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126

# BEARING THE FRUIT

Janet Thorngate, 1977  
Unison  
Traditional Gaelic melody  
Arr. by David Evans, 1927

1. I am the vine loved vine and now we are the bran - ches.  
2. You have the vine and we live in that lov - ing,  
3. He is the vine and we are in the bran - ches.

You live in me, I'm liv - ing in you.  
be - ing dis - ci - ples, He's ser - ving your friends.  
liv - ing in Him, He's liv - ing in us,

God is the gard' - ner prun - ing the bran - ches  
I'll send the spir - it; fol - low His lead - ing,  
lov - ing and shar - ing, listening and car -

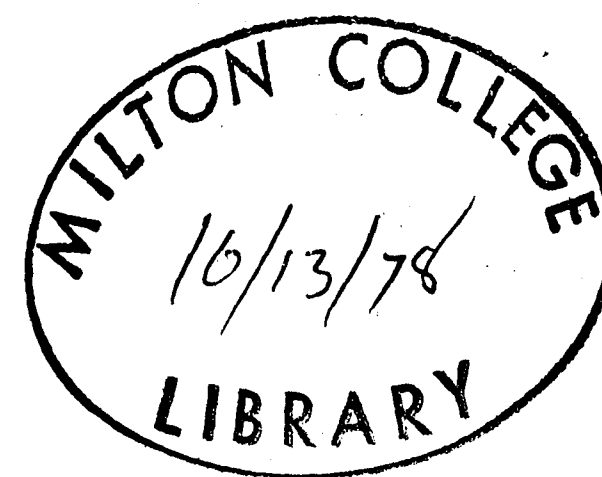
mak - ing you stron - ger, you grow - ing the fruit.  
My joy is in bey - ond; your joy is the fruit.  
learn - ing o - bey - ing; your bear - ing is the fruit.  
Amen.

Based on John 15.  
Theme song for Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, 1978

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

AUGUST 6 - 12, 1978



Put in the sickle,  
for the harvest is ripe.

Joel 3:13

THE SABBATH

# RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

OCTOBER 1978

1844  
1978



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## The Sabbath Recorder

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### JOHN D. BEVIS, EDITOR

#### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

William R. Austin, Mary G. Clare, Linda D. Harris, K. D. Hurley, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Thomas L. Merchant, Madeline F. Randolph, Rev. Herbert E. Saunders.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Miss Florence B. Bowden, Chairman; Rev. Charles H. Bond, Owen H. Probasco, Rev. Donald E. Richards.

## RECORDER REACTIONS...

Please convey my greetings to all the brothers and sisters. I look forward to reading about the Conference and World Federation sessions. I am sending a report of the British Conference; at the age of 81 I don't know how long I will be able to continue sending such reports — I hope to send a few more. May God bless you all in your work and witness for Christ and His Truth.

-Rev. James McGeachy  
Hessle, England

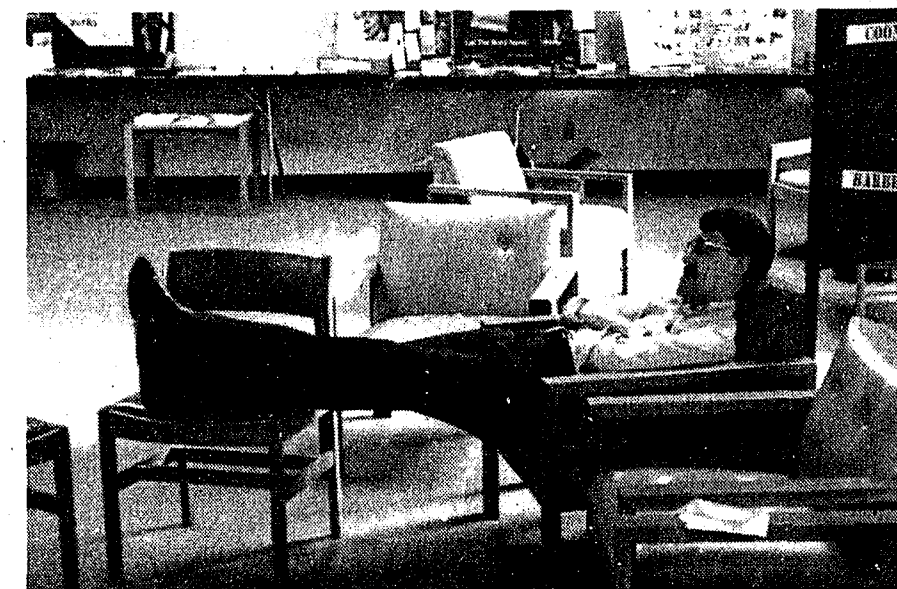
Please renew my subscription to the *Sabbath Recorder*. It has been in our family for years, in fact about 80 years ago I learned my letters from the large letters on the front page.

-Mrs. Pansy L. Talbot  
Battle Creek, MI

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY DAY  
SABBATH, OCTOBER 21, 1978  
YOUR GIFT HELPS SHARE  
THE WORD OF GOD

The Sabbath Recorder

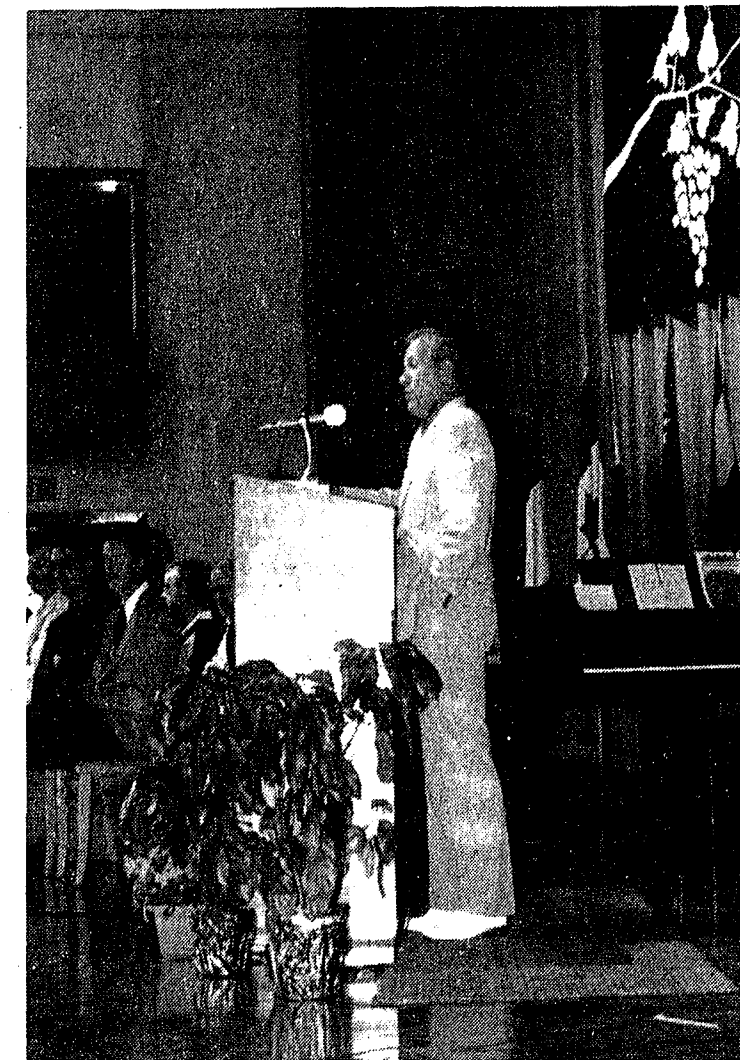
# CONFERENCE SCENES



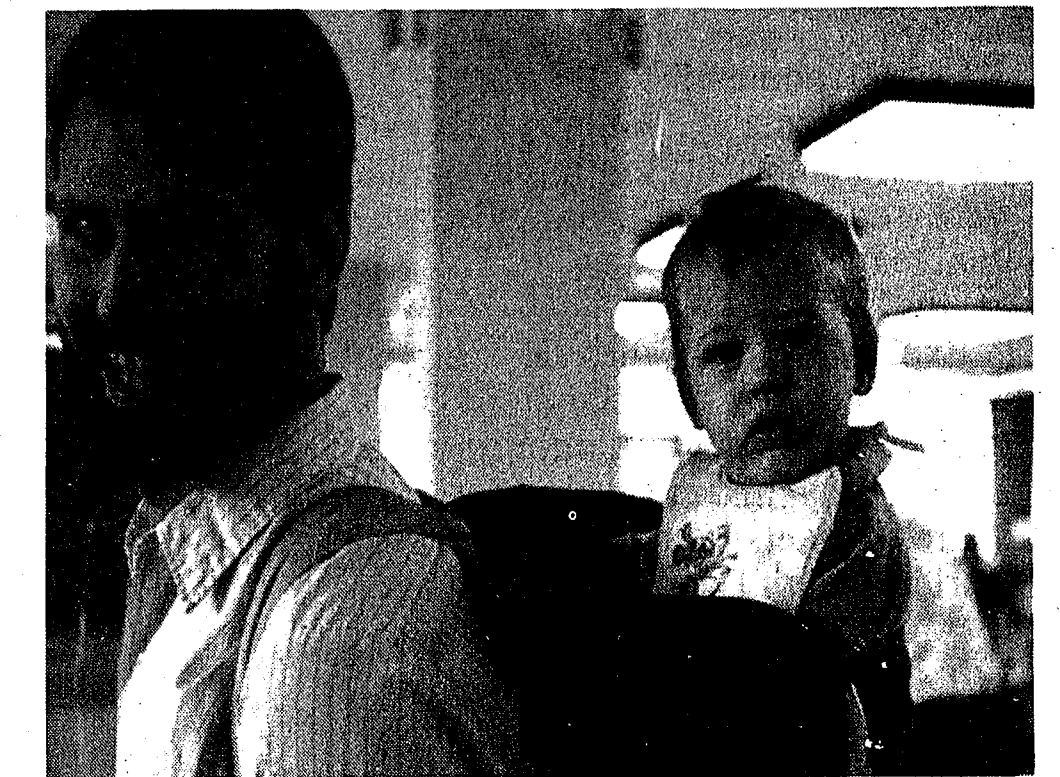
Parliamentarian Jim Skaggs "takes five" following a busy Conference session.



Dr. Arthur Borden bringing greetings from the American Bible Society to the fraternal delegates.



Evangelist Mynor Soper shares his vision of church growth.



"Yes, I am Levi Bond from Shiloh and this is my first Conference. I enjoy mealtime most and find that the sessions have a tendency to lull me to sleep."



The authentic "Brazilian sound" was shared by pastors Walter da Silva and Nivaldo Schunemann.



Conference is fellowship — the Student Union lounge was a popular gathering place following meetings and prior to meals.





*"Therefore having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord..."*  
2 Corinthians 4:1, 5

## SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST WORLD FEDERATION

'78 Sessions

*"Christ for the World"*

Alfred, New York, U.S.A.  
August 2-6, 1978

**T**hirty-four delegates and observers from Seventh Day Baptist conferences around the world gathered recently in Alfred, New York, for a meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. It was the second meeting of the world body since its founding in 1964.

Conferences in ten countries — Brazil, Great Britain, Guyana, Jamaica, Malawi, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, and the United States — were represented. Burma, Germany, and India were unable to send delegates.

Expansion of Seventh Day Baptists around the world was the keynote as discussions centered on cooperative projects in evangelism, publication and church building. Bible study and worship also were featured as the church leaders sought to establish closer ties among world Seventh Day Baptists.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS NAMED

The World Federation voted to support eight special projects. Heading the list was support for a special evangelistic thrust in Brazil and a special program to establish contact among scattered Seventh Day Baptist churches and individuals in Europe.

Other projects were church construction in Burma, Great Britain, Malawi and South Africa, and assistance towards the purchase of property for a church camp in Guyana.

### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Officers elected to serve until the next meeting of the World Federation, tentatively slated for 1983, are: David Pearson, president; Thomas Merchant, first vice-president; John Bevis, recording secretary; Leon Lawton, treasurer; and K. Duane Hurley, executive secretary, all of the United States.

Also, Jan Lek of the Netherlands; Watson Mataka, Malawi; Joseph Samuels, Jamaica; and Wilson Wolf, Brazil, vice-presidents.

### OUTGOING OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

Tribute was paid to Alton Wheeler, outgoing executive secretary; Rex Zwiebel, outgoing recording secretary; and Everett Harris, delegate and former treasurer, all of the United States, who had served since the founding of the World Federation in 1964.

### DELEGATES ATTEND U.S. CONFERENCE

While in the United States, World Federation delegates from overseas also attended the annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in America, and participated in a post-Conference institute for delegates and U.S. pastors.

A highlight of the American conference was the posting of flags from the twenty-two countries where Seventh Day Baptists have a witness.

The institute featured seminars in leadership and administration, as well as intensive Bible studies.

### DELEGATES LISTED

Delegates to the meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation were:

Walter da Silva, Ruben Nisio, Nivaldo Schunemann and Wilson Wolf, Sr., all from Brazil;

Albourne Peat and Owen Lynch, Great Britain;

Jacob Tyrrell and Inez Peters, Guyana;

Joseph Samuels and Joel Roberts, Jamaica;



Watson Mataka, and Menzo and Audrey Fuller, Malawi;

Elias Camacho, Mexico;

Jan Lek and Hans Sizmann, the Netherlands;

Edward Barrar, New Zealand;

E. O. Ferraren, the Philippines;

and, from the United States, Alton and Ethel Wheeler, Rex Zwiebel, Leon Lawton, Everett Harris and James Skaggs. David Pearson presided.

### OBSERVERS LISTED

Observers from overseas were:

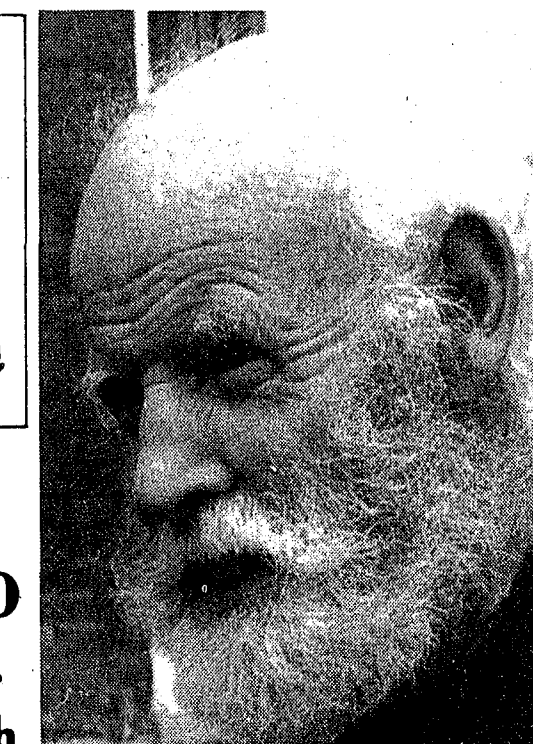
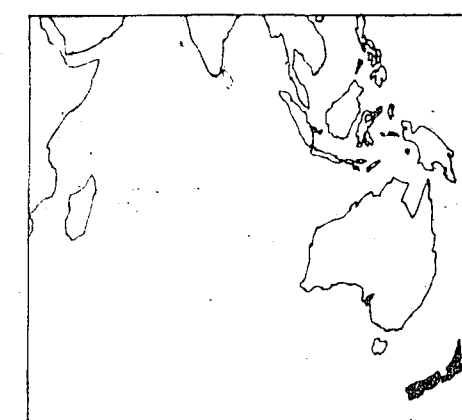
Jaire Ferreira and Wilson Wolf, Jr., from Brazil;

Ancel Marshall, Great Britain;

Joyce Samuels, Jamaica;

and Annie and Trijinte Kramer from the Netherlands. □

-Thomas L. Merchant



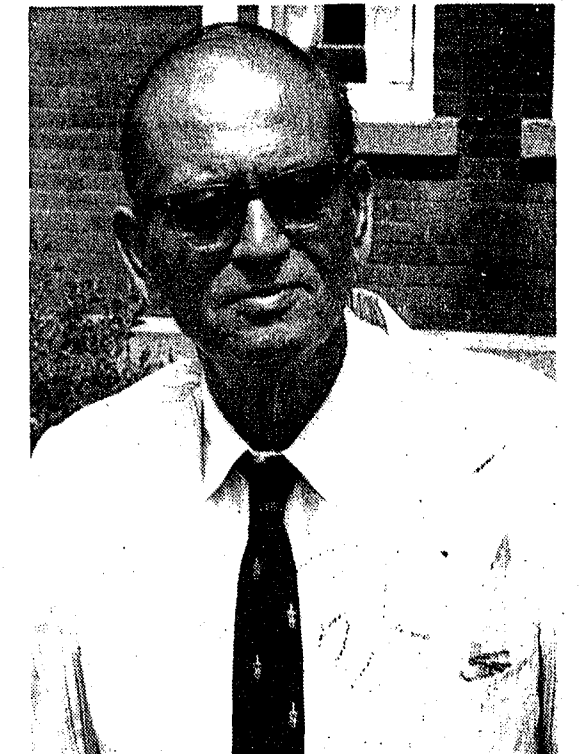
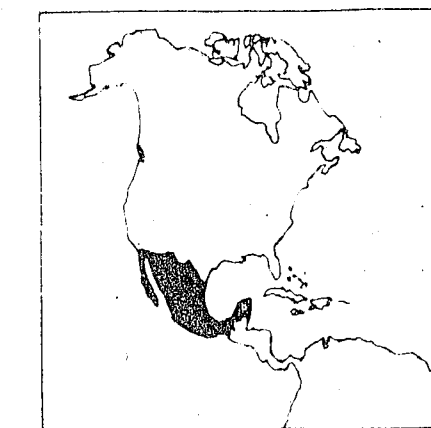
### NEW ZEALAND

