

# The Sabbath Recorder

## Reading Your Bible In The Order Of Its Events 1969

### NOVEMBER

1	ACTS 10-12	(chapter 10)
2	ACTS 13, 14	(chapter 13)
3	JAMES 1, 2	(chapter 2)
4	JAMES 3-5	(chapter 3)
5	ACTS 15, 16	(chapter 16)
6	GAL. 1-3	(chapter 3)
7	GAL. 4-6	(chapter 6)
8	PHIL. 1-4	(chapter 2)
9	ACTS 17-18	
10	1 THESS. 1-5	(chapter 4)
11	2 THESS. 1-3	(chapter 1)
12	1 COR. 1-4	(chapter 3)
13	1 COR. 5-8	(chapter 8)
14	1 COR. 9-12	(chapter 10)
15	1 COR. 13-16	(chapter 15)
16	ACTS 19-20	
17	2 COR. 1-3	(chapter 3)
18	2 COR. 4-6	(chapter 5)
19	2 COR. 7-9	(chapter 9)
20	2 COR. 10-13	(chapter 11)
21	EPH. 1-3	(chapter 2)
22	EPH. 4-6	(chapter 5)
23	ROMANS 1-4	(chapter 3)
24	ROMANS 5-8	(chapter 8)
25	ROMANS 9-11	(chapter 9)
26	ROMANS 12-16	(chapter 12)
27	ACTS 21-22	(chapter 22)
28	ACTS 23-25	(chapter 24)
29	ACTS 26-28	(chapter 26)
30	COLOSSIANS 1-4	(chapter 3)

### Africa Success Story

There is a tendency to think that African people as well as others are slow to accept the gospel. This may be true in many countries, but for some reason Baptists are having great success in the Maryland-size country of Rwanda in East Central Africa, a land of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million population. As a mission it is under the Danish Baptist Mission but the success appears to be largely attributable to the work of one native pastor, Gituro, who is the only pastor for 9,600 church members.

On one Sunday alone, 158 converts were baptized. On the following morning, baptism for 60 more took place.

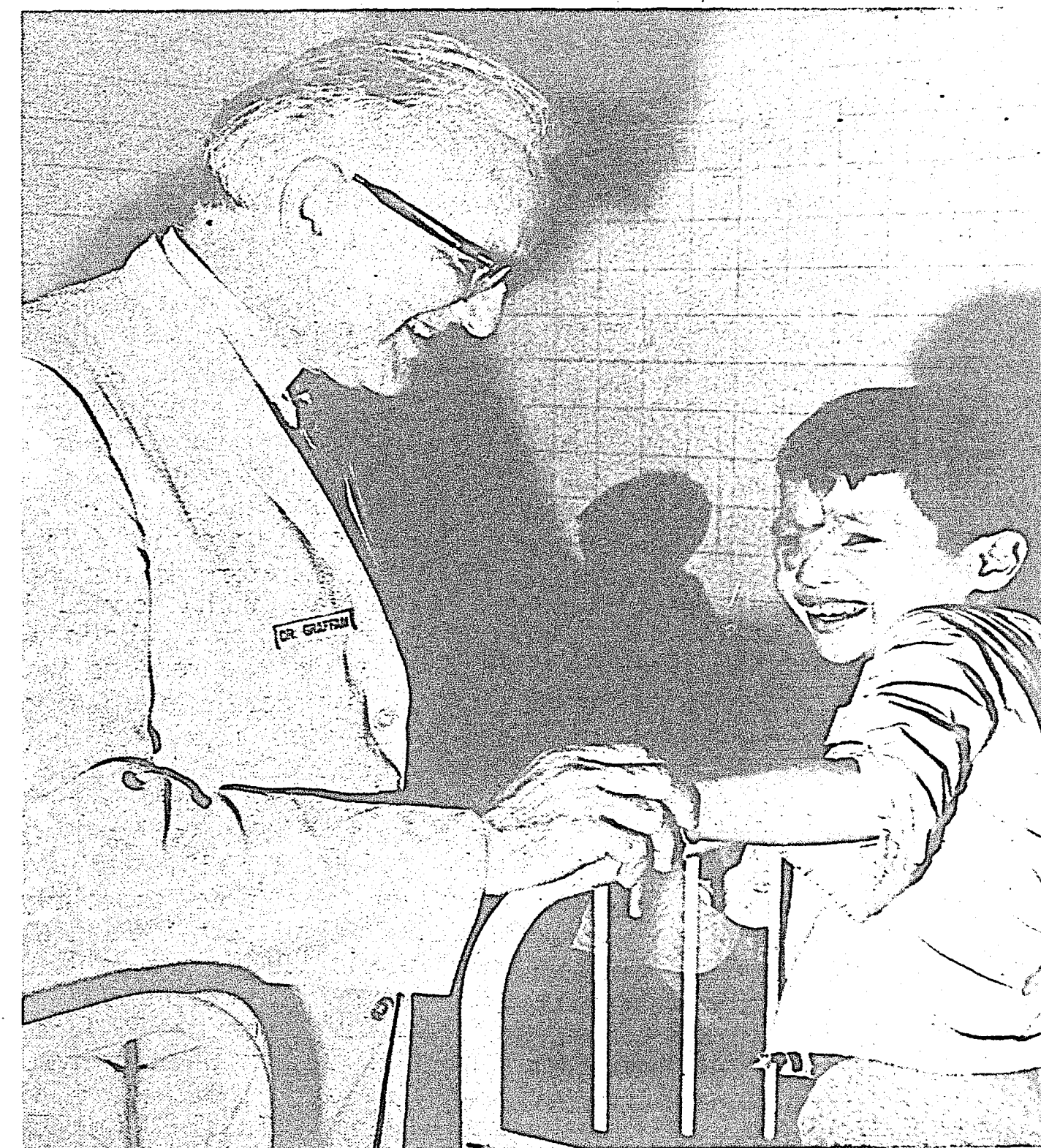
In the first half of this year, there were almost 1,500 baptisms reported. There were another 6,000 persons awaiting baptism after finishing a class of instruction in the Christian faith when this item was written in late July.

