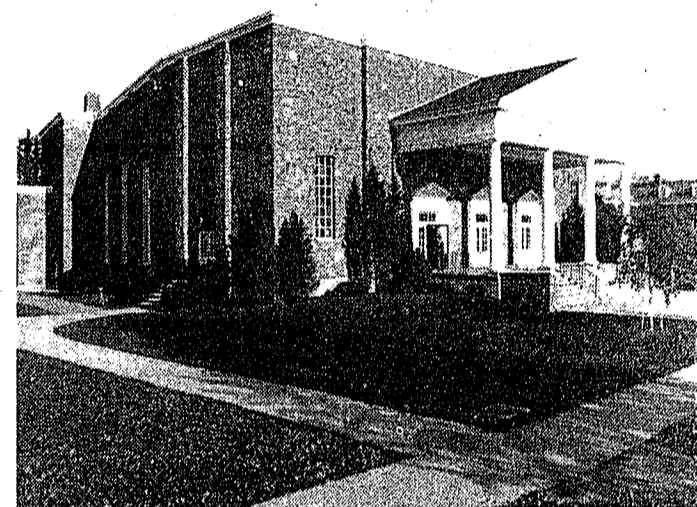


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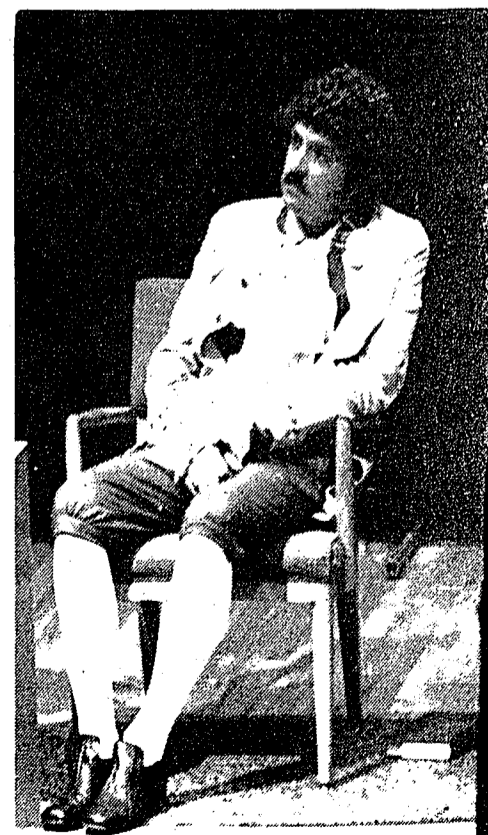
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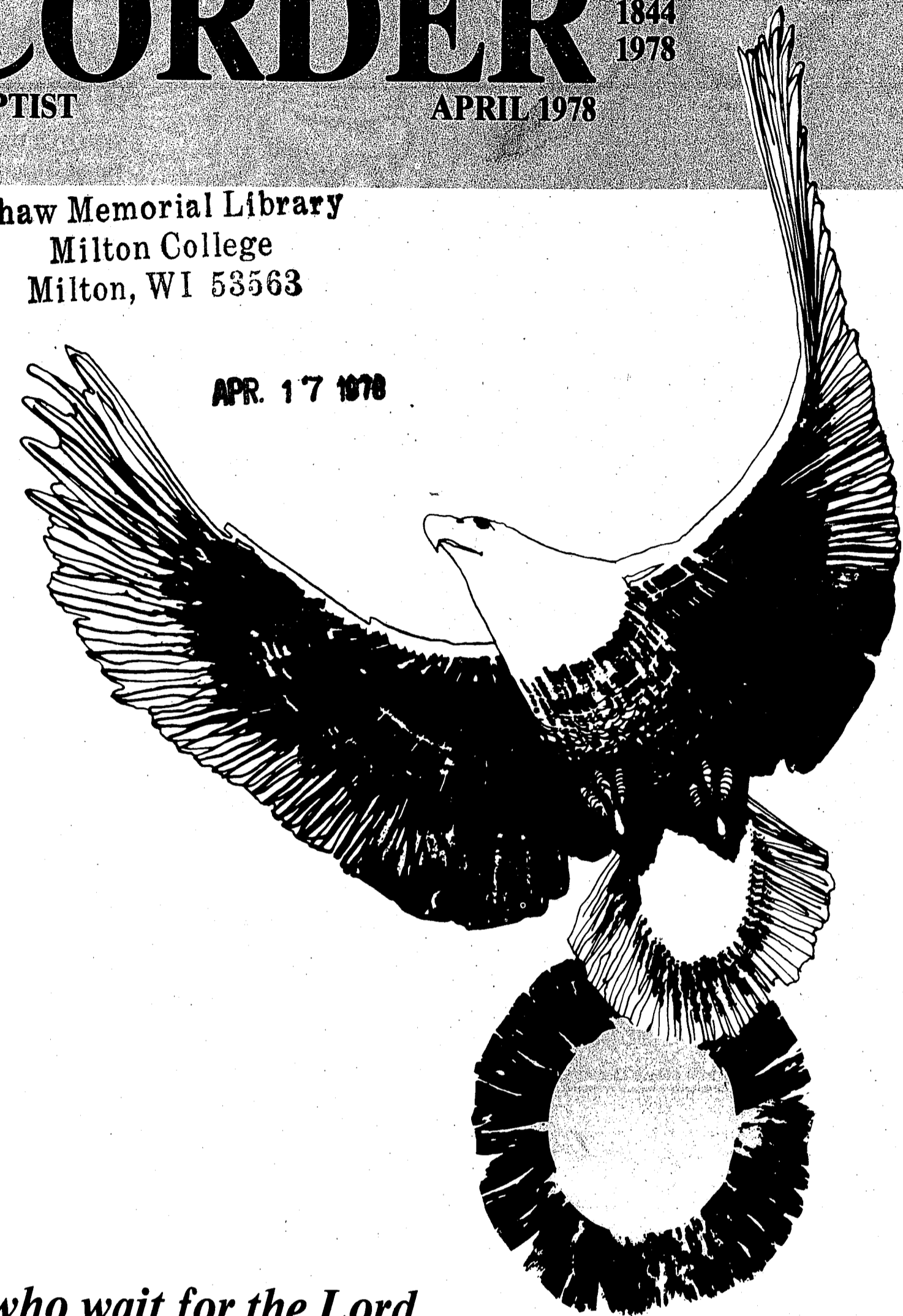
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*Those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles...*

Isaiah 40:31

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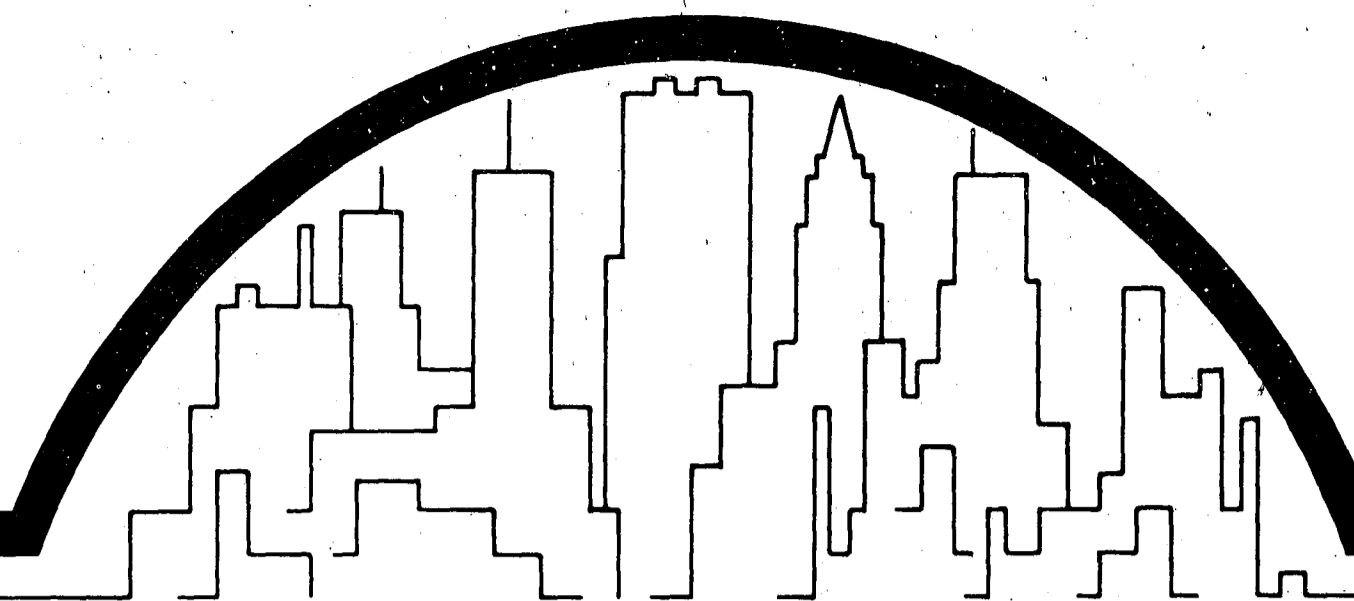
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We invite our readers to share job opportunities, desires, etc. through our Vocations Bulletin Board.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGED

The date for the annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, established by the Society's constitution as the third Sunday in May, *has been changed to June 4, 1978*, by action of the President in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Society will convene at 11 a.m. in the library at the Seventh Day Baptist Building, 510 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, New Jersey. □

The Sabbath Recorder



What shall I bring to the LORD, the God of heaven, when I come to worship him? Shall I bring the best calves to burn as offerings to him? Will the LORD be pleased if I bring him thousands of sheep or endless streams of olive oil? Shall I offer him my first-born child to pay for my sins? No, the LORD has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.

It is wise to fear the LORD. He calls to the city, "Listen, you people who assemble in the city! In the houses of evil men are treasures which they got dishonestly. They use false measures, a thing that I hate. How can I forgive men who use false scales and weights? Your rich men exploit the poor, and all of you are liars. So I have already begun your ruin and destruction because of your sins. You will eat, but not be satisfied—in fact you will still be hungry. You will carry things off, but you will not be able to save them; anything you do save I will destroy in war. You will sow grain, but not harvest the crop. You will press oil from olives, but never get to use it. You will make wine, but never drink it. This will happen because you have followed the evil practices of King Omri and of his son, King Ahab. You have continued their policies, and

so I will bring you to ruin, and everyone will despise you. People everywhere will treat you with contempt."

It's hopeless! I am like a hungry man who finds no fruit left on the trees and no grapes on the vines. All the grapes and all the tasty figs have been picked. There is not an honest person left in the land, no one loyal to God. Everyone is waiting for a chance to commit murder. Everyone hunts down his fellow countryman. They are all experts at doing evil. Officials and judges ask for bribes. The influential man tells them what he wants, and so they scheme together. Even the best and most honest of them are as worthless as weeds.

The day has come when God will punish the people, as he warned them through their watchmen, the prophets. Now they are in confusion. Don't believe your neighbor or trust your friend. Be careful what you say even to your wife. In these times sons treat their fathers like fools, daughters oppose their mothers, and young women quarrel with their mothers-in-law; a man's enemies are the members of his own family.

But I will watch for the LORD; I will wait confidently for God, who will save me. My God will hear me.

—Micah 6.6—7.7

Our American Cities have many problems. Thus words of Micah the prophet have a special significance today...

Micah 6:6-7:7 Today's English Version

© American Bible Society.

DARK IS THE NIGHT

by JOHN D. BEVIS

Have you not brought this on yourself by
abandoning your God?
Those who administer the law have no knowl-
edge of me...
Yes, you have even accustomed your steps to
walk with crime.
You have polluted the country with your pros-
titution and your vices...
never thinking to blush.
This thing of shame has devoured what our
Fathers worked for...

—Jeremiah

It seems darkest in that part of Manhattan which is at night aglow with grimy brilliance. This area has become known as the "Minnesota Strip," and composes a fifteen block stretch of Eighth Avenue, paralleling Times Square to 42nd Street. It is a part of the city that never seems to sleep, literally bustling with thousands of people around the clock. For many of these dark is the night.

Here there are no fine shops, neat homes or the cultured affluence which have for years symbolized New York City. Here the big apple is rotten; here, in spite of the sun or man-made illumination, it is dark; this part of the city has little hope or joy. The strip is composed of scores of pornographic shops, x-rated theatres, topless bars, cheap hotels, fast food outlets as well as hundreds of pimps who control an ever-growing number of prostitutes. One short block from 42nd Street is the gateway to the city, the Port Authority Bus Terminal, which daily funnels hundreds of vulnerable youth from across the country into the labyrinth of the notorious strip.

Many of the children who come to the strip mingle and live with the derelicts, nomads and cast-offs of society. It is reported that the teen-age sex business makes up a large percentage of the estimated \$1.5 billion annual sex trade of the city.

A lot of runaway children in their early teens are "welcomed" to the city by the pimps who soon enslave them in the prostitution trade, be they male or female. Pimps await the arrival of buses at the Port Authority Terminal and experience has taught them how to spot the runaway. They offer them food, a place to stay, and a strange relationship which at first seems to include love and security.

The New York police department reports that at any given time there

are 20,000 runaway children (age 16 and under) on the streets of the city. Over one million kids run away from home each year in this country; many of whom are drawn to New York or other large metropolitan areas. An overburdened New York police force cannot cope with the problem; there is a seven-man unit assigned for that purpose.

Over the past three years there have been 200 prostitutes murdered in the city. It seems nothing is being done. The courts are too lenient. A case in point: a pimp was arrested with a fifteen-year-old girl in a hotel room. She testified that he was attempting to force her to work in a massage parlor. The judge allowed the pimp to plead guilty to disorderly conduct and fined him \$100.00. You can guess what happened to the young girl.

Where is the church in all of this? Unfortunately there has been very little effort by organized Christianity to minister to runaway children, much less to prostitutes. However, in recent months a youth center, Under 21, has opened its doors on Eighth Avenue and seeks to reach out to needy young men and women. The Rev. Bruce Ritter, a fifty-year-old Franciscan priest, saw the need and began his ministry largely on faith. Some 3,000 young people, ranging in age from 10 to 21, have sought assistance at the center in the last nine months. Ritter says that 60 to 70 percent of these have been involved in prostitution or pornography in the city.

The center offers emergency shelter, food, medical assistance, counselling and referral services as well as crisis intervention. The staff of professionals and paraprofessionals (40 full-time and 50 part-time, many volunteers) work around the clock in their effort to save children from the streets.

Some cases from Father Ritter's files show the horror of life in the streets:

- a pimp who offered \$500.00 for a young girl who had sought refuge in the center.
- a fourteen-year-old boy was chased into the center by his pimp, a man of 40, who had a broken bottle. The man wanted to kill the boy who had escaped after being held prisoner for six weeks in a Times Square hotel.
- a girl age seventeen was brought to the center by the police. She had lived in foster homes since she was nine. She was put to work on the streets by her pimp, who beat her until she was so mad that she had him arrested.
- a fourteen-year-old girl, held prisoner, raped and forced into prostitution, her hair dyed and with a false I.D. saying she was eighteen, who had obtained a job in an Eighth Avenue strip joint.

Perhaps this gives you some idea of the seriousness of the problem, the depth of despair among hundreds of runaway children; the darkness of the night.

Often times we Christians are so busy "preaching" the gospel that we have little time to really become involved in living the gospel - concerning ourselves about the real needs of the people. We must not only preach the good news but live it as well and share it as we minister to people with all types of problems and concerns. Our concern must reach not only those in our own comfortable neighborhoods but also those who have fallen into the gutters of society. Jesus said: "When you did it to these my brothers you were doing it to me" (Matt. 25:40 LB).

It is time for concerned Christians to seek to bring about changes in our laws and better enforcement of current statutes against those who prey on our children. We need a revamping of our judicial system which has seemingly taken a very callous and cynical disregard of its responsibilities in the area of child abuse. We need more programs like that of Father Ritter to aid and assist the children of the streets.

In fact it is our duty as professing Christians to dispel darkness wherever it is found. □

DARK IS THE NIGHT

• by JOHN D. BEVIS

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THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP

by Mrs. Pearl Nagel

Worship is an opportunity for us to offer our thanks and praise to God and at the same time it provides us with educational and service opportunities enabling a more effective witness for Christ. Worship also serves a nurturing function in providing an opportunity for the congregation to gather in a corporate act of praising, praying and listening to God's proclamation through word and music.

The Prelude

The prelude is the beginning and a very important part of the worship service which begins even before the pastor enters the chancel and says "Good Morning, People of God." The importance of the prelude is to set the tone and environment for each particular service. For example music chosen for Advent expresses a mood of anticipation for the coming of the Christ child and is related to the theme of the worship service which is also expressed through the message of the sermons and through the prayers. In order for the prelude to serve its function, you need to surrender yourself to God and let the music take you to reflective thinking, private prayer, meditation, and worship planning. Thus, the prelude is not a time filler, it is an integral part of the worship experience which does not stand alone but is linked with every other aspect of the Liturgy.

The Hymn

E.E. Ryden stated "A student of a sacred history will find few sub-

jects more fascinating or more rewarding than a study of the hymnody of the church. To know the story of our hymns is to know something of the spiritual struggles and victories of the people of God through the ages. Henry Ward Beecher has well said: 'Hymns are the jewels which the church has worn, the pearls, the diamonds, the precious stones, formed into amulets more potent against sorrow and sadness than the most famous charm of the wizard or the magician. And he who knows the way that hymns have flowed, knows where the blood of true piety ran, and can trace its veins and arteries to the very heart.'

There are many books written on hymnody and it would take pages to summarize even the very essence of the many aspects of "the hymn." The hymn is defined by Dr. Henry Horn as "(1) a metrical poem (2) offered to God in Worship, which is (3) intended for congregational use; it (4) springs out of a life of devotion as an expression of faith, and it (5) gains its usage as much by the tune which is used as by the sentiments expressed in the text."

Martin Luther deserves much of the credit for invention and development of the congregational chorale, and the preservation and adaptation of plainsong melodies to contemporary needs. Luther considered the hymns as important educational tool - in essence a catechism. He realized that by combining the Word of God with the gift of music the

message would penetrate both the heart and mind. In his preface to the Wittenberg Hymnal (1524) he described the book's purpose with these words: "... that the holy gospel which now by the grace of God has risen anew may be noised and spread abroad." It is said that Luther won more people for the Lord through hymns than through his preaching and writing.

A hymn can provide the means for expressing our feelings to God-praise, thanksgiving, penitence, sorrow-often in prayer form. Many of us, especially those whose cultural heritage is northern European, find it difficult to express our true feelings. The great thing about the hymns is that we can express our feelings of joy and sorrow in music. When we sing, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," we can give expression to our feelings with full voice. And we can bemoan our sins in "Before thee, God, who knowest all, with grief and shame I prostrate fall; I see my sins..." Of course, the melody must match the text in its mood, and usually it does. Sometimes just humming the melody of a familiar hymn gives expression to our feelings.¹

Millar Patrick expounded on the significance of the hymn when he said, "The discovery was early made in the Christian era that popular religion is moulded largely by the ideas enshrined in its hymns. Sermons often fly over the people's heads; prayers uttered in their name often fail to carry their hearts and

(continued on page 32)

The Sabbath Recorder

THE SABBATH EXPERIENCE

by Edward A. Hansen



"The Sabbath was made for man's sake; man was not made for the sake of the Sabbath." -Mark 2:27

Our Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief declares: *We believe that the Sabbath of the Bible, the seventh day of the week, is sacred time, antedating Moses and having the sanction of Jesus; that it should be faithfully kept by all Christians as a day of rest and worship, a symbol of God's presence in time, a pledge of eternal Sabbath rest."*

It was during the Mid-Continent Association's meetings at Nortonville, Kansas, in 1976 that I really began to seriously think about Sabbath-keeping. We had all enjoyed this Sabbath Day, and Sabbath night a "social" was taking place in the church basement. Pastor Paul Osborn and I had left for a few minutes; and since we were talking as we returned, I did not notice everyone singing that well-loved song, "We Young Folks Are Seventh Day Baptists." But as I walked in the door, the words from that song hit me like a tidal wave--"we'll try to be true to the Sabbath." My immediate reaction was, "Is that really true, do we really 'try to be true to the Sabbath'?"

Soon after this experience, I read and was impressed with the words of the late Paul Little: "It has been observed, wisely, I think, that hymns and choruses frequently make liars of us. We sing of glorious Christian experiences as though they were our own. But often they aren't and so we tend more and more to accept an unreal experience as the norm... we mouth untruths musically when we sing a hymn of commitment but don't willfully make that commitment for our own lives."

