

The Sabbath Recorder

1972 - The Year of the Book

by Carl W. Tiller

The United Nations has invited its member nations to make 1972 a year to advance the use of books. Governments who respond to the invitation may be urging their people to intensify their reading, their writing, and their literacy efforts.

Baptists have always been a people of THE book—the Bible. We cherish it as the Word of God. We rank it above all other books in our scale of values. We know by experience that it is useful in turning men, women, and youth to become new persons in Christ.

The Baptist World Alliance has been an instrument for advance in the use and understanding of the Bible. Our study commissions have helped to enrich our understanding for the messages of the Bible. Our relief program has assisted financially to provide Bibles in their own languages for pastors and church workers in countries where they can not get them for themselves.

While the alliance has no Bible printing program of its own, we have used our influence on occasion to urge governments to allocate paper supplies (where rationed) and to grant permission for Bibles to be printed. Where this has failed, we have at times urged governments to permit the importation of Bibles in the local languages.

Though the alliance has no translation program, we have fraternal relations with those who do, including the United Bible Societies. We encourage translation work by Baptist bodies.

The Bible has nothing to fear but neglect. Baptists might well resolve to make 1972 our "Year of THE Book."

—Guest editorial in Baptist World

My Personal Testimony

by Jane Harris Jernoske

Shiloh, N. J.

I have known and accepted Christ as my Lord for many years. I knew that He was with me but I had so many ups-and-downs, worries, and problems which I never could rise above. I was in a very low and despairing time when I heard the Lord speaking to me, telling me that He would give me a Comforter who would handle all my problems and even my whole life. I wanted Someone else to rule my life because I was doing such a miserable job! So I prayed and received the Holy Spirit in my life and now I can say confidently that He rules my life.

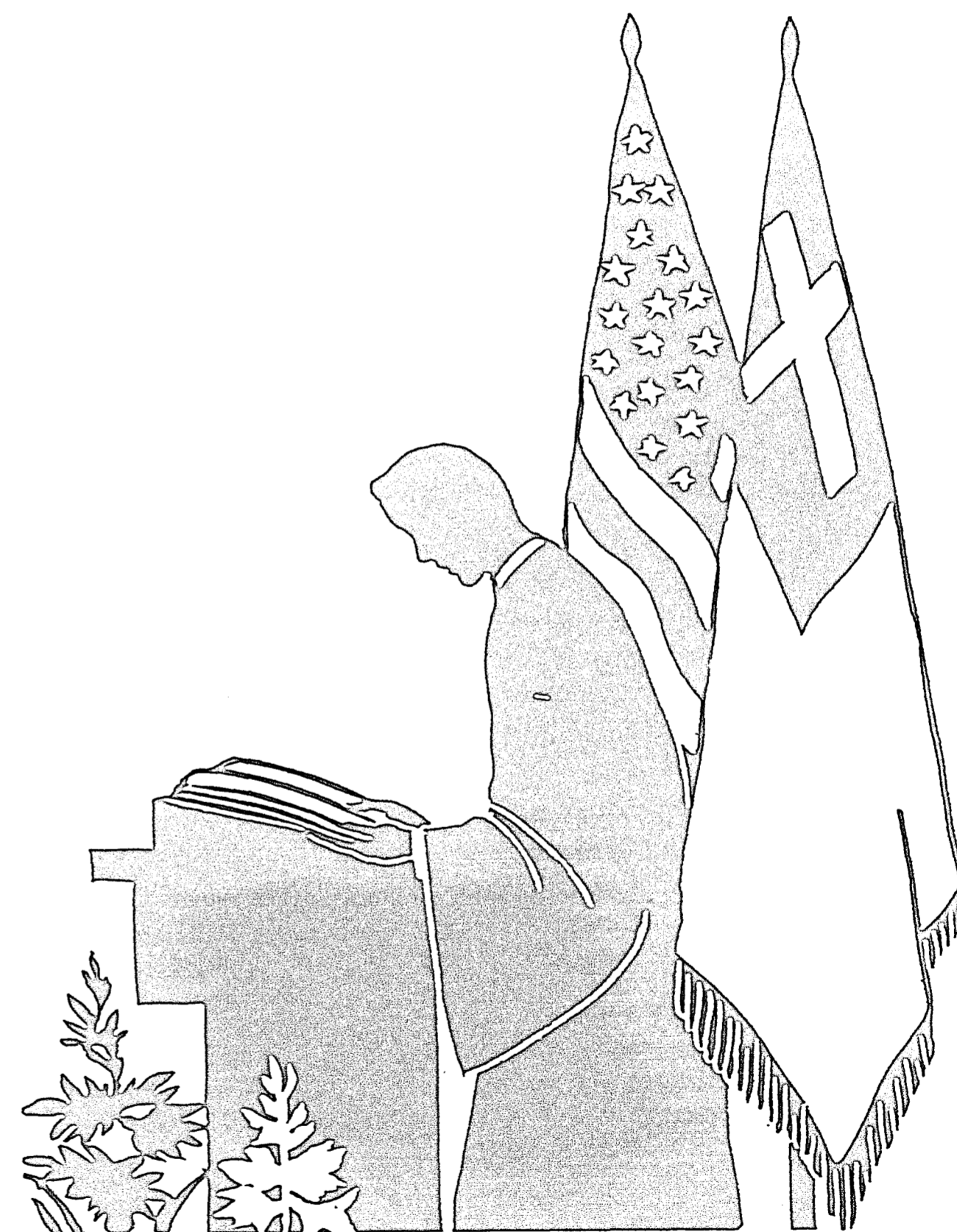
I no longer have to worry and fret because the Lord has taken my life and filled it with His Spirit who uses and works through me, His vessel. He controls all my thoughts and words and now I can not help witnessing by my life and words because they are His.

Oh, how wonderful and glorious life is with the Savior on the throne! As it says in Romans 8:9: "You are controlled by your new nature if you have the *Spirit* of God living in you." And remember that if anyone doesn't have the *Spirit* of Christ living in him, he is not a Christian at all.

Have you experienced the Holy Spirit *really* living in you? Is He in control of your life—in all the many things you do? I pray that you will open your life to Him so He can have complete control of you. Will you do it now?

Faith Leads to Obedience

True faith is a gift, something which God creates in us as we behold Jesus crucified for our sins. It inspires us to want to serve God and obey His commandments.



Preaching Righteousness from Every Pulpit

Area Spiritual Retreats for Seventh Day Baptist pastors are now being held throughout the United States. The emphasis of the May special issue is on ministerial leadership. Prayer is requested for all pastors. The New Testament church was built largely by preaching. One of only four references to preaching in the Old Testament says, "I have preached righteousness in the great congregation" (Ps. 40:9).

The Sabbath Recorder

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Can China Be Evangelized?

The visit of President Nixon to Red China and the relative openness with which he and his large party were received has given rise to some well-founded and ill-founded speculation about the time when missionaries will be able again to enter the country and seek to convert the generation that has grown up under the radical Communism that has proscribed all preaching of the gospel.

Some of the Christians of Taiwan are quoted as saying that Nixon's visit to and recognition of Red China was a typhoon, the eye of which hit Taiwan and all but devastated it. This typhoon they said might better be named Richard — than some girl name. They do not see good coming from recognizing (as Nixon did) that Taiwan which has been autonomous for so many years is really a part of China.

Others take quite an opposite view and put more faith in the outcome of that visit than the President ever claimed. Some of these people go way too far and compromise our political idealism. There may be a wave of Communist sympathizers advocating a forgetting of past horrors and making common cause with the leaders of Red China. Of such we have nothing further to say at this point.

