

The Parable of the Citrus Trees

There is purpose in suffering

Our citrus trees were obviously sick. The leaves were spotted. Bare limbs here and there attested the presence of disease. But every living limb was covered with fruit and blossoms.

We had mulched the trees well during the summer's heat. But still . . .

When we showed them to a horticulturist, he said, "These trees are dying."

"Dying? That can't be! Look at all the blossoms!" we protested.

"The heavy blooming is the surest symptom of their coming death," he replied. "The Creator's law for dying things is: 'When death is imminent, all the ebbing energies are used to bear fruit, assuring the survival of the species.' The result of this law is that animals will bear larger litters, plants will bloom profusely, and fruit will mature earlier than normal."

"Your mistake with these trees was excessive, misguided care! Citrus trees must never be mulched. Mulching conserves moisture, but moisture encourages fungus that kills the roots. You loved your trees to death. You should have let them suffer through the summer's heat. If you had, they would be strong, thriving trees now because their roots would have found underground water."

This true incident serves as a parable of the Christian and suffering. We may try to avoid suffering or attempt to cut it short, not realizing its positive results.

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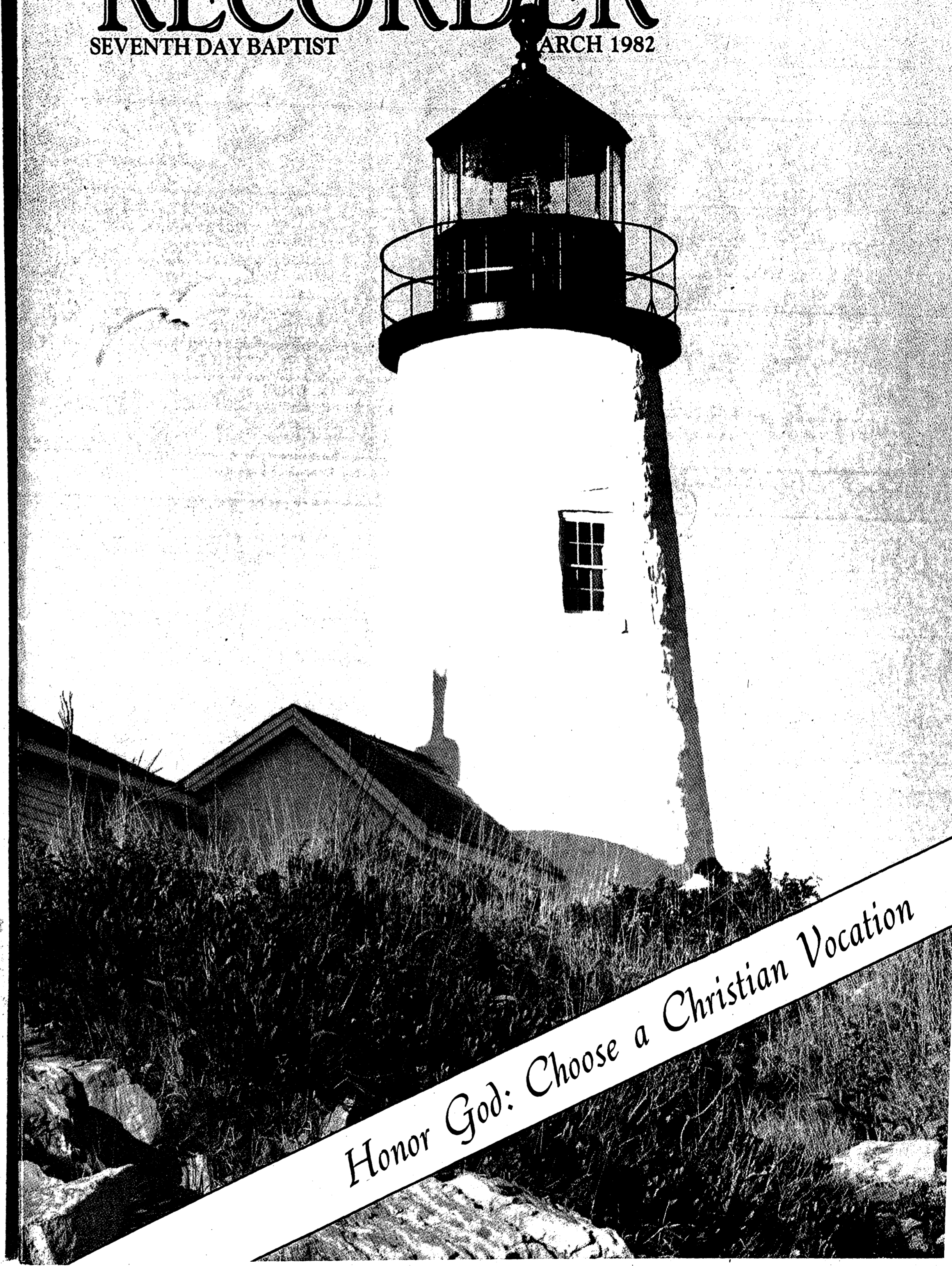
THE SABBATH

OUR 138th YEAR

RECORDER

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST

MARCH 1982



But the Bible says,
"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy."

1 Peter 4:12,13

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:17,18

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

1 Peter 4:19

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 5:10,11

Suffering, then, is not a cruel twist of fate. It is intended by God to perfect us and to prepare us for the greater glory of eternity with Him. □

—Neva Salser

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Honor God: Choose a Christian Vocation

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Nominations for Robe of Achievement for 1982 are being accepted. Please send in writing to: Mrs. Harriette Maddox, 4681 Texas, Riverside, CA 92504. The deadline for nominations is July 29, 1982. □

Cover photo by Kenneth Burdick

The Sabbath Recorder



Ten Considerations for a Congregation About To Welcome a New Pastor

1. **Let the pastor lead** - be open to change under his leadership.
2. **Let the pastor preach** - be open to new ideas and new possibilities.
3. **Let the pastor have a home** - it may be your parsonage, but let it be his sanctuary.
4. **Let the pastor's family be themselves** - they are in need of normalcy.
5. **Let the pastor be himself** - without comparison to previous pastors.
6. **Let the congregation pray** - it's easier to support what your pray for.
7. **Let the congregation pay** - free of financial worry he will serve far more effectively.
8. **Let the community know that you respect and honor your pastor** - his community acceptance is part of your ministry.
9. **Let any criticism be directed to the pastor first** - never in loose talk.
10. **Let the congregation remember that the pastorate is a calling. All relationships in the church are special, and the pastoral role deserves special consideration.** □

-Kenneth Smith

March 1982

Growth— A Risky Adventure

by Harold King
Nortonville, KS

A number of years ago a movie was made about three trapeze artists. One had been a great star, but due to an accident, was now the catcher for the other two. Of the other two, one was a beautiful lady, the other a young and handsome man of unlimited ability. The older man had been unsurpassed as a trapeze artist. He was one of only a few who had been able to do a triple flip after leaving his bar before he was caught by the catcher. The younger man had the potential to be as good or even better. At times in practice he was able to accomplish this feat but when performing before the crowd he would fail and fall to the net below. Both of these men fell in love with the beautiful lady.

One night while performing before a large crowd the catcher had taken the net down and informed the young star that he would have to do a triple flip or look the coward before the crowd and the lady they both loved. If he failed to complete the flip or the catcher missed he would fall to an almost sure death. The young man swung on his trapeze and then he let go of his bar and started the series of flips. What a risk—no net to break his fall, a stunt that he had been unable to do before a crowd before and a rival for the woman he loved swinging on the other bar waiting to catch him! A risky adventure indeed.

God calls us as Christians to a wonderful adventure. He wants us to grow spiritually and many times we have to take chances and risks if we

hope to have this spiritual growth. We are often called to trust others with our dreams and innermost feelings, trusting that they will not ridicule us, something that can be risky. We are often called to stand up for what is right when others around us do not agree; risky business this living our faith can be. We may be called upon to move to a different location or try something that to us seems impossible. Growth indeed can be risky.

Our Lord Jesus lived this type of an adventure. He paid the price with His life. Those in the early church lived this adventure and faced ridicule, beatings, all forms of persecution and even death.

Each of us, when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, is starting on an adventure of growth. As we move forward by the leading of the Holy Spirit we are taking up our crosses and facing new challenges as we grow. We can sit back and accept our conversion as the final step or we can heed the proddings of the Holy Spirit and move out to a wonderful adventure filled with risks and the possibility of failure.

I believe that real spiritual growth will come to us only when we are willing to step out in faith and face the wonderful but risky adventure God calls us to. How good it feels when we put our trust in the Lord and move forward in seeking real spiritual growth. The wonderful thing about it is that even if we seem to others to have fail-

ed we will know that we have tried and that is not failure in God's sight.

There is an old saying: "It is better to have loved and lost than not to have loved at all." We can put it this way: "It is better to have risked all for Christ and seemingly failed in the sight of others than not to have started the adventure to spiritual growth at all."

This last fall my wife and I felt that the Spirit had moved us to make a recommitment of our lives and start anew the risky adventure of Christian growth. With much hope and many uncertainties we gave up job security, sold most of our furnishings and moved to Kansas where we faced the prospect of no jobs and the great unknown. Here in Nortonville we have found a wonderful, supportive group of people whose love and prayers are helping us along in our adventure in growth. Even if we may seem to fail we have the wonderful feeling that we have at least started a risky but wonderful adventure in spiritual growth.

We are called upon to try and grow spiritually. The Spirit may ask us to give up our jobs and move or He may have a wonderful adventure for us right where we are. The important thing is that we start this adventure toward spiritual growth realizing that with God all things are possible.

(By the way, the young trapeze artist completed his flip and the catcher caught him so he didn't fall.)□

The Sabbath Recorder

by Rev. Victor Skaggs

Our Needs Are Met in Christ

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God."

—II Corinthians 5:17-20 LB

Sometimes we seem to lose our sense of wonder over what God has done for us, what He has done to change our lives and to make them as good as they are. We seem to accept the goodness which we see in ourselves and in others as natural and to be expected. We fail to take note of our inward tendencies to selfishness (Study I) which have been overcome and are being overcome by the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Let's remind ourselves of what the Gospel—the Good News of Jesus Christ—is. What is the Gospel? It is that the needs of men, whatever they are, are met in the power of God through Jesus Christ.

Are we weak?	Here is strength!
Are we evil?	Here is purity!
Are we proud?	Here is humility!
Are we hard-hearted?	Here is forgiveness!
Are we hungry?	Here is food!
Are we cold?	Here is warmth!
Are we hateful?	Here is love!
Are we lost?	Here we are found!
Are we dying?	Here is life eternal!
Are we homeless?	Here is our home!

Whatever the needs of men, they are met in Jesus Christ. The completeness of God's answer to our need in Christ is reflected in all the New Testament. Read Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7; Colossians 1:9-22; Galatians 4:4-7; Colossians 2:8-15.

March 1982

CONFERENCE THEME STUDY III



Our General Conference President, Mrs. Dorothy Parrott, has requested that Bible Studies related to the theme of General Conference 1982, be printed in THE SABBATH RECORDER for five consecutive months. Each Seventh Day Baptist is invited to make these studies a part of his or her preparation to be a "reconciler," an ambassador for Christ, by completing them at home. Please save these pages and bring them to Conference at Redlands. Small groups will discuss them there. Our 1982 Conference theme is "The Ministry of Reconciliation." It is based on II Corinthians 5:17-20.

Wonderful things have been written and spoken about Christians. They reflect the glory of our situation in Christ; e.g., read what Paul wrote to the Ephesians as translated by William Barclay:

"You have been called by God to be his own. So then, I urge you to live a life of complete humility and gentleness, a life of patience, a life in which you always lovingly bear with one another. I urge you to be eager to preserve that unity which the Spirit can give, a unity in which you are bound together in a perfect relationship to one another. Each of you has received his own share of grace, in proportion as the free gift of Christ has given it to you. That is why it is said: 'He ascended on high, after he had taken his prisoners captive, and gave gifts to men.' . . . Their function is to equip God's consecrated people for the service they must give; it is their function to build up the body of Christ. Then we shall go on to be one united band of brothers, one in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God. Then we shall grow into mature manhood, until we reach the stature of Christ in all his completeness." (Ephesians 4:1-4, 7, 8, 12, 13 Barclay)

You see, Paul wrote to individuals of great worth, who could relate to each other in all these wonderful

(Continued on page 20)



Jerusalem, the Holy City, is shimmering with the reds, corals and silvery greens of new gardens these days, and inhabitants are discovering the joys of planting pomegranates, olives and grapes on even the tiniest plots.

Many new gardeners here are being inspired by a recently published bright green volume called *Israel Gardening Encyclopedia Month by Month*. It is the first gardening guide in English to be devoted to the varying climatic and soil conditions in Israel and it was written by Viennese-born Walter Frankl, a 75-year-old former Olympic track star, who has lived most of his adult life in Jerusalem.

Enthusiasm for gardening is new in this water-scarce, centuries-old city. Even the public gardens which now grace the capital are a sight that had not been seen in Jerusalem since Biblical times. Fifteenth century etchings of Jerusalem show desert settings and only a few trees in protected courtyards. "Life was so hard here," says one town planner, "that no thought was given to landscaping. It is a luxury that we are only beginning to enjoy today in a reunified city."

The blossoming interest of Jerusalemites in growing things has been reflected in the fast paced sales of Frankl's gardening encyclopedia. The people of the Holy Land are not only learning how to grow the tamarisk tree, which was first planted here by Abraham, but ordinary chrysanthemums, which thrive here, says Frankl, due to "the relatively cool and dewy nights of the hilly regions (Jerusalem is located about 2500 feet high in the Judean Hills) which permits the plants to refresh themselves after the heat of hot summer days."

In the introduction to his encyclopedia, Frankl chooses an appropriate quote from the Bible to explain why he has organized his book by months: "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted." Fittingly, in this Jewish state, the book begins in September, the month of the Jewish New Year, and the author immediately gets down to practical work with instructions for dealing with the various challenges of the Israeli terrain: the sandy soil of the coastal plain, the lime rich earth of the Judean Hills, the stony clay soil of Jerusalem.

To make life easier, the reader is given a table of English, botanical and Hebrew names for annuals, biennials and perennials, including the African daisy, phlox, marigold and carnation, all of which grow well here.

The book is a practical manual and yet it is laced through with facts an inhabitant of the Holy Land can truly appreciate: There are seven species of wild carrots grown here, many of which were cultivated by the ancients. The potato, which originated in South America, arrived in British Mandate Palestine in 1940 along with the British forces, who instructed Jewish and Arab farmers how to

cultivate them in order to supply the potato-loving troops.

Garlic, says Frankl, was probably brought to Eretz Israel by Jewish slaves on their exodus from Egypt. Titus Marcius Plautus, a second century B.C.E. poet, wrote about Roman soldiers eating garlic to increase their courage.

