

DAILY BIBLE READINGS
for February 1973



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

A New Heart and Spirit

- 1—Thurs. The Lord Cleanses and Rebuilds. Ezekiel 36:33-38
2—Fri. "They Shall Be My People." Ezekiel 11:14-21
3—Sabbath. Blameless Before God. Psalm 15
Haggai: God's House and Yours
4—Sun. "Consider How You Have Fared." Haggai 1:1-6
5—Mon. A Call To Build. Haggai 1:7-15
6—Tues. The First House of the Lord. 1 Kings 6:1-10
7—Wed. Splendor of Solomon's Temple. 1 Kings 6:14-22
8—Thurs. A Greater Splendor. Haggai 2:1-9
9—Fri. The Promises of the Lord. Haggai 2:10-23
10—Sabbath. "Let Us Return to the Lord." Hosea 5:15-6:6

Zechariah: More Than Human Power

- 11—Sun. Learning from the Past. Zech. 1:1-6
12—Mon. A Vision of Prosperity. Zech. 1:7-17
13—Tues. God Dwells with His People. Zech. 2:1-13
14—Wed. "The Day of Small Things." Zech. 4:1-10
15—Thurs. A Branch Shall Rule. Zech. 6:9-15.
16—Fri. Sincere Worship and Work. Zech. 7:1-10
17—Sabbath. What the Lord Requires. Micah 6:6-12

The Shape of Things To Come

- 18—Sun. A Time of Security. Zech. 8:1-8
19—Mon. "A Sowing of Peace." Zech. 8:9-13
20—Tues. "Love Truth and Peace." Zech. 8:14-23
21—Wed. The Coming Day of the Lord. Zech. 13:1-9
22—Thurs. "The Lord Will Become King. Zech. 14:1-9
23—Fri. The Universal Reign of God. Zech. 14:16-21
24—Sabbath. Walking in the Ways of God. Micah 4:1-8

This Is God's World

- 25—Sun. The Glory of the Lord. Psalm 48
26—Mon. The Glory of God's Creation. Psalm 19:1-6
27—Tues. Ascribe Glory to God. Psalm 29
28—Wed. The Lord Reigns. Psalm 97

A Prayer from Germany

Lord Jesus, you were born of a Hebrew mother, you rejoiced in the faith exhibited by a Syrian woman and a Roman soldier, you welcomed Greeks who sought you out, you let an African help carry your cross. Help us to bring together peoples of all races and nations as co-inheritors in your kingdom. — Lutheran Bishop Herman Dietzfelbinger of Munich, West Germany. —EBPS

OWM Budget Figures

This is the issue that would normally carry the OWM receipts for December and the totals for 1972. Due to a necessary delay in closing the books, Treasurer Gordon Sanford was not able to get the figures to our office before we went to press. Those financial figures will probably be printed in the February 10 issue, since all this space in the February 3 Sabbath Recorder is spoken for—special issue for outside distribution.

JOY
IS
LIKE
THE
RAIN

THE
SABBATH
RECORDER

INTRODUCTION

This issue is written for you. Those who have taken the time to put into words the feelings of their hearts desire to share with you the experience of joy as it ought to be for everyone who knows the love of God. Like rain that covers the earth as a blanket of freshness, joy is that Christian experience of life that covers our hectic uncertain lives with a blanket of freshness and hope. God gives joy. He opens the floodgates of His love to each and every person who comes to Him and asks for His love. And knowing that God loves us and desires the best for us in His care, we find a joy that is virtually unexpressible. Those who write the articles included here know the joy that is to be found in Jesus Christ and in our experience with God, and we desire to share it with you. May God's love reach out to you, and may the experience of joy — joy that is like the rain — cover you and envelope you with a newness of life that meets your needs. We pray that God will "restore to you the joy of His salvation, and uphold you with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:12, paraphrased).

THE SABBATH RECORDER

First issue June 13, 1844

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Member of the Associated Church Press

Herbert E. Saunders, Editor

Rev. LEON M. MALTBY, Managing Editor

Terms of Subscription

Per Year \$5.00 Single Copies 15 cents

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Single copies 15 cents; 8 copies \$1; 100 copies \$9.

Postage to Canada and foreign coun-

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Published weekly (except August when it is

published bi-weekly) for Seventh Day Baptists

by the American Sabbath Tract Society,

510 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, N. J. 07061

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, New Jersey.

