

The Sabbath Recorder
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THE SABBATH
RECORDER
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

OUR 135th YEAR
1844
1979
SEPTEMBER 1979

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE ON THE BIBLE

September 28-30, 1979

Sponsored by the
New England Yearly Meeting

All sessions at
Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church
120 Main Street
Westerly, Rhode Island

Speakers:

DR. HAROLD LINDSELL—
“The Trustworthiness of Scripture”

Author of *The Battle for the Bible*
Editor of the *Harper Study Bible*
Associate Editor and then Editor of
Christianity Today (1964-1978)
(currently Editor-emeritus)

REV. ROBERT STRAIN—
“The Grand Themes of Ephesians”

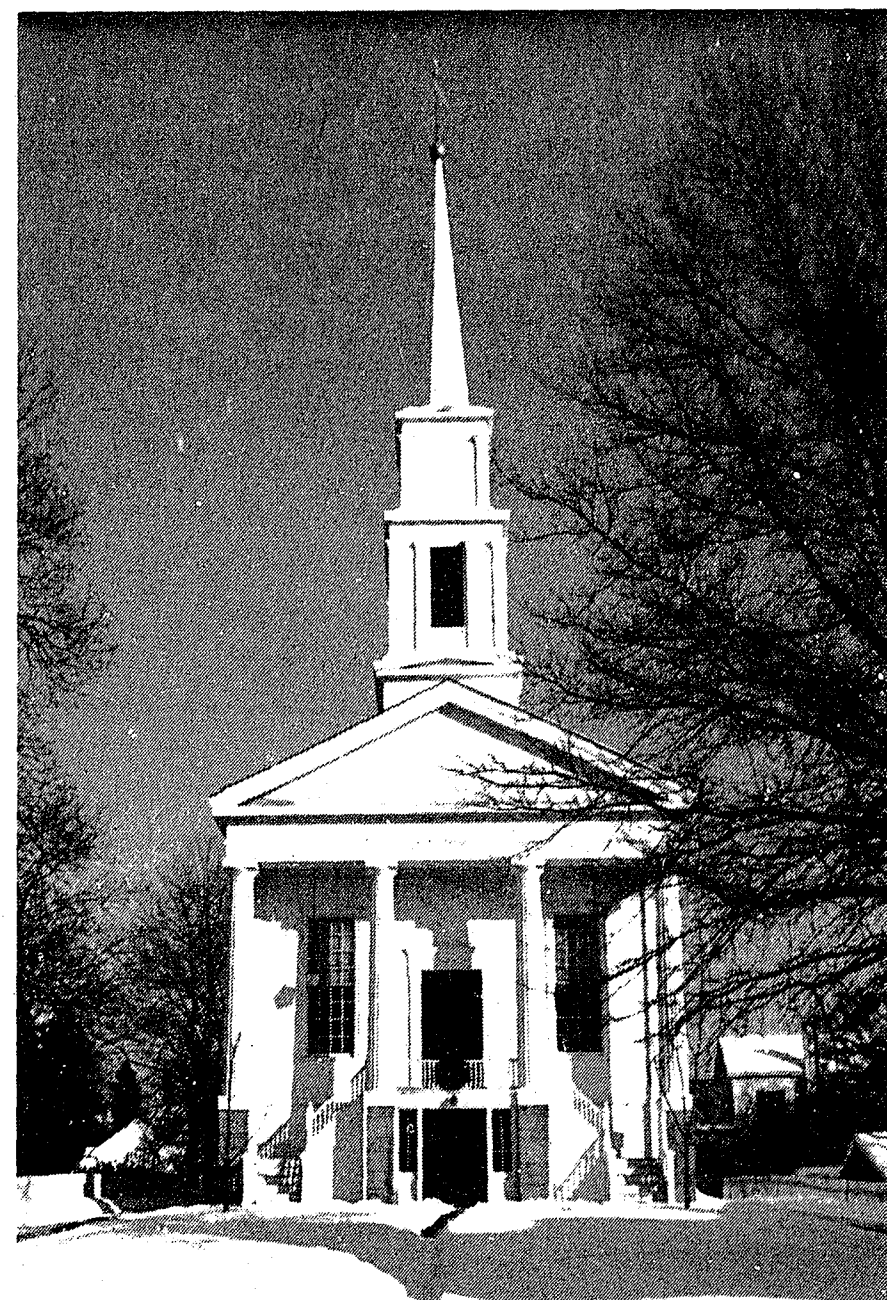
Pastor, Faith Reformed Baptist Church, Media, Pa.,
where he has built a strong ministry of Biblical exposition

There are no fees for this Conference, although
offerings will be received nightly. Meals and lodging
are not provided. Motel listings are available.

A brochure is available giving further details. To
receive a copy, write:

Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church
120 Main Street
Westerly, Rhode Island
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...you are my disciples

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Cover—Consecration service for Missionaries Rod and Camille Henry who will be serving in the Philippines. Cover photo and all Conference photographs by Phil Burrows of Milton, WI. Special thanks to Phil for his diligent and tireless work during Conference week.

Next Month: Stewardship Theme Issue—by Rev. Paul Osborn.

The Sabbath Recorder

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A SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST PUBLICATION

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Contributing Editors

Mary G. Clare, Rev. Duane L. Davis, Linda D. Harris, K. D. Hurley, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Thomas L. Merchant, Madeline Fitz Randolph, Rev. Herbert E. Saunders.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR EDITORIAL OFFICE

Effective immediately all articles, news, etc., for publication in *The Sabbath Recorder* should be sent to this new address:

The Sabbath Recorder
John D. Bevis, Editor
P.O. Box 2133
Florence, AL 35630 □

WANTED TO EMPLOY—person to index *The Sabbath Recorder* for the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society. Work your own hours in your own home. No experience required, but must have command of language, attention to detail, and self-discipline. For more information, and to apply, write to: Thomas L. Merchant, Historian, Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061. □

TRACT SOCIETY SEEKING PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Responsibilities include editing *Sabbath Recorder*, direction of printed and audiovisual aids to evangelism, member of General Council. Please send your resume to:

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The Sabbath Recorder

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Conference rejected the proposal for denominational reorganization at this time. The vote was 83 to 127. Conference also rescinded the 1978 action which called for moving all executives to Plainfield by 1980 and to implement "Full-Circle" administration by a certain time period.

Two churches were welcomed into Conference membership: Portland, OR, and the SDB Evangelical Community Church of Stanton, CA.

Newly elected to the General Council are James Skaggs of Madison, WI, and the Rev. Charles Graffius, president-elect, pastor of the SDB church in Los Angeles.

To date the "Love Gift" taken at the Women's Society banquet at Conference comes to \$3,427.00. There are several projects which will benefit from this offering:

- breakfast program for children in Cebu City, Philippines
- piano for the New York City SDB Church
- camping programs in Jamaica and Guyana
- tuition fund for Crandall High School in Jamaica
- household articles for missionaries Rod and Camille Henry and David and Bettie Pearson. □

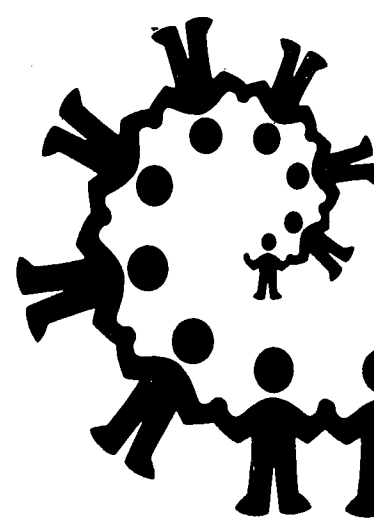
Funds for Sabbatical approved. The Council on Ministry will make up to \$5,000 a year available for approved studies of 3-6 months to one pastor per year. Pastors eligible are those serving SDB churches for seven or more years, three being in their current pastorate.



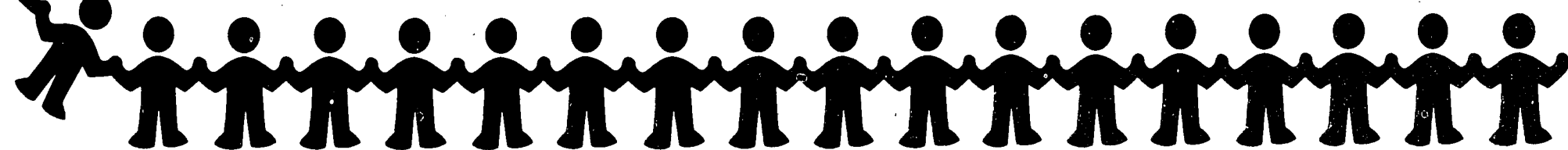
"Pleasing God in Every Way" is the theme for Conference 1980 based on Col. 1:10. Conference President, the Rev. Duane Davis, is pastor of the Seattle Area SDB Church in Washington.

Conference approved the recommendation from the General Council regarding "Decision to Discipleship." Seventh Day Baptists are embarking on a "Decade of Discipleship" with plans to double our local churches and denominational witness during the 1980's. The complete program is outlined in this issue.

167TH ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE



Decade of Discipleship



A PLAN FOR GROWTH FOR SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS

Seventh Day Baptists are a determined people. Though never a large denomination, we have endured for more than three centuries. Though sometimes persecuted, we have held tenaciously to our distinctive interpretation of the Biblical message.

However, since the turn of the century our steady, albeit slow, growth has been replaced by rather rapid decline, and our perseverance has given way to conformity. "Holding on" is not enough; the "way of the world" is not the life of a disciple of our Lord.

Recently, through "Commitment to Growth" we have experienced a changed attitude: we believe in ourselves, in our place in the Christian world, and in our ability to reproduce and grow.

We have discovered "church growth eyes" with which to see possibilities for expansion and extension. Already, we have witnessed growth within the body, new churches rising from surprising roots, and the desire of many to step out in faith, trusting in the Almighty God. We are discovering our spiritual gifts, and becoming more aware of the power of God through the Holy Spirit.

We praise God that such optimism is prevalent today, but we must not rest until the truth of God's word is realized: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

With this ultimate challenge in mind, the General Council has felt led by God to recommend a ten-year plan of growth for Seventh Day Baptists. We have been changed by "Commitment to Growth"; now it is time to build on that experience by dedicating ourselves to a "Decade of Discipleship."

Double in a Decade

The suggested goal for the "Decade of Discipleship" is to double ourselves during the decade. This means that by 1990 we will have doubled the number of Seventh Day Baptists in the United States, doubled the number of churches, doubled the active participation in worship

and Sabbath school, doubled our pastoral and lay leadership, doubled our missionary activity, and doubled our commitments to serve and give—doubled the body and its activity in all significant ways.

Seventh Day Baptists can do it. We are a determined people, persevering for the truth. We can reach our goal, even surpass it, if we truly dedicate ourselves to a decade of growth through discipleship.

PURPOSE

As Seventh Day Baptist Christians, we are called to glorify God and please Him in every way. This is done as we fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord. Our immediate objective is to discover and accomplish our mission—a commitment to growth. This means specific growth goals—for us as individuals, for our churches and for the ministry that we have to the world.

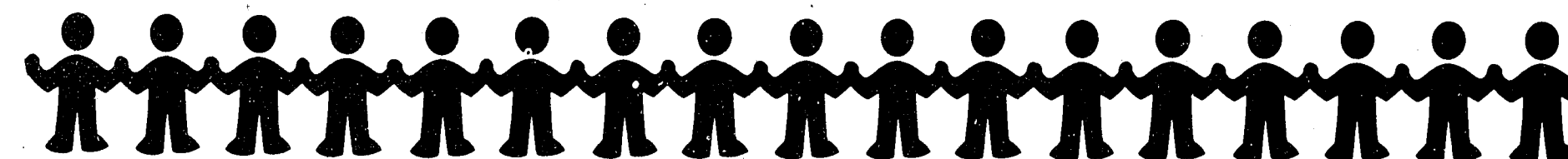
GOAL

To double the membership and participation in Seventh Day Baptist organizations and activities around the world by 1990.

PLAN

Seventh Day Baptists must be involved in the continuing processes of nurture, extension and ministry throughout each year of the decade. To bring each of these processes into sharper focus we *recommend* concentrating effort, personnel and materials according to the following yearly emphasis:

- 1980—"Decision to Disciple"
- 1981—"Disciples in Nurture"
- 1982—"Disciples in Extension"
- 1983—"Disciples in Ministry"
- 1984—"..... Nurture"
- 1985—"..... Extension"
- 1986—"..... Ministry"
- 1987— ... Nurture
- 1988— ... Extension
- 1989— ... Ministry



Double the Churches to reach at least 120

- by encouraging church extension
 - (a) satellite growth—reaching out to a neighboring area
 - (b) relocation growth—taking faith to new residence
 - (c) church planting—sending workers to new fields
- by recruiting, training, and placing church extension workers

Double Overseas Missionaries to reach at least 12

- by emphasizing missionary service to persons in ministerial training
- by providing counsel and training to qualified candidates sensing a call to missions work
- by developing new mission fields

Double Overseas Missions Support to reach at least \$100,000

- by emphasizing the worldwide aspect of the Great Commission
- by seeking new missions fields overseas
- by encouraging overseas groups to enlarge their missions
- by creatively promoting giving to overseas missions

GROWTH THROUGH MINISTRY

Double Charitable Giving to reach at least \$20,000

- by emphasizing the caring aspect of Christ's ministry
- by creatively promoting the various opportunities for charitable giving

Double Service Projects, as determined

- by promoting study of opportunities for service
- by emphasizing the relationship of service to evangelism

Double Worship Participation, as determined

- by emphasizing the significance of worship
- by encouraging lay participation in worship activities

Double Church Fellowship, as determined

- by encouraging the development of small group meetings for study, prayer and support
- by emphasizing the relationship of fellowship to evangelism

where "Decision to Disciple" would be a year of study in discipleship and commitment to the overall goal, as well as development of local and personal goals:

"Disciples in Nurture" would focus once every three years on growth in lay education, for youth and adults, and on ministerial training;

"Disciples in Extension" would focus on church expansion and planting in the United States and overseas;

and "Disciples in Ministry" would focus on the ministries of service, worship, and fellowship.

IMPLEMENTATION

Although the goal is an overall doubling of members and activities by 1990, such growth may be attained in many difference ways:

GROWTH THROUGH NURTURE

Double Sabbath School Attendance to reach at least 5,500

- by increasing teacher training efforts
- by utilizing goal-oriented curricula that seek to build mature Christians
- by emphasizing programs for children, though not neglecting adults
- by creatively promoting Sabbath School attendance

Double the Ordained Ministers to reach at least 100

- by increasing recruitment
- by educating Seventh Day Baptists about the ministry
- by emphasizing the identification and utilization of spiritual gifts
- by encouraging bi-vocational pastorates



GROWTH THROUGH EXTENSION

- by promoting evangelism and personal witness
- providing evangelism training
- by promoting church planting

STRATEGY

Work Accomplished

- Decade of Discipleship plan formulated by General Council
- Strategy planning completed by Coordinating Leadership Team
- Concept and materials (to be used first year) "Decision to Discipleship" presented to Ministers Conference
- Field testing of materials by three churches

Conference Participation and Reaction

- "Decade of Discipleship" presented to General Conference—Mon., Aug. 6
- Consideration/communication with Conference Interests Committee
- Action by General Conference
- Seminar: "Decision to Discipleship" by Eldon Babcock, Director of Discipleship, Light and Life Men Inter. Sunday, August 12, 9:00 - 12:00 Noon

Introduction and Instruction

—Team visits to Associations and local Seventh Day Baptist Churches—October Four teams will be visiting scheduled churches to explain the "Decade of Discipleship" and materials to be used the first year. This may involve an investment of time and materials by each local church.

FUNDING

It is anticipated that funding will be minimal. It is planned for the visiting teams to combine this effort with regular commitments including meetings of the North American Baptist Fellowship. These plans provide opportunity for an evaluation by the teams. Minimal funds outside of the Board's current travel allowances will be needed. Therefore, \$2,000.00 of the estimated total cost of \$6,000 will be requested as a grant from the Memorial Fund. □



WHAT DO THE LORD REQUIRE?

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn away from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God" (Micah 6:8).

Jesus gave the Church the duty to proclaim God's Word and present Jesus to the world as Savior. Submit to God, humble yourself, and pray. Wait on the Lord. He will give you power to witness. Go ye into all the world, preach the gospel, love God and love your neighbor. Learn to walk in the Spirit and you will show forth the fruit of the Spirit. We must obey!

Each of us must look deeply into ourselves. We must reevaluate what we are doing. We must re-dig our spiritual wells, re-equip and recommit our lives to Jesus Christ. Without the Holy Spirit filling and anointing us we can accomplish nothing, but with Christ we can do all things. Jesus said, "these things that I do you shall do and greater when the Holy Ghost comes upon you." We must be willing to walk in the Spirit. We have no right to ask for a tomorrow unless we have lived today as though Christ were coming tomorrow.

We have so much and others have so little. Let us begin to share with others the gospel of Jesus Christ. We must grow in grace, steep ourselves in God's Word, meditate on it and pray for others. We must have the Spirit of Christ. We must trust God and walk in love.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt

believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10: 9-10.) We must come to Jesus, confess our sins of commission and omission and be washed clean. We must take on His likeness, get self out of the way, learn to yield to Jesus and let His power work in us. We must let His love be in us and love one another as Christ loves us. We must lose our fleshly lives by faith in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit in us overcome the world. We must let Him love others through us; yielding to His will even when it hurts; and love one another with God's love, keeping our eyes on Jesus and giving Him the praise and the glory. □

-Composite of messages at SW Association meeting, compiled by Inez Mitchell.



Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Batson of Parkersburg, WV with Hope Bevis. The Batsons were recognized at Conference for being present for 49 consecutive Conferences and also celebrating on August 13 their 49th wedding anniversary.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

On Monday evening, Steven P. Crouch, recent graduate of North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD, and new pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist churches in Little Genesee, NY, and Hebron, PA, was the speaker. His topic was "Fruits of the Spirit." His text was Galatians 5:22, 23.

The Rev. Delmer Van Horn, pastor of the church in Lost Creek, WV, spoke on Tuesday evening. His message was "Serve the Lord with Joy," based on Psalms 100:1, 2.

Wednesday evening featured a special guest speaker, the Rev. James R. Tozer, pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in West Lafayette, IN. A nationally recognized authority in the area of discipleship, Dr. Tozer spoke on "Spiritual Gifts," using as his text Ephesians 4: 11-15.

Another new pastor, John A. Rau, now spiritual leader of the First and Second Brookfield, NY, churches was the speaker on Thursday evening. His very interesting and challenging message was on "Witnessing."

The Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor of the Milton, WI, congregation led the Friday evening Communion service and spoke on the subject of "Obedience." Following Communion the Conference choir, under the direction of Ann Williams of Madison, WI, presented a special concert.

The speaker for the Sabbath morning worship service was the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders. His topic was "True Disciples," based on the text John 13:15. □

FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

- August 10-16, 1980 Loretto Heights College
Denver, CO
- August 9-15, 1981 Salem College
Salem, WV
- August 8-14, 1982 Pacific Coast Association
- August 7-13, 1983 Allegheny Association

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

The General Council of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference has met in deliberative session at Battle Creek, Michigan, July 31 to August 3, 1979 to consider reports, project program and recommend the unified budget for presentation to General Conference in session, at Adrian College, Adrian, MI.

New ground has had to be explored in the working relationships of the General Council composed of at-large representatives and ex officio members all seeking together the will of God for Seventh Day Baptists. Initial experience has shown the wisdom of the organization in which the decision making process involves those most closely responsible for the implementation of programs developed.

In this spirit of working together in the love which reveals that all men should know that we are Christ's disciples, we present the following report with its recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

With quiet courtesy and gentle dignity and leading, Dr. K. Duane Hurley, the executive secretary, has been most supportive in helping the General Council to concentrate its collective effort on its appointed duties.

Dr. Hurley has caught the "vision" necessitated by the call of God to Seventh Day Baptists, to a commitment of love, faith and service, and has brought this into focus in our General Council deliberations.

It is with deep appreciation that the General Council commends Dr. Hurley for his beautiful Christian spirit directed toward us all in the fulfilling of his office, even to the extent of going beyond "the call of duty." □

THE GENERAL COUNCIL 1980

- William R. (Bob) Austin
- John D. Bevis
- Mary G. Clare
- Myrna L. Cox
- Ada J. Davis
- Duane L. Davis, Chairman
- Charles H. Graffius
- Leon R. Lawton
- Thomas L. Merchant
- Herbert E. Saunders
- James A. Skaggs
- Kenneth B. Van Horn
- K. D. Hurley, Secretary

I come in genuine humility, anticipation, and deep appreciation to this joyful moment when we can again recognize one woman in our denomination who is more than deserving of our "Robe of Achievement" award. Today we want to honor a young woman in the prime years of life who has been a living example of Christ-like love, self-sacrifice, and service—a real inspiration to family members, co-laborers in the Lord, and all those lives have been privileged to walk beside her for short or longer journeys along the road of life. This is YOUR moment—we present for recognition—**BETTIE ALMIRA BUTLER PEARSON.**

Come up here, Bettie! (Robing and seating of Bettie on stage.)



Xenia Lee Wheeler placing the Robe of Achievement on Missionary Bettie Pearson.

ROBE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Bettie Almira Butler was born on a farm near Paint Rock, Alabama, on December 22, 1931. She was the eighth and last child of Robert Lee and Almira Bottoms Butler. She was described by her mother as a "precious little brunette full of life and energy who found the world a good place to live, a place full of interesting things to see, and learn, and do."

Her mother goes on to say: "From her early childhood she was very tender in emotion, very loving and sensitive, giving evidence of wisdom beyond her years. Bettie entered school at the age of six. Because of her eagerness to learn, her father found it difficult to keep her supplied with new school books. She made two grades that year, but, by the wisdom of her teachers, she was allowed promotion only with her classes in following years."

When you were eleven, Bettie, you began to communicate with others through your written words. You published a newspaper, "The Glendale Farm News," writing the articles of local, national and war news, and soliciting subscriptions in the nearby towns of Paint Rock and New Hope. Your newspaper featured a Farm Page, Children's Page, Bird Page and one entitled "Something About the Bible." Thus, at an early age you began putting into your own words Bible stories, preparing for future opportunities for like service.

Like your brothers and sisters, you had daily chores around the farm. These, your mother says, were done "in pleasant silence," for you were "a quiet, dependable child."

It was at Camp MILES that you had the joyful experience of giving your heart to the Lord. You were baptized by your Uncle Ary T. Bottoms and joined the Paint Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church at the age of sixteen. Another vivid memory of Camp MILES, I am sure, was meeting David Pearson who was serving on a youth team. You began corresponding, and for one year both of you attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. You also attended Southern Missionary College in Collegedale, Tennessee, for a time, but received your Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Christian Education from Salem College, Salem, West Virginia.

Bettie, I well remember your sensitivity to the feelings and concerns of those around you at Camp MILES in 1949. You demonstrated the ability to think for yourself, to consider "What would Jesus have me do?" and to quietly act accordingly without any fanfare. I am sure the Lord said in effect, "You have been faithful in these acts of Love; I will give you ever greater opportunities to live and witness for Me."



You and David were so alike in your desire to live and to dress simply, and to serve your Lord wherever He leads. On September 20, 1953, you two were married and you served only a few months in the pastoral work in Paint Rock, Alabama, when you received and accepted a call to the pastorate in Berea, West Virginia. It was while you were there that the Missionary Society made known the need for a missionary to go to the Makapwa Mission, Nyasaland, Africa. Bettie, you and David had for some time been deeply conscious of the Lord calling you into this type of service, and you answered, "Here we are. Send us!"

On September 20, 1954, your first wedding anniversary, you boarded the plane at a New York airport for your first term of service in Nyasaland. A busy five years followed, during which you learned to speak and write Chichewa, you taught in the mission school, you wrote Sabbath School lessons, encouraged Sabbath School teachers, made primitive camping trips to the Northern churches, supporting your husband in every way—and you became a mother to Deborah. In 1959, the three of you returned home for a year's furlough.

On September 20, 1960, you celebrated your seventh wedding anniversary as you left the United States for a second term of missionary service in Nyasaland. You spent another five years at Makapwa Mission, meeting the challenges of each new day with God-given strength and wisdom and love. You helped with the Sabbath Schools, taught Bible stories to the many African children who came to play with little Debbie, who I believe learned to speak Chichewa before she learned English. Joanna was welcomed into the family during these years and Debbie was ready to begin formal education. There were no English schools nearby, so, Bettie, you added to your full schedule the challenge of tutoring Debbie at home.

In 1965, your family again returned to the United States on furlough. Undecided as to whether you would return to Nyasaland (now the independent country of Malawi), David accepted the pastorate of the Richburg, N.Y., Church. During the year in Richburg, you helped to teach a Bible Class that met weekly at the Richburg Central School.

In 1966, your family again felt the leading of God to return to Malawi, so you moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where David took some more schooling. In 1967, you again flew to Malawi, this time living in the city of Blantyre. You continued to help with Sabbath Schools, writing the children's Sabbath School lessons and having them published in Chichewa. You also had classes for the African women in which you taught sewing and cooking; you held training sessions for the women leaders of the churches in Malawi; you saw the need in the neighborhood in which you lived for the European children to know about God and His love and will for their lives, and so you began to have Bible classes in your home for nearby children. In addition, you had the opportunity to teach Religious Instruction classes at the government high schools.

In 1971, you were back in the United States for another treasured visit with family and loved ones. During this furlough, David was able to complete his seminary training in Philadelphia, and in the summer of 1972, your

family returned to Malawi for your fourth term of missionary service. I know it was not easy to leave daughter Debbie, in the States to complete her education, but your deep love for God and devotion to His will gave you strength to lay your cares upon Him in trust that He would carry your burdens, comfort your heart and give you His "peace that passes understanding." Your father and your brother died during this term of service and you found comfort and strength in ministering to those needs near you in the name of our Lord, while you trusted Him to touch hearts at home and use them to do what you could not personally do. The churches continued to grow in Malawi. In 1976, you came home, feeling you would not return again to Africa where you had served for nearly 18 years.

In 1977, you, David and Joanna went to Plainfield, New Jersey, to serve in the pastorate. Here you continued to support your husband in every way, and I know "the heart of your husband doth safely trust in you." You entertained denominational workers, organized and carried on a Bible Club for neighborhood black children, presented many children's messages about Malawi, served on the Growth Force, taught in Sabbath School, served as chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Women's Society recording secretary and church secretary, while continuing to write Sabbath School lessons in Chichewa for the children of Malawi, and sending them back for publication and immediate use there.

Bettie, you have humbly and unobtrusively served our Lord, making the most of every opportunity; you are an inspiration to each of us who know you personally and have observed you in Christ's service, for we see what God can do with a life committed to Him in day-by-day living. May God continue to bless you and David, and to use you to His glory as you embark once again for your fifth term of missionary service in Africa. Leon Lawton tells me that you will leave on September 20, 1979, your 26th wedding anniversary.

"Her children arise up and call her blessed" (Debbie, a registered nurse in Rome, Georgia; Joanna, a student at King's College, N.Y., and SCSC worker this summer); "her husband also, and he praiseth her." We join in honoring you, Bettie Butler Pearson! □



Rev. and Mrs. David Pearson



Rev. Earl Cruzan

'My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you.'

John 15:12

Love is the basic response to life, both in our response to God, and in our relationships with others. This love is a genuineness of life which flows out not only to touch, but to also involve oneself with God and people.

Just prior to Jesus' giving this commandment to love as He has loved, He has spoken about this involvement with God. He says, "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love."

Obedience is a key response to God if we are to know the fullness of God in our lives. We may recognize God as creator and sustainer of the universe. We may believe that He is. We may even believe that He is a God of love who reaches out in love to redeem us from our sin. But we don't truly know and enjoy that love unless we are obedient. Perhaps, this is one of the things that Jesus had in mind when He took a little child and put him on His knee and told the people "except as you become as a little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

As I was thinking about this, an incident came to my mind. When I was pastor at Dodge Center, Minn., we experienced some very severe winters. Our family was young then. Nancy used to like to go with me sometimes when I called. I went out to see the Ted Turpins on this particu-

lar winter day. The wind was blowing and the roads were drifting full. It was a miserable day. The roads closest to town were drifted full when we started home, so I went another way. I hadn't gotten very far when I got stuck in a drift which was creeping across the road. After trying for a time, I realized I had to have help to get through that drift. What I did may seem foolish to many. It would have been foolish except I had a very obedient child. I went back to get Ted to bring a tractor to pull us through the drift. I told Nancy to stay in the car as it was very miserable to get out in the storm and the drifting snow. I told her what I was going to do and that I would be back just as soon as I could. Time seems to pass slowly when one is alone in a car in the midst of a snow storm. It was long for her. She was a bit frightened by it, but she obeyed and was waiting when we returned, and we were soon on our way home. Had she not obeyed, she might have gotten lost in the snow storm.

You know, because we don't obey our heavenly Father, we get lost in the storms of this world. Obeying, we may have times of doubt and questioning, wondering if everything is going to work out all right. Our Father has promised that He will always do what He has promised us. We need to trust Him and obey Him.

Total and Complete Obedience

It is total and complete obedience that God asks of us. We find that to be difficult many times. It may not be too hard to be obedient in some areas, but in others we find it very difficult, and ironically, not all of us find these areas to be the same. Therefore, it is easy to excuse ourselves and to judge others.

Thomas Watson said: "To obey God in some things, and not in others, shows an unsound heart... Childlike obedience moves toward every command of God, as the needle points where the loadstone draws." I would like to add to that the quotation from G. Macdonald, "Doing the will of God, leaves me no time for disputing about His plans."

Robots perform according to the programming they receive. God did not make us robots. He made us programmers. He gave us minds with which to think. We are the deciding one. He left us guidance and instruction because He wants only the best for us. He intends only good for us. We don't always follow the instructions. We think we know better. Sometimes we respond in the manner of the person who said: "This is the way God would have done it if He had had all the facts."

Disobedience is that which separates from God. It results in action which is sin. It was disobedience which made it necessary for God to drive Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. Man knew. Eve responded to her temptation, "God told us not to eat of this tree." Satan enticed her with, "The only reason He doesn't want you to eat of it is because when you do, you will become like God. It won't hurt you—you won't die." And she responded to this enticement. And so did Adam. The fruit tasted good, they were not struck dead as with some potent poison. But something did happen. They lost that closeness to God which they had known, and they were ashamed. They hid themselves. They were afraid. And we have been trying ever since to regain that closeness to God which our ancestors knew in the garden before they were disobedient to God.

Two Motivations

Jesus said: Love one another as I have loved you. Love and obedience must be coupled together in the fullness of Christian living. There are two motivations for obedience: fear and love. Fear of punishment is one and a response in love is the other. There are still many people who obey God out of fear. They are afraid of punishment. They are afraid of missing out on eternal life. They search the Scriptures for its instructions. They are careful to try to interpret each word of guidance in specific do's and don'ts. They look at these lists and peruse them carefully and examine their lives in regard to them so as to judge whether they are obedient to God or not. They are like slaves who work because they fear the taskmaster's lash. Or they are as the child who tries to hide his action and who may even lie about it because he is afraid of a spanking.

And then, there are those, and may their number increase, who respond to God out of love and out of this love write His laws upon their hearts, that is, make them so much a part of their life that they don't have to look at a checklist. The teachings of Christ are continually being built into their response to life.

Jesus has told us that we should not be men-pleasers—that is, moving this way and that according to whom we are with, because we want to keep in the good graces of mankind. Rather, we should want to be obedient children of God, because we know that God intends only the best for His family.

Sin separates from God. Sin is disobedience, transgression of the law. What law? We may ask: And the answer is: the moral law of God as revealed in the Ten Commandments. These were given for guidance that we might know the fullness of life. Let us never lose sight of their purpose. They are not for judgment, they are not for restraint nor restriction. They are for guidance. They reveal the direction which we receive from God. On account of man's disobedience; the temptations which come from Satan; the lack of reliance on the Holy Spirit; the sin which separates us from God, God gave the sacrificial system. It was quite specific and detailed. However, the

sacrificial system was given to convey God's love to those who sought Him. Through the sacrifice, the taking of life and offering it to God, there was the promise of atonement, cleansing from sin. This foreshadowed the love which God has revealed in Jesus Christ. The culmination of this sacrificial system was in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross. People began to offer sacrifices to please God. They did this because they thought He would be delighted in the aroma of cooking food, and of a wood fire even as they were. They also offered sacrifices out of duty. Samuel remonstrated with King Saul "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22). The Psalmist declared "For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:16-17).

"To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats" (Isa. 1:11).

"For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6).

It was not the aroma of the cooking food that pleased God. The sacrificial system was given to assure God's people of forgiveness. The details of sacrifice sometimes overlooked entirely their purpose and the need for forgiveness.

Life the Price of Sin

It is because of our disobedience that we are in need of a savior. Life must be given to atone for sin. We rejoice that we know that Savior, Jesus Christ.

Even Jesus was tested for obedience. Satan tempted Him in the wilderness before He began His ministry. He was sorely tempted in the garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion. The test came to Him there. He said: I have the power to lay down my life and I have power to take it up again. His humanity and His love for life, physical life upon this earth is reflected in Gethsemane.

Obedience means the recognition of power and of authority—recognition of one who is more powerful than we are, one who is wiser than we are, one who has authority over us. We can obey out of fear; or we can obey out of love.

When we obey out of fear, nothing is changed. There is no recognition of guilt or need for forgiveness; only a response to avoid punishment. Life must be changed when we come to God recognizing His power and His love. Our obedience to God must come from the love which wells up within our hearts. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. And Jesus lay down His life for His friend. He laid down His life for you and for me, and for everyone who will come accepting that sacrifice. You are my friends if you do what I command you, Jesus said; "This is my command: love one another."

Our response to God is primary—we respond to Him because we abide in His love. We seek to know His will so that we may follow it. We seek the presence of the Holy Spirit so that we may be strengthened in God's way. Responding to God because we know that He intends only the best for us, we begin to ask the questions: Why? Instead of rebelling against God's instructions because we think they are restrictive, we begin to seek to know the reasons for His giving them to us. We eagerly search to know the truth, the reality of life lived "thin His guidance. We seek for answers instead of rebelling with a "Why should I do this? Or why should I do that?"

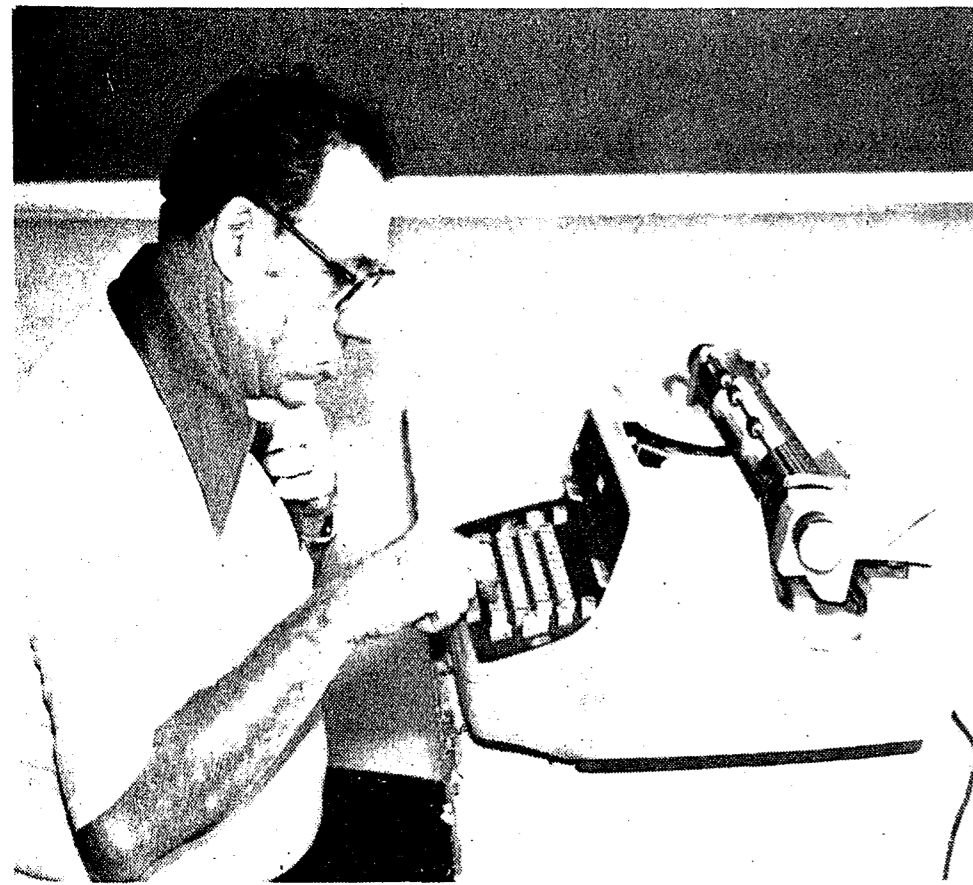
We so often take a "Show me" position rather than an inquiring one which comes from knowing that it is right even if I have difficulty in understanding it. We look to God and His word for the reasons why. This is response in love.