We learn that roses have grown in Israel since Biblical times, as, obviously, have grapes, which the Israelites and other Semitic tribes brought as wild plants into the valley of the Euphrates and later to Canaan, where they cultivated them for fruit and wine production.

Besides his teaching career in Israeli high schools and as head of the Hebrew University Physical Education Department until he retired in 1965, Frankl also co-founded the Jerusalem Horticulture Society, was a pioneer in the use of hydroponics (growing plants in water and nutrients), fought for Jerusalem in the 1948 War of Independence and helped build the first sports track in Israel. (He transported cinders on camelback from a railroad station miles away.)

For seven years, until he came to the Holy Land in 1931, Frankl was a major figure in Austrian athletics and he represented his country in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. But he longed to be in the Jewish homeland. At the age of 20 he joined a group studying applied agriculture in preparation for the time they would establish their own kibbutz (communal farm) there.

In the end, however, it was athletics that brought Frankl here. In 1931 he was asked to go to Tel Aviv to help prepare the first sports competition—the Maccabiah—to be held in what is now Israel. Frankl was taken aback by the conditions in the country and decided to stay and help improve them. Over the next few years he taught athletics at a number of high schools and established the first summer camp in Israel. In the evenings he helped bring in illegal refugees fleeing the Nazi menace in Europe; eventually he was caught by the British and served a four-month jail sentence.

Later Frankl moved to Jerusalem, where he continued his busy life, concentrating on sports education and gardening. One of his proudest achievements was the publication of a book on

hydroponics, prompted by the poor soil conditions of Israel. "Almost two-thirds of the country is unsuitable for conventional agriculture because the soil is either sandy, rocky, salty or marshy," says Frankl. "No previously known technique could provide a solution to these conditions."

Today Frankl lives in an apartment building in one of Jerusalem's older neighborhoods. He has organized some of his neighbors into a gardening group. Each week, he gives them a short lecture on gardening techniques and how they have been put into practice in his own garden. Frankl's garden is a veritable jungle of greenery and flowers and he points to his own innovations with boyish pride. He has suggested giving a special gardening course to Jerusalemites living in large apartment blocks in order to bring more color and beauty to the gray-gold Jerusalem stone which dominates the city.

In the meantime, Walter Frankl has done a great deal for the enhancement of the Holy City with the publication of his *Israel Gardening Encyclopedia Month by Month*. □

— Israeli Government

Sportsman with a Green Thumb Helps Holy City Blossom

Thumb Blossom

by Ellen Davidson

If there's a connection with the Holy Land, Frankl informs us of it, but, more importantly, he instructs the reader in the fine points of how to successfully grow the plant month by month, as he reminds us of the essentials of sowing, irrigating, pruning, weeding, protecting from insects, and, hopefully, harvesting.

The gardening volume, which is quickly making its way onto the bookshelf of every serious English-speaking gardener here, is just the latest in a long string of accomplishments in the rich life of the irrepressible Walter Frankl. His life has been bound by two loves—sport and gardening.

March 1982

Religion in Review

by Gary Warner

Director
EP New Service
©December 1981

It took the space shuttle Columbia one abortive attempt and days of delay this fall to finally get off the ground. Someone had forgotten to change the oil.

The rocket of religion should have been so fortunate.

America's religious capsule seemed poised for orbit as 1981 approached. The election of Ronald Reagan, the emergence of the New Right and its fundamentalist Religious Right counterpart, the heralded national trend to conservatism; all seemed to foreshadow the 1980s as THE decade for conservative religious forces in America.

The countdown began with President Reagan's inauguration in January. But insufficient thrust was generated and the rocket struggled tenaciously for liftoff before thudding back to the gantry and sitting there immobilized for another eleven months. It was more than dirty oil. A tuneup was in order.

1981 was The Year of the Thud.

The political warriors of the Rights—New and Religious—entered 1981 flushed with victory and wrapped in an aura of seeming invincibility. They were also much too overconfident and novices in the hard ball of politics. The President did not move the nation's capital to Lynchburg, VA. It was business as usual in Washington, D.C. The Rights pronounced, pontificated and pouted; pounded pulpits and preached perdition. But by year's end only venerable Barry Goldwater was as feisty as ever.

Not that there weren't important religious events happening in the

world. However, in the United States, compared to the mind-blowing highs and the political rush of 1980, the past 12 months had the fervor of a World Council of Churches seminar on evangelism, the drama of an election in Cuba, the effervescence of a WCTU party, and the excitement of a mortician's convention.

Sorry Frank, it was not a very good year.

Here's the year it was:

POLITICS

Pity the poor Religious Right. It spent the year courting Bo Derek and then discovered it had helped put Tarzan in the White House.

Pity poor President Reagan. Before he had a chance to put on his messiah costume and take his first curtain call, the Religious Right wanted him in sackcloth and ashes.

The bloom had barely worn off 1980 before the reality of 1981 set in. Whereas the Reagan victory had been termed "an act of God" by the Religious Right, it soon appeared that God has a dry sense of humor.

The New Right is still asking the real Ronald Reagan to stand up. Howard Philips, head of The Conservative Caucus, attacked Reagan appointments but still claimed Reagan "will be the best President in my 39 years on this earth." Paul Weyrich, director of the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, said the Washington strategy was to keep "Moral Majority types" so close to the President "that they can't move their hands." Liberals wished gags had been issued with the hand-

cuffs. Direct mail whiz kid Richard Viguerie said, "I knew conservatives would get the short end of the stick. I just didn't know the stick would be so short."

Even many of the Congressmen boosted by the New Right failed to display the proper lackey qualities. As the year ends, most of the legislation supported by the New Right and the Religious Right is either penned up, pooped out or headed for extinction in the courts.

Then there was the Falwellian traveling show with its through-the-looking glass elixir of politics and faith. Rev. Jerry Falwell urged the President to slash away at the budget and said the churches would aid the poor. He unveiled "a conservative version of the ACLU," jostled with Norman Lear, declined to debate the editor of the United Methodist Reporter, said the movement would attack pornography and clean up television next year, said he "erred" in saying he would support the Equal Rights Amendment, and spent a lot of time putting out Moral Majority fires, such as dousing the California MM leader who matter-of-factly called for capital punishment for homosexuals.

Throughout the year numerous studies purported that the political effect of the Religious Right had been exaggerated. A Stanford study showed "that the country's political swing to the right was greater among non-evangelicals than born-again Christians," and the American Studies Program survey showed that "pocketbook concerns and/or a sense that America is losing its key role in the world emerged as being of far more concern than moral issues, such as family, pornography and homosexuality."

Former President Jimmy Carter said, "I think that there is too much wisdom present in the collective body of Christians for that sort of distortion (the Religious Right's "measuring rod" for politicians in 1980) to prevail more than a short period of time."

HUMAN RIGHTS

The world awakens to the sound of men in chains. Terror, violence, torture and death know no boundaries. Perhaps the Church's primary achievement in 1981 was that more Christians became actively concerned about human rights.

A.D. magazine accumulated data from human rights monitoring agencies and established a list of the world's most oppressive nations from a religious standpoint: Albania, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Afganistan, China, the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Taiwan, Israel and South Africa. The "most free" areas of the world included Scandinavia, Switzerland, United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland), the United States and Canada, France and the Benelux nations, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Austria, Italy and Mexico. Albania was rated as the world's most repressive regime from a religious point of view, El Salvador as the government whose response to religious challenge is the most violent, and the Scandinavia countries as enjoying the most religious freedom.

Against this backdrop, the news headlines rolled in weekly: "Quaker groups report potential democratic leaders in Guatemala and El Salvador are being kidnapped, tortured and murdered"; "churches of all confessions under fire by Yugoslavian communists";

"Bulgarians close Pentecostal churches"; "KGB chairman assails missions organizations"; "Czechoslovakia employs special unit against underground church"; "new wave of Albanian arrests"; "two priests-journalists detained in Bolivia"; "Siberian Seven marks three years in U.S. Embassy in Moscow"; and on and on.

El Salvador became an early focal point for the current administration. Lutheran officials reported violence in El Salvador "up" since the election of President Reagan. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, always in charge, stated that the four nuns murdered by the Salvadoran National Guard had been involved in "radical political activity." By March over 270 church leaders had petitioned and then marched to the White House to express their concern over the nation's human rights policy. The President and Vice President George Bush began to use every opportunity to assure Christians that the administration upheld religious freedom "as a subject of international negotiations" and condemned "Communism's tyranny and brutal repression of human rights." The President promised to use the "bully pulpit" of the Presidency to "point a finger of shame" at persecution wherever it occurs.

MISSIONS

Disease and starvation claimed thousands of victims worldwide. Add to this the people scattered by national and civil wars, the boat people from Vietnam and Haiti, and those uprooted and displaced by nature's temper tantrums, and it's obvious that para-church and church relief agencies had their usual frantic 12 months.

The roll call of suffering countries spanned the continents: El Salvador, Kenya, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Afganistan, Pakistan. . . Beat the drum slowly.

The new specter stalked the mission front: the terrorist. Chester Bitterman, Wycliffe Bible Translator working in Bogota, was kidnapped in January and killed in March. The terrorists called Wycliffe "a front for the Central Intelligence Agency."

Elsewhere, besides the four nuns murdered in El Salvador, Conservative Mennonite Fellowship missionary John Troyer was killed in September by members of a guerrilla organization in Guatemala.

What to do about China? was the question being asked by the sincere and the exploiters. Chinese church officials insisted Garbo-style "ve want to be alone" in refusing orders of Bibles and shunning "disrespectful evangelism." Rev. Franklin Woo, head of the National Council of Churches China Program, said "'Help poor China' has always been a good money-maker. . .it's lucrative business when you talk about Bibles for one billion souls in China."

A growth of house churches was seen as the best means of sustaining Christian community in India. A pastor, out of a re-education camp in Vietnam, termed the country's economy "hopeless" and said Christians "are discriminated against and live under threat and hindrance." The church in Cuba was reported to be growing but troubled by a shortage of trained leaders and the thorny question of church-state relations. The Salvation Army, a founding member 33

(Continued on page 27)



How widespread is alienation? How does alienation touch your life? Is it with your spouse, child, parent, neighbor or friend? Is it in your business or school relationships? Is it in church or denominational relationships? Have you asked yourself, how have I contributed to the alienation? What can I do to mend fences?

In the story of Jacob and Esau we learn how lying, cheating, greed and desire for self-gratification all led to a separation that lasted for twenty years. On the return trip to Canaan, Jacob wrestles with the angel and learns of God's continuing presence. My devotional commentary states, "Once reconciled to God, Jacob is ready to be reconciled to Esau. How wonderful that we have the account of Jacob approaching Esau in a penitent attitude and Esau greeting him in such a forgiving manner" (Gen. 33:4).

There is a Bible simulation where groups of people study and assume the roles of Isaac, Rebecca, Esau and Jacob. It is interesting to be involved (by simulation) in the hurts, the anger, the betrayal and finally in the reconciliation. One of the participants in the Esau group in our simulation said, "I didn't have trouble forgiving Jacob but I sure found it hard to forgive Rebecca." This kind of exercise helps us to be aware of and to understand the broken relationships that occur daily in the lives of our family and friends and in our own personal experience.

God has given us, individually and as the corporate body of Christ the ministry of reconciliation (II Cor.5:18b). Jim Wallis in discussing the role of the church as the agent of reconciliation, *The Call to Conversion*, makes the following statements:

"The preaching of the gospel is intended to create a new family in which those alienated from one another are now made brothers and sisters in Christ...The whole of God's creation will someday be brought into community in Christ (Col:15-20). The community of the church is the beginning of the great reconciliation, the sign and fruit of God's cosmic purposes in Christ. The church is an integral part of God's plan to reconcile all things. Through its ministry of reconciliation, the Christian community becomes both an instrument and a foretaste of God's purposes for the world. Paul describes the power of this reconciling force in his second letter to the Corinthians

(5:16-20)...When for any reason we fail to preach and to live the gospel in its wholeness, we fail not only in prophetic calling but our pastoral calling. To fail to lift up Jesus in the midst of our congregations and in the midst of our history is a failure of love - a failure to love one another and to love the church. Ultimately, of course, it is a failure to love God deeply and to trust God's deep love for us."

Do we dare risk this kind of love and trust?

A friend brought an article from *World Vision* entitled, "Will the Church Read the Signals?" (excerpted from **The Mustard Seed Conspiracy**, subtitled "Your Church Can Make a Difference in Tomorrow's Troubled World") in which the author, Tom Sine says, "The church is called to work for righteousness, wholeness, love, justice, reconciliation and peace - that's our holistic mission as the people of God in a world of growing need." The article concludes with, "Only He knows the difference He can make in our lives and in our churches if we seek His kingdom first."

Let us continue to seek - and more diligently. □

Bible Simulation - may be obtained from Board of Christian Education, 15 Main Street, Alfred, N.Y.

The Mustard Seed Conspiracy: Your Church Can Make a Difference - Word Books © 1981 Tom Sine.

the Call to Conversion - Harper & Rowe, Publishers, San Francisco, Jim Wallis.

The Sabbath Recorder

COM First To Hold Meeting at New Center

Shortly after the Dean of the Center on Ministry opened the first office in the new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, the Council on Ministry gathered there for its annual meeting. The Council met in the large conference room on the upper level on New Year's Day and the day before to review the work of the new Dean, Paul Green, to review the progress of the program for ministerial education, and to develop the budget proposal for General Conference next summer.

The Council's responsibilities include supervision of the training of students for the pastoral ministry. There are presently eight students in several seminaries. They will all be needed in our churches as will many more as new churches are started and as present pastors retire. One of the Dean's duties, one which all Seventh Day Baptists share, is to encourage gifted individuals to consider entering the pastorate.

Another area of Council activity is the provision of opportunities for continuing education to pastors. Several years ago the Council received a bequest for that purpose. At this meeting the decision was made to establish the Joe Lewis Fellowships for pastors who enter the Doctor of Ministry programs with the support of their churches.

COM has decided, in the interests of managerial efficiency, to cooperate with the Executive Secretary and the General Conference Office in the use of secretarial services and also in the centralization of book-keeping in Janesville.

