

preaches regularly for the United Methodist Church of Bloomer. Lenten services in New Auburn were hosted alternately by our church and the local United Methodist Church. Pastor Sutton did the preaching at all of these weekly services from February 23 through April 4, Good Friday. The sermons were much appreciated by the members of both churches, according to reports. Some of the New Auburn people attended the joint Lenten services in Bloomer also.

—Correspondent

PAINT ROCK, ALA.— Since the Pass-over night came on Wednesday this year we decided to have the Lord's Supper on Sabbath morning, April 5. This change was made in order to accommodate several of our distant members who could not otherwise attend. The ordinance of "foot washing" was foregone this year because of the absence of several of our members who believe this to be an essential part of the observance. (Foot washing and annual communion services are observed in a few S.D.B. churches.—ed.)

The quarterly business meeting of the church was April 6. Several important matters came up, including summer pastorate of the church. Pastor C. A. Beebe and wife expect to go to the Mountain Mission in West Virginia soon after association. Tim Looney of Salem College was called to serve as summer student pastor but was unable to accept since he will be in summer school.

The 78th session of the Seventh Day Baptist Southwestern Association will convene with the Paint Rock church June 12-15 (Thursday night through Sunday noon). Pastor Clifford Beebe is president. The theme is "Go to the South" from Acts 8:26.

We expect visitors from Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida, as well as a delegate from New York. It has been ten years since Paint Rock has entertained the association.

We have applied for two workers to help with Bible School in July. We had 71 children last year.

Brother Mynor Soper and family will be coming for special meeting the latter part of July. He is a son of former Pastor Ralph Soper.

The Bible Clubs organized by Miss Connie Coon in December, are keeping up with good interest. Thirty or more children attend regularly. Several of the children in the Paint Rock club (meeting at the parsonage) have moved but new members have come in. The club which met at Dan M. Butler's outgrew their home and moved to the home of R. L. Butler, Sr. Outgrowing this, they now meet at the Cedar Point Community Building.

—Field Missionary Correspondent

Obituaries

BIRD.— Ernest C., was born in Sioux County, Iowa, Nov. 13, 1867, and died at the home of his son at Boulder, Colo., March 23, 1969.

Mr. Bird was a bee keeper. He moved from Nebraska to Boulder in 1906 where he lived until going to live with his son in 1965. He joined the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church in March 1937. He was married to Frances Harrisburg who died in 1939. Several years later he married Elle Hurzeler who died in 1957.

Surviving are two sons: W. S., of Anguin, Calif.; and H. L. of Boulder; a brother, Myron of St. Petersburg, Fla.; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the Ahlberg Funeral Chapel in Longmont, with interment in Green Mountain Cemetery in Boulder.

—Daily Camera

The Sabbath Recorder



THE SABBATH RECORDER

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Your Personal Experience with Jesus Christ

Have you made the wonderful discovery of knowing Jesus Christ personally? If you have, you know it is the most exciting and rewarding experience a person can have. If you have not, I am sure you would want to if you had any idea what it could mean to you. For knowing Him and having Him as the guiding force in your life is a life-transforming experience.

Everywhere people are hungering to know Christ . . . they know about Him, but do not know Him personally. But we can not only know Him, we can actually have Him dwelling in us for Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). What a tremendous statement that is! Just imagine the mighty God of the universe and Jesus Christ, the Creator, actually taking up a dwelling place in our lives. Someone will say, "How is that possible?" Recently in talking with a boy of about 11 years of age, I explained how Christ wants to come into our hearts and live there. He replied, "There's not room for Him. My heart is too small." Certainly we are all much too small to contain all of God in our lives, but He is large enough to fill every person, brimming full and running over. And He does it in the person of His Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in me" (John 7:37-39 Living Gospels). (He was speaking of the Holy Spirit who would be given to everyone believing in Him.)

Jesus Christ is anxious to come into the life of every person in order that God's plan might be fulfilled for that individual. That plan is very simple. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have eternal life — abundantly" (John 10:10 Living Gospels). Without Christ we cannot know the kind of abundant

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He was a Christian . . . or so he thought . . . till one night he had

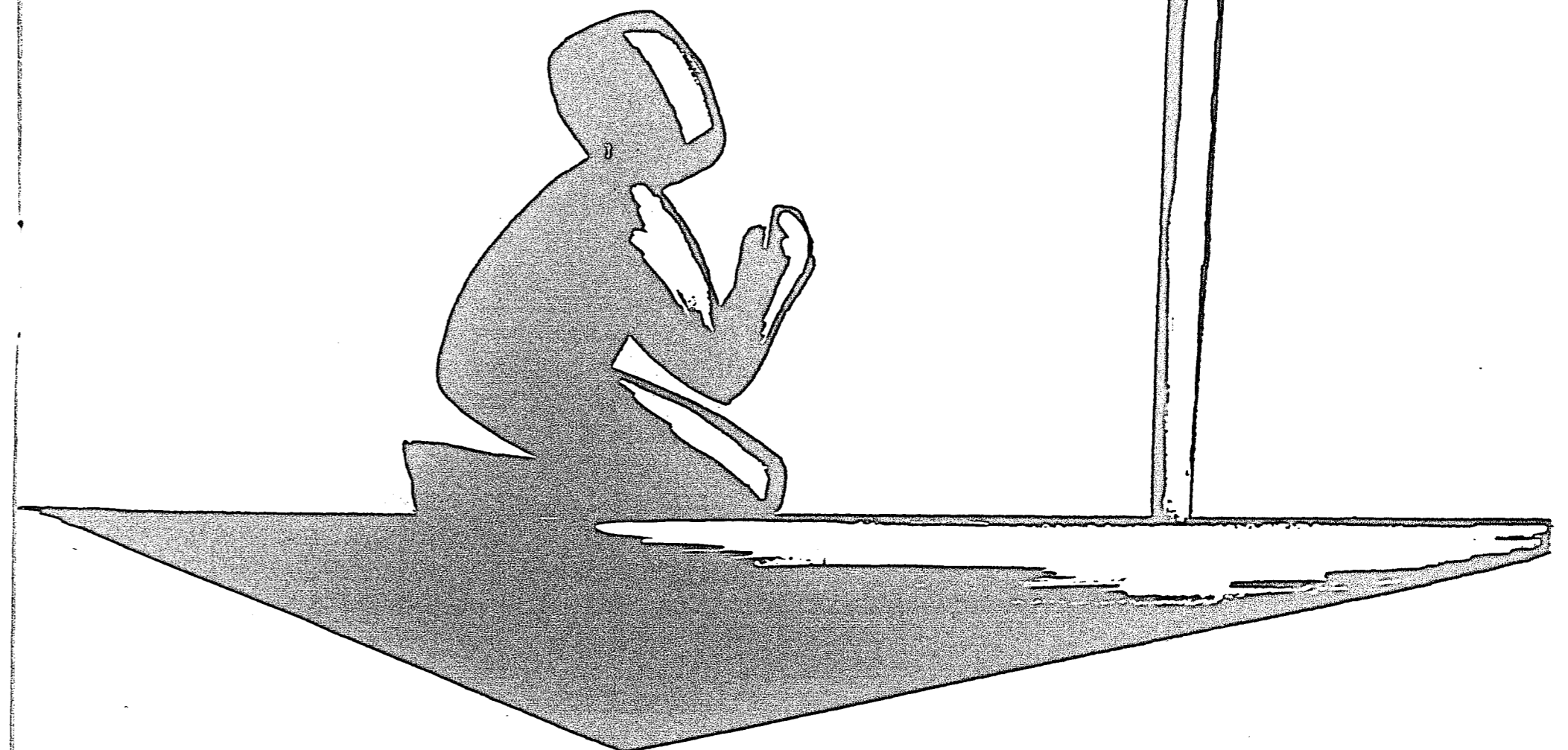
A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS CHRIST

