

# The Sabbath Recorder

## Late Mails

Sometimes we feel like writing an open letter to the postmaster or to anyone who can do something about the late delivery of second and third class mail. The editor and all those who work at getting the *Sabbath Recorder* out on time are distressed when subscribers tell us that they missed an issue — that they got the January 5 issue but had not yet received the one dated December 22 or 29.

People can more easily put up with a few days delay caused by the Christmas rush than this leapfrogging and delay of two or three weeks. Supposedly all of us are responsible for late delivery because we glut the mail with Christmas cards and packages. But the Post Office Department puts on a great number of extras to maintain service. It does seem as though they could render better service by revising the rules that allow mail handlers to throw second class mail in the corner until a more convenient time. It appears that once a bag of mail is set aside there is no telling when it will be picked up and set in motion again. We get the impression that a little better supervision of employees would be in order. We have a right to expect efficiency and devotion to duty, including reasonable speed.

The frustration of being unable to keep a weekly coming through on time must be felt more keenly by those who get the news late and find that announced programs and concerns are long gone by. There is little consolation in knowing that others are having the same problems. In our office we have received numerous magazines and church bulletins in mixed-up order this month.

It is an inconvenience when our mail is three weeks late, but it is more than an inconvenience to some. Our hearts go

out to those missionary and relief organizations whose very life depends on answers to their Christmas appeals. They ask us to pray for their work and make a special gift before Christmas so that they can render their intended service. Literature of this kind in red or green ink with an early December date and arriving two weeks after Christmas cannot produce as many gifts as hoped for. Of course we cannot respond to all the appeals that come, but we do think that a greater effort could be made to get the mail to its intended readers on time.

What can any of us do about this late mail problem? Perhaps not much more than to express ourselves and exercise patience. Let's be Christian about it. Furthermore, we might remember that the needs of our denominational work and the needs of other worthy causes are not just Christmas needs; they continue, and our support should be steady. Again, let us remember that some of us must make up for those who only respond to special appeals. Most of us could give a little more.

## Prosperous and Plagued

The United States today is both prosperous and plagued. We are plagued by a war we can neither understand nor find our way out of; black demands which society cannot deny and is willing only slowly to meet; disintegration of city life; fear of crime; and confusion about our real goals. One of America's great achievements has been the growth of the middle classes—which today are plagued by inflation, clogged schools, and an unprecedented generation gap. America's self-assurance has been shaken. The end of complacency may be the beginning of hope.

—Eugene L. Smith, WCC Secretary



Photo by John Taylor of the WCC Photo Department

## Dedication Knows No Race

Vera Lee, a specialist in child care from Hong Kong, gives a little Vietnamese refugee her first lesson in writing under Asian Christian Service.

# The Sabbath Recorder

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Editorials:	
In the Land of the Bible .....	2
Comment on Nigeria .....	3
Alcohol Problem Cries for Solution .....	3
Features:	
President's Column .....	4
General Secretary to Work in Mid-Continent Association .....	5
Commission Reports Its January Meeting .....	6
American Bible Society News .....	7
Letting Our Light Shine .....	8
January Bible Readings.— Our Prayer Corner .....	9
Dedicated Service 1970 .....	10
Missions:	
Missionary Society Appoints New Executive Vice-President .....	11
Missionary Training Begun by Conrods ..	11
People and Chairs .....	11
Christian Education:	
Ecumenical Discussion .....	12
Women's Work:	
News from Malawi .....	13
World Day of Prayer .....	13
News from the Churches .....	14
Marriages.— Births.— Obituaries .....	15

## In the Land of the Bible

As of the date of this issue the editor will have been in Israel for nearly a week "walking where Jesus walked" as Christian tourists put it. The hills and the valleys, the lakes and the seas, have not changed and can be inspiring today as they were to psalmists and other writers of Bible times. Snow-capped Hermon and the Mount of Olives are still there. The desert is still desert except where irrigation has made it again blossom as the rose. Jordan still rolls its tortuous way from the Lake of Galilee 630 feet below sea level to the lowest spot on earth, the Dead Sea, 1300 feet below sea level. The road to Jericho, like these fixed topographical features is still a bit treacherous as it descends steeply from Jerusalem through rugged country.

The identification of some Biblical sites is sure, of many it is not. Much of the ancient landscape has been marred by attempts through the centuries to put buildings at every historic site. Deterioration through the ages caused by the occupation of invading armies and nomads with no love for the land is being replaced by intensive cultivation and well-financed construction carried on by those enchanted with the idea of a homeland after nearly 2000 years of dispersion and persecution. New cities have arisen and some 500 agricultural villages have sprung up where none existed before.

Israel, with relatively few mineral resources and a water supply which, when used to its full potential, will make only 40 percent of the land usable, is even now an unbelievable oasis physically and politically in the vast Arab country around the eastern end of the Mediterranean. Abraham Heschel, prolific Jewish author, effusively captions a current book *Israel, an Echo of Eternity*. He says that the land rejected all aliens but has now welcomed those who love it and feel that it is to them the land of destiny. It would almost seem to be true.

Unfortunately there are evidences that Israel is not exactly heaven on earth or an echo of eternity. The two million people who have returned to Palestine from several continents were not necessarily paragons of righteousness in the lands from which they came. Neither have they become divested of all self-interest and

guile upon becoming citizens of Israel. They are people — like the rest of us, some good and some bad. Not all the lawbreakers in the numerous prisons are Arabs or other aliens.

Israel, however, has done marvelous things in erecting a little democratic nation in the face of overwhelming external and internal obstacles. Its military successes have been close to miraculous. Aside from the changes that have to come with a tripling population and a climbing economy the land of the Bible is more nearly like it is pictured in the Bible than it has been since the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Furthermore, the spots sacred to Christians and Jews are all accessible since the Six-Day War of May 1967. It is Israeli policy to keep all religious shrines available to all. In spite of infiltrations, almost daily border skirmishes, and the lack of established peace, it is a country open to visitors who are interested in that land "where it all began."

## Comment on Nigeria

With the Nigeria-Biafra situation so much in the news since that terrible civil war ended, it is hard to make any comments other than spiritual that will be appropriate by the time they get to the readers. When governments seem powerless to do anything substantial and the broadest based relief agencies have been denied the opportunity to help, about the only weapon to cut the knot (or the noose) is prayer.

Some four million Biafrans are said to have lost their lives (largely through starvation) and at least a million more are likely to die of malnutrition and starvation unless the Nigerian government changes its attitude and allows outside agencies to bring in the stored up relief food. Officials have stated that Joint Church Aid International will not be allowed to help because it prolonged the war by trying to feed the starving.

James Mac Cracken, executive director of Church World Service made this statement:

"A policy of the utmost impartiality has been observed by Church World Service in rendering refugee aid to both

## MEMORY TEXT

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

—James 2:15, 16.

sides in the Nigeria/Biafra conflict. Medical personnel and material aid — food, medicines, clothing and blankets — have been provided for civilian victims in both Federal Nigeria and secessionist Biafran territory, in nearly equal amounts."

