

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

The Sabbath Recorder

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Member of the Associated Church Press

REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor

Contributing Editors:

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

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Why Stress the Sabbath?

What a great difference a little preposition can make in a sentence! This year Leland Bond, our Conference president, in his messages has been challenging Seventh Day Baptists with the theme "Sensitive in His Service." The Tract Board Committee preparing suggestions and printed material for the 1969 Sabbath Rally Day (May 17) selected the theme "Sensitive in Our Sabbathkeeping." What a different line of thought would come to mind if we changed the preposition so the phrase would read "Sensitive About Our Sabbathkeeping." Let us reflect on it a moment.

Is it perhaps true that a good many of us are indeed sensitive about our Sabbathkeeping? If so, we need a Sabbath rally day with that better theme. What is our reaction when a new acquaintance or a church leader of another denomination asks us why we stress the Sabbath? Do we get sensitive, defensive, apologetic? Do we wish we didn't have to explain how and why we are different from other Christians? Granted some of our friends want to make us feel that we are not quite in good standing with the main line Christians because of observing a different day. They would like us to get the impression that we haven't studied our Bibles or that we are stressing some insignificant item and not getting on with the main business of the church. Our reaction to such things will either show up a blameworthy sensitiveness or a praiseworthy sensitivity.

How can I claim to be a good Christian if I am insensitive to the revealed will of God? Christ has called me out of darkness into light. I am now in His service. I must be sensitive to His commands. He not only commissions us to preach the gospel of salvation; He calls us to loving obedience: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Our message is not just basic truth by which sinners are to be converted and begin the Christian life; it is also teaching them all things that Jesus emphasized in His ministry. That

ERLO E. SUTTON

Word has been received of the death of the Rev. Erlo E. Sutton at Boulder, Colo., on April 26, the day after his 90th birthday.

includes the faithful and right observance of the Sabbath, observing it in the spiritual way that Christ observed it. The more we love Him the more sensitive we will be to His will and the righteousness that must exceed "the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees."

There are people with whom we come in contact who have not learned the joy of Christlike Sabbathkeeping. How can we claim to be sensitive to their needs or to our Lord's example and command if we neglect to tell them of the joy we have found? Jesus was habitually in the temple or the synagogue on the Sabbath listening to the reading of the Word and teaching a class. He used the day to the full, sometimes only eating the wheat that He and His disciples could pluck as they passed through the fields on their way to minister to others. When the need arose, He healed the sick and advocated pulling the ox out of the ditch. He kept the day religious and purposeful. His disciples who followed Him were expected to do the same.

If we are sensitive *in* our Sabbathkeeping there will be no occasion to be sensitive *about* it. We would be insensitive if we failed to proclaim it. Why stress the Sabbath? Because we want to be sensitive to God's commands and to the world's needs. "The sabbath was made for man"

Thoughts on Recognition

Never has there been a time when there was more need for definition of terms and sticking to those definitions than now. This is particularly true of religious and political terminology. We get into all kinds of misunderstandings when we have vague, faulty, or contradictory definitions of frequently used words. For instance, what do we mean by recognition?

The opening speaker at the annual U. S. Conference for the World Council of Churches at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., was Dr. Keith Bridston, a professor at the Pacific Lutheran Theological School. He urged the assembled WCC leaders to be willing to "accept the fact that life is

contingent, chancy, and risky" and that the church must be ready for change in these times of change. He noted later in his address, that "while the churches were slow in responding to the black revolution, they were nonetheless the source from which much of the Negro leadership arose as well as the stimulus to the white conscience. Among its 'authentic offspring,' the church should recognize not only Martin Luther King, but also Eldridge Cleaver, not only the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, but also the Black Panthers."

One might well wonder what is meant by recognition of Eldridge Cleaver or the Black Panthers. In a political convention the presiding officer cannot recognize (give the floor to) members of the opposing party who have infiltrated. In the United Nations recognition is a big issue. Certain nations considered to be too far out of harmony with the principles on which the organization is founded are not given recognition.

Can the Christian church as a congregation or as a united ecumenical movement recognize the Black Panthers in the same way that they recognize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference? There seems to be little question about the word Christian in the name or in the general aims of the organization; its leader won the Nobel Prize and championed non-violence as the means for accomplishing Christian goals. Could anyone speak of the Black Panthers as a Christian organization? How then can one speak of recognizing them in this sense of the word?

Recognition has several different meanings, some good, some bad. When long parted friends meet, the light on their faces is the light of happy recognition. When you call the doctor to identify your malady, he looks at the rash on your skin and recognizes it as scarlet fever, leprosy or whatever it is. The Christian analyst recognizes Eldridge Cleaver. He knows who he is and what he stands for. The same with the Black Panthers. They are a dangerous rash, like scarlet fever. They may have a right to their opinions as long as they do not

destroy the rights of others, but they would be quite out of place among the followers of Christ. We should seek to understand them, but a prudent man does not take a viper into his bosom, as the Scriptures put it.

Let us live close enough to the Lord so that we will recognize Him when He comes again and close enough so that He will recognize us and bid us enter.

The Challenge of a Closer Moon

The above is the title of a series of programs during April presented by NBC News in association with the National Council of Churches. Having seen none of these TV programs the writer is not in any position to comment on their effectiveness. The title is indeed intriguing, as is some of the publicity release that hints at the content.

