

The Sabbath Recorder
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Plainfield, N. J. 07061

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The Sabbath Recorder

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SHILOH, N. J.—A special part of the regular morning worship service for a period of five weeks, proclaiming Christ's kingdom and highlighting the Christmas season, proved inspirational again this year. Pastor Charles Bond lighted the first candle, the gospel candle, as part of this service; Mary Ayars lighted the candle of faith the second week; Teddy Davis, the candle of hope the third week; Robert and Kathleen Vanderslice, the candle of love, the fourth week. Lighting the unnamed candle, the fifth week, by the congregation, climaxed this beautiful program. It was preceded by an outstanding presentation of a Christmas cantata called "The Night the Angels Sang" by the senior choir directed by Anita Harris. Special selections by the youth choir directed by Matilda Dickinson and the junior choir directed by Eleanor Fogg added to this special performance.

Several of our young people were home for the holidays. We were glad to see Phil and Tim Bond, David, Erwin, and Mary Sheppard, Randy and Everett Dickinson, Phil Davis, Jeff Fogg, Clara Richardson, and Joan Schaible.

Dale Rood, a dedicated student attending Crozer Seminary, is to be working with the Shiloh church his second semester.

The annual business meeting and the fellowship dinner were held in the new Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 7.

A dream of an educational building has been realized and was used for the first time for the business meeting and the dinner. We speak of having will-power enough to accomplish something, or enough brainpower to be capable of

a task. For the Christian, the source of power is of great importance. Through prayer, much effort, and dedicated workers a new building is being put to use in the Lord's work.

Projects are on the move to equip the new building. One such project, "Give a Chair for Christmas," designed to secure new folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall and Sabbath School classrooms has been quite successful—250 brand-new chairs! A baby grand piano has been donated by Harry and Sara Bowen.

We look forward to any opportunity to advance Christ's work.

—Correspondent.

Births

Holt.—A daughter, Laura Virginia, to Dr. and Mrs. William S. Holt (Jean Cushman) on November 24, 1967, Rochester, N. Y.

Sholtz.—A daughter, Deborah Sue, to Louis and Nina (Skaggs) Sholtz, Oneida, N. Y., on November 25, 1967.

Van Horn.—A son, Clarence Brad, to Chris and Sarah Jane (Rogers) Van Horn of Salem, W. Va., on December 12, 1967.

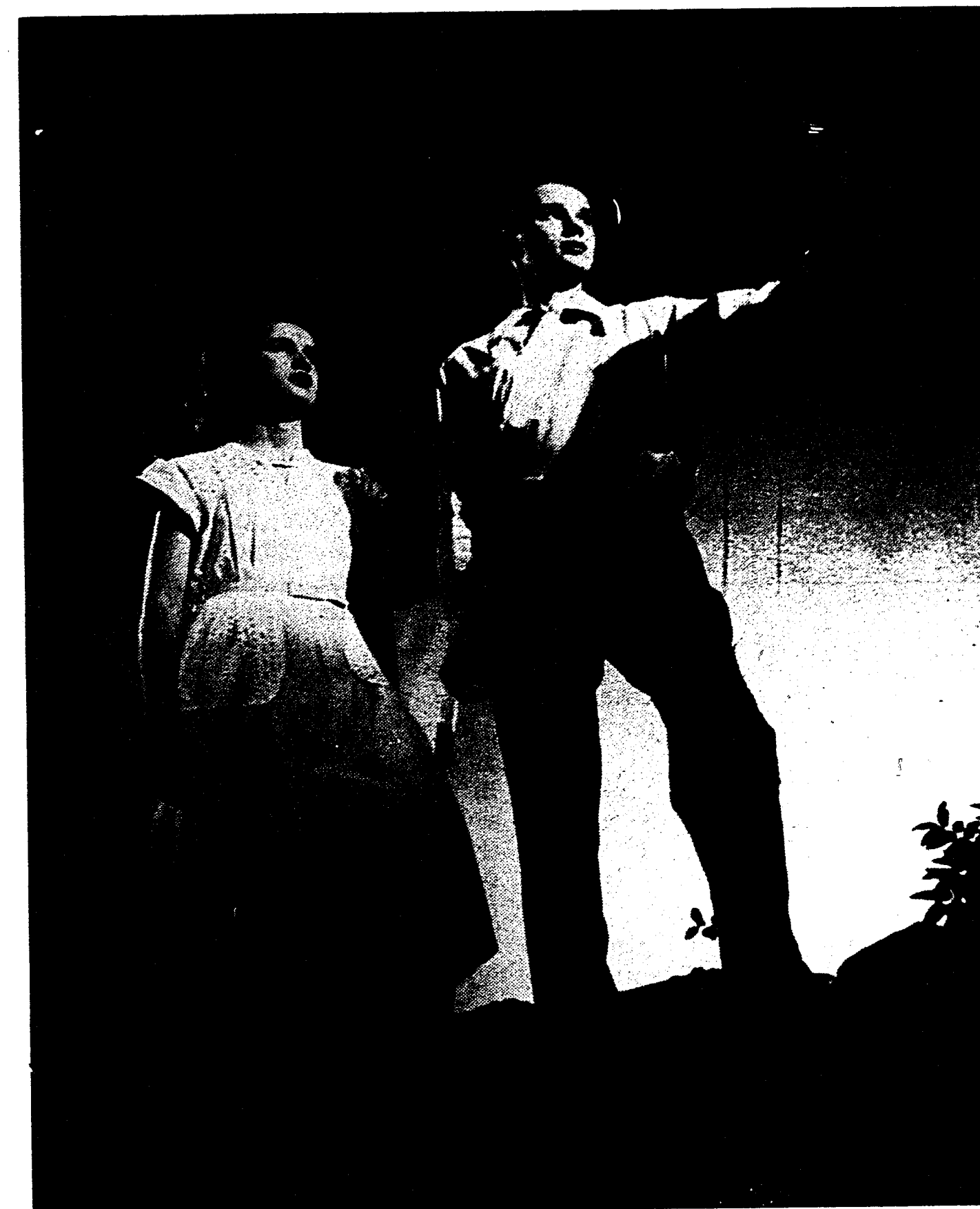
Obituaries

HEILMAN.—Ernest Walter, son of Valentine and Emma Heilman, was born Sept. 26, 1895 and died of a heart attack at Indianapolis Nov. 29, 1967.

He had lived in Indianapolis for 46 years. On Aug. 26, 1961, he married Helen Iris Hull, who survives. A veteran of World War I, by trade a watchmaker, he was a charter member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Indianapolis while that church was in existence.

Other survivors are four brothers, all of Ohio, and three married sisters, one in Ohio and two in Pennsylvania. Graveside services were conducted by Paul E. Byard December 2 at Hillcrest Cemetery, North Vernon, Ind.

—Mrs. E. W. Heilman.



Youth as Pioneers

There is abundant evidence that the gospel is reaching a high percentage of the young people of this generation as it has in preceding generations. When converted and committed, our youth become pioneers and lead the way in purposeful living. We salute our young people—strong in faith. Let us challenge them with meaningful service for the Lord and the church!

