

The Sabbath Recorder

How Love Begins

Because certain raggie-taggle elements in our modern society make a great fuss about what they call "love," many of us are reluctant to use that grand old word. Things may be in a mess, but filth and confusion are never cleaned up unless somebody wades in and does something about situations from which we naturally shrink. So let's face it, what IS love, how does love first manifest itself in our lives, and by what process do we strengthen those first flutterings within our hearts? How do we keep love strong and pure, how do we transmit love to others who are unloved and, apparently, unlovable?

Love begins with self-love, the urge to seek personal comfort and pleasure. A little baby, the product of love of man for woman, cries when he is hungry, cries when he needs a fresh diaper; and mother rushes to meet the need, for she recognizes that child as an extension of herself. She has matured to a point where love of self begins to take in other persons. All this fits in with the Bible verse which says a man ought to love his neighbor as himself. Unless you love yourself first, this rule has no power to generate love for anybody else.

But the more we learn about ourselves, the less we admire ourselves. When we begin to hate ourselves because we are such rotten, self-centered beasts, the very foundation of love for others crumbles. As it says in Psalm 11:3, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Clearly, we need to find a new foundation, a solid base which will

never be swept from beneath our feet.

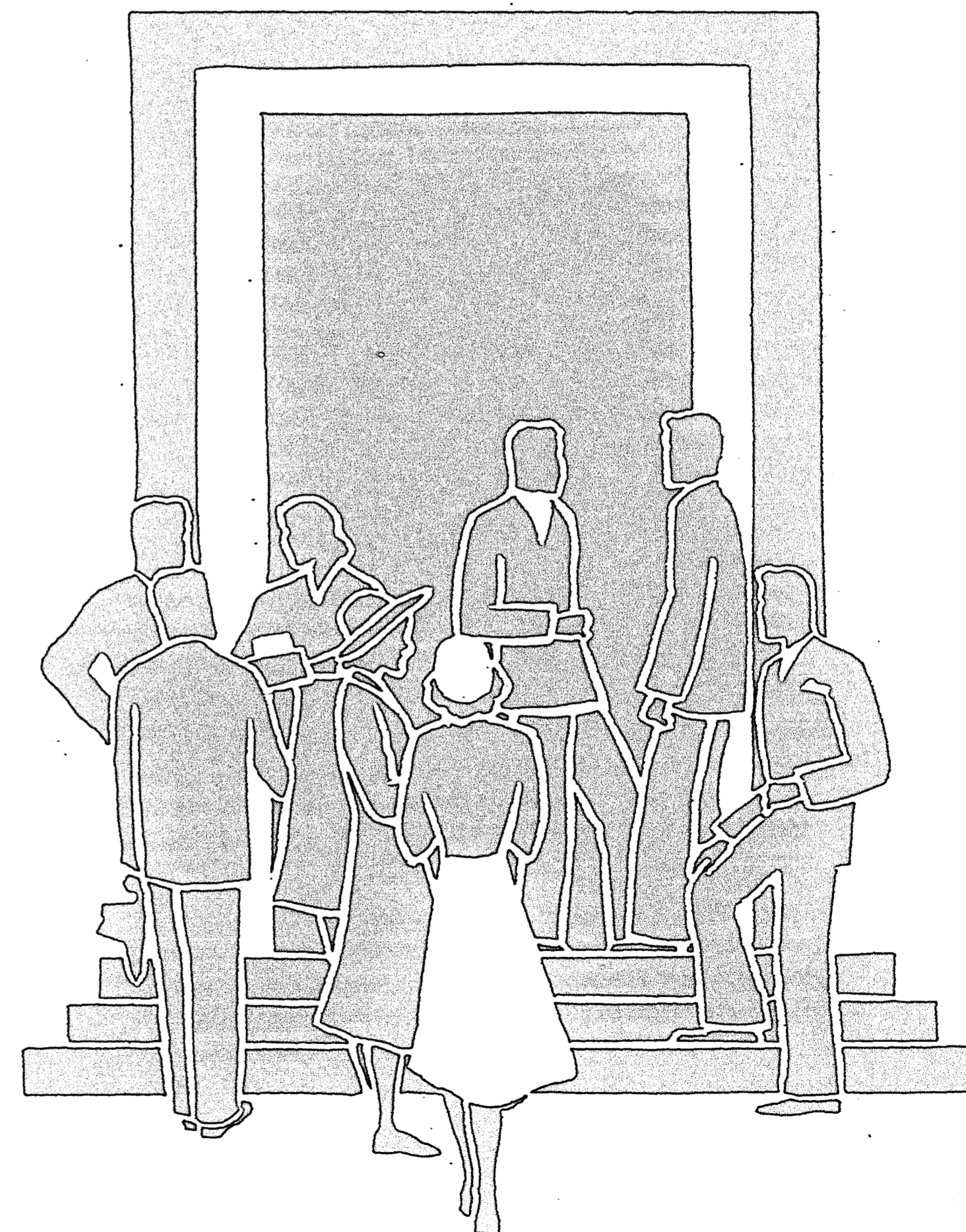
That is why the Lord Jesus Christ gave a new commandment to his disciples, as recorded in John 13:34 — that we must love one another to the same extent and for the same reason that Messiah manifested His love toward us by giving His life to redeem us from Satan's control. When we get our eyes off of Satan, as we cease gazing upon our own unworthiness, and focus on the matchless perfection of our crucified and risen Savior, the love of the heavenly Father is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

—Beacon Publishers, used by permission.

No Fire in the Church

In the monthly publication of one of our city churches there is the story of the fire department being called. A passerby looking at a ground-level window thought he saw a fire in the church. When the firemen came they gained entrance by breaking a window, but found no fire. It was not exactly a false alarm. They concluded that what looked like a fire may have been the reflection of a trash can burning on the other side.

Perhaps this could be a sort of parable. Every church ought to be on fire for the Lord but not everyone is. It is good when the passersby take a good look at the church and think that it is on fire. At least they notice the church. Is it possible that some of the fire is not where it appeared to be? If our church is supposed to be on fire for souls, let it not be found to be a mere reflection or a trash can fire.



The Youth Fellowship Prepares for Church Leadership

The Sabbath Recorder

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Wasting Our Youth

We have had a dozen years of war in which literally millions of our young men have lost years in military duty that could have been spent in more productive ways, to say the least. Thousands of youth have been wasted on the altar of the god of war. For them it was a life cut short — wasted. For the vast majority who came back and are taking their places in the working world, the time may not have been completely wasted.

Many testify that the military experience was educational. Furthermore, their service qualified them for further educational benefits. It is probable that education, though interrupted for all, is more appreciated and reaches a far greater number than would gain higher education in peacetime. However, war is astronomically wasteful of life, land, and natural resources. Any justification for it must be sought on other grounds, ideological grounds.

It is probably true that this most unpopular Vietnam war has been far less wasteful than the more popular (and bloodier) wars of the past. For the past six months the losses on the ground from enemy action have been down to about ten men per week, less than the number dying from natural causes. Deaths in the military (from all causes) are less per thousand than in civilian life, we are told. Still war wastes our youth in physical and moral ways.

