

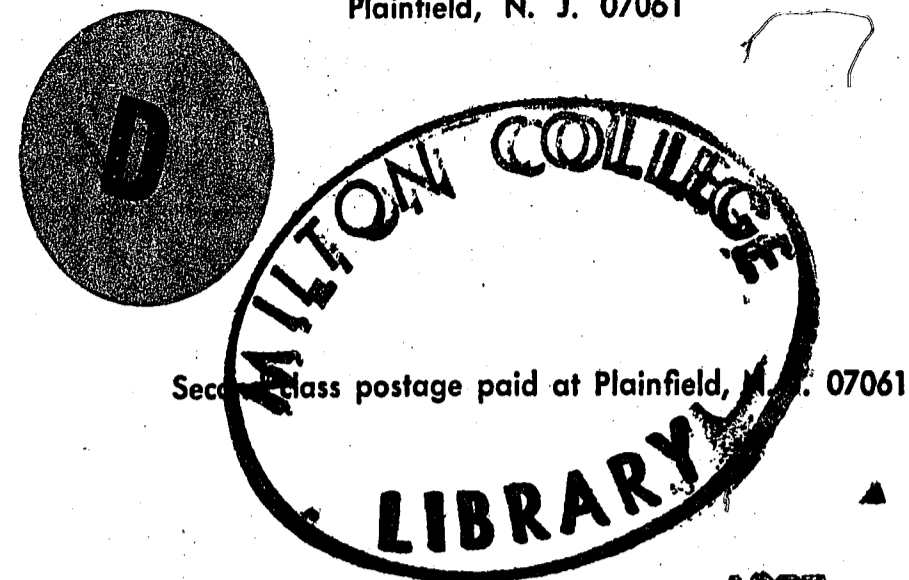
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- For the overseas missionary staff; for national ministers overseas; for workers serving in North America.
- For over 52,000 baptized church members overseas and in America.
- For overseas schools and clinics; for ministerial students in this country and around the world.
- For our active publishing ministry.

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- The Commitment to Growth program which will result in new members and new churches in 1977!
- Retirement funds for those who have given their lives in the ministry of the church.
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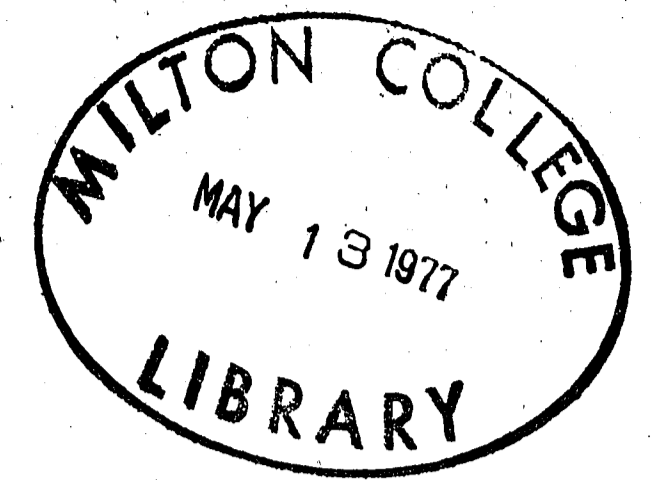
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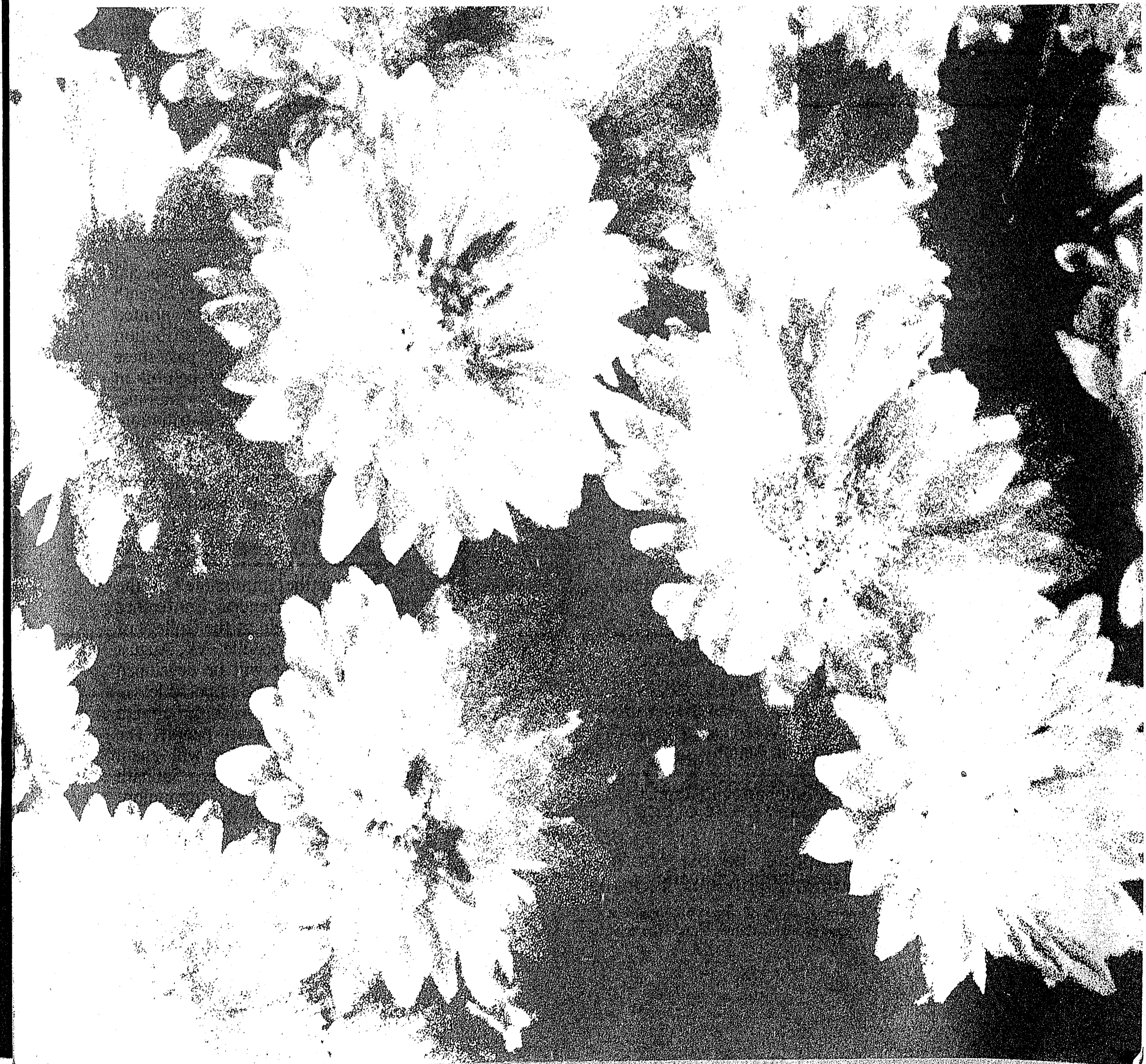
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THE SABBATH
RECORDER 1844
1977

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MAY 1977



**It is always
springtime in the heart
that loves God.**



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The Sabbath Recorder

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SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC INSERT

This issue contains a special evangelistic insert "Who Are Seventh Day Baptists?" We have printed 10,000 extra copies for distribution by the churches. In the past these inserts have been very helpful in fair booths, door-to-door witnessing, and other types of tract distribution. Your gift for postage and printing helps the Tract Society to produce more truth-filled literature. Order from:

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GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

"Daring the Impossible" is the theme for the General Conference sessions to be held at the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, AR, August 7-13. The theme will be developed around "Daring the Impossible" in faith, prayer, stewardship, Sabbath observance and servant people. The Friday evening service will again include a family dinner, Sabbath welcoming service and Communion. Miss Lois Wells will direct a Friday evening praise service. Make your plans now to be a part of this Conference. More details regarding housing, meals, program will be in the next two issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*. —Delmer Van Horn, Pres.



A Mother's Son: Mary's Song of Praise

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"

Mary's Song of Praise

Mary said,

"My heart praises the Lord;
my soul is glad because of God my Savior,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!

From now on all people will call me happy,
because of the great things the Mighty God
has done for me.

His name is holy;
from one generation to another
he shows mercy to those who honor him.
He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.
He has brought down mighty kings from
their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has kept the promise he made to
our ancestors,
and has come to the help of his servant
Israel.

He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham
and to all his descendants forever!"

Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home.

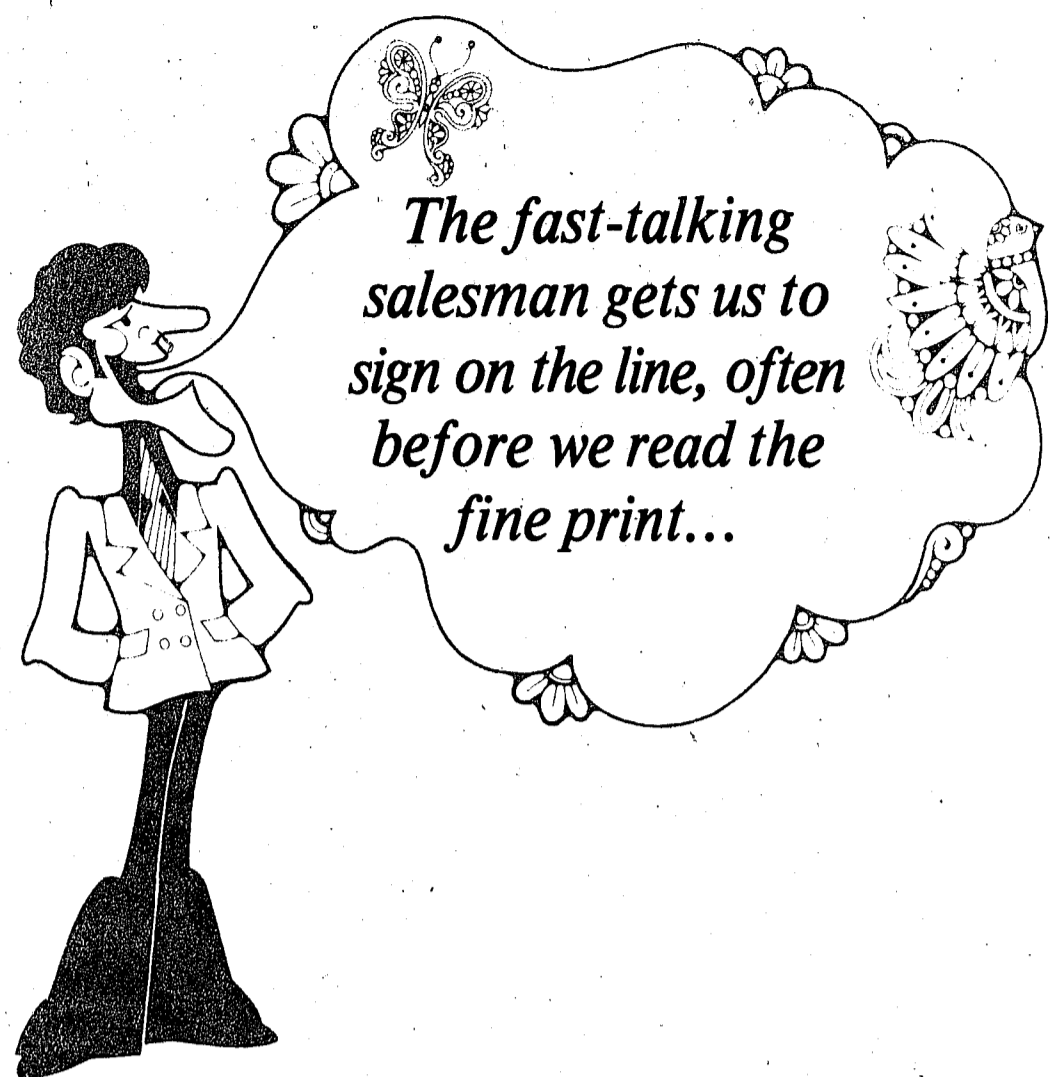
This selection of Holy Scripture from the Good News Bible consists of Luke 1:39-56. © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976



MOTHER'S DAY May 8

May 1977

The Sabbath Recorder



The fast-talking salesman gets us to sign on the line, often before we read the fine print...

Do you ever go shopping – window-shopping, that is, for the car you can't afford – the car of your dreams? For some it's a shiny black Cadillac – to some it's that bright red sports car, and to others it's a station wagon. There you stand – with your nose pressed against the window and sigh, "Oh, if only we could have that car." You can – the sign says so – "Very low down-payment – Come on in." And they come. The fast-talking salesman gets them to sign on the bottom line – but they fail to read the fine print. The monthly payments are high – the interest, out-of-sight, and the upkeep terrific!

Another great salesman is Billy Graham. He really preaches up a storm, and at the end of his dynamic message he gives the invitation to come forward and by doing so to make a public commitment to Christ as their Savior – And they come. But they fail to read the fine print.

Christ said – "Come unto me – come to the cross and your sins will be forgiven" – And they come – they give the down-payment – but they don't read the fine print.

By Mrs. Jean Albion, Kalamazoo, MI

GOD IS ALIVE! GOD IS REAL!

Coming to Christ and having your sins forgiven is only the down-payment. And it's not monthly payments, it's day-by-day, hour-by-hour payments.

"Keep My Commandments—
Watch—Love one another—Tend
My sheep—Preach the gospel to
all the world—Love your neighbor—
Honor your parents—Keep the
Sabbath—Love your enemies—
Tithe—Fast—Heal the sick—Teach—
Confess your sins—Pray without
ceasing—Bear much fruit—Judge
not—Be born again—Prophecy—
Witness."

How many can afford the upkeep? –the everyday, hour-by-hour of keeping His commandments – and loving one another?

Let's look at the fine print. "Well," you say, "I do most of those things. I'm as good as the average Christian." Christian people, as a rule, are not drunken, or vicious or immoral – but this can also be said of very many worldly, irreligious people. Isn't it true that there is very little difference between the average Christian and the ordinary, moral "worldly man"?

How about tithing – do you tithe? Now a tithe is what *belongs* to God – it isn't even yours. I'm not talking about an offering – this is what you give over and beyond your tithe. Do you tithe? "Well," you say, "I give what I can. I really can't afford to tithe. I need the money more than God. He wouldn't want me to go without things I really need." How about eternal life – do you need that? Well, you might not get it. "What! over a little thing like tithing?" God doesn't think it's such a little thing. Tithing is a payment of your loyalty to God. It's easy to say you love God, but can you back it up with loyalty? No – God doesn't need the money for Himself, but He knows His church needs it. We wouldn't be in the red most of the time if everyone in our church tithed. And think of the blessings promised.

Turn in your Bibles to Malachi 3:8 – God talking – "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me." But ye say, "Wherein have we robbed Thee?" "In tithes and offerings," saith the Lord! Now, robbing God – that's stealing in my Book – and that same Book says stealing is a sin. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law..."

"The wages of sin is death – whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all..."

Do you love your neighbor? "Oh, sure – that is, I leave them alone and they leave me alone...that way we get along just fine."

Do you keep the Sabbath? "Of course I do – Why, my whole family attends church every Sabbath." Of course you do – but do you think sitting in church for one hour is "Sabbath Day"? What are you doing after sundown Friday? Are you seen at a basketball game with the Sunday-keepers or "no-keepers" – or at home watching TV? According to the Bible, the Sabbath begins Friday at sundown. "From even unto even shall ye celebrate your Sabbath." Do you have your clothes ready for

church – do you have your main meal prepared – or do you plan to pay someone else to work for you on Sabbath Day by preparing your meal for you? God gave us an example for having our meals taken care of in advance in Exodus 16: 22, 23 when He gave the extra portion of manna on Friday. Can people say about you, "There's a professed Sabbath-keeper who doesn't keep his Sabbath. It must not mean much."

What kind of an example are you setting for others – your family – your neighbors? Are you strong enough in your convictions to dare to be "different" and proud of it? If you do what everyone else does on a Sabbath, you are not keeping God's Sabbath holy and therefore, deliberately breaking the Fourth Commandment. God wants us to give the people of the world an example of what they should be and of what they CAN be through obedience to ALL the commandments. Peter said Sabbath-keeping is a true test of faith.

Are you a witness for your Savior? – or are you ashamed of Him – or does it embarrass you to talk about Him – afraid you'll offend? You'll never know unless you try. The Lord knows we can't save the whole world – but we can see that none are left in darkness.

When is the last time you shared Jesus with anyone? Yesterday – anytime this past week or month – how about the past year?

The way we live – the way we keep the Sabbath – the way we love our neighbors – the way we witness – you would think God was dead. But friends, He isn't dead! He *is* real – and He *is* available.

Yes, there is a lot more to it than just making the down-payment – more than just signing the papers – more than just saying you accept Christ as your Savior... Far too many haven't even made the down-payment. Some are still looking in the window – while others just walk on by.

Now, these are just a few of the basics – the fine print. First, by faith we believe – then comes obedience, then love. These are all in preparation for the many, many blessings and gifts God is standing by ready to bestow upon His children. They are there, just waiting for us to lay claim on them. It's like we have a checking account and never write a check.

When we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit, but the filling comes when we ask the Lord to fill us – when we make ourselves more available. So – if you are a Christian, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a matter of your getting more of the Holy Spirit – it's a matter of letting the Holy Spirit get more of you!

Christ promised the gift of the filling of the Holy Spirit to His church and the promise belongs to us today as much as to the first apostles. But – like every other promise, it's given on conditions – the fine print.