The Sabbath Recorder

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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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Baptist Doctrine in Sweden

At the annual Baptist Pastors' Conference in Sweden attended by some 250 pastors a Swedish Baptist historian, Torsten Bergsten, who advocates stronger ecumenical ties, warned his audience that the Baptist movement in Sweden "has lost its power of appeal, both as a denomination and as an advocate of believer's baptism." He predicted a steady decline in membership from 28,000 to 17,240 by the year 1990, adding that they would then be too weak to continue as a separate church.

What he would do, if anything, to halt the decline in membership he apparently did not say. Last spring he was one of ninety Baptist leaders signing a petition urging the Baptist Union of Sweden to seek membership in the World Council of Churches. The Union decided not to join. No evidence is presented that the denomination would reverse its predicted downward trend by becoming more ecumenical. The speaker put it this way: "Today an ecumenical step would be as strong a witness as the proclamation of our view of baptism was in the last century."

Is the Swedish educator right in assuming that in his country there is no longer much interest in believer's baptism? Does he mean that the minority is being swallowed up by the majority or does he imply that the doctrine never was a very important one? Aside from the close relation between church and state in Sweden that country is very progressive. It has produced some of the greatest theologians. One can well ponder the thought that if Baptist doctrine is losing ground in Sweden it may also lose ground in all of Scandinavia, Europe and America. What would this Swedish historian predict for the characteristic emphasis of Baptists the world around? Is the Baptist movement doomed by indifference to its fundamental distinctive tenet? Would the future of the church be guaranteed if it acknowledged that it was dying and joined the World Council with the idea of preserving itself?

Other things could be said. First of all, the statistics of a historian cannot become error-free prophecies for the future without some measure of inspiration by the Holy Spirit. The church is people—people who may change their ways

MEMORY TEXT

For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. John 5:21.

and be swept up in a revival greater than that which started the church a century or more ago. In the second place, a deterioration of the established church might give rise to a rediscovery of the significance of believer's baptism. Again, our own denominational experience would seem to show that a group does not have to have a membership of 17,000 to warrant a separate existence. We could assure any Baptist leader that the Sabbath is something important, more important biblically than the manner or the time of baptism. It is a reason for being, even if we are a very small minority.

Americans United

From time to time material appears on these pages either commenting on the work of Americans United or quoting from news releases of that organization. Why? Because we believe that its goals and aims are in close harmony with those of our denomination in the particular area of its emphasis. The full legal name is Protestants and Others United for the Separation of Church and State. It is better known by its initials POAU. For convenience and better public relations it is now called simply Americans United (AU). It watches the encroachments on the constitutional separation of church and state and frequently takes matters to court—thus rendering a great service to churches that are not inclined or able to do this.

The organization has grown during 1967, adding ten new chapters and conducting a successful campaign for an adequate headquarters building. It is reported that the halfway mark has been reached in the building fund. Americans United will hold its 1968 National Conference in Cincinnati on February 6 and 7 (Netherland-Hilton Hotel).

JANUARY 29, 1968

Religion Goes to School

There has come to hand a descriptive folder with the above caption. It is put out by the Religious Instruction Association, Inc., an independent, tax deductible organization located at 4001 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46807. Its purpose is to promote religion in the public school in strict accordance with the Supreme Court ruling. The folder goes a long way toward clearing the somewhat clouded atmosphere on what may or may not be done in regard to prayer and Bible study. It goes farther by offering the kind of courses that may be taught and outlines a variety of things that may be done to create appreciation of the place of religion in history and contemporary American life. Those who teach or are on school boards might well look further into what this organization offers. We quote portions of the material in the folder because we believe it to be good.

Religion and the School

The court has not ruled against prayer and Bible reading in all forms in a public school, but only when those forms are part of a state sponsored practice practice of religion. Any student is free to pray or read his Bible at his own initiative. The court ruled against school sponsored practice of religion, but the court encouraged school sponsored study of religion. The difference between "study" and "practice" is indicative of what a public school may and may not do with religion in the curriculum.

Within the framework of what the court will allow, and what sound education principles dictate, there are many activities that may be done with religion in the school including special courses, approaches within courses, curriculum enrichment procedures, and moments of meditation.

Special Courses

Biblical Literature. A survey of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing the literary types and content.

Biblical History. Survey of the historical literature of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing the place of Israel,

Christ, and the early Church in world history.

History of Religions. A study tracing the origin, development, and present influence of one or more of the representative religions.

Comparative Religions. A study comparing two or more religions as to their major beliefs and values.

Ethics. A study of various value systems and their relationship to contemporary conduct.

(These courses are now being taught in various places around the country and vary in length from one semester to two years. For further information write RIA.)

Approaches Within Courses

Literature. Survey select Biblical passages noting their effect on great literature. Character studies of religious personalities.

Study specific books as representative literature (Esther—short story, Psalms—poetry).

History. Study the religious motivation of major historical events (Crusades, Reformation, founding of America).

Study the influences of religion in personalities and government documents.

Study the Biblical roots of American ideals (liberty, value of the individual, private ownership). Correlate events of general and biblical history.

Supplementary Reading

In every subject and every grade level where student interest warrants it is appropriate and desirable for the teacher to suggest book titles and theme subjects with religious connotations. Modern missionary adventures and the biographies of religious leaders are excellent subjects for book reports. The religious influence on various aspects of our history and literature make excellent theme topics.

Moment of Meditation

The Court has ruled against school prayer, but not against student prayer. It is as unconstitutional to prevent a student from praying as it is to compel him to pray. Spontaneous student prayer is

permissible, but it must be done in a manner that does not conflict with the rights of those who do not wish to pray. The "moment of meditation" is emerging as the solution to classroom prayer. During a moment of meditation all classroom activity is stopped allowing each student to pray or not to pray as his conscience dictates (usually silently). Many teachers, schools, and entire school systems are requiring a moment of meditation in the classroom. Several states have statewide laws mandating a moment of meditation in every classroom every day. Teachers have a right, an obligation, to provide an opportunity for prayer for those who want to pray.

Russian Churchmen Guests

At the close of a 20-day visit in the United States as guests of the Church of the Brethren, three Russian Orthodox churchmen and their interpreter were guests at a private luncheon on November 30 of the National Council of Churches. The delegation was headed by Metropolitan Nikodim, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod and chairman of external church affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate.

During their visit to this country, the Russian guests maintained a tight schedule of conversations with Brethren leaders on the Christian responsibility for world peace, and theological concerns, and were guests at a banquet in Boston attended by Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox leaders and Massachusetts Governor John A. Volpe.

During the Russian churchmen's visit at the headquarters of the American Bible Society in New York City, they announced that the first complete edition of the Bible published by the Russian Church since 1917 will be released in December. Metropolitan Nikodim said that it is not a new translation but printed from a text already available. Dr. Gilbert Darlington, ABS consultant, presented the group with several copies of the Bible and 25,000 copies of the Gospel of St. Luke as a gift to Patriarch Alexei, the 90-year-old head of the Russian Church.

—Religious Newsweekly.