Rev. Edward Barrar  
Pastor, Christchurch

## WORLD SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS MEET

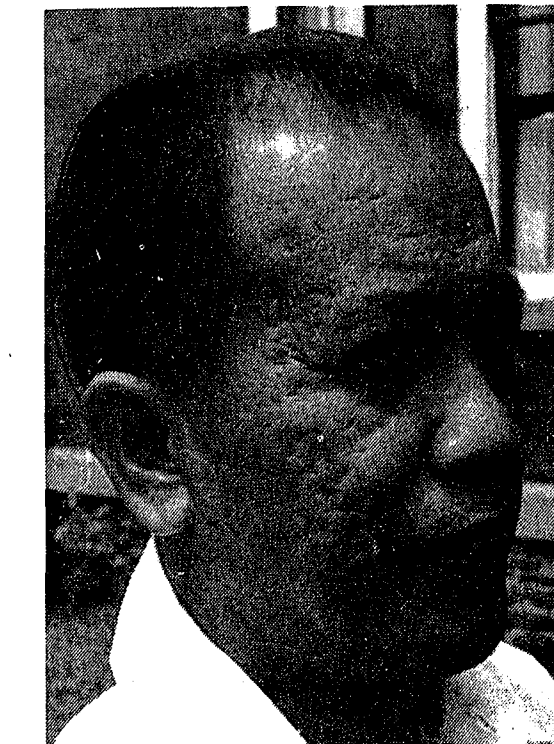
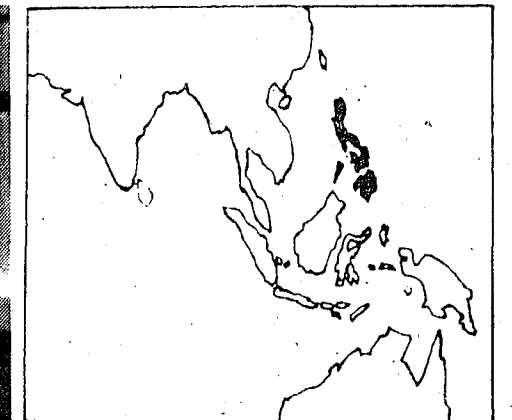


## GENERAL CONFERENCE USA



### MEXICO

Elias Camacho  
General Pastor



### PHILIPPINES

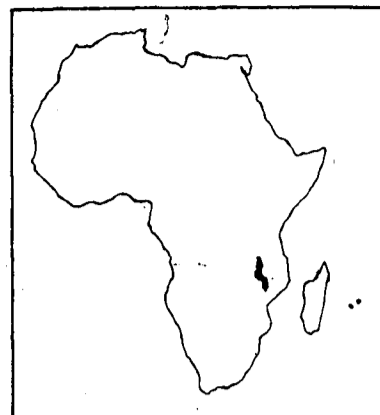
Rev. E. O. Ferraren  
Pastor, Cebu City





**MALAWI**

**Rev. Watson Mataka, Pastor  
Audrey and Menzo Fuller  
Missionaries**



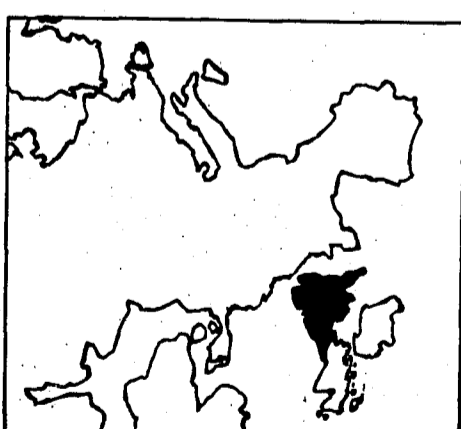
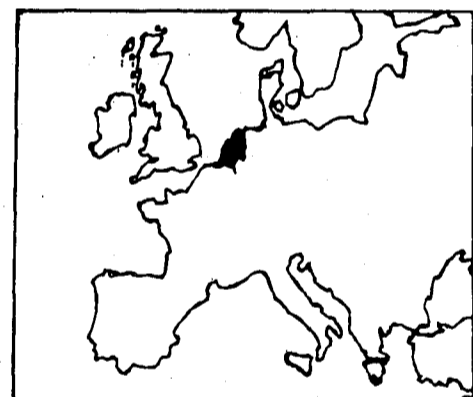
**BRAZIL**

**Jaire Ferreira  
Wilson Wolf  
Wilson Wolf Filho  
Rev. Walter Da Silva  
Dr. Ruben Nisio  
Rev. Nivaldo Schunemann**



**NETHERLANDS**

**Miss T. Kramer  
Hans Sizmann  
Miss A. Kramer  
Jan Lek**



**GREAT BRITAIN**

**Rev. A. L. Peat  
Ancel Marshall  
Owen Lynch**



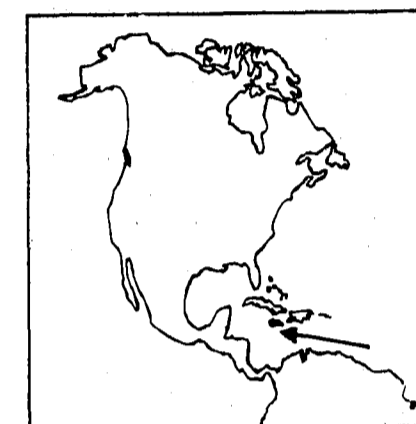
**GUYANA**

**Mrs. Inez Peters  
Jacob N. Tyrrell**



**JAMAICA**

**Rev. Joel Roberts  
Mrs. Joyce Samuels  
Rev. Joe A. Samuels**



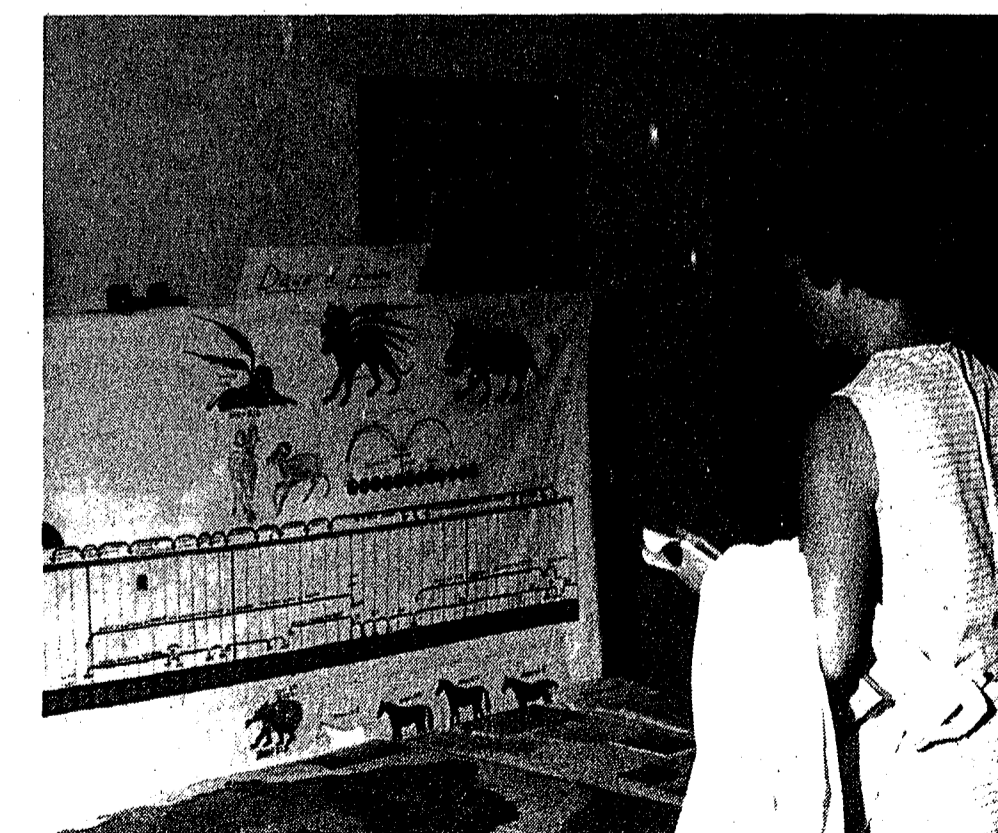
**PHILIPPINES** — This is the newest Conference in the World Federation. Seventh Day Baptists have 4 churches and 5 groups. A radio ministry is supported, in part, by Sabbath School Mission Offering funds.

**GUYANA** — This Conference has 4 churches and 6 groups. A newsletter is published entitled "Couriers for Christ." Recently 56 new members were added, there are 5 pastors and 2 in training.

**MALAWI** — The work in the Central African Conference continues to grow. Current membership is 5,406 in 27 churches and 56 branches, this Conference has work also in Mozambique. In Malawi SDB's operate 5 medical outlets and 3 schools all with nationals in charge. The Conference is working with the leadership in Kenya where a new work is being planted. Missionaries Menzo and Audrey Fuller of Nebraska returned to Malawi in September.

Rev. Joe Samuels, corresponding secretary of the Jamaica SDB Conference, points out the location of some of the churches on the map at the Conference display. There are 28 churches and 6 groups in the Conference, served by 11 pastors of whom 6 are ordained. The current membership is some 1,600.

Mrs. Beverly Kilts of the Schenectady, N.Y., church looks over the material at the display of the Conference of Brazil. Brazil reports 80 churches with 22 buildings. Eleven ministers are supported by the 3,000 members. Presently, there are 11 theology students to help meet the needs of church growth.







## CONFERENCE ECHOES

# SO SHALL YOU REAP

by Dr. Edward J. Horsley

Scripture Text: Joel 1 (selected verses)  
Psalm 126:6

It was March 1944 — I had journeyed to the magic land of Southern California to begin what seemed to me to be a magic journey into the realm of medical studies. Weeks of study in rural Loma Linda were interspersed with occasional weekend trips to Los Angeles.

About ten of those 60 miles of highway passed through thousands of acres of vineyard. They were beautifully managed, and faultlessly groomed and cared for — it was always a busy place. During harvest days when the vines were heavy with grape clusters there was great activity with people and equipment, harvesting the fruit. The winery was running night and day — such a thriving industry.

As years passed a gradual change occurred. The vineyards were not as well kept and weeds appeared. It was not as well watered. As more years passed the fields became unkempt and very little fruit was produced. An atmosphere of neglect and decay pervaded those thousands of acres. It was obvious that something had happened to the management because their vineyard was no longer producing fruit.

The soil was the same. The climate was the same. The workers hadn't changed. Something had happened at the management level. Something had changed and fruit was no longer being produced. Fruit was no longer their goal. Their interest and their goals had changed. This was evident

everywhere where they had responsibility.

It was difficult to comprehend what could have happened to produce this result — that those in responsible positions really were not interested in producing fruit. But it was obvious that it had happened. And God knows, it does happen.

It takes a great deal of planning to produce fruit — successful crops are not the result of accident. There is a formula for raising crops and producing fruit. The formula is well known and it works. There is nothing haphazard about it. Those who are in the business know the formula — or else they learn it — or else they get out of the fruit producing business. Fruit is the product of a well-known process and where there is no process, there is no fruit.

### Process Not Without Risks

That process is not without risks. I spent the summer of 1942 in Eastern Montana. This "Big Sky" country is dry land grain country with huge fields of wheat, barley and flax. The farmers are keenly aware that there are risks involved — there are factors which they cannot control. There is drought. There are pests like grasshoppers. There are plant diseases and there is hail.

I loved the great expanse of ripening grain — some fields a mile square. And I especially loved the ripening flax — a sea of blue flowers — with a shifting pattern of waves as the

breeze moved through the fields. How beautiful to watch the breeze move up an slight slope and then down through a little hollow, the plants and flowers moving symmetrically to the rhythm of the wind.

There was one particular field of flax — an even expanse of bright blue as if the sky had turned upside down. I was there one day when the dark clouds began to pile up. There were sudden angry gusts of wind and then the hail came — hail the size of golf balls. There was the terrifying sound of a torrent of great hail stones tearing through the trees, shredding the plants, breaking windows and shingles, denting cars and machinery. Within twenty minutes that entire field of flax had been pounded into the ground — a total loss.

Yes, there are risks involved in raising crops and producing fruit. There are factors which are totally beyond the control of the farmer. But when one of those risks becomes a reality, may the farmer reasonably ask, "Wasn't God ready for me to have a crop?" There are some things that God is always ready for and those things include sowing seed and bearing the fruit. Let's not kid ourselves, SDB's have not been waiting for God all these years. He has been waiting for us.

When failure occurs that doesn't keep the farmer from starting over, from the following formula again — from doing his part. And the next time he will harvest the fruit of his

labors. The risks are great but the harvest more than compensates for the risks.

There are factors which the farmer cannot control — there are times when all he can do is to hope. But while his work is done *in* hope it is not accomplished *by* hoping. There are important aspects of the process which are entirely his responsibility. His duty requires knowledge, planning, attention to proven methods and a lot of hard work.

Two aspects of grain farming are the sole responsibility of the farmer. These are the preparation of the soil and the sowing of the seed.

### Preparing The Soil

Productivity frequently is determined by one's choice of the land (Matthew 13:3-8). Not all land is suitable for grain or fruit. Some is too stoney, some is fit only for briars. Some is too dry or too wet, some is too sour.

Flying from Denver to Chicago one flies over the grain country of Eastern Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. There is an interesting patchwork of grain fields lying between areas of range land. Not all

soil will produce crops and the wise farmer chooses his land carefully to avoid wasting his seed and his work.

Having chosen carefully, he then prepares the soil. He plows and discs. He harrows and smooths. He fertilizes. From early morning until late at night you can hear the tractors and in the distance you can see the dust trails which mark the path of machines. During the hours of darkness the successful farmer may pray — he may read and study — he may hope. But during the long hours of daylight he's working — he's preparing the soil, maximizing its potential. During those long hours he is doing everything he can to get the process moving.

I spent my childhood in the hilly country of British Columbia — a community which I have found had many characteristics in common with the hill country of the Ozarks.

An important part of our work was clearing land. It was hard work when done by hand but with great joy and satisfaction we cut the trees, cut up fallen logs and removed great stumps. The new soil was different than land which had been under cultivation for years. It was soft and easy to work. It was

largely free of weeds. It was gentle soil. It was very fertile and produced great crops. This reminds me of the experience recorded in John 21:3-6.

Is it time for SDB's to try the other side of the boat? We keep looking for a harvest from worn out soil where the signs of life are very meager. We keep tilling ground that has been sterile for years. We keep looking for one more crop — not even a crop — one more bushel of wheat, one more ear of corn, one more apple. Anything — just so we have some fruit. There is soil out there that will produce 30, 60, 100 fold. It's time to select productive soil and start preparing it.

### Sowing The Seed

When the soil has been prepared it's time to sow the seed. Jesus said, "The seed is the gospel." That is very straightforward. We need to sow the gospel seed. I think again of my childhood (I seem to be getting to the age when I remember events of 50 years ago better than those of last week).

We used to plant eating corn — or sweet corn. We had a variety called Golden Bantam. It had an excellent flavor but the ears were small, frequently irregular in shape

What if we sow evenly using the best seed available, using proven methods of sowing? With God's blessings our harvest might be 30, 60 or 100 fold. God is looking for husbandmen who can lead in a program of sowing, growing and reaping.





and the yield was rather uncertain. But a new hybrid corn was developed called Golden Cross. It had the same good flavor but with larger, more regular ears and it was more productive. Is there any question about our anticipation as we awaited those ripening ears — our harvest?

Corn is corn but it's not all the same. Wheat is wheat but it's not all the same. The gospel is the gospel but it has more varieties than wheat or corn. Some of our presentations of the gospel are so vague that it is difficult to tell if they are wheat or if they are corn.

Do our presentations have a distinctive flavor that gains attention or do they come across as background music, something to go to sleep by? Is there a clarity and a uniqueness which constitutes a message that God wants people to hear?

What kind of gospel seed are we sowing? Do we know the quality of message and of our presentation? Is it possible within the context of freedom of thought and liberty of conscience to make sure that we have the best gospel seed available — seed that will produce a quality harvest?

Is it possible for us to receive from God and from His word a message which presents the gospel as we have perceived it in a way which arrests people, which grips their mind and hearts, which will turn them on and turn us on. Which will meet their needs — and our own. Is that possible?

There are many books containing the stories and the parables of the gospel and with pictures to illustrate them. In those pictures which illustrate Jesus' parable of the sower it is quite standard to have a man carrying seed in front of himself and scattering it by hand on top of the soil.

In the primitive farming of my childhood we used the same system. We scattered the seed on top of the ground — to the delight of the blackbirds, robins, pheasants, etc. And of the seed that was not eaten by the birds, or left dry, or rotted by too much moisture — some took root in a patchy uneven pattern. And eventually it came to harvest.

Even as a child I was impressed

## This is a demanding vocation — there are great risks involved — but think of the rewards!

by the methods some farmers used. The seeders that embedded the seed in the ground in an even distribution. They had predictable germination and more successful crops. Being a Christian family we prayed that God would bless our efforts and our crops and God did bless — but He seemed to bless more abundantly those farmers who used better methods.

Often the gospel seed is sown in the same primitive manner. Scatter the seed hither and yon. Scatter it among briars, on stones, among weeds. Let the wind carry it wherever it will. Just scatter the seed, that is our responsibility, scatter the seed and God will provide the harvest. Certainly He will and He does — one fold, twofold, occasionally five fold.

