

The Sabbath Recorder  
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Plainfield, N. J. 07061

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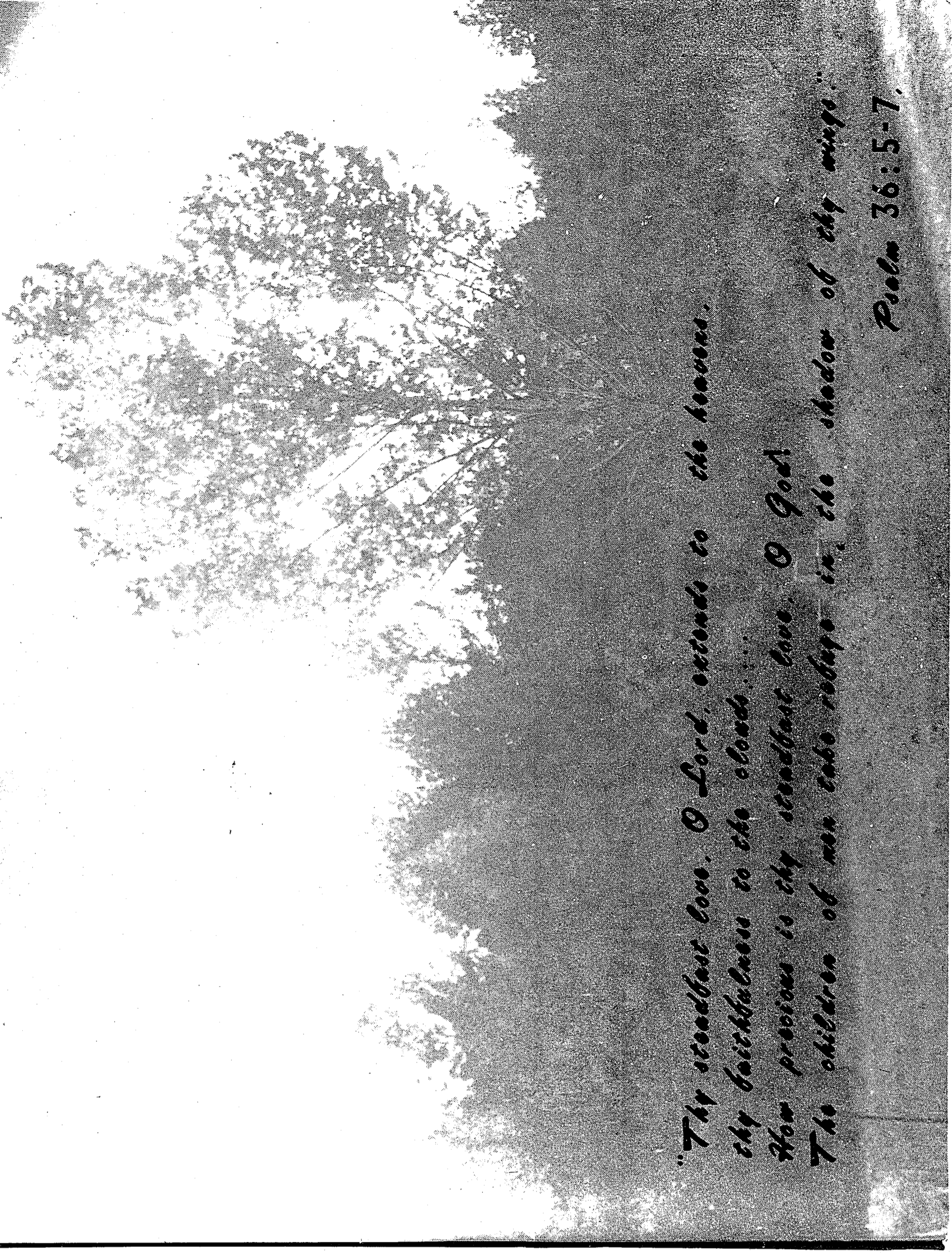
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# The Sabbath Recorder

OCTOBER 1975

*"Thy steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
thy faithfulness to the clouds.  
How precious is thy steadfast love, O God!  
The children of men take refuge in the shadow of thy wings."  
Psalm 36:5-7.*



## MEDITATIONS BOOK

LOVE IN ACTION - A MEDITATIONS BOOK prepared jointly by the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society and the Board of Christian Education is a collection of meditations written by Seventh Day Baptists. Every home should have a copy - makes a nice gift. Order From: S.D.B. Women's Board, c/o Mrs. Myrna Cox, 1490 Greenbriar Blvd. Boulder, CO 80303. Price \$1.25

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ON

*Love In Action*

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JOHN D. BEVIS, EDITOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Rev. David S. Clarke, Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, Mrs. Madeline  
Fitz Randolph, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Thomas L. Merchant,  
Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, Rev. Alton L. Wheeler.

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officio, Owen H. Probasco, Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, Mrs.  
Ethel M. Wheeler.

Address all correspondence to The Sabbath Recorder,  
P. O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

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Credits: Cover by Douglas Yarberr, Conference pictures by  
C. Douglas Clarke.



Even though I'm just a friend of  
Seventh Day Baptists, I do enjoy  
the *Sabbath Recorder* very much.  
Please renew my subscription . . .

—Laura Penney  
Janesville, Wis.

\* \* \*

We might say the impressive im-  
provement in format and content  
speak well for the continuing in-  
fluence of this good publication.  
Please renew our subscription . . .

—J. F. Hiscock  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

TRACT BOARD  
ANNUAL MEETING HELD

At the annual corporate meeting  
of the American Sabbath Tract So-  
ciety officers and board members  
were elected for the year. Newly  
elected President is the Rev. Charles  
H. Bond of Shiloh, N. J. Other  
officers include: First Vice-Presi-  
dent — Rev. Herbert Saunders;  
Second Vice-President — Owen  
Probasco; Third Vice-President —  
Kenneth E. Smith; Recording Sec-  
retary — Rev. Don Richards; As-  
sistant Recording Secretary — Mrs.  
Jean McAllister; Treasurer — Mrs.  
Margaret Van Horn. □

VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

A dry cleaning establishment is for  
sale or lease in Farina, Ill. Good  
business opportunity and opportu-  
nity to assist local church. Contact:  
Mrs. Kathleen Crandall, Farina, IL  
62838. Tel. (618) 245-6463. □

"Nobody has gone higher than  
the moon but I have discovered that  
the greatest height and the only  
one of eternal importance is the  
person's relationship to God through  
Christ." — Astronaut Jim Irwin

Conference Business

Since the Seventh Day Baptist  
World Federation has voted to post-  
pone its next session until 1978,  
Conference voted that the U.S.A.  
Conference extend an official in-  
vitation to the Seventh Day Baptist  
World Federation to convene in  
1978 near the site of the Conference  
sessions.

\* \* \*

In view of rising costs in pro-  
duction, Conference approved in-  
creasing the price of the *S.D.B.*  
*Yearbook* from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per  
copy beginning with the 1975 edi-  
tion. The special sale price follow-  
ing the filling of regular church  
quotas, of \$2.00 per copy in lots of  
ten or more copies for study groups  
will be continued.

\* \* \*

Conference voted that the ad-  
ministrative responsibility for fu-  
ture S.D.B. Ministers Conferences  
be transferred from the Board of  
Christian Education to the Council  
on the Ministry.

\* \* \*

In response to a wave of enthusi-  
asm in ecumenical circles over  
church mergers and church union  
in the 1960's General Conference  
appointed a standing committee to  
conduct ecumenical conversations.  
In view of the fact that with the  
passing of the era there appears no  
imminent need for such a commit-  
tee, the Conference voted that the  
committee be abolished and that  
at such time as a need may arise  
an ad hoc committee may be ap-  
pointed by Commission.

\* \* \*

The Conference voted that the  
dean of the Center on the Ministry  
be named an ex officio member of  
the Planning Committee and that  
national program directors become  
nonvoting members of the Planning  
Committee.

\* \* \*

The Commission recommended  
to denominational boards and agen-  
cies that for 1976 there be a 7 per-  
cent cost-of-living salary increase  
in the salaries of denominational  
employees. □



FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

- 1976—Houghton College, Hough-  
ton, N.Y.
- 1977—Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas,  
Nebraska area
- 1978—Eastern Association area
- 1979—North Central Ass'n area
- 1980—Rocky Mountain area
- 1981—Southwestern Ass'n area
- 1982—Southeastern Ass'n area

\* \* \*



Lois Wells directing the Conference choir. (Photo by Douglas  
Clarke)

Fifty-seventh Annual

## Report of the Commission

of the Seventh Day Baptist  
General Conference

At the General Conference session in Salem, West Virginia, in 1974 in the face of escalating budgetary requests and expanding programs at a time when a major reshuffling was occurring in denominational leadership, Commission came to Conference pleading for some form of consolidation in leadership and restraint in spending that would keep anticipated expenditures close to probable receipts. With the vision of opportunities before us, we, the General Conference, elected rather to keep with our dream in anticipation that the financial support would appear. It did not. Commission is, therefore, in the unenviable position of grappling this year with a proposed budget even more out of proportion.

Facts that need to be faced include the following:

According to actuarial figures, we have an unfunded past service liability in the Ministerial Retirement account as of this date at the present rate of retirement benefits. This matter is being referred to the new Committee on Support and Retirement.

In initiating the unordained retirement fund, we face another unfunded past service liability which is reflected in this year's budget.

The difference between projected giving in 1975 and the adopted budget is \$30,000.

The difference between anticipated OWM undesignated giving and board budget requests for 1976 is \$70,000.

A reasonable estimate of available anticipated discretionary income of the Memorial Fund for 1975 is \$36,000. Depletion of this fund would mean that there is no place left for grants for unanticipated need or opportunities as provided in the working fund of the Memorial Fund Trustees.

### In Recognition

During the past decade Seventh Day Baptists have made great strides in spiritual growth, in stewardship awareness and responsibility, in vision of the tasks set before us and in measured progress toward fulfillment of those goals.

No small factor in our progress has been the untiring leadership and unswerving devotion to God of our General Secretary during that decade, the Rev. Dr. Alton L. Wheeler. Never in our history has God sent a man more qualified for the task, more capable of assuming the roles thrust upon him and more energetic in his labors for the advancement of the Kingdom of God through Seventh Day Baptists than Alton Wheeler.

We stand in his debt. We thank God for his contribution. We express our profound gratitude for his contributions to Commission, to General Conference, to the World Federation and to the cause of the Church Universal.

We pray for the continued outpouring of God's Spirit upon him as he resigns this post to accept the challenges of the pastorate.

Your Commission during the past year has sought input from boards, agencies, churches and individuals as we have contemplated a change in executive roles.

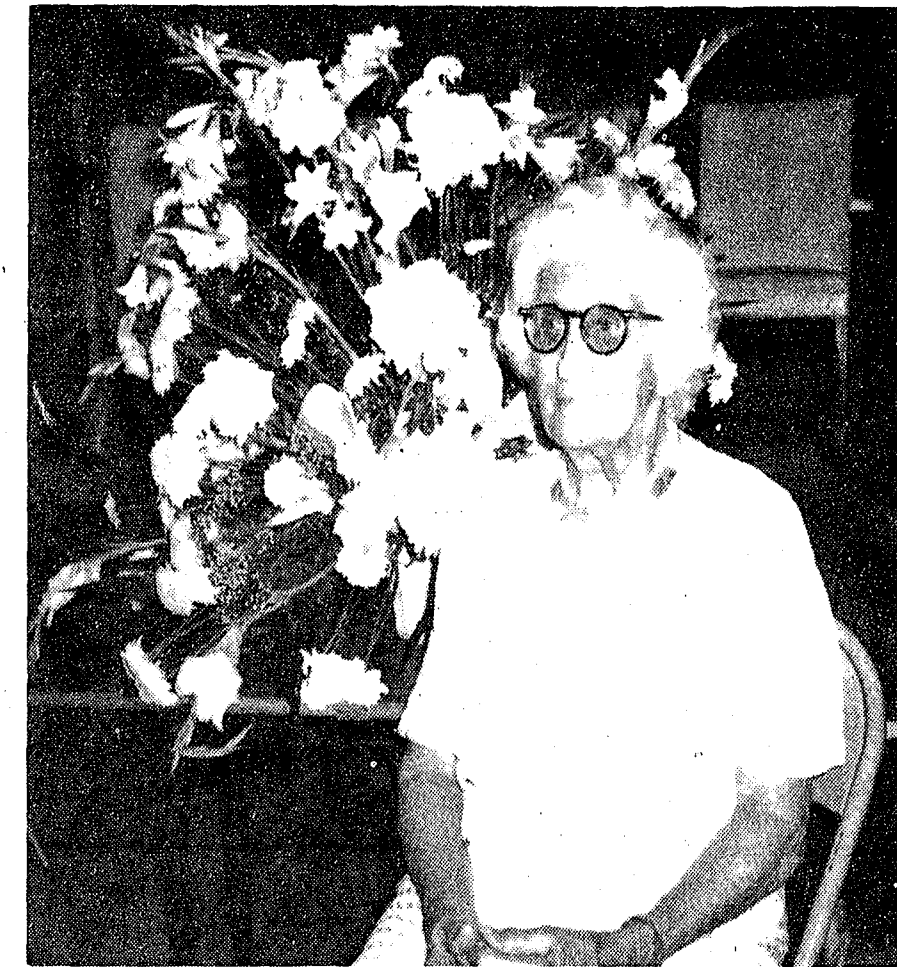
After careful analysis of suggestions from many sources, the Commission is delighted to announce the acceptance of Dr. K. Duane Hurley of appointment to the post of Executive Secretary (note change in name of office) and commend him to the General Conference as the unanimous first choice of the Commission.

It would have been difficult to find a layman more eminently qualified, more totally committed to his Lord, more experienced in church and ecumenical circles and more capable of expressing himself than Dr. Hurley.

We enthusiastically look forward to a spirit of closer cooperation and communication among boards, agencies, churches and individuals through Dr. Hurley's ministry of listening to your concerns and interpreting them to others, and interpreting for you the concerns of your servants, the denominational boards and agencies. □

# PHOTONEWS

## "AUNT" LAURA COOPER



"Aunt" Laura Cooper, at the age of 92 was the "senior" member present at the General Conference in California.

