

# The Sabbath Recorder

## What Is the Difference?

Have you been wondering lately how you could persuade that neighbor of yours that he would find more joy in life if he kept the Sabbath?

The American Sabbath Tract Society has a tract called "What Is the Difference?" It is filled with illustrations showing that it does make a difference if we obey God's commandments completely.

Supposing Joshua had said, "It can't make any difference how many times we march around Jericho"? But instead he obeyed God's command unquestioningly. Complete victory was his reward.

Naaman the leper was tempted to return to his own streams in Samaria, but he obeyed Elisha's orders exactly. Complete healing was his reward.

Many other illustrations in this tract show that a Christian can find victory if he obeys the commandments of God explicitly. You will find it easy to talk to others about the joy of Sabbath-keeping if you have this effective tool in your hand. Order a supply of "What is the Difference?" from the American Sabbath Tract Society.

For the Publication Committee

## Missionary Comments on Drugs in Vietnam

After publicity renouncing drugs in a church in Saigon last Easter, Vietnam veteran Barry McGlothlin, a Baptist from Knoxville, Tenn., is still "high" on Jesus Christ, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Associate James F. Humphries.

McGlothlin said in an interview with Humphries that after being on drugs for

two years, he became "anti-everything." Many of the rebellious attitudes in America and Vietnam can be attributed to drugs, McGlothlin said.

Humphries, an English-language evangelist, works primarily with U. S. servicemen. During his last furlough in 1970-71 in America, the question most often asked about Vietnam concerned the drug problem among servicemen, he said.

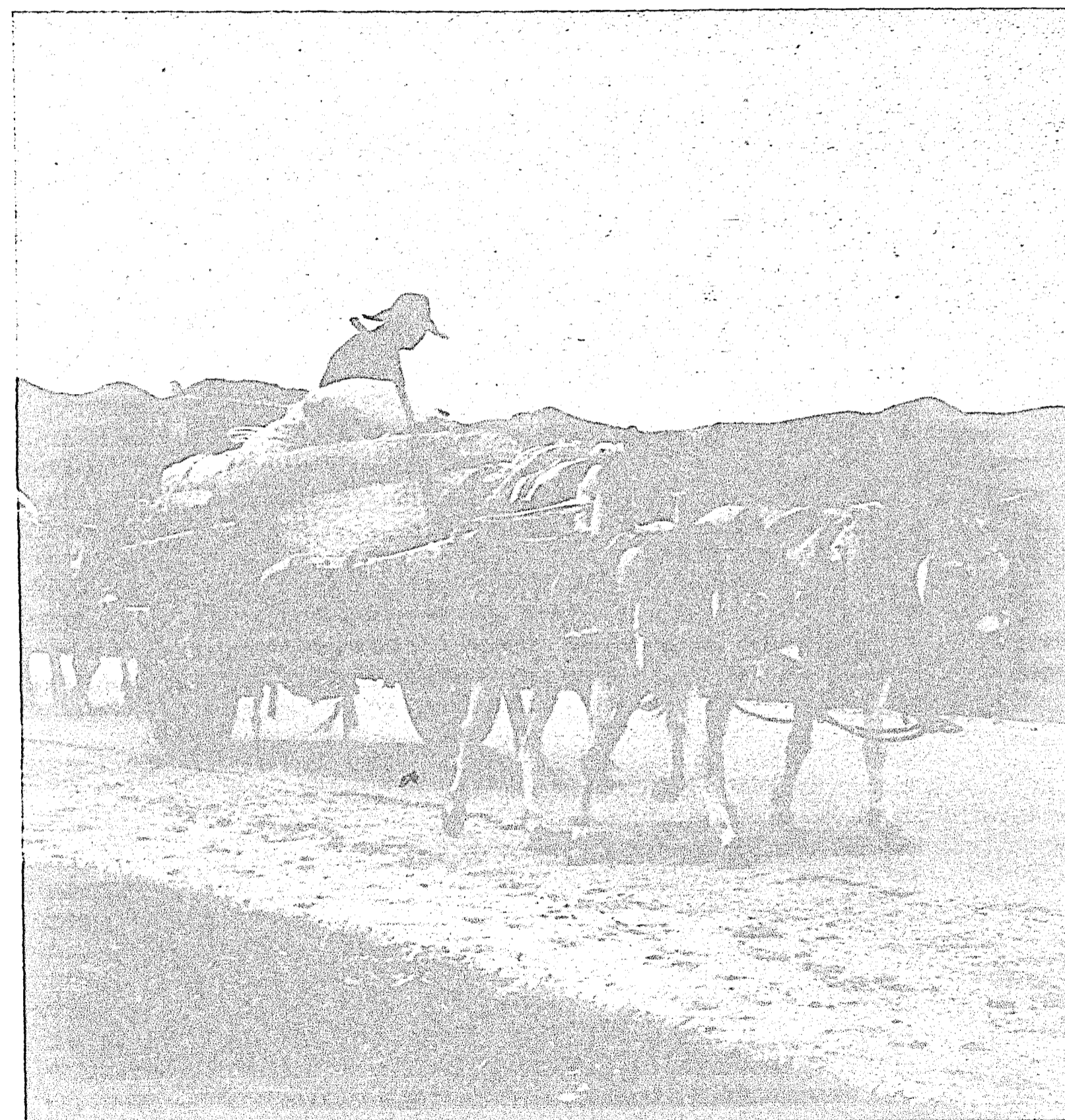
After he returned to Vietnam in July, Humphries began investigating the problem. He interviewed undercover agents, newsmen, hospital personnel, servicemen, chaplains and others.

Weighing the information he collected from them, Humphries drew several conclusions: "Vietnam is not causing our young men to turn to drugs," he said. "With but few exceptions the drug user in Vietnam was on drugs or had experimented with them before his arrival."

"I fully expected on my return to Vietnam to find 10 to 15 percent of servicemen on drugs," Humphries said. "In one news account I read that 40 percent of the men here had experimented with drugs. Statements such as this simply are not true," he declared.

Military tests are proving that less than 4.5 percent of the men are regular users of drugs such as heroin, Humphries said. In some areas it is now below one percent, he added.

Because of these discrepancies in reports on drug use in Vietnam, Humphries said many servicemen are bitter and "feel their country does not appreciate the great sacrifice they are making by coming to this land and possibly having to give their lives fighting on the battlefields."