### More Advanced Methods Needed

What if we used more advanced methods? Having chosen and prepared the soil, what if the gospel seed were planted deep within the soil by careful, diligent work? What if it were distributed evenly over the entire area, using the best seed available? What if deliberate, precise, proven methods of sowing and fertilizing were used? Would God still give a harvest? Might that harvest be 30, 60, or 100 fold?

In many illustrations and parables in both the Old and New Testaments God is portrayed as looking for competent, reliable husbandmen to care for His vineyard. He is looking for those who can be and will be overseers of His program in this world. There is so much fruit to be produced — the harvest of the potential fruit in our own lives, the lives of our families and churches — the fruit that is available in our communities and in the world.

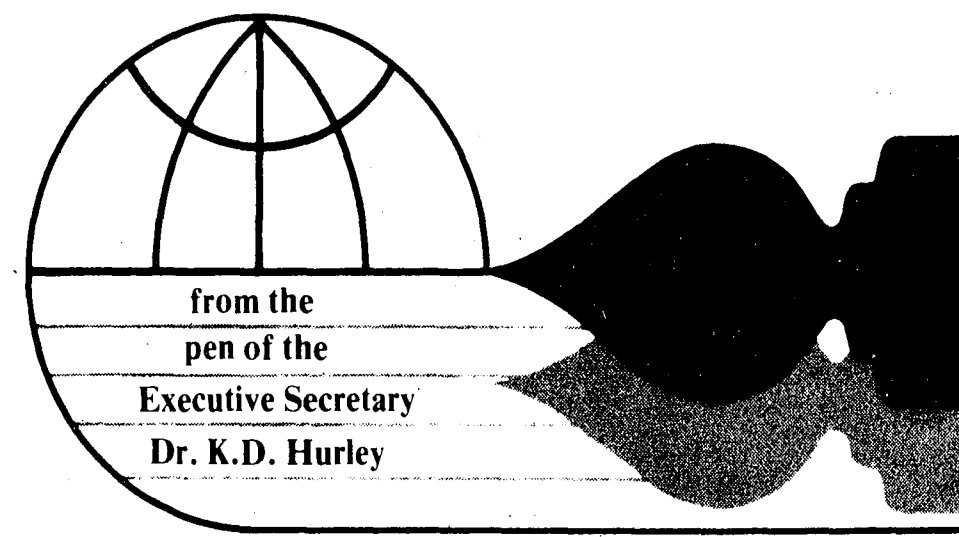
God is looking for husbandmen, for managers. He is looking for those who can assume responsibility, for those who can take charge — for those with the capacity to organize and supervise — those with the knowledge, the zeal and the experience to operate a vineyard, a farm, an orchard. He has lots of hired men and women — we have lots of workers. God and the church are looking for a corps of take-charge people — those who can be managers in a program of sowing, growing and reaping.

It is a most demanding vocation. There are great risks involved as God's calling always has. Who knew the risks any better than Christ did? But think of the rewards!

God's call is not a call just to be a husbandman — it is a call to be a successful husbandman, a successful overseer and manager. There are prerequisites involved in being a successful husbandman.

First, it requires knowledge. A farmer whose desire for a harvest is not matched and controlled by knowledge of the processes involved is doomed to years of frustrating failure — failure and frustration for himself and for his workers. Dwight L. Moody is quoted and it was late in his illustrious career for God, "If I had it all to do over again, I would pray less and study more." I doubt that we need to pray less, but I am convinced that we need a great deal more study regarding the processes, the methods and the techniques of producing crops.

Second, managers need organizational capacity. How many knowledgeable people "beat the air"? They flail about expending the energy of themselves and others without (continued on page 30)



## BEYOND A REVIEW

*"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).*

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST churches and their members have been particularly challenged, by actions taken at the General Conference at Houghton College August 6-12, 1978, to think in terms of **outreach** and **growth**.

It was strongly urged that there be explored "new, imaginative, and creative avenues which will lift and challenge both individuals and churches to greater commitment...to go beyond a review of the past."

Forward-looking suggestions included (1) establishment of Project V — an intensified promotional campaign to make the work and services of the denomination more **visible**; (2) continuation of Commitment to Growth so Seventh Day Baptist ministers and lay people alike can become increasingly effective in carrying out the Great Commission; (3) encouragement of "evangelism by youth to their peers"; (4) revision of the retirement plan in order to make it actuarially sound and more commensurate with present-day needs; (5) a feasibility study for establishing a retirement or nursing home for Seventh Day Baptists, reflecting "a deep concern for ministry to the aged"; (6) fuller

utilization of the "vast amount of quality material available for use by our churches" from the various Conference-related agencies; (7) continued review of Seventh Day Baptist distinctives, leading to even more creative Sabbath observance; (8) visitation of lone Sabbathkeepers in this country and Seventh Day Baptists in other lands as a part of individual travel schedules; (9) learning "the blessings deferred giving provides for additional giving opportunities that benefit the entire work of the General Conference and related agencies"; and (10) dedicated and sacrificial stewardship so that "reserve funds can be maintained for emergencies" and so that the **ministries** and **mission** of Seventh Day Baptists can be carried on in full and effective fashion — for Christ and His Cause!

The potential for effectiveness was enhanced by starting the procedure for all executives to be located at headquarters as a "Coordinating Leadership Team" and the establishment of a General Council, the official representational mechanism through which all segments of the denomination (between General Conference sessions) can plan and expedite the work of the church in a fully coordinated way.

The delegates to General Conference are to be highly commended for reaching unified conclusions in spite of strong differences of opinion. Out of prayerful consideration of issues and the conscientious seeking of God's will have come a most encouraging unanimity of spirit — a oneness of desire to move forward **together** in advancing Christ's Kingdom. □

### DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

**OCTOBER 21**  
American Bible Society Sabbath

**OCTOBER 22**  
Missionary Society Board  
Westerly, R.I.

**OCTOBER 25-30**  
General Council Meetings  
Plainfield, N.J.

**NOVEMBER 18**  
Thanksgiving Offering  
United Relief Fund

### ACCESSIONS

ALFRED STATION, N.Y.  
Rex E. Zwiebel, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Peggy Sutton  
Steven Sutton  
Tim Ellis  
Curtis Snyder

BATTLE CREEK, MI  
S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Shelly (Michele) Lingg  
Jeffery Thorngate

By Letter:  
Mrs. Carl (Nina Barnes) Sisler

DODGE CENTER, MN  
L. Wayne Babcock, Pastor

By Letter:  
Holly (Mrs. Phillip) Osborn  
Phillip Osborn

SALEMVILLE, PA  
Melvin F. Stephan, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Leslie Rae (Mrs. Raymond) Fletcher

By Letter:  
Sharon (Mrs. Brian) Kagarise

WASHINGTON, DC  
Leland E. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:  
Shelia Simon  
Rickford Andries



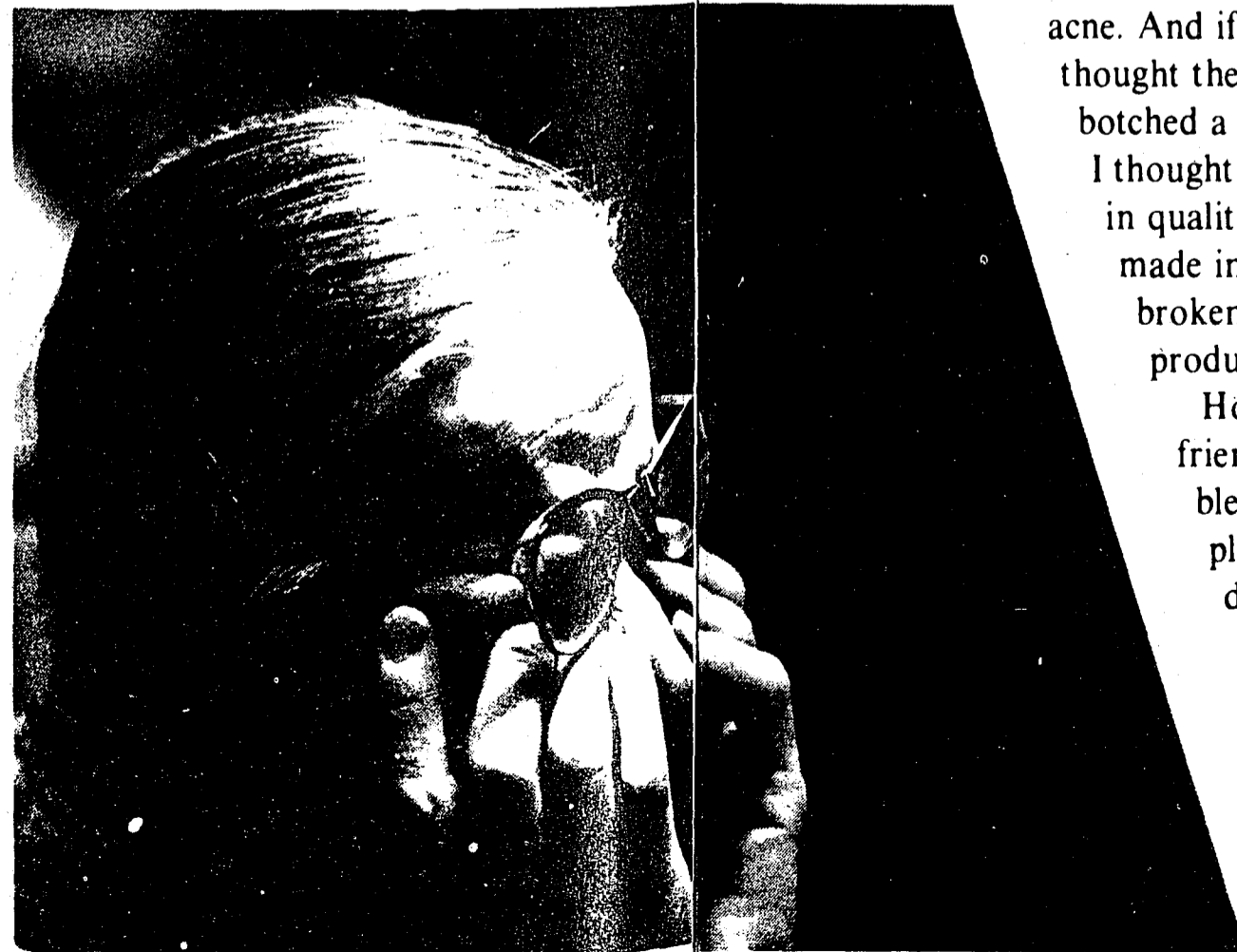


# Love your body

by Ken Gible

What do you suppose Adam (the very first Adam) thought when he got his first good look at himself? There weren't any mirrors back then, of course, so no doubt it wasn't until he saw his reflection in a clear lake that Adam had any idea what his whole body looked like. And Adam, being the very definition of what was human, probably responded to that first glimpse of himself in much the following manner:

"So, there I am.  
I'm not a bad looking sort, really. Good set of choppers. Nothing nearly as good as the teeth on that tiger though. Pleasant enough looking face. Of course, I'm hardly what you'd call a beauty. Sure is a lot of skin showing too. Golly, I've got less hair than any of the creatures. It would have been nice to



"God has given you your body to serve you and to be you during your lifetime on this earth. And I believe — though, like Paul, I can't begin to prove it — that when our lives here are ended, that God will have another kind of body waiting for us."

have a warm woolly coat like the sheep or to be dressed in the beautiful red feathers of the cardinal.

And as for strength, well, I can lift rocks and carry them, but I sure don't have the muscle power of the elephant or the pulling strength of the horse.

And this body of mine is so slow. Almost any creature can outrun me; in a race with the cheetah I feel like I'm standing still.

Lord, are you sure this is what you had in mind for my body? Any chance of trading it in on a new model?"

Now that imaginary soliloquy of Adam's may have seemed silly to you. And you're right, of course. It was silly. Just as silly as some of the thoughts you and I have had about our own bodies.

The adolescent years are an especially trying time for us humans, because it's then we become acutely aware of our bodies. We feel and see physical changes taking place, and what we observe can cause some pretty intense anxiety.

During my late adolescence I was unfortunate enough to suffer from virulent attacks of acne. And if ever in my life I thought the Lord had botched a job, it was when I thought about the slip-up in quality control he had made in letting my broken-out face off the production line.

How I envied my friends, they of the blemish-free complexions. How I dreaded the job of trying to shave off my newly-sprouting

whiskers, whiskers strategically placed, by some malevolent power, among the unwelcome eruptions on my face. Trying to use a razor blade in such circumstances was to flirt with unintentional suicide from loss of blood. And whereas my non-pimpled friends considered their wallets to be the most valuable possession worn on their persons, I thought differently. If, in a crowd, I suspected pickpockets lurking about, my hand instinctively darted to that tube of Clearasil in my pocket, which was both constant companion and balm in Gilead.

I suppose all of us have had times when we doubted the Almighty's judgment in designing our bodies. There's probably not a person in the world who is perfectly content with their body. While men wish for broader shoulders or better arches on their feet, women long for longer lashes, tresses that are darker (or lighter), more of themselves at some places and less of themselves at other places. And this state of affairs continues throughout life; if anything, it gets worse the older we get. Our hair changes color or it departs altogether. We begin to experience aches, pains, and diseases which remind us that our bodies are running down, getting old, wearing out.

And even in our advancing years there are people to envy. We wish we could be in the same good condition as that of our neighbor who's exactly our age, but whose body seems 10 years younger than our own. We see a picture in the paper of a 90-year-old who goes for a swim every morning and jogs a mile each afternoon. And we think to ourselves: "Why is it that I've never been truly happy with my body?"

That question has troubled human beings at every time in history. One way of dealing with it has been to devalue the

body, to regard it as unimportant, or at best, a nuisance. Of importance in church history was a philosophy quite widespread in the first centuries of the Christian era. This philosophy was known as Gnosticism, and it held that only the realm of the intellect and the spirit were important. The merely physical was to be despised. Christians who were attracted to Gnostic philosophy began to teach that Christ had not really been human; he only looked human. They believed the human body was too corrupt for God ever to appear in such form.

But the New Testament writers repudiated the Gnostic view. So in John's Gospel we read: "The Word became *flesh* and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). And Paul the Apostle did not accept the Greek view that at death, the soul is freed at last from the body which is its prison house. Paul believed that when we leave our physical bodies behind we are given a "spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:44). Exactly what this "spiritual body" was like, Paul did not say. But like the other biblical writers, Paul subscribed to the Hebrew understanding that the human body was an important part of God's creation, that like everything else in creation, God saw that it was "good." Genesis says, "God created man in his own image" (Gen. 1:27). And the phrase, "in his own image," refers to the *totality* of "man." In Hebrew thought, the body means the self, the personality, the whole person.

Therefore we discover that the Bible, far from regarding the body as corrupt or despicable or insignificant, actually teaches that the body is to be honored as an indispensable element of a good creation. Martin Luther was reflecting this view of the human body when he said, "The fact that Adam and Eve walked about naked was their greatest adornment before God



and all creatures."

Coming across that quotation from Luther, I was reminded of the humorous scene in the movie *Oh, God!* where the Lord comes into the bedroom of Jerry, the man God has chosen as his messenger. Jerry is taking a shower at the time, and he is embarrassed at the thought of stepping out of the shower without any clothes on. Sensing his embarrassment, God says to Jerry, "What's the matter? You think I don't know what you've got?" Although that's a somewhat mundane way of saying it, that line from the movie is in perfect keeping with the biblical understanding of the human body. God shaped us, and felt good about it when he finished.

Thus we do well to take a fresh look at the feelings we have about our own bodies. True, neither your body or mine is perfect, exactly as we might wish it could be. But, on the other hand, our bodies are not merely nuisances which get in the way of the really worthwhile things of life. Like so much of what we have, our bodies are gifts—gifts from God. And so the real question for us ought not be, "Why isn't my body stronger or more beautiful than it is?" but rather, "What will I do with this gift I have from God?"

As with all gifts, we can either neglect and abuse the gift of our body or we can offer it in service to our Lord.

Let's consider the first option. The abuse of the human body is nothing new but it seems to have reached new extremes in our day.

In some sense, we can speak of a "new-agnosticism" today. Recall that gnosticism was a philosophy which downgraded the physical in favor of the spiritual. One evidence of this old idea in modern form came with the growth of the drug sub-culture of the 1960s. Learned professors and their disciples began advocating the use of drugs in the quest for spiritual enlightenment. The effect these drugs might have on the body was considered inconsequential in relation to the spiritual truth to be gained. For the most part, that kind of "trip-taking" has been discredited, but one result of the whole movement was an aura of respectability given to drug-taking. It came out of the back alleys, onto the college campus, and into the suburban living room.

In reality, it was nothing more than a

sophisticated version for the same tired old reasons people have always given to justify their usage of every kind of drug—alcohol, nicotine, "nerve pills," caffeine. "It helps me relax." "It makes me feel more at ease in a social setting." "It helps me get more work done." We've heard them time and again; we've used them ourselves; and we conveniently ignore the statistics which tell us that every drug, to a greater or lesser degree, produces harmful effects on the human body.

Another way in which we often abuse the gift which is our body is in the matter of diet. And here it's not so much a matter of deliberately choosing to consume what we know to be harmful as it is habits formed out of ignorance. Our living patterns have changed in the last few decades: More and more we eat so-called "convenience" foods, the pre-mixed, pre-cooked, instant foods adapted to suit our busy schedules. Convenience is one thing; good nutrition is something else. Most of us aren't eating very well. Our diets are high in sugars and fats and preservatives. Without knowing it perhaps, we are mistreating our bodies and those of our children.