Leland Bond was re-elected Chairman of the Council for 1982. □

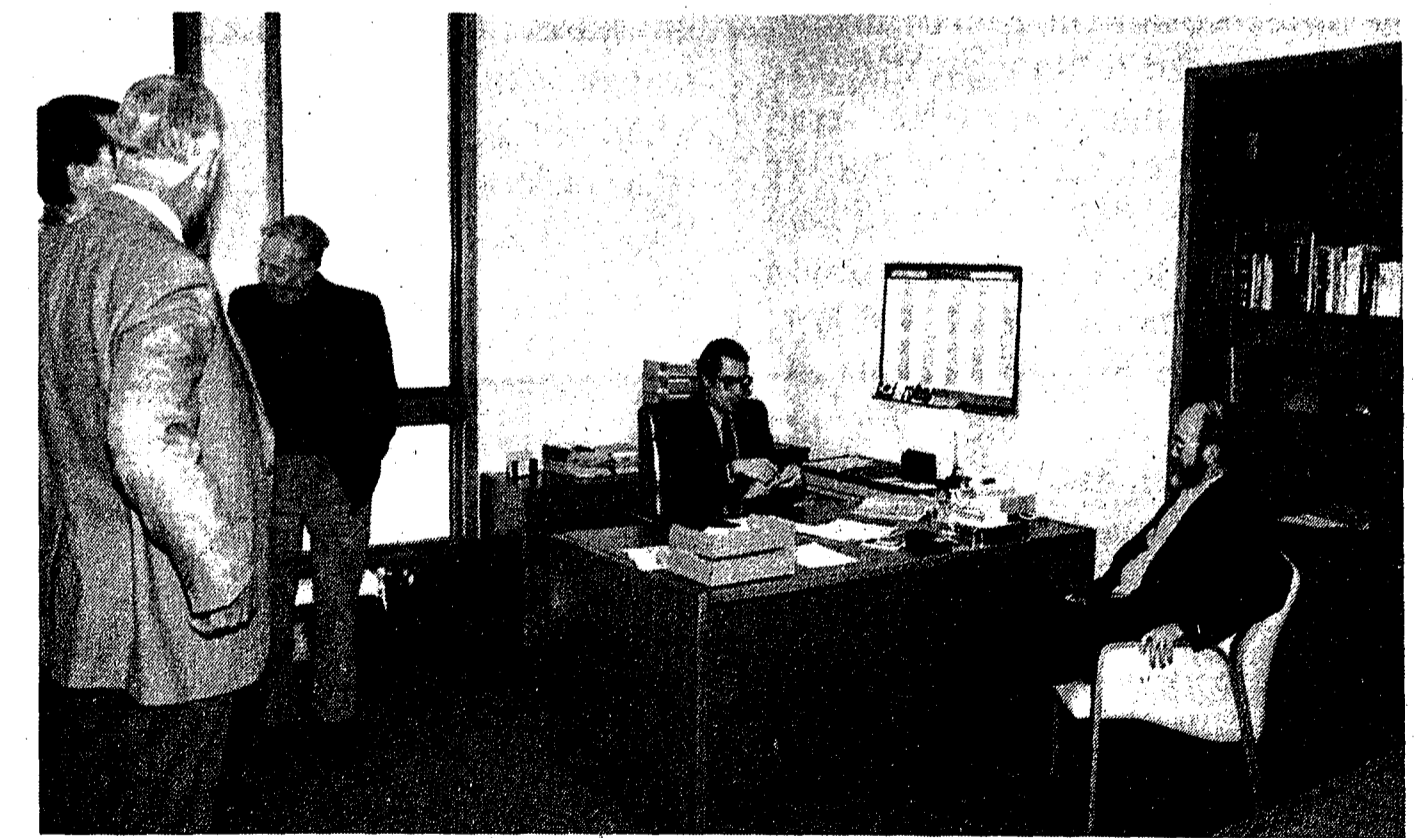
-James Skaggs



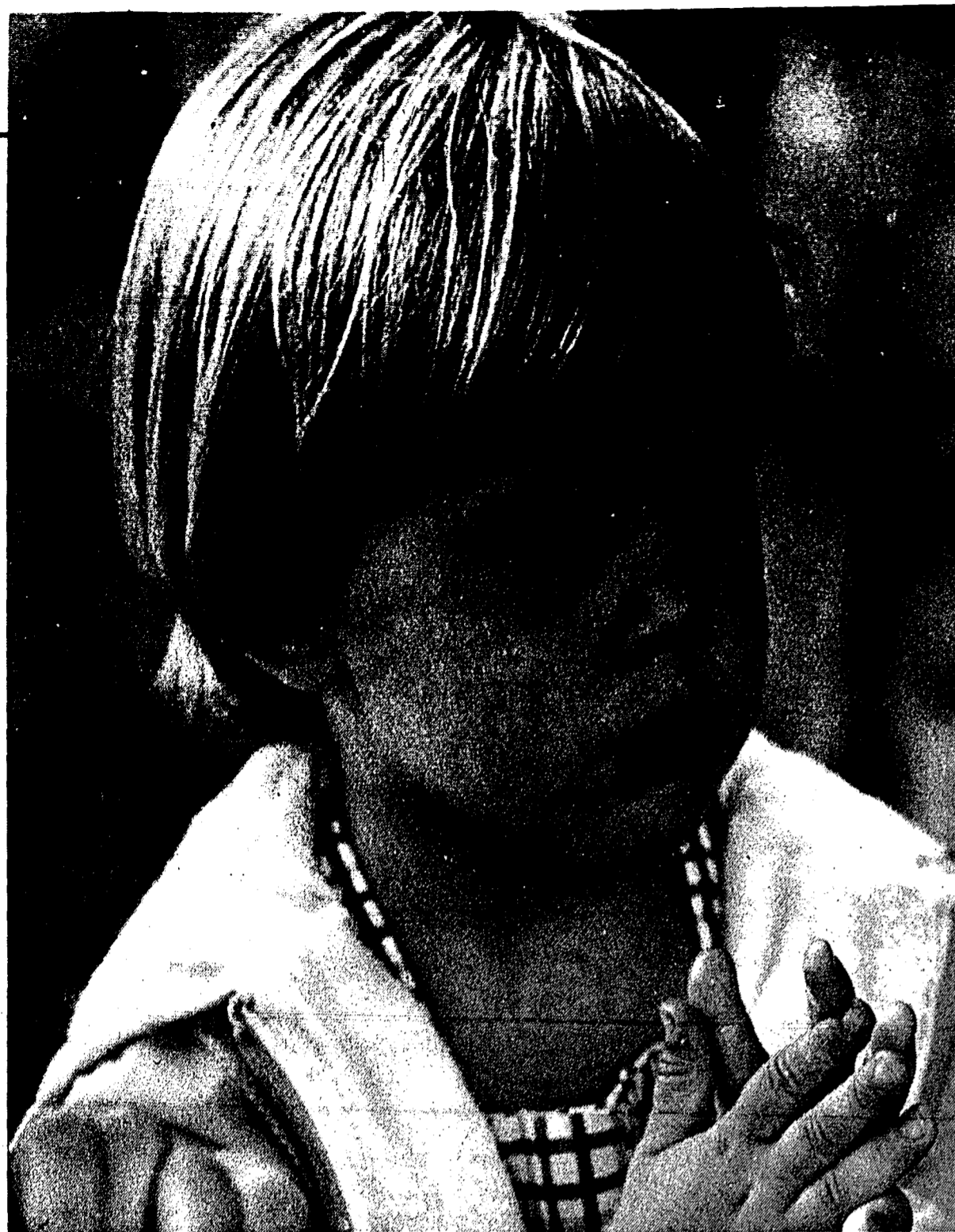
Members of the Council on Ministry held their meeting in the new SDB Center in Janesville, WI. (L to R) Rev. Elmo F. Randolph, Dean Paul Green, Leland Bond, Rev. Ernest Bee, Rev. C. Rex Burdick, James Skaggs.



The spacious conference room makes for a pleasant working area.



Dean Green's new office.



WOMEN'S BOARD

Training Our Children

"And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7-8).

I am very much concerned about our children and about our responsibilities as Christians in how we are teaching them. I often hear parents express the fact that they took their children to church and Sabbath School and yet they still strayed from the church and the Sabbath.

I believe as time goes by with all the problems of sin and hearing people influence our children by saying, "children need to do what they like to do and make up their own minds." This makes me feel that we need to realize that in order to help our children to find the Lord and make a commitment that will last, it takes a day by day teaching experience of the Bible. We are spiritual Israel and if God knew their children needed to be fed day by day, so do ours.

We know that if we wish to keep a healthy physical body we must feed it each day. The same applies to our spiritual bodies. If we want our children to grow up in Christ as

Paul said in Ephesians 4:15, we must take time on a daily basis to teach them to know the Word of God and to pray with them. As a busy mother of three, I took time with them.

I am thankful now for the times I visit in my sons' homes and watch them as they pray and read Bible stories to their children. I know it impresses the children more than we realize. An example of this was when our grandson, Scott, was asked to pick up his toys and he replied: "You mean be a keeper like Samuel?"

It seems that we live in a time when everyone is so busy and Satan is the tempter to steal our time. If we don't teach our children day by day the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, how can they use it to resist the Devil just as Jesus did?

Do we love our children enough to give them some of our time each

day to teach them about Jesus and His love? We recall that Paul reminded Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:15 that from a child "thou hast known the holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

We know from the example of a life of faith that Timothy received the training that would benefit him later in life from his mother and grandmother. (II Timothy 1:5). "Train up a child in the way he should go" is more than once a week experience in Sabbath School.

"Then I proclaimed a fast at the river of Ahana that we might afflict ourselves before our God to seek of Him a right way for us and for our little ones and for all our substances" (Ezekiel 8:21). Are we asking God to teach us His Word and how to live by it, then to teach it in our homes to our children? □

—by Anne Graffius

FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

● **DILLARD, OR:** A new branch group of the Portland, OR, SDB Church formed at a mid-January meeting. There are about 14 committed attendees with six already members of the Mother church. Boyd Rowe is the local leader and Rev. Homer Fletcher, who lives in Smith River, CA, the local pastor. Some of those participating are from Coos Bay where they hope another branch church can begin during the year. Year of Extension? Yes! in the Pacific Northwest!

● **KISSII DISTRICT, KENYA, AFRICA:** Bro. Joel L. Omare writes: "I have seen the growth of Christians at the church of Rogongo and the three Sabbath Schools. We have opened another Sabbath School at Kiabugesi. We have bought a plot of land (four acres) where to build the church at Rogongo and this will also be the offices of the mission." They look forward to visitors in the midyear who will be attending the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) meetings in Nairobi, Kenya.

● **SCHENECTADY, NY:** Besides planning regular missionary emphasis programs, using the slide sets available, Jim Fry the Missionary Keyworker has scheduled a Missionary Day on June 5th. He is inviting representatives from other churches in the community, having a special bulletin board on SDB missions, literature and guest speakers. The Decade of Discipleship will also be an emphasis. He plans "an exciting day for everyone."

● **RANGOON, BURMA, ASIA:** Rev. L.S. Thanga, secretary of the Burma SDB Conference believes in setting goals — "for the next 30 years!" This is the time he feels he may have left to minister, Lord willing. They include: 1. to see growth

of at least 1,500 in the churches; 2. to train no less than 10 pastors; 3. to build at least 20 churches; 4. to raise tithes and voluntary giving from members by 1000 per cent; 5. to write, translate and publish at least 30 books and booklets...in Lushai, Burmese, Chins and other national languages. He already has 20 in print, one of the latest being Baibul Thupui (literally Bible Topics) a 255 page paperback. "These planned goals may be a vision now. It can be tested, achieved or abandoned without a try. But I believe, it could be done (DV) in cooperation with all the leaders and the members here as

(Continued on page 23)



Mzuzu SDB Church in Malawi.



Matching funds helped in the construction and roof of the Nthinda SDB Church in Malawi.



Children of Rev. and Mrs. L.S. Thanga, Rangoon, Burma: Henry, age 12 in 8th grade; Helen, age 10, 5th grade; Robert, age 7, 3rd grade; and Martin, age 4, Kindergarten.

PRAYER

CORNER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

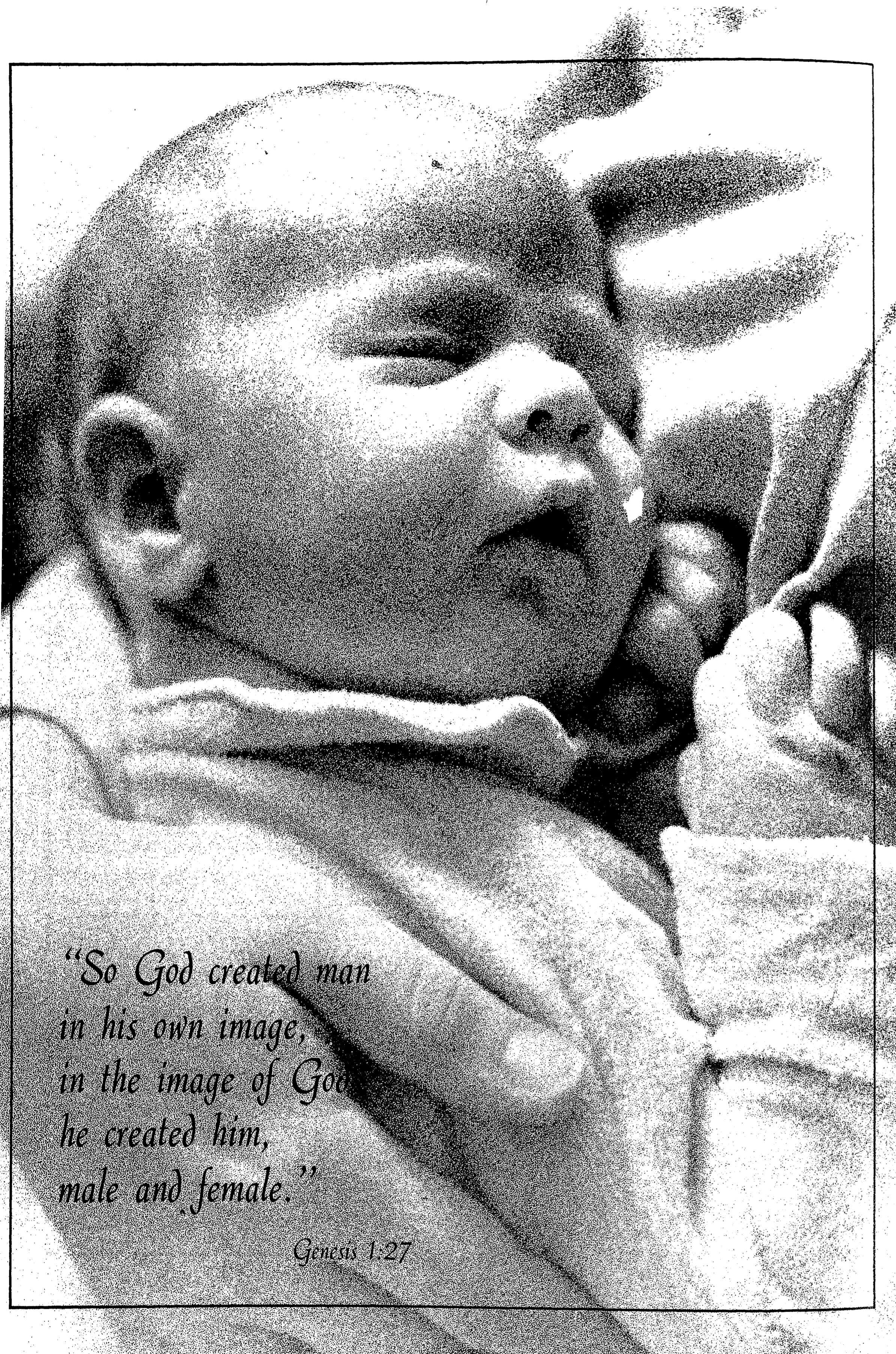
APRIL 1982

Verse for the month: "Quick, Lord answer me — for I have prayed. Listen when I cry to you for help! Regard my prayer as my evening sacrifice and as incense wafting up to you."

