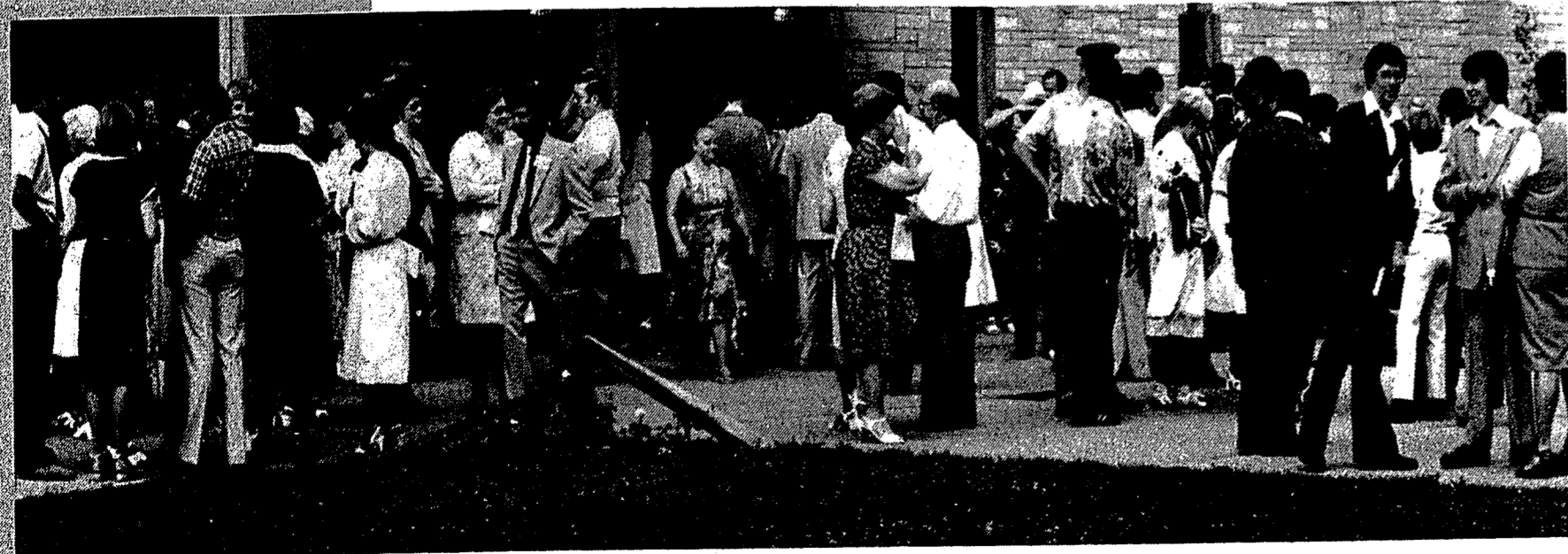
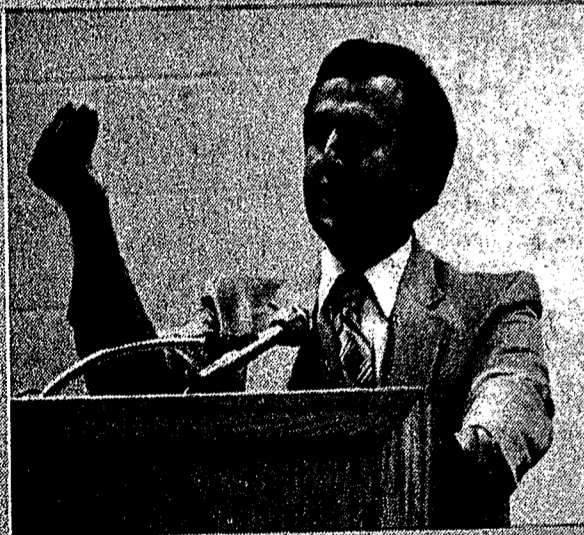


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THE SABBATH

OUR 137th YEAR

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

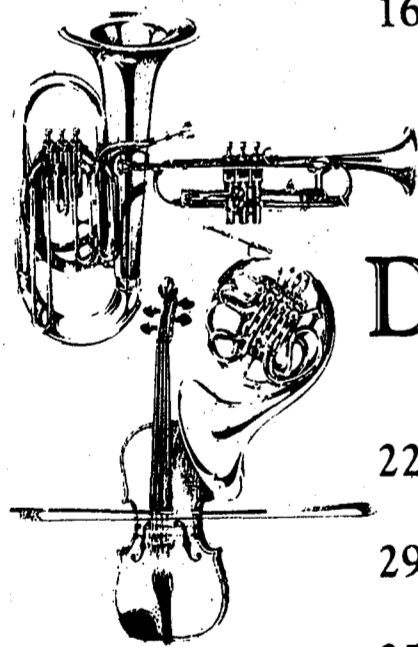
NOVEMBER 1981





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Our appreciation to Jennifer Lewis for her fine work in compiling this theme section on the Ministry of Music. Jennie worked for some time as secretary to the Editor of the *SABBATH RECORDER* serving Editors Leon R. Maltby and John D. Bevis.

ISRAEL TRIP

It's still not too late to join with other Seventh Day Baptists on a trip to the HOLY LAND. Pastor Herbert Saunders from Milton is conducting his fourth tour to the places where Jesus walked departing from New York City on February 15, 1982. If you are interested in joining the group, please write to Pastor Saunders NOW: 712 E. Madison Ave. Milton, WI 53563 or even CALL: (608) 868-4080.

The Sabbath Recorder

I remember my days at Azusa Pacific College quite fondly — at least those moments that have the most impact upon my present being. Aristotelian physics, Kepler's laws of planetary motion, and the sociological impact of advanced technology on the urban dwellings provided fantastically stimulating lectures, but I rarely bring myself to reminisce of such things. No — the moments that I recall most fondly are those moments that I shared with the concert choir.

We had a marvelous choir that had the opportunity to tour many parts of our country sharing beautiful music with our audiences in awe-inspiring locations. We were a Christian group from a Christian college that performed sacred music of such a nature that it was both uplifting and soothing, dotted here and there with those rare musical moments that make your heart skip a beat and a lump gather in your throat. The performances, the fellowship, even the rehearsals, these are the times that I will never forget from my college days.

For the past eight years, I have been teaching choral music at the junior high level in a public school system and will move to the same position at the high school this year. Almost every public school system is faced with budgetary problems and one of the first programs to be cut back is the arts. Fortunately, I teach in a community that not only supports its strong music program, but encourages growth. In return, we provide over one hundred fifty performances in and around the community, showing the good, and often overlooked, side of youth. But maybe even more importantly, it provides those same young people with rare moments and experience that will live with them forever.

Is it beneficial to young people for our schools to spend the time and money necessary for such an experience? I certainly believe so. Music allows a person to express his innermost feelings in a most natural way. One may find it difficult to express his emotions through speech, but it is so easy to express them through song. It doesn't matter if

the song is a gentle ballad, a rousing and spirited pop tune, or the most beautiful and reverent of sacred texts; if the feeling is there, it will come out for all to hear and see.

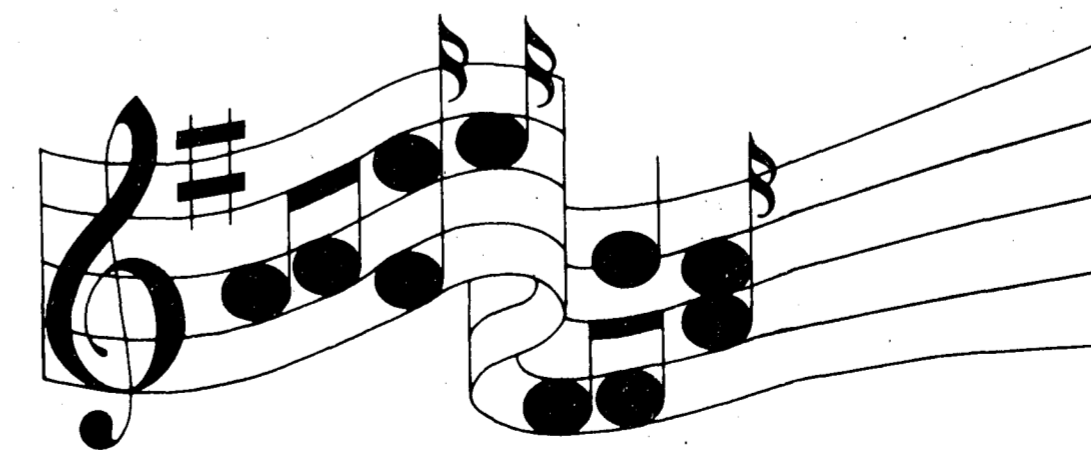
I have performed every type of literature with my groups, and each one affected the emotional growth of the choir members in a most positive way. The singer grows from within — he begins to appreciate and understand the pain, suffering, and the joy of living. He is rewarded for his efforts with the applause from his listeners and the satisfaction that he gave enjoyment to others while gaining a rich experience for himself. I have often observed how the Christian child grows stronger in his love, while the outsider begins to realize the fulfillment he receives from expressing himself in ways that God would approve.

These experiences teach us how to relate to each other as children of God. We appreciate and care for each other — we depend on and show a great love for each other. This may be the very first time that young people have the opportunity to share these wonderful feelings with others. Isn't this what Christianity teaches us? Isn't this what Christ had in mind when He commanded us to love one another? We teachers are blessed with the privilege of guiding the innocent through their early days of educational, emotional, and spiritual growth. Music makes it easier for both sides. If you don't think a director receives a blessing in return, try standing in front of a group of young people performing beyond your expectations with such a marvelous glow in their faces and voices that it gives you goosebumps and brings a lump to your throat. I wouldn't trade it for anything else on this earth.

Is the musical experience in our schools important to the growth of a Christian? For some children, it is the only opportunity they will have to experience these marvelous joys of loving and sharing in a very personal way. Is it worth the time and money to teach our children how to transfer love and grow within themselves through the beauty of song? You bet it is! □

Music Education and Christians

by Rollie Maxson



Rollie Maxson is presently the director of choral activities at Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California. The school is well-noted for its excellent music program and its service to southern California. Formerly, he was choral director at Foothills Junior High School where his group won top honors at the Southern California Jazz/Pop festival for the past six years. He is a member of the Riverside S.D.B. Church, its former choir director and participant in musical activities there.

November 1981

As a choral conductor, I was excited to find in Zephaniah 3:17 that God sings. "The Lord, thy God, in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Apparently, singing has been a form of expression in existence as long as His eternal being. This thought should make all musicians shout with joy!

If God were to be a member of a choir which I would be privileged to direct, what requirements and qualifications must I have and what kind of music would be most pleasing to Him? These are questions for which all directors of church music must find answers.

Since God has put a tremendous amount of emphasis on the subject of music in His Word, it has a high priority in the mission of the Church. Leonard J. Seidel, in his book, "God's New Song," states that in the area of leadership—

1. Musicians are to be God's elect—"Them hath the Lord chosen (I Chronicles 15:1-2) a whole group of Levites were commissioned into service" . . . according to the commandments of David" (Nehemiah 12:24).
2. Musicians are to be appointed—" . . . the Levites were appointed" (Nehemiah 7:1) to minister before the ark of the Lord (I Chronicles 16:4-7, 37, 41-42).
3. Musicians are to have clean hearts and hands. II Chronicles 5:11-12 tells us that the Levites went about their tasks of music in white linen, a symbol of purity, after being sanctified. There is certainly no place in the ministry of God's music for the "temperamental musician," one who is impatient, egotistic, or immoral. We must keep cleansed before the Lord as we serve.
4. Musicians are to be educated and trained. The word "cunning" (exhibiting skill) is given to David in I Samuel 16 and "skillful" to Chenaniah in I

Chronicles 15:22. The words "teacher as well as scholar" in I Chronicles 25:1-8 indicate that the men involved in leadership knew what they were doing.

5. Musicians are to give the necessary time. God deserves the best of our labors, yet music offered in praise to God is seldom as perfect as church musicians would wish. In I Chronicles 9:33 and 16:37 we read that the musicians worked day and night to accomplish their work. Good musicians do work diligently to perfect their talent, to teach in their field, and to prepare their materials so that others may receive a true blessing from the Lord.

In selecting repertoire pleasing to God, the director must address himself to the following areas:

1. Are the texts Biblical truths or are they based on emotionalism and sentimentality?

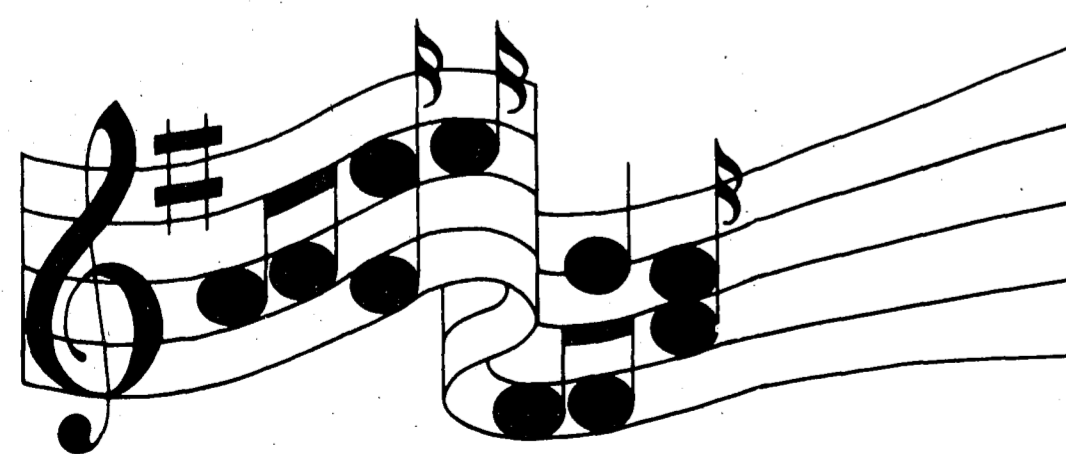
Daniel J. Sullivan in an article titled "A Plea for Reformation in Music," says that "sincerity counts for naught if we are singing heresy." He goes on to say that much of the music in the Church today is appealing to the emotions and senses the same as most popular music of the world does. It lacks intellectual credibility. We must reform our cultural sensitivity and approve of only that which is acceptable to God. Cultural standards need to be developed and affirmed. If we examine the texts of the great composers of the past and present, we find them ready to blossom in praise of God's majesty and righteousness. J. S. Bach in the 18th century wrote, "the aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit." Robert Schumann in the 19th century believed that "music is the perfect expression of the soul."

It is regrettable that much of the music in today's evangelical churches is poor music—music mediocre in texts, melody, harmony, uninteresting

(Continued on page 30)

God Sings!

by Lois Wells



Lois Wells is well-known in the field of Music Education in Southern California. After dedicating many years to High School and College Choral and Vocal education, she spends most of her time as a private voice teacher, clinician, speaker and traveler. She is a member of the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Commission and Planning Committee.

Have you ever noticed the birds? Some of them have beautiful songs that make the heart glad. Some seem to have sad songs like the bird my mother says sings, "misery, misery" all morning and evening. Then there are birds that just seem to make a noise, a raven's "caw, caw" may be irritating to some or music to others, but God's gift of song to the bird, nevertheless.

