

The Sabbath Recorder

TRACT EMPHASIS ISSUE

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

For December 1971



(Including and supplementing the daily Bible readings of the Uniform Series of Bible Lessons published in "The Helping Hand.")

Luke Tells the Good News

- 1—Wed. Spiritual Baptism for Service and Witness. Acts 1:1-11
- 2—Thur. God's Saving Power for Everyone. Rom. 1:1-17
- 3—Fri. Suffering for the Gospel. 2 Tim. 1:6 - 2:6
- 4—Sabbath. Congregating To Thank God. Psa. 107: 1-9, 23-32

God Keeps His Promise

- 5—Sun. The Messiah Foretold. Is. 9:2-7; 11:1-9
- 6—Mon. Birth of John Promised. Luke 1:5-22
- 7—Tues. Glorious Annunciation — Refreshing News. Luke 1:26-45
- 8—Wed. The "Magnificat" Declares Abundant Life. Luke 1:46-55
- 9—Thurs. John the Baptist Born. Luke 1:57-80
- 10—Fri. My Song of Confidence. Ps. 27
- 11—Sabbath. The Sabbath Redeems Man's Ingenuity. Ex. 31:1-18

Good News of Great Joy

- 12—Sun. The Birth of Jesus Christ. Matt. 1:17-25
- 13—Mon. The Redeemer Has Come. Luke 2:22-40
- 14—Tues. Wise Men and Farmers Pay Homage. Matt. 2:1-12; Luke 2:8-20
- 15—Wed. Jesus in the Temple. Luke 2:39-52
- 16—Thur. Invitation to All. Isa. 55
- 17—Fri. The Example of Christ. Phil. 2:1-13
- 18—Sabbath — The Sabbath Keeps Renewing Joy. Luke 14:1-14

Jesus Overcomes Temptation

- 19—Sun. The Messenger To Come. Isa. 40:1-11
- 20—Mon. John's Proclamation. Luke 3:1-9
- 21—Tues. A New Morality. Luke 3:10-22
- 22—Wed. A Spirit-led Encounter. Matt. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-15
- 23—Thur. God Provides Warning, Instruction, and Power. 1 Cor. 10:1-13
- 24—Fri. Shelter and Power in God's Love. Ps. 91
- 25—Sabbath. Bridge over Selfish Streams. Lev. 26: 1-20, 34, 35

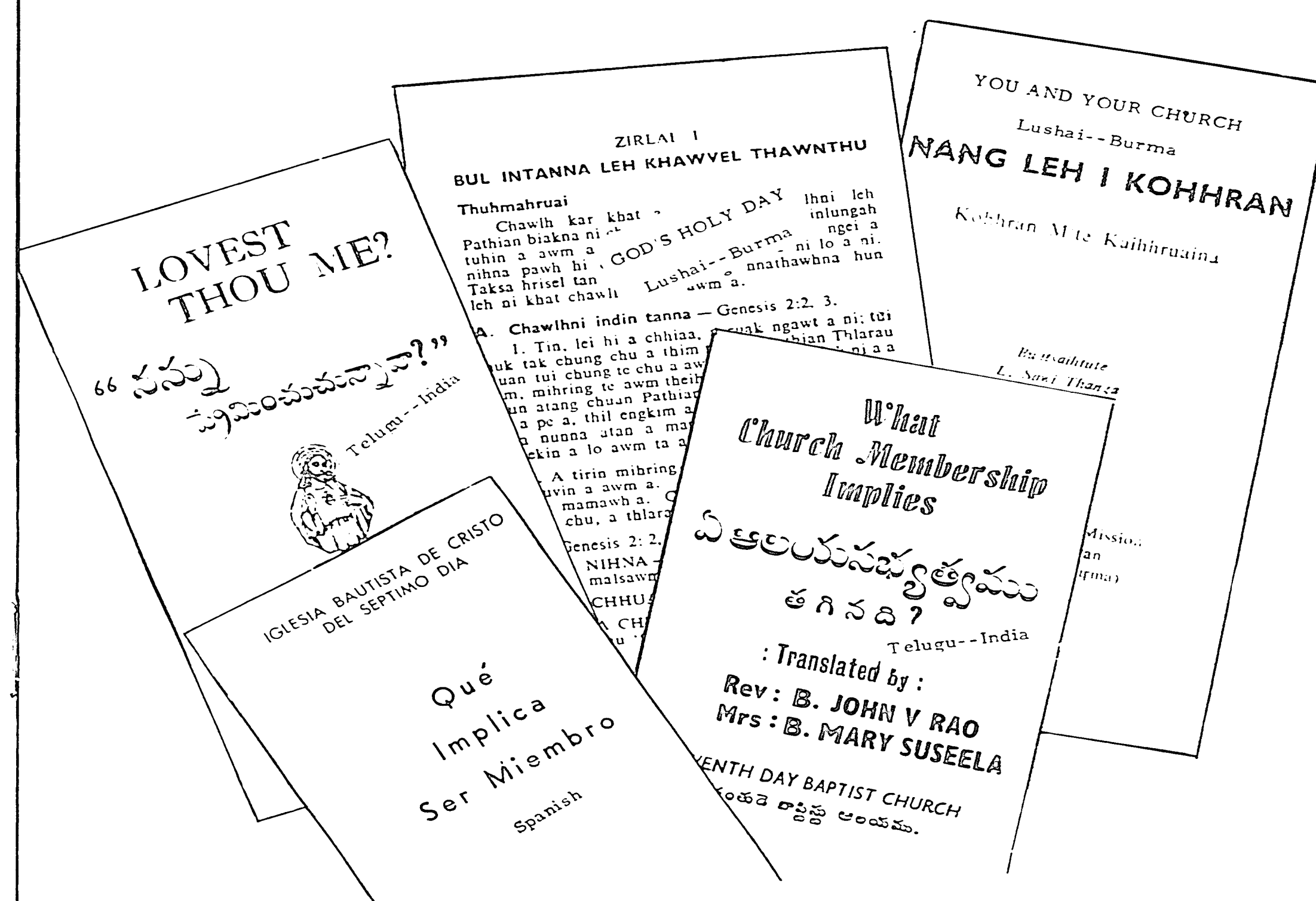
Love Is . . .

- 26—Sun. Grace and Truth Embodied. John 1:1-14
- 27—Mon. The Choosing of Men. Luke 6:13-26
- 28—Tues. Practice Loving Your Enemies. Luke 6:27-36
- 29—Wed. God Only Is Judge. Luke 6:37-49
- 30—Thur. New Creations. 2 Cor. 5:11-21
- 31—Fri. The Way of Love. 1 Cor. 13

East German Bible Society

It is announced that the Bible Societies of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) has now become a full member in the United Bible Societies, bringing to fifty the number of national Bible Societies in the world organization. This may mark a little closer cooperation in Bible publication between East and West Germany.