Dear Friend:

The Lord has blessed me. I shall forever be grateful for the trip you made here on Good Friday. As we stood together and prayed at the airport and as I watched you fly off into the beautiful moonlit night, something began to happen to my life. Perhaps, the fact that there was an eclipse of the moon is symbolic of a change in my life that began to take place during the night. You must have been praying for me as you flew back home.

I wanted to call you all day yesterday, but I feel that I need to get in writing what I wanted to tell you.

I have been a professing Christian since I was baptized as a teen-ager. I was fortunate to be born of the finest



Christian parents, who brought me up in the church.

I've tried to be everything that a Christian should be. I don't smoke, drink, swear and have lived a clean life in all the ways I know how. I don't remember when I ever missed attending church on the Sabbath. We always have prayer at mealtime. I prayed *silently* at night before I went to sleep, if I didn't fall to sleep first. I'm a deacon in my church and I've worked hard for my church and denomination. I expect to be elected as president of our national church body in August of this year (1968), but not until yesterday morning did I experience a *real* conversion.

I awoke before daylight with the burden on my heart. As I lay there in bed the Lord came to me, and I knew what I had to do, but I kept fighting it. I wanted to wake my wife and daughters, but I kept putting it off. At times I would try to convince myself that this thing that was happening to me wasn't real, because I'd "been a Christian" all my life.

Finally I woke my wife and asked her to bring the girls into our bedroom. I wanted to talk with them. She couldn't understand my actions and said the girls would be too sleepy to understand, but she did it. We all knelt around the bed (the first time I can remember that we ever really knelt to pray together).

Then it really happened. As I tried to pray my heart really let go and I cried like I'd never cried in my life. Words wouldn't come to me, and then my wife began to pray and she said: "Honey, I believe you have just been converted. All these years you have never really had an experience with the Lord."

Finally, I was able to speak to the Lord and peace came to me. I know I've been saved and I'm ready to be called to heaven any time He wants me. I pray He will open my mouth now so I can really witness for Him by *words* and deeds.

I went for a long walk, and I discovered what it was that I needed to do next. While I was walking, my wife was talking to my younger daughter who was

upset because she couldn't understand what had happened to her father. My daughter had not really seen or experienced a conversion. My wife knows what conversion means, because her experience was real.

I needed to make a public profession, so yesterday morning at my church, I made the profession. It wasn't easy. I kept fighting it all through the morning service. I told the pastor as I entered the church that I might have something to say during the services, if the Lord led me. Thanks be to Him. He did lead me. During the last hymn I went forward and made a public profession. (This is something that seldom happens in my church; invitations are few and far between.)

Things continued to happen. My daughter, whom I told you about, came to the front of the church after the service with her Persian boy friend. His comment was: "We need more men willing to give their life to God." I'm sure now the Lord is going to help work out this problem. It is in His hands and I know He will care for it. It was such a wonderful experience.

Last night as I went to bed, my wife and I prayed together (aloud). The first time I can remember that we had done this in 22 years of good married life. What a wonderful peace has come to me.

I haven't known how I could ever execute the responsibilities of the office I am expected to accept for the coming year, but now I know the Lord will sustain me.

Pray that my mouth may be opened so I can really witness to those whom I meet. Thanks be to the Lord for what your presence here meant to my life.

Yoked in Mission in Christ,
Leland W. Bond

Editor's note: This letter was written to a Christian friend who is a member of Christian Business Men's Committee (CBMC) and was printed in the September 1968 issue of the CBMC magazine, CONTACT. The letter is printed here by permission of its author, Leland Bond, president of the Seventh Day Baptist Baptist General Conference.

In this day of teen-age rebellion, student riots and demonstrations by young people all over our land, we sometimes wonder if

STUDENTS STILL CARE

By Lois Wells

Choral directors and voice instructors have many opportunities each day to witness to their Christian faith through the discussion of texts, their attitudes in preparing music scores, and the manner in which they communicate with their singers.

For 23 years I had the privilege of serving as sponsor of the Christian Club on a high school campus, but I believe a more significant witness during those years was in the procedure which was followed at the start of each of my classes throughout the day. This I have chosen to share with the idea that it may be useful to others in the teaching profession.

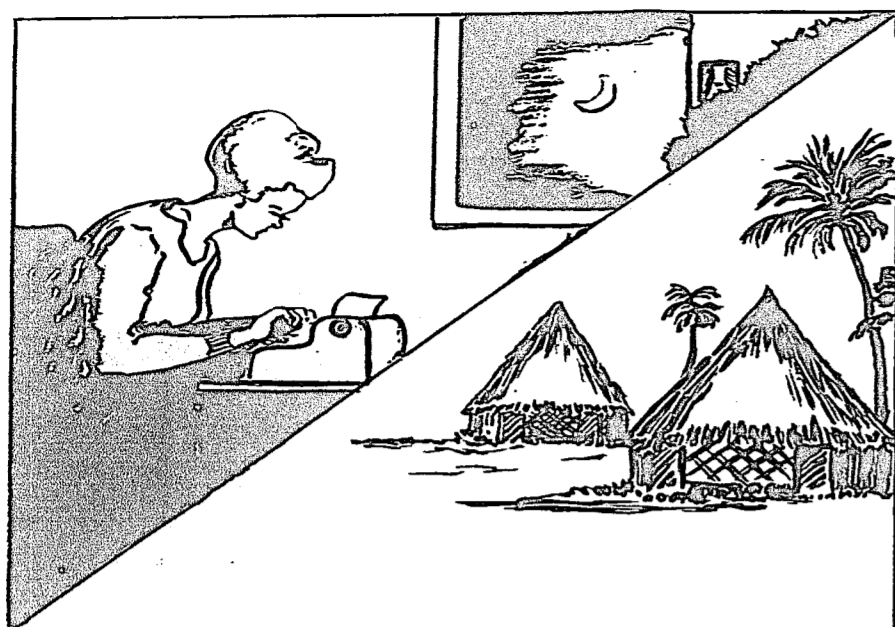
As students enter a classroom there is usually a degree of excitement, laughter, talking and sometimes confusion, personal tension and distress. They react strongly to all kinds of situations—everything from the weather to world conditions — and the bell is not always the "instant magic" which changes the mood or attitude in the classroom.

