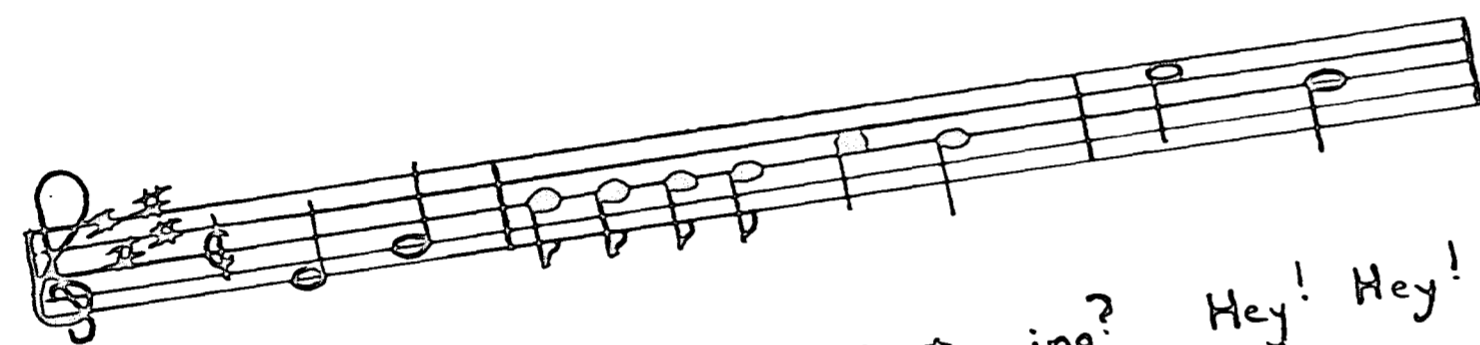
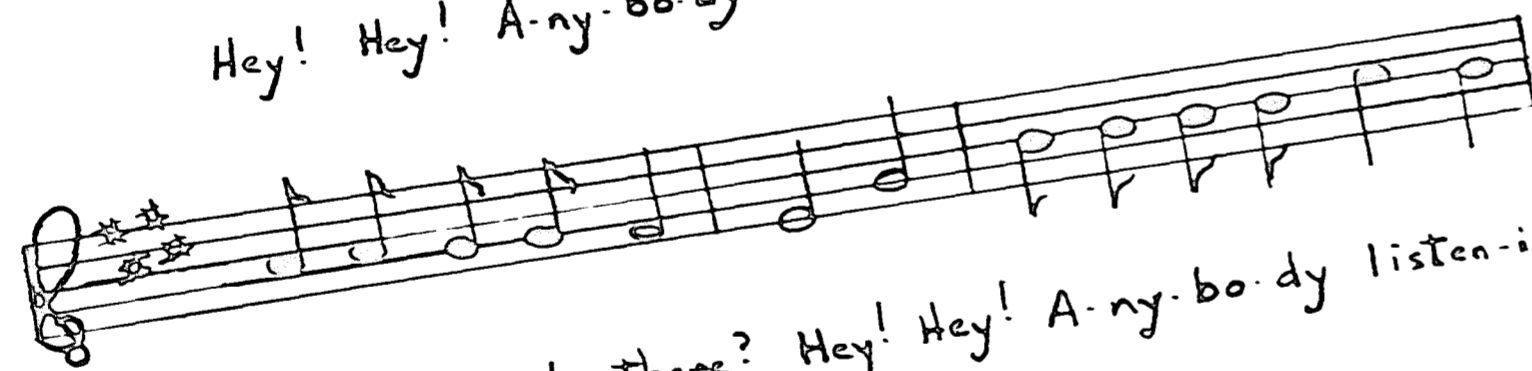


The Sabbath Recorder

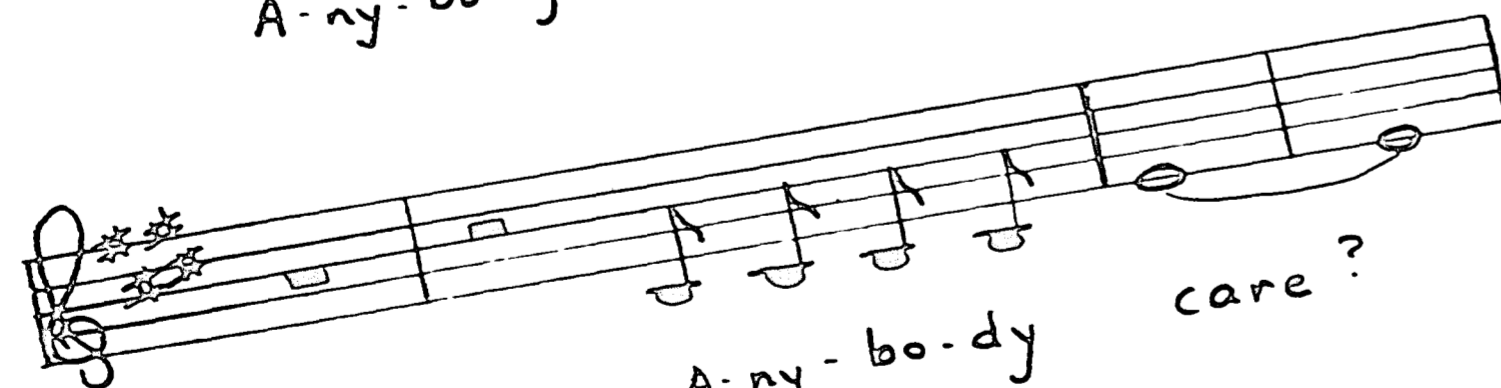
Hey? Hey? Anybody Listening?²



Hey! Hey! A-ny-bo-dy listen-ing? Hey! Hey!



A-ny-bo-dy there? Hey! Hey! A-ny-bo-dy listen-ing?