This brings us to the other side of the question of wasted youth and one that we could do something more than talk about if we would. Figures have just been brought to our attention by the newsletter "Youth Today" sent to pastors and youth leaders by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

The greatest waster of our youth in our country is the automobile and the greatest hazard to reaching maturity is not the shells and land mines of the battlefield. Driving a car or riding with another youth who is driving is the greatest menace to survival. Who says so? The National Transportation Safety Board affirms that about half of all the deaths in the fifteen to twenty-four age group are caused by highway accidents.

Here is the story:

"The fatality rate among this age bracket has been increasing more than for any other age group. It is probably due to the greater number of youths who are becoming licensed drivers as soon as they are old enough. It is also due to the improved financial capability of youth to own and maintain a car. Another factor is changing practices with respect to alcohol and drugs, as well as the possibility of decreasing respect for law.

"The 15 to 24 group comprises 21 percent of the driving population, but it accounted for 31 percent of the fatal accidents in 1969. It is the young male driver who primarily accounts for the disproportionate number of deaths in this age group. In 1969 there were 17,700 fatalities in the 15-24 group. 'Many of them are heavily involved with alcohol at the time of death,' the board reported. 'The young driver has a double hazard: he is an inexperienced driver and an inexperienced drinker.'"

In a previous paragraph we stated that we could do something about this if we would. It may not be very easy because this great number of deaths is willful. Not that youth want to die on the highway, but they want to drink and to drive recklessly the cars that, for the most part, they haven't paid for themselves. We must find ways of changing the indulgence of parents and the lawlessness of youth. The only really hopeful change is a change of heart through accepting Christ as Savior. It can happen if we love them enough to consistently pray for them and for ourselves. There are hopeful signs of change in the youth revivals of the nation. We had better get with it.

We can count the highway statistics of wasted youth, but not the less tangible elements of waste that contribute to these statistics. On the positive side, there is far more to saving youth than just avoiding wasted lives and wasted years. The government spends \$6,000 to educate a veteran and expects \$38,000 to come back in tax revenue. How much more is the potential of a saved youth?

The Future of Periodicals

It has been predicted by a competent author, religious advisor, and analyst that the decline in circulation of religious magazines that has been noted in the past year or two will continue through 1972. The same analyst, however, notes some important exceptions to that prediction. The decline, generally speaking, has not hit the theologically conservative denominations, which are experiencing, in some cases, an increase in circulation. Their periodicals will continue strongly, other things being equal. The mood of the country seems to be changing toward a stronger affirmation of Biblical faith, especially among the young people who are anxious to experience something real.

Another exception to the general decline in readership is those magazines directed at a precisely defined audience, according to the expert who made the predictions. It is doubtful if *The Sabbath Recorder* qualifies in this category since it is directed to what is called "the denominational family."

The third exception to the decline forecast is those magazines which are effectively "promoted" by pastors and local church leaders. Here is where our publication can make a strong claim if we can get just a little more of that local publicity that we have mentioned from time to time. Many of our pastors and leaders would talk up our denominational weekly far more energetically if they stopped to think what it means to the life of our churches and our total work. It is too generally assumed that *The Sabbath Recorder* is one of those good things that we can take for granted.

Sabbath Recorder Day to be observed for the third year on February 19, is an attempt to get the local churches to emphasize its value and to create new enthusiasm for a wider readership. One of the strong reasons for increasing the number of readers is that the large subsidy required from Tract Society funds and denominational giving can be justified only as this inspirational and publicly medium reaches a high percentage of the people it is designed to help.

Other periodicals are having trouble staying alive or holding their present

readers. Our magazine is not losing ground. Its future, however, is not secure. That future depends not so much on publication policies as on the loyal promotion at the local level and the contribution of material to fill its pages.

World Vision Magazine

One of the most attractive interdenominational missionary magazines has recently ceased publication. Doubtless many of our readers have been on the subscription list and have been thrilled with the visual and editorial quality of *World Vision* magazine which was the colorful organ of the great Christian relief organization popularized by Dr. Bob Pierce on radio and by the tours of the Korean Children's Choir.

World Vision, hopefully, will not diminish the work it is doing in all the needy places of the world though its magazine has gone the way of other religious journals. Why did it give up? It was edited brilliantly by Paul Rees. The walls of its offices could be lined with plaques and certificates of merit. Journalistically, graphically, and theologically it was among the tallest of the tall. Perhaps the things that made it excellent did not make it pay. After operating at a deficit for some time the Board of Directors voted to cease publication in order to put more money into the work of *World Vision*. The periodical will be missed by mission-minded people in many denominations.

The magazine picture is not all dark for the subscribers. *Eternity* Magazine, which has a somewhat broader scope than just foreign mission work, had a close connection with *World Vision* and has taken over its 10,000 subscribers. Its financial situation is better and will doubtless be improved by now serving a larger subscription list and more advertisers. It may be recalled that the American Sabbath Tract Society advertised its literature in *Eternity* and had many inquiries, especially from mission countries where that periodical has a wide readership.

Church Membership Renewal

Is church membership for life like the new birth and the marriage vow, or is it something to be lightly entered and lightly departed from? Churches and especially those, like ours, that are separated from others by a Sabbath conviction, face the problem of disaffected members who hold onto their membership long after they have ceased to be active. They somehow think that they are doing the home church a favor by not withdrawing. This line of thinking can be challenged. The church is not benefited by members who are with the church in name only. The witness of the church is diluted by non-practicing members.

Louis Cassel, UPI religion writer, commenting on what a few churches are doing about annual renewal of membership notes: "A nominal Christian is not merely neuter. He's a positive handicap to the church's mission of showing the world what it means to accept the good news of Christ."

Not every church would have the courage to ask all of its members to voluntarily renew their membership each year, for it might reduce the number on the roll in some cases by fifty percent. Furthermore, prayer warriors and other loyal church members do better at their intercessory prayer and church visitation if the names of absentee members are on the roll rather than dropped.

There was a time when this heartfelt testimony was frequently heard at the preparation for the communion service, "I want to renew my covenant with God and with this church." A revival of that custom might be good on an annual basis. Is there some way that pastors and deacons could challenge nominal members to recommit themselves? Could they be asked a question such as, "Would you like on the first Sabbath of the New Year to renew your covenant with God and your church?" They could be assured that those present regularly were making the same renewal.

The Bible was written out of faith by men of faith for the purpose of arousing faith. — Philip Hyatt

Announcing . . .

Sabbath Recorder Day

February 19

Setting Membership Goals

Not many of our churches have the courage to set numerical goals for conversions and new members. Some leaders may argue that such goals put too much emphasis on numbers and might result in half instead of wholly converted new members. Also if the goals confidently announced are not reached we lose face. On the other hand, prayer can be more pointed and activity more strenuous if we have a real numerical goal of souls to be reached.

The following story from Norway describes a situation that is characteristic of many of our churches in this country. The new life in that church could be duplicated also in large measure here if we caught the vision and let the Lord lead us.

The Baptist church in Raufoss, Norway, for the first time in its forty-year history, prayed and worked for a definitive number of new members within a year.

The goal, set in December 1970, was for a ten percent increase. It was reached in mid-November.