Our chief concern is for the souls of 800 million Chinese and whether or not the Christian world can soon hope to reach them. Certain enthusiasts have jumped to the conclusion that mission work is about to begin again in China. We cannot blame them for hoping, but to proceed too rapidly might be disastrous to the cause. A comment along this line quoted from the paperback *Red Sky at Midnight* in the *Missionary Crusader* is worth pondering. The author, Leslie Lyall, has had twenty years as a missionary in China with the China Inland Mission and in recent years has made it his business to know what has been going on in China. He writes:

"Brash adventurism by Americans and Europeans would severely embarrass the Christians in China and do untold damage to the cause of Christ. This is not the time for grandiose and spectacular schemes to be given maximum publicity with the hope of attracting maximum do-

notions. To exploit a China situation in the sensational way that similar situations elsewhere have been exploited would be fatal. What is called for now is quiet, unheralded, informal, and, above all, prayerful consultation, and a constant waiting on God to understand His purposes as they unfold little by little."

Giving to World Work

There is no material regularly coming to the editor's desk for publication that is read by him with more interest than the statement of OWM receipts from Gordon Sanford, treasurer. The editor's desire in a publication like this is to help people grow spiritually and to find their place in God's plan for their lives.

There is no better barometer of our interest in the things of the Lord than our contributions to His work. Probably our giving to the total work of our denomination is a better barometer of our commitment than our support of the local church. Much of what we give locally is for our own comfort and convenience; it is a sort of extension of our family responsibility for housing, instruction, and community standing. Mission giving in some respects calls forth more unselfishness. The mission church in Malawi or Mexico keeps rain and sun off the heads of other worshipping families, not mine.

To read and to try to interpret the giving record of our people is for me and perhaps for others a heart-stirring experience. When we meet a friend we may use the common greeting, "How do you do?" which has little meaning. But each month when the treasurer's figures come in they are a meaningful answer to the question of how we are doing in our churches.

Now it happens that the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society and the publishing of this subsidized periodical are somewhat dependent on the support of OWM. That, however, is not the reason for that feeling of concern mentioned above. We rejoice when we see evidences of the growth of liberality on the part of our whole denominational family just the same as a pastor rejoices over new in-

terest in spiritual things on the part of his flock.

On page fifteen of this issue is the record of the giving of our churches for the month of March. Making allowances for some carry-over from February and some contributions that did not get to Mr. Sanford in time for inclusion here, there is one of two things that thoughtful people can be happy for. Although the total for March of 1972 is somewhat less than for March of 1971 the percentage for three months is slightly better than at this time last year. It is all the more encouraging when we remember that we are working on a budget that is \$14,000 higher than last year's. It is true that we have fallen behind our goal and that we must do much better in the months to come if we are to raise half of the budget in the first six months.

In your editor's opinion, there are hopeful signs throughout this month's and this quarter's report. Perhaps we are better able than some of our readers to add to the quoted figures some of the more intangible signs of growth that exist in a number of our churches. There appears to be a growing spirituality and an increased desire to meet world evangelism needs both within and outside our adopted budget. Deepening love is bound to result in more tithes and offerings. We can look for further tangible evidences of this new life in due time. It will show in greater giving to the causes dear to us if we make our needs known to the Lord and to His people.

Your heart may not be warmed by cold figures, but back of every loving gift is a warm heart. We can be warmed by what we ourselves have given and by the knowledge that others are united in the same endeavors.

MEMORY TEXT

"As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day" (Ezek. 4:12).

What Is Conversion?

By Larry G. Brannon

Webster's Dictionary says to convert is to turn, to transform, to embrace a creed other than the one originally accepted. This is the action form of the word, the verb. If we look at the word as a noun, convert, with the accent on the first syllable, it means a person who makes a sincere voluntary change. From this we can conclude that conversion is a personal voluntary change in what a person believes. A Christian converts from being a sinner to believing in Christ and thus is saved.

Why should a person convert to become a Christian? Well, to be a sinner is bad and we have to admit that all of us are sinners. Sinning is a rejection of good. But what is good? God is good! Therefore sinning is a rejection of God. But, what is God? God is the undefinable unknown that we Christians all fear and believe in because we are insecure. We are insecure because we recognize our inadequacy as humans to be able to explain the complexities of the world in which we exist and to live harmoniously in it. We realize that there is a "somethingness" that pervades all life, that makes the world go around and makes us breathe and move, that sustains even an alga or amoeba! We need a God who is big enough in each one of our individual minds, who can explain and put us several million Christians at ease, a God who can give us a perspective of the world and how we relate to it. Therefore, to be a sinner is to be a person who is separate from God, i.e., who feels independent of the "somethingness" that empowers animals, people and the universe of forces. A sinner, then, is a person who tries to manipulate the intricacies of our environment and the people in it with the thought in mind that he, the sinner, is really separate and independent from the "somethingness" that controls everything and everybody else in this world and universe.

Of course independence is a ridiculous notion, because we as people, all living things and the natural resources and energies of the world are all interdepend-

ent. We depend on animals and plants for food. Animals and plants in turn depend on each other for food, e.g., animals eat animals and plants; plants absorb water and minerals from the earth. Both plants and animals breathe gases from the air. So a food chain is set up starting from the earth and the atmosphere passing through plants, to animals and finally to people. From a physical point of view, then, we humans depend on all the elements and living things of the earth.

We as humans also have another inescapable interdependence and that is to each other. Humans are human because we are able to think and reason and conceptualize. We need each other because we need mental support. But other humans don't always fulfill that need, so we must rely on God, the "somethingness" that we individually conceptualize as the giver of the goodness in life, that gives us the intangible, but real feeling of hope to keep living.

As sinners we do not have a hope to live. We do not recognize the interdependence of life and resources at all levels. As sinners we falsely assume that we are superior, above and not dependent on the rest of the world. This is where conversion begins. We must become aware of what the facts are. We must realize how intertwined we are with the elements of the world and universe. We must recognize that we need each other as people for support and that we need God, the "somethingness" that we believe in to give us direction and purpose.

Conversion happens in an instance of awareness and then continues as we become more aware of the realities of life and how we are in relation to the other objects and living things around us. Conversion is a gaining of perspective within oneself. It is becoming a new person. Conversion is the dropping of masks and defenses that we hide behind in the pretense of existing as an independent being. Conversion is realizing that we have emotions as human beings, both peaceful and angry. Conversion is becoming the persons that we wish to be and need to be in order to live harmoniously with ourselves and the rest of the

world. Conversion is being aware that other people have feelings and they as persons need to be accepted too. Conversion is being led by the Holy Spirit to become a person who is aware of what he is and what the world is like around him and being able to accept it.

This is what believing in Christ means to me. Christ accepts anybody in any condition, namely me; and by believing in Christ I have hope; I am accepting myself as I am and then becoming the individual that I need to be without being ashamed of it. This is what happened to me when I was converted to become a Christian. I publicly expressed faith in Christ a few years earlier in my life, but until I became aware of myself as I really was I didn't receive the conversion of the Holy Spirit. It was then that I began to become a real individual with a real personality. The things I did took on value. I had real worth as an individual. I began to have purpose. I began to make decisions that took me toward that purpose. I began to deal with myself as I was. Life became exciting.

It is a slow process to become your real self and a mature Christian. It all starts with believing that Christ accepts you as you are and therefore accepting yourself as you are, with all the good, bad and indifference in you.

