

The Sabbath Recorder
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March 17, 1973

The Sabbath Recorder



THE SIN OF SILENCE

"We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace" (2 Kings 7:9). The speakers were four starving lepers who had stumbled on the fully provisioned but deserted camp of the Syrians.

Imagine their ecstasy. The gnawing in their stomachs led them on a run to the mess tent. Then they found warm clothing in the supply tent. And think of all the gold and silver valuables left as the Syrians fled in haste! In the rapture of the moment they forgot that they were lepers.

But reality returned. They weren't the only Israelites left in the world. And they knew they had an obligation to share—and they did.

Silence in the presence of such wealth—far more than they could ever use—would have been a sin. Yet how many Christians have found a supply in Christ, far more generous than the abandoned camp of the Syrians, but keep the good tidings to themselves?

One can easily offer excuses to soften the sound of that word *sin*: "I don't have the ability to witness." "It is not my responsibility." "God will reach those He wants to reach in some manner." But the fact remains that a silent response to the Great Commission is sin.

ECUMENICAL NEWS

WCC Launches Appeal for Indochina

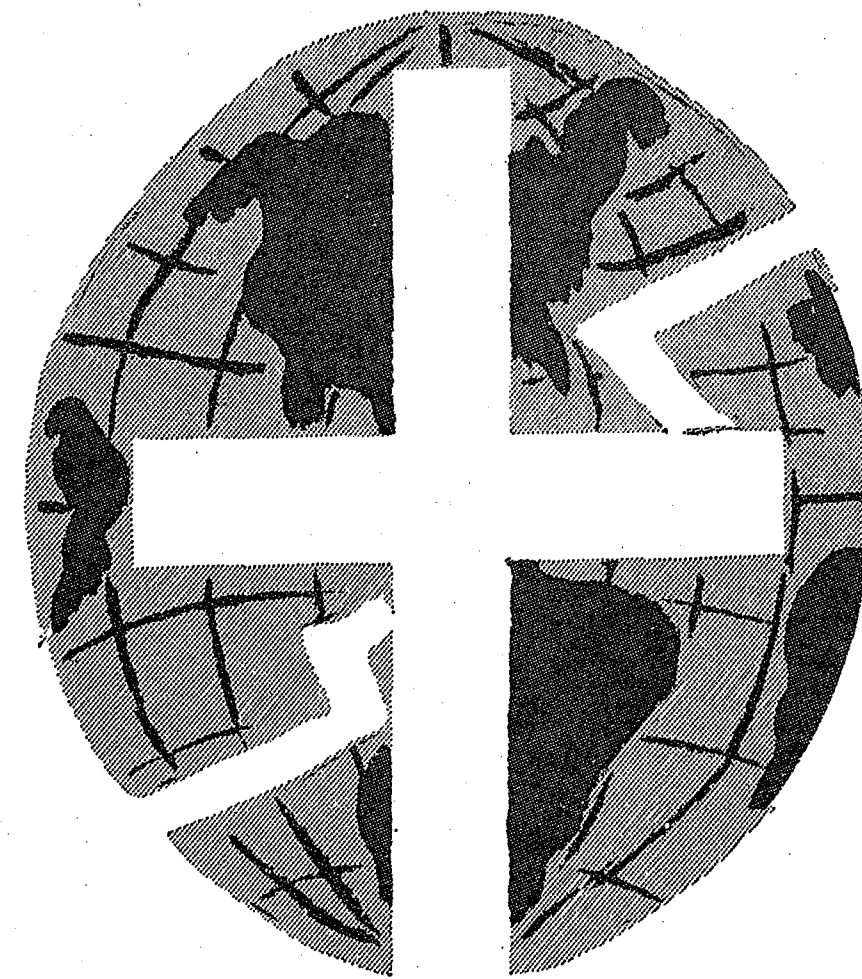
The World Council of Churches announced that it had made an initial five million dollar appeal to its 263 member churches for the first stage of "an expanding program" of reconstruction and reconciliation in Indochina. In addition, the Council said it would need an estimated 1.5 million dollars each year for the next three years to support the existing service programs of the Asian and the American churches in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia as well as provide medical assistance to North Vietnam.

These estimates were made by the board of the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina, an agency of the World Council of Churches which met at Hong Kong. The members of the board came from many parts of the world with a majority coming from Asia.

No specific program focus has yet been worked out for North Vietnam the board reported. This will depend on discussions with the North Vietnamese authorities. But the board underlined its concern to participate in service to every part of Indochina.

Giving thanks for the cease-fire and the increased possibility for reconciliation, the board said that the churches "share the guilt of the war situation which has afflicted the people of Indochina and of other involved nations." Any contribution to the vast task of reconstruction and reconciliation must therefore be approached with humility, the statement declared.

DIVINE LOVE



to heal
a broken world

Winnie Monroe '70

The Sabbath Recorder

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Our Concern for Minorities

It is the American way to be concerned about minorities and individuals. This, we believe, is one of the main differences between Iron Curtain countries and our "Christian" land. To be sure, not every minority has always received due consideration, as our democracy has been less than perfect. The minority that now is getting red-carpet treatment is the POW contingent returning from up to eight years of captivity in Vietcong and North Vietnamese camps. It is, indeed, an insignificant number of men in comparison with other so-called minorities, but we count this group as highly important. Our hearts go out to them and their families.

Our nation's concern for the POW's has been very strong. It was strongly affirmed by the administration that there could be no cease-fire agreement until there were assurances that all prisoners of war would be repatriated. Military operations continued far beyond what some people thought necessary, but the majority of American people would have been very unhappy if our country had not taken all necessary measures to secure the release of those who had spent so long in captivity in the service of their country. To abandon these relatively few men would be contrary to the principles that we hold dear. Napoleon was once warned that his proposed campaign would cost France a million men. His recorded reply was, "What are a million men to me?" A few hundred POW's are important to all of us because they are important to their families and their God. One officer interviewed at Clarke Field said, "We thank God for a nation that does so much for so few."

Television producers have given extensive coverage not only to the red-carpet treatment of the returning POW's, but also to some of the problems that will be faced as they and their families adjust after the long separation. When returning POW's spread out across the land to their cities and hamlets, it is not likely that many of us will be in close contact with them. Our love and concern can be expressed in intercessory prayer; we can do something.

We can understand the readjustment

problems by listening to the story of Christian missionaries who recently had similar experiences. David Fite, who was imprisoned four long years in Castro's Communist Cuba has something to say about the problems of rehabilitation even for a well-adjusted Baptist missionary.

