

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



...pressing toward the mark

Philippians 3:14

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

THE SABBATH

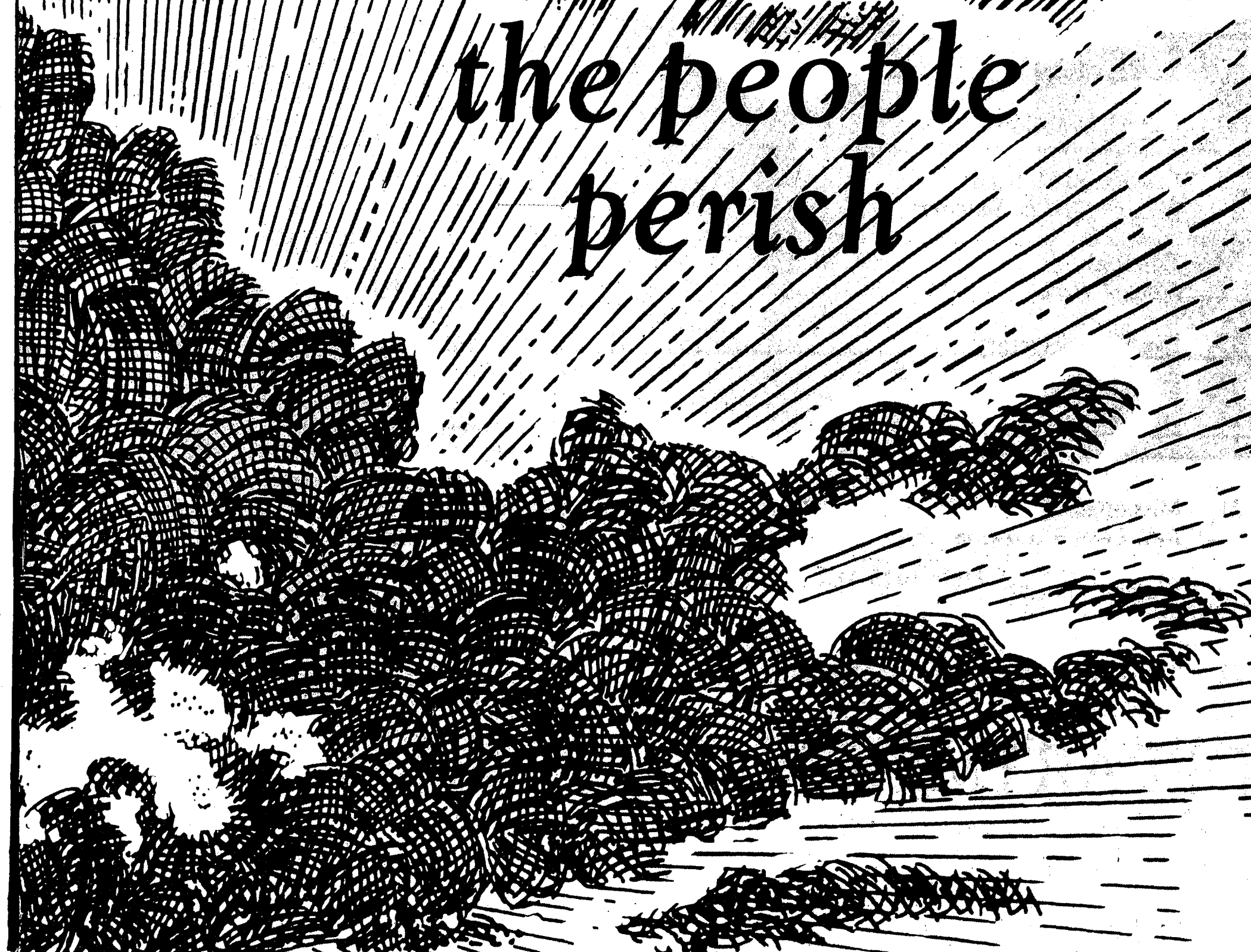
OUR 137th YEAR

RECORDER

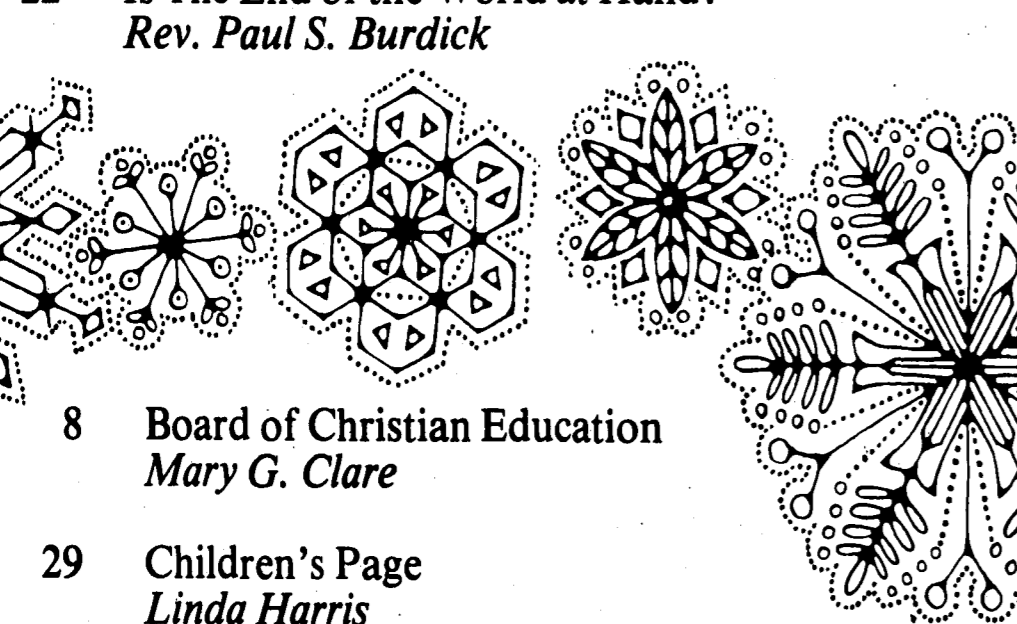
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

JANUARY 1981

Where
there is
no vision
the people
perish



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JOHN D. BEVIS, EDITOR
P.O. Box 2133
Florence, AL 35630

PATRICIA CRUZAN, ART DIRECTOR

Contributing Editors

Mary G. Clare, Rev. Charles H. Graffius, Linda D. Harris, K.D. Hurley, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Jane Mackintosh, Rev. Herbert E. Saunders.

GENERAL CONFERENCE DATE CHANGED

August 2-8, 1981
Salem, West Virginia

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

The owners of the Sabbath Recorder hereby certify in accord with postal regulations the following information: That the editor is John D. Bevis, P.O. Box 2133, Florence, AL 35630; the publishers are the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House, American Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07061; the owner is the American Sabbath Tract Society, 510 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07061; that there are no known bondholders, mortgages or other security holders and that the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed through the mails during the twelve months preceding this filing (dated September 24, 1980) is 1,422. The actual number of copies of a single issue mailed nearest to the filing date is 1,439. □



RICHARD SHEPARD

Dick Shepard is an executive with Armco Steel and has been working in areas of planning and development. He will conduct a one-day workshop on "Planning in the Local Church" using the "storyboard" concepts of planning.

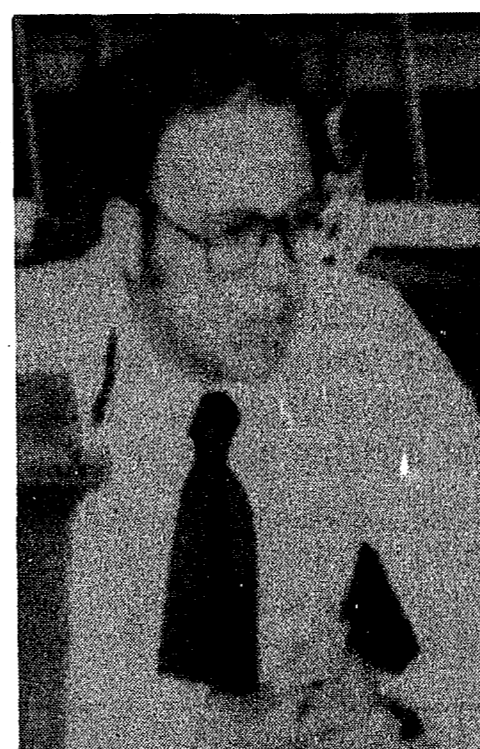


CONNOLLY GAMBLE

Connolly Gamble is a consultant in continuing education for the American Baptist Board of Educational Ministries. Founder of the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry (SACEM) and its present executive secretary, Mr. Gamble has given seminars on "Financial Planning as a Clergy Family" on several occasions. He will be sharing with our pastors and their spouses the responsibility for good financial planning and Christian stewardship.

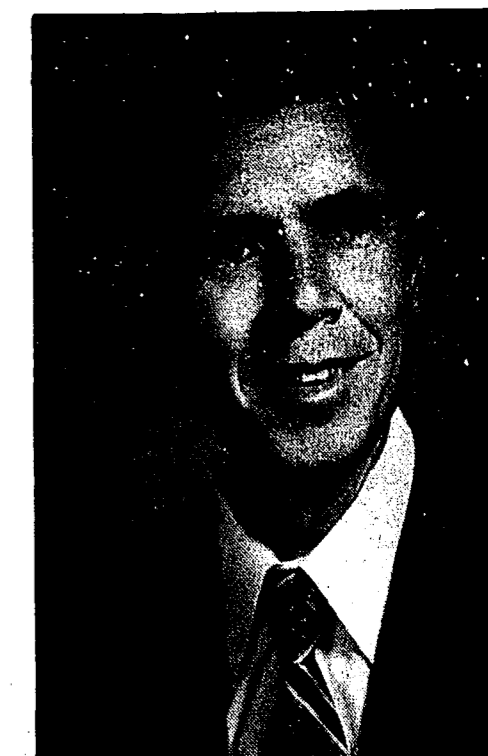
Don Graffius is a lawyer specializing in estate planning and wills. He is a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund Trustees and has conducted workshops on wills and bequests at our General Conference. He will be assisting Mr. Gamble in the workshop on "Financial Planning as a Clergy Family."

DONALD GRAFFIUS



Barbara C. Saunders, wife of Dean Saunders is a housewife and mother and director of music for two churches. She has been a pastor's wife and will lead a seminar for clergy spouses concurrent with several sessions of the ministers' conference. She conducted such seminars at the 1978 session of the S.D.B. Ministers Conference.

BARBARA C. SAUNDERS

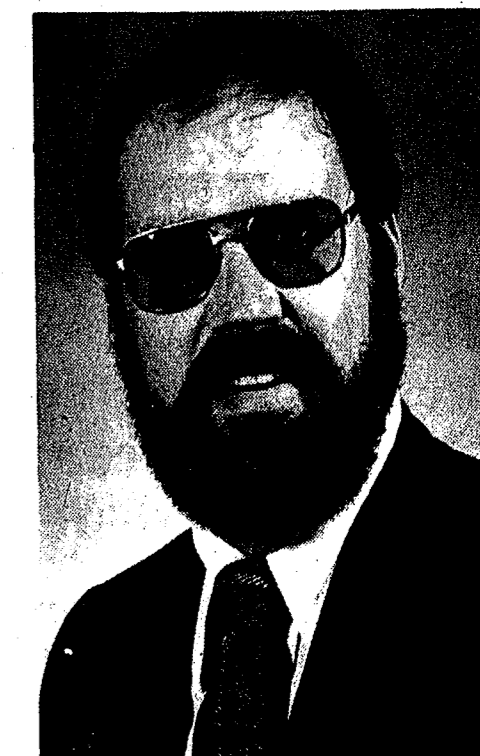


DESMOND FORD

Desmond Ford is a Seventh-day Adventist theologian from Australia, where he once headed the theology department of Avondale College. One of "Adventism's most widely known thinkers" (*Christianity Today*) he has been in the center of controversy in his denomination over the past few months. He has agreed to join us for two days and help us understand the theological position of Adventism. Our General Conference encouraged us to study our Sabbath-observing friends, and this gives us opportunity to listen and learn from one who understands Adventist thought.

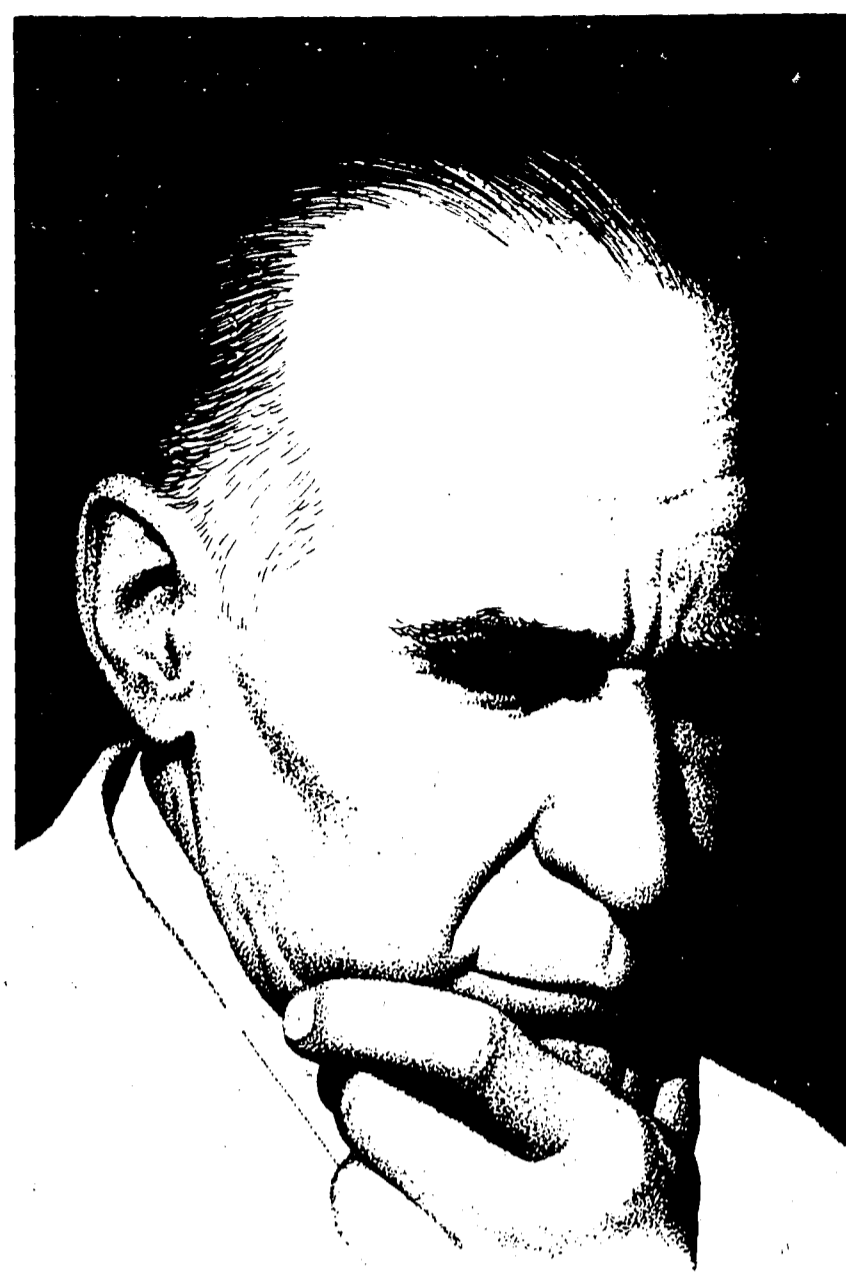
Herbert E. Saunders is the dean of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry. This is the third such conference he has directed.

