

The Sabbath Recorder

Power in the Printed Page

Leon Trotsky, the Communist, said: "The most powerful means of propagating communism is the small pocket pamphlet."

Jehovah's Witnesses, said to be the fastest-growing religious group in America today, are active and persistent in sending and giving forth their doctrines through the printed page.

Catholic Information Society states: "The laity armed with pamphlets can be made the greatest sales force in the world for the Catholic faith."

One missionary said: "We lost China because we failed to give the gospel in literature, and the 30,000,000 adults who had learned to read in a recent ten-year period were given the gospel of communism instead of the gospel of Christ."

A Latin America Missionary is quoted: "In recent months, I have been astonished to find 90% of all converts in Latin America are either directly or indirectly the result of literature evangelism."

Of Gospel tracts someone has said: "No one can argue or debate with them. They are anointed to win souls. They go through any kind of weather, hot or cold. They do not eat or sleep. They do not grow tired or weary. They never get sick. They need no offering. Their ministry may last one hundred years on some occasions. They can enter homes of sinners to which you could never go. They need no car, gasoline, nor garage bills. They are always ready. Clothes, shoes, or hats are not needed. They are prepared to preach anytime—twenty-four hours each day. They never change their message, never make mistakes, go into false doctrine, or lose

their temper."

The American Sabbath Tract Society publishes gospel and Sabbath literature in pamphlet form, recognizing the importance of doing so. If the above statements challenge you, why not volunteer your services in distributing this literature?

Crusade Groups Coming from Far and Near

From as far away as Sydney, Australia, and London, England, special delegations will attend the Billy Graham New York Crusade in the new Madison Square Garden, June 13 - 22.

By planes, trains, busses and private autos, the more than 500 delegations will converge on the sports center as part of the 20,000 people nightly who can hear Evangelist Graham for ten nights in June.

Bill Brown, director of the Crusade in America's largest city, explained that while churches were encouraged to bring special delegations composed of 50% active members and the other half unchurched, that thousands of seats will not be reserved.

SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE 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



Learning to Use the Bible

Now is the time for parents and church leaders to see that the children of the church and the community learn to use the Bible to get the answers to life's questions that come early and insistently. Are we providing and staffing Vacation Bible Schools and Bible Clubs that may put eager smiles on the faces of youngsters like this one?

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration
Member of the Associated Church Press

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Volume 186, No. 24 Whole No. 6,354

Editorials:

Too Busy Serving to Render Needed Service?	2
Evangelistic Visiting	3
More Stable Students	3
Features:	
President's Column	4
Conference Publicity	5
Rachel Preston's Witness	6
What of the Future?	7
Evangelism and Church Growth	8
Allegheny Association Held	11
Serving the Lord with Gladness	12
Items of Interest	12
Northern Association Reports Good Session	13
Church Ordains to Diaconate	13
Missions:	
Pastors' Refresher Course	9
Training Course on Church Polity	9
Christian Education:	
Opportunities	10
News from the Churches	14
Accessions.—Obituaries	15

Too Busy Serving To Render Needed Service?

Keith A. Price, executive director of Sermons from Science at Montreal tells the following story as he saw it in the city where he will direct a work that may present the gospel to a quarter of a million people during the third season for the Sermons from Science pavilion.

"I have just witnessed an accident . . . A little boy was knocked down by a car on Montreal's Dorchester Boulevard. He was bleeding from the head, but running away from the scene — stunned and frightened. A policeman ran to his aid and, carrying him to an emergency phone, tried to call an ambulance.

"Just 50 yards away, in the open-air plaza of Place Ville Marie, the opening ceremony of the 'Save a Life' Campaign was taking place. Top officials were present and, standing on the sidewalk, was a driver beside his ambulance. He had witnessed the accident but merely looked on, telling anxious passersby 'They'll call me if they need me.' But the policeman did not even know he was there. The driver knew of the need, had the means to help meet it, but *did he not care enough to act?*"

How many of us are like the ambulance driver! We have charge of some kind of ambulance. We are part of a church program. We are scheduled to give a demonstration or take some part in a ceremony.

The purpose of the church is to save souls, to be sure. My part may be to teach a class, take up the offering, or sing the solo in the anthem on Sabbath morning. Or perhaps I am having a committee meeting to plan a fund raising scheme. Goodness knows, my job of serving is important and I must be at my post so that the report will be good at the end of the quarter or when a denominational representative checks up on our efficiency.

We would not be guilty of standing by our ambulance when a policeman is trying to call an ambulance, but if we are really honest with ourselves we might find instances where we have been too busy serving to render the more important service that suddenly comes to view.

Evangelistic Visiting

In the final stages of preparation for the June 13-22 Billy Graham New York Crusade 10,000 volunteers were organized to visit half a million apartments and houses in the city of nine million souls. It was a great evangelistic endeavor carried out on May 26. It is thrilling to think that 10,000 Christian workers could be organized for work as this. The results will show in the weeks to come.

Crusade officials estimate that more than 9,000 New York area church members will donate approximately two million free man hours of work toward the crusade. In today's labor market, that is worth something like eight million dollars, and much more if they all belong to some kind of "crusade union" and work overtime hours.

There is one bit of information that gives us pause for thought. In Japan the number of Christians is reportedly only half of one percent of the population. When Tokyo was preparing for the 1967 Billy Graham Crusade, the Christians of Japan banded together to visit, not half a million, but a million, homes in Tokyo, the world's largest city. Does this say that the Christians of the Tokyo area take their obligation to witness for Christ more seriously than those of the New York area?

When we read of these well organized evangelistic visiting campaigns we may wish that we lived close enough to take part. But does it have to be something big to make us wish we could join it? There are far greater opportunities to witness where we are than where we aren't. Our work can be far more effective in our own rural or urban community because we can return and water the planted seed. The person who really loves the Lord seems to find many, many opportunities which remain unseen by those whose eyes of love are but half open. To those disciples who saw no prospects in Samaria Jesus spoke glowingly of the present fields as being "white already unto harvest" (John 4:35).