What is the challenge of a closer moon? From one point of view, it is a challenge to appreciate the earth which is so much closer to us.

True, there is a challenge to set foot on the moon carrying your life-sustaining climate with you, as the astronauts hope to do within the next two months. After speaking of carrying one's climate with him I am reminded that the word "carry" does not have the same meaning on the moon as on earth. If all of our burdens would be five times lighter, there might be great numbers ready to emigrate to the moon. The trouble is that our heaviest burdens are not of the kind that disappear with a diminishing of the force of gravity on a smaller sphere. Of course, out there, in space between earth and moon the astronauts experience complete weightlessness. This does not mean that the weight of sin cannot bear down on the shoulders of an astronaut or be removed by a conversion experience that might come to one out in the uncertainty of space.

The publicity release states rather beautifully, "In their magnificent mission, American astronauts have shown all mankind how precious is the earth . . . 'a grand oasis in the great vastness of space.'"

Want to go to the moon? Not to stay, that's sure. The smiling, silvery moon that comes into view every cloudless night and completely changes its appearance every fortnight seems to stir up the romance of the soul. It is less romantic when it is examined more closely. Without water, without atmosphere, without any life of its own, pockmarked with refuse of the cosmic fragments of the ages, for which there is no healing such as we see in nature here, the moon is not very desirable.

The psalmist looked into the heavens and penned those beautiful words, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." He went on to remind himself and us of how the Lord fashioned this earth and made it ready for man. Other celestial bodies are cold and uninviting or are so close to the sun that the heat would be constantly unbearable. The earth is the Lord's and it is man's; it is suited for man. It has a fullness.

What message does the moon have for us? What is the challenge of this heavenly body that has suddenly come within just a few days of us? The message and the challenge may well be, let us do something with this beautiful land that is ours. We are reminded that the old hymn writer was not far wrong when he surveyed all nature and observed, "and only man is vile." What a mess we have made of things. Man can adapt himself to the gravity on the face of the earth and its atmospheric pressure of 28 pounds per square inch. He has muscles and bone structure enabling him to shoulder a burden of 100 to 200 pounds and walk away with it. However, he adds some unbearable burdens of the mind and soul and staggers under the weight of personal and social sin.

There is a remedy. Back there in history near 2,000 years ago we had a visitor, not from the moon, not from the vastness of outer space, but from heaven itself. The coming of Christ brought the possibility of redemption from sin and a victorious life. Not only are our burdens rolled away, but also we are commis-

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THE SABBATH RECORDER

President's Column

Have you been missing the President's column? I hope so! It has been some time since I have written an article for the *Sabbath Recorder*. It seems that I get myself involved in so many ways and of course a fellow has to be about his regular occupation.

I do not believe that I have written since my trip to Albion and Milton, Wisconsin, in the early part of March. I can assure you that I have not forgotten the wonderful time that Lettie and I had while there. Everywhere I go people have been so hospitable and the few extra pounds that I have gained this winter is proof positive.

One of the inspirations on this trip was the young people and their prayer group. They came to meet with us on Friday evening at the home of Mary and Leland Skaggs. I understand that this is an outgrowth of the SCSC program. I firmly believe that prayer is one of the keys to our personal salvation and the salvation of our denomination (1 John 5:14).

An amazing group of people turned out for the Sabbath morning service at Milton. It was good to see the church nearly filled to capacity. One of the activities of this church has been its "Meal of Sharing." They not only shared a wonderful meal with us but designated a love offering to someone or a group in need. This activity is carried on one Sabbath each month. One of the daily Conference themes is "Sensitive in His Service Through Sharing." Milton has found a way to be "sensitive through sharing" through this project.

Members of the Milton Junction and Albion churches had a noon luncheon and remained until I had time to make the trip to Albion to speak to them. It is thrilling to find that everywhere I go there are those who love the Lord and have dedicated their lives to his service! Praise be to God!

—Leland W. Bond

MEMORY TEXT

Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

—Psalm 98:8, 9

Designated Ecumenical Giving

On every hand we hear appeals for worthy causes. Orphans and widows in underprivileged countries are suffering every day; we see sickening pictures of the Biafra tragedies; great poverty is being exposed in our own wealthy country. We need to give to all these, plus our own World Mission, never refusing help to "the least of these, my brethren." We can not do otherwise if we would strive to be true Christians.

At Conference it was decided that funds for the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches should be designated for such. In the early months of this year the gifts were gratifying: W.C.C. received \$110.15 and N.C.C. received \$63.65.

However, it is being asked of member churches to increase their giving by one third for the next three years so that the worthy endeavors of N.C.C. and W.C.C. can go forward. The united effort accomplishes more than each denomination can, especially small ones like ours.

This means that our giving should be regular and steady. The Council on Ecumenical Affairs urges you to specify a regular gift, as your conscience dictates, for either N.C.C. or W.C.C. or both, if possible.

We have elected representatives to these organizations. Their expenses come from designated giving. Delegates give their time and devotion and report back to Conference through your Council on Ecumenical Affairs.

Your support is gratefully appreciated.

