

The Sabbath Recorder

TRACT EMPHASIS ISSUE

DAILY BIBLE READINGS for December 1972



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

Jeremiah: A Man for the Hour

- 1—Fri. "Skilled in Doing Evil." Jer. 4:14-22
2—Sabbath. God, the Only Lord. Is. 43:10-21

A Nation Against God

- 3—Sun. A Nation in Rebellion. Jer. 2:11-19
4—Mon. Consequences of Faithlessness. Jer. 4:1-8
5—Tues. Refusing to Acknowledge National Sins. Jer. 5:1-5, 10-14
6—Wed. Hope for God's Mercy. Lam. 3:22-23
7—Thurs. The Lord's Vineyard. Is. 5:1-7
8—Fri. "Return, O Faithless Children." Jer. 3:11-18
9—Sabbath. God's Goodness Repudiated. Jer. 2:4-9

Convictions Can Be Costly

- 10—Sun. Lashing Out Against Injustice. Jer. 22:13-17, 21
11—Mon. Faithful Under Threat of Death. Jer. 26:12-19, 24
12—Tues. Expressing Convictions with Boldness. Acts 4:7-20
13—Wed. An Unpopular Message. Jeremiah 20:1-6
14—Thurs. Ebed-melech to the Rescue. Jer. 38:7-13
15—Fri. Vindication of Jeremiah and Ebed-melech. Jer. 39:11-18
16—Sabbath. Denounced and Persecuted. Jer. 20:7-12

The Promised Messiah

- 17—Sun. Good Tidings of Peace. Is. 52:6-15
18—Mon. The Remnant Will Return. Jer. 23:1-6
19—Tues. God's Promise To Be Fulfilled. Jer. 33:10-18

- 20—Wed. "Bruised for Our Iniquities" Isa. 53:1-12
21—Thurs. The Magnificat. Luke 1:46-55
22—Fri. Gifts for a King. Mat. 2:1-12.
23—Sabbath. "He Has Redeemed His People." Luke 1:68-79

The Reshaping of Life

- 24—Sun. The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9:2-7
25—Mon. "Swords into Plowshares." Micah 4:1-7
26—Tues. Ruler of the Nations. Ps. 33:1-12
27—Wed. Jeremiah Buys a Field. Jer. 32:1-15
28—Thurs. Faith in the Lord of History. Jer. 32:16-27
29—Fri. Amend Your Ways. Jer. 18:1-11
30—Sabbath. God the Potter — We the Clay. Is. 64:4-9

The New Covenant

- 31—Sun. Future Glory of Zion. Is. 59:21; 60:1-5, 20-22

Not by Magic

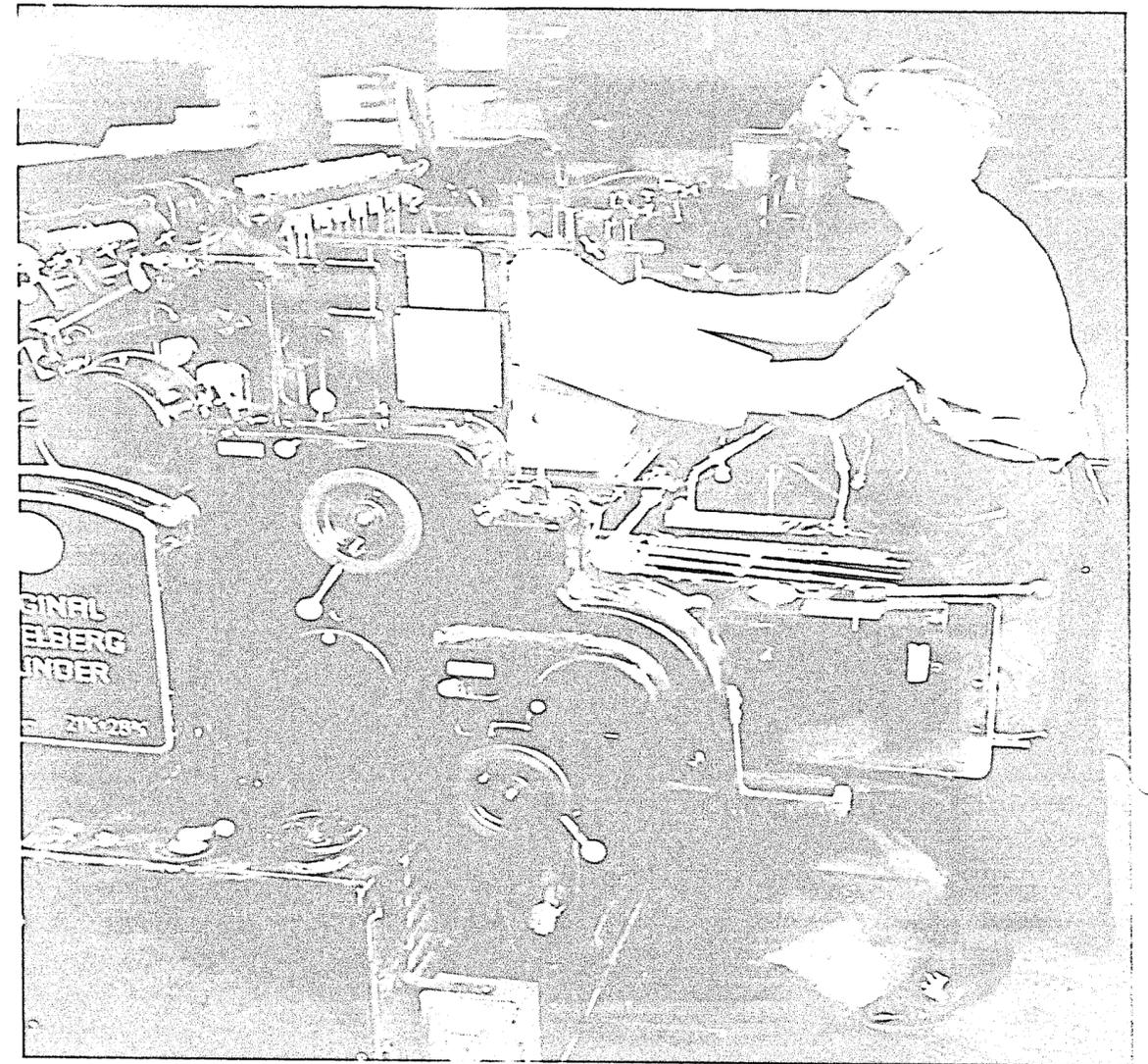
Magic is the Devil's big thing right now. But, strangely, few churchmen know what that really is. *Magic* is using a combination of words and actions to *force* God, the Devil or their angels to do something.

