

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460)
3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

In the past
God spoke to our ancestors
many times and in many
ways through the prophets,
but in these last days he has
spoken to us through
his Son.

(Hebrews 1:1-2)

Preserving Our Past For The Future
The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society

April 1983

The Seventh Day Baptist

Sabbath Recorder

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Whosoever Will, May Come

It seems incredible that I, Mary, am relating this story to you. I still am not quite sure just what happened in my life, and I am still at a loss for words to describe where I've been and what changed me into what I am. I stumble over words to paint the picture, because I would just as soon forget what happened back then and only rejoice in what I am right now. But, I know that Jesus would want me to share my story. After

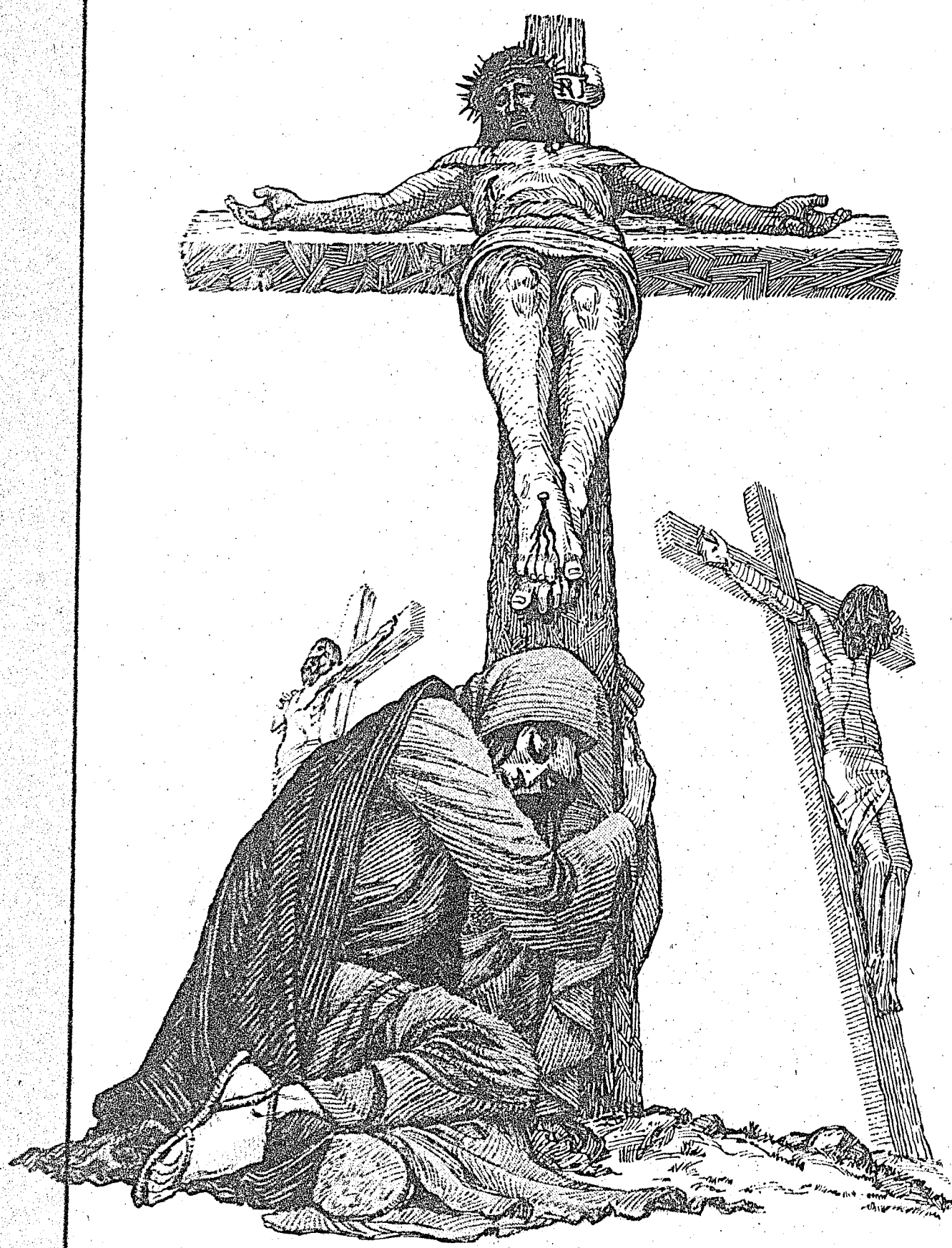
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I come from a little town that overlooks the beautiful lake they call the Sea of Galilee — the little town of Magdala. That's why I'm often referred to as Mary

Magdalene. I like that name! It reminds me of the beauty and warmth of my childhood in the orange groves near the clear fresh water of the lake. I would awaken, along with my brothers and sisters, to the quiet, almost hypnotic, splash of waves on the shore and watch the sun rise over the hills on the other side of the lake. The people who lived over there were called the Gadarenes, and I often wondered as a girl if another girl, like myself, would watch the sunset in the evening and think some of the same thoughts that rushed through my mind. Those were such wonderful days of innocence and care-free living.

Girls weren't allowed to attend the synagogue school, so I'd watch my brothers leave the house, and wish with all my heart that God had created me a boy. Their stories of what they learned made me want to be so much a part of their lives. I did my work around the house, but sometimes I would resent my mother and my father because I couldn't be what I really wanted to be. But those moments were quite infrequent and most of the time I played with my friends and enjoyed the beauty of what I considered my own private lake.

I was a day-dreamer, then. There would be caravans that came to Tiberius, and then along the western shore of the lake to continue their trip to Damascus and beyond. Like the other girls I'd stand by, hoping to catch a glimpse of some of the beautiful ladies that would accompany the caravan. We'd giggle in delight whenever we saw one of them with their colorful gowns, bright jewelry and painted faces. We'd



comment to each other how strange they looked. But, then I'd go home and in the quiet of my own private thoughts, think about how special it would be to have all those beautiful things. My drab, homespun robe and leather belt sure made me look homely.

Roman soldiers often passed through Magadala. The hot springs were in Tiberius and they spent times of relaxation and merriment in that city before returning to their desert outposts. I noticed that on their way down to Tiberius they were tired, gruff, angry and dirty. But, when they came back through, they laughed, wore clean bright uniforms and even spoke to me and my girlfriends. I loved the attention! I never noticed, but now as I reflect upon it, their attitudes about me changed as I grew older. What was playful talk to little girls became more suggestive talk as we became young women. I ate it up! I loved being told that I was beautiful! When I was 11 or 12 years old, a couple of my girlfriends and I, telling our mothers we were going down to the lake, walked the some five miles or so to Tiberius to see what was going on. What we saw scared us. There were the Roman soldiers enjoying the hot springs. Everywhere we looked there were girls dressed in beautiful gowns and fancy jewelry, with their painted faces. They were entertaining the soldiers. We returned to Magdala, but going to Tiberius and seeing the revelry became an obsession with me. Anytime I could get away from home I would literally run down there to see what was going on.

I won't bother to give you all the sordid details, and I'm not even sure when it occurred, but before I knew it I was part of the entire scene that had so scared me before. I was told I was beautiful. Roman soldiers would go to the shops and buy me fancy dresses and beautiful

jewelry. The more I became part of the evil scene, the more distance I put between myself and anything of value and love and devotion I had known before. I was somebody, I thought, and I had all the attention and all the wealth I could possibly want.

I heard that the possibilities for my kind of service were much greater near Jerusalem, particularly during the holidays. I knew that the Jewish Sanhedrin had declared that if I were caught as a prostitute that my penalty would be death, but something deeper inside me than common sense compelled me to go to Jerusalem.

I'll never forget the horror of the day the Jewish leaders broke

Before I knew it, a man was standing directly between me and the executioners.

into my apartment. They drove off the man who was with me and, with a look on their faces that I will never forget, they dragged me out through the streets to the outer gates of the city. Death was to be by stoning. All I could think about was what I would look like after it was all over—death didn't even frighten me—only the horror of knowing I was going to be unattractive and disfigured. That's how low my spirit and my moral values had taken me.

I noticed, as they took me and placed me beside the wall, that several people were standing nearby. Hatred welled up in my already evil heart. I recognized some of them. I had seen them in more compromising situations.

"How could they," I said to myself. "What evil lurks in their

hearts to make them spectators of my disfigurement? the representatives of the Sanhedrin read the declaration of my sins and the sentence of death. With that the leader picked up what looked to me to be the biggest rock I had ever seen. I screamed!

What happened next I relive over and over again in my heart. A voice rose over the frenzied cry of the mob. "Wait!" it cried. Everything stopped. Before I knew it, a man was standing directly between me and the executioners. All I could see was his back, but I distinctly heard his voice: "Whichever one of you is without sin, you take the responsibility to cast the first stone." There was a moment of silence, then one of the leaders drew his arm back. He would have thrown that rock if his friends hadn't grabbed his arm. They stood for a long time looking at my rescuer, and then, one by one, they turned away and began to filter through the gates of Jerusalem. As they were walking away, I asked myself, "What kind of control did this man have over them?"

It didn't take me long to find out. He turned and looked at me. Never in my entire life had anyone's eyes so penetrated my heart. He held out his hand, and not taking my eyes off of him, I reached out and he lifted me up. In a voice that overwhelmed my heart he said, "Who is there that condemns you?"

I looked around: They were all gone—every one of them, from the executioners to the spectators. Only a small band of men still stood by. "No one," I said, "no one!"

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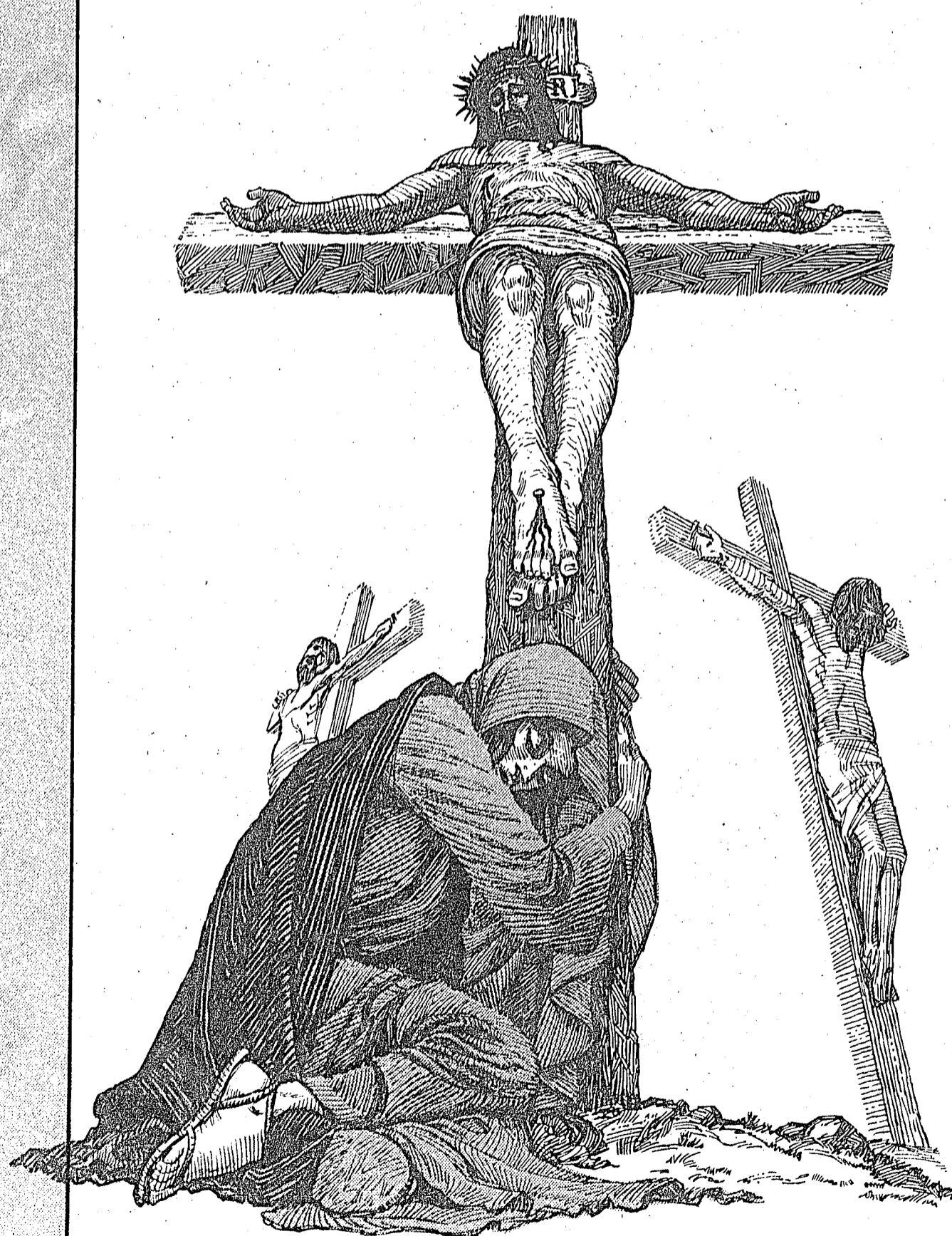
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Only now do I understand what he said next, "Neither do I condemn you, go, but sin now more." With that he turned and walked, together with the others, into the city. I must have stood there for an hour or more, I don't know. Emotions I never

felt before overwhelmed me. A cry of thanksgiving built up within my heart, but I had no one to thank. I had long before rejected any ideas of a God and something inside told me that I should not try to find my friends and tell them what had happened. Standing there before the wall that was to have been my final resting place, I wept in my aloneness.

"I must find that man," I said to myself. Somehow I knew he had the answer to my confusion. I made my way through the gate and into the city streets and headed in the direction of the temple. When I arrived at the outer courtyard, there he was. He was surrounded by a crowd of people, but he was there. My heart beat faster than it ever had. I waited in the background until he began walking away from the crowd. I ran over to him and fell down in front of him. People knew who I was, my clothing and jewelry gave me away. They tried to push me away, but again that voice spoke and they moved aside.

He helped me up again and we talked for some time. I learned his name was Jesus and he was from Nazareth. As we talked he observed that something still held hold on my life. He asked us to go away from the crowds. I walked with him and the others who were with him until we were alone. He then put his hands on my head and spoke words like I had never heard before. He was speaking to God. He was asking God to touch my life. He was commanding the spirit of this evil world to leave me and depart from me forever. The sensations I felt at that moment are so personal I cannot describe them to you. But all at once, as if the whole world had changed before my very eyes, I felt release, wholeness and warmth. He told me later that seven demons had left my soul that day. No wonder I was so callous to everything but my

evil ways. No wonder I could never be satisfied. No wonder I went further and further into periods of depression and anxiety. No wonder I felt so free when Jesus looked at me!