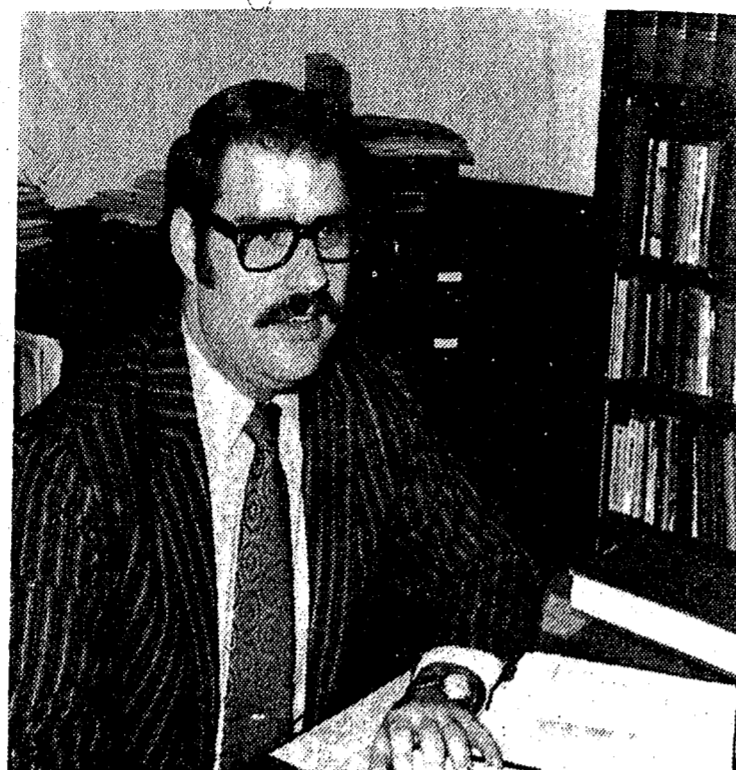
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Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, New Jersey.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. February 3, 1973

Volume 194, No. 5 Whole No. 6,535



Herbert E. Saunders, the editor of this special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* is the pastor of the Plainfield, N. J., Seventh Day Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y., and the author of the book *The Sabbath: Symbol of Creation and Re-Creation*. He and his wife, Barbara have three children, Brian, Peggy Sue, and Michael.

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Cindy Rudolph, the artist for this special issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Albert N. Rogers. She lives with her husband Steven in Braintree, Mass. For several years she served as club director for Army Special Services in Germany. She is a graduate of the University of Denver in the field of Art.

* * *

Lisa Cudahy of Little Genesee, N. Y., is a freshman at Milton College, Milton, Wis. She is studying music and has always been interested in journalism and writing. Her poem on the back page of this special issue is a deep expression of her joy.

The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace and joy. — Romans 14:17

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.

—Isaac Watts: Psalm 98, Stanza 1

JOY

is

By
THE EDITOR

Sabbath Blessing

If you keep the Sabbath holy, not having your own fun and business on that day, but enjoying the Sabbath and speaking of it with delight as the Lord's holy day, and honoring the Lord in what you do, not following your own desires and pleasure, not talking idly — then the Lord will be your delight, and I will see to it that you ride high, and get your full share of the blessings I promised to Jacob, your father. The Lord has spoken.

—Isaiah 58:13, 14 Living Bible

What is blessing, but an experience of true joy felt as a result of God's favor? We are constantly seeking to find that joy — to find that unique experience of peace with our Father. And yet, God's promise for each of us, is outlined in the book of Isaiah where it says "enjoy the Sabbath." There is something in our relationship to God's holy Sabbath day that brings a wellspring of joy and peace to our hearts amid the tumult of everyday living. There seems to be a moment of hesitation as the world becomes not quite so hard on us and we are refreshed and renewed. God gave us the holy Sabbath day — the seventh day of the week — for reflection and re-creation. He built within it the experience of joy and wonder. He made it holy. As we recall Jesus' saying: "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). It was given to each of us as a gift — a wonderful gift with the specific purpose, to give us time to be renewed, to be changed, to find peace, to remember God.

What does the Sabbath mean to you, today? Is there that quality of life that transcends the barriers of your hectic world and brings newness and freshness to your experience? Does the Sabbath offer you the blessing of joy? God made it for that purpose and promises that if we take delight in it we will "ride upon the heights of the earth." God's promises never fail — His word is good. Accept God's Sabbath, rejoice in it, and know the wonder of His joy.

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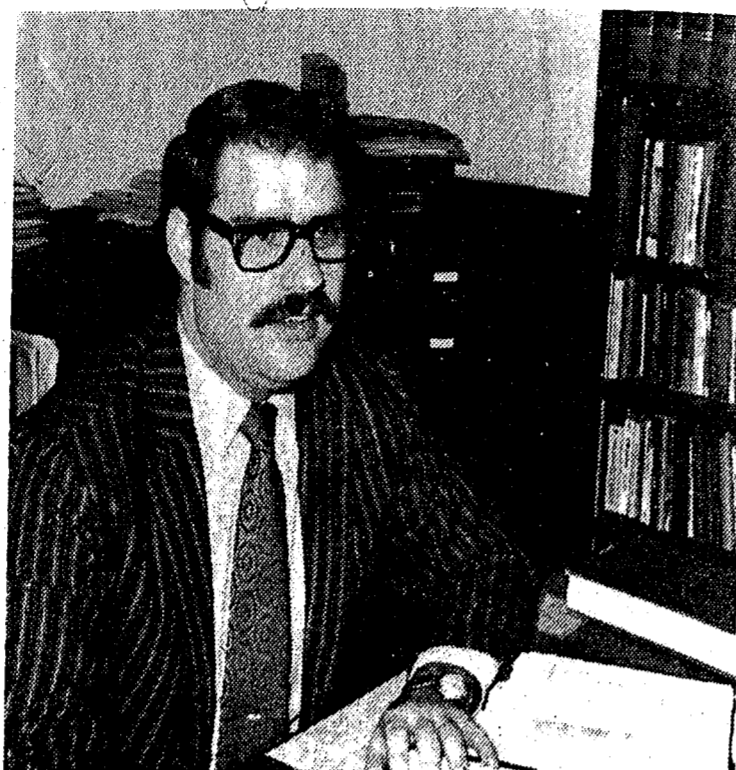
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JOY