Satan, the deceiver, who also transforms himself into an angel of light, is dragging the Church around by both ears (1) denying it the miracles it needs in its work (1 Cor. 12:8) (even Pentecostals seldom use anything but medical healing), and (2) teaching it to run off uselessly at the mouth, denying Matt. 6:7-9. Jesus said this is *how* to pray. He did not say repeat these precise words.

God is not a jackpot, paying off when you repeat the right combination of words, or sooner or later if you repeat them enough times.

"Test the spirits to see whether they are from God." If anyone tells you his combination of words has extra horsepower with God, "he is a false prophet in the world" (1 John 4:1).

—Hollis Howard



At the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House, owned and operated by the American Sabbath Tract Society, the presses are running to produce many kinds of literature to promote the gospel and the growth of church groups at home and abroad.

The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration
Member of the Associated Church Press

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Terms of Subscription

Per Year \$5.00 Single Copies 15 cents

Special rates for students, retired Seventh Day
Baptist ministers, and servicemen

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents
per year additional. Gift and newlywed subscriptions
will be discontinued at date of expiration unless re-
newed. All subscriptions will be discontinued six months
after date to which payment is made unless renewed.
The Sabbath Recorder cannot pay for contributed articles
but will send the writer, upon request, up to 10 free
copies of the issue in which an article appears.

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, New Jersey.

The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse
signed articles. All communications should be addressed
to the Sabbath Recorder, P. O. Box 868, Plainfield,
New Jersey 07061.

A Seventh Day Baptist weekly (two issues
omitted in August) published by the American
Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Ave.,
Plainfield, N. J. 07061.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. December 2, 1972
Volume 193, No. 12 Whole No. 6,526

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MEMORY TEXT

Preach the word; be instant in season,
out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort
with all long-suffering and doctrine. —
2 Timothy 4:2

Tract Emphasis Issue

This is another of the first-of-the-month
emphasis issues of our weekly journal.
For the sake of brevity we title it a
tract emphasis number, but in reality it
will highlight the total work of the
American Sabbath Tract Society as it
seeks to render service to the Seventh
Day Baptist cause. This service includes
the publication and distribution of our
literature but it broadens out to several
related ways of communicating the gos-
pel. This major board of the denomina-
tion — the oldest of all — merits the
full support of all people of like faith
as it in turn contributes so much to the
effectiveness of local church extension
and the pioneering of Sabbath work
around the world.

The Tract Society receives a limited
amount of funds designated for its work
by individuals or churches. It draws
much of its income from a percentage
participation in the united or Our World
Mission budget. That percentage is de-
termined by action of Commission and
Conference and may be observed each
time the monthly disbursements of contri-
buted funds is reported in the *Sabbath
Recorder*. The amount of work that can
be undertaken is increased considerably
by another source, income from invested
funds.

The Society and the Conference have
agreed that a major portion of available
funds need to be devoted to providing
our people with this periodical, which is
the major organ for binding our people
together, inspiring and stimulating them
and encouraging consistent outreach. In
plain terms, the board uses much of its
resources to subsidize this publication
—which in turn increases the resources
of all the other boards and agencies. It is
fitting that once each year we devote one
of the issues to telling the story of the
agency that owns the publishing house
and pays its personnel.

Spreading Bible Truth in Foreign Lands

Anybody can help to spread the gospel
and the Sabbath by way of literature to
foreign fields in limited ways according
to the contacts he has. The office of
the Tract Society at Plainfield, however,
is a clearing house for such contacts and
a source of supply. The stories of how
new fields are opened up by tract dis-
tribution is sometimes quite thrilling.

It has often been noted that almost
every mission field where Seventh Day
Baptists have work was opened up by the
distribution of our literature. The same
is also largely true of the numerous con-
ferences in the Seventh Day Baptist
World Federation where we have not
sent missionary personnel. Literature dis-
tribution precedes evangelistic meetings
and provides solid ground for the later
formation of church groups. It is through
tracts that people come to unity of belief
and have a desire to be banded together
in a church.

The work in India, according to con-
ference secretary B. John V. Rao, is
largely a result of wide tract distribution.
Some of the stories have previously ap-
peared in this journal. He has written,
"The tract literature is our main contact
with the people and it is bringing mar-
velous results. I have seen many precious
souls come to know our Lord after they
have read the different kinds of tracts."
He seems to be saying that there needs to
be a variety of tracts if substantial results
are to be obtained. He goes on to say,
"The ministry of the printed page is
amazing due to the fact that man cannot
do what the tracts are doing for lost
souls."

The Tract Society sent small quantities
of English tracts to India and from
time to time allocated general or desig-
nated funds to the Rev. John Rao for
translation and printing in the Telugu
language. Thus the tract ministry was
encouraged and the native workers scat-
tered over a wide area had tools in
their hands.

Within the past few months the Indian
leader has seen the value of having a

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good mimeograph machine to produce
tracts and keep in communication with
the many local workers. The Tract Board
Committee on Publications favored this
self-help program, but did not have funds
of that size in the budget. Fortunately
two distant subscribers to the *Sabbath
Recorder* who are not closely tied to
local churches read about the India
project and provided sufficient funds for
this and some other foreign literature
needs. The machine will soon be secured
and put to work. The board will receive
samples of the literature that leads to
salvation of souls and the founding of
new churches.

Inquiries from other countries can be
met with literature from funds channeled
through the American Sabbath Tract
Society.

The Burma tract work is now using
mimeographed materials as well as printed
booklets. There is no call for mimeograph
equipment since other arrangements for
reproduction can be made.

The work on the islands of Leyte
and Cebu in the Philippines is still not
large enough to form a conference of
churches. Literature and books were sent
to the leaders to give a foundation in
Seventh Day Baptist beliefs and practice.
Here again there was a desire to produce
literature in the native languages as
well as to use what was available in
English. The Tract Board fostered this
work by providing funds to buy a dupli-
cating machine and supplies. Part of the
money needed came from designated gifts
as mentioned above.

