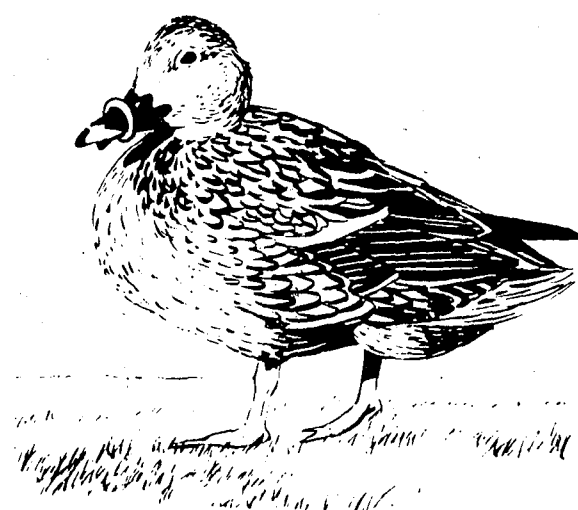


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## FOR THE SAKE OF A DUCK



Poor Ringo the duck! Grubbing for food on the bottom of Grenadier Pond, in Toronto's High Park, the duck got a pull-ring from a beverage can clamped around her beak. As a result the duck could not feed properly and faced starvation when the pond froze over. Concerned people saw her plight, and set in motion various attempts to capture the bird and remove the ring.

First, a cannon which fires a large net was set up on the shores of the pond. But no success!

Then a skin diver tried to scare Ringo out from the bulrushes. Again, no success!

The Toronto Humane Society tried to allure Ringo with bread and corn, but that only drew sea gulls from miles around.

Finally, Canada's champion duck-caller was called in, but although he got the attention of nearly every duck in the pond, Ringo did not respond.

All for the sake of a duck! Ringo simply did not understand that all these attempts were not designed to frighten her, but to free her from her plight.

Let's transfer the story of Ringo to a higher sphere. Have you ever grasped the fact that God approaches you not to hurt but to help you? The methods He employs may startle you and at the beginning even scare you. But God is out to assist you and to release you from the sin that would eternally harm you.

Centuries ago the Lord had a message for His own people, who were fleeing from Him. "I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts" (Isaiah 65:2). Through Ezekiel He said to the same people: "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

There's the question you must answer: Why will you die?

—The Prairie Overcomer



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## THE SONSHINE SINGERS OF THE DENVER SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Chuck Smith, Joe Miller, Nancy Brannon, Elizabeth Compton,  
Fe Steele, Luellen Sidor, Katrina Compton and Sharon Ford.

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# THE SABBATH RECORDER

December 1, 1973

# The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

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

John D. Bevis, Editor

Contributing Editors—

MISSIONS ..... Rev. Leon R. Lawton  
WOMEN'S WORK ..... Madeline Fitz Randolph  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ..... Rev. David S. Clarke

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Terms of Subscription

Per Year ..... \$5.00      Single Copies ..... 15 cents

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

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

Second class postage paid at Plainfield, New Jersey.

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

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

PLAINFIELD, N. J.      December 1, 1973  
Volume 195, No. 20      Whole No. 6,576

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## LITERATURE REQUEST

Does your church have back issues of  
the *Helping Hand* and other denomina-  
tional literature gathering dust in some  
cabinet? Would you like to put them to  
good use? They can be used to further  
the work of Seventh Day Baptists in  
the Philippines. You may mail such  
literature to:

Pastor O. T. Isoto  
Philippine Conference of Seventh Day  
Baptists  
Albuera, Leyte 1-203  
The Philippines

## Our Prayer Corner

### Suggestions for Prayer This Week

#### Pray for:

- 1) The tract ministry of Seventh Day  
Baptists in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- 2) An expanded witness of the Seattle  
Area Seventh Day Baptist Church as it  
meets in its new facilities.
- 3) The work and witness of the Bap-  
tist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Let  
us pray for those who lead out in the  
programs of this organization.

## EDITORIAL

### SPIRITUAL STARVATION

A few weeks ago a very sad article came across my desk. A three-year boy whose mother told police he lived on chocolate milk for three months after her husband ordered her not to feed him, was dead of starvation. The boy's father, giving no reason for his treatment of the child, was charged with manslaughter.

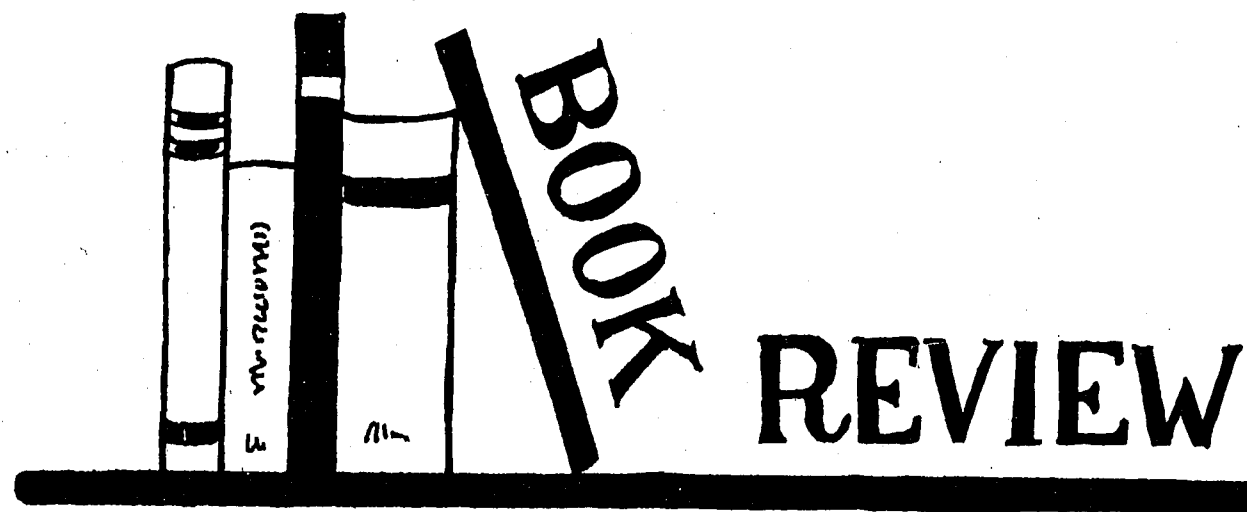
The mother would not take the child to the hospital for fear her husband would beat her. The family had three other children who have since been taken from them. The authorities described the home as filthy and without furniture. The little boy slept on a piece of cardboard on the floor with a raincoat for cover. The other children stated they hadn't eaten for three days—and this happened in America.