In 1962, there were but 908 Baptists in this country. Now there are 9,600. The country gained independence in 1962 and the same year the church became autonomous. Gituro is a true circuit rider. Traveling mostly by bicycle, he pedals 200 kilometers (125 miles) in three days. Sometimes he goes afoot.

"I preach every day, sometimes more than once," he said. He must visit each of 22 preaching stations regularly. Local lay people conduct services between visits.

Within two years a ministerial training program now in effect is expected to produce ten native pastors. It is expected that the rapid growth will continue, but there is a screening process to make sure the converts are true.

—EBPS



### Mission of Mercy in Vietnam

Long before the stepped-up withdrawal of American military personnel from Vietnam there was the quiet transfer of missions of mercy from military to civilian auspices. The picture reproduced here originated with the Marine Force Logistical Command in Vietnam. A Vietnamese boy undergoing plastic surgery in the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, Vietnam, receives assurances from Dr. Everett S. Grafam, executive vice-president of World Relief Commission, on the occasion of the transfer of the hospital to the Commission by the U. S. Marines in Da Nang.

# The Sabbath Recorder

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## Ought Christians To Tithe?

I firmly believe that Christians ought to tithe their income. The obligation to contribute to the Lord's work one-tenth of my income is perhaps more of a felt than a divinely legislated obligation, but that does not diminish the sense of owing it to Him, nor does it take away from the joy of doing what the Lord expects me to do. I also believe (with far more Scripture to back it up) that I ought to keep the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, sacred to the Lord. Let us make some comparisons.

In a little pamphlet "God's Stewards" published by the Faith, Prayer and Tract League and recently sent out to our churches there is a good argument for the continued obligation of tithing. It says:

"To guide us in our stewardship, God commanded tithing — giving one-tenth of our income again to Him.

"Tithing was instituted long before Moses. Abraham gave tithes of all he had (Gen. 14:20), and Jacob said, And of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee (Gen. 28:22).

"Tithing therefore is not part of the ceremonial law which ended in Christ. Tithing was neither symbolic nor figurative, and when the reasons which originated a law continue to operate and there is no plain repeal of that law, the law remains in force. The tithe therefore passes right into the New Testament era. Indeed, Christ approved the tithing habit" (Matt. 23:23).

Let us take note especially of one sentence in that tract, "When the reasons which originated a law continue to operate and there is no plain repeal of that law, the law remains in force." Good reasoning! It explains why, although there is no clear repetition of the tithing commandments in the New Testament, the obligation continues in this dispensation. The writer goes on to say that the New Testament gives freedom only to go beyond the tenth, engaging in sacrificial giving after the specific obligation has been met. This deserves a hearty Amen from all Christians. The fact that some Bible students do not agree with the above reasoning does not keep tract writers and denominational leaders from

continuing to emphasize the tithe. There is much available literature on the subject.

When we start talking about what we ought to do, we cannot stop with just one aspect of Christian living. How does the obligation to tithe compare with the obligation to keep the seventh day sacred? The tract writer quoted above saw clearly that the obligation of tithing did not originate with Mosaic law since it was recognized by Abraham and Jacob long before the time of Moses and the ceremonial law. The seventh-day Sabbath is much older still, for God sanctified the seventh day at creation, according to Genesis 2:3. Therefore it is not ceremonial in nature. When the Ten Commandments were written on tablets of stone "by the finger of God," the reason for observing the seventh day was to commemorate God's resting at the end of His creative week. Throughout all history man was to set aside this portion of time to remember his creator. The day is somewhat symbolic in that it is a foretaste of the saints' rest in heaven. That is a type of symbolism, however, which has no meaning unless we observe the rest day while here on earth. It reminds us of God's rest at creation and of our rest in eternity.

We argue for the tithe by saying that the reasons for it continue and that there is no evidence of its repeal in the new dispensation. How much more is this true of the Sabbath, which gets so much emphasis in the teaching of Christ and in the practice of Paul. Jesus cut through the Pharisaic additions to the Fourth Commandment restoring its pristine purity (just as He did with the subject of marriage and divorce), but He never hinted that the Sabbath law could be repealed or disregarded in the church. Foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem (some forty years after the church) he urged His followers who would be living at that time to pray that they would not have to flee the city on the Sabbath.

We have noted that not all Christian leaders accept the reasons given above for the tithe. It is suspected that some of them see how the same argument much

more pointedly establishes the continuance of the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, an observance contrary to their practice and inclination.

How happy are those who "honor God with their substance" in the divinely appointed tithe and who honor God by keeping sacred that portion of time which they set aside in obedience to His eternal command — the Sabbath. One of our obligations as teachers is "rightly dividing the Word of God." Let us do what we ought with money and with time.

## Comparing OWM Receipts

The total giving of our people for the fiscal year October '68 to September 30, '69 is listed by churches on page 15. The receipts by the OWM treasurer in September were good, bringing the total to 96 percent of the budget.

If readers have the *Sabbath Recorder* of October 28, 1968 available they might like to make some comparisons. It will be found that the number of churches sending in more than \$1,000 was just the same, thirty-two, but that thirty-five churches gave more than last year. In one case the amount was nearly \$2,000 more, in other cases only a few dollars.

The following sentences on the cover of the October 1968 issue bear repeating since this year by a last minute effort (and money from "individuals" that cannot be expected again) the budget was even more nearly raised (96%).

"Seventh Day Baptist people showed a strong upward thrust in their giving to Our World Mission during September to close out the year with the budget almost raised.

"We lacked only six percent of reaching the higher-than-usual goal. The figures from the treasurer on page 15 of this issue are far more encouraging than expected two months ago.

"Praise the Lord for the faithfulness of His concerned and committed people! But the Lord's work cannot stand still; it must go forward. We are already one month into the new year with its challenge of greater work and of necessity a larger budget. May our giving reflect a growing love for our Lord."

## Vietnam Is Bad Business

There are various reasons advanced for trying to get out of Vietnam this year, as has been observed in the publicity about the moratorium demonstrations on October 15. A leading Republican banker, J. Sinclair Armstrong, has added a reason that is not so commonly heard. Economically it is bad business and Congress should rescind its authorization to spend \$25.73 billion on the Vietnam War in 1970, he says.