But enough emphasis on the negative. For there is another choice we have. Instead of mistreating the body, we can offer it to God "as a living sacrifice," to use a biblical phrase.

It's obvious that the work we can accomplish, whether its purpose be that of providing for our own or our family's needs or of doing acts of good will and helpfulness to our neighbors and loved ones, is dependent to a large degree on our bodily strength. So good health is not just something that's nice to have for its own sake. It is requisite for the fulfilling of our calling as Christians.

Paul, writing in 1 Corinthians, went a step further. He asserted that our bodies were temples in which God's spirit could dwell. As Christians, we are free to do anything we choose, said Paul. But not all things we choose are helpful; some of our choices can enslave us. Your bodies are limbs and organs of Christ himself, said the Apostle (1 Cor. 6:12-20).

So what we use our bodies for should honor Christ. We can not separate physical acts from the rest of our activity. What we do with our bodies will have psychological

and spiritual consequences. And the opposite is true as well. Our mental and emotional state affects our physical well-being.

We know this to be true in our own experience. But usually we never go beyond an intellectual acknowledgment of this truth.

I would like to commend a more ambitious step. I want to encourage you to start *loving* your body. That may sound strange to you. It may even strike you as repugnant. If that is so, then it's because we've been brought up to admire only the bodies of the beautiful people: the lithe, tanned limbs of the young Adonises and Venuses on the tv and movie screens.

But I'm not talking about envious admiration of some ideal. I'm talking about learning to love your own body—flat feet, myopic eyes, warts, wrinkles, and all!

Love it for the miracle it is—a flesh and blood machine of incredible resilience and adaptability, an organism so complex that medical doctors are baffled by it far more often than they're willing to admit.

Love it because you've been through an awful lot with it in your lifetime.

Love it because it has enabled you to learn and love and experience life.

Love it and forgive it for the times it has kept you in bed with a wretched cold or the flu.

Love it because it's held up remarkably well considering how you've treated it.

And love it because it is God's gift to you, and it is the place where his Spirit may dwell if you will allow it; and from that dwelling place, the Spirit may smile with your eyes, may speak lovingly with your voice, may offer the hand of friendship and love.

How will you love your body? By caring for it, by treating it with respect, by not placing unreasonable demands on it. God will bless your care, for he has given you this body to serve you and to *be* you during your lifetime on this earth. And I believe—though, like Paul, I can't begin to prove it—that when our lives here are ended, that God will have another kind of body waiting for us.

And though I've learned to be reasonably happy with the body I have now, I have a feeling that my next body is going to be something fantastic.

So will yours! □

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The Sabbath Recorder

by Pastor Robert W. Babcock

## WHY SHOULD I

JOIN THE CHURCH?



Some Christians feel that joining a church is unnecessary. They reason: "I am saved, so why bother about a human organization which is subject to frailty?" Others go to the opposite extreme and regard church membership as so essential that it almost seems to be a condition of salvation.

The informed believer adopts neither view. He understands fully that the church, composed of people who may err or sin, cannot save a soul. Yet, under normal conditions he deems it wise to join the church. In doing so, he is aware of the danger involved. Nothing seems to please the devil more than to cause people to turn their gaze from Christ and to focus it upon a man or a cause or an organization. When one joins the church, his basic loyalty must remain uniquely and forever centered in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Why do most Christians join the church? It is normal and right that Christians unite in assemblies. The underlying principle of churches is Biblical and valid. We are specifically entreated by Paul in his letter to the Hebrews that we neglect not our assembling together for the purpose of exhorting one another and provoking one another unto love and good works.

We are told repeatedly in the Scriptures that we are to receive Christ into our hearts and confess Him before men. Matthew 10:32 says, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Joining the church is one way of confessing Christ publicly before men.

A man may be a native-born citizen of his country. When war is declared he dons the uniform of his nation and joins the ranks, proudly and publicly proclaiming his allegiance to the land of his birth. The child of God has been born into the Kingdom of God, but a desperate conflict rages between the forces of the Lord and the armies of darkness. Faithful to the captain of his salvation, the child of God joins the visible ranks of the army of God by publicly putting on the uniform of church membership.

Further, one joins the church because of all institutions on earth, the Christian assembly presents the noblest opportunity for corporate worship and united witness around the world. The communion of the saints is no idle watchword. It is a source of mutual encouragement in the things of God, and a channel for ever-widening testimony to the ends of the earth. The cumulative spiritual force of a group of believers normally makes a stronger impact than the efforts of a single child of God. □



There may be some question as to whether or not Seventh Day Baptists are

# AN OBEDIENT PEOPLE?

by Rev. Francis D. Saunders

This writer had been deeply impressed with the amount of emphasis placed on obedience during the 1978 General Conference study and worship hours. He has heard strong voices at the opposite ends of the debate on denominational reorganization; one saying, "God has not yet said 'go!'" and the other contending, "Too long have we hesitated, let's get on with it!" The voices calling for obedience, however, have been vibrant and alive, and perhaps the reason God's directive has not been sooner, clear and unmistakable, is that we have not learned the lesson of consistent, day by day, moment by moment obedience to the revealed will of God.

"If you love me, keep my commandments," is a direct mandate from Jesus Christ to those who profess to adore Him.

Who are Seventh Day Baptists? A loving people! A people redeemed by unfailing grace! A people witnessing to the power of faith! A praising people! A joyous people! A chosen people! A peculiar people! *A loving people??? An obedient people???*

Let's take another look at the commandments which Jesus affirms to be the test of our true love. There are two which He proclaims to be greatest of all: First, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, with all thy heart, with all thy mind, with all thy strength!" And second, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself!" Consider then, love in its relationship to obedience.

**I. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT OF ALL:** "Love God completely." In the moral law, note

how the first four commandments reflect this love toward God!

**The First Commandment:** "Thou shalt have no other gods before me!"

No other gods? No other preference? Not one thing? How about personal possessions? How about riches, popularity? What about family, friends, social status? How about security, a bank account, permanent funds? Not anything before God? May each explore the depth of his own soul and respond! *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Second Commandment:** "Thou shalt not make any graven images, nor bow down to them!"

How much time do we spend in worshipping the God of heaven? As much time as we spend with that new car, or boat, or house? As much as in fishing, or hunting, or golfing, or working, or whatever? Let each soul explore the distribution of his time and respond accordingly. *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Third Commandment:** "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain!"

How careful are we of the words that slip from our tongues? To what extent are expressed thoughts Spirit controlled? How eloquently do the activities of our lives match the strong testimony of our lips? To what extent do the expletives of our lips shed reproach on the one whose name we bear? Let each listen to the tenor of his language and determine. *A loving people??? An obedient*

*people???* "If you love me, keep my commandments!"

**The Fourth Commandment:** "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy!"

This commandment includes a directive to committed hours of labor and completed tasks. A denominational distinctive! A holy blessing! A professed tenet of faith! Are they merely sacred words flowing from tongues activated by hard deduction and cold knowledge? An hour of worship? A few moments of Bible study? A word of prayer? How holy is our Sabbath time? Listen to the voice of God, spoken by His servant, recorded in His word, and let obedience be the measure of your love: "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 58:13, 14). Spiritually delightful time? Holy time? A time for seeking after selfish things? A time for doing one's own thing? Take a spiritual inventory of your Sabbath hours! *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**II. THE SECOND GREATEST COMMANDMENT:** "Love your neighbor as yourself!"

See how the remaining six relate in love to one's fellowmen.

**The Fifth Commandment:** "Honor thy father and mother" (with attending promises).

We see parents provoking children to wrath! We are aware of children rebelling against all restraint and direction! It may be that the chief reason for the chaotic moral climate in our society, is the breakdown of the traditional, Biblical family unit with its honoring of parental wisdom and control. Look at you own family and determine! *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Sixth Commandment:** "Thou shalt not kill!"

Jesus interpreted in these words: "He that is angry with his brother without cause has committed murder in his heart!" How deeply the Savior penetrates into the depths of our desires! Petty grievances! Jealousies! How easily we succumb to the temptation to react violently to every real or imagined attack upon our personal philosophy of life or way of behavior! We become angry, vindictive, mean! Search your own temperament and give answer. *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Seventh Commandment:** "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Here again the Savior interprets with a spiritual note: "He who looks with lust has committed adultery already in his heart." Actions are the outward response to the inward condition of the heart. How desperately we need the inward cleansing and power of the Spirit of God. The administrative potential of the Church's program is not as important as the spiritual purity of God's people. So, in order to go forward for God, we need to be cleansed by His power. How about the purity of your heart? *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Eighth Commandment:** "Thou shalt not steal!"

Lack of financial integrity is one of the world's prevailing sins! No, we don't deliberately go out and steal something belonging to another. But actually, how honest are we in

our daily monetary dealings in business and personal affairs? How about unearned profits? How about income reporting? How about taking advantage of others in business transactions? How about "little white lies" for personal gain? See if your daily business is above reproach. *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Ninth Commandment:** "Thou shalt not bear false witness!"

James speaks of the tongue in these words: "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." We know this is true, and each of us who will carefully consider his own language will confess. Gossip! Half-truths! Twisted meanings! *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

**The Tenth Commandment:** "Thou shalt not covet!"

Selfishness seems to be the order of the day; and mankind seeks first those things which will supposedly enrich his temporal living. He is discontent with the way things are. He seeks for higher wages and greater benefits, primarily for the betterment of his own self, regardless of the welfare of others. This is the day by day testimonial of labor-management controversies, and the trap into which we all so easily fall. Coveting the things belonging to others is the sign of our discontent. How about you? *A loving people??? An obedient people???* "If you love me, keep my commandment!"

Astounding things happened on the day of the first declaration of God's moral law! "And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off" (Exodus 20:18). Today we stand in the frightening atmosphere of the righteous demands of Almighty God; and we have added to that righteous awe the even more demanding love and Presence of His Holy Son, Jesus, and the indwelling Spirit. And the Holy Spirit can be no less than the

Spirit of love, for "God is love!"

Seventh Day Baptists stand at the summit of the mountain of denominational growth and accompanying reorganization. It is imperative that our attention be focused on the righteous demands of the law of God; that we listen not only attentively, but also responsively to the Savior's plea: "If you love me, keep my commandments!" and it is most probable that our spiritual commitment and growth will be in direct proportion to our response to His plea. □



## LIVING BRANCHES

Claston E. Bond  
Dodge Center, MN

*I sat in thought one Sabbath  
Neath an oak tree huge and green,  
I looked up in its branches —  
The prettiest sight I've seen.*

*The winds so strong had tried  
This giant oak to fall,  
But it had felt the windstorms  
And stood against them all.*

*Just then I saw another branch  
So bare, — yes it was dead,  
The wind so soon would break it,  
By sap no longer fed.*

*Am I a branch that's growing  
The life of Christ to tell?  
Or will some neighbor lonely  
Spend eternity in hell?*

*So may I stand more firmly,  
Put His hand again in mine;  
For heaven is the watchword —  
If your life is in the Vine.*

JESUS SAID —

*"I am the vine, you are the branches."*



# P PRAISE BATTLE CREEK, MI

*Doneta Richards  
Rachel Drake*



"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4).

# O OMEGA DERUYTER, N.Y. VERONA, N.Y.

*Joanne Burdick  
Annmarie Johnson  
Lori Mares  
Andy Stillman*

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18 RSV).

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life" (Rev. 21:6).



# W WIND NEW AUBURN, WI

*Laurie Horton  
Christina Boyd*



"The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes, or whither it goes: so is it with every one who is born of the spirit" (John 3:8).

# E EFFERVESCENCE PAINT ROCK, AL

*Doreen Sanford  
Lesa Williams*

"Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord. Tho your sins are scarlet, they may become white as snow. Tho they are dyed crimson, they may yet be like wool. Obey with a will, and you shall eat the best that earth yields; but if you refuse and rebel, locust beans shall be your only food." (Isaiah 1:18, 19 NEB).



# R REAPERS SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN, MS

*Mark Jacob  
John Lima  
David Thorngate*

"For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other" (Gal. 5:13 LB).



The Lord truly does have plans for each of our lives. He revealed this to each of the SCSC workers this summer. Often we rebel against God's plan for our lives because we don't feel we can trust Him with every area of our lives. Yet, whenever we are willing to trust Him, He does have a plan for us that is good.

Our SCSC workers did a variety of things this summer as they served the congregations and communities in Battle Creek, MI; De Ruyter and Verona, NY; New Auburn, WI; Paint Rock, AL; and Sunshine Mountain in Chatawa, MS. They helped construct a new building to provide a home for retarded children. They worked as counselors and teachers in camps, they ministered

to men in a correctional facility, they picked corn and weeded gardens. They planned and taught Vacation Bible Schools and daily Bible Clubs, they started and organized new youth groups. They also cleaned churches, typed, nursed the sick, loved little children, and sang for the elderly. They met people right where they were, which was Jesus' way of showing God's love.

SCSC means doing whatever you are called upon to do. It often means doing things you just don't want to do. Yet, hopefully, you begin to learn that there are needs to be met, people who have not experienced God in the everyday things of life, and there are more of them than most of us can imagine, people who haven't met God at all.

Many of the workers experienced radical life-style changes, along with great cultural differences and climate changes. Many had to learn new approaches, or more patience; some had to learn to accept more responsibility than they ever had before, to be more self-disciplined and plan their time more wisely than they had ever been called upon to do before. Others had to learn how *not* to assume responsibility, but simply do what was planned for them, and often that is as great a change as assuming responsibility. For the boys who served at Sunshine Mountain it not only meant working long, hard hours in the hot sun, and learning a great many new skills, but being more isolated from people and activities than they had ever experienced before.

At our training sessions we studied about the Holy Spirit as our helper and His willingness to aid us in meeting our needs. This became a reality to each SCSCer as he or she was called upon to do things they didn't know how to do or perhaps didn't even want to do. The Helper is so available to any Christian who is willing to allow Him to work in his or her life. We also studied many of God's promises and we found them to be absolutely true. "Lo, I am with you always," and "I will never leave you or forsake you." "Come unto me all ye who are weary, and I will give you rest." "My God will supply all your needs," and more of these precious promises.

(continued on page 34)

by Gerry Van Dyke  
"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11).  
SCSC  
-1978-



## PINE STREET GOSPEL CHAPEL JOINS CONFERENCE



MIDDLETOWN, CT. — One of the newest Seventh Day Baptist churches has a long history as an independent Sabbathkeeping congregation. Formed shortly after the beginning of the twentieth century as a Seventh-day Adventist church, the Pine Street Gospel Chapel of Middletown, Conn., shortly afterwards broke affiliation with the Adventist movement and became an independent church. Through the years there developed a close fellowship between the Chapel and area Seventh Day Baptists. In April 1978, the church membership voted to join the Seventh Day Baptist movement and was accepted into the Eastern Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches on May 21, 1978, when the Association met at the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, R.I.

In August the General Conference in session at Houghton College, New York, welcomed six new churches into Conference membership including the Pine Street Gospel Chapel (SDB). Throughout its history the church has been served by only two pastors. Pastor Charles H. Reimers, a former Seventh-day Adventist, served from 1911 until his death in 1932. Pastor William J. Kimshel became the pastor in 1932 serving until his death in 1973. Sabbath services have continued without a regular pastor since then.

The church history reveals a strong commitment on the part of a loyal membership over the years. In 1911 Pastor Reimers conducted Bible studies in Middletown which resulted in a small band of thirteen accepting the Sabbath truth. The group became affiliated with the Southern New England Adventist Conference. Permission was gained to begin the erection of a house of worship with the understanding that all funds would come solely from the Middletown congregation. The city granted a permit for the erection of a small

brick edifice. It took approximately three years to build for the people refused to go into debt. The students at nearby Wesleyan University would often humorously comment that "When they got a dime the congregation would buy a brick."

When the building was completed, as is the custom among Adventist churches, the lot and church were deeded over to the Southern New England Conference. Brother Reimers was never in favor of the schemes and practices employed by the denomination for the raising of money. He felt that anyone would be easily impressed with the idea that the getting of money was the principal burden of their message. And because he refused to preach the urge for money as the regular program required, he was dropped from leadership and membership by the Conference.

Because of these and other differences the Conference officially disbanded the church in 1915. For quite some time the building stood vacant. Finally those who had constructed the church with their own funds and hands decided that services should be resumed. On Sabbath Day, March 6, 1918, they assembled for worship in the chapel. Soon afterwards Brother Reimers received notice from the prosecuting attorney that complaint had been made that he and his followers had broken into and were using the Adventist church. The group was advised not to use the building but rather to seek to purchase it. However, the Conference was unwilling to sell it to the small congregation. Time dragged on and finally, God touched the heart of a friend of Brother Reimers, who though not a Sabbathkeeper, offered

to buy the property and then resell it to the congregation. This he did. The small group then had to raise the funds to purchase the building they had built. Pastor Kimshel wrote: "What rejoicing there was in the camp of the Saints. Once again they could enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise, the building was theirs."

Since 1918 there has been a continual Sabbathkeeping witness in Middletown as the Lord has blessed the faithfulness of these brethren. In recent years many of their members have moved to other parts of the country and some are now active members in Seventh Day Baptist churches in Salem, WV, Daytona Beach, FL, and Waterford, CT, to mention just a few.