—Council on Ecumenical Affairs

Black Manifesto Is Given NCC Board

By Rev. Albert N. Rogers

Presentation of a Black Manifesto to the churches of America by James Forman, black militant leader, highlighted the meeting May 1 and 2 of the General Board of the National Council of Churches in New York City. The manifesto demanded \$500 million from churches and synagogues with threats to occupy church properties to enforce these demands.

The General Board recorded its appreciation of the aspirations of Forman and the National Black Economic Conference which he represented, and referred the demands to the National Council's general secretary and Executive Committee for immediate consideration. Despite deep concern at the threat to disrupt church services, offices and publishing houses, many board members expressed their approval of long range economic proposals in the manifesto.

On the day preceding the Council meeting Forman presented the Black Manifesto to officials at diocesan offices of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, asserting that Episcopalians alone could raise the fund demanded. One of the bishops who replied said black militants risk losing Christian support for their cause in pursuing disruptive methods. On Sunday, May 4, Forman interrupted services at Riverside Church (interdenominational) to read the manifesto, whereupon the pastor dismissed the congregation.

At the request of the Council on Ecumenical Affairs of General Conference I attended the General Board meeting at the Statler Hilton Hotel, New York, and voted the proxy of the Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, general secretary. (Other Seventh Day Baptist ministers in the Plainfield area were attending the Ministers Conference at Salem, W. Va.)

Policy statements were adopted for the National Council with reference to the Middle East, public welfare, and tax exemption of churches including that of ministers. These had been carefully

worked out by study groups and were refined and discussed in detail before adoption. Copies of the statements are available on request. A joint program with the National Catholic Welfare Conference was approved. Studies on consumer rights and responsibilities were referred back to committee.

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, general secretary of the National Council, reported on the Vatican Delegation which recently completed its mission and on significant Protestant concerns in the University Christian Movement. It was reported that Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, National Council president, had held nine regional meetings in key cities across the country to assess the crisis in the nation, plan for the Council's Mission in the Seventies, and discuss prime ecumenical interests with area and state religious leaders.

The next meeting of the General Board will be in September, prior to the National Council's General Assembly to be held in Detroit, November 30 - December 5.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The church leaders and pastors in training in Jamaica who have recently been encouraged and strengthened by a 17-day visit by the Rev. Leon Lawton, former missionary on the island.

2) The beleaguered Seventh Day Baptists of Biafra, especially Pastor Harrison of Umuahia, the capital city, which fell to the Central Nigerian forces April 23. (He had just sent word through Red Cross of his need for literature and clothing.)

3) The students in our country who are so soon going into part-time or full-time service for the Lord in a number of our churches.

Suggestions for intercessory prayer are solicited from all who see the need. Send them to the editor or to the Conference president so that there can be many voices raised in intercession for the people who most need to be upheld at the throne of grace.

Thoughts on Remembering

By Charles J. Bachman

"All the way which the Lord thy God led thee."
(Deut. 8:2)

During the course of life there have been many occasions when we said to ourselves, "I wonder why they took that fine product off the market." We take it too much for granted that the things which we appreciate are going to be with us forever, that all we have to do is to reach out at any time and there they are. Comes that rude awakening, and those things are no longer there.

This is also true in the course of growing up. The family friends, the folks at church, those others more mature than you whom you see constantly. Little do we realize that we also mature more and more each day, until that day when we turn around and find that nice old person whom one time we considered a fuddy-duddy is now a real nice old gent — and still later realize that that nice old gent is no longer present. Why cannot the nice things continue forever?

Values. Now there is a controversial word! As we mature how about those things which gradually in our eyes became values by which we judged ourselves. At one time they struck us the wrong way, contradicting our ways; and then little by little we began to see value in these things. One day we awoke to the realization that these values had fled, leaving a longing in our lives.

Truth. Now there is another word! At one time in our lives truths scratched us the wrong way. We resented their being in our way, but nevertheless truth is one thing that stands there boldly and, with or without us, remains truth. Of course some day someone will come along and say that truth is progressive, and we must change with the times. We being older know of course that the reason he says that is because truth has scratched him the wrong way too, and he is trying to get around it.

Then we come to the *church!* Let us say to your church, whether it be in Plainfield, Richburg, Dodge Center, or

Los Angeles — no matter. It is possible that unless we attach our own personal endorsement to this church it may not be here one day. We will turn around in the course of life and it will have disappeared from sight. As we travel we see many church buildings that have become union halls, lodge halls, dance pavilions, etc.— would it please you to see your building in that state?

Unless we as individuals become aware of our position in the course of life, this can happen to us. This nice old church, like the product we use, may be taken off the market. And those folks we see each week in church—somehow they are ceasing each week to be as young as they were. One by one they take their leave, and our hearts ache because we no longer have them with us to guide and advise us.

Truth and values! Does your church have these? It is quite apparent it does have these two items for sale, and you as a prospective user should take advantage of their offering each week not only by your attendance but by selling these products to others who may just be looking for them. You, of course, will never know the true longing of your neighbor unless you approach him with your set of truth and values. It may be just what he is looking for to solve his personal problems.

The past cannot be made the future. Neither can the past suffice for the future. The past was in the hands of those who have gone to rest, as the future is in your hands. In the same manner as that fuddy-duddy who became a nice old man, so you are day by day changing. With this change should come a more sincere devotion to the church, with its truth and values.