This article fills us with horror and perhaps anger. No doubt the parents were mentally unbalanced and one of the first things the court did was to order them to undergo psychiatric examination. Certainly none of us would deny our children food, and we cringe when we read such stories. Yet—what about the spiritual food that our children also need? Do we see that they are well nourished in the word of God?

We who are parents have a God-given responsibility to see that our children receive this spiritual food that they need. We read: "He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children: that the next generation might know them, and the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the work of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:5-7).

How often we are so busy with the "important" things of life that we do not take the time to really share the love of God and His will for our lives with our children. We conveniently leave it to the Sabbath School and the yearly vacation Bible school to instill religious concepts in our children. Yet we would not think of withholding physical food from our little ones. Could it be that some of us are allowing our children to starve spiritually? It isn't too early for new year's resolutions. Will you join me in resolving to spend more time in the spiritual feeding of our children?





### FOR THOSE TEARS

by Nora Lam and Cliff Dudley

With only three minutes to live, Nora stood, blindfolded, before a firing squad of eight men. She heard the death count. She prayed, and waited for the bullets to hit. But none did! *For Those Tears* is the moving story of Nora Lam, her early years under Communist oppression and her escape from a Red Chinese prison. Her story is one of extremes. There are tears of sorrow and torment as she sees the Communists kill her father . . . tears of joy as she makes the perilous escape into free China, and gives birth to her "child of promise" which she had carried for almost twelve months. Nora Lam was educated in Christian schools in Shanghai and received her law degree from Soochow University. She is presently engaged in Christian work. This book of 180 pages sells for \$4.95.

### GOD HELP ME, I'M A PARENT!

By Gordon McLean

The communication breakdown in the home between parents and children is confronted here boldly and dealt with in hard-hitting realistic terms. Emphasis is on preventing the young person from getting into trouble — drinking, delinquency, drugs, sex.

Gordon McLean meets his subject on intimate terms as a minister, probation counselor, director of Youth for Christ, and Campus Life. From this background he sets forth the nine basic elements of character development that will provide the home with security and love. For parents, youth leaders, pastors — and the young. Cloth \$3.95.

### A COWARD'S GUIDE TO WITNESSING

by Ken Anderson

This disarmingly honest and open discussion of personal evangelism confesses even the author's own cowardice in boldly witnessing to his Christian faith. Scattered throughout the text are clever and relevant cartoons pointing up typical witnessing "copouts."

Ken Anderson, well-known Christian film producer and writer, shows that in spite of cowardice, perhaps because of it, we can all be effective witnesses. Our shyness, he points out, can act as a catalyst turning us to dependence on God's strength; resources far greater than human confidence and personal charm.

*A Coward's Guide to Witnessing* opens up a new dimension to the Christian's role in today's world while maintaining the dynamics of New Testament Christianity. Illustrated \$3.95.

Order from:

Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House  
P. O. Box 868  
Plainfield, NJ 07061

MISSIONS—Leon R. Lawton

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM QUARTERLY MISSIONARY BOARD MEETING

In addition to hearing reports from officers and committees, the board, which met on Sunday, October 28, 1973, took action as follows:

1. Called field evangelist, the Rev. Mynor G. Soper, to service on a project per diem basis for another year;

2. Voted that under the 1974 budget item, New Fields, that the goal for designated giving for support of work and workers in Burma and India be \$100 each per month, beginning in January 1974;

3. That because of health, Mrs. Leroy C. Bass and the two younger children return to the U.S.A. before the end of 1973;

4. Voted that a call to service at Crandall High School, Kingston, Jamaica, be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Mackintosh, members of the Los Angeles, Calif., SDB Church;

5. Voted that a call to service in Guyana, S. A., be extended to the Rev. and Mrs. Leland E. Davis, Los Angeles, Calif., to serve up to two years beginning as early in 1974 as possible;

6. That the board rejoices in the action of the Guyana SDB Conference in calling Sam Peters to service in their churches following his graduation from Jamaica Theological Seminary in June 1974;

7. That we approve a) the implementation of a dedicated service Team Ministry in 1974; b) the full use of personnel and funds in support of the *Reach Out Now* project;

8. That the SDB Missionary Society request membership as an affiliated board of the Division of Overseas Ministries (NCCC);

9. That we appropriate \$3,000 from the Development Fund asking that this be matched by a grant from the Memorial Fund and at least \$1,000 be raised in Jamaica for a new science

classroom, 17'x44', at Crandall High School, Kingston, Jamaica;

10. That the Missionary Board sponsor a booth at Urbana '73 Missionary Conference to be held at the University of Illinois, Dec. 27 - 31, 1973.

