

Season for Hope

The silver dawns,
dazzling snows and
pure blue skies have
gone. Now
only grey—
fog, clouds and
dingy snow.
Greyer yet our spirits
were it not for
Hope!

This morning I caught the
changed note—the Redbird's
new spring song, and

Looking up
glimpsed a
scarlet blur in flight.
And just yesterday, in
Searching
under the sodden leaves, I
found the tulips,
their pert brown noses
poking curiously
through the mud.

Soon
red-brown will turn to
freshest green and a
carnival of color.

In our drab seasons—
when life's sweet joys
give way to pain,
despair and
quiet questioning—
we seek a sign for
Hope.

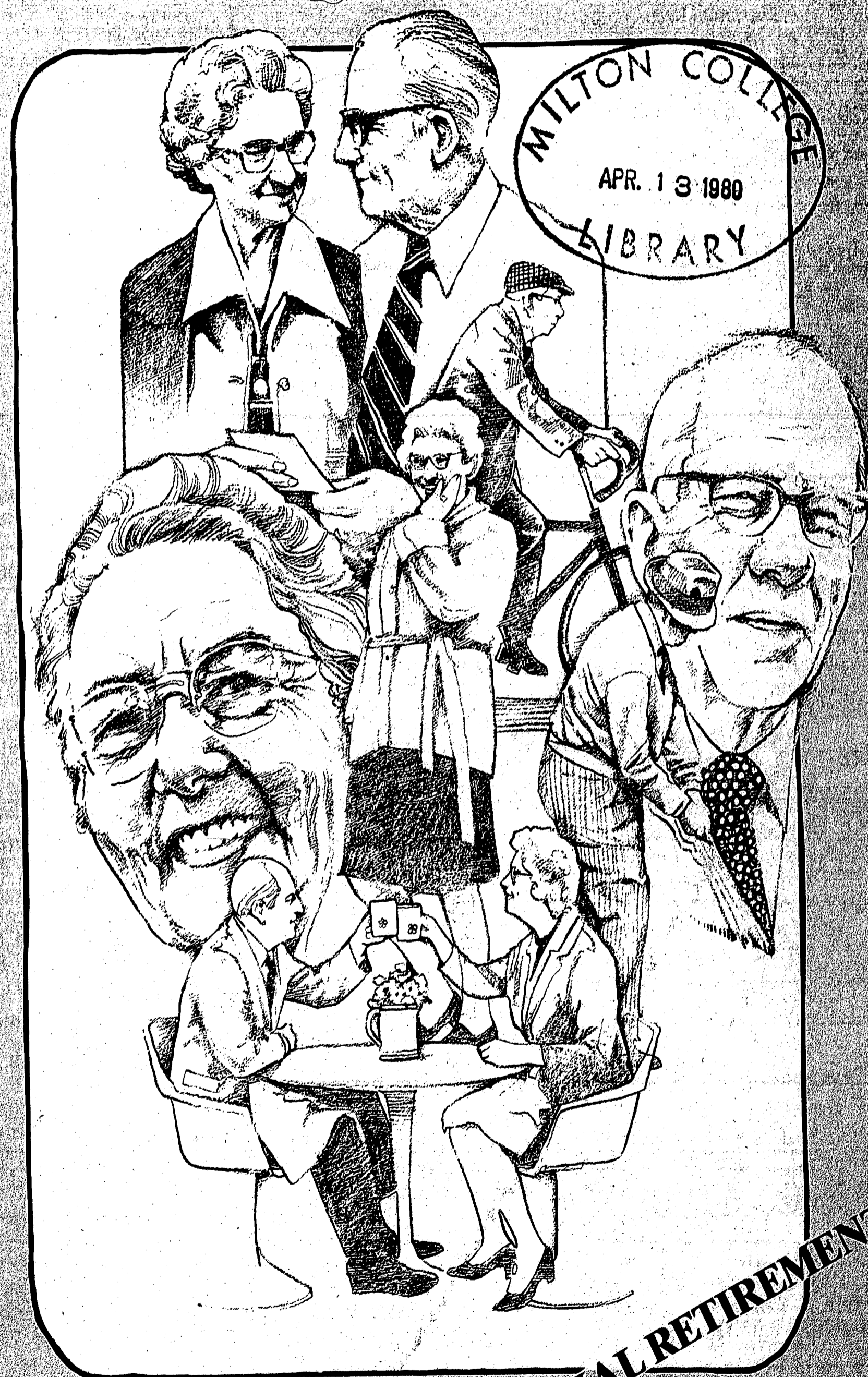
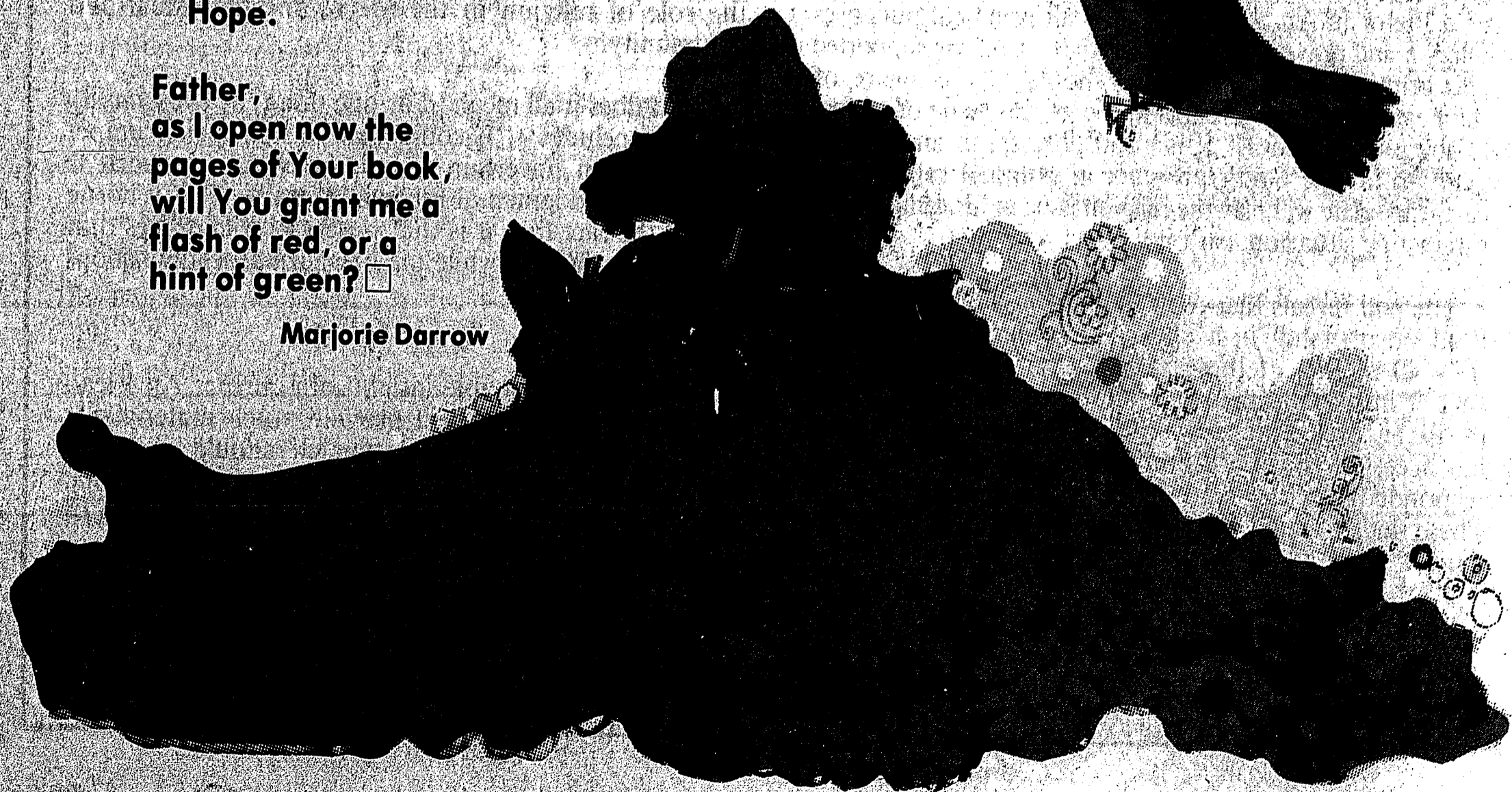
Father,
as I open now the
pages of Your book,
will You grant me a
flash of red, or a
hint of green? □

Marjorie Darrow

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SPECIAL RETIREMENT ISSUE

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The special theme section this month is edited by Alan and Janette Crouch of Daytona Beach, FL. We know our readers will be blessed as they share in the thoughts of the various contributors. Thanks to Al and Gee for a superb job!

-Editor

The photos used in this theme section were taken by Marion Van Horn, Pastor Emeritus of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church.

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Historical Meeting Changed

The date for the 1980 annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society has been changed by vote of the trustees because of schedule conflicts. The annual meeting will be convened at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 4.

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COMING NEXT MONTH—Special theme section on Camping, edited by the Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph of Boulder, CO. □

The Church is unique because it can include all ages. It can bridge the gap between the youth and the older people, setting an example for other areas of life. The young and the old need each other.

With this in mind, we can look at the condition (not the *problem*) of growing older. This is one of the natural stages of man. Unfortunately, it is a time of illness, loneliness, limited income, boredom, and a dwindling sense of usefulness for many.

There are many things each person can do to reach out to others of a different generation. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, daily phone call service, transportation to shopping centers, taking recordings of church services to shut-ins, blood pressure screening, and auxiliary work in hospitals and nursing homes need younger volunteers to help older people. Senior citizens with time and energy to spare can share their faith, love and wisdom with younger people through church work and programs such as Foster Grandparents and SCORE.

All church activities need not be segregated according to age. In the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church the closing exercises of Sabbath School include all ages. The older people enjoy seeing the children recite the books of the Bible or say Bible verses from memory, and the attentive adult audience encourages the children. At our recent all church retreat the children drew pictures to illustrate the Scripture passage while the adults studied and discussed it. At the close of each session the children shared their picture interpretations with the adults. Retirees participate in our young adult Sabbath School class occasionally.

Our family feels richly blessed by our personal relationships with older people. Nathan, 10, and Richard, 8, enjoy distributing and collecting the Psalm books and hymnbooks at the monthly worship service at a local nursing home. The patients seem to appreciate this opportunity to talk with the boys. Recently my grandmother spent some days with us. The boys thought it was extra special to have their great-grandmother with us for a whole day at a time and they looked forward to those days. They even brought all of their friends in to meet Grandma. Contact with older people has become familiar to the boys and has taught them respect for the older people they know. Our family has enjoyed some special picnics, outings and shuffleboard games with older friends whose children and grandchildren live miles away. We fill the vacuum for each other.

Once a month I give an elderly lady her Vitamin B-12 injection. She always seems so lonely and eager for company. I think the visit is as important as the injection. We always visit up until the time for me to leave and then I give her the injection. Phone calls for church and committee work have put me in contact with older members I didn't know as well before. I often come away from the call uplifted by something I learned about that person. Their eagerness to talk indicates their need to talk with someone.

Retirement affects us all, directly and indirectly. We hope the following articles will help you deal with your own retirement or that of friends and family members. We appreciate our contributors' willingness to share their perspectives. □

BRIDGING THE GAP

by Janette Crouch

-Alan and Janette Crouch, Daytona Beach, Florida, are members of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church. Alan is an instructor for blind adults and Janette is a registered nurse.

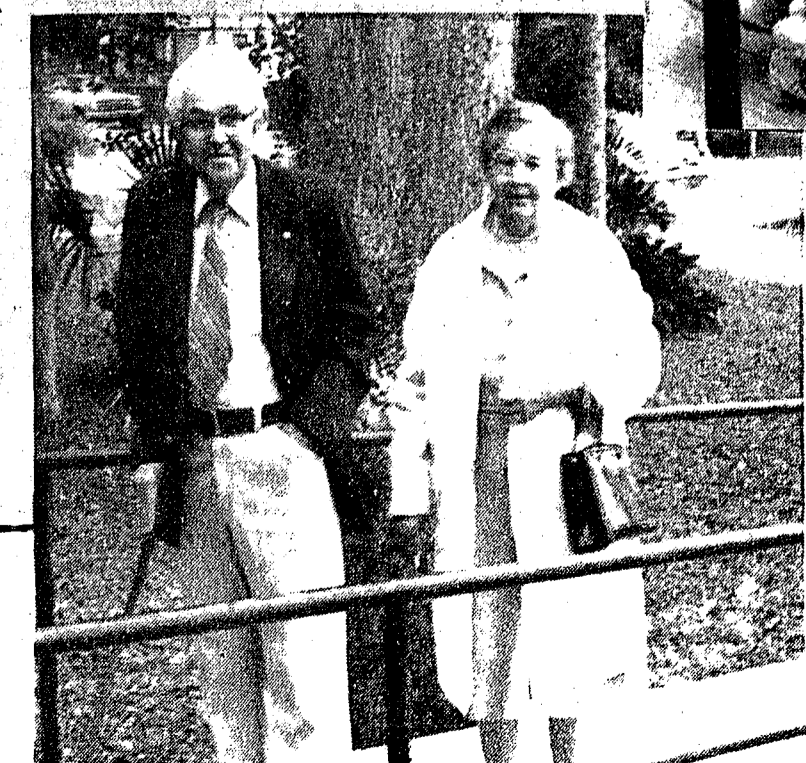


The Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church has a new ramp, built as a gift from a retired person for the benefit of those using a wheelchair or having difficulty with steps.

Alfred Perry, pushing Ruby Babcock up the ramp on Sabbath morning. Ruby, Daytona Beach SDB Church's oldest member now resides in a nursing home but her smile shows the joy of getting out to church.



Winfield and Alice Randolph, walking up the ramp on a Sabbath morning.



WORKING OUT THE VISION

by Janet Thorngate

Janet Thorngate is a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio, which is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a day care center for senior citizens. She is assistant editor for the Educational Research Information Center. Her husband, Dale, is pastor of the Columbus SDB Church.



Your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. (Joel 2:28b)

Shirley had high hopes for her new job. She had quit working as a practical nurse before Karen was born, but now Karen was in school or could stay at the day care center, and they needed the extra money. She had discovered she had a special feeling for old people, so the job at the nursing home within walking distance of her apartment seemed ideal.

She only worked there a week. She couldn't stand the place. All those miserable people who talked about their past and their families as if they were part of a different world! All so desperately in need of love and a sense of dignity and usefulness. She couldn't possibly be nurse, sister, daughter, friend to them all. So she left, depressed and frustrated.

THE VISION

"Their kids don't even find time to come visit them!" she told her husband George, "and they need them so much." Then she got to thinking. Wouldn't it be neat if there was a day care center for them like there is for Karen? People who have older parents living with them but have to work could drop them off at the center during the day where they could have proper care and interesting activities or work projects. Then in the evening they could return home to participate with the rest in the life of the family.

What if the church...? She was afraid to suggest the idea to George for fear he'd laugh. But she couldn't quit thinking about it. Finally she summoned the courage to mention it to the pastor—the idea of the church sponsoring a day care center for senior citizens. The more she talked about it the more excited the pastor got too. He suggested they check out whether such centers already existed in the city and what the need might be.

They discovered two day care centers operating for older adults—both supported by public funds. Visits to each revealed that one functions on a sophisticated medical model, the other on a social model. Staff of both emphasized the great need that exists in the city for such services—that they aren't even beginning to fill the need. They were anxious to provide information and encouragement.

George didn't laugh. He was glad to share with Shirley and the pastor in Bible study and prayer—and then in development of a proposal to present to the church at the quarterly business meeting.

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

The response of the members at the meeting was mixed. It seemed such a huge project for our small group to think about. Less than two years ago we had organized with fourteen charter members (not one of them over sixty-five). But then we thought of Lucille. After living in a nursing home for some time she had come to live with her family in our congregation. We had watched her progress from Sabbath to Sabbath, had seen her seem to come back to life, to bud and blossom. We thought about our strong belief that the church is a family—the extended family of sisters, uncles, grandmothers that so many of us don't have near us since moving to this city. We thought of our desire to reach out into our community, to make contact with new families, to serve in Christ's name. We realized that of our present membership of thirty-four, five are over sixty-five and that there are now twelve older adults in the larger congregation of about seventy. Perhaps this was an area of ministry to consider.

The church voted to explore the idea of sponsoring a day care center for senior citizens. Three couples responded to the call to form a planning group. At their first meeting they used the story board technique to do brainstorming on the purpose, people, program, staff, facilities, and funding for such a center. They accepted assignments: more calls and visits to check out present community services for older adults, collecting of information on bus routes and meal services, drafting of plans for staffing and board of directors, checking out state and county regulations.

BUT WHAT DO WE KNOW?

By the second meeting the planning group had drafted a statement of purpose for the day care center and a description of the people it would serve. A seminary student interested in working with the elderly joined the group and they decided they needed to know more. They all read the book *FORGOTTEN PEOPLE* by Catherine Brandt. It reinforced their thinking so far.

Any expenditure of time, money or energy that enables the old to remain useful, to be active in the church, to live in their own homes, or to stay out of a nursing home a few more years or even months, will postpone their dependence. Such assistance may lift them out of despair and into hope.