Nigeria has listed a number of countries, the United States among them, that will not be allowed to contribute to the relief. They say that it is their problem and that they can take care of it. There is reason to doubt the existence of sufficient resources or the ability to distribute food quickly enough to save the lives that we would like to see saved.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Christian people have been praying. Perhaps the answer is already on the way and a change of attitude will make it possible for warm-hearted folks to carry out what Christian love prompts them to do.

## Alcohol Problem Cries for Solution

There is good reason to speak of the alcohol and drug problem in the same sentence. A strong campaign is in progress to get some meaningful legislation through Congress on alcohol and drugs. No one can deny that our nation faces a serious situation in the growing use of these damaging products. Senators are now taking to the road in behalf of new laws, with forty-two senators co-sponsoring legislation that has been before Congress since 1966.

Leading the popular appeal to end government tokenism in dealing with the alcohol-narcotic problem is Sen. Harold E. Hughes, Democrat from Iowa, himself a recovered alcoholic. The time for

research on the problem is past, the time for action has come, say the Senator and other leaders. Senator Hughes at the kick-off hearings last July spoke out strongly against "the fashionable cocktail party" as "perhaps the greatest single contributor to the growth of alcoholism in this country." This sounds a little different from the common attitude (which probably originated with the liquor interests) that problem drinking results from problem people. The Senator ought to know; he has been through the mill. The people who go to cocktail parties go to have a good time, not because they have problems. The problems come later and the false solution to them.

The North Conway Institute, one of the major organizations studying the alcohol problem, has been unpopular with many churches because its leaders have taken a permissive attitude toward drinking while at the same time trying to find a solution for problem drinking and the cure of alcoholics. The new president of North Conway Institute, the Rev. Thomas E. Price, a Methodist, sees many major denominations now viewing alcohol as not necessarily leading to problems but at the same time "not an innocuous drug." What kind of pussy-footing double talk is this. Dr. Price seems to be pretty far from Dr. John Wesley and the traditional Methodist position which so long ago saw drinking as a great social evil debauching and impoverishing the family.

Drugs and alcohol may belong together when it comes to legislation for control but there may be a danger that in dividing the emphasis neither evil will get the full treatment it deserves. We predict that narcotics and sex and various other abuses that are on the ascendency will eventually have to be treated as moral questions rather than merely social or medical questions. Our society cannot survive if we disregard the moral standards of the Bible. The concept of sin is necessary to the avoidance of sin.

## President's Column

### Called Apart To Be a Part Growing in the Knowledge of Christ

Peter concludes his second Epistle with the exhortation: "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

If we really want to know a person, we "walk" with him. That is, we habitually spend time with that individual in all kinds of circumstances and experiences. We work with him, eat with him, share our feelings and aspirations with him and seek to know his feelings.

Peter is in effect saying that this is the way to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the experiencing of His grace. Between his declaration of the Christian's eternal hope because he is redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:19), and the admonition to grow in grace, he is talking about a soundness of faith that leads the believer to walk with his Lord through obedience in all areas and circumstances of life. Such words as "but," "wherefore," "for," and "as" appear repeatedly to link a life of trusting obedience with Jesus Christ's sufferings and the salvation He bought for His children.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is for walking and living. It is vital and life-giving. It brings God into our personal and everyday lives through the living Christ and the Holy Spirit. It reconciles us to God so that we have His peace, comfort and help in all the circumstances and phases of life. Therefore, it is in an obedient walk with Jesus Christ that we "grow in grace, and in knowledge of Him."

One of the most inspiring accounts of how the knowledge of the sufficiency of Jesus Christ can grow through the years of walking with Him comes from the pen of J. H. Jowett:

"When I introduce my little one to the Saviour, I am introducing her to a life-long friend. Marvellous, and ever-growingly marvellous to me, is my Lord's adaptability, or should I rather say, our Lord's susceptibility to a little child. How He can accommodate Himself to the little

span of their comprehension, and weave Himself into all their desires and enthusiasms and hopes! But more beautiful still is it to watch how His stride enlarges with their years, and how He shares with them the pilgrim's sandals and the pilgrim's staff when life becomes a grave crusade. He is 'the same yesterday and today,' when we begin to shoulder responsibility, and to take up the burden of our prime. And when we reach the summit of our years, and the decline begins, and we march down through the afternoon towards the west where the clouds are homing for the night—when old age comes, with all its regret and fears, He will be as finely susceptible and responsive to our needs as in those playful, careless hours of the dawning when He first called our names."

Most reassuring of all is the promise of our Savior to come personally into the lives of those who live in obedient faith: "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:21, 23).

If you really want to know Jesus, walk with Him in obedience. Exult with Him in your joys. Share your sorrows with Him. Consciously depend upon His help in your spiritual battles and in your daily needs. Seek His way in all the decisions you face. Hear Him as He speaks. We are called by Him to grow in grace and in knowledge of Him.

### General Secretary To Work in Mid-Continent Association

Secretary Alton L. Wheeler will include work-stops at five Mid-Continent Seventh Day Baptist churches as a part of his trip to the NCCC General Board meeting in Tulsa, Okla., January 19-23. This method of stretching travel funds keeps him away from the Conference office for protracted periods of time, but has proven to be

invaluable to the churches thus scheduled.

Plans now call for him to be in Denver beginning with Bible study on Sabbath Eve, January 23, with a full Sabbath Day of meetings with the church on the 24th. Together they will attempt to interpret the responsibility of the local church in fulfilling its mission for Christ. The night after the Sabbath he will speak in the sister church in Boulder. Although there is always plenty of work to do wherever he goes, he has also been requested by the Commission to meet with the Rocky Mountain Conference Site Committee to help shape up plans for the '72 General Conference accommodations.

The North Loup, Nebr., church has asked for "an appraisal of our church and its ministries." Since this is a ten-day program covering two weekends he will be in North Loup from January 30 through February 8. During this time he will guide the congregation into an evaluation of its programs on all levels and hopefully find areas where its witness can be strengthened.

Following this Secretary Wheeler will move on to Kansas City where he will work with the church folks in their Tuesday night prayer and visitation program, be the subject of an hour's interview Wednesday afternoon on radio K C C V, and engage in small group Bible studies during the rest of the week. Sabbath Day will be spent at the Nortonville, Kans., church where he will relate the mission of the local church to the program of our world mission as Seventh Day Baptists. Nortonville also plans a "Good Neighbor Night" program on February 14 when the secretary will present information of Seventh Day Baptists around the world.

Pastor Osborn will join the general secretary and leaders of both Nortonville and Kansas City churches on Sunday morning, February 15, for a frank discussion of ecumenical concerns. Pray for our representative as he works among us!