Today the church corporation owns the property without any mortgage or other indebtedness. There is a membership of 31 and services are held each Sabbath at 11:00 a.m. The church is currently seeking pastoral leadership. Any prospective applicants should contact the clerk, Mr. Howard McAuliffe, Thayer Road, Higganum, CT 06441, telephone (203) 345-2732. Let us pray for the prosperity of the work in Middletown. May God bless these brothers and sisters who have now become a part of our fellowship that working together we may accomplish the will of our Father. □

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY DAY  
SABBATH, OCTOBER 21, 1978  
YOUR GIFT HELPS SHARE  
THE WORD OF GOD**

The Sabbath Recorder

## CENTRAL SDB CHURCH ORGANIZED



These friends and members of the Central SDB Church gathered for the official organization at the Largo Senior High School where the new congregation worships each Sabbath. Pray that this new work will prosper and be led of the Holy Spirit.

It happened! It sure did! It is something new, yet it has been done before. What is it? Well, Seventh Day Baptists have once again put down their stakes into fertile soil; they have set up their ministry in a new community. They have returned to a state which has not seen a new Seventh Day Baptist church organized since 1834, in the city of Baltimore. Seventh Day Baptists have organized a new church in Maryland, the Central SDB Church of Upper Marlboro!

For some months Seventh Day Baptists in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., have been conducting Sabbath services at the Largo Senior High School, Upper Marlboro. Recently they have been a "branch" of the Washington church and called Kenneth Chroniger to serve as pastor. Pastor Ken with his wife Barbara and two children moved to Maryland from Missouri where he was enrolled in Nazarene Theological Seminary. On July 22, 1978 the Central SDB Church was officially organized and later welcomed into Conference membership at Houghton, N.Y.

The celebration began with a celebration through worship. Pastor Doyle Zwiebel, pastor of the Middle Island, WV, church, stirred the congregation to a deeper understanding of why we were called together through the Sabbath morning message. Others who participated in the worship celebration were Pastor Kenneth Chroniger; Pastor Gordon Lawton, First Hopkinton SDB Church, RI; Pastor Don Stewart, Hope Presbyterian of Largo, MD;

and Pastor Jack Morris of the Largo Community Church. We had a good season of celebration with 47 present to share in this great event.

The meeting for the purpose of organizing the Central church was opened with the singing of a hymn by the congregation and a prayer by Pastor Chroniger. The meeting was called to order by the clerk of the branch church, Mrs. Barbara Lacey. Mrs. Lacey used a gavel turned from a wooden remnant of the old Greenbriar SDB Church in West Virginia which was presented to the church by Pratt Chroniger. Mrs. Lacey related greetings from sister churches and organizations of the denomination plus community groups.

An organizational Council was formed with Dr. K. D. Hurley as chairman and Mrs. Marie Zwiebel as clerk. Pastor Chroniger presented the Council with a historical sketch of the church, the proposed covenant, affiliation statement and constitution. A financial report was given by Earl Hibbard; Barbara Lacey presented the names of those who sought to join the Central church. A question and answer session followed. The motion was made, seconded and carried that with the blessing of the Council the Central SDB Church proceed with the organization. The charter members joined together in reading the covenant aloud and followed that by individually signing the covenant.

The church recognized the prior ordination of Pratt Chroniger as deacon and Rose (Mrs. Pratt)

Chroniger as deaconess. The following officers were elected: President — Pastor Kenneth Chroniger; Vice-President — Ernest K. Bee, Jr.; Secretary — Barbara Lacey; Treasurer — Earl Hibbard; Sabbath School Superintendent — Barbara Lacey; Youth Director — Donald Chroniger; Director at large — Errol Billington.

The Rev. Leland Davis, pastor of the Washington SDB Church, presented the charge to Christian responsibility. Dr. K. D. Hurley, executive secretary of the denomination, presented the charge to denominational responsibilities. The organizational meeting was followed both by a Communion service and a reception.

It happened? It sure did! Why did it happen? Because throughout the history of the Washington SDB Church all of her pastors have had dreams of expanding the witness throughout the area. It happened in part because the Washington church, the Southeastern Association, and the South Jersey churches were able to project church growth and create the Washington Project. It happened because there is a group of people who believe that God wants an SDB church in Prince George County. It happened because of the vision of the mother church in commissioning four families to begin this work. It also happened because the denomination has in recent years created a climate through the Commitment to Growth program. It happened! It sure did! God has spoken and it is good — the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church. □

**Why not go out on the limb — that's where the fruit is!**



EXTEND  
NOW

## CARNALES FOR CHRIST

The Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church is involved in reaching out to Mexican-American gang members in our community. We have had contact with them for about four years but only for the last year and a half have we made a concerted effort to reach large numbers of them.

Our first contacts were made when Pastor Leland Davis was here and three or four kids came to Bible studies for about a year. After that we almost lost contact with them except for an occasional visit.

At some point (I don't know exactly when) while I was praying with a few friends in my living room, I had a "vision." I didn't see something with my eyes but I had a very clear mental image of hundreds of Mexican-American teen-agers filling up the entire courtyard between my house and the church next door. I felt sure at that time that God was going to save hundreds of them, but I shortly forgot about the vision and didn't remember about it until we began to work in earnest with the gang kids about two and a half years later.

I began to seek after a ministry with gang members after a providential chain of events: reestablishment of contact with the original boys through their request to attend camp; the helpful rebuke of one of their mothers who felt I wasn't paying enough attention to her son; and a class at Fuller Seminary where I was given an assignment requiring me to do research into American subculture somewhere in Los Angeles and to try to penetrate that culture much as an overseas missionary would.

I went up to camp with the boys (New Year's, 1977) and in the following months I went around interviewing them and their friends. I wanted to get to know them better and to find out all I could about the gangs and the felt needs of those who were in the gangs. I would take them places, drive around with them, sit in my dining room with them, always asking questions. I was the learner; they were my teachers. I wrote everything down in a diary (I still make use of it) and wrote two papers on Chicano gang culture and on strategy for reaching a gang. Besides gaining information, I was establishing trust and I was meeting new people. The original guys would introduce me to their friends. Sometimes I would bump into gang members on my own and talk to them. I also made contact with some of them in a high school class for boys who had been kicked out of school. Sometimes I talked to them about the Lord and about reaching the gangs with the gospel. By this time I had decided to try to convert an entire gang, but they were skeptical and were not yet open to the gospel themselves.

In August 1977, we began planning events especially aimed to reach gang members. Pastor Chuck Graffius was instrumental in planning an implementation of these events. The first event was a retreat in the mountains at Pacific Pines Camp. It was attended by twelve gang kids and staffed partially by some ex-dope addicts who live in a Christian home called "God's Lighthouse." "God's Lighthouse" continues to help us one night a week. Our second event was a banquet for "Los Avenues," the only gang we were working with at that time. About one hundred fifty came to the banquet, most of them gang members, where they heard testimonies and Christian music. We had a second retreat and shortly thereafter we began having meetings twice a week at the church. The day after the retreat one of the kids accepted Christ in his bedroom and he began to be quite an evangelist. About this time we were able to enlist the help of a Christian family down the street who were also concerned about reaching gang members for Christ. Since then we have had three retreats in the mountains, two car washes, and a trip to Magic Mountain. We have continued having two meetings a week, on Tuesday and Thursday nights, with small groups getting together on Monday and Wednesday. Our average attendance has risen to about fifty, most of whom arrive at the church through our "bus ministry," and depends on the number of cars we can scrounge together. We drive all over Northeast Los Angeles picking up people for the meetings.

We are now involved with three gangs: "Los Avenues," "Dogtown," and "Big Hazard." All of them are allied so there is no fighting among them. We have almost as many girls as boys. There *are* girls as well as boys; the average age is about fifteen, although they may range from nine and ten years old to thirty.

I have lots of help, my wife, Sue, Pat Peil, the people from God's Lighthouse, a woman named Rosie Duran who used to be a gang member, and lots of folks from other Chicano churches who help out as guest speakers or musicians. One big task before us is to develop leadership from within the group of converts. Some of the converted gang members have already helped quite a bit in providing spiritual leadership to their peers.

Our long-range goal is a Chicano Seventh Day Baptist congregation with at least three hundred gang members (with their families) in attendance. I think this might take place by 1981. In the meantime, our short-range goals are to develop indigenous leadership, to begin believers' meetings for the nurture of converts (very soon, probably on Sabbaths), and to begin events to reach out to parents of gang members. We plan to get jackets for the Christian kids with the name of our youth organizations on the back, "Carnales for Christ" (brothers for Christ).

We need lots of prayer. The Los Angeles church has been wonderful in supporting the work, but we need the prayers of many more. The needs are tremendous and the Devil opposes us at every step. We have a severe shortage of transportation so pray that God will supply the need. If God gives you the burden, please pray for us. □

-Peter and Susan Morris

# PHOTONEWS



The core family for a new Spanish witness in Melbourne, Australia: Jose and Betty Alegre, and their children, Jose, Diego and Roxana.



The congregation at the first Sabbath service on August 12, 1978. This group has been sent several thousand SDB Spanish tracts from your Tract Society.

## NEW WORK BEGUN IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Under the leadership of Jose Alegre, an immigrant from Buenos Aires, Argentina, who, with his wife Betty, has joined the Auckland, New Zealand, SDB Church, meetings have begun in the Collingwood area of Melbourne.

Brother Alegre wrote in to the Tract Society for information in December of 1977. He was placed in contact with our fellowship in Bundaberg, some 2,000 miles from Melbourne. Rev. Leon Lawton was able to visit in Melbourne in his recent far-eastern tour and thus encourage the establishment of this new work.

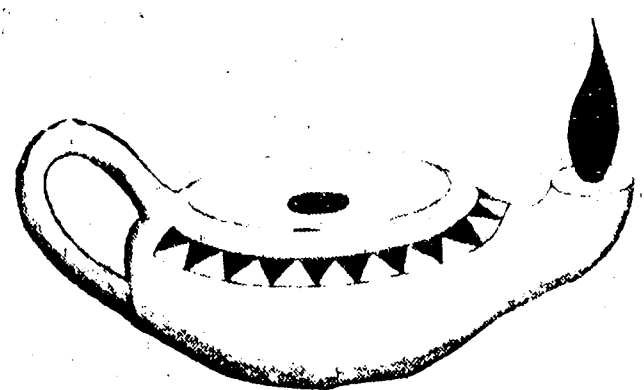
The Lord has answered prayers in providing a hall "enough for 70 or 80 people with piano and other facilities" and services were begun August 12. "We did an intense publicity through posters, home visits and announcements in the Spanish newspaper and radio," Brother Alegre reports. Mrs. Mavis Rudd and her daughter were able to attend representing the Bundaberg group.

Brother Jose wrote: "The average number of children is 14 and at the gospel meeting attendance is about 8. The task is very hard because the people are very indifferent. They don't seem to care about spiritual things. They only want to work and earn money and we are completely alone, but we feel God is helping us and we know He will be with us. We only ask you to pray for us and for the Lord's work in Melbourne." □



Betty and Jose Alegre leading out in the service. (Above) The group is meeting in this church.





Thy Word is a light...

### NEW FAMILY CONCERN SERIES ANNOUNCED

A new coordinated and comprehensive book and curriculum series for training adults in family and marriage relationships has been announced by Victor Books and Family Concern. "This is the first time we know of that a family and marriage curriculum of this particular type has been available to the church," said J. Allan Peterson, consulting editor of the series and president of Family Concern. "This new, twelve-book series will bring Biblical principles and practical insights to every aspect of family life from accepting singleness or choosing a mate to raising a teen-ager."

The first four books in the Family Concern series will be released in July 1978: *Conquering Family Stress* by J. Allan Peterson deals with family crises; *Two To Get Ready* by Antonio Florio, Ph. D., is concerned with preparation for marriage; *Loneliness: Living Between the Times* by Nancy Potts has as its theme the universal experience of loneliness, and *One Is a Whole Number* by Barbara Sroka concerns itself with the single adult within the church. *The Family That Listens*, a book on family communication by H. Norman Wright, will be available in early fall, 1978. The seven additional titles which complete the series are scheduled for July 1979.

Each of the authors brings the knowledge and experience of professional background and personal involvement with families and churches to the practical issues affecting contemporary families. Each book in the series is accompanied by a Personal Involvement Workbook, which may be used by individuals or groups for further study and application of material presented in the book. A Leader's Guide with multiuse transparency masters is available for conducting thirteen group sessions with each book.

The Family Concern series is an effective, planned approach to adult

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Mrs. Mary Clare

church school electives. It is a suitable curriculum for adult training programs and may be used profitably in church and home weekly Bible study groups and personal enrichment programs. It can also provide the content core for programs such as retreats, VBS, seminars and family camps. It is a valuable resource to help counseling pastors extend the impact of counseling time.

A Guide to Curriculum Subjects appears in each book. It directs readers to specific topics covered in each of the books. This will enable churches, families and individuals to find further help in areas of specific need where it occurs elsewhere in the series.

The books, leader's book and individual workbooks are EACH \$2.95. They may be purchased at any Christian Book Store that carries Victor Books or may be ordered from:

FAMILY CONCERNS  
1415 Hill Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187 □

### NOVEMBER YOUTH STUDY

While Jeanne Wilhelm was at the Sound Studio in Plainfield, she developed a series of tapes for Youth use. The are useable for program and study. Each tape has enough material for more than one session. Please order early so that the leader and program committee have an opportunity to study and plan use of the material.

- Tape #
- 1 "A STARTING PLACE"
  - 2 "Growing and Growing Pains"
  - 3 "Response...Christian Responsibility"

Order from:

SDB Sound Studio  
P.O. Box 868  
Plainfield, NJ 07061 □

### ASSOCIATED CONFERENCES

The many challenges of holding special sessions for children ages four through youth of eighteen were well met this year at General Conference.

Earl and Diane Hibbard provided thirteen lively youngsters, ages four and five with a happy experience. Their schedule included stories, music, learning activities, handiwork, and play. (We are grateful for a large quantity of toys from the Fisher-Price Company. They have a policy of contributing reconditioned toys to non-profit organizations.)

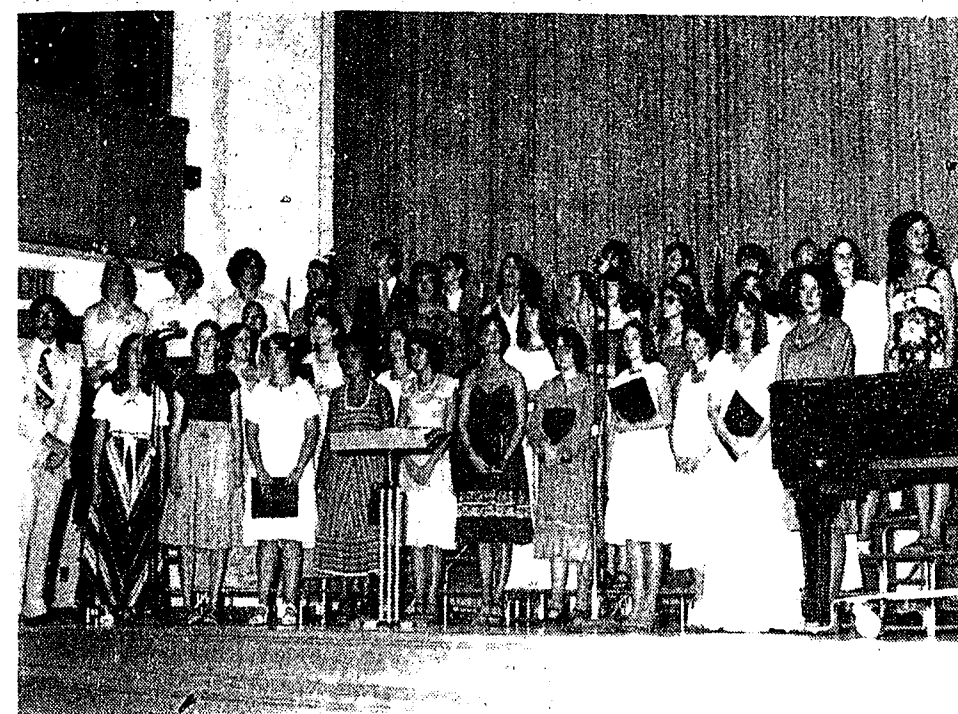
Christine Boyd taught these children several songs which were enthusiastically shared with parents and friends at the Sabbath afternoon program.

Sixteen Primary youngsters met with Rev. Socrates Thompson and Janice Henry for classes. The group enjoyed swimming as part of their recreation.

Barbara Burdick assisted with singing. Their presentation Sabbath afternoon included Bearing the Fruit and a singing version of John 3:16.



It's story time for the boys and girls at the Associated Conference, ably staffed by Butch Hibbard and his wife Diane.



The adult Pre-Con choir was directed by Steve Thorngate. The youth made a major contribution to the musical program of Conference week.

The Junior and Senior High groups had the privilege of using "The Music Machine" curriculum material which included innovative classroom lessons and a musical score.

Patty Lawton directed the music which was presented Sabbath afternoon. The excellence of this singing was rewarded by a standing ovation given by the audience.

Junior class lessons were taught by Robert Van Horn. In addition to the dramas and activities planned in the lessons, the group designed and made posters related to "Fruits of the Spirit," which was the theme of *Music Machine*.

Susie Pinder assisted by Dave and Margaret Taylor, Maryanne Maxson and Nina Sholtz directed the lessons and handiwork for the class sessions of the Junior High class.

For the first time at General Conference the youth, ages fifteen through eighteen, were given an opportunity to have their own Associated Conference.

Joyce Lyons, from Toronto, Canada, was director of this class.