East Berlin is allowed to publish Bibles and portions according to a 1952 agreement. Sufficient Scriptures for their needs are available. The demand is not as great as it was before the country was divided. The general secretary of the United Bible Societies, Dr. Oliver Benguin of London, estimates that about 25 percent of the people of East Germany belong to a Christian church, compared to 80-90 percent a generation ago.



Highlighting the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society and the board that is responsible for this journal

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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

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Terms of Subscription

Per Year \$5.00 Single Copies 15 cents

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

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

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

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

PLAINFIELD, N. J. December 4, 1971
Volume 191, No. 21 Whole No. 6,476

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It's Great To Be Alive

Whether one is in the exciting years of youth, the full vigor of adulthood, or the tenacious years of retirement age, it is great to be alive, and the person who does not frequently express that feeling is not really living. But the same feeling applies to publications that have a cause and mission in life.

Life is difficult for magazines whether they are secular or religious. Many an editor or business manager sees death staring his publication in the face and has to wonder what can be done just to stay alive. A communication from the secretary of Associated Church Press points this out very sharply and pledges to its member publications all the help possible to stay alive by cutting costs and meeting the challenges of new developments in the communications media.

Some giants have recently fallen in the secular field. *Look* magazine folded up in September. One of the reasons was the increase in postal rates. The editors of *Look* estimated that when the postal increase was fully levied their mailing costs would rise from \$4 million to \$10 million per year. They decided to quit while they could do so without too much loss.

Postal increases have not yet seriously affected the nonprofit publications such as *The Sabbath Recorder* because the ACP and similar organizations have been fighting the battle in Washington to keep the postal rate increases within a bearable range. Whether or not the battle for life in this respect continues to be successful remains to be seen. A new increase is scheduled for next May. Most magazines with a circulation of 100,000, for the first time in decades, according to a survey by the Gallagher Report, showed a decline in paid circulation last year.

The Sabbath Recorder says it is great to stay alive. Its net circulation is not growing consistently though new subscriptions are coming in and old subscriptions are very faithful in renewals. There are some advantages in being small and having to depend on subsidy from invested funds of the board and the current giving of people through the denominational budget. So far we are able to pay our printing bills, and the postage increases so far in effect do not loom large enough to threaten our existence.

Volume printing reduces unit cost for a magazine, but postal charges offset that advantage since they increase the unit cost.

The Sabbath Recorder is now one of the oldest religious publications in our country and it is very much alive. It is performing an important unifying, stimulating and promotional service for the Seventh Day Baptist cause. It is by far the largest item within the budget of the American Sabbath Tract Society, and rightly so, according to the opinion of those who plan the total denominational work and those who see the continuing need for a denominational weekly and the maintenance of our publishing house.

Plans are under way for the third annual Sabbath Recorder Day the third weekend of February. In the meantime let it be understood that the future of our journal and our denomination depends on the evangelistic zeal of our members and subscribers. We must grow if we are to stay alive.

Environmental Relationships

When smog envelopes much of Southern California in the Los Angeles area and when air pollution in Eastern metropolitan areas becomes a health hazard we begin to take notice and to ask ourselves what man is doing to the wonderful environment given by God and so long assumed to be limitless in its power to absorb the by-products of population increase and industrialization.

Strong measures have been taken and are still in process to control the emissions of industry into the air, water, and soil. Saving our soil, our water, air, and mineral resources has taken on theological significance and has been pursued by some with almost evangelistic zeal. Anti-pollution campaigns are now more popular than evangelistic crusades. We do well to be concerned. As responsible Christian citizens we also do well to keep our balance in these matters when others are not.

There are some things that are likely to be forgotten in this process of depletion of natural resources and the damaging of our common environment. Gus Tyler,

assistant president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union recently presented a paper to the Executive Council of the American Jewish Committee which set forth one aspect of the problem as it relates to our gross national product (GNP).

As we face the possibility of limited resources," Mr. Tyler said, "we must begin to question not simply the size but also, more significantly, the nature of the Gross National Product. At present, the GNP includes many items that are socially useless or downright noxious; yet their manufacture, packaging, sale, repair and removal all add up to our vaunted GNP. To date, this tragedy of waste only bothered tidy, efficient souls who felt that such waste was sinful in a society where too many lived in want. But now, with mounting ecological worries, the wasting of resources becomes a central societal concern."

Mr. Tyler does not spell out the items that could very well be eliminated from the GNP. There are many that contribute more than their share to the environmental pollution that plagues us. For example, we might better show more concern for the atmosphere pollution of tobacco than the household use of detergents or the farm use of pesticides. It isn't pleasant to be reminded of our inconsistencies, but we ought to be willing to accept these reminders and even search out others for our own good.

In the city of Plainfield this fall there was a new ordinance against burning of leaves. Home owners were watched to see that they did not add smoke to the air. To be sure, life was a little more pleasant without the leaf smoke. The city has not yet figured up the tax cost of trucking the leaves away. Whether or not this significantly reduced air pollution we do not know. We suspect that the acceptable air reported in the New York area this year as compared with last year is due much more to industrial control than home-owner control.

Recently some of us attended a public meeting (in a church assembly hall) sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The candidates for local and state

office were present and pledged themselves, among other things, to work for better ecology. It could be observed that most of the candidates, and leaders of the meeting as well as a considerable fraction of the audience kept smoking during the meeting and the ushers had to open windows because the air was so polluted. It was unlawful to burn maple leaves outside when nature would carry away the smoke, but permissible to burn tobacco leaves inside where nobody could escape the air pollution. But why should the non-smokers complain about a little smoke inhaled second hand; the real damage was to those who burned the leaves inside their bodies and defiled the temples of the Holy Spirit. It would be far more sensible to ban the burning of leaves in pipe and cigarette than outside in the driveway. But that would be interfering with personal liberty — or is there a difference?

As said above, we do well to take an interest in preserving and passing on to the next generation a clean environment and a fair share of the natural resources that God meant to be used for the good of all. Let us as Christians resolve that our GNP is not used for useless or damaging products. Isaiah said so aptly, "Seek ye that which is good" (Isa. 55:2).

What To Give for Christmas?

There are some people on your Christmas list who would rather have something religious, something lasting rather than what the merchants are offering. Wouldn't you enjoy doing something nice for a relative or for a friend you would like to help as well as please? May we suggest one or more *Sabbath Recorder* subscriptions for those special people?