A Resolution of Appreciation to Miss Sarah Becker recognizing her extended service beyond her regular term of service was voted as follows:

"The members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society express their heartfelt appreciation for your devoted ministry at Makapwa Station, Malawi, during the course of your regular term of service and especially for your labor of love beyond the terms of your call (April 1973). We find ourselves inspired to deeper commitment to our Lord through your example.

"We pray that you will continue to be strengthened by God's love and might, that your loved ones will abide under His care, and that it will soon be possible for Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Fuller to arrive and take up your post."

Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Fuller, appointees to replace Miss Becker as soon as their work permits are granted by the Malawi government, attended the board meeting which was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. following prayer by Mr. Fuller.

The *Missionary Reporter* will carry the full minutes of the meeting and will be mailed to all voting members of the society.

---

#### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for December 8, 1973

WHO IS THIS JESUS?

Lesson Scripture: John 10:22-39

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#### MEMORY TEXT

"I and the Father are one." — John 10:30

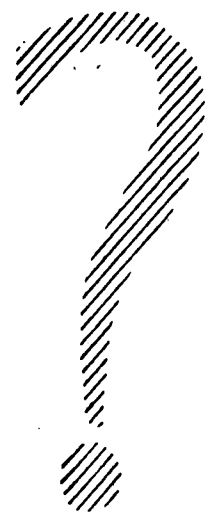
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DECEMBER 1, 1973

THE SABBATH RECORDER



## JESUS IN Washington



### Elephants, Anyone?

I see an elephant in your future. Lots of them. They'll be making the scene next March 13 (Wednesday, 8-9 p.m. EST) on the CBS-TV Network.

Living with Elephants is a five-year filmed experience woven around the adventures of a family dwelling among 500 elephants on the Manyara Preserve in the Rift Valley, Tanzania.

### Alaska Baptist President

Alaska became the first state to elect a black president of a Southern Baptist State Convention. Herbert Cotton, a graduate of Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., is a deacon in the Anchorage church. There are twenty-three Southern Baptist churches in our most northern state.

### Baptist Joint Committee

The officers of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for 1974 are: Alton L. Wheeler, general secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, chairman; William F. Keucher, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., first vice-chairman; S. S. Hodges, executive secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., second vice-chairman; Gerlad L. Borchert, academic vice-president of the North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, S. D., recording secretary; James E. Wood, Jr., treasurer; and Miss Ina Lintz of the Baptist Joint Committee staff, assistant treasurer and assistant recording secretary.

—Report from the Capital

## THE DAY THAT JESUS CAME TO WASHINGTON

Robert J. Hastings

I dreamed that Jesus Christ visited our nation. Plans called for His plane to land at the National Airport in Washington at noon. Government, business, and church officials were to meet Him at the airport, form a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, then hold a public rally in front of the Washington Memorial.

By daybreak, every road into Washington was hopelessly jammed. By noon, traffic would come to a complete standstill on nearby Interstates 95 and 495 that ringed the city, with cars and buses backed up to Baltimore on the north and Fredericksburg on the south.

All motels were sold out. A tent city was set up on The Mall, and citizens opened their homes to thousands of visitors. Many slept in their cars. Some spread sleeping bags on sidewalks along the parade route. Hospitals and fire stations operated with skeleton staffs, and all businesses and schools closed.

Souvenirs and hot dog stands lined the streets. Best selling items were Sallman's head of Christ and medallions engraved with the Lord's Prayer. Many brought picnic lunches.

By 10 a.m., two hours before His plane was scheduled to land, authorities saw the situation was getting out of hand. Sanitation facilities and food supplies grew critical. Downtown spectators were so tightly jammed that several plate glass windows were broken. There were reports of widespread looting.

By 11 a.m., the President began calling for military units from Ft. Meyer and Ft. Belvoir in Virginia, and Ft. Meade in Maryland.

Meantime, tension mounted as the minutes ticked away toward noon. Then as His plane finally pulled up at the terminal, the Marine Band played "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." As the last notes faded, a quiet hush fell over the waiting throng. Every eye was riveted on one Person.

Even the delegation headed by President Nixon, including his cabinet, members of the Supreme Court, and Congressional leaders, was overshadowed by the Presence.

The silence was soon broken by an argument between two or three of the welcoming officials. Pushing and shoving broke out near the waiting limousine at the head of the parade. It seems there was a disagreement over who was to ride with Christ in the lead car.

By the time the controversy ended, Christ was nowhere to be found. Some said He just seemed to melt into thin air. Others reported He slipped through the cordon of police officers. Still others said He went back inside the plane.

Now real pandemonium broke out. "Fraud!" cried some of the bystanders. "We knew Jesus Christ would never come to Washington. It's all a promotional stunt."

Slowly the crowds drifted away. Reluctantly, the concessionaires took down their stands. Some sightseers tore up their souvenir pictures of Christ. It was past midnight before traffic again flowed smoothly on Interstate 95 and 495.