As parents we often fail—we often fail to tell our children "why." A young man, recently married, said: "We were told to do this and not do that, but we were never told, why." He was referring to certain Biblical teachings. This is so true in many areas of life. We need to tell them why, even as we need the answers to the why's of life. Jesus was obedient. He said: for this purpose came I into

(continued on p. 25)

OBEDIENCE
The Key to Our
Relationship with God

September 1979



Horrors! What do you mean Gordon, no music until the OWM offering is received!



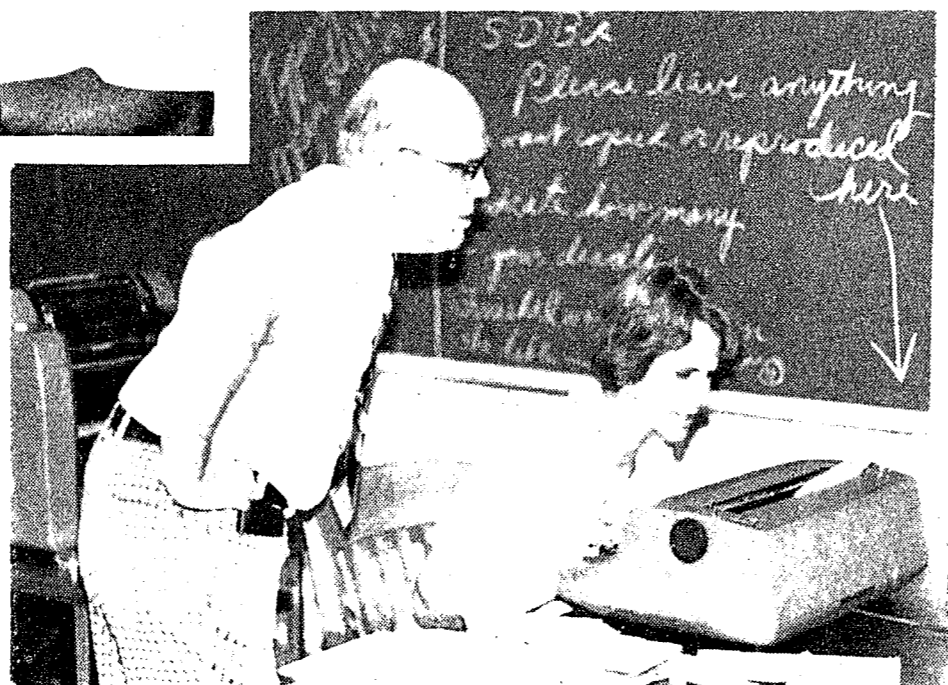
Our leader in action.



The more she sings, the more I drink.



Who said Frosted Flakes puts a tiger in your tank?



It just won't do what I tell it.



Rod, if I can do it so can you!



No, we don't have room service.



Are newlyweds Don and Madge Van Horn receiving counsel from Rev. Don Sanford?

In 1671 the first Seventh Day Baptist Church in America was organized and in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of that event at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in 1869 meeting in Shiloh, NJ, President William C. Whitford of Milton College, Milton, WI, suggested that plans for an appropriate memorial service should be developed for that occasion. The suggestion was approved by the Conference at its 1871 session in Adams Center, NY.

Shortly after that action, President Whitford of Milton College and President Jonathan Allen of Alfred University urged that a fund of \$100,000. be raised to commemorate this important date in addition to the memorial service. Income earned on this fund was to be made available to the two educational institutions towards their operating expenses and for aiding other denominational societies in carrying on their work.

In 1872 at Eastern Association meetings held with the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway, RI, the Education Committee of that Association reported on a plan to raise a Memorial Fund which was adopted and forwarded by delegates to sister Associations. All these Associations quickly adopted the plan and forwarded it to General Conference for approval.

General Conference convening in Southampton, IL, in August 1872 approved the plan and in 1873 the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund was incorporated in the state of New Jersey with nine Trustees. Included among the original Trustees were two from this area viz Calvert B. Cottrell, a member of our congregation (Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, RI) and Thomas S. Greenman of the Greenmanville Church in Mystic, CT.

Still another of the first trustees was Isaac D. Titsworth of Plainfield, NJ, who in 1881 was presented with a gold-headed cane by other members of the Board of Trustees.

It is this cane that I now am privileged to present to you on behalf of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society today and very appropriately on your golden wedding anniversary and to read the following citation prepared by Rev. Albert N. Rogers, President of the Historical Society:

"Pastor Harris, at the request of the Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society, I am pleased to present to you this gold-headed cane in recognition of your twenty years service as an officer of the Society. Your service has been faithful and thoughtful as well as generous. Your gifts and wise counsel, and not least your prayers, are much appreciated. May this cane, like the Psalmist's well-known rod and staff, comfort and protect you against all enemies physical and spiritual. As it has been used by others before you, may it represent the continuity of stewardship and fellowship in which you have been a leader. We commend you gratefully to our Heavenly Father's care, asking only that when you no longer need it the cane be returned for use by others who come after. We thank you." □

Remarks of Karl G. Stillman at the presentation of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society's gold-headed cane to Rev. Everett T. Harris, July 14, 1979, at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, RI, during the Sabbath morning service.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HONORS
REV. EVERETT HARRIS



An informal report of the trip to England and Holland by K. D. and Shireen Hurley from June 26 to July 11, 1979.

It seems a dream that K. D. and I ever left the USA as we catch up with work at home and recover from jet-lag, except for the warmth we feel when we remember the dear friends we saw and with whom we worshipped in England and Holland.

We were thrilled to hear Baptists from all over Europe say, each in his or her native language, "Christ is sufficient for all my needs!" This took place in the huge convention center in Brighton, England, on the opening night of the European Baptists Federation Congress before an audience of four thousand. As each person quoted the Scripture, a large, colored shape of his or her country was put in place on a map. It was exciting to see some countries represented for the first time in many years.



Dr. K.D. Hurley represented SDB's at the England BWA meeting.

On Friday afternoon, June 29, we took the train to London where Deacon Willard Smith of the Mill Yard SDB Church picked us up and drove us to his home. His sweet wife, Christianna, (more often called Christina, she explained) had a delicious dinner prepared for us.

Sabbath Day we shared singing, Bible study, Sabbath School, morning worship, lunch and a youth meeting with guests from all the churches in England. Regret was expressed that Pastor James McGeachy, who was hospitalized for an operation, could not be there.

Musings of a Secretary's wife

After church services, which are currently held in a rented school, we all visited the house recently purchased and being renovated as an S.D.B. church center in London. The sanctuary, which will accommodate 60 or 70 people, is nearly completed with new construction, fresh paint and a beautiful baptistry.

While the rest of the people were talking and looking, Mrs. Codrington invited me into her home next door to sit down and have a cup of tea. Conference goers remember that Mrs. Codrington was at Conference at Houghton last summer, and then went on to Canada to visit her sister. The Codringtons are in the process of remodeling their own home, so she had not planned on anyone's coming in to see the "mess things were in"; but the dining room is nicely completed and before she knew it she had more than Yours Truly to serve cups of tea.

There was a rose bush outside the window that was gorgeous, as were several in their tiny front yard. Everyone in both England and Holland, we observed, makes the most of their hankie-sized yards with flowers of many hues and kinds.

K. D. Served as "Sounding Board"

The men of the churches talked far into the night after the Sabbath at the Smiths with K. D. acting as "a sounding board" while Christina kept a complete dinner hot. At about 11 p.m. she gave up and offered me a bowl of hot soup. I had enjoyed a cool drink sometime



Members gather by Mill Yard SDB Church in London, the church has since been completed.

before when she served the children what looked to me like pizza—just like a Sabbath supper in the U.S. for many families we know.

Sunday morning Deacon Smith drove us back to Brighton because he had never had the excuse to go there before. Ancel and Janet Marshall also went along. In fact, they had planned to take their car, but it broke down. In the transfer the sandwiches Janet had prepared for their lunch got left in their car. We are still wondering if they had anything to eat before they got back at the end of the day.

As we sat in the back seat together I learned that they are planning to attend a Bible college together soon, in preparation for full-time Christian service. They have applied for a government grant and now have to decide what to do about their house because they will be living on campus during their college course. Janet is already trained as a street evangelist and enjoys getting out to talk with people about Jesus.

The weather, being cooler than we had expected, was nevertheless very pleasant and conducive to nice strolls along the beach at Brighton. There were round, colored stones instead of sand covering the beach. An art exhibit was going on all the while in booths built especially for artists to show their paintings, many good, some so-so and a few, terrible. Greens for sunning and playing games were abundant as well as other attractions and snack concessions, wading pools for children, canvas chairs for rent and other things confirming the fact that this is a resort.

We saw the Royal Pavilion lit up with colored lights one evening and toured the building the next day. We also toured to Arundel Castle one other morning. I went window shopping several times but the high prices locked my purse against purchases except for post cards and two character mugs on sale. These mugs come in many sizes, hand-painted faces of both real and fictional people: Captain Henry Morgan, Henry the Eighth, Robinson Crusoe and Scrooge, to name just a few. Mine are miniature, but I saw large ones for sale. They are obviously popular tourist items.

On to Holland

Flying to Holland on July 6, we were met at the airport by the Secretary of S.D.B Churches in the Netherlands, Jan Lek, who drove us to the home of Elder and Mrs. Nieuwstraten in Haarlem. The Kramer sisters were visiting too (also at Conference last year), and we all had a wonderful time mixing the English with Dutch. We were tempted with all kinds of goodies with tea and coffee then and many times during our visit. I could feel my girth enlarging!

Church on that Sabbath Day was attended also by visitors from other churches of Holland. A good sermon by Elder Nieuwstraten was translated softly for us by Jan. Another gentleman conducted Sabbath School. K. D. and I sang duets; and he made a report on S.D.B. World Federation affairs, discussed denominational activities in the USA, and talked about India. Jan Lek served as interpreter. Leon Lawton had visited in Holland when he and K. D. were on their way to India last January. So the people assembled in Haarlem were particularly interested in the report and slides.

In fact, we are amazed at their interest in reaching out to other churches—in England, Germany, Poland and other places, including the Women's Society's substantial contributions to our Women's Board to help with our projects. For such small churches, they have unusual vision, many interesting activities and good ideas which should enable them to grow.

At the end of the day Jan drove us to his home in Hank where his

wife, Ruth, and small sons welcomed us. Davie is four years old and Vincent one, having been born just before Jan left for World Federation meetings in the States last summer.

On Sunday we all visited some old, quaint villages, several windmills and climbed up into one to watch it work. All over Holland these wonderful wind machines are being reactivated and restored in the interest of energy conservation. We also visited an old castle which is now used as a Town Hall. The government opens all such historical places to the public free of charge, although one is expected to tip the guide.

Jan has a nice office he has built on the third floor of their home, where he keeps a small but good printing press and darkroom equipment. Photography is one of his many talents.

Ruth has many pretty plants in the house, including an English ivy which reaches almost all the way around the living room ceiling. Many colorful flowers also grow in both back and front yards.

Back in Haarlem for the last two days of our trip, the Nieuwstratens took us to the famous Hiding Place of Corrie Ten Boom's inspiring book and movie. Elder Nieuwstraten, a carpenter by trade, was hired to make "an artistic hole" in the wall of the closet so visitors could see the tiny space where so many Jews had hidden during the war. To see the place was special, because the attraction is no longer open to the public.

Another place where Elder Nieuwstraten had spent a great amount of time was in helping to repair and maintain the Great Church, St. Bavo, a Gothic cathedral begun



Shireen Hurley in Haarlem with the Nieuwstraten family.



Dutch SDB's display a banner made at youth camp.

