

# 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.

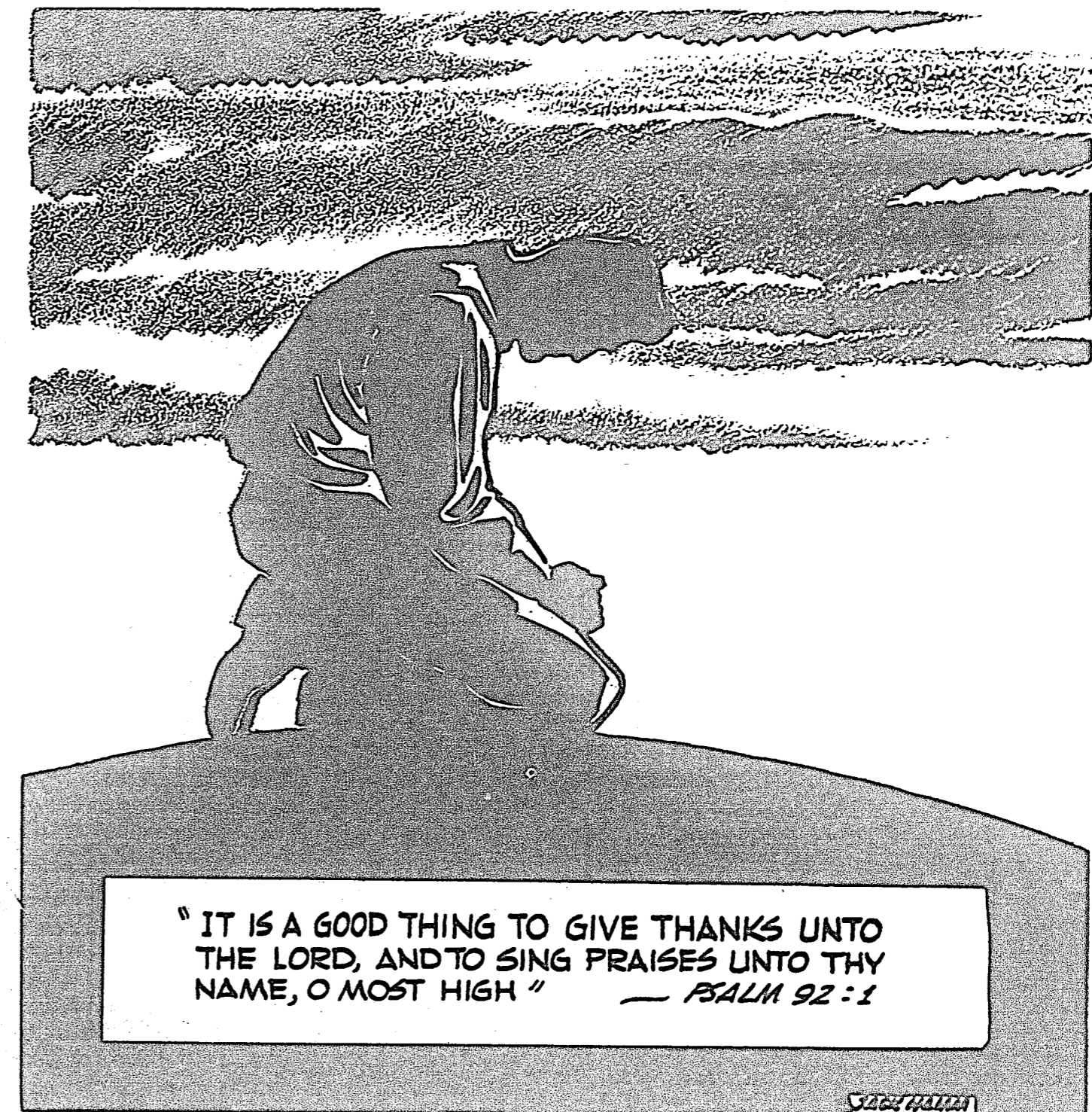
WHITFORD.— Mae Sherman, daughter of Harley P. and Ruth Hemphill Sherman, was born at Alfred Station, N. Y., April 19, 1884, and died at Bethesda Community Hospital, North Hornell, N. Y., April 21, 1969.

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.



# The Sabbath Recorder

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Member of the Associated Church Press

REV. LEON M. MALTBY, Editor

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PLAINFIELD, N. J. May 19, 1969  
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## Relief Funds

How does one decide which relief funds to support? Assuming that in our material abundance we have an ability and an obligation to share our food and clothing either through direct shipments or by monetary gifts, it is still not easy to decide which appeals to answer and which to pass up. To use a biblical expression, their name is legion. Worthy causes are so numerous as to be baffling. We can't expect to be experts in this sorting process any more than we can advise our legislative representatives how to vote on the myriad bills that come before them. It is hoped that we can have some leading of the Lord as to which good things we will contribute and that we will take trouble to investigate sufficiently to avoid contributing to unworthy causes — of which there are many.

Christian people feel better if they make their major relief gifts through Christian organizations. This does not mean that we have no concern for recipients who cannot be reached by Christian organizations. For one thing, Christian organizations are likely to be manned by dedicated people and therefore are more efficient and more loving. Government sponsored relief agencies are a little lacking in love and Christian motivation. Sometimes there are political strings attached.

The largest church related or private relief agencies may have greater advertising resources and thus draw contributions from a much wider base. We do well to pick out some of the less popular but just as worthy agencies. One hesitates to make suggestions or draw comparisons. Church World Service with its collecting arm CROP is a very large and worthy agency having a very broad base. The Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund is a somewhat narrower based fund. Some of our churches prefer this narrower base. The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference is a member of this organization of some of the Baptist denominations of the world with total membership of over 25,000,000, and we have perhaps a little more sense of belonging. What brings this to mind is an informational item in a recent bulletin from our

Los Angeles church. It says, "Our birthday offerings go into BWARF (Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund) through December."