## Another View of China

All America has been looking at China during the President's visit. The television cameras have picked up evidences that Red China has come a long way in modern technology. This picture taken last fall near Peking reminds us that transportation for most of China's countless millions is still primitive (no one is allowed to own a car). Let us pray for the day when the gospel can have free course on China's highways whether by troika or by auto.

# The Sabbath Recorder

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Editorials:	
Praying Lengthens Prison Terms .....	2
Astronaut Prayer Covenant .....	2
Reentering Red China .....	4
Features:	
Light Bearers for Christ .....	5
Ecumenical Affairs Information .....	7
Congress Approves Meals for Elderly .....	7
Conference Publicity .....	8
Spiritual Law and Order .....	9
Seedtime in Cebu .....	9
1971 Bible Society Support .....	12
Surviving the Snake Bite .....	12
Ministerial Education:	
"The Spirit and Method of Study" .....	6
Christian Education:	
Wayne Babcock To Guide the Youth Rap .....	10
Memo to Social Action People .....	10
Missions:	
New Classrooms Being Finished .....	11
Let's Think It Over .....	13
News from the Churches .....	14
Accessions.—Marriage.—Obituary .....	15

## Praying Lengthens Prison Terms

There is a great cry for prison re-  
form in this country where probably  
prisoners have more privileges and con-  
sideration than in any country that could  
be named. We might observe that it is  
one of the ironies of life that the better  
conditions get (e. g., race relations) the  
greater is the agitation for perfection.  
So it seems to be in the matter of the  
treatment of convicted criminals.

One of the brighter aspects of prison  
life in this country is that the govern-  
ment provides chaplains to minister to  
the spiritual needs of the inmates, pas-  
tors who distribute Scriptures and work  
for the salvation of the men. They enlist  
the help of inmates whose lives have  
been transformed and thus broaden their  
gospel and reformation work. Many are  
the instances where the new faith and  
new motivation of life are so evident  
that the prison terms are shortened when  
the man comes up for parole.

Against this well-known background  
we must cast a different picture in iron  
curtain and other Communist countries.  
We have it on good authority that in the  
Soviet Union Christians are sent to prison  
on weak or trumped-up charges. To  
diminish the initial uproar that might  
come from publicly handing out long  
sentences the court sends them to prison  
for only three years. However, their sen-  
tences are often extended by "adminis-  
trative devices" of prison officials for  
"crimes" of praying or witnessing in  
prison. Examples are cited by the editor  
of *Underground Evangelism* of sentences  
on many that have been extended be-  
yond the original three-year term be-  
cause they have been discovered praying  
in their cells.

Here then is the difference between  
the two countries. In our land learning to  
pray sincerely in prison often shortens  
the sentence. In Russia continuing the  
practice of prayer may lengthen the  
term.

How cheaply do we hold the privilege  
of prayer? Would it mean more to us  
if it cost us as much as it did Daniel in  
the den of lions or the Christians in  
Soviet prisons? On the other hand, we  
do well to remember that prayer once  
shut the mouths of the lions and prayer

can change the hearts of those in au-  
thority who, in their perverseness, count  
praying as a crime. Let us pray!

## Astronaut Prayer Covenant

"I ask your prayers for the men and  
mission of Apollo 16," said astronaut  
James Irwin to the Nassau Bay Baptist  
Church in Houston just before he started  
on his good will tour of Europe that was  
to take him to some iron-curtain coun-  
tries.

This was not just a prayer request for  
the men going to the moon in April; it  
was part of a prayer covenant which  
other Christians are invited to join.

The covenant "for the men and mission  
of Apollo 16 — John Young, Ken Mat-  
tingly, Charles Duke," says in part, "We  
are grateful for keen minds dedicated to  
the exploration of God's creation . . ."

It continues, "We are challenged to  
fill our place and calling with the same  
dedication they fill theirs."

It closes with Psalm 121:8 — "The  
Lord shall preserve thy going and thy  
coming in from this time forth and even  
for evermore."

The new significance taken on by  
that verse in light of space travel is  
striking. There is a vast difference be-  
tween the original limits of "thy going  
out and thy coming in" in terms of tents  
and foot travel and the now common  
concept of going out from the earth and  
its atmosphere and coming back into it  
in a fiery capsule. To fly millions of miles  
in space without wings and to return  
safely depends upon a very sophisticated  
understanding and use of the laws of God  
which govern the universe. All those  
laws are constant and dependable, but  
man can make errors in space as well as  
on earth and there are grave risks in-  
volved in trips to the moon, earth orbit  
and the planned skylab missions that  
are only a year away. Prayer can help.  
Take it from James Irwin who felt the  
sustaining power of prayer as he walked  
on the barren mountains of the moon  
and again on the more hospitable face of  
the earth.

The 121st Psalm has been updated in  
relation to the distance and the mode of

man's "going out and coming in," but  
not in the extent of the preserving power  
of God. Christ, we read, "is the same  
yesterday, today, and forever." Man may  
walk out into the borders of limitless  
space but he is still very much a creature  
of time and cannot add significantly to  
his life span. Here it is that the promise  
becomes more meaningful than ever be-  
fore. All our space walking must be  
within the proverbial three score years  
and ten. But God can preserve our going  
out and coming in without any such  
limits, "from this time forth and even  
forevermore." A prayer covenant with  
God through faith in the redemption of  
Christ puts man into an eternal relation-  
ship of joy that the non-Christian falls  
short of.

Let us make sure that we are in an  
unbroken covenant that spans the  
chasm between time and eternity. Having  
that assurance for ourselves let us pray  
for those who go out on space missions  
and those who go out on soul missions  
in obedience to the Great Commission.  
Such missions are not without danger,  
as the recent violent deaths of mission-  
aries reminds us. We have a God not  
only of time and space but eternity. He  
rewards faithfulness.

## Our Prayer Corner

### Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The young people in many of our  
churches who are enrolled in baptismal  
and church membership classes, that  
they may be led to genuine experiences  
and clear understanding.

2) The youth who in larger numbers  
are volunteering for special training and  
SCSC work this year.

3) A new thrust in evangelism by  
which church members enthusiastically  
tell what Christ's love has done for  
them.

4) Planning on local and denomina-  
tional levels that puts emphasis on the  
urgency of the hour as well as long-  
range program.

