

The Sabbath Recorder

TOPICAL BIBLE READINGS



FAITH

- Mar. 1—Encouraged — Isa. 41:10-14; 50:10
Mar. 2—A Testimony — Psalms 16 and 27
Mar. 3—Instances of Faith in Christ — Matt. 8:2:13; 9:22, 29; 15:28
Mar. 4—Justification by — Rom. 3:22-28; 10:4, 9
Mar. 5—Paul's Affirmations — Rom. 8:35-37; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13; 1 Tim. 1:12; 4:18
Mar. 6—Examples — Heb. 11
Mar. 7—Its Fruits — James 2:1-26

ASSURANCE

- Mar. 8—Joshua's Testimony — Josh. 24:14-25
Mar. 9—A Song of Assurance — Psalm 24
Mar. 10—Job's Testimony — Job 19:25-27; 42:1-6
Mar. 11—The Disciples Assured — John 14:1-14
Mar. 12—Peter's Exhortation — Acts 3:19-26
Mar. 13—As Sons of God — Rom. 8:14-18; Gal. 3:26-4:7
Mar. 14—Of Salvation in Christ — 1 Cor. 15:1-11

PRAYER

- Mar. 15—A Prayer of David — Psalm 86
Mar. 16—Solomon's Prayer — 2 Chron. 6:14-42
Mar. 17—A Need for Sincerity — Luke 11:1-13
Mar. 18—Faith in Prayer — Heb. 11:6; James 1:5-7; Heb. 10:22-23; Matt. 21:22
Mar. 19—Power in Prayer — James 5:16-18; Acts 12:5-7
Mar. 20—Before Eating — Matt. 14:19; 26:26-27; Acts 27:35; Rom. 14:6
Mar. 21—Christ's Prayer for Us — John 17

SUFFERING

- Mar. 22—A Prayer to God — Psalm 6
Mar. 23—Confidence in the Face of — Job 23

- Mar. 24—Paul's Response — 2 Cor. 11:23-30; 12:7-10
Mar. 25—The Suffering of Christ — Mark 15:15-34
Mar. 26—Purpose of Christ's Suffering — 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 5:2; 1 Pet. 2:21-24; Heb. 2:9-18
Mar. 27—Finding Comfort in God — Isa. 40:1-11, 28-31
Mar. 28—Jesus' Compassion — Matt. 20:34; Luke 7:13; John 11:34-38; Mark 8:2-3

RESURRECTION

- Mar. 29—Belief in — Dan. 12:2-3; Matt. 22:23-32
Mar. 30—Jesus' Affirmation — John 5:19-30
Mar. 31—Christ's Resurrection — Matt. 28:1-15
Apr. 1—Testimony of the Resurrection — Mark 16:1-14
Apr. 2—If Christ Be Not Risen — 1 Cor. 15:1-19
Apr. 3—Paul's Teaching — 1 Cor. 15:20-57
Apr. 4—Confidence in — 2 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Thess. 4:14-16; 1 Tim. 1:8-11

(Prepared by Rev. Earl Cruzan)

A Tart Society

Typewriter slips are sometimes amusing. Take, for instance, the beautiful typing of our address on a business letter from another Christian publication. It read "The American Sabbath Tart Society." We have been upholding an unpopular truth for lo these many years. Some of our literature is quite pointed, as it needs to be, but we speak the truth in love and not with tartness. The girl whose nimble fingers flit over the keys of the electric typewriter can be allowed a few mistakes. We even try to be patient with the non-religious people who can't understand us in conversation when we say "Tract Society." They are puzzled as to what can be the purpose of a "track society." Communication is an interesting endeavor.



Ancient Harbor City of Caesarea

The coast of Palestine "is strewn with the wrecks of harbors where other shores might show instead the wrecks of ships." So it is at the abandoned harbor of Caesarea where the Crusaders erected walls and arches above the ruins of the Roman city built by Herod the Great. Here resided Philip and Cornelius the centurion. The Apostle Paul often used this port.

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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

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Terms of Subscription

Per Year \$4.00 Single Copies 10 cents

Special rates for students, retired Seventh Day
Baptist ministers, and servicemen

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents
per year additional. Gift and newlywed subscriptions
will be discontinued at date of expiration unless re-
newed. All subscriptions will be discontinued six months
after date to which payment is made unless renewed.
The Sabbath Recorder cannot pay for contributed articles
but will send the writer, upon request, up to 10 free
copies of the issue in which an article appears.

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, New Jersey.
The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse
signed articles. All communications should be addressed
to the Sabbath Recorder, P. O. Box 868, Plainfield,
New Jersey 07061.

A Seventh Day Baptist weekly (two issues
omitted in August) published by the American
Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Ave.,
Plainfield, N. J. 07061.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. February 23, 1970
Volume 188, No. 8 Whole No. 6,388

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Observations in a Garage

Most car owners once in a while find themselves standing for half an hour in a garage waiting for the mechanic to diagnose the difficulty and give an estimate of what is needed to put the family car back into good running order. Such was my experience on a recent morning. It was the first time I had visited this particular establishment and perhaps the surroundings made more impression on me than as if I had known the place and the proprietor better.

I remarked to the busy owner that coming to a garage is like visiting a hospital. One doesn't realize how many sick and broken people there are until he goes to a hospital where people in such condition congregate. So it is with automobiles. Our ordinary experience is a traffic experience where almost every car is clean and shiny and functioning normally. When you enter a repair shop, you notice that the parking space around it is filled with dirty, mashed or disabled cars. Once inside you may be reminded of all kinds of trouble for motorists and truck drivers. Here on the floor is the rear axle housing of a truck. The big ring gear has lost all its teeth. When the gears jammed, they burst the housing. There was need for major surgical work and installing of new parts. Incidentally, the verdict on my own car was that the miles had taken their toll on the braking system and that replacement of worn parts would cost far more than I had expected. We learn to take such things philosophically, reminding ourselves that transportation costs for the car owner do not spread out evenly over the months.

We need to visit a hospital or a car repair shop once in a while if only to make us conscious of other people's troubles and of the long continued blessings and good fortune that we have enjoyed.

