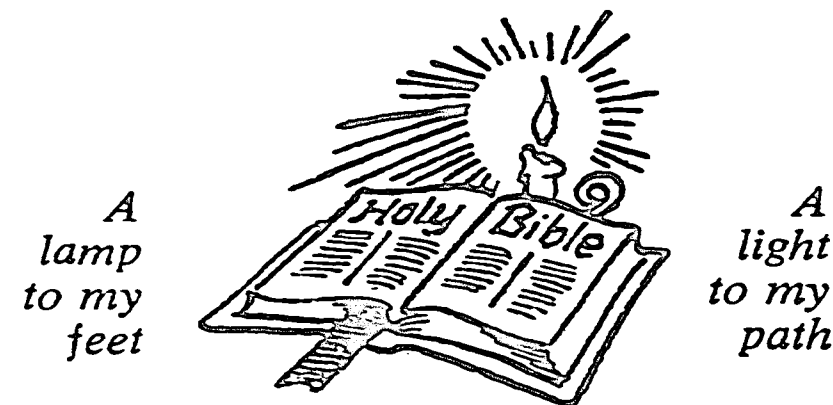


DAILY BIBLE READINGS
for January 1972



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

Love Is . . .

1—Sabbath. A Sabbath's Healing Touch. Luke 6:1-12

Our Compassionate Christ

2—Sun. The Call of Matthew. Matt. 9:9-17
3—Mon. The Example of Christ. Rom. 15:1-13
4—Tues. The Law of Love. James 2:8-13
5—Wed. Concern for Others. Gal. 6:1-10
6—Thurs. The Mercies of God. Ps. 103
7—Fri. The Sinful Woman Forgiven. Luke 7:36-50
8—Sabbath. The Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

Christ's Love and Man's Brokenness

9—Sun. Miracles at Capernaum. Luke 4:31-44
10—Mon. The Leper Cleansed. Luke 5:1-16
11—Tues. A Paralytic Healed. Luke 5:17-26
12—Wed. A Mind Restored. Luke 8:26-39
13—Thurs. The Ten Lepers. Luke 17:11-19
14—Fri. Good News for Needy Men. Is. 61:1-7
15—Sabbath. Wholeness on the Sabbath. Luke 13:10-17

What Price Discipleship?

16—Sun. Confessing Christ. Luke 9:18-27
17—Mon. Transfiguration and Transformation. Luke 9:28-43a
18—Tues. Lesson on Humility. Luke 9:43b-56
19—Wed. Commissioned Disciples. Luke 10:1-12

20—Thurs. The High Costs of Discipleship. Mark 10:35-45
21—Fri. The Great Refusal. Matt. 19:16-22
22—Sabbath. Obeying Christ's Authority. Mar. 1:21-28

Facing Financial Responsibilities

23—Sun. The Peril of Wealth. Luke 18:18-30
24—Mon. A Parable About Stewardship. Luke 19:11-26
25—Tues. The Folly of Anxious Care. Luke 12:13-34
26—Wed. Lazarus and the Aristocrat. Luke 16:19-31
27—Thurs. Stewards' Faithfulness. 1 Cor. 4:1-7
28—Fri. Christian Liberality. 2 Cor. 8:1-9
29—Sabbath. Identifying with People. Luke 4:16-30
Christ in the City

30—Sun. Lament for Peace in the City. Luke 13:31-35
31—Mon. "City Man Deserts Cronies." Luke 19:1-10

Quips and Quotes

Dr. Warren C. Young, professor of theology and Christian philosophy, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, recently indulged in a paraphrase of 1 Peter 2:18 f, written especially for students.

Young's revised version of the RSV and Phillips — 1 Peter 2:18 f: "Students, submit yourselves to your professors with proper respect — not only to the good and kind, but also to the overbearing. For you to do something real nice, man, when you endure pain in the sight of God even though you know you are suffering from unjust grades.

"After all, it is no credit to you if you patiently bear when you get the poor grades you know you richly deserve.

"On the other hand if you work hard but still get low grades, and can still accept it without griping all over campus, you are doing something really cool in the sight of God . . . (Here endeth the paraphrase)."

—Let's Talk

The Sabbath Recorder

Peace
On
Earth

Good
Will
To Men

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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Honoring His Birth

The major emphasis on the annual celebration of the birth of Christ, commonly called Christmas was in our last issue, but in this one, dated December 25 and perhaps reaching more than half of its readers before that date, we want to have something about honoring His birth.

There was a thoughtful article on the Missions Page last week calling us to put first things first on a popular holiday that falls this year on the Sabbath. It is a test of religious loyalty on which we should strive for at least a passing grade. We are still thinking about that conflict between our traditional family observance of Christmas and the clear-cut Biblical teaching of the sacred use of the Sabbath.

Let us ask one more thoughtful question. If Christmas is the day on which we honor Christ's birth that recognition implies following His example and precepts. The question is, what would Jesus do? It can be an uncomfortable question if our inclination is to follow the world on this Sabbath rather than to follow Christ. It is true that Jesus let some things like healing temper the strict rest requirements of the Sabbath. But can you imagine that Christ would approve skipping worship in church on the Sabbath because Christmas falls on the Sabbath? Would He not say that is all the more reason for worship?

Another uncomfortable comparison might be made. In the Catholic religion Christmas is a day of holy obligation. A good Catholic feels that he has to go to mass on December 25 regardless of what day of the week it is. Can a good Seventh Day Baptist say that he shouldn't be expected to go to church on the Sabbath if that day is Christmas?

We like to think that neither Catholics nor any other denomination has more devotion to the important tenets of their faith than we have. Are we proving it? There is an expression in the New Testament in the familiar King James Version, "... for that Sabbath day was an high day" (John 19:31). This Sabbath Day is something special; it is "an high day," worthy of more, not less, sacredness. Let's remember these thoughts the next time there is a conflict of interest — ours and God's.

