

The Sabbath Recorder

Amazing Grace Found in the Ten Commandments

By R. Clyde McCone*

The fact that an all-powerful and all-wise God should stoop to reason with man who has not only separated himself from his Creator, but has exalted his own reason above God, is itself the essence of divine grace.

That the clearest and most complete outline of God's reasoning with sinful man should be found within the Ten Commandments makes the law a revelation of amazing grace. These reasons are found in connection with the first five Commandments.

The first three reasons are based on who God is. That is, they rest on the self-revelation of God himself.

The Second Commandment, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image," is followed by an explicit reason that rests on who God is. He is a God who will not give His authority to an image set up by man.

The Third Commandment carries with it the sober reminder that God is one whose righteousness is not eliminated from the universe by man's continued sin.

The Fourth Commandment centers around a man's relationship with himself. The Sabbath is God's provision for man. In this command God challenges man to reason in terms of his own self-interest. Man thoughtlessly and irrationally goes on trying to find the goals or purposes of life in the created nature that he is dependent upon for livelihood.

God would have him know that this too was provided for him in the six days of creation. He would have him as the

sole inheritor of reason in His vast creation to understand that the purpose in life is to be found in exercising and consciously sharing his Creator's likeness. The pattern for man's self-interest is clearly expressed in the Creator's pattern for creation.

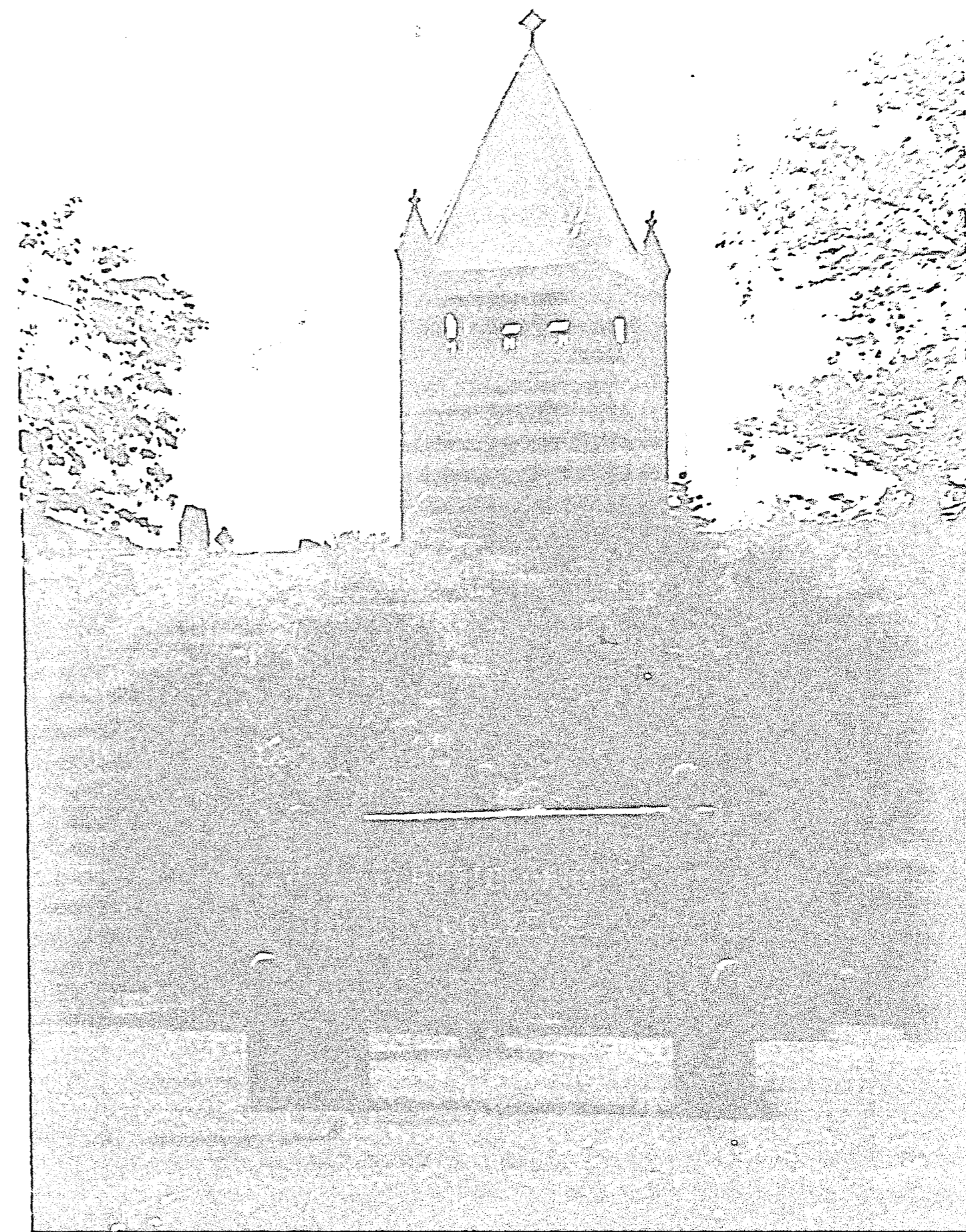
Man is to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day; and hallowed it" (Ex. 20: 11).

* Mr. McCone's article appeared first in the Wesleyan Advocate. We are printing only portions of it.

Communists Can't Afford It

Bob Bowman, president of the Far East Broadcasting Co., has been asked to comment on the prospect of getting the gospel into China now that there seems to be a thaw in China-American relations. His first answer is that it has never been possible to close the door to gospel broadcasts, but the door is now a little more open. He says that it is far too early for anyone to make an intelligent assessment as to whether conditions will improve for Christians in China or whether import restrictions on Bibles and Christian literature will be relaxed. He goes on to say:

"From experience in China and longer experience in Russia, only a miracle of the Lord will ever return freedom of religion, as we know it, to any Communist country. Religious freedom, with resultant Christian evangelism and revival, would destroy the cornerstone of their atheistic doctrine and no one knows this better than the Communist rulers."



Where Conference Meets August 6 - 12

The Sabbath Recorder

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Camp Meeting Conferences

When summer comes there is an emphasis on outdoor living that is manifest in many ways. In times past the church has led the way in outdoor meetings and may well do so again. The old-time camp meeting so common to the Methodists and numerous other denominations has been in decline but may well come again into vogue if the current trend increases and is effectively used by church leaders. There are limitations to the size of camp meeting conferences, though Jehovah's Witnesses have put on some really big ones at temporary sites. They lend themselves better to mass meetings than to conferences that emphasize business and many small group meetings.