Armstrong represented the Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace. This is an organization of 2,600 owners and executives of American business corporations in 49 states. It is dedicated to "open and lawful means to bring about an end of U. S. participation in the War in Vietnam."

The business executives viewed the Vietnam war as "unwinnable." They continued, "The U. S. has no vital strategic or economic interest in Vietnam. That tiny country is no threat to U. S. Security. We continue to waste our resources—men and materials—there for no vital security reason."

The normal objections to the Vietnam war come from religious leaders, pacifists, conscientious objectors and humanitarians of various kinds. The economic factor of the U. S. national interest was emphasized by the businessmen.

It is perhaps permissible to lift out one of these quotations from Mr. Armstrong and comment on it. It is true that "the U. S. has no vital strategic or economic interest in Vietnam." It is, indeed, a very small and poor country, which means nothing to our rich country economically. Are the businessmen saying that if the country was bigger, had more natural resources, or was important as a trade center, we would have more reason to keep our military forces there for an indefinite period? We hope not, but that is somewhat implied. Are they saying that if we were going to take a military stand with a democratic country against militant Communism we should have picked a country that could be more

## MEMORY TEXT

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

—Matt. 19:29.

profitable to us? We hope not.

Others have used the economic insignificance of Vietnam as proof that our country is not the terrible aggressor in this instance that some would make us out to be. They maintain that we are willing to make economic sacrifices and to expose our men to the dangers of military conflict because when we went to the help of South Vietnam it was for a principle bigger than our nation. It would be costly, but it might be good for the world to halt the sweep of a ruthless, enslaving Communism. To overstress the economic loss is a little like being unwilling to pay the taxes necessary to fight the so-called wars on poverty, illiteracy, and disease.

War is bad. Military force ought not to be needed at this stage of civilization. We should try to stop, not only this little war, but all wars. We pray for the time when people everywhere and nations everywhere will yield to moral persuasion and will seek the good of all. That time is not yet. Christian principles do not prevail. In the meantime enlightened people do well to pay more attention to the reasons for the battle than the value of the battlefield. This is not to say that the issues in the present conflict are clear-cut. For that matter, they have been a little cloudy in every war. Good has come from some wars that were less than holy crusades. We may be too emotionally and economically involved to have proper historical perspective. We pray for wisdom while we pray for peace.



## Conference President's Column

### How Do You Fill the Blanks?

Let's try a little mental exercise. Following are part of the words of a well-known prayer hymn, with blanks to be filled in where words are omitted. Let's try to supply the missing words.

Lord, speak to me, that .....  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so .....  
Thy erring children lost and lone.  
O teach me, Lord, .....  
The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And ....., that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.  
O fill me with ....., Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy ....., Thy praise to show.  
....., Lord, ..... even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

(From the hymn "Lord, Speak to Me," words in full on page 11.)

How did you fare in completing the words of the above hymn? Even though your answers may not have included all the right words, did they reflect the spirit of this hymn of prayer? Did you catch the spirit of asking a blessing so that you could be the means of passing it on to others?

We are voluntarily or involuntarily filling in blanks in our lives every day. Certain factors are already established in our lives by virtue of being created human beings. We were created in the image of God with a moral nature, with personality, intellect, free will. There are certain abilities that are our own

peculiar possession. Our potential is almost unlimited. In particular this is true of the Christian, redeemed by the blood of Christ, having Christ in his heart and divine resources available.

The blanks are in this area of our lives—how will we use our divine gifts, what will we do with our talents, how will we reflect the personal privilege of being saved by grace to be a child of God? Only you can fill in these blanks. No one else can do it for you. How you fill them depends upon your faith, love and commitment to the Lord who has called and blessed you.

How we fill those blanks in our lives is a matter of greatest import, for we are *called apart*—to be a part of our Lord's work and witness. Peter says: "We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

How you use your life, your privileges as a Christian, your abilities, does reflect upon God who through Jesus Christ has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

How are you filling the .....?

## Our Prayer Corner

### Suggestions for Prayer This Week

#### Pray for:

- 1) The Adams Center, N. Y., and the New Auburn, Wis., churches whose pastors have recently gone to new fields, and the other churches that have been without pastoral leadership for a longer time.
- 2) The churches that have scheduled special meetings this fall in the hope of climaxing the Crusade of the Americas.
- 3) The missionaries volunteering to serve where needed and the churches calling for help of volunteer missionaries.
- 4) The Commission members and others who are scheduling visits to the churches as suggested by Conference.

## My Heart — Christ's Home

By Pastor John A. Conrod

(A Communion meditation given at a joint Shiloh-Marlboro service.)

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

—Rev. 3:20.

I would like to invite you to join with me as I seek to prepare my heart for Communion.

Lord, you said at one time that you were standing at the door of my heart and asking to be allowed to make your home in my heart. I heard you and I invited you in. You became the guest of my heart when you entered into my living room — the living room of my heart. You came into the darkness of my heart and turned the room into a glowing brilliance. You began a fire in my cold hearth and drove out the cold. You brought music into that living room and filled the emptiness with your loving, wonderful fellowship. Lord, I will never regret that I opened the door and let you into my heart.

*John, the living room of your heart is not enough. I can't feel at home unless I can enter your heart's library as well!*

O no, Lord, not the library! That is the room where I keep my thoughts and my memory. There I store my reading material. Lord, I would be embarrassed to let you see some of the things I read. Many of the books and magazines I keep there are trash and I would be ashamed to let you enter that room.

Lord, I guess this room needs to be cleaned up if you are to feel at home in my heart. Help me to make this room what it ought to be. Help me to bring my every thought into captivity to thee. Lord help me to fill the library shelves with thy Holy Scriptures and meditate on them day and night. Lord, give me a picture of thyself to hang upon the wall of this room so that my thoughts will be centered upon you and you alone. May your purity and power cause impure thoughts to retreat. May you truly feel at home in the library of my heart.