Along with all our criticism of the past and those who formulated it, comes a stronger challenge and responsibility to us who remain to do better than they. If for some reason we did not like the way things were done in our youth, *now* is the time to show by our works that our way is better. Now is the time to put into practice all those ideas and plans which we supposed superior to those of the old

folks before us.

Truth and value do not change! Let us arise to the challenge to show that we have a better way, that we know how to reach those whom the old folks failed to reach. Let us put our actions where our criticism was and get about the business of proving ourselves.

Our text says "Remember all the way the Lord thy God led thee." Indeed remember! And as we remember let us take up the challenge and do something about the future. For unless we do this for God and truth we may suddenly turn around and not only will the "nice old folks" be gone, but so will everything along with them—including truth and value.

Preaching Mission at Marlboro

By Losada Carlisle

A successful and enthusiastic preaching mission was conducted at the Marlboro, N. J., Seventh Day Baptist Church April 3-5. Evangelist Eugene Fatato, of Battle Creek, Mich., a minister who knows the problems of the "inner city," presented vital topics. Mr. Fatato was accompanied by the Misses Lorrie Bennett and Judy Parrish of his Battle Creek congregation. Both young girls are accomplished musicians.

The Rev. John A. Conrod, the Marlboro pastor, introduced the speaker each evening except on April 4 when the Rev. Charles H. Bond of the Shiloh church occupied the pulpit preceding the evangelist.

At the mission services, Mrs. Francis Campbell was the organist. On the first evening Mrs. Duane Cruzan led the hymn sing; on the second evening the Rev. Charles H. Bond, Shiloh, presented the evangelist and Mrs. Charles Harris, also of the Shiloh church, led the hymn sing. On the last night, Mrs. Leland Cobb was the leader of the congregational singing.

Preceding two of the evening services, supper was served in the church social room so that everyone could become acquainted with the members of the preaching mission.

Preston Cemetery Lives with Hymns and Memories

A long neglected cemetery came to life on a sunny Sunday, April 20, with the dedication of a historical marker at



the Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery, Preston, N. Y., not far from the former site of the meeting house on Rogers Street (Chenango Co. 18).

The Rev. Charles D. Swing, pastor of the De Ruyter Seventh Day Baptist Church, gave the invocation. The Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, dean of the Center for Ministerial Education, Plainfield, N. J., offered the dedicatory prayer. Fifty persons joined in the hymns including representatives of the Adams Center, Brookfield, De Ruyter, Leonardville, Syracuse and Verona churches. Special guests were Mrs. Ivan Bliven, Preston historian, and Mr. Bliven; Mrs. Mae L. Smith of Norwich, N. Y., county historian; Clyde Franklin representing the Preston town board; and descendants of Preston church members.

The bronze plate fixed to a granite slab was erected last year by the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, Plainfield, N. J. Gerald F. Rogers and Francis Palmer of Brookfield donated labor in engineering and masonry and Mr. Bliven did considerable work on the trees and grounds. Robert Burdick of Syracuse took pictures for the record.

A brief history of the Preston Church, 1804-1901, was read by the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, president of the Historical Society. Its members, he pointed out, helped found the Scott church and con-

tributed to: the De Ruyter Academy; denominational publications at Homer, N. Y.; and to national, civic and community enterprises during the century after its founding by Elder Davis Rogers and Elder David Davis.

—A. N. R.

Associations Announced

Some of the nine associations into which our United States Seventh Day Baptist churches are grouped have already been held. It is time to call attention to the associations that will hold their meetings soon. Basic information about the associations and their usual times of meeting is found in the Directory of Associations in the back of the 1968 Yearbook.

Central New York Association will be with the Verona church, June 6-8. Program highlights will soon be available.

Eastern Association, which has been announced several times already on these pages meets with the church at Ashaway, R. I. This oldest church is making several things new in preparation for the visiting delegates. The dates are June 6-8, the same as Central.

Southeastern Association meets at Lost Creek, W. Va., June 20-22 and is followed immediately by the association camp, Camp Joy, at Berea, W. Va.

Southwestern Association will be held at Paint Rock, Ala., June 12-15, with the theme "Go to the South" (Acts 8:26).

(Continued from page 4)

sioned to take our part in the renewal of all this glorious earth. If we could go to this now closer moon, maybe we would come back with a challenge to devote ourselves more wholeheartedly to our unfinished task here on earth. We might also appreciate all that our Lord told us of that place that He has prepared for those who love Him. The better land is not the moon but heaven.

MISSIONS—Everett T. Harris

Quarterly Meeting of Missionary Board

Attendance and interest were high at the quarterly meeting of the Missionary Board at Westerly on Sunday afternoon, April 20, 1969. President Loren Osborn called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., and called on the Rev. Leon M. Maltby for the opening prayer. There were 22 members and one visitor in attendance.

The reports of the treasurer and executive vice-president were received and approved. Miss Constance Coon reported on her services to the churches at Paint Rock, Shiloh, Syracuse and Berlin. It was evident that God has been blessing the work of the assistant in evangelism and board members were greatly encouraged.

It was reported that the Rev. Mynor Soper, evangelist on the home front, was presently attending a training course in lay evangelism on the west coast at the Campus Crusade headquarters, doing so with Missionary Board approval and support. Pastor Soper had written that the Campus Crusade training was "the finest I have ever experienced." Pastor Soper had taken one course but expressed the hope that he could go again and complete the training course in lay evangelism.