Churches may vote their relief offerings to a specific cause and be happy that the total will be significant. Individuals are faced with decisions. Let us not make our choices so narrow that we have no part in meeting worldwide needs nor so broad that we lose sight of the people we most want to help. Let us give in such a way that we can follow our gifts with our prayers — and perhaps our Christian witness.

## People Are Important Too

Issues are important. Ask any seminary or high school student who has engaged in some kind of protest march or sit-in. We would have to qualify that statement about issues just a little. Students may be too close to the so-called issues to evaluate their importance; history will do that later. Issues are important only if they have real significance. Warren W. Ost, head of the Christian Ministry to the National Parks, has coined the phrase, "People are important too."

When students from twenty-six denominations and over fifty-eight theological seminaries apply for service to the visitors and staff of our national parks, it is evident that these students are interested in people. They are probably just as interested in real issues as any other students, but their desire is to serve the Lord by bringing religious services to people who are far away from whatever home churches they may have. They accept jobs, thus paying their own way as they witness during the week and preach on the weekends. In this also they are different from some other students who seem to specialize in making demands for themselves rather than trying to earn their way or render service to others.

Mr. Ost speaks of these young men as "students of the dynamic middle" who are assuming leadership. "They are not

content with the leadership of either the left or the right," he says, "and they believe that social issues are most important in the context of what they mean to people." Perhaps this says something to the rest of us who are not engaged directly in this type of ministry but do have a desire to get the right perspective in our ministry and service.

## Standards for Church Members

The 15th Psalm as a whole sets high standards for the godly person, or the church member. We may well think of it as being addressed to the church member because it starts with the rhetorical question, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?"

To pick out but one of the high standards, we note in verse three part of the answer to the question of verse one. He is a member in good standing in the Lord's tabernacle if, among other things, he "backbiteth not with his tongue, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor." This sounds pretty much like the third chapter of James that speaks of the tongue as an unruly member of the body. We might say that the person of an unruly tongue is also an unruly (unworthy) member of the church.

How easy it is for a person to "take up a reproach" against his neighbor. Anybody can find something evil about a neighbor and can start a damaging rumor. In David's psalm we are challenged with the standard of not taking up the reproach that someone else has started. He who takes up this reproach has no rightful place in the tabernacle and should not be allowed to "dwell in thy holy hill." The Christian cannot excuse himself by saying, "I did not start the evil report; I only picked it up and passed it on."

The psalm strengthens this test of character by adding later to the description of the righteous man by speaking of him as one who is ever willing to swear to his own hurt.

How do we measure up to such standards of treatment of our neighbors? Judged by the way we control our tongues, do we belong in God's taber-

nacle, the church? Here is a call to more carefulness: "Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor" — whether he be white or black, a fellow member or outside the church.

#### How to Hit the Target

An F.B.I. agent who had won high honors as a marksman was in a small town on an investigation. Everywhere about him he saw evidence of amazingly accurate shooting. On the trees, walls, and fences were bullseyes with the bullet hole in the exact center. He was impressed. He asked to meet the person who could shoot so accurately. To his amazement the marksman turned out to be the village idiot.

"This is some of the finest marksmanship I have ever seen," commented the agent of the F.B.I. "How in the world do you do it?"

"Easy as pie," answered the villager. "I shoot first and draw the circles afterward."

The church today seems to exhibit comparable marksmanship. We are on a real jag for changing structures, often without bothering to take careful aim at targets, or objectives. We seem to imagine that shuffling standing rules, blitzing the bylaws, overthrowing organizational patterns, tossing out techniques, and sacking staff will produce utopian benefits. They won't, of course. Not until we have set up our targets by marking out disciplined objectives. Not until we deal with ourselves, without excuses and rationalizations and renouncing scapegoating as a means of evading issues.

At the same time we must candidly admit that church structures could stand much improvement and that all of us should exhibit a better grade of Christian witness and service. Changes must be made rationally and systematically, constantly and relevantly. We have a process to accomplish this: the planning process. It is high time we took it seriously.

—Allan E. Schoff,  
Presbyterian executive,  
in *Newsletter*

#### President Bond Attends

##### Minnesota Semiannual Meeting

The Dodge Center, Minn., Seventh Day Baptist Church hosted the Semiannual Meeting of that church and the New Auburn, Wis., church April 25 and 26.

One hundred forty were present at the Sabbath worship hour to hear President Leland Bond bring the message. The day had started very early for about eighteen men who went to a 7:00 a.m. breakfast with the Rochester Christian Business Men's Association. Our conference president was guest speaker there and brought his personal testimony. We are encouraged by the extended witness in this neighboring city through our group who attended.

The Friday evening service had set the pace for the weekend when a great singspiration time was followed by a powerful message from the Rev. Edward Sutton on the theme "Am I Sensitive in His Service?" A testimony hour followed the inspiring message.

At the Sabbath afternoon service a panel of speakers and reactors brought messages on sensitivity: in home, church, on the job, community service, and in school. Several young people reacted to the discussion of problems on campus and how a Christian is sensitive to the needs of others there.

During the evening service after the Sabbath a question and answer time was led by President Bond. Much interest and enthusiasm generated toward the vital concerns our of denomination through the presentation of his conference program plans.

The weekend was inspirational and enlightening for all. There were young people participating in every service leading in songs and special music and in vital messages.

During the Sunday morning business meeting the invitation was extended to meet with the New Auburn church in October at the time Northwestern Association meets there. Members from Michigan brought greetings from their churches. Mrs. Suzanne Pederson was elected moderator of that meeting.