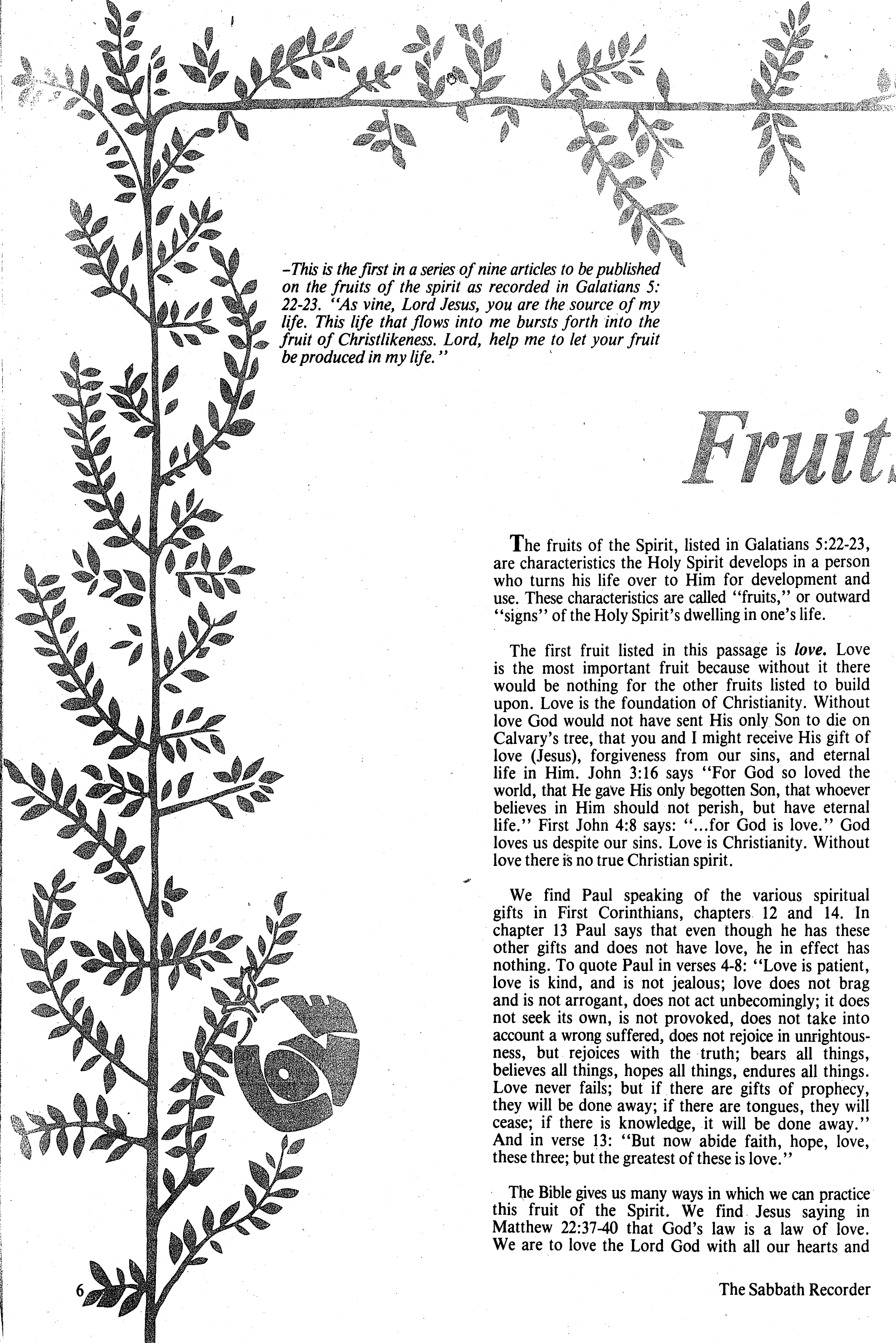
There are many of us who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promises; we talk ABOUT Christ and ABOUT the Holy Spirit – yet receive so few benefits. We don't surrender completely, the soul to be guided and controlled by the Holy Spirit. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to your capacity to receive. SEEK for it – PRAY for it – BELIEVE for it... We *must* have it! and God is eagerly awaiting to bestow it.

Peter said, "If you have tasted the Lord's goodness and kindness – cry for more as a baby cries for milk." Long to grow up into the fulness of your salvation. We can't use the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit is to use us, but He can't until we turn our lives over completely to Him.

There are two kinds of people – those who have given themselves to the Lord and those running their own show. Is it possible to have God the Father, God the Son and God

(continued on page 34)

GOD IS AVAILABLE!



-This is the first in a series of nine articles to be published on the fruits of the spirit as recorded in Galatians 5: 22-23. "As vine, Lord Jesus, you are the source of my life. This life that flows into me bursts forth into the fruit of Christlikeness. Lord, help me to let your fruit be produced in my life."


Fruits of the Spirit -- Love

The fruits of the Spirit, listed in Galatians 5:22-23, are characteristics the Holy Spirit develops in a person who turns his life over to Him for development and use. These characteristics are called "fruits," or outward "signs" of the Holy Spirit's dwelling in one's life.

The first fruit listed in this passage is *love*. Love is the most important fruit because without it there would be nothing for the other fruits listed to build upon. Love is the foundation of Christianity. Without love God would not have sent His only Son to die on Calvary's tree, that you and I might receive His gift of love (Jesus), forgiveness from our sins, and eternal life in Him. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." First John 4:8 says: "...for God is love." God loves us despite our sins. Love is Christianity. Without love there is no true Christian spirit.

We find Paul speaking of the various spiritual gifts in First Corinthians, chapters 12 and 14. In chapter 13 Paul says that even though he has these other gifts and does not have love, he in effect has nothing. To quote Paul in verses 4-8: "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away." And in verse 13: "But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The Bible gives us many ways in which we can practice this fruit of the Spirit. We find Jesus saying in Matthew 22:37-40 that God's law is a law of love. We are to love the Lord God with all our hearts and



By Leo L. Floyd
Arlington, Texas

souls, and with all our minds. This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are instructed by Jesus to not only love our neighbors in Matthew 5:43-44, but to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. In Luke 6:32-36 Christ speaks of forgiving our enemies because God Himself "is kind and forgiving to ungrateful and evil men." We are to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Jesus forgave us of our sins because of His love of us. We are to love and forgive others because this is Christianity in its purest form.

We read in First John 1:5-10: "The one who says he is in the light and yet hates his brother is in darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes." Proverbs 10:12 states "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions." In First John 3:14-17 John becomes more practical in his teaching by stating: "We know we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death." Verse 16: "We know love by this, that He (Christ) laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." He states that if we have the means and there is one in need and we close our heart against this need, how does the love of God abide in us? We are to "...not love with word and tongue but in deed and truth."

In John 15:7-11 we find Jesus instructing His disciples in love: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in my love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's command-

ments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

In First John 4:7-21 there is a summary of what has already been stated but some verses need to be covered because they emphasize that God is love and we know we are of Him because we love also—the fruit of the Spirit. In verses 7-13 John states that we are to "love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." God manifested His love by sending "His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him." This is love in that God "loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." "...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit." And in verse 19: "We love, because He first loved us." First John 3:23-24 further states: "And this is His commandment that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us."

A Christian must love or there will be no concern for the lost and no effort to win the lost for Christ. Without love there is no hope for a lost and dying humanity that is blinded by sin and Satan. Love in Christ is the answer to the world's problems today. If the world would accept this love there would be the greatest change ever experienced in the history of mankind, for God's Spirit would turn hatred to love changing man's thinking completely to mutual respect and love for one another. This love must begin in you and me as Christians. We should love one another as true brothers and sisters in Christ working together to

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT



proclaim God's love to a world that is starving for His love but does not know it. The world will only learn of this love through us as Christ's representatives. Our lives must proclaim this fruit of the Spirit, love, that others may know that we are truly His and desire Him also.

As we consider the fruits of the Spirit during this series of articles, remember that love comes before the other fruits given to us by the Holy Spirit, and that these other fruits build upon love. Love encompasses the whole of Christian living. He who has love has everything. He who does not have love, has nothing. Only through the Holy Spirit will we be able to receive and cultivate these fruits. Without Him there are no fruits of the Spirit. To be His we must be totally His, not partially, for He has to have all of us.

All Christians should pray and prepare their hearts to receive God's Spirit so that their lives might reflect the fruits of the Spirit and be a shining light in a dark world. God will give us of His fruits of the Spirit beginning with love. Let's turn our lives over to the Holy Spirit so that we are totally His to be used by Him for His honor and glory in leading a world without love to Him who is the God of love. Praise the Lord. Amen. □

All Scripture used is from the "New American Standard Bible."



Leo Floyd is a member of the Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, S.D.B. Church



Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

An article in the Clarksburg Exponent and Telegram on February 3, 1977, began: "Charleston, W. Va.—Longer school days and Saturday classes could be in store for West Virginia children who missed an average of 11 days last month. State School Supt. Daniel B. Taylor said Wednesday he is recommending school systems lengthen school days the rest of this year. And he will ask the legislature to repeal a law prohibiting Saturday classes..."

In response to this article, the following letter was sent to Daniel B. Taylor in behalf of the Salem, W. Va., church with copies to several educators and legislators:

Dear Mr. Taylor,

We are writing in reference to an article that appeared in the *Clarksburg Exponent and Telegram* on Thursday, Feb. 3, 1977, concerning possible ways for schools to make up some of the classroom time lost due to bad weather and fuel shortages. The article quoted you as saying you are considering recommending a change in the state law to allow schools to be in session on Saturdays.

We as Seventh Day Baptists worship on the seventh day of the week, which is, of course, Saturday. We feel that having school on Saturday would be an infringement of our civil rights and would be an unconstitutional act in direct opposition to Article III of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, allowing freedom of religion. Although Sabbathkeepers are a minority, there are several million of them in America and at least several hundred in West Virginia. We choose to worship on the Seventh Day as we believe we are directed by the Bible and our faith. Our Sabbath begins at sundown Friday and ends at sundown Saturday. School in session on our day of worship would be a great injustice to all Sabbathkeeping citizens of our state. You can anticipate that many of our students and teachers would be absent if school were held on that day of the week.

Our children (and in many cases, teachers) have to deal with athletic events, school sponsored extra-curricular activities, etc., on our Sabbath throughout their school careers (and terms of employment). We have learned to live without the above mentioned

Saturday Classes Opposed

activities and so have our children, but they should not be denied classroom instruction because of our religious belief.

If it is indeed necessary to make up time lost due to snow and fuel shortages, we feel that there are other, better ways this can be done.

You might consider at this time all the youngsters who are potential class leaders, athletes, and ardent school fans who don't get a "fair deal" because of their religious beliefs. Many an Orthodox Jew, Seventh-day Adventist, Seventh Day Baptist, Seventh Day Church of God, etc., youngster has been left out of many school related activities because their day of worship is different.

Thank you for your attentions to this letter. We trust you will consider its contents before recommending any change in state law that would allow classes to be held Saturday.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Paul B. McCoy, clerk
Rev. J. Paul Green, pastor

To date the church has received nine replies to our letter. Here are quotations from some of them:

"I appreciated receiving your letter concerning the school term for West Virginia and I can promise you that I will not support any legislation for extending the school year or having sessions on Saturday."

—Gino R. Colombo
W. Va. House of Delegates

"Thank you for your letter of February 8, 1977, concerning the holding of school on Saturdays. Such a possibility was considered as one of the alternatives that might be tried to enable pupils to make up lost instructional time. However, the State Board of Education has now proposed a set of recommendations that do not include school on Saturdays. Instead the Board is suggesting school calendar changes that might permit

longer mid-winter school recesses, earlier school openings, later school term ending and longer hours at certain times of the year.

"Your letter has pointed out an aspect of changing the calendar and we respect your position. Please call on me if I can be of further service."

—Daniel B. Taylor
State Superintendent of Schools

"I do not believe that Saturday classes will be necessary to make up lost school time due to the severe winter weather. Several alternatives have been studied and it appears that most counties have worked out a compromise means of finishing the required hours without meeting on Saturdays.

"I agree with your evaluation that having school on Saturdays would be an unconstitutional act. I am optimistic that we can develop an energy policy that will help alleviate school scheduling problems in the future.

"Thank you for your concern in this matter."
—Donald L. Kopp, Speaker
W. Va. House of Delegates

"Thank you for your letter advising of your concern over the possibility of a change being made in West Virginia State law which would permit public school attendance on Saturday.

"I have heard from others in our State who share your views and I am sympathetic to the conflicts which this proposed change in the law would engender with your religious beliefs."

—Robert C. Byrd
U.S. Senator

Religious Liberty Day is June 11

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has designated June 11, 12 as "Religious Liberty Day" in Baptist churches across the nation. "The conspicuous role of Baptists in the cause of religious liberty has long been regarded by many historians and theologians as the finest contribution of Baptists to Christianity."

Helpful materials to be used in preparation for Religious Liberty Day are available on request from BJCPA, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

—Dr. James E. Wood, Jr.

focus

"Where there
is no vision
the people
perish"

● **USA:** "Attendance is being regularly charted, designating members, nonmembers and visitors. Attendance was averaging just over 50 as of August 1976. Average attendance January 1977-97 (including 20 visitors), February-85 (including 16 visitors)." *How is your church doing? COMMITMENT TO GROWTH is working!*

● **USA:** "Among the developments that COMMITMENT TO GROWTH has brought about is a shepherding ministry, the stimulation of the Evangelism Committee to some specific task, and the involvement of others (not as many as we had hoped) of the church in our goals and ministry. The time together (of our Growth Force) has developed a sense of oneness that we all appreciate. God's love is really working a miracle in this area."

● **MALAWI:** In 1977 evangelism will be emphasized. Pastor Manani writes, "Pastors or preachers serving near each other in one particular area will make an evangelistic team to conduct meetings in their area. This is the way it will be done throughout the country, possibly in May or June." Many pastors in Malawi will also participate, in April, in a Spiritual Renewal seminar to be held in Blantyre under the sponsorship of the Evangelical Association of Malawi.

● **JAMAICA:** Several of the churches are rebuilding—Kingston, Charles St., has improved its entrance and is replacing the wooden vestry with a two-story building; Post Road has the block walls up around its old structure to enlarge its building by at least one-third; Bowensville has cast beams and concrete floor over the basement level and will have one of the largest buildings among SDB's in Jamaica; Waterford is completing a new vestry addition; and several other churches continue their rebuilding as well.

● **GUYANA:** The spring retreat for Seventh Day Baptists was held at Den Amstel camp site, West Bank, Demerara, in April. As training and learning experiences, these retreats are well attended by both members and friends of the churches. Decisions and baptisms of new converts have highlighted previous retreats.

● **BURMA:** "The 13th annual session of the Burma Seventh Day Baptist Conference was held, Feb. 23-26 at Tahan and was well attended. There were many guests and delegates from churches, including women and children. Daw Zasangi, president of Methodist Church Women Union, attended worship services with us regularly. She exposed exciting sermons, personal testimonies and her Christian experiences. Her husband is a prominent Methodist leader but they both discovered Sabbath truth and the validity of the Ten Commandments of God for today's Christians. She resigned from all the high positions she holds in the Methodist church and her family is preparing to become Seventh Day Baptist. She may have a number of followers in the days to come. They live in Tahan, Sanmyo."



SDB Women's Society meeting during Conference sessions, at house of Rev. Paluaia.

PRAYER



CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!

June 1977

Verse for the month: "We pray that you may bear fruit in active goodness of every kind, and grow in the knowledge of God. May He strengthen you, in His glorious might, with ample power to meet whatever comes with fortitude, patience, and joy; and to give thanks to the Father who has made you fit to share the heritage of God's people in the realm of light."—Col. 1:10-12 NEB

Pray for....

- 1—Camping programs
- 2—Our brethren in the Philippines as they continue their radio ministry
- 3—The members of our ad hoc task force committee
- 4—Central New York Association
- 5—COMMITMENT TO GROWTH workshops in Shiloh, NJ and Seattle, WA
- 6—Women's Board, Denver, CO
- 7—More cooperation among our churches, associations and boards
- 8—Vacation Bible School programs across the country
- 9—Pastor and Mrs. Charles Swing in New Mexico
- 10—Gordon Lawton as he prepares for his pastorate at Ashaway, RI
- 11—Workshop #4 for COMMITMENT TO GROWTH in Dodge Center, MN
- 12—Allegheny Association as it participates in Workshop #3 for COMMITMENT TO GROWTH
- 13—Mid-Continent Teen Camp at Camp Paul Hummel
- 14—SCSC Training
- 15—Light Bearers for Christ Team
- 16—SDB Summer Institute for Ministerial Students
- 17—Those enrolled in our Bible course
- 18—Southeastern Association
- 19—The fathers in your church
- 20—New Sabbathkeepers in Cameroon, Africa
- 21—Pastor Sam Peters as he trains the students for ministry in Guyana
- 22—Light Bearers for Christ in their ministry
- 23—New York City church
- 24—The Crandall High School Board as it plans and prepares for the future of CHS
- 25—Conference committee chairmen as they prepare for their meetings
- 26—Junior Camp at Riverview, NE
- 27—Preparations that are being made for Conference sessions
- 28—Your Missionary Board as it continues to seek a missionary for Malawi
- 29—Menzo and Audrey Fuller and their work in Malawi at Makapwa Medical Station
- 30—Conference President Delmer Van Horn

A Visit to the American Tropics

by Leon R. Lawton
February 6-March 14, 1977

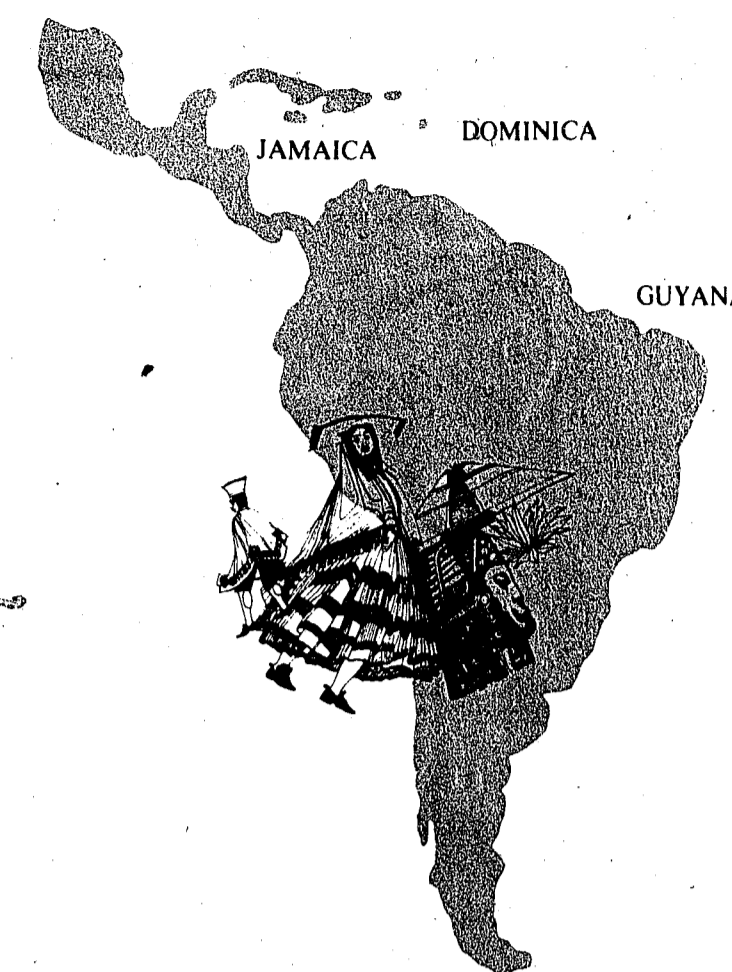
The rugged small island of **DOMINICA**, in the eastern Caribbean, was the first stop. Elder William S. W. White has been in correspondence with Seventh Day Baptists in England and the USA for some time, following an earlier recognition by the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Salem, W. Va.