HERBERT E. SAUNDERS, DIRECTOR



SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE

The 1981 session of the biennial Seventh Day Baptist Ministers Conference will be held in Daytona Beach, Florida, February 18-24, 1981. The sessions will be held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church. The cost of the Conference is \$30.00 for each participant. Bible studies on I and II Timothy will be conducted by pastors, who will also lead in worship and prayer. Denominational leaders will have opportunity to share programs and insights as well as listen to the concerns of pastors. The Conference is being subsidized by the Continuing Education Fund of the Center on Ministry. □



We'll focus in on our topic by using a diagram outline of the topic phrase.

Now let's see if we can get a picture of what we are considering. Close your eyes and put on mental blinders that shut off all outside distractions. Now put a mirror in front of your thoughts and think of "YOU". Think of the things you see and sometimes would rather not see. Note your strengths, abilities, talents, personality, looks, joys, sorrows, failures, disappointments, dislikes...this is "YOU". Of course, "YOU" also includes me as I share this with you.

God would have us consider this topic together, not as it applies to others, but as it applies to each individual that hears these words.

Change your mental picture, now, and put the "YOU" in action, and see yourself coming before the Lord in a personal audience...with all the throngs of heaven witnessing the event. Called by name, surrounded, but with all the attention focused on "YOU". See His radiance, see His glory and sense His power and wisdom. Feel His peace and joy, and understand His precise and unwavering justice based on His very nature. Then, realize with a rush of relief; He's *forgiven* me! He's *forgiven* me! Can you understand Isaiah, not knowing the blessing of the blood of Jesus, standing before God's throne and saying: "Woe is me, for I am

undone." Can you also feel the joy of hearing from God's voice, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

So we begin to grasp what it means to please God, but let's shift the scene once again, and get the full picture of what we want to discuss. Let's take a look at the qualifying phrase, "through service to others." "But people aren't easy to serve, Lord." And the Lord speaks back and says, "That's right but they are My image and My creation; bring them redemption in my name." Look around you and see the ones that you have successfully and joyfully served. See the ones that have received you and your love in Christ's name. These are people that you could just throw your arms around and hug in the Lord as you've been blessed by giving and receiving care for one another. Oh, that's a beautiful feeling, and completely gratifying. How tragic for one who has never experienced that feeling and need.

But also think of those who have been unable to serve to this point, people that perhaps you feel you cannot possibly serve, and maybe you do not want to serve in the least, the people that Pastor Gabriel Bejjani called "Mission Impossible," those whose hands you shake limply as a traditional obligation and gesture, or those whom you render the traditional "Hello" because they turned and noticed you before you could slip by unnoticed. This then is the real area of challenge to our lives.

The command of Scripture is clear and emphatic in its requirements on our servanthood in this matter. Matthew 25:31-46 states that one of the separating points between the sheep and the goats at the throne of God will be their attitude and actions towards people. Romans 12:9-21 gives guidelines for conduct with each other, and points out that there are specific kinds of treatment that we are to offer to our enemies. Luke 6:27-38 states the case for our enemies even more clearly.

Loving the Unloving

These commands and expectations to those who walk in Christ, do not come with "except" or "but" attached as loopholes to relieve our obligations. Rather they are the standards of the life that is really surrendered

PLEASING GOD THROUGH SERVICE TO OTHERS

Rev. Russell Johnson
Verona, NY



to Christ. I have an understanding from the Lord that where God has the most to teach you, and where the greatest victories can be won is amongst those you can tolerate least and fear most. In these relationships, Christ's love is perfectly demonstrated in and through us, for we know that except for Him it would be impossible for us to love them. How often we limit both our experiences and the power of God in us by feeling that the problems that we encounter and the people we deal with are beyond hope and are completely unchangeable. We say, "all things are possible for Him," but do we act accordingly? Is our belief real to us? Our faith and confidence in the Lord should see "potential miracle" and "future victory" written all over the lives of those that seem the most rebellious.

My family and I have opened our home on several occasions to those "sinners" who might be judged to be "untouchables" by those who choose to judge. I've had one person who professed to be under Christ say "They had their chance, how can you do this for them again?" Simply, the answer must be, because I'm aware that God has forgiven in me more than I like to recall, and still continues to forgive me through Christ when I still slip and fall short of what He wants me to be and do. Since I am created in His image and His Way, I am to do as he has done to me, or to expect from Him what we have done to others. Without His presence in my life, I'd return to do the very things that He has overcome in me, and I find so easy to condemn in others. Even now under the grace and mercy of Christ, I'm grateful that God doesn't keep score on how well I'm doing. On a daily basis, I know that I would not stand a chance of sharing His presence throughout eternity. Except for the righteousness of Jesus, we are nothing in God's eyes. Under Christ, God doesn't say to us like the farmer said to his stubborn mule: "That's one." Rather He says: "That's the once and for all for which I gave my one and only begotten Son."

God's system of balances and weights in Jesus Christ is so different than ours. Our justice and relationships to others are built like a teeter-totter. Our relationship with Him is developing, and we want to look down at those who are not on the same end of the scale with us. We are lifted up so we tend to push others down.

God's new scale and balance works on an equilibrium principle that requires that both sides of the scale be equal at all times. If your relationship with God grows, your relationship with all people is equally lifted up, and you are a better servant and witness of God's presence in you. If you push other people down, "knock" them for that which they do or do not do, your relationship with God will be pushed down. The cross is the fulcrum of God's scale of Justice, and the more of our burdens and failures that are put to rest on the cross beam, the higher good we will be to glorify God and serve our fellow men.

We Can Only Share What We Have Experienced

The key to this whole discussion is the realization that you cannot give of the things of God if you have not already received them yourself. And you cannot hold on to what you have unless you are ready to share what you receive. As you share what you have received

from God in all parts of your life, with those who need what you have; you prepare yourself to be ready to receive more of God's presence and blessings in you. In other words, as you grow in Christ and receive more forgiveness, you will discover that more forgiveness is channeled through you to give to others...But you can limit that spilling of God's forgiveness into others lives by holding your peace and saying nothing. And it must be realized that you cannot generate a "look alike" copy by any of your efforts that will accomplish God's purpose and will. For instance, you cannot sit down and determine "I will love Johnny Johnson because I am supposed to do it." You may try, but you will discover that it is not a true love for the person, and at the first difficulty or failure on his part all the old dislikes reappear to haunt us. Only God's love given to us and showing through us can love the sinner and abhor the sin.

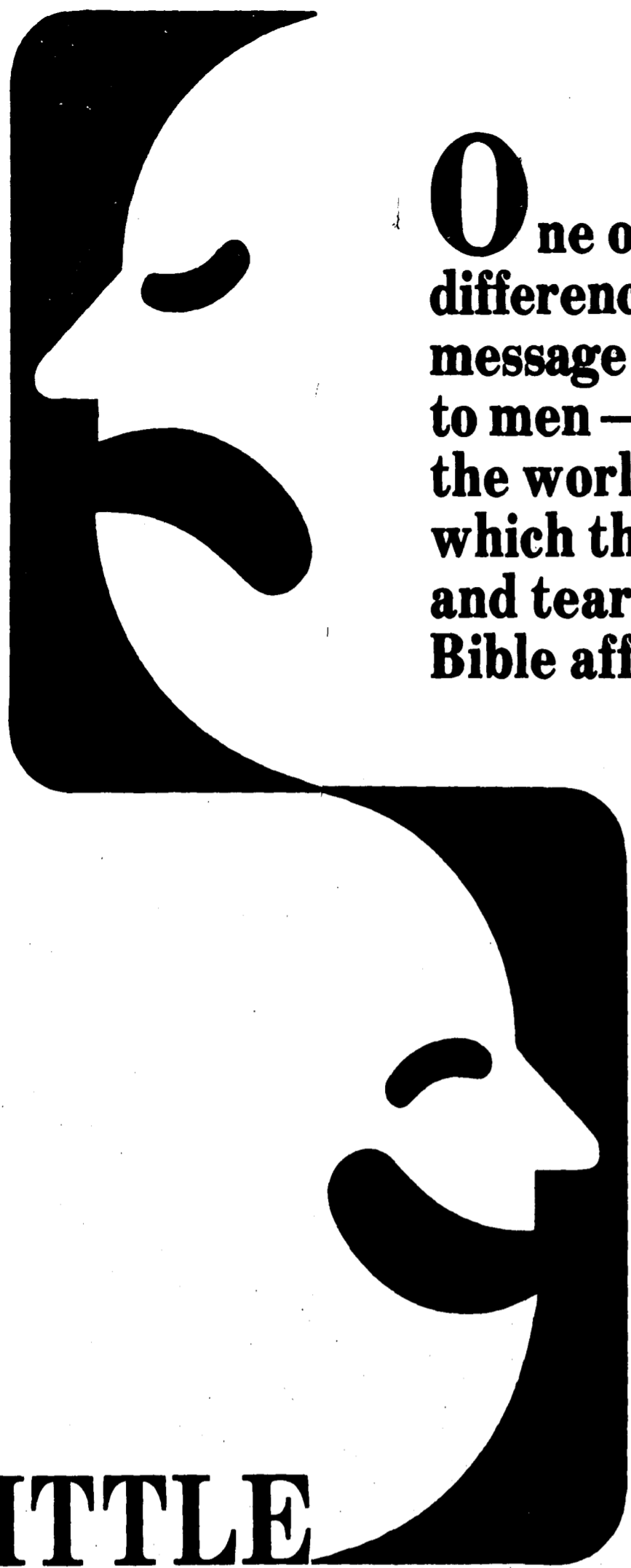
The forgiveness and love and service you give must literally come out of that which is in you because of the measure of Christ that you have yielded your life to receive. There's a little chorus that says, "I want more of Jesus, more and more and more. I want more of Jesus than I've ever had before. I want more of His rich love so rich and full and free, I want more of Jesus so I'll give Him more of me." What comes to us from God is ours, but not as a possession but rather for our use in working with ourselves and working with each other.

What holds down your growth and service to God? It is not the need for greater faith, nor is it ability (if you keep yourself available to God, He will provide all the abilities that you need), but rather our limitation is found in our unwillingness to give all that we have received from Christ to sinful men, *as He has* given to them and us as sinners, too. God will not give you more than you can willingly use.

Are we ready to share as God desires, or will we continue to judge those who are worthy to have and share our time and the truth that we have within us? God is equal in His love and mercy towards all; can those who walk with Him and call Him Father, and themselves sons and daughters be any less merciful and loving?

We may never perfectly fulfill this work of God in us, but it must always be our realistic goal and expectation that we are to lovingly and without judgment serve all of God's creation and especially people who were created to bear His image. James 4:17 warns us that if we know to do what is right and refuse to do it, then we have sinned. If we fail to show love and mercy and forgiveness, we have sinned as badly as those we have passed by on the other side of the road.

Let us recall that if we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us, then our relationships with people will be shaped and colored by His presence and the tones of His love in us. The way we act reveals clearly the true degree that we have yielded to God's control in us. The Lord pleads, "serve and please me by serving others as I serve them." My prayer is that we will let God use us to develop loving and forgiving relationships with all people with whom we come into contact, that God's work may be accomplished through us, and His name glorified before the nations. □



One of the most amazing differences between the Bible message—the message of God to men—and the way in which the world acts is the way in which the world criticizes and tears down while the Bible affirms and builds up.

Of course the Bible spends a great deal of time telling us that we are sinners, that the wages of sin is death, that hell awaits the unrepentant; but at the same time the Bible affirms our worth and lifts us up in our own eyes and makes sure that we know we are loved and cherished and provided for both in this life and in the next. Just listen!

"...What is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands..." (RSV)

How could the worth of each person be expressed in any more definite terms?—only a *little less* than God! That is as hard to believe as any of the miracle stories! We don't see ourselves that way, and we certainly don't see others that way.

It seems to be a hard lesson for the world to learn, that each man and woman and child is loved by God, who sees in him or her possibilities which are worth saving for all eternity. It seems to be hard for the world to learn that God prepared each person for participation with Him in the eternal order of things. It seems hard for the world to learn that each person is important—that each person has worth—that each person can make a contribution to the general good—that each person is loved and can love.

Just see what human beings are like! They have bodies which are marvelous. These bodies are able to recuperate from disease and injury; they can adapt to extremes of cold and heat; they can do innumerable things; they are adaptable to an almost infinite variety of activities. They have minds which are marvelous! Their minds can delve into the vastness of space or into the intricacies of human life and personality; they can conceive of great and wonderful things; they can direct and plan and

LITTLE LESS THAN GOD

BY REV. VICTOR SKAGGS
PLAINFIELD, NJ

SCRIPTURE READING:
COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

administer. They are spirits, wonderful in themselves! Spirits can respond in love to their Creator; spirits can relate to each other in intricate ways. They are spirits, which makes them greater and higher than intelligent animal life around them.

MATURING UNDER GOD Human beings—all human beings—are wonderful beyond our descriptive powers. This is an evidence of their individual worth.

They have the ability to grow into the stature of Christ in all His completeness when they align themselves with their Creator. Every person has this capability—the ability to become mature under God.

But that is not the way in which the world treats its people. We do not have to go out of our homes to recognize that the world does not treat its people as persons of worth. We can see that on the television tube and read it in the newspapers and magazines. Individuals and groups are constantly struggling for recognition. Blacks, women, men, Puerto Ricans, Indians, Arabs, Jews—any group you can name is pressing its claims for recognition and what it calls justice, because it feels put down and must affirm its own worth. Entertainment (so much of it) is aimed at our least attractive characteristics, tending to lower our standards and our estimate of our own worth. Direction which we don't need, laws which distort the social situation, coercion, lack of faith in one another—all these things and more combine to destroy the sense of worth in the individual. This is one of the great sins of our society and of our world. So the world does violence to human personality! It tells persons that they cannot control their bodies; they must be directed and coerced. It tells them that they cannot control their minds; they must let them run their own course and come up with the lowest common denominator. It pushes persons toward violence and selfishness and pride and mob action. And when one person steps out of line, he or she is destroyed by word of mouth or by physical violence or by isolation, so that his or her personal worth is denied.

All this is problem enough, but the real tragedy lies in the fact that Christians and the Christian Church so often join in, forgetting the real worth of individuals, and do violence to human personality and destroy the opportunities individuals have to grow into maturity. So we do violence to that which we are supposed to build up.

Have you ever known a person who was so dependent upon a Christian counselor that when the counselor was not available, that person was unable to cope with the pressures of life? I have seen that situation over and over again. In the name of Jesus Christ, the counselor has woven himself into that life until it could not function without him. He had destroyed or failed to develop in that life the steps toward maturity: the ability to decide, the assurance which comes from both faith and experience, the internal values which are the stuff of which decisions are made. The counselor had failed to develop in that life that which would lead it toward Christian

maturity. He had done it either because he lacked knowledge or because some inner demand—something within himself—needed someone who depended upon him. And in so doing, he had done violence to human personality. He had denigrated the worth of the individual. He had held back the spiritual growth of one of God's children.