I followed him from that day on. Often when someone would say to us that they were not worthy to come to Jesus, I would tell them my story. Painful as it was, I encouraged them to let Jesus heal them. Somehow, I knew that I had been saved from certain death in order that I might help others find Jesus.

We visited Galilee and I asked Jesus to go with me to visit my family. I learned then that they had become Jesus' followers some time before, and had asked Jesus to see if there was any way he could find me in Jerusalem and restore me to them. My homecoming was a day I'll never forget. I was like a child again, new born into a faith that would carry me on forever. The beauty of the lake of Galilee was restored to me and I spent several days rejoicing with my family.

It was then that we began our journey back to Jerusalem—the journey that was to be the final trip together. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to the strains of honor and praise of the

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He was being led through the city streets toward Golgotha.

multitudes. He cleansed the temple. We heard that the very people who had taken me outside the walls to stone me were now looking for Jesus to kill him. It all happened so fast. The next thing we knew, the disciples were saying that Jesus had been arrested and was being tried by the Sanhedrin. Every sign pointed to the fact that somehow they were going to get Jesus killed. We rushed to the house of Caiphas that night but, by the time we arrived, Jesus had already been turned over to the Romans and was being tried by Pilate in the Tower of Antonia. We rushed across the city and through the temple courtyard, but were stopped by the Roman soldiers standing guard at the gate.

It wasn't long before the reality of everything that was happening became apparent to us. Jesus emerged from the Tower with blood on his face, with his robe stripped and his back scarred and bleeding. He was wearing thorns on his head and they made sharp wounds. He was carrying a crossbeam for a Roman cross on his shoulders, and was being led through the city streets toward the place outside of town known as Golgotha, the

place of the skull. We tried to get near him, but the crowds crying for his crucifixion were too thick and angry. The Roman soldiers had everything they could do to keep them from Jesus. We followed as closely as we could until we came to Golgotha. The pain in my heart is intense as I tell you that they drove nails through Jesus' hands as they raised the cross-beam up and dropped it with a sickening thud over the already stationary upright. They nailed his feet to the upright and we stood by and wept. His mother, Mary, was allowed to go near, and we were allowed to join her. And we stood there. I couldn't even look into his eyes. The agony was so painful to us—it was as if I was finally being stoned. I would gladly have given up my life for him, but as it was he was giving his life for me. I knew it, but it didn't make the pain and hurt and sorrow any less. In fact, I knew that it was for my life of sin that he was suffering. I looked away and wept as I have never wept before.

He died there! All our hopes and dreams and plans seemed to be crushed on that cross. The piercing spear of the Roman soldier seemed to slice into our hearts. We walked away and returned to the room we occupied in Jerusalem. We could not even comfort each other; the pain was so intense. All I could remember were his words "Who is there that condemns you?"

"Why did he have to be condemned?" I asked myself over and over. "Why did he have to die?" My prayers got caught in my throat, and I wept as if I would be in grief forever.

We stayed inside as the next three days passed. We tried to attend the synagogue worship, as we knew Jesus would have wanted us to, but somehow we just couldn't. We let the Sabbath pass giving whatever comfort we could to each other, reminiscing

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some about what had happened when Jesus was alive. But we could not stand the stories for long. His mother, Salome and I had prepared spices on the preparation day so that early in the morning after the Sabbath we could go and anoint Jesus' body. I went early and, as I rounded the corner at the tomb, I observed that the stone was rolled away. I didn't want to go in so I ran and told Simon and John that someone had stolen Jesus' body. They ran back with me and saw that what I had said was true. After they returned home, I sat in the garden for a time. All kinds of confusing thoughts rushed through my mind. I have never been so confused in all my life. Not only had my savior died, but now I didn't even have his body to anoint. I wept again. Turning to look into the tomb, I saw two men in white garments. They asked me why I was weeping. My response startled even me, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." I turned away.

Someone had come and was standing nearby, and he asked me the same question, "Why are you weeping, whom do you seek?"

I thought he must be the gardener, and in essence I accused him of stealing Jesus' body. "If you've taken him away, please tell me where you put him," I pleaded.

Why I didn't recognize his voice the first time, I'll never know! All at once the one I supposed to be the gardener spoke my name, "Mary." My name never sounded so good. Suddenly, as if a blinding light dawned on my darkened consciousness, I knew who was standing there. Emotion burst upon my heart in a moment of recognition. My lips spoke the intensity of my heart in one word of trust and faith, "Teacher."

Jesus is alive! I stand before you now to tell you that Jesus is alive! It was as if the garden of my life had blossomed in all its glory. I stood before the one who had saved me from death and hell, and who had died on a cruel cross for my sins, and he was alive. And he is alive in my heart today.

Friend, I don't know who you are, nor do I know where you stand with God, but I want to let you know today that with Christ there is no respecter of persons. Whoever you are, whatever you have done, in whatever way your life has fallen apart and shattered before your very eyes, Christ can change that and you can come and receive him. I am living proof that Christ can change a person's life. I stand before you because at one time in my life Christ stood between me and the punishment for my sins. He took your sins to the cross as well—he stands in your place before all the evil forces of the spirit of darkness today. You can know peace and hope and freedom and wholeness. Whoever you are, come, and Jesus will make you whole. □

Sunday Closing Act Falls

CLOSED SUNDAYS

Massachusetts, a bastion of Sunday observance laws dating back to the Puritan days, has repealed its restrictions on Sunday sales.

Beginning March 27 of this year, all retail businesses except liquor stores may open on Sundays. Under the law, signed by outgoing Governor Edward King, no employee may be required to work on Sundays, and those who do work must be paid overtime wages.

Passage of the bill in both houses of the legislature came over the objections of Boston's Roman Catholic Cardinal Humberto Medeiros and the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Cardinal Medeiros rejected arguments that opening stores on Sunday would encourage the state's flagging economy. He told the *Boston Globe* that he recognized the need for more jobs but added that he doubted that having stores open on Sundays would solve the state's unemployment problems.

"There may be a reason for the secular state to do things but I do not know that it's a

reason for religious people to acquiesce," the cardinal said.

America's first state-imposed Sunday regulation was enacted in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629, when all work had to cease at 3 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

In November 1630 one John Baker was whipped for shooting at a fowl on Sunday. In 1668 any one who "traveled upon the Lord's day, either on horseback or on foot, or by boats, from or out of their own town" was deemed a "profaner of the Sabbath." In 1692 fines of five shillings were imposed on Sab-

Selling fresh eggs on Sunday was illegal; selling cooked eggs, or liquor, was not.

bath-breakers. For the poor, it was worse. Those who could not pay the fine were put in the stocks for three hours of public ridicule.

In 1792 the state even arrested the driver of a mail coach, but the state supreme court, wanting to avoid a confrontation with the federal government, overturned the conviction.

The Massachusetts delegation

to the U.S. Congress, followed by several other states, fought for a ban on Sunday mail delivery by the Post Office, continuing the fight for many years. They were unsuccessful thanks to the efforts of Senator Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky, later Vice President of the United States under Van Buren.

Johnson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, said in a report to the Senate Jan. 19, 1829, "It should...be kept in mind that the proper object of government is to protect all persons in the enjoyment of their religious as well as civil rights, and not to determine for any whether they shall esteem one day above another, or esteem all days alike holy."

"We are aware," he continued, "that a variety of sentiment exists among the good citizens of this nation on the subject of the Sabbath day; and our government is designed for the protection of one, as much as another...With these different religious views, the committee are of the opinion that Congress cannot interfere. It is not the legitimate province of the legislature to determine what religion is true, or what is false."

Enforcement of the Massachusetts blue laws became erratic and absurd in the 20th century. In 1923 three Seventh-day Adventists were arrested and fined for painting the interior of a house. The next year Carl Johnson of Worcester was fined for transporting a hog on Sunday, while another resident was fined for shining shoes. In 1938 a

storekeeper was arrested and fined for selling fresh eggs on Sunday, but it was legal to buy cooked eggs, and liquor, and to attend baseball games and the movies.

By 1942 the state had an intricate code of Sunday legislation that only a Philadelphia lawyer could interpret. There were more exceptions than prohibitions, and many advocates of church-state separation and common sense felt that the whole Sunday statute business should be scrapped.

Massachusetts is not the only state with blue law problems. Sunday closing laws perplex lawmakers and voters in a num-

ber of communities throughout the country. In the November elections residents of three Arkansas towns, Fort Smith, Paragould, and Blytheville, voted against a ban on Sunday sales by about a 60% to 40% margin.

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Fort Smith Mayor Jack Freeze said he thought most voters opposed the blue laws because "they felt like they were being denied freedom of choice." Proponents of the ban had sought to restrict sales to everything except medicine, food, gasoline,

car parts and reading material.

In Virginia, however, blue laws were retained in several communities but repealed in others. And in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, voters chose to retain their laws banning Sunday sales.

A new Illinois law that would have banned the sale of automobiles on Sunday was declared unconstitutional by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Wosik in January. Wosik held that the law, signed by Governor James Thompson last year, discriminated against "a single activity or profession." □ From *Church & State*, March 1983. Reprinted by permission of Americans United.

Ministers Attempt to Enforce Blue Laws

Two ministers in Anniston, Ala., swore out warrants against eight stores opened for business in violation of the state's blue laws, which forbid most Sunday sales.

The Rev. Jim McCain said he and another minister from the eastern Alabama town of Weaver filed complaints against stores in Anniston, Jacksonville, and Oxford.

McCain, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was joined by the Rev. Neal Hodo of the United Methodist Church, and a member of McCain's congregation. McCain said a private citizen he did not know filed complaints against two other stores in the area.

McCain and members of his congregation visited stores in the three towns one Sunday. "I just let them know that because they were open, there would be warrants today," he said.

One manager decided to close after McCain's visit but the others remained open, he said.

Alabama law prohibits certain businesses from opening on Sunday and limits the number of employees at those that are allowed to operate.

"It's a legal thing as far as I'm concerned," McCain said. "The law ought to be enforced. I don't think it should be ignored."

Five stores were charged with blue law violations after the Rev. Richard Flood of Anniston filed complaints.

Blue law supporters cover spiritual, sociological and legal ground in their arguments. Some ministers such as Flood say failing to hold the Christian Sabbath holy is a sin.

Currently, police won't make arrests until they receive complaints, and the arrests do not close the stores. Convictions are rare and fines minimal.

Beuna Bishop, a department store manager, said she and other employees have gathered more than 900 signatures from people wanting the blue laws enforced.

"I think the petitions show that if it really came to a vote, most people would want to reserve Sunday for their families and to be really sure our laws are enforced," Mrs. Bishop said. "I would not want to work on Sunday."

However, Anniston shopper Jimmy Steward said, "The only opportunity I have to shop is Sunday. I don't think that preacher should deny me that right...I hope the devil doesn't come up and grab me because I left church to come here and shop."

Toni Brown, another shopper, said blue laws can't force someone to be religious. "The Lord said rest," she said. "He didn't say go numb." □

—from *The Sabbath Sentinel*

Alfred SDBs Reach Out to Students

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First row (L to R): Judy Jones, Kim Elder, Nancy White
Second: Kristen Balch, Sally Lawrence, Russ Hudson
Third: Ellen Weaver, Lauren Rutkevicz, Bill McMullen
Fourth: Kathy Wightman, Sue Inserro, Craig Mix
Top: Jim Inserro



by Beverley J. Snyder

We in the Alfred Church are understandably enthusiastic about a ministry which goes beyond meeting the needs of those of us who have served the church for many years. It is a ministry that is reaching out specifically to the approximately 6,000 college-age youth in our community.

In Hebrews 13:2 we are reminded "not to be forgetful to entertain strangers, whereby we may be entertaining angels unaware." We as a church body have found this to be true as hospitality in the name of our Lord has become a key factor in this ministry. I have noted that hospitality comes quite readily to most SDB people when familiar names and faces are involved. This is commendable, but the Lord calls us to leave the comfort and security of the familiar as we reach out in his name to the unfamiliar.

What a mission field God has given to the Alfred Church! We are called to be challenged rather than threatened, supportive rather than critical and giving rather than demanding. We are called to stay with this most important ministry rather than leave it for one which may be less demanding. We must never be allowed to forget that our youth are not only the future of our denomination, but more importantly, one of God's greatest resources.

The students shown in the photo are only a few of those who have chosen to worship with the Alfred Church on a regular basis. They are committed Christians and have become an inte-

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gral part of the overall Alfred Church ministry. They are among the first to sign up for our monthly prayer vigil and to offer prayer support each Friday night for our Evangelism Explosion teams. They are active on our Saturday night coffeehouse staff and attend and support the Thursday night college-age Bible study. They are also involved in the church choir, Sabbath morning singing-spiration and Sabbath School classes. Four students are serving on E.E. teams with our

...commitment to Christ and service in and to the body of Christ... should not be dependent on church membership.

Student Pastor, George Calhoun. One has become involved in a prison ministry (he used to be the bouncer at the college pub) and three stayed in Alfred to serve as summer counselors for our Association camping program. They are also very positive roll-models for our own young people which is much needed and appreciated in a world which offers so much in terms of negative examples. Each of them is an effective witness to the Lord in their daily walk on campus.

We recognize that this type of ministry rarely leads to enlarging the church membership rolls, but we have also found that commitment to Christ and service in and to the body of Christ need not, indeed should not, be dependent on church membership.

The students are introduced to Sabbath-keeping for the first time through their Alfred church experience; therefore, the Sabbath question is being dealt with in Sabbath School and "Milk Meetings."

We recently put up signs which identify our buildings as belonging to the Alfred SDB Church. For years, many students have mistakenly believed that our church was in fact the Union University Church (non-denominational) which rents the building for Sunday worship. This came to our attention when students who attended our coffeehouse ministry kept asking where our church was located. Many thought we were Jewish since we worship on Saturday. In the process of reaching out to the student community, many misunderstandings have been put to rest, not only about our basic beliefs, but also about our church building.

We trust God will continue to bless this ministry and each one in the Alfred Church. We believe this ministry is a direct response to the *Great Commission*, where we are commanded to go. The ministry will continue to bear fruit as students commit their

lives to the Lord or are nurtured in their faith while worshipping in the Alfred Church. We trust that they will be encouraged to do the same as they have opportunity wherever God chooses to use them.