Looking Ahead to 1969 Conference

Although our primary interest in Conference publicity is for the 1968 session at Kearney, Nebraska—and such publicity of place and program will be intensified—it is good to know that substantial plans are being made by the Host Committee of the Eastern Association for the 1969 session.



The six-member association committee held its first meeting in one of the elegant conference rooms of the Administrative Building of Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N. Y., December 14, 1967. The committee (left to right): Rev. Herbert Saunders, chairman, Charles North of Plainfield, James Davis of Marlboro, N. J., Ruth Ellis of Berlin, N. Y. Not shown: Bill Barber of Westery, R. I., and the editor. After a Sunday dinner with the missionary-minded student body and some of the administrative staff the committee toured the stretched-out hillside campus. They then got down to the business of determining what must be done to insure the convenience of officers and delegates. They divided up the responsibility and arranged for additional committees. It was apparent that this central committee was made up of capable workers who were enthusiastic about the possibilities of this campus as the site of the 1969 General Conference. The location is beautiful and very accessible to those who travel by auto. It is at the western end of the Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson River less than one hour's drive north of New York City.

Memorial Fund

Does Business, Loses President

By C. Harmon Dickinson, treasurer

Early Thursday, January 18, 1968, the Lord of life called B. Colwell Davis, Jr., from this earthly life to his eternal home. Four days earlier Mr. Davis, the president of the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Board Fund, called the quarterly meeting of the Board to order in Plainfield, N. J.

B. Colwell Davis, Jr., son of the late president of Alfred University, Dr. Boothe C. Davis, was appointed to the Memorial Fund Board in July 1942. He was a devoted member from that time serving on standing committees and as president since 1959. Meetings were conducted in an orderly way with due fairness for the varying opinions of the members. Mr. Davis was deeply concerned that the Board exercise with integrity the stewardship of the funds entrusted to it. Although no longer a member of one of our churches he desired that incomes from funds be used for the greater good of the denomination, for causes approved or recommended by the Commission and General Conference, and where the need was most evident.

With the serious illness of Secretary L. H. North, the uncertain health of two other members, and the severity of weather conditions, President Davis was concerned as to whether there would be a quorum of five present to conduct official business on January 14. Living at considerable distance at Richburg, N. Y., the writer had thought not to attend this meeting, but Colwell Davis very much wanted me to come, invited me to stay in his home, and met me in New York City.

A few minutes before the hour of ten on the morning of the meeting, the fifth member walked in the door—Clarence M. Rogers of Salem, W. Va. The other two members present were Robert M. Coon and Adelbert A. Whitford. Also present were the general secretary, Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, and Charles E. Brundage and Samuel C. Williams, Jr., investment counselors.

After approving the treasurer's operating statement and the distribution of discretionary funds, the Board heard with interest remarks by Mr. Brundage relating to recommended stock purchases and sales. He spoke of his concern for the current dollar crisis in the United States and the dangers of uncurbed inflation. Stock purchases voted consisted of Mobil Oil Corp., Ford Motor Company of Canada, Bundy Corp., and Koppers Co.; and sales of Amerada Petroleum, Burlington Industries, American Cyanamid, and 1/6 of holdings of Abbott Laboratories. It is anticipated that income from sales will more than pay for purchases and annual income will be increased by \$450.

Loaned from the Feeble Church Fund (an old term hardly appropriate for today for churches with building programs which represent vitality and a program of advance) were approved for the Denver church in the amount of \$10,000, and for the North Loup church for \$3,000.

A request from the Council on Ecumenical Affairs was approved for \$400 to help make possible the attendance of General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler at the Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held at Uppsala, Sweden, in July 1968.

Reimbursement of the trustees' travel was authorized, upon presentation of a bill for those coming in excess of 75 miles, to attend Board meetings.

Absent from the meetings was the devoted Secretary L. Harrison North. Due to illness he has been unable to carry on the duties of the office since early December, and may not be able to return. The Board was unable at this meeting to solve the question of need: who will be found to perform such duties?

Mr. North's illness has made such simple matters as having two local trustees able to visit the bank vault difficult. It was voted to authorize Mrs. Gladys W. Poulin, bookkeeper, to accompany one of the trustees to the bank for exchange of securities and clipping coupons. One of Mr. Davis' last acts for the Memorial Fund was to spend an hour and a half on the morning before his death

signing checks and accomplishing the exchange of securities, etc.

The next regular meeting will be April 21, 1968. The minutes of the meeting were taken by C. Harmon Dickinson, treasurer, who was chosen to act as secretary by President Davis.

Civil Rights Gains in Spite of Black Power

Christian leaders actually are gaining strength in the civil rights movement in spite of "Black Power" activity, the president of the nation's largest Negro Baptist group said when he was in Atlanta recently. J. H. Jackson of Chicago is president of the National Baptist Convention U. S. A., Inc.

The outspoken Baptist leader was in Atlanta to make plans for the September 1968 annual meeting of the National Baptist group, which may draw as many as 20,000 messengers to the city. The group's national membership is 6.3 million.

Dr. Jackson met with Gov. Maddox and invited him to speak at the opening session of the convention. Maddox, an avowed segregationist, "agreed tacitly," Jackson said, but could not affirm a decision at this time.

When asked by a news reporter if he agreed with Maddox that a man could be a segregationist and still not work against the Negro, Jackson replied:

"There is a difference between prejudice and preference. A man has a right of preference—he can prefer certain people as friends, or prefer a certain school for his children.

"But when a man writes that preference into a law, then it becomes a prejudice that is a danger to the rights of others."

He added, "I believe all of us in America can solve all our problems with the Federal Constitution, the American concept of freedom and the Bible."

Spiritual stumbling comes, not by ignorance, but through defiant disobedience. I Peter 2:8 ". . . them which stumble at the word, being disobedient. . . ."

—Ira Bond.

Not just leaves but fruit is the message of—

THE BLASTED FIG TREE

(of Matthew 21:17-22)

By Rev. Paul S. Burdick

It was not that Jesus was angry with the fig tree when he found on it nothing but leaves; He wanted to teach the disciples a lesson in fruit-bearing. This was truly a parable in action.

The promise immediately following, that with faith they could remove mountains, would then prepare them for the time to come when the church would need such mountain-moving faith for its tasks.

There are many ways in which the church can be likened to the tree. Prayer is the sap which nourishes all the branches from the eternal source, which is God. Stewardship is the action whereby the branches and leaves make use of the gift of God's sunlight through photosynthesis. Evangelism is the action of the wind continually stirring the leaves, prodding them to action. The blossoms are for beauty, and that the church is right in seeking—stately buildings, beautiful music, stained glass windows, soul-stirring liturgy. But most of all its beauty shines forth in the saintly lives of its members.

Prayer, stewardship, beauty—these all have their place in the healthy church, but what about the fruit?

Good Deeds Are the Fruit

It is interesting to note how much emphasis Jesus puts upon "doing the will" of God. "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them . . ." "Ye call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say." The Pharisees he accused of "robbing widows' houses, and for a pretense saying long prayers." James sums it up when he says, "For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his face in a mirror . . ." then forgetting to do anything. Good works are not a substitute for faith, but they should follow it, as fruit follows blossoms.