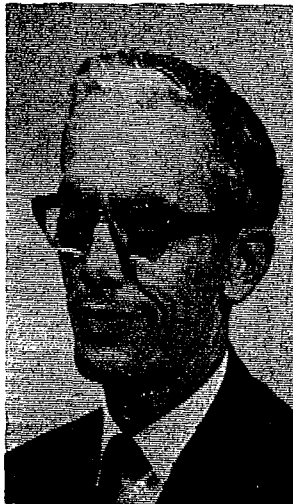
Meanwhile, police continued their search for the missing Nazarene.

About 2 a.m. an unidentified plainclothesman found Him sitting on the curb of a deserted street in the inner city. With His arm around a runaway delinquent, He was retelling the story of the Prodigal Son.

"Where in the name of common sense have you been?" demanded the irate official. Jesus smiled, "They that be whole need not a physician . . . I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:12-13).

—Associated Church Press

## ACTION AT QUARTERLY SESSION



Eighteen members of the Board of Christian Education attended the Director's Meeting October 21, 1973 in the Alfred Parish House. Minutes of the last quarterly meeting in July were read for information. A resolution presented at that meeting on our board's continuing relation to the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA was now adopted in light of the SDB Conference's voting to remove itself from the Council's membership. The secretary reported cordial letters from NCCC staff inviting continuing fellowship and voice in the educational agencies of the Council.

The executive secretary, treasurer and committee chairmen presented reports which were adopted after discussion in each case.

The treasurer's nine-month report included such income items as \$3,556 for *Helping Hand*, \$391 for *Sabbath Visitors*, and only \$61 for Youth Fellowship memberships. Total receipts and balances were \$26,436. Expenses for the nine-months include \$5,378 for the executive secretary, \$1,110 for his travel, \$5,317 for printing expense of the *Helping Hand*, \$337 for *Beacon*. Persons interested in more detail may write the board office.

The executive reported field contacts at fair booths, camps, and a leader lab at the Verona Church, besides the Conference-related functions of August. Editorial work included the *Helping Hand* Daily Bible Readings, correspondence, drafting plans for board and planning Committee programs and workshops, promotion of the Renewal in Faith series, etc. He reported meeting with and serving the different director's commit-

tees, aided by the efficient office secretary, Mrs. Russell (Jenny) Johnson. Consulting with the Future of Church Education group with Luan Ellis, chairman of Church School Program Committee, brought opportunity for Sabbath witness. Our board is included in an ecumenical Children's Bible Series planning group with American Baptist educators as prime movers. Florence Bowden and the executive are invited to participate in meetings. Camp planning has been extensively pursued in cooperation with the Memorial Fund and Colorado pastors.

Special thanks were given to Jim Gardner for dedicated service and also to Dave Snyder and the Russ Johnsons for producing the October *Beacon*. The secretary distributed copies of the six-months reports, a workshop choice sheet, proposed field contacts for the year, a summary of Planning Committee actions. Prior to the meeting copies of Conference actions by four Interests Committees were distributed to the directors.

The Resource Development chairman Ethel Dickinson reported her committee had accepted responsibility for working with Kenneth Smith in publishing his Conference lectures in booklet form. Action is well under way on this. Arrangements with the Tract Society on use of Alton Wheeler's lectures is also under way. Plans were shared on lesson resource suggestions for the *Helping Hand*, and on the probable Children's Page in the *Sabbath Recorder*.

The Youth Program chairman, Ed Sutton, reported his committee had studied responses from Youth and Young Adult Pre-Cons, and the thanks

received from Regina Bruhn for her being helped to attend Youth Pre-Con from Germany. Plans were made for the *Beacon* and for meeting with National VF officers in November. Directors for the '74 Pre-Cons were chosen and contacted but no response was available as of this meeting. The committee hopes to make possible an SDB National officer's attending the Baptist World Youth Conference to be held July 31 - August 4 in Portland, Oregon.

The Life Ventures Committee reported meetings to discuss issues relating to Family and Vocations and preparation by directors and consultants of publicity during the year.

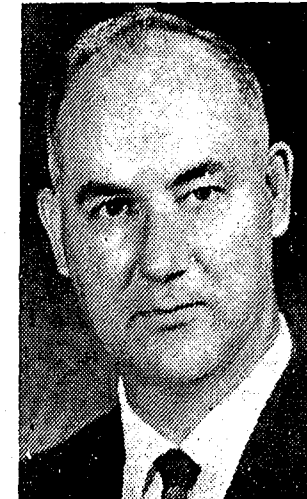
The Camp Program chairman, Bob Stohr, presented a report of considerations along with three recommendations which were adopted successively. The board therefore voted to receive \$500 offered by the Memorial Fund trustees for coordinating a program of "creative camping" which would include securing experience and service from the American Camping Association. Also voted was the extension of plans for a nationally represented camping project enabling exploration of several vital Christian disciplines in our outdoor learning. Also voted was the plan for Pastor Elmo Randolph, Glen Warner and Secretary Clarke to attend the 1974 American Camping Association Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 19-23.

The special committee on office site headed by Burton Crandall reported a good possibility for a longer lease office in the village of Alfred. This matter was referred to the Executive Committee. Of course, the board will notify you all when and if offices are changed to Alfred. Phone and postal changes will be given.

Nominations for officers of the Board of Directors were presented by Catharine Jacox, chairman of the 1973 Nominations Committee. Opportunity was given for further nominations. None were made. The present officers are also the 1974 officers, and Secretary Clarke was elected to a three-year term according to the plan presented in 1970.

