

THE SABBATH

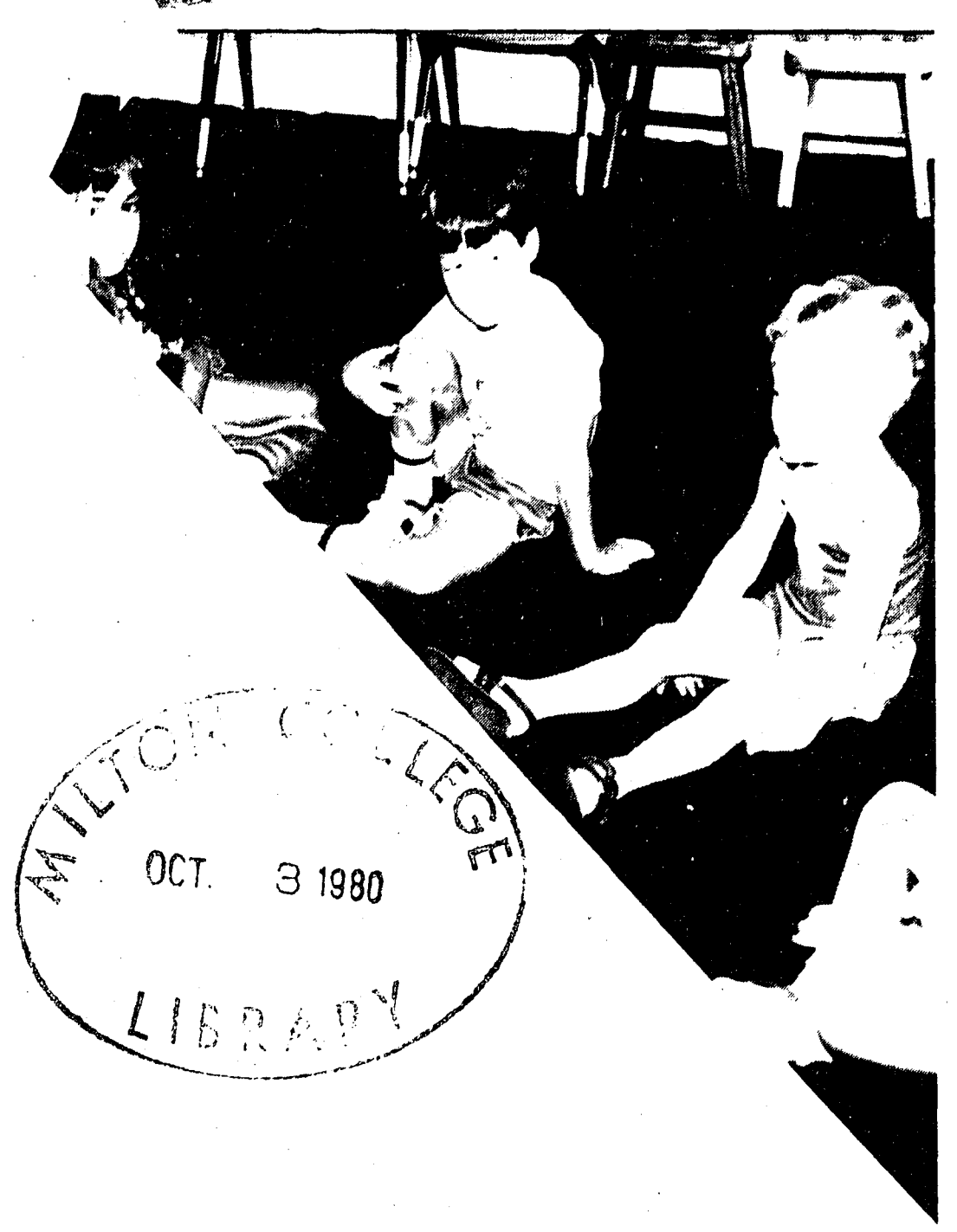
OUR 136th YEAR

RECORDER

1844
1980

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

SEPTEMBER



MILTON COLLEGE
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Appreciation is expressed to Phil Burrows who served untiringly as Conference photographer. Our October issue will feature more Conference reports.

The Sabbath Recorder

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ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING

The annual corporate meeting of the American Sabbath Tract Society for the election of members and officers of the Board of Trustees and for transacting such other business as may properly come before the society will be held in the Board Room at the Seventh Day Baptist Headquarters Building, Plainfield, N.J., Sunday, September 21, 1980, at 10 a.m. □

The 168th Conference opened with a procession of thirty colorful banners proclaiming the theme "Pleasing God in Every Way." To organ trumpet tunes of Purcell and Johnson, the Conference choir led out followed by women from churches all over the country, and the Netherlands. Each carried the banner made by her local Women's Society. The banners were on display in the auditorium during the week.

Conference President for 1980-81 is the Rev. Charles H. Graffius of Los Angeles, CA. The President-Elect is Mrs. Dorothy Parrott of Battle Creek, MI; also elected to the General Council is George Stillman of Houston, TX.

New churches voted into Conference membership were Memphis, Tennessee, and Centralia, Washington. Recognition was also given to the SDB Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin.

Three ministers received accreditation: Rev. Kenneth Burdick of the Raritan Valley SDB Church in NJ; Rev. John Rau, Brookfield, NY, and the Rev. Larry Graffius, White Cloud, MI.

Church anniversaries noted were: Berlin, NY—200th; Lost Creek, WV—175th; Pawcatuck (Westerly) RI and Milton, WI—140th. This year is also the 300th anniversary of the First Hopkinton meeting house in Ashaway, RI.

A Bylaw change was voted for final approval at Conference in 1981 to change our corporate name to: Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, USA and Canada." The addition is "and Canada" and will allow Canadians to be a part of the General Conference.

The Women's Board is being relocated from the Colorado churches to the Los Angeles area in California. Floy (Mrs. Paul) Owen of Glendale is the newly elected President.

Foreign representatives included: Rev. L. Sawi Thanga of Burma, Elder and Mrs. Jaap Nieuwstraten of the Netherlands and Mrs. Esmada R. Comrie of Jamaica. Several fraternal delegates were present as well.

The Conference offering for Our World Mission is \$19,212.87 to date.

A letter of greeting was read by Dr. K.D. Hurley to the delegates from Mr. James Chang regarding the continued existence of Seventh Day Baptists in China. The letter will be shared later in the *Sabbath Recorder*.

After considerable debate on the Conference floor it was voted to continue publication of the *Helping Hand*.

A proposed change in Article IV of the Statement of Belief, dealing with the infallibility of the Bible, was referred to the Committee on Faith and Order for study. The proposed statement opposing abortion was referred to the churches for study and vote in 1981 sessions.

Arthur Rowe of British Columbia was introduced as the new director of Light Bearers for Christ. A new team is being formed and will headquarter in Huntsville, Alabama.

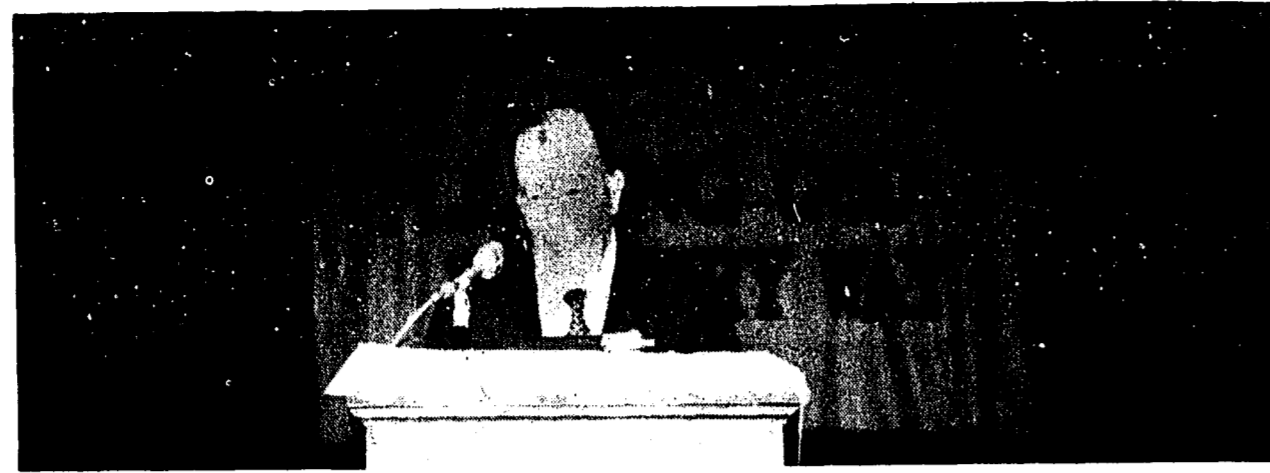
Conference registration as of Friday was 528 with over 600 present for the Sabbath worship service.

President Charles H. Graffius announced the 1980-81 theme to be "Grow with God." □

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Opening Convocation Address given by Senator Jennings Randolph, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Loretto Heights College, Denver, Colorado, Sunday, August 10, 1980.



"Building Better in the Eighties"

SCRIPTURES: *Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*

Psalm 118:22 "The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner."

I Corinthians 3:10, 11 "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

In this message I shall place a positive face on the future of our way of life and call us to a stronger commitment to building better in the eighties.

The Holy Bible often calls the people of God to remember that we are builders. It also reminds us that in our work we are not alone. We are fellow laborers with God. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

The Biblical Call To Be Builders

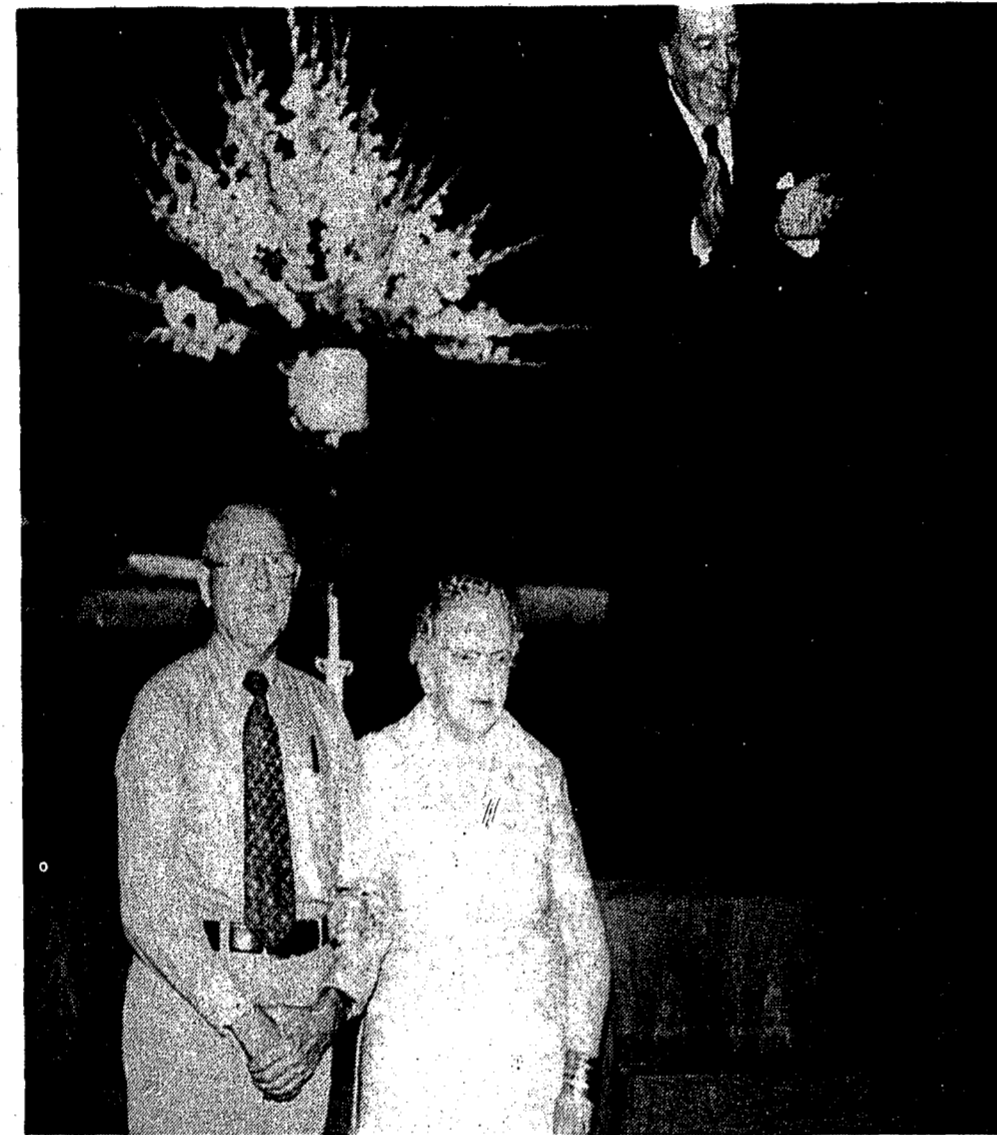
Our blessed Lord likened the Christian life to the builder of a house. "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24).

The apostles also likened the Church to a house in which Jesus Christ himself is the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

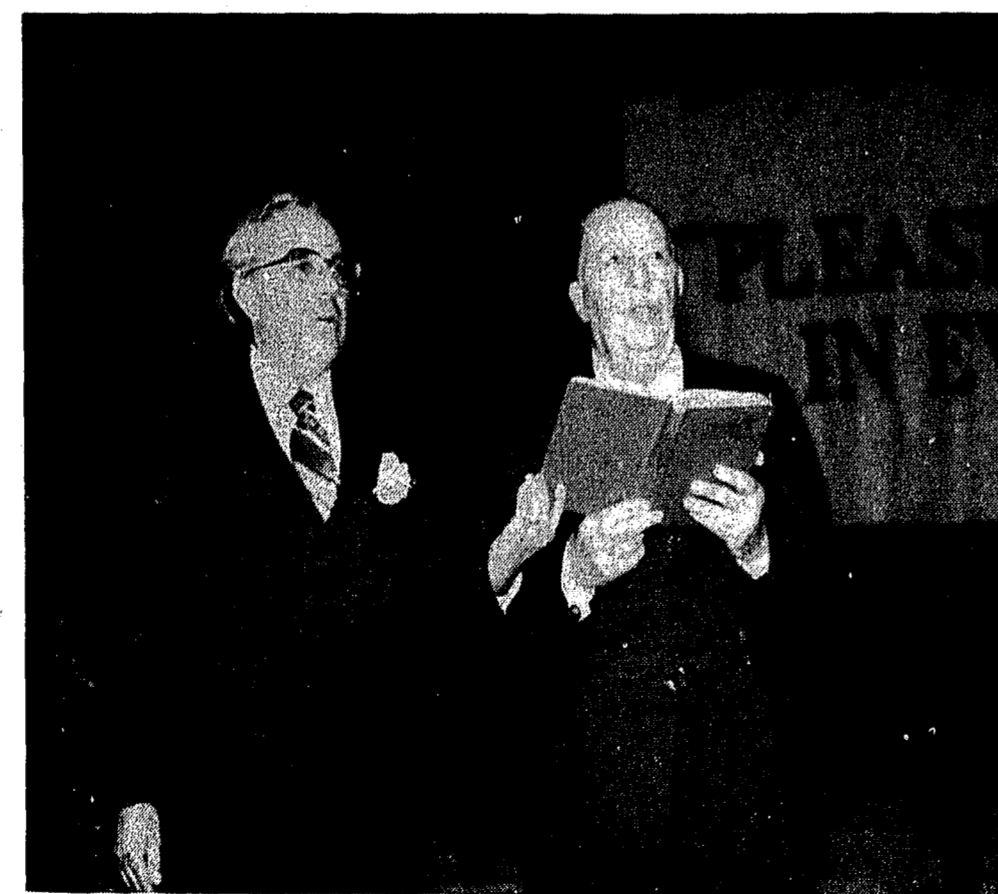
They also likened the dwelling place of the saints in glory to a house. "We have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

So important was the concept of the builder that all three of the writers of the Synoptic Gospels included the saying of Jesus which He took from the book of Psalms 118:22. "The stone which the builders refused has become the headstone of the corner." The book of Acts has the apostle Peter quoting the same passage and applying it to Jesus (Acts 4:11). And in his first letter Peter makes this same claim about Christ (1 Peter 2:7).

We are on Scriptural grounds when I address you, fellow Seventh Day Baptists, as builders. Let us counsel together about "Building Better in the Eighties."



Senator Randolph gave recognition to Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Batson of Parkersburg, WV, who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and their 50th consecutive Conference—quite a record!



President Duane Davis with U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph, convocation speaker.

The Foundations of Our Way of Life Are Being Shaken

The Problems

The eighties have already brought to us the accumulated problems of the past.

There are difficult economic problems—Inflation devours our dollars while prices soar higher and higher and poverty grows more painful. The cost of gasoline reminds us of our diminishing reserves. Toxic substances pollute our environment and drive people from their homes. Saber-rattling continues between our nation and the oil-rich countries of the Middle East. Grave moral problems overshadow our land. The crime rate frightens us.

The Positive Side of Our Problems

Some of these problems are carry-overs from the past. In perspective they may not be as alarming as they appear at first glance. Inflation is a part of a world crisis. If you have travelled abroad recently you know that inflation is a much greater problem in the other countries of the Western world than it is here. On the matter of energy, gasoline went up last week in Israel to over \$3.00 a gallon. I chair the Committee on Environment and Public Works and it pleased me greatly that recently the Baptist World Alliance passed a strong resolution on the human right to clean air and clean water.

Our moral problems are very severe. We want so much of the good life for our youth that we almost panic when we read of the way the drug traffic affects the young. But comparatively speaking there is another side. For all the concern over marijuana and the hard drugs, there is less use of dangerous drugs today than there was half a century ago. Before narcotics controls came into being, one American in every four hundred was an addict to some harmful drug—ten times the present rate.

Crime statistics do not tell the whole story. A century ago every tenth person in New York City had a police record.

