

The Sabbath Recorder  
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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

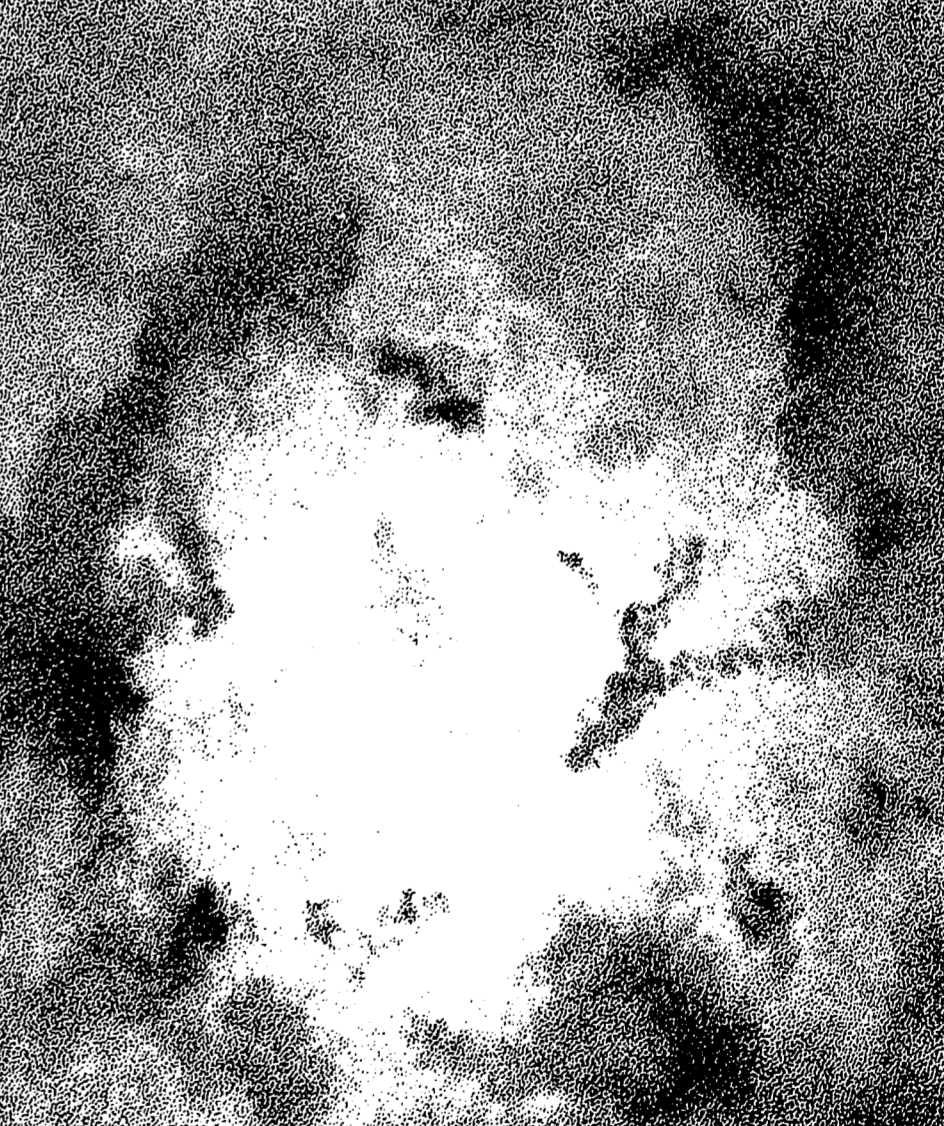
# RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

DECEMBER 1981

*Light has come into the world*

*—John 3:19*



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

**PATRICIA CRUZAN, ART DIRECTOR**

**Contributing Editors**  
Linda V. Camenga, Mary G. Clare, J. Paul Green, Leon R. Lawton, Jane Mackintosh, Dorothy D. Parrott, Arthur Rowe, Dale D. Thorngate.

**ATTENTION PASTORS, SABBATH SCHOOL AND YOUTH LEADERS:**

It is not too soon to begin planning for Sabbath Emphasis Day, which is scheduled for May 15, 1982. The theme chosen for this year is "Call the Sabbath a Delight." Special posters and bulletin covers with responsive readings will be sent to each church. □

—The Sabbath Promotion Committee

### AREA SPIRITUAL RETREAT

February 23-25	Milton, WI
February 26-28	Memphis, TN
March 1-4	Verona, NY
March 5-7	Seattle, WA
March 8-11	Los Angeles, CA

More information will be announced next month or write to Rev. Mynor G. Soper, Rt. 1, Box 569-A, Texarkana, AR 75502. □

The Sabbath Recorder

Long years ago when Christ was born  
In that little far away town  
Some men, out in the pasture land  
Watching flocks that were bedded down,  
Saw a most unusual thing:  
Angels descending from heaven  
To tell of the birth of a King.

Only those few heard the angels  
And only those few saw the sight  
For only those few were watching  
So long ago in the night.

Some day, with victorious shout,  
Christ, Himself, will appear in space  
Coming, as was told, for His own  
With pomp and majesty and grace.  
Though year on year still ticks away  
He will return as King of kings  
And bring to pass God's perfect day.

Will only a few be watching  
To see the return of this King?  
Will only a few be watching  
For this most significant thing?

—Mabelle Wiard Willmarth

## Two Watches





But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,  
born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

—Galatians 4:4-5

The Sabbath Recorder

# in the fulness of time

Rev. Don Sanford

**T**he recorded history of man's attempt to find God covers roughly four thousand years from Abraham to our own time. Taking the stories of Noah and even back to Adam, we can add perhaps two thousand years to that total. Other evidences from the realm of geology and biology indicate that mankind has been on this earth for centuries, how many we may never know.

Why, then, in all of this span of time, did Jesus make His appearance at the specific time that He did? What was there about the year Quirinius was governor, Herod was king, and Caesar Augustus was emperor, that God should enter into the realm of time in the Incarnation? Why should Paul think of this as "in the fullness of time"?

Three factors seemed to converge at this one period in history which gave it certain fullness by which Christianity could gain a foothold in the world and spread to all nations. At this time we have a meeting of three cultures, Hebrew, Greek and Roman, each contributing in varying degree to the impact of the Gospel.

From the Hebrews came the religious climate which made it possible for Christianity to take root. The social and ethical mores of the people were prepared by the high standards of the Jewish law. Their worship was heightened by the expressions of true devotion found in the Psalms. The prophets made their contributions to the religious thought of the nation as they received the insights into the nature of God.

Amos wrote of a God of justice, Isaiah knew God in His righteousness; Jeremiah and Ezekiel paved the way for the personal devotion of a people in exile; and others such as Jonah experienced the presence of God even in enemy territory. It was they who gave the Messianic prophecies which gave the people an expectant heart. They had an ideal for which they yearned.

But Christ came into the world, not as a reward for the Israelites' religious experience, but as Savior. The Jews offered fertile ground for this message also. Even though they had their spiritual giants, they were also a sinful people. They had broken their covenant with God many times; they had been arrogant and bold; they had attempted to take matters into their own hands, had forgotten God and even turned from Him in rebellion. Here, then,

was the raw material from which God could work His plan of salvation through repentance and the forgiveness of sin.

From the Greeks we have a common language which could be understood throughout the known world. The great learning and philosophies of the Greeks also gave their mark to Christian teachings. Such concepts as the Logos Doctrine of John 1 and their thoughts concerning matter and spirit, gave a framework in which Christians could more easily express their beliefs concerning Christ as well as their own experiences of rebirth and immortality. At points this may have tended to diminish the miraculous in favor of the rational approach to religion. On the other hand, Greek thought linked with Hebrew experience was able to produce such a champion as Paul, and the world has never been the same since.

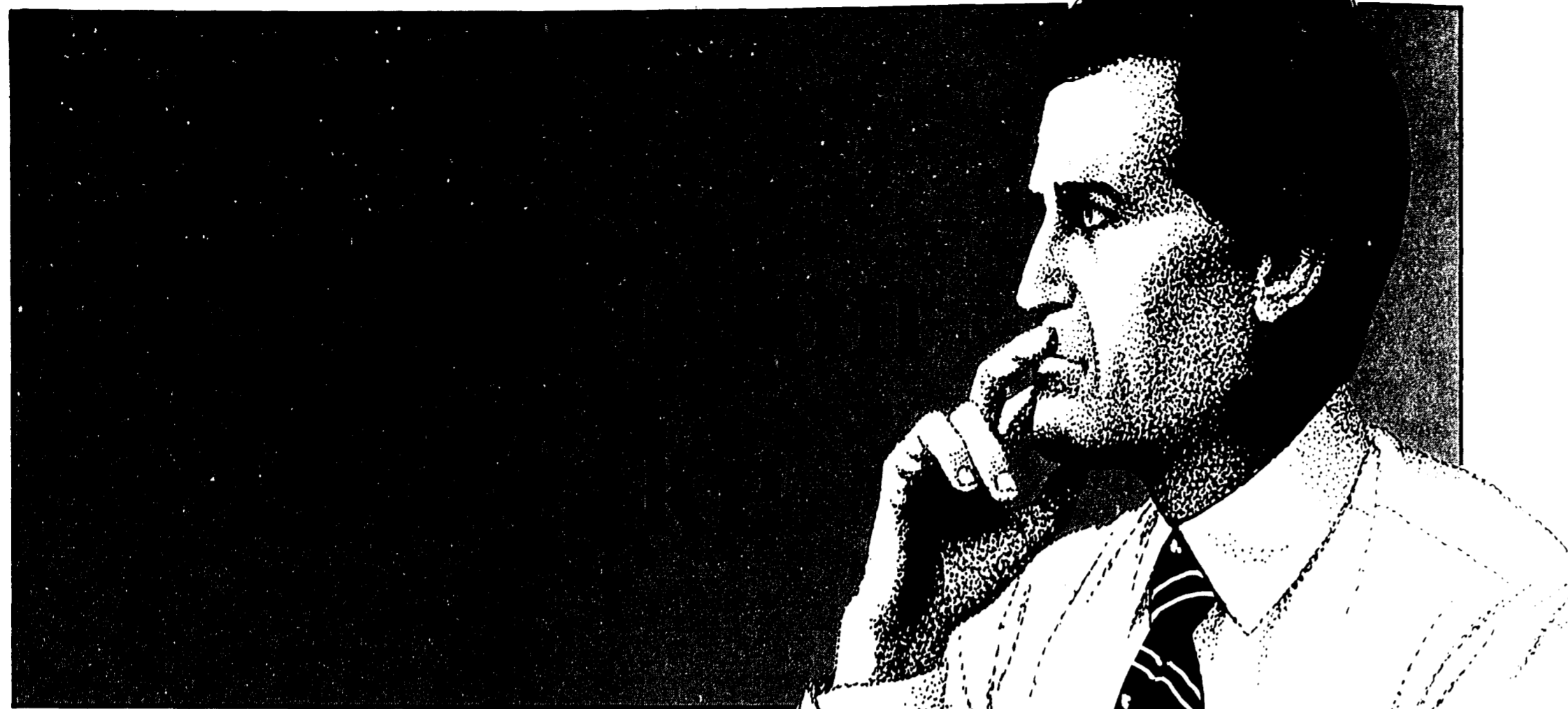
Finally, the Romans contributed both stability and an ease of mobility to the whole Mediterranean world. The "Pax Romana" or Roman peace was not just an idle phrase. The Jews hated the domination of their land by the Roman legions, but without them there would have been even less peace. Such things as road building and commerce in the Roman world of Jesus' time aided greatly in the quick spread of Christianity into a world religion.

The time was fulfilled for the coming of Jesus Christ into human history, and He came. But there is another fullness of time. These three lines meet again in our day. The moral, ethical, religious, and spiritual insights of the Hebrews are still ours, plus the further revelation and interpretation of Jesus Christ.

The Greek influences of culture are multiplied by many other searchers after truth from all the world. Beyond this is the rich heritage and thinking of men and women who have known Christ through their own experiences. Perhaps we lack a "Pax Romana," which gives stability to our world, but certainly there are few geographic barriers which prohibit the spread of the Gospel to all lands.

Thus it may be possible for each generation to say that the fullness of time has come when Jesus Christ may enter into our history as a new and vital force in the affairs of mankind. "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." □

December 1981



**Text: Acts 1:12-26**  
**by Rev. Larry Graffius**

**Y**ou get up in the morning, look into your closet and observe that you have several choices before you of things to wear: A grey suit, an olive, a brown tweed and a dark blue. How do you decide?

Decisions, decisions. Every day we make hundreds of decisions. Some are very simple requiring very little effort or thought. Some are more involved, more weighty. Most of us are not in circumstances or positions in which we must make far-reaching or world-changing decisions—at least not very often. But we do from time to time make decisions which alter the course of our own lives, which change our future. You choose a spouse, you choose a career, a place to live. Many times we choose to change positions or to move from one place to another—choices which definitely alter and change the lives we lead. Those decisions are usually harder and more deliberated, more carefully considered decisions than the choice of which suit to wear for the day.

After living in rural Pennsylvania for thirty years, my parents decided to move to Los Angeles, CA, where my father became pastor of an urban congregation in one of the world's largest cities. This drastically altered their lives. Those major and far-reaching decisions are entered into cautiously, carefully.

Perhaps it is buying a house, or just a new car, or making some kind of investment. Perhaps it is simply choosing where you will spend your vacation, or trying to decide on a new piece of furniture or an appliance. These, too, become important decisions since they involve larger amounts of money, and that hard-earned money represents our living, our life.

Here in the first chapter of Acts the disciples are involved in making a decision. From the course of action they follow, we can gain valuable, practical help in our own decision-making process. Let us observe how they made this choice and in so doing, highlight the principles that are involved.

1. Verse 15 says first of all that Peter stood up. Now those who are familiar with the character of Peter know that anytime when Peter opens his mouth, the results are apt to be unpredictable. In any event, Peter took charge, which is essential in any group or situation where more than one person is involved in making a decision. **A leader is necessary.**

Here it seemed to occur naturally, and often it is the case that if no leader is specified, one seems to emerge. In the family, it is the husband's role and Biblical responsibility to serve as the leader for his wife and his children.

2. Peter stood up and explained the nature of the situation, namely the vacancy left by Judas' defection and desertion. Jesus' intention was that there be twelve apostles (symbolizing the tribes of Israel). And so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, quotations from the Psalms (vs. 20), Peter said we need to choose another man (vs. 16-20).

**DEFINE THE PROBLEM**

So the second principle is to **define the problem.** Narrow the scope of things down from general to more specific. Identify specifically just what the decision will include.