*John, the living room and the library are not enough. I still can't feel at home in your heart unless I am allowed to enter the dining room, also.*

Lord, are you displeased with what I consume to satisfy my appetite and desires? Is there something wrong with my favorite foods — prepared in the flesh-pots of Egypt? I must admit I have found them to be lacking in the nourishment I need for my spiritual life. I remember one time, Lord, when you told your disciples that you had meat to eat that they did not know about. Lord, you are the bread of life. I ask you to give to me the food that is truly satisfying. You said your meat was to do the will of your Father in heaven. Lord I would seek the will of God to satisfy me, the taste of which has flavor beyond compare. As I taste this spiritual food, O Lord, all else — my own desires, my own pleasures, my own selfish satisfaction — has lost its taste. Lord, I truly long to be fed the bread of life in the dining room of my heart.

*John, I am glad you have given me more access to your home, but I long for the close fellowship that can only be found in your den.*

Lord, my den is reserved for the fellowship of only my closest friends. It wouldn't be right for me to ask them to share that room with someone who may be a total stranger to them. After all, they were my friends long before I ever let you into my home. True, they haven't always been true to me, and I must admit that they haven't come around as much as they used to since they found out that you were in the house. I guess I have spent many a lonely evening in the den by myself when my friends stay away. Lord, would it be possible for us to make the den our special room where we can meet together each day for a time of prayer and meditation? I am sure that if you would read a few verses of Scripture with me each day and take the time to explain their meaning and unfold to me their truths, I could better understand what I should do through each decision I must face each day. And Lord, even as I would recognize that I need this

time to spend with you, may I realize how very important it would be to you as well. I know that you will be present each day, O Lord; don't let me forget and leave you waiting alone for me in the den of my heart.

*John, do you have a workshop in this house? A place where you keep your talents and skills? If so, I would like to have the privilege of using some of the tools.*

Yes, Lord, down in the basement I have a workbench where I occasionally go to tinker around with a few little gadgets. I can't produce anything substantial or make anything worthwhile down there. Lord, I do the best I can with my skills, but it isn't much and I surely would like to be able to do much more. But after all, I don't have any skill or strength. Lord, if you were to guide my hands and let your Holy Spirit work through me, I could be able to do great things for thee. Lord, I give to you my talents and my skills asking you to take full charge of all that is accomplished in my spiritual workshop.

*John, I am glad to be able to help you create great things as you work, and I also would like to be a part of your recreational time as well. Please let me enter the rumpus room of your heart.*

Lord, I am glad to have you help me in the work that I do, but I would rather not have you join me in my recreational plans. There are activities and amusements that I enjoy which I don't think you would give your approval to. On the nights that I go out to attend prayer meeting, Lord, you are welcome to come along; but on those other nights, Lord, couldn't you be content to stay at home alone? Yes, Lord, I know you thought that when I opened my home to you, we would be doing everything together. I realize I am wrong, Lord, forgive me for going places where I wouldn't want to take you along. Take control of my rumpus room, Lord, and help me to find delight in the recreational activities which I can share with you.

*John, John! You have opened your whole heart to me. You have let me*

*freely move from room to room, but still there is something wrong. There is a peculiar, deadly odor coming from the upstairs hall closet. We had better open it and see what is wrong.*

Oh, no, Lord! No, not that hall closet! Not that place! You don't want to go in there! That room is full of stinking, rotten things. I stuffed them in there and locked them in, hoping that you would never find them! I don't want anyone to know what I am keeping in that closet. Lord, I have given you access to my whole house, my living room, my dining room, my library, my den, my workshop, my rumpus room; and now you want access to this little two-by-four closet. This is too much, I am not going to give you the key!

Oh Lord, I feel your fellowship slipping away from me. Lord, I love you too much to lose your love and fellowship. Here take the key and clean out that filthy closet. You'll have to do it, Lord, I don't have the strength to do it. Take out all that putrefying, rotting stuff and destroy it, Lord, clean and sanctify every little corner of my life to be used in thy service and give me the victory over every sinful thing in my life!

Lord, I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clean for you; I start in one room and no sooner have I finished when I discover that another room has become dirty again. I clean there and discover still another dirty room. Lord, I am getting tired of trying to keep this heart of mine constantly clean: I'm just not capable of the task. Is there a way that you could take over the responsibility of keeping my whole house clean? Would you keep my heart what it ought to be? Lord, I have up till now only allowed you to be a guest. From now on I want you to be the host. Here, Lord, is the title deed to my heart. I sign it over to you that it may belong to you for all eternity. No longer am I the host, I will be just a servant in this, your home. Here it is, Lord, all that I am and have, forever. May you settle down and be at home as Lord of all. Amen.

Inspired by the book  
*My Heart — Christ's Home*  
Inter-Varsity Press

### Youth Camp Meditations

(Prepared by Pastor Leroy Bass for use during the "Alone with God" hour at Camp Mainstay, Guyana. Pastor Bass writes, "I give credit to various sources for information in these meditations.")

#### Ultrasonic Singing

Do you know what this is? Have you noticed a canary go through the motions of singing, but you hear no sound? The canary *is singing*, even though you cannot hear it. Ultrasonic singing! And not canaries only, the songs of many other birds contain parts that are too high pitched for us to hear. However, other birds can hear them.

Scientists using an audio-spectrograph can see on paper the ultrasonic notes we cannot hear, and they learn that *most* birds' songs are beyond the limits of human hearing. Our ears are clumsy in comparison to a bird's.

The song of the golden crowned kinglet as we hear it is really a poor shadow of how it must sound to another golden crowned kinglet, which can hear *all* of its highest notes.

Birds' ears are also *quicker* than human ears. Some of the songs of warblers are so full of musical phrases set so close together that we cannot hear them separately. These details slip past our clumsy ears. These are interesting things to learn.

More important to us right now, however, is *spiritual hearing*. The things of God are spiritually discerned. (See First Corinthians 2:11-13). Do *I* hear God by His Spirit speaking to my soul, to me? He is eager to reveal His deep things of love, His power, and His will to me. Turn to 1 Corinthians 2:10 and read it right now, please.

Wait upon the Lord, even now. Meditate and talk with God as to a friend. Listen to Him. He will speak to you. Ask Him for spiritual hearing. Let your inward hearing be sensitive to His voice. This is heart-listening, and also ultrasonic. When you are listening with all your heart then God will reveal things to you. Your spiritual hearing is tuned sensitively to hear His voice, and you

shall be blessed. See Matthew 13:9, 16, 17; and Revelation 3:22.