What Is the Church for?

Many today are asking: "What can and will the church do? Is it solely for

its own self-perpetuation?" Saintliness is a fine thing when found in a church, but what will it do? Will it bring justice to the underdog? Will it correct conditions that lead to poverty? Will it help to bring peace on the earth? Multitudes are turning away from the church because they do not see in it the answer to the most vital questions of our times. "Repent and bring forth fruits meet for repentance," Christ is saying to the church today. Greedy landlords, public officials indifferent to the filthy conditions existing in our cities—all these lead to riots. Lily-white neighborhoods, prejudice against a black child in a school, bombed churches, and the bodies of three civil rights workers buried in a dam—all add to a feeling of hopelessness and desperation.

What are the churches doing to stop the murder due to war? Pope John and Pope Paul have both spoken out, but other voices have been hesitant or muted. Businesses that get their profits as "merchants of death" and hire great numbers of men, make any effective protest against war seem like picking away at a mountain with a toy shovel. But remember Jesus' words! The prayer of faith will move the mountain.

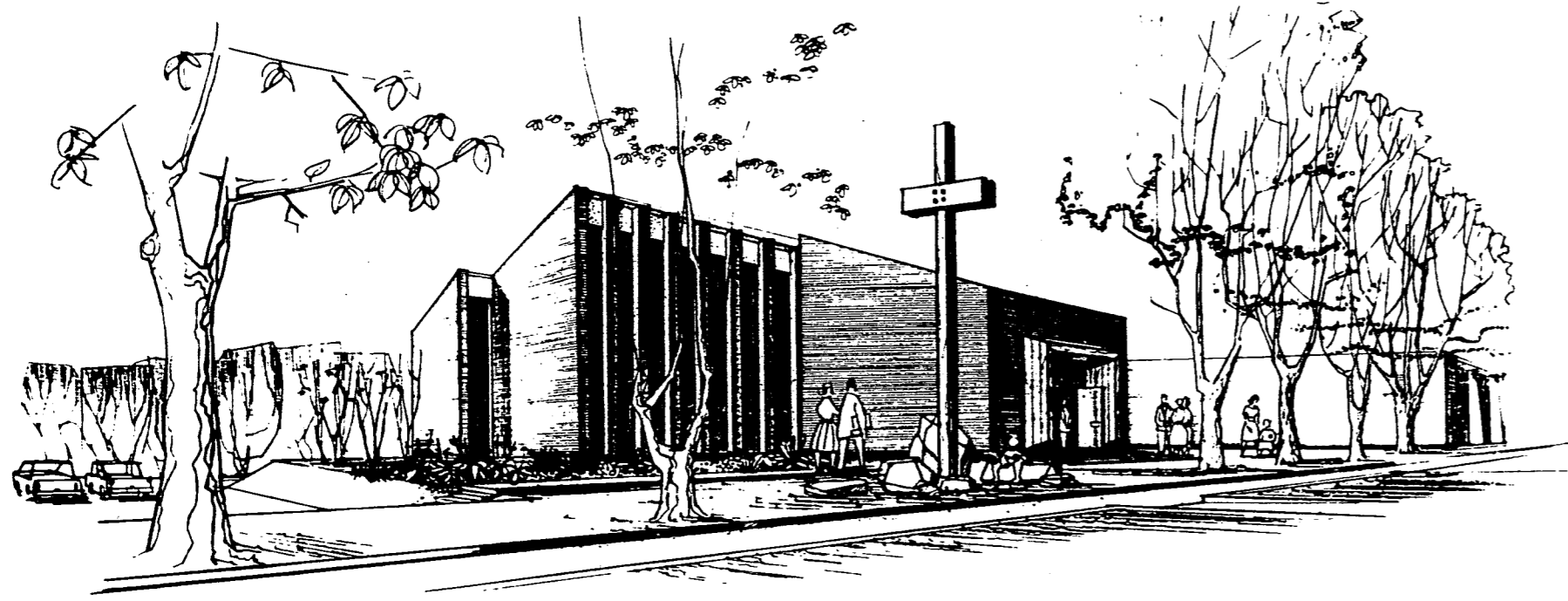
Is the church ready for such mountain-moving prayer? Is it ready to put its trust in the love of God through Christ, or does it cling to the false notion that great armaments will save the world from destruction?

In Praise of the Church

But the church has done some things very well. For 100 years the church has sought to help the developing countries. Missionaries have been sent out, not only to preach healing of the soul but healing of the body as well. This has been done without the use of the sword, except the sword of the Spirit. When one of these soldiers of Christ has fallen, ten more have stepped forward to take his place.

(Continued on page 14)

Denver Church Starts Building Fund Drive



In a nearly unanimous ballot the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church voted at its annual meeting, January 7, to launch a campaign for \$75,000 and build a sanctuary adjoining its present Fellowship Hall. Building plans were approved at a previous meeting. The theme of the campaign is "Our Denver World Mission."

Donald E. Widman, fund drive chairman, is setting up teams of canvassers with Mel Stephan, church stewardship chairman, and Rev. Albert N. Rogers, pastor. The planning committee headed by Deacon Elnor R. Davis, which spent months of intensive work on plans with an architectural consultant, is awaiting outcome of the campaign. A special church meeting will be called in mid-February to hear reports of contributions and pledges.

Other leaders named at the annual meeting include Paul Thorngate, moderator; Mrs. John A. Waterbury, treasurer; Mrs. E. Keith Davis, evangelism chairman; Mrs. Gary G. Cox, worship chairman; Richard L. Steele, Christian education chairman; and Gordon Thorngate and Ted Turpin, trustees. Standing committees and departments are being set up by the Advisory Board. Positive though informal support has been given the church program by an "Involvement Group" of members who voluntarily undertook special assignments in steward-

ship, church attendance and Sabbath School work.

As the funding drive begins the church has about \$9,000 on hand and debts of \$10,362.87. Nearly \$5,000 was paid in 1967 on indebtedness incurred when the present property on Wadsworth Blvd. was bought in 1959. The church, organized in 1930, worshiped many years on lower Kalamath St., in downtown Denver, now an industrialized area. The move to a suburban location on a major traffic artery was led by Dr. E. Keith Davis, senior deacon, and Rev. Kenneth E. Smith, former pastor. The 1968 general fund budget is \$15,614.70, including \$1,700 for Our World Mission.

The church has received ten members in the past three months and five new families have identified with the congregation in three years time in addition to transfers from other churches and young people from the Sabbath School.

—Albert N. Rogers.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for February 10, 1968

LIFE'S HUNGER SATISFIED

Lesson Scripture: John 6:35-44, 48.

for February 17, 1968

THE LIGHT OF LIFE

Lesson Scripture: John 9:1-7; 35-41.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Washington Youth Group Makes Pilgrimage to Plainfield

As a result of spending the fall quarter studying Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs there came to Earl Hibbard and others of the Sabbath School at Washington, D. C., the idea that a pilgrimage to Plainfield would be good. What could a day at the denominational headquarters do for the youth (and some of the adults) of the Washington church? I would allow an hour or two in the historical library where the heritage of the past is preserved and where a feeling of belonging to something solid would be fostered. Some, of course, had been in Plainfield before and knew the value of seeing and hearing the story of our origin. Others had not and perhaps never would unless they came in a group.

