



In August Seventh Day Baptists will return to the campus of Houghton College, Houghton, New York, for 166th annual session of General Conference.

CONFERENCE '78

The host committee for General Conference, Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, chairman, is in the process of making plans for the upcoming Conference sessions August 6-12, 1978. Seventh Day Baptists will be returning to Houghton College, Houghton, N. Y., site of Conference in 1976. Those who attended in 1976 recall the wonderful hospitality of the college staff and the excellent facilities made available for our use.

Two of the buildings are air-conditioned: the Science Hall, where the meeting rooms are, and the Campus Center which includes the dining area. Unless we have a terrific heat-spell, the auditorium and dormitories will be quite comfortable without air-conditioning. Summers in this part of New York state are usually quite mild.

The rates for meals, lodging, and registration will soon be announced. As usual, pre-registration forms will be sent to the churches in the Spring so that your registration can be back in the hands of the committee in July.

Conference President Richard Shepard is planning a program that will have something for every age, a program that will prove a spiritual blessing to all. Let us give him our prayer support as he seeks the leading of the Holy Spirit in the program plans that are now being finalized.

Make your plans now to be in attendance with Seventh Day Baptists from across the country at this Conference session. An added highlight this year will be the presence of delegates from sister conferences from around the world who will be attending the meetings of the World Federation just prior to Conference. Truly this will be a unique Conference - one you'll not want to miss. More information concerning Conference '78 will be shared in future issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*. □

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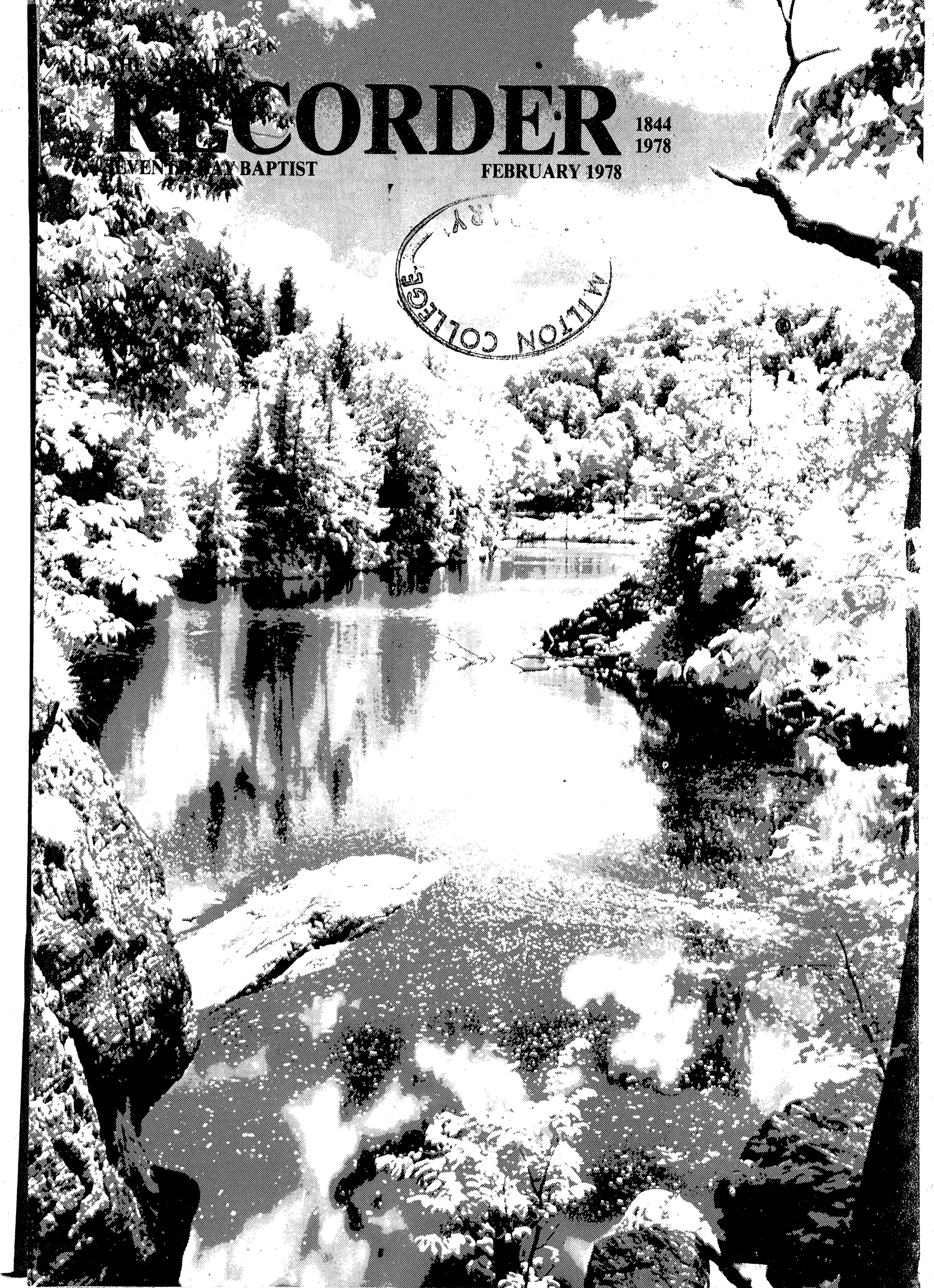


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and much more!*

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February 1978
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RECORDER REACTIONS

I have read the *Recorder* since I was a boy. Now I am an old boy of 83 and I find that recent issues have been extra good. Some of the older writers of long ago were some of the best. However, the make-up now and special articles are splendid.

-Erling E. Ayars
Coral Gables, FL

Thank you and your staff for putting out a paper of which all S.D.B.'s can be proud. The last issue was the greatest.

-Mrs. Roswell P. Seager
Little Rock, AR

SEATTLE TO CELEBRATE

The tenth anniversary of the Seattle Area, WA, S.D.B. Church will be celebrated with special services March 3,4, 1978. Rev. Glen Warner, former pastor now living in Ohio, is the guest speaker. The Friday evening services are at 7:30 pm, Sabbath Worship at 11:00. The Rev. Duane Davis is pastor.

The Sabbath Recorder

The night had been bitterly cold. The phone awakened me before light and the doctor's voice had a sense of urgency. "Chaplain, could you come down now! We have a young lady that was just brought in. We need your help! But, please speak with me before you see her."

As chaplain I was used to calls at all hours and ever new and desperate cases. Thus I hurried to the hospital. The doctor filled me in--the garbage men were cleaning out a pile of refuse in an alley in downtown Chicago. They were startled to see an arm sticking out and quickly uncovered a young lady. Her body was stained by the filth and her limbs partly frozen. She was rushed to the hospital. She had evidently been drinking heavily and sought warmth by digging into the garbage. Maggots had entered her body and though still conscious, no word could be wrested from her lips. Her name, her family, her reason for being in such a condition? We had no answers.

She was a gook-looking girl in her twenties, and the stain of garbage was evident on her face and neck. But it was the burning hatred in her eyes that "spoke" clearly. I tried to give assurance and comfort and seek basic facts. But no words came. Only those burning eyes.

It was before noon that I was again called back to her room. The doctor outside the door said she was not going to live long. Again he pled that I seek to gain some information from her while there was time.

One was immediately aware of impending death as you looked on her face. But the eyes, though closed at times, still bore hatred. I shared the love of Jesus and sought, through key Scripture verses, to give her the gospel and the way she could find His love and provision. No response. I found myself pleading with her. Then she opened her eyes again and faintly spoke, "Where were you Christians before I got into this mess?" It took effort, but the words were spit out. Those eyes then closed forever.

I can never forget her words! I hope you who read these lines will not either! What are "we Christians" doing to relate His love and provision to those among whom we live and work? There is yet opportunity with most. □

--based on the true experience of the chaplain at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL, as shared with Northern Baptist Theological Seminary students about 1949.

February 1978



BITTERLY COLD

Women of Corinth

Read 1 Corinthians

We cannot appreciate the problems Paul faced at Corinth unless we understand what the community was like when he came there. Corinth was a Roman city in Greece. It had been destroyed by Rome in 146 B.C., then restored as a Roman colony in 46 B.C. So in Paul's day it was still a new city without established traditions. It was also a commercial city strategically located and interested mainly in making money.

But Corinth was noted first of all for being the most wicked and immoral city in all of Greece and Italy. This notoriety was partly because of the temple of Aphrodite situated on the mountain in the city. In this temple there were a thousand priestesses who were really religious prostitutes. Men came from all over Europe and the Middle East to "worship" there. It was said that few men left Corinth with any money in their pockets. They did not even have to climb the mountain to find these women. It was written that the women of the temple would come down into town at eventide and accost the men. And remember that relations with them was counted as religious merit.

No wonder there were moral problems in the Corinthian church! It was said the immorality in Greece was at least aesthetic, but when the Romans came they made it crude.

There were two other kinds of prostitutes in Corinth. There were the *hetairae*, the same as "call girls" in American terms. They were beautiful, often educated and witty, and trained to entertain and satisfy every desire of the men who came to them. There were also the street prostitutes, always available. All these women were free to go out in public, bareheaded, dressed to be sexually attractive in order to attract the men. No wonder Paul had to talk about women being modest!

There were "good women" too. Among them were the wives and mothers who lived very secluded lives. They were protected and honored. These must have been the women who became Christians with their husbands. They now had freedoms they had never known before. This involved adjustments for the Christian women and men alike. There were marriage troubles in the church that they wrote about to Paul.

A Greek philosopher about 500 years before had said, "The male is by nature superior and the female inferior; the one rules and the other is ruled." This was the background of Greek thought and custom.

In light of this, it is especially interesting to note Paul's answer to the Corinthian concerns on marriage: "For the wife does not rule over her own body, but the husband does; (Paul did not stop there as Aristotle did!) likewise the husband does not rule over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Cor. 7:4). This is Christian revolution. It makes them partners as Paul did in writing to the Galatians, saying that in Christ there is neither male nor female (Gal. 5:28).

The new Christian freedoms created many problems in the church. The Greek idea of the body being a "temple" and separate from the spirit led some to think that they could do anything, even to going to prostitutes without hindering their spiritual growth. Others went to the other extreme of rigorous asceticism. Paul had to tell them that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. This had involved the non-Christian women of the community.

Some of the women in Greece of that time gave vent to their emotions in some of the highly emotional cults. Also many were especially devoted to Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft. It was the women in ancient Greece who were concerned with sorcery and witchcraft and whose religion was said to be emotional.

But it was not only the women who were emotional. We can call the manipulated ecstasy of the mystery religions of Greece as an emotional religion. At Delphi there was a crevice in the rock out of which came gasses. A priest would set a tripod stool over the crevice and set a woman on it. When she would begin to babble from the effect of the gas, he would take her utterance down and interpret what it meant. This is what we have heard called the Oracle of Delphi. So all the religion of Greece had a tendency to emotionalism.

Paul never talked or wrote against being emotional. His only emphasis to the Corinthian church was, "Whatever emotion or experience you have, is it a gift of God or is it a contrived experience?"

One thing that must be remembered is that what happened on the day of Pentecost was the *gift* of the Holy Spirit and the fuss in the Corinthian church was over the *gifts* of the Spirit. This is the reason Paul had to plead for orderliness in the services "for God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

In this context of disorder in the services Paul had to admonish the women to keep quiet. They were disorderly and noisy. Also they were arrogant: "What! Did the word of God originate with you, or are you the only ones it has reached?" (1 Cor. 14:36). These women had not yet learned how to use their new freedoms they found in the Christian church.

Surely, Paul was not stating a *principle* here, not after all the women he had praised for their help in the public ministry of the church. He was not against women or against marriage, though his counsel was influenced by his thinking that the second coming was near. Otherwise how could he say that the closest relationship of husband and wife was the best illustration of Christ and the church (Eph. 5:25-33)?

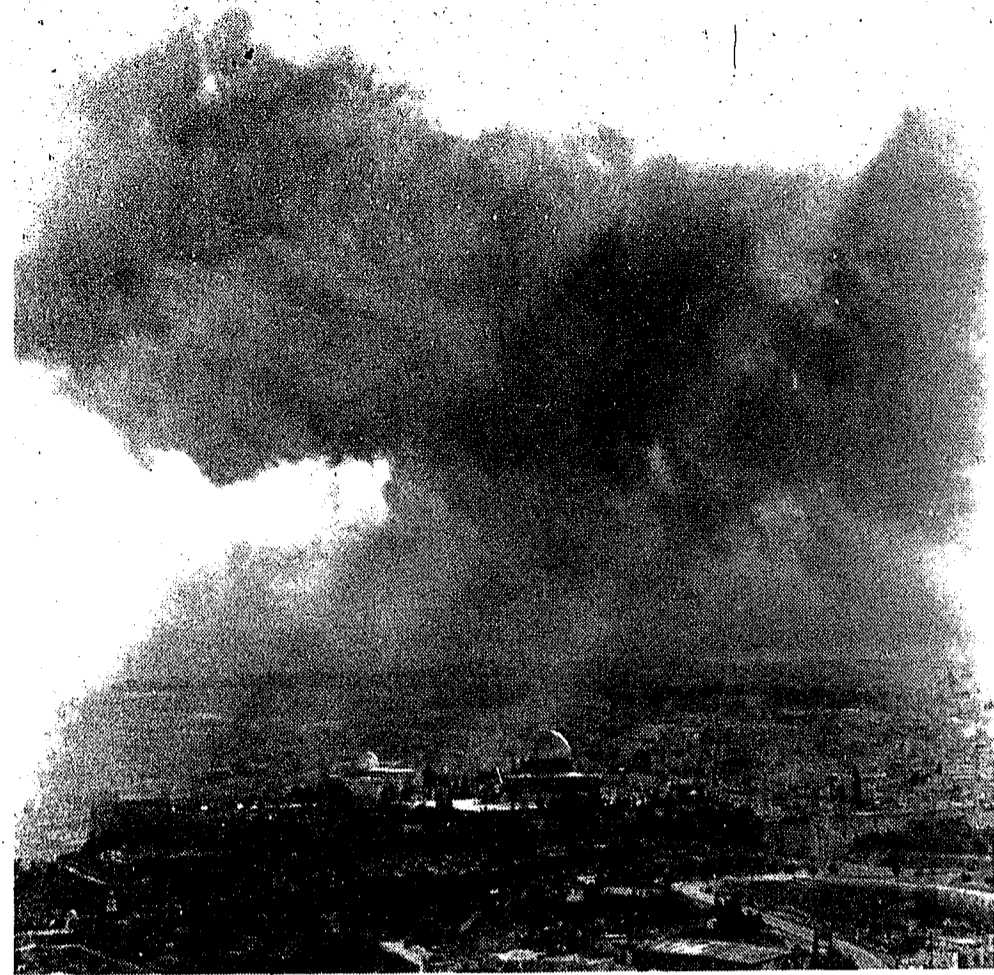
The Apostle Paul sets me free as Jesus does. □

by Anna B. Mow



The ruins of Corinth's Temple of Aphrodite

No wonder Paul had to talk to women about being modest!



*For Zion's sake I will not be silent,
And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
Until her righteousness shines forth like the dawn,
And her salvation like a blazing torch.*

-Isaiah 62:1

While in London it was our privilege to meet two Dutch Seventh Day Baptist ladies who were in England, engaged in Bible distribution work among the Jews. For some twenty-four years Sister J. Goedhart and Sister G. de Kock-Friesema have been involved in a faith ministry of sharing the good news that the Messiah has indeed come with the house of Israel.

Some ten years ago they discovered the Sabbath truth. They find that the Sabbath has great appeal in introducing Christ to the Jews. Sister de Kock-Friesema took her holiday in Yugoslavia and happened to be given a roommate, also from Holland, Miss Annie Kramer of our S.D.B. church in Leewarden. When plans were made for a bus tour on Sabbath, Miss Kramer announced that she would remain in her room as it was her Sabbath. Sister de Kock-Friesema exclaimed that it was also her day of rest, and they soon discovered a great bond of Christian love and unity as they became better acquainted. Upon returning to Holland Sister Kramer saw to it that Sister de Kock-Friesema and her co-worker, Sister Goedhart, worshipped with our Amsterdam church. They found a church home there and became members just this past year.

"We sow the seed, the Holy Spirit awakens the truth within them." These two sisters do indeed sow the seeds of the good news of Jesus Christ. They work door-to-door in Jewish communities in various parts of Europe. They offer a free New Testament, Hebrew and English or Hebrew and Dutch, etc., to those who will accept the gift. They have had many interesting experiences over the past years.