The Lord has given us many wonderful gifts. One of these gifts is music. Everyone can share, participate and perhaps even benefit from music. Music is not just for those who can sing well or play an instrument, but anyone who has an ear to hear or a toe to tap. The deaf can even enjoy music. Music may be a blessing for us as is the Sabbath. God has given us these two gifts especially to enjoy for ourselves, to share with others and to use for His glory.

I love to sing, whether alone (in the shower), with a group with God as the audience, or performing before an audience. It's exacting work performing numbers satisfactorily: the right pitch, the correct tempo, the clear diction and pronunciation to share the appropriate feeling. When music is performed well there is satisfaction in knowing music has added to someone's life a touch of beauty, a laugh or an understanding that wasn't present before. These are the gifts I receive when I sing alone, with a group, or listen to someone else perform.

When singing with a group, the music is usually

already selected, but when I perform alone, I must do the choosing myself. Selecting the most appropriate music is not always easy. A great amount of thought and prayer goes into selecting music. The time of day, the place, the occasion, the people who will hear are all considered when choosing the appropriate music. Questions like "What do I think they want to hear?" "What do I want them to hear?" or most often "What does God want them to hear?" have bearing on what is chosen. When singing for a worship service, I attempt to discover the sermon topic and scripture, then I choose music and words that compliment the worship atmosphere and theme for the day so the music becomes a part of the service as a whole and not just a piece of music performed because music is expected at some moment in the service. Music is enjoyable, but in the church service it is meant to give glory to God and enrich the worship of all.

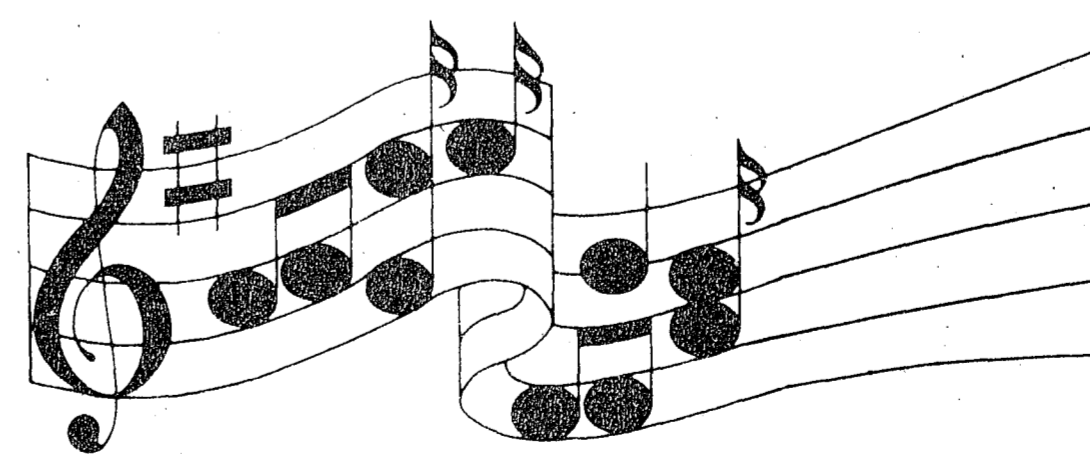
I thank God for giving us the gift of music to enjoy and to re-create. I thank God also for giving me the desire and ability to sing. I had once received the message that many youngsters get, "You can't sing, so don't!" While discouraged, I didn't stop. There was still the desire to sing. I sang for my own enjoyment until someone said "Come sing for us, too!" I'm glad they did, for joy shared is joy multiplied.

May we continue to "sing unto the Lord a new song; praise the Lord; and make a joyful noise unto the Lord." □

The Christian Singer: Why I Love To Sing

by Yvonne Stephan

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth."
"Praise the Lord!" "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."



Yvonne Stephan is a member of the Salemville, Pa., church and is the wife of its pastor, Rev. Mel Stephan. She is a mother and an active participant in church and community activities.

I don't remember when I started singing. My mother says my sister and I sang "In the Garden" for a talent show when we were four and five-year-olds. Music drew our family close because we did it together. We didn't plan it that way—it was just fun. We had many happy moments in our car singing, "Highways Are Happy Ways" and "Sing Your Way Home" coming home from swimming or visiting friends. Mom and Dad may have used singing to keep us four in the back (later six) from quarreling and complaining. Little did they realize that they were instilling in our little hearts and minds a real love and appreciation for music.

As we matured, most of us went through the piano lessons, church choirs and later band and chorus in high school. My sister, Connie, and I became pianists for church and school which proved to be the fastest way to become skillful. While in high school, my brother, Denny, and I took guitar lessons together and would often play for informal church and school functions.

As I was finishing high school, I had decided that Jesus was to be not just a part of my life, but my Lord. From the beginning, we always sang choruses, hymns, and Christian music, but when He became Lord of my life, music became my expression of pure joy and praise. God opened doors and used my ability to take me places that otherwise I would never go. In college, I auditioned and was selected for the Symphonic Singers of which I was privileged to be a part for four years. Our week-long tours took us everywhere in the United States. Those of us who were Christians used those times for friendship evangelism and Bible studies. At the same time, some of us in Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship formed a music group. We traveled within Wisconsin singing wherever they would take us. I loved every minute. Upon graduation from college, God didn't lead me to a job within my Home Economics major, and I didn't get a job relating to Speech and Drama which was my minor. Rather, He led me to Light Bearers and I think He made an excellent choice.

Those years were a perfect blend of music and evangelism. Some hearts were so stony, but what joy we experienced when we knew our voices and the Holy Spirit, together, would melt and move those same stony hearts to conviction and commitment. To this day, music draws me closer to God than anything else. I could barely keep my feet on the floor and my eyes dry when I sang "The Hallelujah Chorus" from the "Messiah" with the Riverside church choir a few years ago.

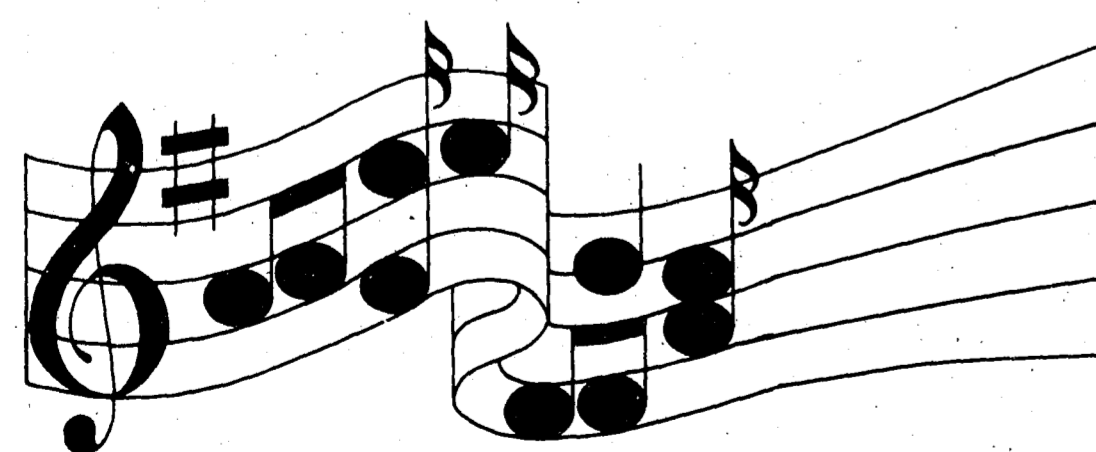
Yes... I don't remember when I started singing, but I do remember when it all stopped. While driving to a Bible study in Riverside the night of Oct. 2, 1979, I was in a tragic accident. I lost an eight-month unborn child, sustained a badly fractured leg, chest injuries, and facial lacerations. Seventeen days later the chest injuries turned out to be more serious. What appeared to be only rib fractures, was instead a torn aorta which had miraculously clotted off. During the eight-hour surgery, the built-up scar tissue complicated the situation and my recurrent laryngeal nerve leading to the vocal cords was damaged. The doctors didn't know at the time if I would speak above a whisper. Through it all, God's comfort was there. He didn't let me despair. Gradually, I was talking, and month after month I became more audible. However, I realized I couldn't sing. I tried not to think about it though I would become discouraged upon hearing my own voice on a Light Bearers record, or the church choir, just wondering if I could ever have that ability again. I never doubted that God could heal my voice because I knew the rest of me was a miracle. Gradually, He gently assured me that He would make up for what I had lost. I could still praise Him and experience the joy of music with the piano. Then He blessed me with total peace and contentment.

Now, two years later, I sing the best I can, however, to me it sounds more like "a joyful noise"! I can't sing solos or lead singing, but I love music (just like old times). As Paul, the apostle, I

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Through It All — I've Learned To Trust

by Christine P. Davis



Christine Pederson Davis is a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church. She lives in Ontario, California, with her husband, Dr. Ron Davis, and their children Emily and Nathan. She is a former member of Light Bearers for Christ. She is active in many church, civic and political functions.

The Sabbath Recorder

"Why are you always singing?"
 "How do you manage to be so cheerful all the time?"
 "At this hour on Monday morning and you're singing?"

These are a few of the greetings I receive from time to time around the office or in a gathering.

Good questions all. And questions for which I have an answer in most cases, although the reasons for singing differ with the differences in circumstances.

I found long ago that joining in song with others no matter what the age difference is a heart-warming experience. It gives me a change, however inarticulate I might be, to express my emotions in clearly defined terms. It isn't always simple to state clearly just how one feels, and depending on the circumstances, nervous tension and emotion can seriously hamper self-expression. With music I can usually find the words that say what I want to say, and in a manner that is acceptable. Dramatic lectures and impassioned speeches are all well in their places, but with music—with a song from the heart—even the least-gifted at public performance can present a message with meaning.

Yes, singing is important to almost everyone. Thousands of words have been written about the joys of music, the power of music, the beauty of music. Singing is probably the most powerful way to deliver a message of importance. Because of this—singing a message—much of history and countless inspired moments have been carried from generation to generation for their enlightenment. It is one of the axioms of show business that a musical play can survive if it has one memorable, hummable song that people can take away with them.

So it is with singing for me. After realizing that I could participate with others in song, giving both enjoyment and inspiration with the manner of the presentation as well as the words themselves, I

sang at nearly every opportunity. Frankly, I enjoyed choir and chorus, and eventually was emboldened to get into quartet work—both at school and church functions. Solo work developed with great difficulty. It seemed to me that it took a lot of just plain nerve to get up in front of a crowd all by yourself and hold the spotlight—a show of egotism.

A few vain attempts at solo parts within the choir's anthem, after a few embarrassing experiences, finally led to the realization that I wanted to sing; I wanted to have my say in that medium.

Within the discipline of prepared words and melody I found the joy of expressing myself, my thoughts, my joy in living and my delight in God's world and my place in it. Unfortunately, I did not take the opportunity for formal training to develop this divinely-bestowed talent, so I just kept on singing in my own way. I say that this was unfortunate because now, after years of enjoying singing and after realizing more fully the importance of song, I am guilty of poor stewardship. Each of us has talent, and it should be developed to the fullest extent for the glory of the Creator and the enjoyment and inspiration of our fellow creatures.

Let's get back to the subject.

Singing is important to me and in my life for several specific reasons:

A message in song is disciplined. It won't go on indefinitely like some sermons or speeches do. A composition can be selected that says what is appropriate for the occasion without being misunderstood.

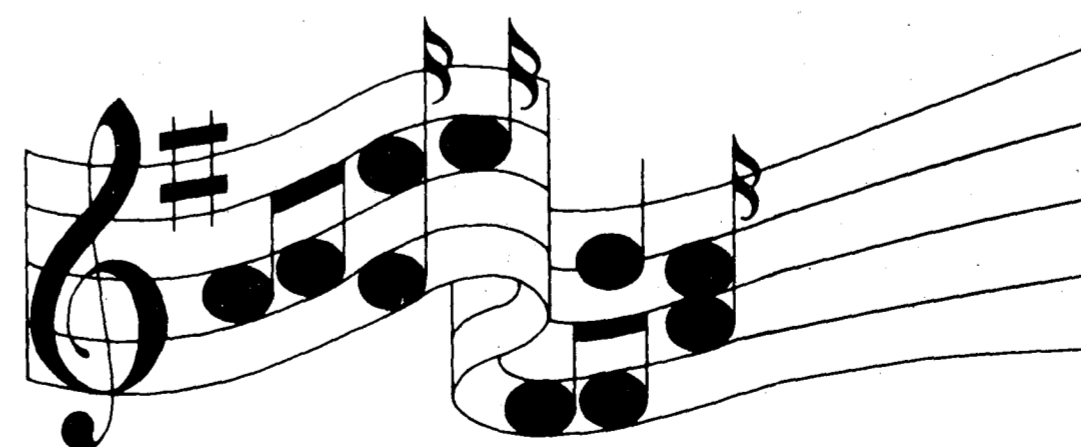
A message in song is presented in a pleasing manner, and even the same words and tune repeated are appreciated. After all, it's the old, old story in many different forms that we love to hear.

Singing not only influences the hearer, but can have a most beneficial affect on the singer as well.

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Singing Is Important

by Loren G. Osborn



Loren Osborn, a respected member of the publishing community, and newspaper editor in Concord, New Hampshire, is a former General Conference President. He is a talented singer, lending his voice to many church services.

November 1981

*"Sing a new song to the Lord!
Sing it everywhere
around the world!
Sing out his praises!
Bless his name.
Each day tell someone
that he saves."
Psalms 96: 1-2 (Living Bible)*



*"Sing your praise
accompanied by music from the harp.
Let the coronets
and trumpets shout.
Make a joyful symphony
before the Lord, the King!
Psalms 98: 5-6 (L.B.)*

God has given us so many ways to praise Him for His greatness. The way we live every moment of our lives gives evidence to God and to the world that we either believe God when He tells us who He is, or that we do not believe Him. How exciting it is to be able to sing of His greatness, to express love, gratitude, awe, joy, humility, surrender, through song, and then to realize that even the melodies and the voice we use to express all these things are wonderful gifts from God, too.

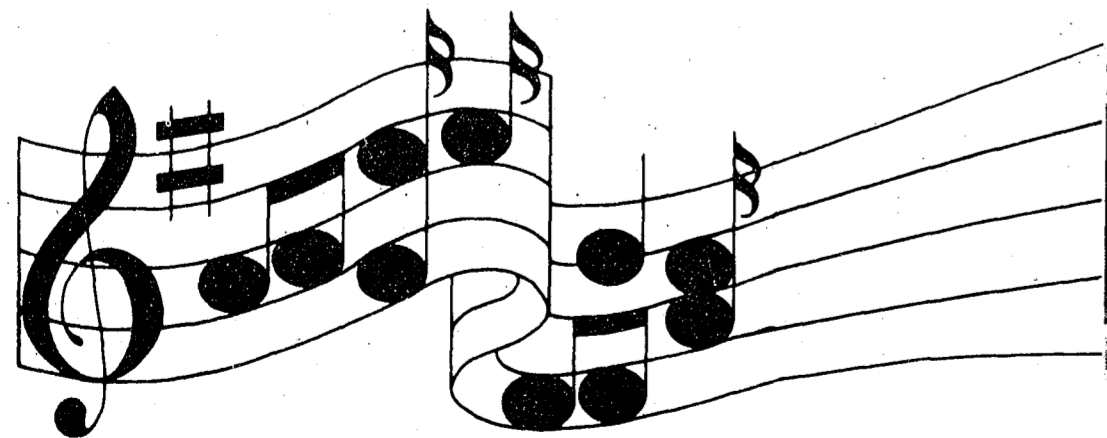
I cannot remember a time in my life that music was not important to me. When I was a little girl, long before I went to school, I would sit at our piano and play and sing; songs that came from a child's heart, it's true—melodies that probably sounded discordant and like nothing of worth to the people who had to listen, yet I remember how good it was to lift my voice and sing and sing until someone would say they wanted me to stop, for I had played and sung long enough. I also remember wanting my song to be a more glorious song, a more perfect song, and I have enjoyed for many years the challenge of trying to express each song more clearly, to make the tone more pure, to understand in a deeper way the words and music. There have always been melodies in my head, songs going on inside my mind whether they were sung aloud or not. This has always been such a thing of wonder to me, to realize that music is such a part of me, the melodies and words of hundreds of songs are in my mind; praise songs, love songs, sad songs, complicated art songs, simple, silly songs, songs that tell of frustration or disappointment, songs of hope and faith. And the music can be sung aloud to share with others, or I can sing it inside my head and the words and melodies can encourage and strengthen me, even when no one else can hear.