News from Nellore

There is further news from the Rev. B. John V. Rao of Nellore regarding Seventh Day Baptist work in South India. Many of our readers at home and abroad have been stirred by the catastrophes and encouraged by the faith of which they have learned from previous letters. The greatest disaster was the tidal wave last October that swept twenty-one literature evangelists out to sea. Contributions have been sufficient to provide the agreed upon relief for the widows and orphans. Some of the children whose mothers could not take care of them are now in our church-operated children's hostel at Nellore. Others are in the homes of grandparents.

It will be recalled that early last summer Mrs. Rao (Mary Suseela) nearly lost



her life at childbirth and was hospitalized for a long time. We print here the first picture since her recovery. The healthy baby is now more than eight months old. Mrs. Rao is again employed in the work of the India Conference as of March 1.

Other pictures recently received were not sufficiently clear for reproduction. One was an old picture identifying seven of the evangelists who lost their lives. Others showed graveside services in the Nalamala mountain area for the Rev. R. Jacob who died March 23. He had served as pastor for ten years and as a member of the Conference Executive Committee for three years. He left a wife and three small boys. Secretary Rao called attention to the oxcart barely showing in the pictures, explaining that they had to use oxen because the area was too mountainous for hand carrying the coffin to the place where the grave was to be dug.

Although there have been problems of sickness, death and poverty the work goes on with apparent good courage. There is deep appreciation for the encouraging prayers and gifts from Europe and America.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for April 29, 1972

THE MISSIONARY IMPERATIVE

Lesson Scripture: Luke 24: 45-49; John 17:18-21; Acts 13:1-3.

The Sabbath as a Memorial

by Ralph Hays

When God had finished the creation of the heavens and the earth, He instituted the Sabbath to commemorate that infinite work. This is plainly taught in Genesis 2, 3, and Exodus 20:8-10. Yet it is said that when He raised His Son from the dead He determined that the Sabbath should thenceforth commemorate that event, and changed the institution from the day on which He rested from His creative work to the day on which He raised Christ, but nothing of this kind is stated in the Bible.

To show the absurdity of this view, I will suppose that, instead of ordaining an institution to commemorate His creative work, He had set up a literal monument for that purpose. Thus, the heavens and earth being finished, God erected a monument with the following inscription: "In six days God created the heavens and the earth, and rested on the seventh. This monument was erected to commemorate that work." However, when the Father raised His Son from the dead, He thought it good to make an addition to the words upon this monument and under the original inscription He placed a second which reads thus: "God raised His Son from the dead on the first day of the week. This monument was erected to commemorate that event."

This illustrates the case of those who say that the Sabbath commemorates the creation of the world and the resurrection of Christ, but whoever reads the two inscriptions on the same monument will say that one of them is a falsehood, for they contradict each other; and it would not be difficult to determine that the untruth is in the second inscription. Others think to remedy this difficulty by the statement that He removed the original inscription and then engraved the second. This does not avoid the falsehood, it only hides it in the case of those who do not think, while thoughtful men will say, "This monument was not erected to commemorate the resurrection of Christ, for it had been standing 4,000 years when He was raised from the dead."

If the Great Architect lacked materials

He might have demolished the original monument and used its stones to erect another, and on it He would have written the second inscription. This is what many assert that he did.

In that case He declares the first event no longer worthy to be commemorated, and the original monument no longer worthy to exist. This is to say, that the creation of the heavens and the earth is no longer worthy of commemoration, and the Sabbath institution no longer worthy to be hallowed.

The resurrection of Christ is worthy of a divine memorial, but it is not necessary to inscribe a falsehood upon the memorial of creation nor yet to destroy that memorial to secure a memorial of Christ's resurrection. The baptism commemorates his death and resurrection, Romans 6:3-6 — Col. 2:12 — 1 Peter 3:21; while the Sabbath remains the memorial of creation.

God Is a Majority

Brethren, are you really so upset about the majority principle? Know, then, that God is a majority; and those that are with me are more than those that are with you. God's testimony is worth more than that of all men. What, though millions have affirmed, that the seventh day is not the Sabbath? He hath left us this imperishable testimony: "The seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God." And this is the testimony of the Greatest Majority that ever gave utterance to truth."

Is It Jewish?

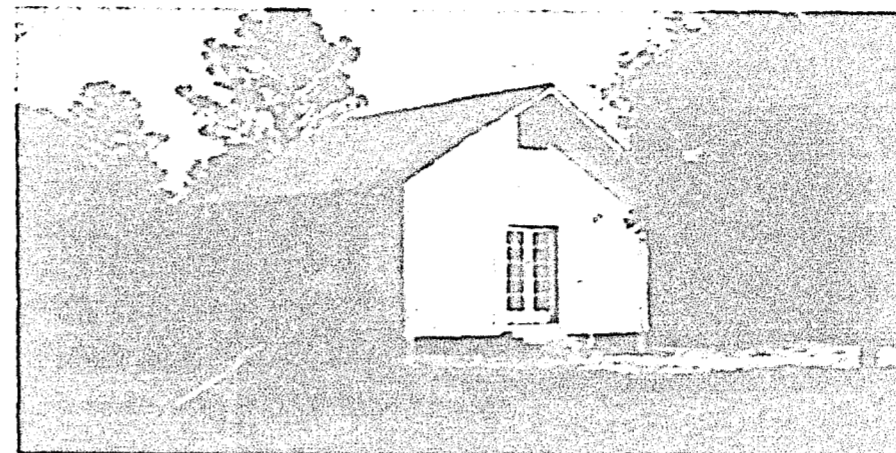
The Seventh Day of the week is the Jewish Sabbath, just as much as, and no more than the Bible account of the creation is a Jewish record, as the books of Moses are Jewish books. It is the Jewish Sabbath just as much as, and no more than, Moses, Joshua, and Samuel were Jewish prophets and lawgivers, as David was the Jewish Psalmist, as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other ancient prophets were Jewish prophets, as Christ was the Jewish Savior, and the twelve apostles Jewish apostles. In short, the Seventh Day of the week is the Jewish Sabbath just as much as the Scriptures, of the Old and New Testament, are Jewish

A Bigger Church

By John Bevis

Moderator Southeastern Association

Nestled among the pines and palmetoes of central Florida there is rising to the glory of God a new Seventh Day Baptist church building. The Putnam County



Old church

Church has moved in faith to construct a larger and more representative house

"Separation" Advocate Appointed in Madrid

Pope Paul VI has named Cardinal Vincente Enrique y Tarazon, an outspoken champion of church-state separation, to be the new Archbishop of Madrid.

The appointment of the sixty-four-year-old Archbishop of Toledo and Primate of Spain to head the most populous archdiocese in Spain was part of a major shake-up in the Church hierarchy announced simultaneously at Vatican City and in Madrid.

Cardinal Enrique recently presided over a national assembly of Spanish Catholic bishops and priests — the first of its kind in the country — that called for an end to the ties between the Spanish Church and the Spanish government. The assembly also called for improvements in human rights in Spain, including the right of conscientious objection to military service and the right of freedom of expression.