What Are Churches for?

Not every church organization or church building comes close to fulfilling its divine purpose. There is a temptation or tendency to make the local church an end in itself like a glorified (or not very glorified) social club. This is in sharp distinction from the New Testament church where every member was expected to be a worker according to his ability and opportunity.

Some have been trying to recapture the emphasis of apostolic times by stressing the ministry of the laity — with less than complete success. James Taylor, president of the Baptist Union of Scotland, gathered up these ideas in a conference address on the ministry in which he challenged the church to abolish the laity. By this he meant that every layman must consider himself a minister if the church is to fulfill its God-given function. He contends that in New Testament times there was no priestly distinction between ministers and others; they were all ministers — the division was that of function.

It is one thing to be involved in church work and perhaps quite another thing to be involved in the real work of the church, which is outside the building at the crossroads of life. Granting that in large churches there has to be a certain amount of work done to keep the organization and the building functioning, there are too many cases where this is done at the expense of our ministering to the world — which has to be largely the work of the many members rather than the one pastor. Mr. Taylor stated it thus:

"The temptation must be resisted of making our churches elaborate sponges to soak up all the energy and Christian activity of every member. The main purpose of the church lies outside her gates in the community and the world.

"What we must never forget is that preeminently the local church makes contact with the community, not through its ordained minister (who is often, by nature of his position, insulated from that community to a large degree), not through special services and missions (which seldom make much impact, in depth, on the community), but through

the penetration, on a Monday, of its lay ministers."

Churches do not exist so that a pastor can have a congregation to preach to, but to train the members in evangelistic and other ministries. The Scottish preacher in his emphasis on the ministry of the laity left plenty of meaningful work for the ordained leader.

"The responsibility of training his people will call for the dedication of all his gifts, the full development of his wisdom, a deepening well of spiritual experience and a carefully nourished discipline of prayer and study, not only of the Word of God but also of the world, its culture, its thoughts, and its problems

"The old idea, best buried, is that the members of the church are the pastor's helpers. I am pleading for the roles to be reversed. The pastor should be the helper, encourager, and trainer of the members for the exercise of their ministry in the world

"His responsibility is not to draw attention to himself, but to watch for undeveloped powers and to draw them out in the people committed to his charge. His responsibility, as coach of the local church, is to do with every member what his Master did with a little group of ordinary men who eventually were charged with turning the world upside down."

The local church is not to be downgraded but upgraded. If the field is the whole world, as our Lord told His disciples, then the local church is the home base from which the world is reached. This is what Mr. Taylor called the church to become:

"It should be a place where Christian people can be trained and prepared for their confrontation with the world.

"It should be designed and thought of as a launching pad from which members can be thrust out by the Spirit into the world of men.

"The local church should be designed and thought of as a theological college where our lay ministers are equipped and trained for their ministry in the world . . .

"The local church will be the base where the battle wounds of our people

are healed, where their faith is strengthened, where their vision is clarified, where their understanding is deepened, where their own questions and doubts receive sympathetic attention and where the hard questions thrown at them by the world are honestly examined and the Scriptures studied."

Church Life Inventory

There are many attempts in the closing days of the year to call the year back in retrospect and see what has happened or what has been accomplished. Editors try to decide which were the most outstanding news coverages of the year. Economists analyze the financial trends. Politicians try to convince their constituents that they have served well and ought to be returned to office at the next election. Church leaders look for the bright pages of local and cooperative achievement in what is broadly called the Lord's work.

If we had made sufficient research into things that are hard to evaluate we would make some pronouncements on how things have gone in our local churches and in the denomination as a whole, but we cannot claim the wisdom to do this. Perhaps it is better to ask each church to make its own evaluation, just as most of us do individually.

When we take a good look at the past twelve months of local church life, we probably see some disturbing things. That is true of the churches that have made the most growth, had the strongest programs or the greatest evidences of revival, just as it is true of those others who have had a net loss in membership and have struggled along without the desired leadership.

The situation of the whole congregation is likely to run a fairly close parallel to what you determine to be your own spiritual level for the year. There are exceptions, of course. You may have been about the only member of the church who can speak of rich spiritual experiences and growth in the faith, but it isn't likely that you have done well and all the rest badly. Furthermore, if you or I had a new experience and the birth of a new love for the Lord during the year it is proved by what it has done

MEMORY TEXT

"... he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matt. 2:4b-6).

in the lives of others. Love doesn't stand still or stand alone; it encompasses others and creates a nucleus.

There have been some bright spots in your church life this year, haven't there? Not as many as desired, but some. You can rejoice in certain services rendered in the name of Christ and appreciated. Some life was touched by Christ. A witness was borne; tracts were given out; seed was sown. We could wish that harvests were predictable at the end of the calendar, church or denominational year. They are not, but seed sown, cultivated, and watered is in the process of eventually bringing forth fruit. God has promised. Unfortunately the devil is also working to smother the seedlings or otherwise try to thwart the purpose of God for the individual and the group.

Much good has happened where you are and where I am. Let us keep our eyes on Christ and move forward in faith.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The united effort of church members in these closing days of 1971 to contribute enough to meet the needs of Our World Mission.

2) A strong sense of gratitude for all the blessings and celebrations of this 300th year since the founding of our first American church at Newport, December 23, 1671.

3) A thoughtful assessment for our spiritual and material resources and a new determination to use them to the glory of God.

4) A personal effort to win some soul to Christ this week so that the two of us may finish the year with joy.