God has been so generous to me to give me a love of music and the ability to express that love through songs. When I was in high school I

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"It Is a Good Thing To Give Praise unto the Lord"

by Gerry Van Dyke



Mrs. Gerry Van Dyke is active in the Denver, Colo., SDB Church. She uses her many musical talents to bring joy to their services. She is instrumental in leading Summer Christian Service Corps training.

Psalm 100, besides being a psalm of praise, is also a job description for me. Making joyful noise is my career, my job and my hobby. Music isn't my only career, job or hobby, but it claims as much time as I can give to it and still fulfill the demands of being a wife and mother.

My musical jobs have come to me easily, and usually at a most opportune time. When my husband was in the Army, I found that Army Chapels were always in need of an organist. Enter phase one of my career. I practiced on a lot of unsuspecting chapel congregations, loved it and actually became a Church Organist, which is altogether different from a person who plays the organ. A Church Organist is a leader. I still love being a Church Organist and gain a great deal of satisfaction from my job as organist for a Lutheran Church.

Phase two of my career began when I realized there was a need for a neighborhood piano teacher and I could fill that need. Now I began practicing on several unsuspecting little piano students. What fun! I was the teacher now, after all those years, and I could reap the benefits of frustration, satisfaction, glory and disaster. Teaching was an interesting look at myself and how I thought and how many times I didn't think. I realized that I played much of the time simply by reflex. Stopping to realize exactly how I play, the mechanics of it, and how foreign a piano must be to a beginning student was quite a revelation. I set goals for myself and students, one of which is simply loving to sit down and play an instrument, in my case the piano, to make music. I have found that if you have that desire to make music, the Lord can do wonderful things with it. Look at me!

Phase three of my career began just recently, composing and arranging. I suppose it came about from a great deal of playing experience. After all,

if you play the notes and chords for so many years, you develop an ear for the sounds you love best and automatically begin to use them and position them as you want to hear them. Actually, my beginning had to be arranged for me by the Lord! A friend asked me to accompany her for a solo at church. We found out in practicing that the song needed to be transposed to a different key, something I had never done well and consequently did not like to do (actually I felt a lot stronger about it than that sounds)! Regardless of my feelings, I was nice and transposed the piece for her and that one piece of transposition seemed to free me from my dependence on having the notes in black and white in front of me. I can definitely look back and say that the Lord arranged that exercise for me because not too long after that I began writing melodies and the friend for whom I transposed the song began writing lyrics and we collaborated on several Gospel songs that we enjoy singing and playing. It was the creative process that I loved to get into and the Lord knew that I would, because it has improved all areas of my music. I enjoy writing different harmonizations for hymns and have written several piano and organ duets with hymns as the basis. Luckily, I have a wonderful friend who will play these with me. (Thanks Chris.)

All of these careers in music give the ability to do three things that are very important to me and to the Lord. I can communicate a lot of things with my music, not the least of which is the love of God. Every hymn I play is a tribute to the Lord. Every harmonization I put down on paper is to His Glory and every student I teach knows I love the Lord and them. The "and them" is very important. I love the congregations that I play for and have played for. When I play the organ in their churches and chapels my music is meant to tell them that I love them, I love the Lord and the Lord loves them.

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That Joyful Noise Is Music to My Ears

by Cheryl Driver

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.*

—Psalm 100:1-2



Cheryl Austin Driver is a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she is an associate organist. She lives in Anaheim with her husband Jim, an advertising executive, and their children Bob, 13, Richard 10, and Dawn 7. She is the organist of the Messiah Lutheran church in Yorba Linda, CA. She is the daughter of Bob and Lorna Austin of Dodge Center, Minn.

Music has always been a vital part of our lives. It seems as though we have been singing, humming and whistling longer than we can remember. Much of our love for music was developed by the foresight and influence of family, church and school. Early childhood memories include Denise singing "Away in a Manager" at the church Christmas play and Paul being "Sambo" in the grade school musical. As we progressed into our teen years, the memories include Denise achieving her father's dream of having a daughter be the church pianist, and Paul became part of the "Green Trio" with his two sisters. Church choirs and school choirs were participated in with pleasure. Through all of this, our parents, church music leaders, school music directors and friends encouraged us to develop and use our musical talents. A poster hanging above our piano has a picture of a kitten with its ears perked up sitting on a piano keyboard. It says "Nothing improves my hearing better than praise."

Our acquaintance with each other began on a walk home after choir rehearsal at the Milton Church. As our friendship grew, we enjoyed participating in musical things together, something that still continues to be a joy. Somewhere along the way in our romance, we discovered the fun of singing duets together, most appropriately, love songs.

Pastor Loyal Hurley helped get us started in our Christian music ministry. During our "honeymoon summer" of 1955 we travelled with him, his wife, and three other members of a male quartet on an evangelistic tour. Pastor Hurley gave us some duets to sing that he particularly wanted to include in the service. We have added others to our repertoire over the years. We also have a collection of secular songs. (It's still fun to sing the love songs!)

Our singing together is teamwork, with love for each other and for God. That's what marriage should be, too, and we like the correlation. Musical teamwork means supporting each other, yet being independent when necessary. It means working together, being able to take constructive criticism, sharing and working out ideas on interpretation. The result of these is the good feeling of voices blending with our accompanist, soaring along together on a climactic passage or softly intense in a quiet passage.

Paul's pastoral ministry has greatly benefitted from our teamwork as musicians. It's helpful to have one's wife as church organist, one who can guess your next move (usually)! Worship and music go hand in hand and we enjoy trying to use music creatively in Sabbath worship services and other aspects of the life of the church.

**"How oft, in making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!"**¹

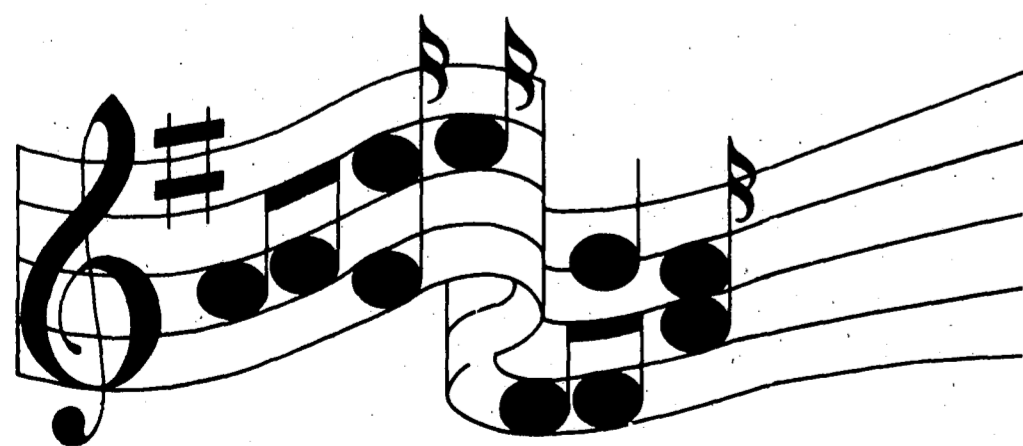
As many Christian musicians will testify, music is one way of sharing your Christian testimony. Music so often expresses what we feel, hymns and songs so often say what we want to say, be it praise, prayer or witness. We are glad that we can share our Christian faith by our music. We are thankful for the gifts given us to be used to His glory!

**"When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride.
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!"**¹□

¹Hymn text by E. Pratt Green, quoted from the Lutheran Book of Worship

Music - His Ministry to Us and Our Ministry Through It

by Denise and Paul Green



Rev. and Mrs. J. Paul Green are a talented team, both as husband and wife, and as singers. They have just completed a long service at the Salem, West Virginia, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Paul is the new Dean of the Center on Ministry as it makes its move from Plainfield, New Jersey, to Janesville, Wisconsin.

In the summer of 1974, after graduating from high school, I came face to face with a decision everyone faces once in their lives: whether or not to continue my education or to fulfill my life in some other way. My final decision to join Light Bearers was one I never regretted.

The years I spent on the team were filled with more learning and growing for myself than I probably ever realized I needed. It made me more aware of myself, what I was really like, and more aware of the people around me. I had always thought of myself as a fairly likeable person, easy to get along with and caring deeply about others. But when it came down to it, sometimes I wasn't nearly as caring towards the other team members as I should have been. Not only that, but I came to the realization that maybe I thought a little more highly of myself than I ought. I found out I had a temper, usually controlled, but it brought out feelings and emotions that I didn't like and wasn't proud of. Through all this, I was growing and maturing as a person but especially as a spiritual person. My spiritual self was growing and building to greater heights than I had ever experienced before. I learned especially to depend on God's wisdom during hard or trying times instead of trying to run things myself.

Even though I grew a lot, there were, of course, the wonderful blessings of ministering through singing and sharing. I found out there is nothing more exciting than seeing a person come to know the Lord and being God's instrument in bringing that person to Him. There have been so many things that have come to me from being in Light Bearers, spiritually and physically. It led me into the Life that I now have and love, and gave me a foundation on which to build that life.

In the future, it is my prayer that Light Bearers will hold as many learning and loving experiences for team members as it held for me. I believe in the ministry and know that it has a place in God's eternal plan. As the organization continues to grow and change, I feel that it will continue to bless us all as individuals and as a denomination. My prayers are always with them as they strive to further Christ's kingdom.□

WHAT IS LIGHT BEARERS FOR CHRIST?

It is Seventh Day Baptists dedicating themselves to serving Christ and His Church through their music.

It is a fellowship of Christians travelling across the country, learning to live together, practicing the love of Christ.

It is a group desiring to serve Seventh Day Baptists by contributing to their greater visibility.

It is an opportunity for individuals to learn and grow, both spiritually and musically, and to deepen commitments.

It is a ministry which requires a great deal of dedication, but offers great spiritual rewards.

OUR GOALS

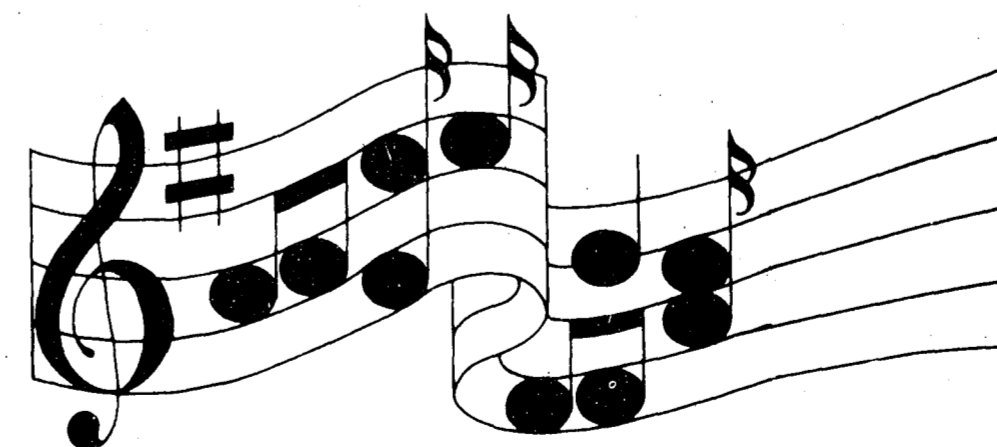
To communicate what it means to be a Christian, and how to become a Christian.

To let the public know that Seventh Day Baptists exist!

To help to nurture and strengthen the body of Christ.□

Light Bearers for Christ

by Dawn Soper Richards



Dawn Soper Richards is a member of the North Loup, Nebraska, Seventh Day Baptist Church. She lives in North Loup with her husband Dan Richards and their son Gregory. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Mynor Soper, founders of Light Bearers for Christ.

God has given to each of us varied and unique talents. When we use these talents to further God's purposes and to reach others with the Gospel message, then God in turn blesses us. Sometimes He does so in material ways, but more often in spiritual ways.

God has seen fit to grant me a talent in vocal music, for which I am very thankful. He has made me what I am and has given me the raw talents. What I do with them is my choice, but they really work best when God is served by them. I have sung in many places with a variety of groups, both secular and Christian, and believe me, the happiness that comes from thinking you have performed well is not happiness at all when compared to the joy you receive knowing that you have served God to the best of your ability.

Music has been one of the best ways for me to express myself. It has helped me to meet new friends, to communicate with others, to reach out and touch the lives of others who might have passed by without hearing what I had to say. Music has caused me to laugh, it has caused me to cry, it has lifted my spirit to bring me out of depression, it has brought me down to my knees in repentance. Yes, God has used music to point me to Him and that is why I wish to share my gift with others, that they too might be blessed by His music. So for the present, until God leads me elsewhere, I am proud to be a part of His ministry through the music of Light Bearers for Christ.

As far as formal training is concerned, I have had very little. In high school one teacher encouraged and helped me some, and in college I was a music major for one year and took one semester of private voice lessons. Most of my experience has

been on the job, so to speak. Consequently, I am not an expert in the vocal music field, but I do enjoy it and at some time in the future would like to learn enough about it to be able to help others in this field. I have put much time into practice and performance, and I feel that it was worth every minute.

Music has taken me to a lot of places, but the place where I have grown the most spiritually has been my time in Light Bearers for Christ.

I was in North Loup, Nebraska, when Light Bearers first began, and I sang with them during that first summer in 1972. Since that time I have sung with the group for two extended periods of time: from May 1975 to September 1976, and from September 1980 to the present. Each time I have grown: in the way that I relate to people, in interpersonal relationships, in my musical abilities, and in my spiritual walk with the Lord. I thank God for the vision of Mynor Soper to begin this ministry, for its growth over the years, and for its expansion into a viable part of the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination.

I believe that in this Decade of Doubling and Discipleship, that the Light Bearers can and will be a valuable tool to help achieve God's plan for Seventh Day Baptists. Music has been called a universal language, and what better medium is there for reaching out into the hearts and lives of others than music, which tells of the love that God has to offer. I myself am looking forward to the growth and outreach of Light Bearers for Christ, as we spread God's message of truth to a thirsty and seeking world. I ask that you continue or begin to support Light Bearers in your prayers, that we may be an instrument for God's glory and a vital part of the Seventh Day Baptist outreach. □

My first experience with Light Bearers for Christ was in the spring of 1976, when, as a new Seventh Day Baptist living in British Columbia, Canada, I was invited to host the group for a week. I kept them busy with schools, nursing homes, a prison, a cable-TV taping, and a couple of public concerts. There was hardly a moment for rest or sight-seeing! To their credit, the team members were very gracious through it all. Jerry Van Horn was the leader of the group then, and Patty Lawton was the music director.