The tremendous increase in the sale of camping equipment and special vehicles in the past few years is an indication of the desire of people to get away for a time from complicated city living to the simple life. Of course, along with that desire goes the urge to be as comfortable as possible in this home away from home. That is a boon to manufacturers and salesmen who know a good thing when they see it and do a good job of convincing vacationers with money that they should strive for the ultimate in boats, campers, trailers, and equipment. One would think that man's chief end is not as the Westminster catechism writers said, "To know God and enjoy Him forever." We have been pretty well sold on the idea that the ultimate of man's pleasure is opportunity to go fishing all the time. It is time that the church awoke to the opportunity of God-directed leisure time, not only for the greater satisfaction, but also for the change of pace afforded in leisure-time witnessing and service.

The old-time camp meeting may not come back just as it was; times are different. Many of the values can be preserved or improved upon. The problem confronted by church leaders is the problem of purposes and good conscience in planning outdoor meetings. Deeply religious people will be deeply religious at a camp meeting and will take full advantage of natural surroundings to draw closer to God. Half-religious people may be drawn

closer to the Lord in a camp meeting atmosphere than in their home church, but there is no guarantee that getting close to nature will have that result. To take the church into the woods or mountains may or may not be a glorious experience. To do so may be a rationalizing or a compromising. It depends on the purposes and the planning — things which leaders must carefully weigh.

A few years ago our General Conference was held at a large camp site where conveniences were not the same as in hotel rooms, but the prices were very modest. There was some dissatisfaction with the housing arrangements, for our people were not conditioned to it. The tendency has been for better and better accommodations while at the same time more and more of our people are providing camp life for our children and young people and campers for ourselves. Perhaps we would do well to level out these opposing trends and occasionally make out with simpler facilities for ourselves. The Lord's work might prosper just as well.

One of the tendencies in smaller area meetings is to go outdoors at least a day at a time to take full advantage of our own well-developed camps. For example, the quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin churches was scheduled to meet at Camp Wakonda rather than in the large Milton church. None of our camps are large enough to take care of General Conference, but some association meetings could be held at certain of our camps for at least part of the sessions.

Ours is an age of casual dress and of increasing openness of expression. Many of those among us who appear to be most earnest in their Christian living and witness find freer expression in camp situations than in regular church worship services. They are not anti-establishment, but they are pro-Jesus and they enjoy the less formal worship experiences. Perhaps this says something to us about capturing the best of this spirit by making more sacrifices and unbending a little more. One of the ways might be more outdoor meetings — with a spiritual emphasis.

JULY 15, 1972

Unemployment Figures

One of the concerns of Christian people as well as others who are trying to provide a better life for all is the rate of unemployment. It is not realistic to hope for a zero rate of unemployment. The best we can hope for is that all who are able to work will want to provide for themselves and will be able to find suitable work without undue delay. The number out of work is too high. There is difference of opinion as to whether the state should provide make-work jobs at the expense of the taxpayer for all those not absorbed by industry.

Figures have just been released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that show how many have been out of work and for how long. The average monthly data for 1971 shows 517,000 out of work for more than six months; 665,000 unemployed from 15 to 26 weeks; 435,000 who had been out of work for 10 to 14 weeks; 1,143,000 unemployed for 5 to 10 weeks; and 2,234,000 without jobs less than 5 weeks.

What can be drawn from these statistics? One thing shown is that there is a relatively small number unemployed more than six months. We leave the reader to guess at the relation of some of the other figures. It is noteworthy that most of the people who are out of work succeed in finding jobs in a relatively short time. If there are 3,377,000 who are not unemployed for more than ten weeks it speaks well for our economy and for the industriousness of our labor force. We should take heart as we see the whole picture, even though we realize the hardship of some of our friends.

Competition for jobs is more healthy for all concerned than the feeling that if I don't produce for my employer the state will take me on and not care about the quality of my work. Private enterprise makes better men than government hand-out jobs.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for July 22, 1972

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Lesson Scripture: Psa. 51:1-17.

Be It Resolved

How valuable are resolutions passed at a denominational conference? It is an open question. It is interesting to note the editorial comments in numerous Baptist state papers in regard to the resolutions presented and agreed upon by the recent Southern Baptist Convention. A major portion of the time allotted for business was taken up with the unusually large number of resolutions on wide-ranging subjects.

An editorial in the Oklahoma paper called the resolutions relevant and said they dealt with today's issues, such as Vietnam, alcohol and drug problems, welfare reform, tax reform, anti-Semitism, political involvement, television and movie pornography, and government support of religion. Not all editors agreed.

The Indiana Baptist commented, "It is questionable whether the time and anguish involved in presenting, discussing, amending and voting on resolutions are worth the value achieved."

The Alabama Baptist, whose editor was on the committee that met for twenty hours to consider resolutions, said that hopefully the SBC Executive Committee will consider recommending some changes of procedure in handling resolutions.

If the largest Protestant denomination in America questions the value of passing resolutions, how much time should be taken for such effort at the business meetings of a denomination the size of ours?

We have a right to express ourselves in resolutions, and the thinking involved in preparing a statement on a vital subject is good exercise. It may be good to put ourselves on record — if the record accurately represents the general feeling of our group. But passing a resolution by a narrow margin may not be very constructive, and resolutions do not have the same force as motions. Many religious organizations are passing fewer resolutions than in former years—because of their ineffectiveness.

Plenty of people will give God credit, but not cash!" — J. E. Dudley, Havana (Fla.) Herald.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

By Rex Zwiebel

It is amazing that relationships that are devoted to bringing a spirit of unity often bring deep-seated antagonisms.

Think, for instance, of the number of people you know who will not enter your own church door — the door that should give entrance to the deepest feelings of love and devotion that are possible to experience. Think of the times you had to compromise ideas that to you seemed quite important in order that the basic unity of the *Spirit* might be preserved. Savor in your mind the times when differences have been laid aside and a spirit of love and forgiveness permeated the hearts of all concerned.

Recall similar circumstances that have occurred in your relationship to every worthwhile organization to which you have belonged. How many times we have experienced this humbling yet exalting feeling at General Conference. We felt it at the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation meetings last August. It comes on every level of our existence if we choose to be a part of it.

Some Christians are eager that this basic spirit of unity be extended both on the local, the national, and on the international scene. Seventh Day Baptists have been among the leading exponents on all levels. We have worked for, and are campaigning for, "Unity, but not Uniformity." Our general beliefs have been accepted in the spirit that they were offered, and our Sabbath belief has been respected in most instances. Where freedom of conscience is allowed, where the extension of the Christian witness is prominent, where sharing of ideas is possible, where attacks can be made on the evils of the day, where a united voice can proclaim oneness over popularity, there Seventh Day Baptists have worked without apology.