All the POW's, he says, will struggle to adjust — caught in a mind-dizzying culture shock, buffeted by internal forces which they may not know how to verbalize and which will mystify and perhaps even annoy family, friends, and employers.

Many, if they are as fortunate as Fite, will return to normalcy and ability to cope with life and assume useful roles. Others may not.

A large measure of their success, Fite says, will depend on the love and patience of those closest to them.

Fite says he had it easier than the men now returning from North Vietnamese prisons.

"I had some advantages. I was not a combatant, and I had lived in Cuba for quite a while and understood the culture and language. During most of my imprisonment, my father-in-law, Herbert Caudill, was there with me, along with imprisoned Cuban Christians.

"That fellowship, the abiding faith I had in Christ and brief monthly visits from my wife, Margaret, helped me bear up under the pressures."

But the physical and mental cruelty of his Communist captors, coupled with severe "brainwashing" techniques and daily management of his every move, took their toll on Fite.

"In a prison environment," he explains, "every decision is made for you—hour-by-hour, day-by-day. They tell you when to get up, when to eat, what to eat, whether or not to eat, what to wear, what to do, when to sleep. "One of my major adjustments involved relearning the process of decision making."

Not only may returning veterans face a "decision crisis," but family and friends may expect them to reweave the threads of their lives too quickly, Fite says.

"I hope the rehabilitation program planned by the military may solve that,"

he says.

Probably the most severe readjustment facing the Vietnam returnees, Fite believes, will involve overcoming the emotional scars of brainwashing.

"They try to destroy a person's sense of self-worth," Fite explains. "They underscore all the negative feelings one has . . . try to destroy your morale so you will become putty in their hands for propaganda purposes. Then they use you and throw you away like a piece of old tissue.

"They abuse you physically, make you fear for your life, treat you nicely one moment and badly the next, reward you for doing things that go against your sense of values, punish you for standing firm.

"I hope each one who returns will have an understanding family and an understanding group of friends like I did —people who accepted me and loved me as I was.

"Families facing these strains," he said, "should not be ashamed to call on all available sources — personal resources and community resources such as counselors and pastors. That would not be a sign of weakness, but one of hope," he said.

"Documented experiences have shown that men with a sense of meaning in their lives hold up better under duress. To the Christian, that meaning is Christ, who gave me my sense of personal worth and the strength I needed."

How To Raise the Budget

The Southern Baptists support their denominational work largely through what they call the Cooperative Program, which corresponds generally to what we call Our World Mission. The leaders work hard to get all the local churches to contribute to the Cooperative Program with a significant percentage. The aggregate is very large in this largest of all Protestant denominations but their conference president, Owen Cooper, notes that there are 5,100 churches in the convention that make no contribution at all through the program and 27,000 that give

MARCH 17, 1973

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MEMORY TEXT

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. . . . The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep" (John 10:11, 13).

ten percent or less.

Dr. Cooper says that his own church in Yazoo City, Miss., has increased its Cooperative Program giving to 24 percent of its total budget. He makes some remarks that would well fit Seventh Day Baptists if we would just substitute OWM for Cooperative Program.

"The challenge to the churches," he said, "is to magnify the Biblical basis of stewardship — the tithe — and the challenge to SBC leaders is to increase the size of the Cooperative Program pie to provide more money for all.

"It is my firm belief that in a church where the pastor believes in the Cooperative Program, where the deacons support it, where the laymen promote it, where the congregation is educated and knowledgeable of mission needs, and where the Cooperative Program is personalized, you will have a church that understands the Cooperative Program, that gives through the Cooperative Program, and that supports the Cooperative Program."

In addition to urging pastors, deacons, and laymen to support and promote the Cooperative Program, he called for churches to vigorously educate each church generation concerning the Cooperative Program, saying the SBC is raising a generation of young people who don't know what the denomination's unified budget plan is or what it does.

People Are Important

A denominational paper necessarily gives quite a bit of its space to the promotion of the program of the Conference and its boards and agencies. It is hard to find the right words to express the kind of progress that the leaders are trying to foster. One such word that

we have used very frequently in appealing to our churches is outreach. In contrast to inbreeding and smug complacency with present lack of growth outreach is a good word. However, from another point of view, it is a very inadequate word.

Dr. Ramsay G. Small, president of the Baptist Union of Scotland, makes us feel uncomfortable in speaking of outreach. "I want to suggest that many of us become so worked up about outreach that the program becomes more important than the people," he said. When we talk about outreach, conversions, baptisms, etc., we may be thinking of getting people in the church, but are we desiring them as people or just as members on the roll? Our message of salvation should make us love individuals and desire for them the very best. Programs of outreach must be translated into individual love and concern. We can't love people en masse or convert very many with scatter-gun shots from the pulpit. The people in the pew must love the people not yet in the pew. Not program, but people!

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

- 1) The local implementation of Phase II of Key '73 by which we succeed or fail in our part of bringing our neighbors to an encounter with the gospel of Christ.
- 2) A deepening desire to be involved in helping our brethren of like faith in other lands to help themselves in literature work and other outreach programs.
- 3) The Sabbathkeeping Bible and literature distributors in Jerusalem who have requested prayer to overcome the persecution by radical Jewish elements.
- 4) The blessing of God on the forthcoming Seventh Day Baptist student witness at Daytona Beach under the direction of Mynor Soper and the local church.

Planning Committee at Work

The denominational Planning Committee, chaired by General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler, and made up primarily of the major board executives met for a week-long working session beginning Sunday, February 18, in the Board Room of the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield, N. J. This meeting followed up the previous planning session held September 24-29. General Conference was represented by Ernest F. Bond, first vice-president, the Woman's Board by Myrna D. Cox. Charles H. North, president, represented the Tract Society Sunday and Monday in the absence of the corresponding secretary. The Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, a member of the Committee on Christian Social Action attended as a consultant.

The agenda included more than thirty-five items, some of which were reports needed to evaluate and correlate board and agency projects. Early in the week Secretary Wheeler presented a seven-page position paper to give a theological base for action in the various areas of denominational concern and growth under the theme, "Pressing On." It served as a general outline of the planning session. We quote the following from the fourth division of the paper stressing the privilege and responsibility of exercising good stewardship of time, talents, and money:

"A significant and increasing number of persons are intimating that they feel restless to the point of wanting to dedicate time and to serve the Lord in some way even though they do not have academic or theological training.

1. If Seventh Day Baptists become increasingly evangelistic and mission-minded on the part of pastors, churches, boards, and agencies, the listing of various types of opportunity for witness and/or service should lengthen phenomenally.
2. Short-course and on-the-job training techniques and procedures might well be explored, devised, and offered with adequate funding on a local, regional, or national basis.