#### Ministers Conference Held



Back row, left to right: J. Paul Green, Francis D. Saunders, Edward Sutton, Duane L. Davis, Victor W. Skaggs, Leslie A. Welch, Delmer E. Van Horn, Leon R. Lawton. Next row: Wayne L. Babcock, C. Harmon Dickinson, David S. Clarke, Ralph L. Hays, Earl H. De Land, Harold D. King, Charles D. Swing, Alton L. Wheeler. Second row: Charles Graffius, Leland E. Davis, John A. Conrod, Donald E. Richards, Neal D. Mills, Edgar F. Wheeler, Paul B. Osborn, Herbert E. Saunders. Two front rows: Earl Cruzan, Mynor G. Soper, Eugene N. Fatato, S. Kenneth Davis, Paul S. Burdick, Clifford L. Bond, Joe Lewis, Clifford A. Beebe, Albert A. Appel.

The biennial Seventh Day Baptist Ministers Conference was held at Salem, W. Va., April 30 - May 6 with a good percentage of the active pastors of our U. S. churches in attendance. It was a full schedule keeping the men busy with lectures and discussions from Wednesday morning until the following Tuesday evening.

Ministers have ministerial duties, and it is not always possible for all of them to be free at the same time. Funerals of parishioners delayed for some days the arrival of pastors from North Loup, Nebr., Nortonville, Kans., Boulder, Colo., and Verona, N. Y. Two other ministers were called back to Shiloh, N. J., on the weekend for a funeral. One or two who had planned to attend did not arrive, perhaps for a similar reason.

Of the forty who were present for a major portion of the time some twenty-eight are pastoring churches, a few as licensed rather than ordained ministers. There were none from Florida or Calif-

ornia, but most of the leaders from New England to Minnesota and Colorado, and south to Louisiana were able to make the trip to West Virginia. Seminary students were too close to examination time to get away, but some college students looking toward the ministry attended some of the sessions as did a few others who are not ministers. All full-time denominational secretaries participated in the program.

The program, arranged by the Committee on Higher Education of the Board of Christian Education, was different from the programs of previous biennial conferences in that there was no "expert" lecturer from outside the denomination. For the first time there was a major emphasis on the Sabbath, a five lecture study on Sabbathism, or the philosophy of the Sabbath. These lectures prepared and delivered by Herbert E. Saunders of Plainfield, N. J., drew somewhat on the ideas of A. H. Lewis to show the importance in God's plan of the seventh-day Sabbath.

They were scholarly and challenging. After each lecture there was a discussion by groups lasting an hour and a quarter to test the validity of the ideas presented and to determine how the pastors could best promote Sabbathkeeping convictions in their churches.

The other main lectures were by Dean Victor Skaggs and entitled "Proclaiming the Word." Stimulating and practical lectures on preaching helped the men to resolve to come closer to the ideal of effective proclamation and communication. Each lecture was followed by a sermon. Discussion groups then met for an hour to discuss (as in a seminary) the sermon presentation and the material contained in the lecture.

At a ministers conference lectures do not take all of the time. Each evening the up-to-date activities of the boards and agencies were presented with questions and discussion. Denominational program and problems were up for consideration and prayer. Devotionals took their rightful place, and the evenings closed with a half hour of prayer. Pastors, secretaries and others could often be found in small groups or individual conferences doing the business that was of mutual concern or profitably discussing local program work.

Fellowship is always a valuable as well as enjoyable part of a gathering of pastors. This came at breaks in the program and at meal time. All meals were eaten together except breakfasts, which were provided by the hosts in the homes. Most of the noon lunches were in a separate room of Del Swiger's restaurant. The Salem church ladies, working in teams, prepared the evening meals except for Monday, when the conference moved to the Lost Creek church for its morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

What did the brethren think of this conference? From expressions voiced at the closing session and from private conversations it must be concluded that this was one of the most helpful conferences in recent years. The tone was deep and strong. The men came to grips with problems of our denomination, of our

### MEMORY TEXT

There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:2.

churches, and of our ministry. If there is not an upsurge in effective preaching, Sabbathkeeping leadership and evangelistic outreach noticeable in our churches for months and years to come, we miss our guess. Watch the pages of this journal for more highlights of the conference and thoughts from the lectures.

The next national ministers conference will probably be held at about the same time two years from now. The time and place will be determined by the sponsoring committee after a later poll of the pastors.

### Our Prayer Corner

#### Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) Evangelist Mynor Soper of North Loup, Nebr., who is now employed on a project basis by the Missionary Board and is trying to schedule the requests of the churches for his services in the months ahead.

2) Leland Bond, president of General Conference, and his expanding opportunities of witnessing through the Christian Business Men's Committee.

3) The Jamaica Conference meeting in July with the Bath church and for the Rev. J. Paul Green, Jr., who goes there as our fraternal delegate.

4) The student pastors, Kenneth Chroniger and Sam Studer who have agreed to serve the Kansas City and the Schenectady churches respectively this summer; also all other student pastors and assistant pastors.

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.

### BIBLE READING FOR JUNE

II Kings, Amos, Hosea, Psalms, I Chronicles

The Bible's order of events, and historical relationships between the Scripture passages we are reading are briefly described in this monthly article.

After Solomon's death (about 930 B.C.), the Hebrew nation was split by northern rebellion into two kingdoms and remained divided for two centuries. The Southern Kingdom, called "Judah," had Jerusalem as capital, the temple as center of worship, and descendants of David on the throne. The Northern Kingdom was called "Israel," "Samaria," or "Ephraim." Israel had nine dynasties (family lines of kings). The first king, Jeroboam I, set up the idolatry practiced throughout Israel's history. In 1 and 2 Kings all of Israel's kings were described as like the wicked Jeroboam I. The writer judged Judah's good and evil kings by David's example of love for God's laws. Political incidents were shown as resulting from people's sin and idolatry or faithfulness to God.

