

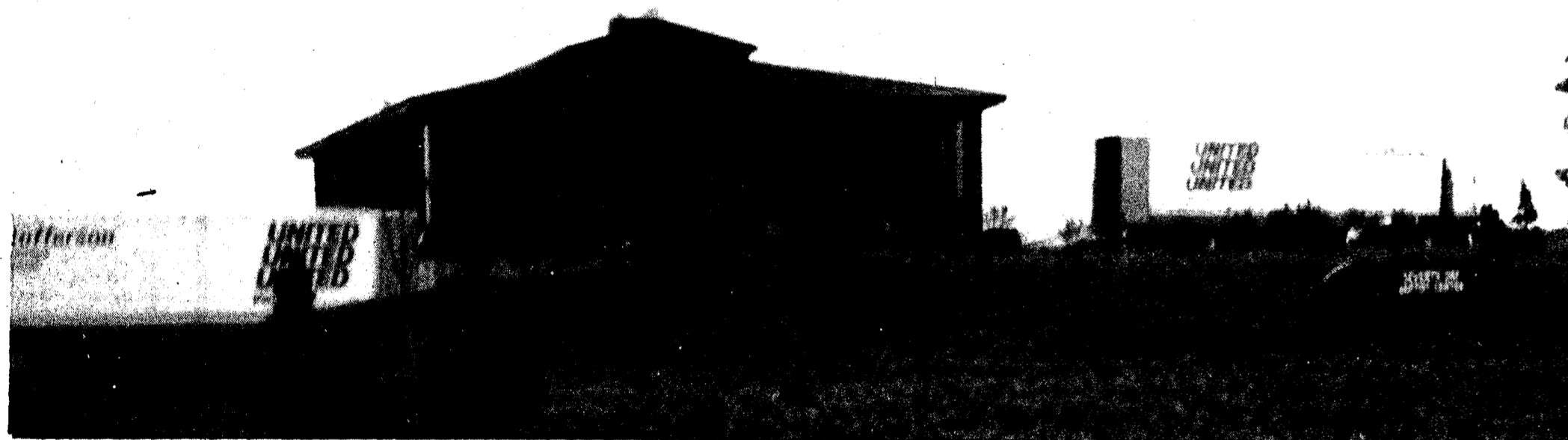


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**SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS ARE ON THE MOVE!**

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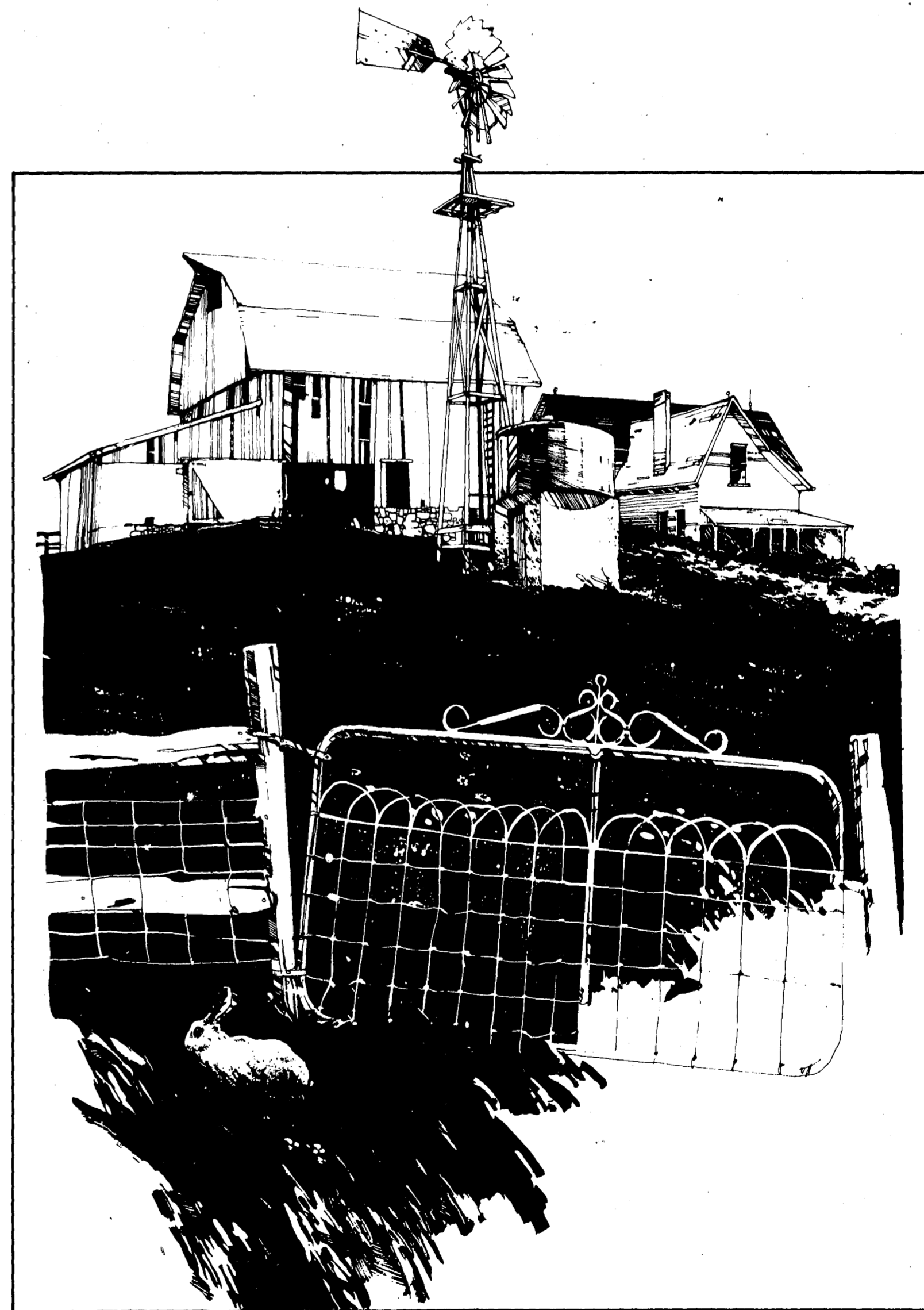
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THE SABBATH OUR 138th YEAR  
**RECORDER**  
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST JULY 1982



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### CAMPING AT CONFERENCE

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**Fee: \$5 per night; payment for one night in advance will confirm reservation.**

**Showers, water, no hook-ups.**

### MEN'S SING AT CONFERENCE

Sabbath 10 a.m.

Please bring your Tawner Male Quartet books if you or your church have them.

—Lois Wells, Director

The Sabbath Recorder

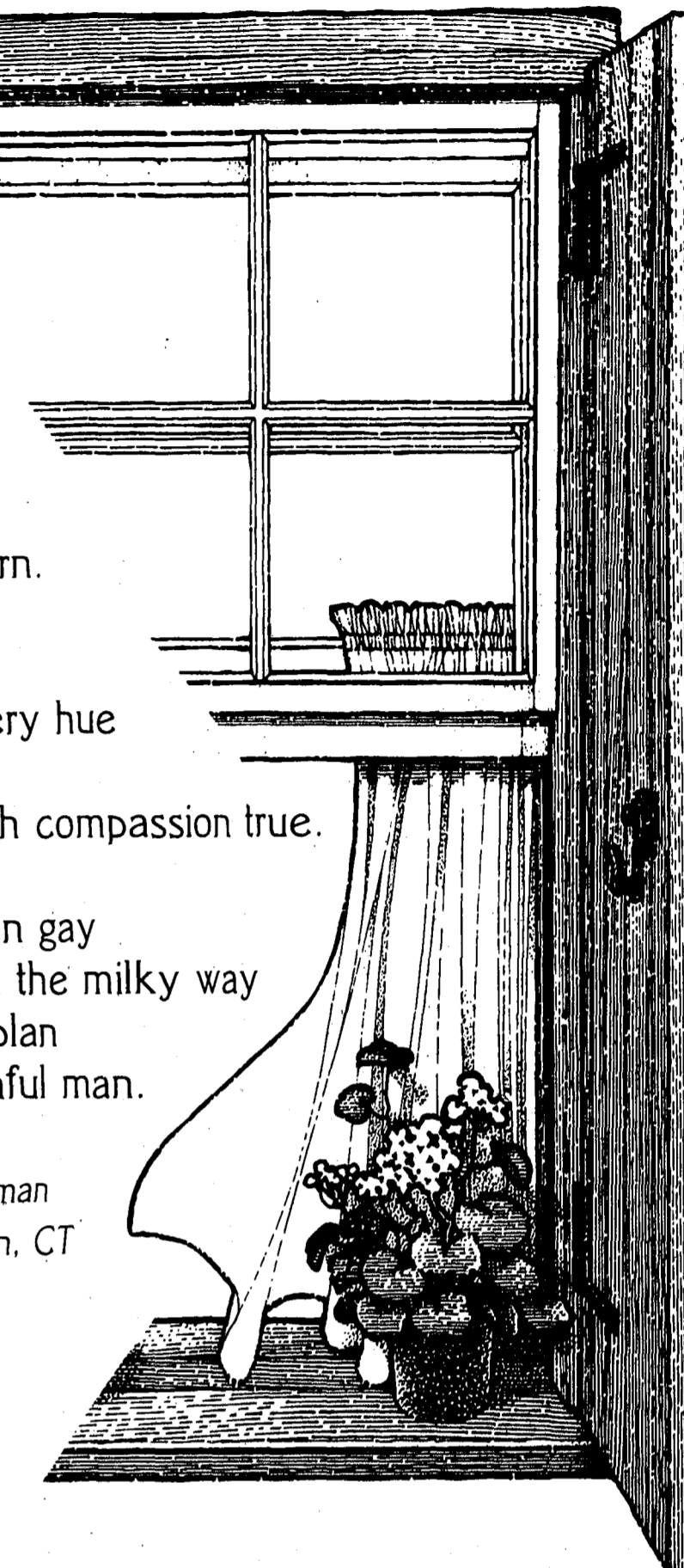
## Rainbow in my Window

Rainbow in my window  
Rainbow in the sky  
Reflect the dewy morn  
A glorious new day is born.

On a window sill wide.  
My violets glow with every hue  
In the azure sky so high  
God's rainbow shines with compassion true.

I planted a window garden gay  
God formed a rainbow in the milky way  
The sign of a covenant plan  
For the redemption of sinful man.

—Rachel Lyman  
Middletown, CT



## Children's Bedtime Prayer

As I lie down to sleep, dear Lord,  
Please calm my fears and dry my tears  
Forgive my sin and bless my kin.  
Please guide my dreams to goodly themes  
And help me see what I should be  
When I grow up and fill my cup  
With Christian truth and Christ adored.

—Tim Bond  
For Levi and Sylvia  
December 25, 1981





## Just How Much of God Do You Really Want?

By Gerry VanDyke

*"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty who was, and Who is, and Who is to come. Worthy art thou, our Lord, and our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will, they existed, and were created." Rev. 4: 8, 11.*

What you have just read should be accompanied by trumpets and flutes, harp and organ, by stringed instruments and loud cymbals, by dancing and by every living creature falling down on their knees in joy and awe and gratitude. It should be accompanied by our passionate, overflowing love and humility. But it isn't! When it comes time for praise in our churches, we let the choir sing it; when it comes time for offerings of thanksgiving we let our husband or our wife, or our parents, or the person sitting next to us give it.

When it comes time to hear and read God's word, we take it as an indication that it is about time for the sermon, and so we begin to think about the ushers turning down the lights, we take our minds out of gear, stretch out as much as possible without being too conspicuous and we take that Sabbath rest we've been looking forward to, hoping that our snoring will not disturb those sitting close to us too much. We hope that the speaker will keep the volume down to a reasonable level, and not get too animated or emotional so as to disturb us. Then promptly at the designated time, all eyes go to the wrist, bodies begin to stir, prayers are lifted up that the pastor will soon wind down, the last hymn will be a short one, the coffee will be ready, the refreshments will be delicious, and then we can put worship away for another week.

What a different picture this is than the one John gives us in Revelations. Angels and elders and saints, and those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb are sing-

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But most of us fit Wilbur Ree's description better than we do John's description. "I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please—not enough to explode my soul or disturb my sleep, but just enough to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough to make me love a black, or pick beets with a migrant. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth; I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack. I would like to buy \$3.00 worth of God, please." Mr. Ree's words are steeped in sarcasm, but they are more true than we would like to hear.

Yet God is so good to us. He continues to reveal Himself to us so that when we do want to know Him, we will be able to see Him clearly. He has not left it up to us to guess what He is like. He has written His character into the universe. All nature speaks to us of Him. One scripture that points us to this is Psalm 19. When we see the order of our universe, even tho' it has been spoiled by sin, we can see the orderliness of God. When we try to comprehend the galaxies, some hundreds of light years from the planet earth, we begin to grasp His infinite greatness in comparison with our finiteness.

When we look at the variety of living creatures, the colors, sizes and shapes, some so very minute we cannot see them without great magnification, some so large it taxes the mind to see how they could manuvuer at all—each unique with variety unending, we can begin to see His generosity. He is not stingy with number or color or variety. He does not give us one butterfly, one bird, one dog—but multi species. There is not just one kind of grass, or flower, but flowers and grasses and trees and bushes almost too numerous to keep track of. When you go to the nature section of the library you begin to realize just how creative our God is. He has not given us only one season, but four. Not just one landscape to feast our eyes on, but many. Rolling hills, high mountains, deep valleys, salt water, sweet water, great lakes and mighty rivers, little trickling brooks, and splashing waterfalls, vast deserts and lush forests, snow fields and meadows. All lavishly laid out for us. How can we not be in awe of the God of Creation?

We marvel at the wonder of a human being knit together in our mother's womb. Only God knows the unformed substance that was you and me. Yet in His generosity, He has allowed us the privilege of discovering so much about our universe, about living creatures, and about the human body and mind. Instead of gratitude and adoration and love for Him, we begin to think we are the gods ourselves. A little knowledge gets us puffed up, and we think we are what is behind God. That we ourselves have actually invented God. There is so much more that we have yet to discover, there is so much more that we do not know, and there is even more that we will never know until we meet Him face to face, that we should be overwhelmed by our insignificance in the presence of this Holy God.

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(Continued on page 9)



## Just How Much of God Do You Really Want?

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(Continued on page 9)

# The Promised Comforter

By Rev. Don Sanford

*"These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I have said to you"*

(John 14:25-26).

John Bunyan wrote of a vision in which he saw a man throwing water on a fire, and yet the flame continued to burn. He wondered how it could burn on until he saw that there was someone behind the door pouring oil on the fire. If anyone were to look in upon the history of the first century he might have the same reaction. Many attempts were made to quench the fire within the Christian Church. Through persecutions, martyrdoms, and discriminations, the fire continued to burn with an ever-increasing fury until it engulfed the whole known world. But if one looked closely, he would discover that there was someone adding oil to the fire of Christian experience. The Holy Spirit has kept the fire burning throughout the ages.

In the experience of the Upper Room, Jesus prepared His disciples for the time when he would not be with them. He gave them comfort centering around two great promises. First, He promised that He would not leave them desolate, but would return to them. Secondly, He promised to send a Comforter or Counsellor who would, in effect, keep the fire burning within them.

The role of the Comforter may be interpreted in terms of an advocate in Greek or Roman society—one who would give advice, or aid in judicial matters, even to the point of acting on their behalf. But beyond this legal position, was the experience of the Holy Spirit within the lives of the disciples.

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is puzzling to many people. When Jesus first promised His presence, the disciples were filled with many

questions concerning any power or any person who was to take the place of Jesus in their lives. They did not want another; they wanted Jesus Himself. It was not until after they experienced this new force in their lives that they were comforted and counseled.

As Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen has said, "In the faith of the early Church, the Spirit was a central, perhaps the central reality. It was not primarily a conviction of thought, certainly not a matter of instructed dogma. It sprang directly from vivid, commanding, indubitable experience."

Many in our day are missing this presence of Christ as our Comforter and Counselor because we are unwilling to rely upon our inner experience for that which cannot be seen or heard. Spurgeon tells of a doctor who argued against any concept of a soul. "Did you ever see a soul?" he asked. "Did you ever hear a soul? Did you ever taste or smell a soul?" To all of these questions his Christian friend admitted that he had not. It was only when he asked if he could feel a soul that he got an affirmative answer.

"I feel that I have one within me, for it gives me peace and remembrance of all that Christ said and did for me."

"Well," said the doctor, "There are four senses against you and only one on your side. The odds are against your claim to a soul."

The Christian then asked the doctor if he had ever seen, heard, tasted, or smelled a pain. It was only when he came to the fifth sense that he had to admit that he had felt pain. "Isn't that enough to prove there is pain?" he asked in his clinching argument.

In similar fashion we may have confidence in Jesus' abiding presence. It is not something that we can see with our eyes, or hear with our ears, taste with our

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## HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?

by Barb Snyder

What faith we have in man! It's so matter of fact for us, we don't even wonder whether or not there will be instant light when we flick a tiny switch. When we push a button on an elevator, we automatically exit knowing without a doubt it has delivered us to the floor it says. We put our lives in the hands of man as we travel in a train or plane, rarely doubting its ability to deliver us.

If we had but a third of the faith in God that we have in man, what a different world this would be! Certainly, you would agree that God is more powerful than man will ever be, and should be exalted much higher than man, yet it is man who is incessantly applauded and praised. As man developed over the years the complex electrical system, all God said was, "Let there be light and there was light." Look people, no hands, no tools, no hook up from house to house, no materials, no physical power source. He just *spoke* the words, "Let there be," and it was. That's one power source I want to be hooked up to! (Genesis 1:3)

Please refer to 2 Kings 4:1-7. Elisha visits a poor widow whose husband was God's servant. She was left with two children and bills large enough to have the creditor come take her children as slaves for payment. Elisha asked what she had. She replied, nothing but a jar of oil. So Elisha instructed her to borrow large empty vessels from her neighbors, and not a few. Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons and pour the oil into all these vessels and set aside what is full. She followed the instructions obediently and as the final vessel was filled, the oil ran out. She then was told to sell the oil, pay her debts and live on the rest. If she had 1,000 or 10 vessels, the oil would have been just enough to fill them all. So she determined the size of her blessing by her amount of faith. She never imagined the oil would be plenteous until the final vessel was filled!