I was interested in Light Bearers for Christ because of my own musical background. In high school and college, what I lived for were the choirs and quartets I sang in. From an early age, my desire was to be involved full-time in Christian music. This dream came true when I joined the Continental Singers in 1971. While touring that summer, I experienced a spiritual birth and committed my life to Christ. I was then invited to join the Heritage Family, a 12-member gospel singing group, and sang with them for the next two years.

For a period of several years, music became a hobby, but in 1979 I began to seek ways to be involved vocationally with the Seventh Day Baptist church. Music seemed the logical avenue, and my pastor, Rev. Duane Davis of Seattle, and I had many discussions about it, culminating in an article I wrote for the *Sabbath Recorder* titled "Music in the Decade of Discipleship" (February 1980, page 8).

The article discussed various ways music could serve the themes of Nurture, Extension, and Ministry; and while many of the suggestions I made have yet to come to fulfillment, I'm thankful that I was given the opportunity to become directly involved in Seventh Day Baptist musical witness. It is my desire that Light Bearers for Christ should successfully "represent the position Seventh Day Baptists occupy within the Christian framework."

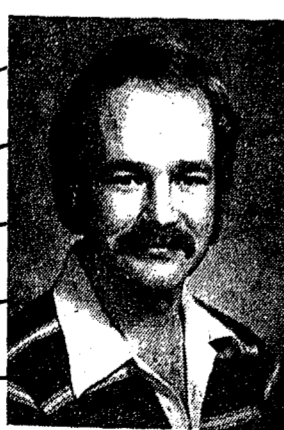
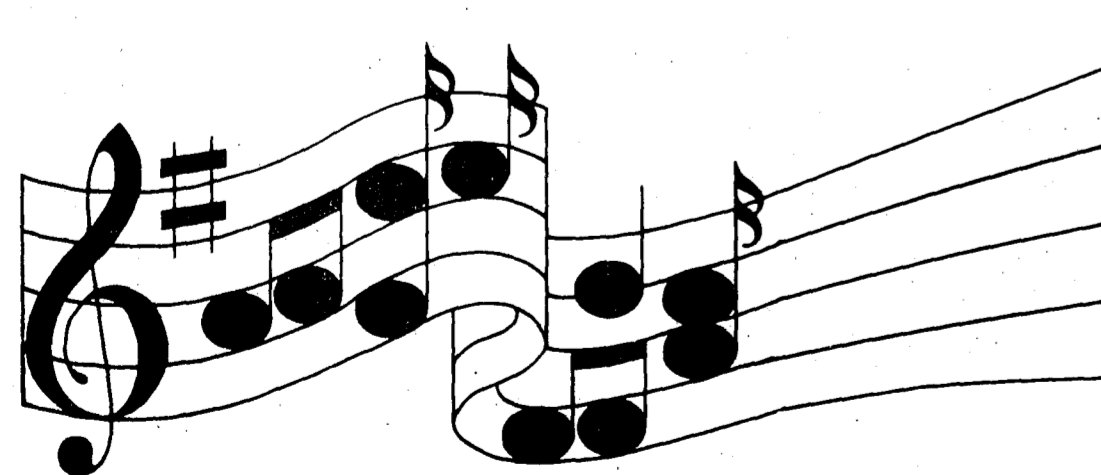
(Continued on page 15)



*"You have done so much for me, O Lord.
No wonder I am glad! I sing for joy."
Psalms 92: 4*



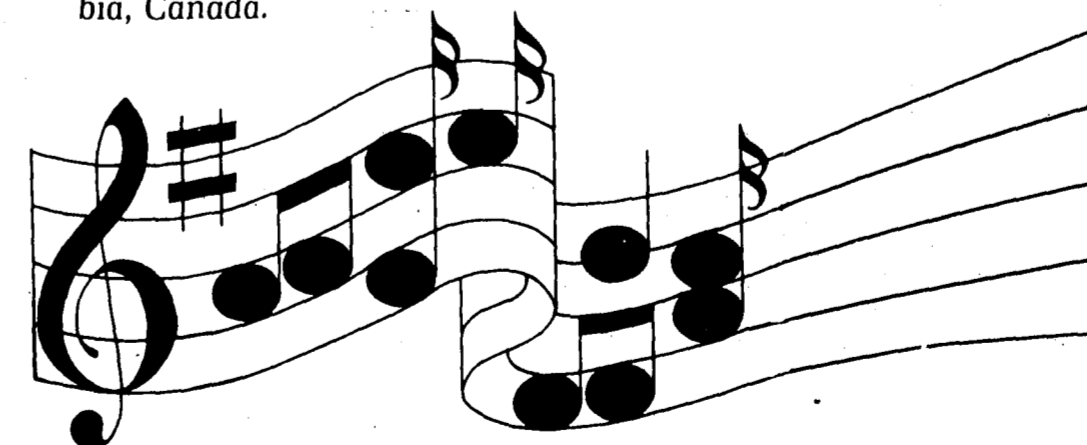
Light Bearers for Christ: From a Team Member by Jerry Van Horn



Jerry Van Horn is a member of the North Loup, NE Church. He has been with Light Bearers for several years.

From the Director: A Look Back - and Forward by Arthur Rowe

—Arthur Rowe is Director of Light Bearers for Christ. He is a member of the Seattle, WA church and is a native of British Columbia, Canada.



**You ask me why my heart keeps singing
Why I can sing when things go wrong.
But since I've found the source of music
I just can't help it.
God gave the song.**

I think there is no greater joy in my life than singing. It has been a part of my life for all my life. My parents say that I started to talk early and never stopped. It's true with singing as well. I remember singing "California, Here I Come!" as we drove away from Conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1955. Then there was the first time my entire family was asked to present special music, on the spot, at the Sabbath morning service at the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church. Wasn't it "Blessed Assurance?" Mother, the twins and Vicki sang soprano, Joan and I sang alto, Daddy sang tenor, and everyone must have used their imaginations for the bass.

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." (Romans 12:6 Living Bible) How many times have I found comfort from that verse? I often question my contribution to this world and to the lives of others. But I can always be assured that the Lord has given me gifts, some great and some small, and He really wants me to use them.

I thought as a young girl that there was no greater achievement than to sing in the church choir. It was something I looked forward to, and a real education in music skills. Whatever else a Seventh Day Baptist church may be, it is always musical. Even with ten members singing, our choir created a joyous sound. I remember the first time I got up in front of the church to sing, in a trio, and my knees shook and my heart thudded. I know everyone could hear them.

Pacific Pines Camp was a great music environment. We sang with breakfast, lunch and dinner. We sang to the cooks, to "elbows on the table," to young couples, to counselors, to anyone. Campfires

were musical and emotional and wonderful. We always stood in a circle, hands crossed and held, singing "We are climbing Jacob's Ladder." It's the same in camps everywhere. Camp is such a great experience, not to be missed by any child. It was there I found I could harmonize, and felt pride when other campers would look around to see who was making that sound and see that it was me.

After twelve years of public school, filled with choruses, choirs, festivals, madrigal singers, trips to Hawaii, I went away to college and spent my first year without music. I didn't take a music class—not even one. I used to walk around my college campus, deliberately going by the music building to listen to the voices of people warming up, harmonizing, practicing. I would cry all the way back to my dorm. I would wait for the chance to go home to hear my former choir perform. What a feeling of belonging!

It didn't take me long to realize that music was too important to give it a low priority in my life. It seemed to come naturally and seemed such a good way to express feelings. The Lord was steering me in the direction that would help me to use my gifts for His glory.

**What's that I hear?
I still hear that music,
Day after day that song goes on.
For once you know that source of music
You'll always hear it.
God gave the song.**

I find much joy in my life from many kinds of music, but especially in these ways:

Teaching: Yes, thirteen-year-olds are a joy! (I sometimes have to repeat that phrase to my reflection in the mirror on foggy mornings when it's still dark outside). Music can help me to witness to my students in ways that other teachers cannot. I don't allow songs in my classes that don't speak positive-

ly about life. I hope that my students leave my choruses feeling better about themselves. Life is rough for them. They need all the songs that I can give them. God is working through me, and yes, the Public Schools too, to feed these children a more positive food for their lives. My students know that I am a Christian. They know I am "square" and don't compromise myself with some of the worldly temptations that are so accessible to them. I feel great about being that kind of model for them. And I get to stand up and sing for four hours every day, and get paid too.

Singing: I thank God for my voice. I thank Him for control and knowledge and ability. I thank Him for an education that helped me to create something that can bring pleasure, comfort and witness to others. I feel pride, I feel value, but more than anything I feel gratitude to God because He has blessed me with a singing voice. I thank my parents for giving me biological gifts that help me and my sisters to sing. I also thank them for opportunities and encouragement. I thank my mother for endless patient hours of accompaniment, working with me to improve my voice.

I have really been blessed. Everyone who has written something in this issue feels, I am sure, that God has richly blessed them with a love for music. I know that everyone who has music in their hearts, if not in their voices, feels a blessing too.

"It is good to say, 'Thank you' to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods." (Psalms 92:1 Living Bible) □

A LOOK BACK — AND FORWARD

(Continued from page 13)

I hope that someday soon the history of Light Bearers for Christ to this point will be written, so that the vision and contributions of the founder, Rev. Mynor Soper, the various team members and the support staff over the years can become a part of the historical record. At the time of this writing, a significant change is taking place in our organizational structure. A merger is being effected between Light Bearers for Christ, Inc., and the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. This means that the LBC musical team will not be a ministry affiliated with the Missionary Society. A committee has been formed to oversee our work; its chairman, Phil Burrows of Milton, WI, is also a member of the Evangelism/Home Missions committee.

As in the past, Light Bearers for Christ will continue to be self-supporting. We will have a separate budget, and although it will now be possible for contributors to channel their gifts through Our

World Mission, neither the OWM nor Missionary Society budgets will routinely include allocations for the Light Bearers for Christ.

During the past 12 months about \$1 out of every \$4 of our income came from offerings at concerts. The other \$3 came from other donations, and regularly pledged giving by Seventh Day Baptists. We are very thankful for this support from individuals and local churches! Probably Light Bearers for Christ will always need some support of this kind. However, I feel that part of establishing Light Bearers for Christ on a solid foundation is to begin to reduce the need for this amount of subsidization. One way to do this is to give more concerts—but there is a limit to how much the team can travel at a time without experiencing "burn-out."

Another solution is to seek concerts in larger churches which will yield larger offerings. This, too, is good to a point, but I believe God is calling Light Bearers for Christ to minister, to a great extent, in smaller churches where better-known groups may not go. In particular, I want Light Bearers for Christ always to be available to local Seventh Day Baptists. If even a lone Sabbath-keeper is willing to work with us in generating the greatest possible publicity, we will come to his community to present a Christian concert which will help to create visibility for Seventh Day Baptists.

The solution, then, to our financial needs is, I believe, firstly, to work together with you to increase the number and size of Light Bearers for Christ concerts where feasible; and secondly, to trust that the Lord will continue to impress local churches and individuals of the need for continuing regular support, so that we can continue to be available to small churches.

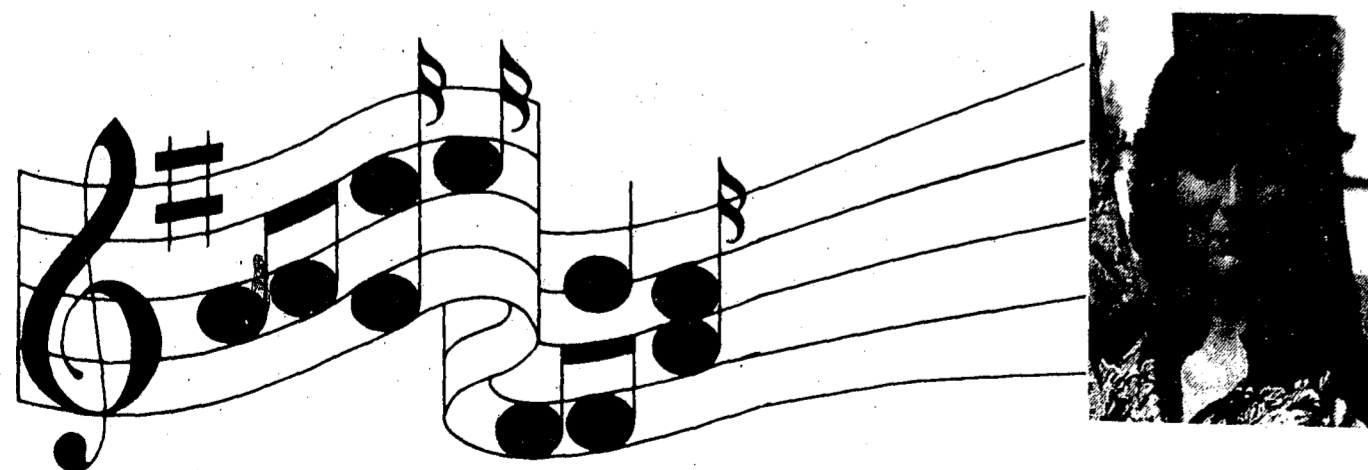
My goal for Light Bearers for Christ is to see it thought of positively: within our denomination, as our foremost musical public relations vehicle; and outside our denomination, as a respected and professional ensemble, noted for its musical diversity and sincere, effective Christian witness. To help make this goal a reality, here are some of the plans currently under development or consideration:

1. An attractive promotional kit.
2. A plan of pre-concert preparation and follow-up to make the evangelistic aspect of our work more effective.
3. Having a home-base staff member whose duties would include arranging the concert schedule, so that this could be done in an orderly manner, and well in advance.
4. Recording. A record album permits us to be heard in places we may not be able to go. Thus it

(Continued on page 27)

God Gave the Song

by Jennifer Lewis



Jennifer Lewis teaches Choral Music in San Bernardino, California. She lives in Redlands, CA. She is a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church where she is its choir director. She is the daughter of Philip and Jean Lewis. She is the guest editor of this theme section.



excerpts . . .

Miriam Shaw's diary

Selected by
Rev. Albert N. Rogers

Fifty-one years ago following General Conference here at Salem, Miriam Shaw went out to serve as director of nursing for Grace Hospital, Liuho, Shanghai, China. She was the daughter of the Rev. George B. Shaw, pastor of the Salem church, and Mrs. Shaw. Following are excerpts from her diary as she reflects upon her spiritual struggles in the midst of the wartime conditions which ultimately forced her to return to America via Manila in 1938. The diary is on loan from Mrs. Hannah Shaw Burdick of Alfred, N.Y., Miriam's sister. The selections are not in strict sequence but are identified only by days of the week.

TUESDAY Love is the permanent element in life. Prophecies shall be done away—fulfilled or not—I can't pin my religious life on them as some do. Tongues—high moments when God speaks through mortal tongues—stop at death. Knowledge—fiction or assumptions, and memory can fade. But love never fails! True love never dies; it is that element of life which we carry into the eternal.

A DAY IN MARCH My heart is a garden. Each day I weed out the things I do not want to grow. I cherish only the seeds of the Kingdom: love, truth, beauty, planted there by the Creator. And they must have sun, rain, elements of growth. Help me to recognize the dark clouds as part of my growth. . . What can China do today? What can she teach her youth? What have I to offer her? The law of God shows us our condition. A mirror does not wash the face, it simply reveals the need for washing. So the law of God is a mirror; it introduces the sense of short-coming, the sense of sin. . . Dear Lord, help me to look in the mirror today to see my dependence on these. Go, visit Mrs. Wei (WAY). Help her to see what Christ can do for her home—more love, patience, faith, hope.