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THE EDITOR

Sabbath Blessing

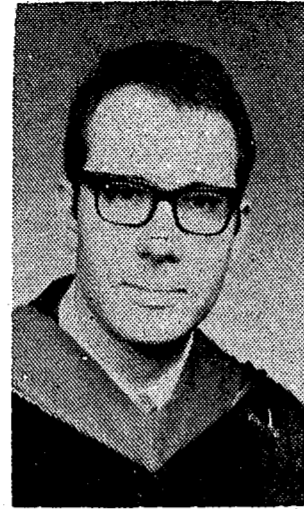
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JOY'S



Alan Crouch is the pastor of the DeRuyter, N. Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church. He graduated from New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N. J., in June of 1971. He and his wife Janette have two sons, Nathan and Richard.

God is here — Let's celebrate!
with song and with dance,
with stringed instruments and brass,
with cymbals and drums,
let us express our ecstatic joy
in God's presence.

Let us celebrate with the old songs of praise.
Let us also create new songs
that portray the eternal love of our God.

—Psalm 33:1-3
(Paraphrased by Leslie Brandt)

God created this world in which we live, and He continues to permeate it with His love. He did not just create us and then leave us to our own devices. For God is both the Creator and the Sustainer of His universe. He sustains us, keeps us going, by His overpowering love.

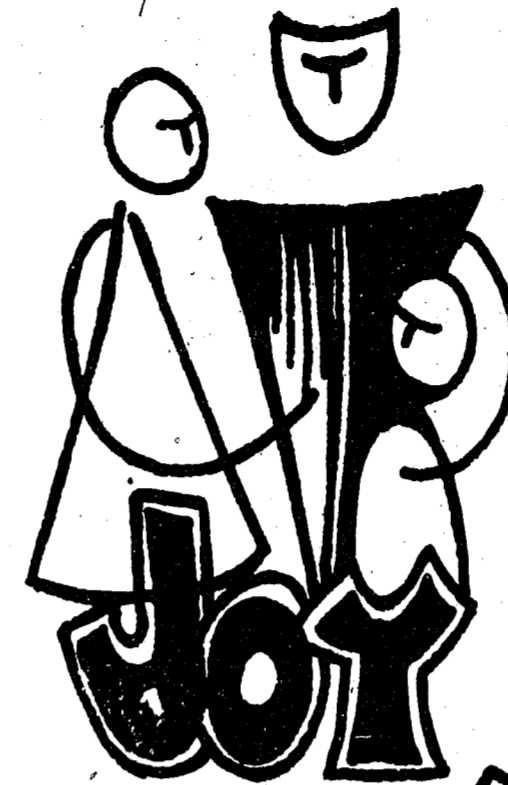
God's plans for this world and its people cannot be defeated by the foolishness of men. God is not a ninety-seven-pound weakling, open to the attack of muscle-bound bullies. He can take care of Himself. What is more, He can and will take care of you and me. His perfect will simply cannot be frustrated by those of His children who are unbelieving and rebellious. Sin though he may, man will never obliterate the way and intentions of God. Jesus Christ walked away from the tomb to teach us that.

God continues to reign supreme over His children. The Christian is in the best position of anyone to appreciate this marvelous truth. He is more than willing to let God be God — to be in charge of his life. The Christian does not suffer an authority hang-up; he gladly relies on the leading of his Lord. He would rather be a God-made man than boast of being a self-made man.

God continues to reveal Himself to us as He renews daily the world about us. The flowers that bloom today have never existed before. The opportunities for serving the Lord that I face today are brand new—they're opportunities that I've never had before. With God, every day's a new day. "The Lord's true love is surely not spent, nor has his compassion failed; they are new every morning, so great is his constancy" (Lamentation 3:22-23).

God delivers His children from the fear of death. His Son Jesus has already taken care of that—the victory over death has already been won. The world

(Continued on page 14)



Marian Soper is the wife of the Rev. Mynor Soper, home field evangelist for the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. She graduated from Salem College in 1952 with a degree in music. The Soper family resides in North Loup, Nebr., where Marian enjoys making a home for their five children, along with duties on the staff of Light Bearers for Christ, Inc. She is the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Ralph H. Coon, to whom she attributes a joy-filled family experience.