Periodically we re-examine the stance of our ecumenical (worldwide) relationships to see if the majority of our people are in accord with changes that must come. This is right and good. Activities must be discussed, finances must be evaluated, and opinions must be formu-

lated. We must not lose sight of the goal, a divine wholeness for all people, but we should choose the part we will play by the grace of God, and then participate to the limit of our resources. We may have to be less active in the number of areas we choose to labor for one or more reasons but I'm sure that the "current" of the Holy Spirit is extended and increases in intensity as we grasp with our hands the hands of all men.

Dare To Live Now

By Ruth Burdick*

Dare To Live Now. What a challenging statement! Dare to have faith and share with others about how to come alive in Christ. The Daytona Beach project was another exciting adventure in my spiritual growth. For the first time, I realized that I had been waiting for God to make me appointments to share Christ with others and that I had contacted only a few. During the beach ministry it hit home that I could share with anybody by trusting that the Lord would take complete control of the situation and by just loving that person and really caring what happens to him.

This last aspect is a very important part of witnessing, for most people today are not taught to be loving, trusting individuals. Because of the world conditions we are warned not to trust those we don't know, for they will take advantage of us. One night two team members and I were walking back to the house after sharing on the beach. A car stopped and the man asked us if we wanted a ride. Usually, each of us would have said "no" but this time we accepted and since we were staying only a mile further down the street, Steve, who sat in front, just had enough time to quickly share Christ with this man and leave the "Four Spiritual Laws" with him. We should be cautious, but we

*Ruth Burdick of DeRuyter, N. Y., who describes her Florida beach experiences here at the request of Mynor Soper, was scheduled for training and service this summer with SCSC. Shortly after writing this article she was injured in an auto accident and had to give up her plans for further dedicated service at this time.

should also put more faith in Christ's power and in His promises.

In sharing Christ on the beaches or anywhere, there will always be those people who aren't interested. It makes you sad to know that they are missing the greatest happiness that one can have, but it is not up to you to become discouraged about it. This has been so easy for me to do and then I don't share with many. I have learned to pray for those who don't listen and know that I've followed the Lord's command and to keep looking for those who will listen and accept Christ. There are many lonely and searching people that long to find a peace within themselves which only comes from Christ.

One young girl I talked with was very lonely because her friends had left her the day before to return to Canada. She was staying a little longer. We shared for about an hour and during this time she realized for the first time that the picture of Christ knocking on the door didn't have an outside handle and that one had to ask Him to come in. I trust and pray that she has the peace and joy that Christ gives for she wanted to ask Him to come in when she was alone.

One of the most thrilling contacts that I made down there occurred when Patty Lawton and I were excitedly sharing our spiritual experiences from our campus life. We were soon approached by a sixteen-year-old boy who, recognized the "one-way" patch on Patty's jacket began asking us questions about Christ and discussed the Bible with us. At that time he did not want to accept Christ as his Savior but another seed was planted. The thrilling part was that the next day he looked both of us up and introduced us to a friend of his. That day, his friend accepted Christ as his personal Savior. Isn't it marvelous how the good news spreads?

Many witness only through their actions and good works. I have come to realize that these are very important for they provide an example but they aren't enough; they don't tell how one can find the joy and happiness that Christ gives. There is only one way to witness how to accept Christ as one's personal

Savior and that is through word of mouth or words on paper. It takes explaining and the best way to do this is through personal interaction. It takes a boldness that comes from God and His strength and guidance to do this. Each time you share your faith with someone else you grow spiritually. We have a great need to take God's yoke upon us and dare to live now. I mean really live! In Christ!

Some Testimonies Following SCSC Training June 6-20, Euless/Dallas, Texas

"These past two weeks have been very filling for me. I have grown in fellowship and in holiness closer to Jesus Christ."

"There is nothing to compare with the joy and fellowship I found at Explo '72. It's difficult to emphasize a particular event because it all had such an effect on me. The smile on everyone's face, the kindness showed to others, and the joy of knowing that He was in our midst.

"Of all the meetings, though, I think the best was when everyone gathered at the Cotton Bowl for the evening message. Every night something happened that really moved me. But the most moving of all was the Friday night candle-lighting service.

"One person in each section lit a candle and then passed the light on. It was exciting to see how one light soon spread to a hundred. And how, as the song says, 'If each person lit one little candle what a bright world this would be.'

"As we were lighting our candles and as the wind was blowing them out, we sang the song, 'Pass It On.' It was really beautiful to see this and to know that many people there could do just that—pass their light on."

"The most important thing I learned these past two weeks was how to listen to the other kids and their problems, and especially how to share mine. This is very important to me, because I receive a blessing from other people's ideas. Galatians 6:2 says to share each other's troubles and problems and so obey our

(Continued on page 14)

CONFERENCE PUBLICITY

By Elmo F. Randolph, Chm.

Serving on the Host Committee for our Seventh Day Baptist General Conference is an exciting experience. Excitement mounts with every passing day now that we are in July. (We'll reach a new level of enthusiasm when pre-registration forms start coming in from all over the denomination.)

Recently someone discovered a publicity story giving detailed information about the General Conference held in Boulder, Colo., in 1908. It is entertaining to study the long, itemized list of things that could be rented, necessary and otherwise, for the comfort of Conference guests. "Old-timers" might get a touch of nostalgia in noting that a slop jar could be rented for fifteen cents.

What incredible changes have come in our American society since 1908! For that Conference the most popular mode of transportation was probably the railroad. It's safe to say no one came by air. Highways in that era were for the adventurous automotive pioneers. There were no Howard Johnsons or Holiday Inns.

But this is 1972 and we're making all plans for ultra modern Seventh Day Baptists, young and old, to unite in a General Conference that will enjoy the ultra modern comforts we can provide in Denver, Colo., August 6-12. We're expecting you to arrive by auto, by air, and, perhaps, by rail. However you travel, you can anticipate a high degree of comfort throughout the journey. And we in Colorado are bending every effort to assure you of a pleasant stay on the campus of Loretto Heights College, or a place of your choice, during the Conference period.

Going back to the year 1908 and the Conference in Boulder, there isn't any word to indicate that much attention was given to children and young people. (The first Pre-Conference Youth Retreat was not held until 1940 — in Battle Creek, Mich.). Attractive programs for youth in all age groups are a vital part of the total Conference experience. Space and facilities for these activities are more than adequate at Loretto Heights College.

