

“The Impossible —A Little Longer”

“Faith and commitment are essential to the survival and growth of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination!”

That is one of the preliminary conclusions reached by the Task Force appointed by General Conference to study the effectiveness of denominational structure and procedure.

Almost without exception the respondents to the Task Force's resume and questionnaire of October 10, 1975 reply, “Amen. We agree wholeheartedly!”

I am pleased by both the quantity and the quality of replies. They truly represent a cross section of the denomination: boards, agencies, churches and individuals.

A few universal reactions (like the one mentioned above) seem to be emerging. They can be categorized, so far, under four headings:

1. Frustration and disappointment with lack of growth — even after years of study and talk about it.
2. A feeling that most any structure could serve the denomination effectively, if the people “had a mind” to work—together!
3. The belief that a change of attitude is imperative.
4. A sense of need for increasingly strong pastoral leadership.

In dramatic terms, one long time participant in denominational affairs expresses these apparently almost universal feelings thusly:

“After studying your resume, I sense that my frustrations, assumptions, and attempts for resolutions of twenty-five years ago prevail in the minds of some today. If that be true, I still have fellowship with them in their search for solutions.

“It would seem that twenty-five, or more, of years of experience in which we have feebly attempted to solve the problems of declining membership by changing organizational structures and having little to show for it, should tell us something . . .

“It is my observation that the basic reason for our decline is our complacent attitude toward ourselves. Seventh Day Baptists, for the most part, are satisfied with the status quo. There is little desire (motivation) to share our Christian faith. The philosophical cliché, ‘There is no hope for a satisfied man,’ is apropos . . .

“The task of developing a desire (motivation) to be emissaries of the gospel, including the Sabbath, in men, women, and children who sit in the pews of our churches is equivalent to one of air-conditioning hell. Yet, we ought not lose heart. The Marines have a motto which, in effect, states, ‘The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer.’

“If some denominational body or individual would come up with a program which would inspire laymen to be personal workers, then membership statistics (the monitor of denominational health) would rise more abruptly than they have descended since the turn of the century. Past and present denominational components (Commission, Planning Committee, boards and other agencies) have not provided the necessary motivation. I do not imply that they cannot do it, with or without change in their intra-denominational relationships. I only add my voice, with others, to the statistics which shout that it has not been done during the past twenty-five years . . .

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“God help us to change our course, or may He have mercy on our souls if we don't.”

The writer of these words identifies himself as a person with a “natural inclination to be identified with organizations that are expanding in membership and programs.” Most of us, I feel sure, fall into that category.

A new year provides us with new opportunities for new beginnings. Even before the Task Force completes its work and before General Conference officially considers recommendations, we all can initiate the remedial action necessary for denominational growth and development — a renewed dedication to Christ and His Cause.

Out of such commitment will come an enthusiastic, positive attitude: a basic ingredient for success. One respondent summed it up in these words: “Faith can even overcome the anxiety that is manifesting itself at the present time. Some of us will plant, and others may do the watering, but only God can give the increase!”

With such assurance even “the impossible” will be achieved!



Your people shall be my people,
your God—my God.

—Book of Ruth

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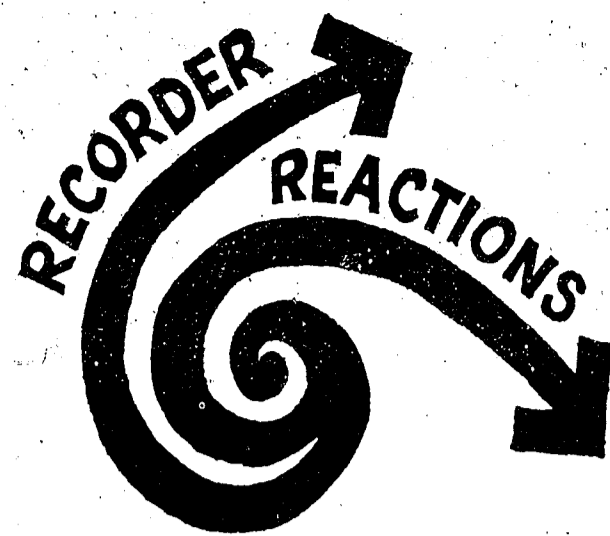
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The Recorder has always been worth reading and yet is improving. I was surprised and pleased to read "The Staff of Life" in the December issue. Of-course, "Man shall not live by bread alone," but he does live partly by bread. There is an old Scotch saying: "The whiter the bread, the sooner you're dead." It is also true that the more our beliefs are demoralized and despiritualized, the worse our character becomes. We live in an age of too many additives and too many subtractives, affecting our air, water, soil, food, government and opinions.

-Margaret E. La Mont
Wakarusa, Kansas

PLAN TO SERVE THE LORD THIS SUMMER

Be a part of an S.C.S.C. Team. For application forms write to:
Dr. K. D. Hurley
Box 868
Plainfield, NJ 07061.

In a monthly denominational periodical space is at a premium. Therefore the Advisory Committee of the Sabbath Recorder has approved the sharing of articles which seem to have primary importance to a minority of readers by offering these articles to our subscribers upon request.

"Constantine's Sunday Decree" by Rev. B. C. Underwood, Ipswich, Mass.

"A Tribute to Rev. John Randolph" by Marietta Gray Fansler, Delaware.

If you would like one or both of the above articles send your request to: The Editor, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061.

Abuse of Drug Alcohol

PRESSURES



Peers!

Parents!

Public Media!

"Dad drinks; Mom drinks; why shouldn't I?" is becoming the rationalization for the serious drinking problems of over one million American young people between the ages of 12 and 17. We, as Christians, need to be concerned and aware of the increasing drinking problem of adults as well as teen-agers. As we become aware of the problem, we need to look into the cause and contributing factors and then try, in our own way as individuals or as groups, to suggest some solutions and act on them.

The favorite topic of discussion in much of our communications media today is the misuse of drugs. But the most misused drug-alcohol-is often left out of these discussions. One of the greatest obstacles to surpass in getting at the root of the problem is to get people to admit that alcohol is a drug and needs to be treated as such.

Drinking has become more socially acceptable among adults as well as teen-agers. How many times have you been scoffed at for drinking ginger ale?... or has a teen-ager been considered an outcast for not joining in? Do you remember when you were considered an outcast when you didn't wear kneepants? The difference in the peer pressure of today and that of the "old days" is that it has developed from physical to moral attitudes. As long as we can be strong in our own convictions we can have a great influence on those around us without having to say much to them. We can show, by our example, that one can have a very enjoyable time at a party without getting drunk and we can keep on enjoying it the next day because we can remember what happened, without a headache.

Parents sometimes are a scapegoat for the blame of teen-age drinking problems. Parents are more tolerant of their children's drinking because they are relieved not to have them "on drugs." Here again is the failure to admit that alcohol is a drug. Since anyone under eighteen cannot purchase alcoholic beverages, they must

be able to get it from somewhere. Parents, have you checked your wine cellar lately to see if any is missing? Parents, themselves, many times set a bad example without really thinking how it may be understood by their children. They are also becoming less involved with the maturation of their children-relying more on schools and other groups to take care of the guidance of their children's lives.

We've been pretty hard on the parents. They are not the only ones that need to become aware and act!! How many beer commercials have you seen recently with a famous sports figure as its star? There has been a noticed difference in the attitude about smoking since cigarettts are no longer advertised on television. Let's join the drive to ban the advertising of alcoholic beverages on T.V. We certainly can't go back to prohibition, but we can do something to prevent alcohol from being presented so appealingly to the general public. Write to your local T.V. station and let them know you are concerned. We might also join the drive to produce some anti-drinking commercials to be shown. Our young children are so impressionable, and we need to be concerned about what they are learning from T.V.

Since our young people are impressionable, let's start with them. Help them find something meaningful to do or be, and some place to go, so that they do not feel they have to drink to be part of the crowd. Let's show them we love them and really do care where they are and what they are doing. □

Mrs. Ronald Ellis, mother of three young children, actively serves the Alfred Station Church and the SDB Board of Christian Education's Life Ventures Committee. She also teaches high school math on a part-time basis at Alfred Almond Central School. For several years she chaired the board's Youth Committee.

MY RESPONSIBILITY TO FREEDOM

By Elaine Rymer

I have a responsibility to freedom. It begins in myself. I am just one, but because I am one I have a direct influence on those about me, either for good or for evil.

My responsibility to freedom includes having an understanding of the civilization I have inherited. Our country was developed by free individuals who placed spiritual values first and made their own decisions in economic affairs with the only limitation being the Ten Commandments. The greatness of America has come from the three fundamentals of our way of life -

- (1) Faith in God
- (2) Constitutional government, and
- (3) Private enterprise.

Because I have a responsibility to freedom, I must also recognize that there are enemies of freedom. One of these enemies of freedom is immorality. National disintegration has always followed moral decay. It is frightening to compare ourselves in this generation with those who have fallen to tyranny—for at this time the signs of weakness are many.

I cannot sleep on as a silent American, saying nothing, thinking nothing, doing nothing, as though the problems of this nation will vanish away.

What can I do?

- 1) I must be honest at all times and do what is right—simply because it is right.
- 2) I must realize the importance of faith in God and take advantage of every opportunity which will strengthen that faith.
Men cannot be free unless they are controlled from within, and I know that this faith is the most effective means for controlling people from within.
- 3) I must gain leadership qualities, which means that I must be willing when called upon, and eager to seek ways in which I can increase my confidence and self-motivation.
- 4) I must resist the temptation to expect others to do for me what I am capable of doing for myself. In history, freedom has always been removed from those civilizations where the individuals looked to their governments to provide for them what they could have provided for themselves.
- 5) I am growing into an adult, and as I grow, my responsibilities as a person and as an American grow. I must, therefore, remember always to look ahead, because the future is affected by what I do now.

My responsibility to freedom requires understanding, dedication, and hard work. But if I am faithful in living according to these principles, the future will be bright with an abundance of the liberty we seek to preserve. □



Elaine Rymer is a member of the Riverside, Calif., S.D.B. Church. For this speech, given before the Veterans of Foreign Wars, she won the George Washington medal from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, PA.

Center on Ministry
Dean Herbert E. Saunders

PRE-PASTORAL PARLEY ON THE PRAIRIE

Eight Seventh Day Baptist ministerial students met over the weekend of January 2-4 to share together the love of God and witness to each other what the Lord has done as they have been preparing for the professional ministry. Meeting on the plains of Kansas in the small town of Nortonville the students, under the direction of the dean of the Center on Ministry, Herbert E. Saunders, shared together in discussing the pastoral office—its joys, its frustrations, its responsibilities, its calling, and its opportunities. The students came from Chicago, Sioux Falls, and Kansas City, bringing their own personalities and insights to the discussions.

Meeting on Friday evening, the students shared with various families in Nortonville. Sabbath morning, they participated in a service of praise and Communion led by Pastor Paul B. Osborn and Dean Saunders. A fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all before the students met together to consider their major topic of study—the pastoral ministry. On the eve after the Sabbath all participated in a Center on Ministry program to which the members of the Kansas City church were also invited.

On Sunday the day began by worship led by the host pastor. Then, until a closing worship late in the afternoon, there were *intensive*, exciting, and inspiring discussions. Each student brought to the discussion an excitement and joy that gives great hope for our future as Seventh Day Baptists. There is a deep desire to give concerned and dedicated leadership to our people when seminary is over. Each student declared what fulfilling and exciting educational opportunities have been his throughout the year.

Much thanks goes to the people of the Nortonville church for their gracious hosting of our weekend sessions. Out of their generosity they provided homes and meals which met all the physical needs of those in attendance. It was a real joy to

be a part of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church for a weekend.

Students who attended the seminar were: Robert Babcock and Larry Graffius from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Helen Green from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, Illinois; John Rau and Kenneth Burdick from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois; Ken Chroniger from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri; and Larry Watt and Gordon Lawton from Central Baptist Theological Seminary

in Kansas City, Kansas. Two wives came to Nortonville and participated with the congregation in events of the weekend shared by all. Another weekend is scheduled for those students in the East sometime in the spring.

All in all, the weekend was a success. Seventh Day Baptist ministerial students got acquainted with each other—talked with each other—argued with each other—and generally discovered that behind all the facial features and theological mind lies a person, dedicated to the Lord, and seeking each day to serve Him in love. □

COMMISSION
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The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is historically, like other Baptists, congregational in polity, and desires that its churches and its members shall continue to enjoy freedom of conscience in all matters of religion.

**1976 Summer Institute
June 14 - July 2**

COURSE OF STUDY: Seventh Day Baptist Polity

Seventh Day Baptists cherish liberty of thought as an essential condition for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore they have no binding creed to which members must subscribe. They hold, however, that certain beliefs and practices, having the support of Scripture and adhered to by followers of Christ through the centuries, are binding upon all Christians.

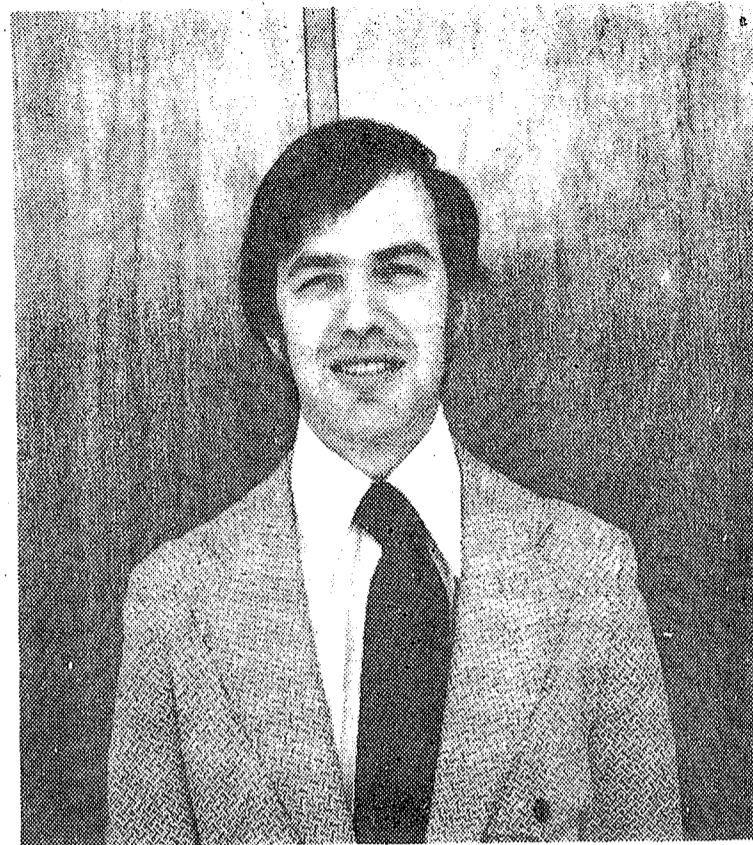
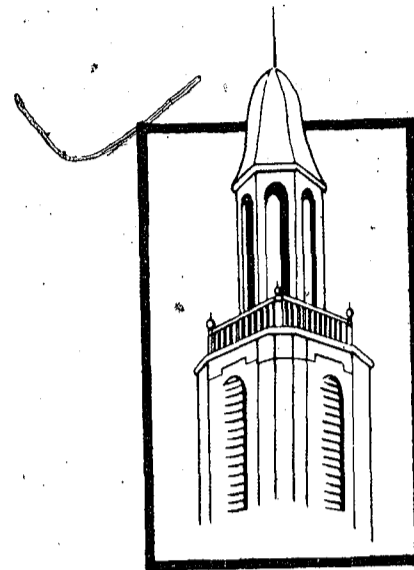
You are welcome to join us in this study.

For information write:

Seventh Day Baptist
Center on Ministry
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LARRY WATT
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
SENIOR STUDENT

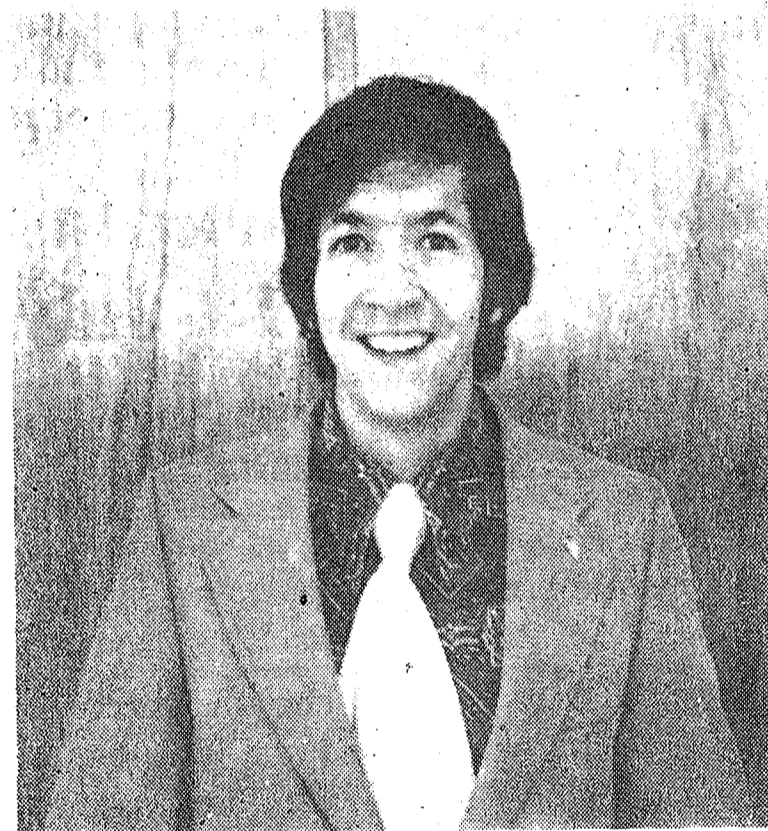


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The Sabbath Recorder



FROM THE DESK OF
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
—K. D. HURLEY

ALIKE BUT DIFFERENT

"Seventh Day Baptists are just like other Baptists - except for the day which they keep!"