It is not possible for the board to fully
or immediately meet every expressed
need for literature or machinery to pro-
duce literature, but as funds permit it is
happy to put tracts in the hands of those
who give promise of using these tools
effectively to the glory of God.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for December 9, 1972

A NATION AGAINST GOD

Jeremiah 5:21-25, 29-31

Tract Publication and Distribution

The 1972 *Yearbook*, which is now well on the way to an earlier-than-usual publication date in our print shop will tell the full year's story of what has been done in providing churches with tracts. Let us take note here of some of the more recent services rendered in this area.

In September we published a tract showing the continuity of the Sabbath through history and through calendar revisions. It was titled "The Seventh Day of the Bible Is the Seventh Day of the Calendar." The Publications Committee had rewritten an older tract by Lester G. Osborn and redesigned it. Would church leaders and local tract distributors go for this presentation? They did. Comments were good. Orders came in. As of this writing, a little over two months from its introduction, well over half of the 10,000 edition has been exhausted. When a solid tract like this one is called for at this rate, it indicates that people are taking a new interest in helping their friends and neighbors to think through some of the questions about the God-appointed day of worship.

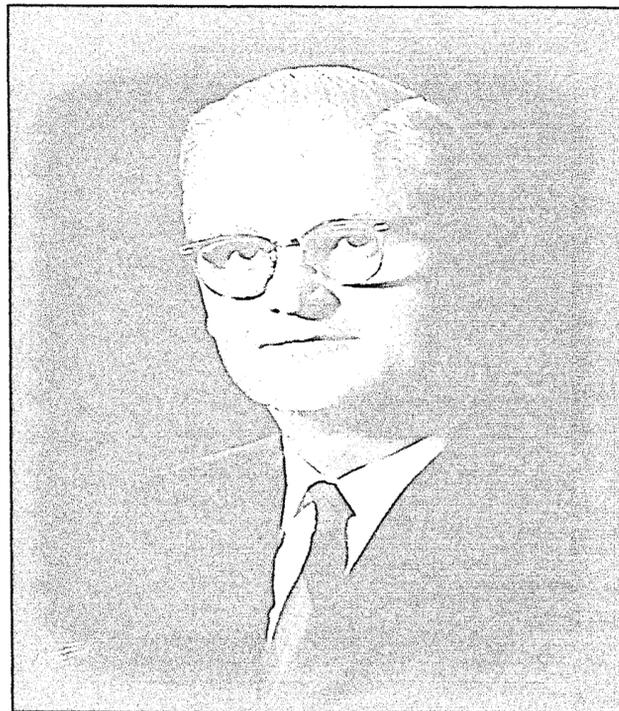
Less than two and a half years ago the chairman of the Sabbath Promotion Committee, with the help of others, wrote and designed a tract "Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of a Spirit-filled Sabbath?" It was similar in format and style to some very widely used Campus Crusade booklets. Although the printing cost turned out to be over five cents per copy, the board was not sorry that it made the first edition 15,000 instead of the usual 10,000 and made a general mailing to all churches.

The Sabbath booklet has gone well. For several months the office was not able to fill quantity orders, but now the publishing house has found time to get out a second edition. Some of the extra labor required in trimming this size booklet was done by the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, chairman of the committee, to help keep the cost down. The price of paper has gone up three times since the first edition.

This tract is not so much an argument for the seventh-day Sabbath as a call

for proper appreciation of what it can mean to honor the Sabbath that God has provided for us. The day can be a spiritual blessing. Now orders can be filled for any quantity of the tract, "Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of a Spirit-filled Sabbath?"

Tract Society President



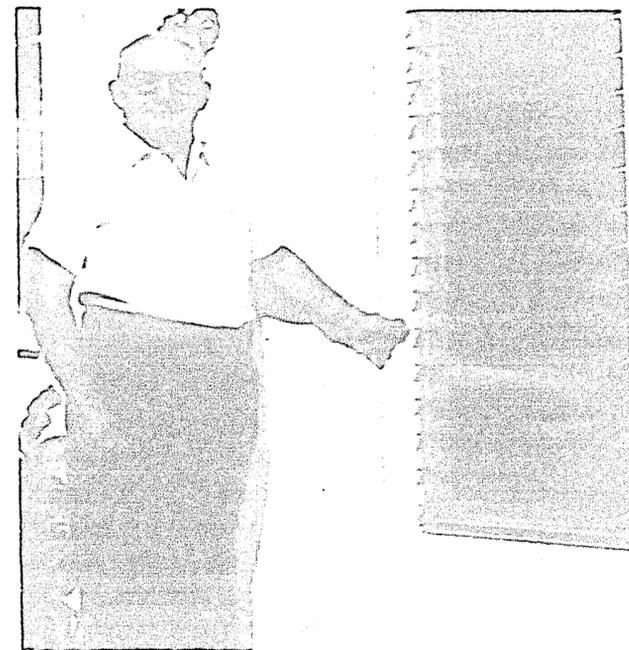
Charles H. North of Plainfield, N. J., was again elected president of the American Sabbath Tract Society at its corporate meeting September 17, 1972, a position to which he was first elected in 1966. Prior to that time he had served as treasurer for about twelve years. Keenly interested in the publishing area of the Society's work, he came to the presidency at a time when the publishing house was faced with losses in the commercial work that had previously turned over profits for Society and Conference work. He stood at the helm during the change-over to strictly denominational work. His careful appointment of and service on committees has done much to further the service of the Society to the denomination through the Board of Trustees.

What Does the Tract Board Do?

An Example from Florida

The American Sabbath Tract Society through its corresponding secretary's office does much to further the Sabbath cause in the way of making Sabbath converts, discovering others and encouraging them to become leaders according to their ability. It stands to reason that man who has been convinced of the truth of the Sabbath by studying tracts on the subject will be interested in using tract distribution as a means of bringing others to Christ and the Sabbath.

Let us take as an example a minister and his wife who recently have made their home in Ft. Myers, Fla. The Tract



Rev. H. C. McWilliams is prepared to distribute tracts and Sabbath Recorders as doors open.

Board cannot in their case claim that it was by the reading of our literature that they came to the conviction that it was their Christian obligation to keep the Sabbath. This conviction may well have come from a private study of the Bible. It is encouraging to know that many ministers and others seem to be able to set long established custom and habits aside

and listen to the voice of the Bible objectively, and having been persuaded in their minds, to be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to follow the path of obedience.