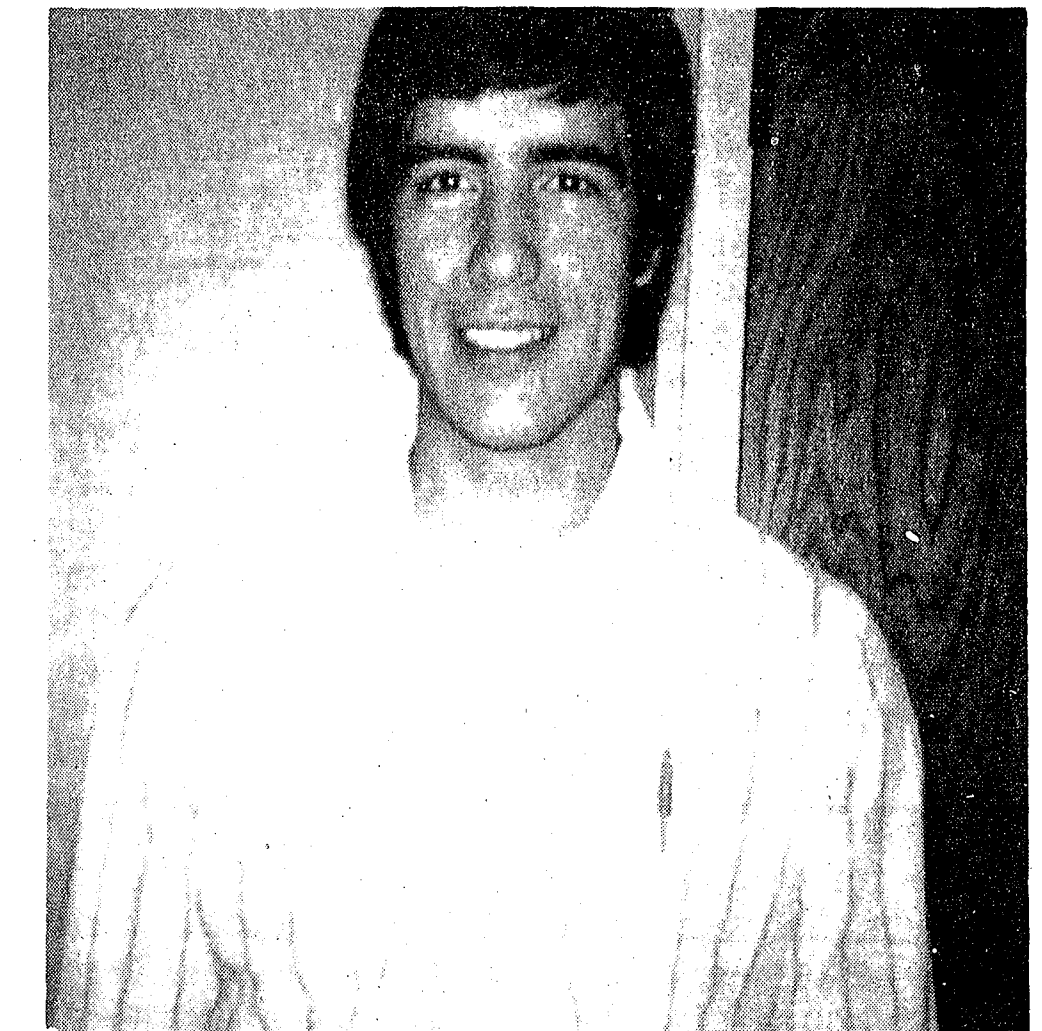
At the age of 92, Mrs. Laura Cooper of the Los Angeles church was the "senior" member of the General Conference sessions in Azusa, California. "Aunt" Laura, as she is affectionately known to her many friends, attended all the worship services and business meetings thus taking an active role in the Conference. She has been attending Conference since the age of nine and estimates that she has attended at least twenty-five Conferences.

Born August 25, 1883, in Kansas, "Aunt" Laura has lived in California for many years. She stated that she especially enjoyed the music at Conference and the opportunity to meet and greet the people. We asked her advice to the younger generation of Seventh Day Baptists and she replied "Just love the Lord and remain true to the Sabbath and the fundamentals of the Christian faith."

"Aunt" Laura felt that the most pressing need today is "... for the parents to stay close to the Lord and to bring up their children in the church. A strong home will build a strong church." Very good words of advice from our "senior" member at the 1975 General Conference session.



The youngest "active" participant at General Conference was five-weeks old Tanya Lynn, daughter of Rod and Camille Henry of Los Angeles. Tanya seemed unimpressed by the entire proceedings — her only comment was a big "yawn."



Gerald Williams of Atlanta, Georgia, attended his first Conference this year in California. A new member of the church, Gerald stated that he was most impressed by the friendly spirit of the people and that even though he didn't know many people at first he was immediately made to feel a part of the group. Gerald is a member of the Paint Rock, Alabama, congregation.

Every afternoon following lunch, during Conference week, a Youth Rap session was conducted by Rodney Henry of the Los Angeles church. Each day the youth discussed a different topic — here is a summary of their views.

## Conference Youth Rap

**Monday** — We opened Youth Rap with a rather difficult question. Is the Seventh Day Baptist brand of Christianity the kind of Christianity that we want to spread around the world? The general consensus was that in its present form, it was not. When 2 Timothy 3:5 was read to them, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:" they felt that SDB's had power. However, they felt that this power was somewhat outweighed by the "form of godliness." They wanted a real revival to take place in our denomination, and that this revival should begin in us. In essence they wanted "new wine."

**Tuesday** — Last year's Conference president and this year's chairman of Commission, Ernie Bond, came to Youth Rap to share with us a matter of utmost importance. A proposal was coming before Conference which could completely change the structure of our denomination. A committee was to be set up to study this restructuring and to bring to Conference *next year* its recommendations. This proposal passed and we will have a lot to pray about concerning this restructuring. This proposal came as good news to the Youth Rappers because they realized that you can't put "new wine" into "old wineskins" because they would burst. "New wine" must be put into "new wineskins." Matthew 9:17 says, "nor do men put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

**Wednesday** — On this day we had a special treat in the form of a guest speaker, Randy Henry. Randy is the twenty-seven-year-old father of three and a customer service manager for the Xerox Corporation. He shared with us how he came to know Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord. He also shared with us the concept of being a minister of the gospel in whatever occupation the Lord has called you to. We all received a blessing and a challenge to work more in the Kingdom's tasks.

**Thursday** — John 4:24 says "God is spirit; and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The young people came up with an inspired definition of worshipping "in spirit and truth." First, our worship must be influenced, guided, and led by the Holy Spirit. This is worshipping in "spirit." To worship "in truth" we must be completely honest and sincere before God and man. No wonder verse 23 says that God is seeking such "true worshippers." This should be our desire as individuals and as churches.

**Friday** — We talked a lot about the different styles of worship. Most of the young people wanted more freedom and informality in the worship service. They felt that worship services, in general, had too much ritual. They also realized, however, that informality could eventually become ritualistic. What they really wanted was more variety in worship, with each worship experience being unique. □

Rodney Henry



Why do I act the way I do?  
 Why do I follow my parents' standards—can't  
 I have a set of my own?  
 How do I go about making decisions?  
 Does it matter what others think of me or what  
 I am doing?

## PRE-CON REPORT

by Bob and Lorna Austin

These are a few of the questions that Pre-Conners tossed around as we sought to explore and examine our value systems. Most agreed that the biggest issue is "What does God think?"

This year's Pre-Con was somewhat smaller in quantity but was truly a quality group. It was really a blessing to see so many beautiful hearts for God sharing together in worship, Bible study, "recreating" and much praise and singing. Our quality group consisted of fifty-four campers representing twenty-four different churches from "Caly to Rhody." We thank the Lord especially for Lorna and Bob Austin who planned and coordinated the program and radiated His love. Others of staff included Cheryl and Jim Driver, Freda Fatato, Rod Henry, Pastor Rusty Johnson, Jennie Lewis, Tibbie Maddox, Rollie Maxson, Patti Jo Pederson, Pastor Ken Van Horn, and Viva Owen.

Praise the Lord for Pre-Con and the good times He gave us in sharing together with Him.

from the Crier (Blurter) by Viva Owen

In morning chapel campers were directed to commit their lives to Christ — to be the salt that has *not* lost its savor, and to test the Lord for blessings so great we cannot hold them, by Rod Henry, Pastor Rusty, and Pastor Ken.

Freda Fatato challenged the campers to search "What's in it for me?" that their daily decisions be directed by a Christian commitment and not lesser values. In a rap session the groups shared where conflicting values often confuse youth.

Rollie Maxson, with Cheryl Driver as accompanist, directed the musical "I'm Here, God's Here, Now We Can Start" by Ralph Carmichael and Kurt Kaiser. The lyrics gave the Big Picture; God is in control, you may "come as you are" and fit into the picture, as you are, committed to Him.

The days started and ended with prayer times led by several staff members. We shared prayer concerns, prayed expectantly, and the Lord an-

swered beyond our highest hopes. Miracles did happen.

Vespers were camper planned and proved a great blessing in testimony and song. Patti Jo contributed sketches and skits for our edification. Tibbie administered First Aid as well as assisting in groups and morning awareness sessions. Jennifer directed informal singing. We thank Darrel Henry and Peter Morris for their testimony and song in the Sabbath night evangelistic service.

Our days were tightly scheduled due to rigid time schedules of bus trips to the cafeteria. We had a time to relax in late afternoon for preparation and recreation. The Azusa College assigned bus driver, Bud, was a beautiful Christian (Hawaiian) left tackle, who shared in our choruses and made the bus trips a delight. He joined in our vesper service and shared his testimony the night after the the Sabbath.

Each camper received a card as read below:

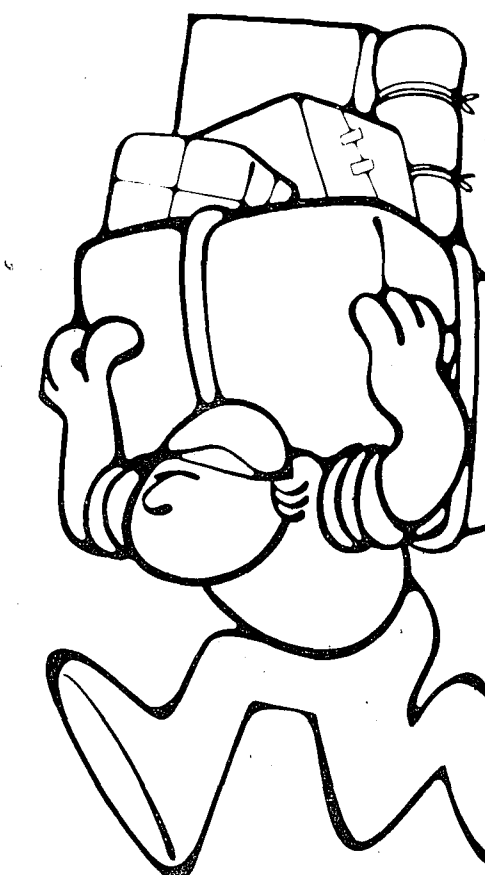
I HOLD A VALUE IF I:

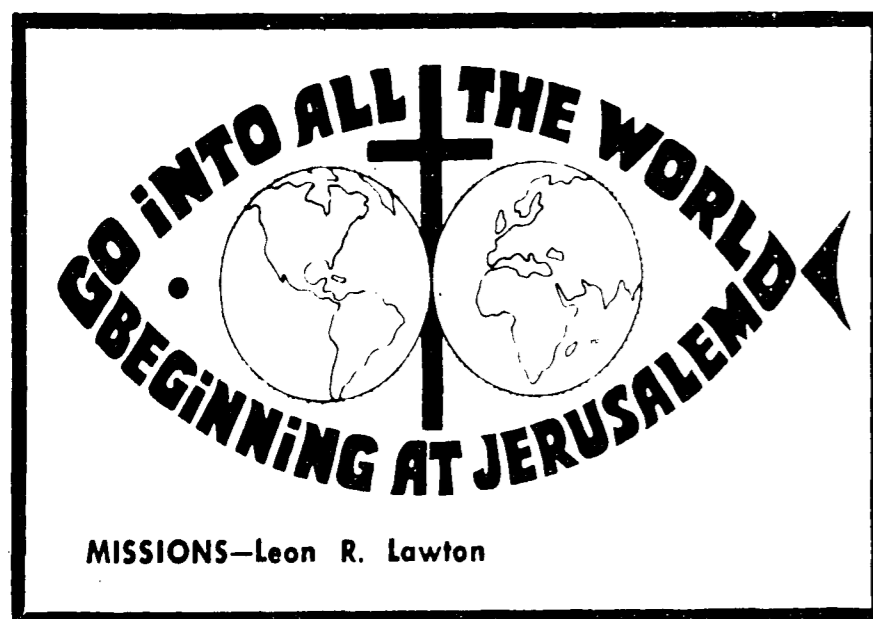
- Am proud of my position.
- Have publicly affirmed my position.
- Have chosen my position from alternatives.
- Have reflected and considered it long and hard.
- Have chosen it freely on my own.
- Prefer to act or live by it — my choice.
- Act repeatedly on it.

I HAVE HAZY VALUES IF I:

- Act impulsively.
- Make regretful decisions.
- Say one thing — do another.
- Am emotionally inappropriate.
- Acquiesce readily.

The goals set were achieved as the campers sang out their faith and testimony on Thursday evening of Conference. Their faces radiated their knowledge of the Spirit and their reliance on faith that "God Is in Control." □





# KENYA

Acts 16:9, 10

# A M A C E D O N I A N CALL

*Missionary Watson Mataka writes from Kenya*

The Bible draws the attention of the believers today to a vision of Paul the apostle. He saw a man. He heard a voice — "Come and help us!"

Paul was not alone, but he had companions with whom he shared the vision. They all realized that it was the Lord who was calling. So they determined to go.

When they came to Macedonia they had evidence which helped them to know that it was worthwhile for them to be there. They met people who were hungry for the word of God. So they preached the good news (gospel) of salvation.

As a result of their ministry a lady named Lydia, was converted and a damsel possessed with an evil spirit was freed. Their time and money spent on the trip were not wasted.

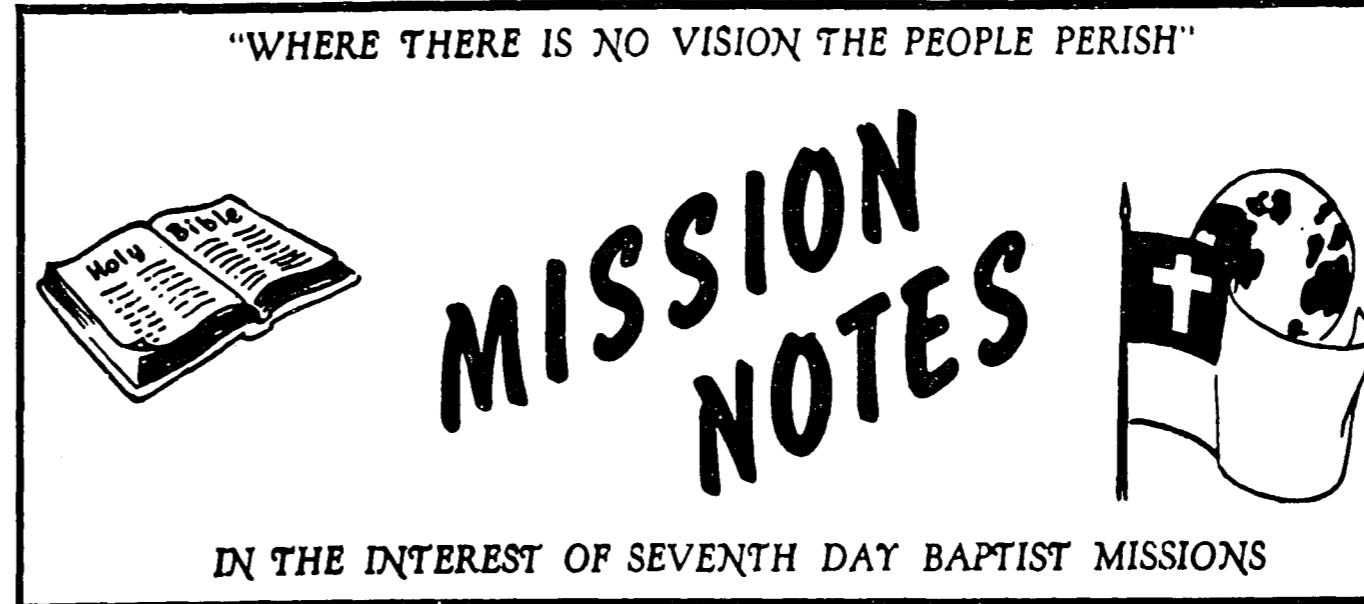
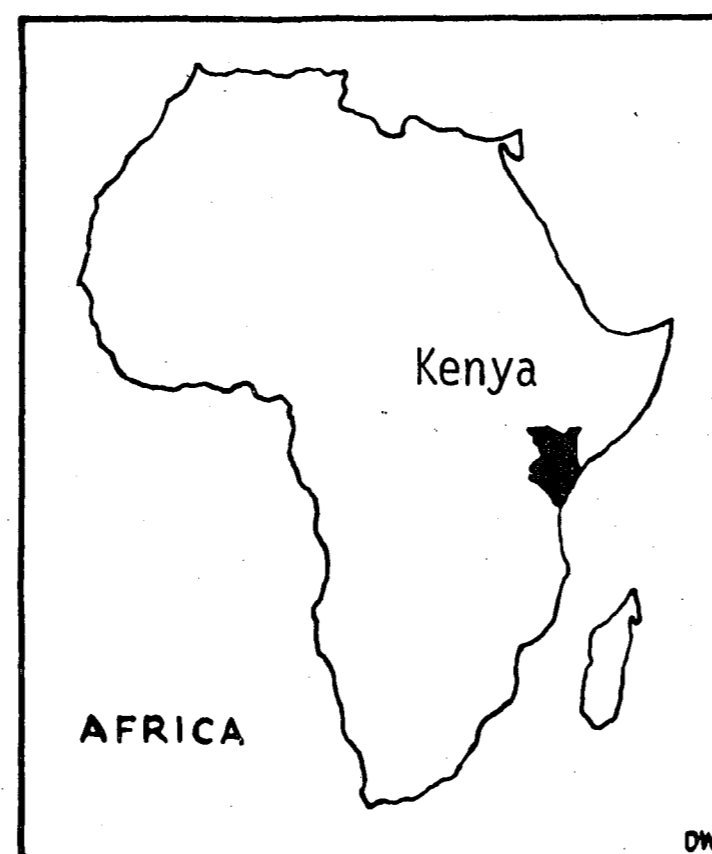
### VOICE OF CALL IN KENYA

A voice is heard from Kenya saying, "Come to Kenya and help us." The Seventh Day Baptists have heard this call and are responding to the call, because we realize that it is the call by the Lord for His people in Kenya that need salvation. So some have contributed money for the trip (German SDB's) and some have provided with personnel, (The Central Africa Conf. of SDB's) and someone has spared his time (Missionary Watson Mataka of Malawi). We all as companions have come to Kenya to minister (many uphold the work by prayer).

