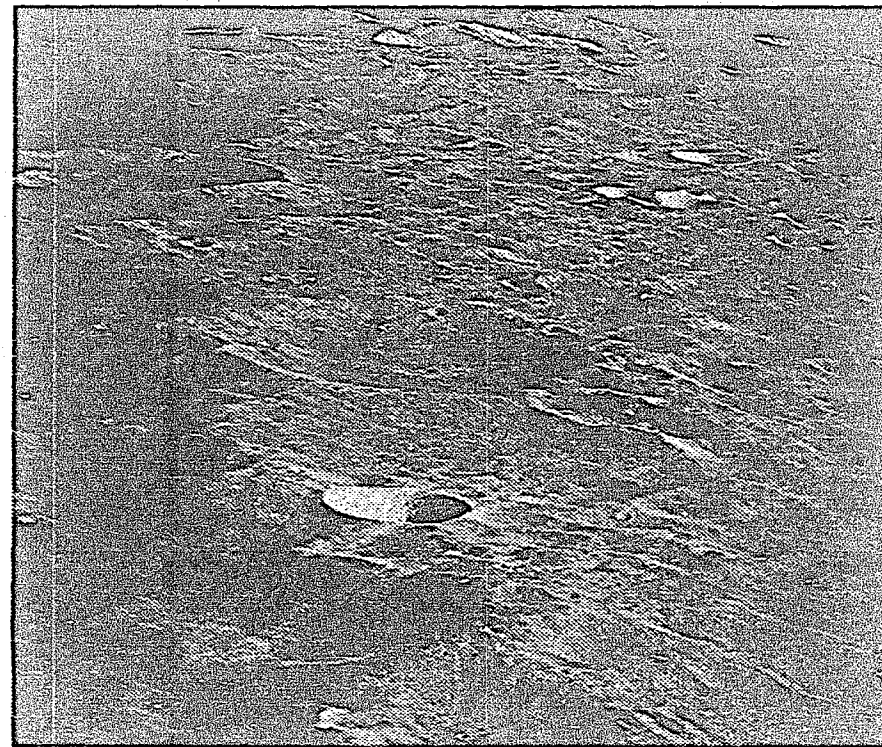


The Sabbath Recorder

The Back Side of the Moon



It has now been possible to photograph the back side of the moon, which is never seen from the earth. The craters seen here have not yet been named. Interest in this unknown land is at a high pitch. Would that men in general were as interested in that better land where Christ is preparing a place for those who love Him.

The Song of the Morning Stars

Recently I have read comment on the Scripture statement, "The morning stars sang together," to the effect that this is merely an expression of poetry.

As a teen-ager, I was taught in school that there is no motion which does not produce sound. True, we may not hear the sound. Our ears are tuned to sounds within a limited range. Had our Creator so chosen, He might have given us ears that would detect the tinkling footsteps of a fly tip-toeing across the ceiling above our heads, ears that would be

able to hear and endure the mighty "music of the spheres." I say "music" advisedly, for to me it is inconceivable that the motion of the spheres should produce a vast disharmony.

As to their motion, all scientists are agreed that not only is our earth moving but the planets and the stars are moving also.

—Margaret E. La Mont

Radio Preachers Scheduled for U. S. Congress on Evangelism

Two of North America's best known radio preachers and evangelists have been named to give the opening and closing messages of the U. S. Congress on Evangelism in Minneapolis, Minn., next September 8-13.

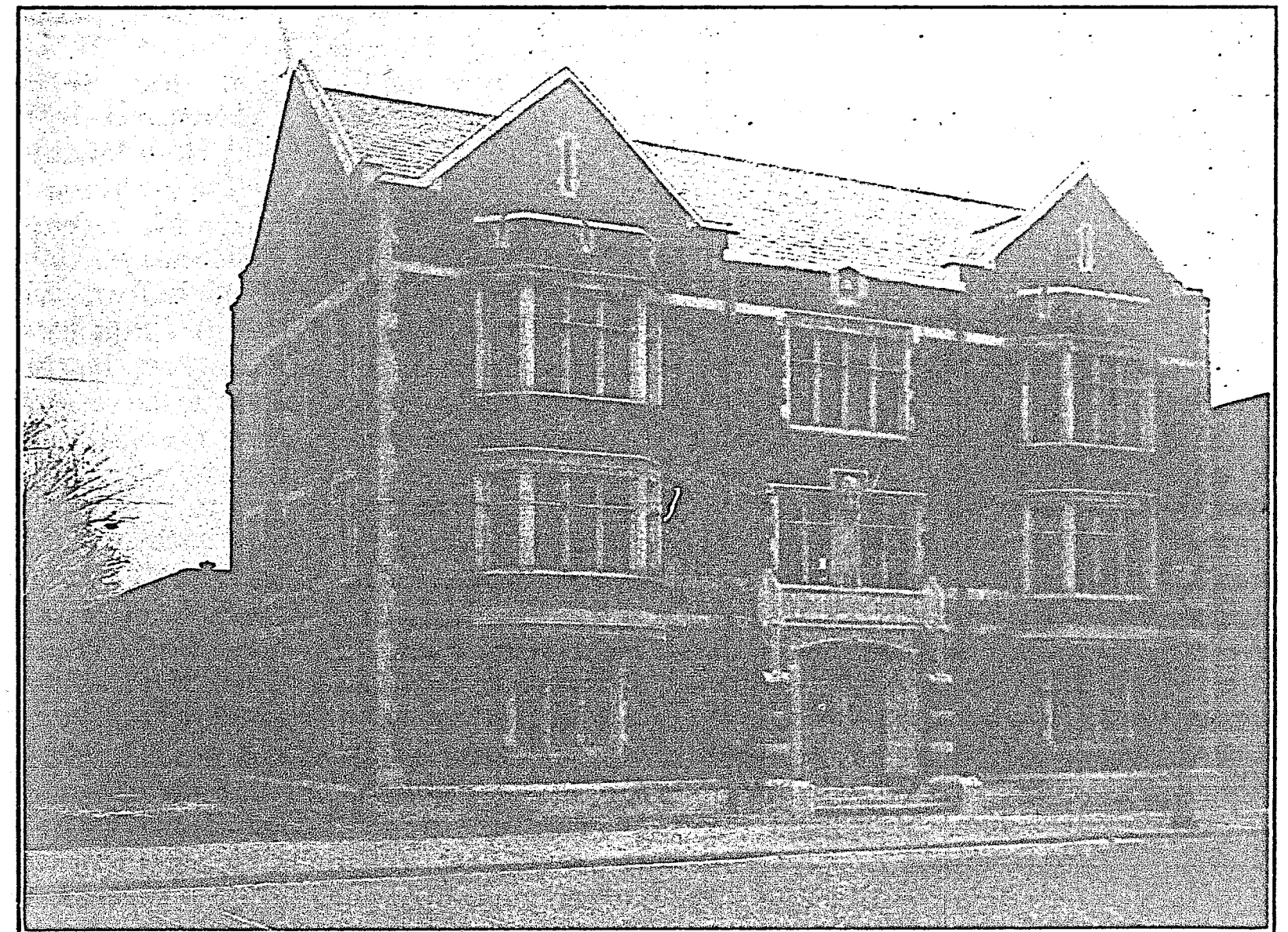
They are Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann, St. Louis, Missouri, speaker on the Lutheran Hour, and Evangelist Billy Graham, Montreat, North Carolina, the voice of the Hour of Decision.