## ARKANSAS STATE FAIR BOOTH

Seventh Day Baptists in Arkansas sponsored a successful booth at the Arkansas State Fair. One of the leaders in this evangelistic effort was the Rev. James Mitchell of Little Rock. He states: "I am happy to report a very good response to our fair booth at the Arkansas State Fair. I had many inquiries about Seventh Day Baptists and the Sabbath during the ten days at the fair, and I feel as though I had preached a two weeks' revival."



"We had tracts and special issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* on a table display. The total pieces of literature distributed at the fair was 8,218. The theme of the booth was "Comfort, Assurance and Salvation." A large banner read: "Seventh Day Baptist Church — Has a Message. We have hope and COMFORT of the Scriptures, Romans 15:4. We desire diligence of every one in ASSURANCE to the end, Hebrews 6:11. God has given us SALVATION by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:9)."

The American Sabbath Tract Society was happy to be able to supply tracts for this booth. Now is the time for the churches to consider and make plans for this type of ministry for next year. Let us pray for all those who took tracts at the Arkansas State Fair booth.

### SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST WEEK OF PRAYER BOOKLETS ARE READY

Theme: "Repent and Believe  
in the Gospel"

by Rev. Antonio Barrera  
Brazil SDB Conference

Place Your Order Now  
SDB Publishing House  
P. O. Box 868  
Plainfield, NJ 07061

## "GOD'S LOVE — IT'S GREAT"

New England Churches  
at Rocky Hill Fair

Thelma Tarbox

The instructions are to tack the plastic sheet to top and sides of the booth when leaving. The plastic is secured except for a flap large enough for the attendant to return inside to gather her handbag and two grandchildren. It's late. A serious face young man practically squeezes himself into the booth ahead of her and, anxious as she is to leave, she asks: "Do you want to sign for the drawing of the Living New Testament?" He not only signs, but makes a careful selection of tracts and special issue *Sabbath Recorders*.

Throughout the six days of the fair, visitors show similar interest and all booth attendants reported that this year more people asked questions about the Sabbath and Seventh Day Baptist churches. Early planning by the Rev. Dale Rood (Waterford) and Steve Saunders (Westerly) guaranteed a well-organized literature booth. Bill and Hilda Harrison recruited workers from the Ashaway and Hopkinton churches.

The booth, newly panelled, simply decorated with colorful Bible slogan posters, proclaimed by a roof sign: GOD'S LOVE — IT'S GREAT. And beneath the roof sign, our identity: SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST. Inside, a discarded store display rack for zippers displayed special issue *Recorders* and *THE LIVING NEW TESTAMENT*. A variety of salvation and Seventh Day Baptist tracts, and some David Wilkerson pamphlets were spread on a table as well as bumper stickers which proved to be very popular.

Those who manned the booth enthusiastically told of their experiences.

Passing by the booth on the way to the fair exit, one worker had the feeling — STOP! The man sitting there was very much interested in accepting tracts

... "Are you sure you're not just being polite?" ... He answered: "Oh, no! I'm a Baptist and I'll take all the literature you can spare!" One worker cherished the memory of seeing her four-year old grandson stand on the chair behind the tract table and with pencil in hand, asking: "Do you want to sign for a Bible?" Then pointing to a church pictured on the flyer which describes the New England churches, and saying: "This is the church where I go!"

All who have participated in and made possible this third year of witnessing at Rocky Hill Fair believe that God has richly blessed us and the many people who visited our booth.

### Accessions

DE RUYTER, N. Y.

By Baptism:

James Lynch  
Michael Lynch  
Robert Lynch

SALEM, W. VA.

Rev. Paul Green, Pastor

By Baptism:

Theresa Gray  
Kathleen Spencer

By Letter:

Nettie Merritt (Mrs. Ralph)

Associate Members:

Dallas Bailey  
Ann Bailey (Mrs. Dallas)  
Cindy Graffius  
William Park  
Judy Park (Mrs. William)  
Fred Sias  
Leon Wheeler  
Linda Wheeler (Mrs. Leon)

SEATTLE AREA, WASH.

Rev. Duane Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:

Don Selby  
Mrs. Don (Vera) Selby

Seeking to "see things . . .  
from God's point of view" as those



## CALLED TO BE MANY YET ONE

Second Presentation\*

Rev. Alton L. Wheeler

"As the human body, which has many parts, is a unity, and those parts despite their multiplicity, constitute one single body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by the Spirit into one body . . .

"God has harmonized the whole body by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance, that the body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another . . .

"Now you are together the body of Christ, and individually you are members of him" (excerpts from 1 Corinthians 12:12 ff — Phillips).

In the introductory paragraphs of the first chapter of Deuteronomy, we are told of how Moses challenged the Israelites to move forward with faith, courage, and anticipation toward Canaan, the land which the Lord had for many, many years promised to their forebears.

Moses asserted, "It was forty years ago, at Mount Horeb, that Jehovah our God told us, 'You have stayed here long enough! Now go . . . occupy . . . the whole area . . . I am giving it all to you.'"

Granted, in those forty years they had made progress, but in terms of normal travel speed in those times, Moses reminded them that they had advanced the equivalent of only "eleven days' journey."

In these days, the Lord is saying to us, as it were, "You have stayed here long enough! Now go . . . move forward."

We, like Israel, need to renew our efforts to move forward with faith, courage, and anticipation for the past is past, the present is passing, and the future is

upon us! In the words of the apostle Paul, "Leaving the past behind, with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, (let us) go straight for the goal, (our) reward, the honor of being called by God in Christ. All of us who are spiritually adult should set ourselves this sort of ambition . . .