In a few months' work in England in 1977 they distributed some 1,650 copies of the New Testament to those who would receive them. Concerning one visit they wrote: "Somebody is shouting, 'No, thank you, not today,' or 'No, not that man of Nazareth, I do not like him at all.' Others tell us that they hate him and they honestly say 'but I don't know why.'"

For all those who reject their message there are those sincere in heart who do respond to the sweet gospel message. "I thought you would never appear; please give me a copy of that lovely book, I promise to read it."

While in London they met one elderly Jewish lady who "offered us a glass of whiskey and also brandy. Both we refused, of course, and said to her, 'We have something better for you - the living water.' She was amazed and asked, 'Do you have that in your bag?' To answer that question we showed her the page of Scripture where Jesus Christ is saying, 'Whosoever shall drink of me shall never thirst again in all eternity.' She looked at us and asked, 'Did you drink of that living water yourselves?' We assured her that we had and that if she would read the sacred pages, God himself would reveal it to her heart and open her eyes for the truth that Jesus Christ is His Son and the Messiah of Israel. She was moved into tears when we left her. We believe it is still true that the Son of Man is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel."

In a related experience in London they visited a Jewish school and were warmly greeted. "You are strangers from another country; we give you a warm welcome." They were introduced to the headmistress and, while seated in her office, explained the purpose of their visit. She became very interested and said: "if you know as much as that from the Tenach and love my people and my country in such a manner, then I cannot refuse your book. Please give me one for myself and two for my teachers." And so the seed is sown, awaiting the harvest which the Lord has promised to His laborers.

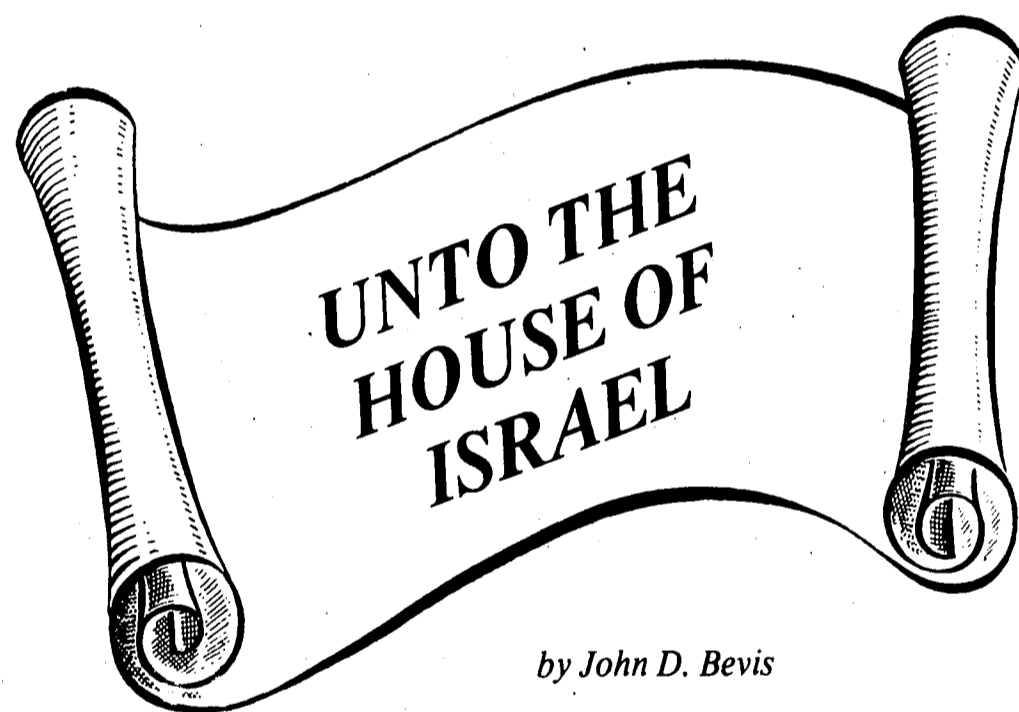
These two workers have now returned to Holland where they are continuing their work in the cities of Rotterdam, Leiden, and Amsterdam. "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against" (Luke 2:34). Let us pray that many in the house of Israel will experience this "rising" and come to a full knowledge of the saving power of Jesus Christ - the Messiah of all. Let us pray for a great harvest and pray especially for the work of these two dear Seventh Day Baptist sisters as they labor for the Lord among the Jews. □

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Enthroned once on high;
Thou favoured home of God on earth,
Thou Heaven below the sky;
Now brought to bondage with thy sons,
A curse and grief to see:
Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Our tears shall flow for thee.

Oh, hadst thou known thy day of grace,
And flocked beneath the wing
Of Him Who called thee lovingly,
Thine own anointed King;
Then had the tribes of all the world
Gone up thy pomp to see,
And glory dwelt within thy gates,
And all thy sons been free!

Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Until thou turn again,
And seek with penitence of heart
The Lamb thy sons have slain;
Till to the Saviour of mankind,
Thou humbly bow the knee,
Jerusalem! Jerusalem!
Our tears shall flow for thee.

by R. Heber



by John D. Bevis



Sister G. de Kock-Friesema and Sister J. Goedhart, members of the S.D.B. Church in Amsterdam, Holland, have carried on a ministry to the Jews for the past twenty-four years.

Camp Wakonda

by Rev. Earl Cruzan

Camp Wakonda offers the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church and her friends opportunities for camping experiences, for picnics, retreats, game nights and just the enjoyment of being in God's out-of-doors by oneself or with family and friends. Located four miles northeast of Milton on Klug Road and County N, the camp has been in use since 1951. It is the result of a dream of a former pastor, Elmo F. Randolph, who saw early the value of camps in the programs of the church. Frustrated by the inability to find a suitable camp for holding such programs for the youth of the Milton church and of the association, Randy sold the idea of purchasing twenty-five acres along Otter Creek for the development of a camp.

People responded and the property was purchased. In 1951 tents provided the only shelter. Food was prepared in town and brought out to camp. Then the lodge was built with the dining room and kitchen in the basement and a huge fireplace in the lodge itself. Stillman Cabin was built through a memorial to the Stillman family. Trees were planted, lawns were developed, swings were purchased. A concrete volleyball court was made possible through the memorial for Zalia Wells Gray, and lights were erected by the Eutharsos Class.

For many years camping was done in tents and tepees; now we have two dormitories, each sleeping thirty-two persons. A campfire circle is in the center of the oak stand east of the lodge, and many an evening has been spent before the flame of a glowing fire to the enjoyment of music, games, stunts and skits as well as picnics cooked over the campfire.

A large cross on the knoll dominates the area and brings many to a closer relationship to God. Many young people have sought the solace of God at the foot of the cross at vespers, yes; but even more in times of solitude or with a few others as they have been moved by the presence of the Holy Spirit or as they have sought guidance for their lives.

Much of the camp ground is heavily wooded through planting and natural growth. This provides trails which reveal the beauty of God's creation. They grow through the pines and spruces to cross over Otter Creek on bridges made from fallen willows, and on across the flats to wind through oaks and wild cherry, basswood, hickory and black locust, interspersed by a number of huge burr oaks. Across the road thirty-eight acres of woodland offer more hiking opportunities and occasionally the track of deer may be seen. Coon tracks abound along Otter Creek and the crayfish attract many a boy as well as the coons.

The camp serves the Milton church, but also every other year the Senior Camp of North Central Association, and every year the youth of Albion, New Auburn, Dodge Center churches. Southern Illinois is also included in the area served. In 1978 the camping program will begin on June 19 with a Day Camp program for children ages three through eight. Last year fifty children were in this activity. This will be followed by Senior Camp for North Central Association from June 25- July 2. Two more overnight camping programs are scheduled: Junior Camp from July 9-16, and Intermediate Camp from July 16-23. A Family Camp is projected but the date has not been set. Most summers a weekly game night sees activity at the volleyball court and also other games. We have had several Sabbath noon meals at camp with picnic lunch and the afternoon devoted to visiting, hiking, and other outdoor activity with family and friends. There is more and more demand for the use of the camp facilities by other groups for day camps, retreats, and camping programs: other churches, Wis. Junior Grange, Boy Scouts, and others use the facilities. A class from the Junior High School visits the camp for tree and shrub identification each year.

The Crosley Picnic Shelter with two outdoor grills is reserved for the use of the Milton church people when the camp is being used by other groups.



The Lottie Baldwin dorm is located at Camp Wakonda and serves the needs of young and old campers alike.



The Lodge

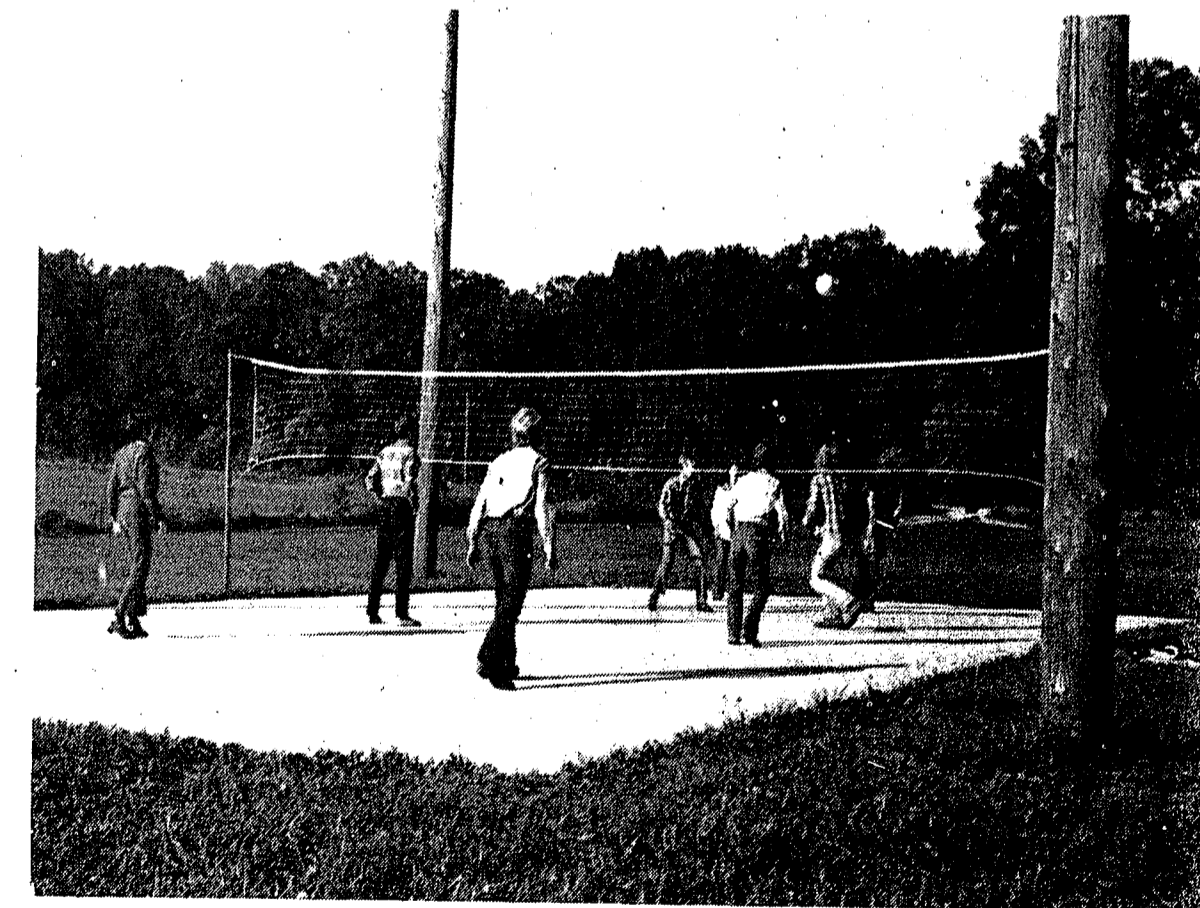
Camp Wakonda, whose name signifies to us the presence of God's Spirit in outdoor activities, serves the church in many ways. Camping programs are planned for many age-groups. Two dormitories provide excellent overnight accommodations. Picnic grounds, woods, trails, the lodge offer opportunities for retreats, picnics--opportunities to be close to God in nature. Many varieties of shrubs, trees and flowers may be identified as well as the birds which nest in the adjoining woods. The camp is made available to other groups when it is not scheduled for local church activities.



Camp Wakonda



The Cross standing against the skyline on Vesper Knoll is an ever-visible symbol that this area is dedicated to the worship of God Whose love is revealed to us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, His Son, for our sins.



Volley-ball

Pastor Charles Graffius, then pastor of the Salemville, PA, German Seventh Day Baptist Church (now pastor of the Los Angeles S.D.B. Church), directed the Youth Pre-Conference Retreat Aug. 3-7, 1977 at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR. He gives highlights of that event:

Our staff was as follows: Mary Ellis, of Salemville, PA; Arlene Kagarise also of Salemville; Douglas and Karen Payne of Dodge Center, MN; John Rau of Los Angeles, CA; Stephan and Irene Saunders of Adams Center, NY.

There he was...a handsome, dashing prince! (And you know the rest--they lived happily ever after.) So what is the task of the Church? To kiss frogs, of course!

With about sixty campers (staff and youth between 15 and 18 years) the fun activities consisted of games, swimming and hiking; one tremendous water battle where staff had more fun than campers, singing, volleyball in the swimming pool. The setting was the college campus with the "high class dorms" for the Pre-Con period. We also had the privilege of using the indoor swim-



"FROG KISSING" AT YOUTH PRE-CON

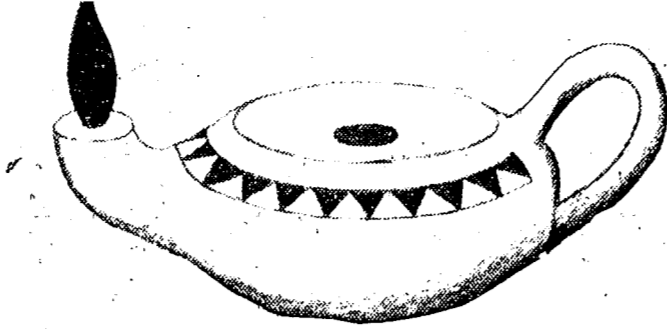
Our theme for Youth Pre-Con was "Frog Kissing" which comes from this imaginary outlook: "There is a prince in everyone--it's our privilege, as Christians, to find and bring out the prince in others by being what Christ expects us to be. Sometimes we must kiss some ugly frogs to find the prince but--well--you know the story! It goes like this:

Once upon a time there was a frog. But he wasn't really a frog. He was a prince who looked and felt like a frog. A wicked witch had cast a spell on him and only the kiss of a beautiful maiden could save him. But no one wanted to kiss this frog! So there he sat--an unkissed prince in frog form. But--one day along came a beautiful maiden who gave this frog a great big smack. Crash! Boom! Zap!

ming pool at 7:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. We enjoyed indoor campfires too.

There were prayer times and study times--fun times and class times. There were some campers who were alive for Christ (real frog kissers)--and there were frogs who needed being kissed. Some campers are now shouting Hallelujah! Some are feeling down-in-the-swamp about now. If you find one of these frogs, Kiss him! He just may be a prince.

In the Conference CRIER a camper added: "We had a wonderful time at activities such as Bible Fun and Frog Kissing and of course Keys to Creative Faith, led by our fearless leaders, John, Doug, and Karen. Bible Fun, led by Mary and Arlene, consisted of Bible quiz games



between the girls and guys. Frog Kissing, led by Prince Charming himself (some call him Chuck) is "the business of Christians--to find the prince in the discouraged, unsaved, and downhearted." We discussed prayer and the ability to share what we've got. Topics under "Keys to Creative Faith" were: Our Bodies, Power, Authority, Success, Our Future, and Our Vocation." □

Junior Counselor Program

A strong conviction that there is a great amount of potential to be found among Christian youth on the Pacific Coast, a desire to improve the Seventh Day Baptist camping programs on the Pacific Coast, a great amount of cooperation between the Pacific Coast Association and the Camp Planning committee, and a lot of hard work, created an opportunity for six committed young Christians to dedicate five and a half weeks of their summer to working in camps and Bible Clubs. The six who volunteered and were selected for this program were: Victor Burdick, 17, South Pasadena, CA; Jeff Inabnit, 17, Algona, WA; Nadine Wear, 17, Temple City, CA; Brian Owen, 17, Glendale, CA; Edie Rosa, 18, Yermo, CA; Leslie Seehuus, 17, Auburn, WA. Weeks before summer camping programs began each of these volunteers began correspondence study courses on the *GOSPEL OF MATTHEW* and on the book *CAMPING GUIDEPOSTS*.