Unless one is willing to forsake the essential infallibility of God, he cannot forsake the infallibility of His Word. Russell L. Singleton in *Western Recorder*

## Commission Reports Its January Meeting

Words could not reflect the spirit of the midyear meeting of the Commission. The feeling of the meeting could be expressed as oneness in purpose, not only to the cause of Seventh Day Baptists, but to the cause of Jesus Christ.

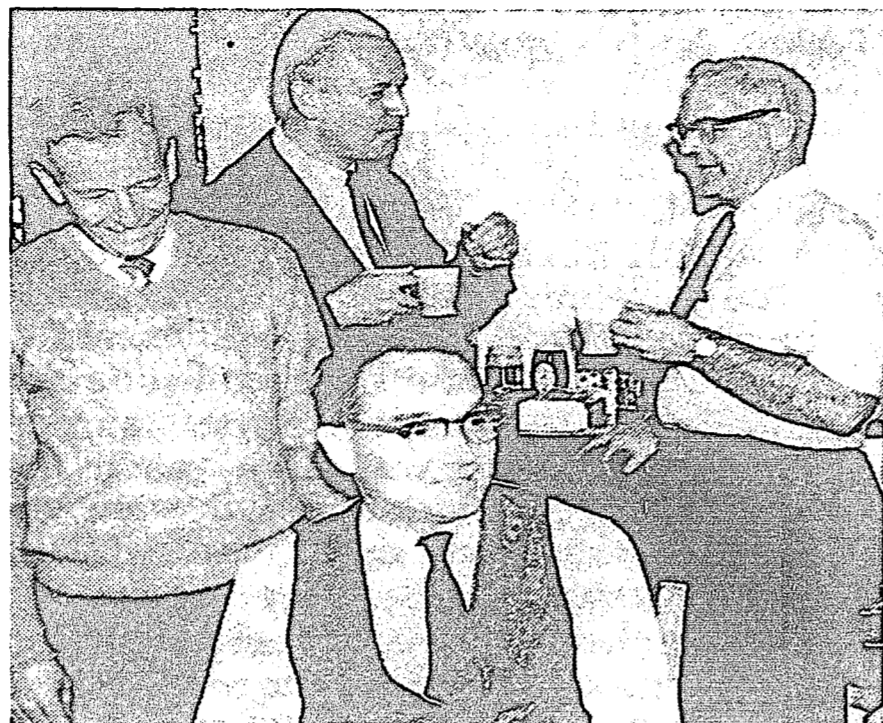
One could easily observe the sensitivity of those present to the needs of the others as well as to the churches they represent. It was not hard to observe a spirit of cooperation that was directed to a common cause. A real closeness was felt among the members as we studied and prayed with fellow Seventh Day Baptists around the world during our "Week of Prayer." Untold blessings were gained in this experience.

We attacked what might have appeared as an unsurmountable mountain of concerns with an agenda of eighty items, but with careful planning and deliberation the Commission emerged from behind the clouds to reach the summit of the schedule at noon Friday after some fifty-five hours of deliberations, exclusive of homework.

It was enriching to observe that though everyone was tired, we closed the week with a spirit of joy that can only be found in serving the Lord.

One might describe the session as one in which "analogies" were the rule rather than the exception as each member tried to make his points understood. I suppose that this was to be expected as three experienced ministers matched wits with a doctor, college professor, and a salesman.

A real highlight was a luncheon meeting with our aspiring ministerial students. We were impressed as they shared with us their concerns and dreams. One of the points expressed was their desire to have the opportunity to attend General Conference sessions during the years of their training and prior to entering the active ministry. This is almost impossible because of their summer schedules of schooling, financing or responsibilities as summer pastors in churches that do not feel that they can send them to Conference.



At one of the infrequent coffee breaks

The need for improved ministerial support is ever evident in our reviews. We have attempted to come to grips with the problem through several channels including providing increased salaries and fringe benefits such as an insurance program, and improved retirement payments.

The concern is ever present for our weak and inactive churches and we have attempted to approach their problems in a positive manner.

Ecumenical relations were considered as of high priority. The Council on Ecumenical Affairs as well as some of the churches presented us with many challenges.

A careful review of the general secretary's address to the closing sessions of General Conference led us into a stimulating study of the advisability to consider possible restructuring, retooling, and retraining in order to witness more effectively in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A careful reevaluation was made of the office of the general secretary in relation to the total concept of our denomination and our Sabbath witness.

The Conference president, Rev. Edgar Wheeler, reviewed his plans for General Conference. An interesting time seems to be developing as we try to discover how we are "Called Apart To Be a Part."

We are endeavoring to inform the local churches prior to General Conference of items of business of special concern

in time hopefully for at least some of them to instruct their delegates.

The Commission has instructed our general secretary to continue visiting our churches, offering any assistance possible. It was noted that during the past year he has made a total of 19 visits to 12 different churches. Special assignments and responsibilities have required him to be away from headquarters a total of 32 weeks. We were impressed with the efficient way that business has been handled and much credit must also be given to the increasingly efficient secretary Mrs. Phil Van Horn.

Initial plans are being developed as we look forward to the observance of our 300th Anniversary of the Seventh Day Baptist Churches in America. This occasion will be observed during the summer of 1971 and will climax during our General Conference in Amherst, Mass.

The need for development and coordination of resources for new and developing churches was given considerable attention.

Christian social concerns continue to loom high on the list of responsibilities.

We look forward with interest to the development of plans for the anticipated meetings of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation to be held in this country both preceding and following our own General Conference as representatives come from other countries.

Some reports were received from our representatives to the NCCC meeting in Detroit and we await further developments as we consider our participation in the "Mission in the 70's."

A major part of our responsibilities is the development and promotion of the budget, so naturally this was a part of our deliberations.

It is with humbleness of heart that your Commission seeks to serve you. We hope to be found worthy of the responsibilities given to us and would ask your prayers and constructive assistance as we work together for the cause of our Master. We look forward to working with you in August at Milton, Wisconsin, as we meet in annual sessions of our General Conference.



AMERICAN  
BIBLE  
SOCIETY  
NEWS  
Executive Retires,  
Societies Unite

The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Taylor, 65, senior general secretary of the American Bible Society since 1956, has retired after 29 years of service with the society.

Dr. Taylor's responsibilities, administration and promotion, he said, have been divided and added to the duties of the two remaining ABS general officers, Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, general secretary, and Charles W. Baas, treasurer.

The board of managers, in a resolution, paid tribute to Dr. Taylor's "deep commitment to the Bible cause."

His efforts, the resolution said, "have been devoted to seeing that the spiritually undernourished and underprivileged of the world are provided with abundant supplies of the Word of Life."

One of his most successful promotional efforts was designed to provide 10 million copies of the Scripture for Japan immediately after World War II.

