

**WHAT
IS
YOUR
PROMISED
LAND?**



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THE SABBATH OUR 138th YEAR
RECORDER
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST JANUARY 1982

**Seventh
Day
Baptist**

**Week of
Prayer**

**January 3-9
1982**



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January 1982
Volume 204
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A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

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Florence, AL 35630

PATRICIA CRUZAN, ART DIRECTOR

Contributing Editors
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STUDY I

An Offering

by Rev. Victor Skaggs

II Corinthians 5:17-20

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (KJV) God reconciled us to Himself in order that we may become reconcilers of man to God and man to man. That is what these Bible studies are all about.

Usually when we think of an offering, we think of what we offer to God out of what He has given to us. This offering, however, is the offering God has made to us and for us.

One of the continuing themes of the scriptures is that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23), and people, in order to justify themselves, keep asking, "What is sin?" Almost daily there are efforts to redefine it, but God answers the question: I John 5:17, Romans 14:23, James 4:17, I John 1:10.

These answers from the scriptures are very plain and inclusive. Read about it in Romans 3:1-20. Take note of the universal need for forgiveness and salvation. Read also Romans 1:17-2:16. Be reminded of the condition in which we have lived.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." This is one of the basic truths on which all of Christian faith rests. There is nothing however great, there is nothing however small, there is nothing which we see or discover which does not belong to the Lord who made it. There is no person on earth or in heaven who does not owe his or her talents and position and existence to the One who made all things and who sustains them. Nothing can escape His attention. Nothing and no one receives benefit from anyone else. All goodness and greatness come from Him. The God over us is the God of power and might, of compassion and love. He is the God who gives Himself as an offering to His people. This great God, this God Most High, broods over His people and gives them of His mighty power and His unfailing love. Turn to the words of the psalmist. Read Psalm 145.

This great God is the Lord and Master, the Owner of all that is. There is nothing which can be given to Him (Acts 17:25). He is great beyond our imagining (Psalm 96:6). This great God has a purpose in relating Himself to humanity. That purpose is especially evident in Jesus Christ (Romans 7:18-25). The greatest wonder of the world is the purpose of our God toward His people: that we should become His children by adoption, that we should share in His own character. See Ephesians 1:12, I Corinthians 15:49.

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AN EXERCISE

It doesn't take a very lively imagination to make it clear that Christ in the home in which I was raised and Christ in my own life by His insistence and by my decision have made me a different person from what I would have been without Him. That is easy! But it is not quite so easy to look down the long dark tunnel of life to the possibilities for evil in me and to see that those possibilities in me are the same as they are in other

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by President Dorothy Parrott

**"Everybody Needs
Somebody Sometime"**

"You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You"

**"I Ain't Got Nobody
and Nobody Cares for Me"**

The above secular songs all convey the message of loneliness and alienation. The minister, in his Sabbath sermon, gave these songs as examples of the human cry that expresses the deep need to be loved. He cited the story of Joseph and his need to be needed.

The key verse in the last four lessons of the "Great Passages of the Bible" in the fall issue of *The Helping Hand* have all been about God's love for us, our love for Him or the biblical injunction that we should be loving and forgiving toward one another. The hymns and meditations in the hymnal *Hymns for the Family of God* are divided into four categories: God's love for us, our love for God, our love for the family of God and our love for others.

In a radio panel discussion the participants were considering the advent season. They raised the question that what we may be doing (or not doing) that prevents the coming of the loving kingdom here and now. Which "ism" are we practicing? "About-ism" where we anticipate a certain ministry but never quite experience it, "should-ism" where we understand those things we know we should be but the cost of discipleship is too great or

"is-ism" where we actually become involved in a loving ministry. The advent season serves to remind us of how the coming of Christ (continuing to come in our lives) impacts our world today. He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation.

I have been impressed as I visited churches in the eastern part of the country of how this ministry is quietly being carried out. The work of the kingdom is being done even in our smallest churches as one makes a \$500 contribution to the Pastors' Retirement Offering Project (PROP), another fills its quota for OWM, a ministry to prisoners in another and sacrificial pastoral care in still another. Each one is practicing "is-ism" where he/she has been planted. The *Sabbath Recorder* (October '81) "A Ministry of Caring" tells about other areas of service.

The emphasis of our Conference theme this year is designed to help the laity in its ministry. Four of the six workshops are planned to give us aid in our Christian social action, our ministry of the diaconate, in evangelism and as we practice a healing ministry. I would encourage each one to study carefully the lessons on The

Ministry of Reconciliation that have been prepared by Reverend Victor Skaggs and are being printed in *The Sabbath Recorder* beginning this month. These are to be discussed in small discussion groups during Bible study period at Conference. Hopefully, those of you who are not able to attend Conference will be a part of a Bible study group at home.

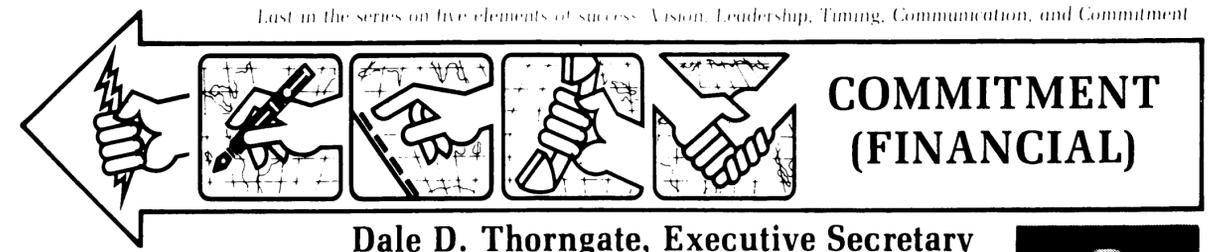
The following quotations from an article on world evangelism by W. Stan Mooneyham, president of World Vision International (*Christianity Today*, September 18, 1981) apply to the Ministry of Reconciliation. "Let us stop complaining that we don't have enough people, enough money, enough tools. That simply is not true. There is no shortage of anything we need—except vision and prayer and will."

"World evangelism is too big a task to be left to an elite corps. The clear biblical responsibility of evangelism lies not with a professional class, but with the entire church and with every believer. Witness is not the privilege of a few, it is the obligation of all."

"The world will be evangelized when Christians act on the belief that the Holy Spirit indwells each believer and empowers him or her to carry on the work of God. The Holy Spirit is our chief resource."

"The liberating Spirit of God can free us from the paralyzing guilt of our past mistakes. He can free us from slavish attachments to ineffective traditional methods. He can free us from schisms and division that dishonor His name and cause men to reject his salvation. He can free us from a gloomy, defeatist attitude about the future. He can liberate Christians to go gladly, love limitlessly, serve sacrificially, witness powerfully, suffer joyfully and if need be, die triumphantly."

Are these true statements? Do they have relevance for Seventh Day Baptists? □



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary

We have been working since General Conference 1981 in Salem, West Virginia, to prepare for the move of the General Conference offices from New Jersey to Wisconsin. In reflecting on those five months I am again aware of the need for all five elements of success: vision, leadership, timing, communication, and commitment.

Focus for this last article in the series is commitment. I don't know if this last is best or even most important, but as I have been in the process of raising funds and coordinating the purchase of the building for the new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville (see article elsewhere in this issue), the idea of commitment has at least been uppermost in my mind.

Baptists Pass the Plate

I am heartened by the response from across the country to the call for "faith promises" of money toward the Relocation Fund. Many individual Seventh Day Baptists and some churches and groups have stepped out on faith saying, "We believe God will provide the means for us to give this amount so that His work through Seventh Day Baptists may be conducted in a more cost effective manner from a more central location."

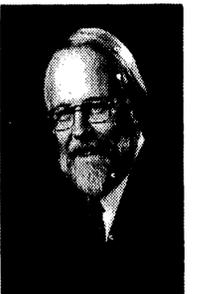
There is a cliché that you know you're in a Baptist church by how often they pass the collection plate. Giving, we recognize, must be a voluntary thing. There is also the accusation that Christian leaders speak of commitment only in terms of money. I believe, however, that what Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount is true. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) Jesus used this principle to emphasize his point that we should be concerned about heavenly things rather than earthly, but it shows that he understood human nature very well. The way in which we spend our money certainly shows where our priorities are in life and to what we are committed.

Commitment and Motivation Are Linked

Commitment is an agreement or pledge to do something. It is that state of mind in which we feel obligated or emotionally impelled. I have found in my reading that this idea of commitment is directly tied to what motivates me.

According to Kenneth O. Gangel in his book *COMPETENT TO LEAD*, motivation is that which incites an individual to action, sustains that action, and gives direction once the individual has been initially

Psalm 24:1 "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." (NIV)



aroused. Gangel also gives motivation another dimension. He says it is a dissatisfaction, on the part of the individual, with the status quo. We are not pleased with the way things are now and are motivated to do something about it. The action we take over a period of time is our commitment to bring about change. I observe that Seventh Day Baptists dissatisfied with the status quo are making things happen.

Commitment, then, involves practically every aspect of a person's life. It involves plans, priorities, and goals. All are based on what motivates us. We will conduct ourselves and assume responsibilities for programs and schedules that provide a sense of personal fulfillment, but also for what contributes to the good of humanity:

Prepared for a Year of Extension?

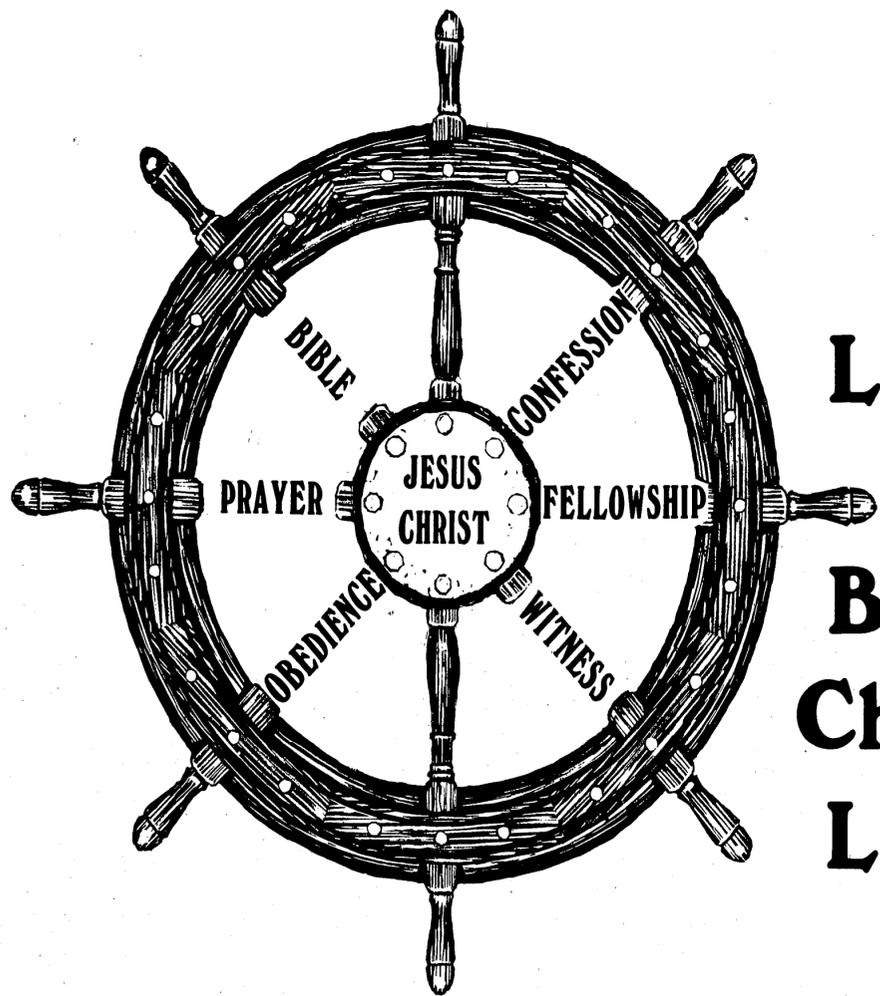
As we begin the third year of the '80s—a Year of Extension for Seventh Day Baptists—there is some doubt about whether or not we have met the Our World Mission budget for 1981. As a manager that tells me there were some things that didn't get done last year that should have, and I need to find out what the problem is. As a Christian leader I also have to ask myself about my commitment and the commitment of all Seventh Day Baptists around the country.