Then there was a new theme, one that grew greatly in the group's thinking as they continued to read more: "As we try to understand and learn from even one old person, we begin to prepare for our own future." The author had three suggestions for ways to learn about older people and to help them: read what researchers and educators in the field of gerontology have already learned; know what God says in His Word about the aged ("Long life is the reward of the righteous; gray hair is a glorious crown." Proverbs 16:31); and make friends with older people and visit them regularly. They themselves can teach us how to be most helpful.

It was at this point that we in the group became aware

of our own age. We were all in our thirties and forties. No wonder we got stuck when we started working on a program for people over sixty-five. Henri Nouwen's *AGING* helped us see it too:

Our first and most important task is to help the elderly become our teachers again and to restore the broken connections among the generations...Caring for the aging is not a special type of care. Caring for the aged asks for a life style in which the generations are brought into contact with each other in a creative and recreative way.³

So we recruited Helen and Veola and Lennora to join the planning group. Shirley and the pastor gave them an orientation with the story board one morning over coffee and rolls. Helen, who says, "I've always been around old people," is operating her own "senior citizens day care center" in her own home as she cares for her elderly mother-in-law. Veola, our newest member, who was eighty-five on the church's third anniversary, participates in one of the city's recreation programs for seniors and leads a Bible study in the senior citizen's apartment building where she lives. Lennora, at age ninety-one, is our inspiration and our joy.

When the nine met for the next meeting they started with a Bible study. Several themes emerged: the promise of God's care for the old, old age as a reward for the righteous, the blessing of grandchildren, commandments to respect and honor the old, the need to listen to the elderly, and the bearing of fruit in old age. And then there are the passages about the ideal society: The Day of the Lord, the New Creation, the New Jerusalem—where the old and the young are pictured together rejoicing and happy and, "those who live to be a hundred will be considered young."

The Bible study was followed by the first of a series of movies borrowed from our State Council on Aging. This one, "Volunteer To Live," featured a program in Kansas City in which a number of churches cooperate to provide services by senior citizen volunteers to other senior citizens: for home services, education, and recreation. It got us thinking about cooperation with other church groups and more involvement of the elderly themselves in our planning. We decided we could share other movies in the series with the rest of the church to involve them more in our experience.

GAINING EXPERIENCE

Out of our discussion of program emerged two needs. We must get some real experience in working with the kinds of people we would serve, and we need some data on the number of people in our part of the city who would be interested in such a service. Assignments are made again. We decide to respond to the call for volunteers by a new nursing home in our neighborhood. They're asking for individuals and groups to help with personal services to patients (reading, assisting with crafts, etc.) and for help with church services. We've discovered they have facilities for group activities which they use only in the mornings. Perhaps we might arrange

(continued on page 19)

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

by Kay and Lillian Bee



Mr. Kay Bee

Not many years ago retirement was little talked about, much less planned for. A farmer would turn over his farm gradually to a son and as his health compelled him to, he would slow up and the son ran the farm. This was not thought of as retirement. The same was true with merchants and other family related businesses.

When Industry in America began to grow, pension plans were set up for employees, and later social security retirement plans came into being, then people were asked to quit work at a given age or retire. This came as a shock to many. They thought of themselves as finished, unuseful. This need not be the case but just a new phase in living.

How many times have you wished you could spend more time visiting with friends? More days to spend with your church, or see things you never had time for? But you had to go to work, whatever your vocation was.

Retirement is something to look forward to. For twenty-one years we were living too far from a Seventh Day Baptist church to attend on a regular basis. It was a weekend, overnight stay when we could attend. We were the only Sabbathkeepers in our neighborhood. Some thought we were queer, others thought we were right in our belief. We sorely missed church fellowship with Seventh Day Baptist believers. Thus we began planning for our retirement in a location where we could attend an S.D.B. church.

We invested in a building lot many years ago near DeLand, Florida. Many visits were made to this area. We had our house constructed in 1973. For two years we came for vacations, always attending church at Daytona Beach. Old friends and new friends always made us feel welcome and we left with a Spiritual blessing, looking forward to our next visit.

In 1975 we asked for early retirement, due to failing health. We felt as though we were moving home; and how we have enjoyed life here! We are both in better health. We contribute it to a good Spiritual atmosphere, a good climate, good neighbors and contented happiness. We are looking forward to many years in fellowship with the church and friends at Daytona Beach. It has been a blessing to us that we retired and settled here in DeLand, Florida.

The following are guidelines we used and would suggest. 1. Plan to locate where the climate suits your physical needs. 2. Plan to locate near enough to a Seventh Day Baptist church to be a part of it. 3. Keep active with things you like, but do not get into a routine that commands you. 4. Try not to be faced with a financial burden.

May God grant to you a happy, useful retirement as has been our blessing. Plan for it. □

-Kay and Lillian Bee, DeLand, Florida, are members of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church. Kay is a retired master craftsman for Westinghouse and Lillian is a retired teacher.

The apostle Paul wrote "Let your roots grow down into Him, and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you keep on growing in the Lord and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught."

During our retirement years we are deeply thankful for Christian experiences in various places. Following the General Conference in Denver in 1972, we met with Rev. Leon Lawton in North Loup, Nebraska. He registered us for the Campus Crusade for Christ training at Sandy Cove, Maryland. Advanced training with Campus Crusade took place in Pauling, NY, following services with Rev. Mynor Soper in some of our churches in New York state. We also met with Rev. Alton Wheeler in Battle Creek, Michigan, for special Bible study.

The Lord led us to serve in several places, as coordinated by Leon Lawton and Mynor Soper. The schedule took us to Verona, NY; Houston, Texas; and Farina, Illinois; as well as helping with the Light Bearers for Christ. Helpful experiences were received by involvement in Basic Youth Conflicts, and our denominational Church Growth programs in West Virginia and Florida.

Willie Stargell of the Pittsburgh Pirates has recently been quoted as saying "You pull up an old tree from the ground and move it, say, to California. Well, you can damage the roots." We find that by being transplanted in various places, the roots become more numerous, and become stronger. We find that as we have traveled around and visited our churches, our roots are extended outward as well as downward.

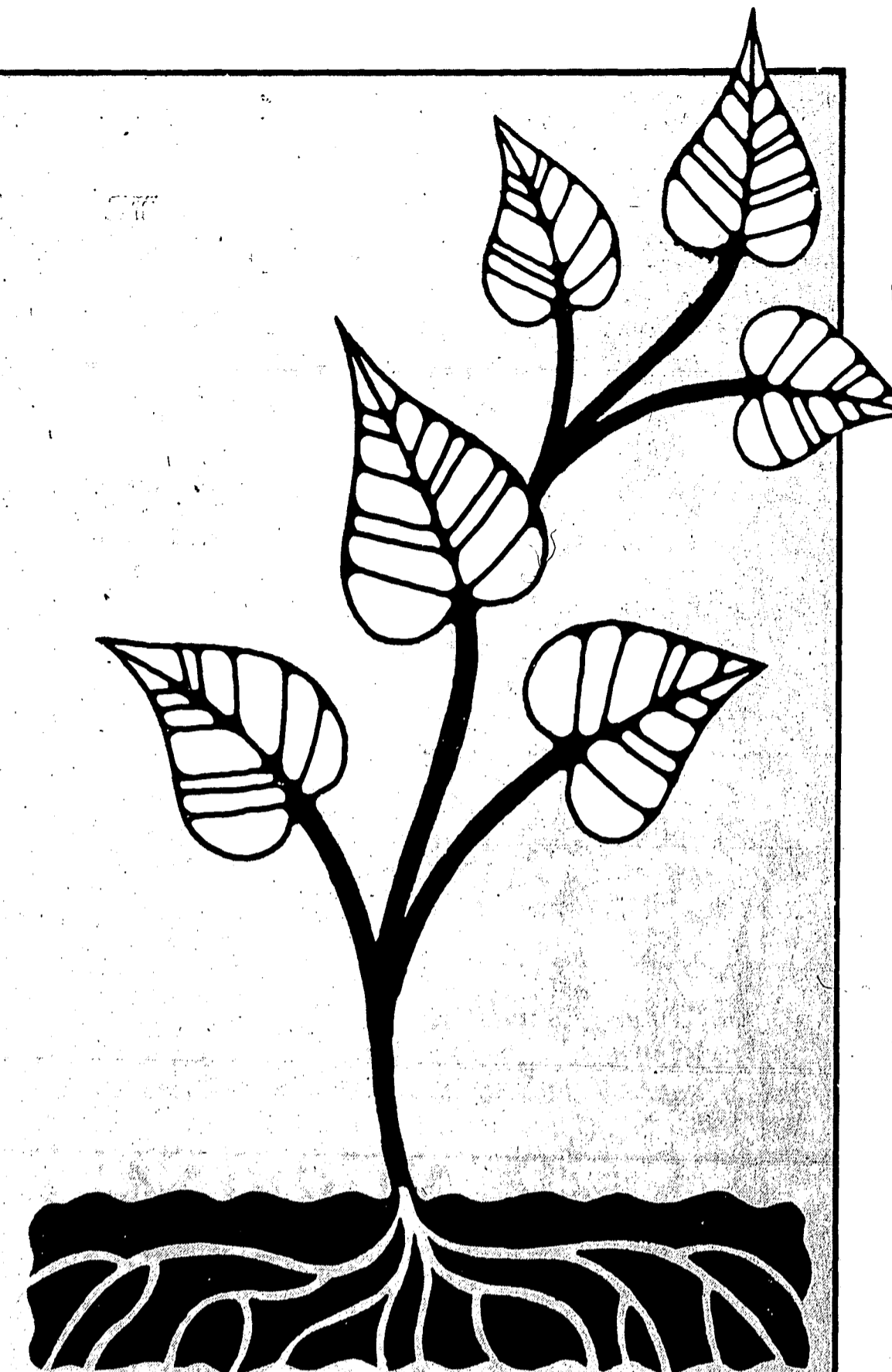
We planned our retirement in 1970, and had our air-stream trailer and a car to pull it ready when we left our teaching positions in 1971. We started for Nova Scotia in September and spent our first night by the Parish House in Ashaway, RI. It was eleven months and 31,000 miles later when we camped by our North Loup, Nebraska, church and met with Leon Lawton.

The loved ones and friends we have enjoyed in our churches can surely be considered branches in our tree of life. These friends extend from Berlin, NY, to Los Angeles; from Seattle to Daytona Beach, Florida; Dodge Center, Minnesota, to Texas; and now from Malawi, Africa, to the Philippines.

Our travels have given us a broad and deep appreciation of God's wonderful creation and creatures. Our journeys included the John Cabot trail in Nova Scotia and the Everglades in Florida. It took a month to cross the South, through Houston to Riverside, California. It was June when we completed the trip up the Pacific Coast to Seattle and July after we visited Alaska. After visiting many of our National Parks we were in Denver for the 1972 General Conference. Numerous wonderful experiences took place during this year of travel; it took four albums to hold the pictures and cases to hold the slides.

Just as thrilling have been the experiences during the more recent travels and visits. We continue to serve the Lord wherever we are.

Peter writes of the steps in spiritual growth, from faith, resolution, knowledge, self-control, godliness, to



RETIREMENT (and as busy as ever)

by Charles and Anita Harris

brotherly affection and to Christian love. These branches grow and extend higher and higher.

God's plan calls for the branches to bear fruit. All Christians will be remembered for the fruit they bear, and to do this we must be in constant contact with Jesus, the true vine. Our roots must go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. "Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done." □

-Charles and Anita Harris, Holly Hill, Florida, members of the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church, are active in the Daytona Beach Church during the winter months. Charles is a retired teacher and guidance counselor and Anita is also a retired teacher.



A NURSING HOME VOLUNTEER

by Iris Maltby

There are ways of finding joy when we reach retirement age. We no longer have to leave our homes for an eight-hour workday. We, at last, have time and energy to do some of the important things of life that always have had to be pushed into the background. Our priorities now can change.

One of the joys I have found is visiting lonely people. For some time the statement Jesus made, "I was sick and in prison and ye visited me not" has haunted me. Of course, all of us have always tried to see friends and relatives when they are sick, but we know Jesus was not speaking about that.

For a year and more some of our church people have conducted a Sunday evening worship service in a nearby nursing home. After I went along to help I soon knew here was the answer to the thought that had haunted me. Here were lonely folk! Most of them were sick and almost felt they "were in prison" for they had been put there and would never again live outside those walls.

I went to the Director of Activities and asked for the names of some who have no one who visit them. She gave me three and said, "I'm sure you will find others

who also need someone." It took only one visit to see loneliness on every side. Picture the feeling as you walk down the halls thinking which ones should be visited.

Here is a woman who speaks mostly in French. She has Parkinson's disease and so is tied in a wheel chair. After only a few visits as soon as I appear her face lights up, her restlessness ceases and, although I cannot understand but fifty percent of what she says, I know by her face my visit has given her hope for a little while.

Then there is the very intelligent lady who was a teacher and librarian all her life. She suffered a stroke four years ago and has had to remain in bed ever since. She is so happy to see someone who cares that one can hardly leave her room to visit others. "Did you bring a story to read? Read one more poem. Stay and talk a little longer."

Down the hall is a ninety-year-old lady. She has been there seven years. She has made it a practice to visit the rooms of any newcomers in her area to help them adjust to this life of loneliness that they must now face. Now she is confined to her bed through numerous falls, and no one comes to help her adjust to an inactive life. She feels helpless as the walls of her room close in around her. She needs the encouragement she has given to others but she has no relatives, and friends of former years seemingly have forgotten that she exists. Even the ones who live in the Home and could come in their wheel chairs have forgotten her kindness so quickly.

The list goes on and on. My heart bleeds for the many there who need someone who cares. At first several asked me "Do you have a relative here you come to see each week?" "No, I just came to see you." "Why?" When I try to explain my coming I find they are amazed and they open up with their problems and heartaches.

Our church provides Psalms in large print for any who want them. I carry small pieces of encouraging literature and always have reading materials. Most of all, though, they want to talk. They want someone who will take time to listen and show them that what they are saying is important. It is a very satisfying way to use one afternoon a week. We who are well have so much to be happy about, so why not spend some of it in easing the burden of others? Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." □

-Iris Maltby, South Daytona, Florida is a member of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church. Iris is a retired teacher.



The Sabbath Recorder

MY WIDOW'S DAZE!

by Brita Wicklund

...began the morning of July 14, 1975.

My husband of 34 years was lying in the hideaway bed in our living room, which had been his bed for the past year because of ill health. Many times during the night Harold had to get up and use the spray machine to clear his lungs so he could breathe more easily.

Cocoa, our faithful poodle of many years, usually bounded to his feet and greeted me happily as soon as I opened the bedroom door which led into the living room. But this morning he lay quietly near my husband and just looked up at me in silence. I felt something was wrong, and rightly so. Glancing over at Harold, I knew God had taken him.

Though Harold had not been well because of his Bronchitis/asthmatic condition, his death was unexpected. He had been to his doctor just the Monday before and everything had been fine. A few days later he was dead, and I became a widow.

Being a Christian soldier, I accepted his death and thanked God for the years we had together. It had not been always sunshine—there was much darkness along the way, but there had been much joy! The sudden departure was difficult to understand, and the days that followed were a struggle to adjust. There was indeed a sad and lonely daze surrounding me.

Soon I found myself living in my daughter's home. I did enjoy the grandchildren daily, yet I felt I should be elsewhere. My sister Greta lived in a retirement center for senior citizens in Miami, and she encouraged me to join her there. Three months after Harold's death, I was settled in a nice efficiency apartment. The days brightened gradually.

There was a fine Christian lady living across the hall from me, and because of our mutual interest and love for Jesus Christ and the Scriptures, we became good friends. We had our small Bible lessons and devotions in each other's apartment.

But Faye soon went home to the Lord, and I began to have thoughts of moving back where I would be closer to my grandchildren. I discovered another retirement center, Good Samaritan Village in Kissimmee, which offered much more in every way to senior citizens, especially those who are handicapped, as I am. April of that year (1977), I moved to Kissimmee, in central Florida, only about two hours from my daughter. A very good friend was happy to move me and my belongings to my new home. On the way, we asked God to stand by me, and provide at least one Christian friend in Kissimmee. Did He? Oh yes! Not one, but many!

No sooner was I out of the car and walking toward my new apartment than a gentleman came bounding over the lawn with outstretched hand—"Welcome! I'm here to help you in any way I can." And he did. He was a retired minister.

While he was busy helping me unpack, another retired minister came in, introduced himself, and immediately pitched in to do what he could. Already I had more than one Christian friend!

My first night was celebrated with a delicious Swedish home-cooked dinner, brought over by the wife of one of the retired ministers. The following day the wife of yet another minister brought me a chicken dinner. My new Christian friends were growing in numbers by leaps and bounds!

There is a Christian (non-denominational) church here, complete with a full-time minister, assistant, organist, pianist, and a wonderful choir made up of senior citizens—who can still sing!

We also have a cable TV system with our own channel, so every church service is broadcast, and those of us who find it difficult to walk to church can watch and listen in our apartments. The Sunday night meeting is also broadcast, and sometimes there are lively testimonies! My heart just sings these days! For there is such a fine Christian atmosphere here. Not a day passes but what my Christian friends stop by, to ask how I am and is there anything they can do for me? There is so little I can do in return, but I have found an outlet: crocheting slippers and booties for those confined to the nursing home.