Until last December the work of the Raufoss church was more or less a copy of that of older churches. The evangelistic outreach had been largely dependent on successful special campaigns.

The fellowship of the 150 members was good, but they were full of fear in relation to witnessing to others. So they invited people to meetings instead of inviting them to Jesus Christ.

It was against this background that the evangelism secretary of the Baptist Union of Norway arrived in Raufoss in December 1970, for a weekend of praying and planning with the church.

The first two meetings were only for members of the church. In these meetings

they went through an honest analysis of their situation. There had been four baptisms in three years.

These Christians were confronted with the obvious fact that many business firms do much more to grow than the Christian church does for evangelism. One of the participants suggested that a firm has a definite goal for each year. Why could their church not work and pray for a certain number of people in 1971?

That is what they decided to do. They would ask God for a ten percent increase in membership in 1971. They believed it to be a kind of "realistic faith" to mobilize and train ten members to win one in the course of one year.

The most remarkable change in this church was the spirit of concrete involvement which soon was prevailing in its life. Some members began with personal evangelism. Many dedicated their lives anew to God recognizing that they were far behind in the task which he had given them.

The church continued to work with both old and new forms of evangelism. It kept evangelistic meetings. But, in addition, it developed house groups.

The young pastor, Ola Liland, said at the end of November that the last three persons whom he had baptized had been won to Jesus Christ by personal contacts.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) Our young people who may be called upon to develop their leadership ability at church during Christian Endeavor Week.
- 2) Our adult members facing the responsibilities of the financial support of our local and worldwide work.
- 3) Our older people who cannot be as active in midwinter.
- 4) The fanning of the flames of evangelism that are kindling among us in so many localities.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for January 29, 1972

FACING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Lesson Scripture: Luke 16:10-15; Luke 20:45-21:4.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions!

By Charles Bachman

"For near is the day of the Lord in the valley of decision"—Joel 4:14 (3:14) New American Bible.

A friend is one who loves you in fair weather, or bad. The writer has been a friend of Seventh Day Baptists so long he cannot remember. Many strong men have come and departed during this time; many plans have been promoted and seem to have aborted; new Conference themes have started fires which burned low before another Conference; budgets come and budgets go; but where is the master plan of which all these are a part?

Recent *Recorder* articles by Dr. Horsley, Dr. May, and Leland Bond, carry the messages of concerned men. They are concerned because they see the same picture and they fear that the day of reckoning is near in the "valley of decision." The dividing days are upon us, days in which the weak are divided from the strong. Days in which nations, corporations, individuals, and churches, are all facing the Shepherd with His dividing rod, separating the flock. We have seen many strong church organizations succumb, religious periodicals ceasing their publication, mission stations being closed, missionaries being recalled, budgets being slashed, and the Christian religion itself on the defensive. These are surely times for concern, and these men envision the future, and are calling for a spiritual revival. They see a day in which there will be no possible future, unless there is a spiritual revival *now!*

While there is a call for revival in the church, the question arises, "Who is the church?" And the answer is, "You are the church." No amount of past historical glory, no amount of trust funds, are going to accomplish the victory that is needed to give life to the church today, tomorrow, and every new tomorrow. It is going to take a daily consecration to God, — to your church, — to your conference, to insure the existence of this organization. And it all begins with the individual member. Where is the money coming from? You give all you can. Where are the new members coming

from? You set a goal to get as many as you can. Who is going to do the work in and for the church? You do all you can. If any one church had a group of such people it could reconstitute itself over and over! The cry should be, "Let there be a revival, and let it begin with me!"

The sermon Pastor Herbert Saunders delivered at Conference on Sabbath morning, keeps ringing over and over again. It is like the call of the prophet to his people. The only trouble with the prophetic call is that it usually falls on deaf ears.

There is a day of reckoning coming. Let there be a present day scurrying to get out of the valleys, and a rush to the mountain tops, for the experience there is so much more rewarding. Too long have people tarried in the valley, deciding whether or not to do this or do that, to support this or support that. Do more than your share, start the exodus from the valley toward the heights. Those who do so, will look back into the valley and really wonder what took them so long to gain that mountaintop experience. There is no Christian joy equal to the personal knowledge that *you* are doing *more* than is required or asked of you. Why wait? Why eat moldy crumbs of the Christian faith, when you can eat the wonderful bread of life?

This of course is a personal commitment, and only the brave accept challenges and make commitments. The trembling soul will question and tremble until his spiritual experience burns out, leaving him with a religious experience as empty and meaningless as a lost soul can get. Before that time arrives in your personal experience, make a decision to take yourself and your faith, and your church, and your friends, and your money, — to the height of a new spiritual experience, a revival, — and you will be amazed at the satisfaction and joy you will have. Man is a psychological being who was made to have a direct personal relationship with his Maker. Unless we have that kind of experience — as they say, "Man, you just haven't lived!"

Give your church a positive future! Start that future with yourself!

Baptist World Alliance Day

International fellowship, sermons on Christian brotherhood, and special meditation and prayers for Baptists in all parts of the world are suggested to churches as means for special observance of Baptist World Alliance Sunday, February 6 (or Sabbath, Feb. 5).

V. Carney Hargroves, president of the alliance, said that the day also will take recognition of the launching of a World Mission of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ.

The reconciliation mission, stressing both evangelism (reconciliation of man with God) and brotherhood ministries (reconciliation of man with man), will reach its climax 1973-75.

The Baptist World Alliance is the worldwide fellowship of Baptist believers and encompasses in its membership 91 Baptist conventions and unions in 75 countries, reporting a total of more than 27 million baptized believers.

"We recognize the priceless heritage that is ours as children of God," declares a message for BWA Sunday signed by President Hargroves and General Secretary Robert S. Denny.

The observance is actually a weekend, not only a Sunday. Seventh Day Baptist churches in a dozen or more countries will observe the date on Saturday, February 5. Theo Patnaik, associate secretary for youth, said also that Baptist young people are being encouraged to plan fellowship gatherings on Saturday evening.

Secretary Denny said that the special day will be celebrated in varying circumstances from grass roofed huts to steepled stone and brick edifices. He noted that the worshippers will be of different colors and dressed in different clothing styles, speaking different languages and pledging allegiance to different governments.

"But despite their differences," said Dr. Denny, "these people scattered around the globe have a oneness in Jesus Christ. Each has individually professed his faith and followed Christ in believer's baptism."

MEMORY TEXT

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16).