Dr. Hoffmann will deliver the keynote message on Monday evening, September 8, in the 8,000 seat Minneapolis Auditorium, where the conclave will be held.

Graham will conclude the congress on Saturday noon.

The two men, in addition to accepting the speaking responsibilities, have committed themselves to other responsibilities in behalf of the Congress. Dr. Hoffmann is serving as chairman of the National Committee of 55 and Graham has agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the congress.

Both men were major speakers at the 1966 World Congress on Evangelism in Berlin, Germany, which congress inspired the gathering in Minneapolis.



Visit Denominational Headquarters at Plainfield

Not since 1938 has the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference met in Plainfield, N. J., or within an hour's drive, as it is this year at Nyack Missionary College. One of the places to visit before or after Conference and one of the recommended tours on the afternoon off is the headquarters building and publishing house. If you have not visited the building this year you have not seen it as it is. Offices have been rearranged and refurbished. The three main floors, plus basement and attic, are in full use, with more personnel than could be imagined a few years ago when there was talk of trying to sell. See the place where plans are made and things are done for the growing Seventh Day Baptist cause!

The Sabbath Recorder

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Successful or Faithful?

We live in an age of success stories. Men are judged by their peaks of success. There is a tendency to evaluate our churches and our personal ministry in terms of annual or other short-term success in membership growth. To fail to be concerned with success in our evangelistic work dooms us to failure at the outset. We must have a goal before us else our efforts will be less than our capabilities. As churches we are currently enrolled in the Crusade of the Americas. We should look for results to some extent in terms of numbers. To have something less than success in mind makes a mockery of our professed Christian witnessing program.

Having reflected this much on success let us look at the other side. Success is not always properly measured by numbers counted at the end of a given time. An evangelist in Tokyo may have 1,000 attentive listeners throughout a two week campaign. Another missionary may labor for fifty years in Egypt before winning seventy-five converts from Islam to Christianity. Someone has correctly pointed out that the Great Commission calls the followers of Christ to be faithful, not necessarily successful, witnesses. The rewards spoken of by Jesus in His parable are to the "good and faithful servant." If success comes into the picture it will be determined in that final day by the Judge of all the world. The Bible pretty clearly indicates that success is not to be reckoned by worldly standards but may be spoken of as succeeding in being faithful witnesses.

For us to put the emphasis on faithfulness rather than success is not to be an excuse for a low level of effort or lack of results. Rightly pursued, faithfulness in witnessing is far more arduous than we sometimes think. When we honestly evaluate our faithfulness we are humbled by our shortcomings, pray for more grace, and vow to do better.

Again it is possible to exalt faithfulness to the point of self-righteousness and lack of concern for effectiveness. For example, early one Sunday morning I had occasion to ride my bicycle through the business district of Riverside, Calif. There was that week in the city a convention of

Jehovah's Witnesses. There were several pairs of them on every block "faithfully witnessing" to people who weren't there.

Our commission to be faithful witnesses might well be stated in terms of our 1969 Conference theme "Sensitive in His Service." When we are sensitive (another word for love), we will make our witnessing relevant to the person and the situation. We will use the most effective methods. After that we will trust the promises about fruitfulness and will let God judge the successfulness.

Vocational Problems

Most of us are not close enough to big business or to our country's educational system to evaluate the vocational problems. Obviously the problems vary according to the viewpoint; it makes a difference whether you are a young person looking for a job or an executive searching for suitable workers.

One side of the picture comes from E. Hornsby Wasson, chairman of the board, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. In a public relations publication he points out the difficulties of getting enough young employees who meet minimum educational standards. California's largest employer, PT & T needs to hire 25,000 new people each year to make up for those lost and to meet the increasing demands for the company's services. He says that only about 600 of these will have college degrees. A total of 250,000 per year will be interviewed to get 25,000. Some qualified young men may choose to work somewhere else and some will be turned down by the interviewers for various reasons, but 50,000 will fail to meet the company's very lowest requirements.

Mr. Wasson states that 50,000 young people, most of whom are high school graduates will not be able to pass an eighth grade arithmetic or English test. They will be unaware of the basic elements of personal hygiene. They will be ignorant of the importance of getting to work on time, or of getting to work at all if they don't feel like it. He says that

it is the company's policy to hire and to train about 5,000 such young people. By giving them remedial reading and some other short-term subjects they can become acceptable employees.

If one company finds 45,000 young people each year who are unfit for meaningful work it is an indication that we have vocational and educational problems and probably a large number of young people revolting against a society in which they do not seem to fit. If the educational system of California, which is one of the best in the nation, fails to reach a large number of the youth who pass through its gates, what must the picture be for the country as a whole? Presumably the failure of the educators is largely a failure to motivate, to instill a desire to learn and to succeed. Business, in some cases, can pick up and train many of them simply because when looking for work they see the economic necessity of meeting basic educational standards. Thus one possible solution of the vocational problem may be a closer cooperation between business and the school system in equipping students for employment.

All of this comes home to Christian parents, to pastors and other church leaders. Of the large numbers of children and youth who pass regularly through the doors of the church and "graduate" from our Sabbath Schools there are many who go out into life as spiritual illiterates. We are aware that we have failed to bring them the motivation that comes when a young life is truly committed to Christ. It isn't enough to lament the fact that we have failed to motivate so many of our church young people; we must do something about it. We must try harder. Part of the reason for failure is that young folks do not always choose right when they have been taught faithfully. On the other hand, we have to search our hearts to see whether or not there is a noticeable gap between our example and precept. This we can do something about. We can also put more love (including discipline) into the training of our children.

JULY 21, 1969

Mustn't Slam Opening Doors

Who would open the door to a friend and then slam it in his face? None of us. But if you saw doors opening for the spread of the gospel, if you knew of people eager to know more about the Sabbath, would you slam those doors? Well, no, of course not. It looks as if many Seventh Day Baptists have been doing just that in the last month. The figures for denominational giving printed on page 15 of this issue are very, very low in comparison with the need. This means the closing of doors that were opening.