Joy is what? The Family?
This collection of human beings with widely differing dispositions, interests, needs, and talents? A typical page from the log of some families would paint a picture of anything but joy. Perhaps for some people this is rue. All right, let's change the hypothesis slightly: "Joy can be the family."

If joy is not your family, then let me hint that perhaps you are to blame. Also, may I be so naive as to suggest that the space-age pace at which we race constantly is not conducive to an aura of cheer surrounding each member of the family. How many times have we heard the older generation wishing for the return of the "good ole days" when people stayed home more and life wasn't so hectic. In this century it takes perhaps more effort on the part of each member of family to make it joy.

The first essential is to have something besides blood ties which unite a family. The most powerful and effective uniting influence is Jesus Christ. A personal relationship with Him for each individual is necessary. The ideal situation, of course, is that the family begin with husband and wife who are not only one in the flesh, but one in Christ. Then as each of the children reaches the age of understanding, let these parents lead them to a personal encounter with Christ. But, you say, what if they won't accept Him? To which I would have to reply, if you are both allowing Christ to live and love through you, it will be the natural desire of the child to want Christ. They will feel His love through you and will, in turn, reciprocate with their simple, unspoiled love to God and to the other members of the family. Don't ever underestimate the vast impact of your own life lived before your children. They will love because you love; they will trust because they know you trust. And, finally, what greater joy could a parent have than to lead his own child to Jesus? Then comes the challenge of walking in the Spirit day by day and guiding the children to experience the same confident walk.

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None of the fruits of the Spirit, lest it be love, is more emphatic in nature than joy! Appearing first only after love in the Galatian listing, joy assumes a high and unique position among those character traits which demonstrate the Spirit-filled life. Contagious in nature, joy flows from heart to heart in the community of believers, spontaneously transforming sorrow into happiness, inertia into enthusiasm, lethargy into inspiration; enabling the Church (the body of Christ) to radiate with the warmth of Christian commitment.

That joy is empathy was beautifully expressed by Jesus Christ in His discourse on the vine and the branches: "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

The spiritual philosophy of inter-abiding, which is empathy, had been vividly demonstrated in His earthly life. Though He was indeed "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," yet He was also One who glowed with the joy of the Father. How else can we explain the fact that little children flocked about Him and were so happy to be with Him? For little ones are not drawn to sorrow and despair — to the down-hearted and unhappy — to the morbid and complaining! No, the "Man of Sorrows" was also the "Savior of Joy," because He was continually abiding in the Father and reflecting His joy.

He had expressed to His disciples the importance of inter-abiding: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches; he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned." His expressed purpose in so speaking of the abiding life principle and experience was that He might impart His joy to them, and that their joy might thus be full. Joy is empathy.

He had lived a life of complete obedience to the will of the Father, and this was His joy. "I came to do the will of Him who sent me," was not only the expression of His lips, but the testimony of His life. Every word He spoke, every deed He accomplished, every miracle He performed was in perfect accord with the will of His Father, and a means of making His joy complete; and with empathic significance He passed the torch of service to His disciples and to all who would follow in His name! "If you love me, keep my commandments," He said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love. If you keep my commandments you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. —That my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be complete."

That joy is empathy is also testified to in the experience of the early Church and her converts. Paul had labored diligently to impart to the Jews the universality of the message of reconciliation, but the word

is Empathy

By
FRANCIS D.
SAUNDERS



JOY

(Continued on page 14)

JOY **+** **IS** **SALVATION**

John L. Harris is a science consultant for the New Jersey State Department of Education. He lives in Pennsville, N. J., with his wife Lucy, and their three children, Valerie, Lori, and Johnny. John is an active member of the Shiloh, N. J., Seventh Day Baptist Church.



Luke 15:10, "... there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Have you made the joyous discovery of salvation in Christ? I have, and would like to relate my experience to you.

I didn't know that I needed or wanted to experience this salvation at the time it happened to me. I attended church regularly with my family, going through all the motions of living a good Christian life but knowing deep down inside me that it was all a pretense. You see, the other six days of the week, I was committing many of the sins associated with the worldly-minded unchristian population. I need not enumerate the personal sins which separated me from a meaningful relationship with God. I resisted the witness of family and friends until that memorable day—the day when Christ's unmeasurable love and message of salvation got through to me.

It happened that God's messenger to me was a cousin who is a Christian businessman and who related his personal experience in a message on that particular Sabbath Day. I remember listening with interest as he told about being a Christian as long as he could remember, living a good clean life, being a deacon in his church and a respected community leader — successful, apparently, in every way. Yet the time came when he became aware that something was lacking in his life. What was it? He had not experienced a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

This message began to affect me in a way I couldn't understand. I believe God's Spirit was dealing with me as I continued listening with deepening interest.