Now, all over this land, we take great pleasure and feel a certain justified pride in saying things such as "we are Seventh Day Baptists," and "we keep the Sabbath." In addition, we have mouthed the certitude from our Statement of Belief that the Sabbath for us is "sacred time" to be "faithfully kept by all Christians as a day of rest and worship."

What do we really mean when we say these things? Are we truly "Sabbathkeepers" just because we attend worship services on the seventh day of the week? Is it truly sacred time and a time of rest and worship, or are we mouthing un-

truths and accepting an unreal experience for the norm?

The Sabbath: God Ordained

To put these questions into their proper context, I would like to briefly review the Sabbath concept. In the first place, why is there a Sabbath; and secondly, what is its purpose?

First of all, the Sabbath exists because God himself created and ordained it. Indeed, He sanctified it, we are told, as a "sign forever" (Exodus 31:12-17). It is a perpetual reminder to man of his origins, a memorial of God's personal creative power.

As to the Sabbath's purposes many reasons could be cited. However, I think it will suffice to say that when God created us, He implanted within each of us certain needs which He knew would require His Sabbath in order to satisfy them. God, in His infinite wisdom, knew then and knows now that for humans to operate at "peak efficiency" (spiritually and otherwise), and to have a more harmonious relationship to Him, that a Sabbath observance was, and is, and will be

forever, a necessity. However, God also realized if His Sabbath were to accomplish its objectives, it would have to be properly observed to become not just an observance, but an experience.

As I have prayerfully and seriously considered this matter, I am totally convinced that if the Sabbath is not kept in the manner for which it has been designed, it can be no more meaningful than if it were not kept at all!

It is true that since the Sabbath was created after man, it was made for his enjoyment. Nevertheless, unless it is kept in accordance with God's will, its real enjoyment and blessings are forfeited. One only needs to look at Israel to see that this is true.

In Israel, the Sabbath was given a very high priority; but unfortunately, as time progressed, the Sabbath blessings were lost because of the intrusion of the oral or scribal law. This scribal law came into being because the Israelites began to feel that the principles of the Old Testament, as great and broad as they were, just were not sufficient. This is not to say they questioned the law as Divine. Indeed, in the law they felt God had said His last word and that, therefore, it was all inclusive. They thereby concluded that if a rule of conduct was not in the law explicitly, it had to be there implicitly. There came into being, therefore, "scribes" who took the Old Testament's principles for living and expanded them into literally thousands and thousands of rules and regulations to cover almost every situation a man might face in life. Let's see what this did to Sabbathkeeping.

Before Christ a Restrictive Day

The Old Testament stated that the Sabbath was to be a day when no work was to be done and that it was to be kept holy. But the scribes would ask, "What is work?" They classified work into thirty-nine categories. For example, carrying a burden on the Sabbath was classified as work. But then these legalists asked, "What is a burden?" So, the scribal law defined a burden as "food equal in weight to a dried fig, enough wine for mixing in a goblet, milk enough for one swallow, honey enough to put upon a wound,

THE SABBATH

by Paul McCoy

Six days our Master labored, creating everything we know;

The earth, the heavens, man and beast, and all the things that grow.

Then, God said: "It's very good!" and on the seventh day,

He rested, and so marked it in a very special way.

The first six days for labor, the seventh day for rest,

A time for worship set apart - a day our Master blessed.

God set aside the Sabbath. Do you wonder how I know?

The answer's very simple - the Bible tells me so!

oil enough to anoint a small member, water enough to moisten an eye salve, paper enough to write a customs house notice upon, ink enough to write two letters of the alphabet, reed enough to make a pen," and so on endlessly. The result then was that instead of worshipping God, men would debate whether a man could move anything within his house, whether, it was a sin if a tailor went out with a needle in his robe, if one could wear false teeth on the Sabbath, or even if a parent could lift his child on the Sabbath. Other ludicrous examples could be cited, but one can readily see that in Christ's day on earth "keeping" the Sabbath was nothing more than trying to follow an endless list of rules and regulations.

Obviously, each of us shakes our head in amazement, wondering how they could ever claim themselves to be "Sabbathkeepers" when they profaned the Sabbath as they did. But as I've pondered such "Sabbathkeeping" I think their fault did not lie in their original concept, but rather in its application. They realized correctly that God did not intend for the Sabbath to be a day set apart from the first six days of the week. However, while their Sabbath was different from the rest of the week they, in the process, missed the blessings God willed for the Sabbath to have for them as individuals.

What About Today?

But what about ourselves? Are we, in all honesty, keeping the Sabbath in ways that are any more

pleasing to God than the Israel of Christ's day? How many could stand before the presence of God Almighty and unashamedly declare that he or she is keeping the Sabbath as God wills for it to be kept--- or for that matter, as our song says, we are even trying "to be true true to the Sabbath"? *God has not changed!* Just as surely as He wills for His Sabbath to be the seventh day of the week, He also wills for it to be a Holy day, set apart from the first six days of the week.

Let's review the situation briefly. We are products of God's creation, and as such He knows our needs infinitely better than we ourselves. He, therefore, has given us the gift of a weekly Sabbath which, when observed in accordance with His will, will be joyous to us. Is it not obvious, and logical, and reasonable that we should observe the Sabbath as the Sabbath, and not just as another day of the week to spend in any manner we please?

At this point the question arises as to how we should observe God's Sabbath. Certainly it should not be kept in the same manner as the Jews kept it with their endless lists of do's and don'ts. But, on the other hand, it certainly should not be kept as many of us now do; because for many of us the Sabbath is very much like the other days of the week. In addition, for some of us the Sabbath is spent like a secular holiday.

How should we keep the Sabbath? It would appear that I have come to the point where I am to declare

the do's and don'ts of a faithful Sabbath observance. However, that it is *not* my purpose at all. Rather I would merely like to witness some general guidelines my wife and I are working on for our family which we feel absolutely certain will turn the Sabbath not into just an observance but a genuine spiritual experience.

Some Suggested Guidelines

Now, I am not suggesting that you should emulate these guidelines. Nor do I even suggest to consider them for yourselves. However, it is my hope that you do some serious introspection concerning your own personal Sabbath observance to determine if you are really keeping it in accordance with God's will. If not, I hope you do whatever is necessary to make the Sabbath come alive, for it to become a real spiritual experience for you!

The first guideline for us then, is that the twenty-four hour period of the Sabbath must become as much as possible unlike the first six days of the week. To do this, the day before the Sabbath must be a "preparation day," a day to do all those things which will detract from our Sabbath experience. This requires some good organization, but if the Sabbath is truly to be meaningful for us, this guideline must be accomplished.

The second guideline is that the thrust of our Sabbath observance should be concerned with the spiritual aspects of living-- increased Bible reading and study, prayer, and participating in worship and Sabbath School. If the Sabbath is to become a spiritual experience, then its thrust must be concerned with the spiritual.

The third guideline is an extension of the second. The Sabbath should be a time of increased love within our family and increased fellowship with our Christian friends. It should be a time when we are actively involved with each other.

Finally, the fourth guideline is that when there is a definite need to lend a helping hand, we do so in the name and with the love of Jesus Christ. Now, I'm talking about scheduling on Wednesday to help someone work on his car or to help at a garage sale on the Sabbath. Rather, I'm talking about spontaneous situations which require

action. I think this can be best illustrated by the legend of *The Fourth Wise Man*. His name was Artaban, and he set out to find the newborn King. His gifts were a sapphire, a ruby and a beautiful pearl. Artaban had agreed to meet his three friends, Caspar, Melchior, and Belthasar at an appointed place. He was riding hard because time was short, and his three friends would be forced to leave if he was late. But as he was riding, his eye caught the outline of a traveler stricken with fever on the ground before him. Artaban had a decision to make, for to stay and lend aid would mean missing his friends. But he did stay, and he helped restore the man to health. However, he now found himself alone, needing camels and bearers to help him cross the desert since he had missed the other wise men and their caravan. But Artaban was sad because he could not give the sapphire to the King.

Finally, Artaban arrived at Bethlehem, again not in time; for Mary and Joseph and the baby were gone. But while Artaban was there, the soldiers came to carry out the command of Herod to slay the infant male children. Artaban was in a house where there was a little boy. The soldiers came to the door; the anguished cries of weeping mothers could be heard. But Artaban, with the ruby in his hand stood in the doorway and bribed the captain not to enter. The child was saved, and the mother was ecstatic! But the ruby was gone, and Artaban was sad because the King would never have his gem.

Artaban searched in vain for the

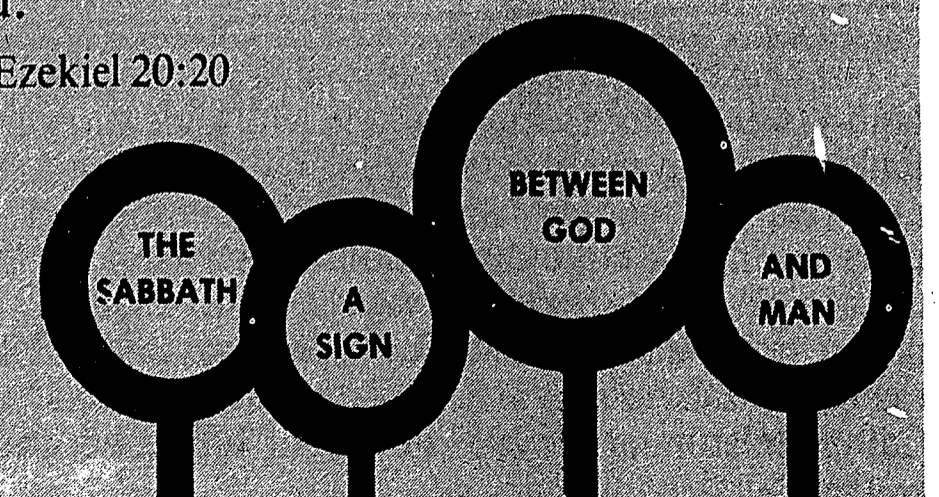
King; and, as it happened, he was in Jerusalem more than thirty years later when a certain crucifixion was taking place. When Artaban learned of the Jesus who was condemned, he was sure this was the King; and so he started towards Calvary. "My pearl," he said to himself, "is the finest in the world. Maybe it will buy the life of the King." But, as he hurriedly made his way, a scream of terror reached his ears. "Help! Help!" A girl was fleeing from some soldiers. "My father's in debt; and they're going to sell me as a slave. Save me! Save me!" Artaban hesitated, but then he reached for his pearl; and with it he paid the soldiers to buy the girl's freedom.

Suddenly the sky became dark, the earth began to rumble and a flying tile hit Artaban on the head. He fell to the ground half-conscious. The grateful girl placed his head on her lap and Artaban began to speak. "Not so, my Lord. For when did I see thee ahungered and fed thee? Or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw I thee a stranger and took thee in? Or naked and clothed thee? Or when saw I thee sick in prison and came unto thee? For over thirty and three years have I searched for thee. But I have never seen thee, nor ministered unto thee, my King." You know what happened. A whisper came to Artaban, so very far away and yet, so near. "Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, thou hast done it unto me." And so, Artaban died with a smile on his face because he realized for the first time that the King had indeed received all three of his gifts.

(continued on page 33)

"Hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God."

-Ezekiel 20:20



Camp Holston

Mrs. Karen Thorngate

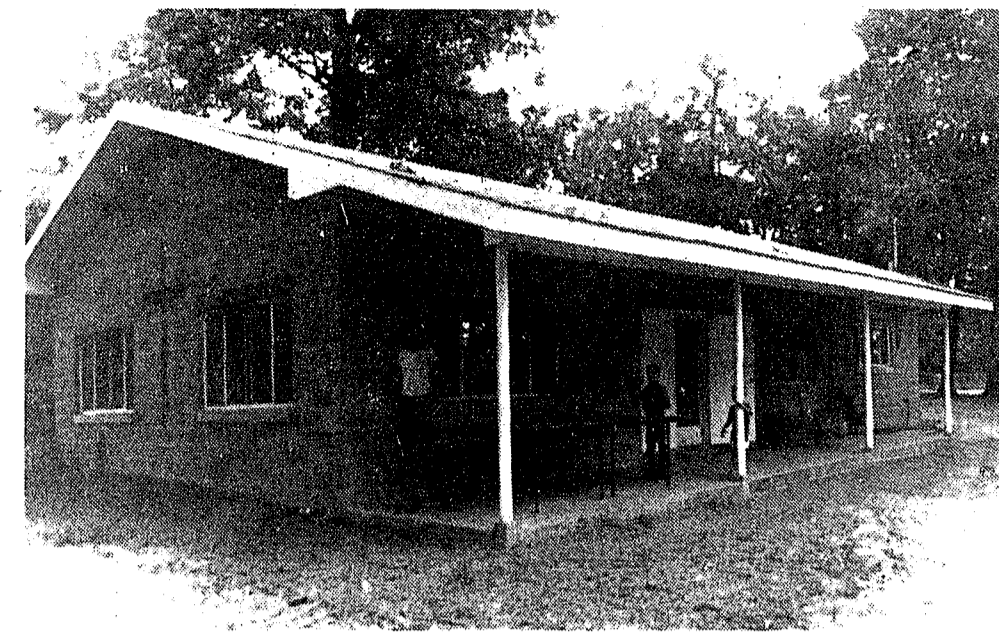
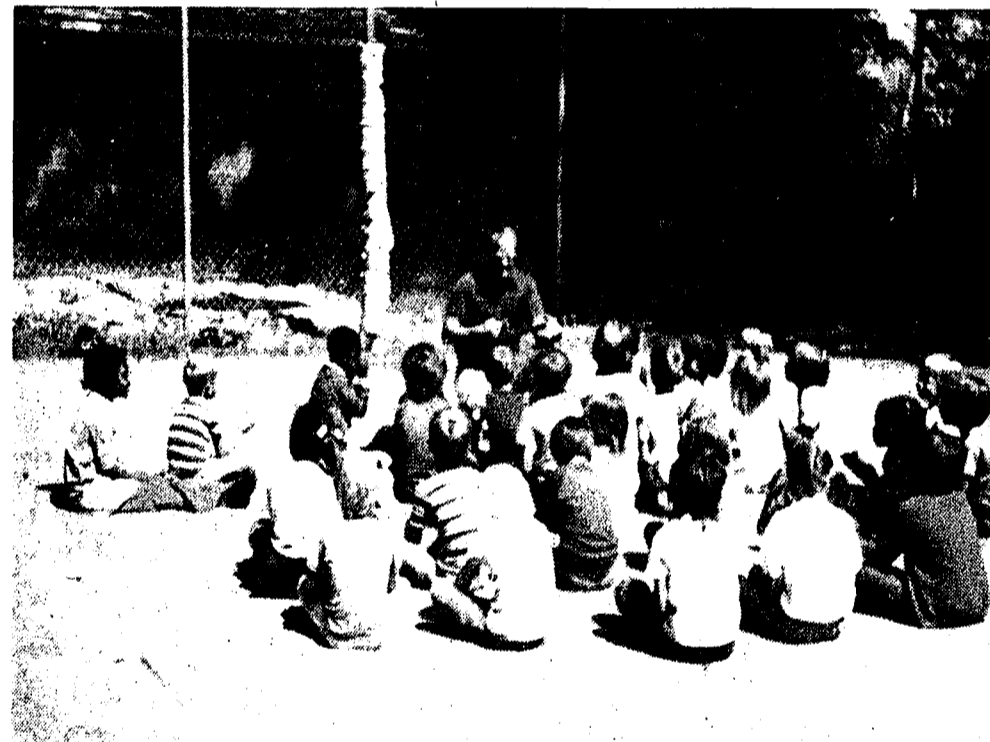
It was in 1944 that the Battle Creek church purchased lake-front property for use as a church camp. The property, seven miles south of town on Cotton Lake, was secured by the Rev. Edward M. Holston, the church's former pastor. Rev. Holston, father of Doris Fetherston, envisioned that the small plot of land with its two-story cottage with fireplace, though not ideal, could serve as a church camp. Through his efforts, the necessary monies were raised for the \$3,300 purchase. His wife, Anna, an adult Sabbath School teacher, also did a great deal to promote the camp; and, in 1945, the church honored the Holstons by naming the property "Camp Holston."

Two Bible camps were held for the first time at Cotton Lake in 1944, one for 15 girls, another for 17 boys. "As well as Christian instruction, the camps furnished experience in fair play, sportsmanship, and living harmoniously with others," wrote teacher Alma Bond. Having Bible camps was not a new endeavor for the church. In the late '30s and early '40s a cottage at nearby Fair Lake had been rented for the camping seasons. Fair Lake was also the site of the first denomination Pre-Con Camp when the 1940 S.D.B. General Conference convened in Battle Creek. As early as 1930 Battle Creek youth attended an S.D.B. camp in White Cloud.

Young people from White Cloud and Jackson Center began participating in the Camp Holston camping program in 1950. Sometimes the cottage was crowded, but a family-living atmosphere existed. Large tents were set up as supplemental housing when needed, and pastors and members from the churches helped staff the camps. Meals were cooked in the small kitchen and served in the garage addition. Campers were allowed the use of an adjoining wooded pasture for "Alone with Him" times and for ballgames. In sharing a week's activities-- from morning praise on the sunny docks to an evening prayer circle around a blazing fire--the campers developed a closer fellowship with God and each other.

The church purchases the adjoining wooded pasture land-- twenty more acres-- in 1956 with a view toward making improvements and adding more buildings. The next year the "garage" dining room was improved by replacing the large garage door with a window. Deep metal sinks for dishwashing were also installed. A nature trail-- named for Arthur Ellis-- was laid out in the wooded areas and officially dedicated, along with Camp Holston, at the 1957 Fourth of July celebration by the church at camp.

Three cement block buildings were constructed and dedicated on the additional acreage in the years 1960-1966. Money, materials, and volunteer labor were donated for them by Battle Creek and White Cloud church members. First to be completed was the lodge, which contains an assembly/dining room with fireplace, modern kitchen, pantry, and cook's quarters. Next, work was finished on a 20-bed girls' dormitory with utility core, containing separate bathroom and shower facilities for girls and boys at the end of the building. As additional funds became available, a 20-bed boys' dormitory wing was built on the other side of the utility core, thereby completing the initial construction plans.



The lodge at Camp Holston contains an assembly/dining room with fireplace, a modern kitchen, pantry and cook's quarters.

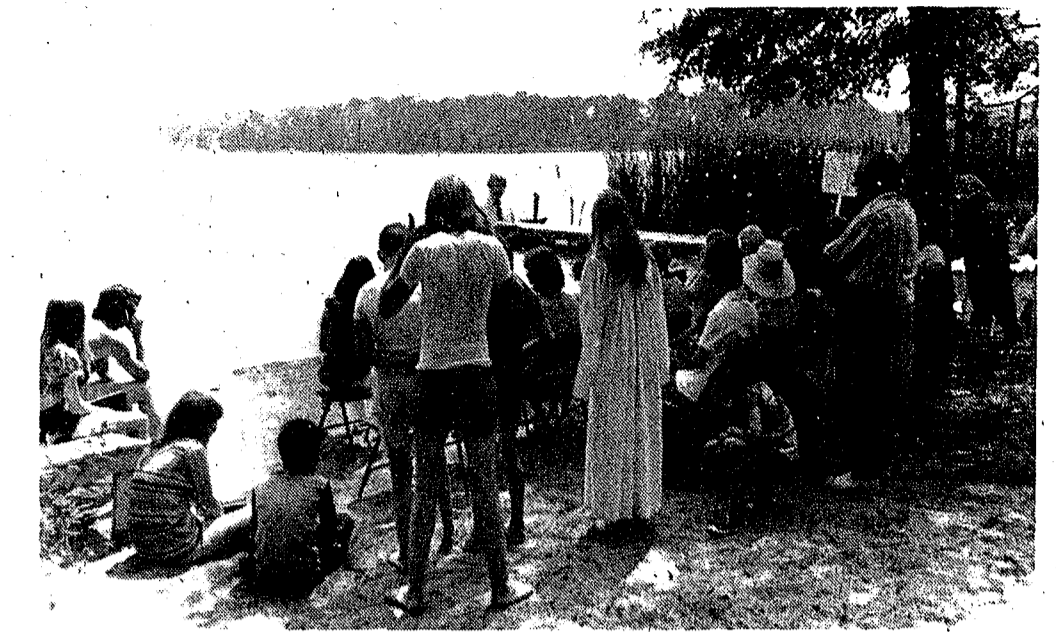
More construction-- a restroom addition to the lodge in 1973-- was made possible by the S.D.B. Memorial Board. This past year, work has progressed on refurbishing the cottage with paint, insulation, new wall-board, and electric baseboard heaters. The cottage now quarters the camp doctor, crafts, boats and lifesaving equipment, and is ideal for overnight stays at camp for a small group during the winter.