Indeed, we too make the choice. With God, there's no limit to His giving. Not so with man. When we choose to use the lights, iron, toaster, radio and hair dryer all at once, we blow a fuse! But remember, God cannot be limited in this way. We must let our im-

aginations run wild with God, for with God all things are possible. (Matt. 19:16) The many miracles, signs, and wonders performed by the disciples are still happening today. We only need the faith that God can do them in our midst. God is just waiting for us to ask the impossible of Him. If we ask believing, we will receive. (Matt. 21:22) For how much more shall your heavenly Father give to those who ask. (Matt. 7:11) All we need is the imagination and faith to ask Him.

You may not see miracles performed today, and maybe you aren't alone. Just trust Him with your life by putting it in His hands, just as you do upon entering an elevator or plane. You may then discover a miracle without even expecting it. The widow didn't expect one either.

God is only as adequate in your life as you allow Him to be. If you limit Him to a far away creator who's just a loving spectator, you may never experience a miracle. Indeed, He's a loving spectator, waiting to be asked to assist in the work in your life. □

—Alfred Spires

**MINISTERING TO THE PRISONER'S FAMILY  
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MINISTERING TO THE PRISONER'S FAMILY**

by  
**Allen D. Hanson**

Whenever someone is sent to prison, there is almost always a family of some kind that is left behind to wait. It may be a wife, parents, brother, sister, almost any close friend or relative that cares about the new inmate. These people represent an unusual opportunity for dedicated Christians to minister to the family of a prisoner while he is in jail. There is probably no better time in the life of the prisoner's family to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these relatives than during this critical period. They really need our love and concern. These people represent an excellent opportunity for evangelism and Christian outreach and they will be much more receptive to the Gospel than usual.

There are four things that you should remember as you minister

to the family of a prisoner. **FIRST:** Most of the necessities of daily life are furnished by welfare for needy dependent family members of any inmate. This is part of the high cost of incarceration in our society today. As Christians we can help with the **special** needs of the prisoner's family like moving or automobile repair or prison transportation, but the daily necessities of life such as food, clothes and housing are usually furnished by welfare. **SECOND:** The trauma and emotional effects of arrest, trial and incarceration are shared by the inmate's family and friends. They go through the strain of lock-up and the brutal reality of the justice system with their loved one. Although they may not show it, they will be under this strain when you contact them.

**THIRD:** Relatives feel "locked up" with their loved one who is in prison and they will continue to

have this feeling to some degree until that person is released from jail. There is no way that anyone can adequately explain what it is like to have a loved one in prison without going through that experience personally. We must try to put ourselves in their place and try to understand how they must feel so that we can successfully minister to a prisoner's family. **FOURTH:** It is well to remember that marriages are under a terrible strain at this time due to the total separation of both marriage partners. Survival of the marriage may depend on your Christian understanding and concern. If the prisoner can come home to a loving and waiting family, he has a much greater chance to avoid crime and stay out of prison in the future.

The family of the prison inmate is deeply concerned about the absence and lock-up of their loved one. There are ten things that you can do to ease the terrible burden they carry and deliver the message of salvation at the same time.

(1) Pray for the prisoner and pray for his family. Nothing is more important than prayer!

(2) Specifically testify to the prisoner's family about your personal faith in Christ Jesus and invite them to share it.

(3) Welcome them into your church without condemning them for what their loved one may have done.

(4) Visit the inmate at the prison and tell the relatives how well the visit went for you.

(5) Include the prisoner's family in community and church affairs to help them lead a normal life while they wait.

(6) Assist the prisoner's family with **special** needs such as moving or car repair.

(7) Help the family arrange

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**Just How Much of God  
Do You Really Want?**

(Continued from page 5)

God told the sons of Israel they would be captives in Egypt for 430 years, and then they would be led out of captivity into the promised land He had prepared for them. And just as He had promised, they were held captive in Egypt, and on the 430 day of captivity, Pharaoh released them and their exodus began. Throughout the Old Testament, God tells His people what He is like. Just as He is telling us today, He told them of His great love for them, of His nature and of His character, and of His plans.

He fulfills His prophecies in every detail. And still we choose to conjure up our own ideas of who God is, and whether or not He even exists. For nearly one whole generation we have lived through the God is dead theory, an idea of man. We are now locked into the evolution theory in our schools and in our science, when there is no proof, just a blind leap of faith. Even God does not ask that of us. Man's ideas are limited, because man is not the source of life, much as he likes to believe he is. We will never be able to understand all of God, that is true. And who would want to worship such a small God that you could completely figure out, who had no more depth and wisdom than man? Yet He never expects us to believe without giving us substance to believe in.

Because mankind would not believe in nature and in history, God came to us in a human body. All the fulness of God in human form—the Son of God, or as Jesus called Himself, the Son of Man. And yet in this human body He did not hide His holiness or His divinity. When John the Baptist saw Him, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." Many others recognized Jesus when He was here on earth. Some have recognized and refused to believe, and have refused to accept Him, but there are many who have seen Him and have believed, and will reign with Him forever.

Never forget the thousands of thousands and myriad of myriads that will be praising Him for all of eternity. Now in our generation, and ever since pentacost, God has sent us the Holy Spirit, to live in us, to teach us all that we need to know, and to remind us of all the things in nature and history that show us God. All through history God has been calling His people into a relationship with Him.

Do you believe in God? Well, sure, doesn't everybody? I guess it doesn't matter what you believe in, just as long as you believe in something: the man upstairs, somebody bigger than you or I—the Force—well, it doesn't really matter what you call it—the powers that be—Karma—Que-Se-Ra-Se-Ra—but, I know there is something out there, is often the depth of our generation's faith and knowledge of God. Boutalier, the French writer, poet, and philosopher has said, "If there is a God, he is a devil." His reasoning is certainly not off, if you believe we are living in a normal world. But when we understand that we are living in an abnormal world, spoiled by sin, raped and ravaged by the cruel mind

of man given over to evil, then this statement is totally wrong.

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Jesus tells us over and over again that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments—and that if we keep His commandments that are in His word, He will disclose Himself to us. That He will abide with us. Abide means stay, remain, stick with, live, reside, dwell, tarry. He will do all of these things, not just write or call occasionally, but abide. But there is a condition. That condition is, if we keep His commandments—if we have His word abiding in our hearts—if we seek Him with all our hearts.

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What a thrill it is to anticipate that day when I will see Him face to face, in all His glory. It takes more than a lifetime to know Him, and it will take all of eternity to praise Him in the way in which He deserves to be praised. How sad it is that we allow fatigue, boredom, self-interest, bad weather, football games, other gods, to interfere with our getting to know Him and love Him. Because all these other things will pass away. Our love for Him will remain forever.

Will you settle for "\$3.00 worth of God in a paper sack, please?" Or will you search for Him with all your heart, and soul, and mind? Without Christ's crucifixion, we would all be dead in our trespasses and sins. Christ died to give you life. How can you not want to know Him? How can you not want to praise Him? How can you not love Him with every fibre of your being? Just how much of God do you really want? □

MINISTERING TO THE PRISONER'S FAMILY  
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by  
 Allen D. Hanson

Whenever someone is sent to prison, there is almost always a family of some kind that is left behind to wait. It may be a wife, parents, brother, sister, almost any close friend or relative that cares about the new inmate. These people represent an unusual opportunity for dedicated Christians to minister to the family of a prisoner while he is in jail. There is probably no better time in the life of the prisoner's family to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these relatives than during this critical period. They really need our love and concern. These people represent an excellent opportunity for evangelism and Christian outreach and they will be much more receptive to the Gospel than usual.

There are four things that you should remember as you minister

to the family of a prisoner. **FIRST:** Most of the necessities of daily life are furnished by welfare for needy dependent family members of any inmate. This is part of the high cost of incarceration in our society today. As Christians we can help with the **special** needs of the prisoner's family like moving or automobile repair or prison transportation, but the daily necessities of life such as food, clothes and housing are usually furnished by welfare. **SECOND:** The trauma and emotional effects of arrest, trial and incarceration are shared by the inmate's family and friends. They go through the strain of lock-up and the brutal reality of the justice system with their loved one. Although they may not show it, they will be under this strain when you contact them.

**THIRD:** Relatives feel "locked up" with their loved one who is in prison and they will continue to

have this feeling to some degree until that person is released from jail. There is no way that anyone can adequately explain what it is like to have a loved one in prison without going through that experience personally. We must try to put ourselves in their place and try to understand how they must feel so that we can successfully minister to a prisoner's family. **FOURTH:** It is well to remember that marriages are under a terrible strain at this time due to the total separation of both marriage partners. Survival of the marriage may depend on your Christian understanding and concern. If the prisoner can come home to a loving and waiting family, he has a much greater chance to avoid crime and stay out of prison in the future.

The family of the prison inmate is deeply concerned about the absence and lock-up of their loved one. There are ten things that you can do to ease the terrible burden they carry and deliver the message of salvation at the same time.

(1) Pray for the prisoner and pray for his family. Nothing is more important than prayer!

(2) Specifically testify to the prisoner's family about your personal faith in Christ Jesus and invite them to share it.

(3) Welcome them into your church without condemning them for what their loved one may have done.

(4) Visit the inmate at the prison and tell the relatives how well the visit went for you.

(5) Include the prisoner's family in community and church affairs to help them lead a normal life while they wait.

(6) Assist the prisoner's family with **special** needs such as moving or car repair.

(7) Help the family arrange

(Continued on page 31)

Just How Much of God  
 Do You Really Want?

(Continued from page 3)

God told the sons of Israel they would be captives in Egypt for 430 years, and then they would be led out of captivity into the promised land He had prepared for them. And just as He had promised, they were held captive in Egypt, and on the 430 day of captivity, Pharaoh released them and their exodus began. Throughout the Old Testament, God tells His people what He is like. Just as He is telling us today He told them of His great love for them, of His nature and of His character, and of His plans.

He fulfills His prophecies in every detail. And still we choose to conjure up our own ideas of who God is, and whether or not He even exists. For nearly one whole generation we have lived through the God is dead theory, an idea of man. We are now locked into the evolution theory in our schools and in our science, when there is no proof, just a blind leap of faith. Even God does not ask that of us. Man's ideas are limited, because man is not the source of life, much as he likes to believe he is. We will never be able to understand all of God, that is true. And who would want to worship such a small God that you could completely figure out, who had no more depth and wisdom than man? Yet He never expects us to believe without giving us substance to believe in.

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## BEREAN SDB CHURCH Hendersonville, NC

### Officers of New Church

Interim Pastor	John Thompson
Moderator, Acting	
Deacon	Everett Reed
Secretary-Treasurer	Rosemary Roelly
Music Director	Ed Bumgarner
Asst. Sec.-Treas.	Lorena Bumgarner
Acting Deaconess	Rosa Cavinder
Acting Deaconess	Ruth Reed
Pianist, Christian	
Education Director	Irene Thompson

### Sabbath Services

Sabbath School	3:00 p.m.
Worship Service	4:00 p.m.

Meeting at Opportunity House  
819 Fleming Street  
Hendersonville, N.C.



This group joined for worship and to witness the organization of the Berean SDB Church.

New members of the Berean SDB Church of Hendersonville, NC—organized March 20, 1982.



# HENDERSONVILLE ORGANIZES

## History of the Church

by Rosemary Roelly

In March 1979 Pastor Mynor Soper called at the Roelly home, and at that time we realized that there was another Seventh Day Baptist family in Asheville, the Ralph Webers.

March 19, 1979 Pastor Soper with son Mynor returned to our area, and Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Weber, daughter Lenna, and son Bill came to Brevard, and we had our first worship service in the Roelly home.

March 17, 1979 we went to Greenville and met at the home of Mr. Lyddane, and Pastor Soper brought the message.

July 14, 1979 we met again at the Weber home for worship.

November 24, 1979 we met again at the Weber home, and at that time Pastor Soper introduced us to

Pastor John Camenga, who was to be our Regional Pastor. On that day we also had our first meal of sharing following the worship service.

We continued meeting approximately twice a month on the Sabbaths that John Camenga came to the area.

March 8, 1980 John and Irene Thompson came to our worship service and Sabbath school. God has blessed us in these two people! John has acted as our pastor and teacher, and Irene has taught the children and been pianist when needed. Each one of us in the group has benefitted from John's knowledge and teaching ability. His method of bringing the Bible to life through study has inspired us all to work to learn God's truth for our lives.

On April 5, 1980 we began regular weekly services at the Weber home in Asheville. We enjoyed the worship services with Ralph Weber presiding and the many fellowship meals following. We went through

the Book of Acts and several chapters in Isaiah in Sabbath school, taking a chapter a week and trying to fix the contents in our mind by chapter number. Evelyn and Lenna Weber helped many times as pianist and Evelyn also as soloist.

Because of distance for various members and because we were able to rent rooms at the Opportunity House, we decided it was best to divide the group. The Hendersonville group decided to meet from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M., thus enabling Pastor John Camenga to attend services with both groups on the Sabbaths he could be in the area. We held our first worship service at Opportunity House on June 20, 1980. Pastor John Camenga brought the message on that day.

From that time until today we have held weekly services. John Thompson, as our acting pastor, has conducted Bible study each week on Tuesday at the Roelly home. He has also conducted Bible studies for those living around Hendersonville separately. He has taught the Bible in Sabbath school, going through Romans and working on themes as questions are raised. He has brought the messages when John Camenga has not been with us. John has made of this small group a real church in every sense of the word and, today, we come before God and those assembled to formally become the first Seventh Day Baptist church in North Carolina. We can truly say, "To God be the Glory."

We also thank God for John Camenga. The inspiration and encouragement he has given us cannot be measured by any standard. He has given of his time and talent freely with sacrifice on his part and on that of his family. He has spent time instructing those who felt in need of his help. How we shall miss him! However, we wish him Godspeed in his new post and we know the people in Shiloh, New Jersey will benefit by his talents as we have here.

Today is the beginning for our Seventh Day Baptist Church officially here in Hendersonville and the end of a relationship with Pastor John Camenga as our Regional Pastor. Pastor Camenga leaves at the end of March for Shiloh. Our prayers and best wishes go with him, and we know he will bring to that church the same dedication and love that he has brought to us. We love him and we will miss him.

**BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE:** We began last Sunday, March 14, to read a chapter a day beginning in Genesis. We'd like to encourage all of us to read the chapter each day and to make up 3 x 5 cards for each chapter giving hooks for associating the contents with the chapter number. This will mean some analyzing will be necessary and also some associating. This isn't just mental gymnastics, but it's one of the best systems there is for sticking the truths of Scripture in our minds and hearts and lives.

In addition, we're working on a chapter a week in the Gospel of John in Sabbath school beginning today. Also, today we're starting a series on the Psalms both to study and to sing.

**GIFTS FROM THE CHURCH:** John Thompson is presenting a gift to each member family: "Explore the Book" by J. Sidlow Baxter. This book is intended to provide some much needed study material on each book in the Bible to aid us in our attempt to acquire a working knowledge of the whole Bible. These books are a gift from the Berean Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hendersonville.

We wanted to give Pastor John Camenga a going away gift to show in a small way our appreciation for his services. In trying to decide what to give him, we thought if we gave him a copy of the same book we'll be using often, we could keep a link between us, though we may be separated by distance.

**AT CHURCH:** I enter the sanctuary burdened by fear, overshadowed by forebodings concerning the uncertain future, perplexed by problems too great for me to solve. In the service of worship I hear God speak. His message is in the hymns, in the music, in the prayer, in the reading of the Bible, and in the sermon. God speaks to my listening ears! And when the benediction has been spoken, I leave the sanctuary blessed beyond all that which the world can bless. I have heard God's voice! He has spoken to me! I am thankful for the church where I am privileged to meet God in a service of worship. It reminds me every day that I am a part of a fellowship which is eternal. My life is enriched beyond any wealth which the world can bestow upon me. The Church is of God. "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord. . . A day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."—Ps. 84□

### Decade of Discipleship

There are many Christians in this world who do not attempt to make disciples for Jesus Christ. No doubt there are several reasons for this: fear of being rejected; not willing to give the time to the project; lack of knowledge and/or lack of understanding the importance of being a witness.

Walter A. Henriksen, in his book, *Disciples Are Made—not Born*, explains the urgency, and the methods which are most helpful to becoming a disciple.

You may borrow the book from the Board of Christian Education. □





## ATLANTA CHURCH ORGANIZED

May 8 was a happy Sabbath Day as 46 people gathered at the Mableton Assembly of God Church building in Atlanta for the organizational meeting of the Metropolitan Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church.

On Friday evening a light supper was served to several visitors and members before the beginning of the Vespers Service. Pastor Bill Shobe, assisted by Bob Sutton, conducted a very meaningful Sabbath welcoming service, woven of Scripture, commentary, and music.

During the Sabbath School hour, Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate and his wife, Janet, presented a slide program on Seventh Day Baptist history with an update on current churches and programs across the denomination. The theme of the program was "One People Bound Together." In closing the congregation joined in singing "Bind Us Together."

Pastor Shobe led the Sabbath morning worship service and Jeff Hargett brought a special story for the boys and girls. The message, "The Church—The Body of Christ" was by Pastor John Bevis of the Paint Rock Church.

The actual organizational service began in the afternoon

following a bountiful lunch served in the fellowship hall. A responsive call to celebration and hymn of praise opened the service. Jeff Hargett read a brief history of the Atlanta Church.

Many letters of greeting were read by Pastor Shobe as various churches across the denomination conveyed their prayerful support and best wishes for the new congregation. Opportunity was given for guests to share their greetings. Conference President, Dorothy Parrott, brought greetings on behalf of the General Conference.

Inspired by Jeff Hargett's rendition of "The Church Triumphant", Church Moderator, Steve LeCroy, then led in the formal organizational meeting which included the following: the vote to organize, receiving of membership letters, affirmation of Covenant and Constitution, affirmation of current officers, signing of the Covenant and membership book, and charter member recognition.