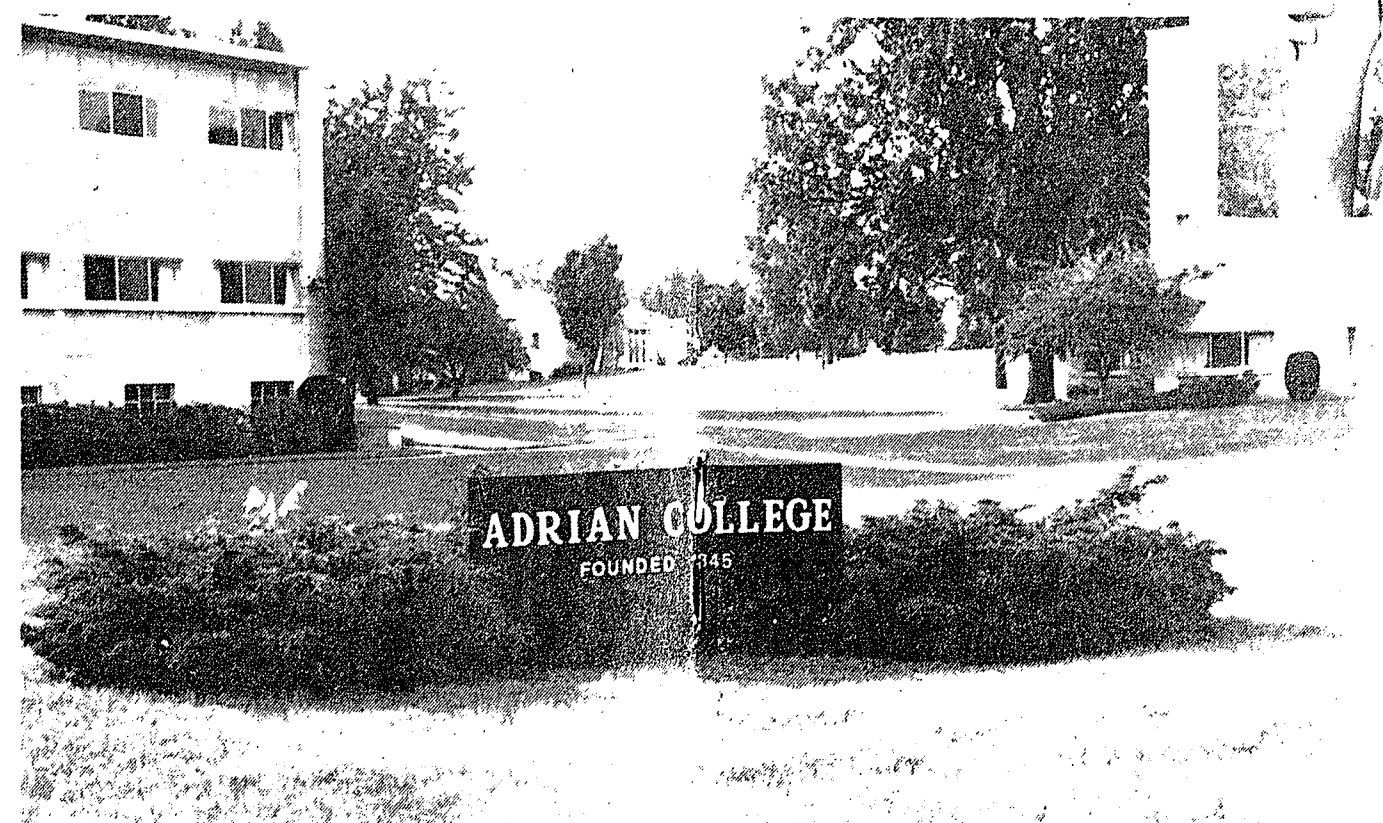
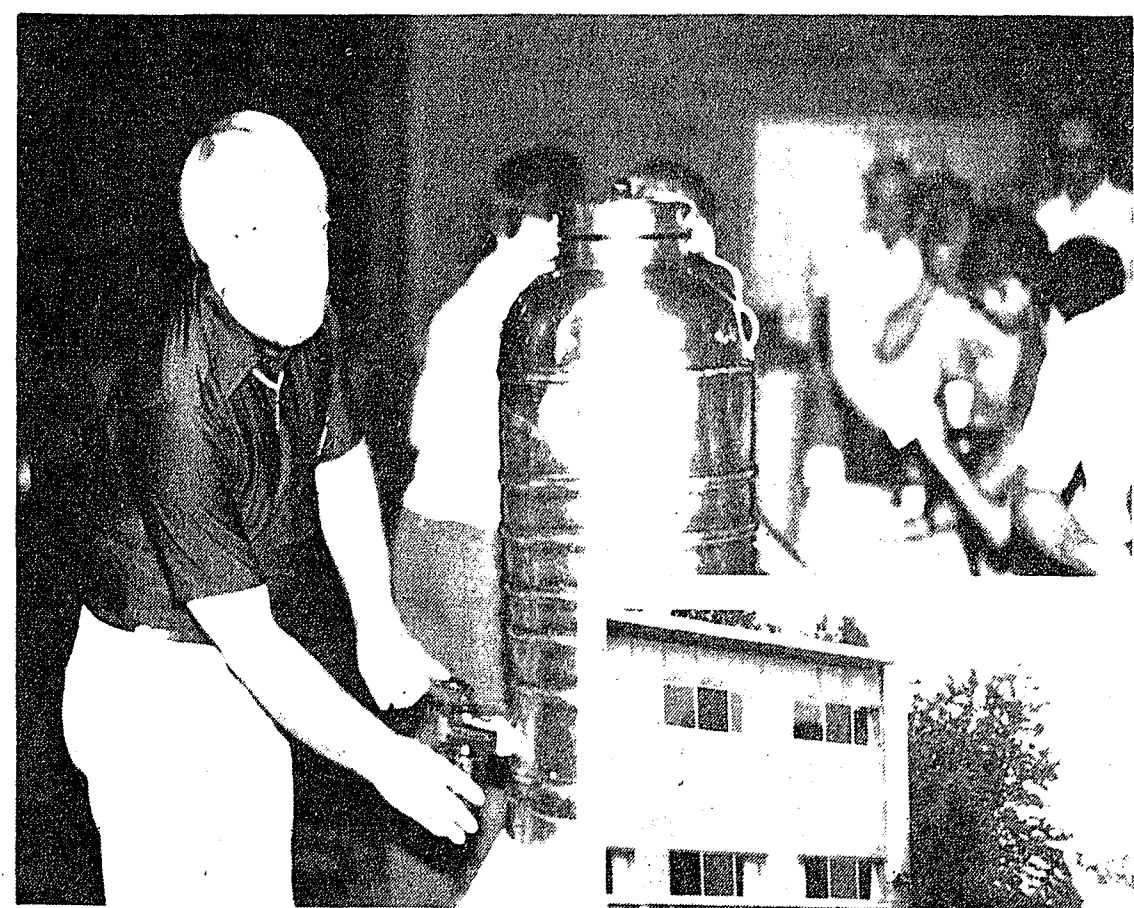
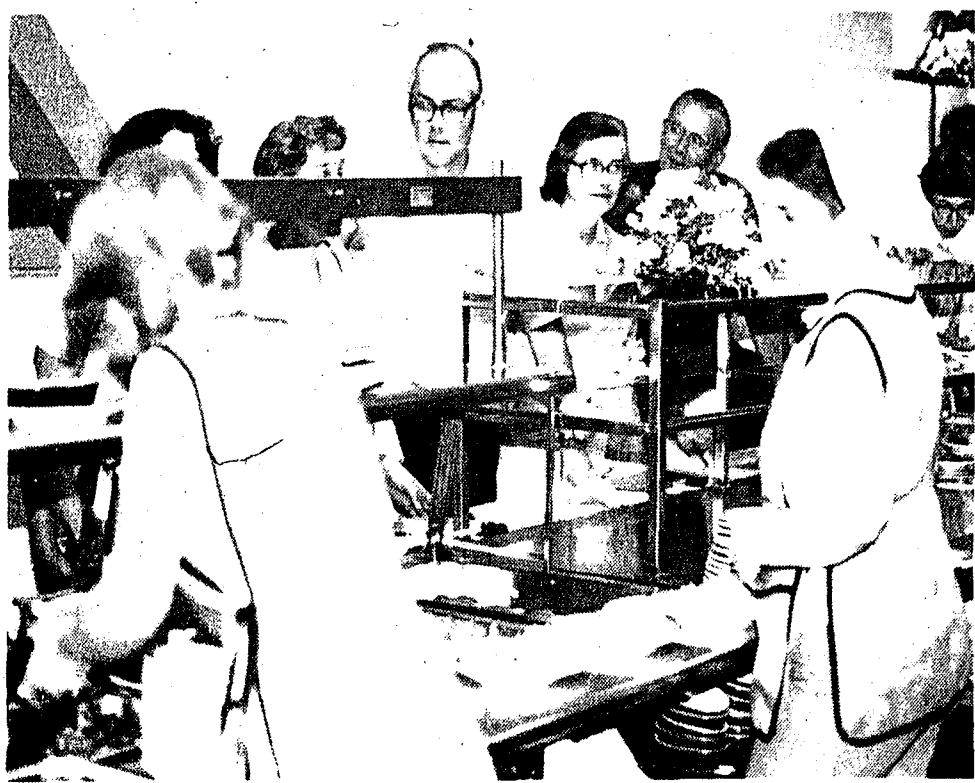
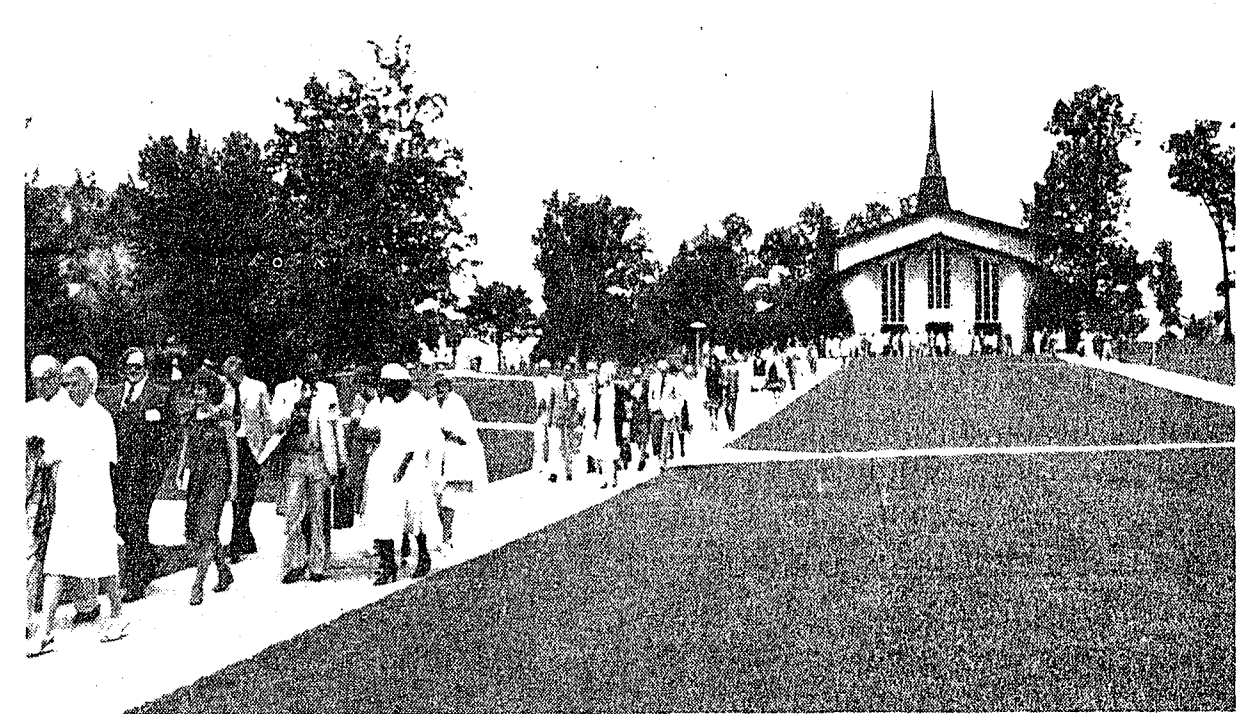
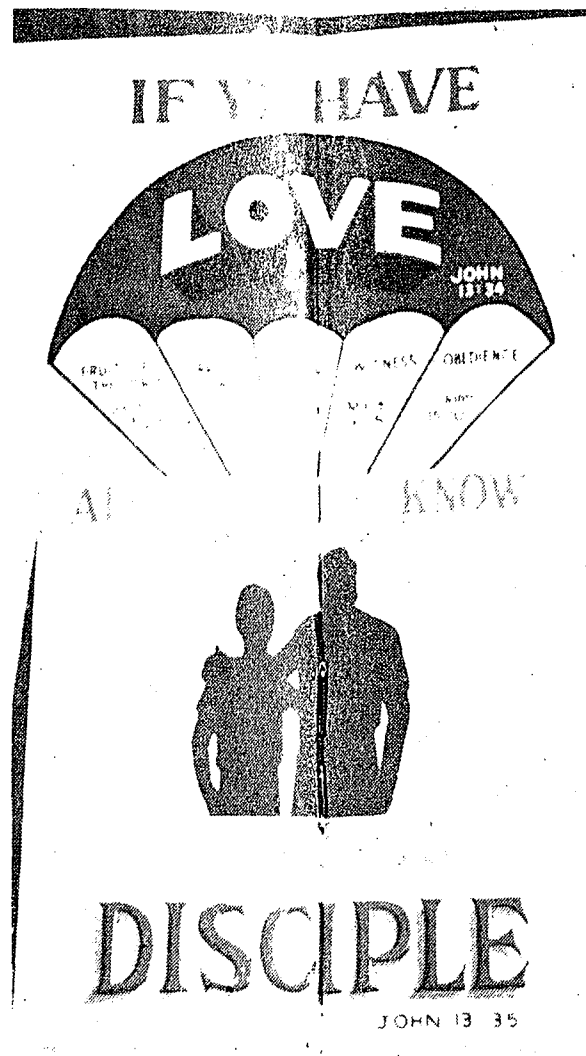
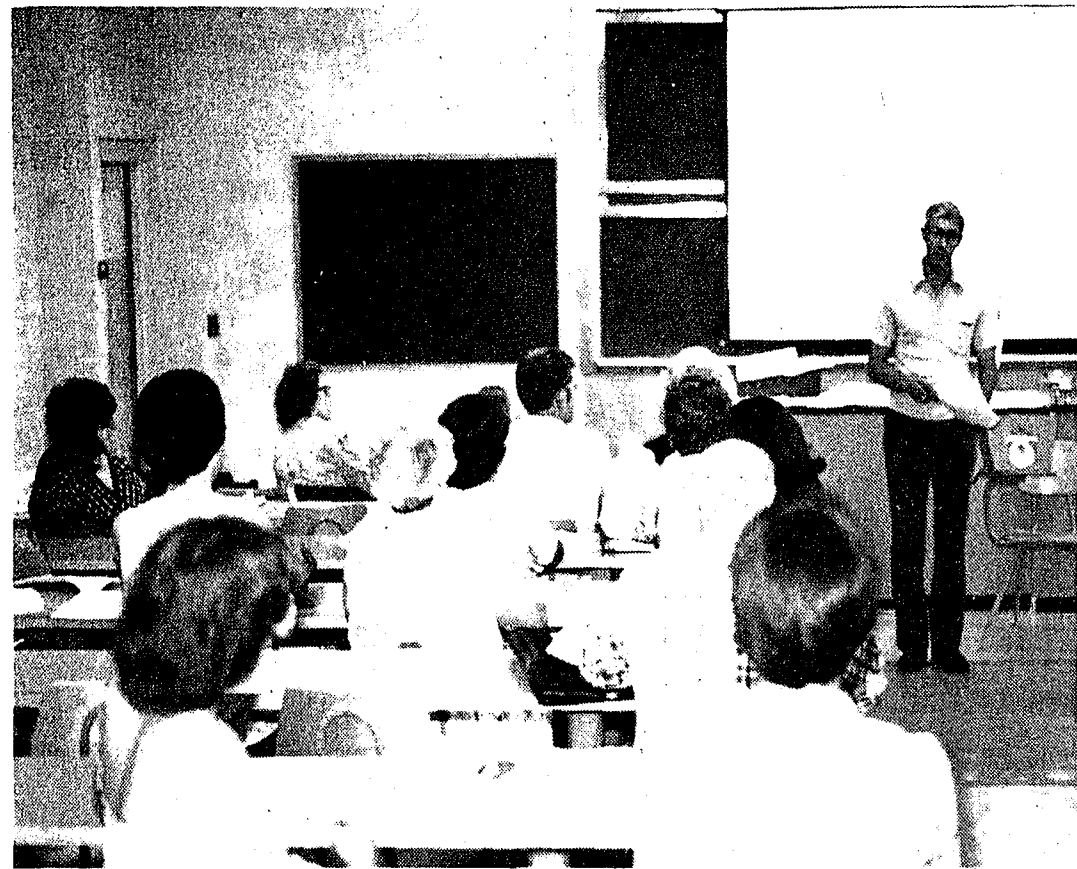
sometime in the early thirteen hundreds in Haarlem. He took us up a spiral staircase to the Nun's Walk, where we could look down on the entire main sanctuary and view the mammoth organ at the other end. We went on up to the attic to see the inner structure, the massive beams and many old pieces of the building discarded up there, gathering the dust of the ages. We saw an electrician wiring one of the chandeliers and the huge treadmill workmen use to bring equipment and supplies up from the floor of the cathedral. We even went outside onto a narrow walkway just below the steeple but many, many stories above the marketplace. Fascinating!

An organist was practicing for a recital on Thursday, playing snatches as he tried out various registrations. It was wondrous to listen to the organ and see the elegance of it. It was built by the famous Christian Muller between 1735 and 1738. We appreciated so much all our hosts shared with us of their heritage and countries.

The dedication of both the Jamaicans in England and the Dutch in Holland is inspiring and heart-warming. They enjoy getting together occasionally, too, for fellowship and sharing of ideas. The Dutch Conference is sponsoring several youth from England at camp this August.

The miles are many, cultures differ and languages are various but Christians the world over—and particularly Baptists and Seventh Day Baptists—can find unity in the loving concern Jesus taught us all to have for each other as well as for those around us who need to be brought into His fellowship.

That rich love and fellowship we found in abundant measure on our trip to England and Holland.



—fourth in a series
on our China mission
by Tom Merchant, historian

MISSION TO CHINA

The Lady Doctors Part 2

For the first time since the beginning of the medical work in 1883, there were two doctors at the mission so that one could relieve the other and one could maintain the routine at the dispensary if the other needed to leave for a while. Therefore, it was not long before Dr. Crandall began conducting clinics in surrounding communities.

In 1913 there was a second attempt at a revolution, which left the mission buildings bullet-ridden but the missionaries and their work intact.

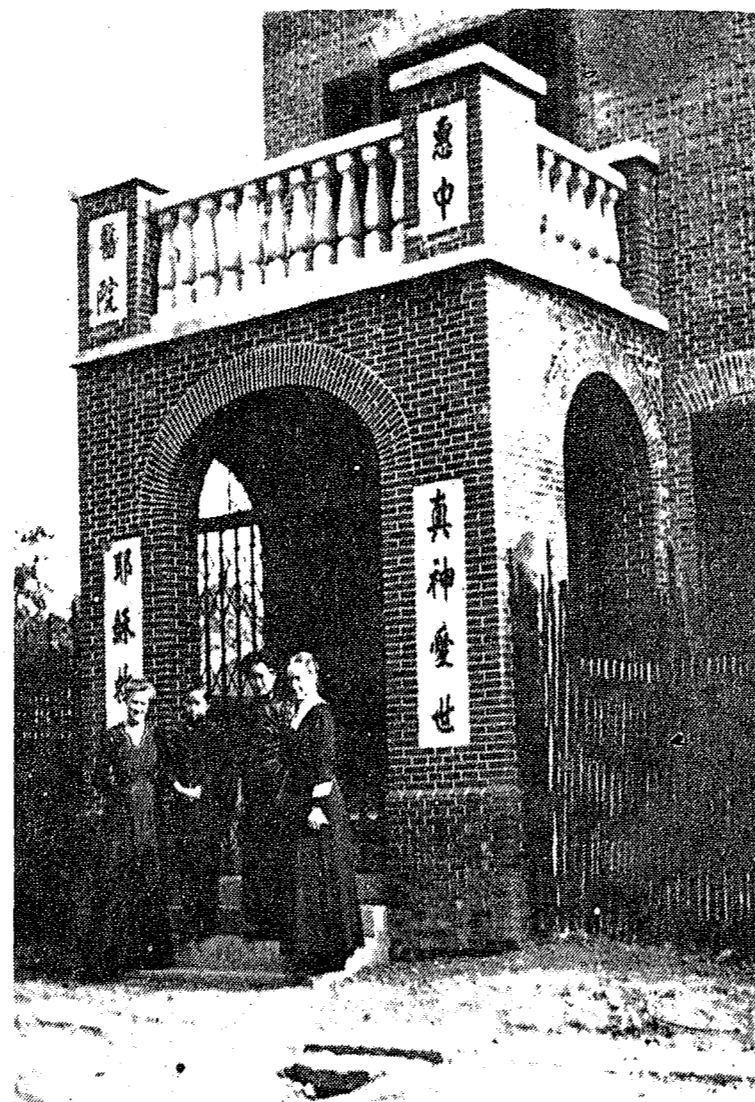
Just as Dr. Swinney early had felt the need for in-patient beds, so for a number of years Dr. Palmborg had been planning to erect a hospital in Lieu-oo. In 1916 the new three-story building was completed, with rooms furnished in the names of donors. Unfortunately, even as Dr. Palmborg was realizing her dream, she again fell victim to serious illness. Because surgery and a lengthy period of rest seemed to be required, the Missionary Society sent out the call for at least a temporary replacement for Dr. Palmborg. The one who answered was Bessie B. Sinclair, M.D., an American convert to Sabbath-keeping who was working in England at the time.

Before Dr. Palmborg could be relieved, however, Dr. Crandall was taken seriously ill and returned to the United States on leave and shortly after Dr. Sinclair's arrival in China in 1917, a worsening of Dr. Palmborg's condition forced her evacuation. Once again a new missionary was left alone with the work, though it was only a matter of months before Dr. Crandall's return.

Knowing that her stay in the United States was going to be much longer than the usual missionary furlough, when Dr. Palmborg departed China in 1918 she took with her E-ling, the daughter whom she had adopted as a baby in 1903, and who spent the next several years as a student at Milton and Salem Colleges, and Helen Su, one of her native assistants in the hospital, who completed nurses' training at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in the interim.

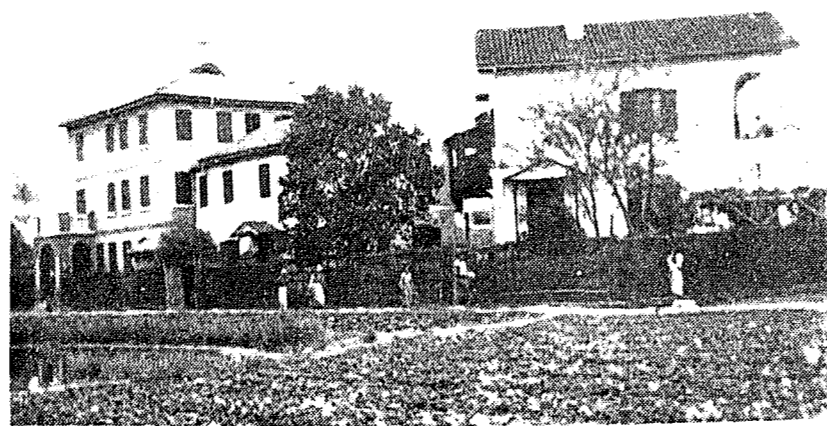
In 1921 an auto road was completed between Shanghai and Lieu-oo, reducing the one-way trip to about one-and-a-half hours, and thereby greatly improving communication among our missionaries in the two locations. By this time, the hospital had been partially electrified with the installation of a generator, and often was filled to its capacity of about forty patients.

The following year the people of Lieu-oo and the surrounding communities threw a giant celebration to honor Dr. Palmborg on her return to China, and to show their love for one who had won their hearts in her five short years in China: sadly, Dr. Sinclair had decided that she must return to the United States to care for her aged mother. There were speeches, dramas and banners; the new bus company provided free transportation to any coming from Shanghai to the celebration; and the local citizens paved the roads on the mission property to join the new auto road. Also in 1922, Miss Su began offering nurses' training at the Lieu-oo hospital.