The Missionary Board approved a recommendation of the Home Field Committee to include lay evangelism training programs as a part of Evangelist Mynor Soper's work in the churches and "that he be remunerated by the Missionary Society for such services on the same basis as for evangelistic meetings." It was announced that Mr. Soper has already scheduled his services to assist the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church in July and the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in October.

Another recommendation of the Home Field Committee which was approved had to do with holding a missionary pastors' institute in Westerly, R. I., in the spring of 1970. It was agreed that the wives of missionary pastors should be invited to

attend "with study and discussion groups for them pertaining to their roles."

The American Tropics Committee chairman reported on the change of leadership personnel at Crandall High School, Kingston, Jamaica, which had already taken place. It was reported that the Rev. and Mrs. Neal Mills have been visiting at De Ruyter, N. Y., since their return to the States. They will be in the area of Westerly soon. A meeting of the American Tropics Committee is scheduled to be held while the Millses are here and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Crandall of Arkport, N. Y., missionaries-elect, have been invited to attend. It was reported that the Rev. and Mrs. Grover Brissey arrived safely at Kingston, Jamaica, in mid-March and had taken up the work at Crandall High School and as Missionary Board representative, as of April 1, 1969.

A resolution of appreciation for the services of the Rev. and Mrs. Neal Mills was given unanimous approval as follows:

"Be it resolved:

"That the Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society extends to the Rev. and Mrs. Neal Mills its sincere appreciation for years of dedicated service on the mission field. Having served as principal of Crandall High School at its inception, the Rev. Mr. Mills felt constrained to return for an interim appointment when the need was great and it seemed that no one else would answer the call. Throughout this period Mrs. Mills has served as inspiration and helper during trying times when the sacrifice was great for both.

"The board wishes to extend its best wishes to them in their continued service for the Lord."

The African Interests Committee chairman told of a change of plans at Makapwa Station whereby funds that had been held in reserve for purchasing a new Land Rover were now being requested for use in a building program for expanding the Christian Education and Evangelism work.

It was voted that "the fund being raised for purchase of an automobile in Makapwa be released at the request of the Africans (the trustees of the Central Africa Conference) for capital improvements known as the Blantyre Development Project."

It was reported by the African Interests Committee that Pastor David Pearson is planning a trip to the northern churches of Malawi during coming months for pastoral training and refresher courses. Two Christian Education courses are projected by Pastor Pearson, the subject being Seventh Day Baptist polity and including an intensive study of the Central Africa Conference's constitution and organization.

The executive vice-president reported on gifts received as a memorial to the late Courtland V. Davis and told of these being sent to Mrs. Davis. Such gifts have been used for construction of a wall built along the rear boundary line of the Kingston Seventh Day Baptist Church. A memorial plaque is being placed in the wall with the assistance of Pastor Joe Samuels.

It was reported that the Rev. Leon R. Lawton, released worker by the kindness of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church, is presently in Jamaica offering his services. One such service is to expedite the change-over of ownership of the Kingston church, now that matching funds have been received in full by the Missionary Board.

A motion which had been presented to the annual society meeting to rescind the action of the Missionary Board to require payment of ten dollars in dues for voting members was considered at length. After much discussion it was decided to leave the present requirement in force.

A report of progress on plans for the Missionary Board's part on Conference program was given by President Osborn. The minutes were read and approved following prayer by the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Sabbath Recorder Wins Friends

By the Editor

An unusual story about the *Sabbath Recorder* was told by a young woman living out on Long Island, an hour's ride by train from New York City. Our denominational weekly has been so common and taken for granted by most of us throughout our whole lifetimes that we do not often think of what a single copy might do for a stranger to the Sabbath who happened to be (in the providence of God) ready to receive its message.

The young lady recovering from hospital treatment felt the need of something religious to read. In the hospital library her eye fell on a copy of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Although she was a deeply religious person and had been a personal counselor every night in the Billy Graham New York Crusade she had never read any of our Sabbath literature and had not seriously considered keeping the Sabbath. This particular copy of the *Sabbath Recorder* met her need. She got permission to take it home with her for further reading and reference.

Finding the editor's name she wrote to him asking where there was a Seventh Day Baptist church she could attend. She had not yet received a reply when she wrote a second time giving her telephone number and saying she would like to attend a church "even in New Jersey" the next Sabbath. Travel instructions were given to her and she made the three-hour trip as planned. Two weeks later she came again and stayed for lunch. Then it was that her story unfolded, a story of physical troubles, a story of faith and strong Christian conviction.

What can one copy of a periodical aimed primarily at Seventh Day Baptist readers accomplish? It depends on what is in the copy picked up and how the soil is prepared to receive the seed. One does not always know. One thing is sure; this young lady would not now be coming to the Plainfield church if someone had not placed the *Sabbath Recorder*

in the hospital library. In this case it was the Seventh Day Baptist chaplain serving the patients who subscribed for the library. There was food for the soul in the magazine and a tone that attracted this Christian worker. It may not be strange that she is now a subscriber to the journal that she found helpful.