Perhaps you wish you could have a florist send flowers every week. It would be nice, but expensive, and there aren't that many kinds of flowers. But the *Sabbath Recorder* can be printed wrapped and mailed fifty times for only ten cents a week. What's more, it is entirely new in content each week. You can give a \$20 gift for \$5 with the help of the Tract Society. That is a bargain indeed.

It is more blessed to give than to

MEMORY TEXT

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Rev. 19:9).

receive," we are told. That is especially true when you give something as helpful and worthwhile as our denominational paper. The satisfaction you get from putting the *Sabbath Recorder* in another home or in the hands of servicemen and students will give you an inner glow. If you don't believe it, ask someone who has done it year after year. There is no better way to tell people what Seventh Day Baptists are like than to help them to read about our work week after week.

Give something good; give *Recorder* subscriptions.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) A zeal for evangelism to grip our well-established members as it does the newly converted.
- 2) A willingness to hand out tracts to friends as a stepping-stone to the more difficult ways of teaching Bible truths.
- 3) A large increase in the demand for English language tracts.
- 4) More workers in the Philippines to distribute Seventh Day Baptist tracts soon to be produced in many dialects by mimeograph.
- 5) Sustaining grace for the families of twenty-one tract evangelists who lost their lives when the town of Chandpara in India was obliterated by a tidal wave.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for December 11, 1971

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE

Lesson Scripture: Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Publication and Distribution

A Longer View of Tract Work

To determine where we are now and where we are going from here it is good to look at the record of past years. This is possible for the American Sabbath Tract Society by studying the reports submitted for the *Yearbook* by the secretary. The quantity of tracts published and distributed in the last fifteen years adds up to quite a figure. From 1955 to 1970 our publishing house printed about 1,386,500 tracts besides larger publications. In the past ten years the board began the publication of tracts in the Spanish language which are counted in this total. It has sponsored the publication of an increasing number of tracts in other lands and languages as will be mentioned in another article. The total number in other languages besides Spanish may be above 150,000.

We have not made a thorough study of the number of new tracts written during this period as compared to the number of tracts reprinted, but there has been an active solicitation from year to year of new manuscripts to tell the story of the gospel, the Sabbath, and other truths in new ways. Some tracts have been so well worded and in such constant demand that they have not been changed except in format or color. Others have been updated in language or considerably revised. Some have been discontinued to avoid overlapping and to concentrate on those considered by the committee as most effective. Quite a number of new tracts have been produced and are going well. There is need, however, for new writers to take the place of the prolific, popular tract writer, Lester G. Osborn. None in recent years have contributed more than one or two accepted manuscripts.

There has been, quite interestingly, a close correlation between publication and distribution of tracts. In a closely knit board where committees overlap or have been combined into one the publication department does not go overboard and produce far more than can be distributed. The secretary who fills the orders also keeps the Publications Committee informed when the supply is getting low

and reprints are needed. Thus, on the average for the past fifteen years, the number of pieces sent out on orders from churches and individuals is almost the same as the number of pieces printed.

In 1955 we printed 58,000 and had calls for a little over 58,000 tracts. The next year we printed 77,500 and distributed about 68,500. In 1957, however, the distribution jumped to 119,500 with 95,400 printed. In later years it evened out. The high year was 1963 when about 189,000 tracts were printed and 190,000 ordered by distributors. During six of the last fifteen years the number has been above 100,000. From 1967 to 1970 the distribution dropped to a four-year average of a little less than 60,000 but seems to be again on the increase.

Many of our tracts have gone through numerous editions. Some of the newer ones are still in their first or second editions but others have been reprinted many, many times. For instance, the Statement of Belief, which is not subject to revision by the Tract Board Publications Committee is again on the press for a 10,000 run. The note at the bottom of the last page will indicate that this is the eighteenth edition. During the 50's and 60's printings were limited to 5000 copies pending possible revisions. During that time Conference has made some minor changes which have been incorporated in the newer printings. The seventeenth printing of 1967 was increased to 10,000 since there has been little talk of revision since that time. The smaller tract, "Polity and Beliefs," has not been called for as much but has recently been reprinted.

Other tracts that have gone through fewer printings have been more widely distributed as, for instance, the Bible study Sabbath tract, "Pro and Con," reprinted thirteen times mostly in quantities of 10,000. Other Sabbath tracts that have gone through eight or ten large printings are "What the Bible Teaches Regarding the Sabbath," "Was Paul Wrong?" "What Do You Find?" (bookmark), and the thoughtful study by Loyal F. Hurley, "Sabbath and Sunday — the Real Difference." Others have been almost as popular.

DECEMBER 4, 1971

Informational and gospel tracts, being somewhat more easily distributed than doctrinal tracts, have been and continue to be in high demand. The Publications Committee has reduced the number of titles offered but keeps the supply up. One of the most popular in both English and some other languages is a small gospel tract with a Sabbath emphasis at the end, "It Is Your Decision," reprinted ten times in its relatively short life.

In recent years the Tract Board has worked hard to produce two acceptable tracts on the difference between Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists. The smaller of the two is consistently recommended for the information of those who have had little contact with either denomination. It is more widely used.

There are now two tracts on the Second Coming of Christ, one which takes up the subject in a general, objective way as Seventh Day Baptists, for the most part do, and the other, well titled "That Blessed Hope," setting forth the Scriptures for the hope of His soon return. The latter has been more in demand, especially in countries like Jamaica.

The newest Sabbath tract styled after the popular Campus Crusade tracts "Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of a Spirit-Filled Sabbath?" is going well, especially on orders received from pastors. A new printing will soon be needed if the demand continues.

Strange as it may seem, in view of our continuing emphasis on stewardship and tithing, the demand for our very few stewardship tracts is relatively light. The answer is that tithing is for church people and most of our large-quantity tract distribution is for those who are outside the church. Our people do not have a unique mission to teach stewardship to the world at large. We do have a mission to proclaim the gospel, to baptize, and to restore the Sabbath to its God-appointed place.

The publication and distribution of the literature of Seventh Day Baptists, to which the Tract Society is committed by its charter, include nurture and promotion of the faith. It depends largely on

the use of tracts by those who are motivated by the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are constantly being asked by people who have newly come to the truth of the Sabbath, "Why doesn't your church grow faster?" The answer is not that we do not have good preachers and evangelists, but that the rank and file of our people do not have the necessary zeal to constantly use our good tracts.

Audiovisual Library

What is available for your church group to use free of charge from the audiovisual library of the American Sabbath Tract Society of Plainfield? Perhaps more than you realize.