Under a Concordat between the Vatican and Spain, the Spanish Chief of State is entitled to take part in the choices of new bishops. —EBPS

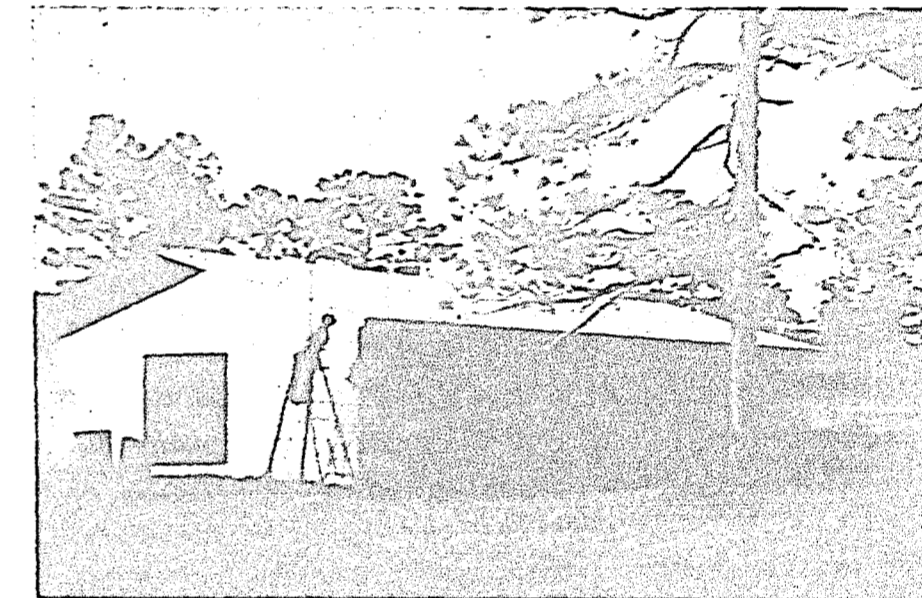
Bible, or as Jehovah or the God revealed in the Bible is the Jewish God.

Is it Jewish?

of worship. The small congregation is paying for the project as they go and doing most of the work themselves. They report much interest in the community regarding the new church and several of their nonmember neighbors have given toward the project.

One of the most rewarding experiences that has come to me this year as moderator of the Southeastern Association has been the opportunity to visit the different churches and learn more of their work and witness. It was especially interesting to visit in Palatka with the moderator and clerk, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Price, and learn from them more of the work and plans of the Putnam County Church.

According to Mr. Price, the new church will be completed by mid-summer. The congregation then hopes to begin work on a parsonage. "Where there



New church

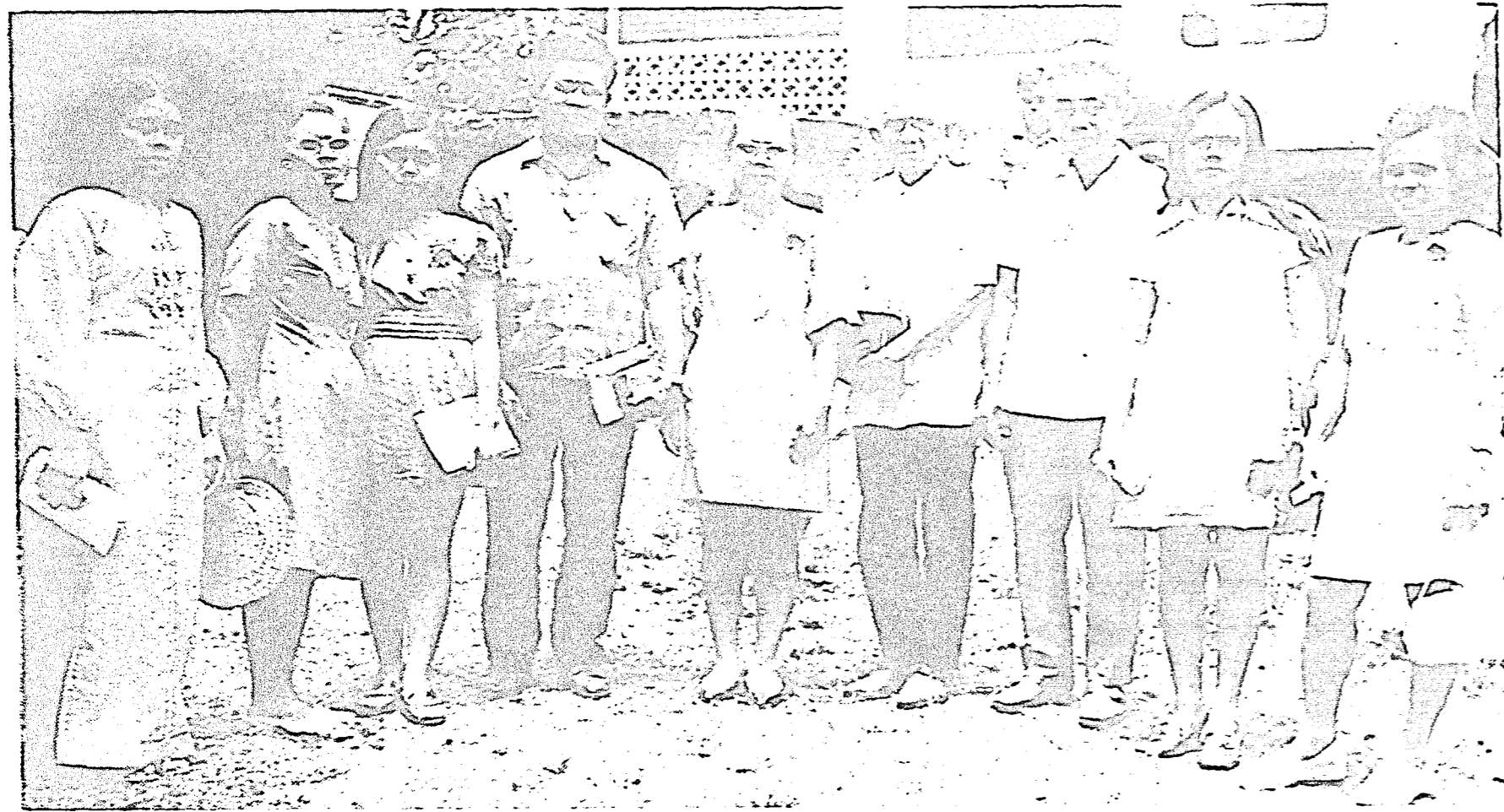
is no vision the people perish." We thank God for these who faithfully uphold the Seventh Day Baptist witness in central Florida.

Bible Society Secretary Dies

Dr. Olivier Béguin, devoted general secretary of the United Bible Society since 1949, succumbed to abdominal cancer in London, where he made his home, on April 1, according to news sent out by the treasurer of the American Bible Society. The United Bible Society is the world organization with which the ABS is closely related. Dr. Béguin was visited by Dr. Holmgren and Mr. Hutchinson of ABS shortly before his death. They discussed the upcoming September meeting in Addis Ababa of the UBS.

Philippine Leaders Write

Letters continue to come regularly from two or three leaders of the Seventh Day Baptist work in the Philippines and from new friends also. The church in Cebu City seems to be well led and is growing in membership and service. Among the pictures recently received is this one of the local church officers.



From left to right: Miss Eleanor Ferraren, young people's secretary; Mrs. Magdalena Abella, teacher of the children's division; Miss Loida Rodriguez, Sabbath School secretary and young people's leader; Mr. Raymundo Zamora, church elder; Mrs. Esther Rodriguez, school superintendent; Mr. Deigo Bantilan, missionary leader; Mr. Ireneo Selma, church treasurer; Mrs. Bienvenida Ferraren and Mrs. Zamora, Sabbath School teachers.

