

The Sabbath Recorder

The Church

"Spirit-filled Fellowship"

By Francis D. Saunders



The church takes on the nature of a "Spirit-filled Fellowship" only as those members who make up that fellowship become Spirit-filled men and women. Thus our subject is individually and intimately personal. Each one of us who has a part in

making the church what it ought to be, for Christ's sake, must find himself in the process of personal analysis, searching his own soul, and personally imploring the Spirit's presence and power.

The office of the Holy Spirit is a many faceted one, reflecting from the Spirit-filled life the very glory of the Godhead. See then what the acceptance of the Spirit can do in your individual life and in the life of the fellowship of which you are a vital part. Our Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief declares: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the indwelling God, the Inspirer of Scripture; the Comforter, active in the hearts and lives and minds of men, who reproves of sin, instructs in righteousness, and empowers for witnessing and service."

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Christian reconciliation!

Jesus expresses it through the inspiration of the beloved disciple in these words: "He shall reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment." It is the pressure of the Holy

Spirit on the individual life that brings him to the realization that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and that he is one among many standing in condemnation, and thus in need of the message of reconciliation. It is by illumination of the Spirit that each one feels either remorse for evil done, or a sense of well-being for good accomplished, and so receives instruction in righteousness. It is the Holy Spirit who convinces of judgment for sins unconfessed and unforgiven, and so has an active part in the drawing power of the cross of Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Christian truth!

He is the Inspirer of Scripture not only for those men, chosen instruments of God in recording the truth found in the Scripture, but also the Inspirer for every one of us in our search of truth as we study the Holy Writ. He is the Divine Source from which we receive our understanding of what is right and wrong, and also the power given unto us in choosing the best and rejecting the evil. A spirit of permissiveness is rampant in our world today, not only undermining our code of Christian conduct, but threatening our very faith. It is the prodding of the Spirit which warns of the dangers of disobedience to the revealed will of God. We are encouraged by the Scriptures to "test the spirits" to see whether they are of God, and it is the Holy Spirit who speaks through the Word: "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God."

(Continued on page 14)



Ministers Conference at Battle Creek

Some thirty Seventh Day Baptist ministers, the majority of whom are in full-time pastorates, assembled at the Battle Creek church for a solid week of instruction and inspiration April 28 - May 4. The conference is planned by the Committee on Higher Education of the Board of Christian Education every second year. Five of those present did not get in this picture.

The Sabbath Recorder

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Studying Stewardship— And the Sabbath

Probably every denomination has promoted studies of stewardship among its members. One reason for doing so is that it is related to basic Biblical faith. Christians should seek to know what the teaching of the Bible is on every aspect of faith and practice. A second reason that leaders promote stewardship studies is that they have the responsibility of raising the money needed to carry on denominational work, and a stewardship emphasis brings in money on a higher percentage basis. The first reason is, of course, the better one.

There is a parallel between tithing and Sabbathkeeping. Seventh Day Baptists study and promote the Sabbath as a Biblical principal. It is part of the revealed will of God that we should devote to God that day of the week that He sanctified at creation. Some other religious leaders do not emphasize the sacredness of a given day. One would think that they did not even believe one day to be more sacred than another. However, in order to have a smoothly functioning church and a convenient time for preaching, they find it expedient to put considerable emphasis on church attendance on Sunday. Having previously argued against the Biblical Sabbath on the seventh day they wish they had something authoritative to hold their people to consistent Sunday observance. For economic and other reasons they feel the need to promote a uniform day of worship. Again, as with a reasons for stewardship emphasis, doing the will of God is the better reason for setting apart "one day in seven for religious purposes—including offerings for the Lord's work.

The Southern Baptists have stressed stewardship throughout their relatively short history, but last month was the first time they ever scheduled a national stewardship conference. At Glorieta, N. M., a four-day meeting involving 160 pastors, professors, and convention leaders was held for an in-depth study of "the Biblical truths bearing on the Christian's role in the material world. Some fourteen prepared papers were presented. It is reported that if suggestions coming out of the conference are followed, there

may be a shift in emphasis in Southern Baptist stewardship programs for Baptists to go beyond "the tithe" to a theological understanding of the total stewardship of life and possessions under the Lordship of Christ. There could also be more emphasis on the motivation for stewardship rather than on the amount of monetary contribution.

During the conference, four speakers presented independently-prepared papers on the same subject, "The Christian and the Tithe." Although there were some slight differences and understandings of the Christian's relationship to the Old Testament legalistic tithe, all agreed that a Christian's giving under "grace," should exceed giving under the "law."

Jerry Horner, professor of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., stated, "The New Testament nowhere tells us to give less than a tenth and, while taking care to avoid a legalistic system, we should beware lest we fall into a reckless and haphazard system. Christ did not die on the cross to enable us to give two percent instead of ten percent, and the word 'grace' is not a cloak of covetness to do less instead of more," Horner said.

Franklin Paschall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, pointed out that though he said little about it, Jesus was a tither. "Even the enemies of Jesus never accused him of not paying tithes," Paschall said. "If he had been neglectful at this point surely they would have exalted in this obvious shortcoming."

The observation of Franklin Paschall in the above paragraph is valid. It is similar to what Seventh Day Baptists have noted about Paul and the Sabbath. Those who look for evidence of a change from Sabbath to Sunday in the Bible appeal to certain sentences of Paul that are thought to imply a departure from the sacredness of the Sabbath. We point out that he was persecuted from city to city by the Jews for preaching the gospel of Christ, but they never found occasion to criticize him in regard to the Sabbath—which in that day would have been the first thing to be picked up.

Sabbathkeeping can become a contro-

versial issue and perhaps it needs to be until it is studied in depth and right conclusions are reached. Brooks Wester, writer of one of the four major papers in the two-year study culminating in the stewardship conference in New Mexico told the conference that tithing is currently a controversial issue in religious circles. "There are those who declare tithing to be an integral part of the Christian life and required of every Christian. There are others who reject tithing as being Old Testament legalism that leads to a self-righteousness of spirit in the one practicing the tithe."

Wester concluded that tithing can be presented from the Biblical message as being a spiritual exercise that honors God in his ownership. "Tithing is basically an act of worship that declares the greatness of God and the work of a man when he is obedient to God," he said.

The Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in setting up the conference has stimulated further thinking on stewardship and the related subject of the Sabbath.

Of Butterflies and Moths

Most of us are quite earthbound most of the time and do not stop to ponder the marvels of human flight or how man has copied from the heavy birds and the fluttering moths.