3. Our people might be encouraged to become increasingly missionary-minded by preparing, circulating, and showing of third dimension films, tapes, etc.

—by publicizing small project needs which would be interpreted as "special appeals" in conflict with denominational guidelines,

—by encouraging such persons to visit given situations including mission locations at home and abroad.

4. Pilot projects of outreach involving persons offering dedicated service might be funded through denominational assistance if such is requested and needed."

The Planning Committee, which takes major responsibility for all forms of dedicated service, spent some of its time reviewing the prospects for this year's Summer Christian Service Corps. New applications were received and tentative decisions made as to which church projects could be served with the available personnel. The outlook is good for widely scattered projects. New guidelines were prepared for project directors to make for more effectiveness in planning and supervising. Decisions were made about the continuation of evangelistic teams such as the youth ministry at Daytona Beach, which is shaping up well for this spring under the leadership of the Rev. Mynor G. Soper and the local church. There was also discussion of ways to make extended dedicated service more effective in the future.

Florence Bowden, general editor of the "Renewal in Faith" series of lessons, now in its second year of production, met with the committee the first day, and procedures were set up to guide the writers in developing pupil-centered lessons during the next few years, according to the previously agreed on schedule.

The committee discussed the relation between the present Key '73 program and the Baptist World Alliance Reconciliation concept to be emphasized in the next few years under our denominational Era of Action program. New materials promoting the Era of Action were decided on to aid the churches in their

witness and growth.

There was a strong feeling shared by both the Commission and Planning Committee that the time has come to respond to the Lord's call to move forward in additional ways in response to the Great Commission and that this type of mission demands priority of funds and personnel. It was agreed that help should be given to churches and Associations to start outposts.

The New Inquiries Committee that carries on correspondence with new workers in foreign countries and on this continent was evaluated. It has been chaired by the corresponding secretary of the Tract Society. New guidelines were developed for the functioning of this committee and its relationship to the New Fields Committee of the Missionary Society.

The week of planning was considered by those involved as a most profitable session, one that may help the work to move forward on all fronts as we grow spiritually and devote time, talents, and financial resources to the cause of Christ in this time of opportunity.

Prayer and Faith Encouraged POW'S

Almost all of the returning American prisoners of war are testifying to the power of prayer and faith in the prison camps.

"The key to their survival and to their mental and emotional health was a deep abiding and growing relationship with God," said Chaplain (LCDR) Alex B. Aronis, an American Baptist involved in the ministry to returning POW's at Subic Bay Naval Air Station, the Philippines, in a letter to Chaplain Charles F. Wills, director of American Baptist Chaplaincy Services, Valley Forge, Pa.

"The story of the religious experiences of these men is inspiring beyond words," Chaplain Aronis wrote. "During the most difficult, the most painful, the darkest hours, God sustained them and enabled them to get through."

One returning POW told Chaplain Aronis, "Without God, I would not have been able to survive."

"In other words," Aronis replied, "God really helped you."

"No," the returnee said, "not merely helped. I mean it when I say I could not have made it without God pulling me through."

The former POW's told Chaplain Aronis of worship services, choirs, and Scripture studies which occurred in most of the prisoner of war camps. The favorite hymns of the prisoners had been, "In the Garden," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

The twenty-third Psalm, beginning, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," was cited by the POW's as their major means of Scriptural support. "Everyone should know the twenty-third Psalm," one returnee told Aronis. Also memorized and shared among the men were the Beatitudes, Romans 12, and 1 Corinthians 13. The men reconstructed whole sections of Scripture out of their memory due to the unavailability of Bibles.

Their byword, Aronis said, was "God bless you." The greeting was addressed freely to one another, even to those who professed to be agnostics or atheists.

When returning POW's sat down for their first meal at the Subic Bay Naval Air Station, a Navy dietician noted that she had never seen so many people bow their heads to say table grace.

"The religious experience was so significant and so beneficial for some," Chaplain Aronis wrote, "that two that I know of said they were glad they had the prison experience because of what they learned in terms of life, values, and priorities."

The prison experience made the men "so thankful to God that the thankfulness expressed itself in a spirit of courtesy, graciousness, and thoughtfulness," Aronis said. "I was tickled by the way one man spoke of God's presence: 'The moment my feet touched down on North Vietnamese soil, God was standing next to me. He was three buildings tall, and the tip of his shoes came to my forehead and he said to me, "I'm going to be with

MISSIONS—Leon R. Lawton

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, 120 Main Street, Westerly, R. I. 02891, on Sunday, March 18, 1973, at 2:00 for the following purposes:

1. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1972, to December 31, 1972.

3. To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1973, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

Elston H. Van Horn,
Secretary

Perfect Pastor

After hundreds of years of search, a model preacher to suit everyone has been found, according to an article which recently appeared in the *Christian Beacon*. We quote:

"He preaches exactly twenty minutes, then sits down. He condemns sin, but

you and I'm going to take care of you."

Chaplain Aronis is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He was commissioned as an ensign in 1955, and resigned his commission in 1959 in order to enter Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He returned to active duty in the Navy as a chaplain in 1964.

—ABNS

never hurts anyone's feelings.

"He works from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in every type of work, from preaching to custodial service. He makes \$60 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books regularly, has a nice family, drives a good car, and gives \$30 a week to the church. He also stands ready to contribute to every good work that comes along.

"He is twenty-six years old and has been preaching for thirty years. He is tall and short, thin and heavy set, handsome. He has one brown eye and one blue; hair parted in the middle, left side dark and straight, the right, brown and wavy.

"He has a burning desire to work with teen-agers and spends all his time with older folks. He spends all his time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.

"He makes fifteen calls a day on church members, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is never out of the office."

Unfortunately, we are unable to supply name and address of this pastor.

A Good Sabbath Recorder Month

February, the shortest month of the year was the best month of the year for renewals and new subscriptions. Receipts totalled over \$800, which is about double the normal amount. Some people took advantage of the special two-year rate being offered in connection with *Sabbath Recorder* Day.

It would be great if there could be enough new subscriptions to make our denominational weekly self supporting, as the special issues are, but that will not be possible until we have a considerable increase in the number of Seventh Day Baptist family units. The printing costs for 1973 will be figured at \$385 per week, up about 5 percent from 1972. The subsidy comes from the Tract Society, which in turn, depends on contributions to Our World Mission for about one third of its total budget.