A caravan of three cars was organized for Sunday, January 21, with Earl Hibbard and his wife in charge of arrangements. They made the four hour trip right on schedule and were ready to begin their tour of headquarters at eleven o'clock. They wanted to improve their knowledge of the denomination of which they are a part and felt that four or five hours spent in the Seventh Day Baptist Building and Publishing House would help to generate enthusiasm for their own church work. They found work going on in the print shop, which is not often the case on Sunday. The press work on the 1967 Yearbook had been completed and Henry Poulin was running the folder and cutter so that the book could be put together as soon as possible. He was able to give the group a quick demonstration of how denominational printing is done.

When the Washington folks had completed their tour they paused for a moment in front of the building for the picture shown on this page. They expressed satisfaction for a profitable excursion. They can now visualize how many of the functions of the headquarters are carried on, including the Ministerial Training Center. Many across the denomination have prayed for the Washington project. It is now evident that the prayers have

in large measure been answered. These young folks can now pray more intelligently for the future of Seventh Day Baptists as a whole.



Jim Chroniger, Mrs. Rose Chroniger, Carl Davis, Mrs. Delmer Van Horn, Donald Chroniger, Darwin Van Horn, Rev. Delmer Van Horn, Teddy Brissey, Earl Hibbard, Charles Brissey, Douglas Brissey, Barbara Dixon, Mrs. Earl Hibbard, Mike Hildebrand, Robert Van Horn, Karen Van Dreason, Mrs. Charles Brissey, Kevin Chroniger.

Then Came Jesus

(a book review)

Rev. Clyde A. Kirby has had a most interesting ministry in the way of winning souls that were hard to reach and an unusual skill in writing the story of some of these experiences. In a book of 11 chapters he combines the longing to change hearts with some beautiful descriptions of nature, for which he has great appreciation. It makes a heart-warming book, deeply religious, but reading much like a descriptive novel. The theme, "Then Came Jesus," climaxes each expanded incident. Chapter headings are such as, "The Big Mean Cop," "The Lonely Mountain Cabin," "A Minister's Despair," and "The Alcoholics Return." Zondervan, \$3.95 list.

—L.M.M.

FLASH—

As this *Sabbath Recorder* went to press (Jan. 24) the 1967 Yearbook was stapled and being readied for mailing during the week beginning January 29—not quite as early as hoped, but earlier than usual.

Home Field Pastors Report

(The following reports may be added to those presented in last week's issue).

Schenectady S.D.B. Church

(As reported by Rev. Leland E. Davis)

The quarter ending December 31, has been full and fruitful. The pastor conducted 12 of the 13 worship services and gave 8 of the 13 sermons. Others bringing messages were: Arthur Burns, Rev. Alton Wheeler, Miss Connie Coon, and Kenneth L. Davis (son of Pastor and Mrs. Leland Davis). Also, sons Kenneth and Ronald assisted Pastor Davis in a visitation program during Christmas vacation, making follow-up calls on contacts made by Miss Connie Coon in November.

An extensive teen-age evangelism program was carried on, also a door-to-door witnessing and soul-winning program in which 400 homes were reached with the gospel during November, with the help of Miss Coon. Statistics show 14 decisions made for Christ and several rededications on the part of church members.

Richburg, N. Y., S.D.B. Church

(As reported by Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson)

The redecorating of the church basement was finished in October. A project for the future is "paneling the walls of the sanctuary." Cottage prayer meetings were held during the Week of Prayer. Attendance outside of the homes visited was small but the meetings have been spiritually refreshing.

The pastor has conducted daily devotions on three mornings over a radio station in Wellsville, N. Y. He continues to teach a class of fifth graders in Bolivar public school on "released time," also a class in Richburg school on "released time."

Statistics show 26 sermons preached during 13 weeks. The pastor has filled the pulpit of the First Baptist Church of Friendship, N. Y., while they are without a pastor. He reports 69 pastoral calls as having been made during the quarter. He has continued to serve as treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society and has done 22 hours of research

for Volume III of *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America*.

Rockville and Second Hopkinton, R. I.

We are happy to report that a new missionary pastor arrived on Tuesday, January 9, to serve the Rockville and Second Hopkinton churches. Pastor and Mrs. Clifford Bond and family found the parsonage at Rockville ready for their occupancy. We understand that they drove through from Kansas City, Mo., carrying their household goods by U-Haul Truck. Edwin Johnson assisted as driver as far as New York City at which juncture he returned home by plane. Pastor Bond led the worship and preaching service at Rockville on Sabbath morning, January 13, and the same at Second Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon.

Director of Evangelism

Reports His Activities
for quarter ending December 31, 1967

The first day of the quarter found me in Westerly as missionary where I was also able to meet with members of the Home Field Committee and assist the Youth Fellowship in an evaluation of their visitation that morning. Counseling was done with Connie Coon and Secretary Harris on her work at Hopkinton City and Rockville under extended dedicated service. Harold King, also serving under extended dedicated service rode back to Brookfield where he began four weeks as student pastor.

October was spent in field work. Meetings were held with families and groups in Toronto and Woodstock, Ont., Canada, and a two-day meeting of the regional Crusade of the Americas committee was attended in Chicago. Mid-Continent Association was attended at Nortonville, Kans., and time was spent in the Kansas City area where two radio broadcasts were taped and aid given in setting up the booth at The American Royal Livestock Show. Between October 13 and 28 I traveled with Pastor Duane Davis visiting lone-Sabbathkeepers and groups in Nebraska. We traveled 2,700 miles. There was counseling, Bible reading and prayer in over 30 homes and participation in

services in Ogallala, Arthur, Bassett, Omaha and North Loup. This included showing slides of work in Great Britain, Mexico, Jamaica and the United States in two places. A workshop on witness and outreach was led in North Loup and a meeting of their Evangelism Committee attended to discuss the journey and its implications for their work. There was also the opportunity given to visit the Conference site for 1968—Kearney State College, and the Youth Pre-Con Camp Comeca location. Pictures of the latter have been shared with the Board of Christian Education.

The Dedicated Service-1968 folder and the Week of Prayer material was edited for publication. A class on visitation was led in Berlin. A meeting of delegates from New York State Seventh Day Baptist churches to prepare a constitution for a State Council was attended. Counseling was done with Pastor Leland Davis on their extended dedicated service worker project and also with the chairman of the Central New York Association Missions Committee. Three days were spent in Plainfield during Planning Committee sessions, and the Evangelism Section of the NCC was attended in New York City, which allowed another two days in Plainfield to publish the Bible Reading Guide for 1968 and posters for Crusade of the Americas Day of Prayer.

During the quarter 96 individual letters were sent in addition to 346 other letters to pastors, clerks and dedicated service workers. Two individuals professed their faith in Christ. As acting pastor of the Brookfield churches, two were baptized and received into the church, assistance was given on an ordination council for the diaconate at De-Ruyter, and the Youth Fellowship encouraged in their distribution of over 200 New Testaments just prior to the holidays. Your director of evangelism appreciates the opportunity to live in Brookfield and serve the local fellowships as able.

