

The Sabbath Recorder

Bible Reading a Privilege

In our country it is easy to buy and read the Bible, so easy that most people take it for granted and perhaps neglect to study the Word of God. Bibles are so plentiful in so many different bindings and so many popular versions that the question is not whether a church member can own one but which one to buy or how many different versions. This is not the case in Eastern European countries where the governments have forbidden the publishing or the importing of Bibles for many years.

It makes news when there is a slight change of government attitude and at least some of the churches are allowed to have Bibles. The fresh story from one country is indeed good news for some of the Christians.

The United Bible Societies were recently able to send 10,000 Hungarian Bibles to the 80,000-member Reformed Church in Romania.

The diocese of Cluj received 6,000 copies, most of which were sent out at once directly to the congregations. The diocese of Oradea received 4,000 Bibles, which are being distributed through regional offices.

A limited number are being kept for new theological students. Each congregation is receiving one for use as a pulpit Bible.

This granting of an import license for Bibles for a Protestant church in Romania indicates the possibility that other and smaller Protestant groups will be allowed to receive Scriptures from abroad.

This is indeed good news of an improved situation. It makes us stop to think, however, of the previous condition and of how much is still lacking in that Communist country. Previously the only way Bibles could be gotten into Romania was by smuggling, which was quite hazardous. Even now only one denomination has Bibles to distribute and at that only one member in eight can purchase a Bible. To put it another way, if there were ten Seventh Day Baptist churches in Romania, they would get none of the 10,000 Bibles recently allowed to be shipped into the country. Independent churches will be among the last to get Bibles if the present relaxing of regulations continues—which is by no means certain.

There may not be very much we can do to influence Communist governments to permit the importing or publishing of the Word of God and not much that we can do in a personal way to distribute Bibles where it is forbidden. We can ask God to move the hearts of rulers in the satellite countries to allow more freedom. We can also contribute money to the Bible Societies so that whenever the door is opened a little crack there will be sufficient Bibles in the right language ready to be pushed through that crack. Furthermore, we can demonstrate our love of the Bible by studying it and treasuring it in our hearts. How much of the Bible would we still have to nourish our souls if suddenly all the printed volumes were snatched from our homes and churches?



Stewardship Is the Subject

Outside the lodge at Jersey Oaks Camp, owned and developed by the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church and friends, Secretary Alton L. Wheeler conducts study on Christian Stewardship for the representatives of the overseas conference of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation and a few U. S. representatives. The week of leadership training after Conference was considered both pleasant and profitable for all who participated. See pictures on pages 8 and 9.

The Sabbath Recorder

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People Are Interesting

Some of us live virtually in ivory towers isolated from much of the world of people that swirl around the base of towers. We are so busy in our own little circle of work and friendships that we have little opportunity to see what is going on in other people's minds. Furthermore, in our tightly pulled circle we have little opportunity to witness for Christ or to distribute literature about our faith. We would do much for our own Christian growth if we could create opportunities for broadening our contacts with people. People are interesting, it has been said.

There are many ways of mingling with people outside our normal sphere. One way is travel, but travel can be a very lonely experience if one shuts himself up to his own traveling companions and tries to maintain all of his own culture as he moves through other countries and other cultures. If we avoid meeting new people in different stations of life we will bring back from our travels only memories of things seen. It is far more interesting to have experiences with people than to bring back only pictures of buildings or of natural wonders.

Fresh experiences are not in direct relation to the miles in the radius of our annual circle of travel. There are interesting people close by if we cultivate our Christian obligation of friendly interest.

We in America are victims of our own highly rated manner of life. The automobile, designed to take us to where people are whom we want to see, often excludes us from the very mingling with people that we basically desire. We seldom use public transportation; we spend most of our time in our very exclusive automobiles, often all alone for hours at a time. Perhaps it cannot be avoided but a break from the routine once in a while makes us realize that we could receive a blessing and be a blessing if we would try.

Some interesting experiences came to me recently that I would like to mention because they helped me to see my own narrow sphere of acquaintance and to meditate on the characteristics and needs of large numbers of people.

It was a Sunday. My first observation

was that people who use public transportation in and out of New York on Sunday morning are different from the business-bent commuters who use the buses on working days. Their purpose in travel is different. Perhaps a greater number are not too well established newcomers to our country who haven't yet purchased a car and are visiting relatives or places of interest on their day off. It would be nice to talk to some of them if they or I were not so wrapped up in our own interests.

Because it was Sunday there was very little public transportation to the small place in Connecticut where I needed to go. The first train that would stop near that town would not leave New York until mid-afternoon. I could, however, get to a large city thirty-five or forty miles away by one o'clock. Finding that there were no local buses on Sunday I decided to try to catch a ride (or rides) the rest of the way. It was an interesting experience.

Hundreds of drivers passed me by at a point where they were going relatively slow and could have stopped without seriously interrupting the flow of traffic. I was in a business suit carrying a small briefcase and a small sign indicating the direction I wanted to go on the main highway. Eventually I had contact with three drivers and their other passengers. All of the ones who were willing to stop were young people — some forty years younger than I. All of them, I discovered, had done some hitchhiking themselves. I concluded from those who did not stop and those who did that picking up presentable strangers is not so much the attitude of the hitchhiker but the attitude of the driver. Some are willing to show kindness and some are not — perhaps for reasons that seem good.

For what it is worth, the parties who picked me up were not only young but long-haired. What was more striking was that they wanted to talk about world problems and religious beliefs. One group of five knew something about the Bible though they probably had no active church connection. They argued for vegetarianism and had no kind words for the man-animal who kills to eat and is not concerned with ecology. But they accep-

ted Seventh Day Baptist literature and thanked their invited guest for the conversation on religious subjects. They went out of their way (as a previous driver had done) to put me at a place where I could hopefully get another ride.

The third young man who picked me up was a fine-appearing young fellow who, before marriage, had converted from the Jewish to the Catholic religion. We had some Sabbath thoughts in common and he was glad to accept a couple of tracts. He drove several miles out of his way to deposit me at the exact spot where I wanted to go, without telling me he was going to do it.

It was a long day and at times a little frustrating, but some of the experiences were worthwhile to me, and hopefully to those who shared them with me along the way. As I drove my car home in a fraction of the time I had taken to make the first half of the round trip I was alone and had no experiences other than my own thoughts and the thoughts that came via the car radio.

The conclusion is that people are interesting — some of the most unlikely people. Perhaps I should more frequently put myself in positions where I would get out of the rut or routine of daily duties and meet with people who are trying to find more meaning in life. There may be readers who are also missing many opportunities to witness for Christ and the Sabbath. Let us try to be more outgoing and see what doors may be opened to us.