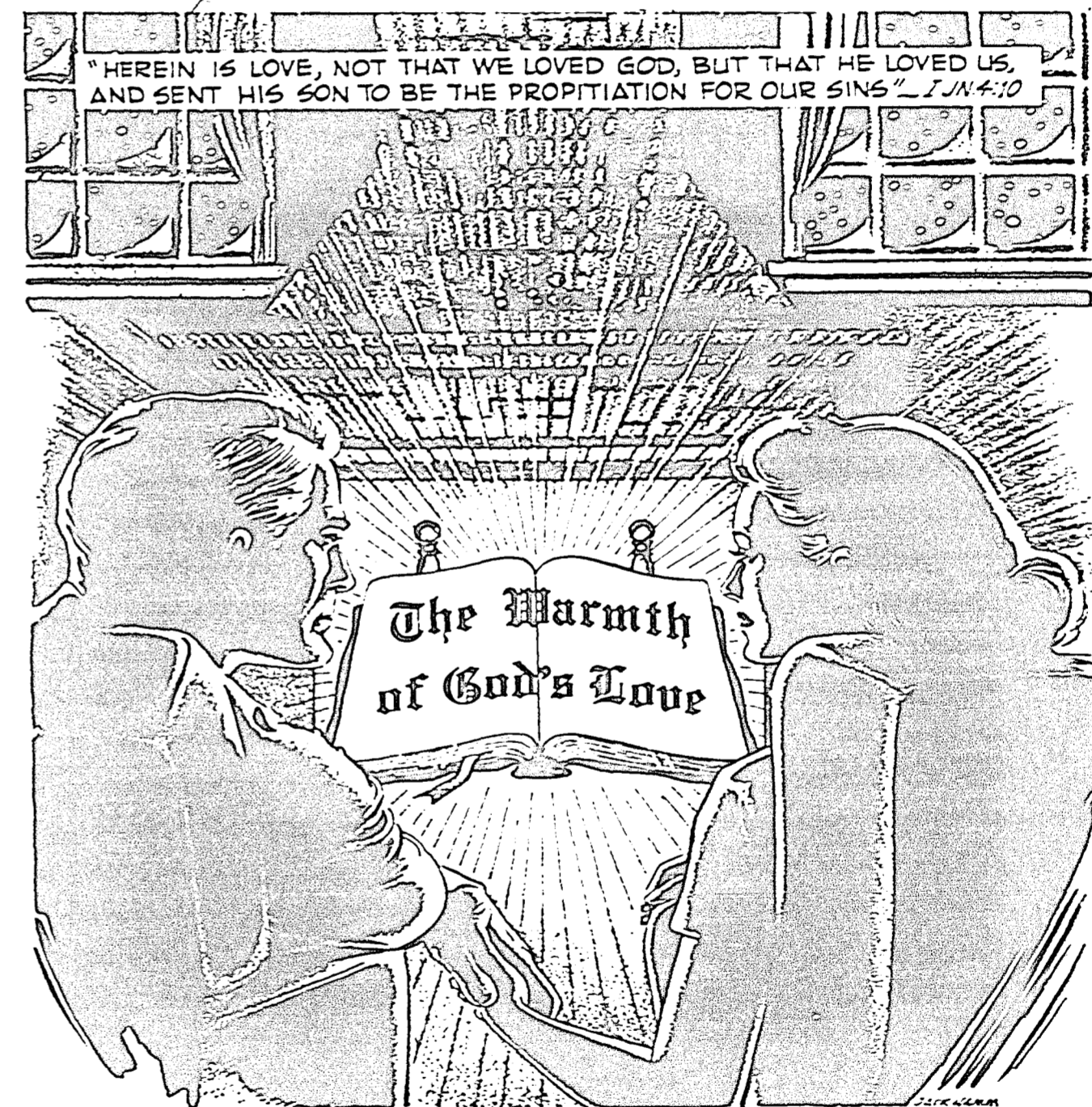


A-ny-bo-dy care?

² From Hymns Hot and Carols Cool

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HOME AND NATION

We pride ourselves in our ability to think in terms of national good and even the health and well-being of the world. We revere the past heroes of our country and pray for our present leaders. Let us evaluate carefully the warmth of God's love in our homes in order to prove the sincerity of our prayers for the wider circle of our avowed interest.

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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Compassion Fatigue

You have heard of combat fatigue and have experienced several kinds of body fatigue for prolonged exertion. Some people have heart fatigue and their only hope of nearly normal life may be an electrical pacemaker to keep their heart muscle contracting in a steady rhythm. But there is another expression coined by W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision, compassion fatigue.

This is a disease to which Christians are susceptible more than others simply because their compassion muscles are exercised so much more strenuously than those of people not committed to Christ. But if Christians, in the nature of the case, are more susceptible, they are also better fortified to resist compassion fatigue. That is the whole point of the reference in Mr. Mooneyham's appeal in behalf of World Vision for the people of Bangladesh.

Organizations like this trying to meet mountainous needs are aware (as denominational leaders are also) that repeated appeals have a tendency to weaken our heart muscles. We must remember that the world needs do not come at a uniform rate; they come as somewhat unpredictable emergencies. In Bangladesh none could predict the 1970 cyclone and tidal wave that devastated much of the coastal area and took 500,000 lives. The flight of ten million to India in the wake of the killing of three million in the civil war of 1971 might be predicted, as also the desperate need of the survivors after the 1972 India-Pakistan war. But the greatest needs of the returning refugees must be met this summer if at all. The real emergency is of relatively short duration. There has been nothing like it and may not be again soon—not even in Vietnam.

It is in such a circumstance that World Vision and other world relief agencies use words like those of Stanley Mooneyham, "It would be easy to get compassion fatigue when thinking about the horrendous problems facing these plagued people. But we dare not." This is a time to meet the challenge by an extra flow of adrenaline to our compassion muscles.

Your editor was stirred by another

emphasis on compassion in relation to Bangladesh that came in a letter from MAP (Medical Assistance Programs, Inc.) of Wheaton, Ill. It seems that MAP has sent out a team of twenty-four young people called the Bangladesh Brigade. They are trying to multiply their efforts in this herculean task by providing guidance, leadership, resources, and inspiration. One of the college students tells how they avoid the feeling of frustration when they are so few and the need so great. We quote:

"We know that one drop of water cannot quench the thirst of everyone in a desert, but it can prove that there is such a thing as water. All of the world's need can never be completely met this side of heaven, but we can prove there is such a thing as compassion. And Christ-like compassion wins men to faith in Him."

How To Make a Longer Jump

There is an article in a *Decision* magazine entitled "The Long Jump" by American Negro Jerry Proctor who stands a good chance of winning the broad jump in the Olympic contest this year. Once full of hate, he is now full of love of Jesus. He now makes a habit of reading his Bible when waiting his turn to jump. He has already set a college record of 26 feet 11.5 inches.

He tells his Olympic dream of how, "I will look down the runway where my marker has been set and the marker for Bob Beamon's world record. For the past few moments I have been sitting alongside the pit in my sweat suit, thinking and praying. Now I am relaxed and ready."

"At one time," he says, "to get the adrenaline juices flowing, I would recall a beating that someone had given me, so that I could become angry and jump farther. But now I think about my mother instead. I think of her in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ, and it gets me fired up . . . I swing my elbows, dig with my spikes and start down the runway."

There is extra adrenaline that we can call up for the gospel and other Christian work — the Christian living and Chris-

tian giving — which our Lord expects of us.