The church does not have an adequate building for worship and classes but the congregation is growing. Mr. Isoto, high school director at Albuera, Leyte, and one of the two most prominent leaders writes on April 2:

"I chanced to attend last Sabbath the Labangon Seventh Day Baptist Church in Cebu City. I was impressed by the attendance, its orderliness, and the close fellowship among the brethren. I was really honored to be with them, for so long a time that I have not attended their services. There are about seventy members in that particular church. They have plenty

of activities on Sabbath afternoon and even on Sunday they have children's Bible class. Our members there are very nice, and they deserve orchids of congratulations"

Mr. Isoto has published the second monthly issue of a mimeographed paper called the *Philippine Sabbath Recorder*. The publication work and tract distribution are said to be producing more contacts than they can readily follow up. The growing work calls for some financial assistance to help them help themselves. The Tract Board has furnished a mimeograph.



The church has a double program of Bible teaching for children. Their own children have Sabbath School at the usual time, but a number of the church leaders have felt a call to visit the sick in homes and hospitals on Sabbath afternoon and therefore decided to have Bible School for non-members on Sunday. They have a good staff of teachers under the general direction of Mrs. Corazon Gulfan. A picture, which we are not able to reproduce here, shows the teaching staff and about thirty-five children of varying ages. The regular Sabbath School pictured here normally has about twenty-five children, but some of them had left before the picture was taken.

God's Conditional Promises

The Bible is full of promises that are just as sure as the goodness of God, but most of them have conditions attached for our development. So it is with "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psa. 84:11). If we spent more time thinking about how to walk uprightly we wouldn't have to spend so much time reminding God about not withholding those good things He has promised.

Then there is that wonderful statement of the New Testament that "all things work together for good." But we misquote that promise "if we put a period there where it doesn't belong. The promise cannot be claimed by all, for it says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God . . ." (Rom. 8:28).

Our Prayer Corner

Pray for:

- 1) More consistency in putting first things first in all of our family expenditures as well as in the use of our time.
- 2) A fuller right to and enjoyment of the blessings promised when we return to the Lord a just portion of what He has entrusted us with.
- 3) A realization that God calls us not only to work for Christ's kingdom where we are but to be partners in the employment of representatives to do the work in places where we cannot go.
- 4) The success of the current area spiritual retreats for pastors.
- 5) The spring training session at Plainfield for students and new ministers preparing for more effective service.
- 6) The forthcoming special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder*, that its emphasis on church leadership may influence many who are not on our regular mailing list.



Look Up -- Lift Up

By Clifford A. Beebe,
Paint Rock, Ala.

If the apostle Paul had been limited to only one sermon to preach, the theme would unquestionably have been "Faith"; for that is the undergirding theme of all his letters; he takes the text for his basic theology from the prophet Habakkuk: "The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4).

If the apostle Peter had been given only one choice, he would almost as certainly have chosen "Hope." Once having denied his Lord, and lost all hope, yet having regained it, he could write, "He hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope" (1 Pet. 1:3). This theme of hope underlies all his writings: a man once without hope, who has found it precious to his soul.

If the apostle John had been given only one opportunity, he would surely have preached on "Love." In fact, if tradition is to be believed, that was his sole theme in his extreme old age. It is said that he would have himself carried to the church in order that he might speak simply the words, "Little children, love one another." John is primarily the apostle of love; it overshadows all else in his writings. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:11).

Faith, hope, love, these three—and the greatest of these is love, says Paul, the apostle of faith.

If I, then, had only one sermon to preach, would I choose the greatest of these, which is love? Sometimes I have thought I would: Love is the acid test of our faith as the young folks, with deep understanding, love to sing:

"They will know we are Christian by our love."

But in a world, such as ours is today, which is increasingly plunging deeper in-

to hopelessness and despair, "without hope and without God in the world," as Paul says, I think I would choose Peter's theme.

"Hope is a treasure on this broken earth."

Peter's theme; and yet it was Paul who wrote, "We are saved by hope" (Rom. 8:24). These words have puzzled scholars; they puzzled the late Dr. W. C. Whitford, who was so sure that Paul's thesis was salvation by faith: and yet he admitted that the Greek would allow no other translation.

Dr. Whitford once told his class that he had searched in vain through many volumes of sermons for one on hope. I had better luck; there was a sermon on this text of Paul's in a recent number of *Grit*. But I had a fruitless search through the topical index of our hymnal for a section on hope. Faith and love, yes; but no hope.

No hope! In today's world which is giving itself over to hopelessness and despair. And that is because we have placed our hope in the wrong things. We have thought we could save ourselves by our own efforts.

We have placed our hope in evolution: man was progressing ever upward, becoming better and nobler. As one creed expressed it: "I believe in the progress of mankind onward and upward forever." We would fight a war to end all wars, establish the "Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World" which Tennyson foresaw: a League of Nations, a United Nations, which would bring peace and harmony to all mankind, and end warfare forever. The Kingdom of God would come, brought in by our own efforts. But this Utopia definitely has not materialized.

And then we placed our hope in

science and technology. With our technical know-how we would do away with hunger, disease and want; and our labor-saving machines would make an easy life for everybody.

But our hopes backfired. War bred war, and more war, as it has always done. Our labor-saving devices put multitudes out of work, our technology brought pollution and death-dealing destruction, our fight against disease and famine brought the threat of over-population; so that our hopes for a "brave new world" give place to despair, just when we have ventured far into outer space to discover that the science-fiction writers were wrong: there is no other habitable world to which we can hope to flee.

What then? Shall we give up to despair, seek refuge in alcohol or drugs or suicide, as multitudes are doing; shall we live for the day only: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die"; or is there hope somewhere? If ever a message of hope was needed, it is today.

And the words of the psalmist come to mind:

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me?"

Hope thou in God . . ." (Psalm 42:11).

The writer of these words could hope in the darkest times—*especially* in the darkest times. Hope, the author of Hebrews tells us, is an anchor of the soul.

"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Paul writes to Titus of "that blessed hope" (Titus 2:14), the glorious appearing of our Lord. It will not come by our doing, but by His.

And Jesus Himself, after speaking of the calamities coming on the earth (His words read almost like today's news report) adds, when these things come to pass, "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Instead of looking downward at what we can do, or fail to do, let us look upward in hope, to what God can do and what He has promised, we can find ourselves lifted from the depths of despair to the heights of hope. "Jesus shall reign."

Thus to change the figure of Hebrews, hope gives wings to the soul.

Fighting Over Peace

It is reported that some churches in trying to be consistent in their non-support of the military have objected to the payment of the telephone tax. It is claimed that the Federal tax on telephone service is used to raise money to support the military. Since churches have to pay telephone bills they are involved in supporting a cause that is thought to be contrary to their Christian convictions.

One such church called a business meeting to protest payment and to withhold the tax. The constituency was divided on the issue to the extent that it was almost impossible to conduct the meeting. The recriminations, the accusations, the strong feelings left the congregation split and divided and hurt. The contemplated action had to be tabled. There came near to being war in the church over a tiny fragment of the peace issue.

We believe that the church ought to produce strong convictions and strong feelings, but it ought to help its members to discuss controversial issues, however big or small, with Christian forbearance.

No Longer Disciple of Satan

Some of those who outwardly are most hostile to Christ are converted and their lives marvelously changed. A letter from Allen Bond of Marion, Iowa, tells of the conversion on December 6 of a member of a motorcycle gang called "Disciples of Satan."