A public meeting was arranged and held at the Roseau Girls School on Tuesday, February 8. This was the first public SDB meeting in Dominica and was attended by over 40. Notice was given on the radio. Following a brief message and the history and faith of Seventh Day Baptists, many questions were answered. The Catholic church is the dominant faith in Dominica. Brother White suggested that a gospel team and/or a co-worker could help him launch a new church.

In **GUYANA**, So. America (Feb. 10-27) visits were made to the four active churches—Kitty in Georgetown, Parika on West Bank, Demerara, Dartmouth on the Essequibo Coast, and Bona Ventura on the Pomeroon River. A new mission group is also meeting on Bent Street in Georgetown.

Pastor Sam Peters is supervising this growing work. He has been training two young men—Terrance Allen and Ewart Caesar—who have also been doing field work as a part of their learning. They plan to assume leadership during 1977. A special service of installation was held at Bona Ventura, their home church, on Sabbath, February 19. A four-day pastors' seminar was led and the council of the Guyana SDB Conference was attended at Dartmouth.

The two weeks (March 1-13) in **JAMAICA** allowed visits to twenty-six churches with messages given at each one. A further presentation of the SDB World



Federation "picture" was given at most and an opportunity for questions/discussion was helpful. Over twelve hours were spent in meetings with the Crandall High School Board (in three sessions), time was taken for consultation with Missionaries Douglas and Jane Mackintosh, a meeting with the Jamaica SDB Conference executive committee one afternoon and one day of pastors' seminar. An immediate need is for the Crandall High School Board to take initiative in seeking leadership for the school (the Mackintoshes return on furlough in 1978) and develop positive plans for the future of Crandall High School.

A visit to the new Hellshire Hills development with its possibilities for a new church/conference/school site brought me into the vision of some of their leaders. The Jamaica Conference "Upper Fort" committee is working with local churches to raise funds for purchase of approximately five acres adjacent to parks and public lands. Over \$1,500 has reportedly been raised already. This site overlooks the blue Caribbean, has beautiful beaches nearby and is centrally located where thousands of new homes are to be built in this "New Town" development. It was stated that the first thousand should be occupied by the end of 1978, if economic conditions continue to improve. □

New Slide Sets Available

GUYANA TODAY (G-1) shares scenes, church buildings, and fellow Seventh Day Baptists.

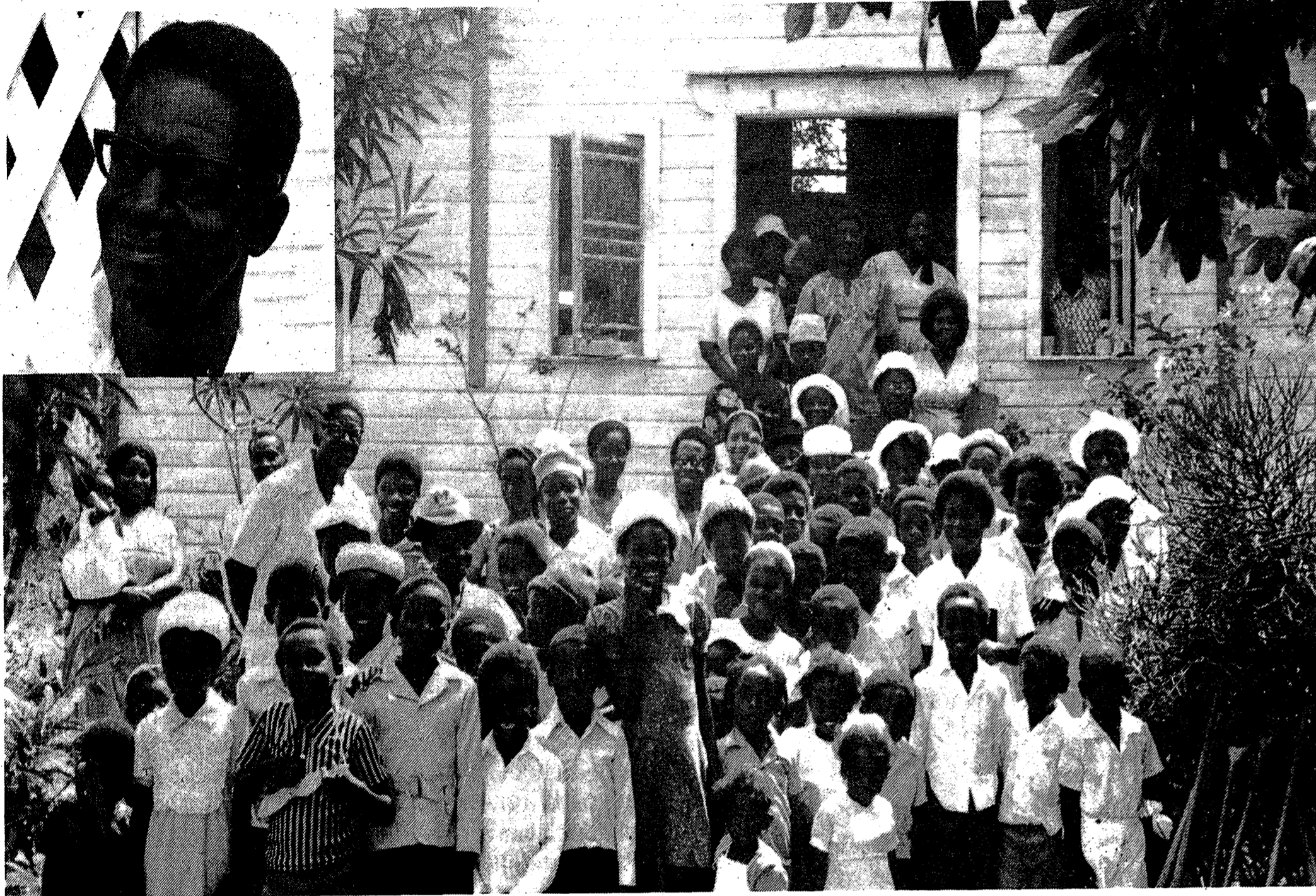
GROWTH IN JAMAICA (J-2) highlights the churches and leadership.

CRANDALL HIGH - New Facilities for a Growing School (J-3) shows recent developments.

Have your Missionary Keyworker order these, and other slide sets from:

Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society
401 Washington Trust Building
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

photo news

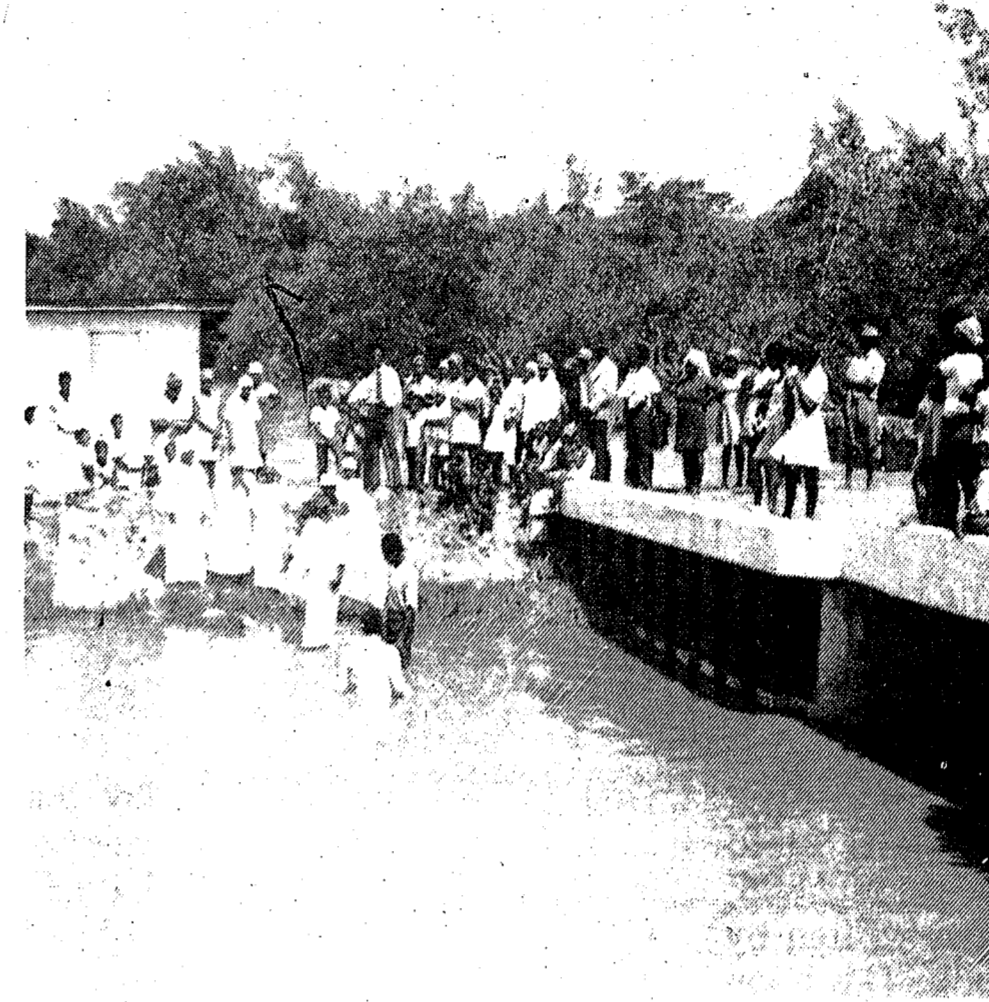


Pastor Rickford English (insert), a farmer and laypastor, serves the Bona Ventura, Guyana, church on the Pomeroon River. Over 90 filled the church when Pastor Lawton was there on Feb. 19; most pose here for a picture following the service.



All travel to the Bona Ventura SDB Church is by boat as there are no roads or paths along the river. It is near low tide when this picture was taken. At high tide the water level is near the top step.

photo news



A record baptism for 13 was held at Dartmouth, Guyana; the service was held in a main canal.



The candidates' average age was 21 and four responded to the invitation given after the first 9 were baptized. Pastor Sam Peters is third from the right, with glasses.



At the Bona Ventura, Guyana, church an installation service was held for two young ministerial students, Terrance Allen (with glasses) and Ewart Caesar.



Elder W.S.W. White reads in his room where he conducts Sabbath services in Roseau, the capital of Dominica. Pray for the new witness there.

HOW WE BECAME SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS

By J. J. Rock*

My sister Mrs. M. F. Palfrey, the late Mr. J. F. Palfrey and three daughters, Celine, Beatrice, Lilian, and I, J. J. Rock, were born of a Roman Catholic family, believing the doctrines firmly. We were associating with Sunday observing Christians who are Bible enthusiasts. However, we have discovered the truth in the Word of God, that the Christian Sabbath is the seventh day of the week and not the first day of the week.

Having the desire to learn and obey the will of God, we spent much time searching the truth in the Scriptures. We found that the Word of God is very emphatic regarding the Ten Commandments. In Psalm 111:7-8, we are told that all His Commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever. In Romans 7:12-14, we are also told that the Ten Commandments are God's fundamental moral laws. They are holy, just, good and spiritual. Further, Isaiah 8:20 points out that the law of God is to be the Divine test of all teaching, while James 2:12 declares that we are to be judged by the law. We also learned God's plan of salvation according to the New Testament, and that the Holy Bible is the Christian compass that shows the way to heaven (2 Tim. 16:17).

A careful study of the Holy Scripture reveals that the Ten Commandments contained in Exodus chapter 20, is binding upon all Christians (Psalm 89:34). It has not been abolished by our Saviour, because Isaiah 42:21 tells us that Jesus would magnify the law and make it honourable. In Matthew 5:17, Jesus declared that He came not to destroy but to fulfill the law. Read what Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 19.

The Word of God clearly points out that the laws of Ordinances

referred to as the law of Moses, contained in Exodus chapter 21 to 23 and in Deuteronomy 31:24-26, speaks of the other laws written by Moses in a separate book. This book was placed in the Ark separate from the Ten Commandments. The Ordinances contained in this book, as referred to in Colossians 2:14, 17, Ephesians 2:15, and Leviticus 7:37-38 indicates that they were nailed to the cross because they bear witness against us (Deut. 31:25,26). These ceremonial laws also foretold in Daniel 9:26,27 would be done away. The laws contained in this book, according to Acts 15:5 and Hebrews 7:5, 12, 28 is the law of Moses and not the Ten Commandments. It is evident from the foregoing references that the Ten Commandments are binding upon all Christians today, until the day of judgment.

In studying the Word of God, we find that Law and Grace are very closely related to each other. The law makes grace necessary, and that grace upholds and establishes the law. These two are inseparable, and one is incomplete without the other. To remain in God's grace, we must, without any doubt obey God's royal laws (James 2:8). We can deduce that it is not a matter of law or grace, rather it is a matter of law and grace. If we live a life apart from Christ and His grace, then, the law behaves like an enemy. But the moment we accept Christ as our Saviour, we are under His grace and we are freed from the consequences of the law (2 Tim. 1:10; Gal. 3:13). It is apparent that as long as we live in complete submission to the Lord, we live in agreement with the holy, just, good and spiritual law of God.

A further study on the question on Sabbath, Genesis 2:3 tells us that

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. The Lord also hallowed it (Exodus 20:8-11). Called it His Holy Day (Isaiah 58:13). The Sabbath was to be a sign between us and God (Ezek. 20:20). This sign is to last for ever (Ex. 31:13-17). According to Leviticus 23:3, Sabbath is holy, is to be kept holy and is a day for Holy Convocation, it must be religious.

We find in Isaiah 56:2 that the Sabbath was instituted for all mankind. And it also tells us that a man who keeps Sabbath is happy. Isaiah chapter 56 verse 6 warns us not to profane the Sabbath. Again we noted with interest that according to Isaiah 66:22-23, all flesh must observe Sabbath. No wonder Mark chapter 2, verse 27 points out that the Sabbath was made for man.

It is really surprising that we just could not find a single verse in the Holy Scriptures to state that the first day of the week (Sunday) is declared by God as holy, sanctified and hallowed. Neither could we find a text to testify the first day of the week (Sunday) to be the Lord's day.

We are convinced that God instituted the weekly Sabbath. God blessed and sanctified that day of the week and no other. Therefore the seventh day and no other day of the week is holy sanctified time. The Sabbath was given as a gift, a day of rest and worship. It is God's invitation to join in fellowship with Him.

As Christians having accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, we must, as required in 1 John 5:2-3, keep His Commandments. We should not behave like those mentioned in Romans 8:7. But always remembering that if we are to enter eternal life, we must keep His Commandments (Matthew 19:17). With this in view, we prayed that the Lord would lead us to a group as referred to in



Sitting left to right: Mr. J. F. Palfrey, Mrs. M.F. Palfrey, Mr. J. J. Rock.
Standing left to right: Palfrey sisters - Celine, Beatrice, Lilian

Isaiah 8:20.

We were happy to learn that the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Rangoon acknowledges Jesus Christ for what He claims Himself to be in John 8:24, and upholds the Ten Commandments, observes the seventh day of the week as Sabbath, Scripturally celebrates the Lord's Supper annually with unleaven bread and fruit of the vine (1 Cor. 11:24, 25; Mt. 26:26, 27), and baptism by immersion.

We are pleased to be able to have fellowship with the Seventh Day Baptist Church, thereby obeying God's law rather than doctrines of men (Acts 5:29). We have never had an occasion to have any regrets for the change we made and we do appreciate our present membership and association with the brethren of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Rangoon.

In John 8:32, we are told that the truth will make us free. It is

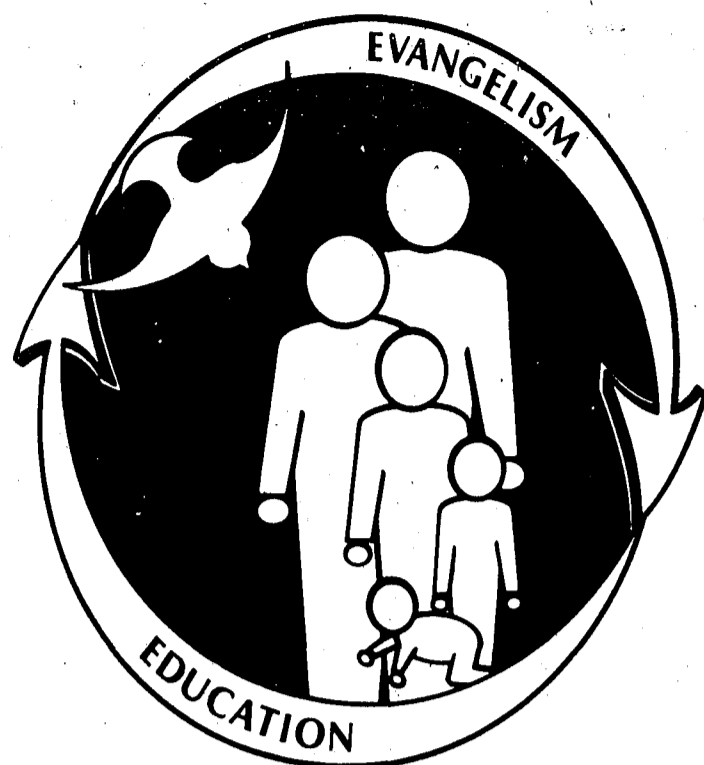
We prayed that the Lord would lead us to a group as referred to in Isaiah 8:20...

our prayerful wish that Christians, like the Pereans (Acts 17:11), should search the Holy Scriptures daily, to prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good (1 Thess. 5:21).

Rev. L. Sawi Thanga, with his amiable nature and his lovely family, helps us and in the progress of the church. It is my prayerful wish that the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Rangoon, would grow to have, at least, three thousand members like the first church established by St. Peter, on the day of Pentecost.

My nieces and myself are busily engaged in distributing the Seventh Day Baptist tracts and also in presenting the SDB faith with a view to gain large number of members. □

*Mr. J. J. Rock is traffic superintendent of Indian Airlines Corporation, Rangoon. This is a joint TESTIMONY of Mr. J. J. Rock, his sister Mrs. M. F. Palfrey, and her three children, Celine, Beatrice and Lilian. They reside at No. 54, 89th Street, Rangoon.



Seventh Day Baptists are active participants in the affairs of the Baptist World Alliance.

Baptists around the world are responding to the call of the BWA at its 1975 Congress, to adopt as a common theme until 1980, "New People for a New World Through Jesus Christ."