Do you know what? Every time Pastor Joseph and I go to the homes of people in Bassi Location of Kisii District, we find people who say to us, "Please tell us the word of God." People are starving for the word of God. It is a Macedonian-like call.

One Sabbath afternoon we went to preach to Nyansache village. There, among the homes that we visited we found people drinking liquor. When they saw us pass by with our Bibles they stopped us and invited us in. They begged us and said "preach to us please." So we preached to them. They thanked God and us for the message about Christ given to them! God has called us for His people in Kenya.

—Watson Mataka



—In mid-August, Rev. B. John V. Rao, Nellore, India, reported on work begun on seven wells—five for irrigation and two for drinking water. Additional love gifts by the Women's Board (given at General Conference) and funds added to these by the Christian Social Action Committee will assure continued well work to meet human needs among Seventh Day Baptists in South India.

—The Post-Conference Retreat for ministerial students and pastors (and their wives), held at the Los Angeles, CA, SDB Church August 17-21, included classes on "Mission-mindedness" and "Evangelism. Over thirty were in attendance.

—Three weeks' special training for Terry Allen and Ewart Caesar was held in Georgetown, Guyana, in July. Bible study — 1 Timothy, Biblical Interpretation, Homiletics, Personal Evangelism, Doctrine of God, English and a class on Cults formed the curriculum. Pastor J. Tyrrell and Mrs. Elmora Andries assisted Pastor Sam Peters as the teaching staff.

—Many churches will begin their special BICENTENNIAL Inreach/Outreach this fall using the film-strip available from the AV center in Plainfield, NJ, and materials supplied by the World Home Bible League. Is your church? Why?

—Pastor Vincent R. Smith of Higin Town, Jamaica was reelected president of the Jamaica SDB Conference held at the Luna church, July 22-27, 1975. He has chosen as his theme "Building the Kingdom of God." The Wallingford SDB church in Kingston was welcomed into the Conference. A membership increase of 115 was reported. New

work was noted at Oxford (Past. V. R. Smith), Seaton (Past. J. Samuels), and Buchnam (Past. J. B. Roberts).

—Rev. L. Sawi Thanga writes: "It is my hope and prayers to establish a congregation in the city of Rangoon. I have now eight associate members but we have no adequate space to worship together." He also reports, "My 'Topical Bible Concordance' in the Lushai language was printed (in 3,000 copies) last year and became the best seller among the Lushai and Chin readers and all the copies have been sold. A revised edition is in process of publication."

—Youth Camp, Sept. 2-8, 1975 was held at Riverview Baptist camp site in Guyana — near Bartica. Travel to camp was by boat from Georgetown. Their theme was "It Only Takes a Spark."

—Three new members joined Light Bearers for Christ (musical team) following General Conference. Their first ministry was with Evangelist Mynor G. Soper in special meetings at the Pawcatuck SDB Church, Westerly, R. I. in mid-September. They will assist in meetings at the Marlboro, N. J., and Brookfield, N. Y., churches and present concerts in several SDB and other churches in the eastern states this fall.

—A leper home at Kothavalasa, South India, has been opened to receive persons with this disease from SDB churches. At present it is reported that 25 persons (both men and women) are in residence at the home. The Orphanage at Velagapudi has 60 pupils and the SDB Hostel at Kanigiri opened on August 10 for the new school year. Bro. Rao writes, "Pray for our efforts."

## PRAYER CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day! NOVEMBER 1975

Verse for the month:

"I can never stop thanking God for all the wonderful gifts He has given you, now that you are Christ's; . . . every spiritual gift and power for doing His will are yours . . ."

—1 Cor. 1:4, 7 LB

- 1—PRAY to be responsive to His Word.
- 2—\*Elsbeth Ganca, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- 3—Women's Board in their monthly meeting
- 4—Crandall High School students, Kingston, Jamaica
- 5—For committed, inspired leadership in our churches
- 6—\*Antonio Barrera, Curitiba, Parana, Brazil
- 7—Lay Witness Mission, Battle Creek, Mich. SDB
- 8—THAT WE MAY REACH O.W.M. GOALS FOR NOVEMBER!
- 9—\*Francis S. Johnson, Auckland, New Zealand
- 10—For the "lost" in my area/neighborhood
- 11—\*Jossett V. Lynch, Birmingham, England
- 12—Our missionaries in Africa and Jamaica
- 13—\*Johannes Bahlke, Hamburg, Germany
- 14—New outreach ministries in the U.S.A.
- 15—YOUR PASTOR AS HE MINISTERS FOR CHRIST
- 16—\*L. Sawi Thanga, Rangoon, Burma
- 17—Our ministry to/for youth and children
- 18—\*Jacob N. Tyrrell, Georgetown, Guyana, SA
- 19—Director of Evangelism, Mynor G. Soper
- 20—\*Elias Camacho, Brownsville, TX (Mexico)
- 21—For satellite outreach groups in my area
- 22—For FELLOWSHIP IN THE LIGHT to His glory!
- 23—\*B. John V. Rao, Nellore, India
- 24—Conf. Exec. Sec'y. K. Duane Hurley, Plainfield, NJ
- 25—\*Joe A. Samuels, Kingston, Jamaica
- 26—Light Bearers for Christ ministry
- 27—\*Otrain B. Manani, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
- 28—For the several ministerial students
- 29—SABBATH SCHOOL MISSION OFFERING for New Fields
- 30—\*J. A. Nieuwstraten, Haarlem, Holland

\*Our emphasis for the month is for correspondents of various SDB sister Conferences worldwide and their Conference ministries.

# THE CATALYZER'S FRIEND

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education was cast as "the catalyzer's friend" at the recent national gathering of the churches of America. Using overhead projector methods, the agency was pictured as helping bring persons and groups from "holey" lives to "holy" ones, catalyzed by the teaching of faithful teachers within the redemptive fellowship of church, Sabbath school, camp or other educational enterprise. Design came from a new church school curriculum by Seabury Press.

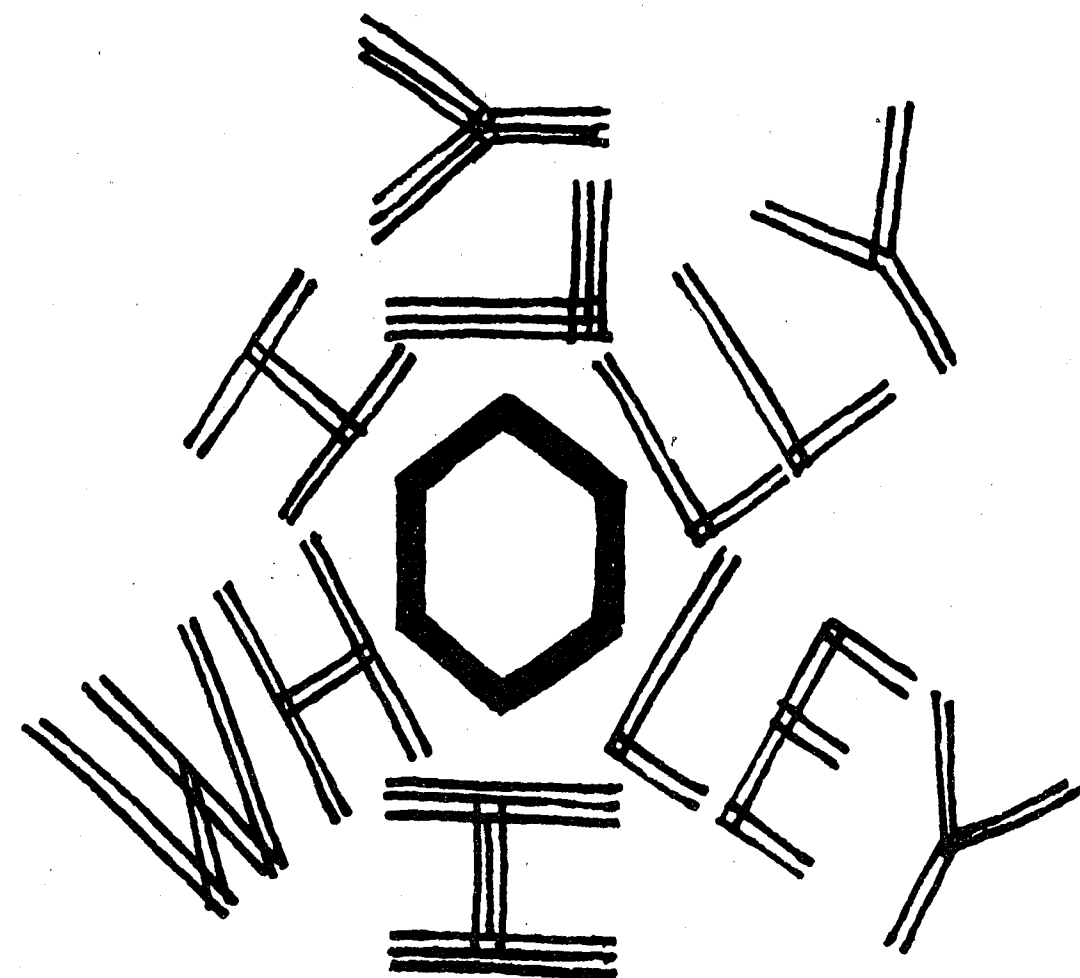
"The Board of Christian Education directors work together (in committees and general board sessions) to encourage and challenge local church and Sabbath school leaders in enabling or catalyzing Christian growth and quality of personal discipleship and service," Secretary Clarke said in introducing one of the board's programs, showing on the screen a hexagonal hole.

"All of us have HOLES, gaps, measly spots — as Miriam Shaw used to put it — in our lives," he continued, showing a "HOLEY" word over the hole.

"We are all sinful, HOLEY. To enable growth toward Christlikeness, persons need to know WHO they are." The word WHO appeared on another plane using the central "O" or hole.

"But it's not enough just to be wholly one's self," and LLY was added to the WHO.

"For there must be basic commitment to the perfect God who seems always above us, but who is within us and makes us new and



HOLY in Christ." Brighter letters vertically placed over the "O" pointed to God's HOLY character.

"The Board of Christian Education directors befriend you in catalyzing such a change in Sabbath school, camp, vacation Bible school, home Bible study, family living, personal searching!"

Such was the program-introduction in which Pastor Duane Davis was recognized with a gift from the directors for his five years of *Helping Hand* editorship. Ms. Elaine Stonestrom was introduced and spoke as new *Helping Hand* editor-writer, illustrating her plans with projected charts. Reduction of scheduled time prevented the planned introduction of other matters. □

## ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Annual Corporate Meeting of the Board of Christian Education, for the receiving of the Annual Report and the Election of Directors and Officers for 1976, will be held Oct. 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Parish House, Alfred, N. Y. Immediately following this meeting, the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors will be held, at which session all Board members are welcome.

You are a Board member if you attended the last session of the SDB General Conference.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

## The Way to Christian Values

The 1975 Youth Pre-Conference Retreat held at Azusa-Pacific College's hillside campus saw 54 campers with 12 staff spend four rich days of fellowship, Aug. 6-10. One of the staff, Viva Owen, wrote this report for the Conference newsheet (dated Fri., Aug. 15, 1975):

"Why do I act the way I do? Why do I follow my parents' standards — can't I have a set of my own? How do I go about making decisions? Does it matter what others think of me or what I am doing?"

"These are a few of the questions that Pre-Conners tossed around as we sought to explore and examine our value systems. Most agreed that the biggest issue is 'What does God think?'"

"This year's Pre-Con was somewhat smaller in quantity but was truly a quality group. It was really a blessing to see so many beautiful hearts for God sharing together in worship, Bible study, 'recreating' and much praise and singing. Our quality group consisted of 54 campers representing 24 different churches from 'Cally to Rhody.' We thank the Lord especially for Lorna and Bob Austin who planned and coordinated the program and radiated His love.

"Others on staff included Cheryl and Bob Driver, Freda Fatato, Rod Henry, Pastor Rusty Johnson, Jennie Lewis, Tibbie Maddox, Rollie Maxson, Patti Jo Pederson, Pastor Ken Van Horn, and Viva Owen.

"Praise the Lord for Pre-Con and the good times He gave us in sharing together and with Him."

Conference participants remember with great inspiration the Youth Pre-Con's musical program on Thursday evening when Rollie Maxson led them. He had trained the Pre-Conners intensively during their retreat and in two rehearsals in Conference week. They presented Carmichael and Kaiser's "I AM HERE, GOD IS HERE; NOW WE CAN START."

The S.D.B. Board of Christian Education's Youth Program Committee offers copies of the musical used at Azusa at the reduced price of \$2.50, plus postage. Many copies were bought after the presentation, but about 25 are still available.

We salute the Youth Pre-Con staff for producing a very valuable experience for our American SDB youth.

### Ethics for Christians

Pastor Mel and Yvonne Stephan led a group of 43 young adults and 8 staff in an openly creative search for real maturity of Christian living. Led in Biblical studies by the new *Helping Hand* editor, Jinx Stonestrom, the Pre-Conners worked in small groups on a number of life-concerns where Christian values need implementation. Ruby Hambleton kept up a wonderful feeding program that made the retreat very satisfying. Staff served as resource leaders in styles largely determined by the group who chose to work on the subjects they had come to develop.