His encounter was the result of yielding his will to Jesus and praying to receive Christ in a personal and vital experience. It was obviously deeply moving to him and I felt the emotion as he brought the message to a close by giving an invitation to receive Christ and be assured of salvation.

The feeling from within compelled me to make this commitment almost against my own will. I momentarily forgot about the embarrassment of others seeing me go forward in church and stepped out to respond to the invitation. I prayed silently for Christ to come into my life and remove the sins I had been committing. And for the first time in my life I was to experience the power of Jesus Christ in changing a life — my own!

I recall that the next three days were spent reacting to this very real experience; a slight loss of appetite, feeling somewhat bewildered, not fully understanding

(Continued on page 15)



JOY IS AWARENESS

By
ERNEST K. BEE, JR.



Shall we call her "Joy"? She came one evening to the Walk-In Clinic with friends who had been there the previous week. Hesitating outside the door Joy was carried inside by her friends. She sat twisting her long hair about her fingers and talked about her problems. Her stepfather didn't care for her. Her mother wouldn't give her enough freedom. She had experimented with societal taboos: marijuana and sex. Joy had used her mother's fear of Joy's loss of innocence as a manipulative tool to exercise power and control within the family. She used her mother's guilt over her divorce as a wedge to separate the stepfather from her mother. Joy enjoyed a great deal of control within her family. So much power and she was only seventeen.

The next week Joy returned with her mother. While her mother spoke Joy's mouth drew tight with suppressed anger. She had to be reminded that she could speak after her mother. Finally she exploded. "You never take my side. Always his (stepfather's). You are afraid to stand up to him." Joy stood up, announced she was leaving and left the room.

Later Joy returned asking, "Is it all my fault?" Joy was now aware that she was partially responsible for what happened within her family. She was open to suggestions for change. What had been a destructive course could now be altered. Awareness of herself was only the first of many steps that living would require of her. It was a significant beginning. Like the lost son in Jesus' parable Joy had "come to her senses" and could now approach the father figure in her family. Awareness of what was going on about her and her part in it gave Joy the beginning to happiness. She came back to the clinic a few weeks later. She walked with a bounce. She laughed easily. She shared the new Joy.

This perceptive young woman experienced awareness as most of us do on the primitive level. We know our neighborhood, our wishes for closeness to another, our bodily needs and desires, and the warmth of sunshine and bitterness of a cold rain. Joy had come to the clinic on this level of awareness. The lost son (Luke 15:11-32) experienced his world on the same level. He was hungry enough to eat with the swine in the fields. The Scripture reads, "But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.''" (RSV).

The contrast of experience with what was and what had been and the awareness of his hunger and aloneness produced the conditions that are described by the phrase, "he came to himself." The lost son moved to a higher level of awareness — self awareness — which Dr. Rollo May says is "consciousness." Experience is now on the level of "I-am-the-one-who-has-these-wishes." Life for the lost son was no longer a blind drive. Life for Joy was no longer the force of parents and

(Continued on page 13)

Many of us probably were introduced to our knowledge of God through our parents and friends that we knew as a child. This was the case with me. I had seen people turn to God; so my natural reaction was to do the same. When I was a small girl one of my favorite songs went something like this: "There are some things I may not know, there are some places I can't go; but I am sure of this one thing that God is real for I can feel him deep within." I used to sing this song over and over because it really made me feel good inside.

The words to this song have carried me a long way, because I do know that God is always with me wherever I am — "deep within." I never had a drastic conversion experience like Paul on the road to Damascus but it was a calm and quiet assurance that God cared about me enough to be there when I needed Him and He has always been just that! Praise the Lord!

We all feel good to know that we have someone who cares about us and who will talk to us. In fact, one of the happiest times in our lives is when we finally discover that "Mr. or Miss Right" for us. A similar feeling of joy comes over me every time I realize that I have a friend beside me at all times who cares about every detail of my life—that friend is God!

JOY IS LOVING GOD

By
PEG VAN HORN

Peg Van Horn is the secretary in the office of the General Conference. She served one year in the office on dedicated service before becoming employed. She lives with her husband Phil in Plainfield, N. J., and is an active member of the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church.

He's not a hard friend to get to know. Anyone can know Him as well as he knows his best friend. Just recognize His presence, take the time to learn as much about Him as possible, and talk to Him as you go about your daily tasks. I've found Him to be one of the most consistent and patient listeners I know. He'll always give you the answer you need.

You will find that joy is not only *knowing of* God but it is more *knowing Him personally* and talking with Him that brings you joy. Once you have found this relationship to God, others will know it. You won't be able to hide it. Share your joy and enthusiasm with others and see what it can do for them.

If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere. —W. A. (Billy) Sunday

Desire joy and thank God for it. Renounce it, if need be, for other's sake. That's joy beyond joy.—Robert Browning

Joy is growth — growth in size or in accomplishment, academic or vocational growth, growth in personality or in character, financial or spiritual growth. It matters little whether growth is slow and steady or comes in sudden spurts. Just so it happens. Growing is fun because growth is vitality, a sign of life and of health.