Our denomination's preliminary response to the "call" is outlined on the back cover of the 1976 Bicentennial edition of the *Yearbook* and correlates with our Commitment to Growth plan.

We will undoubtedly find help and strength in coordinating many of our efforts with world Baptists in the three years immediately ahead:

- 1977-78 NEW PEOPLE THROUGH BIBLE STUDY—
A call to real study of God's Word, for renewal.
- 1978-79 NEW PEOPLE FOR WITNESS AND SERVICE—A challenge to involvement in the world.
- 1979-80 NEW PEOPLE FOR A NEW WORLD—
A commitment to evangelism around the world.

These three distinct emphases, all derived from the theme for the era, can enhance our distinctive struggle for renewal—and growth!

C. Ronald Goulding, director of the BWA Division of Evangelism and Education, asserts that "any hope of a successful outreach movement must begin in a renewed individual life of the Christian—renewed in the discipline of devotional life, renewed in the adventure of believing prayer, renewed in the challenge of Christian living, renewed in concern for those who know not Christ."

As the first part of the three-phase renewal emphasis, the aim is to "bring our people back to a renewed understanding of the place of the Bible as an essential guide for every part of life." The 1977-78 period has been designated the "Year of the Bible."

"Spiritual renewal demands a considered discipline," points out Goulding. Then he goes on to explain as follows:

Not "I like" but "I ought to, therefore, I will." This is personal and demands the willing consent of each believer. One of the greatest blessings

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

"New People for a New World Through Jesus Christ"

Year of the Bible

which comes to the Christian who spends regular time in prayer, meditation, and Bible study is that when he "counts the cost" (Luke 14:28) he becomes more impressed with the infinite possibilities of the power of God than with the resources of the enemy.

"...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

"If God be for us who can be against us?" (Romans 3:31).

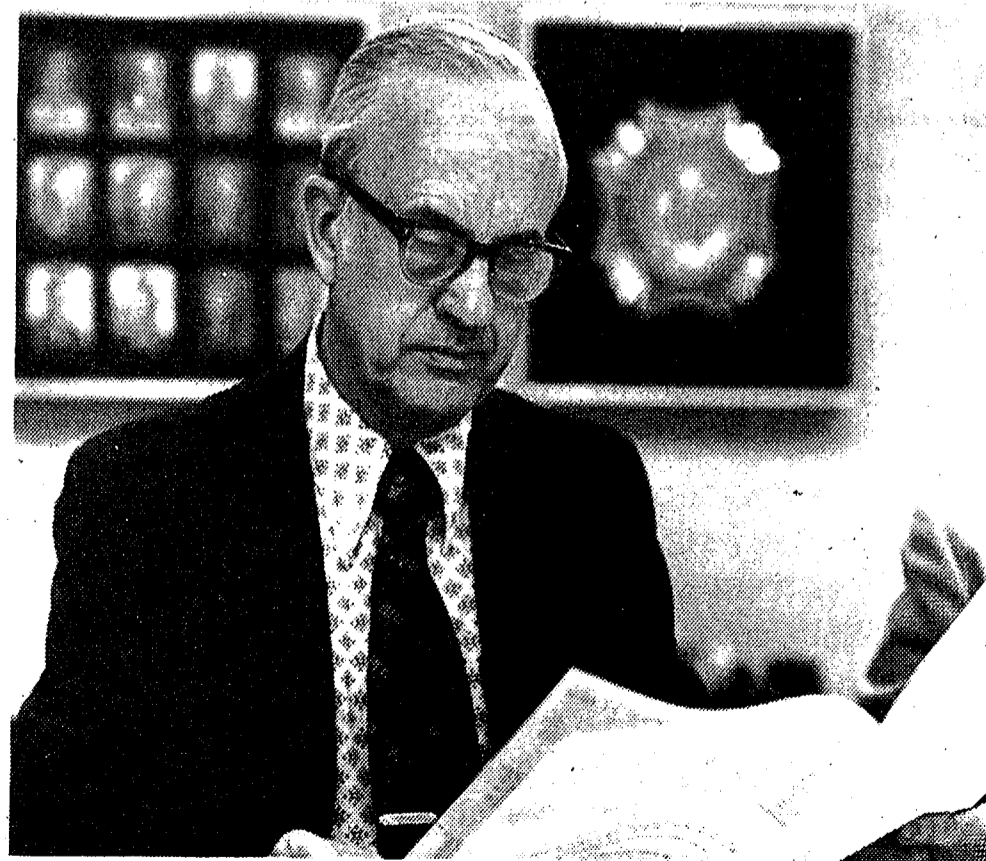
"...prove me now and see if I will not open up the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:10).

"...God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his spirit to be strong in your inner selves" (Ephesians 3:16).

Seventh Day Baptists stand in a particularly good position, prepared by Growth Force studies, to "give our Lord the chance He longs for to mobilize a prepared people renewed and eager to do His will in the power of His Spirit even unto the uttermost ends of the earth."

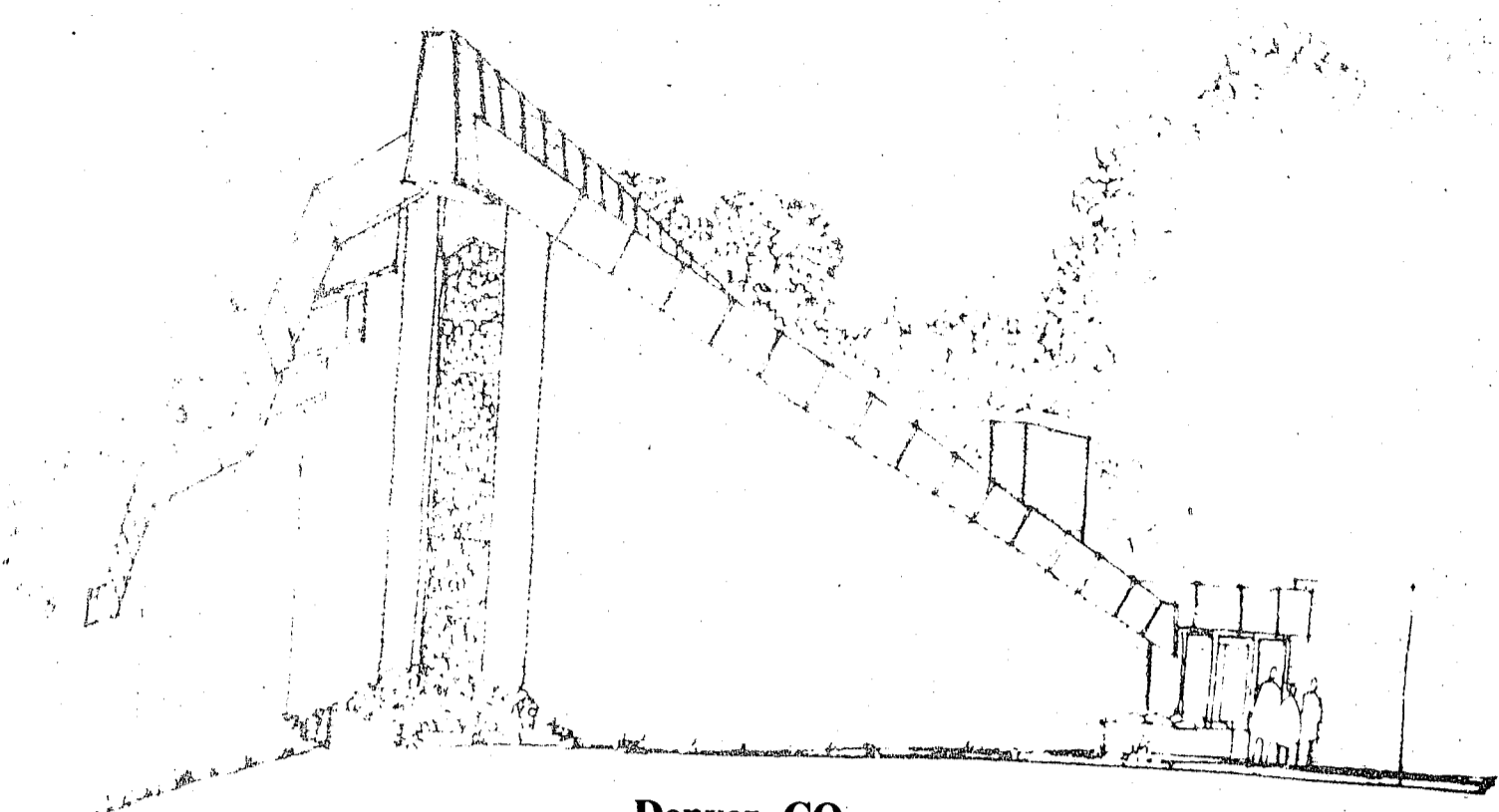
Let's do it! □

—(Resource material regarding the "Year of the Bible" can be obtained from denominational headquarters or directly from Division of Evangelism and Education, Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.)



Dr. K. D. Hurley

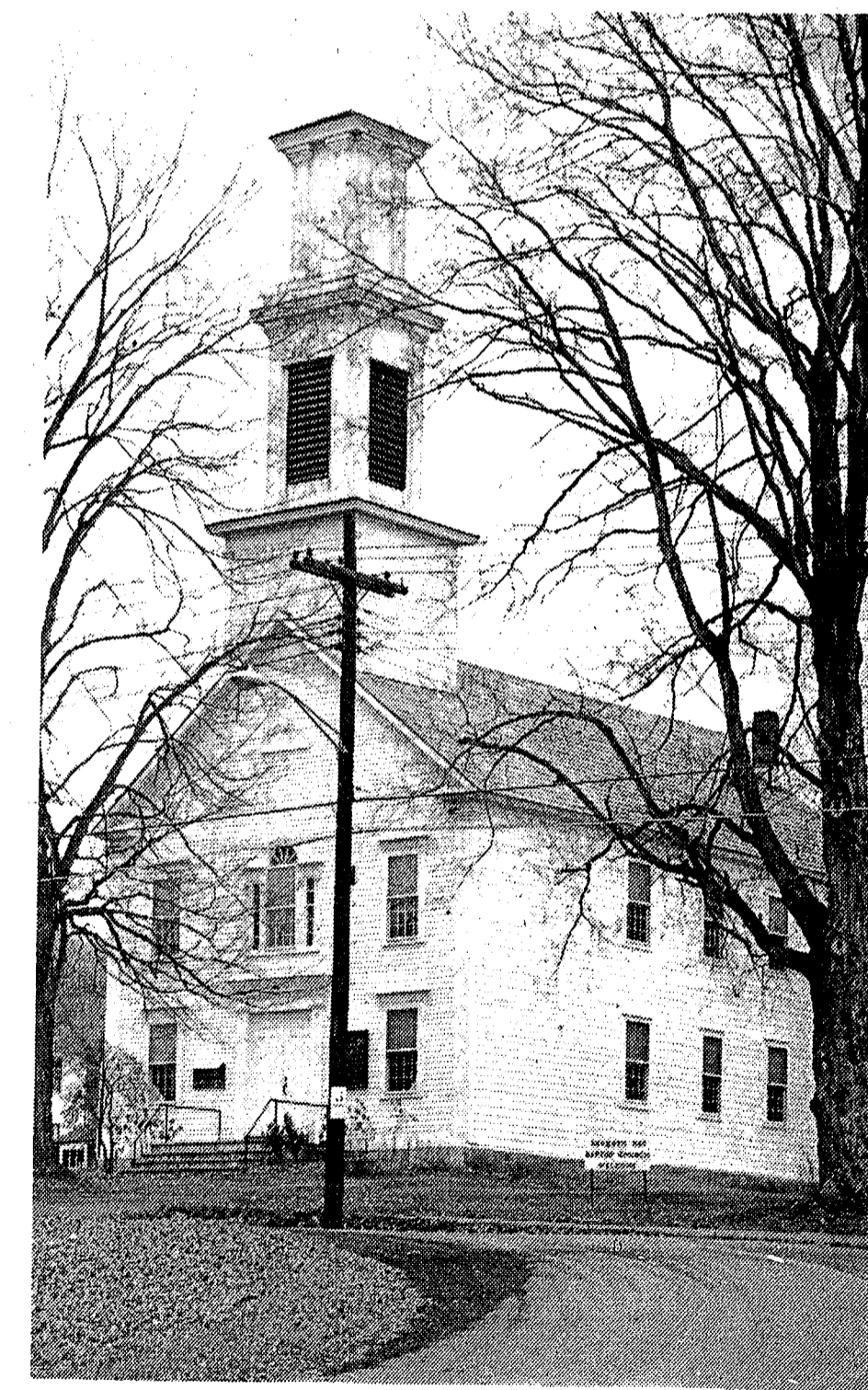
Who Are Seventh Day Baptists?



Denver, CO

**A HISTORIC PEOPLE WITH A
UNIQUE MESSAGE FOR
CONTEMPORARY AMERICA.
SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS
ESTABLISHED THEIR FIRST
CHURCH IN AMERICA IN 1671
AT NEWPORT, R.I., AND SINCE
THEN HAVE EXPANDED THEIR
WITNESS FROM COAST TO COAST.**

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS ARE
CHRISTIANS WHOSE POLITY AND
BELIEFS, INCLUDING BAPTISM BY
IMMERSION, ARE LIKE OTHER
BAPTISTS, BUT WHO, UNLIKE MOST
DENOMINATIONS, OBSERVE THE
SEVENTH DAY AS THE WEEKLY
DAY OF REST AND WORSHIP.**



Berlin, NY

SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS BELIEVE

In salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning death.

A Seventh Day Baptist church is a Christian church, a local branch of the body of Christ, the Church Universal. Thus, the first requirement is that a person take his place as a guilty sinner before God, looking in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, who was "made sin" for him. He must believe that Jesus, in giving His life as a sacrifice on Calvary, paid the penalty of sin, bearing our sins in His own body, and he must accept Him as his own personal Saviour from sin. By so receiving Jesus Christ, he receives from God the gift of eternal life through the new birth.

Romans 3:10, 23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24;
John 3:5; Romans 5:8; John 1:12, 13; John 5:24

In surrendering the life to Christ for service.

In acknowledging Christ as Lord, we recognize His right to rule our lives, so we surrender them to Him for any service He may require. Since the main business of the church is evangelism, the main service of a church member is to witness for Christ, in an endeavor to win souls for Him.

Romans 12:1; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; John 15:16; 2 Corinthians 5:20

In observance of the Sabbath of the Bible.

As a part of Christian living, and of acknowledging Christ as Lord, we expect a member to follow Him as Lord of the Sabbath in observing the seventh day as the true Lord's day. Interpretation of what is meant by "in it thou shalt not do any work" is left to the conscience of the individual, as enlightened by the teachings of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 2:28; Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Matthew 12:12

In confession of Christ before men through baptism.

Baptism is the outward symbol of the inward change which has taken place. The water speaks of cleansing, of the washing away of sins. Burial in the baptismal waters speaks of the death of self to the old life and nature, and coming up out of the waters speaks of rising to live in newness of life. Being baptized is a means of confession before men that this change has been wrought in the life, and is a public declaration of one's purpose to dedicate himself to Christ and His service.

Acts 2:58; Romans 6:3, 4; Colossians 2:11-13; Ephesians 2:1-5

In living a life of Christian dedication.

Having received Jesus as Savior and having confessed Him before men, we expect a member to live a Christian life, leaving the things of the world, the things that be of men, and setting his affections on things above, the things of God, acknowledging Christ as Lord.

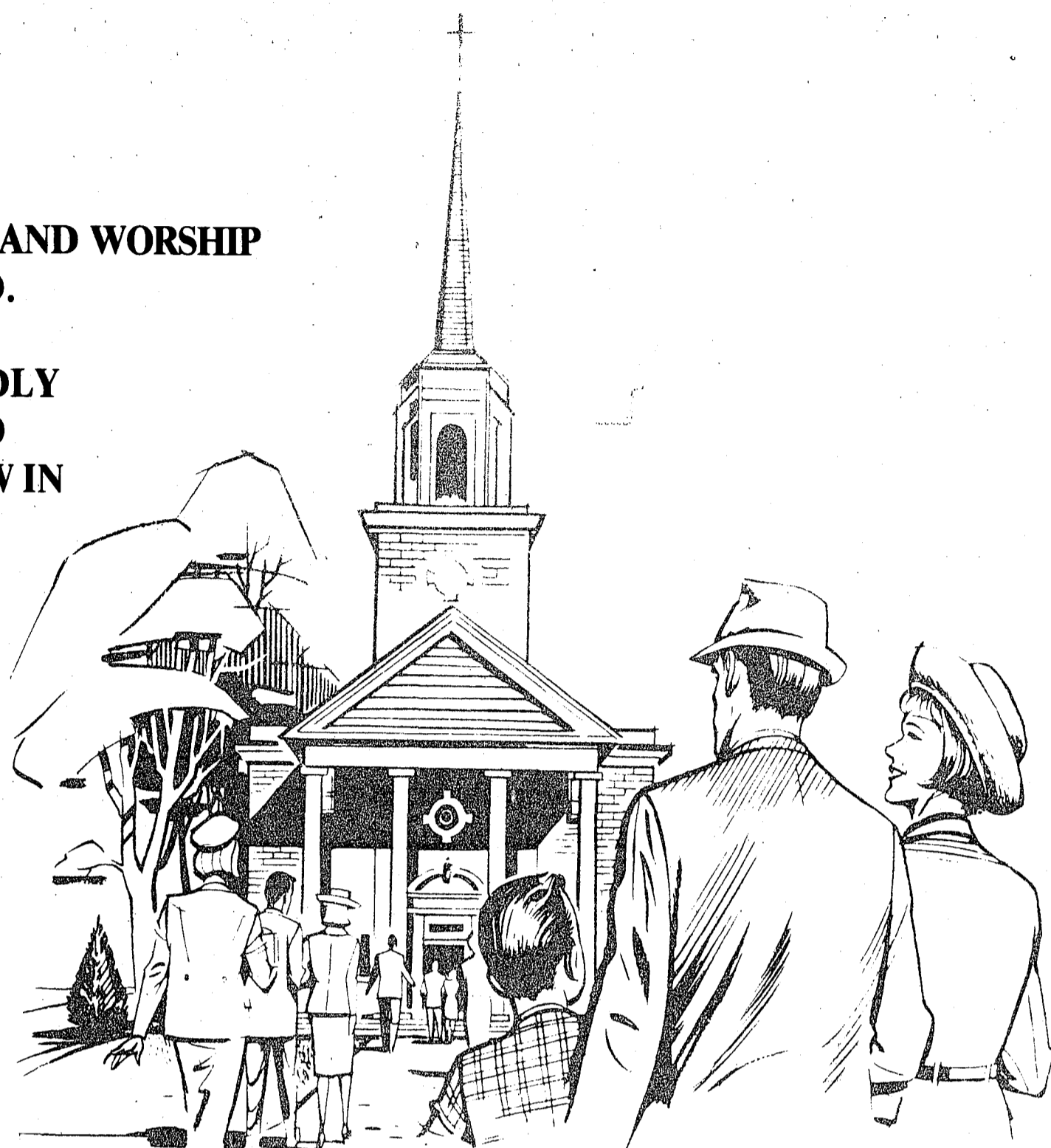
Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1-3;
2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

**"Remember to keep
the sabbath day holy.
You have six days
to labour and
do all your work.
But the seventh
day is a sabbath of
the Lord your God.**

**-From the
Fourth Commandment.**

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS
WELCOME ALL TO COME AND WORSHIP
AND STUDY GOD'S WORD.**

**YOU WILL FIND A FRIENDLY
PEOPLE AND A PLACE TO
UNDERSTAND AND GROW IN
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**



**AMERICAN SABBATH TRACT SOCIETY
(Seventh Day Baptist)
510 Watchung Avenue (P.O. Box 868)
Plainfield, N.J. 07061**

.....
Please send additional information regarding Seventh Day Baptists.

