

our need

Lord, you have said
That those who wish
To live in your holy house,
On your holy hill,
Must live uprightly
and do right
and speak the truth always.
Lord, you know we do try
But we fail and fall
So often and so horribly
To measure up to your standards,
and we know—Oh Lord,
how well we know!—
That we must have your aid
and grace, always and forever
If we are to be
The mature, fruitful Christians
That you intended us to be.

—Myrna Barber
Westerly, RI

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camp paul hummel

I stood upon a mountain top
with the valley far below.
I could not see the people
Or the problems they might know.

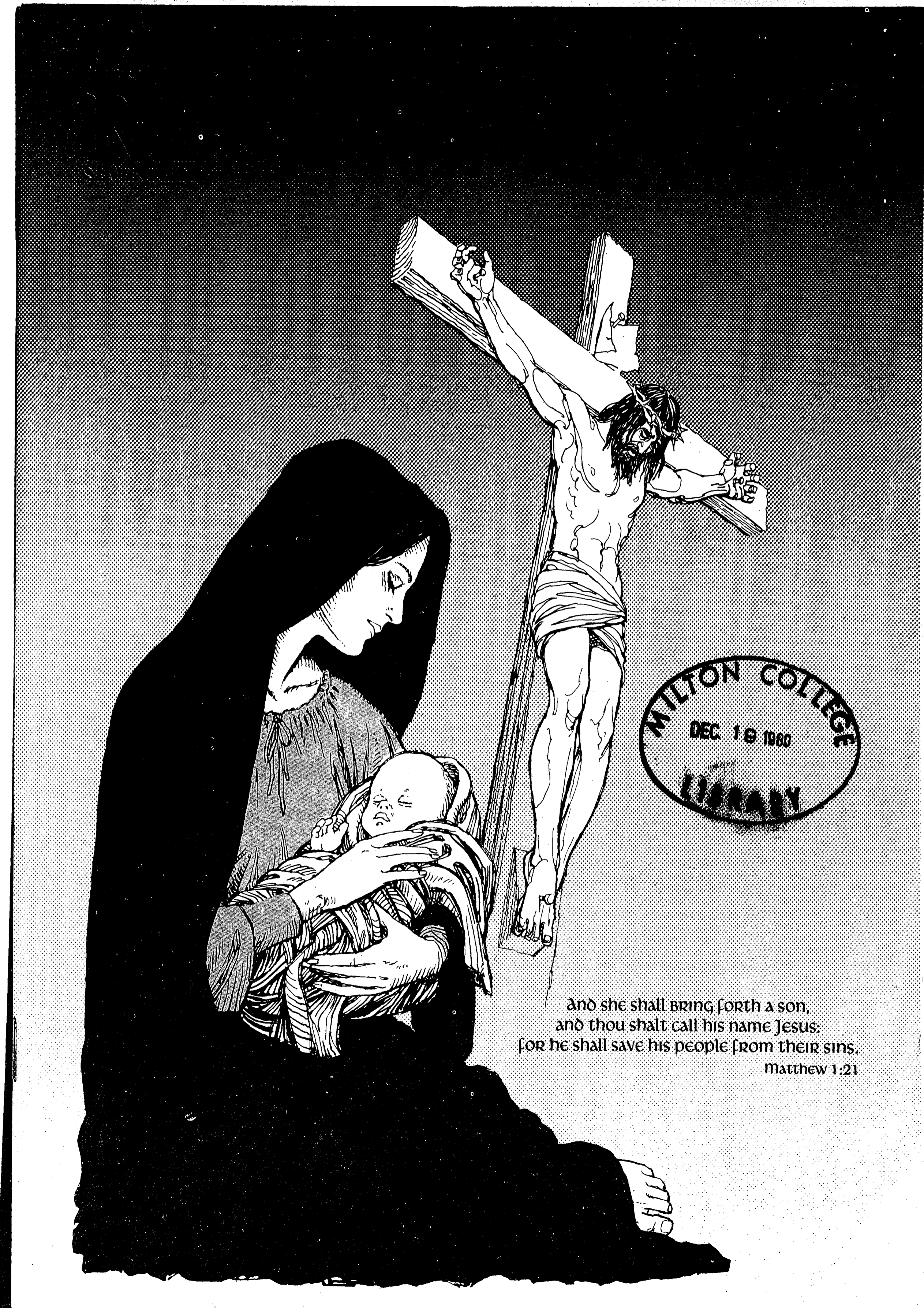
I marveled at the beauty
Made by God's almighty hand.
I was swept by deep emotion
at the wonders God had planned.

God's loving and saving grace
Paul Hummel surely knew.
He shared it for the ages
in this camp for me and you.

It was only once I met Paul
in the autumn of his life.
Paul spoke of God's great goodness
Midst life's unceasing strife.

If I could give to others
as Paul Hummel surely gave,
to know that through my giving,
some sinner Christ could save—

Claston E. Bond
Dodge Center, MN



and she shall bring forth a son,
and thou shalt call his name Jesus:
for he shall save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21

OUR NEED

LORD, YOU HAVE SAID
 THAT THOSE WHO WISE
 TO LIVE IN YOUR HOLY HOUSE
 ON YOUR HOLY MOUNTAIN
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 AND DO RIGHT
 AND SPEAK THE TRUTH ALWAYS
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DAVID FABER
 W. 11. 121



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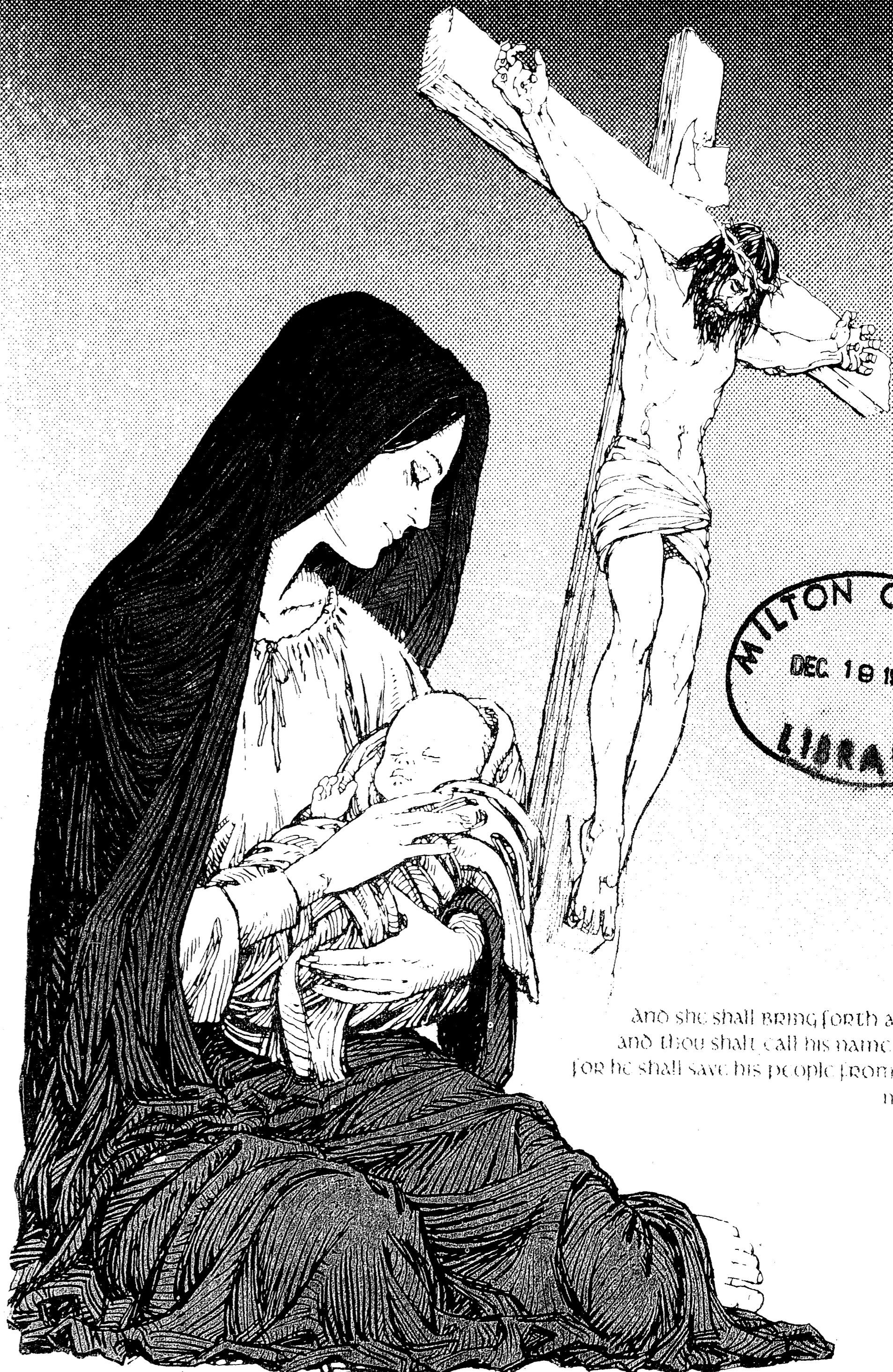
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GASTON C. BOND
 Dodge Center, MN

THE SABBATH
RECORD
 SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



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ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1981 Center on Ministry Summer Institute will be held in Plainfield, New Jersey, at denominational headquarters on June 8-26, 1981. The course of study will be Sabbath Philosophy. Anyone wishing to participate in this three week intensive study should contact Dean Herbert E. Saunders, Center on Ministry, Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

WEEK OF PRAYER BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Week of Prayer will be observed January 4-10, 1981. This year the theme of the study booklet is Grow with God, "... pressing toward the mark." Philippians 3:14. The study booklets have been mailed to the churches. Additional copies are available by writing to: American Sabbath Tract Society, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

A Christmas Prayer

Father,

It's Christmas time, and the year is crowned with goodness, with joy, blessing and cheer, with the music of laughter.

We celebrate the good times, with good friends and families—both here with us now and far away. We feel the warmth of friendship, and the spirit of caring and sharing—may this be the spirit of Christmas for each of us.

Father, we celebrate with memories of past Christmases—a caroling party, a church program, a gift received or a gift given—the memories which make each following Christmas so rich with meaning. This is the holy time of year—the year's Sabbath.

We see the evergreen trees—we set them up and cover them with decorations—and we remember their meaning: evergreen, for everlasting life. We celebrate a birth, and know that it brings to us rebirth. For a child was born—your child, Father—and He grew up, to say and do some vitally important things. And His spirit burns within us like a Christmas candle, to brighten a dark world, to make us radiantly attractive, to warm our hearts and the hearts of those we touch.

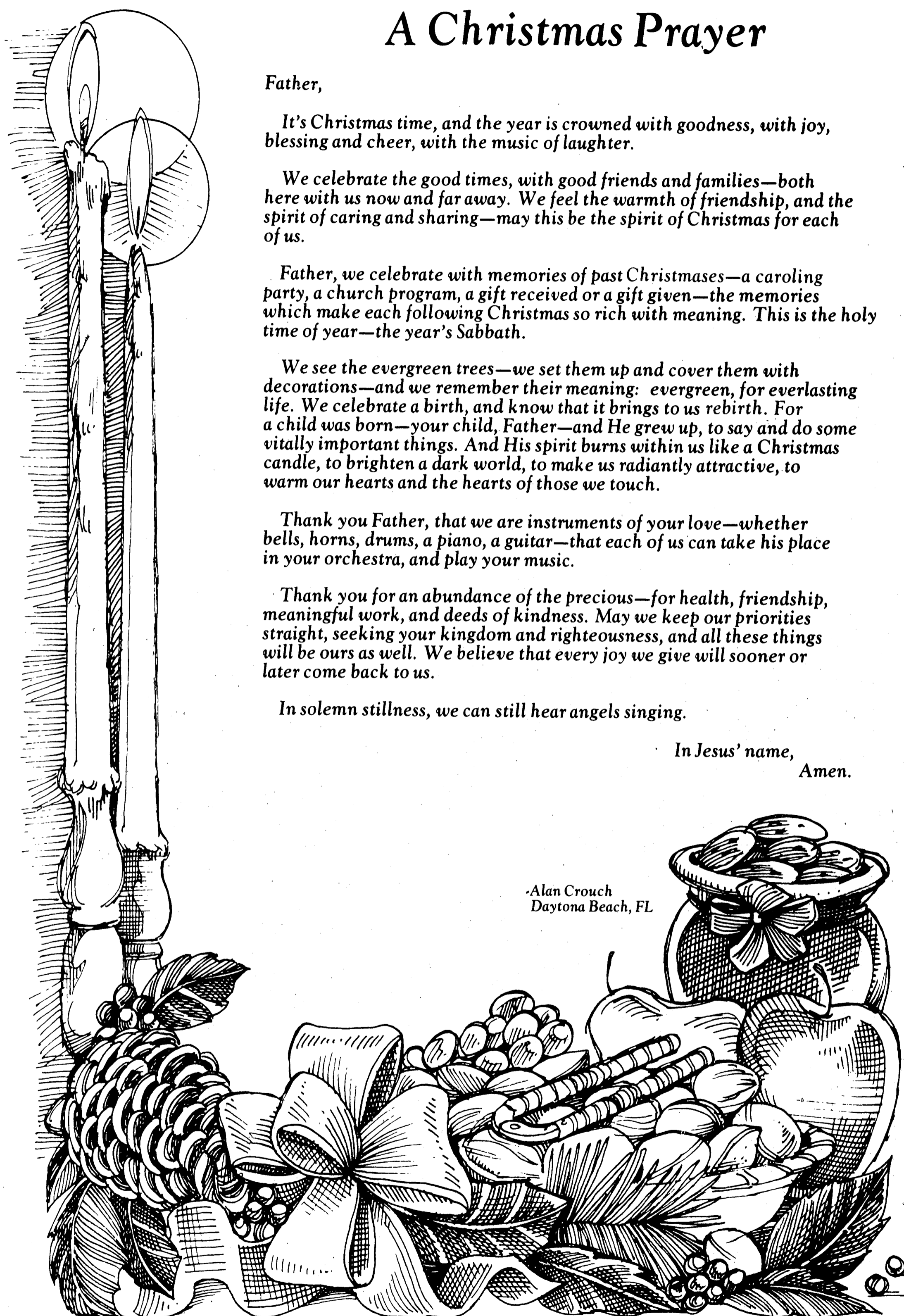
Thank you Father, that we are instruments of your love—whether bells, horns, drums, a piano, a guitar—that each of us can take his place in your orchestra, and play your music.

Thank you for an abundance of the precious—for health, friendship, meaningful work, and deeds of kindness. May we keep our priorities straight, seeking your kingdom and righteousness, and all these things will be ours as well. We believe that every joy we give will sooner or later come back to us.

In solemn stillness, we can still hear angels singing.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

Alan Crouch
Daytona Beach, FL



"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was Governor of Syria.)" Luke 2:1,2

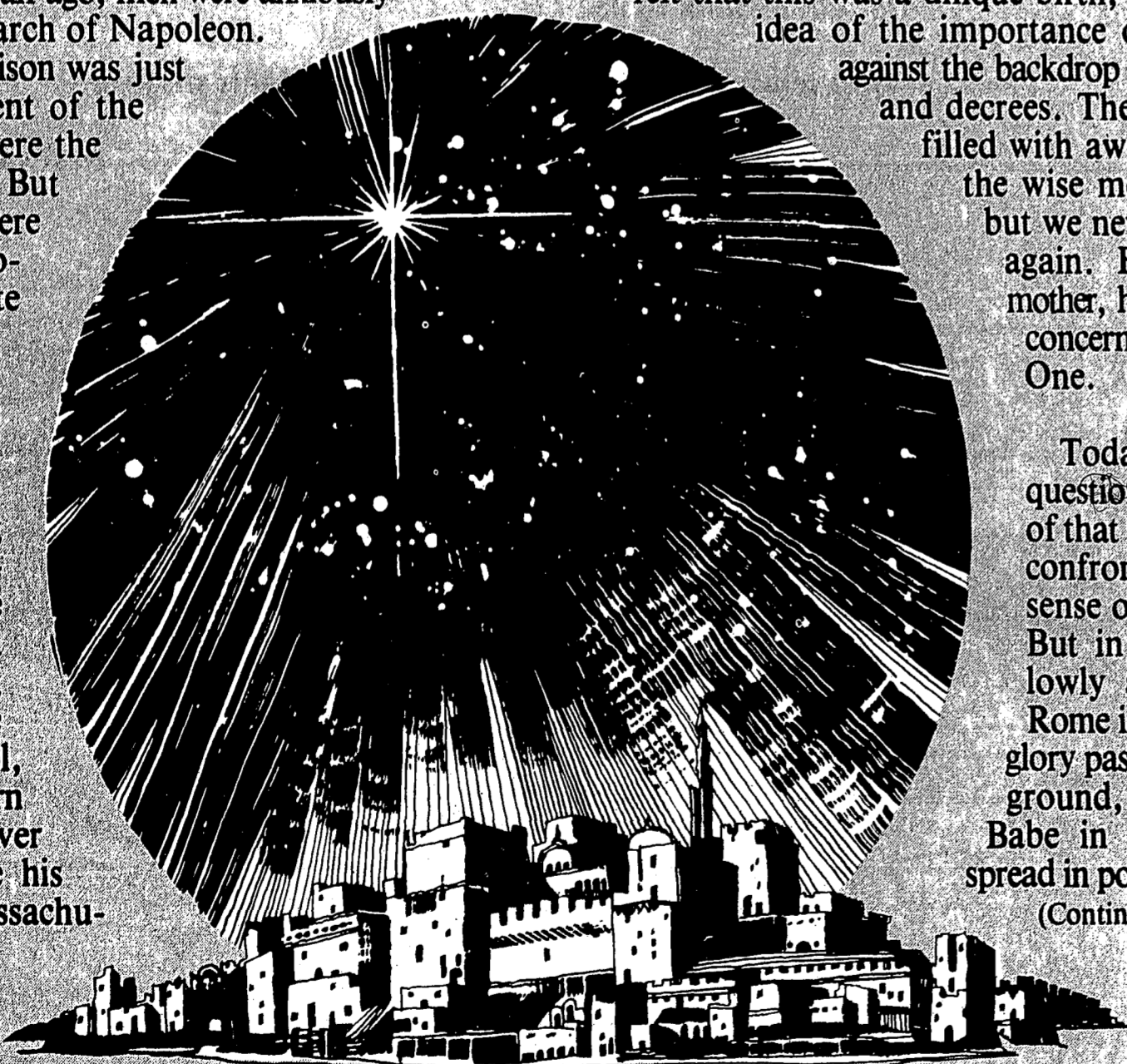
Luke dates the birth of Jesus in the customary way by placing it in the time when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. Matthew placed the same event in the days of Herod the king, for this was their only way of fixing a date in history, to place it in the reign of the contemporary rulers.