One other remark is in order. A single visit to a Seventh Day Baptist church may either cool or warm the interest that has been generated by the printed page. Do the visitors at your church and mine find genuine warmth, spirituality, and a sympathetic appreciation of people as people? Are we truly interested in those who come out of backgrounds different from ours, or are we just thinking about our church, our clique of friends within the church? The printed page is needed, but it is not all that is needed.

War Plays No Favorites

Early in March, 18 miles south of Saigon, a mortar projectile slammed into the home of a 24-year-old pastor, killing his pregnant wife and another woman, as well as injuring the pastor, his three small children, and the husband of the other woman who was killed. Ironically enough, the visitors had come to the pastor's house to seek refuge from the shelling.

The young pastor who lost his wife and unborn child on that horrible night is the son of our Pocket Testament League national evangelist, Pham Van Thau. As his father said at the memorial service in Saigon, "He will carry on his ministry with a heavy heart. But carry on he will." Young Pastor Thau is witnessing to the unquenchable spirit which prevails among Christian workers in this unhappy land.

The Pocket Testament League attempts to keep in touch with every aspect of Vietnamese life—farmers, city dwellers, students, the military, government, business and industry — even the Chieu Hoi, hundreds of men who have abandoned Communism to join the South Vietnamese forces.

Camp Dates

JERSEY OAKS CAMP

The dates for Jersey Oaks, the camp owned and operated by the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, are:

Youth Retreat, May 30 - June 1, Herbert Saunders, director

Midget Camp, July 7-11, Alan Crouch, director

Junior Camp, July 16-20, John Conrod, director

Senior Camp, July 20-27, Charles Bond, director

CAMP HOLSTON

A letter from the pastor of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church lists the dates for camping at Camp Holston. They are:

Day Camp, June 16-20

Senior Camp, June 22-29

Intermediate Camp, June 29-July 6

Junior Camp, July 6-13

Primary Camp, July 13-15

The Day Camp takes the place of Vacation Church School.

From the *Friendly Guest*, publication of the Battle Creek church, we gleaned this information about Camp Holston: "Camp Holston is in its 25th year of existence. It has been the object of many work bees by the members and friends of the church.

"When the camp was opened, formally, it was pointed out that Camp Holston was the only church-owned camp in Calhoun County, Michigan. Not only is our camp available to our church members and the association, but it has been used by many other church and civic organizations."

Primary Conference

The director for Primary Conference at General Conference is Mrs. Warren (Marion) Brannon of our Syracuse Seventh Day Baptist Church. We are thus assured that our primary age youngsters will have a good reason to want to accompany their parents to Conference.

Other children's conference directors

are Miss Connie Coon who will lead the junior high group, and Mr. Robert Harris the leader of the junior age.

Youth Pre-Con Retreat

The annual Seventh Day Baptist Youth Pre-Con Retreat will be held on the campus at Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N. Y., August 6-10, 1969. This is the same place that General Conference will be entertained.

The director, the Rev. Glen Warner, who is field pastor for our Pacific Coast Association, is laying out a fine program.

The fee has not been determined at this date, but will be announced as quickly as it can be determined. All our youth and their friends who are from 15 to 18 years of age are urged to plan to attend this yearly endeavor which is sponsored by the Youth Work Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education. Those who are in the age range of 18-20 may choose to attend either this retreat or the Young Adult Retreat which will be held at Lewis Camp, Ashaway, Rhode Island.

We commend the Junior Christian Endeavor of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church and its leader, Mrs. Ruby Hambleton, for the study they are making of the Seventh Day Baptist Churches of the United States.

The class is plotting all of our churches on a large wall map. Pictures of the churches are asked for, a sample bulletin, and a picture of the pastor and a representative group of laymen.

There are 12 youngsters in the organization.

"Any nation which ignores or suppresses the rights of its Christian citizens has within it the seeds of its own destruction. Any Christian who compromises his moral and spiritual convictions to conform to the social order is unworthy of his faith."

—Dr. Raymond M. Veh, Thiensville, Wisconsin, in "Speed Zone Ahead!" (Youth CE Meetings).

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Not Too Old To Teach

Dr. Frank C. Laubach, 84, is teaching a two-month literacy course for the spring quarter at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky. Dr. Laubach is credited with teaching more than 60 million people to read in more than 350 languages.

Dr. Laubach will teach a special two-week course on "Literacy Evangelism" at the Laubach Literacy Institute June 8-27, in Syracuse, New York.

The Laubach Literacy Institute offers major courses in "Literacy and Writing for New Literates" (three weeks) and "Literacy Education and Teacher Training" (two weeks).

Australian Youth Accept Christ

Some 333,250 people attended the ten services in Victoria's capital city with nearly 12,000 of them accepting the evangelist's appeal to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. "We've had the highest percentage of people under 25 years old responding to receive Christ of any city I've ever been to anywhere in the world," said Billy Graham in answering a reporter's question on the success of the crusade.

He said that the crowds had been a teen-age audience as upwards to 94% of those accepting Christ were young people at a Youth Night service. Dr. Graham explained that normally it was about 60-70% young people.

Dr. Graham's next crusade is scheduled for New York City's new Madison Square Garden, June 13-22.

To Fight Alcoholism

The National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism, headed by Dr. Robert Straus of the University of Kentucky Medical School, has made a two year study of alcoholism and has recommended that the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare initiate an extensive program to combat alcoholism in all of its

programs.