Now we don't have to be professional counselors to be involved in this insidious sin. It is easy for us to take part in tearing down the confidence of another. We do it all the time. We do it by refusing to accept any of their suggestions, by laughing at their remarks which are not meant to be funny, by making decisions for them, and by demanding that they follow our standards. We do it by simply demanding that others look to us as the authorities from which they are to receive their answers.

In relation to this, I want you to hear some of the wonderful things Paul wrote about persons—Christian persons. Perhaps then you will wonder, as I sometimes do, why we treat other persons as we do.

"You have been called by God to be His own. So then, I urge you to live a life of complete humility and gentleness, a life of patience, a life in which you always lovingly bear with one another. I urge you to be eager to preserve that unity which the Spirit can give, a unity in which you are bound together in a perfect relationship to one another."

Does that sound as great to you as it does to me? He is writing to individuals of great worth, who can relate to each other under God in all these wonderful and fruitful ways. He goes on:

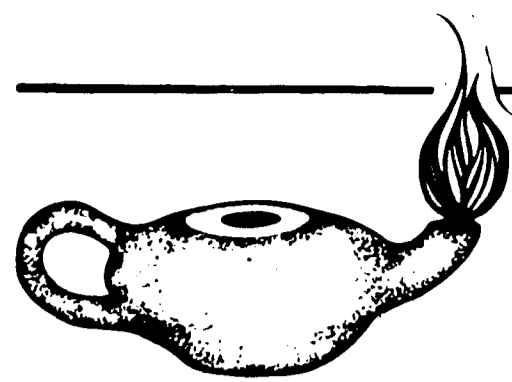
"Each of you has received his own share of grace in proportion as the free gift of Christ has given it to you. That is why it is said: 'He ascended on high, after he had taken his prisoners captive, and gave gifts to men.' ...Their function is to equip God's consecrated people for the service they must give; it is their function to build up the body of Christ. Then we shall go on to be one united band of brothers, one in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God. Then we shall grow into mature manhood, until we reach the stature of Christ in all his completeness."

And in another place, he carried on this same great idea:

"Christ can enable men to live in a right relationship with each other. It is this unifying power of his which must dictate your every decision, for you were meant to be one united body."

So Paul described the capabilities of persons under God. The description implies the ability of

(Continued on page 9)



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

Board of Christian Education Goals

The goals of the Board of Christian Education, Inc., are to help people grow in SCRIPTURE UNDERSTANDING, NURTURING IN THE FAITH, FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING, AND OUTREACH.

Each of the committees is involved in promoting all of the goals but has a specific area of major concern in which to work.

Promoting growth in SCRIPTURE UNDERSTANDING and NURTURING IN THE FAITH, are the primary purposes of the Resource Development and Church School committees. Lesson material for Scripture study helping to develop and reinforce faith in Jesus Christ is in the *Helping Hand* written by Rev. David Clarke, the

Junior Nurture Series lessons by Linda Camenga, the *Junior High Nurture Series* lessons by Mary Clare and the *Primary Nurture Series* lessons being written by Mary Jane McPherson. The Church School committee reviews lesson material from other sources and plans for Associated Conference.

You and Your Church is a tool for pastors to use with students studying to become members of their church and for individuals who wish to know more about our beliefs.

In addition to SCRIPTURE UNDERSTANDING, learning the FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING is accomplished, in part, by living together in camps and Pre-Cons arranged by the

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ."

Phil. 3:14 RSV

Youth Ministries Committee. The camp committee is happy to discover that some camps in the East are anxious to continue the Camper Exchange program. It is our expectation that others will wish to exchange with camps which are short distances from each other.

The Life Ventures Committee prepares material for enriching family life, the most important place to learn all of these concepts. As each person grows in knowledge of Scripture and increases in the faith; as he practices a Christlike lifestyle, it will be natural to become excited about sharing a witness of his faith and the final goal of the Board: GROWTH IN OUTREACH will be realized. □

Teacher's Mini-Lab

Scripture Memorizing a Challenge

There are several passages in the Bible which indicate it is important to learn the Scriptures as an aid to living a Christian lifestyle. Psalm 119 verse 11 says "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee," and verse 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." In this year of denominational emphasis on Nurture, Seventh Day Baptists should make a special effort to learn as much Scripture as possible. This learning in the classroom should be a challenge, a new and exciting activity rewarded by the joy of achievement.

The first step in learning is understanding.

1. List the difficult words, look them up in the dictionary. Put a picture, object, or word beside the word which explains its meaning.
2. Help the student understand

his personal involvement. Substitute personal pronouns or names where possible. (Example: "Thy word...that John might not sin against thee.") Be sure to use the names of all persons in the class.

3. Act out or paint a picture about the verses physical activity will cause the students to think about the meaning.

4. As a class, select a hymn or write a tune to accompany the verse. It is better to spend more than one session, if necessary, to learn one Scripture passage well than to read one verse each lesson period. Children who come to class early would enjoy working on a puzzle based on the verses being learned. Use your imagination, make acrostics, cryptograms, rebus, Crossword or jigsaw puzzles. Plan your work so that you have time to give personal

help as needed—early arrivers may come for extra love and attention—be ready to meet that need. □

Alcoholism

"The death-and-disease approach to teen-age smoking is meaningless to kids," so says an article in the New York Times. Efforts to curb teen-age smoking has mixed success. The attitudes and example of parents and teachers still carries the greatest impact. "Disseminating information does not work," an American Cancer Society official said. Building self-esteem and considering causes of smoking is variously effective. All this commentary could well be duplicated in the field of alcohol education. □

Board of Christian Education, Inc. Bylaws; Article II—Objectives

"The purposes and objectives of such corporation shall be to promote the cause of education in general, to develop the educational convictions of the people of the churches represented in the SDB General Conference, to found and foster such denominational institutions of Christian education as the corporation may approve, to make educational surveys, to plan courses of study, to print and distribute literature and periodicals, and to employ such representatives as may best promote the purposes of the corporation in the church schools, camps, people's organizations, colleges, and ministerial education." □

Little Less Than God

(Continued from page 7)

each one to respond to God in innumerable ways. It implies the capability to grow in knowledge and in grace. It implies the capability to decide and to set a goal and to carry out a meaningful approach to that goal. It implies that human beings are creative, and, when they are under God's directive, they have capabilities of which they themselves have not yet dreamed. This is why Paul is so insistent that —

"You must forgive each other. You must bear with each other. You must live in harmony with each other."

SENSITIVE TO EACH OTHER

It requires sensitivity to another's need if we are to minister to that need without destroying the individual we try to serve. It requires a recognition of that individual's worth. It requires an inner conviction that God can work (and is working) in and through him or her as much as He is working in and through you or me. It requires appreciation and faith and prayer. But the attempt to serve God in Jesus Christ in ministering to needy persons is not worth the effort if we go into it believing that God has given us the answers which we are to impose on the lives of others. That imposition in itself is destructive; and even though we sometimes see immediate benefits, in the long run we have made a bigger rift between that person and his God-ordained destiny in Christ.

Christians do violence to human personality. We are especially insensitive about other Christians with whom we disagree. We send them home feeling unloved and unappreciated, without worth in their own eyes, or angry and frustrated. Why is it that we are so prone to criticize and tear down, when the Scriptures we follow spend their time in upholding, affirming, and building up? The answer is difficult to come by, but the results of our actions are quite easy to see; and the reaction to our attitude is quite evident. Either those we treat this way lose their self-respect and their sense of self-worth, or they bottle up their angers and their frustrations and become so tense that they can do no productive work at all. All their relationships are colored by that tenseness.

Why do we not treat the ideas of others — the products of their minds — with respect? We do violence to human personality, and the terrible thing is, we do it in the name of Jesus Christ who affirmed and upheld and loved each individual with an undying love.

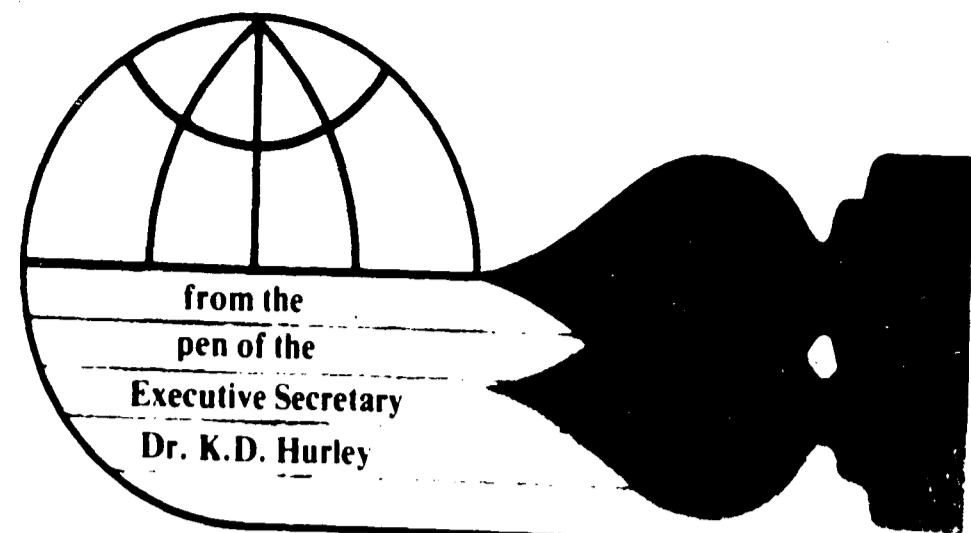
In still another way we deny persons the road to maturity and so defeat the development, or delay the development, which God has in mind for them. Let me approach this one in a different way. — If I should stand in the pulpit some morning and preach a sermon on salvation in Jesus Christ, and with that theme preach on repentance and the forgiveness of sins, a goodly number of you would stop at the door and say to me: "That was a wonderful sermon." It has happened over and over in every place I have preached. Yet, continual preaching to Christians about salvation and repentance and baptism and eternal judgment is repetitious. It suggests that they have not yet mastered the basics of Christian faith, that they are children who cannot yet begin to grow toward maturity in spiritual things. It denies them the opportunity to go beyond the basic assumptions of the faith; it denies them the opportunity to learn what the Spirit demands of them; it is a safe haven, a place of rest and contentment so that the saints may say with deep satisfaction, "That's wonderful! That's what happened to me! That's the way God plans it for everyone! Praise His name!" But the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews says that such repetition denies growth. This is what he wrote:

"There is no point in laying the foundations all over again. I mean the basic teaching about repentance from the way of life the end of which is death, and about faith in God, teaching about purificatory rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And move on we shall, if God allows us—move on to mature teaching!"

MATURE TEACHING

Now what did he mean when he said "mature teaching"? What is "mature teaching" if it is not about salvation, repentance, baptism, eternal judgment, eternal life? What else is there? If we are not to

(Continued on page 28)



A NEW YEAR— A NEW LOOK

There is a new look; and we need to take a new look!

The 1980's have been designated as a Decade of Discipleship for Seventh Day Baptists. The ten year period is keyed to *growth*—both spiritual and numerical!

Specific statistics for the first year of the decade are not yet available; but evidence accumulates showing a new growth look to the denomination: new inquiries being made every day, new groups meeting, new churches organized, new members received, new ministers ordained.

Encouraged by the "new look," we should take a new look at growth potentials and how we can use effectively the "tools" of growth at hand to assure reaching our goal: double in the decade!

Our Conference theme for 1981, "Grow with God" (Phil. 3:13-14), is appropriate and timely. God's expectation for Christians is that they should grow and the church should grow. The directive of the Great Commission is to "go" and grow.

"There are some other evidences of life," states Michael Harper in his book *Let My People Grow*, "but growth is the most important and reliable one. If something is growing, it's alive. God's people must be set free to grow. At the same time we must never forget that whatever men may do—some planting as pioneers, others nurturing what has been planted and has germinated—it is only God who 'gives growth.' (1 Cor. 3:7)"

In the first chapter of the book which analyzes current-day ministry and leadership in the church, Rev. Harper confirms and demonstrates the fact that the church is "in the growth business." It is intended to grow both numerically and in spiritual maturity, he says. Throughout the

book he highlights various implications about church growth with challenging and thought provoking statements such as the following:

...let us strive "to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"...

There needs to be growth in maturity before there can be growth in membership of our churches.

Power has been concentrated in a few hands, and this has produced in the laity generations of sermon tasters and sacramentalists—watching "the machine" and taking the sacrament, rather than being actively involved in the ministry.

God calls His people to be a "pilgrim people" because He is a pilgrim God, who is always "on the move"—actively engaged in the welfare and well-being of His people.

Our responsibility is to see that the renewal deepens and widens as it sees and hears more clearly what the Holy Spirit is doing and saying.

Of course, we are designated disciples (at least so far as the Seventh Day Baptist part of Kingdom work is concerned). Responsible for expediting both spiritual maturity and numerical growth.

***There are resources for growth inherited in our heritage. As a denomination we have a long and distinguished history. We have substantial churches in many places; a tradition of respected, dedicated leadership; and a record of devoted lay involvement in community betterment in Christ's name.*

***Procedures and concepts of growth are already being applied with success. Commitment to Growth has set the stage; Decision to Discipleship is serving to activate a growing number of church members; through radio broadcasts, newspaper advertising, and the use of such techniques as Evangelism Explosion, many churches are reaching out to make converts and bring in new members.*

There is an important place for each one of us in the growth process. We can support (by prayers, by our time and talents, and by our resources) those activities which deserve to be continued and expanded. We can assist our churches in establishing growth goals, using the evaluation form distributed by the Coordinating Leadership Team; then see to it that copies of the forms are filed in the General Conference office for future reference—a means of accountability.

These specific matters—and more—we can participate in collectively. But undoubtedly most important is our individual and very personal commitment to spiritual growth. Year Two (1981) in our Decade of Discipleship is devoted especially to Nurture—and that Nurture begins with you and me!

So won't you make a New Year's resolution with me,

- 1) to review all good literature available on the subject of growth.
- 2) to study the Bible with growth in mind and
- 3) pray that each one of us may "Grow with God" this year as never before.

On that basis, the new year will truly have a new look! □

The Sabbath Recorder

"Remembering the Acts of God"

By Thomas L. Merchant
Presented at 1980 Conference

"Listen, my people, to my teaching,
and pay attention to what I say.
I am going to use wise sayings
and explain mysteries from the past,
things we have heard and known,
things that our fathers told us.
We will not keep them from our children;
We will tell the next generation
about the Lord's power
and his great deeds
and the wonderful things he has done."

This was the mission of the ancient psalmist as revealed in the 78th Psalm;
This was the mission of the other writers of the Old Testament as they recorded God's great deeds among his chosen people;
and this was the mission of the New Testament's authors as they captured the life of Christ and the early Church.

Likewise, this was the mission of the historians of the early Catholic Church, the Protestant Reformation, and the English Dissenter movement.

and, this is the mission of the Historical Society: to remember, and tell, "about the Lord's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done" among Seventh Day Baptists, for more than three centuries.

Unless we remember the acts of God, we are in grave danger of forgetting him; and unless we repeat the stories of his great deeds, we condemn the next generation to a life without him; but unless we record, and remember, and repeat the specific acts of God among Seventh Day Baptists, we lose all sense of who we are, and why we believe what we believe.

The record of God's power is the story of the individual and corporate accomplishments in his name, and these accomplishments are captured not in regularly revised chronicles, but in countless forms of historical materials: official records, books, magazines, letters, pamphlets, photographs, paintings, sculpture, furniture, tools, apparel, and buildings...to name a few.