On Sabbath afternoon, July 18, these six students, along with Pete May, Jr. and L. B. Lee, Jr., (who joined us for the training sessions) met at Pacific Pines Camp. With a staff that included Pastor Alton Wheeler, Harriette Maddox, Beth Burdick, Garry Morris, Gary

Hemminger and Marcia Halterman, these young people covered a spectrum of essential ingredients for Christian camping. For the next two and one-half days they concentrated on Bibles studies, Christian camping philosophy, what to expect from young campers, methods of discipline, first aid, and learning to live and work together. A tremendous spirit of unity of purpose and cooperation was evidenced in the behavior of the entire group. At the end of the training camp the students were deemed qualified and prepared to be Junior Counselors.

The first opportunity for the Junior Counselors to take the romanticized impressions of classroom learning into real-life situations came on June 21 with the opening of Pacific Pines Primary Camp. The Junior Counselors were involved with all aspects of the camping program - from being assistant teachers to helping and leading in recreation and crafts. Primary Camp ended Friday, allowing the Junior Counselors to have a vacation from duty of Sabbath and attending Riverside Baptist church.

Pacific Pines Junior Camp opened on Sunday morning and the staff was soon struck with the reality of how "mean and stubborn" 4th through 6th grade campers can be. However, the Junior Counselors performed beautifully as they lived, ate, worked and played with these campers, learning how to know and love them as individuals.

At the conclusion of Junior Camp, the six Junior Counselors, Gary Hemminger, Garry Morris, and Nancy May loaded into the May's camper and Gary's car and headed for Pacific Firs Camp in Kent, WA. Three days and two vehicle breakdowns later, they arrived at Pacific Firs Junior High-High School Camp. At this camp the Junior Counselors relinquished their titles and were able to enjoy the camp as campers. One of the unique experiences of this camp was the presence of the Light Bearers who ministered in music and song at least twice a day for the entire week.

After the Junior High-High School Camp, the Junior Counselors were able to rest for two days and then again resumed the responsibility and privilege of being counselors for the first through sixth grade campers.

The experience of counseling at Pacific Firs is different from that at Pacific Pines. Instead of living in large dorms, the campers are divided into small groups and live in separate cabins.

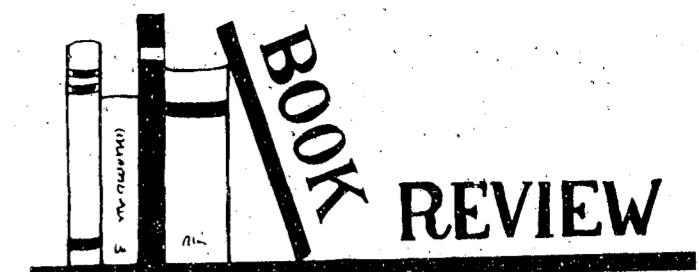
Camp ended on Sunday morning. On Monday the group, including Garry Morris and Gary Hemminger, was faced with the challenge of conducting three neighborhood Bible Clubs in the Seattle area. Each session was one and one-half hours long and continued through Friday. The unpredictability of young children and the desire to convey Biblical truths to them created some interesting experiences. Once, when discussing Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden, the question was asked, "What did Adam say when he discovered that God had created a woman from his rib?" One young boy, never having heard the story before, responded with groaning, "Ouch!"

The Sabbath was spent in worship and fellowship with the people of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The entire program was loaded with challenges, frustrations, problem solving and "battle fatigue," but these were all part of the wonderful experience of working and growing together in the Lord, meeting and making friends, and enjoying the opportunity to minister to others about the love of Christ. The memories of the summer's activities are too numerous for the printed page. The impact of the Junior Counselors' lives on the young people they ministered to is immeasurable, but the evaluation of each camp and Bible Club must lead to the conclusion that the success of these camps and clubs was in a large part the result of the hard work and dedication of the 1977 Pacific Coast Association Junior Counselors.

(Condensed report by Gary Hemminger who headed the program for Pacific Coast Association; from the RIVERSIDE SDB CHURCH "CHIMES" of Sept. 1977.)

Men will wrangle for Christianity, write for it, fight for it, die for it, anything but live for it!



LENDING LIBRARY OFFERS ASSISTANCE

Education is a continuing process as we learn from day to day experiences and from each other. Christian education occurs whenever Christians meet, whether it be in a formal teaching/learning situation, a church social, a business meeting or a casual meeting on the street.

The technical and practical basis of thinking about Christian education is a kaleidoscope, ever changing through the ages as lifestyles and educational philosophy changes.

The lending library of the Board of Christian Education contains several books which help church leaders and teachers better understand Christian education as it is today and future trends of this important aspect of Christian growth.

The jacket of *Understanding Christian Education* by Dr. Wayne Rood, (Abingdon Press, 1970) says, "This (is an) introductory text in the philosophy and theology of Christian education... The main areas of study are introduced by a brief biographical sketch of a major thinker. Horace Bushnell, sometimes called the father of Christian education movement in America, provides the starting point for discussion. Experimentalism, personalism, and extensionalism are presented as the principle options for Christian education. Various viewpoints and emphases are drawn together, and the student is en-

couraged to make his own assessments. *Understanding Christian Education* is a text with imagination - it is well organized and creatively outlined by marginal quotes."

The purpose of the book, *The Marks of Christian Education* by F. Gerald Ensley, (The Methodist Publishing House, 1958) as stated in the preface: "the thesis...is that 'Christian Education' must be both Christian and educational. Piety is no substitute for learning, and, conversely, we cannot afford to let culture pass for character. The purpose of these pages is to sketch what the 'Christian' half of Christian education entails. ...education is Christian if the quest for knowledge is motivated by the Christian world view, is manned by Christian personnel and culminates in integration of meaning and character and at-homeness in the universe which is ever the sign of those who have sat at the feet of the Great Teacher."

In his book, *The Community and Christian Education*, Tilford T. Swearingen (The Bethany Press, 1950) takes a broad look at the need for Christian Education to be taken to the community. He deals with the basis of the church's concern for the community, the church's mission, problems encountered and outcomes expected from community projects. This book is particularly helpful to Seventh Day Baptists as we are trying to find ways to expand our outreach to communities.

The Art of Teaching Christianity, enabling a loving revolution by Dr. Wayne Rood (Abingdon Press 1968) is designed to give direct help to classroom teachers. The book gives details concerning the philosophy of teaching, lesson preparation and teaching techniques.

Dr. Rood defines Christian education: "Education is the art of informing common sense with wisdom. Christian Education is education informed by Christian love. And Christians believe that the loving presence of God in human life is so potent that if it were taken seriously the entire world would be refashioned."

Each of these books will increase the church leader's understanding of Christian education and will help him grow in this field. □



by Mary Clare

Each Youth and Young Adult has an exciting challenge before him: choosing an occupation that will be satisfying to himself; one that uses his interests and talents in the best way possible for the betterment of the world around him.

The Board of Christian Education has two books which deal with the problem of choosing a career. Both books emphasize the difference between just a living and a life--- the choice is up to you.

A reviewer of *Careers for You*, by Erma Ferrari (Abingdon Press, Nashville 1953) says, "Square pegs get jammed into round vocational holes for many reasons... Whatever the reasons for their mistakes, misfits are unhappy and usually unsuccessful in their miscast roles."

"Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions a young person must face. This new revised edition of *Careers for You* surveys the field of occupations in today's world, with emphasis on attendant subjects of personality, aptitudes, training, and education, all from the point of view of the young Christian."

Richard P. Olson author of *A Job or a Vocation?* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc., Nashville 1973) says, "When we talk about vo-

ational decisions, we are talking about decisions involving the meaning of your entire life."

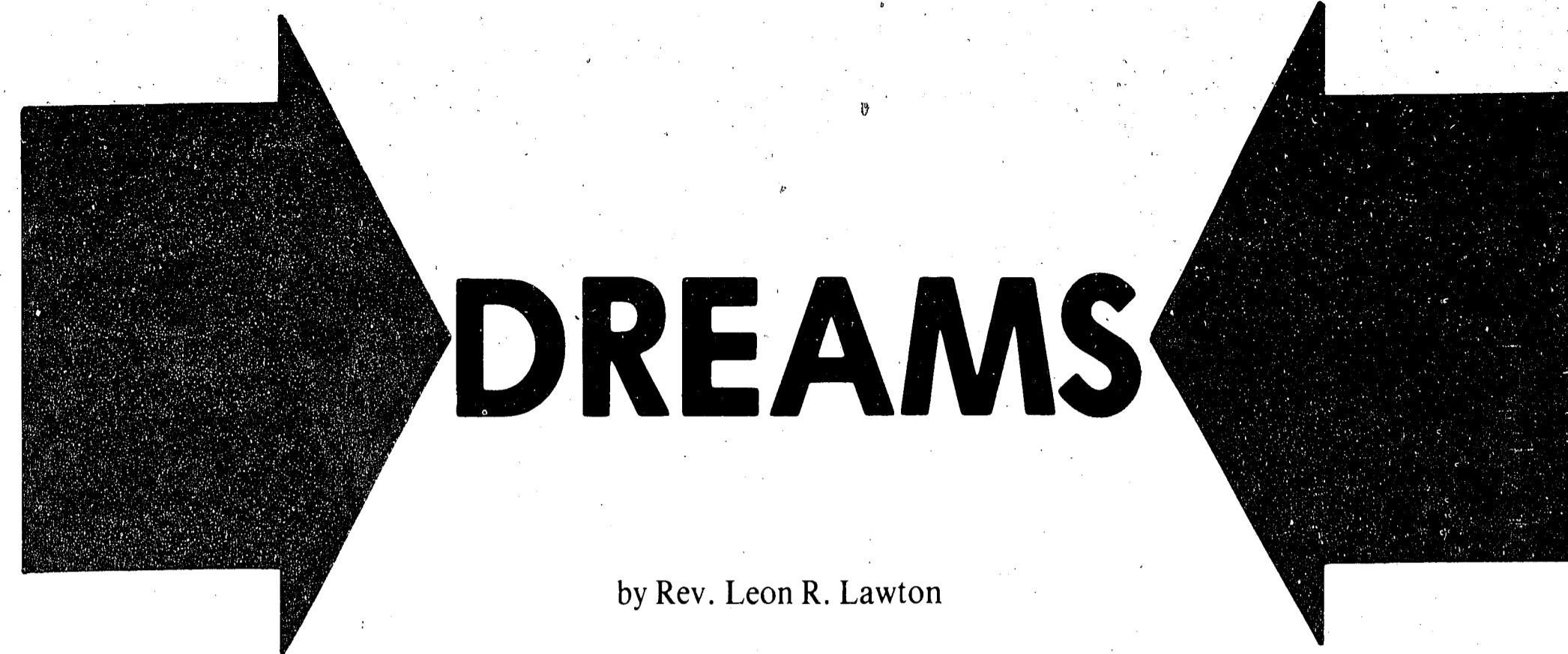
The author encourages young people to be realistic about their talents and interests before deciding upon a career. He discusses occupations, the education needed to fill the position, and the type of person most likely to be happy in the work.

Mr. Olson says, "It is often noted, though frequently ignored, that the word 'vocation' comes from the Latin word *Voco*, and it means 'call.' Though we often forget it, the word 'vocation' includes the belief that what we are to do with our lives constitutes a *call from God*."

Both of these books, *Careers for You* and *A Job or a Vocation?* may be borrowed from the board office in Alfred, N.Y.

"Believe it,
You are a real find,
A joy in someone's heart.
You're a jewel,
unique and priceless.
I don't care how you feel.
Believe it,
God don't make no junk."

—Herbert Barks
American Baptist Magazine, Sept. 1972, quoted from the book *Words Are No Good if the Game Is Solitaire* □



by Rev. Leon R. Lawton

Everyone knows a "dreamer" -- someone with the vision and the enthusiasm, but without the determination and the perseverance, to make his dreams come true. Everyone knows, too, that dreaming won't "make it so" as the old popular song goes.

The initial phases of our COMMITMENT TO GROWTH plan have involved "dreams," or "faith projections" -- what we honestly feel can come to pass in our church. Not all have the same dreams. It is difficult for some to also enter into the dreams of others unless they have like motivation and insight and faith.

But we must move beyond the "dream" phase, vital as that is. "Where there is no vision (dream?) the people perish" (Prov. 29:18a). God can, and does give us vision! But He also expects us to commit our lives to such a vision and do all we can to bring it to pass, yet recognizing His sovereignty and power.

When confronted with the tasks and risks involved in beginning and carrying through a local COMMITMENT TO GROWTH program, some hold back, failing to realize that real progress is made only at the point of risk. But is it risk, after all, if you are working for, and with, God?

If you believe God called your church into being, and its ministry is justified, you have every right to expect God to bless your efforts and enlarge the scope and effectiveness

of your ministry. If your church is needed *now*, it is worth preserving and enlarging for the *future*!

So... be a dreamer! But *don't stop there!* There comes a time to stop dreaming and start developing those dreams.

1. Evaluate the ministry of your church, and its needs.

2. Set goals. (Here's where you can dream a little!)

3. Recognize that some constructive changes in procedures, programs, personnel, etc., may be necessary to reach those goals. Avoid resisting change just because it is change.

4. Project the potential of your church. (Go ahead-dream some more!)

5. Make some concrete plans for reaching your goals.

6. Decide to take action.

7. Then ACT! DO SOMETHING...and when that is done, DO SOMETHING ELSE!

DREAM - with vision and enthusiasm, and DEVELOP - with determination and perseverance. That is what COMMITMENT TO GROWTH-II is all about. It happens with you! □

FLAKE'S FORMULA

1. Know your possibilities.
2. Enlarge the organization.
3. Provide the space.
4. Enlist and train workers.
5. Go after the people.

--From *Working in the Sunday School* (Convention Press)

DID YOU KNOW? **

● That the Plainfield, NJ, SDB Church has gained 46 members in the last four years!* The next runners up are, Alfred Station, NY, 35; Battle Creek, MI, 34; and Denver, CO, 33.

● That Battle Creek, MI, had the most reported baptisms in 1977? Their 15 is followed by Plainfield, NJ, 9; Denver, CO, 8; and Nortonville, KS, with 7.

● That in 1977 the Battle Creek, MI, church gained the most reported members--25! The new church at Columbus, OH, reported 19 and Milton, WI, reported 16.

**facts discovered in working with Accessions facts in the RECORDER for 1974-1977. It is acknowledged that probably not all additions to our churches were reported in this way and will show up, eventually, in the *Yearbook* statistics. Also we used the calendar issues and realize that Accessions printed were from one to three (or more) months following the fact. But this is what we have to work with and it reveals interesting facts and trends. Some of the growth we hear about in the closing months of 1977 will not appear until early 1978.

*During those years the Plainfield church also granted letters to its members which formed the basic nuclei for the New York City and North Jersey SDB Churches. Is there some relation? "He who gives the most gains the most." How does Jesus put this principle? □

STUDY GROUP REPORTS

At the General Conference session in 1975, a Task Force was elected to study denominational organization. Recommendations were presented at the General Conference session in 1976. The concept of a General Board was initiated.

Some recommendations were referred to a new Ad Hoc Committee for further study regarding implementation, and in 1977 at the General Conference session, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended a "full circle ministry and full circle administration" plan.

In non-binding votes at this General Conference session, the concept of the General Board/Council and full circle ministry were endorsed, but the specific proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee were not voted upon.

A third committee, calling itself the Study Group, was appointed at the 1977 General Conference session to evaluate the interrelationships and lines of authority in the Ad Hoc Committee's plan, to listen to alternative plans, and to present to the 1978 General Conference session a plan for denominational organization.

The Study Group consists of the Commission members and one elected representative from each of the General Conference-related agencies with the employed executives of the related agencies serving as consultants.

Proposals received and evaluated have encompassed nearly every degree of variability from, on the one hand, having General Conference act as a holding company, doing away with the related agencies, and appointing committees as needed to do the work presently done by the related agencies; to, on the other hand,

having the related agencies act collectively for General Conference when not in session (through their employed executives as a General Board) and establishing for General Conference an Advisory Council that meets once per year but without any administrative function.

All proposals received were carefully reviewed by the Study Group members and several were voted to receive further study. From this study emerged the concepts which are being proposed to the General Conference session in 1978.

Throughout the work of the Task Force, the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Study Group, there appear to have been three main reasons why individuals in the denomination have believed that a different denominational organization is needed:

- (1) To reduce the cost of denominational administration.
- (2) To increase the coordination among the related agencies.
- (3) To clarify the relationship between General Conference when not in session and the related agencies.

The Study Group conclusions are that:

- (1) No plan proposed and none of the three studies has found a way to reduce the cost of administration without losing an effective witness.
- (2) The Study Group's proposed plan should increase coordination among the related agencies.
- (3) The proposed plan provides for a General Council as the agent of the General Conference in a supervisory, but not dictatorial, role in connection with related agencies.