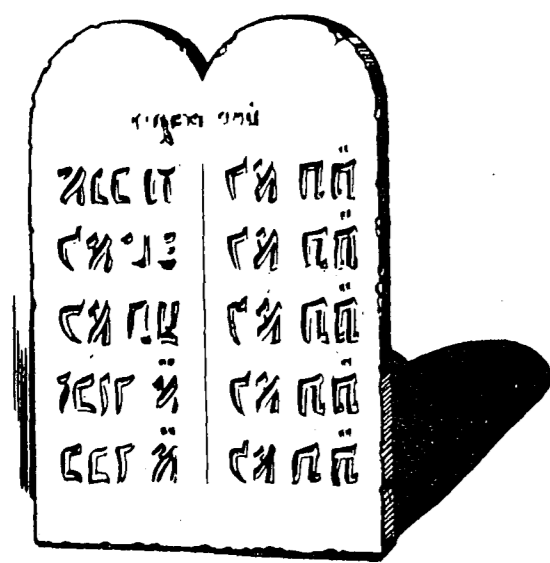
This Pre-Con was held at the SDB Camp above San Bernardino at Crestline, Calif., a truly beautiful facility for inspiration and growth. Besides Mel and Yvonne Stephan as co-directors, staff included: Dorothy Parrott of the Social Action Committee; Venita Zinn of Salem College; Jinx Stonestrom, *Helping Hand* editor-writer of Stanford; Gordon Lawton of Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City; Dave Clarke of the Board of Christian Education; Ruby Hambleton, cook, and Starlin Ross, business manager, both of Riverside, Calif.

One immediate expression of the ethical explorations made at this Pre-Con Retreat was the panel discussion of "capital punishment" presented to Conference on Tuesday. The panel was guided in communications techniques and subject matter by Mrs. Venita Zinn. Long-range results of the Pre-Con will be operating in the Bible study, social service and opinion-forming efforts of 1975 Young Adult Pre-Con campers.

It is estimated that the two current Pre-Con Retreats cost about \$18,000 for staff and campers, yet the whole program has consistently been operated as a self-sustaining part of the denominational life, without direct budgeting through Our World Mission funds. Staffs serve without any compensation other than food and lodging during the four pre-Conference days. They give hundreds of dollars worth of professional services in preparation for programs. Youth travel to Pre-Con on funds provided by themselves, their YF, church, Sabbath school, or family. Camp facilities

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# The Tenth Commandment

## WHAT IS RIGHT WITH COVETING?

by Pastor Leroy Bass

Can there be anything right with coveting when the Tenth Commandment says "You shall not covet"? Ex. 20:17. Can there be anything right with coveting when Jesus Christ taught, "Beware of all covetousness," and Paul plainly writes that the wicked are filled with covetousness? Luke 12:15; Rom. 1:29. Can there be anything right with coveting? If there is, we should find it in the Bible, with the blessing of God upon it. Here it is in 2 Chronicles 1:7-12, where we read what Solomon coveted and received God's high approval for doing so.

"In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said to God, 'Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and hast made me king in his stead. O Lord God, let thy promise to David my father be now fulfilled, for thou hast made me king over a people as many as the dust of the earth. Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people for who can rule this thy people, that is so great?' God answered Solomon, 'Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like.'"

What was it that Solomon coveted? Verse ten tells us "wisdom and knowledge" to rule over the people. James makes it clear that God is pleased when any of us asks for the same thing: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him." James 1:5. This is altogether different from coveting one's neighbor's possessions, such as King Ahab did for Naboth's vineyards and Balaam did for Balak's reward if he cursed Israel.

The word *covet* means "to desire earnestly." To covet can be good and right — when the coveting is moral and legitimate. And it can be bad, when it is to desire unlawfully and unrighteously. The Bible tells us the difference.

How can you tell when what you desire, what you covet, is good and right, and when it is sinful? Remember this:

1. It is *not* a sin to desire what you do not possess if you can obtain it with God's approval (lawfully, that is), and you are not selfish with it, and if it helps you to become a better Christian.
2. It is a sin when what you desire to obtain is by illegitimate means and/or for selfish purposes. It is a sin to desire to secure something or someone that you have no right to have.

Sinful coveting is the sin no one confesses, because it is so easily hidden from others. Coveting is not

an act but an attitude of the heart. In 1 Corinthians 12:31 Paul exhorts the believers to "earnestly desire the higher gifts" or "covet earnestly the best gifts" KJV, which in 1 Cor. 14:39 shows he has "to prophesy" especially in mind. In His Beatitudes, Jesus indicates how coveting can be gloriously blessed, especially for "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." To "hunger and thirst" for something is certainly to "earnestly desire" or to *covet*. The most legitimate coveting in all this world is to "hunger and thirst" for partaking of the righteousness of Christ Himself, that one may be a righteous person. We are promised full and complete satisfaction with all the righteousness Jesus offers us. Matt. 5:6. We are to covet spiritual qualities that will fit us for eternal life. Matt. 6:33. We are to covet Jesus Christ and His righteousness in order to become like Him.

But coveting also has its ugly side, which the Scriptures so willingly tell us about — selfish, sinful coveting. Jesus boldly proclaimed that the coveting of money is "an abomination in the sight of God" (See Luke 16:13-15) and that it is idolatry. This abomination of covetousness will keep a person out of heaven. No one "who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God." Eph. 5:5. If we find the sin of "earthly" coveting crop-

(Continued on page 25)

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Needless to say, somehow the essence of Jesus' words as recorded in the fifth chapter of Matthew was lost as she shared what she had learned with her friends. But often such meaning is lost for us as we study the Sermon on the Mount. We so often recite the Beatitudes with little or no enthusiasm about their meaning — they are so easily recitable. It's not that we don't care what they say; they have just become so familiar to us that, like the Lord's Prayer, they don't challenge us as they used to.

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Others knew of this joy. Paul remembered Jesus' words when he told the elders at Ephesus that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." And John reminded his hearers seven times of this joy as he wrote the Revelation which was introduced by the words: "Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein: for the time is near." And Jesus gave each of us en-

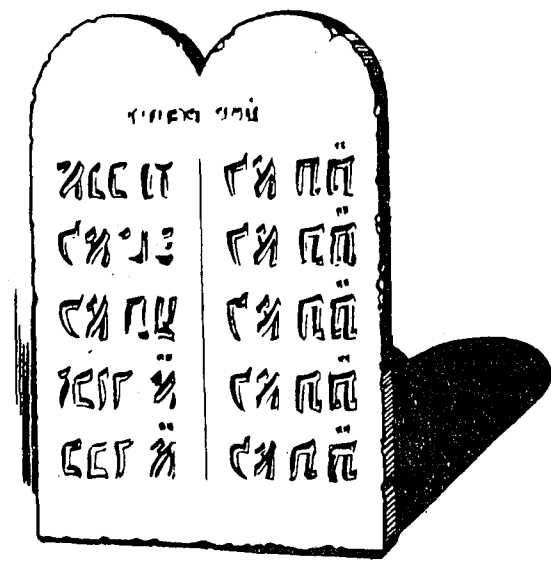
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# personality profile

## LOTTA BOND

by Mrs. Janet Thorngate



When my little sister was born in the parsonage while Daddy was at camp, my younger brother and I went to Aunt Lotta's to stay. Brother got mad at bedtime and threw his bottle on the floor and it broke. So he had to quit being the baby right then.

He cried so I cried too, but Aunt Lotta made everything all right. Then she said, "Sleep-tight-sweet-dreams-wake-up-bright-see-you-in-the-morning-night-night," real fast like she always did when she put us to bed.

A few days later when the church was between parsonages, our whole family went to Aunt Lotta's to stay. I rode the bus to the school where she taught. Only she wasn't my teacher, because I was only in first grade. She taught home economics and biology and science to the big kids.

On the farm we tagged along after Aunt Lotta's real nephew and nieces who lived next door. They were big kids who thought us just little brats who got their kites caught in trees and didn't even know anything about cows. But I guess they got used to it — to sharing their Aunt Lotta, that is, with the whole world.

We moved away to other churches. Other pastors' families came and went. And Aunt Lotta made each one of them "her family." Maybe that's why the church made her chairman of the parsonage building committee when they decided to build one.

Lotta Bond has served the Lost Creek church in that and many other official capacities throughout the sixty-five years that she has been a member. She was born in the community of Aberdeen on Hacker's Creek in Lewis County, West Virginia, on December 16, 1895. Her father, Thomas Marsden Bond, was a lifelong member of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church. Her mother, Bessie Clarke, was reared in the Richfield, New York, community and church before coming to West Virginia to live.

As Lotta and her brother Paul grew up the family moved to Lost Creek to be nearer the church, and later to Salem so they both could attend the Academy and the College. Lotta received a BA Degree from Salem College in 1919.

There were only four young ladies in the class. All the young men were off to war. She taught then in Flemington, Lost Creek, and West Milford High Schools until her retirement in 1960 from a career spanning forty-one years.

Her niece, Ann Bond Bailey, says, "Aunt Lotta's generosity is probably the characteristic that has most affected me personally. Many times she provided the opportunity for me and others in my family to attend Pre-Con and General Conference. Without her help college would have been much more difficult, perhaps impossible, for us.

"She has been generous with time and herself, not only to the family but to the church, students, and community. Even after twenty or thirty years, students stop to see her and let her know how much she has meant to them as they matured. This is surely a testimony to a life well spent in serving and loving others."

Lotta has always shown a special concern for older people and children, for years driving to church early so there would be time to pick up children from the neighborhood and older people in the Lost Creek vicinity who had no transportation.

Though she never married she frequently played the role of cupid for other young couples. During one of the interim periods between regular pastors at Lost Creek, the student pastor's fiancée was a regular weekend visitor in her home. The wife of another young church member also visited on weekends while her husband was in the military service. And another young couple was married in Lotta's living room.

Many college students have held the reward of her generosity. She has given direct aid to many who otherwise would probably have been unable to attend Salem College. Currently she is helping to support a Filipino girl who is finishing high school through an aid to children program.

It was the weekend trips to Aunt Lotta's that got me through my first year of college. The big corner cupboard in the dining room was still full of those old favorite toys, but now it was the long

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### Words from the past speak to us today!

Seventh Day Baptists take pride in the fact that they do not proselyte and are quite likely to make such an assertion frequently, but what do we consider an accurate

comfortable in his beliefs and a good Christian person. In such a case we would be acting in poor taste, to say the least, if we tried to superimpose our Baptist beliefs, particularly those except the seventh day Sabbath. Definitely, we would be guilty of proselyting in the obnoxious sense of the word.

### To Have and To Hold

#### Church Respect and Enthusiasm.

However, let's be sure we do not use our abhorrence of the word "proselyting" as an excuse to let "Nature take its course" and sit idly by while our children, young people, and adults too, slip away from Seventh Day Baptist churches

practices, it is permissible for an agent to sell additional life insurance with perhaps some extra feature such as a disability provision, provided the original coverage in the other company remains undisturbed.

This brings up another thought which is based on the fact that few people today assert a strong belief that Sunday is the Sabbath of the Bible and the Lord. They are more likely to say that as long as one day is observed faithfully it matters not which day it is.

Our biggest asset as Seventh Day Baptists is the Sabbath, and as in the life insurance business, why



definition of that term? According to Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition, to proselyte is "to convert to some religion, opinion, system or the like; to make a proselyte of; to make proselytes; to convert."

Again, according to the same source, a proselyte is "a new convert, esp. to some religion or religious sect or to some opinion, system or party, as a pagan to Christianity."

If we accept these definitions, are we not proselyting in our missionary work in China, in Jamaica, or other foreign land? Certainly it is not dishonorable to convert those of pagan or atheistic beliefs. To these may be added those in our own land who for some reason or other are unchurched. They are not pagans nor are they atheists. Perhaps they have been brought up in isolated sections of the country and know little or nothing about Christian beliefs. Again, if we proselytize these individuals, no odium should attach to our acts.

### Getting Personal

Let's look a bit closer at our own personal problem as Seventh Day Baptists. Suppose we are acquainted with a staunch believer in Episcopal or Congregational or Methodist doctrines who is very

and join those of some other denomination whose pastors quite universally beckon and welcome our people into their membership and fellowship. When a Seventh Day Baptist marries some one of another faith, is it proselyting in the wrong sense for our ministers to urge the husband or wife to accept our beliefs when it is a known fact that marital happiness is more secure when both husband and wife have the same religious beliefs? Also when children of such marriages have reached Bible School age and are headed for other than a Seventh Day Baptist Sabbath School, is it proselyting for the Seventh Day Baptist minister to fight strenuously, though diplomatically, to hold the children in the Seventh Day Baptist faith?

### "Twisting" or Adding To?

In the life insurance business there is an illegal practice known as "twisting." This consists of urging a holder of a life insurance contract to cancel it in one company, then purchasing the same coverage in another insurance company at the insistence of some aggressive salesman. In a sense, this may be compared with the form of proselyting that destroys or attempts to destroy beliefs.

Again referring to life insurance

shouldn't we proclaim it loudly to all Christians, leaving their other beliefs alone but adding the Sabbath? Surely this would not be proselyting wrongly for we could be giving a belief where none now exists.

### Broadcast the Word!

Our own denomination should prosper under such a policy, for definite interest would develop in our other beliefs and inquiries result which we could answer without forcing ourselves on others. Advertising is not unethical proselyting and should be used by Seventh Day Baptists in all its various forms — printing, radio, lectures or other types. The listener or reader would respond voluntarily to such appeals; there should be no coercion or proselyting.

### Pussyfooting

Let's all examine our personal methods of expounding our beliefs to others and make certain we are not "pussyfooting" by pleading the cause of unethical proselyting, whereas actually we are coasting along with the tide instead of aggressively making gains in spite of difficulties. □

—Treas. Karl G. Stillman  
(Reprinted from *The Missionary Reporter*, November 1946)

On August 17, 1975, twenty-eight persons left the General Conference grounds in Azusa, California, and gathered together at the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church for what might be called "The California Experiment" — a five day Post-Conference retreat for ministerial students, pastors and their wives. In an attempt to strengthen ties between Seventh Day Baptist students across the nation, the retreat was authorized by the Council on Ministry as an alternative to the very expensive weekends shared together by students in the past. From Sunday evening through Thursday noon, those who attended the retreat participated in studies centered around five areas: 1) A study of the book of Amos, with lecture, individual study, and group discussion; 2) A study of the role of the pastor's wife for the women with Miss Florence Bowden; 3) a series on "Mission-mindedness" with Missionary Society Executive Vice-President Leon R. Lawton; 4) a study of Evangelism with Evangelist Mynor G. Soper; and 5) an extensive review of the actions of General Conference, 1975, and how these actions might be implemented through the boards and agencies, and in the local church.

The sessions were directed by Dean Herbert E. Saunders of the Center on Ministry. Pastor Leland E. Davis of the Los Angeles church was the leader in worship both morning and evening.



Those who participated in "The California Experiment."

A field trip to World Vision in Pasadena was exciting and informative (twenty-one people can get stuck on an elevator for twenty minutes and enjoy it).

The success of the "experiment" can be directly linked to the generosity and love of the people of the Los Angeles church. They hosted persons in their homes, and provided all meals, requesting nothing in return. We cannot express too much our thanks to these wonderful people for opening up their homes and their hearts to the sometimes weary out-of-towners.

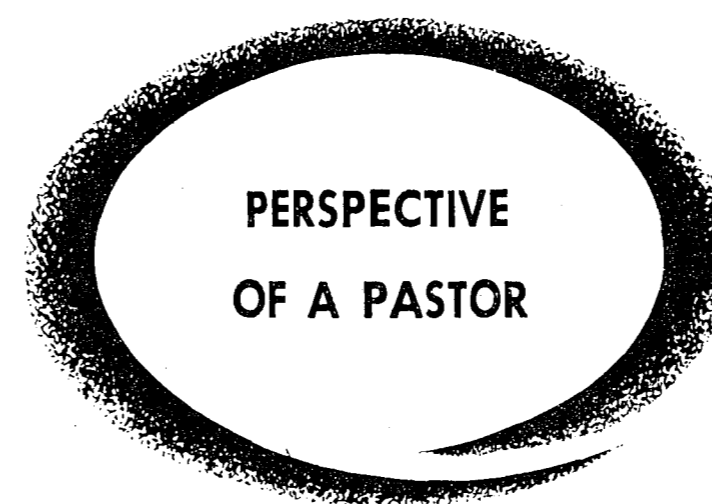
"The California Experiment" was a success and it looks as if future conferences of this nature will be held. Bringing students to General Conference allows the Council on Ministry to introduce them to our people, and introduces the students to the inner workings of our denomination. The sessions following the Conference meetings proved helpful in that they gave each participant a chance to reflect on what had been accomplished and where we are going as a people. Worship, Bible study, and considerations of mutual concerns all brought us closer together as servants of the Lord. Next year, Lord willing, it won't be "The California Experiment" but the "New York Experience." □

—Dean Herbert E. Saunders



The group learned much from their tour of World Vision headquarters in California.