More Stable Students

Judging from what we read in the papers our present student body throughout the country is the most unstable and irresponsible generation of college students we have ever had. At least the dissident students are more violent and are getting more news coverage. The indications are that the vast majority are more interested in getting an education that will enable them to make a success of life in a competitive society than in tearing down the institutions of higher education. Nevertheless, universities are in trouble. We are told that twenty or more university presidents have given up and that replacements are hard to find.

Do the more stable students fall into any particular classifications? They probably do. Undoubtedly those who have come to college with high Christian principles and a definite purpose are in the stable group. The writer does not have at hand a thorough study of what makes college students tick, but he knows that many of them do tick with good, self-regulated hairsprings. Information is at hand on one large grouping of students. I refer to the veterans, thousands of whom are below twenty years of age. There is a constant flow of veterans through the colleges and universities. A liberalized G. I. bill means that this will continue. As of last December there were 800,000 veterans enrolled. College deans report from across the country that their veteran-students are the most mature and stable group on campus.

It is not to be concluded that we should put all of our young men into military service for two or three years in order to improve the stability of the college student body. Possibly, however, some harried presidents and deans would say, "It is a thought." It is evident that some noisy young students do not really know what it is all about. Maybe the veterans have had to learn the hard way, but according to college administrators, those who enroll are, on the average, good students who know what it is all about.

Their good attitude is all the more remarkable in view of the widespread anti-

Vietnam publicity. The criticism of our involvement in that struggle by the churches has naturally rubbed off to some extent on the men involved and given them a feeling of being forgotten and forsaken. We could expect more alienation from the church and the community than we see. Perhaps that, too, is part of the maturity that the college deans observe.

President's Column

Presentations by the boards and societies at Conference will provide an opportunity for participation by the delegates at special sessions. The plan calls for each board or society to hold a session at General Conference at which time the members of the board or society will present a short summary of past and present activities, hopes and plans for the future, as well as any problems that may seem to be pertinent and of interest to Seventh Day Baptists and their cause. Their secretary or a secretary appointed by them will be present to record any reactions the delegates may have to the activities of the board or society which has been presented.

It is our desire that this opportunity for delegates to be heard by the board or society will provide a way of communicating with each other in a constructive manner. I am sure that these agencies are trying their best to represent us in the most effective ways and that they are open to constructive suggestions.

As your president this year, I have come to realize more than ever what *dedicated service* means. The average Seventh Day Baptist does not realize the hundreds of hours of dedicated time that are given by the many persons who serve without pay as members of our boards and societies. Yes, people have given a lifetime of such service. I, for one, want to thank them for their dedication and service.

It is in this light that I also realize that we who meet for just an hour or

MEMORY TEXT

Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. —Hosea 4:1

so at Conference time cannot begin to understand the operation and problems that exists in these agencies of Seventh Day Baptists and, therefore, we must depend upon their good judgment and believe they will operate in our best interests. Isn't this the time to be sensitive?

The members of these agencies will be looking for constructive ideas and new cooperation as the outgrowth of these sessions at Conference. May God help us make this activity at Conference a blessing for all.

—Leland W. Bond

Too Weak To Share?

When is a church too weak to share—to support home or foreign missions? The answer is, never. No matter how poor, how weak, how struggling, a church that bears the name of Christ must share if it is to live. It is important, to be sure, to try to grow strong and thus be able to share with others in greater measure. But to fail to share until your church is strong is to neglect one of the most necessary ingredients for growth. That ingredient is missionary giving.

A story comes from a new church in the Congo. The church has been asked to give something to help start churches in other parts of the Congo. One deacon thought that they should wait until they were strong. After being reminded that churches in America used the same argument to get out of giving to missions the deacons voted to give to other churches \$2.40 per month out of their total monthly income of \$12. Churches following that example will find that they grow stronger. It is good exercise.

Conference Publicity

Operation Conference, 1969

(Number 5 of a series)

About our hosts—

Nyack Missionary College

"In 1882, Dr. A. B. Simpson, then pastor of the Thirteenth Street Presbyterian Church in New York City, became increasingly concerned for the evangelization of the many areas of the world which had as yet been untouched by the Christian witness. He decided to develop an interdenominational fellowship of those who would join him in an effort for mass evangelism. He found a ready response from men in other church groups. Associated with Simpson from the beginning were others of the Presbyterian Church, at least two Episcopal rectors, and Baptist and Methodist clergymen. The concerted effort of these men led to the establishment of a college, the first of its kind in North America, with a curriculum designed to train home and foreign missionaries and evangelists. For the most part, students who attended the training college in the early years were mature men and women with a high degree of dedication to the cause of missionary work. Thus the curriculum was highly specialized and professional in its nature."¹

Over the years, many changes have been instituted: the curriculum adjusted to present the more general liberal arts courses; the one year program expanded to four or five; the diploma gave way to the degree; and a pre-seminary purpose was born. But the basic and "distinctive purpose of Nyack Missionary College remains unchanged, and that is that the study of the Bible lies at the center of every curriculum. It is for this reason that every program at the college requires a second major in Bible along with the professional or liberal arts major."²

¹ Nyack Missionary College General Catalog, 1968-1970

² *Ibid.*

Nyack Missionary College is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, and the National Association of Schools of Music. It grants Bachelor of Science degrees in Theology, Missionary Training, Christian Education and Elementary Education. Bachelor of Arts degrees are offered to pre-seminary students, with the intent that they go on to seminary prior to entering the ministry. Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Sacred Music degrees are also offered.

—Hiram W. Barber III

Civil Disobedience Least Acceptable

Civil disobedience means refusal to obey a law. It is advocated as a method of reform in instances where the individual considers the law unjust. Being unjust, the law needs to be nullified and done away with and the individual sets his own private judgment as being competent to pass on what laws he will obey and what laws he will disobey.

One weakness in this position is that it does set the judgment of the individual above that of the community . . . one rejects the social consensus and the civil process in favor of his own private judgment . . . Those who strike out for certain goals by use of civil disobedience are to be reminded that they may be destroying the very context in which they hope to achieve anything at all. It is a society organized according to law which enables any kind of social or cultural progress.