Rev. Mynor Soper, Conference Evangelist, gave the challenge to the new church based on Revelation chapter two and three. The prayer of dedication was offered by Rev. Dale Thorngate. In closing, the congregation celebrated Christian unity as they sang "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." □

## History of the Church

by Jeff Hargett

The Atlanta Fellowship, organized as the Metropolitan Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church, began with one thought in mind, "fellowship." Little did we realize that our desire for study and time together would lead to the formation of a church. It all began on October 30, 1977 when seven people gathered in Rome, GA at the residence of Jeff and Debbie Hargett for an informal time of Bible study and fellowship. In the months that followed, the group met once a month alternating between Rome and Mableton, GA. In Mableton we met once at the home of Dorothy Mangum before establishing our meeting place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Moore. As the group began to grow, meetings in Rome were discontinued and the Moore's residence became our regular meeting place.

During these early years leadership of the group was a combined effort. Bible studies and discussions were regularly led by Doug Williams and Jeff Hargett. Assistance was also given by the Missionary Society through the advice of Rev. Mynor Soper who led us in worship several times as well as giving guidance. Other assistance was given by Rev. David Pearson, interim pastor of the Paint Rock S.D.B. Church and Rev. John Bevis, current pastor in Paint Rock.

Early in 1979 we recognized the need for more space if our group was to continue to grow. The search for a suitable meeting place ended in July of the same year when, with the assistance of Pastor Pearson, we made arrangements to meet at the Mableton Assembly of God. We met at this location on the second and fourth Sabbaths until July of 1981 when we began to meet each week.

The year 1981 was a big year for our group. During the month of January a letter was sent to Mynor Soper, expressing concern about the need for pastoral leadership here in Atlanta. Even before receiving this letter, a letter was on its way from Mynor recommending Missionary Society support for a pastor to lead us. These letters crossed in the mail and surprised their senders with a sense of awe and excitement. We believed then as now that God had plans for our little group. Mynor and prospective Pastor William Shobe visited on February 28, 1981. After consultation, it was decided to extend a joint call to "Pastor Bill" from the Atlanta Fellowship and the Missionary Society to become an extension pastor for the state of Georgia. Pastor Shobe accepted in March and arrived in Atlanta to begin his ministry in June.

During the past four-and-a-half years we have grown from a small group of seven that first Sabbath to an average attendance of sixteen. We have changed our meeting places as well as our styles of worship. Finally, we have gathered together today to officially organize as the Metropolitan Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church. Yet through it all we have maintained that closeness, concern for one another, and desire for fellowship that started it all. It is in this sense that we hope we shall always be "The Atlanta Fellowship." □

## EXCAVATING THE CITY OF DAVID

(Continued from page 14)

### WELL-PLANNED AND INTRICATE

Our exploration of the residential area also yielded us various examples of houses, some simple and others more elaborate, for instance, a multi-roomed building complete with courtyard, and a building constructed of rough-hewn stones. The quarter featured many facilities serving everyday life, such as alleys with stairways, a toilet, cooking ovens and gutters.

## Covenant of the Atlanta Church

Having been influenced by divine grace to love God and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and feeling that we are under a loving obligation to obey all His commandments, we do now, in the presence of the all-seeing God, solemnly covenant with Him and each other:

To take the Bible, God's Word, as our final authority in all areas of belief and daily living;

To live a holy, separated lifestyle according to the teaching of Holy Scripture and as empowered and strengthened by the Holy Spirit;

To joyfully observe God's Holy Sabbath out of our love for God, through our rest, renewal, worship and service;

To love as Christ loved, committing ourselves to the support of one another through prayer, encouragement, correction and caring involvement in each other's lives;

To faithfully support the work of the Church by our active participation, and by bearing proportionate share of all the necessary expenses of the Church, according as God has blessed us and guides us to give. □

Some of the remnants were preserved intact to a height of 2 to 3 meters, their original height.

We found many items testifying to the wealth of the inhabitants of Jerusalem at the end of the Israelite period: a rich repertoire of crockery, ranging from oil lamps, basins and cooking pots to small wine vessels and large storage jugs. Many of the items bore inscriptions, royal seals, and names of men or women; one, for example, was the name "Ahriel," which is Hebrew for "God is my brother."

Other significant finds were two Hebrew inscriptions on stone tablets, standard stone weights, bone implements used for weaving and cosmetics, and metal work tools and weapons, such as a dagger, spearheads and arrows. We unearthed fertility symbols in the image of Astarte and representations of various animals. All of these finds teach us about life in Israelite Jerusalem in the period of the kings.

### ADVANCED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

We have also cleared away the debris from several sections of the three underground water systems of ancient Jerusalem, enabling us to have a better understanding of the way this most sophisticated network, carved as canals or tunnels in the actual bedrock, functioned.

In the course of our quest to learn more about this vast engineering venture, we redated the famous Warren's Shaft to a later period. This shaft, which connected the Gihon Spring to the inner city, was thought to be the route through which David's men conquered Jebus, but now that the shaft has been redated, historians will have to ponder anew just how David made Jerusalem his capital.

I believe there is still much to be learned about and from the early history of Jerusalem, and we hope that future excavation seasons will provide us with more and more pieces of the puzzle, pieces that will no doubt deepen our admiration for the creativity and resourcefulness of the people who lived at the time of King David. □

*Dr. Yigal Shiloh, a native-born Israeli, is the Director of the City of David excavations. He is also a senior lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*

*Dr. Shiloh welcomes volunteers who would like to join the excavations in July and August 1982. Inquiries may be directed to him at: The City of David Archaeological Project, Department of Archaeology, Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, Israel.*

*—Courtesy of the Israeli Consulate, New York. □*

**JERUSALEM**-In the heat of the past four summers, a team of archaeologists, hundreds of volunteers and I have sifted through the dust and ruins of centuries to try to piece together a picture of how the people of Canaanite and Israelite Jerusalem lived thousands of years ago.

#### JERUSALEM'S BEGINNINGS

Some 5,000 years ago, the first inhabitants of Jerusalem - then a Canaanite City - settled on a narrow ridge extending south from today's walled Old City of Jerusalem. They chose the site because of its proximity to the Gihon spring - which still bubbles there - and its defensibility due to steep slopes on three sides - a topography which has made our excavations even more challenging.

In 1000 BCE, David conquered the Canaanite city, then called Jebus. He made the city the capital of the Land of Israel, and under his rule and that of his son Solomon, the city became a mighty political center.

With the construction of the First Temple by Solomon, it grew into a religious center, and has remained so until today.

Archaeological excavations had been conducted in and around Jerusalem since the mid-1800s, and remains were discovered from the Second Temple period (538 BCE - 70 CE) and the Roman and Byzantine periods. But little was really known about Canaanite and Israelite Jerusalem.

So, four years ago we began our excavations, called "The City of David Dig," on state-owned lands on the southeast hill, on behalf of the City of David Society, comprised of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Israel Exploration Society, the Jerusalem Foundation, and donors from South Africa, the United States, and Israel. The main body of the work is carried out by volunteers from Israel, Europe, and particularly the United States.



The monumental structure from King Solomon's Jerusalem which is believed to have supported buildings in an acropolis area. (Photo: Isaac Harari)

## Excavating the City of David: Unveiling the Grandeur and Complexity of Ancient Jerusalem.

by Dr. Yigal Shiloh

#### SUPRISING DISCOVERY

During the last two seasons, we succeeded in reaching the actual Canaanite city, and in the process we unearthed many interesting finds.

In the summer of 1980, we were astonished to discover that the massive structure we had been excavating since 1978 was from the period of King Solomon. This stepped stone structure, as tall as a five-story building, is the most monumental remnant of that period in Israel and the only one in Jerusalem.

The purpose of the structure had been a mystery to us, but we eventually concluded that it supported

the buildings of the acropolis area, which housed the Temple, the palaces, the administrative buildings, and the fortifications - which were constructed above the structure.

This ingenious method of overcoming the obstacles of building on a hilly terrain was also in evidence in the residential quarter. We discovered the city wall, built directly upon the slope, and found that it supported the series of terraces above it, which served in turn as a basis for the residential buildings. The 70 meters' length of the city wall that was unearthed was intact at a height of about 4 meters.

(Continued on page 13)



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

by Jane Mackintosh

Conference time is almost here and those of us Californians wish to invite and welcome you to our home. The University of Redlands is a lovely campus with nice facilities and it holds many wonderful memories for the Mackintosh family. Ralph and Dede and Doug and I are all graduates of the U of R. We hope to see you there.

I recently read another book by Joyce Landorf: **His Stubborn Love**. It is the story of the marriage of Joyce and Dick Landorf through the stormy times which led both of them to the brink of suicide on through the miracle of healing that God brought to their marriage and their individual lives. Joyce tells their story quite dramatically and always with love and humor. Her writing is very readable, so much so that I feel like she is sitting next to me talking to me when I read her books. This book is for anyone who is or would like to help someone who is at the end of his/her rope. Here are excerpts from the last two pages of **His Stubborn Love**.

"It occurs to me as I finish these pages that I might have overlooked something very important. Maybe you are teetering on the extreme edge of living, and tears of frustration, worry and anger are bathing your daily existence. Perhaps right now you are thinking, "Oh, Joyce, I'm right where you were. I'm there today, right now. Do I really dare hope for God's miracle in my life? Can God reach down, forgive my sins, and then heal all my diseases?"

Can He make anything out of my life when there's so little left?"

And I must tell you: 'Yes! Yes!' I have lived through this before. For several years now I have put it to the test. I have felt Him write down the answers to life with His own fingers across the walls of my heart. If I could reach out of these pages, I would grab you by the shoulders and say, 'He can be trusted! He really can be trusted! He's the same yesterday, today, and forever! Trust Him!'

Then I would take your hand and run with you to the very throne of God and shout, 'Oh, God, dear Almighty God, do it for her as you did for me. Do it for him as you did for Dick. Do it for their children as you did for our children!'

...You would find you not only believe in Christ, but you could follow Him. You would not only know His miracle of forgiveness, but you could mature and grow in the daily press of mundane things...

You see, God can be trusted; and you can know real living, for His love is very stubborn."

During the last month my brother's wife and I have begun a Good News Club for the youngsters in our neighborhood. We are using Child Evangelism materials and are very impressed with them. The lessons are based on Bible stories and use very colorful flannel-backed pictures and supporting visual aids. We have attended some local classes where a Child Evangelism teacher has demonstrated how to use the materials as well as displayed the numerous supportive materials available. All materials are very evangelistic in content and the lessons stress each child's need for a personal commitment to God. The lessons are geared to the 4-12 yrs. age span and I must admit it is difficult to reach four year olds and twelve year olds in the same class so our club is geared mainly to the younger children which make up most of the class. We will also soon be starting a club for the 2-4 year olds because our neighborhood is full of young children. Child Evangelism has materials for this

age group too.

I would highly recommend the Child Evangelism concepts, materials and training to any Christian willing to have a club. The opportunities for sharing the Gospel are unending, first of all because children are so open to the Word of God. I was amazed as I watched the children during the first club meeting responding to my questions of salvation. They were so sure of the truth of the Gospel that of course they believed Jesus died for them and of course they wanted to be forgiven of their sins and of course they wanted Jesus to come into their lives so they could be with Him in heaven after death or His return. Most of these children do not attend church regularly so this wasn't common knowledge for them. The other opportunities for sharing have been with the parents. Most of these parents are not Christians as far as I can tell and I have been surprised at their openness to the Gospel and their eagerness to have their children involved in our club for its spiritual value.

One of the motivating forces behind Kathee's and my decision to start a Good News Club is the fact that our children, ages 1-6 yrs. (especially my two older boys) are already being influenced by their peers and if we want that influence to be a positive one, we must take the responsibility of seeing that these other children get the spiritual guidance they need. We have been thrilled by the possibility of shaping the spiritual leanings of a whole neighborhood of children.

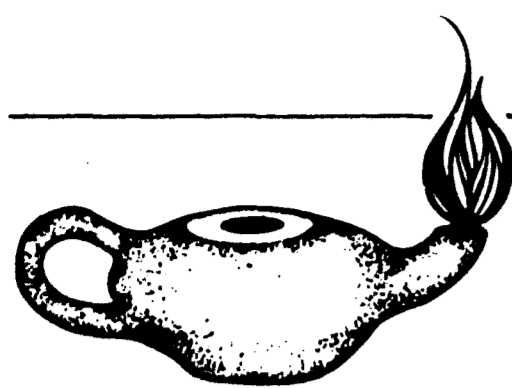
If you would like more information about starting a club, I would recommend that you look in your city or county phone directory under "Child Evangelism" or else write me:

Jane Mackintosh  
150 Bridgeport

Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019

I can see to it that a Child Evangelism person gets in touch with you. They are a world-wide organization so there is probably some kind of supportive services near you.

See you at Conference! ☐



Thy Word is a light...

## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Mrs. Mary Clare

### The Responsibility Of Freedom

This is the month to celebrate the freedom from political bonds with England in 1776. With the freedom came the responsibility of organizing a new government, one that protected the rights of the people as groups and as individuals, one that protected the rights of the people being governed and the ones governing them. Many of the persons involved in establishing our nation were men of faith, a clergyman was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. It was because of the involvement of Christian men that there is the assurance that Americans have the privilege of freedom from state interference in religious beliefs and practices.

For many years, in the opinion of many church people, the clergy had no right to speak out about other than moral issues. When ministers urged their congregation to act on purely political issues, "they had stopped preaching and gone to meddling." However, we must recognize that responsibility of action is a part of the freedom.

"According to Lany Braidfoot, general counsel and director of research for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 'Christian citizenship is the application of the principles of the gospel through responsible involvement in the world, especially in political structures.

*Live as free men, yet without pretext for evil; but live as servants for God.*

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'Christian citizenship is action in which the gospel determines choice and priorities. Christian ethical principles are used to evaluate public policy and take needed actions or make changes as demanded by the gospel.' Braidfoot explains.

"The world in which involvement takes place is the world that God loves—local, state, national, global. In God's world there is no real boundary for concerns. The Bible must be read along with the newspaper to understand what the Christian is doing.' He says, 'Responsible Christian involvement requires an understanding of and action in the concrete events of our lives. Elections are going to be held; Christians must be registered. Legislators are going to be making decisions affecting millions of lives; they need to be contacted and influenced.' Braidfoot urges. 'The political process has potential for good and for evil; Christians are persons who have learned how to hope in Jesus Christ. This hope is a powerful motive for doing good.' he says."\*

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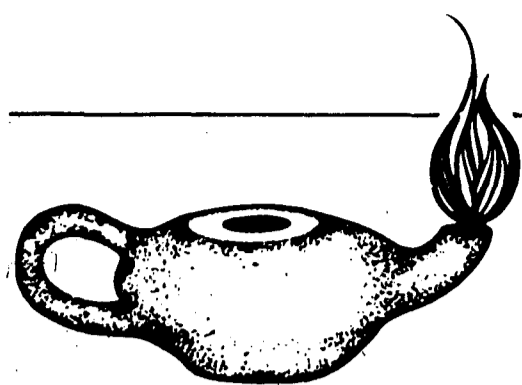
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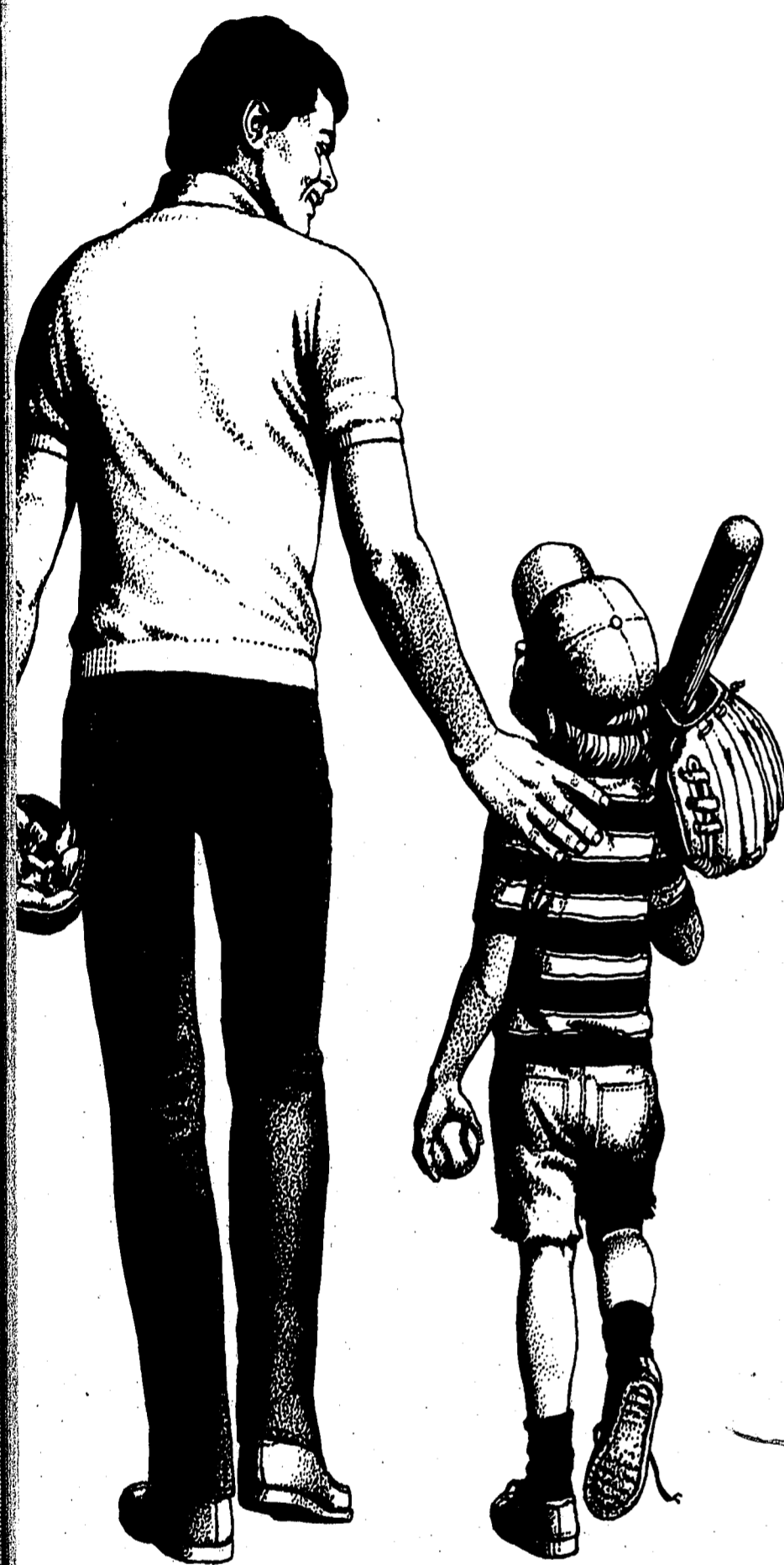
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# Parents as Models, Not Critics

By David Wray



**"Parental modeling is so dominant that the traits seem to be passed on from one generation to the next."**

Children are very astute observers. They notice what other people do and they notice the pay off that behavior gets. When they like the adults, they imitate the behavior. This brilliant observation is summarized by the psychology principle known as the monkey theory.