Amos prophesied about 755 B.C. in the reign of Jeroboam II, when Israel reached her peak of trade, wealth, and military power. Amos strongly criticized the rich nobility, the idolatry, intemperance, corruption in the courts, and oppression of the poor. Nearly thirty years before Israel's fall Amos warned of impending doom.

Hosea prophesied in Israel around 750-725 B.C., as the nation approached downfall. Hosea 4:1, 2 summarizes Israel's spiritual and moral condition. The Assyrians were rising in political power and were notorious for cruel treatment of captives. In 734 Assyria attacked and took much of Israel's population into captivity. Israel's capital city, Samaria, was besieged three years by Assyria and fell in 721 or 722, thus ending the kingdom. (See II Kings 15-18.)

II Kings 18-25 describes Judah's last periods of prosperity, peace, and reform, followed by pagan idolatry and moral de-

cline. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 or 587, about 136 years after Israel's fall.

In some Psalms are mentioned incidents from the exodus to the Babylonian captivity. (See 106:41-47.) Notice the common historical background of Psalms 105, 106, 135, and 136.

I Chronicles 1-9 is a Hebrew genealogy from Adam to their captivity. Chapters 10-29, like Second Samuel, are devoted to David's reign over the united kingdom. The historian shows that the nation's glory was its covenant relationship to God.

Helen Ruth Green  
for the Women's Board

### Bible Reading Guide for 1969

JUNE		
1	AMOS 7-9	(chapter 8)
2	2 KINGS 15-17	(chapter 17)
3	HOSEA 1-4	(chapter 4)
4	HOSEA 5-7	(chapter 5)
5	HOSEA 8-10	(chapter 9)
6	HOSEA 11-14	(chapter 11)
7	2 KINGS 18-21	(chapter 19)
8	2 KINGS 22-25	(chapter 23)
9	PSALMS 1, 2, 10, 33	
10	PSALMS 43, 66, 67	
11	PSALMS 71, 89, 92	
12	PSALMS 93-99	
13	PSALMS 100, 102, 104, 105	
14	PSALMS 106, 111-118	
15	PSALM 119	
16	PSALMS 120-130	
17	PSALMS 131-136	
18	PSALMS 146-150	
19	1 CHRON. 1-3	(chapter 1)
20	1 CHRON. 4-6	(chapter 5)
21	1 CHRON. 7-9	(chapter 9)
22	1 CHRON. 10-13	(chapter 10)
23	1 CHRON. 14-16	(chapter 16)
24	PSALMS 42, 44-48	
25	PSALMS 49, 50, 73, 74	
26	PSALMS 75-78	
27	PSALMS 79-83	
28	PSALMS 84-88	
29	1 CHRON. 17-19	(chapter 17)
30	1 CHRON. 20-23	(chapter 22)

Note: Those whose circumstances make it necessary for them to limit their reading to single chapters may read the chapter listed in parentheses after the regular portion for each date.

**U. S. Congress on Evangelism**

A U. S. Congress on Evangelism is being planned for September 8-13, 1969. The 8,000 seat Municipal Auditorium in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will be the headquarters for the plenary sessions. The Central Lutheran, the Westminster Presbyterian, the Wesley Methodist, the Souls Harbor churches and the Y.W.C.A. will provide space for seminars and equipment demonstrations.

Dr. Billy Graham is serving as honorary chairman, with Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, speaker on the Lutheran Hour, as chairman of the National Committee.

Subsequent to the 1966 World Congress on Evangelism held in Berlin, congresses have been held or are in the planning stages in Singapore, Latin America, Africa, Canada, and other areas.

A committee of 100 churchmen from Minnesota led by Governor Harold LeVander extended the invitation to the fifty states to send participants to Minneapolis for this congress. Among the fifty-three leaders from all across America who are serving on the National Committee chaired by Dr. Hoffmann are: Senator Mark O. Hatfield, Dr. Walter Judd, Senator George S. McGovern, Congressman Albert Quie, Judge Luther W. Youngdahl, President Hudson T. Armerding of Wheaton College, President Myron Augsburger of Eastern Mennonite College, President Stephen W. Paine of Houghton College, President Eugene Bertermann of the National Religious Broadcasters Association, Dr. Elmer W. Engstrom, Chief Executive Officer, RCA; and Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D. C.

An Executive Committee with the Rev. Paul P. Fryhling of the First Covenant Church of Minneapolis as chairman is directing the local preparations. The Rev. Bruce Larson of Faith at Work, New York City; Dr. Carl Lundquist, president of Bethel College and Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota; Dr. C. Philip Hiner-

man, pastor of Park Avenue Methodist Church, Minneapolis, and others are working with the Executive Committee in special program preparation responsibilities.

It is anticipated that approximately 8,000 will be in attendance with the goal of one-third parish pastors, one-third laymen, and one-third evangelists, theological students, and denominational executives coming from all fifty states and approximately 100 denominations. Attendance at the plenary sessions will be by approved application and badge only.

This Congress is "A Summons: To Know! To Experience! To Serve!" "To know the truth of the Gospel; to experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; to serve in spreading the Good News."

NOTE: It is expected that our recently appointed evangelist on the home front, the Rev. Mynor G. Soper, will attend the meeting of the U. S. Congress on Evangelism representing Seventh Day Baptists, with expenses paid by the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society.

—E. T. H.

**SCRIPTURE PORTIONS**

The American Bible Society produced a four-colored folder containing Scripture selections describing the death and resurrection of Christ for distribution at Easter time. Although they were priced at \$1.50 per hundred the society made a free grant of one million copies to 10,000 Southern Baptist churches to use in their Crusade of the Americas campaigns.