For the first few days of the new year I permitted normal events to take their course while the students and teacher became acquainted and got "the feel of things." As soon as a class routine was established, I talked calmly to the students about the fast pace of life we lead, the rare opportunities we have to be alone, quiet, thoughtful; the importance of being able to control our thoughts, tongues and actions; and the happiness we would enjoy in this world if all people had complete mastery over themselves. (I had dramatic examples to share of people whose lives have been saved because of their self-control.) Through the years the students were intensely interested during this preparatory talk. This would not have been the case had I approached them too early in the semester.

I invited the students to experiment with this discipline of being quiet at the sound of the tardy bell, to make this time different than any other moments during the school day. This would mean no singing, no talking, reading, or writing. Here was a time to pull all our scattered feelings back "to the center," to relax and be calm. I suggested that the easiest way to shut out disturbances was to close our eyes. What they wished to think about during this time was to be their decision, but I recommended their recalling kindly thoughts about friends and family, ways in which they might help someone, or just waiting for some inspiring thought to come to them. I did tell them that I had a plan in mind for my "quiet time" and that I was quite sure some of the others would be following the same plan. We asked students who might be tardy to stand quietly inside the door until our "quiet time" was ended.

The next day, when the tardy bell rang, I announced, "Quiet time," in a soft voice, closed my eyes, and sat very still. The first sessions of 15 to 20 seconds gradually lengthened into periods of 2 or 3 minutes at times, as the atmosphere in the room dictated. Not everyone fell into the routine easily at first, but at no time did I scold or embarrass anyone no matter what happened. Whenever possible I would compliment the class, as our experiment improved, and assure them that these few moments of each day would become more meaningful to them as they became more involved. Always I was careful to remain in the attitude of meditation and prayer unless interrupted by an emergency. People who came into the room, even the administrators, stood quietly and waited if their time and mission permitted. The simple announce-

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Moonlight Missionaries

By

Jessie Pitts

"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

The book of Nehemiah tells of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, which is considered as a type of the upbuilding of the divine Kingdom in the earth. Nehemiah's sacrifice of a fine position for the good of the cause (ch. 2:5) may typify the sacrificial service always needed when a great work is to be accomplished.

Not all of us have come to the place of willingness to accept the challenge to give up our positions to go in person, or for other valid reasons cannot do this.

The seeking of cooperation (ch. 2:17, 18) may typify an essential element in all successful work. The enlistment of all classes (ch. 3) may typify the importance of thorough organization. If it be true that you and I cannot leave our positions here at home to go in person to the many foreign missions, at least we can cooperate with all classes — from the greatest to the least, from the youngest to the oldest — in order to "rebuild the walls."

It was an unexpected privilege and pleasure for me when I was able to attend the General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists held at the University of Redlands, Redlands, California, August 1966 — my first and only Conference.

As I sat listening to Dr. Victor Burdick and the Rev. David Pearson, just returned from Malawi, Africa; and the Rev. Leland Davis, just returned from

Guyana; and other speakers challenging us for the cause of missions in a way that is unexplainable, I was transported to these foreign fields, feeling a deep sense of "oneness" with those wonderful people for whom Christ died, wanting so urgently to help. There were tears in my heart as well as tears in my eyes. There was a feeling of compulsion and urgency — but what could I do? These feelings and urges, I am sure, were not from human unselfishness but the urge that God sends by His Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Not having been raised in a Sabbath-keeping denomination and having just become a Seventh Day Baptist in January 1960, perhaps God has given me a fresh view and appreciation for the message that we as Seventh Day Baptists have to give to the world. Could it be that those privileged by having been born and raised in the Seventh Day Baptist faith "having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not"? (Mark 8:18).

Imagine the wonderment of a child from the slums, ghettos, or wastes of Vietnam, suddenly being transported to the king's palace to become an adopted son of royalty! Their amazement and appreciation might be greater than that of the natural children who have become so accustomed to the many privileges that have been theirs since they can remember. Far be it from me to take credit for any superior vision of our possibilities for service, for only from God and His

Holy Spirit come any vision or challenge. May we as His children accept the challenge.

But you ask, "How can I help with so little?"

After the General Conference was over, I kept praying to God for the means to give in addition to the tithe from my salary as an office worker. Within three weeks, He answered by giving me a "moonlight" job. A note came to my desk enlisting anyone interested in furnishing "credit data," which was a natural for me since all the materials were available to me, my duties being in the civil division of the Municipal Court. He literally dropped the answer in my lap.

Instead of taking a walk or chatting with the other workers at noon hour, one half hour was used to "moonlight." While the parking lot cleared at five o'clock another half hour or more was spent at "moonlighting." With His provision, the earnings were \$125.00 for the balance of 1966. I had covenanted with Him to give all, not just a tithe. What a joy of heart it was to be able to transport my work to Jamaica, Malawi or Guyana! As our missionaries worked days as well as night after night in labors of love, I was there "walking in the moonlight nights" with them.

From the wee ones to the grandmothers, God has given us all a talent, be it only carrying out the trash for Mom, or selling crochet work, mending for working girls, or car washing. He can provide!

Seventh Day Baptists number somewhere near 6,000, I believe. If each one earned only \$1.00 per year and gave that small sum alone, it would be \$6,000.00. Surely each can do this. Many can do much more.

Let us again remember Nehemiah 4:6, "For the people had a mind to work"; chapter 2:17, 18, cooperation; and chapter 3, all classes worked.

What will you do to help "build the wall"? As He stands waiting beside you now, covenant with Him and He "will open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it!"