How these tidbits of information become material for guidance, instruction, and inspiration is how the Historical Society translates its mission into its program.

The various activities of the Historical Society fall into four distinct categories: acquisition, preservation and organization, reference, and research and communication.

(acquisition)

Each year the Historical Society receives from 20 to 50 donations of historical materials. In turn, each one of these donations may consist of simply one book, or several boxes of mixed records—minutes, letters, newsletters. At the very least, each acquisition must be acknowledged, surveyed, registered, and properly stored. But if the service of the Historical Society went no further, safe storage, not remembrance, is all that would be accomplished.

(preservation and organization)

Sooner or later we must gain control over this random assortment of historical material; there must be organization in the permanent storage of these materials. Books must be cataloged; the contents of a group of records must be inventoried; and printed materials must be indexed. Access is the goal—access to all of the information related to a certain person, place or subject—and organization is the answer.

(reference)

Only when one has such access is one ready to field reference questions—and they come by the dozens. The more one answers, the more one receives. From denominational leaders researching a proposal, from university scholars seeking primary materials, from church anniversary committees, and from individuals tracing family history, come requests for one quick fact, for a list of available materials, for a detailed, comprehensive report.

(research and communication)

At this point, though, only a relatively few people with particular needs to know certain information are being served by the society. And with no Seventh Day Baptist-operated universities and seminaries, therefore no scholars being paid to conduct on-going programs of research and publication;

(Continued on page 28)

Growing a Church

Dr. Win Arn, of the Institute for American Church Growth, has interviewed or polled some 4,000 adult converts on the West Coast. Arn wanted to know what brought these people into the church. His findings are instructive:

- 6-8%—Just walked in
- 2-3%—Attracted by church's programs
- 8-12%—Attracted by Pastor
- 3-4%—Came out of special need
- 1-2%—Visited by church members
- 3-4%—Came through Church School class
- 70-80%—Invited by relatives and friends

He also found that less than one-tenth of 1% came as a result of "mass evangelism." The conclusion is obvious; we are all in a position to influence the faith of those closest to us and we can do it better than anyone else. Those churches are growing where lay people are inviting and bringing friends, neighbors and family to church with them. Have you invited or brought anyone to church with you lately? You may be their only "bridge" to the Kingdom of God. Personal invitation is the key to church growth. Let's all turn that key and keep growing! □

J. Paul Green,
Pastor of the Salem SDB Church
from their church publication

How Missions-Minded Is Your Church?

by Rev. Leon R. Lawton

IF Christ gave His disciples/followers the Great Commission and this was recorded by each of the Gospel writers and again in Acts 1:8, it must be an important fact. No other word of our Savior has been given by each account of His life, plus... He has given His church their marching orders.

BUT when we are not aware just where we are, it is difficult to know where we are going and how to get there. Last November a "self-evaluation profile" was shared with each Seventh Day Baptist pastor, which was designed to help each congregation answer the question, "How Missions-Minded Is Your Church?"

HOW did this help you in discovery? In gaining insights on just what might be involved in missions? In setting some forward looking goals for the New Year—1981? In making decisions relating to your church's participation in the work of our Lord through the mission outreach of Seventh Day Baptists?

WHEN was the first step taken? Who is responsible? What are the specific goals to be reached? Why were certain objectives set? Are they realistic?

The profile for the local church's mission ministry involves five areas: 1. Leadership; 2. Strategy; 3. Stimulation; 4. Sending; 5. Support. A rule of measurement was suggested in two specific ways to support each area.

Enter into the exciting experiences of a Year of Vision as you, and your church, make new discoveries, move in a positive direction to follow Jesus Christ, and enjoy the joy and purpose of our Father's Work in the sharing of His Truth with others. □

AN OPEN LETTER TO SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS

Dear Brethren,

Something has just happened at the church in Memphis which we feel a great desire to share with our brothers and sisters throughout the country. We have just finished a three-day revival with Brother Mynor Soper, with music provided by the Light Bearers. It is impossible to completely express in writing the excitement felt by the Memphis church. Having seen the results here we feel that such meetings could be a very important part of our goals to "double in a decade." Incorporating this into your programs would be an exciting, additional way to get our name before the public and give many new opportunities for the congregation to be involved.

One new, very effective concept introduced as part of the Memphis revival is of house meetings. Brother Soper came in one week before the revival to attend meetings held in members' homes scattered all over the area. The possibilities of this approach are unlimited. Member participation was great; response from those unfamiliar with Seventh Day Baptists was fantastic. The main goal of such meetings was to give members a chance to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, and work acquaintances to their homes for an opportunity to meet the evangelist in an informal atmosphere. This personal contact is so effective. The format used here allowed for a time of singing, a discussion about the Light Bearers and the evangelist and then a general sharing time to discuss whatever might be on someone's mind. This led to some particularly meaningful conversations with those searching for Christ, and with those looking for answers to today's problems. This concept calls for commitment on the part of the individual members to go out and do what we really must do if we truly expect to double.

A pre-revival advertizing program can also be effectively used to make our name prominent in the community. While we don't have the resources of the larger denominations in promoting revivals, much can be done at little or no cost.

While Mynor Soper is known throughout the churches, his preaching at this revival was stronger and more dynamic than I have ever heard him preach.

The timely messages were Spirit-filled, pointing the lost to Christ, and giving spiritual growth and comfort to the Body. Praise God for this brother who is making this effort to share the Good News.

It would be difficult to fully describe the blessing received from the Light Bearers' presence. Many were touched by their part in the revival. This new team is going to be used by God for His glory and to spread the name of Seventh Day Baptists. We recommend highly the Light Bearers being used in our churches.

Personal testimonies by new church members and new Christians were given during the meetings and were meaningful to all, as we all sometimes take our Lord and His church for granted. The unsaved were able to see what a difference Jesus can make.

Again, there is no way I can fully describe the new joy, new spirit, and new unity within the church here, but it is real and it will continue. While we may not have the resources of the Graham Crusade Team, we do have many dedicated and talented brothers and sisters that can pull together and present a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led revival for our people, and for your community.

We now have new members in Memphis because of these meetings, some very powerful rededications, new contacts ministered to and to follow up on, and greater vision by the church. Doors were opened to our members that maybe we didn't know could be opened. Attendance one night of the revival was nearly double what our regular attendance is. Think what that might mean for your church, whether it might be those members who are slack in service to the Body that might be drawn back or mostly new visitors as ours were.

We have truly seen our Lord work in a glorious way. We prayerfully urge you to consider such a series of meetings in your church. Additional benefits too numerous to mention are possible, and even probable by giving God this chance to work through His people. May you each have an opportunity to share in this joy and unity with us.

In His service,
The Church at Memphis
Pastor Bill Shoffner

Scripture text: Acts 16:9, 10

Christian missions is letting the world know that Jesus Christ is alive. It is knowing Christ and making Him known. It is letting men know that Jesus Christ conquered death, hell and the grave. It is letting men know that Christ is wonderfully sufficient to satisfy the longing of the human heart. It is letting them know that Christ is willing and able to meet their every need.

Since it is the willing of God for every Christian to have a vital part in the missionary enterprise, every Christian will be held accountable for his response or lack of response to the Lordship of Christ and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We must recognize that missions is the main work of the Church, and not merely a subsidiary activity.

Christian missions is a world wide enterprise. God loves the world (John 3:16). Christ died for the sins of all the people in the world (1 John 2:2). He commissions us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

The Great Commission which gives a Scriptural foundation for missions is found in five places in the New Testament: at the close of each of the Gospels and at the opening of the book of Acts.

Matthew records the Great Commission in this way: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always; even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Five Vital Lessons

There are five vital lessons for us to learn from these words:

1. Since the risen Christ has all authority in heaven and earth, we are to go forth in His name, depending on Him to work through us.

2. We are to go with the Gospel. We are to go to our friends and to our loved ones; and we are to go to the ends of the earth.

3. We are to go to every nation, all over the world, to the regions beyond and to every creature.

4. We are to baptize those who exercise saving faith in Christ. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith.

5. We are to teach those who are saved. One of the great failures of the Church is that it has failed to maintain proper balance between proclaiming the Gospel and in feeding the sheep.

Apostle Paul says: We are Christ's ambassadors. Since we are ambassadors, God committed to us the ministry of reconciliation to tell to men everywhere the saving grace of God (2 Cor. 5:19, 20). It is the willing of God for every Christian to be a witness for Christ and have a vital part in the missionary enterprise (Acts 1:8).

God is looking today for men and women that He can use in the great task of world evangelism. Ezekiel 22:30 says: "I sought for a man among them, that should make up and defend you from attack, but I found none." Is there anyone among us who is willing to sacrifice self and personal interest for the sake of God?

There is no other man in the Bible and out of the Bible that God has used in such a mighty way as He uses the apostle Paul. He stands head and shoulders above all of the other servants of Christ. The Spirit of God used him to write thirteen of the books of the New Testament. He made three major missionary journeys. He was used of God to establish churches in both Asia and in Europe.

One of the things that made the apostle Paul the greatest missionary of all time was his sense of responsibility. He recognized that because of what Christ had done for him, he was a debtor to all men. He was willing to be accursed if he could bring others to Christ. Paul was the great champion of grace but recognized that

MISSIONARY VISION

by Rev. L. S. Thanga
Rangoon, Burma

in coming to Christ, he had the responsibility of telling others about Christ.

Paul was making a missionary journey when a vision appeared in the night and asked him to come over to Macedonia to help. What was his reaction? He immediately decided to go and preach the Gospel to them. This is missionary vision. The positive response is willingness! What will be your own response to the present day Macedonian call for help from all parts of the world? Are you prepared to go? If not, are you willing to pray and give more for missionary work?

There are three great outlets of missionary energy; that is—by praying, by going, and by giving. Some must go; some must let go; and some must help go. The most vital part is sacrifice.

You remember how Jesus sat one day over against the treasury and watched the people as they brought their gifts. And you recall His startling words: "Truly, I say unto you, this poor widow had cast in more than they all; for all these have of their abundance cast in, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had for her whole living" (Mark 12:42).

How much have we really given? Have we cast in out of our abundance? Are we trying to serve God, satisfying our conscience and saving the heathen with our spare cash? Jesus says: "Freely



Volunteer workers building the Graca, Burma, SDB Church.

ye have received, freely give," (Mt. 10:8).

Love is the supreme motive to all true sacrifice. It was love that moved the friend at midnight, the Good Shepherd, the Good Samaritan. "Love never failed." If you are lacking the missionary spirit you are lacking love.

Reasons for Failure

Many reasons could be given why we have failed to obey the commandment of Christ to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The principal reason is that we have failed to receive the promised power that would enable us to do the task for which Christ commissioned us.

If we are to obey the Great Commission, we must be filled with the Spirit of God. This is true of the ones who go to other lands with the Gospel, and should be true of those who stay at home to support them. It should be true as well to those who support national workers where the door is closed for missionaries. The most important thing for us is a new missionary vision, new attitude—the right attitude.

Jesus had a holy determination to do the will of God at all costs. He said: "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is

day: the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4). And because of this determination He was able to say: "I brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you told me to do" (John 17:4).

Paul had this same spirit. In the face of stonings, imprisonments, and privations of every kind, he said: "None of these things can move me, neither my life dear unto myself." When the time came for him to put his head on the executioner's block, he could say: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight for my Lord Jesus, and through it all I am faithful unto the Lord" (2 Tim. 4:6, 7).

The Bible says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18). Millions of people have never heard the Gospel because Christian people do not have a vision. We need a vision of the risen Christ, and we need a vision of a lost world.

When Isaiah saw the Lord, he also saw himself as he really was. When he experienced the cleansing power of the Lord, he heard the voice of the Lord saying: "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" He had a vision of a lost world and cried: "Here I am; send me" (Isaiah 6:8, 9).

If we know and love the Lord, we will have a vision of the world, and we will give ourselves to God so that He can work through us to bring the lost to Christ. We will have a missionary vision when we obey the commandment of Christ and lift up our eyes and look on the fields which are white already to harvest (John 4:35).

God wants every one of us here—all the Seventh Day Baptists—to have a vital part in world evangelism, and at the judgment seat of Christ every one of us will give an account to God for what we have done or for what we have failed to do.

The body of Christ—the Church—is joined together in which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part (Eph. 4:16). You and I as members of the body of Christ are called "joints" and "parts". Every joint and every part must function properly, if the body is to be healthy.

In working together as the body of Christ, every one of us has a vital part. Here are a few practical applications:

Firstly, God asks every one of us for full surrender to Him.

Secondly, we must discover the purpose and program of God for the age in which we live. This purpose is revealed to us in the Word of the living God.

Thirdly, God is still saying: "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" God wants some of us to go to neighbors, friends, and loved ones. He wants some to go across the sea. He is the Lord of the harvest.

Fourthly, Jesus not only said: "Go ye therefore," but He also said: "Pray ye therefore." God works in answer to believing prayers. The missionary on the field and national workers are sustained by the prayers of the people of God.

Fifthly, money is a vital part for the missionaries and national workers. If we love the Lord, we shall find joy in giving for His work.

(Continued on page 20)

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January 4
Day of Prayer
and Fasting

MISSION NOTES
shares facts
in RECORDER

AV
presentations
on
SDB Missions

SSMO—
Sabbath School Mission Offerings
in every SS!

Prayer for
Missions:
PRAYER CORNER
in the
RECORDER

CARE & SHARE
visits to your
church?!

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Ideas for your	1981 Year of Vision						<p>“Where there is no vision the people perish.”—Prov. 29:18 KJV</p>					

World
Federation
Sabbath:
January 10

A Missions
Bulletin Board
in every
church!

“Adopting” a
mission project
for regular
support

FAITH MISSION GIVING
a tried, exciting
plan for growth

Mission stories
shared in your
church from
“MISSIONS”

Learn the facts
about your
Church Extension
workers

Mission
Projects
of my Church

JULY 1981						
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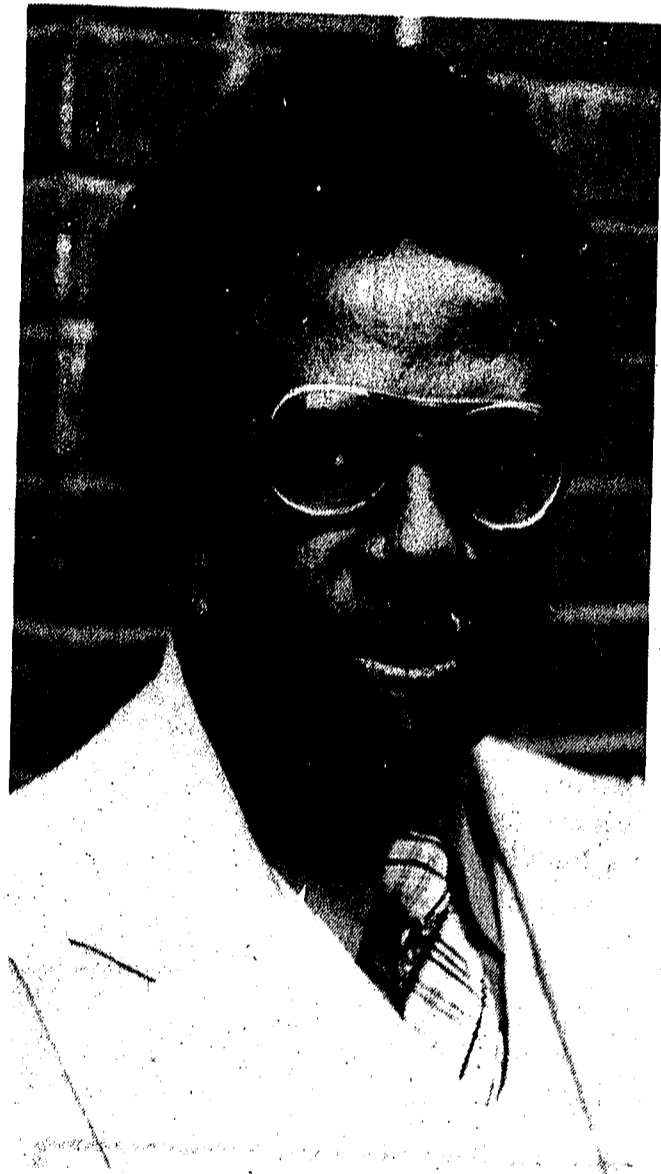
THE TORONTO, CANADA, SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Seventh Day Baptist church "North of the Border"

- ◆ became a member of the Allegheny Association
- ◆ installed Rev. Joe A. Samuels as Pastor
- ◆ purchased its own building
- ◆ became the first legal Seventh Day Baptist group in Canada
- ◆ plans to become a member church of the SDB General Conference (USA and Canada) —when the Bylaws allow such in August 1981.