But how ironic it is that after a few centuries of time the events which placed the birth of Jesus in a definite period of history are now remembered only in connection with that event which they denoted. How many people would have heard of Cyrenius or Herod, were it not for the birth of Jesus happening during their reigns? Now all dates are fixed by that great event in time; everything is either B.C. or A.D. Even the many years of prehistoric life on this planet are dated from this one event which at the time was so obscure that it had to be marked by the rule of Herod, of Augustus, and of Cyrenius.

Presumably no event in our day will ever serve as a dividing line for history. But there may be seemingly unimportant events happening today which in God's plan will loom large in the course of history. There may even be babies born in our time who some day will exert great influence in the course of human history. In God's plan the small often become great and the great are made small.

Over a century and a half ago, men were anxiously awaiting news of the march of Napoleon. In America, James Madison was just taking office as president of the United States. These were the big events of the time. But all the while babies were being born with little notice outside the immediate families directly concerned. But who could think of babies when battles were the important things?

Yet in one year lying halfway between Trafalgar and Waterloo, there came into the world a host of heroes. During that one year Gladstone was born in Liverpool, Alfred Tennyson was born in Somersby and Oliver Wendell Holmes made his first appearance in Massachu-



When Cyrenius Was Governor

By Rev. Don Sanford

setts. On the same day in that year Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln drew their first breath, while the music world was enriched by the birth of Felix Mendelssohn in Hamburg.

Sometimes we think that it is only the great things such as battles and elections through which God manages this world, but often it is accomplished by the advent of a new life with new ideas and new hopes. When a wrong needs correcting or a truth needs presenting, God sends a baby into the world to do it. That was why, long, long ago a baby was born in Bethlehem.

This thought should make us mindful of the possibility that within our own time there may be a future great who will lead men into new paths and new experiences. There may be children growing up in our midst who will overshadow some of the world leaders of our present day. It might be interesting if we could gaze into the future and see what will become of the life of each child in our church. But on the other hand, as long as we do not know the details of the future, there remains the possibility that each life may be dramatically used in the service of man and God.

Probably back in 1809 there was not a person who could predict what an impact those babies born in that year would one day make upon the course of human history, but the passage of time has shown that those babies when grown had more influence on history than even Napoleon and all his armies.

The passage of time has also altered the significance of that event at Bethlehem in the days of Herod, Cyrenius and Caesar Augustus. There were a few at the time who felt that this was a unique birth, but they had no idea of the importance of that birth set against the backdrop of political names and decrees. The shepherds were filled with awe and reverence, the wise men travelled far, but we never hear of them again. Even Mary, His mother, had many questions concerning this promised One.

Today men are still questioning the meaning of that birth. We are still confronted with the false sense of values of man. But in God's plan the lowly are made great. Rome in all its pomp and glory passed into the background, while the lowly Babe in the manger has spread in power and influence

(Continued on page 27)



This is the time when candles glow
And Christmas bells are heard,
When love is king, and brotherhood
Is more than just a word.
May Christmas bring to all mankind
A spiritual rebirth;
And may the Christ of Bethlehem
Bring peace to men of earth!

-D.L.D.

The Meaning of Christmas

by Duane L. Davis

Many voices today call for the abandonment of the traditional Christmas festivities. It is true that the Bible does not give us a specific command to observe a date for Christ's birth. It is true that one can trace many and diverse origins for the celebration as we now know it. It is true that there are many excesses today that view Christmas as a commercial enterprise and that many parts of the world import the traditions and the legends but know nothing of the birth of the Son of God. These are not new ideas, of course. The early Puritans of England and America abolished Christmas celebrations for their people because of the abuses and misuses they observed around them. But we must ask ourselves if abolishing this annual festivity really honors God? Certainly we do need to make all we do and say as Christians be done to the glory of God, so there are many parts of Christmas we will not participate in. But when we have said all this—we must still look back to the event that Christmas was set to signify and discover there is still genuine importance in the message of Christ's coming to the world that can make Christmas important and meaningful today.

Friends I know have adopted two Southeast Asia refugee orphans. One child has proof of age and birth; the other's early records are lost and so the new family does not know exactly how old the child is or when his

birth occurred. But the family has not chosen to celebrate one birthday and ignore the other because they do not know when it is. They have wisely chosen a day to let their child know how much he is valued and loved and to mark the significant growth of his developing years by selecting a day to be his birthday. This is significant to me—as I come to meditate on the Incarnation of the Son of God each year during the winter month of December. It is not the date of Christmas that matters, or how others choose to celebrate it. It is the meaning of Christ's coming to earth to give us the love of God that matters and that is worthy of our attention and our observance as Christians.

The great characteristic of Christmas is its Good News. The angel announced, "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people" (Luke 2:10). And what was the good news? The apostle John summed it up in one sentence, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (1 John 1:14). Let's look at that statement and see what its good news means.

John's introduction to his Gospel does not give the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem nor tell of His childhood in Nazareth. Rather, John announces that the Jesus who lived on earth was the incarnate God of the universe. He calls Him the Word, or the Greek

word he used was, "Logos." It is a bit difficult to translate "logos" into English, because "logos" has two basic meanings and the English language has no meaning that expresses them both in one word. The Living Bible paraphrase solved that by just saying, Christ, for "logos," and James Moffatt simply left the word untranslated, saying, "The Logos became flesh and tarried amongst us" (John 1:14-Moffatt). Let's look at the meanings of the word, as we think about the meaning of Christmas for us.

First, "logos" means *mind* or *reason*. The ancient Greeks were always fascinated by the marvelous order of this world. Why do spring, summer, autumn, winter always come in the same order? Why does the sun rise and set, why do the tides ebb and flow to an unvarying timetable? What solves the traffic problem of the heavens and keeps stars and planets where they belong? Why is this a dependable universe where the same cause produces the same effect? The answer the Greek philosophers gave was that the "logos" or the mind or reason of God was interpenetrating the entire universe—it put order into the world, and maintains it, it put reason into mankind. Therefore, the "Logos" is the Mind of God. So when John was inspired to use this word for Jesus Christ he is saying, "For hundreds of years now you have been talking about the mind of

(Continued on page 26)



The First Australasian Conference

by President Charles Graffius

The First New Zealander

I apparently did not look very threatening and I was through Customs without a single inspection of any kind. By this time I was beginning to wonder who would meet me. How will they know me? What should I look for? I was remembering a year before when I was in the Los Angeles International Airport looking for a man by the name of Edward Barrar, a man I had never seen before, from New Zealand, and visiting the United States. I had been telling my Seventh Day Baptist loved ones in the United States how God's timing is perfect and I was now about to realize how efficient our Heavenly Father really is. He planned for my friend, the only person that I really knew in all of New Zealand, to arrive from the South Island shortly before I did. As a matter of fact, my Heavenly Father had to delay the arrival of my plane so that Ed would be there when I arrived. You see, he did not want me to be anxious or frustrated in a strange land. An international hug, and I was beginning to feel at home already. To meet us both at the airport was Maria (Mrs. Ron Barrar). Maria was to be one of the many loved ones in New Zealand who would bring tears to my eyes and a lump in my throat ten days later when I would be leaving this beautiful land.

Driving from the airport to the Auckland church on the wrong side of the streets, or should we say the left side—well the left side is not the right side—so you see

On many occasions I had lifted off in a giant DC 10 from the Los Angeles Airport. In a few seconds man's modern day miracle would be tipping its wings, banking over the Pacific Ocean and heading east, over the sunny beaches of Southern California, by now high over the megalopolis of cities that manufacture the much-talked-about smog. It has then always been fun to look out on all of my property like the cattle on a thousand hills, the mountains and valleys of Colorado, irrigation circles of Nebraska, the hills of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. But this time it's different. I suddenly realize that the wings did not tip toward the water and we are now headed straight out over the blue Pacific. Nothing but water down below. Miles and hours of nothing but water. We are now heading southwest into the longest night of my life. After a few hours in Hawaii, it's off into the darkness again, across the International Date Line where in the twinkling of an eye a whole day goes by and it's still night; south, across the equator, and another seven hours of darkness. It's just getting light on the Fiji Islands when our Air New Zealand jet touches down on the runway. I enjoyed the tropical islands' balmy breezes and a chance to stretch for another hour while the natives serviced the plane for the last leg of the trip that is to take me to the First Australasian Conference of Seventh Day Baptists.

After leaving Los Angeles Sunday evening and traveling for sixteen hours, it's now Tuesday morning in Auckland, New Zealand.

I learn fast, even though it looks dumb to see a steering wheel on the wrong side of the car (which is the right side), I did not feel very far from home as I was greeted by the familiar twin arches where they do it all for you, along with many familiar signs from back home.

The Conference Meetings

There were committee meetings and planning sessions much the same as we have become accustomed to here in the United States. There was much discussion because they were drafting their Constitution and Bylaws. They were establishing precedents and policies. They were selecting leaders.

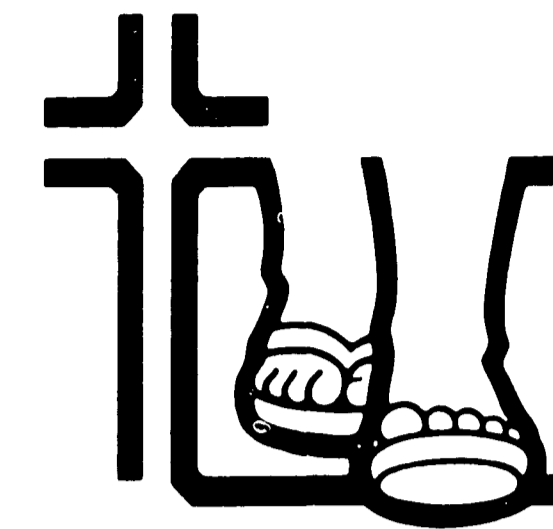
It is more interesting being somewhat of a resource person rather than a member of their organization. It is even more exciting to know that this assembled group of people represent New Zealand, that is the North and the South Island, and four or more parts of Australia. The delegates themselves represent an even larger background, including New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, England, the Netherlands, Poland, and Argentina. Communication was sometimes a problem; first, to understand exactly what another Brother or Sister said, and then to understand exactly what they meant. It was fun and caused us to concentrate more on each other and, thus, develop a greater love and understanding.

By Friday, the Australasian Conference of Seventh Day Baptists was a reality. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted, officers were elected, and excitement was running high. Pastor Ron Barrar is now their elected President. Pastor Barrar is a real leader and is respected by all. He has a tremendous responsibility ahead.

It wasn't all business however. There was plenty of time for worship, Bible study, prayer and praising the Lord. There was a Bible study each morning, with one of the participating delegates as our leader. You see I'm already using the word "our" because I really felt a real part of everything. Every evening we had a worship service where I had an opportunity to share with them myself, my love, and the message the Lord sent with me. I was impressed with the song service they encouraged the young people to provide each evening. The church was full on the Sabbath Day, with many of the local church members attending. And again it was a time to learn new people, trade smiles, hugs and stoop down to talk to the children. Saturday night, after Conference activities were completed, it was time for a social with fun, stories, skits, singing and snacks.

The love of God is surely everywhere I go. I found it in abundance in the beautiful people of "down under." This visit is kind of like salvation itself. I didn't earn it. I didn't deserve it. I couldn't buy it. I can only thank someone else for it. PRAISE THE LORD.

In part two of my story I will tell you about my New Zealand family, an evening with the young people, my New Zealand holiday, farewell and the trip home. □



Decision to Discipleship

Decision to Discipleship is a year-long experience in practicing the lifestyle of Jesus Christ. Its six eight-week phases are designed to help you develop a dynamic Christian lifestyle. The purpose is to take the teaching and example of Jesus out of the classroom and through discipline apply them to the total person—leading to a lifestyle of redemptive discipleship.

Decision to Discipleship is now a part of the program of many Seventh Day Baptist churches across the country. Good reports are coming in from those involved in this study. The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio, is one committed to this study. Some of those so involved share their reactions:

SUSAN: *I feel like Mary Magdalene inside when people think of me as Mary Poppins. My cell group is what the wider church should be—it's a start—a group in which we can all be our real selves.*

GEORGE: *The Bible study is different in that it's personal—a new approach that makes the Scriptures meaningful in my everyday life. It's the sharing that makes the difference.*

HELEN: *The commitment we make—to study, pray, and learn—the quality of the time and the amount of time spent is what makes this a different kind of study.*

PERRY: *It's like being on a dialysis machine—something you've gotta have but don't always feel like doing, but you couldn't live without it. It forces us to prepare ourselves, to have already done some thinking about the Scriptures before we examine them together.*

Some of the topics are basic Christian disciplines, life priorities, stewardship of God's resources, personal relationships in family and church, sharing one's faith, and discipling others. The Columbus church is now in the process of forming additional cell study groups.

Decision to Discipleship can be the beginning of a life-long experience. It can strengthen your personal faith and empower your church giving new life and purpose. One of the aims is to train an army of Christians committed to a lifestyle of discipleship.

For additional information concerning Decision to Discipleship write to the SDB Missionary Society, 401 Washington Trust Building, Westerly, RI 02891. □



“MARY, A Three-Dimensional Person”

by
Jane Mackintosh

Since the birth of our first child, Adam, I have felt a special feeling of identification with Mary. I remember when I first suspected I was pregnant. I looked at Doug and was so excited with the thought that I was carrying his child. I wondered then if in the midst of Mary's joy at being pregnant, she ached a little when she looked at Joseph, knowing this child wasn't his son. After Adam's birth, I remember vividly the shudder that ran through me as I looked at him as if I were Mary looking at Jesus, knowing that one day He would die a horrible death for the salvation of mankind. I don't believe Mary had this foreknowledge but I wondered: if I were Mary and could make that choice, would I choose to sacrifice my son so that others could be saved including myself? These thoughts were very revealing reminding me once again to reaffirm Who was first in my heart and in my life.

This experience made me curious about the real person in Mary, the mother of Jesus. Combining the Scriptural accounts of her and my limited knowledge of the customs of the culture she lived in, I've been able to speculate about her. I offer this to you as a springboard for your own study of her.

We first learn of Mary in the Gospels when Gabriel appears to her to announce that she has found favor with God and has been chosen to bear the long-awaited Messiah. Gabriel leaves no doubt as to the specialness of this child. He is the one all of Israel has awaited for centuries—the promise to restore the subjected Israel to the nation it had once been when it dominated the known world. I believe Mary was expecting this promised son to be the King who would set up his kingdom on earth, for this was the teaching of the day. Naturally she was curious about just how she was to conceive this child since she was still a virgin, but Gabriel explained this and then the angel appeared to Joseph and confirmed what she had been told. It is difficult to imagine a girl about fourteen years old handling all this, but maybe Mary's tender age helped her accept these things in childlike faith. Mary did become a mother-to-be and a wife in a very short time and was probably still somewhat in a daze when she went to visit her elder relative, Elizabeth, who was also miraculously pregnant. We find recorded in Luke 1:39-56, that when Mary first greeted Elizabeth the baby 'leaped in Elizabeth's womb' and she began praising God.