The details of the study and a more complete report will be mailed to the churches and General Conference-related agencies about March 1, 1978.

Proposed Denominational Organization

The General Conference is the coordinating body between the local churches and the related agencies. Since General Conference can conduct business only during its annual session, it delegates its business functions to the General Council to act as General Conference "out of session." The General Council is instructed to be guided by the actions of General Conference in session.

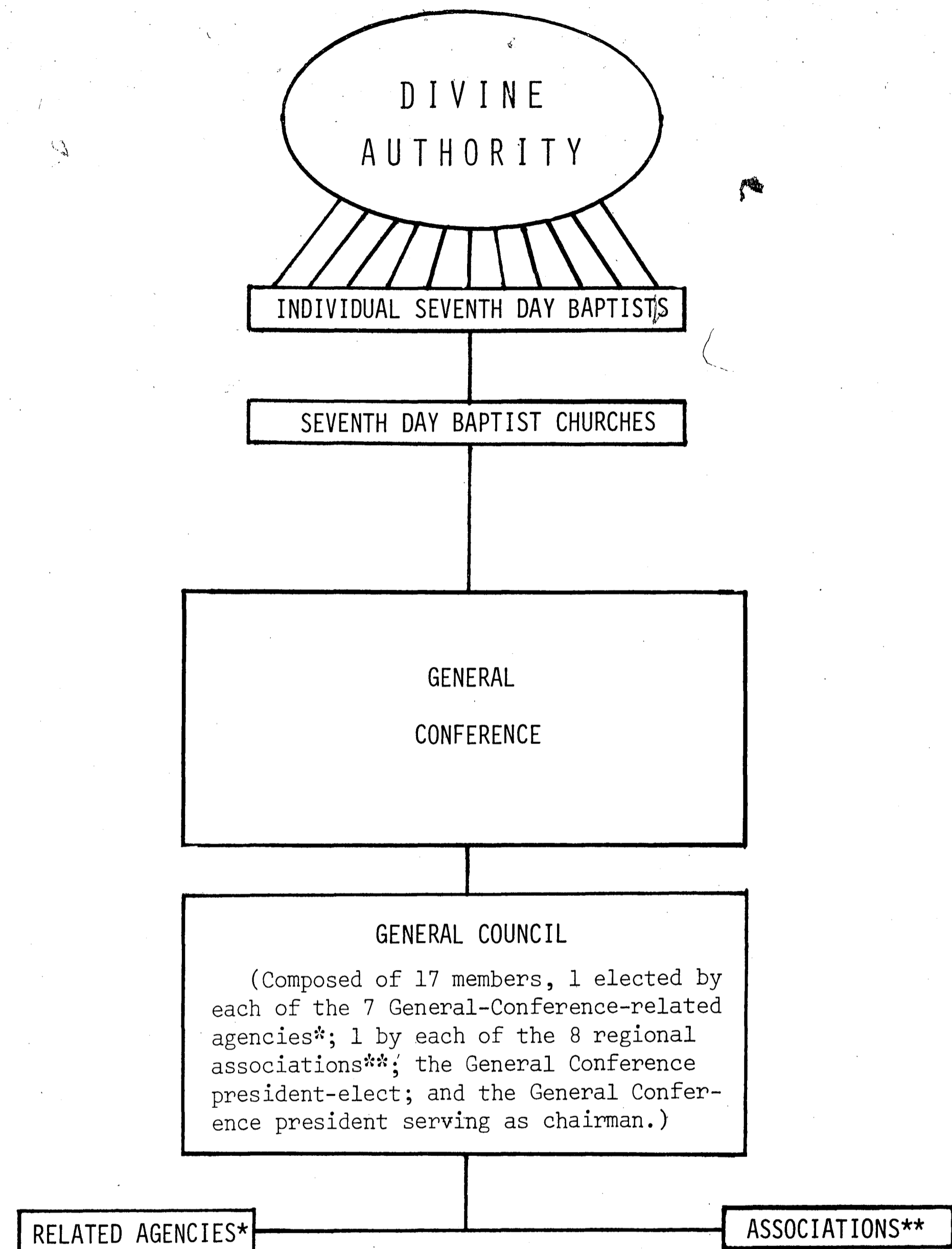
The General Council must approve all matters of policy, plans for raising finances, changes in operating expenditures, acquisition of property, and changes in the fundamental basis of operation originating within a related agency. The General Council, however, cannot initiate and implement such matters pertaining to a related agency without that agency's concurrence.

It shall act as a liaison between the General Conference and various denominational agencies and associations; develop a cooperative strategy for denominational programs; provide for a unified denominational budget; provide for the program of the sessions of General Conference; make recommendations upon any matter of business which may properly come before the General Conference; be responsible for the audit of the books of the treasurer of General Conference and the denominational treasurer; and evaluate the work of the executive secretary annually.

Each related agency will employ the personnel deemed necessary to carry out the mandates of General Conference. The General Council can make nominations for the executive personnel to be employed by the related agencies and must confirm the appointment of executive personnel in the related agencies prior to their employment.

Each related agency and each Association shall elect one representative to a three-year term. The president and president-elect of General Conference will also serve on the General Council. The president of General Conference will be the president of the General Council. The employed executives of the related agencies shall serve as *ex officio* nonvoting members. □

SUGGESTED RELATIONSHIPS IN THE PROPOSED DENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION



*Related Agencies: American Sabbath Tract Society, Board of Christian Education, Council on Ministry, Historical Society, Memorial Fund Trustees, Missionary Society, Women's Society.

**Associations: Allegheny, Central New York, Eastern, Mid-Continent, North Central, Pacific Coast, Southeastern, Southwestern.

A SABBATH IN LONDON

by John D. Bevis

Seventh Day Baptists in England have met for years in rented quarters, but that soon will change. Hopefully, during 1978, the Mill Yard congregation in London will move into its own facilities. While in London in October it was our privilege to be able to meet on Sabbath with the British brethren and also to tour the proposed chapel that is even now being renovated.

Our fellow-believers in England have raised funds for a period of years in order to purchase a building in the Tottenham section of the city. A recent loan and grant from the Memorial Fund insures the completion of the building project. The downstairs or main floor of the building, when completed, will house a chapel that will seat in excess of one hundred as well as provide restroom facilities and an entry way. The second floor of the duplex building will house an office, a church kitchen, and a rest room and bedroom for overnight guests. The conference office will be housed in this building and it will serve as the headquarters center for our work in the British Isles.

Sabbath services are held in three sections of London; Tottenham (the Mill Yard Church), Herne Hill and Lewisham. To the north of London services are held in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. The active Sabbath School membership of the five groups numbers 118 at the present.

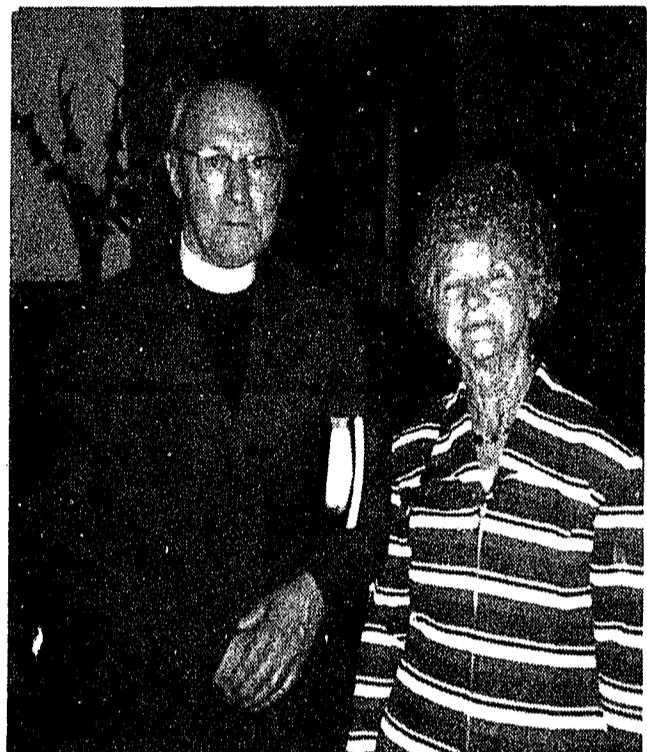
At the all-day meeting in October we were privileged to meet many of the brethren from all of the churches. Some came by chartered vans from Birmingham and Wolverhampton for the day. We were happy to bring the morning message as well as conduct a time of sharing in the afternoon when slides were shown of our headquarters building and publishing house. There was special interest in seeing the slides of our recent Conference sessions and keen interest in the development of our new work in New York City among our Jamaican friends.

We found very capable leadership and a great desire "to go up and possess the land" in coming months. Under Conference President Willard Smith, many plans have been made to strengthen the witness of Seventh Day Baptists among all age levels in England. Other officers of the conference include: Mr. Owen Lynch, Vice-President; Mrs. Jossett V. Lynch, Clerk; and Mrs. Iris Codrington, Treasurer. Rev. A.L. Peat is pastor of the Mill Yard Church and assists with the other church groups in the London area.

The Sabbath we were in London there were eight present from our Dutch churches. Later, the following Sabbath, the British Conference was represented by three delegates at the centennial services of the Harlem, Holland, church. We are happy



This building, now being renovated, will house the Mill Yard congregation. The church is located in the Tottenham section of London.

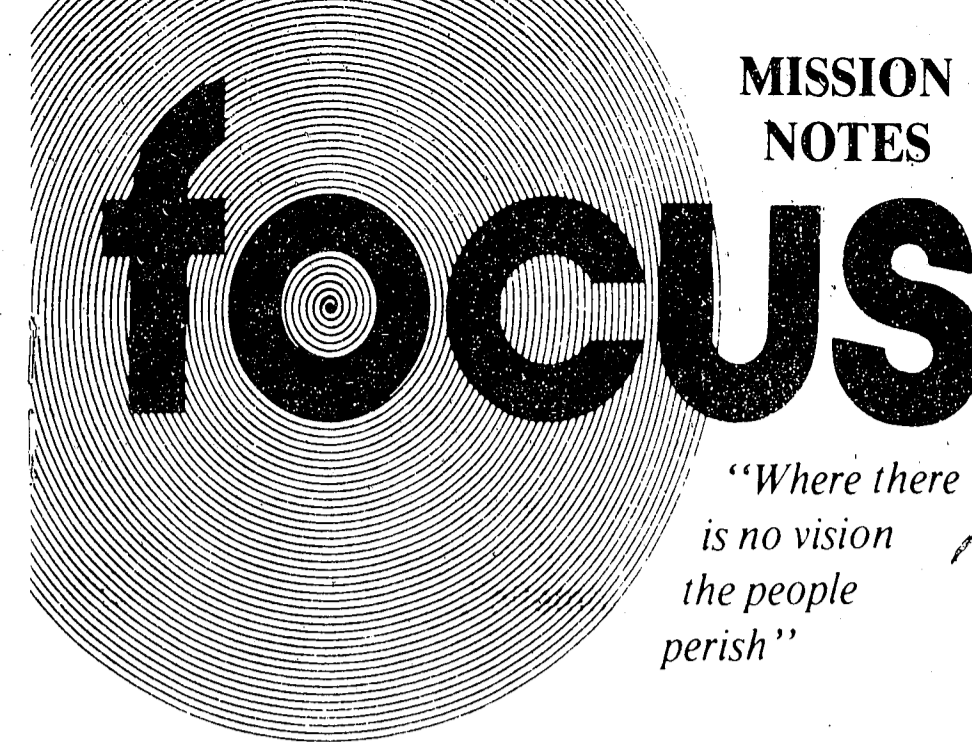


Rev. James McGeachy and Mrs. Olive Gelleff are long-time members of the Mill Yard Church. Each has made a unique contribution to the S.D.B. cause in England.

to see a growing cooperation between Seventh Day Baptists in Holland and England. In spite of distance and language problems there is much that can be done together; some consideration is being given to exchange campers or a joint camping program, for example.

Our English brethren have plans to develop a printing ministry. Brother Owen Lynch in Birmingham has recently purchased a printing press that will be used to print Seventh Day Baptist tracts and booklets. The American Sabbath Tract Society has given permission for the British Conference to reprint tracts and booklets and also has sent funds to assist in the purchase of paper, ink, and various supplies. Certainly the Lord will bless as the good news is shared through the ministry of the printed page.

(continued on page 24)



"Where there is no vision the people perish"

● ENGLAND.-The Mill Yard SDB Church in London is meeting temporarily in a school classroom following the closing of the Upper Holloway Baptist Church building (for reconstruction) where they worshipped for several decades. In the near future they hope to complete their own building in Tottenham and move in.

● U.S.A.-How do people come into (become members of) Seventh Day Baptist churches? At least eight ways were pointed out at the November Pastors' Seminar. These are now being documented and reported by pastors to the COMMITMENT TO GROWTH core group. How would you answer this question for your church?

● BRAZIL.-"The evangelistic work is in constant progress in this country. The gospel is reaching in new areas conquering many souls for the Kingdom of God." Thus writes Dr. Silas Nisio, president, in giving updated statistics. These do show many new groups and, in the greater Sao Paulo area alone, a growth from two to five SDB groups. Nationally the growth was from 39 to 65 groups!

● MISSIONARIES!-Calls continue to come for workers on world fields. Who will go? Let us be faithful to the command of our Lord--Matthew 9:38--and encourage individuals whom He calls into such vital ministries. Contact your Missionary Board office, sharing or seeking facts.

● MEXICO.-Pastor E. Aldave of Torreón reported eight baptisms in 1977 and attendance at 30 to 40

adults plus children. Deacon Alfonso Ramirez leads the worship when Pastor Aldave is visiting the new places where doors of opportunity have opened. Matamoros, in the state of Coahuila (15 miles east of Torreón) has a new church! Juárez, Monterrey, and Saltillo have individuals who seek to form new groups.

● U.S.A.-The '78 Session of the SDB World Federation will be hosted at Alfred, NY, August 2-6, and will bring representatives from ten to twelve member groups around the world. Visits to local churches before and following the meetings are being planned. If your church wishes to have such a visitor contact is to be made with Leo R. Lawton or David C. Pearson who are coordinating such arrangements.

● MALAWI.-Local churches have sought to have several "branches" --new groups that could develop into new churches. YEARBOOK statistics have shown these. An example is the Blantyre SDB Church which has its regular church building but an additional four centers of worship--Naperi, Chisombedzi, Mkwanda and Chilomoni. Nationally there are 37 churches and 43 branches. Mozambique has one church and four branches, as also does Rhodesia.

● PHILIPPINES.-New workers and local groups are being raised up in these days. This is especially true on the large southern island of Mindanao. Remember in prayer Rev. Eleazar Paypa, Sr., at Molave, Zamboanga del Sur and Ricardo Tagibon, Gango, Ozamis City.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

MARCH 1978

Verse for the month: "Most of all, let love guide your life for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of heart which comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of his body. And always be thankful."

-Colossians 3: 14,15 (LB)

Pray for...

- 1-My prayer and alone time with God--are these daily appointments meaningful?
- 2-Brethren in the new church at Matamoros, Mexico
- 3-Our Growth Force and its ministry to the church
- 4-Schenectady, N. Y., SDB Church
- 5-Evangelistic work in Brazil and the many new groups there
- 6-Those enrolled in the Guide Bible course
- 7-Members of the Mill Yard SDB Church in England as they continue work on their building
- 8-Editor Albert N. Rogers, *The Helping Hand*
- 9-My neighbor who doesn't know the Lord, strength to share with him
- 10-Historian Thomas Merchant
- 11-MISSIONARIES--we know you are out there--is God calling you to serve?
- 12-Crandall High School Board as it continues to make plans for the future of CHS
- 13-Thank God for our religious freedoms
- 14-My daily walk and witness in the Lord
- 15-Those who are discouraged
- 16-Director of Evangelism, Mynor Soper, as he carried out his vital ministry
- 17-Pastors in the Guyana SDB Churches as they move forward in the Lord's work
- 18-Thank God for the blessings of the Sabbath, share them with Him
- 19-Annual Meeting of the Missionary Society in Westerly, RI
- 20-Those who are planning our summer camping programs
- 21-Light Bearers for Christ and their musical ministry
- 22-Representatives to the 1978 SDB World Federation session as plans are made to attend
- 23-Children and teens in my church
- 24-SCSC workers for 1978
- 25-Seminary students in Sioux Falls, SD, as they meet for worship
- 26-Medical work in Malawi and all those who are called to serve in the medical ministry
- 27-Members of Planning Committee as they meet in Plainfield, NJ
- 28-Don Chroniger and his new ministry of music
- 29-Brethren in Blountville, TN, and their various activities
- 30-Pastor David Taylor, New Auburn, WI
- 31-Radio ministry and evangelistic work in the Philippines

COMMISSION MEETS — CHURCH GROWTH PRIORITY

Commission members at their December 26-28, 1977, meeting at Denominational Headquarters in Plainfield, New Jersey, emphasized the importance of the Commitment to Growth plan and challenged the churches "to make this a No. 1 priority."