"Dr. Taylor has been able to an astonishing degree to enlist the interest of world leaders in the Bible cause," the resolution continued. "Among those with whom he has personally conferred in pursuit of our world program have been President Truman in 1950, King Paul of Greece in 1953, Emperor Haile Selassie, President Tubman and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1954, and President Eisenhower in 1957 to mention only the heads of state. There is also an impressive list of renowned statesmen, ambassadors and distinguished church leaders whose support he secured for our work."

The Bible Society of Maine entered into a cooperative relationship with the American Bible Society, effective Jan. 1, 1970.

The move culminates discussions dur-

(Continued on page 10)

A man who was counted as a strong worker in the new Seattle Area church later brought new life to the old Farina, Ill., church upon moving to that area. Now at a distance of 40 miles he and his family are sparking new interest in tract distribution in the new Lombard, Ill., group. Here he talks about

## LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

By Clarence T. White

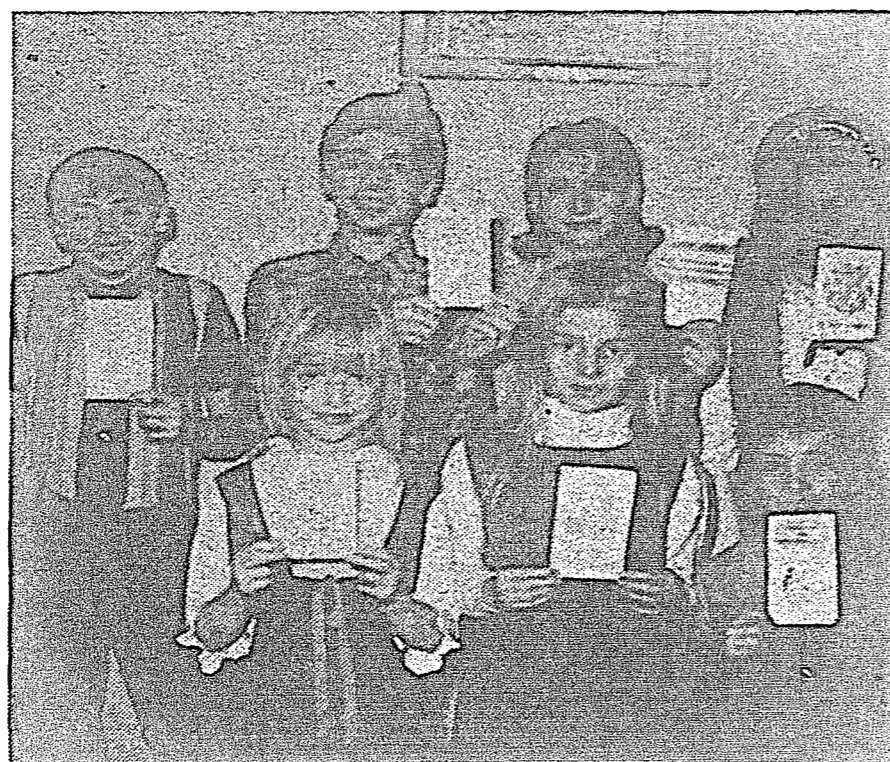
God gave to a special people some special work. Yes, God gave to the Jewish people His oracles, His law, and a plan for their life. It was to these Jewish people that the tables of the law were entrusted. It was to the Jewish people that instructions were given for building of the sanctuary, the symbol of His presence. They were the chosen people entrusted with a great responsibility. For a while they were true to it, but in time they failed their Lord in what He had given them to do.

When Jesus was on this earth He called His disciples that He might send them forth as His witnesses to declare to the world what they had seen and heard of Him. They were to be workers together with God for the saving of the world.

We as Seventh Day Baptists have been entrusted with some glorious truths as the Jewish people of old have been and yet some have not shared these wonderful truths of the Bible as He commanded. Jesus says in the Scriptures to walk in the light, while we have light, lest darkness come upon you and you lose your way. This has been so true among individuals at times. In sharing these truths of His Word, my heart is broken when I find an individual who says he was a believer once but . . . which goes into many stories why.

We should let our light shine and, as Pastor Warner once said, "Don't let the fire go out." In doing this with the love of Jesus, we can give out denominational tracts. In doing this wonderful work God has blessed our home with seven children as helpers, to work together. I pray that as the years pass by, that these hearts will keep burning with the fire of truth.

Sally Ann White says, "I like talking to others about Jesus and letting my light shine." She likes to quote Acts 16: 31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ



Each of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence T. White holds up a different Seventh Day Baptist tract showing the desire to let their light — the light of the gospel and the Sabbath — shine out to others.

and thou shalt be saved." To believe in Him and have faith, she tells how we must believe His Word.

Terri Lee likes to repeat John 3:16 and tell how God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.

Frank Thomas White shares Rev. 3:20 with others and tells how Jesus is standing at the door and knocking, but being so polite, He stands waiting for us to open the door and let Him in.

Thomas John White likes to share the tract on the "Blessed Hope" and comfort others who have a hungering and thirst for Jesus. He likes to quote from memory John 14 and tell how Jesus is preparing mansions for us. Sometimes older people like to discourage Thomas by saying they heard that when they were children and He hasn't come yet, but Thomas, knowing his Bible, tells others that the time of one generation with people is not long. With the Lord a 1000 years is but a day and we should watch and pray.

Donna Jean says, "I am never alone when I go to a door and give out a tract because I know the 23rd Psalm by memory and it says He leadeth me and I will fear no evil."

Julia Lynn White says the 23rd Psalm is one of her favorites when she witnesses for Jesus because it says, "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness." She likes Hebrews 13:5 too because it says, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

Gary the youngest of the children says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

I felt very happy one day as Gary came home from kindergarten and said, "Dad, I heard some boys saying naughty words at school and I told them that I was a Seventh Day Baptist and we do not use those words because we believe in God's Ten Commandments."

Yes, I do thank God for these helpers and pray that the seeds of truth will always be on their heart. These youngsters and the children of every Seventh Day Baptist family will be our workers in the future, so let's go all out to keep them in Christ and the Church.