That is an accurate way to distinguish among Baptist denominations when a person is explaining the basic difference in practice relating to the day of worship - the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath rather than the first of the week Lord's Day.

Hopefully, Seventh Day Baptists as people are "different" in some other important personal ways, too. Because Sabbath observance (in opposition to the more universal tide of society) is not easy, it takes an *extra* measure of conviction and determination. Such characteristics *should* result in an *extra* measure of Christian influence and conduct: greater commitment to Christ and His Cause, more true love and concern for one's fellowmen, complete integrity, unflinching honesty, and exemplary character.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Through the years Seventh Day Baptists in many communities across the country have been respected for their outstanding attributes. They have been community-minded, substantial, participating citizens. They have been motivated not by a "holier than thou" attitude but by a desire to do God's will and truly be more like the Master. Let us pray that Seventh Day Baptists will continue to be so motivated and thus be recognized as "different."

It has been my privilege to attend a number of ecumenical meetings in recent weeks, including sessions of the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee, with officers of the BWA, members of the Relief Committee and the Men's Committee, as well as the North American General Council.

The Larger Fellowship

Baptists are obviously great people, all of them; and, in customary Baptist tradition to provide freedom of thought and a place for individual differences, they fully accept Seventh

Day Baptists in their ranks. We are recognized and respected for what we are.

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary association of national Baptist conventions and unions. The Alliance's objectives, as declared in its constitution, are "To show the essential oneness of Baptist people in the Lord Jesus Christ, to impart inspiration to the brotherhood, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and cooperation among its members."

The latest tabulations show 33.8 million baptized members of Baptist churches throughout the world. Baptists live and witness in at least 112 nations and 29 dependencies, including many countries which are predominantly Moslem, Buddhist or of other non-Christian or atheistic backgrounds.

Christians seem to thrive in adverse circumstances. Though there are fewer than 1,000 Baptists in each of 50 countries and dependencies, they get a sense of world fellowship through the Baptist World Alliance.

Seventh Day Baptists are a *minority* even among Baptists, but we, too, "seem to thrive."

A Sense of Outreach

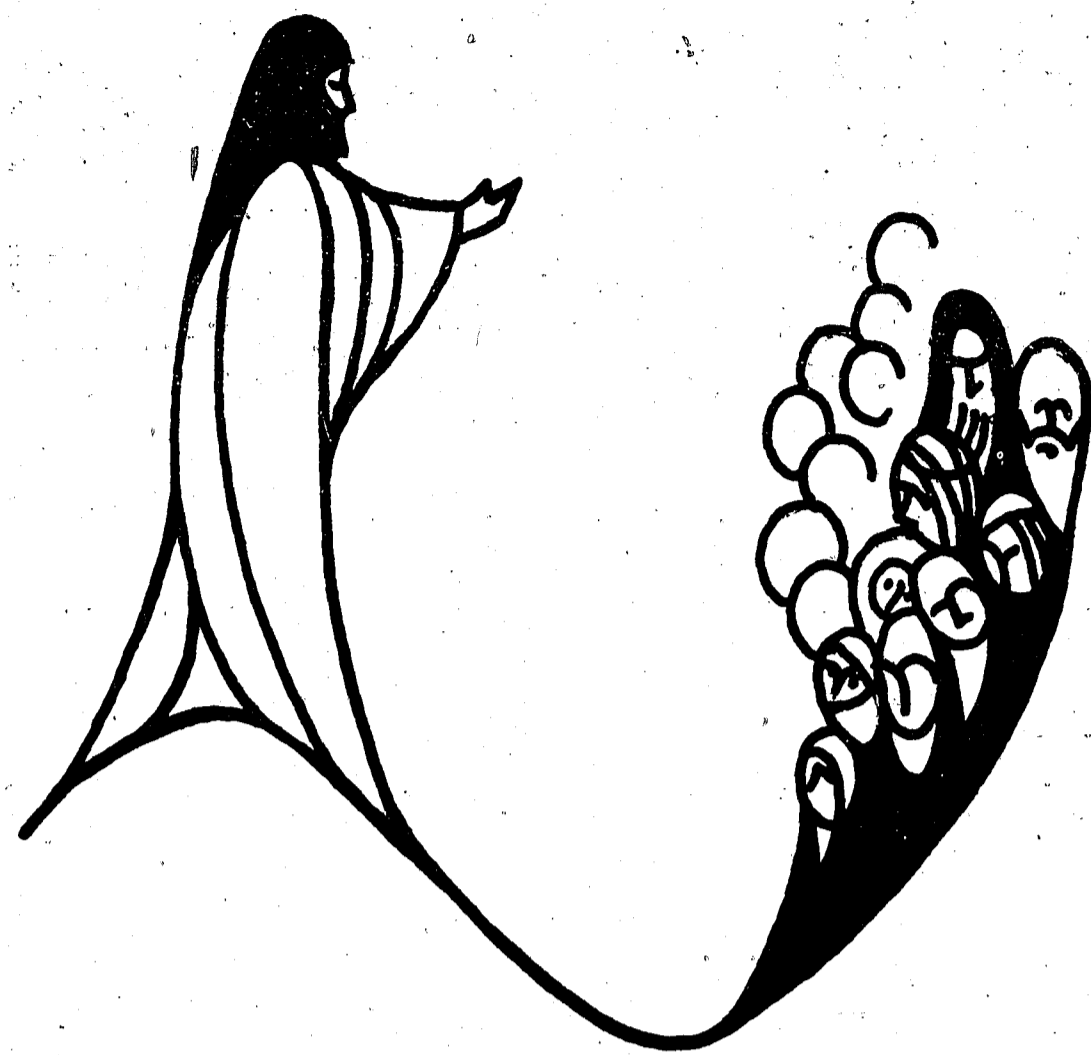
Our participation in the activities of the larger Baptist fellowship gives us a sense of outreach. It helps us guard against turning inward and becoming narrow and provincial. It also gives us the incentive to reaffirm within our own ranks the validity of individual differences.

A part of the greatness of the Baptist tradition is liberty of personal thought and action; it can also be our greatest weakness if, in our freedom to be different, we begin to insist that everybody else think and act just as we do.

A Place for Differences

Within the broad spectrum of Baptist beliefs there is a place for conscientious, though sometimes

(continued on page 27)



THE FOURTH BEATITUDE

Charles D. Swing, Pastor
DeRuyter, N.Y., SDB Church

(Matthew 5:6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

It was a hot, sultry day. No doubt the wind was blowing and there was dust in the air. The sun was beating down upon the heads of those who were gathered around Jesus that day on the flat plateau between two small mountains.

I imagine their eyes were hollow with hunger. Their throats were parched with thirst. Those who heard the Sermon on the Mount could well identify with the first three Beatitudes. They were certainly acquainted with poverty and they knew what it meant to mourn.

The Roman government had taught them the meaning of control. If some were beginning to lose interest by now, Jesus regained their interest with the Fourth Beatitude. Perhaps at the very time that Jesus spoke these words, the stomachs of many growled with hunger and their mouths were parched with thirst.

The challenge of this Beatitude is righteousness. Many are seeking happiness when they should seek righteousness. Those who make happiness the goal of their lives seldom find real happiness. A

religious sect in Hungary had as its chief doctrine that salvation was gained by laughing so they practiced their religion by laughing all the time. They were not really happy because they were too busy doing things which they thought would bring happiness. Instead of seeking happiness, one should seek righteousness. Our Lord challenges us (in Matthew 6:33) to "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness."

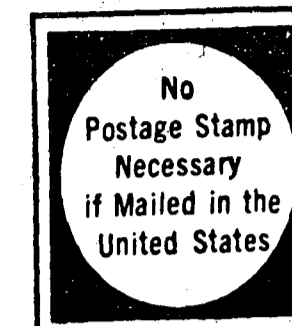
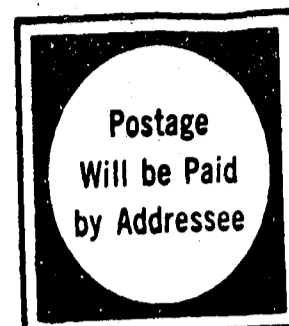
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In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us how to overcome anxiety by explaining that it's unnecessary and by prescribing its cure. He says that morbid concern about the future is foolish, for it doesn't make sense to think that the Lord would give us the gift of life and then withhold our physical necessities without good reason. Worry is also blind, for if we look

at nature we see that God provides food for the birds and clothing for the flowers. Would He do less for those created in His image and for whom He gave His Son? Fretting is useless, because it can no more change our circumstances than wishing to be taller can add to our height. We insult our Heavenly Father if we live in perpetual fearfulness, for we imply that He doesn't really know our needs. The remedy for this sinful habit is found in the words, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." By concentrating on spiritual values and placing our confidence in the Lord, we will banish anxious care. We won't be needlessly concerned about a future accident, an illness that might disable us some day, or a food shortage which may come a few years from now. We will be able to sleep well because we have left tomorrow's cares in our Father's capable hands. Our God is Lord of earth and sky, and all our needs He will supply; So do not worry, come what may—Just praise His name and trust and pray. When we put our cares into God's hands, He puts His peace into our hearts.

This Beatitude is considered by

many to be the most challenging and the most comforting of all the Beatitudes. The challenge is righteousness. The comfort is that blessedness



One leaves Fort Watauga settlement.

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6:35) "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." We feed on Him in our hearts by faith. He is the food of our spirits. In Him we find the secret of endurance, our true sustenance. Throughout the world there is a growing hunger, a stirring of conscience, an awakening of a passion for righteousness. Do you crave this something better? Do you long to know God, and have Jesus as a present friend? Thank God for your craving, your hunger and thirst. Although you may never seem to arrive, you are arriving all of the time. The paradox of this Beatitude is that the Christian is filled but he continues to hunger and thirst. The more he is filled, the more he hungers and thirsts. It goes on and on and yet the Christian is filled and fully satisfied. □



--Rex Zwiebel

meeting rooms, the auditorium, and the cafeteria are not far and are all on level ground. The auditorium is spacious and is well equipped for sound. The cafeteria is new and well equipped. The dormitories are clean and adequate.

Nearby, on the campus, are camper-trailer sites that will accommodate twenty-three rigs. Three sites have all accommodations, eleven have electricity and water supplied; and nine have electricity only.

Supporting the spiritual aspects of our conference will be the physical attributes of the countryside. The scenery all about gives evidence of a beneficent Creator, and just a few miles north of the campus is the famous Letchworth State Park. There one can stroll about and view the wondrous creation of three waterfalls of breath-taking wonder.

Watch for further publicity. In the meantime questions about facilities may be addressed to the chairman of the Host Committee, Mrs. Ronald Ellis, R.F.D., Alfred Station, N.Y. 14803. Plan to come, see, and participate. □

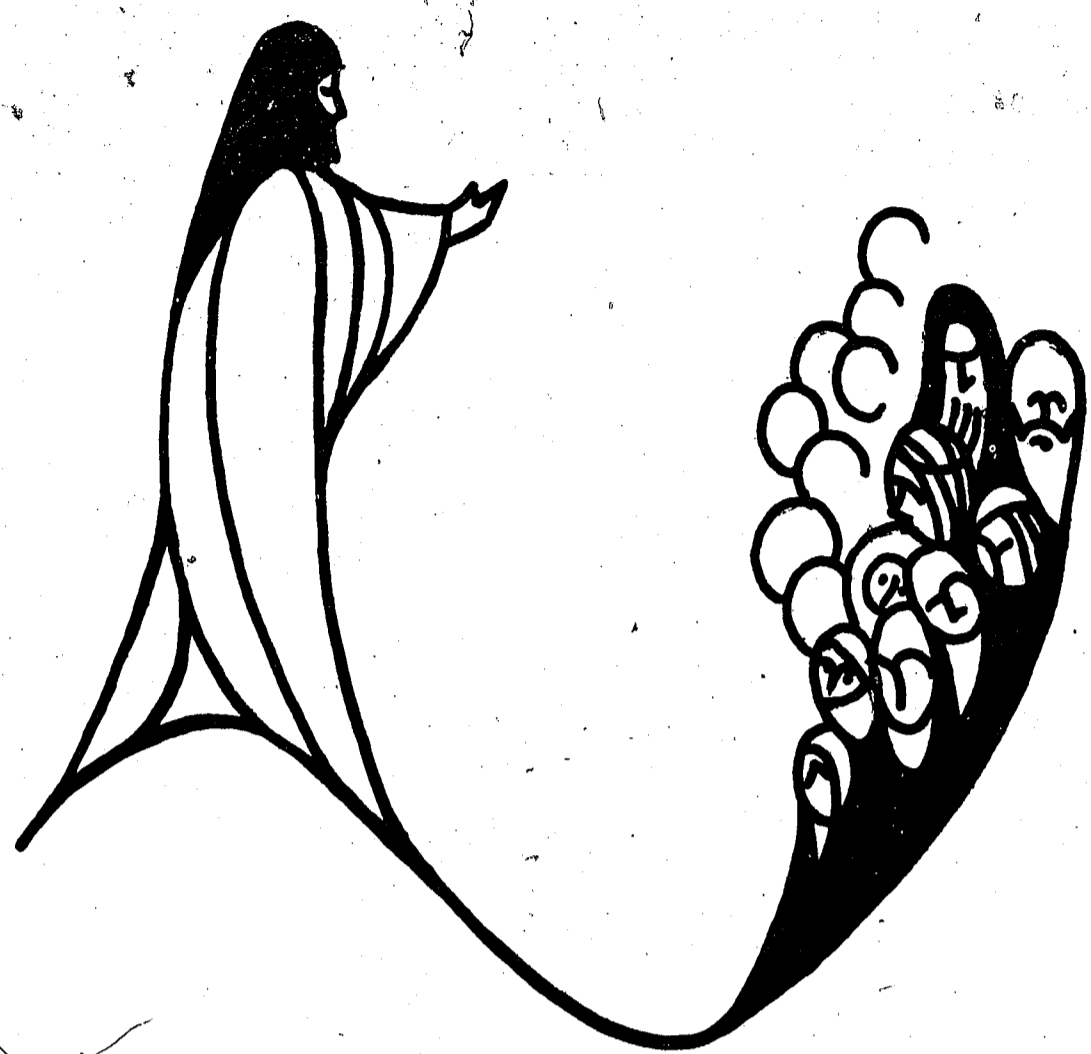
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DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

- MARCH 5-7**
Rev. Leon Lawton
Rev. Mynor Soper
Area Spiritual Retreat
North Loup, Nebr.
- MARCH 13**
Vocations Sabbath
- MARCH 12-14**
Rev. Leon Lawton
Rev. Mynor Soper
Area Spiritual Retreat
Camp Paul Hummel, Colo.
- MARCH 14-17**
Planning Committee
Denver, Colo.
- MARCH 21**
Annual Meeting
S.D.B. Missionary Society
Westerly, R.I.

THE FOURTH BEATITUDE



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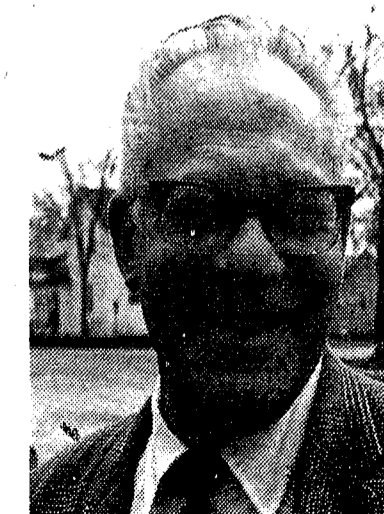
This Beatitude is considered by

The Sabbath Recorder

many to be the most challenging and the most comforting of all the Beatitudes. The challenge is righteousness. The comfort is that blessedness is promised to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, not those who attain it.

Many people hunger and thirst for pleasure, prestige, position, possessions, money, wealth, and status. Some people actually join a church because they are seeking these things instead of seeking righteousness. But the true Christian's attitude is much different.