Jewish New Year

Rosh Hashanah, as the Jewish New Year is called in Hebrew, begins at sundown Sunday, September 19, and ushers in the year 5732. It is fitting for those who like to be in the forefront of better relations between Jews and Christians to recognize what this day means to our fellow citizens who carry on the religion which we honor as the historical ancestor of Christianity. Though we reckon time from the birth of Christ rather than the supposed date of creation and do not observe Rosh Hashanah we can well

MEMORY TEXT

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

wish our Jewish friends a "Happy New Year."

Philip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee has issued to the religious press a comprehensive statement of world conditions and world hopes as the new year begins. He covers the Middle East situation, the slight easing of Soviet-Jewish tensions, the good and evil of race relations, drug addiction, and crime in this country and calls for people to have hope rather than dismay in the face of unsolved problems. His statement reads:

"It is easy at times to become overwhelmed with despair when contemplating the all too many instances of man's inhumanity to his fellowman. But to lose hope altogether is to give up on life itself.

"Hope for a better life is the essence of our prayers at Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as we reassert our faith in man's ability to change for the better. Throughout the coming year of 5732 may we do more — much more — for our fellow human beings who are denied the basic rights essential for a life of freedom and dignity. And let us resolve to serve with renewed devotion and dedication the cause of peace with freedom in all parts of the world."

Recognizing a Christian

There is evidence, according to a carefully prepared article in the September issue of *Eternity* that Christianity has survived in China though the visible church has disappeared under Communist repression. The church is said to exist in small house groups rather than in large community organizations. With organized groups still subject to persecution there is a problem of recognizing true Christians when they seek to have fellowship with a house church.

A system of recognition has developed. The newcomer is tested first by his

knowledge of the content of the Bible, how much of it he can quote. All other Christian books were destroyed, but true believers hid their Bibles and memorized large portions. If the newcomer passes the memorization test he may still be suspected as an infiltrator. There is, however, another test. The Christians watch him to see how much he trusts God and how he talks to other people about his faith. Does he dare to speak his faith in front of other people? His genuineness is determined by the way he talks. Then he has to be vouched for by an older Christian, as Barnabas vouched for the newly converted Saul.

This testing of Christians in China makes us stop and think as to whether or not we could pass the test. Suppose someone followed me for two weeks to see whether or not or under what circumstances I talked about my faith in Christ. Would I, at the end of that period of investigation, be allowed to join with others in a worship service, or would my professed Christianity still be suspected? In China it is risky to talk openly about the saving power of Christ. If you are not willing to take that risk you cannot have fellowship in a church service with the genuine Christians who know the Bible and witness for Christ.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The September meeting of the denominational Planning Committee at Plainfield, that the evangelistic and other work planned and coordinated by this group will be to the glory of God.

2) The many local church retreats and planning sessions now being held, that courage may be strong and zeal may be Spirit-guided.

3) The ministry of our churches on college campuses, that opportunities may be found to strengthen the faith and channel the energies of students.

4) The ministry to Jews in Israel and in this land, that they may read and believe the Word of God that has been brought to the world through their people in past ages.



In Maturity - A New Mission

Ephesians 4:11-14

An analysis of denominational maturity in higher education, an address given August 10 at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Amherst, Mass.

by President K. Duane Hurley, Salem College

Since in the brief moments allotted to me it is literally impossible to deal adequately with the general subject of education, let me limit my remarks to the modern day educational opportunities represented by the Seventh Day Baptist inspired institutions: Salem, Milton, and Alfred.

My contention is that in maturity, even as our Scripture reference in Ephesians implies, there is a *new mission* for us. I pose these questions: Do we stand at "the summit" of three hundred years of uphill progress, now to content ourselves simply to coast downward? Or, have we simply reached a plateau with new heights of achievement yet to climb?

In large measure, the answers to these questions lie in a comprehensive review of what has happened in the past, an accurate analysis of where we are, and an aggressive and appropriate performance in the future — individually and collectively!

The contribution of Seventh Day Baptists to the development of higher education in our country has been considerable, more than would have been expected from an always small, somewhat impecunious group of people. What they lacked in money they made up in drive and dedication, as illustrated by the thrilling stories of the founding and fostering of Alfred University and of Milton and Salem Colleges.

To this very day, the Seventh Day Baptist inspired institutions have tended to make service to mankind and concern for individuals their main emphases.

All of our denominationally-inspired institutions have, from time to time, been at the cutting edge of educational development.

As we review the exciting early days of our Seventh Day Baptist related institutions, we are made aware of various constructive characteristics still evident in their educational programs. The contributions of these institutions to the denomination have been considerable through the years — in personnel, in theological thought, and in influences relating to daily life and service.

Current Situation in Higher Education

As we look to the future of higher education in the denomination and contemplate the influence of institutions like Alfred, Salem, and Milton, we must analyze and try to understand the present situation in higher education nationally.

These are days of rapid change in our society, often resulting in traumatic and turbulent responses among the people at large. Higher educational institutions are integrally involved because they are not only a product of the society, but they help to produce society. In my opinion, education can be a catalyst for progress in every sphere of human activity.

H. G. Wells once said, "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe." This is a startling and nightmarish statement, but I am convinced it is true.

A part of the greatness of American higher education is found in its diversity. There are institutions of many kinds and sizes. The church gave birth to the first institutions of higher learning, but soon government began to establish institutions supported by tax dollars so the tuition charges for individual students could be less and so we could reach toward an ideal of higher educational opportunities within the financial reach of everyone. Rapidly now the balance of

enrollment is swinging toward the tax-supported public institutions. In 1949, for instance, one half of the nation's college students attended private schools. Last year the figure was 25.1 per cent and declining. The trend is making it more and more difficult for the independent and church-related institutions to maintain their enrollment. In consequence, the traditional diversity and balance in the American system is threatened.

A recent meeting of the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities highlighted the importance of keeping the independent sector of higher education strong. The keynote speaker pointed out that many private institutions were founded largely on faith and determination when there wasn't much else with which to found a college. He quoted John Gardner to the effect that every devastating difficulty is only a giant opportunity in disguise. This is the spirit which gave birth to the private colleges, and this is the spirit which can reinvigorate them in a time when the analysts and prophets are heavy with pessimism.

The giant-opportunity-so-well-disguised which we face is to roll up our sleeves and search out ways to deliver alert, affirmative, well-informed, law abiding and productive citizens. What greater challenge could there be and what more rewarding one!