.....
Please enroll me in the free home-study Bible Course.

.....
Please have someone contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Seventh Day Baptist
Historical Society

With 210 members, the North Loup, Nebraska, Seventh Day Baptist Church is our seventh largest church; and although, like the rest of our denomination, it has suffered a decline in membership in the twentieth century, for the last two decades it has held at the 200 mark. It is a "solid citizen" in the Seventh Day Baptist community.

How it came to be so is worth recalling in this time of "Commitment to Growth," for we are reminded that "church planting" is not a new discovery but a forgotten part of our heritage, and we are chided by the determination and perseverance of our spiritual forefathers more than one hundred years ago.

In the mid-1800's, Seventh Day Baptists, like many of their country-

men, were on the move - most of them farmers in search of rich but inexpensive land. Out of central and western New York State they flowed, and into the American Midwest. Not by a lucky throw of the dice, but by a difficult trial-and-error process, they arrived at their destinations; many families relocated several times in the span of a few years.

Such was the case with many of the residents of Dakota, Wisconsin, but each time they moved, they took their religion with them, and in 1853 they established a Seventh Day Baptist church in Dakota.

The land was too sandy though, so after the Civil War they began to talk again of new frontiers. In 1871 they formed a "colony association," but not for a moment did they forget their religion, for after

stating their intent "to procure a suitable location," they agreed "to give such of our people as observe the Seventh Day of the week as the Sabbath the opportunity to settle together."

A "locating committee" trekked through Iowa and into Nebraska in search of a new site; their mixed opinions failed to impress the Dakota populace upon their return, but the enthusiasm of one of the scouts for the Loup Valley led to a second journey over the 1,400-mile round-trip route and the decision to migrate to Nebraska.

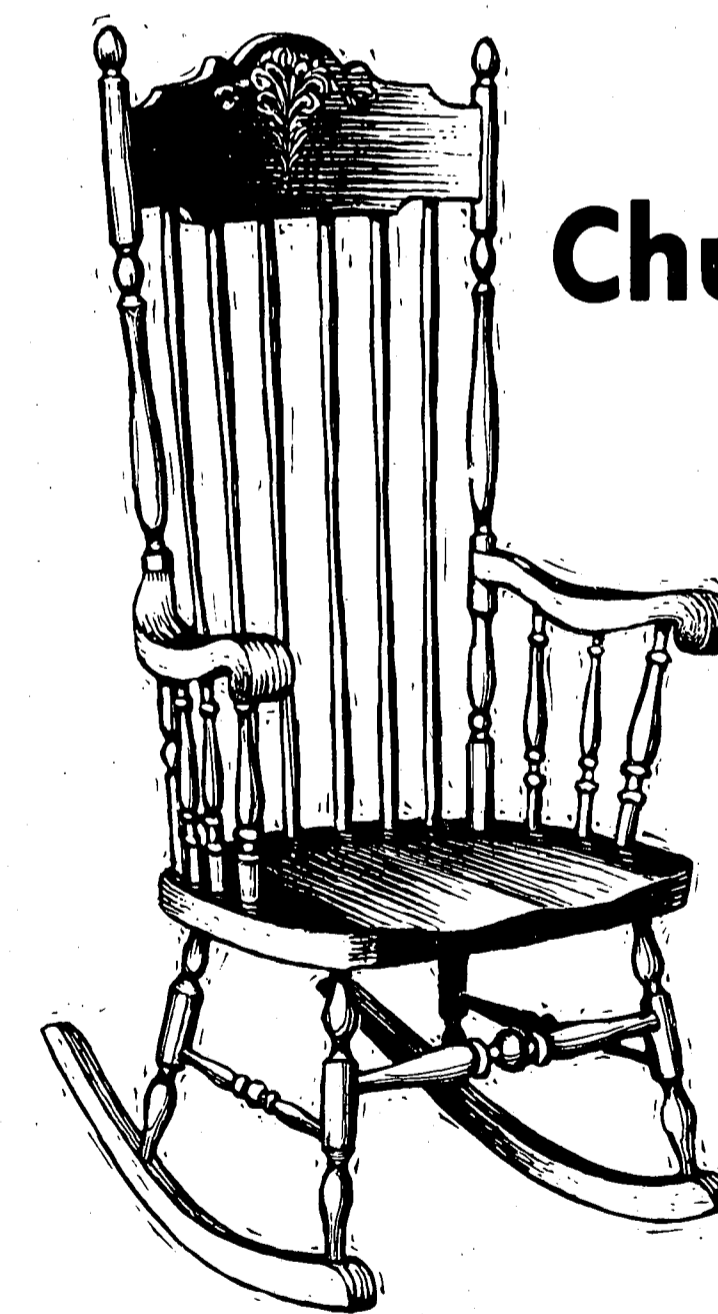
The first party left Dakota April 1, 1872, traveling by horse- and ox-drawn wagons through snow, mud, wind and dust. After a month and a half, they finally arrived, and one of their first activities was Sabbath worship:

...on the west bank of the North Loup River; and with a rocking chair for a pulpit, Elder Oscar Babcock preached the first sermon ever in this Loup country. One of the songs they sang on that beautiful May morning was "We Shall Gather at the River"...

On March 23, 1873, they organized the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The seed was sown, and the trials began, but for some reason, the pioneers chose North Loup as the place to make their stand. They created dugouts and sod houses for shelter, and they prepared to reap the fruits of their labor. At the end of their first winter, thinking that spring had arrived to stay, they were totally unprepared for "The Great Blizzard of '73." Lives and livestock were lost; but the blizzard was nothing compared to the grasshoppers that came in '74, '75, '76 and '77. In '78, it was a prairie fire; in '92, '93 and '94 -drought; but the people stood firm, and a church was planted!

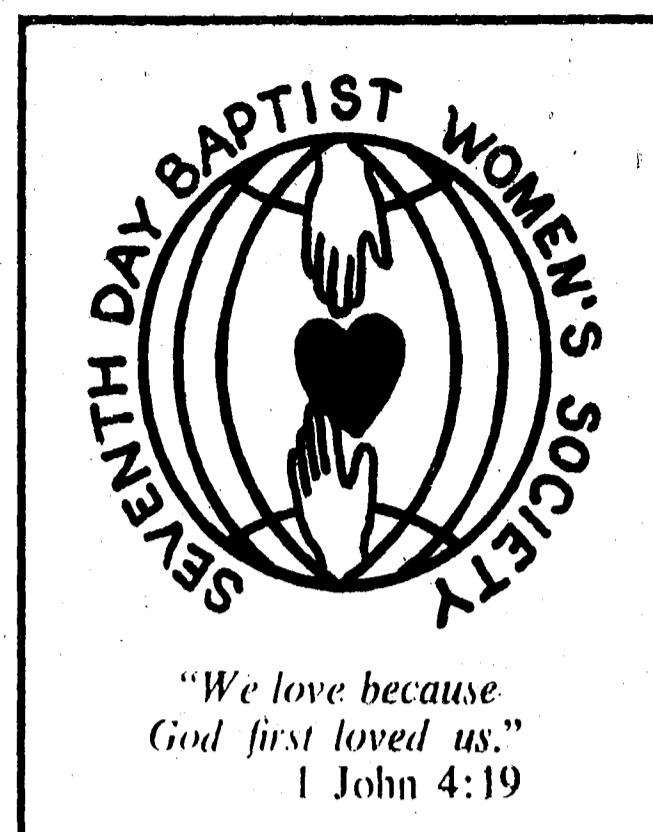
May we, as we seek a new "Commitment to Growth" in the 1970's, rediscover the spiritual traits of determination and perseverance; and may we be successful in planting new churches . . . *a la* 1872! □



Church Planting *a la* 1872

by Tom Merchant, Historian

**With a rocking chair for a pulpit
Elder Babcock preached the first sermon
in North Loup....**



OPEN YOUR MINDS AND SAY "AH!"

by Madeline Fitz Randolph

How many of you have seen the interesting line of posters that has been shown for sale in book and department stores? Some of them are captivating; some of them downright funny; some of them make us stop and wonder if that particular saying could be exactly what we wanted to say! Right now I am looking at one which shows a small man sitting under a large tree. At this moment, a very large nut, (more like a melon) has fallen down from the tree and struck him directly on his head. He has a surprised look on his face, and the caption underneath the poster says, "Open your mind and say 'Ah!'" Let me explain why this says something to me, and also to us as women...you see, our board meets together and all of us feel a spirit of caring for *all* Seventh Day Baptist women. Of course we are concerned for ALL women, and men, too, but you are our reason for being! We have said many times that the most important goal we might promote is for our women to grow spiritually. We have asked for PRAYER PARTNERS to be formed; we have asked that PRAYER CIRCLES to include neighbors and others be developed; we have promoted reading from the beginning of our ministry as a board, and from the reports coming in from almost all of our local societies the two study books, "Fragrance of Beauty," and "What Happens When Women Pray," are really being read! This is PERSONAL GROWTH! You have opened your minds and said "AH!"

Whenever an idea hits us, and it is worthy of promotion, it should make us feel awe, surprise and joy, as we open our minds and say, "Ah, yes, this is in accord with His will."

As we truly grow spiritually, we will make prayer, reading, and Bible reading a part of our daily routine.... not only for ourselves, but for others. In these things we must become leaders. A new dimension has been added to our Bible reading as we have been reading from the new *Good News Bible*. A special offer for women is one of these Bibles from the American Bible Society, Box 5524, New York, NY 10023. Just send and

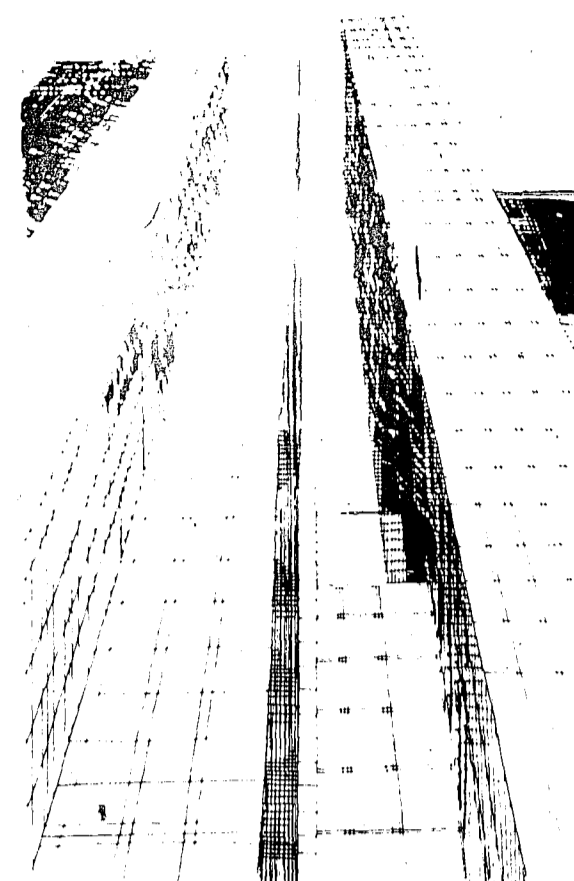
ask for the Good News Special Edition for Women, Control number 00611; send the payment with the order; \$2.05 includes shipping. It is beautiful!

I just noticed another poster...there is a profile of a child silhouetted against a sunset, holding a candle... and the caption is, "There are two ways of spreading the light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

BOOK BEATITUDES FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS

*Blessed are leaders who feed the mind,
The kingdom of knowledge is theirs.
Blessed are the well-read leaders,
For they shall be enriched.
Blessed are the educated leaders,
They shall inherit the world.
Blessed are leaders who invest in good books and literature,
For they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the disciplined leaders,
For they shall find time to read.
Blessed are leaders that lend their books,
For they shall be called true friends.
Blessed are leaders who return the books that are loaned,
For they shall not be called book keepers.
Blessed are leaders that persevere in good reading,
for theirs is an enduring investment.
Blessed are you if when persons elect you to many committees
and heap on you many duties for the church's sake,
you still hold fast to your reading habits,
For great will be your reward.
That is how the wise leaders are separated from the foolish.*

Guideposts of CWF for Spring 1977



A History of the New York City Church

by Rev. Socrates Thompson, Pastor

The New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church came into being in a somewhat mysterious situation and continues to exist as what seems to be one of God's modern mysteries.

It was not known to Jamaican Seventh Day Baptists living in New York, that there were several members of the Jamaican churches residing in the city. However, several of these Seventh Day Baptists had apparently been making contacts with other SDB's and these contacts either filtered into Plainfield, or were made directly with key persons in Plainfield.

Unconfirmed reports state that a key denominational worker was asked to make contacts with two possible leaders in the city with a view of getting them together, hoping to lead a Seventh Day Baptist drive on the city. The report states that one of these possible workers was visited. It is confirmed that the other was never contacted.

It was late in 1973 that the fateful straw seemed to have reached Plainfield and broke the camel's back. Rev. Herbert Saunders, then pastor of the Plainfield church, and Brother John Bevis, editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*, visited New York City and investigated the possibility of starting some kind of witness in the city.

In March 1974, the first meeting was held in one of the chapels of the great Riverside Baptist Church on Manhattan's west side. There was a surprisingly large turnout in response to the invitation of these two men of God and the decision was made on a general vote, that there was felt a need as well as a place for SDB's

in New York. Most of those present pledged their support of the venture and the next Sabbath Seventh Day Baptists began worshipping in New York again.

Pastor "Herb" and Editor Bevis either came together, or took turns coming on Sabbath afternoons for preaching services. A Bible study occupied the time until lunch, with the worship service following.

This, however, did not come about without some difficulties. First there was the problem of finding a meeting place for the second week. We ended up worshipping in a room in the Hotel Diplomat, with such poor accommodations as to make us think we had been sent to the "Dumplomat" instead. The third week found us again seeking a suitable place to worship which we found in the Sloane House Y.M.C.A., 356 W. 34th Street. The room was small and quite snug for a while. Not all who promised to be part of the company returned, even for the second time, and some have not returned since that first, but steadily the company grew. Yes, "The Lord added to the church daily, such as were being saved."

The free style Bible study continued for a while, until it was deemed wise to form a Sabbath School with the view of organizing an SDB Fellowship. Some of those attending joined the Plainfield church, giving the group official ties with Seventh Day Baptists.

On March 29, 1975, with a sufficient number of committed attendants, the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship was organized and in

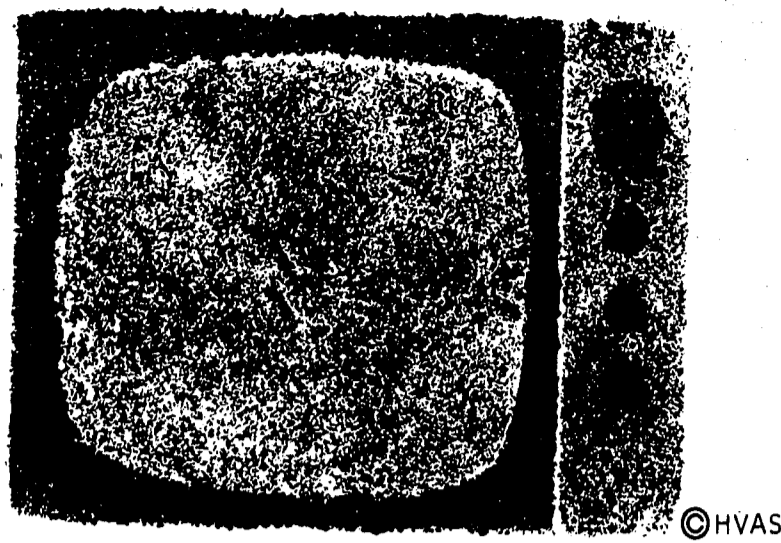
May, received accreditation from Eastern Association meeting in Ashaway, R.I., and from the General Conference in California in August.

On September 27, 1975, the dream became a reality. The New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church was organized and received the blessings of Eastern Association meeting in Plainfield in May and General Conference during the 1976 sessions at Houghton College in August.

Problems do not just go away and ours were no exceptions, but we continued to hold together, experiencing some miracles, one similar to Peter's delivery from prison. Our membership reached twenty-one, with two permanently moving to other parts of the country, one temporarily, and one becoming inactive. Of the remaining seventeen, three are unemployed or students in college without employment. Others work when employment is available, while others are thankful to be employed. Our Sabbath attendance varies from 35 to 50.

Tithes and offerings account for the entire support of the church, except for two donations from Eastern Association. With high rental and other expenses, the treasurer has just been able to break even for the past few quarters, ending in the "red" for the last quarter. With the difficulties experienced worshipping at the Y.M.C.A. building, we have felt a great need for a place of worship of our own where our activities can be extended. The struggle is hard and the people few, but determined.

(continued on page 32)



Television Advertising in Seattle

The Seattle Area S.D.B. Church has had an exciting lesson in faith and in new ways of sharing our faith with a ten days' advertising on television.

Witnessing our faith to people at all levels of spiritual understanding is our responsibility, our Growth Force members found in their study. It was decided we should investigate costs of mass media in our area. At the same time we were checking on prices, KIRO-TV, Channel 7, Seattle, was promoting a special offer of twenty-three identical thirty-second "spots" for \$1,995. The potential of reaching two million homes appeared greater to our Growth Force members than the fact that we did not have any money available for this purpose. It was decided to pray and ask others to pray with us for God's leading in the four days before the special offer expired. At the end of the third day, \$125 more than the needed \$1,995 was given to share the Lord in this way. We concluded that this was indeed God's will for our church!