Seventh Day Baptist Conference-goers scarcely need to be reminded of the rich fellowship in store during extra-curricular activities. After-meeting gatherings, family parties, impromptu discussions and dialogue between meetings, cementing old friendships and making new ones at meals—these are representative of Seventh Day Baptist "happenings" at Conference.

Speaking of activities, Rob Stephan, chairman of recreation for our Host Committee, has asked us to send out the word that there will be a volleyball tournament during the Conference week. Every church is urged to have a team prepared to enter this athletic event. Please note that women are welcome on the team (Seventh Day Baptists have never excluded women, the apostle Paul's counsel notwithstanding).

Are you among those who are still undecided about attending Conference in Colorado in August 1972? Make up your mind in the affirmative soon and forward the pre-registration form that has been provided. Our Host Committee is eager to make a reservation for you and welcome you on arrival in Denver. God bless!

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The exchange of missionary personnel in Malawi: the Pearsons as they again take up the work at Blantyre and Makapwa; the Conrods as they return for a Pacific Coast assignment; Sarah Becker and Elizabeth Maddox as they continue the medical work.

2) The necessary readjustments as Frankie Davis terminates her dedicated service of many years for the Jamaica Conference, leaving much of her heart on the island and leaving an unfilled vacancy there.

3) The present rift in the Philippine leadership, that all doctrinal and personality problems may be settled in love and to the glory of God.

4) The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, that it may know how to best forward the work in prospective and member Conferences.

MEMORY TEXT

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Cor. 1:3, 4).

Sacrificial Giving

Among the varied feelings generated at General Conference one of the most dominant is a strong spirit of dedication and commitment — a desire to get the job done and to accomplish God's work in the world.

Between Conferences this spirit appears to dissipate. Is this due to lack of accomplishment, a lack of tangible results? Do such limited results relate to lack of organized effort or to a lack of funds? Whatever the reason, it is sad to watch such sincere devotion disappear in the weeks following Conference.

Such a spirit among our people seeks fulfillment. People want an opportunity for the active expression of their desire to see the church succeed at its task. One of the most effective expressions and the most practical is *sacrificial giving*.

The Conference offering should be a spiritual and emotional highlight of the annual session as our people give tangible evidence of their commitment. Such a demonstration would carry through the year as people see their friends making goals attainable.

Last year a number of our people accepted the Conference Sabbath offering as a "Day of Sacrifice." They gave the equivalent of a day's salary or wages to this special offering as an expression of their personal commitment and their desire to see the church move forward.

This year will you join this group and join in the spirit of sacrifice, the real spirit of Conference? The officers of General Conference and the Commission invite you to join in a Day of Sacrifice offering for Conference Sabbath.

—E. J. Horsley

I Would Emphasize the Words of Christ:



I Am the Way - the Truth - the Life

By Leslie A. Welch

As I read this passage of Scripture (John 14:6), I am reminded of the difficulty of mortal man to *really know* the one true God and the Savior whom He sent as perfect revelator of Himself. Yet, to know Him and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent is life eternal (John 17:3). Of all men, the disciples by this time should have known both the Son and the Father, yet a partial blindness was apparent as Jesus seeks to identify with the Father and makes this three-fold revelation of Himself.

Earlier the Jews had experienced difficulty in understanding His words and He said: "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, *I am*" (John 8:58 Am. St. V.). Also, Matthew in quoting Isaiah's prophecy with regard to Jesus before His birth, said: "And they shall call His name, Emmanuel; which is being interpreted, *God with us*" (Matt. 1:23).

Moses also found it hard to *believe*, even after the experience of the burning bush when God had called him by name. "How can I identify You — The God of Our Fathers" asked Moses. "And God said unto Moses, *I am that I am*: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14). How hard it is to realize that the great God of our fathers is the "I AM" or "Ever Present One." Thus the God of our fathers is also our God! The Jesus of the disciples is our Christ — *our* revelation of the Father. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Jesus identifies Himself — "*The Way*," not, *a way* as one of *many*. This signifies

a road, a progress; a journey on a highway or a relationship, growing in depth of fellowship as one continues on it. Oh! the inner longing of the soul to be in the very presence of the living God. Jesus tells Thomas that he already knows this ultimate destination and "Way" to it.

How often are the words of Amos the prophet quoted: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" What a challenge when we consider that walk with God! The footnote to this verse in the ASV reads "Can two walk together, except they have made an appointment?" Surely there *must be* a meeting place to start this blessed journey with God. Where is it?

Who has previously walked this way before, that Jesus should expect His disciples to recognize it? In the early Biblical account of mankind we find this recorded testimony: "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen. 5:24). Enoch then had kept the appointment; he had entered into that heavenly relationship. *He walked with God!*

Could the Sabbath, blessed and sanctified at the creation by God, and the Son, "by whom He created all things" (Col. 1:16), be the key to this relationship in this journey heavenward? Enoch and Noah both had found it. Jesus said it was known and identified Himself with it. Why then, is it so hard for mankind to realize that *time* given, impartial and fragile, is so much a spiritual link between God (Spirit, John 4:24) and those created in His image? Loving observance has ever proven a blessing rather than a curse. Try it! Trust Him! Experience His assurance!

"And the Truth"

Pilate was soon to ask Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). How sad that he could not have been present to hear the intercessory prayer of our Lord that John recorded so beautifully for us in the preceding chapter when He prayed: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." How elusive it seems. We seek it from every source but the true source. Hours and hours have been spent and great expense incurred by our juries as they have sought for truth, then supposing they have found it, they have passed judgment, only to find years later that it had eluded their search and irreparable damage had been done.

Every blessing that we enjoy, every fact of science points to but one source of truth, absolute, dependable and untarnished. Yes, "Thy Word, O God, is truth." It is truth in our relationships with Thee, Thou most holy and righteous and loving Father! It is truth in our common relationships with each other! To depart from it is to invite separation from both God and our fellowman. And as if this is not enough, "the Way" is at the very core of that most direct revelation of His Word (Truth) prior to being "made flesh." The Ten Words, engraven by the very finger of God, carry the injunction to "Remember to keep holy" that which He had already made holy. Jesus, the Word, is Truth!

There is a Way to find that Truth. It is the drawing power of a Holy God to Himself of a gainsaying and disobedient people. "No man can come to me, except the Father which sent me, draw him" (John 6:44). We must recognize sin and repent of it. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). Man may deny and try to destroy the truth but God will resurrect it because *He is the source*.