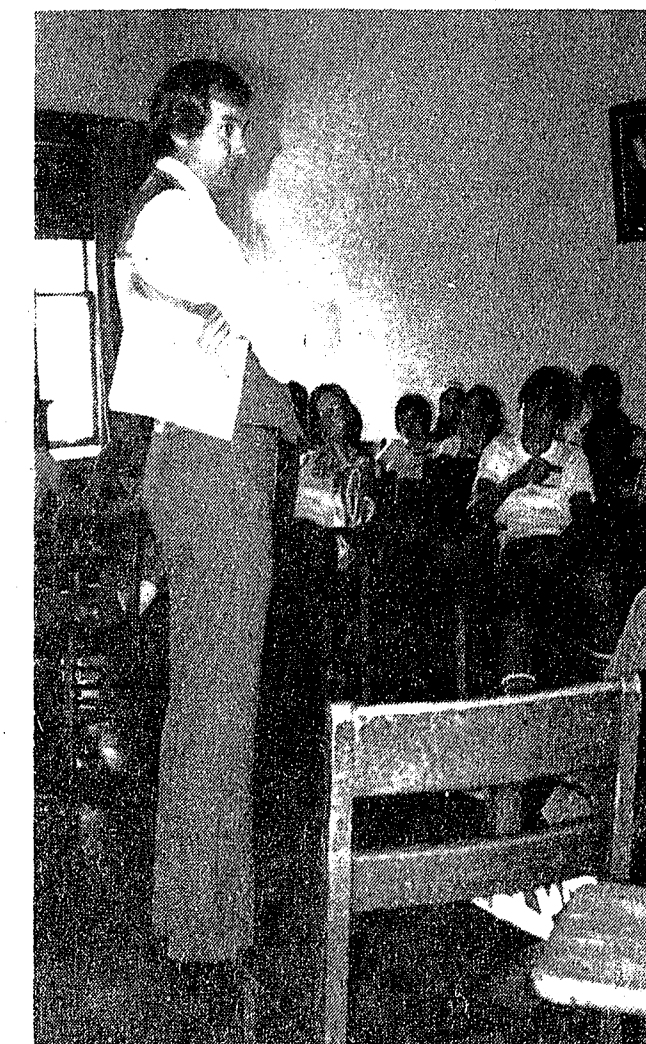
The program consisting of Bible study, related activities, and participation in regular interest groups was enthusiastically received.

Their contribution to the Sabbath afternoon program was an original skit, placing the story of the Prodigal Son in modern setting.

A trip to Letchworth Park had been designed for this group only. It was later opened to other youth as the need was indicated.

The Church School Committee and the Youth Ministries Committee commend the directors and their assistants who gave much time and effort into making the Associated Conferences a success.

As one director said, "...the lessons and especially the message of the songs will stay with and influence the actions of everyone...as they go back home — and that's what it's all about." □



Youth have a voice in denominational concerns. Their input is vital, says Dr. Carl George, Church Growth consultant.

Youth activities were an important part of Conference plans. On Tuesday evening the annual youth banquet was held with Jim Songster of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as guest speaker.



### BOOKS YOUR FAMILY CAN USE

An entertaining and educational new series of books for children and parents to read together has been released by the Educational Products Division of Word, Inc.

"Ready - Set - Grow!" is the name of the series, whose author is the nationally known authority on child development, Joy Wilt.

The "Ready - Set - Grow!" series contains six books, each 128 pages, each focusing on a particular aspect of growing up.

*You're All Right* affirms a child's membership in the human family. It helps a child to see that his or her similarities to others are normal, acceptable, desirable, and God-given. It is a guide to developing a positive attitude toward human uniqueness.

(continued on page 34)

### 1978-79 YF NATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Tom Schock
Vice-President	Doreen Sanford
Secretary	Joanne Leach
Treasurer	Anmarie Johnson



# MISSION NOTES

# focus

"Where there is no vision the people perish"

Verses for the month: "Oh God, in mercy bless us; let your face beam with joy as you look down at us. Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind....Praise God, O world! May all the peoples of the earth give thanks to you. For the earth has yielded abundant harvests. God, even our own God, will bless us. And peoples from remotest lands will worship him."  
-Psalm 67:1-2, 5-7

● **JAMAICA:** Acting Principal Ronald Smith began service at Crandall High School in mid-July with the new school year opening on September 4. A graduate of Crandall High School, Ronald is the first Jamaican principal. Mr. Maurice Smith (no relation) is the new bursar (treasurer).

● **U.S.A.:** "Where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst" (Jesus). Individual Seventh Day Baptists who have residence away from where there are local SDB churches are discovering the blessing and thrill of meeting regularly with others of like faith. New people are also "finding" SDB's and seeking fellowship. Pray that the Lord will open doors, encourage, give needed leadership and wisdom as several new home and area fellowship meetings come into being yet this year! IF you are seeking neighbors of like faith write your Tract Society (Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061) or Missionary Board (401 Washington Trust Bldg., Westerly, RI 02891).

● **MOZAMBIQUE:** Twenty-one persons were baptized in June, Pastor A. L. Benesse reports. He is enrolled in a correspondence Bible course from Portugal and speaks of growing leadership in the church. This ministry is under the guidance of the Central Africa Conference in neighboring Malawi.

● **U.S.A.:** It is not too soon for your Sabbath School class, church, YF or other group to plan special White Gift giving. Suggested needs are being shared with the Missionary Keyworker in each church.

● **KENYA:** Rev. Watson Mataka spent two weeks visiting churches in the Kisii area enroute back to Malawi, arriving in time for the Central Africa Conference session, Sept. 12-16. Joel L. O. Omare completes his Bible college course to begin ministry with the SDB churches in Kenya in September.

● **APPEALS:** From time to time individuals and congregations are solicited for funds for overseas. Some represent themselves as Seventh Day Baptist and may be already receiving support through your Missionary Board. We do not recommend that such support be sent directly in response to such pleas. Your Board will be happy to serve you in sharing insights on such solicitations, needs and the best method of response. Through Our World Mission budget many of these are already included! Giving specifically in support of OWM is needed. We welcome your inquiry on how you can give designated offerings to aid in the worldwide ministries of Seventh Day Baptists.

● **U.S.A.:** Do branch churches cause decline and death of the mother? Washington, D.C., experienced some decline initially with the establishment of the new Central SDB Church in Maryland. But, in the second quarter of this year "attendance has increased by nearly one-third...our giving...has been steady and new persons are now giving regularly. Several new families are now regular in their attendance and participation" at the mother church. PTL!

● **JAMAICA:** Statistics shared at the July Conference session at Luna SDB Church showed an increase in members of 110. The Niagara Church added 45 new members! New fields receiving attention are Platfield in St. Mary and Grandville in Trelawny. "During the night services several persons stepped forward to accept Christ in their lives. Let us pray for them."

## PRAYER

NOVEMBER 1978

### PRAY FOR

- 1 - The Lord to work among the SDB's in Germany, raising up youth for His work
- 2 - The newly elected officers of the SDB World Federation
- 3 - Guyana SDB Conference as it meets in the Parika SDB Church
- 4 - Lone Sabbathkeepers - can you write a letter of encouragement to them today?
- 5 - Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) as it meets in Plainfield, NJ
- 6 - The SDB's in the Netherlands and their camping ministry to youth
- 7 - The Lord to raise up youth to work in the SDB churches in New Zealand
- 8 - Richard Shepard as he works with Stewardship promotion
- 9 - Pastor Elias Camacho and our Mexican brethren as they seek a teacher for the new school
- 10 - New SDB groups meeting in the USA and their "mother churches"
- 11 - SDB churches without pastors - that the Lord will lead and direct the lay leaders
- 12 - The youth ministry of my church - is it effective?
- 13 - Nivaldo Schunemann as he plans for the evangelistic outreach ministries in Brazil
- 14 - The organist and choir director in my church - praise God for their ministry of music
- 15 - Pastor Watson Mataka as plans develop for missionary service in Kenya
- 16 - My Sabbath School teacher as he (she) works on lesson plans
- 17 - Pastor L. S. Thanga and the new contacts which are being made in Burma
- 18 - The PRECIOUS rest of the Sabbath day - how can I bring honor to God today?
- 19 - Pastor E. O. Ferraren and the other pastors in the SDB Philippine Conference
- 20 - Eyes to see people as God does - everyone unique and precious
- 21 - The camp building project in Guyana
- 22 - Conference President Bob Austin as he visits churches, planning for Conference 1979
- 23 - God has supplied all of our needs - THANK Him for His faithfulness to us
- 24 - Strength as we make final preparations for the Sabbath Day
- 25 - Thank God for relatives and friends who are worshipping with you today
- 26 - SDB's in England as they plan for outreach
- 27 - Middletown, CT, church as it seeks pastoral leadership
- 28 - Renewed faith in my daily walk with the Lord
- 29 - Those attending Sabbath services in Columbia, LA - may their witness grow
- 30 - A burden to GIVE until it feels good - there are ONLY 31 days to raise the 1978 Our World Mission budget!

CONFERENCE

## the CHURCH in ACTION

### BRITISH CONFERENCE MEETS AT BIRMINGHAM

**BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND** - Our annual Conference was held at the Birmingham church, July 28-30, 1978. Unfortunately it was attended this year with a series of mishaps. Several members were in the hospital and thus could not come and the minibus bringing members from London broke down thus causing a delay in their arrival. The Friday evening meeting had to be cancelled.

We were happy to have several from other countries present including Brother Dibia from Nigeria, Brother Roel Dijk and three sisters from the Netherlands. On Sabbath young sister Marshall led the singing. The Sabbath School lesson was taught by Brother Slack and Sister Iris Codrington sang a solo.

The various groups were asked to stand to be acknowledged. They included from London the groups at Herne Hill, Lewisham and Tottenham; the Birmingham and Wolverhampton groups; as well as the visitors from Holland. We were happy to also have a sister present from Washington, D.C. After singing "Revive Us Again" Pastor Parr closed the service with a prayer for revival blessing.

The noon service was led by Brother Marshall, Sr.; Psalm 105 was read by Rev. James McGeachy. Sister de Kock from Holland sang "I Am Satisfied with Jesus." Brother Owen Lynch preached on the Conference theme from Numbers 13:30: "Let us go up at once, and possess the land; for we are well able to overcome it."

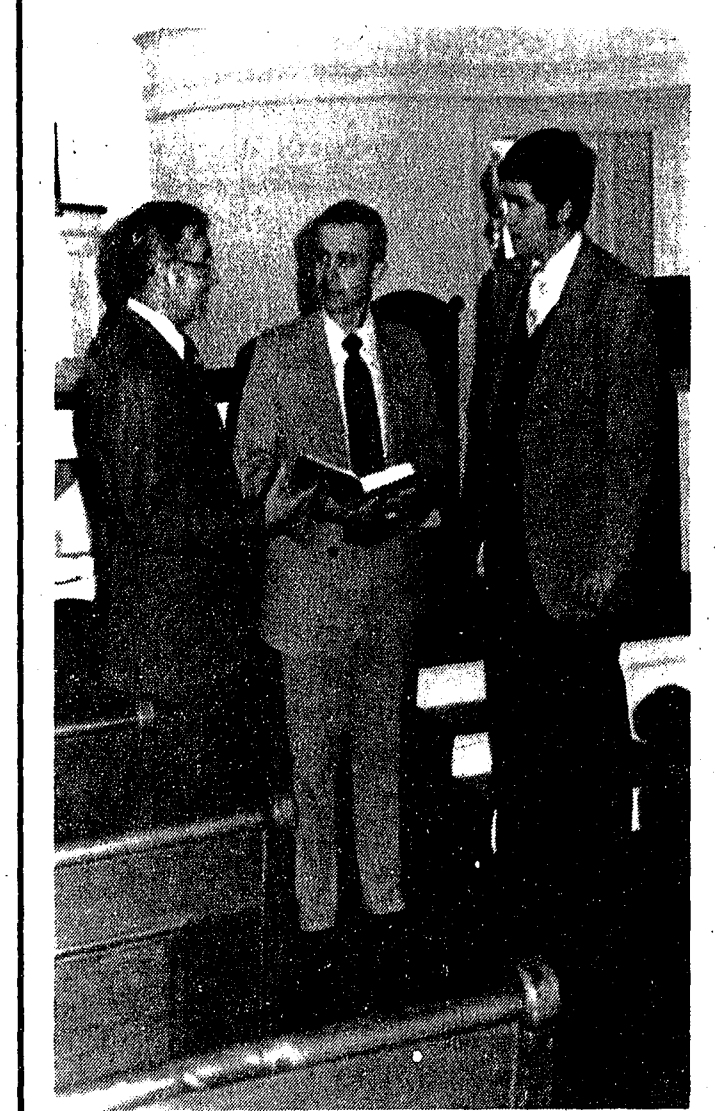
The young people's meeting was held in the afternoon, following a fellowship dinner. Choruses were sung and the Dutch sisters, who work for the Jewish people, told some of their experiences. A visiting pastor from the Church of God gave

an inspiring message. Later a Bible study was conducted by Rev. McGeachy on the addresses given by Moses to Israel on the plains of Moab just before they crossed the Jordan as recorded in Deuteronomy.

Following a testimony service Pastor A. L. Peat spoke about the spies, Caleb and Joshua in his message. Pastor Parr offered prayer for healing for about nine who came forward for this purpose. Early morning devotions were led by Brother D. Anderson on Sabbath, and by Brother H. Wright on Sunday.

The business sessions were held on Sunday, led by our Conference President Willard Smith. Greetings from the General Conference, USA were read by Sister J. Lynch. Brother Roel Dijk gave an oral greeting from the Dutch Conference. He and the three sisters had come by air, taking only one hour from Holland to Birmingham. The cause in the Netherlands has suffered great blows in the deaths of Elder Baars of the Hague and Elder Bosch of Amsterdam. The Dutch expressed their desire to work closely with the British Conference. Brother Smith then expressed the warm fellowship we feel for our Dutch brethren.

In the afternoon a lady minister, Rev. Gerloff, from Germany spoke.



On Sabbath, July 29, 1978, a service of ordination was held at the Meeting House of the First SDB Church of Hopkinton at Ashaway, RI. William B. (Bill) Bowyer was ordained as a deacon. Participating in the service were the Rev. Edgar Wheeler of Denver, CO, former pastor at First Hopkinton (left), Deacon Bowyer and the Rev. Gordon Lawton (right) pastor of the church.

She takes great interest in promoting ecumenical work and has a special interest in Sabbatarians. She has written a special paper dealing with Seventh Day Baptists in England. She gave us words of encouragement.

In the evening service there was much singing. Brother Barrett spoke on the Conference theme using Gen. 13:14-17 and John 14:1-3 as his texts. In spite of all the mishaps which seemed to come, the Conference sessions were a blessing to all who attended. Prayers were offered for the safe journey of Pastor Peat, Sister Codrington and Brother Lynch as they left the meeting to journey to the USA for the World Federation sessions, General Conference and Training Institute. Pray that the work of the Lord will continue to go forward in the British Isles. □

-Rev. James McGeachy

### WORLD FEDERATION VISITORS ENTERTAINED

**PLAINFIELD, N.J.** - The World Federation sessions were very important to our church since Pastor David Pearson is president and many of the visitors were transported to and from the airport and entertained in our homes, both before they left for Alfred in the Light Bearers bus and after they returned from the Leadership Institute. Pastor and Mrs. Pearson attended the sessions, and he preached at Alfred and stayed for the institute after Conference.

A number of the visitors attended our service August 19, when Pastor Watson Mataka of Malawi preached on "The New Creation" and a fellowship dinner was held.

Dr. K. D. Hurley took five of our Brazilian visitors to Washington, D.C., August 25-27. They met Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia, who showed them around the capitol building. Besides sightseeing, they attended our Washington church and stopped in Philadelphia to see the historic sights.

Another fellowship dinner was held August 26, followed by informal Conference reports and discussion. At least 20 from our congregation were at Conference, 12 of whom were delegates. Jeanne Wilhelm very capably conducted our services August 5 and 12. Three of our members, Sharon Maltby, Douglas Paquette, and Joanna Pearson, enjoyed Youth Pre-Con.

Two of our young people attended Jersey Oaks Junior Camp and three





Rev. Paul B. Osborn  
Nortonville, KS

## Scripture Gems

Favorite Bible texts  
selected by pastors  
and ministerial students.

● "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren" (Romans 8:29 NAS).

● This is a guarantee that some day we will be like Christ. The word "image" does not mean just an accidental resemblance, but a derived likeness, like the parental likeness in a child. It does not mean just an appearance, not based on reality, but the word "conform" indicates an inner, real likeness.

The theological struggle between "the sovereignty of God" and "the free will of man" seems to me to be resolved here. Some people are afraid of the word "predestination" or "pre-determined" as it could be translated — but I find this verse to be a good explanation of it. God's absolute sovereignty has decreed that whoever accepts Christ as Savior will be like His Son! I like the way Taylor paraphrases it, "For from the beginning God decided that those who came to Him — and all along He knew who would — should become like His Son..."

So, having exercised my free will, having asked forgiveness of my sins, having become His child by the new birth, I can rest on the promise of the preceding verse, "that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God..." I can depend upon God, and to the rest of you I say, "Please be patient; God is not finished with me yet!" □

attended Senior Camp. A weekly Bible club is being led by Bettie Pearson, Jeanne Wilhelm, and Shireen Hurley.

Our new RSV pulpit Bible in memory of L. H. North was dedicated July 29, when our member from Holland, John Farenhorst, gave the children's message. The children took part in the dedication. One hundred new hymnals in memory of Dorothea Clarke Paquette are to be dedicated September 9.

At our July quarterly meeting we voted to dismiss 19 inactive members who wanted to be dropped, thus bringing our enrollment down to 83. This figure is more realistic, though we still have many members who are not very active. How about our other churches?