Our car is broken down and we need transportation. We can't afford a plane, nor even a chauffeur-driven limosine. But we might be able to afford an inexpensive and economical car. Narrow things down by defining the problem.

This is certainly no difficult process, but if it is overlooked, we find ourselves running in circles, oiling the squeaks instead of repairing the machine or putting out little sparks instead of tending to the blaze. Identify the scope of your decision. Define the problem. For the disciples, says Peter, we need to choose a person to replace the betrayer.

3. Next Peter goes on to **list the qualifications** for the person they will choose. Primarily they are two: a. He must be a man who has been with us the whole time that the Lord came to be among us, from the time of his baptism through the crucifixion, the resurrection, and right up to the time he was taken into heaven. We are looking for someone who was just as closely associated with Jesus' life and teachings as we were. b. He will be a witness with us of his resurrection. This, after all, was one of the primary aspects of Jesus' training of the twelve; to be witnesses in the world around them (vs. 21-22).

Here is where the decision-making process begins to work effectively. A leader who knows just what direction the group should be going begins to take the matter in hand by gathering and evaluating information. The alternatives are listed and weighed. Some will automatically be eliminated since they don't meet the qualifications or the conditions that have been set forth. The step of listing the qualifications is the nitty-gritty of making the decision.

Notice that in setting the conditions, Peter bases what he does on the Scriptures and on what he understands as the will of their Master, the Lord Jesus. They weren't there to conclude what **they** thought they ought to do next, but what they felt **God** wanted them to do.

Likewise in our decision making process, let us always use the Bible for our guideline in setting the conditions and in answering the specific questions of who, what, when, where, why and how much. What does God's Word say about my family relationships, or about the choice or a marriage partner, or about the career I will choose? What does God's Word say about making investments and the stewardship of my money? These should be some of the very first conditions that we set down in making the decision and in evaluating the alternatives that lay before us.

**NARROW THE CHOICES**

4. They proposed two men: Joseph and Matthias (vs. 23). In other words, from the qualifications and conditions that were established, they **narrowed the**

**choices.** The conditions that were outlined here were rather specific and encompassing, and apparently there were just these two men in their company who qualified.

Once we have gone through the process of listing the qualifications, this step will almost take care of itself. That is not to say that it is an easy step to take. It may have been very tempting to say, "Well look, here's Stephen, a fine young man. Shows a lot of promise. He would make an excellent candidate for an apostle, but he hasn't been with us the **whole** time. Why don't we bend the rule just a little and include him in our consideration?" But when one is seriously seeking God's will in a matter, consistency and faithfulness to His Word and revealed will are essential.

My brother, Don, is an attorney but has become a bit dissatisfied with the position he now holds. He has been looking for another law or legal related position for over a year now, but has not found anything suitable. He has, in fact had several job offers with some very tempting income figures and benefits—but none of these have met the qualifications that he has predetermined in his search. And even though he's still scouting around for other job opportunities, I think that he is better off in the long run to patiently wait for what he feels God has in store for him. Furthermore, in the process of looking, waiting, evaluating, there is a lot that a person learns about himself and a lot that he learns from God. The process of making a choice—of almost any kind—is a learning process. It is not just a bridge to cross, a goal to reach, but it is a time of growing along the way to the goal. That, in some cases, is just as valuable as the end product.

5. They prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry" (vs. 24-25). **Prayer.** Of course you expect a preacher to advise you to pray about a decision. But notice something about this prayer—or actually prayers. This was not the first time they had sat down to pray. Verse 14 says "They all joined together constantly in prayer." Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit to come and while they waited, they prayed. They prayed continuously; constantly, Luke records.

Here, at the point of an important decision, their prayer affirms their faith in God's all-knowing wisdom: "Lord you know every man's heart." And further, they were confident that it was God, and not them, who was making the choice. They fully expected him to answer and reveal his will: "Show us which of these two you have chosen." Here is one of the best illustrations of what the goal of all our decision making should be. We should not be ultimately

(Continued on page 30)

# Authoritative Parenting

by Daniel Leininger



## PARENTS WANTED

Immediate job opening! Desire ambitious persons to accept life-time job commitment as parents. No educational requirements, but prefer individuals with profound faith, great patience, and everlasting compassion. Must accept major responsibility for first twenty years with decreasing intensity thereafter. 12 to 14 hours per day, seven days per week, with 24 hours per day on-call. Vacations and personal leave at own expense (if child care can be arranged). No salary, but promises some non-monetary reward. Also requires financial investment of approximately \$254,000 per child over next 20 years. Interested parties contact: Imma Parent, Box H.E.L.P.; Anywhere, North America.

You have not seen the above ad in the classified section of your local newspaper, and there is no need to start looking for it now. It is fictitious, yet all the information remains accurate. And, as for the sentiment, well, what parent has not at least at times identified with "Imma Parent, Box H.E.L.P.!"

Parents often feel confused, upset, and uncertain about their effectiveness. Indeed, the task of being a responsible parent is not an easy one.

The shifting of authority away from the home in the last twenty-five years has created the illusion that the educators, the psychological professionals, and the media are the experts who know what to do; yet even some

of the experts have dramatically changed their tunes. For instance, American pediatrician, Dr. Benjamin Spock, is recently quoted as saying: "Inability to be firm is the commonest problem of parents in America today. The basic problem is the fault of the experts. It is a cruel deprivation that we professionals have imposed on mothers and fathers. . . We didn't realize until it was too late how our know-it-attitude was undermining the self-assurance of parents."

Such comments are indicators that the pendulum of responsibility for child rearing is swinging back toward the side of parents. Let us be thankful for this. We have witnessed the inability of permissiveness and over-indulgence to prepare children for the real world of responsible living. Now parents are being encouraged to reclaim their essential role of authority. Yet, authority carries dangers, too! If we have at last forsaken the destructive extreme of permissiveness, what will keep us from avoiding its equally destructive opposite, namely authoritarianism?

To be authoritarian is to act like a dictator. It means demanding an unquestioning obedience to authority. An

authoritarian approach makes little or no room for individual freedom, judgment, or action on the part of others. An authoritarian message usually starts off with "attention all personnel," and ends with "do it because I said so" or some similar equivalent. Clearly, we need to assess the dangers of authoritarianism just as vigorously as those of permissiveness. We fail our children when we do not teach them to act responsibly and to obey. We also fail them when we foster in them what Bruce Narramore has called "a slavish conformity that is the result of fear and pressure."

The solution to this problem begins

as we learn how to be authoritative without being authoritarian. To be authoritative, simply means to be "official" or "qualified" for what one is doing. An authoritative parent does not shirk from the responsibilities of parenting, but is a dependable and reliable authority in the home.

The recipe for authoritative parenting combines equal parts of love and consistency, mixed together and served daily. Such a combination provides the maximum daily requirement of nourishment and stamina essential to growth. The authoritarian alternatives of pushing, nagging, manipulating, and over-powering leave our children hungry and unfilled. The permissive ingredients of neglect, absence, giving up, and abdicating offer no better fill. Both authoritarianism and permissivism are "junk food" approaches to parenting.

What practical things can parents do to become dependable authorities for their children? Three important areas come to mind: choosing, teaching, and remembering.

## Good Choices Within Limits

First of all, authoritative parents know the importance of choosing and help their children to make good choices within realistic limits. Unlike permissive parents who set no limits on unacceptable behavior or authoritarian parents who deliver ultimatums demanding rigid obedience, authoritative parents avoid both extremes. In helping a young child make a decision, the parent may have to set the acceptable options.

For instance, if the sounds from five-year-old Johnny's noisemaker are approaching the threshold of pain for mother, then she can set a limit and offer a choice. "Johnny, you may play with your noisemaker in the backyard, or you may find a quieter toy to play with here in the house. What do you choose to do?" Mother might also give a reason, "It hurts my ears," or "I can't hear to talk on the phone." She has respected Johnny's right to play with his toy, but has given him a second option of choosing a quieter toy. She has also taught him to respect her right to not live in a painful environment.

Thirteen-year-old Linda asks mom if she can spend Friday night at Jean's

house. Jean is a fifteen-year-old with two older sisters. Jean's parents set few limits for their daughters, and a rough group of boys hang around their house. Both Linda's mother and her father are very unwilling to have Linda staying overnight in such a setting. In discussing with Linda, a compromise is reached. Linda chooses to invite Jean to her house overnight. This decision allows the two girls to spend Friday night together. It also allows mom and dad a chance to meet Jean and get to know her. Both the girls enjoyed their time together. Later that week Linda began talking to her mother about Jean. She mentioned what she liked and didn't like about this friend. Linda's parents believe it is important for her to learn to choose her friends. They also believe that thirteen-year-olds need secure parents to help them avoid situations where there are no appropriate limits. They are giving her decision-making power while still providing necessary limits. Even more importantly, they are helping her become an adult by learning to choose and make responsible decisions.

## The Parent as a Teacher

The second important function is teaching. An authoritative approach to parenting takes seriously the parent's role as teacher in the home. Growing up is a learning process. Problems inevitably develop when parents do not take time to teach their children.

Four-year-old Rebecca is awkwardly trying to pour milk from a full gallon carton. She almost gets to job done but inadvertently tips over the half-filled plastic cup with the heavy carton. Mother looks up from her magazine in horror as the plastic cup hits the kitchen floor. Mother can be a blamer and say something like, "Rebecca, why are you always making messes for me to clean up?" Mother also has another option. She can be a teacher. The first lesson could be how to clean up a mess. "Here is a sponge and towel to clean up the milk, Rebecca. And if you will rinse off your cup, I'll help you start all over again if you like. Pouring can be a hard job for little hands." Here mother has taught three things: how to clean up, how to pour, and when to ask for help.

Sixteen-year-old Kevin has bought an old truck with money from his

paper route. He tries to do the routine maintenance work on it, but often does not know what to do. Whenever Kevin asks his father for help, they usually get into conflict. Father expects Kevin to do a job exactly right on the first try with little or no instruction. Kevin has started taking his questions to their retired neighbor, Mr. Parker. One day Mr. Parker comes by and talks with Kevin's father. He gives him a maintenance manual for Kevin's truck. He had found it at a yard sale for fifty cents. He also gives him a list of tools, which he knows Kevin needs to work on the truck. The next week when Kevin opens his birthday present, he is very surprised and very pleased with the new wrenches from his dad and the book from Mr. Parker. Mr. Parker is not only a good neighbor, he is also a good teacher for Kevin and his father as well.

## Parenthood Is a Sacred Trust

Thirdly, an authoritative parent always remembers that parenthood is a sacred trust. We can help our children to make good choices within their ability to choose. We can also be teachers to them in the tasks and activities of life. Hopefully, these efforts will prepare them for adult life, but there is more. For the Christian, parenting has a spiritual dimension as well.

Our children do not belong to us. Ultimately, they will become fully their own, and, if they choose, they may become God's children as well. When they are helpless infants, it seems as if they belong to us, but the passing days and years bring them new freedoms, new choices, and new possibilities.

Children who live responsibly are an honor to their parents. Yet no parents can ever take all the credit for the accomplishments of their offspring, any more than they can take all the blame for their children's failures. Parenthood is essentially a sacred trust. We will fulfill our part well if we can give them love and consistency, and are not afraid to be their authoritative guide for the first one fourth of their journey of life. □

Dr. Daniel Leininger is assistant professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD. This article is reprinted with permission from the May 1981 issue of the **Baptist Herald**, North American Baptist Conference, 1 So. 210 Summit Ave. Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181.

The Conference theme chosen by our president, "The Ministry of Reconciliation," could hardly be more timely, more pertinent or more important. We live in a world that is characterized by broken relationships—in which nations misunderstand, mistrust and mistreat each other; in which homes are broken or at least hurting; where parents and children are strangers to each other even though they live under the same roof; where husband and wife cannot communicate because of the long hidden agenda that is inferred or implied or both in each conversation; a world in which employers and employees each think the other is only concerned about himself and view each other as antagonists rather than as collaborators. It is a world in which "Number 1" and "Capital I" are seen as identical, which in turn breeds greed and isolation and ignorance and blindness to others. It is a torn, bleeding, ruptured world.

And its problem is compounded by, in fact has its source in, the separation between man and God. Right from the beginning, whether Adam knew how to say "Numero Uno" or not, his desire for self-aggrandizement, self-fulfillment, self-gratification, self-satisfaction more than obedience to God caused him to seek his own way rather than God's and the curse has remained. Mankind more desperately possibly than ever before needs not only to be saved from his sin but from himself. We desperately need to find peace with God so we can find peace with our fellow men so we can have peace with ourselves which we find so elusive because we don't start in the right order.

### THE GOOD IS BETTER THAN THE BAD

That's the bad news. And that's the status quo for most of the world—probably even most of those who call themselves "Christian."



by Rev. S. Kenneth Davis  
Battle Creek, MI

And I am glad to get that part behind us. I suppose it is really necessary to see how bad the bad news is, because there is no way to appreciate how good the good news is if you don't know how bad the bad news is.

Anyway, the good news is in the Scripture from which our Conference theme is taken—II Corinthians 5:16-20. Verses 17 and 18 read: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

Notice that it is God who is the reconciler. That's interesting because there is no mention of His needing to be reconciled to us. God never did depart from us. The reconciliation is all one way—from us to Him—and He even provided the way. No one else could have—nothing short of

God's own ultimate, infinite love in Christ ever could have provided the way of reconciliation. God's unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And He knew that. It has never ceased to be the way for first reconciling us to Him and then, by virtue of that realization, reconciling us to people.

For those who have written off the world as evil and unworthy of their efforts it sometimes comes as a shock to know God loves His world—so much so that John 3:16 and 17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

F. M. Lehman has really caught the essence of that in his song, "The Love of God."

The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell;

The guilty pair, bowed down  
with care,

God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled,  
And pardoned from his sin.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of  
parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth  
a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade,

To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry,  
Nor could the scroll contain the  
whole,  
Though stretched from sky  
to sky.

O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure  
The saints' and angels' song.

That's it. That's the whole story.  
That's the beginning and the end.

And I always have trouble with suspicious people at this point because they have heard too many sermons preached at people who were already presumed to have gotten this far. And someone always says, "Yeah, but if I buy into this then I have to give up this or start doing that, right?"