"We are keenly aware," the Commissioners recorded in the minutes of the meeting, "that Commitment to Growth did not end with Workshop IV or the Pastors' High-Intensity Seminar in Battle Creek." It was suggested that the churches call upon trained and experienced Growth Force leaders such as Lorna and Bob Austin, Lettie and Leland Bond, Barbara and Daryl White, and Dorothy Parrott "to aid in monitoring and implementing the furtherance of the program."

Future General Conference Sessions

Future General Conference programs were carefully reviewed and applauded because they provide continuity in growth from "Daring the Impossible" (theme in 1977) to "Bearing the Fruit" (1978) and the challenge to "Serve People with Love" (1979).

Conference President Richard (Dick) Shepard has a varied and exciting program planned for Houghton, College, Houghton, New York, August 6-12, 1978, highlighted by a lead-off message from the Rev. Carl George, new member of the church growth staff at Fuller Evangelistic Association.

Boards and agencies will be given opportunity to work concise graphic presentations in plenary sessions; seminars on "spiritual gifts" will be available; a wide variety of Bible studies, praise and prayer services, and special musical features are scheduled, in addition to the regular and necessary business activities.

In 1979, Conference will be held on the campus of Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. President-Elect William R. (Bob) Austin states as a major objective "to help church members to become *reproducing disciples* through their loving service to mankind."

Scheduling of Conferences

Commission reviewed the questionnaires which had been sent to the churches so members could express preferences regarding such matters as rotation of Conference sites, meeting times, and biennial Conferences. Their preliminary judgment is that, for the time being, Conferences should be scheduled each year in early August. It was voted, however, that "Commission ask the Planning Committee to research the possibilities of strengthening the Associations and setting up regional Conferences looking toward the eventual biennial General Conference plan."

Commission noted with encouragement the number of new churches being established or contemplated, including Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas; Blountville, Tennessee; and Sunshine Mountain at Chatawa, Mississippi.

A communication from Dr. E. Keith Davis, chairman of the special Headquarters Location Research Committee, was received and reviewed. Commission encouraged the committee to send to church members a proposed "Points to Ponder" survey designed "to discover the priorities of Seventh Day Baptists with regard to relocating Headquarters."

Ministries and Concerns

There were conferences held with all denominational executives and extended discussions about ministries and concerns of the related agencies. Several participants mentioned an "obviously constructive and genial atmosphere of cooperativeness, with an evident desire to achieve mutually-determined goals."

In connection with review of budgets from related agencies, the importance of stewardship was emphasized. Many programs of outreach and productive development in Christ's Cause are curtailed or hampered by lack of resources.

Commission commended the Stewardship Committee for its aggressive promotion of Our World Mission through Learning Centers in the churches, monthly bulletin inserts, and a variety of special fund-raising techniques. Extra commendation was expressed to the

Memorial Fund Trustees for carrying on a specific "deferred giving" campaign on behalf of the entire denomination, its churches, and the related General Conference agencies and ministries.

Study of Reorganization

Commission, as a unit of current Seventh Day Baptist structure, reviewed carefully and accepted the report of the October meeting of the Study Group on Denominational Reorganization. Hope was expressed that the continued consideration by all concerned of suggested new procedures would lead to greater coordination and strengthening of the Lord's work.

It was voted "that Commission convey to the officers of the Seventh Day Baptist Men's Fellowship its interest and desire to have local churches consider the establishment of Men's Fellowships as a part of the Commitment to Growth plan and encourage the officers to take whatever action necessary toward fostering the initiation of such men's programs."

Variety of Interests

A variety of other denomination-wide interests and concerns were included on the agenda of the December Commission meeting, including reference to the validity of "goal-setting" by individuals, churches, and related agencies; consideration of how the scheduled pre-Conference meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation can most effectively be utilized to stimulate worldwide growth among Seventh Day Baptists; discussion as to the advisability of having adequate insurance to cover church properties, even though the earlier survey did not reveal sufficient interest to initiate a group insurance plan at the present time; confirmation of the Council on Ecumenical Affairs recommendation that Executive Vice-President of the Missionary Society Leon Lawton be asked to be the official Seventh Day Baptist delegate to the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Manila, report regarding the Conference-requested study of the denominational logo; review and updating of the guidelines for "special financial appeals"; nominations for membership on the following standing committees--Council on Min-

istry, Council on Ecumenical Affairs, Christian Social Action Committee, and Faith and Order; and recognition, with appreciation to the Trustees of General Conference and the Memorial Fund Trustees, for the painting and other improvements being made at Denominational Headquarters.

Distribution of Funds

Of special significance was authorization by Commission of the distribution ("based on the established allocation percentages") of \$5,000 remaining from Our World Mission "overage" a year ago. The excess had been impounded in order to meet necessary Conference-authorized extra-budgetary expenditures for Commitment to Growth and the Study of Denominational Reorganization. Great gratitude was

expressed that some designated gifts and other funds from special sources had made it possible to retain a substantial portion of the 1976 overage and make it available at this time to the related agencies for expansion of their ministries.

There was full attendance at the December meeting of Commission. Chairman Duane Davis presided, with all members in attendance: William R. (Bob) Austin, Don A. Sanford, Richard (Dick) Shepard, Delmer E. Van Horn, Lois M. Wells, and Executive Secretary K.D. Hurley. Lois Wells served as scribe and Jean Davis and Jean McAllister provided specialized secretarial assistance. □

by K. D. Hurley, Executive Secretary

LITANY OF THE CHURCH

(Adapted portions from a litany used by Church Women United at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., July 9, 1977.)

The Church is where
 Young people see visions and the old dream dreams
 lepers come to be touched
 the blind see and deaf hear
 the lame run and dying live
 daisies bloom out of barren land
 children lead and wise men follow
 mountains are moved and walls come tumbling down
 loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary to feed the hungry
 coats are taken off and put on the backs of the naked
 shackles are discarded and kings and shepherds sit down to life together
 the minister is ministered unto
 the anthem is the laughter of the congregation and the offering plates are full of people
 people go when they skin their knees on their hearts
 judges don't judge and each child of God is beautiful and priceless
 people can disagree and those hands at the same time
 people write thank you notes to God
 seeds are scattered and miracles are grown
 a picnic is communion and people break bread together on their knees
 the wonderful wildness of God breaks through common claypots and fills us with the Holy Spirit that overflows
 And we are sent out as rainbows
 many splendid colors
 light in pitch blackness
 And every day is a festival of faith

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Memorial Fund Trustees for carrying on a specific "deferred giving" campaign on behalf of the entire denomination, its churches, and the related General Conference agencies and ministries.

Study of Reorganization

Commission, as a unit of current Seventh Day Baptist structure, reviewed carefully and accepted the report of the October meeting of the Study Group on Denominational Reorganization. Hope was expressed that the continued consideration by all concerned of suggested new procedures would lead to greater coordination and strengthening of the Lord's work.

It was voted "that Commission convey to the officers of the Seventh Day Baptist Men's Fellowship its interest and desire to have local churches consider the establishment of Men's Fellowships as a part of the Commitment to Growth plan and encourage the officers to take whatever action necessary toward fostering the initiation of such men's programs."

Variety of Interests

A variety of other denomination-wide interests and concerns were included on the agenda of the December Commission meeting, including reference to the validity of "goal-setting" by individuals, churches, and related agencies; consideration of how the scheduled pre-Conference meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation can most effectively be utilized to stimulate world-wide growth among Seventh Day Baptists; discussion as to the advisability of having adequate insurance to cover church properties, even though the earlier survey did not reveal sufficient interest to initiate a group insurance plan at the present time; confirmation of the Council on Ecumenical Affairs recommendation that Executive Vice-President of the Missionary Society Leon Lawton be asked to be the official Seventh Day Baptist delegate to the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Manila, report regarding the Conference-requested study of the denominational logo; review and updating of the guidelines for "special financial appeals"; nominations for membership on the following standing committees--Council on Min-

istry, Council on Ecumenical Affairs, Christian Social Action Committee, and Faith and Order; and recognition, with appreciation to the Trustees of General Conference and the Memorial Fund Trustees, for the painting and other improvements being made at Denominational Headquarters.

Distribution of Funds

Of special significance was authorization by Commission of the distribution ("based on the established allocation percentages") of \$5,000 remaining from Our World Mission "overage" a year ago. The excess had been impounded in order to meet necessary Conference-authorized extra-budgetary expenditures for Commitment to Growth and the Study of Denominational Reorganization. Great gratitude was

expressed that some designated gifts and other funds from special sources had made it possible to retain a substantial portion of the 1976 overage and make it available at this time to the related agencies for expansion of their ministries.

There was full attendance at the December meeting of Commission. Chairman Duane Davis presided, with all members in attendance: William R. (Bob) Austin, Don A. Sanford, Richard (Dick) Shepard, Delmer E. Van Horn, Lois M. Wells, and Executive Secretary K.D. Hurley. Lois Wells served as scribe and Jean Davis and Jean McAllister provided specialized secretarial assistance.

by K. D. Hurley, Executive Secretary

LITANY OF THE CHURCH

(Adapted portions from a litany used by Church Women United at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., July 9, 1977).

The Church is where:

**Young people see visions and the old dream dreams
lepers come to be touched
the blind see and deaf hear
the lame run and dying live
daisies bloom out of barren land
children lead and wise men follow
mountains are moved and walls come tumbling down
loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary to feed
the hungry
coats are taken off and put on the backs of the naked
shackles are discarded and kings and shepherds sit
down to life together
the minister is ministered unto
the anthem is the laughter of the congregation and
the offering plates are full of people
people go when they skin their knees or their hearts
judges don't judge and each child of God is beautiful
and priceless
people can disagree and hold hands at the same time
people write thank you notes to God
seeds are scattered and miracles are grown
a picnic is communion and people break bread together
on their knees
the wonderful wildness of God breaks through common
claypots and fills us with the Holy Spirit that
overflows
And we are sent out as rainbows
many splendid colors
light in pitch blackness
And every day is a festival of faith. ☐**

-Mrs. Frances P. Clarke



"We love because
God first loved us."
1 John 4:19

by Madeline Fitz Randolph

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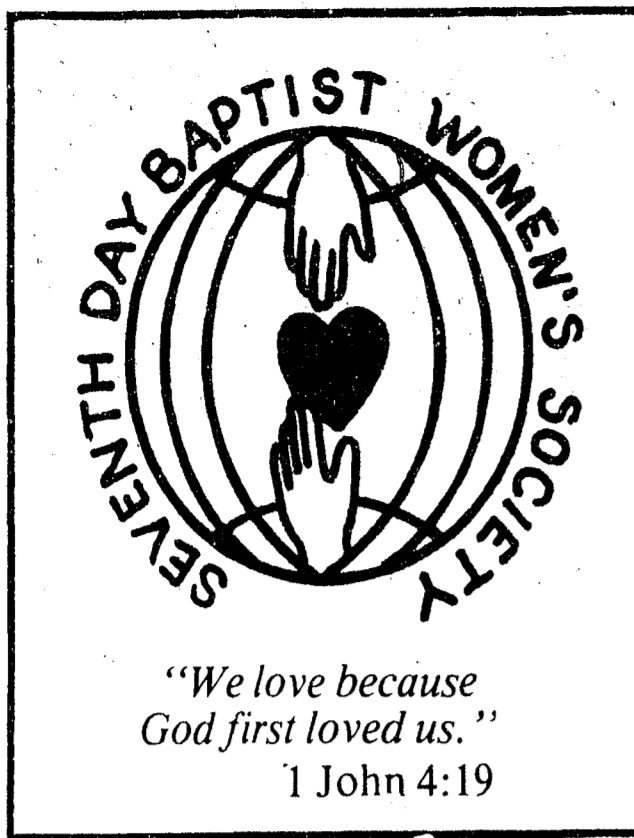
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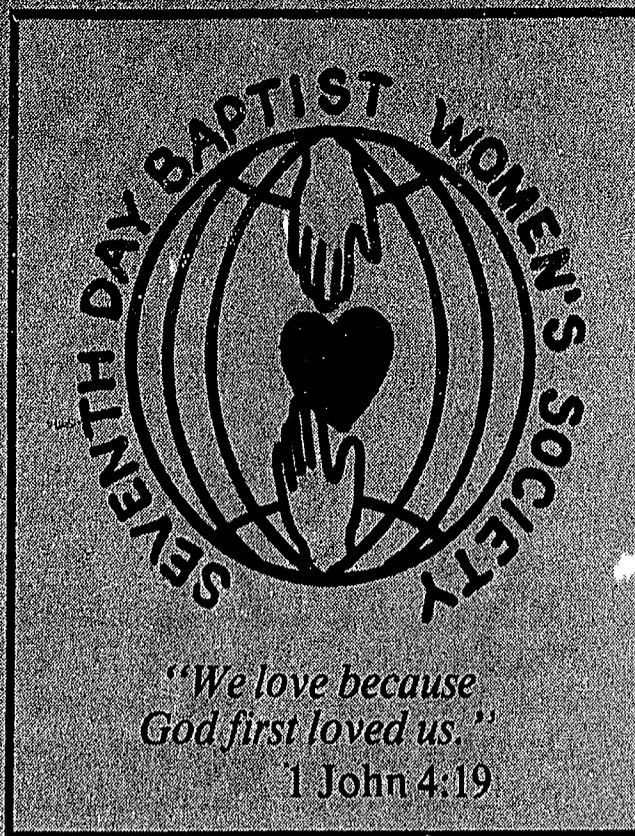
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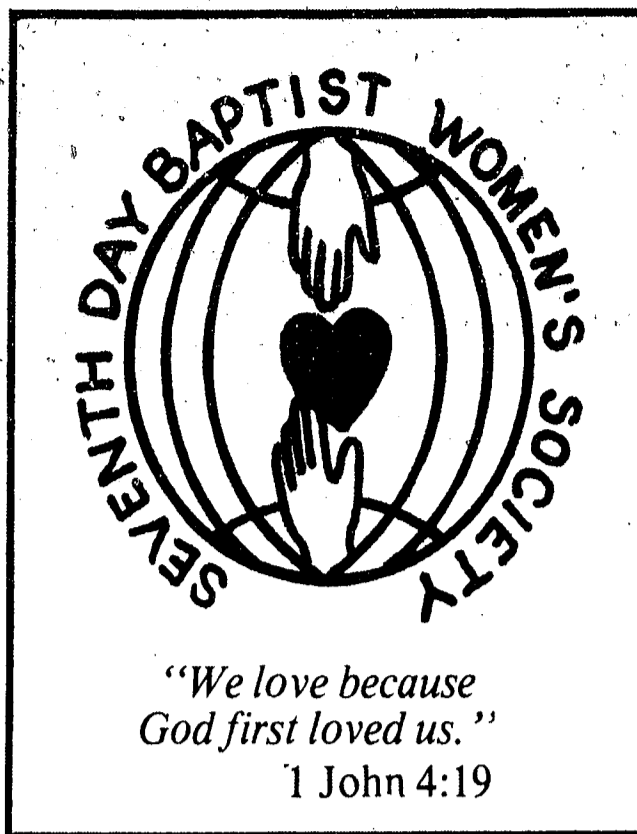
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THE QUEEN AND I** by Ray C. Stedman, published by Word Books, Waco TX c1977, is not just another commentary upon the beautiful story of Esther. Rather, this is a study book, and can very well be used as a chapter-by-chapter, in-depth study series. The author says that the book of Esther is a "gripping tale, but one might rather expect to find in the *Reader's Digest* than the Bible." The reason is because there is no mention in the story of the name of God; worship; Messiah, heaven or hell. However, very apparent throughout is the revelation of the care of God for those who serve Him. I recommend it for study because there is drawn a parallel between the soul of man and the King and each one of us can find helpful comparison for our lives within these chapters. Along with each segment of the book of Esther, Stedman has put a part of the New Testament, showing how this part of our Bible foreshadows the happenings of the life of Christ.

A WAY OF SEEING** by Edith Schaeffer. Published by Revell, c1977. This book is designed to give the reader "sixty short breaks," for it is made up of that many short essays. Each of these delightful chapters is designed to show what can go on in one's head in the midst of the noise and confusion of life. The author touches upon many subjects of controversy and contemplation today...meditation, conversation, fear, snobbishness, to mention a few. These pieces were first written for the magazine *Christianity Today*.