What is it that our leaders can do to better communicate the vision or better coordinate the timing of our activities to reach out to those God calls us to reconcile to Him?

Paul M. Dieterich in *MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO GIVE GENEROUSLY* says that "25% of the people in the church give 75% of the income." He gives a number of reasons for this phenomenon but indicates that the generous 25% are involved and committed to the work of the church. The other 75% have their involvement and commitment elsewhere.

Your denominational leadership is committed to make your boards and agencies work for you. We are committed to making Our World Mission a means to

(Continued on page 28)



Living the Balanced Christian Life

Merlyn O. Van Horn

When I was asked to be a candidate for the presidency of the Mid-Continent Association I had mixed emotions. You know what mixed emotions are—like watching your mother-in-law drive your new Mercedes over a cliff. I'm kidding of course. I dearly loved my mother-in-law and I couldn't afford a Mercedes anyway.

A few years ago, a young man from Nebraska wrote to Pastor "Randy" this letter, "Dear Sir: Can I lead a good Christian life in Boulder on \$85.00 a week?" "My boy," was the reply, "that's the only kind of life you can lead here with that amount."

And so that also is my theme for the coming year: "The Balanced Christian Life." The Navigators Organization uses the nautical wheel to represent the Balanced Christian Life. The center of the wheel is Jesus Christ. When you first buy a little tree the roots are all tied up in a little ball. You

prepare the hole with rich soil, spread the roots a bit, refill the hole watering it in and tie the tree up, if you live in windy Nebraska. Then it can establish itself in its new residence.

The Christian life isn't any different. When you become a Christian, God wants you to get your roots down. I look at the big trees. I never see anyone propping them up. They are already established. Their roots are far enough down that they can stand up by themselves. You receive Christ—then you've got to get your roots down. What's the principle upon which you grow in the Christian life? First, we have to establish a pattern for living. In Nebraska we build house foundations to go below frost level. Frost level is often four feet deep. If you have to go down four feet, you might as well go down another 2 or 3 feet and put in a basement. Without a good foundation the frost would heave the walls and the house would soon

crumble to the ground. Everything we do has to have a foundation. God's blueprint for a Christian foundation is the Bible.

The first spoke on the wheel is the Bible. You have to **read** the Bible. How are you going to know about God if you don't **read the book**? Do you really want to know the **will** of God? Then you have to read and become familiar with the Word of God. II Chronicles 16:9 says "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." And in Jeremiah 1:12 "I am watching over My Word to perform it." Also in Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, . . . and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." And in Luke 1:37 (amplified) "For with God nothing is ever impossible and no word from God shall be without power or impossible of

fulfillment." Proverbs 30:5 states, "Every Word of God proves true." And I Peter 1:25 "but the word of the Lord abides forever."

There are many more references as to the truth and power, the availability and the promises, the physical, mental and spiritual need for each and every individual for this "Word of Life" (I John 1:1). Many are familiar with the "Jesus Person Pocket Promise Book" of 800 promises from the Word of God as chosen by David Wilkerson. The introductory leaf quotes from II Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these **ye** might be partakers of the divine nature!" How can we claim these wonderful promises if we don't know the Word?

I know many people here have read the entire Bible in the past, and some have read it several times, but I'm going to ask, for my 1982 special program, that every member of the Mid-Continent Association churches read the entire Bible before the first weekend of October 1982. But this time do it a little different. Jot down verses that say something special that you want to remember and give their location so that you may look them up in other versions, or memorize them so you can quote them for your witnessing. Also jot down any questions which may arise in your mind and discuss them in your Sabbath School class or ask your pastor. If he doesn't know, he will know where to look for reference.

Your Association representatives are going to have to take this request back to the members at home with sufficient challenge to arouse their incentive to 100 percent participation. I'd be pretty happy with 90 percent but don't tell them that. If the kids under high school age would read the New Testament, that would suffice for them. When you come to North Loup in October '82, I hope to hear a report of 95 percent participation, with names of all participating members so that we can send in such an impressive list to the **Sabbath Recorder** that it will require extra pages.

I am just going to touch lightly on the

remaining spokes of the wheel as I have asked your pastors to "keep it rolling" in the coming year.

PRAYER THE SECOND SPOKE

Prayer is the second spoke of the wheel. In his "Letter to Jo," Keith Miller used the word ACTS to demonstrate the order of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Adoration or praise is for what God is. Thanksgiving is for what He does. Praising God not only means a lot to God, it makes us happier too. At North Loup the choir recently sang an anthem entitled "I Feel So Much Better When I Praise The Lord." It's a fact. Not long ago I read about an evangelist who said that a sure lift for the blues was to say "Praise the Lord" aloud ten times and mean it and you'll be smiling when you finish. It works too.

The third spoke is obedience. Obey God's word. When Peter was told to quit telling everyone about Jesus his reply was, "We must obey God rather than men!" And Paul said, "Look not only to your own concerns but also to those of others."

Confession is the fourth spoke. Thank God that when we make a mistake, we can go to Him in all the openness of our hearts and confess it to Him and He forgives. Joseph Parker, the great Congregational minister of England, said, "Oh, what a great God we've got. He gives me a sheet of white paper and says, 'Your life is like that, Son.' And I go with my sheet of white paper and it isn't long before it is all blotched up. I go back to God with fear and trembling and say, 'Look Lord, at my sheet of paper.' God says, 'Give it to Me and I'll give you a clean one. Go and try again.' Isn't that neat?"

The fifth spoke is fellowship. Show me a person that doesn't love the fellowship of believers and I'll show you a person that doesn't have a balanced Christian life. Do I say you shouldn't have non-Christian friends? No, but you can only be so close to them. There are only two ways to go with the world. Either your non-Christian friend is coming your way or your are going to go with him. Either

you are for Jesus Christ or you are against Him. There is no compromise in the Christian life.

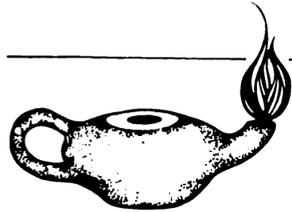
The last spoke is witness. You can sell Jesus Christ if you really believe He is worth selling. You don't have to be a great soul winner or a big mouth or anything but just a sincere person convinced that Jesus Christ is the only thing worth having and everything else is secondary.

This is a whole package deal—it includes the Bible, prayer, obedience, confession, fellowship and witness. If you break a spoke in the wheel, what happens? It weakens the wheel and it isn't long until the second spoke breaks.

If you stop reading the Bible it isn't long before you're out of fellowship with the Saints and you begin to feel a little uncomfortable. Before long you have nothing to say to anybody. Witnessing comes out of a life that is balanced and flowing for the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the first spoke, the Bible, is of the utmost importance. Many of you have been wanting to read the complete Bible through once or again, but just haven't had the time or initiative. Did you know that just 20 minutes a day is all that it takes to read the complete Bible in one year? And what better way to start off a day than reading God's word before going to work? Families could take turns reading aloud. A good chance to get the whole family together. And just think what a united effort of the entire Association membership, reading His word every morning, can do for the spiritual growth of our people and the discipleship and growth of our churches. God wants us to be "united in the same mind and the same judgment—that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you" (I Cor. 1:10). A united Association membership reading the Word, is a good start toward achieving the Balanced Christian Life. □

—Merlyn "Button" Van Horn is a member of the North Loup SDB Church where he serves as a Deacon. He is current President of the Mid-Continent Association.



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

EXPERIENCING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Church membership is an opportunity to become involved in a Christian community, a community gathered to be strengthened and uplifted for its tasks by worshiping together; to give mutual support through study, work and play; to join together to meet the needs of each member and to make plans for meeting the needs of the world around them. A church community scattered into the world of daily routine as leaders, as followers, as consumers, as creators, as neighbors, as parents, and as citizens. A church community growing together, accepting praise and criticism for what has happened and what has not happened, being accountable for the actions of all its members.

Some time ago I discovered the beauty of the letter the apostle Paul wrote to the community of his friends at Philippi. These people had loved and believed the apostle when he lived with them and preached his faith. They had become concerned about his welfare and sent him money and one of their members to care for him while in prison in Rome. Now Paul was thanking them for their kindnesses to him. He stated that his faith was as strong as ever and if death was to come now, he was as ready to die for his faith as he had lived for it.

The letter also urged his friends to continue to live together in love and harmony in a Christlike manner.

LET GOD LOVE YOU, a study of the book of Philippians by Lloyd Oglive, discusses the Christian lifestyle Paul was urging his friends to adopt. The main thought that runs throughout the book is the love of God and our need to love Him.

Before we can be an effective member of a community we must recognize that we are lovable — worthy of receiving God's gift of love. Only when we humble ourselves to accept that gift will we be willing to share it. We often fail to accept gifts of love because we want to prove we can do it ourselves, or because we are too proud to accept help or feel unworthy of the gift.

As we come together in a community of Christians we become vulnerable as the protective walls we build around us come down. We open ourselves to ridicule and criticism; often giving up our dreams for the good of others. We also have the joy of shared growth, of knowing someone cares and the satisfaction of contributing to the building of God's world.

"Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves."

— Philippians 2:3

It is not enough that we know and sympathize with someone in trouble. It is not enough to know that there are people in the world without suitable clothing and food. It is not enough that we study the Bible. The Bible calls for action — action by a concerned Christian community.

Christ was a servant leader. God exalted Him.

The apostle Paul urges us to take on the qualities of Jesus Christ as we go about our duties in the gathered or scattered church.

- To be joyful in what we do... working together in love.
- To work for the best interest of others... not living to make a good impression.
- To be good stewards of time, talents and worldly goods. God loves a cheerful giver.

We can live in fellowship and joy of a Christian community as we live in the light of God's presence, confessing our sins and forgiving others their mistakes and obeying His laws. The greatest and first of these was given by Jesus Christ, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself." □

TEACHER'S MINI-LAB

The old adage, "More Christianity is caught than taught," is still true today. Students react to the teacher's warmth and caring attitude and learn Christian truths faster in a classroom where there is an atmosphere of love than in one where formal teacher—pupil relationships are maintained.

A very successful young man taught a primary class of several boys and one girl. He loved the children and maintained their interest by talking informally about the lesson of the day, relating the situation to their lives. A part of the session was spent talking about their interests and problems outside of the Sabbath School. One of the more unusual aspects of the class was the seating arrangement—the girl sat on his lap and the boys grouped informally as they wished.

Now he is older, the class of older youths has more girls than boys but informality is still the key to learning. Their discussions are centered on relating Biblical truths to their situations and/or solving their problems in light of Jesus' teaching.

The most important learning is that an adult is interested and cares what happens to them; that church is a good place to find friends and that Christianity is a satisfying way of life. □

HONOR ROLL MEMORIZATION

We are happy to add to the 1981 HONOR ROLL:
Melissa Dearth-Kindergarten-
Daytona Beach, FL.
Michelle Dearth-Kindergarten-
Daytona Beach, FL.
Rebecca Thorpe-Ashaway, RI.
If you have not received information concerning the 1982 HONOR ROLL, please write The Board of Christian Education, Alfred. We would like to add your family to the 1982 Scripture Roll. □

January 1982

Resolution

*On Services Rendered by the Late
Charles F. Harris
As Trustee and Officer of the Memorial Fund*

Be it remembered that Charles F. Harris became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund in October, 1963.

He served as Secretary of the Board in 1968-1969, as well as being a Vice-President.

In 1967 he was elected Assistant Secretary, a position he again accepted in 1969 when Frederik J. Bakker became Secretary, serving in this capacity until 1971.

He served as a Vice-President for thirteen years, during which, from 1971 to 1974 and 1977 to 1981, he was First Vice-President, the office he held at the time of his death.

His untimely death on August 4, 1981, while serving the Lord at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference held August 2-8 in Salem, West Virginia, removed him from the Board.

His valuable counsel and questions assisted the Board members in making wise decisions.

His last piece of work for the Board was in connection with the property of the real estate devised under the will and testament of the late Bessie S. French, checking out the oil leases entered into with various oil companies located in Florida, to assist the Board realizing a proper rental and return for distribution by the Board to proper beneficiaries, and he contracted an experienced and honorable attorney to pursue the various oil leases involved.