"We are the citizens of heaven; our outlook goes beyond this world to the hopeful expectation of the Savior who will come down from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:13-15; 20—Phillips).

In Reuel Howe's book *Survival Plus*, this is his opening statement: "Looking back on the past two decades, what we now see to have been the major factor in our lives is change — change of an all-pervasive kind which has touched and transformed every aspect and department of life, both personal and social."

Alvin Toffler's rather popular book titled *Future Shock* elucidates on what happens to people when they are overwhelmed by change. It calls attention to ways in which individuals adapt or fail to adapt to the future.

"Change," he says, "is the process by which the future invades our lives." "Future shock" is a term which Alvin Toffler coined in 1965 to describe "the shattering stress and disorientation that we in-

\*The Prologue to these reflections on and excerpts from three presentations made by General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler at General Conference in August appeared in the September 15 issue, pages 3 and 4. The first presentation appeared in the October 13 issue pages 10 - 14.

duce in individuals by subjecting them to too much change in too short a time, which if affected at too rapid a pace, may lead to what he terms as "massive adaptational breakdown."

In contending that there are numerous ways in which we might well bring about, or adjust to changes others are bringing to pass locally and regionally, personally and corporately, spiritually and structurally, we are not advocating change for change's sake. We are not contending that making of changes inevitably means making improvement or progress. Nor would we aggravate an epidemic of "massive adaptational breakdowns" pleading for too many changes in too short a span of time. We are rather pleading for more and more of us as God's people and as good stewards of the gospel, to "seek to see things, as it were, from God's point of view," including our changing times. Whether we like it or not, "constant change is here to stay."

#### I. Recognizing Benefits

##### Accruing from Interdependence

In exploring further our being "everyone members one of another," let us call to mind a few of many local, regional and national situations which may well challenge us to advance more rapidly through our exercising of *interdependence* rather than merely laying claim to the traditional concept of *local autonomy*.

A. Exercising of interdependence proved a blessing to our denominational boards and agencies, as well as to our missions at home and abroad, as united and coordinated efforts were developed and as united funds were raised through the drafting and adopting of a united budget, now known as Our World Mission. In previous years, each board and agency had tended to fend for itself promoting its own program and projects and soliciting its own financial support.

B. The recognition of interdependence has been dramatized by the Commission, which is primarily concerned with policy issues, and the Planning Committee, involved more primarily with coordinating and projecting of programs. Aspirations of cooperative endeavors led to the organizing of a coordinating council which

yielded in form to the current CPC joint meetings of the Commission and Planning Committee with the agreement that they can mutually profit by meeting together or consecutively as frequently as possible.

C. The recognition of interdependence has been evident as a significant number of our churches have taken advantage of participation in the Missionary-Pastor plan administered by the Missionary Board. Through such plan, churches which envision being located in potential growth areas and which believe that they could grow numerically and spiritually to the point of being self-supportive within an estimated ten-year period, may apply for matching or substantial funds to enable their employing a full-time pastor. This plan has proven so popular that approximately one out of every five churches throughout our nation have applications pending or are receiving such financial aid. This support is made possible, however, only because the Missionary Board has such an item in its budget which includes Our World Mission support if adopted by our General Conference and if given adequate support by cooperative giving on the part of individuals and churches throughout our nation.

D. The recognition of interdependence has been increasingly evident as groups, churches, boards, and agencies have appealed for loans or grants from our denominational funds including endowment earnings administered by our Memorial Fund trustees.

It is our assertion that our spiritual and numerical growth can be further accelerated if we aggressively explore and devise additional strategies of interchange and securing of needed leadership as well as allocating additional funds and offering expertise, as small groups, churches, associations, boards and agencies join in seeking to help advance or extend the work of the Kingdom as "laborers together with God."

#### II. Supporting of National Thrust Efforts

For several years the Planning Committee has, through its periodic publication of a "suggestion packet," sought to

stimulate initiative being asserted both on the local and national levels. Respondents to the questionnaire issued last spring stated their preference three to one in favor of aggressive national promotion of programming concepts which may be adapted on the local level. Helpful suggestions included:

—Promote more national-thrust programs such as Key '73, BWA World Reconciliation Through Christ, Worldwide Witness filmstrips and tapes, etc., through the current publication of the accumulative "Era of Action" project and program packet, for where there is unity there is strength.

—Realign priorities and highlight fewer selective program concepts rather than to publish an annual fifty- or sixty-page "suggestion smorgasbord" packet.

—Encourage board and agency representatives to make more frequent and more extended contacts with churches and pastors soliciting suggestion and observing innovative projects and strategies which might well be considered for future national united thrust cooperation or adaptation.

—Remember that "everything must catch on in the local church or you can prepare all you want to (in offering project and program concepts) yet nothing is going to happen!"

#### III. Establishing New Witnesses in New Areas

One of several phenomenal changes which have taken place since the turn of this century has been an accelerating shift of masses of people in our country from rural to urban and suburban areas. Whereas half a century ago, some three-fourths of our total population lived in rural areas, in this current industrial and technological era, over three-fourths of the people reside in urban or suburban areas with less than six percent of our employed population now agriculturally employed. Furthermore, in many a community, the average family moves once in every four years or less.

In pleading for the organizing of a proportionately greater percentage of fellowships and churches in urban and suburban areas, we are not proposing

change for mere change's sake, nor a strategy for survival, but for the Church in the name of Jesus Christ to seek zealously and aggressively to minister in His redemptive love where the people are, witnessing as inspired, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Even as in almost every European smaller hamlet and larger city, there is a church edifice with its transcendent steeple strategically located as the centrum, so throughout our country, there should logically and ideally be the transcendent ministries of a church of our persuasion in the heart of every community.