Birth Control and Moral Decay

Christianity stands for the moral integrity taught in the Bible. Churches and pastors set forth the power of Christ to maintain purity and right family relationships. They use their powers of persuasion to keep sexual standards high and they have considerable success with young people who are committed Christians. But the battle to maintain high community and state standards appears to be a losing battle. The adversaries are not just the evil men but many of the "do-gooders" in various organizations supposedly dedicated to health and welfare.

Family planning is a good thing to talk about in Christian circles. Limitation of the size of families with a view to providing a good life for our children is fine. But when the state gets into the act, much of the moral principle involved washes away. The state does not draw a line between the legitimate and the illegitimate in the use of contraceptives and pregnancy terminations. The church would encourage a normal sexual relation between husband and wife without the economic and other hazards of producing a child every year during the childbearing years. The state, and some social agencies, observe that there are many children born out of wedlock and therefore propose that contraceptive chemicals and procedures be made available to the unmarried as well as the married. The Supreme Court has recently ruled that contraceptive devices cannot be denied to single people. It overruled the conviction of a man who gave a contraceptive chemical to a young woman.

A problem of great magnitude does exist, to be sure. The Washington, D.C., Department of Human Resources reports that in 1969 more than seventy percent of all births to teen-agers in the city were of unmarried mothers. The same office predicts that by 1973 half of all the births in the Nation's Capital will be out of wedlock. The rate has been going up rapidly for ten years in spite of the fact

—or perhaps because of the fact—that there has been more sex teaching and more availability of chemical contraceptives.

To substitute permissiveness and contraception for Biblical morality is likely to ruin our society and not overcome the problems of children conceived out of wedlock.

The situation has gravely deteriorated when a presidential commission advocates that abortion and sterilization should be made available to all, married and single, and should be paid for by public and private health insurance. This type of reasoning is responsible in considerable measure for the increase of sexual relations and promiscuity, which among nineteen-year-olds, has reportedly reached high proportions.

We have just celebrated another Family Week and Mother's Day. If our standards of family life continue to fall, how long can we have such celebrations? Are we going to descend to the looseness which we so abhorred under Hitler and in the earlier days of the Soviet Union? On the other hand, the gospel still has power and there are countless old families and new where Christian principles make the home delightful. The church has a family message to proclaim.

Pacific Coast Field Pastor

The Pacific Coast Association, as previously noted, has the services this summer of Justin Camenga as a field worker with special emphasis on the camp work.

A church bulletin announces that the Rev. John Conrod has accepted the call of the association to become the "field pastor" beginning October 1. Mr. Conrod is returning with his family to the United States in July after several years of missionary work in Malawi, Africa. He is familiar with the Pacific Coast work, having spent several years there in his student days.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for June 17, 1972

MEETING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

Lesson Scripture: Matt. 6:5-15.

Improving Christian-Jewish Relations

It is a fact that Jewish-Christian relations are improving. It is high time. Too long and too often anti-Semitism has raised its ugly head in most Protestant and Catholic churches. More and more churches are now coming out strongly against anti-Semitism and are engaging in dialogue with Jewish leaders. Various groups have joined with the American Jewish Congress in appealing to the Soviet Republic to grant human rights and religious rights to its Jewish citizens.

The American Jewish Congress keeps editors supplied with much public relations material (as many as five new releases in one mail recently). It has prepared a lengthy compendium of resolutions, pronouncements, and articles by a variety of liberal Protestant, Evangelical, Roman Catholic, and Greek Orthodox church groups relative to anti-Semitism, conversion, and other subjects. One of the trends noted is a "recognition of Judaism as a living religion and a source of fundamental truth to its adherents, and repudiation of the use of interfaith dialogues for purposes of conversion."

The Presbyterian document said in part, "It requires a higher respect for the faith, traditions, sufferings, accomplishments, and even the myths of the contending parties than either is now willing to grant the other . . . It requires that minority views be taken seriously by majorities . . ."

The three branches of Lutheranism made a joint statement quoted by the American Jewish Congress as follows:

"Christians should make it clear that there is no Biblical or theological basis for anti-Semitism. Supposed theological or Biblical bases for anti-Semitism are to be examined and repudiated. Conscious or unconscious manifestations of discrimination are to be opposed."

Rabbi Tanenbaum, the chief spokesman for AJC, notices with approval that in the various Catholic and Protestant pronouncements there were "warnings to Christians against using interreligious dialogues as a means of proselytizing."

For instance, the American Lutherans stated, "It should be underscored that neither polemics nor conversions are the aim of such conversations." To this other Protestants can readily agree, but Rabbi Tanenbaum probably pushes this advantage further than the Lutherans intended. His comments imply not only that conversion of the Jews should not be attempted at interfaith dialogues, but that it should not be attempted at any time. His concluding paragraph is as follows:

These repudiations of conversion, Rabbi Tanenbaum declared, "assume particular importance in view of the intensified nation-wide evangelism campaigns of so-called "Hebrew-Christian" groups and other "Jews for Jesus" drives that will be centered around Explo '72 in Dallas in June of this year and in Key '73 next year, which have raised serious concerns in the Jewish community."

Here is where Christians must draw the line. We must, indeed, rid ourselves of all vestiges of anti-Semitism, and we must respect the convictions of those Jews who have religious convictions, but to pledge ourselves not to try to present Christ to the Jews is asking too much. It is in fact asking us not to be Christians, not to follow the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19, 20. Going into all the world preaching the gospel has to include Jerusalem and New York City. The Jews who find Christ as their Messiah feel a burden for their people even as the converted rabbi Paul wrote: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Rom. 10:1).

Furthermore, Jews as well as Christians have historically propagated their religion by proselytizing. In the century just before Christ the Jewish religion was a proselytizing religion throughout the Roman empire. Even today they are doing much of it in Israel and in America. To say that one's faith is not worth sharing is to deny its importance and uniqueness. If the Christian religion is to remain a missionary religion — as it certainly was in the First Century — we must do our best to present the claims of Christ to every strata of American and world society. When King Agrippa said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be to a

Christian," that converted Jew replied, "I would to God, that not only thou but also all those that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am . . ." (Acts 26:28, 29).

L. M. M.

Association Moderator John Bevis Sends Message to Churches

Ours is a glorious day. We (South-eastern Association) are celebrating 100 years as an organized association. God is working among our youth and through our camping program. We trust that this centennial year is just a beginning for Seventh Day Baptists in this association as we work together to share the gospel of Christ in our part of the world. The 1972 theme "To Know Him — To Make Him Known" is a great theme because it contains a real message for each one of us. It asks us to reexamine our own lives to see if we really do "know Him" — we must be sure that we do before we attempt to communicate this wonderful gospel "To Make Him Known" to others.