WRITE ON TARGET, by Sue Spencer, published by Word. This book talks about communication, both written and spoken. Based upon the known premise that readers/listeners have very short attention spans, the recommendation is that you catch them in the beginning with interesting and/or amusing remarks. After this, you hold attention by using short sentences, expressing ideas clearly and simply, and when coming to the end of what you wish to say, quit! This is a how-to book, helpful to you if you have to speak or write for others.

WHAT WIVES WISH THEIR HUSBANDS KNEW ABOUT WOMEN**, Dr. James Dobson, Pub. Tyndale, c1975. Dr. Dobson's best seller, *Dare To Discipline* is proof, if proof is needed, of the qualifications of this writer. In "What Wives Wish"...he has explored the ten areas which cause depression in women regarding the husband-wife relationship. The whole book is interesting, well written, as well as humorous. I would be quite sure to find within these pages the description of most of the causes of friction in families. At the same time, the writer manages to keep a sense of humor handy. One chapter has a priceless bit about grandmothers...here is a sample:

What's a Grandmother?
by a third grader

A grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own. She likes other people's little girls and boys. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except to be there...they should never say "hurry up"...usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums off. Grandmothers don't have to be smart, only answer questions like, "Why isn't God married?" or "How come dogs chase cats?"...when they read to us they don't skip or mind if it is the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

I recommend this book for entertaining reading as well as a well-defined set of chapters on the tension-making issues for women in marriage.

POSITIVE PRAYERS FOR POWER-FILLED LIVING, by Robert Schuller, Hawthorne publishers. Dr. Schuller is the well-known host of the "Hour of Power" TV program. These prayers are selected from the past twenty-five years of his ministry. They deal with daily living, distress, confession, renewal, thanksgiving, and other problems or subjects for prayer. We are able to relate to these prayers and the content therein, since they speak to our common needs. Any of us can profit from the use of a book of this kind.

**You may borrow these books from your editor. Write to: Mrs. Madeline Fitz Randolph, 1648 9th Street, Boulder, CO 80302 □

The Church in Action

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

CHRISTMAS AT PLAINFIELD

PLAINFIELD, N.J.-Our Christmas celebration began December 3 with the lighting of the prophecy candle in the advent wreath. On the succeeding Sabbaths the Bethlehem, shepherd, and angel candles were also lit, followed by the Christmas candle on Christmas Eve. Most of us signed our large Christmas card and used the money we saved as a birthday gift to Christ.

The Women's Society Christmas bazaar, headed by Mrs. Shireen Hurley, was held in our church December 5 and 6 with three other women's groups participating. Our society netted about \$225. We held our secret pal party at the Paquette home the following week.

Twenty-five of us, including children, went caroling December 17, singing at five old folks' homes and nursing homes and three homes of members. The evening ended with refreshments at the Saunders' home.

A brass ensemble with trumpets, trombones, and saxophone played the carols at our Christmas Eve service. Vocal, piano, and organ solos, interspersed with Scriptures, congregational singing, and a meditation by Pastor David Pearson completed the inspiring program. The offering for the new church center at Mzuzu in northern Malawi and the SDB United Relief Fund amounted to \$160.

Our Thanksgiving offering November 19 was for the new Houston church and the Blountville fellowship. Our speaker was Michael Gorrie of Greytown, South Africa. A covered-dish dinner was followed by the first oral Bible reading session,

in charge of Dean Herbert Saunders and Thomas Merchant. The plan calls for reading the whole Bible in forty-six weeks. The children are participating in the Jet Cadets and junior choir each Sabbath afternoon while the adults are reading. The junior choir has sung at two Sabbath services.

On December 10 Pastor Pearson, as a former pastor, attended the 150th anniversary of the Richburg, N.Y., church. Historian Thomas Merchant gave the main address. Dean Saunders was our worship leader and speaker that Sabbath.

Since November 5 we have enjoyed a singspiration from 10:00 to 10:30 each Sabbath morning.

-Ruth Hunting Parker

CHURCH RENEWS COVENANT

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.-The Schenectady SDB Church ended the old year and began the new with a covenant renewal service, held December 31, to celebrate the first twenty years from the adopting of our constitution and bylaws. Joining with us were friends from the area. Echoes of the past came to us as Dr. K.D. Hurley and Pastor David L. Taylor read of our first years from articles in the *Sabbath Recorder* and writings of our first pastor, Rev. Lester G. Osborn. We were reminded that we are one in the bond of love with the reading of letters from other Seventh Day Baptist churches recognizing our special occasion. Charter members were recognized. The service ended with each of us renewing our covenant with God and His church.



Presentation of the Women's Society quilt to the ladies of Holland. Mrs. Elizabeth Lek, Miss Florence Bowden, Mrs. Hope Bevis, Laura Bevis, John Bevis and Miss L. Kramer (Photo by Jan Le' Holland).

The service was followed by a fellowship dinner after which Dr. K.D. Hurley presented a program on the proposed denominational reorganization.

The day was also a farewell time for us as Pastor Taylor and his family left to carry on God's work in New Auburn, Wis. Our prayers went with them.

Now we are seeking new spiritual leadership with God's help. If anyone is interested in working with us and searching for the outreach most effective for our area, we would appreciate hearing from him. □

-Beverly Kilts, clerk

YEARLY MEETING HOSTED

MARLBORO, NJ-The Marlboro S.D.B. Church was host October 7 and 8 to the Yearly Meeting of the Eastern U.S. and N.J. churches and the Annual Harvest Home. Rev. David C. Pearson gave the message on Friday Eve after a Singspiration led by Mrs. Myron McPherson. Rev. Charles H. Bond gave the message on Sabbath morning. The Harvest Home dinner was enjoyed by all. In the afternoon, a pantomime of the "Work Week and Sabbath Day" was given by Allyce and Sharon Davis. A Workshop was conducted by Mrs. Edna Ruth Richards on "Developing a Family Life-Style for Better Health and Unity."

Our pastor has been giving us sermons on "Fruits of the Spirit." On October 22, a service of Baptism was held at Jersey Oaks Camp. Candidates were: Thomas Davis, Richard Bacon, Gary Green, and

Juan DeJesus. The youth sponsored a Halloween party in the recreation room of the church and had an enjoyable time.

Marlboro was invited by Shiloh to the ordination service of four candidates for deacons and deaconesses. It was a very impressive service including beautiful music. This preceded an outstanding Friday night service honoring Sixty Years Plus members.

On November 19 our S.D.B. Relief Fund was received, and four new members were received into our fellowship.

"The Christian Family Prepares for Christmas," sponsored by the ladies' Aid, was held featuring Christmas gift ideas, crafts for sale, bake sale, and refreshments. This was held in the church basement from 2-5, Nov. 19. The Helping Hand Class sponsored a box for Faith Farm. White Christmas gifts were received and sent to various missionaries, S.D.B. theological students, and others in need.

The lighting of the four Christmas candles was observed each Sabbath. The Ladies' Aid at its monthly meeting packed twenty-four boxes of fruit, cookies, etc., for shut-ins in and around the area. The annual Christmas program was held on Sunday, December 18, at 3 p.m. with Sharon Davis, Primary superintendent, in charge, after which refreshments were served to the congregation.

A live Nativity scene was held at the church on the eve of December 21, sponsored by the Young Adults. Jeanne Dickinson arranged the cast-Dan Cruzan and Randy Dickinson were co-chairman. Presentations were at 6:00, 7:30, and 9 p.m. Refreshments were served during the evening. □

-Mrs. Ella T. Davis

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

ASHAWAY, R.I.-These devotional thoughts were prepared by Mrs. Annie M. Langworthy for the Christmas meeting of the Ladies Aid Society of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I., held December 6, 1977.

Most American cities have their own traditional way of saying, "Merry Christmas." It's an emotional

experience, all the old holiday favorites; the Christmas tree and the Star of Bethlehem, the Salvation Army playing tiny organs and singing familiar hymns, all enhanced by light and color, are brought out every year and never seem to die. Back of all the gaiety is always a memorable spirit of good will to men.

Americans, composed of many races and colors, even though many of their traditions have been lost through the years, still have many beautiful customs that are revived during the Christmas season.

In Alaska Eskimos come into the missions from the frozen wildernesses to see the unveiling of the Nativity. The Philippine churches keep their crib amid a blaze of pink, green, blue, and white candles all during the Christmas season.

In India it is surrounded by tropical ferns, red, pink and blue flowers, colored streamers, and rich tapestries.

The cribs in Africa and parts of Asia may be made of rough brick against a background of brush.

The American Indians of the plains may make theirs of straw with a snow-covered roof. Each one, no matter how elaborate or humble, calls to mind the essential meaning of the feast.

Most American cities have their own traditional way of saying, "Merry Christmas." Since Christmas is an emotional experience, all the old holiday favorites are depicted: The Christmas Tree, the Star of Bethlehem, Santa Claus of the street, the Salvation Army feeding thousands their Christmas dinners. Back of all the gaiety is always a memorial spirit of good will to men.

A mining town of Madrid, New Mexico, is a modern Bethlehem. Not much is heard of Madrid most of the year but late in the afternoon of December 24, a great change comes over it, the roads leading to it are clogged with cars, carts, cowboys on horses, and pilgrims on foot; trees lighted up through the village, and the lovely strains of "Silent Night, Holy Night" break up the silence. Suddenly the little church is lighted up and the Bethlehem scene is reenacted.

Christmas in Hawaii has its own natural Christmas decorations: festive poinsettias all red and waxy on byways to decorate homes and churches. A Matson freighter named the Christmas Tree Ship comes in each year loaded with fir trees from the United States Northwest.

For many years Wilmington, North Carolina, has claimed one of the tallest Christmas trees, a giant water oak said to be 300 years old. It has a diameter of 100 feet. Most of Wilmington's Christmas centers around this great tree. The lights, numbering over 5,000 are turned on before Christmas, bands play, groups sing to celebrate the Christmas season.

Christmas week has become a well-loved tradition in Salt Lake City, Utah, and each night during the Christmas Season a special program is given. It was the result of this program that the Salt Lake City Opera was organized. In addition to opera, a sacred Christmas program two days before Christmas is held with the Salt Lake Civic Orchestra playing with one of the choirs.

"There is no more fitting place for Santa Claus to take to the water." That's the way Park Superintendent Paul V. Brown felt about Seattle, Wash., in 1949 and it was in his office that the idea for Seattle's famous Christmas originated. The ship sailed that very Yuletide, carrying its lighted Christmas trees and caroling crews along miles of the city's fresh water shoreline, presenting a gala picture of her role of the "Christmas Ship" to those on shore.

I cannot close without mentioning a beautiful old New England church in Ashaway, R.I. It is the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, founded in 1708. It is painted white both inside and out, it has a balcony around both sides and the back of the church. In the back of the balcony is the church organ, around which the choir sits. On the main floor a red carpet runs from the back of the church to the lovely white pulpit which at Christmas is banked around with red poinsettias, candles burning in the windows, laurel festooned around the balcony. What a beautiful church to come to worship and celebrate the birthday of our Savior!

I have only mentioned a few places describing how Christmas is observed. In the meantime let us keep our brothers in foreign lands in our prayers. May God grant to them the same guidance and blessings we seek for ourselves. □

NEW S.D.B. CHURCH TO BE ORGANIZED IN MARCH

BLOUNTVILLE, TN-On March 4, 1978, Seventh Day Baptists will organize into a church at Blountville, TN. The church will be known as the Upper East Tennessee Seventh Day Baptist Church. For several months Sabbath services have been held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Palmer with the result that a strong witness has been established.

The organizational services will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Sabbath, March 4. For more information and directions write to Mr. and Mrs. William F. Palmer, Carr Estates, Route 5, Box 477, Blountville, TN 37617 telephone (615) 323-2748. Denominational representatives plan to be present and it is hoped that several S.D.B. churches will also send representatives.

Let us praise God for this new witness; let us pray that this new light will shine brightly for the Lord in the beautiful hills of eastern Tennessee. □

News Notes

●The Boulder, CO, church has distributed over 400 copies of the Good News Bible, published by the American Bible Society.

●Pastor and Mrs. David Taylor have resigned their pastorate at Schenectady, N.Y., and have accepted a call to serve the church at New Auburn, WI. We pray God's guidance and blessings as they enter this new field of service.

●The radio ministry of the Sunshine Mountain S.D.B. Church in Mississippi continues in 1978. They currently broadcast for thirty minutes every Sunday at 1:00 pm from McComb, MS, over stations WAPF and WCCA. A growing interest is reported.

●Senator Jennings Randolph, Democrat of West Virginia, plans to seek another six-year term this fall. Randolph, who will be 76 in March, is the only present member of Congress who was in office during the famous first one hundred days of legislative frenzy at the start of Franklin D. Roosevelt's first administration. Senator Randolph serves on the board of Salem College and is a member of the Washington D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

●A limited number of copies of *Cousin Carla's Coloring Book for the Sabbath* are still available from the publishing house. The book comes with a record and is an ideal way to teach Sabbath values to your child. Price: \$2.50 each, or \$10.00 for five sent to the same address.

●Miss Corrie ten Boom, eighty-five, has had a pacemaker implanted for her tired heart. "The choice was to go to heaven or have the operation. The former would have been most wonderful for me, but since there is still so much work to do here I accepted the latter thankfully," she said.

●John Farenhorst of Amsterdam, Holland, spent the month of January visiting S.D.B. friends in Portland, Salemville, and Plainfield. He brought greetings from our Dutch brethren.

ACCESSIONS

ADAMS CENTER, N.Y.
Stephan F. Saunders, Pastor

By Baptism:
Miss Shirley Fluno
Mrs. Suzanne Smith

COLUMBUS, OH
Dale D. Thorngate, Pastor

By Baptism:
Morgan Shepard

By Testimony:
Donald K. Calhoun

By Letter:
Leo (Mrs. Lloyd C.) Lukens
Kevin Miles

LITTLE ROCK, AR
John Camenga, Pastor

By Letter:
Mrs. Eva K. Jordan

MILTON, WI
Earl Cruzan, Pastor

By Baptism:
Andrew Green
Mark Green
Adam Crandall
Kimberly Aiken
Vicki Jentoft
Jami Jehn

By Letter:
Burton B. Crandall
Carol (Mrs. Burton) Crandall
Pastor Leroy Bass
Marjorie (Mrs. Leroy) Bass
Gordon Bass
Clifford Bass

RICHBURG, N.Y.
C. Harmon Dickinson, Pastor

By Letter:
Dorothy B. (Mrs. Lynn) Watson

SCHENECTADY, NY
David L. Taylor, Pastor

By Baptism:
Raymond Fry

WATERFORD, CT
Dale E. Rood, Pastor

By Testimony:
Jeffry Hill
Howard R. Lyman
Dorothy (Mrs. Howard) Lyman

Associate Members:
Deborah Kavarnos
Edna B. Spencer

BIRTHS

BABCOCK.-A daughter, Kindra May, to Bill and Nancy Babcock, West Concord, MN, on December 30, 1977.

JOHNSON.-A daughter, Jo Anne Lynn, to Rev. Russell and Jennifer (Carlson) Johnson, of Alfred, N.Y., on January 6, 1978.

JOHNSON.-A daughter, Lisa Marie, to Richard and Karen (Van Gemest) Johnson of White Rock, Westerly, R.I., on January 8, 1978.

LIPPINCOTT.-A daughter, Monique Danielle, to Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Lippincott of Janesville, WI, on December 27, 1977.

SHOLTZ.-A daughter, Gayle Marie, to Edell Downie and Gerald Sholtz of Verona, N.Y. on November 30, 1977.

MARRIAGES

BARTEL-SWEREDIUK.-John Bartel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Bartel, and Amy Swerediuk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Swerediuk, were united in marriage in the Griffis Air Force Base Chapel on March 26, 1977, the Rev. Monroe officiating. The couple now resides in Rome, N.Y.

FLETCHER-HELSEL.-John Raymond Fletcher, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Fletcher of New Enterprise, Pa., and Leslie Rae Helsel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Helsel of Roaring Springs, Pa., were united in marriage in a candle-light ceremony Oct. 1, 1977 at St. John's United Church of Christ, Martinsburg, Pa., with their pastor, the Rev. Melvin F. Stephan, officiating. They are making their home in Woodbury, Pa.

WILLIAMS-HIGGS.-Gary Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Williams, and Diane Higgs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Higgs, were united in marriage in Roanoke, VA, May 29, 1977. They now reside in Oneida, N.Y.

WILEY-DAVIS.-William Wiley, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wiley, and Donna Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis, were united in marriage in the Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church on July 31, 1976, with the Rev. Duane L. Davis and Rev. James Flavin officiating. The couple now resides in Potsdam, N.Y.

OBITUARIES

BIRD.-Harry L., was born Feb. 18, 1895, in Lawrenceville, Ill., and died Nov. 17, 1977 after a short illness in an Awatonna, Minn., nursing home.