The "monkey see, monkey do"

principle has been demonstrated in animals as well as people. For example, a monkey was trained to open a box to get a raisin. Other monkeys watched the demonstration and were given a chance at a similar problem. In most cases, the monkeys who hadn't had the chance to watch the solution were not so quick. Studies with children yield similar results, supporting the suspicion of some adults that children are really little "monkeys."

Parents are fond of saying that when it comes to learning, experience is the best teacher. Children, youth and adults learn by doing. But a great deal of learning takes place by observing others. Observation learning, however, is so natural and common, we often take it for granted. Parents falsely believe we only teach when we instruct, praise, or criticize our children's performance. The truth is that our children could often echo Emerson's famous statement: "What you are thunders so loudly, I can't hear what you're saying."

## Shaping Character and Behavior

Perhaps the greatest single factor that shapes our children's character and behavior is our behavior. Children are not likely to stick to a difficult task unless they've observed perseverance. They probably won't even strive to achieve unless they've seen someone succeed. They won't develop a conscience unless they see morality at home. We increase the probability that our children will smoke or perform other unhealthy acts if we commit them ourselves. We already know that behavior that is rewarded tends to be repeated, but modeling can help guarantee that certain behavior will or will not occur in the first place.

Oddly enough, children often

pick up the worst habits by imitating their parents. If Mom is afraid of thunder and lightning, little Johnny may run and hide everytime a cloud gets dark. When Dad gets angry, he rants and raves. Wendy observes the behavior and learns to throw a tantrum when she is angry. If Mom gets her way when she weeps, Sharon will most certainly give weeping a fair number of honest tries.

It is not surprising that many adult problems have their roots in childhood. This is true not so much in the sense of psychological traumas, but in the habits people acquire by imitating their parents. For example, adults who have a history of child abuse are often found to be people who were beaten severely by their parents when they were children. Wife beaters often come from homes where violence, including wife beating, was a part of the daily routine.

## The Most Important Thing

A plaque that has been out for several years says, "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." This modeling of love, acceptance, and warm affirmation of our mate says some of the most important things that most parents want to demonstrate to their children.

Perhaps one of the most sobering reminders of the consequences of our modeling inappropriate behavior is the song by Harry Chapin, "The Cat's in the Cradle." You will remember that when the son was born, Dad was off being the busy executive. There was not time for ball, fishing, or the father-son relationships so vital in the formative years. The last verse of the song indicates that the son learned his lesson well from the behavior

modeled by Dad.

I've long since retired, my son's moved away;  
I called him up just the other day.  
I said, "I'd like to see you if you don't mind."  
He said, "I'd love to Dad, if I can find the time.  
You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu,  
But it's sure nice talking to you, Dad, it's been sure nice talking to you."  
And as I hung up the phone,  
It occurred to me,  
He'd grown up just like me;  
My boy was just like me.

"The Cat's in the Cradle" gives new meaning to the old saying, "Like father, like son." Moses recognized the reality of this saying right at the beginning of Israel's life as a nation. Once when he gathered the people together, he reminded them:

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Moses' counsel to parents still has the same powerful three fold message to us today.

1. Love God.
2. Keep this love a high profile priority in your own life.
3. Bathe every moment of your relationship with your kids in this reality. Modeling is a 24 hour responsibility: sitting, walking, rising and lying.

There are two active aspects in Moses' admonition to parents of

Israel. Parents are to "teach" and "talk." Moses obviously believed there are times when parents deliberately sit down with their children and share factual information they need to have.

The other word is "talk." This takes place during the daily routines of everyday life. When a situation arises that might potentially lead to an explosion of anger, that is the time to talk about why self-control is a vital and effective way to control one's temper. A financial decision is a great opportunity to talk of the advantages of economic restraint, the determination of values and priorities, or the process of sound judgment.

Moses' system of teach and talk stifles the tendency to cram handfuls of dry behavioral principles into a child's mind and then stand by helplessly hoping that when the challenges of life come, he won't behave in inappropriate ways.

## Fragile: Handle With Care

Parents in today's world often find themselves disciplining and parenting in precisely the manner they were parented. Often a young adult will consciously think, "When I have children of my own, I will be more tolerant and less autocratic." But when the child rearing years come, the parent finds that the pattern of disciplining and parenting used is often that of grandparents. Parental modeling is so dominant that the traits seem to be passed on from one generation to the next. This is especially true when it comes to managing children's behavior.

Gordon MacDonald relates the story of a ten-year-old son in his helpful book, *The Effective Father*.

A ten-year-old boy dissects an old alarm clock in his father's shop. When Dad arrives home that night, he discovers his work area littered with tools and alarm clock parts. Finding his

son downstairs, he explodes. "Son, I'm sick and tired of finding my shop in such a mess when I come home at night. You're not responsible about these things; you're messy and you never finish anything. Don't you realize how expensive tools are?" A series of outbursts like these may stifle the boy's curiosity, his desire to work in the shop or his hunger to enter this aspect of his father's world at all. (p. 92)

Why did he react in such an authoritarian posture? Probably because that is the way his father reacted to him, and his father's father, and that could be taken back for generation after generation.

Parenting cycles of less effective discipline can be broken. Through parent education seminars, good books, and open dialogue with effective parents, there are ways to discover the joys of seeing our children parent with more confidence and greater results.

Dorothy Law Nolte summarizes these thoughts on modeling in the following way:

If a child lives with criticism,  
He learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility  
He learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule,  
He learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame,  
He learns to feel guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance,  
He learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement,  
He learns to be confident.  
If a child lives with praise,  
He learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness,  
He will learn justice.  
If a child lives with security,  
He learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval,  
He learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
He learns to find love in the world. □

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## CEBU CITY, THE PHILIPPINES

### Missionary Rodney Henry writes...

This past month (March) we had our first typhoon. It sure was exciting. The center winds were 115 mph. Though it was exciting to us, it was disastrous to thousands of families who lost their homes. We lost power for a day and water for half a day. Fortunately, we collected water to last us through this time. There was a missionary who had come to Cebu with three small children to see doctors and return the same night to their home in Leyte but had to remain in Cebu for three days until the typhoon passed. Naturally, they stayed with us.

We sure have a lot of guests. We should call our place here the Seventh Day Baptist Guest House. But God has been good to us to give us such a large home that is perfect for guests to stay with us. I'm glad that both Filipinos and Americans feel comfortable to come and stay whenever they want to. The Baptist General Conference is having their

Bi-annual Meetings this month. We made our home available to them and they are going to put a missionary family with us for a week. We don't have to worry about any of the meals because they simply need a place to lay their heads at night.

I have finished writing the materials on Bible Interpretation. I really do like it. It was the most difficult writing project I have had so far. In developing a hermeneutic for these pastors it was difficult to know what they could handle. It is far easier to write something that is comprehensive and simply include everything you know on the subject. It is much more difficult to synthesize volumes of materials and make the difficult decisions as to what is necessary and what is not. I pray that this material will help the pastors in the most important skill of ministry, Bible Interpretation. The material is at the printer's

(Mimeo) now and should be ready soon.

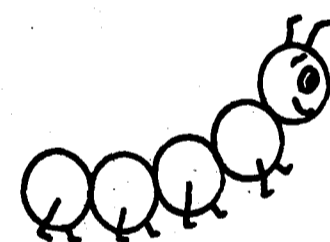
Bible Interpretation was the subject of the seminar which began on April 19, the last for the first Pastors Training Course. Graduation was held on the 21st and the Vice Mayor of Cebu City was asked to be the M.C. of the ceremony. The three pastors have worked very hard and they deserve a lot of credit.

On April 24th the Seventh Day Baptist Convention meetings began and an ordination service for these three pastors was scheduled for that day too. Because of the expense of travel there was not a great turnout but representatives from each of the five groups/churches attended.

The pastors will return to their churches/groups and will become instructors in the training of other pastors, beginning with the Bible Interpretation course. Everyone is quick to point out how risky it is, turning over the training of pastors to men who have only been recently trained themselves. I do not deny the risk. If ministry depended solely on men then I would not be willing to take the risk. But I believe that this is God's ministry and He is the One who makes "fishers of men." We do need to pray for these men as they undertake this task!

In our last letter, we told you about the severely malnourished baby (brought to us) that we put in the hospital. He developed pneumonia and had to stay for another week. PTL that the baby developed it after he had the health and strength to fight it off. He is doing just fine now.

We are very thankful for the extra gifts this month. We have purchased Thompson Chain Reference Bibles, reference books and Cebuano Bibles for the pastors and their congregations. The special gift will cover the cost of sound equipment and slide projector for the Convention. □



Are you looking for a Bible based program to supplement your Sabbath School for those in grades K thru 6?

The Young Believers program is designed to aid young people in their Christian growth and teaches the joy of Jesus, the awareness of Others, and that You are special.

It is filled with fun activities, object lessons, projects that will take them into the church and into the community, etc. A banner program is the tool for recording their growth each year.

Send for the Leader's Kit now (\$4.95), look it over, and then get ready for a fulfilling year with your YBers. (The average cost per YBer is approximately \$1.50.)

WYEBE MINISTRIES  
1st Seventh Day Baptist Church  
of Upper East Tennessee  
Rt. 2, Box 202 A

Blountville, Tennessee 37617  
or call: Mrs. Barbara Wright (615) 538-6464

Young Believers Program

## BURMA UPDATE

by L.S. Thanga

My wife and I have been in the field continuously and alternately since last December. I came back the third week in April from the Chin Hills and my wife left again by plane to attend the joint annual session of SDB Youth Fellowship and SDB Women's Society, held at Tuingo village, April 28-30. She will remain on the field for about another month.

From our field work and experiences we realized that the most important single need for field ministry is a slide projector. Consequently a Japanese Nikolet was purchased and my wife has taken it with her. We do not have slides/film strips available here, however, and do hope you can obtain some, especially on the life of Christ, and send them. This is very important right now for our ministry in Burma.

At the Conference session in March it was decided that voluntary labors be contributed by all the SDB members in Burma for erecting a new SDB church at Zonua village. It is my understanding that the dedication ceremony will be held in October or earlier. The total expense will be no less than K.15,000 (US\$2,000) excluding benches and chairs.

The bamboo roof of the headquarters church at Tahan has become rotten and replacement is urgently needed before the rainy season. We have been trying to purchase corrugated zinc sheets (7' x 3') from the Government Shop but in vain. We are forced to look from the open market at about double the control price—250 sheets estimated to cost US\$3000. The Executive Committee of Burma SDB Conference requests the Missionary Society for prayers and financial help for this purpose. I told them that I will donate \$500 from the sale of proceeds of my TOPICAL CONCORDANCE.

Mr. Neihchana completed his second year theological course successfully and will begin the 3rd year at Myanma Institute of Christian Theology (MICT) from June 1, 1982. [He receives scholarship help from the Daisy Jett Summers Fund for Pastoral Training on International Fields.]

We continue to pray for all Seventh Day Baptists in the U.S. □



After the Sabbath worship service, 20 March 1982 Tahan SDB Church, Tahan, Burma



Executive Committee, SDB Women's Society Tahan, Burma 20 March 1982. They are holding copies of the TOPICAL CONCORDANCE by L.S. Thanga published in March '81.

# Center on Ministry

by Rev. Paul Green

This sentence from an article entitled "COM First to Hold Meeting At New Center" (The Sabbath Recorder, March 1982, page 11) inspired reader response:

"One of the Dean's duties, one which all Seventh Day Baptists share, is to encourage gifted individuals to consider entering the pastorate."

Kenneth and Jeannette Oglesby of Lake Hamilton, Arkansas, commented:

"God have mercy on the denomination when the ministers cease to be called of God and when only gifted individuals must be encouraged to consider entering the pastorate! May we pray with you that the Pastors of the churches will preach under such an anointing that the young people will become so convicted of the need that they will say, '...woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!' I Cor. 9:16. Yes, and I Cor. 1:25-29 is a fine criteria for the Ministry. Of course God can and does use gifted individuals but he does not look at the natural gifts as much as He looks on the heart. The Apostle Paul was educated but he spent 3 years in the desert. He was called of God! We still believe all Pastors must have a call of God — not to be hand picked gifted individuals."

We say "AMEN" to this, especially if one is thinking of "gifted" in terms of talented individuals.

We have in recent years become accustomed to thinking of "gifted" in a new way — in terms of spiritual gifts among which are: preaching God's message, serving, teaching, encouraging others (Romans 12). In Ephesians 4 we are told:

"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some pro-

phets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

We are doing well if we encourage individuals whom God has thus gifted to consider entering the pastorate! Such encouragement may be a means by which they come to the conviction that they are indeed called, and that not of men but of God! □

## Post-Conference Retreat

The Center on Ministry is sponsoring a Post-Conference Retreat, to be held following General Conference near Pacific Pines camp. The location is the Chapman cabin, Crestline, CA from Sunday, August 15 beginning at 5 PM through Thursday, August 19 ending at 9 PM. (Optional Friday morning breakfast.)

This retreat is being planned especially for the theological students and their wives, but the Center on Ministry is inviting pastors and their spouses for this time of study and fellowship. Previous retreats held in the mid-1970's verified the importance of having pastors on the field participate with the students. "There was interaction that was dynamic and strengthening for the students and pastors that could be involved."

The program areas are these; 1) Study of a New Testament Epistle led by Pastor John Peil, 2) "The home and family life of the student and pastor" led by Mabel and Pastor Earl Cruzan, 3) "Conducting worship and ceremonies of the church" led by Dean Paul Green and others—(Please bring

ideas, materials, and questions; Baptism, communion, dedication of babies, weddings, funerals, worship, and preaching), 4) Reflections on General Conference. There should be time for in-depth discussion of other matters raised by participants. Leland Bond, chairman of The Council on Ministry, will be on the program during early portions of the Retreat—Dorothea Shettel will serve as cook.

There will be a minimum charge based on actual costs. Those interested in attending should contact Dean Paul Green at the Seventh Day Baptist Center. □

## Read The Bible Through in '82

August

- 1—2 Kings 20, 21
- 2—Zephaniah 1-3
- 3—Habakkuk 1-3
- 4—2 Kings 22-25
- 5—Obadiah, Jeremiah 1,2
- 6—Jeremiah 3-5
- 7—Jeremiah 6-8
- 8—Jeremiah 9-12
- 9—Jeremiah 13-16
- 10—Jeremiah 17-20
- 11—Jeremiah 21-23
- 12—Jeremiah 24-26
- 13—Jeremiah 27-29
- 14—Jeremiah 30-32
- 15—Jeremiah 33-36
- 16—Jeremiah 37-39
- 17—Jeremiah 40-42
- 18—Jeremiah 43-46
- 19—Jeremiah 47-49
- 20—Jeremiah 50-52
- 21—Lamentations 1-5
- 22—1 Chronicles 1-3
- 23—1 Chronicles 4-6
- 24—1 Chronicles 7-9
- 25—1 Chronicles 10-13
- 26—1 Chronicles 14-16
- 27—1 Chronicles 17-19
- 28—1 Chronicles 20-23
- 29—1 Chronicles 24-26
- 30—1 Chronicles 27-29
- 31—2 Chronicles 1-3

## FOCUS



## MISSIONS TODAY

● **FLORIDA:** Responding to the call of the Daytona Beach SDB church, Director of Evangelism/Church Extension Mynor G. Soper spent several weeks in April and May in south and west Florida. He offered counsel and leadership to the new branch church meeting in North Miami and sought other places where new groups might begin services. One, or more, are possible on the West Coast and another in the Orlando area. Mynor is planning to return to this field for further ministry in the fall.

● **KENYA, AFRICA:** Not only will Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson be representing our SDB General Conference and the Missionary Society at the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Nairobi early in July, but they will be accompanied by Rev. A.K. Harawa, Secretary of the Central Africa Conference and Mrs. E. Muula representing the Malawi Women. A week or more will also be spent with the Kenya SDB Mission in the Kiisi area working with their Pastor, Joel Omare.

● **MEMPHIS, TN:** After hosting so well the Area Spiritual Retreat in March, this young SDB church is also hosting the Southwestern Association sessions in June.

● **PHILIPPINES:** The first annual Session of the Seventh Day Baptist Philippine Convention was held in April. Three pastors were ordained. Pastor Eliodoro Saubon of Talisay, Surigao City, Mindinao is the Chairman; Pastor Tereso Santianez of Caridad, Baybay, Leyte is the Vice-Chairman and Helario Tanduyan of Talisay the Secretary. Missionary Camille Henry is serving as Treasurer and Rolando Sabanal,

San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur as Auditor. Four local churches and one fellowship are member groups. A SDB Training Institute with Dean Eleazar Paypa, Sr. has been established at Molave, Zamboanga del Sur, Mindinao to prepare further leaders for the churches and outreach ministries.

● **TORONTO, CANADA:** Though called to serve as Pastor of the Toronto SDB Church, Rev. Joe A. Samuels is yet seeking the proper visa to enable him to return there with his family from Kingston, Jamaica. Pray for this need.

● **OPEN DOORS/NEEDS:** A motorcycle would greatly facilitate the ministry of Rev. B. John V. Rao in India; Funds for new churches to match materials and labor of the local members is needed in Burma; Land as been obtained for the Kenya Mission office, Secretary's house, and local church sites, but funds must be provided if these are to be built this year. These are only a few of the constant requests received by your Missionary Society—over and above the budgeted items. We encourage you to fully support Our World Mission Budget!! But, if you have extra funds and the Lord leads in your stewardship, we would be happy to help you find the place for such giving.