And I really don't know how to be completely honest, because when I tell the truth, they don't hear the truth. They hear what they think I mean but won't say. The simple truth is, no. You don't have to give up this or start doing that. You don't have to do anything except allow Christ to live in you. All you have to do is receive the Holy Spirit—God's gift to you. You don't have to do one other thing. I'm dead serious about that. All salvation consists of is being born again—dying to the old person and being raised a new person in Christ. And I suppose it is at this point I become too honest. Because if you do that, if you permit Christ to have His way in your life, then there will probably be some changes—but never because you have to, never because the pastor says so, never because someone tells you "Christians never do that" or "Christians always do this,"—rather only because you want to. When God convicts you of a need to change, He also provides the desire and the strength to change.

### BEING AN AMBASSADOR

Now, when you do reach that point, one of the greatest honors that will come upon you is that of becoming God's ambassador with the ministry of reconciliation and love. Every Christian becomes a P.R. man for God as soon as he is recognized as a Christian. But again, that is not "have to," and it does not apply to baby Christians or those who only desire to be "closet Christians" or "secret agents" of God. This applies when you have grown to appreciate the greatness of God and want to be identified as a Christian.

I have a one-year-old granddaughter, Sabrina, who I hope will be proud of who her grandfather is some day. Right now she doesn't even know I am her grandfather, much less have any good opinion on the subject. And no propaganda campaign I initiate is going to change that. And I can't beat her into it or threaten her with it. (Although I have been known to say, "Your attitude better change before Christmas." But she doesn't know what "attitude" is or what "Christmas" is, or, for that matter, any of the rest of those words.) Yet if I love her sufficiently and long enough, some day she'll be proud to tell somebody about her granddad. She will have become an ambassador of good will for Granddad.

If you aren't convinced of the unconditional love of God, the rest of the message and our Conference theme for this year are not for you. I don't even want you to read it. You may be excused to bask in that love until you are so blessed by it that you want to respond. If it is anything less than the love of God that constrains you, you won't be a good ambassador anyway.

If you are convinced, then you have the most thrilling opportunity in the world—the ministry of reconciliation—to be an ambassador of the King carrying a message of love and redemption—unconditional love, which can be illustrated with a story John R. Compton tells much better than I could describe it.

In the northern part of Georgia there lived a man and his family who were sharecroppers. The land was very poor and the crops were never abundant. Each year when it came time to reckon with the landlord, the family discovered they had either just broken even or were on the debit side of the ledger. They were so poor they didn't even have what we would call the necessities of

life. Finally the year came when the crops were a little better, and, after settling with the owner, they had a small amount of money left.

So Father got down the Sears Roebuck catalog and they looked through it for some item that they could all share. They finally settled on a mirror since they had never had one. Some days later, when the mailman tooted his horn down at the bottom of the hill announcing something too big to fit in the mailbox, the whole family excitedly ran down to claim their new mirror. Back up the hill they trod with their package and happy hearts. Quickly they tore open the box. Father was the first one to look and he frowned, Mother smiled. The baby giggled. Every member of the family saw himself for the very first time.

The mirror was passed last to little Willie. He looked—and his face clouded up. He was on the verge of tears because, when he was a small boy, he had been kicked in the face by a mule leaving his face badly scarred and twisted. Frankly, he was anything but attractive. With a quivering voice he turned to his mother and asked, "Mom, did you know that I looked like this all the time?"

"Yes, Willie," she replied softly. "I knew it all the time."

"And you still loved me?" he sobbed.

"Yes, Willie," Mother said holding him close to her. "I loved you because you're mine."

You see, it really doesn't matter how scarred and twisted a person's life has become or how he sees himself because of it or how that causes him to react. God still says, "I love you because you're mine."

As Christ's representatives on earth, we must be sure that it is God's message that the world is

(Continued on page 26)

**H**uman beings are both the territory to be captured and the soldier who is called upon to fight. That is the battle picture painted by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. He sees and wants us to understand that there is a celestial war going on between God and the devil. The battle is for the universe. It is within us.

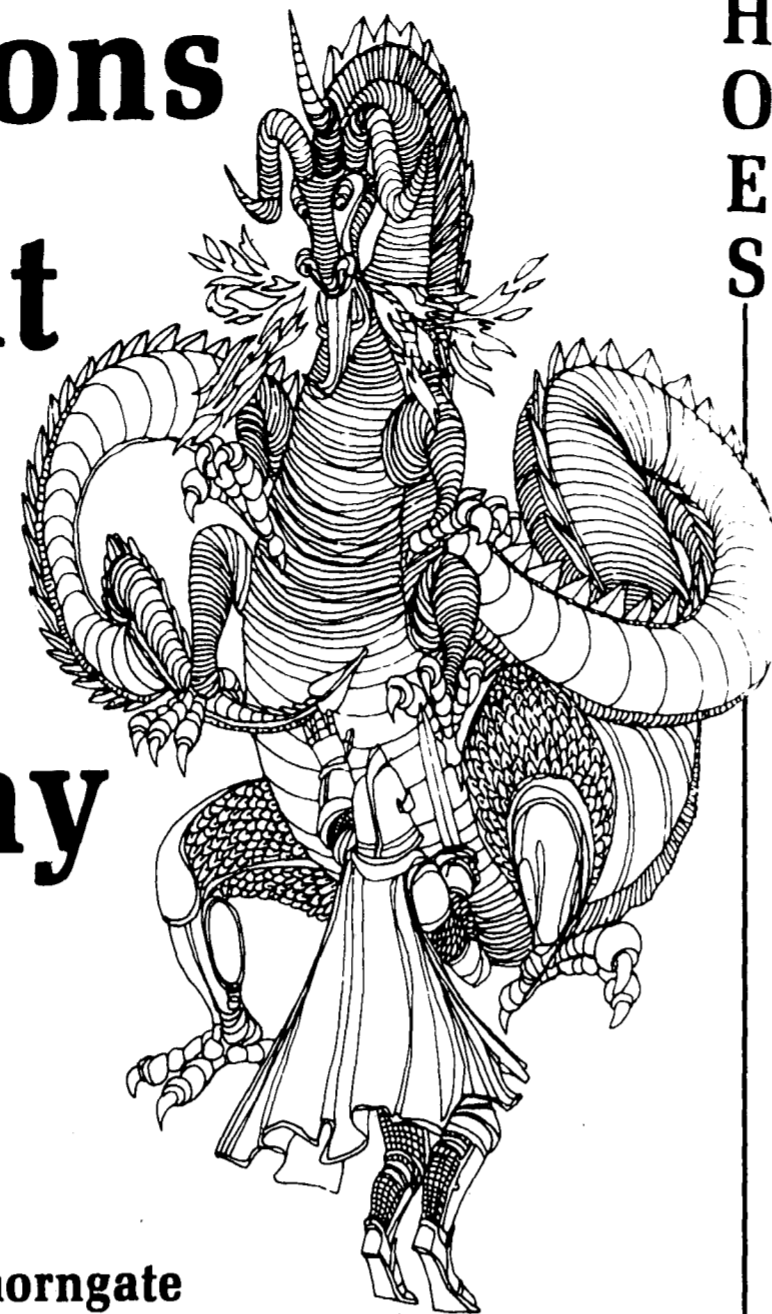
In chapter 6 of Ephesians Paul tells us who the enemy is and how we are to be effective as God's soldiers, helping him to win the universal war. Most preachers and Bible students approach this passage focusing on the proper uniform of the soldier. I think it may be helpful to focus on the enemy.

In verse 12 Paul tells us that our struggle or battle is not against flesh and blood. I interpret that to mean that it is not our natural bodily functions that are the adversary. He tells us that it is the rulers and authorities, the powers of the dark world and the spiritual forces of evil that we will and must do battle with.

In Paul's time there was an implicit belief in demons, devils, and evil spirits. Modern day social sciences, particularly psychology, would say that these demons, devils, and evil spirits don't exist, but are all a figment of our imagination. Although I am a product of a widely developed psychological background, I believe that the forces of evil, however you want to describe them, are doing battle within us every day. For some it is easier to deal with them if we give them names and get them outside ourselves. My concern is that we may become like Flip Wilson's "Geraldine" and say, "The devil made me do it," using that as an excuse. For me, it is much more effective to see the enemies that I am fighting against as attitudes or concepts that can cause me harm or cause me to harm others if they are not identified and controlled.

If we look at the whole "armor

# Convictions About the Enemy



by Rev. Dale Thorngate

of God" that Paul describes in verses 13-20 we can get closer to the real identity of our true enemies. So often Christians decide that only the helmet of salvation is necessary. As Floy Owen of our Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society has pointed out, for Christians to wear only the helmet of salvation makes them "spiritual streakers."

If a belt of truth is necessary for defense, the enemy it protects us from must be **dishonesty** or **deceit**. The need for a breastplate of righteousness suggests an enemy of **incorrect behavior** or **evil lifestyle**. When Paul tells us to put on shoes of the Gospel of peace he is indicating that we must be ready to run to tell others about the source of peace in the **conflict** that goes on within us **between good and evil, right and wrong**.

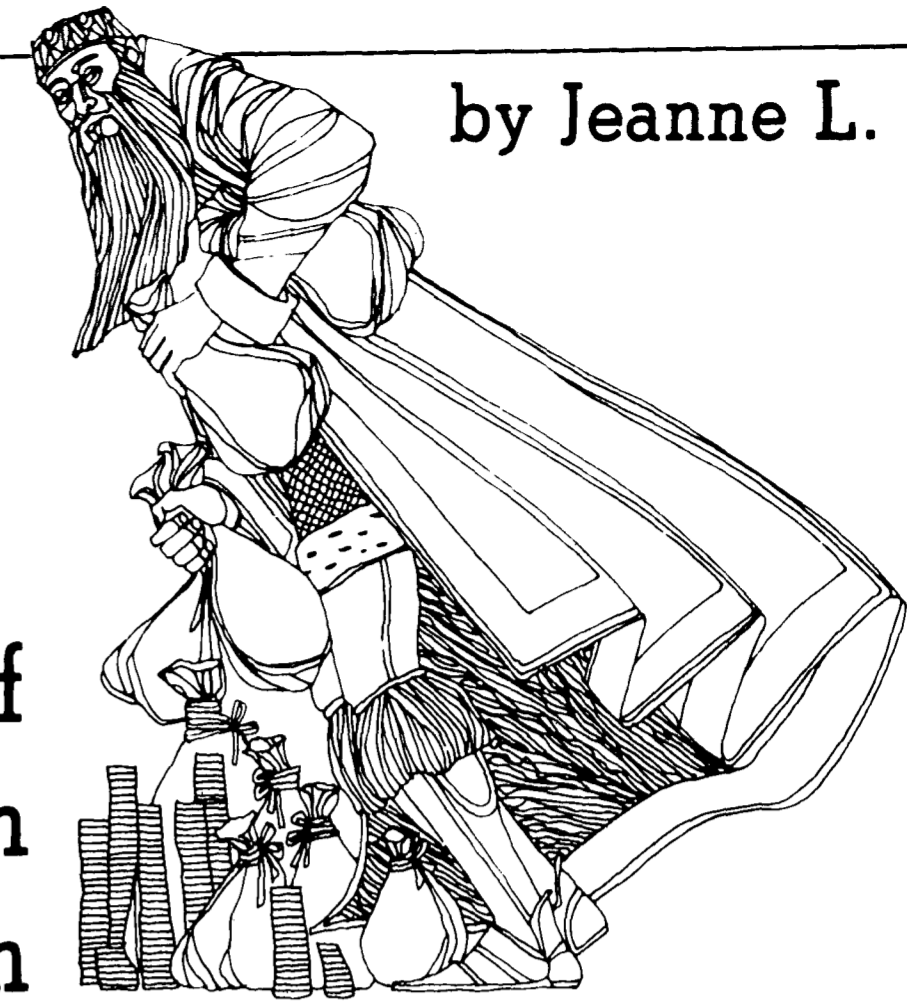
To overcome the enemy of **doubt** and **fear** Paul prescribes the shield of faith, and to combat **spiritual death** he prescribes the helmet of salvation. To overcome our **weaknesses** and **impotence** as humans, the sword of the Spirit must be a part of the uniform of the Christian soldier. For Paul, God's word comes both through the scripture but also through the Holy Spirit responding to our prayers.

This approach to the "armor of God" passage helped me to identify the real enemies in the life of the Christian and caused me to see that the battle is within me. Whether we give these enemies names with personalities or psychological names is irrelevant. The battle is real and the outcome can determine whom I belong to and who the ruler of my life really is. □

The Sabbath Recorder

Acts 16:13-15

by Jeanne L. Wilhelm



## Testimony of a Formerly Rich Businessman

Shalom. Peace be to you, neighbor. My name is Parnach. It is hard to believe that I am here with you now. At one time I never would have even thought of conversing with you and here we are sharing a fellowship meal together.

You see, I used to be quite wealthy and my circle of friends was necessarily limited . . . for business purposes it was not wise to associate with those outside my social class. But all that has changed, thank our Lord! What many considered wealth was actually poverty, because my heart was so hard against others and, yes, I admit it, I was a real snob.

Some look at my social standing now and call me "bankrupt," but I have never been richer! Our Lord provides for *all* our needs and gives us a fresh perspective of what our needs really are. What possessions I gave up, such as the huge house in the plush neighborhood, the stock holdings in the regional chariot racing team, and the season tickets for the thespians at the amphitheater, are no longer what I would list as "needs." My family and I are adequately housed and we spend more time together which is important. I had forgotten about that when I was so busy making denarii and acquiring bigger and better belongings. "Things of the flesh" as we now say. Ah, but I am so thankful for the changes in my life!

How I came to know our Lord is quite a story. I had several business deals which depended on using the finest cloth and a particular wholesaler was recommended to me. When I found out that the wholesaler was a woman I almost ripped my robe! Unfortunately, so I thought at the time, my customers could not wait for me to find another fabric peddler and I did not want to lose their business, so I met with the woman. Being the snob I was, I decided to put her on the spot. I asked to

see her best cloth without specifying the color. If she really knew the business as well as I had been told she did then she would know enough to show her purple-dyed cloth.

That is exactly what she did, too. She responded to my rudeness with a pleasant smile, pulled out a sample of perfectly-woven purple-colored cloth, and laid it out in front of me. I pretended to examine it for flaws, but it was obvious that there were no imperfections at all in that piece of cloth. Suddenly I saw my life as I had been living it and realized that I was far from being like that fabric . . . every material gain had really been like a tangle of thread or a mismatched dye job, taking me farther away from being the kind of person that the God whom I worshipped so routinely wanted me to be.

In that moment I forgot about the woman with her cloth and began to cry . . . began to say out loud how much my business successes had brought me personal failures. I had failed so miserably in the things of life that mattered most and all I could do was fall to my knees and cry.