SABBATH DAY (After Bible Study)
I'm so proud of my humility! I'm ready to fight for peace. I hate a man who doesn't love others!

SUNDAY Philosophy and theology are the art and music of thought and feeling. In Christ the practical man sees a solid example of practical working ethics; no more. It takes Paul to see in the same Christ a great Saviour. Both go as far as their type of mind is capable of. . . Christ is all things to all men. Am I, do I help only one type of person with only one type of need? Do I touch only the physical?

WEDNESDAY Jesus' greatest appeal was to the highest and best within man's heart. How often he asks "What man of you. . .?" Not dogmatic creeds or statements. . . in regard to prayer, providence. "Man is

the highest revelation of God." The Bible is not the supreme revelation of God. That is to be found in the human heart.

THURSDAY Woke up early with (Chinese girl) excited about troop movements. We were the only people in Liuho that had slept. Started getting the hospital closed up hoping a truck would come. Stream of patients coming in. No buses now. Mr. Davis (Rev. H. Eugene Davis, head of the Mission in Shanghai) arrived with the news that the U.S. Consulate had ordered us in. He took in Dr. Palmborg and others. Wei-Zei and I threw the dishes in the cistern. Dr. Crandall (Dr. Grace, that is) refused to leave me so we all stayed together. Mr. Davis didn't get back till nearly 4:00 and hurried us off before the Consulate should send the Marines out to get us. No trouble getting into Shanghai. Every grave mound with a machine gun. Many Chinese soldiers going to the river.

FRIDAY Spent the morning with Dr. Crandall trying to find a hospital for Mrs. Zia. (Zee-AH!) No luck. St. Mary's very crowded. Red Cross Emergency headquarters—no luck. Miss Koo had Prayer Meeting; Psalm 23. It came to me that the Psalmist walked through great dangers with a still greater assurance of being led.

SABBATH DAY Mr. Davis and Dr. Crandall got our missionary friends, the Espy's, at South Gate. We had church at Miss Burdick's. I led, reading T.J. Van Horn's sermon about Jacob's surrender. He depended on his wits, his cleverness, his money; but finally came to the end of all this security and depended on God. About 4:00 p.m. the first air raid bombardment began, cracking overhead like a thunder storm with rings of smoke from the anti-aircraft guns. Bloody Saturday—history alone will tell why or who. Four bombs dropped on the (International) Settlement. One bullet came through the roof of the church as the Chinese pastor was preaching.

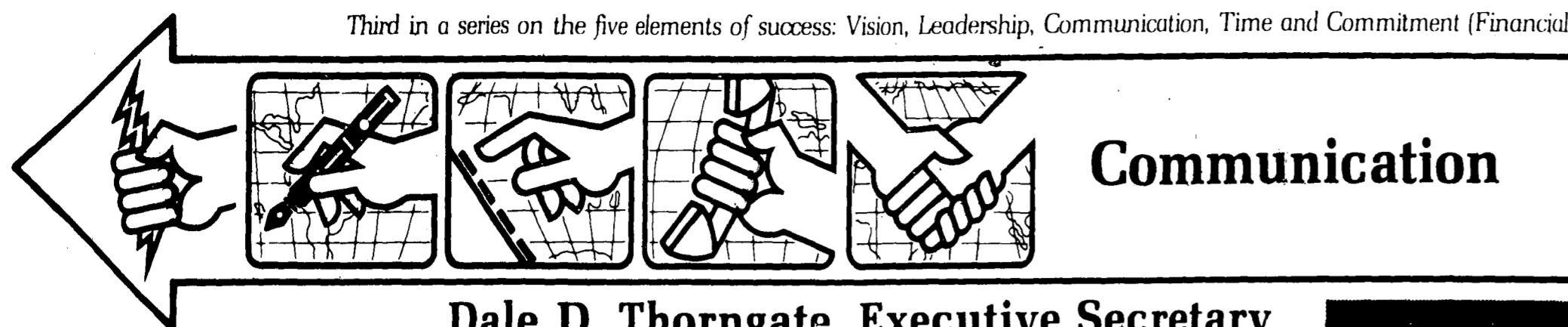
TUESDAY Decided to go to the

emergency hospital to work. Tension is terrible to endure when you're just sitting. Reported for night duty at 7:00 p.m. Put on ward with 13 refugee babies—what a night! One towel to wash all 13. Almost no breakfast for them. One little fellow died. At dawn I looked out at the air raid going on overhead. All over the city roofs people were coming up for a breath of air and a view of the city. Off to the north was a perfect rainbow across the city! I accepted it as a covenant of God that He had not forgotten His people—that it takes a cloud to make a rainbow—and that somehow behind all this horror was a universe that was indestructible.

THURSDAY Worked all day washing, ironing and packing. The U.S. liner Hoover will sail tomorrow for Manila. . . Went over to say good-bye to Mrs. Zia (Zi-AH!) and the girls. We had prayers at Miss Susie Burdick's. "God is not dead." O what a spirit she has. She has been through many wars and rumors of wars, and knows!

PRAYERS (on board ship) Dear Father who knows my heart, who forgives my weaknesses, my self-pity, my pride, who knows all my secrets, I do promise tonight to turn over the burden of my heart to thee. My pride has been hurt in leaving China. I would rather have died there. I see it now. I am not afraid so much of death as of what people will say. I come home to save my parents from grief, to relieve Mr. Davis' anxiety. As Dr. Crandall said, I am not an individual.

Take my pride, Lord, and transform it into strength to face the world with an understanding smile. If they only knew they would understand. And, dear God, please may I go back to China. I have been planting seed there for seven years. I watered it with tears. I laughed over it. Those funny, narrow, dirty streets where I have followed thee past the houses of the poor, by the forbidding walls of the rich, through the fields of grain always seeing thy hand. But not as I will, but as Thou wouldst have me. Amen. □



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



In the comic strip "Beagle Bailey," which depicts army life in ridiculous extremes, there is a character named Zero who takes everything literally. If in the chow hall eating, someone asks him to pass the butter, he will pick it up and throw it like a football quarterback. I use this little anecdote to indicate the importance of communication in the daily lives of every human being.

COMMUNICATION IS NOT SIMPLE

In the technological age of television and electronic gadgetry and with all the efforts to communicate facts to people, we discover that there is still a lack of understanding in most areas of people's lives. I understand that with all the information available on sex education even in most school systems across the country, the majority of teenage girls who become pregnant don't know how it happened. The ability to communicate with understanding is complex and difficult, but as the apostle Paul indicates in the 14th chapter of I Corinthians, it is crucial if people are to understand what is going on.

Effective communication takes at least two people, one talking the other listening. Now that doesn't sound too difficult, but it is. The one talking must be using words that the other person understands. He must give the opportunity for the other person to respond, indicating that he understands or asking questions. The listener needs to listen, not be thinking up what he is going to say in response.

The need for real communication is important in any interpersonal relationship whether it is in the family, in the office, or in the church. It is important not to just communicate words, but feelings as well. It is not uncommon for people, particularly in the marriage relationship or in the church, to communicate in words something contrary to their emotions and feelings. A hint to people in any close relationship: try to hear not only what the other person is saying but what he is feeling. And the other side: try to indicate your own feelings when you talk.

TEN HELPFUL HINTS FROM ENGSTROM

In his book, *THE MAKING OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER*, Ted Engstrom gives the following ten suggestions "to help you in communication." (1) Stop talking! You can't listen if you are talking. (2) Put the talker at ease. Help him or her feel free to talk. (3) Show them that you want to listen. Listen to understand rather than to reply. (4) Remove distractions. Don't doodle, tap, or shuffle papers. (5) Empathize

"If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?"
(I Corinthians 14:8)

with the other person. Try to put yourself in his place. (6) Be patient. Allow plenty of time and don't interrupt. (7) Hold your temper. An angry person gets the wrong meaning. (8) Go easy on argument and criticism. They put the other person on the defensive. Even if you win, you lose. (9) Ask questions. This encourages and shows you are listening. It helps to clarify your understanding. (10) Stop talking. That is first and last. You just can't do a good job listening while you are talking.

EVEN IN THE CHURCH

Communication within the church is crucial. If the pastor keeps the people informed it cuts down on rumors and complaints. The people feel as though they have a part in the ongoing program of the church. Open lines of communication facilitate any plans for change. Again the art of listening is crucial for the pastor. It helps him/her know what are the needs of the people and answers the question, "Do they understand what I am saying or trying to do?"

It is also important for members of the congregation to communicate with the pastor and with each other. It is important to hear what is being said and to understand. If you don't, ask questions. This is the only way to get the sense of vision and purpose that is being communicated by the leadership. It is important for the pastor and the leaders to know what you think and how you feel. They need your reactions and feedback.

In October I initiated a newsletter called LEAD-LINE in an effort to open new lines of communication to keep our Seventh Day Baptist leadership informed. The goal is to aid in coordination of the many facets of our work as a people. For LEAD-LINE to be a real tool of communication, I must have reactions and input from the leaders who receive it. Unless I know what is helpful and what isn't, unless I have their suggestions on which to base improvements, LEAD-LINE may be talking but not hearing, thus not communicating. Its goal of coordination will then not be served. Communication is essential to success. □

by President Dorothy Parrott

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

These words of the poet, written for an earthly lover, might well be the words we direct to our Heavenly Father who has demonstrated how much He loves us. In our quest for our own reconciliation, it is helpful, each day, to review the ways we do love our Lord and Savior.

I am concerned that many of us are slow in our maturing, in our Christian walk, to the point where we have rich fellowship with God, the kind of fellowship Adam must have experienced before his alienation. I am also concerned that we deprive ourselves of communion with Him by the "little" sins we commit—the gossip, the back-biting, the grudges we hold, the bitterness we hang on to, the turning away when someone needs TLC, the failure of daily time to study, pray, meditate—the failure to trust, to have faith, to remember His promises.

I don't know about you but my problem is with these "little" sins. I believe the Bible tells us that sin is sin. There is no distinction between big and little. Any time we are disobedient we are guilty of displeasing God and it robs us of sweet fellowship with Him. However, remember the promise

in I John 1:9? "If we confess—He is faithful to forgive—"

The key verse in our Sabbath School lesson this week was, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy on Him —." (Isa. 55:6,7) In the 22nd chapter of Job we are told to "acquaint thyself with him," "be at peace," "if thou return to the Almighty thou shalt be built up," "for then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God." Are you "seeking" Him? Are you "lifting up your face"?

How I wish I could have had this understanding of God's love much earlier in my life! How well I understand Paul's wretchedness when he says, "Why do I do the things I do? Why don't I do the things I should do? How I praise Him that He has provided a way for me, when I have willfully done anything that has caused me to be out of fellowship, to confess, to repent, and be forgiven.

But, in order to receive His forgiveness I must be ready to

forgive others (forgive us our debts as we forgive others.) I must be more obedient in refraining from those things James warns about—controlling the tongue, prejudice, failure to respond to the needy. In an article, "What Does Forgiveness Mean?" the summary is, "Therefore they went away changed. God does not love us because we are by nature lovable. But we become lovable because He loves us."—*Leadership*, Summer Quarter '81

As a denomination, I believe we are on the threshold of being more obedient disciples and ready to do the "greater things" Jesus spoke about. Our forefathers have kept the faith. It is time for us to move out in a more determined effort to spread the message of His love. As Seventh Day Baptists we must proclaim the message of salvation and the joy we know in obediently observing the Sabbath He has ordained for mankind.

In the churches I have visited I am impressed that most are doing something special to promote the work of the Kingdom. I will try to share these as I visit other churches and associations. Please be ready to share your special ministries with me. Also, I want to hear our concerns about how we, as a group of God's people, working together, can be more effective agents of reconciliation — reuniting others to a loving God, through Christ, by communicating the message of "how He makes them His friends." (II Cor. 5:19). □

Seek ye the Lord
while he may be found

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

DECEMBER 1981

PRAY FOR:

- 1- The Light Bearers for Christ musical team ministry on West Coast
- 2- Pastor Joel Omare and his ministry in the Kisii district of Kenya
- 3- Missionary Pastor Stephan Saunders, Bay Area, CA
- 4- Dean J. Paul Green as he begins work in the new Janesville, WI, office
- 5- *Prayer for new faces at worship this Sabbath/my ministry to them*
- 6- Director of Church Extension/Evangelism, Mynor G. Soper
- 7- DECISION TO DISCIPLESHIP groups in our churches
- 8- Missionary Pastor Kenneth Chroniger, Central SDB, MD
- 9- Our brethren in Nigeria as they continue their witness for the Lord
- 10- Editor John D. Bevis as he plans for the coming year of service to the Lord
- 11- David and Bettie Pearson and their work/witness in Malawi, Africa
- 12- *For the ministry of music, that His Word may be made known in this way*
- 13- For the needs of those who come to our doors for help, that the Lord will work through us
- 14- Rev. David C. Clarke, editor of the Helping Hand and his corps of writers
- 15- Missionary Pastor Robert W. Babcock, Houston, TX
- 16- Pastor John Mpacko, Kumba, The Cameroons, and registry of SDB Conference
- 17- For the ministry of Rev. Victor Skaggs in the Plainfield church and as president of the Historical Society
- 18- Missionary Pastor Kenneth B. Burdick, Raritan Valley, NJ
- 19- *Pray for those alone during the holiday season—those who don't know Jesus*
- 20- How will my giving to OWM be this year? My giving what I can yet this month
- 21- Missionary Pastor Melvin F. Stephan, Salemville, PA
- 22- S.A. Kube and the SDB work in Australia
- 23- Missionary Pastor Gabriel Bejjani, Stanton, CA
- 24- James Chang and family, SDB's in China
- 25- Praise God as we celebrate the Birth of Love!
- 26- *For the teachers of the ones preparing to be ministers, that those taught may become true servants of Jesus Christ*
- 27- For the families of those who are on the mission field
- 28- Missionary Pastor Leland E. Davis, Washington, DC
- 29- Rev. Earl Cruzan and his new position as Extension Minister of Milton SDB Church
- 30- New ASTS Supervisory Committee members in Wisconsin
- 31- Thank God for His guiding hand and blessings to you in 1981! Pray that 1982 will be a time for real spiritual growth!

as being very busy. God has opened doors in various areas, and we are excited about these—music . . . —social welfare. . .” Camille’s Bible class in a nearby school. . . Rod’s TEE program for Pastors, and visits to the churches. Read all their letter! Pray!

●NORTH CAROLINA-Field Pastor John Camenga reports two groups—one in Hendersonville and the other continuing at Asheville, with a growing outreach and new contacts. One family in Eastern NC has moved to Alabama to be a part of a local SDB church. Pray that the others scattered throughout this area might be encouraged in their continuing witness and that new individuals can be contacted.

●MALAWI, AFRICA-during October Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson were on the field visiting churches, training teachers, counselling in building projects, and aiding in youth ministries. With gas now over \$3.25 a gallon (US) such trips are more costly, but the truck/camper offers the facilities needed for their ministries. Did you see their Prayer Letter shared in your church?