The most powerful weapon in God's hand is a dedicated man or woman. In His sovereignty He has chosen people as channels of His blessing to the world. Jacob was a real scoundrel in many ways, but at Jabbok he stopped fighting, put away lying and deceit, and wrestled all night long until the voice of God changed his name, his status, and his life (Genesis 32:28). Here are truth and reality. To influence people we must have influence with God. Never is it more true than in this area to say, "It is not what you know but whom you know that counts."

In the year ahead let us address ourselves to the task of bridging the gap between God and man. Laying aside every weight, ridding ourselves of false values, utterly depending upon Him and absolutely trusting in Him, may we as Sabbathkeeping Baptists go forth because we "know Him" to share our knowledge with others. Our Lord Jesus Christ asks each one of us to do his part—to stretch out as far as we can. He will guide us and lead us and our strength will be multiplied.

Allegheny Association Holds Annual Session at Little Genesee

"God is moving, and we should get in step."

Moderator John Reynolds was speaking of a movie, "New Wind Blowing," shown at Allegheny Association, but he could have made the same comment at several points during the program of the association held at Little Genesee, N. Y., May 12-14.

The featured speaker was the Rev. Paul B. Osborn of Nortonville, Kans., president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. Around 200 people were there on Sabbath morning to worship. The sermon was based on the Conference theme, "To God Be the Glory."

In the afternoon President Paul gave an illustrated talk on the building of the Conference program. He also showed pictures of the campus of Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colo., where sessions will be held August 6-12. "The work of our General Conference goes on all year, not just one week in August," he commented. All the activities of Conference, its boards and agencies, are for one purpose — that God may be glorified in Jesus Christ, His Son.

Music enriched the program of the association at all the meetings of the weekend. On Friday evening a group of young ladies led by Miss Lisa Cudahy sang selections from "Natural High." Choir anthems and organ music on Sabbath morning were uplifting. Mrs. Thomas L. Burdick directed the choir; Mrs. Harry Wilson was organist. On the night after the Sabbath a lively, old-fashioned hymn-singing was led by the Rev. Edward Sutton, pastor of the Alfred Station church, with Mrs. Nelson Snyder accompanying.

Pastor Harold King of the host church presided Sabbath morning. He and his wife Kathi will soon leave for a new pastorate in Kansas City. They will be missed in Allegheny Association. Pastor Harold was vice-moderator this year and Kathi served as assistant secretary. Both have been active in the camping program and on committees. Special mention should be made of their contribution to

the revised Constitution and Bylaws adopted at this session.

The Sabbath eve service was led by Mrs. Francis Bucher, associational chairman for adult work. Delegates from Central New York Association, the Rev. and Mrs. Neal D. Mills of Brookfield, told the history of their association's churches and showed slides. Pastor King also gave some of the history of the Little Genesee church and the forming of Western Association, now known as Allegheny Association.

For worship on Sabbath afternoon, Chris Mattison representing the Youth Fellowship, read verses from Revelation and emphasized the presence of the living, risen Christ. Sunday morning worship thoughts were given by Pastor Sutton preceding the business session.

New officers elected include the moderator, Don Pierce, of Alfred Station. Vice-moderator is Pastor Russell Johnson of Alfred. Mrs. Harold Snyder, Alfred Station, will be assistant recording secretary. Miss Onnalee Saunders of Richburg begins her duties as corresponding secretary, replacing Mrs. Harry Wilson who has served in that office several years. Officers reelected are Mrs. C. Harmon Dickinson, recording secretary, and Mrs. Don Stearns, treasurer.

C. Robert Stohr was reelected chairman of the Camp Planning Committee. In his report of last season it was noted that a new dormitory has been built at Camp Harley Sutton near Alfred Station, a service of dedication and naming of buildings was held, and camps held during the summer of 1971 served primary, junior, and senior youth as well as family groups. Plans have been made to welcome campers and staff next season from Central Association for a cooperative camping venture.

Continuing the Seventh Day Baptist witness at the Allegany County Fair at Angelica, N. Y., in July, was discussed. Two booths will be rented with matching funds from the Tract Society so that for a second year a children's attraction can be offered in addition to the booth with literature and exhibits primarily for adults. It was announced that an SCSC team will be on hand to help at the fair,

Hundreds Baptized at Our India Conference

The annual conference (they call it convention) of the Seventh Day Baptist churches of India was held this year at Madras, a large city about ninety miles south of Nellore, the headquarters city, May 3-10.

The purpose of the convention was more to win souls than to transact conference business. The following information about the methods and the success of the effort is gleaned from a letter from the Rev. B. John V. Rao, corresponding secretary, under date of May 15. Previous letters had told of their plan to hold the meetings in Madras where there had been relatively little organized Seventh Day Baptist work prior to this time. They had announced a goal of 500 converts.

Many "big persons" attended the convention "just to get spiritual food." Some of these important people must have assisted in the preparations, since a large

as well as at camp and in the various churches of Allegheny Association during the summer.

Meals, as always, were an enjoyable part of the fellowship. The women of Little Genesee had more to do this year because all meetings were held in one locality instead of having the Friday night dessert and meeting at the opposite end of the association as in other years. It was hoped that some would remain for an additional meeting on the night after the Sabbath, and many did. Adults and children ate soup and sandwiches at the Francis Bucher some while the young people picnicked in the T. L. Burdick backyard. Later the two groups joined to view the movie mentioned before.

All seven churches of Allegheny Association were represented at the sessions. Phil Burrows, native son now living in Kansas City, was present and brought greetings from the Mid-Continent Association of which he is the secretary.

A feeling of love and rejoicing in the Lord prevailed throughout. To God be the glory!

—Ethel Dickinson

meeting place was secured and the Madras Corporation High School was made available as a place of accommodation for the evangelistic teams. The number of workers was large, for Mr. Rao speaks of "all our evangelical teams, Prayer Crusaders, Sabbath School heads, and all our S. D. B. church leaders and pastors" taking part. They had a singing party of twenty boys and twenty girls at the public meetings using their own revival songs.

In preparation for the public meetings the evangelistic teams and the children spent much time each day singing in the streets and contacting people from door to door. Several thousand Sabbath tracts (which had been printed just prior to the meetings) were distributed at homes.

Large crowds attended evening meetings at which Evangelist Rao preached on "Prince of Peace and Healer." The same subject was used by other pastors at morning meetings. The speakers were able to reach the large crowds with the help of eight loudspeakers. Meetings were held from 8-10 a.m., and from 6-10 p.m. Some 20,000 Christians and non-Christians heard the Word of God.