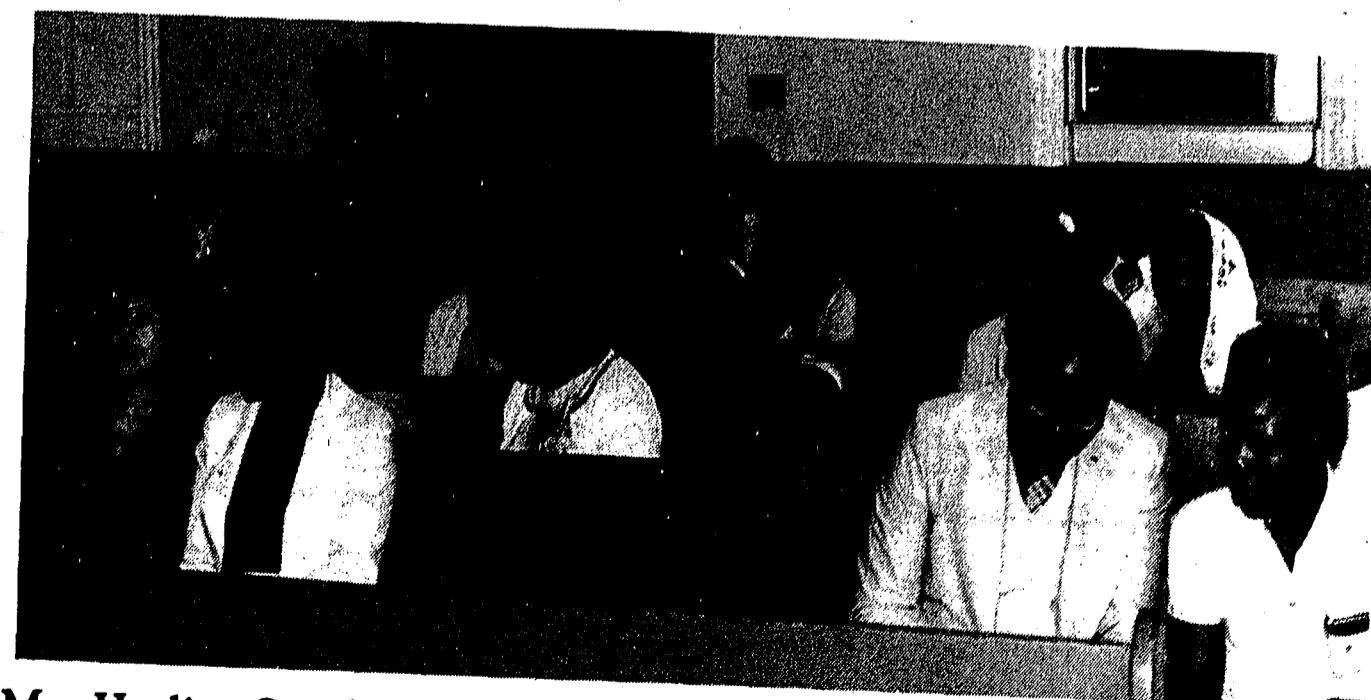
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Seventh Day Baptist Church, 45 Fisher St.



The congregation of the Toronto, Canada, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Joe A. Samuels, on the left, was installed October 1980.



Mr. Herlitz Condison (on left), leader of the Toronto church for several years, teaches the adult Sabbath School lesson.



KARL G. STILLMAN was born in Pawcatuck, CT, May 12, 1896, the son of Albert R. Stillman and Tacie Elizabeth Larkin Stillman, an eighth generation descendant of George Stillman I, who immigrated to this country in the late 1600's.

He and his wife Lady Pickering had a son, George II, whom they left behind in England feeling that it was unwise to bring a young child to a country where Indians made life hazardous. Lady Pickering died enroute to this country and was buried at sea. Her husband settled in Hadley, MA, where there was a military post and established himself as a trader with the Indians. At the time there was a Lieutenant Smith at the Post who had an attractive daughter whom George married for his second wife. They moved to Wethersfield, CT, where he opened a general store and developed a very prosperous business.

When son George, who had been left behind in England, reached young manhood he decided to come to this country to see his father in Wethersfield. For some reason he decided to go to Boston to look up some Stillmans he had heard lived in that area.

His route took him through Westerly where he was astounded to find its inhabitants doing their washing and performing other forms of work on Sunday. His trip to Boston did not find any Stillman relatives and remembering the fact that the people in Westerly were observing Saturday as the Sabbath, he decided to go back there and "show those deluded people the error of their ways" but as he said, "Instead of convincing them of their error, I became convinced myself and married Deborah Crandall."

On that slender thread has developed the many descendants through the years who have accepted and observed the Sabbath, beginning in Westerly and spreading throughout the country.

Mr. Stillman attended the West Broad Street School which included one year in the Pawcatuck High School which went out of existence in 1910 upon the change from district schools to a town school system. A central high school in Stonington was established in Stonington, CT, from which Mr. Stillman was graduated in 1913 as Salutatorian of his class.

PERSONALITY

R O F I L E



KARL G. STILLMAN

by Rev. Everett Harris

Consideration of a college to attend was given by his parents and Alfred University was on the list but removed because some students from our area were married to other students before finishing their studies. It was decided that he should not go to a coeducational institution.

The Latin teacher in Pawcatuck High School, George W. Woodward, had attended Dartmouth College. He described the small town environment of Hanover, citing the advantages of an all-male college, located a hundred miles from any town or city of appreciable size. A brother, Jesse Wilbur Stillman, had preceded Mr. Stillman three years earlier going to Dartmouth and the folks thought he could keep an eye on his brother for the one year before he would graduate in 1914, so there he went, graduating in 1917 with the Degree of Bachelor of Science.

The first World War had broken out in April 1917 and the college established the policy of granting degrees to Seniors who enlisted before graduation. All the students were afraid of being drafted into some branch of the service they would not like, so many classmates volunteered and left college.

Mr. Stillman was inclined to do so also but his father insisted that he was to earn his diploma by finishing the term and not have it handed to him "on a silver plate."

And so he stayed on and graduated on June 15, 1917 and then enlisted in the Ordnance Department of the Army. The last semester at college was spent in the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration and Finance, the first such school established in this country.

Mr. Stillman was called into service on July 19, 1917 at the Watertown, MA, Arsenal and in September was transferred to the Rainbow Division then camped at Camp Mills, Mineola, Long Island, NY, and in October he was in France, landing at St. Nazaire and then assigned to Intermediate Ordnance Depot No. 4 near Bourges. He was there only a short time when special orders came through detaching him from the Ordnance Department and assigning him to the staff of the Stars and Stripes, the official military newspaper. He never knew why he was selected or who was in Pershing's Headquarters who was responsible for the order.

FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

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He has just retired as Treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society after forty-nine years of service having been vitally interested in missions always and feeling the urgent need of building a stronger home base in order to build up our foreign field work.

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Missionary Vision

(Continued from page 15)

Each one of us is to give as He has prospered us. The tithe is a good starting place for poor Christians and this is what we are doing in Burma. But the wealthy should give much more than this. Are you prepared to give more? Are you willing to sacrifice more of your wealth and possessions for the work and ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

In conclusion, I want to remind all of you that the Bible is a great missionary book that gives us a solid foundation for our missionary vision and thinking.

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IS THE END OF THE WORLD AT HAND?

by Rev. Paul S. Burdick

Read what Peter has to say: "The world...was deluged with water and perished. By the same word the heavens and world that now exist have been stored up for fire...being kept until the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men." (1 Pet. 3:6,7)

So it appears that because of ungodliness among men, the world is stored up for destruction by fire, as once the world in Noah's day was destroyed by means of water.

The world in the 20th century has seen two great world wars. They were brought about, not by the wickedness of one or two men, as some would think, but by the stupidity and selfishness of us all. The destruction of Hiroshima by an atomic bomb came about because of the hate in every man's heart. It shows how the end of the world may be, not by an act of God, but by the acts of men.

In the Book of Revelation, we are told that when God wanted to destroy wicked Babylon, He caused an angel to pour out his vial that Babylon might drain the cup of His fury and every island fled away. It is reported that when one bomb like that used on Hiroshima was

exploded, an island disappeared beneath the waves. (Rev. 16:20)

Again we are told that after God had warned men to "hurt not the trees" another blast did "burn a third part of the world, a third part of the trees, and all the grass was burnt up. (Rev. 7:3)

So ungodly men in Vietnam destroyed trees to make the ground visible to those in the air.

Observation of All the Commandments?

Seventh Day Baptists, you are doing a good work in calling men once more to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" for this is God's day, not man's, to be changed, or given over to man's convenience or pleasure. So with the other commandments. Thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not have any other gods before me.

The New God To Worship

War justifies anything, people say. Now when men give everything over to the god of war, there is nothing precious enough or moral enough left but what it must be sacrificed toward winning a war. So it was with London under the blitz of Hitler's men, or with Dresden and other German cities under the planes of the Allied nations.

A writer in the *Scientific American* even made the suggestion that a limited war could be fought that might put out of commission an enemy's power to retaliate, so that it would soon sue for peace.

But the author of this article finally concluded that this kind of war is not possible without the danger of drawing in all the devices of modern warfare until all the world's wealth, its cities, its factories, its homes, and its people, would be sacrificed into this inferno.

America has 9,000 such weapons and the Soviets 5,000, each much more powerful than the one that hit Hiroshima, and not all of which could be put out of commission by a "first strike."

One God To Worship

One day Jesus and His disciples were traveling and chanced to pass through the midst of a Samaritan city, whose inhabitants refused to give them welcome, for they were traveling to Jerusalem. The disciples asked Jesus to bring down fire upon the city as God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. But Jesus said, "the Son of Man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

The warlike spirit must give way to the words of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world...preach, teach, baptize. Freely ye have received, freely give."

So Jesus says, "Pray for your enemies"...don't try to kill them. Some of us have learned how our prayers were granted...mountains have been removed and cast into the sea.

But prayer must be continuous, unending, and full of faith.

"Faithful earnest, loving prayer
It must cleave the dreary heavens,
As the songbirds cleave the air."

Those of you who will join me in prayer for our enemies and for world peace, please let me know, and I will respond to every letter, thanking God for this fellowship for prayer among our people.

The more people that will pray in this way, joining in one place, or scattered here and there yet all praying together, the more effective it will be. □

the CHURCH in ACTION

ALFRED ACTIVE IN MANY MINISTRIES

ALFRED, NY—God has richly blessed the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church as the fellowship continues to grow in His Spirit. As Christians commit their daily life to the work and witness of the Lord, the Sabbath gathering becomes a real celebration of praise to the Lord!

The church has been blessed by 19 baptisms since January 1980 and 16 new members have joined the church fellowship. Most of them are friends and relatives of church members who now profess Jesus as Lord. They include: Angie Butts, Jill Snyder, Mrs. Margaret Perry, Mrs. Lucille Baker, Cynthia Cartwright, Cheryl Cartwright, Mrs. Mildred Knight, Lydia Keough, Bruce Stubbs, Mrs. Edwina Stubbs, Richard Osborne, Robert E. Volk, Mrs. Beverly A. Snyder, Roger McGraw, Roger Gardner and Mrs. Penny Gardner.

The church's prayer meeting and Bible study, held each Tuesday night, has been attracting an average of 25, including Christians from other churches in our community. Pastor Tom has been teaching on the Holy Spirit, while those attending have also been blessed by the weekly season of prayer.

Several young adults of the church have been sharing the leadership role of a college-age Bible study that is in its third consecutive year. The study has been blessed by numbers as the college students returned this fall. The study averages about 20 students each Thursday night.

The church's coffeehouse ministry continues to bless as it ministers to college students through the music of "Living Water" and the refreshments in the warm atmosphere of the Parish House dining room.

The coffeehouse, in its first five weeks of the academic year, has had

four "full houses," with capacity about 75. And in those first five weeks, at least three students have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives!

The coffeehouse has also been an avenue through which our church members meet students and some have been drawn into our regular fellowship activities of Sabbath School, worship and socials.

The Sabbath School is growing by leaps and bounds, as the church's new van is used to pick up between 10 and 15 young people each Sabbath morning.

We have enjoyed opening our Sabbath activities with a "Singspiration" led by Beverly (Mrs. David) Snyder at 9:30 a.m., followed by regular classes. With Janette Rogers resigning as Sabbath School Superintendent, the church has appointed Barb Snyder to the position.

Sabbath School teachers this year include: Will and Sue Jacox, preschool; Chuck Gardiner, primary; Jerry Snyder and Edith Place, junior; Sherry Volk, junior high girls; David Snyder, junior high boys; Bob Volk, senior high; Beverley (Mrs. Harold) Snyder, adult; Sandra McGraw, adult. The Friendly Forum continues to meet, also.



The first thing done in making a 20-foot banana split is placing the bananas in the trough. From then on, it was a "Do your own thing" project. Boy, was it fun!

The church has begun having monthly church socials as an informal way of outreach and continued fellowship, and just plain fun. Thus far, we've had a pie social following a village band concert, a corn roast in the apple orchard of Bruce and Winnie Stubbs and a 20 foot banana split!! Yes, 20 foot! Each event has been well attended and enjoyed by all.

There has been renewed interest in Youth Fellowship, with Beth Goodridge and Rich Osborne recruiting youth while Roger and Penny Gardner and Bob Cartwright serve as advisors. The youth have numbered about 20 each Saturday night and recently took 37 area youth to the Kanona Youth for Christ Center, where three young people accepted the Lord!

The church's discipleship cell discontinued meeting during the summer months to pursue camp and fair booth commitments. Beth Goodridge, Terry Jackson, Rich Osborne, Dave and Beverly Snyder and Amanda and Melissa Snyder and Craig Mix worked at the Allegany County Fair, where the S.D.B. Allegheny Association booth was the only booth proclaiming the Gospel!

During the week at the fair, 686 tracts were given out, most of which were Gospel tracts. Those working in the booth were able, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to witness to many in the crowds that attended.

As the church looks forward to continued ministry to the community, church family retreat was held Oct. 3-5 at Camp Harley Sutton. The church's annual dinner and meeting was held Oct. 12 when new officers were elected and committees appointed.