A Time for Boldness

Making a wider distribution of Scriptures without note and comment and getting the Word to the peoples of the world in the languages they speak continues to be the primary twofold purpose of the American Bible Society. This was the reassuring message conveyed by ABS officers and staff members at the annual advisory committee meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, November 28 and 29. On the occasion they called attention to phenomenal demands for Scriptures at the present time, especially in Africa and Asia.

Challenged by the theme, "The Bold Ones," noting such passages as Acts 4:13, 30 and Philippians 1:8, some two hundred representatives in attendance including your general secretary were impressed that Christians of our time might well emulate the early Christians who after being endowed with the Holy Spirit responded boldly to the Great Commission of Christ.

Goals for the '70's announced by the society include: completing of a Today's English Version (TEV) of the entire Bible, helping supply Scriptures for wide distribution as a part of the Key '73 interdenominational evangelistic effort, translating of a Bible to be known as Today's Chinese Version (TCV), and providing additional versions for other ethnic peoples and cultural groups. The ABS now works with languages spoken by eighty percent of the total global population and Bible Societies around the world are now providing portions of Scriptures spoken by ninety-eight percent of the people in the world.

In response to the appeal recently made for monies to help in making a wide distribution of Bibles in Africa, the Sabbath School of the sister church in Los Angeles is to be commended in that it has voted to contribute \$500. We are sure that many other churches, Sabbath Schools, groups and individuals will generously respond adding to the company of "The Bold Ones."

"You have asked us to see that the Scriptures are made available to every man on earth in his own language and at

a price he can afford," asserted Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, ABS general secretary, "So it is that we boldly ask our Bible Society family to provide us with the necessary funds to carry out the mandate you have given us With your prayers and support to undergird us, we will become "much more bold to speak the word without fear" (Philippians 1:14 KJV).

—Alton L. Wheeler

The Book of Job in TEV

The newest book in Today's English Version is what many believe to be the oldest book of the Bible, the Book of Job. It will be recalled that Psalms is the only other portion of the Old Testament now available in this popular simple language edition. Since very few of our readers have had an opportunity to purchase this book we would like to present here a portion of the message of the young man Elihu to the afflicted patriarch. It speaks to us.

35

- 1-2 It is not right, Job, for you to say that you are innocent in God's sight,
- 3 or to ask God, "How does my sin affect you?
It has done me no good not to sin."
- 4 I am going to answer you and your friends too.
- 5 Look at the sky! See how high the clouds are!
- 6 If you sin, that does no harm to God. If you do many wrongs, does that affect him?
- 7 Do you help God by being so righteous? There is nothing God needs from you.
- 8 It is your fellow-men who suffer from your sins,
and the good you do helps them.
- 9 When men are oppressed they groan;
they cry for someone to save them.
- 10 But they don't turn to God, their Creator,
who gives them strength in their darkest hours.
- 11 They don't turn to God, who makes us wise,
wiser than any animal or bird.
- 12 They cry for help, but God doesn't answer,

- because they are proud and evil men.
 13 It is useless for them to cry out;
 Almighty God does not see or hear them.
 14 Job, you say you can't see God,
 but wait patiently—your case is before him.
 15 You think that God does not punish,
 that he pays no attention to sin.
 16 It is useless for you to go on talking;
 It is clear you don't know what you are saying.

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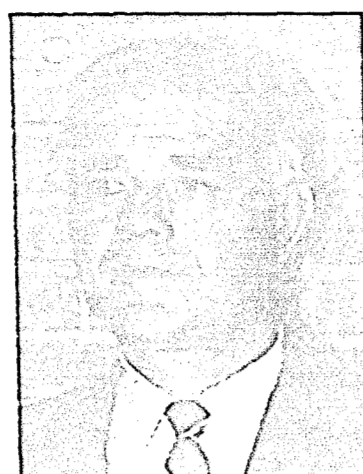
1 Elihu went on talking.

Elihu

- 2 Be patient and listen a little longer
 to what I am saying on God's behalf.
 3 My knowledge is wide; I will use what
 I know
 to show that God, my Creator, is just.
 4 Nothing I say to you is false;
 you see before you a truly wise man.
 5 How strong God is! He despises no one;
 there is nothing he doesn't understand.
 6 He does not let sinners live on,
 and he always treats the poor with justice.
 7 He protects those who are righteous;
 he lets them rule like kings,
 and lets them be honored forever.
 8 But if people are bound in chains,
 suffering for what they have done,
 9 God shows them their sins and their
 pride.
 10 He makes them listen to his warning
 to turn away from evil.
 11 If they obey God and serve him,
 they live out their lives in peace and
 prosperity.
 12 But if not, they will die in ignorance
 and go to the world of the dead.
 13 Those who are godless keep on being
 angry,
 and even when punished, they don't
 pray for help.
 14 They die while they still are young,
 worn out by a life of disgrace.
 15 But God teaches men through suffering
 and uses distress to open their eyes.

A recognized modern scientist has said
 that a drop of science leads to unbelief,
 but that a whole cupful makes pious.

—Dieter Heimke, Munich



Seventh Day Baptists in Transition

By Leland E. Bond

Two recent articles in the *Sabbath Recorder*, "Churches in Transition" by Dr. Lewis H. V. May, M.D. (Oct. 16, 1971) and "Ministers in Transition" by Freda Fatato (Nov. 20, 1971) indicate that our churches are in a crisis related to professional leadership and that this crisis could have its origin within the congregations themselves. These articles have inspired some serious thinking. Too many of our churches are without leadership and the problem is compounded by the fact that many of our trained leaders have turned to other professions. I wonder if we would dare to probe for reasons as to why some of our trained ministers are not serving our churches as pastors. Can leadership be recruited and improved?