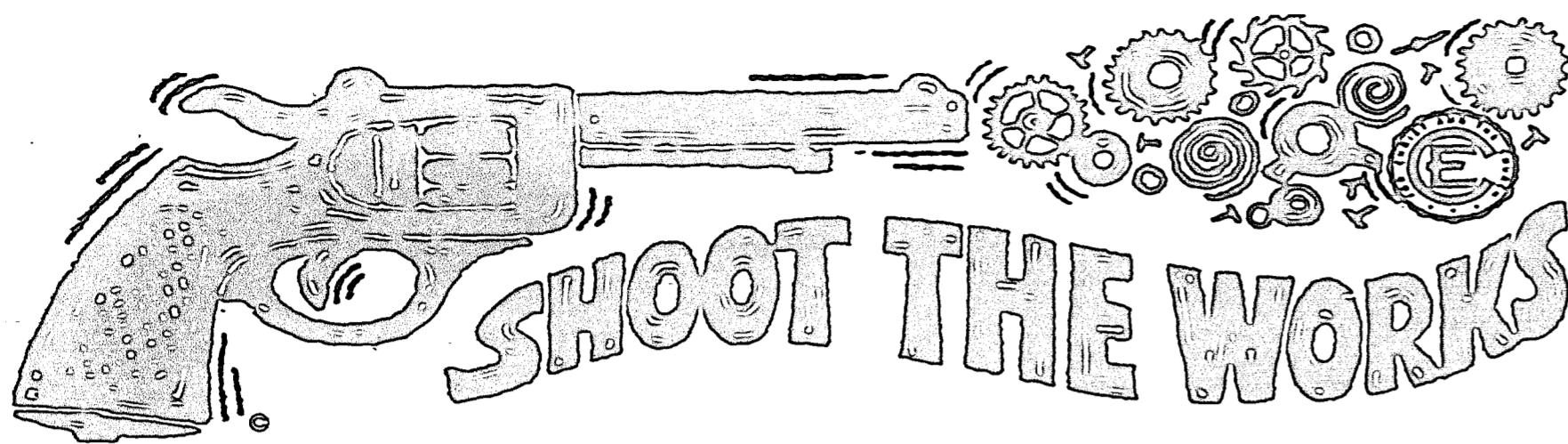
India Refugee Camp News

The refugee situation of East Pakistan in Northeast India was almost front-page news in this country until it was crowded out by the India invasion of East Pakistan and the horror pictures of the reprisals of the Bangladesh against their fellow countrymen who collaborated with the now defeated government. The plight of refugees continued after the war and it will be some time before a high percentage of them who leaving the camps can be self-supporting in their war-ravaged country.

In the meantime eyewitness accounts of Baptist and other relief efforts in Assam are just being made available through the church press. Hopefully the situation of the refugees is now better than when Miss Lillian M. Robinson recently toured the Baptist mission work in Northeast India. What she describes is hard to imagine.

The camps were made up of groups numbering from 7,500 to 15,000. They had little shelter, and night temperatures went as low as 45 degrees. The Baptists undertook responsibility for 15,500 individuals. The relief committee met while Miss Robinson was there and decided to give one blanket (purchased locally at mounting prices) for every three persons, one sari to each woman and lengths of material for the children — nothing for the men. A paragraph from her report follows:

The missionary representative said she kept hearing that the situation in India was worse than Biafra and wondered if it was getting the same publicity in the news. Probably not. But Christian people have a responsibility to remember the poor even if news-hungry secular correspondents have moved on to capture more gruesome scenes in other places. The milk of human kindness must continue to flow and in cases like this it means providing milk for starving children.



The 91st anniversary of the Christian Endeavor movement will be marked by Christian Endeavor Week January 30-February 6, 1972. This is the occasion for societies and unions around the world to "shoot the works" and celebrate with an all-out effort.

Theme for this week-long event is "Power to Become," based on John 1:12. This is a time of celebration *for* youth and *by* youth. The actual birthday of the movement will be February 2.

The 1972 Christian Endeavor Week Packet contains helps to make this week a meaningful event. The Planbook, written by Dr. Gene Stone of Detroit, Michigan, suggests activities and gives helps in planning and publicizing the week.

The above material, including the illustration aimed at youth, was taken from *The Christian Endeavor World*, a publication which has been helpful to youth leaders during its eighty-seven years of publication, a magazine that has changed much but has maintained continuity. Phyllis I. Rike, its personable editor, was honored at the last International C. E. Convention with a beautiful silver tray in recognition of her twenty-five years of service since her employment Nov. 4, 1946.

National Youth Officers

The national Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship officers are: Linda Davis, Boulder, Colo., president; Michele Hunt, Denver, Colo., vice-president; Jonel Smith, Denver, secretary; and John Stephan, Denver, treasurer. They were elected at the youth banquet in Amherst, Mass., last August when about 115 youth with a few Conference leaders were present. They are currently considering program matters as well as suggestions coming from Youth Interests

Committee of the Amherst sessions of Conference.

At an early October meeting in Boulder they met with the executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education who is now also the youth field director. A lot of construction plans were discussed, including the relationship of our Y. F. to the Christian Endeavor movement. It was proposed that one of the national officers of the S.D.B.Y.F. be regularly considered a trustee of the International C. E. since C. E. asks the denominations to elect their trustees by their own methods.

The Beacon is being edited by Karen Osborn of Nortonville, Kans., with the aid of youth from Mid-Continent Association. Offset printing is being tried and improved legibility and variety of reproduction is being achieved. Persons of all ages are being encouraged to "keep young" with a *Beacon* subscription, \$1. per year. Send your \$1. to the Board of Christian Education office.

Plans for youth activities during the 1972 Conference are being worked on

in cooperation with advisors, Conference president and the Youth Work Committee. A wide variety of recreation and fellowship is being developed, including the plan of alternate choices on the same night.

A search for the roots of the S.D.B.-Y.F. is being made by the officers and the Youth Work Committee. It is hoped to rediscover the drive which brought about the Y. F. and to make that thrust meaningful for the current members and potential members. It is believed that a clearer relation between the local and associational youth groups and the national Y. F. can be developed. At best it is difficult to maintain a sense of identity for an organization that meets once a year and has such a variety of goals on the local level. It is hoped that a brief yet forceful constitution can be framed and adopted by Seventh Day Baptist youth across the country.

Family Life

December 14-16 in New York City, leaders in Christian and Jewish Family Life Ministries conferred on some of the current possibilities for enriching the ministries of their churches in this field. Represented were Methodists, Presbyterians (U. S.), Southern Baptists, Jewish, Greek Orthodox, Mennonites, Reformed Church of America, Moravians, United Church of Canada, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and last but not least, Seventh Day Baptists. The American Baptist leader was ill, unable to attend. Dr. Leon Smith of the Methodists is chairman of the group that meets annually.

Each church presented the current programs and goals, problems and responses by local churches. Relations to the Social Action agencies of the respective denominations are close, but variously handled. Definition of duties and concerns is various in the division of labor between Family Life and Social Action agencies.

Family retreats are an increasing program of most denominations with the Reformed Church conducting a huge national retreat at Estes Park next August. The National Council of Churches'

Family Life department conducts conferences in this field, and correlates publicity for denominational and secular conferences.

Observance of Christian Family Week was discussed at length with the continuing interest in providing some theme and program suggestions for the many local churches that choose to celebrate Christian Family Life each year in May. Themes have been chosen until 1979 by a subcommittee.

Among the questions which Dr. William Genné, executive of the NCCC Family Life Division, posed for the group's future concerns were: How can we maximize the family as an educational system for moral education? How can we help each other train leadership for our family ministries? How can we more effectively become involved in the issues facing our families?

Your Seventh Day Baptist Christian Education executive felt that the group listened constructively to the presentation of some of our concerns and program in encouraging Christian family life including the Sabbath as God's gift for the world's family and families.