● **LEADERSHIP—A VITAL KEY!:** Over a dozen local churches are without regular pastors and retirements this year will increase that number. Local Lay Pastors are one possible immediate answer. But more workers are needed! Let us not forget to pray as Jesus directed in Matthew 9:38!

## PRAYER

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!!

AUGUST 1982

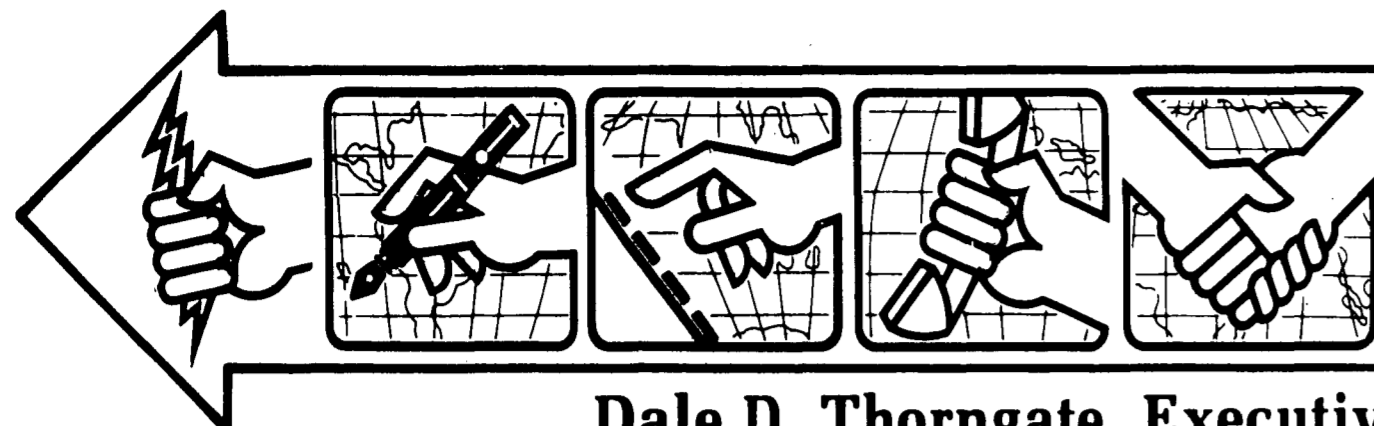
Verse for the month: "On the Sabbath, we went a little way outside the city to a river bank where we understood some people met for prayer; and we taught the Scriptures. . ."

-Acts 16:13 TLB

### PRAY FOR:

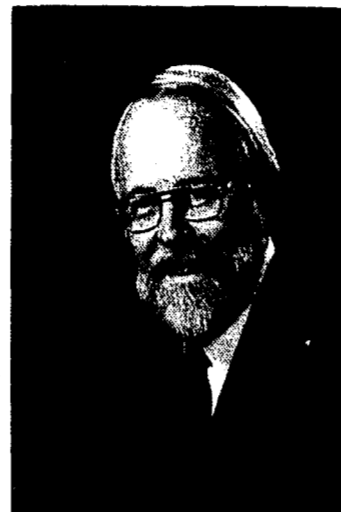
- 1-William Vis, interim pastor for Paint Rock, AL church
- 2-Publishing work of Australasia SDB's
- 3-Summer Christian Service Corp evaluation—Pacific Pines Camp
- 4-Youth and Young Adult Pre-Con Retreats, CA
- 5-The General Council of General Conference in their meetings
- 6-God's Holy Spirit to bless all sessions this week and next!
- 7-Churches who are seeking pastors
- 8-President Dorothy Parrott as Conference sessions begin tonight
- 9-Vision of God's World and its need for the Gospel
- 10-Wisdom to be given to the Conference Interest Committee chairmen
- 11-Evening speakers/worship leaders at Conference
- 12-Praise God that we can meet freely in Conference and seek God's will
- 13-Vision and decisive action by Conference delegates
- 14-A fully raised Our World Mission budget this month/our stewardship
- 15-Post-Conference Retreat for theological students and their wives sponsored by COM
- 16-Rodney and Camille Henry and children/our Missionaries in the Philippines
- 17-Raritan Valley, NJ church
- 18-Our Brethren in Shanghai, China as they worship and witness
- 19-Joel Osborn and his dedicated service at the SDB Center, Janesville, WI
- 20-Pastors and church leaders in Guyana, South America
- 21-Our retired pastors and their wives
- 22-Effective follow-through on new contacts made in Bible Schools/Camps
- 23-Those hearing the "Word of Truth"
- 24-Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson in Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
- 25-Director of Evangelism/Church Extension Mynor G. Soper
- 26-Newly elected Conference officers
- 27-Edwin Johnson, Kansas City, MO, chairman of the Africa Committee
- 28-A growing effective outreach ministry in my church
- 29-A new sense of need my church can meet in its community/area
- 30-Those enrolled in the GUIDE Bible course
- 31-The leadership of our country

CORNER



## Small Is Beautiful But Is Small Enough?

Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



In March I had the opportunity to attend a seminar on small churches sponsored by the Professional Church Leadership Committee, an interdenominational group chaired by our own Rev. Herbert E. Saunders. The purpose of this seminar was to take a close look at small churches, their dynamics, their leadership, and their program needs. It was to be an opportunity for denominational people to identify ways to respond to small church needs.

By church growth definition all Seventh Day Baptist churches are small. Therefore it seemed most appropriate for our leaders to participate in this seminar. Besides Rev. Saunders and myself, the Dean of our Center on Ministry, Rev. Paul Green, also participated.

Small is beautiful, but is small enough? As we deal with both parts of that statement/question, I'd like to share some thoughts from the seminar. We'll focus on small church dynamics, small church leadership, and power in the church.

### Small Church Dynamics

One of the key speakers at the seminar was author and seminary professor, Dr. Carl Dudley. Dr. Dudley says that for a pastor to be effective in the small church he must be aware of and appreciate the characteristics of the small church. Here are Dudley's characteristics:

1. Small churches are concerned about people. "When someone in the small church asks, 'How are you?' they really want to know."
2. Worship in the small church can be described as a folk dance. Everyone has their own pew. Church is a very social experience as Dudley describes it.
3. Small church people trust only face-to-face communication. Written communications are not always effective. The grape vine usually works best. When the computer salesman is asked, "How does it work?" he says, "Very well and very fast!" That also describes the small church grape vine.
4. New members of a small church are required to join the past. History is always important for the small church and new members must accept and become a part of it. That is not really a problem because the old members will be glad to help. They are real story tellers.

5. The people of a small church live on their own time. They view the program of the church as the pastor's. They are more concerned about what happened during the week than they are about what is happening today in the worship service.

6. People in a small church use conflict to live out their life together. The small church is really like a family. It is all right to fight. Conflict in the church has a cathartic effect. A challenge to the pastor in this area is to expose his congregation to an experience of joy.

7. Small church people are carriers of history. They do things the way their forebearers did them.

8. Clergy and lay people in the small congregation have leverage in their community that far outweighs their size.

9. Relationships are warm within the church. The small church wants a lover for their pastor, someone who understands them, someone who will call them by their nick names. They also want someone to love.

These characteristics as I review them do not appear to be unique only to small churches. However, I could personally identify with them in most of my own experience.

### Small Church Leadership

According to seminar leader Doug Walrath, small church pastors generally reveal poor leadership abilities. Several factors contribute to the situation. Most small churches cannot afford trained leadership. Also, many small church pastors must be bivocational, that is they have to have another job besides being a pastor. So their time and development are split between what may be two very different occupations.

(Continued on page 32)

## The President's Page

by Dorothy Parrott

**Called Apart - To Be A Part  
Open Your Heart Loving  
Far Better Men  
Grow With God  
The More Excellent Way  
What Would You Have Me To Do?  
Pleasing Him In Every Way  
To God Be The Glory**

In the above lines you will recognize the themes of some former conferences. These themes, for a variety of reasons, are the ones that have made a lasting impact on my memory. I wonder how long "Ministry of Reconciliation" will be remembered. Has it been just a theme title? As we have studied Bible studies, listened to sermons, read articles, has this emphasis had an impact on our lives?

I know of two instances where family reconciliation has occurred. This has not in any way come about because of the conference theme but because some of the people involved had a change in their own spiritual lives and desired that there be a restored relationship.

Because God the Holy Spirit is present in us, we can be lifted by his action beyond our own potential. We can make godly choices, and we can live out those choices in a redeeming way. No matter how deep the hurt. No matter how painful the past. God's action in our lives can show us the way to forgiveness and reconciliation.<sup>1</sup>

If you know of some healing of a rift in a family, in the church or between friends I would like to hear about it. Is there some separation or schism that you and I should be praying about? I would like to know about that. In either case there is no need to identify the individuals or yourself. The

author of the book I have just finished, (quoted in the lines above), also says, "Grace says that when life has gone wrong, God understands. He will act to forgive and restore...Each of us...will find a grace from God that lifts us beyond our own potentials. When we live this way, dependent on God, eager to respond, willing to humble ourselves and obey the voice of God, we will find healing in every relationship."<sup>2</sup>

I hope you will be present at Conference at Redlands to hear the speakers address the message of reconciliation. If you cannot attend these messages will be available on cassette tape.

As I have visited the churches and fellowships and heard the testimonies of individuals I have made an assessment of the things I think we need to pray about and give more attention to as we perform our ministries in the Kingdom of God. Please give these your consideration:

- 1) A commitment to be a disciple.
- 2) Increased Bible study (especially lay people).
- 3) Develop the ability to share with others what we believe and why - to verbalize why we choose to be Seventh Day Baptists.
- 4) Make greater effort to establish SDB churches and fellowships in all parts of the country. (Inquiries are being received about where SDB's have services. These are

often answered, "We have no church there.")

- 5) More effort should be made to acquaint the public about where our churches are. The Washington D.C. Church changed their telephone listing from Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church to Seventh Day Baptist Church. "More people are finding us now. Why? Because people are more prone to look under the "S" than under "W".
  - 6) There is a great need to make a commitment of our finances. Denominations and churches that are growing are meeting their budgets which indicates total commitment. One of our own growing churches has over-subscribed their budget by \$3,000. This church does not have many affluent members.
  - 7) Support for Our World Mission is needed so that together we can perform those services that we cannot do as well in our local churches e.g. training of ministers, publication of tracts and other literature, SCSC, missions (both national and international), Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund, programs for nurture.
  - 8) **We need to catch a vision!** God has a purpose for us. He has work for us to do. He has commanded us to: Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make disciples. Love one another as He has loved us. And through the Apostle Paul, He has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation. □
1. **Remarriage - A Healing Gift From God**, Larry Richards; Word Books, Waco, Texas, p.86
  2. *Ibid*, p.72



# the CHURCH in ACTION

## "We Are Blest" theme of Special Wisconsin Meetings

NEW AUBURN, WI—The Semi-Annual meeting of the Dodge Center and New Auburn-SDB Churches was held April 23-25 in New Auburn, Wisconsin. The welcome was given by Esther Loofboro, president of the Semi-Annual Meetings. The theme for the weekend was "We Are Blest."

Pastor David Taylor had the Friday evening message. Sabbath morning and after an abundant dinner, Pastor Paul Osborn had the messages. Thoughts on the beautitudes (Matt. 5:3-12) also were shared by others on Sabbath afternoon.

After a praise service Sabbath night, Rev. J. Paul Green presented information to the group about those attending seminary training for the ministry. A social time for different age groups concluded the evening.

Sunday morning the business meeting began with a praise service led by Wallace Greene of Dodge Center. The offering was voted to be used in the following manner: \$100 for the travel expense of the Pearsons to the African Conference, \$100 to S.C.S.C. and \$40 for J. Paul Green's travel expense.

The weekend was a "blessed time" with much music and specials by many individuals and groups. Truly we were "Blest." □

—Roy Langworthy

## Dutch Visitors Commemorate NY Town

DeRUYTER, NY—On April 24th and 25th, the village of DeRuyter hosted 150 official guests from The Netherlands in commemoration of 200 years of peaceful relations between our two countries. This tiny village, nestled among the foothills of Central New York, takes its name from Lt. Adm. Michiel A. deRuyter, a Dutch naval hero of the late 17th century. A Dutch Royal Navy ship, a member of the NATO fleet, has also been named after this illustrious officer and is Flagship of the Queen's fleet. Therefore this community has been "adopted" by the Dutch Navy and been declared "Flagship Town 1982" by the New York State Assembly and Senate.

The official guests included 60 people in the naval delegation, led by First Admiral D.J. Berkhout, commander of the HNLMS Tromp—a sister ship of the DeRuyter, and the Royal Netherlands Marine Band consisting of 90 members. These were all housed in local homes and it was a joy and a privilege to have them with us and entertain them in our homes.

Although few in numbers, the ladies of the church were requested to furnish the dessert for the official luncheon served Sunday afternoon following a Flag Raising ceremony and parade led by our Dutch guests.

Another feature of the weekend was the Historical Trail, featuring some of the most historical spots in the area. So in keeping with this, our church was opened for visitors with members acting as hosts for the occasion. Some of these visitors joined us in our Sabbath Morning Worship Service and added much to the spirit of the day. A picture of our church was featured in one of the recent news items for "Admiral's Days" as this celebration was referred to.

Our pastor, Helen Green, is actively involved in holding Bible Studies at Camp Georgetown, a minimum security facility located just outside the town, and these Bible classes are proving more and more popular with the boys. This prison ministry is helping to fill a vital need, for Christ came "not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

We so much miss our sisters, Martha Mills, who is still a patient at Highgate Manor Nursing Home in Cortland, and Cora Phillips, a guest in a private nursing home in the same city. Following an eye operation sister Leola Phillips is unable to meet with us regularly—except when the weather cooperates—which has been seldom this past winter. We so much need the inspiration and fellowship of these dear ones. It is comforting to feel the Lord with us, few in number though we are. May our light continue to shine brightly for Christ and the Sabbath. □

## NEWS NOTES

● Rev. A. L. Peat writes from London: "We are now holding a series of evangelistic meetings at the Lewisham Seventh Day Baptist Church on Alegeron Road. Our annual Lord's Supper Service was held on Tuesday, March 7, at the Mill Yard Church in Tottenham. We had a real spiritual service with about 36 partakers of the sacred emblem."

● Seventh Day Baptists are worshipping north of Philadelphia in Ambler, PA. Kenroy Cruickshank is leading the group which includes some members of the Marlboro, NJ church. It is hoped that the home

meetings can soon be relocated to a public meeting place.

● Assets of the Kansas City SDB Church, disbanded in 1981, were willed to the SDB Missionary Society. The money will go toward current budget expenses for missions.

● Many SDB's are seeking appropriate ways to memorialize the life and service of Rev. Everett T. Harris who died March 24, 1982. Funds are being established in his name by the Missionary Society and the Pawcatuck Church, Westerly, R.I.

## Eastern Association Report

PLAINFIELD, NJ—It was a joy to the Plainfield and Raritan Valley churches to host the Eastern Association meetings in our church and homes May 14-16. Jeanne Wilhelm was president and planned the program with the help of the Executive Committee.

The highlight of the weekend was the delightful recognition dinner on Sabbath night at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church. All who were present for Association were invited to this bountiful meal and enjoyable evening, which was hosted by Conference President Dorothy Parrott and President-Elect K.D. Hurley. Everyone was presented with a certificate of appreciation to all who have worked out of the Seventh Day Baptist Building from 1922-1982. Shireen Hurley led the singing of oldtime songs with Mary Jane McPherson at the piano. The Hurleys also sang a duet and played several amazing harmonica duets.

## Six Baptized in Alfred, NY

ALFRED, NY—Harold Snyder's pond was the scene for a very inspiring baptismal service on May 1, 1982. As the Lord has been working in our midst, several individuals expressed a desire for baptism. As you might expect in our neck of the woods, the water was less than warm. As the temperature of the water chilled each candidate, the presence of the Holy Spirit warmed them from the inside out, as well as around 50 observers. The candidates were four college students: Russ Hudson, Kathy Wightman, Amy Wagner and Janet Wing as well as Donnie Mix and Scott Yelle, local residents. Scott is in Junior High School. A salad luncheon assisted in the celebration and offered extended fellowship. An unexpected treat to many was the observance of a calf 15 minutes old.

Speakers Sabbath eve and Sabbath morning were Pastors Dale Rood and C. Rex Burdick. The large New York City Church choir sang two anthems from memory. On Sunday morning we had a joint service with the congregation that meets in our church. Their pastor spoke on "Stewardship of Influence," which followed the general theme of "Practical Christian Stewardship."

At Plainfield's annual meeting April 25 Jeanne Wilhelm was elected assistant pastor and Douglas Wheeler moderator. Youth co-directors are William Kanengiser and Dennis Paquette. Jeanne conducted our services and preached April 17 and 24 while Pastor and Mrs. Victor Skaggs were on vacation in Las Vegas. Their new grandson was born to their daughter Lynne Balog just before they arrived. Jeanne also assisted our pastor in conducting Communion May 1st.

On Youth Sabbath our young people presented an unusual skit, "Hellbent for Election," which takes place in hell, showing how unsavory the inhabitants are. They in-

clude a drunk, a harlot, a gambler, a murderer, a thief, an addict. Bill Kanengiser led the service and gave the message, "By Grace Are Ye Saved."

Other special events have been Baptist World Alliance Sabbath with an offering of \$61 for BWA; Bible studies of First John on three Sabbath afternoons; Fellowship dinner and planning session; Easter breakfast and service April 10; Easter service at McCutchen Nursing Home conducted by our pastor April 11; and an enjoyable open house at the Thorngate home to honor Etta O'Connor and Margaret Herres, who were retiring after many years of service at our headquarters, and also Leon and Sandra Clare, Patricia Cruzan, and Ronald Maltby, who will not be moving to Wisconsin. We will greatly miss Elder Harmon Dickinson, Ethel Dickinson, Elder Dale Thorngate, Janet Thorngate, Ronda Jacobson, and Doneta Richards, who are now located there. May the Lord help us to grow in spite of our losses. □

—Ruth Parker

grow and divide, a mid-week Praise and Prayer Service tends to bring us together for a larger fellowship and ministering to needs through praise, a brief teaching and prayer.