A month ago the treasurer of Our World Mission, after adding up the May contributions of \$9,500, noted that to meet our budget needs it would require over \$15,000 per month through September. The June figures show only \$6,700. Now we need \$17,000 per month. At a time when we ought to be answering in a substantial way the new calls that are coming to us from around the world we are failing to raise enough money to meet the salaries of those we have promised to support, people who want to give full time to the service of the Lord at home and abroad. "Brethren, these things ought not so to be," said James in relation to saying one thing and doing another (Jas. 3:10). The weightier matters of the law, said Jesus, are judgment, mercy and faith. We cannot be absolved from doing these by meticulous care in tithing our smallest sources of income, but neither are we to leave off tithing because society needs to see evidences of judgment, mercy and faith. "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Mat. 23:23).

If we fail in our goals for giving (which are far below the tithe of all our people) we cannot claim that we are giving proper attention to judgment, mercy and faith. When the people of the world need these so desperately, we are slamming the door in their faces if we do not back up our profession with our purse. The calls for the message entrusted to us are the opportunities knocking at

our doors. If we do not show love by systematic or sacrificial giving God will take our opportunities away from us. May we be like the Philadelphia church of which Christ said, "Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it . . ." (Rev. 3:8).

August Issues of the RECORDER

There has been a change in plans for the two issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* next month. It is now hoped that we can omit the two middle-of-the-month numbers (Aug. 11 and 18) and print issues dated August 4 and 25.

Last year we omitted the last two weeks in order to give all the print shop personnel two consecutive weeks of vacation. This year we are giving subscribers practically a double issue with gold cover just before Conference and are hoping to be able to bring some of the news of Conference to our readers a week earlier than usual.

Those who keep files of the *Sabbath Recorder* for binding or other purposes are asked to take notice of the August schedule.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) Safety for those traveling to Conference and rich experiences with people along the way.
- 2) Conservation of the mountain-top experiences of children and youth who have been in our church camps throughout the land.
- 3) Strength and guidance for leaders and campers in Guyana.
- 4) The stay-at-homes — the vast majority of our people — who bear the responsibilities of our churches during August when some of the leaders are away.
- 5) Pastors and student pastors about to begin work in new assignments.

MEMORY TEXT

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my Spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 42:1

An Open Letter from Conference Registration Committee

Dear Fellow Conference-goer,

I have just returned from Nyack where I toured the college dorms and asked many questions. I'd like to pass on a few bits of information that might help you decide what to bring to Conference.

Bedding is provided by the college this year. You will get two sheets, a pillow, pillowcase, two towels and one blanket. If you think you will need more blankets, please bring your own. New York weather is unpredictable. The rooms are not air-conditioned as nights are usually cool. However, if you wish to bring an electric fan you may.

Ping pong tables are available, but if you wish to use them, please provide your own balls and paddles.

There is a laundry in each dorm. Washers are 25 cents and dryers 10 cents. Ironing boards are available.

There will be a refrigerator in each dorm for keeping such items as medicine and baby formula. No cooking is allowed in any dorm, however.

Plan to have a \$2.00 deposit for room keys, which you will get back when you return the key. You don't need to take a key if you don't wish to lock your room.

About half of the dormitory rooms have two beds in them. The rest have beds for one, three or four persons. We are not allowed to move beds from one room to another, so to get the type of room you want, please register early. There are about 400 beds altogether. If we have an unusually large Conference, this may not be enough space to house everyone — another good reason to register early.

Please don't forget to send the registration fee along with money for your board

and room. Everyone except Sabbath Day visitors who do not plan to stay overnight must pay this, and several of you have omitted it.

If you have any further questions, I'll be happy to answer them. But to keep postage costs down, I would appreciate a self-addressed stamped envelope, please.

Seeking to be "Sensitive in His Service,"

Ruth Ellis, registration chairman
Berlin, N. Y. 12022

BIBLE READING FOR AUGUST

Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah
Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations
Daniel

The Jewish people lived in their promised land as two kingdoms (Judah and Israel) for two hundred years (930 - 721 B.C.). They were often threatened by neighboring nations — Egypt and Edom to the south, Syria to the north, and Assyria and Babylon to the northeast. From 745 B.C. Assyria's campaigns of conquest terrorized the other nations.

Isaiah and *Micah* were prophets in Judah and her capital city, Jerusalem, in the latter half of the eighth century B.C. They saw in their lifetimes Assyria's captivity of Israel, and her unsuccessful invasion of Jerusalem (Is. 36-37; 2 Kings 18-19). Both prophets warned of God's future judgment on Judah for idolatry and alliances with heathen nations.

Notice that in the prophetic books the title "Israel" often means not just the northern kingdom, but the whole Jewish people or nation.

During King Josiah's reign in Judah (621-609 B.C.), the prophet *Zephaniah* denounced idolatry and the prophet *Jeremiah* preached repentance. King Josiah tried to turn Judah from pagan worship (2 Chron. 33-35), but his reforms were only temporary.

The Assyrian Empire had been waning, and in 612 B.C. the wealthy palace city, Nineveh, fell to the Babylonians and Medes. After two years of siege a sudden rise of the river washed away part of the city walls, as foretold by the prophet

Nahum. His description was so vivid that we can almost hear the noise of Nineveh's fall and the silence of her desolation.

After Assyria's decline, the dominating power was Babylon. Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah and *Habakkuk* prophesied the Chaldeans' (Babylonians') attack on Judah. During Jeremiah's lifetime, in 597, Judah's King Jehoiachin was taken captive to Babylon. Among other captives were *Daniel* and his companions who rose to prominence at the Babylonian court, yet remained loyal to God. In 586 Judah's last king, Zedekiah, was captured and Jerusalem was burned. Most of the survivors were deported to Babylon; the remainder soon fled to Egypt, taking Jeremiah. (Read Jer. 52.) *Lamentations* expresses sorrow over the tragic fall of Jerusalem.

The material in the book of Jeremiah is not all arranged chronologically. Among his predictions was the fall of Babylon, naming the Medes as conquerors (50:9; 51:11). Several of the prophets envisioned God's restoration of the Jews to their land, of which we will read in the remaining Old Testament books.

—Helen Ruth Green

Foreign Affairs Director Named by WCC

A prominent South American lawyer, Mr. Leopoldo Juan Niilus, 39, has accepted the invitation of the World Council of Churches to serve as director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

Mr. Niilus succeeds Dr. O. Frederick Nolde of New York who was the Commission's director from 1946 until his retirement in December 1968.

An active worker in the ecumenical movement, he has held senior positions in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Buenos Aires, the World Student Christian Federation and was Student Christian Movement chairman in Argentina.

"That I May Know Him"

By Mont Hurst
Dallas, Texas

Most people will readily agree that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is a reality of some sort in their lives and thinking. They know who He is. It is also safe to say that, in view of the troubled world of today, the majority of people do not know Him in a personal way. They will accept the gift but without the Giver of all good gifts.

Our personal acquaintance with Jesus Christ must be a vivid reality or we miss the mark which God has set for us. Jesus must be such a reality in us that others will know that we are His and He is ours. In one instance mentioned in the Bible other people could tell that His followers had been with Him and He was with them.