Taking off recently from Newark Airport in one of the now common jets I found myself marvelling that such a heavy plane with so little wingspread and two such inconspicuous jet engines could lift off the ground so quickly and apparently at such a slow speed. Engineers have learned to come somewhere near the efficiency of the birds who, incidentally, didn't have to study aerodynamics when they used the equipment given them by the Creator and almost instinctively mastered the principles of heavier-than-air flight and maneuverability.

The Bible calls us to behold the fowls of the air and to meditate on how God takes care of them. Not a sparrow falls to the earth without the personal knowl-

edge and care of God, we are reminded. Probably if Jesus were on earth in the flesh today the lessons from flying creatures would be just a little different in detail than before man learned to fly. We might add that the birds still have it all over on man in one respect; they fly whenever they want to on tireless wings. Man is not in the air very much because he can't afford the cost. Of course, man, who does not fly by his own individual effort, has learned to use more of God's gifts than are available to birds and moths. He can store more fuel and burn it faster. Our pilot apologizes for making only 450 miles per hour because of the head wind. Whether it's birds or jets flight is still by the provision and by the grace of God.

When we think of speed, there is little comparison with butterflies and moths fluttering in the wind, much less with the snails that carry their hard-tops along their greased runways. However, I notice that man has copied them in one respect, and that not very beautifully. Moths and snails are equipped with antennae or feelers by which they avoid collision and damage. At the airport there is a specially designed truck that moves up to the side of the tender-skinned jetliner to service it. The cab is equipped with feelers some eighteen inches long that signal the driver, allowing him to come in close but not too close.

We remind ourselves of God's provision for the little creatures and are thankful that He has done all things well. It would be wonderful if we would do as well in using the feelers He has given us in His Word to avoid damage from a head-on collision with the moral and spiritual dangers that go with the fast life of our age.

"The Bible is a book that tells the story of the ultimate victory of God's kingdom. Anybody can write history, only God can write prophecy. Churches are out of business unless they believe in the Bible."

—John Bisagno at a National Bible Conference

Our Prayer Corner

Pray for:

1) The leaders of our many Vacation Bible Schools, that they may prepare well for the schools soon to open and that they may lead the children closer to Christ.

2) The young people who have caught a vision of serving the Lord by personal evangelism, that their zeal and ability may steadily grow.

3) The many people who are interested in becoming Seventh Day Baptists but who are not close to any of our churches.

4) The ministers who are trying to serve their Lord and their people and are seeking for better ways and wiser use of time.

Church-State Separation Grows

Though the crisis is not fully past, there is a definite turning of the tide in favor of strict separation of church and state, according to Glenn L. Archer, who writes:

"While the challenge to separation of church and state in 1970 has by no means been dissipated, the tide has now definitely turned in favor of the separationists. The last four lawsuits dealing with the constitutionality of government grants to sectarian schools have all resulted in decisions against any such use of public funds. The cases are:

Montana: *Chambers v. School District No. 10*

Rhode Island: *DiCenso v. Robinson*

Connecticut: *Johnson v. Sanders*

Louisiana: *Seegers v. Parker*

All these cases were decided this year.

"Maybe four swallows do not make a spring, but this certainly doesn't look like winter. When we recall the overwhelming defeats of state aid to parochial schools by popular referenda in Michigan and Nebraska; the rejection of such legislation in thirty state legislatures; and the unanimous opinion of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on this subject, we have further impressive evidence. To be sure, there are problems enough to test the sinews of patriots; but there are also victories to hearten the valiant.

Conference Publicity

Meals and Sundry Amenities

During General Conference on the University of Massachusetts campus this year, the delegates will have a choice of eating places, so that the individual can exercise his options as to when, where and how much he will eat. This is a slight departure from some of the past arrangements, but due to many circumstances and requests, there is no "package" for registration that includes all fees, rooms, meals, etc. As outlined in a previous article, registration charges and room rates are established to cover the needed services and facilities. That leaves the eating problem strictly up to the individual delegate.

In addition to the usual commercial facilities in the business district of Amherst and surrounding areas, the Campus Center where the sessions will be held has ample dining rooms. There is an excellent cafeteria and a large coffee shop located in the main building, plus a full scale restaurant known as the "Top of the Campus" on the eleventh floor of the center. Other food outlets are available in the adjacent Student Union, where it is anticipated that the special banquets will be held.

As for the banquets — those feasts that emphasize the youth and the distaff delegates—they will be held in commodious ballrooms with all the frills desired. It is most important that persons planning to attend these dinners register as soon as possible, as attendance will be limited to a degree, and a guarantee of diners must be given the chefs well in advance of the event.

It is understood that lounges in the dormitory will be available and ideally suited for the coffee hours and informal social get-togethers that make Conference the doubly enjoyable occasion that it is. There are also some provisions for food preparation and storage in the dormitory, so that snacks can be safely prepared and consumed there.

Make your plans as early as possible, pack your lunch, and head for Amherst, Mass., for General Conference.

Ministers Conference Helpful to Many

By the Editor

All Seventh Day Baptist pastors, seminary students, and ministers not serving in full-time pastorates were invited to attend the biennial Ministers Conference arranged by the Higher Education Committee of the Board of Christian Education which was hosted by the Battle Creek church April 28-May 4. Not all could attend, for obvious or special reasons, but a good percentage of the active pastors and most of the ordained denominational leaders were present to assist others and to improve their own ministry. Thirty men and one woman took part in the full week of instruction, discussion, and fellowship.

David Clarke, new executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education, had put together an interesting program of wide variety. He guided the sessions with a loose hand on the reins to allow full expression and a certain amount of group choice as to the less vital parts of the schedule. Your reporter has not seen the evaluation sheets that were turned in on the last day, but feels safe in affirming that the ministers present felt that they had derived much help from the sessions and would definitely hope to attend the next time. Sentiment was expressed for area pastors' retreats for Bible study next year if these could be arranged. The place of the 1973 Ministers Conference was not discussed.

One general observation that could be made is that no two ministers' conferences are alike. The main thrust is different, as is the theme and the emphasis. The theme or slogan at the head of the program this time was "The Word at Work," which characterized the conference fairly well.

Considerable time each morning was spent on the Word — a Bible study on the Minor Prophets being featured. Other hours were spent on paraphrasing important passages in the New Testament from the point of view of different kinds of people in an identifying, imaginative way. But work, individual, local, and denominational, probably received

greater emphasis throughout the week than the Word. Men faced with congregational and social responsibilities wanted to discuss how they could better do their work. There was considerable emphasis on the social aspects of Christian work, but not much on such subjects as race relations.