We praise God for the way He is working in our body and pray that we will continually give more of the life of our body of Christ over to Him. □

—Barbara J. Snyder

## Notice

The annual meeting of the members of the American Sabbath Tract Society will be at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, September 19, 1982, at the Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, Janesville, WI. Immediately following the meeting of the society will be the quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees. □

## Central Marches On In March

CENTRAL, MD—Some say, "March roars in like a Lion and out like a Lamb," or "When it comes in like a Lamb it roars out like a Lion." Central finds its ministry here in Suburban Maryland to be quiet and Lamblike but having the effects of a roaring Lion.

March saw three quiet events happen in the Life of our Church. The first was the coming together of a group in our Church to complete The Central Seventh Day Baptist Discipleship Course. The Course is

### Sunshine Mountain

There are children who are lonely,  
Lost in a world they cannot  
understand.

What can you do?

Can you stop just for a minute  
and say,

"Hi, how are you?"

Can you push a swing?

Or tie a shoe?

What can you do?

Can you spend a friendly moment  
to help pass the time of day?

Can you play a game,

Or take a walk,

Or sing a song?

What can you do?

There are children here whose  
only wish is to be loved

Just because they are.

They don't know why

they are special,

Nor understand why some folks

just look the other way.

But they understand a smile

And a loving touch.

What can you do?

O listen—can you pray?

And when Jesus comes and asks  
about His little ones,

What will you say?

Support the ministry of  
Sunshine Mountain to special  
persons.

There is something you can do! □

—Linda Hays

an eight week study of Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives. It uses as its text the booklet called *Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives*, the tract *Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs*, and the book *A Free People in Search of a Free Land*. On the last Sabbath in March a Silver Lapel Cross and a Certificate of Discipleship were awarded to Arlene Bee, Earl Hibbard, Barbara Lacey and Beatrice Williams for their successful participation in the course.

The second quiet event was our Pastor and family celebrated their fourth anniversary of ministry with the Church. We set a goal of fifty in attendance for that Sabbath Worship, and what a blessing it was to have 47 people before the Lord.

The third quiet event was the completion of our raising of Missions Goal for the first quarter. Our goal was to raise \$125.00 through our Sabbath Offerings. By the final Sabbath of the Quarter, we had raised for the Worldwide Ministry of Seventh Day Baptists \$206 and we know we are a part of Our Denomination's Mission.

Our God is blessing us with these quiet blessings as a people we have a vision, we are committed to each other as our average attendance of 38 for March demonstrates. Our God is blessing because you have a Vision, you have a commitment to the work of the Lord through Central. Please continue that commitment with your prayer, your pocket-book, your personal contact. □

## BIRTHS

BONHAM.—Twin daughters, Jillian Juliette and Connie Marie, to Clifton and Susan Bonham on January 28, 1982, Shiloh, New Jersey.

MARTINEZ.—A son, Anthony Thomas, was born on April 28 to Muriel (Morris) and Carlos Martinez of Los Angeles, CA.

MOEHNLE.—A daughter, Rachel, was born April 5 to Viva (Owen) and Johannes Moehnle of Los Angeles, CA.

WILSON.—A daughter, Amanda McAllister, to Al and Lyn (McAllister) Wilson of Salisbury, NC, on March 23, 1982.

## ACCESSIONS

ATLANTA, GA  
William Shobe, PAstor

Charter Members:  
Alfred Elliot  
Kenneth Fields  
Debbie (Mrs. Jeff) Hargett  
Jeff Hargett  
Mryna (Mrs. Steve) LeCroy  
Steve LeCroy  
Sarah (Mrs. Robert) Lewis  
Robert Lewis  
Shelly (Mrs. William) Shobe  
William Shobe  
Robert Sutton  
Douglas Sutton  
Douglas Williams  
Pam White

BEREAN S.D.B. CHURCH  
Hendersonville, NC  
John Thompson, Interim Pastor

Charter Members:  
Lorena (Mrs. Ed) Bumgarner  
Ed Bumgarner  
Mrs. Rosa Cavinder  
Ruth (Mrs. Everett) Reed  
Everett Reed  
Rosemary (Mrs. Jules) Roelly  
Irene (Mrs. John) Thompson  
John Thompson

DENVER, CO  
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Letter:  
Hope L. (Mrs. John D.) Bevis  
John D. Bevis  
Laura L. Bevis

PAINT ROCK, AL  
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Testimony:  
R.T. Lee

RIVERSIDE, CA  
Alton L. Wheeler, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Arthur Amsk  
Shan Coffelt  
Betty Chadwick  
Shenandoah Chadwick

By Testimony:  
Steve Packard  
Dixie Packard  
Habib George Issa  
Rachel Issa  
Grace Hamilton

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
LeLand E. Davis, Pastor

By Baptism:  
Alphonzo Holt  
Maria Monge  
Nicole Simon



### A Tribute to Grover Brissey

Rev. Grover Brissey, whose careers ranged from farming, education and ministry died after a lengthy illness on April 21, 1982, at Greater Laurel Beltsville Hospital in Maryland.

Mr. Brissey was a veteran of World War I and was an instructor in the U.S. Army. The last of 12 children born of farmers George and Permelia Brissey, he was born on March 20, 1893, near Berea in West Virginia.

Farming and carpentry were a major part of his life but his 46 years in education began when he earned his teaching certificate at Salem College. He later completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland. He was a teacher and principal in schools in Harrison County, West Virginia, and in Howard County, Maryland.

He and his wife, Alma, were called to the ministry of Seventh Day Baptists. They served for the Missionary Society in Kingston, Jamaica. They were headmaster and teacher respectively at Crandall High School for six and a half years. It was during his first term as missionary that Grover returned briefly to be ordained by the Washington, D.C. church. As late as December 1976, Grover and Alma flew to Jamaica where they were honored by the alumni of Crandall High School

Grover was a charter member of the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was ordained first as a Deacon by the church and then as a minister, for a time he served as pastor emeritus.

The last Sabbath that Grover was out to church was on his birthday, March 20, when the church joined in celebrating his 89th year. He was taken to the hospital about a week later and was there for about three

weeks before his death.

He was indeed a mountain of a man with a stalwart faith that sought to remove mountains. No obstacle was too great but that he trusted God to remove or enable him to overcome it. Even after the loss of both legs, Grover kept moving in his wheel chair. Now he hopefully awaits his new body—a spiritual one like that of his Lord on resurrection day.

He had a monumental ministry which will long be remembered for it is imbedded on our minds and written by the Spirit in our hearts. As someone in the family said of their father: "Dad was born a farmer, became a carpenter by trade, a teacher and educator by profession, but a missionary and minister by calling from God."

Mr. Brissey is survived by his wife of 63 years, Alma B. Davis Brissey; four children, William O. of Torrance, CA; Georgianna Childers of Laurel, MD; Charles T. of Edgewater, MD; Dorothy Tamburino of Fallston, MD; 16 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held April 24, 1982, at Fleck Laurel Funeral Home with his pastor, the Rev. Leland Davis, officiating. Burial was in Meadowridge Memorial Park. □

## OBITUARIES

BRISSEY.—Rev. Grover S., son of George and Permelia Brissey, was born March 20, 1893 near Berea, West Virginia, and died on April 21, 1982 at Laurel, Maryland.

"God calls our loved one, but we lose not wholly what he has given: they live on earth, in thought and deed, as truly as in His heaven." —Whittier

—L.E.D.

FLANIGAN.—Isabel, daughter of Chester G. and Edith Davis Davis was born in Doddridge County, WV, on Dec. 21, 1898. She died at the United Hospital Center, Clarksburg, WV, on May 11, 1982.

On April 20, 1920 she married Earnest Aubrey Flanigan, who died on Jan. 10, 1970. Surviving are three sons, Aubrey R. and Paul S. both of Salem, WV, and William G. of New Cumberland, WV; two daughters, Mrs. Hedrick (Mary E.) McDonald, Salem, WV, Mrs. Jack L. (Virginia) Cross, West Union, WV; two sisters, Mrs. Goldie Brissey, Salem, WV, and Mrs. Alma Brissey, Laurel,

MD. There are 21 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and a host of other friends and relatives to mourn her passing.

One son, three grandchildren, two sisters, and three brothers have preceded her in death.

Mrs. Flanigan was a life-long member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church where she faithfully served as Deaconess and in numerous positions of service. In the community she was a member of the Salem Senior Citizens and the Extension Homemakers Club. She was a retired employee of Salem College.

Isabel Davis Flanigan was a person around which legends can be built and she leaves a marvelous heritage of courage, industry, and Christian love to her family, her church, and her community.

—M.G.N.

JETT.—Russell, 81, a former resident of Harrisville, WV, died Wednesday, April 21, 1982, at the Flagship Convalescent Center, Newport Beach, CA.

Russell Jett was born in Ritchie County, WV, son of the late Leonard S. and Nancy Meredith Jett.

Surviving are his wife, Julia Plumer Jett; one son, Leonard Jett of Salisbury, MD; one daughter, Nancy O'Connor of Irvine, CA, where the Jett's have been most recently living; one sister Mildred Lawton of Battle Creek, MI; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Daisy Jett Summers of Salem, WV.

Mr. Jett was a retired school teacher, having taught 43 years in Ritchie County. He was a graduate of Salem Academy and Salem College, and did graduate work at Ohio State University and West Virginia University. He was the mayor of Harrisville in 1961-62, and a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The memorial service was held on April 25, at the Raiguel Funeral Home, Harrisville, with the Rev. Dr. Melvin G. Nida officiating. Internment was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Harrisville.

—M.G.N.

POST.—Eula Agnes Randolph Post, 87, a resident of Route 1, Salem, WV, died Thursday, Jan. 21, in United Hospital Center, following a lengthy illness.

She was born June 11, 1894, at Salem, a daughter of the late Jessie Alexander and Ida Agnes Davis Randolph.

On June 18, 1921, she married Glen L. Post, who died Oct. 21, 1976.

Surviving are one sister, Mrs. Rowena Van Horn of Shiloh, NJ; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Warren and Floris Randolph.

Mrs. Post had been a teacher in Harrison County schools for 32 years and at the time of her retirement, had taught math at North View Junior High School for 17 years. She had been a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church for 70 years and had served as treasurer and trustee of the church. She was also a member of the Salem Business and Professional Woman's Club, Salem College Auxiliary, AAUW, West Virginia Retired Teachers, Centurian Club of Salem College, West Virginia Horsemen's Association and Friends of Fort New Salem. She was graduated from Salem College with the class of 1917.

Memorial services were conducted by Dr. Melvin Nida and Doyle Zwiebel on January 24. Burial was in the K of P cemetery, Salem.



**Catch the Spirit of Hope**, by Bob Slosser, Thomas Nelson Publishers, cloth, \$7.95

This book is Bob Slosser's enthusiastic answer to self-styled "survivalists" and contemporary prophets of "gloom and doom." Written as he struggled to reconcile the realities of materialism, greed, lawlessness, international tensions and nuclear threats with the promises of Christianity, this is Slosser's "search book."

He takes the reader on his year-long, sometimes intimate, journey as he progresses from deeply troubling questions to positive revelations. Step-by-step, Slosser shares his thoughts, his emotions, his reactions as he studies the Bible for practical, contemporary applications in a world gone awry.

*Catch the Spirit of Hope* establishes the case for realistic optimism assured by Jesus Christ for His church. □

**Ruth: The Romance of Redemption**, paper, \$4.95 and **Esther: The Romance of Providence**, paper, \$3.95 both by J. Vernon McGee, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

The story of Ruth, the gentile maid of Moab is a powerful portrayal of love—the devoted love of Ruth for her Hebrew mother-in-law, the romantic love between Ruth and Boaz, and the redemptive love of God.

Esther, queen-wife of a powerful monarch, used her royal position to avert wholesale slaughter of her people through the revealing of a palace plot. To destroy the queen along with her people was part of that evil scheme.

These two books will provide

meaningful insight into some of the mysterious ways of God, and His redemptive and providential love for His people. □

**The Love Factor**, by Al Palmquist and Mandy Taylor, Thomas Nelson Publishers, paperback, \$4.95

Kimberly was fed up with the fights and the booze. After an ugly scene with her drunken father, she ran away—becoming a prey for the pimps who haunt the bus stations and public buildings of Minneapolis and other cities. But Kimberly's story has a happier ending than most. After being arrested for prostitution, she met preacher-cop Al Palmquist, who introduced her to the "tough" love of Jesus Christ.

Palmquist is the founder of Midwest Challenge/Safe House, Inc., a network of centers that offer Christian refuge to street kids. Kimberly is a fictional character, but the circumstances of her introduction to prostitution and the pimps and johns who people this vicious, frightening underworld are real—as is the freedom Kimberly found in her life-changing encounter with *The Love Factor*. □

**Parenting for Peace and Justice** by Kathleen and James McGinnis is more than a book to read and lay aside. It is a manual which helps set goals for family and lifestyle and creativity. It brings the reader face to face with injustice and prejudice in society and suggests ways to teach children tolerance based on Christian understanding and an appreciation for cultures other than their own.

Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis set a high standard of family living and share triumphs and failures experienced in striving to reach their goals.

They discuss stewardship through simple living, non-violent but effective discipline, racism, sex-role stereotyping, family involvement in social actions and prayer in action for peace.

Reading and re-reading the McGinnis philosophy of handling day-to-day problems will help

families rethink the philosophy, attitudes and goals of their living.

**Parenting for Peace and Justice** written by Kathleen and James McGinnis and produced by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York, should be high on your reading list for 1982. The book may be borrowed from the Board of Christian Education.

If you wish to purchase other books on the subject of Peace and Justice, write The Other Side Book Service, 2423 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614 for a catalogue of titles and prices. □

**"Christians Will Go Through the Tribulation,"** by Jim McKeever, Omega Publications (Box 4130, Medford, Oregon, 97501), 1978, 352 pages, paper, \$5.95, cloth, \$10.95 plus .50 cents for postage and handling.

The author is an international consulting economist, popular speaker at monetary conferences abroad, editor of his own international newsletter, committed Christian, ordained minister and Bible teacher. His volume brings together scientific knowledge and spiritual depth.

Whereas most evangelical prophetic current literature favors the pre-tribulation rapture, McKeever takes exception and gives us a look at the other side of the question. Some have changed their views.

In addition to the rapture and the tribulation, the author speaks of Armageddon, famine, and the coming of a new formidable economic system in which Christians will not be permitted to buy or sell.

His purpose in writing the book, "is to alert Christians to the very real likelihood that we are going through the Tribulation, and to give them practical suggestions as to how they can best prepare for that experience." He elaborates and illustrates with pictures and diagrams, and at times states where additional information can be obtained.

McKeever writes on nuclear waste, earthquakes and tidal waves. He speaks of self-sufficiency and

survival, radiation shelters, production and storage of food, and even deals with hydroponic gardening. He discusses the ideal home, and deals with the generation of electricity and the utilization of solar energy.

Of even greater importance he speaks of one's spiritual preparation and "discusses our critical relationship with the Holy Spirit, from Whom we receive our power and direction." The book "points the way to living a supernatural life—which will be necessary during the Tribulation."

Years ago Sir Issac Newton stated, "About the Time of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the Prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition." It appears that Jim McKeever may be one of those men whom God has raised up. He deserves a prayerful reading. □ —Rev. David Pearson

#### Music Notes

(Continued from page 34)

I do not mean to condemn all songs which are not about Jesus or heaven. I do believe, however, that whatever we listen to should carry a message in harmony with our faith, for Jesus is to be the Lord of all of life. □

<sup>1</sup>All quotations, unless otherwise identified, are from *Billboard*, May 15, 1982.

<sup>2</sup>James Gilbert, minister of youth at the Kaufman, TX Church of Christ, quoted by UPI.

<sup>3</sup>The Scribner-Bantam English Dictionary.

#### The Promised Comforter

(Continued from page 6)

tongue, or smell with our nose—nor, for that matter, can we touch Him with our fingers. But we can feel His presence in our heart.

Dr. Samuel Shoemaker has said, "Millions read by incandescent light who know nothing either of the properties of light or how to make an incandescent bulb: light is what they see by. This was true of

the Holy Spirit at the first. Not theory, but experience; not explanation, but living power. He was inseparable from what He did, and their knowledge of Him was coterminous with their immersion in the Spirit-filled fellowship. You cannot keep light by bottling it or boxing it, but only by having it turned on. The Holy Spirit was present only in living power."

Are there questions in your mind concerning this presence? Perhaps it is to be expected. Peter, Thomas, Philip and Thaddeus all asked questions during the last supper showing that they had not comprehended very deeply the basic message which Jesus was attempting to teach in His farewell discourse. But this misunderstanding did not mean failure. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would act as their teacher after His departure. He will call these teachings to their remembrance and even give them greater teachings. In this thought we see that we are not dependent upon perfection of knowledge in order to become a Christian, for the Holy Spirit is the means by which Christ guides us into ever-deepening knowledge and experience.

It is with this confidence in the reality of His continuing presence with His disciples through the Holy Spirit that Jesus offers to them His peace.

#### Prayer:

O God above us, who became God with us in the coming of Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit has become God within us, we are thankful for Thy abiding presence. Give us increased faith in the things of the Spirit, that though we may not be able to see with our eyes, hear with our ears, taste or smell we can know within us that Thou art both near and dear to those who would believe and accept.—Amen. □

<sup>1</sup>Henry P. Van Dusen, *Spirit, Son and Father*, Scribners, 1958, p. 63.

<sup>2</sup>Samuel Shoemaker, *With the Holy Spirit and With Fire*, Harpers, 1960, p. 34.

#### Ministering To The Prisoner's Family

(Continued from page 8)

transportation to the jail for regular prison visits.

(8) Keep yourself fully informed by subscribing to the prison newspaper or joining an established prison service organization so you can better understand the families' needs.

(9) Teach others about the special requirements of a prisoner's family and invite them to help.

(10) "Remember the prisoners as though in prison with them" (Hebrews 13:3). Also, remember the prisoner's family and try to understand how they feel.