Very quietly and very tenderly the woman told me that her Lord understood and wanted to forgive me for the years I had wasted and He wanted to give me a new life. This new life was good for now and for ever! All I had to do was to receive it. I could not understand . . . it sounded too good to be true!

The woman then did something that ordinarily would have shocked me and even disgusted me — she prayed for me. This woman . . . this fabric peddler . . . actually prayed for me. I felt such a wonderful sense of love and comfort as she prayed that I soon forgot about my rigid biases against her and was caught up in her words.

(Continued on page 26)

# THE EXAMPLES OF FAITH

by Pastor William Shobe  
Atlanta, GA

The story is told of a talented cable walker who had determined to make his fame by accomplishing the most spectacular feat imaginable to him, crossing Niagara Falls on a cable. As he prepared for this act of daring, he hired a man to help him publicize the event. For weeks they went through the countryside with demonstration of the cable walker's skill, exciting the people and encouraging them to be present the day history would be written.

On the appointed day, a huge crowd gathered at the Falls and excitement filled the air. The publicity man went to work, preparing the crowd with statements of his confidence in the cable walker, and of the great dangers of this attempt. As the cable walker began, the crowds were silent until this amazing man neared the opposite shore. Then, in unbelief, they cheered madly! To their surprise, the cable walker reappeared, this time with a wheelbarrow, and began his return trip. The crowds went wild!

"This man is so talented, he can do anything on that cable," exclaimed the publicity man, fulfilling his assignment with skill. "Why, he can even cross that cable with a man in the wheelbarrow. Who will volunteer to ride back across?"

From the crowd came a mixture of shocked silence and skeptical laughter. No one volunteered. Finally, a voice from the crowd ventured, "Hey Mister! Since you seem so confident in this man's skill, why don't you take a ride?"

Taken off guard, the confidence of the publicity agent gave way to his truest feelings. "Are you kidding? Not me! I'm paid for my publicity, not my stupidity!"

This publicity agent is an example of faith as lived by many people who fill the pews of our churches every week. It is an example of a detached, dead faith which is vocal as long as no action or genuine personal involvement is required. How greatly different the faith of the Christian should be! A true picture of what our faith is to be is presented through the lives of seven examples of faith, recorded for us in Hebrews 11:13-31.

The list of these examples of faith includes some of the giants of Old Testament history. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the patriarchs of the people of Israel, begin the list. Moses and Joshua represent the dynamic leadership of Israel as it left its time of bondage and entered into the Promised Land. Yet, a foreigner and sinner closes the list, that being Rahab the Harlot, who lived in Jericho. Each of these demonstrates what genuine faith is, both the great and the detestable. What do these people have in common that we can learn from?

First of all, we can see that all of these had a belief in God, in His power and ability. Verse 19 tells us that Abraham believed God was powerful enough even to raise men from the dead! Moses knew intimately of God's power and ability. He had seen God change his rod into a snake, make his hand leprous and cleanse it, and bring nine plagues upon Pharaoh and Egypt. He knew he served the God of all power. Even Rahab believed in God, having heard of how He dried the Red Sea at the Exodus, and how He had utterly destroyed the kings of the Amorites.

Secondly, each of these examples had received a promise from God: His word that He had given to them. To Abraham God

had promised the possession of all of the land of Canaan, and descendants as numerous as the sand through Isaac, his son. Isaac, Jacob and Joseph also received the promise of land and of nations as descendants. As the author of Hebrews point out, all of these received their promise without seeing its fulfillment during their lifetimes.

## Stepping Out in Faith

Even so, having received the promise, they believed that God would accomplish what He had promised; and believing that God would fulfill His word, these men lived their lives as if the promise had been fulfilled. Their actions show that they were ready to "step out in faith," believing God. Abraham prepared to offer Isaac, as a sacrifice, even though Isaac was the channel through whom God promised to act. He knew that God was faithful, even if he did not understand how He would fulfill His promise through a dead Isaac.

Jacob, likewise, believed that God would fulfill His promise, even though he had not become the possessor of the Promised Land. On the basis of God's promise he divided the land among his sons, and even gave an inheritance to Manasseh and Ephraim, Joseph's sons. Joseph believed that God would take all of Jacob's family out of Egypt one day and gave instructions that his bones be taken with them as they left, to be buried in the promised land with his fathers.

Joshua received the promise that the city Jericho would fall flat to the ground if he and the host of Israel merely marched around the city; no siege walls, no battering rams — just march. Imagine how impossible that promise must have sounded to some of God's saints. How they must have been

laughed at by the men of Jericho as they picked up the ark and began to march around the city. They believed that God would bring the city down and followed His direction in faith.

Rahab received the promise of safety for her family as she made the spies swear on the authority and reputation of God. The safety was promised if she would tie a scarlet rope out of her window. By faith she did not wait until she saw the host of Israel surrounding the city, but went and immediately tied the rope out of the window.

All of these believed in God's ability to provide that which He had promised and lived their lives as if God had already answered the promise. After all, Abraham, growing old without receiving ownership of the land, could have gone back home. (We know that Abraham was not perfect in his faith; having not received his son through Sarah he sought one through Hagar instead.) Yet, in this case, he chose to live as a foreigner in his own land, awaiting that time when God would make it his own, when it would become his homeland.

Joshua could have set up siege-works and brought in battering-rams to conquer Jericho, yet he chose to wait for God to provide the victory. Rahab could have gathered up her family and goods and left the city before Israel returned, and secured her safety her own way. Yet, she chose to wait and trust.

## Taking God at His Word

That is the substance of genuine faith. It means taking God and His word and living your life in light of what He has promised. I like to paraphrase Hebrews 1:1 in the following way: "Faith is the determined confidence of the reality of things hoped for, the deep inner

conviction of the promises not yet seen in fulfillment." God is faithful! He fulfilled His promise to each one of these examples of faith and He will do the same for us.

If these great men and women are to be examples for us, then we should seek to follow in their steps. How must we change if our faith is closer to that of a publicity agent than that of God's saints? We must come into a relationship with God which enables us to believe in His power and faithfulness. God's Word provides an excellent resume on which we base our belief. Open your Bible, read, study and learn of the greatness of our God and Savior.

We must then find God's promises to us, and claim them personally. What has He promised to us as Christians?

- His eternal care and provision for us (Heb. 13:5, Deut. 31:6).
- Forgiveness for our sins (I John 1:9, Ps. 32:5, Col. 2:13).
- Eternal life (John 3:16, I John 5:11)
- Jesus will return for us (John 14:2-4, I Thess. 4: 16-18).

Having found and claimed His promises, we must live as though we have already received His promises. Do you live as though God is always with you, caring for you? Do you believe and live as though your past, confessed sins are forgiven, or do you still bear a burden of guilt? Do you live as though Jesus Christ might come to take you to your eternal home today? That is how you must live if living in genuine faith.

You know, God is proud of His saints. He was proud of these seven examples of faithful men and women, and was honored to be known as their God. Would it not be great if He felt the same about us today? □





Rodney Henry



Gabriel Bejjani



Steven Crouch



Gordon Lawton



Larry Graffius



Robert Babcock



Kenneth Burdick



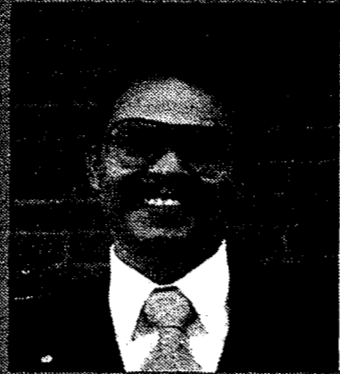
Kenneth Chroniger



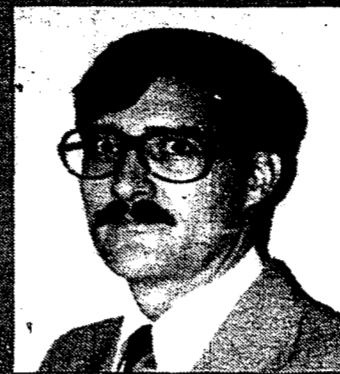
Donald Chargin  
Central Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Kansas City, KS



Verne Wright  
Eastern Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
Philadelphia, PA



Peter Fain  
Latin America  
Bible College  
Los Angeles, CA



Everett Hines  
Theological Seminary  
Birmingham, AL



Russell Johnson



Dale Rood



Melvin Stephan



Dale Thornycroft



Helen Green



John Rau



Robert Harris



John Peil

The Sabbath Recorder

December 1981

The Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry was established in 1963 to provide supplemental education for Seventh Day Baptist theological students attending seminaries of their own choosing. It provides counsel, scholarship grants-in-aid, and support as students prepare to serve Seventh Day Baptist churches as pastors. You can participate in this educational process with your prayers and your dollars. What you give to Our World Mission and to the Council on Ministry Scholarship Fund helps to provide aid for these students. You may be investing in the future of your own church. Give generously. □

**CENTER ON MINISTRY GRADUATES NOW SERVING SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM "CALI" TO "RHODY" AND AROUND THE WORLD**

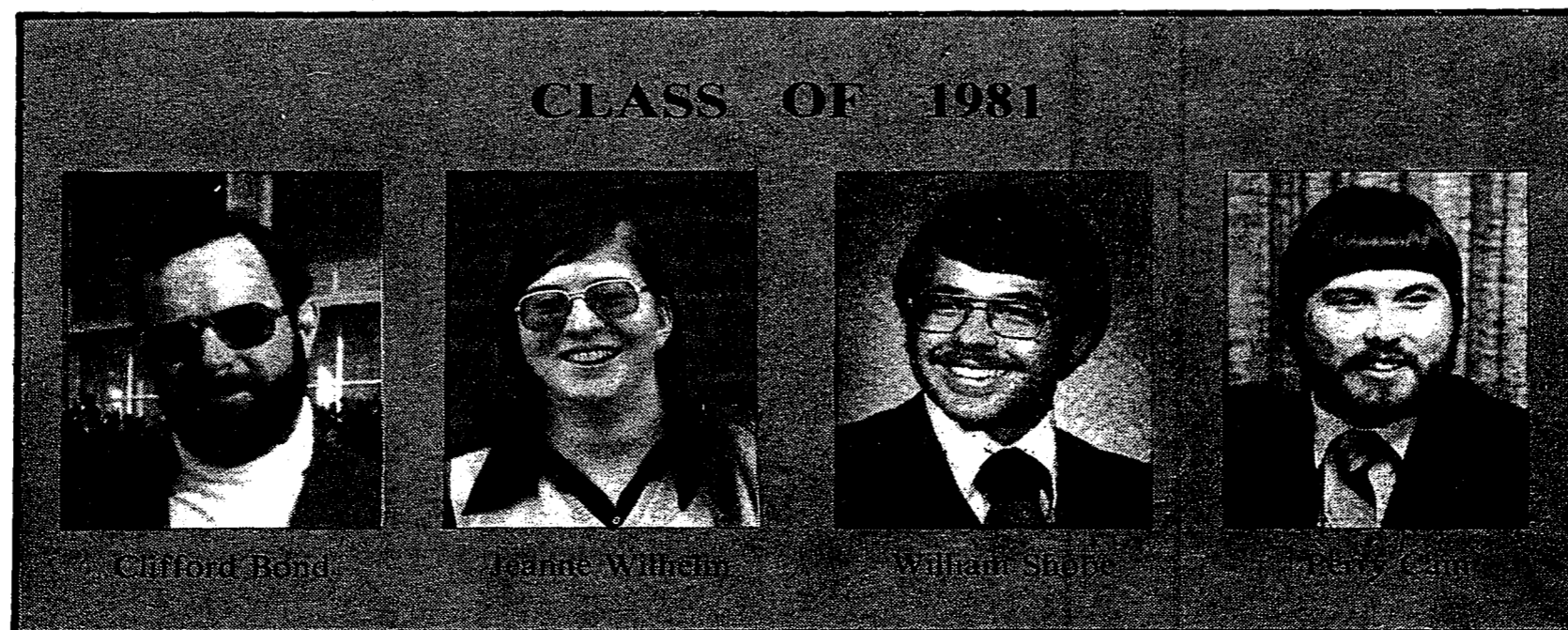
**THE NEXT ONE COULD BECOME YOUR NEXT PASTOR**

**GIVE GENEROUSLY TO OUR WORLD MISSION AND THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**



Dean Paul Green

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CENTER ON MINISTRY BOX 868 PLAINFIELD, NJ 07061**



Clifford Bond



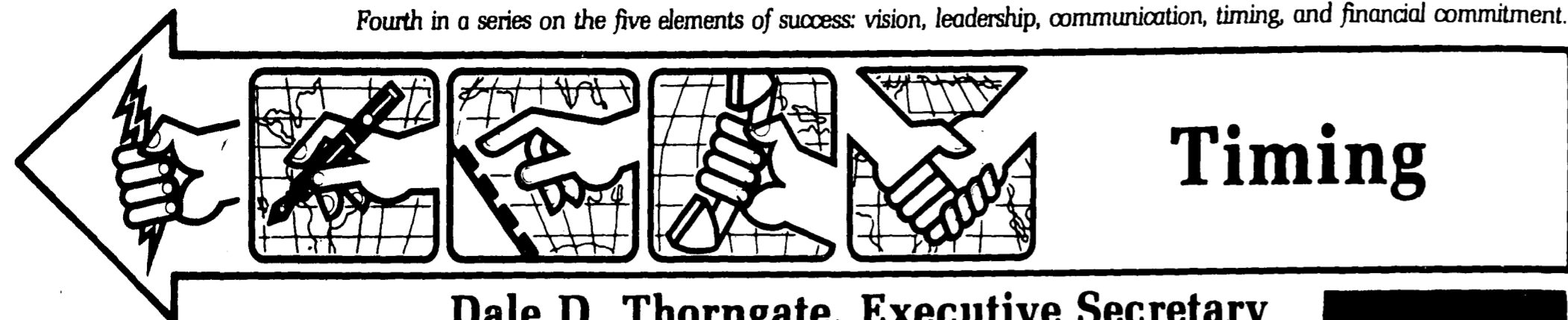
Joanne Wilborn



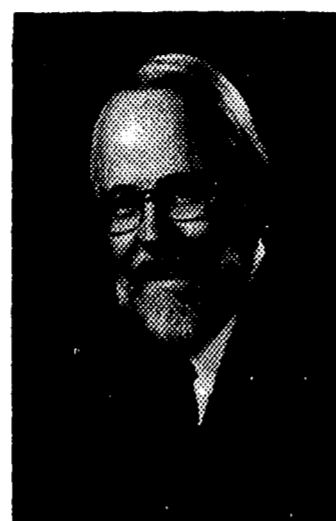
William Shupe



Herbert Saunders



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

"Time is the stuff that life is made of."