## Reentering Red China

We have been thrilled with the boldness of President Nixon's visit to China and our glimpses by television via satellite of certain aspects of life in China that we have never seen before. Mr. Nixon and his advisors apparently believe that it is even more important to visit our strongest potential national enemies than to make calls on our friends and allies. If this can soften the ill feeling of our enemies without hardening the wavering loyalty of our friends it may be well. Negotiations without compromise are manifestly difficult. There is question as to how much can be accomplished by summit interchanges between countries with such opposing ideologies.

Christians as good citizens are admonished in the Bible to pray for those in authority. Certainly we must pray that every sincere effort to foster peace will bear some fruit. But Christians have a bigger mission than national politics or amicable international relationships. Our goal is not just a softening of top-level animosities but the salvation of eight hundred million souls that are precious in the Lord's sight.

China was a great mission field in which Seventh Day Baptists were among the pioneers. There is a longing for the time when missionaries can reenter mainland China and the church can emerge from its restricted, persecuted underground existence. We are not to assume that a presidential visit will automatically open the doors; it is a long way back. How can it come to pass? Not by just waiting, say the promoters of underground evangelism. The rusty doors must be forced open. First comes the radio voice that skips over mountains and rivers and is picked up in the privacy of humble homes. This can increase. Literature also can force its way in long before missionaries can gain reentry.

When President and Mrs. Nixon landed at Peking there was no red carpet for them to walk on, and we would be foolish to wait for the red carpet to be rolled out for missionaries. However, these cultural exchanges do open the way for literature and Bibles to get in

if we are ready to grasp every opportunity. There are hungry souls in Red China though all the bodies are said to be clothed and fed.

The New China is literature-oriented. They have been hanging on the printed words of Chairman Mao as if they were words from heaven. But the Mao cult is fading. A better literature that is really the Word of God will be found to be far more satisfying than Mao's mundane words. Work is progressing in Hong Kong on the new Chinese Bible in the language of the day. It will hopefully find its way into China by underground routes to feed the spiritual vacuum.

China is softening its position of complete isolation, even as Russia has done. As it becomes more accessible we must make Christian literature more and more accessible also. In a day when few people had copies of the Scriptures the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that he was suffering trouble "as an evildoer, even unto bonds, but the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9). The word of God cannot remain bound in China now that the door is beginning to open just a little. If we have prayed with little hope we can now pray (and work) with greater faith and hope.

### Filmstrips for Easter

One of the best ways to learn more about Jesus' passion and resurrection is through visual aids. The American Sabbath Tract Society has a series for adults which teaches the Bible truths about this time in Jesus' life. There are five strips in this series: (1) Last Supper, (2) Gethsemane, (3) Arrest and Trial, (4) Judgment and Crucifixion, (5) Resurrection. There are eight other strips on this subject for adults listed in the catalog.

For children we have two filmstrips with records: "Jesus Is Not Afraid" and "Jesus Lives." There are eleven Storystrips on the subject (Order J88—J98). In the Show'N Tell there are three strips for children.

Use these helps and make this a time of constructive learning and satisfying enjoyment.

—Audio and Visual Services chairman

## Announcing:

### LIGHT BEARERS FOR CHRIST

By Mynor G. Soper

Some of you may have heard about a new organization being formed in our denomination. Some may have only heard rumors of it and others perhaps nothing at all. The purpose of this article is to officially announce to the readers of the *Sabbath Recorder*, the formation of an evangelistic association, "Light Bearers for Christ, Inc."

Light Bearers for Christ was conceived as a result of a number of things. First of all, because of my work in the field of evangelism throughout our denomination and among other groups, there has been a growing awareness of the need for some organized group to carry on the work of evangelism among us and through which those desiring to work in evangelism might be trained and have a channel through which to serve.

Secondly, I have been impressed by the dedication of our young people to Christ and their serious desire to be involved in reaching out to the world for Christ in a personal way. But as their dedication and commitment to Christ grows, they find themselves in a dilemma: Should they join one of the existing organizations such as Campus Crusade for Christ, Inter-Varsity, etc., which are really doing a great work for Christ? If they do, they have to face the Sabbath-Sunday question. Being involved in one of these organizations very likely means being totally absorbed into a Sunday-oriented group with little or no opportunity to be true to their Sabbath convictions. Besides this, we lose their energy and dedication to our work.

Should they try to serve through our own denomination? This is more desirable, but we as a people have very little to offer them in the way of opportunities for sharing their faith. About all we have are the SCSC and other dedicated service projects, which are quite limited, or the missionary program which doesn't meet the needs of most young people, nor are there openings for many missionaries.

Faced with this problem, the tragic result is this: that many of our young people end up doing nothing.

Due to these and other reasons, my family and I felt led of God to launch into a venture of faith for Him and start an evangelistic association. We felt keenly that the time was now. There is an atmosphere in our country today which is conducive to sharing Christ on a personal basis. Indeed this New Testament technique seems to be the most effective method there is. Couple that fact with another one — that this generation is probably the most seeking generation ever — and you have a climate which is right for leading many to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

But we need an agency whose sole concern it is to provide through training, financing, and organizational structure, a channel through which our people can reach out into the world and touch lives for Jesus Christ. This is why Light Bearers for Christ was formed.

Our vision is to train a number of teams of young people (or not so young) for a music ministry, follow-up ministry, youth ministry (college and high school), small group ministry, and a number of other methods of outreach to be developed. We want to work in and through our churches—but we also want to work out beyond where they presently serve.

All staff members will be trained in various techniques of personal and group evangelism. They will also be given instruction in in-depth Bible study, personal devotions and evangelistic speaking. All will be expected to be personally committed to aggressive evangelism. In addition, the Rev. Victor Skaggs, former dean of the Ministerial Center, will instruct in Seventh Day Baptist history, polity, and beliefs.

Some will ask, and rightly so, "How is this going to be financed without jeopardizing our present denominational program budget?" First, let me say that

our policy will not be to generally solicit or make special appeals for funds, but rather, after having made our existence and purpose known, then to present our needs and requests directly to God. Let us make ourselves very clear on this one point: *We do not want anyone to give to Light Bearers for Christ funds that have previously been going to the local church or OWM.* We believe, however, that many funds are going to evangelistic organizations outside of our denomination. We do invite any who currently give to such organizations to consider giving to Light Bearers for Christ instead.