On October 14, 1967 our Conference President urged a Proclamation to be read in our churches. In this it stated: "This church is God's people—the new humanity in Christ, called into being,

sustained and empowered by the Holy Spirit. God's people are sent into the world to be His agents of reconciliation, searching to share His Word in deed and word. As His people we confess we are too often hesitant in our faith, timid in our ventures, halting in our obedience, and cynical about our fellowship."

I find people today looking for an authentic faith that has meaning for men, and for them. Thus, they "search" the lives of others. What do they find in the way we live, speak, and react to life's pressures? To be "His agents of reconciliation," we must first be reconciled with God through Christ and daily living in faith. The surest testimony is that which is lived out in life and shared openly in love with our fellowmen. "Lord, may my life speak more for you and my lips not be silent when opportunity for witness is given!" This is my prayer.

—Leon R. Lawton.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

Selective Services Proposal Sharply Criticized

A recommendation that draft boards declare delinquent all those liable to the draft who obstruct enlistment procedures or otherwise protest military service, and conscript them, has been strongly criticized by a spokesman for the Department of Civil and Religious Liberties of the National Council of Churches. Commenting on the proposal made by national director of Selective Service, Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the Rev. Dean M. Kelley declared: "Induction into military service should not be used as a punishment for dissent." While not condoning destructive protests, he said, the right to dissent must be protected.

Mr. Kelley noted that the courts have not upheld previous efforts to punish students for demonstrating against the Selective Service system and added that the Justice and Defense Department's lawyers are believed to hold that such action, as proposed by Gen. Hershey, would be unconstitutional.

In a statement on "Conscience and Conscriptation" issued earlier by Clergy

and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, the signers declared: "There are thousands of young Americans who are now faced with the choice of either violating their consciences or being imprisoned." The statement also says that "the Selective Service system . . . represents an effort to obtain obedience without assent."

The current Selective Service Act declares that "anyone who knowingly counsels, aids or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces . . . shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of \$10,000 or both."

—Religious Newsweekly.

The Art of Teaching Christianity

The Art of Teaching Christianity by Wayne R. Rood. Abingdon Press, 224 pages. Paper \$2.75 (Pub. Feb. 2, 1968).

This unique approach to the teaching of Christianity reflects a thorough knowledge of education and presents insights into what makes Christian teaching distinctive.

Dr. Rood sees the teaching of Christianity as the art of enabling dialogue—the meaningful encounter offered by God to man. He develops this definition in four parts:

Part I — an explanation of the special nature of the content of Christianity.

Part II — practical preparations for dealing with learners, teachers, content, environment, and lesson plans.

Part III — teaching methods and techniques: lecturing, visual aids, discussion, group activities.

Part IV — problems of discipline and evaluation.

Part V — categories of content: teaching the Bible, teaching history, teaching theology, and teaching with music.

Most of the conventional aspects of education — learners and teachers, content, environment, lesson plans, methods, discipline, evaluation — are considered within the author's own definition of Christian education. Final chapters concentrate on an educational analysis of the content of Christian education. The author, Wayne R. Rood, is professor of religious education at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California.

REV. JAMES L. SKAGGS

By Earl Cruzan

The Rev. James L. Skaggs, son of Leroy F. and Rosanna Pearce Skaggs, was born May 26, 1878, near Boaz, Mo. As a young man he came to Milton, Wis., to attend Milton Academy and Milton College. On July 11, 1900, he was united in marriage with Hettie Ann Whitney, who preceded him in death on Nov. 19, 1963.

To this union were born five children: Allison of Battle Creek, Mich., Evalyn (Mrs. Kenneth Camenga) of Beaver Dam, Wis., J. Leland of Milton, Wis., Margaret (Mrs. Charles Bond) of Shiloh, N. J., and Victor W. of Plainfield, N. J. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

James studied at Alfred University School of Theology and while in school there accepted the pastorate of the church at Nile, N. Y. Other pastorates were Shiloh, N. J., Nortonville, Kans., Plainfield, N. J., Milton, Wis., New York City, and Salem, W. Va. He also took some theological training at Crozer while serving as pastor in that vicinity.

He retired in 1947 and lived in Salem, W. Va., until 1959 when he and his wife moved to Wisconsin where they made their home the remainder of their lives, living in Beaver Dam, Milton and Janesville.

The following testimony from a Milton neighbor speaks of the respect with which he was held:

"To the family of Rev. James Skaggs—
"Extending sincere sympathy and sharing your sorrow in the passing of your father and grandfather—also my very good friend and wonderful neighbor.

"He was a Christian gentleman of clean habits, dignity, refinement and strong character—was justly proud of his fine family who are all well established in polite society and good citizenship—showing active concern for his welfare, comfort and increasing needs.

"The living of his long, happy and useful life contributed much to many—he was not a follower of the crowd but stood out as a leader and landmark in

the several communities that were privileged to come under his spiritual leadership—he was firm but the twinkle in his eyes exposed a keen sense of humor—he enjoyed and created good wholesome fun.

"It was good to live when he did and have a chance to be his friend and neighbor.

"The McQueens were among the many who enjoyed, with profit, the beautiful flowers and the delicious fruits that grew and flourished in his well ordered garden of life which was guarded by character and fertilized by his refreshing personality.

"Rev. James Skaggs will not be here in person but pleasant memories of what he stood for and worked for will long remain and continue to serve.

"Surely a kind of generous future will provide him with whatever nice things it has in store.

"I'm proud to be a good friend of the family."
Ed McQueen

(The following is taken from that which was used by his pastor at his funeral service.)

I have known him for over thirty years. During these years I have been more closely associated with members of his family than himself as I was in school with some of them, both in college and in seminary, have served in the association of fellow pastors and pastors' families, and in denominational work. My fellowship with them speaks highly of his faith and of his influence on them.

While he was in Salem the pre-theological students gathered in his home for fellowship and discussion, an experience which they highly cherish.

His father was a convert to the Sabbath and served as a minister as well as earning his living by farming. It is a testimony to his faith that he could conduct his mother's funeral at his father's request and these lines written in her memory on a Mother's Day also speak to his faith:

I'll tarry here a little while
With fellowmen, God's will to do,
But when I hear our Master's call
I'll gladly come to Him—and you.

The witness of his faith is also revealed in the fields of service where his children and grandchildren serve. Not trying to single out one from another or to value one place of service against another, it is yet significant that one son is a minister, one daughter a minister's wife, another son a deacon in the Milton church, one grandson is studying for the ministry and another is considering it.

For a few weeks he was my pastor during my last year in college, and for the past few months I have served as his pastor. He was in church as long as he was physically able to attend. In my last conversation with him as he firmly grasped my hand, he spoke of his approaching death, not with sorrow, but with a confidence and a joy. He told me that he saw things more clearly than ever before. He tried to tell me some of it. As is so often the case, the glimpses of truth that come near the end of our days, while clear to the one who receives them are seldom such as can be clearly understood by those of us who are more in this world than in the one to come.