The visiting lecturer who was present for two days was Dr. Samuel E. Kidd, executive director of the Michigan State Council of Churches, one of the few Lutheran clergymen in such positions. His three lectures, followed by discussions, were on "The Congregation in Mission." He brought a thoughtful analysis of the situation fortified by experience in forty countries of the world. He cited a number of countries (like Japan) where the percentage of Christians is still small, but where even leading non-Christians state that the future quality of life in those countries is dependent on Christian mission. He pointed out that there is much evidence to show that the gospel is self-establishing just as the world is self-destroying. There are, however, some darker sides to the world picture of a growing Christianizing process.

The key thought of much of Dr. Kidd's presentation was that the church is in tension, various kinds of tension, which keeps it on its toes seeking a balance that will be right. For instance, there is the tension of inclusiveness and exclusiveness — particularly on the mission fields.

The second lecture of Dr. Kidd dealt with a subject later discussed frankly in some detail as to our own relationships — "Ecumenism." He gave a thoughtful evaluation of the many-faceted ecumenical idea, making his listeners stop and consider the aims and goals of different kinds of ecumenism. Some agencies are inward directed and some outward. The efforts to unite denominations are much more inward than outward directed. Other agencies are directed outward toward the world, such as those that seek united effort on some social mission. This can be so broad that its inclusive

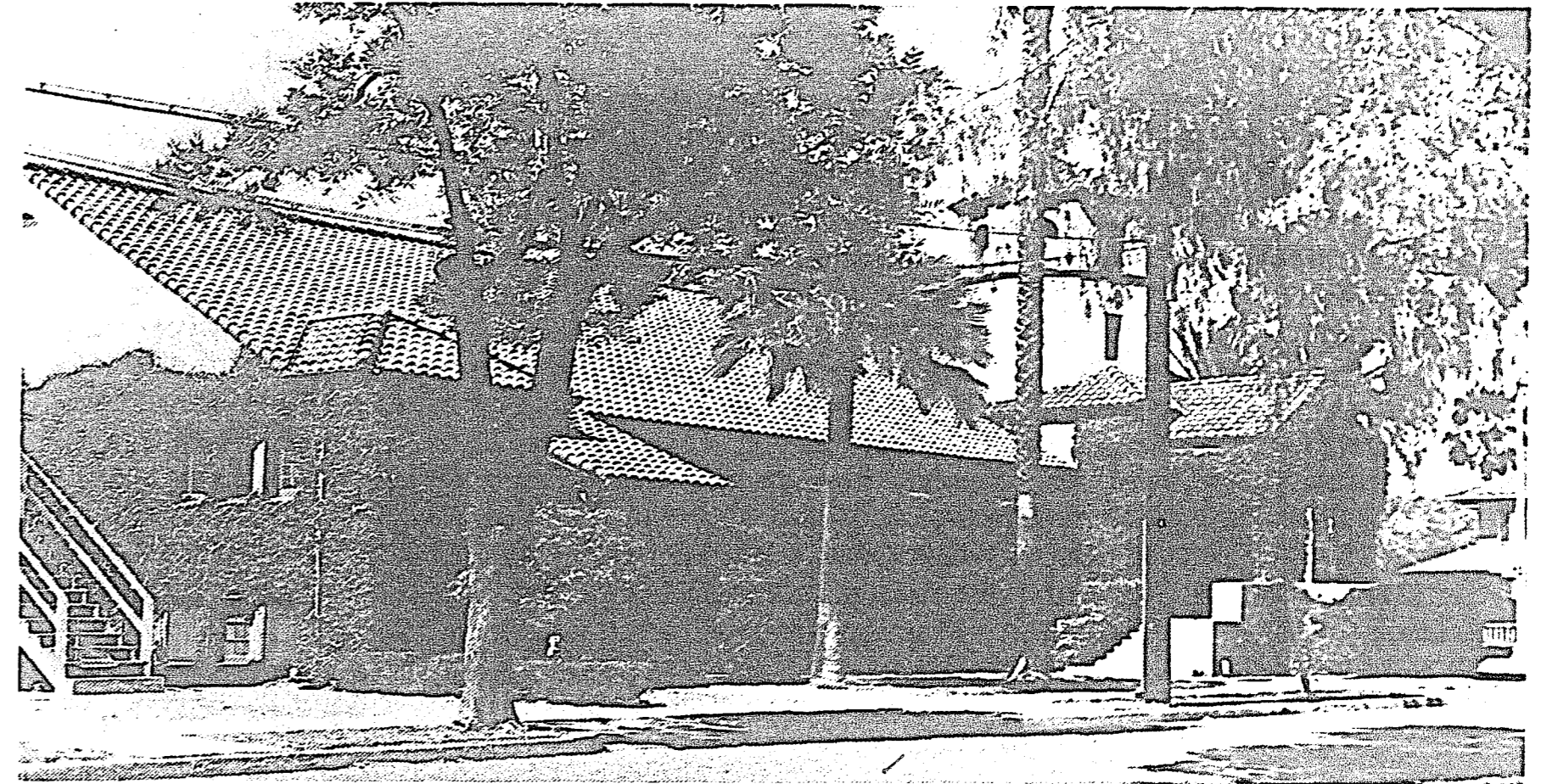
membership precludes any proclamation of the gospel — which is the primary mission of the church.

A third focus was called "inward-outward directed." Certain agencies try to be bifocal, serving both the interests of the church and society. What we need to determine is whether we are seeking union for the sake of union or for service. He drew an interesting distinction between mission and service. Mission implies proclamation of the message. Service may be entirely without message. However, service can be performed as mission, because we have a mission. To state it in Biblical terms, whatever we do of service to man is done because we are Christians and in the name of Christ.

A third lecture dealt with the church as community. Churches are beginning to learn, he pointed out, that community is not contiguity any more. It is having like interests rather than living close to a central building. Community is involvement, according to this meaning. Seventh Day Baptists should learn this more easily than others and should discover how they can bind together those of like interests and faith who may be widely separated. One expression used by the lecturer was painfully descriptive of Seventh Day Baptists, as well as some others. "There is a satisfaction out of starting that keeps us from going."

One cannot easily convey in a brief article all that took place in a week of meetings and discussions between meetings. The pastors who had the privilege of participating will show in their ministry some of what they get out of this cherished experience. The boards and agencies and the general secretary shared plans and program from day to day and demonstrated the effective use of audio-visual techniques. One new thing was the constant display of a large variety of thoughtful and helpful books (including study books) provided for sale purposes by a Christian book store in a neighboring city. Books were read on free time and books were bought to enrich the pastors' libraries.