The Greatest Unused Power

(a study of Ephesians)

By Don I. Phillips

The famous Baptist clergyman, A. J. Gordon, often related the story of a godly English gentleman who stood with a friend at the foot of the great Niagara Falls. His friend enthusiastically remarked, "There is the greatest unused power in the world!" To which the Englishman responded, "Ah no, my brother, not so! The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God!"

The tremendous underlying message of the inspired epistle of Paul to the Ephesians has to do with this "greatest unused power." The word *power*, and its equivalent, is considered the key word to the book of Ephesians. In this present study we will think through the epistle, giving a title, centered around the word *power*, to each of the six chapters. You are invited to observe the following chapter headings and to read the verses indicated in this outline:

Chapter one: "The Knowledge of Power," verses 16-21

Chapter two: "The Position of Power," verses 4-6; 1:21

Chapter three: "The Secret of Power," verses 16-21

Chapter four: "The Hindrances to Power," verses 17-32

Chapter five: "The Appropriation of Power," verse 18

Chapter six: "The Victory of Power," verses 10-18

How much we need power! It is necessary in our lives to enable us to live victoriously. It is essential in our homes to help us live harmoniously. It is needful in our churches to empower us as effective witnesses. It is indispensable in our pulpits to enable us to preach with unction. Power in our lives is often conspicuous by its absence! A dear old black minister in the South was heard praying earnestly for unction. A white minister, overhearing the prayer, asked him, "What is unction?" "Brudder," he replied, "I dunno whut it is, but I know when it ain't."

The Knowledge of Power

Do we have this knowledge? The Ephesian Christians had the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit did not have them. They did not have this knowledge of power. The apostle, therefore, prayed that God might give them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. He was deeply concerned that the eyes of their understanding might be enlightened in order that they might know the exceeding greatness of "His power" in those who believe (vs. 17-19). Here was a tremendous force within, but unrecognized and unused. It was a supernatural energy equivalent to that which was operative in raising Christ from the dead (vs. 19, 20). This same marvelous power is still resident in the Holy Spirit. He indwells us, but is His strength demonstrated in our lives? Perhaps we are blind and need the eyes of our understanding enlightened that we might know, experimentally, the exceeding greatness of His power in us and through us.

The Position of Power

Have we appropriated our position? Our condition may not be all it should be, but our position of strength is in heavenly places in Christ. In fact, God has raised us up together with Him and made us sit together in the heavenlies (2:6), far above all principalities and power and might and dominion satanic (1:21; 6:12). This is a position of power, a place where we can reign, in the strength of the Spirit, over sin, self, and Satan. Have we acknowledged this heavenly place as our position? We can do something about our unsatisfactory condition and by faith accept our *position* in heavenly places and reign, as kings, in this present life (Rev. 1:5, 6; Rom. 5:17).

The Secret of Power

Do we know the secret? The third chapter of Ephesians rather spells it out. It certainly is not in man! Man, at his best, is impotent without Him! The secret is found in the Holy Spirit indwelling and enabling the "inner man" (3:16). The apostle Paul says clearly that the believer can be strengthened with might by His Spirit. Man can be made strong in his spiritual life. How? By the Holy Spirit

controlling completely every aspect of his life. You and I can have this might in our soul and spirit. Further, in verse 19, the apostle Paul indicates that the secret of power is to be found in our being "filled with all the fullness of God." He quickly goes on to say, "Now unto him that is able to do." What is this indwelling, all powerful God able to do? He can do in us and through us "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." But we can limit God! According to the writer of Ephesians, He is able to do according to the power we allow to be operative in us. Could it be that we hinder God by our unyielded, unsubmitive wills and sin in our lives?

Hindrances to Power

Is there some hindrance in your life? The fourth chapter has to do with the sins which grieve the Holy Spirit and hinder His power. The thirtieth verse emphatically declares: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." This command comes in the midst of a long list of sins. Starting with chapter four, verse seventeen, we should look at each sin and allow the Holy Spirit to convict us. Then, in view of the fact that we have committed our sins one by one, we should confess them one by one. We have a God who graciously forgives and cleanses from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Having been cleansed of every hindering sin, we can present to Him a clean vessel for His fullness, and begin to experience His enabling strength.

The Appropriation of Power

You can personally acquire this inner strength. His energizing power can be your continuous portion. In chapter five, verse 18, we have an emphatic twofold command. The first has to do with drunkenness. God says, "Be not drunk with wine." Do we not admit that it is sin to disobey this injunction? The second is also response compelling: "Be filled with the Spirit." Now, if it is a sin to disobey the first command, is it not a sin to disobey the second? The Greek tense here indicates continuous action. The verse may be rendered, "be being filled—continuously filled with the Spirit." God anticipates obedience! *The greatest*

unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God. Is this because we are disobeying the command, "Be filled with the Spirit"? You and I can be constantly overflowing. This will be possible only as we are kept clean by our continual attitude of surrender and confession. As clean vessels, we can daily—moment by moment—appropriate the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

The Victory of Power

We can know, experimentally, *the victory of power.* The sixth chapter of Ephesians speaks specifically concerning this inner strength. Paul says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (vs. 10, 11). Now, God will never command you to be something you cannot be! If God says, "Be strong," then, it is reasonable for you to say, "I can be strong!" In like manner God says, "Be filled" (5:18). Someone has said that God's commands are backed up by His enablings. His demand to be something is the equivalent of being that very thing, providing we obey Him by faith. You, therefore, can be filled. You can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! Here is the victory of power. It is possible to take on the whole armor of God (vs. 11 through 18) and, therefore, stand strong in the Lord.

Ludwig Nommensen, a pioneer missionary to the Batak tribesmen, had labored for over two years, when the chief of the tribe came to him with these words: "Stay! Your law is better than ours. Ours tells us what we ought to do. Your God says: 'Come, I will walk with you and give you *strength* to do the good thing.' Missionary Nommensen did stay to labor in the power of the Spirit and now 450,000 Batak Christians know Christ as the answer.

The greatest unused power can be released and be used to impart victory and evangelize a world through us! But He is, for many of us, the untapped power within. He indwells every believer, but many have yet to discover His power. Will we allow Him the right-of-way in

our lives? It is not enough to have the knowledge of His power; nor to see that the position of power is in heavenly places; nor even to acknowledge that the secret of power is not in ourselves, but in Him? We must remove, by sincere repentance, the hindrance to power, and continually appropriate the fullness of the Holy Spirit and experimentally enjoy the victory of power. We can release the greatest unused power — the power of the Holy Spirit of the living God.