When she told Mary what had happened, Mary began 'exalting her Lord' also and in this song we can experience Mary's elatedness at the fact that she has been chosen to be the mother of the Promised Redeemer of Israel. I'm sure this joy grew as the life inside her blossomed and was born. The arrival of the shepherds undoubtedly completed her joy as she held her newborn son in her arms that first night. Mary's joy probably continued uninterrupted until forty days after Jesus' birth when she and Joseph went to Jerusalem for the traditional cleansing sacrifices. There they met Simeon. Until this point, it is recorded that Mary had been told only that she was carrying the Promised One. Simeon confirmed this as recorded in Luke 2:25-35, but he also told Mary some very disturbing things.

I'm sure that Mary did not understand the full significance of Simeon's message to her in verses 34-35, but I believe the words disturbed her and probably remained in a corner of her thoughts throughout the rest of her son's thirty-three years. She probably tried to figure out many times how this piece of information fit into the picture of the glorious Messiah

(Continued on page 27)

“BREAD CRUMBS— AMERICAN STYLE”

Since the dawn of civilization human beings have been eating bread, which is nothing more than water, flour, yeast and a little salt. These simple ingredients have been used in combination over and over again for centuries. The familiar loaf of bread, warm from the oven, is the stuff of life. Water, flour, yeast and a bit of salt are all a person needs to produce a little miracle of the loaves. And when the bread becomes stale, it still serves us well; we can make bread crumbs.

Bread crumbs were once understandable things. But no longer. I went shopping recently and took from the shelf a harmless looking package with the innocent title: “Bread Crumbs—American Style.” One would tend to think it had only the four basic elements, but no. In my hand was a symbol of the modern industrial and chemical revolution.

“Contents: made from enriched bleached flour, (malted barley flour, ferrous sulfate, niacin, thiamine nononitrate, riboflavin), water, whole wheat flour, rye flour, whey, yeast, partially hydrogenated vegetable shortening (may contain soybean and/or palm oils), salt, soy flour, yeast nutrients (calcium sulfate, ammonium sulfate), dough conditioners (may contain one or more of the following: ethoxylated mono and diglycerides, sodium and/or calcium stearoyl-2-lactylate, polysorbate 60, succinylated monoglycerides, potassium bromate),

mono and diglycerides, calcium propionate (a preservative).”

Can you believe it? “Bread Crumbs—American Style” were as chemically saturated as a box of moth balls.

The scandal is not limited to bread. Every package of food in the supermarket, if you check it, has had a chemical overdose. By extending the shelf-life of their products with artificial additives, the American food manufacturers have been increasing their profits, and denaturing our food. Man-made chemicals, untested for long-term effects on humans, have been used continuously in suspicious combinations for decades.

When something like this happens we are all guilty. As Herbert Butterfield wrote, “Behind the shocking crime at the center, the blame goes to the vast numbers of individuals, each guilty of small derelictions of duty or pretty compliance with vested interests—each gravely responsible, though astoundingly unaware of the importance of what he was doing.”

We are all custodians of God's good earth. One day the Lord will say to each one of us, “Draw me up an account of your stewardship.” (Luke 16:2)

“When I was hungry, did you give me potassium bromate, ethoxylated mono and diglycerides and ammonium sulfate?” □

Father Catoir, The Christophers.



Rev. Mynor Soper,
Rev. Steven Crouch,
Rev. Herbert E.
Saunders

The weekend of October 3-4 was a very special time for the Hebron, Pennsylvania, and Little Genesee, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Churches. They shared together, with friends from the Allegany Association, in the ordination of their pastor, Steven P. Crouch. The weekend services were held in Hebron as representatives from churches as far away as Milton, Wisconsin (the ordinand's home church) and the General Conference listened as Mr. Crouch gave his statement of Christian Experience and Faith. Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel of Alfred Station, New York, was the chairman of the Council as they met to consider the fitness of the candidate for the Christian Ministry.

A concise Biblical statement of faith was read by Mr. Crouch. He shared with the congregation the deep faith he has in God and His Word, salvation through Jesus Christ, the need for man to discover his hope and purpose in God's plan, the responsibility of all who call themselves Christian to serve Christ through the Church, and the future hope of those who know the Lord. Of particular note was one challenge he gave us all: "Even though the believer can be sure of his salvation, I believe it is possible for a born-again believer, as an act of his will, to reject Christ and his salvation and thus to become as though he had never been a Christian. This probably happens very rarely. But the belief

that it is possible should put a great responsibility on the Church for discipleship and preservation of new believers." Brother Crouch spent many hours on this statement and verified his beliefs with appropriate Scripture passages.

After the successful examination of the candidate, ordination services were held with Rev. David S. Clarke of Alfred, New York, leading the congregation in the opening worship. Rev. John Rau of Brookfield and Leonardsville, New York, gave the Charge to the Candidate and Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel the Charge to the Church. Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, Dean of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry, gave the prayer of Consecration as those ordained pastors present shared in the traditional "laying on of hands." Rev. Mynor G. Soper, who had earlier delivered the ordination sermon, welcomed the newly ordained pastor into the Christian ministry. Rev. Albert N. Rogers of Alfred, New York, led the congregation in a closing hymn and benediction as together we "praised God" for the joy of the day. A new relationship has begun, and we all ask God's blessings as Rev. Steven P. Crouch continues to serve Christ as one of His chosen servants. □

ALLEGANY ASSOCIATION ORDAINS PASTOR AND WELCOMES NEW PASTOR



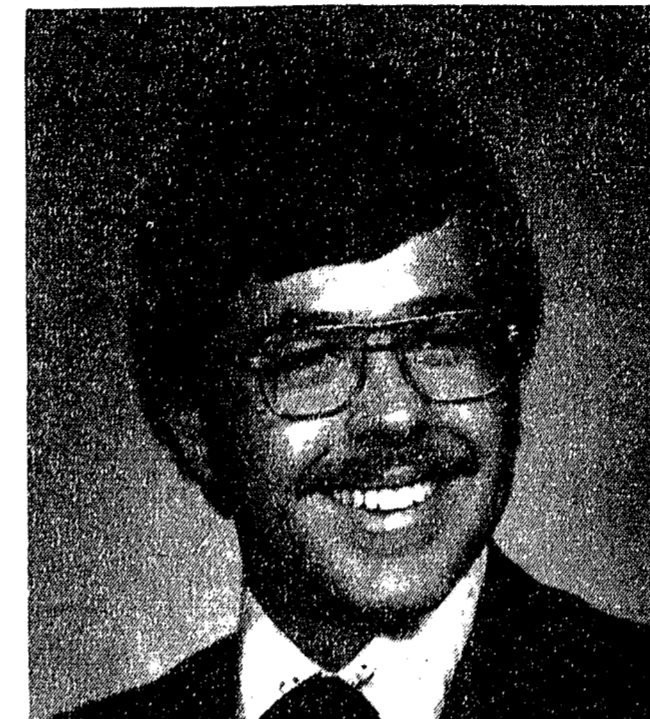
Rev. Joe A. Samuels

Sabbath Day, October 11, was an exciting day for the Toronto, Canada, Seventh Day Baptist Church. After only two weeks of negotiation and prayer, the new church formally installed a new pastor, Rev. Joe A. Samuels. Brother Samuels, who has previously been the pastor of the Charles Street Church in Kingston, and the Luna Church, both in Jamaica, and who had served the Jamaican Conference as Corresponding Secretary, accepted the challenge of the city of Toronto with faith and trust that God will guide and bless. Dean Herbert E. Saunders, who had been attending a Consultation on the Future of Ministry in Toronto, was present to participate in the Sabbath's activities.

The installation service took place following Sabbath School, worship, and fellowship together around the luncheon tables. Several persons

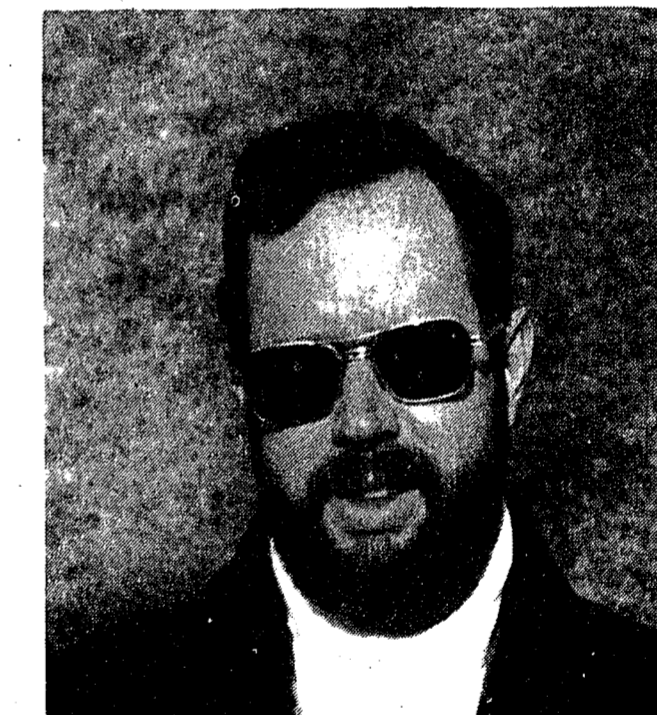
from other churches, including two fellow pastors, share in the occasion. Brother Herlitz Condison conducted the afternoon program welcoming Brother Samuels to the pastorate of the church. Brother Herman Grant gave a charge to the church and Dean Saunders a charge to the newly installed pastor. In his comments, Pastor Joe Samuels shared how the Lord had led in the few weeks he visited Toronto into his acceptance of this new responsibility. All are convinced that the future of the Toronto church is favorable with this new pastoral leadership and the vision that the people of Toronto have for the work of Seventh Day Baptists in this fabulous Canadian city. They believe God is working within them to build up the church and its ministry as the years go by. We pray God's blessing on all they do and envision for the future. □

Students Graduating From Seminary—1981

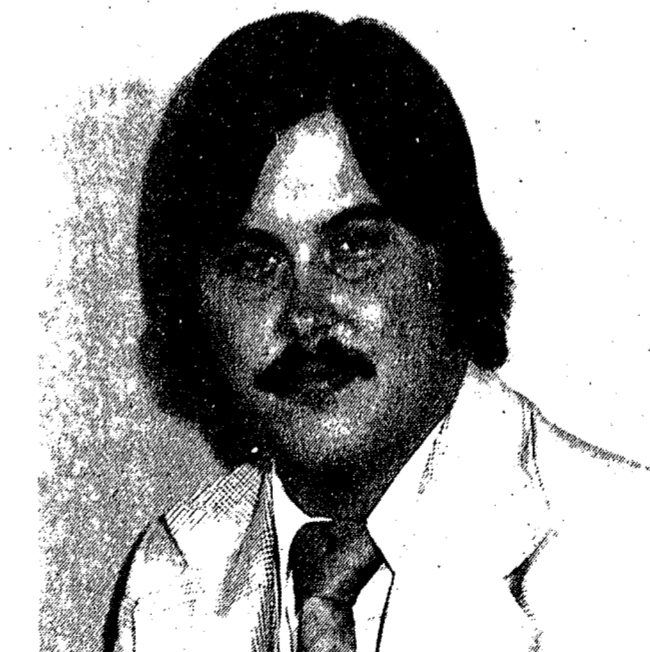


William E. Shobe graduates from Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary (Denver Seminary) in June. Bill, and his wife Shelley (Hunt), are members of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church which he has been serving as a "student pastor" for the three years of his seminary training. Bill has been interested in "new fields" for Seventh Day Baptists and took specialized training in Extension ministries. To contact Bill, write: William E. Shobe, P.O. Box 10000 UPS, Denver, CO 80210 or call (303) 761-4288.

the Salem, West Virginia, church. He has served as a pastoral assistant in Salem and these past two years in Columbus. He spent one semester as an assistant in the Plainfield, New Jersey, church and in the Center on Ministry while attending college. Perry describes his call to ministry in these words: "I feel that I have been called by God to serve..., not because I am worthy of it or because I am any better than any other person, but because 'the Love of Christ constraineth me.'" If you wish to contact Perry about possible service to your church write: Perry L. Cain, Apt. B1, METHESCO, Delaware, OH 43015 or call (614) 363-3997.



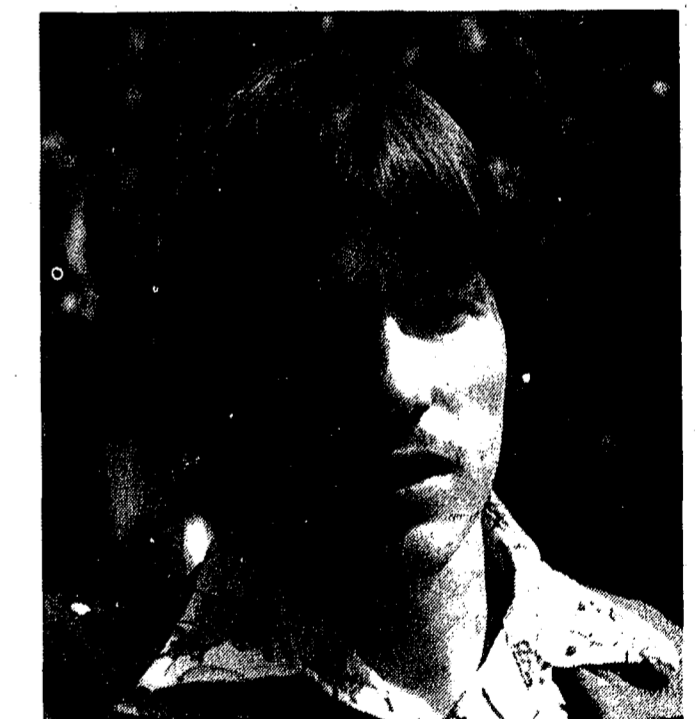
Clifford L. Bond will be completing his seminary training in June. He has been a student at Candler School of Theology, a part of Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. Specializing in the area of Christian Counseling, Cliff has been living in Atlanta with his family for the past three years. A native of Nortonville, Kansas and former pastor in Rockville, Rhode Island, and Kansas City, Kansas, Cliff hopes to strengthen his ministry through his interest in personal counseling. His family consists of Carol, his wife, and their three children Craig (15), Camille (13) and Cory (11). He may be contacted by writing to: Clifford L. Bond, 1063 Casa Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021 or calling (404) 292-6478.



Perry L. Cain will graduate from Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio, in Delaware, Ohio, in January. Perry, who is married to the former Christina Rogers, is a member of the Columbus, Ohio, church which he joined after entering seminary in Ohio. He is a graduate of Salem College, was baptized in



Jeanne L. Wilhelm will complete her studies in June at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A member of the Plainfield, New Jersey church, Jeanne served her home church for a year as an "Administrative Assistant" while it was without a pastor and she was attending New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She may be contacted by writing: Jeanne L. Wilhelm, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, City Line at Lancaster, Philadelphia, PA 19151 or calling (215) 896-5000.



Dennis Palmer is a graduating student from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. He will be completing his studies in June. Dennis, formerly from Wilsonville, Nebraska, is a member of the North Loup church which he has served for one summer as an assistant. He has been serving as a "student pastor" for the Dallas-Ft. Worth Seventh Day Baptist Church during his years in seminary. To contact Dennis, write: Dennis Palmer, Box 22183, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, TX 76122 or call (817) 923-1921.

At Conference in Denver this summer the following recommendation was adopted: "We recommend that Conference adopt January 4, 1981 as the Day of Prayer and Fasting for the full acceptance of the Sabbath truth by Christians everywhere." This recommendation came as a result of a letter by Dean and Susie Fox, Madison, Wisconsin, reminding us that two such days were held almost 140 years ago, with the result that the Adventists accepted the truth of the Sabbath.

This is a great opportunity for Seventh Day Baptists to make their influence felt in the world. But many of us are not used to fasting, or spending a day in prayer. We wonder how we can observe this day, and what specifically we should do. We do want the Sabbath truth to be accepted by all Christians, but how do we go about a day of prayer and fasting?

First, we must remember that it is a day of *prayer* and fasting. Prayer is the most important element of this day. We will be fasting, if possible, but even if there is some reason why some cannot fast, they can still spend the day in prayer. It is not the fasting which will bring about our request, but prayer. The purpose of fasting is to minimize the demands of everyday living, in order to spend more time in prayer, and to make a sacrifice to show to God our commitment.

It will be helpful to you to read Scriptures which speak of prayer and fasting. Specifically, you should read 1 Samuel 7:5,6; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 9:1-38; Daniel 9:3-19; Joel 1:14; 2:12-14; and Matthew 6:16-18. Use your concordance to find other passages relating to fasting and prayer.

If you are not accustomed to spending long hours in prayer, you will find it very difficult to spend the whole day praying. You will need to have a plan for the day, with a variety of activities designed to keep your mind on the purpose of the day. In Nehemiah 9:1-2, the Israelites did more than pray. They spent time reading God's Word, making confessions, and worshipping God. Here are some suggestions on how to spend the day:

1. Spend some time reading the Bible. Meditate on portions which are meaningful, but which you would

How To Spend the Day of Prayer and Fasting January 4, 1981

by Linda Harris
Middletown, CT

not otherwise have time to study.