You can have ultrasonic hearing—with God!

#### Top Deceivers

Pitcher plants are mimics; they look like flowers, have pretty colors, nectar, and odors. But they are top deceivers! Deadly and as carnivorous as a lion. Woe be to the insect that lands on one of these death traps. The curled, sugary lips act as a trap to prevent the escape of the victims. The inside walls are covered with an invisible wax powder that is slippery and entangling, and any hapless fly or bee or ant that strikes the leaf goes down into the "pitcher's mortal juices." When he tries to get out his path is blocked by the points of directional hairs, and so he slips back into the juices at the bottom, and this juice contains nature's own anesthetic. There he is preserved until he is digested.

The pitcher plant is beautiful to the eye, and enticing, and this makes it a perfect symbol of the attractive but sinful world of pleasure about us. Satan paints a bright picture of sin, and if we listen to him, his talk becomes so deceptive that we become paralyzed.

Satan's easy traps are the seductive shows in the cinemas, the liquor parties and night dances over the trapdoor of hell, the gay calypso and jazz music, and babies-before-marriage talk. We are trapped before we realize it, and when we try to free ourselves it is only to find that it is nearly impossible to do so.

Right now open your Bible to read these two texts: 1 Peter 5:8, 9; and 1 Corinthians 15: 33, 34.

The pleasures of sin are only "for a season," then comes hell and "weeping and gnashing of teeth" and the second death. Only God can save us from the misery and pit of destruction. God's pleasures are eternal. Only God can keep us out of the "pitcher plants of sin."

Psalm 16:11 is your verse today. Read and memorize it now. Remember the awful pitcher plant and try to help others choose the superior way, with God. Jesus

is a wellspring of joy to every young person who makes Him first, last, and best in his life.

### Youth Camp, Malawi Version

By Rev. David C. Pearson

For the first time in history a Seventh Day Baptist youth camp was held in Malawi. This was conducted near the Tuchila River in Mlanje District, by kind permission of the local chief.

This river, more like a rock-studded mountain stream, provided refreshment to those who bathed, swam, or merely gazed upon its beauty. Mountains in the background stood as rugged towers of God's handiwork.

It was a fitting place to study God in nature, and much emphasis was given to creation as seen in Genesis. Classes met out-of-doors under a spreading mango tree, and were taught by Mrs. O. B. Manani and Pastor Watson Mataka.

Evening campfire gatherings should long be remembered as treasured times of inspiration. Choruses sparked by the zest of youth were sung in Chichewa and English.

Temporary grass structures served as barracks, and the well-worn mission tent provided something of refuge for Pastor Pearson.

Recreation included: swimming, horse-shoes, croquet, tug-of-war, dodge ball with a ball, net ball without a net, improvised softball using a short wooden paddle and tennis ball, and a number of rousing (exhausting) activities. Some of these were entirely new to the campers, as were the marshmallows on the closing night of camp.

Enrollment passed the fifty mark, and boys and girls were nearly even. God spoke to a number present and this is the important thing. God still speaks. Some of the youth desired counseling, and some desired their lives to shine for Christ.

Camp was a brand new experience for most of the campers, and proved rewarding. It would be a safe guess to assume that camp will be considered a "must" next year.

### Memorial Fund Trustees Meet Denominational Needs

By Rev. Albert N. Rogers

Purchase of additional U. S. Treasury Bills currently paying the highest rate in recent times was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund at their meetings October 12, 1969. Conversion of savings and loan deposits to term certificates was also specified.

The fourth increase in allotments for ministerial retirement in four years was announced. Maximum benefits are now \$126.80 per month. Another five per cent increase is scheduled for next year.

In response to the request of General Conference voted at Nyack in August, the board decided to make a grant of \$5,340 to the Conference and forgive interest due on the note of the Conference trustees for that amount. The loan was negotiated a year ago to fund necessary waterproofing and repairs on the exterior of the Seventh Day Baptist Building. A grant was also made from discretionary funds for travel and subsistence for Steven Crouch who is giving dedicated service to General Conference and other denominational agencies.

Clarence M. Rogers, Salem, W. Va., was unanimously reelected president of the board and Robert M. Coon, Bronxville, N. Y., and Charles F. Harris, Bridgeton, N. J., were reelected vice-presidents. Frederik J. Bakker, Plainfield, N. J., was elected secretary and Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, Richburg, N. Y., was reelected treasurer. Board members who serve in other capacities are Elston H. Van Horn, Westerly, R. I., and Rev. Albert N. Rogers, Plainfield, N. J. The resignation of Thurman C. Davis for health reasons was accepted with regret and appreciation of his ten years of service.

Attention was given to the new Rev. Erlo E. Sutton Memorial Fund, to care of the Piscataway Cemetery, and to a brochure being prepared which describes the fund and its work.

**Women Active in Mexican Churches**

By Erma Van Horn

As we visited the Sabbathkeeping churches in Mexico, the fact that we could converse very little directly with the people in their language did not hinder our feeling the friendly Christian welcome given us everywhere. At each place they expressed their appreciation that we had come to visit them.

There are no women's organizations as we know them, but there is evidence of the faithful service of the women to the churches. The church building is always a better building than the homes in which they live. It is always kept neat and orderly and beautiful inside with fresh flowers. No matter what day we visited a church, it was always this way. Everywhere there are plans to improve the church or build a new and better one.

Whenever the women enter the church, they show their respect by placing a cover on their heads. This might be a lovely lace mantilla or just a simple square of cloth. They take their place on one side of the church during the service. The joy of Christian worship is shared by all in the enthusiastic singing of hymns. Many of these were familiar tunes to us, such as, "Who Is on the Lord's Side," "Christ for the World We Sing," "Revive Us Again," and "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." At each church service we attended, they sang "Bien Venidas," a hymn of Christian welcome.

Everyone, men, women, and children, takes part in the discussion of the questions and Bible verses in the lesson for the Bible study hour (Sabbath School), morning and afternoon. Some of these sessions were conducted by very young people, who did a fine job. In Mexico City a group of about a dozen children came to the front of the church, at the end of the afternoon service, and answered questions about the lesson they had studied in a separate class.