The third Sunday I was here happened to be my birthday. A most pleasant surprise came my way. A small ensemble from the Salvation Army band and a group of songsters gave a concert at the church that afternoon. My parents had been Salvation Army officers, and I was a Salvationist until my marriage. I sat with tears running down my cheeks, listening to the familiar songs. It truly tugged at this heart of 67 years (then)! Unknown to the visiting Salvationists, their music and testimonies gave me a much needed boost.

I thanked God again for His goodness to me, all through the years, and most of all because my widow's daze is now behind me, and I have peace again within my heart. □

-Brita Wicklund, Kissimmee, Florida, is a nonresident member of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church.



Mrs. Clara Beebe

THE PROBLEM OF THE ELDERLY PARENT

by Clara L. Beebe

*"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be
The last of life, for which the first was made.
Our times are in His hand, Who hath the whole as planned,
Fear not, trust God, nor be afraid."*-Browning

*"If a man live many years and rejoice in them all;
yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they
shall be many. All that cometh is vanity."*
-Ecclesiastes 11:8

Thus two poets, ages apart, depict growing old. One thinks of aging as a time of fulfillment, the other considers it a depressing fact. Truly, growing old does come to most of us, unless one dies young, and escapes the aging process.

For those of us who live to "the Golden Years" there are three choices: to live on at the Old Homestead, with or without a companion; to live in a rest home, eking out the days in loneliness and frustration; or to live with a son or daughter, or a friend, in their home.

The last choice was that of Cliff and me, when it became evident that because of his serious illness, I could not care for him in our house in Alabama. We came to Daytona Beach, to the home of our daughter Anne and her husband Otis, so that she could help care for her Dad.

He lived only a few days after our moving. But I have lived on here, in a comfortable room of my own, where I am free to read, write, sew or rest as I wish. The home was opened to me, but not only the home. Hearts were opened too.

When a parent comes to live with a son or a daughter, the first thing to be resolved is that each needs to respect the others' privacy, not grudgingly but lovingly. Loving respect is the secret of how two generations can live harmoniously under one roof. If all are caring Christians that is not too hard.

If the "live-in" parent can contribute in some way to the life of the family, that is good. No one, adult or youth, likes to feel useless. Too many elderly folks are relegated to "the rocking chair." I am glad to be able to help with the housekeeping, and also to enter into the life of the church. Too many people in their later years tend to feel that life holds nothing for them. Why, because one is "three score years and ten" or even more, should one not keep an active, alert mind, and do as many useful things as strength and ability will allow? □

-Clara Beebe, Ormond Beach, Florida, a member of the Paint Rock, Alabama, Seventh Day Baptist Church, is active in the Daytona Beach church now. Clara served many years with her husband, the late Clifford Beebe, in various Seventh Day Baptist pastorates.

Mother and Dad, when it gets to the point where you are not able to manage, living in your own home, Otis and I would like to have you come live with us." This decision was the outcome of a family conference, at the time of Mother and Dad's Golden Wedding Anniversary, in August 1972. That time came, in September 1978, after Dad had become paralyzed from above the waist, a combination of cancer and a stroke. We had planned for their coming into our home for six years, but were able to give Dad a home with us for only a week. We have been fortunate enough to have Mother with us ever since.

"Anne, how are you able to get along, two women under the same roof?" This question came from my brother David, this last Christmas, and the answer is what I want to attempt to share with others.

First of all, Otis and I are *not* making a home for Mother. She is helping us to make our home an even happier place than it was previously. Of course, it really helps that my husband and my mother do not consider each other as "in-laws." They are "in-loves," and that attitude reigns in our home. Our mutual love and respect for each other, for our fellow man, but most of all, for our Savior and our God, are what make it not only a possibility but an actuality, that two adult generations can live together harmoniously.

In the Practical Nurse program, where I am studying, we are learning many principles to help return the ill person to health. The major point that I have learned is "If you don't use it, you'll lose it." This principle certainly applies to Mother. Our home is Mother's home, and she certainly does more than her share in using it, and herself. Since I am not only going to school, but working part-time as a nursing assistant in a hospital, and Otis works a crazy 12-hour night shift, Mother has made herself very useful, and does most of the light housework, cooking delicious meals for us, mending, etc.

Mother has her own bed/sitting room, with her own furniture, books, records, etc., where she can sequester herself when she wants to get away from the rest of us, to write letters, read, rest, or whatever, but the rest of the house is her home too, the home that we all share.

So our answer to living happily with an "aged" parent is: love, respect, sharing, faith, and let them "use what they have" and they won't be "aged" any more than my active Mother is, and you will be blessed.

"A face—where there is written line by line—the manuscript of life; the open sign—displaying what the changing years have wrought—Eyes where joy lights up each passing thought. Hands grown frail with work done willingly—in the service of Love's ministry...Old is beautiful." -Unknown □

-Anne Lastinger, Ormond Beach, Florida, is a member of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church. Anne is currently studying to become a licensed practical nurse.

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord (as His representatives) for this is just and right. Honor (esteem and value as precious) your father and mother; this is the first commandment with a promise."
-Ephesians 6:1,2 (Amplified NT)*

SHARING A HOME WITH AN AGED (?) PARENT

by Anne B. Lastinger



**CHRISTIAN
SOCIAL ACTION
BULLETIN BOARD**

W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision International, wrote a letter to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference last December. Here are some excerpts: "It is a special joy to write you during this Christmas season, expressing appreciation for your investment in the ministries of World Vision. On behalf of the 'least ones' who will receive new hope because of your gifts, we do thank you. As God's children, the true spirit of Christmas and the joy of giving is ours at every time of the year. As you think and pray about the problems facing so many of the hurting and hungry people in our world, I hope that God will give you a real sense of His peace and assurance that He is still in control. It's a blessing and encouragement to my heart to know that you are aware of the need and have responded in such a meaningful way." The amount of \$222.28 had been forwarded to World Vision from Seventh Day Baptists.

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In answering the woman's critics, Jesus pointed out that they have the poor among them always, so they can help them whenever they like (verse 7). They would not always have Jesus, for He was to die. It is not possible for us today to anoint Jesus' head with perfume. But there are always poor people to be helped, and whenever we like we can forego our luxuries and give the money to them.

The same Jesus who asked a wealthy ruler to sell everything He had and distribute to the poor (Luke 18:18-27), the same Jesus who listed feeding the hungry among the criteria for entering heaven (Matthew 25:31-46), could never have given us reason to think that we should not help the poor.

When we live on less so that more may be shared, not only is money freed to assist charitable organizations which minister to people in need, but we will also be able to give more money to Our World Mission and to our churches.

Speaking again of living on less so that more may be shared, I wonder whether we church people are capable of socializing without food and beverage. I'm referring to church socials, receptions and parties, and to social gatherings in our homes. Our refreshments show insensitivity toward people who are malnourished, and cost us money which could go toward assisting them. Are we as dependent on food and beverage at social gatherings as those who cannot socialize without alcohol? □
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PRAYER

CORNER

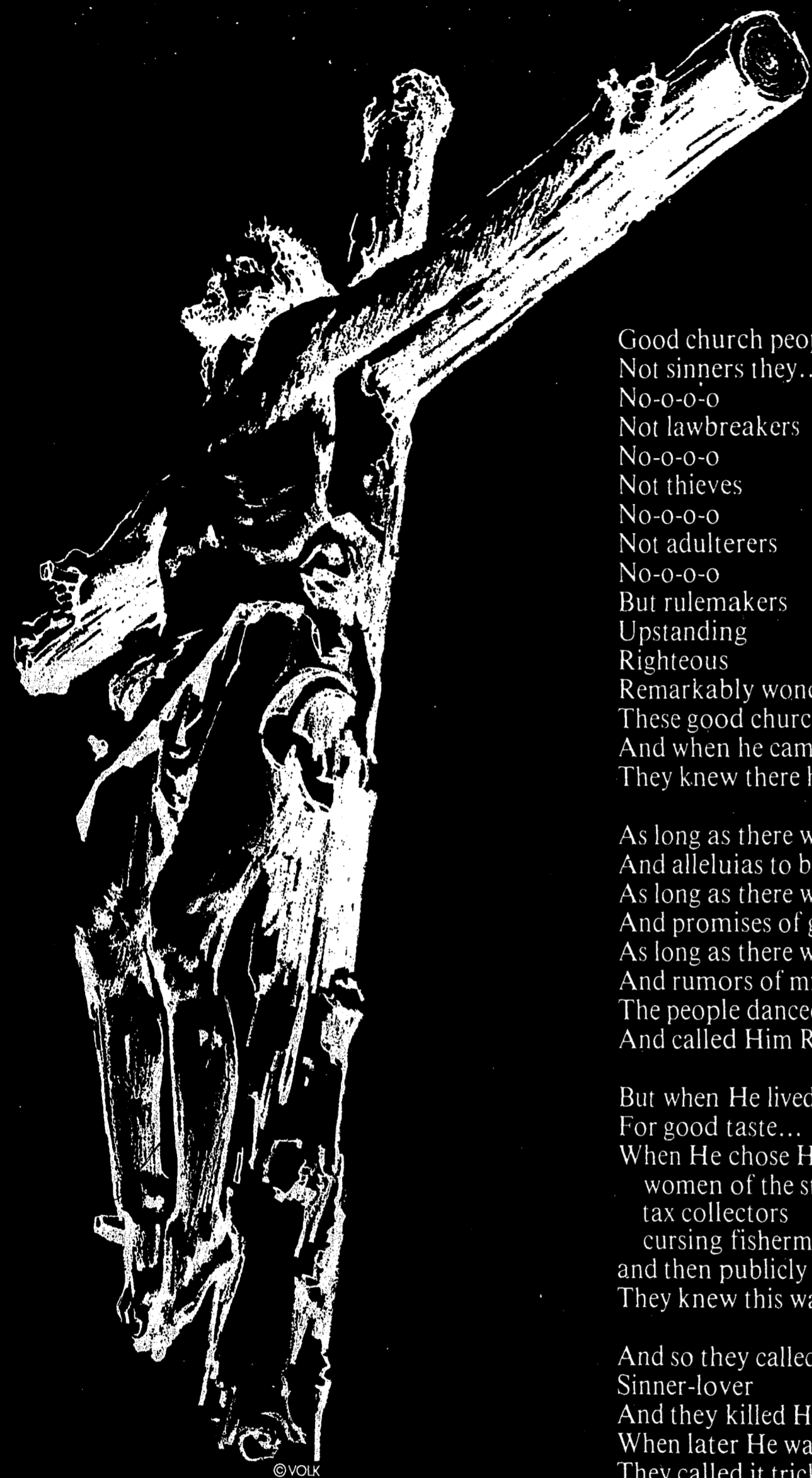
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GO QUICKLY AND TELL

Good church people
Not sinners they...
No-o-o-o
Not lawbreakers
No-o-o-o
Not thieves
No-o-o-o
Not adulterers
No-o-o-o
But rulemakers
Upstanding
Righteous
Remarkably wonderful church members...
These good church people asked for a savior
And when he came
They knew there had to be some mistake.

As long as there were palms to wave
And alleluias to be sung,
As long as there was story telling
And promises of good things to come,
As long as there were loaves and fishes
And rumors of miracles,
The people danced around Him
And called Him Rabbi,

But when He lived a little too abundantly for their taste...
For good taste...
When He chose His friends from among ruffians
 women of the streets
 tax collectors
 cursing fishermen
and then publicly called God His Father,
They knew this wasn't their man.

And so they called Him
Sinner-lover
And they killed Him.
When later He was seen alive
They called it trickery
He was resurrected, you know.

He is Risen.
What about a little fanfare?
A deafening drum roll?
A three minute standing ovation?
What? Have we had the drums beaten out of us
That we in the celebrative community
Can't really get excited
About God's aliveness?
He was resurrected, you know.
What about somebody going out quickly
Go quickly and tell
That He is risen!

Hail, hail, the gang's all here:
We are Pilates
Unable to make a decision,
Unwilling to take a stand,
Afraid to risk our pitiful positions,
Wringing our hands and saying we're not responsible...
We are Sadducees and Pharisees
Clinging to our written rules.
Chief among those being:
Do not fraternize with the enemy
And righteous ritual will get you into heaven.
We are the crowd
Easily swayed
Easily scared
Easily calling for blood.

We're the good church people
Who can't believe He meant 'love one another'
Not *all* the one anothers
Not drug addicts and criminals and deserters.

We hate injustice when it's injustice toward us.
We love mercy when it's mercy for us.
We walk humbly with our God when it's convenient.
We're Babe believers who resist the resurrection.

We can rock a Baby,
But what can we do with a grown man who won't stay dead?

A risen Christ scares us.
Because
We're the people who can't believe that God gives us
abundant life.
We think we have to earn it.

So we in the church spend our lives showing Him
What good people we are
What achievers we are
How much we deserve His love.

But Easter says He first loved us.
Easter means we don't have to impress God
Easter means we don't have to impress each other.
Easter means, no matter how prodigal,
We can go home again.
He was resurrected, you know.

Let's celebrate that amazing grace
That in Christ's resurrection
He loves us still
At our most outrageous.

Let's let the God-aliveness in us fly wild
Pervading the world with all manner of hosannas!

He is risen
Go quickly and tell!

-Written by Ann Weems for *CHURCH WOMAN*
used by permission. □

"Send Us a 'Paul'!"

As reported in last month's *Sabbath Recorder*, the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation last year commissioned Jan Lek of the Netherlands as a special emissary to Seventh Day Baptist-related churches in Europe. His task was to facilitate two-way communication: to take greetings and assurances of support to the churches from the World Federation, and to bring back reports from the churches, on their status, their plans, their needs.

As secretary of the Netherlands conference of Seventh Day Baptists, as a vice-president of the World Federation, and with fluency in English, Dutch and German, Mr. Lek was well-suited to the task. Already maintaining excellent communications between his conference and the World Federation, and working to increase cooperation between the Dutch and British Seventh Day Baptists, on this mission he sought to strengthen relationships with German Seventh Day Baptists and open communication with a conference of Sabbath-keeping Christians behind the Iron Curtain in Poland. Last month's *Sabbath Recorder* article summarized the very detailed report that Mr. Lek filed with the World Federation at the completion of his travels. Now, we would like to share some of his conclusions.

The Seventh Day Baptist churches in Europe need our support. The historical churches in England have survived the three centuries since the founding of our faith there, but sometimes by the narrowest of margins. Now they are fighting to make a comeback with a membership composed almost entirely of Seventh Day Baptists who have moved to England from Jamaica. They ask for assistance in outreach.

Our churches in the Netherlands recently passed the century mark in their history, and the commitment of their members is known worldwide among Seventh Day Baptists, as evidenced by their sacrificial support of missions and their exemplary lifestyles of Christian obedience, but now there are less than one hundred members and death has taken a number of their veteran leaders in recent years.

Similarly in Germany, the dedicated tithing of our fellow Seventh Day Baptists has benefitted many around the world, but where 25 churches with 450 members grew up in the late 1930s now there are 25 members in just a couple churches. In Poland, the door to increased fellowship is tentatively opened, but the initiative is largely ours.

What will we do?

Jan Lek reported, "In my opinion there should be a missionary for Europe," and listed these qualifications: able to support these struggling and scattered groups of believers; able to direct them in outreach; willing to travel extensively; and able to speak English, Dutch and German. A German Seventh Day Baptist said, "Send us a 'Paul'!" The World Federation concurs. We cannot fail to be supportive of our brothers and sisters in Europe; we cannot afford to lose our witness to that continent.

Two questions remain: is there someone who meets the qualifications and who is ready to answer the call, or someone challenged by the call who would be willing to prepare for the mission? and are there conferences, associations, churches, individuals, who are ready to shoulder the burden of supporting this great work for the '80s? Please let us know. □

-Tom Merchant, president, Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

MISSION TO CHINA "The End" or "To Be Continued"?

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

Ninety years after our mission to China was begun, our missionaries again were caught in the crossfire of armed conflict, as China fell victim to Japanese aggression in 1937. This time, however, it was the foretaste of world war, and before our mission could celebrate its centennial, some of our missionaries would be interned in concentration camps, all would be forced to leave China, and our mission would be closed, perhaps permanently, at least for three decades.

Initial hostilities halted work at Liuho and hindered operations in Shanghai. For their safety, most of our missionaries were sent home to America. However, in late 1938 Dr. Grace Crandall and Anna West, the two missionaries who had remained in China were rejoined by the doctors Rosa Palmborg and George Thorngate and nurse Miriam Shaw, and the reunited medical team provided treatment to thousands of war-wounded and -diseased in Shanghai.

Meanwhile, the schools continued with little interruption, showing enrollments of 500 boys and 450 girls, and the Shanghai church reached out to the community, providing a meeting space to many other churches, schools and social service organizations that had lost their facilities in the fighting.

In the following year, the Eugene Davises, Mabel West, and Dr. Thorngate's family returned to China while Dr. Crandall took a much-deserved leave. The Shanghai and Liuho mission properties were repaired, and the school enrollments increased to 600 boys and 500 girls, but before there could be much rebuilding of program, once again the missionaries were asked to vacate the area for their own safety. Dr. Palmborg, Mrs. Thorngate and her children returned to America, and Dr. Crandall traveled to unoccupied China with her adopted daughter, a physician, to try to establish a new medical work there. Remaining in Shanghai were Dr. Thorngate, the Eugene Davises, and the West women — sisters Anna and Mabel, and mother Nettie.