One committee that was appointed was a Pastoral Search Committee, as Pastor Tom has resigned effective Dec. 7, 1980. His resignation was accepted "with sincerest apologies for our lack of full support of His ministry in our church as a whole church body," at a special church meeting Sept. 14.

Many will miss Pastor Tom Sostar, who had a lively and fruitful pastorate in our church. We continue to enjoy his leadership and faithful service to the Lord and are praying that the Lord will continue to direct and bless him as he has in the past. □

-David Snyder

LITTLE GENESEE CHURCH REPORTS ACTIVE YEAR

LITTLE GENESEE, NY—Our first money raising event in 1980, was a pancake supper, April 14, to help defray the expense of camp, so that our Sabbath School children could attend Camp Harley in July.

Our annual birthday party, April 28, attracted about 100 people, making it a real community get-together. The Rev. Albert Rogers, Alfred Station, NY, was our guest at the annual pulpit exchange while Pastor Crouch went to Alfred.

Mrs. Margaret Burdick and Mrs. Becky Crouch participated in the World Day of Prayer Union Service at the Episcopal Church in Bolivar. Several other ladies from our church also attended.

Mr. and Mrs. John Reynolds were honored at a dinner reception in the Community Center, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary, May 18. Over 100 people attended the affair, which was hosted by their three daughters and families.

Genesee Township had its Sesqui-centennial celebration July 26-29. One of the highlights was a skit, "Genesee Begins," written and directed by Leta DeGroff, depicting early days in the SDB church. The members of the cast were dressed to represent members attending a church meeting in 1827. Our church also held a special union church service, Sabbath morning. Visitors were present from several states.

Our pastor was director of Vacation Bible School here in Little Genesee the last week of June and director of Junior Camp at Camp Harley Sutton in July before going off to Denver for Conference and a week's vacation afterwards.

On October 3-4 our church helped the First Hebron SDB Church with the ordination services for our joint pastor, Steven Crouch. Dean Herbert Saunders of Council on Ministry, Rev. Mynor Soper, Missionary evangelist and Rev. and Mrs. John Rau of Brookfield, NY, were in attendance along with our sister churches of the Allegheny Association and Steve's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Crouch of Milton, WI. We were very proud of Steve and his very thoroughly thought-out statement.

Our latest project, spearheaded by Amy Cudahy and Vicki Kuhn, is an effort toward more involvement

of our young people in the church and community. □

—Arvida Wainman and Wilma Sanford

ORDINATION OF STEVEN P. CROUCH

LITTLE GENESEE, NY—Pastor Steven P. Crouch was ordained into the Seventh Day Baptist ministry on Sabbath Day, October 4, at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron, Coudersport, Pennsylvania.

The call to examination on Friday evening, October 3, was given by both the Hebron and Little Genesee, NY, churches which he has been serving the past year since his graduation from North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD.

The Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, Alfred Station, NY, was elected moderator of the council of delegates from the Alfred, NY, Alfred Station, NY, Richburg, NY, Little Genesee, NY, and Hebron, PA, churches. Visiting clergy also elected were the Rev. John A. Rau, Brookfield, NY, the Rev. Mynor Soper, Texarkana, AR, and the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, Dean of Seventh Day Baptist Ministry, Plainfield, NJ.

The Sabbath Day services consisted of a morning worship service and the observance of the Lord's Supper. The Rev. Soper brought the ordination sermon, "Preach the Word," and the Rev. Rau, the children's message, "Fairness." A tureen dinner was served at noon followed by the ordination service at two o'clock.

The Rev. David Clarke conducted the opening worship after which the Rev. John Rau gave the charge to the candidate, and the Rev. Rex Zwiebel, the charge to the church. The Rev. Saunders gave the prayer of consecration after which the Rev. Soper welcomed the candidate to the ministry. The Rev. Albert Rogers gave the closing benediction.

Special music, "He Was Wounded" sung during the morning worship service, and "Bless This Child" one of the ordination prayers, was sung by a mixed quartet from the Hebron church, William W. and Kathryn Thompson, Pearl Brock, and David Hauber, accompanied at the organ by Mrs. Thomas (Margaret) Burdick of Little Genesee, NY. □

—Rachel Kenyon

ARKANSAS STATE FAIR BOOTH

LITTLE ROCK, AR—The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Rock sponsored a booth again this year at the Arkansas State Fair. The attractive poster of praying hands with the Lord's Prayer by Winnie Monroe drew many to the booth and enabled us to share our witness. Our major emphasis was on the way of salvation and God's love. This is the third year that Mrs. Monroe has drawn posters for the fair booth. Many who had seen Mrs. Monroe's Ten Commandment poster at the booth last year came back and asked if we had any of them left over. Truly we are blessed to have such willing and talented hands to serve.

Dan Johnson again sponsored the Bibles for our fair booth drawings as well as many copies of the Gospel of John which were given out to those interested in that study. One of last year's Bible winners came by to thank us and brought her friends to sign up for the drawing this year. Over 3,000 tracts and posters were distributed by the participants in this year's outreach.

We have been advertising in local newspapers again this year as well as taking out a special ad in other Arkansas cities. The Lord has continued to bless our worship services and provide opportunities for us to witness during each week.

It has been a blessing to have three nurses from the Baptist Hospital attending our services: Jennifer Booth, a member of the London Seventh Day Baptist Church, Velma Virgo and Beverlie Newmancook Horne who are members of the Wakefield, Jamaica, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

We are looking forward to new opportunities, challenges and blessings as the new year approaches. □



Mrs. Winnie Monroe displays the poster given by the Little Rock church at the fair booth.

PEOPLE'S CHURCH CELEBRATES HARVEST HOME SERVICE

NEW YORK, NY—Editor John D. Bevis was the guest speaker at the annual Harvest Home service of the People's Christian Church in New York City on November 15, 1980. This celebration has been observed since the church was founded in 1916. The Sabbath-observing church is located at 165 West 105th Street in Manhattan.

The congregation has close ties with Seventh Day Baptists. There were representatives present at this service from the New York Seventh Day Baptist Church in the Bronx. Special greetings were shared by the Rev. Joe Samuels, new pastor of the Toronto, Canada, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Editor Bevis observed that even though he is a thousand miles south of New York he has preached for the People's Church five times this year. Some call him their "long-distance" pastor. In recent months other Seventh Day Baptist leaders have served this church including: Rev. Harmon Dickinson, Dr. K.D. Hurley, Rev. Leon Lawton and Thomas L. Merchant. □

DAVIS FAMILY HONORED FOR TEN YEARS SERVICE

BATTLE CREEK, MI—A total of 79 campers attended our Camp Holston camps this summer as reported at our October business meeting. Ruth Bennett directed Day Camp, Gary Hemminger—Intermediate Camp, the Rev. Larry Graffius from White Cloud—Junior Camp, and Norma Rudert from White Cloud—Primary Camp. Our Junior Camp was cut short due to an electrical outage after a severe storm hit the area. Many trees were downed and houses were damaged by the high winds, and all area residents were without electricity from a few hours to several days. Fortunately, there were no personal injuries. Electricity at the camp was off for three days.

After the camping season, three baptismal services were held with a total of eleven candidates. Several of this group have joined the church including a Puerto Rican family. The church helped another Puerto Rican family get settled in this country. Some Sabbath mornings we have greetings, special music, and testimonies in Spanish with translations

for our non-Spanish members.

Our Young Adult Sabbath School Class which has 25 to 30 members is really growing. The group, taught by George Parrish, now meets in Frankie Davis' apartment in our Parish House next door to the church, but it is hoped they can move into our largest Sabbath School room at the church soon. Our Martha Wardner Room has been refurbished recently with sunny yellow paint, new white plastered ceiling, more adequate lighting from fluorescent fixtures, and new drapes. Since the Young Adult Sabbath School Class feels especially comfortable in a "home" atmosphere, the furnishing of the Martha Wardner Room will be with lounge-type furniture. P.T.L. for growing Sabbath School classes!

An Open House was held at the church and Parish House at the end of July to show the progress of the refurbishing work being done. Our Parish House is also undergoing a transformation, inside and out. The Battle Creek Day Care Center now uses the entire downstairs of the building, which was possible after the former renter of the back apartment moved out. The Center has expanded its services to include an infant care center, and much re-decorating work was done in preparation. Their former office upstairs is now a private counselling office for our pastor after refurbishing. Wallpaper layers were stripped and replaced with paint, the floor was carpeted, lovely and comfortable furniture was acquired, and pictures and accessories were chosen. Dr. LeRoy DeLand's family gave his walnut desk as a memorial and Walter Wilkinson designated memorial money in memory of Edna Wilkinson to go for other furniture. Volunteers did the work. The many contributions added up to a beautiful room for counseling.

Many of the upstairs Parish House rooms have been redecorated in the same way. In the hall and stairway, floors were sanded and refinished. Work is now in progress on painting the outside of the building. We are thankful for those who give of themselves in time, talent, and money to keep our church property in good repair, whereby giving God the love, honor, and service He deserves.

In an evangelistic effort this summer, our church worked with several others in sponsoring an area-wide Clyde Dupin Crusade held August 24-31 at a school football field. The Crusade is unique because the sponsoring churches share in the planning of the

Crusade and do five-week follow-ups on all of the people who go forward at the services. Our pastor, S. Kenneth Davis, was the prayer chairman for the city, arranging for prayer vigils throughout the city and prayer meetings in the counselling tent prior to the Crusade. Several members served on the Crusade committees as our church representatives, and several others were trained as counsellors. Twelve people related to our church made decisions at the Crusade, and our counsellors are following up on these individuals.

Four Discipleship Cells continue this Fall with a total of 19 enrolled including three disciplers. The Cells are on Phase 4 of the Decision to Discipleship series. Pastor Ken is one of the disciplers.

A surprise reception was held after church services the first of September to honor Pastor Ken and Jean on their ten years of service to us here in Battle Creek. At the church's business meeting in July, the church voted to change the call of the pastor from a yearly call to one for an indefinite time. This was a bylaw change, and all our future pastors will be called for an indefinite time. A special business meeting was held to call Pastor Ken for an indefinite time. Either the pastor or church members can call for a vote of confidence at any time. The change was made to encourage the pastor to make long-range plans for the church by giving him the assurance that he would most likely be the leader to carry out those plans in the coming years. □

—Karen Thorngate

PRESIDENT GRAFFIUS VISITS ADVENTIST HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On October 2, Rev. Charles Graffius, President of the General Conference paid visits to the General Conference headquarters of Seventh-day Adventists in Washington, D.C. He also toured Columbia Union College and the Review and Herald Publishing House. President Graffius met with Adventist President, Elder Neal C. Wilson; Secretary G. Ralph Thompson, Ministerial Association Secretary J. Robert Spangler; and the editor of the *Adventist Review*, Elder Kenneth H. Wood. Later he spent some time with the president of Columbia Union College, William Loveless, and teachers in the theology department. □

**DESIRE TO OPERATE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SHARED**

FOUKE, AR—The Fouke Seventh Day Baptist Church has been active in recent months with an average attendance of about 40. The church voted to send monthly support to foreign missions. A move to support Pastor Floyd L. Goodson and Rev. Mynor G. Soper on the radio for thirteen weeks was also approved. The program will begin after Thanksgiving.

The Fouke SDB Youth Center is beginning its eighth year. Judo, boxing, arts and crafts, journalism, and a tutoring service are now being offered. A girls' gymnastics class and a women's slimnastics class are now being considered to begin soon.

A move has begun to reopen the Fouke Academy. A charter from the State of Arkansas was applied for and granted. A church school could not begin in 1980 because of lack of funds. A teacher is available. Pastor Goodson has taught for over twenty-five years on all levels, first through university. At the present time he is teaching at Texarkana Community college. He holds a doctorate from the University of Arizona.

In order to open the Academy for the school year of 1981-82, he needs a minimum of \$20,000. The school would have to be subsidized for a period of five to nine years. After that, the school should be able to operate on its own. The academy would be operated on Christian principles and would stress development in the academic, the physical, the social and the spiritual areas.

Pastor Goodson hopes that the Youth Center's tutoring service will lead into an interest in the academy. Two young ladies are participating in the service with an eye to enrolling at Texarkana Community College in January. □



Kathy Campbell and Lynn Smith take advantage of our Fouke SDB Youth Center's tutoring service. Both young ladies plan to attend college in January, 1981.

PLAINFIELD HAS RETREAT

PLAINFIELD, NJ—We are indeed happy to have Pastor and Mrs. Victor W. Skaggs with us. He was installed September 6 at an inspiring service conducted by Dean Herbert E. Saunders. There was a large attendance with visitors from New York City, Irvington, Raritan Valley, Shiloh, New York State, and Jamaica. Hospital Chaplain David Quiring and Rev. Edward Schneider took part in the service. We welcomed four new members—our pastor and his wife Ardale, their son Patrick and his wife Debbie, who live near enough to attend from time to time. Following a bounteous fellowship dinner which featured a large lettered cake, Pastor Skaggs spoke of his aspirations for our church. It was a thrilling day for our congregation.

At our quarterly meeting Janet Whitford, president of the Board of Trustees, reported many renovations to the parsonage and church. Among other things, the parsonage and garage had been painted, plexiglass had been installed over the sanctuary windows, and the church bells had been repaired and had been rung again.

Our Spiritual Life Retreat October 17-18 was held in Plainfield rather than at the Baptist Conference Center in Lebanon and was a real success. On Sabbath Eve the Sabbath welcoming service was at the Saunders home, while the rest of the retreat was at the church. The emphasis was on the Christian family. A very complete breakfast was served by the young people Sabbath morning at 8:00. Pastor Skaggs had prepared an in-depth study on the characteristics of a Christian family and the responsibilities of each member.

During the worship service K.D. and Shireen Hurley sang a duet and read from Proverbs. The message was on "Joy and Responsibility." The pastor said that love, trust, and trustworthiness are essential to a happy family. The fellowship dinner was followed by devotions and singspiration, led by Douglas and Melody Wheeler. The Saunders family had charge of fun and fellowship, including Bible games, in the afternoon.

The mystery supper prepared by Kay Maltby and Ardale Skaggs was hilarious. The menu consisted of seventeen mysterious names, which each person divided into three courses. Some received their dessert first and

nothing to eat it with. This correspondent was fortunate to get a fork with the first course, "sloppy joe" with the second course, and gingerbread and topping with the third course, but most were not so lucky. The old movies shown after supper included one of the landing of Apollo 11 on the moon in 1969.

Pastor Skaggs' messages have been outstanding. "Little Less Than God" stressed the relationship of Christians to one another. God builds people up, but we are apt to tear down people's confidence, often unconsciously. Sensitivity, respect, and appreciation are necessary if we are to recognize the worth of others and help them to grow and mature in the Christian life. □

—Ruth Hunting Parker

WOMEN'S SOCIETY ORGANIZED

FARINA, IL—The women of the Farina Seventh Day Baptist Church organized a Ladies' Aid Society this past month. During the weekend session, Mary Clare, Executive Secretary of the Board of Christian Education led in a series of five sessions. Three of these sessions were open to all local women with two other sessions aimed at helping SDB women with specific goals and spiritual growth.

There were several goals established for the new Ladies' Aid Society. First, a regular meeting time was set for the first Sabbath of each month following a noon luncheon. The women also decided to start by studying "What Happens When Women Pray" by Evelyn Christenson. The women also agreed to correspond with and encourage isolated Sabbath-keepers. The women are going to do research to see if there is a need for "Meals on Wheels" in Farina.

