

The Sabbath Recorder

Marriages

Hulin - Ellis.—Paul V., son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hulin of Salem, W. Va., and Mary Ellis of San Francisco, Calif., were united in marriage Sept. 23, 1967, by Pastor C. Rex Burdick at the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist parsonage. They are making their home at 805 Whitaker, Apt. E, Buena Park, Calif. 90620.

Le Mieux - Armstrong.—William Charles Le Mieux, son of Henry and Audrey Le Mieux and Miss Nancy Margaret Armstrong, daughter of William and Margret Armstrong, both of Middlesex, N. J., were united in marriage Nov. 4, 1967, at the Plainfield church with Rev. Leon M. Maltby officiating, assisted by pastor Herbert Saunders.

McSparin - Thorngate.—Rev. Carlos McSparin, pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Stonefort, Ill., and Mary Thorngate of Eau Claire, Wis., were united in marriage Nov. 12, 1967, in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, the pastor of the bride, Wayne Babcock, officiating.

Morrison - Guyer.—Gerald Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Morrison of Roaring Spring, Pa., and Miss Janice Guyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Axtle Guyer of New Enterprise, Pa., were united in marriage on Sabbath, July 1, 1967, at St. Mark's Church, Altoona, Pa., by the Rev. Father Mulvehill.

Obituaries

BOEHLER.—Florence N., daughter of Marvin and Ella Huey was born March 15, 1917, at Webster, Kans., and died at the Edinburg Municipal Hospital August 5, 1967.

She was married to J. Robert Boehler Aug. 7, 1937. They had one son who is in the service at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Mrs. Boehler who had come with her parents to Edinburg, Tex., in 1921, became a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Edinburg, of which she was the last active member. She was also a member of the W.C.T.U. for many years.

She is survived by her husband; her son, J. Harold Boehler; three brothers, Elvin of Belen, N. M., Virgil of Edinburg, Lee of Glade-

water, Tex.; and a sister, Mary (Mrs. John) Printz of Gladewater.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. David Watts of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the Skinner Funeral Home.

—Cecile E. Bird.

KENYON.—Mrs. Hazel Baker, daughter of Alvin and Leona Baker, was born Aug. 2, 1895 in Andover, N. Y., and died at Jones Hospital, Wellsville, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1967.

She was married to LaVern Kenyon, June 28, 1916, who survives her.

Mrs. Kenyon was baptized and joined the Andover Seventh Day Baptist Church as a young girl. She transferred her membership to the Alfred church in 1951, where she continued active participation in the church's interests. She was a charter member of Alfred Grange, a long-time member of Rebecca Lodge, secretary of the Alfred State College Alumni Association. Surviving besides her husband are: two daughters, Barbara (Mrs. Richard Palmiter) of Rochester, N. Y., and Ollean (Mrs. Charles Smith) of Alfred; a son, Brice, of Ocala, Fla.; also 14 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

A memorial service was conducted Nov. 3, in the Alfred church by her pastors, Hurley Warren and David Clarke. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—D. S. C.

LEE.—Rev. T. Denton, was born in Tipton, Ind., June 24, 1905, and died in Hemet, Calif., Oct. 26, 1967.

He was ordained to the Gospel ministry Oct. 31, 1942, by the Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church where he was a member. He worked with the Riverside church and the Pacific Coast Association for many years, serving as an interim pastor at Riverside in 1953. Much of his ministry was to lone Sabbathkeepers in southern California.

Surviving are his wife, Bertha; a son Robert, of La Sierra, Calif.; and a daughter Annabelle (Mrs. Dariel Dodson) now living in England.

Funeral services were conducted from the Hartford Funeral Home in Hemet, on Oct. 31, with burial in the San Jacinto Valley Cemetery near Hemet.

—C. R. B.

(A column-size picture of Mr. Lee may be had from the Sabbath Recorder.)



ANGELS' MUSIC

*Calm on the listening ear of night
Come heaven's melodious strains,
Where wild Judea stretches far
Her silver-mantled plains.
Celestial choirs, from courts above,
Shed sacred glories there,
And angels, with their sparkling lyres,
Make music on the air.*

*The answering hills of Palestine
Send back the glad reply,
And greet from all their holy heights
The Dayspring from on high;
O'er the blue depths of Galilee
There comes a holier calm;
And Sharon waves in solemn praise
Her silent groves of palm.*

*"Glory to God!" the lofty strain
The realms of ether fills;
How sweeps the song of solemn joy
O'er Judah's sacred hills!
"Glory to God!" the sounding skies
Loud with their anthems ring;
"Peace on the earth; good-will to men,
From heaven's eternal King."*

Edwin H. Sears.

The Sabbath Recorder

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REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor

Contributing Editors:

MISSIONS Everett T. Harris, D.D.

WOMEN'S WORK Mrs. Earl Cruzan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Rex E. Zwiebel, B.D., M.A.

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Catching the Christmas Spirit

When did the people of our churches catch the so-called Christmas spirit? Commercial organizations did their best to get everyone to start shopping in November. The theory seems to be that the earlier you shop the more you will spend; you will not be quite as price conscious if you can be persuaded to spread out your buying over a longer period of earning.

Seventh Day Baptists are subject to the same advertising pressures as all other members of the community. They catch the popular Christmas spirit which is a combination of many elements, not many of which are closely related to the Christian mission. We want to give good gifts to loved ones. Jesus said that this was not a distinctive mark of godly people. We feel the pressure of giving to those who give to us—again only half Christian. We tend to give beyond our means and thus shorten the amount of available money for real Christian benevolence. We might even borrow temporarily from the tithe box to meet living expenses.

Is there evidence that many of our people have caught some of these lower aspects of the Christmas spirit and have forgotten the real giving that shows that we put the most important things in first place? Most of us do not start meditating on God's gift to the world through the incarnation during the first weeks of November when we start spending our money for gifts. The real Christmas spirit of Christian benevolence starts late; it doesn't have the same sort of early advertising. Evidence? Something happened to our people on a broad scale. Perhaps it was not spending our money for something less important than spreading the gospel, but the fact is that we did not contribute to our mission as we should have during November. Look at the figures on page 15 of this issue and ask yourself if you did your best for OWM.