Juvenile prostitution increased 230 percent between 1967 and 1976, according to an estimate of the Youth Development Bureau's office of Human Development Services of HHS. Many of these young people are among the one million youth who run away from home each year. There is good evidence that much juvenile prostitution is rooted in child abuse. Yet even the fact that such statistics are so carefully chronicled shows an increasing moral sensitivity on the part of American people.

Poverty is more painful now because it stands in contrast with greater affluence but it was also painful when our fathers stood in the long breadlines and were made to feel less than men because they had to take a handout to feed their children.

The continuing moral aftermath of Vietnam may be the result of an evangelized American conscience. We now know that war is not compatible with the way of Jesus. Still, even our restraint in that war had its hopeful side. There was never a day during that war when we could not have laid North Vietnam in complete ruin.

From a military standpoint restraint in war is incredible but from a moral standpoint restraint may be the only way out for those who believe that it is better to keep our souls than it is to win a military victory.

I actively support an effort in Congress to create a Peace Academy which will further George Washington's desire that we should learn to wage peace, not war. In 1945 I sponsored legislation to establish a Department of Peace.

America has many serious problems but some of them are part of a world crisis reaching far beyond our borders.

It is not too late for America to start over and build better on all levels in the eighties. Tennyson's "Ulysses" says to us, "Come my friends, 'tis not too late to seek a newer world." We can yet have love and compassion toward one another and a desire for justice for those who still suffer within our country. We can even yet make it our purpose to do what the Greeks dreamed of many years ago, "To tame the savageness of man and to make gentle the life of the world."

The Question Is How Can We Build a Better Way of Life?

Why not begin with prayer? The best time of the week for me is when I gather every Wednesday morning at eight o'clock with fellow Senators for a season of sharing and prayer. We bow our heads, acknowledging our dependence on the Eternal. We join our hands, acknowledging our dependence on one another. We ask God to show us the way and to grant us grace and strength to follow in the way.

To build a better tomorrow we must have the Church—the base of God's own building. Said Jesus "Upon this rock I will build my church."

It is the one house in which all humankind becomes one. The Calvary Baptist Church in Washington is the place where the Northern Baptist Convention (now the American Baptist Convention) was organized in 1901. Charles Evans Hughes, then Governor of New York State, was elected the Convention's first president.

When he became Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, he immediately joined the Calvary Church.

When he stepped forward, he was joined by a small Chinese laundryman. Beside the well-groomed dignitary the contrast was most striking.

(Continued...)



The President's reception.

The pastor, Dr. Samuel Harrison Greene, presented both men to the congregation and said, "When you stand at the foot of the Cross, the ground is level."

Institutional religion is said by some to be in trouble. But if we compare church membership today with any other time in the past there is reason for encouragement. Did you know that the first census taken in this country revealed that fewer than 5 percent of the people were members of religious bodies and that even by 1812, after the impact of the Great Awakening, only 20 percent were affiliated with a religious group? The overwhelming majority of the settlers came to this country for economic and social reasons—not primarily for religious motives.

The influence of religion on our way of life has emanated from small unpublicized pockets of spiritual power—primarily located in the family. It has been said that Scotland has five universities: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, St. Andrews and the Scottish home.

The influence of a religion has been measured in terms of the number of members the churches may count. Our churches, thought relatively small in number, have available to us that same source of power which the Ancient Hebrews knew when they followed the command of God and bowed down in their sacred ceremony at 6 o' clock in the evening of the sixth day to welcome the Sabbath angels; and kept the commandment of the Eternal "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

The spiritual strength of America has always been in the truth that there has always been someone to remind us of our foundations.

Justice William O. Douglas said that "the First Amendment would have been unnecessary and probably not developed if the public philosophy had been atheism or secularism. The government is neutral as between denominations but not neutral about God."

We do have a plate full of problems now but some of our citizens have been made great by the manner in which they worked through their problems...Yes, problems are challenges.

The Letters of William James are full of vibrant vitality. You do not wonder then that people flocked to

hear him lecture at Harvard. People everywhere were drawn by his magnificent personal magnetism. But this buoyant man suffered at various times from a bad back, insomnia, neurasthenic weakness, digestive disorders and eyestrain. Few men ever lived who were more curious about the cause of human problems than was Willaim James. Yet he did not sit down to muse over the reason for his disabilities. Instead he began to work through them. If he had stopped to find out the reason why, he probably would never have done anything that he did to lift the burdens of the world.

The mysterious fact is that the best people seem to suffer the most and, what is even more mysterious, they seem to be what they are because of the way they have met their problems.

If Milton had not been blind, do you think that "Paradise Lost" would have been greater? If Beethoven had not been deaf, do you think that his harmonies would have been more beautiful? If F.W. Robertson, the greatest preacher, some say, the Church of England ever produced, had not been tormented with thoughts of suicide, do you think people would continue to read his sermons today?

If Abraham Lincoln had not had a difficult wife and a deep-seated melancholia, do you think he ever would have written the Second Inaugural Address? If you know that when Lincoln was running for the Presidency he was called "that obscene ape from Illinois"? If you had no problems would you be better than you are? Or are you stronger because you have some battle scars?

In a Moscow warehouse a baby was born. In that bleak and lonely place, he grew up as a disadvantaged outcast. He suffered from epilepsy. The Cossacks arrested him for being a Socialist. Condemned to death he was tied to a stake. The mask was lowered over his head. Then the word came that his punishment was commuted to eight years in a slave labor camp. His epilepsy grew worse. His brother died. His home fell apart. The paper which he started went bankrupt. Out of necessity he wrote *Crime and Punishment* to pay his debts. Shortly afterwards he wrote *The Brothers Kravazov*. Then he died. The winds of adversity

(Continued on page 15)



Some 34 churches were represented in the Sunday evening parade of banners.



The Conference choir was directed by Gary Cox of the Denver church.



Rev. and Mrs. Leon Maltby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.



The Robe of Achievement

Iris Sholtz Maltby

Daytona Beach, Florida

"The outstanding force in her life, next to loving her Lord, is loving people. She has friends across the United States and around the world. She has a wonderful way of showing her genuine love for people."

Thus reads one letter which has been received by your Women's Board, and we heartily agree that the Robe of Achievement should rest upon the shoulders of Mrs. Leon Maltby.

Iris Sholtz Maltby was born in Nortonville, Kansas, the youngest of six children. Her parents were Joseph and Effie Davis Sholtz. She attended church and Junior Christian Endeavor as a child, and when she was still very young, the family moved from Nortonville, Kansas, to Verona, New York. It was there that Iris was baptized and joined the church. After she graduated from Oneida High School, she went to Milton, Wisconsin, and there she attended college. It was there that she met a talented young man, Leon Maltby, who was later to be her husband. The courtship of Iris and Leon while attending Milton College was evidently a very romantic affair, for the couple earned the nicknames of "Bill and Coo," Bill for Leon and Coo for Iris.

Before their marriage Iris became a teacher and served in several district schools in the Verona area. She is a gifted teacher, first teaching in public schools, then later in a private school in Plainfield, New Jersey. The three churches served by her minister-husband: Shiloh, New Jersey, White Cloud, Michigan, and Riverside, California, have been the richer because of her talent as a teacher in the church school. She is very creative, having written many plays and scripts to be used by children and young people. She has a genuine love for people and always opens her home to visitors.

One of her greatest interests is working with young people. It was this that made her the moving force behind the founding of Camp Harmony in New York state. She knew the needs of youth and had a feeling that camping would benefit them. Iris was also an activating force in the planning for Jersey Oaks Camp, and served, while living in Riverside, in Pacific Pines Camp.

Her husband's ministry was extended to serving as a chaplain in World War II, after which he was called to serve our denomination as editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*. Here again, the strong support she gave to him, and to her church, was felt as she worked in the area of Plainfield, opening her home to visitors from all over the country, as well as from other countries. Her love for people, and her pleasure in others make her an ideal hostess.

To young people who face difficult tasks, Iris has said, "That's great, you can do it, go ahead!" A spiritual boost, and a loving listening ear can be found by those who confide in her.

On June 16 the Maltbys celebrated fifty golden years together. The couple have been blessed by three children: Lucille Maltby McNally of San Bernardino, California; Ronald, North Plainfield, New Jersey; and Alan, of Woodbridge, New Jersey.

In retirement as in all of her life, Iris is serving her Lord in a wonderful way. She has chosen to volunteer as a visitor in a nursing home. In her own words she tells why she is motivated to this task: "At last (I) have time and energy to do some of the important things of life that always have had to be pushed into the background."

We salute you, Iris Maltby! □



CONFERENCE REACTIONS

Question: What has been the most meaningful to you at Conference this year?

"I haven't been to Conference in twenty years. It has been extremely interesting to see how the Conference works in the business sessions. I have really enjoyed the fellowship, the renewing of friendships and meeting new friends in the faith."

-Mrs. Alice Brooks
Stonefort, IL

"The Spiritual emphasis of Conference has been most meaningful to me this year. I enjoyed the Bible studies and the evening messages. I feel our Spirits have been fed this week."

-Miss Lois Wells
El Monte, CA

"The most meaningful part of Conference to me is the purpose of getting together from all across the country to seek God's will for us as a people. I think much has been accomplished this year and with the leading of the Holy Spirit we must return to our homes to carry out God's will."

-Pastor Thomas Sostar
Alfred, NY

"I appreciate the family concept present. Also the fact that there is ample room for anyone who wants to be a part of the S.D.B. family. Even in the Conference business sessions there has been evident a good spirit of love and cooperation; even though at times we have a tendency to nit-pick! I really appreciate the activities for children and youth. This has been a fruitful experience for me and the Lord willing our family plans to attend next year in Salem."

-Larry Sanford
Seattle, WA

We were happy to have the Rev. L. Sawi Thanga of the Burma Conference present this year. Rev. Thanga comments on his reaction to our Conference and his visit among American SDB's:

"I have found the Conference exciting and enjoyable. There is more debate in the business sessions than I had anticipated. However, we also have much debate in our Burmese Conference sessions. It seems in Burma that all wish to speak to each issue. The Family Camp held in the Rocky Mountains was my most enjoyable time. I was happy to experience the real American family life. I could have stayed longer in the camping experience."

-Rev. L. Sawi Thanga
Rangoon, Burma



interviews conducted by John D. Bevis

Question: There has been some informal discussion about having Conference only every two years. How do you react to this?

"I think it would be a good idea because of the preparations, expenses, the rising cost of gasoline, etc. A lot of the business could be handled by vote of the churches in between sessions. I would however miss the Bible studies and warm fellowship that we experience each year at Conference."

-Seili Bond
Dodge Center, MN

"I favor continuing to have Conference every year unless inflation gets much worse. I think the priority of Conference should be spiritual fellowship."

-Willard Wells
Boulder, CO

"I think it should be held every year. I am a Senior in high school and I need the fellowship of Conference, it strengthens my faith. I hope to be in S.C.S.C. next year and look forward to Conference in Salem."

-Matthew Jacob
Pomona Park, FL

"As far as the business is concerned I think it could be handled every two years. However, the fellowship, the fun associated with Conference is something to be considered. I feel that the unity of SDB's is enhanced by our yearly sessions."

-Jennifer Lewis
Riverside, CA

"I am employed by an American Baptist University and the American Baptists find that a biannual conference works well for them because of their size. Seventh Day Baptists are a family and the annual Conference is important to denominational unity and progress."

-Scott Smith
Ottawa, KS

Representing Seventh Day Baptists of Jamaica was Sister Esmada R. Comrie of Higgintown. She commented on her week at Conference:

"The week has been a spiritual one. I am impressed with the messages given. I also enjoyed the business sessions and thought they were conducted very well. This was my first Conference in America and I really enjoyed the fellowship."

-Esmada Comrie
Higgintown, Jamaica



Report of the General Council

August 11-16, 1980

The General Council of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference met in session at the Denver, Colorado, Seventh Day Baptist Church, August 6-8, 1980 to consider reports, project program and recommend the united budget for presentation to General Conference in session at Loretto Heights College, Denver, CO.

In our deliberations we have sensed the leading of the Spirit and have sought to be responsive to that leading, ever desiring to "please God in every way."

Executive Secretary

The General Council is appreciative of the dedication and untiring efforts of our Executive Secretary, Dr. K. D. Hurley, during this past year. We recognize that in spite of the demands, and at times the frustrations of the office, he has maintained a spirit of love, cooperation, and Christian leadership. He has continually sought to bring us into closer unity and to expand our vision as a people.

We are thankful for his willingness to continue to serve in this transitional time and to assist in an orderly transfer of duties with the new Executive Secretary.

Overseas Ministries

The General Council is enthusiastic over the development of new opportunities in overseas ministries. We encourage the Missionary Society members in their plans to send a representative to contact the developing work in the Cameroons, and their follow-up of the new contacts in Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

The visit by Rev. Charles Graffius to New Zealand and Jan Lek of Holland to Poland provide new insights and challenges as we relate to these brethren. May God grant wisdom and vision as we respond to new opportunities in overseas ministries.

Radio Ministry

The General Council commends the American Sabbath Tract Society and Rev. Russell W. Havens for the radio program "Word of Truth." We wish to encourage the ASTS to produce additional radio programs as soon as possible.

Workers' Hospitalization Insurance

The General Council commends COSAR for its time, efforts and patience in bringing to the pastors and employees of the boards and agencies a hospitalization plan. After several months, we are pleased to observe that the plan is beginning to work effectively. We urge our member churches and boards and agencies to continue to investigate the possibilities of becoming involved in this plan.

Membership of the General Council

The General Council has been working together for two years. Many of the purposes for which the General Council was established have been realized. The sense of cooperation, the efforts in communication, and the opportunity to sit together and come to grips with mutual concerns and issues have verified the validity of establishing the General Council. Problems have risen, and in an effort to alleviate those difficulties, the General Council would like to suggest that the Committee on Reference and Counsel consider the following:

That the paid executives of the General Conference boards and agencies be designated as "ex officio nonvoting" members of the General Council. (The President of the Women's Society would continue as a voting member, giving seven voting members to the General Council.)

Three reasons for this suggestion are:

1. It is difficult, if not improper, for staff members to sit as voting members of a Council which has the responsibility to hire other members of the denominational staff.

2. As nonvoting members, the paid executives could participate in every way in the work of the General Conference (including discussion, the making of motions, etc.), except for the privilege of voting.

3. We realize that boards and agencies may not feel completely represented, but we feel that the active participation of the executives and the potential in the future, of other representation, will give adequate voice to the agencies. The alleviating of confusion and possible conflict of interest, we believe, will more than compensate for any seeming lack of representation.

Study Re: The Holy Spirit

The General Council notes the study the Committee on Faith and Order has undertaken concerning charismatic renewal at the request of the General Council. We thank them for their efforts, but are asking them to engage in continued study, especially addressing the definition of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Light Bearers

The General Council has reviewed the plans for the reactivation of Light Bearers for Christ to be directed by Arthur Rowe. We are supportive of these plans and believe Light Bearers for Christ has a worthy role in the ministry of Seventh Day Baptists. □

—This report does not include the recommendations made by the General Council to the Conference session.

Conference Communion Service

In the early days of Colonial America the Seventh Day Baptist people were separated by distances lengthened by lack of transportation and communication that we probably cannot fathom. Soon after Newport, RI, church was organized in 1671, Yearly Meetings were established to encourage the members over on the "Westerly mainland" and other wilderness areas to have an annual gathering at the home church for renewal and refreshing. The hardships of travel by boat or trail were rewarded by the fellowship and joys of reunion with those of "like precious faith." The Yearly Meetings at Newport and later at Ashaway were climaxed with a "Great Communion" to renew the covenant and to strengthen the commitment of all for another year.

As the Holy Spirit led in the organization of new Seventh Day Baptist churches through conviction of the Sabbath truth and through western migration, other areas established the Yearly Meeting, too. Even the Sabbatharians (our early church name) who could not make it back to Yearly Meeting came to consider that date as a focal point for their goals, their consecration, and the evidence of their love for the brethren. The Communion services at these Yearly Meetings must have been a joyous and a solemn occasion for these stalwart and faithful pioneers of the faith.

Out of the Yearly Meeting and the Great Communion—coupled with a desire to serve the Western Frontier and share the gospel by missionary efforts—came the formation of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference in 1801. The Communion Service at Conference continues through the years to be an opportunity for renewal and rededication as well as joint Communion in memory of our Crucified and Risen Master.

The Communion Service in the 1980 Conference was held on Sabbath afternoon with the hope that it would be a focus for all who attended Conference this year—a climax at the end of the week for Christ. It served as an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to Jesus Christ, and to serve Him individually, through their church, and through the Conference—through a Decade of Discipleship—"Pleasing God in Every Way!" □

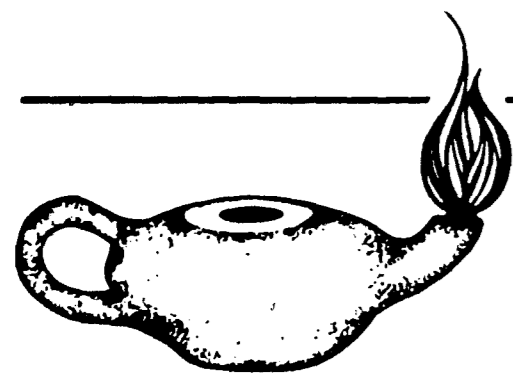
—Duane L. Davis
Conference President, 1980

Conference Theme Song written by Shireen Hurley

words and music by Shireen Hurley

May I Please God In Every Way

May all I do and all I say please God, please God, please God in every way. I'll study His Word and seek His Will - 'Tis my steps may falter He loves me still. Thus may all I do and all I say please God, please God, please God, every day!



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Cläre

The Art of Recruiting Christian Workers

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

1 Cor. 14:40

The emphasis for the second year of DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP is on Nurture. All church activities may be classified as Christian Education and all members of the church Christian Education workers. In order to effectively share the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord it is important that persons best equipped to do the work be selected for each project and program. Each person should be working in the area of his/her gifts and no task should be viewed as more important than another.

There is an art to recruiting persons for key positions in the church. Only the most dedicated or interested person will answer affirmatively to the telephone caller who asks, "You wouldn't like to teach the fifth grade Sabbath School class again this year, would you?" Of course not! She has been teaching for the last five years and does not plan to make a career of teaching. Besides,

there are more interesting jobs for which she has talent.