INVENTORY

By Marjorie Goodrich

*I saw God in the mountains
In hues of gold and green,
The aspen trees all dressed up
And evergreens beckoning.*

*I heard God in the foothills,
The bubbling brooks and birds
Singing praise to their Maker
More beautiful than words.*

*I felt God in the valleys,
In the wind that brushed my hair;
The coolness of a shady nook
Made me feel His presence there.*

*In all these things I knew God's love
By touching heart, soul and mind;
To think He gave all this for me
A better life I'd find.*

*But best of all He gave His Son
To die to set me free;
For many things, I thank Thee, God,
But most, Eternity.*

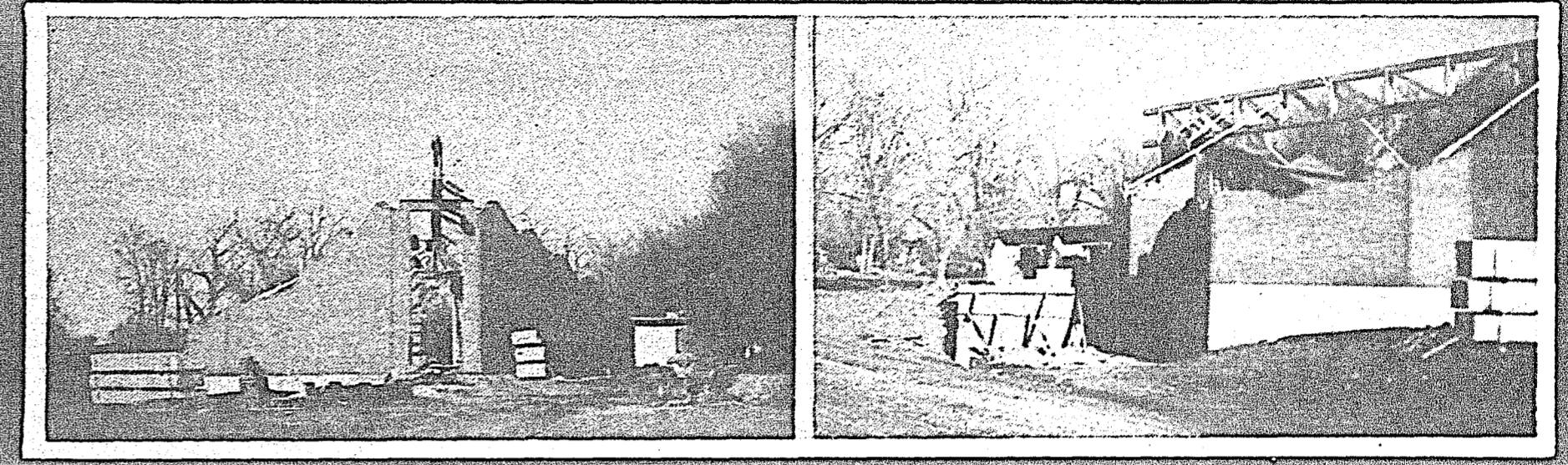
Arabic Common Bible Planned

The possibility of a common Bible for all Christians who live in many of the "Bible lands" was advanced at an inter-religious conference at Beirut, Lebanon.

Representatives of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches of the Near East gave tentative approval for work to begin on one common and up-to-date translation of the Bible into Arabic.

All Arabic translations need updating as a result of the discovery of historic manuscripts, and because Arabic itself has changed.

Arabic is spoken by more than 91 million of the world's people. Only seven other languages are more widely used. They are Mandarin Chinese, English, Russian, Hindi, Spanish, German and Japanese.



Editor's Note: *The Bible says that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Many of those of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church saw this, literally coming to pass in their church life. They found they were even questioning their desire to stay affiliated with that particular church or any church, perhaps. Then something happened in this group. Some of them, being at the point of considering giving up the church and the Sabbath, searched honestly for the truth about themselves, their families, their church and God's will. The result was an exciting spiritual rejuvenation of the entire church by the Holy Spirit. Having heard the account first hand from one who was very personally involved, I was myself so excited and impressed by the change that had taken place, not only in the church apparently, but also in this individual's life, that I desired that everyone should have a chance to know of this dynamic experience. Therefore, when the opportunity came for me to edit this special issue of the Sabbath Recorder, I sought to have this experience written from the "personal experience" point of view. However, the person contacted was so busy with his own work, which was at that time demanding a great deal of extra time from him, and with his new church responsibilities, that there was just no time left to write the article in the time period allotted. So rather than lose the opportunity, I appealed to the Rev. Leon Lawton, newly arrived pastor of the church, to get the story for me. This interview which he conducted is the result of his efforts. All of us realize that it is not as exciting to read about an event of this nature as it would be to hear one of the individuals speak of it in person. Nevertheless, it can be a blessing to you and your church if you have found a meaninglessness in your church life. Where there is vision and a willingness to earnestly seek the guidance of the heavenly Father and put yourself at His disposal you will "not perish" (John 3:16) . . . but begin to experience something of the "abundant life" our Lord promised us (John 10:10).*

(Discussion between Dr. Ted Horsley, Gary Cox and Leon Lawton on "Greater Involvement")

Leon: We are gathered in the study at the parsonage in Denver. Here with me are Gary Cox and Dr. Ted Horsley and we are just going to talk informally.

Leon: Gary, I have known the letters "GI" for some time and they have always meant "government issue." And then a few years ago before I became personally involved with work here in Denver, I heard about "GI" out here and I found they meant something different. What do these letters stand for and why?

Gary: We're not really sure how these two letters came to be identified with what we were doing. We had a concern in this church for active participation on the part of many of us in the total program

of the church. This led us to group together and discuss many of our concerns about which we felt very strongly. It seemed that the term "greater involvement," was tacked on to this group in this discussion. The discussion groups tended to become concerned with what we were experiencing and what we were not experiencing in our church lives.

Leon: How did this begin?

Gary: I think the beginning was perhaps through a Sabbath School class in which a number of us noticed that there were fewer and fewer people staying for Sabbath School, entering into the discussion or really interested in much more than just coming to church and putting in the hour and then leaving. As a result of this a number of families got together to discuss what we might be able to do to enhance our participation in the church

program. We looked rather critically at the type of contribution that each one of us was making. After this rather general meeting we began to look at more specific things such as: If your church life can be more meaningful, what can we do in a more specific sort of way to enhance it? Then we began to discuss such things as tithing, Sabbath observance, participation in Sabbath School, Bible study, discussion of basic church doctrines — all of this in a round-table discussion type of meeting.

Leon: This is what is done in many churches perhaps in a different way, but what characterized this as distinct from Bible studies in other churches, or workshops to discuss Sabbath School needs, program and stewardship emphasis, and things of this sort?