2. Begin your prayers by making sure you are committed to God and to the message of the Sabbath. It is useless to pray that the Sabbath be accepted by all Christians if you are not committed to keeping it yourself. In fact, if there is any area of your life which you are not willing to surrender to God, your prayers will not be effective. Dr. Stephen Olford, of the National Association of Evangelicals says, "The greatest sin of our evangelical world today is unapplied orthodoxy—failure to obey truth already received." Is there something which you know you should be doing, but you are not? Confess your reluctance to God, and make a commitment to do that which you know you should. Specifically, you should be willing to be the instrument God uses to bring the Sabbath truth to others, knowing that if He asks you to do this, He will give you the resources you need to accomplish it.

The Sabbath truth was given to the Adventists through a Seventh Day Baptist lady named Rachel Oakes Preston. She moved from New York to Washington, New Hampshire, to live with her daughter. She attended the Adventist church there and convinced several members of the truth of the Sabbath. The conviction spread, until James and Ellen White were convinced, and they preached the Sabbath truth to the whole group of Adventists. Are you willing to be used as Rachel Oakes Preston was?

3. Continue to pray throughout the day. Sing or read the words to hymns of praise, confession, and dedication. A particularly meaningful hymn is "Cleans Me," by Edwin Orr. Use the Psalms to

praise God. If you have other duties which must be performed on this day, and you feel you might forget to pray, use the hunger pangs which you will feel as a result of fasting as a reminder to pray. Each time you feel hungry, pray a simple prayer in keeping with the purpose of the day.

4. Spend as much time praying as you can. Don't expect a few minutes of hurried prayer to do the job. You show God how committed you are to this goal by the amount of time you spend in prayer. Again, if you have other duties, you may not be able to spend a large amount of time in concentrated prayer. But you can go about your business in an attitude of prayer. Postpone as many of your duties as you can to the next day, or do them during the week before the day of fasting and prayer, so you will have more time to pray.

5. Pray in faith. It is God's will that all people come to know Him and to receive the blessings of His Sabbath. If you believe that, you can pray in confidence that God will answer your prayers and the prayer of others. If you don't believe God can *and will* do it, then you shouldn't be praying.

6. Suggest to your pastor and your church that a special worship service and prayer meeting be scheduled sometime during the day. Prayers and people are strengthened by coming together for a common purpose.

7. Decide how long you will fast. If you have never fasted before, it may be more difficult than you imagine. If you have a medical problem, such as diabetes, ask your doctor if you may fast. Some people

will not be able to fast for the entire day, others not at all. It will depend on the individual. Let the Holy Spirit lead you concerning the length of your fast. If you decide not to fast, or to fast for only part of the day, don't be misled by people who say, "God will give you the strength to make it through the day, if you are willing to make the sacrifice." That may be true in some cases, but the individual's physical make-up will determine how long he or she can fast. God made you the way you are, and he won't expect you to do something which would damage your body.

There are several ways in which you may fast. The way most people do it is to eat nothing from the time they get up until the time they go to bed. But you must consider that with this method, you will be going without food from the time of your last meal or snack that day before you fast, to breakfast of the day after you fast. This could be as much as 36 hours. If you don't think you can fast that long, try another method. You could fast from supper the day before the fast day, to supper of the fast day. Or from breakfast of the fast day, to breakfast of the day after the fast. If you don't know how long you can manage to fast, you might decide to skip one or two meals on the day of the fast, spending this time in prayer.

During your fast, keep on drinking fluids. Depending on how strict you want to be, you may only want to drink water, or you may want to also drink fruit and vegetable juices. Drinking juices will help keep your energy up if you have some physical things to do. When your break your fast, do it gently. Don't sit down to a large, heavy meal after fasting for 24 or more hours. Your stomach won't be able to take it. Eat a piece of fruit or a sandwich, and then a few hours later you may be able to eat some more.

If you have success with fasting, consider doing it on a regular basis. I know several people who fast every Sabbath Day. Fasting has medical as well as spiritual benefits. But be sure, as we said at the beginning of this article, to pray as well as fast. For without prayer, fasting has no spiritual value. □

Acceptance

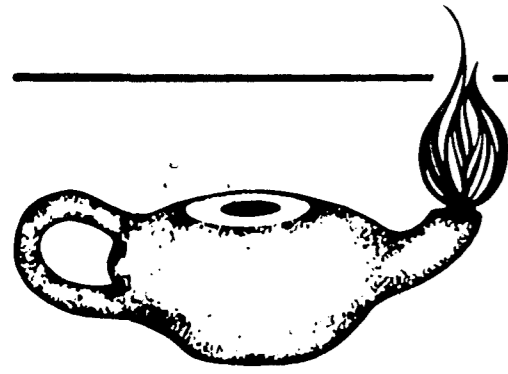
Ephesians 1:6, KJV

Accepted in the Beloved-
Golden thought-
That You, my Lord, could love me so!
Long has my heart cried out-
Ever hungry, searching still-
To find, to know
Acceptance, even
One who fully understands.
Lord, I stood bereft!
Until
You placed this richest gift
Within these outstretched hands!

Your purpose concealed
Through ages past-
This mystery hidden in heaven-
To me You have revealed
At last!
I was chosen aeons ago
Before the world was built;
Adopted,
Sealed,
Forgiven,
Redeemed and reconciled;
Freed from the shackling chains of guilt;
Loved as an only child-
Loved beyond measure.

Accepted in the Beloved-
Priceless treasure!

-Marjorie Darrow
Middletown, WI



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

Usually, during the holiday season we are more acutely conscious of the needy around us. A part of the celebration includes the giving of baskets of food and other gifts to the Salvation Army, nursing homes, migrants, jails, and individual indigents.

It is not enough to remember these people once or twice a year. As Christians we must be aware of government action concerning the broad spectrum of the problem of world hunger. One way that we can learn is to set up a program of study in our churches; filmstrips dealing with the problem are described in a film review in the *October Report from the Capital*.

"Bread for the World offers three filmstrips (color, about 20 minutes each) to help understand the problems of world hunger and the need for Christian involvement in public policy making.

"The first, *Hunger and Public Policy* is a good basic introduction to the reality of hunger around the world and in our own country and the fact that our efforts need to be directed toward public policy as well as our own projects of food closets and Christmas baskets, etc. 'In one vote Congress can wipe out the value of all contributions for church relief agencies for an entire year.' This country with its great wealth and energy, has the ability to wipe out hunger almost overnight. We can, we just haven't. This first filmstrip should be a powerful challenge to those who feel the church should be concerned in only 'spiritual' matters. 'By creating us and redeeming us through Jesus Christ, God has given us a love that will not turn aside from those who lack daily bread.'

"The second filmstrip, *Hunger: What Are the Issues?* is designed to dramatize the complex economic and political problems of world



Truly, I say unto you, as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40 (RSV)

HUNGER AND THE WORLD

hunger. For example, 'In one recent year, consumers in the industrialized countries paid about \$200 billion for products made from raw materials from developing countries. But the developing countries received only \$30 billion of that amount.'

"The third filmstrip, *Hunger, What Can I Do?* is the story of one person who joins Bread for the World and develops skills in mobilizing people to write congressmen on specific legislation related to hunger as a part of this Christian action network. 'Citizenship took on a whole new meaning for us.'

"The first film can be used with upper elementary children, youth and adults. The second and third, would be suggested for youth and adults. They are available without charge from Bread for the World, 207 East 16th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10003. A contribution for postage would be appreciated.

"We do well at charity, but charity is not enough. To charity we must add justice."

BOOKS FOR STUDY

Simon, Arthur, *Bread for the World* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI

"Although this book serves as a general introduction to world hunger, it emphasizes primarily the neglected role of public policy. Millions suddenly want to do something about world hunger. Few bother with public policy. Yet governmental policies may multiply or nullify a hundredfold all private efforts to assist hungry people. Ordinary persons can help to shape those policies. That is the thesis of this book. Because Christians have a special invitation to care about hungry people, the book is addressed primarily to them, but is intended also for others."

Frazier, Claude, *Religion and Politics Can Mix*, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN

"This book is a compilation by Claude Frazier of statements by twenty-two governors and senators who believe a person can be truly religious and still engage in politics. In the epilogue, C. Weldon Gaddy, Director of Christian Citizenship Development says 'Religion and politics inevitably mix in the life of a Christian. Genuine commitment to the Lordship of Christ pervades every sector of life—politics as well as prayer, patriotism as well as piety, and citizenship in the government as well as membership in the church. The dynamics of the Christian faith nurture a life style which embraces responsible participation in the political process. Politics provides the Christian a means of social involvement with tremendous potential for affecting significant change, attacking evil, and establishing justice. Religion provides politics the kind of motivation, goals, methods, and conscience which can make the system moral as well as effective.'"

Find Yourself in the Bible Helping Hand Editor's Goal

(Excerpts from Editor David Clarke's Preface for the first issue which he has edited, Dec. '80—Feb. '81.)

Karl Olsson's book, *Find Yourself in the Bible*, (Augsburg, 1974) has kept prodding me as new editor of the *Helping Hand*. His theme prods me on the right hand to enable learners and teachers using the *Helping Hand* to enter deeply into the experiences recorded in the Bible; and on the left, to enable users to discover their real selves as God's children.

As I begin editing the *Helping Hand*, I recognize the beautiful partnership we have in giving time and energy of spiritual, mental and emotional kinds to studying the Scriptures. The contributing writers, the Board of Christian Education, and I DEPEND ON—NOT assume—your commitment to Bible study and growth toward Jesus the Christ. We assure you of our desire to make the Christ's Way more real for all of us.

Sabbath School Teacher's Mini-Lab

The name, David Clarke, is not new to Seventh Day Baptists. He has been the executive of both the Missionary Board and the Board of Christian Education as well as pastor in several of our churches.

The Board of Christian Education welcomes him to our staff of lesson writers. Our hope is that a growing number of teachers and students find his lessons valuable in their study of the Bible. □

As a menace to public health, problem drinking far surpasses all other forms of drug abuse and addiction.

Alcohol is a family affair—undeniably. It always has been—and no doubt it always will be—because it can effect

- family stability
- family unity
- family values
- family attitudes
- family mental health
- family physical health
- family pocketbooks and
- in ever-widening circles it affects communities and the nation. □

Each of the three units is introduced by a short "Diamond" or preface. We want to point out the many truths glittering from God's Word. We thank Pastors Victor Skaggs, Plainfield, NJ; Gabriel Bejjani, Stanton, CA; and Melvin Stephan, Salemville, PA; for writing these.

"Catalyzers" for each Related Daily Bible Reading to "convert" the Word into the student's faith and action, were prepared by Roberta (Mrs. Howard F.) Ellis of Stephenstown, NY. Devotional readings, called here "The Word in Worship," were chosen by Uniform Lesson people.

The Lesson Scope suggests direction and extent for each lesson, but may not necessarily be the leader's focus. Let the Word speak, not our Scope. The Scripture Base seeks to explain meanings in each verse or group of verses. These I have written.

Theona (Mrs. Elmer E.) Andersen of Johnstown, NE, wrote the Dialog for Adults sections. We thank her for taking up some practical application for each lesson and sending off every *Helping Hand* user to stronger Christianity. I have prepared Ventures for Adults.

Linda (Mrs. Robert E.) Harris, Middletown, CT, opens up subjects in Dialog for Youth which will directly interest youth of high school and college age. She has posed many Ventures for Youth within her text.

All the good folk at our S.D.B. Publishing House rate sincere thanks. My wife gives expert criticism, and does much stenographic work. Sometimes I call her my WILD pass receiver, directing my phrasings to clearer talk!

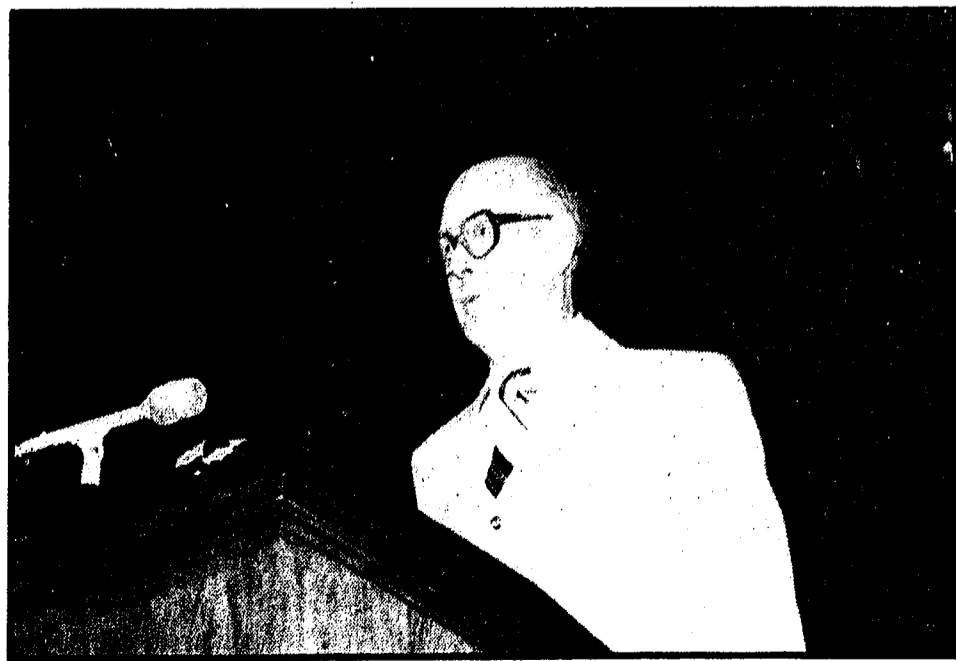
If we are to learn and grow together as Bible students, your specific suggestions and criticisms are essential. We shall try to keep open to God's guidance in writing lessons, seeking contributors, editing and designing with the Publishing House. You can communicate directly with the Editor or writers, or if you want third-party objectivity, you can contact the Resource Development Committee chairman of the Board of Christian Education. God can teach us through our partnership desire to effectively follow Jesus' Way. □

Sabbath Message Conference '80

Pleasing God Through Sharing Our Faith

Text: Philippians 2:1-6a (NEB)

Rev. Wayne Babcock
Centralia, WA



In this decade of discipleship to which many of us have committed ourselves, or as has been pointed out have fooled ourselves into thinking we have committed ourselves, it is helpful to me to remember that the *first* disciples pleased God by actively and intensively sharing their faith. The book of Acts is a glowing testimony to that fact. But the epistles suggest that they as well as we were not doing a good job of it for there are all kinds of corrections and admonitions about how to do it better. Perhaps we can find some consolation in this, but rather than consolation, let us look for instruction.

The apostle Paul, missionary, evangelist and church planter extraordinary, wrote to the church at Philippi because he was concerned that they be knowledgeable about, among other things, the avenues or methods through which the faith could be shared and by which churches could be founded and nourished. Hopefully we can be conscious that though this scripture calls for individual response it was written to the church, it calls for group action. "If then our common life in Christ yields anything to stir the heart, any loving consolation, any sharing of the Spirit, any warmth of affection or compassion, fill up the cup of happiness by thinking and feeling alike, with the same love for one another, the same turn of mind and a common care for unity. There must be no room for rivalry and personal vanity among you, but you must humbly reckon others better than yourselves. Look to each other's interest and not merely to your own. Let your bearing towards one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:1-5).

Our total text tells me that the church which pleases God shares its faith in three general ways; through:

1. Life style, what goes on among its members.
2. Deeds, what it does for the world.
3. What it says to the world, its proclamation.

Life Style

I presume it would take a day long seminar to cover all the possibilities for structuring an evangelistic life style in a church. Perhaps it would be time well spent. For what the church is has as much to do with the propagation of its Faith, as what it does and says.

If you attended Rev. Mynor Soper's Church Extension and Growth seminar, you heard from Pastors Ken Davis, Ken Hatcher and Bill Schoffner and others of some of those magnetic activities and states of being that are included in a church's evangelistic life style. I am impressed also with two verses from Colossians 3, verse 10 "Put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge (this is the key to renewal) after the image of Him that created him." And verse 16 "Let the works of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom—teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing with grace in your hearts to God." These verses along with verses 1-5 in our text would give a fair idea of the direction of a seminar on constructing an evangelistic life style in a church. This added to verse

14 of our text "Do all you have to do without murmuring or wrangling" would be pleasing to God. We can only guess how many fellowships and pseudo-fellowships have actually repelled rather than attracted new members by their murmuring and complaining about pastor, policy or people in the church. We know many have been turned off by wrangling and rivalries and vanities that beget strife. These have no place in the life style of a church committed to pleasing God in every way, if for no other reason than that the polarity they generate repels rather than attracts.