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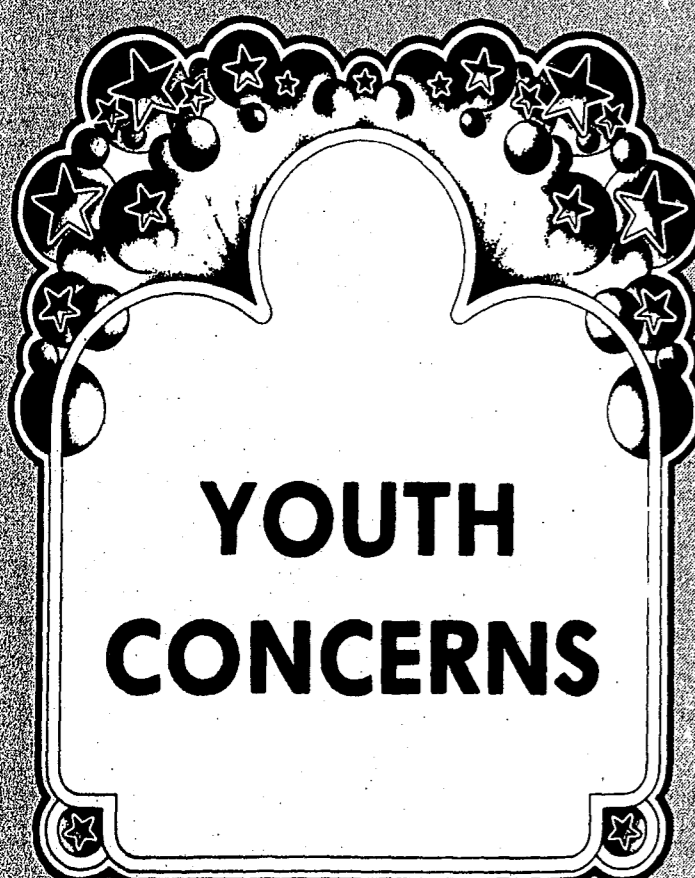
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Pray for the witness of the church.

"PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."
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"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

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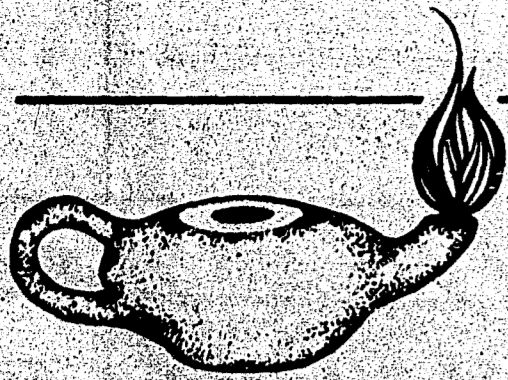
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Thy Word is a Light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

The Art of Recruiting Christian Workers

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

1 Cor. 14:40

The emphasis for the second year of DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP is on Nurture. All church activities may be classified as Christian Education and all members of the church Christian Education workers. In order to effectively share the knowledge of the saving grace of our Lord it is important that persons best equipped to do the work be selected for each project and program. Each person should be working in the area of his/her gifts and no task should be viewed as more important than another.

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TRUSTING GOD

God expects us to order our lives, to make plans and to aggressively execute those plans. This can be done in a wholesome manner if we commit ourselves to God:

We own Christ as Savior and Lord;

We recognize our times are in His hands;

We believe He has a purpose for us.

We must accept His Word that:

He will instruct and teach us in the way we shall go;

He will guide us with His eye;

His mercies are new every morning;

He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able.

With such promises we can confront the problems of today, knowing there is no need to worry because with His help every one can be overcome.

A Swedish song expresses the uselessness of worry. A free translation says, "I have no anxious care for tomorrow."

Read Psalms 23, 27 and 34, compare the thoughts of the Psalmist with those expressed in this Swedish song:

I have no anxious care for tomorrow
Its sunlight I never may see
So today with the plow in the furrow
In His vineyard I faithful will be.

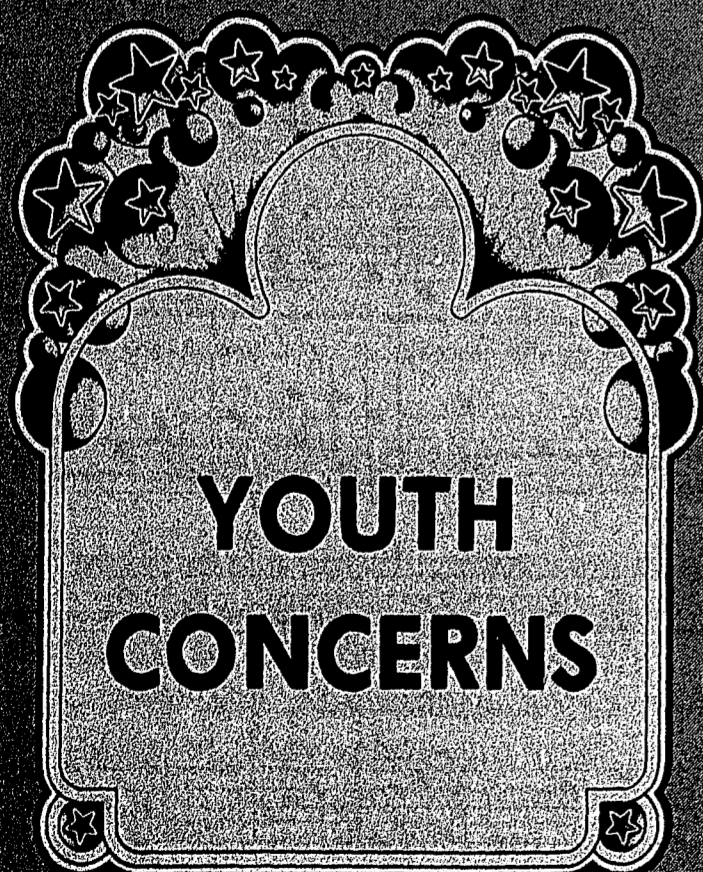
I have no anxious care for tomorrow
The Savior will make that His care
Should He fill it with joy or with sorrow
He will help me each burden to bear

Other workers may gather the harvest
And reap from the field I have sown
But if faithful I'll be in the planting
I shall hear from the Master, well done.

Chorus:

So I've no anxious care for tomorrow.
The Master will make that His care
Its grace and its strength I can't borrow
So why should I borrow its care?

Nels Sjernerstrom



"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

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focus

MISSION NOTES

"Where there is no vision the people perish"

● **BRAZIL, So. America:** The Biblical Seminary of Theological Education by Extension now has four regular teaching units—at Joinville (19 students); Garuva (14); Sao Paulo (9) and Itarare (12). There are another 14 scattered students enrolled by correspondence. A new unit is being planned for Curitiba. PRINTING EQUIPMENT has been obtained and the first Sabbath School lesson booklets are published. "We do praise God for that!" wrote Secy. Ruben Nisio in mid-July. At present a garage is being used but a suitable building is being sought in Curitiba. High inflation, "in the order of 100 percent a year!" makes difficult any expensive program.

● **MEMPHIS, TN, USA:** "Just because a church is small doesn't mean it has to be inactive." So began a special news item titled "Denomination's Size Doesn't Dim Zeal" in the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*. It reviewed and highlighted the growing new Seventh Day Baptist church under the leadership of Pastor William Shoffner. How often does your church make the news? Why?

● **MALAWI, Africa:** Pastor Joel Omare of Kisii, Kenya, attended the July training seminar for pastors at Makapwa in July. This was made possible by the Joe E. Lewis Ministerial Training Fund, which has now been expended for training of pastors in Jamaica, Guyana, Malawi, South Africa, Burma and Kenya. We are thankful to the Lord that a new bequest of Daisy Jett Summers of Salem, WV, will continue support for training of pastors for SDB churches internationally.

● **STATISTICS, USA:** The Accessions column in the *SABBATH RECORDER* offers regular information on church growth. In the first six months of 1980, 17 churches (including two new ones—Centralia, WA and Memphis, TN) reported new members. These totaled 113!

—25 by Testimony; 56 by Baptism and 22 by Letter. 18.5 percent of the churches have missionary or extension pastors and these recorded 28.3 percent of the growth. Do your church statistics get reported regularly to the *RECORDER*?

● **BURMA, Asia:** Rev. L.S. Thanga, secretary of the Burma SDB Conference spent most of July and August in No. Amer. He attended the BWA Congress in Toronto and the SDB General Conference in Denver, CO. He visited SDB churches in CA, WA, NY, NJ, RI, DC and Toronto. Through him we learned much more about the work and witness of SDB's in Burma. This was the first time one of their leaders has been able to visit outside Burma since the group was organized in 1964.

● **BAY AREA, CA, USA:** Rev. Stephan F. Saunders began his ministry as a missionary pastor with the Bay Area SDB church in July. His address: 1336 William Way, Concord, CA 94520. Prospects for growth are good!

● **GUYANA, So America:** "We are thrilled at the way the Lord is permitting growth (in the new congregation at Manamarine). A team from the Dartmouth and Pomeroun brethren will be visiting with the brethren there... There is visible growth in the Parika church and also in the Dartmouth church." -Pastor Samuel Peters, 20 July 1980.

● **SPRINGFIELD, MO, USA:** The first Camp Meeting was attended by over 30 individuals from Sunshine Mt., Memphis, St. Louis, Willow Springs, Texarkana and the Springfield area in mid-July. Pastor Ken Hatcher received many phone calls about the meeting—a first for that area. "It gave encouragement to the few members in Springfield and made many in the area aware of our work because of the publicity."

(Continued on page 30)

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

OCTOBER 1980

"O God, in mercy bless us; let your face beam with joy as you look down at us. Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind." Psalm 67:1,2 LB (also read vs. 3-7 in your Bible.)

PRAY FOR:

- 1—Pastors and leaders of our sister churches in Mexico
- 2—New officers of General Conference
- 3—Mid-Continent Association this weekend at Nortonville, KS
- 4—New England Yearly Meeting, being held in the Meeting House, Newport, RI
- 5—President Charles Graffius as he leads us this Conference year
- 6—The new Women's Board officers and leaders in the Los Angeles, CA, church
- 7—Leadership and growth in the new churches/groups in Australia
- 8—Missionaries Rodney and Camille Henry, Cebu City, The Philippines
- 9—The General Council
- 10—North Central Association meetings at White Cloud, MI, this weekend
- 11—The fall meeting of the Central New York Association this Sabbath
- 12—Give thanks for the music ministries of our churches
- 13—Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi: Northern Trip
- 14—Youth who are planning to participate in SCSC—1981! Encourage them
- 15—The plans being developed for a new Light Bearers ministry
- 16—Pacific Coast Association as it prepares to meet this month
- 17—Our brethren in China
- 18—Local church goals in our *DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP*
- 19—American Sabbath Tract Society meeting and its leadership needs
- 20—Ministry of the church in Daytona Beach, FL
- 21—Those who are ill among us
- 22—My witness to those I meet at work, play or in stores today
- 23—The strengthening of our Sabbath Schools
- 24—Our National Youth Fellowship officers and program
- 25—Rev. Joe A. Samuels and pastors in our sister churches in Jamaica
- 26—Quarterly Board Meeting, SDB Missionary Society, Westerly, RI
- 27—Those who worship with the Madison, WI, Fellowship
- 28—New work in West Africa in The Cameroons and Nigeria
- 29—Our country as we approach the national elections
- 30—The New York City SDB Church and its outreach in that urban area
- 31—The growing witness of the Stonefort, IL, church

The Sabbath Recorder



CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION BULLETIN BOARD

"In these latter days the church has had the imagination and courage to concern itself with the practical problems of men's living together in a world where people who never see each other are nevertheless responsible for one another's well-being. And in its social action the church is finding its soul again, for when the task is too large for human power alone then divine power is both sought and found."
-Anonymous

Baptist World Alliance (1628 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009) is concluding its Worldwide Immunization Appeal. This is the final year of a four-year drive for money to immunize children against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, polio and tuberculosis. Contributions should be clearly marked for the "Immunization Program."

The Sabbath School of the Ritchie SDB Church (in Berea, West Virginia) has made a special contribution to help the Cambodians in their struggle against starvation.

Many of our churches have taken part in the "Love Loaf" fundraising program for World Vision. Now comes word of a similar approach being introduced by the Baptist World Alliance. Their collection container is shaped like a rice bowl. As with the Love Loaf, the Rice Bowl would be kept on the dining room table, where it would receive donations for the relief of world hunger. Once they are broken open, the money so raised would be forwarded to Baptist World Relief.

This challenge comes to us from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.: "We believe Christ calls us to dissent from our present life-styles and to make a radical break from the patterns of over-indulgence, consumerism and reckless waste. Such an altered life-style enables us to reconsider what we truly value in life, how we measure success, where we live, what we eat, how we use energy, how we invest our lives and resources, and where and how we travel." □

-Alan Crouch

Building Better in the Eighties

(Continued from page 6)

blew so fiercely that he learned to love life all the more. And they blew Dostoevski into immortality.

Lifting this up to ultimate ground, if Jesus had not been crucified, would He have had the influence and power He now has in the lives of people?

The Cross was never meant to be explained. It was meant to be carried. We try so hard to explain it because we are unwilling to carry it. The last question we will

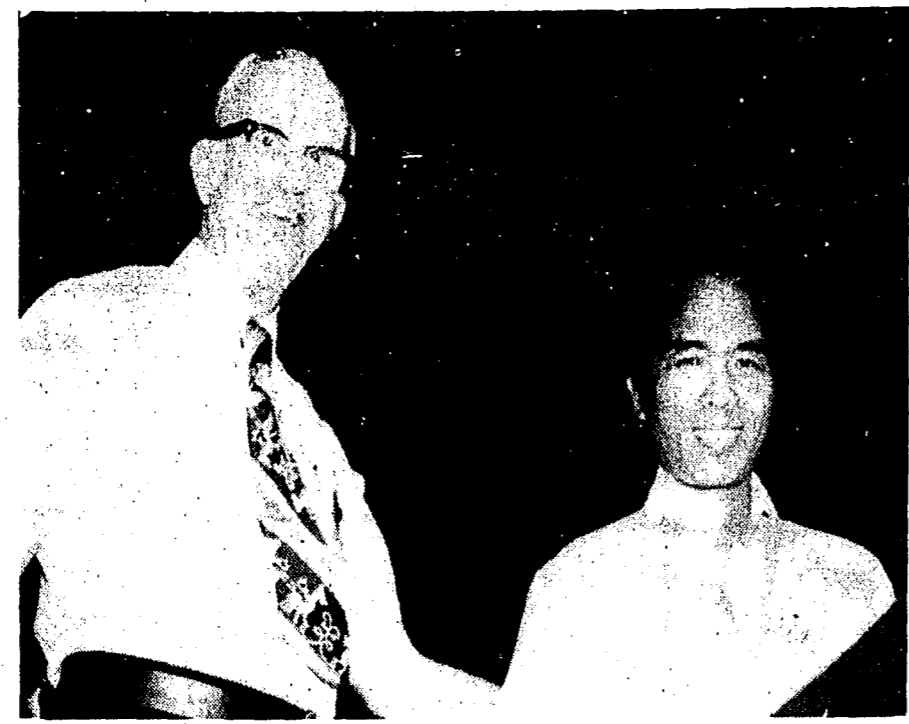
ever be asked is not did you understand the Cross, but did you carry it?

If we are to build better in the Eighties, we must carry the cross of sacrifice with courage and high hope that we are moving on to a better world here and hereafter.

Robert Browning in his "Ben Ezra" made this plea:

Then welcome each rebuff,
That turns earth's smoothness rough
That bids not sit nor stand but go

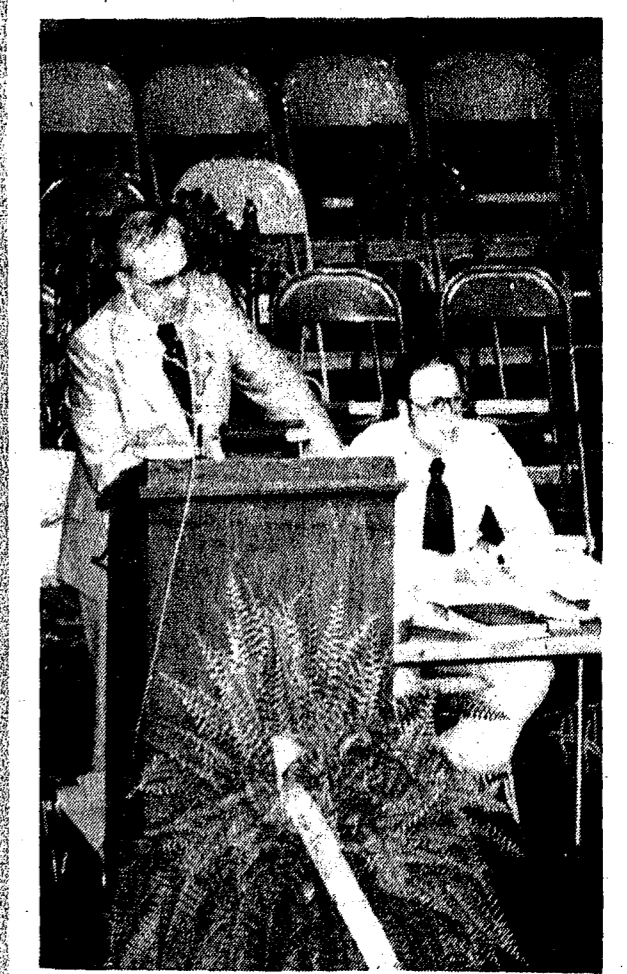
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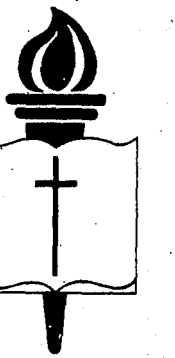
Dr. K.D. Hurley introducing Rev. L. Sawi Thanga, our delegate from Burma.