Notes on the Riverside Church



The Riverside church has just celebrated its Diamond Jubilee; it has been in existence seventy-five years. During 1970, the membership stopped to look back, to evaluate the present, and to look forward with, we believe, increased dedication.

Much that is true of this church might be said of many in our denomination. We started as a small group, grew slowly, but steadily, strove to be aware of God's plan for us, and sought to serve Him by serving others wherever opportunity presented.

Probably most of the spiritual growth of our congregation now led by the Rev. C. Rex Burdick as pastor comes in the regular weekly worship and study services, and in the year-in, year-out events of the church calendar. These routines are not spectacular, but they are of prime importance, for they build our stability and depth.

This church has always had a deep interest in missions — both at home and abroad. Former members of our congregation presently serve as missionaries, pastors, and as teachers or officials in Christian institutions. We follow them with our prayers.

We have worked through the Pacific

Coast Association through the years. The past few years have been particularly rewarding as we have seen the Seattle church organized, and have helped with its support. Several of our families moved to that area to lend their help. This has led to a decrease in our attendance and has curtailed some of our activities, but we are glad that we are privileged to make this contribution to the new church.

The year 1970 saw our thirty-seventh summer camping season at Pacific Pines Camp. In these years the program has grown from one session for young people to four camps for primary to senior age groups, plus an all-church camp over Labor Day weekend. This effort absorbs much of our time, money, and energy, but we feel that it is a truly evangelistic outreach, since we contact many not of our denominational group, and many who are unchurched, and for whom this is perhaps their only exposure to the gospel. We touch the lives of from 150-200 children and young people each year. Our facilities are also made available to other groups for their camps and retreats, the year round.

We have long realized that one weak-

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Let the Good News Be Heard

Some Comments on "Good News for Modern Man"
the New Testament in Today's English Version

By Laton E. Holmgren

Recently a copy of "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version, was buried in a Concord, North Carolina, churchyard. A cross was erected over its grave and a sign which read: "Here lies TEV." The preacher who conducted the "funeral" said, "I believe that this TEV is the masterpiece of the devil." A photographer took a picture and the happening received nationwide publicity.

An Old Story

Although most people would avoid this kind of sensationalism, some thoughtful objections to specific renderings in the Today's English Version are being raised. This is to be expected because every new translation of the Bible has met with opposition and had its share of critics. The great John Wycliffe who first translated the complete Bible into English was known among his detractors by such names as "Doctor Wicked Believer" and "Devell's Instrument." Persecution against his work was so bitter that in 1428, forty-four years after his death, his bones were dug up and burned by order of the Council of Constance. A little more than one hundred years later, William Tyndale, whose monumental work was the basis for the King James Version, was seized by ecclesiastical agents and, after trial and imprisonment for sixteen months, was strangled and burned at the stake for translating the Scriptures without proper authorization. A clergyman in London in 1611 attacked the Geneva Bible as denying the divinity and messiahship of Jesus Christ. This was the Bible preferred by the Pilgrims when they came to America rather than the recently published King James Version which went through fifty stormy years before it received wide acceptance.

Designed for Evangelism

Most people would not engage in Bible burning these days, but many do ask, "Why can't people leave the Bible alone? Why must they keep putting out

new editions? I like the Bible the way it always has been." This is the normal reaction of many of us who know and love the older versions. So the American Bible Society has been grateful that so few of its members and friends have raised this kind of objection to "Good News for Modern Man," the New Testament in Today's English Version. This is probably because so many members of the Bible Society family are engaged in evangelism and are trying to reach the vast numbers of nonreaders of the Bible. Those who are trying to reach the nonreaders also know from experience, which is supported by Christian history, that when the Bible is given to the people in a language they easily understand, it has a miraculous redemptive quality which captures a person's attention and life. There can be no doubt of the effectiveness of "Good News for Modern Man" in performing the purpose for which it was intended — to reach a growing number of people with the good news about Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

True to the Text

Some facts about this new translation are of interest. First, the New Testament in Today's English Version was published only after being carefully reviewed and approved by the Translations Committee of the American Bible Society which is composed of pastors, teachers, and Biblical scholars belonging to many denominations. A second edition including scores of changes was published in October 1967, and a third edition early in 1971.

Second, it should be remembered that Today's English Version is based on the most accurate Greek text available, "The Greek New Testament" published by the United Bible Societies in 1966. For this reason it differs in many places from earlier versions. The discovery and publication of older and better Greek manuscripts enable Biblical scholars today to determine with a much greater degree

of accuracy and certainty the original Greek text of the New Testament.

Third, a careful reading will show that Today's English Version does not dilute or deny any of the great truths of the New Testament, but only makes them easier for the reader to understand. The difference most often noted between Today's English Version and more formal translations is that the American Bible Society's TEV New Testament is a "common language" translation which means that it expresses the meaning of the original text in the style and vocabulary of the English language as it is ordinarily used today for common purposes. The ABS/TEV New Testament does not try to reproduce the formal features of the original text, but seeks to express the meaning of the original naturally and idiomatically in standard English in such a way as to make it clear and understandable to all who read and speak the language regardless of the level of their formal education.

Some Great Words

Those who use the Scriptures in evangelism know the frustration of having a potential new reader become confused and frustrated by trying to understand such expressions as "the righteousness of God." Christian workers now rejoice in a New Testament which makes this difficult-to-understand expression read, "God's way of putting men right with himself." In Today's English Version, "reconciliation" becomes "God makes men his friends" and "repent" is "turn away from your sins." "He is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 1:22) reads, "For Christ himself is the means by which our sins are forgiven."

"The righteousness of God," "reconciliation," "repent" and "propitiation" are all great words in our faith and if time and circumstances permit can be explained to the person with no previous contact with the Scriptures or with Christian faith. But in today's busy hectic world, with its instantaneous communication through mass media, such person-to-person evangelism is often difficult if not impossible.

Even if every Christian were to give all of his spare time to teaching the Scrip-

tures, a situation which certainly does not exist, it would be impossible to reach all the potential new readers of God's Word. Who explains these words to the lonely man in a drug addiction center who picks up a New Testament in search of help and forgiveness? How many teen-agers attracted by the cover of "Good News for Modern Man" would seek or permit clarification of these strange words if they were used in the TEV? If we really want to share our faith we must tell people in their own language of the good news about Jesus Christ. These people must have the opportunity to see clearly that "He who is put right with God through faith shall live" (Romans 1:17 TEV).