On the other hand, do those who object to civil disobedience believe simply in the suppression of dissent? Should the dissenter, then, shut his mouth and accept a law which his conscience tells him is wrong? Not at all. He should use all the procedures which are at his hand in a free, democratic society . . . The individual can make his protest. He can peaceably demonstrate. He can have recourse to the freedoms of speech, press, and assembly to arouse public opinion against the law. All kinds of unjust laws have been done away with in this manner. —C. Stanley Lowell.

Rachel Preston's Witness

Adapted from a sketch by John C. Reichert

By Albert N. Rogers

One hundred twenty-five years ago Rachel Oaks Preston, a member of



the First Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, Verona, N. Y., shared the Sabbath truth with a congregation of Adventists at Washington, N. H. Rev. Frederick Wheeler, pastor and members of the church accepted the Sabbath and soon others, including Mrs. Ellen G. White, did so. So it was that the Millerite movement largely embraced Sabbath-keeping and the term "Seventh-day" became distinctive to the Adventist denomination.

Rachel Preston was born at Vernon, Vt., in 1809 and was named Rachel Delight Harris. Her parents were thrifty New Englanders who stressed education. Stories that came east from central New York about cheap virgin land lured them; and Rachel's brother Augustus Harris joined the Berkshire emigration of 1825 when many families trekked to the Rome and Utica, N. Y., area and settled there.

In 1826 Rachel Delight Harris was married to a Mr. Oaks and the same

year united with the Methodist Church of Vernon, Vt. Their daughter, Delight Oaks, was born the next year. It is assumed that Mr. Oaks died in 1835-36. Rachel then taught school for a livelihood. Reports of ship (Erie Canal) building, glassblowing and coopering in Durhamville and New London, N. Y., that would give employment to 200 workers reached Vernon. Some who moved there probably took the name Vernon to the town of that name in central New York. Surely there would be need for school teachers in the new communities, and Rachel Oaks and Delight went to Verona, N. Y., in 1836. She and her brother Augustus joined the Verona church in 1838 and Delight joined in 1842. Augustus Harris served as clerk of the church in 1843.

Mrs. Oaks was known in Verona as a widow with some property and as a teacher in Stacy Basin and other places. In 1843 she was married to Nathan Preston whose family had come from eastern Massachusetts and was of Revolutionary stock. One wonders if their marriage was a happy one for nothing is known of it. The same year Delight Oaks went in September to Washington, N. H., to take charge of a rural school. Later she was to marry Cyrus Farnsworth there.

About Thanksgiving time, 1843, Rachel Preston went to visit her daughter in New Hampshire. Together they attended the Adventist church with the Farnsworths. At a prayer service in mid-January Rachel Preston voiced the Sabbath devotion of her home church. She had been trained to speak publicly and she believed profoundly in the institution of the Sabbath. The impression she made was profound, and William Farnsworth began to observe the Sabbath the following seventh day. Pastor Wheeler wrote that he accepted the Sabbath in March 1844, and by the end of May the church at Washington was committed to the Sabbath. Reports of their new blessing spread excitement in New England and back to New York state. Adventist ministers T. M. Preble and

What of the Future?

By Paul S. Burdick

More than 100 million years ago, we are told, there dwelt upon this planet a group of beings called dinosaurs. They were characterized by great strength and power. Some had fierce claws and sharp teeth, so that they could apparently overcome any enemy. But they perished, except for the lowly crocodile and the chameleon, perhaps. Why did they perish? They were great on strength but shy on intelligence. Some had brains the size of a walnut in their great bodies.

Now another race of beings covers the earth. In them the brain has become the dominant feature. Intelligence, not size, has given man the dominance over all other of God's creatures. But he also has a weakness. He cannot learn to live harmoniously with his fellowmen. Can he learn love instead of hate? To cooperate with his fellowmen rather than being led by fear and distrust of them? God has shown the way through our

Joseph Bates wrote pamphlets on the Sabbath which were widely circulated.

In October 1845 Rachel Preston and her daughter united with the Washington church. Presumably they requested letters from Verona, but the minutes there say that the requests were laid before the church and the clerk was instructed to inform them "that the church cannot consistently grant them their request while they walk in faith and in obedience to the laws of God." We find no evidence that Rachel Preston ever returned to central New York, but she deserves to be remembered for her faithful witness. Her picture will be on display at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference at Nyack this summer in recognition of the 125th anniversary of that witness. She died at Vernon, Vt., February 1, 1868.

The Sabbath of the Bible is one of God's good gifts to all who will receive it. Many Seventh-day Adventists have expressed gratitude to Seventh Day Baptists who were a means of bringing the Sabbath to them.

Lord Jesus Christ, but we have been unwilling or unable to follow His words and example.

The age of man upon this earth has been relatively short compared with the age of dinosaurs, for example. Various enemies do threaten, such as disease germs, insects, etc., but the greatest problem seems to be war, with the possibility of nuclear bombs and their fallout, as well as chemical and biological weapons. Even if the population were not totally exterminated, the other enemies could well wipe out the small remainder.

Can the Christian churches — or can Seventh Day Baptists, in particular — offer a solution that will assure the survival of man into and through the 21st century? The 25th? Or even into the millenniums that follow?

Do the Communists have a plan?

If we have a better plan than they may have to offer, does it lie within any of the following possibilities?

1. Taking the lead in disarmament?
2. Gandhian nonviolent resistance to evil?
3. Violence of some sort to counteract the violence of evil men?
4. What advice would you give to a nation (Czechoslovakia, for example) that has been invaded and occupied by foreign troops?

Would you be interested in receiving literature from any of the following groups? — Fellowship of Reconciliation, Committee on Nonviolent Action (at Voluntown, Conn.), The War Resisters League, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam.

If interested write to the Rev. Paul S. Burdick, 4 Shore Road, Waterford, Conn. 06385.