<p><b>SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE</b>                  Nyack Missionary College                  Nyack, N. Y.                  August 10-17, 1969                  Package Cost: \$45.40 (single)                  (per person) \$40.40 (shared)                  Meals: \$20.40                  (children 2-8 — ½ price)                  Rooms: \$30.00 (single)                  \$24.00 (shared)                  Children 0-12 with own bed - Free</p>
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**A Letter from Brazil**

A few weeks ago we printed a little story about the work of the Rev. Serafin Rojas and his sudden death on March 14. We have now received a two page typewritten letter from Ruben Nisio, one of the few members of the Curitiba, Brazil, church who is familiar with English. It contains information and a tribute which ought to be shared with our many readers who are praying for the churches in the Brazil Seventh Day Baptist Conference, of which Curitiba is the headquarters church.

Pastor Rojas was in many respects the leader of the Brazil Conference. He was active in its work until the day of his death. At the biennial meeting of the Conference held in Porto Uniao in January he proposed a brief but intensive course in Curitiba to train evangelists or even pastors to meet the need of the churches. The idea was to teach courses on fundamental matters for one or two months each year, since the Conference did not have a theological seminary. It was thought that some people could spare that much time from their jobs. The plan was put into effect in February "with the attendance of five young brethren and two young sisters. The teachers were the Rev. Serafin Rojas and the Rev. Antonio Barrera (from Sao Paulo), chiefly, and a small cooperation of other brethren and sisters, including me."

Mr. Nisio goes on to describe the school. Each pastor taught one to five hours per day including some evenings. Pastor Rojas taught a Bible course from Genesis to Revelation and gave instruction also in music. The other former priest, Mr. Barrera, taught biblical doctrine. In addition, Mr. Rojas "had a constant preoccupation with the churches in keeping up a correspondence with groups and individuals, regional and foreign."

It had been a long cherished hope of the pastor to go back to his native country, Colombia, and start a Seventh Day Baptist work there. The letter states that arrangements had been made. He and his family (wife and three small children)

were scheduled to go to Bogota, Colombia, at the end of March. He died on the fourteenth.

We quote a paragraph of tribute:

"All our churches have keenly felt this great loss, more specially some brethren more closely acquainted to him. We can say that he gave the best of his life to the brethren, trying to prepare the churches to receive our Savior, who is on the eve of arriving, to make true all His promises! He was ready for that moment and died with this hope, that very soon will be a reality (1 Thess. 4:13-18 and 1 John 3:16). Although he was a very eloquent preacher, better than his words, he left his example in keeping a steady faith, in full dedication to the cause, in deep knowledge of the Bible and in trying to attend all its requirements as the Word of God."

**More Special Issues Available**

You have now seen the special issue of May 5 edited by Mynor Soper, our newly employed evangelist. Probably you have been thrilled by the warmth of the wide variety of testimonies contained in it. If so, you have perhaps wished that you had ordered extra copies for distribution to friends and acquaintances who would benefit from meditating on these stories of how God works. It may not be too late if you act now. There are no more on a matching-fund basis, but on a first-come-first-served basis there are just a few hundred extras at ten copies for \$1.00 or .15 cents each. Please send cash (check or stamps) with your order.

Travel to mission countries is good for you; but you will need a good travel folder. One of the best is money.

**SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON**

for May 31, 1969

LITERARY FORMS IN THE BIBLE

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 15: 1-2; Luke 15:3-10; 24:44; Philemon 1-3.

## Losing the Bounty of Heaven

The first Sunday legislation was the edict of Emperor Constantine in 321 A.D. Much has been written about this edict and how Christian the Emperor was or was not at the time. Some careful historians feel that the Sunday law was essentially pagan and that Constantine was thinking more of political peace than Christian worship. It was evidently something that could be accepted by both the pagan sun worshipers and the majority of the Christians.

It must be noted in all fairness that nine years prior to 321 Constantine had a rather outstanding conversion experience. The year following he set forth the edict of toleration. He instituted prayers for the army and caused their swords to bear the sign of the cross. During this religious period of his life he listened (standing) to the preaching of Eusebius and often preached sermons himself.

He was the first emperor to set himself up as head of the state and of the church. Like others in later history, his politics and religion did not always mix well. There were times when the mixing was to the detriment of true Christianity. He was a bit like Solomon in that his latter days were filled with voluptuousness and acts quite inconsistent with Christianity.

There is continuing debate as to how Christian he was or intended to be when he formulated the Sunday law. Was he thinking of enforced rest on that date because it had come to be a special day for the church or because it was, as he called it, "the great and venerable day of the sun"? It would appear that this was an attempt to cut down on festival days as well as to establish a rest day for the whole empire. When there were too many festival days, courts couldn't be held and criminals took advantage of the situation.

Pagans could accept this "day of the sun" which has come down to us as Sunday and the majority of nominal Christians could have little objection to it, since it had already come to be venerated among them as the day of Christ's resurrection. The number of Sabbath-

keepers was apparently not very great during this period of the rapid expansion after the earlier centuries of persecution.

Perhaps the above is quite a bit of stage setting for the remarks on a portion of the edict referred to in the heading of this article. We may need it, for most of us do not often read the details of Roman and church history of the Fourth Century. Let us look at the full text of that much quoted edict.

On the venerable day of the Sun let the magistrate and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grainsowing or for vineplanting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.

It may be a little late in history to criticize the wording of this Sunday legislation. We could indeed praise it in comparison with some that is on the state books of law in this country. Constantine was more liberal in the exemptions allowed. He might even be said to be more consistent than some of our modern lawmakers who make state laws with exemptions for resort areas or pick out items that may or may not be sold on Sunday. He let all the farmers off. This probably meant that the majority of the people of the empire did not have to rest every Sunday. It could have made a way out for the people who had Sabbath convictions; they could be farmers if not shopkeepers. Of course, in reality Constantine was advocating no-sabbathism for all agriculturalists. In this he was as modern as many of the people of the 20th Century — and some of the anti-nomian theologians.