A hymn asks, "Can the world see Jesus in me?" This is a question we should ask ourselves regularly. We ought to make regular appraisals of our personal relationship to Him. We must know Him in such a way that He is manifested in our lives.

One of the main objectives of St. Paul was that he would continually know Him. It is this personal knowledge that builds the foundation of the more abundant life and which uses for its stones a faith which is being continually released. No greater words can be uttered than these, "I know Him."

Lord Jesus, Thou art my friend who sticketh closer than a brother.

COUNTING STARS

Was Abraham the first Hebrew astronomer (Gen. 15:4-6)? God called on Abraham to count the stars if he could. He couldn't. We may be a little ahead of him in this, but not much; we can't count them either. It ought to produce in us the same faith in the promise of God that it produced in Abraham. His faith is mentioned three times in an epistle to Christians (Heb. 11).

Clearly To Follow

By Rev. Wm. Mosby Wright*

Christ promised to build something which He designated "My Church." Since He is the Christ and the Son of the *Living God*, it is very dangerous not to be His true friend. If we who are His followers do not shoulder the responsibility of witnessing to that truth in the world in which we live today, who will bring the message of love? One manner in which the commandments of God are better displayed is by the wonderful faith of all people who understand them.

This teaching is based, of course, on all understanding of God's love, for the love of God is sovereign by "Divine Grace" — Salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:1-10). We need the Lord's instructions by His commandments for confidence and full assurance of the blessings of love and grace. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). We cannot have too many rejoicing Christian friends without love and we should strive to be that grand example of making our calling and election sure.

Also love, like the commandments, should not be boastful and to truly understand we should remember "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." As a Christian writer and minister, I so desire this land to be a land of liberty, and to have every man enjoy his rights and his privileges alike. The principles of brotherhood are clearly stated throughout the Word of God. One way in which we betray the truth of love, is to speak of the other "thirty-seven reasons" why we keep the Sabbath and deny the important characteristics of all the other commandments which are for us also.

We live in the midst of all sorts of

* Mr. Wright of Memphis, Tenn., is a Sabbathkeeping minister who has recently become interested in Seventh Day Baptists. He has expressed a desire to attend our General Conference. This is his first article in our journal, though he speaks of having written for numerous others.

goodness and badness. Sometimes we cannot see clearly our own weakness because of pride and just earthly degree. We must be very careful to notice that God is King as well as Judge. God is Creator, He is Holy but He is also like a Father, He loves all of His children. "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:5).

Obedience is required by "God's Commandments." That comes by love, and love means obedience. But it is the grace of God that bringeth salvation. "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). We must not lose sight of the fact that: "The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). And so it is. All "Christians" need wisdom, justice, love, power and faith to keep all commandments, not just the fourth. We as born-again Christians, saved by grace, are to keep *all* the commandments.

The Christian habit of love is the example of faith, charity and purity in living lives that are clearly true. God's divine authority comes from love and not from the "hatchet of hate." So why should any preacher fly off the handle to hurt? The moral of this little thought needs retelling and relearning many times. If love has nothing to do with obedience, how can we be sure about the teachings of the Sabbath, pray tell me, friends? The invitation is love for grace and the standards are God's laws, brethren.

It is reasonable to believe some things about Jesus which we cannot now believe about other persons. It would be ridiculous to imagine that people keep the commandments as true as our Lord. John says, "The law came through Moses, but grace and truth through Jesus Christ."

This "old right-hander" (the writer likes to call himself this) clearly wants to register his writings as the word of truth. "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee and that it may be displayed

(Continued on page 14)

FISHERS OF MEN

Equipped for the Job

By Rev. Herbert E. Saunders

"When Jesus was walking along the shore of the Lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Follow me,' he said to them, 'and I will make you fishermen who catch men.' There and then they left their nets and became his followers."

The incredible story of the capture of the hearts and lives of the "Big Fisherman," his brother Andrew and their friends, James and John, stands at the heart of the glorious message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here on the shores of an unpredictable sea, amid the smell of commercial fisheries, lived four men, themselves unpredictable, whose lives were strangely warmed by the presence of a quiet carpenter from Nazareth. They must have been searching for something, these fishermen — something of value and worth and meaning, for when the Master looked into their fishermen's eyes He caught a glimpse of greatness, and called them forth without hesitation to the greatest task to which a man can be privileged to commit himself. Here were capable, hard working, intelligent men. Here were men who knew the responsibility of life, and Jesus somehow knew that their zeal for fishing could be channeled into a passion for the souls of men. Using a phrase that would capture their imagination. He called them to "follow Him" and leaving their commercial nets behind they took up nets of love that eventually embraced the whole world with a message that saves men.

Today, however, the call comes forth to us with startling clarity. As we stand gazing into the face of Jesus Christ, the living Lord, we are confronted with the same call, "follow me and I will make you to be a fisherman who catches men." Are we equipped to handle the job? Are we capable of the response that compelled the "Big Fisherman," his brother and friends, to leave their commercial

nets and take up their crosses and follow Him? Do we twentieth century American Christians really know what it means to be a "fisher of men"? We sing the catchy little chorus, "I will make you fishers of men" but often we fail to realize that we also sing the phrase "if you follow me." If — that is one of the biggest words in the English language when used to qualify a statement such as this. Christ can make us "fishers of men" only IF — IF we consciously give our lives to Him.

Let's share together in thinking about the equipment we have to handle the job Jesus is calling us to perform. The equipment of the fishermen Jesus called there on the shores of the Sea of Galilee were the basic tools of a commercial fisherman. They had a sturdy boat capable of withstanding the onslaught of the quick unpredictable storms that were characteristic of the sea. They were equipped with nets capable of hauling in scores of fish at one time. They had strong arms and courage beyond measure as they left the relative quiet of the shores to do their fishing — a means, of course, by which they fed their families and fulfilled their social obligations.

But most of us are not commercial fishermen, and the equipment of the biblical fishermen does not help us to much, should we decide to fish. In fact we are weekend fishermen, if we have ever fished at all, and our equipment is much different from that of the earliest disciples. Let's take a quick look at what equipment is necessary for the "weekend sport fisherman." First of all, there is a need for a pole or rod. The purpose of such an instrument is to give the fisherman something to hold in his hand which will guide the rest of his equipment to a place in the water where he can catch fish. Attached to this rod is a second piece of equipment, that is essential if one is to easily bring the fish to shore, should of course a fish be caught, and that is the reel, an intricate little instrument which is designed to let out the line into the water and bring it back, hopefully without entangling it. Attached to the reel, and threaded through small guides on the rod is the line. Near the

end of the line there is a sinker — a small weight used to stabilize the line so that it doesn't move too much or rise to the surface of the water. Attached to the end of the line is the most important part of the fisherman's gear — the hook. With this little instrument the fish is caught — and hopefully kept. Without the hook at the end the rest of the fisherman's gear would be useless.