The 22 acres of the camp furnish ideal locations for outdoor programs and recreation. Besides the nature trail, there is a lakeside open-air chapel and campfire circle with cement seats, a shaded picnic area, a ball field with backstop atop a bluff overlooking the lake, children's playground equipment, and, of course, swimming and boating at the lake. Tennis, volleyball, badminton, and basketball can be played on the multi-purpose, blacktopped, and fenced recreation court. The Rev. Eugene N. Fatato Recreation Court was dedicated as a memorial to our former pastor in the Fall of 1972. Just recently, a hillside amphitheater with cement seats has been partially completed by the church's young adult group.

Except for specialized work, most of the building projects at Camp Holston have been completed with skilled volunteer help. All maintenance of the camp-- no small task-- is carried out by church members and friends as a labor of love. Money for camp scholarships has been given regularly by church members to enable more youth to attend camps. The church subsidizes the camping program when necessary, since camp rates are kept reasonably low, within reach of the average family. White Cloud and Columbus young people participate in the camping program at the present time, and biennially the North Central Association's Senior Camp is held at Camp Holston. When not in use by the Battle Creek church, the camp is rented to other church groups, civic organizations, and individuals. It is a popular place for picnics, family reunions, and retreats.

Camp dates for this year have been scheduled as follows:

- Family Retreat May 26-28
- Day Camp June 19-23
- Primary Camp July 5-7
- Intermediate Camp July 9-16
- Junior Camp July 17-23



One of the highlights of the camping season is the baptismal service. Many of the 348 added to the Battle Creek church by baptism since 1944 have come from the camping experience.

Countless hours have been contributed over the years by those serving as directors, teachers, counselors, doctors, nurses, life guards, water safety instructors, and cooks at the camps. It is estimated that 115 camping sessions plus numerous retreats have been sponsored by the Battle Creek Church at Camp Holston. Of the church's 348 baptisms since 1944, many were the result of meaningful Christian experiences gained by young people at camp. What better place for an individual, young or old, to discover God's plan for his life or to draw closer to God and His family than at camp--a quiet oasis of His unspoiled beauty? □



Pastor Ken Davis conducts a Bible class at the camp.

NEWLY PURCHASED FILMSTRIP-RECORD-SCRIPT SET ON CHRISTIAN CAMPING

Four-part series: Objectives, Administration, The Counselor, The Program. Color. Now for loan through the S.D.B. Sound Studio. American Sabbath Tract Society, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield N.J. 07061



Thy Word is a light...

N.C.C.C. CONSULTATION ON DEATH EDUCATION

"For if we have been united with him in death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:5 (RSV)

Report on N.C.C.C. Consultation on Death Education and Funeral Pre-Planning

[Mrs. George (Carol) Clare, Lenoir City, Tenn., represented the Board of Christian Education at these meetings and submitted the following report.]

One of the great inevitables of life is death. Our lives should gain enrichment from belief in the resurrection.

Thirty individuals from several denominations came together in Nashville, Tennessee, early in 1978 to consider strategies to enrich human life by increasing church involvement in death education and funeral pre-planning. We met for five sessions over a period of three days, hearing speakers and sharing among ourselves our own experiences, feelings, and opinions.

Tom Nelson outlined issues in funeral merchandising, funeral industry practices and consumer abuses from his experience in the Federal Trade Commission investigations.

Roger Harris presented his funeral pre-planning "folio" which includes information on donation of the body parts or as a whole, services and ceremonies, and memorials. He received the reactions of the group which will be useful when the "folio" is rewritten.

Dr. Nordan C. Murphy shared the touching and personal story of his own son's death and his family's involvement in the funeral

arrangements and how they managed their grief. Denominations shared their various involvement in death education, funeral pre-planning and related issues. "Journey's End," a film relating the importance of pre-planning and "Consumer Survival Kit," a film from AARP (American Association for Retired Persons) outlining consumer issues, were shown.

Betty Clemmer talked about funeral and memorial societies' involvement in dispersal of information about funeral planning and related issues.

Rev. William Wendt related activities of the St. Francis Burial Society including grief counseling, quarterly publication, speakers bureau, and availability of simple coffins. Exchange of ideas and personal experiences were interspersed throughout the sessions.

"Where do we go from here?" was the challenge of the last session. We divided into groups to evaluate different aspects of this important issue:

1. What are theological implications?
2. How do we go about increasing church involvement?
3. What education is needed?
4. Should a task force be formed to further evaluate funeral pre-planning and death education? What duties would they perform? Who would participate?

There seemed to be a consensus of opinion that funeral pre-planning eliminates many of the unhappy concepts associated with funerals and death, and fundamental death education throughout the life cycle is desirable. Dr. Nordan C. Murphy's story was a personal testimony to the enrichment of life from funeral

pre-planning. To make funeral pre-planning a widespread reality, education is needed on all levels. Children's questions on death and funerals need to be answered honestly and as completely as possible. Youth should be exposed to death issues and given ethical and moral guidance in formulating values with relation to death issues. Adults need to know alternatives and options in funeral arrangements and have counseling in making funerals plans, and wills. Stewardship in relation to wills is to be encouraged. The minister and congregation need to encourage healthy values regarding death and the dying process. Death should be incorporated into the context of the family as part of the life cycle. This could be an effective area for witnessing in the community and among the unchurched. Our ministers may need and want special training for funeral pre-planning, grief counseling, etc. Workshops could help train and educate church members in these areas.

Certainly there is much that can and is being accomplished in death education. All the issues could not be presented here, for death is a pervasive issue of life. It is a challenge to us in our living. Are we ready to take the challenge?

*Pamphlet- Questions and Answers on Funeral and Memorial Societies and Directory of Funeral and Memorial Societies in United States from the Continental Association of Funeral and Memorial Societies, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20036.

A Consumer Bibliography on Funerals Ruth M. Harmer
On Death and Dying Elizabeth Kubler - Ross
We Are but a Moment Sunlight edited by C. Adler, G. Stanford and S.M. Adler

**Explaining Death to Children* Earl Grollman; Beacon Press, 1967; Boston
Telling Children About Death E. Jackson; Channel Press, 1965
About Dying: An Open Family Book for Parents and Children Together Sara Bennett Stein; Walker & Co. 1974 New York

* *A Manual of Death Education and Simple Burial* by Ernest Morgan

This standard reference work, frequently revived, is used by all Memorial Societies and includes

(continued on page 33)

The main emphasis for the conference was to help the youth organize or reestablish fellowships in their churches. This was attempted in three approaches: Leadership, spiritual growth through knowledge, and confrontation with other problems.

Mornings were used primarily for spiritual growth and Bible activities for knowledge and understanding. It started out with a prayer and praise time from 7:30 to 8:00. These were led by different groups of people.

Tuesday morning Rev. Clifford Bond led a prayer study emphasizing the love you should have for God as a supplier, protector and transcendent controller of all things. This love is expressed by *desire* to live as He teaches. This desire is shown through actions for church attendance, membership and recruitment. Greater than these though, is the love we have for one another.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond talked to us about proper attitudes toward sexuality and how we may help others recognize the importance of using this gift of God as He planned.

The other two mornings were presented by a couple of the work groups. These usually consisted of readings, songs of praise and prayer.

After breakfast a Bible study was led by Pastor Dale Thorngate. These lessons helped the students analyze their feelings about their faith, Bible readings, and approach to problems. In many cases this section supplied the spiritual food to fulfill many needs which were stated Monday evening in the "What do I expect?" session. After the Bible study the conferees spent an alone period to think. This was provided to give us time to consider those things talked about.

After a 15 minute break we returned to classes and the first section of the Leadership Lab for the day. The Leadership Lab consisted of organizational processes of a fellowship. This was led by Pastor David Clarke. The material used was in the form of a notebook developed through the National Youth Ministries of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Ed. This was the material for which many of the youth and youth leaders attended.

This material included how to organize or reorganize youth fellowships, how to plan programs, the functions of the officers and some approaches to Bible study. These were all useful and we are hopeful the youth who attended will take this knowledge back to their churches and get to work.

During the leadership lab we acted out a Bible simulation titled "That Sabbath," taken from John 9. We discussed the effect of Bible simulations on people as they try to empathize with the different people in the story. From this activity we learned it is important to know how people feel, to understand why they act as they do.

Throughout the program other activities were carried out such as singing, praying, watching films, eating, playing games.

The culminating activity was the Communion service held the last evening. It was during this that many real and valuable goals were identified as being met. We are thankful for an opportunity to share our goals, aspirations, and desires for prayer.

We want to take the time to thank the parents, pastors and churches involved for a wonderful spiritual renewing time. Especially we want to thank the Nortonville SDB Church for giving the facilities and cooperation. Kent and Billie Wheeler will always be in our prayers of thanks for providing a girls' dormitory (while the boys slept in the church basement). □

MID-AMERICA S.D.B. YEAR-END

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Dale Thorngate, Kirk Looper, David Clarke, Paul Osborn



Maureen Geske, Dale Wheeler, Chip Thorngate, Alan Loofboro, Melanie Wheeler, Roger Langworthy, Jayne Geske, Randy Langworthy, Tom Schock, Joel Osborn, Susan Bond (Mrs. Richard), Kathy Johnson, Tim Osborn, Norman Green, Bob Loofboro, Tami Klopstein, Lois Green, Lori Loofboro, Rod Cox, Mike Cox, David Thorngate, Kevin Miles

MISSION NOTES

focus

"Where there is no vision the people perish"

Verse for the month: "So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, and He will give them to you if you give Him first place in your life and live as He wants you to. So don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrows too. Live one day at a time."

-Matthew 7:31-34 (LB)

● **JAMAICA, WI**- Corresponding Secretary Joe A. Samuels has written: "The Lord is continuing to work mightily in some of our churches. On the last Sunday in January 1978 I went to Niagara for a baptismal service conducted by Pastor O.G. Palmer. Twenty persons were baptized and later joined the church. Pastor Palmer said that there is a mighty revival taking place at Niagara since the baptism."

● **U.S.A.**- The First SDB Church of Upper East Tennessee was organized on March 4 1978, in Blountville, TN, with twelve charter members and two more committed in addition. On the same date the Seattle, WA, church was celebrating its tenth anniversary!

● **JAMAICA, WI**- Summer Crusade Teams again served in August 1977. The statistics reveal that nine churches were served by 30 team members; 79 decisions were recorded and 31 have already followed through in baptism with at least ten more in baptismal classes.

● **GUYANA, SA**- The Dartmouth SDB Church will be the site for the 1978 Retreat. An extension is being built on the back of this church to provide more room. The pastors will plan the retreat program.

● **KENYA, AFRICA**- Joel L.O. Omare completes his Bible College course this spring and plans to con-

tinue on in study and preparation for a continued leadership role. He is corresponding secretary of the Kenya SDB Mission. Pray for him as he seeks God's leading.

● **U.S.A.**- Aid to churches in aid of missionary pastors has been increased to eleven groups in 1978, with applications pending from several others. The Missionary Board increased by \$5,000. its budget amount for this need. New groups include Columbus, OH; Central in MD; North Jersey, NJ.

● **MALAWI, AFRICA**- Missionaries Menzo and Audrey Fuller are enroute this month to the USA for their furlough. They plan to visit the new SDB work in Kenya and make brief stops in Holland and England. They will be at the quarterly Missionary Board meeting on April 30 before returning to Nebraska for rest.

● **DID YOU KNOW?** Per capita average income in the USA is 88 times more than in Malawi... 8.3 times more than in Jamaica... 15 times more than in Guyana... 86 times more than in India... nearly 22 times more than in the Philippines... 55 times more than in Burma! Your contribution to the SDB World Federation 78 fund will help our brethren in their travel and host them in the sessions at Alfred, NY in August. Give now!

● **JAMAICA, WI**- Charles Street SDB Church, Kingston, has begun construction of its two story socio-educational block at the rear of the church. It will contain a pastor's office, vestry, rest rooms, kitchen and a hall that will seat about 200. Deacon Johnson is in charge of the construction. To help reduce labor costs the brethren have been giving voluntary labor on Sundays. Missionary Douglas Mackintosh plays a significant part in the construction work. His father, Albyn Mackintosh plays a significant part in the construction work. His father, Albyn Mackintosh, drew the plans as a gift to the Kingston church. The project is estimated to cost about JA\$55,000.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

MAY 1978

Pray for:

- 1-SCSC Training staff as it prepares the training program
- 2-The construction project--a new church/school--at Torreon, Mexico
- 3-Rev. and Mrs. Charles Swing, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 4-Brother Joel Omare in Kenya as he seeks the leading of the Lord in his studies
- 5-Conference President Richard Shepard
- 6-Those who must travel to attend worship services--that they might have a safe journey
- 7-Meeting of the Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) in Plainfield, NJ
- 8-Southeastern Association Meeting, Upper Marlboro, MD
- 9-Construction project at the Charles St. SDB Church in Kingston, Jamaica
- 10-The Lord to raise up workers for Sunshine Mountain
- 11-S.D.B. Publishing House staff
- 12-The ministry of Jin Sung Kim and the Korean brethren
- 13-The children who will attend your Sabbath School today--can I take a special interest in a child who comes to worship without his/her parents?
- 14-Praise God for the loving example of mothers
- 15-Miss Jeanne Wilhelm, dedicated worker, S.D.B. Sound Studio
- 16-Pastor Ken Burdick as he ministers to the brethren in North Jersey
- 17-The sad and lonely faces I see as I carry out the business of the day
- 18-Our youth
- 19-Eastern Association meetings in Westerly, RI
- 20-Those who are spending Sabbath alone in nursing homes or hospitals beds. Can I be a comfort to them?
- 21-Meeting of the Committee for SDB Camps of New England and Eastern New York, Inc.
- 22-The radio ministry in the Philippines
- 23-My pastor as he ministers to the people in our church body and in the community
- 24-Praise God for answered prayer
- 25-Missionaries Doug and Jane Mackintosh as they seek the Lord's leading in the work the Lord has called them to do at Crandall High School
- 26-The Lord's work to be accomplished in India
- 27-New England and Eastern New York Youth Retreat in Berlin, NY
- 28-The trustees of the church as they plan for the upkeep of the land and buildings
- 29-Pastor Kenneth Chroniger as he begins his ministry in the Central SDB Church in Maryland
- 30-The brethren in the Guyana SDB Conference
- 31-Those who will graduate this year from high school, college or seminary

Amos Wells spent about 15 dollars starting two churches in six months. He belonged to a growing denomination that has seen a vision and was following it. Those guiding Amos Wells had instructed him to organize churches where Seventh Day Baptists were clustering. This forced the residents to expand their vision. They were not going to form a church "someday" and then have a witness in their community; they were not satisfied with visiting their home church on holidays and vacations; they were a church and the time to witness was now.

Fear is a part of life. Mark Twain said only fleas have no fear and everyone knows the stupidity of a flea. To proclaim boldly, "We are a church!" also means it may not work out; we will cease being organized and become scattered. People will see; they will talk. Amos and the Missionary Society feared something else. Jesus Christ pronounced "wicked" and "slothful" upon the man who was afraid to risk what had been given to him. God blessed Amos, the society, and our denomination because they feared God and not man.

What did it cost those involved? The new church did not need a building. When the time came to build the event became a rallying point for the whole congregation. Working side-by-side each member added his strength and skill to gain a common goal; the new church became a way of life. Pastors were called when people and money were increasing and until then the laity ministered to each other with a deacon usually leading out. The cost to the missionary society was minimal. Their primary task was to see God's vision and recorder their priorities to fulfill that dream.

That time has come again. There are clusters of Seventh Day Baptists who want to start a work where they live. Help them organize that their faith may be stretched. They do not need a building since they could meet in a public place like a school which allows a high visibility in the community and low overhead. Not helping is denying ourselves. Most of our churches started with a small group and grew until they could afford beautiful buildings and call highly educated professional pastors. To not help says the Seventh Day Baptist church you attend is not good and should never have been started. Instead of continual self-condemnation let us affirm we are good and hasten to reconstruct this church across America.

The Missionary Society already has the necessary personnel. Rev. Mynor Soper has the training to bring about the new. He could help construct the necessary administration for each new church, and train the laity which is one of his primary jobs at the present. The apostles did not call someone from Jerusalem to pastor a new church, they appointed leaders and then the apostles moved to a new area.

One of the new churches Amos Wells started is still with us, and the new of today will be the old of tomorrow. Some are watching for the first thousand member Seventh Day Baptist churches to start. While we are waiting we could do some foundational work, which may not be glorious at the present but necessary for the future. □

(Biographical note: Amos Wells was one of several home missionaries in the United States in the early 1800's.)
-Rev. John M. Peil
Los Angeles, CA

GOD'S MANDATE: OUR MISSION

Exiled Ugandan bishop Festo Kivengere urged evangelical Christians to stand "positively defiant" before the forces working against the church today.

Kivengere, one of Uganda's 18 Anglican bishops, exhorted attendants to the Wednesday evening session of the annual National Association of Evangelicals convention to remain steadfast in the faith--relying not in their own strength, but in God's.

"You can't believe in the risen Savior and keep drooping," Kivengere said.

Kivengere used the current situation in Uganda as an example of the perseverance of Christ's message in the midst of persecution. He said that only four months after the murder of Archbishop Luum in February of 1977, over 25,000 believers gathered in the streets of Kampala to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first missionaries in Uganda.

"Today," Kivengere said, "the churches in Uganda are overflowing."

Attending the convention in Minneapolis were Editor John D. Bevis and the Rev. Leon R. Lawton, executive vice-president of the Missionary Society. They were joined for one evening by the Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Babcock and Conference President-Elect and Mrs. Robert Austin of Dodge Center, MN.

Paper Calls for Response to Social Needs

The Association adopted a position paper calling for a two-level response on the part of all evangelicals in meeting both social and spiritual needs.

Based on the threefold expression of God's mandate to the prophet Micah, "to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God," the paper points to a need for individual commitment and a collective response to the issues of human justice, global compassion, and personal holiness.

"We recognize," the paper reads, "the far-reaching responsibility we have, to make the message of redemption in Christ known to that part of the world which is acquiescing to its immoralities, anguishing in its inhumanities, and frustrated by its poverties."

The paper calls upon evangelical Christians to seek justice for people in diverse circumstances everywhere, complementing that justice with the mandate "to love mercy."

"Our mission must always be to proclaim God's loving grace in Jesus Christ," the paper reads, "and to call people everywhere to repentance and faith in Him."

"We Christians, of all people, should then embody honesty, integrity and fairness in all of the ways in which we relate to our fellow man."

The paper *does* warn evangelicals of becoming prideful in the midst of current media interest.

"We must ever be alert to the possibility of becoming rich and increased with goods, and assume we have need of nothing (Revelation 3:17), the paper continues. "Rather in humility, we affirm the Pauline

truth, 'What do you have that you did not receive?' (1 Corinthians 4:7 NASB).

"Therefore, we arrogate to ourselves no sense of personal ownership, but rather the acceptance of the stewardship of goods to be used for the glory of God."

Evangelicals Respond In Loving-Kindness

Putting into action that part of God's mandate calling for global compassion, the NAE World Relief Commission presented the executive secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India with a check for \$100,000 to help alleviate the suffering left in the wake of India's worst disaster in 100 years.

In presenting the gift to John Richard on behalf of NAE's official relief agency, WRC's executive vice president-designate, Jerry Ballard, called the monies a united evangelical response to the death and destruction incurred during last November's cyclone and tidal wave.

During that month, 25 percent of all crops were destroyed, and over 100,000 people killed.

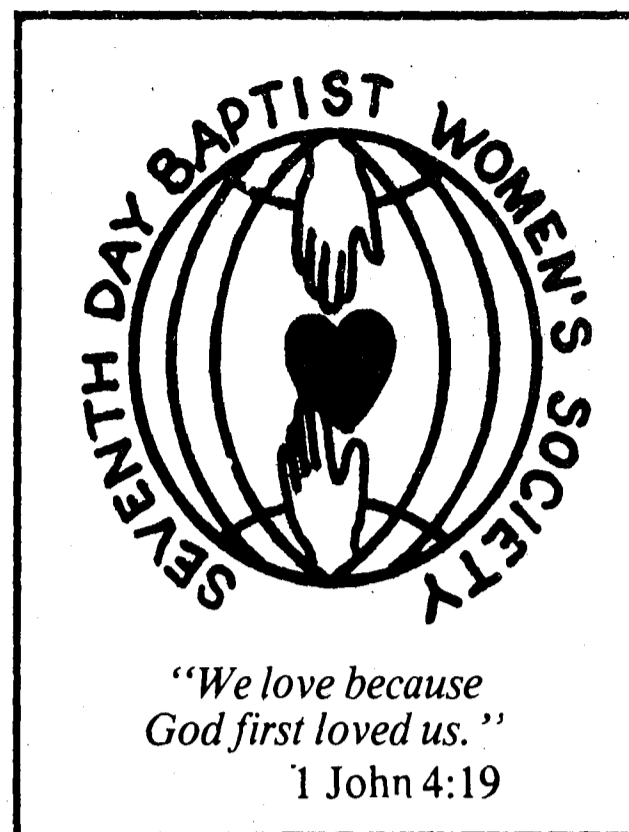
Hoffman Exhorts To Do Justly

Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffman emphasized evangelicalism's responsibility to do justly. Hoffman, known worldwide as the voice of the weekly "Luthern Hour" radio broadcast, challenged the over 700 in attendance with the necessity of daily practicing justice if the grace of God is ever to break through to a world in dire need of such a saving message.