## FEBRUARY BIBLE READINGS

### TOPICAL BIBLE READINGS



### MAN, Need for Salvation

- Feb. 1—Man's Need To Choose His Way — Deut. 30:19-20; Josh. 24:14-15
- Feb. 2—His Condition Without Forgiveness—Psa. 32
- Feb. 3—Man by Himself — Rom. 3:10, 23; Psa. 14:1-4
- Feb. 4—An Expression of Need — Psalm 130; 51:1-12
- Feb. 5—Jesus' Testimony — John 3:1-15
- Feb. 6—An Awareness of Need — Psalm 39
- Feb. 7—Isaiah's Appeal for Mercy — Isaiah 64

## JESUS CHRIST

- Feb. 8—His Birth — Luke 2:1-32
- Feb. 9—His Baptism — Matt. 3
- Feb. 10—His Ministry — Luke 7:19-22; 4:16-21
- Feb. 11—His Eternity — John 1:1-5; Col. 1:15-17; 1 John 1:1-2
- Feb. 12—His Divinity — John 5:17-23; 10:30-33
- Feb. 13—His Priesthood — Hebrews 2; 4:14-16
- Feb. 14—Our Savior — 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Eph. 2:7, 13-20; Col. 1:12-14, 27-28; Heb. 7:22-25

## ATONEMENT

- Feb. 15—For the Individual in the Old Testament— Lev. 5:6-10
- Feb. 16—For the Nation in the Old Testament — Lev. 16:6-34
- Feb. 17—Prophecy of Christ's Atonement — Isa. 53:4-12
- Feb. 18—Provided by Grace, Received Through Faith — Rom. 5:1-21
- Feb. 19—Christ's Testimony — John 3:14-15; Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 24:45-47; John 6:47-51
- Feb. 20—Peter's Testimony — 1 Pet. 17-21; 2:21-25; 3:18-22
- Feb. 21—Contrast of the Old and the New — Heb. 9:11-28

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Feb. 22—Praying for — Psa. 51:1-12
- Feb. 23—His Omnipresence — Psa. 139:1-16, 23-24
- Feb. 24—John's Testimony — Matt. 3:11-17
- Feb. 25—Baptism of — John 3:5-8; Acts 2:1-4; 4:31-33; 2:38; 8:15-17
- Feb. 26—Promised — John 14:16-27; Acts 1:5-8
- Feb. 27—His Work — John 15:26; 16:7-14
- Feb. 28—His Guidance — 1 Cor. 2:4; 10:14; 6:11, 18-19

## Our Prayer Corner

### Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) The churches whose pastors have resigned to accept other calls.
- 2) The securing of a qualified office secretary to serve the Tract and Historical Societies.
- 3) The lay leaders and trained ministers who express an interest in the Seventh Day Baptist cause but find it difficult to be used effectively.
- 4) Our two Seventh Day Baptist leaders in Nigeria, one of whom was assumed to be in Biafra at the time of surrender.

## Dedicated Service 1970

The recent information and questionnaire sent to churches on the action of Planning Committee to alter the SCSC and VCSC summer dedicated service programs has raised some questions. Why, it is asked, have the high school age youth been taken out of the national program? Will this not limit workers and quench the dedication of youth?

Our experiences the last three years need to be shared to answer:

—IN 1967 there were almost no applications from churches for projects that would involve dedicated workers of the VCSC age. As a result several who were hoping to serve were told they were not needed.

—IN 1968 the situation was even more limited, but it was possible to have some projects restructured to use the VCSC workers.

—IN 1969 there were *no* requests for VCSC workers or teams. Since there were also not enough college-age youth (SCSC) to meet the requests from churches, the high school age applicants were merged on teams with SCSC. This was only done after consultation and understanding with each project director. The end of summer evaluation of these directors indicated it would be better to have all team members of college age.

Thus it was not an arbitrary decision that was made by your Planning Committee, but only a reflection of the clear voice of our churches that such workers were not needed in their planned projects for dedicated service. It was realistic action based on facts.

At the same time, however, it was felt that something ought to be done to encourage high school age dedicated service workers. Could we challenge the use of such youth on the local and associational level? It was decided to encourage this. Thus each church and/or association must plan how such workers can meet possible needs and arrange in advance to share these possibilities with youth. Of necessity, the best administration should be where the projects are planned.

How does the 1970 SCSC picture look

at the beginning of the year? There have been only a few applicants for service thus far and *no* project application forms from churches or groups. If this program is to be the vital spiritual help it has been, then action must begin *now!* We have heard of those interested but we must work on the basis of concrete commitment by individuals and groups. Forms are available from our general secretary on which to register your intention.

Your Conference leaders would appreciate your suggestions at any time on any phase of the national or regional dedicated service program. These letters should be directed to our general secretary in Plainfield as chairman of the Planning Committee which administers the dedicated service program.

Let us join in prayer that the Lord will direct us all in these next few weeks to know and to do His will.

—Leon R. Lawton

## American Bible Society News

(Continued from page 7)

ing the past few years motivated by a mutual desire for closer cooperation between the two societies.

Under terms of an agreement the Bible Society of Maine, founded in 1809, will keep its corporate identity.

The Maine society has a paid staff of three. The budget for 1969 was \$22,000. In that year it distributed 75,374 Scriptures.

The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, has 450 employees. Its budget for 1970 is \$8,818,000. In 1968 it distributed a total of 77,950,978 Scriptures throughout the world, with 51,642,211 copies for the U. S. alone. The figures include whole Bibles, New Testaments, portions (complete single books of the Bible) and shorter selections.

## All Are Weak

Petition is not truly petition if it does not operate on the premise that the strongest and most self-sufficient person is always at the end of his tether.

—Lindsell on "Kinds of Prayer"

THE SABBATH RECORDER

MISSIONS—Everett T. Harris

## Missionary Society Appoints New Executive Vice-President

It is with pleasure and thankfulness that the Missionary Board announces the appointment of the Rev. Leon R. Lawton as executive vice-president. He will succeed the Rev. Everett T. Harris in this office, whose resignation took effect on December 31, 1969, continuing on for a time as consultant in the office.

It is expected that the Rev. Mr. Lawton will take up his duties at a time mutually acceptable to all parties concerned and no later than July 1, 1970.

## Missionary Training Begun by Conrods

The Rev. and Mrs. John Conrod and two sons, Michael and Philip, arrived at Washington, D. C., on December 31, 1969. Their new address is 1329 N Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20005. Pastor and Mrs. Conrod began a three months' missionary training program on January 5, 1970, under the direction of the Christian Service Corps, with headquarters at the above address.

Pastor Conrod wrote that the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he has served as pastor since May 1967, had held "a very spiritually-moving farewell service for us on the night after Sabbath, December 27. It was almost a commissioning service."

On Monday, December 29, having rented a U-haul trailer, the Conrods carried several boxes of books and papers to Plainfield, N. J., for storage in the basement of the publishing house. He wrote, "We wanted to store these combustible items in a place that was safe for them as well as for the building. The rest of our goods are stored in boxes in the attic of the Marlboro church parsonage. All the large items that would not go through the opening of the attic we sold with the plan of putting the money we received from the sale toward the purchase of a much-needed car in Malawi."

Again, using the U-haul trailer, Pastor

Conrod wrote, "after leaving Plainfield we drove to New York City to the W. R. Keating warehouse to store the trunks until shipment." It is expected that their goods will soon be on the way to Makapwa Mission Station in Malawi. Included with the shipment of Pastor Conrod's goods is a box containing personal effects of Miss Sarah Becker. The Tract Society has also included two boxes in the shipment, continuing Finger Fono records. It is hoped that the shipment will arrive before or about the time of the arrival of our missionaries (Miss Becker on March 13 and the Conrods on April 28).