The catalogue lists 200 titles of full-size 35 millimeter filmstrips. The actual number available is much larger since several copies of many of them have been purchased to enable more than one group to use a program at the same time. Also some new ones have been secured since the catalogue was gotten out.

Add to these the large number of Worldwide Witness filmstrips with tapes and script prepared this last year and now available on a free loan basis from our library. More home and foreign mission field filmstrips will be produced by the committee chairman and technician, Fred Ayars, and added to the collection from time to time.

Available also is the complete Show'n' Tell Library of records and filmstrips for use with the special synchronized rear-view projector and record player. There are fifty Old and New Testament stories in this series.

The catalogue on pages 31-40 lists the additional Bible story offerings in the Stori-Strip Library of split 35 millimeter natural color illustrated Bible stories—about 75 self-contained programs, each in its own flat folder.

The total of filmstrip programs offered is above 325. In addition there are various other audiovisual resources available for denominational use from this one source.

The newest venture of the Audio and Visual Services Committee is the beginning of a cassette ministry for teaching evangelism and some other subjects. Cassette players without recording capability

can be secured for as little as \$15 - \$20. They are much more simple to operate than conventional tape recorders. There seems to be a great future for this ministry — particularly with the take-anywhere battery operated machines.

The Center for Ministerial Education is also going into this type of training. The Missionary Board and the Board of Christian Education also have slide and other programs that fit with their work and emphasis.

Sound Studio Nears Completion

The Sound Studio, initiated two years ago as a denominational program facility, is nearing completion in the basement of the Seventh Day Baptist Building under the leadership of Frederick M. Ayars, Lansdale, Pa., who is the chairman of the Audio and Visual Services Committee of the American Sabbath Tract Society.

Specifications for the studio were drawn by Calvin P. Babcock, North Little Rock, Ark., Ray R. Froding, Bridgeton, N. J., and Mr. Ayars, and plans were worked out by Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., Plainfield architect. The Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, who first suggested the facility, has served as an advisor and the Rev. Albert N. Rogers has acted as project coordinator.

Detailed study was necessary to exclude street noises from the area available for the studio, and special sound insulating material and additional electrical circuits have been installed under Mr. Ayars' direction. Bookshelves and cabinets for display materials have been used with the new interior walls to obtain the desired combination of hard and soft surfaces. Two of the walls are being finished in wood panel board.

An equipment room has been constructed adjoining the studio from which an operator can observe procedures through a double-glass window.

Storage for audiovisual equipment used at General Conference sessions is provided to multiply its usefulness. The two rooms will be used for preview and showing of audiovisual materials from all agencies located in the Seventh Day Bap-

tist Building as well as for the production and copying of new materials.

The full cost is not yet known but the cost of materials for the studio, exclusive of electronic equipment, is being met from the Elizabeth Fisher Davis bequest received by the Tract Society. The principal rather than the interest was expended on the project, the board feeling that a greater work for the cause could be initiated by such use of unrestricted funds from Mrs. Davis. Nearly all of the painstaking work on the studio has been volunteered. Mr. Ayars has made the four hour round trip for a full day's work on the last four consecutive Sundays in addition to several previous Sundays. Mr. Rogers has put in an equal amount of time. Others have also assisted. Without this know-how and dedication such adequate facilities for program recording would not now be just around the corner.

Pictures of progress are not yet available, but the progress in recent weeks has been thrilling to watch over.

Missionary Journeymen

Southern Baptists have an unusual designation for young people who go out for short periods of missionary service. The term journeymen is applied to college graduates no older than twenty-six who apply their training to critical needs abroad. They work alongside career missionaries in a specific assignment for two years.

This largest of all denominations has recently commissioned sixty-seven new journeymen to go to thirty-three countries.

Twenty-four were commissioned for Africa, eleven for East Asia, seven for Europe and the Middle East, five for Middle America and the Caribbean, twelve for South America, and eight for Southeast Asia.

Their job assignments include teaching, youth work, agricultural assistance, nursing, bookkeeping, film and television production, and secretary work.

Including the newly employed journeymen, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's total overseas force now numbers 2,527.

Tracts in Other Languages

In recent years the American Sabbath Tract Society has expanded its ministry by helping a number of other countries translate and print our literature in their native languages. This was seen by the board as careful stewardship of the Lord's money as well as an effective way of helping leaders to build up indigenous churches in countries where the denomination could not afford to send missionaries.

It is a two-way conservation of resources. If we were to attempt to print foreign literature other than Spanish in our own publishing house it would involve costly typesetting and imperfect proof-reading as well as long delays. Then too, we would have the cost of shipping large quantities of printed materials as much as halfway around the world. In addition, printing costs in most other countries, due to difference in wages, are much lower than in our country. Thus a contribution of \$200 provides more tracts, more easily understood and available much quicker than as if we did the work in our own publishing house.

In 1961 we helped a native leader in West India produce a large number of tracts in the Marathi language. Although this effort under the direction of K. K. Samson was not followed up with other tracts it is hoped that the thousands of pieces of literature were used to bring many people to salvation and the Sabbath in the area of Poona. An American Seventh Day Baptist minister visiting the area briefly reported that there was a substantial educational project being carried on there and presumably being helped by some of our Sabbath literature in Marathi.

In 1962 the first printing of some of our basic tracts was made by the Seventh Day Baptist churches of Brazil at Curitiba. It must be noted in this case that the Tract Society did not pay the cost; the Brazil churches wanted to do it themselves. The encouragement of samples of literature, the continuing Tract Board correspondence and the visits of Seventh Day Baptist representatives have resulted in the firm establishment of the

Brazilian Conference in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. A movement seems to be gaining momentum to establish a publishing house in Brazil patterned somewhat after our American Sabbath Tract Society.

Moral if not financial encouragement was given for the publication in 1962 and 1963 of "Creation's Birthday" and "Traditions of Men" by the Dutch churches in their language. Their leaders are well aware of the importance of a tract ministry since the origin of the work in the Netherlands is directly traceable to tracts brought into the country years ago.

Without our financial help one of our more expensive Sabbath study booklets, "God's Holy Day," was made in Swedish some eight or ten years ago. "Pro and Con" has also been printed in Swedish. There is at present little contact with Swedish tract distribution leaders.

The work in Burma has been helped along by the Tract Board for the past six years. It was in 1965 that help was given to L. Sawi Thanga of Rangoon to publish "God's Holy Day" in Lushai which is not the language of that city but is the language of the Seventh Day Baptist churches in the Chin Hills area. This publication was followed by 1967 with the large booklet "Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs" and the following year with the membership training book "You and Your Church" the publication of which was financed by our board at an unbelievably low cost.