We were impressed with the sincerity and sacrifice being made by many. They

are happy, wonderful people, with a delightful sense of humor. They ask for our friendship and prayers — but that is all they want. So, may we remember these Christian neighbors, often, as we pray.

**"And Ye Visited Me"**

It is natural for each new generation of bright-eyed young church members to think that they discovered how to apply the teaching of Jesus, "I was sick and in prison and ye visited me." That is good. None would deny them the thrill of finding a new joy in ministering to those in need. However, there ought to be some credit given to those who have been consistently doing this for many years and in countries other than our own.

Sister Emily Smikle, long-time leader of the Post Roads church in Jamaica, now on the retired list, writes of her continuing work in behalf of the poor and the sick in an institution at Chapelton — some distance from her home in the hills. She has been ministering to these indigenous hospital patients since 1940.

On September 21 the Post Roads Sabbath School classes of children and young people went with Sister Smikle to Chapelton to put on a program for the ambulatory patients with the full cooperation of the head of the institution. She writes that the program was intended to render a token of thanks to him and his staff for their night and day service to all the sick folks in and around Chapelton. He arranged for the Ward Room to be cleared and set up with benches, tables, chairs, and flowers. When the patients had packed the room Sister Smikle gave the opening address and introduced the secretary of the Sabbath School, who carried out the program. She says that it would have done one's heart good to hear the children and young people give talks on subjects that they had studied in the Sabbath School during the quarter. One part of the program was called "Step Up." When called upon, the visitors either singly or by groups

were expected to step up and sing a song or give a recitation. After the service the young people formed a line and marched through the wards singing as they went. They were invited to come again.

Mrs. Smikle in her letter requested more tracts to use on her regular visits to the hospital. Her procedure is to give a Bible reading and then hand each patient and staff member a tract. For a person of her advanced age this is an unusual ministry. Her age shows in her shaky handwriting, but not in her spirit.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel**

**Lesson Annual**

*The International Lesson Annual, 1970* is available for sale from the board office for \$3.25 a copy. We highly recommend this commentary to be used with the *Helping Hand* each Sabbath day. The annual is edited by Dr. Horace R. Weaver, and its lesson analysis is prepared by Charles M. Laymon. The King James Version and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible are printed in parallel columns. The lesson treatment is quite complete with teaching suggestions and applications for daily living. You may get your copy by writing to the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803.

**Sabbath Lectures**

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education now has available for Seventh Day Baptist ministers, and other students, tape recordings of Lectures I and II of the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders on the *Sabbath*. These are given at the biennial Seventh Day Baptist Ministers Conference last May. The tapes also carry the discussions that followed the lectures. The tapes are for loan. Write the above address.

Miss Connie Coon, field worker for the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board, will be the director of Junior High Conference at General Conference next August in Milton, Wisconsin.

Association corresponding secretaries are urged to send the names of association vocations keyworkers to Vocations Secretary C. Robert Stohr, Richburg, NY 14774.

**Funds Needed for Youth Field Worker**

The National Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship officers have had their first meeting under the leadership of President Jonathan Cruzan. They are taking seriously their challenge to raise \$1,000 for a youth field worker, and trust that each local SDBYF has put an amount in its budget to help support the plan.

Activities for youth at General Conference were discussed, and some suggestions made. All Seventh Day Baptist youth, whether members of a local group or not, can give a display of their desires for a successful year by joining the National SDBYF. To join send \$1.00, with your name and address to Lyle Sutton, Almond, NY 14804. Your \$1.00 will insure your name being placed on the *Beacon* mailing list. Now is the time to join.

**SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON**

for November 8, 1969

THE FAITH OF GOD'S REMNANT  
Lesson Scripture: Lam. 3:19-33

**LORD SPEAK TO ME**

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of Thy tone;  
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thy erring children lost and lone.  
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things Thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.  
O fill me with Thy fulness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'erflow  
In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.  
O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as Thou wilt, and when and where;  
Until Thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

## LET'S THINK IT OVER

### Pooled Ignorance

The Baptist Religious Liberty Conference held in August was evaluated in the current issue of *Report from the Capital*. These annual conferences have been considered successful for several reasons. There has been thoughtful preparation, skillful leadership, selected participants and honest digging. The analyst added: "Indeed, they have achieved what they have attempted from the beginning — an honest effort by the various segments of the Baptist movement, assembled together, to do their own homework on current issues before speaking out from a background of unexamined concepts or pooled ignorance."

Discussions of the great issues of church and state or the social implications of the gospel are of little value unless the people engaging in the discussions have done some homework and are willing to listen to those who have the facts and figures. Far too often at every level of discussion, from the Sabbath School class or the local community to the political convention or the denominational gathering people "speak out from a background of unexamined concepts or pooled ignorance."

### Americans United Files Suit Over Aid to Connecticut Church Schools

Americans United, an educational, non-profit organization in the field of church-state relations, has joined with ten other organizations and individuals in filing a suit on September 30 in the United States District Court for Connecticut which challenges the constitutionality of state aid to parochial schools.

The organization seeks an injunction to halt the allocation of \$6 million in direct state aid to private schools in Connecticut. A bill passed by the state legislature on June 3, 1969, and effective July 1, would pay 20 per cent of the salary of teachers of secular subjects in church schools.

The plaintiffs include the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, the Connecticut

Council of Churches, the Connecticut Jewish Community Relations Council, and the Connecticut State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as Americans United for Separation of Church and State. William Manchester, author of "Death of a President," is one of the individual plaintiffs.

They contend that state aid to church schools violates the guarantees of religious liberty and separation of church and state found in both the Connecticut and United States Constitutions. Also, that such funding would contribute to *de facto* segregation in private schools.

At present, Americans United is challenging similar laws in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

### Ways To Curb Pornography

A House Judiciary Subcommittee has opened hearings on what one Republican member called "the deadly serious business" of pornography. The hearings, likely to go on for some time, concern some 150 anti-obscenity bills sponsored by more than 200 congressmen.