What joy in childhood to see oneself growing, to see the evidence of trousers and shirt sleeves getting too short and feeling the shoes getting too small. To see curbs and steps and fences getting smaller, distances getting shorter and one's strides getting longer.

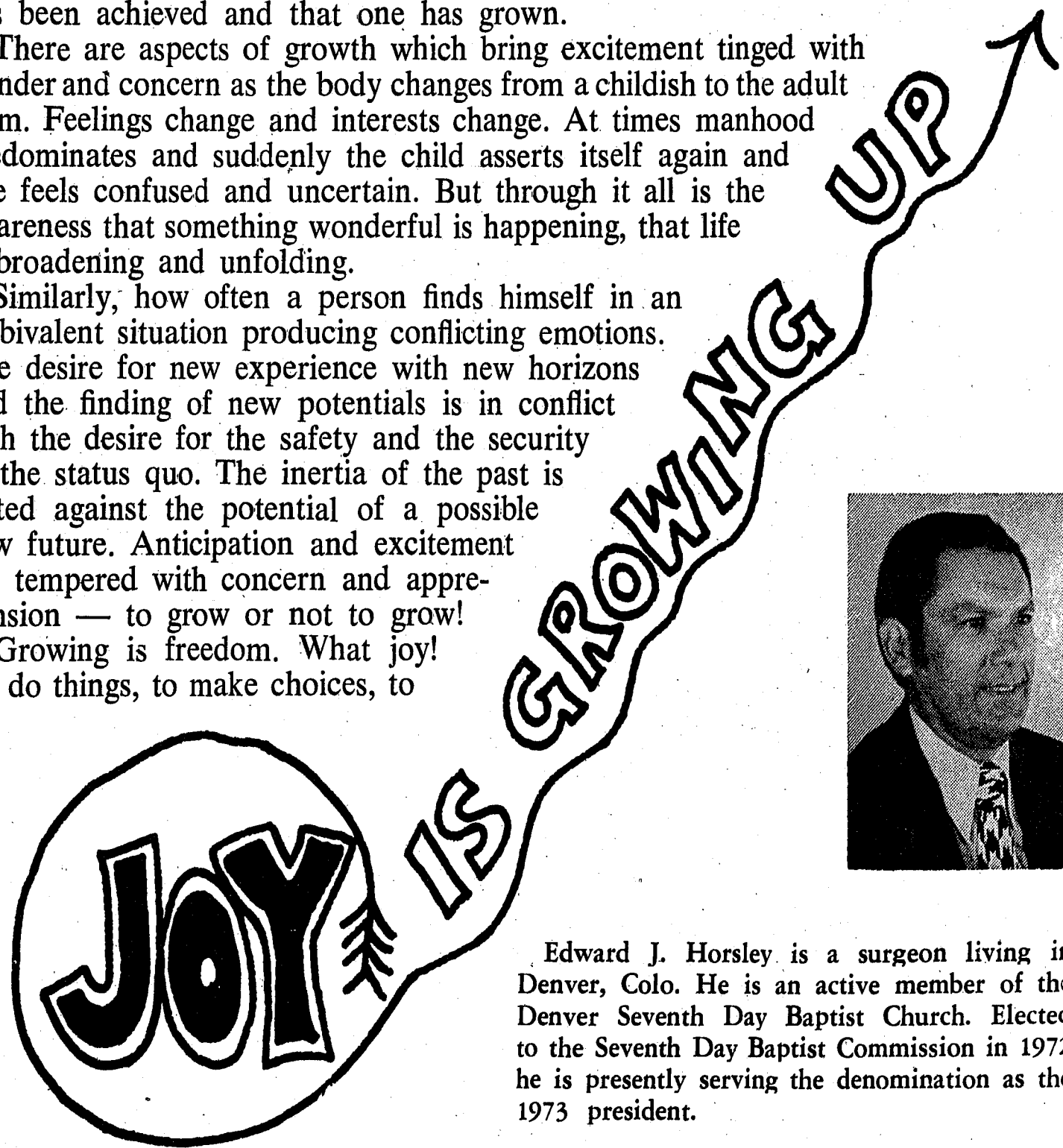
We all remember the fun of having our height recorded on a wall or a door frame and seeing the mark move upward as the months went by. What pleasure to stand back to back with father or mother and measure our growth against those standards of adulthood. Remember the thrill of one day finding oneself actually taller than mother and not much shorter than father. What a pleasure to stand back to back with any standard and see the progress of one's life, to sense achievement and accomplishment and to know, without a doubt, that there has been growth.

What joy to find one's strength growing, to match muscles with one's peers without shame. To flex one's biceps and see there is actually something one can see and feel. To lift weights that yesterday wouldn't budge. There is always a sense of elation and satisfaction in pitting one's strength against unfavorable odds, to feel the stress and the resistance — but to prevail and to know that a victory has been achieved and that one has grown.