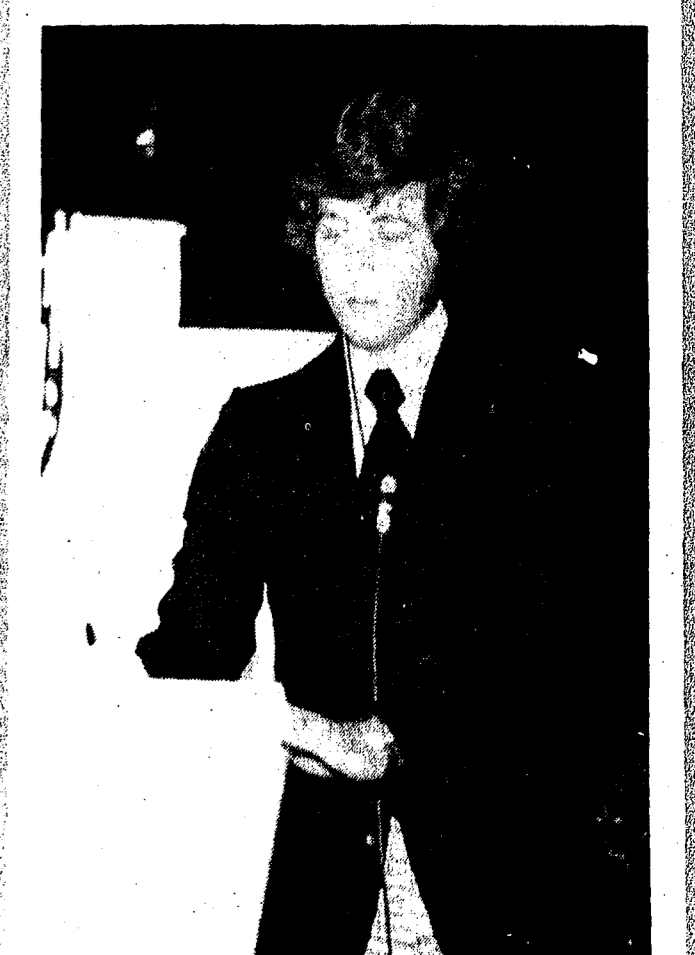
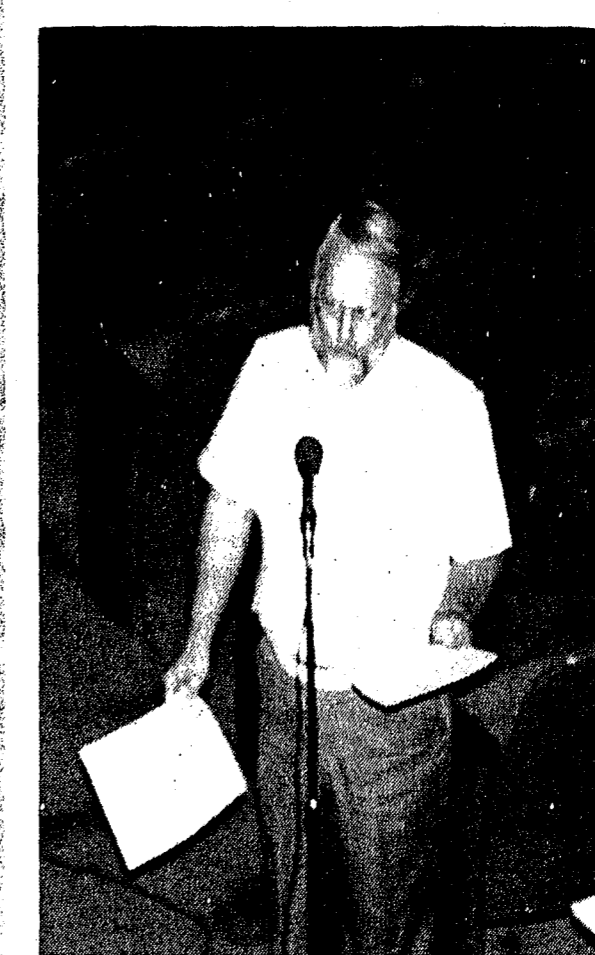
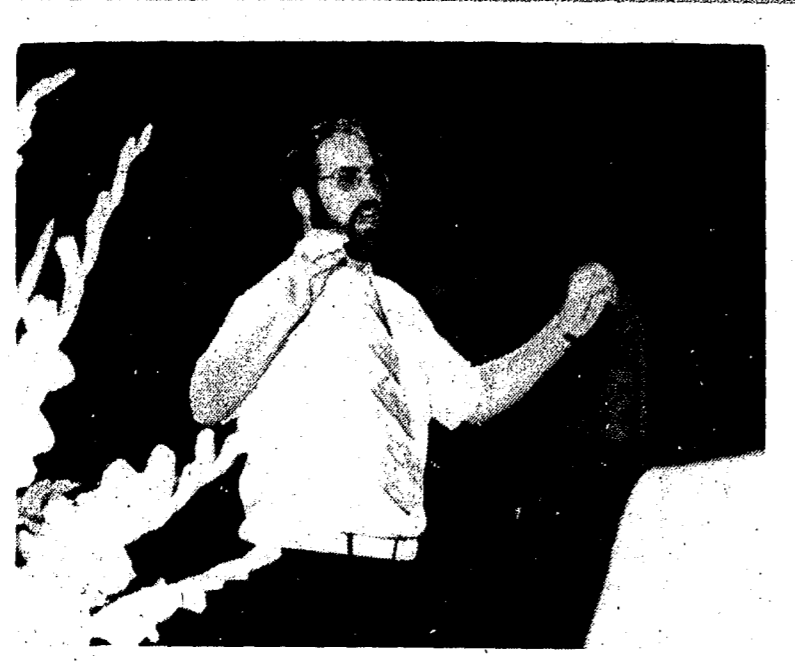
Interest committee in session.



President Duane L. Davis assisted by parliamentarian Don Graffius.



Delegates from the Netherlands, Elder and Mrs. J. A. Nieuwstraten.



the CHURCH in ACTION

CHURCH HOST TO MANY VISITORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—May was a busy time for the Washington church. The month began with an attendance of 120 on the third. Our congregation was increased by visitors from the senior high academy from Bloomer, Wisconsin, interfaith fellowship. Pastor Dave Taylor of our New Auburn church accompanied the group on its visit to the city.

On May 10 we again hosted young people as some 30 members of the graduating class of Springvale Academy, Owosso, MI, visited our church. The school is operated by the Church

of God, Seventh Day. The girls were housed in the church center and the boys were housed with the local members of the Church of God.

A fellowship meal was served by our hospitality committee, assisted by the Church of God.

Mother's Day emphasis was enhanced by the presence of the family of Mrs. Erma Wilson. Mrs. Wilson joined our group in the early years of the church. She left this life about five years ago.

The money received that Sabbath made it possible to send a young person to national Pre-Con camp to be held in Colorado prior to Conference this year.

On May 17 the Washington church observed Sabbath Renewal Day with 71 in attendance. The highlight of the day was a baptism for five people. All of these joined the church the following Sabbath.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hazen represented our church at the Eastern Associational meetings held in Marlboro, New Jersey. They were exchange delegates from the Southeastern Association. □

-Alma Brissey

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION TO BE HELD IN MILTON

MILTON, WI—The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton, Wisconsin, was organized in November of 1840, approximately one and one-half years after the first Seventh Day Baptists settled in Milton. They had held meetings from the very first Sabbath following their arrival.

In commemoration of 140 years of service to the community and the denomination, to those people who have been a part of this church at any time in their lives, the Milton church is having a homecoming celebration on Nov. 7-8 this year. Two former pastors, Rev. Carroll L. Hill and Rev. Elmo F. Randolph will both be present to participate in the celebration. The services will begin on Sabbath Eve and continue through Sabbath, closing with a banquet on Saturday night. Those who have been a part of this church at any time in their lifetime are invited to share in this celebration. Nonresident members will be given a special invitation to be present or to send greetings. □

BERLIN CELEBRATES 200TH ANNIVERSARY

BERLIN, NY—The Seventh Day Baptist Church at Berlin, NY, will be 200 years old on September 24, 1980. Having mothered several congregations and given birth to pastors, missionaries, and statesmen, as well as a host of people who have served God faithfully and well at home, members and friends of the congregation are now praising the Lord for 200 years of joyful service and witness to Christ and the Sabbath, and we are praying for the continuing effective witness of our church during the years yet to come. The Rev. C. Rex Burdick is pastor of the Berlin church.

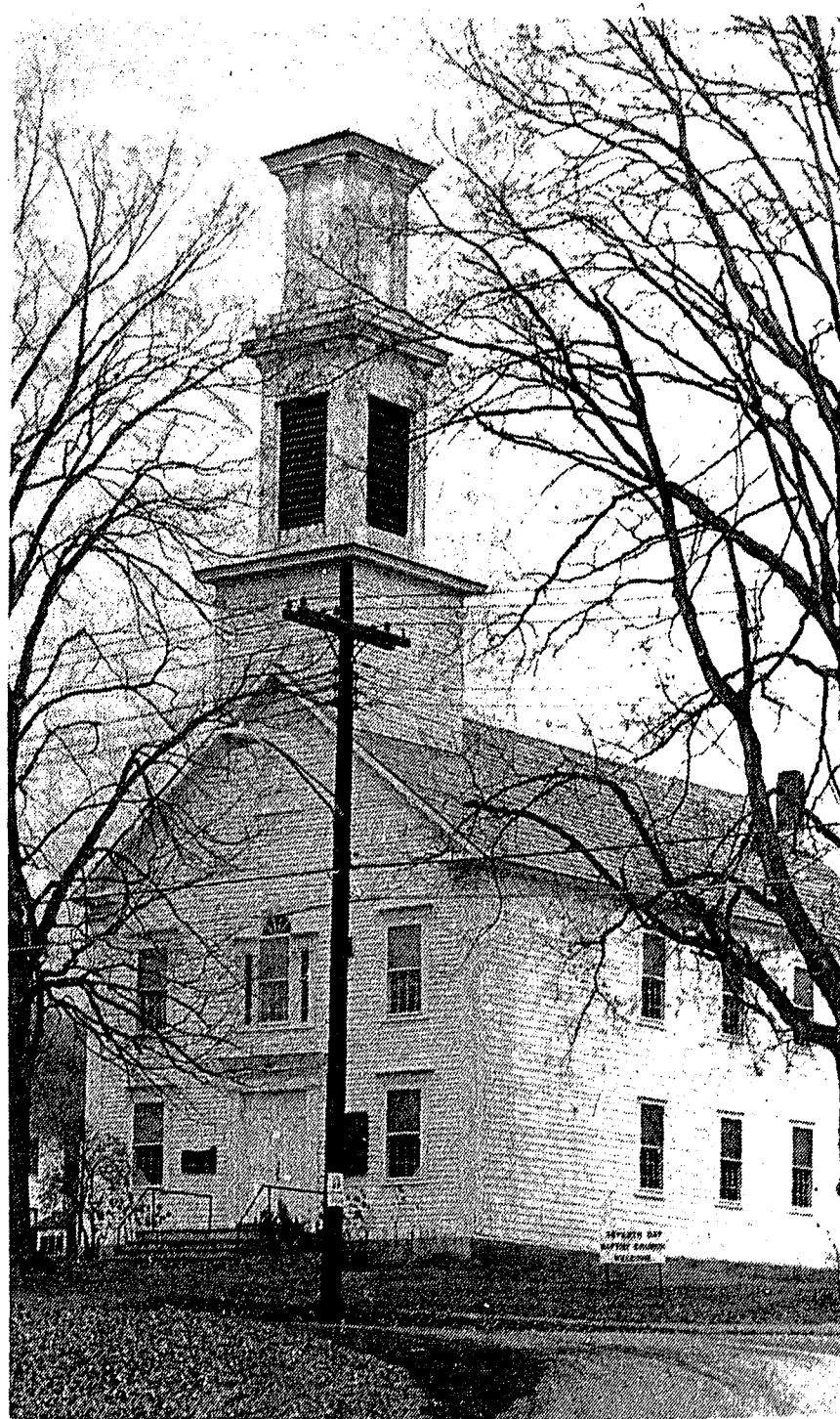
The high point of our bicentennial activities will come with a great weekend celebration on September 19 and 20, 1980. The Sabbath Eve program will be a visualized history of our church which is being prepared by Tony and Ellen Yarmchuk. Sabbath Day we will recognize both the joy of the past and the promise of the future as we celebrate in worship with the Rev. Charles H. Bond of Shiloh,

NJ, as the anniversary speaker. After the homecoming dinner, there will be a program of memories, including the reading of communications from individuals and churches. This program will conclude with a Communion service led by the former pastor for many years, the Rev. Paul L. Maxson. The original Communion ware, including the common cup, will be used during the Communion service.

The Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church cordially invites its friends and representatives from sister churches to attend these bicentennial programs. We also solicit your letters of greetings and good wishes. Especially, we covet your prayers as we enter a new century, that our life as a church may be pleasing and useful to God. Overnight accommodations will be provided by members of the congregation for those who wish to spend the night with us.

Please direct your communications to the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church, P.O. Box 284, Berlin, NY 12022. □

-Irene B. Greene



The Sabbath Recorder

PRAYER ROOM DEDICATED

LOS ANGELES, CA—Although the Los Angeles church has had an upper room, designated as a prayer room, since the building was built and occupied, it has been but a bare room behind the stained glass of the church tower. The room has been used at various times as a class room or left vacant because of the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter (cold in southern California?).

Spurred on by gifts for a memorial to Alice Virginia Mackintosh, the refurbishing of the prayer room was begun. The plans for remodeling were done by Albyn Mackintosh, and he, and other church members were busy most of 1979 to complete those plans.

In January of 1980, our new prayer room was dedicated, to be used the year around for prayer and in service for our Lord.

The room now has an entrance of its own with a cork board at the bottom of the stairs, for prayer requests to be posted. The ceiling of the room has been tapered up to expose the whole of the verticle stained glass window. Installed in front of the window is a clear glass pane on which is etched free standing "praying hands"; in front of the window is a raised circular altar and a kneeling rail, carpeted the same as the floor. At the ends of the room, the walls are draped, with indirect lighting behind the valance. On the wall opposite the altar, our assistant pastor, Peter Morris has painted a mural, depicting in part, scenes from the life of Christ. There are other scenes in the painting portraying events from Genesis to Revelation.

Every Sabbath morning our pastor gathers with others, in the prayer room, to pray for the congregation and the services.

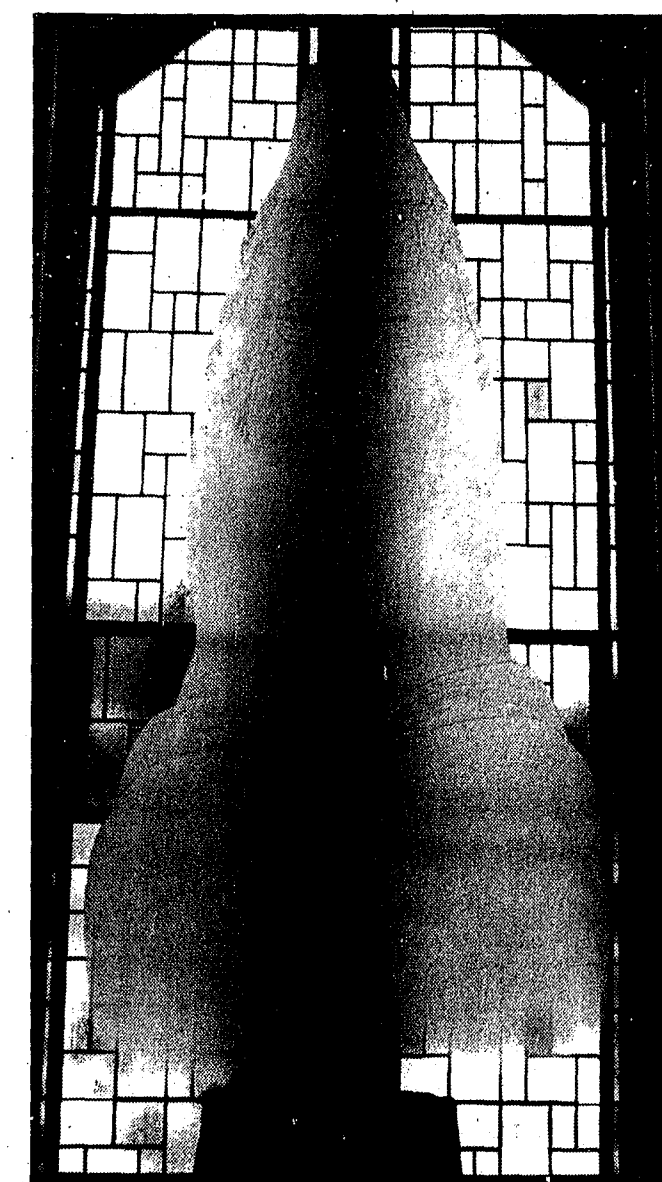
Whenever you are in Los Angeles, come and worship with us, and spend some time in our new prayer room, where you can commune with God in a room dedicated to Him. □

-Hilda Gillespie

● The North Jersey SDB Church is relocating to its own property this fall. In order to identify with the new community, North Jersey has changed its name to Raritan Valley Seventh Day Baptist Church.



This mural was painted by Peter Morris for the new prayer room of the Los Angeles church.



These praying hands are etched in clear glass above the altar in the prayer room of the Los Angeles church.

DEACONS CONSECRATED IN SEATTLE

SEATTLE, WA—A beautiful Sabbath service culminating in the dedication of three leaders to our church diaconate was held, Sabbath July 12. Pastor Davis' message, based on Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3 was on "The Person God Uses."

Statements of testimony and Christian experience were given by Lois Kerwin, David L. Inabnit, Sr., and Larry Sanford. Sabbath School classes had a special study on deacons and their service in the church.