Evangelism Congress Coming to South Africa

Billy Graham has accepted the invitation from Michael Cassidy, president of African Enterprise, to participate in the South African Congress on Evangelism to be held in March of 1973. Among other speakers expected from outside South Africa are Leighton Ford, David Hubbard, Paul S. Rees, Festo Kivengere, Bruce Larson, and Tex W. Engstrom.

Cassidy writes, "Excitement over the participation of Dr. Graham is running high. There is no doubt that the whole thing has come alive in a special way since it became known that he would be participating. Many people feel that this Congress is coming at a critical moment in the country's history."

This will be Dr. Graham's first visit to South Africa and his first opportunity to speak directly to a multi-racial cross-section of the church in southern Africa.

Prayer is being concentrated in many parts of the world on this unprecedented gathering. The urgency is because the Congress aims at a new understanding and brotherhood between Christians of all races as the basis for planning together methods and strategy of mission and evangelism for the next decade.

—African Enterprise

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for March 24, 1973

GOD LOVES US

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 103:8-14;
John 3: 16-17.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. David S. Clarke

Board of Christian Education

On January 21, 1973, the quarterly meeting of directors of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education was held. Twenty members and one guest, Miss Linda Davis, were present. Linda had been assisting the secretary under the Conference dedicated service program, January 1 - February 16, with help also to Allegheny Association churches. This was the first quarterly meeting with new committees in operation. President Mary Clare led the session and Mrs. Reid Mattison served in her new capacity as recording secretary. Pastor Hurley Warren led the group in prayer.

New directors elected in October were introduced: Mrs. Susie Robinson, Mark Lewis, Voni Mattison, Russell and Jennie Johnson. Sandy Snyder and Helena Aldrich were elected as directors at this meeting. Mrs. Aldrich replaces Mrs. Don Pierce who resigned for health reasons.

The executive secretary reported his activities since the October meetings. One major aspect had been a field trip to the southwest. He reported on a four-hour consultation en route at Milton, Wis., with the National Y. F. officers and *Beacon* editors, plus a survey of the Youth Pre-Con site at Lake Geneva. The Nortonville church hosted him in a five-session Sabbath encounter which provided a variety of sharing opportunities.

The last full-scale assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ was attended at Dallas. The next Sabbath was spent with the Houston Fellowship, including a consultation with Stephen Pierce of the Southwestern Association's Camp Committee. Visits were made in a short stay in New Orleans area, chiefly with Pastor Jack Hays and family. The next Sabbath was shared with the Paint Rock church where he spoke Sabbath morning, visited with the pastor in the parish, shared denominational concerns Sabbath afternoon. He also consulted with Pastors Ken Van Horn and Leslie Welch on camp matters. He took part in the local Youth

Fellowship's Sabbath Eve prayer and Bible study.

The secretary sent out a letter and materials for camp leaders, having given the same mailing list to the American Camping Association and the federal Environmental Protection Agency for their sending of camp resources. (If anyone wishes to be included in future mailings who wasn't included this time please notify our office. The "sharing tool" questionnaire used in Denver Conference consultation would also be appreciated when sent back full of suggestions for Seventh Day Baptist camp improvement.)

He also reported work on an extended letter on Seventh Day Baptist camping to the Memorial Fund, along with continuing preparations for camp evaluations for that body. He mentioned plans to attend a regional conference of the American Camping Association February 27-March 3, to participate in a seminar with camp development authorities Maurice Bone and Norwood Wright.

Work had gone into correlating the preparations of members of his subcommittee of the Uniform Series Committee for the April 28 - May 4 work session of that body. These outlines will guide writers (including the *Helping Hand* editor) in producing lessons for the summer of 1978.

The treasurer reported the annual financial operations for calendar 1972. His accounting was appreciatively received for filing and printing in the 1972 report of this board.

Harmon Dickinson, chairman of the Leadership Development Committee, reported progress on the 1973 Ministers Conference of which Rex Zwiebel is dean. He also reported for the Finance Committee the budgets projected for the next three years as recommended by that committee to the Executive Committee on November 19.

Resource Development Committee concerns were reported by the chairman, Ethel Dickinson. An exploratory letter was decided upon for finding out how well our printed materials meet the felt

opportunities of our people. The committee is studying materials, planning, and criteria of other publishers, and will propose a variety of improvements for our own materials.

Luan Ellis reported on the last two months of her Youth Work Committee's work related to the National Youth Fellowship, *Beacon*, Pre-Cons and field work. The new Youth Program Committee, chaired by Edward Sutton, continues all the old committee's work except camp development which goes to the Camp Program Committee, chaired by Bob Stohr.

Burton Crandall was elected chairman of a committee to secure new offices for the board since the executive secretary is moving to an apartment in Alfred. Mr. Crandall was asked to report to the Executive Committee his group's recommendations for their referral to the Board of Directors for approval. Financial arrangements during the change-over were discussed, and volunteer labor in moving both the office and household was offered.

After deciding to meet at the Little Genesee Church on April 15, the directors prayed together under the leadership of Pastor Edward Sutton, and adjourned their meeting.

Special Board Meeting Feb. 25

A special meeting of the directors of the Board of Christian Education was called for February 25 when the Executive Committee's recommendations on the report of the office search committee were considered.

The Office Search Committee had investigated at least eighteen specific properties for office relocation. The Executive Committee discussed these and recommended that the directors rent an office suite on route 21 just south of Alfred Station, newly built by Martin Curran of Alfred. The offices are part of larger building with reception lobby, coat closet, rest room, and another office fronting a large work area. A very reasonable rent offer was made by Mr. Curran. It is hoped that a photo of the building and offices

can soon be published for *Recorder* readers.

The board accepted the Executive Committee's recommendation, with occupancy to start April 1. The secretary's household occupancy was to extend until May 1.

Also at this meeting, the Conference Program Committee was assigned to the president for appointment and action.

Tribute to Truman

It has been interesting to observe the wide range of tributes to former President Truman after his death. He was praised on many sides for his strong leadership and ability to make decisions, though his contemporaries did not all agree with what he decided.

One of the strong tributes was voiced by the American Jewish Congress, which comments on many subjects of public interest. Like others, they spoke of his stalwart leadership in ending World War II and in the transition to a difficult peace. The news release also stated:

"As Jews, we recall with gratitude his sensitivity to the despair of millions of victims of Nazism and the invaluable and singular contribution he made in the founding and establishment of the State of Israel.

"President Truman received the Stephen S. Wise Award of the American Jewish Congress in 1952. At that time we sought to express our profound admiration and affection for this distinguished and deeply human leader."