Channel 7 is affiliated with ABC and is one of the largest stations in the Northwest, reaching into Canada and Eastern Washington State with cable, as well. The American Sabbath Tract Society offered to furnish copies of the new correspondence course, "Guide to Understanding the Bible," and as much informational literature as needed. The Tract Society, Pacific Coast Association, our "mother churches" in Los Angeles and Riverside, joined individuals in designating gifts to meet the cost. It was decided to include the address of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rowe, who are Seattle Area members in Canada, as well as the church address and phone in the ad.

The thirty-second commercial consisted of five color slides, with Pastor Duane Davis reading the script and a musical background. The pictures included a crowded street in downtown Seattle; Mary Beattie looking across the city to the skyline and bay from a hill in Seattle; then Pastor Davis holding out the six Bible lessons in front of one of our church's beautiful stained-glass windows. These were followed with the Seattle and Canada addresses.

The script read, "Ever stand in a crowd and wonder... What's it all about? Where have the purpose and the fulfillment of life gone? The Bible has the answers... but maybe you didn't know where to look! The Seventh Day Baptist Church would like to send you six personal Bible lessons, "Guide to Understanding the Bible." It's all free... no obligation. Write to these addresses or phone... The Seventh Day Baptist Church... 762-5340 today! It can mean a new beginning!!!!"

Seattle church members responded by manning the phones at Christ's Training Center, our church building, throughout the showings from Jan. 27-Feb. 6, sending out the requested lessons and information. About fifty people have called or written requesting the free Bible lessons, and many of these people are now nearing completion of the series of six. Others have called for more information about the beliefs and practices of Seventh Day Baptists and many of our friends have shared our joy as they tell us they watched the commercials. Several visitors have attended our church services on Sabbath in the first few weeks after the ads were aired.

More gifts were designated for our advertising after the commercials were over, and so the church is following this ad up with a two-column inch ad on the television news page of our morning and evening newspapers for one week in the middle of March. We are also following up as many of our calls as possible with personal calls and contacts through our Evangelism Explosion classes.

We are most grateful for the help of so many in making this venture in letting Seventh Day Baptists share their faith in the Lord. And especially we thank God for His leading and making clear to us that He wants us to share Him with the millions in our world today! □

-Duane L. Davis

The Sabbath Recorder

The Church In Action

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

SDB MEETING HELD IN MEDFORD

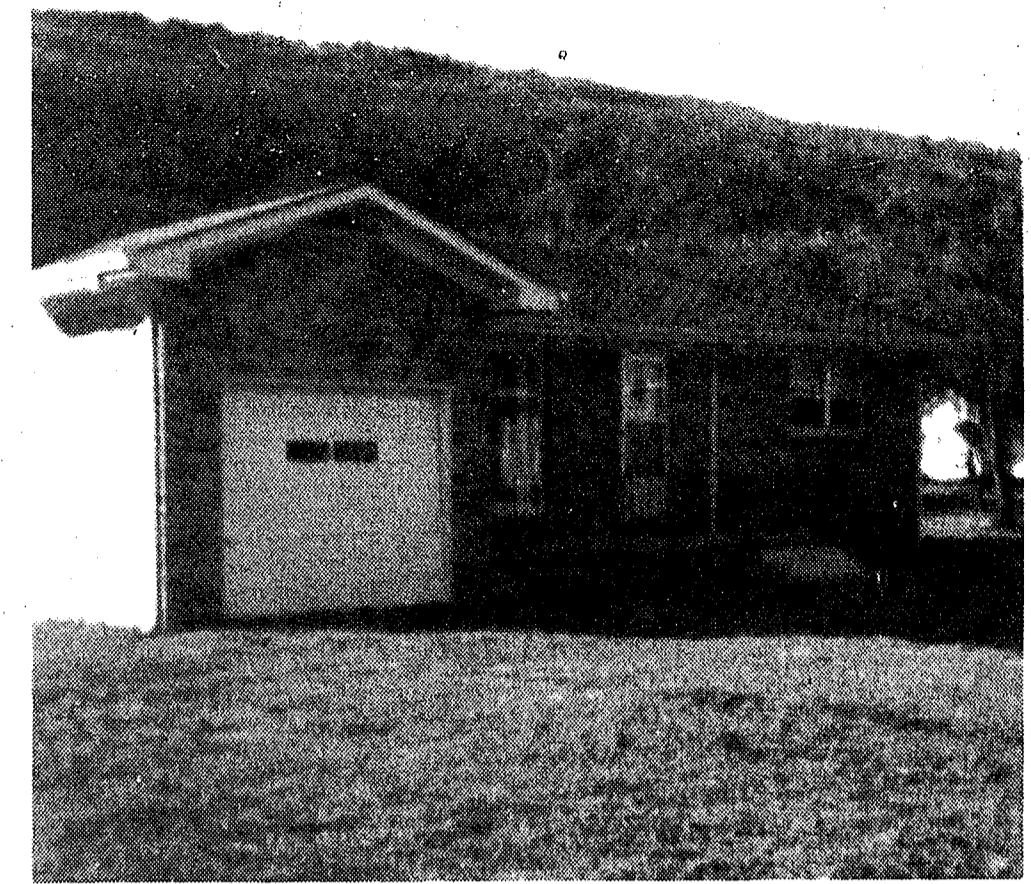
MEDFORD, OR.—Pastor Duane Davis and Larry Sanford visited Medford, Oregon, 450 miles south of Seattle, February 27 and 28. They were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Davis. A "Seventh Day Baptist Informational Seminar" was held on Sunday evening at the Red Cross Building. Some of those attending decided to hold weekly Bible studies.

On Sabbath Day, March 5, Mr. Leonard Davis was voted into membership in the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church. Please pray for him and for the efforts to establish S.D.B. work in the beautiful city of Medford. □

MEMORIAL WINDOW DEDICATED

DAYTONA BEACH, FL.—Spring is a busy time in Daytona Beach. Our church is participating in the Commitment to Growth program. Charles and Anita Harris, Margaret Kenyon, Lucile Todd, Leon and Iris Maltby, Mary Green, Bernice Davis, and Pastor and Erma Van Horn comprise our Growth Force. They meet together every Tuesday morning for Bible studies.

The dedication of the new stained glass window over the front door highlighted our annual Homecoming weekend in March. This beautiful window with its symbolic dove has been placed there in memory of the late Dr. M. Josie Rogers. Special music was provided by our choir,



The Paint Rock, Ala., church recently purchased this lovely brick home to serve as a parsonage. It is located about one block from the church.

soloists Alan Crouch and Bernice Todd, and by the Rogers quartet, composed of Dr. Josie's nieces - Dr. Ruth Rogers, Frances Spencer, Julia Drew, and nephew - Crosby Rogers.

Pastor Van Horn and Alan Crouch led our Homecoming Sabbath worship. During Sabbath School the Historical Committee presented a list of gifts to the church and the donors, which are being recorded in a special book given in memory of the late Josephine Allen. Hannah Burdick, Kenneth Kenyon, and Dr. Ruth Rogers have spent much time researching this. The Annual Church Dinner Sabbath noon and the Annual Chicken Roast Sunday noon provided time for fellowship and fun.

We rejoice that Otis Lastinger, seriously injured last summer, is at last able to come to church again. His healing and recovery are not complete yet. We are thankful for the healing and care so far and continue to pray for his complete recovery.

We feel honored to host both Planning Committee and the Ministers Conference this spring. □

-Janette Crouch

● The Light Bearers for Christ team has purchased a scenicruiser bus which will be "converted" to handle their equipment, baggage and sleeping accommodations. For several years the team has used a van pulling a trailer.

PARTY HONORS 'YOUTHFUL' CENTENARIAN

SHILOH, N.J.—Over 200 relatives, friends and neighbors attended the 100th birthday party held for Harry C. Lupton in Fellowship Hall of Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church.

"Harry," as he is affectionately called by his Shiloh community friends, was seated in his wheelchair at the head of the table, surrounded by his immediate family. His wheelchair is a familiar sight in the community. From it, Harry works in his garden and wheels himself around Shiloh corners to visit his grandson.

Always an outdoorsman, Harry dug wells, installed windmills and pumps, and spent his spare time in the woods and marshes, accompanied by one of his rabbit hounds. He helped with clearing underbrush and bushes for the building of the church camp, Jersey Oaks, several years ago.

He avidly enjoys music, horses, and baseball. Coming from a musical family, one of his favorite childhood memories is of his family singing together. With his brother, Arch, and sisters, Elizabeth and Beulah, he formed a quartet, singing at community and church functions. He sang in the church choir for many years.

He married Olive Randolph, who died in 1957, and has continued to live in the home property in a section added for him by his son, Charles, who was associated with him in the plumbing business. His daughter, Elizabeth, who taught at Bridgeton

High School, lives in Shiloh. Two grandsons, Harry and Charles, are in the plumbing business and a granddaughter, Susan, is employed by a local bank.

At 100 years, Harry is in good health, alert and enjoys life. Owen Probasco, master of ceremonies for the program honoring him, introduced Mrs. Martie Hitchner, who led group singing of Harry's favorite hymns. Included were: "When Jesus Comes into My Heart," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," sung by a mixed quartet featuring Mr. and Mrs. David Hitchner, Mrs. Richard Dixon and Tim Bond. A male quartet, Allen Davis, Tim Bond, David Hitchner, and Owen Probasco, sang two of his popular favorites, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie."

A special feature of the evening was a vocal selection by great-grandchildren Laurie, Greg, Janet and Karen Lupton of "When I Grow Too Old To Dream," with Laurie taking the solo part. It soon became evident that their great-grandfather was singing along with them. Greg and Janet read an original poem, "Pop-Pop" and Owen Probasco, known as the poet laureate of the Shiloh church, read an original poem, "100 Years Young."

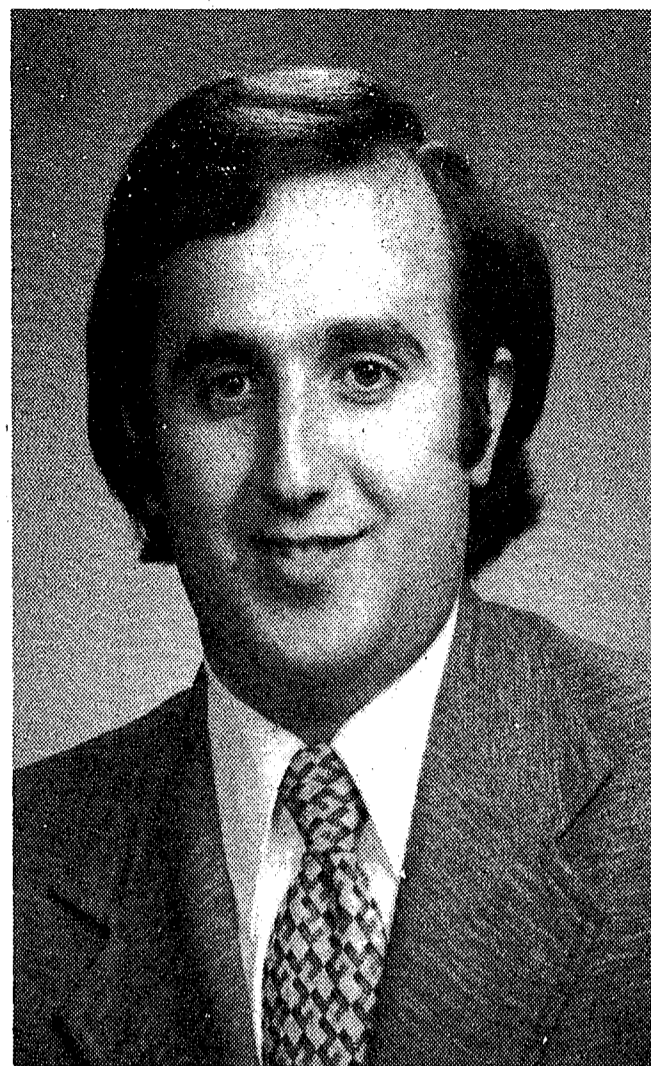
Mrs. Eleanor Nichols presented Harry with a cake she baked and decorated with his favorite flowers, red geraniums. The pastor, Rev. Charles Bond, presented the guest of honor with a love gift, a clock.

General chairmen for the happy occasion were Mrs. Martie Hitchner, Mrs. Mary Ayars, Mrs. Matilda Dickinson, Mrs. Jane Jernoske, and Mrs. Nellie Randolph. Mrs. Elsa Scull was in charge of decorations and program design. Laurie Lupton presided at the guest book and Janet Lupton distributed programs. □

—Katherine F. Davis

RIVERSIDE SDB CHURCH CALLS ASSISTANT PASTOR

RIVERSIDE, CA.—Gabriel Bejjani has accepted the call to serve as assistant pastor at the Riverside S.D.B. Church. He began attending services at Riverside in the summer of 1976. He united in membership after completing a series of doctrinal studies in January 1977. He plans to attend the summer institute sponsored by the COM in Plainfield, and is



Pastor Gabriel Bejjani

taking steps toward enrollment in Fuller Theological Seminary in the fall. He shares the following testimony:

I was born into a Catholic family, with all my education through high school being taken at Catholic missionary schools.

A turning point came into my life on May of 1967, when I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and He led me to accept the Sabbath truth. I felt the Lord calling me to the ministry; thus I took my B.A. in theology and Biblical languages.

During my training the Lord led Hayat and me to be joined together in Holy Matrimony on July 4, 1971. Since then the Lord blessed us with two girls and a boy.

At the time of my graduation (June 1973) I accepted a call to serve as pastor of an Adventist church in Beirut, Lebanon.

On September 23, 1975, the Lord led me to Loma Linda University in California to pursue my graduate work. The Lord answered my prayers and blessed me abundantly by delivering my wife and children out of the war-torn country of Lebanon miraculously in May of 1976.

August of 1976 marked the first time that I knew of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Riverside, through the yellow pages. My visit became permanent since that Sabbath in August. The Lord led me to the church and my Christian brethren and sisters, and especially Pastor Alton L. Wheeler, encircled me with Christian

love and witnessing to the extent that I called with the apostle Paul, "The love of Christ constraineth me"; so, I joined the church. I also accepted the call to be assistant pastor of the church starting February 7, 1977.

Now I can say from experience that the Lord led me step by step and I can testify with my family that we know that the promises of God are true and can be fulfilled in our lives when we claim them by faith.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28 □

PEN PALS

Miss Peggy Sue Hays
175 Westmore Street
Danville, VA 24541
Age: 19, College student

Ralph Hays, Jr.
P.O. Box 37
Chatawa, MS 39632
Age: 21, Graduate
Commercial Art

COLORADO CHURCH HOLDS BIBLE READING CONTEST

BOULDER, CO.—The Sabbath School of the Boulder church has had much interest generated in a "Bible Reading Contest." This has been initiated and promoted by Superintendent James August. An expert computer repairer and inventor, Jim gave the results of the contest in which the two adult classes of the church competed. Richard Nusom read the most chapters of any one week, 250. During the eight weeks reading averages zoomed from the first week averaging six chapters per person to the eighth week averaging thirty-three per person. The overall average per person for the full eight-week time limit was twenty-eight chapters per week. In total, 6,729 chapters were read from the Bible during the contest. Since the Young Adult class, taught by the pastor was the winner they will be treated to a breakfast at Camp Paul Hummel by the Crusaders Class whose teacher is Deacon Will Wells. We all enjoyed the contest so much that we are starting another one, and using the "before class" Sabbath School time to discuss questions we have had as we read, or gems we wish to share. TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT! □

—Madeline F. Randolph

The Sabbath Recorder

CAN YOU GIVE A SUMMER TO THE LORD?

CHATAWA, MS.—Would you like to try your hand at something different in the line of dedicated service this summer? Consider lending a hand for a few weeks at Sunshine Mountain. If you're not afraid of getting a little dirt under your fingernails, or of raising a blister or two; if you are attracted to the idea of spending the summer in a rural setting away from the clamor of traffic and the hassle of crowds; if you love the Lord and can accept the challenge of joining the new ministries of Sunshine Mountain church; maybe there's a place for you here.

"What in the world are these people thinking about?" you may be wondering. Well, there are cottages to be built; can you swing a hammer? There are fences to be strung, woods to be cleared and building sites to be laid out; are you equal to some hard labor? There is a king size garden to be tended; do you like fresh tomatoes, melons and corn? There are radio programs to be taped; can you sing or play an instrument? Can you testify to what Jesus has done for you? There are people in Mississippi who have never heard the name Seventh Day Baptist; can you hand out tracts? There are home and cattle shows and fairs; can you man a booth?

Can you feel the tug at your heart to want to be part of a group—even for a little while—who can work together, pray together and serve together the Lord they love? Maybe there's a place for you here. Give it a thought.

This is not an invitation for you to spend your vacation at our expense. We need mature, responsible young Christians, not kids looking for a lark. Here is a summer project with something different. Sunshine Mountain has some very special needs, and it will take some very special people to fill those needs. Maybe there's a place for you here. Give it a thought. For more information write to: Sunshine Mountain, P.O. Box 37, Chatawa, MS. □

FARINA PARSONAGE DESTROYED BY FIRE

FARINA, ILL.—The parsonage occupied by Pastor and Mrs. Francis Saunders in Farina was completely destroyed by fire while the Saunders were away. Most all of their personal effects were also destroyed. Assistance was given to them from the Christian Social Action Committee as well as from several S.D.B. churches across the country. They would like to thank all who have helped.

"An expression of heartfelt thanks is extended by Francis and Lila Saunders for all the love and concern which has come to us from the

churches and friends of our faith. Your gift to us through Christian Social Action (CSA) is a wonderful help to us in getting resettled into a beautiful new trailer which the Farina church has purchased for a parsonage. Most of all we are aware of the love of our Heavenly Father which has come to us through each of you. We trust that our strength may be increased for more effective work for His Kingdom in the work of the Farina church. We realized that this way of saying "thank you" is somewhat impersonal, but so many have given and so much has been received, that to write to everyone seems an impossible task. May God richly bless you all in His service and love is our prayer."—Francis and Lila Saunders.

"You are there because you care—Christian Social Action." □

NEWS NOTES

● Miss Peggy Parrott of Salem, W. Va., will serve as editor of the Conference *CRIER*. She plans a new format for the Conference newspaper. If your church would like extra copies after Conference please let Miss Parrott know how many: 103-C, West Main St., Salem, W. Va. 26426.

● The Seattle church has purchased a telemate answering machine with remote control for the church office.

HELP WANTED!

Brighten a child's day. Try your hand at writing children's stories. Good quality short stories are needed for publication in the *Sabbath Visitor* for boys and girls.