Our office did not persuade Mr. McWilliams to keep the Sabbath. Neither did we discover him. He discovered us. He is no longer tied to a church or parish, but having enough income to get along on, he wanted to devote much of his time to tract distribution as a way of winning people to Christ in the area of Ft. Myers. He heard of our publishing house and wanted samples of our tracts. With this very recent connection we have been able to lend him some encouragement and give him information about Seventh Day Baptists about whom he had little knowledge. He was encouraged to cross the state and visit the church at Daytona Beach, which he did with much pleasure.

After seeing samples of our literature, this ordained man who is free to work for the Lord has ordered quantities of our tracts, a copy of our new *Manual of Procedures for Seventh Day Baptist Churches* and a subscription to the *Sabbath Recorder*.

In a requested Sabbath article appearing in this Tract Board emphasis issue Mr. McWilliams states his hopes. He is not looking for a church to serve, is not asking anything of us except the literature that he pays for. He expresses his new interest this way. "We are going to advertise and see if we can find other followers of our Lord who enjoy keeping the Sabbath. We are going to start by holding the service in our home, and if we gain enough worshipers (and I do pray that God will bless us with many) we could blossom into a full church. At times I feel so small and inadequate to do our Lord's work. At the same time that small voice keeps telling me to go ahead, for that is what He wants me to do."

The office of the Tract Board seeks to encourage such people who have a desire to work for the Lord.



Tract Distribution Is It Really Necessary?

By Leo Floyd, Hyattsville, Md.

This may sound like a title that is out of place for an article appearing in a tract special edition of the *Sabbath Recorder*, but I think it is a question that should be asked.

Is tract distribution worth all the effort and money expended for this purpose? Does distributing tracts really accomplish the task hoped for by the church or individuals distributing them? I believe that all Christians interested in carrying out God's commission to them should ask these questions and then try and find the answers. The members of the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church did ask themselves these questions and decided that there was only one way to find out for sure. They decided they would designate a specific area for tract distribution and distribute tracts in this area for a specified period of time continuing such distribution until some results could be determined.

The members of the Washington church have been distributing tracts in this specified area for well over a year now. Though it can not be said that the church has gained any new members because of this effort, there has been a steady acceptance of the tracts and the church that has been distributing them by the people in the area. As an example, when the church commenced distributing tracts there were many who refused to accept the tracts when offered. Now many of these same people accept them very pleasantly and it is known that they read them. Of course, along with the tracts there is always distributed additional information about the Washington church inviting everyone to attend the meetings of the church.

Evidence that the tracts are being read may be seen by the increased attendance

at the monthly neighborhood night meetings that are presented by the church. Just recently two incidents have occurred that are directly related to tract distribution. Upon the completion of a particular monthly tract distribution effort and before the sun had set on this day, a mother sent her children to the church asking for additional information about the church. In another incident the pastor was distributing tracts when one family saw him coming and waited to speak to him, asking specifically about the church and its beliefs. They expressed an interest, stating that they had been reading the literature that had been distributed. These two incidents along with the neighborhood night evidence pretty well speak for themselves.

There will be those who will state that it took over a year to get even this much of an interest aroused and with no firm commitments as yet. This may be true, but isn't this true of any evangelistic outreach? Even with radio and television (which are your most rapid means of reaching people today) you never know just how many people you are influencing, and in many cases response is slow.

I think we as Christians should remember what Jesus said about now being the time to sow and then letting Him reap the harvest in His own time. It is, my fellow Christians, our duty to sow the seeds of the gospel letting Christ reach the people who come in contact with it. There will be many who will be in heaven because of what we do, or there will be many who will not be there because of the same reason. It is not up to us to know whom we reach; Christ knows.

It is the belief of the members of the Washington church that through our ef-

forts in tract distribution results more dramatic than what has already been presented here will become evident soon. Christ will not let His Word return unto Him without bringing forth results.

Is tract distribution really necessary? I think so, and the members of the Washington church believe that they have proven its value. What about you, dear Christian friend? Are you reaching the lost through some effort at soul winning? Are you spreading the word about God's only true Sabbath day? That is our message as Seventh Day Baptists, you know. Are you truly living up to our responsibility to God and our commitments as Seventh Day Baptists? If not, I give you tract distribution as one of the most effective ways in reaching many for Christ and in helping to let others know about the Seventh Day Baptist church.

Tract distribution is very effective because there are many ways you can do it. It may be as simple as carrying a few tracts around with you and giving one to someone as the opportunity may arise. I have found that tracts are very useful in answering questions about my church. We aren't very well known, you know. Tracts serve a good means in answering questions about just what Seventh Day Baptists are.

Your church may organize efforts to distribute tracts as the Washington church has done, or you as an individual may set up your own effort to do this. One thing is sure, distributing tracts is one way in which you, the individual, may become involved directly in reaching the lost and spreading the word about your church. Why don't you consider this method? I think you will find it most rewarding.

World-Wide Missions, a fund-raising relief organization which enjoys the endorsement of respected seminary professors, claims to feed daily about 20,000 children in 82 nations. It is headed by Dr. Basil Miller of Pasadena, Calif. A recent publication tells of unwanted girls in the Orient being sold for \$1.00 each.

Publications Study Committee Holds Weekend Work Session

Studies aimed at closer cooperation between the American Sabbath Tract Society and the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education began at an overnight meeting held November 4-5 at Kirkridge retreat center in the Pocono Mountains near Stroudsburg, Pa.

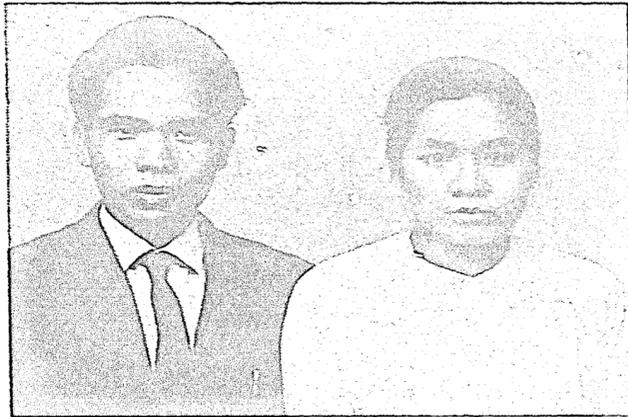
Mrs. Mary Clare of Alfred, N. Y., convened the meeting under plans made in September for a joint Planning and Research Committee. She represented the Board of Christian Education as its president, assisted by Dr. Burton B. Crandall, vice-president, Rev. David S. Clarke, executive secretary, and Mrs. Ethel Dickinson, Publications Committee chairman. Tract Board representatives were Charles H. North, president, Miss Florence Bowden, Owen H. Probasco, and Rev. Albert N. Rogers, recording secretary.