And the Life—

Even God's truth can be written on lasting material, symbolized by the tables of stone — but, until incorporated into their life by flesh and blood human beings it remains as dead as the stone on which it is written. So, it became flesh *in Him*. The word that Jesus uses as He identifies

with life is for the physical life that we all enjoy, even as that of plants and animals and not that of the Spirit, usually associated with Eternal Life. Thus, we must come full-circle in recognition of God as Author of creation and re-creation, from a physical life, *now redeemed* by the blood of His Son. "By grace are ye saved" (Eph. 2:8) from "the sin that so easily besets us." We are saved to a Spirit directed life. "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). That gives us a taste of heaven with the full assurance of the hope that is beyond, where "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

With all this, and more, Jesus identifies Himself and has proved for us its realities. Have you identified with *Him*—the ever present one — *the Way — the Truth — the Life*? If so, your life is hid with God, in Christ — eternal in the heavens! Praise His name!

Veterans Training on the Increase

An estimated 967,000 veterans and servicemen, were training under the current GI Bill in June, sixth anniversary of the bill, the Veterans Administration reports.

The total is nearly fifteen percent more than a year ago, and fifty-three percent above two years ago.

Increasing enrollments have already accounted for 3.3 million trained under the current GI Bill, compared to 2.4 million during thirteen years of its predecessor, the Korean GI Bill.

VA pays veterans with no dependents \$175 a month while they attend school full-time under the GI Bill. Veterans with one dependent are paid \$205 monthly; with two dependents, \$230 monthly; and those with more than two dependents receive an additional \$13 monthly for each dependent.

There is ample opportunity for veterans with a Christian purpose in life to prepare themselves to fulfill that purpose through the educational benefits offered.

The Church School's Vocation

In this busy world of today when most of us are immersed in the multiplicity of organizations, some centering around our vocation, our interests, and some around our church life, it is very easy to lose sight of what the church school is for and where it ought to be going. So it seems well to me that periodically we stop and ask, "What is the vocation of the church school?" These guidelines can give us some direction toward realizing the vocation.

I. To teach people how to worship.

As we study together in the classroom setting about the content of the Bible, about social concerns, and more specifically, about God as He has related Himself to man and does continue to relate Himself to man, we soon realize that to love is to worship. For to be aware of the goodness of life is to connect this reality to the God of us all and to give Him thanks. So, the first purpose of the church school is surely to help students discover God through the curriculum materials and come to a place where in the excitement of discovery of God and His participation with men worship-giving of thanks to Him—begins to take place.

II. To teach the message that can change human nature.

There ought to be commitment to the reality of God's intervention with man through Christ, which is the message that can change the learner as it has ideally (is ideally!) changed (is changing!) the teacher. There is no doubting the great influence of the personal testimony and example on the part of the teacher with the student. The old idea: "Your actions speak so loud I can't hear your words" is apropos here. We who tackle the challenge of being teachers will first need to be convinced of what is the message, i. e., that in Jesus Christ, in the lessons of the Bible, in the lessons of society, in all the materials from which we draw to get our curriculum material, change of human nature is possible. This is a positive message, so we have a positive message to teach. Because this is an objective message we must teach objectively,

not merely subjectively.

III. To foster Christian character.

"Bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (KJV). "Educate a child according to his life requirements; even when he is old he will not veer from it" (Prov. 22:6, Berkeley). This becomes another of the guidelines if the church school is to fulfill its vocation. The church school becomes a supplementer of the character, adder of the Christian quality along with the home. The church school must realize another important role it has and respond, i. e., to be a "referee," a "sifter" with the student. Exposure to so many things, ideas, examples in the daily routine leaves a student (young, middle years, or older) wondering. The church school becomes for the quester a place, an opportunity, an occasion to weigh, to test, to analyze what has been acquired elsewhere.

As Paul suggested to Timothy when talking to him about spiritual education and the importance of it: "All scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be well-fitted and adequately equipped for all good work (2 Tim. 3:16, 17 Berkeley).

IV. To evangelize.

Where better than in the small group setting when persons by reason of recurring times together, when they become very comfortable and trusting of each other, is there a chance to speak of Christ and to offer salvation through Him to another person? This is an ideal time and occasion to introduce Jesus Christ. So, one of the aims of the church school should be to permit students to accept Christ and the salvation He offers.

The vehicle of the church school provides a natural instrument of outreach into homes of the church community. By reaching out to the "unchurched" children (or adults!) you may reach families.

—Rev. Edward Sutton, pastor,
Alfred Station, N. Y.

A Church School Teacher's Prayer

Several souls will come to me today to

hear of You. What I am, what I say, will lead them to You, or drive them away. Stay by, Lord, I pray. Amen.

North Central's Family Camp

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Green directed the North Central Association's Family Camp and shared some of the materials used among campers. They report:

"Twenty-one campers from Milton, Battle Creek, and Dodge Center attended the North Central Association Family Camp held the weekend of May 26-29, 1972, at Camp Wakonda near Milton, Wis. Five additional persons visited at various times.

"Rap Sessions were held on the theme 'The Christian Family.' We worshiped with the Milton church on Sabbath morning.

"Our schedule was very informal and relaxed with time out for volleyball, Ping-Pong, softball, hiking and just getting acquainted. Mrs. Roger Burdick of Milton was camp cook.

"Those who attended enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to get together in a camping atmosphere."

Mimeographed materials gathered from many sources were provided as a basis for Bible study and discussion. "The Family" was presented from a Biblical basis along with current statistics and opinion polls. "Marriage, Woman, Man, and The Family" were each characterized by a series of epigrams which would start almost any group to discussing at a productive level. "The Christian Home" also was presented by a series of epigrams. Two such provocative statements were: "Is Jesus a missing person in your home? Is His living presence and love replaced by a rigidly enforced but largely meaningless habit pattern?"

"Does it make a difference that you are a Christian parent? Does your patience hold out longer? Is your expectation of behavior standards a little higher? Are you more sensitive to the spiritual hunger of your child? Are you more aware of each person in the family as of priceless worth?"

On "Woman," dialog would easily start from this shared statement: "There

Call To Prayer for Burundi

Human slaughter in the tiny (4,000,000) Central African republic of Burundi, mission field for Danish Baptists for forty-four years, has prompted a call to prayer by leaders of the French Baptist Federation.

Reports say that no fewer than 50,000 and perhaps more than 100,000 people have been slaughtered in the fighting and in the massacre that followed.