"My, how time flies!"

"The time is right."

"There just never seems to be enough time."

Along with vision, leadership, and communication, time is a significant element in the success of any venture. Most any textbook on personnel management will list five resources for management: people, money, material, space and time. If we are to be successful as individuals or as churches, we must make best use of our time.

As a resource time has three separate dimensions: **the right time** to start a project, **the length of time** it takes to complete any given project, and **the quality of time** spent on the project.

#### When is the right time?

Christians talk about waiting for the leading of the Lord. How do we know when God would have us do a certain thing? As managers we are encouraged to set priorities. That helps us to get all our activities into proper perspective. It's easier to know what to do first or next as we see each activity in relationship to other activities. God has given us the ability to reason about what time is right as we see things in their relationship to each other.

At the denominational level we are trying to apply these principles to the timing of a move. When is it best to move which offices from New Jersey to Wisconsin? How will that decision affect the ongoing program of the agencies involved and of our common effort in the "Year of Extension"? At the church level, when is it best to begin a new discipleship cell group, to purchase property for expansion, or to start a series of newspaper ads?

#### How Long Should We Spend?

Many individual tasks can be completed in a specific period of time; assessing it is fairly easy. But when we put a number of tasks into a total project or program, determining the necessary period of time becomes more difficult. To begin with we need to set

goals or objectives. Then we set an appropriate time for completion based upon the total number of tasks to be done. Human beings, Seventh Day Baptists included, are not noted for their patience. We all want things to happen right now. When we start to grow a new church or establish a new Bible study we want to experience instant success. If we don't, we are tempted to give up the whole idea and do something else. It is helpful for me to remember that the Israelites spent forty years in the wilderness while God changed them from a motley group of slaves into a nation.

On the other hand, we can become too easy-going and complacent. People could say that Seventh Day Baptists have been wandering in the wilderness for three hundred years and haven't reached the promised land yet. It's possible to spend too much time on something that doesn't work. Perhaps a period of eight weeks should be set for the new Friday evening Bible study. Then examination of its effectiveness can help determine whether it should continue or why some other approach might work better.

#### What Kind of Time?

Finally, it is important for us to look at the quality of time spent on any given project. Preparation time is important to the quality of work to be done later. If it has to do with the church we need to study the Bible for God's perspective and then look for any other resources that might give as broad a perspective as possible. Do we need special expertise or training to make the new tape ministry or radio program worth the time?

Any project worthy of our time demands hard work. God expects us to do our best and has given us the necessary gifts and abilities through the Holy Spirit to accomplish the ideas He has shown us. To

(Continued on page 30)

## FOCUS



### MISSIONS TODAY

● **MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL, MN**-A special meeting of SDB members and friends was held at the airport on October 26. Scheduled by Pastor Paul Osborn of the Dodge Center, MN, SDB Church, it offered opportunity for fellowship and information on SDBs. Executive VP Leon R. Lawton of the Missionary Board participated. It is hoped that sufficient interest can be found to establish regular SDB meetings in the Twin Cities area.

● **GUYANA, SO. AMERICA**-**"You will be happy to know that we held camp at Camp Riverview (the new campsite adjacent to the Bona Ventura SDB Church on the Pomeroun River) and sixty-five young people plus thirteen staff attended. Pray for us as we seek to do our part in bringing Christ to the young. Six young people were baptized this year at camp."**-Sis. Inez Peters

● **CENTRAL, MD**-Attendance has been growing and six new members have been received since July. New faces are seen almost every week with an average of nearly 40 each Sabbath. In November Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate visited and the second year of HEM (Home Evangelistic Meetings) was led by Pastor Gordon P. Lawton from Ashaway, RI. The first HEM services were inaugurated by Evangelist Mynor G. Soper last year.

● **SHANGHAI, CHINA**-A letter of greeting was received by Conference Executive Secy. prior to the Salem, WV, sessions from James Chang. It included a real answer to the prayers of many in our churches for years:

"You friends will no doubt rejoice with us to know that, commencing this month (June 1981), a Sabbath Day service is held at one of the churches here (formerly a Baptist church)." An earlier letter urged any Seventh Day Baptists visiting China on tours to plan a visit to Shanghai! Your Missionary Board would be happy to counsel with any such person(s).

● **TORONTO, ONT., CANADA**-The newest member church of the SDB General Conference USA and Canada, celebrated its third anniversary of meetings at its building at 48 Fisher St. on Sunday, October 18. The Allegheny Association of SDB Churches was hosted the previous day and a LIGHT BEARERS FOR CHRIST concert was held on Sunday night. We note growth and concern for outreach by the members of this congregation.

● **CAMEROON, WEST AFRICA**-Rev. Mpacko reports progress on the registration of Seventh Day Baptists as an official body, though there are yet vital steps ahead of them. Pray that the Lord will assist with wisdom and necessary finances and the help of lawyers needed to plead their case.

● **HOUSTON, TX**-The new church site was prepared for initial construction in October and it was hoped the new building could be in use by the end of the year. They are using a steel building that can be altered according to need as the congregation and space needs grow. Witness to the neighborhood where there are few churches is their commitment to make the Year of Extension—1982—a vital reality.

● **NATIONAL MISSIONS** is the emphasis of the monthly **MIS-SIONS** publication shared with local church Missionary Keyworkers and Pastors. Facts are to be shared in your church. If you wish a personal copy check with your Keyworker/Pastor or write your Missionary Society office.

● **DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP**-A vital set of slides with cassette tape has been offered to churches for showing. It is also available to

(Continued on page 30)

## PRAYER

CORNER

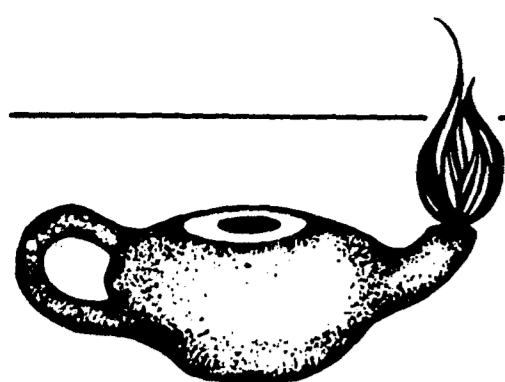
### A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

JANUARY 1982

Verse for the month: "Yet day by day the Lord also pours out His steadfast love upon me, and through the night I sing His songs and pray to God who gives me life." -Ps. 42:8 TLB

#### PRAY FOR:

- 1-Praise the Lord for a New Year and a new day to live for Him
- 2-The Extension Ministries of my church during 1982
- 3-Seventh Day Baptists around the world participating in WEEK OF PRAYER
- 4-Pastors and leaders in SDB churches in Brazil
- 5-Harmony and growth in the Kenya SDB Mission, Kisii district
- 6-The prayer life in my local church and my home
- 7-The power of the Holy Spirit to fill me with God's love
- 8-Neighbors and friends who do not know joy of the Lord
- 9-Home meetings for worship and study in many areas of our land
- 10-Memorial Fund Trustees in their quarterly meeting today
- 11-Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
- 12-George Parrish, president of North Central Association
- 13-Church Extension Pastor John Peil, San Diego, CA
- 14-Rev. Jin Sung Kim, Seoul, Korea, and the new Conference work there
- 15-Bob Langworthy, president of Central New York Association
- 16-Local churches needing pastoral leadership in 1982
- 17-The Tract Society and Board of Christian Education in their meetings
- 18-Church Extension Pastor Bill Shobe, Atlanta, GA
- 19-DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP activities in my church/association
- 20-Pastors and leaders in Guyana, South America
- 21-Missionaries Rod and Camille Henry and family, Cebu City, The Philippines
- 22-Merlyn Van Horn, president of Mid-Continent Association
- 23-A "Ministry of Reconciliation" for me
- 24-The Missionary Board in its meeting today.
- 25-Craig Mix, moderator of Allegheny Association
- 26-Church Extension Pastor Bill Shoffner, Memphis, TN
- 27-A spiritual healing for me.
- 28-Principal Egbert Downes, Crandall High School, Kingston, Jamaica
- 29-A sense of God's direction in my life
- 30-Dr. Victor Burdick, president of Pacific Coast Association
- 31-A sense of my new life in Christ



Thy Word is a light...

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

### Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the SDB Board of Christian Education, Inc., was held Sunday, October 18, 1981 in the Alfred Parish House.

The resignation of two directors, Edith Place and Rebecca Crouch, was accepted with regret. Mrs. Place will be retained in the position of consultant to the Church School Committee. Mike Gould and Rachel Drake have moved from the area. We wish Mike Godspeed in his work and Rachel best wishes for a long and happy married life.

Twenty-nine directors were elected to serve one year beginning January 1982:

- Laurie Allen
- George Bottoms
- Mary Clare
- Leta De Groff
- Joyce Heymach
- Sandra McGraw
- Craig Mix
- Janette Rogers
- Robert Stohr
- Arvida Wainman
- Marjorie Bond
- Mae Bottoms
- Rev. Steven P. Crouch
- Beth Goodrich
- Hazel Grantier
- Donald Pierce
- Susie Robison
- Onnalee Saunders
- Donald Van Horn
- Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel
- Rev. David S. Clarke
- Frances Clarke
- Dr. Richard Cudahy
- Luan Ellis
- L. Maurice McCrea
- Jean Pierce
- Rev. Albert N. Rogers
- Amanda Snyder
- Madge Van Horn

Copies of the Executive Director's 1981 Annual Report were passed. (Anyone not receiving a copy at General Conference may have one by writing the Board office.)

**AT THE DIRECTORS' QUARTERLY MEETING** which followed the Annual Corporation meeting, a change was made in the Constitution: the title of the executive was changed from "Executive Secretary" to Executive Director" to more clearly describe the duties of the position.

**THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** reported that the publication, *You and Your Church* is off the press; the cost is \$2. An editor for the Senior High lessons for the SDB Nurture Series has been selected. He will submit copy for the first lessons for approval early in November. The committee is working on study material for a "Day of Prayer and Fasting."

**THE LIFE VENTURES COMMITTEE** produced a booklet "Let Us Go to Bethlehem" to be distributed to every family in the denomination. It is an effort to encourage families to celebrate Christ's Birth in a simple, non-commercial manner. The committee is working on material for Vocations Sabbath and an eight-page section in the *Sabbath Recorder* for May.

**THE CHURCH SCHOOL COMMITTEE** reported 45 children were sent HONOR ROLL certificates designed by Cynthia Rogers Rudolph for learning the required scriptures. Requirements for earning the 1982 certificate have been sent all churches. The suggestion was made that families and others in the churches become involved in the project and

more children qualify for the 1982 HONOR ROLL.

Plans are being made for the 1982 Associated Conferences as a part of the General Conference in Redlands, CA. They include a change in schedule: one director for each age group will be selected to teach classes in the morning and another for activities in the afternoon. Each will receive an honorarium. The study material will be the SDB Nurture Series. Each teacher will select songs for the class to learn. There will be no musical for all children to learn. **WE URGE PARENTS AND OTHERS TO TAKE THEIR TURNS HELPING WITH THE ASSOCIATED CONFERENCES.**

**THE YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE** has planned a full schedule for the Senior High group as a part of Associated Conferences. This includes a change of schedule similar to that of the younger children's. **WE URGE ALL YOUTH OF SENIOR HIGH AGE TO PLAN TO ATTEND THE EVENTS PLANNED FOR THEM.**

Officers elected for 1982 to take office in January are: President, Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel; Vice-President, Donald Van Horn; Recording Secretary, Mae Bottoms; Treasurer, L. Maurice McCrea; Corresponding Secretary, Mary Clare. The executive director's term of office continues through 1982.

It was noted that the treasurer, Maurice McCrea, has served on the board for twenty years. A vote was passed to extend our best wishes to him and we expressed gratitude to God for his improved health. □

#### TEACHERS' MINI-LAB

Every Christian should understand that prayer is simply talking and listening to God; that it is vitally important to have a regular prayer life in order to maintain a good relationship with the Lord.

A Sabbath School class is a good place to learn about prayer where students would have an opportunity to participate in praying with classmates. As students become comfortable with praying together, often occasions arise for spontaneous worship or prayer time for specific needs of the group.

For small children or shy older students the first step is to talk about one subject for which to be thankful. Then have a prayer time when each student speaks one or more words about the subject. When the class feels comfortable with this procedure, students may give sentence prayers about a selected subject, continue in sharing the prayer experience and receiving blessings from the habit of regular prayer.

It is important when praying in a group that the first person does not give a long involved prayer which covers the whole topic for which the group is praying. Others who are not experienced in vocal prayers will become intimidated and remain silent.

Teachers, plan for a prayer time in every class period. Be ready to pray when there is a critical situation in the room. Be aware of the spontaneous attitude of worship when unplanned prayer is appropriate.

Prayer is the key to a good lesson! PRAY OFTEN! □

*A most sincere thank you is given to all who prayed for us and sent kind messages during my husband's illness. He is well on the way to recovery. I have returned to work at the office, 15 South Main Street.*

—Mary Clare



#### YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE.

By Debby Boone. Thomas Nelson Publishers, \$8.95, cloth. 0-8407-4092-1

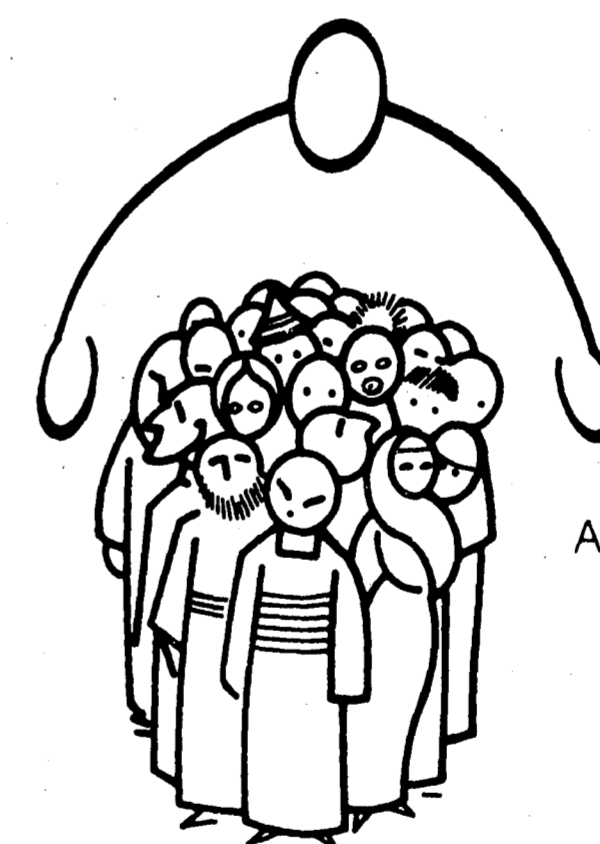
Debby the person, not the star, speaks to the reader in this revealing book. She tells about her teen years with retrospective candor. *DEBBY BOONE So Far* by Debby Boone with Dennis Baker is an honest, person-to-person talk. Parents and teenagers will find themselves identifying with the conflicts of growing up in celebrity family. Her intimate, behind-the-scenes revelations will surprise you--and assure you that

parent/teenager problems don't have to be "hush-hush, nobody else would understand."