## THE CALIFORNIA EXPERIMENT



When my wife and I first heard about the institute and that it was being opened to pastors and their wives, we began to get enthusiastic about going. For one thing, I had been unable to get to the Ministers Conference at Dodge Center, Minn., in May and felt the need for fellowship. For another, we would both be in Los Angeles for Conference anyway. For a third thing, wives were involved. There were other reasons for going too such as topics of interest that were to be discussed and an interest in meeting and getting to know the SDB ministerial students and their wives.

The three major features in the program were a study of mission-mindedness by Leon Lawton, a study and discussion on evangelism led by Mynor Soper, and a study of the book of Amos including presentations by Herb Saunders, personal Bible study, and small group discussion. In the study of missions, I was impressed with the need for vision and goals in the mission work, for an efficient and relevant as well as Biblical strategy, and the need for each one of us in our home churches to care and be involved with the work of our missions. Psalm 67:2 was referred to. This verse says "Send us . . ." not "Send me . . ." In the study on evangelism, we struggled with what evangelism really is. It was pointed out that anything we do as Christians *can be* evangelism, but this does not mean that everything we do is evangelism. As such, evangelism, to be effective, must be done in both deed and word, providing both good example and a call to commitment to Christ.

I was strongly impressed with the concern that evangelism be more than a call to salvation in Christ but also includes a call to discipleship to Christ, to follow Him and live out the Christian life. In the study of Amos, we struggled with the meaning of Amos' message for our day and struggled with our responsibility as pastors in speaking out in the name of the Lord. Some interesting discussion developed, particularly in the small groups. The point that came across most clearly to me was the necessity to struggle with speaking out in the name of the Lord against injustice and hypocrisy and for justice and truth, and that such a message must take seriously the need for a change in the heart of each individual.

As important as the program was, it was the non-program portion that had the biggest impact

on me. The Los Angeles church hosted the meetings and furnished excellent meals and hospitality. It was especially good to hear its pastor, Leland Davis, and some others in the church tell of how the Lord is at work in Los Angeles. Also included were those times when I had opportunity to share and talk over meals, in small informal groups, and individuals. I had opportunity to share what was part of me, and to learn from others. New ideas were integrated into my thinking as we shared. New and closer friendships developed.

There was opportunity for interaction with denominational executives, especially with Dave Clarke who was there but had no program responsibilities. Out of this came a closeness of fellowship and deep love and unity of Spirit with those present. It was good to see the Lord at work in the lives of each one there, and to share how He has been working in Althea's and my life. It provided real encouragement and new vision to hear of some of the rich and exciting things the Lord is working among our people and to get to know and love these students, pastors, and wives. There developed a sense that we were in this ministry together and need to hold each other up in fellowship and sharing, but especially in prayer. Having been together and coming to know each other and sense each other's concerns and desires, it is now possible to pray for each other with greater wisdom and love. □

Dale E. Rood  
Waterford, Connecticut

### PERSPECTIVE OF A STUDENT'S WIFE

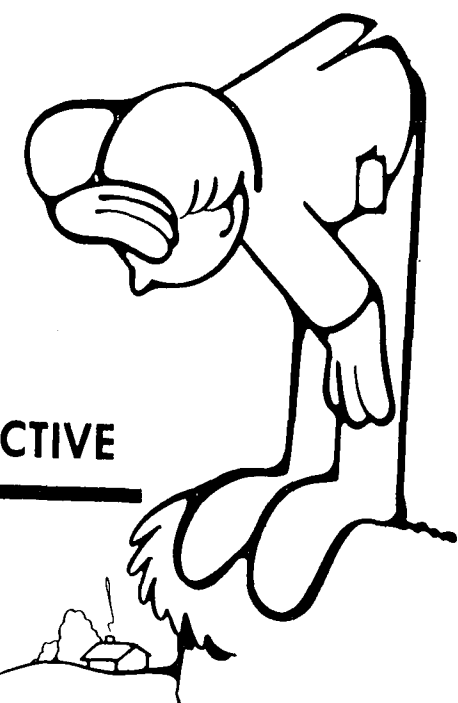
It was hard to get excited about another four days of meetings from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. after a full week of Conference meetings. The Lord takes care of these things for us, though, as the meetings turned out to be a time of spiritual uplift, of getting acquainted with fellow students, pastors and their wives, and even a time of just fun and fellowship together.

I think the variety of our schedule is one of the things that really helped to make the retreat a success. We participated in worship together, Bible study together, sessions separately as women with Florence Bowden as our leader, individual Bible study, and fun and fellowship together.

I guess I would say I enjoyed our sessions together as women the most but really felt that every part of the day was of value. At times I felt we had a little too much study per day on the book of Amos but feel that the Bible study time was important nevertheless.

As a whole I feel that the retreat was very worthwhile and that we all benefited from it in some way. □

—Mrs. Robert (Nelta) Babcock  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



## A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Dale Thorngate

As one of those attending this year's Post-Conference Retreat at Los Angeles I came away extremely pleased and rewarded by the experiences that I as a beginning Seventh Day Baptist ministerial student had received. It was a new idea this year to provide Bible study, Conference review, opportunity for fellowship, and to have our eyes opened to mission-mindedness and the need for evangelism. I came away from this retreat with new excitement, realizing that there are twelve others in the same situation I am, with concerns for the direction of Seventh Day Baptists and our role as future leaders in our denomination. We still each face an individual challenge, enrolled in separate seminaries scattered around the country, but somehow each has a better concept of the overall goal and what our personal commitment means.

The most important part of the retreat for me was the in-depth Bible study conducted by our capable dean, Herbert Saunders. With the use of maps, many different references, and an updated paraphrase he was able to make the book of Amos come alive, challenging us to a prophetic ministry.

Another very important aspect of the retreat was the opportunity to get to know the other students and their wives. An added plus was the attendance of some of our pastors who provided much insight and knowledge because of their experience. This opportunity to get to know each other better came during meals, worship, and prayer times — and during the frisbee games between study and discussion sessions.

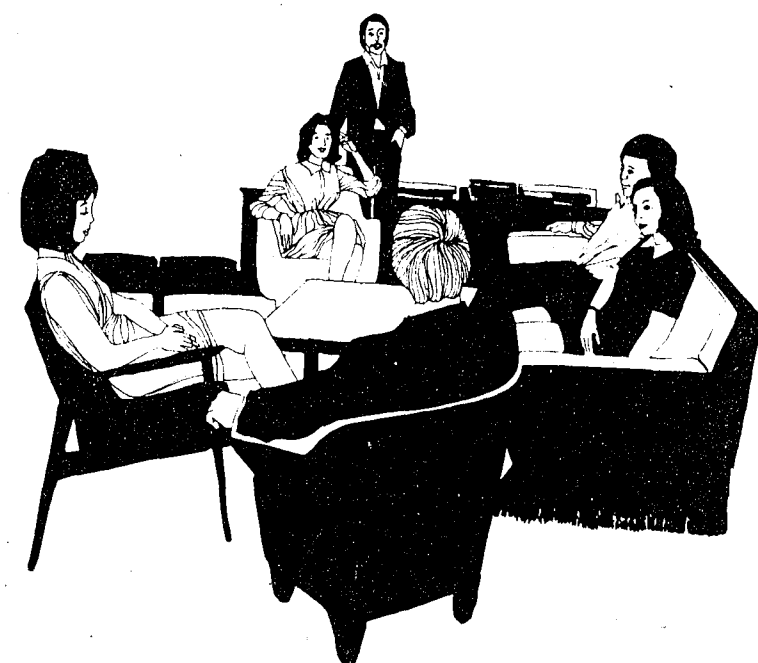
We had two discussion sessions centered around mission-mindedness and evangelism led by Rev. Leon Lawton and Rev. Mynor Soper, respectively. They helped us see that we as future pastors have a real responsibility in helping to change the shrinking trend of the denomination to a growing one. Leon and Mynor made possible a field trip to World Vision International, an interdenominational Christian humanitarian organization, dedicated to serving God through five areas of missionary support.

In our review of Conference action each of us gained a more complete understanding of what had gone on. We had each been asked to participate in one of the interest committees and come to the retreat prepared to discuss what had hap-

pened and how it would affect us, our churches, and the whole denomination. The sharing was helpful in making us aware of the needs of churches, how the denomination tries to meet those needs, and what our responsibilities are as future pastors in maintaining a line of communication between our churches and General Conference.

So much of the experience was made possible through the hospitality of the people of the Los Angeles church. My family is especially appreciative of the Rev. Leland Davis and his wife Gertrude who allowed us to park our tent camper in their yard and opened their home so graciously to us. Such loving hospitality from everyone was so appreciated by each of us at the retreat. The meals provided each evening by the families of the church were delicious and refreshing after a really long day of discussion and learning.

The retreat was good for me and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit through it all. I am now ready to begin my first year of seminary training, aware that I am not alone in my venture. Although we may be separated from other Seventh Day Baptist students and different in the seminary because of our beliefs, we know we are part of a larger fellowship because of what we shared in this Post-Conference Retreat. □



## PERSPECTIVE OF A PASTOR'S WIFE

Ten wives, ranging from new brides to seasoned ministers' helpmates met in session with our dedicated leader, Miss Florence Bowden. We became women with real personalities as we shared our joys and anxieties.

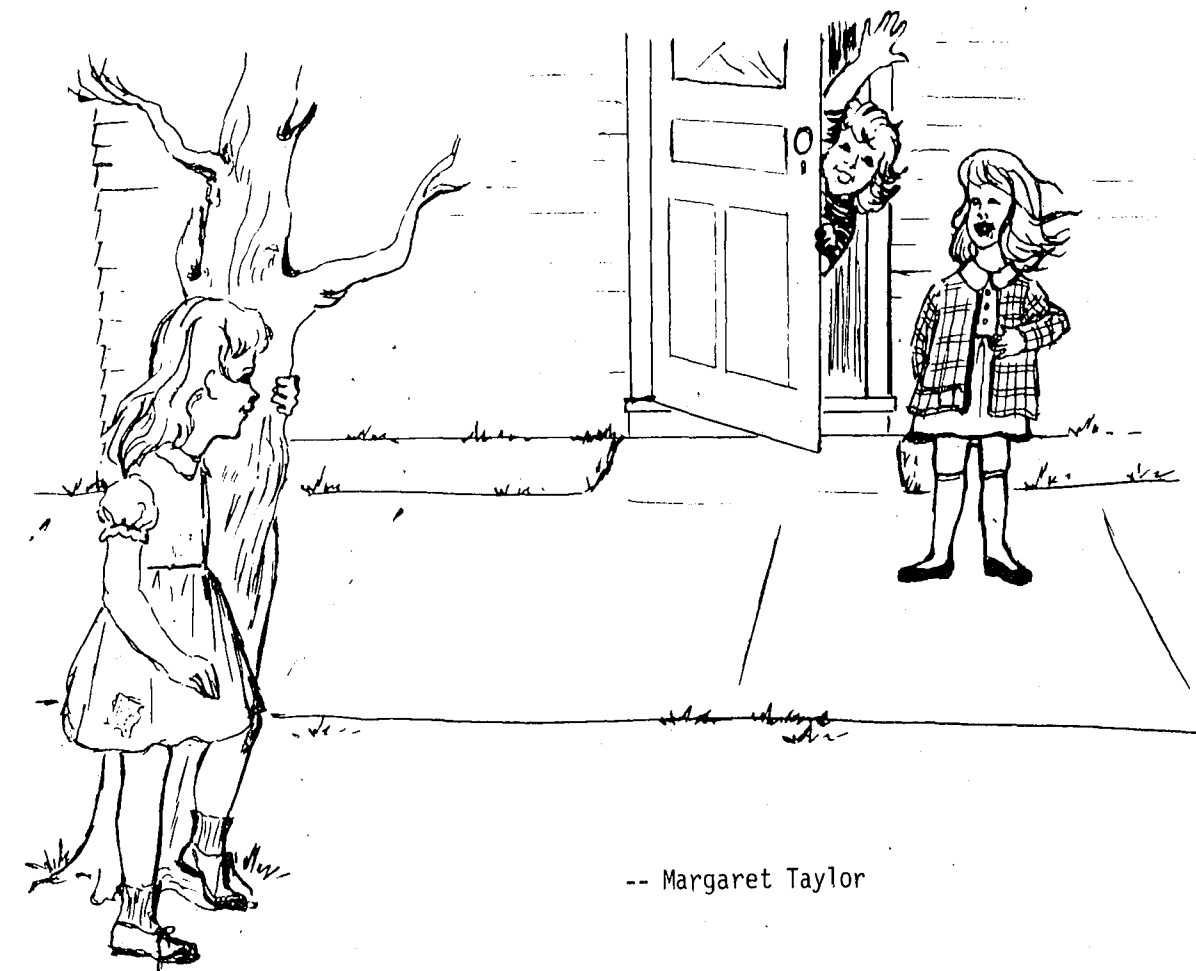
As one of the older ministers' wives, I found myself in a reflective mood. As I looked into the starlit eyes of the brides, it seemed only yesterday that my husband and I started hand in hand on this adventurous road. As we discussed some of the problems and hardships that ministers' families face, I was aware that the joys and satisfactions far outweighed the other side. I sensed that our people do love and care for us. I felt forgiven for the mistakes we inevitably make. My heart was warmed by the many friendships we have made.

Some conclusions from our sessions were:

1. A minister's wife must possess a personal Christian faith. She must know who she is and what she believes.

## Children's Page

# The Dolls Tea Party



-- Margaret Taylor

Nancy, age five, and Katie, age six, went with their mothers to a neighbor's house for coffee one morning. While there they overheard the ladies talking.

Mrs. Dewey remarked, "I guess by the looks of our new neighbors' washing on the line, that they don't have many clothes nor very wearable clothing—things look badly torn."

Mrs. Hill replied, "I saw the new neighbor lady outside, and she was badly dressed."

The next day Nancy and Katie decided to have a tea party with their dolls. Nancy said to Katie, "Let's not ask the new girl next door to come to our party with her doll, because her clothes look torn and bad."

Katie answered, "I think you are talking badly, Nancy, because at Sabbath School our teacher said

that God doesn't notice how you are dressed — but He does care how you feel inside — so I'm going to ask my new neighbor next door to come over."

And Nancy said, "O.K."

God does see and know what is in your heart. Do you have love, forgiveness, and kindness in your heart for everyone? □

—Miss Susie Robinson

*FROM THE BIBLE: "For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart!" — 1 Samuel 16:7b.*

*"JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN — ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD!"*

## PERSONALITY PROFILE

(Continued from page 14)

2. She needs a deep realization that God loves and cares for her.
3. She must be herself. "Role-playing" only leads to serious conflicts and frustrations.
4. She will use her talents to glorify God and help others.
5. She will live a life of love.
6. She must be a good listener and show compassion — especially to her own husband.
7. She will not neglect the needs of her own family. A Christian family is one of the best witnesses to the light of Christ.
8. She will not neglect her personal devotions and Bible study. We shared meaningful ways to study the Bible and read favorite passages. We made up a list of inspiring books to read.
9. She will not neglect prayer. Each day we took time to pray for ourselves, our families, and churches.