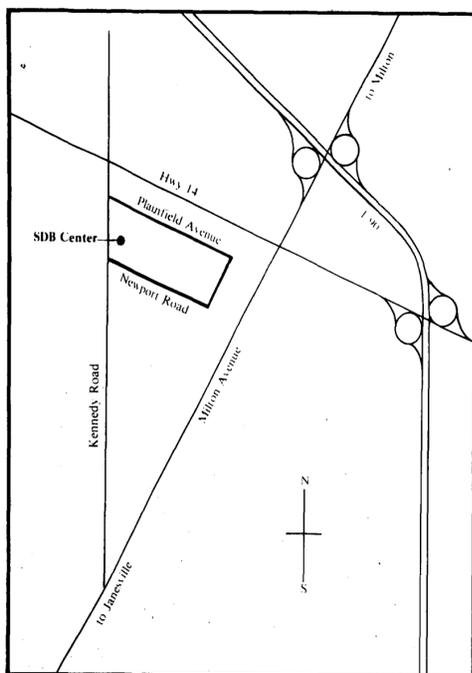
He was a true servant of the Lord and Christian Statesman.

Therefore be it resolved that a copy of this minute be spread on the minutes of the Board at its Annual Meeting held on Sunday, October 11, 1981, a copy sent to the widow, Anita D. Harris, a copy to each of his children and a copy be delivered to the Editor of The Sabbath Recorder, requesting him to insert it in that publication.

*— Frederik J. Bakker, Recording Secretary
Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day
Baptist Memorial Fund*

*Plainfield, New Jersey
October 11, 1981*

Relocation Update:



**Between
Newport Road
and
Plainfield Avenue**

The new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, is located on Kennedy Road between Newport Road and Plainfield Avenue. The City of Janesville recently approved a request from the General Conference office to change the names of the two streets bordering the 2½-acre lot on the north and south.

Kennedy Road borders the property on the west and the two streets on the north and south were originally named Jupiter Drive and Mars Lane. "We could take working between Mars and Jupiter as a challenge from both pagan gods and the space age," says executive secretary Dale Thorngate. "We have begun meeting that challenge by changing the names as part of the process of establishing our identity in a new place."

From Kennedy Road visitors will turn onto Newport Road (formerly Mars Lane) to enter the front park-

ing lot and the main lobby of the new building. Also from Kennedy Road people may turn onto Plainfield Avenue (formerly Jupiter Drive) to enter the back parking lot and the lower level of offices. This entrance is designed to accommodate the handicapped. From this parking lot also is the ground-level entrance into the basement area of the building.

Newport was selected to represent the first center of Seventh Day Baptist activity in America, and Plainfield to commemorate the first denominational building which has served as office space and publishing house for over fifty years. The names were selected, according to Secretary Thorngate, after discussion with a number of denominational leaders, particularly trustees of the Historical Society.

"The new Seventh Day Baptist

Faith promises of \$92,308 (\$57,656 in cash) had been received by December 1, 1981, toward the new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin. These include a single gift of \$25,000 to purchase the furniture in the new office building. The hope is that sale of the present building in Plainfield, New Jersey, and the \$200,000 asked for in faith promises will pay the estimated \$400,000 relocation cost in two years. Faith Promises and cash gifts may be mailed to General Conference Treasurer Bob Austin, R.R. #1, Box 4A, Dodge Center, MN 55927.

Center can symbolize our challenge to new areas of growth and outreach for the denomination," Thorngate suggests. "At the same time we must remember from whence we came. We hope the new street names will remind us and those who come to us of the strong heritage which attests to God's working among us for over three centuries on this continent."

ON THE MOVE

Among the offices to be moved to the new Janesville facility are those of the Historical Society along with its library and museum. Others are the offices of the General Conference, the American Sabbath Tract Society, the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund, the Center on Ministry, and the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation.

First to move was the Center on Ministry office. Dean of the Center, J. Paul Green, Jr., began working from Janesville by the beginning of 1982. Address and phone there are 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545. Phone: (608) 752-5055. It is hoped that the other offices may be moved by late spring. Meanwhile they will continue to receive mail at Box 868, Plainfield, New Jersey 07061.

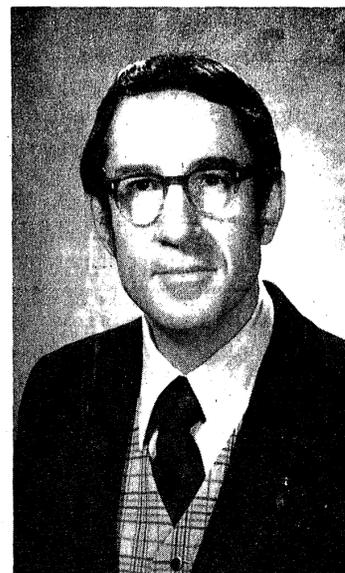
Newport, Rhode Island, was the site of the first Seventh Day Baptist church organized in America in 1671. In a history of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Arthur E. Main noted Newport's further significance: "Our chief historical stream had its source in Newport; for, in 1696, there was appointed a General or Yearly Meeting of Rhode Island Seventh-day Baptists; and our Conference is a direct descendant of that general meeting.

(Continued on page 26)

COM MOVED

Offices of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry opened at the new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, before the beginning of 1982. Dean of the Center, Rev. J. Paul Green, Jr., is at work in the new building.

Mail for the Dean should be sent to 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, WI 53545. Phone: (608) 752-5055. Mail to other offices should continue to go to Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.



The Green family moved to Milton, Wisconsin (521 Hilltop Drive 53563) the first week of December. They had been living in Salem, West Virginia, since the Dean began work in Plainfield following General Conference in August. "It's like going back home," they admit, since Paul is a native of Milton and he and his wife Denise both graduates of Milton College.

Previous to accepting the new position last summer, Green had served as pastor of churches in Alfred Station, New York; Marlboro, New Jersey; and Salem, West Virginia.

Responsibilities of the Dean's office include coordination of the recruitment, training, and accreditation of ministers, continuing education in ministry, assistance to churches in placement of pastors and in pastor-church relations. □



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

by Jane Mackintosh

I just received a copy of the full Report of the Committee on Women's Work Interests and would like to share some more excerpts from it for your information and use:

Madeline Fitz Randolph presented the completed book of histories of our various women's societies and announced that they had cost \$4.00 each to print and were for sale for \$4.50 each. It was suggested each church take five copies home to sell.

LOVE GIFT

Distribution of the Love Gift offering will be as follows:

1. \$250.00 for bicycle tires and tubes for SDB workers in Malawi.
2. \$250.00 for films for the projector previously given to Guyana.
3. \$500.00 towards services of an electrician for the New York City Church.
4. \$500.00 towards hiring babysitters at next Conference.
5. Unspecified amount towards a typewriter for use of the SCSC coordinator.
6. Any money left after purchase of typewriter to be used equally for relief work in the Philippines and Jamaica.

GOALS AND PROJECTS

It was voted to suggest the following goals and projects to the Women's Board for this coming year. Suggested projects are: SCSC, Robe of

Achievement, Annual Love Gift, Tuition Fund, Missionary project, and the Funding of program/resource materials for Family Pre-Con. (See November Women's Page for list of suggested goals and recommendations from the Committee.)

We thank those responsible for our Conference-Women's programs:

1. "Child Evangelism" seminars led by Bette Bond, formerly of Dodge Center, MN. We would encourage our churches and Associations to make use of her training and ministry.
2. Women's luncheon and sharing time.
3. Women's banquet and Love Gift offering.

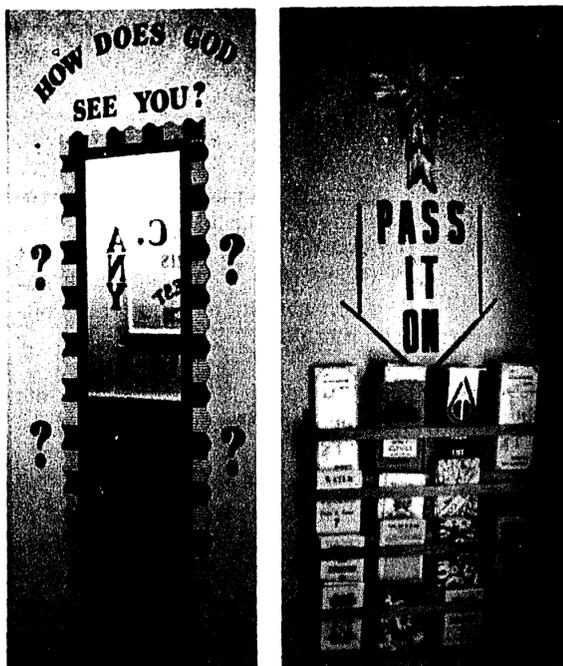
We would encourage our churches to send one woman to Conference to take advantage of these helpful programs.

Thank you Committee (Mabel Cruzan, chairman; Virginia Burdick, Secretary) for the work done at Conference.

A notice from the Sabbath Promotion Committee located in Daytona Beach, Florida, came for our consideration.

Attention All Women:

The Sabbath Promotion Committee of the American Sabbath Tract Society would like your help in selling the new Seventh Day Baptist decals and pins. The 4" decals cost \$.25 each. The 5/8" pins cost \$2.50 each and come in three styles—lapel pin, clasp pin, and charm. If your church has an active youth group, you could enlist their help with this project. The pins could be used as Sabbath School awards or gifts. We hope that you will help us make Seventh Day Baptists more visible. □



EXTEND HOW?

Spiritual Retreats - 1982

"And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately." Mark 6:31-32

The disciples of the Lord were tired. They had been giving themselves unreservedly. Jesus knew they needed a change. A time to rest and recharge themselves spiritually. They needed time with Jesus alone.

There are many demands upon the Lord's disciples today even as then. In our highly sophisticated and technological society where things are so structured that there is hardly a moment to call our own, we, too, need to draw apart and rest awhile and recharge our spiritual batteries. Much of the time our people have to go outside our own denomination for spiritual retreats and seminars. That is why the Missionary Society has expanded the spiritual retreats, which were once for missionary pastors only, to the place where they include all pastors, their wives, and laymen who find it possible to attend. We would encourage you to come "apart" for a brief time for a change of pace and spiritual refreshment.

Beginning February 23rd there will be five retreats in different areas to encourage as many as possible to attend. The theme of the retreats is "Extend How?" Since 1982 is the year of extension we want to give some specific helps. There is more to church extension than starting new churches. Indeed, the local church needs assistance in knowing how to cope with problems that many times prevent them from extending their own sphere of influence.

One of the major areas of need is in helping families cope with twentieth century stress causing more and more divorces and the loss of our youth to the world. If we are to extend we need a strong family base centered around commitment to Christ. The retreats will have an emphasis in this area through films and other means including a specialized counselling course which will be demonstrated.

Evangelism is certainly part of extension. Our special guest speaker, Pastor Synott Matthews, will focus primarily on youth evangelism. His training program will share many personal insights and

techniques that are so practical you will say, "Why didn't I think of that?" He will give many helps in the area of discipleship as well. Synott Matthews is in demand at many youth events in West Texas. He is a Christian art illustrator who will bring much help and inspiration to your personal commitment to reach and hold young people for Christ.

Certainly every group should have a mission outside of their own personal ministry. Leon Lawton will focus on the "why" of foreign missions.

Pastor Bill Shoffner of Memphis, TN, will bring you his particular brand of enthusiastic outreach and how he shares the Sabbath with Sunday keepers. He knows how since he was one!

Nor will the retreats neglect specifics about how to start new groups. Indeed, all participants will become part of a brainstorming event with the Holy Spirit in charge to enlarge our vision as to how we can start new churches.

We hope as many of you as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to retreat from the much "coming and going" of your busy life and focus in on some specialized spiritual help. Of necessity there will be a small registration fee to cover the cost of food so our host churches will not have to bear that burden. They have graciously offered to care for us in their homes and to prepare meals. While the fee is not

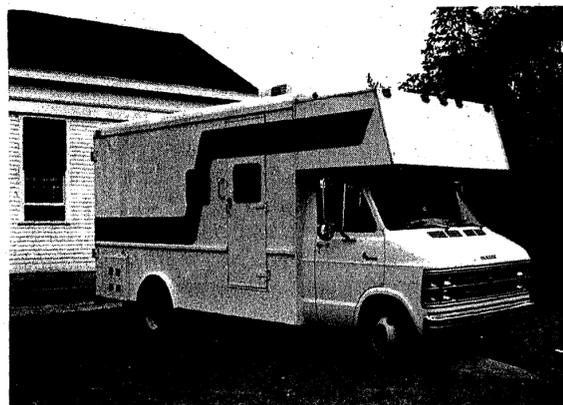
determined at the time of this writing, we believe it will be between \$15.00 and \$20.00. We would ask you to pre-register with the pastor of the church where you plan to attend.