The total contributions for November were not higher than for October, or only a few dollars higher. Why? Did we not realize that our missionaries and the native workers can have a comfortable Christmas only as we meet the salary

payments? Have we forgotten that missionary pastors and the whole central functioning of our program of service are dependent on our consistent, generous giving?

Some of us have voiced the feeling that our people have never been so united or so well informed about our total program as now. We feel that we are on the verge of moving forward "Facing Frontiers with Faith," "Opening Our Hearts Loving," "Yoked in Mission." These slogans and themes have meaning, but they are only slogans unless and until we put body into them by meeting our financial obligations month by month. This is not a cry of despair or failure. The first two months of the budget year are often below average. By a greater display of love and concern we can redeem our poor record. But we must show that love soon. The giving reported for October-November last year was \$14,572. Compare that figure with this year and, after a good season of private or public prayer, take the kind of action that is according to the leading of the Lord.

As You Travel

Many of our people spend part of the holiday time in travel. It is an opportunity for those tied down by school schedules to get away for more than a weekend, to visit distant relatives or to spend a little time in a different climate. In making such plans there are some important things to remember.

If we are Christians we must take Christ with us; we cannot leave our Christian convictions behind and expect to be able to look back upon our trip with genuine satisfaction. While we do not subscribe to the ancient interpretation of the length of a legitimate "Sabbath day's journey" we only say the obvious when we remark that long distance travel on the Sabbath for pleasure is inconsistent with Sabbath sacredness. To say that we can't get where we want to go without spending the day driving would seem to call for a reconsideration of travel plans. Our Sabbath tracts would feel pretty

uncomfortable in our pockets if we disregarded the Sabbath while carrying them.

We say much about putting Christ back into Christmas. Commercialization of the day and the much-talked-of office parties involving "Christmas spirits" are not so much worse than forgetting God's appointed day of worship. A little more prayerful planning of holiday excursions could make them include attendance at some other church of our faith or fellowship with lone-Sabbathkeepers along the way. Furthermore, we are likely to remember our professed desire to give to the Lord at the season of His birth if we are at the place (church) where gifts are made. Let us be consistent so that our witness is not compromised.

Can There Be Joy?

A time of great joy was proclaimed by the angelic chorus over Bethlehem's hills when the Savior was born. Only prophets and angels could really enter into that joy, for it was long delayed. It was thirty years before any real joy came through the ministry of the One who was incarnated that night. Gloom settled again at Calvary and was dissipated for some when the Redeemer proved His power over death.

Universal joy is far from the world even after nineteen centuries of witnessing to the world of the abundant life in Christ and the hope for the future. Looking about us at all the evidences of distrust, of selfishness, of narrow nationalism, and of small causes blown up like popcorn, we are tempted to observe the hollow ring of much that passes for joy as we enter another season of singing "Joy to the World."

If we think only of material things (blessed as we are with an abundance of them) or contemplate how short we have fallen in making this world peaceful, we could be pretty discouraged. But some of us have seen new joy come this year to the faces of people whose normal reasons for joy had fallen upon them like the walls of Jericho. You can't tell the people who have recently experienced the

saving power of Christ and the abundant life that outward circumstances can rob us of inner joy. Joy and peace are not, for the Christian, contingent on outward circumstances. They can exist and glow for the soldier in Vietnam, the jobless in Alabama and the invalids in hospitals. We are not happy at this natal period because we shut out the suffering, or blind our eyes to the sordid, but because we have the inner light of the presence of Christ shining through the pervading darkness. Let us hold high the candle of joy so that others may see Christ in us and will want to walk with us.

Our Gifts, How White?

It has become quite customary in connection with church Christmas programs to close the service with what are called white gifts—gifts for the King. Instead of the gaily wrapped presents given to our children or to each other the idea is to wrap presents in white, indicating that these are not for our own loved ones, but perhaps for the unfortunate, and unloved, those who might be included in the words of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

As a matter of convenience, the original idea of presenting physical objects such as food and clothing is sometimes modified so that it takes the form of money that can be sent quickly through the mails to faraway people in need, or for distribution to or by missionary personnel. Sometimes these gifts are by classes in the Sabbath School and represent funds accumulated by children for that purpose over a considerable period of time. In other cases adult classes vote money out of the treasury which may not have been contributed for that purpose. If it does not represent a little special sacrifice there might be some question of the whiteness of the gift. "The least of these my brethren" may get a blessing out of the gift because it meets a need, but we who merely voted out some of our surplus cannot feel quite the same blessing as we would if the gift had been

MEMORY TEXT

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezek. 36:27.

more whitened by self-denial. Let us discipline ourselves to think of the greatest Giver before spending all our money on family and friends. White gifts could be spread out over our total OWM budget as well as specified to something special outside the budget. The white wrapping is a matter of the mind and heart of the giver, rather than the color of the tissue paper.

THE CHILD JESUS

*Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
In a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the lowly, poor, and mean,
Lived on earth our Saviour then.*

*And, through all his wondrous childhood,
He would honor and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden
In whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.*

*Oh, our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our God in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.*

Mrs. C. F. Alexander.



Christmas Message of the President of the Baptist World Alliance

William R. Tolbert
Vice-President of Liberia

THE SIGNIFICANCE of the Christmas event in the history of mankind is verily great. This occasion will again be hailed and saluted by Christians throughout the world with all that it implies. Without the immaculate birth of the Saviour, there could be no redemption through his suffering, crucifixion and triumphant resurrection. God incarnate, in Bethlehem's lowly manger made his blessed advent to a world then as now filled with human passion, greed, impatience, selfishness, intolerance, prejudice, suffering, suspicion, and hate, and in need of good-will, love, and peace.

As the angelic choir then heralded the glad tidings, the same good news now needs to be experienced by all, for whose redemption he left his throne, became flesh and dwelt among men, imparting those principles which alone can produce a new life to all who accept and practice them. May the earth submit to his Lordship and the consciences of men be dominated by his mind.

On this glorious occasion I heartily greet every member of our Baptist family in particular, and all mankind in general in the name of the blessed Prince of Peace.

IN THE YEAR 1967 some have been fortunate to bask in the sunshine of good health, prosperity and happiness, others have suffered from the ravages of hunger and disease in shades of gloom, under torture and in misery. While some have enjoyed the comforts of homes amidst tranquil surroundings, others have been separated from their families and friends and have experienced wintry days and the horrors of bloody wars.