During the summer months the church was happy to host an S.C.S.C. team. Victor Burdick and Othneil Murphy did a great job of developing community awareness of our church. The team started the painting of the church and the job was finished by a local painter. The Lord led many people to help with the cost of the painting and we wish to thank all who contributed to this fund.

We were happy that Willy Klajbor made his decision for Christ and was baptized on July 26. We have started a "Decision to Disciple" class with three members. □

—Pastor Robert Van Horn

OBITUARIES



Wayne N. Crandall

CRANDALL—Deacon Wayne N., son of Milford and Euphemia Crandall, was born on April 22, 1914 in the town of Andover, New York, and died at Bethesda Hospital, Hornell, New York, November 8, 1980.

Mr. Crandall was a graduate of Cornell University and served as a school administrator and teacher all of his life. His talents were used in Almond, Canisteo, and Arkport, New York. Upon retirement in 1970, he and his wife, Katherine, answered the call to go to Jamaica, West Indies, where he served four years as principal of the Crandall High School, a Seventh Day Baptist institution named after his uncle, Dr. Benjamin Crandall.

He served as deacon in the Independence and Alfred Station, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Churches.

He was a member of the Arkport, New York, Exchange Club and of the Hornell Camp of the Gideons International where he served as treasurer up to the time of his confinement. For many years he was a devoted member of the Board of Directors of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education and was the president for several terms. His denomination honored him by electing him Conference president for the year of 1959.

Surviving are his wife, Katherine Green Crandall; a daughter, E. Camille (Mrs. Joseph) Lovering of South Burlington, Vermont; three sons, Kenneth of Medway, Massachusetts, Curtis of Kenmore, New York, and Dale of Arkport, New York; a sister, Maxine (Mrs. Arnold) Remaly of Greenfield, Massachusetts; a brother, Edward of Alfred, New York; and six grandchildren.

Farewell services were held in the Bender Funeral Home in Hornell, New York, with his pastor, the Reverend Rex E. Zwiebel, officiating.

Interment was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery, Alfred, New York.

—R.E.Z.

DRAPER—Fred, was born March 1, 1903, in Malvern, AR, and died Sept. 12, 1980, at Richmond, CA.

He is survived by his wife, Zillah, two daughters, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

A Masonic funeral was held. A memorial service was held by the Bay Area, CA, Seventh Day Baptist Church, conducted by Pastor Stephan Saunders and Oscar Burdick. Entombment was at Sunset Mausoleum, Kensington, CA.

—S.F.S.

JOHNSON—Charles Wesley, son of Earl and Helen Johnson, was born Dec. 27, 1933, at Phoenix, AZ, and died in New Orleans, LA, Feb. 5, 1978. He is survived by his parents; two brothers, Samuel and Gerald; three children, Charles, Robert, and Patricia; and a grandson, Patrick.

Funeral services were conducted in San Francisco, CA, by Assistant Pastor Jay Zarembo, of the Bay Area, CA, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Burial was at Green Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, CA.

—O.C.B.

ACCESSIONS

MEMPHIS, TN
William Shoffner, Pastor

By Baptism:
Chris Rafferty

By Testimony:
Jim Shackelford

PAINT ROCK, AL
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Testimony:
Doris Catherine (Mrs. Wm. E.) Baer
William E. Baer

SALEM, WV
J. Paul Green, Pastor

Associate Members:
Thomas Goodson
Kim (Mrs. Thomas) Goodson
Rochale Goodson

MARRIAGES

COOMBS-CRUZAN—John Howard Coombs, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Coombs, Jr. of Elmer, NJ, and Donna Ruth Cruzan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane A. Cruzan of Bridgeton, NJ, were united in marriage on October 25, 1980, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Shiloh, NJ, with Rev. Charles Bond, the pastor of the bride, officiating. They will reside at Elmer, NJ.

HINSON-MONROE—E. Dale Hinson, Jr., son of Mrs. and Mrs. E.D. Hinson of North Little Rock, Arkansas, and Cheryl Denise Monroe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berwin L. Monroe of North Little Rock, Arkansas, were united in marriage on June 20, 1980, in Graves Memorial Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, by Rev. Floyd Goodson, pastor of the Fouke Seventh Day Baptist

Church.

HOLLOWAY-DE LUSSEY—Gregory Elliot Holloway, son of Rev. and Mrs. Lee Holloway, and Janis Sarah DeLussey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald De Lussey, were united in marriage on Sabbath afternoon, November 1, 1980, in the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church. The father of the groom officiated. The bride was recently a staff member of Campus Crusade for Christ. The couple resides in the Philadelphia area where the groom is chairman of the Board of Mainline Coin and Stamp Corporation.

SANDERS-GIFFORD—Gilbert Earl Sanders, son of Mrs. Martha Fiffik, and Sherri Elaine Gifford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Denver B. Gifford, were united in marriage at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist Church on October 31, 1980. Rev. Paul Green officiated.

SWEENEY-SUTTON—Daniel H. Sweeney, son of Charles and Maurine Sweeney of Center Point, WV, and Terri LeAnn Sutton, daughter of Reverend Edward and Briana Sutton of Salem, WV, were united in marriage on September 5, 1980, at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. The bride's father, Rev. Edward Sutton and Rev. J. Paul Green shared in the nuptials.

BIRTHS

BARNES—A daughter, Kristin Diane Barnes, to The Rev. and Mrs. William S. Barnes, on July 16, 1980. The maternal grandparents are Gordon and Jean (Stone) Houser, all of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and formerly of Cortland, NY.

CRANDALL—A son, Philip David Crandall to Stephen and Patricia (Montgomery) Crandall of Alfred, NY, on November 13, 1980.

LANDERS—A son, Dewey Lee III, to Dewey Jr. and Mary Landers of Pass Christian, Mississippi, on November 13, 1980.

LAWTON—A son, Nathanael James, to Rev. Gordon and Linda (Burdick) Lawton of Ashaway, RI, on October 29, 1980.

MATTHES—A daughter, Lisa Marie, to Greg and Cyndi (Sanford) Matthes of Springfield, VA, on October 21, 1980.

MONROE—A son, Joshua Nathan, to Jeff and Donna Monroe of North Little Rock, Arkansas, on September 13, 1980.

VAN HORN—A daughter, Marissa Lee, was born to Robert and Lana Van Horn of Farina, IL, on August 13, 1980.

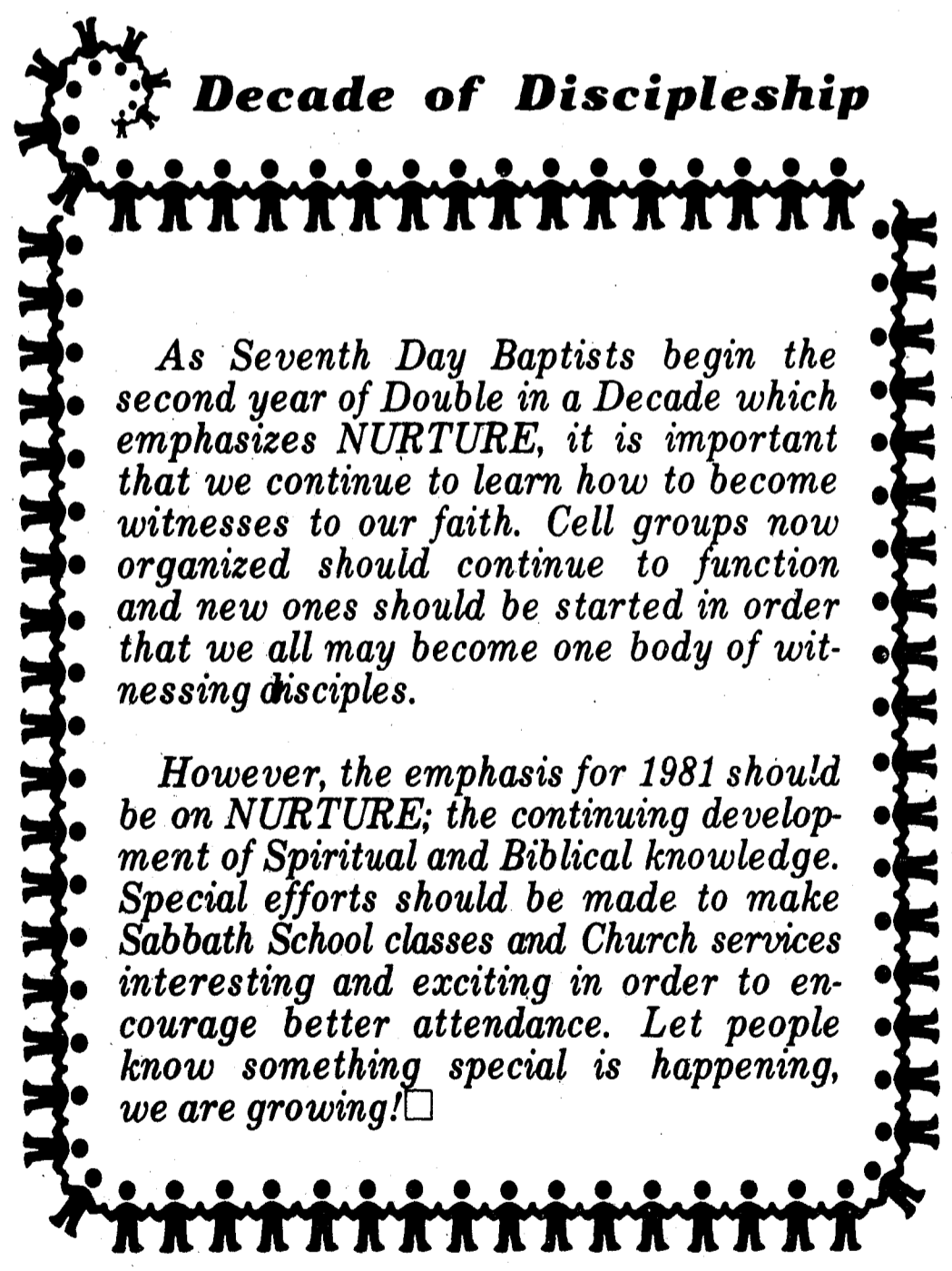
**GENERAL CONFERENCE
DATE CHANGED**

August 2-8, 1981
Salem, West Virginia

spend our time thinking about these basic things, what shall we spend our time and effort on? Well, the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews had heard the teachings of Jesus repeated; he knew that these things were essential to Christian faith and life. He knew also that they were only the first steps, that Christian faith and life would atrophy and die unless they moved on from this point to deeper and less evident truths.

That is exactly our position when we give ourselves to joy in our salvation. It is wonderful! We should be joying in it from day to day! But when we give ourselves to it and to it alone, and have only this to talk about in our Christian witness, we are dealing with the initial stages of our faith only. If that is as far as our experience has gone, and if we judge the adequacy of someone else's faith by his or her expression of his salvation in so many words, then we have not understood the message of the Bible. More than two-thirds of the New Testament is not about these basic things at all. Most of it is about the development after repentance and salvation — the development in the new Christian of the real and finally-to-be-complete image of Jesus Christ. That is the meat of its message. This is the diet which the infant cannot bear. This is the food that the superficial religionist cannot abide. This is where we so often stop short. It is here we often do violence to human personality. We underestimate its powers and its values. We contribute to lethargy in the church, for we are unwilling to take the demands of the New Testament seriously and apply them to ourselves and to those whom we meet.

Decade of Discipleship



As Seventh Day Baptists begin the second year of Double in a Decade which emphasizes NURTURE, it is important that we continue to learn how to become witnesses to our faith. Cell groups now organized should continue to function and new ones should be started in order that we all may become one body of witnessing disciples.

However, the emphasis for 1981 should be on NURTURE; the continuing development of Spiritual and Biblical knowledge. Special efforts should be made to make Sabbath School classes and Church services interesting and exciting in order to encourage better attendance. Let people know something special is happening, we are growing! □

You see, we want to grow! We want to be used by the Spirit of God to win others to Him and to help them find the gift of salvation. This is our purpose. But as long as we turn aside from those we call "gross sinners", as long as we approach others with our "rightness" and their "wrongness", as long as we consciously or unconsciously, put others down, as long as we insist on our decisions, not only for ourselves, but also for them, as long as we will not move beyond the primary and basic steps of faith nor let others near us move either — then, just so long will our efforts be frustrated, and just so long will we do violence to the human personalities which are all around us. Just so long will we be unfruitful servants to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Lord, what is man that thou are mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God...."

Do you look at your neighbor and see a person only a little less than God? Do you look at those of whom you disapprove and see persons only a little less than God? Do you see each person's worth even when you detest what he does? Can you see in yourself and in others around you the development of the image of Christ? You are only a LITTLE less than God. He made you that way. He made me that way. He made every me that way! However any one of us has marred His creation by sin, that worth remains, the capabilities are there; and they must be treated with respect and with awe and with wonder and with joy, if we are to give other persons the chance for growth and maturity under God in Jesus Christ which God has prepared for each one. □

"Remembering the Acts of God"

(Continued from page 11)

and few Seventh Day Baptist "super churches", with pastors so senior that they can devote significant blocks of their time to study and writing; it becomes of the utmost importance that the historical Society perform this function for Seventh Day Baptists. Articles in magazines, encyclopedias and directories are written. Special addresses are presented for historically significant occasions. and a graduate credit course in Seventh Day Baptist history is offered to our ministerial students.

With activities such as these, and with a foundation consisting of acquisition, preservation and organization, and reference, the historical Society attempts to fulfill its mission of remembering and telling of the wonderful things God has done among Seventh Day Baptists.

Won't you support us in this vital activity?

"Listen, my people, to my teaching, and pay attention to what I say. I am going to use wise sayings and explain mysteries from the past, things we have heard and known, things that our fathers told us." □



At Conference in Denver, I spoke to many of you about writing something for the Children's Page. Alfred Bejjani wrote a testimony for us. Alfred is 10 years old.

I used to be in a two way pass. I used to be a Christian and I loved the world. Well, I went to camp and I had a talk with Randy. Well, he told me you got to be a 100% Christian. Well, I did become a real Christian. If you're like me, think what you want to be. You have to be 100% something.

Faith Camenga, from the Upper East Tennessee Church, gave us the words to her favorite song. Faith is 8 years old.

**1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
Seven is the day
That we lay aside our work
To worship God and pray.
Daily cares to be forgotten on the
Sabbath Day.
We sing praises to God on this the
Sabbath Day.**

Here are some new words to a tune you probably know. The tune was written by Aaron Williams in the 18th century. The name of the tune is St. Thomas, and you know it as "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord," or "Come, We That Love the Lord."

**I like to go to church;
I like to sing and pray.
But most of all I like to
Worship God on Sabbath Day.**

-Linda Harris



"We love because
God first loved us."
1 John 4:19

Jane Mackintosh

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR WOMEN'S BOARD

The new year is upon us and it is time for churches to be submitting project plans for their Summer Christian Service Corps workers. It is also time for our young people who will have at least finished their junior year of high school by June to submit their applications for serving this summer. It is urgent that these plans and applications be submitted immediately so that the SCSC committee can have adequate time to plan for the 1981 Summer Christian Service Corps program.