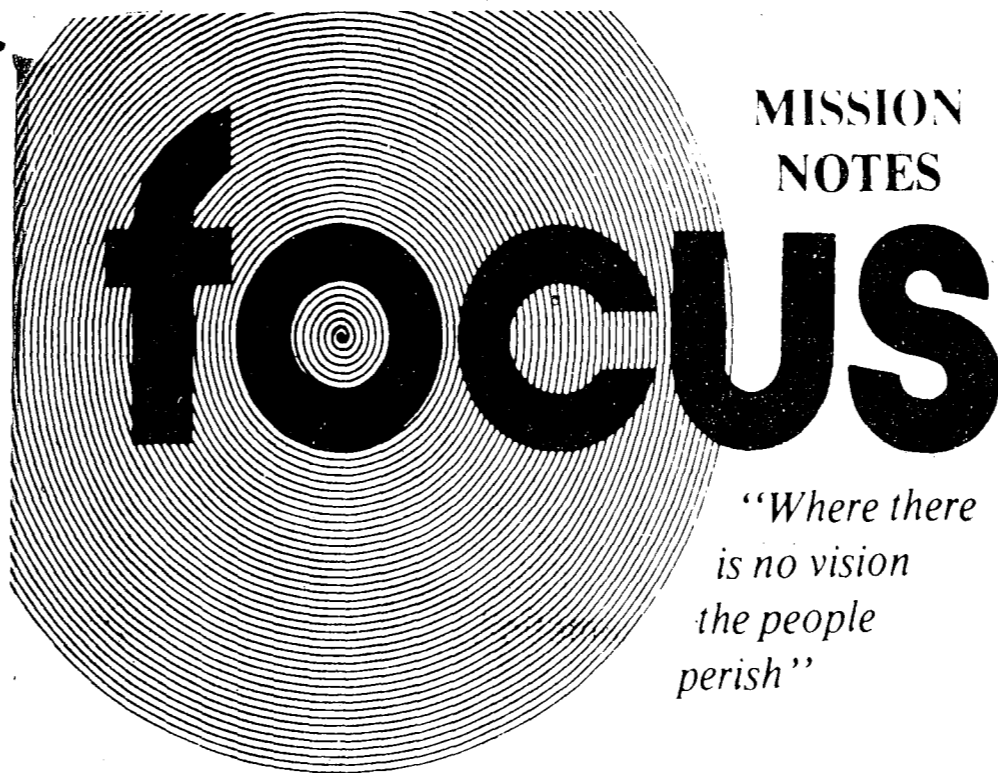
Dr. Palmborg, two nurses, and Dr. Crandall. Front entrance to hospital, 1916. The Chinese characters at the top mean "Grace Hospital." On the pillar nearest the camera they say "The True God Loves the World," and on the other, "Jesus Saves Men."

In 1924 war again came to Lieu-oo, this time forcing evacuation by missionaries, native workers and patients, and leaving the facilities shell-damaged and terribly vandalized. When the missionaries were able to begin the reconstruction, it was in a community now named "Liuho" at the orders of the new ruling party in China. After thirty years as a medical missionary, Dr. Palmborg was giving up that work to begin a new one in industrial missions to the Chinese women; and, after forty years, word that Doctors Palmborg and Sinclair were to be succeeded by a George Thorngate, M.D., brought an end to the era of "The Lady Doctors." (NEXT MONTH—"The Great Years") □



Front of first hospital buildings, 1916

The Sabbath Recorder



"Where there
is no vision
the people
perish"

Verse for the month: "Never forget to be truthful and kind. Hold these virtues tightly. Write them deep within your heart. If you want favor with both God and man and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

—Proverbs 3:3-6 (LB)

● **MALAWI, Africa:** A study is being made of plans for a new maternity unit at the Thomas Health Centre, Malawi. People of the area have made bricks. The next step is approval by the Private Hospital Association of Malawi and the Ministry of Health.

● **STANTON, CA:** The newest SDB Missionary Pastor, Gabriel Bejjani, and his family began their ministry with the Evangelical Community Church in Stanton, CA on August 1, 1979. Let us uphold this new church and this new MP in our prayers as they seek to reach out in the community with the love of Jesus!

● **MALAWI, Africa:** Area and local church meetings, conducted by Secretary Nantikwa and Mr. Makatanje, are being held in southern Malawi. Two of the classes are on stewardship and local church administration. On June 9-10 these were held at Nthinda and Kaponda SDB Churches. The Fullers wrote that there were over forty people at Kaponda that represented all of Pastor Malonda's churches.

● **JAMAICA, West Indies:** A letter from the Secretary of the Crandall High School Board in Kingston, Jamaica contained the following: "School is now closed, and during the summer we will be effecting some repairs to the building as well as making a total reassessment of the entire curriculum administration." Let us uphold the CHS Board in our prayers as they seek to re-evaluate, asking that God lead them in all of their decisions.

● **MEXICO:** A recent letter from Elias Camacho tells of the organization of the "General Conference of the Church of Christ of the Seventh Day". Let us uphold our brethren who are involved in the leadership roles of this newly organized Conference.

● **MALAWI, Africa:** "One student, namely Watson Chiyawa, has been graduated (from Likabula Bible Institute) this year and the Board has recommended him to start our work in Zomba district while living at his home. (This action is) Because we have some Christians who are working in Zomba and some students in the Chancellor College who are lacking someone to lead them. As Mr. Sulani is now better from his eye troubles, I hope by next year he will come out together with Mr. Munthali, and there will be left one student that is Mr. Manyamba. With regard to Brother Benesse, negotiations are underway with the Malawi Government and with the Mozambique Government for his permission to enter in Malawi for study." This update on the Ministerial Students in Malawi came in a recent letter written by the Corresponding Secretary of the Central Africa Conference, G.P. Nantikwa. Please remember these students in your prayers and especially Brother Benesse as he seeks permission to enter Malawi to begin his studies.

● **SPECIAL CONSULTATION, Adrian, MI:** On Friday afternoon of the General Conference Sessions (August 10th) a special consultation was held with Pastors and former Seventh Day Adventists. This consultation was held to gain an understanding of SDB's who once were SDA's and what caused them to come to SDB's; to identify possible future contacts and to plan ways in which we can better serve the large number of inactive Christians.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder
for Each Day!!

OCTOBER 1979

PRAY FOR:

- 1—Editor of the Sabbath Recorder, John D. Bevis
- 2—Missionary Pastor Gabriel Bejjani and the group in Stanton, CA
- 3—Conference President Duane I. Davis
- 4—Leon Clare as he increases his ministry at the Publishing House
- 5—Mid-Continent Association of SDB's meeting in Boulder, CO
- 6—North Central Association of SDB's meeting in New Auburn, WI
- 7—The strength to do my utmost for His highest during this week
- 8—President Carter seeking our prayers in his leadership role
- 9—Ministerial student Kim Sautter in Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
- 10—Missionaries Menzo and Audrey Fuller
- 11—The desire to discover the Lord's will for my life and fulfill that plan
- 12—Semi-annual meeting of the Allegheny Association
- 13—Central New York Association
- 14—Memorial Board meeting in Plainfield, NJ
- 15—Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth B. Burdick of the North Jersey church
- 16—Ministerial student Roger Chenoweth (& his family) at Methodist Theological School in Delaware, OH
- 17—The enthusiasm to share the Lord with someone today
- 18—Church of Christ of the Seventh Day Conference in Mexico and Rev. Elias Camacho
- 19—My pastor as he prepares God's message to our congregation
- 20—Those persons missing from your congregation this Sabbath day—why not write them a note, make a telephone call or a personal visit
- 21—Annual and Quarterly Meeting of the SDB Board of Christian Education in Alfred, NY
- 22—Someone who needs to know you care
- 23—Missionaries Rod & Camille Henry and the children as they adjust to life in the Philippines
- 24—Ministerial student Perry Cain and his wife Christina of METHESCO in Ohio.
- 25—New vision among our leadership as they share "Decade of Discipleship" with our churches and boards.
- 26—Brazil Evangelism Project
- 27—Sabbath School teachers as they share what God has put in their hearts
- 28—SDB Missionary Board meeting in Westerly, RI
- 29—Plans for the year of Decision to Discipleship (1980)
- 30—Ministerial student William Shobe and his wife Shelley in Denver, CO
- 31—WORD OF TRUTH radio program in Columbus, OH, Boston, MA, and Providence, RI, areas

the CHURCH in ACTION

ROCKVILLE RESTORES ANTIQUE CHANDELIER

ROCKVILLE, RI—It was bound to happen.

The shiny brass chandelier that once flooded a 19th century congregation in the glowing light of 12 kerosene lamps has been electrified.

No one at the Seventh Day Baptist Church here knows how old the chandelier is, they can only guess. The church was built in 1835.

The chandelier was stored upstairs in the church for many years until it was brought down to be cleaned and electrified. It now hangs in its original spot, ornate and glowing.

A long rope stretches across the rafters of the church, concealed above the ceiling. On one end of the rope are attached weights and the other end is attached to the chandelier. This weight or counter-balance is used to lower the heavy fixture for lighting and filling the lamps.

The only things that have been changed are the globes, lamps, and chimneys. The originals were sold in 1929 to James Wilson for \$5, according to church records.

In the 1920's, electricity was first introduced at the church and church member Lucie Armstrong said, "That's probably when the chandelier was packed away upstairs."

Upstairs meaning the attic of the church, accessible only by a trap door high on the ceiling, right above the choir box located in the back of the church. A thick rope comes out of the ceiling there, too, which church members still use to ring the bell every Sabbath.

Mrs. Lucie Armstrong said it was the wish of her mother, Lyra Babcock Irish, who died July 15, 1979, that the chandelier hang once again in the church. The congregation complied.

"She would have been 99 August 20, 1979," said Mrs. Armstrong,



This brass chandelier hangs proudly in the Rockville church after being restored and electrified. It was dedicated to the memory of Lyra Babcock Irish on June 16, 1979 (photo by John Koulbanis).

adding that her mother was the oldest member of the church.

"Instead of flowers, donations were given in her name to the church and went toward the restoration of the chandelier," she said.

A dedication of the fixture was made in her mother's honor on Sabbath, June 16, at 3 p.m.

In an effort to date the chandelier, Mrs. Armstrong has searched old church records. She has found only occasional reference to lighting fixtures and one rather ominous mention of a chandelier.

Records of Aug. 25, 1883, make mention of "procuring lamps for the church."

Records show that on Jan. 3, 1891, a committee was formed to "dispose of the old chandelier" but someone stopped the church members from taking this course of action. Benjamin Kenyon was appointed to this committee.

On Dec. 17, 1897, the Ladies Benevolent Society bought pulpit lamps and globes for the chandelier.

Then, 115 years after Thomas Edison and a group of other scientists perceived the first electric light bulb, electricity was introduced at the church. Perhaps this ushered the move of the chandelier to the attic.

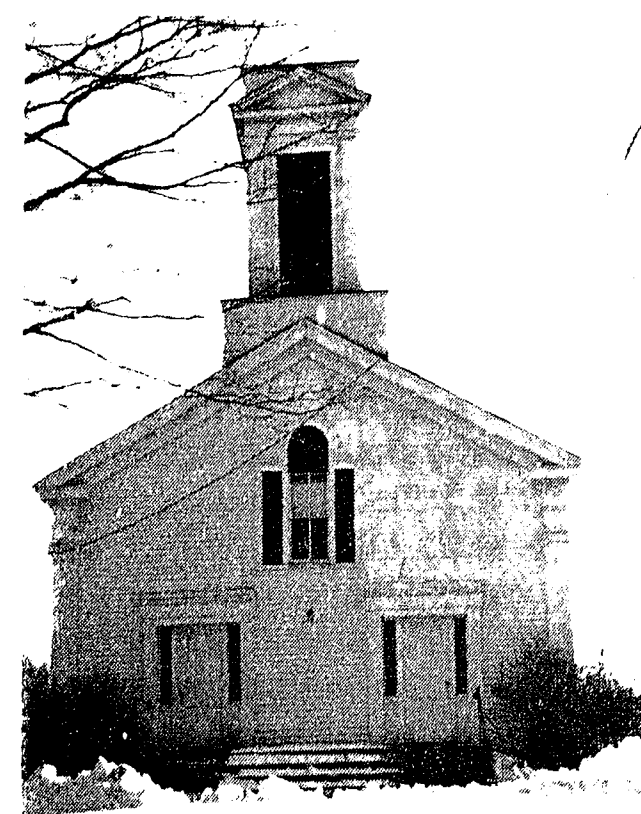
It took a couple of months to get the church ready for electric lighting, according to records. On Nov. 10, 1925, the church paid H. H. Coleman \$232 to wire the church. Another \$14 was paid to the South County Public Service Co. for a pole and wire.

And when all the work was done the church received its first electric bill on Jan. 30, 1926. The cost—50 cents.

Mrs. Armstrong said that when workers went into the attic to get the chandelier, hinged doors for the pews were also found.

"Families had to pay for a 'slip' (pew)," she said. Mrs. Armstrong said that some of the old family names were inscribed on old footstools still being used.

"The first two slips were free,"



Seventh Day Baptist Church
Rockville, RI

Mrs. Armstrong said. "The remainder were owned by families who were assessed a certain amount of money to help run the church. In 1897 the slips were declared free," she said.

Mrs. Armstrong said the first Seventh Day Baptist Church was built around 1770 on "Cemetery Hill" a few miles up the road on Route 138. "People used to go to the Seventh Day Baptist Church located in Ashaway, but decided to break away and build their own. It was such a long way to travel," she said.

This first church was sold for \$53 and soon thereafter another was built by the entrance of Camp Yawgoog. In the 1880's, the church was moved several miles east, down Route 138, by horse and wooden rollers to its present site.

The interior of the church has retained its simplicity over the years. There are four rows of dark colored wooden slips and in between many of them are long footstools.

And once again, the brass chandelier floats above the congregation just as it did many years ago.

The restoration of the chandelier at Rockville is rather symbolic of the church which was closed for several years. Sabbath worship services are now held each Sabbath at 3:00 p.m. A recent bulletin shares some of the spirit of this "restored" congregation.

"Renewal, repair, restoration, have been carried on by the active membership of this congregation. God's House is becoming once again a



Lyra Babcock Irish

place of beauty physically. It is also becoming a place where 'beautiful people'—knowing the 'beauty of holiness'—come each Sabbath to worship, learn, rejoice, gain strength, and receive their 'divine instruction directions.'

Pray for the continued renewal of this witness in Rockville that it may be a "true light" to the community. □

—Editor's note:

We are indebted to David Smith and the Westerly Sun for this story and photograph. Appreciation also is due to Mrs. Lucie Armstrong and Miss Darlene McCall.

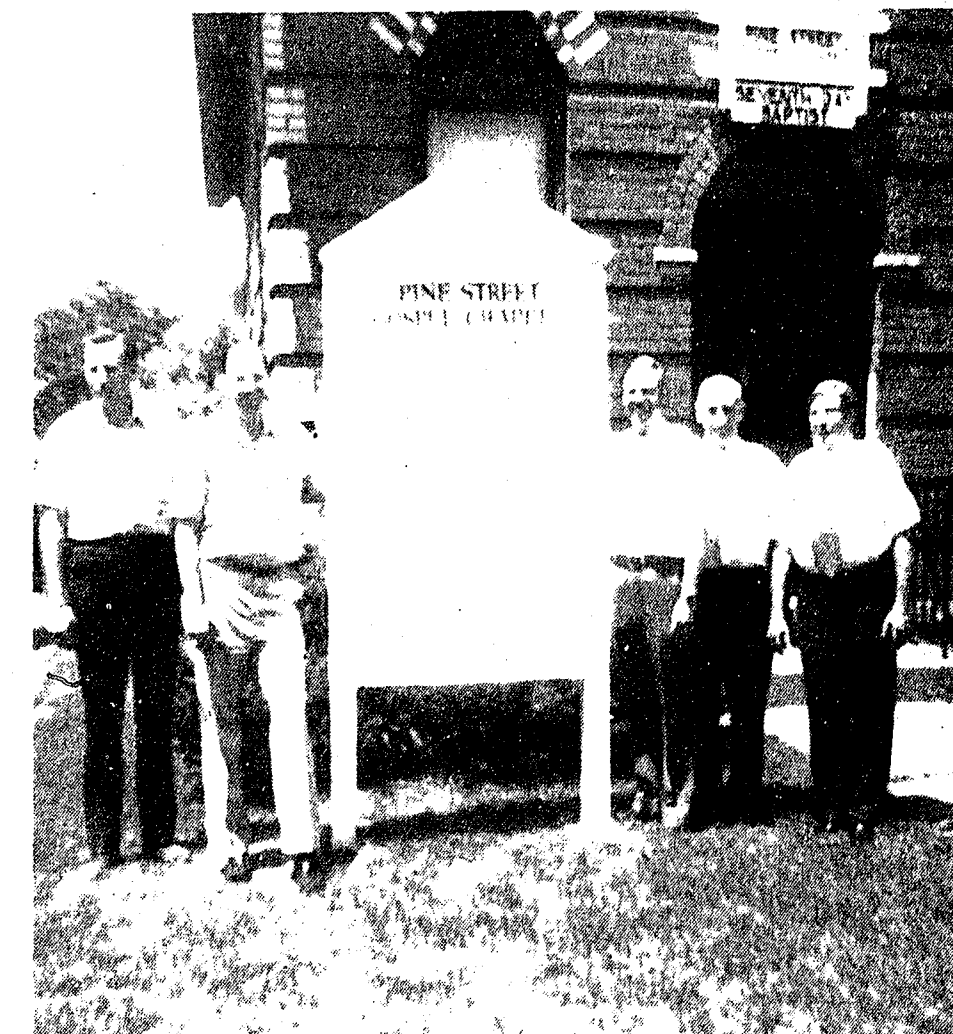
CAMP, BAPTISM, FAREWELL, HIGHLIGHT CHURCH ACTIVITIES

DERUYTER, NY—The De Ruyter Church feels deep sadness in the loss by death of two of its faithful members—Deacon Harry S. Parker on April 1st and Mrs. Celia Moulton on April 22nd.

We greatly miss two church families who have moved away: Wesley and Martha Greene moved to Berlin, N.Y., on June 1st and Richard and Linda Burdick and children, Kim, Jim and Talissa, moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 15th. Our loss will be our sister churches' gain. A party was held on May 26 to bid farewell to the Greenses and at the same time honor Martha for her graduation from college. On July 10th the church gave a farewell party for the Burdicks.

On Sabbath, June 9th, we had a service at Lincklaen Pond when Mrs. Barbara Todd baptized and on the following Sabbath she was welcomed into church membership along with Robert and Selma Mickel and daughter, Tammi, of Clinton, N.Y.

O'Deanne Mickel recently graduated from Albany State College. We had a reception in her honor after church on June 16th. O'Deanne expects to start teaching business subjects in the High School at Hannibal, N.Y., this fall.



The Pine Street Gospel Chapel of Middletown, CT, which united with the SDB Conference last year has erected this new sign. The sign identifies the congregation as being Seventh Day Baptist, lists the time of services, pastor and then proclaims "Thy Word Is Truth."

Pastor Green has led a neighborhood children's group called The Pilgrims Club in weekly Bible study from January 1 through May. Since September she has had weekly Bible study at the Correctional Institution at Camp Georgetown. After the first three months, at the request of the boys they have twice a week. Four Christian men of the area take turns helping the pastor with this work which has resulted in a dozen or more conversions. Friendly contacts made by our pastor have resulted in increased church attendance. Weekly Bible studies led by her are being held in the home of Barbara Todd of Cortland, our newest member.