George Calhoun, with the help and support of his wife, Lannette, is now responsible for leading out in all aspects of our college-age outreach. They, as well as the rest of the church body, covet the prayers of all within the denomination for the young lives that continue to be touched as we seek to serve God in this capacity. □

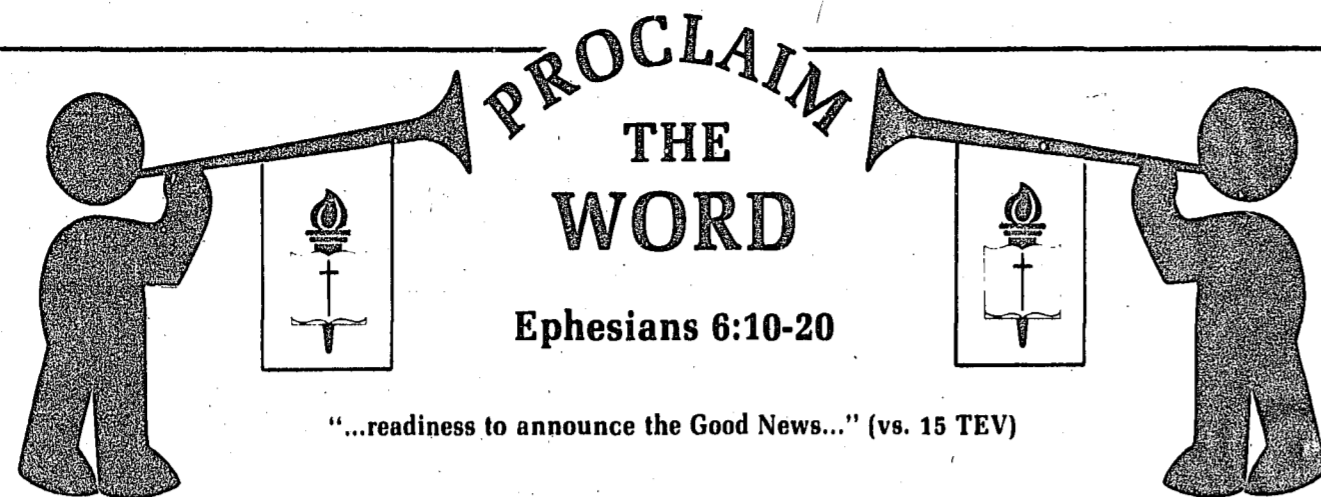
Young Men Licensed To Preach

On July 26, 1982, the Alfred church voted to encourage Roger Gardner and George Calhoun in their respective ministries in the church by licensing them to preach.

Roger and George have each delivered one Sabbath morning message a month since November with Dr. Kingdom from Houghton sharing with us on the remaining Sabbaths of each month.

"The church has been blessed," says correspondent Sandra McGraw, "by having two such devoted young men in the service of Christ and will endeavor to encourage them." □

April 1983



by K.D. Hurley
Conference
President

12

Living Things Grow

Denominational representatives recently attended the Sabbath services of a relatively new Midwest Seventh Day Baptist fellowship. They learned that for some months the little group of faithful believers had met without much success in reaching out and attracting others.

Then the fellowship decided to sponsor Word of Truth radio broadcasts in their area. They listed their phone number in the Yellow Pages—and soon inquiries began to come in. A retired SDB pastor (doing church extension work) and his wife volunteered to meet with the group on a regular, once-a-month basis. One of the members started midweek Bible studies in his apartment, and it looks as if he will have to move the meetings to larger quarters in order to accommodate those who are interested. About six weeks earlier, one of the new participants in the weekend activities expressed her enthusiasm and dedication by praying for visitors to come **each** week. At almost every service since then, there **have been** visitors. Growth is evident!

Someone has appropriately pointed out that where there is growth, there is life. Life is growth. In our Decision to Discipleship studies, it is emphasized that growth of the church is the will of God. By understanding the nature of the church as the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12), we can cooperate in God's plan to multiply believers and let the church grow. The body of Christ is a living thing, and **living things grow.**

"...Stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless."

1 Cor. 15:58 TEV

Jesus, in his final words to his disciples, instructed Christians of every age to be witnesses for him throughout the world, beginning where they live (Matt. 28:19-20).

All features of General Conference '83 (at Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y., Aug. 7-13) will be designed to assist, inspire, instruct, and motivate church growth, looking toward SDB's **doubling** in the decade of the 1980's. This year's conference theme, "Proclaim the Word," is action-oriented, calling for individual commitment to Christ so that we can personally grow victoriously in Christ, and so our denomination can grow in size and visibility for Christ and his cause.

Activities at conference will be planned in such a way as to help delegates to develop techniques for growth. God expects us to grow. Without growth, there is ultimately only decay and death. Significant growth can occur on a continuing basis in every church group, large or small—and, thankfully, it is happening all around the denomination.

Many reports at conference

in August will detail accomplishments, examples of what might be done elsewhere, with the expectation that church members will recognize anew the priorities of kingdom growth and be activated to help achieve it.

The program on Thursday evening will illustrate church growth patterns and highlight the importance of church people participating in specific outreach projects. William E. Shobe, church extension pastor in Atlanta, is planning the event and will probably use a number of church leaders from other places who are currently involved in various types of outreach endeavors. Pastor Shobe is a graduate of Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, Col., and has completed summer institute courses at the SDB Center on Ministry. He is now actively engaged in assisting the new Metro Atlanta SDB Church in perfecting its goals and establishing "visibility" activities, which include Evangelism Explosion training, newspaper advertising, and "visitor emphasis Sabbaths." An SDB literature stand has been set up in one member's place of business.

The Sabbath Recorder

13

Property is being sought which will provide a permanent, visible presence for the Atlanta church.

On Thursday and Friday of conference week, the boards and agencies of General Conference will team up to present mini-seminars, "how-to" workshops dealing with the ways and means of Proclaiming the Word. These and other segments of conference will be recorded on video tape for use back home in the churches and associations where the people are doing the work of the Lord in nurture,


extension and ministry. That is where the action is—and should be. That is why Conference '83 is designed especially to support these "frontiers of the gospel." The music of conference, as always, will be especially inspiring. Seventh Day Baptists are a musical people, happily giving expression to their faith in melody and song. Lois Wells will be choir director and is also responsible for scheduling special moments of musical inspiration at many spots during each day of conference. Denise Green

is in charge of vespers as a part of each evening's program.

The daily topics from August 7 to 13 will become more specific as the week progresses. The keynote address by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate on Sunday evening will review where we are and where we should be going as a denomination in our Decade of Discipleship. The subsequent emphasis will move progressively from *A Working Knowledge of the Bible as the Prerequisite for Proclaiming the Word in the Daily Walk*, in the *Professions and Vocations of Life*, in *Specific Outreach Projects*, and in *Joyous Sabbath Observance*, to *Full Commitment to Christ as the Foundation*.

Conference '83 will verify in positive and encouraging ways that exciting things are happening, growth-wise, throughout the denomination. In part, this is a response to our Commitment to Growth studies earlier and now to the challenge of our Decade of Discipleship. Plan now to attend General Conference sessions at Houghton in August, not only for update regarding developments, but in order to understand better God's plan of growth and each individual's part in it. Reproduction is the aim of discipleship. Sharing your faith helps others to become disciples, also; and, thus, the Christian life multiplication growth process takes place.

Every Christian has a specific growth ministry. What is yours? □



Conference '83 MEMO

Re: Time and Place
From: K.D. Hurley, President

August 7-13, 1983
Houghton College
Houghton, New York

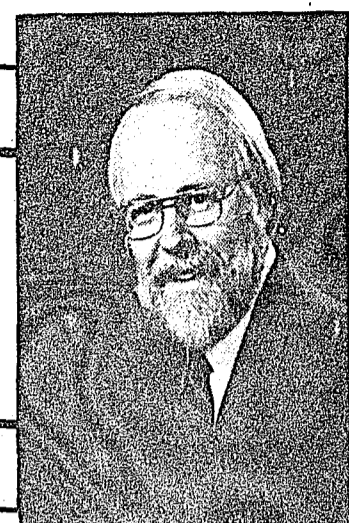
Theme: "Proclaim the Word"
(Eph. 6:10-20)

Have you marked your calendar?

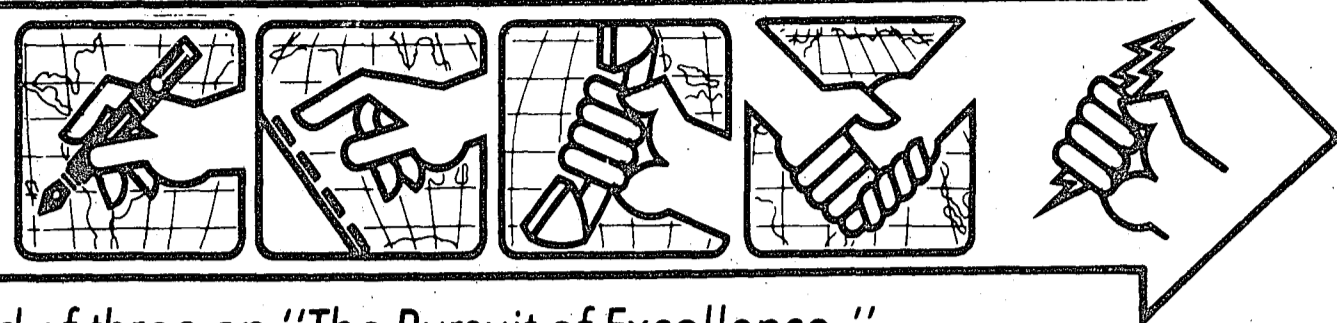
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE

**PROCLAIM
THE
WORD**

April 1983



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



Second of three on "The Pursuit of Excellence."

Curing Diseases of Attitude

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Galatians 6:7

Understand that it is impossible to plant beans and to harvest corn from that planting. In the above passage, the apostle Paul is making the point that you can't do evil things and expect good things to happen to you.

In his book, *Pursuit of Excellence*, Dr. Ted Engstrom, President of World Vision, asks us to examine our attitudes.* He suggests that the biggest risk that Christians have in achieving this lifestyle of excellence (the highest and best — Philippians 1:10) is being able to change our attitudes.

Diagnose the Illness

He shares with us what John Rohn of *Adventure in Achievement* calls, "the diseases of attitude:"

Indifference: the mild approach to life.

Indecision: The greatest thief of opportunity.

Doubt: One of the worst is self doubt.

Worry: The real killer. It causes health problems and financial problems.

Overcaution: Some people will never have much. They're just too cautious.

Rohn says, "The major key to your better future is you."

Engstrom says, "You reap what you sow. If you don't like the crops that are coming up all around your feet, you may want to check and see what you're

planting these days: Cabbage still gives cabbage, and apples still produce apples. A smile breeds a smile. Negative thoughts stimulate the growth of more negative thoughts."

Listen to the Doctor

Here are the cures Dr. Engstrom suggests for the *attitude diseases*.

Indifference

The most effective cure for this mild approach to life is to get excited about something. Point yourself in one direction and move toward it... Today start putting everything you've got into everything you do.

Indecision

The antidote for indecision is simple. Don't just stand there, do something. Get off the dime and get a move on.

Doubt

This is the greatest killer of all. Especially self doubt. The scriptures tell us not to think overly impressive thoughts of ourselves. But, they also encourage us to think realistically about our strengths, abilities, gifts and talents. The cure for self doubt is... a healthy belief in ourselves and the gifts God has so generously given to each of us.

Worry

1 Peter 5:7 reads, "Casting all your care on him for he cares for you!" I can think of no greater assault on the problem of worry than to quietly take our pain and frustration and place them at the feet of the Savior.

Overcaution

This is the *what if* syndrome. What if I decide to do something nice for myself. They might

think I'm selfish. The opposite side of timidity and overcaution is adventure — taking risks and accepting challenges. This is what a life of excellence is all about.

The most dreadful of all attitude diseases, according to Engstrom, is the disease of "status quo (which some one has said is Latin for 'the mess we're in')."

Accept the Cure

In this last quarter of the 20th Century, God has called Seventh Day Baptists to a new lifestyle, not one of mediocrity, but one of excellence, of the highest and best.

Let's take a look at our attitudes. Am I dying of one of the diseases described? Is our denomination suffering from one of these diseases? I don't know about you, but I want to be healthy and I want our denomination to be healthy and strong. I am running and swimming because secretarial jobs (executive and otherwise) are bad for the heart and circulation. I am praying that God will help me change my poor attitudes. I am claiming the promise Paul held out to the Romans:

...Let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God — what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

Romans 12:2b

*Ted W. Engstrom, *The Pursuit of Excellence*. Zondervan Publishing house, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1982. □

Chroniger Welcomed to New Auburn



(Above) Don and Charlotte Chroniger. (Right) Dean J. Paul Green presents Don with certification of his completion of the Council On Ministry's program.



by Janet Thorngate

The sanctuary of the church in New Auburn, Wisconsin, was full Sabbath morning, February 12, when the special worship service included a ceremony of installation for the church's new pastor, Donald Chroniger. Guests brought greetings from the denomination, the North Central Association, and the local community, welcoming Don and his wife Charlotte to the work of their first pastorate.

Dr. John Reist, Professor of Theology at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas, spoke to the new pastor and his congregation on the "Ministry of the Word" challenging them to serve together through presence, preaching, and patience. Both of the Chronigers had had Dr. Reist

as professor at Central Baptist. Don graduated in December with a Master of Divinity degree.

As part of the day's ceremonies, Dean Paul Green presented Pastor Chroniger with his certificate of completion of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry Program. (In addition to the seminary education, the program includes summer courses in Seventh Day Baptist distinctives and several conference and retreat experiences designed for the COM students as a group.)

Individuals who brought official greetings and best wishes were Rev. Dale Thorngate for the General Conference, Rev. Earl Cruzan for the Association, Bob Bonser for the Dodge Center, Minnesota, church, Jerry Vaught for the Albion Church, and Bill

Arthur for the Milton Church. The Chronigers' involvement already in community church activities was noted by representatives of other local churches.

Others participating in the worship included church president Rod North, Deacon Loyal Pederson, and Trustee Mike North. Special music by the choir and by Walter Looffboro was complemented by a musical response by the new pastor himself. Pastor and Mrs. Eric McGarran, seminary friends of the Chronigers now serving the Oakdale Community Church in the Twin Cities area, were present to share the special day.

Fellowship dinner followed the worship service with an open house for the Chronigers in the afternoon. □

The Challenge of Christian Marriage

by Sylvia Nida Worrall

Since my marriage on May 10, 1980, I have come to understand how wonderful and rewarding marriage can be. I have also learned how difficult it can be. My three years of marriage have given me some of my very happiest and fulfilling moments as well as some of my most trying.

However, I am well aware that my feelings are not unusual for newlyweds and young adults. I continue to be shocked as I learn of friends of mine whose marriages are ending. The annual number of divorces in this country has doubled since 1965! Today, for the first time in history, divorce ends more marriages than death! Nearly every time I turn on the radio or television I am bombarded by songs and programs dealing with broken marriages, love affairs and child custody suits.

During my eight years as a public school librarian and teacher, I quickly learned not to be shocked by the increasing number of elementary school children who live in a single-parent home or who are being torn apart by a divorce in the family. The tragic evidence is clear. With today's social acceptance and ease of acquiring a divorce, many couples are taking the easy way out instead of honoring their marriage vows.