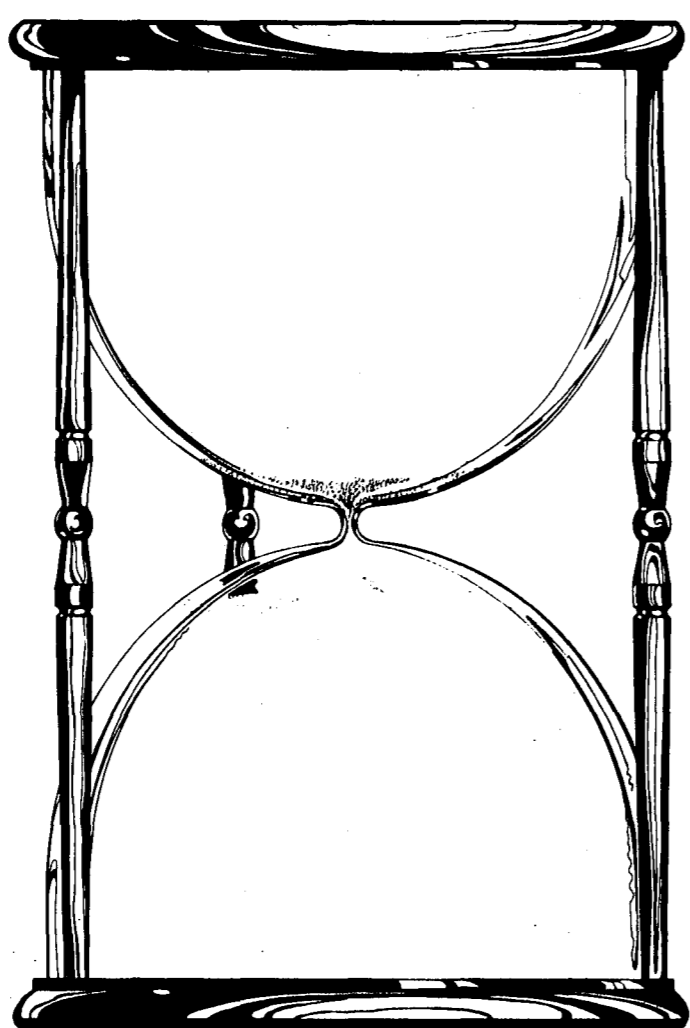
SCSC is one of the most important aspects of the work of the Women's Board. I have very little personal knowledge of this program except for my observations of the young people who have returned from their summer of SCSC. They come back with a new spiritual maturity, ready to work in their own churches.

I asked Joni Burdick, one of last summer's SCSC'ers to write about the SCSC experience. She writes:

SCSC is a great opportunity to serve the Lord. It's a summer filled with fun, excitement, work and learning. It offers chances to grow spiritually, get to know and work with people, go places, and do many new and different things.

There is a training for ten days at the beginning of the summer. This prepares the workers for the summer ahead. Classes taught in the past have discussed the Holy Spirit, feeling versus will, prayer, God's love, witnessing, visitation, counselling camps, doing crafts and teaching VBS (Bible School). Training is also a great time for fellowship, love and encouragement from the other workers and the staff.

The projects last for five to six weeks. This offers the chance to "go out into the world" and practice what's been learned at training. One learns many lessons and goes through some difficult situations, which God uses to develop inner character and Christlikeness. One also learns much about communication. Working



closely with a partner for five weeks can be difficult at times but one soon learns to work things out with his/her partner. Partners are usually helpful, fun, and easy to work with though.

Each person learns some really important lessons throughout the summer. Each person has different needs so the Lord teaches each

worker different lessons, but there are some important things learned in past years which have helped the workers greatly. One is that love is a decision not a feeling. Therefore, if one does not "feel" loving toward a certain person, he can "decide" to love this person anyway with God's love. A favorite SCSC song is "I love you with the Love of the Lord." God's love is perfect and abundant. We can love anyone with God's love.

Another important point is that "feelings are neither right nor wrong, they just are." The feelings we have aren't wrong until we act upon them. Jesus said, "Be angry and sin not." We shouldn't suppress our feelings, or let them out in a harmful way, but we should learn to control our feelings and express them calmly and rationally.

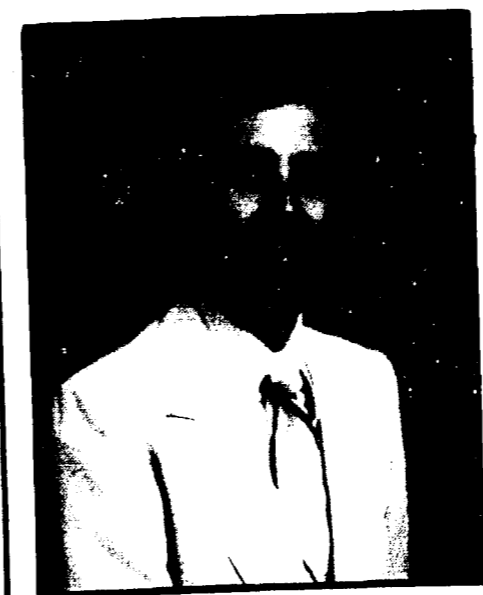
A third thing about SCSC is that it is a chance to serve the Lord and He honors this. Proverbs 3:6 says, "In everything you do put God first and He will crown your efforts with success." If we will only honor and serve God then He will give us success in the things we do.

SCSC helps a person learn more about God, depend on Him more, have a better self-esteem, build character, learn valuable lessons, and most importantly, to grow closer to the Lord.

-Joni Burdick

Mail project plans and worker applications to:

SCSC COMMITTEE
c/o Los Angeles SDB Church
4976 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90042



Editorial

with the work of the American Sabbath Tract Society are committed to the goals established many years ago and written at that time into the constitution of the society.

At the beginning of the new year it has become somewhat customary for individuals, and sometimes groups, to make resolutions for the new year. We might compare this to goal setting — establishing our priorities for the new year. It is true that people with goals find a meaning in life.

The beginning of a new year is also a time of reflection — a time of looking back on the accomplishments and failures of the year passed. This time of reflection could give one the incentive to accomplish more in the future. It is good to reflect and to establish plans and goals whether we do this individually or as a group such as a local church or denomination. We also need to be aware of the danger of having too many resolutions and too little action.

We establish goals, and usually put them in writing, in order to direct our efforts towards the achievement of a purpose. Those of us concerned

"The name of this corporation shall be 'American Sabbath Tract Society,' and its object shall be to promote the observance of the Bible Sabbath and the interests of vital Godliness and sound morality, and to print and circulate the religious literature of the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination of Christians."
-Article I

We are sure our Board of Trustees would in this new year reaffirm their commitment to these objectives. And we would resolve to continue our service to the denomination in the publication of religious truth with special emphasis on the sharing of the good news of God's Sabbath — our special time with Him.

As we enter this new year may we all resolve to "press on toward the mark for the high calling of God in Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:14). □

Promise yourself:

GOALS

- To be so strong nothing can disturb your peace of mind;
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity;
- To make your friends feel that there is something in them;
- To look on the sunny side of everything;
- To think only of the best;
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own;
- To forget the mistakes of the past and profit by them;
- To wear a cheerful countenance and give a smile to everyone you meet;
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear,
- And too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

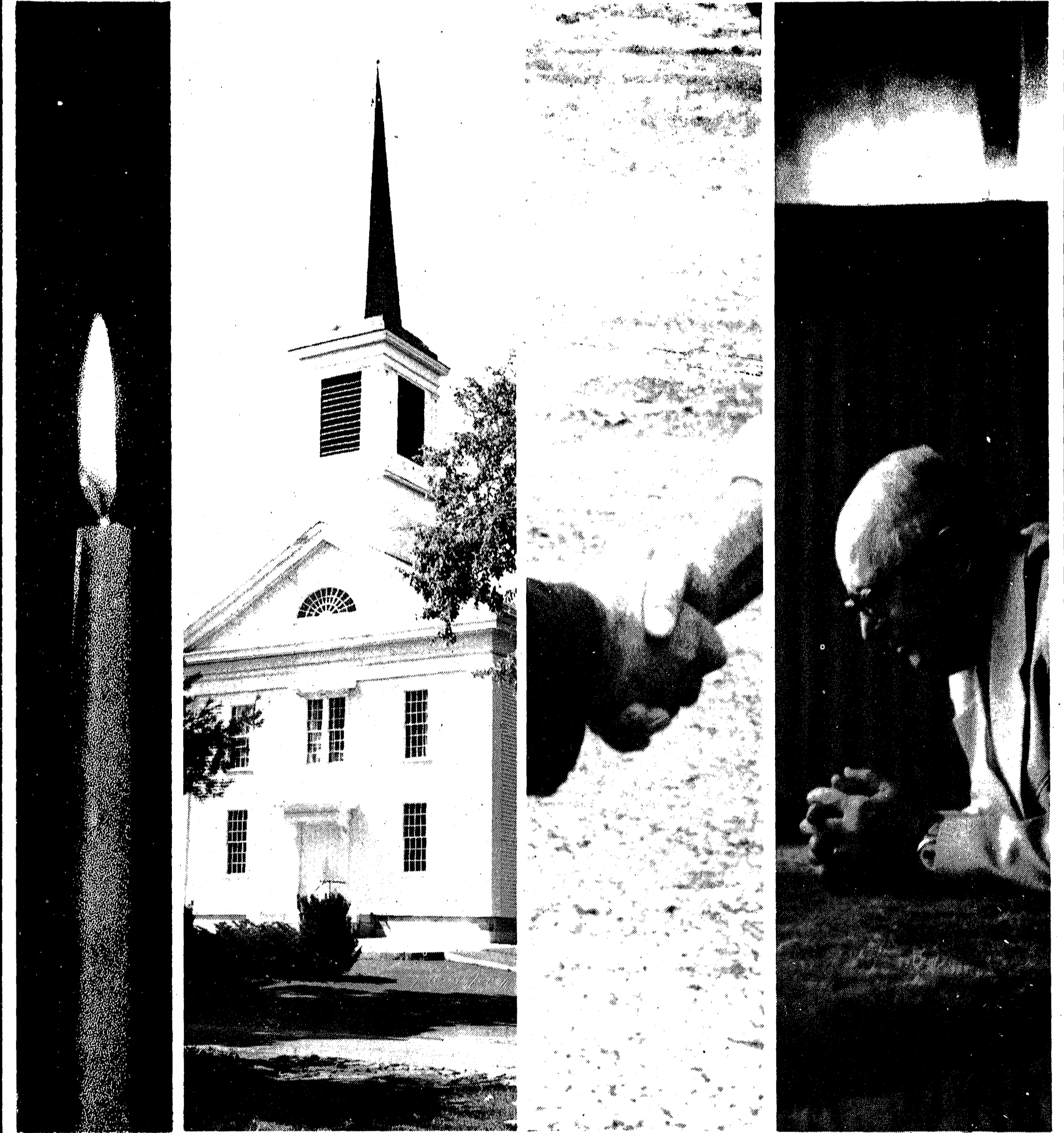
Christian D. Larson

you and me and god

God is alive!
Can't you feel him?
Can't you hear him?
Can't you see him?
he's out in that big world with you!
Watching! Caring! Loving!
he's taking care of you,
Cause he knows you need him.
he's being alive for us.
he loves us so much,
he hurts when we hurt.
he cries with us.
he laughs when we laugh.
he rejoices with us.
he never tires of being with us.
let me take your hand.
let's find him together.
you and me and God,
We can mount up with wings as eagles!
We can move mountains!
We can heal the sick and mend the broken.
Together we can overcome the world with God's love.
you and me and God!
Together we can love the people.
you and me and God,
But only if we can say...
and God!

Randy Harper
Lost Creek, WV

THE SABBATH IS...



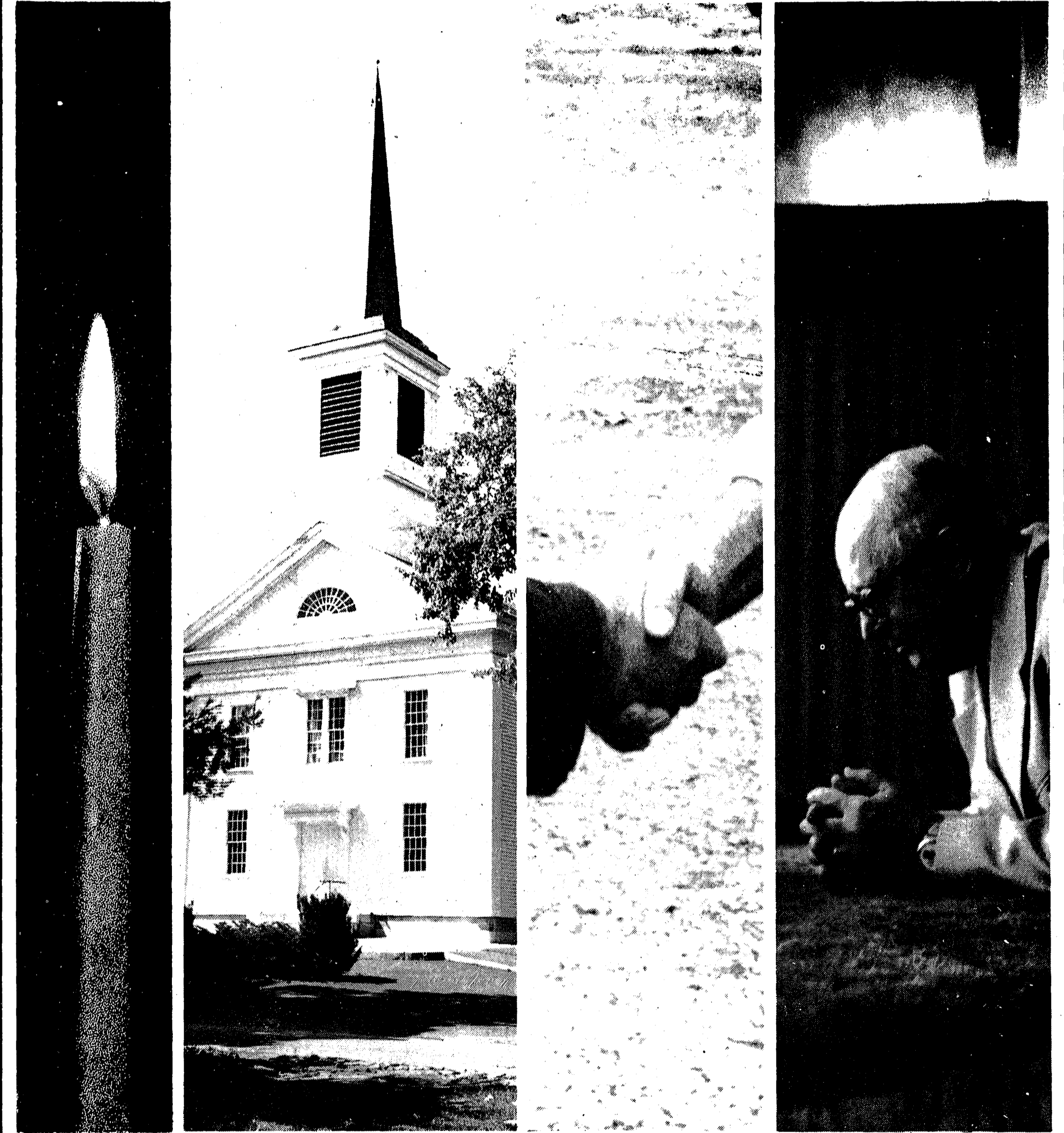
THE SABBATH RECORDER

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