The problem is not unique to Seventh Day Baptists. However, we cannot wait for someone else to find a solution for us. Professional leadership is needed to maintain and magnify the witness of any group. I believe that many of our fellowships and churches have potential if proper leadership were available. A church needs leadership which laymen cannot give. Leadership that provides impetus, motivation, and inspiration to a congregation. I believe that our churches would grow if our total movement were geared to a Spirit-filled thrust with dynamic leadership.

One cannot overlook the many inadequacies of the church and its members. So very much is expected of our leadership and so very little is given by so few of the laity. We tie our ministers' hands in so many ways. We constantly challenge their every motive with our own pettiness and narrow-mindedness. We often expect our dedicated servants to do without many of the necessities of normal

living. Can dynamic leadership overcome these handicaps?

How thankful I am that these two writers shared their different, yet important, points of view. Obviously we cannot be in complete harmony in our thinking. Dr. May asks, "How does a church progress or even survive without professional leadership?" Mrs. Fatato asks, "Are we willing to be lead?" Each of these individuals knows what he means by his question but do we really know what prompted him to ask these specific questions? I doubt if we really do and we would probably be surprised if we could know the real meanings. Do we dare to look at this problem together from the point of view of the minister, the layman, the church, and the denomination? As Mrs. Fatato pointed out, "God needs and wants us all." Can we discover how we can all work together for Him?

Are we brave enough to come face to face with the problem of leadership for our churches as well as the problem of an insensitive and nonsupportive laity? Would we dare hold a "Ministers-Laymen Conference" and openly look at our problems? Could we then turn our findings into constructive action?

The "Introspect-Prospect" conferences held by Commission during 1970 clearly pointed out to me another related problem. Our denomination needs to clearly define its purpose for existence and to develop a coordinated thrust on the part of the laity, ministers, churches, and denominational agencies which will result in growth. Maybe we need to look to our sister conferences for some of the answer. To what can they attribute their growth and development? What do they believe is their purpose for existence? Do they have something which we need? How important is leadership to their development?

I would strongly support Mrs. Fatato's conclusion for a solution to our problems. "The answer is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master. When we come to this conclusion we know that we must be dedicated, humble, willing to be led, to assume responsibility, and to pray without ceasing. We must stop thinking about the materialistic value as we are so prone

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—Rex E. Zwiebel

Pastors' Continuing Education

Seventh Day Baptist pastors in the North Central Association who are interested in advanced training may order information about learning events and resources by writing to the Wisconsin Continuing Education Council for Ministry, Box 5070, Fox Bluff, Madison, WI 53705. Ask for their Fall Bulletin on Continuing Education for Ministry.

A "Continuing Education Resource Guide" published by the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio (1971, 19pp.) is a useful listing for clergy and other professional church workers, noting colleges/universities, seminaries, and para-academic resources. Address: 412 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

(These notices were published in the *Newsletter* of the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry, December, 1971.)

COMING NEXT WEEK

The next issue of this magazine dated January 1 will be edited in its entirety by Leon R. Lawton, executive vice-president of the Missionary Society, and will be a mission-emphasis issue. Other departmental material will be omitted to increase this emphasis. This special with a different color comes to subscribers at no extra cost.

The January 15 issue is expected to feature articles prepared under the direction of Jared Van Horn and the Committee on Christian Social Action.

to do and worry about our spiritual support and be ready to serve in whatever capacity is needed. Remember that no task was too menial for Christ. Are we ready to know Him? Really know Him?"

Is it time for Seventh Day Baptists to transcend the barriers that stagnate them, to be transformed into a body of believers dedicated to the cause of transmitting God's purpose for our existence into a world in need of spiritual and social transition?



Enter into the Stream of the Spirit and Abide There!

Don Richards

The dominant need of the hour is to enter into the stream of the Spirit, and to abide there. God has broken into the human scene with great love and power. He has released human life from the bondage of Satan, selfishness, sin, and death—forces that enslave a person as well as the whole human race. God waits anxiously for men to awaken to the spiritual possibilities of life and power by entering into the stream of His Spirit.

Through the centuries God's activity has been along the lines of a master plan, which, when completed, will restore the fallen, sinful human race to a renewed spiritual state characterized by life and truth. Such a plan called for the advent of Jesus into the world. God burst into the human scene in the form of flesh and blood — a mystery hard to fully understand and appreciate.

From these seemingly simple new beginnings God's love and power were amply demonstrated during the life and ministry of Jesus. And we shall never cease to wonder about the truth declared in two of His titles, "Son of God" and "Son of Man." Both describe the unique relationships of Jesus. On the God-side, Jesus demonstrated the kind of life and service acceptable to God; on the human side He showed the kind of life made possible through yieldedness and obedience to God.

But God's master plan included the cross and resurrection. The cross demonstrates the sinfulness of mankind as well as the love of God. The resurrection shows the power of God not only toward Jesus, but to the spirit-filled Christian today.

God's plan included the church, composed of persons committed to Christ and commissioned to be God's peculiar people within the world during this age. The disciples, whose faith for awhile was paralyzed by human reason, became the nucleus of a Spirit-filled band, who ultimately turned the world upside down. Jesus, though absent in bodily form, was a living reality and active force changing men and society through the church.

The stage had been set and drama of life begun whereby men, estranged from God because of sin, could become "sons of God." All the necessary provisions were made possible through Jesus, and the invitation issued—"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). It was, and is, an invitation to enter into the stream of His Spirit and abide there.

But when, where and how do we enter it?

It is frustrating to desire passage on a nearby freeway, and not find the access route. One may keep wandering trying to find it. Or directions may be sought by consulting someone who knows the area, or a road map.

The Bible is our spiritual road map, giving directions in how to know God and enter into the spiritual stream of His life and activity. Spirit-filled Christians are always happy to point the way to Jesus, giving not only the facts about him, but being willing to pray and assist each person into a living relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstance or at any given moment in time. The inner per-

sonal attitude, not outer status, is crucial. It is necessary that the person realize something is wrong with him (sin); that he can't help himself, but he can count on God's forgiveness and help.