In addition, we believe that much support can be obtained from people outside of or on the fringes of our denomination, who are not presently contributing anything to our work. This is partly true because Light Bearers for Christ, while being Seventh Day Baptist oriented (in fact, the Board of Directors all must be active Seventh Day Baptists), is independent and free to work wherever the Lord gives opportunity. We believe that many of these will support Light Bearers for Christ because it is specifically designed to do the work of evangelism.

As of January 3, 1972, we have, through the dedicated assistance of Clarence Rogers, been incorporated in the State of Nebraska. Headquarters have been established in North Loup, Nebr., and a staff of two besides my wife and I are at work. Articles of Incorporation, tax exemption forms, and Bylaws have been drawn up and filed with the appropriate state and local offices. The Board of Directors, as called for in the Bylaws, has a minimum of eight members. These have been appointed in the North Loup area to allow for ease in moving ahead with the formulation of the corporation. More directors will be appointed from among Seventh Day Baptists across the nation to give a wide representation.

The Board of Directors met February 8 in the office of Weems & Mankin, Attorneys at Law, for the official incorporators meeting. At this meeting, the Bylaws were adopted and officers were elected. These are: president—Mynor G. Soper;

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—Rex E. Zwiebel

### "The Spirit and Method of Study"

In the year of 1929, the Reverend Arthur E. Main, who was dean of the Alfred University School of Theology, Alfred, N. Y., wrote a booklet entitled *A Theological Survey*. It was "An Introduction to a Course in Theology for Young Men and Women Who Propose To Enter the Christian Ministry."

After describing the various courses offered at his school, he ends the booklet with "Some Suggestions as to the Spirit and Method of Study." We think they are still timely.

"Have love, loyalty, and reverence for fact and truth.

Do not think that in knowledge we can reach completeness.

Cherish only beliefs that rest on evidence of some kind.

Be scientific, that is, clear, orderly, consistent, thorough.

In the intellectual pursuit of knowledge keep mind and heart warm with vital religion.

Be enthusiastically interested.

Use the best books and the best helps, the Bible being the best of all books.

Take good care of the body."

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vice-president — Menzo Fuller; secretary-treasurer—Marian Soper.

Shortly before the end of Jesus' earthly life, He made this statement: "My light will shine out for you just a little while longer. Walk in it while you can, and go where you want to go before the darkness falls, for then it will be too late for you to find your way. Make use of the Light while there is still time; then you will become light bearers" (John 12:35-36; LB). Conditions throughout the world today indicate the urgency of getting this message of Jesus Christ to as many as possible while there is still the freedom and opportunity to do so. It is our prayer that Light Bearers for Christ might become a mighty instrument for God through which He utilizes our people to bring many to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, His Son.

### Ecumenical Affairs Information

The Council on Ecumenical Affairs, at a meeting on February 16, formulated a time schedule for the distribution of information pertaining to the proposed restructuring of the National Council of Churches. General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler, in conference with the CEA, briefed the members on recent actions taken at the General Board sessions in Charlotte, N. C. He reviewed in general the organizational adjustments which Seventh Day Baptists are to study in preparation for consideration at the 1972 General Conference. He announced that a quantity of the restructuring outlines were on order for mailing to each church.

The time schedule for the next few months includes the following:

- (1) March 16-19: Mr. Wheeler and Dr. Kenneth Smith shall confer and originate a master cassette tape to be used in supplementing printed materials to be sent to all churches in the denomination.
- (2) April 3: Mass mailing to churches of all available materials pertaining to the reorganization.
- (3) June 9-10: Mr. Wheeler and Dr. Smith are to attend General Board of the NCC in New York City.
- (4) June 15: Mass mailing to churches of undated information along with a reminder of the need to be prepared to discuss the restructuring plan at General Conference in Denver.
- (5) August 1972 General Conference will program the consideration of the various aspects of the NCC revamping.
- (6) December 2-8: NCC General Board and Assembly at Dallas, Texas. A formal vote may be taken relative to the acceptance of the new organization plan.
- (7) August 1973 General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists shall include consideration of the degree of participation in the NCC.

In addition to the general mailings to churches, provision has been made for

lone-Sabbathkeepers and other interested parties to obtain study information from the office of the general secretary, Alton Wheeler, at a minimal cost (approximately \$1.50).

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### Congress Approves Meals for Elderly

Congress has passed legislation to grant funds to churches and other non-profit institutions, along with public agencies, to help them to meet the nutrition and social needs of elderly persons.

Under the provisions of the bill, the government will pay up to ninety percent of the cost of the purchase, preparation, and delivery of meals to persons over sixty.

The program is primarily for the poor, but others will be able to participate according to their ability to pay. In awarding the grants, which will be handled by a state agency, priority will be given to projects operated by and serving the needs of "minority, Indian, and limited English-speaking" persons.

The bill lists the following criteria for the participants who must be aged sixty or over: (1) they cannot afford to eat adequately; (2) they lack the skills to select and prepare well-balanced meals; (3) they have limited mobility; or (4) they have feelings of rejection or loneliness which obliterate incentive to prepare and eat their meals alone.

In order to be eligible, churches and others interested in the program must provide at least one hot meal a day for five or more days a week. Additional meals, hot or cold, may be included in the government-sponsored projects.

The new legislation, which amends the Older Americans Act of 1965, calls for spending up 250 million over the next two years.

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### MEMORY TEXT

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap" (Mal. 3:2).

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# Conference Publicity

## An Exciting Conference Site

By the Host Committee

Seventh Day Baptists in Colorado are excited. We expect visitors in August, 1972. Not just a few friends or relatives, mind you. Our excitement is in expectation of hosting the *Seventh Day Baptist General Conference*, August 6-12.

As we invite you to be our guests, think of the attractions awaiting you in "colorful Colorado." Rocky Mountain National Park, United States Air Force Academy, Pike's Peak and the Garden of the Gods are a sampling of places to see within a ninety-minute drive of Denver. The educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities in this great metropolis of the west offer a wide variety of thrills. They include museums, planetarium, zoo, United States mint, Colorado State capitol, amusement parks, and summer concerts.

Your Conference Host Committee is especially pleased to tell you about the site and facilities we have been fortunate to secure for entertaining General Conference this year. Loretto Heights College, with a spacious hill-top campus on the southwest edge of Denver, has contracted with us to make all the facilities we need available for the Conference period.