At the celebration worship, a dedication prayer was offered by Pastor Wayne Babcock of Centralia, and Deacon Richard Steele of Portland Area SDB Church gave a "Welcome to the Diaconate" address. Others participating in the dedication service included Deacon Vernon Williams of North Loup, Nebraska, SDB Church, and Sarah Becker, deaconess at Centralia SDB Church. □

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY SABBATH, OCTOBER 1980

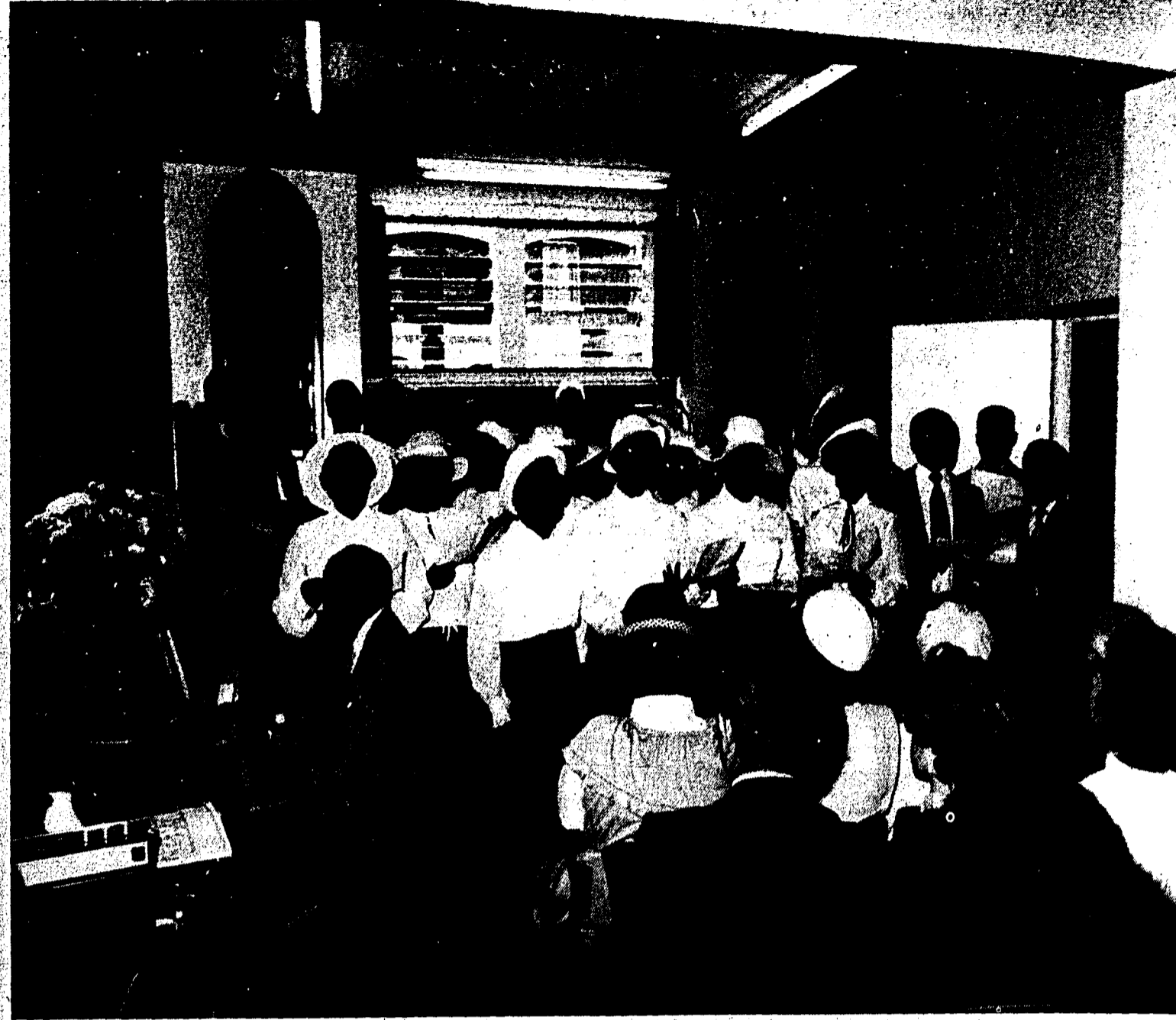
Let's observe American Bible Society Sabbath in October this year. Each church can decide on the Sabbath for Bible emphasis. We suggest that a special offering be taken for the American Bible Society. The check/gift can be sent through OWM marked for the American Bible Society, or

it can be sent directly to the ABS. Be sure to indicate that it is from a Seventh Day Baptist so that we can receive proper credit.

C. Harmon Dickinson,
representative for the
American Bible Society



Rev. A. L. Peat and Mrs. Olive Gelleff at the door of the new Mill Yard Chapel. Mrs. Gelleff is the oldest member of the congregation.



The London church at worship features much singing. Seated behind the choir is Rev. Mynor Soper, U.S. representative to the official opening of the new building.

MILL YARD CHURCH BUILDING DEDICATED

LONDON, ENGLAND—"Take the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents" (Matt. 25:28). I could not help but think of that statement of Jesus when I was recently in London, England, for the opening of their new church home and for a week of revival services. For whatever reason, our people in England have not done so well for many years. Now the responsibility of Seventh Day Baptists has been given to another people. They are from another land and the color of their skin is different and their zeal for the Lord is great! Our Jamaican brethren, transplanted to England, have brought new life and vitality to this, the oldest living witness of Seventh Day Baptists.

Marian and I had the privilege of being with our brethren in London, England, when on May 18 they had an opening celebration for their very own house of worship. It was a great occasion. Approximately 200 friends of the church from the community, as well as from Holland, the U.S., and other parts of England, were on

hand to help celebrate.

How proud the people were who had worked so hard for that day! They had sacrificed time, money, sleep, and energy to see the building ready. In fact, a crew worked all night the last night putting on the finishing touches. That Sunday afternoon there were a number whose eyes were red from the lack of sleep for several weeks. They had worked late every night after coming from their regular jobs during the day. But behind the redness, you could see pride and joy in those eyes. They had so long looked forward to this day. And they had prayed and worked to make it come to pass. Now the result was a beautiful church sanctuary with Sabbath School class rooms upstairs, converted from one of London's traditional row houses. It happened because "the people had a mind to work" (Nehemiah 4:6).

During the period of celebration Elder A. L. Peat read Scripture and had a prayer of dedication, after which Mrs. Olive M. Gelleff, the oldest living member, officially opened the door and led the congregation inside to worship. There were

greetings and congratulations read from many. A delegation of seven came from Holland to be with them for this special occasion. The family of Mrs. Anderson, daughter of former Pastor James McGeachy, presented a large pulpit Bible in Pastor McGeachy's name. Mrs. Gelleff's daughter and family gave a bell concert.

Dr. R. Gerloff, professor of Theology at Birmingham University, gave the major address of the day, which was part of a book she has written about the history and work of Seventh Day Baptists in England. Several of our people who are preparing for the ministry have studied under her at the University School of Theology. According to Dr. Gerloff, Seventh Day Baptists have done more for the black-white relationships in England than any other church.

Speeches, music, testimonies, and fellowship continued until well past 9:00 p.m. Even then folks were reluctant to leave and give up the glory and excitement of that special day, which I believe marks a new day for Seventh Day Baptists in England. □

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The Sabbath Recorder



A view of the congregation of some 200 who gathered to celebrate a new day for Seventh Day Baptists in England.



The congregation gathered outside the church during the service that officially opened the new building as a house of worship. This church dates back to 1619!

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In the year 1899 Lieutenant Colonel T.W. Richardson was inducted into the pastorate of the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church in London. He served the church until his death in 1920, a period of twenty-one years. After his death the church was for a time without a pastor. Then the Lord provided an old friend of Pastor Richardson in the person of the Rev. Winston Haines, a retired Baptist minister. He served the church and helped to keep it alive from 1920-1928. During his pastorate the church met at the Argyle Hall, Seven Sisters Road. After a time the church removed to the Upper Holloway Baptist Church, where they rented a hall for Sabbath worship. The Mill Yard congregation continued to meet there for thirty-eight years.

During that time the Lord sent them His servant in the person of the Rev. James McGeachy in the year 1927. He became a member of the church in 1927 and became pastor in 1928. Pastor McGeachy served the church for forty years, the longest pastorate in the history of the church. During his ministry he held the commemoration service of the martyrdom of John James who was executed in 1661.

Pastor McGeachy retired from active service in 1969 leaving Pastor A.L. Peat in his place. Pastor Peat was inducted into the pastorate of the Mill Yard Church on March 7,

1970. After many years of faithful service our beloved and highly esteemed Pastor McGeachy was called away by death on Wednesday, January 9, 1980. His long and faithful ministry to the Mill Yard Church and his wisdom and ability which he exercised in love to the church will be held in grateful remembrance.

The dawn of a new day—God has raised up a new people for the continuation of His work in this country. It pleased the Lord that at the end of World War II, people from the West Indies migrated to England. Among the immigrants were a few members from the Jamaican Seventh Day Baptist church.

Having some knowledge of the Mill Yard Church from the history of Seventh Day Baptists and also the address of Pastor McGeachy through his book, *Tales from the East*, these people were able to establish contact with the church and join in worship services. When we first joined in worship there were some fourteen in the congregation. There were four of us Jamaicans namely, Brother Henry Wright and wife Louise, Sister Iris Codrington and Elder A.L. Peat. These four joined the church in 1958.

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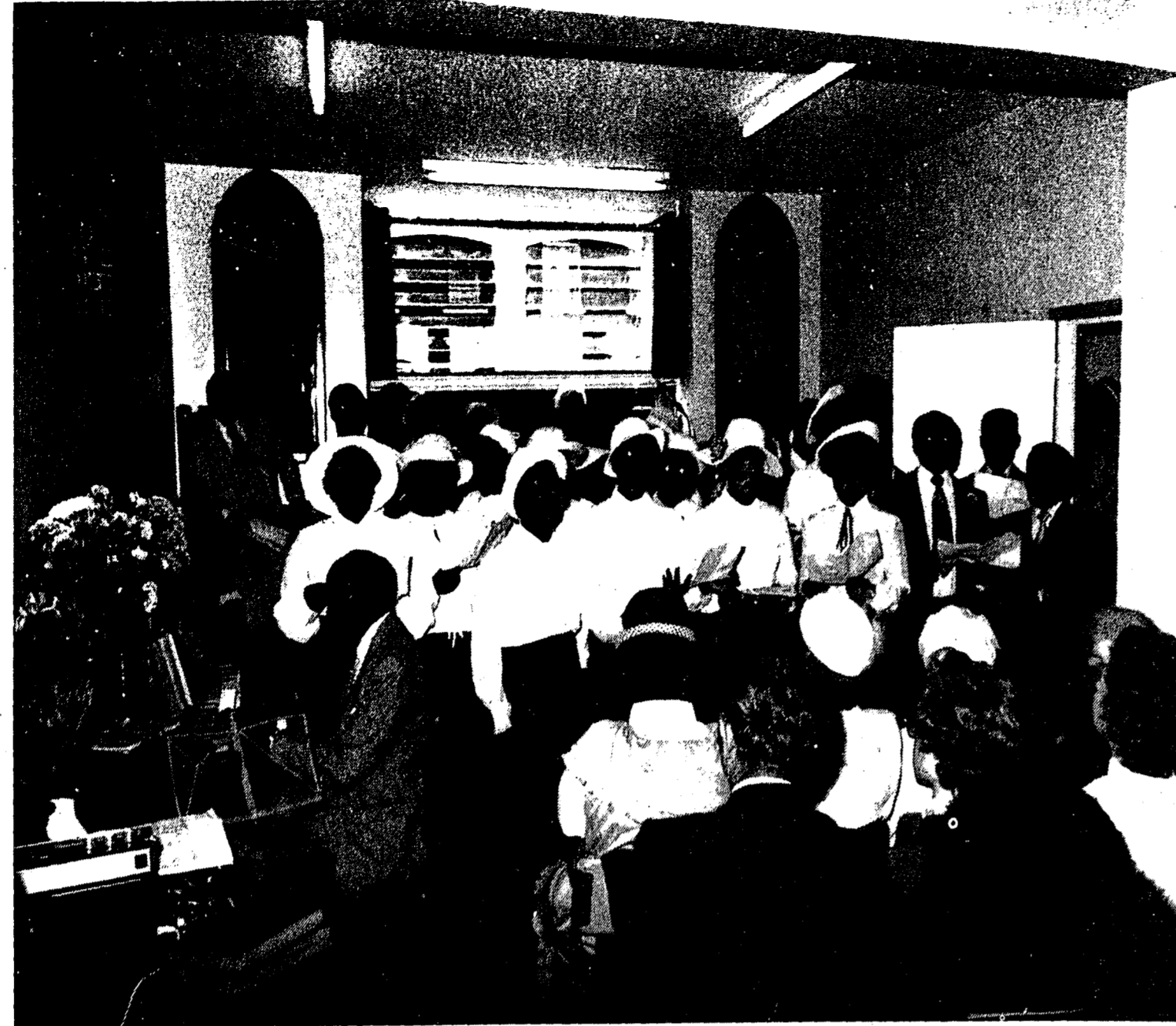
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On the first Sabbath in November 1977, a notice was sent asking us to vacate the building. This placed us in a very serious situation, worshipping there for thirty-eight years and then just at a moment in time asked to leave. However, God led us to the Sparling Road Infant School where we rented a hall for the next two years and three months. We rejoice that we now have use of our own facilities at 41 Vicarage Road, Tottenham N. 17, in London. Many thanks and much appreciation are due to Brother and Sister Codrington. They were very instrumental in our obtaining our own church building. This building was purchased for the sum of eight thousand five hundred pounds. The total cost including conversion came to approximately twenty-two thousand pounds.

Another noble figure of which we congratulate ever so much is Miss Maud Evans who has assisted the Mill Yard Church with music and singing for over fifty years. May God continue to lead and direct in the future ministry of the Mill Yard Church as we keep alive the noble witness of the past and look to the future with anticipation. □



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ACTIVE TIME AT KANSAS CHURCH

NORTONVILLE, KS—Don Chroniger joined us for worship, January 19. He left his work as youth minister at the Shiloh, NJ, SDB Church to continue his training at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, KS. He has been assistant to the pastor, giving the Children's Sermons and teaching them new songs, accompanying on the guitar. He's also an enthusiastic addition to the choir.

A Chili Supper and Game Night was enjoyed by all the night of February 2. Profits will go to the Youth Fellowship for hosting expenses of youth at Mid-Continent Association here in October. The YF also had charge of the morning worship services February 9.

Several families are taking the Moody Course—Keys to Happy Family Living. Lessons show how to be an "Adequate Person, Partner and Parent."

February was Literature Emphasis Month. Several Gideon representatives from Leavenworth worshipped with us on February 23, sharing "The Work of the Gideons for God." Pastor Paul Osborn reminded us that a witness should do three things (Mat. 5:1-16): Bear the Character of Christ, make people thirsty for Truth, and give light to Glorify God.

Each Sabbath time is given during worship service for a "Mini-Message" by Pastor Paul or others. This message is about the work of the denomination tuned toward OWM, new churches and new fields. During this time on March 8, John and Hope Bevis told us about the work and plans of the American Tract Society.

Several "Slide Sabbaths" were enjoyed at 4:00 p.m. followed with refreshments. January 26 Naomi Stephan with her sister and brother-in-law showed slides and told of their travels in Europe. On February 23 Bill and Marie Prentice showed slides of their recent visit to Germany and surrounding countries. On March 22, Zella Babcock provided an audio-visual project from a college course she had taken, on Ancient Rome Brought to Life.

Pastor Paul was responsible for daily devotionals over KARE, Atchison, KS, radio, during the week of March 24.

Several families attended the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts

March 24-29 in Kansas City.

Easter was truly an inspirational time this year. Friday evening two Christian couples (Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wagner and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wheeler) were baptized at a special vesper service. Each couple has two children so the witness was made before God, their church and their children.

During worship service Easter Sabbath these two couples gave their testimonies and asked for membership. The congregation and the new members joined in reading the church covenant in unison. Congregational singing, testimonies in Scripture, song and speech were offered followed by serving The Lord's Supper.

Following a short intermission, Don Chroniger led the children of the church in song as choir members assembled for presentation of the Easter cantata "Alive" by Joe E. Parks. This was one of the most beautiful services ever presented in our church. The music and message of the cantata ("Alive! JESUS IS ALIVE!") were especially inspirational and meaningful to all who attended or participated. A worship center of spring flowers and Easter lilies enhanced the meaning of the resurrection story.

Pastor Paul used the Conference theme as his sermon topic on April 12. That evening a Soup/Salad/Sandwich church family social was held for festive fellowship and fun.

April 19 worship services emphasized "The Return of Christ." Hymns and special music included "How Great Thou Art," "The King Is Coming" (choir anthem), "One Day" and "Coming Again." Sermon Scripture was 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11—JESUS IS ALIVE (Easter) and HE'S COMING AGAIN!

An item for praise and thanksgiving! Pastor, Muriel and Steve on 29 April at 10:30 p.m., returning from Leavenworth after Bible study, overtook a tractor and disk without lights or reflectors, demolishing their car, putting Muriel and Steve in the hospital for several days for observation and leaving Pastor with multiple bruises. Though they have all nursed wounds and bruises, we thank God for their recovery.

A box was placed in the vestibule of the church during April and May for collecting Bibles for donation to the World Home Bible League for redistribution.

While Pastor and family worshipped with Christ's Memorial Chapel in

Springfield, MO, 3 May, Don Chroniger led our worship and brought the morning message.

May 10 was Mother's Day and Nortonville Alumni Day. Mel Stephan (Boulder) brought the Mini-Message on Stewardship of time/attendance of Conference in Denver. Loren Osborn (Concord, NH) gave a tribute to mothers. Both are former members and Nortonville Alumni. Morning message was "Importance of Mothers" and the mothers of our younger children picked the hymns for the service. Each girl and woman present received a potted plant. That evening while some attended the banquet, others went to Kansas City for the Gaither concert.

May 17 was Sabbath Renewal Day. Special music and the sermon reminded us to honor God on His Day. That evening the church youth enjoyed a pizza supper in Leavenworth with the Kirk Loopers.