"The magnitude of the problem is enormous," Dr. Straus said. "Our country has more than five million alcoholics. Their suffering alone is intolerable, but the need for increased action is made even more imperative by the fact that affected families may include as many as 20 million Americans."

Vietnam Chaplains Lauded

The Army Chief of Chaplains, a Roman Catholic, spoke recently at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Tex., praising the work of military chaplains in Vietnam and around the world.

Maj. Gen. Francis L. Sampson of Washington spoke at the annual Chaplain's Day sponsored by the seminary and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. More than 100 chaplains attended the sessions, open also to seminary students interested in the chaplaincy.

Sampson gave military chaplains credit for welding new ties of friendship between Catholic and Protestant servicemen.

He said he was made more aware of improved Protestant-Catholic relations during a recent visit to Vietnam. "I never saw a Catholic man hesitate to listen to a Protestant chaplain," he said.

Seven chaplains have been killed in combat and many others wounded. "It's a real tough war and a tough one for chaplains," he continued. "They don't sit back in their chapels and wait for the men to come to them; they're in the swamps and the elephant grass themselves."

Men in Vietnam have built 120 chapels on their own initiative and during their free time according to the Army chaplains' chief.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for May 24, 1969

GEOGRAPHICAL AND CULTURAL
BACKGROUNDS OF THE PEOPLE

Lesson Scripture: John 4:3-10, 19-26

BOOKS FOR YOUR READING ENJOYMENT

History and Current Problems—

I'm a Lucky One, by Barry Sadler. 1967

Is a uniquely American story that focuses on the life of an uncommon young man. Gives an interesting account of training and combat life in today's armed forces, the Green Beret way of fighting in Vietnam, and finally the road to fame and glory in the entertainment world.

Children of Crisis, by Robert Coles. 1967

Discussion of the effects of the civil rights struggle on children and the psychological meaning to the race. A stirring and illuminating work.

Description and Travel—

Mt. Vernon Is Ours, by Elswyth Thane. 1966

A folksy history of the efforts of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in the purchase, rehabilitation and preservation of Mount Vernon. Many illustrations.

Fiction—

Gabriel Hounds, by Mary Stewart. 1967

A well-written romantic suspense novel based on the life of Lady Hester Stanhope. Charles and Christine Mansel decide to enliven their tour of the Middle East by calling on their Great Aunt Harriet. The title comes from an English legend of ghostly hounds that hunt through the sky with death and clamor over the house at night.

Silverhill, by Phyllis Whitney. 1967

An above-the-average modern day Gothic romance set in an old New England house surrounded by ghostly white birch and occupied by a grandmother dominated family with a curious past.

We'll strive to be true to the Sabbath,
We'll strive to be true to our God.
And whether at home or afar we shall
roam,

We'll guide our lives by His Word.

—Elizabeth Fisher Davis

Let's Think it Over

Church Attendance Decline Due to 'Shock' Tactics

Slumping church attendance was attributed here to the departure of many worshipers who tired of playing the role of captive audience for "theologians engaged in a reckless competition to see who can administer the rudest shock to the faithful."

Louis Cassels, a senior editor for United Press International who writes a weekly column on religion published in hundreds of newspapers, offered this appraisal in a talk before the annual convention of the Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association.

Stressing that many churchgoers are "sick and tired of being told what they can't believe," Mr. Cassels declared:

"They want to know what, if anything, they can believe, and many churches haven't been doing a very good job of answering that question."

Mr. Cassels maintains that most people "aren't particularly interested in denatured Christianity being offered to them" by theologians "proclaiming the death of biblical theism."

Mr. Cassels said that there were "hopeful signs that we are approaching the end of the fad for reckless negation in theology."

"Within the past year or so," he said, "authors of impressive scholarly standing have come forward to assure bewildered laymen — and I might add, equally bewildered parish ministers — that 'modern man' can believe in a personal, loving, purposeful God without the slightest sacrifice of intellectual integrity.

"Indeed, some have gone so far to argue — quite cogently it seems to me — that 'modern man' really can't make sense of all the phenomena of his own existence without the hypothesis of God."

—ABNS

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

PLAINFIELD, N. J.— At its annual meeting March 30 the Sabbath School voted to approve the new church bylaws making it an auxiliary organization of the church, administered by the Board of Christian Education. Thus ended its long existence as an autonomous organization.

The following Sunday, April 6, at 2:00, the church held its annual meeting and adopted a new constitution and several new bylaws, proposed by a special committee headed by the Rev. Victor Skaggs. The clerk, Mrs. Anna North, reported 78 active, 2 associate, and 21 inactive members. The treasurer, Charles North, reported over \$15,000 expended locally and \$4,900 given to OWM and interdenominational causes. The new budget included \$16,230 for local work, \$5,000 for OWM, and \$5,600 for special church projects. Provision was made for a summer assistant to the pastor and another student assistant pastor in the fall.

Pastor Herbert Saunders was unanimously reelected for two years. His report, which included a long list of activities performed during the year, was approved with commendation, and its recommendation was adopted — that we call our elders into specific church ministries as follows: Minister of Christian Education, the Rev. Albert Rogers; Minister of Church Life, the Rev. Leon Maltby; Minister of Evangelism, the Rev. Alton Wheeler; Minister of Stewardship, the Rev. Victor Skaggs. Each minister is to be adviser to a church committee. The pastor will be responsible for Christian Social Action. He is chairman of the 1969 Conference Host Committee and director of the cooperative Vacation Church School.