Gary: I suppose the one thing that would stand out in my mind would be that we didn't start first with a program which we wanted to put into operation. We started with a concern and began to search for "what we could do about it." This was a little different approach than to pick a quarterly or a published program and try, through a workshop or similar experience, to put it into effect and make it meaningful. We started from the concern approach. One thing that we did do which seemed to be a big help to all of us was to go back and look biblically in some depth at such things as tithing, to see the first beginnings and the relevancy that this would have to our lives today. And here, in this type of stimulation and presentation, is where I think perhaps Ted made his first real contribution. Perhaps

Ted would like to say a few words about how we did that.

Ted: I think that many of the people in the church felt that we here in Denver, and probably on a denominational basis, lacked a real theological understanding of certain phases of the church program and of doctrine. Tithing, which has been accepted by many groups as a rather efficient and logical financial approach, was not understood in any depth as a theological principle. So we approached this from both standpoints — as a very reasonable, practical, sharing way to support the church program and also as God's method which He has given to His people over the entire history of the Church. Then, it wasn't just left there, but a definite personal commitment was made on the part of those who were interested in this program. It had very definite effects: going from only two or three people in the church tithing to where now the vast majority of the church is giving a regular tithe and finding a real satisfaction; as well as, of course, the church finances being on a very sound basis.

Leon: In other words, you sensed a need, then you tried to find an answer for that need, and finding the answer you could step out to carry forth in action.

Ted: I think that states it. You asked before what the difference in this approach was compared to other church programs. I think one thing was that this was not an official church program at all. This was not arranged and programmed by any officers. This was just a number of members who were concerned at the low intensity of their own religious lives and who got

together to try to find an answer in an informal way. As an outgrowth of this concern, they actually arrived at a program which the church then adopted for itself, rather than the reverse being true or the church promoting it.

Leon: What were some of these basic concerns? You have mentioned some, but what were the questions being asked by these concerned people? Why were they concerned?

Gary: Well, I think that we have covered fairly well the one on stewardship. One that definitely was a problem was why we were, as Ted has said, of such low intensity toward observing our church life that people were slipping away. Young couples that we had within the fellowship of the church were no longer finding it meaningful or relevant and, therefore, were slipping away from fellowship with us. Our own feelings about leaving from the church on Sabbath Day and not feeling that we really had gotten anything out of it surely reflected somewhat our attitude toward it. We must not have been making a real contribution ourselves or we would be getting more out of it. This type of question and others like it tended to make us think that some place along the line something was wrong with our church life and, perhaps then, the life of the church in Denver, Colorado.

Leon: You've mentioned the area of stewardship and spoken about the Sabbath School. It is my understanding (I heard you share some of these things at a previous meeting) that there was a reluctance on the part of individuals to become involved, to commit themselves to places of leadership and responsibility within the Sabbath School program. As I recall, there was a willingness on the part of this group which became "greater involvement" to say, "Yes, I will do the thing that I am asked to insofar as I possibly can." Or in other words, "I'm not going to say 'No' offhand, but be more prone to say 'Yes' than 'No,' and try to do something because I realize that there is a need. I'm not satisfied with the Sabbath School. Perhaps I have not really been getting in and doing what could be done, because I have not given this a

value but have felt that this was something that could be taken or left."

Gary: This is correct. We drew up a list of about five things that we felt we should strive to do. We didn't have the answers but we would strive to improve our relationship and search for a better way. These five things were presented, written up and signed by the families which met at the first meeting or two, to say, "Yes, we want to be identified with this type of concern. We agree with this and we would like to become caught up in a way in which we can bring about a better situation and a more valid Christian experience."

Ted: Following this initial commitment on the part of individuals it was felt that a program of study was indicated to arrive at a more detailed and complex program. Therefore, various study groups were assigned specific areas of study and came up with specific recommendations regarding such things as stewardship, Christian education, Sabbath observance and things of this nature, which were reported back to the entire group. This group included anyone who wished to attend.

Then the church tended to adopt these recommendations and act on them. We found ourselves then presenting educational programs regarding stewardship and these other areas and people began to get involved and follow through. Thus, the tithing program of the church was enhanced immensely. People were readily accepting responsibilities as teachers in the Sabbath School and any other area of church work where they were needed. We also strengthened the home study program of the Sabbath School and Sabbath School attendance.

Then one program which had been talked about for years, but which had been lagging very badly, was the building of a new sanctuary. With the impetus provided through the "concerned" group of people, a very definite program was undertaken and we now have a church which is well along in construction with a large amount of money on hand through the overall new approach to stew-

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THE LORD COMFORTS

By Thelma Tarbox

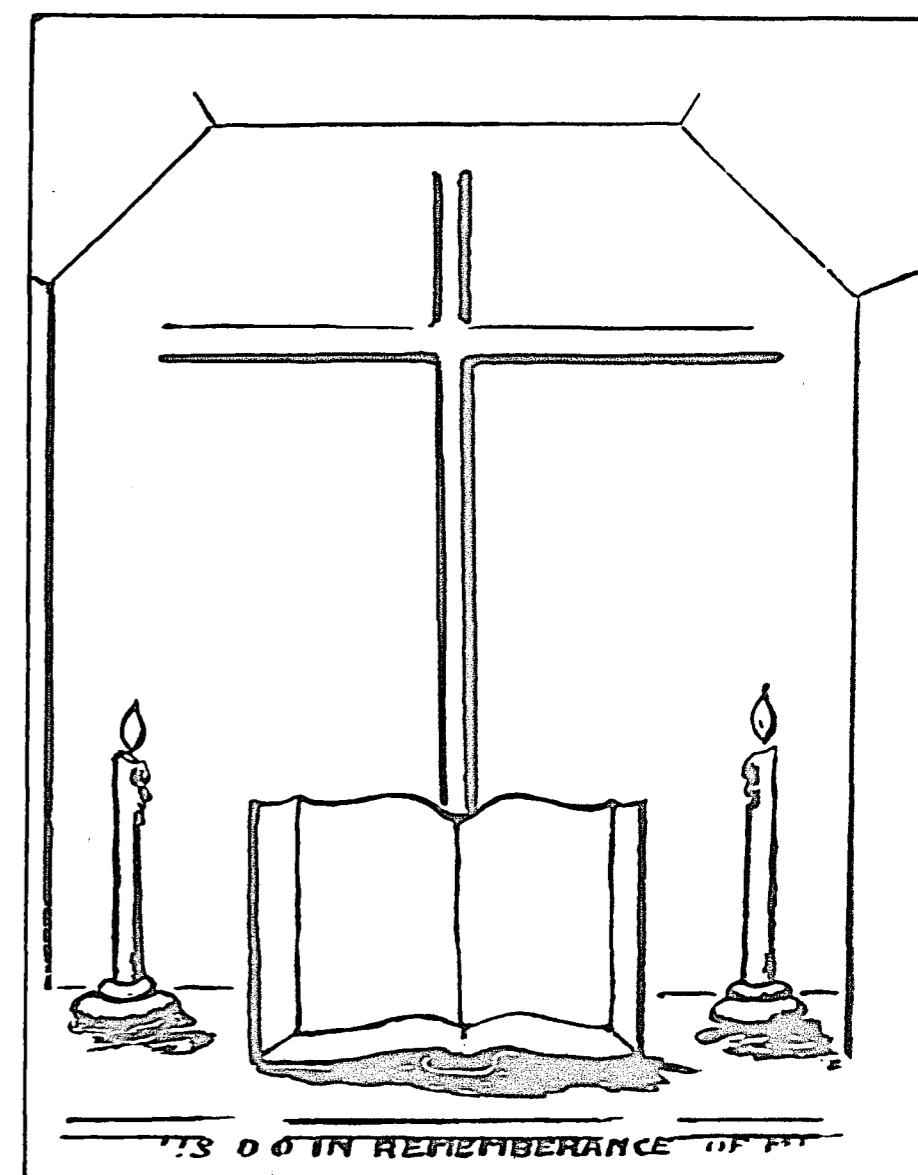
Was there an angel with us? How else explain our safe journey from Rhode Island to Wisconsin in twenty-two hours over roads often hazardous in January!