## People and Chairs

(An article about observance of the Week of Prayer in Malawi, written by the Rev. David C. Pearson of Blantyre, Malawi, Africa)

Yesterday, January 4, 1970, saw the beginning of the Week of Prayer observed by Seventh Day Baptists in several countries of the world.

Here at Blantyre our church people from various parts of the city converged at the Blantyre property purchased over two years ago by the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. This was made possible through the generosity of Seventh Day Baptists interested in the work of the Kingdom.

One man arrived an hour early, whereas most came about two o'clock, time for commencement of the service. It was fitting that this initial service be led by Pastor O. B. Manani, leader of the group, who was largely responsible for the preparation of this year's prayer booklet which stresses "Peace with God."

Little by little, as more and more people arrived at the living room of the Pearsons, additional chairs had to be brought in. Chairs — upholstered and otherwise, painted, varnished, waxed, and unfinished in natural wood were gathered together from kitchen and office to supplement dining and living room furniture. Miniature chairs assisted in rendering support to some of the smaller persons among us. Approximately thirty assembled, including the very young.

Singing was accompanied by the play-

ing of the portable Estey organ, and pastor's remarks were later followed by a season of prayer in which women as well as men participated without delay.

After the service our friends were shown around the center as this was the first visit of some. The office and guest room were pointed out. The garden and scenery were of interest, and some of the children enjoyed the swings and seesaw. A few in leaving took mulberry cuttings to be replanted at their homes. Finally the Microbus carried a number of persons back to town (two miles) where buses would carry them closer to their places of residence.

Today, meetings will be held in scattered parts of the city. The nearest meeting place to the Blantyre property is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Miles at Chilomoni. One wonders about the chairs. Will they be adequate?

The Week of Prayer has many values, one of which is that it tends to unify and bind together those of like faith separated by miles. It is helpful, healthful, and spiritually edifying to remember others of our world body, who also bow their heads, and lift their hearts in prayer to God.

Some pray in one language, and some in another, but God needs not an interpreter as there is no language barrier. Other hindrances to successful prayer are sometimes found to exist. May these be removed that our prayers be heard. In Jesus' name and for His sake—Amen.

#### Good Roots

Jean Lambert writing on "Unfold" feels that he has to be critical of the emphasis of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Celebration which proposes to make drastic changes in church services. One of his coined phrases is, "In emphasizing change, these materials seem to deprecate the roots because some of the branches were barren." The Christian Church has its roots in the New Testament, which has stood the onslaughts of the new experts in each generation. Some of the experts who forget the good roots of faith do not stand the test of time.

#### Ecumenical Discussion

What do Protestant and Roman Catholic religious educators talk about when they have a national meeting? Here are some conclusions reached at the table where Secretary Zwiebel participated during the recent Religious Education Association Convention held in Chicago.

1. The transition from death to life, slavery to freedom, is a constant need in human history.

2. The Judeo-Christian faith acknowledges God's self-disclosure in the history of man inviting and promising life and freedom.

3. The primary task of a faith-covenanted community is to be engaged in the process affecting life and freedom for mankind.

4. We acknowledge the failure of today's religious communities to affect any significant fact of life and freedom, vis-a-vis, the human problems of racism, war, and poverty.

5. Religious education has been primarily concerned with the nurture of faith within the religious community itself; i. e., education for cult, individual piety, institutional identity and self-preservation.

6. Since mere attitudinal change is insufficient for affecting life and freedom, be it resolved that religious educators acknowledge that the power of religious faith is real and effective only when a change of social behavior occurs.

7. Be it resolved that the focus of religious education in curriculum, methodology, and relationships within parishes, schools, and agencies be revised toward the goal of fostering life and freedom through social change.

8. Be it resolved that religious educators must accept that the first step in overcoming human problems like racism, war, and poverty is historically experiencing the conflict between death and life, slavery and freedom.

#### News from Malawi

Thembe F. P. School  
P.O. Box 79  
Mlanje, Malawi

Greetings from the Sisters of Malawi  
Dear Friends far and wide:

I take this opportunity of writing this letter to you (Miss Marjorie Burdick) to let you know about my life and my work here.

I was very glad to receive your letter. Language can hardly express how happy I was when reading the letter. It was good of you to write and tell me how the women of United States of America unite when they hold or conduct their meetings.

The Seventh Day Baptist women of Malawi are also very busy holding meetings here and there. I think you will be interested to hear when and how I started this movement here. It was in 1965 when I decided I could organize my fellow women to do some work for Christ. My intention was to unite and organize the women of this church.

To do this, I asked Mrs. Burdick to teach or give us an idea of how we could start this movement and how we could be doing it later. Luckily enough she accepted to teach us. She asked me to tell my friends to go to Makapwa where we had to get our training or instructions. It was on 31st May 1966 when Mrs. Burdick started teaching us at Makapwa. We were thirteen women and three were selected out of which I was one of the three and we were sent to Changoni for a month course. After the course we were sent back home. That is how we started our movement.

Here I want to thank Dr. Burdick and his wife who took the trouble of sending us for a course and helping us to start our organization. May the Almighty God bless Dr. Burdick, his wife and our pastors.

For the second time it was Mrs. David Pearson who asked me and seven other women to go to Blantyre for a course. When we went there, Pastor Pearson, his wife and I were teachers.

There are four ladies who work hand in hand with me conducting meetings here

and there every week. They are Mrs. Msowa, Mrs. Nachipo, Mrs. Chilonga and Mrs. Majoni. Sometime we have to travel forty-seven miles or even more than that holding these meetings. We have no spare time to rest.

I am very happy that I very much cooperate with Mrs. David Pearson here in Malawi. We very much thank her for the tremendous work she is doing here for us. I wish her every success in her daily work.

Our women here are extending their best wishes to the sisters of United States of America.

My husband Pastor H. Mwangi greets you and members of your family.

I am yours in Christ,  
Mrs. Ester H. Mwangi

#### World Day of Prayer

March 6, 1970

World Day of Prayer is a high point of the year for hundreds of thousands of persons in the United States just as it is for our fellow Christians the world around. Will church women be firm in their loyalty to Christ and each other? Will we express convictions for a righteous society? Are we timid about facing the future? With confidence and humility, let us call to our neighbors both near and far, to *Take Courage!* which is the theme for World Day of Prayer which will be held March 6, 1970.

If you have not ordered and possibly received materials available for this celebration, do so at once. Available this year is a new giant "Planning Packet" for all three of the 1970 celebrations: World Day of Prayer, May Fellowship Day, and World Community Day. It includes the guide for planning all three celebrations with suggestions and additional sources for developing the three services. It contains hints on encouraging attendance, preparation and follow-up action, and information on intercontinental mission projects. This packet may be secured for \$2.00. Also available are the World Day of Prayer materials only with guide, for \$1.00. Materials should be ordered from: Department of Publication Services, National Council of Church-

es, Box 675, Madison Square Station, New York, N. Y. 10010. Be sure to include your name and complete address as well as check or money order with your order.