It was announced that Miss Jane Harris would be the summer assistant, and that Miss Jennie Wells and two SCSC workers would teach in the Vacation Church School.

The Youth Fellowship had met every two weeks under the leadership of Assistant Pastor Dale Rood. They had charge of the box social and "slave auc-

tion" which were part of the annual meeting.

The following officers were elected: moderator, Mrs. Ruth Parker; clerk, Mrs. Anna North; treasurer, Charles North; assistant treasurer, Mrs. Ardale Skaggs; chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Mrs. Janette Rogers; Sabbath School superintendent, Mrs. Kay Satterlee; trustees, Fred Bakker and Miss Janet Whitford. Fred Bakker was later elected president by the Board of Trustees.

The Worship Committee was discontinued and its work given to the Board of Deacons and Elders, which elected Lloyd Coon as chairman at its April 12 meeting.

The Coordinating Council with Pastor Saunders as chairman met April 12 and appointed nonelected officers and members of committees. They made plans for a church retreat at Jersey Oaks Camp May 23-25.

—Correspondent

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.— A youth retreat was held Easter weekend with fifteen young people. Sunday morning they all attended the Sunrise Service in the Bandshell at the beach then returned to the church where the men serve the annual pancake breakfast for all our church people and friends. About fifty-five were served.

A bridal shower was recently given by the church women for Penny Heinig.

The floor of the sanctuary has recently been sanded and sealed. It took many willing hands to help with the project but we are all pleased with the "new look."

The Bible Clubs have continued to be active.

We have enjoyed the many visitors this past winter, some for just a hello and others over a period of time. We hope more will come another year. Some of our regulars have returned to the north and others plan to leave soon but of course there are always some of us here the year 'round. Average attendance this winter quarter was: Sabbath eve 18, morning worship 53, Sabbath School 40.

—Correspondent

The Sabbath Recorder

MILL YARD, LONDON.— Pastor McGeachy concluded forty years of service to this oldest of all Seventh Day Baptist churches on March 15. He preached his farewell service in the morning and was honored with a farewell gathering in the late afternoon. (See article in April 14 issue.) Numerous church leaders of Baptist and Sabbathkeeping groups spoke in appreciation of his service. Some of the people from the Birmingham church as well as Herne Hill were present for the occasion. The pastor was presented with a cheque of £45 and other gifts.

—I. Codrington

Accessions

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.

By Baptism:

Gregory Cushing

PAINT ROCK, ALA.

By Testimony:

Frances (Mrs. George B.) Colbert

SHILOH, N. J.

By Baptism:

Susan Harris
Lissa M. Roberts
Lila D. Roberts
Doreen A. Pettit
Dennis Lee Harris
Edward R. Nichols

By Letter:

Mrs. Cathy (Hurley) Dixon

Obituaries

INGLIS.— Ruth, daughter of the late J. Andrew and Emma Seely Inglis, was born Feb. 15, 1889, in Marquette, Wis., and died at the Edgerton Community Hospital on April 15, 1969.

She attended Milton Academy after moving to Milton in 1909 and worked in Milton until her retirement. She is survived by a brother, D. Nelson Inglis, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted from the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on April 17 by her pastor, the Rev. Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

—E.C.

LOOFBORO.— Hattie Mudge, was born in Welton, Iowa, Dec. 20, 1875, and died at Caravilla, Janesville, Wis., on April 23, 1969 after a prolonged illness.

She was married to Horace R. Loofboro June 5, 1905. They moved to Milton in 1926 and made their home in that area the rest of their lives. She had been at Caravilla for a number of years and was always a source of encouragement to all who called upon her.

She is survived by two sons, Elston of Janesville and Paul of Waukesha; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Leonard Wilkinson, of Freeland, Mich.

Funeral services were conducted from the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on April 25 by her pastor, the Rev. Earl Cruzan, assisted by the Rev. Carroll L. Hill. Burial was in Milton cemetery.

—E. C.

WHITFORD.— Mae Sherman, daughter of Harley P. and Ruth Hemphill Sherman, was born at Alfred Station, N. Y., April 19, 1884, and died at Bethesda Community Hospital, North Hornell, N. Y., April 21, 1969.

On April 27, 1904, she was united in marriage with Schuyler S. Whitford of Alfred Station. To this union were born two daughters: Ruth (Mrs. Clair B.) Bennett of Howard, N. Y., and Mary Ellen (Mrs. Richard A.) Stimson of Andover, N. Y.; and one son, Clinton, who died in January, 1955. Mr. Whitford died on January 2, 1934. Besides her daughters, there also survive two granddaughters, seven great-grandchildren, and one sister, Mrs. Ellen Raish of Alfred Station.

Mrs. Whitford was baptized and joined the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church in July of 1904, and was a lifelong, faithful member. She had served the church in various capacities, at one time having been president of the Ladies' Aid Society. She was active in the Alfred Station W.C.T.U., as well as that of Allegany County, until she went to the hospital.

Farewell services were conducted from the Robertson Funeral Home, Hornell, N. Y., Thursday, April 24, by Rev. Hurley S. Warren, interim pastor. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—H. S. W.