The Christian does not say, "I am interested in Christ"; he says, "For me to live is Christ." The Christian does not say, "I would like to come to terms with Christ"; he says, "I surrender all to Jesus Christ." The Christian who hungers and thirsts for righteousness shall be filled. There are many of us who are familiar with the feeding and fattening of cattle with fodder and grain. Just as the animal is fattened a little bit more at each feeding, the Christian, who hungers and thirsts for complete righteousness, gradually grows in the Christian life. Jesus said: (in John 6:35) "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." We feed on Him in our hearts by faith. He is the food of our spirits. In Him we find the secret of endurance, our true sustenance. Throughout the world there is a growing hunger, a stirring of conscience, an awakening of a passion for righteousness. Do you crave this something better? Do you long to know God, and have Jesus as a present friend? Thank God for your craving, your hunger and thirst. Although you may never seem to arrive, you are arriving all of the time. The paradox of this Beatitude is that the Christian is filled but he continues to hunger and thirst. The more he is filled, the more he hungers and thirsts. It goes on and on and yet the Christian is filled and fully satisfied. □



--Rex Zwiebel

GENERAL CONFERENCE

1976

It's not too early to make plans to attend the next sessions of General Conference. They will be held on the campus of Houghton College, Houghton, New York, August 8-14, 1976.

Conference president, Mr. Gary Cox, and our Executive Secretary, Dr. K. Duane Hurley, have visited the campus, along with the Host Committee, and we all feel that the facilities are very well suited to meet our requirements for a successful conference.

The distances between dormitories, meeting rooms, the auditorium, and the cafeteria are not far and are all on level ground. The auditorium is spacious and is well equipped for sound. The cafeteria is new and well equipped. The dormitories are clean and adequate.

Nearby, on the campus, are camper-trailer sites that will accommodate twenty-three rigs. Three sites have all accommodations, eleven have electricity and water supplied; and nine have electricity only.

Supporting the spiritual aspects of our conference will be the physical attributes of the countryside. The scenery all about gives evidence of a beneficent Creator, and just a few miles north of the campus is the famous Letchworth State Park. There one can stroll about and view the wondrous creation of three waterfalls of breath-taking wonder.

Watch for further publicity. In the meantime questions about facilities may be addressed to the chairman of the Host Committee, Mrs. Ronald Ellis, R.F.D., Alfred Station, N.Y. 14803. Plan to come, see, and participate. □



March 10, 1775: Daniel Boone leaves Fort Watauga, N.C., to open Kentucky for settlement.

March 1976

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

- MARCH 5-7**
Rev. Leon Lawton
Rev. Mynor Soper
Area Spiritual Retreat
North Loup, Nebr.
- MARCH 13**
Vocations Sabbath
- MARCH 12-14**
Rev. Leon Lawton
Rev. Mynor Soper
Area Spiritual Retreat
Camp Paul Hummel, Colo.
- MARCH 14-17**
Planning Committee
Denver, Colo.
- MARCH 21**
Annual Meeting
S.D.B. Missionary Society
Westerly, R.I.



What? Why? and how? What is it? Why must we practice it? How can we practice it?

What is Christian stewardship? It is an act of *service*. It is not like an eight hour a day job which we can walk away from at the end of the day nor is it like spending two to four years in the military. Both of these examples are types of service but neither of these come close to the service required of a Christian steward. A Christian steward or servant has only one master - *God*. Since he is a steward or servant - he must give totally of himself - everything - to God. Man must realize that he is owned by God, that God has given him and made him all that he is, and that he must *serve* God at every moment. To illustrate this idea of giving totally of oneself to God as a Christian steward, I would like to tell the following familiar story. One day, a hog and a hen were visiting as they walked along a street when they spotted a church sign that read, "Give to the missionary fund, help needy children at home and abroad." Both were silent for a moment considering what they could possibly do. The hen spoke up, "I've got a terrific idea how we could help in this drive, we could put on a ham and egg breakfast to raise money for the missionary fund." The hog replied, "That's easy for you to say because for you that would only be a donation but for me, it's a total commitment."

All too many Christians are like the chicken and are not willing to make a total commitment...to become true Christian stewards. Christian stewardship must be the devoting or committing of one's *whole* self to the service of the Lord.

Why must we practice Christian stewardship or why must we be Christian stewards? The Bible is clear in teaching that all our possessions, everything we have and are, belongs to God. At the heart of the Biblical concept of stewardship lies the basic fact that God is *Creator, owner, upholder, and giver* of all things. Starting with the very first verse in the Bible we find this: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," not man but *God* created the world. He has created everything we *might* call our own. In the New Testament, in John 1:1-3, we find that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... All (not a few but all) things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made." Psalm 24 again supports this fact that everything is the Lord's. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and *they* that dwell therein." We are the Lord's thus we must be His *stewards*. Not only we but everything is the Lord's. Haggai 2:8 reads - "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts"-even the silver and gold are God's! The last verse I would like to quote again supporting this fact of God's ownership of all is found in James 1:17a. Here we find the following: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father..." So you see, because God owns all things, nothing comes into our possession that does not belong to God already... Why must we be Christian stewards? -Because we (ourselves) belong to God and everything we possess is His, thus we must ourselves and our (no not our but

His) possessions the way He would want us to. He has entrusted things to us - how should we manage them?

This leads us to the third question - How can we practice stewardship? or, what are our duties? or, how can we be better Christian stewards?

(1) First, God or Christ must be our only master; we must realize that *all* we have is His, we're just entrusted with it. We must not have other masters - as our new car, or snowmobile or the golf course, etc., etc. One thing or being rules our life and this is our Heavenly Father.

(2) We must be willing to accept the responsibilities God gives us. This is the real clincher - what are our responsibilities as Christian stewards? One thing we often associate with stewardship is *tithing* and this is an important part of stewardship. In Leviticus 27:30, we find that "All the tithe...is *holy* unto the Lord." In the ancient culture of Bible lands I understand the word *holy* contained a meaning similar to the African idea of taboo. Later it came to mean a thing reserved or set apart. This implies that the tithe is not just any tenth but the first tenth. As Christian stewards we must go beyond the legal requirements of the law in giving; we must go beyond the second, third, or fourth mile and we *must* give joyfully of our tithes and offerings.

(3) As stewards, we must also willingly give of our time. We might have to sacrifice personal time but we should lend others a helping hand or lend others a listening ear and open heart, or be willing to donate time for a worthy Christian cause. With God's help, you must decide what should receive top priority and then be receptive to

opportunities. As an example, if your neighbor's car breaks down, are you too busy to whiz her or him to work or to the store? Are you unwilling to use your so-called personal time to do a good deed and possibly, in the process of this, to witness and save a new soul? Are you willing to leave the flock of ninety-nine to help one? When was the last time you visited someone in the hospital, or in a nursing home, or in a jail and lent a cheery word? Are you too busy with your *own* activities to be a true steward?

(4) As stewards, we must also open up our homes to others. Are they really *our* homes, anyway? If someone needs shelter, give it to him or her. If one is in need of food, feed him. Jesus talks about these acts of stewardship in Matt. 25:34-46 when He speaks of the last judgment, If we do not have the necessary concern or take the time to assist others, we are told by Jesus that we will be condemned.

(5) Christian stewards must train their children or other children they work with to live and enjoy the Christian life. All too often I believe this may be an overlooked point in a steward's life. He may feel that if he is living a Christian life that his children should normally pick it up or inherit Christianity and stewardship. This may partially be true but I feel we must cultivate and fertilize our children's lives with Bible study, prayer, or just being available for those little, but yet so meaningful, heart-to-heart talks about life, goals, Christian beliefs, church beliefs, etc. If we are concerned or care about our children, we must go further than

telling them we love them...We must *show* them the love that Christ has given us.

(6) Part of being a good steward is respecting and caring for the world and nature around us. Nature is the workshop or the field in which God has placed us. As stewards, we have the responsibility to care for the world and all living things around - we must keep pollution to a minimum...and we must not waste our natural resources. We have a responsibility of maintaining the beauty of the world which the Lord hath made. God has entrusted us with the management of the earth.

(7) Stewardship may mean the giving up of our personal ambition or goal to serve God more fully. Young people must especially consider God's purpose for their life when thinking of vocational goals. But as individuals get older; they should continue to reevaluate their lives...are they serving God maximally or could they serve Him better if they quit their job and became a mission leader or evangelist or secretary or took on some other job. We must not let our personal ambitions hinder us from being good Christian stewards.

(8) Another important responsibility we have as a Christian steward is witnessing to all people. We have the responsibility to tell others of Christ and the salvation which all people may obtain if they truly desire it. Actually our stewardship should be a part of our witnessing. The people around us should sense, even without our verbally telling them about Christ and His saving power, that we are Christians because of the

life we live as stewards. But...we have the responsibility to verbally voice our belief and to draw others to Christ. This may be more difficult for some of us than others...however, this is another responsibility we have as stewards.

Each and every individual is given certain talents or has certain abilities. A very important part of being a good Christian steward is using these abilities to their maximum. Not all have equal abilities in the things I've mentioned but each individual has certain abilities and is responsible to God for using them. There are many ways in which a Christian may and should serve God.

In closing...stewardship may be looked at as a privilege or an opportunity, however, we must not forget that it is a Christian responsibility. Stewardship is an act of service required of all Christians. There are an infinite number of ways in which we may practice Christian stewardship. I have only mentioned a few that I think are important but the list never ends. We must not become dormant - we must be creative and enthusiastic in our service to our God and Father... always improving in our stewardship. We must never put a limit on the ways that we might be good or better Christian stewards. □

Christian Stewardship, given by Wesley Greene at the Sabbath worship service at the N.Y.S. S.D.B. Council retreat November 15, 1975, at Camp Arrowhead near Binghamton, N.Y.

Wesley is an instructor in the Animal Husbandry Department at the Cobleskill Agricultural and Technical College. He's a member of the Berlin, N.Y., S.D.B. Church.

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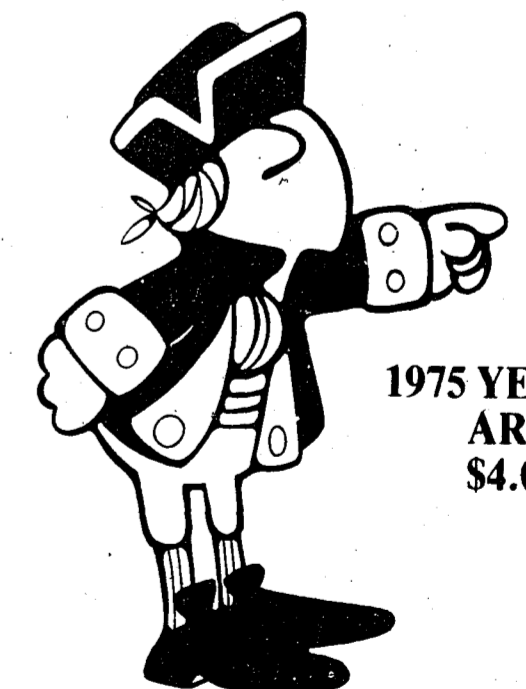
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Wishonaries

"Wishonaries are all over the place today!" So says the editor of a page in the November '75 issue of *World Vision* magazine. That word "wishonaries" hit me right between the eyes! These are people who are always wishing they were missionaries--always wishing, but failing to realize that they are already missionaries. They seem to believe that the only time they will be able to serve will be many hundreds of miles away from home in a tropical jungle.

We have all spent a great deal of our lives wishing that we might serve in some capacity--in some other land. This is a noble thought to pursue, but have we considered what "missionary" work might be waiting for us right here at home? In no way do we disparage the dedication of those who do go to the foreign field, but there is much for us to do here...those of us who are "wishonaries."

Why is it that we cannot see the missionary tasks to be done in our daily rounds of life? I well remember my first experience of being a "wishonary." My dear teacher in church school gave her life to the service of our Lord in a Baptist school in China. Those of us left behind, a class of eight-year-old girls, were very much inspired by the letters she would write to us from the mission field. "I am certainly going to China and be a missionary some day," I declared to my family. Through the years somehow the inspiration for such a project faded, but there was always present in the back of my mind the wish that I should be a missionary, sometime, somewhere. Many years later when I was employed as a "librarian" in a school in which the population was 50 percent black; where some of the sixth graders carried switchblades, and living conditions were generally of the ghetto type, my grateful superintendent commented upon my work... "You know, of course, that you are doing missionary work here for us..." I had not thought of it that way, but it was true. There was a zealous quality to my feeling for the job and the children that was spiritual.

It is the goal of our Women's Society to promote the idea of our "making a mission of our living." In a letter to all society presidents, Myrna Cox wrote "as we approach another year, it is hoped, more than ever, that women across our denomination will experience real spiritual growth. I would encourage the women of your church to form prayer groups. I feel that this is one of the fastest and most rewarding ways to insure personal growth."

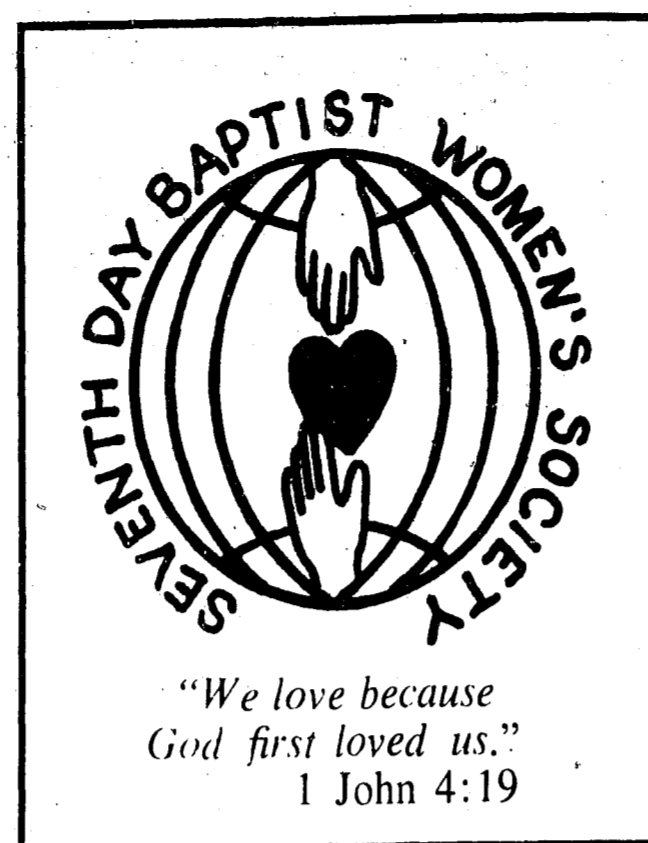
Forming a prayer group is certainly one form of missionary work. We are extending the love and tasks of our Lord when we pray, and we are enriching our lives spiritually, as well as the lives of others when we pray purposefully in a group.

There are many ways to go about the formation of such a group. Some have felt rewarded by just choosing a partner to pray with at regular times. We hear of groups in industry, both men and women, who get together for a quarter hour of the lunch break for a prayer session. At one time a group of church women set the hour of 9 a.m. each morning, when each in her separate place would pause for a space of time and pray alone. A prayer list was used, so that each one in her own way might pray, and her prayer combine with those others who were praying for the same cause. In another place, a neighborhood "coffee hour" prayer group crossed denominational lines, and as non-believers were included, proved to be a tremendous blessing to all involved.

Berniece Troy, chairwoman of Spiritual Growth Department of American Baptist Women has written on the subject, "What Makes an Evangelistic Life Style?" Jesus asked a question of His disciples "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" When we become His disciples we should find the religion we profess expressed in every area of our lives. "Like many other lay persons, I was of the opinion that "church work" entailed attending worship, teaching a class and attending the women's organization" says Mrs. Troy, "however, in recent years I have come to the realization that the work of the church must be demonstrated in terms of witnessing through a life style. Indeed it is a way of life; experiencing, living and sharing the good news. As Jesus accepted and helped all people, so must we do likewise. We do need each other."

We do not have a strict formula for forming a prayer group. We know that there is more than one successful way to proceed, and we want to know what has succeeded for you. Will you share with us your own experiences as you have found a way to become a "missionary" bringing spiritual enrichment for yourself and for others?

We know that God does not call all of us to go to lands far away but that He calls some of us to stay where we are. Too often we stumble over or ignore a job desperately needing to be done just to find wider fields of service. We are not ready for such service until we have proved to our Heavenly Father that we have left off being "wishonaries" and been successful "missionaries" at home. □



by Madeline Fitz Randolph



WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH

Pastor Watson Mataka, missionary from the Central Africa Conference serving in Kisii, Kenya, since the spring of 1975, returned to his family and pastoral ministry in Malawi in mid-December. His new work is to be in the Mulanje District working closely with Pastor L. Nothale, director of the Southeastern Association.

At the November 1975 Jamaica SDB Conf. Board meeting in Kingston, Pres. Vincent R. Smith pointed out "that the Summer Crusade held during August brought great blessings to the churches involved and many souls were won to the Lord. He commended the Crusaders and the Evangelistic Committee for the fine job. This is a real progress and we praise the Lord."

Pastor and Mrs. Sam Peters and children were able to spend a brief "New Year" holiday with her family in Mandeville, Jamaica. They returned to their ministry of leadership in the Guyana SDB Conference at Georgetown in January.

In telling about a recent journey in Malawi, Audrey Fuller, RN, wrote: "Mwanza is 54 miles on past Chileka (location of the International Airport for Malawi) on the most horrible road imaginable. On the way home we passed eleven stalled trucks most of them semi's. And just to show how the Lord looks after us--we saw a big semi jackknifed in the middle of the road and another truck stuck in front of the hitch, with no possible way around him except by taking the detour just about 200 feet long. It was an old detour and not made just to go around the truck! There was no earthly reason for him to have his trouble right in that spot!!"