The youthful search for identity and maturity isn't so elusive in the kind of environment provided on the campuses of our smaller, church-oriented institutions. As a denomination, we should take pride in having helped to foster such institutions, and we can be thankful that we can yet today steer our young people toward such institutions in communities where they can have the advantage of homelike church involvements.

Responsibilities of Individual Seventh Day Baptists in Connection with Modern Day Higher Education

Mature responsibility for our educational institutions goes far beyond financial support — as important as that is!

Each individual within the denomina-

tion, including potential students, should make this a conscientious point to obtain up-to-date information about each of our institutions which have historical relationships to the denomination.

To young people seeking higher education, I would say: Choose your college very carefully. Select it not only on the basis of what it can do for you, but what you can do for it. There are golden opportunities in the present day for Seventh Day Baptists to "witness for their faith" on the Milton, Alfred, or Salem campuses.

Don't go to an institution only because it is "close to home," or because it appears on the surface that the "cost" will be less. Higher education is a major *investment* and it should be treated as such.

Responsibilities of the Denomination in Higher Education

This brings me to a few comments about the responsibility of the denomination with the higher educational institutions it helped to initiate many years ago.

Through the years Seventh Day Baptists have been recognized as "fine people" — ecumenical and tolerant in spirit, but rugged in individuality, still avoiding a "holier than thou" attitude. These characteristics *can* be translated into charismatic and needed leadership in today's society.

The members of our denomination must rethink the implications of these basic ideas and then help to exert, through our colleges, such a wholesome and positive influence that *modern day pioneering* in education can be accomplished by our denomination.

Achieving maturity has always been a slow, painful process — a lonesome road! Facts, thoughts, concepts, and even, a living example: these the teacher can supply. Only the student himself can find the faith which will be for him not merely intellectually respectable in this modern age but as vital and compelling as it was for those who, centuries ago, laid down their lives as followers of the Nazarene who was called "The Christ." It is through providing such an atmosphere for higher education in the modern day that Seventh Day Baptists can make their

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Soc. David S. Clarko

New National S.D.B.Y.F. Officers

Linda Davis of Boulder, Colo., was elected 1971-72 president of the national Youth Fellowship. Election occurred at the annual Youth Banquet held this year atop the huge Campus Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on Tuesday night of Conference, August 10. Outgoing President "Skip" Johnson of Ashaway presided at the business session during the banquet. Over 110 youth and fellowship advisors attended.

Elected along with Linda were Michele Hunt as vice-president, Jonel Smith as secretary and John Stephan as treasurer. Following the experience of several past years, the officers were nominated from the area where the next annual Conference Youth Retreat will be held. This factor makes planning much more effective in the preparation of youth activities during Conference, as well as creating much more active relations among the officers all during the year.

Mis Davis is nineteen years old and working in a nursing home in Boulder. She has spent two summers in SCSC work and is a member of the Boulder Seventh Day Baptist Church. Michele Hunt graduated from high school this past spring and is working as an OCR typist for Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Denver. She served in SCSC last year and is a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church. Jonel Smith is a senior at East Denver High School and is president of the Denver SDBYF. She joined the Denver church two years ago.

Treasurer for 1971-72 will be John

greatest contribution.

Beyond this philosophical base, of course, are several very practical and immediate goals to be accomplished:

1. Through the Memorial Board and other sources of funds, including the individual churches and associations, provide adequate scholarship aid, helping to underwrite the tuition and other expenses for all Seventh Day Baptist young people who choose to attend one of our denominationally-related institutions or an institution of higher learning where

Stephan, a junior in Wheat Ridge High School, who stated in his nomination notice, "I believe I can be a witness of the Lord and of my Sabbath beliefs in all my school activities: sports, singing, drama and of course my classes."

All of us are proud of the new officers and grateful to the past ones. We believe the national YF will be challenged by the kind of Christian life to which Linda, Michele, Jonel, and John aspire. We join the new officers in a search for the way of Jesus in the midst of a complex world, seeking to build up the body of Christ among Seventh Day Baptists.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Board of Christian Education will be held at the Alfred Parish House Sunday, Sept. 19, at 2 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect members of the Board of Directors for the coming year. All delegates to General Conference from any Seventh Day Baptist church are eligible to vote at this meeting.

Immediately following the annual corporate meeting there will be a special meeting of the Board of Directors to elect their officers.

Historical Brochures Available

There are available a limited number of copies of the historical brochure "Seventh Day Baptists in New England-1671-1971." Those wishing to order copies should write to Rev. Everett T. Harris, 401 Washington Trust Building, Westerly, R. I. 02891. Orders will be filled post-paid at cost of fifty cents a copy.

they can continue to be active in the work of one of our churches.

2. Assist in the employment of as many church members as possible on our Seventh Day Baptist related campuses.

3. Engage in specific programs to help strengthen the churches in each one of our college towns.

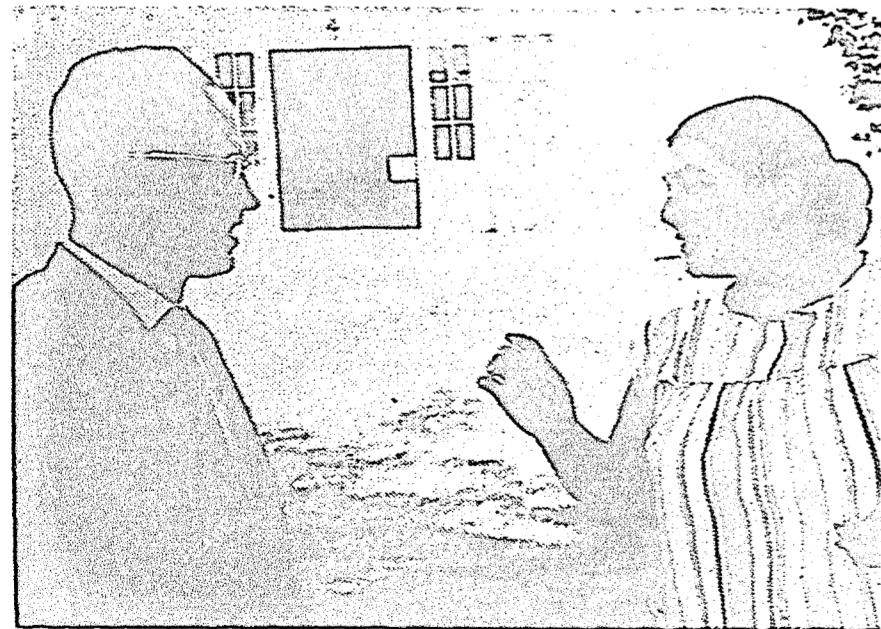
Certainly there is no limit to what we can and should be doing in both theoretical and practical ways as an evidence of our denominational maturity in higher education.