Thomas Bennett at American Camping Association Regional Conference in Pittsburgh February 28, 1973 talking about not being programmed by worries:

"Worry is the constant recycling of solutions that won't work."

Change of Address

Readers in the Mid-Continent Association who have occasion to contact the secretary-treasurer of the Association should take note that the address of Philip F. Burrows, formerly of Kansas City, is now 1605 Crestview Dr., Sioux Falls, S. D. 57103.

Timely Books by Hal Lindsey

Hal Lindsey is the author of two books which are becoming increasingly interesting to Christians.

Satan Is Alive and Well brings to our attention the fact that there is a constant battle between good and devil (Satan and God). That our misdemeanors as well as our large crimes are a direct result of Satan's influence on our lives and that there are ways of overcoming the power of "the fallen angel."

The Late Great Planet Earth takes a long look at Old and New Testament prophecies, at Spiritualism and Mysticism and Astrology.

Mr. Lindsey, assisted by Carole Carlson, links many ancient prophecies directly to recent world events, explaining how each is a part of God's plan for this earth.

Do you have questions concerning "The Rapture," Christ's Second Coming, the "Seven Years of Tribulation," the "Millennium," and who will be on earth to experience these amazing events?

In a neat, orderly way, using Bible references, Mr. Lindsey discusses the events leading to the end of the world as we now know it. Certainly, his references are worthy of reflection, but are his interpretations and timetable believable? Why not read this most interesting book and decide for yourself?

Russell G. Johnson
in Alfred Church Bulletin

Baptist Response to Earthquake

The earthquake that virtually demolished the city of Managua, Nicaragua, on December 23-24 prompted one of the greatest demonstrations of Christian love in the history of Baptist World Relief.

As of mid-February, the Baptist World Relief department knew of more than \$250,000 in aid channeled to Nicaragua from Baptist individuals, churches, and conventions. In addition, mission groups were making long-range plans for rebuilding destroyed church buildings, schools and hospitals.

Carl W. Tiller, BWA Relief coordinator, said that the monetary figure does

not tell the full story of response.

The true measure of concern is reflected in reports of numerous sacrificial gifts, such as US\$25 from Baptists in Bangladesh which is still plagued with damage from its 1971-72 war for independence, and US\$50 from Baptists in India where both flood and famine are even now a pestilence.

Contributions and reports of direct help have flowed into the Washington BWA offices. The American Baptist Churches USA, which has mission work in Managua, appealed directly to its churches and raised more than \$200,000 in special offerings to be disturbed by ABC people in Nicaragua. The Southern Baptist Convention USA channeled a generous though lesser amount through missions in countries adjacent, and made plans to help Nicaragua churches rebuild their houses of worship. Appeals were made also by conventions and unions in Europe, Australia, Africa, and countries in Latin America.

Southern Baptist Growth

Last year, Southern Baptists reported a record 445,725 baptisms (conversions)—the greatest number since 1959. In addition, total church membership passed the 12 million mark for the first time, and total gifts exceeded the \$1 billion milestone.

"Statistical reports never tell the whole story, but numbers do represent persons and reflect compassion and concern," commented Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

Routh pointed out that the 12 million milestone in church membership represents the first time in the past ten years that the denomination has exceeded two percent in its growth rate. He attributed the growth partly to the record number of baptisms.

The acting director of the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism division, Fred B. Moseley, of Atlanta, attributed the record year of baptisms to a national climate of religious concern and the effective involvement of the laity in evangelism.

1973 Conference Dates

General Conference will meet at
Milton, Wisconsin, August 12-18.

Special Issue Back Numbers Offered

The Nortonville, Kans., church has on hand from 100 to several hundred copies of most of the special issues from 1967 to 1973 ordered for distribution at fair booths. These are offered to individuals or churches with outreach programs—a generous offer. Write to Rev. Paul Osborn, Nortonville, 66060. The pastor hopes to stock future fair booths with newer special issues, but these are not prominently dated and can be used effectively for hand-out purposes.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

ASHAWAY, R. I. — Our church held its annual business meeting Sunday, January 7. Pastor Edgar Wheeler was called for another year. The officers elected were: William C. Harrison III, president; Robert Morgan, vice-president; Mrs. Walter Thorpe, clerk, and Mrs. Arthur Brayman, treasurer.

We observed Christian Endeavor Day February 3. The young people presented a musical program and brief talks under the theme "Today and Always Christ," with an emphasis on the life of Christ. Darlene McCall and Leon Wheeler planned and directed the program.

Mrs. William Bowyer holds a Bible club after school each Tuesday for children up to the sixth grade. Two adult group Bible studies are held every Wednesday under the supervision of Mrs. Arthur Brayman.

Mrs. Albert Camara coordinates the time and places for prayer meetings on Sabbath Eve. They are held in various homes. We find them to be spiritually rich. They include Bible study, inspirational thoughts, sharing of Christian experiences, and prayer.

The youth group (C. E.) holds biweek-

ly social activities in the Parish House.

Our church is participating in the Key '73 visitation program from March 4 through April 1. In this we are cooperating with several churches in North Stonington, Pawcatuck, Westerly, and Charho. Our pastor was named coordinator of the overall effort.

—Correspondent

HEBRON, PA.— The committee met the first of the year and made out the church calendars. Copies were made for each family. Each church event is given, also birthdays listed.

Mrs. Georgianna Snyder, superintendent, notes the weekly Youth Sing as being worth special credit in the Sabbath School. It is held each Wednesday night from 7:00 to 8:00 under the direction of Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, with Mrs. Pearl Brock as pianist. There are ten to fourteen children attending.

Due to the snow, no church was held February 17.

February 24, David Taylor, Richburg, brought the message. Following the services, a dinner was held at the community hall. Then a Youth and Adult Hymn Sing was held upstairs. Mrs. Pearl Brock was pianist and Mr. Taylor accompanied on his accordion. This was an enjoyable afternoon.

Bible Study has been held at the church every Wednesday night this winter usually with twelve to fourteen men and women in attendance.

No W.S.S.S. meeting was held in January. The meeting of February 6 was held at the home of Mrs. Ruth Brock.

—Correspondent

MILTON, WIS.— From the annual reports recently distributed in a mimeographed booklet comes an interesting review of the ten Meals of Sharing during 1972, a practice that has been consistently followed on a monthly basis by the church for a number of years.

The projects agreed upon to receive the money (collected by paying for a regular meal but eating a very simple meal) are varied. The largest amount collected at one meal was \$220 for SCSC.