Consultants invited to the meeting were the Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, Conference general secretary, Rev. Leon M. Maltby, corresponding secretary of the Tract Society and editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, Rev. Charles H. Bond, and Mrs. Luan Ellis, Youth Committee chairman for the Board of Christian Education. Dr. E. J. Horsley, president of General Conference and Rev. Leon R. Lawton, executive vice-president of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, sent messages. Mrs. Margaret Bond, Mrs. Frances Clarke, Mrs. Iris Maltby, Mrs. Ethel Wheeler, and Ronald Ellis were guests.

The work of the employees of the two boards was reviewed in light of the corporate responsibilities of each body, and proposals from various sources were discussed. Subcommittees were named to work in specific areas of concern looking toward another meeting in May 1973. It was agreed that substantive reports of the Planning and Research Committee will go to the two sponsoring boards, they in turn reporting to General Conference as requested at the last session in Denver, Colo.

—A. N. Rogers

Tract Distribution in Burma



Mr. and Mrs. L. Sawi Thanga of Rangoon, Burma.

The American Sabbath Tract Society over a period of several years has provided funds for translating and printing Seventh Day Baptist literature in the Lushai language that is spoken by a small percentage of the people of Burma—those in the Chin Hills area. Mr. L. Sawi Thanga, secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Burma, directs the work far to the north from Rangoon, the capital, where limited facilities are available for his publication work. He is well qualified as a translator.

Mr. Thanga had not done much in the way of producing small Sabbath tracts. He had specialized in larger booklets. Recently the Tract Society encouraged him in his plan to mimeograph the little tract entitled "Pro and Con," which he could get out in that form without government restrictions. He at first thought that a quantity of one or two thousand would be sufficient. His recent experiences on a visit to the north have led him to believe that a more aggressive tract distribution would be beneficial to the work. We are quoting portions of his November 1 letter to show what the churches are doing and why he thinks that he should try to reach all of the Lushai people with Seventh Day Baptist literature. It is to be noted that he went to the Tahan area by plane, but had to do all of the visiting of villages on foot. There are practically no roads, and the people are very poor. Money for trips to the Chin Hills is presumably saved from

a small subsistence allowance contributed mostly by interested friends in the United States.

Mr. Thanga writes:

"I returned here (Rangoon) a few days ago after a three week trip in the Chin Hills. I left Rangoon by plane for Tahan on October 6. As soon as I arrived our workers told me that there were new believers and many admirers of our teachings in Pyingone, a large Lushai village about four miles from Tahan. I decided to go there personally, and the Rev. Rokunga and evangelist Lal Enga accompanied me. We went on foot and put up at the house of Mr. Remliena, a new convert.

"We organized Bible discourses at night with special emphasis on the doctrine and the teachings of the Seventh Day Baptist church and explained how we differed from other denominations. A good number of people attended the meetings. We distributed the cyclostyled Sabbath tract (Pro and Con) in the Lusai language house to house every day in the morning. The response seems to be very encouraging. We promised them to visit as often as possible. It is hoped to establish a church at this important village by the help of the converted and interested residents in the near future. We returned to Tahan after three days.

"We took rest only one day in Tahan and then proceeded again on foot to another direction. We visited Vaphai, Vutbuak, Tuingo, Tuithiang and Chaungu villages. We distributed tracts in all the villages we visited. We stopped at Zonum, about twelve miles from Tahan and stayed at the house of Khuangdawngi. Her husband, the late Mr. Khuangbawia, was a faithful leader of our church and chief of this village. He expired at the Rangoon General Hospital last year, of intestinal cancer. We spent four days and one Sabbath at Zonum.

"A large number of people from the nearby villages, mostly fellow believers, came and attended the services and the meetings, held in the morning, midday, and in the evening in which I was the main speaker. They requested me to visit all the villages around there but lack of

time at my disposal caused me to ask for excuse at this time. I promised them to pay a visit again in the near future. The Rev. Rokunga and evangelist Lal Enga, who accompanied me wherever I travelled were very good companions.



Lushai evangelists in the Chin Hills set out barefoot because of the muddy roads.

"We have decided to produce another 10,000 copies of the 'Pro and Con' tract in our language. As you may see from the sample sent to you, it was not an exact translation from the original. It was brought up-to-date by me. We made plans to distribute this tract to all the families in Tahan prior to our next year's annual meeting, which will be held the first week of March, and then have an evangelistic effort. We will try to distribute this tract to all the Lushai families in this country so as to make our name and church known to everybody.

"Money received previously may not be enough for producing a huge number of this particular tract alone. I trust you will be able to send more money without delay so as to make this important tract campaign a success. We will decide later which tract may be best to serve for our cause. (Additional tract money designated by an individual was sent Oct. 30).

"The Rev. C. Khawvelthanga lost his sight suddenly last August while reading the Holy Bible at his house. He is un-

able to see and move anywhere without a guide. He went to Mandalay General Hospital and the eye specialists there operated on him on August 24. He stayed four days in the hospital and was discharged, but the operation was not as successful as he had hoped. He returned to Tahan in the beginning of October. The medical officers assured him that he may regain his vision after three months. Meanwhile he will take complete rest at his house.

"To stay alive and sustain the work here and abroad, all the Seventh Day Baptists in the world have to do their parts and fulfill their own goals and purposes and double their efforts in every respect."

Yours sincerely,
L. Sawi Thanga

The Sabbath Recorder as a Christmas Gift

Is there someone in your family older or younger who does not get the **Sabbath Recorder**? Give a subscription for Christmas.

Is there a student away from home who doesn't have our denominational weekly? We offer special rates for this kind of gift.

Has someone moved away from the home church in these days of a mobile population? Keep him in touch with the whole denomination through a gift subscription.

Are there people not yet fully integrated into your church? Tie them closer and give them a broader view of our work. Invest in the cause with several \$5 subscriptions.

To give and receive a blessing give the Sabbath Recorder for Christmas.