On March 25, 1942, Anna West died after 31 years of missionary service, first as a teacher in the girls school, and then succeeding Susie Burdick as principal. Both Eugene Davis and Dr. Crandall were reported seriously ill but showing some signs of recovery.

In early 1943 the Davises and Dr. Thorngate were ordered to concentration camps; Mabel and Nettie West were placed under surveillance. Finally, in October of that year the Davises and Dr. Thorngate were exchanged for Japanese prisoners of war and returned to America. Suffering from illness and in advancing years, the Davises retired after spending most of a 35-year period as missionaries in China. Dr. Thorngate became a physician in the Navy and in that way was able to visit the China mission as the war dragged on.

For a short while before the surrender of the Japanese, the West women, too, were taken to a concentration camp.

Then, the war was over: the Wests were released, Dr. Crandall returned to Shanghai, the Thorngates were in China once again, and the mission marked its 100th anniversary with a record 1,400 students in the schools and more than 500 members in the church.

Sadly though, illness claimed the life of Dr. Crandall in that centennial year. Under the leadership of her adopted daughter, the mission hastened to open a hospital building at Liuho in her memory. The Crandall Building was dedicated Dec. 7, 1947, one hundred years after the founding of our China mission and thirty-seven years after Grace Crandall's arrival in China.



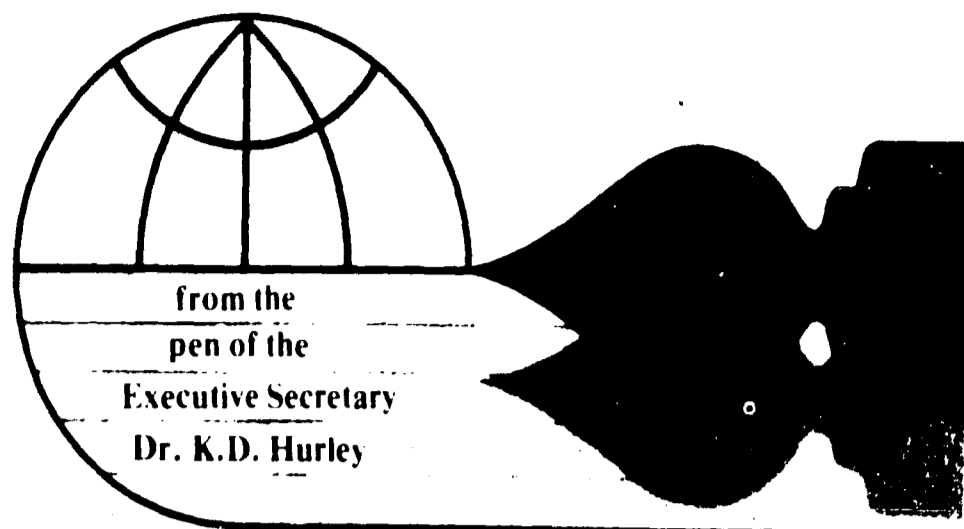
Sarah Becker, another nurse and the last Seventh Day Baptist Missionary sent to China, arrived to supervise the medical work and nurses' training, but she was forced to leave less than two years later as war threatened our mission once again. Finally, in April 1950 the Thorngates, our last missionaries in China, were forced to vacate as the Nationalist forces retreated to Taiwan and a Communist government was established in mainland China.

What did they leave? Valuable mission property, yes, but far more important: hundreds of Chinese Seventh Day Baptists — a reported 670 in 1949 — and thousands of Seventh Day Baptist-educated Chinese — 1,400 in attendance in the last year reported.

Was it the end, or will there be a continuation? Seventh Day Baptists in China and America in the 1980's may decide that question...that has been the reason for this series on our "mission to China."



The China mission "family" in 1939, left to right: Stephen Thorngate, H. Eugene Davis, Mary Ross Davis, Anna West, Nettie West, Marcia Davis, Mabel West, Helen Shaw Thorngate, David Thorngate, Philip Thorngate, Dr. George Thorngate, Dr. Rosa Palmborg.



“WE CAN SO GET THERE FROM HERE!”

DOUBLE IN THIS DECADE!

That is the challenge accepted by Seventh Day Baptists for the 1980's.

DOUBLE, during the Decade of Discipleship (1980-1990), means twice as many churches, twice as many members, twice as many missions, twice as many Bible study groups, twice as many Sabbath School classes, twice as many prayer and praise services, twice as many (or twice as much) in every category in church life and activity including twice as many dollars for support of Christ's work in and through our denomination.

DOUBLE seems like a lot, maybe too much, to some of our people; others feel that the goal is really minimal and so the “debate” has gone on, almost in the same frame of reference as a school yard argument among youngsters:

“You can't do that.”
 “Oh, yes, I can!”
 “No, you can't!”
 “Yes, I can so!”

In our questionings, the skeptics are being heard with decreasing volume and in fewer numbers—and properly so, I think. Evidence is mounting that “we can so get there (“Double in a Decade”) from here!” We have a good start.

Let us look first at the least significant (in a way), but nonetheless important and necessary, financial facts.

Strong Fiscal Foundation

At the end of 1979, we gave greater support to Our World Mission than ever before. Although we fell just a little short of the overall budget as established, we actually surpassed the totals given for other years. In 1977 the amount subscribed in twelve months, through the OWM treasurer

and reported by boards and agencies, was \$268,720.13. In 1978 the total receipts increased by \$30,000 to \$298,504. Last year, the level of support rose to \$305,762.19.

This performance in stewardship provides a strong fiscal foundation on which to establish our DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP. It gives us assurance that we can not only raise the 1980 basic budget of \$291,988; but building on a balanced financial position at the beginning of the decade, we can continue our support commensurate with the opportunities for outreach and growth during the 1980's.

Inward Spiritual Vitality

Of course, dollars and numbers are not the ultimate goal. The statistics, however, provide an outward evidence of the inward spiritual vitality which means full dedication to Christ and His Cause.

“For your heart will always be where your riches are.”
 Matthew 6:21 (TEV)

Now is the time (if it hasn't been done already) to set specific Decade of Discipleship goals for ourselves and for our churches. The first step toward 1990 is 1980—THIS YEAR!

An Imperative Prerequisite

Realistic goal setting is an imperative prerequisite to achievement. Churches are being asked to review and affirm the *suggested* goals for their apportioned share of the unified Our World Mission budget for 1980. As financial goals are being considered and established, churches are encouraged also to evaluate *all* phases of their work and establish goals in each area for this year and beyond.

Having goals (financial and otherwise) will help us to get ahead and

stay ahead in our efforts to *Double in the Decade*.

If we increase approximately 10 percent per year in each category, we will truly *double* (at least, if not more) our effectiveness in the Lord's work by 1990.

“HUMAN BEINGS DON'T HAVE TROUBLE ACHIEVING GOALS,” says Earl Nightingale. “THEY ONLY HAVE TROUBLE SETTING THEM.”

There should really be no problem for Christians in establishing goals. Our major objective is converts. There can be no higher motivation. That is what DISCIPLESHIP is all about.

Olan Hendrix, expert in church management skills, declares that goals are dynamic. “Nothing releases energy like a goal,” he says. “Nothing generates creativity like a goal and nothing in the natural realm satisfies the heart and mind of man like a goal!”

Realistic Goals

Herein is our personal and collective responsibility—to establish (and achieve) realistic goals in Christ's name and for His sake.

People in all parts of the world are looking to Seventh Day Baptists in the United States of America for great accomplishments in the 1980's. One respondent from another country writes as follows:

“We are praying for a shaking and awakening among American Seventh Day Baptists that will rouse them from their comfortable pews and give them a purpose and punch in their Commission to teach all men and nations, for they are willing to hear the truth and want a

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Statement of Purpose:

To live out our Christian commitment by providing a service to our community in the form of a Senior Citizen's Day Care Center. The center will provide daytime rehabilitation and/or maintenance services for older adults who live by themselves or with children or other relatives and are unable to care for themselves all the time.

We believe that this center will help keep families together by providing an alternative to nursing home care. It will release the younger family members from the care of the older members throughout the day. The services provided by the center can be utilized on a regular daily basis or on an as-needed basis, such as during shopping trips, etc.

As the older persons participate in the center program we believe that they will see themselves as a continuing contribution to society—involved not only in their own family but also in a larger social context. We of the younger generation need the benefit of their experience and skills.

We see this as an opportunity to help elderly members of our community regain or maintain a useful life as

they put into use the gifts and talents which God has given them. But we see it also as an opportunity for family members and our church members to use their gifts and to show Christian love and caring in new relationships.

Who are the people who will come to the center? They are older people past retirement age. They may be couples still living on their own or individuals living with younger members of their family. Many are widows or widowers.

They are ambulatory—able to walk and move around—but they may not be entirely self-sufficient in that they cannot perform many social or daily living tasks in the way that they once could. Most of them are in good health, mentally sharp, and capable of learning new things.

They are individuals with diverse traits and needs. Some are lonely—some involved. Some are happy—some sad. Most of them want to play games, make things, learn new things, be with people. They often need help in the areas of physical health, spiritual health, finances, family and friends, independence, and self-approval. Most of all, they want to be needed by others and they want to feel self-esteem—to be somebody. Like all people, they need love. □

WORKING OUT THE VISION

(continued from page 5)

with them to use them in the afternoon to operate a pilot program for others in the neighborhood.

Disappointments come too. The seminary student whom we had pictured as perhaps directing the pilot program as one of his practicum experiences has moved away. And it is always so hard to know how to communicate our experience to the rest of the church so they feel a part of it too. And what if it never really happens? What if when we really get down to business of funding—

At times we must remind ourselves to quit dreaming and think what we might do now to help Bob when he brings Florence home again from the nursing home. In what ways can we be supportive and caring?

To care one must offer one's own vulnerable self to others as a source of healing. To care

living and viable faith.”

A viable faith! That is what we need and desire to demonstrate—by establishing immediate, intermediate, and long-range goals and by moving ahead confidently expecting to *double in the decade*.

Yes, striving to “Please God in every way” (Col. 1:10b) we can—and will—get there from here! □

for the aging, therefore, means first of all to enter into close contact with your own aging self, to sense your own time, and to experience the movement of your own life cycle.⁴

“I never dreamed that it would result in all this!” Shirley said one day when we were listing celebrities and influential people who might serve on our board of directors and dreaming of a building that would be in use seven days a week for both our church program and the day care center. We never dreamed... We learn so much about ourselves when we do.

If the day care center never comes about perhaps it will be because in the process we have discovered better ways of involving all the members of our family of all ages in a more integrated community—a new creation.

I will pour out my spirit on everyone.
 Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;
 your young men will see visions,
 and your old men will have dreams.
 (Acts 2:17) □

Footnotes

¹ Catherine Brandt. *FORGOTTEN PEOPLE*. Moody Press, Chicago, 1978, p14

² *Ibid.*, p22

³ Henri J. M. Nouwen and Walter J. Gaffney. *AGING: THE FULFILLMENT OF LIFE*. Image Books, Garden City, New York: 1974, p 17, p 124

⁴ *Ibid.*, p 97

FAMILY WORSHIP

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John 4:24 (KJV)

True worship is more than reading a few verses from the Bible and praying often repeated phrases. True worship is a joyful celebration, an act of love, doing for each other as well as talking about, or to, God.

As the day is started with a planned period of praise and prayer, each family member will be reminded he is God's child and be better able to withstand the pressures of society. The key word is *planned*—a time given to anticipating the joys of the day and praising God for them. Each person in the family should have an opportunity to plan and participate in this celebration. From this moment of togetherness, the family members will continue to worship as they go about the business of living, sharing each other's work, problems, joys and sorrows.

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Dean Herbert E. Saunders
Exec. VP Leon R. Lawton
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APRIL 20

Tract Society
Plainfield, NJ

Board of Christian Education
Alfred, NY

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APRIL 27

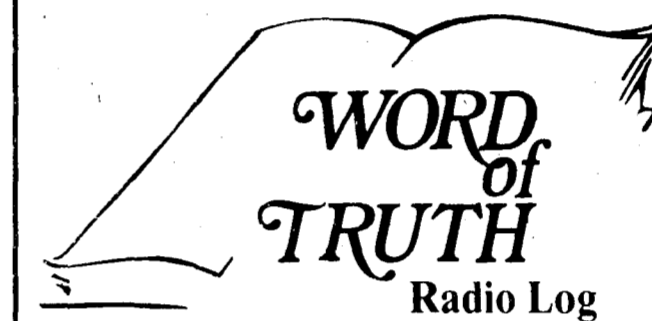
Missionary Society
Westerly, RI

APRIL 13

Memorial Fund Trustees
Plainfield, NJ

MAY 16-18

Eastern Association
Theme: "The Way of Discipleship"
Marlboro, NJ



ALABAMA—Tuscumbia
WBTG—106 FM
Friday 12:45 p.m.

CALIFORNIA—San Diego
XEMO—1480 AM
Sabbath 9:30 p.m.

MISSOURI—Springfield
KWFC
Friday 5:45 p.m.

NEW YORK—Wellsville
WLSV—1480 AM
Sabbath 9:15 a.m.

TENNESSEE—Memphis
WMOM—1480 AM
Sabbath 10:45 a.m.

WASHINGTON—Centralia
KELA—1470 AM
Sunday 9:45 a.m.

WASHINGTON—Sumner
KDFL—1560 AM
Sabbath a.m.

WASHINGTON, D.C., AREA
WFAX—1220 AM
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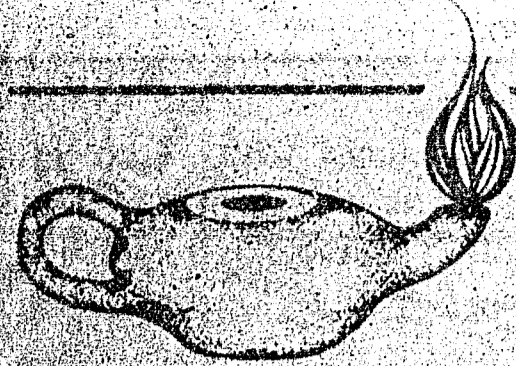
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4. Titus
15. Philemon
6. Hebrews
11. James
5. 1 & 2 Peter
2. 1, 2, & 3 John
17. Jude
19. Revelation



Thy Word is a light.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

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THE FAMILY THAT FEARS THE LORD IS BLESSED

Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; Your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

-Ps. 128:1-4 (RSV) □

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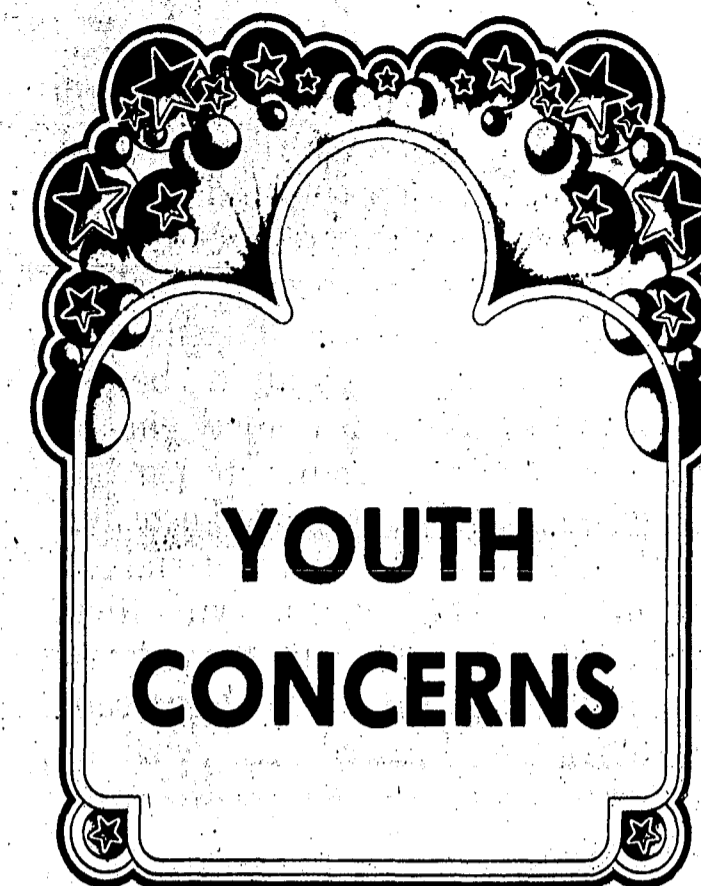
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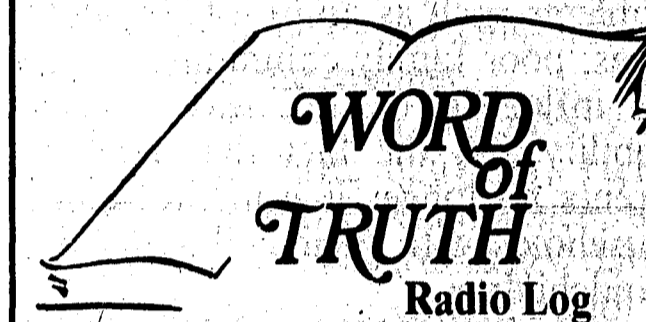
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17. Jude
19. Revelation

The Family: HERE TO STAY

ORLANDO, FL—The American family, although buffeted by a variety of forces, is here to stay, pollster George Gallup, Jr., told a national seminar on "Help for Families."