The present plan of the Burma Conference is to concentrate on the translation and printing of some of our smaller tracts. Mr. Thanga has to get permission from a somewhat hostile government for all his publication work. The printing is done commercially but all his own work is contributed. He receives monthly support to the extent of \$50 from a few interested individuals through the SDBWF treasurer, Leon R. Lawton.

A very recent letter tells of an encouraging fall trip to most of the churches and consultation with other Conference leaders. Mr. Thanga as secretary is probably the best educated of the leaders and is the

one person who is able to evaluate and produce literature in their language. He is highly respected in interdenominational circles, according to word received from others. Recently he translated and published for an interdenominational missionary headquarters a large booklet in Lushai "His Glorious Appearing." For his work he was given 1000 copies (one-fifth of the printing) to distribute to our churches. Thus the literature work in gospel-hungry Burma is fostered by our Tract Board connections. Much more could be done in this land that missionaries cannot enter.

The greatest variety of Seventh Day Baptist literature at the present time is in the Telugu language spoken in Southeast India — literature translated and published by the Rev. B. John V. Rao. Most, but not all, was financed by the Tract Board. In 1967 we financed the publication of "Statement of Belief." Others followed in 1970 and 1971 in quantities of 7,000 to 12,000. These titles in Telugu include: "What Church Membership Implies," "From Death to Life," "It Is Your Decision," "Lovest Thou Me?" "What Is the Difference?" "Pro and Con," and "That Blessed Hope." Help has been given privately to Mr. Rao for the reprinting of a few tracts that he wrote himself. Some of our tracts were printed last year in the Tamil language spoken by some of the Seventh Day Baptist churches in newly opened areas.

The newest assistance in foreign language publication is in the Philippines where there is need for our tracts in several languages and dialects. Already some tracts have been produced on rented mimeographed equipment. To meet the need at the lowest possible cost the board has sent at the request of responsible leaders \$250 to purchase a second-hand mimeograph machine that will be used primarily for the production of tracts at their own expense.

Assistance was given by the Tract Board in 1971 to the Malawi Conference to produce 15,000 copies of "It is Your Decision" in the Chichewa language. It should be noted that the board continues to furnish large quantities of disc records

of Bible lessons in that language and keeps up the supply of Finger Fonos on which they can be played to small groups.

A considerable portion of the world's population can still be reached with tracts in the English language. Even in the Philippines the leaders have used English when they could not afford to print in several local languages. Much of Africa can read English. Wherever the British and American presence has remained for considerable time the people can read English and thus be served by our denominational publishing house. The call for English tracts in Jamaica, Guyana, Ghana, and Nigeria has been growing.

How many tracts have been printed in foreign languages? We do not have accurate total figures. Perhaps nearly 100,000 have recently been circulated in India alone. As reported in the issue of November 29 the twenty-one evangelists who were lost in a coastal town in Orissa state on October 30 were on a tract distribution mission. It is expected that others will rise up to take their places and that somehow more literature will be printed to replace what was lost. It is presumed that among the thousands who perished in the tidal wave there were those who died with a new-found faith as a result of the literature given to them at the last hour of their lives.

There is before me a little postcard tract with a drawing of a young evangelist in Biblical dress scattering seed as in the parable of the sower. The hazards and the rewards of literature distribution in the fields of the world are much the same now as the early days of the church.

—Leon M. Maltby, corr. sec.

Battle of the Sexes

Mrs. Marcus Rohlf, the fifth woman president of the American Baptist Convention, has been speaking at a number of state conventions across the country. In Indiana she touched lightly on the subject of women's liberation making this remark: "I'm a little worried about the battle of the sexes. I think we may never win, we have such fun fraternizing with the enemy."

Review of Missionary Board Activities

The third quarter of the year has been a busy and exciting one! Activities of your workers in missions include:

Leon Lawton spent most of July visiting the churches and work in Malawi, meeting with their Conference board and teaching in a special institute for pastors.

David Pearson and family returned from their third term of service in Malawi in July and have been visiting churches, taking part in World Federation and Conference and holding special evangelistic meetings.

Miss S. Elizabeth Maddox, R. N., began her service in the Malawi Medical Clinic during the quarter for a minimum term of one year, the expense of which will be largely borne by a grant from the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund.

Leroy C. Bass and family returned for a second term of service in Guyana on September 2, their planned departure having been postponed from July because of a tight financial situation.

Malawi representatives to the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation met with missionaries and members of the Africa Interests Committee in special consultation on our witness and work together.

The Crandall High School special appeal for new classroom space was launched and in the first six weeks over 50 percent of the goal was reached. Construction began in October with a down payment of \$3,865.

Principal Wayne N. Crandall reports nearly 50 percent increase in student enrollment over last year's beginning number. With construction limiting space, the church shed, the library, and other space are being used temporarily as they look forward to the new classroom in February 1972.

Evangelist Mynor Soper and family spent June to late August traveling in service to our churches. At the quarterly board meeting on October 31 the following action was taken: "That Home Front Evangelist Rev. Mynor G. Soper be asked to serve for another year on the

same 'Project Basis' arrangement as from April 1, 1971."

Our Ministerial Education Fund, the income from which can be used towards specialized missionary training costs, has now reached a total of \$10,000, having been increased by a portion of a bequest from Franklin A. Langworthy, late of Plainfield, N. J., amounting to \$3,106.75.

The substantial Conference collection and other gifts for general society expenses made it possible to clear up a backlog of overdue bills which had developed on account of the heavy expenditures of the past year and a half. However, it has not yet been possible to restore advisable reserves depleted by the expenditures referred to. Income Equalization Fund reserves now total \$8,355.45, whereas they should amount to \$17,885.45, had they not been drawn on so heavily. Present reserve would cover approximately one and one third months' normal expenses as contrasted with a reasonably safe three months' which the larger total would cover approximately.

The third quarter was the best in budget receipts and anticipated cutbacks were shelved temporarily. Continued regular support will lift the board out of deficit spending for the year.

Praise God for His leading and blessings! Uphold your work in regular prayer and giving!

Missionary Church Attendance

Some churches are following the plan of other years in making a strong emphasis on church attendance during the months of November and December.

It is of interest that three church bulletins from three missionary churches arrived through the mail on the same day and each carried encouraging news in regard to church attendance.

The Washington, D. C., church bulletin states, "Average attendance so far in 1971 is twelve higher than the 1970 average. Three new members have joined us during the quarter."

The Seattle Area church bulletin reads, "Attendance last Sabbath at Des Moines—65; at Randle—19." A year and a half ago, during the month of May 1970, the Seattle Area church bulletin carried

word that the average attendance was 40.