Option has been taken by leaders in Jamaica on a site for a new SDB church in the Edgewater develop-

ment area. Just over two acres in size, it offers a golden opportunity for new outreach in newly built (or to be built) homes and apartments (a whole new city!) There are already several SDB families living in the area. Join with our brethren in prayer as they follow this step of faith with further action as the Lord leads and provides.

Word has been received from the Beit Trust in Rhodesia that the Central Africa Conference of SDB has been conditionally granted MKwacha 20,000, (US\$22,600.00) for new medical buildings in the Thomas area. This is an answer to prayer and vital need! Pray for our brethren as they now seek to meet the conditions that will bring, within the next 18-24 months, these new facilities into being and use.

Pastors in the Jamaica SDB Conference gathered at Maiden Hall for a ministerial retreat on December 28, 1975. The 1976 sessions of the Jamaica SDB Conf. will be held with the Wakefield, Trelawny, SDB Church in July. Pastor A.A. Black is host pastor. Pastor Geoffrey Smith was appointed by the JA COMA to direct the spring Spiritual Retreat at Maiden Hall, assisted by Student/Pastor O.G. Palmer.

While preaching during the "Evangelistic Week" at a village in Mulanje District, Malawi, Africa, Pastor L. Kawere was stricken and died. He was buried in his home village in Nicheu District, Central Region the first Sunday in November. The CAC pastors visit sister churches and districts in planned evangelistic outreach "weeks."

The Orange Bay, Jamaica, SDB church continues to advance its building program. In January the new roof was put on, in time for hosting the circuit convention.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!

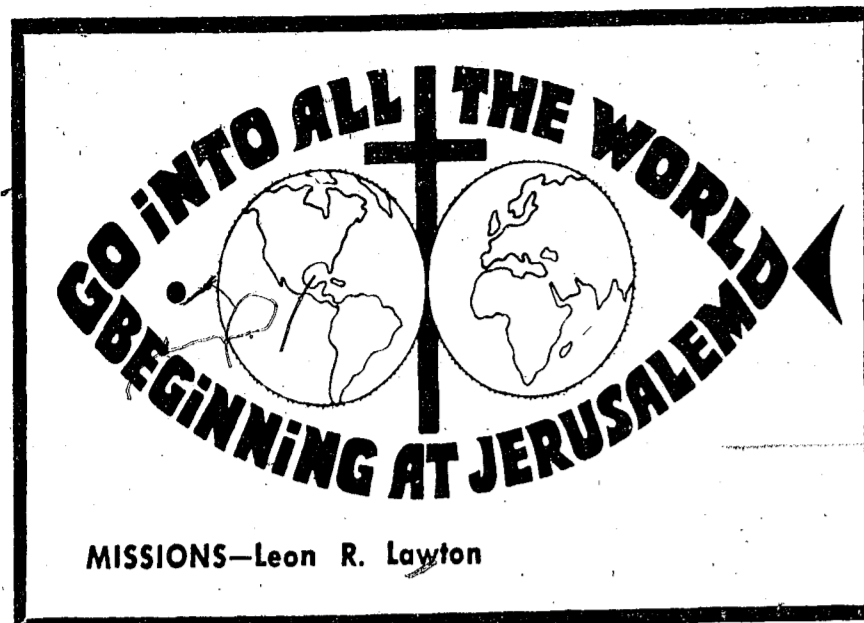
MARCH 1976

Verse for the month:

If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven (perfect as He is) give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him!"

-Matthew 7:11 ANT

- 1 - Women's Board meeting in Colo.
- 2 - Harold Dzumani, RN, Makapwa, Malawi, Africa
- 3 - Director of Evangelism, Mynor G. Soper
- 4 - Rev. B. John V. Rao, Nellore, South India
- 5 - Area Lay/Pastor Spiritual Retreat, North Loup, NE
- 6 - PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR SUPPORT OF OWM THIS MONTH!
- 7 - David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
- 8 - Pastor Sam Peters, Georgetown, Guyana, So. Amer.
- 9 - Pastors/Wives Retreat, Camp Paul Hummel, Colo.
- 10 - Executive Secretary K. Duane Hurley, Plainfield, N.J.
- 11 - Rev. L. Sawi Thanga, Rangoon, Burma
- 12 - Area Lay/Pastor Spiritual Retreat, Colo.
- 13 - FOR YOUTH AS THEY CONSIDER THEIR CALLING/VOCATION
- 14 - For Planning Committee meeting in Denver, Colo. (14-17)
- 15 - Rev. E.O. Ferraren, Cebu City, The Philippines
- 16 - the missionary pastors serving in USA churches
- 17 - the SDB Mission Fellowship, Toronto, Ont., Canada
- 18 - Pastoral students in Jamaica and Guyana, So. Amer.
- 19 - Publishing Director John D. Bevis Plainfield, N.J.
- 20 - YOUR PASTOR AS HE PROCLAIMS THE GOSPEL THIS SABBATH
- 21 - the Annual Meeting of the SDB Missionary Society
- 22 - Douglas and Jane Mackintosh, Kingston, Jamaica, WI
- 23 - for pastors/leaders in sister churches in Mexico
- 24 - Dean Herbert E. Saunders, Plainfield N.J.
- 25 - Houston, TX RON and local director, Geo. Stillman
- 26 - new satellite mission groups! Ventura, CA, is one.
- 27 - SABBATH SCHOOL MISSION OFFERING
- 28 - for those planning SCSC projects, VBS and Camps-1976
- 29 - Rev. C. Cabasa, Mindanao, The Philippines
- 30 - for those who have volunteered for SCSC service-1976
- 31 - for neighbors/fellow-workers who know not Christ!



MALAWI MEDICAL WORK

Would you like to go with us to Chileka Airport? Yes, to the airport in Blantyre to welcome Mr. Harold A. Dzumani who is coming from Britain. He will be landing at the airport today, October 31, 1975, at 12:55 p.m.

Mr. Dzumani went to Britain to study to become a State Registered Nurse so that he could assist in the medical work at Makapwa Station Hospital of the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists.

In Britain, Mr. Dzumani took a two-year course and graduated as an Enrolled Nurse at Orpington Hospital. Thereafter, Mr. Dzumani went to Shafhsbury and St. Paul's Hospital where he received a Genito - Urinary Diploma, specializing in kidney diseases, kidney transplant, metabolic disorders, and kidney machines; here, "I got a first class diploma," Mr. Dzumani said smiling.



Harold A. Dzumani

Brother Dzumani then said, "I worked in a Coronary Care Unit where heart conditions are monitored and treated at City Hospital." The seven years in Britain therefore are not wasted, but used properly indeed. We thank God therefore for keeping him well and strong while studying.

Asked how he felt when he arrived back home in Malawi, Mr. Dzumani said that he was happy to come back home to Malawi, his own country, and to work among his own people. He went on to say that it would be a great privilege to help his own brothers and sisters.

At Makapwa Station Hospital Mr. Dzumani will be working hand in hand with Mrs. Audrey Fuller who is the medical director for Makapwa Hospital, Sandama Clinic, Thembe Clinic, and Thomas Health Centre. He will also be working with the medical assistant, Mr. E.P. Mhura.

Asked what she felt about the arrival of Mr. Dzumani, Mrs. Audrey Fuller said, "We thank God that he is back now. We began to wonder if it was a dream that there was such a man, and it's something we have been looking for, for a long time."

At Chilkea Airport Mr. Dzumani was met by Rev. and Mrs. D.C. Pearson and their daughter Joanna; Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Fuller; Mr. F.R. Mazinga; Rev. O.B. Manani; Mr. F. Mbawa and Fedson F. Makatanje. Thereafter all went to Rev. Pearson's house where a lunch in honour of Mr. Dzumani was served. □

—Fedson F. Makatanje
Makapwa Literature Office

AREA SPIRITUAL RETREATS

by Rev. Mynor Soper

Four area Spiritual Retreats are planned for ministers and their wives and laymen this spring. The retreats will be divided into two sections: 1) Friday night through Sunday afternoon will be for laymen of the area as well as pastors and wives; 2) Pastors and their wives will continue for three days after the weekend.

The theme for the retreats is "In All Things Grow." It is taken from Ephesians 4:15 where it says, "We will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ" (New International). The emphasis will be a positive one, even as the verse says, we *will* grow! Four areas of growth will be stressed:

1. Growth in the church (numbers, outreach)
It is planned to have outstanding men from various seminaries present to conduct this part.
2. Growth in the Spiritual Life
This will be a presentation by Rev. Charles Graffius dealing with the Holy Spirit.
3. Growth in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word
An in-depth study of the Bible by Rev. Leon Lawton.
4. Growth in our desire and ability to evangelize
Motivation and training in evangelism by Mynor Soper.

Following is a schedule for the retreats:

Fouke, Ark. - Feb. 27 - Mar. 3
North Loup, Nebr. - Mar. 5-7
(Pastors of this area will go on to Colorado for their part.)

Boulder-Denver, Colo., Area -
March 9-14

Milton, Wis. - April 28-May 2

We urge the churches to participate in these retreats to the fullest extent possible. There will be much information and help which could make a real difference in the life of the individuals involved in the retreat as well as for your church. □

The Who, What, Why of CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees and councils of General Conference are an integral part of the denominational structure, rendering invaluable service in spite of small budgets, dependence on volunteer labor, geographic division and infrequent meetings.

Yet someone wanting to learn about the committees during this year of denominational structure study is faced with a difficult task. Whereas the constitutions and bylaws of Conference and the boards and agencies are periodically included in the *Yearbook*, the guidelines for the committees are strewn through years of Conference minutes.

The following material is a synthesis of the scattered references to committee structure.

The *Committee on Obituaries* is the eldest of the standing committees, literally "appearing" in 1865. There have been no Conference directives concerning the committee - tradition alone dictates that the five members, including the chairman, are elected annually by Conference.

The *Committee on Support and Retirement* resulted from the merger in 1974 of the Committee on Retirement which originated in 1928, and the Ministerial Support Committee, organized in 1956.

The purpose of the former was "to investigate all cases of need, and make recommendations to the Memorial Board and to the Missionary Board for assistance from funds provided for the aid of retired ministers and their dependents," and the purpose of the latter, "to formulate and execute, by any and every means at its disposal, plans and activities that will ultimately lead to increased growth and increased salaries for the ministry."

The committee consists of three members elected to staggered three-year terms by General Conference, one member appointed by the Memorial Fund trustees, and the dean of the Center on Ministry. In addition, boards and agencies with three or more employees covered by the retirement plan may appoint a non-voting member. The chairman of the committee is nominated by Commission.

The *Council on Ministry* evolved from the Committee To Consider the Theological Training of Our Ministers, established in 1952, and took its present form in 1971, when it was directed to phase into support, recruitment, education and pastor-church relations.

The six members are nominated by Commission and elected by Conference, two annually, for three-year terms. One member should be someone "who has

recently finished a modern seminary education, or a layman who is able, because of identification through age, to more easily associate with our ministerial students." The council elects its own officers annually.

The *Council on Ecumenical Affairs*, born in 1954 as the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, promotes ecumenical activities, participates in the naming of representatives to ecumenical gatherings and agencies, and receives reports from these representatives.

The council is composed of five members serving five-year terms plus the executive secretary of General Conference ex officio, non-voting. Commission nominates one member each year; the council elects its own officers annually; and no member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The *Christian Social Action Committee*, formed in 1962, has as its purposes to study social problems, to formulate policies on these problems, to suggest methods of implementing these policies, and to present denominational policy between sessions of Conference.

Commission nominates four persons annually to serve three-year terms on the twelve-member committee, which is to be composed of approximately two-thirds laymen and one-third ordained ministers. Further, "a core group of at least four members shall be named in the same geographic location. Each time the core group is relocated Commission shall name a convener, and the core group shall select its own officers." The executive secretary of General Conference is a member ex officio. A recommendation that the entire committee be located in three or four geographic areas so that it could be organized into subcommittees seems to be still in effect.

The *Faith and Order Committee*, established in 1963, is "to stimulate the development of an atmosphere for the creative discussion of convictions and provide for general theological dialogue, to promote the continuous efforts to clarify and communicate our faith in a changing world, to consider any proposed change in our Statement of Belief..., and to give continuous study to the procedures and practices in church organization and polity, and to recommend such revisions in the Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedure as may be needed and helpful."

Two members are nominated annually by Commission to serve three-year terms on the six-member body, which is to be composed of laymen and ministers. □

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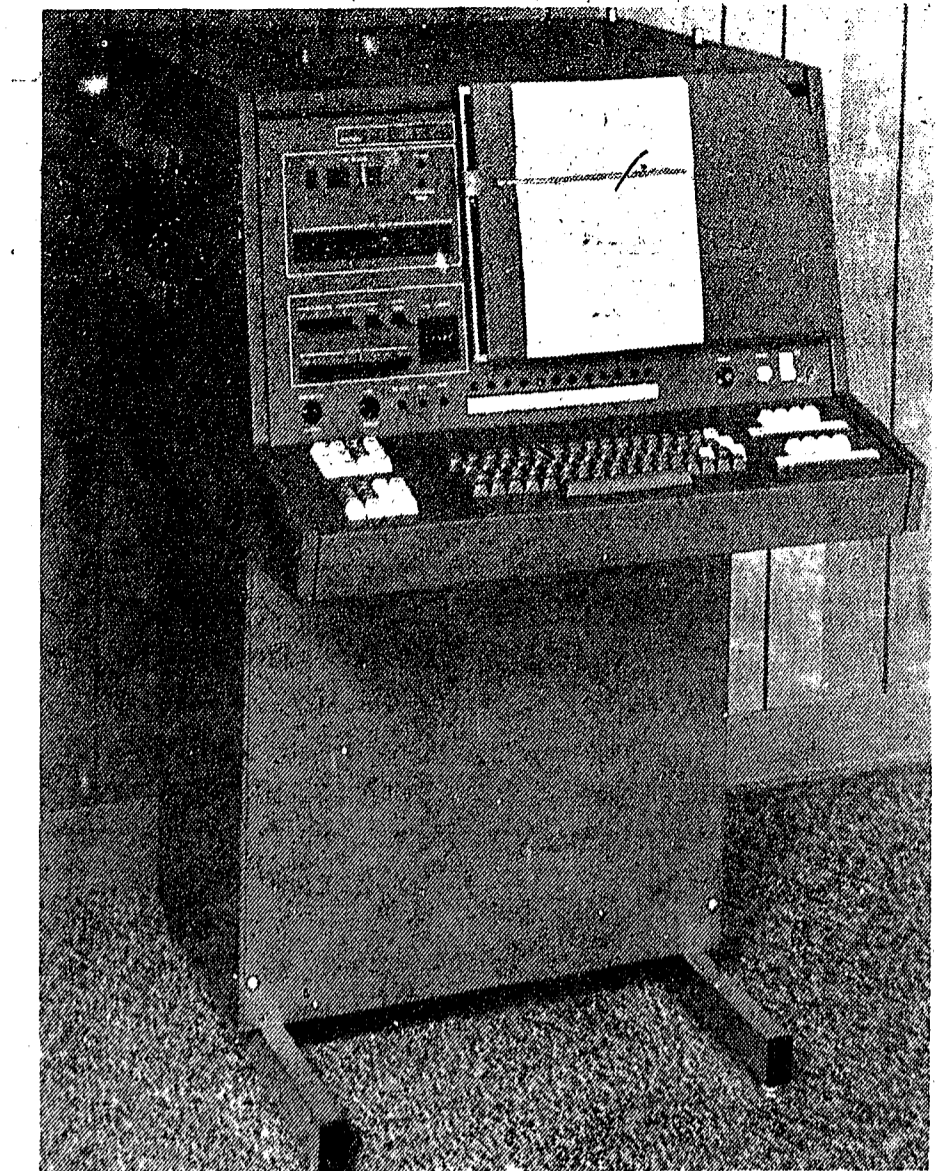
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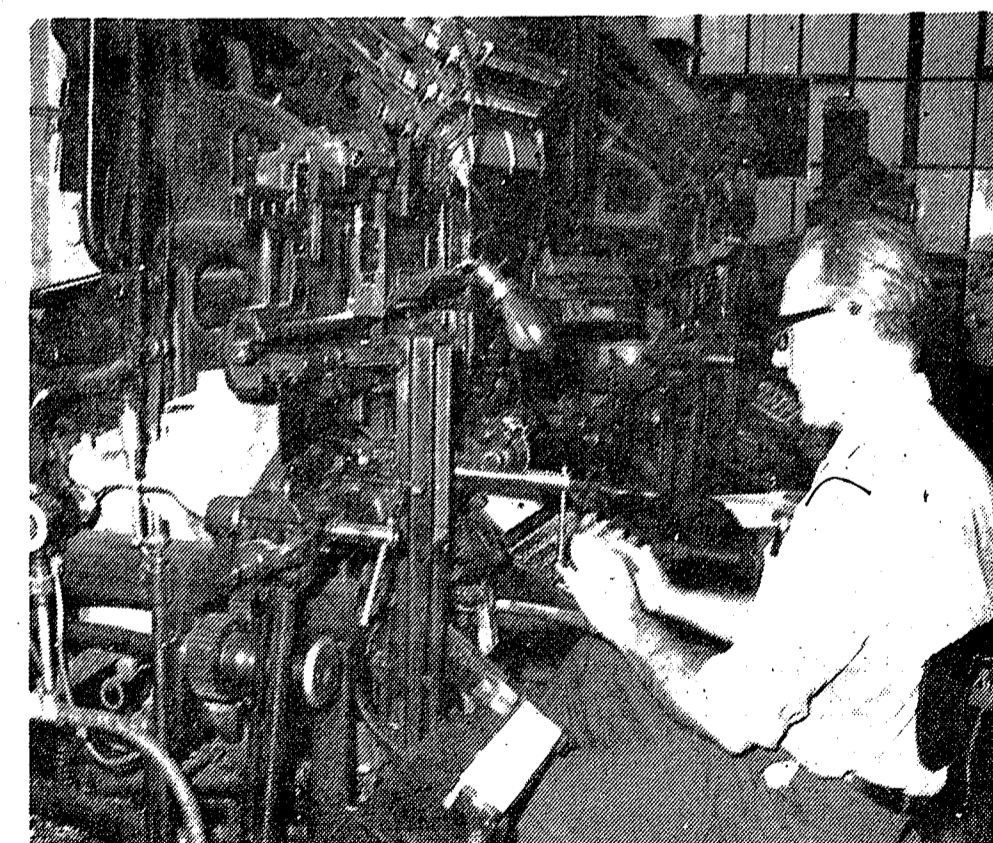
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COMPUWRITER IV

This newly purchased "cold-type" typesetting equipment has been installed at the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House. The "Compuwriter IV" is operated by Mrs. Peggy Van Horn and this issue of the *Sabbath Recorder* was done on this new system. Extremely versatile, the new machine is also compact and operates very quietly as compared to the Linotype - in fact the silence seems strange at the publishing house.