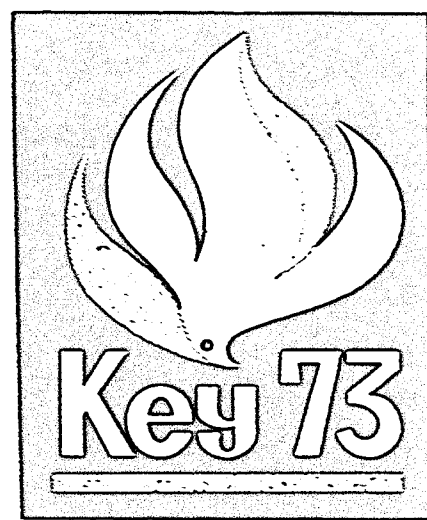
Baptist leaders, many of them the products of European Baptist mission work, have been killed apparently because they are leaders. There are no indications of religious persecution as such. It appears to be entirely a conflict between two tribes.

The victims belong to the Hutu tribe, peasant people on whom the ruling Tutsi tribe are heaping revenge in wholesale killings. Last month the Hutu tribal majority revolted against their traditional overlords, the Tutsi tribesmen, and the Tutsi-controlled government. The revolt was put down after two weeks of fighting, but not before tens of thousands of Tutsis had been slain. In the town of Nyanza-Lac alone, it is reported that a single Catholic priest presided over the mass burial of 15,000 Tutsis.

The killing did not stop when the revolt was crushed in May. Enraged Tutsis, who are outnumbered by about six to one throughout Burundi, proceeded to round up — and evidently murder — Hutu tribesmen of wealth, education, or power. Hutu schoolteachers disappeared, as did Hutu bank clerks, taxi drivers, and farmers. Thousands of unoffending people have been hit, especially those who were going to build the future of the country.

Let us pray that those in prison may have the physical and spiritual strength to survive that they may return to their homes and tasks. Let us pray for the families severely involved. —EBPS

is a time for being a wife and mother and a time for being oneself (e.g., holding a job). It is not a question of 'to be or not to be' but *when* to be each. These roles may overlap, be sequential or exist simultaneously."



Key '73
Evangelistic
Thrust

Congregational Resource Books for Key '73, a year for a great evangelistic thrust, have recently been mailed out to Seventh Day Baptist churches. In the introduction Dr. T. A. Raedeke, executive director of Key '73, writes as follows:

"I welcome you as a fellow Christian to Key '73.

"God has a message for us to deliver: He loves the world so much that He forgives all our sins through His Son, Christ. The message is love and forgiveness. And this is how He wants it delivered — with love and forgiveness.

"As a Christian you have already agreed to deliver the message. Christ has saved us for just such a task. In 1973 Christians will have a unique opportunity to deliver the message.

"Over 130 denominations have pledged their support to this common mission, without the need to compromise doctrinal position. Key '73 is not an ecumenical movement. Key '73 is a program that says, 'Yes, our task as Christians is to deliver to others the message of Christ's love and forgiveness.' For this task we need no doctrinal compromises.

"... With the theme, 'Calling Our Continent to Christ,' Key '73 attempts to reach every non-Christian with the message of Christ's love and forgiveness.

"... It is because evangelism ultimately begins with the individual and the group of individuals which constitute a local congregation that this volume is called the 'Congregational Resource Book.' The congregation is the logical unit of cooperative ministry.

"... Even a hurried glance through the pages of this Resource Book will reveal the wealth of ideas for effective witness which has come from a variety of sources

"We are to share our joy with others; and in this sharing of God's love and forgiveness, our own joy grows, spreads, and infects others."

As stated in the accompanying letter that went out with these books to our churches, when this resource book was shared with those in attendance at the Area Spiritual Retreats "the desire was expressed by most that this book be made available to pastors and churches."

The Missionary Board ordered these in bulk thus reducing the cost for single copy from \$4.00 to \$2.00 including postage for mailing out to the churches from the board office. This was an unbudgeted expense to the Missionary Board and contributions toward this expenditure will be gladly received.

Strength of Key '73 is the local congregation! Only as *you* and your church respond to the challenge, make the most of your opportunities and effectively share the good news, will our continent be called to Christ.

Pearsons Go Back to Malawi

The preceding issue of this journal carried "A Farewell Message of Urgency" by missionary David Pearson who was then concluding his furlough and preparing to return again with his wife Bettie and younger daughter Joanna to Malawi, Central Africa. We would now like to tell our readers about the closing hours before flight from their homeland to their chosen field of labor.

The Pearsons, modest and very polite, did not think it necessary for a large party to see them off at the airport this time. They were persuaded, however, to take a little time out from their last-minute packing for a small reception in the Board Room of the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield. This was scheduled for 4 p.m., June 27. They drove down from the Amsterdam-Berlin, N. Y., area that afternoon, arriving a little late due to traffic difficulties.

The brief reception was attended by

about twenty local people. Appropriate remarks were made by General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler who himself has visited the mission station and some of the Seventh Day Baptist churches of Malawi. A cassette tape recorder, donated by the people of the Shiloh, N. J., church was presented to them, together with a box of recorded tapes of Explo '72 sent by Secretary Lawton of the Missionary Society. Refreshments were prepared and served by some of the girls who work at the headquarters.

Following the reception the Pearsons unpacked the mission car to leave for the Conrods who return from Malawi the latter part of July. After dinner at the Maltby residence and final packing to stay within the luggage limitations the missionaries were taken to Kennedy International Airport, an hour and a half away, by the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Saunders.

Plans for a 10 o'clock departure by KLM for Amsterdam, Holland, did not work out quite as expected. The airport was congested with some 700 passengers. It took over two hours in line to get the baggage checked. The departure of the giant 747 was delayed until after 1:00 a.m. Because of the delay, the passengers were to be fed by the airline before their departure. The missionaries left the United States in a well-fed condition. They could expect to be well-cared for by the people of like faith and generous hospitality in Europe before resuming their flight to Malawi.

As the Pearsons left Plainfield, they were urged to keep the lines of communication open letting us know of needs that could be met by regular and special gifts. Secretary Lawton called from Wisconsin to wish them well and to give last-minute suggestions for the growing work in Malawi.

The truth of reconciling grace is this: any man may receive through his spiritual antenna flashes from the tower of God's grace. But no man can long retain the signal without acknowledging the source.

—R. R. Gilbert

Supporting the Bible Society

(To be emphasized at Conference)

Have you ever asked yourself how much of your tithe might logically be contributed to the work of the American Bible Society? It is evident that only a small proportion of Seventh Day Baptists have looked at it in this light. Some, however, are known to be giving quite a few dollars per year. The average per capita annual giving to this cause is still pitifully small, only about twenty-five cents. This is probably because only a small percentage of our church members are given a real opportunity to contribute through the local church. Some give to the Bible Society on direct mail requests. Such contributions are credited to our denomination if the name Seventh Day Baptist is mentioned.