—Psalm 141:1, 2, TLB

PRAY FOR:

- 1-The leadership of our country
- 2-For the several local churches seeking pastoral leadership
- 3-The Host Committee in California as it prepares for General Conference
- 4-My appreciation of God's great earth
- 5-The growing interest and establishment of Home/Area meetings in FL
- 6-Missionaries Rodney and Camille Henry and family, Cebu City, The Philippines
- 7-Retired pastors and the support of the retirement fund through PROP
- 8-Churches of Christ Convention, Gonzalez, Tamps, Mexico, begins
- 9-My church as it seeks to grow
- 10-General Conference President Dorothy Parrott
- 11-Memorial Fund Trustees meeting at Plainfield, NJ
- 12-Rev. L.S. Thanga, secretary, Burma SDB Conference, Rangoon, Burma
- 13-Mrs. Ethel Dickinson, secretary to General Conference executive
- 14-Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
- 15-My support of Our World Mission
- 16-Board of Christian Education meeting on the 18th at Alfred, NY
- 17-Director of Evangelism, Mynor Soper
- 18-American Sabbath Tract Society quarterly meeting, Milton WI
- 19-Jan Lek, sec'y. of the SDB churches in the Netherlands/Europe Field Work
- 20-The new witness at Oceanside, CA, and Pastor John Peil
- 21-Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, financial agent, Memorial Fund office manager
- 22-Pastor Joe A. Samuels and the church in Toronto, Ont., Canada
- 23-Prof. Ivan Fitz Randolph, General Conference trustee, Wisconsin
- 24-North American Baptist Men's Day of Witness and Prayer
- 25-Quarterly Missionary Board meeting, Westerly, RI
- 26-Deacon Ronald Maltby, General Conference trustee, Plainfield
- 27-Our Christian brethren in the Shanghai, China, area and their Sabbath meetings
- 28-General Conference and other offices as they prepare to move to WI in May
- 29-Sale of the denominational building, Plainfield, NJ
- 30-Rev. John Camenga as he finishes his first month of service in Shiloh, NJ



*"So God created man
in his own image,
in the image of God
he created him,
male and female."*

Genesis 1:27

All emotions, anger, sorrow, joy and frustrations are a part of God's innermost being as revealed by the actions of Jesus Christ. As Creator, God was a master of all arts, crafts, sciences and work humans are expected to accomplish.

At conception each person is entrusted with one or more of God's talents and characteristics. Many people do not recognize their talents, or, are indifferent to the possibility of greatness in their lives. Others with lesser talent are successful because they diligently pursue their goal.

It is our responsibility to discover God's gifts and develop them to the fullest.

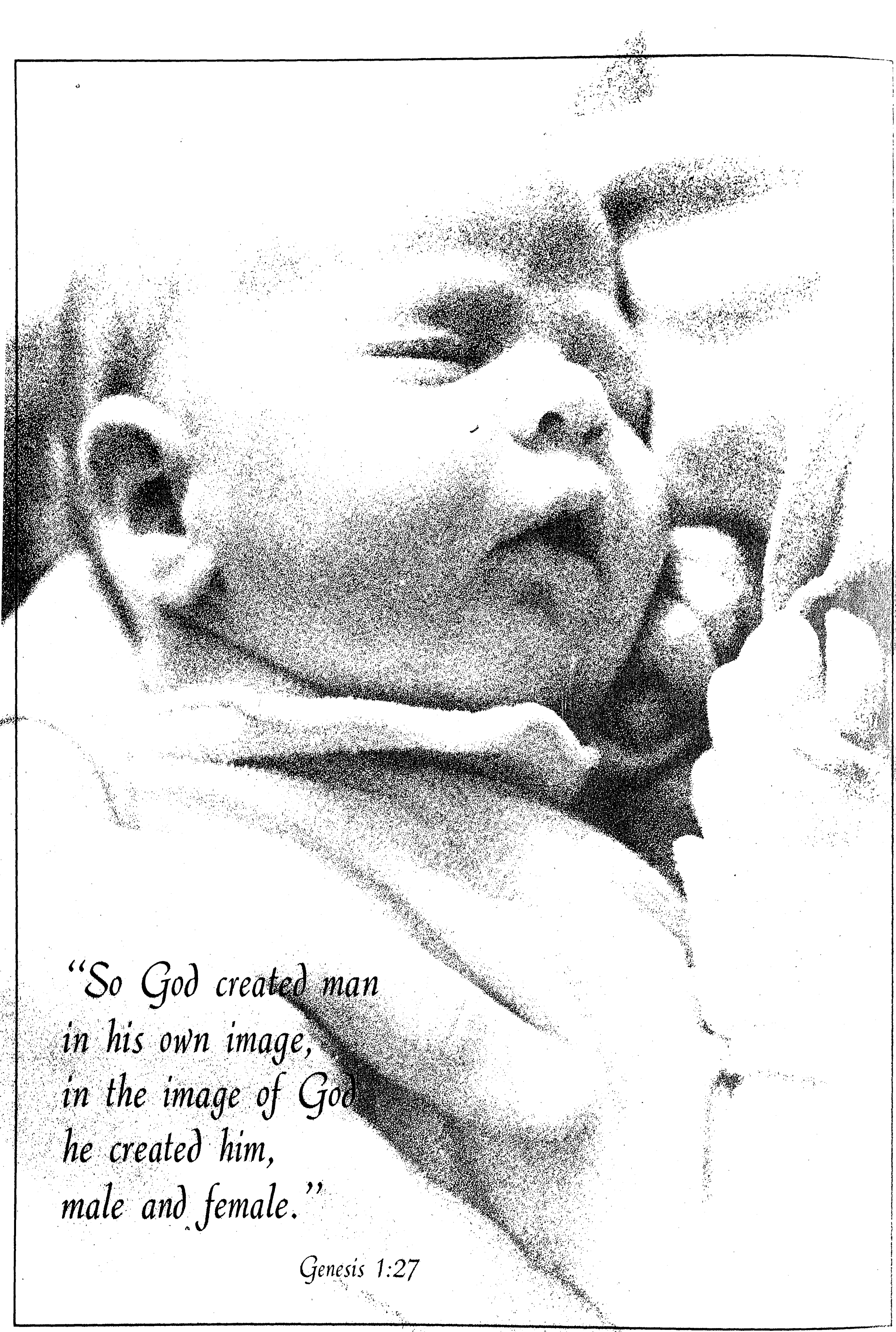
The most creative time in a person's life is early childhood. Adults can help develop the talents by encouraging children even though attempts at art, writing, singing or other activities are less than perfect. These early indications of interests and talents may later be developed into Christian Vocations. Encouragement and affirmation of abilities are important; it is sometimes the most casual remark or series of events that help youth and young adults recognize the purpose of their lives and help choose their life's work.

The vocations—or avocations—selected to be highlighted in this article are not more important or rewarding than other work which is necessary for the smooth operation of a church. They were selected for being closely related to the mission of the church—ministry and worship.

Did God look down upon the earth before you were born and say, "The world needs another artist, carpenter, homemaker or whatever," and give you the talent to fill that need?

Honor God: Choose a Christian Vocation

Every person is made
in the likeness of our Creator.
We share the same kinds
of emotions and talents.
Let us honor God
by recognizing our own gifts
and choose a vocation—
our life's work—
which fulfills the purpose of our being. . .
And Give God the Glory. □



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And Give God the Glory. □

“...a surrendering of oneself to be used by God”

Christian Writer

To see a need and fill it is one of the descriptions of Christian Service. The lack of materials to meet the specific needs of children—and young adults—has been a challenge to me to write.

The truths taught are Bible based, and learned through personal experiences. The stories are written in a style which a particular age group can relate to—and learn from, using illustrations and circumstances which make the points come alive. (Notice how Jesus used examples and stories which caught the interest of His listeners.) I have used this personally in this way: Ages 1-5, Racco Raccoon as he appears on the children's pages of the *Sabbath Recorder*; Ages 4-7, puppet stories featuring Jeremiah Giraffe; grades 4-6, Nurture Series on the Sabbath (from the Board of Christian Education); and Elementary School, our Young Believers program featuring a series of graded lessons to aid growth, just as the mascot, Wyebe (a caterpillar) grows into a butterfly (available from the East Tennessee church).

It is sometimes very frustrating to sort out the thoughts and truths to be taught. Each story or lesson is a surrendering of oneself to be used by God and write what He wants taught. This is the first part of JOY. The second part is seeing Others—young and old—grasp the love of God and His truths. When these people in turn go out and share what they have learned, JOY is complete. □

—Linda V.H. (Mrs. John) Camenga

“...we teach so much of the Bible through music”

Children's Choir Director

I really find it hard to get started writing how I feel about Children's Choir directing in general. It is an exciting vocation, avocation—whatever it is to the person doing it! It really chose me rather than my choosing it. In my job as director of music in our church we needed a children's choir director and I became it.

As far as requirements or qualifications, I feel one's belief in Jesus Christ to be number one. If you don't know the ONE you are singing about—how can you lead little ones? Children's Choirs are excellent places to teach about the Christian faith and the ones leading should know what they want to teach. Musical knowledge should be present also, not necessarily a degree, but understanding of musical styles, etc. A good singing voice is an asset but not a total necessity—or else I would be disqualified.

Those who love the Lord, know music and care about children have many available resources to help them in being a children's choir director. I think that Chorister's Guild is tops in what it has available to help us. They have monthly (10) issues a year of a publication that has ideas and samples of music. They have national seminars in the summer and there are many area chapters in the country. To find out information about the seminars you can write them at: Chorister's Guild, 2834 W. Kingsley Road, Garland, TX 75041 or call (214) 271-1521.

Also available are church music conferences. Keep an eye out for these. Here in Wisconsin we have U.W. Extension Service which just had a course in Children's Choirs in church. Many churches sponsor their own seminars. Start inquiring and find out what is available in your area.

Children are unpredictable so your sense of accomplishment can't come simply from how well they do when they sing in church. A sense of growth in Jesus and in working in a group are things I look for. Joy in music (the “joyful noise”) is what I really want. Also we teach so much of the Bible through music and this is such a good way of sowing the seed!

Salaries for Children's Choir Directors are small if at all—it usually becomes a gift of time and talent. Hopefully churches can recognize the worth of this ministry and if they can't pay the director, at least they can supply music and perhaps help financially with attendance at music conferences.

The possibilities in Children's Choir directing are great. I recommend that anyone who feels a leading in this form of ministry, pursue it. It is a very special ministry. □

—Barbara (Mrs. Herbert) Saunders

“...it wasn't so much what I could do, but what Jesus could do through me”

The Ministry

As a very young man I guess I wanted to grow up and become all the exciting things most kids dream of becoming: a fireman, policeman, doctor, etc. It seems to me, however, that those dreams began to change around the time I made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as my Savior. My call into the ministry was not sudden or instantly clear, but gradually I began to feel more and more certain that God was prodding me into full time service for Him. I am sure that what held me back and caused me to question my calling the most was doubt of my own capabilities. As I began to see it wasn't so much what I could do, but what Jesus could do through me that mattered, I began to feel more secure and sure of my calling.

Whether to go to college and seminary was a frustrating question for me, as I always disliked school, but the more I thought about it the more I became convinced that even though God could use any ole weed patch, He undoubtedly could use a cultivated field even more effectively. So I went to college and seminary and now as a pastor I wonder how I ever thought I could possibly jump into such a challenging job with so little training.

The pastoral ministry has already proven to be a very fulfilling occupation. What could be more of a challenge than to be called to an office that allows you to work full time at helping other people see the importance

of investing their lives in those things which have eternal value. What could possibly be more exciting than to see God at work in other peoples' lives and realize that He has called you to work with Him at it. Ultimately my feelings of accomplishment and satisfaction seem directly proportionate to how successful I am at allowing Him to be Lord and following His leading. □

—Rev. Robert W. Babcock

“There are no words to describe the rewards. . .”

Christian Missionary

Many times during my life the thought crossed my mind: I would like to be a missionary. But it would always be followed by a second thought: don't be ridiculous, you can't be a missionary. You have no training; no Bible education. Even if someone asked you, you wouldn't know what to do. So naturally, no preparation was made toward it.

When God decided it was time, He just began to open doors and the first thing I knew I was on my way to Africa.

Work was never harder. Frustrations never more overwhelming.

There are no words to describe the rewards: Peace beyond imagination. □

—Audrey and Menzo Fuller

As a child, one of the highlights of my week was being allowed to play on my grandmother's reed organ in her parlor. A few years later, I followed with great interest the purchase and installation of the new Moeller pipe organ in my home church (Shiloh). From an older friend I learned that a prerequisite for organ lessons was at least three or four years of piano training.

Eight years after I began piano lessons, I took six weeks of organ lessons one summer, followed by a year of organ

training with Prof. Ray Wingate at Alfred University. Much practice, some natural talent, and occasional workshops and classes at the University of Redlands throughout the past thirty-three years have improved my skill as assistant and then organist in the Riverside church. At the present time, I am profiting from a weekly class in theory and improvisation with a local nationally-known teacher and organ course author.

There are more requirements for being a church organist—long hours, many rehearsals, coming

early on Sabbath and staying late, having to find a sub when needed, pleasing everyone's taste and—in my case at least, no pay (I know several SDB churches where this is true), but it is well worth it.

The organ has sounded praise to the Lord for thousands of years; to be a part of this praise is the highest attainment I can envision for any organist. Other rewards may be great—renumeration, admiration, and personal enjoyment—but the greatest is offering music as praise in worship. □

—Jean (Mrs. Philip) Lewis

“...talent is a gift given by God”

Christian Artist

In choosing a vocation in the field of art the main requirement/qualification is to possess talent. The amount of talent determines the degree of success—although there are other factors, as in any vocation. But without talent it is difficult to be an artist. I feel that my talent is a gift given me by God and that I am making others aware of God and the Christian message by working in the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House. In order for someone to read articles in *The Sabbath Recorder*, or a tract, or any other denominational publication, we must get his attention and in some way make him **want** to read it. This is the job of the artist: to create beauty, interest, curiosity so a person will begin to read. Then the message itself must take over for the publication to be an effective denominational tool.