The Blood of Christ

One of the principal objections voiced about Today's English Version is with regard to the variations in the translation of the Greek word *haima*, which ordinarily is translated "blood." The TEV recognizes that the Greek word *haima* (as well as the Hebrew *dam* in the Old Testament) has the extended sense of violent death, which the English word "blood" does not have. So in some passages *haima* must be translated by "death" or its equivalent. The reader is certainly more likely to understand Romans 5:9 when he reads "By his death we are put right with God; how much more, then, will we be saved by him from God's wrath" than if he read in an earlier version "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

The use of these clearer expressions of the truth of the gospel in no sense means that the TEV omits reference to the blood of Christ. In those passages where the context is such that the figurative and spiritual meaning of the word is clear, "blood" is used. For example, John 6:53-56 in which Jesus says "whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (TEV). Or, "and he made clean by his blood" (1 Peter 1:2 TEV). Or 1 John 1:7, 5:6, 8, Revelation 1:5, and others.

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Jamaica — A New Look

It was a privilege to spend three weeks in Jamaica serving at the request of their Conference in April of this year. The facts of my visit and what I was called upon to do have already been given in my report to the board. There are other matters however that I would like to share with you that are difficult to put in a regular report of that type.

The overall picture I feel is one of encouragement and progress. It seems that responsible action is being taken by the Conference and the other responsible agencies in the churches. In 1970 the action of the Conference to encourage local churches to call their own pastors and pay them directly was a radical step from the previous arrangement of having pastors serve circuits of churches, receiving their appointment through Conference. The action asked churches to consider this and follow through on it within five years. It seems that the time for this action was at hand for already in the nine months since that Conference three-fifths of the churches have called and are paying directly their own pastors. The remaining ones are small, struggling groups who find it difficult. These are still being served by their former pastors who are being subsidized in part by Conference. This would compare with our missionary pastor plan in America.

The action of Conference came about because there were more pastors available to serve the churches. Three years ago four young men who took a special year's training and have now finished their year of apprenticeship were recognized at Conference last year as regular pastors. Since that time one has been called to ordination. In addition there were capable individuals in other instances who were called by their church to become their full pastor. Thus in Jamaica today there are eleven pastors—an all-time high.

Conference in 1970 also took action to establish a Council on Ministerial Affairs. In doing this they divided the responsibilities of their former Planning Commission between COMA and the

Conference Executive. One of the results of this has been to revise pastoral standards and encourage further study on the part of pastors. Another aspect has been the planning of the first Ministers Seminar which was held immediately prior to the 15th Annual Spiritual Retreat at Maiden Hall. Eight of the eleven pastors were in attendance along with one student from seminary and their visitor from America. The two days spent in study were most profitable.

The Spiritual Retreat also has changed somewhat so that in addition to the pastors and leaders of churches and one deacon from the church, they have encouraged churches to send delegates to the retreat. While not all churches were represented this year, some thirty-five were in attendance, including several young people. The activities for the four days were profitable to all. There seemed to be an openness and desire to learn, to understand, to share problems, and seek solutions.

Visiting most of the churches in Jamaica also gave me the opportunity to see improvements in the church buildings around the island. Several new structures are under way, smaller buildings are being enlarged, and totally new buildings are planned or have been begun. The Conference builder, Deacon Johnson, continues to give most of his time to this ministry and it is resulting in sound construction and beautiful houses of worship.

The Crandall High School student body is maintained at around 130, the maximum for which they have room at the present time. Monthly meetings of the Crandall High School Board with Principal Wayne Crandall allow good communications and relationships and it seems that the work is moving forward well. The present staff of the school is made up of six Seventh Day Baptist teachers and three other teachers. Of these, four teach part time only. This includes Principal Wayne Crandall, who in addition to his general work teaches science and other classes. The Standards Committee seems to be concerned about the Seventh Day Baptist students who make up around twenty-five percent of

Good Sermon Themes

The pastor of the Riverside, Calif., church, the Rev. C. Rex Burdick, has started a series of sermons, "Toward a Deeper Commitment" with the topics suited to the church calendar. For those who cannot hear the sermons there may be some help in meditating on the topic and perhaps working out what you would want to say or do about commitment to Christ under these headings:

- May 8 (Mother's Day) "Committed to Christ" — *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24).
- May 15 (Sabbath Renewal Day) "Committed to Christ's Sabbath"— *The Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath* (Mark 2:28).
- May 22 (Camp Staff Retreat) "Committed to Christ's Service"— *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me* (Matthew 25:40).
- May 29 (Memorial Day) "Committed to Christian Stewardship" — *Ye pay tithe . . . this ye ought to have done* (Matt. 23:23).
- June 5 "Committed to Christ in Prayer" — *Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall*

find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you (Matt. 7:7).

- June 12 (Children's Day) "Committed to Witness for Christ"—*Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled* (Luke 14:23).
- June 19 (Graduate Honor Day) "Committed to Christ in Vocation" — *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus* (Col. 3:17).
- June 26 "Committed to Christ's Word" — *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God* (Matt. 4:4).
- July 3 (Independence Day) "Committed to Christ in National Life" — *Render . . . unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's* (Matt. 22:21).
- July 17 "Committed to Growth in Christ" — *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* (2 Peter 3:18). *That we . . . may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ* (Eph. 4:14, 15).

the student body. It appears that the quality of the student is higher than it has been in some past years. It is everyone's hope that this will be reflected in the examination results in the next two years.

Opportunity was also taken to counsel with Sam Peters from Georgetown, Guyana, and Geoffrey Smith of Jamaica, students at Jamaica Theological Seminary. Sam is in his third of four years, and Geoffrey in his second year. They are both doing well in their studies and it is anticipated they will become more deeply involved in the work and witness of the churches in the months ahead. They have been very active in witness-

ing team work in the Kingston area, as well as helping promote the Youth Camp Program that was such a success last year.

Jamaica still has many problems. There are unanswered questions that face our brethren there. It is encouraging, however, to see growth in so many ways and to be aware that steps have been and are taken by their elders to improve the work and increase their witness for the Lord Jesus. There is a zeal for evangelism and outreach in most areas that has brought new opportunities. Let us continue to uphold our brethren in our prayers and our support through Our World Mission.

Audiovisual Equipment

A special report in the center of the January-February 1971 *Spectrum* magazine gives valuable information for local church leaders on the purchase and use of sound and sight educational machines.