The Center for the Performing Arts provides an air-conditioned auditorium with comfortable seating more than adequate for all our general meeting needs. Special programming in drama or music will be enhanced by the modern stage with its lighting effects, backdrops and related equipment.

Ample space for offices, committee rooms, and youth activities is assured. Dormitory rooms and facilities are modern and comfortably appointed. Meals will be served in the attractive cafeteria next door to the auditorium. (A picnic area near the cafeteria will make eating outdoors an option). It is worth noting, too, that placement of buildings on the campus will make walking to one's appointments not only a practical but a

pleasant experience. And as you walk there will be an inspiring view of snow-capped mountain peaks to the west and the Denver skyline to the east.

Opportunities for recreation on the campus include a gymnasium, tennis courts, and an outdoor swimming pool, available to us by special arrangement. There are lounges and other areas for rest and relaxation that include snack bars and refreshment centers.

We know you are asking, "What will it cost?" Suffice it now to say that the "package" cost for the conference period will be comparable to recent conferences and within the limits set by Commission.

Yes, Seventh Day Baptists in Colorado are putting out the "welcome" sign to our denomination and all its people in 1972. You'll be hearing from us regularly as we bring you more detailed information and highlights. Packets from your Host Committee will go out to all our churches soon.

So plan now to attend the '72 *Seventh Day Baptist General Conference*. The dates are August 6-12. The place is Loretto Heights College in Denver. We'll be waiting to welcome you at the foot of the Rockies in colorful Colorado.

—E. F. R.

### Bible in Tribal Languages

New York Bible Society International works closely with Wycliffe Bible Translators in providing the Word of God in tribal languages. In the light of today's world conditions, Wycliffe added 200 new workers last year with a goal of translating Scripture portions into 500 more languages.

This year, plans call for completing manuscripts for fifteen New Testaments in *areas where people have never before had the Scriptures in their native tongue.*

Right now, before the picture changes . . . funds are needed to make this missionary publishing endeavor possible.

### Spiritual Law and Order

Thoughts of Frank Sharp,  
director of American Baptist press relations

Reading the daily newspaper is one of the sterner daily rituals. One has to gird himself for the ordeal and afterward watch an old Shirley Temple movie to offset the grim picture of man's inhumanity to man and his obvious deterioration.

There is the necessity for an inner ethic that will hold people and society together—honest law and order, if you will.

The situation today reminds one of a passage of Scripture in Judges 17:6. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." This becomes the epitome of the philosophy of "doing your own thing." The individual expression of one's desires to meet every irresponsible whim or pleasure. There isn't any such thing. No man is free in that sense. Freedom is found in restraint and self-discipline, not license.

The Israelites were passing through difficult days of great confusion, political and spiritual. They fought against each other, as well as against foreign nations. Every man was a law unto himself and the natural result was chaos, and this comes, says Scripture, from unbridled license when people acknowledge no authority, no sovereign, above their own egoistic desires.

True, we are not looking for a king today as were the Israelites. But the king is only a symbol for genuine law and order. It could be an inner spiritual direction, a moral imperative to work for the common good, to take care of the hungry, to life up the fallen, to give one's self unsparingly in service to a decent cause and not expect any reward.

There is a valid inner, spiritual, moral law and order, without which society cannot exist. The cement of moral direction and spiritual cohesiveness has been falling out of the cracks between the bricks and society needs to point up the moral brickwork lest the oppressive forces of dictatorship and diabolical scientific manipulation take over.

### Seedtime in Cebu

The center of Seventh Day Baptist work in the Philippines is in Cebu City on the Island of Cebu although the work is progressing also on the Island of Leyte. Correspondence with the Tract Society office at Plainfield is frequent.

The Filipino leadership includes the head of a pharmacy organization, a high school director, principal and teachers—people with education and zeal. Realizing that literature is one of the keys to growth, the newly-organized conference asked for help in producing some of our tracts. In mid-January they were able to purchase a mimeograph machine with Tract Board funds and immediately put it to use in reproducing two tracts in a publication called *The Philippine Sabbath Recorder*. It was done partly in English but mostly in Cebuano.

Mr. Eleazar Ferraren, the pharmacist, writes that the distribution of literature has led to invitations to go to other churches and explain the Seventh Day Baptist position. There are more opportunities to witness than the part-time leaders can follow up. They are full of zeal, but do not yet have adequate places of worship or sufficient funds to keep evangelists on the wide field.

The latest letter states: "We are praying that the General Conference and the Federation of the Seventh Day Baptists throughout the world will extend their helping hand to our new-born conference in the Philippines." He adds, "Once again I am inviting any Seventh Day Baptist member or missionary to visit us so that you may know of our work fully."

Mrs. Corozan Gulfan writes of their pioneer work, mentioning their present rough sailing and confidence of smoother sailing later: "Difficulties are certainly encountered, but we members try our best to face fearlessly this greatest task confronting us . . . I for one will sail or work at any rate and cost. I am willing to spend from my own pocket, poor as I am, just a mere teacher, to make this pioneering grow and be well organized in the long run."

### Wayne Babcock To Guide Youth Rap

The Rev. Wayne Babcock, pastor of the Verona church in the Central New York Association, has accepted the invitation of the Youth Work Committee of the Board of Christian Education to guide the "youth noon discussions" at the 1972 General Conference. The committee is happy to announce this, and to encourage youth of Pre-Con age especially to plan on attending these sessions during the Denver Conference.

These sessions were originally established by the Youth Committee before national SDBYF was formed to help youth discover some of the involvements in Conference activities being worked out on Conference floor. It was set up for discussion between a chosen leader and youth, and has been conducted as a conversational experience. Many times the chosen leader has drawn in Conference leaders who were particularly involved in some matter developing in Conference business.

The 1972 "youth noon discussions" promise to be a good encounter between youth and Pastor Babcock and other leaders whom he may choose to bring in during the week. We hope youth will come to appreciate more fully the commitment to Christian enterprise, with all its business implementation of spiritual matters, which various leaders and agencies work out within the Conference sessions. We believe that Wayne Babcock is just the right leader for the August 1972 discussions and thank him for accepting this assignment.

In case you didn't know, Pastor Babcock was a businessman active in his local church until after all but one of his four children were into or beyond their teen years. He was pastor of the Dodge Center church for several fruitful years and now has completed one year at the Verona church. He and his wife Ida make their home a welcome place of fellowship for youngsters of all ages!