Art education is a process of polishing rough edges, learning

the mechanics of certain processes, studio techniques, and use of equipment. It sometimes involves philosophies and psychological reactions. The best education is experience—a trite expression which is true in my case. My high school major was art, followed by a few elective art courses in college. Most valuable to me were county adult education courses in commercial art taught by art directors from various local companies and attended by other artists: free lance, newspaper, advertising design and one church publishing house employee.

Typical of the artistic temperament, my frustrations result from my own sense of perfection. Perfection is costly: in effort, in time, and in materials. So an artist must do the best job possible in the time available to achieve the highest quality within budget. □

—Patricia (Mrs. George) Cruzan

Chaplain

During the present emphasis in our denomination on Church Growth and the gifts of the Spirit a new awareness developed within my life. This awareness has something to do with the acceptance of my own unique personality profile with its attendant talents and abilities as being a gift of God. I had been long convinced that ministry was God's will for my life and had been in two different pastorates over a period of ten years. One of my major questions during this time was that dealing with death or other loss with the inevitable grieving process which is a necessary response to grief if emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health is to be maintained. My own family and church experience seemed to be heightening my awareness in this field.

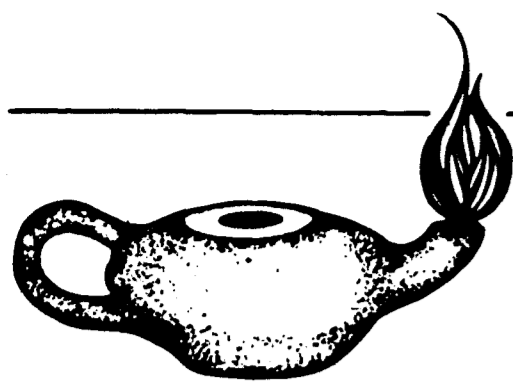
As life experiences came to our family we experienced some very concerned pastoral care. As I ministered to my church members I too was concerned. My professors who had taught me were also concerned that good pastoral care should be given by all their students when in the pastorate. But, the care which I was taught, learned, practiced and received left my questions even more unanswered. Somehow it came across that grief was an evidence of a lack of faith, a kind of “unfaith,” or merely a means to greater faith. In other words, encouragement to “believe more” left me feeling somehow unclean or guilty when, at the time, I **could not** believe. It was as though God Himself would not allow us ever to doubt, wonder or question what was happening in a person's life.

With the affirmation from my experience after taking the “Hout's” test my family made the commitment to take action

on our conviction. We moved to Atlanta, my wife went back to nursing full time, and our local church supported us as did the denomination in our endeavor. Three years of seminary, and now a year's internship as a chaplain in Kansas City, KS, have given reality to many of my questionings. As I get in touch with the spiritual dimensions in my own life and the lives of others I am impressed with the feeling that spirituality is the ability to form accepting relationships with God, self and others. If grief is a present reality then I am willing to accept that, share with a person in it, and trust God to bring acceptance through the situation. The paradox is, that it is in sharing sorrow fully that a greater joy, acceptance, and affirmation of life comes. The rewards of chaplaincy can be those of making some sense out of a seemingly chaotic experience because of a willingness to trust God instead of blaming either Him or ourselves for our own sorrow. □

—Cliff Bond

“...a willingness to trust God”



Thy Word is a light...

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

Teachers Mini-Lab

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

June, July or August - whatever date you have set for your Vacation Church School or Bible Clubs seems very far distant. In reality it will be only a short time before all plans should be finalized and materials be purchased.

What will the program look like? The most typical pattern for vacation programs continues to be the one or two week vacation church school, held in the church building, using an overall theme and planned curriculum. Some schools purchase lesson material from publishing houses, some schools design their own schedule and lessons around a theme of interest to the congregation in their church.

The Ashaway church held one night a week classes for the whole family using Family Worship as the theme for summer 1981.

Another school sponsored a one-week, Monday through Friday, evening school. In addition to regular classes for children, the whole group met together to learn about some of the outreach programs supported by that congregation, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Whatever schedule is preferred by your church, one of two curriculum course is suggested: the **Nurture Series** produced by the Board of Christian Education

(Primary lessons should be available this spring). The **Vocational Ventures Series** which has been cooperatively developed and produced by approximately twelve denominations through the **Cooperative Publications Associations**, Box 179, St. Louis, MO 63166. You may write for their free brochure.

The theme is "God's People: Empowered by Love." The series continues to explore what it means to be "God's People." Lessons for all ages give the opportunity to discover how God's love can be a source of power in finding meaning in their lives. □

Decade of Discipleship

Are you, or do you wish to become, a Disciple for Christ? A profile of a disciple has been described thus:

1. A disciple has a consistent daily devotional time and is developing in his prayer life.
2. A disciple demonstrates faithfulness and a desire to learn and apply the Word of God through regular Bible study, Scripture memory, reading and meditation on the Scriptures.
3. A disciple demonstrates a servant heart by a sincere interest in helping others.
4. A disciple is seeking to determine and use his spiritual gift of gifts. □

-from Essentials of New Life,
F.M. Cosgrove, Jr.

Our Needs Are Met In Christ

(Continued from page 5)

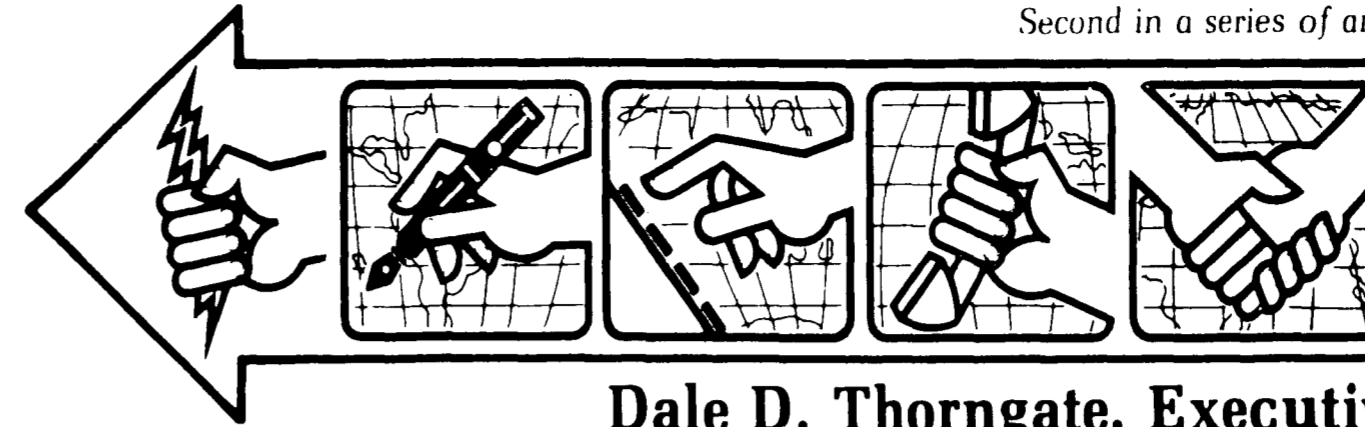
ways. And when Paul wrote to the Colossians he carried on the same theme:

"Only Christ can enable men to live in a right relationship with each other. It is this unifying power of his which must dictate your every decision, for you were meant to be one united body. . . ." (Colossians 3:15, Barclay)

AN EXERCISE:

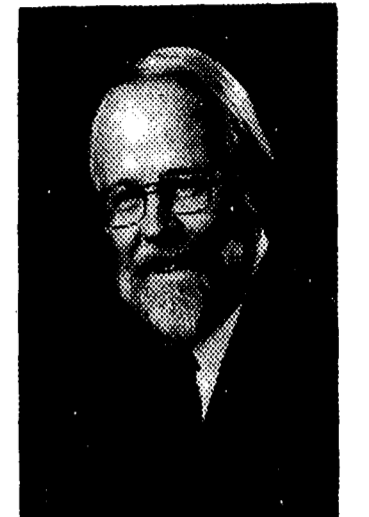
Compare your experience of reconciliation to God with that described in each of the references of this study. What privileges does your experience open to you? What responsibilities are you called to fulfill because Christ reconciled you to God? Continue to add to your lists of privileges and responsibilities as you gain insight from study and prayer. Look forward to more specific studies of responsibility and privilege under Christ. As you study, consider II Corinthians 5:1-10 along with our basic scripture. □

Second in a series of articles on church growth principles and methods.



The Bible Says Grow

Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



"In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success." (Proverbs 3:6 LB)

"We believe that the Bible is the inspired record of God's will for man, of which Jesus Christ is the supreme interpreter; and that it is our final authority in matters of faith and conduct."

The above extract from the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief reflects our understanding of the importance of the Bible in all aspects of our lives. It is logical then that we should look to the scriptures for God's will regarding church growth.

From the very beginning God has been reaching out to people to bring them salvation and fulfillment. In the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve had broken their relationship to God he called out to them, "Adam where are you?" It is the theme completed in the New Testament: "For 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."

Why the Church?

These are calls by God to individuals, that is true, but if we examine the phenomenon of church growth after Christ's resurrection we understand that the church is in fact an extension of God's reaching out to people. The church was organized by Jesus' disciples to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ as the one who brings us into a complete relationship with God.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, asks some very significant questions which the church must be prepared to answer. He first states from his own faith, "Every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But then he asks, "How then can they call on the one of whom they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without some one preaching to them?" It is through the church that the disciples responded to these questions.

The Young Church Multiplies

A quick review of the book of Acts reveals that in the First Century church phenomenal growth occurred. "And the same day (this is immediately after the

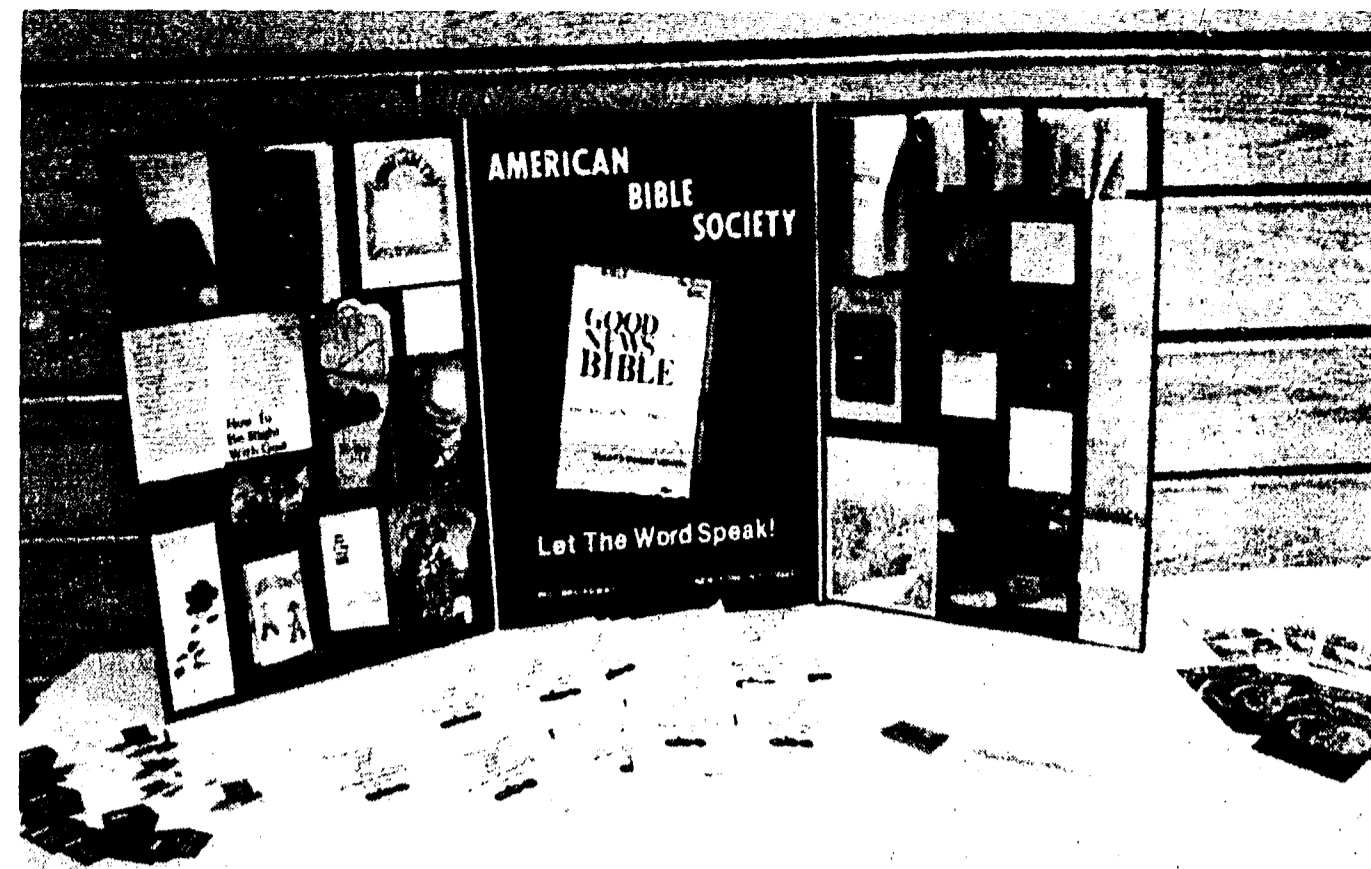
disciples had received the power of the Holy Spirit) there were added to them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41). We also understand that this was not just a Sabbath Day activity: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." (Acts 2:47) The Lord through the efforts of the disciples caused the church to grow. We get the idea that it was a very dynamic growth experience. "So the word of God spread; and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly." (Acts 6:7) They are not just adding now but multiplying. Even whole towns accepted Christ as Lord: "All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him (Aeneas, who Peter had healed) and turned to the Lord." (Acts 9:35).

Donald McGavran in his book How To Grow a Church, written with Win Arn, tells us that "the principle for this New Testament growth was that it is God's purpose — His ongoing, unshakable, unchanging purpose for the salvation of people. It is God's will that this should happen."

Your Church Can Grow!

Yes, God does call individuals to believe in Him but as soon as they believe they begin to organize as churches and function as churches. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus in his last words on earth tells his disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." The disciples' response was to preach the good news to individuals, and to organize them into local churches which were also to make disciples. In the letter to the Ephesians, the writer talks about the church as the "Body of Christ" with the responsibility of making disciples and training them for "peace and unity."

The Bible says grow. If your church is not growing and you would like it to grow, you must study, pray a lot, work hard, and have faith that God wants your church to grow. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6) □



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY REPORT TO THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE

The American Bible Society, founded in 1816, continues to pursue the only purpose for which it was established: the translation, production and distribution of God's Word without doctrinal note or comment, and without profit.

Many advances were made for the Bible cause during 1980, highlights of which are included in the enclosed copy of the *American Bible Society Record* of May of 1981.

