be gradually felt in the churches as the pastors put into practice the standards agreed upon.

There were times during the full conference discussions when listening laymen might get the impression that the ministers were looking at church-pastor relations, for instance, pretty much from the pastor's side. The brethren, however, attempted to look at both sides before the discussion ended or the statement under consideration was adopted. There was indeed, quite a little searching study on proper church-pastor relations. One outcome of part of this study was the preparation of guidelines for the full content of a letter that might be sent to a prospective pastor by the church clerk to extend the call of the church to the pastor.

Many other subjects were taken up in course of the conference. Procedures were set up for the pastors to share books, to get further education, and to guide their lives and ministry in such a way that the church would move forward and take its rightful place in the small or the large community. Results will be noticed in future months and years, it is believed.

—L. M. Maltby.

Ecumenical Necessities

Albert C. Outler, professor of church history at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has several times stated that he believed the ecumenical movement was facing a crisis.

In the April issue of *The Catholic World*, published by the Paulist Fathers, the editors probe into Prof. Outler's reasons for his belief, and some of the remedies he thinks necessary.

Asked about his opinions concerning the ecumenical potential of evangelicals, Prof. Outler continued: "What interests me most about the evangelicals is that they aren't following the script that had them withering away in 'the secular city' in 'a world come of age,' and all that. It would seem that modern man in an urbanized, industrialized society is not immune to vivid faith in the supernatural,

that skepticism is not his unavoidable stance.

"Billy Graham has made far more of an impact on 'the modern world' than Robinson, Pike, Cox and Colin Williams put together, and he wears as well or better. Moreover, the evangelicals are developing, and if the liberals don't lose their religion before the evangelicals come of age ecumenically, real dialogue is possible and fruitful. The entrance of the progressive Roman Catholics into the ecumenical picture is important here—for they have some religious affinities with the evangelicals and some equally interesting (though different) theological affinities with the Protestant liberals."

—*Direction: Unity (Catholic).*

SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS Reading Through the Bible in 1967

"THIRTY MINUTES A DAY
WITH THE WORD"

Watch this column for monthly schedule

J U N E		
1	Ezra	7-10
2	Nehemiah	1-3
3	Nehemiah	1-3
4	Nehemiah	7-10
5	Nehemiah	11-13
6	Esther	1-3
7	Esther	4-7
8	Esther	8-10
9	Acts	1-4
10	Acts	5-7
11	Acts	8-10
12	Acts	11-13
13	Acts	14-16
14	Acts	17-19
15	Acts	20-22
16	Acts	23-25
17	Acts	26-28
Poetry		
18	Job	1-2
19	Job	3-5
20	Job	6-10
21	Job	11-14
22	Job	15-17
23	Job	18-21
24	Job	22-24
25	Job	25-27
26	Job	28-31
27	Job	32-34
28	Job	35-37
29	Job	38-42
30	Psalms	1-3

Sharing God's Sabbath

By Eugene Lincoln

"My work is so secret that even I don't know what I'm doing" reads a sign in a government employee's office. And while we may smile at his humor, the smile begins to disappear when we reflect that there are truly many like him—not only in governmental jobs, but in every phase of life—and, sad to say, in Christianity.

Are you—am I—so unsure of our belief in the Creator and His day that we are afraid to tell others about it? Are we keeping the message for our time, that "the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord," a secret from our friends and neighbors? Are we negligent in our duty of telling them the dire results of knowing disobedience of the Commandments?

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul" (Ezek. 33:7-9).

The full import of this scripture came to me a few days ago when I inquired of someone about a mutual friend who had been in failing health for several weeks. I had been away from town several days and wondered if he had recovered.

"Oh, haven't you heard about Charlie?" he replied sadly. "He died last week at the hospital—in his sleep. I doubt if he knew that his end was so near."

"Died last week!" The utter finality of those three words struck like hammer blows on my conscience. It couldn't be! Charlie, whom I had known many years, dead! The many opportunities I had had

to speak to him of his relationship with his Maker and had either remained silent or had half-heartedly spoken just a few words suddenly came to my remembrance. And those words of Ezekiel etched themselves in my troubled mind. What was his spiritual condition when he died? If it was not of peace with God, then I—at least partly—was the one to blame, for I knew of times I might have witnessed to him of the Savior and His message to men of these days. But I had failed.