If the spirit world reacts to laws of physics, here is one we must reckon with. The same force that fashions unity is born and nourished by consideration for feelings and respect for one another's judgment. This plus remembering that "none of us is as smart as all of us" would do much to discharge dissension causing polarity. I believe the churches' life style that will please God will radiate an evangelist aura in which love, consideration, broad-mindedness, and acceptance are featured. In reality our church's life style proclaims the nature of our faith. If your church fails here the world will not be impressed with our deeds of faith or words of faith that we attempt to share. We are told in Acts 4:47 that it was God who added the souls to the early church. I believe that still to be the case. I have been convinced for some years and on good evidence, that God does not add to the church that is not equipped and ready to nourish and cherish new converts—churches that do not have an evangelistic life style. Very likely, there needs to be a conscious effort on the part of churches who are lacking in this grace to consider designing a style to practice.

Sharing Through Our Deeds

Secondly, we please God by sharing our faith through our deeds as a church. From verse 15—"show ourselves." We must do something to be seen. The question that follows then is: What best demonstrates the world attracting characteristics of Jesus? Throughout the ministry of our Lord it is obvious that He cared for and ministered to people in distress. And almost always, before He proposed a spiritual connection to His concern, He relieved their physical and social distresses.

John Wimber of the Fuller Evangelistic Association, emphasized the slogan, "Find a need and fill it," as a primary activity in church growth. It is a part of sharing our faith, a part of pleasing God and a part of following Jesus, who went about doing good. In Christ's parable of the judgment with the sheep and the goats, the obvious commendation comes from meeting human need. The Salvation Army has proven over and over again that in our day you can still reach men's souls through a physical and social ministry. Surely we can all agree that a major part of our faith is love. We are to share that part of our faith in deeds.

But that is not all. There has been a growing awareness among Seventh Day Baptists of a need for visibility. What more appropriate way of making ourselves visible is there, than being involved as a church in meeting

community needs? Visibility is a primary concept here, show yourselves! How? Guileless and above reproach in a world that is just the opposite, ministering to the needs that arise out of such perverse living. Find a need and fill it!

Proclaiming the Word

Thirdly—from verse 16 "Proffer the word of life." That means more than offer it. Get the message out where it can't be missed. The King James version has it "Holding forth the word of life"; a continuous proclamation. At no time in the past have more people had the opportunity to hear of our faith. Radio has made that possible. Can thirteen weeks of radio programming be considered holding forth in a manner that would be pleasing to God? The American Sabbath Tract Society has been offering our churches an opportunity to share our faith through the voice of Pastor Russ Havens for many months and many have been undecided as to whether or not we should obey the voice of God in this matter. What if we get no response? Does our text read proffer the word of life if you get responses? Statistics are not mentioned!

Of course there is more than one way to proffer the word of life. The apostle Peter wrote "Always be ready to give an account to everyone who asks, of the hope that lies within you." There is the answer to the question how long—Always! Jesus told the man whom he healed of devil possession—"go home and tell your family and friends what great things the Lord has done for you." Nothing was said of favorable responses.

There is also the avenue of tract distribution, a very viable way to proffer the word of life. It is a well-known fact that our brother Pastor L. Sawi Thanga of Burma found Seventh Day Baptists through a tract. The entire Burma Seventh Day Baptist movement can be credited to a tract. Should this have been the only response to our years of tract distribution, who would dare say our tract ministry was not worthwhile? The Bible does not say hold forth the word of life only if you get responses. Ours is the task of sowing the seed. Someone has said "Every way of *not* doing it is wrong." We are considering our most prized possession, our faith and the propagation of it—it grows with sharing.

This is the decade, if the Lord tarry, to make the Faith of Jesus Christ via Seventh Day Baptists known in every corner of our land. There is reason for urgency. There is a dark world out there, crooked and perverse and perishing, that desperately needs our witness and our Savior.

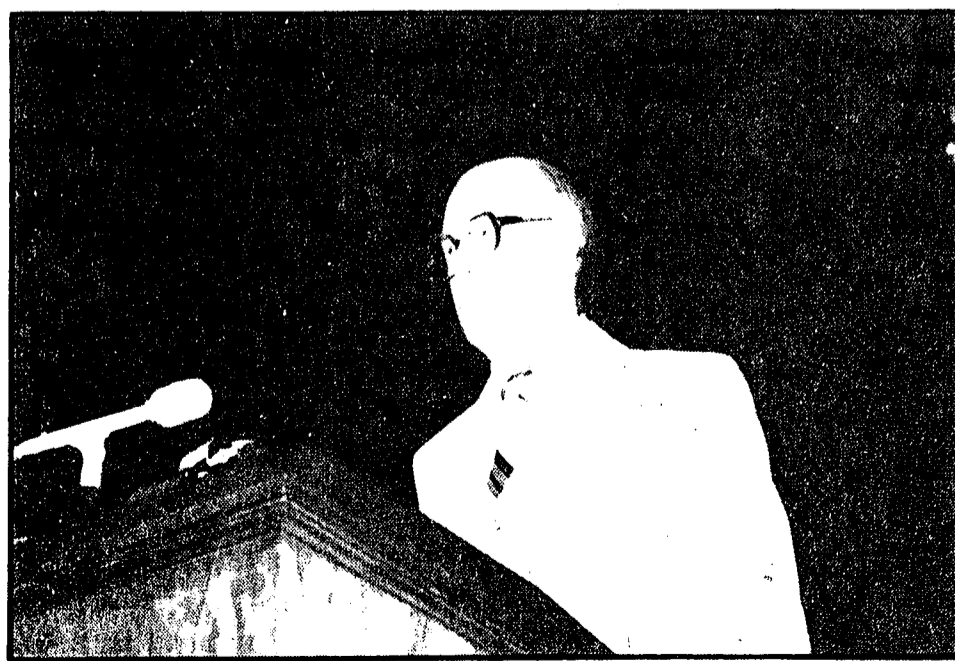
Therefore in order to please God we must—1. Live our faith attractively as a church. 2. We must do it sacrificially. Sacrifice is a vital part of the Christian religion. Until this denomination understands and practices the sacrifice principle, we are not pleasing God as we should. 3. We must proclaim our faith with our lips, proffering the word of life by every means at hand. □

Sabbath Message Conference '80

Pleasing God Through Sharing Our Faith

Text: Philippians 2:1-6a (NEB)

Rev. Wayne Babcock
Centralia, WA



In this decade of discipleship to which many of us have committed ourselves, or as has been pointed out have fooled ourselves into thinking we have committed ourselves, it is helpful to me to remember that the *first* disciples pleased God by actively and intensively sharing their faith. The book of Acts is a glowing testimony to that fact. But the epistles suggest that they as well as we were not doing a good job of it for there are all kinds of corrections and admonitions about how to do it better. Perhaps we can find some consolation in this, but rather than consolation, let us look for instruction.

The apostle Paul, missionary, evangelist and church planter extraordinary, wrote to the church at Philippi because he was concerned that they be knowledgeable about, among other things, the avenues or methods through which the faith could be shared and by which churches could be founded and nourished. Hopefully we can be conscious that though this scripture calls for individual response it was written to the church, it calls for group action. "If then our common life in Christ yields anything to stir the heart, any loving consolation, any sharing of the Spirit, any warmth of affection or compassion, fill up the cup of happiness by thinking and feeling alike, with the same love for one another, the same turn of mind and a common care for unity. There must be no room for rivalry and personal vanity among you, but you must humbly reckon others better than yourselves. Look to each other's interest and not merely to your own. Let your bearing towards one another arise out of your life in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:1-5).

Our total text tells me that the church which pleases God shares its faith in three general ways; through:

1. Life style, what goes on among its members.
2. Deeds, what it does for the world.
3. What it says to the world, its proclamation.

Life Style

I presume it would take a day long seminar to cover all the possibilities for structuring an evangelistic life style in a church. Perhaps it would be time well spent. For what the church is has as much to do with the propagation of its Faith, as what it does and says.

If you attended Rev. Mynor Soper's Church Extension and Growth seminar, you heard from Pastors Ken Davis, Ken Hatcher and Bill Schoffner and others of some of those magnetic activities and states of being that are included in a church's evangelistic life style. I am impressed also with two verses from Colossians 3, verse 10 "Put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge (this is the key to renewal) after the image of Him that created him." And verse 16 "Let the works of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom—teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing with grace in your hearts to God." These verses along with verses 1-5 in our text would give a fair idea of the direction of a seminar on constructing an evangelistic life style in a church. This added to verse

14 of our text "Do all you have to do without murmuring or wrangling" would be pleasing to God. We can only guess how many fellowships and pseudo-fellowships have actually repelled rather than attracted new members by their murmuring and complaining about pastor, policy or people in the church. We know many have been turned off by wrangling and rivalries and vanities that beget strife. These have no place in the life style of a church committed to pleasing God in every way, if for no other reason than that the polarity they generate repels rather than attracts.

If the spirit world reacts to laws of physics, here is one we must reckon with. The same force that fashions unity is born and nourished by consideration for feelings and respect for one another's judgment. This plus remembering that "none of us is as smart as all of us" would do much to discharge dissension causing polarity. I believe the churches' life style that will please God will radiate an evangelist aura in which love, consideration, broad-mindedness, and acceptance are featured. In reality our church's life style proclaims the nature of our faith. If your church fails here the world will not be impressed with our deeds of faith or words of faith that we attempt to share. We are told in Acts 4:47 that it was God who added the souls to the early church. I believe that still to be the case. I have been convinced for some years and on good evidence, that God does not add to the church that is not equipped and ready to nourish and cherish new converts—churches that do not have an evangelistic life style. Very likely, there needs to be a conscious effort on the part of churches who are lacking in this grace to consider designing a style to practice.

Sharing Through Our Deeds

Secondly, we please God by sharing our faith through our deeds as a church. From verse 15—"show ourselves." We must do something to be seen. The question that follows then is: What best demonstrates the world attracting characteristics of Jesus? Throughout the ministry of our Lord it is obvious that He cared for and ministered to people in distress. And almost always, before He proposed a spiritual connection to His concern, He relieved their physical and social distresses.

John Wimber of the Fuller Evangelistic Association, emphasized the slogan, "Find a need and fill it," as a primary activity in church growth. It is a part of sharing our faith, a part of pleasing God and a part of following Jesus, who went about doing good. In Christ's parable of the judgment with the sheep and the goats, the obvious commendation comes from meeting human need. The Salvation Army has proven over and over again that in our day you can still reach men's souls through a physical and social ministry. Surely we can all agree that a major part of our faith is love. We are to share that part of our faith in deeds.

But that is not all. There has been a growing awareness among Seventh Day Baptists of a need for visibility. What more appropriate way of making ourselves visible is there, than being involved as a church in meeting

community needs? Visibility is a primary concept here, show yourselves! How? Guileless and above reproach in a world that is just the opposite, ministering to the needs that arise out of such perverse living. Find a need and fill it!

Proclaiming the Word

Thirdly—from verse 16 "Proffer the word of life." That means more than offer it. Get the message out where it can't be missed. The King James version has it "Holding forth the world of life"; a continuous proclamation. At no time in the past have more people had the opportunity to hear of our faith. Radio has made that possible. Can thirteen weeks of radio programming be considered holding forth in a manner that would be pleasing to God? The American Sabbath Tract Society has been offering our churches an opportunity to share our faith through the voice of Pastor Russ Havens for many months and many have been undecided as to whether or not we should obey the voice of God in this matter. What if we get no response? Does our text read proffer the word of life if you get responses? Statistics are not mentioned!

Of course there is more than one way to proffer the word of life. The apostle Peter wrote "Always be ready to give an account to everyone who asks, of the hope that lies within you." There is the answer to the question how long—Always! Jesus told the man whom he healed of devil possession—"go home and tell your family and friends what great things the Lord has done for you." Nothing was said of favorable responses.

There is also the avenue of tract distribution, a very viable way to proffer the word of life. It is a well-known fact that our brother Pastor L. Sawi Thanga of Burma found Seventh Day Baptists through a tract. The entire Burma Seventh Day Baptist movement can be credited to a tract. Should this have been the only response to our years of tract distribution, who would dare say our tract ministry was not worthwhile? The Bible does not say hold forth the word of life only if you get responses. Ours is the task of sowing the seed. Someone has said "Every way of *not* doing it is wrong." We are considering our most prized possession, our faith and the propagation of it—it grows with sharing.

This is the decade, if the Lord tarry, to make the Faith of Jesus Christ via Seventh Day Baptists known in every corner of our land. There is reason for urgency. There is a dark world out there, crooked and perverse and perishing, that desperately needs our witness and our Savior.

Therefore in order to please God we must—1. Live our faith attractively as a church. 2. We must do it sacrificially. Sacrifice is a vital part of the Christian religion. Until this denomination understands and practices the sacrifice principle, we are not pleasing God as we should. 3. We must proclaim our faith with our lips, proffering the word of life by every means at hand. □

A TRIBUTE



John G. Schmid
1898-1980

John G. Schmid was born on June 27, 1898, at Geingen, Germany, to Martin and Anna Schmid. On November 16, 1922, he and his wife Elizabeth, were married. In 1927, he and his family emigrated from Germany to the United States and began to live in the area of Newark, New Jersey. He was called to his reward on September 19, 1980, at the age of eighty-two years.

The bare facts of a life leave so much unsaid. It is hard to capture the wonder of life, the influence of a life, the loves of a life in words. Let us try to see the life of John Schmid and the faith which governed it.

After his birth in 1898, John Schmid lived with his family in Geingen, Germany, until 1927. As a young child he noticed that his mother was dependent upon her Bible. She taught her children to pray; and several members of the family in that generation and the next felt the call of God into Christian work. It was when John was fourteen years old that he felt a personal interest in Christian faith. He studied the Bible with the aid of a travelling Bible distributor and teacher, and in January 1917 he was baptized and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During the years from 1920-1926, he spent long hours with his Bible as he served as Sabbath School Superintendent.

In 1927, when he came to America with his wife, he found that he could look back and clearly see God's guidance in their lives. They associated themselves with a German-speaking Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newark.

It seems most appropriate at this juncture in his life history to put the words of the psalmist beside his experience: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." For at this point in his life he was saying: In the Lord I live and move and have my being; in Him is my trust for all that I am and all that I need. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters." From the bounty of his hand I receive all that makes life rich and good. He gives me life and loved ones and work to do. He gives me the comfort of good friends, quiet, knowing faces, who make my life their own.

"He restores my soul." When I am troubled and burdened with care, even then He is with me to lift me up. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Even though I must change my job in order to keep His Sabbath, yet He provides for me, and I am not in want. Because of His own goodness He will not allow me to wander away.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The empty place, the now-departed face are mine to bear and cherish for the Lord is with me always.

In May of 1933, a group, including John Schmid, left the Adventist Church and founded an Independent Sabbathkeeping Church at Irvington, N.J. Their dearly beloved pastor was Frederick F. Stoll. A short time later the church became a part of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

During the years from 1933 to

1941, John G. Schmid was the Sabbath School Superintendent and teacher in this church. The Lord prepared a table for him—upheld him in his faith and purpose and brought him to the place where he could accept the pastorate when Pastor Stoll had been called to his reward. Through much prayer God overcame his reluctance to preach and gave him freedom in the new work to which he was called. Truly, "his cup ran over." So there came a time when no threat could be so great and no power so strong and no joy so exuberant that he could be separated from his God.

As the years went by, after considerable and repeated urging, he accepted the call of the church to ordination in 1954. "Truly, the Lord anointed him with oil." All through the years he supported himself working for a large dairy. And, when in 1963 he retired from that work, it was with joy that he contemplated being able to devote more of his time to the ministry of the church.