On behalf of the millions of people who met our Lord Jesus through the pages of Scripture in 1980, the ABS would like to express its sincere thanks to the churches and agencies of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference for their share in this work of Scripture evangelism. The denomination's support for each of the past four years has averaged about twenty-five cents per member, or a total of \$1,276.

We know that the Bible work being carried out in India is of particular interest to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. The following is a true story about how God is working in India through the Bible Society—changing another Saul into a Paul.

It happened at Asia's largest cattle fair, an event that takes place

every year. Bible Society workers, together with "van evangelists" seized this opportunity to hold a massive Scripture distribution program and to witness for the Lord to millions of Hindus.

A Hindu professor, who was a member of a strong anti-Christian group, started harassing the dedicated young men from the start. When they wouldn't listen to him, he became hostile. Whenever he found time, he came to their tent and started arguments.

But the van evangelists were always kind to him, trying to solve his problems patiently—trying to find the solution for his problems in the Word of God.

The professor's attitude gradually changed. He became inquisitive. One day he asked for an English Bible—received it—and took it home.

As a result of reading God's Word, he accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord and sought further instruction. Later on we received a letter from him saying he had been baptized.

FROM THE PHILIPPINES
Another example of what your gifts in 1980 have helped to accomplish is seen in the Philippines. The following is another true story, as told by a Bible Socie-

ty representative who was sharing the Scriptures with some of the "boat people" who had found refuge in the Philippines.

"As I inched my way to the bunkhouse to give out these Scripture Selections, a 13-year-old Vietnamese boy named Huy followed me. In broken English he said, 'You telling about God? Me know Him little bit.' So I stopped and told him more about God and His love. He then invited me to visit his family where his father, Le, told how he and his family had escaped in a motorboat when the communists overthrew South Vietnam. They had to endure sharks, violent storms, and even a pirate attack. They lost everything. I explained that God had a reason for bringing them out of their own country—even though it might be hard to see it just then. I asked if they had ever read the Bible. When they said they hadn't, I gave them some Scripture Selections. After awhile, Le's wife said, 'This is good. I feel something in my heart.' Le then volunteered to distribute more Scriptures and said, 'I want to help you give my people this precious treasure. We will... share the Word of God with others.' As I left Le and his family, I heard him say, 'All along the journey, amidst all kinds of dangers and impending death, I have always felt a loving hand

upholding me and my family. Now I know it was God!'"

If only we could reach every man, woman and child with the written word of God. They could experience the same new life in Christ as revealed through His message of love and forgiveness.

To help aid the ABS in its worldwide effort to serve the church and its global ministries, and to strengthen the indispensable partnership between the churches and the ABS, an Advisory Council was held last year. Representatives of many major denominations were present at this Council, to discuss with officials of the ABS ways in which increased support for the worldwide Bible cause and goals for the years to come could be achieved. Representing the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference was Dr. K. Duane Hurley, Executive Secretary.

At the Advisory Council meeting, several important resolutions were adopted. Of special significance is the resolution encouraging "...greater financial support from churches and the total Christian community, especially when viewed in light of U.S. and world inflation..." and urging "...the churches to set a goal of at least ten percent annual growth in financial support to the work of the ABS." We sincerely hope that the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference will find it possible to assist in the fulfillment of this resolution. Perhaps we could look for the day when the average gift to the Bible cause will be at least thirty-five cents per member per year!

If you would like additional information on ABS programs or materials, please write:

American Bible Society
Church Relations Department
1865 Broadway
New York, NY 10023

RECORDER REACTIONS

Just a word of appreciation for your very worthwhile and helpful publication. Please find enclosed a check for \$20.00 to cover costs of subscription for 1982. Being a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister (and retired Army Chaplain also) has not kept me from a close, personal relationship with our good Seventh Day Baptist friends. I worship with the Little Rock SDB Church. May God's good Spirit lead and bless you that your combined ministry may continue to be a blessing to many who are desiring to be saved through the mercy and merits of our Saviour and Lord.

Chaplain Carl R. Holden
Yellville, AR

Your editorial in the December issue prompts me to comment on the decision to send a copy of the publication to each S.D.B. home. This is the best possible way to advance our cause and bring the members of our society closer together.

I wish every member could read Rev. Don Sanford's "In the Fulness of Time." This is one of the most thought provoking articles I have ever read. In fact, all the material in this edition is of high quality and should reach as many individuals as possible.

Please accept my contribution of \$100.00 to help the American Sabbath Tract Society accomplish its objective.

Sedgley Thornbury
Daytona Beach, FL

Mission Notes

(Continued from page 13)

well as with your full support — morally, financially and most important of all — Prayers."

● PACIFIC NORTHWEST: Pastor Duane L. Davis, the area Evangelism chairman for PCA and pastor in Seattle and Pacific, writes: "There are certainly so many evidences that there is a very ripe harvest field." He mentions that it is hoped that Rev. Homer Fletcher can do some visitation and church planting work in Oregon and Eastern Washington State. A trailer has been obtained for on-the-road accommodation. It is hoped that many of the new leaders will be able to participate in the Spiritual Retreat at Seattle, WA, the first of March.

United We Stand

(Continued from page 30)

Jose Rene Cedillos at one time served a Spanish speaking church in the Bronx, New York. But he did not stay in the USA. The love of Christ constrained him to go back to his people where he is facing personal danger and want.

"It is wonderful to know that many Baptist are praying for us. We need you prayers." Then, in a quieter voice, he urged me: "Brother, if some of the Baptists could come to our country, it would strengthen our witness. If one of the

● JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA: Recent correspondence with those seeking a Sabbath church home has made possible their contacts with each other and planned meetings. Remember in prayer Thomas H. Cary as he seeks God's will. Several years ago G.H. Rowe visited Malawi and became a member of the Makapwa SDB Church. He has been in fellowship (nonresident) with the church near Port Elizabeth, though living in Johannesburg area.

● NORTH LOUP, NE: The grades 3 and 4 Sabbath School class, taught by Pastor Larry Graffius, had a "Missions Festival" in February. Slides of SDB missions with emphasis on Malawi and The Philippines, brochures, articles and pictures were used. We are sure this overflowed into the families and to many church members too. □

BWA leaders would visit us, it would demonstrate our unity in Christ, in the midst of a society full of mutual distrust and hatred."

Jose is back in El Salvador. He left with a smile, waving good-by. But his urgent appeal lingers on in me: "Brother, if some of the Baptists could come to our country..." and his parting words resound in me: "United we stand. Please stand with us!"

Yes, Jose, we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord — and we stand with you not only on Baptist World Alliance Day, but on every day of the year. □

the CHURCH in ACTION

NEW GROUP FORMED IN OREGON

WINSTON, OREGON — A new Seventh Day Baptist group in southwestern Oregon was formed at Winston, OR, on January 12, with fourteen members.

Electing Boyd Rowe of Roseburg, OR, as local lay leader, the group set plans for meeting Sabbaths and on Tuesday evenings. It appears that a public chapel is available for the Sabbath services in the area of Winston and Dillard, OR. Pastor Homer Fletcher, Smith River, CA and Deacon Richard Steele, Oregon City, OR, both of the Portland Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, were present and assisted with formulating plans at this first meeting.

Until ready to complete their organization the group will be a branch church of the Portland Area church, receiving guidance from Pastor C. Justin Camenga. Brother Fletcher, though living in Northern California, expects to be making evangelism outreach calls in the Northwest and will be the pastor of the new group. Brother Fletcher's work is being coordinated through the Missions-Evangelism committee's northern-subcommittee of the Pacific Coast Association.

The group at Winston asks for your prayers for their firm establishment and growth in promoting the Gospel of Christ. They have expressed the desire to hear from other Seventh Day Baptist brethren in other parts of the nation, for words of encouragement. For further information or to get in touch with the Winston church, contact Boyd and Lucille Rowe, 871 N.E. Alameda, Roseburg, OR 97450, phone (503) 672-9351. □

SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN

If you are a widow and are having trouble meeting the day to day expense of living and would like to have fellowship with Seventh Day Baptists, please call Sunshine Mountain, 1-601-783-3426 and talk with Ralph Hays. At the moment there are six empty bedrooms. There are things one can do and there are people to talk to. This is not a nursing home and each person would be responsible for her own food and cooking. So if you are lonely and have time on your hands with nothing to do and you feel that you still have a lot of love that you could give to a child or retarded person on a part-time basis, give us a call. May the Lord direct your heart. □

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the voting members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, 120 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891, on Sunday, March 21, 1982, at 2:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

1. To elect Voting Members, a Board of Managers and Officers to hold office until the next Annual Meeting and until their successors are elected.
2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and Officers for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1981.
3. To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
4. To consider and act upon such matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1982 as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined. □

-Elston H. Van Horn, Secretary



JACOBSON GIVES DEDICATES SERVICE

Ronda Jacobson's home church in Westerly, Rhode Island, gave her a special commissioning service to send her off for a year of dedicated service at the denominational building. She began work in December under Ethel Dickinson, secretary to Executive Dale Thorngate. Ronda does general typing and clerical tasks for several of the offices, particularly things related to relocation.

Many know Ronda from her service in SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) last summer in Albion, Wisconsin. She says she's glad to return to Wisconsin when the offices move. She is a 1981 graduate of Chariho Regional High School where she took business studies and has experience as technical processor and assistant in the children's room of the Westerly Library.

Many people are served through Ronda's work. Executive Thorngate keeps in touch with SDB leaders in this country and around the world through letters she types. Retired pastors and widows and workers insured under the denominational health plan keep abreast of their benefits through letters she types for the Memorial Fund trustees. Research requests to the Historical Society from churches and individuals are better served because she files new cards in the *Sabbath Recorder* index.

(Continued on page 26)

NEW YORK CITY CHURCH DEDICATES ORGAN & PULPIT

It was a great day at the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church on November 13 when approximately 200 people attended special services for dedication of a new organ. New pulpit and platform furniture were also dedicated in a joyous celebration with much singing and praise to God.

General Conference Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate gave the address. He spoke about the place of music in worship and Christian experience and particularly in the historical tradition of Seventh Day Baptists. Chairperson for the festivities was S. Felix McEwan, president of the Jamaica Freedom League.

Dedication prayers were given by Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, acting historian of the General Conference (for the pulpit) and by Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, pastor of the Plainfield, New Jersey, church (for the organ). Rev. Socrates Thompson, pastor of the New York City church, and Henry A. Grant, assistant pastor, led litanies of dedication.

The new Baldwin electronic organ was unveiled by Mrs. Dorothy Vassell, first person to make a donation toward the new organ, and Mrs. Ethel Dickinson, representing the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society which had contributed toward it. The switch was flipped by Janet Thorngate for the Plainfield church, which has been particularly supportive.

Pastor Thompson reviewed briefly the history of the church, organized in 1975. It had met in several places in Manhattan before moving into its own building on Ogden Avenue in the Bronx. "History had brought us to the place where singing was loud enough and dragging enough to have need of a musical instrument," he said. Mrs. Thompson told the story of faith which led to the purchase of the organ including the fact that most of the funds were raised before they had anyone to play the instrument. Then Pearl Cooper, a member of the Kingston, Jamaica, church moved to New York City and joined the fellowship just in time to help with details of the selection and purchase and to become the new organist.

The new pulpit is a gift from Pastor C.L. Smellie, a retired pastor formerly from Jamaica now living in Southern California. His grandchildren Clyde and Anita Mamby did the unveiling. Wilhelmina Powell and Clara Thompson unveiled the platform chairs, which had been purchased also by special contributions.

Three different choirs sang for the occasion: from the Victory Tabernacle Seventh Day Christian Church in New York City, the Remnant Church of God Seventh Day in Philadelphia, and the young people's group of the New York City SDB Church—twenty-two young people under the direction of Paulene James. Several individuals and small groups in the church also brought special musical selections and readings. These included Patricia Thompson, Norman Murphy and Co., and the junior group, Brother N. Hemmings, and Keridad Madi.

"Praise him with timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs."
(Psalm 150:4)



Rev. Harmon Dickinson, Rev. Victor Skaggs, Rev. Socrates Thompson, Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate, and Chairperson S. McEwan at services dedicating the New York City Church pulpit and organ.



Young people of the New York City SDB Church sing at services dedicating new pulpit and organ.



Sister Pearl Cooper plays the new organ at its dedication services in New York City.

Following the services refreshments were served in the church basement for the many friends and members of the congregation who had traveled far for the special occasion. The closing words of the pulpit dedication litany fittingly expressed their oneness in spirit:

"We now, the people of this Church and Congregation, grateful for our heritage of truth, remembering the sacrifices of our fathers in the Faith, do dedicate this Pulpit with its furnishings unto the proclamation of the Pure Word of God, that men may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that believing they may have life through His Name."

-Janet Thorngate

ACCESSIONS

ALFRED, NY

By Testimony:
Lannette (Mrs. George) Calhoun
George Calhoun

ALFRED STATION, NY
Rex E. Zwiebel, Pastor

By Baptism:
Debi Ellis
Trina Allen
Amy Palmer

By Letter:
Linda Spaine Butts

DAYTONA BEACH, FL
Kenneth Van Horn, Pastor

By Baptism:
Sedgley Thornbury

SEATTLE AREA, WA
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

By Testimony:
Robert Spreadborough

MARRIAGES

BOYD-CLARK.—Joe Allen Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Boyd of RD, New Enterprise, PA, and Sandy Jane Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Lee Clark of RD, Everett, PA, were united in marriage at the New Enterprise Church of the Brethren on December 19, 1981, by the groom's pastor, Rev. Melvin F. Stephan. They are living at New Enterprise, PA 16664.

VISCOSI-WALTER.—Michael Viscosi, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Viscosi of Oneida Castle, New York, and Denise Walter, daughter of Mrs. Jeanne Tompkins were united in marriage on November 21, 1981 at the Verona SDB Church by Rev. C. Rex Burdick. They reside in Garland, TX.

BIRTHS

GOODRICH.—A daughter, Samantha Nicol, to Sgt. and Mrs. John Goodrich of Omaha, NE, on December 19, 1981.

RICHARDS.—A daughter, Laura Anne, to Daniel and Dawn (Soper) Richards of North Loup, NE, on December 26, 1981.

WARNER.—A son, Christopher Scott, to Wayne and Connie Warner of Verona, NY, on December 29, 1981.

HOW YOUR
SUBSCRIPTION IS PAID

Your copy of *The Sabbath Recorder* is sent without 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. □

Jacobson Gives Dedicated Service

(Continued from page 24)

Ronda is presently gathering the latest information on new SDB fellowships and groups for use in directing new contacts to the worship services or Bible study nearest them. The inventory and address changes she works on will help us be ready for the move. Individual SDBs have the opportunity to obtain books no longer needed by the Council on Ministry library since Ronda is processing requests for them.