As Christians, we must continually strive to nurture and enrich our own marriages and others in our church family. Christians should respect the in-

stitution of marriage and its divine intention as expressed in Genesis 2:23-24 and repeated by Jesus in Mark 10:6-7. Marriage is a symbol of God's kingdom. A Christian marriage is a witness of the reconciling and fulfilling power of God's love. Its goal is to extend God's kingdom. Joe H. Leonard, Jr. writes in *Celebrate Christian Marriage*, "Christians are called to fulfill the divine intention for marriage, consciously, aware of God's guiding presence and strength through their days together, whether for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness or in health."

Marriage is undoubtedly a key factor in spiritual development. The purpose of a Christian marriage is the personal growth of

Too often we have focused only on the wedding...

the partners. The fruits of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness and goodness) are nurtured in a strong marriage. The Christian spirit is one of giving. This principle also holds true for the Christian marriage. One must give of oneself in order to build a strong mutual relationship which grows and abounds in love. This strong Christian love must be reinforced by the church, as one's faith is reinforced by the church.

The church must take the lead in striving to help nurture and save our marriages. Too often we have focused only on the



William, William II and Sylvia Worrall

wedding to the exclusion of ministry with married people. A ministry is needed.

Try These

- ☆ Launch a study group
- ☆ Schedule a marriage enrichment retreat
- ☆ Invite several married couples to share with the congregation what they value in their marriages
- ☆ Become aware of other married couples in the church and their needs
- ☆ Help prepare those who are planning to marry
- ☆ Create a task force to survey the community and publish a list of resources (films, books, counselors, marital growth groups, etc.) to help marriages not only endure but to grow
- ☆ Continue to make marriage help more available and visible
- ☆ Encourage continued efforts on the denominational level

Remember, Christian marriage has the purpose of personal growth for its partners. It is a witness of God's kingdom and enables life-long growth and caring between persons. So celebrate! □

Raccoo Gets Well



Raccoo



Mother

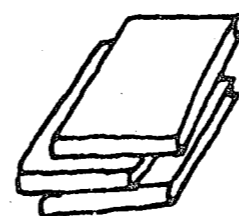


Father

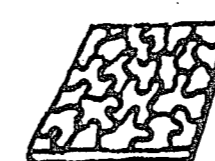


Soup

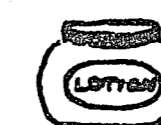
Books



Puzzle



Lotion



Raccoo was not feeling well, one day.



Raccoo felt very hot and very

tired.



Mother



read some

to him that morning. They put together



a



then gave him some fish



and put

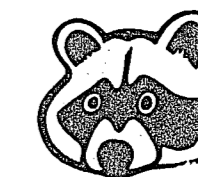


to

bed.



Raccoo woke up from his nap and saw little spots on his paws.



also

found spots on his face.



got some



to help keep the spots from

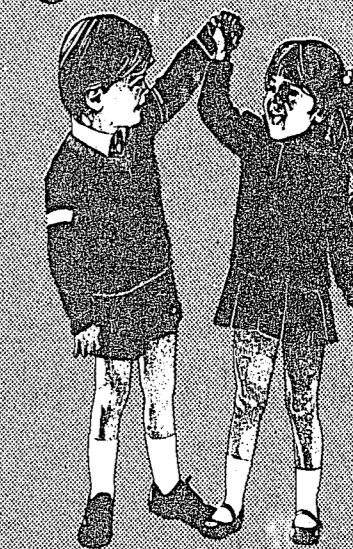
itching.

That night during devotions the family read Psalms 41:3, "The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, thou dost restore him to health."

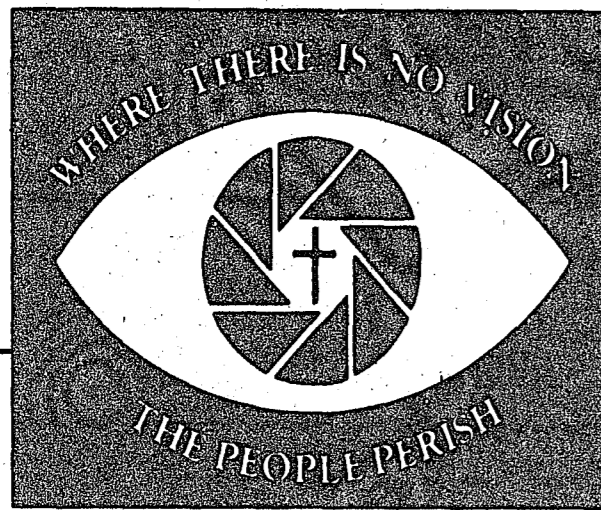
In a few days



Raccoo was feeling better and out playing with his friends again. □



FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

Missions News

AMARILLO, TX — In faith, for the last two years Richard Komoll has sponsored a Seventh Day Baptist fair booth, assisted by Mynor and Marian Soper. While there have been many contacts and literature shared, it was not until recently that regular Sabbath services were started. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless this new outreach effort!

MALAWI, AFRICA — Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson will be leaving for furlough early in May, returning in time to attend their daughter Joanna's graduation from Kings College. Enroute they will visit the SDB Mission work at Kisii, Kenya. During their nine month furlough they hope to visit many of our churches to share their work and their continuing ministry during their sixth term of service beginning in 1984.

MADISON SDB FELLOWSHIP, WI Early this year one of the newer members prayed on Sabbath morning asking God to send visitors to the Fellowship. For four of the next six weeks there were visitors in the Sabbath morning services. I believe that this will be a continual prayer of the Madison Fellowship, and that God will continue to respond to that prayer. It was a joy to be there for worship on Feb. 19 with 25 people in attendance. Six of us had driven up from Milton. There were also seven visitors. -Pastor E. Cruzan

TRANSKEI, S. AFRICA — Rev. Colben F. Mngonyama, who serves with the Railway Christian Union, attended the annual SDB Conference near Port Elizabeth, South Africa last July. He returned to Butterworth, Transkei to establish the new Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship, Ltd. They conduct cottage meetings house to house as well as regular Sabbath services.

SHAWNEE, OK — A new SDB home meeting is being sponsored by the Lees, members of the Riverside, Calif., church. their need for hymnals was shared with the Rockville, R.I. SDB church which sent 25 books via Director of Evangelism and Church Extension Mynor G. Soper. PTL!

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA — The women's group meets every second Thursday at a different time each meeting, to help those ladies who work. They meet in their homes and have a Bible study and sharing time of about half an hour. They also join together for a cup of tea or coffee. They have started what they call a Link, at their meetings, where each woman has a piece of paper on which she writes the name and address of someone she feels would be interested in hearing of our Lord. Their activities cover hospital visitation, helping out with church activities and they also run stalls to raise money for the church building fund. They are hoping shortly to visit women's prisons and old folks homes. They are also helping to prepare a puppet show which is planned for this year as an outreach. --Betty Alegre at Australasian Conference 1983. □

Remember...



To help support The Sabbath Recorder

Send your tax deductible donation to:
The Sabbath Recorder, Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547

A Prayer Reminder For Each Day! May 1983

Verse for the Month: "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;" 2 Cor. 9:7,8 NAS

PRAY FOR:

- 1 Dorothy Parrott, leading in the Year of Ministry
- 2 Pastor Colben Mngonyama, Transkei, S. Africa
- 3 Gabriel Bejjani, bringing Christ to Muslims
- 4 Youth planning to participate in SCSC
- 5 David & Bettie Pearson, beginning furlough
- 6 New SDB church: Ambler, PA
- 7 Sabbath School Mission Offering (part of OWM)
- 8 Daniel Barrar, Pres., Australasian SDB Conference
- 9 New group: near Amarillo, TX, R. Komoll, leader
- 10 Nyaniso Siwane, Port Elizabeth, S. Africa
- 11 Atlanta SDB church looking for worship place

- 12 New group: Shawnee, OK, led by the Lees
- 13 O.B. Manani Phiri, Med. Administrator, Malawi
- 14 New people to join in worship today

- 15 New SDB church: Hendersonville, NC
- 16 A.K. Harawa, Secy. Cen. Africa Conf., Malawi
- 17 John Farenhorst & the work in Holland
- 18 New group: Bradenton, FL - Dr. & Mrs. E. K. Davis
- 19 Pastor J. Alegrek, Melbourne, Australia
- 20 Those attending Eastern SDB Assoc., Shiloh, NJ
- 21 "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy"

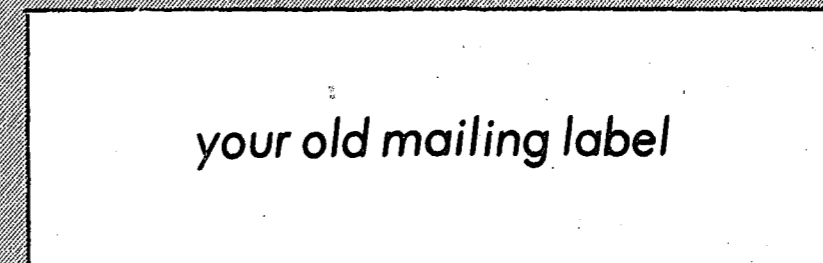
- 22 Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 23 Students & Dean at Summer Institute, SDB Center
- 24 New group: Lakeland-Wichita Falls, TX
- 25 Rod & Camille Henry, Cebu, The Philippines
- 26 Those in my community who are unemployed
- 27 New group: North Miami, FL
- 28 A Sabbath of rest

- 29 Brethren in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia
- 30 New group: Canyon City, CO
- 31 The continued work of The Sabbath Recorder

MOVING?

Please clip this change of address form and mail it to:

Circulation Department
The Sabbath Recorder
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547



New Address

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

by Donna S. Bond

PKs Snowed In Blizzard of '83 Hits Shiloh

20

Growing up in a series of SDB parsonages and being raised by a variety of Ladies' Aids, I always had the impression that preachers' kids were expected to be a rather peculiar breed, not quite like the average parishioner. There was even a joke around wherein one child boasted, "My dad's a doctor, so I can be sick for nothing," and the other responded, "Oh yeah? Well, my dad's a preacher, so I can be good for nothing."

When the Blizzard of '83 hit Shiloh on a Friday with much shoveling still waiting on Sabbath, it may have been the normal non-PK's who felt peculiar. Of 21 in attendance at an informal Sabbath morning service in the chapel, five were normal Christians.

Of the remaining 16 worshippers: eight were great-grandchildren of a preacher (Rev. James L. Skaggs); ten were grandchildren of preachers (Skaggs, Rev. Charles H. Bond, Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn); two were grand-

children of two preachers (Bond and Rev. Don A. Sanford); nine were children of preachers (Bond, Van Horn, Sanford and Rev. John H. Camenga); five were children-in-law of preachers (Bond, Van Horn Sanford and Rev. Donald E. Richards); finally, two were preachers themselves (Camenga and Assistant Pastor Verne Wright, senior seminary student).

Surely, we were in the majority on that Sabbath and perhaps we did prove to be "good for something," after all. The service began with Shiloh's pastor John Camenga (Skaggs grandchild/Van Horn son-in-law) announcing that today had been cancelled, with the youth week service and dinner postponed until next week. Pastor Wright (Richards son-in-law) led the opening service including an informal hymn-sing with Linda Camenga (Van Horn daughter) pinch-hitting on the organ.

After a few hymns Pastor John warned us to "choose the next one carefully." "Jesus Loves Me" was selected and all those under 25 were called upon to serve as the choir. The eight great-grandchildren—who were also grandchildren—(Andrew, Faith, Grace & Mark Camenga and Ward, Chris, Levi and Sylvia Bond) performed beautifully with the youngest one providing a good, strong antiphonal effect (i.e. echo).

The responsive reading, offertory service and prayer were all given, followed by another

hymn-sing session. Again, the pastor advised us to "choose the next one carefully" as he called on his wife Linda to desert the organ and come forward. Linda was to participate in an unrehearsed a cappella quartet with her cohorts being chosen Farmer-in-the-Dell style. She and the other three victims—Elizabeth Lupton (normal Christian), Phil Bond (Skaggs grandson/Bond son) and Donna Bond (Sanford daughter/Bond daughter-in-law)—sang "Jesus Loves Even Me" for the entertainment of the remaining congregation (all of the above-named plus Bond daughter-in-law Jan Bond, Bond son/Sanford son-in-law Tim Bond, Bond son Ron Bond, and normal Christians Louise Coursen, Charlotte Lupton, Sara Nieu Kirk, and Frank Mulford).

This performance was followed by a junior message given Indian-style on the floor by the pastor to the eight Skaggs great-grandchildren. The informal atmosphere and lack of a crowd prompted the youngsters to active verbal participation; in fact, this was a rare case of a minister having trouble getting his two cents' worth in!

A scripture was read, followed by a sermon on how Jesus uses miracles to show His love and to meet human needs.

After a closing hymn and benediction, the 21 "die hards" donned their boots, snowpants, mittens, scarves, parkas, hoods, hats, gloves, mufflers, and coats to wade through the snowdrifts of Shiloh toward their homes. (Only the Bond boys had driven cars, which is to be expected from preachers' kids when non-emergency vehicles are prohibited on the road). □



The Sabbath Recorder

Religion in the News

21

"Minute of Silence" Blocked Joni To Receive C.E. Award

The American Civil Liberties Union has won a judgment from a federal judge that New Jersey may not require a minute of silence in its public schools. The court ruled that the plan was another attempt to introduce prayer to the school system. □

Living Bible in German

After a seven-year preparation, a new translation of the New Testament will appear in May of this year.

The edition, under the title *Hoffnung für Alle* (Hope for Everyone), is the German-language version of the *Living Bible*. Over 25 million copies have been sold of the English-language edition, which first appeared in 1971.

The Living Bibles International mission society works in over 70 countries and publishes Bibles in about 110 languages. The society hopes to complete translations into 185 major languages within the next ten years. □ EBPS

Nuns Right to Sue Upheld

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has upheld the right of four Catholic teaching nuns to sue their bishop. The decision has landmark significance in view of its church-state implications and further legal appeals are expected. □

Joni Eareckson Tada, author of the books, *Joni* and *A Step Further*, will receive the nineteenth International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation at the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle, Washington, July 4-8, it was announced recently by Rev. Charles W. Barner, general secretary of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Joni will be presented with the award at the evening mass meeting on Tuesday, July 5, by Lavern Billig, president of the International Society. Previous citation recipients include Dr. Billy Graham, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Jerome Hines, Dr. Kenneth Taylor, and Maria Anne Hirschman.

In June of 1967 at the age of 17, Joni took a reckless dive

into the Chesapeake Bay that left her paralyzed from the shoulders down without the use of her hands or legs. Hospitalized for the next two years, Joni began developing a latent artistic talent by sketching with a pen held between her teeth.

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April 1983

by Donna S. Bond

PKs Snowed In Blizzard of '83 Hits Shiloh

20

Growing up in a series of SDB parsonages and being raised by a variety of Ladies' Aids, I always had the impression that preachers' kids were expected to be a rather peculiar breed, not quite like the average parishioner. There was even a joke around wherein one child boasted, "My dad's a doctor, so I can be sick for nothing," and the other responded, "Oh yeah? Well, my dad's a preacher, so I can be good for nothing."