The schedule is as follows:

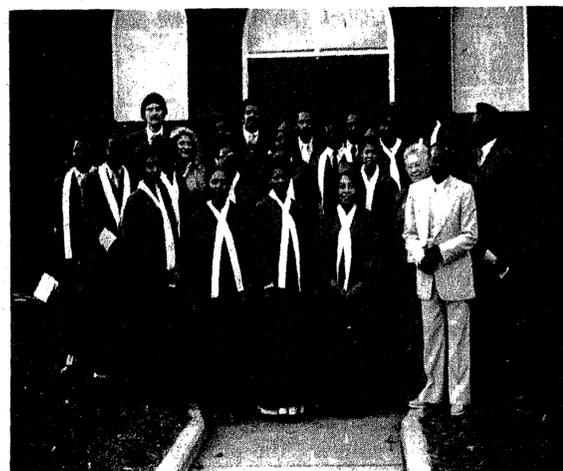
Feb. 23-25	Milton, WI	Pastor Earl Cruzan, 106 Rogers St., Milton, WI 53563
Feb. 26-28	Memphis, TN	Pastor Bill Shoffner, 785 Par Ave., Memphis, TN 38127
March 1-4	Verona, NY	Pastor Russ Johnson, 6705 Blackman Corners Rd., Verona, NY 13478
March 5-7	Seattle, WA	Pastor Duane L. Davis, 755 S. Homer, Seattle, WA 98108
March 8-11	Los Angeles, CA	Pastor Charles Graffius, 4976 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90042

In each case, the first date will be an evening meeting for registration and the beginning session. On the last date given there will be an evening session so travel should not be planned until the next morning. □

-Mynor G. Soper, Director



The new LIGHT BEARERS FOR CHRIST van, beside the Rockville, RI SDB church, one of their first stops on their fall tour.



The choir and visitors at the Third Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 18, 1981. Retired Pastor C. S. Lyons, in white suit, stands in front of Conference President Dorothy Parrott.

GUEST LECTURER FOR SPIRITUAL RETREATS



The guest lecturer and seminar leader in evangelism and extension for our area spiritual retreats will be Rev. Synott Matthews of Canyon, Texas.

Synott was born on June 19, 1935 in his grandparents' home near Moore, Oklahoma. The family moved to Plainview,

Texas, in 1946 where he graduated from high school in 1954 and was married to Betty Campbell that same year.

While attending Parkview Baptist Church in 1953, he accepted Christ. In 1955 he and his wife moved to Amarillo where they joined the Grace Baptist Church. He was drafted into the Army in June of 1958 and spent two years in Olympia, Washington.

After being discharged from the Army they returned to Amarillo where Synott became the youth pastor of 37 high school students at Grace Baptist Church as a layworker. The class had grown to 111 by 1967 when he joined the staff of the church. In 1968 he started to school at West Texas State University. In 1971 they moved to El Paso, Texas, where he again worked as a youth pastor in the Cielo Vista Park Baptist Church. The high school class here grew from an average of 42 to 102 in six months. Moving to Bel Air Baptist Church in 1972, he had class of 18 students which grew to a tactfully aggressive soul winning class of 133 in 1975. That same year, Synott was called to Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth. In 18 months the class there grew from 56 to 101. In 1977, under the leadership of God, they moved six miles east of

Canyon, Texas, where Synott now works in Christian Art Illustration as well as youth and personal evangelism.

Rev. Matthews is a graduate in Art (B.A.) from the University of Texas at El Paso, and in Art Education (B.S.) from West Texas State University. He has attended youth pastor schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Kansas City, Missouri; pastors' school in Hammond, Indiana; Bill Gothard Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar in Fort Worth as well as other seminars from the time he was a youth. He was ordained into the ministry in 1973 at Bel Air Baptist Church.

Synott will be the featured speaker and leader of a seminar in evangelism which will focus special help in the area of youth evangelism. However, he will have much practical help in the area of discipling those who are won to Christ.

Other areas of focus at the retreats will be "Sharing the Sabbath Truth" by Bill Shoffner; "Why every group needs a mission beyond their own needs" by Leon Lawton; films dealing with family problems by Dr. David Hocking and Pastor Tim LaHaye; demonstrations of a Biblical Counselling Course for training pastors and laymen and Sessions on Church Extension.

THE CHURCH IN A RESTLESS WORLD

Scripture — Matthew 5:1-12

For fifteen years or more the church has experienced a swelling wave of criticism. A seminary alumnus serving in a local church wrote, "The churches of our nation are a mess." He raised the question but gave no solutions, "Who is to blame?—the seminaries, the pastors, the people?" Dr. W.R. Estep of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, opened a series of four lectures to a large group of ministers with these opening words, **THE CHURCH IS IN TROUBLE**. Book after book, article after article, speaker after speaker spelled out rather vehemently and vocally the afflictions of the church.

Let me give a few quotations. Burkhart, *How the Church Grows*—"The church as it now stands seems to be increasingly irrelevant in the secular world." Homrighausen, *Choose Ye This Day*—"The church will not come through this global ordeal without being profoundly changed." Emil Brunner, *The Misunderstanding of the Church*—"It is unmistakable that today, in Europe at least, there prevails a far-reaching mistrust of everything that has to do with the church even among such as are quite open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Karl Heim compares the church to a sinking vessel, "The church is like a ship on whose deck festivities are still kept up and glorious music is heard, while deep below the waterline a leak has been sprung and masses of water are pouring in, so that the vessel is settling hourly lower though the pumps are manned day and night." Elton Trueblood—"The church is looked upon as something to be neither seriously fought nor seriously defended—we spend more on dog food than we spend on foreign missions."

Books have been devastatingly critical; alarmingly revolutionary; disturbingly somber and sober. Read the following for confirmation. *The Church on the Urban Frontier*, G. Paul Musselman. *The Suburban Captivity of the Churches*, Gibson Winter. *The Comfortable Pew*, Pierre Berton. *The Restless Church*, William Kilbourn. *The Taste of New Wine*, Keith Miller. *Who's Killing the Church?*, Stephen Rose.

THE CHURCH STANDS ACCUSED

The church stands accused of institutionalism, traditionalism, dogmatism. Many voices proclaim its failure. Pulpit messages are dull; music is uninspiring; programs trite; youth conspicuously absent—conclusion? The church is simply not relevant. And yet the church stands in a restless world—a world seeking, searching, longing—spiritually bankrupt and morally anemic. Eric Hoffer, *The Temper of Our Times*, describes modern America as "an air-conditioned nightmare with lawlessness and crime at an all-time high and morality at an all-time low." A speaker said in a seminary chapel message, "there is a stillness of life, lack of vitality, an air of stagnancy. The church is the caboose and not the engine." This speaker was a pastor of a large black church.

However, in spite of criticisms, shortcomings and failures, the church has a divine task, an assignment, God-given orders. The church must rise to the challenge of the hour. I am a strong believer in the institutional church. If I were not, I would not have given twenty years of my life to two seminaries involved in the preparation of young people for the church's varied ministries. The church, which is the body of

Christ, will live but its assumed forms, that is, of the institutional church, may undergo change. The church has something to say to the sociological changes and crises of our day; to the new morality and this sex-crazed generation; the urbanization of society. We cannot do it, however, unless we have an **AUTHENTIC BIBLE** and evidence as God's people **DOCTRINAL STABILITY**. The church needs both an **AUTHENTIC PULPIT** (Helmut Thielecke) and a **RESPONSIBLE LAITY** (Elton Trueblood). All of us must more wholeheartedly belong to the Company of the Committed.

The timely and timeless inspiring **BEATITUDES** were given by Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, enabling the disciples to influence and affect the citizens of a restless world. And a restless world it is! An adaptation speaks loudly to the church in this contemporary world.

1. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH THAT MANIFESTS COURAGE FOR HER INFLUENCE SHALL BE FELT.** We need the courage of our Lord who in spite of opposition and entanglements with the world, was willing to go to a cross. We need the courageous spirit of the early church. Boldly and fearlessly they followed the Christ they knew and loved. We need the courage of Martin Luther who said, "Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God." We need the courage of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him to die." And he died during the Hitler regime with courageous boldness. Let's lose our timidity and recognize our God-given responsibilities and golden opportunities with greater joy, greater freshness, and greater persuasiveness.

2. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH THAT IS PERMEATED WITH A SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE, FOR SHE SHALL BE BLESSED IN-DEED.** A selfish and self-centered church can never win a selfish and self-centered world. The church that loses herself in the service of the Lord shall find herself. The early church was anxious to give, and not to receive. The church, being more than a steepled building on the corner, is God's instrument for proclaiming the message of reconciliation and salvation. That salvation is from something; things that distort character; degradation of sin; the anemia of a depleted, disturbed and bewildered life. Salvation to something; a richness of character in Christ; the blossoming of an individual from bluntness to beauty; from crass indifference to godliness to where the individual is able to say and to sing, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me." How many of us really sacrifice—time, talent, substance—enabling the church to penetrate every segment of society? The church must never become a closed shop for the edification of saints.

3. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH THAT SOUNDS OUT THE WHOLE WORD OF GOD, FOR SHE SHALL ADD UNTO THE CHURCH.** We have equated success with numbers, figures, statistics, size of building, etc., and the essentials of the Gospel have been forgotten. A minister of a large Presbyterian church said in seminary chapel, "We are rethinking old terminology. Our people don't know the meaning of repentance, regeneration, sanctification, incarnation. We are looking anew at Christ and his terminology." Book reviews and philosophic treatises simply do not suffice. There is no substitute for Jesus and his message.

4. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH SHEDDING HER LIGHT FOR HER WORKS SHALL BE SEEN.** The light of the church must

shine stronger and brighter than any in the community. The church must be a haven for the weary and heavy laden. Said Dr. Estep, the seminary lecturer, "The greatest service the church can perform is that of bringing individuals to Jesus Christ." And Elton Trueblood added, "The church, however grand in its ceremonies or vestments, however large its building, is a denial of Christ unless it is affecting the world—in business, government, education, and many other segments of human experience."

5. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH THAT IS CONSECRATED TO HER LORD, FOR SHE SHALL EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD.** The early Christians consecrated themselves daily to their Lord and their assigned tasks. As a result "the hand of the Lord was with them; and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." The closer the church is to her Lord the closer he is to the church. The twentieth century disciple must be consecrated to his Lord, his cause, and his kingdom. He needs to say, "Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee; take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold." We dare not become a complacent, chummy, clubbing collection of nice folk. A sort of "smile, boy, smile" attitude or philosophy is dangerous. The greatest problem of the church is the "uncommitted Christian."

6. **BLESSED IS THE CHURCH THAT SUPPORTS HER DENOMINATION, FOR HER FELLOWSHIP SHALL BE ENRICHED.** Now I realize that this is not a popular statement in this day when denominationalism is being down-graded. The church should have a four-fold identification: to the divine Saviour; to the divine Book; to the unredeemed world; and to the denomination. As I am a strong believer in the church so I am a strong believer in the denomination. Although I many not agree

with or support every program or policy of the denomination. E.Y. Mullins, church historian said, "Christian history shows that the denominational group, insofar as it has been united and strong in a common organization and purpose, has been the most effective means of spreading Christianity." Denominational support and interest enriches the local church, enlarges its vision, and produces a sense of belonging—belonging to the larger fellowship of believers. Marcellus Kik states in his book, *Ecumenism and the Evangelical*, "the church of Jesus Christ owes much of its beauty, strength and power to denominationalism even though it is tinged with human weakness, error, and sin." The efficiency of the denomination can be increased in the enthusiastic and unselfish cooperation of pastor and people. And as Baptists we belong to the larger fellowship—The Baptist World Alliance. This gives us a worldview of our responsibilities and opportunities.