●FIELD TRIPS-During October/November Exec. VP Leon Lawton will be at Central New York and Allegheny Association meetings, visit SDB churches and work in Houston, TX; Memphis and Arlington, TN; Washington, DC; Portland, OR; Centralia and Seattle, WA; Denver, CO; Daytona Beach, FL; Atlanta, GA; San Diego and Stanton, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; and the anniversary celebration of the Toronto, Canada, SDB Church. He is also to participate in the NABF meeting in Washington, DC; a Church Extension Conference (with Mynor G. Soper) in Sioux Falls, SD, and a Missions Administration Seminar near Kansas City, KS. Such extending travel is possible through unlimited mileage fares on certain airlines.

FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

- KENYA, AFRICA-Pastor Joel L.O. Omare began his ministry in Kisii the beginning of October, delayed one month from previous plans. Uphold him in prayer as he brings to this field the first full-time pastoral service to the several groups. This is a branch mission of the Central Africa SDB Conference with SSMO New Fields funds aiding the mission.
- MEMPHIS, TN-The Memphis and Arlington SDB Churches continued their witness at the Fair Booth the end of September. Initial reports indicate good literature distribution, several new contacts and positive follow-through planned.
- NIGERIA, West Africa-Rev. G. Harrison has sent his greetings “with Psalm 133.” He reports that Rev. James Ikanom is now serving the field left open by the sudden death of N.U. Idiong earlier this year. They continue to work toward affiliation with the SDB World Federation.
- AMARILLO, TX-Director of Church Extension Mynor Soper and Marian spent ten days at the West Texas tri-state fair helping to man the first ever SDB booth. It is the hope that new contacts made will enable a new group meeting in the Dalhart area with the Komolls who sponsored the fair booth.
- PHILIPPINES-The MISSIONS mailing to Missionary Keyworkers in local churches and Pastors for October was a special letter from Rod and Camille Henry serving in Cebu City. They report, “Our ministry is going quite strong as well

How You Can Help Us Meet Goals

women throughout the denomination to encourage the reading and use of them by others.

3. A personal spiritual growth scale which would be a tool which each member could use to measure her spiritual growth yearly.

4. Information and helpful resources regarding the problems faced by young families.

Personal spiritual growth seems to be the theme behind these goals and particularly the recommendations regarding the Newsletter and the Women’s Page. The potential for helping each other grow spiritually is really exciting if we all pitch in and help. What can you do?

You can help Beth Burdick (editor of the Newsletter) and I gather the information suggested in the recommendations. We cannot begin to do an adequate job in meeting these needs without your help. The second recommendation about paragraph reviews of helpful books is one in which we can all participate. My first suggestion would be to sit down right now and write a review about the book (next to the Bible) that has been most helpful in your spiritual growth. Since most of us haven’t written book reviews since high school or college days, here is a form you might wish to follow to simplify the process.

This review form, in an adapted version, could also be used to share an insight into a portion of Scripture; or if you have attended a nation-wide event like Marriage Encounter, Basic Youth Conflicts, SCSC, What Happens When Women Pray, etc., you may also wish to adapt this form to share the blessings you received from that experience. Make a habit of jotting down a simple review every time you read a helpful book, are spoken to in a new way by a passage of Scripture, or attend any blessing-filled retreat/seminar. We do each have a responsibility and an opportunity to share with one another what God is saying to us through His Word and through other members of His Kingdom, so SHARE. These reviews may be sent either to me:

Jane Mackintosh
150 Bridgeport
Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019
or
Beth Burdick
c/o Los Angeles S.D.B. Church
4976 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90042

Also, if you can share a list of study books based around a theme or if you know of some resources for helping young families cope with their problems, please share these with us so we can get this information out to others. I have never seen a “personal spiritual growth scale” as suggested in Recommendation #3, but if you have ever seen such a tool, please share it with us.

If you don’t feel comfortable writing a review, please don’t let that stop you from sharing ideas. Jot down thoughts and I will be glad to write or edit the review for you. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number along with your review, in case we need to clarify anything we don’t understand.

Beth and I look forward to hearing from many of you soon. We are depending on your help. □



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

by Jane Mackintosh

At Conference this August, the Women’s Interest Committee put together some goals and recommendations for the Women’s Board. These were circulated among the churches in the August, September newsletter from the Women’s Board. In case you didn’t see that newsletter, I want to list these goals and recommendations again for your consideration.

Suggested Goals are:

1. Encourage the forming or continuing of prayer chains and/or prayer partners.
2. Create interest in commitment to deeper personal spiritual growth through the Newsletter and Sabbath Recorder.
3. Emphasize Life Style Evangelism.
4. Continue contact with lone Sabbath keepers in a variety of ways.
5. Encourage reaching out, thinking beyond ourselves and our church family.

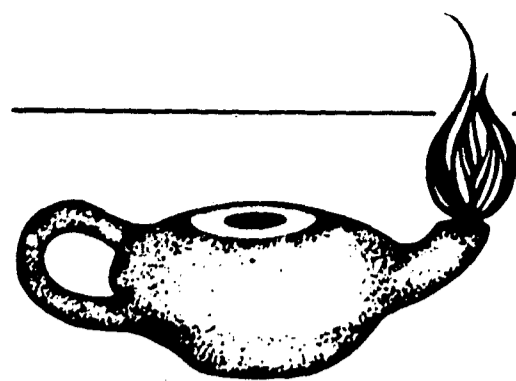
Recommendations to Women’s Board:

We recommend that the following types of helpful information be included in the Newsletter and the Sabbath Recorder Women’s Page:

1. A list of study books and suggested themes.
2. Paragraph reviews of helpful books to be solicited from the

1. What is the book about (basic theme)?
2. What do you feel is the most important thought or thoughts the author shared in this book? (If you can find a quote from the book to illustrate your point, that would be effective.)
3. How has what you read in this book affected your life? (How has God spoken to you through this book?)

Book Title:
Author:
Publisher:
Date Published:
Address of Publisher
(if available)



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

The only way the commercialism of Christmas is to be combatted is for people to refuse to participate. It is in the homes and churches that the celebrations must become simple and the purpose of the day returned to its original meaning.

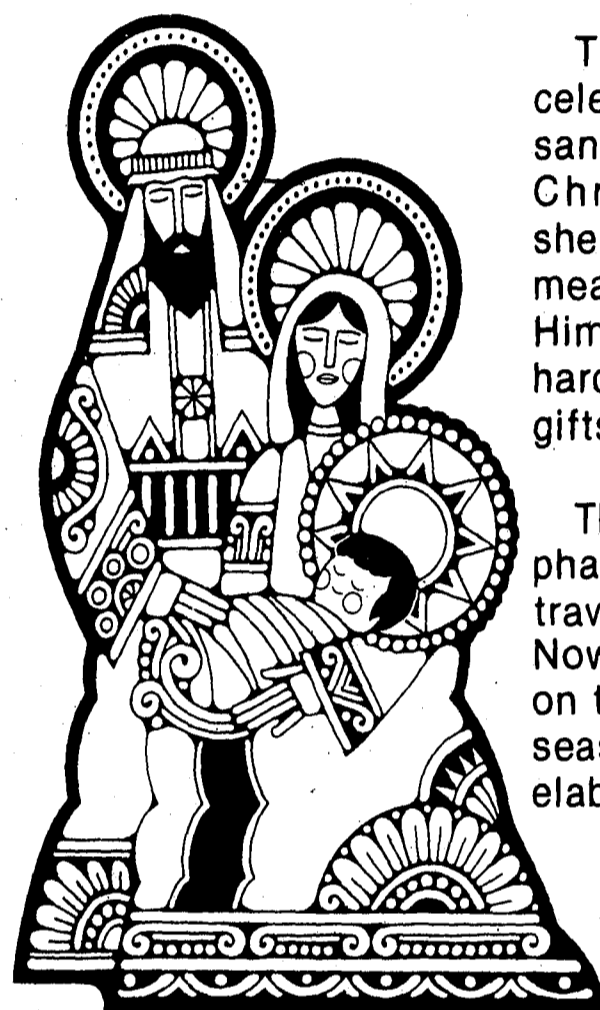
The first Christmas was celebrated by the angels as they sang in exultation to declare the Christ-child's birth; by the shepherds, who left their flocks, the means of their livelihood, to worship Him; by the Wise Men who endured hardships to pay homage and give gifts to the King.

The time has come when the emphasis on bright lights and extravagant gifts should be stopped. Now is the time to center thoughts on the religious significance of the season. Now is the time to restrict elaborate celebrations and give our

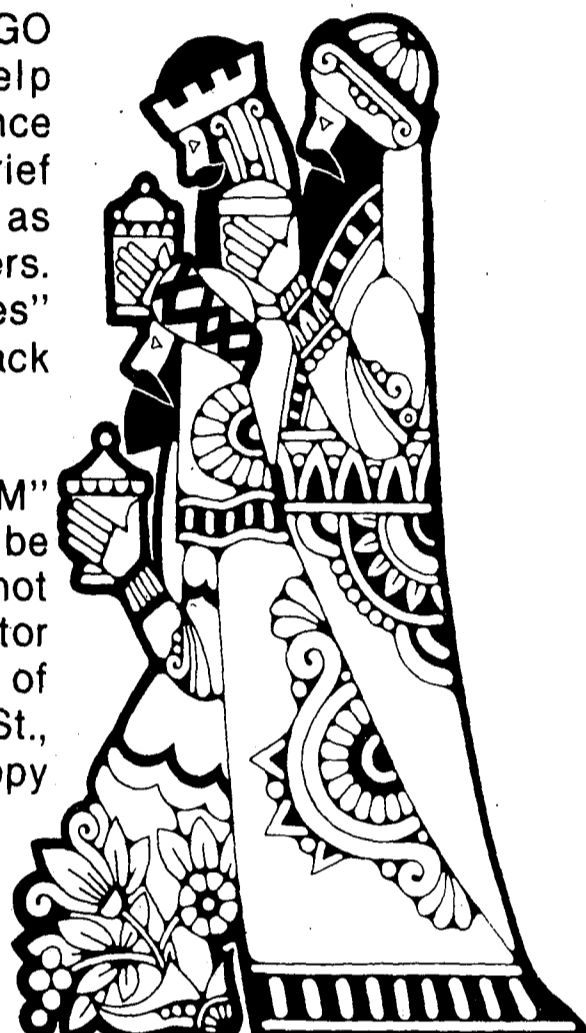
time and talents as well as money to the less fortunate than we; give not because we must, but because we may, in remembrance of Christ.

The Life Ventures Committee of the Board of Christian Education has prepared a booklet, "LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM..." to help families focus on the significance of the season. In it are brief statements which may be used as meditations or discussion starters. The "Christmas Remembrances" suggest ways to bring Christ back into celebrations.

"...LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM" has been sent to each church to be given every family. If you have not received one, check with your pastor or clerk or send to the Board of Christian Education, 15 S. Main St., Alfred, NY 14802. We will be happy to send you one. □



"LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM"



NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, November 22-29, 1981

The Laymen's National Bible Committee, Inc., has sponsored this national interfaith observance since 1941. The goal is to involve and reach as many people as possible to promote Bible reading and study during National Bible Week, which always coincides with Thanksgiving. The committee is an organization of business and professional leaders of all faiths associated in an intensive effort to motivate reading and study of Holy Scripture. LNBC is supported entirely by voluntary tax-deductible contributions.

Working in close cooperation with LNBC are the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Jewish Committee

for National Bible Week, the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Christian Scientists, the Mormons, and Bible societies.

In announcing National Bible Week President Thomas L. Phillips said, "Every person has within his innermost being a yearning and a hunger for spiritual fulfillment. God, in His infinite wisdom, has made provision for this fulfillment and has revealed it to us in the Old and New Testament documents. This is why reading the Bible is so vitally important.

"Today there are signs of new

beginnings and of spiritual renewal throughout our land. Everyone of us can be involved.

"I invite you to join me in reading the Bible everyday, in encouraging other members of your family to read the Bible, and in joining with friends and neighbors to study the Bible on a regular basis.

"The time to start is now."

If you do not already pray and read the Bible every day, this is a good way to prepare for the Advent and Christmas season which starts November 29, 1981. If you can do it through the Advent season, why not every day of the year? □

Teachers' Mini-Lab

MAKE THE WHOLE BIBLE LIVE

"All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

—2 Timothy 3:16,17 (RSV)

It is easy for educators to become so enthusiastic about one theological idea they seemingly forget there are many Biblical truths to be examined and shared. It is important for Christian Educators to have a broad knowledge of the Bible and the time and circumstances under which it was written. However, it is not enough to memorize large portions of scripture without understanding the meaning, or learn stories and facts without relating them to present-day lives and times. God's laws, His judgment and forgiveness, words of wisdom, of comfort and support in times of need are as relevant today as in the day they were written.

The people and incidents in the

Bible cannot be left in the realm of ancient history. They must be made to be seen as living, breathing people, faced with problems similar to those of people today. The word of God must speak to the joys, sorrows, challenges and problems of today's society.

Lessons from scripture should be taught with the expectation that God will make His Word have the same power in the students' lives as in the lives of the first Christians.

In order for the whole Bible to become alive to students, teachers and schools must set basic goals. Evaluate the following, make some of the goals your own (or develop others). Enunciating aims is the first step toward making teaching/learning a satisfying experience.

Through study and prayer, struggling to understand Biblical truths and by being open to God's self-disclosure, especially His redeeming love as revealed through Jesus Christ, teach so that:

1. God speaks through His Word now, penetrating all facets of life.
2. God can work in the hearts of students with the purpose of making them disciples dedicated to His gospel with an understanding of it.
3. Each person develops a faith that will permit him to give convincing testimony in word and in action in an unbelieving world.
4. Through our teaching God can develop a church whose glory will abound in His love, His power, and His truth.
5. Persons see the Bible come alive in their own experiences and relationships.
6. Persons respond to God's Word in faith and love—to the end that they may know who they are and what their human situation means.
7. Persons live in the spirit of God in every relationship.
8. Persons fulfill their common Discipleship in the world and abide in their Christian hope. □

RECORDER REACTIONS

At Conference in 1978 Rev. John Schmid and his wife attended the Christian Social Action Interest Committee and presented the problem of the housing and care needs of SDB elderly people. As a result, Recommendation #3 was presented (see page 49 of Yearbook). A committee was appointed to study the feasibility of establishing a "retirement and/or nursing home for Seventh Day Baptists." Apparently nothing "feasible" was found.

The last sentence of the recommendation reads: "We also urge the churches to inform the committee of any existing or proposed programs in their own areas that have proved satisfactory."

The Ormond Lutheran Manor is to open November, 1983. It is located not too far from our Daytona Beach Church. From my investigation of the project, I am satisfied that it is financially sound and well planned. There is also a sincere Christian spirit. (I have taken the first steps toward becoming a charter resident.)

More than 400 residences will be provided in apartments, single houses and

duplexes. Prices begin at \$26,950. More information may be obtained by writing: Ormond Lutheran Manor, P.O. Drawer 397, Ormond Beach, FL 32074.

—Velma L. Maxson
Holly Hill, FL

I do enjoy the SABBATH RECORDER. I can't remember when I saw the first copy. It was always in our home at Fouke, Arkansas. I can remember my parents, J.N. and Ettie Babcock Pierce, reading it before I could read. . . . You are to be commended for the high standard of excellence which you have maintained through the years.

Have you tried using the SABBATH RECORDER for identification? When Dr. Seager was approaching London in 1948, he began to wonder how he would recognize Rev. James McGeachy among that sea of faces. There was little delay in making contact, behold in the distance, there was a SABBATH RECORDER waving high above the heads of the crowd. May God continue to bless.