Vehicles and human bodies are not the only things that are broken down and in need of repair. We do not have to step very far off our pleasant beaten paths to find many people whose faith or whose lives have met shipwreck. If we travel only from home to place of business or to church, we see mostly the clean, smooth-running part of life. But perhaps

we are called to visit the home of a stranger, a young man of another race who has known the blessings of church and Bible training, but is now without work and whose moral gears have become unmeshed. There is brokenness all about us if we are willing to look.

I guess I would rather be an orthopedic surgeon than a mender of broken gear housings, but I am not likely to be either one. As a Christian, trying to keep close to the Lord of Life, I cannot pass by on the other side when I see the broken lives of those who rightfully look to me for some sort of spiritual mending. Isn't this the way you feel? Peter and John at the temple gate were not making excuses but meeting the deeper need with the words, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6). Let us, like Peter, reach out the hand and lift up the spiritually weak, the fallen, and those who are road weary after too many miles or going at too swift a pace.

Thoughts on Giving

It is not the editor's primary responsibility to interpret the giving of our people as recorded in the monthly report of our denominational treasurer, Gordon Sanford, but when there is cause for rejoicing we like to join in it and urge others to do the same.

There is Biblical precedent for rejoicing when money is found. Take the story of the woman described in Luke 15:8-10. She thought that she was going to have to get along without that much needed silver coin. When she found it she called together her friends and neighbors saying, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." Was it a big ado about nothing? She didn't think so.

The figures for January receipts as printed on page 15 of this issue seem to give some cause for praising God. The faithfulness of Seventh Day Baptists in forty-two churches and fellowships brought the total budget receipts to \$14,725. It is to be noted that we have

now started a new reporting year January-December and that we exceeded the amount needed for the first month. Notice by how much.

We must temper our rejoicing with one or two observations. To rejoice and praise God is good if it does not result in self-satisfaction and a letdown in sacrificial giving. February is a short month and for some reason our denominational giving is often also short in February—unless we try hard to make up for the ones who can't give as much this month.

In the second place if the treasurer had reported the giving for four months—as he has in previous years—we would find ourselves behind at this point instead of ahead. He counted October to December as an interim budget as will be noted by referring back to the January 19 issue. With December receipts of only \$6,563 it was reported that we raised only two-thirds of the amount needed for that three-month period. That was cause for alarm, not rejoicing.

Now we have made a new start in 1970. Will this be a year in which we meet our goal every month? Let us hope and pray that there will be cause for rejoicing at this time next month and the months following. Money received means work undertaken and, hopefully, accomplished.

Emphasis Issue Coming

The first week of each month the *Sabbath Recorder* is either a special evangelistic issue or some kind of emphasis issue. We have recently had Tract and Missionary emphasis *Recorders*. Now under date of March 2 the Board of Christian Education provides most of the articles and tells of things relating to the many facets of its work.

The president, Burton Crandall, has a word. Earl Cruzan writes on communications. Amanda Snyder takes up "Sex Education in Public Schools." Ethel Dickinson asks, "Why *Helping Hand?*" Luan Ellis talks about the Youth Work Committee. Cynthia Wedel, president of the NCCC, is brought in with an article "Christians and Change."

Reflections on Israel

A trip to Israel calls forth some mental exercise, for it is a land of contrasts between the old and the new. Almost in the same moment one is transported back two thousand or four thousand years not only by the building, artifacts, and way of life and snatched back again to 1970 as he sees a nation emerging and struggling with the social and political problems of the day.

Perhaps nowhere in the world is there such a combination of the ancient and the modern, neither of which can be viewed without emotion. There are few thoughtless, carefree tourists who are unaffected by what they see. The Jewish people apart from their business struggles in the nations of the world have always been emotional. Perhaps their persecution in ancient and modern times has heightened the feelings of family and religious solidarity.

There is an intenseness in reclaiming the land, in becoming self-sufficient, in achieving national and international status that is coming to sober maturity. One gets the impression that some three million people in that new nation could not have made such advances in any other place but their ancestral homeland. Other lands to which the refugees fled from what they call "the holocaust" of Hitler might have been more hospitable by way of natural resources. Palestine as viewed from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses may have been a "land flowing with milk and honey," but it has not been so during the past 1900 years. The indomitable will of Jewish repatriates who organized kibbutzim and by communal endeavor reintroduced cattle and bees and planted orange groves has literally made the stony land blossom as the rose and flow with milk and honey.

It is no wonder that the Jews in Israel hold their heads high and look with pride upon their achievements in the past twenty years. Not all are fully aware of their connection with the ancient past; they are too busy in the present. However, there is an underlying stratum of religious history which makes the nation

what it is. One cannot blame the orthodox practicing Jews for clinging tenaciously to what they call their peoplehood and striking out against those forces which would drive a wedge between state and religion. Without the sense of inheritance from Bible times they have no argument for national existence. They would then be what some wrongly consider them to be, a completely secular nation with unworthy expansionist goals.

True, there are tensions in Israel between the old and the new, between the secular and the religious. It is fair to say that there would be no wondering eyes cast on modern Israel if it had been left to the religious Jews to produce a new nation. In fact the most religious, the Hasidim, are not even in favor of the Zionism which has produced this modern democracy like an oasis in a barren desert of Muslim kingdoms and dictatorships around the Mediterranean.

What the future holds for Israel in the political realm is not entirely predictable. Conversations with highly placed officials indicates considerable uncertainty because of the interests of major powers and the uncertain course of international pressures. One gets the feeling that, left alone to settle their border disputes, they could make a go of it and perhaps show the world a healthy example of how to administer the land that has been under their control since 1967. Certainly there is a determination to maintain security and to wait for peace.

We who dwell on a continent apart and are not threatened on every side by nations trying to band together to bring about our national annihilation may not be in the best position to see their point of view. When it comes to international diplomacy, all too often coupled with military diplomacy, the situation is not clear black and white; there are some grays. It is not easy to apply Christian principles, and we do well not to take sides in too definite a way. We could wish for the time to come speedily when "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ" (Rev. 11:15).

Sabbath Recorder Day

February 21, 1970, has been declared *Sabbath Recorder* Sabbath for the Seventh Day Baptist churches of the United States Conference. This is a day to stress the value of our denominational weekly for our personal and denominational life. It is a day to secure a wider reading of the periodical by encouraging new subscriptions. To that end bulletin inserts are distributed and cards are provided so that individuals may request a two-month free subscription.

This may be a suitable time to mention some of the testimonials that have come in recently. It may help new people considering subscribing to read how much the *Recorder* means to some new and some older subscribers.