The access route is always one of faith. We "must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). In John 1:12 we read, "But as many as received him (Jesus), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." Faith is acting upon the trustworthiness of God and a conviction that He will do everything promised in His Word. A simple heartfelt prayer of confession of sin and need, coupled with an invitation for Jesus to live His life in him, initiates on the human side a whole series of spiritual happenings. Cleansing from sin and being born into the family of God is a supernatural experience which releases the person from the bondage of sin, darkness, and death. The positive forces of light, love, and truth become the new motivating forces released by God into personal life and experience.

At this point in a person's experience, a twofold requirement arises. On the one hand, there are the adjustments necessary in one's thought and life which requires a reevaluation of past, present, and future. Every aspect of one's life and experience must be refocused in the light of a growing understanding of the Spirit.

Ingredients which foster spiritual growth and understanding include systematic Bible study, prayer, fellowship with God's people, and a humble but joyous sharing of personal God-given experiences. A personal discipline of time and energy is required. Pressures and demands made upon the Christian must not crowd out the Spirit, and may become a further means of spiritual grace. The church and/or small groups may contribute much to this personal growth.

On the other hand, it is possible to be led out from the main stream of the Spirit's activity. Instead of a triumphant life it is possible to become stuck in the mud of personal sin through yielding to

desire, or outside pressures. Or one may be sidetracked by becoming involved in side issues of the Christian faith and witness. Whenever this happens, confession of sin is required (1 Jn. 1:9), along with an appropriation of God's cleansing and restored Spirit.

The fuller life of the Spirit unfolds a step at a time and as rapidly as the believer is able to respond in faith and obedience to knowledge already known. Since spiritual energy is expended in the process of fighting life's battles and in serving the Lord renewal of the Spirit must take place daily. One must be willing to faithfully follow Jesus, counting not the cost according to human standards.

A fuller life of the Spirit is always a step of faith and, for some believers, realized following a prayer requesting God's fullness. Others experience a greater awareness of God through thanksgiving and praise. Still others personally claim a Bible promise and act upon it, thus discovering anew the reality of God's presence and power through answered prayer. Some Christians experience a greater control by the Spirit through the prayers of others, and perhaps the laying on of hands. Personal desire becomes crucial for all who enter into the fullness of God's Spirit. And it's helpful to remember that it is God who grants His spiritual gifts according to His will to each person.

The dominant need of the hour is to enter into the stream of the Spirit, to abide there, and be used by God in showing others the way into a fuller, more meaningful life. I trust that as you have read these paragraphs, you have been challenged and motivated to enter into this stream of God's Spirit by faith in Jesus, with a desire to live and serve Him in the fullness of His Spirit. May your every step be a "walk in the Spirit."

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for January 1, 1972

LOVE IS . . .

Lesson Scripture: Luke 6:27-38.

Voices at Christmas

I spent a lot of money
 For friends at Christmastime,
 But when it came to missions,
 I didn't give a dime.

When Christmas was all over,
 I reckoned what I'd spent,
 It was so vast and large a sum,
 I could not but repent.

For it just seemed I heard that morn
 A far-off mother say,
 "How long ago was Jesus born
 To take our sins away?"

Her words began to haunt my heart
 For it had grown so cold.
 My children had the gospel light
 But hers were still untold.

I vowed that day that I would give
 And work with all my might
 To win a lost and dying world
 From sin and heathen night.

—By Dr. Fred Jarvis, veteran missionary

Praise to God

"Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God"

1—for the presence and power of God in our lives and the daily opportunity to be His witness

2—for His forgiveness and patience and continual love calling us to live a full and purposeful life to His glory

3—for those who have received Christ into their hearts and have taken the first steps in obedience, fellowship and service

4—for our missionaries, in Guyana, Jamaica, and Malawi, who share His love with those in need and encourage local believers in their witness and work

5—for the faith and vision of the friends who have given sacrificially so that the ministry given us as a people of God may continue and grow

6—for God's continued guidance to those on the Board of Managers of your Missionary Society as they seek to be

sensitive to needs and open to opportunities afforded us in these days

7—for sister conferences and churches in a growing number of lands where God's Word is being read and believed and individuals coming to a like faith seek our fellowship, prayers, and help in their growing witness

8—for missionary pastors who seek more effectively to make known His truth in urban and rural areas, leading and training those in the local fellowship to exercise and find the joy of service for the Lord

9—for the perfect gift of Jesus Christ, His Son, our Savior, who has brought us life, hope, love, joy, and all that gives our days meaning and purpose

Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God!

"With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of His name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to Him."

—Hebrews 13:15, 16 (Living Bible)

To God be the glory!

Jesus and Today's Youth

By Rev. David C. Pearson

Many of today's youth are expressing fascination with Jesus. Some of this interest is genuine; some is not. Jesus is communicating with many in no uncertain terms. His voice is coming through, and His love is being felt. Many are finding Him a most worthy recipient of their love, and love Him with a passion. Why not? This Jesus is very *special!*

Recently it has been my privilege to meet with youth in California, Oregon, and Washington. It required courage to meet with one group in California, which has not recognized their need of a preacher. They listened, though at times looked away. A cigarette, probably marijuana, was passed about held in tongs that it might be smoked to its very end. At one point a cloud of white smoke came my way uninvited.

A petite blonde whose face appeared so cold and so distant asked me what I

meant by being saved. An explanation followed as did also the realization that theological terminology is not readily understood by many and ought to be used very sparingly.