—Mrs. Lloyd D. Seager
Little Rock, AR

I am sending our subscription payment. We are delighted with each issue of the RECORDER and read it from cover to cover as soon as it comes. Thank you and the Editor for a wonderful denominational paper.

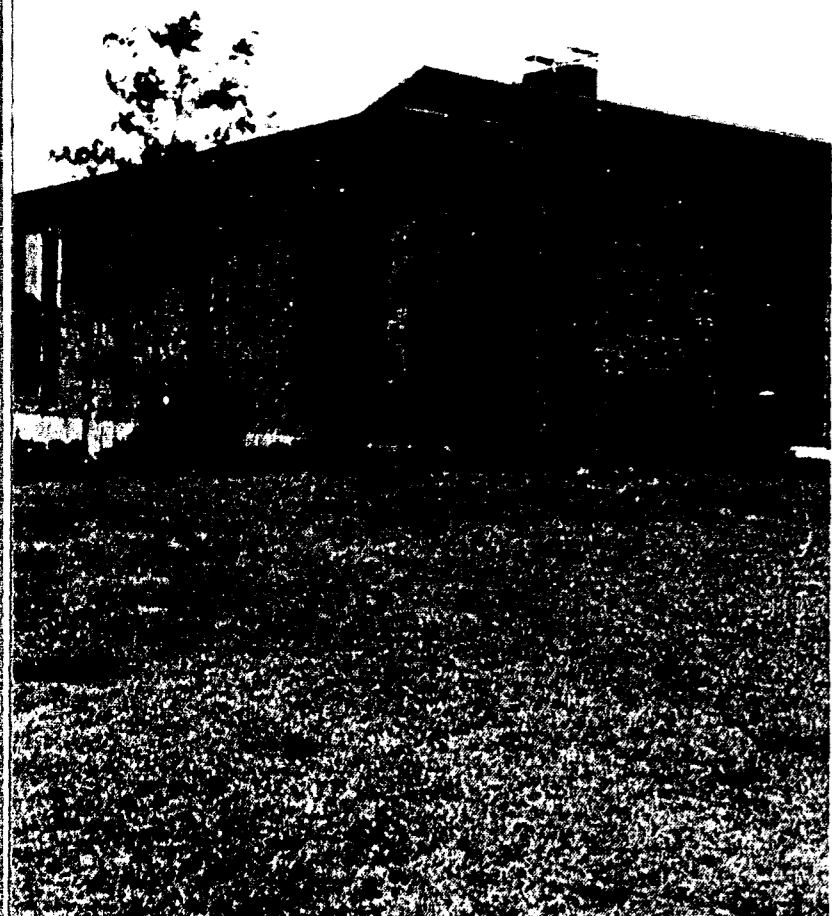
—Mr. & Mrs. Gleason Curtis
Riverside, CA

Enclosed please find our subscription to the SABBATH RECORDER. . . . We are endeavoring to set up a small publishing house here in Australia to serve our needs. I might say also that we very much appreciate the splendid style and art which you are incorporating in the RECORDER. . . .

—Theo B. Hawkins
Australia

Someone gave me a copy of the SABBATH RECORDER and I wish to subscribe. Thank you for the article by Dr. Desmond Ford. I am a Seventh-day Adventist but am seriously examining the beliefs of my church. I have never understood the Gospel before this year.

—Reader in Oregon



RELOCATION UPDATE

On Wednesday, September 30, final closing papers were signed for purchase by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference of the office building at 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, Wisconsin. The purchase price of \$345,000 was arrived at after considerable negotiation since the General Conference vote to obtain the building in early August.

Preparations are well under way for moving all the Plainfield offices to Janesville. The hope is that the Center on Ministry office might move by the end of 1981 and the others by late spring. These include offices of the General Conference, the Memorial Fund Trustees, the American Sabbath Tract Society, and the Historical Society.

By October 10, General Conference Treasurer, Bob Austin, had received \$81,000 of "faith promises" (\$20,000 in cash) toward the goal of \$200,000 to be raised by special gifts. It is hoped that the sale of the present building will provide the additional \$200,000 estimated to be needed for the purchase and the moving of offices and employees.

"It is a big move for us," says the new executive secretary, Dale Thorngate. "The logistics and emotions involved are not unlike those of a large family who are leaving the home they have lived in for over fif-

ty years." He points out that the Plainfield building was built by the denomination in the 1920s, the funds being raised by individual contributions over a period of thirteen years. The publishing house was dedicated in 1922, the front office in 1929.

TRACT BOARD WILL MOVE

At its annual meeting, September 20, the American Sabbath Tract Society voted to authorize the relocation of its office and Board of Trustees to the Janesville, Wisconsin, area. The Society requested Rev. Herbert Saunders to seek nominations for trustees and officers from the Janesville area. A special Society meeting will be called to elect new trustees and officers; until then, the present trustees and officers will serve and will provide guidance and consultation to the new Board.

Four new Tract Society trustees already elected from Wisconsin are Frank Green, Brandon Crandall, Sam Skaggs, and Don Sanford. As the new supervisory committee for the Board, they have begun work on the decision of whether to continue doing our own printing or have it contracted. The present Board, after studying the options for the past two years, has voted to recommend to the new Board that we continue printing. However, they are leaving the decision, which involves moving of the printing equipment, to the new Board.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PREPARES TOO

The Historical Society trustees began plans at their meeting on September 17 for the move to the top level of the new denominational center in Janesville. Arrangements are being made for a professional appraisal of the Society's library and artifacts. Board members are going through the library collection to cull out unnecessary books. Many in the collection are not related to Seventh Day Baptists or their history.

Minor repairs and other preparations are being made for the sale of the present property at 510 Wat-chung Avenue in Plainfield, New Jersey. The Tract Society has authorized sale of the publishing house (back building, owned by the Society) so that the property can be sold as one piece. The three-story front office building is owned by the General Conference.

THE NEW DENOMINATIONAL CENTER

The new center in Janesville is on the northeast side of the city, just a few miles from the Milton and Albion churches and Milton College. The two-year-old building has 9,600 square feet of space on four levels. Sixteen offices, conference rooms, lunch room, and reception area are included along with storage areas and ample parking on the 2½-acre lot. The fuel-efficient design includes five furnaces and air conditioning units for zoned heating and cooling.

Major reasons for the move are to be in a more central location geographically and to lower the cost of operations. Lower cost of living for the area and greater fuel and space efficiency were major considerations.

While the present building is in the New York metropolitan area, Janesville is seventy-five miles northwest of Chicago. Air transportation service is available through Milwaukee, a sixty-minute drive east, and Madison, forty minutes north.

The move to Wisconsin will affect only the offices and activities currently located in Plainfield. However, the new facility provides for the possibility of housing other board or agency offices when that seems advisable some time in the future.

Since the present address is printed on many publications which may be in circulation for some time, the Plainfield Post Office Box (868) will be maintained as long as seems necessary. □

the CHURCH in ACTION

FOUKE ACADEMY OPENS

FOUKE, AR—Fouke Academy at Fouke, AR, opened for the 1981-82 school term on September 1. The headmaster is the pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Rev. Floyd Goodson, and his wife, Lois, who is giving dedicated service as a part-time teacher.

There are seven students: Misty and Christy Pilgreen, third grade; Brent Pilgreen, fifth grade; Jim Biggs and Jay Hays, seventh grade; and Sandy Akins and Clara Goodson, ninth grade. Three adults are enrolled in special classes. Lena Mae Slaton is taking typing; Frankie Briggs is studying for the GED examination for the high school diploma; and Darlene Hickey is studying Spanish.

Of the ten students, three are Seventh Day Baptist, seven are not. So it seems that the Academy is providing a service to the community. Both Dr. Floyd Goodson and his wife are experienced teachers. This is his 25th term and her 30th in the classroom. □

-FLG

DIACONATE ORDAINED

BERLIN, NY—On Sabbath, September 12, 1981, the Berlin, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church ordained three of its members to the Diaconate. Called to ordination by the church were (Mrs. Howard) Roberta C. Ellis, Wesley A. Greene, and (Mrs. C. Rex) Joyce S. Burdick. The Rev. Paul L. Maxson, a former pastor, brought the message during the morning worship service.

After a fellowship dinner

We who have been Seventh Day Baptists all our lives or just for a few years are aware of the denomination-wide United Relief Fund which is promoted once a year at Thanksgiving time by the Christian Social Action Committee. But we all need to be reminded that now is the time in all of our churches to think about building up again that fund that has been depleted during the year as crying needs have been met.

We have seen the Bible-based wisdom of collecting in advance a substantial fund to meet catastrophic or other special relief needs for which our Christian love makes us responsible. In New Testament times the Apostle Paul saw the financial needs of the home church at Jerusalem and urged the church people of Macedonia and Greece to "lay by them in store" so that the fund would be ready when needed and their appointed committee could forward the money to Jerusalem. That, in our case, is the function of our Christian Social Action Committee. The fund collected from the churches and held by Conference Treasurer Bob Austin of Dodge Center, Minn., is allocated when needs arise by the committee located at Daytona Beach.

members of the church along with guests from other churches and relatives and friends of the candidates joined in the service of ordination. A statement of faith was given by each candidate. The charge to the candidates was given by Rev. David S. Clarke. Rev. Paul L. Maxson gave the charge to the church. Rev. C. Rex Burdick spoke a word about the diaconate in the Seventh Day Baptist Church and led in the consecrating prayer. Special music throughout the day was offered by Frances Clarke, Althea Rood, Gerri Greene and Paul Cushman.

Included in the group of ordained elders, deaconesses and deacons

Who knows when fires, floods or persecution may strike at home or in far-off countries of the world? Last year we were able to send immediate relief totaling \$1,500 to families in Washington and Virginia that had lost their homes by fire. We also sent relief funds to the Philippines to be administered by our missionary Rod Henry. Small amounts were also given in the name of caring Seventh Day Baptists to Food for the Hungry, Baptist World Relief and one or two other efficiently operated Christian relief agencies.

We are thankful; let us show it again this year by contributing to SDBURF. There are strong local and denominational appeals for building funds and outreach programs. None of these can replace or supplant our responsibility to meet human needs. Even the Apostle Paul who felt daily "the care of all the churches" was urged by the Jerusalem council to remember the poor, "the same which I also was forward to do" (Gal. 2:10).

Church treasurers and individuals should mark their checks SDBURF and send through regular channels or directly to the Conference treasurer, William R. Austin. □

-Leon M. Maltby, Chairman

who joined in the laying on of hands were: Roberta's parents, Rev. and Mrs. David Clarke, and her grandmother, Mrs. Agnes Bond, elder and deaconesses from Alfred, NY; Joyce's parents, Floyd and Elmina Sholtz from the diaconate of the Verona, NY, church; and Wesley's parents, Arlie and Irene Greene, both members of the Diaconate in the Berlin Church. Irene Greene welcomed the new members to the Diaconate.

During the service Delmar Ellis was presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for serving faithfully as a deacon of the Berlin Church for 45 years. □

-Joyce Burdick

INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING SERVICES HELD

MILTON, WI—An installation service for Pastor Herbert E. Saunders was held Sept. 12 at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Earl Cruzan gave the Charge to the Candidate, and Dale Thorngate, Executive Secretary of General Conference, gave the Charge to the Church.

A prayer of dedication and installation was given by Pastor Herb's father, Pastor Francis D. Saunders.

During the service, several people welcomed Pastor Herb on behalf of various organizations. They includ-

ed: Dr. Laurence Burdick, welcome from the church; Margaret Burdick, Advisory Board; Ellen Green, youth; Bill Arthur, Quarterly Meeting; Phil Burrows, North Central Association; and Rev. Virgil Holmes, Milton Clergy Council.

Don Sanford served as liturgist, and Steve and Lisa Thorngate provided special music.

The following day, Sept. 13, a welcoming reception was held at the church for the entire Saunders family—Pastor Herb, Barbara, Brian, Peggy and Michael. The event was open to the public as well as the church family.

A commissioning service for Extension Pastor Earl Cruzan was held

at the Milton SDB Church Sept. 12. The service of commissioning was given by Pastor Herb Saunders, while the prayer of dedication was given by Dale Thorngate, General Conference Executive Secretary.

Pastor Cruzan, who retired April 1 after more than 40 years in the ministry, will engage in a southern Wisconsin-northern Illinois evangelical outreach program. His duties will include contacting people who have inquired about Seventh Day Baptists, calling on parishioners who live far from established SDB churches, providing occasional pastoral leadership, and helping to set up house churches and Bible study groups. □

SEVEN BAPTIZED AT CAMP

NORTH LOUP, NE—Our last report left off with our looking forward to our camping season at Camp Riverview as a lot of preparatory work was taking place. Well, our anticipation was met by success with seven youth being baptized in the North Loup River. We praise the Lord for these newly-committed lives.

Church and Christian fellowship were enhanced by having an SDB softball team take part in the church league of this area. Winning the championship was not essential for

us to have fun, but it did top it off nicely!

August 31 through September 2 were the dates for our annual North Loup "Popcorn Days." The church had its food stand, as it always does, serving hamburgers, drinks, ice cream and homemade soups, barbecue beef and pies. This project helps us to maintain our church building and properties.

The people of our community who are 70 years of age and older were invited to a party sponsored by the ladies of the SDB and Methodist Churches of North Loup. Fifty-nine people attended and enjoyed the singing by pastors of both churches,

the games and the food which was donated by individuals. Pastor Larry Graffius read an appropriate scripture and the songs also pertained to Christianity.

Our Friday night Bible studies have recently embarked upon the "Life and Journeys of Paul." The Dr. Grace Missionary Society organized a rummage sale with proceeds of \$600 going toward a new dining room for Camp Riverview.

September 27 we began the "Decision to Discipleship" course. This looks as if it will enrich those who participate thus affecting the Church Body in a positive way. □

—Pam Soper

JOHN CAMENGA CALLED TO SHILOH

The Rev. John H. Camenga, pastor of the Upper East Tennessee Church since October of 1979, has accepted the pastorate of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Shiloh, N.J. The Shiloh church has been without a pastor since the retirement of the Rev. Charles H. Bond. Pastor Camenga has served several churches, and has been involved in church planting and outreach in the Carolina's as well as Eastern Tennessee in recent years. The Camenga family will be moving to New Jersey sometime prior to April 1, 1982. □

MARRIAGES

WARNER-PARK.—Wendy Sue Warner and Jerry Park were united in marriage July 12, 1981. Wendy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Garth Warner of Oneida, NY, and Jerry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Park of Sherrill, NY. The wedding took place at The Root Glen in Clinton, NY, with an outdoor reception on the lawn of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church. The couple will live in Verona, NY.

SUITS-PEACHANINI.—Fran Suits, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Suits, of Vernon, NY, and Dominick Peachanini, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peachanini of Goshen, NY, were married on August 22, 1981 in the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church by Rev. Russell Johnson. They reside on Oatman Road, Vernon, NY.

BIRTHS

PSOTA.—A daughter, Kristin Diane, to Duane and Darlene (King) Psota of Shenandoah, IA, on May 30, 1981.

RAND.—A son, Benjamin Ellings, to Richard and Waynette (Burdick) Rand of Aurora, CO on August 8, 1981.

SMITH.—A son, Travis Jon, to Ron and Sharon (Williams) Smith on August 10, 1981. They reside on Quaker Hill, Ava, NY.