From Waco, Tex., comes this word from a man who is not yet connected with a Seventh Day Baptist church: "We have received our first issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*. We have thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to our next issue. I am passing it around to the rest of our group."

From Palm Springs, Calif., a new friend writes: "I am ready to subscribe to the *Sabbath Recorder*. Enclosed is a p. o. money order for \$4.00."

A missionary in Haifa, Israel, tells of how much he appreciates the *Sabbath Recorder* each week.

Workers for the cause of Seventh Day Baptists in Ghana, Nigeria, India, Burma, and Korea, as well as our established mission fields testify to what our weekly means to them.

Editors of other religious journals who get the *Recorder* by subscription or on an exchange basis speak well of our 125-year-old publication.

A surgeon who has been getting our paper for a year did not at first put it on the magazine table but now does so and has requested that we send him two copies so he can have one for himself. He is not of our faith.

From a New England state a woman renews her subscription and writes, "In these times of stress and worry we rely on the magazine for help and inspiration." (On the masthead of each issue these

words have long appeared, "A magazine for Christian enlightenment and inspiration.")

The most common renewal comment comes from Englewood, Colo.: "Enclosed find check for \$4.00 for payment of subscription to the *Sabbath Recorder* for another year. We don't want to be without it."

From western New York one of the faithful nonresidents writes, "I think it is one of the finest magazines we take. I do enjoy it."

A woman of Birmingham, Ala., says of an editorial on "The Color Line," "You expressed some of my own thoughts far, far better than I ever could."

This week the subscription desk received from one relatively small church nineteen subscriptions gathered up by a person appointed to do so. It only shows that churches can do something to benefit their members and friends by actively working on regular and gift subscriptions.

May the above comments warm the hearts of other subscribers as they do the hearts of those who devote so much time each week to see that the *Sabbath Recorder* has good thoughts in it and is mailed on time (the Friday before its Monday date).
—Editor

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) A more efficient distribution of qualified ministers among the churches, realizing that while there are pastorless churches there are also churchless pastors who are not being considered.

2) The missionaries, Sarah Becker and John Conrod, whose times of departure for Malawi are almost at hand.

3) The Burma Conference, meeting in February and facing some problems peculiar to their nation and their economic condition.

4) The Bible distribution opportunities of Sabbathkeepers in many lands and particularly those of a new friend, Shlomo Hizak, a citizen of Israel with his headquarters on the Mount of Olives.

NCCC: From Detroit to Tulsa

By Kenneth E. Smith

It is a long way from Detroit to Tulsa. The National Council of Churches met as a General Board, January 19 - 23, and it was a different climate. The Detroit Assembly was a clatter of conflict, an open forum on the world and its crises. Tulsa was a working session of the General Board, catching up on the business of the Council, and finding ways to implement the mandate from Detroit. To some it was a relief to get down to the familiar business of divisions and committee reports; to others it was anticlimactic. But the General Board sessions had direction and purpose; it was not dull and routine. Those who buried the Council in Detroit may have been premature.

Looking back on the Tulsa meetings, it was the strong determination to reshape the Council that gave a sense of continuum from the Assembly. The mechanism for restructuring was a committee of fifteen appointed by Dr. Edwin Espy (general secretary) and Mrs. Cynthia Wedel (president) to bring a report to the June meeting of the board. That report will be awaited with considerable interest, and will probably seek to adapt the proposals of the Espy plan for a wider Ecumenical Council.

Another problem given priority attention was described as the empowerment of minorities. As you may know, much of the report of the Nominating Committee was thrown out at Detroit, rejected by the Assembly as inadequately representative of laymen, Blacks, women and youth. The Tulsa sessions accepted a new slate, enlarged the Executive Committee to include minorities, and otherwise made provision for better minority involvement at all levels.

The General Board debated the thorny question of adequate funding. Traditionally the NCCC has been supported largely by program boards and agencies of the member denominations. What will happen to the funding of the Council as laymen and laywomen replace ecclesiastical bureaucrats? Can the Council speak pro-

phetically in a polarized society and still maintain its financial support?

One cannot fail to observe that the issues faced by the National Council are the living issues at every level of the life of the church. The people who seek to find a way toward solutions are a remarkable cross-section of the church today. In a sense, therefore, the question is nothing less than the relevance of the church and the Christian witness in the present world.

C. E. Day Observed

The official Youth Week recognized in our Seventh Day Baptist calendar has been changed from February to October to conform with the National Council of Churches program. That week seems to have been rather generally observed in our churches.

There is still, however, on our calendar Christian Endeavor Week, the traditional youth week of our people and many other denominations. This youth organization has been such a blessing for so many years that it cannot be forgotten. It was the pioneer inter-church youth program that did—and still does—so much to train junior and senior youth for Christian citizenship. Many of our churches find that the C. E. organization is continuously helpful and they keep the name and program.

It is interesting to note in the church bulletins so thoughtfully sent to the editor that many of our churches observed Youth Sabbath or Christian Endeavor Day on February 7 by having the young people take charge of the Sabbath morning service. The programs as outlined in the bulletins looked interesting and meaningful. It is good to know that our youth are willing and able to take worship and service responsibilities. It is partly because they have been conducting their own meetings throughout the year. In some churches there are two Youth Sabbaths a year, Christian Endeavor Day in February and Youth Day at the end of October.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

Youth Pre-Con

Youth Pre-Con for 1970 will be held at Lutherhaven Bible Camp, Dakota, Minn. The director, the Rev. Edward Sutton, pastor of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, shared his plans with the Youth Work Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education at its monthly meeting, February 8.

The theme for the retreat will be "Faith Plus Nothing Equals Nothing." The theme Scripture is James 2:14-17.

Present plans include the Rev. Glen Warner as worship leader, and the Rev. Herbert Saunders as lecturer, using ideas from his forthcoming book, *The Sabbath, Symbol of Creation and Re-creation*. Other denominational leaders have been contacted, and their agreement to participate is anticipated.

The business manager is Duane Pederson, Rt. 3, Rochester, Minn.

All Youth Fellowships are urged to plan now for ways to send representatives to this inspiring national event.

The Youth Work Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education has chosen the Rev. J. Paul Green to be the noon discussion leader for youth at General Conference at Milton in August.

Efforts are being made to secure directors for Pre-Con retreats in 1971.