What were the immediate results of these revival meetings? The announced goal of 500 souls was not reached. There were so many converts, however, that one pastor could not baptize them all. Twenty pastors helped with the baptism of 329 men and women on Sabbath Day, May 13. In addition, it is reported that 189 men and women were healed of all sorts of diseases through prayer.

It was a tremendous undertaking with marvelous response. Credit is given to the many evangelists in the streets as well as to the preaching in the large meeting place, which is assumed to have been out-of-doors. When the meetings were over and the Sabbath was ended, all the leaders returned to Nellore by the night train, May 13. Further correspondence will no doubt tell of the follow-up work and the further training of the new converts as they are brought into church membership after baptism.



HOW IT ALL BEGINS

by Dale E. Rood

Scriptures:

Ezekiel 36:22-28

Ephesians 2:12-22

Acts 2:37-41

The early church is often held up as an ideal toward which the modern church should strive. The December 4, 1971, Sabbath School lesson in the *Helping Hand* says this about the early Christian Church:

The early Church burned like a fire and spread rapidly because of the contagious experience of its people. They had found a risen Christ and they were excited about it. They couldn't keep quiet. They witnessed by what they were and by what they did and by what they said. The first century Christians got their faith over to others. Wherever they went—in the pagan world, in their daily life, meeting martyrdom — they went with a radiant faith in their living Lord.

Rev. Duane Davis, editor

In Acts 2, there is a picture of the first century church. We find that the believers all joined together in fellowship with each other. They studied God's Word and listened to the teachings of those who had been with Jesus. They ate together. They prayed together. God's power was manifest in their midst. They lived together in a community of common ownership where each was concerned for the welfare of his neighbor. They worshipped regularly. And they praised God—they were filled with joy and were always giving thanks!

Now this fellowship in which God's presence was so clearly manifest had a very distinct beginning. It wasn't something just discovered that had been going on in their midst except that nobody ever knew about before. It wasn't something that kind of faded in. As a matter of fact, these newly involved folks weren't even ordinary people, though they had

been very ordinary at one time. Something had happened to change them. How this change came about is described in chapter 2, verses 37-41. This is how it all started:

It began on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit let His power become felt among the disciples who had been with Jesus. It was at this time that Peter preached a message proclaiming that Jesus, the One who was crucified, is indeed Messiah and Lord, having been raised from death by God. The people who listened were moved deeply and asked, "What shall we do? . . . We must do something! What is it we can do to make this right?"

That's the way it is when anybody comes face to face with Jesus, the Messiah, who was killed and whom God raised: one's guilt squarely confronts him. It's as if every man had a hand in the crime of putting Jesus to death, having the wrongness of that deed coming back to haunt in a way that can't be excused, overlooked, or ignored. It is man's sin that made that death necessary. In witnessing that death, the sin of each and every man that ever lived has confronted him. In witnessing that death, the sin of each and every one of us confronts us. Just like the crowd to whom Peter spoke, the only response can be an impassioned, "Brethren, what should we do?"

Now Peter had a very definite answer to this question. First you must repent, he said. You must turn from your sin. You must turn from your futile ways and purposeless existence and turn to God. You must recognize that you have been at odds with God and have been doing

your own thing instead of His thing. You must recognize there is a barrier between you and Him which you can't get over or around or under. You must seek help in penetrating it.

Second, you must be baptized in Jesus' name. You must come into Christ's ownership and under His authority so that you will be His person and part of His people. You must be baptized to make perfectly clear to others and to yourself that you are no longer your own but Christ's.

Third, Peter said that you must receive God's gift, His Holy Spirit. When you turn your life over to God and offer Him your old spirit, He will give you His own Holy Spirit in return. The past now no longer causes your relationship with God to be broken, and the Holy Spirit intends that this relationship will not be broken in the future. God's love and power and joy and praise and hope and . . . , all this will flow to and through you via the Holy Spirit. Life will take on a new meaning, a new richness. Your favorite expression will become, "Praise the Lord!"

Peter went on to point to the broadness of God's promises; they were meant for everyone. And we read that 3,000 people responded in this first great revival.

This was the beginning of the Christian Church. But this beginning was not for that time only. This is not a case of "how it all began" but rather of "how it all begins," for the truth is that every believer must begin for himself. The believer cannot rest on someone else's "beginnings."

Now the watchword for these "beginnings" is change: change from old ways to new ways, change from sin to forgiveness of sin, change from being one's own to being owned by Christ, change in one's self. In Ephesians, chapter 2, we find the old and the new contrasted. Here the Gentiles are being spoken to, and the point is made that in their old condition they were utterly separated from Christ. They were lost. They were without help, having to make their own way. They were without hope—there was only despair. They were without God. But now

their new condition is a very sharp contrast to this. Now they belong to Christ Jesus. No longer are they far away, but are now brought near. No longer are they strangers and foreigners, but now are members of God's family. Now all peoples, including the Gentile Ephesians, can share in the peace which only Christ Jesus brings. Oh, praise the Lord! This passage seems to explode with joy! With a contrast so radical, there must have been a radical change that took place at some time with these people. There must have been some new beginning somewhere.

Ezekiel talks about a change — a new beginning if you please — in Ezekiel 36. He points out that Israel has profaned the Lord by her complete disobedience. But in order that His name be glorified, God would bring Israel back to their land and bless them. However, in doing so God promises to transform them — to change them — from disobedient people to obedient, and the transformations will not be merely skin deep. First there will be a complete cleansing; the old filthiness will be washed away.

Second, there will be a new heart. The old, unfeeling hearts of stone will be taken out and thrown away. New hearts of flesh will be given in their place, new hearts ready to love, new hearts malleable to God's will, new hearts sensitive to God's leading and to His presence. Indeed, a whole new disposition will be given.

Third, God will give a new Spirit, His own Spirit. There will then be a new reason to live. There will be something more to life than survival of the fittest. No longer will obedience to God come as a result of threat or of force, but it will come as a result of a desire to do as God wants, for God will have control. There's no small change here! This is a transformation from the inside out! This is not just an overhaul but a whole new motor!

Is not this what Peter was talking about? Is not this also the story of the Church? Is not this the change called for with respect to becoming part of the Church? Look what Peter called for: 1) repentance: cleansing from past filthi-

ness; 2) baptism: coming under Christ's ownership, letting Him give you a new heart responsive to God's requirements and purposes; 3) reception of the Holy Spirit: receiving a new Spirit, God's Spirit, which gives new reason for living, and a deep desire for true spiritual fellowship and for doing as God requests.

But now as we reflect back, the question of the people to Peter seems to be the wrong question. You remember that question: "Brothers, what shall we do?" There was really nothing they could do, but what it turns out to be is simply letting God do what they could not. What it turns out to be is simply letting God do what we cannot. A change such as Peter called for — a new beginning — must be worked out by God. It is too radical for us to do by ourselves. We need to surrender completely into the hands of the Lord and let Him take over, and that's exactly what Peter called the people to do.