"Never minimize the great by-product of the atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross," Hoffman said, "our doing justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with God."

Hoffman emphasized that who better than the evangelical Christian can carry out the godly mandate, explicit in Micah 6:8. And yet, he warned that the "great destruction will come for those who say they are God's people and never act like God's people."

The 37th annual convention will meet in Orlando, Florida, March 6-8, 1979. □



by Madeline Fitz Randolph

SOME THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP



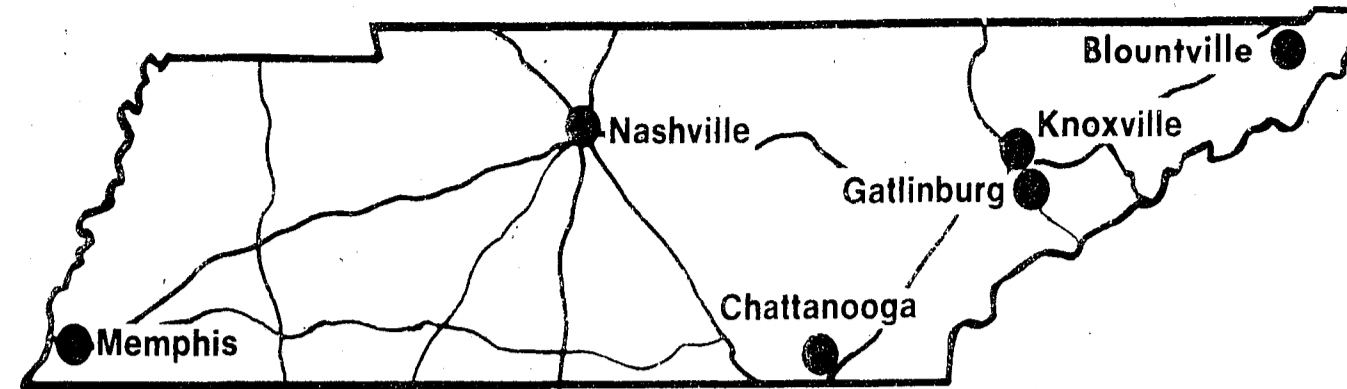
Madam President

As reports come in from our women throughout the country, we notice that the leadership of our women's groups does change from time to time. SOMEONE is willing to be a leader... to take over the offices and to serve, even though she might not feel that her talent is entirely in this area. Anyone who has served on a nominating committee knows that we often say, "You can do it," to a person, who does not really believe that she "can do it"! The nominating committee is most often right: a person can always do a service, but each one who serves does it with her own particular talent, in her very own particular way. Here are some guidelines - not measuring tapes - for you to evaluate:

- A leader is one who believes that she is a child of God and acts accordingly.
 - A leader is one who knows what she is doing is important but understands that she is not indispensable.
 - A leader is one who recognizes that good programming comes from adequate planning weeks/months ahead.
 - A leader is one who explores new possibilities for growth both in people and program.
 - A leader is one who is willing to risk new methods, new ideas, new philosophies and not succumb to despair if they fail.
 - A leader is one who is sensitive to the needs of others because she recognizes that she has needs of her own.
 - A leader is one who is intrigued by what "could" be done rather than coerced by what "should" be done.
 - A leader is one who is willing to designate assignments and assume the responsibility to see that they are carried out.
 - A leader is one who perceives that involvement is the sure road to success.
 - A leader is one who recognizes that everybody needs a sense of self-respect and selffulfillment.
 - A leader is one who lives in close relationship with others and with God.
- YOU ARE A LEADER!**

A president's prayer:
 Lord God,
 Our life is a journey with many pathways.
 Points of decision intersect those pathways and require costly choices, life-changing choices.
 Yesterday is barely over,
 And I thank you, God, for shaping experiences that have influenced my journey.
 Tomorrow is barely away,
 And I thank you, God, for critical choices that will chart new courses for my journey.
 I live now.
 And I thank you, God, for what is means to live in your gift of grace, your gift of supporting and loving relationships, your gift of liberating change.
 I am always coming and always going.
 Help me to envision new decisions about myself, my neighbor, and my world. Amen □

A CHURCH IS BORN



What a marvelous day it was when two Seventh Day Baptist families discovered each other living in the same area - and only 15 miles apart at that. Thanks go to Ed and Mildred Lawrence of the Paint Rock, Alabama, church for making an initial contact and to Pastor Bob Harris and Linda, also of the Paint Rock church, for prompting and leading our first fellowship together at the home of Bill and Gloria Palmer on January 22, 1977.

Bob and Barbara Wright and children Alicia and Deanna came to Tennessee in January 1976. Bob had resigned from the telephone company in Boulder, Colorado, to go into business for himself. They were active members of the Boulder church and the Women's Board.

Bill and Gloria Palmer and children Angie, David, and Richard came to Tennessee in December 1976. They were transferred by the Univac Company from their home in Leonardsville, New York. The Second Brookfield church, where Bill was an ordained deacon, commissioned them to witness for Seventh Day Baptists in their new community.

At the time, none of us envisioned that January 22, 1977 would mark the beginning of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Upper East Tennessee.

After our first gathering, we could not wait to begin regular services and to study together. So we began taking turns in leading a worship service, after which a Sabbath School class of adults and two young people began studying *The Helping Hand*. A Sabbath School class for the three primary children was immediately established, again rotating the teaching responsibility.

On January 31 John Bevis visited the Palmers, extending much encouragement and supplying us with tracts and a list of lone Sabbathkeepers in the Tennessee, Kentucky, North and South Carolina area. Letters were sent to these people as well as those names provided by the Paint Rock church. Ever since, a continuous flow of new names has been given us; or because of news in the *Sabbath Recorder*, *Sabbath Sentinel*, etc., we have been contacted. We have tried to keep in touch with these people, either by letter or in person.

Pastor Bob Harris returned February 12 to preach. On February 28 Delmer Van Horn and his wife visited with the Palmers and also gave much encouragement. On March 12 Ed and Mildred Lawrence visited and Ed led the devotions in our worship service.

Throughout the year we have had several visitors to our services and various functions. We especially thank the Lord for acquainting us with two Christian families: Chuck and Faye Thomas and children Shawn, Denise, Matt and Leigh Ann; and Ken and Jan Naegele, Ken Jr., and Donna. Their participation, support and their love greatly contributed to our establishing this church.



Patty Lawton and Kenn Naegele give special music at the Sabbath service.

On May 19 Pastor John and Ruth Peil and daughter Suzanna came to Tennessee to plant a church. During the next five months much was accomplished:

On May 21, Prayer and Praise originated, meeting every Saturday night. It became a time devoted to prayer and praising God through instruments, song, testimony and fellowship. From this group a Youth Fellowship has been developed. A weekly Bible study began May 27 but did not materialize until recently.

On May 28 Dr. Stephen and Beverly Thorngate travelled from Hyden, Kentucky, to worship with us. They were members of the Milton church but had moved from California to Kentucky to continue his practice in medicine. It was a joy to know that they planned to worship with us as often as possible (weather permitting).

Our covenant was written and adopted; our Constitution and Bylaws were written (only minor changes were made later on). On June 19 we were accepted as a member of the Southwestern Association and Paint Rock became our sister church. The Palmers represented the church at these meetings.

In August the Palmers and the Peils were able to attend Conference and through their efforts and personal contacts our church became better known to other Seventh Day Baptists. Also, some pictures and articles of interest were on display. On September 3 Pastor Bob and Linda Harris and Ed and Mildred Lawrence visited and Pastor Bob preached.

September 10, designated as "Visitors Day," launched our study of the "19 Gifts of the Spirit." Also a curriculum for Sabbath School went into effect. The classes were now split into three groups: Primary,

Junior High, and Adult. We enjoyed having Dr. Steve and Beverly Thorngate with us again.

In October Patty Lawton left Westerly, Rhode Island, to live in Tennessee and help in the growth of the church. She had been active in many Seventh Day Baptist churches and for the past three years had been with the Light Bearers for Christ. It wasn't long before the Lord provided a job for her with the American Red Cross.

Pastor John felt called to return to his home in Los Angeles and departed October 16. We thank the Lord for sending John and his family to us. After he left, we did experience moments of uncertainty about the direction of the church; however, the Lord provided abundantly.

In November Leon Lawton visited, preached and served Communion. Great joy was felt when we partook of the elements. For many of us, it had been over a year since participating in the Lord's Supper.

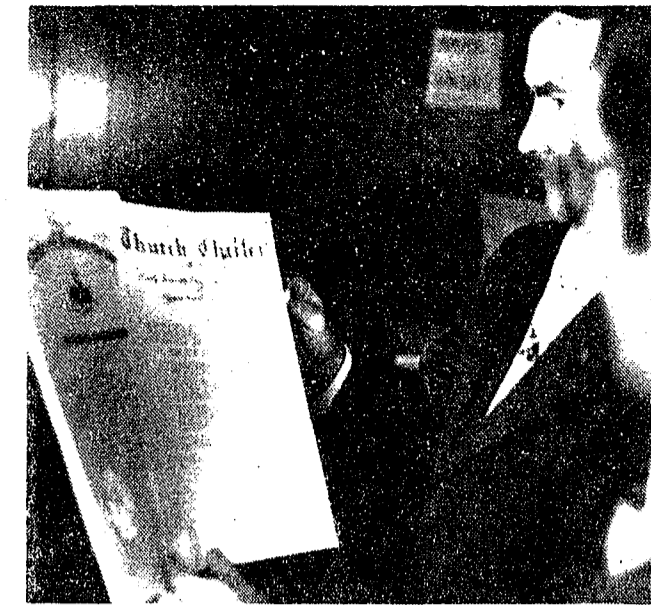
On November 12 Mynor Soper visited and preached. We were uplifted by his greetings from our brothers and sisters in Christ and by his enthusiastic report on the Ministers Conference.

On December 17 the Prayer and Praise group went Christmas caroling in the Blountville and Indian Springs areas. In January of 1978 our charter for incorporation was drawn up, adopted and registered with the State and the County. And on February 11 a local licensed minister, Joseph Black, preached. Mr. Black is a dear friend and neighbor of the Wrights.

On Friday night, March 3, Richard Palmer and Faye Thomas committed their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism. The service was conducted by Pastor Leon Lawton.

We wish to thank the many throughout the denomination for their financial contributions and for their prayerful support.

Let's just praise the Lord and sing forth the honor of His name.
-Mrs. Barbara Wright



Charles Thomas and Bill Palmer look at the official church charter issued by the state of Tennessee.

JESUS IS BUILDING HIS CHURCH

BLOUNTVILLE, TN-It was my privilege to join with other denominational representatives and friends to witness the organization of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Upper East Tennessee March 3, 4, 1978. Truly it is a joy to share in the birth of a new church.

Blountville is located just about five miles south of Bristol, which is a city that straddles the Virginia-Tennessee state line. It is located in the beautiful mountains of eastern Tennessee just a few minutes from Interstate 81.

Rev. Leon R. Lawton conducted a baptism on Friday evening when two precious souls were added to the family of God. On Sabbath morning the Rev. Robert Harris, pastor of the church in Paint Rock, AL, brought a challenging message to the congregation of forty gathered at the home of Bill and Gloria Palmer. After a fellowship dinner together at a nearby restaurant the organizational service was held.



Participating in the service were Dr. K.D. Hurley, Rev. Robert Harris, Rev. Leon Lawton, Historian Thomas Merchant, Editor John Bevis and the local church leaders and membership. Fourteen became charter members of this newest Seventh Day Baptist church; the constitution and bylaws were approved and officers elected. A Communion service was held giving opportunity for the new members and assembled friends to fellowship around the Lord's table. In the evening a prayer and praise service was held.

The following churches were represented: Paint Rock, AL; Brookfield and Verona, NY; Westerly, RI; North Jersey and Plainfield, NJ; with letters of greeting being shared from many churches and boards that could not be personally represented.

The church has already been accepted into the Southwestern Association and will be joining the General Conference at the August session in Houghton, NY. The dedication and enthusiasm of the new church would seem to indicate that much spiritual and numerical growth can be expected in the months and years to come. Much of the credit for the organization of this new church goes to Deacon and Mrs. William F. Palmer, formerly of the Second Brookfield, NY, church. The Brookfield church dedicated the Palmer family as "missionaries" when they were transferred to Tennessee. Perhaps more churches and families should consider this same type of commitment.

These are truly exciting days for Seventh Day Baptist as we see new churches organized, new life in our older churches and a new commitment to the task of the Lord has called us to. Jesus is building His church in 1978 and He has given us the opportunity to share in this work. I believe great things are in store for us as a people in the days ahead.

-John D. Bevis

New members of the First S.D.B. Church of Upper East Tennessee following their organizational service.

Although Seventh Day Baptists never before have had an organized effort in Upper East Tennessee, we have been the state before. In fact, our first recorded work there took place just a little more than a century ago. The year was 1870; the location was about 50 miles south of Nashville; and we read about it in the 28th Annual Report of the American Sabbath Tract Society:

"The engagement of two brethren, Eld. N(athan) Wardner and Eld. S(amuel) D. Davis, to labor a while in Tennessee, was announced in our last Annual Report. That engagement was made and carried out, in compliance with the earnest solicitation of Dr. Gordon, who, it will not be forgotten, embraced the Sabbath several years ago, and came hundreds of miles to West Virginia, to unite with one of our churches...

"Writing from Union City, Tenn., Oct. 19, 1870, Bro. Wardner says: 'We found Dr. Gordon in feeble health, having worn himself out by an extensive ride, day and night, for twenty-one years. He stands very high in public esteem, both as a Christian man and as a physician. The next day after our arrival, in company with the Doctor, I attended a meeting of the Baptists, and was invited to preach, which I did. The next day attended a meeting of the Cumberland Presbyterians, at New Hope... After a short intermission, by request, I preached... I preached again in the evening, and two came forward for prayers. From that the number increased to twenty-three forward at one time. When Bro. Davis reached there, on the 30th, the interest was at flood tide... The result of the meetings at New Hope was the professed conversion of from twenty-five to thirty souls...

"On Sabbath day, Brother Davis preached an excellent discourse at Thompson's Creek, and I preached in the evening. On Sunday the congregation was variously estimated at from 600 to 1000, who listened for two hours and twenty minutes, with almost breathless silence and patience... I never saw such uniform and earnest desire to hear on the subject of the Sabbath. The admission was almost universal, that they could see no way to evade the points we urge...

...and, more than a century ago, our first effort in Tennessee..

by Tom Merchant, historian

'On our way home, we reached Shelbyville...It being found out that we were there, an earnest request was sent in for me, to preach on the Sabbath question that evening...I spoke over two hours, to an attentive, though moderate congregation...I think this work should be followed up.'

"A letter from Bro. Wardner, dated at West Hallock, Ill., Dec. 6, contained the following additional items of interest relating to this field:

'We received letters from Doctor Gordon and wife recently, in which they say that three other families have commenced keeping the Sabbath since we left Tennessee ...There must be fourteen or sixteen Sabbath-keepers now at Shelbyville, and there is probably suitable material for organizing a church.'

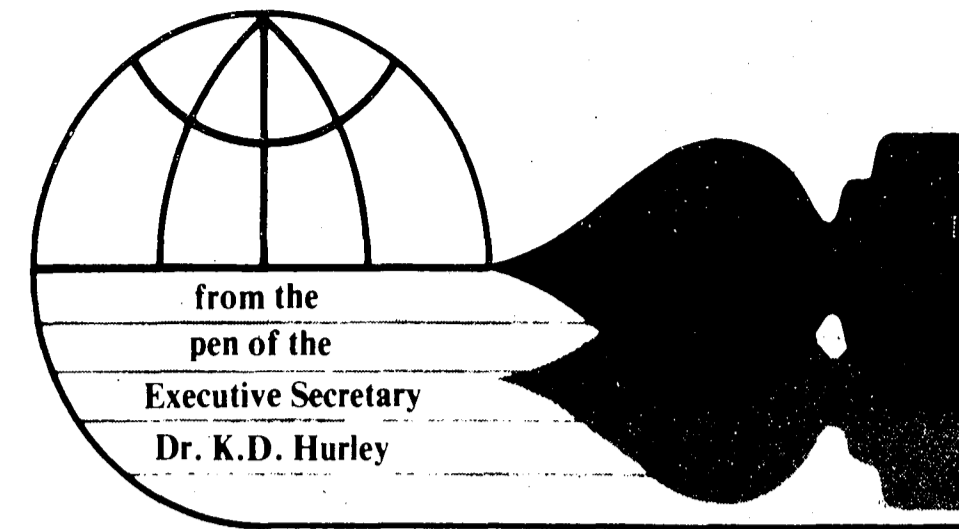
Yet today, sadly, we do not speak of a century-old church in Tennessee. Why?

Surely we cannot fault the good doctor, William J. Gordon. His determination led him to travel hundreds of miles to unite with a Sabbath-keeping church, to call upon the denomination for ministerial assistance in his outreach efforts, and to contribute heavily to the cause. Although his witness was limited to the last ten years of his life, from 1865 to 1875, its strength was so great that he merited special tribute in the *Sabbath Recorder* and *Yearbook* at his death, and there can be little doubt that good seed was sown.

Nor was the fledging effort forgotten by the denomination. From time to time for the next few decades after the visit in 1870, there is mention of the Tennessee outreach field; and this was a time when Seventh Day Baptist outreach was at a real high point. If anything, our home evangelism efforts were over-extended; so it is possible that in terms of priorities, we simply had to let the little Tennessee fellowship flounder.

But regardless of the reasons, the fact remains that we failed to sustain the effort. We did not tend the seed. A baby church "died a-borning."

As we look to Tennessee a century later, may we hear and heed the voice of history: let us support our newest church with all our might. □



CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"For Baptists, involvement of the Church in public affairs is regarded as an inescapable responsibility of the Church. The Church is bound to participate in the arena of public affairs because this involvement is integral to the mission and ministry of the Church; it is essential to the faith and teachings of the Church and its Divine mandate to be 'the Body of Christ' in the world. All human rights, be they individual or corporate, economic or social, political or religious, are viewed as sacred because of a theological understanding of man as created in the image of God."

So stated Dr. James E. Wood, Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs at a meeting of that organization in Washington, D.C., early in March.

Seventh Day Baptists are fully participating members of the Baptist Joint Committee, and thus have a strong "voice"--with fellow Baptists--in the Nation's Capital as constant effort is made to avoid "entanglement between government and religion."

Dr. Wood pointed out in his report that "A Christian witness in public affairs is the primary responsibility and specific assignment of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs." He emphasized the following points:

"The key to this witness in public affairs is understood by Baptists as the exercise of religious liberty or, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, 'the free exercise of religion.' It is this 'free exercise of religion,' the cornerstone of the Church's witness in public affairs, which is most seriously threatened today by increased attempts on the part of government to define the

Church's mission and to demand accountability of churches to government, both in the way of financial disclosures as well as disclosures of the nature and degree of the church's involvement in public affairs....

"The principle of religious liberty, to which the Baptist Joint Committee has long been committed as the basis of its work and witness in public affairs, is not without profound Biblical and theological foundations. For the human, right to religious liberty is first of all the right to give outward expression to or manifestation of the inner freedom one has found in Christ....

"Religious liberty is rooted in the mission of the Church, namely to be God's free agent in today's free world. The ultimate concern of the Christian for religious freedom is that the Church may be the Church. Government can neither deny nor grant religious liberty to its citizens. Government can recognize and protect this the most sacred of all human rights, but it can not confer this right upon any person or any institution.

"Religious freedom must be exercised by the Church in fulfilling its mission and in living out its obedience to Christ to whom it belongs. As with the individual, this freedom is not for the Church to do as it will, but to do the will of Him whose Body it is....

"Religious freedom is not a right of the State over the Church, but rather a right of the Church to act independently of the State. Nor is religious freedom simply the right of any one church to fulfill its own particular mission, while other faiths in the same State are denied that right. Espousal of religious freedom for one's own church, therefore, must also include the

espousal of the right of all other churches and religious traditions. This means that freedom and human rights must be the concern of all religions everywhere.