When the Blizzard of '83 hit Shiloh on a Friday with much shoveling still waiting on Sabbath, it may have been the normal non-PK's who felt peculiar. Of 21 in attendance at an informal Sabbath morning service in the chapel, five were normal Christians.

Of the remaining 16 worshippers: eight were great-grandchildren of a preacher (Rev. James L. Skaggs); ten were grandchildren of preachers (Skaggs, Rev.

Charles H. Bond, Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn); two were grand-

children of two preachers (Bond and Rev. Don A. Sanford); nine were children of preachers (Bond, Van Horn, Sanford and Rev. John H. Camenga); five were children-in-law of preachers (Bond, Van Horn Sanford and Rev. Donald E. Richards); finally, two were preachers themselves (Camenga and Assistant Pastor Verne Wright, senior seminary student).

Surely, we were in the majority on that Sabbath and perhaps we did prove to be "good for something," after all. The service began with Shiloh's pastor John Camenga (Skaggs grandchild/Van Horn son-in-law) announcing that today had been cancelled, with the youth week service and dinner postponed until next week. Pastor Wright (Richards son-in-law) led the opening service including an informal hymn-sing with Linda Camenga (Van Horn daughter) pinch-hitting on the organ.

After a few hymns Pastor John warned us to "choose the next one carefully." "Jesus Loves Me" was selected and all those under 25 were called upon to serve as the choir. The eight great-grandchildren—who were also grandchildren—(Andrew, Faith, Grace & Mark Camenga and Ward, Chris, Levi and Sylvia Bond) performed beautifully with the youngest one providing a good, strong antiphonal effect (i.e. echo).

The responsive reading, offertory service and prayer were all given, followed by another

hymn-sing session. Again, the pastor advised us to "choose the next one carefully" as he called on his wife Linda to desert the organ and come forward. Linda was to participate in an unheard-of *cappella* quartet with her cohorts being chosen Farmer-in-the-Dell style. She and the other three victims—Elizabeth Lupton (normal Christian), Phil Bond (Skaggs grandson/Bond son) and Donna Bond (Sanford daughter/Bond daughter-in-law)—sang "Jesus Loves Even Me" for the entertainment of the remaining congregation (all of the above-named plus Bond daughter-in-law Jan Bond, Bond son/Sanford son-in-law Tim Bond, Bond son Ron Bond, and normal Christians Louise Coursen, Charlotte Lupton, Sara Nieukirk, and Frank Mulford).

This performance was followed by a junior message given Indian-style on the floor by the pastor to the eight Skaggs great-grandchildren. The informal atmosphere and lack of a crowd prompted the youngsters to active verbal participation; in fact, this was a rare case of a minister having trouble getting his two cents' worth in!

A scripture was read, followed by a sermon on how Jesus uses miracles to show His love and to meet human needs.

After a closing hymn and benediction, the 21 "die hards" donned their boots, snowpants, mittens, scarves, parkas, hoods, hats, gloves, mufflers, and coats to wade through the snowdrifts of Shiloh toward their homes. (Only the Bond boys had driven cars, which is to be expected from preachers' kids when non-emergency vehicles are prohibited on the road). □



The Sabbath Recorder

Religion in the News

21

"Minute of Silence" Blocked Joni To Receive C.E. Award

The American Civil Liberties Union has won a judgment from a federal judge that New Jersey may not require a minute of silence in its public schools. The court ruled that the plan was another attempt to introduce prayer to the school system. □

Living Bible in German

After a seven-year preparation, a new translation of the New Testament will appear in May of this year.

The edition, under the title *Hoffnung für Alle* (Hope for Everyone), is the German-language version of the *Living Bible*. Over 25 million copies have been sold of the English-language edition, which first appeared in 1971.

The Living Bibles International mission society works in over 70 countries and publishes Bibles in about 110 languages. The society hopes to complete translations into 185 major languages within the next ten years. □ EBPS

Nuns Right to Sue Upheld

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has upheld the right of four Catholic teaching nuns to sue their bishop. The decision has landmark significance in view of its church-state implications and further legal appeals are expected. □

Joni To Receive C.E. Award

Joni Eareckson Tada, author of the books, *Joni* and *A Step Further*, will receive the nineteenth International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation at the 57th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Seattle, Washington, July 4-8, it was announced recently by Rev. Charles W. Barner, general secretary of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Joni will be presented with the award at the evening mass meeting on Tuesday, July 5, by Lavern Billig, president of the International Society. Previous citation recipients include Dr. Billy Graham, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Jerome Hines, Dr. Kenneth Taylor, and Maria Anne Hirschman.

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April 1983

CWU Sponsors Fellowship Day

The familiar spiritual "There is a Balm in Gilead" sets the mood for this year's celebration of *May Fellowship Day* on Friday, May 6th. This ecumenical event sponsored by Church Women United is observed each year on the first Friday in May and brings Protestant, Roman Catholic, Or-

Studies on Cancer

The Seventh Day Adventists, a religious group with approximately 600,000 members in North America, do not drink or smoke, and about 50 percent follow a diet predominately of vegetables, eggs, grains, and milk. A recent study compared members of this group with nonmembers of comparable age, sex, and economic status. The findings: The Seventh Day Adventists had a much lower risk of dying of colon and rectal cancer (as well as of smoking-related cancers.) Their risk of dying of breast cancer was also lower, but by a smaller margin.

Practicing Mormons abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, coffee, and tea. They are not vegetarians, but their diet includes plenty of grains, fruits, and vegetables, and only moderate amounts of meat. Data from the Utah Cancer Registry (Utah is the home of the Mormon faith) show an incidence of lung, colon, rectal, breast, ovarian, and uterine cancer far lower than the national average (although there is no difference for prostate cancer). □

FROM: *Good Housekeeping*—February 1983

thodox and other Christian women into a worship experience designed to motivate creative and healing relationships in the local community.

Church Women United believes reconciliation and the healing process begin with each individual in her own community, where the roots of racism and classism, ageism and sexism are perpetuated. *May Fellowship Day* calls each woman of faith to commit herself to see, hear, speak and actively participate in bringing about necessary changes in attitude and behavior that will break down any barriers between neighbors.

May Fellowship Day, like World Day of Prayer and World Community Day, is one of the three celebrations sponsored annually by Church Women United. Dating back to 1933 when the first Dedication Day was planned

Indian Mystic Ordered Deported

Immigration authorities have ordered Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, head of a U.S. commune and guru for a mystical cult, to leave the United States. His group received national media attention for their take-over of the Oregon town of Antelope. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has determined that the Indian guru gave "false and misleading statements" to secure a U.S. visa. □

by the National Council of Federated Church Women, it became an annual observance in May of 1945 and was envisioned as a day to unite churchwomen in strengthening the quality of relationships in local communities across the country.

For further information and an order form for *May Fellowship Day* resources, write Church Women United, 475 Riverside Church, Rm. 812, New York, NY 10115. □

UW-W Has Milton College Transcripts

All Milton College transcripts—the academic records of about 35,000 Milton alumni and other former students—are in the custodial care of UW-Whitewater.

John Bodensteiner, registrar at UW-Whitewater, said that former Milton students can obtain copies of their records by writing or stopping by the registrar's office in person. No business concerning the transcripts can be conducted over the phone, he said.

Milton College, which was founded in 1844, closed its doors in May, 1982.

Persons can write to: Transcript Clerk, Registrar's Office, UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wis., 53190.

A charge of \$3 will be assessed for each transcript. Checks should be made payable to UW-Whitewater. □

FROM: *The Janesville Gazette*—February 1983



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

Affirming Families

Jane Mackintosh

A Report From The North American Baptist Women's Union

Here is another report from the Conference of the North American Baptist Women's Union which several of our SDB ladies attended. Thank you, Marion Soper, for this inspiring report. JM.

How do you describe a spiritual experience in words? Words are so inadequate to express feelings—feelings of praise to God, warmth in the fellowship of friends and heartache concerning the many hardships that face our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. These feelings are experienced at some time by all of us. But, when they seem more penetrating and awe-inspiring than those we usually experience, how do you describe them?

One thing I can do is share the main ideas I received from the seminars I attended. John Howell gave us food for thought in his seminar on *Affirming Families in the 80's*. The pertinent facts and statistics he gave about marriage, divorce and family problems were appalling and impressed upon my mind the urgency of the times and the deplorable condition of our society in these last times.

He emphasized that we need to be happy with whatever we are—male or female, black or white, short or tall. What we are is a gift of God's grace. We learned that one out of every five to 10 families moves every year. Since we have run a mobile home park, it is not hard for us to believe that!

He informed us that financial

problems and worries are the biggest underlying cause of trouble in American families. Unemployment causes the wage earner to act out his frustrations on the family. Since 1975, there have been over one million divorces a year. There are now nine million one-parent families and eight million of these are headed by women. Next to the army in time of war, the home is the most violent place in America. Every 20 minutes an abused child is taken to a hospital where many of them die. Violence has become a way of life and we as Christians must learn to deal with it.

Dr. Howell shared with us a

"Marriage and family relations are not made in heaven; they come in a kit and you have to put them together."

wealth of scriptural resources dealing with family relationships. They point out the importance that God puts on the family. He created us male and female, in his own image, designed to complement each other, bearing equal responsibility for sin and achieving equality in Christ. The purposes of Christian marriage are to meet human needs for intimacy, to establish families through child-bearing and socialization and to provide a setting for spiritual growth. Scriptures were cited dealing with Christian patterns and qualities of relationships between

husbands and wives, and parents and children.

He stressed that the most important phase of this seminar was the part the church must play in helping and affirming families by providing education in human sexuality, premarital guidance, marriage and family enrichment training, and spiritual growth for families. His challenge was that we have a chance to grow good family life in our churches, but we **must** get with it and **do** it. "Marriage and family relations," he said, "are not made in heaven; they come in kits and you have to put them together."

I think the one concept which stood out to me the most was the view that Christians should have about divorce. The Bible presents the ideal of what life ought to be, but we don't always live up to that ideal. Just as we can make mistakes in all areas of life and come penitently to God and receive his loving and complete forgiveness, so in the area of marriage it is possible to make grave mistakes. But our loving Lord is just as ready to forgive this mistake as any other. And there is no reason we cannot accept that forgiveness and go on to find happiness and the right marriage that God had intended for us in the first place. It has helped me to have a much more understanding spirit about remarriage than I ever had before. We must never forget that God **can** forgive and that remarriage is possible only by the forgiving, healing grace of God. □

The Church in Action

24

Raritan Valley Site Plan Approved

The Raritan Valley Seventh Day Baptist Church received site plan approval from the Township of Bridgewater October 19, 1982. This approval allowed us to erect a sign proclaiming our presence to the community. A condition of the approval is to construct a new parking lot at the rear of the church building. For this major financial undertaking, some fund raising events are planned for spring.

We are now beginning our newspaper advertising campaign and hope to actively reach out into our community with the message of God's love and Sab-

bath blessings.

For several months some of our congregation have been visiting the elderly at the Greenfield Convalescent Center. This is a rewarding Sabbath afternoon activity.

Another community service in which we participate is the local **Fish** program. We collect food donations and take them to the local headquarters, where they are then distributed locally to those in need.

Recently the evangelistic film **Joni** came to our area. As an encouragement to go and see it, we sent a letter around to

those in our immediate neighborhood, describing the film and offering free tickets. Several people have stopped by for them at this writing. □

Lost Creek Holds Special Services

At its October business meeting, the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church voted to renew the "License to Preach" of Donald Graffius, Clayton Pinder, and Robert Van Horn. Special Consecration Services were held on January 15 and January 22 with Pastor David Taylor and the church Deacons participating.

Donald Graffius, a lawyer, lives in Salemsville, Pa., with his wife, Linda, and their two children. They both minister in the German SDB Church there. Clayton Pinder, a Certified Public Accountant, resides in Salem, West Virginia, with his wife, Leora, and two of their children. Clayton also is the pastor of the Crites Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church near Sutton, West Virginia. Robert Van Horn, his wife, Lana, and their two children live in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Four children were also dedicated at the January 15 worship service. Michael Andrew Bond was presented for dedication by his parents, Bryan and Linda Bond of West Milford. Michael and Debra Novotny of Lost Creek also presented their three children for dedication: Kimberly Jean, Keith James, and Jerred Michael. □

Summer Institute On Sabbath Philosophy To Be Held

Sabbath Philosophy will be the topic of the 1983 Summer Institute to be held May 23-June 10 at the Center on Ministry in Janesville, Wisconsin. The course will be taught by Dean J. Paul Green and guest leaders.

The three-week intensive course is offered for ministerial students and others interested in a study of the major distinctive of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, the seventh-day Sabbath. Readings and discussions will center about an understanding of the Biblical character of the Sabbath, its history, the theological implications of Sabbath observance and modern-day application. A comparative study of Sunday observance and its development will be included.

No tuition or fees will be charged. Travel and living expenses during the institute are paid for students regularly enrolled in the Center on Ministry program. Licensed pastors, theological students not enrolled at the Center and ordained pastors are encouraged to attend as partial fulfillment of qualification for General Conference accreditation. They may apply to the Dean for financial assistance.

Although the institute is conducted as a graduate level course, anyone interested in attending the lectures and doing the reading is welcome to attend. Additional work, including the writing of a paper, is required of those taking the course for credit.

For further information including a course outline, reading list and application form, contact Dean J. Paul Green, Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. □

The Sabbath Recorder

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Bible Readers Meet Challenge

At the start of the 1982 SDB Mid-continent Association year, then President M.O. Van Horn challenged association members to read through the Bible in 1982.

Many started the project and some are still in the process of reading; however, a large number rose to the challenge.

Nortonville reports eleven:

Zella Babcock, Ed Johnson, June Johnson, Bill Prentice, Marie Prentice, Alfred Wells, Charles Wheeler, Reba Wheeler, Eva Wheeler, Merlin Wheeler, Juanita Wheeler

Denver reports four:

Elois Burdick, Ada Davis, Luthor Hanson, Hazel Warren

North Loup reports sixteen:

Beulah Clement, Bertha Clement, George Clement, Shirley Cargill, Elsie Cox, Leona Babcock, Marjorie Goodrich, Larry Graffius, Debbie Keown, Ada King, Frances Van Horn, Merlyn Van Horn, Luella Williams, Vesta Farley, Maude and Lloyd Van Horn (who completed the Bible on tapes during the year. "When you are 89, you can let someone else do the reading." — M.O. Van Horn)

Congratulations to those who completed the task, and to those still reading, "Keep it up!" □

Do You Read Tracts? Are Tracts Effective And Worthwhile?

Please send your comments to:

Dorothy Parrott
12264 six Mile Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49017



Rev. Colben F. Mngoyama and his wife, Sylvia.