The resentment of Debby's rocky adolescence found its focus in the restrictions that set her apart from friends--no skirts above the knees, no parties at night, no dates until she was 16, no make-up, no books or movies that weren't first approved by daddy Pat Boone. Debby resisted her parents' "embarrassing rules." She daydreamed about hitching a ride on a "chopper" to Haight-Asbury...she hid cigarettes around the house and in the garden...she pursued a relationship with a man fourteen years her senior, despite her parents' protests.

Today, propelled by the phenomenal overnight success of "You Light Up My Life," Debby is a star in her own right. She is married and has a child of her own. Looking back, she says the strict rules her parents enforced were good. What made her change? It would take a book to answer.... □

### baptist world alliance day



Celebrate your unity with the family of 33 million Baptists!

A free packet is available to guide churches in their observance of Baptist World Alliance Day, **February 7, 1982.** Materials include sermon ideas, daily Bible readings, discussion questions for study groups, and additional projects. Special bulletin covers are available also.

To order, write to: Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

## Christmas Message of Reconciliation

by President Dorothy Parrott

### Alienation

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

### Provision for Reconciliation

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

### His Love for Us

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

We love him, because he first loved us. I John 4:19

### He Predicts Our Ministry

He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also. John 14:12

### We Minister to Physical Needs

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40

### We Witness

Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. I Peter 3:15

### We Know Reconciliation

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ —

II Corinthians 5:18a

### We Minister to Others

— and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. II Corinthians 5:18b

### In Obedience We Find PEACE, JOY, LOVE

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice. Philippians 4:4 □

## the CHURCH in ACTION

JOHN CAMENGA  
TO PASTOR SHILOH

SHILOH, NJ—When Pastor Charles Bond announced in 1979 that he would be retiring from the active pastorate on December 31, 1980, few of us in the Shiloh church dreamed that we would be searching for a pastor for more than a few months. After numerous meetings of the "Committee To Call a Pastor," even more numerous prayers, and several calls, God has answered our prayers and will send Pastor John Camenga and family to minister to us on or before April 1, 1982. Thus we began the 1981 Thanksgiving holiday season with a special reason to be thankful.

While we all trusted the Lord to provide just the right shepherd in His own time, we did, at times, wonder, "When, Lord?" and "Who?" and "Why not?" There was great joy for answered prayer when Pastor Camenga's affirmative response was announced.

Meanwhile, the Shiloh church has continued to witness to the community and provide spiritual fellowship for its members. A complete list of church activities and lay leaders would be far too long to include here, but we do praise God for providing the personnel to carry on a full program during this time.

Most noteworthy of our activities has been our Friday evening youth fellowship session. While the adults meet for Bible study, prayer and worship, a retired green school bus (called the "Blue Bird") brings over half of the 70+ eager and active children who attend youth fellowship groups from the surrounding area for an hour of fellowship and lessons. The groups, which also enjoy socials and service projects through the year, are as follows:

Busy Beavers: (2-3 years old) Karla Forte, Carol Wendell.

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Alpha Teens: (7th grade and over) Bus and Linda Dickinson, Nancy Davis, David Hitchner.

The "bus ministry" has resulted in a number of decisions for Christ, including one spontaneous baptism performed by Pastor Bond in April.

During the months since Pastor Bond's "retirement" he has continued to supply the pulpit on Sabbath, prepare a weekly radio broadcast and visit those in need. We have been thankful for the healing seen in our pastor since his open heart surgery in August 1980 and for his willingness to serve. We pray now that he will enjoy his retirement after Pastor John arrives.

The Lord has also provided well for the summer and fall activities in the ministry of Everett C. ("Bus") Dickinson. "Bus," a young man who grew up in the Shiloh church, was hired to direct the camping program, lead the youth, coordinate church activities and assist Pastor Bond as needed. We ask for God's blessings on Bus and his wife Linda and their sons, Greg, 6, and Jeremy, 3, as they begin to prepare for full-time service when Bus enters seminary in February 1982.

We are grateful, too, for the second mile given by church secretary Ruth Ann Davis and many other church officers and committee chairmen.

A special thank you is in order for the members of the diaconate who have met monthly (or more frequently as needed) and have "carried the ball" beginning with Pastor Bond's hospital stay more than a year ago. Each Friday evening individuals from this group have provided a program for the adults during the youth fellowship hour. We have enjoyed and benefitted from a wide variety of programs: films, Bible studies, musical concerts, theme-centered services, hymnsings, Conference reports, and even a presen-

tation on budgetary concerns of the denomination. Members of the diaconate who served in this capacity were: Charles Harris, William Fogg, Owen Probasco, Phil Bond, Allen Davis, Everett Dickinson (father of Bus), Rex Ayars, Mary Ayars, Ella Sheppard, Helen Cruzan, and Jane Jernoske.

We are now looking forward to a new ministry under the leadership of the one God has prepared for us. Pastor Camenga will bring with him an enriching background, having served Seventh Day Baptist churches in Salemville, PA; Dodge Center, MN; Little Rock, AR; Christ, AR; and, most recently, the new church in Upper East Tennessee. He will also bring with him his wife Linda (Van Horn) and their four children—Andrew, 11; Faith, 9; Grace, 5; and Mark, 3.

Our new prayer is that the Lord will provide a spiritual leader for the church in Upper East Tennessee. □

—Donna S. Bond

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The church sponsored a booth at the Madison County Fair and reports good results with hundreds of tracts given out and some 225 requesting more information about the beliefs of Seventh Day Baptists. The booth was fully supported by the church members and all felt blessed by their efforts at the fair.

The first Sabbath in September following our regular services we gathered at the Baptist church to witness the baptism of Laura Bevis and Louise Butler. Special guest for the services was Mrs. Mayola Warner, newly-elected member of the General Council. The church was happy to welcome into membership Laura Bevis, R.D. and Vivian Brown. □



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The Alfred Station, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church now has a beautiful new pastor's study and garage. On September 17, 1979, a fire leveled a recently built garage and heavily damaged the old study. With a loan from the SDB Memorial Fund, a construction company has erected the shell of the new building, and the men and women, boys and girls have completed the study to the parsonage. Only a small debt remains.



The trustees of the church, under the chairmanship of Ronald Ellis, and all who helped are to be commended. A memorial gift by a church family has been invested in an "almost new" Gestetner 460S mimeograph for the church office. We thank God for His guidance in these and all projects of our beloved church.

—Rena Clarke

### FLORIDA YOUTH RETREAT HELD

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—The third annual Florida Youth Retreat, sponsored by the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church, was held August 21-23 in the Ocala National Forest. Director Alan Crouch chose "Lessons from the Birds" as the theme. The eleven full-time staff members and campers came from Georgia as well as from the Daytona Beach church. On Sabbath Day Pastor Ken Van Horn and three from the Putnam County Seventh Day Baptist Church joined us. Not even the much-needed torrential rains were able to dampen the warm Christian spirit which pervaded the retreat.

Members and friends save newspapers and aluminum which are sold to a local recycling center. This ongoing project helps our youth go to camp. Susan and Debra Riley and Sidney Hill attended Camp Joy and Nathan and Richard Crouch attended Camp Wakonda this year.

Three Decision to Discipleship groups continue to be active in our church. Pastor Ken is discipler for two groups and Alan Crouch is

discipler for the third group. These groups are in addition to the regular weekly Bible study.

In September Pastor Ken and Doris made a trip to South Florida calling on church members and other interested people. There are Sabbathkeepers who want a group or church started in this area. We pray that we might be able to help them.

October 9-11 Pastor Ken directed

the Church Family Retreat at Silver Glen Springs. The Bible studies brought out the theme, "The Church—The Community of the King." Alan Crouch led the youth program which coordinated with the adult studies. Twenty-two attended, including two Embry Riddle University students, one a Sabbathkeeper from North Carolina and the other from Panama. It was a weekend rich in blessings. □ —Janette Crouch

## RECORDER REACTIONS

I am interested in purchasing a copy of *A HISTORY OF SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS IN WEST VIRGINIA* by Corliss Fitz Randolph. Anyone interested in selling a copy may write to me.

—Mary J. Maxson  
302 E. Mechanic Street  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

At our General Conference at Salem, West Virginia, in August, we considered and passed a very carefully worded resolution regarding abortion. The unborn fetus, as the beginning of life, is worthy of our care and concern.

But how about our born and already developed young people among us—do they deserve our kindest thought and care? They already have a part in our world of art, music, business, public life, that the fetus has only as a possibility. Yet

we consider young people as expendable. If the protection of our lives and property comes into question, we call upon them to give themselves. It has been said that if the old men who make the wars had to do the fighting, there would be only peace.

Benjamin Franklin said "There never was a good war or a bad peace." So war itself is expendable, and peace could be permanent. Jesus himself made hate and malice outcasts from His followers when He said we must love our enemies and pray for them. "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another" (John 13:34).

If you are interested in peace, join the Seventh Day Baptist Peace Fellowship. No dues, but gifts are welcome.

—Rev. Paul Burdick  
4 Shore Road  
Waterford, CT 06385

### REVIVAL SERVICES HELD AT HOPKINTON

ASHAWAY, RI—The Christian Education Board sponsored a V.B.S. on Family Devotions. It was held three nights a week for two weeks, one week in Ashaway and one in Westerly. We were shown ways of having family devotions, supplied with excellent resource materials, and participated in choruses, Bible Readings, small groups, etc., and two potluck suppers. These meetings were well planned and well received.

The highlight of the annual Sabbath School picnic was provided by Arling Kenyon and his horse and buggy. All the children (some quite advanced in age) thoroughly enjoyed this rare treat. After the rides they played games and enjoyed a bounteous picnic.

From Sept. 13-19, the Rev. Harold Lambe, pastor of the Pleasant Street Baptist Church of Westerly, R.I., and a former evangelist, preached a series of eight Revival Meetings. They were terrific! They were not evangelistic in nature but for renewal of our members. We had wonderful music each night preceding the preaching—choirs, solos, duets and the band TRUE JOY, which includes Christians from our and other area churches, ministered to us most nights. Many from other churches attended and we all received a blessing nightly.

Two couples, Arling and Alice Kenyon and James and Helen Waite, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries this year with open houses held in the Parish House. We were delighted to extend our congratulations to each of these couples.

Praise God! Some of our members are busy leading Bible Studies, Discipleship Cells, and taking evangelistic training plus the regular work of the church and taking care of the buildings and grounds.

We ask you to remember us in your prayers and to join us in praying for REVIVAL. □

—Helen Brayman

### HARRIS BEGINS NEW PASTORATE

ALBION, WI—October 3, Rev. Robert E. Harris conducted his first service as pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Albion. The church has been without an ordained minister for about 18 months, since the retirement of Rev. Addison Appel. Rev. Harris will be assisted into his new position with help from Jerry Vaught, licentiate pastor who has served as interim pastor.

Rev. Harris, 31, born in Salem, New Jersey, became a member of the Shiloh SDB Church at age 15 and graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio in 1976. He has served as assistant pastor at three churches and pastored at two. He was ordained into the ministry on June 18, 1977

### GRAND JURY LAUDS SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN

SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN, MS—In an article published by the McComb, MS, *Enterprise-Journal*, the Pike County Grand Jury reported on a tour of the facilities at Sunshine Mountain operated by the local Seventh Day Baptist Church. This favorable report will no doubt bring additional goodwill for the Sunshine Mountain ministries.

The grand jury wishes to report that we have toured Sunshine Mountain in Chatawa. Our visit was not the result of any complaint but rather at the invitation of the Rev. Ralph Hays. We felt that this was an appropriate function of the grand jury since Sunshine Mountain cares for and houses persons who, because of their disabilities, are not able to look after themselves and are totally dependent upon the care and services provided by the staff at Sunshine Mountain.

While all of the members of this grand jury had heard of Sunshine Mountain, none of us had physically toured the facility. We were favorably impressed by what we learned during our visit. The buildings are modern, in good

during his pastorate at Paint Rock, Alabama. While pastor at the Pine Street Gospel Chapel in Middletown, CT, he served on the New England Yearly Meeting Executive Committee and is serving as first vice-president of the Missionary Society.

In 1974, Rev. Harris married Linda Davis, of Boulder, CO, whom he had met in SCSC. Mrs. Harris graduated from Ashland College, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Music degree, and is a free-lance writer. She is editing the 1981 Yearbook.

Much work has been done by members of the church family to prepare for the Harris' arrival and to welcome them. Many hours of volunteer work have been put into repairing the parsonage. We look forward to getting to know our new pastor and his wife, and are happy to have them with us. □

repair and are situated in a very beautiful part of our country.

The one thing that most impressed this grand jury was the obvious love and trust between the staff and the persons who are under their care. Rev. Hays and his staff are performing a worthwhile, needed and often thankless work at Sunshine Mountain.