TIMID MEN

Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying "Liberty is a boisterous sea. Timid men prefer the calm of despotism." Let us hope and pray that the Church of Jesus Christ will not fear the boisterous sea of liberty, but rather glory in it. —Allan E. Schoff

Evangelism and Church Growth

By Leon M. Maltby

The Evangelism Committee of the Daytona Beach, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church undertook a denomination-wide study this year of the relation between evangelism and church growth or lack of growth. It was a study by means of a questionnaire sent to all of our churches in the United States to ascertain what efforts had been made in recent years. The purpose was to compare methods with results in order to see what methods the Daytona Beach church, in particular, might best employ to assure continued growth.

Such a study as this if carried out by concerned evangelism committees in very many of our churches each year might put a paperwork burden on pastors and clerks that would take too much time from their outreach efforts. It might be better for such surveys to be carried out periodically by a national agency, but this study has been made. It is timely and revealing, perhaps even shocking. It ought to be studied carefully by every church, not to defend past inaction or to search out excuses for lack of growth, but to see what can be learned from the statistics and conclusions that would help the church to accomplish more in the future. The report has been sent to all the churches to make whatever use of it they see fit.

The purpose of this article in your denominational organ is to publicize the report of the committee. There are people in all the churches who are concerned about revival, conversions, rate of growth, or net losses. Not every piece of mail sent to the church for the good of the church actually reaches the membership in an attention-getting way. Some mimeographed material may be more important than other, and time for study of all by all is hard to find. This analysis of past efforts of the churches can be constructive if time is given to it. The effort put forth to get the information has been made by one local committee. Now the results are available to all with no need to duplicate the work already

done. See your pastor about small group or larger group study.

The chairman of the Daytona Beach Evangelism Committee admits that there are factors that cannot be tabulated and that the conclusions are not as inclusive or conclusive as hoped. For one thing, there were a number of churches that did not respond to the questionnaire. He notes that gain or loss of membership does not necessarily reflect the spiritual condition of a church. Your editor would add to that observation and note that if the church has lost membership consistently for ten years it says something about the past spiritual life of the church. On the other hand, the present spiritual life may be strong and vibrant. If so, the church is probably on the verge of a membership increase. Life and growth cannot long remain separated either in nature or in the church.

The questionnaire was sent not only to churches but to some ministers who are not now pastoring churches, men who have been quite successful in bringing people to Christ and to Seventh Day Baptist church membership. Gleaning from their answers Winfield Randolph, writer of the report sums it up this way:

No one method of outreach will do the job everywhere. Limitation to one method in a community will defeat its own purpose in the long run.

Any working plan must be adapted to the workers and community. All methods are dependent for success on a basic and continuing activity of pastor and church.

Use any and all legitimate methods at varied times and places, but base it all on an outgoing love for people.

Well! These leaders seem to have known all along what we were trying to find out and what the results of our study seem to confirm: no one method works out in all communities; the more and varied the effort the better the results; we must get spiritual growth as well as commitment; love must be the motive for action.

Where do we fail?

We probably fail because of lack of commitment to Christ ourselves and certainly to a lack of effort.

MISSIONS—Everett T. Harris

Pastors' Refresher Course

By Journalist Fedson Makatanje

Twenty-four pastors and preachers coming from local churches of Southern and Central Regions of Malawi attended a two-week refresher course. Among them were the Likubula Bible Institute first year students who both come from the North, Mr. Chisi and Mr. Harawa. The course was held at Makapwa Seventh Day Baptist Station from April 14 to 24, 1969.

Pastor L. M. Vumah, who comes from our mission in Rhodesia, was one of the tutors this time after being asked by Pastor D. C. Pearson to teach. Pastor Vumah especially was invited to attend a polity course which was held at Blantyre Seventh Day Baptist Station from March 23 to April 9, 1969. This course was planned for the eight Likubula Bible Institute students. Mr. F. F. Makatanje was also invited to attend this course.

Mr. S. R. Mzumara — a new manager of schools, Mr. L. A. Sibande — headmaster of Makapwa School, and Mr. A. Sankhulani, hospital assistant of Makapwa Hospital engaged themselves in teaching the pastors and preachers in the first week of their course. And Mr. Watson Mataka, a senior student at Likubula Bible Institute, Blantyre; Mr. F. F. Makatanje, church journalist; and Pastor David C. Pearson, director of Christian Education and Evangelism, taught them in the second week.

During the course a baptismal service was conducted, and five people were baptized and one man received into the church. The pastor of Makapwa church, Mr. Mataka arranged the service to be on April 19, 1969. Because the baptismal candidates had already attended baptismal classes for more than three months to hold them on until camp meeting on September 9 to 13, seemed unnecessary. He therefore thought it wise for the ordinance to be conducted when the pastors who would preside could be available.

The course was planned to end on April 25, but it ended on April 24th due

to the change of mail-train schedule, which means, the train does not stop at Makapwa on Friday, Tuesday and Sunday. This was done to make it easy for the pastors to leave Makapwa for their home churches without walking for about two miles from Makapwa to Sandama railway station to board the mail train.

Pastor L. Nothale who did not come for the course last year because his wife was sick, was not able to attend the course for two days, because he fell sick on the night of April 14, and was admitted in our hospital. We are glad to report that he went home feeling well again.

Training Course on Church Polity

By Rev. David Pearson

Blantyre, Malawi

The first course in Seventh Day Baptist church polity to be taught in Blantyre convened from March 23 to April 9, 1969. Last year a similar type of course was held in Seventh Day Baptist history.

Our eight ministerial students from nearby Likubula Bible Institute sacrificed the greater part of the first term holiday to be with us. Two others attended most of the sessions, i.e., Mr. Fedson Makatanje, a Makapwa graduate in ministerial training who currently edits our *Dzanja la Chithangato* (*Helping Hand* or literally translated, hand of help) and Pastor Lameck Vumah, leader of our work in Rhodesia.

In the course Seventh Day Baptist church polity was compared with that of other major denominations. Similarities and differences were noted. Of considerable interest was the fact that there is a wide range of difference in church polity among Seventh Day Baptists, i.e., between the General Conference in the United States and the Central Africa Conference in Malawi. This need not necessarily disturb, since church polity is determined in part by the locale in which the roots of the church are found.