A male member of the group could not see that Jesus would be the answer to his problems. He spoke of the lack of parental love, of unemployment, and of the problem of war. It was said that if Jesus were to walk the streets today preaching peace, He would be shot down. The writer was privileged to point out that Jesus was real and that He could minimize one's problems. They were told that God loved them.

Elsewhere it was my privilege to meet with those who were "high" on Jesus. It was delightful to attend two prayer meetings led by Peter Morris. These were largely Share and Prayer Sessions in which people simply opened their hearts to God and each other. Sometimes prayer requests would accumulate to two or three before heads would bow. At other times the weight of a single request was sufficient to call forth prayer. Such sessions were found warm and alive, difficult sometimes to close.

One young adult in reading a Scripture passage felt the compelling urge to share his newly found treasure. Picking up the phone he dialed his pastor, and read to him the words of God. Another, though married and having a family, finds time to further his education at a nearby college. He finds his fellow students a ready parish.

These examples speak of more than mere enthusiasm. These people have entered into a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. It tells on them, shows in their faces, and is revealed in their lives. If Jesus can get through to today's youth, what of the rest of us? Maybe, there is hope for us! O, that He might speak to us too, and be heard, that we might respond in a most genuine, sincere, and thorough manner. Then our lives will take on new dimensions, and we too, will become "Jesus People."

Week of Prayer

The first full week of the new year, January 2-8, 1972, is designated as "A Week of Prayer for Seventh Day Baptists." The special booklet written by Mrs. R. T. (Doris) Fetherston has been distributed to churches in this land and to churches around the world where individuals and groups will be joining together under the theme "Workmen Approved of God."

As we join together let us bear in mind the call given on the first page of the booklet:

"As Seventh Day Baptist Christians around the world unite in this week of prayer, we have faith that God through the Holy Spirit will work in us to accomplish several things:

"1. He will create in us a spirit of fellowship and caring, making us each concerned that all may be effective and blessed in serving Him.

"2. He will strengthen our desire to choose and cooperate with leaders who are Spirit led.

"3. He will call out young people from among us to whom we can give support and encouragement as they take places of leadership.

"4. He will make us more aware of His presence in everything around us each day.

"5. He will open our eyes to situations where the healing and redeeming power of His love is needed and give us the grace and wisdom to act in meeting these needs.

"6. He will give us wisdom and strength to be peacemakers in every area of our lives.

"7. He will teach us how to worship and commune with him so that we can go forth to be instruments of His Spirit in the world."

Whether you have available one of the booklets or not, would you as an individual join in special prayer on these days that the above experiences might be ours as a people of God?

Part of any real prayer is also praise! In the accompanying article we would challenge you in the words of Scripture: "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God"

Attention All Youth It's December Already!

You have seen fliers at your church and the news is spreading fast. Yes, the Summer Christian Service Corps Training Session will be held in Euless, Texas (near Dallas). The session will include one week of training with Seventh Day Baptist leaders (June 6-11) and a second week (June 12-17) attending the Explo '72. Explo is being sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ and will be featuring many outstanding Christian leaders, including Billy Graham. This is a unique opportunity and in order to meet the registration deadlines for Explo, we have set a definite deadline for registration with SCSC as JANUARY 15, 1972. Please

make note of this date. Keep watch for more information about the possibility of each worker's contributing a small amount toward his registration.

Then comes the real excitement of sharing these experiences with others throughout the summer. The evaluation session will be held August 1, at Camp Paul Hummel in the Colorado Rockies.

Have you made the fantastic discovery of serving Christ through SCSC? Send your application today to the Rev. Alton Wheeler, secretary, General Conference, Box 868, Plainfield, N. J. 07061.

Join in Christ's great adventures. You would like to, wouldn't you? Then act, today.

Jean Jorgensen and Jennie Wells
Women's Board
Social Relations Committee

SPECTRUM Faces Death

Spectrum, the successor to the International Journal of Religious Education, is sentenced to death as of December 1972 unless some greater distribution and usefulness is discovered very soon.

October 25, 1971, at Seabury House in Greenwich, Conn., David Clarke represented Seventh Day Baptists in a discussion of *Spectrum's* future. Moravians, Episcopalians, American Baptists, Church of God (Anderson), Methodist (AMEZ), Friends, and Presbyterians were each represented by a delegate also.

Harold Martin, present *Spectrum* editor, answered questions from the group. That several denominations have their own publications in this field of Christian education is chiefly the cause for *Spectrum's* plight.

Present use, criticism, or suggestion regarding *Spectrum* is invited from Seventh Day Baptists. Send your analysis to our board at Alfred Station, NY 14803. Any quick response on how certain articles have helped your education program or leadership ability may give a clue to those considering *Spectrum's* future. Or if you wish, you could send ideas direct to Harold Martin, Room 712, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.

The current issue of *Spectrum* has several articles on teaching religion in the public schools, including a section on "where to go for help on religion and public education." The "Scope" section very helpfully reports on recent events in Christian education among the churches. "Media" covers a wide selection of audiovisuals, books, learning techniques with brief analysis, and addresses for further information or ordering. A "Source" unit in each issue gives information in briefer form of a wide range of teaching materials. Worship and discussion ideas for children and youth still are a regular part of the *Journal's* successor.

Religious Teacher Institute

At Indiana University in Bloomington, July 3-28, 1972, "Teaching the Bible in Secondary English" will be taught to sixty-five junior and senior high school teachers of English. These sixty-five teachers will be selected from more than 600 applicants all across the country who asked before this Christmas to get into this program.

Headed by Dr. James S. Ackerman, the program has mushroomed in popularity in the last five years. He is ably assisted

(Continued on page 14)

The Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church



Our church is growing and becoming more active with several younger families, which we feel is a good sign. Regular meetings held for one and all are the Sabbath Eve vesper at 7 p.m., the morning worship at 10 a.m., and Sabbath School at 11 a.m. An all-church fellowship dinner is held after services on the third Sabbath of each month, including a brief program usually of denominational interest.