The word *gospel* comes from two Old English words: *god*, meaning "good," and *spell*, meaning "news." To perplexed and confused men, it is indeed good news that the Creator still reigns and that His laws are still in effect. When man's laws are flouted daily by mobs who feel that they are their own law, the fact that the Law of God remains as the immutable standard of conduct comes as "good news" to many persons who are looking for something substantial on which to pattern conduct.

How senseless of us to try to keep this "good news" a secret! Perhaps we do not have the ability with words to tell it in the most polished manner, but does anyone hearing good news care much about the exactness of the grammar in which it comes to him, or the beauty of the language in which it is conveyed?

Several months ago, as I parked the car in the driveway after coming home from work, my son Mike came running out, shouting, "Hey, Popsy, ya won a contest! Ya ain't gonna believe me, but you *did!*"

I often reprimand him for his misuse of the English language, but do you suppose I stopped to tell him then to call me "father" rather than "poppy," to say "you" instead of "ya," and to say "aren't" instead of "ain't"?

No I didn't! The niceties of the English language were forgotten as I rushed in the house. (It turned out that I had won one of several thousand "honorable mention" prizes — a free phonograph record!)

There are several prerequisites to presenting the Sabbath truth to men.

First, one must have a deep Christian experience and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; otherwise the Sabbath has no meaning to him, and there is no point in his telling it to others.

His lips—and life—must have been touched with coals from the heavenly altar, as was the experience of Isaiah. "Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I: send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people . . ." (Isa. 6:6-9).

Then he must have a heart full of Christian love to his fellow man; he must tell others, not to show them that they are wrong and he is right, but to point them to Christ and to His truths—and here we must remember that the Sabbath in itself is only one facet of the message of salvation, to be related to the whole message in its proper perspective. One who seeks to win others should become familiar with the message of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13—that without love, all else becomes "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

One who would present the Sabbath to others must be able to back up his words with a life that shows he believes the Sabbath is God's day. He must keep it holy or there is little value in his remembering it.

Last, one who would present the truths of God's Word to others must have spent much prayerful time in studying them and proving them to himself. The Bereans were commended because "they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Do you know the Sabbath texts—or at least know where they may be found—so that you can take a Bible and point

them out to someone else? Take a moment and try to find them without using any helps; you may be surprised at the result.

There is no reason, however, why any Sabbathkeeper cannot be prepared, spiritually and mentally, to tell others if he is willing to spend some time in prayer and Bible study.

There are many persons around you who may wonder why you are not present at your place of employment on Saturday; why you and your family dress in your best and, with Bibles in your hands, leave home on that day. You will be asked questions about your "strange" behavior. Each question, whether asked merely to satisfy idle curiosity or with a sincere desire to learn, is an opportunity to witness. Even a casual question can be the forerunner of a genuine interest.

Don't keep your belief to yourself—the Savior and His Sabbath are no secret.

(Reprinted from The Sabbath Sentinel)

Pacific Coast Association at Riverside

The Pacific Coast Association met with Riverside church, April 14, 15, and 16. The theme for the weekend was "Go . . . Tell My Brethren," a spiritual challenge from John 20:17.

In the evening praise service, Pastor Rex Burdick spoke on the subject "Christ Always Before Us." A young people's quartet composed of Carol Burdick, Michelle Hunt, Vicki Lewis, and Donna Ross furnished special music. After a testimony period another special musical was presented by Mrs. Reuel Bates.

The Rev. Mynor G. Soper delivered the Sabbath morning sermon to a filled sanctuary, his topic being the same as the theme for the Association. The combined choirs of the Los Angeles and Riverside churches furnished two anthems, "Christ for the World We Sing" directed by Miss Lois Wells, Los Angeles choir director, and "Lord, Speak to Me" conducted by Mrs. Reuel Bates, Riverside director.

The children's sermon was given by the Rev. Arlie Davis.

In the afternoon Pastor Glen Warner, our new Pacific Coast Association field pastor, presented the program, his subject being "Our Frontier of Faith." He stressed the challenges of his new work and all that it involved.

The evening worship program furnished us with a double treat — the Rubidoux High School Madrigals, followed by a pageant "Give Us This Day" written by Don V. Gray and presented by the Riverside young adults.

The evening service was followed by a social good time for all—miniature golf for the young people, a get-together for the college and young adults at the Reuel Bates' home, and a social hour for the adults in the church social hall.

The young people's fellowship breakfast was held in Sylvan Park in Redlands on Sunday morning, followed later in the morning by the regular Association business meeting conducted by Philip Lewis, Association president.

Children's programs were conducted by Rev. and Mrs. Arlie Davis in the parish house during the Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning meetings.