The writer through the years has urged local church autonomy, but it is still apparent that the time for such is not ripe. The Central Africa Conference of Sev-

enth Day Baptists through its Board of Trustees having an African majority will continue to exert strong centralized authority in the years to come.

For the present our people would probably prefer a united stand on doctrinal questions, as individual interpretations might lead to diverse elements within the church. Free-lance religious thinking in Africa is often quite bizarre, and need not be encouraged. Though Seventh Day Baptists would appreciate solidarity of opinion among themselves, differences are known to exist. Our present knowledge is incomplete, "for we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

Church discipline is administered quite freely and is not out of vogue as in some quarters. It sometimes falls heaviest though less frequently upon church leaders, which is fair enough as these must be responsible persons.

The organizational nature of the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists has changed considerably in recent years as the Conference has looked forward to incorporating under the laws of the Malawi government. Incorporation of the Conference is now an established reality, after years of effort to this end. Further organizational development is required, which will gradually be achieved.

One of the greatest assets of the church here is its vitality, as a trait not everywhere common. Zeal is present, which we hope to maintain even with the increase of knowledge.

Next year the majority of the students plan to be back to study that which distinguishes us from other Baptists, i.e., the seventh-day Sabbath. This is believed to be soundly biblical, and relevant not only for the present, but for the years which are yet to come.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for June 28, 1969

GOD'S CONTINUING ENCOUNTER
WITH THE SOCIAL ORDER

Lesson Scripture: Luke 4:16-18, 21;
Isa. 5:16, 18, 20-23

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

OPPORTUNITIES

By Kenneth Snyder

Youth advisor to Alfred, N. Y., SDBYF

Jesus came among men to give them a set of rules to live by. He not only preached these rules, but He *lived* them.

Men had been waiting for a Messiah for many years to answer their frustrations about life and death, but when He came, few recognized Him as such, and few lived as He taught them to live.

Today, 1,969 years later, His teachings are available through the Bible to countless millions of people. In vast numbers of case histories, people are finding real meaning and joy from living their lives the way Jesus taught that they should live. Living contrary to His teachings has resulted in grief, dissatisfaction, and unrest to millions of people on this earth. Most people still fail to see Him as the Messiah and many more refuse to live by His teachings.

Our Scripture lesson this morning, where Jesus tells of Judgment Day, is very basic of all of His teachings. Although it points out that in order to go to heaven you must live by these teachings, I think that His teachings were meant to help us find true happiness and meaning in our lives here on earth as well as preparing us for heaven.

The opportunities today to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and so on, are numerous. Through relief agencies, missionary societies, and other foundations such as CARE and UNICEF, we may donate our money to contribute to the success of these projects.

Many may say that this is good, but by just writing a check and sending it to one of these worthy causes, we do not get the feeling of satisfaction we would from a firsthand experience of helping someone. This is true, but we are not lacking in firsthand opportunities to help others.

Today, right within our own community, many people are lonely and frustrated. It is surprising what a cheerful word and

a little interest shown in them and in what they are doing can do to brighten up their lives. At the same time we are giving depth and meaning to our own lives by broadening our view of what is going on around us and gaining insight into what other people are really like. We will find that many of our first impressions of people or groups of people were wrong and that the world really isn't going to pieces after all. Just learning to like and trust other people can be the beginning of true happiness and peace of mind for ourselves.

In a recent survey of retired people getting into their later years of life it was found very few were enjoying peace of mind and finding serenity in their retirement. The reason most often given for this lack of enjoyment was the fact that they felt they had let down their fellowman along the paths of life.

Giving of one's self is more important in finding happiness than in giving of one's money. More people who have been successful in their ventures here on earth, when asked what they attributed their success to, will say that someone gave them encouragement or stuck by them. Very seldom will one say it was because he was given financial support. Very often an outright gift or even a large loan will cause a person to let down because of the false security it may create in him, where moral support and encouragement may drive him on to success, whether it be in education, a profession, business, or just his personal life. Many times when people are perplexed by problems or decisions to be made and go to another person for advice they really want and need encouragement rather than advice. They need to be told, "You can do it," not *how* to do it. Knowing someone believes in them will help them believe in themselves, and this is more than half of the battle. Seeing someone succeed that you have helped can be very rewarding.

Sharing in other people's grief when they have lost someone near and dear to them — sharing in their joy when they have a special event, or just helping

change a flat tire on the road — these are all ways of following Jesus' teaching and finding a rewarding life for one's self.

Allegheny Association Held

By Nina Wilson

What was formerly the Western Association (Western New York and nearby Pennsylvania) has now become the Allegheny Association of Churches, Inc. It held its annual meeting May 16-18.

On May 16, in Alfred Station, at 7:00 p.m., the adults had the privilege of having President Leland Bond give an illustrated talk on program plans for Conference at Nyack. The youth met for a cookout at Camp Harley Sutton and had an excellent program led by Miss Connie Coon, serving under extended dedicated service for the Missionary Society. She was serving in Richburg at the time of association.

On Sabbath Day the services were held in Little Genesee with Conference President Leland Bond presenting a message on his theme, "Sensitive in His Service." The afternoon program of worship was led by the youth. The executive vice-president of the Missionary Society, the Rev. Everett T. Harris, showed slides and spoke of the interests of the Missionary Society.

On Sunday, May 18, following a brief worship service by the young adults, the business meeting came to order under the leadership of the moderator, Mrs. Ruth Bucher. The outstanding item of business was that the name of the Seventh Day Baptist Western Association, Inc., be changed to Seventh Day Baptist Allegheny Association of Churches, Inc. The majority of members voted in favor of the change.

The new officers for the coming year are as follows: moderator—Wesley McCrea, vice-moderator—Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, recording secretary — Mrs. Mae Lewis, corresponding secretary—Mrs. Harry (Nina) Wilson, and treasurer—Mrs. Don (Thelma) Stearns.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

By John W. Gavitt

Many times in the Psalms and in the New Testament it speaks of singing unto the Lord, such as "Serve the Lord with gladness." One verse says, "Look up and rejoice for the day of your redemption draweth nigh."