These meetings were a worthwhile experience for me. I think our denomination should encourage more sessions for all the ministers' wives. They could be a source of encouragement and a means for growth and understanding of ourselves and other people. □

—Mrs. Leland (Gertrude) Davis  
Los Angeles, California

talks over the dishes that soothed my freshman frustrations. And the bags of chocolate chip cookies that got me through the next week.

A year later in newfound self-confidence I took my friends with me to Aunt Lotta's—usually unannounced. The supplies of both sweet and sour tea in the refrigerator were always replenished by the time we returned from a hike up the hill to the strip mine. And it was not with shock but with lively interest that Aunt Lotta listened to our broad-minded sophomore philosophizing. Then —most important—she sent us all back to school armed with bags of chocolate chip cookies.

Today when I visit her I notice the scars my tricycle left on the wall in the hall. And think about how the cardinals and chickadees she still feeds at her living room window have become my lifelong friends. And notice how she still always turns the conversation to me and my family and my interests — and I know why Aunt Lotta is so very special. □

# The Church in Action

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

### DAYTONA CHURCH SPONSORS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.—Summer is a time when many of our church family are in the North. Nonetheless, the church has been active. Average church attendance for July and the first two weeks in August was 35.

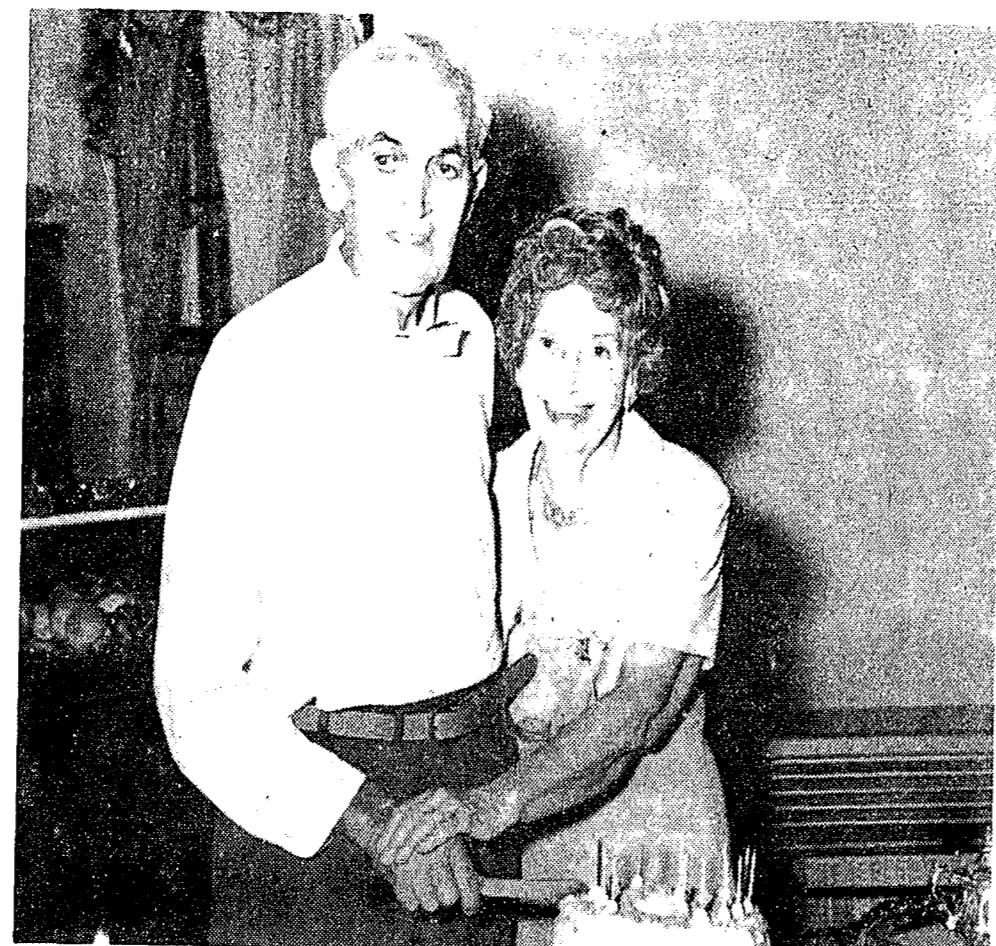
Erma Van Horn directed our Vacation Bible School June 16-20 with 15 young people registered, 12 with perfect attendance. Teachers included Harriet Hill, Mary Green, Janette Crouch, Laura Van Horn, Penny Snow, and Jeannine Hill. Other women in the church assisted with daily refreshments and the closing picnic. The final program was held on Sabbath Day during Sabbath School.

Pastor and Erma Van Horn were away two weeks, attending Southwestern Association, taking Mark Jacob to Camp Joy, and visiting family. In their absence, Winfield Randolph, Kay Bee, and Alan Crouch led our worship.

Our kitchen in the social hall has been completely remodeled, Bud, Margaret, and David Heinig gave many hours to this project. The new cabinets increase the usefulness of the kitchen and brighten the area.

We look forward to reports of General Conference from delegates Leon and Iris Maltby, Velma Maxson, and Marian Jacob. Marian Jacob, who has served this summer with the Summer Christian Service Corps in Rhode Island, will have much to share with us. □

—Janette Crouch



Birthday congratulations to Pastor Ralph Soper of Arkansas on his 85th birthday. Many friends helped Pastor and Mrs. Soper celebrate the occasion. Pastor Soper stated that he planned to live to 100 "or die trying." (Photo by D. Yarberry)

### SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION 1975

As a whole the state of religion in the Association appears encouraging, except that the Hammond church remains inactive.

All five active churches and one fellowship now have, or will soon have, pastors. Pastors Goodson and Camenga came to us last year; Pastor Clapper at Paint Rock this spring; and Pastor Oliver is expected soon at Texarkana.\* We have suffered a great loss in the death of Pastor Welch, who was active in many ways in our Association work.

Membership has increased in each of the five active churches, with twenty-four additions by baptism or testimony; youth activities are especially noteworthy, with quarterly youth rallies known as "Advances" among the Arkansas churches and increasing youth interest at Paint Rock. Also the quarterly meetings of the Arkansas churches have continued, with the Church of God at Fort Smith cooperating. The Dallas and Fort Worth fellowships have merged, for a greater witness in that metropolitan area.

Building programs have been a Youth Center for the Fouke and Texarkana churches, and an annex for educational and social purposes at Paint Rock.

Evangelistic activity has included special meetings by the 1974 Light

Bearers team at Paint Rock, and by Mynor Soper and the new team at Fouke and Texarkana, resulting in several baptisms in each of these churches. □

—Clifford A. Beebe, on behalf of the general secretary \*July 1, 1975

### LIGHT BEARERS HAS NEW TEAM

Have you heard that Light Bearers for Christ has a new singing team? Or did you think Light Bearers ceased to exist when the previous team was called into other service? I would remind you that L.B.C. is more than just a musical ministry and the existence of a singing team on the road does not constitute the total ministry of L.B.C. There are other phases of its ministry and more are being developed which you will hear about in the future.

The team which traveled widely last year was not the only team L.B.C. has had. We have been building awareness of the L.B.C. ministry through musical teams for three years. Last year's team has been called to serve the Lord in other capacities. Two are in training for the ministry and one is serving as a pastor.

Now it is exciting to announce the formation of a new singing team. Two of them, Patty Lawton and Dawn Soper, have been work-

ing with me in special meetings since last March. Jerry Van Horn joined us at the close of the school year in May. Those three make a very commendable team by themselves. They recently presented a fine concert at our General Conference. Since then three more have joined them. They are David Davis, Robert Van Horn and Patty Burdick. A seventh member, Stan Soper, will have responsibility for driving and for maintaining the equipment. They are now hard at work putting together a new concert for the fall tour which begins September 12. We here at L.B.C. headquarters are excited about the new team and know the Lord will use them mightily. They are to begin their tour at Waterford, Conn., Sept 12-13 and Westerly, R. I., Sept. 14-21. Pray for their ministry! □

—Mynor G. Soper

### SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION AT METAIRIE

"Let's Just Praise the Lord" was the theme chosen by President Jack Hays for the 84th session of the Southwestern Association, held with the Metairie, Louisiana, church June 12-15 (Thursday night to Sunday noon). We will retain the longer meeting time, since distances traveled are so far.

There were only small delegations from other churches—Fouke, Little Rock and Paint Rock—for the little Metairie church to entertain. We were grateful for the coming of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bottoms and her son Bob Cartwright from the Allegheny Association; they added much to our meetings, which were good and spiritual, with an attendance of 30 to 40 at most sessions.

Meals were served from the kitchen of the Gerald Coalwell home, a block from the church, with pleasant dining space on the patio.

The theme was developed throughout the sessions, giving all a spiritual uplift.

Sessions for 1976 are to be held with the Texarkana church at a date yet to be set, with Pastor Floyd Goodson of Fouke as president, and Mrs. Clara Beebe of Paint Rock as general secretary. □

### PLAINFIELD CHURCH HAS ACTIVE SUMMER

PLAINFIELD, N. J.—Mrs. Anna C. North was honored on September 6 as the recipient of the Robe of Achievement. We are proud of her as the second member of our church to receive the robe, the first being Mrs. Frankie Davis. A fellowship dinner was followed by Conference reports and discussion of the questions posed by the Task Force appointed at Conference. The Rev. Herbert Saunders was the leader both morning and afternoon. Ten of our members were Conference delegates.

During July and August our pulpit was filled by the Reverends Alton Wheeler, Herbert Saunders (twice), Socrates Thompson, Kenneth Mart, and Kenneth Smith, and by Michael Parker, Deacon Linford Walters, and Thomas Merchant. Greeters were Elder Saunders, Charles and Bettie North, Ronald and Kay Maltby.

At the request of the New York City Fellowship, the following committee was formed to help them organize a church September 27: Elder Saunders, Deacon Walters, Kay Maltby, Jean McAllister, and Charles North.

Our Youth Fellowship held a bake sale and a car wash to raise money for camp, and also had a picnic, a swim social, and a paper drive. Six from our church attended Jersey Oaks Junior Camp, and six, plus four friends, attended Senior Camp. Our campers enthusiastically shared their experiences during Sabbath School, August 9.

Bible study and prayer meeting has been held each Friday evening, and the women's prayer group has met each Wednesday evening.

Many of us enjoyed our Sabbath School picnic July 21 at Tamaques Park in Westfield. On August 31 we had another enjoyable social gathering at the Duryea home, where eight kinds of ice cream were made and served to a large group of members and friends.

—Ruth Hunting Parker

"The Past is to teach us — not to bind us." —F. Crane.



### NEWS NOTES

The Seventh Day Baptist Church in Auckland, New Zealand, is in the process of installing a baptistry in the front of their church. They are also enlarging their sanctuary to meet the demands of increased attendance.

\* \* \*

The Phoenix, Arizona, S. D. B. Church is meeting Sabbaths in homes again. They request prayers that the Lord will lead as they seek for a building to hold services in.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Jessie Pitts, a member of the Los Angeles church, is leading in a fair booth ministry to be held at the Ventura County Fair. She enlists our prayer support.

\* \* \*

The Washington, D.C., church reports 38 children enrolled in their Vacation Bible School with 15 staff members. The closing program was attended by some 60 people.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. S. C. (Sim) Bond of Salem, W. Va., who recently celebrated their sixty-seventh wedding anniversary.

\* \* \*

Pacific Firs Camp, sponsored by the Seattle church had an enrollment of 43 campers. Several boys and girls made decisions for Christ. Pastor Duane Davis was camp director.



### EVIDENCES OF CREATOR OVERWHELMING

Werner Von Braun, father of the U. S. space and rocket program which put men on the moon, feels it is futile to look for God through a telescope. Von Braun, who left NASA in 1972 to join Fairchild industries in Maryland, said God is "right in us, all embracing and all present."

"The evidences of a creator are so overwhelming to me. I just can't envision this whole universe to come into being without something like a divine will," he said. "I cannot envision the creation without the concept of a creator." Discussing the apparent conflicts between science and religion, Von Braun told McDonald, science is "searching for the laws of the creation and faith. Religion is searching for the intent of the creator." He said science and religion are really "sisters" in an effort to understand ultimate truth.

Von Braun cited the orbit the earth makes around the sun, the orbit the moon makes around the earth, as example of physical laws which are a part of creation. "Predictions of solar eclipses, for instance, were made several hundred years ago with tremendous precision, and reproducibility of celestial motions has always inspired man greatly and made him marvel at the precision of the laws of nature. "These laws are so precise that we have no difficulty building a space ship to fly to the moon and can time it with the precision of a fraction of a second. The laws are there. These laws must have been

laid down by somebody."

Questioned about the remarks of a Russian cosmonaut who said he did not see God in space, Von Braun referred to the comments of American astronaut Frank Borman of Apollo 8. "Borman said he didn't see God either," Von Braun said, "but Borman said he saw God's evidence there."

Von Braun discussed the reality of his own faith. "I think you can have a very personal relationship with God, with the Savior. You can be on first name terms with him, you know, to tell him what your troubles are and ask for help. I think it works very effectively and I surely do it all the time. It works in my case." □

—Baptist Press

### BAPTIST LEADERS RAP MRS. FORD'S VIEWS ON SEX

Several Baptist leaders have joined in the increasing response to comments by First Lady Betty Ford on premarital sex in a nationally-televised program on CBS-TV.

Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission and George E. Bagley of Birmingham, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, both sent communications to President Ford's wife expressing dismay over her comments. Earlier, in an interview with newspapers in Dallas, W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and former SBC president, also took sharp exception to Mrs. Ford's point of view.

Mrs. Ford told newsman Morley Safer in an interview on "60 Minutes" she would not be surprised if her daughter, Susan, 18, decided to have an affair and also suggested, in general, "premarital relations with the right partner might lower the divorce rate." She also said she assumed all her children have tried marijuana, out of curiosity, and added she might have tried it herself had the drug been popular when she was young.

"Your position on premarital sex comes as a shock and a disappointment," Fisher said in a letter to Mrs. Ford. "At a time when many families are struggling against the rising tide of permissiveness your remarks come as a very hard blow.

While we are still reeling from a backwash of Chappaquiddick and Watergate, I feel that your statement has done lasting damage to home and family," said Fisher, who also expressed his discouragement about "what is apparently your attitude toward use of marijuana."