There are aspects of growth which bring excitement tinged with wonder and concern as the body changes from a childish to the adult form. Feelings change and interests change. At times manhood predominates and suddenly the child asserts itself again and one feels confused and uncertain. But through it all is the awareness that something wonderful is happening, that life is broadening and unfolding.

Similarly, how often a person finds himself in an ambivalent situation producing conflicting emotions. The desire for new experience with new horizons and the finding of new potentials is in conflict with the desire for the safety and the security of the status quo. The inertia of the past is pitted against the potential of a possible new future. Anticipation and excitement are tempered with concern and apprehension — to grow or not to grow!

Growing is freedom. What joy!
To do things, to make choices, to



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be responsible, to do as one likes and not to be told. Breathes there a youth, with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said — "I'm on my own, I'm my own boss." Every young person looks forward to freedom from the restrictions of home, of school, and even of the community. At first freedom is an urgent goal but it becomes a commodity to be used with caution and restraint. Freedom and responsibility are twins but responsibility assumes the dominant role as one grows.

Joy is growth in freedom, but a greater joy occurs with that growth that no longer demands or needs freedom. Maturity brings the freedom that allows one to be bound — bound to a cause, a purpose, a person or an organization. What a joy when one finds that he has finally become free of the demands of self and he can freely choose a binding allegiance to something greater than himself, to be a part of a greater whole. This is the freedom that brings teamwork, to be content to block instead of carrying the ball in every play. Freedom from selfish interests so that one can be happy while remaining on the tracks instead of jumping the tracks and bogging down in the morasses of life.

At what stage of life does growth cease to be joy? Only when growth has stopped. To many great souls growth and life are synonymous. There are other weaker souls who, in effect, hibernate mentally, vocationally, and spiritually and spend a long winter of their lives scarcely existing, without growth and without joy.

Living is growing — and I love life!

Joy is distinctly a Christian word and a Christian thing. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the result of what happens of an agreeable sort. Joy has its springs deep down inside. And that spring never runs dry, no matter what happens. Only Jesus gives that joy. He had joy, singing its music within, even under the shadow of the cross. It is an unknown word and thing except as He has sway within.

—Samuel Dickey Gordon

Joy Is Awareness

others limiting her freedom or determining her life style. Both the lost son and Joy had come to the realization that life was to a certain extent what they wanted and wished. Granted, much could not be controlled in their lives. But they could now see how they could do something about their lives.

It is this level of awareness that leads to joy. This enlarged dimension also leads to anxiety and guilt. Adam and Eve discovered this painful fact of living. This is the price of awareness. An open look at yourself is apt to produce some feelings of shame and guilt. The lost son expressed his shame and guilt by saying, "Father, I have sinned . . . I am no longer worthy to be called your son . . ." Joy expressed it with the question, "Is it all my fault?" She was open to alternatives to her destructive pattern of living. She could now accept that her approach to her stepfather and mother set the emotional tone within the family. Joy had reached the level of decision and responsibility. In reality the struggle will continue. Joy will annoy and irritate her parents. The lost son will call forth jealousy from the older brother.

Joy is awareness on the level of understanding self in the context of life with others. Jesus explained the significance of awareness in relationships in the story of the vine and the branches (John 15: 1-11). "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

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The interior joy we feel when we have done a good deed, when we feel we have been needed somewhere and have lent a helping hand, is the nourishment the soul requires. — Albert Schweitzer

Joy Is Empathy

fell on hearts hardened in the cement of traditionalism so that Paul felt impelled to rebuke them: "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken unto you; but seeing you have put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles"; and their evangelistic impact fell with empathy upon the world! "And the Gentiles were glad and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Tradition and form, however, are not put in their proper place without some repercussion; and "the Jews stirred up devout women and chief men, and expelled the disciples out of their coasts." In spite of the persecution and the put-down, the disciples were "filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit." That's the way it is with serving the Lord: It may bring persecution, it may bring trial, but it is full of joy, and joy is contagious, *joy is empathy.*

We too, in the twentieth century church are called upon to serve, and true service issues in joy, and joy is empathic in nature. There is something vitally wrong when joy does not beam from the personality of the believer, and we instill in the minds of our posterity the idea expressed by the boy from the city, getting his first glimpse of the mule on the farm: "You must be a great Christian—you have such a long face." In doing the Father's will Jesus was full of joy, and we in our obedience are inheritors of the same.

In expressing the unparalleled fellowship enjoyed by the Christian with his Savior and with the Father, John the beloved of Jesus, told of his purpose in writing his letter: "These things we write unto you that your joy may be full." The revelation of God in His word is joy! The abounding love of the Savior is joy! The fellowship and communion of the saints is joy! *Joy is empathy!*

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord, He is God; it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves." With these words the Psalmist

sets the tone for worship and service, and the joyous expression in each is empathy itself.