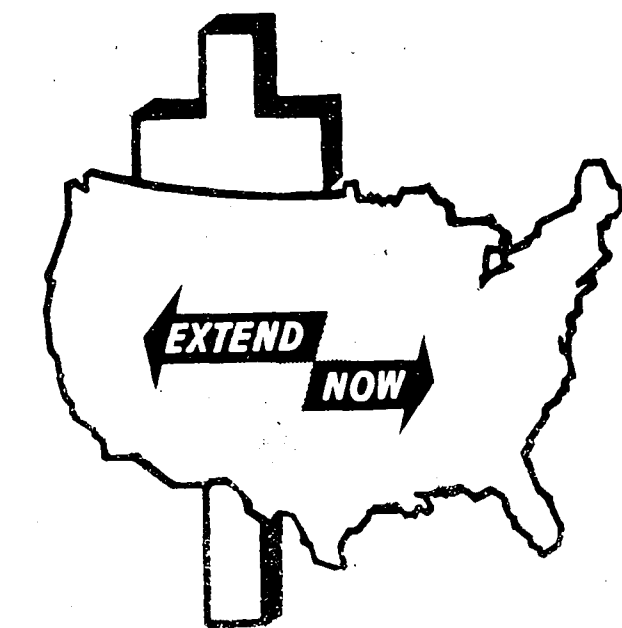
Our brass ensemble played beautifully at our July 15 and 22 services and also led our singspiration on the front lawn of the church the second Sabbath.

Joanna Pearson is a freshman

at King's College, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and Antoinette Duryea is a freshman at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

We look forward to our planning retreat at Baptist Camp, Lebanon, N.J., September 22-24. May it be a time of spiritual renewal, leading to both numerical and spiritual growth for our church. □

-Ruth Hunting Parker



## COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

● **Martinsburg, WV** — Seventh Day Baptists are now holding weekly services in Martinsburg with leadership furnished once a month by the Southeastern Association. Contact: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Swann, Tammy Lane, Pikeview Acres, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

● **Orange County, CA** — A new Seventh Day Baptist work is being sponsored in Orange County by the Los Angeles church under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. John Peil. The church will be known as Seventh Day Baptist Evangelical Community Church.

● **Columbia, LA** — Sabbath services were begun on Sept. 16 in Columbia. This new work has developed through correspondence with the Tract Society and the assistance of Christ Church in Little Rock, AR. The contact person is Mrs. Hubert Phillips, R.D. 2, Box 395, Columbia, LA 71418.

"Anywhere there are people — there is an opportunity for church growth."

### THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all who sang in the Conference Choir this year.

Along with the Conference Choir director and organist, there must be people, such as yourselves, who are willing to lend and combine individual talents so that a Conference Choir and its music are brought to life and fully appreciated.

Thank you for your contribution to the spirituality of Conference.

In Christian love,  
Ann Williams

The Sabbath Recorder

## OBITUARIES

**ABELMANN.** — Nancy Keenan, daughter of John and Helen Carr Keenan, was born July 12, 1926 at Madison, Wisconsin, and died at her home in Milton, Wis., on Sept. 3, 1978 following a long illness. She was a graduate of Milton College and had taught art in Milton East elementary school since 1970.

She had been very active in art activities in southern Wisconsin and also in community affairs. She had served her church as clerk and trustee and in some of the other organizations. She is survived by four children: Peggy Zabriskie, Ghana, Africa; Kris Labarre, Paris, France; Nancy K. of Milton and Tom of Springfield, Ill. She is also survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Keenan, one brother and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton on Sept. 6 by Pastor Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

-E.C.

**GREEN.** — Lester, son of Clarence V. and Alice Burdick Green, was born May 5, 1907 and died July 30, 1978. He was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church.

His is survived by his wife, Gladys Updyke Green, and one son, Douglas L.; two stepchildren, Jean Rogers and Clair Updyke; one sister, Mrs. Edward (Marjorie) Mason; and three grandchildren.

Having been cremated, his ashes were buried in the Alfred Rural Cemetery where graveside services were conducted by the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel.

-R.E.Z.

**LIPPINCOTT.** — Truman G. was born Sept. 5, 1899 in Garwin, Iowa, and died at Rogers Memorial Hospital, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, on August 1, 1978 after a long illness.

He moved to Milton as a young man and graduated from Milton Union High School and attended Milton College. He was married to Gladys Pelton on Feb. 14, 1921. She died in 1973. He is survived by a daughter, DeEtta (Mrs. Ronald) Kastorff of Whitewater, Wis. Services were held from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton on August 4 by Pastor Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

-E.C.

**PALMER.** — Fred M. born March 15, 1904, son of Milo and Mary Moland Palmer, died in the Buffalo, New York, General Hospital, August 15, 1978.

Fred was a loyal member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, having joined in July 1917. He was the director of the choir for many years, and led the "sings" of the church on many occasions. Interested in electronics, he did early recordings of theological students at Alfred University, and devised sound systems for many vicinity churches, including his own.

He originated an outstanding public address system which he used on many community occasions, and especially for home contests of the Alfred University athletic contests. "He was known as the 'Voice of the Alfred Saxons' having been the announcer for each home football game during the past forty years."

"He was employed at Alfred University as superintendent of buildings and grounds for more than twenty years. During World War II he traveled for and represented the Roger's Machine Shop in Alfred. He invented and patented the Palmer Attendicator, a device used on school buses to check student attendance. He was active in the Red Cross and had served as disaster chairman of Allegany County for many years." In June of 1978 he was made an honorary Alumnus of Alfred University.

He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter, Mrs. Frank Snyder of Alfred Station; three sons, John of Wellsville, New York; Edward of Marion, North Carolina; James of Alfred, New York; a brother, Francis of Alfred Station; two sisters, Mrs. Mildred Berry of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Mary Moland of Akron, Ohio; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A private service was held with the family, August 18 with Albert N. Rogers and Rex E. Zwiebel leading. Public memorial services were held in the Alfred Station church, August 19. Officiating were his pastor, Rex Zwiebel, the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, and Dr. John McMahon.

-R.L.Z.

**TOY** — Barbara Louise (Rogers) Toy was born at Farina, Illinois, February 2, 1913, and died at the home of her daughter, Barbara Ann Smith in Boulder, Colorado, on August 17, 1978.

She was the daughter of Royal Preston and Nancy Parkison Rogers. Because of her health, they moved to Colorado while she was a small child, settling shortly at Boulder where Barbara attended school and grew up.

She studied as a nurse at Denver Children's Hospital, and after graduation worked in home care in Boulder. She was a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church. On December 24, 1938, she married T. Harold Toy. He preceded her in death in 1959.

Her survivors are: A daughter, Mrs. Barbara Ann Smith of Boulder; and two grandsons, Royal Edward Toy and Harold Eugene Smith, both of Boulder, Colorado.

Funeral services were held August 21 at Olinger Mortuary in Lakewood, Colo., with Rev. Edgar Wheeler officiating, and Gerry VanDyke as soloist. Interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Lakewood.

-E.F.W.

**UTTER.** — Wilfred Brown Utter, son of George H. and Elizabeth L. Utter, was born September 13, 1894, in Westerly, R.I., and died at the age of 83 on September 1, 1978, in Westerly, R.I.

He was the publisher of the Westerly Sun and a newspaper executive for nearly 60 years. He was the husband of Ruth Hubbard (May) Utter, married September 22, 1920.

In addition to his long career in journalism, Mr. Utter was deeply involved in Boy Scouting, Lion's Club activities, and various community functions. He joined the Scouting movement in 1916 when he was made Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1, Westerly. From that point on, he devoted much time and energy to the young men of the town and of the state of Rhode Island. He became a member of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Boy Scouts and was one of the first recipients of the Silver Beaver award, presented to him in 1946 by the National Boy Scout Council in recognition of the excellence of his service.

Mr. Utter was very active in the various newspaper organizations throughout New England. He was an active member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church from his youth. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees, collector, and usher. He belonged to the Men's Club and Men's Chorus.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth; one daughter, Mrs. John (Peggy) Durant; three grandchildren, Amy H. Durant, Durrie M. Durant, and John U. Durant.

A memorial service was held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church on September 5, 1978, with Pastor Russell W. Havens officiating. Burial was in River Bend Cemetery, Westerly.

-R.W.H.

## NOTICE

During the Conference ice-cream social there was a mix-up in freezer parts. The Bob Austins have a "too small" Proctor Silex freezer lid. Will the possessor of the "too large" freezer lid please contact the Austins at (507) 374-2316 or write Box 381, Dodge Center, MN 55927. Thank you.



Pastor Cruzan, Carol Crandall and Valerie Bass are shown distributing the Love Loaves at the Milton church. Love Loaves were distributed the first of September and will be brought back to the church for a breaking ceremony near Thanksgiving. This project is in cooperation with World Vision, who provides the Love Loaf banks, and who will receive 40 percent of the proceeds for their worldwide outreach. The other 60 percent will go to the SDB United Relief Fund.



## SO SHALL YE REAP

(Continued from pg. 10)

results. There are many experts who have amassed encyclopedic knowledge, who can write books and maybe even teach, but who would be at a complete loss in organizing or administering a program. They simply cannot translate knowledge into effective, applied work. There are many who cannot manage their own time with efficiency, never mind the time and efforts of a group.

There is a third great prerequisite for producing fruit. It was recognized and it was practiced by Jesus. He urged it on His followers. "Work while it is day. The night comes when no man can work." WORK! Observation leads one to amazement at the contrast between the concentrated zeal and hard work in some areas of our society versus the inertia and even the sloth in other areas.

Regardless of the sphere of our own activity — whether it is in industry, in the professions, in sales, in farming, or anywhere else — there is a direct parallel between the extent of God's blessing and the amount of our work.

Christians live in hope. In almost every aspect of the Christian life we must hope because we must wait for the desired result. There is always an interval between planning and results. There is a lapse between desire and its fruition. There is a waiting period between sowing and reaping.

We do live in hope. But those who are most knowledgeable regarding the processes and the methods involved; those who plan and organize the most thoughtfully; those who choose the soil and prepare it the most carefully; those who sow the best seed; those who work the most efficiently and the longest hours; these await the harvest, not just in hope, but in joyful anticipation, knowing that our best joined to God's best guarantees a harvest — some 30, some 60 and some 100 fold.

*"He who goes forth early and late, weeping with concern over his God-given responsibility and bearing the real gospel seed shall without any doubt come again with rejoicing,*

*bringing his sheaves with him"*  
(Psalm 126:6). □

-This sermon by Dr. Edward J. Horsley of Denver, CO, was delivered at Conference Monday evening August 7, 1978.

## CAN WE TRUST IN GOD?

This is the real question that is posed in our engagement in the dangerous game of the arms race. Is our real trust in these weapons of human destruction, or in the God who bids us be "our brother's keeper"?

At the recent disarmament conference which was held at the United Nations Building in New York City, the effort was made to find a way to cut down on the burgeoning arms budget of the various nations, so to use the saving for other needed relief, but no nation seemed ready to cut down on what was (falsely) called the "defense" budget. Yet God has promised in His Word that no nation that puts its trust in Him and follows His Commandments, shall ever lose His presence and blessing.

Listen to these words from the Old Testament prophets.

Hosea 2:18, "I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you to lie down in safety." 6:1, "Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up." 10:13, "You have plowed iniquity, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your chariots and in the multitude of your warriors." Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow".... Isaiah 2:3, 4, "...for out of Zion shall go forth the law....He shall judge between the nations...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

I believe that these promises are not just for the past, nor for some future time, but for *now*.

### Turning the Arms Race Around

It is with these passages in mind that we brought to Conference at Houghton College a proposal that our country cut down its expenditure for the arms race by one-tenth,

and this amount be used for feeding the hungry nations and for rebuilding our decaying cities. This proposal was considered at Conference, we were commended for our work for peace throughout the years, and it was suggested that appropriate material on peace be sent to the churches for their study.

Our nation can and should be the first to indicate a reversal of the arms race. We do not hold other nations captive, nor do we have China at our back, threatening warfare against us. Such a resolution would be a signal to the East European nations that we appreciate their desire for freedom, but we are not contemplating bloodshed in the process. It would be a signal to the Russian people that we are not contemplating an attack on them. They have probably been held to great poverty and hardship due to their fear of an attack from us. Last, and not the least important of all would be the aid to hungry and deprived nations of the world. It is said that the world's expense for armament amounts to one million dollars a minute, and that if this were given to hungry nations, it would increase their income by 700 percent.

### Turning Enemies into Friends

The German and Japanese people were once considered to be our enemies, but they are no longer. Probably the secret of this change lies in the trade routes along the seven seas, but a large part of it comes because we have followed the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ, that we "love our enemies, and pray for them."

Can we trust God? The answer lies primarily within ourselves. Do the promises of the prophets in the Old Testament mean anything to us? Or do we really trust our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ and His blessed presence within our own lives? □

-Rev. Paul S. Burdick  
Waterford, CT

● The Milton, WI, church held a planning retreat at Camp Wakonda Sept. 23-24. The retreat involved the members of the Advisory Board, the Growth Force, chairmen of committees and heads of organizations. The retreat included Bible study; a sharing of concerns in regard to phases of church work; and projecting on the church calendar the plans and programs for coming months. □



## KNOWLEDGE OF FAITH NEEDED TO COMBAT CULTS

by Linda Lawson

MANILA — Chris Elkins, a former member of the Unification Church, told a group of youth at the Ninth Baptist Youth World Conference here that the best weapon they have against cults is to study the Bible and know what they believe.

Elkins, who in less than three years, rose to the position of assistant to the American president of the church, led an evening discussion group on "Confronting the Unification Church." After two and one-half years in the movement, Elkins left in 1976.

"The only thing that brought me out was my relationship to Jesus Christ," he said.

A senior at the University of Arizona in 1975, Elkins was an honor student and fraternity president when he was recruited by the followers of Sun Myung Moon.

"I found so much love I thought I found God and I thought I had joined a Christian organization," said Elkins, who is now employed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

After joining, he dropped out of school and began working up to eighteen hours a day with the church. Members of the Unification Church are not paid for their work but receive food, clothing, and a place to live.

The longer I stayed in, the more dependent I got on the organization. The more dependent I got the less I contacted my friends and family outside the church," Elkins said.

When Unification Church members, sometimes called "Moonies," approach Christians, Elkins said they should respond with love rather than rudeness. "If we really believe in Jesus Christ, we have an obligation to

share an effective witness with them.

As assistant to the American president of the church, Elkins worked as a lobbyist with the U.S. Congress. He said the church is gaining strong influence with several governments around the world.

Through ministry projects, "They're taking on an image that Christians seemingly should support," Elkins said.

Christians should learn to discriminate between truth and deceit about the Bible, Elkins said, emphasizing the need for personal study and education in the church. □

## SALVATION ARMY QUITS WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The London, England, worldwide headquarters of the Salvation Army has announced that the denomination has ended its membership in the World Council of Churches because of the council's financial support of black Rhodesian guerillas.

In recent weeks the radical guerillas have killed numerous innocent people including missionaries of several faiths. A statement in the latest edition of the *War Cry*, publication of the Salvation Army, the editors stated that Salvationists were "perplexed and distressed" by the grant of \$85,000 of church funds to aid the guerilla movement.

The funds were given to the Patriotic Front which is fighting the new government of Rhodesia where white Prime Minister Ian Smith shares power with three moderate black leaders in an interim government intended to lead the country to black majority rule.

The editors of the *War Cry* further stated: "We are not interested in the political pros and cons. It is the use of violence to which we raise our objections."

In commenting on the giving of funds to the Patriotic Front a spokesman for the World Council commented: "We don't believe the money will be used to buy guns. We don't even try to have control over how the money is spent."

## FLEXI-TIME BILL TO AID EMPLOYEE RELIGIOUS NEEDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans United for Separation of Church and State has commended Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairperson of the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission, for her active support of a Senate bill permitting Federal employees to work overtime in lieu of time taken off for religious purposes.

"Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairperson of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Senator Abraham Ribicoff and his Senate Committee on Government Affairs are to be commended for favorably reporting the bill for Senate action," said Andrew Leigh Gunn, executive director of Americans United.

The measure will make it possible for Christians, Jews, and Moslems to follow flexible work schedules so they will not have to work on religious holy days and so that no loss in productivity results to the employer and no loss of pay or leave time to the employee.

A similar bill, introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-NY), was passed by the House in May.

"Americans United for Separation of Church and State urges the adoption of this bill so that religious needs of Federal employees may be met without hardship to them or to the government," Mr. Gunn said. □

## RUSSIAN ADVENTISTS PERSECUTED

Pastor Michael Wurmbrand, who has a ministry to the underground church in Communist lands, reports that Sabbathkeepers in the USSR are suffering persecution.

Elder Vladimir Shtshelkov, president of the Free Seventh-day Adventist movement in the USSR (underground), has already spent twenty-five years of his life in prison. After having been freed in 1967, he resumed his witnessing and secretly printed the magazine *The True Witness*. For these offenses, despite the fact that he is 82 years of age, he has recently been put in prison again. No doubt many western Christians would give up their activity for Christ when faced with prison at this age in life. However, Brother Shtshelkov does not consider himself too old to walk in the martyrs' way.

Pray for this dear brother and his family. May God give us courage to witness while we may do so freely. □



# UNITY IN OPPORTUNITY

## - A new look at the OWM Budget

GENERAL CONFERENCE at Houghton College in August provided a chance to review the philosophy of Our World Mission budgeting; to analyze giving trends of recent years; to consider current economic conditions; and to observe the commitment of Seventh Day Baptists to OWM as an integral part of their dedication to the Lord.