Conclusion Charles A. Wells, Christian cartoonist whose cartoons appeared regularly in *Missions* and other publications, was the speaker at a local church. In a crowded sanctuary with lights burning low and a spotlight falling upon the easel on the platform, he sketched an interesting cartoon entitled, "Conversation across the centuries." He drew a circle representing the world. On the one side were the millions of contemporary Christians, well dressed and well fed. On the other side were the few early Christians, not so well dressed and well fed. The contemporary Christians reached around the world and asked, "How could you, being so small, influence the world so much?" Quickly came the reply, "because our faith was a dynamic, personal experience." □

Baptist Church Extension Executives Conference
October 4-5-29, 1981
North American Baptist Seminary
Dr. Frank Veninga, interim president

Seventh Day Baptist Decade of Discipleship

January 1982							February 1982							March 1982						
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April 1982							May 1982						
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December 1982						
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EXTENSION YEAR 1982

DREAM BIG DREAMS

Picture the city of Atlanta, Georgia, in the year 2000. A blend of the old and modern South. A growing, thriving city of nearly three million people. The gateway, "hub" city, of the southeast. The home of three Seventh Day Baptist churches. What a dream! Or is it a dream?

All of these pictures are distinct possibilities for the city of Atlanta. It is already the hub city for two major airlines, and the access point to much of the southeast. Atlanta is already a city of over two million. There is also the great potential for several Seventh Day Baptist churches in this city with nearly one million people who never attend any church of any variety. What a harvest field! The question is, "How do you bring in all those sheaves?"

One of our current efforts is focused on penetrating the entire Atlanta area with the simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our Sabbath truth within the period of one year. We want every household to know that there is a Seventh Day Baptist church in Atlanta. The only possible way that a group of twenty people can accomplish this is through the use of mass media. We are currently placing "message advertisements" in a chain of suburban neighborhood newspapers on a rotating basis. By the end of 1982 we will have entered 347,000 households with four Gospel and Sabbath messages. We have already experienced some results after less than one month of implementation. Other potential avenues which we are considering are fair booths, radio broadcasts and door-to-door neighborhood canvasses. Even the ministry of our Lord began with His outreach to the multitudes, out of which came His true followers.

We feel, however, that our most valuable results will come from our personal contact and interaction with the "harvest field" from two approaches. The first focuses on the presentation of the Gospel and the Sabbath to personal friends, neighbors and new contacts. In order for this approach to be successful, every member of our church body must

be able to confidently communicate God's Word to others. This is only possible as they receive clear teaching and training from Scripture. The emphasis of our pulpit and teaching ministries is therefore Bible focused, designed to help everyone better understand the Bible and apply its truth to daily living. We plan to begin an Evangelism Explosion training course for all who are interested. This will provide "on-the-job training" in sharing the Gospel with those in need. It is also our desire to begin mid-week Bible studies and fellowships throughout the city. In these studies new members will have additional opportunities for spiritual growth, and friends and neighbors can be "informally" introduced to the Bible message of salvation through Jesus.

The second approach focuses on the active demonstration of Christian love for those who are in need. Scripture clearly indicates that the true child of God shows his love on both the spiritual and physical/social levels. The elderly, imprisoned, illiterate, and lonely are all in need for someone to love them to our Lord. In Atlanta we have been studying, through Spiritual Gift workshops, to understand how God has gifted us individually and corporately to meet such needs as these in our community.

More important than any approach the church may use in harvesting is prayer. We will only be successful in reaching men for Christ and convicting them of the Sabbath blessing if we are in constant communication with our Lord. We are merely *His* tools for accomplishing *His* purpose through *His* power.

Several churches in the Atlanta area by the year 2000? A dream? A wild fantasy? perhaps, but also a possibility if God's people will submit themselves to His work. Why not dream big dreams, even impossible dreams, if we are to dream at all. We have a God who is greater and more powerful than any of us can imagine. Let us set our goals high and expectantly wait to see how the Lord provides. □

Pastor William Shobe

A Baptist leader has startled the churches he has visited recently by stating: "I don't attend church anymore." When they have recovered from this statement he continues: "I am the Church."

How true this is. We have confused the meeting place and the assembly of the church with the Church. A meeting place is important that the church may meet and worship and share together and invite others to join with them. Worship and Bible study are vital to the life of the Church. However, the Church is not limited either by a meeting place or an assembly unless we, the Church, allow it to be so limited.

We must remember that we are the Church at all times. This means at home, at work, at school, at play—always the Church. We are the church whether we live among other members of the church or whether we live widely separated from the rest of the body of the church. Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered together, there am I in the midst of them." He has also promised to be with us individually, and has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. We are the temple of the living God.

If we are to grow and share the message of salvation, the righteousness of God including the Sabbath with others,

CHURCH

Earl Cruzan

we must have this confidence: that whether alone or with others, God is with us, and His Holy Spirit will guide us. We must make our homes into meeting places for the people of God. This way even two or three may share together in worship and the study of the Word and grow in Christian fellowship. As these 'house churches' increase in numbers, we may need to look for a larger, more public meeting place. That may also be a time to seek guidance in regard to pastoral leadership, whether it be someone within the group, a bi-vocational leader, or full-time pastoral leadership. (Each situation will need to be evaluated according to circumstances: needs of the people and opportunities for outreach.)

That there may be identity which gives the assurance of belonging, and also to provide recognition by the government in financial matters, these "house churches" should become a "branch church" of an organized and incorporated church. They should also be able to look to the mother church for various forms of assistance. We are the Church. Let us establish meetings for the worship of God wherever we are. It may be within the family, or with a few others, always with an open invitation for others to share with us. God will bless us, and we will grow in our witness to the world. □

AN AREA OUTREACH

(Extension
in
Wisconsin)

The Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church has entered into an outreach work by supporting Pastor Earl Cruzan as Extension Pastor. This is in response to Pastor Cruzan's challenge to the church to budget travel expense for such a ministry. This the church has done and has also covered hospital insurance for Pastor Cruzan and Mabel. The supervision of this work has been given to the Evangelism Committee. The work envisions personal contacts with members of the church or other Seventh Day Baptists who live far enough away that church attendance is not possible; to make letter, phone and personal contacts which come regarding Seventh Day Baptists; to provide leadership in Bible studies or other worship experiences where groups may be organized.

Since Pastor Cruzan continued to serve

as pastor of the church until mid-July, much of this work is just getting under way. The first personal visits were made in conjunction with travel to the Church Extension Conference of the North American Baptist Fellowship at Sioux Falls, SD. Bible studies were held in Milwaukee last winter and spring and are being resumed in November. Pastor Cruzan meets with the Madison Fellowship on the third Sabbath of each month. Letters have been sent to those making inquiry, along with SDB literature, and visits to these are being planned. Advertisement has been placed in the Milwaukee Journal, and the listing of the Milton church has been placed in the yellow pages of the Madison and Janesville telephone directories. We ask your prayers that God may guide in this undertaking of the Milton church. □

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

(tune: Ancient of Days, 11 10 11 10)

*Grant us, O Lord, Thy grace for our renewal.
Touch our dull hearts with Thy dear love until
We share with Thee Thy boundless, deep
compassion
For those who live, and die, without Thee still,*

*Grant us, O Lord, Thy grace for our renewal.
Touch our mute lips, and loosen them that we
May share with men whose hearts by sin are
blighted
The gladsom message of Thy love so free.*

*Grant us, O Lord, Thy grace for our renewal.
Touch our poor faith, that we may dare for
Thee,
That we may cast ourselves with true abandon
Into the strife, and share Thy victory.*

-Kerry Lovering

Let's Have an Old-Fashioned
"LOVE-IN"

During the 70's in the heyday of the hippie movement "Love-ins" became a cultural phenomenon. These love feasts were based solely on physical relationships and flaunted traditional standards of moral conduct in the face of the church and the nation. Shock and revulsion engulfed most of us. And perhaps the thing that distressed many of us the most was their usurpation of some basic Christian concepts and using them to corrupt the very values they supposedly were trying to promote. For example, one of their slogans was "Make love—not war." Now Christians would go along with that in the finer sense, but certainly not as those who promoted love-ins intended it. The kernel of truth involved undoubtedly influenced many young people who were having trouble making sense out of the mad policies of world governments. Even the church came under attack as being irrelevant and unresponsive to the true needs of people.

Believe it or not, God used those vulgar times with all of the rebellion and drugs and sex and throwing of all traditional restraints

to the winds. How? To show the church that we had become in many respects irrelevant! We had become so wrapped up in our traditions and forms that that was all many could see.

A change has come in the church. Praise the Lord! Challenged by these stinging criticisms sincere efforts have been made to become truly relevant and to reach out to a hurting world without totally discarding the forms and traditions that millions have found to have true value and significance in their worship. Literally hundreds of new types and styles of programs have been tested to see what will prove effective in reaching people with the gospel of Christ. More caring and sharing is evidenced by the members involved in various training programs designed to equip them to be better and more effective disciples of Christ. There seems to be a national resurgence of commitment to traditional Christian values and the evangelical faith.

But with all the new emphasis on discovering our spiritual gifts and putting them to use in the church and training programs to equip our people to be more effective disciples, there is still a very large percentage of the church membership who have not found a meaningful involvement beyond church attendance and financial support.

With the continuing emphasis on "Double in a Decade" and the need for everyone to become involved if we are to reach our goal, many of these people must be feeling quite "out of it"! Perhaps even guilty. Most of them probably feel that for one reason or another they simply cannot do personal evangelism, whether it is Evangelism Explosion, 4-laws or some other approach. Especially for those who feel this way and others too, I want to suggest that

there is an old-fashioned technique that will work and there is no one who does not have the ability to accomplish it—that is, if you are a Christian and know first hand what it means to be loved by the Heavenly Father. I am suggesting that Seventh Day Baptists embark on a giant "love-in." Let me explain.

Right in the middle of his discussion about spiritual gifts, tongues, prophecies, etc., Paul inserted a discourse on love. He ended by saying it was the most important quality a person could have and would indeed outlast all others. (I Corinthians 13:8, 13) Indeed the message of the gospel is the "love of God." (John 3:16) The new commandment of the New Testament is that we are to love one another as Jesus loved us. (John 13:34) Jesus came to demonstrate God's love for mankind by sharing with them the truth about the Father and the laying down His life to demonstrate it. At one point Jesus said to His disciples, "As the Father hath sent me, so send I you." At some point we, too, must demonstrate God's love for the lost. Most of us are not presently being asked to lay down our lives. However, we are asked to love in DEED and truth and not in word only. (I John 3:18) In other words we must do more than just say we love people if the accusation of the hippie generation is to be proven false. Let's take to ourselves again the principles and concepts of the "love-in," i.e., loving people into the kingdom and the church. I am sure that was part of the success of the early church. No special techniques are needed—just a genuine love for others because God has loved you and set you free. Here are a few suggestions on how to get started.

1. Ask God to give you a concern for one particular person or family on whom to focus your love. (Not to the exclusion of others but

in particular ways.)

2. When you have decided who the Lord would have you focus on for the purpose of loving them into His kingdom and church, then pray for them daily. Pray for their salvation, their personal needs, that they would be open to you personally. Pray that they will be convicted of sin and will surrender to the Lord and become His child. Pray they will come into the church.

3. Pray for yourself! Ask God to show you how you can serve this family or person. How you can relate to them in meaningful ways. How you can really demonstrate your love and concern for them.

4. Begin reaching out to them in whatever way you can. Bake them a cake, offer to sit with their kids while the mother goes shopping, invite them for a meal, gradually begin inviting them to church—or a Bible study—or a special service. Begin speaking of your love for the Lord. Remember, John said not to love in word only, but the implication was that you would express your love in words also. Be ready to help them with their spiritual problems. And if you feel inadequate, get your pastor to help you.

Get set for the long haul. This is not a fast-food-serve-yourself style. It will call for perseverance. I am not suggesting it will take ten years to love them in, yet if you only love one in during ten years you will have doubled yourself anyway.

I sincerely believe the "love-in" principle will work. It is the method God used. Just pick someone to love and serve and share with until they can no longer resist your Lord because they see Him demonstrated in you.

Remember, God thought of the "love-in" first!

Mynor G. Soper

FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

● **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**—“We have wonderful news to share: four people have accepted the Lord on the 5th of Sept. '81. What a wonderful occasion for rejoicing in the Lord! Pray for them and their decision to be a part of God's Kingdom.”—Pastor Jose Alegre in the LINK, Oct. 81.