General principles and specific operational problems are clearly described. A basic selection is outlined in different price ranges. Characteristics of different kinds of films, tapes, and records are simply defined. Approximate prices are given for all items, including the brand names, serial numbers, and characteristics.

Gilbert Galloway, associate director of the National Methodist Board of Missions in the field of "Education and Cultivation," prepared the special *Spectrum* report. Section titles are: A Basic Selection, Tape and Tape Equipment, Phonographs Systems, Projection Equipment, Screens, By-the-Way Equipment (tables and cords) and Video Tape Equipment. This entire issue of *Spectrum* has valuable stories of the church as a communication center, and may be borrowed from the Board of Christian Education. Copies may be secured from *Spectrum*, Box 303, New York, New York 10027, at \$1.00.

"Seeing Red in a Green World"

A series of youth filmstrips with sound was advertised in the *Sabbath Recorder* several months ago. None of the filmstrips has been borrowed up to the present. These are the gift of the Rev. Leslie Welch of Berea, W. Va., as noted in the former release. Now that two of the films are out, we will remind you of the series and the need for advance reservation.

The four-film series deals with attitudes and relationships of persons in light of the gospel. It is prepared for high school age discussion programs.

"Seeing Red in a Green World" deals with attitudes toward authority and responsibility. Using some practical situations where employer, police, teacher, or parents exert authority, the film dialogue points to different reactions

MEMORY TEXT

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer" (Psa. 66:18, 19).

which might be made.

A discussion section on this and each film of the series returns to three or four points in the dialogue to suggest questions for debate of values or problems.

"Our Eyes Play Tricks on Us," "Swing with Brothers and Sisters," and "How Do I Fit In" are others in this series.

At least three weeks in advance of show-date, if possible, send your order for these or other films in our catalog. Good use of audiovisuals dictates your previewing the film with its sound, your noting of features for discussion, your preparation of light, seating, and ventilation factors in the room where the film will be shown, and your preparation of equipment.

Training of youth in projecting educational films can be a valuable experience in his or her "sensitivity training" for the needs of a group, the intent and individuality of the producer. School-trained projectionists can greatly help in church showings and learn additional techniques from the church leader's wide experience in group process.

A Little Better in Cuba

Baptist church leaders in Cuba are not quite as restricted as previously, according to Manuel Salom and Humberto Dominguez who were allowed to attend a conference of European Baptist leaders at Ruschlikon, Switzerland in March.

The two officials added that the majority of Cuban Baptist pastors who were once imprisoned have been released and have resumed preaching.

Salom and Dominguez said the churches can hold worship services as often as they like within their own buildings, but services outside the churches are not permitted. The situation is apparently better in Western than in Eastern Cuba.

Women's Forum

It is just one woman's opinion, your editor's, that the answers which come in to the forum reflect the true spirituality and beautiful lives of our women.

From Esther Williams, North Loup, Nebr.

The special concerns of Mrs. Clapper in the January "Women's Forum" seem very important and I think they should be studied by our Women's Societies along with the spiritual lessons.

One solution, besides study of these concerns, is that women need to *choose* how to use their time. Too many clubs and school functions and similar activities demand too much time.

A Christian's choice should be measured by (a) serving Christ's cause; (b) helping to uplift people.

From Faye Bond, high school senior, Dodge Center

I feel the only problem in the whole world is separation from God or, in other words, sin. I feel that every problem is either directly or indirectly caused by lack of God.

From Dollie J. Appel, Stonefort, Ill., comes this beautiful prayer:

Dear Lord, enable me to regulate this day so as to please Thee. Give me spiritual insight to discover what is Thy will for me today in all the relations of my life. Guide me as to my pursuits, my friendships, my reading, and all my Christian work. Do not let there be an hour or a day in which I have not consciously been doing Thy will and following Thee wholly.

—Theona Andersen
Johnstown, Nebr. 69214

Notes on the Riverside Church

(Continued from page 7)

ness of our camp program is the lack of immediate follow-up, later in the summer. Due to our geographical location our pastors must be away from Riverside at that time if they are to attend Conference and have a vacation. This year, we have asked the Rev. Eugene Fatato to

act as our summer assistant pastor. Part of his work will be to make these important post-camp contacts, and so extend the influence of the camping season.

When there has been opportunity, we have set up and manned booths at the National Orange Show which is held yearly some fifteen miles from Riverside. Here we have had available gospel tracts, Sabbath literature, camp materials, etc.

It is our custom to enjoy a fellowship luncheon one Sabbath each month. At present, we are using the denominational materials provided to learn about our various mission fields. This is an after-lunch study.

We have a strong Youth Fellowship, which dedicated counselors oversee. We particularly appreciate the fact that our choir has a high percentage of young people.

Editorial note—Names of bygone members and pastors are omitted from these "Notes." Perhaps the writer, who prefers to remain unnamed, hesitated to lift up any individuals above the rest. It would be impossible to list all who have participated in the life of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church since its beginnings at Colony Heights back in frontier days. But God knows them and their heritage is being renewed this summer and every Sabbath as this article clearly shows.

—A. N. R.

Let the Good News Be Heard

(Continued from page 9)

The Virgin Birth

Another charge is that Today's English Version denies the virgin birth of our Lord. The Greek word *parthenos* may have the more general sense of a young unmarried female, or the more restricted sense of a female (or male) without sexual experience — depending on the context. The parable of the ten girls (Matthew 25:1-13) is a passage where the more general meaning is found; in 2 Corinthians 11:2 the more restricted sense is intended, as Paul compares the church in Corinth to a "pure virgin." Mary is spoken of as a girl in Luke 1:27, and her virginity is specified in Luke 1:34 with Mary saying to the angel, "I am a virgin," and in Matthew 1:23, "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son" (quotations from

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for May 29, 1971

INDICATING CHRISTIAN CONCERN

Lesson Scripture: 2 Tim. 1:1-5; 15-18

Today's English Version which is said by some to omit "any reference to the Virgin Birth")

Good News for All

The New Testament in Today's English Version has been prepared and published by men of rare competence and deep commitment to the cause of Christ. Since its publication in 1966, an average of 5 million copies have been distributed annually throughout the world for a total of almost 25 million. The testimonies of those who have received and read this written word indicate beyond doubt that God is using it to lead men to a saving knowledge of the living Word, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason, we urge all men everywhere who love the Lord to help make possible the wider distribution of this wonderful Word. Let the good news be heard!

City of God Citizenship Vote

OUR FATHER,

who art provident throughout the cosmos, may we from now on render unto You:—due consecration of Your title, accession of Your regime, execution of Your intent.