The facility receives no federal funds and exists primarily on the generosity of persons who contribute to it and to a large degree through the personal funds of Ralph and Jack Hays. This grand jury highly commends these two men for their work and would encourage the citizens of our county to tour Sunshine Mountain and support its efforts so that it may continue its needed and worthwhile services. □

### NOW AVAILABLE

The 1982-83 Conference Promotion Slide-Tape Program can be borrowed from the Audio-Visual Department at P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061. □

## TESTIMONY

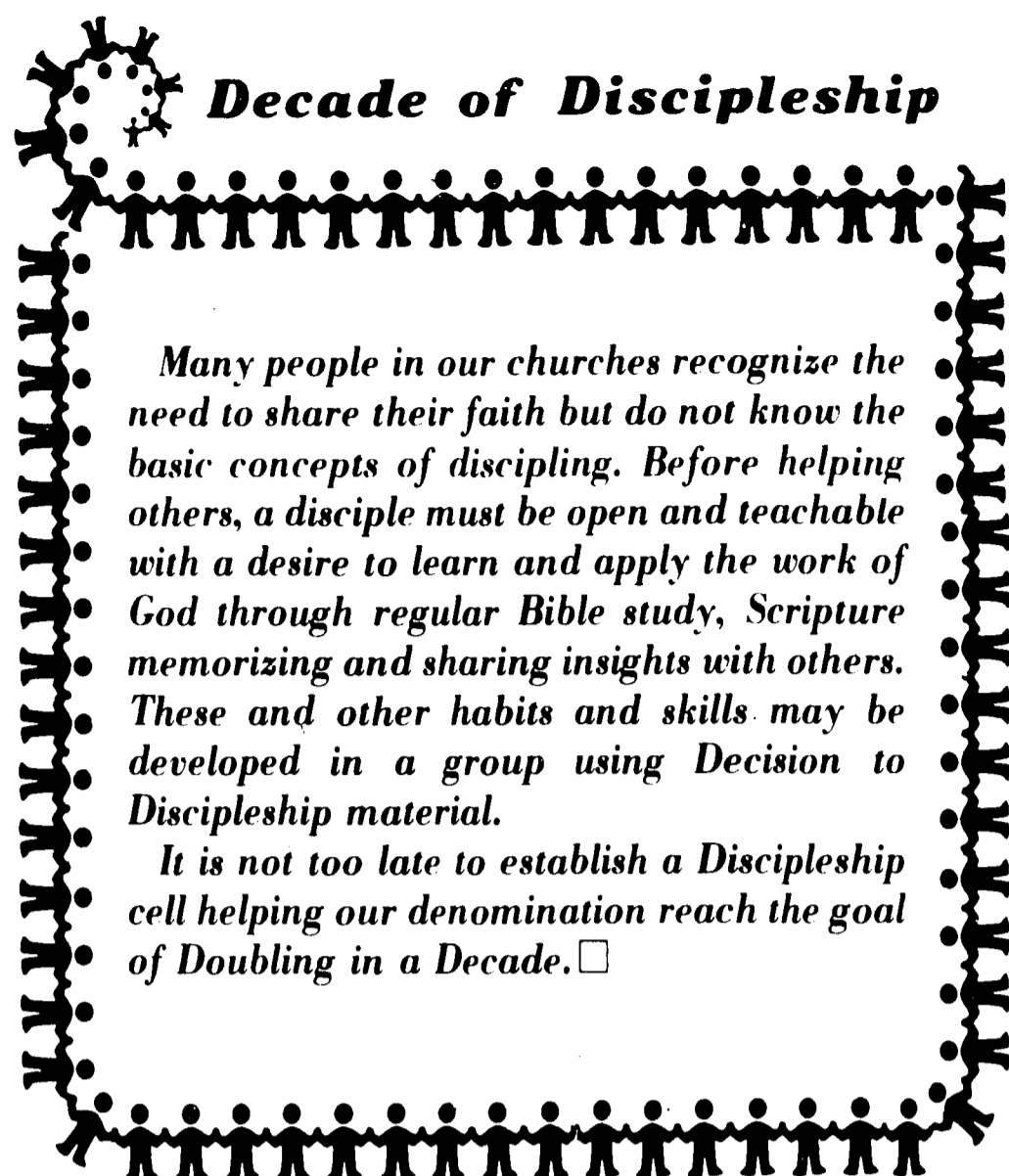
(Continued from page 13)

She spoke of Jesus the Messiah, the One who made such praying to God possible. She spoke of the Holy Spirit as God's power source for living a good life according to the things that genuinely please God. She spoke of my needs — for forgiveness, for spiritual strength, for new life. Then I began to pray too. It was a new way of praying for me because I was accustomed to repeating certain prayers without always feeling their meanings.

This was powerful and personal at the same time and I could actually feel God's presence for the first time in my life. Now my tears were tears of joy as I felt God's forgiveness sweep over me and my heart opened up to receive whatever he had for me. We prayed for a long time but it did not seem very long.

When we finished I could not wait to get home and tell my family about God's great love shown through Jesus the Messiah and His powerful Spirit that made me feel brand new all over. I should add that the woman got my order and as much business as I could send her way.

Meeting with others who know Jesus helps me to grow up in the ways of God, and I have so much growing up to do! But as long as I live and as



many Jesus-followers I encounter, I will never forget the woman who introduced me to the living Lord. In fact, whenever I see purple — I think of Lydia. □

—Jeanne Wilhelm is a member of the church of Plainfield, NJ, and is a recent graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

©used by permission.

## MOVING

Dean J. Paul Green and the Center on Ministry offices will be moving to 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, WI 53545 as of December 15, 1981. Telephone: (608) 752-5055. □

## NIDA INTERIM PASTOR

Dr. Melvin G. Nida is serving as interim pastor of the Salem, WV, church. A native of Wisconsin, Dr. Nida has served as editor of The Helping Hand, pastor of the Richburg, NY, church, professor of New Testament at the Alfred University School of Theology, and professor of Religion and Philosophy at Salem College. Denominationally, he has served on Commission, as president of General Conference, and as a member of the Council on Ministry. □

## MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

(Continued from page 11)

getting from us. That means there can be no appearance of revulsion on our faces, no note of condescension or superiority in our voices, no attitude of contempt in our bearing. It means that feelings of rejection we get from those who are hurting must not get in the way. Because we have been called to go to those whom God loves because they are His.

Scared, hurting, lonely, unloved people react to love with suspicion, with envy, with bitterness, with defensiveness—even to deliberately hurting the one who loves them to see if the love is genuine and unconditional. If we fail them, they will be that much further estranged from God.

God must have a lot of con-

fidence in what His love in us can do reaching out to those whose lives we touch—at home, at school, where we work, here at church—because he has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. Are you ready to start? Who are you going to start on? □

## MARRIAGES

**LAWRENCE-WILLIAMS.**—Robert D., son of Edward Lawrence and Mildred Monroe, of Bridgeton, NJ, and Venus Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis N. Watson, were united in marriage in the bride's parents' home, August 8, 1981, by Judge John Casarow, Jr.

**McNEILUS-STOECKEL.**—Brandon McNeilus, son of Garwin and Marylee McNeilus of Dodge Center, MN, and Tracy Stoeckel, daughter of Sylvester and Shirley Stoeckel of Dodge Center, were united in marriage in the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church on August 30, 1981 by his pastor, Rev. Tim Pierce.

## ACCESSIONS

**DAYTONA BEACH, FL**  
Kenneth B. Van Horn, Pastor

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

**DODGE CENTER, MN**  
Paul B. Osborn, Pastor

By Letter:  
Rev. Paul B. Osborn  
Muriel (Mrs. Paul) Osborn  
Stephen Osborn  
Shelley (Mrs. Mike) Sudbury

**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
Charles H. Graffius, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Elizabeth Atencio  
George Boatright  
Mrs. Manuella Boatright  
Lorrie Boatright  
Mrs. Judy McGee  
Jeanette McGee  
Mrs. Carol Molano  
Lori Molano  
Frank Rivas

By Testimony:  
Archie Boatright  
Mrs. Alva Boatright  
Thomas McGee

**MEMPHIS, TN**  
William Shoffner, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Pat Harp

By Testimony:  
Tom Johnson  
Avis (Mrs. Tom) Johnson  
Martha Johnson  
Robert Van Horn  
Lana (Mrs. Robert) Van Horn

**PLAINFIELD, NJ**  
Victor W. Skaggs, Pastor

By Letter and Testimony:  
Rev. Dale D. Thorngate  
Janet Van Horn (Mrs. Dale) Thorngate

**ROCKVILLE, RI**

By Baptism:  
Charles Greene  
Nancy Greene

**UPPER EAST TENNESSEE**  
John Camenga, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Polly Feathers  
Tony W. Malone

By Letter:  
Barbara (Mrs. Harold) Balcom  
Harold Balcom  
Robinette Balcom  
Antoinette Balcom

## OBITUARIES

**BARBER.**—Myra Thorngate, daughter of the late Rev. Charles and Ethel Babcock Thorngate, was born June 7, 1892 in North Loup, NE, and died August 27, 1981 in Dodge Center, MN. She attended college both at Milton, WI, and Salem, WV.

In 1928 she married Jake Barber, who died December 6, 1946. Myra worked on newspapers: *North Loup Loyalist*, Scotia, Nebraska, *Register*, and *Ord Quiz*, in the North Loup area until she retired and moved to Dodge Center, MN, in 1956.

She is survived by a brother, Dr. George Thorngate of Monterey, CA; and two sisters, Mrs. Marguerite Clapper of Dodge Center, MN, and Mrs. Kathryn Baldrige of Albuquerque, NM.

According to her wishes her body was donated to the University of Minnesota Anatomy Department. A memorial service was held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center, Minnesota, of which she was a member, on September 6, 1981, by her new pastor, Paul B. Osborn.

-P.B.O.

**CLARKE.**—Cleon C., son of Robert A. and Corry Parks Clarke, was born February 4, 1907 and died in the Bethesda Hospital, Hornell, New York, October 22, 1981.

On June 20, 1936, he wed Alice Matteson, and they made their home in Independence, New York. He was baptized and joined the Independence Seventh Day Baptist Church, June 19, 1917.

He was a supervisor of the Town of Independence and a member of the Andover School Board. He worked twenty-nine years for the Sinclair Refinery in Wellsville, then for a construction company, and from 1970 to 1977, he was an instructor in the Wellsville Vocational Division of Alfred State College. Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Sheila Funk of Springfield, Virginia and Gayle Malak of Salamanca, New York; three grandchildren, and a sister, Mrs. Zereta Matteson of Whitesville, New York.

Farewell services were conducted by the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, October 25, in the chapel of the Wildman Funeral Home in Whitesville, New York. Burial was in the Whitesville Rural Cemetery.

-R.E.Z.

**COLEGROVE.**—Donald, son of Ralph and Ethel Colegrove, was born in Alfred Station, New York, February 10, 1918, and died in Syracuse, New York, September 30, 1981.

He lived his early life in Alfred Station and joined the Seventh Day Baptist church there. His latter years were lived in Syracuse, New York.

He is survived by his wife, Vera; a brother, Phillip of Perry, New York; and two sisters, Esther Simons of Buffalo and Janice Bjornsen of Syracuse.

-R.E.Z.

**FARLEY.**—Lee A., was born June 13, 1894 near Guthrie, Oklahoma, to Edward and Frances Adams Farley and died October 5, 1981 at the Valley County Hospital in Ord, Nebraska, at the age of 87.

Lee moved with his family at the age of two to southeastern Nebraska near Tecumseh where he attended rural school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1917 and served overseas until his discharge in June of 1919. Lee was united in marriage to Edna Douglas in June of 1922. They moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where Lee learned his life's trade of plumbing and steam fitting. In 1926 they moved to Sacramento, California, where he was employed until 1947 when he returned to Nebraska to work as a supervisor on construction jobs around the state. His wife Edna died in 1929.

He was united in marriage to Vesta M. Thorngate December 23, 1952 at Denver, Colorado. They had made their home at North Loup since 1958 except for eighteen months in California. He was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church, the World War I Barracks of Redland, California, and American Legion Post 285 of North Loup.

Survivors include his wife, Vesta of North Loup; one daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Smith of North Loup; five grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; three brothers: Edward of Tecumseh, Owen of Hope, IN, Arthur of Crookston, MN; and three sisters: Mrs. Sue Fuller of San Diego, CA, Mrs. Mae Huston of Hot Springs, SD, and Mrs. Clara Pederson of San Jose, CA, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Edna, two daughters, two brothers, and one sister.

Funeral services were held on October 8 at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in North Loup with Rev. Larry Graffius officiating. Graveside committal followed at the Hillside cemetery west of North Loup.

-L.E.G.

**FULLER.**—Madge W., was born June 28, 1893 at North Loup, Nebraska, to Henry and Hannah Curry Watts and died October 8, 1981 at the David Place Nursing Home in David City, Nebraska, at the age of 88.

Madge spend her early childhood on the family farm west of North Loup where she attended school at District 46. The family later moved to Wisconsin, but returned to North Loup where Madge continued her education at the North Loup High School. She was baptized by Rev. George B. Shaw and joined the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Madge was united in marriage to Charles H. Fuller April 20, 1912 at North Loup. They moved to Gentry, Arkansas, but returned to North Loup just a few months later.

After her husband's death December 18, 1956, she continued to make her home at North Loup until 1978 when she moved to the Lakeview Nursing Home in Grand Island. She had moved to the David Place Nursing Home in David City in August of this year.

Survivors include one son, Menzo of Bridgeton, New Jersey; five grandchildren: Mrs. Carolyn Medbery of Grand Island, Mrs. Phyllis Williams of Omaha, Mrs. Kerry Rahn of San Antonio, TX, Richard Fuller of Reed City, MI, and Robert Fuller of St. Louis, MO; also seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, one daughter, one brother, one sister, and three half-sisters.

Funeral services were held at the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Graffius officiating on October 12, with graveside committal following at the Hillside cemetery west of North Loup.

-L.E.G.

# MUSIC NOTES

by Arthur Rowe

with the lyrics of both of these songs, the melodies and harmonizations are kept simple. If you're interested in Christian humor, you might look for recordings by Grady Nutt (who titled a recent speech on the commercialization of Christianity 'They've Finally Got a Burger King in Beulah Land'), Mike Warnke, or Issac Air Freight.

**THE FOLLOWING REMARKS** are excerpted from HOME MISSIONS magazine (Nov.-Dec. 80 issue: article, "A New Song," about the Cruse Family, a well-known gospel music group.) They are offered to stimulate discussion, and the editor of this column invites your response, whether pro or con.

Contemporary Christian is a modern branch of what many Baptists know as "gospel music." Although in the South, "gospel music" is often synonymous with what the Gospel Music Association (GMA) calls "traditional Southern"... GMA extends the definition of "gospel music" to include all Christian music...

"To me, gospel music includes black soul, Metropolitan Opera's Jerome Hines, anything that puts Christ in music," explains Don Butler, Nazarene minister and GMA executive director. "The purpose of gospel music is to put the gospel into musical lyrics to spread the message of the good news."

"I do not think gospel music is the ministry—I think it is a tool of the ministry... Psalm 150 says, let everything that hath breath praise the Lord," Butler says. "Not everyone likes 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' or 'The Old Country Church,' and not everyone likes Brahms and Beethoven, but everyone likes music. I welcome anyone to sing gospel music, because my concern is that the Word be expanded."