"The very integrity of the Church is rooted in religious liberty which points not simply to a free Church, but, more importantly, to a true Church as God's agent of reconciliation which is seeking in His name and in His Spirit to bring all persons to God. The Church seeks to be free not for its own sake, but in order to be God's servant in the world, remembering always that Jesus said, 'When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to me' (John 12:32) --words rooted in love and freedom."

These, and other principles for which the Baptist Joint Committee stands, are concerns shared by Seventh Day Baptists, individually and collectively. The Baptist Joint Committee, along with the Baptist World Alliance and its related agencies such as the North American Baptist Fellowship, deserve our full support (through financial contributions as well as personal effort) as we strive together to maintain "the basic fabric of the social order."

What a fortunate privilege is ours to gain strength in our public affairs endeavors by partnership with other Baptists!

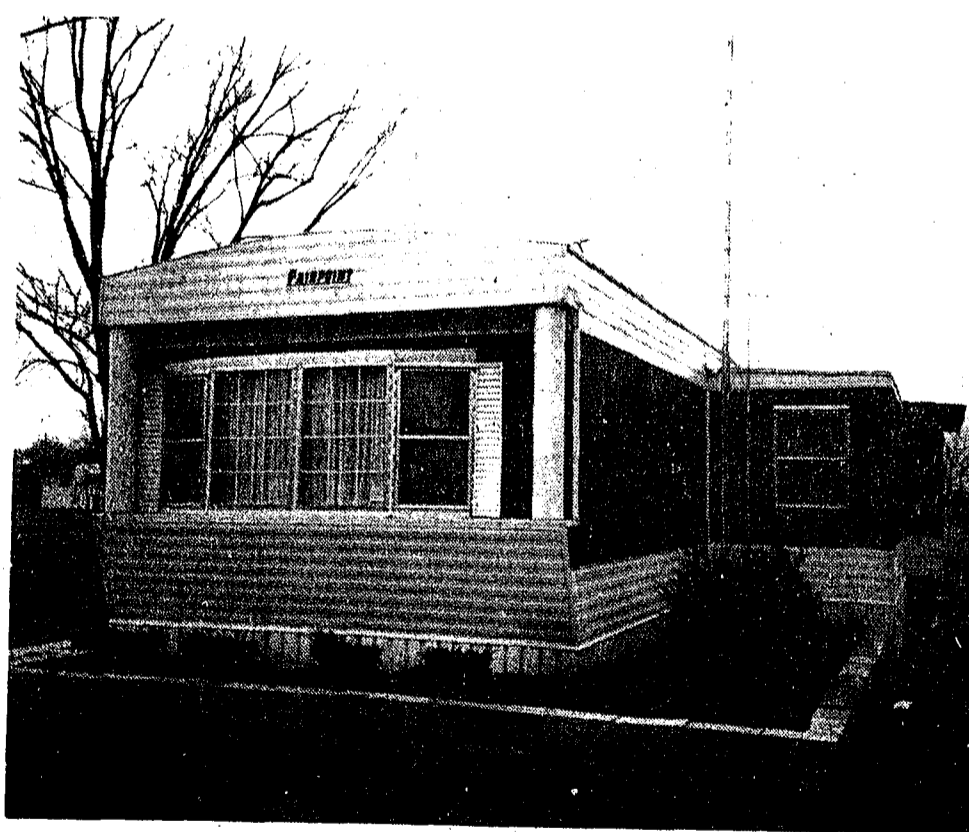
"The rights of conscience-- the free exercise of religion--stand over against any claims of omnipotence and absolutism on the part of the State which, although ordained by God, was created by man for public good. Indeed, the protection and promotion of these inviolable rights is an essential and a paramount duty of the State and every civil authority" --and, we might add, of the Church! □

the CHURCH in ACTION

CHURCH SPONSORS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FARINA, IL.-Nearly a year ago the parsonage of the Farina Seventh Day Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, and the church began plans for replacing the home. A beautiful new mobile home was purchased and set on the site of the old parsonage. This was made possible through the dedication of the members of the church, along with some insurance, and gifts received from friends and other churches of our faith.

Two projects have highlighted the year's work: A Community Library has been established in the Parish House of the church, sponsored by the Farina Women's Club in cooperation with the Town Council and the S.D.B. church. A travelling Book-mobile furnishes the books



The Farina, IL, church purchased this lovely mobile home and set it on the site of the old parsonage that was destroyed by fire this past year.

and makes changes on a regular schedule thus giving a fine, continuing selection. The church painted the Parish House, installed wall-to-wall carpeting, and furnished new shades for the lights. The Town Council had book shelves built. The library opens each Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with the exception of the fourth Thursday each month at which time the hours are in the evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The kitchen in the Parish House has been renewed with built-in cupboards and carpeting. Electrical work is being done, and a new sink will be installed.

The church has taken on a prayer project which commits the members of the congregation to pray daily for two other sister S.D.B. churches each week. The names of the pastor, moderator and Sabbath School superintendent of each of these churches is listed on the bulletin, and a display with pictures and the pertinent information is posted near the Learning Center at the rear of the Church Sanctuary. A letter is sent to each of the churches for which we are praying, letting them know they are the center of our prayers for the particular week. In this way we become better acquainted with other churches of our faith, and in a sense become more intimately involved in the mission of our denomination. □

TRACT MINISTRY GROWS IN ENGLAND

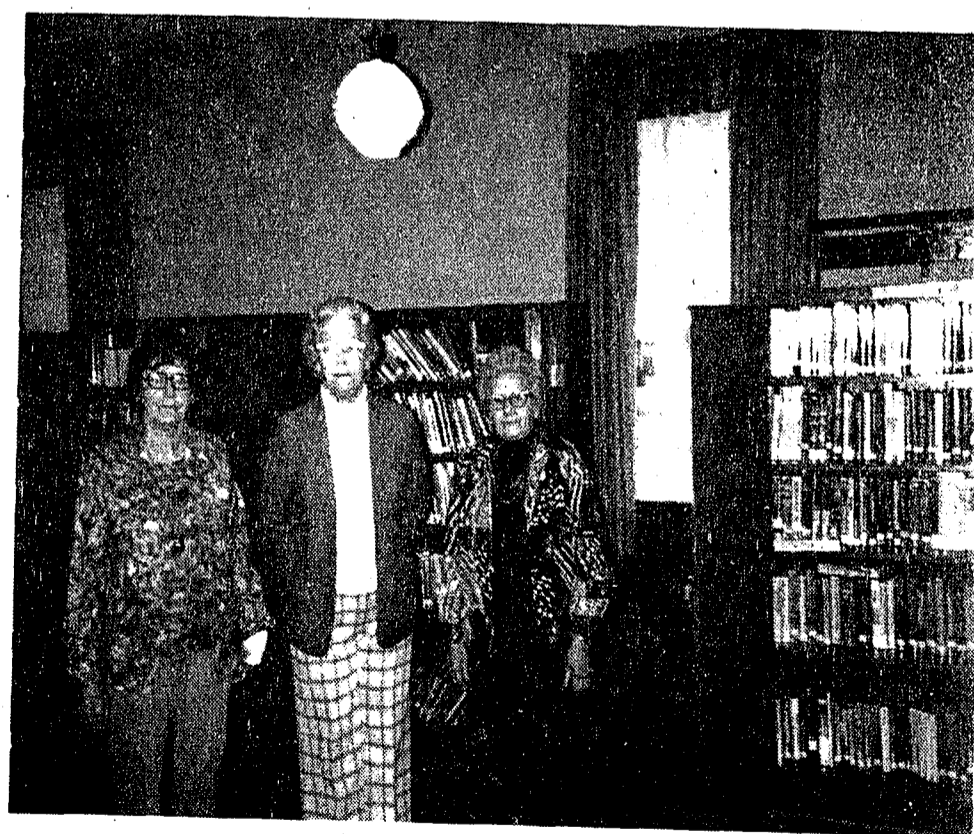
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND-A recent letter from Owen and Jossett Lynch in Birmingham indicates much tract work being done. The Lynches have purchased a printing press and plan to reproduce tracts from the American Sabbath Tract Society. The American Society recently sent a \$200.00 gift to aid in this ministry.

Six titles have been printed: Time Is Running Out; From Death to Life; Come to Sabbath School; Statement of Belief; and The Assurance of Faith, written by Pastor James McGeachy of England.

The Birmingham church has recently inaugurated another project. Mrs. Lynch writes: "We have launched upon a new project which is nothing short of 'Daring the Impossible.' The church which we rent has been put up for sale and we are seeking to raise funds to purchase it."

A spiritual retreat for officers of Conference and Sabbath School was held the second weekend in March in the Birmingham church. This church will also host the Conference sessions later this year.

Let us continue to uphold our brethren in England as they seek to expand their witness and share the love of Christ across England. -John D. Bevis



A community library has been established in the parish house of the Farina, IL, church. Pray for the Farina church as it continues to minister to the community it serves in southern Illinois.

ANN WILLIAMS EDITS BULLETIN INSERTS

Those colorful bulletin inserts you are enjoying each month contain information regarding Our World Mission. The monthly material is gathered and edited by Miss Ann Williams of Madison, WI. She also chooses the artwork to illustrate the monthly emphasis. We appreciate Ann's dedication to denominational work. She has from time to time served as guest editor for theme sections of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Ann, a member of the Milton church, is an administrative assistant to a member of the Wisconsin State Legislature and works in the Capital in Madison. □

CHURCH RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WESTERLY, R.I.-The Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, RI, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The church building, known as an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture, is the focal point of a group of structures in the Westerly Main Street area which are included in addition to the registry.

The meeting house was originally constructed in 1847-48 with a large tetrastyle Doric portico and a tall spire resting upon two square stages, supported by a high granite basement. A news release appearing on page one of the *Westerly Sun*, January 29, 1978, referred to the building as "one of the notable church buildings of Rhode Island."

Being included in the National Register gives some degree of protection from the adverse affects of government projects and similar development. It also attempts to influence public opinion in favor of preserving structures of historic significance.

Appreciation is extended to those who devoted time and effort to this project, especially Mrs. Ruth Utter, who sponsored the idea; Mr. Karl G. Stillman, who prepared descriptive materials; Mr. Elston H. Van Horn, who prepared photographs; Mrs. Barbara Barber, clerk, and correspondent.

The Pawcatuck Church meets in a fine meeting house, for which

gratitude is offered to God. It is a privilege to worship in a building with historic significance. However, we are not a museum piece. We are very much alive, seeking to share the saving gospel, our equally historic evangelical faith and our Sabbatarian commitment, with our town. The Pawcatuck Church is seeking God's guidance for the future, praying that God will use this body of believers in a thrust into our beloved New England, guided each step of the way by our sovereign Lord. □

-Russell W. Havens

CHURCH DIRECTORY TO BE UPDATED

The Tract Society plans to update and republish the Seventh Day Baptist Church Directory. If your church has a change in address, telephone, or time of services please send this immediately to Editor John Bevis. The church directory is especially helpful to those who write in wishing to locate our churches and to Seventh Day Baptists as they travel across the country. Sample copies of the directory will be sent to each church and will be available on request shortly after publication.

SDB'S INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Statistics released by the American Bible Society show that Seventh Day Baptists increased their giving to the work of the Society by \$730.02 in 1977. Reported SDB contributions in 1976 were only \$449.05; we felt that many of our people were contributing to this worthwhile cause but not indicating they were Seventh Day Baptists and so the denomination was not given credit.

The contributions for 1977 are listed as \$1,179.07 which is a very good increase! Let us strive to do even better in 1978. The Bible Society offers many services to us as a people as well as sharing the Scriptures around the country. If you or your church need more information regarding the work of the Bible Society and how you can help please write to Editor John Bevis for information. Remember when sending in your gift to mark it "Seventh Day Baptist," or better yet send your designated gift through the treasurer of Our World Mission, Mr. Gordon Sanford, Little Genesee, N.Y. 14754. □

ORDINATION SERVICE HELD

SHILOH, N.J.-Combining ordination and a weekend honoring Sixty Years Plus members led to an uplifting, unforgettable celebration for the Shiloh church. The event began Friday evening with a special program in which members who had belonged to the Shiloh church sixty years or more, shared recollections of early experiences by letter, tape, or in person.

Dean Herbert Saunders brought the Sabbath morning message, "The Character of Our Calling," and music by the choir and soloist, Mary Hitchner, highlighted the worship. A fellowship dinner followed with our honored guests, the Sixty Years Plus members, seated at one table, and those in the diaconate and their families, seated at another. Mrs. Lora Harris presented a brief program in which the Sixty Years Plus members were introduced and given a flower to commemorate the occasion.

The ordination in the afternoon opened with the hymns, "There Is Joy in Serving Jesus," and "I am Thine, O Lord," led by Martie Hitchner. Scripture was Acts 6:1-7, "Deacons Selected," and a prayer of blessing was given by Pastor Bond. Those being ordained into the diaconate, Mrs. Helen Cruzan, Mrs. Jane Jernoske, Mr. Philip Bond, and Mr. Allen Davis each presented his/her statement of belief followed by a Charge to the Candidates by Dr. K. Duane Hurley, and Charge to the Church by Pastor Don Richards. All deaconesses, deacons, and ministers came forward during the singing of "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," for the Prayer of Consecration by Pastor Bond. Deacon Charles Harris welcomed the candidates into the diaconate.

As is true with almost all S.D.B. occasions, music enriched and inspired us during the entire weekend with solos by Owen Probasco, Donna Harris, a duet by Dave and Mary Hitchner, mixed quartet by the Hitchners, Tim Bond, and Cathy Dixon, male quartet by Dave, Tim, Owen Probasco, and Allen Davis, 3rd-6th grade choir-God's Children, and organ-piano duets by Ruthann and Sandy Davis, Clara Richardson and Eleanor McAllister. The congregation as well had many opportunities to raise their voices in song and praise. □

-Mrs. Cathy Dixon

**"HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD"
MEETING THEME**

NEW AUBURN, WI.-Greetings from New Auburn! Since you haven't heard from us for some time, I'll cover the main activities of the past year. As we look back, we see many reasons for rejoicing, particularly in spiritual growth through our Commitment to Growth workshops. Daryl and Barbara White were our leaders.

Memorial funds from Helen Nelson and Ivar Pederson were used to purchase a movie projector and the Youth Fellowship has sponsored the following films for general public viewing: "Stranger in my Forest," "Run to the Sea," "The Chuck Colson Story," "A Man and His Men," "Peace Child," "Gospel Blimp," and two free films featuring Bob Richards. These were all excellent films.

Our Women's Society meets in the homes each month and has contributed to World Vision by making up twenty school kits, and also held a guest day for area women when we had representatives from World Vision speak and show slides on their work. We also made leprosy bandages for India. We are beginning the study of "What Happens When Women Pray."

Light Bearers for Christ were with us on April 30 for our worship service and an evening concert. We are inspired by their ministry and praise the Lord for the dedication of the young people.

V.B.S. was held in cooperation with the local Methodist church with several of our people as teachers or helpers. The attendance was around 65 of preschoolers through sixth grade. What an opportunity for follow up!

Several of our youth attended Intermediate and Junior camp in Milton. Marita Pederson was North Central Association exchange camper to Pacific Firs Camp and had a wonderful experience. Two young people, Lori Mares and Marita Pederson, attended Pre-Con and Conference in Clarksville, AR.

Pastor Leroy Bass and family terminated their ministry with us in August and are living in Middleton, WI, where at the present time both are attending classes. We pray the Lord will bless their Christian outreach in that area.

A baptismal service was conducted by Pastor Wayne Babcock of Dodge

Center for five candidates, Wayne North, Lorena Boggess, Inez Boggess, Jane Mares, and Donna Kellen. This was held September 3.

We hosted Semiannual Meeting with Dodge Center the weekend of Sept. 16-18. The theme was "How Big Is Your God?" and messages were based on Psalm 89: 1-18. Mike North, moderator, Mrs. Ralph Loofboro, recording secretary and Loyal Pederson arranged the program. Rev. Wayne Babcock was Sabbath morning worship leader, and was assisted by Rev. Leroy Bass and Marguerite Clapper in the installation of Mrs. Loyal Pederson as deaconess of our church during the afternoon session. Brother Denis Burrell of the local Seventh Day Church of God was guest pastor on Saturday night.

Ten young people enjoyed the youth retreat held during the North Central Association meeting in Albion, October 7-9.

Much time in prayer was spent seeking the Lord's guidance in calling a pastor. David Taylor of Schenectady, N.Y., was with us the weekend of November 11-13. He conducted the Sabbath worship, called in several homes, met with the entire congregation for a question and answer time, and had a social time with the youth. The time together gave both the pastor and the people time to get acquainted and to understand the combined goals for the church's ministry. A call was then extended to the Taylors and they arrived in New Auburn on January 11, 1978, driving through Ohio's worst snowstorm. We thank God for His leading and ask your prayers as we work with our new pastor in doing the work of the Lord in this area. □

-Mrs. Loyal Pederson

**ACTIVE PROGRAM AT
ALFRED STATION**

ALFRED STATION, NY-On November 2, the Union Industrial Society (ladies of the church) held our annual Harvest Sale of baked goods and handicraft materials. This was followed by a smorgasbord dinner. This event proved very successful through the cooperation of many members for several weeks; \$500 were realized which was very rewarding to those who worked so hard.

On Nov. 11-13, Mrs. Madge Sutton and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pierce

represented our church at the annual Family Retreat at Camp Arrowhead Awana, Brackney, Pa., an event sponsored by the S.D.B. State Council (NYS). Pastor Zwiebel attended part of the weekend.

November 20, about 100 persons of the church community enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner and program, chaired by the vice-president of our church, Mrs. Mae Lewis. Following a singalong, Mr. Fred Palmer related several humorous events which occurred during the 1920's of which some of the Senior Citizens present were a part. We also participated in the annual Union Thanksgiving program held in the Alfred SDB Church.

A Christmas season community dinner was held on December 18 in the social rooms and sanctuary of our church. The program was very capably planned and directed by Mrs. Jean Pierce and Mrs. Luan Ellis, our Sabbath School superintendents. I am sure that no one could have left without knowing the meaning of the true Spirit of Christmas. The Music-Worship Committee of the church, Phyllis Mattison and Amanda Snyder, prepared the Christmas Sabbath service. Using much original material, Scripture, carols and anthems, "The Shepherd Carol" was presented. Members of the congregation, Junior and Senior choirs participated. The emphasis was on the 1970's style shepherds who continue to witness for Jesus Christ in their everyday occupations and contacts. On Christmas Eve, our Senior Choir participated in the Ecumenical Service hosted by the Alfred Methodist Church. Our choir director, Mrs. Amanda Snyder, directed the Ecumenical Choir.

White Christmas gifts from our church included those from the Primary and Adult Sabbath School classes, going to Jamaica and Guyana missions; Junior High and Senior Sabbath School classes continued the spirit of Christmas by pledging to write periodically to pen-pals. The UIS and Alfred Station Fellowship fixed about 30 Christmas boxes for shut-ins. The church cooperated with the Salvation Army, which sent a check for \$10. in providing a White Christmas for a local family.

Our youth participated in a New Year's Retreat in Little Genesee, which was sponsored by the Youth Committee of the Allegheny Association of SDB's, Nelson and Amanda Snyder, sponsors. The

theme was "God Has Created a New Day." The youth were in charge of the worship program at First Genesee, after which a banquet was held. (The youth are going from SDB church to SDB church conducting services as an outgrowth of the New Year's program, presenting the service in our church, January 14).

Sabbath Day, January 28, we celebrated Christian Social Action Sabbath. CSA chairman Carroll Burdick arranged the program and spoke on problems facing those in the rural areas. Speaker Wayne Crandall, in his presentation, showed us how the same social problems we face are concurrent in Jamaica. (He had served as a Seventh Day Baptist missionary-educator on that island.) After a soup and sandwich luncheon, we heard a report on the Harvest Center, a migrant support outlet in Prattsburg, New York, which has the support of many of us in the Alfred Station area. The Rev. David Jones, manager of the center for thirty years, gave the report.

We are cooperating with the Alfred church in planning the hosting of the SDB World Federation sessions scheduled for August 2-6; cooperating in taking slide pictures to be sent to the Tract Society, and looking forward to hosting denominational representative, Editor John Bevis, early in the summer. □

-Rose G. Emerson

**PARKING LOT EXPANDED
AT BATTLE CREEK**

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.-We are having a winter to remember. How about you? Heavy snow from the blizzard which hit the Midwest on January 26 and 27 forced the cancellation of our church services on January 28. Youth Fellowship members, who usually keep the church steps and sidewalks clear of snow, had a monumental shoveling task in the three and four-foot drifts around the church. One week later, we are still shoveling out, but church services were held with people "car pooling" to maximize the parking space available within the walls of snow.