Defying popular stereotypes, "three women in four in the United States say marriage and children are among the important elements that would provide the ideal life for them," Gallup told more than 700 persons registered for the seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the 13.2-million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Gallup, whose research organization has done extensive research on future trends for the family in America, further noted that only nine percent of American women opt for the 'career girl' lifestyle, "at least as a permanent way of life." And 44 percent of the women who opt for marriage and children "say they would prefer not to have a job outside the home," he said.

"A remarkable 91 percent of the American people—including the overwhelming majority of young adults—say they would welcome more emphasis on traditional family ties in the years ahead," he said.

But Gallup, who urged his listeners to come up with "new and creative efforts to 'help families,'" said research also shows that forces do buffet and fragment American families.

Against that background, he urged a "team effort between parents and clergy to deepen spiritual values in the home and deal specifically with certain problems such as alcohol abuse, which call for immediate attention.

"Certainly the nation's churches, which have a contact with half of the U.S. population, have a unique opportunity to help with the problem of alcohol abuse—particularly in

the area of prevention," Gallup told representatives of the nation's largest Protestant denomination with more than 35,400 churches in all fifty states.

He cited a recent Gallup Youth Survey which indicates problems for families of the future because of problems such as abuse of sex and drugs, poor family communication, the influence of television, high mobility and the fact that grandparents no longer live in the same households with their children and grandchildren.

But he added, "Many of the problems confronting families today could be due in some measure to a decline in the proportion of Americans who say they have received religious training in their youth—from 94 percent in 1952, to 91 percent in 1965, to 83 percent today.

"It is interesting to note," he continued, "that this downtrend parallels a downtrend in the percentage of Americans who say religion is 'very important' in their lives—from 75 percent in 1952, to 70 percent in 1965, to 53 percent today."

"I feel that it is appropriate to relate the decline in religious training to a breakdown in family communications since the impact of religion in many American homes would appear to be a powerful one, judging from a national survey we have just completed," Gallup said. "The Princeton Religion Research Center, of which I am co-director, conducted this survey on religion in the home to present the findings at this seminar."

The survey, which focused on religious education, inspiration and formation, revealed that 75 percent of the parents say the home is the most important element in the religious training of youth, 16 percent name the church and 3 percent say the school.

Questioning parents of children under 18 who live in the same household, the survey further revealed a pattern of how parents and children shared religious experiences during a given seven-day period. Gallup said 42 percent of the parents said grace with their children before meals, 38 percent attended church services with children, 28 percent attended other church-related activities with children, 44 percent talked about God and religion with their children, 31 percent prayed or meditated with them, and 23 percent watched or listened to religious programs on TV or radio with children.

Although fragmenting forces in America create the idea that the impact of religion in the home has little effect, Gallup said the survey findings "do give us at least some cause for encouragement."

They show that 45 percent of parents say religion in their home has strengthened family relationships "a great deal," and 32 percent say religion has helped their children "a great deal" in dealing with the problems of their lives. Fewer than one in ten say it has not helped at all.

But, looking at the findings in a different light, he said, reveals that 55 percent of the parents say religion in the home has strengthened family relations only "somewhat," "hardly at all," or "not at all," while 68 percent say religion has helped their children deal with problems "somewhat," "hardly at all," or "not at all."

"Looking to the future, however, we can gain encouragement from the knowledge that homes where religion plays a central role today are producing persons whose future homes in turn will in all likelihood be religiously oriented," Gallup said.

He noted that 7 in 10 parents in this group say they have read the Bible with their children at least once in the seven-day period tested. Additionally, 63 percent of the parents whose upbringing was "very religious" say religion has greatly strengthened family relationships, while 62 percent of this group feel that religion is helping their children "a great deal" with their problems. □

—Robert O'Brien

the CHURCH in ACTION

HORSLEY SPEAKS TO ATLANTA FELLOWSHIP

ATLANTA, GA—On Sabbath, February 9, the Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship was happy to have Dr. and Mrs. Edward J. Horsley of Denver, CO, to lead in the worship service. Dr. Horsley was in Atlanta to attend a medical convention and was able to be present to preach for the Fellowship. Following the service a meal of sharing and a time of fellowship was held.

The Atlanta Fellowship meets the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month using the facilities of the Mableton Assembly of God Church on Gordon Road in West Atlanta (Mableton). The services begin at 2:30 p.m. The group now has a mailing address: Seventh Day Baptists, P.O. Box 1052, Riverdale, GA 30274. May God bless this new work. □

RAU ATTENDS EVANGELISM EXPLOSION LEADERSHIP CLINIC

Rev. John A. Rau, Brookfield SDB Church, Brookfield, New York, was a participant in the Evangelism Explosion III International Leadership Clinic, held February 1-6 at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A total of 151 ministers, wives, and lay people from 20 various denominations attended the clinic, investigating this ministry of evangelism, discipleship and church nurture. Those attending the clinic came from different states, Canada and India.

The clinic was led by Dr. D. James Kennedy, senior minister of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and founder and president of Evangelism Explosion III International and Rev. Archie B. Parrish, executive director of EE III. □

CHURCH ACQUIRES PARSONAGE

LITTLE GENESEE, NY—Even though our church was without a regular pastor from January 1979 until August, we were fortunate in obtaining some fine guest speakers for our Sabbath services. We also conducted our regular Vacation Bible School in June, under the able leadership of Mrs. Jerald (Leta) DeGroff. Mrs. Thomas (Margaret) Burdick had charge of the music.

Having acquired the former Ferris Whitford house for use as a parsonage, we found that much work had to be done in order to get it ready for the occupancy of our new pastor and his family. Most of the work was done by our church members during the summer.

Pastor Steven Crouch, his wife, Becky, and little daughter, Heidi, arrived soon after Conference, and Pastor Crouch assumed his new duties, immediately. A reception, honoring our new pastor and family was held, Sabbath P.M., September 8 in the SDB Community Center. There were about 70 present, including guests from Alfred, Alfred Station, Richburg, the Bolivar Methodist Church, and the Faith Bible Church, Little Genesee, NY.

On September 22, Pastor and Mrs. Crouch went to Brookfield, NY, to take part in the ordination service for Pastor John Rau. On September 23, Pastor Crouch and Mrs. Jerald DeGroff represented our church at the New York State Council of SDB Churches, in Syracuse, NY.

An adult Bible Study group meets with Pastor Crouch each Friday at 7:30 P.M. We have had an increase



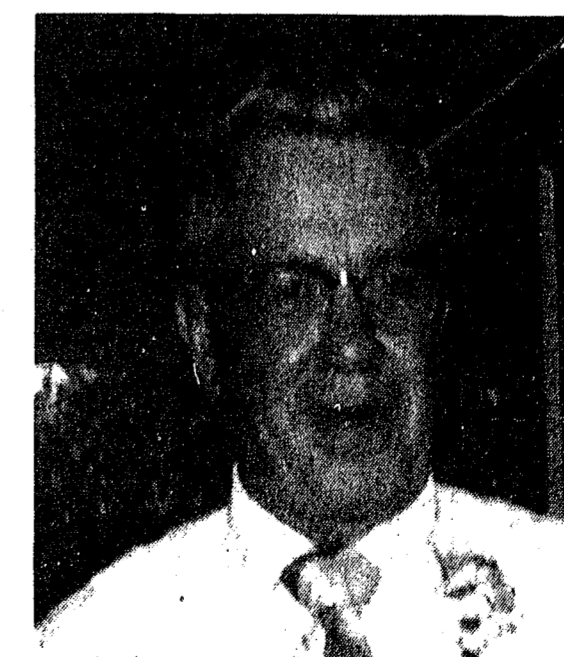
in Sabbath School attendance, especially among the children.

We have about 12 to 15 active members in our Sunshine Society which meets once a month. One of our most recent projects was making quilts, crib bedding and baby clothes for Harvest Center, a migrant camp.

A special community choir furnished music for our vesper service, Christmas Eve at the church. About 100 people attended the community Christmas dinner and program sponsored by the Sunshine Society.

The Sunshine Society also hosted a party, honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Thomas L. and Margaret Davis Burdick, January 12, 1980. □

—Arvida Wainman



SKAGGS TO PLAINFIELD

Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, North Loup, Nebr., has accepted the call of the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ to become its pastor beginning in August. "Pastor Vic" has been associated with the Plainfield congregation before, as a pastor of the New Market church which ultimately merged with the Plainfield church, as corresponding secretary of the Tract Society, and most recently, as dean of the Center for Ministerial Education. We pray God's blessing on his family as they anticipate this move to a different area of service for the Lord. □

**BREVARD-ASHEVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINA NEWS**

BREVARD, NC—In March of 1979, Rev. Mynor Soper, called at our home. When one lives in an area that does not have a Seventh Day Baptist church, we realize what a blessing it is to share a prayer with one of your faith. On that day, we discovered there are a number of Seventh Day Baptists in the Carolinas, however they are widely scattered. We were delighted to learn that Ralph and Evelyn Weber live in Asheville which is only thirty miles from us.

On March 10, 1979, Rev. Soper and Mynor Jr., along with Mr. and Mrs. Weber, daughter Lenna, and son Bill, came to Brevard and we had our first worship service together in our home.

We met again on March 17 with others in Greenville, SC, and then on July 14 in Asheville at the Weber home. In November we met again at the Webers. At that time we met Rev. John Camenga who would be our "field pastor." Rev. Soper brought the message of the day. At that meeting we set definite dates to meet in December and January.

On Sabbath, January 26, we gathered at the Weber home again with nine people present. After the service we had our first fellowship dinner. We felt an excitement at the possibility of truly having a Seventh Day Baptist church here in the Carolinas. It was a joyous occasion of fellowship, delicious food, and getting to know one another better. We do thank God for the privilege of that day.

We cannot express our joy at the opportunity of meeting with fellow Seventh Day Baptists. The blessings we have received from the inspiration and caring of Rev. Soper cannot be expressed adequately. We miss him, however, and realize that others need that same inspiration and care. We rejoice and thank God that Rev. John Camenga is here to assist us. We solicit your prayers and the will of God as we strive to establish a church and interest others in the Sabbath truth. □

-Mrs. Jules Roelly

● Seventh Day Baptists meet for worship each Sabbath at 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Madison, WI.

**NEW GROUP MEETING
IN SAN DIEGO**

SAN DIEGO, CA—A new fellowship is meeting in San Diego, California, known as *Grace Christian Fellowship*. Regular meetings are being held every Sabbath Eve at 7:30 PM in the Chapel of University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Avenue, in the Hillcrest neighborhood of San Diego.

The fellowship is appealing to Christians interested in developing a caring, supportive group, committed to Christ in active discipleship, to the careful study of the Scriptures, to the encouragement of well-rounded spirituality, to friendship evangelism, and to Biblical church reform.

At its initial meeting, Friday, Feb. 8, 1980, fourteen persons were in attendance, including three Seventh Day Baptists, eight other persons contacted in a variety of ways including the *Word of Truth* radio broadcast (now being aired over XEMO Radio in the San Diego-Los Angeles area every Saturday at 9:30 PM), newspaper advertisements, and through the development of friendly contacts. In addition three children were present. Pastor Russ Havens is coordinating the work, continuing to produce the *Word of Truth*, and also working full time in a bookstore. Those composing the fellowship are expected to use their gifts and talents

in a shared-ministry concept. The informal Sabbath Eve gathering for celebration, study, and fellowship is augmented by small group meetings.

Russ Havens reports that the inception of a fellowship in San Diego has been in the thoughts and prayers of Seventh Day Baptists in southern California for some time. Upon his recent removal to San Diego from Westerly, R.I., he was contacted by Gabriel Bejjani, John Peil, Charles Graffius, and Alton Wheeler, with the hope of working toward the eventual gathering of a new congregation. Events have moved much more rapidly than anyone anticipated. Doors opened in many ways. Friendships developed in a variety of ways and the need surfaced for a unique gathering of committed Christians and others at various points of inquiry. The group is excitedly determined to maintain an openness to God, each other, and to other people. In its outreach to others the group is being encouraged to accept people "where they are"—to relate to people as Christ would.

A sample copy of the fellowship's publication, *Gracious Words*, will be sent to anyone requesting it. In addition, a brochure describing the new work is available free. Write to: Grace Christian Fellowship, P.O. Box 33818, San Diego, CA 92103. □

-Russ Havens



**REPORT OF SDB'S IN
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—Clinton, NC, was the site of the February 9 service of the Seventh Day Baptists of the Eastern Carolinas (SDBEC). Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Matthis hosted the service which was conducted by the regional field pastor, Rev. John H. Camenga from the Upper East Tennessee Church. Also in attendance were Leon and Phyllis Underwood of Walstonburg, and the R.D. Brown

family of Fayetteville.

Pastor Camenga's service entitled "Christ's Simple Message" was followed by a delicious and plentiful dinner prepared by Mary Matthis. The afternoon fellowship discussion concerned Sunday-keepers' excuses and Sabbath truth responses from Scripture.

The congregation unanimously agreed to be a satellite of the Washington D.C., SDB Church. T.A. Matthis was chosen as SDBEC treasurer and R.D. Brown was selected as the communications manager. Other officials will be chosen at the next business meeting.

The next bimonthly worship service was set for 10:30 a.m. on April 12 at the R.D. Brown home, 425 Shoreline Drive, Fayetteville, NC. Prayers are requested that this new witness may grow spiritually and numerically as they witness to the truth in Eastern North Carolina. □

-R.D. Brown

**NORTONVILLE "LORD'S ACRE"
BIG SUCCESS**

NORTONVILLE, KS—Lord's Acre Sabbath was November 17; the theme for '79 was "Worship and Praise" emphasizing true worship of a Holy God and praise to Him for His love and His care. Attention was given in the worship display to the cross, heart bowed in prayer by two kneeling china figurines, and the church. Praise items portrayed were for our country, food, shelter, clothing, power/fuel, medicine/research, resources and work/occupations. Aim of that display was to make us more aware of all that we have and enjoy with ample supply and money to buy when that is not true in many countries. Theme Scripture was 1 Chron. 16: 23-29 and poems, music, responsive reading and sermon carried out the theme. The Lord's Acre offering of \$4,319.94 will go toward insulated steel white siding for the church.

The ADVENT WREATH was used again this year during our December worship services. This year the Christ candle was lighted first and burned each week. From it each week another candle was lit, showing that all things come from the Lord Jesus Christ! Succeeding candles/sermons were: LOVE (I Love YOU—John 3:16), JOY (I Accept YOU—1 Peter 2:9-12), PEACE (I Need YOU—Luke 2:4-7), and HOPE (I'm with YOU—John 17:20-24).

The Christmas Cantata "A Star Is Born" was presented by the choir during the regular worship service on December 22. Scripture preceded each choir number. The church family and friends gathered the evening of Dec. 22 for the Sabbath School Christmas program and candle lighting service. In a time of "Caring and Sharing" each Sabbath School class presented White Christmas Gifts at the altar.

Dr. Ken Smith brought the Sabbath morning message on December 29 while Pastor Osborn and family were away. He reminded us that we as Christians should be resolving to do better—that it is the small daily sins

that we overlook that keep us from being the Christians God wants us to be.

New Year's Eve the church family met at the church for fellowship, fun, a film and to watch 1980 in with Songs, Scripture and Supplications. The evening of December 13 the Youth Fellowship sponsored a Game and Supper Night to raise funds for the Lightbearers' bus. No admission, but donations amounted to more than \$182.

Notes of Praise and Petition and Personal and Pastoral Prayer are included in each week's order of worship. Also active regularly are: Telephone Prayer Chain, Sunday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast, and Prayer Partners. The newest part of our prayer life in the church is "Prayer Cells." The composite membership has been divided into 24 groups. Each member of the "cell" is asked to pray especially for each other in the cell—exchanging prayer requests is left to the initiative of each cell. God is on our side, and He will not fail! Prayer keeps us on His side!

A church committee is at work checking information for the purchase of cushions for our church pews. Early in January an Evaluation Sheet was included with our weekly church bulletin. Church worship, order of service, Sabbath School and all other phases of church work and activity were to be evaluated and sheets returned. Pastor Osborn noted that he knew his own feelings but needed to know ours. He asked that it be prayerfully read, honestly checked and comments added. Our entire church family has benefited in this review of our practices as we shared a Christian experience of working together to glorify God.

Pastor Paul was "Chaplain for the Week" at our local Jefferson County Memorial Hospital January 20-26. Our pastor says: As we turn the corner into the 80's, let's work harder together to make them the DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP. We are just beginning to learn how to be His Disciples! □

-Mrs. Merlin Wheeler

● Rev. Leland Davis and Deacon Douglas Rausch of the Washington, D.C., church attended the Evangelism Explosion workshop held in Del City, OK. Mr. Rausch, William Melby and Mrs. Gertrude Davis will assist in the first leadership training session to be held in the Washington church.

● The dates of the 1980 Summer Institute in Seventh Day Baptist History and Polity have been changed from June 5-25 to June 9-27. This change in schedule was necessitated by the opportunity for the dean to attend a special workshop for persons working with churches and pastors.