From the Daytona Beach church bulletin comes the following: "Attendance at the regular services of the church this summer more than doubled the average of any summer for the last several years. For the July-August-September quarter the average attendance was: Sabbath Eve Vesper 10 — Sabbath School 24 — Morning Worship 31. The highest attendance so far this fall has been Vesper 15, Sabbath School 32 and Morning Worship 39."

Let us praise the Lord for these signs of growth! Let us also ask ourselves the question: "How has my church attendance changed in the past year?" All of our Seventh Day Baptist churches could and should reflect an increasing growth pattern.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—Rex E. Zwiebel

Invest in a Life

Many persons and institutions are anxious to show us how to invest our money. Our denomination alone can absorb every dollar we are led to give.

Have you considered this investment? Choose a deserving young person in your church and offer to make it financially possible for him to study for the ministry.

You may be surprised to find that many of our youth feel called to the ministry, but the thought of the expense causes them to hesitate and to seek other avenues of service. Youth are hesitant in borrowing money for education toward the ministry as there is no promise of pay adequate to care for early loans.

We all admire persons who make it on "their own" through school and seminary, and a few may have done so—almost. They have finished the course of study all right, and they have worked day and night, but when the truth is known there have been many persons who have helped in a myriad of ways.

Sometimes all it takes to get a consecrated youth interested in studying for the ministry is a promise of a small amount of financial support while in school. He will investigate further and find that other opportunities for help

are available. It has happened.

Think and pray about it. Use your imagination. Consider what blessings there may be for the Kingdom of God if you choose to "invest in a life" in this way.

Cassette Tape Library

As an experiment, the dean of the Center for Ministerial Education has started recording on cassette tape articles and ideas that may be of help to Seventh Day Baptist ministers. Our first tape is now available for loan. It contains thoughts on "Conversion," "Evangelism," and "World Responsibility for Ecology."

Besides the *Ministers Tape Digest*, we will soon have available for loan the *Thesis* tapes from our library.

Our ministers have found that many of the articles are quite usable for discussion starters in youth and adult programs. A cassette tape player may be purchased for as little as \$17. If your minister does not have one, you, or your church, might like to get one as a Christmas gift for him. One that will both record and play, and which can be powered either by batteries or electric current, will cost more; however, it will be much more dependable and usable.

Any responsible person may borrow tapes. The only cost is return postage. They may be used for one month, and the loan is renewable.

Ministers have the list of tapes available. Interested parties may write for a list.

Address:

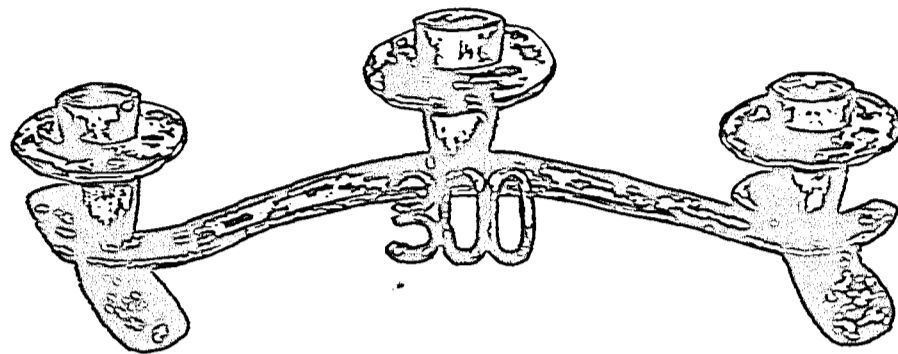
Center for Ministerial Education
P. O. Box 868
Plainfield, NJ 07061

Third World Media News

News service for the gathering and distribution of information of minority groups, Third World Media News, has been founded through a \$30,000 grant made by the United Presbyterian Church, USA, to Ecu-Media News Service. Ecu-Media, a free radio news service, is a unit of the Office of Communications of the National Council of Churches in the United States. —EBPS

300th Anniversary Candelabrum Made by Mark R. Sanford

Mark R. Sanford, deacon and lay leader of Little Genesee, N. Y., made a wrought iron candelabrum to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Seventh Day Baptists in America. The candelabrum which was on



display at General Conference at Amherst, Mass., last August, was used on the Communion table at the Sabbath Eve service there, and is now in the care of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.

A native of Little Genesee who has been active in the life of the First Genesee Seventh Day Baptist Church, Mr. Sanford attended Milton College and taught in Fouke Academy in 1921-22. He married Miss Edna Burdick in 1921 and following her death in 1957 was married to her sister, Miss Grace Burdick, since deceased. His two sons are the Rev. Don A. Sanford, Milton, Wis., and Gordon L. Sanford, treasurer of Our World Mission.

Mr. Sanford has become widely known as a producer of maple syrup from his Allegany County farm, as well as for his iron work which includes fireplace fixtures, bookends, and various household articles. He served the Hebron, Pa., Seventh Day Baptist Church as a lay pastor for several years, and shared in initial work which led to the founding of the Buffalo, N. Y., Fellowship, and the Buffalo Seventh Day Baptist Church. He has also served as an officer of the Western (Allegheny) Association and helped to develop its Camp Harley Sutton, and is a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education.

The sketch for the picture accompanying this article was done by Miss Patricia Williams of the Historical Society staff.

—A. N. R.

Late News from India

While material for this issue was being set in type another letter came from the Rev. B. John V. Rao, secretary of the India Conference, in regard to the twenty-one heads of families who were on a tract distribution project in the northern state of Orissa.

The three evangelistic teams had distributed several thousand Seventh Day Baptist tracts in towns of Orissa state not previously evangelized by our people. They came to the coastal town of Chandpara in the evening of October 28. The next day the storm deluged the area and they were unable to leave the town. An eighteen-foot tidal wave on the 29th and successive waves on the 30th apparently cost the lives of all the inhabitants. A high percentage of those lost in that catastrophe were refugees from East Pakistan, writes Mr. Rao.

Upon hearing of the loss of the evangelists with the others Mr. Rao determined to journey to the area to see if there was anything that could be done. It proved to be a futile trip. He took the mail train north from Nellore Thursday night, November 4. It did not go all the way to Cuttack station but terminated at Palara town. Mr. Rao caught a bus to Cuttack arriving there on November 6. He tried unsuccessfully to get to Chandpara town. He says that 30,000 people died there and the town was completely gone, the area still being covered with three feet of water. Since there were no survivors and nothing to identify the location of the town Mr. Rao returned to Nellore on November 10. The next day a meeting of the Conference Executive Committee was held. Feeling a responsibility to the families lost they voted unanimously to try to pay \$100 to each family. There was no indication in the report of the meeting as to how the Conference would raise the \$2,100. It is presumed that these men did not have life insurance as families in our country would have.

Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.

—Albert Einstein

The Bible Today

By Frank A. Sharp

For many years the Holy Bible has been one of the all-time best sellers and some years has topped the list of the most-purchased book-of-the-year.

The year 1971 is no exception. Recently the American Bible Society announced the distribution of millions of copies of *Good News for Modern Man*. Their most recent book, *Psalms for Modern Man*, is also greatly in demand.

The lively interest in the Bible is attested by the appearance of many new Bible translations in recent years. Among the new versions are the Old Testament portions of the *New English Bible* (NEB), the new *American Bible* (under Catholic sponsorship), and the *Jerusalem Bible*.

In 1971, a significant paraphrase, *The Living Bible* (Tyndale House and Doubleday), was completed by Dr. Kenneth Taylor and has received wide acceptance. *The Modern Language Bible* (Zondervan), a revision of the Berkeley Version, also appeared.

Perhaps even more significant are the large number of commentaries, dictionaries, and atlases that have been published recently.

Anyone who reads the Bible regularly or uses it to teach a class usually has questions about the interpretation, the meaning of words, geography, and the life of the times when the passage of Scripture was written.

New books interpreting the Bible are necessary in order to update the material. Scholars exploring the ancient sites of Palestine are daily uncovering new evidences of the culture, thought, and life of early Biblical times. This new information must be incorporated into the volumes of commentaries and Bible helps that are used by so many people.

One significant new book published this year by Abingdon Press is a large volume of 1,386 pages titled *The Interpreter's One-Volume Commentary on the Bible*.

In addition to the commentary prepared especially on each book of the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Apoc-

rypha, it includes general articles giving the history of Biblical interpretation, the geographical and historical setting of the Bible, how the literature of the Bible came into being, and several chapters on how to teach the Bible to children, youth, and adults.

The editor claims that the Abingdon volume is designed not only for ministers and students but is written in language that the average layman can understand.

Three reissued works fall into the Protestant evangelical tradition. These are *Smith's Dictionary of the Bible* (Baker Book House); *Matthew Henry's Commentary* (Revell); and *Ellicott's Bible Commentary* (Zondervan).

A recently announced Hermeneia series by Fortress Press (Lutheran) has issued its first two volumes on Colossians and Philemon.

A Cambridge series on the Old Testament and Apocrypha is authored primarily by British scholars. Three volumes are offered: the first a collection of *Old Testament Illustrations*; a commentary on Amos, Hosea, and Micah; and a study of First Samuel.

Historical, non-dogmatic approaches are found in an illustrated two-volume dictionary on Biblical personalities published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. *Who's Who in the Old Testament* is by Joan Comay, wife of Israeli's ambassador to Great Britain; *Who's Who in the New Testament* is by Ronald Brownrigg, an Anglican rector.

World Atlas of the Biblical World (World Publishing) by Denis Baly and A. D. Tushingham; a pictorial narration on *Jesus: History and Culture of the New Testament* (Herder and Herder), are other volumes available.

The above listing is not complete by any means but may illustrate the large number of current publications available today.

All of which points up the vitality of Biblical studies and may suggest that people today are eagerly seeking to find an answer to the meaning of life and guidance in the midst of the perplexing questions faced by many.

—ABNS

LET'S THINK IT OVER

When Will China Be Open?

Is Red China about to open its closed doors to the West? Can we hope that in a few years China will be back to normal and missionaries can go back to put together pieces of broken churches? Sure we can hope, but we must be careful not to predict or to jump to unwarranted conclusions because we want it to be that way. It is one thing for an American Ping-Pong team or an American President to make a visit to the Red Capital and quite another thing to allow the free exercise of the Christian religion.

We must be realistic as well as optimistic when it comes to Red China. That point is emphasized by Dr. K. Takaaki Aikawa, vice-president of Kanto Gakwin University in Japan, who is now visiting churches and denominational leaders in America.

Dr. Aikawa was asked if he anticipated much contact between the Christian people on the Chinese mainland after President Nixon visits Peking. He replied that he thought it would be a very long time, perhaps a hundred years, before a good relationship would be developed. Moreover, deeds, rather than words, will be the answer to influencing the Chinese people to embrace the Christian spirit.

Catholic Views on Abortion

Rosary College, a Catholic institution at River Forest, Ill., recently held a symposium on abortion at which panelists presented varying current Catholic viewpoints on the question. While the traditional position was generally favored, it was apparent that there is some room for divergence from it.

Dr. Bernard Ransil, member of the faculty of Harvard School of Medicine who has written a book on theoretical and historical problems relating to abortion, gave one of the five lectures. He stated, "The simplest way to solve the abortion controversy would be to repeal all abortion laws." His reasoning ran along this line:

"The medical profession is perfectly capable of licensing surgeons and keeping them in order. Catholic hospitals can

protect Catholics' consciences, and Protestant hospitals can protect Protestants' consciences. To ask a Roman Catholic to believe in the taking of any human life is wrong. To respect or endorse or pass a law approving such an act is to ask him to behave unethically. On the other hand, to pass a law restricting the actions of Protestants and humanitarians who believe differently in this matter is also asking them to behave unethically.

"It comes down to this: the abortion controversy is a crisis between different people who have different views of the good."

According to Dr. Ransil, some Catholics are attempting to elevate their attitude on abortion to the status of an absolute. "Catholic argumentation is polarizing this whole argument toward an absolute which is demolishing the very fine distinctions which must be made," he said.

Hatred of the Jews?

The Arab hatred of the Jews is well known. Some Christian Arabs seem to continue that hatred while others do not. Mrs. John van den Hoeven, wife of the warden of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem is an Arab who was taught by her Moslem relatives to hate the Jews, but she has overcome that feeling. She stated recently, "Quite a few Arab (Christian) believers hate the Jews. The fault lies with the English and American missionaries who didn't teach us that to love Christ is to deny hate."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

ALFRED STATION, N. Y.—Our church held its annual business meeting on Sunday evening, October 3, at which time the following officers were elected for the year 1971-72:

President, Lyle Sutton; vice-president, Mrs. Mae Lewis; secretary, Donald Van Horn; treasurer, Ronald Ellis. A special vote of thanks was given to Lloyd Pierce for serving as treasurer for the past ten years. The church voted to call Pastor Ed Sutton to serve us for another year.

The Union Industrial Society held its annual harvest sale and chicken dinner

on October 6. The ladies of the church had done sewing and baking for the sale; the Youth Fellowship sold candy. It was a very successful day.