New SDB Fellowship Begun In Transkei

by Leon Lawton

Early in 1982 correspondence was first received from Transkei, one of the new Republics in South Africa. Rev. Colben F. Mngoyama sought understanding of SDB beliefs and was glad to learn of the SDB Conference of churches with leadership near Port Elizabeth—only a few hundred miles distant. He received further information and literature from the Central Africa Conference in Malawi as well as from the USA.

In July he was able to attend the conference and learned more about SDBs. He returned to Transkei and organized the Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship, Inc., and began to have regular services to share his faith with others.

We learned also that Rev. Mngoyama was active in an interdenominational ministry with the Railway Christian Union which seeks to witness to those travelling by train in Transkei and South Africa.

His last letter reports, "We are conducting cottage meetings every evening from house to house and there is tremendous interest." He wrote for Bible study materials, and the Guide to Bible Understanding materials have been sent. Regular Sabbath meetings are held at his home. He is rejoicing that "the Lord is adding to our numbers." This is in Butterworth, the capital of the Republic of Transkei.

Let us pray for this brother, his wife Sylvia, and our new brethren! □

April 1983

Banners Planned For Conference

Planning and work continues on banners for SDB General Conference sessions at Houghton College this year, according to Denver SDB Pastor John Bevis who is co-ordinating the project.

"The theme for the year is *Proclaim the Word*," Bevis points out, "And no doubt our banners will reflect the theme. The suggested size of the banners is three feet by six feet."

On the final night of conference, there will be a parade of the banners that have hung in the auditorium during the week. □

Dodge Center Begins New Programs

The Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church recently held its annual chicken pie dinner, business meeting and election of officers for 1983. Doug Payne was elected president and Steve Greene was elected vice president.

One of the church's Decision to Discipleship Groups, led by Doug Payne, has completed all seven phases of the program. Bob Austin is leading another group of Senior Citizens at the Centerview Apartments and Pastor Osborn is leading a Discipleship Bible Study for those in the Kasson area.

The church's active Youth Fellowship is being led by Roger and Melanie Langworthy. Christian Ed is sponsoring three films in February, March and April. Other organizations, such as Christian Fellowship and Ladies Aid, are taking advantage of the time to sponsor different things before and after these films. The first one, "Kevin Can Wait," was excellent for youth and adult alike.

A new program for the church is a *Lay Person's Church Service* that is held the last Friday night of each month. □

In The Year Of Ministry:

How I Minister In My Vocation

by Elsie M. White

I have always wanted to be a missionary and work with children. As a teenager, I wanted to graduate from high school and go to Bible school and nurse's training, but never made it. I got married and raised seven children of my own. Now, my children are all married and have children of their own. I had time on my hands and nothing to do with it, as I had been an invalid for about seven years. At one time I was told I would never walk again. I proved them wrong, for with God's help, I got so I could walk short distances on a cane.

One night after I went to bed, I lay there thinking and praying and I said, "Dear Lord, show me what I can do to help you. I want to serve you and don't know what to do because of my condition. Please make it plain to me so that I will know what to do, and I will do it."

The next day I got my SABBATH RECORDER in the mail and there it was! Chatawa's Sunshine Mountain Home for Special Children needed a

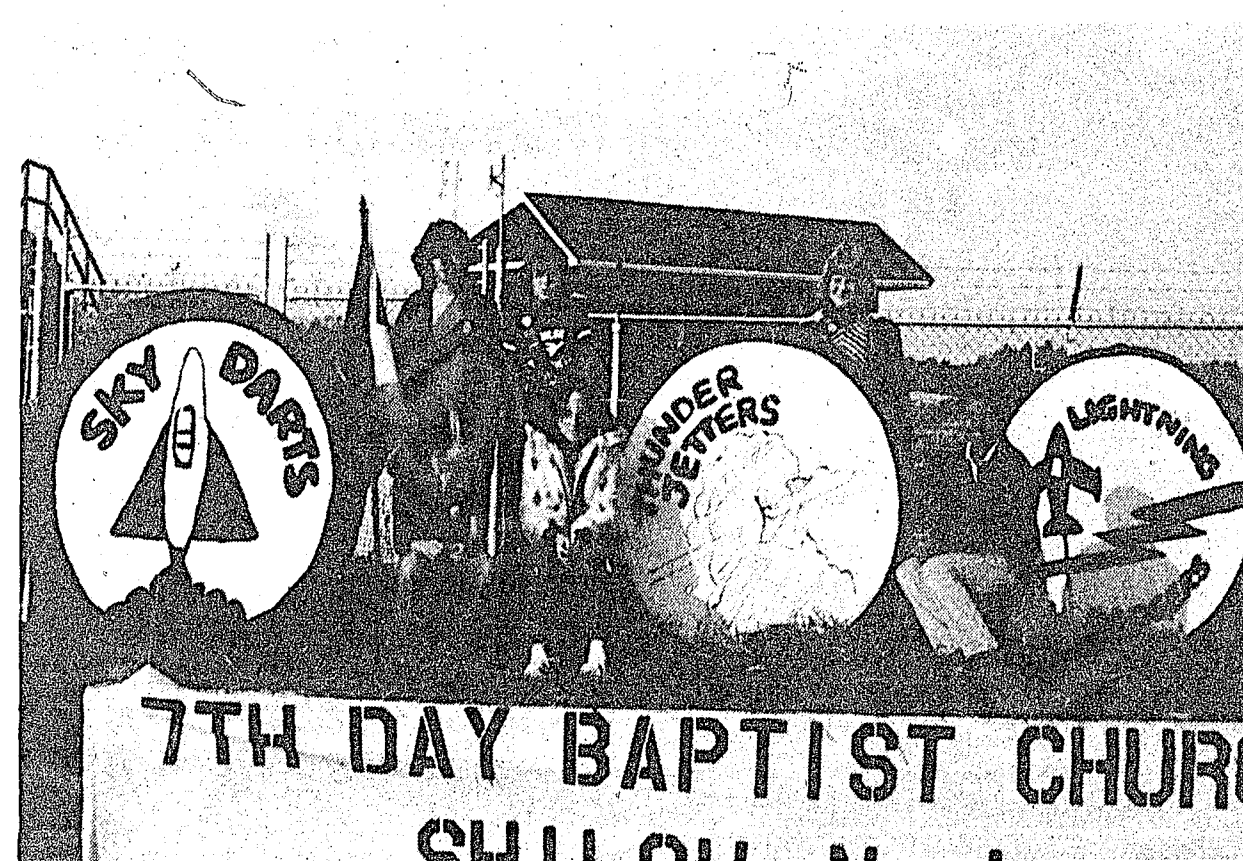
housemother. I called my pastor at church and asked him if he thought I could handle the job in my condition. He said that he would call Sunshine Mountain for me. I don't know what he told them, but they called me and told me to pack and come on down.

I hadn't been here long when I was sure the Lord was here with me. I was sitting in the livingroom with some of the children, when one of them stepped on my foot, which had been paralyzed with no feeling since 1959. I shouted, "Hey! Do that again. I could feel it!"

Ever since that time, I have been doing better and better, and have left my cane behind. I have even been re-married for six months and am working along side of my husband Robert White at Sunshine Mountain.

I can truly testify that if you will turn your life over, wholly and completely to him, I am sure he will walk with you and keep you in peace and good health all the rest of your life. It is a wonderful experience working for the Lord. □

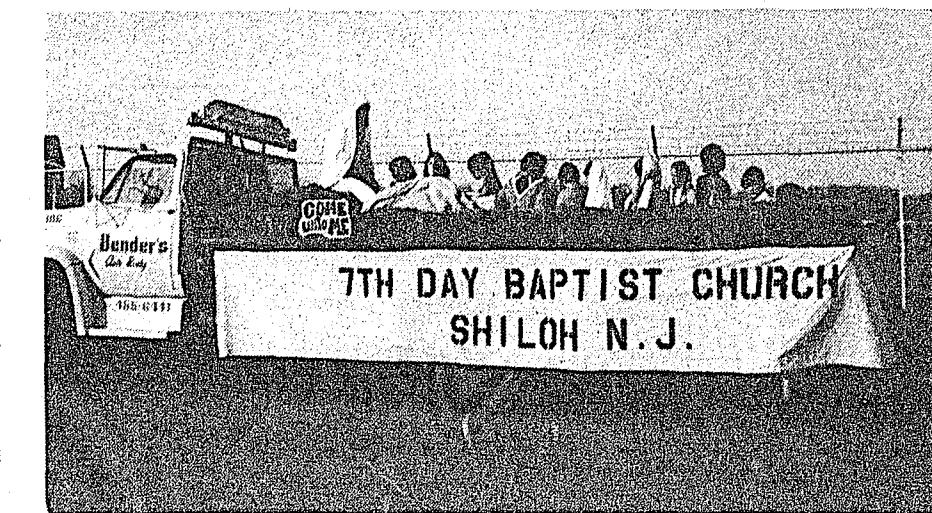
Shiloh "Jet Cadets" Place First In Christmas Parade



(Right) The Shiloh Jet Cadets: (Back row, L to R) Julie Vanderslice, Karen Lupton, Brenda Davis; (Front row) Matthew Swank, Shelly Hunt, Scott DeCon.

(Lower Right) John the Baptist, played by Toni Spanelli and Jesus, played by Tim Bond.

(Below) Jesus, played by Phil Bond, with the children at his feet.



by Donna S. Bond

"For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21) is a theme which all Christians should follow in their day-to-day lives, and the Shiloh Jet Cadets (4th-6th grade youth) were well rewarded for their portrayal of that theme in the annual Greater Bridgeton Area Christmas Parade.

Frank Mulford, a relatively new member of our church family, had for some time felt that the parade should proclaim the true meaning of Christmas. When he became involved with the leadership of our Jet Cadet group in 1981, he took action on his conviction with a three-float Shiloh Jet Cadet entry in this parade.

But it was in 1982 that the Jet Cadets drove Mr. Mulford's point home. The festivities were scheduled for Sunday afternoon, November 28, with final preparations waiting to be made when a freezing rain forced the postponement of the event until the following Sunday, December 5. Naturally, there was a great deal of disappointment and some speculation as to whether the parade would ever be held since, after all, December generally has worse weather than November.

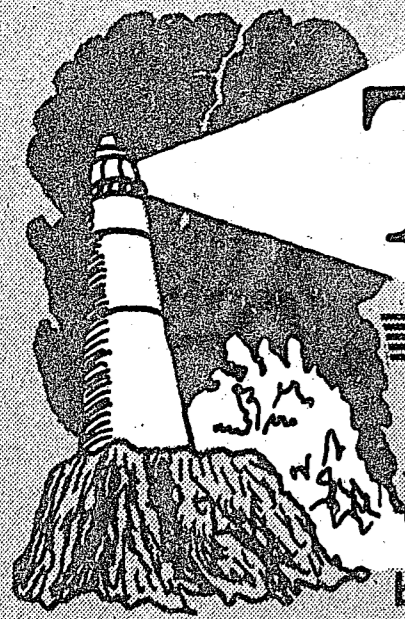
However, as "all things work together for good for those who love the Lord," December 5 arrived with sunny skies and 65

beautiful degrees. Spirits were high as spectators in their shirt-sleeves lined the streets of Bridgeton and little children begged their mommies for cotton candy and balloons.

The 80 entries ranged from marching bands to politicians and pretty girls in convertibles to Santa throwing candy to the Philly Fanatic and everything in between.

After watching 58 of these entries, Shiloh families were in their glory as the first Jet Cadet float rounded the corner announcing the theme, "For to me to live is Christ." This float, pulled by Allen Davis, held three

Continued on page 33



THE BEACON

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

April 1983

by Craig Mix

You Can Belong To The Family

One of the most exciting things about becoming a Christian, is that you become a member of a new family (Eph. 2:19). This new family includes all those who believe in, and have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. God uses these family members to watch over and help each other grow in him. It is, therefore, important for us to spend time getting to know other Christians. In fact, God wants us to do this (1 Cor. 12:25). Often this truth about fellowship is overlooked or even ignored. Yet, one of the most important parts of our Christian life is fellowship!

What is fellowship and why is it so important? Well, let's look at the scriptures to see what we find. In answering the question of "what is fellowship," we find a rather simple

Alfred Youth Hold Overnight Party

The Alfred ecumenical Youth Fellowship enjoyed their annual New Years overnight party which was held in the Davis gymnasium on the Alfred University campus. There was a program of games and a film for the younger members of the fellowship who were returned to their homes soon after midnight.

The youth in seventh grade or older, remained to play games and sports until dawn. A place was provided for those who wished to rest a part of the time.

Early breakfast, cooked by men of the church, was served in the Seventh Day Baptist parish house. At six o'clock, 25 youth and five adults led by YF sponsor, Mark Lawrence, returned to their homes to celebrate New Year's Day by sleeping. □

answer as we have already seen in 1Cor. 12:24, 25. Fellowship is giving and sharing with others in the Body, caring for each other, and growing together. It is a communion with each other and with God. Lots of people think that fellowship is just a gathering or a get together, like a church supper, or going rollerskating. These are certainly parts of fellowship, but as we can see, it goes far beyond just that.

There are many reasons why fellowship is important but, for this study, we will deal with four basic ones. The first reason for fellowship is that God wants you to be careful about who you turn to for advice (Psalm 1:1-2). God wants you to make sure that you are drawing your closest friendships from those who have Christ in their hearts (1 Cor. 15:33, Prov. 13:20). We also know the pressures we feel from the world, but good Christian fellowship helps us to overcome them!

A second reason for fellowship is to encourage our brothers and sisters to live for Christ (Heb. 10:24, 25). The day when the Lord is coming back is indeed getting closer and Satan is working especially hard in this world. We need others even more, for encouragement and to help us to be more effective.

A third reason for fellowship is to help us when we fall away from God (Eccles. 4:9-12, 2 Tim. 2:22). There are many problems that we go through which are impossible for us to handle all by ourselves. We are encouraged to first seek help from God through prayer (Phil. 4:6), then God can use our brothers and sisters to help us. This help stems from fellowship.

A fourth basic reason why fellowship is important is that there is

power where people are gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. Think of the power that God can show when two or more of his children are agreeing in prayer. It has been said that if all of God's children agreed in prayer through Jesus, that the world could, literally, be turned upside down! We have a powerful God (Dan. 4:35)!

Let's take a look at an example of fellowship as it was taking place in the first church in the book of Acts. Here, God formed a group of caring, loving, sharing people from a group of frightened, selfish, confused individuals. First and foremost, they had one universal foundation or center for their community. That was the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the work of his Holy Spirit in their lives (Acts 2:38-41). The community was based on a very important relationship that every individual had. God had called them to a relationship with Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). They were also continually devoting themselves to four things. These were the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. This constant devotion resulted in many fruits including "adding to their numbers daily" those who were being saved (Acts 2:46, 47)!