May 24 was Memorial Day Sabbath. The morning message "The Decline and Fall of the United States" brought a somber tone at Memorial time with points noted: Denying our Responsibilities; Defiling our Holiness; and Defying our Lord! During the service the graduates were recognized and each was given a book. Also honored and presented with a gift was Zella Babcock (church organist, church clerk and SS teacher) upon her retirement in recognition of her 38 years of teaching. "Yield Yourselves unto the Lord" was the challenge from the choir to the graduates. During the evening the graduates were honored at a Hot Dog Roast at the Warren Wheelers, near Lawrence.

The beautiful insulated white steel siding is now on our church building! The bill for \$11,200 has been paid in full. The 1978 and 1979 Lord's Acre Collection and \$3,430.83 from the General Fund were used. The 1980 Lord's Acre Collection will be used to replenish the General Fund. Some of the men installed insulation above the church ceiling so we look forward to a warmer church but lower gas bills next winter. Also some rewiring has been done.

The tape ministry continues to thrive going to shut-ins in Nortonville, and lone Sabbathkeepers in Junction City and Salina, KS; Kansas City and Springfield, MO; Des Moines, IA; and Clarkston, GA. The Sabbath Recorder is put on tape each month by Cheri Appel (DeSoto, KS) and Sharon DeForest (Junction City) for

circulation—especially for those who cannot see to read the Recorder.

Summer activities are in full swing. Pastor and Ira Bond are much involved in the Perry Lake Ministries and Ira also serves as treasurer. Three Protestant services are held each Sunday and one Catholic Mass. Camps, Pre-Con and Conference will add much to summer worship and fellowship. □

—Mrs. Merlin Wheeler

NEW AUBURN CHURCH DEDICATES NEW LIBRARY

NEW AUBURN, WI—The New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church dedicated its new library during Sabbath services on June 28. The bookcases were given to the church by Duane, Rodney, Douglas, Norris, and Warren North, in memory of

their mother, Mrs. Kittie Cole North, who passed away in 1978.

The "Kittie North Memorial Library" will house many of Kittie's books, as well as those the church has accumulated over the years. Books were made available to the community on a loan basis beginning July 15. □

CHURCH VERY ACTIVE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

RIVERSIDE, CA—Nearly eighty people gathered in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday evening, February 24, for our annual birthday dinner. Table decorations were appropriate for each month of the year and there was plenty of food and good fellowship. The birthday cakes, made and decorated by the men of the church of varying ages, were in the category of fantastic, unusual, beautiful and delicious. Six ladies, The Joyful Noise ("Make a joyful noise unto the Lord"), played their autoharps and led those assembled in old songs, both secular and sacred. The "Terrible Riders," four YF boys, put on a hilarious pantomime skit. To close the evening Pastor Wheeler gave a very fitting talk preceding the presentation of *The Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church History*, which was only ten hours from the bindery. He spoke especially of the "faith of our fathers" which the book expresses throughout its pages, work which was done not for the glory of men but to the glory of God, who has led us through-out these eighty-six years. After singing "Faith of Our Fathers" the books were given out to those who had sent in advance orders and sold to others. (There are still copies available which may be obtained through Mr. Ted Hambleton, distributor, at the church address.)

We were pleased one Sabbath in February to welcome Rev. Russell Havens of the Grace Christian Fellowship of San Diego to our service. Meetings of the fellowship are held each Sabbath Eve in the chapel of the University Christian Church on Cleveland Avenue. He continues to produce a series of "WORD OF TRUTH" radio broadcasts to air messages on Radio Station XEMO-860 AM each Saturday night at 9:30.

On Sabbath Eve, February 29, we met in the sanctuary for a musical evening. Doris Fetherston played a varied group of numbers on the organ. Doris always plays with such feeling and finesse that it quiets the hearts of the listeners and we can forget the week's busyness. Jennifer Lewis, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Philip Lewis, thrilled us with her interpretations of "O Rest in the Lord," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Love Was When," and other favorites. In closing she sang "My Tribute"—"to God be the glory, great things He has done" while Elizabeth Maddox showed slides of beautiful scenes, flowers and pictures of Jennifer's family. Those who were not present missed a beautiful evening and a wonderful treat.

Our April Communion around the tables in Fellowship Hall was inspiring as usual. Decorations of many Easter lilies were in charge of Ethel Wheeler and Georgia Whitlock and the lilies were used in the sanctuary for the Sabbath worship service.

In March, Pastor and Mrs. Wheeler with others from our church joined a group from our denomination for a three-weeks Bible Land Pilgrimage Tour. Pastor Wheeler has presented three interesting and enlightening evenings of Holy Land slides with appropriate comments.

The Pacific Coast Association met in the Los Angeles church in April. Gabriel Bejjani of the Community Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church in Stanton was the speaker on Friday evening. Russell Havens of the San Diego Fellowship gave the message Sabbath morning. In the afternoon the Ordination Service was held for Gabriel Bejjani. A report of this was given in the *Sabbath Recorder*.

Fifteen from the church attended the Basic Youth Conflicts held in Long Beach, April 21-26 and reported helpful and interesting sessions.

Barbara Holgate was in charge of the Children's Day program June 7 with a clever presentation of Noah's Ark by the children. A description isn't possible—one would have to see it to appreciate it. Nancy May, superintendent, made the presentation to the graduates.

In preparation for the summer camps beginning June 13 at Pacific Pines, all staffs were hosted at the home of Dr. Pete and Nancy May in Arcadia for dinner, fellowship and a Pacific Pines Camp Staff Orientation Session. Several work days were held at camp, but on June 1 forty people from the Riverside, Los Angeles and Stanton churches turned out to prepare the buildings and grounds for the camping season. Fun and fellowship were added to the hard work and much was accomplished.

This has been an unusual year in the addition to our fellowship of ten babies, our future Sabbath School and eventually workers in the church. With an enlarged and redecorated nursery and stack beds installed the Mother Goose Committee, a group of young mothers has been busy. Our nursery attendant of over twenty-five years finds her time during church services well occupied.

Four prayer groups meet each week and the Prayer Chain has been revised and reactivated.

We have been saddened by the death of several of our active members. People who have inspired us by their loyalty, their faith and their untiring efforts and prayers for God's work. It leaves a void which must be filled by those who are left to carry on the work.

We continue to be thankful for the blessings God has given us and the things He has for us to do. We pray the Riverside church may be able to carry on according to His will. □

—Maleta O. Curtis



A new church sign has been erected in Dodge Center, MN in memory of Marvin Lindahl. Randy Langworthy, church trustee, is shown accepting the gift from Charlotte (Mrs. Marvin) Lindahl.

INSTALLATION IS PLANNED

PLAINFIELD, NJ—An installation service for our new pastor, Rev. Victor W. Skaggs of North Loup, NE, is being planned for September 6 by Dr. K. Duane Hurley and Dean Herbert E. Saunders. A fellowship dinner will be followed by an informal session with Pastor Skaggs.

Our worship service June 21 was led by four Summer Institute students—Bill Shobe, who gave the message from 1 John, Dennis Palmer, Don Chroniger, who sang, and Rev. Jack Hays, who spoke to the children. The fellowship dinner gave us more chance to get acquainted with them. We had 22 visitors.

Rev. L. Sawi Thanga of Burma, nineteen members of the North Jersey church, and seven other visitors were with us for our July 5 Communion service, which was conducted by Elder Saunders. He had arranged twelve chairs on the platform with the names of Jesus' disciples, and he told us about each one, asking which ones we identified with. After Communion we adjourned for a delightful picnic dinner at the Saunders home.

Elder and Mrs. J.A. Nieuwstraten of Holland took part in our July 19 service, conducted by Deacon and Mrs. Hurley. The Hurleys shared some of the inspiration they had received from the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Toronto, July 8-13. Shireen and Corrie read 1 Corinthians 13 verse by verse in English and in Dutch. We sang

the theme song of the Congress, "People of the World, Rejoice." The sermon topic was "Celebrating Christ's Presence Through the Spirit," John 16:13. Another enjoyable picnic, honoring the Merchant family, took place at 5:30 at the Saunders home. The Merchants were given a money gift and an album of photos taken at the picnic.

Our pulpit has also been supplied recently by Jeanne Wilhelm, Pastor Kenneth Burdick, Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, Tom Merchant, Deacon Frederik Bakker, and Rev. Robert Bavender, director of the New Jersey Council on Alcohol Problems.

At our July church meeting Jeanne Wilhelm was thanked for her devoted service as administrative assistant, with an ice-cream cake labeled "Thank-you, Jeanne." We voted to give her partial support at Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, during the coming school year. We elected nine delegates to General Conference.

On June 15 a number of us enjoyed attending the fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration of Rev. and Mrs. Leon M. Maltby at the home of Mrs. Ruth Davis in Verona, NY. It was an exciting event with at least a hundred present.

A Bible study group has been studying the Holy Spirit on Monday mornings during the summer months.

We are awaiting our new pastor and his family with great anticipation. May the Lord give them health and safety in their travels. □

—Ruth Hunting Parker

ALLEGHENY ASSOCIATION

The Alfred SDB Church hosted the annual meeting of the Allegheny Association, May 16-19, 1980.

The main speaker on Sabbath morning was the Rev. Duane L. Davis, president of General Conference. Mr. Davis also spoke of Conference plans for this year's get-together at Loretto Heights College in Denver, Colorado, August 10-16.

Officers of the Association for 1980-81 are Craig Mix, moderator; Leta DeGroff, vice-moderator; Jean Snyder, recording secretary; Barbara Snyder, assistant recording secretary; Onnalee Saunders, corresponding secretary; Thelma Stearns, treasurer; David Snyder, Camp Planning Committee chairman; Rex Zwiebel, Missionary-Evangelism chairman; George Bottoms, Nelson Snyder and Donald Van Horn, trustees for three year; and Craig Mix and Steven Crouch, members of the General Conference Nominating Committee.

Amanda and Nelson Snyder reported that they held two overnight retreats for the associational youth.

We were reminded that Radio WLSV is broadcasting the SDB "Word of Truth" program recorded by the Rev. Russell Havens at 9:15 a.m. each Sabbath morning. The broadcasts started April 5 and will continue for 26 weeks.

The Association's 1979 camping season was declared a success. The Toronto, Canada, SDB Church was accepted into membership of the Association.

The budget as adopted calls for each church in the Association to contribute \$3.50 per member for the coming year's program.

The semiannual meeting of the Association will be held in the Richburg Church, October 17, 18. □

MARRIAGES

WORRALL-NIDA.—William E. S. Worrall, son of William and Elizabeth Worrall of Middleburg, Virginia, and Sylvia Marie Nida, daughter of Dr. Melvin G. and Jeanett Dickinson Nida of Salem, West Virginia, were united in marriage on May 10, 1980 in St. Mary's Chapel of Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C., by the bride's uncle, Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, assisted by Rev. J. Paul Green, pastor of the Salem, W.V., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

ACCESSIONS

ADAMS CENTER, NY
Stephan Saunders, Pastor

By Baptism:
Belva Roberts
Betty Salisbury
Malcolm Salisbury

ALFRED, NY
Thomas J. Sostar, Pastor

By Baptism:
Mrs. Mildred Knight
Roger McGraw
Edwina (Mrs. Bruce) Stubbs
Bruce R. Stubbs
Richard Osborne
Robert E. Volk

By Letter:
Beverly Austin (Mrs. David) Snyder
Roger Gardner
Penny (Mrs. Roger) Gardner

COLUMBUS, OH
Dale D. Thorngate, Pastor

By Baptism:
Cynthia A. (Mrs. Dale D., II) Thorngate

By Letter:
Lawrence O. Watt

CHRIST S.D.B. CHURCH
LITTLE ROCK, AR
James M. Mitchell, Pastor

By Testimony:
Mrs. Ola Taylor

DENVER, CO
Edgar F. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:
Jack Hunt

By Testimony:
Kathi White

DODGE CENTER, MN

By Baptism:
Melanie (Mrs. Roger) Langworthy
Nadine Theilbar

LITTLE ROCK, AR

By Testimony:
Mrs. Pat Darnell

MEMPHIS, TN
William Shoffner, Pastor

By Baptism:
Melissa Shackelford
Joshua Shoffner
Debbie Adams
Mrs. Pat Harp

NORTH LOUP, NE
Victor W. Skaggs, Pastor

By Baptism:
Twila Cargill
Dan Lippincott
Shawn Severance
Gary Williams

PAINT ROCK, AL
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Letter:
June (Mrs. Raymond) Kenyon
Raymond Kenyon
Joanna Pearson

VERONA, NY
Russell G. Johnson, Pastor

By Baptism:
Francis Suits

BIRTHS

CRIDER.—A daughter, Britney, to Jeffery and Barbara Crider of Ashaway, RI, on May 25, 1980.

MARSH.—A son, Lucas Adriyel, to Gary and Trina (Kenyon) Marsh, of North Stonington, CT., on July 16, 1980.

MAY.—A daughter, Kate Elizabeth, was born to Charles and Julie May on June 22, 1980, in Riverside CA.

PARMELEE.—A daughter, Elizabeth Anne, to Asahel and Annita (Wheeler) Parmelee, of Utica, MI, on June 27, 1980.

OBITUARIES

APPEL.—Dollie Joanna Lewis, daughter of Joseph and Eugenia Gibbs Martin, was born near Stonefort, Illinois, on February 16, 1892 and died in Riverside, California, on May 24, 1980. She had served as deaconess in the Marlboro, NJ, Daytona Beach, FL, Stonefort, IL and Riverside, CA, churches.

She was married to Robert Ira Lewis on June 3, 1912; together they farmed in Illinois, Arkansas, and New Jersey; Ira was employed as a carpenter in New Jersey and California. After his death in 1953, Dollie worked as a private duty nurse until her marriage to Albert A. Appel of Stonefort in 1959.

After Albert's death in 1973, she moved back to Riverside, CA, and there spent her remaining years.

She is survived by seven sons: Edwin Paul Lewis, of Marlboro, NJ; James Ford of Sacramento, CA; Robert Samuel of Marietta, GA; Norman S. of Plano TX; Philip H. of Riverside, CA; Alfred E. of N. Little Rock, AR; and Murray M. of Lewisburg, PA; also by two stepsons, Edward Appel of Stonefort, IL, and Rev. Addison Appel, of Edgerton, WI; thirty-two grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church and burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, both conducted by her pastor, Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, and with special music by her granddaughter, Jennifer Lewis.

—A.L.W.

DAVIS.—Reba (Lamb) Maine Davis, 87, of Ashaway, RI, died on July 15, 1980. She was born March 21, 1893 in North Stonington, CT, daughter of F. Milton and Jerusha (Partelo) Lamb. Her first husband, Clarence W. Maine died Aug. 19, 1946. Her second husband, Daniel W. Davis, died Aug. 21, 1967. Surviving are a son Claude L. Maine of Ashaway; a daughter Hilda Harrison of Stonington, CT; six granddaughters; fifteen great-grandchildren; and three stepchildren: Elsie Yost of Burlington, NJ, Elton Davis of McLean, VA, and Raymond Davis of Pitman, NJ. The funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Gordon P. Lawton. Interment was in Union Cemetery, North Stonington, CT. —H.B.

MAXSON.—Kenneth was born Dec. 28, 1925 in Milton, WI, and died at Veterans Hospital, Madison, WI, on July 24, 1980. He was the son of the late Rolland Maxson and Melva Thorngate Maxson. He graduated from Milton College. He was married to Glendolyn Stevens. To this union was born one daughter, Misty. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Earl Cruzan from the Albrecht Funeral Home in Janesville on July 28, 1980. Cremation followed. —E.C.

WILLARD.—Etta Adell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Root, and widow of Edwin Clyde Willard, was born October 18, 1889, and died in the Wellsville Nursing Home, Wellsville, New York, July 24, 1980.

She was a member of the Union Industrial Society of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church for many years, and became a member of that church on March 22, 1975.

She was wed to Mr. Willard on September 29, 1909. Etta was known for her honesty, loyalty, and love for her husband, community, and church.

Farewell services were held in the chapel of the Robertson Funeral Home, July 26, 1980, conducted by her pastor, the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel. Interment was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery, Alfred, New York. —R.E.Z.

WILLIAMSON.—Ruth Randolph, was born February 23, 1897 in Great Kills, Staten Island, NY, the daughter of Esle Fitz and Lucy Davidson Randolph and died July 29, 1980 in Amityville, NY.

On September 15, 1931 she married Dr. Francis Walcott Williamson of Brooklyn, NY, where they lived until 1955 when they moved to Massapequa, Long Island, NY. After graduating from Alfred University and the University of Michigan Ruth taught high school in West New York and South Orange, New Jersey, previous to her marriage.

She was a member of the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church until it disbanded in 1950.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Ruth W. McKee and May W. Britton; and her sister Virginia Randolph MacIntyre. She is also survived by nine grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Richard Williamson. Interment was in Pinelawn Cemetery on Long Island.

—V.R.M.

Recorder Reactions

No high crime ever committed on this Earth cries more loudly to be exposed than does the murdering of some 7 million babies during the past seven years!

Webster's Dictionary defines this type of blood-orgy as "abortionicide." That act ranks with such other types of murder as "infanticide" and "homicide." As for the claim, by some, that the right to commit this type of murder is "God-given," please try to find sanction for it in God's Holy Word. If no sanction is given, we're being told a lie!

My Bible lists seven evils that the Lord especially hates. One of those is "hands that shed innocent blood" (Proverbs 6:16-19). What blood can be more innocent than that of a babe not yet born? Also, in the New Testament, our Savior pronounces an awful fate upon anyone who "offendeth one of these little ones" (Matthew 18:6).

As for the claim that so-called "legal" abortions, being less dangerous, are more "Christian" than are the old, illegal, "Coat-hanger" type—that claim is disgustingly ridiculous! Just why be so solicitous over the life of a murderer?

Holy Scripture tells us, "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." Should not that precept apply to murderous women as well as to men? Again, Exodus 21:24, decrees: "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a life for a life." In the eyes of a just God, death is exactly what the shedder of innocent blood deserves.