We invite anyone in the area to stop by and see this new equipment in operation. We look forward to an even greater publication ministry made possible in part by this new equipment.



Gerry Landry for some twelve years served as our typesetter on the Linotype machine. Now retired, Gerry plans to spend much of his time in sharing the Good News of Christ with students at Princeton University. He plans to operate a Christian coffee house. We pray God's blessings on Him in this endeavor.

AGAPE

OUR Father we thank You
For this caring life-line
That You extend to us
Right out of Your good Earth
For body sustenance
To work and serve brothers
Where "all that's mine is thine."

We also thank You for
Jesus the bread of life
The spiritual life-line
That You extend to us
From the font of Your love
To raise our dead spirits
To life in communion.

Amen.

Francis Gerald Landry

At the Yearly Meeting of the New England Seventh Day Baptist Churches at Ashaway, R.I., November 16, a question was asked that should give us all deep concern. We had been considering the matter of growth of our people, and whether we could be considered as "just like the Baptists except for the Sabbath," when a young woman asked, "What is our distinctive message? Why has God called us for such a time as this?"

The Ten Commandments

Seventh Day Baptists have always thought that these Ten Words were given to all men, for all time, and in all places in the world. The tablets of stone, given to Moses upon Mount Sinai, were not the first appearance of these laws found upon earth. Cain knew that he was doing wrong when he killed Abel his brother. Jacob had some strong inducement when he set up the stone at Bethel. So I believe that the Sabbath was not just a late afterthought of God. It was there from the very beginning.

Thou Shalt Not Kill

The Old Testament prophets did not always call for the destruction of Israel's enemies, as being the highest goal of God's people. Jonah learned not to hate, but to redeem Ninevah. Hosea revealed a God of infinite love. Jeremiah advised conciliation with Nebuchadnezzar's army rather than an insensate war. He was overruled by the war party, who accused him of cowardice and treachery. He was thrown into prison for "weakening the hands of the people," but lived to see the city destroyed and the best of the people either killed or led away into captivity.

So there was good precedent for Jesus when He said we were to "love our enemies," "pray for those who despitefully use us and persecute us," that we might be "children of

by Rev. Paul Burdick
Waterford, Conn.

our Heavenly Father," who shows His love to all both small and great.

The Love of Christ

The secret, then, of obedience to God's laws is this: The Christ who died for us can create in us a love that makes obedience possible. With Him the impossible becomes possible. The Holy Spirit becomes our power to overcome. Is not that the real meaning of "Comforter"? He is one who "stands beside us" when we need Him. He encourages or impels us into obedience.

War, the Destroyer of Obedience to God

The imaginary visitor from Mars would look with amazement at our effort to put to death those of our own species. Certainly the angels weep when they see us working to create gadgets that would exterminate our brothers by means of poison and fire.

For war is the great instrument of Satan to turn men's hearts away from the laws of God. He teaches men that killing is necessary, that lying is honorable, if it is the enemy who is deceived and destroyed, or if it is our side that is encouraged to fight with fanaticism. In Satan's hands there is no law of God that cannot be transcended. Even God Himself may be removed from His throne while a substitute god takes His place - the god of battles.

GOD'S CALL TO

Seventh Day Baptists

Seventh Day Baptists Fulfilling Their Task

Here is where Seventh Day Baptists may find their true place in God's Kingdom. In obedience to the Commands of God, given at Sinai, but more importantly, placed in men's hearts from the very beginning, they find the secret of their being. In the Ten Commandments we are shown the real purpose of God for us and for all mankind. In the life and sacrifice of Christ we are shown an infinite love which we are called upon to emulate, while in the power of the Holy Spirit we are given the impulse and the ability to obey.

Now this is not a "shut-eyed" faith that says, "I believe," and then leaves it up to God to accomplish. It is an open-eyed faith that makes use of what instruments are at hand. For some it will mean electing, and writing letters to those in government who hold the fate of peace in their hands. The United Nations may be refurbished to make it an effective instrument for peacemaking. For others still it will mean the continuation of missions and evangelism for the making over of the hearts of men to do His will. Whatever the means used, we will never demean the efforts of others, but use every measure in our power.

Remember again that the Holy Spirit of God, the Comforter, Who inspires, corrects impels us with new energy can make this world God's dwellingplace. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in peace will be when He finds men doing their best to prepare the way for Him.

When the Son of man comes, will He find faith in the earth? Yes, when such faith is backed up by practical deeds, open-eyed belief, and a willingness of Seventh Day Baptists and others to put God's Kingdom first in their thoughts, hearts, and actions. □

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVE VISITS HEADQUARTERS

As a part of the Conference mandated study of the pros and cons of Seventh Day Baptist membership in the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Charles H. Long, Jr., Executive Secretary, New York office, World Council of Churches, met with Commission and other denominational representatives on Tuesday, December 30, 1975 at denominational headquarters in Plainfield.

In his presentation and the subsequent discussion, Mr. Long included the following observations:

1. WCC provides smaller churches with a *channel* for meeting human needs in a corporate way.
2. WCC provides smaller churches with *resources* - study papers, small group Bible study.
3. WCC provides smaller churches with *media* for designated giving, promotional support, missionary, and evangelism support.
4. Budgetary allocations of the WCC are made approximately as follows:
 - a. Human needs - 25%
 - b. Theological order (faith and mission) - 25%
 - c. Education, renewal, communication (pastoral undergirding) - 25%
 - d. Secretariat (administrative, press relations, etc.) - 25%
5. WCC requires 25,000 minimum membership for new applications.
6. Some reasons for maintaining membership in the WCC are the following:
 - a. You are the WCC since WCC is a "fellowship of churches."
 - b. WCC is the most visible unity of the Church.
 - c. The broader the diversity, the greater value of WCC.
7. a. You are the WCC if you belong to it; it is not some delegated authority off in the distance.
 - b. Membership provides a perspective for the global Christian community.

- c. It provides an opportunity for responsible dialog with brothers and sisters elsewhere. The WCC is the most visible symbol of unity and diversity of the Church.
- e. Again, unity does not mean uniformity.
- f. It is diversity united by a common faith.
- g. It is *not* a merger.
- h. Churches need WCC and WCC needs them.
- i. It should be noted that we can't have something called "selective indignation." Mr. Long's question to the churches is: What is your concept of the call of the Church to its mission?

He emphasized that, with official membership in the WCC, Seventh Day Baptists are the only fully participating Sabbath-keeping group in the council.

In addition to serving as executive secretary of the New York office of the World Council of Churches, Mr. Long is also executive secretary of the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches, composed of twenty-seven member churches in the United States.

Prior to assuming the top U.S. post in the World Council of Churches in January 1974, Mr. Long was Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania, for thirteen years.

In attendance at the special meeting with Mr. Long were the following Commissioners: Gary G. Cox, Burton B. Crandall, Leland E. Davis, S. Kenneth Davis, Richard D. Shepard, and Delmer E. Van Horn. Also in attendance were John D. Bevis, Publishing Director of the American Sabbath Tract Society; Thomas L. Merchant, Historian; Herbert E. Saunders, Dean of the Center on Ministry; George Parrish

and James Skaggs, Task Force; and K.D. Hurley, Executive Secretary. It is anticipated that, at the direction of the Council on Ecumenical Affairs, a number of articles, letters from readers, and expressions of opinion about the WCC will appear in various issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* between now and the General Conference meeting in August, at which time a roll call vote by churches will be taken. □



EXTEND NOW

Visits to the RON project in Houston recently have included Mynor Soper, director of Evangelism and Herbert Saunders, dean of the Center on Ministry. Mynor Soper is national coordinator and his meeting with the fellowship centered around continued planning for the year ahead. Herbert Saunders met with the fellowship on January 8-11. During his visit, at which time he focused on the Sabbath, several new people attended. Currently the group meets at the Southwest YMCA, 4210 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, but are searching and praying for a church location. We would ask that everyone make this need a matter of prayer.

Future visitors to the project will include the "Light Bearers" who will be working there March 7-21. Our Conference president, Gary Cox and his wife Myrna, president of the Women's Board, will be meeting with the fellowship on March 26-28. Also Mr. and Mrs. Elnor Davis of Denver will be spending some time with the fellowship in March and April. We hope you will make the RON project in Houston a prayer priority. God will bless if we are concerned. □

LEADERS OF YOUTH AT SALEMVILLE SEMINAR

An Effort To Aid
Our Youth Groups

Youth Program Committee chairman, Rev. Russell Johnson, reports unique event Nov. 24-26 hosted by Salemville, Pa., Seventh Day Baptists, and directed by his committee of the Board of Christian Education.

In the wake of the General Conference decision to set aside plans for a full-time Youth Field Worker, the Youth Program Committee of the Board of Christian Education began to follow an alternate course of action that we had hoped would be a supplemental effort in denominational youth work. As it became apparent that no other options would readily present themselves, the chairman of the committee met at Azusa with the pastor of seven churches in the middle-Atlantic states area. October 24-27 was a time when the pastor indicated that their churches would be free to send their pastors, youth officers and advisors to a Salemville planning and training retreat.

On the agreed-upon date, the Salem, Lost Creek, Washington, D. C., and Salemville churches were able to send delegates. The Allegheny Association sent some of their youth along with the Youth Program Committee members. About forty people finally gathered to pool their thoughts, experiences, hopes and plans. The board representatives were diverse in background, age and training to provide depth and variety to our encounters. We

had the board president, executive secretary, Youth Program Committee chairman, the *Beacon* editor and the National SDBYF president. The National YF secretary and vice-president also were present.

We shared Sabbath worship services in the two local SDB churches, and following a delicious fellowship lunch, the work really began. People had really come to learn and work. For the rest of the afternoon and evening, intensive sessions were held on such topics as: leadership, advisors, officers' responsibilities, a healthy youth group and what makes it healthy, worship experiences, learning encounters in the youth groups, fund-raising projects, service projects, musical, social events, and resources that are available to be used. Group discussions were held at several points with the assembly being divided by position (youth officer, pastor or advisor) and by local church youth groups. The Youth Program Committee members sat in to observe, offer aid where needed, and to generally be a resource to the small groups. During the day, the new S.D.B. Youth Source Book was given to each group, with appropriate introduction to the contents and potential uses.

On Sunday morning, following a worship experience, the individual youth fellowships sat down to project a program for the 1975-76 school year. The intensity and

sound thoughts that emerged were rewarding to those of us on the Youth Program Committee.

Following the fellowship of lunch, served bountifully and deliciously by the Salemville ladies (as had all the meals), we returned to the individual communities that we each represented to resume our regular lives. But the committee sent each group home with a promise: each group would be visited by a committee member in a few months to follow up and see how things have progressed.

In general, we felt that what we had to say was well received and put into practice during the weekend. It was our first experience and we feel we have much to learn, and of course, time and the people who came are the only way we'll know how successful this effort has been. We hope to be invited to share other such experiences in the future. Our chief limitation is that this effort is largely a volunteer effort on the part of the dedicated committee members. Their time and resources are the chief limitations to the size of the program. However, it is our dream that we'll be able to offer our services to area groups that would use us to aid them in their youth work until such time as the denomination can find a more intensive and extensive ministry to youth. □

The Church in Action

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DAVID TAYLOR TO SERVE SCHENECTADY CHURCH

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. -- David Taylor, member of the Richburg, N.Y., S.D.B. Church, his wife Margaret Cartwright Taylor, and three children, have answered the call to serve the Schenectady, N.Y., S.D.B. Church as lay-pastor.

The Schenectady church advertised in the Conference *Crier* about their need for a pastor. The Taylors responded and visited the church in October. This resulted in the church's issuing a call which the Taylors accepted. The Taylors have three children: Dana, age 8; Dina, 6; and Duane, 3. They have moved into the Schenectady parsonage and have begun their service to the church.

David's work has been mainly in the field of electronics; he was formerly employed by an appliance firm in Bolivar. He preached for the First Hebron, Pa., S.D.B. Church during the interim between pastors Harold King and Kenneth Van Horn. David and Margaret have been very active in the Richburg church, both teaching Sabbath School classes and David singing in the choir. Margaret is an artist and seamstress. Some of her artwork has appeared on the Children's Page of the *Recorder*.

On December 13, 1975, the Richburg church gave the Taylor family a farewell reception. Some forty people attended and presented them with a money tree and a two-volume Bible encyclopedia. Prayer was made for God's blessing on their new work.

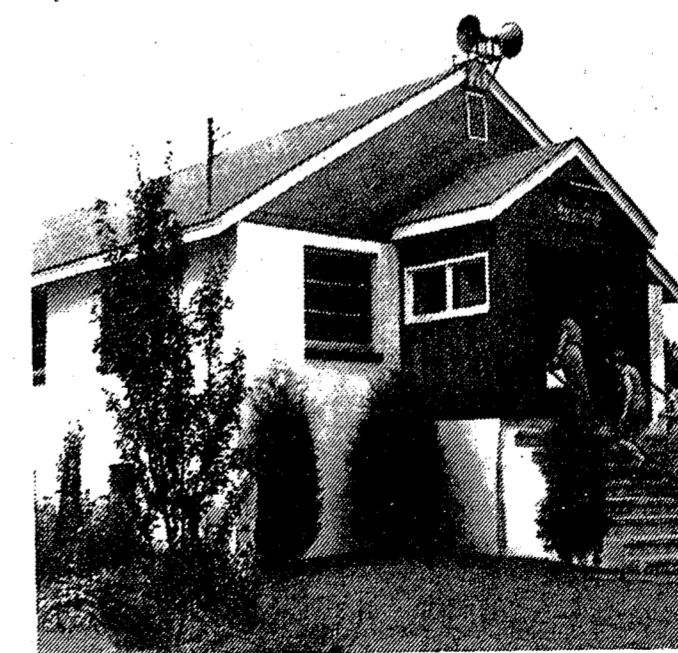


Mr. and Mrs. David Taylor and family have answered the call to serve the Schenectady, N.Y., S.D.B. Church.

We praise the Lord for the dedication of this young family as they seek to reach out and share the love of Christ with others in the Schenectady area. Truly God is at work among Seventh Day Baptists--let us all pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Taylors and the Schenectady church -- may His will be done! □

LAY WITNESS MISSION HELD BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

Our Parish House is a beehive of activity. Besides housing a day care center, two apartments, offices for the church and day care center, and a Sabbath School room, it is now a meeting place for students learning to read and their tutors in the Laubach Literacy Training



SCHENECTADY, N.Y.,
S.D.B. CHURCH

Program (each one teach one). Presently, three people are receiving training at the Parish House in this program, which is an adult Basic Class of the schools, staffed by the Volunteer Bureau.

Work is nearly completed on our remodeled church kitchen. The last cabinet and work counter are being installed and the floor is being readied for painting. The Ladies' Aid, which has raised monies for this project for many years, is hopeful that our beautiful new kitchen will be ready for our annual Homecoming Sabbath, November 29.

The book, "The Fragrance of Beauty," by Joyce Landorf is being used as a study guide by the Ladies' Aid in its program. The ladies, besides holding bake sales, bazaars, and other money-making events, do much sewing for the Charitable Union.

The Youth Fellowship had two retreats at camp this fall, went canoeing, held a bake sale at a local Sears store, and had a slumber party at the parsonage. As a result of the Y.F.'s fund-raising efforts, four of our young people were able to attend Pre-Con and Conference in California.

The weekend of November 7-9, our church is having a Lay Witness Mission. Many committees have been preparing for this event for many months. We pray for spiritual renewal and revival within our church as a result of this series of meetings. □

**DR. SMITH ASSUMES
NEW POSITION**

ROSLYN HARBOR, N.Y. -- Dr. Kenneth E. Smith, former President of Milton College and more recently associated with Hofstra University has assumed a new position at a Long Island college.