Believe it or not, this same thing can and does apply to us today. If we will center our fellowship only on Christ as our head, and consistently devote ourselves to God's Word, our fellowship, never taking for granted what Christ has done for us and prayer, then we can and will experience the same blessings.

True fellowship involves really loving and caring for each other. By this, others outside will truly know that

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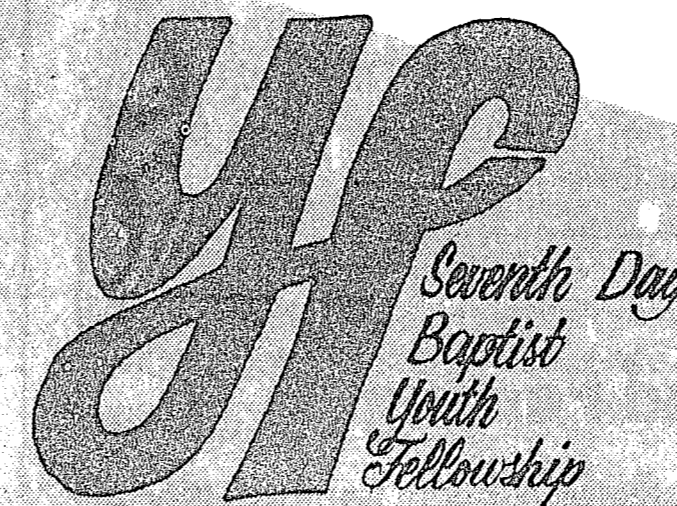
HAVE YOU ENTERED THE SABBATH RECORDER YOUTH WRITING CONTEST?

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books!

Kruschwitz, Rev. A.G., Was
Christ Crucified On Friday...
Or?

Kruschwitz, 1952 paperback, 143 pages
A book in pursuit of the Sabbath truth
as presented in scriptures rather than
the traditions of men.
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Heritage Corner

Working On Sunday

Since the establishment of the first Seventh Day Baptist church in England the members, in Europe and the United States, have suffered persecution of one type or another.

In 1878 Daniel C. Waldo was prosecuted for working on Sunday. The case was carried to Pennsylvania State Supreme Court where a fine was imposed on him. He believed it to be as much a part of the Commandment to work six days as it was to rest on the seventh.

Persecution grows less and less, but eternal vigilance alone can preserve the fruits of past struggles and make victory complete.

Handbook of Information Concerning
Seventh Day Baptists 1948

Sabbath Observance In a Technological Age

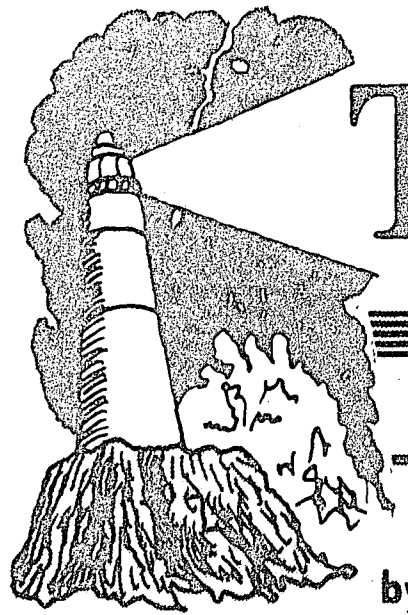
In Church Attendance — "as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day." Luke 4:16

1. How often constitutes "custom"?
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Fellowship cont.

we are disciples of Christ (John 13:34-35). This includes loving all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, not just those who are so called "socially acceptable pleasing" or your type (Rom. 15:1-2). Christ died for all people (Rev. 3:20).

Praise God that he has given us a family so that we can love and be loved, care and be cared for, and grow together! Let's not treat our fellowship lightly; forgetting its importance. Do you truly want to grow with God? True Christians' fellowship is guaranteed to make it not only possible, but in fact, probable! □



THE BEACON

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

April 1983

by Craig Mix

You Can Belong To The Family

One of the most exciting things about becoming a Christian, is that you become a member of a new family (Eph. 2:19). This new family includes **all** those who believe in, and have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. God uses these family members to watch over and help each other grow in him. It is, therefore, important for us to spend time getting to know other Christians. In fact, God wants us to do this (1 Cor. 12:25)! Often this truth about fellowship is overlooked or even ignored. Yet, one of the most important parts of our Christian life is fellowship!

What is fellowship and why is it so important? Well, let's look at the scriptures to see what we find. In answering the question of "what is fellowship," we find a rather simple

Alfred Youth Hold Overnight Party

The Alfred ecumenical Youth Fellowship enjoyed their annual New Years overnight party which was held in the Davis gymnasium on the Alfred University campus. There was a program of games and a film for the younger members of the fellowship who were returned to their homes soon after midnight.

The youth in seventh grade or older, remained to play games and sports until dawn. A place was provided for those who wished to rest a part of the time.

Early breakfast, cooked by men of the church, was served in the Seventh Day Baptist parish house. At six o'clock, 25 youth and five adults led by YF sponsor, Mark Lawrence, returned to their homes to celebrate New Year's Day by sleeping. □

answer as we have already seen in 1Cor. 12:24, 25. Fellowship is giving and sharing with others in the Body, caring for each other, and growing together. It is a communion with each other and with God. Lots of people think that fellowship is just a gathering or a get together, like a church supper, or going rollerskating. These are certainly parts of fellowship, but as we can see, it goes far beyond just that.

There are many reasons why fellowship is important but, for this study, we will deal with four basic ones. The first reason for fellowship is that God wants you to be careful about who you turn to for advice (Psalm 1:1-2). God wants you to make sure that you are drawing your closest friendships from those who have Christ in their hearts (1 Cor. 15:33, Prov. 13:20). We also know the pressures we feel from the world, but good Christian fellowship helps us to overcome them!

A second reason for fellowship is to **encourage** our brothers and sisters to live for Christ (Heb. 10:24, 25). The day when the Lord is coming back is indeed getting closer and Satan is working especially hard in this world. We need others even more, for encouragement and to help us to be more effective.

A third reason for fellowship is to **help** us when we fall away from God (Eccles. 4:9-12, 2 Tim. 2:22). There are many problems that we go through which are impossible for us to handle all by ourselves. We are encouraged to first seek help from God through prayer (Phil. 4:6), then God can use our brothers and sisters to help us. This help stems from fellowship.

A fourth basic reason why fellowship is important is that there is

power where people are gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. Think of the power that God can show when two or more of his children are agreeing in prayer. It has been said that if all of God's children agreed in prayer through Jesus, that the world could, literally, be turned upside down! We have a powerful God (Dan. 4:35)!

Let's take a look at an example of fellowship as it was taking place in the first church in the book of Acts. Here, God formed a group of caring, loving, sharing people from a group of frightened, selfish, confused individuals. First and foremost, they had **one** universal foundation or center for their community. That was the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the work of his Holy Spirit in their lives (Acts 2:38-41). The community was based on a very important relationship that **every** individual had. God had called them to a relationship with Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). They were also continually devoting themselves to four things. These were the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. This constant devotion resulted in many fruits including "adding to their numbers daily" those who were being saved (Acts 2:46, 47)!

Believe it or not, this same thing can and does apply to us today. If we will center our fellowship only on Christ as our head, and consistently devote ourselves to God's Word, our fellowship, never taking for granted what Christ has done for us and prayer, then we can and will experience the same blessings.

True fellowship involves really loving and caring for each other. By this, others outside will truly know that

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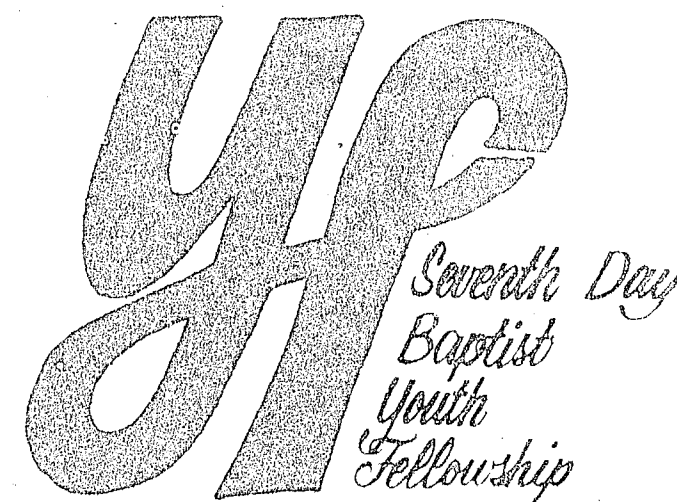
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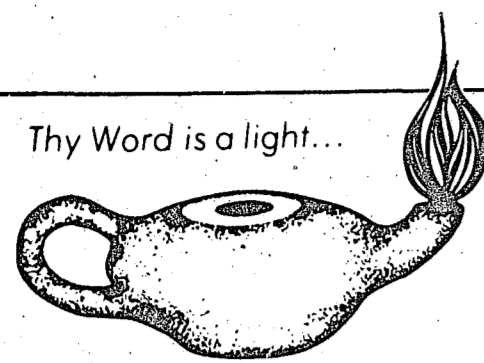
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Thy Word is a light...



Board of Christian Education

Mary Clare

30

Jamaican Youth Congress Held

Craig Mix and I were in Jamaica as the result of an invitation for an American representative to attend the Annual Congress of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth League. The Memorial Board Trustees made it possible to accept the invitation and the Youth Ministries Committee of the Board selected the delegates.

Before we went to Jamaica we were told the group ages would range from 14 to 30, or older. Because Youth in our churches usually indicate late teens and early 20's, I was prepared to work with older teenagers as the largest group with a few younger and older. Most of the participants, however, were in their late 20's and early 30's. The younger ones listened without taking an active part or played outside the church during much of the time. The girls were pressed into service as baby-sitters for the young adults who brought their families with them. These babies were much loved and a happy addition to the situation.

There is a great interest in improving family relationships as evidenced in two programs held in addition to the business meetings. One afternoon two workshops were held, one discussed the area of the engaged and the other, marriage. A third, on singles, was planned but no delegates chose to attend that one. A discussion time was held when the two groups shared some of the ideas discussed in the smaller groups.

For the second program, Craig and I gave talks on Love, Courtship and Marriage to a most

attentive audience.

One of the highlights of the Congress was the banquet held in honor of Rev. David McLean. He graduated from a theological seminary and is presently a pastor of one of the churches as well as doing radio outreach. The members of the Youth League have a special interest in Pastor McLean because they raised one-half of the money required for his expenses while

in school.

Some of the significant results of our visit to Jamaica are a better understanding of their culture by us, and ours by them. We were able to discover some of their needs and will continue to minister to them by mail. There was an interest aroused in our Young Adult Pre-Con and General Conference. One of the young men indicated he would plan to attend. □

TEACHERS' MINI-LAB

A Day of Prayer and Fasting

May 21, 1983, has been designated as Sabbath Renewal Day. It is a day when special thanks should be given for the great gift of the Sabbath which has been given mankind. Also, Seventh Day Baptist history, beliefs and practices could be reviewed.

It is logical that a special time for prayer should be a part of the celebration of God's presence in the gift of the Sabbath.

May 22, 1983, has been set apart as a day for denominational prayer and fasting. This is a day for spiritual renewal, a time to grow closer to God and give thanks for his special blessings. It is a time to make confession of corporate and individual sins and ask for forgiveness. Petitions for help in healing hurts within and without the congregation are appropriate as we attempt to minister to people around us.

Although several Seventh Day Baptist churches and individuals have found joy in spending hours praying and fasting, to many, this is a new concept of worship.

Christian educators, teachers, pastors, youth group leaders and other leaders could be the key to greater understanding and use of this special day by discussing prayer and fasting and organizing a special event for the weekend.

The Board of Christian Education has produced a tri-fold which will be available to churches for giving each family of their congregation. The tri-folds suggest four themes which may be used for group, family, or individual meditation. The themes are: Forgiveness, Personal Spiritual Renewal, Prayer Ministry of Your Local Church, Proclaim the Sabbath, and the Ministry of Reconciliation.

May God bless your special celebration of worship in prayer and fasting. □

Youth Conference Business

by Craig Mix

The eighth annual Jamaican SDB Youth League Congress was held December 28 through January 2 at the Albion Mountain SDB church in St. Mary.

About 35 delegates and 15 visitors gathered to conduct business and have fellowship with one another. Brother Milton Wright, president of the league, presided. The youth were privileged to have the Jamaican Seventh Day Baptist Conference President, Rev. V.R. Smith, as a

guest speaker. He also made formal declaration of the opening of the session.

According to Wright, the league is facing a pivotal year. Because of an apparent lack of communication between the 28 participating fellowships and a seemingly apathetic attitude coming from the members, much frustration was felt on the part of the president and other executives. The Fellowship Interaction Committee met throughout the week to discuss this problem. A number of suggestions were

presented by the committee.

The league has also launched an \$10,000 tab-drive to raise funds for the renovation of their Maiden Hall camp facility. They have national endorsement for the drive and hope to get it off the ground in the near future. It was voted that the annual league dues be raised in order to raise the budget and to assist in the drive.

Milton Wright was reelected president and Navel Harley continues to serve as general advisor of the league. □

A Preview Of The Helping Hand

In Unit I we renewed our conviction of the superior quality of the Christian fellowship. Now we are concerned to look at the way traditional and prejudicial barriers are met and overcome.

Age, for a person or a nation, can produce helpful tracks by which newcomers can learn from the successes and failures of the past generations. Sometimes these tracks become deep ruts that almost demand that oncoming generations practice what their elders did.

New Testament records tell us that Jesus the Christ began getting people out of the ruts by which legalism bound them. He confronted every form of dependence on imposed rule. Instead, he showed how to use a loving spirit. He gave his followers the power to radiate God's Spirit into their new church as a body and also into the world around them.

To fulfill Isaiah's prophecy that he had used in Nazareth (Isa. 61:1, 2), the living Christ enabled his followers to: bring reconciling good news to outsiders, rise above pharisaic methods, overcome enmity and move into the Roman world with wise compassion. Thus the lessons of this unit unfold.