While some have accumulated more and more wealth, others have suffered the

distress of poverty. Still others have had the woeful experience of exploitation, social injustice and degradation. Thus bitter resentments have been given outward expression in various forms, precipitating chaotic conditions and peace-infractions of a magnitude disturbing and detrimental to society.

However, viewing soberly the conditions of our time, there exists much to be thankful to Almighty God for. Man's impatience and restlessness make it difficult for him to note duly the gains made. But the facts still remain to be seen and appreciated by those who objectively make proper assessments of God's goodness and take recognition of his blessings.

We glorify God for the blessings granted unto the church in its outreach in distant areas of our world and its increasing influence and continual growth by the spread of the Word and through evangelism. While we can be hopeful that the day of peace and good-will for all mankind will come, we should not relent in our prayers for this peace.

WITH JOINED HANDS stretched across the continents and the isles of the seas, let us with dedication seek peace and pursue it. Let us battle incessantly against all evil forces that are destructive to good human relations.

Let us cultivate and practice a high sense of morality in our dealings with our fellowmen. Let us not be motivated by materialistic expediences, but let us, with appreciation of permanent values, act in conformity with the dictates of the "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12).

Let us ever seek opportunities to minister unto others rather than to be ministered unto. Let us in our attitude and behavior express genuine love rather than merely demonstrating acts of compassion.

Let faith in ourselves never diminish, nor faith in others weaken, as our reliance on God remains firm.

Let us realize our oneness in Christ Jesus our Lord. In unity of purpose, cooperative action and Christlike living let us courageously go forth into the future, not numbering years but practicing genuine human brotherhood and Christian fel-

lowship, to the glory of him who has condescended to make us all joint heirs of a heritage of immeasurable value.

May the blessings of contentment and peace be the continuing gift to all mankind.

The Christ of Christmas

By Dr. Oswald J. Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He did not come to a palace with marble halls and carpeted stairs. No lux-

urious bed chamber was prepared for His birth. Neither nurses nor doctors were in attendance. Cathedral bells failed to toll; bands were silent. No royal choruses burst forth in song. Only the heavenly orchestras were heard. For He came to a stable. And He was laid in a manger.

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

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

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

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

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

This article may be obtained in tract form by writing American Tract Society, Oradell, N. J. 07649.

Bible Readings

Mrs. Goldie Brissey has completed "Reading the Bible Through in 1967." We congratulate her for her perseverance. She will be glad to tell you what a benefit the reading has been. How are you coming with your reading?

—December 2 church bulletin, Salem, W. Va.

Heartbeat in Africa

The heart of a dead woman began to beat again in the chest of a dying man in South Africa as the result of an operation that began at 1 a.m., December 3, and was completed five hours later. The news of this first successful human heart transplant flashed around the world and made headlines in the newspapers everywhere. Medical men and heart surgeons acclaimed it as a most remarkable achievement although it was not entirely unexpected. Preparations and techniques for such operations have been in process for some time.

It is something of more than passing interest that this first happened in the remote tip of that continent which we have been calling the dark continent. We are due for an up-dating of our terminology and our estimate of the scientific accomplishment of people whose politics or religion we may not approve. All of the surgeons taking part in this operation were natives of South Africa although the head surgeon, Prof. Chris Barnard, was known in this country and highly respected as a cardiac surgeon.

It was a pretty thrilling thing to hear this story all day on the newscasts and to read a full account of the operation in the *New York Times*. To see the very next morning the pictures of Denise Ann Darvall (24), whose death made the heart available, and of Louis Washkansky (55), who received the heart, made the near miracle all the more impressive.

We who are pretty ignorant and unskilled when it comes to such things would like to know more. The man's heart had become fibrous and had lost all its muscular power. Artificial pumps had been keeping him alive. Miss Darvall died in the hospital as the result of an automobile accident in which her mother was instantly killed a few hours before. Her father gave permission for her heart to be removed and Mr. Washkansky accepted the gift (with all its dangers). It was his only chance for survival.

The procedure, we read, was in three stages. Two heart-lung machines were put into operation, one on the living man,

the other on the body of the dead woman. Then the woman's heart was removed and kept going with a pump until the third, and most intricate stage, implanting it in the man's chest, could be accomplished. When the surgeons were ready they started the new heart again by a strong electric shock. The chief surgeon said it was like turning on the ignition of a car. It worked.

Later the dying patient was fully conscious with normal blood pressure. He literally had a new heart thirty-one years younger than is own useless organ which was thrown away. There was an interesting legal angle to the case. Legally, to cut out a person's heart and throw it away is killing the person. In this case the opposite was true although none could predict that Mr. Washkansky's body would permanently accept Miss Darvall's heart.

What prepared the way for this successful operation? Long study and experimentation in various parts of the world. At the Stanford Medical Center in California surgeons have performed 200 heart transplants in dogs with a 60-70 percent survival rate. This probably means that all of the dogs whose hearts were used were sacrificed to the cause of human heart surgery and that 30-40 percent of the healthy dogs that received new hearts also died for the greater cause. Some antivivisectionists are horrified at such experimentation. It would seem, however, that they have not meditated deeply on the words of Christ in the Scripture as reported by Luke the physician, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? . . . Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12: 6,7).

There is another reason for entitling this article "Heartbeat of Africa." On the 30th of April, 1873, just a little over a month beyond his 60th birthday, the great missionary, geographer, natural scientist, David Livingstone, ended his Africa travels and died on his knees sometime in the night. He died "commending

(Continued on page 12)

Division of Overseas Ministries Program Board Meeting

Of the two General Conference appointed representatives to the Division of Overseas Ministries, NCC, only the Rev. David S. Clarke was able to attend an important Program Board meeting held at Detroit, Mich., October 26-27. Secretary Everett Harris had expected to attend but circumstances developed which made it seem necessary to cancel plane and hotel reservations.

Among the interesting items of actions reported at the DOM Board meeting, from the observations and comments of Pastor Clarke, the following paragraphs are shared:

In an opening statement, Secretary David Stowe presented a reevaluation of the role of NCC planning in seeking change in our world. He emphasized the primacy of "prophecy" of God's intention, discernment of change's direction, and sensitive response to given developments. He concluded with a call for proper understanding of NCC planning as: "short to mid-range in scope (2-5 years) to provide maximum flexibility in response. Long-range planning ought to be discarded. Planning ought to be characterized by creative improvisation and continuous experimentation, and closely linked with administration."