We have an advantage in being small. We could very easily hold the distinction of having the highest per capita giving of all denominations. We are credited with \$1,272 in 1971 from a membership of 5,308. Seventy denominations are on the list, one with a figure of \$240,249 and some other large denominations above \$50,000. In actual dollars given Seventh Day Baptists stand higher than more than thirty larger bodies. Seldom do we outgive the Adventists, but on a per capita basis we did about twice as well for this cause. The Salvation Army with 331,000 members gave \$519. It is interesting to note that contributions came from the Roman Catholic Church of \$3,850 — with a membership of 47,872,000. The National Baptist Convention with 5,500,000 members is credited with only \$678.

On the other side, Seventh Day Baptists didn't have the highest per capita giving. The Apostolic Christian Churches of America with 9,000 members contributed \$8,243, nearly four times our giving. The Mennonite Church was also higher, with some \$35,000 from 85,000 members. A compact denomination like ours, with good lines of communication and a definite interest in distributing the Bible to a needy world could well break the record and average more than \$1.00 per member.

L. M. M.

Continuing Education

What should the parish do to help persons prepare for retirement? Are new types of facilities needed for the terminal-ly ill?

Such questions as these, as well as an evaluation of current church programs for the aged and aging, will be featured in the study conference on "Church and the Aging," to be held Sept. 21-29, 1972 at the Ecumenical Continuing Education Center at Yale. The conference may be attended for ten days, or for various segments: "Ministry to the Sick and Dying" (Sept. 21-22 with Fr. Aiden Cavanaugh of Notre Dame); "The Terminally Ill" (Sept. 22-24 with Chaplain Edward Dobi-hal); "Parish Programs for the Aging" (Sept. 25-28 evaluating parish and church programs for the aged); or the model conference for preparing a parish conference for lay couples about to retire. (Sept. 29).

The Rev. Edward Dobi-hal, one of the conference leaders, has recently conducted research on new types of care for terminally ill in England. Chaplain David Duncombe of Yale Medical School has been teaching an interdisciplinary course on "death and dying." Mrs. Brenda Stiers, another conference leader, has been head-ing a task force that has developed pro-grams and received funding for some innovating programs with aging for the Downtown Cooperative Ministry in New Haven.

For further information feel free to write the Ecumenical Continuing Educa-tion Center at Yale, 363 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Conn. 06511.

"No, Not in Israel"

A visitor from Israel reports that the movie, "Never on Sunday" presented Israel movie exhibitors with something of a problem, since the Israeli sabbath is Saturday. The exhibitors toyed briefly with the idea of reading into the picture "Never on Saturday." Then someone thought of a better idea: The name went up on the marquee as "Only on Week-days."

SCSC TESTIMONIES

(Continued from page 6)

Lord's command. People become more sensitive to each other and become truly brothers and sisters in the Lord by sharing each other's happiness and sorrow. God became so real while praying together, and a unity with one another can be felt."

"God spoke to me this week in His still small voice. But at times this voice was so tremendous, so exuberant that if He would have shown me any ecstatic ex-perience I might have burst! I was so surprised to find that a person is really not himself until he is completely con-trolled by God's Holy Spirit. There are so many ways to fool others into thinking we're something that we actually aren't and so many more ways we fool our-selves! The Lord has showed me how to be *me* this week!"

"For the past few years being a Chris-tian hasn't meant much to me. Then the Lord showed me the way into SCSC. During training I re-accepted Christ to fill my life with the Holy Spirit. Through the fellowship with the other SCSC mem-bers and everyone at Explo '72, I was able to see the life God wanted me to lead. I found new dimensions to my life. I thank God for providing this experience for me. It gives me the most wonderful feeling to know that my life is led by the will of God and not by the desires of myself or others."

"God has blessed me so much these weeks, it's hard to describe. I have never received so much insight on how to live, walk, and witness in the Spirit. Each message at Explo, and I say this in com-plete honesty, spoke directly to me on problems I had. This was definitely an answer to prayer. At this moment I feel that the Lord can work through me in almost every area of my life, and I praise and thank Him for it."

The Killer — If those who drink can be kept from driving, 30,000 Americans will not die next year.

CONFERENCE SONG BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Conference hymnal this year will be the Campus Crusade Hymnal, 400 copies of which have been pur-chased by President Paul Osborn for the use of the delegates. Churches and individuals may buy copies in quantity at sixty cents each. They will not be available until after Con-ference, but some groups have al-ready ordered and paid in advance. Since they are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, it would be well to place your order now. Write to President Paul Osborn, Norton-ville, Kansas 66060. It is a good collection of gospel hymns and songs.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SEATTLE AREA, WASH.—We were pleased that seven of our people were able to attend association meetings in Riverside, Calif., in April. They felt they received a real blessing from the trip and the meetings.

Pastor Davis flew to Denver, Colo., the end of April and led five evangelistic services and then went on to Nortonville, Kans., for a Seventh Day Baptist Minis-ters Retreat.

Fifteen of our people attended Basic Youth Conflicts Institute in May. This was a tremendous 36-hour course in learning how to put the Bible examples and principles into our everyday lives. There were 12,000 people in attendance. Testimonies of some of the couples that were privileged to go can be read else-where in this issue.

The Wendall Redding family of Ran-dle, Wash., lost their home by fire in April. We praise the Lord that they and their four small children escaped un-harmed.

Several relatives and friends saw Miss Francis Hathcoat off in June at the Sea-Tac Airport for her dedicated summer for the Lord in SCSC. A phone call from her during training said she was "busy, happy, and excited!"

On June 11 our Junior Choir sang for

the American Baptist Church in Des Moines for their Children's Day Service and after a picnic lunch together sang at a Federal Way Convalescent Home. We were very proud of them.

We had two senior high school gradu-ates this year. Myron McPherson, Jr., son of Myron and Corrine McPherson, of Randle, and Robert Posey, son of Al and Maude Posey, Edmonds, Wash. We wish for them God's blessing as they prepare for their life goals.

We look forward now to the help of two SCSC young people and ask for your prayers as we move into our summer pro-gram of Bible Clubs and camp program.

To God be the glory!

—Correspondent

ASHAWAY, R. I. — During June we have been very busy with many exciting things happening.

On Children's Day we had a picnic for the youngsters on the church lawn. Games were played afterwards.

For Father's Day a dinner and talent show were put on by the women of the church. Many of our youth took part in the talent show. That's all for this month.

—Correspondent

ASHAWAY, R. I.— One of the items in the June 17 church bulletin was in regard to the Northfield, Mass., Christian Endeavor Conference June 25-July 1. It follows: "We have a good number of young people registered to attend. Your pastor and family will be there, too. This conference provided a spiritual turning point for several of our young people last year. Pray that it may be so again this year."