He was married to Cecile Lewis Dec. 23, 1919, in North Loup, Nebr., moving to Dodge Center, Minn., a few years later. Here he joined the Seventh Day Baptist church where his membership remained though in later years he shared his efforts with the Seventh Day Baptist churches in Edinburg, Tex., and Fouke, Ark., during the winters. A convert to the Sabbath, Harry never tired of witnessing to the Sabbath and the Lord of the Sabbath.

Surviving in addition to his widow is a son, Derwin, of Williston, N.D.; a daughter, Mrs. Herbert (Ruth) Bennett, of Battle Creek, Mich.; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters, residing in California.

Funeral services were held in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, Nov. 20, 1977.

-L.W.B.

COLLINGS.-Margaret L. (Caffrey), 77, of Tomquag Valley, Bradford, R.I., operator of the Homestead Antiques, and active in the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church, and the W.C.T.U., died September 6, 1977, at the Westerly Hospital. She was the wife of Harold Collings, Sr.

Margaret was a member and former president of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, a member of the Ladies Aid Society, a former president of the Ashaway W.C.T.U., and also the State W.C.T.U. She was a member of the Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, and the Hopkinton Historical Society. At one time she taught school in Clarks Falls, Connecticut.

Born in Alawagon, CT, July 10, 1900, she was a daughter of the late Bartlett and Bertha (Welch) Caffrey.

Surviving besides her husband are a son, Harold L. Collings, Jr., of Ashaway; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Sitzai, of Bradford, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway with her pastor, Gordon P. Lawton, officiating. Interment was in the First Hopkinton Cemetery.

-A.M.L.

MUCUMBER.-Laura Elizabeth, of West St., Ashaway, R.I., died at Westerly Hospital, on October 19, 1977 at the age of eighty years.

Laura was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church of Ashaway. She had been employed for over thirty years at the Stillwater Worsted Mill and the Ashaway Line and Twine.

Born February 18, 1897, in Ashaway, she was the daughter of the late Bowen and Mary Jane (Partelo) Macumber.

Surviving are a nephew, Stanley Macumber Barber of Waterford, CT, and several cousins.

A graveside service was held in Clark Grove Cemetery with her pastor, Gordon P. Lawton, officiating.

-A.M.L.

RODGER.-Grace Lillen (Wells), of Broad Street, Ashaway, who would have been 91 years old October 20, 1977, died October 19 at the Westerly Hospital. She was the wife of the late William C. Rodger.

Grace was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church of Ashaway and the Phebe Green Ward Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. She was at one time employed at the C.B. Eccleston Lumber Yard in Ashaway.

Surviving are two daughters, Margaret Rodger of Ashaway, and Dorothy L. Klausli of Lansing, MI; a sister, Lois Lephardt of Pawcatuck, CT; a brother, Edward G. Wells of Snug Harbor, RI; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral services were in the Buckler Funeral Home in Westerly, RI, with her pastor, Gordon Lawton, officiating. Burial was in River Bend Cemetery.

-A.M.L.

SCRIVEN.-Harold L., son of William and Palmyra Saunders Scriven was born Oct. 10, 1903 at Adams Center, N.Y., and died December 31, 1977, at Watertown, N.Y.

Mr. Scriven was a retired farmer and a member of the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Study Club, and the Senior Citizens Club.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mildred Scriven; a daughter, Mrs. Audrey Nichols, Flint, MI; a son, William J., Gladwin, MI; a stepson, Lavern Maltby; and three stepdaughters: Mrs. Alfreda Shippee, Mrs. Belva Roberts, and Miss Beatrice Maltby; twenty grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. Gladys Chrysler, Adams Center, and two nieces.

Funeral services were held at the Piddock Funeral Home, with Pastor Stephan F. Saunders officiating.

-S.F.S.

A SABBATH IN LONDON

(continued from page 16)

A trip to the Mill Yard Church would not be complete without meeting and talking with Sister Olive Gelleff. Mrs. Gelleff has been a pillar of the church throughout the past sixty or so years. She was raised in a Sabbathkeeping home and became a member of the church when Col. Richardson served as pastor. Many have been blessed by her faithful service to the cause of Christ. She has served the denomination in many ways and now is treasurer of the Mill Yard Church and pianist for the worship services.

We were indeed happy that Rev. James McGeachy was able to come down to London from his home near Birmingham for the Sabbath services. It was obvious that Brother McGeachy is widely loved and re-

spected by the people in our British churches. Now retired, he served the church as pastor from 1928 until 1969. His pastorate covers more than a tenth part of the period of the existence of the Mill Yard church and indeed of the denomination. A scholar and writer, his influence was worldwide.

It is always encouraging to see children and youth present at church services. British youth are very much involved in their church services. We enjoyed the special musical selections provided by the youth choir: A young couple, Brother and Sister Ancel Marshall led out in the Sabbath School service. Brother Marshall has felt a call to the ministry and plans are being made for his attendance at the ministerial student three-week seminar in Plainfield this summer.

It was a personal thrill to visit the Mill Yard congregation and to have the opportunity of sharing the Word with them. In a very real sense this is the mother church of every Seventh Day Baptist church around the world. There is a great bond of love between the British and American churches as is evidenced by this recent letter from Pastor A.L. Peat: "We are thanking you dear ones on that side of the harvest field for always remembering us in your prayers. We here are doing the same, we are praying very hard for the success of the work there and abroad." Truly we are "laborers together" in the Lord's vineyard. May He bless and guide His followers in Britain, America, and in all lands far and near that together we may proclaim the wondrous love of Jesus and His power to save. □

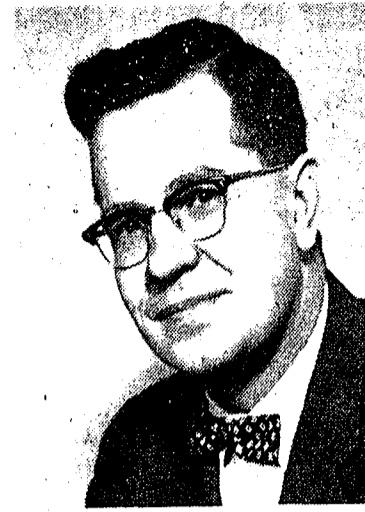
CONFERENCE CAPSULES

During recent months as the Commission and Planning Committee have urged a nationwide commitment to Christian witness and growth, they have encouraged the setting of goals on national, regional, and local levels. While churches may vary as to the extent of involvement and advancement in spiritual, numerical, and financial programming, we commend to them the strategy of goal-setting. □

-From the Report of Reference and Counsel

The Sabbath Recorder

Scripture Gems



Favorite Bible texts selected by pastors and ministerial students.

Rev. Victor W. Skaggs
North Loup, NE

● "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

● This verse lives in my memory and carries a special impact because it was used in a very special circumstance.

When lightning struck at Camp Paul Hummel in 1975, I remember lying on the kitchen floor with a nurse working over me. As she worked her words were, "Now I'm going to quote you some Scripture." Then she repeated this verse: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." And she repeated it over and over again as she worked.

Since that moment it has held a special and vivid place in my memory and carries a special and vivid sense of God's love and care. □

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 19, 1978, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes.

1. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1977 to December 31, 1977.
3. To ratify the appointments of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1978, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournments thereof shall be determined.

-Elston H. Van Horn
Secretary

Immediate Opening

● Typist-secretary, Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House. Position requires versatile person, accurate typist, with a desire for denominational service.

● Benefits include: two weeks' paid vacation, eight paid holidays, health insurance, retirement plan.

● Applications may be sent to:
John D. Bevis
P. O. Box 868
Plainfield, N.J. 07061 □

The majority of women in this world "take life as it comes," according to Anne Ortland, author of *Disciplines of the Beautiful Woman*, published by Word Books. They drift down the lazy ol' river, and it feels so good. . .

But the outcome is often disastrous! In her new book Mrs. Ortland tells women that the *disciplines* of life are what get you where you want to go.

"Do you feel as if your life is like a jammed closet, and you keep muttering, 'Some day I'm going to get organized'? Well, let me share with you what I've learned - woman to woman."

She shows women how to eliminate the unessential from their everyday lives and have more time and energy for what is really important. Her three top priorities are: God first; God's people (her spiritual family) second; the needy people of the world, third.

Within this framework she gives specific suggestions - how to maintain a schedule, keep a personal notebook, even ideas for a functional wardrobe. "Eliminate and concentrate" is her motto.

Besides these practical discussions there are sections on prayer and meditation, a woman's goals, her close relationship, her public life, her life behind the scenes.

Anne Ortland is a wife, mother, musician, author and speaker. She was named "Woman of the Year" in 1975 by the Pasadena Chapter of Business and Professional Women. An organist and composer, she has played the organ on "The Joyful Sound" radio program for fifteen years and has penned more than 250 songs and hymns, including the award-winning "Macedonia." Mrs. Ortland is well known as a speaker at women's conferences all over the country, and will hold "Beautiful Women" seminars in various cities in the next two years. She has written one previous book, *Up With Worship*, and co-authored *The Best Half of Life* with her husband Ray, pastor of Lake Avenue Congregation Church in Pasadena, California. □

SABBATH BOOK PUBLISHED BY VATICAN PRESS

The Pontifical Gregorian University Press in the Vatican has just released a book on the Sabbath question written by Dr. Samuel Bacchiocchi, Seventh-day Adventist professor at Andrews University.

The book, published with the Roman Catholic *imprimatur*, is entitled *From Sabbath to Sunday* and is based on Dr. Bacchiocchi's doctoral dissertation. Bacchiocchi is the first non-Catholic accepted as a regular student in the 425-year history of the University which is known throughout the world as the alma mater of popes, cardinals and bishops.

The book is a historical investigation of the rise of Sunday observance in early Christianity. It is indeed a scholarly work which can not be read lightly. "The book examines first the meaning and observance of the Sabbath in New Testament times and second, the historical genesis of Sunday observance. Following the order of redemptive history, the investigation begins with the Messianic function of the Sabbath in the Old Testament and proceeds to consider how the Sabbath found fulfillment in the redemptive mission of Christ."

"By examining the Sabbath material of the gospels it is shown how Jesus made the Sabbath the fitting symbol of His redemption: The day to commemorate the divine blessings of salvation, especially by expressing kindness and mercy towards others."

Dr. Bacchiocchi in his research shows that "the adoption of Sunday in place of the Sabbath did not occur in the primitive church of Jerusalem by virtue of apostolic authority, but approximately a century later in the Church of Rome, due to an interplay of Jewish, pagan and Christian factors." His conclusion backs up what Seventh Day Baptists have believed and taught for years in regard to the origin of Sunday as a day of rest and worship.

It seems nothing short of amazing that Dr. Bacchiocchi was able to study at this Catholic institution, to study the Sabbath question in such detail, then to be able to write with such conviction and authority, having his study published by the University Press. We certainly join

with other Sabbatarians in expressing appreciation for Dr. Bacchiocchi's scholarship and study. It will be of tremendous benefit to those who seek to share the Sabbath truth and indeed to better understand it ourselves.

Copies of the book may be ordered for \$6.50 by writing to Dr. Samuel Bacchiocchi, 230 Lisa Lane, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. □

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

- FEBRUARY 11**
North Jersey S.D.B. Church
Dr. K. D. Hurley
- FEBRUARY 18**
Sabbath Recorder Day
- FEBRUARY 18**
Daytona Beach, FL, S.D.B. Church
Dr. K. D. Hurley
- FEBRUARY 20**
Adams Center, N.Y., S.D.B. Ch.
Editor John D. Bevis
- FEBRUARY 21-23**
National Assoc. of Evangelicals
Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Leon R. Lawton
Editor John D. Bevis
- FEBRUARY 24**
New Auburn, WI, S.D.B. Church
Editor John D. Bevis
- FEBRUARY 25**
Putnam County, FL, S.D.B. Ch.
Dr. K. D. Hurley
- North Jersey S.D.B. Church
Rev. Leon R. Lawton
- Dodge Center, MN, S.D.B. Church
Editor John D. Bevis
- MARCH 4**
Church Organizational Meeting
Blountville, TN
Denominational Representatives
- MARCH 18**
Waterford, CT, S.D.B. Church
Editor John D. Bevis
- MARCH 26**
Missionary Society
Annual Meeting
Westerly, R.I.

THE TRIBULATION

by Rev. Paul S. Burdick

Pastor Leroy Bass has written a good article in the *Sabbath Recorder* of October 1977 on the "Return of the Lord Jesus." This glorious hope must, however be preceded by a period of tribulation that can only be brought to fulfillment in our own age, the age of the newer inventions of the nuclear age.

(Rev. 16:20.) "The islands fled away." This happened to an island in the Pacific, when an atomic bomb was tested on it.

"Trees were destroyed" (Rev. 8:7). This happened when a bomb was used against Hiroshima. Again, when defoliants were used against Vietnam.

"He performed great signs, even making fire fall from heaven" (Rev. 13:13). But who is the beast that we are told we must worship? It can be only the military powers that now rule the nations. The great destructive power that insists that we must fall down and worship him to provide our defense against enemies. But atom bombs can only destroy rather than protect. Enough are now stockpiled to destroy the human race many times over. Bedbugs can withstand many more times the power needed to destroy a man, so there would be at least some life left upon the planet.

But, on the other hand, there is hope. Mathew speaks of it in this wise: "And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24:22).

Now who are the elect? They must be the ones who trust in God rather than in the bomb, who obey the command, "Thou shalt not kill," and who follow the words of the Lord Jesus, to "Love your enemies" and that "They who take the sword shall perish with the sword."

Seventh Day Baptists have an opportunity to lead the way to become the "elect." They believe in the Ten Commandments as God's Word, containing the Fourth, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy," and also the Sixth, "Thou shalt not kill."

They believe in God's protective power, especially over those who would make friends by means of the riches of this world, instead of using them for destructive purposes, for feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and giving tools for better agriculture.

Even the growth of our denomination would be helped as people saw that we are dedicated to bring the Kingdom of God into men's hearts, while waiting for the Lord to come.

If the rulers of Russia could propose the doing away of all nuclear weapons, surely we who are Christians should be willing to meet them halfway. Think what that would mean! They are the ones usually associated with the Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

A door of opportunity may be opening for Seventh Day Baptists. Will we be able to enter it? □

Rev. Paul Burdick, is retired and lives in Waterford, CT.



Evaluation and Accountability

-Rev. Leon R. Lawton

How tragic if, in these crucial days, we should be giving our minds, energy, and hearts to something less than that which is most vital. Paul's concern for the Philippians (see 2:12-16) was highlighted, "... that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain" (v. 16b). We are busy: But is it not possible that being busy with trifling things we might miss out on those of prime importance?

We need times to stop, ponder, and assess where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Each person needs to give himself to a faithful, objective and corporate appraisal of his individual and joint ministries.

We need each other in such an exercise. All of us are prone to accept the status quo, especially when we are considering our own ministry. "Others may be in a rut and need a drastic overhaul, but I am doing quite well, thank you! At the most only slight adjustments might be necessary." --So we may think.

No doubt this is why the Lord admonishes us to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... not giving up meeting together...but...encouraging one another --and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:24,25).

A frank and thorough evaluation will help us see more clearly God's viewpoint. Without question goals can be more sharply in focus and we will know what we are working toward. To reach these goals will require new levels of commitment, prayer, faith, and allowing the application of the cross in every area of our lives.

Accountability is linked closely with evaluation. Scripture instructs us that leaders must "keep watch over you as men who must give an account" (Heb. 13:17b). So since all are accountable to God and we are also held accountable to each other, we need to get together periodically to check on ourselves as we pursue our goals. Such performance appraisals will serve not only to bring regular evaluation but will also provide opportunity for confirmation from others when adjustments are required. Following through to successfully reach goals is much more likely when we are consciously accountable to other members of the body of Christ.

Some may have made some "mid-course" corrections, on their own, as the New Year began. A few may have shared their insights and resolution with others. But, together with others in your family, your church, your friends, it can be a thrilling and helpful experience to openly share the direction God is leading, the vision and commitment one has, and seek the interest, the prayers and the loving help another like-minded person may give. Being assured that we are "on course" we can determine to "run with steadfastness the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1b)! □

HERE'S A WINNER!

In fact, here is a list of several "winners" who reached or surpassed their 1977 Our World Mission goal. A special salute to the special people in these churches who have caught the new spirit amongst Seventh Day Baptists!

ASHAWAY, R.I.
 BATTLE CREEK, MI
 BERLIN, N.Y.
 BOULDER, CO
 BROOKFIELD (2nd), N.Y.
 DAYTONA BEACH, FL
 DENVER, CO
 DERUYTER, N.Y.
 DODGE CENTER, MN
 HOPKINTON (2nd), R.I.
 HOUSTON, TX
 IRVINGTON, N.J.