● **PACIFIC NORTHWEST**—The fall meeting of the churches and groups in the Northwest was hosted by the Portland, OR, SDB Church the second Sabbath in November. There are many “open doors” in this area!

● **POLAND**—Bro. Jan Lek of the Netherlands visited the churches in late December carrying funds to aid in the purchase of a church center. These were from the brethren in Germany through the SDB World Federation. It is hoped that this building will become a center for the growing witness and outreach in Poland. Bro. B. Ciesielski is the president. In 1983 they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary as an organized church—Seventh Day Christians.

● **NORTH MIAMI, FL**—Sabbath, November 7, signaled a new beginning for Seventh Day Baptists in south Florida with the first Sabbath service in the Miami area. It is reported that thirteen attended. New contacts and scattered members of other churches make up this new group which is related to

the Daytona Beach, FL, SDB Church.

● **AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE**—Arrangements are being made for the third Conference session to be held near Christchurch, New Zealand, January 14-18, 1983, at the Motukarara Baptist Camp. Mervyn Rudd of Bundaberg, Que., Australia, was elected the president at the '81 session held in Wentworth Falls near Sydney, Australia, in June. Stefan A. Kube is the editor of the LINK, the new quarterly publication of the Conference.

● **ATLANTA, GA**—A systematic advertizing in the several community papers that serve the urban areas surrounding metro Atlanta began in the last quarter of 1981. During the initial year these messages will reach into nearly 400,000 homes. At the same time limited advertizing will be carried in the major Atlanta papers. In addition, new items on the church are being carried in some of the local papers.

● **MALAWI, AFRICA**—With the retirement of several pastors by year end the Central Africa Conference took action to replace them. Pastor A.K. Harawa became the secretary in December and Mr. Charles Mangazi is their new treasurer. While in the north on their recent journey Missionary Pearson helped to construct a porch on the new church building in Mzuzu.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

FEBRUARY 1982

Verse for the month: “Let the peace of heart which comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of His body. And always be thankful.”

—Colossians 3:15 TLB

PRAY FOR:

- 1- Women's Board and President Floy Owen in their ministries
- 2- The new leaders in the Central Africa Conference, Malawi
- 3- The Historical Society Trustees
- 4- The Lord to raise up many new pastoral leaders for our churches
- 5- Janet Thorngate, wife of General Conference Executive
- 6- *Praise the Lord for His Sabbath—made for man*
- 7- Your Sabbath School superintendent
- 8- The new American Sabbath Tract Society Board in Wisconsin
- 9- Full participation by all pastors/people in Area Spiritual Retreats
- 10- Dorothy Lawton, wife of Missionary Society Executive
- 11- The new outreach at Lilongwe, the new capital of Malawi, Africa
- 12- The deacons of your church
- 13- *Those who will be sharing the Word of Life from pulpits today*
- 14- That special person you love
- 15- Pastors and leaders in churches in Guyana, South America
- 16- Denise Green, wife of the Dean of Center on Ministry
- 17- Your pastor's wife as she also ministers
- 18- Yourself as you consider your Faith Promise for the new Denominational Center
- 19- Those of like faith in Poland and Czechoslovakia
- 20- *Regular giving for Our World Mission ministries around the world*
- 21- General Council meeting at new SDB Center, Janesville, WI
- 22- The President of the United States, Ronald Reagan
- 23- Area Spiritual Retreat, Milton, WI, on theme: EXTEND HOW?
- 24- Don Clare, husband of Board of Christian Education Executive
- 25- New babies born in 1982
- 26- Director Mynor Soper and Retreat at Memphis, TN, SDB Church
- 27- *New spiritual babies as you nurture them to maturity*
- 28- Hope Bevis, wife of Sabbath Recorder Editor

EXTENSION

1982

Wherever Christians have lived their lives have shared the love of Christ in effective, outreaching ways. In the last two centuries education and medical ministries were effectively used. Concern and care for persons in need has always been a part of the service of the Church.

In 1982 Christians are again challenged to meet human need! To discover among those with whom we live, areas where we can express the love of Christ in positive ways. The need is overwhelming. The challenge is ever present. Only “blindness” or “indifference” could separate us from the “cries” of those needing such help in the name of Christ.

Such ministries have been carried on by local Seventh Day Baptist churches. Through several of our camps new youth have come to know what it is to be in a “Christian community” and many have found Christ as their Savior. Through Vacation Bible School, Bible Clubs and Sabbath School children have come to know the Gospel, to be changed in their living so that parents become aware of God's love. In home Bible studies, held in areas apart from our local churches, people have found answers to their questions and direction for their lives. Some groups have grown and been formed into local congregations.

Yet the need continues to grow. The “Good News” which Christ has shared with us is to be shared with others. Most people are not aware of it. Nor are they aware there is a group of Baptists who “remember the Sabbath day to keep it ho-

ly.” But some are finding us and there are new ministries that call for our dedication, commitment and hard work in every area of the country.

1982 is the YEAR OF EXTENSION in the Seventh Day Baptist DECADE OF DISCIPLESHIP. Can we suggest some simple goals?

1. That we share through the pages of the Recorder and in other ways how the Lord has blessed an extension ministry in our church or area.

2. That every church seek to discover and set as its goal at least one new extension ministry during 1982—identifying it, challenging members to become active in prayer, giving, participation.

3. That we not only seek to extend in our local or area ministries but to gain new perspective on church extension in new areas of our country and on new opportunities the Lord is giving us to enter new countries in missionary work.

4. That we recognize that leadership is vital in outreach witness—thus giving priority to the will of God as expressed by Christ in Matthew 9:38.

We are workers together with God! HE will give vision, direction and insight if we look to Him in faith and follow Him obediently in the ways He does show. Double in a Decade expresses figures. Extension in 1982 expresses our concern for individuals—those for whom Christ died, those whose lives can be changed if they come to know His love through us. □

the CHURCH in ACTION

NORTONVILLE CHURCH OBSERVES LORD'S ACRE

NORTONVILL, KS — October 31 was observed as Lord's Acre Sabbath. The theme "Commands and Promises," was reflected throughout the worship service with responsive readings, congregational singing, and special music (men's chorus, mixed quartet, anthem, etc.).

The *GREATEST PROMISE* was noted: "For unto you is born. . ." (Is.9:16). That promise was fulfilled in Luke 2:10 and 11: "Unto us is born this day. . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Three separate commands and promises were also noted during the worship service:

COME UNTO ME ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN—and I will give you rest! GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST: TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU—and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. EVERY MAN AS HE PURPOSETH IN HIS HEART, SO LET HIM GIVE: NOT GRUDGINGLY, OR OF NECESSITY: FOR GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER. Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Scripture for the sermon by Dr. Kenneth Smith was taken from Luke 11:5-13 and 12:31—Ask, Seek, Knock—But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

During "Committee Time" the October Newsletter from Rod and Camille Henry was read in reference to the "Come," "Go," and "Give" commands/promises. The theme was also further defined in that through the next several months, as Christians, we will be commemorating the path Christ walked from the manger to the cross. A list of promises and commands was read mentioning many of the commands and promises given during "that journey." It is interesting to note that the command is always given first before the promise can be claimed.

This is a "DO IT YOURSELF" kit for our journey to the cross. What wonderful love is extended in these commands/and promises. Jesus himself summed them all up when He said:

A new commandment I give unto you—that you love one another as I have loved you. AND: Believe on me and have everlasting life.

After prayer of gratitude and commitment of offerings and self, gifts were brought forward individually during quiet organ music in meditation and rededication in obedience of the commands and acceptance of the promises. In conclusion the hymn of declaration "Standing on the Promises" was sung by the congregation.

The worship center contained a display of fall grain, leaves and produce arrangement; small log entwined with bittersweet holding three candles; and a yellow pathway from a small manger upward to an ugly gray wooden cross. On the yellow pathway were written some of the commands and promises listed above. Baskets of fall grasses and seed pods were placed at each side of the worship table.

How blessed we are indeed to live in this great country where we can worship without fear, food supplies are ample and there is money to buy. Inflation and high cost of basic needs are of concern to everyone, but God has been good and His mercy endures forever.

Offerings given amounted to \$6,715.10. All will go toward the debt of purchase last summer of the new parsonage immediately north

of the church. Purchase price was \$30,000. Pledges, special contributions and private loans reduced that figure to \$18,700. With the Lord's Acre offering that amount is further reduced to \$11,000 to include interest and private loans.

Workbees continue to be held for cleaning, painting and paneling at the parsonage and parish house. Socials and parties have been held with proceeds going to the new parsonage fund and the purchase of more furniture for both houses as we prepare for the arrival of Pastor and Mrs. Edgar Wheeler and family.

"Every divine promise is built upon four pillars" writes Samuel Salter, an eighteenth-century English religious writer: "God's justice or holiness, which will not suffer Him to deceive; His grace or goodness, which will not suffer Him to forget; His truth, which will not suffer Him to change; and His power, which makes Him able to accomplish."

—Lord's Acre Committee:
Merlin and Juanita Wheeler

AUSTRALASIA CONFERENCE TO MEET IN CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND—The Australasia Conference of Seventh Day Baptists plans to meet at Christchurch, New Zealand, January 14-18, 1982. Tentative plans have been made to have the conference at the Motukarara Baptist Camp, some 17 miles from Christchurch. Certainly American Seventh Day Baptists join in prayer for the success of these meetings of our brothers and sisters "down under."

Two of the ladies of the Auckland church served as camp leaders at the Sajo Camp, Seventh Day Baptist Camp in the Netherlands, this past summer. We are also happy to learn of the baptism of two into the church in Melbourne, Australia, pastored by Jose Alegre. □

—The Link

PLAINFIELD ENTERTAINS THE YEARLY MEETING

PLAINFIELD, NJ—About a hundred attended the Yearly Meeting of the New Jersey and Eastern New York Seventh Day Baptist Churches, held in Plainfield September 18-19. On Friday evening Dean J. Paul Green sang a lovely solo, "Build Thee More Stately Mansions, O My Soul." Rev. C. Rex Burdick led the service and gave a meditation on "The Sabbath and the Character of God." The Sabbath is eternal, he said, since God does not change.

Pastor Victor Skaggs conducted the Sabbath morning service. Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate gave the message on the Yearly Meeting theme, "Building on Our Heritage," which is our faith in Christ. A delicious dinner and supper were served in the church by Jeannette Duryea and her committee.

In the afternoon a hymn sing was followed by a message by Chaplain David Quiring of Muhlenberg Hospital, on ministering to the ill. Then the Historical Society presented slides and also excerpts from Miriam Shaw's diary, read by Janet Thorngate and Pastor Skaggs. The program ended with a Communion service led by Rev. Charles Bond and Rev. Donald Richards. After supper an excellent magic show with a Christian emphasis was presented by a friend of Dennis Paquette. Thus ended a delightful time of fellowship. Kay Maltby was in

charge of overnight hospitality.

The ordination of Ronald and Kathryn Maltby as deacon and deaconess the next Sabbath was another highlight for our church. After the candidates presented their statements, Elder Reuben Simons gave the charge to the church, Deacon Frederik Bakker gave the charge to the candidates, Rev. Leon Maltby offered the prayer of consecration, and Deaconess Anna North gave the welcome to the diaconate. The congregation joined hands in a circle for the closing prayer.

On a third special Sabbath, October 10, the Raritan Valley church met with us for Communion. The anthem was sung by the Raritan Valley quartet. Both Pastor Skaggs and Pastor Kenneth Burdick led the service and gave meditations. Our new deacon and deaconess helped to serve for the first time. Sabbath School was followed by a fellowship dinner and the Decade of Discipleship slides.

The next Sabbath Doneta Richards of Marlboro, who works at headquarters, presented Sarah Beth to the children in an expert demonstration of ventriloquism. We were all entranced.

On October 24 Dean Paul Green honored Jeanne Wilhelm for her graduation from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and her completion of the Center on Ministry program. Jeanne was not present at Conference when others were recognized.