How does Ronda feel about it after working for three months? A quick reply accompanies her winning smile: "I love working for the Lord!"

Support for Ronda's year of dedicated service will come from Our World Mission (OWM) gifts designated specifically for that purpose. She receives no salary, only living expenses and a \$200-a-month stipend. (Room and board are contributed by local Seventh Day Baptists.)

Gifts specified for Ronda's work may be sent to OWM through your local church or directly to treasurer Gordon Sanford, R.D. 1, Little Genesee, NY 14754. □

-Janet Thorngate

The Sabbath Recorder

Religion In Review

(Continued from page 9)

years ago, withdrew its membership from the World Council of Churches, mainly because of Third World policies.

NEWSMAKERS

Pope John Paul II recovered from an assassination attempt and Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca was convicted of the shooting...the daughter of Rep. Leo J. Ryan, killed at Jonestown, was following a cult leader in India...former People's Temple cultist Larry Layton was freed after a mistrial in a case revolving around Ryan's death...James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for the slaying of Martin Luther King, had reportedly become a Christian...Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty "on God's command" to shooting former Beatle John Lennon, and Chapman's minister called him "a very compassionate individual" and helped raise funds for his defense...

Hunger strikers, churchmen, government officials, British soldiers and innocent bystanders died in Northern Ireland's unholy war...Philip Berrigan and seven others in the Plowshares 8 were found guilty of breaking into a General Electric plant and pouring blood on nuclear weapons components and documents...church members were among the black children slain in Atlanta...an Episcopal biblical scholar confided that Jesus really died for "treason against Rome"...

Anti-abortionist Dr. C. Everett Koop, favored son of the Rights, became Surgeon General after a long struggle...Eldridge Cleaver was quoted as saying he wanted to become a Mormon, but that was last week...a flap over funds in Chicago involving Cardinal John Cody and an elderly widow had the Catholic church in turmoil...defrocked Seventh-day Adventist pastor Walter Rea ac-

cused Adventist pioneer Ellen G. White of plagiarism, literary piracy and copyright infringement, but church officials assured the flock that the good woman was clean...

The PTL rollercoaster sped on with Oral Roberts, Lester Sumrall, Jimmy Swaggert, Kenneth Hagin, Jr., and other charismatic clansmen bailing out Jim "Buddy, can you spare a dime?" Bakker, who said the gifts came in the wake of "terribly threatening reality..." Roberts dedicated his City of Faith Hospital...in California, Rev. John MacArthur, Jr., beat an unprecedented "clergy malpractice" rap following the suicide of a young man his church had been counseling...William Wilson was appointed envoy to the Vatican... World Home Bible League founder William Chapman was killed in an accident... Bishop James Edward Walsh, the last Christian missionary to serve in China, died at age 90...

Anita Bryant, singing again in her first public appearance in over a year, stripped to her shorts but said, "Don't worry folks; I'm a Southern Baptist, and we don't ever go too far"...the United States Congress went far enough to award honorary citizenship to missing World War II hero Raoul Wallenberg...Inter-Varsity's John Alexander stepped up from president to president emeritus...Sweden's Jarl Wahlstrom was elected General of the Salvation Army... Waldron Scott resigned as General Secretary of the Executive Council of the World Evangelization Fellowship...Jeb Magruder got his divinity degree at Princeton... Charles Manson's follower-become-Christian Susan Atkins was married in prison... the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize which was met with delight in some quarters and wonderment in others...

The controversial Christian Yellow Pages lost in court and its publishers pledged to stop their

discriminatory practices against non-Christians...the ark of the covenant was the subject of a popular movie and the Shroud of Turin the subject of continued speculation...Religious Roundtable accused the NCC of trying to produce a "non-sexist" Bible and a reported response was "God said she didn't care"...the repugnant Berlin Wall turned 20... Charles Colson and Prison Fellowship hammered away at what few Christians really wanted to hear about or deal with, prison failure and needed reform... Bible scholar/historian Martin Marty pricked the balloon of one of the Religious Rights' favorite bogeymen, "secular humanism," by commenting on the so-called "humanist conspiracy"—"I have seen graffiti that have had more influence than the Humanist Manifestoes"...

An 81-year-old grandmother in New York state led a drive to rid a high school of its Red Devil mascot because she said the students were "worshipping Satan by showing school spirit"...a report from Yugoslavia on the "miracle of Citluk" said the Madonna had appeared to a group of children in that town...Richard Tarr of Tucson set several dates for the rapture of his family and followers but, at last report, had settled in for the winter...France's "Mad Monk" hijacked an Irish jetliner to let the world know that he knows the mysterious "third secret of Fatima," which was revealed to him after he punched out a superior and was booted from a Catholic order in Rome.

AND FINALLY...

Sister Mary Raphael entered a monastery in Mobile, Ala., as a young woman. She emerged this year to visit her hospitalized brother. It was her first time out in society in forty-seven years.

You picked the wrong year, Sister Mary. Did you hear the thud? □

-Evangelical Press News Service-

MUSIC NOTES

by Arthur Rowe

GOSPEL: SOUTH. I was first exposed to the phenomenon of southern gospel singing as a teenager, in western Canada, of all places. A recent concert in Florence, AL, showed that not much has changed since then, except the prices. One used to get in for \$2 or \$3, and have some money left over for bargains at the record table. Now, with admission at \$7 or more, many ignore the merchandise, even though the merchants have diversified from albums and tapes into such accessories as gospel T-shirts, belt buckles, and shopping bags.

The hallmarks of the musical style are still there: harmonic simplicity coupled with solid hand-clapping rhythm; loud, prolonged endings, with the basses sliding down an octave (countless aspiring vocal clones of J.D. Sumner); a tendency to repeat songs 2, 3, or even 4 times in response to the applause of the crowd. The on-stage humor, now as 20 years ago, revolves around good-natured putdowns of the performers during their introductions, and mock-serious attempts to get the single members "married off."

This night provides a fascinating glimpse at the spectrum of styles and lifestyles existing within the southern gospel genre, as five groups take to the stage. First on is the Gold City Quartet, a young group on the ascendancy, still new enough to have their volume under control, still experimenting with some of the artistic creativity, still turning the glory toward Jesus. They are followed by the Dixie Echoes, once an outstanding ensemble noted for their lively renditions of spirituals. Tonight they are dispirited, out of balance, seemingly without a purpose for their presence here.

Next come the Kingsmen. It is easy to see why they have recorded many live albums: the visual effect of large lead singer Jim Hamill next to tiny tenor Ernie Phillips (described as "a former bouncer in the biggest day-care center in West Virginia") is by itself enough to get the crowd laughing and involved. The Kingsmen end their set with their rousing patriotic anthem, "Ring the Bells of Freedom."

After intermission we sat through the presentation of the Florida Boys, notable primarily for their outstanding nasality, and at last encounter the Hinsons. Here is highly professional, polished gospel music with a contemporary country sound. Not only do they include in their number the only woman to appear on the stage this night; they also sound good. Under the influence of their emotional delivery, I begin to sense a ministry occurring here. Leader Ronny Hinson (author of "The Lighthouse") preaches as if he were heir apparent to Hovie Lister, famous founder of the Statesmen, and then, as lightning flashes and rain pelts the coliseum roof, he leads the 3,000-strong audience in some a cappella hymns and offers a fervent prayer. We go out into the stormy night feeling blessed, thankful to have been pointed again to the true Light. □

ON THE MOVE?

If you anticipate a move, please send us your new address at least 4 weeks in advance so you won't miss one exciting issue.

New Address
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

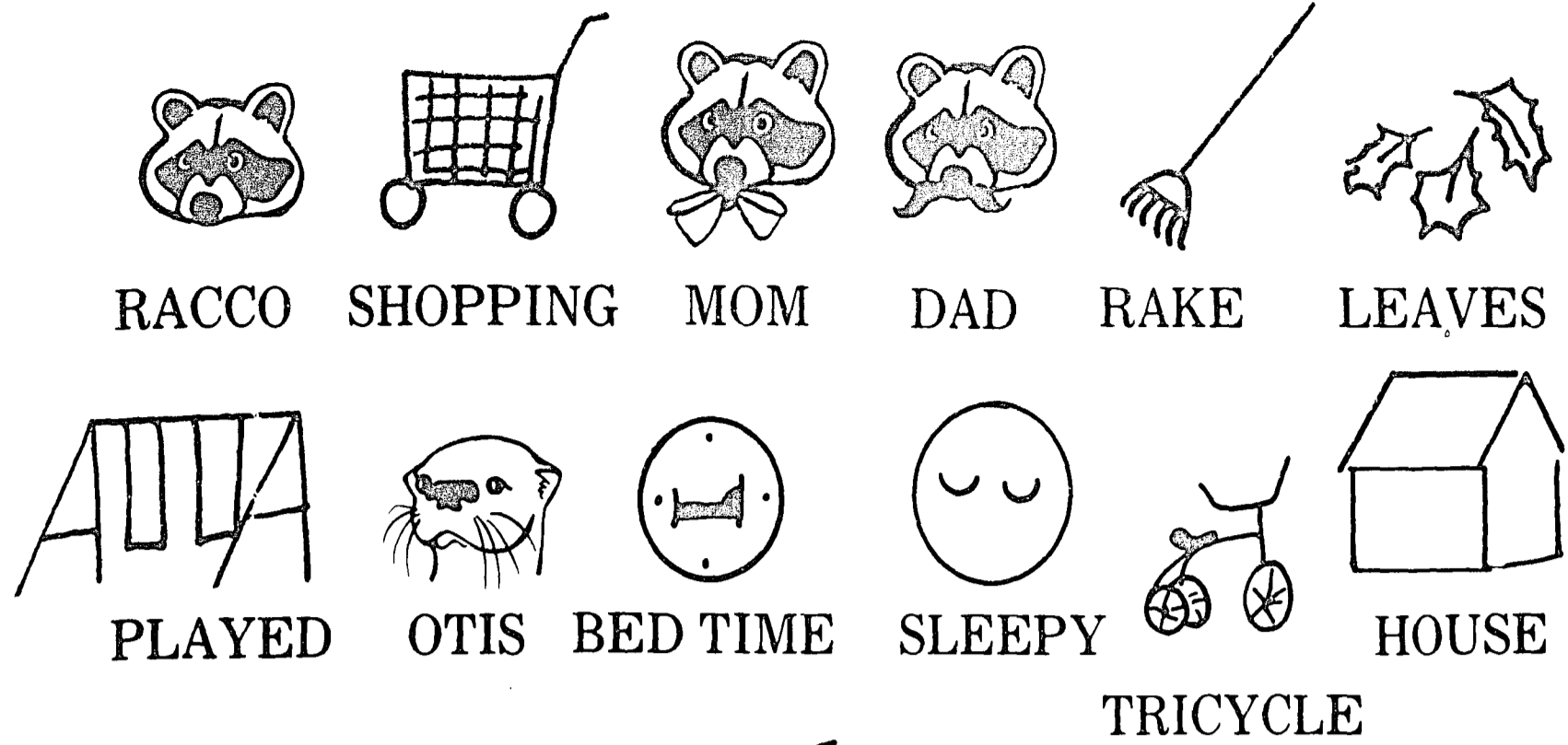
We need your PRESENT ADDRESS. Please write it here OR attach the label from this magazine.

READ THE BIBLE THROUGH IN '82

April

- 1-1 Samuel 21-24
- 2-1 Samuel 25-28
- 3-1 Samuel 29-31
- 4-2 Samuel 1-4
- 5-2 Samuel 5-8
- 6-2 Samuel 9-12
- 7-2 Samuel 13-15
- 8-2 Samuel 16-18
- 9-2 Samuel 19-21
- 10-2 Samuel 22-24
- 11-Psalms 1-3
- 12-Psalms 4-6
- 13-Psalms 7-9
- 14-Psalms 10-12
- 15-Psalms 13-15
- 16-Psalms 16-18
- 17-Psalms 19-21
- 18-Psalms 22-24
- 19-Psalms 25-27
- 20-Psalms 28-30
- 21-Psalms 31-33
- 22-Psalms 34-36
- 23-Psalms 37-39
- 24-Psalms 40-42
- 25-Psalms 43-45
- 26-Psalms 46-48
- 27-Psalms 49-51
- 28-Psalms 52-54
- 29-Psalms 55-57
- 30-Psalms 58-60

The Sabbath Recorder



RACCO had gone SHOPPING with his MOM in the morning. RACCO had PLAYED OTIS and ridden his BED TIME around the HOUSE 4 times, in the afternoon. RACCO had helped his MOM the LEAVES in the evening. RACCO was very SLEEPY. It was RACCO's BED TIME. RACCO liked BED TIME. His MOM and RACCO stopped being busy and did 4 things together. It was a special time. It helped RACCO remember that God cares for him all the time.

Here is what they do:

1. Sing two (2) or three (3) songs about God and Jesus.
2. Have some verse(s) read from God's Word.
3. Listen to a simple story about God's Word.
4. Talk with God.

Why don't you ask your parents to spend a few minutes with you and have a Special time each day?

NOTE TO PARENTS: It is important for young children to see and handle the Bible. There are many good books in the Book Stores to read as supplemental material. They are written in simple form and with colorful pages. Please let your child learn about God and His Love through you. It will help in the years ahead.



UNITED WE STAND

by Reinhold J. Kerstan

WASHINGTON — For more than 76 years the Baptist World Alliance has been the bridge of love and understanding between the nations in the world. Representing the 122 Baptist groups with headquarters in 90 nations and members in 138 countries, the BWA has fulfilled many functions that individual Baptist groups could not have performed.

According to the motto: "In Christ there is no East or West..." The Baptist World Alliance, from its very day of formation, has been blind to race, color and national boundaries. The love in Christ never ceases to change hate into love, enmity into friendship and misgivings into understanding.

When more than 20,000 Baptists met at the 1980 World Congress in Toronto, Canada, they felt united in whatever they did: Bible study, congregational singing, listening to powerful preaching or fellowshiping during the Celebration of Nations on the C.N. Exhibition Grounds. People who have never before seen each other embraced each other and felt a unique kinship.

"None of my family members are Christian," said a young man from Africa. "Being here is like a real family get-together." Busily shaking hands and handing out autographs, he looked up: "Believe me, I love these people here even more than my own brothers and sisters at home. Now I know what Jesus meant when he said, 'These

are by brothers and sisters.' You know, he meant his disciples!"

Another delegate, hunting for good photo shots, quickly looked up long enough to say with a broad smile: "Don't you think we Baptists are a happy bunch?"

But the Baptist World Alliance has many faces. One of these has a rather serious expression. It concerns the help of refugees and displaced persons.

Take for example the hundreds and thousands of Kampuchean refugees. Many of them have worked on farms. Field work is the only occupation they have ever known. Now there is no land to be tilled. In crowded refugee camps they have hardly enough space on the ground for their sleeping mats.