Truly it may be said of him as the Psalmist writes: "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools . . . O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (Psa. 84:5-12).

His life, his service, his influence upon others speaks of the assurance of the faith in which we trust—the confidence which is ours in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ.

And while his parting leaves an emptiness in family circles, a lack of physical friendship and fellowship to which we must adjust, the confidence which John Oxenham expresses is ours:

"There is no death,—
They only truly live
Who pass into the life beyond, and see
This earth is but a school preparative
For larger ministry.

"There is no death
To those whose hearts are set
On higher things than this life doth afford;
How shall their passing leave one least regret,
Who go to join their Lord?"

YOUth...

How Can You Witness?

Matthew 5:13-16

Have you ever felt as if you're the only Christian in your school? Do you feel as if you're just there and no one seems to care or notice that you're a Christian? I have felt this way many times while at school. I know, myself, that I have Christian beliefs that I would love to share with others, but many kids don't want to stop and hear a "religious fanatic" preach them a sermon.

There are many other ways of witness though, and to me, one of the most important is through a person's character.

When was the last time you said "hi" to or smiled at someone in the hall who needs a friend? Have you offered a comforting word to someone in trouble or sorrow, or do you just tell yourself that he'll get over it and walk away? Do you walk through the halls with a dreary look on your face while thinking about how tired you are and that assignment you didn't get done, when a smile could show others how much you have to be thankful for?

A Christian has the greatest thing in the world, Jesus Christ. This isn't something to hide, and we should show how happy we are to be a Christian in every little act we do. When a Christian is a walking fountain of kindness and happiness, these characteristics will really stand out and the doors will be opened for verbal witnessing. A Christian can perform one of the greatest acts in witnessing by breaking through with a smile or a cheerful word. There isn't really anything to worry about if you let God help you with your problems.

Let us remember the words of our Lord and Savior in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

—Alice Rood, Milton, Wis.

The Blasted Fig Tree

(Continued from page 7)

The leadership of the church in this has been an inspiration to governments in sending out the Peace Corps. Even the Communists have adopted this method as their own. Here is where the real battle for the souls of men is going on.

This whole matter could not be stated better than in the words of a sermon recently published in the *Sabbath Recorder*, on Christian maturity. The signs of maturity in Christ are, the writer says, "to teach effectively, to act decisively, and to love compassionately." It is in these three areas that God will test us as to the quality of our fruit-bearing.

To Teach Effectively

The message of God's love in Christ must be relevant to our changing times, the author says. We cannot unlock the future with the "past's blood-rusted key." The problems of war and peace, of racial tensions, and of poverty in cities and rural districts, must be faced with new insights, new methods. God will teach us if our hearts are open.

Act Decisively

The work of saving the world to righteousness and peace will not be done by those who say, "My vote, or my influence, will not count for much." When Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland, it was the result of hard work on the part of precinct workers, both white and black, who went from street to street, ringing doorbells, or meeting for prayer in some church. Success in God's Kingdom is not the result of accident or indifference. Let us then *act decisively*.

Love Compassionately

Jesus had sympathy for the down-and-out, the underdog. No one came to Him for help without finding it. When the church expresses that same spirit of compassion, it will find all needy folk coming to its door. Do not turn them away! Be it a Negro family in a ghetto of our city, or a child in a village of North Vietnam, or an African boy afflicted with sores—all have a claim on our sympathy and our love.

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and so forth. When

these are found in the church, she will have no fear but that Jesus will say, "I was hungry and you fed me, in prison and you visited me, sick and heart-broken and you brought me comfort." May God help us!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DODGE CENTER, MINN.—The annual chicken pie dinner and business meeting were held Sunday, January 7. The following officers were elected: president, Donald Payne; clerk, Seili Bond; treasurer, Vivian Kloppstein; building fund treasurer, Roy Langworthy; trustee, Arthur Payne; chorister, Barry Clapper with Bill Bond, assistant; head usher, Claston Bond. Committee representatives are: Finance, Millicent Greene and Joyce Langworthy; Music, Ida Babcock; Evangelism, Bette Bond and Linda Greene; Lord's Acre, Clare and Ardith Greene and Mike and Lorna Zinke.

A committee has been hard at work trying to finalize plans for completely remodeling our present church structure and solving the problem of how to finance such a project.

The Constitution and bylaws, revised and brought up-to-date, were adopted at our annual meeting.

Because we appreciated the work of our Summer Christian Service Corps team last summer, we instructed the Evangelism Committee to invite another team to come next summer.

Plans are underway for calling an Ordination Council during the Semi-annual Meetings in Dodge Center, April 19-21, for the purpose of ordaining our pastor, Wayne Babcock, to the gospel ministry. All the churches in the Northern and North Central Associations have been invited to send representatives to act on the Council, and Dean Victor Skaggs has been invited to participate also. The Christian Fellowship group again is sponsoring an "Odds and Ends" night every other Sabbath night during the winter months. This is a time of fun and fellowship at the church for young and old to play games, sit and visit or have committee meetings if they wish.

Their project of selling Seventh Day Baptist signs to our churches all over the nation has been quite successful and they still have some available for the churches that haven't ordered.

Our Sabbath School and its auxiliaries reported another busy year with Bible School, camps, Pre-Con and Conference being well attended.

The Ladies Benevolent Society reported a variety of things done, including planning the meal arrangements for the SCSC team while they were here last summer.

We look forward to another busy year in the work of the Lord.

—Correspondent.

Baptist Meeting Place in Spain Closed

A Baptist meeting point in the city of Bilbao, Spain, has been closed despite legislation which guarantees religious liberty in the nation, the New York Times news service reported from Madrid.

The meeting place, located on the first floor of an apartment house, was shut down by police on the allegation that the Baptists lacked official authorization to continue services.

All non-Catholic religious denominations in Spain, under the new religious liberty measure, are considered to be "associations" or "communities" and must be specifically approved by the Ministry of Justice. The measure was approved by the Cortes (Spanish Parliament) in June.

The New York Times news service pointed out that, to its knowledge, the church in Bilbao is the first institution to be affected by the new law. The Baptists have worshiped there normally during the last few years without government interference, it said.

Special Issue Next Week

It is expected that the February Special Issue will be mailed on schedule next week (Feb. 2) The articles are wonderful reading, in your editor's opinion.

Accessions

MILTON, WIS.

By Letter:

Lester Hurley
Thelma (Mrs. Lester) Hurley

Births

Cargill.—A daughter, Twila Jean, January 15, 1968, at Ord, Nebr., to Ronald and Shirley Severance Cargill of Scotia, Nebr.

Severance.—A daughter, Shawn Dianne, January 9, 1968, at Ord, Nebr., to C. Brice and Peggy Hawley Severance of North Loup.

Sharp.—A daughter, Kelly Irene, January 5, 1968, at Ord, Nebr., to James and Karen Scott Sharp of North Loup, Nebr.

Obituaries

AYARS.—Mrs. Margaret H., daughter of Lewis and Margaret Hall Hummel and widow of Dr. Oscar S. Ayars, was born in Shiloh April 6, 1885; and died at her home in Salem, N. J. Dec. 28, 1967, after a long illness.