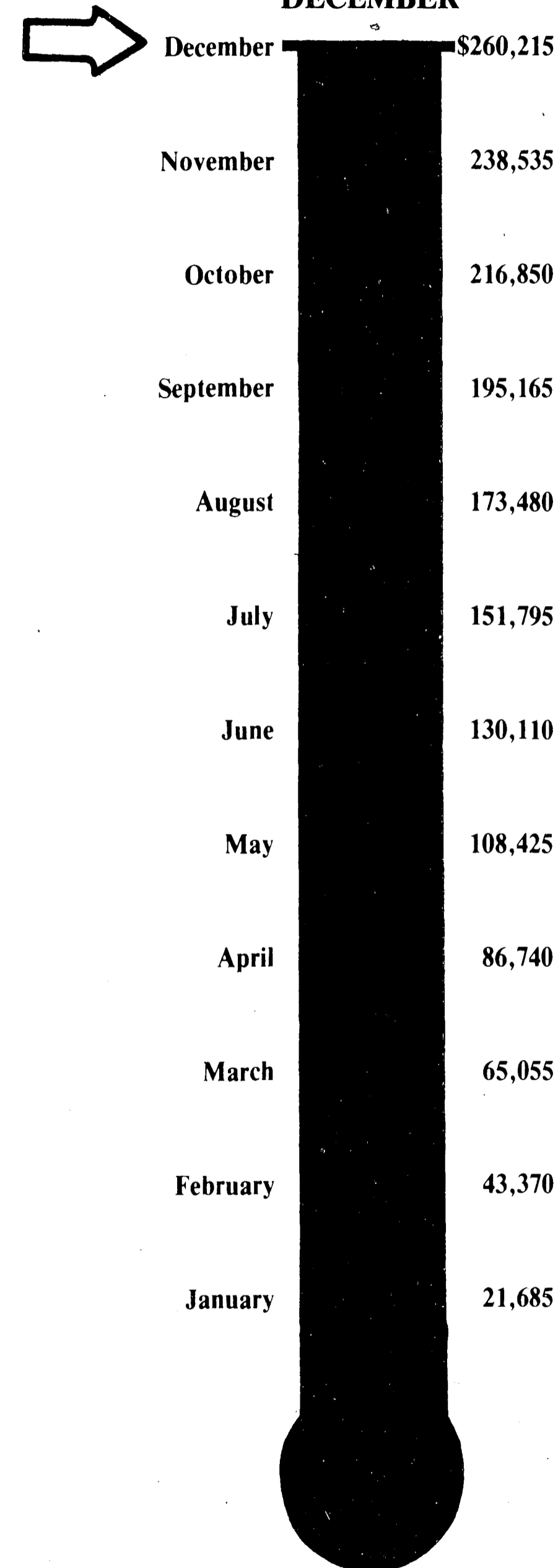
LITTLE GENESEE, N.Y.
 LOS ANGELES, CA
 LOST CREEK, W.V.
 MILTON, WI
 NORTONVILLE, KS
 PLAINFIELD, N.J.
 SHILOH, N.J.
 TEXARKANA, AR
 WALWORTH, WI
 WASHINGTON, D.C.
 WHITE CLOUD, MI

For the second year, Seventh Day Baptists have oversubscribed the budget! 1977 giving was \$8,505.13 above the budget. Praise the Lord!

Seventh Day Baptist Ministries and Outreach

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

DECEMBER



OUR WORLD MISSION

Church or Group	Budgetary Goals		12 mos. total OWM and Reported Bds.
	Suggested "Target"	Dec. OWM	
Adams Center NY	\$ 1,500	\$ 229.90	\$ 1,481.04
Albion WI	1,800	127.88	1,519.03
Alfred NY	9,500	1,573.70	9,074.15
Alfred Station NY	6,000	308.00	4,486.87
Ashaway RI	7,600	1,188.05	7,714.36
Associations and Groups	8,000	289.17	8,966.63
Battle Creek MI	12,000	1,490.80	14,124.19
Bay Area CA	650	116.00	560.40
Berea WV	750	145.00	615.00
Berlin NY	4,000	302.87	4,068.23
Boulder CO	5,000	510.80	5,443.27
Brookfield NY	750	439.00	976.70
Columbus OH	4,500	797.50	4,205.96
Dallas-Ft. Worth TX		55.86	244.22
Daytona Beach FL	4,200	1,079.51	4,819.95
Denver CO	17,000	12,513.51	29,158.13
DeRuyter NY	2,300	207.00	2,730.55
Dodge Center MN	6,500	516.21	6,707.21
Farina IL	1,200	152.25	1,090.12
Fouke AR	1,800	125.95	1,190.42
Hebron PA	2,500	471.80	2,499.22
Hopkinton RI	350	100.00	410.00
Houston TX	1,000	300.00	1,656.10
Individuals	3,000	900.00	4,060.76
Irvington NJ	2,500		3,550.00
Kansas City MO	2,000	231.20	1,693.04
Leonardsville NY	300	40.00	188.00
Little Genesee NY	3,200	309.74	4,310.88
Little Rock AR	1,200	255.71	1,141.82
Los Angeles CA	9,300	1,202.00	10,992.16
Lost Creek WV	5,000	1,145.00	6,534.75
Marlboro NJ	6,500	461.66	5,414.84
Middle Island WV	850	60.00	820.00
Milton WI	23,000	6,984.54	27,250.57
Milton Junction WI		23.00	545.00
New Auburn WI	2,500	251.84	1,792.97
New York NY	1,500		1,476.86
North Jersey NJ	2,500	136.39	1,775.05
North Loup NE	8,000	640.00	5,848.05
Nortonville KS	4,500	744.00	4,818.75
Paint Rock AL	1,700	200.00	1,103.67
Phoenix AZ			335.00
Plainfield NJ	7,500	577.32	8,153.91
Putnam County FL	750		
Richburg NY	3,250	234.50	3,171.58
Riverside CA	13,200	962.47	12,114.25
Rockville RI	700	52.25	371.75
Salem WV	7,500	545.00	5,272.31
Salemville PA	2,000		1,202.20
Schenectady NY	600		481.07
Seattle WA	3,300	245.98	2,262.68
Shiloh NJ	14,500	2,297.60	14,851.87
Stonefort IL	1,000	30.00	687.84
Sunshine Mountain MS		50.00	50.00
Texarkana AR	500	55.00	565.33
Verona NY	3,500		2,845.81
Walworth WI	2,200	100.00	2,431.00
Washington DC	4,500	591.00	6,328.50
Waterford CT	4,000	582.75	3,393.32
Westerly RI	8,000	1,000.00	5,250.65
White Cloud MI	1,800	253.84	1,892.14
Total Budget	\$255,250*	\$44,203.55	\$268,720.13
Non-Budget			1,148.93
Total To Disburse			\$45,352.48

DECEMBER SUMMARY

Receipts for twelve months:		
OWM Treasurer		\$251,641.92
Boards Reported		17,078.21
Total OWM Treas. and Boards Reported (Raised)		\$268,720.13
1977 Budget (Due)		\$260,215.00
Total Above Budget		\$ 8,505.13
Gordon Sanford, OWM Treasurer		

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

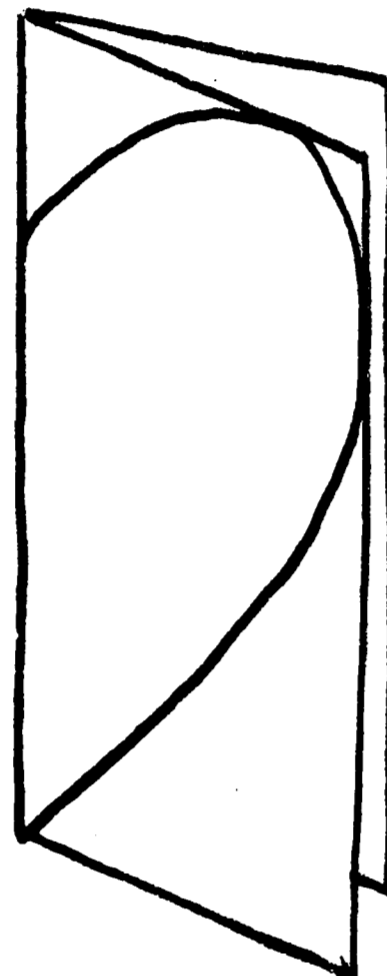
**We are "over the top" --thanks to many churches and individuals, faithful in their stewardship.

Praise be to God!

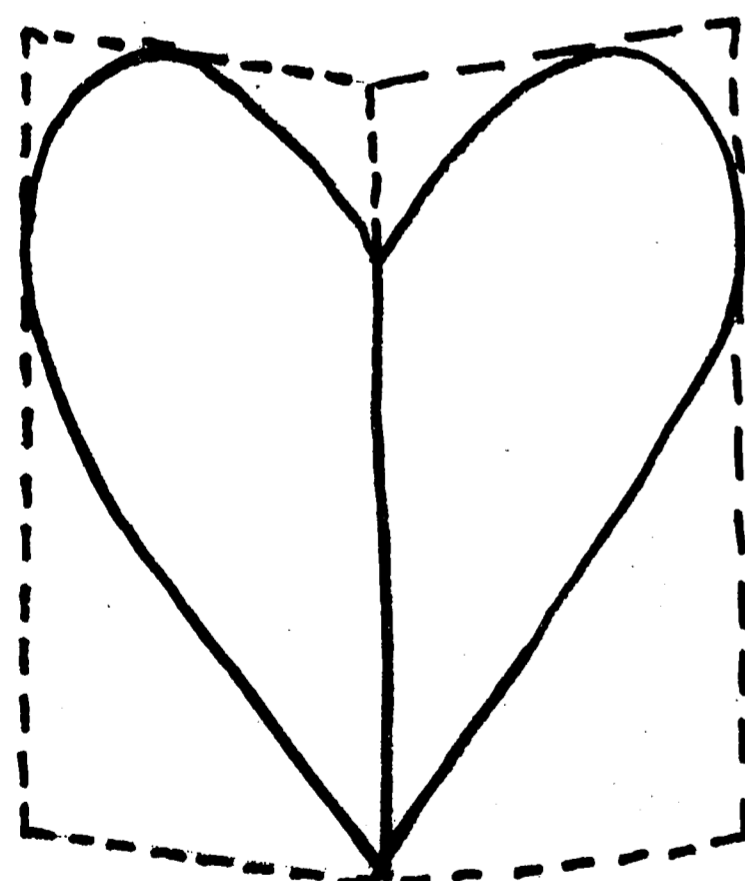
Different Kinds of Hearts

Help Steven make a perfect heart.
Here's how:

STEP I:
Fold a square piece of paper in half.
Draw half of a heart on it like this...



STEP II:
Cut through both thicknesses on the line you just drew.



STEP III:
Open the heart and you now have a perfect paper heart.

It was almost time for Valentine's Day. Steven was busy making valentines for all his classmates at school, and he thought he might make some extras for his aunts, uncles, and cousins, too. But Steven was having problems because every time he tried to make a heart for his valentines, it turned out to be crooked. Finally, he decided to go ask his mother to help him make a heart.

As Steven walked into the kitchen, Mother was just hanging up the phone. "Uncle Jack just had a heart attack. They've taken him to the hospital and they don't know how serious it is," said Mother. He could tell she was worried by the way her voice sounded and the way her face looked. Mother didn't say anything for a few minutes, and Steven was thinking about Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack was Steven's favorite uncle even though he didn't get to see him very often because he lived so far away. Steven didn't know what a heart attack was, so he asked Mother, "What is a heart attack? Is Uncle Jack going to die?"

Mother tried to explain how a person's heart pumps the blood through his body and when the heart doesn't work right and stops beating, the person has a heart attack. Then she said, "We hope that Uncle Jack won't die, but we just don't know. Only God knows." As she said that, she seemed to be a little less worried, and then she said, "Let's ask God to heal Uncle Jack's heart." Steven and Mother sat together at the kitchen table, and they both prayed that God would watch over Uncle Jack and heal his heart. When they finished praying, Mother said, "I know God heard our prayers and I think Uncle Jack will be all right."

Steven looked at what he was holding in his hands. He had forgotten why he had come into the kitchen. He held a crooked heart. He had a sticker on it that said "YOU HAVE STOLEN MY HEART. BY MY VALENTINE." As he looked at that heart, he wondered how a person's heart can be stolen. Is that why Uncle Jack's heart stopped? He decided to ask Mother. Mother explained, "A person's heart pumps blood through his body, but people also talk about the way they feel as being their heart. We really don't feel love and joy and sadness in our real heart. But we talk about having a happy heart, or a sad heart. When we say someone has stolen our heart, we mean that we love them so much that we feel like they have a part of us in them and we have a part of them in us.

"The Bible talks about hearts, too. There our hearts means our soul or spirit. Psalm 51:10 says, 'Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me' (TEV). That means that we should love God so much that we do what pleases Him and stop doing selfish things to please ourselves."

Steven thought for a while and then said, "I want to send Uncle Jack a get-well valentine and I'm going to put that Bible verse on it. But first, would you help me make a heart that isn't crooked?" □

-Mrs. Linda Harris

VICTORY for the "HAPPY WARRIOR"

He was called the "Happy Warrior," and was involved in many a political battle during his lifetime. He loved politics and being with the American people in the midst of a campaign. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, places his imprint on his party, his nation and even the world during the past thirty years. This former pharmacist three times sought the presidency and served as Senator and Vice-President with distinction.

However in October of 1976 he was introduced to a new foe when he had surgery for cancer. This "race" he lost in January, 1978. He faced the battle against cancer as he had every campaign -he fought to win. He fought hard and bravely, with a smile and even a joke. Senator Humphrey had determination to live his final days as he had his entire life, with courage and joy. He found a peace and contentment in his final days because of a special relationship with his maker, a relationship that prepared him for whatever lay ahead.

To the believer the fear of death is cancelled by faith in Christ. Senator Humphrey taught us much about life and indeed much about facing death. The courage and inspiration of his life lives on. □

TRACT DISTRIBUTION 123,000 IN 1977

At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society publishing director John D. Bevis reported on tract work for 1977. Tract distribution increased from some 100,000 in 1976 to 123,000 in 1977. This large increase no doubt reveals a new commitment to evangelism on the part of Seventh Day Baptists.

It was noted that the society had also published 121,000 tracts and booklets during the year, but due to the heavy request inventories are low. A need was expressed at the meeting for new approaches in tract writing. In order to gain attention a tract has to be attractive, concise, and with a message that speaks to people in today's vernacular. Many of our tracts need to be updated and new titles are needed.

One of the new publications was *Sabbath Welcoming Family Celebrations*, edited by Rev. Herbert Saunders, and made available to the churches in December. The booklet is designed to be used in the home and provide a much-needed family emphasis on Sabbath observance. Initial enthusiasm from pastors and churches has been high.

The society seeks new ways to expand our printing ministry in 1978. Suggestions are always welcome as we ever seek to publish to the glory of God. □

BIBLE COURSE MINISTRY GROWS

"Blessed is the man...who delights in the law of the Lord (the Word) and meditates in it day and night"
(Psalm 1:1,2)

Early in 1977 the American Sabbath Tract Society introduced a six-lesson home Bible course, Guide to Bible Understanding. During the course of the year some 650 have enrolled in the program. We have been thrilled to see this ministry grow and we believe it can continue to be a useful evangelistic tool in 1978.

Appreciation has been expressed by church members for the course as helpful to long-time Christians as well as useful in helping to strengthen new Christians.

Several letters have come in recent weeks from non-SDB's expressing appreciation for the blessing derived from the course. From Seattle, WA: "I really cannot tell you how much the GUIDE Bible Course has helped me and can't thank you enough for your understanding and kindness. Surely it was the Holy Spirit that inspired you to go on the air regarding your church..." Many readers will recall that the Seattle church advertised the course over area television with good results.

A Bible student in Little Rock, AR, wants to share the lessons with others. "I am very interested in the Bible lessons you sent me. They really help me understand the Bible better. As I was taking the lessons, a young pastor and a young lady became interested and would like to start taking the lessons also..."

We have reports of several people who have taken the course attending our churches, some joining. Recently we were happy to send a diploma to a Sister in a convent who completed the entire course and indicates her belief in the Sabbath truth.

What can you do to help share the truths of the Bible with others?

- Invite others to study this course and our follow-up home course, Christian Nurture and Growth (12 lessons).
- Distribute enrollment cards (free upon request from the Tract Society).
- Support the work of the Society through your designated gifts and gifts to Our World Mission.
- Pray for those who are enrolled, many of whom are struggling with new Bible truths. □