Officers for the following year are Ben Peil, president; Dr. Dale Curtis, vice-president; Mrs. Virginia Mackintosh, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Sharon Bates, recording secretary; and Jack Jensen, treasurer.

Pacifism

Pacifism is a mistaken humanitarian sentiment to have peace at any price. The Christian attitude in the light of Scripture must be to have righteousness at any cost (2 Tim. 2:22).

—Eternal Gospel Herald. Australia.

NOTICE:

The annual meeting of the Council on Ministerial Education will be held July 5-6, 1967 at Milton, Wisconsin.

Earl Cruzan, chm.

25 Testaments in 1

A forthcoming New Testament will be unique and may prove to be highly valuable for Bible school teachers. It is a New Testament using the King James version as the one basic text and then adding significant other renderings where applicable from twenty-five other fairly recent versions. Nothing quite so comprehensive by way of comparing different renderings has ever been undertaken in one volume. This New Testament, to be on the market (Zondervan) next October, will run to about 1,250 pages. It is the realization of a dream shared by a 42-year-old Baptist theological professor, Curtis Vaughn, and the well known Bible cartoonist, Jack Hamm.

Although twenty-six different translations are used, and copyright permission had to be secured from most of the owners, only four or five different readings occur in one place.

This is the way it was done: Fifteen scholars were enlisted for the two-year project to serve as an editorial board to make the comparisons. Each member of the editorial board took the King James translation line for line and examined each of the other 25 translations to determine which four or five versions best explained the actual meaning of the scripture.

When each editorial board member finished his task he mailed his work to Vaughn who edited the entire manuscript. Vaughn and Hamm said the editorial board is international in scope, and that each member is a person of conservative convictions concerning biblical interpretation. Members were recruited in New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. There were three Southern Baptists on the editorial board, an American Baptist, a Conservative Baptist, a Presbyterian, an Anglican, a Lutheran, a Mennonite, and others.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for June 3, 1967

A TRANSFORMED LIFE

Scripture Lesson: Acts 9:19b-31.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for April 1967

	Treasurer's		Boards'			Treasurer's		Boards'	
	April	7 mos.	7 mos.	7 mos.		April	7 mos.	7 mos.	
Adams Center ..		\$ 549.50			Memorial Fund ..		2,415.02		
Albion	76.24	305.64	50.00		Metairie	20.00	40.00		
Alfred		2,965.09			Middle Island ..	25.00	215.00		
Alfred Station ..	262.55	1,483.30			Milton	658.92	4,616.39	90.00	
Algiers					Milton Junction ..	83.75	706.85		
Assn. & Groups ..		101.71	263.39		New Auburn	54.30	245.48		
Battle Creek	409.66	2,926.78	80.00		North Loup	200.00	1,442.25		
Bay Area	190.00	346.50			Nortonville	191.07	1,072.50	75.00	
Berlin	102.60	785.37			Old Stonefort ..	23.00	180.00		
Boulder	82.50	544.60	25.00		Pawcatuck	499.43	3,394.73	89.77	
Brookfield 1st ..		438.50	5.00		Plainfield	243.49	2,305.47		
Brookfield 2nd..		595.05			Putnam County..	10.00	30.00		
Buffalo		225.00			Richburg	42.00	608.20		
Chicago	45.00	650.00			Ritchie	30.00	191.31		
Daytona Beach..	100.00	842.82			Riverside		3,461.13		
Denver	146.97	939.39	25.00		Roanoke				
DeRuyter		328.20			Rockville	33.00	149.99		
Dodge Center ..	77.10	492.75			Salem	45.00	708.00		
Ecinburg					Salemville	25.00	175.00	6.00	
Farina	27.25	340.15			Schenectady	13.00	141.21		
Fouke	5.00	115.00			Shiloh	512.90	3,698.05	250.00	
Hammond		18.15			Syracuse		39.00		
Hebron	54.00	432.50			Texarkana				
Hopkinton 1st..	185.25	1,679.22	25.00		Trustees of				
Hopkinton 2nd..		53.50			Gen. Conf.				
Houston		67.81			Verona		1,166.33		
Independence ..	61.05	472.05	15.00		Walworth	70.00	450.00		
Individuals		794.00			Washington	83.00	168.00		
Irvington		850.00			Washington,				
Jackson Center ..					People's	15.00	90.00		
Kansas City ..	65.00	245.00			Waterford	108.85	779.08		
Little Genesee ..	150.85	969.45	20.00		White Cloud	52.60	298.06		
Little Prairie ...	20.00	20.00			Yonah Mt.		30.00		
Little Rock	23.20	118.62							
Los Angeles	630.00	2,530.00			Totals	\$5,913.53	\$55,052.93	\$1,089.16	
Los Angeles,					Non-Budget		238.00		
Christ's		100.00							
Lost Creek	150.00	900.00			Total				
Marlboro		1,940.23	70.00		to Disburse	\$6,151.53			