Three other things, at least, are necessary if a fisherman is to be successful. He needs bait, or in the case of some kinds of fishing, a lure. There has to be something to entice the fish to strike. A bare hook is not as appetizing as a juicy worm. So a good fisherman uses the bait that will attract the kind of fish he wants to catch. But a good fisherman also has to have patience. He has to be willing to wait for the fish to bite. But finally, no fisherman will truly be successful until he has the real skill to catch the fish — to know just when to reel the fish in, to know where the fish are biting and just what bait or lure will catch them. The skillful fisherman has something more than tall stories about the ones that "got away."

But what has all this to do with being "fishers of men"? Where does this description of sport fishing fit in with a description of "soul fishing"? I believe we have in our hands the finest equipment available for saving men's lives. I believe that we are equipped with every tool necessary to win people to Christ. After all, the message of Jesus' call is for every man — we are talking about evangelism, witnessing, a personal encounter with God and men. We Christians are being called forth into the world to give to men something they desperately need, and we must learn to use the equipment that God has put at our disposal.

We have a rod — a pole — placed in our hands for our use — the *Bible*. On the pages of the Scriptures we find the messages of life, love, hope and purpose that every man on this earth is searching for, with anticipation. We have in our hands as Christians the Word of God. How we use it and what we do with it will determine the results of all our ef-

forts, for on its message hangs all the other equipment for evangelism and outreach that we have. We Seventh Day Baptists have been seriously negligent in our study and understanding of the Bible. We have rested on the premise that we know the message and need little effort to offer it to someone else. But the tragedy of our life as a people — with continuing decreases in our membership — gives evidence that something is lacking. And perhaps, my friends, it is because we have not yet been able to use our rod the Bible, to its fullest extent. We have not really known it or lived by it. We have been lax in our study of it. All of us share in the blame — all of us have been negligent in our witness to God's Word in our lives. The time has come for us to use the Bible as the tool God has placed in our hands to be "fishers of men."

Attached to this rod, the Bible, is the reel — the *church*. Here is the fellowship of those who have heard the Word of God and responded. Here is the "Company of the Committed" whose lives ought to exemplify the life that is lived "in Christ." Here is the place where Christians meet Christians and share experiences, and where those who have never heard the Word find fellowship with God. The Church may not be all that God intended it to be — it may be seriously lacking the motivation which characterized these first fishermen — but it must become through our individual efforts the dynamic "body of Christ" equipped to handle the spiritual responsibilities that no individual can handle alone. A new Christian must be reeled into the Church — must find in the fellowship of those who know Christ a blessing, genuine love and concern, and an awareness of life.

But tragically, my friends, too many of our churches lack any life — they are staid, monotonous and unconcerned. They are like old rusty reels, incapable of drawing anyone into their fellowship. The time has come for us who call ourselves Christians to make the Church of

(Continued on page 12)

**Seventh Day Baptist
Week of Prayer**

The churches are again encouraged to make plans to participate in the Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer, to be held the first full week in January, January 4-10, 1970. The Rev. Otrain B. Manan of Blantyre, Malawi, has agreed to write the material for this observance, assisted by the Rev. David C. Pearson.

The General Conference office at Plainfield, N. J., will handle orders for copies of the Week of Prayer pamphlets. It is expected that sample copies will be sent out to the churches as soon as they are available. Because of the increased number of orders for booklets in 1968 it seems wise to print 3,000 copies for distribution this year.

Why take part in this Week of Prayer? Because there is great power in united prayer. When the disciples met in an upper room for prayer, the Spirit of God was released in an unusual way. Whenever groups of Christians meet for the specific purpose of prayer, God is given a greater opportunity to carry out His will. Those who gather for prayer are strengthened and inspired in the knowledge that they are a part of a worldwide fellowship of prayer.

It is urged that this special Week of Prayer be brought into the church calendar and definite preparation made for full observance by all our Seventh Day Baptist churches around the world.

Pastor O. Manan has written that the theme of the Week of Prayer will be "Peace from God" and will be centered around a scriptural passage found in Ephesians 2:14 — "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."

The outline for developing the theme will be as follows: (1) Peace, God's Plan for Man; (2) Peace Destroyed by Sin; (3) Peace Restored; (4) Peace Maintained; (5) Peacemaking, the Christian's Task — Man to Man; (6) Peacemaking, the Christian's Task — Man to God; (7) Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

**Youth Pre-Con Retreat
August 6 - 10, 1969**

at
Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N.Y.

AGE—15 years of age or those who have finished the ninth grade through age 20.

18-20 year old persons may choose this or Young Adult Pre-Con.

BEGINS—with registration at 2:00 p.m., Aug. 6 — Ends at noon, Aug. 10.

FEE—\$20.00 (This may have to be adjusted.)

BRING—Bible, notebook, pen, swim suit clothing fitting to a college campus.

STAFF—The Rev. Glen Warner, director

Dr. Wayne R. Rood, resource person, drama workshop

Mr. Charles Harris, vocational guidance

Mrs. H. O. Burdick, writing workshop

Miss Carol Clarke, sculpturing

Miss Esther Burdick, worship leader

Barbara Saunders, music director

Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, business manager, 511 Central Ave., Plainfield, N. J. 07060

The Nyack Missionary College has definite rules that must be heeded by all who inhabit its property. Retreaters must agree to abide thereby.

PRE-REGISTRATION—It will help the leaders very much if you will pre-register just as soon as you are reasonably sure that you can attend. Send registration to the business manager.

**Young Adult Pre-Con Retreat
August 6 - 10, 1969**

Young adults of our great denomination have offered to them this unusual opportunity to grasp the early heritage of Seventh Day Baptists in the earliest of our churches in this country.

Under the capable direction of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Camenga (both plan to

be there) Young Adult Pre-Con convenes at Lewis Camp, Bradford, R. I., near Ashaway.

The retreat begins with registration at 2:00 p.m., on August 6 and ends with breakfast, August 10.

The Fee is \$16.00 per person.

The Age Limit is 18-35 (18-20 year olds may attend Youth Pre-Con).

BRING bedding, regular camp clothing, Bible, swim suit, and other articles relevant to good camping.

The Rev. S. Kenneth Davis will lecture and serve as tour guide. Plans include Sabbath Day services in the old Mystic S.D.B. Chapel, Mystic, Conn; a historic circuit with visits to area S.D.B. churches; and a trip to the first American S.D.B. church at Newport, R. I., for a communion service.

Miss Helen Ruth Green will serve as devotions leader, and will conduct Bible studies.

Mrs. Doris Rood will be in charge of music.

Mr. Denison Barber will be business manager — R. 2, Westerly, R. I. 02891.

Please, pre-register if at all possible. Send registration to Denison Barber.

Special Notice

Do you have a friend or relative who would like to enjoy this "Sensitive in His Service" Conference with you but is unable to because of home duties, being hard of hearing, or because of other handicaps?