"O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" Praise God that He did it this way! It could have been done no other way. And praise Him that He still can do it and is doing it today. The work of the Lord requires radical transformation of the workers now just as it did in the early Church, and this radical transformation is continuing to take place. Today as then, new wine in old wine-skins and a new patch on an old pair of pants won't work. The old cannot just be patched up; there must be a completely new beginning. God knew it had to be this way when He made provision for it through His Son, Christ Jesus. How good the words from Ezekiel sound to our ears: "You shall be my people and I will be your God." Praise God!

My friend, have you found this richer fuller life that these early Christians had? Do you want to have it? Don't delay. Follow the directions that Peter gave. Repent: change your mind and attitude toward God, admit that something is lacking in your life that only He can fill. Believe in Christ; turn your life over to Him to do with as He pleases; receive Christ into your heart as your Savior to

give you that new heart promised in Ezekiel. All you have to do is ask God to do this, and He will. He's promised that He will.

Then to really live the abundant life, let God fill you with His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. You will never believe the difference this can make in your life until it has actually happened to you. When it does, you'll just never want to stop praising God.

Program and Progress of Eastern Association

Eastern Association, covering the relatively small geographic area from Rhode Island to New Jersey but with more churches and pastors than other associations, held its annual session at Westerly, R. I., Friday to Sunday, May 19-21.

Fairly large delegations came from the New Jersey and other churches for the vesper service Sabbath Eve and for the larger meetings the next day. Even the business meeting from 9-12 Sunday morning drew an attendance of nearly 100, including delegates from the Central New York and Southeastern Associations. Real spice was added to the Friday and Sabbath services by the presence of a busload of choir members and others from Victory Tabernacle in New York City, the headquarters church of the Seventh Day Christian Conference. A number of them, including the pastor, Henry Grant, are from our Jamaica churches.

The sun did not smile on the weekend of meetings, but the rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of those who came for challenge and enjoyment. The program on Sabbath centered around the experiences and thoughts of the guest speaker, John Noble of Pennsylvania, who had been unjustly imprisoned in slave labor camps in the Soviet Union for many years following World War II. Part of his story was told by way of introduction in an earlier issue.

Mr. Noble's message in the morning and his elaboration of the subject in the afternoon could not be classed as entertaining or enjoyable, but certainly was unforgettable. He testified that in his early life when he had every material advan-

tage and a consuming interest in manufacturing he had no time for Christ. The rigors of slave labor made him call on God and eventually find a faith that kept him alive when non-Christians were dying. Out of his experiences and his firsthand knowledge of the Communist system he speaks about the importance of faith in Christ and the dangers of the socialism that he sees engulfing our nation.

The highly-trained Victory Tabernacle Choir, directed for the past nineteen years by Mrs. Myrtle G. Phillips, gave its witness in song with some of the great anthems and popular spirituals in a sacred concert the evening after the Sabbath. The audience was lifted in spirit and drawn closer to the Lord through their singing. The Christian fellowship of these new friends of like precious faith was stimulating to many. An offering helped to defray the transportation costs of the choir. Housing costs were met by the host church.

The third highlight of the association program came at the close of the business meeting — a sermon by Secretary Alton L. Wheeler that summed up the challenges previously presented under the title, "Standing Fast in the Faith." It was the major emphasis on the theme of the association, "By Faith We Stand." Based on several passages of Scripture, the speaker fortified it with many of his recent worldwide experiences of facing with others the issues of the day in relation to our common faith.

President Denison Barber presided over the lengthy business meeting Sunday morning which took up the reports of the delegates and committees and formulated work for the future. It was voted to continue support of Schenectady as part of the evangelistic outreach and to help in the financing of one or two fair booths this summer. After discussion of the financial situation, it was voted to contribute \$500 to the SCSC program to help meet the greater-than-usual need. The association work is financed by a \$1.00 per member assessment by the churches, which will probably yield enough to support the budgeted needs. Upon vote it was decided to pay

the guest speaker's stipend from the treasury rather than from the Sabbath morning offering, leaving the offering free to go to Our World Mission as usual.

Several courtesy resolutions prepared by the committee were enthusiastically passed. A peace resolution given to the committee was debated but was not found to be in a form that was acceptable to the majority. The following resolution from the committee headed by Mrs. Harold L. Collings, Sr., was adopted: Narcotics—

Because today there are nine million people in our country who are alcoholics;

And *because* alcohol is an addictive habit-forming drug creating more harm than LSD, marijuana and heroin combined;

Because there are four times as many high school students who drink as those who smoke marijuana;

Therefore we urge all Christian church leaders to set an example and take a firm stand against the sale and use of all narcotics;

And that we promote an educational program in our schools and churches, starting with the young children, to teach the dangers in the use of all narcotic drugs.

The 1973 session of Eastern Association will be held with the Berlin, N. Y., church. The major portion of the Executive Committee elected is from that church: Howard Ellis, president; Paul Greene, vice-president; Paul Cushman, 134 Mountain Drive, Pittsfield, Mass., corresponding secretary; and George Burdick, recording secretary. Charles F. Harris of Shiloh was named 1973 delegate to the Southeastern Association and Robert Ellis of Berlin delegate to the Central New York Association.

—L. M. M.

MEMORY TEXT

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head" (Prov. 25:21, 22a).

Sabbath School Check-Up

One Sabbath School superintendent recently gave the following evaluation to her teachers for their self-analysis and her planning with them:

- 1—Have you covered the following Christian basics in your course this year?
 - The Ten Commandments
 - Salvation through Christ
 - The Resurrection
 - The power of God to resist temptation through the Holy Spirit
 - The Beatitudes
 - The Christian message as it applies to today's world
- 2—In what ways have the above been presented?
- 3—What special methods (drama, puppets, etc.) have been used?
- 4—What tools do you need to accomplish more effective presentation?
- 5—General comments:

Class Teacher

For this most important matter of maturing in Christian grace and knowledge all of us need to check up on ourselves both as individuals and as teams of learners and teachers.

Your evaluation or planning outlines are appreciated more when shared with others. Workshops for teachers and officers are a most effective way. The above brief form is shared in hopes of encouraging further and broader mutual help.

—D. S. C.

The Bible and the Devotional Life

The Uniform Series of Bible Lessons in Christian Learning for June-August 1972 uses the above theme. Dr. Glenn Asquith has written a book entitled "Living in the Presence of God" directly related to this quarter's Bible lessons. We recommend its use by older youth and adults as they seek to appreciate the Bible's devotional nature.