In all his life and work, humility and strength were the expressions of his faith. He repeatedly spoke of the guidance of God, the encouragement and help of his family, the support of the congregation. "Surely goodness and mercy followed him all the days of his life, and he will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

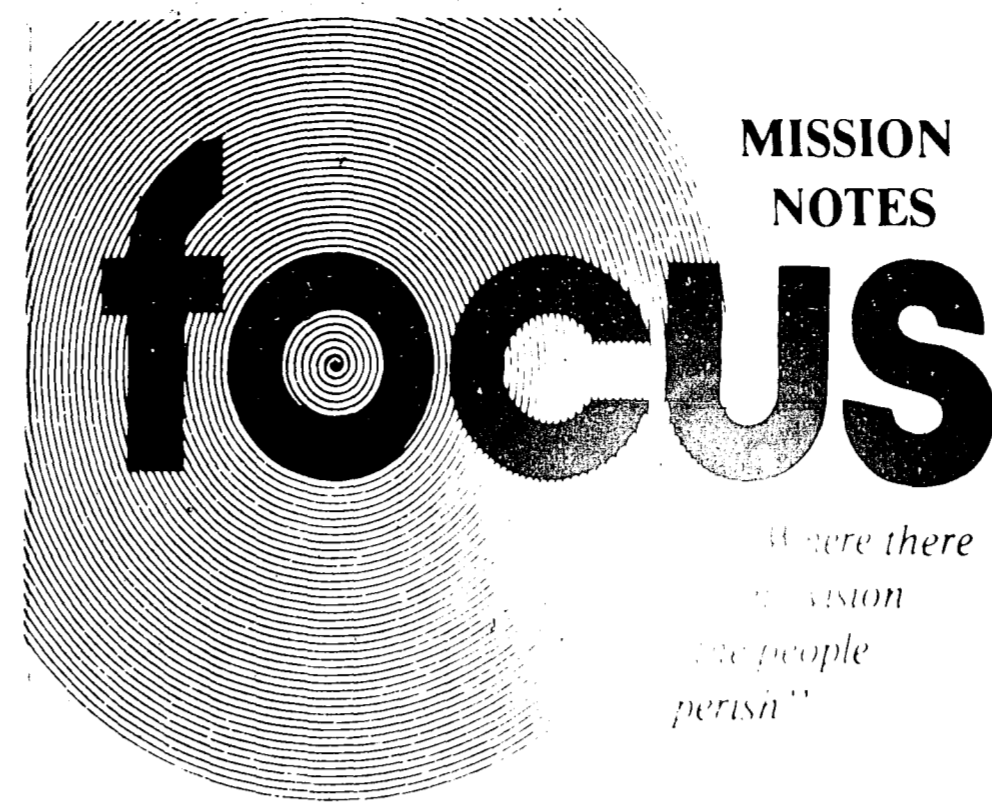
It is significant, I think, that at the beginning of my own ministry, John G. Schmid was a member of the council which ordained me. I well remember his encouragement during those years. Even in these last years he gave encouragement and help to another young pastor, Rev. Kenneth Burdick. He never lost his concern for the ministry of the church. We rejoice in his life. We thank God he lived among us for so long.

These remarks may close with a short quotation from the lips of John Schmid as he made his faith clear:

"Every church must be built upon belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. The church should bind all believers together. I believe that it is God's will for the church to be the center of all Christian work."

These words characterize his life, his purpose and his ministry. Truly, the Lord is his shepherd and with Him he wants not. □

—Rev Victor W. Skaggs



MISSION NOTES

Where there
is no vision
the people
perish"

++ this concept was tried successfully in Memphis, TN and shared in the November MISSIONS mailing to churches. What is it? Ask your pastor or Missionary Keyworker! Have them share Bill Shoffner's letter too.

● **BRAZIL**—Continued outreach, the organization of new groups, the dedication of new church buildings, the enlarging of their seminary TEE program, the addition of new leadership brought to the Sabbath, the baptism of new people, the addition of new areas of this vast country—all these and more speak to the way the Lord is leading and blessing our sister convention. PTL!

● **BRANCH CHURCHES**—Instead of "Fellowships" with undefined organization, most new SDB groups are becoming BRANCH CHURCHES of an existing SDB church. In this way membership can be held in the "mother" church, a positive helpful relationship can be fostered, understanding and eventual encouragement and sponsorship when the "fulness of time" arrives for organization of a local church is known. In 1981 could my church become a "mother"? It may take more than nine months from conception to birth! But let's pray and work that conception can come to bless each present congregation! Expectant? New children? Double in a Decade?

● **GHANA**—Executive Secretary K. Amponsah reports the organization of the SDB church in Ofinso with 80 adult members, four pastors and six elders which form the church executive. Pastor Kari Kari is the head pastor.

● **ROSEBURG, OR**—A new branch of the Portland, OR, church has been

organized here and is holding regular Sabbath services. Roseburg is about midway between Eugene and Grants Pass. The eight local members have joined the "mother" church in Portland. PTL!

● **PHILIPPINES**—Missionary Rodney Henry has a feature article in the *PAFTEE Bulletin* (*PAFTEE = Philippine Association for Theological Education by Extension*) for November. Since the Bulletin is shared with TEE leaders around the world, it will bring our new TEE program to the attention of leaders in many countries. PTL!

● **MISSIONARY PASTORS**—The Evangelism/Home Missions committee sited in So. WI under chairman Earl Cruzan, is meeting this month to consider the several applications for aid in support of missionary pastors as well as Extension work at Memphis, TN. Such churches are at the "cutting edge" of our outreach extension witness that will bring Double in a Decade!

● **OVERSEAS VISITS?** As Seventh Day Baptists travel they have opportunity to visit sister churches in other countries. Guidelines for such visitors have been prepared and are available from your Missionary Society office. Recently the Henrys in Cebu City, The Philippines, had visitors from churches in CA and AL. Such a contact with national churches can "make" your trip! Don't miss the opportunity.

● **HOW MISSION MINDED IS YOUR CHURCH?** A special brochure was sent to all SDB Pastors in November. It offers the opportunity to "Discover the answer with (a) self-evaluation profile." Has this been used in your church? It can be an exciting experience for all.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

Verse for the Month: 1 Timothy 2: 8, 9a LB
"So I want men everywhere to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from sin and anger and resentment. And the women should be the same way..."

JANUARY 1981

PRAY FOR:

- 1-Field ministry of Dean Herbert E. Saunders in Jamaica
- 2-Church Extension Pastor Bill Shoffner and the Memphis church
- 3-VISION for MISSIONS—National/International—in 1981
- 4-National Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 5-Seventh Day Baptists in Brazil, S. America and their growing witness
- 6-Week of Prayer in my local church—for outreach in new ways
- 7-President Tom Merchant of the SDB World Federation
- 8-Seventh Day Baptists in Europe—England, Holland and Germany
- 9-Exec. Secretary K. Duane Hurley of the SDB World Federation
- 10-WORLD FEDERATION SABBATH: Special Offering for SDBWF
- 11-One specific individual I can love for Jesus' sake
- 12-Stanton, CA, SDB Evang. Community Church/Pastor Gabriel Bejjani
- 13-Missionaries Rodney and Camille Henry, Cebu City, The Philippines
- 14-For new open doors for witness and work in the USA
- 15-Seventh Day Baptists in South Africa/Pastor James Swani
- 16-My personal giving goals for January and for 1981
- 17-Pastor Stephan Saunders, new Center on Ministry theological student
- 18-American Sabbath Tract Society quarterly meeting
- 19-The developing new ministries in Southern Wisconsin
- 20-The call of God to new executive personnel
- 21-The strengthening of my Sabbath witness
- 22-Coordinating Leadership Team, Plainfield, NJ
- 23-Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
- 24-Central Maryland SDB Church/Pastor Kenneth Chroniger
- 25-Missionary Board quarterly meeting
- 26-Southern Cove, PA, Week of Prayer Services, Dean Herbert Saunders
- 27-Insight into the possible development of minorities ministries in USA
- 28-Peace in our world
- 29-Missionary Board Executive Vice-President, Leon R. Lawton
- 30-The leading of the Holy Spirit in young people choosing life vocations
- 31-Washington, DC, SDB Church/Pastor Leland E. Davis

the CHURCH in ACTION

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE
VERY MUCH ALIVE
ORGANIZED IN 1805



Pastor and Mrs. Delmer VanHorn with the sign at the Lost Creek church denoting a year of celebration.

LOST CREEK, WV—The Lost Creek, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church has chosen the theme "175—Very Alive" for celebrating its 175th anniversary. This rural church, known to old-timers as the "Brick Church," represents 175 years in the annals of history which dates back to its organization, October 27, 1805.

The celebration is to be a one year project with emphasis each month during the year. The "kick-off" dates were October 2 through November 2, 1980. During three evening services there were special evangelistic services with the Rev. Terry Ray (Methodist) from Canton, Ohio, as the speaker. Special music was presented each evening by local groups.

On Sabbath day, November 1, following the morning prayer service, Pastor Charles Graffius, President of the Seventh Day Baptist General

Conference was guest speaker. The afternoon service included recognition of former pastors and families, fifty-year plus members, a historical slide presentation and a presentation relating to the "Decade of Discipleship" by Dr. K.D. Hurley, Executive Secretary of the denomination. A dedication of the bell from the Greenbriar SDB Church was held. The bell now rings out each Sabbath from the Lost Creek church.

On Sunday an "open house" was featured for the surrounding communities. Dinner was served by the Ladies Aid Society. A historical slide presentation was given throughout the afternoon and visits were made to the sites of the old VanHorn, Frame Church, and the Brick Church Cemeteries.

The church has purchased a historical display cabinet in which these items of interest will be displayed: a Bible presented by Walter B. Gillette, missionary, at the church dedication in 1872; a Communion set used when everyone drank from a common cup; pictures of all former pastors, student, associate and interim pastors, and a picture of Orville and Lucille Bond, former missionaries to Jamaica; also a pulpit from the now extinct Roanoke church which was refinished and used during the celebration.

The church has set the following goals for this year of celebration: attain spiritual and numerical growth, improve our visibility and identity, and improve our inter-church relationships. □

—Leland Bond

HARVEST HOME SERVICE HELD

PAINT ROCK, AL—Our Harvest Home service was held the first weekend in October. Our special guests were Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Horsley of Denver. Dr. Ted brought the messages on Friday evening and Sabbath morning. We were happy they could share with us in a very meaningful way. Following the worship service on Sabbath a fellowship dinner was served to 45 persons in our church annex.

The afternoon service featured music by the Light Bearers for Christ. This was their first presentation as a new group and our con-

gregation was thrilled to hear the progress that has been made in one short month. We are thankful to have the Light Bearers in our community; they contribute much to the life of the church. The church sanctuary was freshly painted and decorated for the harvest season. At the conclusion of the Light Bearers concert the members generously filled the altar area with food, produce and items useful to the team; an offering was also taken for this musical ministry.

Our Harvest Home service was a spiritual boost to the entire church. We were happy to have several visitors present to share with us and plan such a service for next

year.

Our church has new carpet on the front and rear steps, is newly painted inside and has attractive new pulpit furniture. We are in process of installing new restrooms in the annex.

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"GROW WITH GOD" THEME MINNESOTA MEETING

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Bob Bonser welcomed all to the Sabbath Eve service and introduced the guest speaker, Pastor Charles Graffius and his wife, Anne, from the Los Angeles, CA, SDB Church. Pastor Graffius is the 1980-81 President of the General Conference. The delegates from New Auburn and Pastor and Mrs. Graffius were weekend guests of the church.

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by a presentation from Pastor Graffius of the 1981 Conference program which will be held at Salem College, WV, on August 2-8, 1981. An inspiring talk was given and slides were shown. Marty Pederson from New Auburn presented special music. Guests were invited into host homes for the evening meal.

The Sabbath night service was led in prayer and praise by Marty Pederson. The message entitled: "Are You on God's Priority List?" was given by Pastor Graffius. The King's Singers performed an inspiring number along with Faye Wendlund's version of "Jesus Loves Me." Marty Pederson gave an update on the S.C.S.C. program in the denomination. According to Marty our youth receive a blessing from this experience and training for which we praise the Lord! The evening ended with refreshments and a youth gathering at the Tami Kloppstein home for pizza.

The Sunday morning service of song and worship was led by Wallace Greene. Moderator Bob Austin led the business session. Dinner was served at the church. The next Semi-Annual meeting will be hosted by the New Auburn church in the Spring of 1981.

A special thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Graffius for giving of their time to be with us. The love of God is truly visible in their lives. We pray God's blessings on them. □

DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER HELD

LOS ANGELES, CA—Several months ago, our pastor, Charles Graffius, was asked by the General Council to consider becoming Executive Secretary of the denomination, to begin September 1981, after K.D. Hurley's resignation. Pastor Chuck has spent much time during these months, struggling in prayer, seeking the Lord's will, but receiving no clear leading whether to go or to stay. The Lord did, however, give him clear leading to seek a "multitude of counsellors" and to present the options to our church body in the context of a day of fasting and prayer.

Therefore, on Sabbath, September 27, our church did just that. Following Worship and Sabbath School, we had a "third worship service" in our Sanctuary, in which Pastor was interviewed. The job analysis, challenges, and difficulties of the office of Executive Secretary were clearly

presented, along with Pastor's experience and gifts which qualify him for this responsibility. The projects, visions, and challenges of the continuing pastorate of the Los Angeles church for the next few years were also presented, along with the need for fuller commitment of time, talent, energies, and resources of all of us, whether Pastor Chuck remained or not. In the discussion and question period, many expressed a great love for Pastor and Anne; but yielding to whatever the Holy Spirit decided was best.

Next we scattered into small groups throughout the church and fellowship hall, for further discussion and prayer. Later, returning to the Sanctuary, we listened as a few more shared their feelings and insights. Then we formed a prayer circles, with several praying for the Lord's guidance, and His Will to be done.

A smaller group withdrew to the

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

- January 4
Day of Fasting and Prayer
- January 4-10
SDB Week of Prayer
- January 11
Memorial Fund Trustees
Plainfield, NJ
- January 18
Board of Christian Education
Alfred, NY
- January 18
American Sabbath Tract Society
Shiloh, NJ
- January 25
Missionary Society
Westerly, RI
- February 15-17
General Council Sessions
Daytona Beach, FL
- February 18-25
Ministers Conference
Daytona Beach, FL

Prayer Room with Pastor for further discussion. Pastor said he had clear leading now, but would first like to know what the Lord had said to others. Everyone agreed that the Lord seemed to speak clearly during the time of the prayer circle, that Pastor should remain at the L.A. church. This was confirmed when Pastor stated that he had had the same indication from the Spirit. When we returned to the Sanctuary to share this with the others, there was rejoicing, and further confirmation, as others, especially Anne Graffius, expressed the same feeling. Finally, we laid hands on Anne Graffius, with prayers for total restoration of her health.

The joy of receiving such immediate and clear guidance from the Lord, will, we trust, encourage us to bring other matters before the Lord in such a way, more often in the future. Praise the Lord! □

—Victor H. Burdick

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The Sabbath morning worship service began with prayer and praise at 10:00 a.m. There was a special blessing received from the music of the King's Singers and Faye Wendlund. Pastor Graffius' message was entitled: "God's Perfect Timing," Acts 11. The congregation was led in a Communion service by Loyal Pederson of New Auburn and Pastor Graffius. Following the service a fellowship dinner was served to one hundred persons by the ladies of Dodge Center.

Sabbath afternoon was highlighted

by a presentation from Pastor Graffius of the 1981 Conference program which will be held at Salem College, WV, on August 2-8, 1981. An inspiring talk was given and slides were shown. Marty Pederson from New Auburn presented special music. Guests were invited into host homes for the evening meal.

The Sabbath night service was led in prayer and praise by Marty Pederson. The message entitled: "Are You on God's Priority List?" was given by Pastor Graffius. The King's Singers performed an inspiring number along with Faye Wendlund's version of "Jesus Loves Me." Marty Pederson gave an update on the S.C.S.C. program in the denomination. According to Marty our youth receive a blessing from this experience and training for which we praise the Lord! The evening ended with refreshments and a youth gathering at the Tami Kloppstein home for pizza.

The Sunday morning service of song and worship was led by Wallace Greene. Moderator Bob Austin led the business session. Dinner was served at the church. The next Semi-Annual meeting will be hosted by the New Auburn church in the Spring of 1981.

A special thanks to Pastor and Mrs. Graffius for giving of their time to be with us. The love of God is truly visible in their lives. We pray God's blessings on them. □

DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER HELD

LOS ANGELES, CA—Several months ago, our pastor, Charles Graffius, was asked by the General Council to consider becoming Executive Secretary of the denomination, to begin September 1981, after K.D. Hurley's resignation. Pastor Chuck has spent much time during these months, struggling in prayer, seeking the Lord's will, but receiving no clear leading whether to go or to stay. The Lord did, however, give him clear leading to seek a "multitude of counsellors" and to present the options to our church body in the context of a day of fasting and prayer.

Therefore, on Sabbath, September 27, our church did just that. Following Worship and Sabbath School, we had a "third worship service" in our Sanctuary, in which Pastor was interviewed. The job analysis, challenges, and difficulties of the office of Executive Secretary were clearly

presented, along with Pastor's experience and gifts which qualify him for this responsibility. The projects, visions, and challenges of the continuing pastorate of the Los Angeles church for the next few years were also presented, along with the need for fuller commitment of time, talent, energies, and resources of all of us, whether Pastor Chuck remained or not. In the discussion and question period, many expressed a great love for Pastor and Anne; but yielding to whatever the Holy Spirit decided was best.

Next we scattered into small groups throughout the church and fellowship hall, for further discussion and prayer. Later, returning to the Sanctuary, we listened as a few more shared their feelings and insights. Then we formed a prayer circles, with several praying for the Lord's guidance, and His Will to be done.

A smaller group withdrew to the

Prayer Room with Pastor for further discussion. Pastor said he had clear leading now, but would first like to know what the Lord had said to others. Everyone agreed that the Lord seemed to speak clearly during the time of the prayer circle, that Pastor should remain at the L.A. church. This was confirmed when Pastor stated that he had had the same indication from the Spirit. When we returned to the Sanctuary to share this with the others, there was rejoicing, and further confirmation, as others, especially Anne Graffius, expressed the same feeling. Finally, we laid hands on Anne Graffius, with prayers for total restoration of her health.