A number of specific family enrichment programs were presented in considerable detail. If you have questions in this field, please feel free to write the Board of Christian Education. Or, Dr. Genné at 475 Riverside Drive, in New York City, is always ready with a tremendous span of resources. Those of you who like camping might want to write him about the National Tent and Trailer Family Camp to be held at Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire from August 6-20, 1972. Families are invited for a minimum of three days any time during that period.

Righting the Wrongs

In the United States and Canada the laymen of the church, according to a \$300,000 survey recently completed, are not nearly as interested as the pastors in getting the church involved in righting the wrongs of society. Says the report, "Laity considered this nearly off the scale of importance, while pastors—especially in Canada — thought it was worthy of attention."

Pearson Itinerary

Missionary and Mrs. David Pearson and daughter Joanna will be visiting churches in the Northeast the end of January sharing their experiences of three terms of service on the Malawi field. A tentative schedule includes: (Please confirm with local church!)

Wednesday, January 19 — Berea, W. Va.

Thursday, January 20 — Salemville, Pa.

Friday, January 21—De Ruyter, N.Y.

Sabbath, January 22 (a.m.) —Adams Center, N. Y.

Sabbath, January 22 (p.m.) — Verona, N. Y.

Sunday, January 23 — Brookfield, N. Y.

Thursday, January 27 — Berlin, N. Y.

Friday, January 28, — Waterford, Conn.

Sabbath, January 29 (a.m.)—Westerly, R. I.

Sabbath, January 29 (p.m.) Ashaway, R. I.

Sunday, January 30 — Hopkinton, R. I.

They will take up residence in Philadelphia the first of February where David will complete his course at Eastern Baptist Seminary.

Notes from the Fields

Guyana

Brother George L. Bowen, the president of the Guyana Seventh Day Baptist Conference, graduated from the Guyana Bible College the evening of December 4, 1971. Brother Bowen has been working on this course over many years, taking most of the classes at night school. Many readers will recall that it was less than two years ago that another Guyanese leader, Jacob Tyrrell, graduated from the same school. We rejoice with our brethren in Guyana at this important milestone.

Missionary Leroy C. Bass, his wife, Marjorie, and their youngest child spent one week in December on vacation in Barbados, West Indies. Originally the

plan was for the whole family to stop two weeks (enroute to the field) for relaxation and rest. Because of the change in their schedule due to budget restrictions their return to Guyana was delayed and they felt it necessary to go directly to the field. Their vacation was made possible by the Ethel T. Stillman Rest and Recreation Fund. Brother Bass has written, "We had a relaxing time and the rest from our work was such a relief. Since we have returned to Guyana we have found the climate here not so unbearably hot but of course we are in the heavy, rainy season now. A "white Christmas" in Guyana is a rainy one instead of a snowy one.

The use of cassette recorders and players has reached the Guyana field. Funds were made possible for this new ministry. It will not only aid some blind members in having the Bible on tapes, but Missionary Bass also plans to share cassettes with pastors and leaders in the country churches to help them in their training. Certain cassettes have been made available from this country for an initial library. In a recent letter he writes, "I am going to throw my all into the training of our leaders, present and future, and also make it possible for them to continue receiving cassettes from me and from others even when I have to leave the country. I want earnestly to build for a strong future and a maintaining contact. I aim to build for indigenization in our present as well as new churches. I know you are praying for me and the whole work here, for our men and our members, and for our vision."

He also wrote, "Related to the above news, is the fact that the Rev. Delmas Jones, Unevangelized Field Missions missionary and principal of Guyana Bible College has returned to America, not to return to Guyana. He prepared a Guyanese to take over the principalship. All the UFM missionaries are now out of the country, even the Hawkins brothers and others working deep in the interior with the Wai Wai Indians."

Malawi

At the end of the year Sarah Becker

wrote as follows: "I really do feel guilty for not writing but there is nothing dramatic or unusual to write about. Of course we continue to have our problems and have made many trips to Thyolo Government Hospital in November and December. Our routine challenges with severe dysentery, malaria, and malnutrition continue with us. Maternity has been very busy and had its share of problems. Our Class 2 nurse-midwife was married December 26 and although she wants to stay on, we realize that this may only be for a short period since her husband's work is in Limbe (about forty miles from Makapwa). We are depending on the Lord to help us find a replacement if He wants us to continue with maternity."

Elizabeth Maddox shares some of her activities during her first three months at Makapwa. She reports teaching two nutrition classes to station people and putting together bits of material from here and there to edit and form a small booklet in Chichewa giving ideas on recipes and meal balancing. She also gathered and edited material for personnel at the hospital to use in health teaching and has begun to compile material for a Standard Procedures Manual for the hospital workers. As opportunity has afforded she has contacted individuals at Malamulo to help teach some classes in the new year for the medical personnel.

The Conrods spent a longer period at Makapwa during the school holidays and Tibbie wrote, "The 24th we ate dinner with the Conrods here and spent the afternoon playing Christmas carols over and over again on their tape recorder. The 25th we went with Pastor Mataka to dedicate the Chididi church not far from here. One hundred forty-six people attended the two meetings. The church is mud and pole but very well constructed and on a hill in the middle of a cornfield . . . very picturesque. Oh yes, Friday night (the 24th) we had a carol singing program and I got to use the new felt flannelgraph set to tell the Christmas story."

Another fact mentioned in correspondence brought new information and concern to us. We know that our readers

will want to pray about this matter! "As you know there is a world shortage of vaccines and we, as well as all Malawi, are out of polio, almost out of DPT, and others. So sad. We will probably be seeing an increase in those types of cases in the new year."

"Thembe is, I believe, seeing a large increase in patients this month (December). The hospital assistant is doing an excellent job and is very progressive. He has been successful in making the patients pay the small amount charged to help in meeting the expenses of the drugs used in their treatment."

Missionary John Conrod has recently laid the new pipe from the spring to the water tower tank but before it was covered they had an especially hard rain and this undid much of the work. We were also happy to learn that Joyce Conrod is improved though still not 100 percent. She has had an especially hard bout with malaria and we need to continue our prayers for her health.

Jamaica

Sunday, December 19, was a special day for our brethren at the Mountain View church in eastern Kingston. It was the time for the dedication of their church building. Our brethren in Jamaica usually spend several years in actual construction and furnishing of their buildings and a dedication is held only when the work is complete. Missionary Wayne N. Crandall wrote, "Last night I represented the Missionary Society at Mountain View by opening a door and relaying Pastor Harris' comments. You would have to see their church to believe the marvelous way they have completed it. It was a very impressive service."

A special designated gift for audio-visual aid equipment in Jamaica has made possible the purchase of a new viewlex slide and filmstrip projector. This has been a vital need for some time as the only electrical projector available is one that is at least twenty years old and has a very small bulb. The new equipment will enable the use of filmstrips and slides, not only in the churches of the conference, but also in the work at Crandall High School. Funds given in addition to the cost of the machine can

MISSIONARY BOARD MEETING

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, January 30, in the vestry of the Pawcatuck Church in Westerly, R. I. Missionaries will be present and visitors are welcome.

hopefully supply new filmstrips for use in the evangelistic and teaching ministry of the churches in Jamaica.