Would you donate postage, etc., to have them receive the *Conference Crier*?

Send donations to: Miss Becky Butts, Editor of *Conference Crier*
Box 486, Alfred, N. Y. 14802

(A suggestion made by Mrs. Lillian W. Crichlow).

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for August 2, 1969

GOD'S COVENANT AND LAW

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 19:3-8, 16-17; 20:18-20

Echoes of Southeastern

One of the delegates to the Southeastern Association from Washington, D. C., was Mrs. Lillian W. Crichlow, mother of the late minister, chaplain and missionary, Luther Crichlow. Although well advanced in years and hard of hearing she writes enthusiastically of her trip to Lost Creek, W. Va., for the association meetings. She tells of the little boy, Kevin, who kept her informed en route about the places of interest via pencil and paper. She then goes on to say in her letter:

"The sessions of the association were uplifting with high points relayed to me via pen and paper. The view of the hills made one remember that God still lives and rules in the affairs of men. No, the milk of human kindness has not dried up notwithstanding conditions we read in newspapers and on the streets. Courage to the fainthearted comes in the beautiful hymn,

*This is my Father's world,
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so
strong,
God is the Ruler yet.*

"The trip was full of delight and old memories: Salem, W. Va., when Pastor Shaw was there. Visiting the Ritchie Church and Camp Joy to see what is being done and future plans for young people was indeed inspiring.

"May the Lord bless the work and workers. My Christian regards to the friends in Plainfield."

Liberalism Characterized

The trouble with liberalism is . . . it is so illiberal. Why brag about one's liberalism when it breeds intolerance, impatience with opposing positions, a feeling of a God-called right to prevail, a mild contempt for less fortunate mortals?

—from a final article in *Crusader* by retiring American Baptist President Culbert G. Rutenber, of Andover Newton Theological School

Fishers of Men

(Continued from page 9)

Jesus Christ what it ought to be — a dynamic vital magnetic force in the life of contemporary man. But it will never become such unless we make some dramatic changes and give approval to a revival of new life in the Church. Each one of us bears this responsibility. Only you can make the Church what it ought to be.

Attached to the reel is the line, guided to the water by the rod, and this line is the *Sabbath*. Here is the symbol of our creation and re-creation. Here is the weekly reminder that we are God's children, kept in His care, and will never be deserted. Here, as we share in the unique experience of a time set apart for both ourselves and God, we come face to face with what it means to live a spiritual life. I am convinced that the Sabbath is at the very heart of spiritual Christianity, and without it man can never be the kind of person God intended him to be. It is not inconsequential. It is vitally important.

But our faith in the Sabbath must be strong. Our line cannot break every time someone tugs away at it. The Sabbath, if it has any validity, must be a dynamic force in our faith. It must be a blessing to us. It must be an asset not a detriment. But for too many Seventh Day Baptists the Sabbath is a weak line. It is either beset with cumbersome restrictions or it is corroded by laxity. It is time we began to believe in the Sabbath — with all that there is in us, realizing that as Seventh Day Baptists this is the lifeline of our unique existence as a people. It can become a tool which will make us successful "fishers of men" if we will only let it.

Attached to this line, keeping it taut and straight, is our sinker — prayer. It is *prayer* that holds everything in place. It is prayer that keeps us from fluctuating so that we are incapable of being a witness to others. It is prayer that makes us confident in our faith and stabilizes life for us thus making it attractive for others. Time spent in prayer quiets our nerves

and calms our anxieties. Without prayer the waters of the world may move us in all directions, making others reject what we have.

What the world is looking for today is the answer to anxieties and fears — an answer to the perplexing problems of life lived in the twentieth century. We as Christians are called upon to be a stabilizing force in the world — a witness to the calm and serenity that comes when one knows God — and we can only be such if we keep the communication lines open to Him. Prayer isn't a "spiritual ambulance" to call upon in a case of emergency — that only adds to the frustration. Prayer is a constant communication with the Comforter — it is a stabilizing factor in calm or heavy waters. If we would be "fishers of men" we must stabilize ourselves through prayer.

Attached to the end of the line is the heart of our message, the hook — *Jesus Christ*. Whatever else is done or said, the gospel is that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Without Christ we never would have been called to be "fishers of men." Here is our most important piece of equipment — our Lord, Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and living. It is He who catches people — not we. It is to Christ they must be attached, not to us sitting on the bank waiting.

My friends, how many of us today are confirmed believers in Jesus Christ? Perhaps many of us are. But there are those who need to have an experience with Jesus Christ — who need to be "hooked" on Him. And whether we like it or not, we are the ones who are called upon to give Christ to them. The primary responsibility of the Christian, saved through Jesus Christ, is to witness to His love and power. We can believe in the Bible and the Church, keep the Sabbath and pray, but if we do not offer Christ, then all else is lost. Everything else is simply a means for getting Christ where He belongs — into the world of men. Without the Church, the Bible, the Sabbath, or prayer we make lousy fishermen but without Christ we are no fishermen at all. We need, in our church a new

awareness of Christ and what He can do for men. We need a new evangelistic outreach — equipped to handle the needs of the modern world. If we would be equipped to be "fishers of men" we must have Christ and Him alone attached to our line, and when someone strikes this precious hook, they experience a newness of life "in Him."

What about the other things we mentioned — the bait, patience and skill? The need for bait is obvious. We need to search for ways to attract people to Christ, and different things attract different people. We need to offer hope for a world in need. We need to give love to a world filled with hate. We need to pray for peace in a world torn by war and tragedy. We need to offer answers to those who are searching for meaning. The time has come for us to stop resting on our established forms of ritual and practice, and try to make the Christian faith inviting and equipped to handle twentieth century problems. Thank God some churches are finding new methods of outreach and evangelism. Would that we could commit ourselves to do more.

But let us also be patient. We don't catch fish in a flash — at least most of the time. We need to wait and pray and continue our search for people in need. Without hesitation we need to take our post, not relinquishing it to anyone and await our catch. We need to take the time to let Christ take hold on one's life.

But, being a "fisher of men" also requires great skill. We must know when and how to bring someone to Christ. We must be aware that one is not a Christian until he has had this experience with Jesus Christ. A nibble at the hook is not indicative of a caught fish. If we would be good "fishers of men" — successful in our search for lost souls and equipped to handle our tools well, we must have the skill to know who needs Christ's help and we must know when he has committed his life to Christ. Where do we get such skill? How do we develop it? We read in our Scriptures, "You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit

comes upon you." God's spirit gives us the skills necessary to be good fishermen. When the "Big Fisherman" received the Holy Spirit he delivered a sermon that brought three thousand people to shore and into a life in Christ. How effective would be our efforts to "catch men" if we allowed His Holy Spirit to teach us and give us the adequate skills?

We have been considering the equipment needed to be a "fisherman who catches men."