As of the first of January, 1976, Dr. Smith became Vice-President for Development and College Relations for Dowling College, Oakdale, New York. A private college with some 2,000 students, Dowling is located on the former Vanderbilt estate on Long Island.

Though some distance from Seventh Day Baptist churches Dr. Smith has remained extremely active in denominational concerns. This year he is the President of Eastern Association which will meet with the Plainfield church in May. He is a member, along with his wife Dorothy, of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society, where he serves as chairman of the Sabbath Promotion committee. In addition Dr. Smith is chairman of the denominational Council on Ministry and is a member of the Board of Directors for the United Campus Ministries for Long Island. The Smiths and son Scott, attend the Plainfield, N.J., and Westerly, R.I., churches. □

**ARKANSAS
STATE FAIR BOOTH**

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. — As in past years the Little Rock church sponsored a booth at the Arkansas State Fair. With its theme "I Am the Vine, Ye Are the Branches" the booth sought to meet the needs of Christians seeking a fuller relationship with their Savior as well as seeking to introduce the unsaved to Him. Under the able direction of Jim Mitchell, evangelism chairman, the booth took shape and presented a beautiful opportunity to introduce the Sabbath and Seventh Day Baptists to many who had never heard before. While fewer tracts were distributed this year, it seemed that there were more opportunities to share at length with individuals. — Outreach

**WESTERN ILLINOIS
FELLOWSHIP**

MONMOUTH, ILL.--The members of the Western Illinois S.D.B. Fellowship shared in watchnight services with the members of Faith Chapel. We shared the Bible together and Clarence White was asked to share the history of S.D.B.'s with the group.

Pastor Ed Dewitt of the Faith Chapel stated that he was happy to share his chapel with the Seventh Day Baptists. Our services are held each Sabbath morning with Sabbath School, mission talks, and a short sermon. We must sow seed even though we may not see the complete harvest. We must work now because the Bible says that the night is coming when no one may work.

We know if we do His will in the few years that we have on this earth and are faithful in teaching all things that He will "be with us always, even unto the end of the world." I remember the motto that hung on my grandmother's wall: "only one life, t'will soon be past--only what's done for Christ will last." Please pray for the work and witness of Seventh Day Baptists in western Illinois. □

--Clarence T. White

NEWS NOTES

Seventh Day Baptists in Ventura, California, are meeting monthly in the community room of the AVCO Savings and Loan Association, 250 South Mills Road. This new work is an outgrowth of the recent Fair Booth held in Ventura. Pray that God will continue to lead and bless!

Pastor and Mrs. Dale Rood of the Waterford, Conn., S.D.B. Church conducted a weekend of Lay Evangelism Training Sessions at the North Jersey S.D.B. Church, Jan. 16, 17.

The Farina, Ill., S.D.B. Church has put a new roof on its parish house; other improvements in the church plant are planned. The church recently honored Mrs. Eva Coon and Mrs. Bessie Stewart, two of its oldest members with a birthday dinner served in the parish house.

**YOUTH RETREAT
HOSTED**

NEW AUBURN, WIS.--On October 31 to November 2, the New Auburn Y.F. hosted a retreat for the Youth Fellowships of Battle Creek, Mich., Dodge Center, Minn., and Milton, Wis., at the beautiful setting of Camp Wahdoon near New Auburn.

The theme of the retreat was "Be Ye Filled with Power" with the Scripture text of Acts 1 and 2.

Friday night was devoted to the refreshing of old friendships and making new ones. Sabbath Day the members of the New Auburn church joined us for a worship service with John Rau presenting a message on the Holy Spirit. After a fellowship dinner, we had a film followed by Bible studies with leaders working in pairs.

In the evening, Ken Burdick showed slides of his time in Jamaica with another film afterwards. Later we were joined and entertained by Tansimh, a group of Christians from the New Auburn area.

Sunday morning Pastor Leroy Bass led us in devotions, after which we had to break up to go home. We are now looking forward to the next gathering and retreat. □

--Madelyn Payne

**LIGHT BEARERS
AT MARLBORO**

MARLBORO, N.J.--The Marlboro church was truly blessed to have the Rev. Mynor G. Soper and the Light Bearers for Christ team here in October. We enjoyed the testimonies and music of these seven dedicated young people. Much prayer and preparation preceded their visit here!

Several from our church went to see the film, "The Hiding Place," which featured the life of Corrie ten Boom. Our Harvest Home service and dinner was held in November and the young people enjoyed a skating party in Franklinville.

We were happy to learn of the organization of the North Jersey S.D.B. Church. Mr. and Mrs. Myron McPherson will be attending there now as they have moved to Clinton, N.J. Our loss will be North Jersey's gain!

One week we received a special offering for the N.J. Council on Alcohol Problems. These funds will be used to assist in educational work in the schools. We also participated in the annual S.D.B. United Relief

The Sabbath Recorder

Fund offering. We were glad to be able to express our love to those who are less fortunate.

Christmas Sabbath was observed with special music by the choir led by Miss Donna Harris. Our Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 21, was directed by Mrs. Barbara Froding. The decorations were by Mrs. Marion Peterson. Several went out caroling on Christmas Eve with refreshments served at the home of Miss Allyce Davis in Shiloh.

On Dec. 30 many met at the parsonage to share with Dan Richards before he left on the following day to join the Light Bearers for Christ team. His personality, musical ability, and love for the Lord will make Him an asset to the group. Our prayers and love go with him. □

--Ella T. Davis

**MILTON HOSTS
QUARTERLY MEETING**

MILTON, WIS.--Many things have been happening in Milton and plans are going forward for celebration of this Bicentennial year.

During the fall a second women's group was formed to hold meetings in the evening. This meets the needs of women who work and mothers with young children who are unable to meet during the day. They have organized with officers to lead the group and have many plans for the coming year.

A project which we have been working on for some time is the renovating of our church kitchen. Now it is nearly complete with new counter tops, new stainless steel sinks and counter with a rented dishwasher.

The Milton church entertained the Quarterly Meeting of the Southern Wisconsin and Chicago Fellowship groups on January 16 and 17. The guest speaker was Conference President Gary Cox and we appreciated having him with us.

The Hope Lutheran Church (an American Lutheran congregation) has leased our church for another year. This arrangement seems to be working out very well for both groups.

During the last year we have lost all our beautiful large elm trees to Dutch elm disease. It really looks bare around the church now with the remaining two in front as well as the four in back of the church gone. Plans are to plant two fairly large trees in front immediately and in a

few years hopefully we will have shade trees in front of the church once more.

As this New Year unfolds may we all be full of hope for the future, With the Spirit of God in control of our lives we may all be filled with Christ's love for all mankind. □

**CHRISTMAS
AT PLAINFIELD**

PLAINFIELD, N.J.--Our Advent celebration began with a family service Nov. 28 sponsored by our Board of Christian Education. Mrs. Barbara Saunders, chairman, told the meaning of the Advent wreath and four candles. The first one was lit, and the others were lit on succeeding Sabbaths. The meaning of the Advent banners was explained, and they were erected as we sang appropriate hymns.

We observed Stewardship Sabbath Nov. 29 with Exec. Sec. K. Duane Hurley in charge. A men's double quartet sang; Diane and Thomas Merchant presented a challenging dialog on the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be"; and Editor John Bevis, Historian Thomas Merchant, and Dean Herbert Saunders told about the work of the Tract Society, Historical Society, and Center on Ministry.

Our German sauerbraten dinner Dec. 1, prepared by our expert chef, Robert Pociatek, and sponsored by the Women's Society, was an outstanding success. With nearly a hundred guests, \$236 was netted, of which \$100 was given to the Robert Babcocks, our theolog family, and \$100 to the Youth Fellowship camp fund.

The Women's Society had a Christmas dinner and party Dec. 8 at the home of Mrs. Bettie North. A baby shower for Mrs. Dorothy Pociatek was the main program of the evening.

The church Christmas party Dec. 20 began with a light supper at 5:30. Elder and Mrs. Herbert Saunders, who coordinated the party, were presented with a check in appreciation of their tireless work in filling our pulpit, in playing the organ and directing the choir, and in many other ways.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight and Communion service was planned and led by Elder Saunders. Many symbolic candles were lighted as Scripture was read and carols were sung. The offering of about \$65 was for Menzo and Audrey Fuller in Malawi. Our huge Christmas card was signed by everyone, and the money saved by not sending cards to one another was to be given to the Lord's work.

Our Thanksgiving offering Nov. 22 amounted to \$94.75 for the Babcocks and \$72.75 for the local Star-Fish. The sermon was given by Elder E. Wendell Stephan, our former pastor and director of the chaplaincy training program at the Hartford, Conn., hospital. Others who filled our pulpit during November and December were Rev. Kenneth Smith (twice), Rev. Willard Bicket, and Elder Saunders (four times).

We pray for the continued leading of the Holy Spirit during 1976. □

--Ruth Hunting Parker

The Sabbath School is perpetuated by its own products.



That's why I hate to bring Bert on Stewardship Sabbath!

ORDINATION SERVICE FOR WILLIAM FRED PALMER

BROOKFIELD, N.Y.—The Second Brookfield Seventh Day Baptist Church was the setting for a service of ordination for William Fred Palmer as Deacon on Sabbath afternoon November 8, 1975.

The Rev. Charles Swing of DeRuyter was in charge of the service. Other pastors participating in the program were Rev. James Cross, supply pastor of the Second Brookfield church, Rev. Neal Mills, retired, and member of the DeRuyter church, Rev. John M. Peil, pastor of the Verona church, and Rev. Thomas Goldthwaite, pastor of the Brookfield First Day Baptist Church. Mrs. Joan Cross was organist.

Mrs. Ruth Palmer, church clerk, read the call to ordination and read a list of delegates present from Adams Center, Berlin, Brookfield First (Leonardsville), DeRuyter, Verona, and Second Brookfield churches.

Rev. Charles Swing was voted chairman of organization and ordination council.

William Palmer in his statement, gave credit to those who influenced his early Christian life. His mother and father provided a Christian home. Also, he mentioned Sabbath School teachers, pastors of his church and other pastors he had contacted through Association and Conference activities. His wife, Gloria, is also a dedicated Christian worker and had been a great help in making a Christian home for their family of three children, Angie, David, and Richard.

William expressed his belief in One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Bible was inspired by God. A Christian must be baptized by immersion: we die to sin and are born again to a new life in Christ, believing that Christ by His death and resurrection became our salvation.

Rev. Charles Swing gave charge to the candidate. He referred to

Paul's admonition to those called to serve as ministers and deacons. Keep a close watch on words and thoughts. Stay true to what is right and good.

The charge to the church was given by Rev. Neal Mills. Church members are responsible to notify deacons when there is a need for someone to be called upon or other needs to be answered.

The consecrating prayer was led by Rev. James Cross with the laying on of hands by all ordained personnel present.

William Palmer was then welcomed into the deaconate by the present deacons, Calvin Whitford and Francis W. Palmer. □

"MESSIAH" PRESENTED AT SHILOH

SHILOH, N.J.—The spirit of Christmas was ushered in at the Shiloh church by the annual candle-lighting services held in December. Five white candles held in place by a wooden structure and circled with a pine wreath decorated the center table. The Gospel candle was lit by Pastor Charles Bond; the candle of Faith by Mrs. Martie Hitchner; the candle of Hope by Brian Davis; the candle of Love by Timothy and Donna Bond and the services concluded with the lighting of the unnamed candle.

The annual Christmas vespers were presented by the Senior and Youth choirs of some sixty voices. Handel's "Messiah" was given before a capacity crowd in the sanctuary, directed by Mrs. Melvin Dickinson with Mrs. Robert Jernoske, organist, and Mrs. William Fogg, pianist. Soloists included David E. Hitchner, Owen H. Probasco, Carol H. Loper, Mary B. Hitchner, and Martie Hitchner. The special service was concluded by Pastor Bond assisted by Fred Davis, William Richardson, Ted Davis and J. Harold Fogg.

A surprise program was given to celebrate the 36th wedding anniversary of our Pastor Charles and his wife Margaret. Joseph Loper was in charge of the program which included selections by the bell choir, original poems and singing. A Love Gift was presented to the Bonds by Mrs. Bert Cruzan in behalf of the church and a reception followed.

Christmas fruit boxes were given at the Cumberland Manor, our A.F.C. also led the worship services in their monthly visit. The Y.F. classes, thirty-two strong, sang carols to those in the community. The Willing-Workers class was in charge of the beautiful decorations in the church during the holiday season.

Some sixty members were involved in the Bicentennial study groups in November; these were continued in January. Mrs. Carol H. Loper is the choir director through Easter. The choir is currently working on the musical, "If My People" based on I Chronicles 7:14.

Robert E. Harris shared some of his experiences in the Holy Land at a recent Friday evening prayer service. He has now completed his Seminary training at Ashland, Ohio. Our pastor is now serving as chaplain at the Bridgeton Hospital and also on Dial-A-Devotion, in addition to his regular duties. □

—Mrs. Martie Hitchner

NEW WORK BEGUN IN ENGLAND

LONDON, ENGLAND.—The Mill Yard Church in London continues to reach out with the gospel message into new areas in the British Isles. Elder Albourne L. Peat recently assisted Brother Keith Brown in the opening of a new work in Wolverhampton. A Sabbath School has been started and we request your prayers that this new work will prosper.

On October 25 three souls were baptized from the Lewisham group. We have had several programmes to raise money for our building fund. Our November harvest thanks service was well attended and the offering put in the building fund. Sister Iris Codrington and the Women's Missionary Society conducted a programme at the Calvary Church of God in Christ in Tottenham. This meeting was well attended with much interest expressed.

The weather has been good and we were able to observe the week of prayer with three separate groups conducting these services. We appreciate the tracts sent by the American Sabbath Tract Society — these were much needed. Please continue to pray for the advancement of the work in England.

—A.L. Peat

MAYOR'S WIFE SPEAKS AT S.D.B. CHURCH

WHITE CLOUD, MICH.—The Christmas activities in the White Cloud church were varied. During the Sabbath services on December 20, we had a dedicational service for two of our babies, Christy Lynn, daughter of Kenneth and Cheryl Schulz, and Rebekah (Becki) Dawn, daughter of Sam and Sandy Cruzan.

Mabel Babcock gave us the explanation of the decorations which were on our beautiful Christmas tree in the sanctuary. This was called the Chrismon Tree, adorned only in gold and white; gold represented the majesty and glory of Christ and white refers to His purity and perfection. Each ornament was hand made, symbolizing a monogram of Christ and His relationship to the world. At the close of this service, white gifts (envelopes) were placed on the tree for mission work. Later that evening the Church Family Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all in a beautifully decorated dining room.

The Ladies' Aid members enjoyed their Christmas party and secret pal revealing time at the parsonage on the night of December 6.

The year 1976 began with the first sermon on the Bicentennial Prayer and was followed by Communion and the fellowship luncheon. At the close of the meal, Donna McGowen, wife of the mayor of White Cloud, showed the filmstrip on the outline of the Bicentennial Prayer. Interest was shown by our members to start Bible study groups using this material.

We have been requested to start a "Sing Along" at one of our Nursing Homes in Fremont. Some of our members donate time to assist in the Occupational Therapy room for this home. The Ladies' Aid has taken over the need to aid in our small Rest Home here in White Cloud as an additional project.

During this past year the ladies made and donated ninety-four stocking caps and mittens to match thirty-four of these to the Newaygo County Community Service for the school children for Christmas. This same project will continue during 1976.

Men's Brotherhood continues to meet once a month and some of the men donate their time in erecting a new home for Dale and Carol Cruzan. □

—Correspondent



IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON CHURCH BUILDING

SALEMVILLE, PA.—Hi, Christian friends! We have been doing so many exciting things at Salemville that we want to share them with all of you.

One really great thing is that we completed the kitchen November 1 in our recreation area and now have running water in the church. We are planning a lot of Christian fellowship and this has already been started. On December 20, we enjoyed Christmas Sabbath with worship in the morning, a Christmas pot luck supper, Christmas program planned by each Sabbath School class and caroling in the evening. We had a pizza and taffy-pull and Women's Day of Prayer in November. We are planning fellowship dinners once a month starting in February. It sure is great praising God and doing it together.

We have put in a new well in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kagarise and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blough, which supplies both the church and parsonage. The Lord helped us greatly and the expenses for the well are completely paid.

We have put in new sidewalks and painted the church inside and out. The pulpit has been refinished in

honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Kagarise by their grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Reynolds. We expect to start bathrooms in the spring.

We have been blessed with three new little bundles of joy—a daughter, Tracey, to Brian and Sharon Kagarise; a son, Bradley, to Eileen and Robert Claycomb; and a son, Mark, to Minnie and Dwight Kagarise. They remind us indeed of God's greatness.

The Youth Fellowship and Juniors meet every other week under the leadership of Beth Boyd, Yvonne Stephan, Mary Ellis and Shirley Boyd.

The Women's Group meets once a month. We held our 19th Labor Day Festival, forced inside because of rain. Several other times it rained—once at a bridge about half a mile from us and not a drop at the festival, and once just as we were cleaning up. So we've been pretty lucky.