The construction work on the new classroom building is continuing apace. At Christmastime the forms were ready and as Mr. Crandall wrote, "They are waiting for ready-mix right now."

Principal Crandall also reported that Miss Chin, one of the teachers at Crandall High School, had received a scholarship to the University of the West Indies and would be leaving at the end of the term. In his letter of December 20 he said, "I just had a phone call from a candidate who might be able to fill the vacancy. She is coming in soon." We trust that prayers have been answered in supplying the needed staff person.

The whole revaluation of monies is receiving study on the part of your board leaders and we hope that some positive action can be taken at the January board meeting to aid our missionaries and the national workers who in effect are having a cut in income because of the devaluation of the dollar. Mr. Crandall wrote, "We are very concerned about the deterioration of the U. S. dollar at this critical time in our building program. Today they will not convert any U. S. or Canadian money except in hardship cases with travelers."

News of India Evangelists

The story of the twenty-one Seventh Day Baptist evangelists of India who lost their lives in the tidal wave the last of October was felt to be something that Baptists of the world would be interested in especially since Baptist missionary work has been strong in India. We sent *Recorder* clippings to the European Baptist Press and to C. E. Bryant, editor of the *Baptist World* in Washington, D. C.

Mr. Bryant immediately wrote up a story and mailed it "to a handful of key news services." He reports that they all used it and that he had seen it in a score of publications.

Although we have not heard further details as to how the bereaved families are getting along, we trust that the relief funds gathered by the churches of India and the United States have helped somewhat in easing their financial burden. Word was received that the orphans' home operated by the Seventh Day Baptists at Nellore was offering to take in the children who lost their fathers in the Lord's work.

Phoenix Group Growing

The Rev. O Arlie Davis, long-time leader of Seventh Day Baptist work in Phoenix, Ariz., writes of the growth of the fellowship during the past year. On January 1, the anniversary, a picture of the congregation was taken showing thirty people in attendance, sixteen of whom were adults. This is three times the number pictured a year ago and most of these are considered regular attenders.

The "Church-Fellowship," as they call it, now has co-pastors and at the business meeting December 29 it was voted to continue that arrangement. The associate pastor is Oscar L. Reigel. Worship services are held each Sabbath in the YWCA building at 230 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix. Mail address is O. A. Davis, 1046 W. Taylor St.

If progress in the recent past has been good, the hopes for the future are better. Plans have been made and prayers requested for the midweek Bible study groups now scheduled a month at a time in locations twenty miles apart.

A report of the business meeting tells of a visitation program and in-depth discussion of a missionary project. The minutes state, "We had discussion to determine what a missionary project really is: (1) It's more than tract distribution; (2) more than saving money for a future project for ourselves. The committee is to report in another thirty days, the first of February."

"What this church needs is . . ."

A Program That Appeals to Youth

By Ben Hartley

"What we need more than anything else in this church is a program that will grab the young people and involve them all in the total life of the church!"

The young folks sitting around the committee table looked bored. An equal number of adults sitting there also looked bored. Even the chairman who had uttered that unremarkable remark looked bored, too. Then a fourteenish girl with long red hair, green eyes flashing like gem stones, said: "Wow! Like if we could grab only half the kids what might happen!" Her realistically-based enthusiasm blew away the boredom and the group began determining objectives and specifics for attaining them.

But these days church youth are caught up in a culture so vastly different from that in which their parents struggled with adolescent problems, that building effective youth programs can traumatize a church and its adults who can envision no content or format beyond that safe but dull canned stuff fed to them in their early years.

So does mass youth appeal mean mod music and weird worship? Not necessarily. Like their elders, young people are individuals with differing tastes. So it requires excellence and interesting variety in youth programs to achieve mass appeal. The cardinal rule still holds: let youth plan their own programs — *but* with adults standing by to help when needed, to offer suggestions when asked, to encourage, and to interpret for them the adult view of the church.

More helpful hints: Don't shoot down one of their ideas simply because "it has never been done in our church." Keep the crotchety, nervous church officers off the kids' backs as much as possible. Certainly, design programs with contemporary appeals and emphases. And with plenty of recreation and social activity. But don't neglect the meaty main course to satisfy their deepest hunger for help and strength in every day living — how personal faith aids in understanding and

solutions to problems in dating and sex, money, education, relationships, with parents.

You've still got to pray a lot. But with Him all things are possible! Wow! Like grabbing half the kids!

—ACP

Thoughts on the Ministry

The Roman Catholic ministry does not need to be full time, or for life, according to the Rev. Dr. Hans Küng. A priest should not have social status, need not be celibate, or an academic, or even male. These are all variables, he explained in a recent lecture at Rosary College, River Forest, Ill.

Father Küng, internationally known Catholic progressive theologian, is professor at the University of Tübingen, West Germany, and author of many widely discussed books. His latest book is the controversial "Infallible? An Inquiry."

In his lecture at Rosary College he elaborated on the variables mentioned in the first paragraph. The college news release reports what he said on the point, "The ministry of the church does not have to be celibate." The celibacy rule is a medieval law, nothing more, he said. Generally, among people in the services of the community, no one insists on the necessity of being unmarried, he noted, and he pointed out that the celibacy law is against the freedom of the gospel itself.

"It is very clear that Jesus did not say you must be celibate," Father Küng said. "I do not see by what authority the bishops of Rome voted for this law."

It is also reported that when he made his last point, "The ministry of the church does not have to be exclusively masculine," there was instant applause (Rosary College is a women's college). The lecture might not have been as well received if it had been given at Rome before the recent council of bishops. It is interesting to observe that he had the courage to say what he thought even though much of it was contrary to the position taken by the pope — which is supposedly binding.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SHILOH, N. J.—A Christmas cantata, "A Song Unending," by John W. Peterson was presented by the senior and youth choirs on Dec. 18, at a 4:00 p.m. vesper service. To hear the Christmas story set to music is always thrilling. Afterwards an informal time was held in Fellowship Hall where refreshments were served.

On Dec. 19, our annual Christmas program was presented by the various Sabbath School classes under the direction of the Tri-C class.

Christmas Eve, Pastor Bond presented an evening of devotions, Scripture reading and Christmas carols for meditation.

Christmas Day, the church was filled to capacity. Special music and dedication of two babies highlighted the morning service. No one can deny that after hearing the stories and songs proclaiming the birth of Christ, an additional meaning of Christmas was acquired.

—Correspondent

RICHBURG, N. Y. — At the annual business meeting the following officers were elected: moderator — C. Robert Stohr; vice-moderator — Miss Onnalee Saunders; clerk — Mrs. Francis Bucher, Sr.; treasurer — Mrs. Earl Stohr.

The Youth Fellowship has had an active part in the church functions this year. Robert Cartwright, now in the U. S. Army stationed in Fort Dix, Donna Sanford and Helene Nelson, SCSC workers, served the local church and also the Allegheny Association in Vacation Bible School, camp activities and Allegany County Fair booth. New members of the YF are the Misses Debbie and Kathy Soules, formerly of the Denver, Colorado, church.