Living in the Presence of God is just off the press this month from Judson Press at Valley Forge, Pa., and is available at \$1.95.

Judson editors have this to say about

the book: "Too often devotions receive casual treatment from committee chairmen, heads of families, or others. But within the devotion lies a power that can come only from close communion with God. In this book a noted author recognizes that potential!

"Dr. Asquith begins with a search for the ways toward spiritual strength. Bible study, prayer, faith and confession are only some of these ways. Then the author considers how to release the power that comes from a devotional life — through praise, service, or witness.

"Here is an invaluable book that encourages readers to make the most of those moments when they are alone, in the congregation, or with their family. Written in the very readable style for which the author is noted, the book is complete with suggested prayers and Scripture readings.

"Well-known to many readers of his five books and over 1,200 articles, Glenn H. Asquith presently is retired and doing interim pastoral work. For several years he was executive director of Christian publications for the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication. In addition, he has served churches in five states and was executive secretary of the New York State Baptist Convention and of the Philadelphia Baptist Association."

Westerly folk knew Dr. Asquith as pastor of an American Baptist Church there in the 1940's.

Whether or not you buy Dr. Asquith's book personally may not be as important as getting a copy to share in the *Helping Hand* adult study of the Bible and devotional source book in June-August 1972.

Travel Companion Desired

Mrs. Lorene Crouse of the Seattle church would like someone to travel with her to visit Seventh Day Baptist friends and leaders of the work in Korea, Burma, and India. She prefers a retired couple or a woman, someone who could help handle a movie camera and a tape recorder. Anyone interested and able to make such a trip may write to Mrs. Crouse at 29225 1/2 W. Valley Hwy., Auburn, Wash. 98002.

Mission News and Notes

KEY '73

An informative filmstrip with "record script" was shared with pastors at the recent Area Spiritual Retreats, giving general plans for emphasis during KEY '73. Several of our churches have purchased a copy for use in their own area, and to share with other local churches. Two copies have been purchased by the Missionary Board for loan. One is in the hands of Evangelist Mynor G. Soper and the second can be borrowed from the board office. The latter copy can be requested with cassette tape sound instead of the disc recording to facilitate mailing, if so desired. We would encourage all churches to view this prior to their next planning session, or by the fall of 1972.

JAMAICA

June 11 will be an important day in Kingston, Jamaica. This is the date set for the formal dedication of the new classroom building at Crandall High School. Government education officials, leaders in the Kingston Private Schools Association, Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference officers, past students, and friends will participate in this joyous event. Let us join with our brethren in Jamaica in praise to God for this, another vital milestone in our ministry for Christ through Crandall High School.

Mrs. Courtland V. (Frankie) Davis has continued to serve the Lord and the needs of the work in Jamaica for several years since "retirement." She is now planning to return to the United States in mid-July and, we understand, will be entering a new phase of dedicated service with the Battle Creek, Mich. church.

MALAWI

Missionary David C. Pearson completed his course and received a Master in Missions degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, May 21. With his family they are now visiting family and friends and taking care of last minute necessities prior to leaving for their fourth term of service in Malawi, Africa, on June 27. Enroute to the field they will meet with brethren in Holland. Your con-

Prayer for Consistency

"Gracious Father, Thou who art always willing to use us in spite of our faithlessness, we confess that while we have been chosen to be men's servants we have tried to be their masters. Our Lord has given us the pattern of poured-out life, but we crave the successes, honors, and statistics which star us in bright lights. We have received a commission to be witnesses to the end of the earth, but in our self-interest we devote our time to oiling the machinery of our own organizations and pet projects. We pretend we are exceptions to humanity and hide behind excuses. We have closed our ears to the prophetic signs of our times. We lack the conscience that should accompany our Christian profession.

"Forgive us, O Lord, and deliver us from our living death. Give us the courage to accept the pain of new birth that we may be renewed and healed from all our brokenness.

"In Christ's name we plead—Amen."

—From the 1972 Easter service at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) The more than 300 new converts recently baptized in Madras, India.
- 2) The leaders of the Philippine work in Cebu and Leyte, that they may be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit in their plans.
- 3) The beginning of the ministry of the SCSC workers going to the far corners of our country.
- 4) The evangelistic thrust of the evening meetings of General Conference at Denver in August.

Continued prayer support is asked as David, Bettie, and Joanna return to Africa and Deborah remains for school in this country.

SALEM COLLEGE CONFERS DEGREES

At the eighty-fourth annual commencement of Salem College, Salem, W. Va., this four-year liberal arts college started by Seventh Day Baptists and now under the forward-looking presidency of Dr. K. Duane Hurley, a former editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, awarded 220 undergraduate and two doctor's degrees.

The Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, the commencement speaker, was presented by Senator Jennings Randolph for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, conferred by President Hurley.

Mr. Wheeler, a graduate of Salem College, is the general secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. He has served as vice-president and president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference; has been a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches; is vice-president-at-large of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and a member of its General Board; and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance and the North America Baptist Fellowship.

—from a Salem news release

Dedicated Service

Bob Harris, just graduated from Salem College and preparing for the Seventh Day Baptist ministry, has been spending three weeks at Plainfield studying denominational history with six other more advanced students. He feels the need for experience and on-the-job training before entering seminary next fall. With this in mind he has volunteered to give a new type of dedicated service without the usual \$7.50 per week expense money. It has been arranged for him to be assistant to the pastor at North Loup, Nebr., most of the summer with the possibility of some work at Camp Paul Hummel at Boulder, Colo., just prior to Pre-Con.

Our Sword

Separation of church and state is a two-edged sword. Not only does it keep the church out of government, but it keeps the government out of the church.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

NORTH LOUP, NEBR.— Our youth group, "The Galileans," presented "Life," a musical by Otis Skillings, at the First Baptist Church in Grand Island on February 26 and at the Adventist Academy in Lincoln, April 15.

Our youth "took over" during the month of March. By prearrangement with the church officials they held their offices for the month. They conducted the Sabbath morning worship service March 18. Their anthem was "He's Everything to Me." The children's message was given by Richard Wheeler. The three-part testimonial message "What Christ Means to Me" was given by Jim Goodrich, Jerry Van Horn, and Ruth Soper. It was a heart-warming service.

Lenten breakfasts were held once a week, with men of the United Methodist Church and our men participating twice at each church. On March 28 our women were breakfast guests of the United Methodist women.

Mid-Continent Youth Spring Retreat was held in Denver, Easter weekend. About thirty attended from here. Some youth attended the interdenominational Easter Sunrise Service on "Happy Jack" at the Chalk Hills with breakfast at the Mira Valley United Methodist Church.