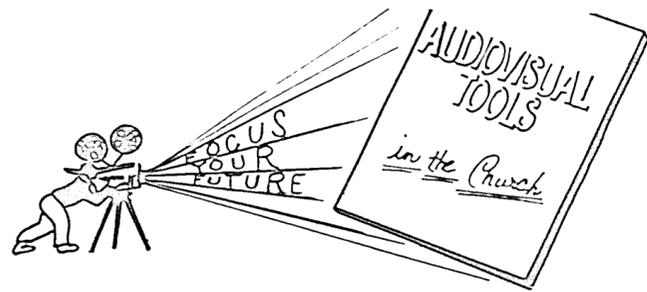
Sound Studio Nears Completion

There have been occasional references in this publication to the construction of a sound studio by the American Sabbath Tract Society in the Seventh Day Baptist building for denominational use. The studio, built to very exact specifications by volunteer labor, is now nearing completion. The electronic equipment in the control room is now installed. Before it can be fully utilized for producing radio programs and recordings there must be training of available personnel in the operation of the equipment. Fred Ayars, who has master-minded the construction and installation is now preparing instructions for proper use of the equipment.

According to an article by Charles H. North appearing in the August 12 *Sabbath Recorder* it is expected that the studio will be dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Fisher Davis who had a



lifetime interest in producing music and other material to keep children true to the "Faith of Our Fathers." She wrote many catchy Sabbath songs for children. In her will she left \$2,500 to the Tract Society. That money was used to purchase material for the two-room studio. It is anticipated that a recently received



What's New in Audiovisuals?

The Audio and Visual Services Committee of the Tract Board has been studying catalogues to determine what new filmstrips to order to round out the list of materials offered free to our churches. The committee has ordered eight color filmstrips with records for youth entitled "Wonders of Science That Point to God." These will soon be available from the filmstrip library maintained at the board office.

Now being previewed by a subcommittee are two Christmas filmstrips and two discussion-type strips for teen-agers. If approved they will very shortly be added to the library. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

We are producing another hour-long Christmas filmstrip for which orders can be processed immediately. This new filmstrip draws largely on beautiful Holy Land slides taken by the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders. He has put the full audience-participation program together with appropriate background music. This technique was made possible by the audio equipment now available for such purposes in the new sound studio in the basement of the Seventh Day Baptist Building and by the technical skill of

gift from a relative will be used for the studio and a plaque that will designate it as the Elizabeth Fisher Davis Sound Studio.

President North, in his article, remarked that "the studio will operate as an American Sabbath Tract Society function, but will participate and cooperate fully with other organizations within the Seventh Day Baptist 'canopy.'"

Frederick M. Ayars, another member of the board, in developing the filmstrips.

Seventh Day Baptists should be reminded that our privilege of having our own filmstrips at a cost we can afford is due to the skill and dedicated service of Fred Ayars, who has for a number of years been chairman of the Audio and Visual Services Committee. He has developed his own filmstrip-making equipment, has designed the electronic cabinets for sound systems and the studio, and has done much of the physical work in building the rooms — in spite of the fact that he lives nearly two hours from Plainfield.

It can be stated with humble pride that we have a capability for producing high quality filmstrips that other denominations many times our size do not have. We could not offer such material to our churches except for the large amount of free time and exceptional talent donated by Mr. Ayars and a few others.

Where Do Our Tracts Go?

It might be interesting to make a long-term survey of where our tracts go and publish the results for the readers of this journal. Records are kept at the office and a report of the larger tract orders is reported at quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees. Since our primary emphasis in this issue is to tell what is going on right now rather than in times past we are sharing some information about tract orders filled between the first of October and the middle of November.

Inquiries for samples and for information about our beliefs and our church locations have come in moderate numbers in this brief period. They are widely dispersed; Vallejo, Calif.; Norfolk, Nebr.; Augusta, Ga.; Ripley, W. Va.; Puryear, Tenn.; Jackson, Tenn.; Wahpeton, N. D.; and New York City.

It is surprising how many orders for distribution purposes have come from places in which there are no organized

Seventh Day Baptist churches or groups: two orders from Tifton, Ga.; two from Cleveland, O.; and others from Columbus, O.; Fort Myers, Fla.; Columbia, S. C.; Clinton, N. C.; Spencer, W. Va.; Malden, Mass.; and New York City.

Not all churches order regularly and few conclusions can be drawn from which ones have sent in requests most recently. In the month and a half since the end of our summer quarter there have been eight requests from churches and fellowships totaling 2,500 copies. Most of these were for a special distribution planned. One was from the newly formed fellowship at Lincoln, Nebr., and two from the Washington, D. C., church. The Ohio Fellowship, and the Old Stone Fort church were among those wanting special tracts. Some pastors have ordered by phone because of a special program or an urgent need.

New workers in foreign fields as well as the well recognized leaders have been served in a limited way, with literature going recently to Evangelist Teddy Badilles in the Philippines; Clemente Lozano M. in Torreon, Mex.; Pastor G. Harrison in Nigeria, Africa; Rev. Johannes Bahlke in Germany; and Alfred Lindhorst in Canada.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray this week for:

1) Some part of the many-faceted work of the American Sabbath Tract Society.

2) The extension of the ministry of the *Sabbath Recorder* and God's blessing on the new subscribers.

3) All the people who are discovering new Bible truths through your own prayerful distribution of Sabbath tracts.

4) The encouragement of those people who are trying to raise up new churches through personal work fortified by Seventh Day Baptist literature in many languages.

A Good Reason for Observing the Sabbath

By Rev. H. C. McWilliams

Most of the reasons Sunday worshipers give for observing the day of worship on the first day of the week in place of the Sabbath are drawn from the writings of Paul, Colossians 2:16, 17; Acts 20:6, 7; and First Corinthians 16:2.

After careful study and many prayers I came to the conclusion that the Scripture did not support the tradition of the Sunday worship which I had been taught.

God became very angry with the Israelites for not observing the Sabbath which He gave to man. There are some who say His covenant was only for the Israelites, but I am sure they never carefully considered the fifty-sixth chapter of Isaiah. Jesus made it very clear in Matthew 15:1-20 that the scribes and Pharisees were not keeping the commandments but living by man's tradition.

In Jesus' reference to the flight of the Christians from Jerusalem and its destruction in Matthew 24:20 He does not refer to the first day of the week but to the Sabbath. In Acts 20:6, 7 we read where Paul preached on the first day of the week. I am sure Paul had preached many times before on the first day of the week, but this gave no reason to change the Sabbath.