Our Association camp, Camp Harmony, was held at the 4-H campgrounds, called Camp Owahta, near Truxton, N.Y., from June 30th to July 6th. Nine campers and two adults were baptized there on Sabbath afternoon. The total number of campers was 52. There were twenty campers from the De Ruyter area and twenty from the Brookfield-Leonardsville area. We were pleased to have Ronda Jacobson from the Westerly SDB church, an exchange camper from the Eastern Association. Also we were happy to have as a visitor Richard Stewart from the New York City SDB Church. All were so well pleased with the location of the camp that they have already engaged it for next year.

A two-week Vacation Bible School was held jointly with United Church of Christ from July 9 to 20 with an average daily attendance of 51 pupils. The children brought offerings amounting to \$81 and they voted to send it to Wycliffe Bible Translators because they want all children everywhere to be able to learn about Jesus. □

-Mrs. Martha Mills

BEJJANI TO PASTOR CALIFORNIA CHURCH

STANTON, CA.—Pastor Gabriel Bejjani, associate pastor of the Riverside, CA, SDB Church, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the SDB Evangelical Community Church now meeting in Stanton, CA.

Bejjani recently received his M.A. in missions from Fuller Theological Seminary and also holds a master's degree in sociology from Loma Linda University. He and his wife, Hayat, have four children: Claudine, age 7; Salma, 6; Elie, 4; and Joseph who is

NEW YORK CHURCH CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY HONORS EDITOR

NEW YORK CITY—On Sunday, June 3, 1979, some two hundred members and friends of the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church gathered at the Holiday Inn in Manhattan for the annual anniversary banquet and concert. Following appropriate remarks by the Rev. Socrates Thompson, pastor, and the Rev. Henry Grant, associate pastor; the chairman for the program was introduced. For the second year Editor John D. Bevis, served as chairman, and led in the ensuing program which included a bountiful dinner and many musical selections.

The main address of the day was given by the Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Executive Vice-President of the SDB Missionary Society. Representatives were present from several churches including Toronto, Canada. Proceeds from the event went to assist with the building fund of the New York City church.

Several weeks later, on July 7, 1979, appreciation day services were held for Editor Bevis who is leaving the New York-New Jersey area. Following regular Sabbath services, in which Mr. Bevis brought the message, a special luncheon was prepared by the ladies of the church. In the afternoon Deacon Leonard Stewart chaired the program of appreciation. Several musical selections and readings were presented by various members of the congregation. Rev. Thompson gave the address which included a brief history of the organization of the church in which he mentioned the

work of John Bevis and Herbert Saunders in helping to bring this church into existence. Mrs. Clara Thompson made a presentation to the Bevis family on behalf of the church.

In his remarks Mr. Bevis stated that he was overwhelmed by this demonstration of love and appreciation. He stated that for him the highlight of the day was when it was expressed that the church "could not love him more if he were Jamaican." In closing he admonished the congregation with the words of Paul in Hebrews 12 urging them to keep "looking to Jesus, the author and finisher" of their faith. □

YOUTH RETREAT SUCCESSFUL

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Erma Van Horn directed Vacation Bible School, held June 18-22. Doris Van Horn, Maria Van Horn, and Bernice Davis assisted as teachers; Janette Crouch assisted with music and crafts; Laura Van Horn arranged for the daily refreshments and the picnic lunch on the last day. Pastor Ken Van Horn and Pastor Marion Van Horn each spoke to the group during opening time. The worship, Bible study, singing, and fellowship were a blessing to the adults as well as the 25 children enrolled. Each class participated in the closing program Friday evening.

A service of baptism was conducted following the Bible School program. Pat Stafford and Yolanda Stockton were baptized.

The uncertain gas situation kept Pastor Ken and some of our young people from attending Camp Joy this year. Our church continues to support Camp Joy and we hope to

be represented there next year.

Young people of the Putnam County Seventh Day Baptist Church joined the young people of our church for a retreat July 13-15. Alan Crouch directed this retreat held at a primitive campground in the Ocala National Forest. Janette Crouch and Pastor Ken from our church and Aaron and Ida Price from the Putnam County church served on the staff. Nine campers and three mascots enjoyed a weekend filled with Bible study, worship in a variety of outdoor settings, hiking, swimming, and campfires. The warm Christian fellowship that was found that weekend will be remembered for a long time. Now the question is not "if" we will do it again but "when" we will do it again! □

-Janette Crouch

SALEM LISTS CHURCH LIFE ACTIVITIES

SALEM, WV—Some of the activities of the church during the past few months are listed below.

1. Sabbath afternoon "Children's Time" activity. Based on the Bible Club concept, an afternoon program is being run by some of the young women in the church. Using Bible School materials, music, crafts and a wide range of physical activities, the program adds numbers of children from the community each week, reaching ages Kindergarten to seventh grades.

2. Community Lenten Services, initiated and planned for by the Evangelism Committee with the cooperation from pastors, choirs and musicians from within the participating churches, four weeks of Thursday evening meetings were climaxed on Maundy Thursday evening with a Passover/Communion supper by candlelight. Foods for the supper were elements of the Jewish Passover or symbolic substitutes with 75 or so participants enjoying the event. The Salem church anti-climaxed that series of services with its own Easter Sabbath worship, an Easter Sunday Sunrise service and breakfast.

3. A progressive supper brightened the "drearies" of March. Four families of the church had moved into "new" homes within the last year. Plans were made for an appetizer, salad, main dish and dessert route to each of the four homes and about forty "nomads" travelled the route, being warmly received at the

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SPONSORED

DODGE CENTER, MN—The weekend of April 28 we held joint meetings with the New Auburn, WI, church. Pastor David Taylor brought the Sabbath morning message. In the afternoon Claston Bond was in charge of a service commemorating the 120th anniversary of our church's organization.

Vacation Bible School was held June 25 to 29 with Linda Greene as director. She was assisted by

twelve teachers and assistants. Between 45 and 50 children were in attendance. A tent was set up in the church yard with displays of missionary interest. The students gave \$102.00 toward the Philippine camp needs.

There was also a "store" where they could purchase various items with play money given as a reward for lessons and memory work done. On July 7 we had a special service to honor our graduates: Mary Bond, Faye Wendland, Curt Wendland, Roger Payne, Roger Langworthy and Melanie Wheeler. □

-Claston Bond

freshly refurbished homes.

4. A renewed enthusiasm about the idea of growth as it relates to outreach ministries has come to the Salem church within the context of "happenings" within the South-eastern Association. The new church in the Washington area; the new group is seeking to become a definite "Fellowship" in Martinsburg; and the coming of Rev. Francis and Lila Saunders as pastor of the Berea Church and manager of Camp Joy—has the Salem church "turned on" and excited about the various options open to it in terms of types of commitment it can make to these "growth ministries." Prayers of abstract and active type are being applied to these mission opportunities.

Several individuals and families have gone in several capacities to "take services" in Martinsburg. Several youth have spent time in "retreat" in the Washington area where they learned about the environment that becomes the field of labor of our sister churches there. The extensive building improvement and expansion program being undertaken at the Association Camp Joy in Berea is rallying prayer and dollar support unlike anything that has occurred in regard to the camp site for several years. Sparked by the willingness of the Memorial Board to loan money for basic repairs to the main building, and a recent matching funds loan from them for the purchase of a new building to be used as a dorm for girls and as a "retreat house" in non-camping season, a renewed interest is flowering for the camp ministry. The camp facilities and planning committee is developing a well-thought-out "plan of action" in terms of the future of the total camp facility using the earlier utilization study made by consulting

engineers. A repayment, matching funds development program, and development action plan are beginning to take shape. Pledges are coming in on an increasing level monthly, with support coming both within the Association and "friends of camping" outside the Association and outside the denomination.

5. A recent visit from Rev. Herbert Saunders of the Center on Ministry updated our church on information about the numbers of persons in various stages of preparation for pastoral ministries, and stimulated our spirit of hopefulness even more as he projected a bright future for leadership needs in the denomination.

6. The Y.F. participated in a spring retreat hosted by the Lost Creek church April 20-22 then the following weekend went on a camp-out and daring white-water raft trip.

7. Plans go forward for the Salem church to host the South-eastern Association in June.

8. Planning is being done in anticipation of the possibility of having an SCSC team for the summer. However, the Evangelism Committee which is arranging for the team will not be stifled should a team not be available, for they are working on an alternate program which could use youth from the church in specific projects in similar ways an SCSC team would.

9. The pastor has developed a "Personal Preference Inventory" sheet for each individual member of the church and each family to respond to. Once returned and the data collected, it will assist the pastor, nominating committee, organizations of the church, and committee chairpersons know what preferences, interests, program wishes, activities and talents may be developed or



tapped. As the church comes upon a new church year with elections, committee selection, etc., this should be a valuable tool.

As we enter the "starting gate" of a new year in June, we face the ever-present, perpetual nagging concerns: economic difficulties—how to make the decreasing dollars cover adequately the cost of our ministry; how do we develop the new forms and approaches that keep the spiritual vitality and dynamic alive to sustain both quantity and quality growth; and most important, how can we who are the Church of Jesus Christ at Salem, be alert to the needs of each other and the "corners of the world" our lives touch, and personify Christ in a way that ultimately brings glory to the name of God our Father. All this while wrestling with the day-to-day "millstones" that unpredictable, unmanageable times seem to load on us.

Yet, resting...as did our forefathers for generations back...on promises we have all tested and not found

wanting, we continue to be "out and around." We remain committed to the race to run forward, even into the "unknowns," knowing we do not run the course alone.

May the abiding Spirit of God in Jesus Christ that we trust, be with both you and us as we each continue to be numbered in the "Up and Running Still." □

-Briana Sutton

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION MEETS AT FOUKE

The Southwestern Association met for its Eighty-eighth Annual Session with the Fouke Seventh Day Baptist Church at Fouke, Ark. June 14-17. Twenty-nine delegates and many visitors were present, averaging forty-five at each meeting. The theme "Live Today as Though Christ Were Coming Tomorrow," chosen by President Lois Goodson with Scripture selections from Micah 6:8;

Mat. 28:19; Mark 12:29, 31; and Psalm 100, was developed throughout the meetings by the speakers.

At our Friday morning meeting we accepted the Full Gospel Seventh Day Christian Church of Arlington, TX, into membership.

We voted to continue support to a ministerial student, and to continue and raise our monthly support to Sunshine Mountain. We voted to aid any church in the Southwestern Association in newspaper ads up to \$50.00 in any one quarter and \$50.00 for revival services as funds are available.

On Sabbath afternoon, Editor John Bevis shared thoughts based on John 15:12-16 and First Peter 2:9. Then he told us something about the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society and about the "Word of Truth" radio program. He requested prayer support as he and his family begin their new work in Florence, Alabama. Mynor Soper spoke about some of the ways the Missionary Society can help and explained the

"House Church" movement. A discussion followed with several ideas of outreach being presented. Among these were training our people for leadership and to be able to answer questions; contributing some amount to support those workers on the field in the small groups; advertising in newspapers and on radio with follow-up being diligently pursued; sending tracts in correspondence as well as passing them out personally; using Criss Cross directories to contact people as the business people do; personal contact on streets, stores, businesses, and involving ourselves in community service projects. We discussed having a radio program sponsored by the Association and then listened to the first tape of the Word of Truth program by Russell Havens.

At the Sunday morning meeting, a decision was made regarding a radio ministry and a committee was appointed to gather the appropriate information and get it to the member churches in plenty of time for them to send an instructed delegation to the next Association.

Also, the Association authorized the Camp Miles Committee to work with Jack Hays to study the feasibility of having a permanent campsite at Sunshine Mountain, the financial cost of construction and to investigate other sources of finance, reporting back to churches prior to the next Association, so a decision can be made.

The Eighty-ninth Annual Southwestern Association meeting will meet at Sunshine Mountain in 1980. The Executive Committee is: Jack Hays, president; Jeff Monroe, 1st vice-president; Ralph Hays, Jr., 2nd vice-president; Inez Mitchell, general secretary; Scott Blackwood, treasurer; Rochale Goodson, youth advisor. □

-Inez Mitchell

NEWS NOTES

● A new Seventh Day Baptist group is meeting in the Ontario, CA, area under the leadership of Rev. John M. Peil, the church planter, sponsored by the Pacific Coast Association. The core group are SDB's in the area who are members in Riverside or Los Angeles.

● An article by Irene Saunders, "The Parable of the Fisherman" was reprinted from *The Sabbath Recorder* and published in *The Sermon Builder*.

WHY ARE YOU S.D.B.?

Is it because you believe in baptism by immersion? Or you believe in the Trinity? Or you believe the Bible is God's inspired Word? Or you believe you should keep the commandments?

Great! You're a Baptist! But, why do you say you're S.D.B.?

Is it because your family was S.D.B.? Or your friends are? Or the church building is conveniently located? Or it's a beautiful building? Or the people are friendly and you feel welcome? Or you like the pastor? Or you believe that we should observe the Sabbath as a Day of Rest? You do? Do you live what you believe?

Do you believe we should worship, study and fellowship together on the Sabbath?

If something comes up, can you be persuaded to skip worship and go; be it shopping, playing or working? Do you say I'm an S.D.B. but it's really not important? I must rely on myself. I put security on me. I must provide for me and mine? My God is not big enough to provide what I need (or is it want). I need things (or want things) I can't have unless I work on Sabbath. I must shop on Sabbath because I'm too busy (or it's easier or more convenient) to do it than any other time. I need some fun times in my life and so do my children. They need (or want) to do as other children do and

● Sabbath Rally Day at the Old Stone Fort SDB Church in Illinois also included a celebration of the 108th year of the church's organization. Rev. Carlos McSparin brought the message; there was also a celebration of Communion. Many had journeyed long distances to make this a very special day.

OBEDIENCE

(continued from p. 11)
the world...to bear witness to truth. Truth is the reality of God and God's love. Jesus was obedient to the death of the cross. On that cross He suffered and bled and died for you and for me. He took the penalty of our sin upon Himself. He knew the awful agony and suffering of being separated from God. The separation which He knew should be ours.

everything is planned for Sabbath, so unless I and my family do them then we can't participate.

And, anyway, I can worship anywhere; I don't have to be in church. True, but be honest. When was the last time you worshipped while shopping, playing or working?

Do you realize that you are witnessing to the world that S.D.B.'s are uncommitted people? That you worship God only when it is convenient? Or you worship when you have nothing better to do? That you are saying God can't provide for your needs? That you believe that God set apart and hallowed the Sabbath as a Day of Rest but what you want to do on the Sabbath is more important?

Or do you worship (or attend) each Sabbath? Great! But when you get home is it business as usual—housekeeping, cleaning, washing, shopping, gardening, fix-up and repairing, or maybe you stay for the fellowship meal and then proceed to clean the Parish House?

Or do you rest (cease the daily routine) and worship, visit the sick and shut-ins, witness, study the Bible, read a Christian book, pray, enjoy your family, or fellowship with some of the church family, even sing and praise God?

Have you ever studied the Bible to see how Jesus kept the Sabbath? Why are you S.D.B.? □

-Helen Brayman

Before He died, He gave us meaningful symbols of His death to remind us not only of His obedience to God, but to move us in response to God out of love, knowing that we are in God's family. The bread broken symbolizes the body of Christ broken, and the cup poured out symbolizes His very life given for us.

When we come to the Communion table, we should come first of all in a response of God for what He has done for us. May this be a response of love responding to love.

We should come in obedience to our Lord who gave it to us. We should come seeking power to follow in obedience the guidance and direction given us by God and His Son, Jesus Christ. □

SCSC WORKERS AID BIBLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

RICHBURG, NY—Richburg has been active, however, several changes are noted. Mrs. Dorothy Watson, Belmont, transferred her membership to Richburg. Miss Ellen McCrea became Mrs. James Pitts and they reside in Richburg. Miss Cindy McCrea became Mrs. Craig Zilker and they reside in Fillmore. Miss Cathy Wilson was graduated from Richburg Central School in June and will enter the University of the State of New York at Geneseo this fall. Cathy was salutatorian of her class and also a New York State Regents Scholarship winner. Mrs. Blanche Clarke and her brother George Saunders both have passed away within the year. Mrs. Clarke had been deaconess for nearly fifty years and Mr. Saunders was custodian as long as he was able. Both are greatly missed by their family, church, and community.

Rev. Dickinson has conducted two different series of Bible studies during the year. During November and December the subject was "Spiritual Gifts" from First Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. In March the weekly Bible studies were from the book of Revelation. Also the week of prayer in January was observed. Each meeting was



SCSC workers Rachel Drake, Annmarie Johnson and Joni Burdick assisted with Vacation Bible School at the Richburg, N.Y., church.

inspiring and uplifting to the spirit.

The advisory committee, chaired by Maurice McCrea, vice-moderator of the church, meets regularly once a quarter to plan activities and to make recommendations to the church body.

Quarterly fellowship dinners are held following the morning service and Sabbath School hour. The afternoon meeting in June was a work-

shop on "Family Life" led by Mrs. Ethel Dickinson.

"No Greater Love," the resurrection story in music and Scripture written by John Peterson was presented by the choir and readers on Easter Sabbath. Readers were Cathy Wilson, Francis Bucher, and Bryan Cass; hymn leader—Lori Black; Choir—Grace McCrea, Cindy Zilker, Ruth Bottoms, Lynne Stout, Sue Bucher, Ellen Pitts, James Pitts, Maurice McCrea, and Harmon Dickinson; Organist—Onnalee Saunders; Choir Director—Ethel Dickinson. Truly it was an inspirational worship service in music and words.

Following the week of Vacation Bible School July 2 to 6, the church folk enjoyed an outdoor picnic at the home of Onnalee Saunders. It was a beautiful Sabbath afternoon and everyone enjoyed the bountiful dinner as well as the Christian fellowship. To help with the week's activities were two SCSC workers, Joni Burdick, Los Angeles, Calif., and Annmarie Johnson, Milton, Wis., and also the Allegheny Association coordinator, Rachel Drake, Shinglehouse, Pa.

The camping season is here and Rev. Dickinson was director for one week at Camp Harley Sutton. Soon it will be Conference with several delegates attending from our church. □

-Thelma C. Stearns

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ACCESSIONS
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ALFRED, NY
 Thomas J. Sostar, Pastor
 By Testimony:
 Thomas J. Sostar

ALFRED STATION, NY
 Rex E. Zwiebel, Minister
 By Letter:
 George D. Bottoms

BATTLE CREEK, MI
 S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor
 By Baptism:
 Mrs. Connie Shaver

By Testimony:
 Mrs. Louise Finley

DAYTONA BEACH, FL
 Kenneth B. Van Horn, Pastor
 By Testimony:
 Brita V. Wickland

By Letter:
 Alcott B. Lynch
 Jasmine (Mrs. Alcott) Lynch

DE RUYTER, NY
 Helen Green, Pastor

By Testimony:
 Robert Mickel
 Selma (Mrs. Robert) Mickel
 Tammi Mickel

By Baptism:
 Mrs. Barbara Todd

WASHINGTON, D.C.
 Leland E. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:
 Vivian (Mrs. R.D.) Brown
 R. D. Brown
 Esther Marshall

WHITE CLOUD, MI
 Larry Graffius, Pastor

By Testimony:
 Jean Holmes

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MARRIAGES
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BURDICK-MCCONNELL.—Oscar C. Burdick, son of Mrs. Chas. C. Burdick and the late Mr. Burdick, and Dora C. McConnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. McConnell, were married on July 8, 1979, at the Pacific School of Religion Chapel, Berkeley, CA, by their mutual friend, the Rev. Norman Mealy. They are at home in El Cerrito, CA.