That morning of the funeral, turning pages of the Bible, I prayed for some passage that would help me bear-up through that terrible day. My dear "little brother" had died from asphyxiation — and he was only forty-seven! Never again would I hear that lilt in his voice, or feel the love in his hug on those rare times we saw each other, or be amused by his laughing quips! How could I survive this raw and bleeding loss?

Vacantly I read a few words in the book of Ruth. Then my eyes fastened upon the first chapter of Paul's second letter to Timothy. Mention of the "faith that dwelt in your grandmother" struck a responsive chord. It was our grandmother who nurtured my brother and me — our grandmother and grandfather who loved the church and the Sabbath. Hungrily I continued to read — "God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control . . . Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord . . . who saved us . . . and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought light and immortality to light through the gospel . . . May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me . . ."

Paul believed! He was willing to be chained and even killed, he was sure that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ who abolished death!

At the farewell service, there was a quiet comfort from being in the church at Albion where my brother and his family had worshiped. My heart was warmed



to hear Pastor Appel say that he had carried a Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook with him when traveling for Jamesway so he could attend the Seventh Day Baptist churches in the areas he serviced. (I thought of the "buckets of tears" grandma had wept, fearful my brother would leave the Sabbath when he moved from Rhode Island.) "He lived exuberantly," Pastor Appel said. My grief was soothed by the realization that the source of my brother's exuberance was a stronger Christian faith than I had thought lay beneath his lighthearted manner!

Later, when family and friends gathered at my brother's lovely home, I thanked God that he had had a wife who accepted his faith wholeheartedly. I looked at the kindly faces of his friends, especially members of the Couple's Club, and was grateful for them. They had provided the joys of Christian fellowship which enriched my brother's life.

We spent sixty hours returning to Rhode Island — over slippery roads,

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GOD CARES ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS:

By Mayola Warner

Did you ever ask for something and get more than you expected? I did. About a year and a half ago, I decided to ask God to perform a miracle and heal my growing deafness.

What happened in the next few hours and subsequent days and months was not at all just what I expected, rather a magnified edition of the original request!

On the way home from a particular weekend Christian conference where the healing service had taken place, my husband and I started talking over all that had happened during the past 48 hours. And without any lightning-like sensation or any particular physical feeling, God started the wonderful healing process. Not just as I had envisioned, for it came then as a spiritual healing. God was helping me to begin to hear what my husband was *really* saying with a new understanding. He was opening up my ears clear down to my heart!

When we got home, I began to hear the children on a different level. And those of you who have teen-agers will identify with me when your growing offspring tries to tell you something, then gives up, shrugs his shoulders and says, "You just don't understand."

I could see now that I had been so busy with myself that I didn't really *try* to understand. I had tuned out all those ideas, plans, pleas and needs of others

Large

that were coming to me but about which I didn't want to hear. I mistakenly thought that my knowledge and insight was the greatest gift I could give to others. Now I was beginning to see that real listening with spiritually healed ears was the greatest step in family communications that we had ever experienced. A new level of love had opened up. True fellowship has since sparked new ideas, drawn out hidden potential, created new dreams, and set the stage for real growth in our marriage and family life.

You might well ask, "Was the end purpose in your healing to build a warm relationship in your family circle?" No, it was much more than that, for I believe that as Christians we are called upon to build the Kingdom of God on earth. And if we can find our homes a center of love and growth, of confrontation and discipline, of understanding and trust, then the various members will go out strengthened to live a new quality of life in Christ that communicates itself in ever widening circles.

(Oh yes, via a wonderful hearing aid, I can now hear much better physically, too! And just as I need to care for it—keep a fresh supply of batteries, etc.—so I need to care for God's miracle by Bible study, prayer, Christian fellowship, etc.)



...and

Small

by Ruth Parker

When my husband died unexpectedly of a sudden heart attack a year ago, I was left alone to run a house and car that I knew very little about. He had always taken care of everything mechanical because I am comparatively ignorant in that field. I had written down a few things that he had told me, but there were many things that were complete mysteries to me.

The Lord has helped me in every way, both materially and spiritually, and has blessed me with good health and peace of mind, because of my faith and prayers. He has proved again and again that He answers my prayers.

When I leave the house, I always pray for a safe journey. One night on the way home, as I drove up to a red light, my

brakes failed. The car glided right across the street, but there was nothing coming the other way. I thanked the Lord especially that night for saving me from an accident.

On another occasion there were about three inches of new snow on the ground when I set out to buy my groceries. It wasn't snowing much when I left, but when I came out of the store, a blinding snowstorm was in progress, and driving was hazardous. Fortunately I didn't meet any cars on the narrow roads near home. When I tried to get up the hill, the car slipped and swerved in spite of snow tires, and I almost landed in the ditch, but not quite. The Lord brought me safely home with my load of groceries.