The Sabbath School earned the Bronze Certificate and Plaque this year. A monthly Sabbath School workers' meeting is held. The White Christmas gifts this year are divided in three parts — money will go for tapes for the Rev. Leroy Bass, food items which are collected each December go for food baskets distributed by the Daytona Community Christmas Club, and gift items for men and women are collected to send through the local mental health organization to the state hospital.

The pastor has an older youth class which is an enthusiastic group. They have a retreat at least four times a year. They did an excellent job this past year helping promote our termite riddance program. At present they have little church banks saving toward their White Christmas gift which will be divided equally between Youth Camp work in Guyana,

S. A., and work for retarded children here in the Daytona area. This group put on the service October 30, Youth Sabbath.

Our Church Aid holds a dinner at noon on the first Wednesday of each month which is attended by men as well as women. The dinner is followed by a program of devotion and business meeting. This group supports many local benevolent causes. They are a part of the local yearly Chain of Witness programs and the Church Women United. A work meeting is held at least once a month and the women work on lap robes throughout the year for local nursing homes. They make layettes for Church World Service, knit leprosy bandages, make clothes for the local Head Start program, and make things for the now annual bazaar. This year the bazaar was held November 18 with more than \$200 taken in. The aid also sells note paper and stationery of several types throughout the year. While the women are sewing, the men are often doing needed work around the church property.

The Advisory Council has made plans accepted by the church for two special periods of evangelism. The Rev. David Pearson, missionary on furlough from Malawi, Africa, will be with us for evangelistic meetings Dec. 12 to 18. We will

again have an SCSC team at Easter time to work with those who come to our community.

The Southeastern Association's Christian Education Committee is made up of members of our church and the group meets the third Wednesday of each odd numbered month. We have sent out questionnaires to try and learn more about our sister churches and plan to send more correspondence which we hope to be a sharing of ideas of the different churches.

The Fair-to-Middlers have a pot luck supper at 6 p.m. the second Sabbath night of each month. Afterwards the pastor leads a short unique Bible study, each time presented a different way, and this is followed by various games and good fellowship.

An all-church social is held one Sabbath night a month, as an oyster roast one month, housewarming for someone, beach picnic, Halloween party, etc. Young and old enjoy the fun.

The janitor work of the church is done by a different family each month. Our bulletins are sponsored by members and friends of the church to help stretch our budget. A monthly newsletter is sent out from the church telling the events to take place, the church's past activity, and news about our people.

—Marion C. Van Horn

Religious Teacher Institute

(Continued from page 12)

by college and high school teachers from all sorts of schools across the nation. Dr. Thayer Warshaw of Newton High School in Massachusetts is associate director and has been associated with the Indiana program in its rapid growth. Both men presented their goals and methods to the recent meeting of the Department of Educational Development of the National Council of Churches.

No standard curriculum is recommended in the Indiana institute, but rather each student surveys in detail many curricula and then develops a written unit or special project adapted to his style and the needs of his school and

community. Each student is given help in selecting media to support the teaching and is provided resources for producing slides or tapes of his own.

The summer institute covers: background to the Bible, the Bible as literature, the Bible in literature, the Bible in the classroom. Staff of Indiana University comes from the Department of English, Fine Arts, Religious Studies, Music and the Centers on Audiovisuals and English Curriculum Studies.

Free room, board, tuition and a \$50 book allowance is provided each student accepted, thanks to the Lilly Foundation.

If you know of any junior or senior high English teacher who might be interested, it would be well to have them phone Dr. Ackerman at Bloomington, Ind. (812-337-7086). If you or they can't get into the '72 institute, you will hopefully be among the first for the '73 session. Syllabus, philosophy, and explanations on teaching the Bible in public schools are available from the S.D.B. Board of Christian Education, or Indiana University, Ballantine Hall 644, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

LET'S THINK IT OVER

Unionism in Vietnam

We hear much talk among liberals that the people of South Vietnam would be just as well off under the rule of North Vietnam. One indication to the contrary is the relative situation in regard to labor organization. South Vietnam (perhaps because of American connections) has a free union movement with 500,000 members. It is not so in the Communist North. With respect to the situation in Vietnam, union leaders ask a simple question: "What will happen to you if you go to Hanoi and try to start a free trade union movement?" The answer: "You'll be shot." There isn't much more to say on that subject.

Unions, called brotherhoods, may not come up to the full measure of Christian brotherhood, but they have enough fellow feeling as to want no part of a regime that shoots their brothers. So says an AFL-CIO publication, *The Machinist*.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for November 1971