Basing one's judgment on the precepts of Holy Scripture, there could be only one situation that would—at least in my opinion—justify the terminating of a pregnancy. Any woman who has been victimized by a rapist is in danger of having become infected by venereal disease. For her own safety, she should see a physician at once—within hours, if possible—and have her body thoroughly decontaminated. This should take care of any possible pregnancy problem, along with the chance of being diseased.

People ask me how long I think that our nation can stand against the present threat of communist world take-over. My answer is that it will stand just as long as, in the eyes of almighty God, it deserves to stand, and not a day longer!

Wording it in the language of God's Holy Word, when our "iniquity has come to the full" (Genesis 15:16), then will our end come. Never in world history has mankind—even including the most benighted heathens—slaughtered innocent infants as we so-called "Christians" have done over the past seven years.

As for what the faith of our Founding Fathers stood for, the Declaration of Independence that preceded our Constitution states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are *created equal*, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are *life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*." Surely, our Constitution does not fly in the face of the Declaration which preceded it!

Please notice! The above quote does not say "born equal"—it says "*created equal*!" Every human life is created many months before it is born! The "Right to Life" proclaimed above *must* apply to *all* human beings, whether their birth is already past or whether it is soon to be.

I firmly believe that the Hand of a loving God must have guided the pens of the writers of both of the above-named documents! Which do you prefer—God-given life, or man-decreed murder?

How long does a nation deserve to exist that has become so morally rotten that its citizen-elected government hires, at taxpayers' expense, professional baby-butchers to murder 1 million of its God-given innocents per year?

—Myron K. McPherson, Sr.
Randle, Washington

• • •

Christians have neglected political action too long. The worldly will not save America.

Since 1977 America is experiencing an accelerating moral and spiritual decline. Evil is winning because the forces of righteousness are apathetic and complacent.

Our national political leaders, who are leading America astray, are secular humanists who fear neither God nor man. But God's miraculous power is available if Christians will repent and get involved. God despises a nonrepentant people.

Our first step is a contrite heart—when visible hope has vanished. The second step is to "Put on the whole armor of God..." (Eph. 6:11a). Half secure is futile. Third is to vote intelligently for conservative, God-fearing leaders who oppose sin, oppression, secular humanism, and Communism. Without God's guidance America has little hope.

—Charles W. Engel
R#2, Box 129
Lott, Texas 76656



Crossfire—16 mm, color, 56 minutes. Audience: adult, youth—evangelistic theme.

Torn between the terrorist and the Christian, Shelly struggles for the answers and in the process stumbles upon plans to bomb a crowded plaza. In another section of the city the terrorist is undergoing a dramatic confrontation with the power of God and His Word.

And, as the last remaining seconds on the bombs tick away, Shelly, the Christian and the terrorist join

DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

Sept. 21
Annual and Quarterly Meetings
American Sabbath Tract Society
Plainfield, NJ

Sept. 28
SDB N.Y. State Council
Syracuse, NY

Oct. 3-4
Yearly Meeting, NJ and Eastern
NY churches
Shiloh, NJ

Oct. 4
New England Yearly Meeting
Meeting House
Newport, RI

Oct. 4
Harvest Home—Homecoming
SDB Church
Paint Rock, AL

Oct. 10-12
North Central Association
White Cloud, MI

Oct. 12
Memorial Fund Meeting
Plainfield, NJ

Oct. 19
Board of Christian Education
Quarterly Meeting
Alfred, NY

Oct. 26
Missionary Society
Quarterly Meeting
Westerly, RI

Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Family Camp
SDB NY State Council

forces in a desperate race against the clock.

Filmed on location in Puerto Rico, "Crossfire," is a dynamic account of the power of God's Word. A mighty evangelistic tool, "Crossfire" speaks to Christian and non-Christian alike in terms they will not soon forget. Rental \$85.00. Order from: Quadrus Films, 610 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104. □

Make Friends with Russia or Make War with Russia Which?

by Rev. Paul S. Burdick

Many voices have been heard insisting on what to do with Russia, in response to her occupation of Afghanistan. Cutting off of grain shipments; boycotting the Olympic Games; shutting off technological assistance; building up our military power so much that no one would dare attack us; but has anyone suggested that we might try to make friends of the Russian people and their government?

There are many reasons why we should try the latter course. Beside the danger that we shall build up and use our military power until the world becomes a holocaust, there are the day-to-day reasons that the poor, the jobless, the racially disadvantaged, are not getting a fair share economically, educationally, or in the distribution of homes.

Peace with Russia

But do the Russians want to be our friends? The *National Geographic* for June 1979 tells of an exchange of young farmers with a similar group from Russia. They worked on each others' farms. Our visitors to Russia, mostly 4H members, found that the most frequently asked question of the Russian people was, "Why do American people want war with us?" The answer had to be, of course, "We don't want war any more than you do." Other visitors to Russia have found a friendly people. No marching to a military leader bent on world

conquest. At least two overtures for peace have been made by their leaders.

One was the offer to cut their military budget by ten percent, giving one-tenth of that saving to third world countries, if other great nations would do the same. The immediate response from the poorer nations who would be helped by this plan would be evidence that the plan was being carried out. The other "trial balloon" or peaceful offer was to bring home ten thousand troops and one thousand tanks from East Germany, representing about 15 percent of her forces there, as well as reducing her medium range SS20 nuclear missiles located in western Russia, if the U.S. and other Western nations would make the decision not to place new medium range nuclear missiles in Europe. We gave the offer no consideration, but continued with our plan, even though the Russians went ahead with their withdrawal.

But what of their occupation of Afghanistan? Isn't that a warlike gesture? George Kennan, an authority on Russian affairs thinks that it was a mistake and will be so recognized by Russian leaders, as was our occupation of Vietnam. What about their treatment of Jews and of some Christians? Isn't that a denial of human rights, and so an obstacle to a friendly approach? Yes, that and many other things go back to the 1917 revolution. But when the results of friendly cooperation are

to be considered, both their strange ways, and what they see in us to be criticized, may change, when the alternative—which is *war*—is to be considered.

Because war in any of its forms must bring, sooner or later, the use of nuclear weapons, and atomic devastation. If Hitler had had these weapons, he surely would have used them against England and London, especially when faced with defeat and surrender.

No more "gentlemanly" wars

And don't forget that we used them against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to "save American lives," we said. Using the same logic, we would use them again to "save American lives." War is no longer a "gentleman's" game. The soldier goes no longer bravely forward to "save home and country." The devastation will be behind him, and he goes forth to work devastation on enemies' cities. Our own faith in God, and desire to follow the teachings of Jesus, to "love your enemies," and words to Peter, "put up your sword into its place. They that take the sword shall perish with the sword," may be matched by those of the Russians whose technical and humanitarian education may have fitted them to take over the New Russia. The Old Guard, who still remember 1917, must be replaced in time. They are old, some are sick, and will go the way of Stalin and others of their generation. □

Building Better in the Eighties

(Continued from page 15)

Be our joy three parts again
Strive and count cheap the strain
Dare, never grudge the throw."

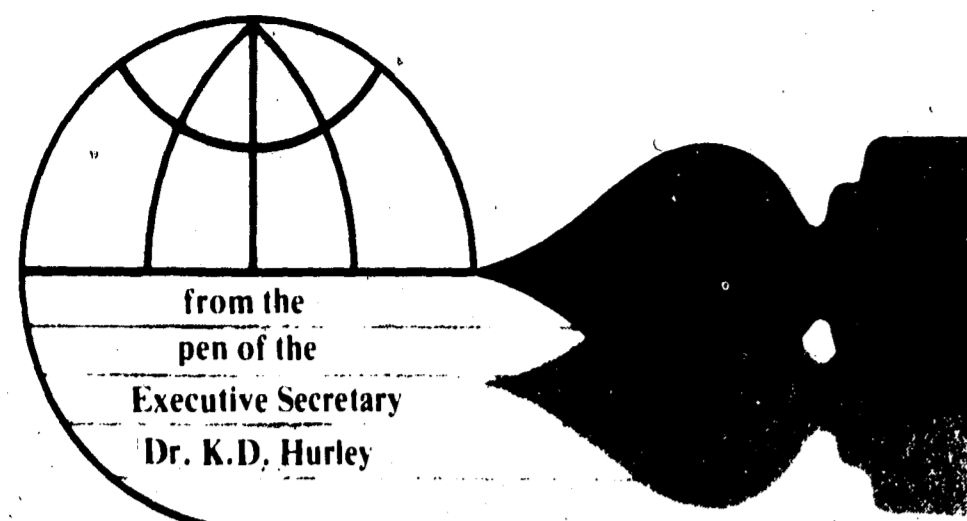
Because life is rooted in God we must build on the foundation of God's benevolent grace.

Henry J. Kaiser was a good and great man—a Christian Industrialist. It was my privilege to introduce him in 1955 when he addressed 1,500 people in Ravenswood, West

Virginia. In closing his speech he said: "In each of us there is a spark of God." It is surely the same spark which guided George Washington to become the founder of our nation...it is the same spark which provides the means which in teamwork we can all of us together...build our destiny.

Perhaps it is the same spark which inspired a great poet to write:

"I sought to hear the voice of God,
and climbed the topmost steeple.
But God declared: 'Go down again,
I dwell among the people.'" □



“...PRESS TOWARD THE MARK...”

The “climate” is essentially right, it seems to me, for our denomination to make real progress during the Decade of Discipleship. That is not to say we do not have problems to overcome—we do! But differences of opinion can serve as “Divine tension” to keep us on our toes and moving in the right direction. There is no reason why we cannot rise above any difficulties or handicaps or uncertainties, if we unreservedly commit ourselves to Christ and wholeheartedly—relying upon His guidance and reflecting His love—devote ourselves to His Cause.

Planning and Goal Setting

To engage in thorough planning and to set realistic goals are among the prime requisites to success.

We have made a good start along these lines. All of us have been challenged by the Decade of Discipleship to set personal goals. Churches have been invited, through a voluntary recording and reporting process, to establish specific objectives for the 80's. Churches, boards and agencies are being encouraged to use a “program-action” technique in budgeting, which emphasizes goal attainment rather than dollar getting and spending. The Coordinating Leadership Team has focused attention on long range planning and the coordination of all denominational resources in carrying out the plans.

Now, vigorous follow-through on goal setting and planning is imperative. As Bobbie Knight, winning basketball coach for Indiana State University, said: “Everyone has the will to win; very few have the will to prepare to win.”

Experts on organizational management generally agree that strategic planning cannot work unless the people involved are convinced that “planning needs to be done,” and

they “are willing to live with the plan and enforce its implementation.”*

Evangelistic Outreach

To have “tools” and to know how to use them are vital if church members are to be effective in carrying out the Great Commission.

The first line of evangelistic advance is formed by the churches. The people in the pews have to be activated; and the pastors in the pulpits must be inspired. The boards and agencies play a key role in this regard, responsible for providing the resource materials to educate and train; to stimulate and challenge; to encourage and affirm; and to communicate and motivate. Effective and efficient use of resources is imperative if we are to succeed in our Decade of Discipleship.

In a recent *Christian Leadership Letter* (World Vision International), the concept of “building for growth” was summed up as follows:

“In order to be effective in their ministry, organizations need noble purpose, clear goals, motivated and skilled people, adequate resources and good communications.”

Coordination and Cooperation

To take FULL advantage of the Decade of Discipleship and really “double”—or *better*—the size and the ministries of the denomination in the ten-year period will require FULL coordination and cooperation among the boards and the agencies and the people.

Again, a good start has been made. Three years of specific study and analysis of denominational structure and procedures have been completed. Inter-agency consultations have been

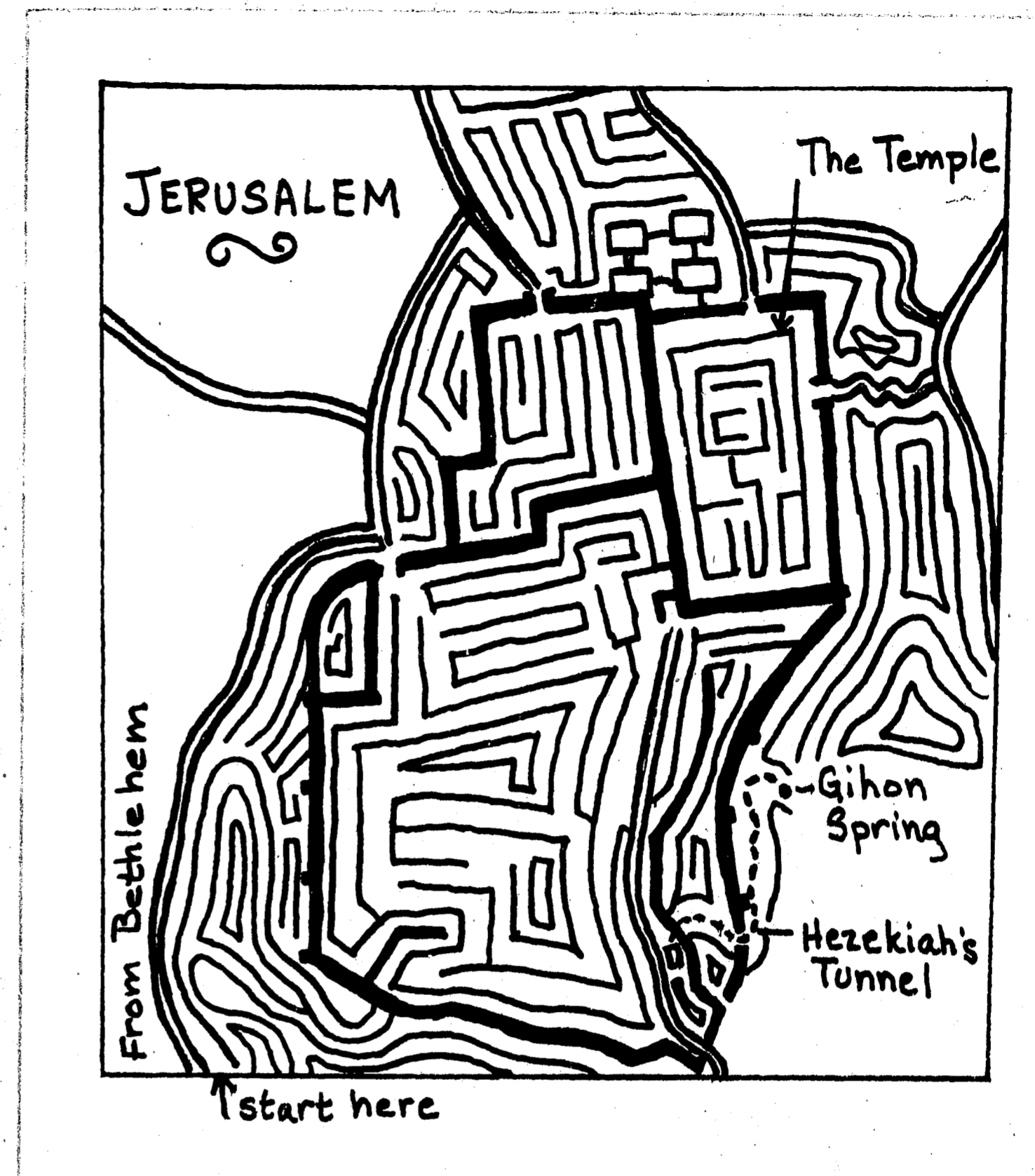
held to help eliminate possible overlapping of efforts and to explore ways to further coordinate planning and programming. Boards and agencies are beginning to employ personnel jointly and explore ways to meet personnel needs through shared resources. There is an evident desire to accomplish voluntarily what needs to be done to perfect our organization as an instrument for accomplishing God's will among and through Seventh Day Baptists.

Winthrop S. Hudson in his book entitled *Baptists in Transition* traces very clearly “a basic schizophrenia” in Baptist denominational life in America—“a schizophrenia rooted in contradictory understandings of the Christian faith and manifesting itself in antithetical methods of organization.” He describes one polarity which places emphasis completely on the group at large—the organization, the “body of Christ.” The other extreme is characterized as “highly individualistic...rooted in the conviction that God's primary interest—indeed, exclusive interest—is in the individual Christian.”

The author, in his analysis of the situation, seems to “come down on the middle ground,” viewing the local church as part of a larger whole; believing “that all Christians, as members of one body, belong together. While they must in necessity assemble in particular local churches, they are not unrelated to other particular local churches. [This] point of view is based upon a concern for unity.”

With reference to work of the American Baptist Churches Study Commission on Denominational (Continued on page 30)

**Reid Report*—Russ Reid Company (“Serving Organizations That Serve People”) Pasadena, California. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

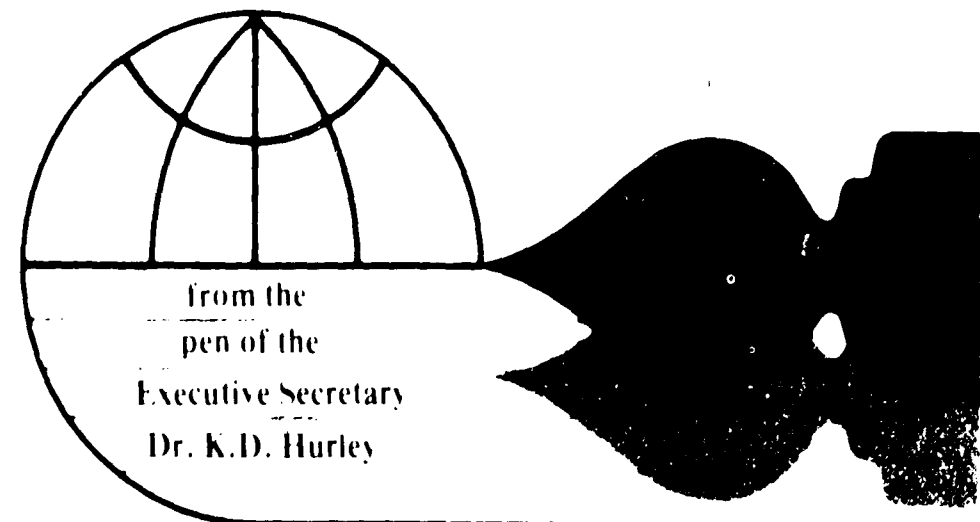


A Trip Through Jerusalem

This month we will take a trip through Jerusalem, where Solomon built a Temple to worship God. The dark lines in the maze represent the walls of Jerusalem as they were when Jesus was living. You will enter the maze on the road from Bethlehem and leave through Hezekiah's Tunnel, on the dotted line.