PASTOR RON BARRAR TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AUCKLAND CHURCH

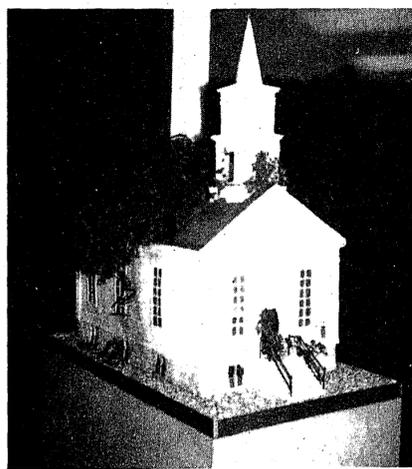
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND — Sister Dorothy Goulding reports that Pastor Ronald H.F. Barrar has been elected as their pastor for another three years. "The church gave him the assurance that they would all try to put a much stronger effort through God's help to our work by more attendance at Sabbath School, being punctual and bringing others along to worship with us. In general, dedicating their lives more fully to the Lord and striving to be good stewards and lead more to Christ."

Our church has continued its work in the Lord's vineyard. Our regular meetings are well attended. Our speakers at the church services have given us a wide variety of services and subjects. We have all received a rich blessing from them and a great spiritual uplift as we worship together. We have had several visitors and do pray that we will indeed go forward and lead more to Christ in this city and in New Zealand. □

—Dorothy Goulding

May the Lord bless and guide our pastor, church, and denomination as we strive to glorify Jesus Christ. □

—Ruth Parker



A ceramic likeness of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church was presented to the church by artist Bruce Greene, October 15, 1981. The church is 15 inches by 22 and stands 27 inches from base to the tip of the steeple. It came complete with a stainless steel pan, and a display base that brings the work of art to eye level.

It is a planter and is a fine addition to the atmosphere of the new pastor's office.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene own and operate the Hillbottom Pottery across from the church, and both are art teachers at Alfred Almond Central School.

We are grateful for them and for their gift. □

—Rena Clarke

FLORIDA CHURCH ORDAINS PASTOR JOSEPH PRICE

CARRAWAY, FL.—On the afternoon of Sabbath Day, July 14, 1981, the little cement block Seventh Day Baptist Church of Putnam County, Florida (commonly called the Carraway Church, near Palatka) was the scene of the ordination of Joseph Hiram Price. After serving several years as licensed lay-pastor, the church issued a call to ordain him.

His brother, Deacon James Aaron Price, called the meeting to order and read the formal call to ordination. He also read 1 Timothy 3:1-13, which outlines the qualifications of a pastor.

By vote of the assembly, Mrs. Clara L. Beebe, of the Daytona Beach SDB Church, was elected chairman of the ordination council; Mrs. Diane Webster Smith was chosen clerk of the council. Following the ordinand's full and explanatory statement of experience and belief, a time was given for questioning.

The charge to the candidate was given by Mrs. Beebe, who used 1 Timothy 3:1-13 as a basis for her talk. Otis Lastinger, of the Daytona Beach church, gave the charge to the church. Pastor Kenneth Van Horn, also of the Daytona Beach church, preached the ordination sermon.

Following this, the ceremony of laying on of hands was observed. Pastor Van Horn extended the right hand of welcome into the gospel ministry. Newly ordained Pastor Price gave the benediction.

Then a social time, with refreshments of cake and punch followed. The wives of Pastor Price and Deacon Price presided over the cake and punch. Delegates to the ordination, other than those already mentioned, were Mrs. Kenneth Van Horn, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. North, representing Missionary Secretary Leon Lawton, and Jody Carver.

It was a beautiful summer day and all present received spiritual uplift from our participation in this meaningful ordinance. □

—Mrs. Clara Beebe

SEMIANNUAL MEETINGS HELD

The Dodge Center, MN, and New Auburn, WI, churches held their Semiannual Meetings October 23-25 with Joey Bochenek as the special guest. Mr. Bochenek is a musician and features his thirteen string instruments. He shared how his music opens doors for the Lord's work. He has spent much time in Poland, Russia and other countries behind the iron curtain. There, in addition to his music ministry, he is engaged in passing out Testaments, Bibles and Gospels. Two offerings were received for his work.

At the Sunday business meeting it was voted to send \$50.00 to the Light Bearers and \$100 toward the cost of the new denominational center in Janesville, WI. The attendance was good throughout the meetings. □ —Roy Langworthy

RELOCATION UPDATE

(Continued from page 10)

From that meeting there sprang up a 'Union and Communion' among such churches as entered into the fellowship, which continued for 105 years, without written constitution or very formal organization." The General Conference itself was organized officially in 1802.

THE PLAINFIELD BUILDING Plainfield, New Jersey, was selected in 1920 as the site for the first headquarters building based on a poll of the denomination (1,846 votes were cast for Plainfield, 1,477 for Battle Creek, Michigan, and 51 for other places).² Rev. Harmon Dickinson in the third volume of the denominational history notes that with the completion of the building in 1929 "the dream of a century was fulfilled."³ He quotes a message from then Conference President, Rev. Claude Hill, at the time the cornerstone was set:

We are today laying the cornerstone of the denominational building. It is the outgrowth of a desire for a home that is as old as our denomination, of a desire to give substance in some concrete way to our belief in God and his holy Sabbath, and to show in this mate-

rial way our appreciation of his kindness, his mercy, and his keeping power through more than two centuries and a half of our denominational existence in America.⁴

At the dedication services for the new building Rev. Theodore L. Gardiner, then editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*, "summarized efforts in the past to establish a denominational headquarters, and declared the divine hand had guided and helped in the completion of the Seventh Day Baptist Building, which would be a home for the preservation of a historical past."⁵

FUNDING—THEN AND NOW

As Dickinson notes in the history, "To plan and build two buildings in a decade was no small accomplishment for the denomination. The cost of this complex was over \$150,000. This sum was raised over the years, nearly all from the donations of the people, so that the buildings could be dedicated practically debt free."⁶ Money was raised through a campaign for \$1,000 pledges over a period of thirteen years.

For the new Seventh Day Baptist Center also, \$1,000 gifts are sought to cover part of the total estimated cost of \$400,000 for the move. The new center, a two-year old energy-efficient office building on the northeastern edge of Janesville, was purchased by the General Conference in September for \$345,000. The plan is to apply money from the sale of the Plainfield building toward the move and to make up the difference from individual gifts.

Individuals may send "faith promises" or checks for the Relocation Fund to General Conference treasurer, Bob Austin, R.R. #1, Box 4A, Dodge Center, MN 55927. □

Footnotes

- 1 SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA, Vol I, (Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Plainfield, NJ, 1910), page 150.
- 2 Ibid., Vol III, p 62.
- 3 Ibid., p 76
- 4 Ibid., p 72
- 5 Ibid., p 73
- 6 Ibid., p 76

—Janet Thorngate

ACCESSIONS

BAY AREA, CA

Stephan F. Saunders, Pastor

By Baptism:

Daisy Carter
Mechelle Carter
James Carter
Robert Bennett
Darlene Bennett
Mervin Brunett
David Saunders

DAYTON BEACH, FL

Kenneth Van Horn, Pastor

By Testimony:

Geraldine Kline
Paul Kline

PAINT ROCK, AL

John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Testimony:

Lavin Reed

By Letter:

Arthur Rowe

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Leland E. Davis, Pastor

By Baptism:

Clinton Brown

By Testimony:

Millicent Davis

By Transfer:

Dean Fox
Susie (Pinder) Fox

MARRIAGES

FLINT-PRICE.—J.P. Flint, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Flint, Sr., of Palatka, FL, and Bonney Yvonne Price, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Price of Carraway, FL, were united in marriage on June 23, 1981. The ceremony took place in the Tabernacle Church with the Rev. Mr. Cochran officiating.

GREEN-WERKHEISER.—James Green of Waynesville, GA, and Tonya Werkheiser, daughter of Mrs. Estelle Bonham, were united in marriage at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Putnam County, Carraway, FL, on September 19, 1981. The uncle of the bride, Pastor Joseph H. Price, officiated.

PRICE-GUFFEY.—Joel Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Price of Carraway, FL and Celia Guffey, daughter of Mr. C. Guffey, were united in marriage at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Putnam County on July 24, 1981. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, Pastor Joseph H. Price.

PRIEST-O'CONNOR.—Stephen N. Priest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Priest of London, England, and Maureen L. O'Connor, daughter of Mrs. Etta North O'Connor and the late John V. O'Connor, North Plainfield, NJ, were married on May 28, 1981 at City Hall, New York City. A religious blessing was also performed by the bridegroom's brother, Rev. David Priest, in London in December 1981.

WERKHEISER-MOHR.—Paul Werkheiser and Gloria Mohr, daughter of Mrs. France, were united in marriage by the groom's uncle, Pastor Joseph H. Price, on Oct. 24, 1981, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Putnam County, FL.

BIRTHS

BALCOM.—A son, Joseph Allen to Robin Balcom of Blountville, TN, on November 6, 1981.

KROEGER.—A son, Herrick Christopher, to Ed and Mary Gladys (Beebe) Kroeger of Atlanta, GA, on July 31, 1981.

MEATHRELL.—A daughter, Amy Jo, to Richard and Margaret (Parrott) Meathrell of Salem, WV, on November 9, 1981.

READ.—Twin sons, William Marvin II and Aaron Allen, to Bill and Angela Read of Memphis, Tennessee, on November 9, 1981.

SHOFFNER.—A daughter, Crystal Dawn, to Pastor Bill and Sandy Shoffner of Memphis, Tennessee, on October 13, 1981.

TAUSCHER.—A son, Jonathan David, to Phil and Patricia (Lawton) Tauscher of Blountville, TN, on November 19, 1981.

OBITUARIES

FISHER.—Kenneth Merlyn, the eldest son of Alfred S. and Laura Black Fisher was born January 22, 1914 in North Loup, Nebraska, and died October 23, 1981 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Fisher served nearly twenty-five years in the Army as Senior Engineering Technician. Retiring from the Army on March 31, 1958, he went to work at the Pentagon as a Civil Service employee.

He was baptized December 8, 1979 and on January 17, 1981 united with the Washington, D.C., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Misako Fisher; step-mother, Melva Babcock Fisher; two sisters,

Dorothy Beck and Mary Veuvech; three brothers, Steve, Loren and James Fisher.

Funeral service was held October 27 at the Fort Myer Chapel with his pastor, Rev. Leland E. Davis, officiating. Interment was in the Arlington National Cemetery.

—L.E.D.

ORMSBY.—Rowland K., son of Walter and Bertha Ormsby, was born in the Town of Alfred, April 26, 1900, and died in Hornell, October 27, 1981. He was married to Guinivere Wilcox who precedes him in death. He was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church for 65 years.

Survivors are five daughters: Adele Zydor of Huntington, WV, Alberta Brown of Clarence Center, NY, Elizabeth Hall, Dorothy Argentieri, and Eleanor Rink, all of Hornell, NY; two sons, Rowland, Jr., of Mount Laurel, NJ and William of Hornell; a sister, Elizabeth Ormsby of Fayetteville, NY; a brother, Walter of Manning, SC; 21 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Farewell services were held in the Dagon Funeral Home, Hornell, NY, with his pastor, the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel, officiating. Burial was in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Almond, NY.

—R.E.Z.

PHILLIPS.—Elna R., 70, a son of the late Elna and Jessie Bush Phillips, was born May 26, 1910 in Taylor, NY, and passed away unexpectedly at Cortland Memorial Hospital, Cortland, NY, on Dec. 19, 1980.

He was respected and loved by his family and many friends. Elna trusted in Christ as his Savior and was a loyal member of the DeRuyter Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was serving as deacon, trustee, treasurer of the religious society, working on Lord's Acre projects, delegate to the SDB New York State Council and attended Central New York Association meetings as a trustee.

Mr. Phillips was employed as a heating engineer at Brockport and Oswego state colleges until retirement. He was active in community leadership positions until his death. Serving his seventh year on the Cortland County Legislature, he was chairing the Assessment and Equalization Committee and was serving on the Budget and Finance, Personnel, and Buildings and Grounds committees. He was a member of DeRuyter Odd Fellows, president of the Odd Fellows Rebekah Home in Lockport and a member of both DeRuyter and Cuyler Cemetery Associations. He attended the Ruritan Club in DeRuyter and was on the Citizens Advisory Board of the nearby Georgetown Correctional Facility.

He is survived by his wife, Cora Phillips, Cuyler; two sons, William in the South Pacific and Glenn in California; a daughter, Wanda, Long Island; a brother, Leonard Phillips, Cortland; two sisters, Cleda Weber, Cortland, and Mrs. Eva Ripley, Homer, NY; nine grandchildren and six-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Seventh Day Baptist Church of DeRuyter by Rev. Neal D. Mills and Rev. Helen R. Green, pastor. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery in DeRuyter.