In a telegram to Mrs. Ford, Bagley said, "Such an endorsement by one who holds such a prestigious position is appalling in the face of so much premarital sex across the nation and the high rate of divorce brought about by infidelity. Bagley, former president of the association of Southern Baptist executive secretaries, said many parents faced with this problem with their own children will undoubtedly find their opposition to this sort of thing attacked. He said he wanted to encourage "all people of every denomination and faith to contact Mrs. Ford and protest this endorsement." □

—Baptist Press

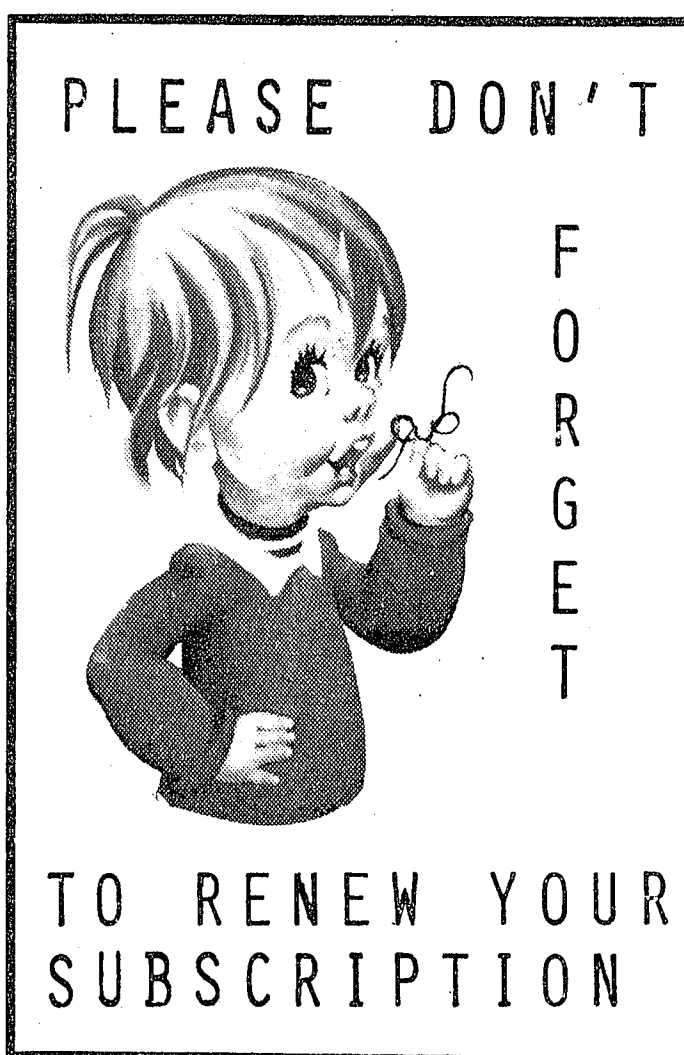
Of 21 notable civilizations, 19 perished not from conquest from without, but from decay from within.

—Arnold Toynbee

America's future will be determined by the home and the school. The child becomes largely what it is taught, hence we must watch what we teach it, and how we do before it.

—Jane Addams

Kindness is like snow . . . it will make beautiful anything it covers.



THE SABBATH RECORDER

### Accessions

PAINT ROCK, ALA.

By Letter:  
Barry E. Clapper

By Testimony:  
Karen Michaels

SALEM, W. VA.

Rev. J. Paul Green, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Frank Zinn  
Fred Spencer III  
Beatrice Zinn  
Cheryl Van Horn  
Diane Wheeler

SALEMVILLE, PA.

Melvin F. Stephan, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Jada Tamre Kagarise

TEXARKANA, ARK.

Rev. Gordon D. Oliver, Pastor

By Letter:  
Rev. Gordon D. Oliver  
Mrs. Gordon (Ena) Oliver  
Jeremy Oliver  
Shawn Oliver  
Charis Oliver  
Charles Oliver

By Testimony:  
Mrs. R. L. (Evelyn) Skinner

By Baptism:  
Mrs. Thelma Graves

WATERFORD, CONN.

Rev. Dale E. Rood, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Dale E. Hull  
(Mrs. Dale) Martha Hull  
(Mrs. Ralph) Linda Lamprey

### Marriages

Barnes - Ash.— James Barnes and Vickie Ash, both of Salem, W. Va., were united in marriage at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church on June 14, 1975 with Pastor Paul Green conducting the ceremony. They are living on Valley Street in Salem.

Bland - Zinn.— Gary Bland of Bristol, W. Va., and Fredette Zinn of Salem were married May 24, 1975 in an outdoor ceremony at the bride's home, Pastor J. Paul Green officiating. They are living where Gary is serving in the U.S. Army.

Chenoweth - Swann.— Roger Chenoweth of Salem, W. Va. was married to Carol Swann, also of Salem, by Pastor Paul Green at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church on June 7, 1975. They are living in Clarksburg, W. Va.

Crane-Birkholz.— Barth L. Crane of Rochester, Minn., and Connie E. Birkholz of Glencoe, Minn., were united in marriage June 14, 1975, in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glencoe. They will make their home in Rochester.

Looney-Sparks.— G. Timothy Looney, son of Spence E. Looney of Lowell, Ark., and Mrs. Anne Lastinger of Ormond Beach, Florida, and Diana Sparks of Kaufman, Texas, were united in marriage July 19, 1975, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Kaufman, by the pastor, Alec Blair. The home will be at Crossett, Arkansas, where the groom is editor of the local newspaper.

Skawinski - Summers.— John Rudolph Skawinski of Norwich, Conn., and Winona Patricia Summers also of Norwich, were united in marriage on August 1, 1975 in the Waterford Seventh Day Baptist Church by Rev. Dale E. Rood and Rev. Paul S. Burdick. Their new home will be in Norwich.

### Births

Beightol.— A daughter, Emily Ann, to Jerry and Carol (Merritt) Beightol of Clarksburg, W. Va., on Feb. 14, 1975.

Martin.— A son, Duane Hurley, to Gary and Rebecca (Hurley) Martin of Salem, W. Va., on May 29, 1975.

Smith.— A daughter, Shelley Lee, to Dorsey and Brenda (Davis) Smith of Glassport, Pa., on Jan. 2, 1975.

Danker.— A son, Julius Percival, to Jules and Jeanie (Gray) Danker of Salem, W. Va., on Jan. 27, 1975.

Cruzan.— A daughter Rebekah Dawn to Sam and Sandy Cruzan of White Cloud, Mich., on August 18, 1975.

Cruzan.— A son Troy Michael to Dale and Carol Cruzan of White Cloud, Mich., on August 22, 1975.

### Obituaries

BLOUGH.— (Deaconess) Mary B., daughter of Frank and Mertie (McNamara) King was born Sept. 28, 1897 in Salemville, Pa., and died at Nason Hospital in Roaring Springs, Pa., on July 30, 1975 after a brief illness.

She was married Sept. 28, 1919 by the Rev. R. R. Thorngate and the Rev. Jeremiah Fyock to Albert C. Blough. Mr. Blough died Dec. 14, 1970. Mary had been a member of the English Seventh Day Baptist Church since her marriage and was elected deaconess, March 29, 1936. Surviving are six brothers and sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Over of Altoona, Robert M. of Osterburg, Crist M. of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Josephine Dasher and Fred M. of Salemville, and Corliss F. of Silver Spring, Md.

Funeral services were conducted from the German Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, Sunday, Aug. 3, 1975 with the Rev. Charles Graffius officiating. Interment was in the Salemville Community Cemetery.

—M.F.S.

DAVIS.— Edna M., was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., January 9, 1906 and died at Bridgeton Hospital, Bridgeton, N. J. April 18, 1975.

Edna made her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Barracliff of Elmer, N. J.,

until her marriage on May 12, 1934 to Mervin E. Davis of Shiloh, N. J. During her youth she faithfully attended the Elmer Presbyterian Church. Soon after her marriage she began to observe the Sabbath. She was baptized by Rev. Lester G. Osborn and joined the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Surviving in addition to her husband are a daughter Betty M., and two sisters-in-law, Esther (Mrs. Charles) Swing, DeRuyter, N. Y., and Ethel (Mrs. C. Harmon) Dickinson, Richburg, N. Y., and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was conducted in the absence of her pastor by Rev. Albert N. Rogers of Plainfield, N. J., on April 22, 1975. Interment was in the Shiloh Church Cemetery.

—A.N.R.

KENNEALLY.— Leah Davis Kenneally was born in Lost Creek, W. Va., and died May 24, 1975 in New York City.

She was the daughter of the late Berkley and Mollie Sheets Davis. Her husband George is deceased. Surviving is one son, William W. Kenneally of Los Angeles, Calif.

She was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music as a concert pianist, a career which she did not pursue. For a time she taught music in Salem. She was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. A memorial service was held in New York City.

—J.P.G.

PARVIN.— William R. (74), the son of the late William L. and Laura Morgan Parvin, was born June 3, 1901 in Dividing Creek, N. J., and died August 29, 1975 in the Bridgeton hospital, where he had been a patient for three days. He had been in failing health for the past four years.

He was married to Theresa Davis Parvin on November 2, 1919. Most of their married life was spent in Shiloh where he worked, and where he worshiped in the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Surviving besides his wife are one daughter, Mrs. Herbert (Betty) Furniss of Bradenton, Florida, and a son, the Rev. A. Earl Parvin of Bradley, W. Va. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Shiloh, on September 2 by his pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Bond, with burial in the Shiloh Cemetery.

—C.H.B.

POLAN.— Willie Davisson (Bill), 73, of Blandville, W. Va., a retired employee of Continental Can Company of Clarksburg, departed from this life on July 29, 1975 at the Pine View Nursing Home in Harrisville, following a nine month illness.

He was born at Blandville, October 7, 1901, a son of the late Samuel Lewis and Harriet Jane Davisson Polan. On December 23, 1930, he married the former Flossie Trent, who survives, along with one daughter, Mrs. Carol Sue Lowther of St. Marys, W. Va.; three sons, Dr. Carl E. Polan of Blacksburg, Va., Clinton Ray Polan of St. Marys, Cecil E. Polan of Martinsburg, W. Va.; one brother, Adren Polan of Jane Lew, W. Va.; twelve

grandchildren and three grandchildren. One sister preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held in the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church of which he was a member for forty-three years by his pastor, Doyle K. Zwiebel. Interment was in the church cemetery. —D.K.Z.

**RABATIN.**—Alma Beasley, wife of Michael J. Rabatin, died at Huntsville, Alabama, May 30, 1975, following an illness of long duration. She was born March 30, 1914.

Converts to the Sabbath, she and her husband united with the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church in September 1971, and have been active workers; she continued to attend services as long as health permitted, even when she had to come in a wheelchair; always patient and cheerful in her suffering.

Farewell services were conducted June 1 by her pastor, Barry Clapper, at a Huntsville funeral home, with burial at Huntsville. —C.A.B.

**SARTIN.**—George was born December 24, 1901 and died July 8, 1975 at a hospital in Clarksburg, W. Va.

He was a retired miner and was a lifelong resident of Little Birch in Braxton County, W. Va. He was an active member of the Crites Mountain branch of the Lost Creek SDB Church until the time of his death.

Surviving are his wife, Myrtle; son, Donald of Eastlake, Ohio; daughters, Mrs. Phyllis Smith of Sutton, W. Va. and Mrs. Julie Homes of Birch River, W. Va.; brothers, Alva and Robert of Little Birch, Marion of Columbus, Ohio; sisters, Mae Burge of Erbacon, W. Va., Mrs. Wanda Facefire of Richwood, W. Va.; seven grandchildren, one of whom, Steven, made his home with George and Myrtle.

Funeral services were held at Greene-Marple Funeral Home, Sutton, on July 11, 1975, with Clayton E. Pinder officiating. Burial was in the family cemetery at Crites Mountain in Little Birch, W. Va. —C.E.P.

**WHITFORD.**—Lawrence Beryl was born May 1, 1893 at Albion, Wis., the son of A. L. and Vernetta Whitford, and passed away July 27, 1975 at Kettering Hospital, Kettering, Ohio, after surgery.

When he was ten years of age the family moved to Ingle Nook Farm. On August 9, 1922 he was married to Luella Coon of Milton, Wis.

They resided on the farm as one of the melon raisers of that area, until 1952 when they moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, near Andrews University. In 1971 they moved to 148 Fremont Ave., Springfield, Ohio.

Survivors are: his wife, Luella; sons—Curtis of Los Angeles, Calif., and Claire of Kettering, Ohio; daughters—LaRayne Wellman of Collegedale, Tenn., and Verla Price of Springfield, Ohio. An older daughter, Claudia Marrs, passed away in 1957. Preceding him also were six brothers and two sisters, he being the youngest.

Early in life he became a member of the Albion, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist

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## DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

OCTOBER 6-7

Dr. K. D. Hurley  
Baptist Joint Committee  
Washington, D. C.

OCTOBER 10-12

Rev. Leon Lawton  
North Central Association  
Milton, Wis.

OCTOBER 10-18

Rev. Mynor Soper  
Evangelistic Services  
Marlboro, N. J.

OCTOBER 17-18

Rev. Herbert Saunders  
Allegheny Association  
Hebron, PA.

OCTOBER 18

American Bible Society Sabbath

OCTOBER 19-22

Planning Committee  
Plainfield, N. J.

OCTOBER 24-29

Rev. Mynor Soper  
Evangelistic Training  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

OCTOBER 25

President Gary Cox  
New England Yearly Meeting  
Ashaway, R. I.

NOVEMBER 22

Thanksgiving Sabbath  
S.D.B. United Relief Day

NOVEMBER 24-26

Dr. K. D. Hurley  
Baptist World Alliance  
Wake Forest, N. C.

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED

"Reminiscences of Early Days in the S.D.B. Southwestern Association." A historical booklet by Clifford A. Beebe. Very interesting narrative of early S.D.B. work in the Southwest complete with several photographs. Order from: The Bible Witness Press, Box 102, Paint Rock, Ala. 35764. Price \$1.00.

## THE WAY TO CHRISTIAN VALUES

(Continued from page 11)

and food are paid for from fees calculated to cover such costs for their staff and themselves.

The Board of Christian Education which sponsors these Pre-Con Retreats (Youth since 1940 and Young Adult since 1962) guarantees that bills will be paid for facilities used. They are tremendously proud of the directors, especially, who undertake the program each year according to broad principles developed by the Youth Program Committee. These directors are the people who make large sacrificial contributions for the growth and maturing of Seventh Day Baptist youth and their many friends who come to "Pre-Cons."

## Youth Fellowship National Officers 1975-76

At the Youth Banquet at Knott's Berry Farm in Los Angeles, Wed., Aug. 13, Julie Welch, 1974-75 National SDBYF president announced the election of officers for 1975-76. Look in your church for the next issue of the BEACON for more details about SDBYF's around the nation and world.

Chris Mattison of Alfred Station SDB Church was elected president. Vice-president is Cindy Pierce also of Alfred Station; Rachel Drake of Richburg church was elected secretary and Sandy Snyder of the Alfred church, treasurer. Julie presented a gavel, brightly encased in a red velvet pouch, which Russ Johnson of the Youth Program Committee introduced as new symbol of leadership for National YF presidents. □

## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT.

(Continued from page 12)

ping up in us, we are to put it "to death." "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you . . . evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these things the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away." "Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth." Col. 3:5 - 8, 2. The earthly mind will not accept this advice, indeed cannot, for the way of life in Christ will seem too narrow.

Man instinctively condemns the in of murder or theft, but somehow the commandment which forbids coveting usually doesn't disturb him. Covetousness is so deceptive, no wonder it is the sin no one wants to confess.

Of the Ten Commandments, the tenth one is strangely different from the others: while the first nine deal with specific acts, the tenth deals with an *attitude*; the attitude of motivation or desire, and these in turn *lead* to acts. No wonder the wise man of Proverbs writes: "Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life." Prov. 4:23. In saying this Solomon goes right to the thinking and motivating "springs of life," the heart, from which come the desires and decisions to plan and *act* for good, or for evil. Paul confessed that before he knew Christ "Sin wrought in me all kinds of covetousness." Romans 7:8. But as a Christian missionary he later testified: "I have coveted no one's silver or gold, or apparel." Acts 20:33. The Tenth Commandment is a commandment an unconverted person cannot obey. It is a commandment that only a converted and regenerated person can keep. It is a commandment that can only be kept when the Person of God is real to a person, and the Holy Spirit of God in power has flushed out all ungodly coveting, and replaced the vacuum with a coveting for righteousness to exemplify the qualities of the Perfect Man Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is a commandment basically of the heart, not of outward acts; but it leads to outward acts. How absolutely imperative it is, then, for every living soul to surrender his heart to the Lordship of Jesus

Christ as the only way to receive a divine change of heart, motives, and power to truly keep not only this Tenth Commandment, but all ten of God's commandments. For adultery, murder, and stealing are first preceded by coveting. Notice how clearly Jesus links these altogether: "Out of the heart of man come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting . . . All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man." Mark 7:21-23.