Other meals ranged from \$73 to \$140. The total amounted to \$1,058.91.

The recipients in sequence were: Care, One Great Hour of Sharing, Summer Christian Service Corps, Save the Children Federation, Light Bearers for Christ, Our World Mission, American Bible Society, Charlie Bluff Youth Ministry, World Vision, and SDB Home Missions.

RICHBURG, N. Y.— To kick off Key '73 on Sabbath afternoon, December 9, sixty Living New Testaments were distributed by the members to interested families in the community. Also copies were distributed in Shinglehouse by members who live in that area. The response was good and more copies have been given out as a follow-up.

The church will distribute 200 copies of the Love booklet by direct mailing during the Easter season. The YF will address them.

The Inspirer published regularly by the SDBYF announced a sledding party which was enjoyed Sunday afternoon, February 11, at the home of Rachel Drake, Shinglehouse, and a roller skating party March 10. The officers are: Francis (Chip) Bucher, pres.; Greg Bucher, vice-pres.; Rachel Drake, secy.; Kathy Soules, treas.; and Ellen McCrea, editor.

Also the YF had charge of the morning worship service for Youth Sabbath February 3. Linda Davis, extended dedicated service worker, who was helping in the area, sang a solo accompanying herself on the guitar.

Church officers elected for the year 1973 were: C. Robert Stohr, moderator; L. Maurice McCrea, vice-moderator; Mrs. Francis Bucher, Sr., clerk; Mrs. Earl Stohr, treasurer; Miss Onnalee Saunders, organist; and Mrs. C. Harmon Dickinson, choir director.

A slide/film projector was recently purchased from monies in the Memorial Fund, and a projection screen has been given by an anonymous donor. They were used recently for the presentation of the work of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Other events of interest are: visit by Rev. Leon Lawton on Sabbath, February

24; World Day of Prayer for the Richburg-Bolivar-Little Genesee area at Richburg, March 2; General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler's re-evaluation follow-up March 22 to April 2; Pastor Dickinson's attendance at Minister's Conference at Shiloh, N. J., April 25 to May 2; Roll Call Sabbath with fellowship dinner and afternoon roll call response, June 2.

—Correspondent

RIVERSIDE, CALIF.— Each Sabbath during the Sabbath School hour there has been a well-attended class taught by Pastor Phillips. These lessons are titled "Spiritual Life Instruction." The material used is sent out to at least thirty people each week, lone-Sabbathkeepers and people becoming interested. This same study is given on Wednesday evening at the home of Elmer and Harriet Maddox.

Early in December there occurred on Friday evening a candlelight baptismal service. This was beautiful in the spirit of the Lord. As each of the individuals receiving this sacrament was immersed the soft glow of candles seemed to symbolize the change that comes as a heart is cleansed by the "Light of the world." Then as a bright floodlight flashed on a screen carrying the words of a familiar hymn, which all present joined in singing, our thoughts reflected on the words which came from heaven when our Savior was baptized, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

As Christmas time, under the able direction of Rolland Maxson, John Peterson's cantata, "Love Transcending" was presented during the morning worship service by the choir. The sanctuary was filled, and the people were thrilled. Each person present was blessed with the realization that God's love, coming to each person through a personal encounter with Jesus, is real.

The shepherding program was started early in January. You will hear more about this in a special article for the *Recorder* soon.

During February many of our members have been attending the "BRASS"

lectures and classes at the Municipal Auditorium on each Monday evening. This is a thrilling series conducted through the joint efforts of Bible School workers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It was exciting to hear Ralph Carmichael in person at an all-choir meeting as one of the workshops.

Our church is cooperating with Key '73 all-city program which will include distribution of Scripture portions to every home in Riverside, the showing of the new Billy Graham film "Time To Run" in one of the main theaters in the city (May 2-8), and an evangelistic campaign with Evangelist Bob Harrington (Sept. 16-23).

Many of our church members will be attending Basic Youth Conflicts sessions in Long Beach, April 9-15.

The Missionary Conference, February 21-25, was an exciting and inspirational program arranged under the leadership of Pastor Phillips with the Missions Evangelism Committee helping. This will require a special report.

We are looking forward to the return of Elizabeth Maddox in April, and the missions concept will move right on.

Our pastor's calling card carries this message: Picture a folded card—on the front the picture of the church, pastor's name, and the address of the church. Now unfold the card and on the top half of the card the Scripture verse "By grace are ye saved through faith . . . we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph. 2:8-10). Then below—"Something to think about" . . .

God is love. He loves you. John 3:16.
Receive His Love Gift—Jesus. John 1:12.
Assemble regularly in His church. Heb. 10:25.

Call upon Him in prayer. Jer. 33:3.
Evangelize by witnessing for Him. Acts 1:8.

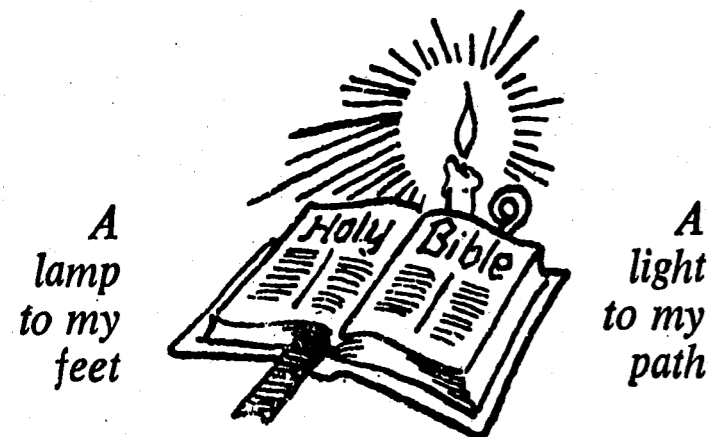
"The vine covered church depended upon Christ, the Vine."

One more thing — soon a radio program, "Burden Bearers for Christ," will be started. You'll be hearing more about that, too.