(Look for an interesting story about South Africa in the February 9 issue).

#### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for February 7, 1970

JESUS OFFERS GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Lesson Scripture: Luke 7:36-50.

for February 14, 1970

GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS THROUGH JESUS

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 8:5-17.

#### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SHILOH, N. J.— The West District churches, namely, Greenwich Presbyterian, Greenwich Baptist, Cohansey Baptist, West Park Methodist, Marlboro and Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist, had their first hymn sing of the season. Mrs. Bert Sheppard is the song leader for each service. Since the people like to visit together, the host church is asked to serve light refreshments following each service.

Many, from near and far, gathered at the new Fellowship Hall on Nov. 2, to help Mr. and Mrs. William Parvin celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

A program involving the youth in our community has been started with Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bond in charge of the Junior High age and Mr. and Mrs. David Hitchner in charge of the Senior High age.

The middle of November, Emphasis Sabbath was observed with Rev. Auley Parvin as the guest speaker. Mr. Parvin is a teacher at the Appalachian Institute in West Virginia. It was a most helpful and interesting day. During the morning service, he spoke on "The Arab in Prophecy" and following the dinner hour he showed slides and told of a witnessing trip he and his family experienced in Mexico.

An appropriate program highlighted the White Christmas giving during the Sabbath School hour November 29. A total of \$575 was given, \$339 from the

Sabbath School classes and \$236 from the Missionary Fund, to the following: ministerial student in Jamaica, Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Bass, Rev. and Mrs. David Pearson, Joanna and Debbie Pearson, Dr. and Mrs. Victor Burdick, Miss Sarah Becker, Rev. and Mrs. John Conrod, Mrs. Courtland Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Brissey, Rev. and Mrs. Neal Mills, Miss Mabel West, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Crouch, Rev. and Mrs. Auley Parvin, Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Beebe, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Osborn, Miss Verna Smalley, Ranch Hope, and Teen Challenge.

Pre-Christmas candle lighting services ushered in the year's most thrilling holiday with the lighting of the gospel candle the first week followed by the lighting of the candles of faith, hope, love, and of the unnamed candle December 20. The community was invited to this vesper service which has become a part of the church — the singing of carols, the reading of the prophecies and their fulfillment and the presentation of special music. There is that great moment when the congregation with lighted candles file out of the church singing the carol, "Joy to the World." This year under the capable direction of Mrs. Charles Harris a filled church listened to over fifty voices present a cantata, "The Night the Angels Sang" by Peterson.

Immediately following the vesper service many attended the open house in Fellowship Hall to help Pastor and Mrs. Bond celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. A short program planned by the social committee of the church brought laughter from the audience. At the close of the program, Mr. William Fogg, church moderator, surprised the Bonds with a money tree from the church, the Sabbath School and friends.

—Correspondent

DODGE CENTER, MINN.— At our annual church business meeting on January 4, we unanimously recalled our Pastor Wayne Babcock with a 10% increase in salary. Annual reports gave us a resume of the past year's events. Action was instituted to add to the membership of our diaconate.

The following officers are among those

elected for the year 1970: pres.—Sheila Crane; clerk—Seili Bond; treas.—Vivian Kloppstein; trustee (for 3 years)—Bob Kloppstein; chorister—Daryl Lippincott; *Sabbath Recorder* correspondent—Seili Bond.

Reports noted that in April we had a deeply spiritual experience in the Semi-annual Meetings in fellowship with New Auburn and our spiritual leader, Leland Bond, president of General Conference. In May, the young people had a "Charge," which was healed by Chairwoman Bette Bond. Our field worker, Esther Burdick, the Larsons (Phyllis Payne), from Donnelly, Bill Bond from the University of Minnesota, Steve Greene, Bob and Nelta Babcock from Mankato State gave liberally of their time and talents to make this event a truly spiritual feast time and also a fun time. Friends from New Auburn, Milton, and Milton Junction were in attendance.

In June our community celebrated its Centennial and our Youth Fellowship built a float with the inscription, "In Times Like These We Need a Saviour." Our young folk took top honors in the talent show, with a singing witness to their faith. It was during the same time that we entertained the dedicated service corps and their staff. This was a real joy!

During the third quarter of the year our new Conference president, the Rev. Edgar Wheeler, was here. The Rev. Victor Skaggs and also Evangelist Mynor Soper visited us. The high point of the year was the profession of faith and baptism of five, four of whom are now members of our church, Bob Kloppstein, Barry Babcock, Valerie Crane, Larry Greene, and Kerry Clapper.

#### Marriages

Guyer - Morton.— Wendell Guyer son of Mr. and Mrs. Axthle Guyer of Salemville, Pa., and Patricia Morton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morton of Hopewell, Pa., were united in marriage, Sept. 27, 1969, at the Salemville Seventh Day Baptist Church by the groom's pastor, John H. Camenga.

Wheeler - Van Voorhis.— Robert E. Wheeler, son of Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Wheeler of Ashaway, R. I., and Ruth Ann Van Voorhis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Van Voorhis of Clarksburg, W. Va., were united in marriage on November 28, 1969, at the First Christian Church in Clarksburg, W. Va. The bride's pastor, Rev. Richard Flowers, officiated, assisted by the groom's father, Rev. Edgar Wheeler.

#### Births

Phillips.— A son, Myles Christian, to Robert and Helen (Pearcy) Phillips of Portage, Indiana, on August 24, 1969.

Roberts.— A son Jeffrey Alan, to Floyd and Ruthanna (Kagarise) Roberts of Everett, Pa., Sept. 5, 1969.

#### Obituaries

COON.— Etta Oursler, was born in Adams County (Rome), Ohio, Jan. 16, 1875, and died in the Battle Creek Sanitarium Nov. 23, 1969, after a brief illness.

She was baptized in the Cottonwood River near Oursler Station, Kans., by Rev. H. M. Cottrell, and joined the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1899 when the family moved to Nortonville. She married Floyd Coon in 1902 and they had fifty-five happy years together. A year after her husband's death in 1957 Etta moved to Battle Creek to live with her sister Mrs. Mary Hall.

Memorial services were held in Battle Creek by the pastor, Rev. Eugene Fatato, on November 24th. Her sister then accompanied the body to Nortonville for the funeral in her home church and the burial in Nortonville Cemetery on the 26th. Pastor Paul Osborn commented that she had been a faithful member of the church for just two days short of 70 years.

—P. B. O.

WILCOX.— Ella Mae, daughter of Henry and Eliza Pinney Everett, as born at Hornell, N. Y., Oct. 22, 1887, and died near Couderport, Pa., Dec. 24, 1969.