As its execution is manifest in cosmonomy,—proverbially provident, day in, day out, so be it also in Our Communion economy, on Earth, here and now:— This day, give us our daily bread to share, and acquit us of our indebtedness, as we each acquit our debtors, and do not induct us into trial, but spare us from penal recourse.

For us, now is Your regime, the sway of Your power, the provision of Your thought, throughout the ages. Amen.

Meditation on a familiar theme,
—Gerald Landry

Accessions

MILTON, WIS.

By Baptism:

- Jo Ann Leach
- Gail Drake
- Susan Burdick
- Robert Loofboro
- Wayne Lippincott
- Gerry Lippincott

Marriages

Cruzan - Alger.— Samuel Cruzan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cruzan, White Cloud, Mich., and Sandra Lee Alger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Alger also of White Cloud, were married March 6, 1971, in the White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist Church by their pastor, Rev. Charles D. Swing.

Long - Scholl.— John W. Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Long of Edgerton, Wis., and Vicki Scholl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Scholl of Milton, were united in marriage at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Edgerton, on February 20, 1971. They are living at 2 Janesville St., Milton.

Loofboro - Basthemer.— Warren Loofboro, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Loofboro of Milton and Arleen Basthemer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Basthemer of Mazomanie, Wis., were united in marriage at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on April 25, 1971. Pastor Earl Cruzan officiated, assisted by Pastor William Mueller of Mazomanie. Their address is Route 1, Milton Junction, Wis.

Births

Cruzan.— A son, Craig Allen, to Duane and Sue (Plowman) of Lansing, Mich., on January 24, 1971.

Ochs.— A son, Chad Jared, to Ronald and Renee (Budde) Ochs of Mt. Horeb, Wis., April 24, 1971.

Schulz.— A son, Gregory Scott, to Kenneth and Cheryl (Cruzan) Schulz of Stephenville, Mich., March 18, 1971.

Obituaries

MAXSON.— Rolland H., Sr., son of William and Myrtle Bolser Maxson, was born in Milton, March 16, 1897, and died at Mercy Hospital, Janesville, Wis., on April 4, 1971, after a long illness.

He was married to Melva Thorngate on Sept. 17, 1919, at North Loup, Nebr. He is survived by his wife, three sons, Keith and Kenneth of Janesville; Rolland of Mission Viejo, Calif.; six grandchildren; a great-grandchild; two sisters, Mrs. Dorothy Thorngate of Aiken, S. C., and Mrs. Katherine Rodolf, New York City, and a brother Charles of Pomona, Calif. Funeral services were conducted from the Albrecht Funeral Home by the Rev. Carroll Hill assisted by Pastor Cruzan. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery. —E. C.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for April 1971

	Treasurer's		Boards'			Treasurer's		Boards'	
	April	4 mos.	4 mos.	4 mos.		April	4 mos.	4 mos.	
Adams Ctr NY ..S	\$ 150.00		\$ 10.00		Milton Jct WI ..	76.00	392.80		
Albion WI	59.36	154.00	25.00		Monterey CA		100.00		
Alfred NY		1,537.80	182.00		New Auburn WI ..	85.80	152.30	40.00	
Alfred Sta NY ..	208.00	1,488.15	30.00		New Milton WV ..	50.00	200.00		
Ashaway RI	256.00	1,297.50	154.00		New Orleans LA ..			5.00	
Assns & Groups ..	100.00	100.00	16.00		North Loup NB ..	200.00	600.00	10.00	
Battle Creek MI ..	437.39	1,568.90	242.00		Nortonville KS ..	307.50	1,033.00	91.00	
Bay Area CA	215.00	340.00	31.20		Ohio Fellowship..		60.00		
Berea WV	25.00	129.29	10.00		Paint Rock AL ..	90.00	250.00	30.00	
Berlin NY	144.97	642.11	266.00		Plainfield NJ	706.26	2,120.19	482.90	
Boulder CO	144.68	413.40	61.00		Richburg NY	62.00	637.49	31.00	
Brookfield NY ..		235.27	75.00		Riverside CA	595.02	2,272.65	70.00	
Buffalo NY		205.00			Roanoke WV	15.00	15.00		
Chicago IL	100.00	512.50	21.00		Rockville RI	29.00	104.25	11.00	
Daytona Beach FL		300.00	10.00		Salem WV	200.00	858.15	157.00	
Denver CO	195.23	634.17	11.00		Salemville PA		218.00		
De Ruyter NY ..	52.00	129.00	10.00		Schenectady NY..		20.00	20.00	
Dodge Ctr MN ..	144.94	986.39	40.00		Seattle WA		54.00	106.25	
Farina IL		97.50	10.00		Shiloh NJ		3,203.26	111.00	
Fouke AR			10.00		Stonefort IL			20.00	
Hammond LA					Syracuse NY				
Hebron PA	75.00	321.00	35.00		Texasarkana AR ..		20.00		
Hopkinton RI ..	25.00	25.00	21.00		Verona NY	142.00	566.41	71.00	
Houston TX			5.00		Walworth WI		465.00		
Independence NY	143.25	213.50	41.00		Washington DC ..		236.00	131.00	
Individuals		50.00	35.00		Washington				
Irvington NJ ..		1,100.00			People's DC			10.00	
Jackson Ctr OH ..					Waterford CT	217.75	729.31	95.00	
Kansas City MO..		120.00	10.00		Westerly RI	1,612.50	1,612.50	213.00	
Leonardsville NY	70.00	214.37			White Cloud MI ..		239.53	20.00	
Little Genesee NY	152.08	566.32	15.00						
Little Rock AR ..	37.98	126.72	10.00		Totals	\$8,021.79	\$36,898.04	\$3,522.35	
Los Angeles CA ..		1,075.00	147.00		Non-Budget	1,275.29			
Lost Creek WV ..	700.00	1,250.00	31.00						
Marlboro NJ	337.08	1,538.89	10.00		Total				
Metairie LA					To Disburse	\$9,297.08			
Milton WI	10.00	3,216.42	223.00						

APRIL DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 591.70
Historical Society	4.66
Ministerial Education	409.99
Ministerial Retirement	604.32
Missionary Society	2,799.58
Tract Society	836.29
Trustees of General Conference	46.59
Women's Society	280.00
World Fellowship & Service	385.00
S. D. B. General Conference	3,308.95
S. D. B. World Federation	30.00
	\$ 9,297.08

SUMMARY

1971 Budget	\$147,770.00
Receipts for 4 months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$36,898.04
Boards	3,522.35
	40,420.39
Amount due in 8 months	\$107,349.61
Needed per month	\$ 13,418.70
Percentage of year elapsed	33.33%
Percentage of Budget raised	27.35%

Gordon L. Sanford
OWM Treasurer

The Sabbath Recorder

Theology of Ecology

Calling the ecological crisis "the most important and controversial social issue we face today," a Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member urged churches to develop a theology of ecology and a practice stewardship of power to correct abuses of the environment.