—H.R.G./N.D.M.

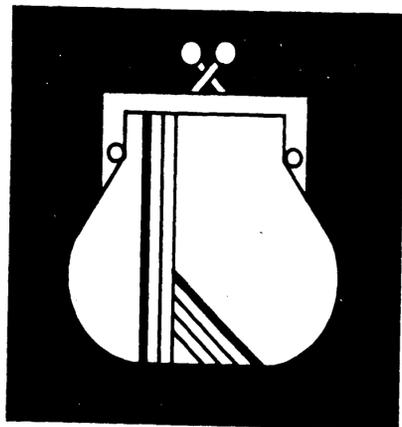
RECORDER REACTIONS

The October Recorder with the special feature: "A Ministry of Caring" makes it one of the most treasured issues that I have read in recent years.

-Walter A. Kenyon
St. Paul, MN

I enjoyed the October issue very much. The choice of writers and selection of topics was well done in the theme section. I also think the Children's Page by Linda Camenga is a good idea for the young ones. Is there anything that might make the magazine more interesting for the teenagers?...

-Genny Pederson
New Auburn, MN



The Sabbath Recorder

HOW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS PAID

Your copy of *The Sabbath Recorder* is sent with out cost to you and to those who wish to receive it. The cost of publication is met by voluntary contributions by members and friends of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Your tax-exempt contributions are welcomed and make possible the continuation of this publication.

AN OFFERING

(Continued from page 3)

persons. It is not quite so easy to admit that given their temptations and given their lack of Christ in the home and in the heart, I might well have taken my place among the worst of them. That is not quite so easy, but it is true nevertheless. Try right now to take that journey. What would you be like without Christ? Honestly? □

COMMITMENT

(Continued from page 5)

helping you share the love of Jesus Christ where you are, but we must have your involvement, your input to plans, goals, and priorities. If you cannot feel impelled and motivated by the vision your leaders are communicating, we need to hear from you. The commitment of all of us is needed if the work of God through Seventh Day Baptists is to be successful.

My prayer for us through 1982 is the prayer of David recorded in I Chronicles 29:14: "Now our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. But, who am I, and who are my people that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you and we have given you only what comes from your hand." May God richly bless us all in 1982 to His glory. Amen. □

SABBATH EMPHASIS DAY THEME CHANGED

The theme for Sabbath Emphasis Day is "Sabbathkeeping: Loving Obedience" using John 14:15. Special posters and bulletin covers with responsive reading will be sent to each church. Sabbath Emphasis Day is scheduled for May 15, 1982. □

-The Sabbath Promotion Committee

RICHARDS TO PASTOR WATERFORD

Rev. Donald E. Richards, pastor of the Marlboro, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church since July 1970, has accepted the pastorate of the Waterford Seventh Day Baptist Church in Waterford, CT, beginning January 1, 1982. □

Decade of Discipleship

Many members of our churches are recognizing the need to have a clearer understanding of the best way to reach out to those persons who neither have experienced the love and forgiveness of God nor know the Christ in a personal way.

There are several good methods being taught; one of the best, DECISIONS TO DISCIPLESHIP. Member of discipling groups continue to find spiritual growth in their own lives and numerical growth in their congregations. □

children's



page

Racco's "I WILL" for Each New Day

1. I WILL smile.
2. I WILL say kind words.
3. I WILL listen to others.
4. I WILL do what is right.



RACCO'S "I WILL" SONG

LVHC



I WILL, to day, Be Strong and Good. I WILL, to day, say what is True.



I WILL, to day, Live for my God. I WILL, to day, just Show His Love.

MUSIC



NOTES

by
Arthur Rowe

The Music Notes column was created after the Recorder editor received some albums for review. I am honored that he invited me to become a contributing editor of the Sabbath Recorder with responsibility for this column, and I want our readers to know that they can have a share in the content of it. Much more than record reviews will be touched on here, though they will be a regular feature. Here are some of the topics I hope to cover in future issues:

—Profiles of SDB music ministers/choir directors, whether active in SDB or other churches, and how their programs are set up.

—Profiles of music groups and solo artists who have their church home among SDBs.

—Historical features on SDB music.

—Suggestions from choir directors and others on repertoire for special occasions and for regular use in the church program.

—Discussions and exchange of opinions, on the effects and role of music, physically, psychologically, and spiritually; on questions of style and taste; on the use of music in various situations.

—Do you have a question or area of concern related to Christian music? Send it to me and I will seek, through the column, to learn the opinions of others on the matter.

These subjects, together with record and concert reviews, will, I trust, make an interesting column. I need your contributions on any of these topics, addressed to: Music Notes c/o The Sabbath Recorder, Box 2133, Florence, AL 35630. □



We often look to the new year as a time of beginning again, as a time of resolutions. In the past I have been somewhat reluctant to make resolutions knowing that in most cases before the month was over the resolutions were broken.

However, this year I am making one resolution. I am resolving to read the Bible through from cover to cover. I am sure that the Lord is pleased when we spend time with the Word and I know our lives are blessed as we study and meditate upon the Word. Most of us spend at least some time during the week with our Bibles—if nothing else to

prepare for the Sabbath School lesson. But in addition to our current time with the Word I am sure we can devote an additional few moments to work toward the goal of reading the entire Bible through according to a plan. So I invite you to join me in the resolution to read the Bible through in '82.

To help and guide us in our resolution we shall be printing each month a daily reading guide. If we follow this guide we will complete our goal and receive untold blessings as well. Let us join together, from coast to coast, in reading God's Word through in '82.

JANUARY

- 1—Genesis 1,2
- 2—Genesis 3-5
- 3—Genesis 6-9
- 4—Genesis 10,11
- 5—Genesis 12-15
- 6—Genesis 16-19
- 7—Genesis 20-22
- 8—Genesis 23-26
- 9—Genesis 27-29
- 10—Genesis 30-32
- 11—Genesis 33-36
- 12—Genesis 37-39
- 13—Genesis 40-42
- 14—Genesis 43-46
- 15—Genesis 47-50
- 16—Job 1-4
- 17—Job 5-7
- 18—Job 8-10
- 19—Job 11-13
- 20—Job 14-17

- 21—Job 18-20
- 22—Job 21-24
- 23—Job 25-27
- 24—Job 28-31
- 25—Job 32-34
- 26—Job 35-37
- 27—Job 38-42
- 28—Exodus 1-4
- 29—Exodus 5-7
- 30—Exodus 8-10
- 31—Exodus 11-13

FEBRUARY

- 1—Exodus 14-17
- 2—Exodus 18-20
- 3—Exodus 21-24
- 4—Exodus 25-27
- 5—Exodus 28-31
- 6—Exodus 32-34
- 7—Exodus 35-37

- 8—Exodus 38-40
- 9—Leviticus 1-4
- 10—Leviticus 5-7
- 11—Leviticus 8-10
- 12—Leviticus 11-13
- 13—Leviticus 14-16
- 14—Leviticus 17-19
- 15—Leviticus 20-23
- 16—Leviticus 24-27
- 17—Numbers 1-3
- 18—Numbers 4-6
- 19—Numbers 7-10
- 20—Numbers 11-14
- 21—Numbers 15-17
- 22—Numbers 18-20
- 23—Numbers 21-24
- 24—Numbers 25-27
- 25—Numbers 28-30
- 26—Numbers 31-33
- 27—Numbers 34-66
- 28—Deuteronomy 1-3



MAY'S BOY: AN INCREDIBLE STORY OF LOVE. By Shirlee Monty. Thomas Nelson Publishers, cloth, \$9.95.

Leslie Lemke is blind, severely retarded, and has cerebral palsy. He appears to have no balance when he walks, and he has to be led to the piano. At first, he slumps over the keyboard. But when he starts to play, an amazing transformation takes place.

Instead of the expected spastic quivers, the halting voice, the uncertain actions, a moving, forceful, technically exact music fills the air. First Chopin, then an Italian aria, a German waltz, reverent hymns, ragtime, lively show tunes, rock... Leslie accepts the challenges from the audience with the deftness of a musical genius.

Psychologists call his special ability *savant syndrome*, a syndrome as spectacular as it is rare. Persons who otherwise demonstrate subnormal intelligence possess an island of brilliance, far exceeding even the capabilities of the "gifted."

May's Boy is not only the story of Leslie's extraordinary talent, it is the equally amazing story of May Lemke—a feisty, 80-year-old English lady and her unshakable belief in her foster son. A book you truly will be blessed by reading. □

BLOOD AND HONOR. Reinhold Kerstan. David C. Cook Publishing Company, 1980. \$3.95 paper.

Conferencegoers will remember the moving testimony given by Rev. Reinhold Kerstan, representative of the Baptist World Alliance, at our last session in Salem, WV.



Blood and Honor is a thrilling story of faith and the power of the Gospel in the life of Reinhold Kerstan during the difficult days of World War II in Germany. It is a story that, once you begin to read, you will find difficult to put down.

Kerstan, born in Germany, the son of a pastor, was pulled in different directions by his commitment to Jesus Christ and his involvement in the Hitler youth organization. While still a boy, taken away from the influence of his parents and church, he remained true to God through much persecution and strong peer pressure.

We agree with the evaluation of Ron Susek of Continental Crusades when he wrote: "*Blood and Honor*, in my opinion, ranks in importance with *Roots*, *The Holocaust*, and *Les Miserables*. It should be read by every family in America."

For several years Kerstan served the North American Baptist Conference as Associate Secretary of Communications and editor of their magazine, *The Baptist Herald*. Currently he directs communications for the Baptist World Alliance. □

HAVE YOU QUIT EATING?



... Just because Mom once burned the biscuits?

Are you still eating even though Mom once burned the biscuits? They didn't look good or taste good and had lost most of their food value.

"Well," you say, "I need to eat and besides, Mom didn't mean to burn the biscuits."

Have you quit going to the doctor because you read about some doctor being indicted for malpractice?

"Of course not," you reply. "Just because some 'quack' is trying to get rich doesn't mean I should quit going to a good doctor."

Have you thrown away all your money because someone once passed you a counterfeit dollar?

The answer is obvious.

So now let's apply the same common sense to the spiritual dimension of your life.

BURNED BISCUITS

It is quite possible that someone may have offended you as he tried to explain being "born again" or "being saved." Perhaps his way of doing it "left a bad taste in your mouth." You may have been wronged but you can't just say, "I don't want anything more to do with becoming a Christian."

You have spiritual needs that are as real as the body's need for food... and the fact remains, you still need the forgiveness of sins.

QUACK DOCTORS

Every occupation has people who will use illegal or harmful practices for their own advantage. Isn't it logical that some of these same people will try to operate under the guise of Christianity? The very fact that Christians usually do not act in a deceitful way makes it that much easier for spiritual quacks to fool people. So to classify all Christians as quacks would be a big mistake.

COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS

As long as there is the real thing there will always be the imitation. You will never see a counterfeit three-dollar bill because there isn't a real three-dollar bill. Since there is a reality to Christian faith, there will always be hypocrites... counterfeit Christians.

GETTING THROUGH TO THE TRUTH

Each person needs to have a right relationship to God. Forget how man has marred or garbled the message and how your

own heart has tried to explain things away.

Here are seven keys to help you find true Christian faith for yourself, based on what God says about it in the Bible.

1. God loves you.

"... God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."¹

2. You are in trouble.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."² "You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell."³

3. Sin brings disaster.

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."⁴

4. God has provided a Savior.

"God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."⁵

5. The Savior must be accepted.

"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."⁶

6. Receiving the Savior gives eternal life.

"This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."⁷

7. NOW is the time to receive Him.

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."⁸

It may be all too true that you have seen spiritual counterfeits or quacks. You may have known some Christians who were offensive. Still, the decision to believe in the truth of Jesus Christ is yours to make, regardless of how others may have mishandled it.

Don't let "burned biscuits" keep you from getting right with God.

Ray E. Baughman

Bible references: ¹John 3:16, ²Romans 3:23, ³Psalms 5:4, ⁴Romans 6:23, ⁵Romans 5:8, ⁶John 1:12, ⁷John 5:11,12, ⁸Hebrews 3:7,8.

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THE SABBATH

OUR 138th YEAR

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

FEBRUARY 1982