Young Adult Pre-Con retreat will be held at Camp Wakonda near Milton, Wis., August 5-9, 1970.

Vocations Sabbath

Sabbath Day, March 14, 1970, has been designated by our General Conference to be Vocations Sabbath. The Vocations Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education has sent suggestions to our churches to help with the planning for that day.

Deacon Mark Sanford of the First Genesee Seventh Day Baptist Church contributed an article on "The Call To Be a Layman," which is offered to be the theme for the occasion.

Mr. Sanford says: "I sometimes feel that we hear too much about the so-called 'generation gap,' but we need to give much more thought to the 'occupational gap' which exists in most of our church communities. As life becomes more complex we become more dependent upon other people. We often fail to understand and appreciate those who serve us. Paul said: 'We are all members of one body,' yet we often place different values upon what each member is doing. All are needed if the whole body is to function.

"We cannot tell our young people what they should do, but we can create a more healthy atmosphere in which young people can make their own decisions.

"Not all young people should stay at home; however, we must recognize the *sacred call* to be *consecrated laymen* who are able and willing to keep the old home church *alive and bearing fruit* on many branches. The need is great and the results can be rewarding."

Youth Rally

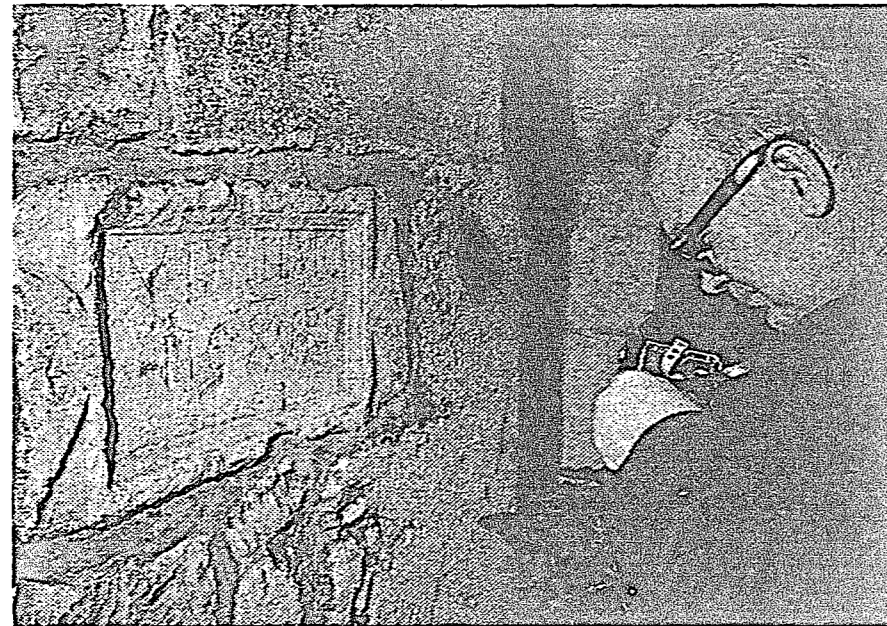
We note with interest a challenging program of the spring rally for the youth of the Seventh Day Baptist Mid-Continent Association. There will be a celebration of the Passover Supper and Communion, a sermon on the theme "It's Easy To Be Hard," discussions, training on witnessing techniques, a bonfire program ending with conversational prayer, and attendance at the Atchison County Youth Rally in Atchison, Kans. The retreat will be held in Nortonville, Kans. Those participating in the leading of the program are David August, Kent Wheeler, Clifford Bond, Kenneth Chroniger, the Rev. Mynor Soper, and the host pastor, the Rev. Paul Osborn.

"With the knowledge we have and Christ the product we have to offer, why are we so reluctant to witness? If we know that we can be helpful and that our product will satisfy customers, why are we reluctant in our selling?"

—Rev. Clive Cooper, Kansas City, Missouri, in "Know Your Line" (Youth CE Meetings).

Things New and Old in Israel

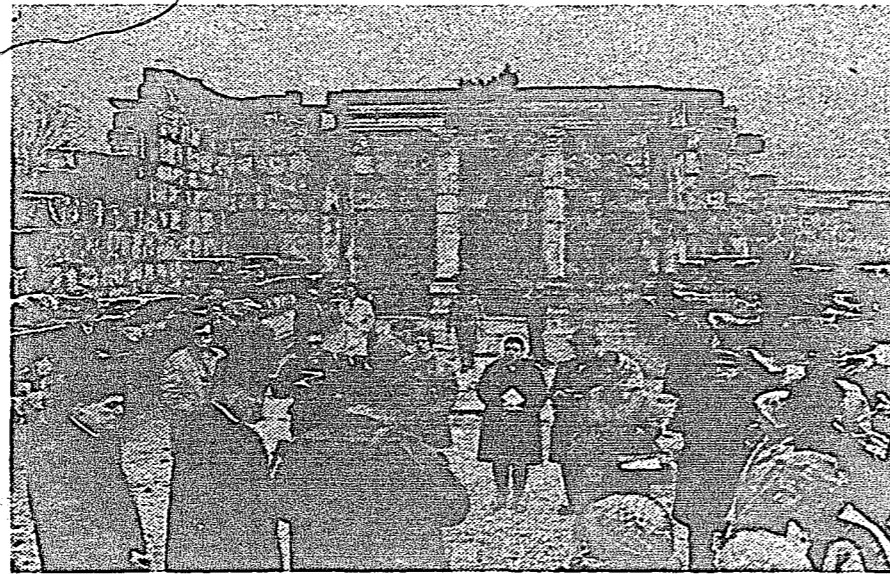
To tour the land of Israel with guides who know the Bible and are qualified archaeologists as well as long time residents of the land is to see things new and old and to try to put them into proper perspective. The Christian has more to gain from a visit to Israel than the adherent of any other religion that has roots in Palestine because the Christian can see it whole. He is not limited to the days of the patriarchs and prophets but takes in the fulfillment of the prophecies in Christ. He comes also to the land with a realization that there has been much dark history of crusades and battles in the name of religion.