As a part of the relief and development ministry of the Baptist World Alliance, patient teachers are demonstrating to young and old students, how to make a living through sewing, carving or other handcrafts. Other skilled workers teach efficient methods of reforestation, irrigation and animal husbandry.

There is still another face. It is marked by grief and suffering. Tears of pain and compassion fill the eyes of some nations, blinding them for the sunshine that other nations seem to enjoy.

Take for example El Salvador. Civil strife has torn a once happy country to pieces. There is hardly a family left that has not experienced personal loss and tragedy.



"Don't you think we Baptists are a happy bunch?"

At world congresses of the Baptist World Alliance, delegates and visitors discover that "all Christly souls are one in Him throughout the whole wide earth."

No difference of race or nationality can hinder Baptists from building friendships and becoming partners in the effort to bring peace to the world.

"If you drive out of the city of San Salvador," said the Rev. Jose Rene Cedillos, executive secretary of the Baptist Association of El Salvador, in a recent interview in Washington, DC, "it is really terrible to see so many bodies of people who have been killed."

Before I could comprehend the full meaning of what Rev. Cedillos had said, he continued:

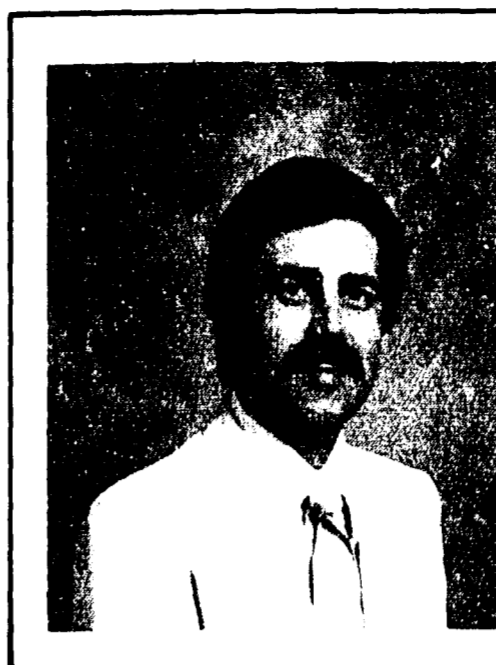
"You know, we praise the Lord even in the midst of all the suffering, because the church is going on. Our Association had a goal of 1000 baptized converts in 1981. In August we had already reached that goal. I know we will reach 1500 by the end of the year."

Before I could ask another question he just seemed to bubble over with good news: "Our churches are packed full with people every Sunday. Just last Sunday our church in San Salvador celebrated its 68th anniversary. More than 1500 people crowded the sanctuary. The worship services started at 5 a.m. and continued until 7 p.m. I baptized 35 believers. You see, why I said, we just praise the Lord?"

(Continued on page 23)

The Sabbath Recorder

TRACT BOARD RELOCATES TO WISCONSIN EDITORIAL



It was a historic meeting - the final meeting of the Board of the American Sabbath Tract Society in Plainfield on January 17, 1982. The Board meeting was followed by a special called meeting of the Society in which new Board members and officers were elected. Neil Aiken is the new president; other officers include:

Herbert L. Crouch, first vice-president; Paul B. Osborn, second vice-president; Dale Green, third vice-president, Virginia N. Burdick, recording secretary; Samuel B. Skaggs, treasurer. The new Board met on January 24 in Janesville for organization and appointment of committees.

Seventh Day Baptists owe a debt of gratitude to the New Jersey brethren who for some fifty years have served the Tract Society. They have given of their time, their energy and their devotion to this ministry, several of them for a period of many years. We are reminded of our role as servants, servants of God in the publishing ministry and servants of the denomination. "For the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45. His example among us was simple and direct: to serve and to give.

And those of the Tract Board have followed this example in the true sense of the word - giving of self in service to a cause



The New Jersey ASTS officers: Anna C. North, Recording Secretary; John D. Bevis, Publishing Director; George Cruzan, President; Myron McPherson, Treasurer; Owen Probasco, First Vice-President; Philip Bond, Second Vice-President; not shown: Donald Richards, Ass't Recording Secretary.

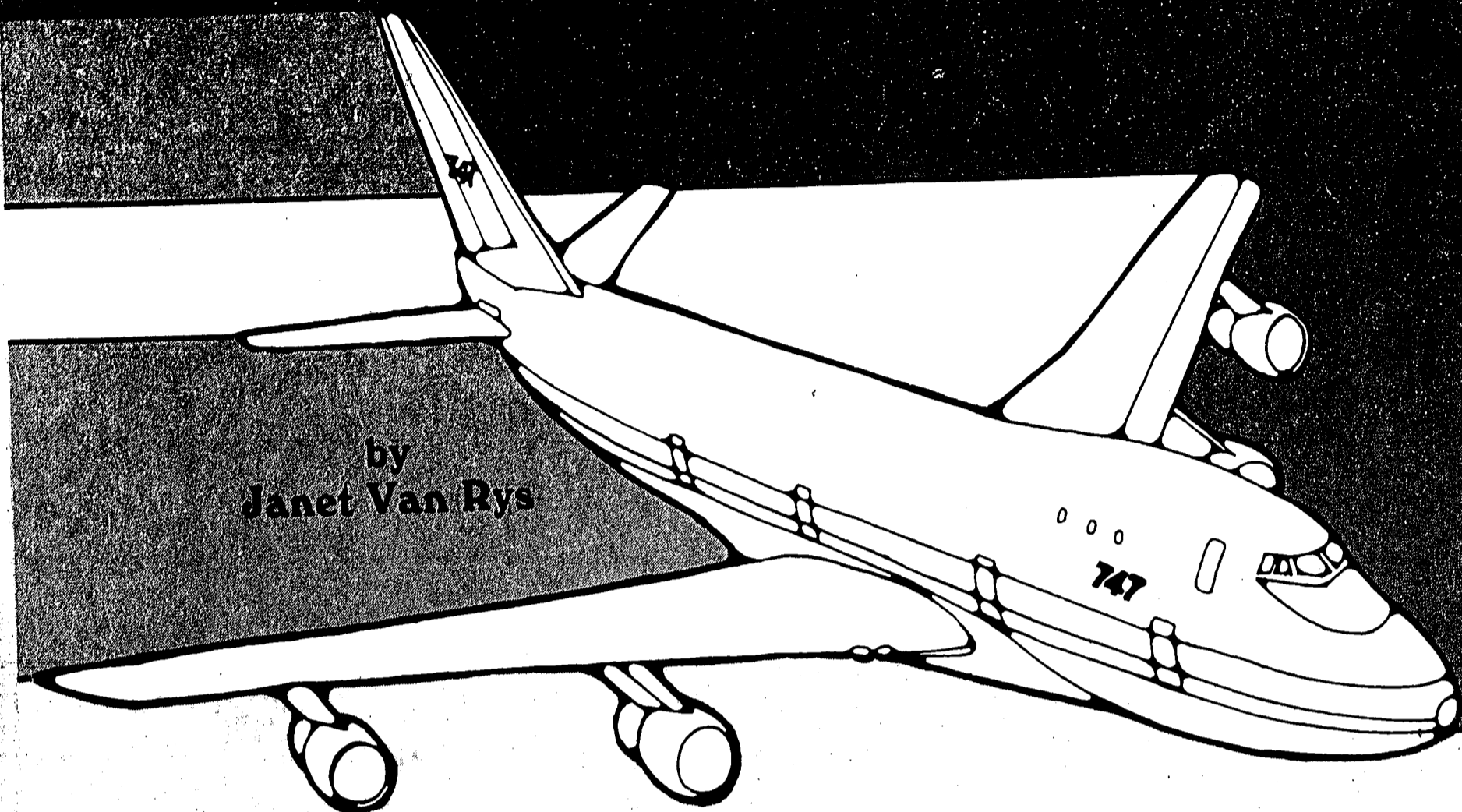


ASTS Board members who attended the final meeting in Plainfield: Frank Green, John Bevis, George Cruzan, Patricia Cruzan, Harmon Dickinson, Ethel Dickinson, Myron McPherson, Kenneth Burdick, Clara Mulford, Owen Probasco, Ruth Burdick, Janet Thorngate, Philip Bond, Anna North, Victor Skaggs, Jeanne Wilhelm. Retiring Board members not present were: Margret Armstrong, James Davis, Audrey Fuller, Menzo Fuller, J. Paul Green, Charles North, Elizabeth North, Donald Richards, Joan Schaible, and Socrates Thompson.

greater than any one of us. Certainly God had blessed His servants and they have given so freely of themselves in the ministry of Seventh Day Baptist publishing.

And now the work moves on to a brand new facility and to the

enthusiasm and dedication of new people. As this ministry locates in Wisconsin it certainly goes with prayers for God's blessings and guidance that the publishing work of Seventh Day Baptists will continue to exalt Christ and His redeeming love for all mankind. □



by
Janet Van Rys

My husband and I just settled down for our two hour flight from California to Denver when the voice of the plane's Captain came on the intercom. "We're sorry for that delay at the gate but Denver is "having weather" and we aren't sure they'll clear us for landing. Anyway we'll give it a try."

During the entire flight we were well above the cottony cumulus clouds and when there were spaces between them we could look below and see sunshine.

However, as we neared Denver the Captain again announced his bad news. "We're going into a 45 minute holding pattern before we begin the descent."

During the 45 minutes that we were circling in the "hold" pattern the devotional book I was reading was open to a page of verses regarding God's holding pattern. I became excited about the coincidence and reassured as I read the excerpts from a variety of Scriptures.

"I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear, I will help you. Isaiah 41:13

"The righteous will hold to their ways, and those with clean hands will grow stonger." Job 17:9

"We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first." Hebrews 3:14

"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, and settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:9

How beautiful these verses became as I contemplated their appropriateness. Ideally God holds us and we hold Him. But sometimes we become dissatisfied because of the delays in our lives. We let go of God's hand and make our own patterns and that's when the difficulties begin.

Not one passenger on the plane moved toward the cockpit to offer advice to the pilot. Yet how often we feel that we know more about our situation than God does. Just as the calm, reassuring voice of the plane's Captain inspired our confidence in his decisions, so God's Word becomes our confidence but we must open its pages to learn.

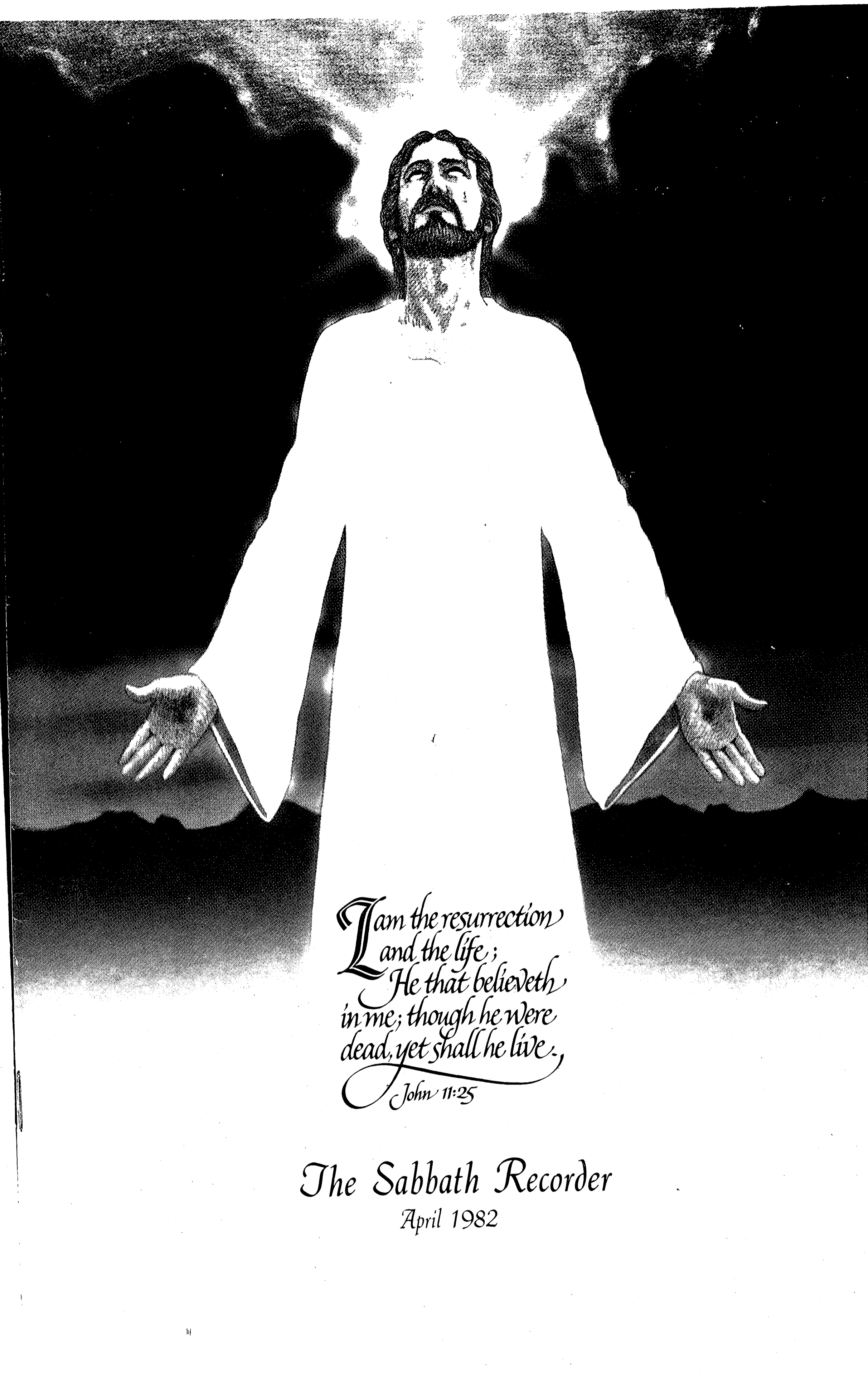
After the 45 minutes, the Captain again apologized for his news. "We are going back to Grand Junction for refueling." Grand Junction was almost 200 miles back the way we'd come. At least one person on that plane prayed that the pilot's fuel estimate would take us all the way in!

When we are in God's holding pattern do we often need His refueling? And if we do not interpret the dials correctly will we be heading for disaster?

A look at the apostle Paul's life shows him in a "holding pattern" for the first three years following his dramatic conversion. These years were spent in desert so that God could teach him lessons that he could not learn in the busy mainstream of life.

We must recognize our holding patterns. These may be sickness, disappointment, or unexpected disaster. There is no doubt that God will lead us into a delightful refueling so that we can continue life's journey with thankful hearts. □

— Scriptures - New International Version.



*I am the resurrection
and the life;
He that believeth
in me, though he were
dead, yet shall he live.
John 11:25*

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April 1982