The church will soon double its present off-street parking areas. It was voted in October to purchase one adjacent parcel of land and accept another as a gift from the estate of George and Floss Arnold.

Scripture Gems

Favorite Bible texts
selected by pastors
and ministerial students.



**Rev. L. Wayne Babcock
Dodge Center, MN**

● "Show me thy way, O Lord, teach me thy paths. Good and upright is the Lord, therefore will he teach sinners in the way (on the job training). All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose." (Psalm 25:8,10,12)

● Of all the Psalms, I go most frequently to the 25th, both for my own reinforcement and as a help for others who are puzzled and frustrated because of difficult circumstances in their lives.

The high points begin with verse 4- "Show me thy ways, teach me thy paths," the prayer of a seeker after God and life. A prayer that continues expectantly in verse 8, "Good and upright is the Lord, therefore will he teach sinners in the way (the school of life). This is one of the precious promises of God. What a wonderful experience to have the creator of the universe for our teacher. But only those with the right attitude are teachable, verse 9, the meek, Yet, meek or not, the lessons keep coming to the Christian, verse 12, "What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose." Because God only knows what we need to learn, the lesson option is not ours. □

To prepare the properties for parking, two houses will be razed and the lots graded and fenced.

The snowy and frigid weather, illness, and vacations have taken their toll on our church attendance recently. It is easier now, however, to know exactly who is at church on Sabbath mornings. Attendance books, one for each row, are passed at the beginning of the worship service for each person present to record his name, address, telephone number, and other pertinent information. This information is especially valuable to our two Evangelism Explosion visitation teams, who make follow-up calls to visitors.

To generate interest in Seventh Day Baptists, specifically our local church, our Evangelism Committee has placed in a local advertising circular

the series of advertisements used previously by the Little Rock church. Three of the ads have been printed with two responses thus far.

A second successive Inquiry Class on Church Membership and another Basic Beliefs Class are scheduled to begin in February. The Basic Beliefs Class uses the Navigator series, "Studies in Christian Living," which is particularly designed to nurture the new Christian. Our graded Sabbath School classes and one adult class are now using the Southern Baptist church school curriculum. That the Southern Baptists are a growing denomination weighed heavily in our Board of Christian Education's final choice of a curriculum from those evaluated.

Our Church Growth Force is meeting monthly again, using the

study book, *Understanding Church Growth*, by McGavran. It was our church's privilege to host the High Intensity Pastors' Seminar on Church Growth in November. In providing housing and meals for the 42 visiting ministers and wives, we were afforded a chance to share in some of the insights gained by the ministers attending.

The last of November our annual Homecoming Sabbath was held. Marian Richardson was welcomed as a new church member at the worship service and Frankie Davis was honored with an orchid and framed copy of the *Sabbath Recorder* article written about her. Over 100 people enjoyed the noon meal and the old-time movies shown afterwards.

All Sabbath School classes shared in the decorating of the church for the Christmas season. The children made Christmas tree ornaments and each adult class made a wreath for the six large windows in the sanctuary. On December 11 all came to decorate and were rewarded with the beautiful results of their handiwork.

Nearly all the Sabbath School classes plus the youth and adult choirs were also involved in presenting a special worship and celebration of the birth of Christ on December 24. The two-hour program, "A King Is Born," included tableau scenes of the Christmas story, recitations by the children, music from John Peterson's "Night of Miracles," carols sung by the congregation, and a short dramatization about making Christ King of our lives. Attendance at the inspirational service was the greatest recorded on a Sabbath before Christmas since 1970. White Gifts received at this service were given to the Light Bearers for Christ. Our own Nick Fatato is a member of the group.

"Help for TV Viewers," a panel discussion on how television affects us and how we can improve it, was presented Sabbath afternoon, January 6, by our Christian Social Action Committee. To determine how some moral themes are treated on TV, everyone was asked to survey a week of television programs, using the forms provided. Then each person would review his survey and communicate his findings by letters to the advertisers and by pre-printed cards to the networks. Finally the committee would collect and evaluate the entire group of surveys and report the data to the Southern

Baptist Convention, who produced the evaluation packets. At this date, surveys are being turned in to the committee.

We celebrated birthdays of many church members and our church building in a unique Church-Wide Birthday Party, January 14. There was a decorated cake for every month of the year, each depicting a special holiday or theme. Guests of honor (including everyone!) were placed on opposing relay teams according to their birthday months to enjoy various challenges. There was a special cake to commemorate three events in the 74-year-old life of our church. It was fifty years ago that the building of our sanctuary was authorized by the church body, ground was broken for the structure, and the church cornerstone was laid.

-Karen Thorngate

MRS. LOUISE BRENNICK HONORED

NORTH LOUP, NE.-Early in November, preparations were under way for the annual Lord's Acre Turkey Supper. It was held Sunday evening, November 6. Many friends of the area as well as our congregation enjoyed the fellowship and the abundance of good food. The Lord's Acre Ingathering Service was held Sabbath morning, November 19.

Grace Mayo, our oldest church member, was 100 years young January 9. At present she is with her daughter and son-in-law, Dale and Margaret Halverson, in California.

Junior Y.F. was organized in January. A valentine party honoring Mrs. Louise Brennick was held in the church basement Sabbath night, February 11. Mrs. Brennick served as organist for 29 years. She had decided to stay home on the wintry evening, so a motorcade went to get her. She was given gifts of appreciation for her faithful service through the years. Her sister, Mrs. Edward Christensen, and Mrs. Ron Goodrich prepared the program. A social hour with pie and more pie followed.

Camp Pacific Firs will hold no Senior High camp 1978 and will have no exchange camper to send Pacific Pines. Therefore the exchange camper from Camp Wakonda/Holston will go to Camp Pacific Pines. She will be Jan Davis from Battle Creek, MI.

NEWS NOTES

● Rev. Leroy Bass completed two quarters of Clinical Pastoral Education at Wisconsin's Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison. CPE provides chaplaincy training for counseling with patients/parishioners, learning interdisciplinary teamwork in an institutional setting, and it has a strong focus on the chaplain-trainee as a person and as a pastor. Leroy, who lives in Middleton, Wisconsin, with his family, is seeking the leading of God for his next ministry, and he asks for the prayers of God's people.

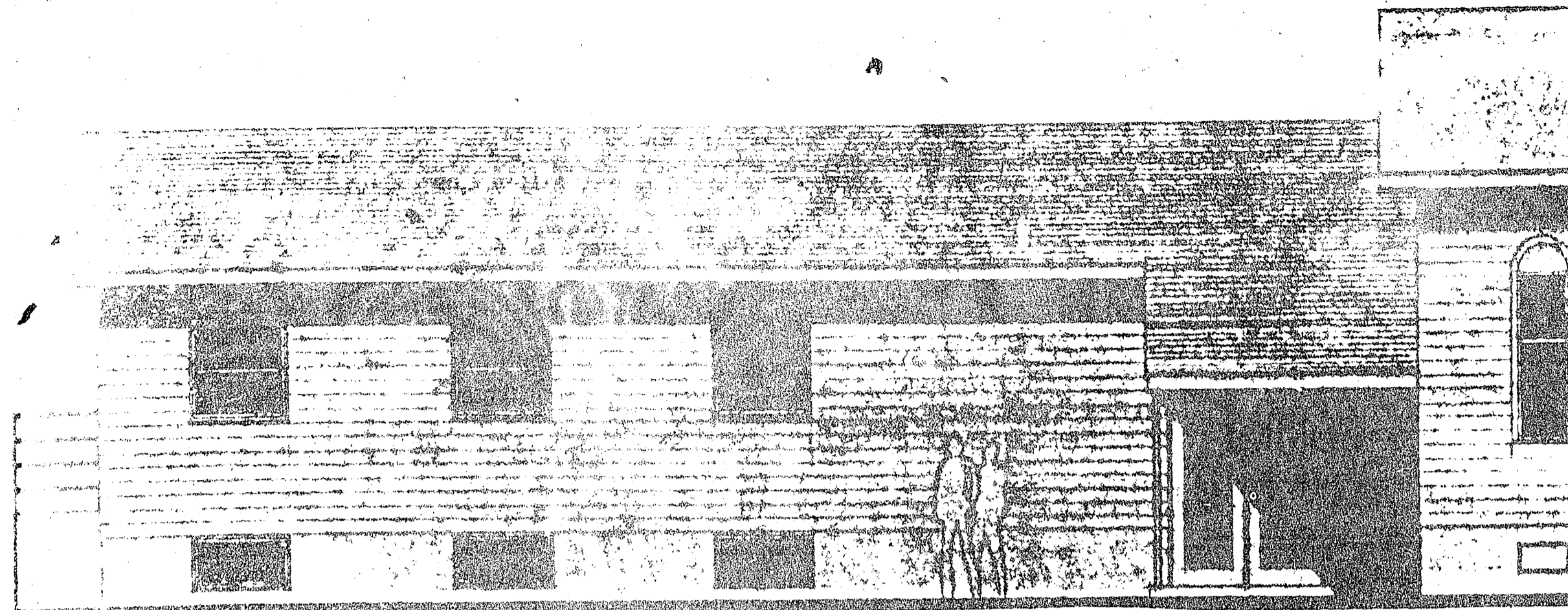
● Rev. and Mrs. Russell Johnson have answered the call to serve the Verona, N.Y., S.D.B. Church. Pastor Johnson has served the Alfred, N.Y. church since September of 1971. We pray God's blessings as they begin their ministry in Verona.

● Rev. Francis D. Saunders, currently serving the Farina, Ill., church, will soon be relocating with his wife, Lila, to West Virginia. He will be serving the church at Berea, W.V., on a retirement basis. He will also serve Camp Joy in the capacity of resident manager.

● The Pacific Coast Association will be meeting with the church in Riverside, CA, April 21-23, 1978. We pray they may experience rich fellowship in the Lord.

● Rev. Robert Harris showed the film, **THE SABBATH**, at the meeting of the Bible Sabbath Association in Huntsville, AL, on February 19. Some 65 were in attendance including State Senator McDonald who spoke on repeal of the state's Blue Laws. **THE SABBATH** film is available for use in our churches by writing to the American Sabbath Tract Society.

● The church in Columbus, Ohio, has made its faith projection goals for 1978. The goals include a membership of 40, Sabbath attendance of 50 and a budget of \$19,716.00. The financial goal for the year includes provision for a full-time pastor beginning in July when Pastor Dale Thorngate is finished with his seminary work.



Construction will begin in the Spring on this addition to the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The addition will be placed next to the south end of the existing church with the doors facing east. The building will be 34 x 52 with a full basement.

The main floor will provide much needed Sabbath School rooms as well as a study for the pastor. There will be an assembly hall in the basement with rest room facilities on both floors. We rejoice that the Dodge Center church has outgrown its present facilities and that its members have "committed" themselves to this project. Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Babcock serve the Dodge Center church.

INFORMATIONAL SEMINARS PLANNED

SEATTLE, WA.-The Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church is planning to hold several meetings in the Pacific Northwest to share our faith with others. Patterned after the "Seventh Day Baptist Informational Seminar" held last winter at Medford, Oregon, as the idea conceived by Leonard Davis, our member there, and also last September at Abbotsford, B.C., where Art and Faye Rowe live, we hope to let others know our faith and encourage them to find out more about Seventh Day Baptist Christians.

Seminars are being planned and scheduled for Auburn, Bellevue and Centralia-Chehalis, Washington, at this time, with several other areas of the Pacific Northwest being considered. The "format" will be to hold the meeting in a public hall, with advance advertising on radio and newspaper. The evening meeting will contain information about our distinctive beliefs in "the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14:12), our personal accountability of the individual member before God, our Covenant membership, autonomy of the local church, the blessings of showing our love for Christ by observing His holy day, our mission

and witness to fulfill the Great Commission, etc. Plans for a guest speaker, who will assist Pastor Duane Davis, will be announced soon. Dixie Inabnit, evangelism chairman of our church, is in charge of arrangements for the "Seminars." □

BWA SABBATH OBSERVED

PLAINFIELD, N.J.-We started the new year with a series of five Week-of-Prayer meetings at the parsonage. Pastor David C. Pearson used the excellent booklet sponsored by our SDB World Federation [of which he is president] and written by Rev. Marion C. Van Horn. Mrs. Bettie Pearson showed slides of Malawi one evening.

Men's breakfasts are being held in the church the first Sabbath of each month at 8:00 o'clock. The men take turns cooking and presenting Bible studies and other programs.

On January 28 we enjoyed a fellowship dinner followed by an interesting presentation on the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society. Publishing Director John D. Bevis was our speaker.

We observed Baptist World Alliance Sabbath February 4 with a series of four inspiring talks interspersed with Scripture - "Mutual Need, Mutual Support" by Executive Secretary K. D. Hurley; "Breaking Down

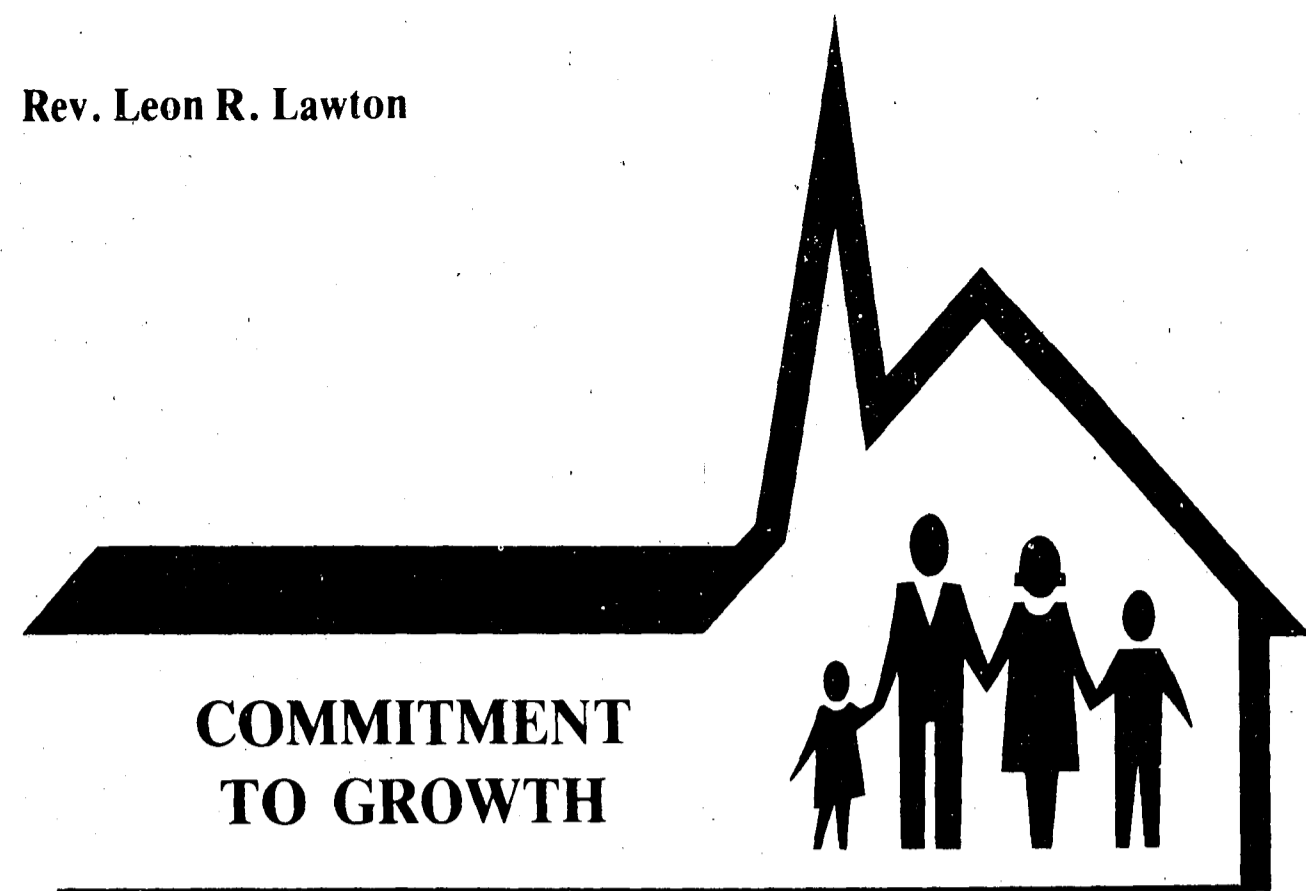
Barriers" by Historian Thomas Merchant; "Unity in Diversity" by Mrs. Diane Merchant; and United in Mission" by Dr. Hurley.

A delightful evening was experienced by 25 adults at the Pro-Con Hawaiian supper held February 19 at the home of Ronald and Kay Maltby. The delicious and bountiful meal featured pineapples. A color movie was shown of the wonderful Beeline Hawaiian tour won by Kay and also enjoyed by Ronnie last fall.

Our service February 25 was conducted by Rev. Leon R. Lawton, executive vice-president of our SDB Missionary Society. Pastor Pearson preached one of his many challenging sermons, "Appreciating God's Word" [Christ and the Bible]. He urged us to love the Word, desire the Word, live the Word, and share the Word.

We are praying for the recovery of Peggy Sue Saunders, who is ten years old and one of our youngest members. She is on a very restrictive diet. Her father, Dean Herbert E. Saunders, is leading a tour to the Holy Land February 27 to March 13 with fifteen in the group, including Mrs. Barbara Saunders and her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Burton B. Crandall.

We are looking forward to the musical, "Celebrate Life," which is to be presented for Easter. A group is rehearsing with Barbara Saunders as director. □ -Ruth Hunting Parker



COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

A new and updated edition of "Why Conservative Churches Are Growing" (Harper & Row: 1977) by Dean M. Kelley restates his thesis, incorporating the groundswell reaction that has come since it was initially published in 1972. Giving new and updated figures, he shows that the last five years have substantiated his original findings: that conservative churches are growing because they offer a clear sense of life's purpose in a way that more liberal bodies do not.

The preface to the paperback edition is almost worth the cost (\$3.95) itself. Quoting from the North American Interchurch Study, published under the title "Punctured Preconceptions" he lists their fourteen preferences expressed by clergy and laity as the most important tasks of the local church:

A. 1. Winning others to Christ; 2. Providing worship for members; 3. Providing religious instruction; 4. Providing ministerial services; 5. Providing for the sacraments;

B. 6. Helping the needy; 7. Supporting overseas missions; 8. Serving as social conscience of the community; 9. Providing fellowship activities; 10. Maintaining facilities for the congregation; 11. Supporting the denomination; 12. Supporting minority groups; 13. Influencing legislation; 14. Building low-cost housing.

These were divided into two sections by Dean Kelley to highlight that "A" activities should have priority, and "B" activities, though important, are of secondary urgency. He also restates the book's main theme: "that the 'business' of religion is to explain the ultimate meaning of life." The second theme is "that the quality which makes one system of ultimate meaning more convincing than another is not its content but its seriousness/strictness/costliness/bindingness."

He concludes his new preface, "This book should be taken as an invitation to explore further the important and absorbing subject of how to make the meaning-enterprise more effective, to develop and assess new and better ways of being serious about it. It is a wide-open game, and any number can play." Could this be part of what Seventh Day Baptists need to learn in their COMMITMENT TO GROWTH-II plan?

"Small Churches Are Beautiful" opens sweeping vistas of opportunity and renewal to the smaller con-

gregation and its leaders. While over 50 percent of the congregations of most major Protestant denominations have 200 members or less, only 8 percent of Seventh Day Baptist churches top 200. And, while the average membership per church is about 88, average Sabbath worship attendance (of those who report such) is only 50.

"Small Churches Are Beautiful" is edited by Jackson W. Carroll and is a collection of essays giving "new possibilities open to small churches to celebrate their smallness as a positive attribute and to develop their potential as vital, caring communities of faith."

The local church Growth Forces in the COMMITMENT TO GROWTH plan have been seeking ideas and understanding on how the ministry of their church can become more effective. Perhaps this book will offer insights and help give vision that is needed. (Harper & Row: 1977. \$4.95) □

NOTE: COMMITMENT TO GROWTH opened up to members of the local church's Growth Force new vistas through their Power Pack Library of key books on Church Growth. To continue to gain insights and help such reading is vital!

These books were the selections of the American Church Growth Book Club (Nov. 1977) and can be ordered from them at 1705 N. Sierra Bonita Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104. The annual membership (prepaid) for the Book Club is \$25.00. In 1977 this brought seven key books at substantial savings.

What Program Should We Have?

In the Seventh Day Baptist COMMITMENT TO GROWTH plan there was the hope that as small groups were organized (following Workshop #4), as the local church became aware of its own community and of specific needs in their area, that a program of witness and service would be forthcoming. Such has not happened to any real extent.