One of the joys of living is to meet a Christian that is joyful and cheerful, a Christian who always gives a smile and a pleasant word. A person like that is like the sun on a cloudy day. He gives others a lift, and when they are asked to do a task in the church, they say, "I'll try." This is serving the Lord with gladness.

These folks seem to have a glow in their faces not caused by soap and water. Often the ones who give the most and work hardest in church work are the people who have this inner glow and peace of mind. May God bless and keep them because of the joy they bring to others.

Don't complain because your burden seems heavy; smile and pray and give life all you have. Serve the Lord with gladness!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Tongues Speaking in Russia

Speaking in tongues is a phenomenon in the church which is generally considered as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is found to some extent in churches that are not considered Pentecostal. The movement seems to be growing rapidly in many countries. Alexander Karev, the general secretary of the Russian Baptist denomination known as the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptists in Russia, comments on one aspect of tongues speaking in his country. He states it as a fact that there is a tongues movement that has no connection at all with Jesus Christ. "Speaking in tongues could come without any reference to the Holy Spirit," he declared. "This movement could be of the Holy Spirit or it could be otherwise." This observation was made at a meeting of the

European Baptist Federation. The statement as reported by European Baptist Press service was apparently not challenged by other delegates at the meeting of Baptist delegates from 17 countries.

Pianist Preacher

Internationally famed pianist Van Cliburn, gave an impromptu sermonette just before playing the piano at a Southern Baptist Church, urging young and old alike to put faith in "the unseen Christ."

Cliburn was in Tampa recently to perform with the Tampa Philharmonic.

Cliburn asked the crowd: "How many times have we sought for the right answer, or the right thought, or the right idea, or the right avenue, and how many times have we wondered if we were doing the right thing?"

"When we go through various stages in our lives, pass through many doors as we make this trek through life; the times when we are young and need certain types of counsel; there stands at our beck and call the unseen, but very visible, Christ," Cliburn said.

In later life, he added, it is "a joy to look back and be aware of what the real truth behind our decisions happened to be."

"So I want to say to you," Cliburn said in conclusion, "that if you are young, you might want to consider this unseen Christ, this Master who can be very real in your life. Then if you are in the middle period of maturity, you have certain other pressures of life and you might enjoy taking that very real person into your heart. Then if you are in the last period of life, it's even more interesting, because you can look back and have assurance that you have walked with the unseen Christ."

Church Decides Not To Flee

The Oakhurst Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., struggled for ten years in a racially changing neighborhood and was in the process of building a grand new building in a white neighborhood. Then they decided to lease their new location to the telephone company, to remodel the old property and minister to the needy

community. The church has many Negro and Spanish speaking members. There are, it is noted, some financial advantages. The telephone company lease yields \$54,000 a year, enough to retire the church debt and give a \$10,000 cushion for the local budget with its enlarged ministry.

In an editorial praising the action of the Oakhurst congregation, Editor Jack U. Harwell of *The Christian Index* said "Congratulations, Oakhurst, on your failure to complete your building program!"

The Georgia Baptist editor added: "Would to God more churches would capture some of the sacrificial spirit of the Oakhurst people! Would to God more pastors would lead their flocks to see racial change as an opportunity to witness instead of a warning to flee! Would to God more laymen would come to know their role as creators of a Christian rather than custodians of property!"

The only legitimate function of the state in regard to religion is the maintenance of *freedom* of religion.

Northern Association Reports Good Session

The Northern Association met in Battle Creek April 18 and 19. A "Race Sensitivity" dialogue between three members of our church and three of our Negro friends highlighted the Friday night service. Pastor Fatato gave a challenging message "Sensitivity Gap" on Sabbath morning. In the afternoon slides were shown by a Negro social worker of the Washington Heights Ministries in Service, a development to aid low-income families of the area. Our pastor and other church members have given many hours of work to this development. After the evening business meeting a variety program which included the talents of young and old alike was presented.

Officers elected for the coming year were: George Parrish, president; Milburn Jones, first vice-president; Earl Babcock of White Cloud, second vice-president; Mrs. Orville (Mabel) Babcock, secretary; and Mrs. Elma Matson, treasurer.

Church Ordains to Diaconate

By Maleta O. Curtis

Ordination services were held in the sanctuary of the Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, March 22, for five deacons and deaconesses: Mrs. Ted Hambleton, Dr. Lewis May, Mr. Torrence Springer and Mr. and Mrs. Al Whitlock.

The Bible account in Acts 6:1-8; 8:4-8 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 of choosing the first deacons, their qualifications and some service rendered, was read by Pastor C. Rex Burdick. These men were chosen for a special service for God and were led by the Spirit to witness in many places. While members of the diaconate are called to a definite office, yet all church members have a place to fill. Pastor Burdick said we are like a great symphony, each with his own part to play. If one part is missing, the production lacks something which only that person can furnish. When a Christian stops raising his voice in worship and in service, the church is incomplete.

Rolland Maxson, Jr., sang two numbers before the candidates thoughtfully and sincerely gave testimonies of their faith. They humbly spoke of God's infinite love and patience, of God's grace in lifting them to the Solid Rock, of sometimes falling short and leaving undone the things they ought to have done, but of their earnest desire to serve Him. They spoke words of appreciation for Christian parents and friends who had been an influence on their lives, and made a plea for the continued help of their fellow Christians.

Deacon Ben Peil of the Los Angeles church gave the charge to the candidates followed by the charge to the church by Pastor Burdick. As Aaron and Hur upheld the hands of Moses (as told in Exodus 17), so the church must uphold the candidates in their work praying for them always.

As the new deacons and deaconesses knelt around the altar table for the laying on of hands, the Rev. Arlie Davis of the Phoenix Fellowship offered the consecrating prayer. All ministers and dea-

cons and deaconesses present participated in this part of the service.

Deacon Dale Curtis welcomed the new members to the diaconate. He emphasized that each had been called of God, but that this did not put him on a pedestal. All are equal before God. "Sensitive in His Service" should be the theme of the diaconate. Dr. Curtis then spoke to each one individually mentioning qualities which fitted him for the office, most of all the deep consecration of each deacon and deaconess. He said in part:

"Ruby Hambleton is dedicated in her service to the church with a consecrated family to stand behind her.