Target group: 9-11 years.
Scriptural or moral themes preferred.
Submit typed work to:

Editor
The Sabbath Visitor
Box 868
510 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, N.J. 07061

All work subject to approval.

**SENIOR CITIZENS
DINNER HELD**

MARLBORO, NJ.—On January 1 Joint Communion Sabbath with Shiloh was held at Marlboro with Rev. Charles Bond giving the sermon on "A New Chapter," 2 Tim. 1:1-12.

The annual business meeting and supper were observed. The Week of Prayer was held mostly in different homes. The West District Hymnsing with Mrs. Bert Sheppard, song leader, David Russell, pianist, and Mrs. Jerry Davis, organist, was held. Pastor Richards gave the sermon February 25 on Station WSNJ—"Window for Christian Living," and also on March 13.

The Light Bearers were in this area during the first week of March. A fellowship dinner was held for informal visiting. Pastor Richards had an afternoon service in Ambler, Pa., for Lone Sabbathkeepers of the area. The Intermediate C.E. sponsored a sub sale. The Bible Clubs meet on Thursdays at 3:30 and the Corps Groups at 7:30.

One Great Hour of Sharing was observed followed by a fellowship dinner. Afterwards a program included statements regarding "Church World Service" and a filmstrip on our SDB missions by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ayars.

Marlboro Community Night was observed with neighbors and friends attending. The movie "The Absent-Minded Professor" was well received. Refreshments were enjoyed, popcorn, lemonade and cupcakes were furnished by the James Davis family.

The Senior Citizens Dinner, March 27 at 12:30 p.m., was sponsored by the Helping Hand Class. This is an annual affair. Fifteen people who were 75 or over received a carnation; the oldest was Mrs. Luella Davis, 96. These were given by a class member, Mrs. Mary H. Green. The committee who planned the chicken pot-pie dinner was Mrs. Letha Miller, Mr. Leon Vining, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan B. Davis, and Mrs. Melvin Cobb. Mrs. Jonathan Davis supplied the decorations. Each member brought an item for "show and tell" which proved to be very interesting. □

—Mrs. Ella T. Davis

**LOOK OUT, NORTH LOUP!
HERE WE COME!!**

NORTH LOUP, NE.—The Seventh Day Baptist youth of North Loup sponsored a Freedom Gathering, held February 25-27, at the North Loup Theatre. Youth of all denominations and high school age were invited to share in the wonderful discovery of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful for a great God who cares for us and offers us a life of total freedom in Him!

The retreat began at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening with a supper sponsored by the S.D.B. women, and continued in the evening with group singing and a message from Wesley Rice, youth coordinator for this weekend. The weekend was packed with a lot of fun and good fellowship with other Christians, however, not much sleep. Sabbath noon the Methodist women fed the gathering an excellent meal for which we are very thankful. Sabbath evening, the gathering participated in a contemporary "Sheet Service," followed with Communion. Many commitments were made to give Jesus Christ 100 percent of our lives. The retreat was very successful and closed with lunch on Sunday noon after a Morning Celebration Service. Denominations represented were: Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, and Seventh Day Baptist.

Our thanks to Mr. "Button" Van Horn for not only furnishing the building for our use, but for preparing the living quarters so we could spend the weekend there. God bless you, Button!! Also we are very thankful to Ivan and Sue Soper (SDB) and Chuck Zangger (Methodist) who "roughed it" by spending the weekend with us as counselors.

We are excited about our God and the youth group that was formed. If you are as excited about our discovery as we are and would like to see us grow in number and knowledge of our Lord, we ask you to please back us up in your prayers.

"We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe the truth, for our hope is in the living God who died for all, and particularly for those who have accepted His salvation" (1 Timothy 4:9,10). □

—Prairie Post

**DENOMINATIONAL
DATELINE**

May 27-29
Editor John D. Bevis
Washington S.D.B. Church Retreat
Washington, DC

June 4
Editor John D. Bevis
S.D.B. Church
Salem, WV

June 6
Women's Board Meeting
Denver, CO

June 16-19
Dean Herbert E. Saunders
Southwestern Association
S.D.B. Church
Paint Rock, AL

June 24-26
Southeastern Association
Bell S.D.B. Church
Salemville, PA

NEWS NOTES

● The Commitment to Growth force of the Nortonville, Kans., church is planning a summer emphasis in Leavenworth, Kans. They plan to conduct Bible Clubs in several areas and do calling as well as follow-up work. Let's support them with our prayers.

● Seventh Day Baptists are now meeting each Sabbath in Albuquerque, N.M. The services are at 10:30 a.m. at 2721 Arizona N.E. For further information please contact Pastor Charles Swing (505) 298-2273.

● The North Jersey church attendance for the first quarter averaged 32 as compared to 26 for a year ago.

● Dr. James E. Wood, Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, met with Dutch Seventh Day Baptists while in Holland to attend the First World Congress on Religious Liberty in March. He writes: "I attended a lovely service; my visit coincided with an annual joint service sponsored by the Amsterdam and Haarlem S.D.B. congregations. I was delighted for this opportunity to meet with them..."

**BROOKFIELD COMMISSIONS
HOME MISSIONARIES**

BROOKFIELD, N.Y.—This past November following our worship service we conducted a special candle lighting ceremony dedicating the William Palmer family as a "Missionary Family" to the community of Blountville, Tennessee, where they have been transferred by William's job.

The service was impromptu—a service from the hearts of the beloved brothers and sisters of the First and Second Brookfield SDB Churches.

Deacon Francis W. Palmer gave the commission for the church to carry the light of Christ with them to this new field. This was stressed by the lighting of a torch from the large candle which represented Christ—the light of the world. In turn the candle given to William as head of the family was shared with the rest of the family.

Elsie Croop fittingly presented the Palmers with a small purse expressing the desire to help keep this light ever bright. Charles Tanney presented Gloria with a praying hands plaque which read: "The family which prays together—stays together."

Each of the children, Angie, David, and Richard were given plaques from their respective Sabbath School classes. The short but impressive service closed by the joining of hands in a fellowship circle and prayer of dedication by Pastor Tom Goldthwaite.

—Frances L. Palmer

—editor's note: The Palmers are settled in their new community and conduct Sabbath services each week. We praise the Lord for their dedication and zeal.

NEWS NOTES

● The Rev. Charles Graffius of Salemville, Pa., has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Los Angeles, Calif., SDB Church. We pray the Lord's blessing on Chuck and Ann as they plan their ministry in California.

● The Columbus, Ohio, church has projected several goals for 1977: 14 new members, average Sabbath attendance of 33 and increased giving to OWM. The current church membership is 17 and Sabbath attendance is 21.

● Larry Graffius, a ministerial student at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D., will serve the North Loup, Nebr., church as summer assistant to the pastor.



"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

ACCESSIONS

ALFRED STATION, NY
Rex E. Zwiebel, Pastor

By Baptism:
Jess K. Shaw

By Letter:
Kay Shaw Austin

By Testimony:
Nina Clarke

BATTLE CREEK, MI
S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor

By Baptism:
Merna D. (Mrs. Charles) Baird
Walter Squier
Merle D. Rowe
Terry Scott

By Testimony:
Mrs. Annette Johnson
John Lawhead

By Letter:
Karen Fletcher (Mrs. Kenneth H.) Davis
Frankie Lowther (Mrs. Courtland V.) Davis

BOULDER, CO
Elmo Fitz Randolph, Pastor

By Testimony:
Donna (Mrs. Scott) Ready

By Letter:
Joan Burdick
Rev. John A. Conrod
Joyce (Mrs. John) Conrod
Philip Conrod
Michael Conrod
Gary Scholl

COLUMBUS, OH
Dale D. Thorngate, Pastor

By Testimony:
Donald F. Carringer

DENVER, CO
Edgar F. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:
Alfred F. Heath, Jr.
Teresa (Mrs. William J.) Zarembo

By Testimony:
William J. Zarembo

GERMAN S.D.B. CHURCH
SALEMVILLE, PA
Kent L. Martin, Pastor

By Baptism:
Fred Koester
By Testimony:
Wendell Guyer
Patricia (Mrs. Wendell) Guyer

NORTONVILLE, KS
Paul B. Osborn, Pastor

By Letter:
Harold D. King
Kathy (Mrs. Harold) King

By Testimony:
Ruth (Mrs. Ray) Bond

By Baptism:
Shelley Bond
Tim Osborn
Steve Osborn
Kelli Wheeler
Steve Looper
Kathy Johnson
Pam McClintock

NEW AUBURN, WI
Leroy Bass, Pastor

By Baptism:
Clifford W. Bass
Vivian M. Bass
David J. Torgerson

PAINT ROCK, AL
Robert Harris, Pastor

By Testimony:
Rebecca (Mrs. Phillip R.) Butler
Jeffrey Hargett

RIVERSIDE, CA
Alton L. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:
Marcia Halterman

By Testimony:
Gabriel Bejjani
Hayat (Mrs. Gabriel) Bejjani
Mrs. Eva Rowe

By Letter:
Wade Crandall
Ann (Mrs. Wade) Crandall
Dorothea (Mrs. Roy) Shettel

SEATTLE, WA
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:
Leonard E. Davis

SHILOH, NJ
Charles H. Bond, Pastor

By Baptism:
Terri Kristine Mayhew

WESTERLY, RI
Russell W. Havens, Pastor

By Baptism:
Susan Lamphere

By Testimony:
Ruth Adams

By Letter:
Joseph B. Miller
Kathleen (Mrs. Joseph) Miller

Plan to attend General Conference, Clarksville, AR—August 7-13, 1977

OUR WORLD MISSION



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society supports:

- MISSIONS (Love gifts for all mission fields and monthly expenses for Audrey Fuller)
- MINISTERS' WIVES (Tuition Fund)
- YOUTH (S.C.S.C.)
- LONE SABBATHKEEPERS (Mailings)
- PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS (Workshops)
- COMMUNICATION (Newsletter)
- COMMITMENT TO CHURCH GROWTH (Witnessing)
-and many other projects

HELP OTHERS!

BE AN O.W.M. GIVER

Seventh Day Baptist Ministries and Outreach

DOLLARS - A measure of denominational faith and strength in Commitment to Growth

OUR WORLD MISSION Budgetary Goals

Month	Total	Church or Group	Suggested "Target"	3 mos. total
December	\$260,215	Adams Center NY	\$ 1,500	\$ 120.00
November	238,535	Albion WI	1,800	298.69
		Alfred NY	9,500	1,720.00
October	216,850	Alfred Station NY	6,000	1,060.50
		Ashaway RI	7,600	1,559.08
September	195,165	Associations and Groups	8,000	2,565.24
		Battle Creek MI	12,000	3,509.13
August	173,480	Bay Area CA	650	153.40
		Berea WV	750	150.00
July	151,795	Berlin NY	4,000	348.85
		Boulder CO	5,000	1,117.24
June	130,110	Brookfield NY	750	254.50
		Columbus OH	4,500	998.00
May	108,425	Dallas Ft. Worth TX		50.00
		Daytona Beach FL	4,200	672.54
April	86,740	Denver CO	17,000	3,166.13
		DeRuyter NY	2,300	612.20
March	65,055	Dodge Center MN	6,500	1,562.36
		Farina IL	1,200	277.65
February	43,370	Fouke AR	1,800	91.97
		Hebron PA	2,500	467.17
January	21,685	Hopkinton RI	350	130.00
		Houston TX	1,000	575.00
		Individuals	3,000	47.00
		Irvington NJ	2,500	1,800.00
		Kansas City MO	2,000	263.45
		Leonardsville NY	300	20.00
		Little Genesee NY	3,200	728.70
		Little Rock AR	1,200	91.00
		Los Angeles CA	9,300	1,245.00
		Lost Creek WV	5,000	1,130.00
		Marlboro NJ	6,500	1,290.78
		Middle Island WV	850	180.00
		Milton WI	23,000	4,083.76
		Milton Junction WI		199.00
		New Auburn WI	2,500	309.03
		New York NY	1,500	300.00
		North Jersey NJ	2,500	473.52
		North Loup NE	8,000	641.16
		Nortonville KS	4,500	991.70
		Paint Rock AL	1,700	190.05
		Phoenix AZ		200.00
		Plainfield NJ	7,500	2,089.25
		Putnam Co. FL	750	
		Richburg NY	3,250	1,663.83
		Riverside CA	13,200	3,188.00
		Rockville RI	700	50.00
		Salem WV	7,500	837.08
		Salemville PA	2,000	335.00
		Schenectady NY	600	
		Seattle WA	3,300	332.52
		Shiloh NJ	14,500	2,646.10
		Stonefort IL	1,000	70.00
		Texarkana AR	500	45.00
		Verona NY	3,500	431.00
		Walworth WI	2,200	731.00
		Washington DC	4,500	1,469.00
		Waterford CT	4,000	815.22
		Westerly RI	8,000	2,002.00
		White Cloud MI	1,800	327.63
		Total	\$255,250*	\$52,676.43

MARCH SUMMARY

1977 Budget	\$260,215.00
Receipts for three months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$47,248.64
Boards Reported	5,427.79
To be raised by December 31, 1977	\$207,538.57
Percentage of year elapsed	25%
Percentage of budget raised	20.24%
Three months: Due	\$65,053.77
Raised	52,676.43
Arrears	\$12,377.34
Gordon Sanford, OWM Treasurer	

"Let's push it over the top in 1977!"

*Note the difference between this total and the 1977 budget. Some extra giving will be necessary!

"Give, and it shall be given unto you—good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over." —Luke 6:38

HISTORY OF N.Y. CITY CHURCH

(continued from page 23)

An anniversary celebration with a dinner and concert has been planned for April 17, in the hope of raising funds for our church building project.

With this large project before us, we find it quite impossible to contribute to most of the calls which come to us for money, but as a growing Seventh Day Baptist child, we are just unable to answer all of these calls and, at the same time, keep our light burning. The church is participating in the Commitment to Growth program. We look forward to our second baptism on Sabbath, March 26, when the Light Bearers for Christ will be with us. We are asking for the help of all Seventh Day Baptists. Help us by praying for God's leadership and for the growth of our church. Help us by praying that God will make us His true witnesses in a city such as New York.

"Pray that grace might be sent down— watch and pray."

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Pray for us. □

MARRIAGES

CLAPPER-GUYER.—Barry Clapper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Clapper, Jr., and Risa Guyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guyer, were united in marriage in the Woodbury, Pa., Church of the Brethren on Sabbath afternoon, July 19, 1976. Rev. Raymond Boose, pastor of the bride, and Rev. Charles Graffius, pastor of the groom, officiated.

KOESTER-GRAFFIUS.—Frederick Koester, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Koester of Lakewood, N.J., and Cindy Ann Graffius, daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Charles Graffius, were united in marriage in the German Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Enterprise, Pa., December 18, 1976. Pastor Kent L. Martin, pastor of the bride, and Pastor Charles Graffius, the bride's father officiated.

NEHER-PAYNE.—Richard Neher of Kasson, Minn., and Madelyn Payne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Payne of Claremont, Minn., were united in marriage in Rochester, Minn., February 12.

STOCKBRIDGE-OATES.—Robert R. Stockbridge, son of George and Grace (Rich) Stockbridge, and Hazel (Arnold) Oates, daughter of Daniel and Hannah (Brown) Arnold, were united in marriage in the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church of Ashaway, R.I., on April 3, 1977, with former pastor Everett T. Harris officiating. They will reside at 5 Stephen Ave., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG.—A daughter, Megan Faith, to Daniel and Margaret (Cammie) Armstrong to Capron, Va., on March 19, 1977.

BONSER.—A son, Ryan McLain, to Robert and Maria Bonser of Dodge Center, MN., March 1, 1977.

ESCHELMAN.—A son, John Robert, to J. Linsey and Mary Eschelman, Salemville, Pa., on March 10, 1977.

ERWIN.—A son, David Matthew to Richard and Catherine (Van Dyke) Erwin, of Golden, Colorado, on March 2, 1977.

FALLON.—Denise Marie, daughter of Mark and Elaine Fallon of Pawcatuck, CT, on March 20, 1977.

GUYER.—A daughter, Lenny Paulette, to Wendell and Patricia Guyer, Salemville, Pa., on December 19, 1976.

MACLUSKIE.—A son, Kevin Ray, to John R. and Norma (Hambleton) MacLuskie, of Ladson, SC, on April 5, 1977.

WALKER.—A daughter, Margot Renae, to Alan and Elise (Payne) Walker of Ames, IA, March 27, 1977.

OBITUARIES

CLARKE.—Nina Howe Clarke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Howe and widow of Carl V. Clarke, seventy-nine years of age, died at the Wellsville Nursing Home, April 12, 1977.

She was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, joining there after having been a member of the Independence S.D.B. Church for fifty years.

She is survived by a daughter, Carolyn (Mrs. Charles Daugherty), of R.F.D. 2, Andover, New York; seven grandchildren; several nieces and a nephew.

Farewell services were conducted at the Wildman Funeral Home, Whitesville, New York, with her nephew, the Rev. P. Burdette Howe, officiating.

Interment was in the Independence Cemetery. —R.E.Z.

FURSETT.—Agnes M. Emerson, daughter of DeForest and Martha Green Emerson, was born October 14, 1892, at Utica, Wis., and died March 28, 1977, in Memorial Community Hospital, Edgerton, Wisconsin, after a brief illness.

Agnes was a graduate of Edgerton High School and Madison General Hospital School of Nursing. She was a nurse at Edgerton's earlier hospitals and also a private duty nurse for some time.

She was married to Melvin C. Fursett, March 15, 1927, at her home in Albion. They made their home on Albion Road, Route 1, Edgerton. He died Dec. 16, 1968.

Mrs. Fursett was a member of Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Home Benefit Society, Albion Civic Club, Royal Neighbors of America, Edgerton Senior Citizens and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 30.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Edna Atcherson, Madison, and Mrs. Rachel Brinkman, Port Washington; several nieces and nephews; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Jennie Hagen, Edgerton. She was preceded in death by a sister, Mrs. Hazel Wentworth, in 1927 and a brother, Lewis Emerson, in 1951.

Funeral services were held March 30, 1977, at the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church with the Reverend A. A. Appel officiating. The song service was by Mrs. Neil Geske, organist, and Mrs. Marlow Bjornstad, soloist. Burial was in the Cooksville Cemetery.

—A.A.A.

INGERSOLL.—Lille Saxton Ingersoll was born Aug. 22, 1885 in Dodge County, Minn., where she lived most of her life. She was associated with the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. She passed from this life February 27, 1977.

Surviving are her husband, Grover, five sons and three daughters and forty other descendants.

—L.W.B.