The observance of the 25th anniversary of Lit-Lit was held with a vital review of the many significant programs underway in: Literacy, Publishing, Planning (as All-Africa Literature, Bethel Consultation, Alfalit evaluation, seminars in publishing and literature), Personnel (as at Kitwe, Zambia, Nagpur University, writers training, etc.), and Growing Edge (Chinese publishing for the 25 million non-mainlanders, Indonesian publishing, children's books, etc.).

The Lit-Lit Milestone booklet concluded: "The Bible is still a locked book for 700 million adults. One half of the Christians in India are members of the Church of Christ Illiterate—through no fault of their own."

Their program was related to the "Mission of the 70's," as were many of the other aspects of DOM.

The Korean Minister of Health and

Social Welfare, Hi Sup Chung, expressed warm gratitude for the work of American missions in his land, and explained the cooperation of state and church in providing many essential services to social and spiritual needs there.

The report on the well-nigh final submerging of the Chinese church was sad, but too well documented for doubt. Yet there continues a program of research and evaluation of underground movements, along with legal and civil negotiations.

The budget for 1968 was considered. It was noted that 58% comes from member denominations, that Seventh Day Baptists are asked for \$1,366, plus \$375 for CWS. The nearly \$17 million total is divided:

Administration and program	\$ 775,000
Specialized Ministries	2,600,000
Church World Service	6,600,000
Overseas Area Programs (as Malawi development, Hong Kong Hospital, Viet refugees relief, e.g.)	4,600,000

We noted that Secretary Everett Harris was again nominated and elected to the Committee on Reference and Counsel. The corporate meetings of CWS and FMC were quickly held to officially carry on bodies receiving bequests on that title.

Major considerations of the meeting included the following:

1. Christian mission in Communist areas of the world — many copies of magazine *Religion in the Communist Dominated World* had been available to the prior meeting at the Statler (Church and Society Conference), and the periodic provision of first-hand materials from Communist press is valuable in certain U. S. offices of mission.

2. The burgeoning story of higher education in Africa—Seventh Day Baptists need to take into account the radical increase expected in enrollment of Africans in state universities in their own countries. Chaplaincy service in these schools was a major concern for DOM. Seventh Day Baptists can anticipate better prepared ministerial students in years ahead.

3. DOM relation to the Peace Priority program.

4. Considerations on refining of the Resolution on World Hunger to be presented to the General Board of NCC in February 1968.

It was a pleasure, especially, to have some time to visit with Mrs. Charles Riddle, who with her husband spoke to our Boulder church and who is, since Nashville Assembly, working in a creative home economics program for DOM. Her enthusiastic participation in the church's work is inspiring for all who meet her.

The Missionary Board's interest in my attending DOM meetings is appreciated, and I hope that this report will help board members to cue into the reports which will come to you. Thanks for the privilege of representing Seventh Day Baptists in mission.

WOMEN'S WORK—Mrs. Earl Cruzan

Christmas Time

By Mrs. Joseph Schertz

The high tide of human happiness comes at Christmas time. No other season is attended with so much of beauty, of goodness and of human kindness. At no other season does mankind come so near to being what it ought to be. Furthermore, at no time in the Christian era has the world ever been so poor, so disturbed, so insecure or so unhappy as to leave the true believers without Christmas joy. But a truly happy Christmas is impossible without Christ. All the good wishes in the world cannot convey true happiness to the heart that is closed to the Savior. The recipient of bushels of greeting cards and wagonloads of Christmas gifts will not know true happiness until he has received Christ.

A crippled newsboy, hobbling upon his crutches, but filled with the spirit of Christmas, had decorated his crutches with holly leaves. His happiness was contagious and genuine. He was rich in the values that really matter. His decorated crutches were the outward testimony of spiritual riches within his soul. He had that with which the poorest is rich and without which the richest is poor.

Christmas joy was not intended to be the prerogative of a favored few, but the experience of all true believers. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." That was the proclamation of the holy angel on the night when Christ was born. The coming of Christ was calculated to lift the whole creation to the level of rejoicing. Whatever our condition or circumstances, the divine intent is that we should come within the radiance of Christmas joy.

Christmas, as observed by believers in Iceland, has a charm that is peculiarly its own. The formula is simple; it will work anywhere, without reindeer, holly or mistletoe. First of all, everything must be clean for Christmas. Every corner of the house and every bit of clothing must be immaculate. All necessary repairs must be made, however inconspicuous the need. All of this is symbolic and preliminary. The greater preparation is that of the heart. All differences must be adjusted and all hearts reconciled. Then there are gifts, family reunions, and fellowship with friends. And over all, there hovers the sweet consciousness of the coming of Christ into the world and into the hearts of men. "God so loved the world that he gave —." This spirit of giving is one of the marks of true devotion among believers. It is a poor observance of Christmas that leaves out the Christ who gave us Christmas. Let the house be put in order and made congenial to the presence of the Prince of Peace. Let there be reconciliation, forgiving, forgetting! And let not Christ, the gracious guest in the Christian home, be neglected in the giving.

With hearts and homes made ready, let Christ have a place of honor.

Eastern Baptist Gets President

J. Lester Harnish, pastor of a church in Portland, Oregon (USA) and 1965 president of the American Baptist Convention, has been elected president of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and College in Philadelphia, Pa., effective with the new calendar year.

—EBPS.

American Bible Society

Draws Together 65 Denominations

Almost 300 attended the American Bible Society Advisory Council last month. Representatives from more than 65 Protestant denominations, eight church-related agencies and Roman Catholic observers were present at the three day meetings in New York, November 13-15. Discussions about Africa's Scripture shortage, man's urgent quest for inner peace as he probes outer space, and cooperation between the Bible Societies and the Vatican in providing easy access to the Scriptures highlighted the conven-



tion. Shown at the meeting are: (left to right) Rev. Paul L. Maxson, Seventh Day Baptist, Berlin, N. Y.; Rev. C. Raymond Spain, Church of God, Cleveland, Tenn., and Mr. Robert R. Frame, associate secretary, General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists.