The members and friends of the church were richly blessed by the sermons and training sessions of Evangelist Mynor Soper; the hosting of the Allegheny Association fall meeting; and the fall planning session.

The Ladies' Aid Society holds regular monthly dinner meetings at the homes of the members and enjoys the fellowship of the men and also the inspiration of the

Women's Board programs. Mrs. Sam Cook (Martha Jean Cartwright) is now residing in Germany with her husband who is serving in the U. S. Army.

Deacon Jesse A. Burdick is spending the winter in St. Cloud, Florida.

Physical improvements have been made to the church property — the most noticeable of which is the new paint on the parsonage and the garage. This was done during work bees of the men of the church.

—Correspondent

Spirit Moving in America

We hear so much about the waywardness of youth and the problems of society that we are likely to get the idea that the gospel has lost its power. Some people tell us that church attendance and giving are down. There are evidences to the contrary and Kenneth L. Chafin of Atlanta has some strong words of hope based on statistics.

Mr. Chafin reports that the Southern Baptists in 1971 baptized the second highest number of people in their history. The projected number shortly before the end of the year was 412,600, an increase of twelve percent over the previous year.

Commenting on the increase, Chafin said, "There is a moving of the spirit of God in America and a new openness to the gospel of Christ.

"Some of the alternatives to Christ that looked so good a decade ago have not worked out. Instead they have begun to crumble," he continued.

"The sheer intensity and fierceness of life has begun to plow up the souls of men," Chafin said. "There is a piling up of the reserves of life and men are turning to Christ in significant numbers as they realize a personal relationship with Him."

Chafin said he observed a sense of excitement concerning evangelism among evangelicals throughout America.

He said one hundred denominations and groups are participating in what is known as Key 73, a united effort to evangelize the North American continent by 1973.

Accessions

DODGE CENTER, MINN.

By Baptism:

Arden L. Crane
Mary J. Bond
Nancy Erickson (Mrs. William) Babcock

By Letter:

Rev. John H. Camenga
Linda Van Horn (Mrs. John) Camenga

By Profession of Faith:

Robert L. Martin
MILTON, WIS.

By Letter:

Mrs. Eva Haskins

VERONA, N. Y.

By Baptism:

Robert Viscosi
Michael Viscosi
Bonnie Williams
Amy Swerediuk
Doris Swerediuk
Dwight Davis

Marriages

Bonser - Dunford.— Robert Bonser and Maria Dunford were united in marriage in the garden of St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson, Minn., July 18, 1971. They are making their home in Dodge Center, Minn.

Dinwoodie - Morgan.— Kenneth Wayne Dinwoodie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Dinwoodie of Ashaway, R. I., and Jody Lynn Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morgan of Bradford, R. I., were united in marriage in the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton on December 4, 1971, with her pastor, the Rev. Edgar Wheeler, officiating.

Neher - Langworthy.— Theodore Neher and Loretta Langworthy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Langworthy, Dodge Center, Minn., were united in marriage in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, Sept. 5, 1971, Pastor John H. Camenga officiating.

Thorpe - Wheeler.— Walter Elliott Thorpe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Thorpe, Jr., of Westerly, R. I., and Ruth Frances Wheeler, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Wheeler of Ashaway, R. I., were united in marriage in the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton on Nov. 13, 1971, with the bride's father officiating.

Warner - Morrison.— The Rev. Glen W. Warner of Denver, Colo., and Miss Nancy Morrison of Ashtabula, Ohio, were married at the Second Congregational Church of Ashtabula, Dec. 26, 1971, with the bride's pastor, Rev. Kiene Lebold, officiating.

Births

Davis.— A daughter, Brenda Lynn, to W. Allen and Nancy (Randolph) Davis of Shiloh, N. J. on December 30, 1971.

Davis.— A son, Philip Clifford, to Philip and Jasmyne (Florin) Davis of Shiloh, N. J. on October 27, 1971.

Hitchner.— A son, James David, to David and Mary (Bacon) Hitchner of Shiloh, N. J., on August 21, 1971.

Obituaries

CHAMBERLAIN.— Laura Shaw, daughter of Amos and Joanne Ryno Shaw, was born in Alfred, N. Y., April 22, 1882, and died at Bethesda Community Hospital, North Hornell, N. Y., December 22, 1971.

During her early life, she was active in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church choir.

After her marriage to John Chamberlain, she had lived in Buffalo and Warsaw, N. Y. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Chamberlain returned to Alfred to live, where she was hostess of the Priscilla Alden guest house at Alfred University for many years.

On Resurrection Sabbath, 1961, she joined the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church by profession of faith.

She is survived by a nephew, Robert Shaw, of Pensacola, Fla.

Memorial services were conducted at the Crandall and Crandall Funeral Home, Hornell, N. Y., by the Rev. Hurley S. Warren. Burial will be in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—H. S. W.

COLEGROVE.— Ralph L. Colegrove, son of Lemuel and Frances (Williams) Colegrove, was born in Alfred, N. Y., May 9, 1891, and died at Perry, N. Y., Dec. 20, 1971.

He was married to Ethyl (Cass) in Friendship, N. Y., in 1916. He joined the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church after baptism in 1959, where he had been an active member even in recent years when he and his wife had moved to Perry, N. Y.

Funeral services were conducted at the Eaton-Watson Funeral Home in Perry, N. Y., by the Revs. Hurley S. Warren and Edward Sutton. Interment will be in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—E. S.

PIERCE.— Lelia (Saunders) Pierce, daughter of William O. and Welthy (Crandall) Saunders, was born May 21, 1883 in Little Genesee, N. Y., and died at Alfred Station, N. Y., Dec. 10, 1971.

She married Edson F. Pierce, who preceded her in death in 1961. She joined the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church (by letter) in 1904 where she was an active member until recent health kept her away and "shut in."

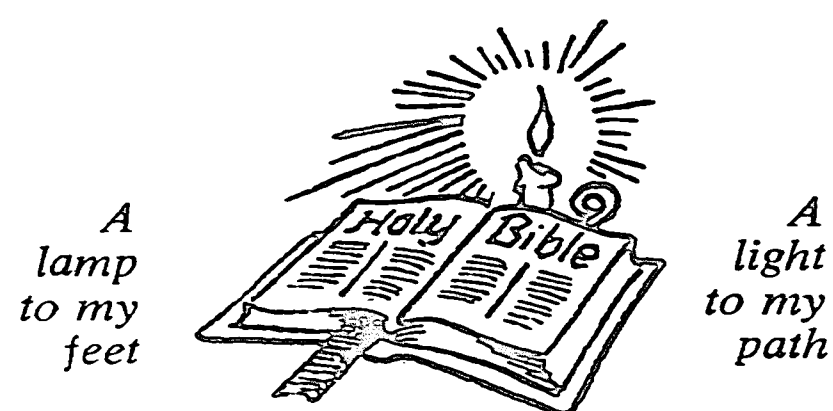
Funeral services were conducted from the Alfred Station church. Interment will be in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

—E. S.