NIEBOJESKI.—Felix S., the son of Stephan and Ella Brenner Niebojeski, was born on March 21, 1917, in Jersey City, N.J., and died there on March 31, 1977.

He was married to Anne Pajank on July 30, 1938. He was employed by the Colgate-Palmolive Company for over forty-four years. A member of the Masons he was also active with the Boy Scouts of America as well as several community concerns.

He was a member for over thirty years of the People's Christian Church (Sabbatarian) in New York City. He served the church as deacon, elder and for the past two years as assistant pastor. He spent untold hours and drove thousands of miles taking people to church, visiting the widows, the bereaved, the sick and the aged. His leadership, strength and courage will be much missed.

He is survived by his wife, four children: Richard, Nancy, Daniel, and Felecia; four grandchildren, two brothers, three sisters and a host of friends.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. David C. Pearson and Editor John D. Bevis at the Wood Funeral Home in Jersey City on April 3. Interment was in Clifton, N.J.

—J.D.B.

TROUT.—Belford E., son of the late William C. and Hannah Pierpont Trout, was born in Quinton, N.J., on November 10, 1906, and died suddenly in his home in Bridgeton, N.J., on March 8, 1977.

He had been in failing health for the past six months.

Mr. Trout was married to Harriet Johnson, who survives him. He spent most of his boyhood in Greenwich, N.J., and most of his married life in Shiloh, moving to Bridgeton a few years ago. He was a carpenter most of his life, but spent his last working years with the Woodruff Oil Company. He was also captain of his fishing boat "Ami" and ran fishing parties from Fortescue and Cape May.

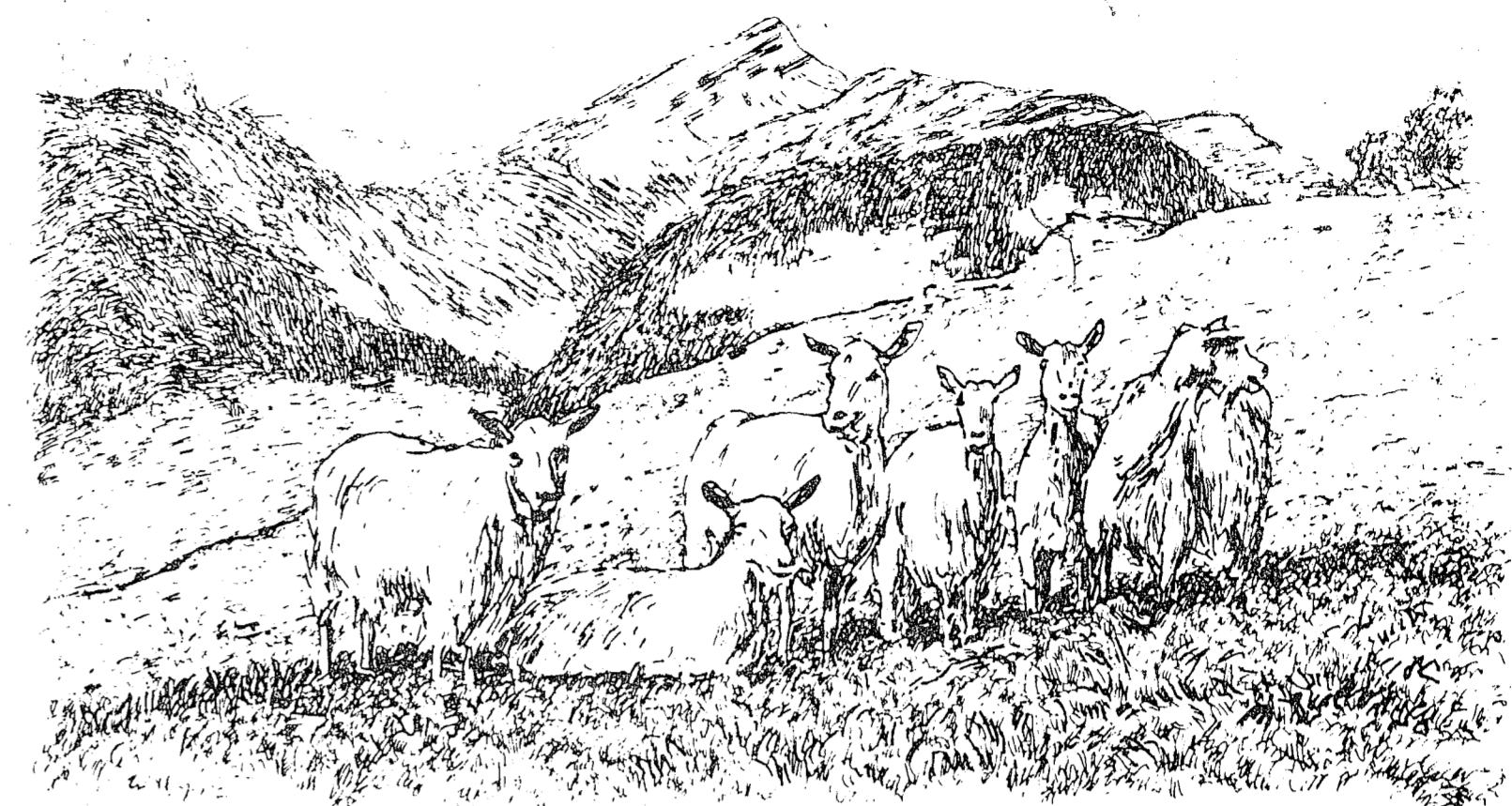
He was a member of the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church, and served the community in various ways. He was a member of the Shiloh Fire Company, and was one time its chief. He was a member of the Shiloh Board of Education, and served as its president.

Surviving in addition to his widow are: two sons, Belford E., Jr., of Millville, and William D. Trout of Hopewell; two daughters Mrs. William (Evelyn) Bowen of Bridgeton and Mrs. Scotty (Anne) Truitt of Millville; a sister, Mrs. George (Lorana) Harris of Greenwich; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Sheppard Funeral Home, Bridgeton, on Friday, March 11, with his pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Bond, officiating. Interment was in the Fernwood Memorial Park Cemetery.

—C.H.B.

Children's Page



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

It was a still, warm night, and David lay on the ground, wrapped up in his shepherd's mantle, looking up at the stars. They had never seemed so close before. He thought, "I can almost touch them. God must live up there somewhere, behind those shining lights."

He was alone with the sheep tonight, for his father and big brothers had gone into Bethlehem, the nearby town. Samuel, the great prophet, had asked them all to come into the town for he would hold a sacrifice to the Lord. David wondered what God was like. He remembered that his great-grandmother Ruth, the wife of Boaz, had talked about other lands and their gods.

She had been born in the land of Moab, where the god Chemosh was worshipped. Yet she had married a man of Israel named Chilion, and grew to love him and his mother Naomi. She felt that the God of these Hebrew people was the true God. So when her husband Chilion died, and her mother-in-law, Naomi decided to move back to Israel, Ruth wanted to go with her.

But Naomi said to Ruth, "You had better stay in your own country, marry one of the men of Moab, and be happy here."

But Ruth said to her mother-in-law, "I believe in the God of the Israelites, and I want to go with you. Your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."

So it came about that they went together to Bethlehem, and Ruth married a very great man of that country named Boaz, and they had a son Obed who became David's own grandfather. Thus it became clear in David's mind that the God of the Israelites was the true God.

David had many times prayed to his God and found his prayers answered. Once he was lost in the wilderness, but God had shown him the way home. He had prayed for places to find green pastures for the sheep,

and still waters for them to drink and God had led him to care for the sheep.

"Some day," he thought, "I'll write a story about the Good Shepherd, and sing it with my harp."

But just now there was a stirring among the sheep. Two men were approaching. His two older brothers were coming.

"David, come with us, said Eliab. Abinadab will stay by the sheep. Samuel, the great prophet, wants to see you." So David went.

As they neared the village of Bethlehem, Eliab said, "David, you need not be afraid. When I first saw Samuel, my knees trembled beneath me, but I learned that he was very kind." He asked for all seven of us brothers to pass before him. But as each one passed, he said, "No, this is not the one. Man looks upon the outward appearance, but God looks upon the heart." So he called for you to come."

Samuel was a large man with a white beard. David knelt before him, trembling. But Samuel said, "David, stand up." So David did. Then the prophet said, "This is the one that God has chosen to be king of Israel, in place of Saul. For Saul has not obeyed God, so God has sent me to find a person whom God can put in Saul's place on the throne of Israel."

Then Samuel reached under his belt and drew out a vessel shaped like a ram's horn. Holding it up, he poured some oil on David's head.

"Now David," he said, "God has chosen you to become the king of this land of Israel. You will have a long, hard struggle until this will come to pass, and you will have to wait."

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," said David. □

—Rev. Paul S. Burdick

GOD IS ALIVE!

(continued from page 5)

the Holy Spirit inside you, and then blast off and live by your own power instead of by their power? And that, really, is the problem with much of the body of Christ today. Because the answer is yes. That is what living by the flesh means. This explains why Paul told the Galatians, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." If ALL were willing-all would be filled with the Spirit. Like the African Christian asked the newly-arrived missionary... "Is your cup running over? - if not, why not?"

It's about time we started emphasizing the reality of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Let us not be concerned with WHEN it happens - instead, make sure it *does* happen!

I am sure many of you are as sick and tired as I am, of lifeless, sleepy, unmotivated, doctrinally correct, eternally secure, orthodox Christians! And friends, a lot of it is our fault. We are just not preaching the Spirit's gifts and miracles as we should. They *are* available many of you *have* been praying, "Lord, let us see again that which happened at Pentecost - do it again, Lord." Well, we had better wake up because it *is* happening - and a lot of us *know* it's happening, but we're just too chicken to admit it.

Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen the SD disease. Spiritual draught, Spiritual darkness, Spiritual decline and Spiritual death! And many of us have the SD's.

Whenever minor matters occupy the attention - whenever we become so involved in unspiritual things, then the divine power - which is *absolutely necessary* for the growth and prosperity of the church and which would bring all God's blessings is lacking, though it's offered a-plenty. It is *available!*

Now - since this is the means by which we are to receive power, WHY do we not *hunger* and *thirst* for the filling of the Spirit? Why don't we *pray* for it and *preach* concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the gifts of the Spirit to those who

serve Him than you parents are to give good gifts to your children.

What we need today is a good old-fashioned revival. You all know what one man like Billy Sunday or D. L. Moody or Billy Graham can do. Just stop and think what our church, and all our churches across the nation - thoroughly dedicated, of one accord, standing as one in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, could do! Why, we'd be out shouting in the streets and wanting to tell everyone we'd see about Jesus Christ and what He can do! We wouldn't have to hold witnessing classes - with a revived church - EVERYONE witnesses!

When is the last time our church had a revival? - 10 years ago? - 25 years - 50 years - ANYTIME? In many of the old steadfast churches today you can hear their services sprinkled with Amens - Praise the Lord - even see the flow of tears. And here we sit, all stiff and starched. We've been educated to repress our feelings - we put on a mask to hide them - we're embarrassed to get all excited - to get on fire for the Lord!

The Bible contains numerous unusual emotional responses: In Isaiah, 1 Samuel, Luke, Psalms -
Vocal praise and shouting
Lifting the hands in praise
Dancing and leaping
Groaning in prayer
Shaking or trembling
Intense weeping

I wonder how we would feel if we could walk into a worship service some Sabbath morning to worship with King David. From Psalm 150 we read:

Praise the Lord
Praise God in His sanctuary
Praise Him with trumpet sound
Praise Him with harp and lyre
Praise Him with timbrel and dancing
Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipes
Praise Him with loud and resounding cymbals.

Wouldn't that shake up the troops some Sabbath morn? Sometimes we act as if God would be offended if we showed emotion or raised our voices to express praise. The way we act (or don't react) you *would* think God is dead. But GOD IS ALIVE!

When the call is given to surrender your life to Jesus - do you ever

come? If you have done any back-sliding - and we all do, I'm sure, do you ever come? Have you ever rededicated your life to Jesus? - we all need our batteries recharged at least once a year - and that's a good way to start the year off. Resolutions aren't necessary if your life is dedicated to Christ. Those of you who have never given your life over completely - who have never been willing to give up the "good life" to walk with Jesus - do it now! Be willing to take a stand with Jesus - surrender your life completely - let God take over and we will see a revival like this ole town has never seen before!

That is the only way God can work, through Christians who are available, to a God who is ALIVE - who is REAL - who is AVAILABLE!

Lord, we have only begun to scratch the surface. Too long we have been living spiritually on the outer edges. Too long we have been lukewarm. Turn us on - set us on fire - get us all excited - fill us with Thy Holy Spirit.

Open the windows of Your heaven and pour us out Thy blessings. We gratefully thank You and praise You, Lord, for the mighty and powerful things You have planned for our lives and for what You are going to do for our church...

Thank you, Lord

Let's just praise the Lord... □

RECORDER REACTIONS

I want to thank you for your editorial in the March issue on the time of the resurrection. It was very well written and timely. I have wondered why the Seventh Day Baptist denomination has not put more emphasis on this. I feel it is the best argument we have for continuing Sabbath observance. It was so appropriate for Christ, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world," to be sacrificed at the exact time of the passover lamb, which he replaced...

-Mrs. Philip Crouse
Arthur, NE

I received the books and magazines I ordered and was especially impressed with Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs. I want to thank you for the literature and the privilege of taking your interesting Bible course (GUIDE). I am now working on lesson four...

-Stephen A. Missey
Homestead A.F.B., FL

The Sabbath Recorder

MAJORING IN MINORS

As a professor at Salem College for five years one of my responsibilities was to serve as advisor to students. Advisors seek to work with the students, helping them to adjust to college life and endeavoring to assist as they plan their classes as well as their major and minor fields of study.

I found that serving as an advisor was very rewarding and often quite frustrating. There were many students of whom I was quite proud, and of course others in whom I was disappointed. Salem had a very good plan where the advisor worked with the same student for the entire time of his/her college experience; thus over the years there often developed a close personal relationship between the student and the advisor. However, in spite of all the guidance one sought to give we often had those students who choose to major in minors.

Some students were uncertain of what they wanted to do with their lives so they would switch from major to major - often taking enough credits in a given field to eventually complete the requirements for several minors and never quite complete any major. Many of these students became "five or six year" graduates or else eventually dropped out of college altogether. They became discouraged and disillusioned because they had become so sidetracked from the real purpose of their college days by their majoring in minors.

I have observed that the same is true in religion. Perhaps one reason we have so many differing denominations today is because we as Christians have majored in minors. *The Handbook of Denominations*, compiled by Frank S. Mead, lists over 245 church organizations in the latest edition. The major points of doctrine are given and a careful reading of the book reveals just how fragmented the Christian faith has become and how often denominations have been formed because of one minor point.

The story is true how one church became involved in the study of the role of instrumental music in worship. Eventually there was a division within the church over the question of Spiritual support for singing God's praises with the aid of a piano. Some insisted that all singing must be a cappella. So the church split into two organizations both claiming to be the true church of Christ, one with instrumental music, the other without. Since those who favored the piano were in the minority they withdrew to a separate meeting place which strangely enough did not have a piano. Those who were against the piano in worship continued to meet in the church building which contained the now silent instrument. The two churches had succeeded in majoring in minors.

We have some today who make an issue of some minor point - something that certainly has no bearing on one's salvation. Like the Pharisees of old they make the most of their "minor" doctrine making it the major point of their lives and often condemning those who do not agree with them. The church should exist to preach Christ and to share the principles of living daily the Christian life. All too often we allow ourselves to become sidetracked by minor points and thus lose our real mission as Christians. We can make the Christian faith so "minor" that it loses all appeal to those outside of the faith.

EDITORIALS

There are some today who insist that we must use the "Sacred Names" for God and Jesus. They teach it is sinful to refer to the Deity in other than Hebrew terms. Many of these people have withdrawn from their various denominations to form "Yahweh" churches which have also suffered further divisions because of varying interpretations. To my mind these people, however sincere, have majored in minors.

Some time ago I received a lengthy booklet describing the evils of anesthesiology. The author has started a new movement, not to preach Christ, but rather to reveal the "truth" that anesthesiology is of the Devil and that those who partake of it, whether in the dentist's chair or on the operating table, are in danger of hellfire. No doubt this new "truth" will not cause a major upheaval in religious thought, but it is nonetheless another example of those who major in minors.

Now the two examples I have used are extreme, nevertheless they are symptomatic of what goes on in hopefully a smaller scale among many Christians. I have observed that those who are most vocal in stressing a certain "minor" point often neglect many major ones. Many who would, for example, demand that women be required to cover their heads while in the church because it is "Scriptural," do not place the same emphasis on Scriptural passages dealing with Sabbath observance, or certainly not with the Biblical teaching of tithing. Perhaps we are all guilty to some degree of majoring in minors.

The Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief is purposely very general and serves, not as a creed, but rather as a *guide* for those beliefs that the majority of us hold. We have a unique and Biblical teaching of freedom of belief and liberty of conscience. Thus we allow for differences among our fellow believers on minor points of doctrine and interpretation. This works well as long as we avoid pushing our beliefs on others or grow intolerant when others disagree with us. I feel we should stress those points on which we agree "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" -Psalm 133:1.

The Lord gave the infant church a new commandment which was to love and respect each other even as we do our Father God. Where there is true love, there is mutual respect for each other. The people of God, allowing in love for differences of belief, are symbolized by a unity of purpose which is not fragmented by majoring in minors.

Paul urged us to live "with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." He reminds us that there is "one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism..." Paul also warns against being "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way unto him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love" (Ephesians 4:2-5, 14-16). □

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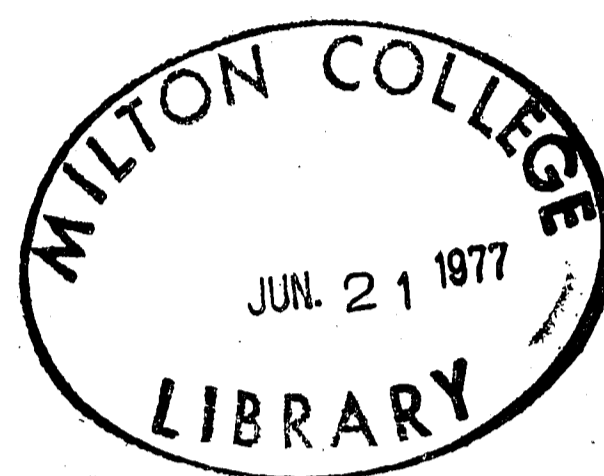
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Recorder

The Sabbath Recorder

June 1977



*Christ has filled us
with His own Spirit,
and released us to
express to men
everywhere the
adventure of living
in fellowship with
Him.*