A few days later his conversion he opened his home to Mr. Bond for a strengthening Bible study. He and his Catholic wife are said to be "really changed." He has requested baptism. He has now repainted his motorcycle to use it in witnessing for Christ.

Three members of another motorcycle gang, "The Chosen Few," attended a meeting at which the former "disciple of Satan" gave his testimony. Their name, though sounding Biblical, is a profanation of that designation of Christians. The three visitors were not yet ready to accept salvation and walked out while the new disciple was speaking.

The First Quarter "Reading"

Just as successful business has its flow charts and graphs, and hospital patients their detailed records of temperature, pulse, etc., so month-by-month we are seeking to "check up" on ourselves by noting our total response to Our World Mission opportunities and needs. This may be an irritation to some who feel that if we would just forget about it, all will come out all right. But, since each one of us is responsible for the level of support given, in meeting day-to-day needs we must be informed.

The "reading" for March is at hand. It bears close resemblance to last year in that we have fallen further behind our goal — some \$1,500 in undesignated giving alone for the missionary society, in this first quarter. We note a higher amount given but we also have adopted, as a Conference, a higher goal.

Designated giving has also risen in total amount given through Our World Mission — about \$500 above last year. Yet this is still just over \$500 short of our budgeted needs.

By the time you read this (near the end of April) our giving for another month will be pretty well decided. And, since it is the month for accounting our tax with the government, receipts last year were down nearly 50 percent below March and June giving. We hope such will not be repeated. In fact, with many receiving tax refunds, we trust that the Lord's share will find its way into the offering envelopes and thus raise total giving to its set mark. It will take some special giving to do this—giving above our individual "norm," but we can do it, if we will.

Your "extra" gifts outside the budget raised over \$9,000 for the new Crandall High School classroom building in the last half of 1971 — and we reached the OWM goal too. Your "extra" gifts outside the budget in these last few months made possible the purchase of the new vehicle for use by our workers in Guyana. We praise the Lord, thanking Him and

PROMOTION

Though this is the time of year many youth and parents consider "promotion" as meaning "to graduate" from one grade level to another, our emphasis is "to further growth and development." In the context of your Missionary Society it means that we seek to more completely enter into and fulfill the work of missions that are given us by our Lord.

This is why this key word is used in the budget outline before the normal word *administration*. As the one full-time employee on the home field, I see much to be accomplished. Much may be routine. But the challenging need is promotion—to further growth and development—that Christ be known, received, obeyed, served, and shared effectively.

Note, it is not program we are promoting. It is a Person. True "growth and development" come not by setting and reaching human goals, but rather by His changing and using human lives for His glory. As He is alive in and working through His people — those whom He has called and sent to reap the harvest—we find purpose and joy in working with Him to aid in His and their ministry.

Unless a person knows the divine imperative, motivating him to a God-given task, then he does not have a "mission" and we trust will not be "one sent" out for Christ's work through this society. In a real sense, your society facilitates the ministry of individuals in God-given responsibilities for His glory.

Thus when May is set as a time for special designated giving for "Promotion: publications," all this and more is involved. We trust you will wish to have a little extra part, through your prayers and gifts in May, to make such possible.

—L. R. L.

you for these goals reached!

In the next month or two could we not give a bit "extra" to Our World Mission to bring our giving up to our goal? We are doing well, but it is not our best. Together let us prove that we can do better!

Vocations Sabbath Observed

On Vocations Sabbath, March 18, the lay members of the Brookfield Seventh Day Baptist Churches ministered the Word of God and the word of men and women seeking God in their vocations, reports the pastor, the Rev. Neal D. Mills.

Mrs. Helen Brown and Mr. Francis Palmer presented two important messages on the redemptive nature of the Sabbath in both personal and social affairs. Mrs. Brown read "The Christian Sabbath in a Changing World" by the Rev. Elmo Randolph as presented in a special *Sabbath Recorder*. Mr. Palmer read the Rev. Rex Burdick's "The Sabbath for Such a Time as This" from the Facing Frontiers with Faith resources.

Scriptural inspiration was taken from the reading of Hebrews 4.

The contemporary experience of "Able Seventh Day Baptists" was shared when Gloria Palmer read about Mrs. Harold Collings and her gift shop, and when Jake Balcom read about Bob Wright and his Sabbath witness on his utility company job in Colorado.

The Vocations Committee of the Board of Christian Education, serving for USA Conference vocations concerns, would be happy to hear how other churches used Vocations Sabbath.

We also repeat our invitation for persons to send in brief sketches of the Sabbathkeeping experiences of friends. These will be used for the "Able SDB" program of sharing challenging experiences.

Beacons Printed

Delayed in its current issue's printing by the illness of the offset printer who had been engaged for printing, the March issue has now been mailed out. Subscribers should have received theirs by now. New subscriptions will find the articles and appearance stimulating and helpful. Send \$1 to: Youth Committee, Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803. This includes membership in National SDBYF, also.

Eight Youth Fellowships have news in this issue, Matt Randolph's cover photo

Christian Family Week

May 7 - 14, 1972

The theme chosen by the Family Life Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education is "Christian Responsibility for the Glory of God." A folio of resources was sent recently to pastors and Christian Education key-workers.

The Family Ministries Division of the NCC released the following statement on the general theme for observance, "Man and Woman in Marriage Relationships," with the text "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21 RSV).

Marriage is being challenged as an impediment to the relationships of a man and a woman by many persons today. Legally, many of our laws reflect a point of view in which a woman is regarded as property or a minor dependent of her husband.

While the word "obey" has disappeared from most wedding services, there is still a strong social tradition which regards the man as "head of the house."

It is not surprising, therefore, that many young people, both men and women, reject an institution which makes the woman into a second-class citizen.

But we may ask whether these legal and social traditions are of the essence of the Christian marriage. Clearly they are not.

Our text indicates that a relationship of mutual support, inspired and nourished by the love of Christ is characteristic of the essence of Christian marriage.

In this relationship of loving service and support each to the other there is, in Christ, no superior or inferior. Throughout the Scriptures, in both the Old and New Testaments, a husband and wife "become one" not only physically as they consummate their marriage but in all other aspects of their joined lives.

To "become one" is not to lose your

of running deer introduces you to Pre-Con surroundings for August 1972, and Karen Osborn's editing creates a very inspirational pocket-mag.

identity. A man or woman does not lose maleness or femaleness in their sexual union; they mutually create a larger unity.

Likewise, in marriage a man and a woman unite their full uniqueness and individuality in a larger unity — and thereby find each of their individualities fulfilled and enhanced.

It is at once a privilege and an opportunity for Christians today to demonstrate this high understanding of the relationships of men and women in Christian marriage to a world that is desperately seeking some meaningfulness in their lives as men and women.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

HEBRON, PA.— Pastor Harold King resigned, effective June 24. Attention any pastors interested! Hebron church has a nice parsonage available. Give us a thought.

Weekly Bible study is well attended. The study books are now here. While awaiting their arrival Pastor King volunteered to lead the class. Various New Testament books have been studied with profitable discussions.

William (Bill) Thompson again portrayed The Christ in the Passion Play, "The Crucifixion," given twice annually in the Coudersport Consistory auditorium during the Lenten season. Bill has ably performed this part since the Passion Play's inception sixteen years ago. We believe he has given a precious witness for his Lord. Over 4,000 people each year attend the event. Several of our members sing in the mixed chorus of over one hundred voices.

Walter Snyder is attending Mansfield State College. At present he is taking the Liberal Arts course.