In First Corinthians 16:2, where Paul asks the church of Corinth to set aside their tithes he was following the laws of Moses. On the first day of the week they would know how God had prospered them in the previous week. We would do well to practice this today. But it in no way changes the Sabbath to the first day of the week.

Now we have established that in the Fourth Commandment God said, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." We also have established that Jesus observed the Sabbath and said "It is well to do good on the sabbath day" (Matthew 12:11, 12). We have established that Jesus foretold the fall of Jerusalem in Matthew 24. He referred to the Sabbath in the twentieth verse and He did

not mean the first day of the week.

We also must remember that this destruction of Jerusalem took place in the year 70 A.D., long after the resurrection and after most of the apostles had died.

Let us take a look at Sabbathkeeping and the first day of the week worship in a different perspective. Now if we were to accept Paul's writing as an authority to change the Sabbath to the first day of the week, then we would be putting Paul's teaching ahead of God's commandments, and our Lord Jesus' teachings, for Jesus also said to keep the commandments. If we put Paul ahead of God then we are breaking the First Commandment, for we would be following Paul, and this would be putting another God before us. (But Paul doesn't teach first-day observances).

Paul writings should be an inspiration to any Bible student or minister of God's Word, but we should always remember God never relinquished any of his power to any one, except Jesus of Nazareth, His only begotten Son (our God-man), our Redeemer. We should keep His commandments because we love Him, also because He is the source of all things, including our salvation.

I only wish I could put into words the contentment and fellowship I have with God through Jesus our Redeemer since I have accepted the fact I must keep His commandments and not just the ones I care to keep.

Here in Fort Myers, Fla., where we are so far from a Seventh Day Baptist church where we can worship and fellowship on the Sabbath we are going to advertise and see if we can find other followers of our Lord who enjoy keeping the Sabbath. We are going to start by holding the service in our homes and if we should gain enough worshipers (and I do pray that God will bless us with many) we could blossom into a full church. At times I feel so small and so inadequate to do our Lord's work, at the same time that small voice keeps telling me to go ahead, for that is what he wants me to do.

Meeting the Literature Needs of Our Manned Mission Fields

New fields cry for Seventh Day Baptist literature. Old fields also have a continuing need to which the Tract Society responds gladly.

Two of our three established mission fields that have long been staffed with some American personnel, Jamaica and Guyana, are English speaking and can readily use our tracts, periodicals and other publications just as they are. The third large field, Malawi, is not English except as a second language learned in the mission schools. However, even in Malawi there is need for our literature for outreach purposes.

A letter from the Rev. David Pearson received just as this issue was going to press speaks of supplying a new worker in the neighboring country of Kenya with literature for distribution from the supply previously sent from Plainfield to the headquarters in Blantyre, Malawi. Evangelist Osaka in Kenya had written to the Tract Society and was referred to Mr. Pearson, who tries to encourage workers in Central and South African countries.

Our missionary was thankful to have literature to supply the need. He wrote, "I would appreciate receiving a goodly supply again soon. Please send us an assortment of what you have. Many thanks."

In Jamaica, where there are many churches, it is difficult for the Conference office to keep an adequate supply of tracts available to all. Some individuals have ordered direct; others have depended on what they could pick up at Kingston and what was delivered to them by leaders visiting the churches. The opportunity for distribution is almost limitless. The proposed team evangelism project next spring may call for larger quantities of tracts to prepare the way and to conserve the results of the spoken word.

Missionary Leroy Bass, advisor to

the churches in Guyana, keeps in close touch with the Tract Society not only for evangelistic literature, but also for filmstrips and tape recordings that can be used to interest new people and to develop native leadership. The quantity of tracts shipped to Guyana each year is much larger than the quantity used on the average by churches of similar size in the United States. The board is glad to supply the needs of all as they develop and trusts that human and financial resources will be adequate for the new calls that are expected.

More Bible Truth in Lushai

It is difficult to get government permission to print Christian literature in Burma. For that reason, L. Sawi Thanga of Rangoon, who had previously published a number of Seventh Day Baptist booklets in the Lushai language, which is spoken by our church members, has turned to mimeographing, which does not require a permit.

Just received at the office of the American Sabbath Tract Society, which encourages tract work in Burma, are copies of the Bible study Sabbath tract, "Pro and Con." It is very clearly and neatly mimeographed on legal size paper. A typed note at the bottom in English says that 2,000 copies of the tract are in print.

Pray for the literature work in the Lushai language and for the possible extension of such work in an area of northern India where that language is spoken and where there are a few Sabbathkeeping churches. L. Sawi Thanga receives a little monthly support on a faith basis through SDBWF.

Wearing a Sabbath Sticker

There are many ways of presenting the Sabbath to those who have never seriously considered the question of which day God would have us hold sacred. Probably not many would adopt the method of



John Nesterenko, illustrated here. This European-born tract distribution enthusiast of Cleveland, Ohio, has devised many methods of getting the attention of church people. Here he is wearing one of the large stickers designed by the American Sabbath Tract Society to be used on automobile bumpers. Mr. Nesterenko is apparently happy to be called a "Fool for Christ," as the apostle Paul says. We are not sure that he has a car; he keeps himself poor in the Lord's work. Anyway, a car can't go on the sidewalk where most of the people are.

This Sabbath tract distributor has been too aggressive for his own good. Sometimes church leaders have caused him trouble when he handed out Sabbath literature on church property in his zeal. But there can't be any law against walking the public streets wearing a sign that reads "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

Before we criticize the methods of this

foreign-born man who may have more zeal than discretion, perhaps we should ask ourselves if we firmly believe that it matters to God which day we keep. Let us ponder whether we have done enough seed-sowing of Sabbath literature (by any other method) to yield much of a harvest. We hope that most of our acquaintances notice that we go to church on the Sabbath. How many of them know why? The tracts available from your Tract Society give an acceptable and persuasive explanation of why we keep the Sabbath.

Free Coffee Houses

There are several hundred Christian-oriented coffee houses across the country and three of them in the Jewish community of Greenwich Village in New York City. The purpose of these coffee houses is to reach alienated young people for Christ. They are reported to be quite successful. Some of the Young Jews of Greenwich Village, so called Jewish Jesus freaks, report that they were influenced in these coffee houses "which became to them a home away from home."