Early one morning before leaving for my work as a textbook editor in New York, I went out to shovel some of the drifted snow in my long driveway. When I reentered and tried to open the door between the garage and the rest of the house, I found that it had locked itself for no known reason. I was locked out without my keys, pocketbook, and other essentials. I prayed that I would be able to unlock the door and go to work, but I couldn't budge the knob. It was too early for the neighbors to be up, but I finally got one to come over and try to help. He knew no more than I did about the doorknob, which had only a round hole in the center; but he opened a tool chest and picked out a small round screwdriver. I wiggled it around in the knob, and behold, the door unlocked! I was able to get to work — late but in time to get my work done. When I got home that evening, the oil truck had been there and had opened up my drifted driveway.

When I was young, I thought the Lord would not be interested in my little day-by-day problems, but I have learned differently. "We know that in *everything* God works for good with those who love him" (Romans 8:28). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). He is a present help not only in trouble but at all times, to those who put their trust in Him. He is my daily guide and companion.

By Ted Erickson

One of our richest blessings came to us only a short while ago. In the ranch home of a blind friend, I heard what seemed to be the voice of Jesus. I soon discovered to my delight that a record was being played of the Holy Bible, and I recognized it as the beautiful King James version.

At once I was impressed with the tremendous impact this could have on the lives of all people, especially those with limited time for reading, those whose eyes tire easily, and those who keenly desire a personal familiarity with the Scriptures. I knew that I must have a set of these records for my very own. My wife was just as eager as I was, and praise God, a couple of months of correspondence provided us with this spiritual treasure at a very reasonable cost.

Our first complete hearing of the Word took about six weeks, spare time. Then we concentrated on certain parts of special interest and obscure passages became clear and took on new light. The many lost hours of the day, such as breakfast time, when dressing and shaving, when taking baths and evening quiet hours, became productive and more meaningful. (Should be great for insomniacs.)

Taping the records with a portable cassette recorder made possible another dimension of hearing pleasure and the hours in my car, going to and from work and the lunch hour also came under the influence of the Holy Spirit. I found that my "stomach tensions" disappeared under the soothing and healing power of God's Word. My wife was now listening to the records while doing housework.

When we realize that the entire Bible could be heard in only 85 hours of listening time, exciting possibilities dawned on us. The present space age has provided us with a new opportunity to understand the will of God and a tremendous witnessing method in these last days. Truly

"... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." I will be more than happy to share my information with anyone who cares to write to Ted Erickson at Cherry Creek Ranch, Box 93, McKinley Route, Myrtle Point, Oregon 97458. Perhaps the good Lord will provide a way for some to share this treasure with others that they love. This continuing experience is unfolding new vistas day by day as we grow closer to the God of our salvation and we humbly thank Him for His wonderful grace, wherever it may lead.

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through blinding snow. As we neared Pennsylvania, something unusual happened. I'd said to my husband, "I know it's dangerous driving, but when I feel so sad, I'd rather have a dark day like this than have the sun shine." Snow blew wildly around us as the car ascended the foothills. Suddenly the sun shone brightly through the snow swirling white around the surrounding hilltops and in the valleys. At this instant there burst from the car radio a medley of Christmas hymns. The familiar words fell like healing salve on my hurt — "Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the new-born King God and sinners reconciled' . . . 'Christ is born in Bethlehem'" Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth 'Glory to the new-born King.'"

The triumphant words and music filled the car. High in the hills we crossed a bridge and far below, at the bend of the river, sunlight caught the water and changed it into a shimmering, glistening sheet of dazzling silver. Sunlight and falling snow and silver and heavenly music! If God can create such a magnificent experience on earth, *what is heaven like?*

The sun disappeared. The Christmas medley ended. I wiped the tears off my

face and felt God's love, close and good.

Through the kindness of family and friends, the truths to be found in the Bible, and nature's beauty — our heavenly Father knows how to console. Often since my brother's death, I have thought of the Savior's words, "Happy are those who mourn: God will comfort them!"

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ardship. Thus, it has been very effective in the actual life of the church.

Gary: The progress of such a program is the next thing which seems to leave us a little stumped. Since Conference last August, we have not really found the "greater involvement" program to be thriving with the same umph, motivation and speed that it was prior to that time. We have discussed this a number of times and we are not exactly sure what should be done next. We think that the accomplishments of the program are still being felt and are affecting us personally as well as the whole program. Perhaps we have satisfied some of the needs. Perhaps there are some new ideas altogether different from something we have tried before that need to be investigated and pursued.

I would suppose that up until this point, the building of the sanctuary has been our main thrust as far as time and effort are concerned. These results we can visually see each week. We have noticed the very definite results of the tithing program tied in with this. The stewardship program is probably the healthiest in the history of this church. We are a little bit disappointed that the attendance at Sabbath School and the direct results that we noticed at first for some time are not as strong, but have leveled off. We haven't been meeting as a group either. Perhaps this is part of the problem. The question seems to be, "Do we get together to think of something to concern ourselves with or is there something that we should be concerning ourselves with that would bring us together automatically?" We just don't know the answer to this. Consequently, we really haven't been

meeting. We have, however, done one thing as a result of the "greater involvement" thinking. For the first time now in a number of years, we have a meeting on Friday night which has taken the shape of a book study review, a discussion of reading throughout the week. This is probably the most current result of the program.

Leon: Thank you very much for coming over and spending these moments in sharing this information with Mynor and me. It is good, personally, to get up-to-date and to review these happenings and to be aware that anything that begins takes constant care if it is going to continue. Life in and of itself does not exist without growth, without enlargement, without sloughing off of tissues that are not needed and the growth of new. So anticipate and look forward to a continued commitment on the part of these and other individuals, a continual openness to each other and to the Lord and an awareness that He has led and will lead as we continue to seek and ask the question, "What is it that You want me and us to do at this time?"

(Continued from page 5)

ment of "roll call" indicated the close of our "quiet time," but the feeling of peace and calm in the room remained.

Since "quiet time" was always concluded with audible prayer by the teacher or a student on special occasions and preceding programs, the daily class routine soon became associated with a time for prayer and meditation and was honored as such. While the nation was involved in much discussion about the legality of prayer in the public schools, there was never a word of complaint or protest from my students who were representative of every type of background — churched and unchurched. On the contrary, if, for some reason, the "quiet time" was omitted, those students least expected to be interested would raise their hands with the question, "Miss Wells, haven't we forgotten something?"

The Sabbath Recorder

(Continued from page 2)

life God wants us to have . . . a life of purpose, meaning, peace in the midst of turmoil, and the assurance of eternal life. Getting Christ to come into one's life is no problem. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him . . ." (Rev. 3:20). All one has to do is ask Him to come in. The problem is in our unwillingness to believe that He will do what He says He will. I can testify, as can every person who ever gave that invitation to Christ, that He makes all the difference in the world.