WILLIAMS.—By adoption Anne, age 3½ and Michelle, age 2½, to Ron and Pat Williams of North Loup, NE.

ACCESSIONS

ALFRED STATION, NY
Rex E. Zwiebel, Pastor

By Baptism:
Russell Saeger

By Testimony:
Georganna Marvin

MILTON, W
Herbert E. Saunders, Pastor

By Letter:
Rev. Francis D. Saunders
Lila S. Saunders

RIVERSIDE, CA
Alton L. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:
James Driver
Robert Driver
Richard Driver
Lucille Whitsey

By Testimony:
Cheryl Driver
Tom Davis
Donna Davis
John Thorpe
Patricia Thorpe
Gem Fitz Henley
Peggy Bannerman

OBITUARIES

GELLEFF.—Mrs. Olive May, who had been living at the Hanswell Home for the Elderly in England, died at Elin General Hospital on September 1, 1981. She was the oldest member of the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church in London, England. She was baptized on Oct. 15, 1927 at the age of 23, and was admitted to membership on Nov. 1, 1927, by Rev. W. Winston Haines.

The funeral service was held in the Chapel of Rest at the Hounslow Cemetery. Interment was on Sept. 10 with Pastor Albourne L. Peat officiating.

—A.L.P.

A LOOK BACK — AND FORWARD

(Continued from page 15)

is invaluable as a means of witness and of publicity. It can also be a source of additional income. I believe that the present team will be ready to record by January 1982, if funds are available.

I hope to be involved with Light Bearers for Christ, and with Seventh Day Baptist music, for a long time to come, though my role in the group may change to accommodate my need for further education and my desire for a Christian home and family. Despite the frustrations found in any task, I am grateful to have completed my first year as Director of Light Bearers for Christ.

In my previous Sabbath Recorder article, referred to above, I wrote:

"Music can be legitimately used to state the Christian case, to give opportunity for personal testimony of the validity of that case, and to invite the hearer to personal acceptance of our leader, Jesus Christ.

"The music of a church can also serve to put that church's name before the public, and to leave a favorable impression."

My prayer continues to be that the ministry of Light Bearers for Christ will be a fulfillment of these words. □

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(Page 1)

THROUGH IT ALL . . .

(Continued from page 6)

can say "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." (Phil 4:11) I'm more than content—I'm happily blessed with a wonderful husband, two children and an all-wise, all-loving God who fills all my needs. I don't know what my voice will be like in the future, but I know God has my future in His Hands.□

SINGING IS IMPORTANT

(Continued from 7)

One of my fondest memories is that of working on a South Jersey farm and hearing my black working partner across the field break into lively song even when he was feeling quite down in the dumps. When asked, he always said, "I'm just trying to fool myself." Singing can lift the spirits.

Singing is probably the most important when several voices are combined. The group effort becomes harmonious, giving joyful expression of a single theme by many people, and I, as one of the singers, become a part of a greater, grander expression of the chosen message.

Singing is important to me for these and many other reasons. The simplest way to say why it is important in my life is to say that "I just plain love to sing." I have always been surrounded by music lovers, mostly singers, and I shall continue to sing as long as I have breath enough to carry a tune.□

Decade of Discipleship

Phase Seven of the Decision to Discipleship was written by Rev. Herbert Saunders. Although it is numbered "seven" this section may be used at any point in the study the Disciple wishes. It may also be used as an independent study by groups or individuals.

It was written especially for Seventh Day Baptists and focuses attention on several important issues in the Christian experience. As a Seventh Day Baptist disciple opportunity is given to grow in your faith. You are urged to study Phase Seven of the Decision to Disciple in order to understand Seventh Day Baptist beliefs and policy.

You may order Phase Seven from the SDB Board of Christian Education, Alfred, NY 14802.□

IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE PRAISE UNTO THE LORD

(Continued from page 8)

studied with a very fine teacher, and I payed for my lessons by accompanying him as he taught other students. What a wonderful way to learn to sing, since I enjoyed playing the piano almost as much as singing. I knew music was to be a very important part of my future, and while I was in school I thought I would like to be a concert singer, or perhaps an opera star. That is, until I met Van, and realized what I wanted most was to be a wife and mother.

How good life has been to me. I have been Van's wife for 35 years, and I am a mother to three fine children and many, many blessed adopted children, and I have also been able to experience the joy that grandchildren bring, but God does not limit us in being able to do only one or two things in a lifetime. I also have had the privilege of studying with fine teachers, I have had the opportunity of directing many good choirs, and I have sung as a soloist in many places and have been able to share the joy that music brings into my life with so many people.

Another exciting experience in life is to sing with others, in small informal groups, or large choirs, and blend your voice with others, and being able to do this over the years with many different people, and singing many different kinds of music has been a great highlight in my life. Yet there is a real frustration in all this. It is so difficult to decide just what song to sing, since there are so many songs to choose from, and every one seems to be my favorite. It is both frustrating and thrilling to realize the vast variety of words and melodies there are to use to express our feelings and our beliefs.

God speaks the truth when He says, "I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it all in." Music is that kind of blessing in my life. There are still so many songs I have not sung, so many melodies yet to hear, so many people to sing with and share with that one lifetime is not enough to do it all in. It will take all of eternity to sing and hear all the songs God has for me, and that I have for Him.

My desire is that every song I sing will bless the Lord, and give evidence to all who hear me, that I do know God, and that I believe He is who He says He is.

Yes, it is a good thing to give praise unto the Lord!□

GOD MADE IT ALL

I reach for God's sky



I reach for God's ground



I stand up high



I look all around



God made it all



All that I can see



God made it all



Including ME!



children's



page

rhythmically, and may be unheard of five years from now.

People frequently learn their theology from songs they sing. For instance: from "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony) we have these words—"Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are Thine" is not what Paul taught. This is the social gospel. Our responsibility as choral conductors is to teach both children and adults songs that contain strong and correct theology—texts that square with the teaching of scripture.

2. Do the rhythms enhance the texts or drown out the "Word of God"? Are they compatible with the human heartbeat or against it? Is the new sound, the Christian rock 'n roll, an honor to God or is it primitive and neo-pagan?

In his article, "Christian Rock, a Strategem of Mephistopheles," Dr. David A. Noebel tells us that Dr. John Diamond, a New York physician and psychiatrist, "discovered that the stopped anapestic rhythm (short, short, long, pause) 'heightens stress and anger, reduces output, increases hyperactivity and weakens muscle strength.' Diamond found that the anapestic rock beat is 'the exact opposite to our heart and arterial rhythm' and of hundreds of persons tested on an electronic strain gauge, 90% registered an instant loss of 2/3 their normal strength when they heard the beat. Such music certainly cannot be considered harmless or fit to carry the Christian message."

Noebel states further that those who defend the practice of using the rock idiom with sacred lyrics are quick to point out that "Luther and Wesley used popular tunes to carry the Christian message. True, but Luther and Wesley both had a musical mode available not in rebellion against God. Both Luther and Wesley desired to edify man's higher nature through music. Rock music is not aimed at man's spiritual nature. It denies its existence—like humanism and Marxism deny its existence." However, rock music is not the only offender in its rebellion. In the field of classical music, there are composers who purposely set out to create chaos, also, with their use of particular rhythms, melodies, and harmonies.

Music does affect us physically and spiritually. Long before historians and scientists gave us sufficient proof, God revealed that music affects a man. Under His direction the music we write and use can be positive, uplifting—sacred. It can be healing as in the case of David playing for Saul. But the ultimate results should be a spiritual victory.

I look forward to the time I will be permitted to discuss these musical matters with God, of hearing Him sing; and should He care to be the Soloist in a choir I am directing, no audition would be needed. □

Seidel, Leonard J. *God's New Song, A Biblical Perspective of Music*, Grace Unlimited Publications, 7124 Freshaire Drive, Springfield, Virginia, 22153

Sullivan, Daniel J., B.M., M.M. *A Plea for Reformation in Music*, Chalcedon Report, May, 1981, No. 189, P.O. Box 158, Vallecito, California, 95251

Noebel, Dr. David A., Director of Summit Youth Ministries. *Christian Rock, A Strategem of Mephistopheles*. Summit Youth Ministries, P.O. Box 207, Manitou Springs, Colorado, 80829

THAT JOYFUL NOISE IS MUSIC TO MY EARS

(Continued from page 9)

He has given me this unique opportunity to witness for Him, and He has made it very easy for me.

Another thing I can do is earn a living and in today's world that is very important. It seems as if I was trained from childhood to make a living at the keyboard. I guess if I was titling paragraphs this one would be titled "From Music Lessons to Money," or "How to Make Your Childhood Practices Earn Your Living." Nevertheless, it is a success story for me and more importantly for the people along the way who gave their time and resources, the people who pushed, scolded and paid for my music lessons (Thanks Mom).

But the best thing about earning a living the way I do, is that I can stay home. I have been needed at home these years with my family. I am a mother and housewife and I live and love those careers, too. I know my family thinks I have a tendency to get too absorbed in my music. They know that if someone asks me to do something and it has to do with music—I can't say "No"! At the very least, it's difficult for me. It's a great thing for the kids to know that Mom has her other life (besides being mother) and that her temperament can be very artistic (that is to say volatile)—but, they know too that I'm there and the Lord knew that I needed to be there for my family and made it possible for me to witness for Him, stay home, earn a living, and do what I love to do.

Thank you Lord for my musical ability. Thank you for the opportunities given me. Thank you for Psalm 100, my job description. Help me Lord, to always make a joyful noise unto You, for that joyful noise is music to my ears. Amen. □

The Sabbath Recorder

GUEST EDITORIAL

"I would not be a radical when young for fear of being a conservative when old." —Robert Frost

I MUST HAVE GOTTEN SUDDENLY OLD. Not only has this old radical campaigner turned conservative, I seem to have awakened on the right-hand side of Jesse Helms.

This summer we registered our firstborn daughter to begin school in the fall. Almost immediately I began reading about a US Senate proposal to curb the authority of the Supreme Court to enforce the Constitution. Some radical senators, such as Mr. Helms, want to allow the states to decide whether children should pray in the schools.

As a parent, I can't imagine a more knee-jerk idea, and as a Pennsylvania taxpayer I can't imagine a more impractical one. I live in a state which can't fill its potholes, decide where its roads are going, make up its mind whether the governor should be a Republican or Democrat, or accurately predict whether the annual budget will be a deficit or surplus. This is the state which gave the world the Johnstown flood, the Erie blizzard, and Three Mile Island. I'm supposed to turn the religious training of my children over to a state which can't even compute my income taxes accurately?

I happen to be very particular about the sort of religious training my children receive. That's why I follow them to Sunday school each week, sit beside them in church, lead them through mealtime and bedtime prayers, read and interpret Bible stories to them, and stay prepared to answer any question they may have. I look forward prayerfully to the day when they may make their own personal decisions to invite Jesus into their lives as a personal savior. I don't try to tell them I have a corner on prophecy or the right answers to all their questions. There's even a slight chance some of the things I tell them might be wrong, and that's not an easy thing for a parent to acknowledge. Be that as it may, religious training is a responsibility I take seriously and don't intend to share with a secular and inefficient entity, like the State of Pennsylvania. The biblical injunction to raise up a child in the way she should go was not aimed at monarchs or caesars. It was aimed at parents.

Oh, I've listened to the arguments in favor of mandated school prayer. Bleeding-heart poppycock for the most part. Like those sad stories about children who receive no religious training at home and need to be exposed to God somewhere, such as school. But what kind

of prayers do the schools suggest? Quite meditations, silent moments, bowed heads. This is evangelism? What if my children share their classroom with children of other religions, such as scientologists, moonies, or Jehovah's Witnesses? They can have broad-minded encounters soon enough with those groups in bus stations and airports.

The strange thing is that so many of the parents who advocate mandated prayer in schools also consider themselves to be evangelicals. I don't understand why parents who have fairly clear ideas about faith and religion would want to expose their children to watered down, neutral, or quasi-religious experiences. I had enough of that approach in the Air Force, which acknowledged only three major faith groups: Roman Catholic, Jewish, and "General Protestant." The latter group included everyone from high church Episcopalians to Seventh-day Adventists, with assorted Unitarians in between. It was an interesting ecumenical experience, and chaplains who were able to adapt their sermons to such a group were nothing if not creative. But I don't want to raise my children to be "General Protestants." I want to raise them to be Baptists, and I want to see them decide on their own to be born-again Baptists. Mandated prayer in schools is not going to be of much help to them on that pilgrimage and will probably be a hindrance.

All throughout history we Baptists have had bad experiences with monarchs and governments who tried to tell us how to pray and what to believe. We've ended up in jail, at the stake, and at the gallows because we've insisted that individuals must encounter God in their own way. We shed a lot of blood before Roger Williams established the idea that no government should regulate our religious experiences. Now a handful of radical senators want to overturn all that history and deliver our children's religious faith over to the hands of public school systems. Fortunately, Henry VIII is not the governor of Pennsylvania—but even well-meaning and benign government officials have no credentials and certainly no right to usurp parental authority when it comes to prayer training.

I expect my children will pray in school. I hope so. But I also pray that will happen on their own terms, in their own time, and in their own way. If the state tries to impose its own style on that process, then I want it known that I am one conservative parent who is not about to stand for it. Shoot, if you must, this old gray head—but spare the religious freedom of my children. □

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Philip E. Jenks is Editor of THE AMERICAN BAPTIST

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Every gardener knows that the seed you plant determines what crop you'll raise.

When our boys Jack and Ted were five and six years old they helped sow the carrot seeds in a shallow groove marked with two sticks connected with a white string.

After we had waited and watered for several weeks we decided that it was time to tug on some of those green leaves that were growing in the row.

Little Jack pulled carefully. He pulled again. Suddenly there it was in his hand.

With a happy grin Jack exclaimed, "It's a carrot!"

Yes. We had put in the tiny carrot seeds and now he had a carrot fresh out of the soil to eat standing there with his feet planted in the row.

It's exactly the same with any other seed that's put into the ground. If you want a crop of potatoes for baking don't plant small potatoes. You will only dig up small potatoes at the end of summer.

Many people are careless with their lives. In effect they plant small potatoes and expect superior size Idahoes.

Esau was like that. He planted small potatoes and then wept when the harvest netted him only small potatoes in return.

Because Esau was born first of twins he automatically would receive the extensive blessing of his devoted father. But at planting time Esau said, "I'll take the pottage today. I want it immediately. What profit shall the birthright be to me?"

Jacob eagerly bargained for the future crop, the blessing that had been denied him by birth. Jacob wasn't to be satisfied with the small potatoes. He anticipated the very best. And even though we cannot condone the method by which he attained his goal we must credit him for his choice of wanting God's best.

Today many people are like Esau. Young folks often see only the present and fail to anticipate what God's larger blessing would be if they were willing to plant more carefully. The obvious isn't necessarily the Gardener's best.

There must be selection and choices and decisions. Selections include friends, occupations, priorities. Some friends inspire our best. Others drag us down with their lack of ideals.

There must be preparation for all occupations. The higher our goal the greater will be our achievement.

If we live only for a day our priorities will probably be limited to what can be accomplished in the present.

The Bible says, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart" (Psalm 37:4).

How could anyone still desire a crop of small potatoes when God offers Himself and His boundless love? □

don't plant small potatoes by Janet Van Rys



THE SABBATH

OUR 137th YEAR

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

DECEMBER 1981

Light has come into the world

—John 3:19