The real Sabbathkeeper has to smile at the lack of logic or theology in Constantine's farmer exemption. His argument is that heaven determines the most suitable time for grain sowing or harvesting. Therefore to fail to grasp this best time regardless of the day of the week would result in the loss of the bounty of heaven. One suspects that he had in mind

the city dwellers who couldn't eat if the farmers' crops were not good. (The Emperor himself was characterized by over eating.) We who believe that God set aside the seventh day as the Sabbath made provision for farmers to keep it consistently without serious economic loss. He gave the children of Israel enough manna on Friday to last through the Sabbath. Here is the point: Can one reason that the bounties of heaven are lost by obeying the commands of Heaven? Don't we have reason to believe that it is the same God who made nature and made the Sabbath?

Perhaps we do not need to worry about the inconsistencies and imperfect theology of Constantine the Great. We have enough of our own to worry about. The tendency to rationalize Sabbathkeeping or Sundaykeeping was not buried in that Emperor's grave.

—L. M. M.

## WOMEN'S WORK—Mrs. Earl Cruzan

### New Beginnings

On May 2, 1969, women from all over the country came together in their local areas to observe a May Fellowship Breakfast (or luncheon) as Church Women United.

As the Milton women gathered it was pleasant greeting old friends and meeting women we had not met before. As we surrounded the tables we blended as a group of women working together for the common good of all and the help we could give others less fortunate than ourselves.

One of the ladies presided at the gathering in the absence of the president, who was ill. Another was asked to read the treasurer's report in the absence of our treasurer, who was teaching school.

After breakfast, we were entertained by a soloist rendering several "spring" songs by various composers. Mrs. Nan Kidder was our speaker. In her interesting way she told of the "New Beginnings" of each denomination in the Milton area and how they came to be a church group.

She reminded us of some of the services church women help with here in our state and that there are many many unfortunate groups needing our help. Our ministry is with the Indians, migrant workers and others.

During the business meeting it was noted that the president was unable to secure a nominating committee and so each officer was asked to try to get someone to replace herself. This they were unable to do. A discussion followed and suggestions were made that perhaps the time had come, (if we were unable to get officers) to merge with the Janesville Church Women. Many remarks were expressed that we really wanted our own group here in Milton where our interest was strongest. Milton has just recently become a city so there are many things starting anew here in our area.

What were we to do? Slowly, in her quiet, firm way, Marjorie Burdick stood up and said, "If there are others who will serve, I will try to be your president." A ringing burst of applause was heard and when it died down, we expressed our thanks. Donna Van Horn was elected treasurer and the secretary agreed to take her job for another year. Mrs. Kidder was then asked to install these officers and we all pledged to help in any way we could.

New beginnings — yes, and we feel with this renewed inspiration we will go forward as Church Women United for the work of our Lord.

## MORE MARRIAGES, FEWER BIRTHS

Population explosion no longer applies to the United States. For seven years the rate of population increase has been slowing down. In 1968 there were 3.5 million births as compared with an average of 4.3 million per year between 1956 and 1961. Statistics show that our annual population increase is now barely more than one percent. Marriages, however, are showing a rapid increase. Not since 1946 were there as many marriages as in 1968.

**Camp Dates**

The dates set for Camp Joy, the annual youth camp of the Southeastern Association of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, will be held at Berea, West Virginia, on June 22-29, 1969. The Rev. Francis D. Saunders, pastor of the Lost Creek and Roanoke churches, is the director.

This will be the first time that the camp has been held on property belonging to Seventh Day Baptists for many years, the Ritchie Church having acquired a school building which is located on acreage owned by the church.

The dates for Camp Wakonda, (near Milton, Wis.) which hosts the North Central Association camp, have been set as July 6-13 for Senior Camp, and July 13-20 for Junior Camp. The theme for the camps is "God Speaks — What Does He Say to Us?"

A Young Adult Camp will be held at Camp Wakonda, May 30-June 2.

**Special Curriculum**

A two part series of curriculum resources for use with trainable retarded children and youth has been published through the Cooperative Publication Association by six denominational publishers. It is called "Adventures in Christian Living and Learning." All who are interested in securing a brochure may contact a denominational bookstore or the Cooperative Publishing Association, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10027.

There is an introductory kit that may be purchased for \$29.00. The kit contains one each of three Teachers' Guides, one each of three sets of Pupils' Materials, one each of three Teaching Picture Sets, one each of three sets of Phonograph Records, and one copy of the Planbook: "Adventures in Christian Living and Learning."

**Camp Awards**

For camp directors who are interested in purchasing diplomas or awards to be given to deserving campers you may get a catalog from DeSales Limited, Inc., 930 Curtis Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206.

**Judson Journal**

Chairmen of every church Christian Education Committee should have at hand copies of the *Judson Journal*. It is published three times a year, spring, fall, and winter, especially for Committees on Christian Education, by the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication's Division of Christian Education.

It would be well for each member of the Christian Education Committee to have a copy for himself. A subscription costs \$1.00 for a year; for eight subscriptions mailed to one address, it costs \$6.00.

Besides other interesting material, each issue contains ideas directed to ministering with children, youth, adults, social concern, leadership, and administration.

NOTE:— The phone number of the executive secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education is correct as printed on page 3 of the 1968 Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook. The phone number on page 8-g of the pastor of the Buffalo Seventh Day Baptist Church is incorrect. It should read (607) 587-5835.

**Portland C. E. Pilgrimage**

Christian Endeavor youth and their leaders will be coming to Portland, Me., July 4-6, for Christian Endeavor's Portland Pilgrimage. Meetings will be held in the Williston Congregational Church, where Christian Endeavor was first organized in 1881. Delegates will share together in concentrated study through seminars on the four basic principles of Christian Endeavor — Confession of Christ; Service for Christ; Loyalty to Christ's Church; and Fellowship with Christ's People.