Meet the Foreign Delegates

The full delegation of foreign and United States representatives to the first meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation was pictured on the cover of the September 4 issue. From some of the other candid snapshots taken we are now able to meet some of the people personally and to bring back to mind lighter as well as more solid experiences with these people during their three- or four-week stay in this country.



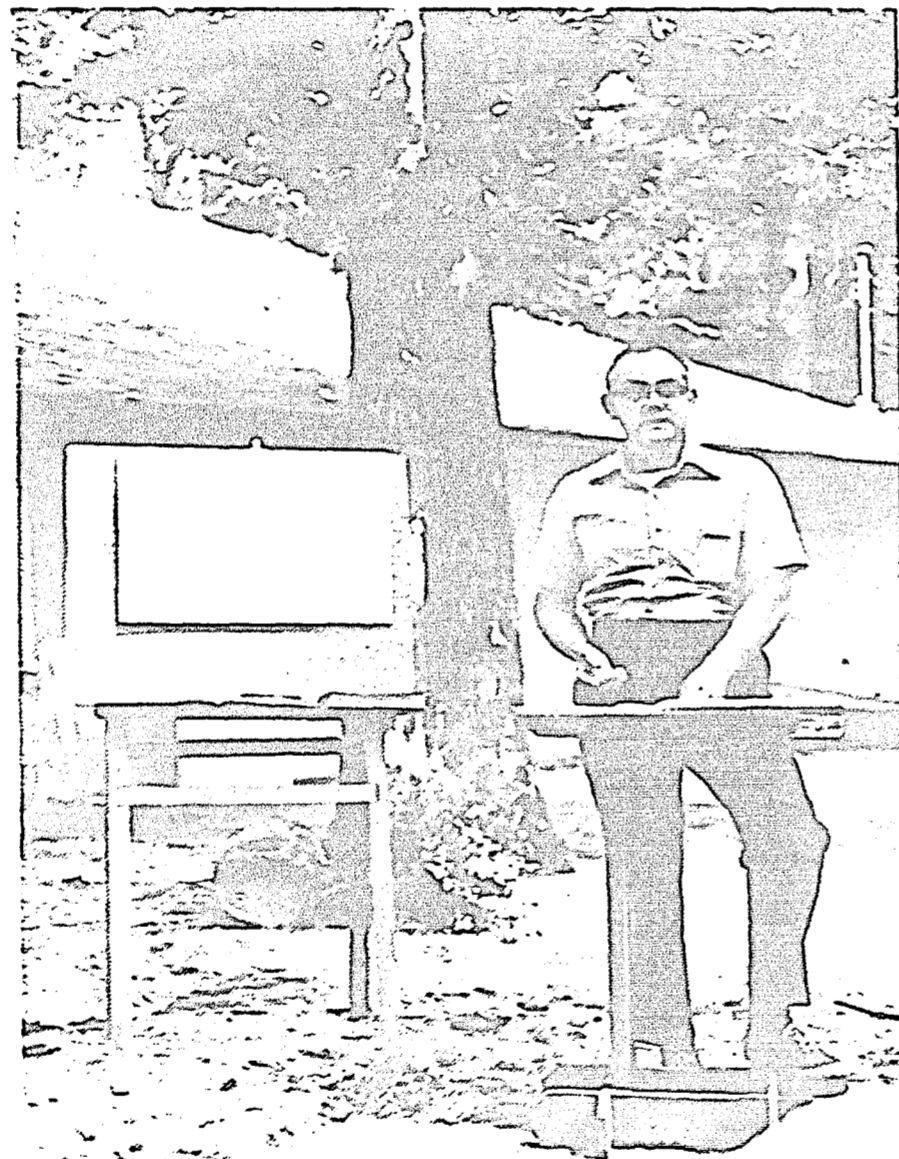
Speaking of pictures, this group in front of the church at Westerly is taking a good look at one of the Polaroid shots of the delegation. Peggy Van Horn, secretary to the Rev. Alton Wheeler, and her husband Phil help evaluate the memory picture. Hidden in the background is the Rev. Francis Johnson of New Zealand.



The Rev. Antonio Barrera from Brazil whose native language is Spanish, his

second language Portuguese, and his third English, could not express himself as well as he wished in English. Mrs. Albert Camara, a new member of the First Hopkinton Church at Ashaway, Rhode Island, volunteered to interpret from Portuguese to English. Their conversations were animated as one can judge from this picture.

The week after Conference there was a training institute primarily for SDBWF delegates at Jersey Oaks Camp near the Shiloh and Marlboro churches. Not all, but most, elected to join in this week of study and fellowship, which a limited number of U. S. leaders also attended.



Other pictures showed indoor and outdoor classes and Bible study. Here Paul Osborn, new Conference president, is presenting a study or listening to questions and comments from the group. In a camping experience there is much give and take. Questions get answers if there are answers to be shared. It was a thoughtful, earnest international group desiring to serve the Lord better than before.



Albourne Peat from London and Antonio Barrera from Curitiba, Brazil, had some Bible questions to discuss during free time as they strolled through the woods by the little lake.



Vincent Smith, who has heavy responsibilities as a pastor and evangelist when at home in Jamaica, looks as if he is just as intense in mastering the art of sailing and catching a spinning Frisbee.



Peter Nieuwstraten of the Netherlands enjoyed the leadership training sessions at Jersey Oaks Camp and the opportunity to do some quiet thinking by the peaceful lake.



Iris Codrington is always writing to Christian friends, but in London she can't sit on a log in the woods as she does in spare moments during the week in South Jersey.

The Thinking of Commission

Each year the six-member Commission, which studies policies and acts in behalf of Conference between sessions, makes a report to Conference which contains introductory statements and recommendations for action. The whole report is considered by a representative and carefully chosen Committee on Reference and Counsel which may or may not endorse all of the Commission recommendations. In case of differences of opinion between the two groups as to the best course of action the delegates make the decision. Seldom does every action proposed by Commission get through Conference without some amendment or referral back for further study. This year nearly everything was accepted. The full report as amended and adopted will appear in the 1971 *Yearbook*.

The carefully worded introduction expresses thoughts that ought to be shared now with our wide readership. It follows:

"In the year of our Tri-Centennial Celebration it is well that we view our work in sober contemplation of past accomplishments, present confrontations, and future challenges. We live in a restless world on the move, and we have the God-given maturity and responsibility to make our mission speak to our times.