They are discussing the Society's best selling paperback, "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, which was close to the eight million circulation mark a little more than a year after publication.

Last year the American people spent 50 million dollars for Christmas trees and more than 90 million more for Christmas tree decorations. This is more money than all the people of America contribute to Foreign Missions in a year.

They Serve in Quiet Ways



It has become a practice in some of our churches to honor each year those who have been on the membership list for fifty years or more. Some were baptized and joined the church as many as seventy-five years ago.

Other churches honor long-time members when they reach some significant milestone of life. Not all of these can be written up for the pages of a national periodical; there just wouldn't be room. Neither can we print the pictures of all who have served the Lord in quiet ways in the same church over a period of three generations. But occasionally we may be able to pick an individual as a representative of the many others whose lives also are full of interest and blessing to those who have known them. The church of Plainfield has a woman who has reached the age of ninety and is still active and young at heart. They present Mildred Vars whom they honored at a fellowship luncheon with a big birthday cake on November 4. She has been a widow for many years. Only recently did she go to live with her daughter in Elizabeth, after maintaining her own home which she and her husband Alexander Vars built more than fifty years ago. When she rides the bus to church (about twelve miles), she is greeted warmly by many whose friendship she has earned through her long years of service.

God's Ways

*God's ways are not like human ways
He wears such strange disguises
He tests us with His long delays
And then our faith surprises.
While we in unbelief deplore
And wonder at His staying,
He stands already at the door
To interrupt our praying.*

—Author unknown.

Kentucky Baptists Set Good Pace

Something quite new in interracial developments among Baptists has come out of the annual meeting of white Baptists in the state of Kentucky.

In Kentucky, as in many other places, there is a convention of white Baptist churches and there is a convention of Negro Baptist churches.

Now, however, the white Baptist group proposes that churches, both white and Negro, belong to both conventions. Thus all Negro churches would affiliate with the white convention and all white churches would affiliate with the Negro convention.

But the two conventions would not consider a merger.

Having now passed the white Baptist convention, the "dual alignment" proposal will go before the assembly of Negro Baptists when they meet again next year.

The new element in the Kentucky situation is that it becomes a recommended convention policy rather than purely individual church action for churches to be dually aligned.

C. T. Daley, outstanding editor of the *Western Recorder*, the state Baptist paper of Kentucky, in his "Observations" following the state convention waxed eloquent over the joining of forces of the two conventions in the above mentioned plan. Seconding the statement of the brilliant Negro Baptist preacher, William A. Jones, of Brooklyn, New York, who called it "the dawning of a new day," he wrote:

The new day began to dawn in the afternoon joint session of the Negro and white Baptist conventions in Kentucky. Misty eyes and glowing hearts greeted the new day. It was a beautiful and healing sunrise after too long a night of prejudice and separation. Some approving voice seemed to be whispering into the ears of every heart, "This is how it ought to be, ought always to have been and ought always to be."

He went on to describe the youth night rally which drew an attendance of 20,000 (mostly youth) and was acclaimed the greatest integrated meeting in Southern Baptist Convention history. The choir was made up of 99 Negro youth choirs

and 105 white youth choirs. Said editor Daley:

The thousands of youths and their admirers at Freedom Hall for Youth Night climaxed the new dawn. The perfect blend of two colors and near perfect blend of 5,000 voices made a choir that must rival the eternal choruses of heaven.

With things like this dual alignment happening in one of the southern states there is reason to hope that prejudice will soon disappear in all Christian churches whether Baptist, Seventh Day Baptist, or any other variety.

YOUTH

Bearing Fruit

John 15:1-17

As Christians we have been entrusted with a message which is for all men. We have been called by Jesus Christ to be fruitful branches. And this is a real challenge and responsibility. If we are to be truly Christian and bear the Christian name with dignity and responsibility we are to "bear fruit" and thereby become "Christ's disciples." People are to see in our faces and by our actions that we mean it when we confess that God is our Father and Jesus Christ is our Lord.

Samuel Stennett, the noted Seventh Day Baptist hymn writer, offers us a real challenge in the words of his hymn entitled:

Not all the nobles of the earth,
Who boast the honors of their birth
Such real dignity can claim
As those who bear the Christian name.

To them the privilege is giv'n
To be the sons and heirs of heav'n;
Sons of the God who reigns on high,
And heirs of joys beyond the sky.

His will He makes them early know,
And teaches their young feet to go;
Whispers instruction to their minds,
And on their hearts His precept binds.

When thro' temptation they rebel,
His chast'ning rod He makes them feel,
Then, with a father's tender heart,
He soothes the pain and heals the smart.

Their daily wants His hands supply,
 Their steps He guards with watchful eye,
 Leads them from earth to heaven above
 And crowns them with eternal love.

If I've the honour, Lord, to be
 One of this num'rous family,
 On me the gracious gift bestow
 To call Thee Abba, Father! too.

So may my conduct ever prove
 My filial piety and love!
 Whilst all my brethren clearly trace
 Their Father's likeness in my face.

(Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, Plainfield, N. J.)

The Good News of Christmas

By DeLane M. Ryals*

Imagine the laughter and derision that would have met an angel of the Lord had he come to Caesar instead of to the shepherds, saying, "Leave all this alone; it does not matter; nothing matters tonight except the fact that a peasant woman has had a baby in a stable."

Yet the wonder of Christmas is the wonder of "Immanuel" which translated means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Centuries before the actual event the prophet Isaiah had proclaimed His coming: "The Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

And some men were awaiting His coming, for God had been revealing Himself to mankind through the ages. Jesus came to embody what God had been all along, "God with us," personally concerned for the creatures He had placed upon this earth.

Mankind is desperately in need of Christmas. Human pride and prejudice and the more obvious actions which ex-

* The author is a young Baptist minister who became a close friend of your editor on the trip to and from the Baptist World Congress at Miami. The publication is a full color tract of the American Tract Society—a non-profit organization, publishers of Christian literature since 1825, Oradell, New Jersey 07649.

press our sinfulness—these cry out for God's intervention in our lives. Man's inhumanity to man, to say nothing of man's alienation from God, calls us to godly repentance.