GRAN TO WESTERLY

Rev. David C. Gran has recently accepted the call of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, Rhode Island, to become its pastor. Mr. Gran is married and has three young children. He is nine hours short of a M. Div. degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston. He has served congregations of the Congregational Church and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Prior to his call to ministry he was a state insurance examiner for the state of Massachusetts. We welcome David and his wife Deborah to the fellowship of Seventh Day Baptists and pray God's blessing on his ministry in Westerly. □

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
SEARCH BEGINS**

The General Council is beginning its search for an Executive Secretary to assume leadership in October 1981. Dr. Hurley will be serving until that time. It has been the bylaw provision and courtesy to announce such a change in leadership to the General Conference body one year in advance. Therefore, we are beginning now to receive applications, screen and interview so that we might make this announcement in August.

If you feel led to consider this challenge, please respond to:

Rev. Charles Graffius
4976 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, California 90042

Further information and a copy of the job description for this position may be obtained from Rev. Graffius. □

● Rev. and Mrs. C. Harmon Dickinson are moving to Plainfield, N.J., on April 14, 1980.

At the denominational building they will be undertaking a "team ministry" in the areas of financial accounting, bookkeeping, clerical and secretarial assistance.

Initially, they will be working in the Memorial Fund Trustees and General Conference offices.

A more detailed account of their employment will appear in the May *Sabbath Recorder*.

WASHINGTON CHURCH ADDS THREE TO DIACONATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—January 19, 1980, was a special Sabbath for the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church. The order of the day was the ordination of one deacon and two deaconesses. Seventy-nine people came to share in the special occasion representing the following churches, Washington, Central, Salem, Salemville, Plainfield, and Shiloh.

Miss Lelia Bishop, Alma (Mrs. Grover S.) Brissey, and Douglas Rausch were the candidates for ordination. Each gave a statement of Christian experience and belief.

During the worship service the Rev. Melvin F. Stephan of the Salemville, PA, Bell SDB Church led the responsive reading, "Call to Consecration." Deacon Everett Dickinson of Shiloh, NJ, gave the Scripture reading which was taken from 1 Timothy 3:1-16. Rev. Herbert E. Saunders of Plainfield, NJ, honored the congregation with a vocal solo, accompanied by his wife, and later gave the prayer of consecration.

The message for the morning, "Appointment to Service," was given by the Rev. Francis D. Saunders, pastor of the Ritchie SDB Church in Berea, WV. The charge to the candidates was given by the Rev. Grover S. Brissey of the Washington

church. The charge to the church was given by the Rev. Leland E. Davis, pastor of the Washington church. Deacon Oliver C. Dickinson of the Washington church welcomed the three candidates to the Diaconate.

After the congregational singing of "O Jesus, I Have Promised," the benediction was given by Deacon Pratt Chroniger of the Central church in Maryland. Immediately following the service a love luncheon was served in the dining room by the hospitality committee directed by Mrs. Sheila Simon, chairman and assisted by Miss Lelia Bishop.

In the afternoon Rev. and Mrs. Francis Saunders gave a presentation about Camp Joy, the associational camp located on the grounds of the Ritchie SDB Church in Berea, WV. Rev. Saunders discussed the condition of the buildings, the improvements made, the current financial status and made an appeal for continued interest in the project. Following his presentation Mrs. Saunders showed slides of the facility.

The Washington church expresses appreciation to all who attended and participated in this special service. Special thanks to those who furnished the food and to those who served it. We are sure the day was a special blessing for all present. □

—Mrs. Alma Brissey

BIRTHS

CARICATO.—A son, Eric Scott, to Marse and Melanie Caricato of Sunnymead, CA, on January 29, 1980.

FOGG.—A daughter, Rachel Suzanne, to Peter and Karen (Peterson) Fogg, of Ft. Valley, GA., on Nov. 16, 1979.

KING.—A son, Clifford Earl, born November 15, 1978, to Edward and Michelle (Tiede) King, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

KOPSALTIS.—A daughter, Kristy Jean, to James and Diane (Paquette) Kopsaltis of North Plainfield, NJ, on February 14, 1980.

PETERSON.—A son, Scott Thomas, to Erick and Barbara (Smick) Peterson, of Salem, NJ, on Oct. 16, 1979.

SHOFFNER.—A daughter, Priscilla Joy, to William and Sandy Shoffner of Memphis, TN, on December 28, 1979.

SOPER.—A daughter, Anne Michele, to Stanley and Pam (Geiger) Soper of North Loup, Nebraska, on February 2, 1980.

SOPER.—A son, Nathaniel Allen, to Maurice and Cindi (Lewis) Soper of North Loup, Nebraska, on February 9, 1980.

OBITUARIES

BAHLKE.—Rev. Johannes Bahlke died at his home in Hamburg, West Germany, October 15, 1979. He was converted while a young man at the YMCA in Germany. For a time he made his home in England leaving there in 1907 to return to Germany. He attended a missionary college in Friedensau, 1909-1911.

He became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1909 and served as an evangelist from 1911 until his conscription in the German army in 1915. He was wounded in battle in July 1915, and discharged with disability. He became involved in Adventist publication working in their publishing house from 1920-25.

He was a close friend of the Rev. L. Richard Conradi and chose to leave Adventism along with Conradi. Brother Bahlke became a member of the Hamburg Seventh Day Baptist Church when it was organized in 1933. In 1939 he conducted the funeral service for the beloved German SDB leader, Rev. Conradi, and then succeeded him as editor of *Wahrheit, Licht und Leben*, the German SDB periodical. He also prepared Bible lessons for the German Conference.

In 1950 he became the pastor of the Hamburg church, serving until his death. He was one of the founders of the SDB World Federation and attended the organizational meetings and General Conference sessions in 1964 at which time he visited several of our churches. He supplied literature and counsel for German immigrants to Brazil, some of whom later helped to organize the Brazil SDB Conference.

Funeral services for Rev. Bahlke were held

in Hamburg, West Germany, on October 25, 1979.

—J.D.B.

FURSETH.—Ruth Saunders was born Oct. 19, 1925 at Garwin, Iowa, and died at Edgerton, Wis., on Feb. 3, 1980. She was married to Martin Furseth on Oct. 23, 1943. To this union were born two children: a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Cone of New Springfield, Ohio; and a son, Craig of Milton, Wis. She is survived by her husband, Martin, two children, five grandchildren, and her mother, Reva Maltas of Edgerton, Wis.

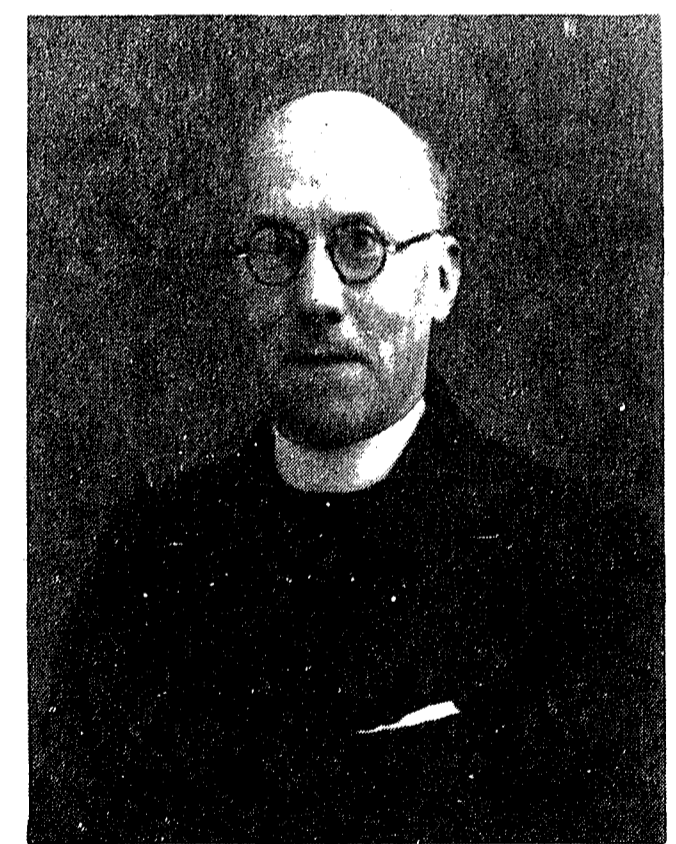
She was a member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Home Benefit Society. Funeral services were held from the Albion church on February 6, 1980 with Rev. Earl Cruzan in charge. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery.

—E.C.

HURLEY.—Sybil Reed was born Feb. 7, 1895 in Grandin, N.D., and died at Edgerton Hospital, Edgerton, Wis., on Feb. 12, 1980 after a long illness. She moved to Milton as a girl and graduated from Milton College in 1921. On June 20, 1921 she was united in marriage to Victor Hurley, who died in 1978. She is survived by two children: Jane, Mrs. Claus Sporcik of Cedar, Michigan, and George of Appleton, Wis., also three grandchildren.

She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church and active in the Women's Circle. Funeral services were held in the Milton church on February 14 with her pastor, Earl Cruzan in charge. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

—E.C.



Rev. James McGeachy
1897-1980

McGEACHY.—Rev. James, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James McGeachy, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 6, 1897, and died in Yorkshshire, England, on January 9, 1980, following an illness of several months.

Pastor McGeachy accepted the Sabbath truth at the age of sixteen and became affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist church in the British Isles. He was conscripted for the British army during World War I, refused service in France, and was confined to military prison for a time. He entered full-time missionary work for Seventh-day Adventists

in Hamburg, West Germany, on October 25, 1979.

in 1927 the McGeachys joined the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church in London, England. The following year he became pastor and served until 1969. His forty years in the SDB pastorate included a worldwide vision and work. In 1930 he founded the Evangelical Sabbatarian Mission which published books, tracts and a magazine. He was the author of eleven books and numerous tracts. The sale of his books later produced funds to assist with the SDB mission work in Guyana, South America.

He maintained an extensive worldwide correspondence through the years and took special interest in mission work in Africa. He served as a delegate to the Dutch and German SDB Conferences and sought to increase the SDB witness throughout Europe. He attended the General Conference sessions in 1964 at Salem College and was one of the founders of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

Always a Christian gentleman, Pastor McGeachy will also be remembered for his scholarship and research, especially in the area of Biblical prophecy. He is survived by his daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Philip) Anderson and two grandsons, all of Grantham, England. The funeral service was conducted from the cemetery chapel by Elder A.D. Conroy, Pastor A.L. Peat of the Mill Yard Church offered prayer at the graveside. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them" (Rev. 14:13).

—J.D.B.

MILLAR.—Eva Burkinshaw was born November 22, 1888 in Yorkshire, England, and died in Battle Creek, MI, January 31, 1980. She moved to Canada in 1914 and then relocated to Battle Creek in 1922.

At one time she was employed by the Battle Creek Food Co., and during World War II was employed at Percy Jones General Hospital. She was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Eva was versatile and perhaps best known for her beautiful poems and music compositions. She was awarded first prize for poetry in 1968 for her entry in the first religious art exposition in the Battle Creek Center.

She is survived by her husband, William D. Millar. The couple celebrated its 61st wedding anniversary last September. Also surviving are a son, Arthur B. Millar of Battle Creek; a sister, Mrs. Winifred Clayton of Yorkshshire, England, and a brother, George Berkinshire of Bobsover, England.

Services were held on Sabbath afternoon, February 2, in the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, S. Kenneth Davis, officiating. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

—S.K.D.

STOHR.—Genevieve M., daughter of Charles W. and Eva Cartwright Saunders, was born April 10, 1911 in Richburg, N.Y., and died at the Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y., on February 16, 1980.

She was married to Earl Stohr, celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1976. She was a lifelong resident of Richburg, and had been employed as a clerk-treasurer for the village of Richburg. She was a faithful member of the Richburg church for fifty five years and served as treasurer for the past twelve years. She had been president of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, C. Robert Stohr of Richburg; a sister, Miss Onnalee Saunders of Richburg; two nephews, two grand-nieces, a great-great niece and a great-great nephew.

The funeral was at the Richburg Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, officiating, on February 19, 1980. Burial will be in the Richburg Cemetery.

—C.H.D.

THORNGATE.—Eola Lyon, was born at Trumbull, Nebraska, October 14, 1897, and died at the Arkansas Manor Rest Home in Denver, Colorado, on February 9, 1980. She was a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church where she faithfully served in many ways.

She was the wife of Paul Thorngate, their marriage taking place on February 27, 1921, at Hastings, Nebraska. They spent several years in the area of Hansen and Hastings, Nebraska, moving to Denver in the 1930's.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Thorngate, of Denver; a son, Lloyd Thorngate, of Lakewood, Colorado; two brothers, Harold Lyon and Ray Lyon; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Lakewood, conducted by her pastor, Rev. Edgar Wheeler. Interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Lakewood.

—E.F.W.

WILDERMUTH.—Edna A., age 76, daughter of the late Eda and Laura Sheppard Ayars, was born May 23, 1903, in Roadstown, N.J., and died suddenly from a heart attack Dec. 24, 1979. She had been in failing health for several years. She was married to the late Roy Wildermuth May 8, 1918 at Roadstown, who died April 4, 1971.

She accepted Jesus and joined the Marlboro SDB Church Mar. 6, 1915.

Surviving included: two sons, Roy (Hammy) of Pennsville, NJ, and Frank of Salem, NJ; two daughters, Mrs. Lester (Addie) Wjall of Houston, Tx., and Mrs. Alfred (Harriet) Maples, of Camilla, Ga.; three sisters, Mrs. William (Jerry) (Myrtle) Penton, Mrs. Howard (Lona) Mick and Mrs. Merl (Laura) Garrison, all of Bridgeton; a brother, Francis Ayars of Marlboro; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 28 from Freitag Funeral Home by her pastor, the Rev. Donald E. Richards. Interment was in Fernwood Memorial Park.

—D.E.R.

WILKINSON.—Edna R. Van Horn (Mrs. Walter) Wilkinson was born in Welton, Iowa, 91 years ago and died at her residence in Battle Creek, MI, on January 6, 1980.

She moved to Battle Creek from West Virginia in 1917. For many years she taught in the rural Battle Creek area schools. Edna was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church where she taught an adult Sabbath School class until recently.

Surviving are her husband, Walter and a half-brother, the Rev. Marion Van Horn of Daytona Beach, FL. The Wilkinsons observed their 54th wedding anniversary last February.

Funeral services were held Sabbath, February 9, 1980, in the Battle Creek SDB Church with her pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis officiating. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

—S.K.D.

ACCESSIONS

MEMPHIS, TN
William Shoffner, Pastor

By Testimony:
Mrs. Margie Shackelford

NORTONVILLE, KS
Paul Osborn, Pastor

By Testimony:
Bill Edwards

SEATTLE, WA
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:
Sharon Gellert

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

By Testimony:
Eugene P. Greer
Mrs. Lula Jenkins

MARRIAGES

CAMPBELL-PACE.—Francis Ernest, son of Francis and Marion (Davis) Campbell, Bridgeton, NJ, and Jo Ann Denise, daughter of Russell and Diana (Rebeck) Pace, Vineland, NJ, were united in marriage on May 12, 1979, at St. Francis of Assisi RC Church, Vineland, by Father Burke.

McCULLOUGH-TREDE.—J. Harold McCullough, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. McCullough, Sr., of Palatka, Florida, and Therese Estelle Trede daughter of Mrs. Otis Lastinger of Ormond Beach, Florida, were united in marriage August 18, 1979 in the Seventh Day Baptist church of Daytona Beach, Florida, by Marion C. Van Horn, former pastor of the bride. The new family is making its home in Palatka, Florida.

VAN METER-ENRIQUEZ.—Henry, son of Harmon and Dorothy (Davis) Van Meter, and Era B., daughter of the late Ememiano C. and Orsanio (Batuacan) Enriquez, Danao City, Cebu, Philippines, were united in marriage on July 16, 1979, by James A. Heylinger, Justice of the Peace, Middle Village, Queens, NY.

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—Mrs. Alma Brissey

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KING.—A son, Clifford Earl, born November 15, 1978, to Edward and Michelle (Trede) King, of New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

KOPSFTIS.—A daughter, Kristy Jean, to James and Diane (Paquette) Kopsftis of North Plainfield, NJ, on February 14, 1980.

PETERSON.—A son, Scott Thomas, to Erick and Barbara (Smick) Peterson, of Salem, NJ, on Oct. 16, 1979.

SHOFFNER.—A daughter, Priscilla Joy, to William and Sandy Shoffner of Memphis, TN, on December 28, 1979.

SOPER.—A daughter, Anne Michele, to Stanley and Pam (Geiger) Soper of North Loup, Nebraska, on February 2, 1980.

SOPER.—A son, Nathaniel Allen, to Maurice and Cindi (Lewis) Soper of North Loup, Nebraska, on February 9, 1980.

OBITUARIES

BAHLKE.—Rev. Johannes Bahlke died at his home in Hamburg, West Germany, October 15, 1979. He was converted while a young man at the YMCA in Germany. For a time he made his home in England leaving there in 1907 to return to Germany. He attended a missionary college in Friedensau, 1909-1911.

He became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in 1909 and served as an evangelist from 1911 until his conscription in the German army in 1915. He was wounded in battle in July 1915, and discharged with disability. He became involved in Adventist publication working in their publishing house from 1920-25.

He was a close friend of the Rev. L. Richard Conradi and chose to leave Adventism along with Conradi. Brother Bahlke became a member of the Hamburg Seventh Day Baptist Church when it was organized in 1933. In 1939 he conducted the funeral service for the beloved German SDB leader, Rev. Conradi, and then succeeded him as editor of *Wahrheit, Licht und Leben*, the German SDB periodical. He also prepared Bible lessons for the German Conference.