Down through the years man has been searching for God. If he hasn't found Him it is simply because he has been so taken up with his own quest that he hasn't been able to see God walking right there with him all the time (cf. Romans 10:8).

—Paul Beebe

**ERLO E. SUTTON****Servant of Christ**

Erlo E. Sutton was the oldest son of Francis Marion Sutton, named for one of the most resourceful and energetic southern leaders in the Revolution. Those traits marked this valiant servant of Christ now laid to rest.

Reared in the Ritchie Seventh Day Baptist Church, Berea, W. Va., Erlo Sutton was licensed to preach in 1901 and served eight pastorates before his retirement in 1951. He was ordained at Rockville, R. I., October 6, 1906. He served for a time as field worker for the Young People's Board and for nearly twenty years represented the Sabbath School Board. Probably he was most widely known as editor of *The Helping Hand* for twenty-five years, from 1926 to 1951. He also served on the committee of three which drafted the denominational "Statement of Belief" for adoption by General Conference in 1937, and was president of Conference in 1938-39.

From his pulpits at Rockville, at Andover and Little Genesee, N. Y., Shiloh, N. J., Milton Junction, Wis., and Denver and Boulder, Colo., Erlo Sutton was known as a fearless crusader for truth. Many times he was invited to other pulpits for a series of evangelistic sermons. His scholarship and painstaking work were valued in the Uniform Lesson Committee of the International Council of Religious Education, now part of the National Council of Churches. He gave support to area Christian Endeavor and temperance organizations. He earned degree diplomas from Alfred University and Milton College, and Salem College conferred on him the honorary doctorate of divinity in 1951.

The Suttons built a home at Boulder after retirement and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary there in 1955. Blanche, Mrs. Sutton, whom he cared for heroically in her years of failing health, is especially remembered by the Blanche Sutton Class in the Denver church. Rocky Mountain Camp was also benefited by his guidance and labors.

—A. N. Rogers

**Associations Announced**

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.

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

Southeastern Association will be one week later than previously announced, according to the Rev. Francis Saunders pastor of the host church at Lost Creek, W. Va. The meetings will be held June 27, 28 and 29. Camp Joy dates are for June 29 to July 6, immediately following association. The camp will be at the new facilities at Berea.

North Central Association will be held with the New Auburn, Wis., church, June 20-22. The theme is "SOS — Sense of Service."

**MAP on the World Map**

Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) of Wheaton, Ill., reaches out over the map of the world to furnish donated medical supplies to many, many doctors and hospitals, including the Seventh Day Baptist medical program in Malawi, Africa.

During the recent dockworkers' strike on the East Coast shipments for 40 hospitals totalling fifty tons accumulated in January. This was ten tons more than was contributed in January of 1968. In December MAP shipped seven tons of drugs and vitamins to Biafra, valued at \$600,000. Those medical supplies were received by a mercy team organized by the Sudan Interior Mission.

Medical Missionaries in fifty countries have cooperated in a broad survey of medical missions with a publishing date of May 1969.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

MILTON, WIS.— The need for permanent sleeping quarters for our camping programs at Camp Wakonda is to be filled. The church voted in business meeting on April 13, to authorize the Camp Committee to proceed with plans to build the first dormitory this spring.

Plans have been prepared and submitted to the State Industrial Commission for a frame structure 24 by 38 feet to be built on a cement slab floor. This is to be divided with a partition so that counselors can be with smaller groups. Each side will house 16 campers by utilizing bunk beds.

It is estimated that the cost will be around \$3,000. We now have \$2,400 in the Camp Dormitory Fund.

Don Drake has been secured as builder. He will allow for labor donated during construction.

A young adult family camp is planned for Memorial Day weekend. Young adults from the association have been invited. This will provide an opportunity for fellowship, worship, study, discussion.

—Newsletter

WESTERLY, R. I.— The city of Westerly is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year. During the week of May 31 to June 7 there will be many activities commemorating people, places and events of those years.

The Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church is the oldest church in Westerly. As such, we are proud that for over a century our church bell has called its members to worship on the Sabbath.

At the annual meeting of the church, our pastor Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, was reelected. The officers of the church were elected as follows: president, Elston H. Van Horn; vice-president, George Potter; clerk, Denison Barber; treasurer, Claude Main; collector, Fred Young; auditor, Dwight Wilson; trustees, George Potter, Norman Loofboro.

With our pastor and these capable men to inspire and direct us, we are looking forward to the new church year.

—Correspondent

ROCKVILLE, R. I.— Sabbath morning, April 26, seven young people and one adult were accepted into membership with the Rockville Seventh Day Baptist Church. These all had been baptized at a previous service held April 13 at the Ashaway church.

A total of twelve were baptized April 13 by Pastor Clifford L. Bond, who was assisted by the Rev. Edgar F. Wheeler, pastor of the host church in Ashaway. This was the first baptism service ever conducted by the young pastor of the Rockville and Second Hopkinton churches.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.— On Sabbath afternoon March 22 at the Social Hall twenty of our people enjoyed a program featuring the *Sabbath Recorder* and other Seventh Day Baptist publications. *Recorders* as old as 116 years, *Sabbath Visitors* from as early as 1868, *Yearbooks* back as far as 1838, and many other very old and some very new items of special interest were exhibited.

Each individual was given a printed but not folded or cut (one large sheet) copy of the *Sabbath Recorder* making a game of getting it folded with the page numbers in correct order.

The new addressing and mailing system being used at headquarters was illustrated by cards and other means.

Each person was given a sheet for recording seven reasons they felt the *Sabbath Recorder* should be in every Seventh Day Baptist home. Everybody had a good time.