The languages of world conquerors are inscribed on monuments unearthed by archaeologists. Not only does one find the native Hebrew in the oldest manuscripts and inscriptions but Greek and Latin also from ancient times. In the picture here a free lance religious writer, Charles Ludwig, is caught photographing one of the rare Greek inscriptions on a stone in the wall of a church. Not too clearly seen in this reproduction of an early Christian inscription is evidence that the man with the hammer and chisel made a mistake in spelling. One does not erase easily in chiseled stone. This man cut the missing letter horizontally above the place where it belonged. (Sorry, I can't be sure of the words and their meaning.)

The photographer, one of Jerusalem's best, who attached himself to our 60-member tour is an energetic young man who has finished his years of active duty

in the army and was found to be almost a second guide in explaining life in Israel. Here he has photographed the group in the first part of the tour as they went up the coast to Mount Carmel (here Elijah had the contest with the prophets of Baal), across northern Galilee to the ruins of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.



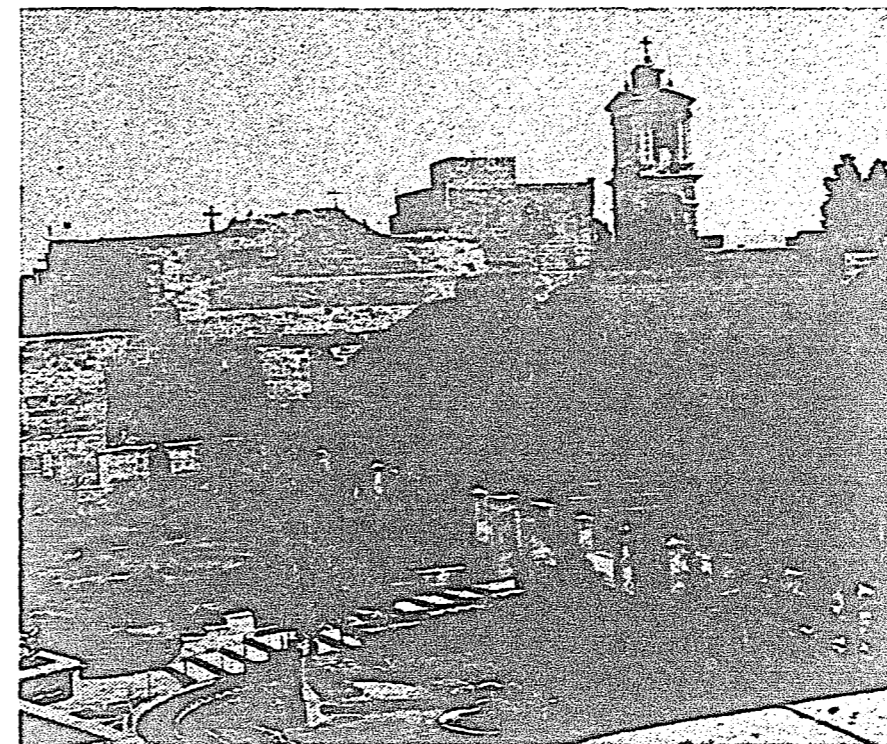
He was with us circling around through Nazareth, Cana, and other localities made sacred by gospel events. Here in the precincts of the ruins of a Second Century synagogue the editors and religious writers listen attentively to the story of the excavation and of the ministry of Jesus in the synagogue that probably stood on this site in His day. The city of Capernaum disappeared from history but archaeology has brought some of it back. The most recent excavations in this spot are thought to have unearthed the house of Simon Peter.

In the beautiful, rugged hills of Galilee not far from the ancient village of Nazareth, which is still very much alive,



our party stopped to view the countryside and to notice a shepherd with his flock of brown and white sheep and long-haired black goats. True to the Scripture, the shepherd "divideth the sheep from the goats" although he watches over both. As indicated in this close-up picture the modern shepherd in Galilee, helping the black ram to pose is an Arab rather than a Jew. Galilee is more Arabic than Jewish and there is one Arab from this region who is a member of the Knesset (Parliament).

Jerusalem, the old part, is a city of towering walls, a city of stones. Everywhere the skyline is broken with churches erected by the faithful of other lands and other times. One gets the impression that their courts and sanctuaries are frequented much more by visiting tourists than by regular worshipping congregations.



Beauty of landscaping such as seen in the foreground of this picture is the exception rather than the rule. Although January is not the season for green grass in Jerusalem one can assume that there is little to be seen at any time in this close-crowded, mostly Arab section.

Looking over the wall from almost any vantage point what is seen resembles what one sees in the poorer, foreign parts of some of our western cities — a forest of slender TV antennae rather than trees and grass reaching up for air. But then, we do not go to Jerusalem for beautiful views of nature or the common things

that attract tourists. We go to remember the work of Christ for us on Calvary. We go to see a city that is once more united and is gradually erasing the scars of time and battles. —L. M. M.

New English Bible

Those who are enrolled as members of the Evangelical Book Club have been notified that the selection for March is the New English Bible, which up to the present, has been available only in the New Testament. Although we are not in any way agents for it, it seems well to share a portion of the announcement written by Matthew Johnson for the editors:

"Ever since the New Testament of *The New English Bible* appeared in 1961, scholars, ministers, and all students of God's holy Word have eagerly looked forward to the day when the Old Testament would appear alongside the New. That day is now here, and you will find in the Old Testament the same clear, fluent, and vigorous style that has made the New Testament so highly acclaimed and so widely used in home, pulpit, and classroom. More than that, the New Testament itself is in a new revised edition, fresher and finer than ever.

"It is a magnificent, majestic work, the product of years of painstaking effort on the part of the most distinguished Biblical and literary scholars in the British Isles."

E. F. Bruce, eminent evangelical commentator, writes: "To the sponsors of *The New English Bible* the English-speaking world owes an immense debt. They have given us a version which is contemporary in idiom, up-to-date in scholarship, attractive and, at times exciting in content . . . We salute their dedicated endeavor to give us an English Bible as faithful to the requirements of divine revelation and to the capacity of the modern reader as human skill, aided by heavenly grace, can achieve."

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

—Bunyan

Appreciation to Connie Coon Assistant in Evangelism

The Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, assembled on January 25, 1970, voted with deep regret to accept the resignation of Miss Constance Coon as assistant in evangelism. It was noted that this resignation would take effect as of August 31, 1970. Miss Coon began her services as assistant in evangelism on September 1, 1968.

The Home Field Committee of the Missionary Board having considered Connie's resignation ahead of the board meeting brought the following recommendation: "We note with real satisfaction the many areas where the impact of Connie's work has been felt, especially among children and young people and we praise God for services she has rendered. It is therefore with regret that we recommend the acceptance of her resignation."