I think it is good for us also to consider the fact that each of us has an *individual* responsibility. Not often are we going to catch more than one fish at a time on our line. Certainly not all of us are capable of the mass evangelism of Peter and the early apostles. But evangelism on a one-to-one basis is at the heart of the Christian faith. We might paraphrase the common cliché "Each one teach one" or read today "Each one catch one." Witnessing for Christ, through the Bible, the Church, the Sabbath, prayer, and through patience, and skill, and by making the Christian faith inviting, is a personal experience for each of us and must be carried on with faith and trust in God's guidance.

The question today, that is being asked of you and me, is this: Have I responded to God's call, and have I become a successful "fisher of men"? What is my effectiveness as I sit on the bank fishing for men? The answer lies in our response today to the message that has been entrusted to us, and our commitment to skillfully use the equipment given to us by the Father in heaven.

Adult Oriented

Kenneth L. Chafin may be right when he speaks from the position of professor in one of the nation's largest theological seminaries and affirms that the churches must become more adult-oriented and provide opportunities for the study of the Bible and its application to life on a deeper adult level.

Clearly To Follow

(Continued from page 7)

because of truth," and yours truly is set to declare the "Whole Counsel of God." We believe of course, God will save all of His "elect," for they follow in word and work. Yes the Lord will bless richly those who keep their minds and their hearts open toward Him.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." In maintaining that love privileges belong to all mankind, let no man break the laws of the land, for he that keepeth the laws of God's love hath no need to break the laws of the land. Again, I refer to the God-given rights of love. Christ said, you have heard it said of by them of old time, "Thou shalt not kill; . . . But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother . . . shall be in danger of the judgment." Again He said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

First things come first clearly when we see the commandments as they are. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth . . . And the evening and the morning were the first day." And He saw every thing that He had made was good and He rested and blessed the seventh day, which is still our one and only Sabbath. Nevertheless, His first commandment was, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Yea, strength and love. "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience and of faith unfeigned" (1 Tim. 1:5). Clearly understand I am speaking of the commandment of that word *love*, the first tremendous lesson on the beginning of all good and clear understanding.

The question is "Who can keep the Sabbath" and not love his neighbor? If any reader has the answer and I am wrong, please do send me the text, as I have searched the Scriptures clearly.

"I knew that what he said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
That he had left Alpha out."

Unto all people — I only try to think of you as my friends — this is a basic principle of this writer's life. I do not write for profit or the second thoughts of sermonizing or criticizing. My lines clearly follow with love written by faith by "God's divine plan."

Many years ago I heard the story of a faithful Son, who did keep all the commandments of His Father. But, in my ministry I have never met another boy that I thought was doing that job like Jesus Christ.

The law of service was made plain in the life of our Lord and Savior, which is important to note his love for our recovering sight. Something about His love is as fresh as the air sweeping over the living waters of time.

God still lives in this beautiful plan to *clearly follow*. Today much of His love has been forgotten. Still daily we are not sightseeing His old trails of truth or His lovely rest on the Sabbath. What are most people doing on the first day or on the seventh day? Some are picnicking, some are fishing and some are not doing anything but sleeping through the pleasure of God's season of truth.

I love to tell of Jesus and His love for me, and when the roll is called, I pray this "old right-hander's" name will be bright and fair to see. Writing for God is so near to my heart and clearly if you will follow, clearly you shall see.



Tithing by all our people for the remainder of the Conference year would meet all our needs. Those who already tithe will gladly give more but can't do it alone.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for June 1969

Treasurer's			Board's		
	June	9 mos.	June	9 mos.	9 mos.
Adams Ctr NY ..		585.00	45.00		
Albion WI	98.10	296.00	132.46		
Alfred NY	381.71	4,189.64	170.00		
Alfred Sta NY ..		1,073.20	10.00		
Ashaway RI	164.00	2,264.68	130.00		
Assns. & Groups	315.05	922.73	1,487.47		
Battle Creek MI ..		3,565.91	173.00		
Bay Area CA		420.00	10.00		
Berea, WV		230.00			
Berlin NY		1,210.78	67.50		
Boulder CO	186.33	927.16	85.00		
Brookfield NY ..	55.25	291.75	17.50		
Buffalo NY	125.00	401.00	13.75		
Chicago IL		567.50	10.00		
Coudersport PA ..	70.00	674.42	35.00		
Daytona Beach FL		1,058.00	25.00		
Denver CO	251.52	2,284.09	25.00		
De Ruyter NY ..		637.70	11.00		
Dodge Ctr MN ..	148.96	1,530.54	117.00		
Farina IL	86.00	424.54			
Fouke AR	55.00	145.00	10.00		
Hammond LA		110.00			
Hopkinton RI ..	12.00	108.00	10.00		
Houston TX		160.00			
Independence NY	45.75	701.55	15.00		
Individuals	10.00	2,336.99	154.40		
Irvington NJ		1,500.00	75.00		
Jackson Ctr OH ..		1,000.00			
Kansas City MO	50.00	410.00	27.05		
Leonardsville NY		701.00	17.50		
Little Genesee NY	149.20	1,304.85	30.00		
Little Rock AR ..	46.08	552.24	10.00		
Los Angeles CA..	700.00	3,150.00	100.00		
Lost Creek WV ..	498.00	1,513.00	26.00		
Marlboro NJ	291.66	2,693.91	142.00		
Metairie LA					5.00
Milton WI	929.08	7,975.64	922.25		
Milton JCT WI ..	88.90	730.50	35.00		
New Auburn WI ..	112.45	479.18	105.22		
New Milton WV ..	50.00	447.00	10.00		
New Orleans LA ..		5.00			
North Loup NB..	250.00	2,291.25	10.00		
Nortonville KS ..	182.50	1,387.00	133.00		
Paint Rock AL ..		163.56	20.00		
Plainfield NJ		2,944.70	85.00		
Richburg NY	53.00	977.83	40.00		
Riverside CA	497.44	4,533.41	105.00		
Rockville RI	19.50	208.86	60.00		
Salem WV	305.00	2,193.35	89.10		
Salemville PA ..	50.00	550.00	76.00		
Schenectady NY..		114.50	20.00		
Seattle WA		164.00			
Shiloh NJ		5,043.75	260.00		
Stonefort IL	23.00	207.00	10.00		
Syracuse NY		146.75			
Texarkana AR					
Verona NY	165.38	1,870.48	60.00		
Walworth WI	100.00	791.50	35.00		
Washington DC ..	50.00	345.00	135.00		
Washington					
People's DC			10.00		
Waterford CT	97.33	987.98	73.00		
Westerly RI		3,909.41	270.00		
White Cloud MI	39.65	322.02	20.00		
Totals	\$6,752.84	\$78,731.45	\$5,770.20		
Non-Budget	132.26				
Total to Disburse	\$6,885.10				