Mrs. Ayars was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

Surviving are: a daughter, Mrs. William R. Smith, and a son, Everette, both of Salem; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Salem with her pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Bond, officiating. Interment was in the Shiloh Cemetery.

—C. H. B.

CRANDALL.—Alfred A., son of Deacon Henry F. and Lucinda E. Cottrell Crandall, was born Feb. 26, 1885, at North Loup, Nebr., and died Jan. 6, 1968, in Colonial Manor Nursing Home, Janesville, Wis., after a long illness.

He was married to Corabelle E. Crandall May 14, 1907, at Dodge Center, Minn. She died in 1963.

Mr. Crandall was a long time resident of Milton and was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was employed about ten years in the Dunn & Boss Department Store and farmed several years in the Otter Creek area. He had been employed about 40 years as

an interior decorator with Shadel Company, Janesville, retiring in 1955.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry and Will Crandall, and two sisters, Byrd Coon and Maude Hurley.

Surviving are: three daughters, Mrs. Paul (Geraldine Cleone) Van Horn of Milton, Mrs. Edmar (Wanda) Hansen of Milton Junction, and Mrs. Victor (Gwendolyn) Loofboro of Milwaukee; nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. A. Appel at Albrecht Funeral Home, Milton Junction, and interment was in the Milton Cemetery.

—A. A. A.

EVANS.—Phebe E. Bassett, daughter of William H. and Myrta Bliss Bassett was born at Alfred, N. Y., May 11, 1889, and died at the Rebecca Hospital of the Odd Fellows Home, Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1968.

Baptized April 25, 1902, she became a lifelong member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was active in church and community life.

She was married to James R. Evans of Alfred Aug. 30, 1910. He preceded her in death in 1960. To this union were born one son and two daughters.

She is survived by her daughters, Carolyn (Mrs. Harold Alty) of Freeland, Mich., and Ruth (Mrs. Hugh Williams) of Springfield, Ohio; her son, William H. of Alfred; her two brothers, Leon of Alfred and Robert of Beaver Falls, Pa.; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and nephews and nieces.

A memorial service was conducted Jan. 5, 1968, at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church by her associate pastor, Hurley S. Warren, and Pastor David S. Clarke. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

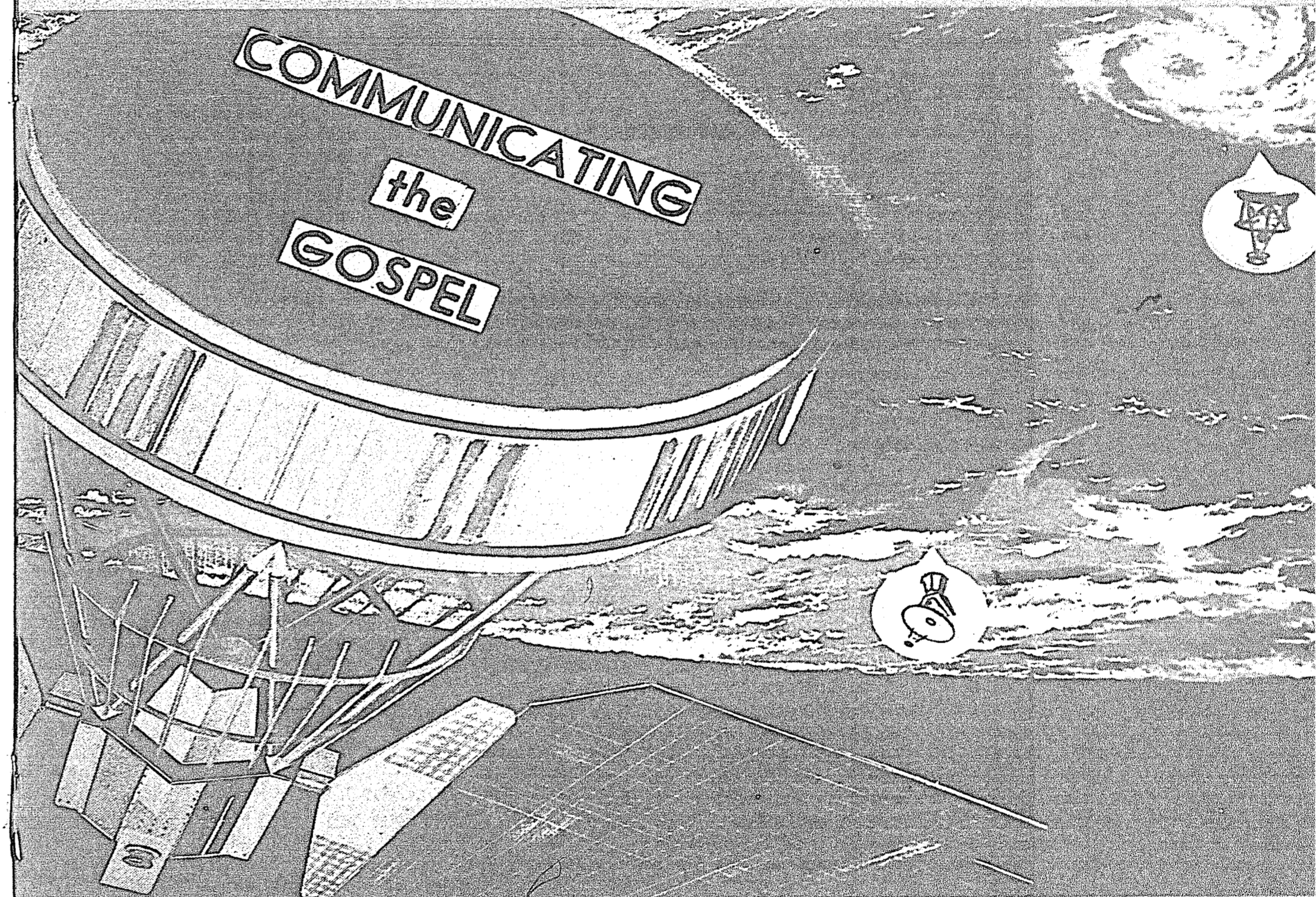
—D. S. C.

SKAGGS.—Rev. James L., son of Leroy Forest and Rosanna Pearce Skaggs was born May 26, 1878, near Boaz, Mo., and died after an extended illness at Caravilla, Janesville, Wis., Jan. 1, 1968. Funeral services were conducted from the Milton Seventh Day Baptist church, Jan. 3, by Pastor Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

(A more extended obituary is included elsewhere in this issue.)

—E. C.

The Sabbath Recorder



Newest Communications Satellite

The Nimbus satellite pictured above is designed to maintain contact with hard-to-reach portions of the world by the use of sensors on sea and land and even planted on migrating animals and birds. It will be a great asset in disseminating complete weather information since it will be in communication with the whole world. It is spoken of as "Eye on the Sparrow," quoting from the words of Jesus about our heavenly Father. What an illustration not only of the all-knowing God, but also of communicating the gospel to all the people of the world. He has given us many ways of spreading the gospel and His eye is constantly on us taking notice of what we are doing and where we are migrating in the tasks to which He has called us.