Thus the question above is one currently being asked. Again, we wish to emphasize that the *program* is the responsibility of the local church. We continue to encourage Evangelism Explosion training and "The Touch of His Hand" church growth training and material prepared by the World Home Bible League. Some have obtained EE3 training and it is proving helpful.

The real answer to the question, I feel, rest in the ability of members of the local church to make contacts with new people in their community. If we keep to ourselves we can never really know the needs of those about

(continued on page 31)

Important!

Masses of people will *not* listen to a Christian broadcast on radio or TV. Neither will they enter a church or discuss spiritual things with an evangelical Christian. Multitudes cannot be reached by any other method than a gospel tract. Why? They have closed their hearts and minds to all *public* gospel approaches. Only the *private* door is open. Arm yourself with these silent evangelists. Make tracks with tracts! If you carry them on your person, you can deposit them as you go about your daily activities. For a catalog of available tracts write to the American Sabbath Tract Society, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061. □

ACCESSIONS

BLOUNTVILLE, TN

By Baptism:
Faye (Mrs. Charles) Thomas
Richard C. Palmer

By Letter:
Patricia Lawton
William F. Palmer
Gloria (Mrs. William) Palmer
Angie Lee Palmer
David W. Palmer
Charles Thomas
Denise Thomas
Matthew Thomas
Dr. Stephen Thorngate
Beverly (Mrs. Stephen) Thorngate
Robert Wright
Barbara (Mrs. Robert) Wright

LEONARDSVILLE, N.Y.

By Baptism:
Robert Lowell Welch
James Anthony Welch
David Scott Welch
Bethany Ann Welch
Amy Katherine Welch

MARRIAGES

CARVER-HESTER.-On Dec. 29, 1977, Dwight Carver of Valdosta, Ga., and Marjorie Kathryn Hester of Jasper, Fla., were united in marriage in a civil ceremony at Valdosta, Ga. Mrs. Carver is a daughter of Mrs. Anne Lastinger of Ormond Beach, Fla.

CONRAD-JACOB.-Mark Conrad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Devon Conrad, and Vicki Jacob were united in marriage at the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church on November 12, 1977 with Pastor Charles Graffius officiating. They now reside in Porterville, CA.

KING-WALKER.-At the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church, Feb. 7, 1978, Edward King and Michelle (Trede) Walker, daughter of Mrs. Anne Lastinger of Ormond Beach, Fla., were united in marriage by her pastor, Marion C. Van Horn.

LANDS-OLINGER.-On March 4, 1978, Anthony Lands of Fyffe, Ala., and Peggy Sue Olinger, daughter of Mrs. Shirley Kimbrough of Woodville, Ala., were united in marriage by Judge R.I. Gentry at Sottsboro, Ala., in a civil ceremony, followed at their request by a candlelight blessing of the marriage performed at his home in Paint Rock by Pastor Emeritus Clifford A. Beebe, on Sabbath Eve, March 10.

MCALLISTER-MURDIGA.-Stephen R. McAllister, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. McAllister of South Plainfield, N.J. and Edna Murdiga, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Murdiga of Maua (province of Sao Paulo), Brazil, were united in marriage in Maua on January 19, 1977. Mr. McAllister is employed as a proposal engineer by Airco Cryoplants in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

BIRTHS

CHRONIGER.-A daughter, Angela Renee, to Pastor Kenneth D. and Barbara Chroniger, Kansas City, MO, on February 6, 1978.

GROVE.-A daughter, Julianne, to William and Barbara (Brayman) Grove, of Westerly, RI, on February 14, 1978.

KRAEGER.-Richard Vincent, son of Ed and Mary Gladys Beebe Kraeger of Forest Park, Ga., born Jan. 17, 1978. The mother is eldest daughter of Mary (Kimbrough) Beebe of Rome, Ga., and the late Paul V. Beebe.

LIMOSINO.-A daughter, Beth Ann, to Joe and Barbara (Branch) Limosino, of Shiloh, NJ, on January 7, 1978.

MATTHES.-A son, David William, to Lt. Gregory W. and Cynthia (Sanford) Matthes of Virginia Beach, VA, on January 11, 1978.

MONCRIEF.-A daughter, Deborah Rae, to Stephen and Dolores Moncrief, Bridgeton, NJ, on January 3, 1978.

RUSSELL.-A daughter, Karen Elizabeth, to David and Fay (Moncrief) Russell, Bridgeton, NJ, on August 15, 1977.

STEVENS.-A daughter, Rachel Lynne, to Andy and Carol (Lewis) Steven of Houston, TX, on December 30, 1977.

THORPE.-A daughter, Christen Lee, to Walter and Ruth (Wheeler) Thorpe of Westerly, R.I., on March 9, 1978.

WHEELER.-A son, David Christopher, to Helen Wheeler, of Denver, CO, on November 13, 1977.

ZALDIVAR.-A son, Valentino, born to Octavio and Marika Zaldivar, Colton, CA, on February 28, 1978.

OBITUARIES

BAARS.-Elder Maarten was born October 19, 1906 and died February 2, 1978 at the age of 71.

He was president of the Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in the Netherlands since 1954. In addition he served as elder of the church in the Hague for some twenty-five years. Elder Baars was a banker until his retirement when he could give more of his time and energy in church work.

The memorial service, which had been planned by Mr. Baars prior to his death, was held at the Dutch Reformed Church of Wassenaar on February 7. The text was John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Elder Jaap Nieuwstraten of the Haarlem church officiated at the service with a tribute given by Brother F.L. Stolk of the church at The Hague. The service included a solo by Ieneke Baars and the children's choir.

Elder Baars is survived by his wife of fifty-two years; nine daughters, six sons, thirty-four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Burial was in Wassenaar.

-Jan Lek and F.L. Stolk

DURYEA.-Wilbur, 52, was born in Huntington Station, N.Y., and died January 24, 1978 in Plainfield, N.J.

He was employed by the Halecrest Company in Edison, N.J., twenty-five years, and was a member of the Teamsters' Local No. 469. He lived in Piscataway, N.J., for over forty years where he was a member of the Piscataway Superchief Band Parents' Association.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannette Randolph Duryea; two sons, Wilbur Guy and Thomas T., and one daughter, Antoinette D. Also surviving are one brother, Edgar, of Huntington Station, N.Y., and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen, N.J., with the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders and the Rev. David C. Pearson officiating.

GREENE.-Lettie (Thompson) Greene, born Sept. 22, 1887 at Hebron, PA, died after several years of failing health at St. Francis Hospital, Olean, NY, on January 6, 1978. She was the wife of the late Albert C. Greene who preceded her in death. Lettie was a member of the Alfred SDB Church for many years.

Farewell services were held in the First SDB Church of Hebron, conducted by Rev. Kenneth B. Van Horn. Burial was in the Crandall Hill Cemetery, Hebron, PA.

She leaves to honor her memory a daughter, Ferne Mays of Allegany, NY, a grandson, James A. Mays, a great-grandson, Marc, and a host of friends and relatives.

-K.B.V.H.

Freddie's Surprise

It was early spring. Freddie and his father were quite busy clearing some land for the spring crops which were to be planted later. A tree here and there had to be removed. Some fallen limbs had to be gathered and piled for burning. Several tall weeds had to be cut and added to the pile.

Freddie was raking a heavy coat of leaves when his rake hit an unexpected object.

"Oh, Father!" said Freddie, "look what I have found."

To his surprise, it was a turtle. Freddie wanted him to open his shell. He hunted around and found a strong stick. He tried and tried to open the shell.

Freddie had forgotten just how strong turtles can be. You see, a turtle must want to open his shell or it won't open. You can't even take a wee bit of a peek.

Freddie's dad had watched him all this time. A few minutes passed. "Take him over by the fire, Freddie,"

said his dad, "perhaps the turtle will decide to open up if he gets warm."

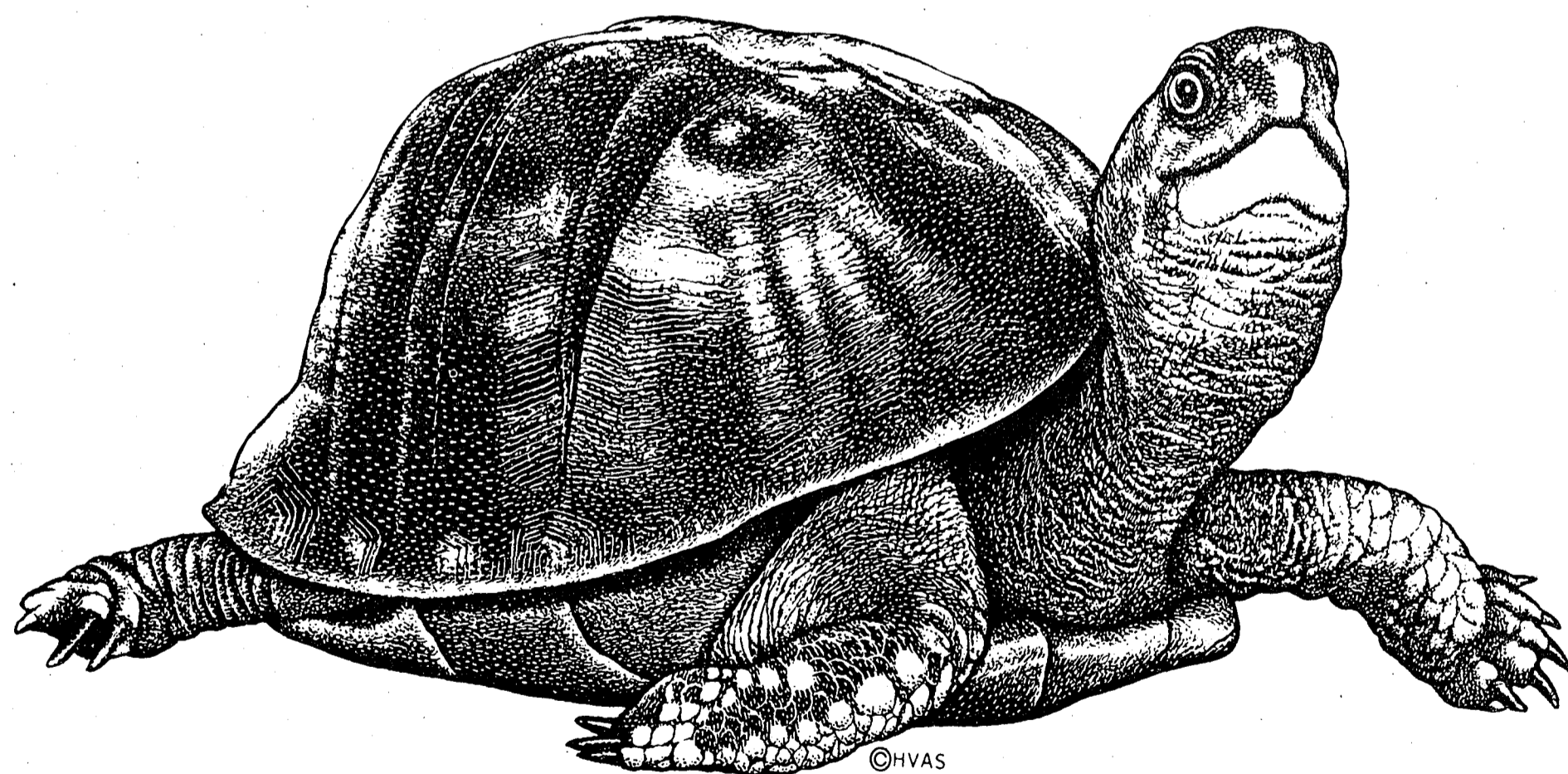
Sure enough, the warmth of the fire did the trick! In no time at all, the turtle opened his shell. Out came his head and legs. He looked around and began walking toward the woods. He would find another home until the warmth of the sun would let him know that spring had come at last.

Let's imagine for a moment that the warmth of the fire is like God's love. Our hearts, when warmed by His great love, can open and we will be able to help others know just how much God loves each one of His children. His love can warm the coldest heart.

God's love is so special! Just think, He loved us so much that "He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

If you do not know this Bible verse, why not try to memorize it? □

-Mrs. Helen K. Bond



The warmth of the fire did the trick on the turtle!

S.D.B. WORLD FEDERATION TO MEET

The second meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation is being planned for August 2-6, 1978 in Alfred, New York.

Member Conferences from around the earth will send delegates to share experiences and inspiration for the world enterprise of Seventh Day Baptists. There are some matters that can come into being only through face-to-face sharings, and we expect to develop them during this time. All who attended the sessions in 1971 at Westerly, R.I., the 300th Year of Seventh Day Baptist Celebration at General Conference, and the Institute that followed at Jersey Oaks Camp, felt a new urge to labor for our Lord.

It is a privilege for USA Seventh Day Baptists to host the 1978 sessions. The Allegheny Association of SDB's is the hosting organization, and the host committee comes from the Alfred-Alfred Station, N.Y. churches.

As plans are now the sessions will be held in the Parish House of the Alfred Church, prior to General Conference, August 2-6, 1978, beginning at 9:30 A.M., and ending at 2:00 P.M., August 6, 1978. Out of country delegates will be guests of General Conference during the session of Conference. Following Conference, an Institute will be held at Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, N.Y.

Financial Help Needed

It has been my experience that folks who do the actual work of hosting such a grand enterprise invest hundreds of dollars in so doing. We are sure that all who believe in 'world mission' will want to give support. Here is your opportunity to help, and a gift of any size will be most welcome. Donors may give through our local churches. Designate your gift *SDBWF Sessions, 1978*. Church treasurers may

send the gifts through the denominational treasurer, although they are not a part of Our World Mission budget.

Those wishing to support the sessions through direct giving may send their gifts to Darlene McCall, treasurer, 401 Washington Trust Bldg., Westerly, RI 02891. Checks may be made out to "SDBWF Sessions, 1978."

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile effort in Kingdom building. □

-Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel

TEACHER EDUCATION SEMINAR

Of vital importance to our Sabbath Schools are well-trained teachers. International Center for Learning is on the growing edge of Christian education and vitally committed to bringing the best to Sunday School teachers and leaders. The new ICL Seminar is demonstration, participation, media variety and skills practice—all presented by people with experience in making Church School successful.

Spring Seminars are to be held in the following places: Portland, OR Apr. 27-29; San Jose, CA May 4-6; Long Beach, CA Apr. 13-15; Dallas, TX Apr. 6-8; Oklahoma City, OK April 27-29; Dayton, OH Apr. 13-15; Columbus, OH May 18-20; Detroit, MI May 11-13; Buffalo, NY Apr. 20-22; Barrington, IL May 4-6.

It would be well if all Sabbath Schools planned to send their teachers to one of these or some other training seminar. For more information please write:

International Center for Learning
P.O. Box 1650
Glendale, CA 91209

The National Teacher Education Project is an organization designed to help Christians learn to be better teachers. Six basic Skills Institutes will be held this summer:

Appleton, WI June 18-24
Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. July 9-15
Worthington, MN July 9-15
Mason City, IA July 16-22
Lansing, MI July 23-29
Dearborn, MI Aug. 6-12

To obtain information for any of these institutes write to: National Teacher Education Project, 6947 E. MacDonald Dr., Scottsdale, Ariz. 85253 □

COMMITMENT TO GROWTH

(continued from page 28)

us! SDB's have done a pretty good job of hiding themselves. We are too isolated! We keep in our own circle of friends. Thus those about us are unknown.

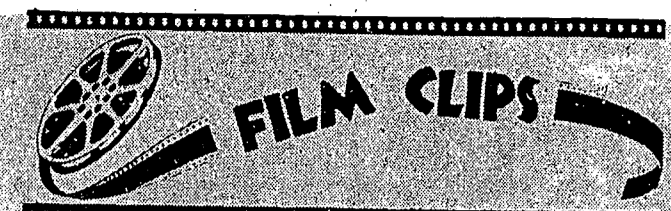
We must make contact! -through visitation; -through becoming active in some community/neighborhood groups, with the express purpose of meeting new people to whom we can share God's Love; -through awareness of human need and open attempt to meet such need; -through personal involvement with individuals in any number of other ways. Summer Bible Clubs, DVBS, seeking new people for camps, etc., are all vital ways of reaching youth and children. Through them we should find entry into the homes and family.

We must make contact! Jesus, our example, went about the villages and cities meeting people in the market-places, the lanes and roads as well as in the synagogues. As He did, He became aware of their real human needs—"as sheep having no shepherd," "as those weary and tired" (see Matt. 9:35-38). Sight/vision did not come except through personal contact. Personal involvement with others can build compassion in the Christian. It brings insights and outreach ministries in the name of Christ. It can, and will, bring a vital program/ministry to you and your church as you prayerfully continue in the COMMITMENT TO GROWTH II plan! □

-Rev. Leon R. Lawton

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

- April 5-9**
Baptist Men's Congress
Indianapolis, IN
Dr. K. D. Hurley
Editor John D. Bevis
Mr. Ernest F. Bond
- April 21-23**
Pacific Coast Association
Riverside, CA
Dr. K. D. Hurley
- April 22**
Michigan Churches Day
White Cloud, MI
President Richard Shepard
- April 30**
Anniversary Banquet
New York City S.D.B. Church
Historian Thomas L. Merchant
Editor John D. Bevis
- May 12-14**
Allegheny Association
Little Genesee, NY
- May 19-21**
Eastern Association
Ordination of Russell Havens
Westerly, RI
- May 20**
Sabbath Renewal Day
- June 2-4**
Central N.Y. Association
Second Brookfield, NY
- June 3**
S.D.B. Church
Alfred Station, NY
Editor John D. Bevis
- June 4**
Annual Meeting
S.D.B. Historical Society
Plainfield, NJ
- June 17**
Pawcatuck S.D.B. Church
Westerly, RI
Editor John D. Bevis
- June 23-25**
Southeastern Association
Upper Marlboro, MD
President Richard Shepard
Editor John D. Bevis



Recent additions to the cassette library include:

More Than Glitter - The life and love of a Miss America - Terry Meeuwssen.

The Sabbath: Pleasure and/or Purpose - Rev. Edgar Wheeler, Denver, CO

Freedom and the Law - Dr. Edward J. Horsley, Denver, CO

Appointment with God (Sabbath) - Rev. Edgar Wheeler, Denver, CO

The Sabbath Experience - Edward A. Hansen, Denver, CO

Order from the American Sabbath Tract Society, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

THE ROLE OF MUSIC

(continued from page 6)

even their intelligence with them; but their songs sink into the memory, color their thought, and fashion their theology much more than any deliberate instruction."

A Unifying Tool

Nothing, except the Bible itself, is as ecumenical as a hymnal. The hymnal is therefore a major unifying tool, looking toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer, "... that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:11). When we sing our hymns, we rarely ask if the author (or composer) was a Lutheran, or even a Christian. If the text is Christian and the tune is good, we sing the hymn and make it our own. This is ecumenicity at its best.²

"The ecumenical character of the new hymn texts is well matched by the variety of new tunes. These have been selected from the broad range of Christian use throughout the centuries. Among the number are some of the finest melodies known in each of these well-defined groups: plainsong or Gregorian Chant, folk songs, carols, traditional; German chorales; Scandinavian chorales; Psalm tunes; French church

tunes; and British and American hymn tunes."³

The hymn, besides its important role in congregational worship, is a resource for family and private devotions. Singing a hymn at family prayers, even reading a hymn, can be a wonderful experience. And singing a hymn alone while driving to or from work can be a rich spiritual exercise.

To help make the hymn more meaningful to you, listen carefully as it is played through by the organist as an introduction. Stand as the beginning of the last line of the song is being played (this will help you get off to a surer start rather than waiting until the end of the song is reached before standing). If you stand, others will stand with you. Many times we look around to see when we should begin to stand. Now, you can take the initiative and stand at the beginning of the last line. It is quite helpful to sing the song as you would say the poem. If there is a comma in the poem, take a breath; if there is no comma and even though the music phrase has ended, do not take a breath and carry over to the next music phrase. You may find this will add a lot to the meaning of the poem. Think about the words as you sing them.

New or different hymns are often difficult for us - we seem to be fighting over the tune and have difficulty concentrating on the meaning of the words. We should use this opportunity to be aware of the words and ask that the tune be repeated a few more times so that it can find a place in our minds. Many times we "don't like" a tune the first time we hear it, but after repeated uses it "grows on us." Give the new tune a fair chance. □

¹ Mandus A. Egge, *What's a Hymnal?* Journal of Church Music, Nov. 1976.

² Ibid., Egge.

³ Luther D. Reed, *Worship: A Study of Corporate Devotion*, Muhlenberg Press. 1959.