A Republican from Ohio, Rep. William M. McCulloch, said that Congress must "jealously guard" the right of every citizen to be free to think whatever he wishes, to read whatever he wants to and to hold whatever moral and spiritual values he chooses.

"We must respect the right of a citizen to expose himself to pornography if he desires," McCulloch declared. "We must also respect the right of persons not to receive this material when it arrives unsolicited in the mail."

Two bills supported by the Nixon administration are representative of the large number under consideration by the Judiciary Committee. One would prohibit the use of interstate facilities, including the mails, for the transportation of "matter harmful to minors."

The subcommittee also heard testimony from Congressman Charles E. Bennett (D., Fla.). He pointed out that estimates on the total cost of pornography varies from \$500 million to over \$1 bil-

lion annually. He said the Post Office Department in fiscal 1968 received over 167,000 complaints about obscene mail. During the first eleven months of fiscal 1969, according to the Postmaster General, the Post Office had more than 200,000 such complaints. (We can hope that this means an aroused people—not just an increase in obscene mail.)

### ANTI-SEMITISM

A recent Gallup Poll asked the question, "Would you vote for a Jewish person for president if he were a member of your political party and in all other ways qualified?" In the South, one out of three said, "No." Nationwide, 13 per cent answered in the negative.

### Church Homecoming at Milton

The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton, Wis., is planning a Church Homecoming and Covenant Renewal for Sabbath Day, November 15. Members, former members, and other friends are invited to attend morning service, Meal of Sharing, and afternoon program. Greetings from those unable to attend will be very welcome.

Anyone who may need lodging for Sabbath Eve may contact Mrs. Erlo Nelson, Milton, Wis. 53563.

### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

MILTON JUNCTION, WIS.— The Sabbath of Aug. 30, the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar F. Wheeler and children were at our church. The sermon, "Called Apart—To Be a Part" was given by President Wheeler. We considered it a privilege to have him with us shortly after Conference, and to have him discuss the Conference theme for 1970.

On September 18, the Ladies' Aid served a birthday supper at the church for the members, and men of the church. A silent auction was also held.

Mrs. Thelma Wright and Mrs. Jeanette Appel have given us interesting Conference reports at our Ladies' Aid meetings.

—Correspondent

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.— The October 18 church bulletin contains several items showing a wide range of work and service. It announced a special church business meeting on October 25 to "discuss financing the new Rogers organ the church is purchasing. The cost is \$5,300 and the drive is on to pay as much as possible on the principal so we will not have to borrow a great amount."

The following note about some local dedicated service by junior age children is signed by Jean Albion, leader of the Junior Sabbath School class.

"Do you have some fall jobs that are tricky for you to manage alone which we could do Sunday morning, October 26 from 10 to 12? There's no charge—its our holiday treat for you. We can rake leaves, move in porch furniture, sweep garages and basements."

A third item of interest from a church whose members have gone out across the nation to bless other churches of like faith is a reminder of the annual Homecoming Day, November 29.

DENVER, COLO.— Our church is having a busy year. The Quarterly Meetings have continued with the Boulder church. The ladies of the two churches have met to discuss plans for the moving of the Women's Board to our area in the fall of 1970. We observed Christian Family Day at which time three infants, Gregory Lyle Cox, Janelle Dawn Craig, and William Rowe were dedicated to the Lord. Honored at a special Sabbath service were our three high school graduates, Connie Higuera, Richard Thorngate, and Robert White. The following are in college this fall, either in undergraduate or graduate work: Gary Cox, Phil Davis, Edward Hansen, Milton Jorgensen, Duane Lawton, Gordon Lawton, Darwin Steele, and Richard Thorngate.

We are so blessed in our beautiful new sanctuary, the first church service having been conducted there on July 5. Already one wedding has been solemnized, that of Dorothy Hastings and James Richardson. Two baptismal services have been held at which time Mrs. Flora Chronister (80 years of age),

Becky Higuera, Jonel Smith, and Mrs. Yvonne Stephan were baptized and received into church membership. In a very impressive service five new members were ordained to the diaconate: Mrs. Margaret Crosby, Mrs. Barbara White, Kenneth Crosby, Gary Cox, and Joe Higuera. We are now joyous in anticipating the formal dedication of the sanctuary on Nov. 22. The Rev. Mynor Soper conducted meetings here from September 22-28. He emphasized the glorious challenge of the life wholly committed to our Lord.

Many are using the new American Bible Society publication, *Good News for Modern Man*, in the planned Bible reading. Pastor Lawton is conducting a 9:30 a.m. Sabbath study on "Basic Christian Doctrine." Mrs. Myrna Cox, Sabbath School superintendent, is giving dedicated service as church secretary one day each week and is editor of the church news monthly bulletin, "Bulletin Extra."

We are grateful for our many consecrated workers and thank God for their giving of time and talent in our "greater involvement" church program.

—Correspondent

**SHILOH, N. J.**—Our church entertained delegates from Berlin and Schenectady, N. Y.; Plainfield, N. J., and a neighboring church, Marlboro, at the Yearly Meeting of Seventh Day Baptist churches, Sept. 26-27.

The theme of this year's meeting was, "The Christian's Responsibility in Today's World." Many great Biblical principles governing the Christian life were presented at all the meetings using the Scripture theme, "Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only" (James 1:22).

The services opened Friday evening with a welcome by William Fogg, moderator of the host church. The Rev. Albert Rogers of Plainfield, director of the Historical Society of the denomination spoke on "The Church's Responsibility To Get Outside of Itself," stressing the need of following Christ's example in ministering to all people.

A heart-warming element was woven into the meetings through special musical

selections conducted by Mrs. Charles Harris, director of music of the Shiloh church, a narration by Pastor Bond, and through music presented by a youth chorus comprising members of the Shiloh and Marlboro churches. In addition to the music by the choirs, there were solos by Charles North of Plainfield, John Harris and Owen Probasco; a male chorus with a ladies' trio comprising Misses Barbara Dickinson, Jane Harris, and Mrs. John Harris.

A special communion service followed the Sabbath morning service.

A main feature at one of the afternoon meetings was a presentation of the work of "Teen Challenge," an organization of Philadelphia, by the chaplain, Rev. Norman Cole.