The Sabbath Recorder

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

For February 1972



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

Christ in the City

- 1—Tues. Preparing To Enter the City. Luke 19:28-38
2—Wed. Unrepentant Cities. Matt. 11:20-24
3—Thurs. Wickedness in the City. Ps. 55:4-13; Ps. 122
4—Fri. The Restored City. Zech. 8:1-8
5—Sabbath. Source of Holiness. Lev. 19:1-5

Endurance and the Christian Hope

- 6—Sun. The Coming Kingdom. Luke 17:20-37
7—Mon. Hope for Trying Times. Luke 21:5-19
8—Tues. Living in Readiness. 2 Peter 3:8-15a
9—Wed. On the Alert. Matt. 24:42-51
10—Thurs. Patient Waiting for Christ. 2 Thess. 3:1-15
11—Fri. Paul's Advice to Timothy. 2 Tim. 4:1-8
12—Sabbath. Honest Labor in God's Sight. Neh. 13:15-22

The Death That Changes Lives

- 13—Sun. Jesus Trapped and Arrested. Luke 22:47-53
14—Mon. Peter's Denials of Jesus. Luke 22:54-62
15—Tues. Jesus Before the Chief Priests. Luke 22:63-71
16—Wed. The Roman Trials. Luke 23:1-12.
17—Thurs. Sentenced to Cruel Death. Luke 23:13-25
18—Fri. The Crucifixion. Luke 23:26-38
19—Sabbath. Life Through Christ. Rom. 5:1-11

Walking with the Living Christ

- 20—Sun. The Empty Tomb. Luke 24:1-11.
21—Mon. Jesus Appears to the Apostles. Luke 24:36-48

22—Tues. Jesus' Ascension. Luke 24:49-53; Acts 1:1-5

23—Wed. The Great Commission. Matt. 28:16-20

24—Thurs. Pressing to the Goal. Phil. 3:7-16

25—Fri. New Life in Christ. Col. 3:1-17

26—Sabbath. Fellowship with the Living Christ. 1 John 1:1-7

The Foundation of the Church

27—Sun. You Are the Christ. Matt. 16:13-20

28—Mon. The Chief Cornerstone. Eph. 2:17-22.

29—Tues. The Living Stone. 1 Pet. 2:6-10

Jesus Christ, Superstar

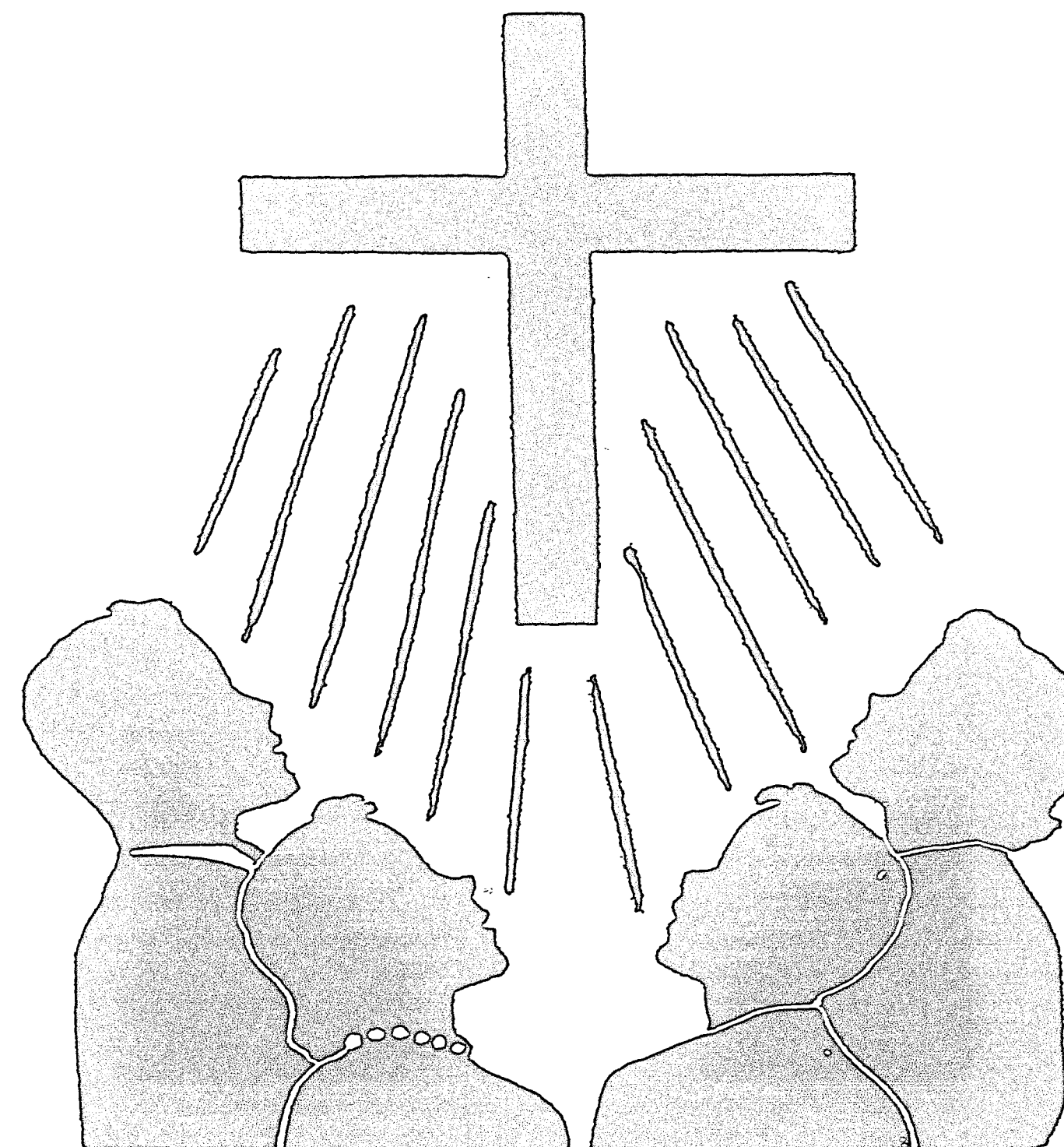
The popularity of the popular two-record album "Jesus Christ, Superstar" and the over-staged Broadway production of the same name would be dampened as far as earnest Christians are concerned if they were more aware that Judas is really the star rather than Christ.

It seems to be factual. Tim Rice, who wrote the lyrics of the rock opera stated in an "official" interview which he included with the album when it was sent to radio stations: "The idea of the whole opera is to have Jesus seen through the eyes of Judas, and Christ as a man, not as God. And the fact that Christ himself is just as mixed up and unaware of exactly what he is, as Judas is."

The opera pictures Judas as trying to help Jesus get His bearings. And in this story of the last days of Jesus, Judas looms as the star, who dies as a martyr.

In Jesus' trial before Pilate, Jesus Superstar said, "There may be a kingdom for me somewhere — if only I knew." This bears little resemblance to what Jesus actually said, according to the Gospels.

There are those who say that regardless of the knowledge this opera may bring of the names of Bible characters it is really one of the current attacks on Christian faith and cannot be of lasting value to the cause of Christ.



Upon the cross of Jesus,
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my smitten heart with tears
These wonders I confess;
The wonder of His glorious love,
And my own worthlessness.

I take, O Cross, thy shadow
For my abiding-place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.