"Your Commission feels that we are moving in the right direction through an interrelatedness existing among our boards and agencies, with our leaders working together in areas of administration, education, evangelism and especially youth work.

"We are grateful for the opportunity of being a part of the forward thrust of the Seventh Day Baptist movement. The thrust is worldwide and the opportunities unlimited. Therefore we would challenge all Seventh Day Baptists to fervent hope and dedicated service.

"The Commission has reviewed and approved the report of the general secretary. We enthusiastically commend his vision and dedicated service in carrying out the responsibilities of the office. His untiring efforts to stimulate Seventh Day Baptists to see and do the mission of

Christ is an inspiration and a challenge to us."

Commission expressed concern over a decline in denominational giving and the present deficit in OWM receipts and stated:

"It is Commission's conviction that a consistently and adequately supported program of service to the Lord must rest upon the spiritual dynamic of stewardship motivated by a sense of divinely given mission. We enthusiastically advocate a continuous program, teaching giving, such as tithing, beginning with childhood."

In regard to youth work it was stated, "Commission wholeheartedly approves the proposed plan that the Rev. David Clarke, as executive secretary of the board, will devote part of his time during the coming year in actively promoting and coordinating the youth work nationally.

"Financial support is being sought from united funds to enable him to visit and counsel with area youth in the interest of developing a broad youth program."

As noted in our last issue the Youth Work Interests Committee of Conference expressed appreciation for "the concern and interest of both the Planning Committee and the Commission to develop this temporary plan" but urged the study of a quite different plan.

Commission proposed and Conference accepted a broadening of the functions of the Council on Ministerial Education and a change of name as follows:

"The Council on Ministerial Education be altered to become 'Council on Ministry' and that the council begin to phase into the following areas of responsibility: (a) support, (b) recruitment, (c) education, (d) pastor-church relations."

A recommendation offering guidelines of procedure when a minister from another denomination wishes to enter the Seventh Day Baptist ministry was referred back to Commission for further study.

Commission had struggled with the problem of how to provide retirement for certain classes of unordained workers. Conference accepted the recommendation: "That the matter of retirement pay

for unordained denominational workers be referred to the Committee on Ministerial Retirement for further research, and that this committee be authorized to appoint consultants."

The following statement on Christian social action was made by Commission and approved.

"A report from the chairman of the Committee on Christian Social Action was presented to Commission by the general secretary. The core committee has been active in Milton, Wisconsin, and a system of 'satellite committees' in various localities throughout the nation are being formed to study and develop possible projects in specific Christian social concerns. It is recognized that wide variations can exist in emphases on social issues not only in different localities but also between groups and individuals in the same locality. This does not relieve the Christian of his responsibility to involve himself and, where applicable, his church."

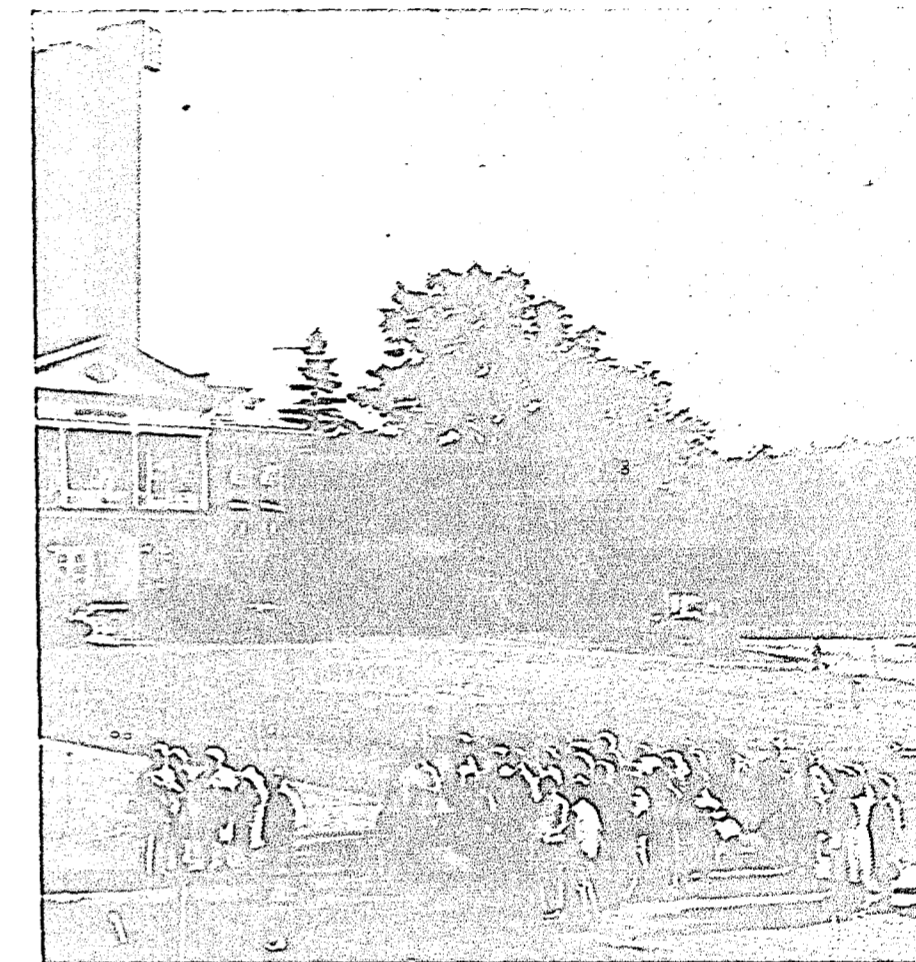
One of the major tasks of Commission is to evaluate the needs of the boards and agencies as presented in their proposed budgets (as well as the administrative budget of Conference) and to harmonize the whole into a realistic overall budget. The problem is to meet the crying need for a growing work without increasing the total beyond what can be given by our people. Perhaps it is because Commission has worked so hard on it that the delegates do not feel qualified to question the increases that seem so necessary. At any rate, again this year that portion of the Commission's report that might be thought to be the hardest to accept was adopted without any discussion from the floor. The new budget calls for some \$3,000 more from undesignated giving and \$6,000 more in designated giving to budget items.

The concluding paragraph of Commission's report reads:

"In the spirit of the Apostle Paul, we would proclaim, 'One thing I do—forgetting what is behind and reaching out for what lies ahead, I push on to the goal for the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then,

Conference Pilgrimage

After the Friday morning worship service those who wished were encouraged to make the pilgrimage to Newport and to other historic sites by bus or private car. Details had been well worked out for lunches at the oldest extant church at Ashaway, provided by the local grange at the Parish House.