Alan Crouch, a ministerial student at Crozer Seminary, assisted by Dale Rood, also of Crozer, and Bob Babcock, a student at Eastern Baptist, planned and conducted one of the evening services.

This Yearly Meeting program was planned by Miss Florence Bowden, chairman, John Harris, Ronald Bond, and the Rev. Charles Bond. Mrs. Mary Ayars made the arrangements for housing the visiting delegates.

A spiritual atmosphere highlighted the 11th annual "Church Retreat" meetings held Oct. 3-4, at Jersey Oaks Camp. The Friday evening service at the camp opened with congregational singing, led by Barbara Dickinson. The Junior High girls, led by Eleanor Hanford, gave a choral reading. Enlightening messages were presented by Alan Crouch, Everett Dickinson, Jr., and Florence Bowden. John and Lucy Harris, Joseph and Carol Loper rendered special music.

A special part of the Sabbath morning service was the observance of the Lord's Supper led by Pastor Bond and Alan Crouch.

The afternoon meeting was occupied with setting up the church calendar for the fiscal year 1969-1970. This meeting was followed by a fellowship supper.

The committee planning this retreat was Mrs. Belford Harris, chairman; Mrs. Alan Hanford, and Miss Katherine Davis.

—Correspondent

## OUR WORLD MISSION

### OWM Budget Receipts for September 1969

	Treasurer's		Boards'			Treasurer's		Boards'	
	September 12 mos.		12 mos.			September 12 mos.		12 mos.	
Adams Ctr NY ..	\$ 283.50	\$ 1,167.50	\$ 45.00		Milton WI .....	1,641.57	12,088.99	1,150.25	
Albion WI .....	80.60	443.75	132.46		Milton Jct WI ..	111.90	1,099.15	35.00	
Alfred NY .....	1,229.51	6,633.56	170.00		New Auburn WI ..	50.56	700.74	105.22	
Alfred Sta NY ..		1,947.20	10.00		New Milton WV ..	50.00	623.88	10.00	
Ashaway RI .....	300.00	3,085.00	130.00		New Orleans LA ..		5.00		
Assns & Groups ..	140.00	1,573.33	1,735.33		North Loup NB..	444.00	3,493.65	110.00	
Battle Creek MI ..	692.48	5,730.17	173.00		Nortonville KS ..	215.25	2,220.25	158.00	
Bay Area CA .....		605.00	10.00		Ohio Fellowship..		125.00		
Berea WV .....	50.00	351.00	10.00		Paint Rock AL ..	99.00	440.17	20.00	
Berlin NY .....	204.41	1,785.78	\$ 67.50		Plainfield NJ ..	529.99	4,600.11	135.00	
Boulder CO .....	120.49	1,287.15	110.00		Putnam County ..	30.00	30.00		
Brookfield, NY ..	48.00	547.85	17.50		Richburg NY .....	58.50	1,409.43	40.00	
Buffalo NY .....	100.00	506.00	13.75		Riverside CA .....	1,019.88	6,955.11	282.00	
Chicago IL .....		1,322.50	10.00		Rockville RI .....	23.25	379.71	60.00	
Daytona Beach FL ..	100.00	1,635.00	25.00		Salem WV .....	180.00	2,893.35	89.10	
Denver CO .....	505.85	3,632.86	25.00		Salemville PA .....	55.00	896.14	85.00	
De Ruyter NY .....	112.00	993.20	11.00		Schenectady NY..	51.00	232.30	20.00	
Dodge Ctr MN .....	235.72	2,275.44	152.00		Seattle WA .....	89.00	363.00		
Farina IL .....	132.91	602.80			Shiloh NJ .....		7,523.20	510.00	
Fouke AR .....		145.00	10.00		Stonefort IL .....	25.00	305.00	10.00	
Hammond LA .....		110.00			Svracuse NY .....	20.00	299.75		
Hebron PA .....	205.00	1,135.37	35.00		Texarkana AR .....	25.00	25.00		
Hopkinton RI .....	12.00	157.00	10.00		Verona NY .....	132.00	2,467.44	70.00	
Houston TX .....		281.00			Walworth WI .....	200.00	1,508.00	60.00	
Independence NY ..	133.02	989.37	15.00		Washington DC ..	236.00	631.00	135.00	
Individuals .....	5,165.04	8,991.22	284.90		Washington				
Irvington NJ .....		1,800.00	150.00		People's DC .....		40.00	10.00	
Jackson Ctr OH ..		1,000.00			Waterford CT .....	124.49	1,401.07	78.00	
Kansas City MO ..	70.00	635.00	42.16		Westerly RI .....	1,198.43	6,851.34	273.00	
Leonardsville NY ..	105.00	1,003.60	17.50		White Cloud MI ..	160.96	548.92	70.00	
Little Genesee NY ..	221.35	1,915.88	35.00						
Little Rock AR .....	33.65	643.02	10.00		Totals	\$17,692.31	125,078.55	7,265.67	
Los Angeles CA..	350.00	4,634.33	120.00		Non-Budget	80.00			
Lost Creek WV .....		1,573.00	26.00						
Marlboro NJ .....	291.00	3,707.97	142.00		Total				
Metairie LA .....		75.00	5.00		to Disburse	\$17,772.31			

### SEPTEMBER DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education .....	\$ 1,607.43
Historical Society .....	17.57
Ministerial Education .....	1,714.29
Ministerial Retirement .....	793.65
Missionary Society .....	8,167.22
Tract Society .....	2,845.57
Trustees of Gen. Conf. .....	124.44
Women's Society .....	281.60
World Fellowship & Service .....	492.21
General Conference .....	1,708.33
S. D. B. World Federation .....	20.00

Total Disbursements .....\$17,772.31

### S U M M A R Y

1968-1969 Budget .....	\$137,570.00
Receipts for 12 months:	
OWM Treasurer .....	125,078.55
Boards .....	7,265.67
	132,344.22
1968-1969 Budget Arrears .....	\$ 5,225.78
Percentage of Budget year elapsed .....	100%
Percentage of Budget Raised .....	96%
Gordon L. Sanford	
OWM Treasurer	
September 30, 1969	