—Sentinel

Professor Gunter Wagner, professor of New Testament at the Baptist Theological Seminary, says of the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches:

"It became evident that there was a very strong anti-American sentiment running through the whole fourth assembly, not just among the youth. In this climate you could condemn America for the Vietnam war, but you could not condemn other world powers for sending arms to Nigeria, and no criticism of Russia at all could be made."

## OUR WORLD MISSION

### OWM Budget Receipts for April 1969

	Treasurer's		Board's		Treasurer's		Board's	
	April	7 mos.	April	7 mos.	April	7 mos.	April	7 mos.
Adams Ctr NY ..	73.00	585.00	20.00		Metairie LA .....			5.00
Albion WI .....		182.70	52.46		Milton WI .....	915.64	6,096.69	227.00
Alfred NY .....	361.30	3,008.34	170.00		Milton Jct WI ..	71.50	562.60	25.00
Alfred Sta NY ..		1,073.20	10.00		New Auburn WI ..		348.55	50.00
Andover NY .....	45.00	616.60	15.00		New Milton WV ..	100.00	347.00	10.00
Ashaway RI .....	740.18	1,870.18	130.00		New Orleans LA ..		5.00	
Assns. & Groups ..	31.50	376.32	686.24		North Loup NB..	500.00	1,541.25	10.00
Battle Creek MI ..		2,737.67	120.00		Nortonville KS ..	133.50	1,042.00	88.00
Bay Area CA .....	125.00	420.00	10.00		Paint Rock AL ..		163.56	20.00
Berea WV .....	30.00	180.00			Plainfield NJ ..	425.73	2,944.70	85.00
Berlin NY .....	155.56	1,080.78	67.50		Richburg NY .....	65.50	825.83	30.00
Boulder CO .....	131.66	740.83	35.00		Riverside CA .....	64.00	3,538.54	105.00
Brookfield NY ..	27.50	199.50	17.50		Rockville RI .....	19.50	165.61	60.00
Buffalo NY .....		276.00	10.00		Salem WV .....		1,373.35	50.00
Chicago IL .....		567.50	10.00		Salemville PA ..	50.00	450.00	76.00
Coudersport PA ..	70.00	534.42	5.00		Schenectady NY..	13.00	114.50	20.00
Daytona Beach FL	100.00	958.00	25.00		Seattle WA .....			
Denver CO .....	293.76	1,768.80			Shiloh, NJ .....		3,872.10	210.00
De Ruyter NY .....		428.70			Stonefort IL .....	23.00	161.00	10.00
Dodge Ctr MN ..		925.92	117.00		Syracuse NY .....	85.00	146.75	
Farina IL .....		269.29			Texarkana AR ..			
Fouke AR .....		60.00	10.00		Verona NY .....	364.60	1,553.10	60.00
Hammond LA .....	10.00	110.00			Walworth WI .....	70.00	601.50	10.00
Hopkinton RI .....	12.00	84.00	10.00		Washington DC ..	100.00	245.00	135.00
Houston TX .....		160.00			Washington,			
Individuals .....	75.00	1,938.99	5.00		People's DC ..			10.00
Irvington NJ .....	400.00	1,500.00			Waterford CT .....	125.66	788.38	68.00
Jackson Ctr OH ..		1,000.00			Westerly RI .....		3,909.41	270.00
Kansas City MO ..	60.00	310.00	27.05		White Cloud MI ..	29.98	282.37	20.00
Leonardsville NY		641.00	17.50					
Little Genesee NY	121.60	1,010.05	20.00		Totals	\$6,851.80	62,443.73	3,442.25
Little Rock AR ..		175.56			Non-Budget	571.22		
Los Angeles CA ..	350.00	2,450.00	85.00		Total			
Lost Creek WV ..	166.00	1,015.00	26.00		to Disburse	\$7,423.02		
Marlboro NJ .....	316.13	2,110.59	87.00					

### APRIL DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education .....	\$ 451.38
Historical Society .....	4.93
Ministerial Education .....	481.39
Ministerial Retirement (Mem. Fund)	553.29
Missionary Society .....	2,592.42
Tract Society .....	781.90
Trustees of Gen. Conf. .....	34.94
Women's Society .....	132.41
World Fellowship & Service .....	525.98
General Conference .....	1,708.33
S.D.B. World Federation .....	156.05
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$ 7,423.02</b>

### S U M M A R Y

1968-1969 Budget .....	\$137,570.00
Receipts for 7 months:	
OWM Treasurer .....	\$ 62,443.73
Boards .....	3,442.25
	65,885.98
Amount due in 5 months .....	\$ 71,684.02
Needed per month .....	14,334.80
Percentage of year elapsed .....	58.3%
Percentage of Budget raised .....	47.8%
Gordon L. Sanford	
OWM Treasurer	
April 30, 1969	



# The Sabbath Recorder

## WOULD YOU?

If you are a lost  
unsaved sinner,  
this question is not  
for you.

But if you are a sinner  
"saved by grace"  
here is a question for you  
to consider,  
and answer,  
to yourself,  
and to God.

## IF

you should become convinced  
in your mind  
and heart  
and soul

that the seventh day of the week  
is still "the Sabbath of the Lord  
thy God," and that it is God's  
will that every true child of  
God, including you, should still  
keep and observe it as such,

## WOULD

## YOU

## DO

## IT

?

This is the Holy Sabbath Day,  
The Day God made and blest;  
The Day He made and gave to us,  
For worship and for rest.  
God gave the Sabbath as His sign,  
A token of His love,  
That draws us from a life of sin,  
To realms of light above.

—William L. Davis

There is quiet in market and garden,  
'Tis the eve of the Sabbath day,  
And a flood of silv'ry moonlight,  
Bathes the land and the sky and bay,  
And a bell in a church is calling,  
The children of God to pray'r,  
Its music now swelling, now dying,  
Swings afloat on the calm night air.

—Clara S. Burdick