Jada Kagarise, daughter of Orlo and Arlene Kagarise, accepted the Lord and was baptized and accepted into the church. Our pastor spent a week in the hospital following surgery and we praise the Lord for helping him have a full recovery.

We solicit your prayers that our church will continue to grow for the service of the Lord. □

—Ruthanna Roberts

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 21, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1975, to December 31, 1975.
3. To ratify the appointments of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1976, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournments thereof shall be determined.

—Elston H. Van Horn, Secretary

ACCESSIONS

ASHAWAY, R.I.

Edgar F. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:
Samuel R. Durfee
Lila L. (Mrs. Samuel) Durfee
Steven Durfee
Paula Durfee
Pauline Durfee
William Durfee
James Parker
John Parker
Joseph Parker

DENVER, COLO.

John Conrod, Pastor

By Baptism:
Philip Conrod
Mrs. Fern Day
Richard Erwin

By Letter:
Stanley Stimson
Mrs. Shirley Stimson
Richard Wheeler

By Testimony:
Mrs. Veva Holmes

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

By Letter:
Ridgely Gordon
Cecil King
Mrs. Cecil King
Dorothy Radcliff

Associate:
Henry Grant

SALEM, W. VA.

Paul Green, Pastor

Associate Members:
Jo Ann Calise
Jonathan Davis
John Folsom
Cheryl Monroe
Jeff Monroe
Cindy Pierce
Pam Saxson
Tom Thorngate
Wendy Warner

MARRIAGES

BRISSEY - ALEXANDER.— Charles Theodore Brissey, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Theodore Brissey, Sr., of Edgewater, Md., and Joann Alexander, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Alexander of Hyattsville, Md., were united in marriage on October 31, 1975, in the Presbyterian church in Annapolis, Md. The ceremony was conducted by the bridegroom's paternal grandfather, Rev. Grover S. Brissey.

THORNGATE - HURLEY.— Thomas Linn Thorngate and Penelope Louise Hurley were married December 20, 1975, at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. He is the son of Gordon and Janet Thorngate of Arvada, Colorado. She is the daughter of K. Duane and Shireen Hurley of Salem, W. Va., and Plainfield N.J. Pastor Paul Green officiated. They are living in Salem, W. Va.

CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL!

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SERIES

One People Bound Together — by Rev. A. N. Rogers
Sam Ward: Founding Father — by Dr. Kenneth Smith
The Times of Stephen Mumford — by Rev. James McGeachy
S.D.B.'s in New England — by Karl Stillman
Ephrata Cloisters — by Rev. Charles Graffius

Complete set for \$3.50 or .75 each.

Order from: **S.D.B. Publishing House**
Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061

BIRTHS

ALLEN.— A son, John Patrick, to Patrick and Marlene (Zimmerman) Allen, of Birmingham, Ala., on Jan. 7, 1976.

BURDICK.— A son, Jeremy Keith, to Norman and Victoria (Lewis) Burdick of Riverside, Calif., on Dec. 31, 1975.

KIMBROUGH.— A daughter, Linda Faye, to Wayne and Shirley (McCartney, Olinger) Kimbrough of Woodville, Ala., on Jan. 3, 1976.

MORRIS.— A daughter, Sarah Marjorie, to Peter and Sue Morris of Los Angeles, Calif., on October 29, 1975.

POCIATEK.— A son, Brian David, to Robert and Dorothy Pociatek of Plainfield, N.J., on Jan. 11, 1976.

PRESTON.— A son, Scott Newton, to Richard and Donna (Ross) Preston, of Riverside, Calif., on Dec. 30, 1975.

ROOD.— A son, Timothy Joseph, to Philip and Irene (Lederer) Rood on Nov. 30, 1975, at Boulder, Colo.

WEAR.— A daughter, Holly Mae, to Roy and Carol Wear of Richmond, Virginia, on October 2, 1975.

ALIKE BUT DIFFERENT

(cont. from page 7)

varying, viewpoints — even within Seventh Day Baptist churches as such. Let us be recommitted to true Baptist — and Seventh Day Baptist — principles, allowing others their convictions without “watering down” our own or trying to force them upon others.

It seems to me that it is particularly tragic when, even within what should be the most loving of Christian “communities,” some members insist that everyone else “do things our way” or else be excluded from the fellowship.

Seventh Day Baptists can be alike — but different — in wholesome, constructive ways in addition to Sabbath observance.

So be it! □

for the committee. He was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he served on the Parsonage Building Committee, the Salem Kiwanis Club and the Soil Conservation Society of America.

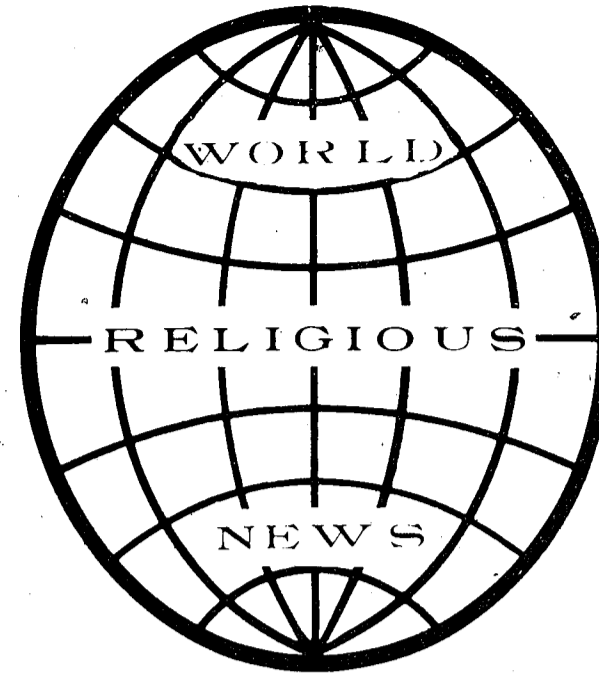
Funeral services were held at the Harbert Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Green, pastor of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, officiating. Interment in Brick Church Cemetery at Lost Creek.

—Salem Herald

ELLIS.—Edward M., son of George and Phoebe Ellis, was born August 11, 1909 in Shiloh, N.J., and died in Madison, Wis., on January 13, 1976.

Edward spent his youth in Milton where he graduated from high school and college and his later years have been spent in Madison. He was married to Ruth Brown on August 29, 1929. She preceded him in death in 1969. Edward was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. He served as a trustee of Milton College for a number of years, established a scholarship fund there in memory of his wife, was made a Pillar of Milton in 1970.

Funeral services were held from the Milton



FAMINE RELIEF STILL NEEDED AND PROVIDED IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh, the young nation which once was the eastern part of Pakistan, continues to have first place in the list of food-short countries of the world, and first place in the response of Baptists to hungry people.

The country was hit successively by a tidal wave, the war of independence, typhoons, and floods. One of the most densely populated of countries (1,390 persons per square mile), Bangladesh is located in an area which seems prone to bear the brunt of unfavorable weather conditions, its natural resources are few, its industrial production is very limited, and hence its economic viability is always on the edge. Visitors report that the country is riddled by poverty and despair.

Muslims dominate the religious scene in Bangladesh, though some Hindus are also present. The Baptist Christian witness is found in three different groupings, known as the Bangladesh Baptist Union, the Baptist Union of Bangladesh, and the Garo Baptist Union.

Through the Baptist World Alliance, a number of Baptist bodies in other countries have continued to contribute toward the relief of hunger in Bangladesh. The moneys are administered by the Bengal and Garo Baptist leaders on the scene. Since August 1974, \$36,220 has

been sent through the Washington office of BWA, and 3,332.14 pounds sterling have been sent through the London office.

Some of the money has been used to buy seed rice, to enable farmers to replace seed lost in the storms. A seed rice from the Philippines has been found which seems especially suitable for the Bangladesh climate. Other portions of the money have been used to buy food for direct feeding of hungry people. In the case of able-bodied hungry people, the administration of relief has often been on a food-for-work basis (called “task relief” by the local people). Some money has been used to sink tube wells for irrigation; the water thus obtained can be used to grow three crops per year in that semitropical country, provided that the weather does not produce a crisis.

The Baptist World Alliance is grateful to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and to its Christian Social Action committee, for its financial participation in this work of human compassion undertaken in Jesus’ name. □

—Carl W. Tiller
Relief Coordinator
Baptist World Alliance

NEPALESE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS WORSHIP ON SATURDAY

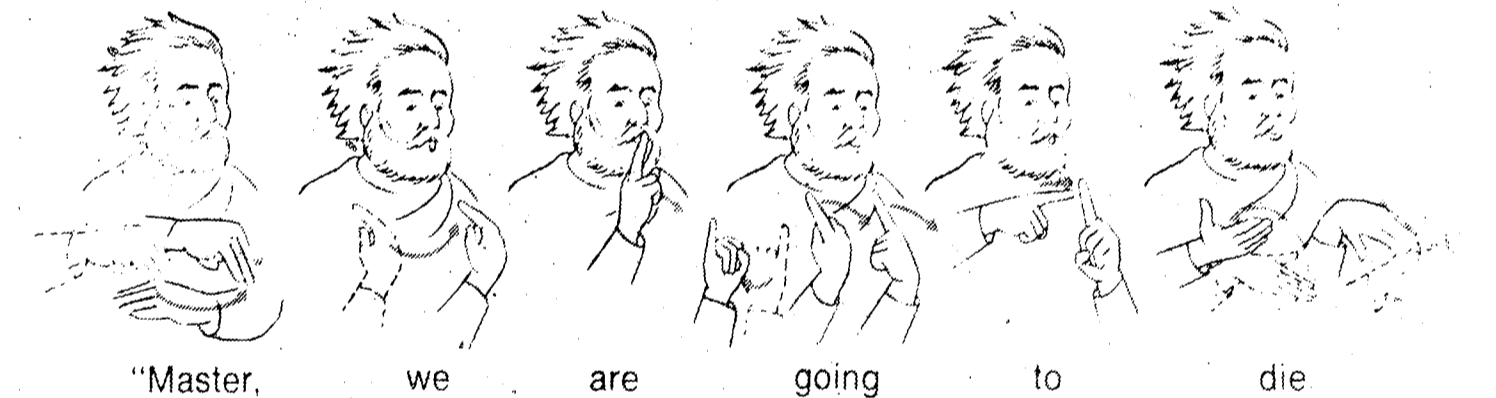
The Southern Baptist publication *Home Missions* reports the completion of the first all-Nepalese Southern Baptist congregation to obtain its own facilities in Clearwater, Fla. The church was formed some nineteen months ago and now has a membership of eighty-three. There are several other Nepalese churches in the U.S. “These churches traditionally worship on Saturdays,” according to the report.

Southern Baptists are actively engaged in establishing congregations among the many ethnic groups in this country. □

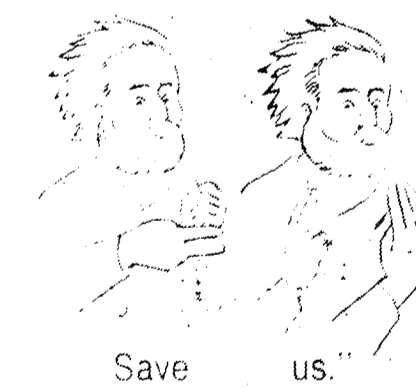
Angels God's Secret Agents, by Billy Graham.

The Bible mentions angels nearly 300 times, yet until recently many people have doubted their existence. You will find yourself engrossed in this book as you read the answer to such questions as: How long have angels existed? What purpose do they serve? How many angels are there? What is their relationship to people?

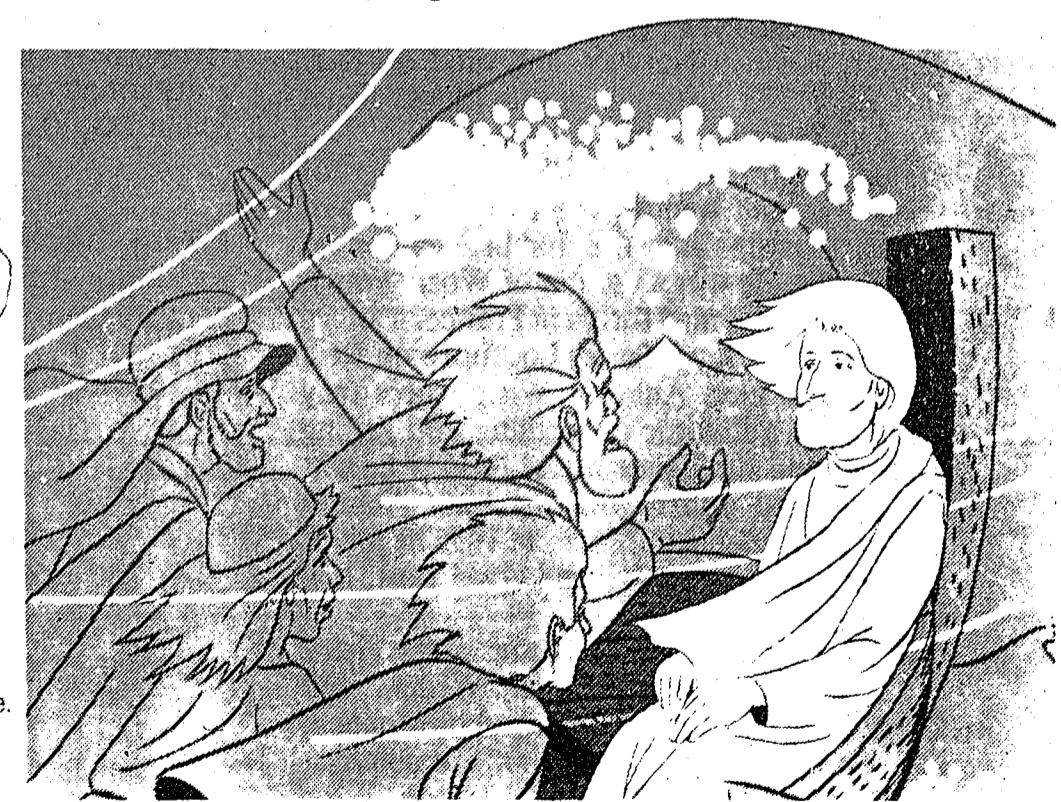
Available at your local Christian bookstore or order from: Books, Box 1240
Minneapolis, Minn. 55440.



“Master, we are going to die”



“Save us.”



“Master, we are going to die. Save us.”

A page from the American Bible Society's new Scripture Selection in Signed English. Designed to help deaf children learn to read the Scriptures, the Selection features a translation of the written text into the sign language a deaf child understands.

Seventh Day Baptist Church by his pastor, the Rev. Earl Cruzan, with burial in Milton Cemetery.

He is survived by a sister, Frances Bishop, of Madison and one niece, LeAlyce Kardasz of Stoughton.

-E.C.

HOFFMAN.—Mrs. Mary F. (97), was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 4, 1878 and died in a hospital in Loma Linda, Calif., on November 18, 1975 after a lengthy illness.

In 1924 she was married to Garland Hoffman who preceded her in death in 1966. Mrs. Hoffman observed the Sabbath from childhood and became a member of the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1946 serving faithfully as an active member as long as she was physically able. For the past twelve years she has been tenderly cared for at the home of her foster daughter, Mrs. Irene Bury.

Surviving are one brother, C. W. Worthley of Los Angeles; an adopted son, David, of Northern California; a foster daughter, Irene Bury, of Yucaipa, Calif.; two nephews, and two sisters-in-law.

A memorial service was held in her church in Los Angeles on Friday, November 21, 1975, and interment was in Greenwood Cemetery, San Diego, Calif.

--L.E.D.

MCCOON.— Ida M., daughter of Elder and Mrs. Alvin Kellogg (a pioneer S.D.A. pastor in California), widow of O.H. McCoon, was born Oct. 15, 1885, in Fresno, Calif., and died in Walnut Creek, Calif., Aug. 4, 1974.

She is survived by a sister, Fern A. Harding of Los Angeles, Calif.; her twin daughters, Mrs. Hazel Durham of the family home in Berkeley, Calif., and Mrs. Helen Bacon, Walnut Creek; six granddaughters and nine great-grandchildren. A son died in infancy.

She was a devoted member of the Bay Area, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church, always faithful in church attendance and preparation for and participation in Sabbath School discussions.

In the absence of her pastors, services were conducted by Pastor Earl Grote of the Thousand Oaks Baptist Church of Berkeley; entombment was at Sunset Mausoleum, Kensington, Calif.

-O.C.B.

PEDERSON.— Ivar, was born on Sept. 18, 1893 in Norway, and died on Dec. 12, 1975 after a short illness in a Minneapolis, Minn., hospital.

Ivar emigrated to America at the age of seventeen, and went to work in the fields of North Dakota and the lumber camps of Minnesota. He was a veteran of World War I, serving in the armed forces in France.

He married Reta (Susie) Looftoro on Dec. 31, 1919 in New Auburn, Wis., where they also began a lifetime of farming and raising six sons and three daughters. In 1925 he was baptized and united with the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church. In 1936 he joined the New Auburn American Legion Post, No. 261.