The week before Easter, the Rev. Mynor Soper, Steve Crouch, Phill Osborn, Richard Wheeler and Bernard Keown went to Daytona Beach for a special witnessing program with students. They were joined by Chris Pederson, New Auburn, Wis.; Ruth Burdick, De Ruyter, N. Y.; and Karen Osborn, Nortonville, Kans. Reports of their experiences were given at the Sabbath morning service, May 6, in "Sharing Christ in Daytona Beach" by Steve Crouch and Bernard Keown.

The kitchen class has added thirty books to the church library with more on the way. They take up extra offerings to finance this project. This class and the class above contributed to the Cerebral Palsy Telethon sponsored by a television station in Lincoln. More than \$30,000 was raised by the telethon.

The junior class is still a member of

"Bible-a-Month Club" of the American Bible Society in which Bibles are given instead of received. They have been members since 1964. It is their way of doing missionary work.

Dr Grace Missionary Society has had several projects. Treasure chests with quilts, sheets, pillows, towels, etc., have been filled and given to two families who had home fires. One home was completely burned down. A third chest is being filled to have it ready for an emergency. A penny project — using small chests— raised funds for SCSC youth. Three of our young folks plan to participate. How those pennies have added up! May baskets were filled at the Dr. Grace meeting in May and taken to the elderly, sick and shu-ins of the village.

Work at Camp Riverview is progressing. A new kitchen is being added and the road leading to the camp site is being improved. A busy summer is anticipated.

—Correspondent

MARLBORO, N. J.— About one hundred people were very happy to welcome the David Pearsons, our missionaries from Malawi, Africa, at a service on Sabbath morning, March 4. He based the message, "I Will Build My Church," on Matthew 16:13-20. A covered dish dinner was served following Sabbath School. Slides were shown in the afternoon showing their work in Africa.

The Senior Citizen's Dinner was held March 5 with forty-three present in the church basement. There were ten present who were 75 or over. Carnations were sent to four absent ones. An interesting program was enjoyed by all.

One of the West District Hymn Sings was held at Marlboro with Robert Futer as guest soloist.

A cantata, "A Service of Shadows," was presented by the choir followed by a service of Communion.

At 5:15 a.m. an Easter Sunrise was held at Jersey Oaks Camp under the leadership of Pastor Don Richards.

Ge Ge Beckwith from India was guest speaker at the "One Great Hour of Sharing" dinner and program, April 8.

Talent night was recently held in the

church basement, with a dish to pass dinner.

—Correspondent

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.— The May issue of "The Friendly Guest" is designated as the camp issue and urges all members and friends to become involved in the full camp program in attendance, leadership, or support. The editor of the mimeographed publication announces: "The Rev. Paul Maxson of Berlin, N. Y., is to be our assistant pastor this summer and he will be primarily in charge of the camps. He plans to arrive June 23. Presently he is busy planning camp programs and attending a class to become a water safety instructor."

Mr. Maxson is listed as director of Day Camp, June 26 to 30; Young Adult Retreat, June 30 to July 4; Primary Camp, July 6 to 9; Intermediate Camp, July 16 to 23; and Adult Retreat, July 28 to 30.

The annual church picnic is announced for July 4 at Camp Holston.

One of the camp improvements scheduled for completion before the summer program at the twenty-one-acre well-developed camp on Cotton Lake six miles from Battle Creek is a multipurpose paved recreation court funded primarily from the Rev. Eugene Fatato Memorial Fund. Other major improvements are planned but not yet assured.

Marriages

Rudolph - Rogers.— Miss Cynthia Rogers, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Albert N. Rogers of Plainfield, N. J., and Steven Rudolph, son of Arthur Rudolph, East Weymouth, Mass., and the late Mrs. Rudolph, were married May 14, 1972, at the East Weymouth Congregational Church, the bride's father and the groom's pastor officiating.

The couple met in West Germany where she was director of Bad Kissingen Service Club and he was on duty with the U. S. Army. They will make their home at 152 Cedar Street, East Weymouth.

Births

Pierce.— Twin daughters, Karen Marie and Kimberly Ann, to Fred and Ann Pierce of Corning, N. Y., on May 17, 1972.

The Sabbath Recorder

Conference in Colorado

ITEMS OF INTEREST

American Baptists To Restructure

The recommendations of the Study Commission on Denominational Structure (SCODS) calling for a major restructuring of the administration and polity of the American Baptist Convention were overwhelmingly approved in a late night session of the sixty-fifth annual meeting of the American Baptist Convention on May 11 at Denver, Colo.

The final vote, at approximately 11:10 p.m., was 1,844 to 113 in favor of the motion to accept the SCODS recommendations.

In addition to providing for a new 200-member General Board and the strengthening of the office of general secretary, the approval of SCODS changes the name of the American Baptist Convention to "American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A." — to be used starting January 1, 1973 — and provides for biennial meetings of the convention to replace the annual meetings.

The SCODS recommendations passed intact with only two amendments. One amendment "suggests" that the presidency of the denomination rotate "among clergy (men and women in professional church leadership) and laity, without regard to race or sex."

Another amendment approved by the delegates provides for two alternates for each election district representative selected for membership on the new General Board.

An amendment intended to provide fifty percent representation of women on the General Board was decisively rejected

by a vote of 296 to 2,222.

All other proposed amendments to SCODS were defeated. —ABNS

Note— Rev. Glen Warner was asked to serve as press representative of the *Sabbath Recorder* when these policy matters were under discussion.

Thoughts on China

Dr. Arthur F. Glasser, now dean of the School of Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary, was one of the last five or six missionaries to leave China two years after the Communists took over. He stayed there at the end of World War II after serving as a Navy chaplain in the Orient. His comments about the future of missions in China should carry some weight. He notes that "actually, a good part of the mass public education that you see in China today was built on the base of missionaries' pioneering education." He doesn't think there is as much resentment built up against Americans as some other nations who treated the Chinese badly.

Dr. Glasser scoffs at those zealous evangelists who in the wake of the Ping-Pong matches spoke about preparing to crash back into China and pick up where the effort left off. Things have changed. He does hold out hope for some kind of work sometime:

"But we need long-range, thoughtful concepts about Christian work in China, not false hopes. The hard reality is that Communist countries are not letting missionaries in. Oh, there are some exceptions, in Poland, for instance, where they have an interest in anything that might weaken the Roman Catholic Church. And Yugoslavia is different. Communist countries are not uniform. That old day is gone."



Pre-Con and General Conference sessions will be held this year amid the stupendous Rocky Mountains in the vicinity of Denver. To look out upon lofty, snow-clad peaks, virgin evergreens, and tumbling streams in deep canyons will add inspiration to Spirit-filled meetings.