King Hezekiah was a good king, and he did a lot of good things for the people of Jerusalem. One thing he did was to make a tunnel to carry water from Gihon Spring, outside of the city,

to the Pool of Siloam, inside the city. This meant that people would not have to go so far to get water. Some men started drilling through the rock inside the city, while others started tunneling near the Gihon Spring. Because God was with them, the men knew where to drill so that the tunnel would meet in the middle. You can read about King Hezekiah's Tunnel in 2 Kings 20:20 and 2 Chronicles 32:30. Memory verse: “Throughout all Judah, King Hezekiah did what was right and what was pleasing to the Lord his God” (2 Chronicles 31:20 TEV). □



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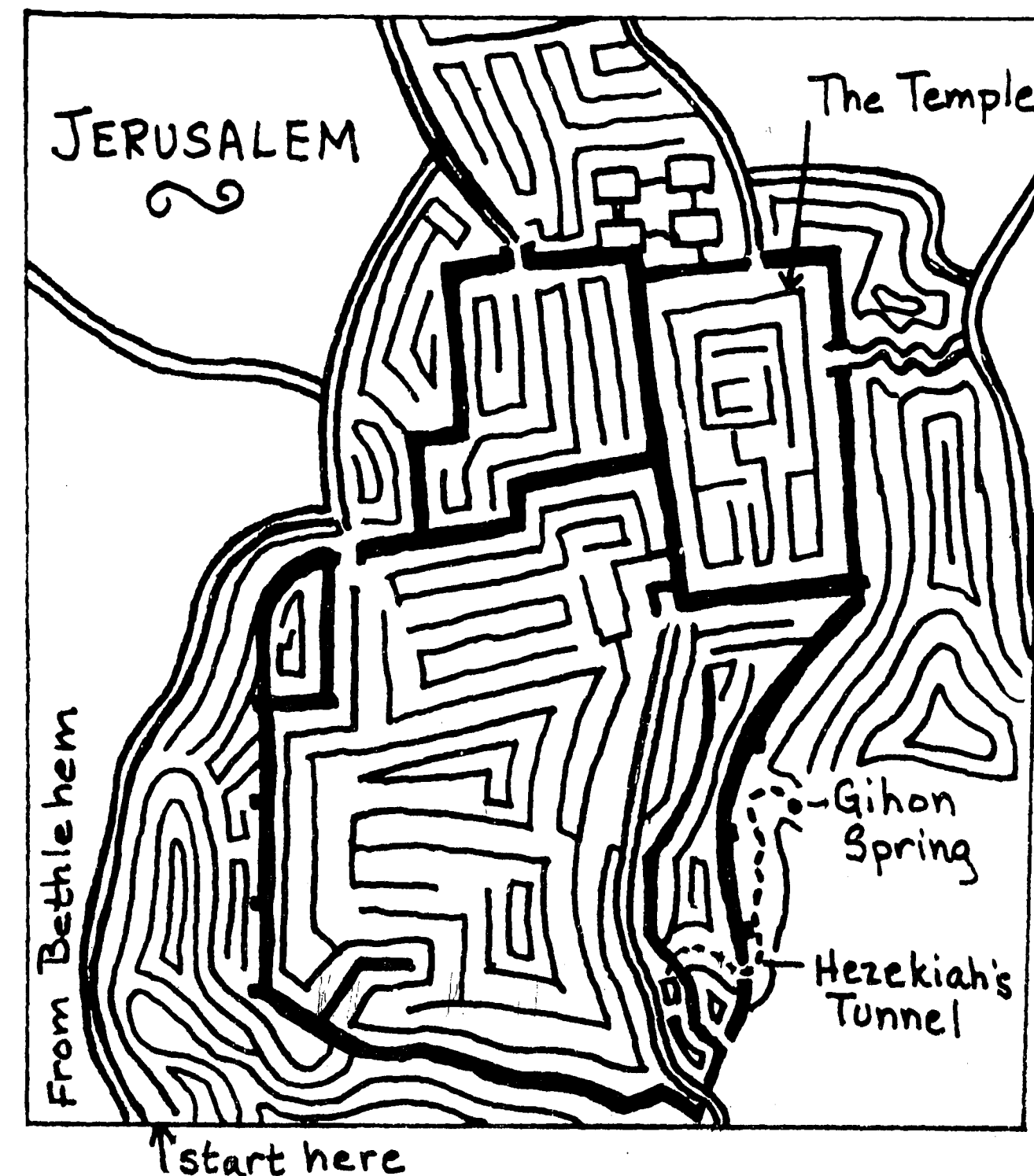
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"...Press Toward the Mark..."

(Continued from page 28)

Structure, he declares that the thrust was

"to recover the balance between independence and interdependence by combining authority with accountability and by seeking to achieve unity without a completely centralized consolidation. Such a delicate balance is difficult to maintain. The tendency always is to tilt in one direction or the other. Executive Committees tend to accumulate authority by neglecting and ignoring procedures and accountability, while disbursed units of administration (including local churches) often tend to become unduly self-assertive at the expense of structures designed to express and promote unity. Even the most carefully devised structure is unlikely to provide cohesion unless it is undergirded by the consensus of a common purpose, by a common accepted style of doing things arising from common programming, and by loyalty engendered by respected and esteemed leaders. For Baptists in transition, these are considerations to be kept in mind that are quite as important as formal structure and organization."

Essentially, I think this is where Seventh Day Baptists are now—trying to find "the delicate balance," the legitimate halfway point between centralized, autocratic, dictatorial control and scattered, unbridled, individualistic autonomy.

Biblical Basis for Actions

Dr. Wayne R. Rood, when he edited the *Manual of Procedures for Seventh Day Baptist Churches* in 1972, highlighted this—perennial search when he declared in Chapter 2:

"The local Seventh Day Baptist Church is autonomous: it organizes as it feels God leads it to organize. It accepts programs and procedures as it believes God directs..."

The local Seventh Day Baptist Church is dependent: its autonomy is conditioned by the associational principal just as

individuals gather in churches to be strengthened by mutual faith, mutual concern, and mutual support, so churches gather into larger bodies for mutual benefit and strength...

Seventh Day Baptist Churches are involved constantly in the search for a balance between local autonomy and the associational principal. Changing times, modern attitudes, new developments in government and education, all help to shape present thought and action; but Seventh Day Baptists are largely agreed that in a balance between the two principals is to be found the best relationship..."

As we continue to strive to determine "the best relationship" for this day and time among the various entities of the denomination, we need to study and reaffirm the theological reasons for our beliefs and polity and determine the Biblical basis for our actions rather than to act and react (as sometimes we do, I fear) out of emotions and/or tradition.

A Reconciling Ministry

It is impossible, some may say, for Seventh Day Baptists with their long tradition of "scattered" administration, their limited resources, their fewness in numbers, their diversity in beliefs and practices to grow and prosper. I do not believe this is true.

My faith in the future of our denomination is strong. I believe we are in the process through Commitment to Growth and Decision to Discipleship of strengthening our theological roots. There is no question but that we need TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON CENTRAL ISSUES RELATED TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY: TO UNDERSTAND AND ACTIVATE THE GREAT COMMISSION IN OUR LIVES. I believe we can find unifying advantage in the very diversity of beliefs and variety of life styles among us.

Writing in the February 1980 (Volume 9 No. 2) issue of *Ecumenical Trends*, Dr. Pearl McNeil, ecumenical officer for the American Baptist churches, makes a strong statement about church unity which applies,

I think, to relationships within churches as well as to relationships among churches. She says:

"To be different does not necessarily mean to be divided in any fundamental sense, much less divisive. It may mean simply the rich diversity granted to all believers by the freedom of the spirit (and freedom of religion as well). What is important is not that churches should achieve superficial unity among themselves in order to look better before the world, but that the world should have a better look at the churches [and church members] loving one another and serving the Lord in a reconciling ministry to the world. It is imperative that individual Christians and their churches remain open to all heretofore unrecognized (even unrevealed!) possibilities of unity and servanthood."

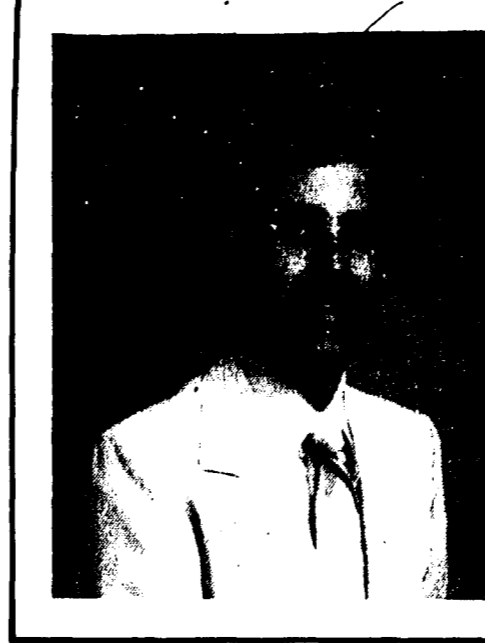
I believe "serving the Lord in a reconciling ministry to the world" makes worthwhile all of our efforts toward greater denominational unity and effectiveness. Our Lord and Savior has promised, if we go to all peoples everywhere—making them disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them—He will be with us *always* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Let us claim that promise as we continue to strive to solve our interpersonal problems; to harmonize personal relationships; to develop trust and confidence in each other; to improve coordination of effort; to perfect administrative techniques; and to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). □

Mission Notes

(Continued from page 14)

● **NELLORE, So. India:** The Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) an Indian interdenominational agency is working with Projects of India and the SDB Conf. of India to provide irrigation wells in villages. Bro. Rao's Gospel Reports of field trips into the various Associations and churches offer insights on his continuing ministry. □



Editorial

"Pleasing God in Every Way"

Seventh Day Baptists from across the country met in their 168th annual Conference in the beautiful mile-high city of Denver, Colorado. The facilities of Loretto Heights College were spacious and the view of the mountains nothing less than spectacular.

Conference is many things—it is fellowship, for many a time for family reunion, it is business with debate and discussion, and it is a time for spiritual renewal. It would seem safe to conclude that business is not the main event of Conference week. People travel hundreds of miles, many spending their "vacation" at Conference and they come seeking a spiritual experience. This spiritual experience was evidenced in small groups, in prayer sessions, in inspiring messages and in the evening altar calls led by the Rev. Alton L. Wheeler. Many decisions were made at this Conference—decisions by a people seeking to "Please God in Every Way."

Rev. L. Sawi Thanga, representing the Burma Conference, commenting on his first American Conference, stated that in Burma each delegate felt he should speak to each issue. While that is not true in our sessions there does seem to be a tendency for some to speak to almost every issue.

This year there weren't exciting issues such as "reorganization" or membership in the World Council of Churches. However, Conference delegates did exhibit considerable enthusiasm and debate over at least three issues.

The Christian Education Interests Committee report included a recommendation to discontinue publication of the *Helping Hand* listing production costs and low use by the churches as part of the reasoning. After lengthy and sometimes emotional debate, the recommendation was defeated. Hopefully this action is a sign of renewed interest in the *Helping Hand*—interest that will become more evident in coming months by an increase in subscriptions and wider use in the Sabbath Schools across the country.

Another issue of considerable interest was a proposal to change Article IV of the SDB Statement of Belief. The current statement reads: "We believe that the Bible is the inspired record of God's will for man, of which Jesus Christ is the supreme interpreter; and that it is our final authority in matters of faith and conduct."

The proposed change would read: "We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, without error in the original autographs of which Jesus Christ is the supreme interpreter and that the Scriptures are our final authority in matters of faith and conduct."

This issue was referred to the Committee on Faith and Order for study and will no doubt be presented for discussion and action at the 1981 session.

The proposed statement on abortion seemed to produce the most debate and interest. It was without doubt the most emotional issue before Conference this year. The statement as proposed read:

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

By a very close vote of 91 to 93 it was amended to add after "mother" the following: "or in cases of rape, incest, or severe fetal abnormality."

This statement on abortion was referred to the churches before reconsideration at Conference next year. The debate was interesting to observe. The question dealing with abortion, which certainly affects women, produced fourteen speakers on the Conference floor of which three were women. An interesting sidelight was the fact that of the fourteen speakers, seven spoke more than once to the issue.

It is always difficult to report happenings at Conference and to "catch the spirit" of the sessions on paper. Then also in September we face the deadline for copy sooner it seems than in other months. Therefore we anticipate sharing more of Conference in the next several issues of the *Sabbath Recorder*.

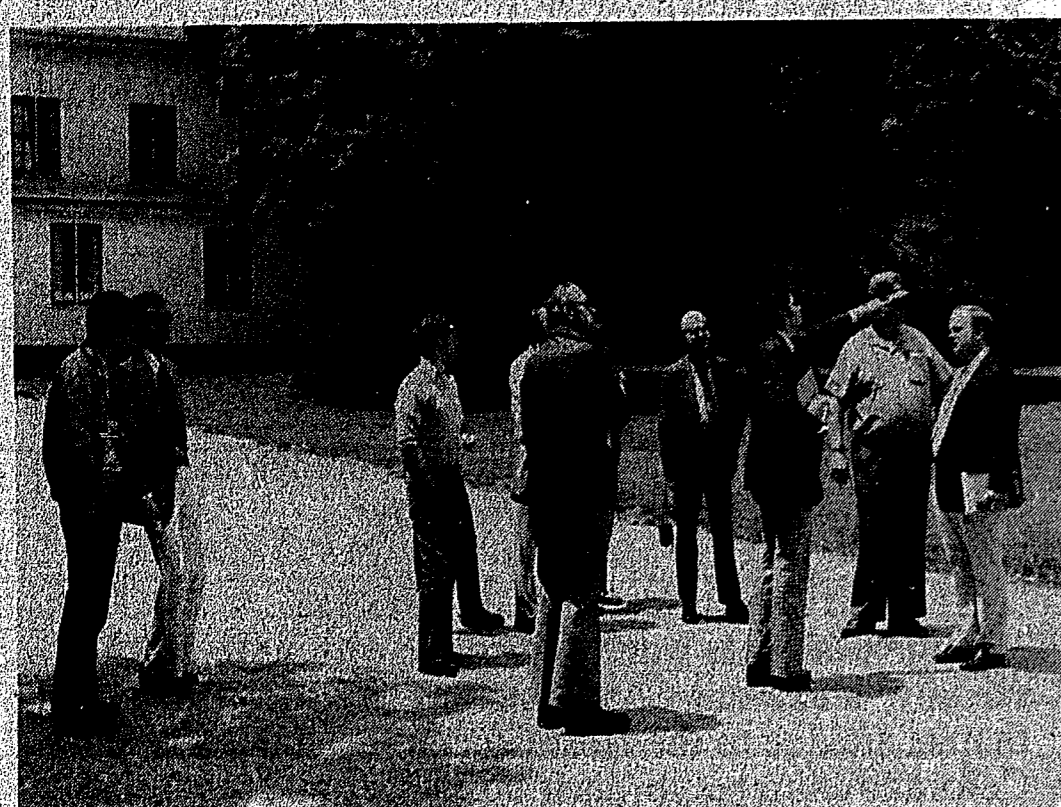
Appreciation is expressed to all who gave of themselves to make this Conference a great success. Special thanks are due to the Host Committee and those in the Colorado churches for their hospitality and helpfulness. Next year we will assemble at Salem College, August 9-15, when President Charles H. Graffius will lead us as he develops the theme "Grow with God." See you there! □



The 1980 Summer Institute visited the Newport Historical Society, site of the first S.D.B. church in America. Thomas Merchant, Tom Sostar, Dennis Palmer, Bill Shobe, Don Chroniger, Jack Hays, Malcolm Salisbury, Gordon Lawton, Dave Gran, Herbert E. Saunders,



Malcolm Salisbury, (right) and Jack Hays, listen to Rev. Gordon Lawton, pastor, describe the history and background of the First SDB Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, R.I. This church is the oldest of our current active churches.



Students and others participate in the study of SDB History while on a field trip to New England. Pictured: (left to right) Kenneth Burdick (pastor of North Jersey church), Thomas Merchant (historian), Don Chroniger, Thomas Sostar, K. Duane Hurley (executive secretary), Gordon Lawton (pastor of Ashaway church), Jack Hays, David Gran (pastor of Westerly church). Not pictured or in background Bill Shobe, Malcolm Salisbury, Dennis Palmer. Photographer, Dean Herbert Saunders.

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1980 SUMMER INSTITUTE

The 1980 Summer Institute at the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry was held in Plainfield, New Jersey, on June 9-27 with six students and pastors participating. The course of study was in Seventh Day Baptist History and Polity, taught by Dean Herbert E. Saunders and Historian Thomas L. Merchant. Study included lectures and reading, with a comprehensive exam at the end of our course.

Students who participated in the sessions were Bill Shobe, senior student at Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado; Dennis Palmer, senior student at Southwestern Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas; and Donald Chroniger, junior student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas. Pastors who participated in the study were Rev. Jack Hays of Sunshine Mountain, Mississippi, and Rev. Thomas Sostar of Alfred, New York. Also attending was a recent member of the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, Mr. Malcolm Salisbury.

Highlights of the three week session were field trips to Newport, Rhode Island, and many of the churches that began Seventh Day Baptist history, and Ephrata, Pennsylvania, home of the German Seventh Day Baptist pietist community of the colonial period.

Other participants in the sessions were Executive Vice-President of the Missionary Society, Leon R. Lawton, and Executive Secretary of the General Conference, K. Duane Hurley. Mrs. Barbara Saunders, assisted by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Burton Crandall who were visiting, again provided meals for the students. Miss Barbara Snyder, who lived at the Plainfield parsonage, provided hosting for all six of the students at the "hosting house." Many thanks go to all who participated in this important aspect of theological education for Seventh Day Baptists. □

THE SABBATH

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