Now there is a Jewish coffee house in the basement of the Brotherhood Synagogue at 139 West 13th St. in the village. It is the first and only Jewish noncommercial coffee house in New York City. The prime movers of this program, sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, are Jeff Oboler and Steve Eisenberg who started it because they were concerned about the success coffee houses under Christian auspices were having in attracting some young Jews to the "Jews for Jesus" movement. It is open on alternate Sundays from 5 to 9:30 p.m. and attracts some thirty young people who come with their poetry and guitars for a relaxed evening of happenings. The Jewish flavor is provided by the events scheduled, such as Jewish folk songs, poetry readings, and discussions on things of Jewish content or significance, it is reported. The leaders hope to spread the idea of Judaism in distinction from Christianity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. David S. Clarke

Put Christ into Christmas

By Madge Sutton

Many Christians have been heard to say, "If only commercialism could be left out of Christmas!" There are ways that this can be done to some extent. There are many churches that have Christmas workshops or better named "Funshops" soon after Thanksgiving. This affords a time for parents and children of all ages to work together making birthday gifts for Jesus, the Christ.

The Alfred Station church has followed this custom for a number of years and the participants find the results very gratifying. Each family takes a sack lunch and spends a Sabbath afternoon remembering and making gifts for others. How can one better spend a Sabbath afternoon? "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

Some suggested projects: refrigerator cookies may be mixed at an earlier date and baked and decorated the day of the Funshop by children with an older person supervising. These may be included in good cheer baskets for shut-ins. Tray favors for patients in rest homes, nursing homes, and shut-ins may be made using caps from spray cans, evergreens, tiny Christmas tree balls, artificial flowers, etc. Coat hangers can be made into a circle and evergreens applied for wreaths, old candles melted and made into new candles, toys repaired and painted. No doubt there are people in your church talented in arts and crafts to lead your "Funshop" to make it a great success at little cost.

Another idea to eliminate commercialism is one that the Sabbath School teachers and pupils may work on during Advent. This will mean research on Christian symbolism to find symbols that speak of what Jesus came to do, ways He described His purpose, and impressions people have gained from Him.

Some examples of symbols: star, fish, candle, crown, lamb, dove, cross, etc. Find as many as possible, draw them on white construction paper or white felt

and cut them out keeping the size around six inches, using glue apply glitter to both sides and attach a white cord at the top for hanging. These may be used to decorate a natural evergreen tree for an informal Christmas birthday party.

A simple family Christmas meal could be planned for some evening the week preceding Christmas, followed by a program of decorating the tree with the symbols made by the children. As a child hangs a symbol on the tree, someone should give the meaning of the symbol. After all the symbols have been hung, a blue flood light directed on the tree will enhance its beauty. With the singing of Christmas carols, some special Christmas music, the reading of the Christmas story, the presentation of "White Gifts," everyone will realize that Christ has been present at His birthday party.

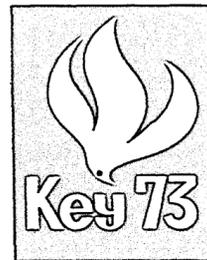
Evangelism in Nagaland

Nagaland is a small state in Northeast India close to China and Burma. Until 100 years ago, the tribes of that area (which became a state in 1963) were animists and headhunters. Then missionaries came and almost all of the people were converted. There are 700,000 Nagas and there are more Baptists per capita in Nagaland than in any other country in the world. In some villages nearly every adult is now baptized a Christian.

Nagaland is remote. There is no scheduled air service into Kohima, its capital. More than 90 per cent of the Nagas live outside the cities and towns, making their living in the fields and forests.

Evangelistic services were scheduled at Kohima for November 17-23 by Akba Haqq, an associate of Billy Graham. Tentative plans called for Billy Graham to preach there the last three nights if he could get the permission of the Indian government and his doctors. Indian evangelist Haqq said: "The Crusade hopefully will spur the evangelistic zeal of the church to win other Nagas for Christ and be a spiritual blessing to 'the rest of India, which is so open to the message of Jesus Christ.'"

The Sabbath Recorder



NOON PRAYER CALL

The Noon Prayer Call is the first high-visibility event in Key '73. It has been planned to focus an entire continent's attention and efforts on praying at noon each day for two weeks between December 25, 1972, and January 7, 1973.

At noon daily Christians will be urged to stop whatever they're doing . . . on their lunch break, during housework, eating in a restaurant, etc. . . . and pause momentarily to pray that millions will be led to Christ through Key '73. Participants will be urged to ring church bells, sound sirens, toot horns, all to call attention to a continent-wide involvement in prayer.

In addition, noontime prayer groups will be established. Meeting places for prayer will be established in offices, factories, churches and schools. And, mass media will be used to make the Noon Prayer Call a reality.

There are ample materials available to inform the general public and your specific congregation or group concerning the Noon Prayer Call effort. A brochure has been published by Tidings for Key '73 (Address P.O. Box 40467, Nashville, Tenn. 37204) and sent directly to most pastors/churches. Your local church or community effort will want to obtain this and use available material to make the cooperative Noon Prayer Call thrust the biggest event of the year in your community.

MISSIONS—Leon R. Lawton

Designated Giving Emphasis

Throughout 1972 several individuals and groups have been using the "Missions Emphasis" designated giving calendar, published in the January 1 *Recorder*, to pace their regular designated support of missions. For this we are thankful.

Yet statistics show that our anticipated receipts from this source are not being met. In fact, for nine months—through September — we should have received 75 percent (just under \$14,000) but only received 42 percent (just under \$8,000).

A Special Christmas Offering for Missions

is sought to support your mission work under the Conference adopted budget. Give generously the remaining weeks of 1972! Give an added amount at Christmas!

Thanks to One and All—

For the SCSC workers, for the projects, for the supporters, and for the trainers and leaders. The SCSC committee of the Women's Board would like to express its sincere thanks to everyone involved with SCSC in '72. This year was a very positive one, but it was only because all of us worked together as a team. All goals, including the budget were met, and so the year can very well be termed a success.

Stay tuned in for news of SCSC action in 1973. We have some great plans in store, and are beginning work already. Thanks again to each and every one for the contributions this year.

SCSC Committee



An Oasis in the Desert

This scene of the barren hills near Jericho with life in the foreground is symbolic of the desert in history and in life that is rejuvenated by the coming of Christ. He came to an unlovely, hopeless land to bring love and hope. He comes today to barren lives with redemption, inner peace, and new hope. We, too, can blossom like the rose.