"Among Southern Baptists (the Cruse's denomination), we are considered pretty contemporary," notes Nancy Cruse... "But compared to some West Coast groups, we aren't very contemporary at all. And we have discovered that

what was progressive five years ago is now middle-of-the-road." Both Butler and the Cruses emphasize words are the message; the music itself is neither "good" nor "bad." "You can take rock and change the lyrics and make it gospel," Butler says. "No music is of the devil..."

"It is the lyrics that are good or bad. If (the message in) rock music is promoting drugs or pornography, it is used of the devil. If it is promoting Christ, it cannot be used of Satan."

Nancy insists lyrics be understandable. "There gets to be a problem when the music drowns out the words," she says. "If you can't hear the words, you may as well go home." □

**ADDRESS CORRECTION**

Calvin Babcock  
605 W. Holly Street  
Carthage, TX 75633

**BIRTHS**

ADKINS.—A son, Christopher Charles, to Chuck and Kathy (Lewis) Adkins of North Little Rock, AR, on Sept. 8, 1981.

BURBELO.—A son, Christopher Andrew, to Andrew and Linda (Matheson) Burbelo of Hopkinton, RI, on August 28, 1981.

JACKSON.—A son, Michael Seager, to Michael and Dianne (Seager) Jackson of North Little Rock, AR, on June 25, 1981.

(The latter is a correction from the Sept. issue.)

HILES.—A son, Jared Owen, to H. Roy and Roxanna (King) Hiles of Bridgeton, NJ, on June 9, 1981.

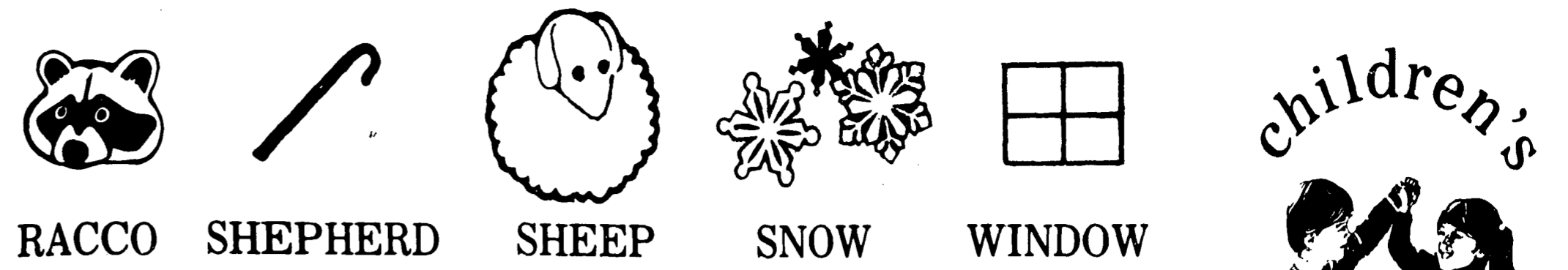
MILLER.—A son, Heath Travis, to Howard and Becky (Hiles) Miller of Salem, NJ on June 30, 1981.

LIMOSINO.—A daughter, Amy Lynn, to Joe and Barbara (Branch) Limosino of Bridgeton, NJ on August 19, 1981.

THERNEAU.—A son, Nathan Clare, to Terry and Kathy (Greene) Therneau of Stanford, CA, September 22, 1981.

WRIGHT.—A daughter, Amy Michelle, to Verne and Elizabeth (Richards) Wright of Bridgeton, NJ, on August 27, 1981.

QUINNETTE.—A son, William Franklin III, to William and Brenda (Cobb) Quinnette of South Charleston, SC, on August 29, 1981.



RACCO SHEPHERD SHEEP SNOW WINDOW

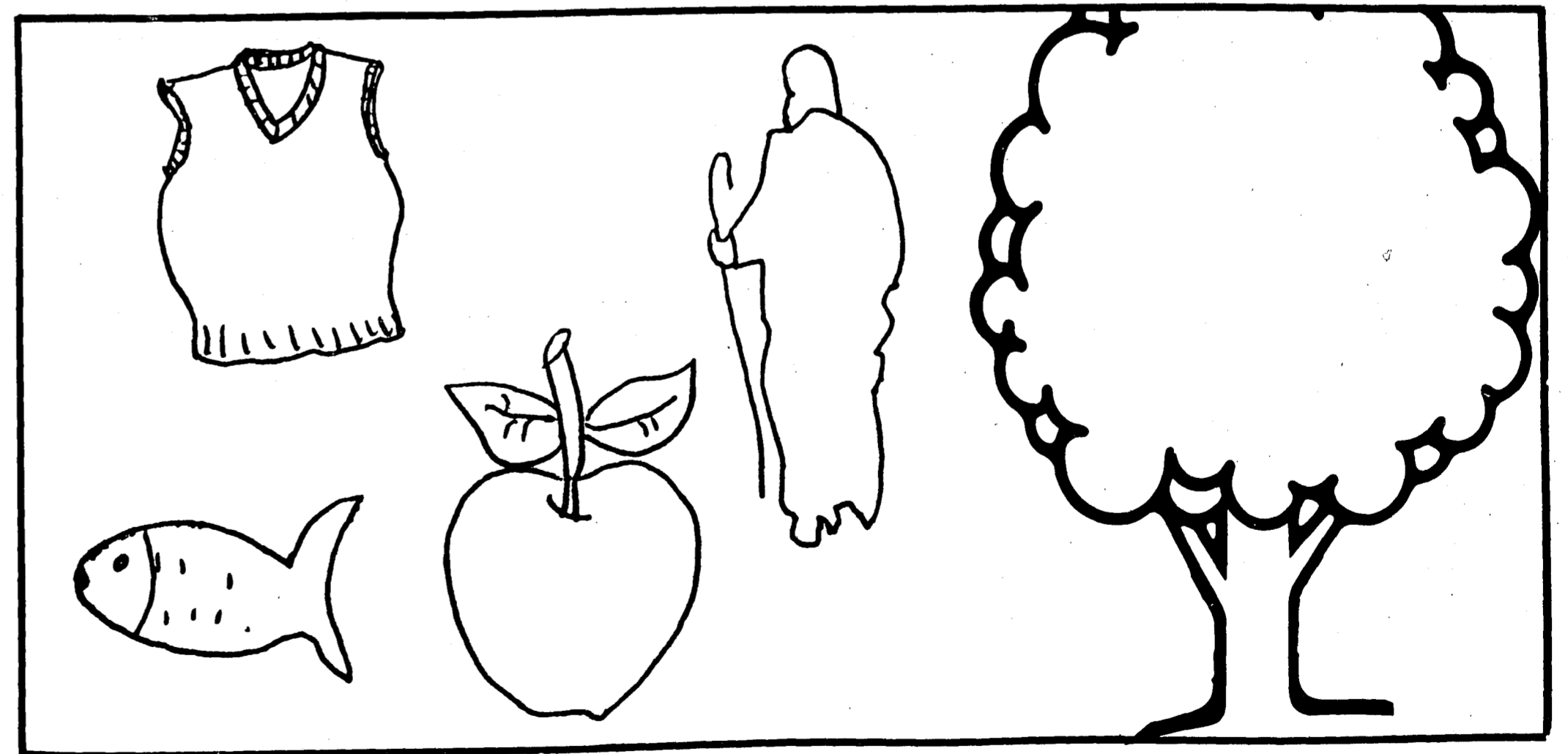
was watching the through the . remembered that in Sabbath School they had talked about how the cared

for his . God is like that . was thankful God took care of him. had all he needed for the winter ahead. God gave

a warm house, clothes, food and older ones to care for him if he were sick. then drew a picture showing that he lacked nothing (shall not want).

Here is 's picture for you to color.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT. —Psalm 23:1 (KJV)**





## A DECISION TO MAKE

(Continued from page 7)

concerned with making the best and wisest decision for all concerned! But our first and primary goal is to determine and to follow what **God's will** is in the matter, and to follow that. The disciples' prayer affirmed this attitude of faith.

This should be our attitude at all our meetings of the church: in committees, in Sabbath School classes, Bible studies, in business meetings. We are not assembled to try to reach a consensus or an agreement on any given issue. The majority vote is not always the best choice. Our goal is to diligently seek God's will and to govern ourselves by His choices and by His word. As these disciples prayed long ago, likewise for us the most important principle is the prayer of faith and seeking out God's will: "Lord, you know the thoughts of all men' and we ask that we may know what your thoughts and your will are."

### MAKE THE DECISION

6. Finally, they **made their decision** by casting lots.<sup>1</sup> Now we may question this method of making a decision. It seems so chancey, almost like rolling dice or spinning a wheel. Yet they firmly believed, as they had just prayed, that God was in control of all things and that, as the Proverb says, "Man proposes but God disposes." In this primitive way, they felt that they were putting themselves completely in God's hands.

It may be significant to note that casting lots does not occur in the Bible again after the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came. In Acts 6 they chose the first deacons; in Acts 11 they chose Barnabas to go to Antioch to minister to the new Christians there; in Acts 13 they chose the first missionaries, Paul and Barnabas. All of these decisions were made under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

For that reason, it is not advisable for Christians today to use methods of chance or luck to make their decisions. We have at our disposal a source of power and guidance which was not available to them: The Holy Spirit. They were still waiting for the anointing power to come when this choice was made. And then, as we pointed out, after the Spirit was poured out, they discontinued this practice of casting lots, depending fully on Him to govern their choices.

Let's review these steps:

1. A leader is needed to oversee and give direction when more than one person is involved.
2. Define the problem. Identify just what it is that you are deciding.

3. List the requirements and conditions that will determine how the choice is made. Look first of all to God's word for the conditions He sets forth relating to your decisions.

4. Narrow the choices. What are the alternatives now open to us after we have listed the conditions?

5. Prayer—trust in God to show you **His** will, not necessarily what you may think is best.

6. Make the choice, fully confident that God will not mislead those who seek him. He is the good shepherd who leads by green pastures.

May God bless us in all of our decision making as we seek his guidance and will. □

<sup>1</sup>In the Old Testament, the lot was cast to discover God's will for the allocation of territory (Joshua 18, 19, etc.), the choice of the goat to be sacrificed on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:8), the detection of a guilty party (Joshua 7:14, Jonah 1:7), the allocation of temple duties (1 Chron. 24:5), the discovery of a lucky day (Est. 3:7). In the New Testament, Christ's clothes were allocated by lot (Matt. 27:35). The last occasion in the Bible on which the lot is used to divine the will of God is in the choice of Matthias (Acts 1:15-26). William Barclay explains, "The names of the candidates were written on stones; the stones were put into a vessel and the vessel was shaken until one stone fell out; and he whose name was on that stone was elected to office." It was never seen as a gamble for, "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord" (Prov. 16:33).

### TIMING

(Continued from page 18)

spread ourselves so thin that we cannot give our complete selves either to teaching the children's class or chairing the trustees is poor stewardship of our time.

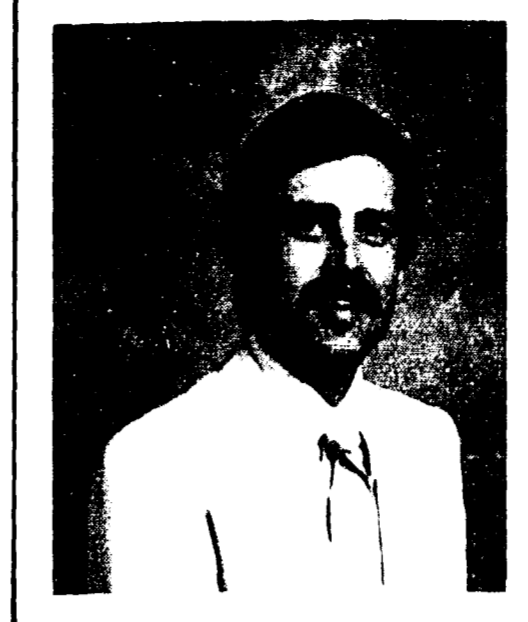
One element that determines for me the quality of time is whether the focus of activity remains on people, no matter what we do. People are not just part of the activity — they are the purpose for whatever we are doing. Jesus saves people, not programs. If we are too busy to attend to our relationships with fellow workers and with those we serve, we are too busy.

Time is what our earthly days are made of. Determining when, how long, and how best to use it greatly affects the success of our work for the kingdom. Establishing priorities, setting goals, and examining both process and results can help. □

### MISSION NOTES

(Continued from page 19)

individuals who wish to become personally informed on how the Lord is leading Seventh Day Baptists in these days! Write your Missionary Society office (401 Washington Trust Bldg., Westerly, RI 02891) for loan of a copy. □



## EDITORIAL

**A**t the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society it was voted to relocate the Board to Janesville, Wisconsin, area. By this action the membership of the Trustees will be relocated from New Jersey to the area of the new Seventh Day Baptist Center. At this writing new people are being involved in the work of the Society and we are certain that an orderly transition of duties and responsibilities will be effected in 1982.

We are sure that Seventh Day Baptists across the country are appreciative of the dedication and zeal exhibited by the Board members in New Jersey through the years. Many have served over the years from the various churches giving freely of their time and ever seeking to enhance the publishing ministry of Seventh Day Baptists to the glory of God.

The offices of the Tract Society will be relocated to Wisconsin sometime in 1982 when the general move is made. Until that time the work of the Society will continue from Plainfield. The new Board members in Wisconsin will make the final decision regarding the moving or closing of the publishing house operation. There are many factors to be considered in regard to continuing our own publishing house operations or using a commercial printer.

Another significant change in our publication ministry is the removal of the subscription price for the *Sabbath Recorder*. A pilot project is being implemented in 1982 to send the *Sabbath Recorder* into every Seventh Day Baptist home in the Conference and to solicit gifts to cover the cost of publication.

At the present time the *Sabbath Recorder* is being mailed to less than 1,500 and at a subscription cost of \$6.00. The actual cost for sending twelve issues into your home is about \$20.00, thus the ministry of the denominational journal is being subsidized to make up the difference between publishing cost and subscription income.

Since the *Sabbath Recorder* is the major communication tool for Seventh Day Baptists it is extremely desirable that it be in every home. By this change we hope to accomplish a wider circulation and readership, and at the same time generate more income for this ministry.

Therefore, beginning in 1982, every SDB home will receive the *Recorder* and each family will be invited to make a donation to the American Sabbath Tract Society for the work of the *Sabbath Recorder*. We would like to point out that unlike the previous subscription price, donations for this ministry will be tax-exempt. We hope many of our readers will be able to donate the \$20.00 actual cost, or even more to see this ministry continue and expand. □

**WHAT  
IS  
YOUR  
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SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST JANUARY 1982

**Seventh  
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Baptist**

**Week of  
Prayer**

**January 3-9  
1982**