GRASSHAM-BURDICK.—Robert Bruce Grassham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grassham of Albuquerque, NM, and Barbara Jean Burdick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burdick of DeRuyter, NY, were united in marriage June 30, 1979 at Apple Valley Ranch, NM. The bride's pastor, Rev. Charles Swing, officiated.

HEIDER-CLEMENT.—David Paul Heider, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Heider of Grand Island, Nebraska, and Theresa Louise Clement, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Clement of Ord, Nebraska, were married June 30, 1979, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, North Loup, Nebraska, with the bride's pastor, Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, officiating, assisted by Mr. Wesley Rice. The couple makes their home in Broken Bow, NE.

NOEL-DAVIS.—Robert L. Noel, son of Mr. Mrs. Leon L. Noel, of Battle Creek, and Janice Marie Davis, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. S. Kenneth Davis, also of Battle Creek, were united in marriage in the Seventh Day Baptist Church on May 19, 1979, the father of the bride officiating.

O'CONNELL-WARD.—David O'Connell, of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Dorrie C. Ward of Battle Creek, Mich., were united in marriage in the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, April 21, 1979, with the bride's pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, officiating.

SCHLEUSENER-JONES.—Paul Louis Schleuse-ner and Marion Lee Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milburn Jones of Battle Creek, were united in marriage on May 19, 1979, in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan, with the groom's pastor, the Rev. Robert F. Mayer, officiating, assisted by the bride's pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

SHIPMAN-PEDERSON.—Scott Alan Shipman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shipman of New Auburn, Wisconsin, and Marita Ann Pederson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Pederson of New Auburn, were united in marriage on Sabbath Day, July 28, 1979, at the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor David Taylor officiated at the double ring ceremony. They will make their home in Washington, where Scott is stationed with the Air Force.

SOPER-DUNWOODY.—Loren Ray Soper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira M. Soper of North Loup, Nebraska, and Kim Michele Dunwoody, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dunwoody and Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Logan of Scotts Valley, California, were married June 16, 1979, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church, North Loup, Nebraska, with the groom's pastor, Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, officiating. The couple makes their home in Miller, Nebraska.

WEST-POWELL.—Newell B. West, Jr., and Celia A. Powell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Armstrong, were united in marriage at the Congregational Church in West Brattleboro, Vermont, on June 30, 1979, by Rev. Robert Hamm.

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BIRTHS
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ANDERSON.—A daughter, Jacklyn Christine, to David and Sue (Lawhead) Anderson of Portsmouth, Virginia, on March 13, 1979.

BROGLIN.—A daughter, Darcy Kay, to Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Margaret Gilson) Broglin, Bridgeton, N.J., on Feb. 2, 1979.

CAMPBELL.—A son, Benjamin Ernest, to Joe and Jean (Larson) Campbell, of Sturbridge, Mass., on Mar. 19, 1979.

CRANE.—A daughter, Miranda Rae, to Barth and Connie Crane of Dodge Center, MN, on June 26, 1979.

DEJESUS.—A daughter, Diseree Damara Dominique, to Juan and Winsome (Grenyion) de Jesus, of Lansdale, Pa., on April 28, 1979.

KISSLING.—A daughter, Heidi Karissa, to Marvin E. and Marlene (Spells) Kiessler of Homer, MI, on June 28, 1979.

MILLER.—A daughter, Holly Tina, to Howard and Becky (Hiles) Miller, Salem, N.J., on May 10, 1979.

SILER.—A daughter, Shannon Leslie, to Bill and Renea Siler of Panorama City, CA, on July 11, 1979.

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OBITUARIES
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APPEL.—Kelly, was born April 21, 1969, the daughter of James and Diana Appel of Janesville, WI, and died following an accident on July 20, 1979. She was the granddaughter of Pastor and Mrs. A.A. Appel of Albion.
 Funeral services were held from the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church on July 23 with the Rev. Earl Cruzan officiating. Burial was at Milton Lawns Cemetery, Janesville, WI.
 -E.C.

COCKER.—Hazel McMaster Cocker was born Feb. 7, 1897 in Canton, MN, and died June 20, 1979, in Rochester, MN. She was married in 1920 to Walter Cocker who survives. Other survivors include four sons: Hugh, Douglas and Grant, all of Rochester and Curtis of Chatfield; a daughter, Mrs. Jim (Katherine) Phares of Cedar Rapids, IA; eighteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a brother, Vernon McMaster of Medicine Lake, WA.
 Funeral services were conducted at the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church by her pastor, the Rev. Wayne Babcock. Burial was in Pilot Mound Cemetery at Pilot Mound, MN.
 -L.W.B.

CRUZAN.—Elsie May, of White Cloud, Michigan, passed away Wednesday, July 4, at the Meadows Nursing Center in Fremont. She was born September 6, 1904, in Omaha, Nebraska, and was adopted by the James Brannon family of North Loup, Nebraska.
 She married Ira Cruzan of White Cloud in North Loup on March 28, 1928. They made their home in White Cloud after their marriage.
 She is survived by her husband, Irs, of the Meadows Nursing Center; three daughters, Mrs. Norman (Joyce) Shick of White Cloud; Mrs. James (Doris) Peck of Loveland, Colorado; and Mrs. Jack (Marvel) Krumbach of Shawano, Wisconsin; two sons, Irvin Cruzan of Fremont and Harvey Cruzan of South

Carolina; three stepsons, Marion and Donald Cruzan of White Cloud, and Marvin Cruzan of Pickford, Michigan; 22 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and one sister-in-law, Mrs. Marie Brannon of North Loup, Nebraska.

Funeral services were held July 7 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of White Cloud with Pastor Larry Graffius officiating, with interment in the White Cloud Cemetery.
 -M.B.B.

DAVIS.—Coral C., was born March 18, 1904 in Buckeye, W. Va., the son of Ivan E. and Daisy Roach Davis and died July 9, 1979 in Clarksburg, W. Va., following an extended illness.

He is survived by two brothers, Edward Davis, Tioga, N.D., and Harvey Davis, Bridgeport; two sisters, Mrs. Phylis Phillips, Garrettsville, Ohio, and Miss Rosalee Davis, Salem; four nephews and six nieces, ten great-nephews and nine great nieces.

He was preceded in death by three sisters. A retired farmer, Mr. Davis was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. J. Paul Green, burial was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Salem.
 -J.P.G.

DAVIS.—Elno R., was born February 21, 1911, in North Loup, NE, and died in Boulder, CO, on July 20, 1979. He was born into a Seventh Day Baptist family, the second son of David and Minnie Davis. His sisters, Mrs. Nedra Shepard and Mrs. Donna Hastings live in Denver.
 In 1934 Elno married Ada Crosby. This warm, enduring relationship was blessed by four children all of whom, with their mother, were with him during his final illness. These children are: Katherine Davis of Seattle, Washington; Beverly Wells of Sandusky, Ohio; Myrna Cox of Boulder, Colorado; and Gerald Lynn Davis of Denver. Also surviving are six grandsons and two granddaughters.

For much of his life Elno was in the construction business, a builder of homes. It is one measure of this man that when difficult times forced him out of business he and Ada obtained other work and paid every outstanding account. They considered this to be their moral responsibility even though it was no longer their legal responsibility. For years prior to his retirement in 1973, Elno was a construction assessor for the Federal Government. Whether in construction, assessing or in his private life, he was a true builder of homes in the most meaningful use of that term.

During his last six years, Elno was afflicted by a heart ailment which required numerous hospitalizations. It aged him rapidly, curtailed his activities and finally it terminated his life.

One of the outstanding features of this man was that he was a true pacifist. He consistently tried to prevent and to avoid conflict in all its forms and when controversy did occur he always sought to resolve the issue. He sought for a minimum of hurt to everyone involved except perhaps to himself. He was a gentle man and it might well be said of him as it was of another "His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

As mentioned earlier, Elno was raised in an SDB home and aside from his family, his church was the dominant relationship of his life. His dedicated service led to his ordination as a deacon in 1953 and he served with

distinction in this role until his demise.

Deacon Davis joyfully participated in the Denver Court's probation counselling program for youth. He was, in fact, a father to all who needed him both inside and outside his church and this was always done in a gentle unassuming way. He was a very humble man. But to all who knew him he was an outstanding example of Christian faith and love.

Funeral services were held at the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church on July 23, 1979 with his pastor, the Rev. Edgar F. Wheeler and Dr. E.J. Horsley officiating. Interment was at Crown Hill Cemetery.
 -E.F.W.

DAVIS.—R. Wesley and Ella T. were both killed in an automobile accident May 29, 1979.

Robert Wesley, the son of the late Thomas M. and Elizabeth Henderson Davis, was born in Stow Creek Township June 27, 1898. He married Janet McDonald Stopani Nov. 26, 1924, who preceded him in death July 22, 1969. Mr. Davis was a graduate of Shiloh High School and of Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. He was employed by the State of New Jersey as a forest fire warden, retiring in 1968 after lifelong service. He rejoined the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1970.

Ella, the daughter of Walter G. and Alma Ennis Tomlinson, was born Dec. 28, 1900, in Stow Creek Township. She married Archer Dolbow July 23, 1943, who preceded her in death. Mrs. Davis was a graduate of Shiloh High School. She worked at Farmers and Merchants Bank, and as a switchboard operator at Bridgeton Hospital. Ella accepted Christ as her Savior, was baptized and joined the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church in Sept. 1914.

Wesley and Ella were united in marriage April 23, 1970. Both were active in local church life, attended denominational meetings whenever possible, and were very active in many community organizations, seeking to serve their Lord by serving their fellowman.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are survived by a daughter and stepdaughter, Mrs. Donald (June) Ward of Vineland; two grandsons, Ronald Wesley of Virginia Beach, Va., and Eric Donald, at home; one granddaughter, Mrs. John S. (Nancy Elaine) Morgan, Maine; and four great-grandsons. In addition Mr. Davis is survived by six sisters, Mary Green and Mrs. Charles (Bessie) Van Meter, both of Bridgeton, Mrs. Edward (Lucy) Rinear of Oreland, Pa., Mrs. Lester (Julia) Rinear of Penns Grove, Ida Green of Fortescue, and Mrs. Earl (Mabel) Cruzan of Milton, Wis.; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by an infant brother, Sanford; a sister, Bernice Ayars; and a brother, Jonathan B., on May 14, 1979.

Funeral services were held from Garrison-Sray Funeral Home, Bridgeton, on June 2, 1979, with their pastor, the Rev. Donald E. Richards, officiating, and the Rev. Charles Bond, assisting. Interment was in Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery.
 -D.E.R.

JOHNSON.—Lucy Palmer was born July 1, 1898 in Hopkinton, R.I., the daughter of Eugene J. and Julia Geer Palmer and died July 4, 1979 in West Kingston, R.I. She was the wife of the late William N. Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson was a member of the Rockville Seventh Day Baptist Church. She is survived by a sister-in-law, Stella

Johnson of Westerly and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. William Hollis with burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Hope Valley, R.I.
 -L.A.

KENYON.—Iillie Randall, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Thompson Randall, was born in Hebron Township, August 20, 1889, and died in the Cole Memorial Hospital, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, July 13, 1979.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leroy, and a son, Earl.

She was a member of the First Hebron Seventh Day Baptist church for 73 years. For a time she taught in the public schools.

She is survived by two sons, G. Paul Kenyon, M.D., of Harahan, New Orleans, Louisiana, and L. Leonard of RFD, Coudersport, Pennsylvania; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Farewell services were conducted in the chapel of the Fickinger Funeral Home, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1979, by her former pastor, the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel. Interment was in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Hebron.
 -R.E.Z.

KIMSHEL.—Nellie R., died June 18, 1979 in North Fort Myers, FL at the age of 88.

She was the widow of the late Rev. William J. Kimschel, long-time pastor of the Pine Street Gospel Chapel in Middletown, CT.

She is survived by two sisters: Mrs. Edna Spencer of Middlefield, CT, and Mrs. Hazel Wilson of Haddam, CT; and several nieces and nephews; and a step-daughter, Mrs. Ella Van Doren of Florida.

Graveside services were held at Pine Grove Cemetery, Middletown. The Rev. Robert Harris, pastor of the Pine Street Gospel Chapel (SDB) officiated.
 -R.E.H.

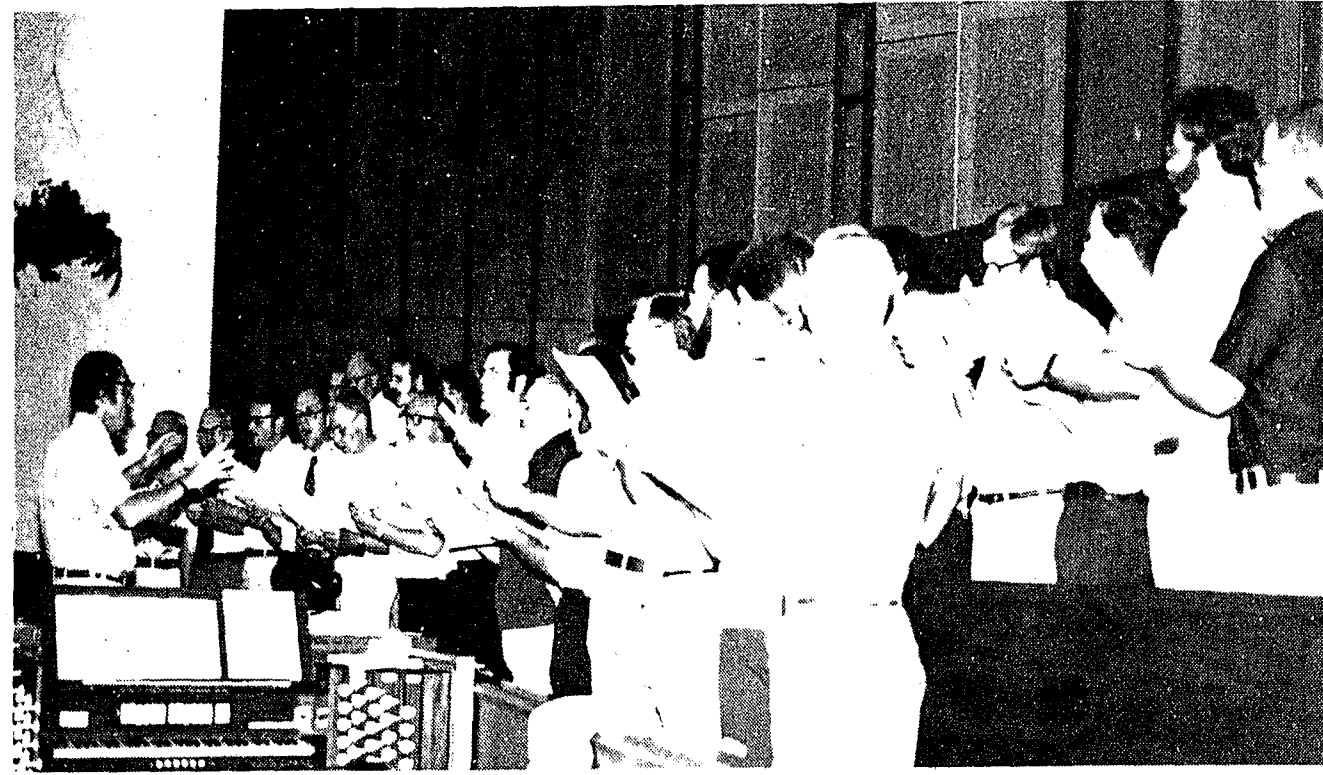
ORMSBY.—Guinevere Wilcox Ormsby, daughter of Albert D. and Alma Wilcox, was born in Hornell, New York, March 9, 1903 and died on July 15, 1979 in the Hornell Nursing Home.

She was wed to Rowland K. Ormsby on August 31, 1923.

She was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church and was active in the church's Union Industrial Society.

Surviving her are her husband, Rowland K. of Hornell, New York; five daughters, Mrs. Heinz (Adele) Zydoor of Huntington, W. Va., Mrs. Charles (Elizabeth) Hall of Hornell, New York, Mrs. Richard (Alberta) Brown of Clarence Center, New York, Mrs. William (Dorothy) Argenti of Hornell, Mrs. Robert (Eleanor) Rink of Hornell; two sons, Rowland K. Jr. of Akron, Ohio, and William A. of Hornell; a sister, Mrs. Gerald Goodday of Spring Valley, New York; twenty-one grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Landon-Beaver Funeral Home in Hornell with the Rev. Albert N. Rogers and the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, officiating. Interment was in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Almond, New York.
 -R.E.Z.



Male Choir



The King's Singers

With the Voice of Singing



Men's Quartet



Conference Choir



Alfred Coffee House Group



Ann Williams, Choir Director

Pre-Con Choir



Mrs. Shelley Sudbury



Mrs. Cheryl Driver



New Creations



children's

page

FAITH IN GOD

by Susan McAuliffe

One day during summer vacation, Monica was asked by her mother to do some housework. Monica said that she would have it done by the time her mother got home.

While Monica was doing her housework, Monica's friend Leslie called up and asked if she could go to the movies. Monica said she could, if they would be home by 4:00 (Monica's mother would be home by 5:00). So Monica said yes she could go.