### Memo to Social Action People RE: "EDICATOPM"

In the *Era of Action* Resource Guide there is a section titled "Act To Reconcile." On page 28 of that section (tan-colored sheets) there is a classification of American Problems inviting Christian social action, and the last of these is "EDICATOPM."

And you thought you had problems to deal with!?

We of the Board of Christian Education were asked to physically prepare the sheets for this section written by the Christian Social Action Committee of Conference. Specifically, I, David Clarke, unwittingly moved my right hand one key over on the typewriter when typing the stencil, and apparently all of us moved our eye too rapidly over this last section of the page in proofreading.

So, when dealing with American problems inviting Christian social action, please deal thoroughly with "Edicatopm" (Education) since it thoroughly affects your children and grandchildren as well as contemporary culture and morality.

The Board of Christian Education has a Family Life Committee which deals with social action in areas where the family as a basic social unit is directly involved. Our committee attempts to avoid dealing with general social issues because the Conference Standing Committee ought to have first crack at presenting such matters to Seventh Day Baptists.

If you have questions about resources for dealing with social issues that directly involve the family, our Family Life Committee would be happy to try assisting you. Our library is rather extensive in this area, and bibliographies are in our files for many resources not on our bookshelves. Write either to Mrs. Nelson Snyder at Randolph Rd., Alfred Station, NY 14803 or to the board office.

If you have not written your senator or congressman re "government aid to parochial schools," perhaps you should read the February *Report from the Capitol* which Secretary Alton Wheeler shared with pastors, clerks and Sabbath School superintendents. Christian influ-

### New Classrooms Being Finished

In the original timetable for construction of the new classroom building at Crandall High School, Kingston, Jamaica, the date for completion was set for February 1. We have been waiting to hear of completion.

In his letter of February 8, Principal Wayne N. Crandall wrote: "The work on the building project is progressing with high workmanship. Mr. Johnston has a mason who does excellent work on the walls and surface of the pillars. The roof is now on over the second floor and the tile has arrived for the floor in the upper room."

As any reader knows who has built a home or other building, there are always unforeseen matters that arise and need attention. Some may hold up the final completion. The question of the electric "duty service entrance" was being faced at the time of writing. Two possibilities were presented, one which would require the rewiring of the older buildings before service could be given to the new one. As Mr. Crandall said, "This could run into real money." We trust that the matter has been resolved for the best of all concerned by now.

Additional gifts for the Crandall High School Special Building Fund continue to be received with US\$9,500 of our \$10,000 goal in hand. We expect the balance has been raised by students, staff and churches in Jamaica.

We would share two other comments in Mr. Crandall's letter for your information and prayer support: "While we lost several students at the end of the Christmas term we took in enough new ones so that our enrollment is still just about an even 150. Scarcely a week passes without one or more teachers being absent two or three days. This makes one keep pretty busy and with a lot of worry."

ence, in all its detail, is needed in "Education."

### Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, 120 Main Street, Westerly, R. I. 02891, on Sunday, March 19, 1972, at 2:00 for the following purposes:

1. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1971, to December 31, 1971.

3. To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1972, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

Elston H. Van Horn,  
Secretary

### NCC Survey

Among the questions asked in an interdenominational survey conducted over a two-year period by in-depth interviews were some in regard to the work and value of the National Council of Churches. The analysts report that, contrary to current impressions, more pastors (20 percent) feel unfavorable toward the NCC than laity (12 percent). The survey showed (as might be expected) that the pastors are far more familiar with the work of the NCC than the laymen of whom 27 percent said they knew too little about the council to render a judgment.

### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for March 18, 1972

THE REDEMPTIVE FELLOWSHIP

Lesson Scripture: Acts 4:32-37; Rom. 15:1-7.

## 1971 Bible Society Support

Seventh Day Baptist support of the great work of the American Bible Society is showing a gratifying increase according to the report received from John D. Erickson, the new executive secretary for Church Relations of A.B.S. There are several things that can be pointed out with a measure of pride.

Not only were our total gifts (\$1,272) larger in 1971 than in 1970, but that year (\$727) was larger than previous years. Only a very few denominations showed that percentage of increase. The distressing thing to Bible Society planners is that many of the denominations contributed less in 1971 than in 1970. In fact, the income from churches was \$167,000 less in the year ended.

Our achievement, though not so significant in relation to the total of all denominations (\$1,246,190) is good by comparison. Of the seventy denominations supporting the Bible Society thirty-eight decreased their support and thirty-two increased it. We were among the latter.

It is said that comparisons are odious, but it isn't very often that our small body can claim to have done better in actual dollars and cents for worthy causes than many others, as it can in this case. In numbers we are counted as one of the smallest Protestant denominations in America. There are just a few on this list of seventy that have fewer members. We stand comparatively tall, however, in giving to the Bible Society. The fact is that we stand above thirty-two other denominations in dollars given. That may not speak very well for those that are much, much larger. It may indicate that we have a growing appreciation for the power of the Word, especially as published by the American Bible Society, "without note or comment."

Mr. Erickson, in his letter, recognizes "that many denominations at present are suffering financial pangs." The decrease in some cases was by vote of the administrative leaders — a shifting of funds — and not a decrease of interest of the members in the Bible cause. Such denominations should perhaps follow our

example of support by designated giving rather than an arbitrary fraction of the budget.

Let us remind ourselves that we have not over-extended ourselves to reach this total of \$1,272. It could well have been more and ought to be more this year. Our total work still receives far more in benefits than we give. Where would our mission work be without the translation work and grants of the Bible Society?

Leon M. Maltby,  
denominational representative  
on the Advisory Council.

## Surviving the Snake Bite

When a poisonous snake bites you, the natural impulse is to kill him, to focus attention on the copperhead or water moccasin instead of turning from the loathsome creature. Before you realized he was there, the reptile deposited his venom in your flesh, and now your flesh cries out for revenge. Perhaps it is too late for you, you say, but at least you can employ your dying strength to smash your destroyer and thus protect others. Yet we know that impulse is suicidal, and frantic efforts to beat life out of a snake will only make your heart pump faster and spread his poison throughout your body, making fatal what would otherwise be only a sickness from which you would recover.