Pictured here is part of the group that more than filled two buses chartered for the trip of some three hours each way. The people against the back drop of high-rise buildings and broad campus look inconspicuous as they wait. Once on the buses they had a long-to-be-remembered trip, the terminus of which was the historical play in the old Newport meetinghouse. See picture on cover of last issue. A photographic record in slides and 8-millimeter movies was made to preserve the occasion.

who are mature have this in mind, and if your views differ in any respect, God will make this clear to you. But we must hold on to what we have attained."

(We have not mentioned all the recommendations or decisions but have selected those we feel are most newsworthy. Ed.)

Fall Planning and Evangelism

Many churches have planning retreats or sessions in the fall. The calendar of events, plans for special emphasis, and outline for the coming year are made. Much of this relates to a continuing, on-going ministry of education, fellowship, and service. But, if the church is truly the church of Jesus Christ, it must also include definite ways in which the church through its members individually and working together, are going to reach new people with the gospel.

Such planning is not easy where there is little growth and enthusiasm to "reach out." But it takes only one or two individuals of faith to challenge the group and pray for the vision to sense and see the will of God.

To plan wisely members must recognize the unique position of their church. The past summer's emphasis of Bible Schools, camps, S.C.S.C. teams, special services, etc., must be followed through. There are those who have made decisions, new contacts, and individuals who have become involved in personal witness as never before. For many churches it is not something "new" that is so much needed as a building on that already done that fruit may come.

For three years Connie Coon helped many churches to start Bible Clubs to reach children in their communities. Some have made this a part of their ongoing witness and continue to reach out in nearby areas, as well as in the church community, to teach the Word and bring children to Christ.

There is a growing number of youth who have served in dedicated service. While some are away from their home at colleges, many are in places where their training and experience could be used in working with others to increase our witness.

Evangelist Mynor Soper's schedule is planned at least a year ahead, but he has weekends or open time that might be filled. The "Era of Action" suggestion packet, introduced at Conference by the Planning Committee and mailed to every

church, contains information of importance. In the section, "Reconcile Through Evangelism," Home Field Evangelist Mynor G. Soper invites you and your church to join him in a program of lay training sessions or evangelistic meetings.

Many of our pastors at area spiritual retreats a few years ago spent time considering "The Master Plan of Evangelism." We wonder how many have implemented this? It is not too late to begin!

Again, it is not usually something "new" that is needed but rather a faithfulness to that which we already know. Above all we need to seek and know God's particular will for action which He will give us if we ask with the full intention of obeying.

Many are heartened by the movement of God in the lives of youth bringing a new witness and vitality to the Christian faith. The heart needs of all men are not being met by life outside of Christ and there is a growing longing for that which only God can give. We are entrusted with the gospel. Let us share it more effectively in the remaining days of this year!

Malawi Conference

The Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists will have its annual meeting September 14-18, beginning just two days after the return to Malawi of its representatives to the SDB World Federation sessions. For the first time in recent years, it will be held with the Thembe church in the Southeastern Association area. Since the completion of the large church building at Makapwa, (S. W. Assoc.) Conference has been held in these more adequate facilities.

Thembe is the site of the second clinic and school operated by the Conference and thus is a center of activity and witness. The local church has recently built a new brick structure, but conference sessions will be held outside in special constructed facilities to care for the large crowds.

Let us continue to uphold our brethren as they meet for fellowship and to plan their witness in the year ahead.

Mainland China

The year 1972 will mark the 125th anniversary of the outgoing of the first Seventh Day Baptist missionaries to China. Since 1949, when the political situation made the return of all missionaries necessary, little direct contact has been possible with our brethren there. Through prayer their witness and work has been upheld by many through these years, with the clear hope of a continuing and growing church.

Recent "people-to-people" contacts and plans for leaders of the two countries to meet have caused many to speculate on what changes the immediate future may hold. A recent article, "China: Open Door to What?" by Robert Larson (August 27th *Christianity Today*) offers an excellent review and concrete suggestions. From his experience as secretary of the Asia Study Group, a Hong Kong-based service ministry of World Vision International, Mr. Larson points out that "it does appear that there might now be greater opportunity for an open forum between the United States and the People's Republic of China."

He continues: "Evangelical Christians . . . joined in the excitement. 'Could this be the open door for which we've prayed so long?' many asked." Reviewing some of the first "well-meaning, but misguided" response of some mission groups, he suggests, "Christian missions need to scrutinize their motivation for involvement" again in China and "subordinate their desire to be the 'first ones into China' to a prayerful waiting on God for his direction." He points out that "Good strategy always involves a process and seldom includes an immediate solution." And he asks, "Should we not as Christians humbly ask God to direct our thoughts toward China, so that we may know His purpose for that country of 800 million?"

Continued prayerful support of our brethren in China is needed. We also need to seek God's will as to the proper response to be made when opportunity affords.

Basses Return to Guyana

Following a delay of over two months, due to financial limitations, the Leroy Bass family returned to Georgetown, Guyana, to begin their second term of service, early in September. Support of O.W.M. still does not indicate early replacement of the vehicle necessary to their ministry. The former mission van now owned by the Georgetown church is reported to be off the road due to the need for extensive repairs. So even this is not available for use as hoped.

Gordon, the oldest son, remained in the U. S. with his grandparents to attend high school. The other children are having to be located in new schools in Georgetown as their previous school has been closed. They ask for our continued prayer and financial support (through O.W.M.) in these first days of settling, adjusting and continuing with the Guyanese brethren in the witness for Jesus Christ.

Southwestern Minutes

A copy of the printed minutes of the Southwestern Association for 1971 has been received at the *Sabbath Recorder* office from the Bible Witness Press (Clifford A. Beebe). It is assumed that those who have occasion to use these minutes may get copies by writing to Mr. Beebe. Most of the associations now mimeograph their minutes, but the Bible Witness Press has long printed these minutes as a labor of love.

The eightieth annual session of the association was held June 10-13 at the Texarkana church with seven churches and fellowships represented. Meetings were moderated by Robert Fitz Randolph under the theme "The Simplicity of True Christianity." The next session will be held with the Hammond, La., church the second weekend of June 1972. The new Executive Committee elected is: president, H. Earl DeLand of Hammond; vice-president, Russell Davis of Fouke, Ark.; general secretary, Mrs. Clifford Beebe of Paint Rock, Ala.; treasurer, Mrs. James Mitchell of Little Rock, Ark.; youth advisor, Robert L. Butler, Jr. of Brownboro, Ala.