Since we have been inspired by the apostle Paul to realize that we are a part of the body of Christ, and thereby "everyone members one of another," it would seem logically to follow strategically that whenever and wherever there appears to be an opportunity to extend a witness sharing the redemptive love of Christ and to establish an additional fellowship or church, any and all effort should be made on national and regional as well as local levels to join in seeking without delay to provide the basically needed resources of leadership, witnesses and financial support.

#### IV. Educating Further in Financial Stewardship

It was interesting to note that nearly all of the questionnaire respondents indicated that they are tithers, and that they urged more aggressive promotion of tithing on an educational basis rather than as a legal requirement.

Such passages as Leviticus 27:31 ff, Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23 and Luke 18:12 interpret tithing as ordained of God; and the apostle Paul, as noted in 2 Corinthians 9:6, makes the observation that "poor sowing means a poor harvest, and generous sowing means a generous harvest" (Phillips).

In seeking to be involved in financial stewardship, interpreting it "from God's point of view," we would do well to make the observation that if God ordained that a minimum of a tithe should

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## "GROWING PLANT OR WITHERING VINE?"

By Dee McCall

A chapel on the hill and the clear blue of Lake Geneva, what a perfect place for Youth Pre-Con 1973.

Despite the rain on Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock the main floor of the lodge was filled by over one hundred campers and fifteen staff members. The rain didn't dampen the anticipation for the days ahead or the excitement of seeing our old friends once again.

There were many activities to fill the few days that we would be spending together — and I do mean *fill* — each activity worked together with all the others to fill us full and overflowing with the Spirit and love of God.

A big part of our day was spent in study. Each class dealt with a different area of our Christian life. The class on worship and praise helped us to find answers as to why we should worship God and how we should worship, the types of praise and the results of praise. In the class on prayer we learned how to prepare for prayer, what a prayer involves, and most important of all, to pray in faith — believing and expecting results. The class on personal evangelism brought out several ways we can share our faith and lead others to Christ by the use of our testimony and through God's Word. The class on the Holy Spirit led us to discuss how we could know the Spirit, also the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit. The class on finding God's will in our life brought out the desire that each of us has for our own life.

Last, but not least, was a class on the Second Coming of Christ. We searched the Bible for the signs leading to the second coming, the events of the coming and the results . . . . In short, the Bible is a great guidebook for every area of Christian living.

Not to be forgotten are our hours of music practice — they seemed to pass very quickly. We all received a great blessing practicing together and an even greater one when we learned that God

does answer prayer. When you hand over to a hundred people a musical that most of them have never heard before and tell them they have four days to practice and to work out the art work — well, it takes a miracle!

When Sabbath Day came we were all eager to share some special things as we came to our afternoon worship service. After worship we had free time, when we could do anything that would make Sabbath more special to us. Sabbath night we went for a hike beside Lake Geneva. After the hike, it was back to the campfire for a celebration service. We were celebrating the birth of new Christians as well as the rededication of old ones.

This year we were blessed to have a young lady, Regina Bruhn, from Germany with us. In sharing with her, I discovered that Christians in Germany are few and far between. Gina says that most of the churches are dying out and most of the people refuse to even talk about God. I would ask that you join with me in prayer for Gina and the churches in Germany. (Remember, pray with a positive attitude).

It seemed like Sunday came too fast. After things were packed and ready to go, we gathered together for one last practice of "Love" and one last time of sharing at Camp Augustana.

Pre-Con had ended, but the spirit had not. We carried it with us to Conference, especially on Wednesday night when we were privileged to share "Love" with the people at Conference. As we sang, each of us could feel the love of God swelling in our hearts and really felt a love for all who were there.

I feel that I can safely say that the results of Pre-Con 1973 are growing plants. We have God's love and spirit with us. Even though there may be thousands of miles separating us, "we are one in the bond of love. We have joined our spirits with the spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love."