The fruit of Connie's work will continue to be shown in years to come as the boys and girls that have been nurtured in the faith through Bible Clubs will take their places as church leaders. Surely the words of our Lord Jesus Christ apply to Connie when He said, "He that abideth in me and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit."

We pray that God's continued blessing may rest upon Connie as she works in the churches during coming months and as she returns to the teaching profession in September.

(Written in behalf of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board, by Everett T. Harris, executive vice-president.)

Quarterly Report of Home Field Evangelist

(This report prepared by the Rev. Mynor G. Soper was presented to the Missionary Board on January 25, 1970, and accepted with appreciation.)

This report begins on the 19th of October, 1969, at which time I made a report to the meeting of the Missionary Board in session at Westerly, R. I. Be-

ginning only the day before, on October 18, we (Marian and I) had begun a series of evangelistic meetings in Ashaway. These meetings were conducted for eight consecutive days—Sabbath through Sabbath. The closing meeting on Sabbath night, October 25, was a musical, country style, for the young people in which we had a big assist by Rod Van Horn. This was well attended. If I recall correctly, the pastor said the average attendance was around 70.

The following Friday evening, October 31, we began a series of lay training sessions in the Washington, D. C., church. These training sessions continued through November 3. On November 5 we started evangelistic sessions which continued through Sunday, November 9. These meetings were also very well attended for a small church. Pastor Van Horn and I continued a program of visitation in the community during the week of special meetings.

With one day in between, we began services in Lost Creek, W. Va., this time with a bit different schedule as far as presenting both lay training and evangelistic services. Here we started with evangelistic services rather than the lay training. These were conducted through November 15. With a one day break we began lay training sessions on November 17 which continued through November 22, Sabbath afternoon. I also brought the Sabbath morning message at which time a large number came forward in rededication and commitment to Christ in the "Way of Love." After extended counseling that afternoon we journeyed to Salem to have a time of fellowship with the Salem College young people that evening. On Sunday evening, November 23, we held a meeting in the Salem church to describe our work to the people there in order that they might determine whether or not they would like us to hold meetings for them. This meeting was poorly attended, only twelve being in attendance. The next day we headed for home arriving the day before Thanksgiving. After having been gone for exactly seven weeks it was a joyous Thanksgiving. Much thanks is due both our children and

MEMORY TEXT

I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Psalm 108:3, 4.

Marian's mother for making it possible for Marian to accompany me on this trip.

The following Sunday evening, November 30, we started evangelistic services for our home church at North Loup. Marian was to lead the singing. By Tuesday evening we were both coming down with flu and severe colds which had been prevalent in many places. Marian had to give up the song leading, but traded with the pianist and so continued to help in the meetings. She lost her voice for nearly three weeks. I became quite ill with severe bronchitis which still lingers. But the Lord blessed and the meetings were well attended, again with an average of around 70.

In nearly every place we found a great hungering of hearts and a great number of troubled hearts that were crying out for counsel and help. There was generally a good response to the evangelistic meetings but an enthusiastic response to the lay training sessions. We feel, as one pastor put it, "people are being reached on a deeper level than usual," and the willingness of people to participate in witnessing for Christ in the field showed a sincere desire on the part of many people to take seriously the command of our Lord when He gave the Great Commission and said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . ." (Acts 1:8).

We are grateful for the gracious reception of the people to our ministry and the grateful response inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are also grateful for the generous response in a material way demonstrated by most of the churches in the way of a love offering. These have certainly helped us make ends meet. But then, we knew the Lord would see to that. All praise to Him for everything!

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, 120 Main Street, Westerly, R.I. 02891, on Sunday, March 15, 1970, at 2:00 for the following purposes:

1. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1969, to December 31, 1969.
3. To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1970, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

Elston H. Van Horn,
Secretary

Joint Church Aid Ends Work in Nigeria

The thousands of pounds of food and medical supplies stockpiled on the island of Sao Tome and elsewhere for relief to former Biafra are being placed at the disposal of any other agencies which the federal Nigerian government authorizes to work in the region. In the face of the government's refusal to permit Joint Church Aid or any other church agency to continue its work, apparently because they were aiding Biafran civilians, JCA, comprising Church World Service, Catholic and Jewish agencies in this country, is winding up its operations.

Joint Church Aid has worked impartially throughout the civil war in Nigeria. Through late fall 1969, it had sent 8,188,687 pounds of relief aid to Nigeria and 8,397,378 pounds to Biafra.

—Religious Newsweekly

Congress Urged To Consider More Liberal Laws for CO's

A Senate subcommittee has released a report urging Congress to consider expanding the law on conscientious objection to include registrants who object to a particular war on ethical or moral grounds.

The argument in favor of selective conscientious objectors, the report stated, "is simply that young men who have ethical or moral beliefs against a particular war should not be treated differently than young men who have sincere religious beliefs against all wars."

A case now pending before the Supreme Court, *United States v. Sisson*, raises the issue of whether such special treatment is constitutionally required. If the Court finds that it is, the report pointed out, Congress will have to implement the decision with appropriate legislation.

But, the report continued, "Congress should consider the question" even if the Court finds that there is no constitutional necessity for selective CO status.

The argument against permitting young men to select which wars they will oppose on grounds of conscience, the report said, "is that it is administratively impracticable." Also, such a law "may also create new inequities in the draft system," it continued.

The administrative problem, according to the report, is "how to determine who is a sincere selective CO and who is merely trying to avoid military service."

The Judiciary subcommittee suggested that Congress consider a proposal made by President Kingman Brewster of Yale University. His proposal is that anyone who requests a selective CO status should be granted it, but should then be required to undergo noncombatant service of comparable risk to that undergone by draftees.

Presumably this does not mean that every CO must go to the battlefield, the report continued. All that would be required is that the same percentage of selective CO's as draftees be subjected to battle risks and that in all other re-

spects — pay, length of service, separation from families, and the like — selective CO's and draftees be treated equally.

If, the report stated, "it proves impossible to subject selective CO's to equal risks, then they could be required to serve for a longer time."