The Children of Israel were on their way from Egypt to the Land of Canaan, about thirty-four centuries ago. They were attacked by an army of fiery serpents and many of the people died from their bites. Instead of working a miracle to kill those snakes, Moses made a serpent of brass, an image of the enemy; and that lifeless copy, which seemingly could neither help nor harm the victim of a real snake, was placed high in the air on top of a long pole. According to God's command, any Israelite who was bitten should resist the impulse to gaze in horror at the living snake and immediately look toward the brazen serpent. Not knowing how such an act had value, those who obeyed were saved from death.

According to John 3:14, that brazen serpent represents the crucified Messiah who became sin on our behalf. The

original serpent is Satan, the enemy of our souls today. You can ignore the devil, deny his existence, as long as he doesn't bite you; but when he strikes the death-blow, you know he is real and all of a sudden nothing seems more important than clobbering the Old Boy. Yet we should resist his fascination by saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan," then *put* him there as we turn about, drawn to behold the suffering Savior. Don't balk, asking *how* it works. Test the remedy in your life without delay, and rejoice in the victory which was completely won so long ago by your loving Elder Brother.

—Beacon Publishers

## LET'S THINK IT OVER

### Baptistry Theology

There is a growing tendency to construct church baptistries with a glass wall on the side toward the audience. The idea is supposedly to allow more audience participation in the moving experience of baptism by immersion. Some churches build elevated baptistries so that a higher percentage of the congregation can view the sacred rite. On the surface it sounds like a good idea, but a theological professor of the sprinkling persuasion says that it is a denial of the symbolism of Baptist theology.

The argument may be worth considering and has been seconded by some good Baptists. According to Romans 6:4 "We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (after we have been buried in baptism). The inconsistency of having a full plate glass on the side of the watery grave does seem to take something away from the burial and resurrection theological concept.

It is a little like the rationalization of those who emphasize the other symbolic idea of baptism, washing away of sins. The argument there is that the amount of water is not important — that a few drops can symbolize washing as well as a quantity sufficient for complete immersion. The sheep grower knows, how-

ever, that a disinfectant applied to the head does not give the protection for which sheep dipping is designed.

Some Baptist churches in light of the alleged inconsistency of a full view burial in a glass baptistry are correcting the symbolism by painting the glass. Whether or not the point is important, it is highly important that our sins be completely washed away and that we experience a death to the old life and a resurrection of the new. This is by faith in the atoning blood of Christ.

## Giving Till It's Gone

The late Clarence Jordan, who devoted his life to Koinonia Farms, not only set a notable example in giving, but also encouraged others to give to Christian philanthropic causes such as the one he headed. He believed that willingness to share lies at the heart of Christ's message to mankind, for he said, "Christ calls us to give, and give completely . . . not just give 'til it hurts, but to give 'til it's gone!"

## Prayer for World Peace

The president of the Baptist World Alliance, V. Carney Hargroves, has issued a statement calling on the world's thirty-one million Baptists to pray for world peace, a call to prayer related to President Nixon's visit to China.

The text of the "call to prayer" statement to Baptists of the world reads as follows:

The Baptist World Alliance urges Baptists and all people everywhere to be in prayer for world peace.

The conference in Peking between the leaders of the United States and the People's Republic of China and the subsequent conference with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can open an era of reconciliation between men and between nations. Let us pray especially throughout the time of their meetings that God will direct the thoughts and decisions of these leaders.

Let us seek diligently in our own lives and in our prayers to be reconciled to all men, even as God through Christ is reconciling the world unto himself."

### Poverty Facts

Is it true that most of the poor in the United States are black? No, 66.66 percent of the metropolitan poor are white and 65 percent in the country as a whole. Among those classed as poor 48 percent are children under 18 and 20 percent are over 65. The poverty standard is an income less than \$3,500 for a family of four. Unemployment is only one of the causes of poverty since 35 percent of the poor are in families in which the family head works throughout the year. The Kerner Commission states (contrary to popular assumption) that less than 3 percent of those on welfare are employable.

It is one thing to read the facts on poverty and quite another thing to provide the training and employment to substantially reduce it or eliminate it. The government cannot do it without the help of volunteer agencies — church related agencies.

### WORLDWIDE WITNESS FILMSTRIPS

The last program of our 1971 Worldwide Witness (covering all the conferences of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation) has now been presented in the churches. The filmstrips were produced by the Audio and Visual Services Committee of the Tract Board and were, generally speaking, of high quality. They are of more than passing interest. A church planning a missionary program on any of the countries would do well to show again the filmstrip relating to that country. They may now be ordered from the Tract Society just the same as other filmstrips.

Not all of the WWW filmstrips have come back. In order to properly fill future requests it is important that they be returned to Plainfield. The people responsible for forwarding or returning these audiovisual aids are encouraged to check. Our free lending library functions well when users are careful about returning materials promptly.

### NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

**DODGE CENTER, MINN.**—At the annual church business meeting held in

January the congregation voted to extend the call to Pastor John Camenga for the year of 1972. Pastor Camenga has been in Dodge Center since May 1971. The church also voted to send \$500 to Our World Mission and that \$500 be set aside to help send church members to Explo '72. The money was a surplus from the 1971 budget.

Several members of the Dodge Center church who are living in Rochester have been having informal Bible study sessions on Tuesday nights. Pastor Camenga leads the group. At present they are studying the book of Acts.

The church has been holding Sabbath-welcoming services on Friday evenings for the past several months. The services are about a half hour in length and include music, Scripture, prayer, a meditation by the worship leader and the lighting of the Sabbath candle. The purpose of the service is to make Sabbath more meaningful.

—Correspondent

**SHILOH, N. J.**—The annual business meeting held Sunday, January 9, in Fellowship Hall was preceded by a soup luncheon. Officers for the year 1972 are as follows: moderator, Everett Dickinson; clerk, Clara Richardson; treasurer, Melvin Dickinson; asst. treasurer, Elizabeth Lupton.

Our emphasis dinner in January with our guest speaker, the Rev. Rex Zwiebel, was well attended.

The "Hearts of Harmony," a singing group, rendered a musical program to honor the choir members. This event was sponsored by the Benevolent Society.

It is very evident by the various activities for January and February that the youth of our church are very active. The activities were:

Spaghetti supper by the Senior High Youth Fellowship.

Soup supper by the Junior High Youth Fellowship.

The Sabbath morning service on Youth Sabbath featuring a one-act drama "Tim Whosoever."