Pearl Nagel is a member of the Washington, D.C., S.D.B. Church where she is director of music. She is also music director for St. John's Lutheran Church in Riverdale, MD.

THE SABBATH EXPERIENCE

(continued from page 9)

Yes, we feel that serving mankind in need, making the Sabbath unlike the other days of the week, making the spiritual emphasis the main thrust of our Sabbath observance, and having more love and fellowship among ourselves and our Christian friends--- these will make for a faithful Sabbath experience.

But how does anyone determine if whatever activities he is engaged in are within the framework of God's will? If his conscience is truly given to God he asks himself: If Jesus were to come up to me on the Sabbath would he smile, call me by name and say, "I like what you're doing this Sabbath. May I join you?"

Sabbath Blessings

Now, I have alluded several times to the concept of being blessed by keeping the Sabbath as God wills for it to be kept. I have stated that Israel forfeited its Sabbath blessings by profaning the Sabbath. I have also intimated that many of us are not receiving these Sabbath blessings because we are not observing God's Sabbath in accordance with His will.

So, what blessings am I talking about? First of all, I think it will vary from person to person, for we are each on our own unique individual journey with the Lord. Each of us as individuals has certain needs that differ from those around us. I believe God is faithful and that He will bless you for your faithful Sabbath observance in accordance to where you are and what you need. *God will bless!*

Secondly, I believe by being faithful to God's Sabbath, He will grant us the grace to continually practice His presence during the other six days of the week. Have you read the book by Brother Lawrence: *The Practice of the Presence of God?* As I read those pages I cannot help but be awestruck and inspired by the joy, the peace, the ecstasy and the total victory this man experienced each and every minute, day after day, year after year because he was totally and completely saturated

with the Lord's presence no matter what he was doing. For example, one of his most quoted statements is, "The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, *I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament* (emphasis mine).

How did Brother Lawrence receive this grace? How did he come to the point where he was totally saturated and overjoyed with the presence of God? He did it by following a simple principle-- by the consecration of one special part, it is possible to consecrate the whole. Stephen Winward, in his book *How to Talk with God-The Dynamics of Prayer* discussing Brother Lawrence and this principle says, "If all the days of the week are to be holy, then one day of the week, the Lord's Day, must be set aside, must be holy to the Lord in a special way."

It seems obvious that there is a direct and high correlation between the fulfilling of our spiritual needs and of continually experiencing God's presence in a very real way on the one hand and of how we observe the Sabbath on the other hand.

Is there some area in your personal spiritual journey (perhaps a problem or some situation) where you need a special touch of God's grace in a very special way but have yet to receive it? Are you experiencing God's presence in such a way that while in the "noise and clatter" of everyday living, you possess God with as great a tranquility as you do in the time of prayer? If not, I invite you to join me this very day in dedicating yourselves to God's Sabbath, not in your own understanding, but looking to God to guide you, to make His Sabbath not just an observance but a rich and genuine experience. □

God promised to make the Sabbath the most delightful day of the week. Try keeping it the way He said we should, and you'll find our how well He keeps His promise.



Caught in the fast-moving, computerized existence of today, more and more people are frantically searching for personhood. They look to self-help books, counselors, and psychiatrists and explore any possibility that promises an answer to the question, who am I?

In *The Jesus Model* (Word Books, publisher, Waco, TX, \$6.95) David McKenna says we need a role model. And the best model is the perfect one--Jesus Christ.

It isn't often that the character of Jesus and the significance of his acts become clearer than in this psychological study. McKenna uses Jesus as the model of a real and complete man with a full range of human needs and emotions, as a mature person, and a disciplined man who had to cultivate the tools of self-mastery.

Finally, he shows how Jesus is the model for a whole life -- the source of the identity and independence men and women so desperately seek.

David L. McKenna is president of Seattle Pacific University and is a director of the National Association of Evangelicals, the Association of American Colleges, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the Christian College Consortium. He has written numerous articles for professional journals and has been featured in *Christianity Today* and *U.S. News & World Report*. Dr. McKenna also has edited *The Urban Crisis* and is author of *Awake, My Conscience!* □

DEATH EDUCATION

(continued from page 12)

full information about the Cont. Association, discussion of the philosophy and practice of procedures at time of death, suggestions for memorial services, directories of Memorial Societies, cooperative mortuaries, medical schools, eye banks, and temporal bone banks, and many other useful data.

S.D.B. information on Christian Estate planning, wills, living memorials, etc. may be acquired from S.D.B. National Headquarters, 510 Watchung Ave., Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061. □

Seventh Day Baptist Ministries and Outreach

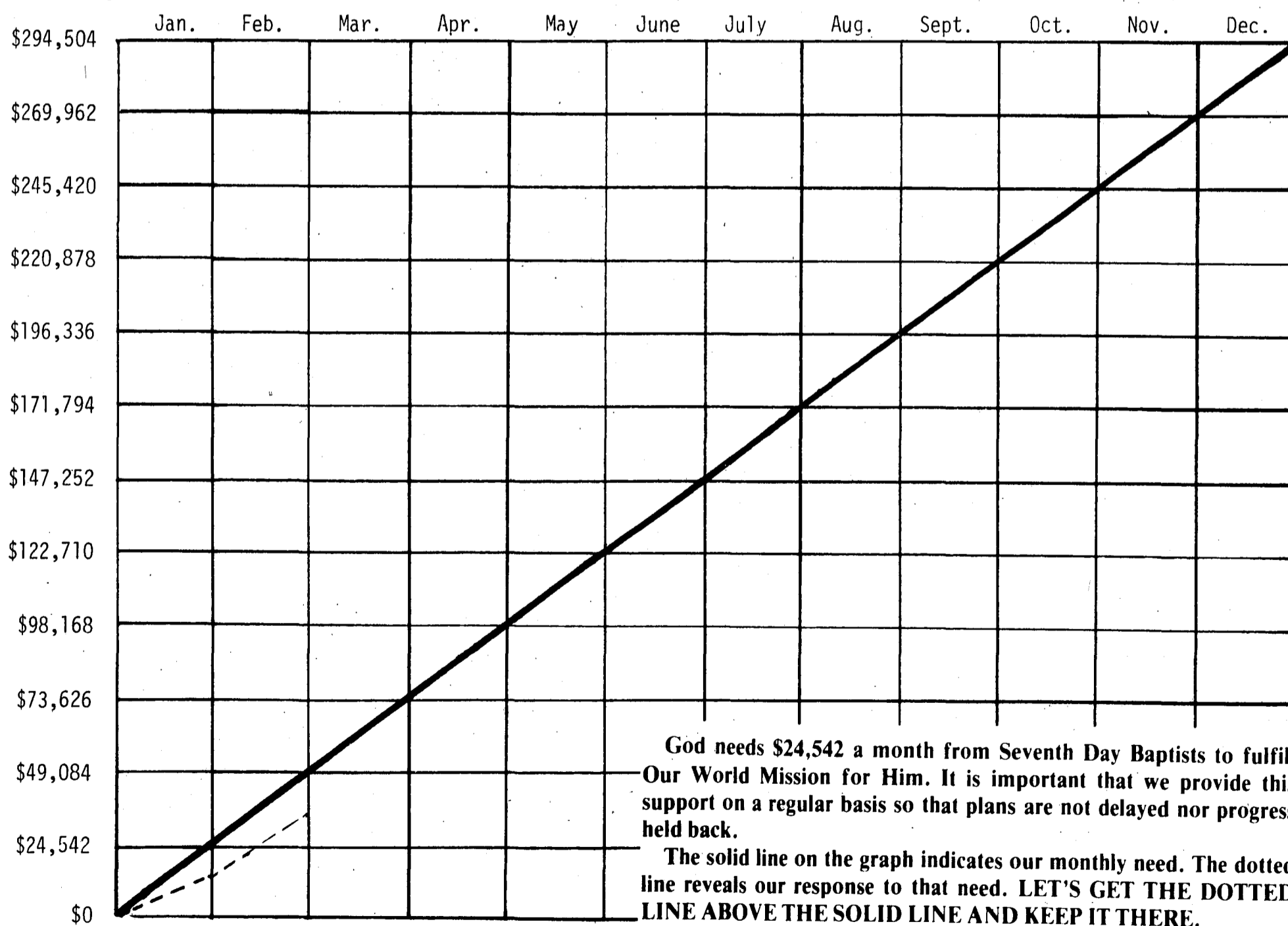
OUR WORLD MISSION

Church or Group	Budgetary Goals	
	Feb. OWM	2 mos. total OWM and Reported Boards
Adams Center NY	\$	\$ 130.00
Albion WI		279.63
Alfred NY	101.55	658.50
Alfred Station NY	332.75	211.20
Ashaway RI	367.25	860.93
Associations and Groups		3,877.79
Battle Creek MI	1,355.90	1,415.90
Bay Area CA		55.00
Berea WV		
Berlin NY	180.00	407.40
Blountville TN		
Boulder CO	349.96	895.66
Brookfield NY		10.00
Columbus OH	534.15	534.15
Dallas-Ft. Worth TX	38.02	38.02
Daytona Beach FL	476.69	801.84
Denver CO	1,728.12	1,728.12
DeRuyter NY	142.30	316.30
Dodge Center MN	495.70	858.82
Farina IL		27.20
Fouke AR	40.00	40.00
Hebron PA	198.90	348.45
Hopkinton RI		30.00
Houston TX		946.40
Individuals		
Irvington NJ		1,200.00
Kansas City MO	53.23	111.00
Leonardsville NY	20.00	20.00
Little Genesee NY	261.76	555.02
Little Rock AR		
Los Angeles CA	1,504.00	1,524.00
Lost Creek WV	540.00	560.00
Marlboro NJ	411.66	1,114.26
Middle Island WV		50.00
Milton WI	1,559.40	1,749.40

Milton Junction WI	20.00	78.00
New Auburn WI	38.35	139.68
New York NY		
North Jersey NJ	105.17	218.03
North Loup NE	850.00	1,024.24
Nortonville KS	281.00	501.00
Paint Rock AL	67.50	77.50
Phoenix AZ		
Plainfield NJ		60.00
Putnam County FL		
Richburg NY	96.00	194.00
Riverside CA	1,828.98	1,884.98
Rockville RI		30.00
Salem WV	527.67	1,208.56
Salemville PA		100.00
Schenectady NY		
Seattle WA	236.07	246.07
Shiloh NJ	1,273.97	1,413.97
Stonefort IL	30.00	70.00
Sunshine Mt. MS		
Texarkana AR		20.00
Verona NY		245.62
Walworth WI	100.00	300.00
Washington DC	100.00	650.00
Waterford CT	186.00	396.00
Westerly RI		676.27
White Cloud MI	175.44	316.69
Budget	\$16,652.49	\$31,205.60
Non-Budget	125.00	
Total To Disburse	\$16,777.49	

FEBRUARY SUMMARY

1978 Budget		\$294,504.00
Receipts for two months:		
OWM Treasurer	25,524.48	
Boards Reported	5,681.12	\$31,205.60
To be raised by December 31, 1978		\$263,298.40
Percentages: Year elapsed, 16.66%; Budget raised, 10.59%		
Two months: Due		\$49,084.00
Raised		\$31,205.60
Arrears		\$17,878.40
Gordon Sanford, OWM Treasurer		



Editorial

... WITH THE EDITOR

One of the joys of my position is being able from time-to-time to visit the churches, meet our people, and learn first-hand the desires, goals and frustrations of Seventh Day Baptist life in the seventies. One of the reasons for such trips is to develop better communication with our readers, to seek ideas and suggestions as well as stories and writers. In recent weeks I have visited in several churches and would like to share some of my impressions with you.

It is always exciting for me to visit Washington, D.C., where so much history has been made. Through the years I have treasured my relationship with our Washington church and feel very close to the members there. The church is pastored by Rev. Leland Davis. He with his wife, Gertrude, minister to a diverse congregation that includes a United States Senator as well as recent immigrants from the West Indies. I was happy to see many friends of the *Sabbath Recorder* come to our services, several of whom are non-members.

Recent improvements have been made in the physical plant in Washington and I saw evidence of spiritual growth as well. I met several new members, learned of the many contacts that come during the course of a week's time, and was encouraged to learn of weekly Bible study groups functioning. I believe this congregation is in a unique position as it ministers in the Nation's Capital. God is blessing the Washington church; pray for those who are giving of themselves in loving service to the Lord's Kingdom there.

When I arrived in Adams Center I found less snow than we had in Plainfield. I felt this was a good omen-and it must have been, for the remainder of my trip I had mostly sunny weather. Pastor Stephan Saunders with his wife, Irene, are serving the Adams Center congregation. I was privileged to share in an afternoon service at a nursing

home in Watertown. Several Seventh Day Baptists are employed in the home and some of our people are residents. For several years Mrs. Gerald Greene and others have led the Monday service which has a growing attendance.

Here again I met new members and people who are studying Seventh Day Baptist beliefs and learned that the average attendance has increased at this church in recent months. Our evening service was preceded by a meal - how the ladies in Adams Center can prepare food! The members of the Ladies' Aid were especially interested in the slides of our visit to Holland. Last winter they pieced the quilt that was sent as a love gift to our Dutch ladies. I was encouraged by the commitment of Pastor and Mrs. Saunders and by the good spirit evident among the members. I am confident that the Lord will continue to revitalize and bless this church.

We had a good attendance Friday evening in New Auburn, WI, in spite of the "cool" temperature. Pastor David Taylor and his wife Margaret had recently arrived there, coming from the pastorate in Schenectady, N.Y. The Taylors are enjoying the slower pace and the friendliness of the people in rural Wisconsin. Pastor Taylor has developed a strong calling ministry that has already paid off in increased attendance in services. He has also been instrumental in the organization of a choir.

Again I sensed a spirit of enthusiasm and expectation that God has some great things in store for the New Auburn congregation. Those who are tired of the pace of city life might well consider the advantages of New Auburn life. Loyal and Genny Pederson could be the local Chamber of Commerce officers; one is impressed by their love of the land as well as their vision and dedication to the advancement of the Lord's work. There is

talk in New Auburn of reaching out to the community with innovative programs--programs that could lead in the direction of Christian education. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." I found a real sense of dedication and vision in New Auburn.

I guess my most lasting impression of the Dodge Center, MN, church is the large number of young married couples and the enthusiasm they generate in the church. Pastor Wayne Babcock with his wife, Ida, are providing excellent leadership in their second pastorate at Dodge Center. I wish everyone could experience the "spirit" of the people there as manifested by their time of sharing in the worship service and the beauty of their singing.

The Dodge Center church is moving forward with a building program. They do not have enough room for all the Sabbath School classes nor for all the babies! This spring construction will begin on an educational complex which will also house the pastor's office as well as provide an assembly hall. The future seems exceptionally bright for this congregation and it is evident they have committed themselves to a growing ministry in southern Minnesota.

After visiting congregations that have been in existence for scores of years it was also good to experience the birth of a baby church. The organizational service of the Blountville, TN, church was a time of joy as we saw the dreams and hopes of dedicated people result not only in an organization, but in the addition of new people to the church. We praise God for what He is doing all across the denomination as we see a new spirit sweeping our churches. I am thankful not only to be a witness to this but also to have a small part in it. These are exciting days to be a part of God's family. Let us continue to uphold one another in prayer. □

Quality
Content

The Sabbath Recorder
510 Watchung Ave., Box 868
Plainfield, N. J. 07061

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THE SABBATH

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

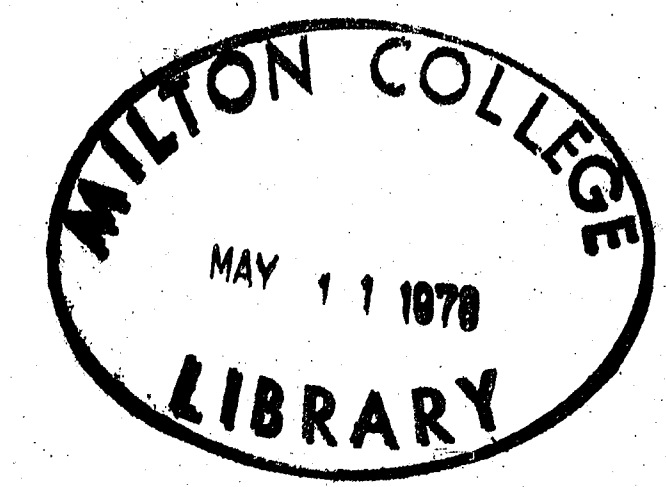
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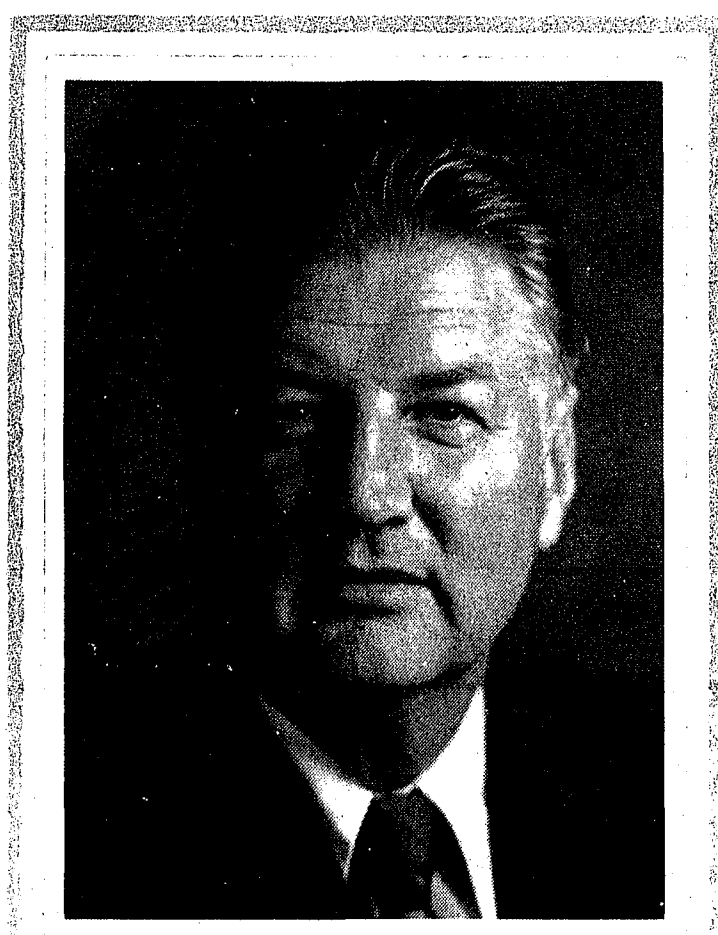


*Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love the day is bright,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going wrong.
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem more worthwhile.
Where there is love there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils cease...
Love changes darkness into light,
And makes the heart take "wingless flight"-
Oh, blest are they who walk in love...
They also walk with God above,
And when man walks with God again
There shall be peace on earth for men.*

*-From Loving Promises
by Helen Steiner Rice*



TO ATTEND THE SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION



DR. HENRY BRANDT
RESOURCE LEADER
NOTED AUTHOR
COUNSELLOR
PROFESSOR
LECTURER

MILTON COLLEGE LIBRARY
MILTON WI 53563

SCHEDULE

Friday Evening

7:00-8:00 Registration; Book and Tape Display
8:00 "A Look at Yourself" - Dr. Henry Brandt

Sabbath Day

9:30 "A Look at Your Marriage"
-Dr. Henry Brandt
9:30 Youth Worships - optional
10:00 Break
11:00 Worship - President Richard Shepard
2:00 "A Look at Parenthood"
-Dr. Henry Brandt
2:00 Youth Workshops - Optional
3:00 Break
3:15 Youth Discussion with Dr. Brandt
3:15 "Seventh Day Baptists - A Current Look"
John D. Bevis, editor, *The Sabbath Recorder*
4:00 Adult Discussion with Dr. Brandt
4:00 Youth Activities
5:00-7:00 Dinner
8:00 Musical Concert

The Southeastern Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches extends an invitation for all to share in their special weekend meetings. The guest speaker and resource person will be Dr. Henry Brandt. Dr. Brandt holds a Ph.D. from Cornell with a major in Marriage and Family Relations; a M.A. from Wayne State with a major in Clinical Psychology and a B.A. from Houghton College with majors in Psychology and Sociology. This family emphasis weekend will no doubt be one of the highlights of 1978 for Seventh Day Baptists.

ASSOCIATION THEME:
TAKE ROOT—GROW UP—GO ON
COL. 2:6,7.

ASSOCIATION MODERATOR:
Earl Hibbard, Millersville, MD

The DATE: JUNE 23 - 25, 1978
THE PLACE: Largo Senior High School
505 Largo Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20870
Adjacent to Prince George Community College

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
Rev. Leland Davis
Seventh Day Baptist Church
4700 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011
(202) 291-7002