## OUR WORLD MISSION

### OWM Budget Receipts for October 1973

	Treasurer's October	10 mos.	Boards' 10 mos.		Treasurer's October	10 mos.	Boards' 10 mos.
Adams Ctr NY ..\$	228.00	834.91	76.30	Milton Jct WI ....	76.00	917.05	10.00
Albion WI .....	112.71	703.19	70.00	Monterey CA ....		400.00	45.00
Alfred NY .....		5,489.98	306.00	New Auburn WI ..	5.00	956.05	60.00
Alfred Sta NY ...	154.75	2,429.25	10.00	New Milton WV ..	50.00	549.61	
Ashaway RI .....	234.00	3,888.40	240.00	New Orleans LA ..		20.00	
Assns & Groups ..	73.50	632.29	2,856.12	North Loup NB..		2,814.30	80.00
Battle Creek MI ..		5,044.09	570.00	Nortonville KS ..	121.50	2,432.50	172.58
Bay Area CA .....	125.00	603.00	32.80	Ohio Fellowship..	40.00	655.00	
Berea WV .....		373.00	10.00	Paint Rock AL ..	160.00	725.00	170.00
Berlin NY .....	95.00	1,767.12	45.00	Plainfield NJ ....	66.50	4,787.09	515.20
Boulder CO .....	152.68	1,189.85	215.00	Richburg NY ....	90.50	1,683.68	65.00
Brookfield NY ....	100.55	611.85	65.00	Riverside CA .....	534.00	6,268.00	120.00
Buffalo NY .....		625.00		Rockville RI .....	100.00	632.25	10.00
Chicago IL .....		2,310.00	30.00	Salem WV .....	10.00	1,993.00	125.00
Daytona Beach FL ..	100.00	1,194.00	130.00	Salemville PA ....		581.66	62.00
Denver CO .....	1,000.00	6,817.43	355.00	Schenectady NY ..	19.00	174.33	10.00
De Ruyter NY .....		730.00	25.00	Seattle WA .....	50.00	470.00	190.00
Dodge Ctr MN .....		1,873.62	60.00	Shiloh NJ .....		7,748.26	225.00
Farina IL .....	42.75	619.04	10.00	Stonefort IL .....	60.00	611.33	20.00
Fouke AR .....		228.65	10.00	Syracuse NY .....		50.00	
Hammond LA .....				Texarkana AR ....		60.00	20.00
Hebron PA .....	75.00	947.40	70.00	Verona NY .....	153.00	1,631.84	85.00
Hopkinton RI ....		105.00	130.00	Walworth, WI ....	260.00	1,563.00	
Houston TX .....		240.00	10.00	Washington DC ..	126.45	1,910.20	285.00
Independence NY ..	29.50	288.85	50.00	Washington People's DC ....			
Individuals .....	200.00	1,314.48	773.38	Waterford CT ....	207.00	2,495.43	130.00
Irvington NJ ....	400.00	2,360.00	25.00	Westerly RI .....		3,389.60	286.00
Kansas City MO ..	55.00	680.70	40.00	White Cloud MI ..	79.13	885.22	20.00
Leonardsville NY ..	65.00	569.05	10.00				
Little Genesee NY ..	190.05	1,593.24	55.00	Totals	\$7,254.85	\$117,036.58	\$10,135.38
Little Rock AR ..	29.53	292.01	20.00	Non-Budget	265.51		
Los Angeles CA ..	500.00	5,043.42	215.00				
Lost Creek WV .....		2,600.00	80.00	Total			
Marlboro NJ .....		3,469.41	85.00	To Disburse	\$7,520.36		
Metairie LA .....							
Milton WI .....	1,083.75	13,164.95	750.00				

### OCTOBER DISBURSEMENTS

Board of Christian Education .....	\$ 594.62
Historical Society .....	4.13
Ministerial Education .....	194.08
Ministerial Retirement .....	313.50
Missionary Society .....	2,499.73
Tract Society .....	795.58
Trustees of General Conference .....	12.39
Women's Society .....	112.81
World Fellowship & Service .....	178.01
General Conference .....	2,815.51
	<u>\$ 7,520.36</u>

### SUMMARY

1973 Budget .....	\$176,690.00
Receipts for ten months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$117,036.58
Boards	10,135.38
	<u>127,171.96</u>
To be raised by December 31, 1973	\$ 49,518.04
Percentage of year elapsed .....	83.3%
Percentage of budget raised .....	71.97%
Ten months:	
Due .....	\$147,241.70
Raised .....	127,171.96
Arrears .....	20,069.74

Gordon Sanford  
OWM Treasurer



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be returned to Him by the Israelites who sponsored no extensive missionary efforts, much more than a tithe is needed in our time as we endeavor to be good stewards in sharing the gospel with others around the world. Hence, the dedicating of offerings voluntarily in addition to the basic tithe should seem to be one of several evidences of a maturing faith as well as a fervent desire to help in every way possible to extend the sharing of our faith in Christ with others.

In addition to churches' "observing Stewardship Sabbath" annually in November, individuals as financial stewards would do well to interpret the tithe as the first tenth rather than the last tenth to dedicate and to return to the Lord. Husbands and wives can be spiritually blessed by making a "joint return" of their tithes and offerings. Parents should teach tithing to their children both by exemplary practice and by precept. Children, from year one in receiving allowances or in earning their first dimes or dollars, should be taught to tithe.

As we teach tithing, let us not stress computing one's income and moving the decimal point one place to the left. Rather let us interpret it as one of several expressions of the privilege of being "laborers together with God," responding to the constraining love of the compassionate Christ who was ever sensitive to personal needs of persons as individuals and as masses of peoples around the world.

In Reuel Howe's book *Survival Plus* he speaks of community as being "orchestrated individuality" and asserts that "community is always in the process of being renewed and rediscovered." He

makes a further observation that "the human soul is restless when it has to live without community, because it cannot be satisfied with singleness while its very nature cries out for being in relation, being a part of a larger growing process."

Indeed, "orchestrated individuality" connotes recognition of interdependence as well as harmony. In the words of the apostle Paul, "God has harmonized the whole body by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance, that the body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another."

"Being a part of a larger growing process" may well challenge us to realize as never before that in the realms of purpose and conviction, of service and witness, we need to be "laborers together with God." We are called to be many yet one — one in the Spirit, one in Christ's outreaching and reconciling love!

#### Man Goes to Prison for Good

Usually men are not sent to prison for good unless they have committed serious crimes, but Jim Yorgey of Montreal went to the maximum security prison for good—for the good of those who had been convicted. He was sent there by the Lord and by administrative authorities to take the assignment of Protestant chaplain. He went to prison after serving as head counselor at Montreal's Sermons from Science pavilion. Others may well seek to be sent to prison for good and receive the approval of our Lord, "I was in prison and ye came unto me."



THE  
SABBATH  
RECORDER