The Wapenjer Retreat held in Washington, D. C., February 4-6 with thirty-two from our church in attendance.

—Correspondent

**PLAINFIELD, N. J.**—Our Christmas festivities began with the Women's Society party at the parsonage December 13, at which secret pals were revealed. The choir, directed by Mrs. Barbara Saunders, presented Vivaldi's oratorio, "Gloria," during the worship service December 18. Soloists were the Misses Linda Greene and Donna Sanford, and Pastor Herbert Saunders. The Pro-Con party followed on December 19. On Christmas Eve the St. Paul's Community Church joined us in a lovely candelighting service. The offering for the Crandall High School addition amounted to over \$100. On Christmas morning the young people presented a nativity pageant. A New Year's Eve vesper service completed our holiday activities.

As president of the Association of Religious Organizations, our pastor has worked long hours in organizing Starfish, a community project for providing emergency aid for needy people. He holds morning office hours in his new study. During the week of January 17 he preached at special services held in the Salemville, Pa., area. On February 4-6 he accompanied six young people to the "Wapenjer" Youth Retreat in Washington, D. C. On Sabbath afternoons he is teaching a church membership class. The Rev. Albert Rogers conducted the service on January 22 and the Rev. Alton Wheeler on February 5.

Our new 1972 church directory was prepared by Pastor Saunders and Miss Patricia Williams and was paid for by the Memorial Funeral Home. Over 200 bulletins are being mailed each week.

A recent improvement in the Sabbath School room was lowering the ceiling and installing fluorescent lights in the alcove next to the parsonage. Mr. Thomas Curtis, a trustee, was largely responsible. Work has begun on a new rest room in place of the cloakroom, next to the pastor's study, which now has wall-to-wall carpeting.

Our attendance and giving are holding up, and there is much enthusiasm for the Lord's work among our members. May our outreach increase during 1972!

—Correspondent

**LOS ANGELES, CALIF.**—Sabbath Eve vesper services are held at the church with Ben Peil sharing the message from God's Word and Mr. and Mrs. Lennox Baxter providing special music. In the four weeks since the laymen began planning the Sabbath Eve service, the attendance has increased from twenty-two to forty-two.

—Church bulletin

### Accessions

PLAINFIELD, N. J.

By Letter:

Robert Babcock  
Nelta Babcock

Associate Members:

Patricia Williams  
Gretchen Zwiebel

SEATTLE AREA, WASH.

By Baptism:

Mrs. Martha Lindsey

By Letter:

Art Doll

Mrs. Jerry Lamoreaux (Diana)

By Testimony:

Mrs. Art Doll (Kay)

Miss Martha Whittington

### Marriages

**Thorngate - Smith.**—Dale D. Thorngate, son of Mrs. Leona Thorngate of Battle Creek, Mich., and Janet Van Horn Smith, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Marion Van Horn of Daytona Beach, Fla., were married September 25, 1971, in the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church by their pastor, the Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn, assisted by the bride's father.

### Obituaries

**BURDICK.**—Carrie Langworthy, daughter of William H. and Sarah Briggs Langworthy, was born at Alfred Station, N. Y., Oct. 2, 1886, and died in Waukesha, Wis., Feb. 13, 1972.

She united with the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church as a young girl and transferred her membership to Battle Creek after moving there in 1927. She sang in the choir and served the church in various ways. After the death of her husband, William Burdick, in 1958, she made her home with her son Richard of Waukesha. She is also survived by a grandson, William D., of Tampa University in Florida and by a sister, Mrs. Spicer Kenyon of Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Memorial services were conducted in Hornell, N. Y., by the Rev. David S. Clarke with burial in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—D. S. C.



# The Sabbath Recorder

## Saved by the Blood

A sixteen-year-old missionary's daughter is alive, saved by the blood of a donor. Some would call it chance, others design.

Missionary Nichols and his family were returning from a little vacation to Asuncion, Paraguay on January 15 when one side of their car was sheared off by collision with a truck on a slippery road. Most seriously injured was sixteen-year-old Becky who suffered fractures of the thigh, upper arm and jaw, a nearly severed ear, and a deep cup in the left shoulder that caused severe bleeding.

When the family was taken to the Baptist hospital as Asuncion the girl's life was probably saved by a transfusion of rare-type blood. The day before the accident an unknown man had come to the hospital wanting to donate blood.

The technicians discovered that his blood type was RH negative. Dr. Donald McDowell, missionary surgeon, turned the man away because they had very little call for that type and did not think it worthwhile to store it. When the man insisted and did not want to leave, they agreed to take blood, more to please him than anything else. The next day Becky's life may have been saved by that extra pint of RH negative blood. It is probable that the hospital staff now thinks that it was by the leading of the Lord that the man insisted on giving and they agreed to take the life-saving blood.

## Beautiful Day

*What a beautiful day for Jesus to come!  
What a beautiful day!  
So I'll pray and watch.  
I'll watch and pray  
For Jesus could come this beautiful day.*

*God's glory will clothe Him  
And angels attend,  
Singing anthems of joy  
That never shall end.  
He will come with a shout  
And trump from on high  
That shall echo and echo  
And never die.  
Then His faithful jewels  
Ascending above,  
Shall dwell forever  
In the fold of His love.*

*What a beautiful day  
when Jesus shall come!*

*What a beautiful day!  
So I'll pray and work.  
I'll work and pray  
For Jesus will come some beautiful day.  
—Mabelle Wiard Willmarth*

## Vietnamese Soldiers Find Christ

*World Vision* supports chaplains in seventeen of the hospitals of Vietnam. Stanley Mooneyham reports that 10,000 soldiers have accepted Christ through this hospital ministry. Hospitalized children are also taught the love of Jesus and carry this Christian influence home to 150,000 more people, according to reports.

## Wondering

The stars of heaven gleam;  
Sure, silent and supreme;  
Lighting the myriad runways of the sky.  
For what whispering craft  
Or silver space-spun raft  
Do they light the labyrinthine paths?  
Or are they spirit ships  
That use these starry slips  
As they wing up  
With hallelujahs on their lips?

The stars' enticing light,  
Piercing the gauze of night,  
Compels minds to think of spiritual realms.  
To human sight it seems  
That these luminous beams  
Glitter unattainably far away.  
Is heaven, too, up there,  
So far from toil and care,  
Or will our love of God  
Bring heaven close somewhere?

—Mabelle Wiard Willmarth