If you make that decision to invite Christ into your life, you will have made a start on a road that leads to many personal experiences with Him which cannot be matched by what the world has to offer. If you have not done so, will you do so now? Simply acknowledge to Him your own sinfulness and need for His help, and ask Him to come in and make His dwelling place in your heart, even as He promised He would do. Then thank Him for doing it, for you can be assured that He does what He promises. This is the greatest personal experience you can possibly know.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

LOIS WELLS is a member of the Music Faculty of Rio Hondo Junior College in Whittier, California. She is also state president of Choral Conductors' Guild of California and secretary of California Junior College Music Educators' Association.

JESSIE PITTS of Ventura, California, has been a member of the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1960 where she is active and attends as often as traveling the long distance permits.

MARJORIE GOODRICH (Mrs. Ronald) is an active member of the North Loup, Nebr., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The Rev. LEON LAWTON, past director of evangelism for the Seventh Day Baptist denomination and pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Denver, Colorado, was the interviewer of Mr. Gary Cox and Dr. Ted Horsley in the article entitled, "A New Vision." Gary Cox is a music teacher in the Boulder, Colorado, High School and is studying toward his doctoral degree in school administration. Dr. Ted Horsley is an orthopedic surgeon in the city of Denver. Both are very active laymen in the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church.

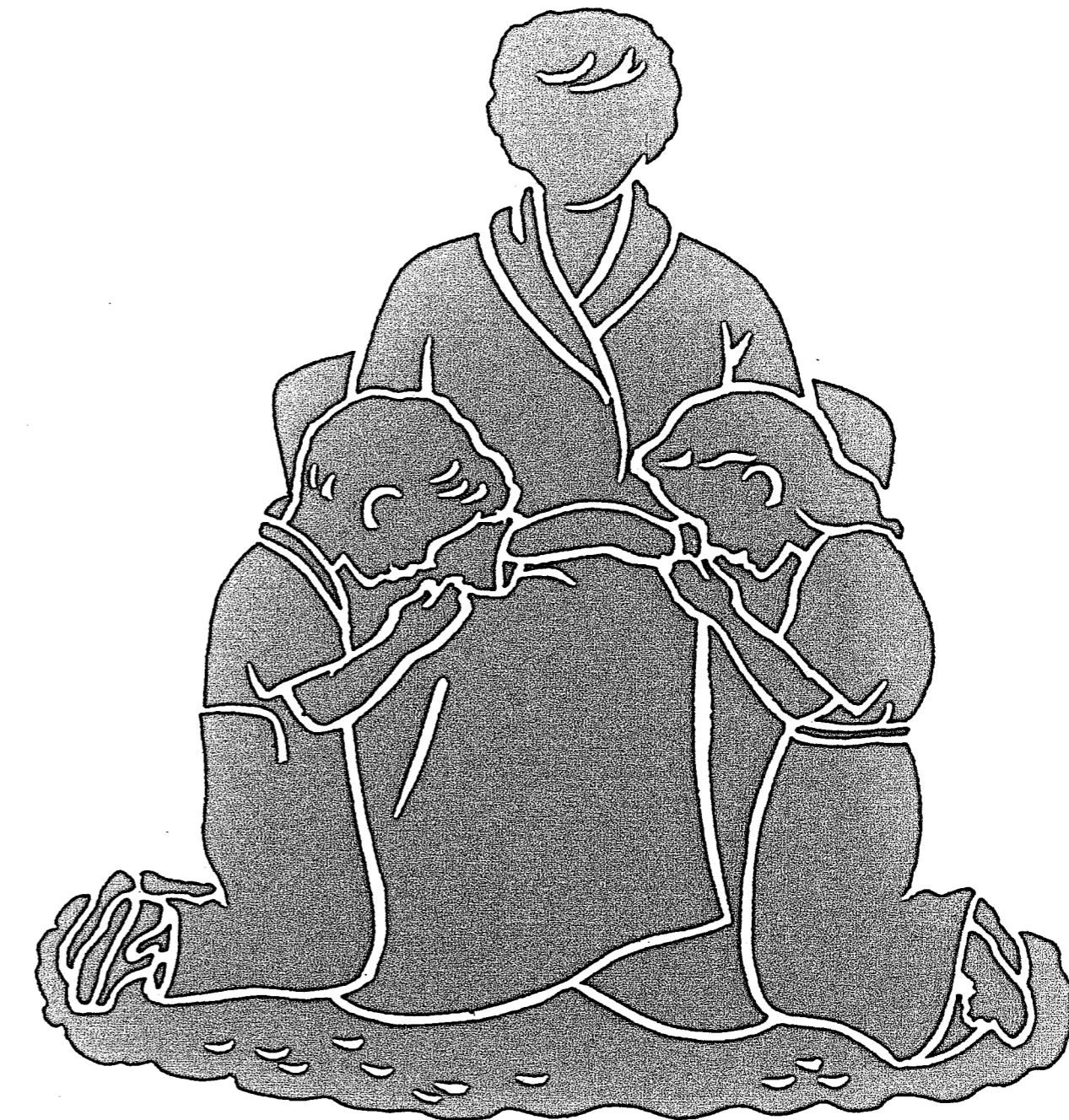
THELMA TARBOX (Mrs. Henry), of Saunterstown, R. I., has been an active member of the Second Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church at Hopkinton, R. I., since her early teens. She is a housewife whose husband works at Quonset Naval Air Station. She has done some teaching in public schools, and has two sons in college.

MAYOLA WARNER (Mrs. Garth) is a housewife and an active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Verona, N. Y., where she grew up and found the Lord.

Mrs. RUTH HUNTING PARKER is a deaconess in the Plainfield, N. J., Seventh Day Baptist Church, of which she has been a member since she was 13. After graduating from Alfred University she taught English and then became a textbook editor. She has been with the American Book Company for 18 years.

TED ERICKSON, a retired naval officer, and his wife, live on a beautiful little ranch near Myrtle Point, Oregon. They have visions of developing a retirement center for Sabbath-keeping Christians on their ranch.

ART WORK on the cover and page 3 is by Ardith King Davis of the Denver, Colo., S.D.B. church, on pages 6 and 11 is by George Clement of the North Loup, Nebr., S.D.B. church.



My Altar

I have worshiped in churches and chapels;
I've prayed in the busy street;
I have sought my God and have found Him
Where the waves of His ocean beat;
I have knelt in the silent forest
In the shade of some ancient tree;
But the dearest of all my altars
Was raised at my mother's knee.

—John H. Styles, Jr.

Masterpieces of Religious Verse