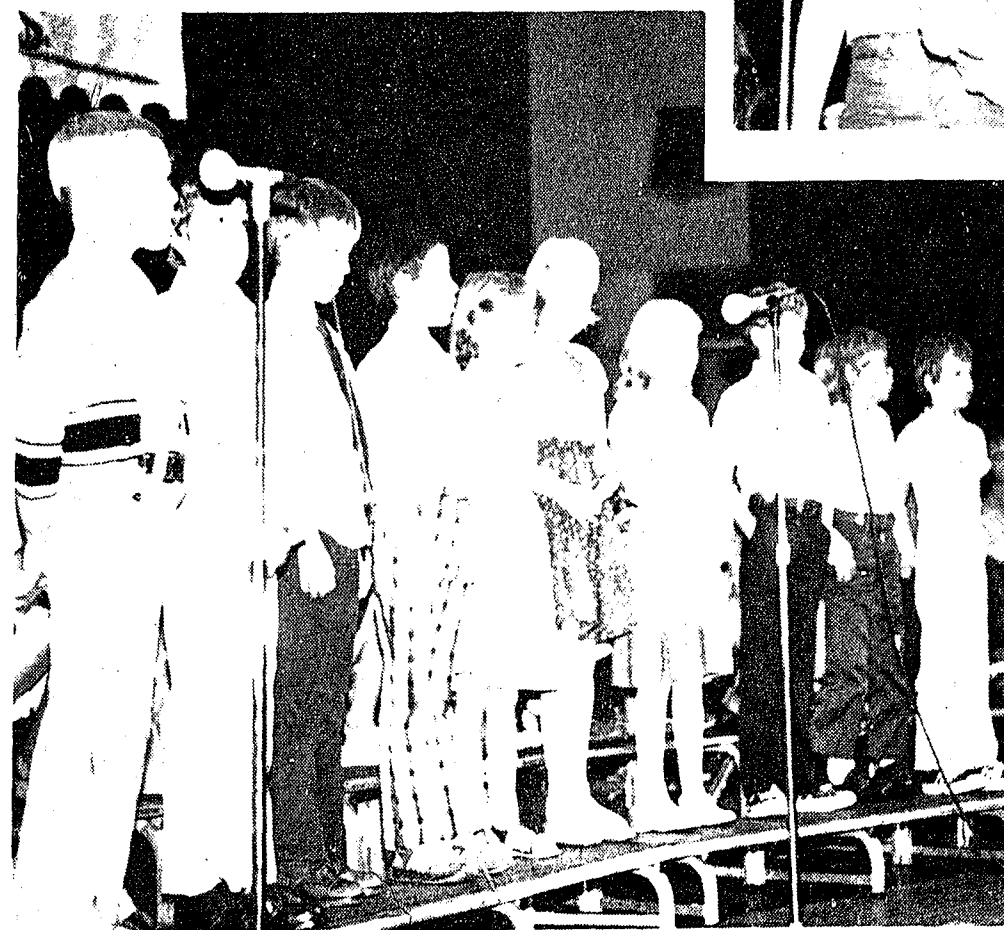
It was 2:00 when Monica and Leslie got out of the movies. On their way home, Leslie's car ran out of gas. The nearest gas station was about seven miles away, but when they had gone by the gas station it had said "NO GAS." So Leslie told Monica to wait in the car. Leslie went looking for a house nearby where she could call for a wrecker.

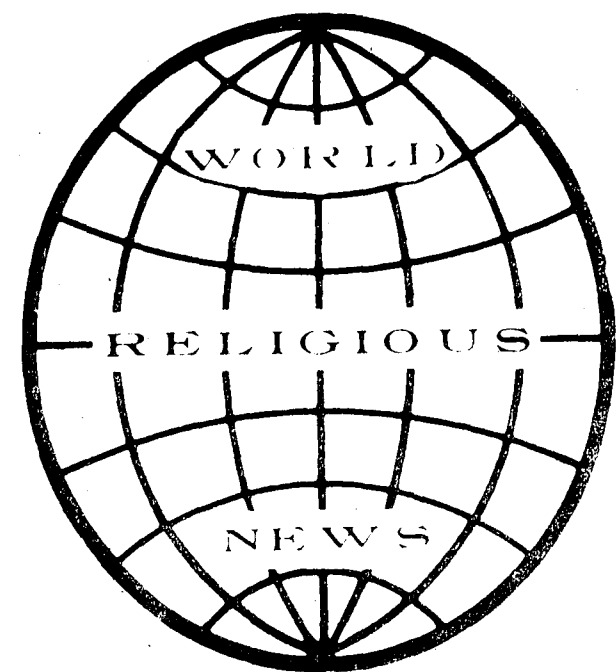
Meanwhile, going on 3:00, Leslie wasn't back yet. Monica started to get worried about not getting home on time in order to do the housework. But then Monica remembered what she had learned in Sabbath School class. She remembered a quote from Mark 9:23. Monica remembered the verse saying, "Anything is possible if you have faith."

After saying this verse, she prayed that Leslie would come back with some gas. Ten minutes later Leslie showed up with a can of gas. Monica got back home by 4:00 and finished the housework.

When Monica's mother got home, Monica told her all about what had happened. Monica's mother said, "If you remembered the next verse it would help you out when you get in trouble. Monica looked up the next verse and it said, "I do have faith; oh, help me to have more!" Monica's mother told her to always have faith in God, not just sometimes, but all the time. □

ASSOCIATED CONFERENCE





BWA GENERAL COUNCIL MAJORS ON EVANGELISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIEF AND FUTURE PLANNING

BRIGHTON, England—The Baptist World Alliance, which will celebrate its diamond jubilee in 1980, met here July 2-6 for five days of intensive planning and action aimed at making the international fellowship a vital force for international witness and cooperation in the contemporary world.

Two hundred ninety Baptist leaders from 40 nations participated in the week of day and evening sessions. They proposed changes in the Alliance constitution and bylaws, nominated two top officers to succeed the general secretary and president who will retire next year, and gave serious study to a variety of programs of cooperative action.

Even the first devotional service began with demonstration of concern for suffering humanity. Joan Parajon, a physician's wife from war-torn Managua, Nicaragua, told the assembly that "war is many times worse than the earthquake that hit our country three years ago.

"There is not food enough to eat. Women and children are walking the highways with cloth bags on their backs trying to find a place to sleep."

Before the week was over, the Council approved a relief and development budget with goals of \$1,268,000 for 1979 and \$1,275,000 for 1980. The goals cover specific relief assistance in 21 countries and emergency funds for disasters wherever they occur.

Large gains were noted in evangelism. James L. Sullivan, chairman of the division committee on evangelism and education, said in his report that "In places like India, Burma, and the Philippines, the

moving of God's spirit is felt in great measure. Growth is phenomenal. It is our hope that similar victories shall be in evidence in every part of the world."

Four new denominational bodies were admitted to Alliance membership, bringing the fellowship's number of affiliated bodies to 115 with headquarters in 84 nations, and the total membership of 29.6 million baptized believers in 115,000 churches. The new member bodies are the Baptist Conference of the Philippines, the Ecuadorian Baptist Convention, the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone, and the Union of Latvian Baptists in the USA.

General Secretary Robert S. Denny noted that 56 of the 115 member bodies have fewer than 10,000 members and stand vitally in need of the strength of the world fellowship.

Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, was nominated by the council for election as BWA president at the organization's 75th anniversary congress in Toronto, July 8-13, 1980. If elected he will succeed a Hong Kong layman, David Y. K. Wong, in the top elective office. Dr. Wong was elected in Stockholm in 1975.

Gerhard Claas of Hamburg, West Germany, was nominated for the office of general secretary. Claas has served since 1975 as the BWA associate secretary for Europe. If elected at the Congress in Toronto, he will move to the Alliance headquarters office in Washington. Dr. Denny, general secretary since 1969, will retire in 1980.

The council also adopted resolutions on world hunger, the energy crisis, international year of the child, the plight of dispossessed and homeless people, and religious liberty and human rights. It approved an operating budget of \$561,000 for 1980 and heard treasurer Fred B. Rhodes project a budget of \$633,000 for 1981 operations.

All twelve vice-presidents and two past presidents were present for the sessions. However, President Wong was absent because of a respiratory illness that struck him in New York, enroute to England.

Attendance of three representatives from Burma marked the first time in 16 years that delegates had been permitted to leave that socialist nation to participate in a world Baptist gathering.

300 FAMILIES IN HOUSTON CHURCH RAISE \$1 MILLION

Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, raised more than \$1 million between March 18 and April 29 because 300 families gave their total income for those 40 days to a building fund. John D. Morgan, pastor of the Houston church, told the congregation at 10 p.m. on April 29, in an extended Sunday service, that they had contributed \$1,077,469 in 40 days toward their new sanctuary. The sum is primarily cash, but some other commitments such as stock will be converted to cash. Sagemont members gave salaries, painted fences, and cut expenses during the 40 days by eating vegetable soup together at the church in order to come up with the money, because "we pay cash for everything." Morgan said the Sagemont experience can happen anywhere a church becomes as important to people as their boats, hunting lodges, vacations and second cars. Sagemont Baptist Church began as a mission 12 years ago with 16 members lead by Morgan. He was a mission starter paid \$125 monthly by a mission fund of the Baptist General Convention (SBC) of Texas. Sagemont now has 3000 members. Most of the 300 families and individuals who gave all their income during the 40 days have become free of major debts after completing "Financial Freedom Seminars" led by their pastor. The 40-day period was selected because "in several places in Scripture, the Lord choose 40 days in which to accomplish a certain work," Morgan said. The pastor compared his army of 300 families with Gideon's army in the Old Testament. In the Financial Freedom Seminars, Morgan advised his people to sell depreciating items they could live without, such as boats, second cars and TV sets. Most of the families who gave their total income paid bills a month in advance of the 40 days. About 200 families bought groceries cooperatively to save money during the period.

"I pray that as you share your faith with others it will grip their lives too, as they see the wealth of good things in you that come from Christ Jesus."

—Philemon 1:6

Editorial

*"God of grace and God of glory,
On thy people pour thy power."*

So sang hundreds of Seventh Day Baptists gathered on the beautiful campus of Adrian College in southern Michigan for the 167th annual Conference session. In spite of economic problems, reported gas shortages and distance the Conference was well attended with representation from our churches coast to coast as well as Jamaica and Canada.

President Bob Austin, his family and staff, are to be commended for a well-organized week with a balance of worship, study and business. The business sessions were conducted in Dawson auditorium and the worship services in the lovely chapel thus creating a special atmosphere for worship.

*"Crown thine ancient Church's story
Bring her bud to glorious flower."*

Seventh Day Baptists continue to welcome new members, new pastors, and new congregations into an ancient faith, dating to 1671 and the Newport church; but a faith that we believe has a unique and meaningful message for contemporary life. This year two new churches became part of our Conference family; the Portland, OR, church, pastored by the Rev. Justin Camenga, and the SDB Evangelical Community Church of Stanton, CA, pastored by Gabriel Bejjani. Six new pastors were recognized as serving their first SDB pastorates. The new pastors and the churches they are serving are: Steven Crouch, Little Genesee, NY and Hebron, PA; John Rau, First and Second Brookfield, NY, churches; Thomas Sostar, Alfred, NY; Robert Van Horn, Farina, IL; Rod Henry, missionary to the Philippines; and Gabriel Bejjani, Stanton, CA.

A "Decade of Discipleship" was enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates (the program is explained on page four of this issue). Seventh Day Baptists are asked to really commit themselves to Christ and truly become reproducing disciples. We believe that with God's grace and power we can during the coming decade not only double our numbers and churches but grow spiritually as a people. May God

*"Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour."*

Conference, as usual it seems, got somewhat bogged down at times with what we might term the tyranny of the unimportant. The subject of denominational logo is a case in point. Too many hours and committee sessions have already been spent in this consideration. After viewing the proposed logo as developed by the publications committee of the Tract Society and recommended to Conference by the communication interests committee, the delegates voted to delay action on the logo for yet another year.

The discussion and vote on the proposal for denominational reorganization was easily the most controversial issue facing the delegates. It would seem best in future issues of this magnitude to have a roll call vote of the churches as was done with the controversial issue of our continued membership in the World Council of Churches several years ago. For many the subject of denominational reorganization is dead; for others it is still very much alive.

*"Free our hearts
to work and praise."*

As usual at our Conferences the various committees were involved in analysis of the various board and agency programs. To work with a Conference committee is to experience democracy at work. Many of the committee reports revealed a new vision for the future of Seventh Day Baptist worldwide ministries. Conference truly is work, but it is also praise. One of the gifts of Seventh Day Baptists, it seems, is their musical ability and this Conference was no exception. How it thrilled our hearts as we sang together the Conference theme song "A New Commandment," and as we enjoyed the various musical groups.

Conference is many things—it gives, as John Wimber so ably put it, "an opportunity to experience a crowd." But is certainly more than this, it is a unique time for fellowship and renewal, a time for looking at where we are and where we want to be in our part of the kingdom work. As we enter this new Conference year may it be our united prayer to

*"Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom,
Grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee!"*□*

*from a hymn by Harry Emerson Fosdick.

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Move me! Oh move me, Lord,
With deep compassion for the city—
Even as Nehemiah's heart was stirred!
Move me to be fully in accord
With Your own heart as it was moved with pity:
"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem," your cry was heard!

Move me for street people: junkies, prostitutes, gays—
Everywhere spiritual desolation abounds!
Who is able for a city? Only You are, Lord!
Begin your work in me—my sin astounds—
As Nehemiah I confess, "We have sinned and deserve
the sword!"
Pardon iniquity until the joy of repentance resounds.

Move me! Oh move me, Lord,
Stir my heart in passion for the lost!
"Oh Lord, let now Your ear be attentive":
Give Your cause success at any cost;
Let Your love through me be redemptive.
Move me! Oh move me for a city,
Your Spirit through me be more effective!

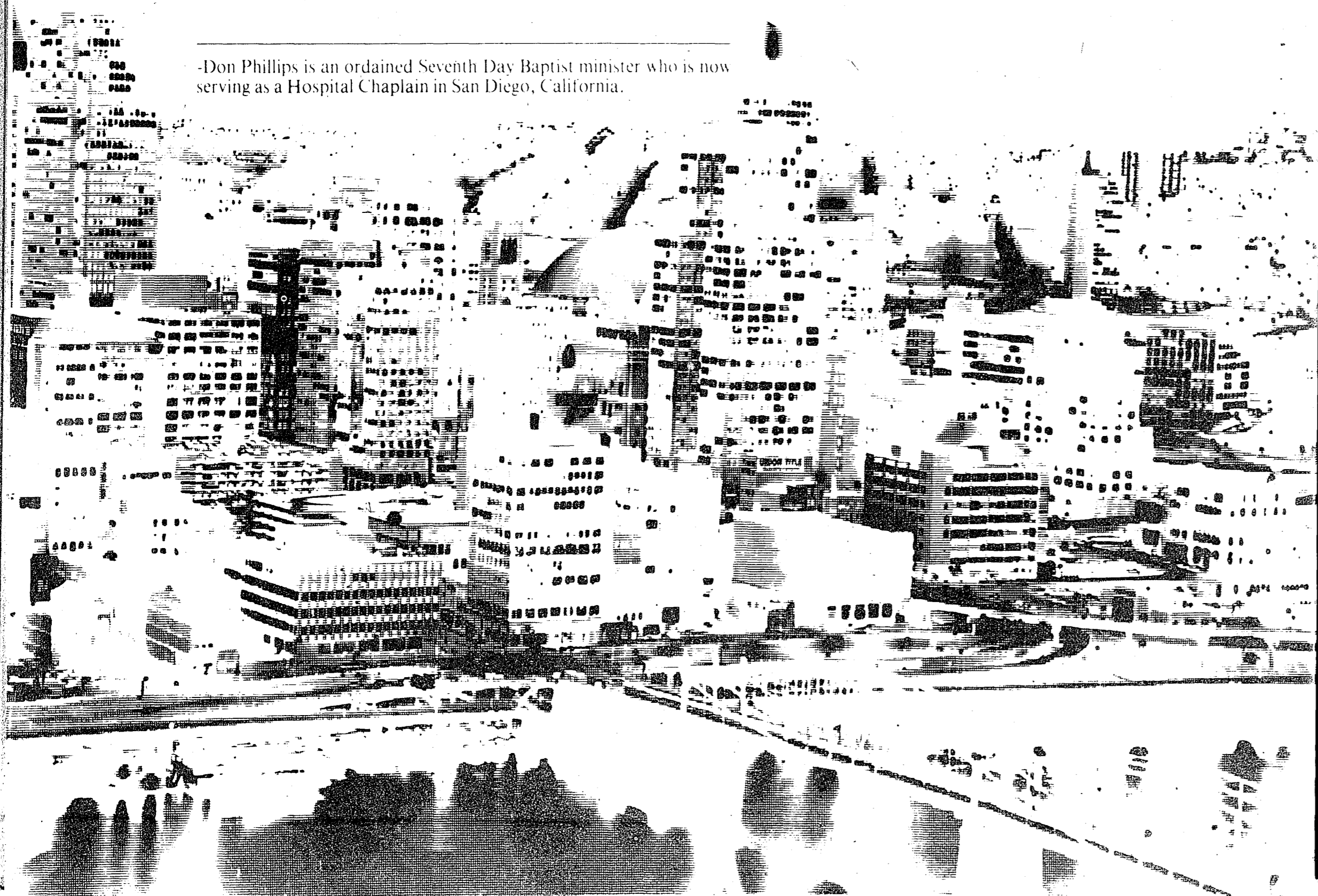
Move me and teach me, Oh Lord,
Quicken my mind to learn Your way—
To build the spiritual walls in men, all broken down.
I know not how to build, but You are God adored!
Teach me! Oh teach me, Lord, to reach those astray—
Those reaching out for love in city and town—
Work in them—In "The Book of Life" their names record!

—Don Phillips is an ordained Seventh Day Baptist minister who is now
serving as a Hospital Chaplain in San Diego, California.

MOVE ME

by Don I. Phillips

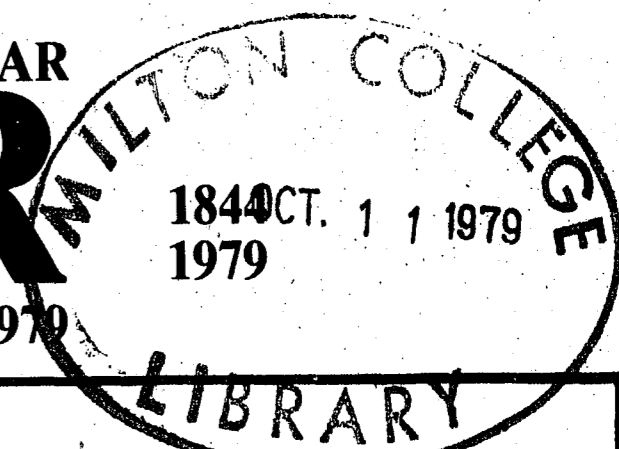
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THE SABBATH
RECORDER
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

OUR 135th YEAR

OCTOBER 1979



*A church is not a bank, but a channel for money.
Be a funnel, not a bucket!*

Surplus is when a person has more than ONE of the NECESSITIES of life!

**Missions suffer from
nearsighted Christians.
We see only the buildings
and pastor.
What's left over is for
international missions.**

Every Christian
should wear
bifocals
to have perspective
in Stewardship.
We need
to see clearly
up close
(local needs)
and distant
(Our World Mission).

G I G G L E while you give!

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Christian giving
is
Christian living**

**LOVE
IS
SPELLED
GIVE!**

**S
T
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