In 1950 he became the pastor of the Hamburg church, serving until his death. He was one of the founders of the SDB World Federation and attended the organizational meetings and General Conference sessions in 1964 at which time he visited several of our churches. He supplied literature and counsel for German immigrants to Brazil, some of whom later helped to organize the Brazil SDB Conference.

Funeral services for Rev. Bahlke were held

in Hamburg, West Germany, on October 25, 1979.

-J.D.B.

FURSETH.—Ruth Saunders was born Oct. 19, 1925 at Garwin, Iowa, and died at Edgerton, Wis., on Feb. 3, 1980. She was married to Martin Furseth on Oct. 23, 1943. To this union were born two children: a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Cone of New Springfield, Ohio; and a son, Craig of Milton, Wis. She is survived by her husband, Martin, two children, five grandchildren, and her mother, Reva Maltas of Edgerton, Wis.

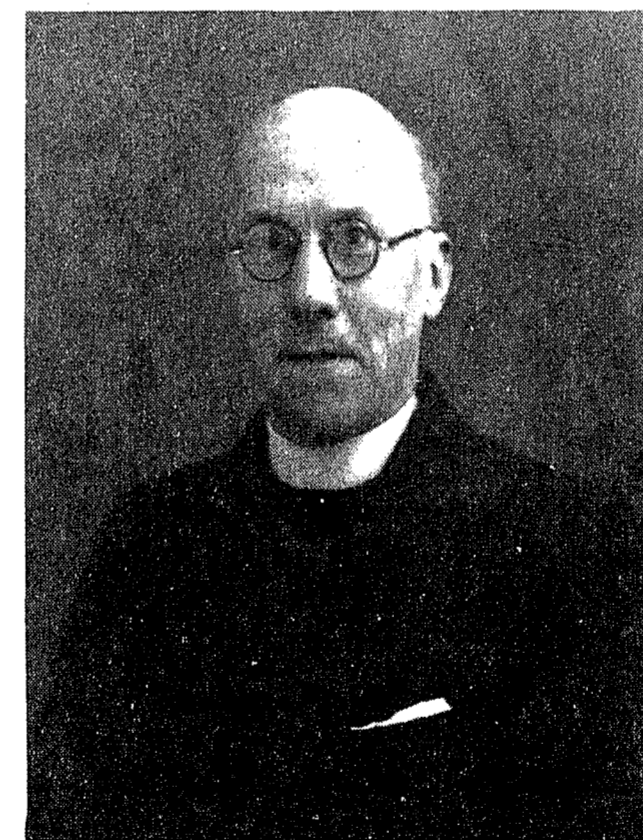
She was a member of the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Home Benefit Society. Funeral services were held from the Albion church on February 6, 1980 with Rev. Earl Cruzan in charge. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery.

-E.C.

HURLEY.—Sybil Reed was born Feb. 7, 1895 in Grandin, N.D., and died at Edgerton Hospital, Edgerton, Wis., on Feb. 12, 1980 after a long illness. She moved to Milton as a girl and graduated from Milton College in 1921. On June 20, 1921 she was united in marriage to Victor Hurley, who died in 1978. She is survived by two children: Jane, Mrs. Claus Sporck of Cedar, Michigan, and George of Appleton, Wis., also three grandchildren.

She was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church and active in the Women's Circle. Funeral services were held in the Milton church on February 14 with her pastor, Earl Cruzan in charge. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

-E.C.



Rev. James McGeachy
1897-1980

McGEACHY.—Rev. James, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James McGeachy, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, April 6, 1897, and died in Yorkshire, England, on January 9, 1980, following an illness of several months.

Pastor McGeachy accepted the Sabbath truth at the age of sixteen and became affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist church in the British Isles. He was conscripted for the British army during World War I, refused service in France, and was confined to military prison for a time. He entered full-time missionary work for Seventh-day Adventists

serving in Egypt 1919-24 and then in Iraq 1924-26.

In 1927 the McGeachys joined the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church in London, England. The following year he became pastor and served until 1969. His forty years in the SDB pastorate included a worldwide vision and work. In 1930 he founded the Evangelical Sabbatarian Mission which published books, tracts and a magazine. He was the author of eleven books and numerous tracts. The sale of his books later produced funds to assist with the SDB mission work in Guyana, South America.

He maintained an extensive worldwide correspondence through the years and took special interest in mission work in Africa. He served as a delegate to the Dutch and German SDB Conferences and sought to increase the SDB witness throughout Europe. He attended the General Conference sessions in 1964 at Salem College and was one of the founders of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

Always a Christian gentleman, Pastor McGeachy will also be remembered for his scholarship and research, especially in the area of Biblical prophecy. He is survived by his daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Philip) Anderson and two grandsons, all of Grantham, England. The funeral service was conducted from the cemetery chapel by Elder A.D. Conroy. Pastor A.L. Peat of the Mill Yard Church offered prayer at the graveside. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord... that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them" (Rev. 14:13).

-J.D.B.

MILLAR.—Eva Burkinshaw was born November 22, 1888 in Yorkshire, England, and died in Battle Creek, MI, January 31, 1980. She moved to Canada in 1914 and then relocated to Battle Creek in 1922.

At one time she was employed by the Battle Creek Food Co., and during World War II was employed at Percy Jones General Hospital. She was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Eva was versatile and perhaps best known for her beautiful poems and music compositions. She was awarded first prize for poetry in 1968 for her entry in the first religious art exposition in the Battle Creek Center.

She is survived by her husband, William D. Millar. The couple celebrated its 61st wedding anniversary last September. Also surviving are a son, Arthur B. Millar of Battle Creek; a sister, Mrs. Winifred Clayton of Yorkshire, England, and a brother, George Berkinshire of Bobsover, England.

Services were held on Sabbath afternoon, February 2, in the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, S. Kenneth Davis, officiating. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

-S.K.D.

STOHR.—Genevieve M., daughter of Charles W. and Eva Cartwright Saunders, was born April 10, 1911 in Richburg, N.Y., and died at the Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y., on February 16, 1980.

She was married to Earl Stohr, celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1976. She was a lifelong resident of Richburg, and had been employed as a clerk-treasurer for the village of Richburg. She was a faithful member of the Richburg church for fifty five years and served as treasurer for the past twelve years. She had been president of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, C. Robert Stohr of Richburg; a sister, Miss Onnalee Saunders of Richburg; two nephews, two grand-nieces, a great-great niece and a great-great nephew.

The funeral was at the Richburg Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, officiating, on February 19, 1980. Burial will be in the Richburg Cemetery.

-C.H.D.

THORNGATE.—Lola Lyon, was born at Trumbull, Nebraska, October 14, 1897, and died at the Arkansas Manor Rest Home in Denver, Colorado, on February 9, 1980. She was a member of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church where she faithfully served in many ways.

She was the wife of Paul Thorngate, their marriage taking place on February 27, 1921, at Hastings, Nebraska. They spent several years in the area of Hansen and Hastings, Nebraska, moving to Denver in the 1930's.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Thorngate, of Denver; a son, Lloyd Thorngate, of Lakewood, Colorado; two brothers, Harold Lyon and Ray Lyon; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Lakewood, conducted by her pastor, Rev. Edgar Wheeler. Interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Lakewood.

-E.F.W.

WILDERMUTH.—Edna A., age 76, daughter of the late Edo and Laura Sheppard Ayars, was born May 23, 1903, in Roadstown, N.J., and died suddenly from a heart attack Dec. 24, 1979. She had been in failing health for several years. She was married to the late Roy Wildermuth May 8, 1918 at Roadstown, who died April 4, 1971.

She accepted Jesus and joined the Marlboro SDB Church Mar. 6, 1915.

Surviving included: two sons, Roy (Hammy) of Pennsville, NJ, and Frank of Salem, NJ; two daughters, Mrs. Lester (Addie) Wallop of Houston, Tx., and Mrs. Alfred (Harriet) Maples, of Camilla, Ga.; three sisters, Mrs. William (Jerry) (Myrtle) Penton, Mrs. Howard (Lona) Mick and Mrs. Merl (Laura) Garrison, all of Bridgeton; a brother, Francis Ayars of Marlboro; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 28 from Freitag Funeral Home by her pastor, the Rev. Donald E. Richards. Interment was in Fernwood Memorial Park.

-D.E.R.

WILKINSON.—Edna R. Van Horn (Mrs. Walter) Wilkinson was born in Welton, Iowa, 91 years ago and died at her residence in Battle Creek, MI, on January 6, 1980.

She moved to Battle Creek from West Virginia in 1917. For many years she taught in the rural Battle Creek area schools. Edna was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church where she taught an adult Sabbath School class until recently.

Surviving are her husband, Walter and a half-brother, the Rev. Marion Van Horn of Daytona Beach, FL. The Wilkinsons observed their 54th wedding anniversary last February.

Funeral services were held Sabbath, February 9, 1980, in the Battle Creek SDB Church with her pastor, the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis officiating. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

-S.K.D.

ACCESSIONS

MEMPHIS, TN
William Shoffner, Pastor

By Testimony:
Mrs. Margie Shackelford

NORTONVILLE, KS
Paul Osborn, Pastor

By Testimony:
Bill Edwards

SEATTLE, WA
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:
Sharon Gellert

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

By Testimony:
Eugene P. Greer
Mrs. Lula Jenkins

MARRIAGES

CAMPBELL-PACE.—Francis Ernest, son of Francis and Marion (Davis) Campbell, Bridgeton, NJ, and Jo Ann Denise, daughter of Russell and Diana (Rebeck) Pace, Vineland, NJ, were united in marriage on May 12, 1979, at St. Francis of Assisi RC Church, Vineland, by Father Burke.

McCULLOUGH-TREDE.—J. Harold McCullough, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. McCullough, Sr., of Palatka, Florida, and Therese Estelle Trede daughter of Mrs. Otis Lastinger of Ormond Beach, Florida, were united in marriage August 18, 1979 in the Seventh Day Baptist church of Daytona Beach, Florida, by Marion C. Van Horn, former pastor of the bride. The new family is making its home in Palatka, Florida.

VAN METER-ENRIQUEZ.—Henry, son of Harmon and Dorothy (Davis) Van Meter, and Era B., daughter of the late Ememiano C. and Orsanio (Batucan) Enriquez, Danao City, Cebu, Philippines, were united in marriage on July 16, 1979, by James A. Heylinger, Justice of the Peace, Middle Village, Queens, NY.

Decade of Discipleship

"The program is only as good as you put it to use," states one pastor as his congregation begins having participation in the Decade of Discipleship. After having participated in Evangelism Explosion training and implementing a discipleship cell of six persons he feels that the opportunity for development within the church is high indeed.

Even those who have felt that the materials suggested by our leaders was on the nature of a "catechism" are excited about what is happening within their cell group as they share in discussion and more "independent and creative thinking." Another pastor states: "I think that we are all finding it exciting and useful and I have been personally blessed in the study. I am also pleased with the attitudes and responses of those who are involved in the study."

God is blessing us as we participate together in the Decade of Discipleship. We are realizing how important individual study and group sharing are for the strengthening of the body of Christ. As disciples are "made" they, in turn, share the opportunities for study and sharing with others, and the body grows. Together we can realize our dreams—the dream that Seventh Day Baptists are sharing a unique and wonderful message that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.

"The call to discipleship comes as mysteriously as being born from above; once a man hears it, it profoundly alters everything. It is like the call of the sea, the call of the mountains, not everyone hears these calls, only those who have the nature of the sea or the mountains—and then only if they pay attention to the call" (Oswald Chambers). May we hear the call and dedicate ourselves and our churches to discipleship.

SOMEONE ELSE ...DIES SUDDENLY

We were saddened to learn this week of the sudden and unexpected death of one of our most active members, Someone Else. Let us reflect upon this very sobering news.

Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for years and for every one of those years, Someone

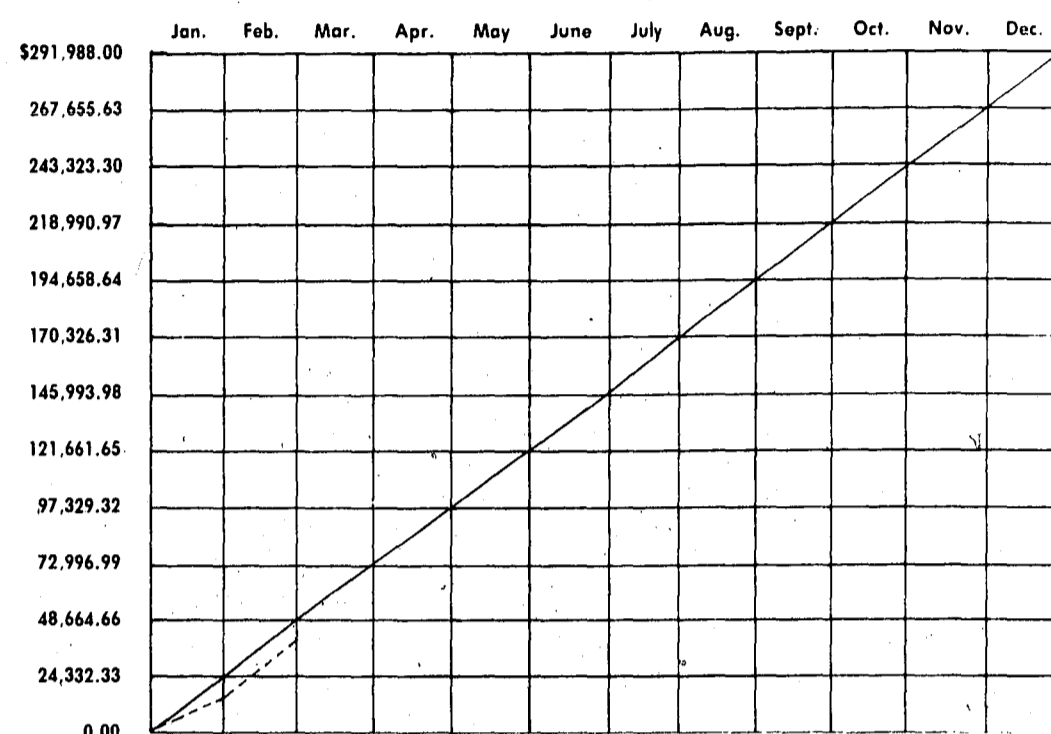
did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group." When there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend... "Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers to the Church and to Our World Mission. Whenever there was

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Last month we talked about books and what good good friends they could be. Since I wrote to you about some of my favorite book-friends, I came across this story about books. It comes from a book by Annis Duff, called *Bequest of Wings*.

Mrs. Duff tells about her son when he was just barely old enough to start making friends with books. He got hold of his sister's library book and had great fun tearing it all apart. He had been told that he should respect books and to treat them lovingly. He had also been told that if he damaged a book that all of his own books would be taken from him for a period of time.

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"The next morning, very early, we heard him climbing out of bed, saying to himself in pleased anticipation, 'He's going to look at a book.' The big chair scraped across the floor toward the chest, 'He's going to look at many books.' A small body heaved itself up into the chair, 'He's going to look at MANY books!' Then, in a tone of bitter disappointment and outrage, 'Oh, OH! NO BOOKS!' When, after some time, we went into his

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Below are the names of several books. Do you recognize them? They are the books of the New Testament, but they look strange because they are scrambled. Unscramble each name and then put them in the right order. Two samples are done to help you. The answers are on page 21.