An expanded budget requiring approximately \$325,000 in designated and undesignated giving for 1979 was enthusiastically adopted, reflecting programs by the boards and agencies that are considered to be "in the best interest of church growth and visibility for the denomination."

However, Commission and the Budget and Finance Interest Committee expressed these cautions:

*"We are concerned that if the financial support of the membership is not fully committed to Our World Mission, revisions of the 1979 budget will force cutbacks in these programs." Also, that,*

*"If the OWM budget for 1978 is not satisfactorily met as determined by the General Council, an alternate budget of approximately \$300,000 will be implemented on January 1, 1979."*

**So, now is the opportunity to demonstrate Seventh Day Baptist unity in support of the churches' ministries and outreach.** □

### OUR WORLD MISSION

#### Budgetary Receipts for August 1978

Church or Group	1978 Suggested Goals	August OWM	8 mos. total OWM and Reported Bds.
Adams Center NY	\$ 1,698	\$ 599.20	\$ 1,370.95
Albion WI	2,038	144.65	1,346.34
Alfred NY	10,754	810.00	5,000.55
Alfred Station NY	6,792	526.72	2,567.94
Ashaway RI	8,603	1,377.24	5,079.96
Associations and Groups	9,056	49.20	8,367.22
Battle Creek MI	13,584	1,807.15	6,934.04
Bay Area CA	736	50.00	333.40
Berea WV	849	100.00	590.53
Berlin NY	4,528	1,318.40	2,801.08
Boulder CO	5,660	896.72	4,401.45
Brookfield NY	849	174.50	420.50
Central MD	2,547		300.00
Christ AR	679	30.00	512.19
Columbus OH	5,094	1,090.13	2,958.34
Dallas-Ft. Worth TX	276	20.45	187.41
Daytona Beach FL	4,754	503.83	3,285.55
Denver CO	19,244	7,827.44	13,680.06
DeRuyter NY	2,604	145.00	1,028.30
Dodge Center MN	7,358	190.00	3,595.89
Farina IL	1,358	44.45	438.81
Fouke AR	2,038	85.83	460.19
Hebron PA	2,830	422.00	1,788.97
Hopkinton RI	396		40.00
Houston TX	1,132	22.00	2,855.40
Individuals	3,396	1,663.15	2,556.25
Irrington NJ	2,830		2,325.00
Kansas City MO	2,264	768.30	1,190.63
Leonardsville NY	340	49.65	113.15
Little Genesee NY	3,622	438.28	2,912.74
Little Rock AR	679	70.00	187.17
Los Angeles CA	10,528	2,405.42	9,709.42
Lost Creek WV	5,660	275.00	3,197.59
Marlboro NJ	7,358	105.00	5,137.13
Middle Island WV	962	110.00	530.00
Milton WI	26,036	2,705.00	13,964.08
Milton Junction WI		140.00	461.00
New Auburn WI	2,830	216.23	1,015.54

New York NY	1,698	520.00	1,120.00
North Jersey NJ	2,830	347.55	1,447.00
North Loup NE	9,056	125.00	4,172.09
Nortonville KS	5,094	655.00	3,348.97
Paint Rock AL	1,924	20.00	456.04
Phoenix AZ	379		80.00
Plainfield NJ	8,490	1,573.53	5,903.40
Putnam County FL	849		
Richburg NY	3,679	317.00	2,346.58
Riverside CA	14,942	1,662.93	8,648.20
Rockville RI	792	35.00	278.75
Salem WV	8,490	679.00	4,127.54
Salemville PA	2,264	945.41	1,467.50
Schenectady NY	679	55.00	268.28
Seattle WA	3,736	157.99	1,217.57
Shiloh NJ	16,414	1,697.41	8,664.36
Stonefort IL	1,132	80.00	300.00
Sunshine Mountain MS	57	30.00	50.00
Texarkana AR	566	65.00	305.89
Upper East Tenn. TN	375	270.00	479.21
Verona NY	3,962	461.00	2,287.90
Walworth WI	2,490	300.00	1,310.00
Washington DC	2,547	595.00	1,627.00
Waterford CT	4,528	537.00	2,127.91
Westerly RI	9,056	285.00	3,722.95
White Cloud MI	2,038	450.52	1,632.92
Budget		\$39,045.28	\$171,034.83
Non-Budget		294.40	
Total To Disburse		\$39,339.68	

#### AUGUST SUMMARY

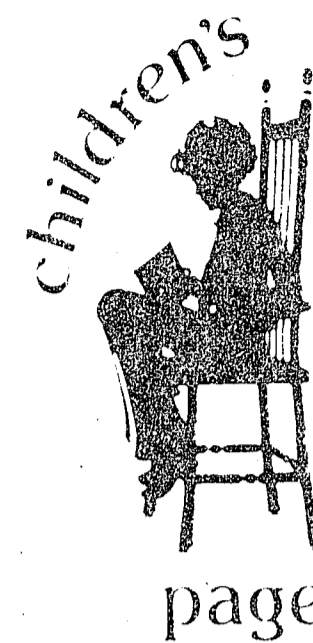
Budget	\$298,504.00
Receipts for eight months:	
OWM Treasurer	\$154,585.57
Boards Reported	16,449.26
Total	171,034.83
To be raised by December 31, 1978	\$127,469.17
Percentage of year elapsed	66 2/3%
Percentage of Budget raised	57.29%
Eight months:	
Due	\$199,002.64
Raised	\$171,034.83
Arrears	\$ 27,967.81

Gordon Sanford  
OWM Treasurer

1979 Conference theme: "If you have love, all men will know you are MY DISCIPLES."

John 13:35

LOVE IS SHOWN BY GIVING ..... GIVING EXPRESSES LOVE



## FRUIT IS IMPORTANT

by Linda Harris

The leaves were just beginning to turn bright colors on the trees. The apple tree had dropped the last of its apples. The air had been crisp and cold this morning for the first time since spring. Tim looked out the window and decided to go out and pick up the apples left on the ground. He picked up a bushel basket on the back porch as he headed for the apple tree. Grandpa was sitting in the swing on the porch, and as Tim came by, Grandpa said, "Going to pick up the last of the apples, huh?"

Tim answered, "Sure am, Grandpa. Want to help?"

"No thanks, Tim. You go ahead, but be sure to separate the bad apples from the good apples."

"I will, Grandpa," Tim answered over his shoulder. He picked up another basket so that he could separate the apples.

When Tim was through, he brought the baskets back up on the porch. He sat down beside Grandpa and said, "Fruit is pretty important, isn't it, Grandpa?"

Grandpa picked up an apple, looked at it and took a bite before he answered. "Yes, Tim, apples and other fruits are pretty important, but even more important than fruit to eat, is the fruit that we show in our Christian lives. John 15:5 tells us that we can bear fruit only by living with Jesus. And Galatians 5:22 and 23 tells us what fruit we are to show in our lives."

Tim ran in to get his Bible, and came back out. He looked up the two passages that Grandpa just mentioned.

Get your Bible and look up these two passages. Memorize John 15:5 as this month's memory verse. (Younger children may memorize "Bear much fruit.") When you read Galatians 5:22, 23, list each quality mentioned in the first blank in each question below in the order in which they appear. Then look up the Scripture for each question in a Revised Standard Bible and fill in the edible fruit mentioned in each passage in the second blank.



- Children who show their parents \_\_\_\_\_ are compared to \_\_\_\_\_ shoots. (Psalm 128:3)
- Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ was celebrated by bringing clusters of \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Chronicles 12:40)
- \_\_\_\_\_ was made among the people of Israel when Aaron's rod put forth \_\_\_\_\_. (Numbers 17:8)
- One must have \_\_\_\_\_ because a \_\_\_\_\_ tree will bear fruit only when it is time. (Matthew 24:32)
- Words are compared to \_\_\_\_\_ of gold. (Proverbs 25:11)
- The spies wanted to show the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land, so they brought back grapes, \_\_\_\_\_ and figs. (Numbers 13:20)
- "If you had \_\_\_\_\_ as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this \_\_\_\_\_ tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Luke 17:6 — This fruit is like a blackberry.)
- Israel (Jacob) showed \_\_\_\_\_ in sending his son Benjamin, and he also sent balm, honey, gum, myrrh, \_\_\_\_\_ and almonds. (Genesis 43:11)
- The Israelites had to show \_\_\_\_\_ by not harvesting the \_\_\_\_\_ when the Lord had told them not to harvest them. (Leviticus 25:11)

Answers are on page 34.



**SUMMER CHRISTIAN  
SERVICE CORPS  
1978**

Seeking God's wisdom, solving personality conflicts, obtaining a willing heart, knowing how God would have things done, were all things that God spoke to the young people as they sought His leading during their prayer times. Many experienced great joy in both the good and painful happenings as they praised God "in all things." God truly did meet their needs as they humbled themselves and came to Him in prayer.

The Holy Spirit will continue to show us ways we can share God's love more effectively. From our gathering at evaluation we have discovered the need for better communication between church members and their pastors, as well as a greater need for the entire church to be aware of the plans for the team. We discovered the need for more church members to be involved in the carrying out of those plans since the primary purpose of SCSC is to supplement the program of the local church.

In most instances SCSC is not set up to provide a summer program without the church's involvement. Also, we feel it is important for the church, the pastor and the team to evaluate together what has been accomplished at the conclusion of the summer's work.

God has called each of us to go into the world and share the good news that He wants to have a relationship with each person. He hasn't just called me, or the trainers or the project directors or the SCSC workers. He has called each of us to this very important mission. We won't all do it the same way or in the same place, but He has called us because He has a special plan and a special place for each one of us.

May God impress this upon your hearts as surely as He has impressed it upon the hearts of those who have served in SCSC this summer. "There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are His" (1 Cor. 12:6). □

**BOOKS YOUR FAMILY  
CAN USE**

(continued from page 25)

*Handling Your Ups and Downs* equips children with the skills they need to deal with their emotions — both positive and negative, particularly in coping with uncomfortable feelings.

*Mine and Yours* is a children's book about rights and responsibilities. It helps children learn the God-given rights they are born with — what those rights are, and what responsibilities follow them.

*Saying What You Mean* outlines on a child's level the way to communicate effectively. It shows how to find the right time, the right people, and the right ways to talk things over in order to develop and maintain productive relationships.

*Keeping Your Body Alive and Well* prepares a child to care for his or her physical needs — to build healthy habits that can avoid later suffering from obesity, heart problems, ulcers, and the like.

Six other books are scheduled to be released early in 1979 to deal with relational needs, social skills, family life, sibling rivalry, money management, and problem solving.

Illustrated by cartoonist Ernest Hergenroeder, each book is written primarily for children four through eight, but can be read profitably by older children.

Joy Wilt is creator and director of Children's Ministries, an organization that provides resources "for people who care about children" — speakers, workshops, demonstrations, consulting services, and training institutes. She is author of two books, *Happily Ever After* and *An Uncomplicated Guide To Becoming a Superparent*, as well as the popular *Can-Make-And-Do Books*.

These books may be purchased from a Christian Bookstore or from: Educational Products/Division of Word Incorp./4800 West Waco Drive/Waco, Texas 76703. □

**CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS**

(from page 33)

Answers:

1. love, olive
2. joy, raisins
3. peace, almonds
4. patience, fig
5. kindness, apples
6. goodness, pomegranates
7. faith, (faithfulness), sycamore
8. humility, (gentleness), pistachio nuts
9. self-control, grapes

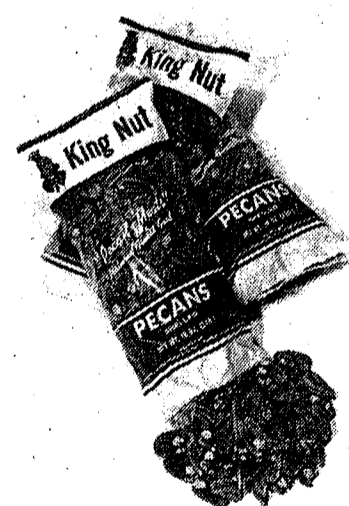
**PRAYER POWER HOUR**

We invite you to join in our Prayer Power Hour held each Monday morning at 10:00 EST at denominational headquarters in Plainfield, N.J. If you have a specific request you would like to share with our headquarters staff please send it in. Whether you are in California, Texas, Minnesota, or Rhode Island, you can join us in prayer where you are in your own time zone. Let us pray for power in our own lives, in our local church situation and across the denomination. May God bless and guide as we seek a new filling of His spirit. □

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**Editorial**

**I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN**

"I've been to the mountain, and I have seen the glory of the Lord." These words, expressed by Moses so many years ago, could describe the feeling of many who attended Conference this year. Truly it is a mountaintop experience when God's people from across the country can be joined by brethren from overseas lands to share in a week of fellowship and spiritual renewal.

The presence of our World Federation delegates and observers added much to the week's activities. They had a part in many phases of the Conference sessions. Their contributions in worship, music, prayer, discussion, and their attractive displays will not soon be forgotten. The Conference, World Federation Sessions and Training Institute were no doubt a great learning process for our overseas delegates as well. One remarked that he had received twenty years of education in the three weeks spent among us. May God bless those who carry on His work around the world. Certainly after this Conference it has been brought home to us all that we are one in Christ regardless of race, language or national origin.

In the area of church growth many were blessed by the presentations of Dr. Carl George of the Fuller Evangelistic Association. Evidence of growth was seen with the welcoming of six new congregations into Conference membership. New work has been established in several other places, some since Conference, and we look forward to more good reports during the year. The denomination is hearing an unmistakable call from the Holy Spirit to reach out with the message that Christ has given us. I believe we are being led into a rich harvest in the months and years ahead; may we be equal to the opportunities afforded us. □

**ELDER BEEBE CALLED TO REST**

Elder Clifford A. Beebe, long-time Seventh Day Baptist pastor and home missionary, entered into rest on Sabbath, September 16, 1978, at the home of his daughter in Daytona Beach, FL. The staff of the *Sabbath Recorder* joins with Seventh Day Baptists across the country in grateful appreciation for Pastor Beebe's life of unselfish service to the cause of Christ. To Mrs. Beebe and the family we express our deepest sympathy; an extended obituary will appear in our November issue. □

**MISSIONARY SOCIETY MEETING CHANGE**

The quarterly Board meeting of the SDB Missionary Society will be held Oct. 22 instead of Oct. 29 so as not to conflict with the meeting of the General Council. The meeting of the Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Church in Westerly, R.I. □



**WHO WILL ANSWER THE CALL**

We are excited here at the office by the numerous requests for literature and calls for assistance in the development of new areas of witness. These are days of special opportunity and we as Seventh Day Baptists must mobilize our resources for action. As has been pointed out by our dean we have had a record number of new pastors and students in seminary but the demand is still greater than the supply. More young men and women are needed to fill the professional ministry.

The harvest field is ripe — all types of workers are needed. Lay leaders can assist in the development of new churches and give strength in some of the established churches. If you are considering a relocation because of job, health, retirement or for whatever reason, why not consider locating near one of our new churches or groups. We have churches where the presence of only one or two more key families would make the difference between stagnation and progress. We have areas of interest where a lay family could locate and with the help of the Holy Spirit build up a new church.

We live in an age of mobility, people are constantly on the move. Certainly there is opportunity today for more bi-vocational pastors who, like the apostle Paul, are willing and able to earn their own living while building up or strengthening one of our churches or groups.

Who will respond to these calls for assistance? Are you willing to answer the call for workers — pray for laborers for the fields "are white unto harvest." □



HERE'S SOMETHING EVERYONE

SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!

SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. THE FIRST TWO VOLUMES, WILL SOON BE OUT OF PRINT. If you would like to own the three-volume set of Seventh Day Baptist history or if your church library needs a set now is the time to order. We have about fifty complete sets remaining — when these are gone only volume three will be available. Don't be disappointed order today: \$27.00 for the three volumes.

Also available on a very limited basis is CHINA LETTERS by Dr. Rosa Palmborg. This story of SDB missions in China will not be reprinted, final close-out price is \$2.50.

A FREE PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF A FREE LAND — by Rev. Don Sanford is a current interpretation of the SDB movement westward. Price \$5.00.

Also available from the Publishing House for your church needs: "God of the Sabbath" songsheets, "Bearing the Fruit" songsheets, Baptism certificates, License To Preach certificates, Offering envelopes, Transfer of Membership forms (for clerk use).

NO LONGER AVAILABLE:

Steps in Growth — by Rev. John Peil and Sabbath History I: Before the Beginning of Modern Denominations by A. J. C. Bond.

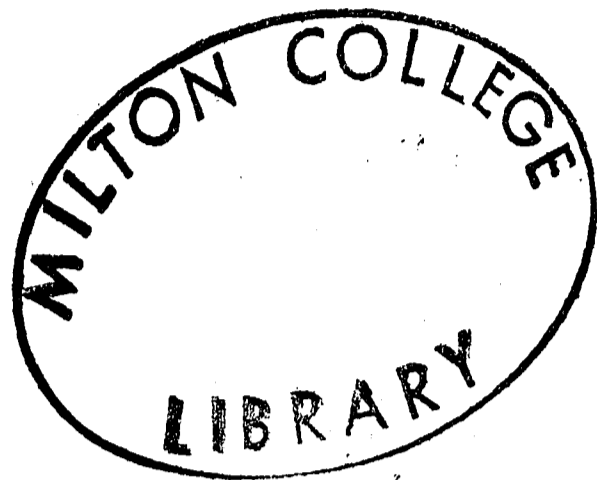
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