"Dorothy Whitlock is a long-time Sabbathkeeper and for many years remained faithful as a lone-Sabbathkeeper.

"Torrence Springer is one of our newer church members but is an earnest Christian and has entered wholeheartedly into the Lord's work.

"Al Whitlock's consecration and Christian growth has been an inspiration to many.

"Dr. Pete May, because of being a physician, is sensitive to the needs of people and because of his experience in Conference activities.

"We welcome these new members."

Church members took part in the service in responsive reading, prayer and singing of hymns. It was a beautiful, meaningful and helpful service for all present.

Baptist Crusade in Jamaica

The Crusade of the Americas in which Seventh Day Baptists are involved has been moving faster in Jamaica than in many places in the United States. A news report states that most of the Baptist churches on the island have completed their major evangelistic thrust for this climactic year of 1969 in the Crusade timetable. They are now planning their follow-up campaigns. The Baptist Press news item from Kingston, Jamaica, says, "The Crusade of the Americas follow-through committee has charted a 1969-70 follow-up to the massive hemispheric evangelism campaign."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.— Kicking off the camping season at our Camp Holston at Cotton Lake was the annual church picnic on June 8. Work bees had been held for several Sundays to prepare the facilities for the new season, with our Ladies Aid cleaning inside and the trustees and Youth Fellowship raking and mowing outside.

We have had a busy spring. *The Friendly Guest*, our church newspaper, has been regenerated by our Activities Committee and is being edited by Edna Wilkinson. *The Guest* contains thoughts from the pastor, reports on services and activities, and also news about folks. We have a mailing list at present of about 60, which includes members and friends visiting or living away from our immediate area. Many have expressed their appreciation for the latest news from "home."

Many changes have been made at "home." The front rooms of our Parish House have been painted by the Y.F.; new plastic floors have been laid; a large closet has become a compact kitchen; additional bathroom facilities have been installed; a window has become a door, and our parking lot and Parish House lawn have been enclosed with a chain-link fence. All the improvements were possible because the church is leasing the rooms to a non-profit, non-sectarian corporation, newly formed in Battle Creek to provide day care centers for children of low-income or welfare parents. Since our Parish House was the only potential site for the pilot day care center in the Washington Heights area, church members voted to provide the Parish House facilities for this sorely-needed service, even though the church will not operate the center or give religious instruction. The objective of the center is to enable parents to place their children in a nursery-type school thus freeing them to accept employment or job training. Many will not be charged for the service. The center, we hope, will upgrade the general neighborhood and enable residents to turn to religion

naturally once their basic needs have been met.

You have read about the debt retirement campaign waged by our Stewardship Committee to pay off our parsonage mortgage. The campaign was so successful that the mortgage of \$1,232 was paid off at the end of April. (The goal was for July 1.) A short mortgage-burning and dedication ceremony was held on the parsonage lawn after the morning church service on May 17. Approximately 100 members and friends enjoyed the buffet luncheon generously provided by Pastor and Mrs. Fatato. Ample seating was provided in the garage and back yard for all the picknickers.

Our Ladies Aid members have been busy with their spring series of suppers and cleaning bees at church and camp. Just recently they have purchased a new wall-to-wall carpet for the Martha Wardner Room, a large room in the church used for business meetings, class periods, and the choir.

Claire Merchant, chairman of the Board of Deacons, conducted our annual Candlelight Communion Service on April 4 in the absence of Pastor Fatato who was at Marlboro, N. J., as missionary. Testimonies were read from non-resident members, and many present also gave witness to their faith. With everyone seated around tables in an atmosphere reminiscent of the Last Supper, and in the soft glow of candlelight, the service was a beautiful and meaningful one.

—Correspondent

SAN DIEGO, CALIF.— Our fellowship is meeting weekly now, instead of semi-monthly, in the homes of group members. Once a month, Pastor Burdick comes to give a worship service; the other weeks we devote to prayer and in-depth Bible study. We meet on Sabbath day at 3:00 in the afternoon. There are several new people who believe in the Sabbath principle who fellowship with us, though others who formerly came have moved away or seldom attend. One couple in our group has been actively promoting Bible studies in their home to win others to Christ. They also cor-

respond with those who show an interest in our work. Another member is holding neighborhood Sabbath children's meetings for her child and his playmates, and keeps in contact by telephone with those who attend meetings on a fairly regular basis. We also run a weekly ad in a local newspaper.

—Association report

Accessions

NEW AUBURN, WIS.

By Baptism:

Mr. Larry Werle

By Letter:

Mrs. Ralph Looffboro

Obituaries

HARRIS.— Nellie W., daughter of Julius J. and DeEtta Scribner Williams, was born at Watson, N. Y., June 14, 1887, and died at a hospital near her home in Hepzibah, W. Va., May 13, 1969, following an extended illness.

Mrs. Harris was preceded in death by her husband, Winfred R. Harris, who died in Largo, Fla., in 1957. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ, Plainfield, N. J., a former teacher at Salem College for 12 years, and at Ashville College, Ashville, N. C., as well as a teacher at Rock Ridge High School in Wilson, N. C.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Wilford L. (Evelyn) Reist, Pottstown, Pa.; two grandsons, both of Tampa, Fla.; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Davis Funeral Home, Clarksburg, W. Va., with the Rev. G. Bland Brady, pastor of the North View United Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in the Shinnston Masonic Cemetery.

—H. E. S.

VANDERSLOOT.— Rhoyual Caird, was born in Pennsylvania, June 2, 1883, and died Jan. 12, 1969 at Encinitas, Calif., after a long illness.

Mr. Vandersloot and his wife became Seventh Day Baptists quite a number of years ago. He was a member of the Los Angeles church at the time of his death but had not been able to attend regularly because of distance and poor health. He was interested in careful Bible study. His wife Florence survives him.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Henry Klaser, with interment in Eternal Hills Cemetery, Oceanside, Calif.

—Mrs. R. C. Vandersloot

The Sabbath Recorder

Black Africa?