The joy of receiving such immediate and clear guidance from the Lord, will, we trust, encourage us to bring other matters before the Lord in such a way, more often in the future. Praise the Lord! □

-Victor H. Burdick

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

January 4
Day of Fasting and Prayer

January 4-10
SDB Week of Prayer

January 11
Memorial Fund Trustees
Plainfield, NJ

January 18
Board of Christian Education
Alfred, NY

January 18
American Sabbath Tract Society
Shiloh, NJ

January 25
Missionary Society
Westerly, RI

February 15-17
General Council Sessions
Daytona Beach, FL

February 18-25
Ministers Conference
Daytona Beach, FL

SEATTLE FAMILY EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

SEATTLE, WA—On Friday morning of Conference week the home of Dave and Dixie Inabnit near Seattle burned. The Inabnits, members of the Seattle Seventh Day Baptist church, were en route home from Denver and arrived to find their home in ruins. Two sons, Craig and Dave (Jr.), were asleep in the house and were awakened in time to escape the fire. "I woke up and I thought I was dreaming," Craig said. "The smoke was just above my bed and going out my windows. I had to keep down. Dave was just about ready to pass out and I had to drag him down the stairs."

Your Christian Social Action Committee responded with funds to assist the family during this disaster. Many prayers were offered for the

family and the Seattle church also responded in a loving way. The family has sent the following letter:

"To All Our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: We didn't know exactly how to thank everyone for their prayers and gifts to us since our recent fire, so we thought a note to the *Sabbath Recorder* might reach many. We especially want to thank the Social Action Committee for the gift which helped so much.

We have been encouraged by the love shown by so many. It is a wonderful experience to have so many prayers lifted up on our behalf. The Lord is so good!

Hopefully, we'll start rebuilding soon. Keep praying for us as there is much to do and many decisions to make. Much love in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Dave and Dixie Inabnit and family □

FREE FAMILY SEMINARS

ASHAWAY, RI—After a very busy summer we are settling into the fall routine. Attendance has increased sharply.

The Ladies Aid has held its semi-annual Rummage Sale, which is considered a community service. The leftovers after the sale are given to a local thrift shop, operated to help the needy, not for profit.

The Stewardship Board is preparing the annual budget and painting each Sunday on the Parish House. The work is progressing well.

The Christian Education Board is considering special interest classes for the quarter starting in December. Sabbath School attendance has risen since vacation time.

The Evangelism Board had a very busy summer, working on the Free Family Seminars. The speakers: Clifford Vendt on Finance, Linda Harris on Nutrition, John Coduri on Physical Fitness and Kevin Coleman on Parent-Child Relationships were excellent. The week ended with a musical concert on Sabbath night by Kevin Coleman. We were disappointed by the poor attendance but those that came were blessed over and over.

We had a tent from the National Guard erected on the front lawn of the Meeting House and held meetings under it when possible. One problem

was that the meetings were held too late in the season; it was cold and damp. We learned and undaunted we are planning another series for next year. □

-Helen Brayman

Looking for some Bible Study Aids?

Very limited quantities of the following are available as written by the late Rev. Lester G. Osborn.

- *This Is the Life* (7 studies for New Christians)
- *The Epistle to the Hebrews*
- *The Acts of the Apostles*
- *From Death to Life* (12 lessons some co-authored by W. Allen Bond.)
- *The Two Epistles of Peter*

You could possibly reproduce these lessons if you wanted to have more than we have.

Address your request to:

The First SDB Church
P.O. Box 238
Ashaway, RI 02804

(Contributions to cover the cost of postage will be appreciated.)

CHURCH SPONSORS MUSIC FESTIVAL

VERONA, NY—On August 24, the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church sponsored the second annual ten-hour Gospel music festival at Oneida's Veteran's Field Stadium. This was an event that featured area Gospel groups as a celebration of Jesus Christ alive in our lives and as a public testimony of the Gospel alive in area Christians. Groups featured included the "Living Water" from Alfred, NY, the New Creations from Verona, the Larry Simpson family from Oneida, John and Margy Rau from Brookfield, Tom Rasley from Oneida, "Power Company" and other groups and individuals.

Only through the work of the Lord did the event occur as last problems almost defeated a great event. But the Lord cleared the way, and we praise God that the reaction was so good. Several came forward and offered to help us put on such an event next year. We thank God for the expanding praise being offered to His name. □

MARRIAGES

ADAMS-SPELLS.—Richard P. Adams and Pamela Jean Spells were united in marriage in the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, August 30, 1980, with the bride's pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, officiating.

BAILEY-GREEN.—Douglas Bailey and Lois Green, both of Richland Center, WI were united in marriage at the Trinity Methodist Church, on September 27, 1980.

BARBER-BENNETT.—J. Merton Barber and Donna Jean Bennett were united in marriage on Sunday afternoon, August 31, 1980, by the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

CLIFTON-BROWN.—Sterling Clifton and Catherine Lee Brown both of Battle Creek, exchanged their wedding vows in the Leila Arboretum Park on Sunday afternoon, September 21, 1980, with the bride's pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, officiating.

HILL-KRASUS.—Robert Hill and Ann Krause were united in marriage on June 28, 1980. They are living in Milton, WI.

KIENBAUM-BRANCH.—Dennis Kienbaum and Catherine Branch were united in marriage on September 20, 1980, at the home of the bride's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Forrest Branch of Milton, WI.

KLIEFOTH-ABELMANN.—Craig Kleifoth and Nancy Abelmänn were united in marriage at Edgerton, WI on August 9, 1980.

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST TRAINING INSTITUTE

THE PHILIPPINES—The seminar is over and it was a wonderful success. God is teaching me that success is guaranteed when the ministry belongs to Him. Once again we had the full compliment of nine pastors. I planned to discuss the cults and also focus on exegesis, trying to help the pastors get the meaning from a text of Scripture. I had learned from our previous seminar how much material to try to cover so it went a lot better.

On each of the four afternoons we discussed "What Is a Cult," "Mormons," "Jehovah's Witnesses," and "Iglesia ni Cristo." Because there is not material available in Cebuano, all of the material had to be presented orally. We had eight or nine hours each day when I was either presenting material or leading discussion.

Though this part of the seminar went quite well, the best part of the seminar was the part that was completely unplanned. They had questions and problems which came from their felt needs in their ministries. I learned that flexibility is vitally important in seminars here in order that the felt needs of the pastors are met when we meet together.

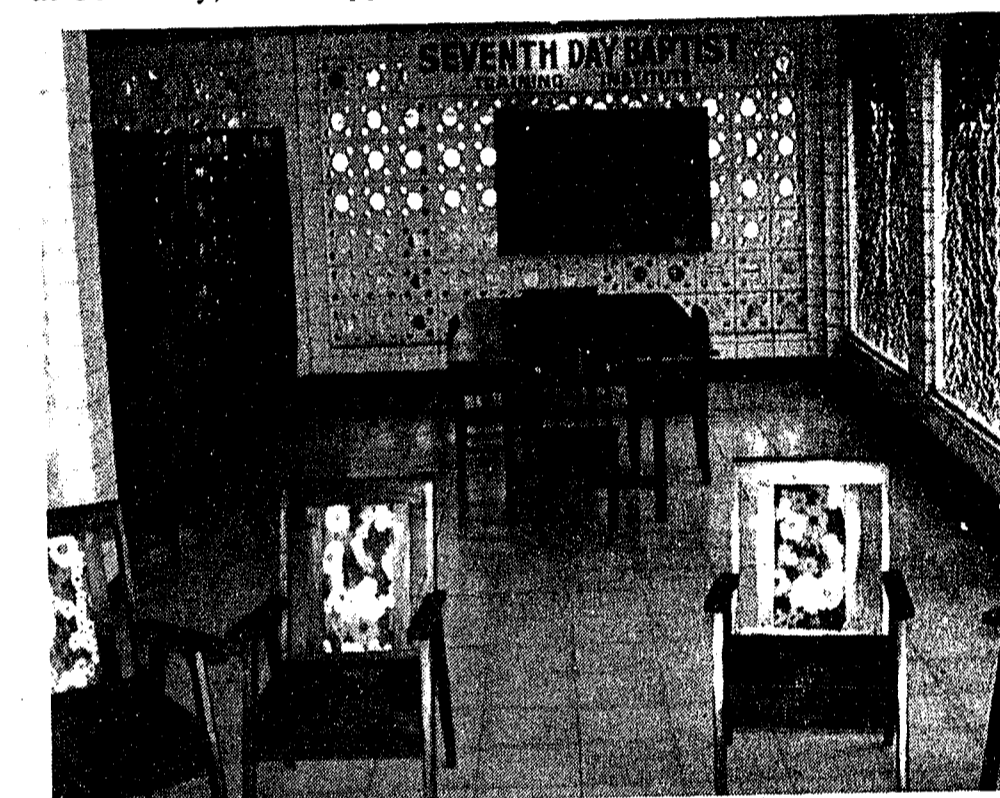
At the close of the seminar, I gave each pastor a copy of the lecture notes which were presented to them. I did that on the first seminar and on this one. I have composed over 200 pages of materials since being here in the Philippines.

From October 25 through the month of November, I will be visiting churches. I will travel for 5 extended weekends. Please pray for my good health so that I can meet all of these commitments. □

-Missionary Rodney Henry



Seating for pastor seminar students in residence of Rodney Henry at Cebu City, the Philippines.



FORMER MEMBERS REMEMBERED

RICHBURG, NY—Sabbath Day May 31, 1980 was a special day for members and friends when a dedicatory service was held to hallow the memory of several former members.

A new Baldwin organ was dedicated to the memory of Gertrude I. Burrows, Mabel Davidson, Howard Tuttle, George W. Saunders, Nettie Bottoms, and Genevieve M. Stohr. Appropriate selections and hymns played by the organist, Onnalee Saunders, brought out the variations of sounds which add to the weekly worship services.

A cabinet to display the Communion pieces was dedicated to the memory of Blanche L. Clarke who served on the diaconate for fifty years.

New drop ceiling and lights were dedicated to the memory of Genevieve

M. Stohr who joined the church in 1925.

At the annual church meeting in October the following officers were elected: Moderator—Robert Stohr, Assistant Moderator—James Pitts, Clerk—Ruth Bottoms, Treasurer—Wesley McCrea, Organist—Onnalee Saunders, Choir Director—Grace McCrea, Trustee for three years—Willard Cass. Rev. David S. Clarke serves as Interim Pastor.

The congregation motored to Hebron, PA in early October to attend the ordination service of Steven Crouch, pastor of the Hebron and Little Genesee churches. Robert Stohr, Onnalee Saunders and Thelma Stearns were delegates on the Ordination Council on Friday evening. In addition to the inspirational service God's beauty showed forth in the hills surrounding the church and along the highway.

The Allegheny Association met at Richburg for a beautiful fall weekend and a meaningful service in mid-October. Rev. and Mrs. Leon R. Lawton presented slides of Rodney and Camille Henry and their work in the Philippines. Four members of the Toronto church also attended. The young people accompanied by Nelson and Amanda Snyder spent Friday night at the Little Genesee Community Building.

Physical improvements are being made in the church basement and at the parsonage. A classroom has been paneled and carpeted and the entire dining room walls and floor painted. Insulation for the attic and rewiring in the parsonage have been contracted.

We request your prayers that we may soon have a pastor in the parsonage for the church family and its outreach. □

-Thelma C. Stearns

RECORDER REACTIONS

While going through another publication I came across an article written by you on "Seventh Day Baptists." I was intrigued with it as I too am a believer in the seventh-day Sabbath. I am enclosing a check and would like to receive your monthly publication. I also would like to know if there are any Seventh Day Baptists in or around Charleston, SC—and if not has any attempt been made to start a church here? May the Lord bless you.

-Louise M. Totaro
Charleston, SC

You will find enclosed my check for renewal. I thoroughly enjoy every article in your fine magazine.

-Theodore W. Jones
Buena Vista, VA

Next year Seventh Day Baptists, through their representatives at Conference, will consider the following statement on abortion:

"Abortion is the taking of innocent human life and may be justified only when necessary to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape, incest or severe fetal abnormality. The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference supports whatever legal steps may be necessary to restore protection to the lives of the unborn."

If one believes abortion is the

taking of innocent human life, how can it ever be justified? Accepting abortion to save the life of the mother is rejecting miracles, and we as Christians certainly believe in miracles. Accepting abortion in cases of rape and incest is making a moral judgment, stating that the fertilization of an egg is "God-given life" under some circumstances but not under others. Accepting abortion in cases of fetal abnormality is implying that God's love is limited to those who are normal, and I, for one, pray that isn't true.

If Seventh Day Baptists are going to take a stand on abortion, my hope is that it would be an unadulterated position, not one that contains enough if's, ands or buts to weaken the central idea. As it stands, this is *not* a statement against abortion. If Seventh Day Baptists are going to take a negative stand on abortion it should read:

"Abortion is the taking of innocent human life. The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference supports whatever legal steps may be necessary to restore protection to the lives of the unborn."

-Diane Merchant
Jacksonville, IL

I am enclosing a check for two years' subscription. I truly do not want to be without the *Recorder*.

-Hazel F. Hill
Santa Maria, CA

POINTS TO PONDER

We're talking this month about the Gospel according to Paul, taken from his Epistle to the Romans.

Many are uncomfortable with Paul's declaration about being "justified freely by His grace." Such a "cheap" salvation, they fear, allows sin to continue, since escaping sin's death penalty costs us nothing.

But salvation isn't cheap, it's just free. The letters that spell grace, G-R-A-C-E, can stand for 5 words, "God's Riches At Christ's Expense." GRACE—God's Riches

At Christ's Expense!

In Romans 12:1 Paul urges us, "in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

I like The Living Bible paraphrase of this verse: "When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?"

There's GRACE—God's Riches At Christ's Expense! If you haven't already accepted His Salvation as a free (but expensive) gift, why not do it right now! □

-Rev. Paul B. Osborn
Nortonville, KS

The Meaning of Christmas

(Continued from page 5)

God. If you want to see what the mind of God looks like, look at this man Jesus Christ who lived here among men. The mind of God has become a Person—and you can see it in Jesus."

The second meaning of "logos" is word, as the King James Bible and others translate it. What is the simplest definition of a word? "A word is the expression of a thought." First, we think, then we express our thoughts and ideas in words. So, it is as if John was saying, "The Word of God became a Person. If you want to see the expression of the thought of God, if you want to see what God is thinking, look at Jesus."

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," is the Good News of Christmas. All this wraps up the entire Gospel message of the love of God expressed in Jesus Christ, His life and teachings, His atoning death for our sins, and His resurrection to let us know He is the Son of God with power. Jesus is the Logos—the very expression of the mind of God and for that reason we know He cares and loves us and shares our experiences and provides for us to be His very own through Jesus.

This is the real meaning of Christmas! As those who have found Him to be our own Lord and Savior, we remember one name given to Him at His birth was Emmanuel—"God with us." Emmanuel tells us that God loves us—that He loved the world and still loves. He is still seeking out every man and woman on earth to share that love through His Son our Redeemer and Lord.

Christmas then is not a matter of tinsel and gifts—it is not a matter of a date on the annual calendar. It is the commemoration of the event that changes all history and lets us know that God cares and loves and seeks to give us the power of His love for all eternity!

It is yours! It is a gift! Receive it! With a Christmas message like that, of whom then shall we be afraid? □

"Mary, A Three-Dimensional Person"

(Continued from page 8)

she had been taught about all her life and it must have troubled her greatly.

Mary probably began to feel some of that "sword piercing her own soul" after their flight to Egypt when she heard how Herod had ordered the murder of all the male babies under two years old that lived in or near Bethlehem. We're told that Jesus was probably one to two years old by the time the Magi found Him, so Mary would have had time to make friends in Bethlehem. She probably knew some of those mothers whose sons were killed and she must have ached deeply when she heard, knowing what those mothers must have gone through and knowing Herod had been after her son.

Mary might have wondered further about Simeon's words that her son was "appointed for the rise and fall of many in Israel" as she watched Him teaching the elders in the Temple when He was only twelve years old. She probably also began to question her concept of the Messiah as the Conquering King of Israel as she watched Him teaching, healing, and preaching love for enemies. She must also have experienced a wide range of emotions as she observed His ministry—a mother's pride when she heard the news of the blind receiving sight, a young girl being raised from the dead, and the lame walking—a mother's fear for her child as she heard accounts of some Pharisees being publicly shamed and the rumors of how they were plotting to harm Jesus. But the final horror for Mary must have been as she stood at the foot of the cross seeing her son hanging in cruel pain, knowing that the trusted leaders of her faith were responsible for this. Simeon's prophecy was fulfilled.

I think what we can learn from Mary's experience is the lesson of letting go of our children to do whatever God asks of them. This might include giving our blessing and letting them leave home, leave the country or even die for the sake of the Gospel.