A Conference picture of Jamaica representatives shows the Rev. Simeon Lyons and Mr. and Mrs. Naval Harley. The Harleys, who came at their own expense, were observers at SDBWF but helped out much in telling the story of Jamaica at Conference. In addition to his manufacturing business connections Naval is pastor of the Mountain View church in Kingston and Joyce now teaches at Crandall High School.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Churches Urged To Increase Aid

Meghalaya, Tripura, Assam and West Bengal — the place-names are unfamiliar to many Americans, including some of the persons in the pews of Protestant churches.

But the misery of more than seven and a half million East Pakistanis who have fled into these Indian states seeking refuge from civil strife is well known. And the persons in the pews are making their presence felt in these faraway places by alleviating a little of that misery.

"Protestants in the U. S. and other countries are there vicariously through their support of the refugee relief work of CASA," said James MacCracken, executive director of Church World Service, on his return from India. CASA is the Christian Agency for Social Action in India.

Mr. MacCracken had words of highest praise for CASA's 43 staff members and 75 volunteers who are devoting full time to refugee relief. He also extolled an additional 25 volunteer doctors and an equal number of paramedical workers who are organized into 17 CASA medical teams.

He urged constituent denominations to make a maximum response to the increased India/Pakistan appeal. The new appeal is for \$4,500,000.

"On one day in the field, a CASA medical team using three jet injectors inoculated 9,000 persons against cholera," said Mr. MacCracken. Cholera inoculations by CASA teams have exceeded 80,000 and smallpox inoculations, 17,000.

CASA doctors treat approximately 3,500 patients daily for ailments such as pneumonia, diarrhea and conjunctivitis. Patients are seen in refugee camps, in four field hospitals and an aftercare facility which CASA has set up, and in three mission hospitals.

CASA has put up 1,744 tarpaulin shelters in three refugee camps, and has underwritten shelter for 250,000 refugees in two other locations.

SDA Founders

The American Sabbath Tract Society occasionally receives urgent calls for an 80-page book it printed for L. R. Conradi in 1939, *The Founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination*. Not many of these books were reserved for distribution by the Society and none are now available. The most recent call is from a Sabbathkeeping minister in France who expresses a special interest in Dr. Conradi. If any of our readers know the whereabouts of copies of this paper-bound book and would like to see them used please send them to the secretary of the Tract Society.

Tract Society Annual Meeting

The annual corporate meeting of the American Sabbath Tract Society for the election of members and officers of the Board of Trustees and for transacting such other business as may properly come before the society will be held in the Board Room of the Seventh Day Building, Plainfield, N. J., Sunday Sept. 19, at 2 p.m.

Rev. Ben Berry Returns to Guyana

Many of our older readers remember the years when Benjamin O. Berry came from Guyana for theological training at Alfred. He headed the Seventh Day Baptist Work in Guyana for some years after his training in America. He then left the employ of the Missionary Board

and returned to the United States. For a time he served the Chicago church of the Seventh-Day Christian Conference. For a number of years now he has been pastor of the Grace A. M. E. Zion Church in South Bend, Indiana, and writer of the Young People's Sunday School quarterly for that denomination. He has been honored with a doctor of divinity degree.

A recent letter from Dr. Berry announced that his denomination has promoted him and sent him back to Guyana where he will be Presiding Elder, A.M.E. Zion Church, 150 Regent Street, Lacytown, Georgetown, Demerara, Guyana, S. A. In the letter renewing his *Sabbath Recorder* subscription he asks for the prayers of his friends in the Seventh Day Baptist Conference adding, "I just hope I could be of any little service to the work of my former denomination if this is mutual thinking."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.—Senior Camp was an associational camp held at Camp Holston with Pastor Ken Davis as director and twelve campers in attendance, four of whom were from Battle Creek. The theme was: "Me . . . a Counselor?" and the principal study was from a booklet, *How To Be a Camp Counselor*. This type of study was prompted in part by a request from the Planning Committee that high school students be trained and used in local church programs, a decision reached when SCSC was closed to those who were not high school graduates. Six of the young people at Senior Camp went on to serve in associational camping programs this summer.

We have an open door of service set before us. Our church has been asked to head up FISH for a year beginning September 1. This means finding someone to do a lot of calling, someone to do a lot of typing, thirty people to take a day a month to stay within hearing distance of their telephones, and thirty people willing to be reached for emergency transportation. In addition, we hope to find many willing to transport people on non-emergency calls for appointments, shopping, etc.

—Friendly Guest

SHILOH, N. J.—Summer days are busy days. Our daily Vacation Bible School was held from the twenty-first of June until the second of July with a large representation of church and community children attending. Our teaching staff and their helpers were under the direction of Pastor Charles Bond.

Camp Fellowship Day, an annual chicken barbecue prepared by the Men's Fellowship was held at the Jersey Oaks camp on July 4. An informal time of visiting and playing of games including softball was enjoyed.

Camping season opened with the day camp for midget campers, followed by the Junior Camp and concluded with the Senior Camp. All three camps were well staffed with the assistance of our capable summer worker, Steven Crouch. Midget and Junior Camps were directed by Pastor Charles Bond and Pastor Don Richards. Pastor Herb Saunders of Plainfield directed Senior Camp. The campers described the good times they had and what they had learned by sharing their camp experiences on Sabbath afternoon with a 4:00 worship service each Sabbath. One camp met for Sabbath morning worship with the Marlboro church, the other with the Shiloh church.

—Correspondent

Old Roll-Top Desk To Be Sold

An oak roll-top desk, in good condition and approximately sixty years old, has been approved for sale by the Board of Trustees, American Sabbath Tract Society.

The desk was used by Dr. Theodore L. Gardiner while he was editor of the *Sabbath Recorder* and still carries his labels on the pigeonholes inside. The dimensions of the desk are: 54 inches long, 34 inches wide, 51 inches high. It will require refinishing.

The desk will be sold to the highest bidder on or after October 20, 1971. Bids may be sent to the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, P. O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061. For information, call Mr. Rogers (201) 754-3404.

The Sabbath Recorder

Anti-Drug Film Helpful

"High on the Campus," an anti-drug abuse film by Gospel Films, Inc., of Muskegon, Michigan, will be used by the Government of Brazil in its nationwide effort to halt the use of dangerous drugs.

"High on the Campus," a 52-minute, color, documentary is an authentic and highly dramatic presentation of the drug abuse problem. It deals explicitly with the reasons young people turn to drugs and declares that no family is immune. Art Linkletter, the well-known television entertainer, in a filmed introduction to the film, said,

"I know from tragic, bitter experience, that parents are too often apt to under-rate the drug problem. While you may not always agree with what the producers of this film say, you dare not ignore them."