The Christmas story, then, is prologue to the Good News of Easter. In both the message is the same: "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Christmas becomes meaningful in our lives only as we recognize what God has done for us. When in repentance and faith we commit our lives to Jesus Christ, God's Son, we discover God's gift of newness of life.

Nothing else matters.

Heartbeat in Africa

(Continued from page 7)

Africa — his own dear Africa — with all her woes and sins and wrongs, to the Avenger of the oppressed and the Redeemer of the lost" writes Blaikie in *The Personal Life of David Livingstone* (p. 465). The writer goes on to describe, as other biographers have, what was done with Livingstone's heart and body. His faithful attendants embalmed the body by the primitive methods available, drying it in the sun for fourteen days. Then they carried it to the distant coast, from whence it was shipped back to Westminster Abbey for burial. But Livingstone's heart had beat itself out for Africa. It belonged in Africa. His attendants felt so. They buried it by itself under the mvula tree in Ilala, marked the spot, and arranged for that burial place to be kept clean.

When his death and all its touching circumstances became known it sent a thrill through all the civilized world. Some say that it did more for Africa than he could have done had he completed his task and spent years following it up. His death sparked the marvelous expansion of missionary enterprise in Africa. It opened up the way, among other things, for the first missionaries to the previously almost unknown country of Nyasaland.

There may be no great religious significance to the new heartbeat in the chest of a hitherto unknown businessman, Louis Washkansky, but it may help us to listen anew for the heartbeat of Africa and may quicken within our breasts the desire to bring something more eternal than extended human life to the millions who have not yet experienced spiritual renewal.

—By the editor.

READING GUIDE

Seventh Day Baptists

Reading/Study of the New Testament in 1968

JANUARY

<i>Matthew</i>	16 — 10: 1-25
1 — 1	17 — 10:26-42
2 — 2: 1-12	18 — 11
3 — 2:13-23	19 — 12: 1-21
4 — 3	20 — 12:22-50
5 — 4: 1-11	
6 — 4:12-15	<i>Matthew</i>
	21 — 13: 1-23
	22 — 13:24-52
<i>Matthew</i>	23 — 13:53-14:12
7 — 5: 1-16	24 — 14:13-36
8 — 5:17-48	25 — 15: 1-20
9 — 6: 1-18	26 — 15:21-39
10 — 6:19-34	27 — 16: 1-20
11 — 7	
12 — 8: 1-17	<i>Matthew</i>
13 — 8:18-34	28 — 16:21-17:13
	29 — 17:14-27
<i>Matthew</i>	30 — 18: 1-14
14 — 9: 1-17	31 — 18:15-35
15 — 9:18-38	

The above short portions of Scripture are not just for daily reading, but for devotional study. We are being asked to determine the main theme of the section and to find the key verse. Then in pondering what we have read we are to jot down on paper or in memory how these particular verses can have special meaning to us for this day. Further details of this Bible study method and some suggested books will be found in a printed folder being furnished to all pastors for distribution to members. Ask for it right away. One new and helpful book (if you can afford it) is *The New Testament from 26 Translations* — Zondervan (12.50).

World Council Parley Highlights Evangelism

Misconceptions about evangelism, what it is and is not, and the role of the World Council of Churches in the evangelistic mission, were subjects of debate and discussion at the meeting of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Heraklion, Crete.

The Rev. Philip Potter of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism called for a "high priority for cooperation in evangelism." The World Council itself, he pointed out, cannot do the work of evangelism of its member churches or even organize evangelistic campaigns, but it can assist member churches "to embark on bolder initiatives in joint action in evangelistic techniques."

"The main task of evangelism," he said, "remains with the congregations as the people of God being active witnesses in each place."

—Religious Newsweekly.

New American Bible Society President

Mr. Edmund F. Wagner, of Scarsdale, chairman of the Board of The Seamen's Bank for Savings, was elected the twenty-first president of the American Bible Society at a recent meeting of the board of managers.

Since 1962, Mr. Wagner has served on the society's board of managers and is currently on the executive council of the Lutheran Church in America. He also serves as president of the board of trustees for the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, N. Y., and is vice-president and a member of the board of managers for the Seamen's Church Institute.

Throughout his career Mr. Wagner has been either a director, trustee or officer in thirty-five different organizations including the Consolidated Edison Company, American International Corporation, the Bankers Club of America, and Wagner College.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
 for December 30, 1967
CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

NORTH LOUP, NEBR.—Early in August the Boulder Bell Ringers gave a concert at our church before continuing on their way to Conference. A full house enjoyed their inspirational music.

Twenty-one of our people attended Conference at Grand Rapids, Mich., all or part-time.

The Rev. and Mrs. Mynor Soper and family of Los Angeles were honored guests at a church family supper. Three of our local Summer Christian Service Corps young folks, Kerry Fuller, Richard Fuller and Pat Williams, were present and shared some of their experiences. Harold King, the fourth SCSC worker, and Peggy Williams went directly from Conference to Plainfield to begin their year of dedicated service to the Lord.

In September, Popcorn Days in North Loup are really homecoming days for many. The parade is one of the highlights of the celebration, and this being Nebraska Centennial year, floats were in keeping with that.

Our float, "First Church Service in the North Loup Valley, Sabbath Day, May 10, 1872" was awarded second place in the church group. Our church food stand was a busy place and the cooperation wonderful.

September also saw young folks leave for further education. Ron Williams, Pat Williams, Philip Van Horn, and Allan and Nancy Cox are attending the University of Nebraska; Phyllis Fuller is continuing her nurse's training at Scottsbluff; Robert Babcock at Mankato State College at Mankato, Minn.; Martha Rasmussen at Salem College; and La Vere and Beth Soper at Central Pilgrim College at Bartlesville, Okla. Other young folks have found employment in nearby towns.

Sabbath School Promotion Day late in September saw some changes made in the classes. A short dedication service for teachers was held.

After some months of vacation the choir is again praising the Lord with anthems. Mrs. Jeneane Abel is the new

director. She also directs the junior choir and is assisted by Mrs. Davis.

The choir had a potluck supper Sunday evening, October 22, honoring Mrs. Don Clement for her many years as choir director. The Don Clements have moved to Kearney, Nebraska. The Clements were presented with a group gift.

The Valley County Ministerial Association meeting was held in our church. Pastor Davis continues taking his turn with services at Valley County Hospital and Le Bow Nursing Home in Ord, often being assisted by Youth Fellowship members.