During a lecture-dialogue at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Harry N. Hollis Jr., urged action based on a theology of ecology drawn from Biblical teaching that God is Creator, that creation is good, that man should respond to God's creation with stewardship, that God will judge man for misusing the earth, that the whole creation is moving toward completion with a divine purpose, that God is redeemer, and that man must respond to creation and redemption with love.

Hollis quoted several experts in the field as predicting the possible extinction of mankind if something is not done soon about the pollution problem.

Ecology is controversial because it will involve the examination of such issues as "compulsory birth control, abortion and a shift in popularly held views of family life," he said. It also will call for higher taxes and further modification of the free enterprise system to stop industrial pollution, and will lead to limiting the number of automobiles.

Hollis cited figures indicating it would cost \$100 billion in the next five years to clean up the country. But the cost of pollution ultimately is greater than the cost of cleaning up the problem.

Men Working

At times, when driving along the highway, one sees signs saying, "Men Working." And sometimes you also see the men working! Other times there is no sight of the men — just the sign.

But in contrast to this, as we go down the highways and byways of life, and as we follow the path of study of the Bible, we see over and over the sign, as it were, "God Working." It may seem to some that He is not at work today, but He is. The signs are all around, if we but have the spiritual eyes to see them.

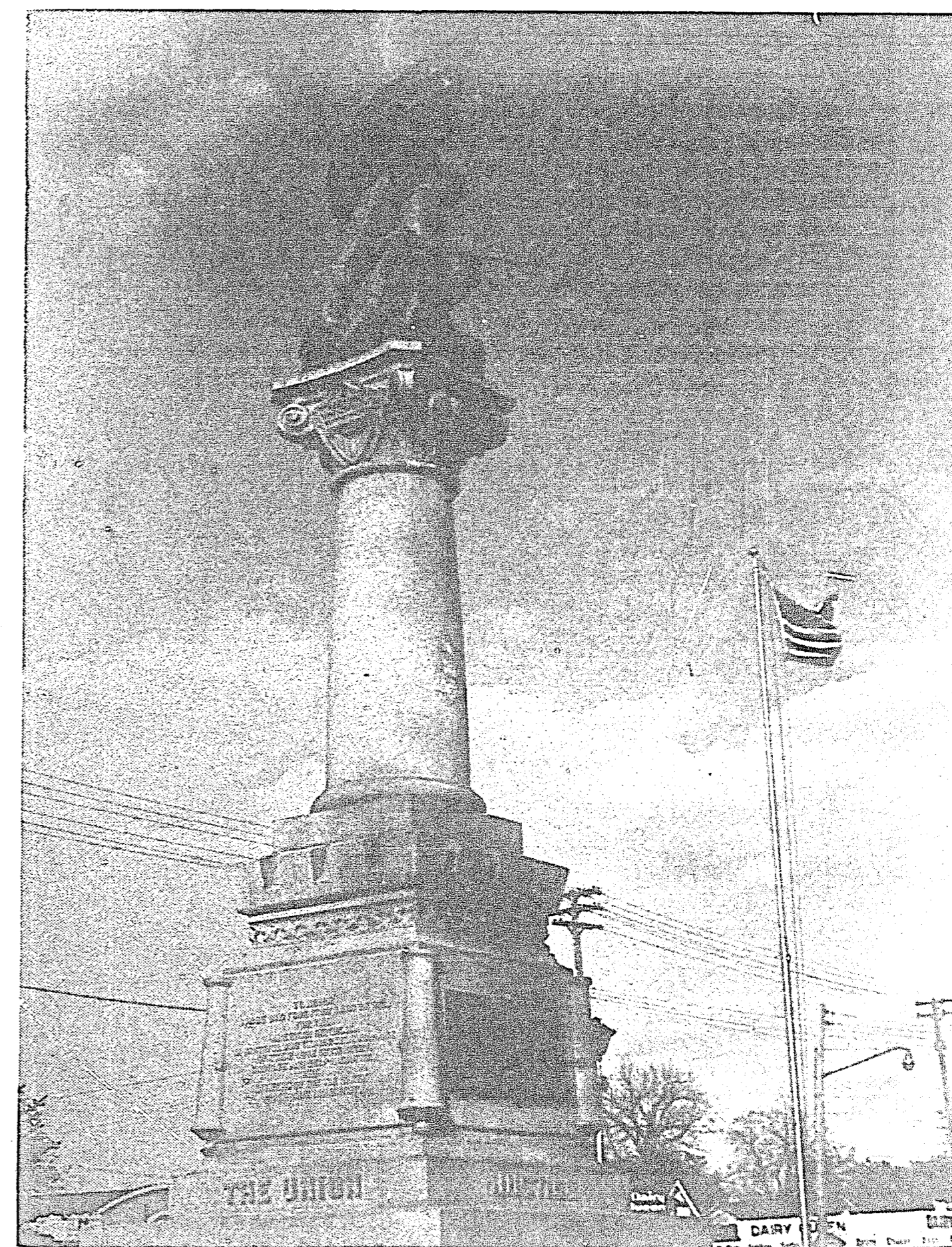
Jesus said, "My Father worketh . . ." Let us trust and praise Him that He works today, and does all things well!

W. A. B.

Sabbath Renewal

*O Lord our God, we praise Your name;
You are from age to age the same;
We seek from You Your holy way
And pray that in our hearts You'll stay.
To rest and worship on the day
That ends the week is Your own way;
For in the day which You did bless
We find true worship and Your rest.
The Sabbath law is one of ten
That are the basic rules for men.
While keeping Sabbath in Your name
Help us to keep all ten the same.
Through Sabbath rest which we observe
May we be readied, Lord, to serve
In whate'er way Your Spirit leads
To follow Christ and meet man's needs.
Resting, working, laughing, weeping,
Serving, praying, Sabbathkeeping,
May we ever learn Your call
And dedicate to You our all.*

John H. Camenga



Memorial Day impells us to pause again by the monuments raised by patriotic citizens to honor those who have given their lives for their country. This memorial, with the fluttering flag beside it, stands prominently in Battle Creek.