"The darkest thing about Africa is America's lack of knowledge about it," a nationwide group of church women was told at a seminar on "Economic and Social Development in Africa." Held the last week in February at the Church for the United Nations in New York City, the seminar was addressed by women specialists from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana and South Africa. The Rev. James Robinson, director of Crossroads Africa, also spoke to the group on the nation-building process going on on that vast continent. The changing role of women is the last of four recent revolutionary developments, he declared, seeing it as outliving even the currently prevalent nationalism in Africa.

It was Mrs. Yahne Sangare of Liberia who cited "the darkest thing" and who undertook to clear up some "myths and misconceptions" current in this country. Describing the similarities among the diversity of the African peoples, she said that no one should underestimate "the common bond which unites us in Black Africa." She saw the continent in a period of transition, developing new values and cultural patterns in a "system suited to our needs."

—Religious Newsweekly

SABBATH REST

Another six days work is done,
Another Sabbath is begun;
Return my soul! enjoy thy rest,
Improve the day thy God hath blest.
Improve the day thy God hath blest.

—J. Stennett

Church's Role in Crisis

A Southern Baptist conference on "The Church's Role in the National Crisis" ended on a note of optimism in Chicago, with speaker after speaker indicating that there is hope that the Southern Baptist Convention can play a creative role in finding solutions.

The pastors of six churches shared with 250 Baptist leaders what their congregations are trying to do to find solutions to some of the problems that plague the nation. Each one indicated there is hope, but it is a struggle.

Brooks Ramsey of Second Baptist Church in Memphis, shared in the closing address his personal experience as pastor of a church that has struggled with the racial question.

He urged those attending the conference to return to their churches and enforce upon people who cry out against the "social gospel" that "there is no real gospel that does not have its binding social imperatives Let us tell them that lovingly, but fearlessly."

—BP

SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE
Nyack Missionary College
Nyack, N. Y.

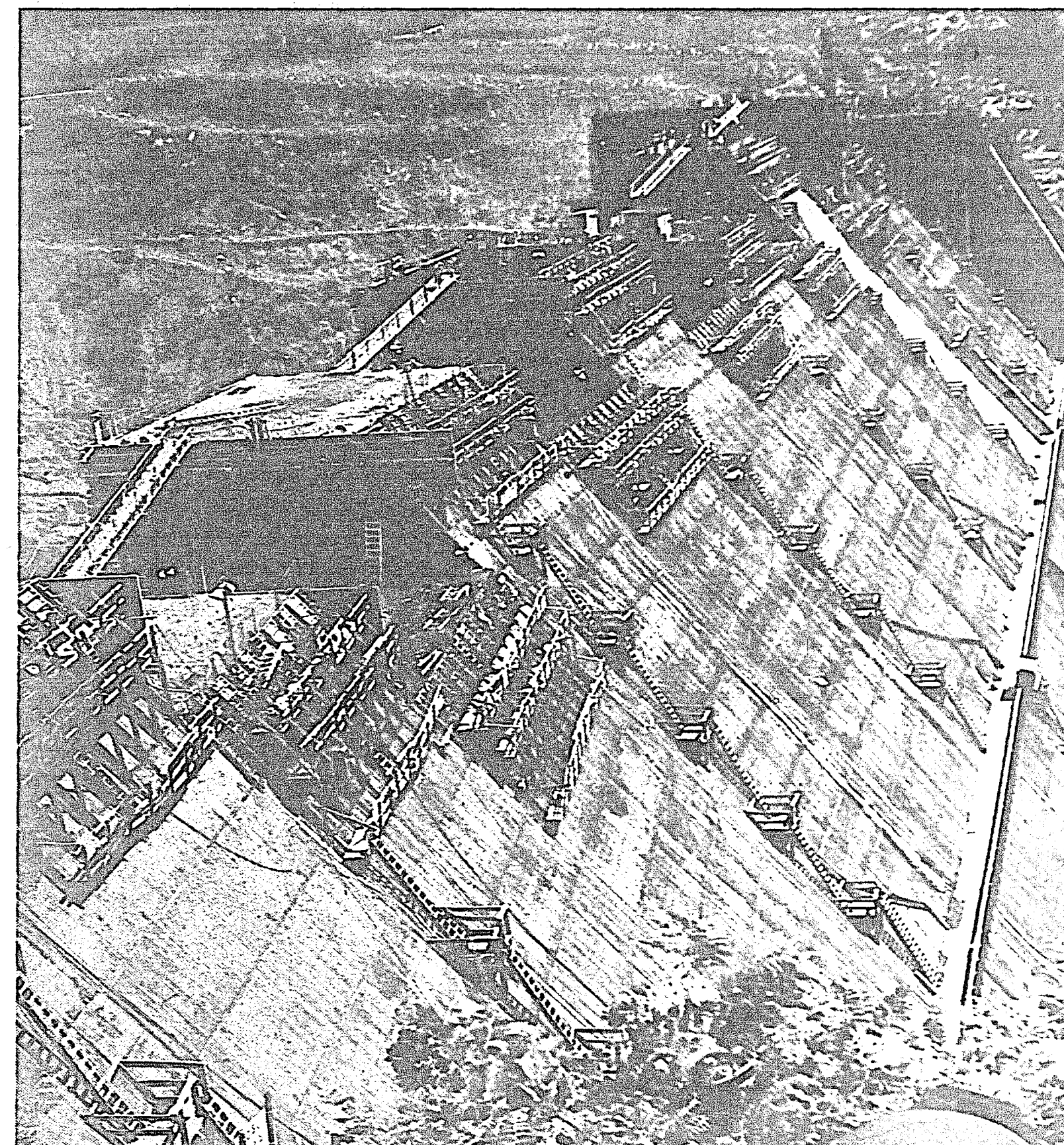
August 10-17, 1969

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



In Search of More Power

A great dam rises by stages until it reaches a height that will make a large lake and provide power to light a nation's homes and turn its industrial wheels. Man needs other power, spiritual power, to light the inner life that dwells in darkness and powerlessness. The church is the instrument ordained of God to cooperatively channel the power of regeneration. Is our church such an instrument of light and power?