Accessions

SHILOH, N. J.

By Baptism:

Theodore Bryan Davis
Joseph Harris, III

The Sabbath a Sign of Our Own Liberty

Our Father, who created man,
And then devised salvation's plan.
Receives all men who will obey
And gladly keep the Sabbath Day.

—Isaac Cramer

The Sabbath RECORDER

The Commandments Helped Me

By Isaac Cramer

When I was a small child I was taught the Ten Commandments. My parents believed in them. The command to honor my father and mother, though hard at times to do, kept me true to them, even under trying circumstances and when I was away from home.

At a very early age I learned what it was to suffer persecution at the hands of some who professed Christianity. Because of this I practically lost faith in all religion. There was a time when I even questioned the existence of the Creator because of the hypocrisy that I saw in the only church that I knew. In this time of almost losing faith in everything, it was God's commandments that were the stabilizing influence, keeping me from giving up all faith in God. I observed that the Fourth Commandment was the only one which declared that He who gave all the commandments was the Creator. It was never grievous for me to keep the Sabbath because I could understand that our Savior taught it also and gave us an example.

Many people told me that to keep the Sabbath was proof that I had fallen from grace. They had me confused by this perversion of Holy Scripture and especially the perversion of the writings of the apostle Paul. To get matters straight, I read the Bible through in search of the truth while in the Army during the first World War. Through many trying personal experiences which tested my faith I learned to be patient with others who had been deceived in a similar manner.

I was led to the truth, not by a man's interpretation of the Bible but by the spirit of truth that was given to me. It was because I loved my Savior and believed in keeping His commandments to show my love for Him that I was able to grow in grace. I trusted only in His grace to impute His righteousness to me and to forgive me all of my sins.

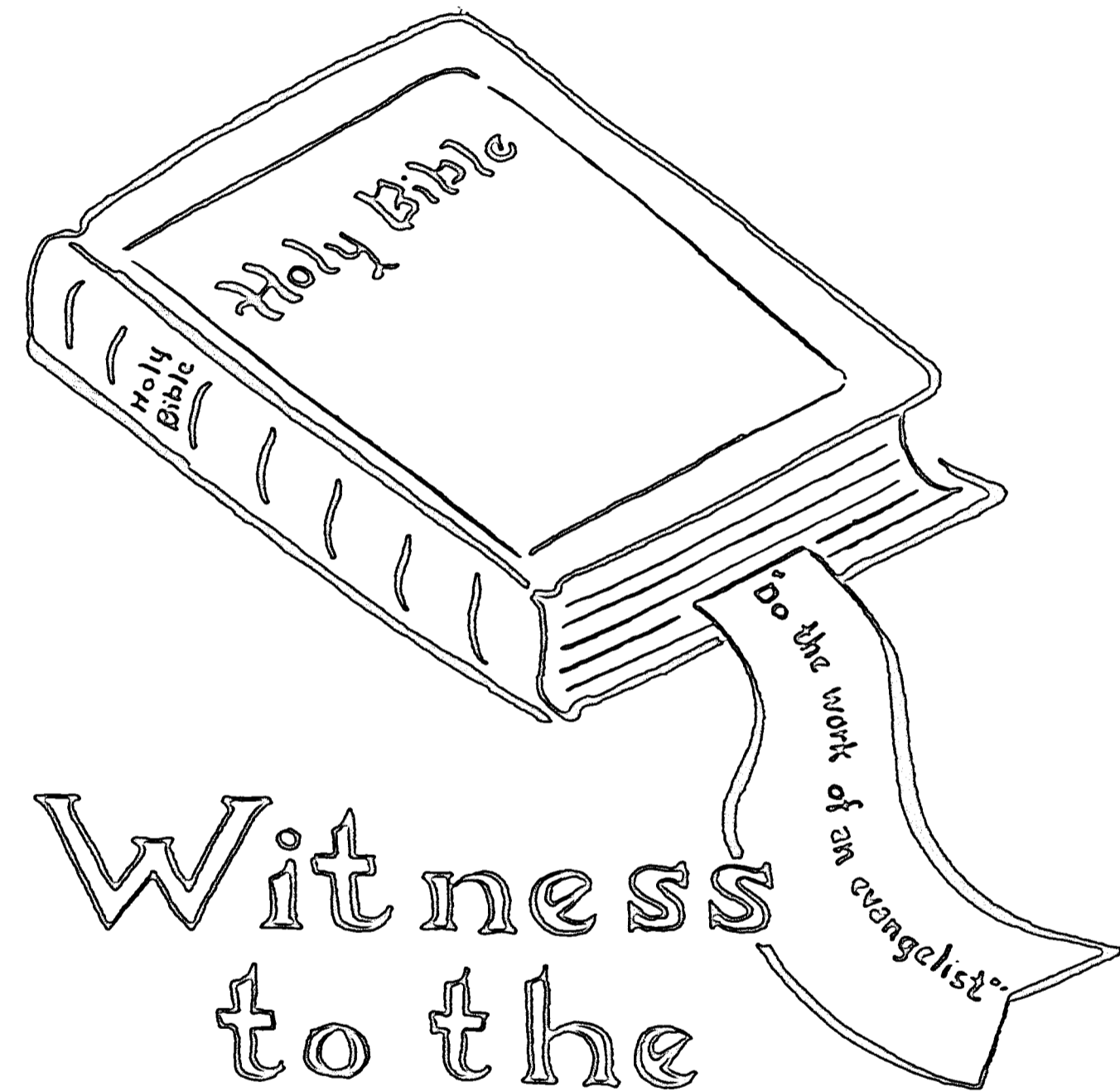
As the years have gone by, I have learned to trust Him to lead me by His spirit until I shall learn all the truth He has for me. I believe that His truth will be meat for me in due season and for all the people of our country and the world. If we follow that truth we will attain a true and lasting peace.

Churches Form Credit Unions

Credit unions are winning further acceptance among Protestant congregations each year, widening the church's tradition of brotherhood to the area of personal finance.

More than 216,000 Protestants now belong to over 700 church-related credit unions throughout the world, according to the 1971 *Credit Union Yearbook*.

Leading with the highest number is the Baptist denomination with 197. Other supporting denominations include Methodist with 138, Presbyterian with 25, Lutheran with 20, Episcopalian with 14, Seventh-day Adventists with 13, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) with 11, and Reorganized Church of the Latter Day Saints with 8 credit unions. Miscellaneous Protestant groups worldwide account for 154 credit unions.



Witness
to the
Truth
At Home
and
Abroad