The Sabbath School has made several changes in the classes. Ruth Brock teaches Kindergarten; Rachel Kenyon, Primary; and Evelyn Hauber, Junior. Several more children are attending church and Sabbath School. The children are taking great interest in the music. Pearl Brock is pianist and Evelyn Hauber directs the music.

The W.S.S.S. voted to take charge of

a church service, using the theme of Family Life. Two copies of "Easter Ideals" will be purchased for lounges at Maple View Rest Home. Plans and committees were discussed for our neighborhood get-together in April. Special issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*, edited by the Rev. Delmer Van Horn, were mailed. The women also rebound the backs of the church hymnals. February and March hostesses were Edith Burdick and Kathryn Thompson.

The W.S.S.S. charges no dues. The women have a yearly bazaar and occasional other sales. Individuals keep a supply of cards, stationery and other items on hand. The members and others buy these as needed.

A few of our women have been calling in the community and surrounding areas Sabbath afternoons. Yes, even in the snow!

Pastor King made a different kind of pastoral prayer one Sabbath. He asked the congregation to pray silently as he thanked God for blessings, prayed for the sick and shut-ins, the men in the Service, our President, for each other, and for others. He paused after each brief prayer for us to pray. I'm sure all praying "together with one accord," felt the moving of the Spirit in their midst.

—Correspondent

Marriages

Lawton - Henkel.— Duane Eugene Lawton, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Leon R. Lawton of Westerly, R. I., and Cheryl Jean Henkel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph A. Henkel of Charlevoix, Mich., were united in marriage at the South Jackson Community Church, Jackson, Mich., on March 25, 1972, with the father of the groom officiating. From June they will be living at 6123 Brooklyn Road, Jackson, MI 49021.

Limosino - Branch.— Joseph Thomas Limosino, Jr., son of Joseph Thomas and Pearl Johnson Limosino of Bridgeton, N. J., and Barbara Anne Branch, daughter of Mrs. Edith Davis Branch of Shiloh, N. J., and the late Everest D. Branch, were married April 1, 1972, in the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church by her pastor, the Rev. Donald E. Richards.

OUR WORLD MISSION

OWM Budget Receipts for March 1972

	Treasurer's		Boards'		Treasurer's		Boards'	
	March	3 mos.	3 mos.	3 mos.	March	3 mos.	3 mos.	3 mos.
Adams Ctr NY ..\$	200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 10.00		Milton Jct WI ..	93.90	228.90	10.00
Albion WI		124.54	115.00		Monterey CA		269.60	
Alfred NY	478.55	1,919.10	145.00		New Auburn WI ..	26.40	119.95	65.19
Alfred Sta NY	197.00	638.00	20.00		New Milton WV ..	50.00	150.00	
Ashaway RI	234.00	1,135.50	130.00		New Orleans LA ..		5.00	
Assns & Groups ..			119.00		North Loup NB ..	200.00	600.00	
Battle Creek MI ..	473.78	1,384.97	80.00		Nortonville KS ..	163.50	635.50	90.00
Bay Area CA		215.00			Ohio Fellowship..	20.00	60.00	
Berea WV	47.00	147.00	10.00		Paint Rock AL ..			50.00
Berlin NY	274.16	312.16	20.00		Plainfield NJ ...		904.33	499.50
Boulder CO	265.86	348.54	70.00		Putnam Cnty FL..			
Brookfield NY ..	100.00	128.00	30.00		Richburg NY	332.06	575.31	40.00
Buffalo NY	35.00	35.00	10.00		Riverside CA	1,000.00	2,000.00	70.00
Chicago IL	555.00	555.00	20.00		Roanoke WV			
Daytona Beach FL	100.00	560.00	160.00		Rockville RI	71.00	104.50	20.00
Denver CO	429.07	1,449.05	70.00		Salem WV	214.00	1,199.00	80.00
De Ruyter NY ..		90.00	10.00		Salemville PA	81.00	136.00	
Dodge Ctr MN ..		822.86	30.00		Schenectady NY ..		11.50	20.00
Farina IL		40.00	20.00		Seattle WA	50.00	209.00	10.00
Fouke AR	80.00	80.00	10.00		Shiloh NJ	1,335.25	3,576.75	100.00
Hammond LA		50.00			Stonefort IL		45.00	55.00
Hebron PA	82.89	222.89	30.00		Syracuse NY		25.00	15.00
Hopkinton RI		15.00	30.00		Texasarkana AR ...	20.00	20.00	20.00
Houston TX		110.00			Verona NY	113.00	412.94	50.00
Independence NY	27.80	84.60	35.00		Walworth WI	60.00	260.00	
Individuals	25.00	365.00	107.00		Washington DC ..		380.50	80.00
Irvington NJ	300.00	900.00			Washington			
Jackson Ctr OH ..					People's DC			10.00
Kansas City MO	50.00	180.00	10.00		Waterford CT	178.60	665.20	80.00
Leonardsville NY		86.00			Westerly RI		1,672.50	170.00
Little Genesee NY	161.50	640.24	20.00		White Cloud MI	58.40	122.54	10.00
Little Rock AR ..			20.00					
Los Angeles CA ..		1,332.32	77.00		Totals	\$10,023.51	\$33,708.66	\$3,289.69
Lost Creek WV ..		500.00	12.00		Non-Budget	315.35		
Marlboro NJ	404.64	1,044.50	65.00					
Metairie LA					Total			
Milton WI	1,435.15	3,604.37	260.00		To Disburse	\$10,338.86		

MARCH DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education	\$ 774.64
Historical Society	5.87
Ministerial Education	305.16
Ministerial Retirement	879.37
Missionary Society	4,108.58
Tract Society	1,097.94
Trustees of General Conference	46.95
Women's Society	254.90
World Fellowship & Service	271.79
General Conference	2,593.66
	<u>\$10,338.86</u>

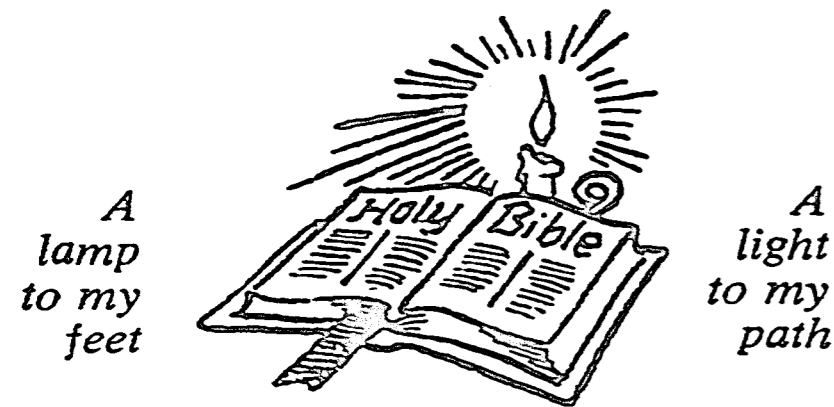
SUMMARY

1972 Budget	\$162,050.00
Receipts for 3 months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$33,708.66
Boards	3,289.69
	<u>36,998.35</u>
To be raised by December 31, 1972	\$125,051.65
Percentage of year elapsed	25%
Percentage of budget raised	22.8%
3 months:	
Due	\$ 40,512.51
Raised	36,998.25
Arrears	3,514.16