She was married to Floyd R. Peet on June 1, 1903, and to Gerald Wilcox on March 17, 1933.

Mrs. Wilcox was a faithful member of the First Hebron Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Ladies Society, the Women's Temperance Union, and the Hebron Grange.

Surviving are a son, Robert H. Peet of Couderport; a daughter, Mrs. Herman (Virginia) Allen of Belleview, Fla.; 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Farewell services were conducted by her former pastor, the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, at the First Hebron church. Burial was in the Five Corners Cemetery at Hebron.

—R. E. Z.



## Sunday Not Very Sacred

The *New York Times* on January 5 carried a story by George Dugan about the Washington Square Methodist Church in Greenwich Village. The pastor is taking a leave of absence for five months and the people are making some unconventional changes in the Sunday services and the use of the church building, according to the report.

During a discussion period that took the place of the morning service one of the worshipers proposed that the lower Manhattan church be transformed into a community center "to be lived in and not permitted to go to pot six days of the week."

Jo Palmer, a member of the church's temporary administrative board, agreed and added, "What is so holy about Sunday anyway?"

It is probable that such a remark made in the days of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, would have evoked a strong rejoinder, for in those days it was popular to hold that the sacredness of the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible had somehow been transferred to Sunday, the first day of the week. Sunday was commonly called the Sabbath, and civil as well as church authorities enforced observance of the "holy day" of the Fourth Commandment. Remarks like that of Methodist Board member Jo Palmer still sound a little sacrilegious, although the sacredness of Sunday has been pretty well eroded in most places.

In the churches that observe the Sabbath (seventh day) one would not be likely to hear a remark, "What is so holy about the Sabbath anyway?" The answer is so easily found throughout the Bible beginning at creation where we read in Genesis 2, "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and

he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." It is holy because God set it aside as a holy day.

### A PRAYER

*(Composed at the end of a day when I had attended three meetings.)*

Our Father, in these days when we live by the minute hand on the clock, help us to be calm and avoid ulcers.

Help us, when we rush to appointments, to be duly patient as we wait for those who are never on time. And, please, Lord, give those egoists enough humility to be a little bit ashamed.

Be forgiving with those who are duly notified and forget to attend meetings. May they be forgiven, and let them be as understanding when they are so inconvenienced.

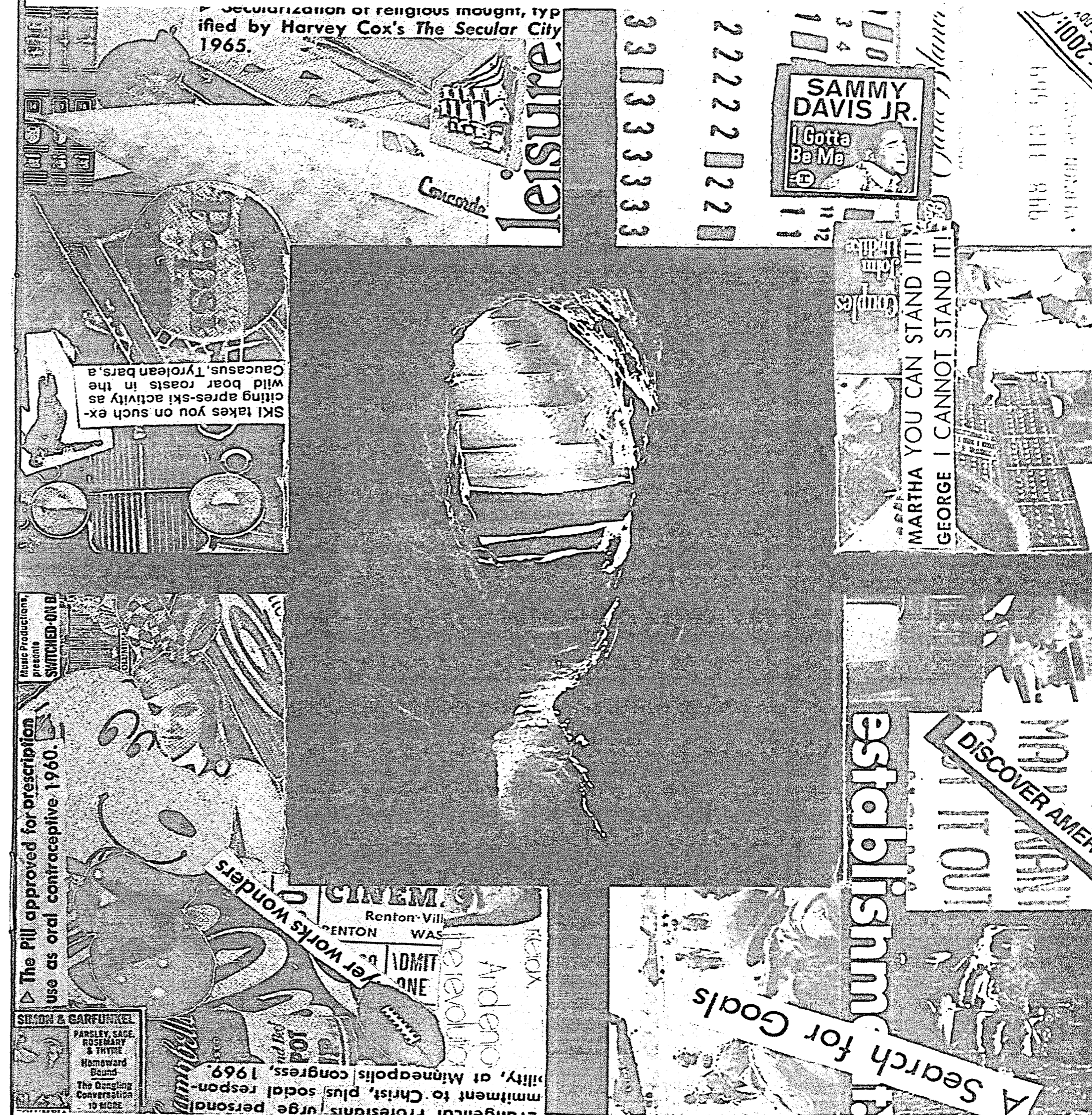
Be charitable with the chairman who has no agenda and proceeds to lead the meeting in all directions, resulting in corporate confusion, unclear and fractured conclusions.

Where any of us have violated orderliness, forgive us and direct us that we may reflect the orderliness of the stars and the seasons. Amen.

Royald V. Caldwell, First Congregational Church, Portland, Oregon. (Printed with permission.)

### Public Prayer

Some people when called upon to pray in public take the easy way and lightly read the prepared words of someone else. "It is better," says Harold Lindsell, "to formulate a new one and bring to bear the mind, the heart, and the will in a deliberate and meaningful context . . . God nowhere indicates that He is concerned with the excellence of our prose or poetry."



## Discovering the Courageous Hope in a Time of Change