Test Yourself for 1970

By C. T. White

We must not let the world and the lusts thereof ensnare us. It is good to take an inventory of our spiritual state. Why is our testimony for Christ not vibrant and enthusiastic? Are our missionary activities less frequent? Are we absent more and more from prayer meetings? Is the Book of Books being neglected? Are we becoming more devoted to television programs than church activities? As we examine ourselves let's be honest and put Christ and His work first.

Yes, during 1970 let's put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. Yes, we must dare to be different from the world if we are to be like Jesus and have fellowship with Him.

The continual expansion of the Seventh Day Baptist church has been possible because of God's blessing upon each loyal one who has sacrificed for the one who gave His life that we might live.

Working for Jesus in the days ahead may not always be rosy and easy, but in Him they can be filled with victory. One with Jesus is always a majority.

The missionary work sometimes looks impossible, but with our sacrificial offerings and self-denial from a cheerful giver, they can be blessed many times to spread the truth to each soul God loved. We should never sit back and say, "If I only had \$100 I would do this, or if I had \$100 I would do that," because God wants to know how much of that fifty cent piece you are willing to sacrifice for the cause of the gospel.

Yes, Christian friend, you and I and the souls we win for Jesus can work together and then we will hear the words of our Savior, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Newsman Prediction:

"Faith To Make Comeback"

NBC Newsman John Chancellor set an optimistic context for Mission 70, injecting hope into pessimistic predictions about the seventies by asserting that "faith would get a chance for a comeback."

Assessing the sixties and speculating on the seventies, Chancellor predicted the old values of religious faith and fidelity would be essential for the new decade, even if old institutions were not.

"The fix we are in in the sixties would provide spectacular opportunity for ministries of various kinds in the seventies," the news commentator stated.

"Our institutions are breaking down, our conceptions of life are changing. It looks as if in the seventies, faith will get a chance for a comeback."

The hope for the new decade, he suggested, is that as the young move into responsible positions they will produce "new rules of living that will match the realities around us — for example, replacing the cheapness of mass production with the quality of personal production, and establishing a kinship that will break the barriers of fear in the ghetto."

Mr. Chancellor said our cities were like Japan — small geographically and jammed — and that a philosophy for living under such circumstances was an immediate need for humanity.

"What better resource is there in society to provide this than the church?" he asked.

Quoting James Reston of the *New York Times*, Chancellor said that the denial of the old values of religious faith and fidelity would not hold up in the seventies.

"In the seventies we will need more trust in human relationships than in the sixties," he said.

"The young in the seventies will be trying to clean up the skies and the lakes, and they will find more support for demonstrations than they did when they were demonstrating against the war," he predicted.

—BP

News from Burma

The general news from Burma coming by way of the press and Baptist sources is that there is some slight relaxation of travel restrictions. For instance, a visitor may now spend seventy-two hours in Burma without getting into trouble with the law. It is also reported that the Baptist churches of Burma will have representation at the Baptist World Alliance meeting at Tokyo next July. They were not allowed to send a delegate to the 1965 meeting at Miami, Fla.

Word has just been received regarding the Seventh Day Baptist Conference work. Mr. Lian Ngura, president of the conference, tells about a meeting in November with the employed secretary, L. Sawi Thanga, at Rangoon to make arrangements for the program of the annual conference of the churches being held in February. Mr. Ngura, who works for the government, is no longer with the Pale Civil Hospital but an information office at Monywa, Burma. He likes his new work better, but he is still not free to assist the churches — which are at considerable distance.

The churches face financial and other problems, as is to be expected. He writes, "Though we are poor in worldly property in Christ we are rich. The church is increasing gradually because of your kind assistance." A gift from one of our American churches to be used for the construction of a simple church apparently had not yet been received when Mr. Ngura wrote. It probably reached them in time to encourage the people assembled for the 1970 Burma Conference.

The support of L. Sawi Thanga (much of which he puts into the very limited Conference budget) is largely provided outside of our OWM budget by a few interested friends through SDBWF. Any gifts for the general Burma work are normally channeled the same way. Rev. Everett T. Harris is the treasurer of SDBWF.

—L. M. M.

Don't worry about how many people are here; it isn't how many we are but how much we are. —Owen Cooper

ECUMENICAL NEWS

Many Changes in Council Structures

Councils of Churches across the country are undergoing major changes from adopting new names to disbanding and reorganizing to include Roman Catholic parishes or dioceses and, in a few cases, Jewish groups.

In a survey conducted by the Minneapolis *Star* statistics are reported which were compiled by the Rev. Dr. H. Conrad Hoyer.

Of the approximately 800 councils in the United States, 210 have paid staffs and of these councils, two-thirds have direct Roman Catholic participation. Six of the 50 state councils have Catholic dioceses as full members and eight others are currently negotiating with them on membership. Dr. Hoyer said that they are now members of at least 35 local or metropolitan church councils.

Among the more recent name changes from "Council of Churches" are: the Arizona Ecumenical Council, the Metropolitan Fellowship of Churches of Southeast Florida in Miami, the Texas Conference of Churches, the Council of Christian Communion in Cincinnati and the Metropolitan Interchurch Agency in Kansas City.

—Religious Newsweekly

Nigerian Baptists Ask To Join WCC

The Nigerian Baptist Convention is one of five religious bodies now applying for membership in the World Council of Churches. Action on the membership petitions could be taken in January 1971 when the WCC's central committee meets in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Baptist work in Nigeria has been sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention in the United States, which belongs to no ecumenical association. The Nigerian Baptist Convention is independent of the American organization.

Baptist World Alliance statistics indicate there are over 78,000 members of churches in the Nigerian Baptist Convention. The convention belongs to the BWA.

—EBPS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Minister to Hippies Starts 3,000 Mile Hike

The Rev. Arthur Blessitt, Southern Baptist evangelist and founder of "His Place," located on the Sunset Strip as a ministry to hippies, drug addicts, and disadvantaged youth in Hollywood, started a cross-country walk to Washington, D. C., carrying an 80-pound cross.

The 3,000-mile hike will end July 18 in the capital city where Blessitt expects half-a-million people to gather at the Washington Monument for a "Which Way America?" 24-hour prayer rally. Each person attending is asked to bring "a Bible, a flower, love, and two gifts—one to give to somebody needy in Washington and the other to place on the lawn of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the government agency to distribute to the poor."

A daily telegram will be sent to President Nixon. Four men will walk across the nation with Blessitt. Two at a time will carry the rough-hewn, 10-foot cross. Two trailers, one pulled by a car driven by Blessitt's wife Sherry and carrying their three children, will accompany the hikers.