At the quarterly meeting held in October three of our young men, Harold King, Robert Babcock and La Vere Soper, planning to enter the ministry, were again given licenses to preach. Robert Babcock spent the summer serving the Sabbathkeeping group at Ogallala.

Twenty-eight attended Mid-Continent Association meetings at Nortonville, Kans., the weekend of Oct. 6-8. Next year's meeting will be at Denver with Gary Cox as president.

Work on the new church entrance and the rest rooms is nearing completion and a new gas furnace has been installed. The old coal burning monster had given us half a century of service. It was as old as the church. A new parking lot south of the church with an all night vapor yard light, a new hot water heater and deep freeze have been added. Brick has also been added to the kitchen stairs entrance.

The North Loup Evangelism Committee requested our director of evangelism, Rev. Leon Lawton, to assist in contacting Sabbathkeepers in Nebraska. In October he and Pastor Davis spent two weeks visiting people in Arthur, Ogallala, Johnstown, Bassett, Kearney, Omaha, and Lincoln. A Sabbath afternoon service was held at Bassett with twelve of our local people also attending. We are grateful for the assistance of Mr. Lawton. We pray that the contacts made by Pastor Davis and Mr. Lawton will bear fruit.

—Correspondent.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for November 1967

	Treasurer's		Boards'			Treasurer's		Boards'	
	November	2 mos.	2 mos.			November	2 mos.	2 mos.	
Adams Center ..					Metairie				
Albion		\$ 155.74			Middle Island ..	35.00	70.00		
Alfred	\$ 316.85	672.30			Milton	492.68	571.15		
Alfred Station ..	237.75	588.35			Milton Junction ..	73.75	154.75		
Algiers					New Auburn	38.80	62.60		
Assn. & Groups ..	99.50	183.50			North Loup	200.00	400.00		
Battle Creek	383.93	686.55	\$ 30.00		Nortonville	67.50	259.43	25.00	
Bay Area					Old Stonefort ..	23.00	46.00		
Berlin	49.00	163.26			Paint Rock	45.00	45.00		
Boulder	70.50	176.50			Pawcatuck		612.43		
Brookfield, 1st..	152.25	152.25			Plainfield	508.04	508.04		
Brookfield, 2nd..					Putnam County..				
Buffalo		5.00			Richburg	42.00	113.50		
Chicago	185.00	385.00			Ritchie	60.00	60.00		
Daytona Beach..	130.25	130.25			Riverside	489.93	571.86		
Denver	153.74	308.30			Roanoke		6.00		
DeRuyter					Rockville	35.21	50.46		
Dodge Center ..	186.98	186.98			Salem	127.50	273.61		
Edinburg					Salemville	30.00	101.09		
Farina	6.53	6.53			Schenectady	54.53	54.53		
Fouke		25.00			Shiloh	367.62	367.62		
Hammond		13.00			Syracuse				
Hebron		66.25			Texarkana				
Hopkinton, 1st..	148.00	341.85			Trustees of				
Hopkinton, 2nd	4.00	15.50			Gen. Conf.				
Houston					Verona	123.00	277.56		
Independence ..	129.00	170.00			Walworth	60.00	139.00		
Individuals		264.00			Washington	125.00	125.00		
Irvington					Washington,				
Jackson Center..		500.00			Peoples		30.00		
Kansas City	30.00	60.00			Waterford	105.10	235.15		
Little Genesee ..	119.55	247.65	5.00		White Cloud ..	25.21	65.17		
Little Rock	15.00	29.00			Yonah Mt.				
Los Angeles	350.00	665.00							
Los Angeles,					Totals	\$5,896.70	\$11,757.30	\$ 60.00	
Christ's					Non-Budget	361.00			
Lost Creek					Total				
Marlboro		359.59			to Disburse	\$6,257.70			
Memorial Fund									

NOVEMBER DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 380.55
Historical Society	3.92
Ministerial Retirement (Mem. Fund) ..	446.41
Ministerial Education	371.74
Missionary Society	2,128.44
Tract Society	602.00
Trustees of Gen. Conf.	21.54
Women's Society	100.72
World Fellowship & Service	251.38
General Conference	1,590.00
SDB World Federation	46.00
Salem College	15.00
Memorial Fund	300.00
Total Disbursements	\$6,257.70

SUMMARY

1967-1968 Budget	\$126,603.00
Receipts for 6 months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$11,757.30
Boards	60.00
	<u>11,817.30</u>
Amount due in 10 months	\$114,785.70
Needed per month	11,478.57
Percentage of year elapsed	16.66%
Percentage of budget raised	9.3%

Gordon L. Sanford
OWM Treasurer

November 30, 1967

The Sabbath Recorder

Accessions

SALEMVILLE, PA.

By Baptism:

Robert Kagarise, Jr.
Randy L. Kagarise

Births

Amato.— A daughter, Rachel Carrean, Sept. 28, 1967, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Amato of Alfred Station, N. Y. (Mrs. Amato was the former Mildred Pierce).

Ellis.— A son, Terry Sean, to Ronald and Luan (Sutton) Ellis of Alfred Station, N. Y., Oct. 7, 1967.

Palmer.— A son, Kelley Gordon, to James and Faith (DeGross) Palmer of Marion, N. Y., Aug. 19, 1967.

Taylor.— A son, Dana Brett, to David and Margaret (Cartwright) Taylor of Friendship, N. Y., on November 27, 1967.

Obituaries

BURDICK.— Dr. Donald Langworthy, son of William H. and Nellie I. (Langworthy) Burdick, was born April 1, 1900 at Ashaway, R. I., and died at his summer home on Yawgoog Road in Rockville, R. I., Nov. 12, 1967.

Dr. Burdick of 510 E. 86th St., New York City, was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church at Ashaway, R. I. He had made a name for himself in the medical profession after graduation from Alfred University and his medical training. He was the founder of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists and at the time of his death was chief of staff of anesthesiology at Doctors Hospital in New York where he had been on the staff for over 25 years. His list of distinguished achievements and honors in his profession is long.

He is survived by his wife Winifred (Stevenson) and two nephews.

Funeral services from the First Hopkinton church were conducted by his lifelong friend, Rev. Harold R. Crandall, pastor emeritus of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church. Interment was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

—H. R. C.