The Sabbath Recorder

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FOR APRIL 1973



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

Christ Suffered for Us

- 1—Sun. Jesus Prepares for Suffering. Matt. 26:1-13
- 2—Mon. Jesus Keeps the Passover. Matt. 26:14-29
- 3—Tues. Suffering in Prayer. Matt. 26:30-46
- 4—Wed. The Suffering Christ, Our Mediator. Heb. 9:11-15
- 5—Thurs. Through Suffering to Glory. Mark 10:32-45
- 6—Fri. Comfort Through Christ's Sufferings. 2 Cor. 1:3-11
- 7—Sabbath. The Suffering Servant. Isaiah 53:9-12

Jesus Christ Is King

- 8—Sun. The Basic Question. John 18:28-38
- 9—Mon. The Gates of the King. Psalm 24
- 10—Tues. Your King Comes. Zech. 9:9-15
- 11—Wed. The Heavenly Praise. Rev. 19:1-10
- 12—Thurs. Jesus Is Lord. Phil. 2:1-11
- 13—Fri. Praise to the King. John 12:1-16
- 14—Sabbath. The Exalted King. Acts 2:29-36

Christ Conquered Sin and Death

- 15—Sun. Lesson from the Fig Tree. Luke 21:29-38
- 16—Mon. The Way of Service. Matt. 20:20-28
- 17—Tues. Christ Died for All. John 11:45-57
- 18—Wed. He Bore Our Sins. 1 Peter 2:19-25
- 19—Thurs. Christ on the Cross. Luke 23:32-43
- 20—Fri. The Eve of Victory. Matt. 16:21-27
- 21—Sabbath. The Resurrection and the Life. John 11:17-27

Man Responds Through Faith

- 22—Sun. A Response of Faith. Luke 24:13-35
- 23—Mon. Faith and Certainty. John 10:22-30
- 24—Tues. The Proclamation of Faith. Acts 10:34-43
- 25—Wed. The Armor of Faith. Eph. 6:10-18
- 26—Thurs. An Overcoming Faith. 1 John 5:4-12
- 27—Friday. The Reward of Faith. Heb. 11:24-27
- 28—Sabbath. Faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 16:25-34

Christ Makes Men New

- 29—Sun. The Spirit and the New Life. John 3:1-15
- 30—Mon. The Source of the New Life. John 15:1-9

New Drive Against Religion

In a front-page article, the Soviet newspaper, *Pravda*, has called for a new drive against religion and accuses some Communist party members and officials of attending religious services. This practice must be "combated," it declares.

It adds that a more militant attitude toward religion is needed in Russia, and that atheistic education of young people must be increased.

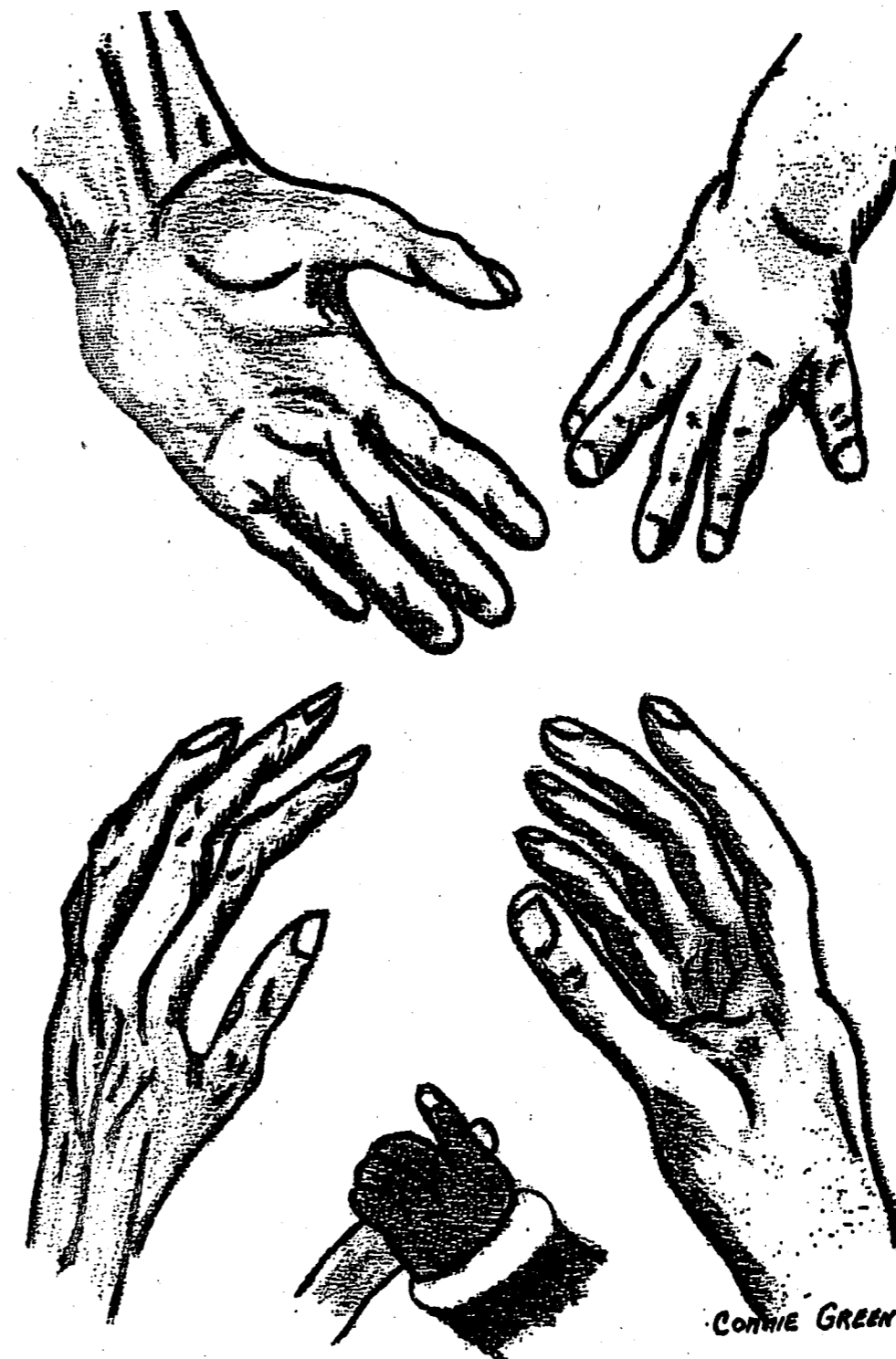
The article says that every Communist must be a militant atheist and that the party will not tolerate members attending religious services.

Commentators see in the article and its publication an admission that Soviet authorities are troubled by the continuing vigor of religious faith in the USSR and the increasing number of officials and party members who have been attending services, taking their children to church for baptism, and generally showing a revived interest in religion.

—EBPS

Good-doers

A social worker, Alex Calder, addressing a Baptist group in Scotland, challenged them to be good-doers rather than do-gooders.



Because God stretched out His hands to save us we put our hands together to bring salvation to those who need a helping hand. God can use our hands of whatever size and color to do His work today. When the Lord touches our hearts, our hands respond and do His bidding.