There is nothing that will benefit an inmate more after his release than a waiting Christian family that is ready to take him back and help him start his life over again. You can accomplish a dual purpose by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the prisoner's family and helping the inmate readjust to society when you minister to the family of someone in prison. □

Allen D. Hanson lives at Ottertail, Minnesota. He regularly lectures and writes about the prison ministry and prison reform. In 1978 he served a nine month sentence in Minnesota State Prison for an illegal business deal.

#### Calling All Quilters

Now there is a gold mine of information available for quilters. The 1982 Quilt Bibliography lists over one hundred books covering all aspects of quilt making, collecting and pattern identification.

Quilters are eager to learn all they can about their unique pastime. The 1982 Quilt Bibliography is the answer.

You can get your copy by sending \$3.00 to: Squire & Co., Main St., Sheffield, Mass. 01257 □

**Small Is Beautiful...**

(Continued from page 24)

Emmanuel McCall, speaking for ethnic leaders, indicates that black pastors in small churches have community leadership status above that of their counterparts in larger churches. Because most small churches are in small towns or cities any of these pastors, regardless of race, have exceptional community status.

Although small church pastors may lack leadership skills, their role is very different from that of larger church pastors. As Carl Dudley indicates, their role is to love their people and call them by their first names.

A major problem for the pastor of a small church is often a low standard of living. This coupled with his lower academic preparation creates for him a low self esteem. As a result he never quite feels satisfied or good about his work or himself.

**Power in the Church**

For another of the seminar speakers power is a key issue for the small congregation. We are continually reading in the scriptures about the "all-powerful" God and the power of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Christ had power over the elements of the world and the evil powers that confront us. The built-in attitude of the small church is, "We don't have much to offer." They do not perceive themselves as having the power to do what needs to be done. For the church to feel good about itself it

**What Can a Mother Do?**

(Continued from page 36)

certain thing of Him." The fact is that she asked nothing but the best for her two sons, and what mother would not join her in such a request? We should note that, first, she came with her two sons (she didn't send them) and, secondly, she worshipped, acknowledging Christ as the One to be worshipped. Then she asked, "Could You arrange for my two boys to have a place close to You—for all eternity?"

What more can a mother ask?

**Give Scriptures Prominence**

Another from whom we can get an answer to "What can a mother do?" is the mother of young Timothy. Both his mother and his grandmother would say to each mother today, "Give the Scriptures an important place in your home." When the Apostle Paul encountered Timothy he found a young man with whom the Spirit of God could deal because Timothy had a working knowledge of the soul-saving Scriptures (II Timothy 3:15).

must have sufficient power to overcome the needs that surround it.

**Is the Small Church Enough?**

Loren Meade, another of the seminar speakers closed his talk on denominational intervention in the church by stating that "small is not beautiful but small is enough." Reviewing the characteristics of small churches that were described by the seminar speakers, and they certainly compare to many of our own churches, I personally would turn this statement around. Although for most of our church members small is beautiful, most of us would say that small is not enough.

I think it is important for all of us, pastors and lay leaders alike, to look at our churches in light of the characteristics listed above. I believe that those positive dynamics of the life of the small church don't have to be unique to the small church. If they make the church beautiful, they could also be present in the larger church. Seventh Day Baptists, not only as individual churches but as a denomination across the country, have many of the characteristics listed above: the fast, effective grape vine, the lover pastors, the significant history, the interest in people as opposed to programs.

I believe that we can respond to the Great Commission by making new disciples and by growing without losing the beauty of our big "family." Let's pray that God will reward our efforts to grow by helping us to remain beautiful while providing us with the power to respond to his desire to us to grow. □

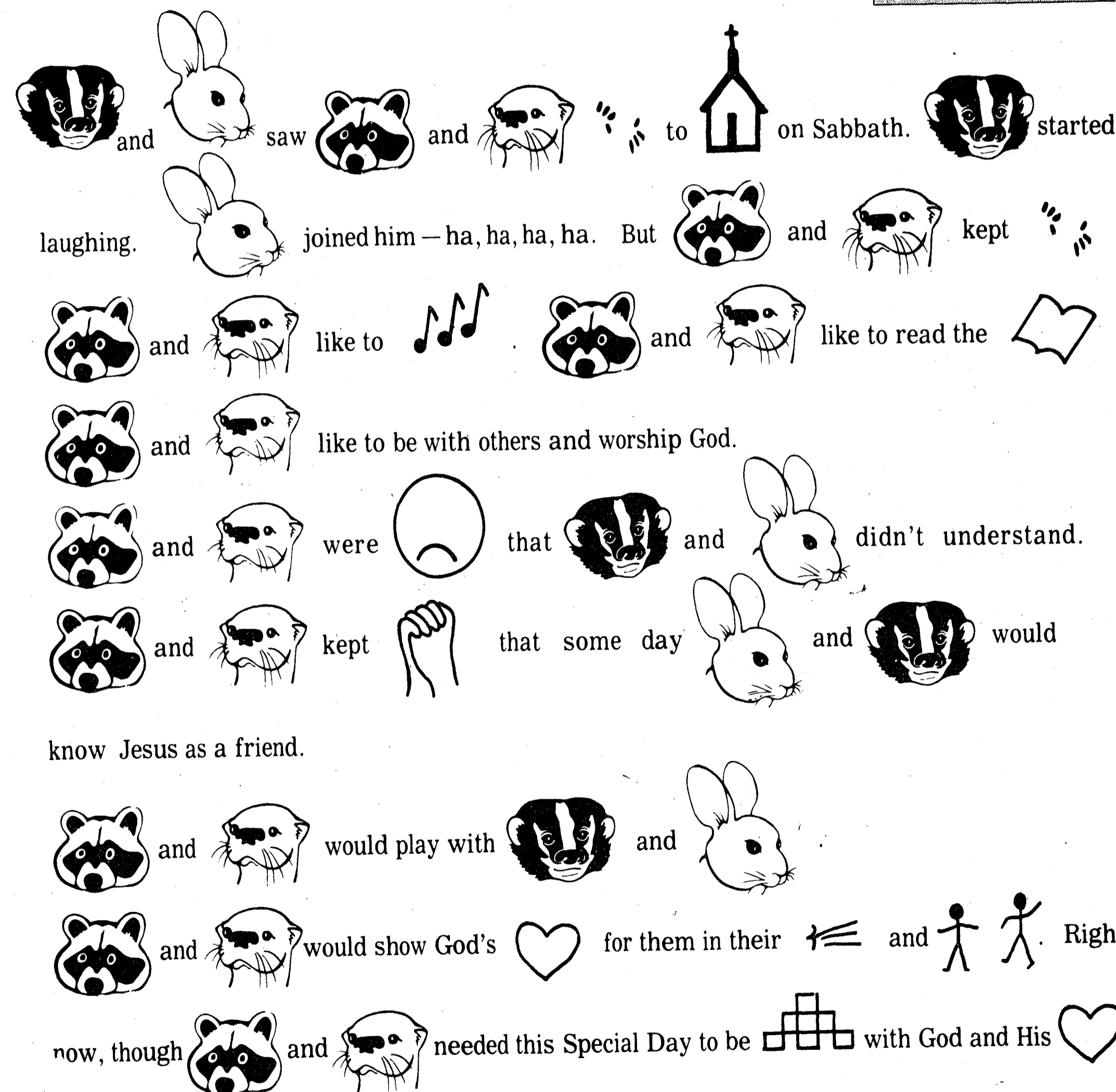
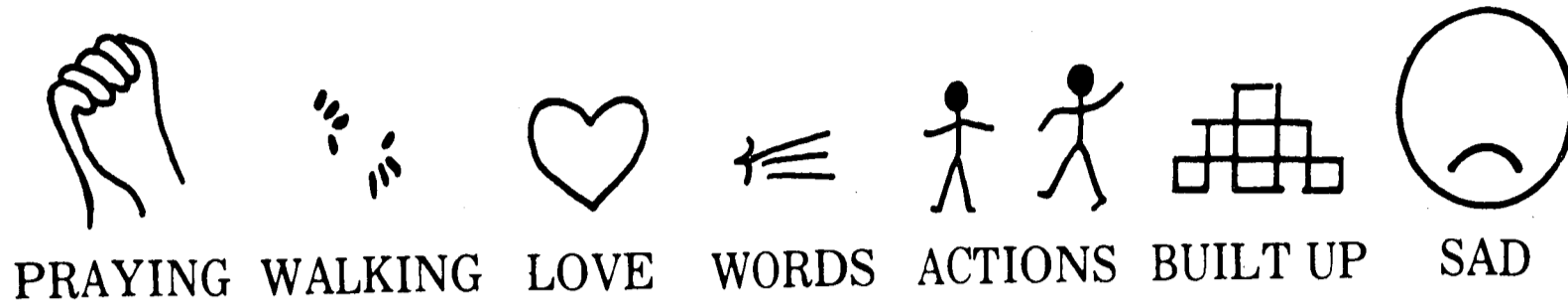
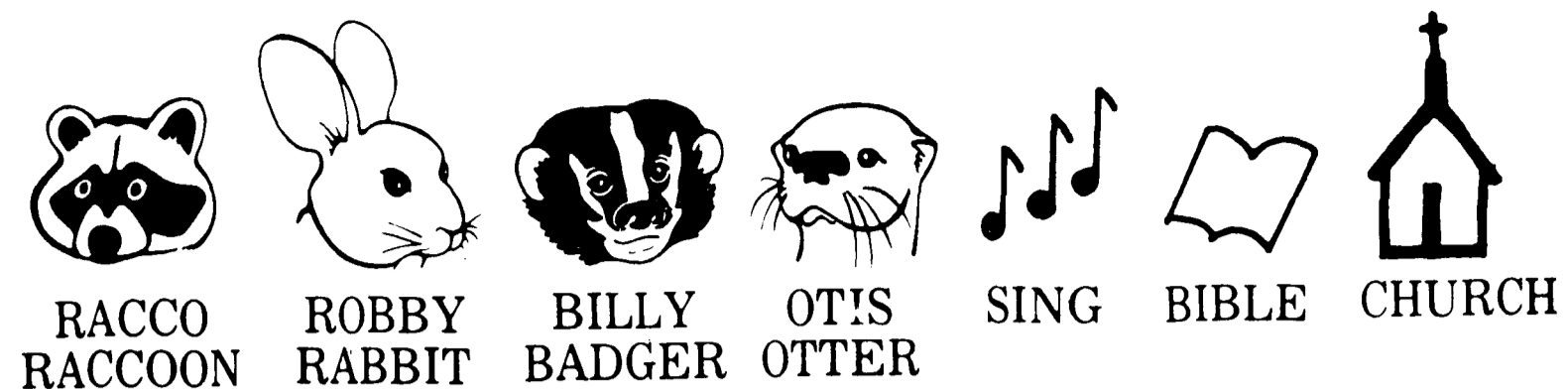
We can well believe that this mother and grandmother had to sandwich their Bible teaching in between many conflicting schedules, for Timothy's dad was a Greek. His boy would be required to learn the lore and literature of the Greeks and quite possibly give much time to his athletic activities in that Olympian culture.

**God's Support**

Conflict there will be. Modern situation ethics would require that we accommodate to the times in which we live. But we need not. The Christian who sincerely asks God, "What can a mother do?" will receive the timeless answers from God's Word.

God has not abandoned mothers in our decade. It may take more praying, more trusting, more delving into His Word for answers. But any mother who wants to bring up her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord has God for a partner, the Holy Spirit for a guide and teacher. □

—Reprinted by permission of the American Tract Society, Garland, TX 75040.



**Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. □**

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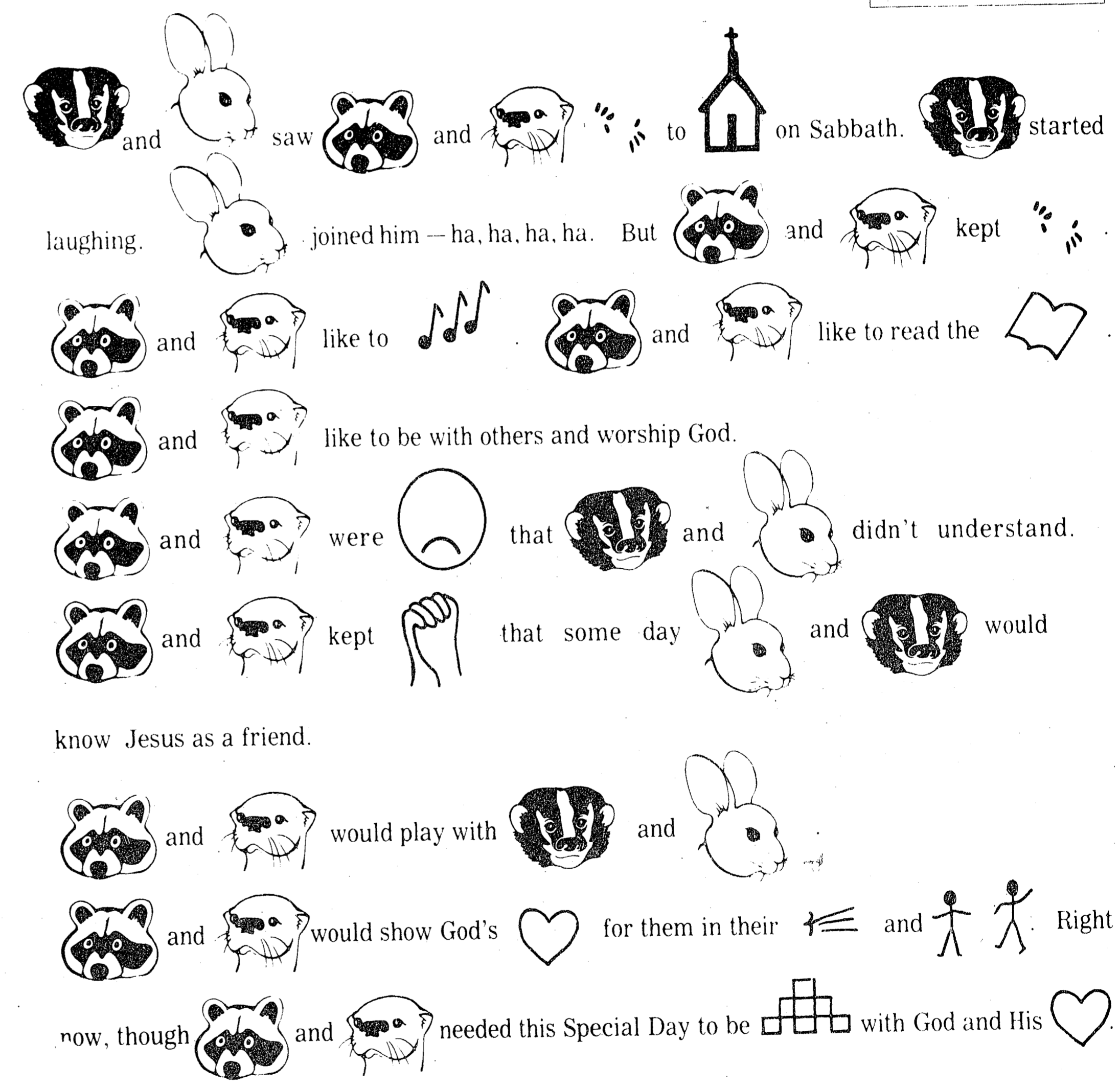
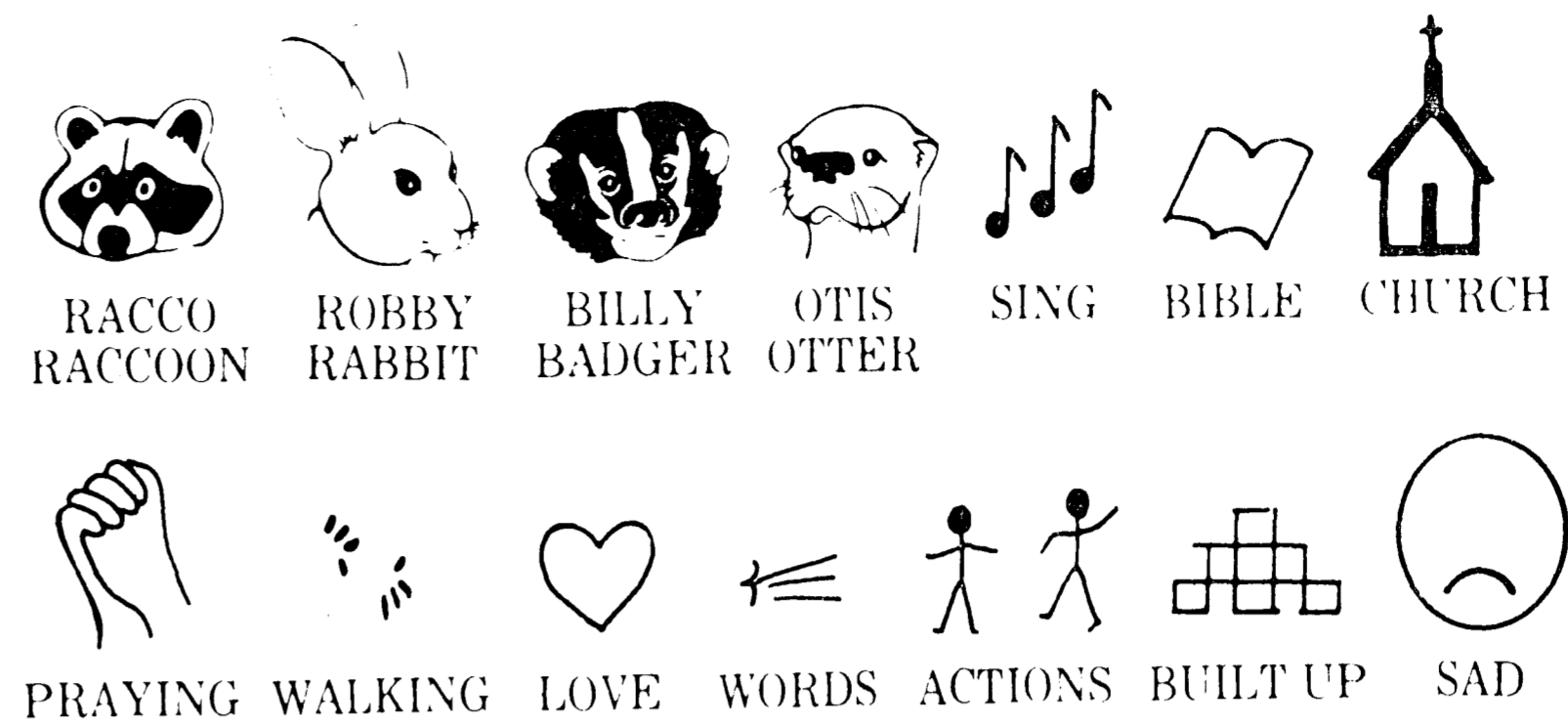
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**MUSIC**  
  
**NOTES**  
 by  
**Arthur Rowe**

**THE GREAT BACKWARD MASKING SCARE.** First there was the rumor that a certain fast-food chain donated money to a Satanist church. When this proved false, the rumor emerged transmuted, now suggesting that the logo of a large manufacturing company is a Satanist symbol. How were these totally untrue and libelous stories circulated? By well-meaning but gullible Christians who heard them by word-of-mouth or in religious meetings.