OWM Treasurer
Gordon Sanford

The Sabbath Recorder

DAILY BIBLE READINGS For May 1972



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

Involved with Human Need

- 1—Mon. Food for the Hungry. Acts 11:27-30
- 2—Tues. Planning To Meet Human Need. 2 Cor. 9:1-6 (also 7-15)
- 3—Wed. Gifts for a Needy Preacher. Phil. 4:14-19
- 4—Thur. Service, Not Mere Wishes. James 2:14-24
- 5—Fri. Even to the Least. Matt. 25:31-40
- 6—Sabbath. Hospitality for Strangers. 3 John 2-8

Proclaiming the Gospel

- 7—Sun. Preaching to Israel. Matt. 10:5-15
- 8—Mon. Christ the Head. Acts 4:5-13
- 9—Tues. Preaching to the Council. Acts 5:27-32
- 10—Wed. "Receive My Spirit." Acts 7:51-60
- 11—Thur. Preaching's Necessity. Rom. 10:11-18.
- 12—Fri. Unsearchable Riches. Eph. 3:7-13
- 13—Sabbath. Preaching Prophetic Fulfillment. Acts 13:26-33 (also Luke 4:6-21)

The Church's Teaching Ministry

- 14—Sun. Home Teaching. 2 Tim. 1:3-7
- 15—Mon. Pastoral Teaching Ministry. 2 Tim. 3:10-17
- 16—Tues. God Creates Only Good. 1 Tim. 4:4-10
- 17—Wed. God Depends on Exemplary Persons. 1 Tim. 4:11-16
- 18—Thur. Pastoral Correspondence Teaches. 1 Cor. 4:14-20
- 19—Fri. Profitable Teaching. 2 Tim. 4:1-8
- 20—Sabbath. Renewing an Old Commandment. 1 John 2:1-11

Need for Renewal

- 21—Sun. Disorderly Conduct. 1 Cor. 11:17-22
- 22—Mon. Seek Higher Standards. Col. 3:1-6
- 23—Tues. "The New Nature." Col. 3:7-14
- 24—Wed. Renewal Through Suffering. 1 Pet. 4:12-19
- 25—Thur. Love Grown Cold. Rev. 2:1-7
- 26—Fri. Get Hot or Cold. Rev. 3:14-22
- 27—Sabbath. A Spiritual House. 1 Pet. 2:1-6

What Is the Devotional Life?

- 28—Sun. Prayer of the Troubled Heart. Ps. 61
- 29—Mon. Waiting for God. Ps. 62:1-7
- 30—Tues. Confidence in God. Ps. 62:8-12
- 31—Wed. The Mighty God. Ps. 50:1-6

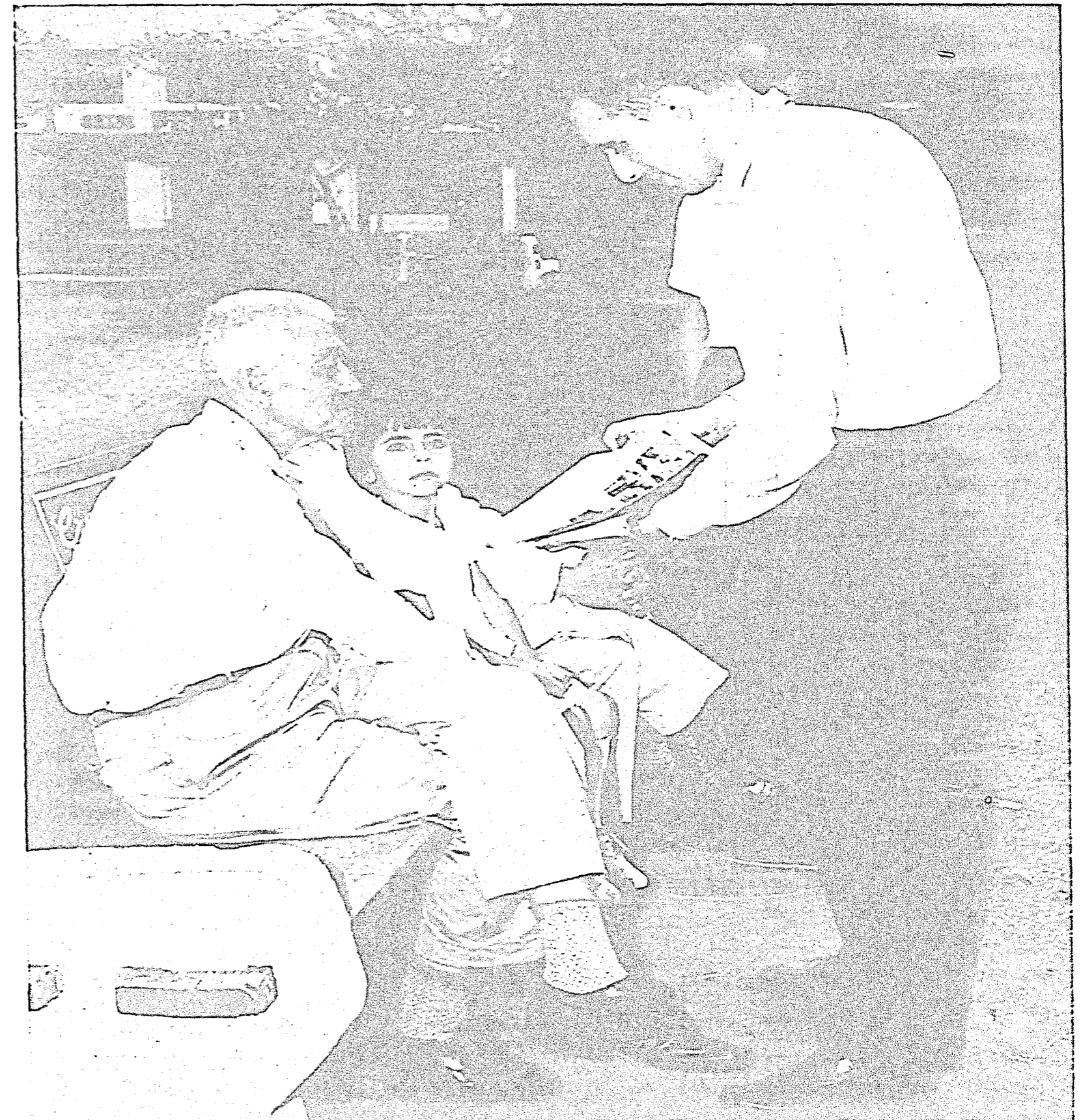
Important Convention Speakers

When the Southern Baptist Convention meets at Convention Hall in Philadelphia, June 6-8, an attendance of over 13,500 Baptists is expected, partly because of the drawing power of some of the speakers. It is expected that President Nixon will give an afternoon address on the final day though a firm commitment is not yet possible. If he is able to clear his schedule for this engagement it will be the first time that a President of the U. S. has ever addressed the Convention (which is now the largest Protestant church in America). The theme for the meetings in the city of the Liberty Bell is "Proclaiming Liberty to All."

Evangelist Billy Graham has agreed to speak on Wednesday evening June 7.

Also scheduled for an address is the Rev. Leon Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and founder and chairman of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers, a network of training centers set up to teach practical job skills to black people who are fighting the poverty cycle — an outstanding figure who is now a member of the Board of General Motors.

The three-day convention schedules about twelve hours of business.



"The entrance of thy words giveth light."

(Psalm 119:130)

Faithful Bible distributors carry the light-giving Scriptures to men on lonely park benches and smuggle the Word to forbidden places of the world, while some who have access to the gospel message still sit in darkness, not finding the light of life.