MAXSON.— Deacon Lyle E. Maxson, son of Russell and Hannah Babcock Maxson, was born on a farm three miles west of Nortonville, Kans., May 31, 1878, and died at Littleton, Colo., Oct. 25, 1967.

He was baptized and joined the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church at the age of twelve and took an active interest in the work of the Sabbath School, riding many miles on a bicycle to organize its Home Department. He continued to be an eager Bible student throughout his life.

On Oct. 30, 1904 he married Thyrsia Pierce and to them were born five children, Roscoe I., and Elwin E. of Boise, Idaho, Mrs. Esther H. Williams of North Eoup, Nebr., Orland R. of Denver, Colo., and Lt. Col. Lewis E. Maxson of Sacramento, Calif., all of whom survive. The family home was in Oklahoma, California, and Nebraska for brief periods, but most of their years were spent in eastern Colorado and in the Denver area.

The Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church which he joined in 1933 chose Mr. Maxson as a deacon in 1946, and he served faithfully in this office and in many other capacities. In his last years he was given the title of deacon emeritus. Following his first wife's death he was married Aug. 12, 1954 to Hattie Lane; and after her death he was married on Sept. 10, 1960, to Bessie Bond with whom he lived at Nortonville until 1964. Upon her death he made his home with his son Orland in Denver.

A memorial service was conducted on Sabbath, October 28, by Rev. Albert N. Rogers, pastor of his church. The body he had willed for medical research at the University of Colorado Medical Center.

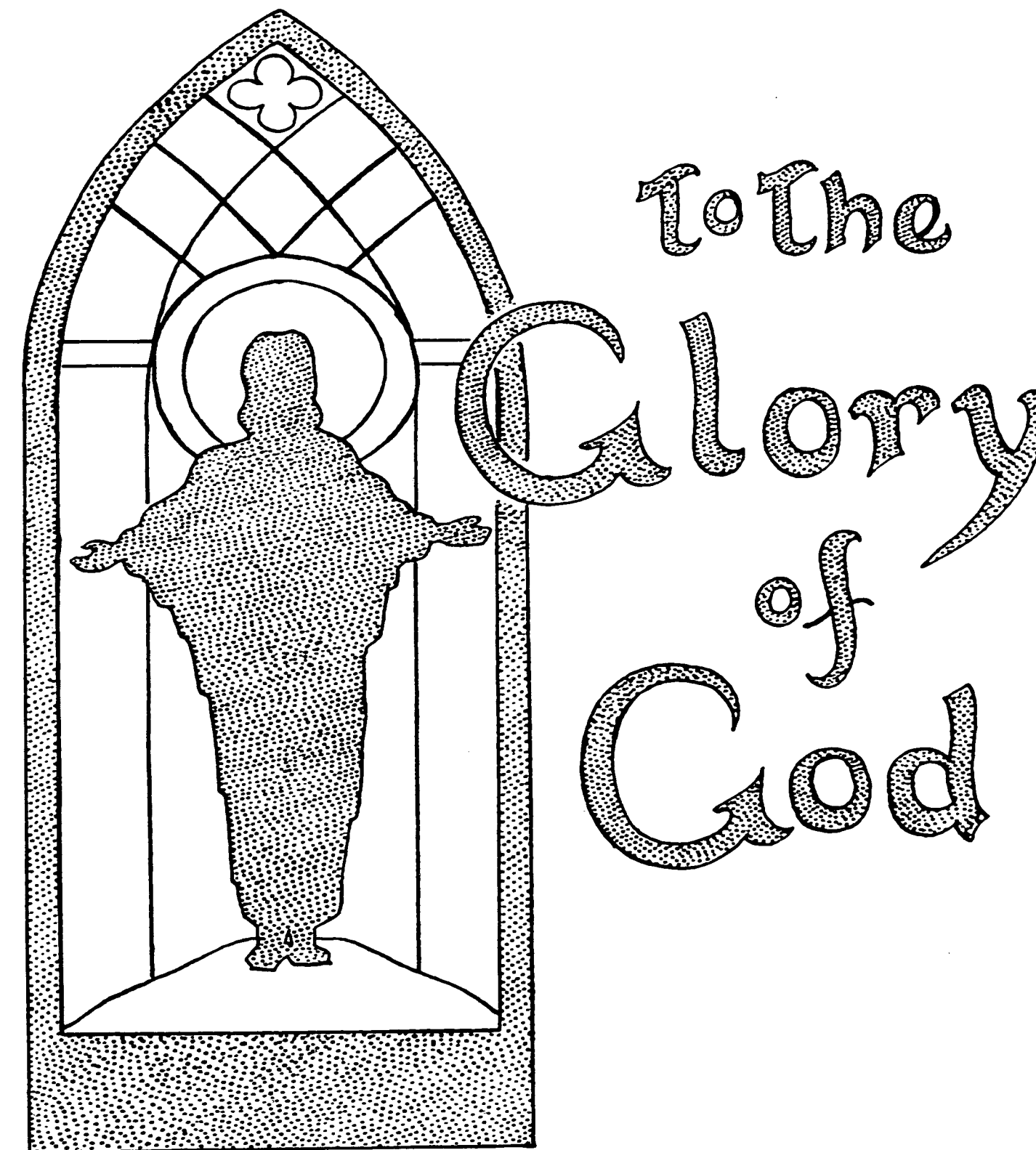
—A. N. R.

STEVENS.—Mrs. Annie, wife of George H. Stevens of Milton, Wis., was born in Manchester, England, Aug. 1, 1882, and died at Mercy Hospital, Janesville, Wis., Nov. 6, 1967, after a long illness. She was married to George Stevens on May 4, 1905.

She came to America in 1915 and has made her home in Milton since that time. She was received into membership in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church by testimony a few weeks before her death.

Funeral services were held from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton on Nov. 9, 1967, by her pastor, Rev. Earl Cruzan. Interment was in the Milton Cemetery.

—E. C.



"That he may present you faultless before the presence of his glory."

1967 Retrospect — Prospect 1968

Looking back, we know that we have not lived this year "to the glory of God" faultlessly. Looking ahead, we know that with a greater yieldedness to His Spirit our words and deeds can redound more to His glory.