JUNE DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 432.16
Historical Society	4.72
Ministerial Education	460.89
Ministerial Retirement	496.74
Missionary Society	2,623.77
Tract Society	754.21
Trustees of Gen. Conf.	33.46
Women's Society	142.52
World Fellowship & Service	168.30
S. D. B. General Conference	1,708.33
S. D. B. World Federation	60.00
	<u>\$ 6,885.10</u>

SUMMARY

1968-1969 Budget	\$137,570.00
Receipts for 9 months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$ 78,731.45
Boards	5,770.20
	<u>84,501.65</u>
Amount due in 3 months	\$ 53,068.35
Needed per month	17,689.45
Percentage of year elapsed	75.00%
Percentage of Budget raised	61.42%
Gordon L. Sanford	
OWM Treasurer	
June 30, 1969	

The Sabbath Recorder

Seventh Day Baptists Win Respect in Minnesota

On the weekend of June 15 the village of Dodge Center, Minn., celebrated its centennial with the festivities and contests characteristic of such celebrations, with beards and bonnets harking back to pioneer days. The *Star Record* comments on the time of beginning thus:

Because the population of Dodge Center has a large percentage of Seventh Day people the celebration was scheduled to be held after their weekly Sabbath. Many of the town's early settlers were members of the Seventh Day Baptist faith organized the first church in Dodge Center in 1859. The Seventh-day Adventist church was moved here from Concord a few years later. Community affairs are traditionally planned to respect the religious beliefs of these groups and thus the dates for the centennial events were set for Saturday night, June 14, and Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, June 15, 16 and 17.

On Sunday night there was a talent show for youth of various ages. Of the seven entries five had Seventh Day Baptist teen-agers in them. The trio and octet from the church were the winning groups, it is reported. It would appear that the church youth lived up to the respect that was given to them and their faith. They took part in the festivities after the Sabbath when they could with good conscience participate.

Five teen-agers from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Dodge Center are volunteers this summer in the dedicated service program of the denomination.

Veterans of All Ages

The church has a ministry to veterans. It is a broad ministry spanning a wide range of ages. Did you know that there are 30,000 veterans of Vietnam who are under 20 years of age and that the total number of Vietnam veterans (average 26) is 2,760,000? Are you aware that in the upper age bracket there are 7,000 surviving veterans of the Spanish-American War with an average age of 89.9 years? Next below them are 1,705,000 World War I men averaging 74.3 years.

The majority of veterans are from World War II. There are 14,660,000 of them with an average age of 49.3 years—still in the prime of life. The total number of veterans from all wars is 26,656,000, according to a news release from VA. The church has plenty to work on or, should we say, plenty to work with? If one were to visit VA hospitals only he would have a distorted view of the men who have seen military service. It is probable that, on the whole, former military men are better church members and more purposeful in their Christian commitment than the average man.

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

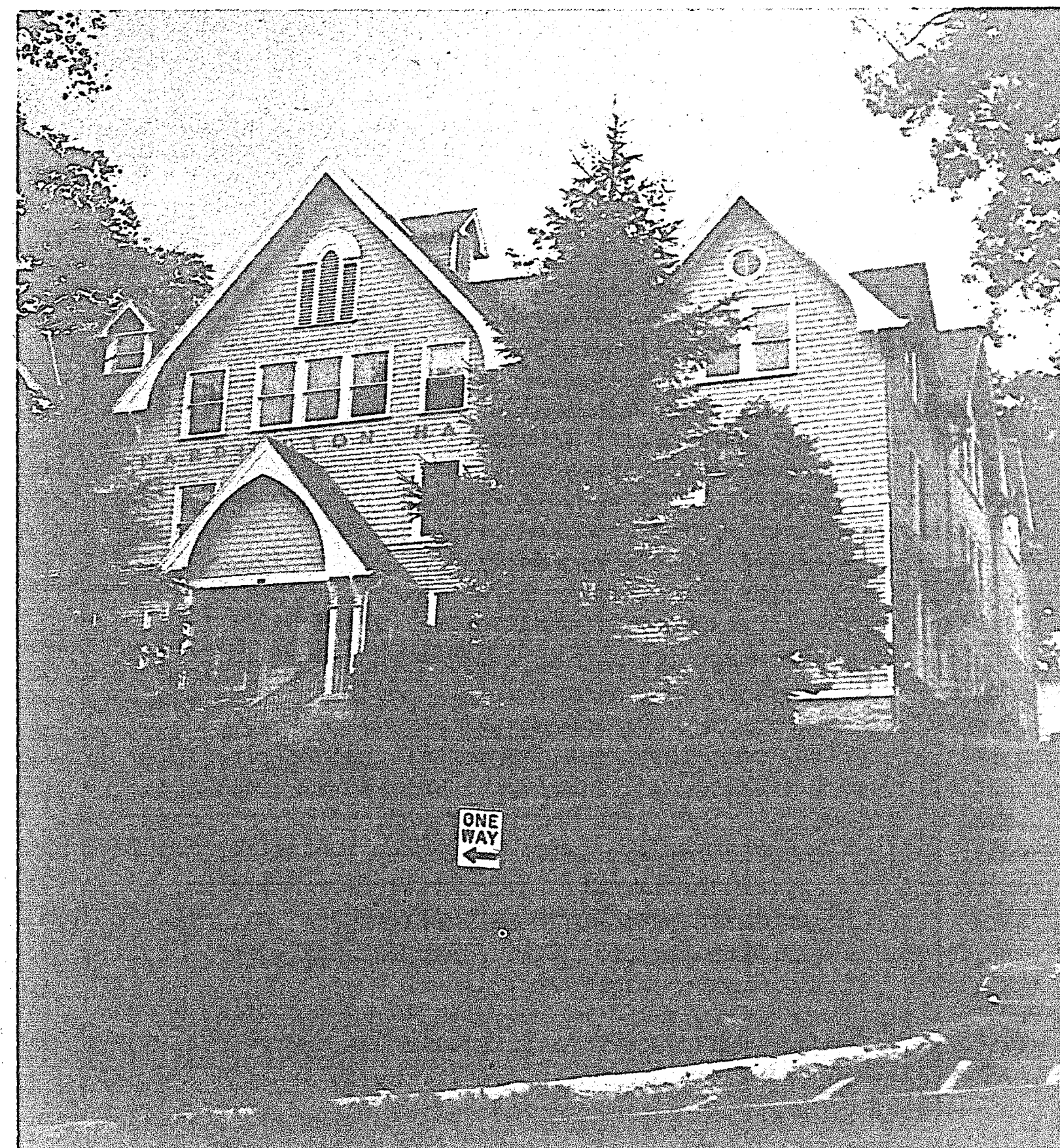
August 10-17, 1969

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



Where Conference Sessions Will Be Held

The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference at Nyack Missionary College, Nyack, N. Y., August 11-16 will hold its worship meetings and business sessions in 600-seat Pardington Hall, one of the older buildings on the hillside campus.