APRIL DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 361.24
Ministerial Retirement (Mem. Fund) ..	440.94
Ministerial Education	439.25
Missionary Society	2,397.58
Tract Society	615.16
Trustees of Gen. Conf.	23.23
Women's Society	102.95
World Fellowship & Service	192.68
General Conference	1,487.50
SDB World Federation	76.00
Salem College	15.00

Total Disbursements

SUMMARY

1966-1967 Budget	\$124,735.00
Receipts for 7 months	
OWM Treasurer	\$55,052.93
Boards	1,089.16

Amount due in 5 months	\$ 68,592.91
Needed per month	13,718.58
Percentage of year elapsed	58.3%
Percentage of budget raised	45%

Gordon Sanford,
OWM Treasurer.

April 30, 1967

The Sabbath Recorder

Editor in Europe

As this issue goes to press Editor and Mrs. Maltby are beginning a month-long vacation trip to Europe with emphasis on those countries and cities where there are Seventh Day Baptist churches or church members.

The schedule as laid out in advance called for a weekend in the Amsterdam, Holland, area May 19-22, a trip to Berlin and a weekend drive with friends to visit Brunswick and Hamburg churches May 26-28. Points of natural and religious interest will be visited in Switzerland, Italy, and France before going to England where they expect to visit the oldest Seventh Day Baptist church (Mill Yard, London) June 10 and perhaps one of the youngest church groups (Birmingham) the last Sabbath, June 17.

In the absence of the editor his responsibilities are delegated to his secretary and others. The Rev. Victor W. Skaggs will make such editorial decisions as may be necessary. Correspondence will be handled. Writers submitting material for the *Recorder* are asked to prepare it carefully to avoid extra work. Although the issues are planned in advance there will be need of much volunteer material, including news from churches.

Central Association

The Central New York Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches will meet with the Syracuse Church on June 3. The program will consist of Bible study and group discussion on the Conference theme. Morning service beginning at 10:30. Place: Rockefeller Memorial Church, 350 Nottingham Road, Syracuse, N. Y. Everyone welcome.

Saying and Doing

There are some psalms in the Old Testament that call down the wrath of God upon enemies. Before we criticize the writers too strongly let us remind ourselves that we have not made much progress toward really loving our enemies. It isn't enough to just admire the New Testament standard, we must follow it.

Accessions

NORTH LOUP, NEBRASKA

By Baptism:

Miss Neoma Morgan
Peggy Hawley Severance (Mrs. Brice)
Shari Keep Severance (Mrs. Cletus)
Frances Pierce Williams (Mrs. Dean)

By Letter:

Theona Rasmussen Andersen (Mrs. Elmer)

By Testimony:

Ronald Cargill

Marriages

Davis-Noon.—Dennis Noon of Belmont, Calif. and Miss Sheila Davis, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. Keith Davis of Wheat Ridge, Colo., were united in marriage April 22, 1967, in the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Denver, Colo. The Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Smith, Milton, Wis., officiated and was assisted by the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, pastor of the Denver church.

Births

Brown.—A son, Kenneth Carll, to Mr. and Mrs. (Gretchen Swing) Herbert Brown, Jr., of De Ruyter, N. Y., on April 22, 1967.

Rogers.—Julie Christine, daughter of Keith M. and Donna R. (Stephan) Rogers, was born April 30, 1967 at Memphis, Tenn. (The father is serving in the U. S. Coast Guard.)

Stephan.—Richard Kirk, son of Melvin F. and Yvonne (Swanson) Stephan, was born April 7, 1967, at Janesville, Wis. (The father is a student at Milton College, Milton, Wis.)



Praying in a Tent

In an Oriental country divided by war a few years ago there is poverty and want not yet fully relieved. North of the 38th parallel the church has virtually ceased to exist because of communist persecution. In the South, though many do not have church buildings, the Word of God has been spread by servicemen and those who have been helped by them. Some of them meet in tents and bow in prayer under the leadership of newly converted Sabbathkeeping Koreans as in the above picture. The country is not united, but our military peace force contributes to the propagation and preservation of the Christian faith by making life as normal as possible for the people.