Paul warns the Ephesian Christians that "Covetousness must not be named among you." Eph. 5:3. "Keep your life free from love of money" for "it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith." Hebrews 13:5 and 1 Timothy 6:10b.

Because Balaam had a covetous spirit, he was turned into an enemy of God and His people. He sold his prophetic birthright for the promised wealth of Balak to curse Israel, and he died in his sins. Ahab the king coveted the vineyard of Naboth, and his evil desire ended in the murder of Naboth. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the prophet, was ruined by covetousness. He tried to deceive Naaman the Syrian who was on his way home after being miraculously healed of leprosy in Israel. Gehazi also lied to get the reward Elisha refused, and for his sin he got the leprosy of Naaman upon himself, the disfavor of the prophet, and the frown of God.

Because King David coveted Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, he committed the twin sins of murder and adultery and brought an everlasting reproach upon himself.

Covetousness was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira who selfishly and deceitfully tried to retain part of their pledge to the church, and then lost everything in their quick death — the judgment of God.

It was the sin of Simon the magician who coveted and sought to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit with money from the apostles. It was the sin of Judas the betrayer who committed the crime of all crimes for the paltry sum that would buy a slave — thirty pieces of silver, perhaps about \$25.00.

The sin of covetousness is so deceptive and deadly that we do not recognize it for what it is — a consuming selfishness that brings death.

When mother Eve saw that the forbidden fruit was pleasant to the eye, good for food, and desirable to make one wise *she coveted it*, took it and ate, and gave it to her husband and he ate. Even since, the entire human race has reaped the result of her covetousness for the forbidden fruit. The Bible tells us:

"Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned." Romans 5:12.

Lot coveted the rich plains of wicked Sodom, but when God destroyed the city, he lost all his wealth, all his possessions and even most of his family. Covetousness caused Felix to keep Paul a prisoner in Caesarea for two long years hoping that Paul would give him money for his freedom.

And what is the motive for gambling today? Covetousness! Gambling draws its popularity from the greed for free money, which is really other people's money. It makes no difference whether it is lotteries, legal or illegal, slot machines, bookies, racing, even church-sponsored bingo. Any and all forms and methods of gambling grow out of the basic appeal of covetousness. Jesus said covetousness is idolatry, and this takes us back to the First Commandment — "You shall have no other gods before me." Covetousness leads people to violate this commandment in many ways. Covetousness is ever consuming away at the human race. We don't need to retain the old naturally covetous nature we have within us.

"Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 1 Cor. 10:11-13

If we each will take this advice and promise, we shall be a part of the cure this world's bad situation. Let none of us feel too proud to confess the sin of covetousness and greed, and ask God to root these out of us, putting in their place trust, contentment, and the love of God. □

# OUR WORLD MISSION

## OWM BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST 1975

|                     | Conference Offering | August OWM | 8 mos. total OWM and Reported Boards |                     | Conference Offering | August OWM  | 8 mos. total OWM and Reported Boards |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Adams Center NY     | \$ 62.25            | \$ 93.00   | \$ 801.85                            | Seattle WA          | 25.00               | 191.41      | 1,066.52                             |
| Albion WI           | 91.48               | 46.24      | 643.86                               | Shiloh NJ           | 305.00              | 1,776.59    | 7,444.47                             |
| Alfred NY           | 467.00              | 530.00     | 5,201.17                             | Stonefort IL        |                     | 30.00       | 290.00                               |
| Alfred Station NY   |                     |            | 1,998.58                             | Texarkana AR        | 30.00               |             | 130.00                               |
| Ashaway RI          |                     | 1,284.93   | 4,579.44                             | Verona NY           | 180.00              | 329.89      | 1,533.89                             |
| Assns & Groups      | 50.00               |            | 8,670.19                             | Walworth WI         | 70.00               | 100.00      | 1,108.75                             |
| Battle Creek MI     | 1,015.00            | 359.11     | 5,426.40                             | Washington DC       | 180.00              |             | 1,878.00                             |
| Bay Area CA         | 10.00               | 16.00      | 116.00                               | Waterford CT        |                     | 221.50      | 2,307.92                             |
| Berea WV            |                     |            | 259.45                               | Westerly RI         | 211.10              | 582.90      | 3,299.16                             |
| Berlin NY           | 231.20              | 225.02     | 1,819.66                             | White Cloud MI      | 55.00               | 176.06      | 819.83                               |
| Boulder CO          |                     |            | 941.08                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Brookfield NY       |                     |            | 250.50                               | Totals              | \$16,363.11         | \$18,310.89 | \$128,644.80                         |
| Buffalo NY          |                     |            | 1,134.00                             | Conference Offering | \$16,363.11         |             |                                      |
| Dallas-Ft. Worth TX |                     | 4.02       | 151.57                               | August OWM          | 18,310.89           |             |                                      |
| Daytona Beach FL    | 297.00              | 112.00     | 2,187.05                             | Non-Budget          | 1,190.00            |             |                                      |
| Denver CO           | 3,142.00            | 1,199.70   | 8,379.64                             | Totals To Disburse  | \$35,864.00         |             |                                      |
| De Ruyter NY        | 246.00              | 125.00     | 1,293.90                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Dodge Center MN     | 225.00              | 375.42     | 2,878.08                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Farina IL           | 20.00               | 113.02     | 306.02                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Fouke AR            | 115.80              | 98.47      | 708.12                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Hammond LA          |                     |            |                                      |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Hebron PA           | 317.10              | 106.71     | 1,277.89                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Hopkinton RI        |                     |            | 140.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Houston TX          |                     |            | 342.02                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Individuals         | 942.22              | 160.00     | 2,083.22                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Irvington NJ        | 50.00               | 1,000.00   | 1,360.00                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Kansas City MO      | 250.00              | 150.44     | 875.12                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Leonardsville NY    |                     | 25.00      | 135.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Little Genesee NY   | 112.25              | 111.62     | 1,594.45                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Little Rock AR      | 82.50               |            | 277.27                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Los Angeles CA      | 1,755.65            | 1,150.00   | 6,135.65                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Lost Creek WV       | 200.00              | 39.14      | 2,087.06                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Marlboro NJ         | 160.00              | 365.00     | 3,197.20                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Metairie LA         |                     |            |                                      |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Milton WI           | 160.00              | 1,506.21   | 10,522.31                            |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Milton Junction WI* |                     | 75.00      | 833.90                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Monterey CA         | 300.00              |            | 400.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| New Auburn WI       | 640.01              | 113.60     | 1,557.15                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| New Milton WV       |                     | 10.00      | 420.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| New York City NY    |                     | 66.00      | 260.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| North Jersey NJ     |                     | 139.30     | 422.53                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| North Loup NE       | 610.00              |            | 2,740.00                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Nortonville KS      | 308.75              | 137.00     | 2,203.23                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Ohio Fellowship OH  | 1,350.00            | 50.00      | 2,493.00                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Paint Rock AL       | 200.00              | 112.59     | 761.18                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Plainfield NJ       | 155.00              | 993.75     | 4,780.71                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Richburg NY         | 126.00              | 2,575.00   | 3,937.28                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Riverside CA        | 1,110.00            | 540.00     | 5,220.00                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Rockville RI        |                     | 49.00      | 282.00                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Salem WV            | 220.00              | 673.00     | 3,633.57                             |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Salemville PA       | 61.30               | 165.00     | 946.30                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |
| Schenectady NY      | 50.00               | 7.25       | 101.66                               |                     |                     |             |                                      |

### AUGUST DISBURSEMENTS

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Board of Christian Education   | \$ 3,842.30        |
| Council on Ministry            | 4,877.88           |
| Historical Society             | 26.50              |
| Ministerial Retirement         | 956.59             |
| Missionary Society             | 15,301.60          |
| Tract Society                  | 5,773.98           |
| Trustees of General Conference | 26.50              |
| Women's Society                | 849.16             |
| Council on Ecumenical Affairs  | 132.49             |
| General Conference             | 4,077.00           |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>     | <b>\$35,864.00</b> |

### SUMMARY

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1974 Budget                 | \$210,030.00 |
| Receipts for eight months   | 128,644.80   |
| Due by December 31, 1975    | \$ 81,385.20 |
| Percentage of year elapsed  | 75%          |
| Percentage of budget raised | 61.25%       |
| Eight months:               |              |
| Due                         | \$140,020.00 |
| Raised                      | 128,644.80   |
| Arrears                     | \$ 11,375.20 |

Gordon Sanford  
OWM Treasurer

\*Milton Junction Conference Offering received in July—\$142.50 — not in above totals.  
Several churches may have included Conference Offering with August receipts, but did not designate. A sum of \$906.52 was reported, but not received.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S DESK  
—K. D. Hurley

Seventh Day Baptists have authorized a thorough going study of denominational structure.

To some this may seem startling and new; perhaps, even revolutionary. Truth is, such procedure has been undertaken before, several times.

In 1965-66 one such "structure study" was made by the Commission; and as a part of that review of possible "reorganization," it was emphasized that:

*"What we are most anxious to accomplish in this study is to elicit from our member churches carefully considered opinions, in the light of the previous studies and from personal observations of their members over the years, of where the weaknesses are in our organization. And most of all we need suggestions for specific changes that might be made in order that together we may move forward efficiently and lovingly in our united task of helping to build His Kingdom on earth."*

Certainly, the current Task Force members seek the same input from all sectors of the denomination. They start with no preconceived notions of what specific changes should be made.

They are aware that other denominations — similar to ours in polity and beliefs — have gone through comparable studies. They will get as much helpful information from such sources as possible.

The American Baptists in their final report in May, 1972, from a Study Commission on Denominational Structure pointed out that "in every area of their common life American Baptists, acknowledging the importance of creative diversity, seek such a balance of freedom and order as will keep all parts of the Convention open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and at the same time enable them to work responsibly to carry out the common task of mission and ministry in our time." I am sure Seventh Day Baptists feel the same way.

With reference to the mission<sup>o</sup> and ministry of the church, the American Baptists concluded:

*"The church will allow diversity within unity by providing for freedom which will enhance flexibility and mission for smaller units in the church's life. New forms of structure, experimental ministries, and increased emphasis on the ministry of all the people of God may come to characterize renewal in the life of the church."*

### Renewal in the Life of the Church.

For that we are constantly striving. The United Church of Christ's structure committee recognized this need in their report of February 1, 1969. "In order to be effective," the report read, "the structure of any organization must be under regular review."

The United Church of Christ study was motivated by a stated recognition of the vital "interrelationships of organization and program planning." The report booklet said specifically:

A similar reality brings Seventh Day Baptists to a new (or, perhaps, continuing) study of structure and organization. The Task Force needs the wholehearted prayerful backing of all the people.

*"The reality of limited resources, concern with relatively limited contributions for national programs in the face of increasing Conference budgets and the need of the Church at all levels to distribute funds effectively to areas of greatest need, indicated concomitant necessity for review of the Church's program planning and budgeting."* □



## Seventh Day Baptist

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|          | January | Feb. | March | April | May                         | June | July | August             | Sept. | October | Nov. | Dec. |
|----------|---------|------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|--------------------|-------|---------|------|------|
| Months   |         |      |       |       |                             |      |      |                    |       |         |      |      |
| Receipts |         |      |       |       |                             |      |      | Regular OWM Giving |       |         |      |      |
|          |         |      |       |       | Special Conference Offering |      |      |                    |       |         |      |      |

When will receipts catch up with monthly requirements?

“Thou art my hiding place: Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Think of that! I will instruct thee in the way thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye” (Psalm 32:7-8).

A hiding place!  
 Preservation and Songs of Deliverance!  
 Instruction and Guidance!  
 Praise His Name for the wonderful facts.  
 How I need them!  
 They shall sustain me throughout this day!

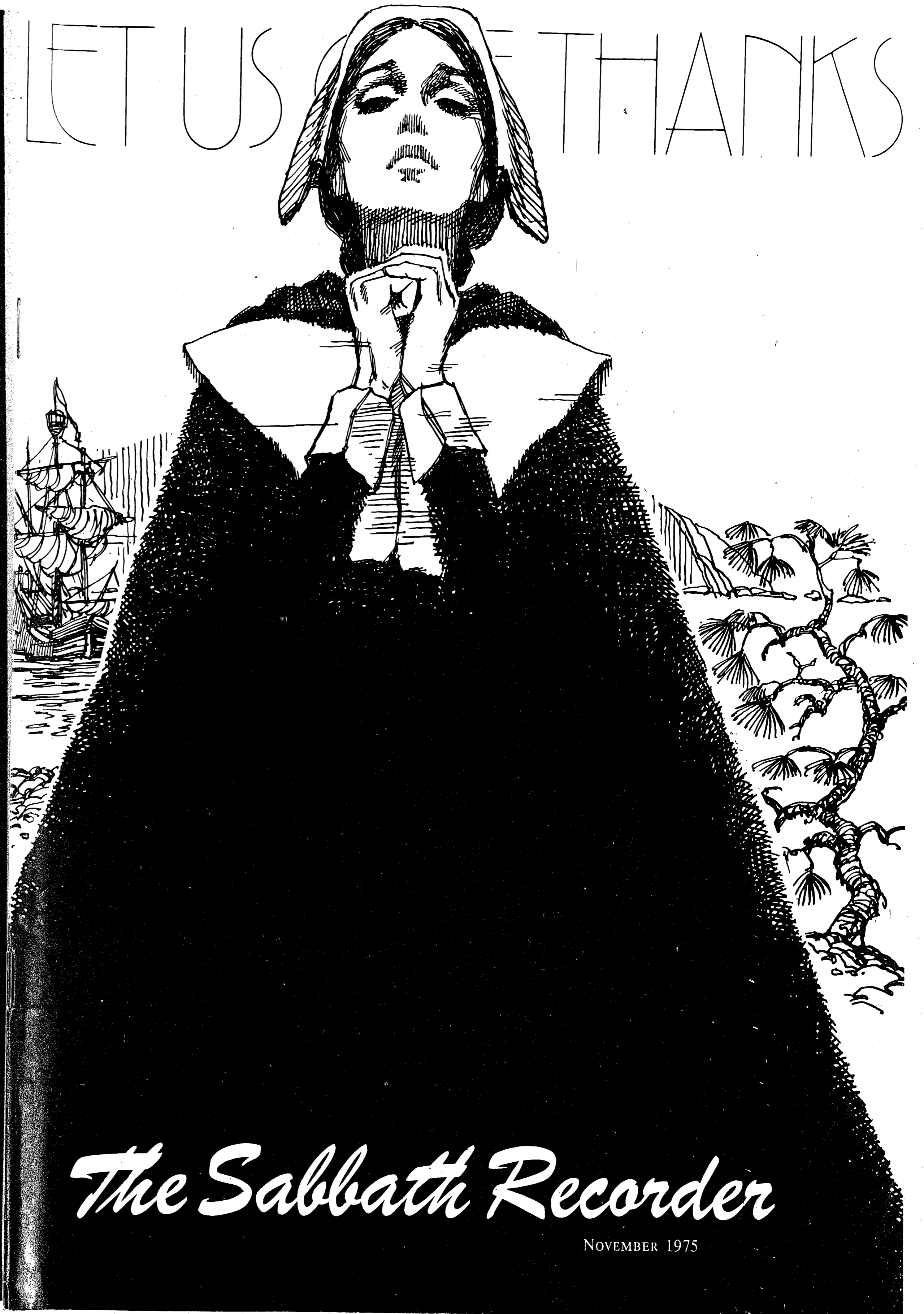
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