	November	11 mos.	11 mos.		November	11 mos.	11 mos.
	Treasurer's		Boards'		Treasurer's		Boards'
Adams Ctr NY ..\$	257.00	1,249.14	10.00	Milton Jct WI ..	55.00	1,020.60	25.00
Albion WI	64.18	777.01	25.00	Monterey CA		100.00	
Alfred NY	745.80	6,217.35	182.00	New Auburn WI ..		1,246.11	139.61
Alfred Sta NY	262.00	2,911.35	30.00	New Milton WV ..	75.00	702.35	
Ashaway RI	133.50	3,184.54	164.00	New Orleans LA ..		25.00	5.00
Assns & Groups ..	175.00	928.33	764.88	North Loup NB ..	200.00	2,875.65	45.00
Battle Creek MI ..	478.87	5,586.00	312.00	Nortonville KS ..	332.00	3,310.40	266.00
Bay Area CA		490.00	31.20	Ohio Fellowship..		270.00	250.00
Berea WV	97.50	474.79	21.82	Paint Rock AL ..	110.00	657.80	30.00
Berlin NY	133.00	1,802.61	477.00	Plainfield NJ	1.00	4,772.28	482.90
Boulder CO	84.68	1,439.56	107.00	Putnam Cnty FL..		70.00	
Brookfield NY ..	27.00	785.17	95.00	Richburg NY	58.37	1,377.61	31.00
Buffalo NY		665.00		Riverside CA	495.00	6,893.31	100.00
Chicago IL		1,367.50	21.00	Roanoke WV		55.00	
Daytona Beach FL ..	121.35	1,410.40	157.24	Rockville RI	52.51	359.26	11.00
Denver CO	366.40	3,112.34	112.00	Salem WV		2,752.30	182.00
De Ruyter NY	60.00	490.00	10.00	Salemville PA	55.00	938.46	235.00
Dodge Ctr MN	337.91	2,672.14	50.00	Schenectady NY ..	46.73	141.73	20.00
Farina IL		312.00	10.00	Seattle WA	50.00	407.50	106.25
Fouke AR		70.00	10.00	Shiloh NJ		8,801.02	491.00
Hammond LA				Stonefort IL	20.00	425.00	31.00
Hebron PA	105.00	1,026.65	35.00	Syracuse NY	32.50	220.00	
Hopkinton RI	25.00	200.00	121.00	Texasarkana AR ...	20.00	60.00	
Houston TX		163.60	5.00	Verona NY	250.00	2,302.07	71.00
Independence NY ..	133.50	499.50	51.00	Walworth WI	200.00	1,880.35	
Individuals		1,302.26	160.30	Washington DC ..	342.70	1,635.45	166.00
Irvington NJ	450.00	2,250.00	25.00	Washington			
Jackson Ctr OH ..		400.00		People's DC			10.00
Kansas City MO ..	30.00	702.50	10.00	Waterford CT	126.47	2,349.44	152.00
Leonardsville NY ..	48.00	545.77	5.00	Westerly RI		5,450.50	388.00
Little Genesee NY ..	138.83	1,714.45	30.00	White Cloud MI ..	132.59	859.17	20.00
Little Rock AR ..	45.19	364.73	10.00	Totals	\$8,707.76	\$120,252.80	\$7,106.20
Los Angeles CA ..	400.00	5,524.56	192.00	Non-Budget		919.00	
Lost Creek WV	300.00	2,527.00	36.00	Total			
Marlboro NJ	352.08	4,283.80	65.00	To Disburse	\$9,626.76		
Metairie LA		150.00					
Milton WI	681.10	10,694.39	513.00				

NOVEMBER DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 653.90
Historical Society	5.15
Ministerial Education	453.10
Ministerial Retirement	360.25
Missionary Society	4,375.65
Tract Society	928.15
Trustees of General Conference	51.49
Women's Society	167.53
World Fellowship & Service	409.88
General Conference	2,211.66
Mission Notes	10.00
Total Disbursements	\$ 9,626.76

SUMMARY

1971 Budget	\$147,770.00
Receipts for 11 months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$120,252.80
Boards	7,106.20
	<u>127,359.00</u>
To be raised by December 31, 1971 ..	\$ 20,411.00
Percentage of year elapsed	91.66%
Percentage of budget raised	86.18%
Eleven months:	
Due	\$135,455.83
Raised	127,359.00
Arrears	8,096.83

Gordon Sanford
OWM Treasurer

TRANSPOSITIONS

By Eugene Lincoln

Much enjoyment in the publishing industry comes from looking over galley proofs and noticing misprints that might have been made had it not been for the alertness of a proofreader. Some of the most amusing misprints — and the most embarrassing, when they are not caught and corrected — are caused by two adjacent letters being transposed; sometimes the resulting word can change the meaning of a sentence entirely.

One classic example was when a newspaper told of a church choir presenting a "scared concert." Another told of a couple who had been "happily married since 1095."

Great care is taken by publishers to see that such misprints are corrected before they are published, for once published, they may turn out to be far from humorous. Thousands of readers may be misled by a transposition. One time, a recipe, which was supposed to say "Bake at 350 degrees" became "Bake at 530 degrees." No doubt many husbands ate blackened meals because of that one!

The proper order of things makes a great difference to all of us. Such a small thing as the improper placement of the decimal point on a pay check can cause complications. It makes a difference if the "on" and "off" positions of an electric switch are transposed. And it could mean some discomfort to anyone who took a shower and found that turning the "cold" faucet produced a spray of scalding water. Most people would object if, at a restaurant, they shook the "S" shaker on their food and a large quantity of "P" came out!

Yet there are many persons who claim that it really makes little or no difference to the Creator which day is observed as His holy day. He plainly said, in words written in His own hand on tables of stone, and later on the very hearts of His followers, that "the seventh day is the sabbath"; yet man has transposed the rest day from the seventh to the first day of the week.

Of all of the Ten Commandments, only the Sabbath command is prefaced by the word "Remember." Could this be because God knew that it was the one that man was most likely to forget? He could have said "Thou shalt not desecrate the sabbath day" or "Thou shalt keep the sabbath day." But He did not; He said "Remember the sabbath day."

The Lord is truly "gracious and merciful" (2 Chron. 30:9), but He is also an exact God Who pronounces a curse on anyone who would add or take away from His words (Rev. 22:18, 19). It is an awesome responsibility that one takes upon himself when he turns his back to God and to His command and says, "No, I'll choose my own way of doing things."

Oriental Imports

It is estimated that more Japanese have accepted Santa Claus than have accepted Christ. The Far East Broadcasting Company hopes to change such percentages.

Key '73

The first stated objective of Key '73 is "to confront every person in North America more fully and more forcefully with the gospel of Jesus Christ."