In recent months, another story has been gathering momentum, breaking out in newspaper coverage, on a Christian TV network, even the Merv Griffin Show. And as Billboard magazine reported,<sup>1</sup> it has become a matter of concern to the government of California. At issue is the alleged practice of backward masking in which Satanic messages are supposedly placed backwards on certain secular rock recordings. The claim is that "these messages cannot be heard with the conscious mind when the record is played normally, but the subconscious mind retains them. . . A subliminal message is a message that's below a discernible level. . . Subliminal persuasion is as close to mind control as you can get."<sup>2</sup>

However, Billboard states, "Previous inquiries by recognized researchers into subliminal messages in print and filmed advertisement, also concerned with any possible transfer of information from the unconscious to the conscious areas of the human brain, are known to have established little or no evidence that such plays are effective."

Who's right? That is what the California Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection and Toxic Materials will try to determine this October as they discuss legislative proposal AB 3741, introduced by Assemblyman Phillip D. Wyman. Mr. Wyman's proposal would require warnings on recordings which contain subliminal information.

The technique of playing a tape backwards and transferring the reversed sound onto a forward-playing master tape was, by all accounts, originated by the Beatles, and is still common today. But this backward effect can be plainly heard. (I have a Light Bearers tape accidentally recorded backwards, if anyone's interested: pretty scary stuff.) The term "subliminal," by contrast, refers to something "below the threshold of conscious perception."<sup>3</sup> For something inaudible (subliminal) when played forward to become audible when played backward seems pretty farfetched; yet the opponents of "backward masking" claim to be able to demonstrate this.

What Christians really have in the California hearings is a chance to put their facts where their rumors are. The constituent who got Assemblyman Wyman interested in the matter got her information from, you guessed it, "a religious meeting." So far, the Christian people who've talked to me about backward masking have heard tapes on the subject (how willing we Christians are to believe anything we hear on a tape!)-but never good-quality

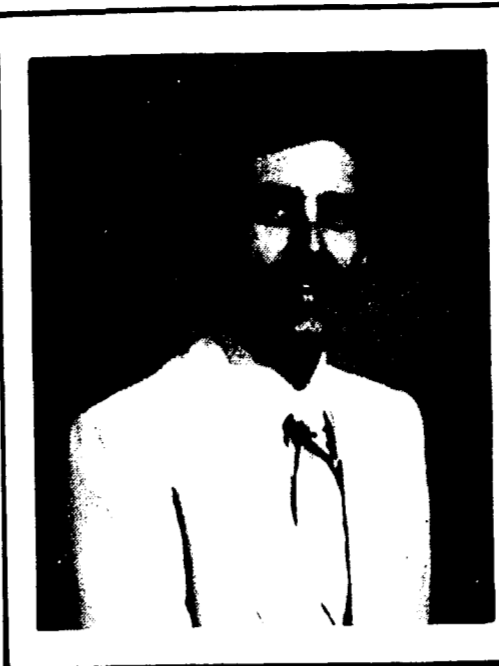
tapes on which the apparent examples of backward masking can be clearly discerned. This sounds remarkably similar to the experience of the California committee member who stated, after the committee's first hearing on April 27, "that only because printed sheets containing the purported lyrics were supplied could she barely make out an otherwise inaudible message."

If backward masking really exists, somebody ought to be able to supply the California committee with a tape which, when played backward, will clearly reveal the demonic messages. If subliminal Satanic advertising can manipulate our actions, somebody ought to be able to come up with the scientific evidence. If we can't do this, perhaps we should stop wasting our time on rumors and get on with something positive. Let's tell others about Jesus, not each other about Satan.

Of course, just to be on the safe side, I could reproduce lists of groups accused by organizations like the Applied Potentials Institute of Aurora, CO of using backward masking. But I wonder how many young and not-so-young readers would then go blithely on listening to secular artists not on the list, believing themselves free of evil influences. The point is that we have enough trouble with some of the forward lyrics in today's music, without worrying about supposed backward lyrics. Many, though not all, secular artists have a value system at odds with Christian values. We may be sure that these anti-Christian values will be expressed in song lyrics as well as the musician's lifestyle. While we become preoccupied with ferreting out some exotic new occult threat, Satan goes merrily on influencing the many Christians who are indiscriminate listeners, subtly coloring our attitudes toward relationships, material possessions, self-gratification.

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The Sabbath Recorder



"Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Cor. 13:11 NIV).

**EDITORIAL**

Nine years ago my family and I arrived in Plainfield, New Jersey; we came to serve Seventh Day Baptists through the publication work of the American Sabbath Tract Society. During the years that followed the most enjoyable and challenging part of that work for me has been as editor of the *Sabbath Recorder*.

I have accepted a call to pastor the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church and my duties there began the first of June. Consequently, this is my final issue as editor.

Over the years I have had opportunity to become acquainted with many of you; friendships have been made that have greatly blessed my life. You have supported and encouraged this editor in numerous ways, and I am humbly thankful.

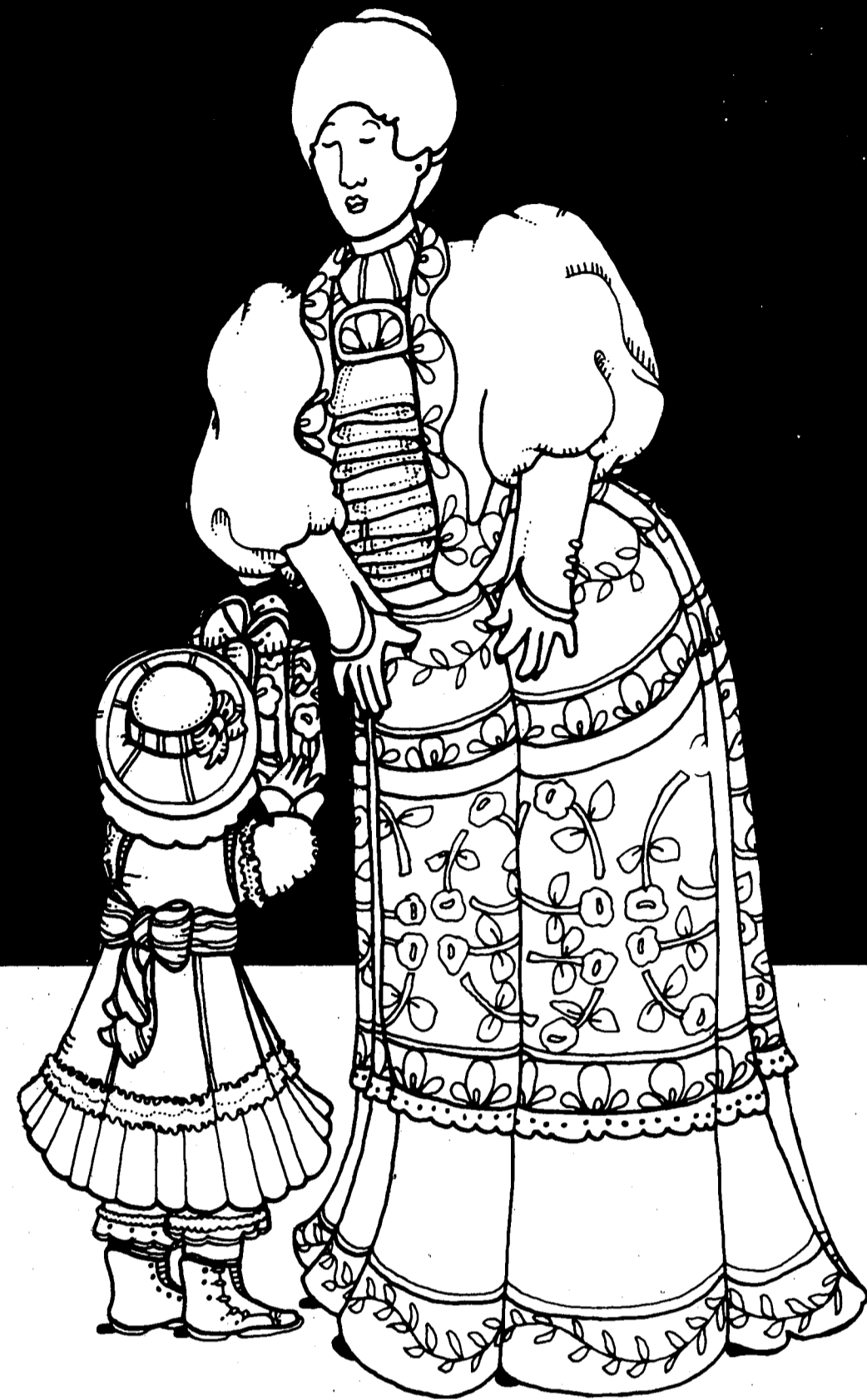
This has by no means been my work alone. So many have contributed to this ministry over the past nine years that I could not begin to name them all. We have endeavored to work together in service to our Lord and to the denomination.

Certainly one of the highlights of this editorship was holding a copy of the "new" January, 1974 issue produced on our own offset press - a colorful and exciting new venture. Since then we have seen many improvements and new features. I am especially happy that in 1982 every Seventh Day Baptist home in our Conference receives this publication.

A new editor, the fourteenth in *Sabbath Recorder* history, has been chosen. He comes with a good background in education and journalistic experience. I am confident that under his editorship the ministry of the *Sabbath Recorder* will continue to move forward. Our prayers and full support are with him.

At 138 years of age, and as one of the oldest religious publications in the country, the *Sabbath Recorder* is vibrant and the future is certainly bright. As Seventh Day Baptists reach out to others, organize new churches, and enter new fields of endeavor, the need for a denominational journal and the influence of the printed page will continue to grow. It could very well be that the best is yet to come!

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless this ministry and that He will use each of us as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our world. □



by Jeanette Lockerbie

Mother Noah, perplexed by the problems of an age whose moral standards so closely parallel our own, must have asked herself, "What can a mother do?" Undoubtedly she had to listen to scoffing. To the ancient equivalent of "What's the matter with you folks? Are you crazy or something? Old Noah and his ark and his gloomy predictions of judgment!"

And what about her when her sons came home with their feelings hurt, saying "Everybody in town's making fun of our whole family. Mother can't you do something?" Did she add to the obviously difficult situation? Did she take the boys' part and harangue her husband, with "We have to think of what all this talk is doing to the boys' personalities. You know, Noah, a boy shouldn't have to go around explaining and apologizing for what his dad is doing—even in the name of religion."

She didn't.

Apparently this mother found solutions to whatever problems the building of the Ark posed in the family. And when the flood came, her sons were safe in the shelter planned by God for those who believed His message.

#### Seek God's Best

The New Testament has its sampling of mothers who likewise must have questioned at times how best to fill their role. The mother of James and John, for instance.

Possibly she had lived for the day when the sign over the business would read, "Zebedee and Sons, Inc." Instead, as her sons grew up to be responsible young citizens they took off to be disciples of an almost unknown—though upcoming—Prophet. This certainly must have spelled the death of the family expectations.

How would the average mother have reacted?

"Son," we can almost hear, "I hope you're really thinking this thing through. I can see that there's a certain glamour in all this miracle business, but what will it get you in the end? Think of the business your dad has built up..."

There is not one indication of any such conversation ever having taken place. But we are given a glimpse of this mother in Matthew 20:20: "Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a

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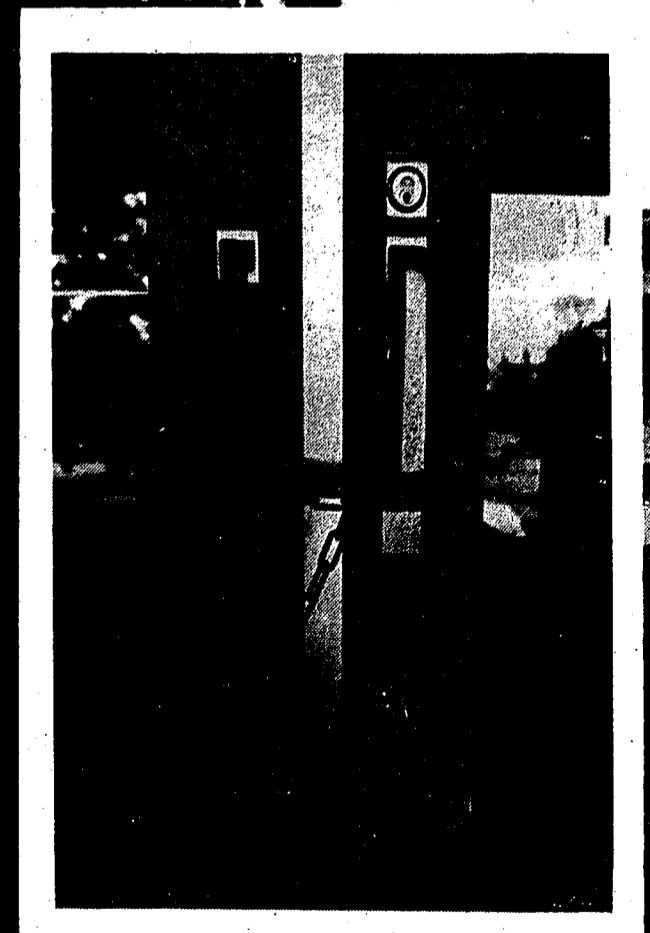
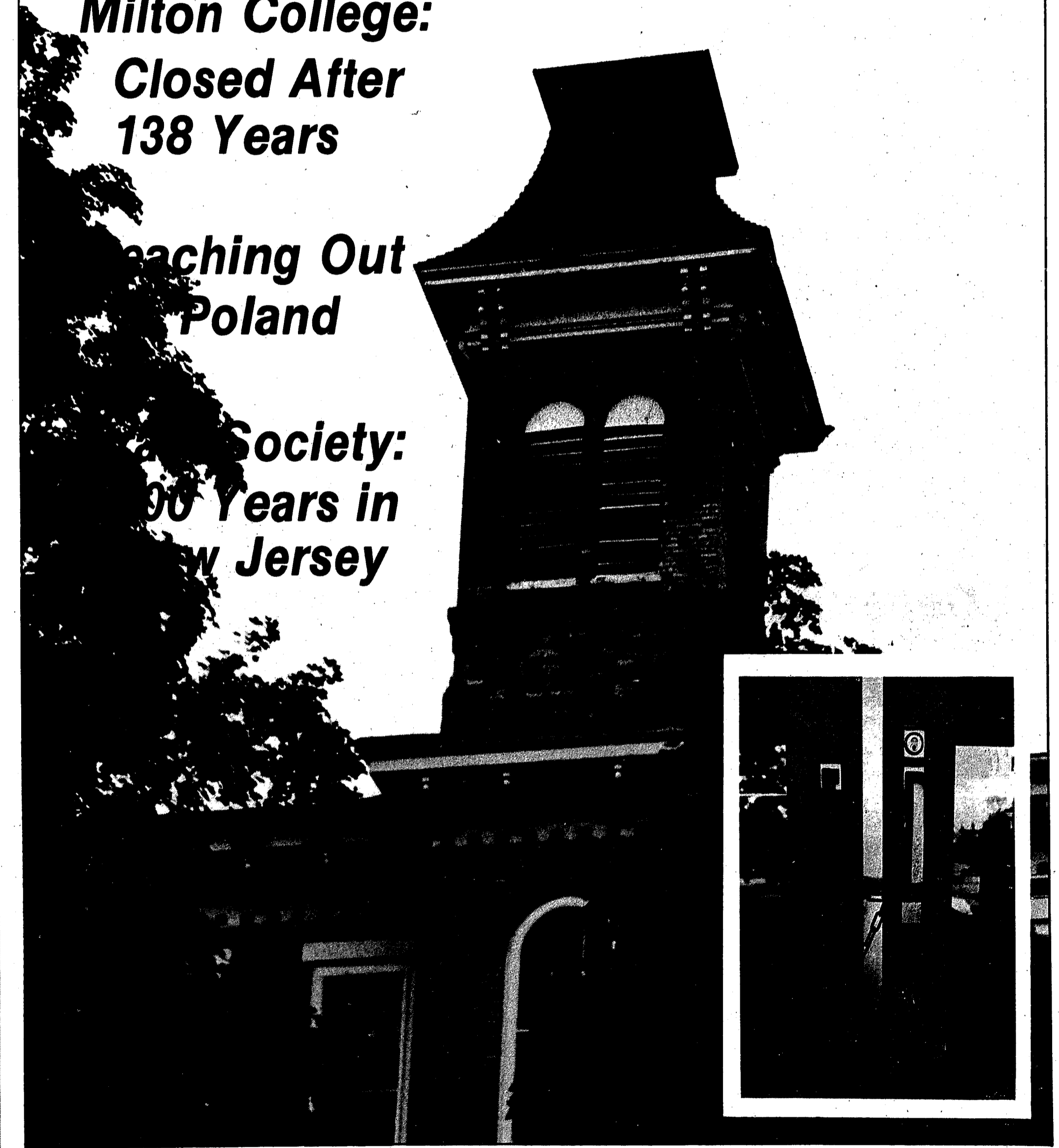
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THE QUESTION IS AS OLD AS MOTHERHOOD ITSELF...