The SDBYF sponsored an all church-Halloween party at the church. Everyone was required to at least wear a mask. There were people of all ages there—from babies to grandmothers.

The church's annual Planning Retreat is to be held on Sabbath, November 20, to make plans for the program of the church for 1972.

—Reporter

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—Our annual Family Retreat was held at Pacific Pines Camp during the weekend of September 9 to 11 and was well attended. On Friday evening an informal campfire service followed our shared fellowship meal. Sabbath morning we met in the outdoor chapel for the worship service, returning to the lodge for Sabbath School classes. The children met in the Craft Hall for class and later were taken for a hike. There was time throughout the weekend for informal discussion groups, sports, and relaxation. Sabbath services in Los Angeles were led by laymen of the congregation for those who were unable to attend the mountain retreat.

Two weeks later the choir had their own retreat leaving immediately after the Sabbath morning services and returning on Sunday. The choir has been "on vacation" during the summer months but special music has been arranged by the Music Committee for the weekly services. The retreat provided an ideal way in which to assemble for needed practice as we begin the fall program of the church.

For the past few weeks a volunteer group has been going to a convalescent hospital after choir rehearsal on Sabbath afternoons. The men and women there have shown deep appreciation to those who come to sing to them and to share experiences of God's love.

On Saturday night, October 9, members met at the church for supper followed by the yearly Planning Session. The church calendar for the new year was tentatively set up and buzz sessions were held. Numerous suggestions were

received and these will be brought to the annual church meeting in November for consideration and action.

The Los Angeles church was host to the Pacific Coast Association which convened October 15, 16, and 17 for its semiannual meeting. The theme chosen was, "For the Love of God" using the theme verse from 1 John 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

—Correspondent

Obituaries

JOHNSON.—Flora Gertrude, daughter of Edgar Orlando and Emily Sherburne Burdick, was born Oct. 6, 1880, in Walworth, Wis., and died at Mercy Hospital, Janesville, Wis., Oct. 10, 1971.

She was married to Dr. Harry M. Johnson who practiced dentistry at Walworth for many years. He preceded her in death. She was a long-time member of the Walworth Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Funeral services were conducted at the Walworth Funeral Home, October 12, by the Rev. Earl Cruzan. Interment was in the Walworth cemetery.

—E. C.

WILLIAMS.—Susie, daughter of Floren Lee and Lenora May Bond, was born in Roanoke, W. Va., Aug. 25, 1895, and died in Clarksburg, W. Va., Oct. 21, 1971.

She is survived by six sons and one daughter: R. Lee of Bridgeport, W. Va., Charles M., Ravenswood, W. Va., John F., North Loup, Nebr., James O. of Bridgeton, N. J., T. Dane of Lost Creek, W. Va., Leonard M., Lost Creek, and Lenora V. Russell of Williamstown, W. Va.; four brothers, Orson H. Bond of Daytona Beach, Fla., Orville B. Bond, Clarksburg, W. Va., Ian H. Bond, Chicago, Ill., L. Main Bond of Roanoke, W. Va.; two sisters, Miss Ada P. Bond of Lost Creek and Mrs. Ruth Randolph of Bristol, W. Va.; and sixteen grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Everett Williams, a son, Roxie, one sister, Lydia P. Stutler and one brother, Arthur Morrow Bond.

Susie was a member of the Roanoke Seventh Day Baptist Church and served faithfully in the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Lost Creek. By profession she was a nurse. The multitude who knew her give testimony to her love and compassion.

Farewell services were held in the Lost Creek church with interment in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Salem, W. Va. The Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel conducted the services.

—R. E. Z.

The Sabbath Recorder

WRONG NUMBER

By Eugene Lincoln

A surprised minister whose phone number was almost identical with that of a shoe repair shop heard a plaintive voice over the phone one day: "My boy has lost his sole. If I send him right over, can you take care of him? I told him he should be more careful. And he can't go to Sunday School tomorrow without it."

Numbers play an important part in our lives. Telephone numbers, auto license numbers, Social Security numbers, and myriads of others follow us all our lives, and a misplaced or wrong digit in any one of these can cause confusion. It is not uncommon for someone to find at retirement age that his deductions have been credited to someone else's account, all because someone somewhere along the line got a digit wrong. A letter with the wrong Zip Code number may be delayed in its delivery.

Our phone number is 745-9207. But suppose someone who did not like to dial the number "7" substituted the number "1" in its place. It is certain our phone would not ring! It seems that many Christians are afflicted with (if we may coin a word) *septophobia* — a fear of the number seven. While fear of the number thirteen is labeled pure superstition, this septophobia, especially when it concerns the divinely ordained seventh-day Sabbath, is looked upon with high regard by theologians in many church circles. "The old Jewish Sabbath has been nailed to the cross," they proclaim, "and we observe the first day of the week as the Lord's Day." They do not, however, quote any divine command to

substitute the first day for the seventh; nor do they explain why the Sabbath, which was "made for *man*," should be termed "Jewish."

Just as the Bzz, Bzz, Bzz "wrong number" tone is sometimes heard on our phones, we can discern "wrong number" tones in today's wanton lawlessness and lack of respect for authority. Can leaders who have no respect for God's laws expect their followers to have respect for either man's or God's laws?

The task of the Sabbathkeeping Christian is clear — to proclaim boldly before a world rushing down the wrong path the truths of God for our time, "that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations" (Psalm 67:2).

Words and Pictures

"A picture is worth a thousand words," is one of the most quoted sayings in journalism circles. Like many other quotations (some from the Bible) it is made to cover much more ground than was ever intended. This is called to mind by a sentence in a two-installment article in *Christianity Today* on "Literary Style in Religious Writing" by Calvin D. Linton, who earned his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Linton puts things in proper perspective: "Pictures are useful, as are gestures, diagrams, and examples; but one clear sentence is better than a thousand pictures in transferring an idea from one mind to another."

The expert goes on to remind us: "The limit of our intellectual activity, the very horizon of our mental habitation, is our vocabulary. We may feel an emotion, point to an object, or smell a smell without words; but we cannot think a thought unless we have the words to think with."



"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem"

Modern Jerusalem could not have been clearly in view to the psalmist when he wrote in Hebrew characters, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee" (Ps. 122:6), but it is only through modern Jerusalem that we can look back into the holy city of Bible times. To people on those rugged Judean hills nearly 2,000 years ago came the announcement by angels of the birth of the Prince of Peace. Not all Christians have the same view of the political situation in the Middle East but all must "pray for the peace of Jerusalem."