The Government of Brazil became interested in "High on the Campus" when Colonel Octavio Costa, a member of the President's cabinet, saw the film in a special screening for him and his staff in June and requested that a Portuguese version be made available for use in Brazil.

Billy Zeoli, Gospel Films president, in announcing the first foreign language version of "High on the Campus," said,

"We are grateful for the privilege of helping to warn the people of our country. Since we are catching the problem earlier in Brazil, it could be that the use of our film, both in the schools and on the two television networks, T.V. Tupi and T.V. Globo, will prevent much of the heartache that comes from the abuse of drugs such as the people of the United States have suffered."

Bibles Behind Iron Curtain

In the previous issue we mentioned how hard it was to smuggle Bibles into Iron Curtain countries and that the United Bible Societies had now been permitted to publish Bibles in Hungarian for Romania. We now read that there had been more successful smuggling than could be mentioned. Shlomo Hizak, a young converted orthodox Jew who is also a Sabbathkeeper, is probably the foremost distributor of Bibles to Jews and Arabs in Israel. He has also been able to send Bibles from Israel behind the Iron Curtain in fulfillment of the prophecy "Out of Zion . . . and the word of God from Jerusalem." Here is the way he tells it in a circular letter:

"A few years ago God opened the door for us to send Bibles to countries behind the Iron Curtain. I haven't been able to speak much about this before now, but thanks be to our God that we have been able to send over 5,000 Bibles to people behind the Iron Curtain, and to hear that they have received them. We receive many addresses from refugees coming to Israel from these countries. The reason we have been able to send these Bibles behind the Curtain?

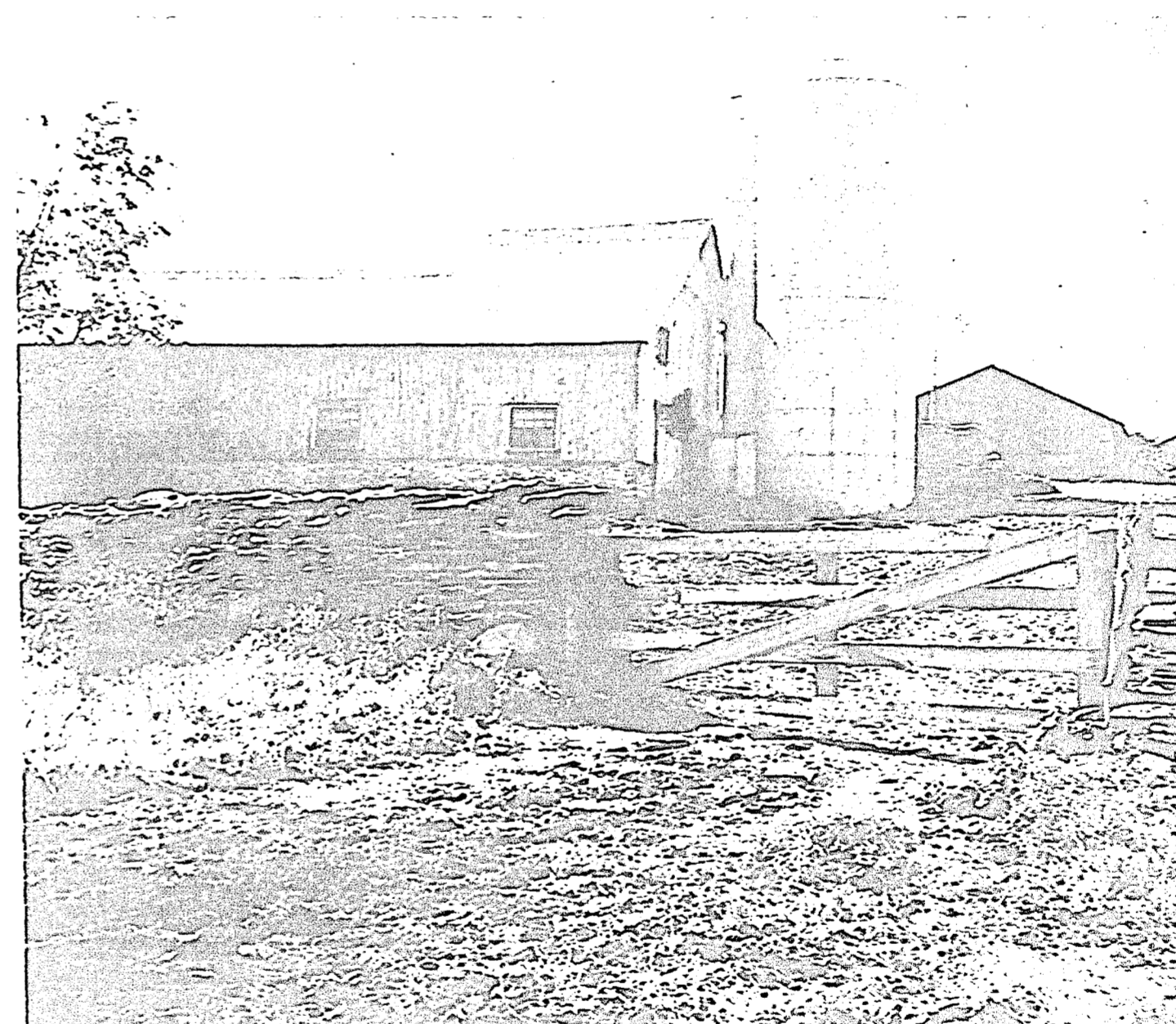
"Who would ever think that Bibles would come from Israel! Therefore we are able to get the Word of God where others cannot."

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for September 25, 1971

GOD GIVES MEANING TO LIFE

Lesson Scripture: Psalm 73:1-3, 16-17, 21-26; Ephesians 1:9-10



Stone Walls and Fertile Soil

The farm scene pictured here may bring back nostalgic memories of time spent in our youth on the farm away from the noise and polluted air of the teeming city. The American farms (most of which are more progressive than this one) are still the source of our abundant supply of milk and produce in a land upon which God still graciously smiles. Seldom does one see anywhere such high walls of natural flat limestone, the edges of which appear to have been rounded in ages past by the waters of Lake Ontario, now ten miles distant. The lime-rich soil is well suited for dairy crops. The farmer and the factory worker depend on each other and all must acknowledge dependence on God. We have a stewardship. The Bible says that the cattle on a thousand hills are His. Let us be faithful.