Survivors are: his wife, Susie; sons: Victor of Los Altos, Calif., Loyal, Arden, and Clayton, all of New Auburn, Paul of Monona, and David of Buffalo, Minn.; daughters: Helen (Mrs. Robert Roth) of Clayton, Wis., and Mary (Mrs. Oscar Burdick) of El Cerrito, Calif.; one brother, Jacob of Everett, Wash., one sister Mrs. Jossi Torgersen of Norway; forty grandchildren, and seventeen great-

grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church, with his pastor, Rev. Leroy Bass officiating. Committal was in the Village Cemetery behind the church, at which time military rites were provided by the American Legion.

-L.C.B.

SCHROEDER.— Esther Fernanda Stoll was born into the truth November 12, 1897 in Jersey City, N.J., and died December 18, 1975 at the Paul Kimball Memorial Hospital in Lakewood, N.J.

She was the daughter of the Rev. Frederick F. and Martha Sauter Stoll. Her father was one of the first German Seventh Day Baptist ministers in America and founded the German church at Irvington, New Jersey.

She married Paul O. Schroeder on July 23, 1917 at Jersey City, N.J. On January 6, 1934 she became a member of the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church where she attended regularly until she moved to Lakewood, N.J., in 1968. She retained her interest and support of the Plainfield church and the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society until her death.

She is survived by two sisters, Ruth (Mrs. Alphonse H. Neuland) and Martha (Mrs. Howard W. Wray), a niece, Martha (Mrs. Timothy F. Ryan) and a nephew, William W. Wray.

Memorial funeral services were conducted at the Van Hise and Callagan Funeral Home in Brick Town, N.J., by Dean Herbert E. Saunders, her former pastor. Interment was at the Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery, Union, New Jersey.

-H.E.S.

SUTTON.— Guy, born on Sutton Run, a branch of Otter Slide, near Berea, W. Va., to the late Herman Sutton and Genevieve (Gubble) Sutton, June 7, 1896, departed this life July 31, 1975.

He is survived by his wife, Bertha (Davis) Sutton; two daughters, Mrs. Genevieve (Sutton) Carneal, and Kathy Sutton of Manassas, Va.; two sons, Eugene Sutton of Orange County, Va., and Rev. Edward Sutton of Alfred Station, N.Y.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; two brothers in West Virginia and one sister in Ohio. Many other relatives and a host of friends are left to cherish his memory.

He, from his youth was a lifelong member of the Ritchie Seventh Day Baptist Church near Berea, W. Va.

His funeral was conducted by one of his Sabbath School teachers and an early boyhood friend, Rev. Grover S. Brissey.

Interment was in the Manassas Cemetery, Manassas, Va.

-G.S.B.

Every Sabbath School superintendent should have two schools in mind: the one he has and the one he wants to have.

STUDENTS WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PASTORATES IN JUNE 1976

- Robert Harris, 934 Center St., Ashland, OH 44805
- Robert Babcock, 1310 West 26th St., Apt. 302, Sioux Falls, SD 57105
- Helen Green, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, 100 Butterfield Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521

LIGHT BEARERS TOUR PLANNED

The Light Bearers for Christ musical team is currently at headquarters in North Loup, Nebr., where they are resting up following their three-and-a-half month fall tour. They will be at headquarters until February 20, at which time they will leave on another extended tour.

While the team is at headquarters they are being given special training in Sabbath Philosophy, Evangelism and Counselling. Pastor Victor Skaggs is conducting the class in Sabbath Philosophy while Mynor Soper, president of L.B.C., is conducting the training classes in Evangelism and Counselling. There are currently twelve full-time staff members. They are: David Davis, Seattle, Wash.; Robert Van Horn, Lost Creek, W. Va.; Jerry Van Horn, North Loup, Nebr.; Patty Lawton, Westerly, R.I.; Patty Burdick, Boulder, Colo.; Dawn Soper, North Loup; Beverly Hambleton, Fontana, Calif. (secretary); Beverly Austin, Ashaway, R.I.; Ewald Fick, Battle Creek, Mich.; Stan Soper, North Loup; Dan Richards, Marlboro, N.J.; and Teresa Clement, Kearney, Nebr. Some staff members are being trained to help in special evangelistic outreach efforts.

The general schedule for the spring tour is as follows:

- Feb. 20-22 Nortonville, Kansas area
 - Feb. 24-26 Northern Arkansas
 - Feb. 27-
 - Mar. 3 Fouke, Ark. - Area Spiritual Retreat
 - Mar. 4-6 Fouke-Texarkana area
 - Mar. 7-21 Houston, Texas
 - Month of April West Coast (So. Calif. to Seattle, Wash.)
 - April Boulder-Denver area
 - Early May
- Mynor Soper

Children's Page

JULIE LEARNS TO USE HER BIBLE

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 119:9-16

Sing: "The B-I-B-L-E" "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"

Memory Verse: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11

Julie looked at the beautiful Bible which she had received from Aunt Sue last month for her birthday. She had opened the covers just enough to peek in, but she had never used it. She did not want anyone else to use it either. "I want to keep it like new," she said.

"It won't do you any good unless you read it," replied her mother.

"But it's so pretty!" Julie said. "I don't want to spoil the looks of it."

Each day Mother tried to show Julie that the Bible would do her no good unless she read it, but Julie could not be convinced.

One evening Mother decorated the supper table beautifully. She had candles on the table. The best silver was used, and all of the dishes were filled with food. Everything looked lovely. After Julie's father had offered thanks for the food, Julie said, "Please pass the meat."

"Oh, no," said Mother. "It looks too pretty on the plate. We're not going to eat it."

Julie looked at her in surprise. "May I have some salad, then?"

"No," said Dad. "Mother has fixed it so it looks so nice in the bowl. We don't want to spoil the looks of it."

"But I'm hungry," said Julie.

"Oh, I'm sure you are," said Mother, "but you wouldn't want this beautiful plate of food to be spoiled, would you? We are just planning to sit here at the table and look at it. Isn't it lovely?"

Suddenly Julie realized that her mother was trying to teach her a lesson. "I guess that is what I have been doing with my Book, isn't it, Mother?" she asked. Julie had learned her lesson.

Boys and girls, many people treat their Bibles in this manner. They dust them. They put them on a doily on the end table, and maybe even put a couple of candles nearby to make everything look beautiful. And so terribly often they scarcely look inside the covers to see what is beautiful there.

Do you have your very own Bible? Do you let it lay around, or do you take it and read what is in it? Do you remember what you read from it? Remember Psalm 119:11 tells us "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." That is what God's Word, the Holy Bible can do for you, if you read it and memorize it.

Why don't you pray, right now, like the Psalmist, David, did: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Why don't you thank God for His wonderful word which makes us better and stronger Christians. □



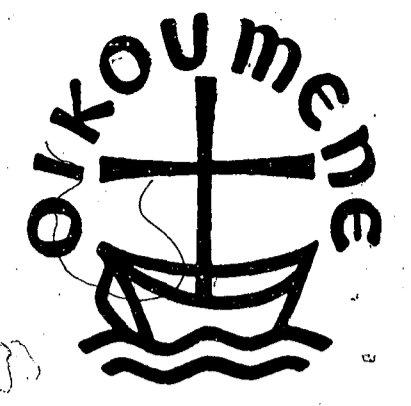
--contributed by Kenneth and Doris Van Horn

OWM BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR DECEMBER 1975

	December OWM	12 mos. total OWM and Reported Boards		December OWM	12 mos. total OWM and Reported Boards
Adams Center NY	\$ 307.90	\$ 1,184.75	Salemville PA	\$	\$ 1,198.05
Albion WI	137.54	1,019.67	Schenectady NY	31.00	157.87
Alfred NY	939.75	8,232.47	Seattle WA	571.38	2,067.20
Alfred Station NY	340.29	4,321.05	Shiloh NJ	2,588.37	11,501.60
Ashaway RI	247.15	5,849.58	Stonefort IL	60.00	480.00
Associations and Groups	200.73	12,666.54	Texarkana AR		230.00
Battle Creek MI	2,579.99	9,950.64	Verona NY	230.17	2,414.56
Bay Area CA	144.40	356.40	Walworth WI	150.00	2,058.75
Berea WV	185.00	606.22	Washington DC	154.56	3,781.06
Berlin NY	325.49	2,941.99	Waterford CT	187.25	3,341.69
Boulder CO	117.68	1,845.06	Westerly RI	1,038.00	5,451.36
Brookfield NY	154.00	566.78	White Cloud MI	120.82	1,285.15
Buffalo NY		1,134.00			
Dallas-Ft. Worth TX	39.54	285.78	Totals	\$30,497.53	\$207,967.76
Daytona Beach FL	248.67	3,229.97	Non-Budget	536.00	
Denver CO	6,533.41	16,545.76	Total To Disburse	\$31,033.53	
DeRuyter, NY	167.00	1,880.40			
Dodge Center MN	827.14	5,420.83	DECEMBER DISBURSEMENTS		
Farina IL	60.25	529.27	Board of Christian Education	\$ 3,059.21	
Fouke AR	63.34	932.18	Council on Ministry	1,856.62	
Hebron PA	398.30	2,126.49	Historical Society	46.10	
Hopkinton RI	150.00	325.00	Ministerial Retirement	2,058.39	
Houston TX		582.02	Missionary Society	13,546.36	
Individuals	35.00	2,775.97	Tract Society	4,603.26	
Irvington NJ		1,860.00	Trustees of General Conference	21.10	
Kansas City MO	159.17	1,278.14	Women's Society	667.09	
Leonardsville NY	48.00	233.00	Council on Ecumenical Affairs	195.34	
Little Genesee NY	323.50	2,654.44	General Conference	4,980.06	
Little Rock AR		445.16	Total Disbursements	\$31,033.53	
Los Angeles CA	525.00	8,245.65			
Lost Creek WV		3,264.56	SUMMARY		
Marlboro NJ	768.00	4,449.20	1975 Budget	\$210,030.00	
Metairie LA			Receipts for twelve months:		
Milton WI	4,654.90	19,692.74	OWM Treasurer	188,034.60	
Milton Junction WI	50.00	1,210.10	Boards	19,933.16	
Monterey Fellowship CA		450.00		207,967.76	
New Auburn WI	90.79	2,176.39	Arrears (1975 Budget)	\$ 2,062.24	
New Milton WV	74.85	724.85	Percentage of year elapsed	100%	
New York City NY	81.00	556.60	Percentage of budget raised	99%	
North Jersey NJ	273.75	1,177.80			
North Loup NE	730.00	4,869.43			
Nortonville KS	295.00	3,545.38			
Ohio Fellowship OH	800.00	3,943.00			
Paint Rock AL	158.82	1,112.03			
Plainfield NJ	888.66	7,052.74			
Richburg NY	160.00	4,496.48			
Riverside CA	540.00	9,584.50			
Rockville RI	124.97	502.97			
Salem WV	417.00	5,166.49			

Gordon Sanford
OWM Treasurer

Months	January	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.
Receipts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



FORUM ON THE WCC

One of the main issues facing the next session of the General Conference as it meets in August is whether or not to continue our affiliation with the World Council of Churches. As in 1973 when Conference voted to withdraw from the National Council of Churches there will be a roll call vote of the churches on this issue.

Seventh Day Baptists have been urged to study our relationship with the WCC. It is apparent that there are advantages and disadvantages to be weighed concerning the extent of our continued involvement with the world body. Each Seventh Day Baptist should study carefully the issues at hand and above all - be informed as to how these issues relate to us as a people!

The Council, whose symbol is a ship on a stormy sea, continues to face tough weather as it seeks to represent its 285 widely diverse member churches. Seventh Day Baptists are the only Sabbath-observing denomination with membership even though the Seventh-day Adventists, like the Southern Baptists, send observers.

We plan in the next few issues of the *Sabbath Recorder* to have what we hope will be an OPEN FORUM on this issue. We invite our readers to share their constructive thoughts as they pertain to this issue. We plan to publish all letters that are signed and are concise. We do not have space for lengthy articles - so share your thoughts as briefly as possible. We would urge you to become involved - let us hear both sides of the issue and then be prepared to cast our vote in August as truly informed Seventh Day Baptists. □



Houston, Texas, where we have had an active fellowship for some time. During the year two new churches were organized: New York City, N.Y., and North Jersey, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist groups (some are fellowships) are now located at Sioux Falls, S.D.; Houston, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Ventura, Calif.; Portland, Oregon; Randle, Wash.; Crites Mountain, W.Va.; Lincoln, Nebr.; Monmouth, Ill.; Galena, Ohio; and East Lansing, Mich.

The two churches with the largest percentage growth during the year were Boulder, Colo., and Texarkana, Ark. The Shiloh, N.J., church is our largest congregation in terms of average Sabbath attendance, followed by the church at Milton, Wis. Several other churches report increased attendance and membership.

3,571 ADDED TO CHURCH IN 1975

The headline looks very good doesn't it? And what's more - it is true on a worldwide basis. The 1975 Yearbook reveals that our worldwide membership as reported is now 52,184, an increase of 3,571 over last year's report.

However, these figures are not accurate because the listing includes only those Conferences which hold membership in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. There are, for example, over 1,000 Seventh Day Baptists in South Africa and additional organized believers in Korea, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Kenya. The Conferences which show an increase in membership over last year are: Brazil, Burma, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi and the Netherlands. Our "mission field" in Malawi now has a larger membership than the U.S. Conference and has its own missions in Rhodesia, Mocambique, and Kenya!

Progress was made at home as well during 1975. The R.O.N. project was launched in September at

Another indication of a "new spirit" among Seventh Day Baptists is the fact that we raised 99 percent of Our World Mission budget this year. The hope is that we will be able to raise the budget in FULL during 1976 and begin to expand again our programs of outreach, growth, and advancement.

If we are going to continue to have growth in 1976 we are going to have to do it together as Boards, Agencies, Associations, Churches, Pastors and Laity. No solo jobs! The great missionary of the New Testament, the apostle Paul, didn't solo. He took someone with him on his God-appointed rounds. And he could say to a flock: "We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves" (I-Thess. 2:8).

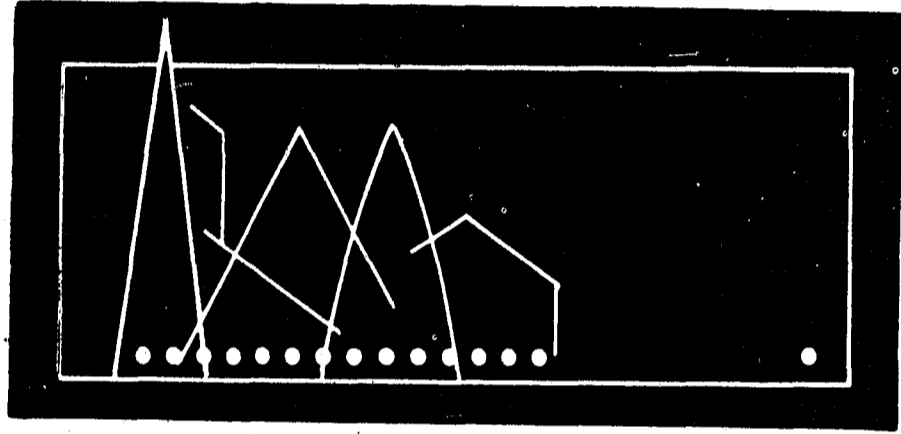
Let us give of "our own selves" in a united effort in 1976 to see renewal, revitalization, and revival among Seventh Day Baptists. Let us EXTEND NOW! □

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A Religious Ghetto? Sure.



Most cities have scores of them. Even small towns usually have several, commonly called churches.

Really, we Christians with a transforming and eternal message are all too often content to stay within our four fancy walls, muttering to ourselves about ourselves. Sometimes we do pause to malign that silly world outside.

Our Master was so different. He burst upon history moved by a divine urgency to help and heal the hurting. Jesus ate with sinners, chatted with harlots and pardoned the penitent.

The early disciples preached and healed like their Master, liberating yet others long trapped in the wreckage of their hopes. These spiritual revolutionaries were properly accused of turning the world upside down.

We'd be glad to suffer that epithet today, if we could deserve it. Fact is, you are reading this piece right now because someone is determined to break out of this stifling ghetto of our own making.

Jesus is alive, and we are finally getting anxious to have you know that. He is real. We ought to have told you before that you can know Him, receive eternal life and be sure of it — now.

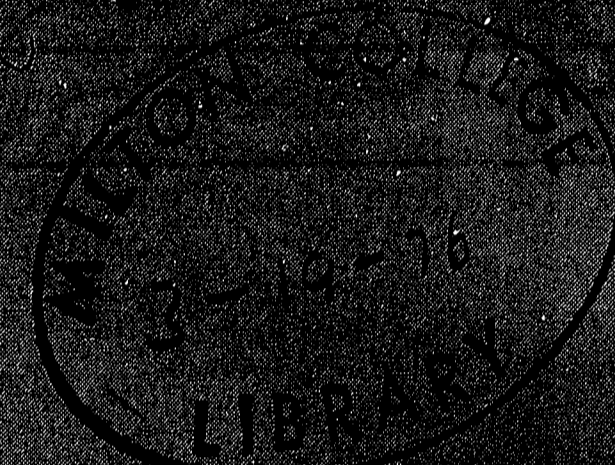
The Saviour put it this way, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." ¹ "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ² "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." ³

Let's escape together. Into Him.

¹ John 14:6 ² John 8:32 ³ John 8:36

THE SABBATH RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Rivers of living water shall
flow from the Spirit and
from anyone who believes in Me
John 7:38