The one fact I realized most vividly those first days of Adam's life was that the old cliché that 'children are a trust from the Lord' is so true. We are entrusted to train them, protect and support them and then let go of them. The 'letting go' may be the most difficult task we're ever called upon to do. I'm sure 'letting go' of Jesus even to the point of death was the most difficult task Mary had. □

When Cyrenius Was Governor

(Continued from page 4)

throughout the world and across the centuries to give light and hope to all mankind.

Such is the nature of God's plan which may touch each one of us. None of us is widely known throughout the world. Our children are born with little notice outside the family,

but in God's plan the small may be made great. None of us can be a Christ, but we can be made Christ-like. Those who live Christly lives will be remembered in heaven and earth far longer than those who at the time may be in the realm of power.

Yes, Caesar Augustus was emperor, Cyrenius was governor and Herod was king, but there was born in Bethlehem in a stable with a manger for a crib, a baby. And in that baby rested the hopes and joys of the world. What a wonderful plan of salvation our God has given to us! □

Support the
March of Dimes
BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION



Decade of Discipleship

Four people in the Salem, West Virginia, church have participated in a DECISION TO DISCIPLE cell group under the leadership of Rev. J. Paul Green. He said, "My priorities for the coming quarter are headed by promoting and assisting with Discipleship groups. I am hoping that we can continue the groups that have been meeting and begin a new group. Quoting my last report, 'I believe that Decision to Discipleship has great possibilities for our church. It is undoubtedly not the only answer to all of our needs, but we have already seen that it holds great possibilities.'"

If the present plans are carried out, two of the four persons now studying together will become leaders of new groups.

We urge churches who have not become involved in the DECISION TO DISCIPLE movement to find dedicated persons who will join together for study and fellowship to strengthen the work of your church. □

Answer the clues for words to be entered on the numbered dashes. Then transfer the letters on the dashes to the correspondingly numbered squares in the puzzle grid to spell a quotation reading from left to right. Black squares separate words in the quotation. Work back and forth between grid and word list to complete the puzzle. When you are done, the initial letters of the words in the word list will spell the name of the source of the quotation. (Answers on page 25.)
-Larry Grafius

**P
U
Z
Z
L
E**

A. At the edges.....	119	66	80	57	44	9	40	91	74	38
B. Plan; arrangement.....	6	18	83	110	117	53				
C. "Open wide!".....	121	98								
D. Sucker.....	60	101	17	130	62	41	113	27		
E. Relating to Physician (abr.).....	35	89	14							
F. Foreigner.....	1	107	93	26	23	81	109	49		
G. Famous lights of Aurora.....	65	95	102	75	50	7	55	105		
H. Scholarly.....	129	13	59	64	51	87	124			
I. "Thug" (slang).....	33	48	77	106						
J. Service; convenience.....	92	97	34	16	69	127	125			
K. Roman Emperor.....	63	54	3	24						
L. Platter.....	103	122	31	94						
M. Bonus for good deed.....	28	42	78	4	108	133				
N. Biblical unit of dry measure.....	32	2	128	21	111					
O. Rubbish; Refuse.....	86	114	12	67	70					
P. Ornamental ribbon.....	123	36	68	88						
Q. Exertion.....	46	58	47	43	118	90				
R. Safe.....	116	29	82	11	76					
S. American bird.....	104	15	71	37	99					
T. Indentation; chip.....	20	5	56	61						
U. Sticky candy.....	8	131	96	112	39					
V. Achieve.....	19	79	72	25						
W. Prior to.....	115	84	132	45	30	10	120			
X. Snuggle.....	85	73	52	22	100	126				

1 F	2 N	3 K	4 M	5 T	6 B	7 G	8 U	9 A	10 W	11 R	12 O	13 H	14 E	
15 S	16 J	17 D	18 B	19 V	20 T	21 N	22 X	23 F	24 K	25 V	26 F			
27 O	28 M	29 R	30 W	31 L	32 N	33 J	34 J	35 E	36 P	37 S	38 A	39 U	40 A	
41 D	42 M	43 Q	44 A	45 W	46 G	47 Q	48 I	49 F	50 G	51 H	52 X	53 B	54 K	55 G
56 T	57 A	58 Q	59 H	60 D	61 T	62 D	63 K	64 H	65 G	66 A	67 O	68 P	69 J	70 O
71 S	72 V	73 X	74 A	75 G	76 R	77 J	78 M	79 V	80 A	81 F	82 R	83 B		
84 W	85 X	86 O	87 H	88 P	89 E	90 Q	91 A	92 J	93 F	94 L	95 G	96 U		
97 J	98 C	99 S	100 X	101 D	102 G	103 L	104 S	105 G	106 I	107 F	108 M	109 F	110 B	111 N
112 U	113 D	114 O	115 W	116 R	117 B	118 G	119 A	120 W	121 C	122 L	123 P	124 H		
125 J	126 X	127 J	128 N	129 M	130 D	131 U	132 W	133 M						



A Christmas Meditation for the Entire Family

by Linda Harris



A child's gift, made with care, means so much to a mother. She keeps it and cherishes it for the rest of her life. The gift a father lovingly makes from wood or a mother makes from cloth is precious, too. A thoughtful gift from a good friend makes the friendship even sweeter. All these gifts are great but they fade in comparison with the greatest gift ever given.

Centuries ago, a young couple made loving preparations for their soon-expected child. The mother carefully prepared the cloths that would be used to wrap the baby after birth. Perhaps her husband carefully constructed a cradle for the child. But all their preparations were unexpectedly disrupted by the necessity of making a trip to another city to be registered for a census. The strips of cloth were carefully packed, but the cradle stayed at home, waiting for their return.

After a long tiring journey, the couple finally arrived at their destination, only to find there were no rooms for them. Wearily they sought a place to rest, for the baby was about to arrive. It would not do to have a baby born in the streets, so in their loving preparation they searched until they found a stable in which the child was to be born. Theirs was the gift of loving preparation. But it was not the greatest gift.

In nearby fields, shepherds spent the night caring for their sheep. They must have fought off sleep as they kept their watch. But sleep vanished quickly as an angel appeared in the sky, bringing them good news of a Savior's birth. And there was not only one angel, but numbers of angels, singing praises to God. These lowly shepherds had never heard such music. Indeed, no human had heard such a chorus as this! This certainly was a great gift—the music of the angels. But it was not the greatest gift.

Full of excitement and somewhat dazed, the shepherds followed the angel's instructions and made their way to the stable where they found the baby. Clearly, this was no ordinary baby. Perhaps they stood near the entrance, feeling dirty and inferior, until the mother invited them to come closer. In amazement they gazed at the infant. They could not take their eyes from Him. The shepherds, in their simplicity, gave the gift of wonder. But this also was not the greatest gift.

As the baby was born, an unusual star appeared in the sky. Wise men from a distant country observed it and began following it. They knew that this star had

a special meaning and they were intrigued by it. They went to the place where it shone, and there they found the babe. They gave gifts to Him, the best they could give. But these were still not the greatest given.

Those who gathered around the infant surely received a gift from Him. And we today may also receive the gift of joy from Him. No person who has drawn close to the Savior can remain unchanged. His joy permeates the lives of those close to Him. His gift of joy is great.

But the greatest gift did not come from the babe. He is the greatest gift, the son of a peasant woman, adored by shepherds, announced by angels, worshipped by wise men—our Savior. The greatest gift came from God. He gave the Light of the World. His was the first Christmas gift. Our gifts are only a symbol of that gift. No one can ever give a gift to compare with the greatest gift. We should not try, because we cannot outdo God. But in appreciation for His great gift, we can give our small but meaningful gifts to Him.

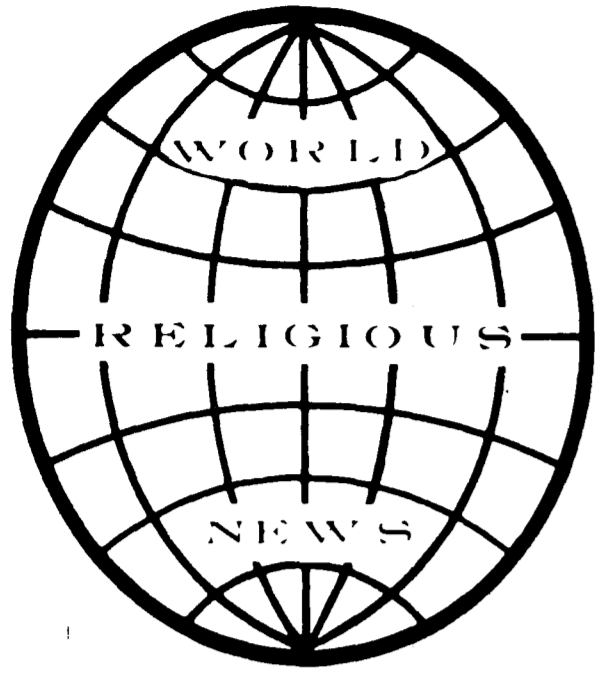
Like Mary and Joseph, we can give the gift of loving preparation. Advent is the time to prepare for His coming. The angels gave the gift of music. We too can make a joyful noise to Him, no matter how it sounds. As the shepherds gave the gift of wonder, we can also spend quiet times pondering His greatness. Like wise men, we can give our best to Him. And the gift that pleases Him most is expressed in this verse by Christina Rossetti:

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart. □

Here is an easy recipe you can make for the holidays:

Honey Balls
1/4 cup peanut butter 1/2 cup non-fat dry milk
3 tbsp. honey 1/2 cup wheat germ

In a small bowl, combine the peanut butter and honey. Blend in the dry milk, mix well. Form into balls. Roll in wheat germ. Chill several hours. □



James Dunn Chosen To Lead Baptist Joint Committee

by Stan Haste

WASHINGTON—James M. Dunn, for the past 12 years director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was elected unanimously here as new executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The 48-year-old Texas native will assume the top post of the Washington-based organization on Jan. 1, 1981.

Dunn's election followed the unanimous recommendation of a ten-person search committee charged with finding a successor to James E. Wood, Jr., who left the Washington position June 1 to return to the faculty of Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Responding to his election, Dunn promised an "aggressive, broad-based" approach to government relations by the Baptist Joint Committee, an agency supported jointly by eight U.S. Baptist conventions and conferences.

He declared his first priority as "faithfulness to religious liberty and church-state separation" and said that the current church-state scene is characterized by a "blurring of the lines" among church people confused over present developments and by growing government intervention in church affairs.

Before assuming the directorship of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, Dunn was an associate director of the same ethical and moral concerns agency, a Baptist Student Union director and instructor of Bible at West Texas State University, and pastor and associate pastor of three Texas Baptist churches.

James H. Landes, executive director of the Texas Baptist executive board, paid tribute to the new Baptist Joint Committee chief, declaring, "James Dunn has made unique and

outstanding contributions in applied Christianity." Landes specifically cited Dunn's attention to religious liberty, world hunger, aging and family life.

An ordained minister, the Fort Worth native earned a B.A. from Texas Wesleyan College, B.D. and Th.D. degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from the University of London. He currently serves as a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In addition, Dunn currently serves on the advisory council of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, as national board member of Bread for the World, and on the governing board of the Interreligious Task Force on U.S. Food Policy.

Dunn has co-authored or contributed to four books and written for a number of journals and periodicals. He is a correspondent for *Sojourners* magazine and has been a guest editorial writer for the *Dallas Times-Herald*. □

-Baptist Public Affairs

The Genesis Project

The Genesis Project, Inc., producers of The New Media Bible and the Movie *Jesus*, transferred its

U.S. operations base to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area with a move effective September first.

Heading up the new Washington office is C.B. Wismar, senior vice-president and director of U.S. operations. Wismar is an ordained clergyman with extensive background in religious education and film production. He comes to The Genesis Project from Acton Corporation, a diversified company dealing in communications.

According to Richard C. Beeson, president and chief executive officer of The Genesis Project, "Moving the U.S. operations to the Washington area consolidates the editorial and marketing functions of the company. The Genesis Project is poised for strong expansion in the '80's."

Part of that expansion will include more curriculum materials. Studies of such themes as Creation, Christmas, and Easter are being published to accompany the Bible-based Genesis Project films.

The New Media Bible, marketed to churches, synagogues, and schools, is a film translation of the Scriptures with teaching aids coordinated for each unit of study. The book of Genesis and Gospel of Luke have been completed; filming of the book of Acts is scheduled to begin in 1981. □

The Baptist World Alliance is more than a meeting . . .

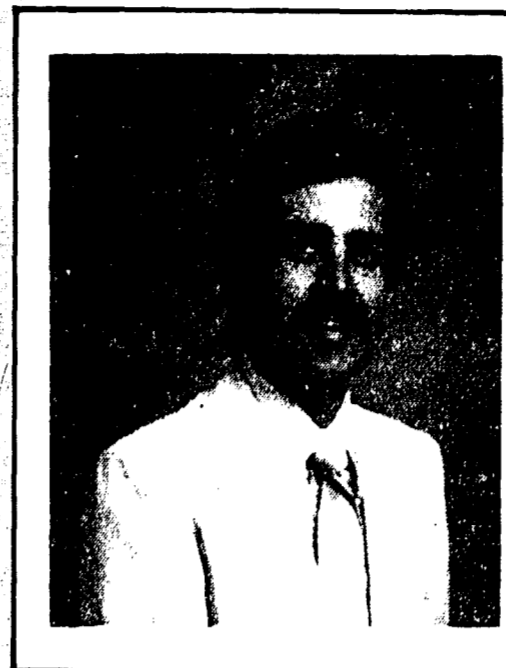
• a stimulus for leadership development through departments for men, women, and youth.

Celebrate Baptist World Alliance Day, February 1, 1981.

For more information write: Dr. Gerhard Claas, Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

The BWA is:

- a channel of communication among Baptists;
- a service unit to assist Baptists in evangelism and education;
- a voice speaking out for religious liberty;
- an agency for relief action to those in need;
- a forum for the exchange of ideas on doctrine and Christian life;



Editorial

Looking Ahead

It seems to have slipped up on us again, hasn't it? Yes, it is the end of the year 1980. We can look back over the year and see much that has been accomplished in our publication ministry and we look forward to even greater blessings in coming months. In just a few weeks the *Sabbath Recorder* will enter its 137th year of publication—quite a record—a record that we hope to continue to build on as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ and the ministry of Seventh Day Baptists in the coming year.

In January we will have a special theme issue, edited by the Rev. Leon R. Lawton, featuring missions. At this writing Rev. Lawton is on a mission tour of Europe and Africa and we hope to have much to share with our readers in coming months as we learn more about our overseas brethren.

Our February issue will be unique. We hope it will be an issue you will want to share with your friends and use in evangelistic work. It will feature our Sabbath belief and information about our witness as a people. The regular news features will not be included in this special issue.

In March we will have another theme section entitled "How Has Your Life Been Changed?" The Rev. Larry Graffius has consented to bring together this theme section dealing with the changes in life

Son Rejects Mother's Teachings

It certainly isn't often that we would encourage a son or daughter to go contrary to the wishes of the parent. However, we join with many others in some satisfaction to learn that the son of outspoken atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hare, now thirty-three years old, has rejected the anti-God movement of his mother.

It was in 1963 that a suit, filed on behalf of William Murray, resulted in an end to prayer in the public schools. At the time William was sixteen years of age. In a recent statement he says he feels partly responsible for the "destruction of the moral fiber" of American youth.

"Looking back on the thirty-three years of life I wasted

after acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, dean of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry will edit a theme section in June on the role of the pastor and the special ministries of the Council on Ministry.

In the Fall we have planned a theme section to be edited by Rev. and Mrs. Leroy Bass. They will develop the theme "A Caring Ministry," that is, ministering to people in a caring way—through medicine, counseling, pastoring and chaplaincy.

In addition to these "special" features we will of course have the usual reports from the Boards, the Church in Action, inspirational articles and all those items that help tie us together in the family of God.

Perhaps now is a good time to invite you to continue to support your publication by renewing your subscription and giving a special gift—a subscription that will remind your friend of your interest every month during the year.

Every day during this month I am thanking God for each member in our family of readers. I am praying that the Lord will continue to lead and guide in the ministry of the *Sabbath Recorder* and that our Heavenly Father will bless each of you in a special way. □

without faith and without God, I pray that I may be able to correct just some of the wrong I have created," he said in a letter published in the *Austin American Statesman*.

Mrs. O'Hare, who heads an atheist organization the Society of Separationists, would not talk to reporters regarding her son's letter and recent actions. It is reported that there has been very little contact between the mother and son for some three years.

We are reminded again that with God all things are possible. We must never underestimate the power of the Gospel—the great ability it has to change those for whom the church has given up all hope! □

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Seventh Day Baptist
Week of Prayer
January 4-10, 1981



...pressing toward the mark

Philippians 3:14

Sunday—January 4—Day of Prayer and Fasting
Sabbath—January 10—World Federation Day

THE SABBATH

OUR 137th YEAR

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

JANUARY 1981

Where
there is
no vision
the people
perish