SCRAMBLED	UNSCRAMBLED	CORRECT ORDER
1. CAST	_____	Matthew
2. 1, 2 & 3 HOJN	_____	_____
3. KRAM	_____	_____
4. SITUT	_____	_____
5. 1 & 2 REPET	_____	_____
6. SEWHREB	_____	_____
7. SNAILGATA	_____	_____
8. 1 & 2 MYITHOT	_____	_____
9. WATETHM	Matthew	_____
10. SILONASOCS	_____	_____
11. MAEJS	_____	_____
12. NAROMS	_____	1 & 2 Thessalonians
13. 1 & 2 LANESATOSHINS	1 & 2 Thessalonians	_____
14. KULE	_____	_____
15. LEMONHIP	_____	_____
16. ESHAPESIN	_____	_____
17. DEJU	_____	_____
18. 1 & 2 THINAROCSIN	_____	_____
19. LARVEITEON	_____	_____
20. SIPIIPPAN	_____	_____
21. NOHJ	_____	_____

MEMORY VERSE: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instructions for right living." 2 Timothy 3:16 TEV

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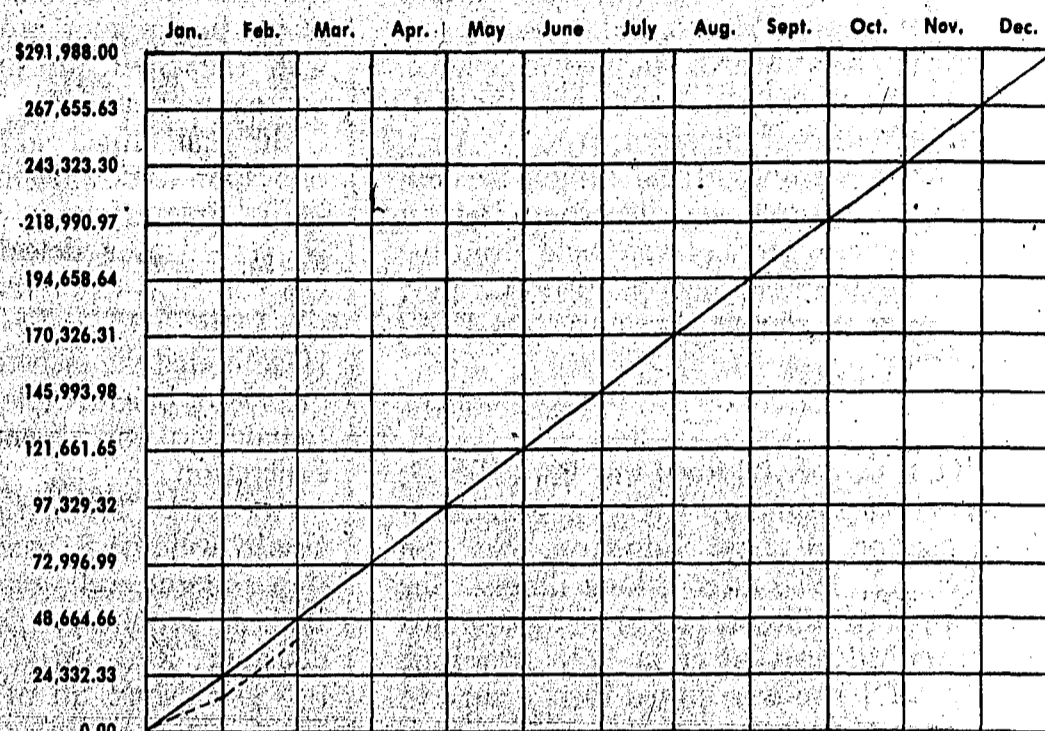
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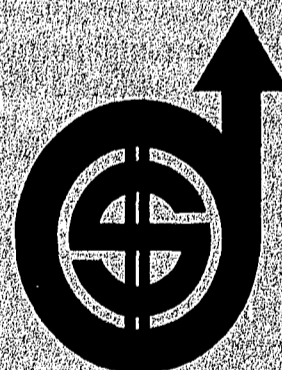


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MORE ABOUT BOOKS



by Linda Harris

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CORRECT ORDER

Matthew

Matthew

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THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE JUBILEE

by Dorothy Parrott

"The Baptist World Alliance invites you to a week of celebration and fellowship with the world family of Baptists." So states the brochure that tells about the 14th Baptist World Congress.

Plan to meet the family...

"Every five years our world Baptist family comes together to strengthen relationships through Christian fellowship and to renew our commitment to the changeless Christ."

Plan to attend...

"The 14th Baptist World Congress will be held in Toronto, Canada, July 8-12, 1980. Representatives from at least 75 countries are expected to attend."

Plan to celebrate...

"The theme of the Congress is 'Celebrating Christ's Presence Through the Spirit' (John 13:16). This will be the 75th anniversary of the Baptist World Alliance. A his-

joyed by getting to know other Baptists who know and serve the same Lord and Savior.

Our Women's Board has been very active in Baptist meetings on the national scene. You may remember that Marie Mathis was guest speaker at the Women's Banquet a few years ago. Marybelle Williams was the speaker last year. Both are leaders on the national level.

Our Christian Social Action Committee works through the Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund in sending your love gifts to people who suffer from hunger and other disaster.

We have representatives on the Baptist Joint Committee, the North American Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist Men's Fellowship, and the Friends of the Alliance Committee. At Conference, in August, 1979, we were privileged to have in attendance, Dr. James Wood, Jr., Baptist Joint Committee, Pearl McNeil, American Baptist Churches, Rev. Lee Satterfield, accompanied by his wife, Men's Fellowship, and Linda Brown, Friends of the Alliance Committee.

On Wednesday of the Congress there will be a Friends of the Alliance luncheon. This will provide opportunity to get to know one another, to introduce the ministry of the Alliance, and to solicit support. The purchase of tickets (\$10) as well as any additional gifts will help with the expenses of the Congress as well as other activities of the Alliance.

Thursday and Friday afternoon sessions will be open sessions of the Women's Department, Men's Department, Youth Department, Study and Research, Evangelism and Education and Study Commissions.

"There will be an unusually large number of young people attending the Congress—Many of them will be participants in youth choirs. Special activities are being planned for the young people 13-19 years of age." (Betty L. Smith, Executive Committee Report)

Hopefully, many Seventh Day Baptists will attend, share in the celebration and return to their home churches, inspired and ready to share the concept that we are "one in Christ" with our fellow Baptists and that He has given to all of us the Great Commission. □

torical drama will be part of the program."

Plan to participate...

"Program features will include daily prayer groups, Bible study sessions, programming for children and youth, and inspirational messages and music. Of special interest will be a World Fellowship Celebration to be held at the University of Toronto campus. Gifts from (each) country may be brought and exchanged with other delegates."

Plan to enjoy...

"The parade of flags of the nations will be an exciting part of Saturday evening's program. Choirs will sing in the Congress meetings and in the city parks. Sightseeing tours for nearby attractions are being planned."

This is a rare opportunity for those of us living in the U.S. to visit with fellow Christians from other countries. Those of us who have the privilege of representing Seventh Day Baptists in various Baptist organizations know the blessing to be en-

*O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth;
And I still declare Thy wondrous deeds.
And even when I am old and gray, O God,
do not forsake me,
Until I declare Thy strength to this generation,
Thy power to all who are to come*
-Psalm 71:17-18 ASV

As the average life span continues to increase we shall have more and more retirees within our membership. While there are many fine retirement centers and nursing homes in the area of our churches, none are especially related to our people. Some of our churches have special ministries to the aged, and ministries that involve retirees who are using their talents and time for the edification of the church. But we do not have a united approach for a special ministry to our elders.

For some time Seventh Day Baptists have discussed the possibility of our own retirement center and/or nursing home complex. It seems that this is a real need—a need that will become more pronounced in coming years. Such a center/home might be sponsored by a local church, an association, or the denomination as a whole. However, we think it is time, past time in fact, for Seventh Day Baptist Christians to take seriously the instruction to "honor our fathers and mothers" in the faith by preparing for them a special and distinctive home for the retirement years. It is also time for us to give serious thought to the development and implementation of a special ministry for the retirees in our churches across the land.

*Wisdom is with aged men,
With long life is understanding.
With him are wisdom and might
To Him belong counsel and understanding.*
Job 12:12, 13 ASV

*My son, forget not my law, but let thine
heart keep my commandments: For length
of days, and a long life, and peace,
shall they add to thee.*
-Prov. 3:1,2 KJV

GOING ON

Growing old, but not retiring
For the battle still is on;
Going on without relenting,
Till the final victory's won.
Ever on, nor think of resting,
For the battle rages still,
And my Savior still is with me
And I seek to do His will.

Years roll by, the body weakens;
But the spirit still is young;
Breath of God - it never ages,
Is eternal, ever strong.
Rather, year by year it strengthens,
Gaining o'er the things of sense.
By Thy Spirit, lead my spirit,
Savior, till Thou call me hence.

Things of earth decrease in value,
Brighter shines the light above;
Less the power of human hatred,
Sweeter far the Savior's love.
Let me tell it to the needy,
Far and wide Thy worth proclaim;
That my closing years may praise Thee
Glorify Thy blessed name.

Let me labor in Thy harvest
More than ever in the past,
Reaping in what Thou hast planted,
Till I dwell with Thee at last;
That before Thy throne eternal
I may have some fruit to bring,
Not my work - the fruit of Calvary,
All are Thine, my Lord and King.

-author unknown

For reader response: *QUESTION* — Should Seventh Day Baptists consider the development of a special ministry to our retired members, with the possibility of our own retirement center and/or nursing home complex?

-Send your response and ideas to the Editor.

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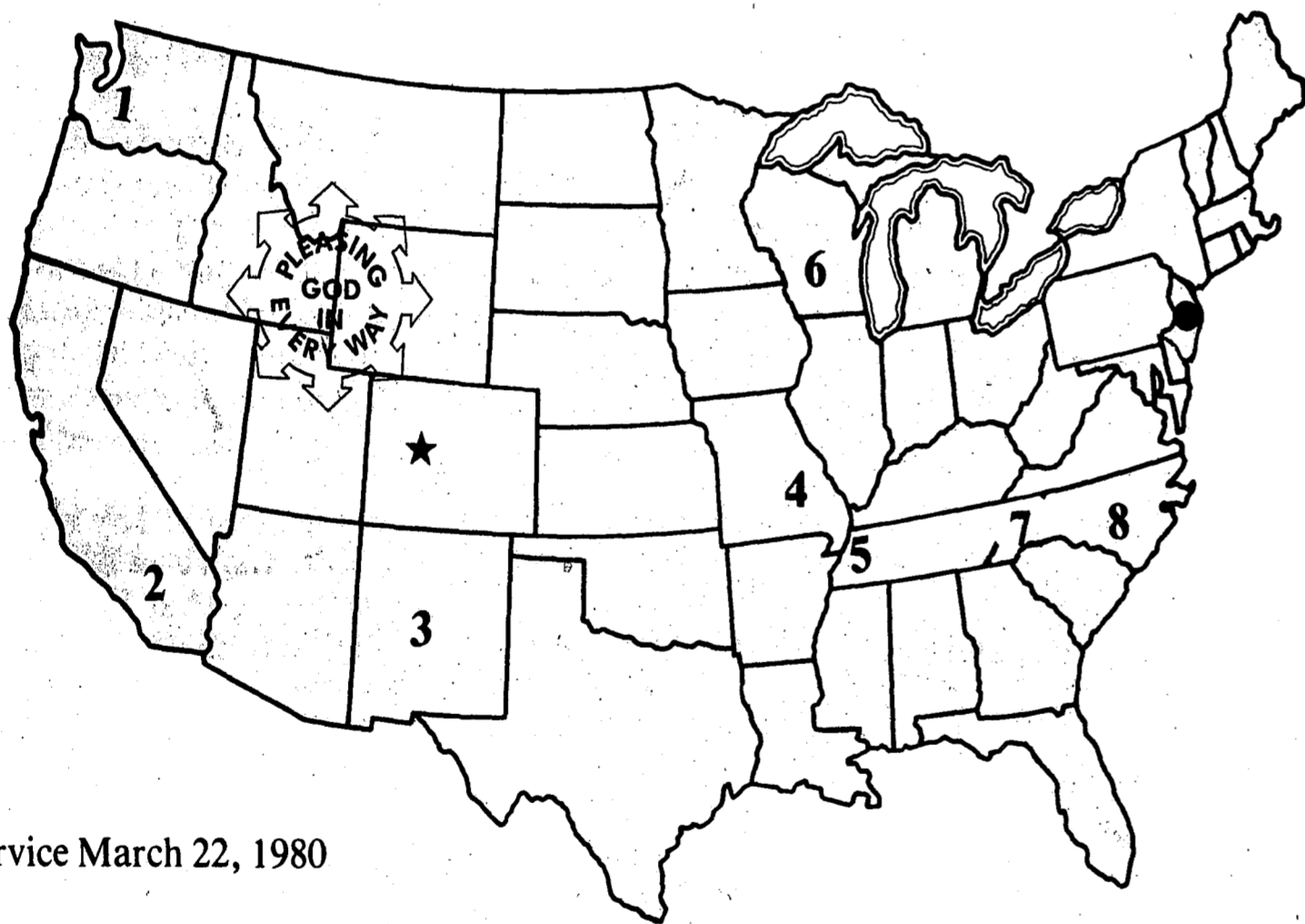
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- by recruiting, training, and placing church extension workers



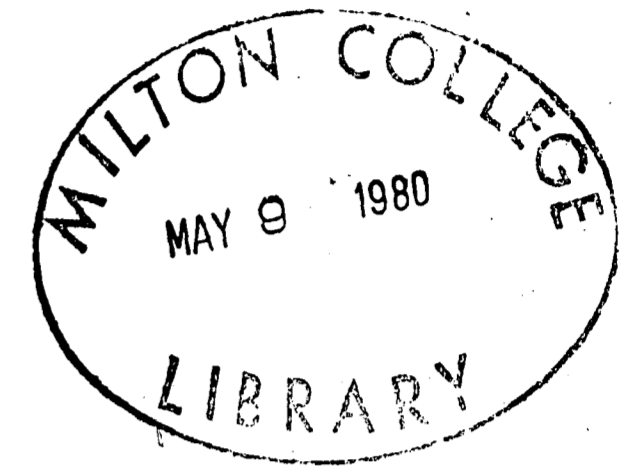
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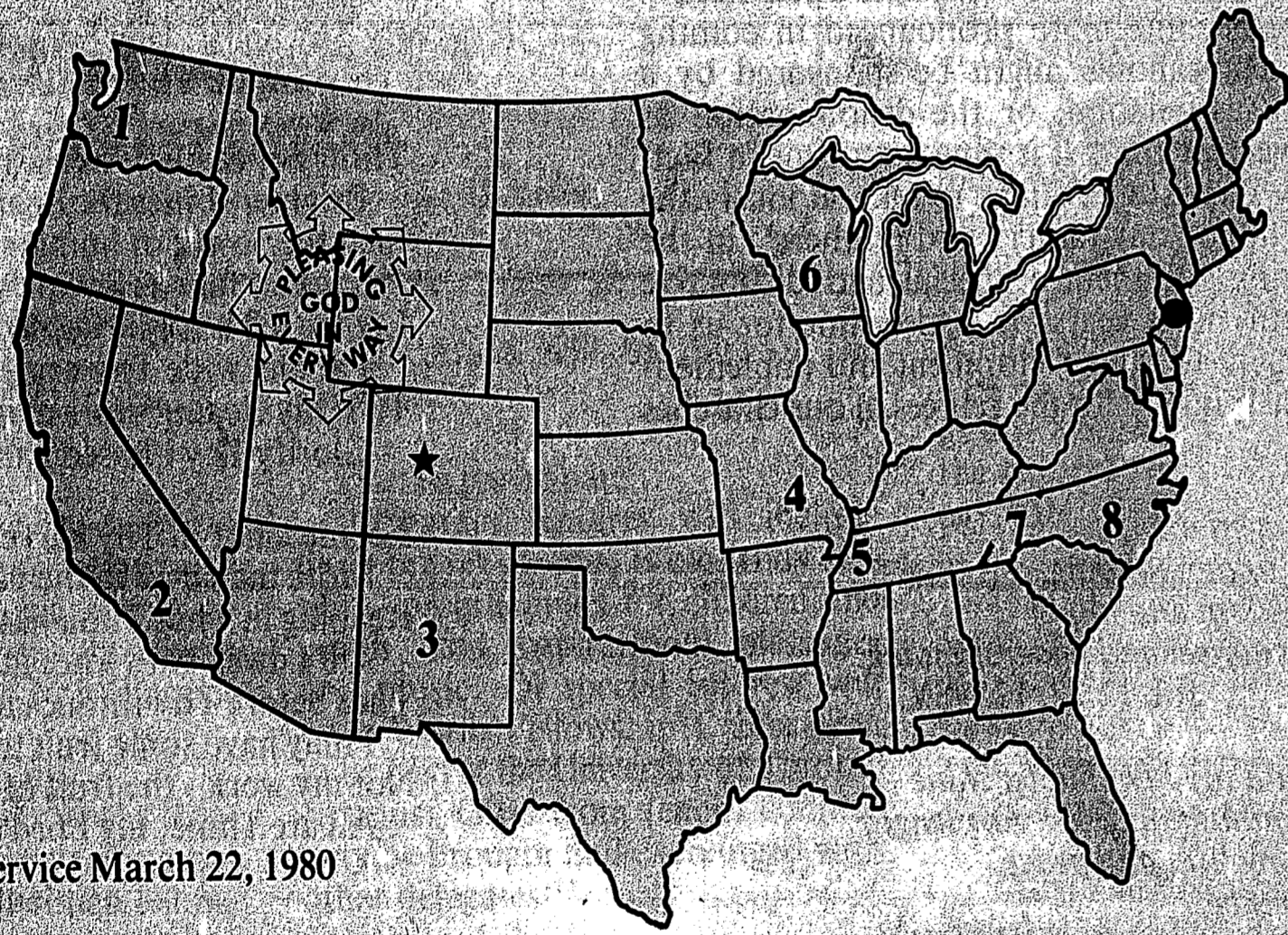


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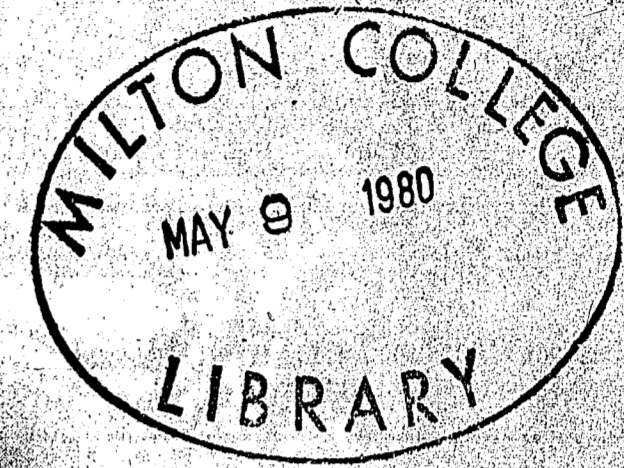
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