Be joyful in your Christian life, your service, your witness; and because joy is empathic, your joy will become the joy of those you serve, those to whom you speak the word of life.

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Joy Is Celebration

is a better place because at least some of its people are not afraid to die. "To me life is Christ, and death is gain" (Philippians 1:21). No wonder His followers are such a joyous bunch!

God's love is sure and everlasting. People who are open to His love are filled to the brim with joy. They truly find cause for celebration. The words "celebration" and "worship" are becoming virtually synonymous, and rightly so. A worship service, the celebration of God's love and goodness, ought to be at least as joyful as the celebration of New Year's, the signing of the Declaration of Independence, or somebody's birthday. As we gather together in worship, we express our faith, hope, love and joy in the Lord, through singing, listening, speaking, reading, praying, and giving.

Celebration is also a good synonym for "devotion," as in daily devotions. Since God's love and compassion are "new every morning," we have occasion to celebrate every day, even though the Sabbath is God's special time for it. "When a person realizes that it is still God's world, that he can have daily, frequent fellowship with God through the Spirit, then that person becomes excited over the fact that life is more than ordinary — it becomes extraordinary!" —Wilson Weldon.

The joy of celebration is that we Christians have something to celebrate!

Joy Is Family

When you know you are living within the will of God for your life, it will show in the life of the whole family. In our family, for example, since Mynor has been in evangelistic work, to which he had felt God calling him for years, he has been extremely happy. "When you obey me you are living in my love, . . . you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your cup of joy will overflow! . . . and no one can rob you of that joy" (from John 15:10, 11; 16:22 LB). This joy affects the whole family.

Perhaps you are wondering how there can be real joy when this type of work calls Mynor away from home so much. Yes, it is hard to have him gone, but the emptiness that his absence creates is filled by the satisfaction which God gives him in this work and, thereby, gives to the family, too. I never would have believed that this could be true before I was placed in this situation. But now, I know that this time he spends at home is all the richer and joyous because of the assurance that it is God's will. And, oh, the joy of being able to go with him at times and share, as a family, the challenge of telling others about our Jesus!

The second essential to the experience of joy as a family is "togetherness." When at all possible, do things together. It is so important to talk together. If the lines of communication are always up and open, many problems will be averted. If that boy plays football, take the whole family to see at least a few games. Work

Joy Is Salvation

that this was really happening to me. Then, gradually, the joy began to flood my heart as I was realizing victory over the sins which had controlled and dominated my life. I felt so close to God that I was rejoicing all the time. I had absolutely no more desire for the worldly habits that had enslaved me — and still don't have to this very day! The Lord Jesus Christ gave me complete victory and I praise His Name for it.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found;
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountaintop, I want my world to know;
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on."

together! How often I have found that the children gladly do an otherwise unpleasant task if I am helping or at least working in the same room with them. Travel together. Play and exercise together. If possible, sing together, no matter how it sounds. What better way is there to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"? We have found that if we take time to enjoy the children, they respond with joy. Most important, of course, is to talk to God and read His word together. "Your words are what sustain me; . . . they bring joy to my . . . heart" (Jeremiah 15:16 LB). Let God be so real in your life that you are not afraid to talk with Him as you go. If the children hear you say, "Thank you, Lord," or "Show me what to do, Lord," as naturally as you talk to them, they will know He is real and will be encouraged to commune with Him in the same way. Such communion with God will inevitably bring joy.

Lord, thank you for the joy of my family;
For the love and faithfulness of a husband
dedicated to sharing the claims of Christ with others;
For the lonely hours when he is away, which
teach me the more to trust You;
For these lively, lovely, noisy, normal children,
ever expressing love and trust in me and
in You;
For the endless chores that signify a life filled
with blessings and opportunities;
For the sheer joy of sharing in all their lives
and knowing that You look down with love
and joy as we look to You;
Yes, Lord, JOY IS THE FAMILY!

There is true joy and happiness in the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ. Do you have this joy? Do you have this knowledge of salvation? If you don't have, you know you are missing the one ingredient that will make your life complete!

Since my own personal encounter with the Living Lord, I have wanted to "Pass It On." In the words of songwriter Kurt Kaiser:

The Sabbath Recorder
510 Watchung Ave., Box 868
Plainfield, N. J. 07061

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, N. J. 07061

February 10, 1973

The Sabbath Recorder

Real Joy!

There is joy in extremes.

The cozy warmth of a bed
Is best appreciated
Against a cold room.

A clear, sunny day exhilarates;
A crashing thunderstorm promises excitement.
But a drizzle only makes you sneeze.

To dislike with conviction,
To love with all your heart,
To live with exuberance,
To die with hope —
These are the extremes,
The head-over-heels,
cry-until-it-hurts,
blessed realities of the life God gave us.

Anything in between
Is not life at all:
That's just being here.

Real life is an extreme . . .
Real life is real joy.

by Lisa Cudahy



Is Our Brotherhood Emphasis as Sturdy as That of Abe Lincoln?