Cities on the route include Phoenix, Albuquerque, Amarillo, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Springfield (Mo.), St. Louis, Louisville, and Cincinnati. Each city will be invited to send Christians to the city outskirts for a mass march to a rally site.

—ABNS

Bible Study in Jordan

Eight thousand people of Arab countries are enrolled in a correspondence course on the life of Christ. The course is sponsored by the publication committee of the Arab Baptist General Mission. Mrs. Wayne Fuller of Amman, chairman of the committee which translates, publishes, and distributes Christian literature, reported that several governments apparently have begun to intercept materials to prevent their delivery.

—Baptist World Newsletter

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for January 1970

Treasurer's		Boards'		Treasurer's		Boards'	
Adams Ctr NY ..		Milton WI		1,808.80	13.00		
Albion WI		Milton Jct WI ..	\$ 27.51	84.00	10.00		
Alfred NY	\$ 1,426.04	Monterey CA		200.00			
Alfred Sta NY ..		New Auburn WI ..		100.08			
Ashaway RI	394.50	New Milton WV ..		50.00			
Assns & Groups ..	140.00	New Orleans LA ..	85.00				
Battle Creek MI ..	269.55	North Loup NB..		400.00			
Bay Area CA		Nortonville KS ..		290.50	25.00		
Berea WV	50.00	Ohio Fellowship..					
Berlin NY	209.96	Paint Rock AL ..					
Boulder CO	95.66	Plainfield NJ ..		642.44			
Brookfield NY ..	198.50	Richburg NY		142.00			
Buffalo NY		Riverside CA		1,112.54			
Chicago IL	100.00	Rockville RI		46.25			
Daytona Beach FL		Salem WV		250.00			
Denver CO	261.40	Salemville PA	25.00	55.00	6.00		
De Ruyter NY ..	171.50	Schenectady NY..		11.00			
Dodge Ctr MN ..		Seattle WA					
Farina IL		Shiloh NJ		1,918.30			
Fouke AR		Stonefort IL		49.00			
Hammond LA		Syracuse NY					
Hebron PA	70.00	Texarkana AR					
Hopkinton RI	4.00	Verona NY		204.83			
Houston TX		Walworth WI		190.00			
Independence NY ..	80.80	Washington DC ..		83.00			
Individuals	356.00	Washington	80.00				
Irvington NJ	500.00	People's DC					
Jackson Ctr OH ..		Waterford CT		139.95			
Kansas City MO ..	50.00	Westerly RI		1,103.50			
Leonardsville NY	140.00	White Cloud MI ..		69.56			
Little Genesee NY	144.58						
Little Rock AR ..	39.34	Totals		\$14,725.01	\$271.51		
Los Angeles CA ..	350.00	Non-Budget		59.50			
Lost Creek WV ..	340.00						
Marlboro NJ	382.43	Total To Disburse		\$14,784.51			
Metairie LA							

JANUARY DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 1,258.36
Historical Society	10.57
Ministerial Education	1,237.21
Ministerial Retirement	1,425.63
Missionary Society	6,053.41
Tract Society	1,962.12
Trustees of Gen. Conf.	105.75
Women's Society	341.42
World Fellowship & Service	414.21
General Conference	1,945.83
S. D. B. World Federation	30.00
Total Disbursements	\$14,784.51

SUMMARY

1970 Budget	\$140,833.00
January Receipts:	
OWM Treasurer	\$14,725.01
Boards'	271.51
	<u>14,996.52</u>
Amount due in 11 months	\$125,836.48
Needed per month	\$ 11,439.68
Percentage of year elapsed	8.33%
Percentage of budget raised	10.65%
Gordon L. Sanford OWM Treasurer	
January 31, 1970	

The Sabbath Recorder

Nation's Top Leaders Declare Need for God

At the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast President Richard M. Nixon joined some of the nation's top public officials in proclaiming need for prayer and dependence on God during these times of turmoil and challenge.

The president of the Baptist World Alliance, William Tolbert, vice-president of Liberia, was one of the honored guests seated at the President's table.

Congressman Albert H. Quie (R., Minn.), presiding officer, noted that the larger group of the 2,600 had come from around the world and were "joined in Christ's love."

After reading from the 15th chapter of John, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird observed that twenty centuries had passed since these words were spoken by the Prince of Peace. He referred to the progress men had made since the first century and reminded the audience of the problems of hunger, disease and poverty which are still unsolved.

The secretary of defense then said that "we believe that church and state must be separate, but we do not believe that God and state must be torn asunder."

After listening to the remarks from his cabinet members and elected officials in Congress, President Nixon said it meant a lot to him to hear other top officials speak in their faith.

Since 1953 members of the weekly House and Senate prayer breakfast groups have sponsored this Presidential Prayer Breakfast in the nation's capital.

Heard in Israel

When one gets away from his own country, he may hear some interesting things about people of like faith. The corresponding secretary of the Tract Society was asked by a Sabbathkeeper in Jerusalem about Seventh Day Baptists in Russia. He was sure that there was a large number of such believers in the Soviet Union. Our only reply was that if there are such it has not been by our effort, for we are not in touch with them.

This is not the first time we have heard of people of like faith in Russia. Up to the present we have not had any leads by which we could establish contact. It would not be strange if there were people calling themselves by our name over there, for Seventh Day Baptist is more of a concept than an organization. People all over the world who discover the Sabbath truth in their Bible study and believe in the Baptist principle of immersion of believers naturally combine the two and call themselves Seventh Day Baptists.

If any of our readers have any information about such believers the American Sabbath Tract Society would like to follow up the leads. It is evident that these scattered people or flocks do not know that we exist and that fellowship by mail is possible.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for March 7, 1970

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Lesson Scripture: Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14:25-33.



Board of Christian Education

Back row L - R:— Hurley S. Warren, Luan Sutton Ellis, Helena Knox Aldrich, C. Harmon Dickinson, Harold King, David S. Clarke, Robert Stohr, L. Maurice McCrea, Harold O. Burdick, Donald Van Horn, John Reynolds

Front row L - R:— Mae R. Lewis, Burton B. Crandall, Rex E. Zwiebel, Ethel D. Dickinson, Mary Clare, Jean Palmer Snyder, Susan Davis Bond