Lesson 6 April 9, 1983
Good News For Enemies
Scripture Base: Acts 11:2-18
Key Verse: Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life. Acts 11:18

Lesson 7 April 16, 1983
Missionaries On The Move
Scripture Base: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18
Key Verse: I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth. Acts 13:47

Lesson 8 April 23, 1983
Good News For All People
Scripture Base: Acts 15:4-21
Key Verse: For in Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love. Gal. 5:6

Lesson 9 April 30, 1983
Giant Steps Into Europe
Scripture Base: Acts 16:9-18
Key Verse: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

Lesson 10 May 7, 1983
Conflict In Corinth
Scripture Base: Acts 18:1, 4-17
Key Verse: Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city. Acts 18:9-10. □

31

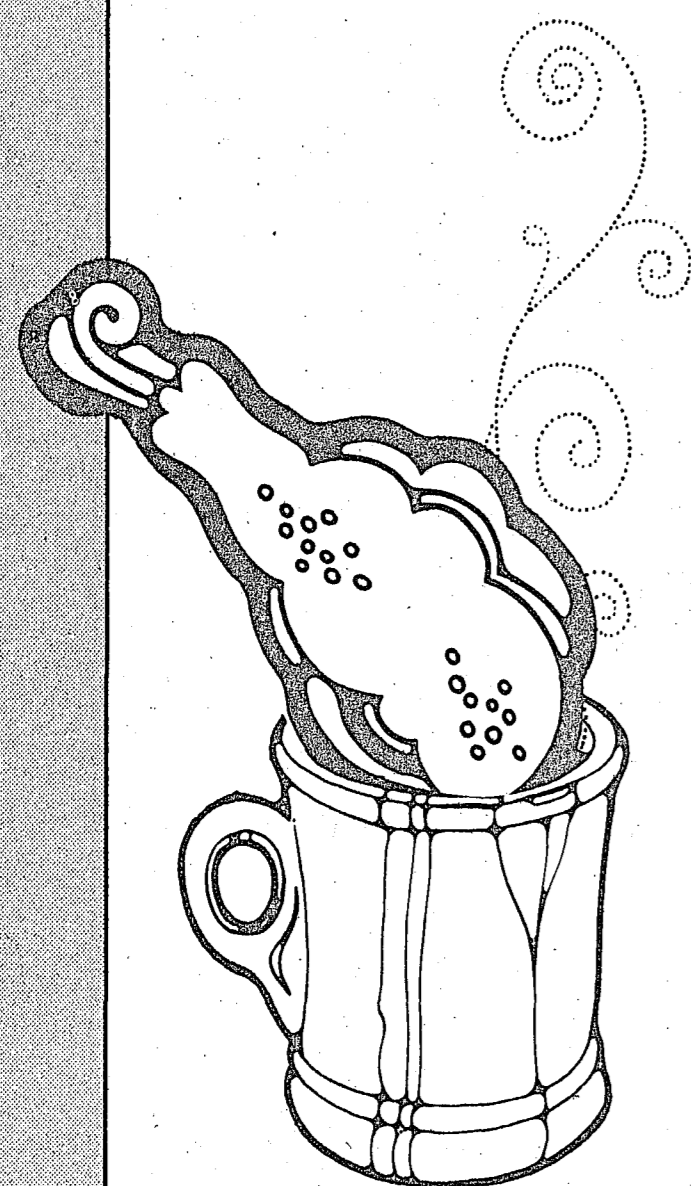
«Off Center»

Life at the SDB Center

by Leanne Lippincott

32

Don't Look In The Coffee Pot!



A lot of nice, nifty people work here at the SDB Center — Ethel Dickinson, for instance.

Ethel wears many hats, including secretary to Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate. She's also head of the Center's secretarial pool. Or, in the words of a fellow employee, "the secretarial puddle," depending on the number of secretaries secretaring at the time.

Every once in awhile, I call Ethel "mom" because she exhibits so many maternal characteristics. She's always smiling and saying things like "See you in church," or "Hope you feel better," or "Have a nice day."

It's a tough job -- putting up

with all that warmth and love -- but somebody has to do it. Of course, Ethel does have her darker side.

When I first started writing *Off Center*, I asked each Center employee if he or she had any objections to being mentioned in my column. (At the time, my innocent victims had no idea what they were letting themselves in for.) Ethel indicated she really didn't mind, but she kept muttering something about having her own lawyer; one who specializes in libel cases, I as-

...who's the last person anyone would accuse of hiding the ice cream?

sume. The grin on her face was as sinister and threatening as the tone of her voice.

In addition to her maternal instincts, Ethel is innovative, generous and unpredictable.

For example, one day I walked into the lunchroom just as Ethel was lifting the lid off the large coffee maker.

"Are you dumping the grounds," I casually asked.

"No, just getting my bread," Ethel replied.

When I asked if she always stores bread in coffee pots, Ethel patiently explained that the pot

was full of hot water and that she was using the steam to thaw a slice of frozen bread.

It's an innovative technique, to say the least, but I have this recurring nightmare that someday somebody's going to empty the coffee maker and accidentally dump two TV dinners, a quart of frozen strawberries and a 20 lb. turkey.

As for generous, who else but Ethel would supply free Johnson and Johnson Band-Aids® every-time I cut my very dull fingers with very sharp X-acto® blades. (I always decline the tourniquets.)

Then there's Ethel's unpredictability.

One day, Gene Davis furnished the ingredients for a special treat at break time. After several staff members had gathered in the lunchroom to build zero-calorie diet sodas, someone alertly noticed that the ice cream had disappeared.

All things considered, who's the last person anyone would accuse of hiding the ice cream?

Ethel, of course.

And, as it turned out, who was the culprit who committed the dastardly deed?

Ethel, of course.

She nonchalantly waltzed into the library and smugly returned with the kidnapped carton.

Since I've always known that Ethel has her darker side, I wasn't shocked by her thievery. But, frankly, I was **totally stunned** when I found out that "mom" Ethel hadn't put the ice cream in the coffee pot! □

33

Accessions

Denver, Colo.
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Baptism:
Jim Edwards

By Testimony:
Johnnie Burbank
Shannon Burbank
Tim Burbank
Leslie Patrow
Terry Patrow

By Letter:
Doreen Sanford

Dodge Center, Minn.
Paul B. Osborn, Pastor

By Baptism:
Brenda Bonser

White Cloud, Mich.
Lawrence Watt, Pastor

By Baptism:
Kelly Alger
Corena Alger

By Letter:
Minnie Vile
Lawrence Watt

Memphis, Tenn.

Rosa Martin
Bonnie Smith
Tom Milner

Christmas Parade

Continued from page 27

four-foot discs, each bearing the name of a Jet Cadet squadron: Sky Darts, Thunder Jetters, and Lightning Dodgers. Representatives from the squadrons surrounded the discs, flying the Christian flag.

Living in Christ means following his example, as depicted on the second of our entries built on a flatbed from Ed's Body Shop. "Follow me and be baptized" was printed on the sides of the float with three Jet Cadets witnessing the baptism (**by immersion**) of Jesus (portrayed by Tim Bond) by John the Baptist (Louis Spinelli).

A third facet of the theme was carried out on a wagon from Bender's Body Shop with Jesus (Phil Bond) speaking to his followers (all Jet Cadets). To live in Christ, we must first listen to his word and then, as the sign directs, "Come unto me."

Topping off a perfect day of witnessing to the community about a life in Christ, was the announcement that the Shiloh Jet Cadets were to receive a plaque for taking first place among the five religious entries. God had first given us a beautiful day after an earlier disappointment and then had given a tangible reward to the Jet Cadets and their families for proclaiming "for to me to live is Christ." □

Births

Elvik.--A daughter, Rebecca Jane Elvik, was born to Ivan and Edith (Rosa) Elvik on June 7, 1982.

Caricato.--A daughter, Marisa Jean Caricato, was born to Marse and Melanie (Lewis) Caricato on June 18, 1982.

Snyder.--A daughter, Chelsea Marie Snyder, was born to David and Beverly (Austin) Snyder of Alfred, N.Y., on August 28, 1982.

Soper.--A daughter, Jamie Lynn Soper, was born to Earl and Beverly (Hambleton) Soper on November 4, 1982.

Davis.--A daughter, Holly Rebecca Davis, was born to Ronald and Christine (Pederson) Davis on November 17, 1982.

McVay.--A daughter, Crystal Lynne McVay, was born to Jay and Lynne (Rymer) McVay on December 9, 1982.

Babcock.--A daughter, Karla Marie Babcock, was born to William and Nancy Babcock on December 22, 1982.

McGraw.--A son, Andrew David McGraw, was born to Roger and Sandy (Snyder) McGraw of Alfred, N.Y., on December 31, 1982.

May.--A daughter, Hali Dyann May, was born to Charles "Chip" and Julie (Welch) May on January 3, 1983.

Kuzenka.--A son, Kyle Maine Kuzenka, was born to Karl and Wendy (Harrison) Kuzenka of Exeter, R.I., on January 16, 1983.

Calhoun.--A daughter, Sara Elizabeth Calhoun, was born to George and Lannette Calhoun of Alfred, N.Y., on February 16, 1982.

Marriages

Barber-Stoeckel.--Brian A Barber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Barber, and Michele Stoeckel, daughter of Sylvester and Shirley (Stebbins) Stoeckel, all of Dodge Center, Minn., were united in marriage in a private ceremony at the church. Pastor Paul B. Osborn officiated.

Wheeler-McGurk.--Dale Wheeler and Wendy McGurk were united in marriage on December 27, 1982, in the First Baptist Church of Chanute, Kan., by Pastor Paul B. Osborn.

Whitlock-Farley.--Kenneth A. Whitlock and Beth A. Farley were united in marriage on January 8, 1983, in the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Riverside, Calif. Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, as pastor, officiated.

Obituaries

34

Murphy.--Amelia Smith Murphy died August 4, 1982 at the age of 89. She was born March 9, 1893, to Wilbur and Bertha Smith and was a member of the Ashaway Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include nieces and nephews.
Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery, Ashaway.

Gavitt.--John Wesley Gavitt of Potter Hill Road in Westerly, R.I., was born June 6, 1916, and passed away January 26, 1983, at the age of 66 after several months of declining health.

John grew up in Westerly and in the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly. He served faithfully as a member and for 41 years as a deacon in the church. He was known in the church for his children's messages and his warm handshakes. He was a man of principle who pointed with satisfaction to a record of over 45 years employment without working one Sabbath.

John worked as a machinist at The Cottrell Company in Pawcatuck, Conn., from which he retired one and a half years ago. Even at work he was known as "Deacon John," which enabled others at work to separate him from the other John Gavitts there.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Moffit Gavitt; two sons and a daughter, David E. Gavitt of Westerly, Thomas W. Gavitt of

Stonington, Conn., and Martha J. Jordon of Carolina, R.I.; three brothers and two sisters, Munson Gavitt of Westerly, Rev. Stanton Gavitt of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Rev. Joseph Gavitt of Warren, Ohio, Ruth Brown of Pawcatuck, and Thelma Shafer of Fitchburg, Mass.; six granddaughters and one grandson.

The funeral service was held on Sabbath, January 29, at the Buckler-Johnston Funeral Home in Westerly with his pastor, Rev. Dale E. Rood, officiating. Interment was in the First Hopkinton Cemetery near Meeting House Bridge in Ashaway, R.I.

DER

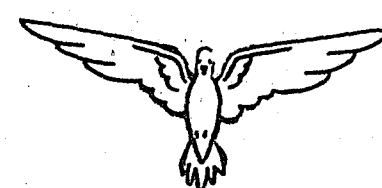
King.--Floy M. King, 84, was born August 28, 1898, in Salemville, Pa., to Edwin S. and Bertie (Kagarise) Dimond and died at Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring, Pa., February 4, 1983, after a brief illness.

She was preceded in death by her husband, H. Loyd, and a son and a daughter.

Surviving are two sons, Eugene D. and Eddie H. of New Enterprise, and three granddaughters.

Mrs. King was an active member and deaconess of the German Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, where services were held for her February 6, 1983, with her pastor, Kent L. Martin, officiating.

KLM



Daytona Church Reaches Out

The Daytona Beach (Fla.) Seventh Day Baptist Church has been reaching out in a number of ways.

At their recent annual church business meeting, they voted to give one percent of their annual budget to Salem College.

They are aiding small groups in many parts of Florida including a group of Sabbathkeepers in Bradenton, Fla., and another group at Carraway, Fla.

Correspondent Clara Beebe reports that the sanctuary of the church has had some improvements including, "tract racks and two beautiful hand-crafted cabinets." □

WANTED! YOUR TESTIMONIES ON THE VALUE OF USING TRACTS

Perhaps you came to know Christ,
became a better Christian,
learned important facts on a particular question,
or discovered SDBs because of tracts.
Maybe you have used tracts in personal witnessing,
bringing people to Christ,
or to a better understanding of the Sabbath,
or of SDBs.

Whatever your unique experience with tracts, write a brief account of it and send it to the ASTS Publications Committee. The testimonies will be used in a future *Sabbath Recorder* article about the benefits of using tracts.

Send testimonies to:
Dorothy Parrott, Publications Chrm.
12264 6 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Beatitudes For A Choir

...And, seeing the long church year before them, and knowing the awesome role that music must play in the worship services that lay ahead, the choir director called together the singers and spake to them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who are willing to blend their voices into a harmonious ensemble, for theirs is the music of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn when forced to miss rehearsal, but call to inform the director of their anticipated absence, for in these faithful few shall the director find comfort.

Blessed are the meek, who submit themselves to following the director, for they shall merit great worth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after rehearsals are concluded, bringing with them neither gum nor goodies, for they shall be filled with music.

Blessed are the merciful, who take pity on the music's composer, careful to read the original notes, follow the original time, proclaim resoundingly the original message, for they shall obtain mercy from discriminating critics.

Blessed are the pure in pitch, in tone, in enunciation, for their voices shall blend in moving harmonies, enabling others to envision God.

Blessed are the music-makers, for they shall be called heralders of God.

Blessed are ye singers when the director shall seem to persecute you for the sake of the final rendition; be patient and rejoice, for of such perfection is the music of heaven.

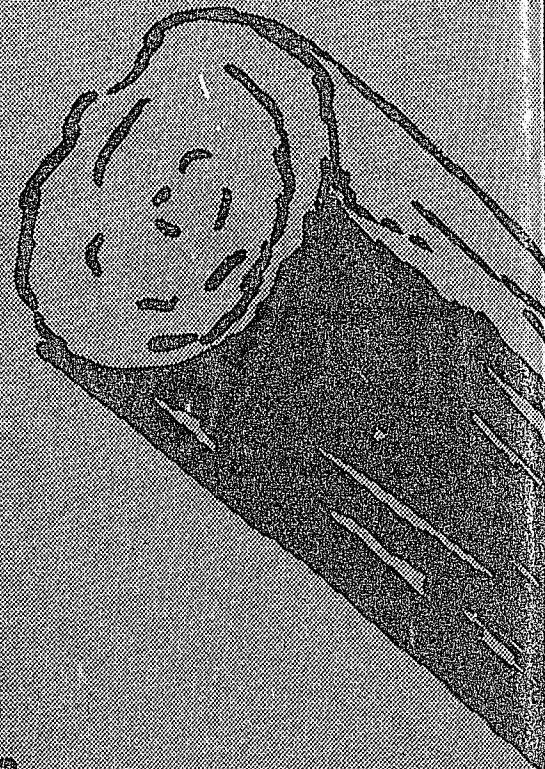
Blessed are ye when other choirs shall revile you, and turn their ears from you, and say all manner of evil against you jealously. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heavenly satisfaction that you have sung faithfully and well — for so disparaged they the great singers who were before you perhaps even that Bethlehem choir of Angel voices!

— John Clayton

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460)
3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

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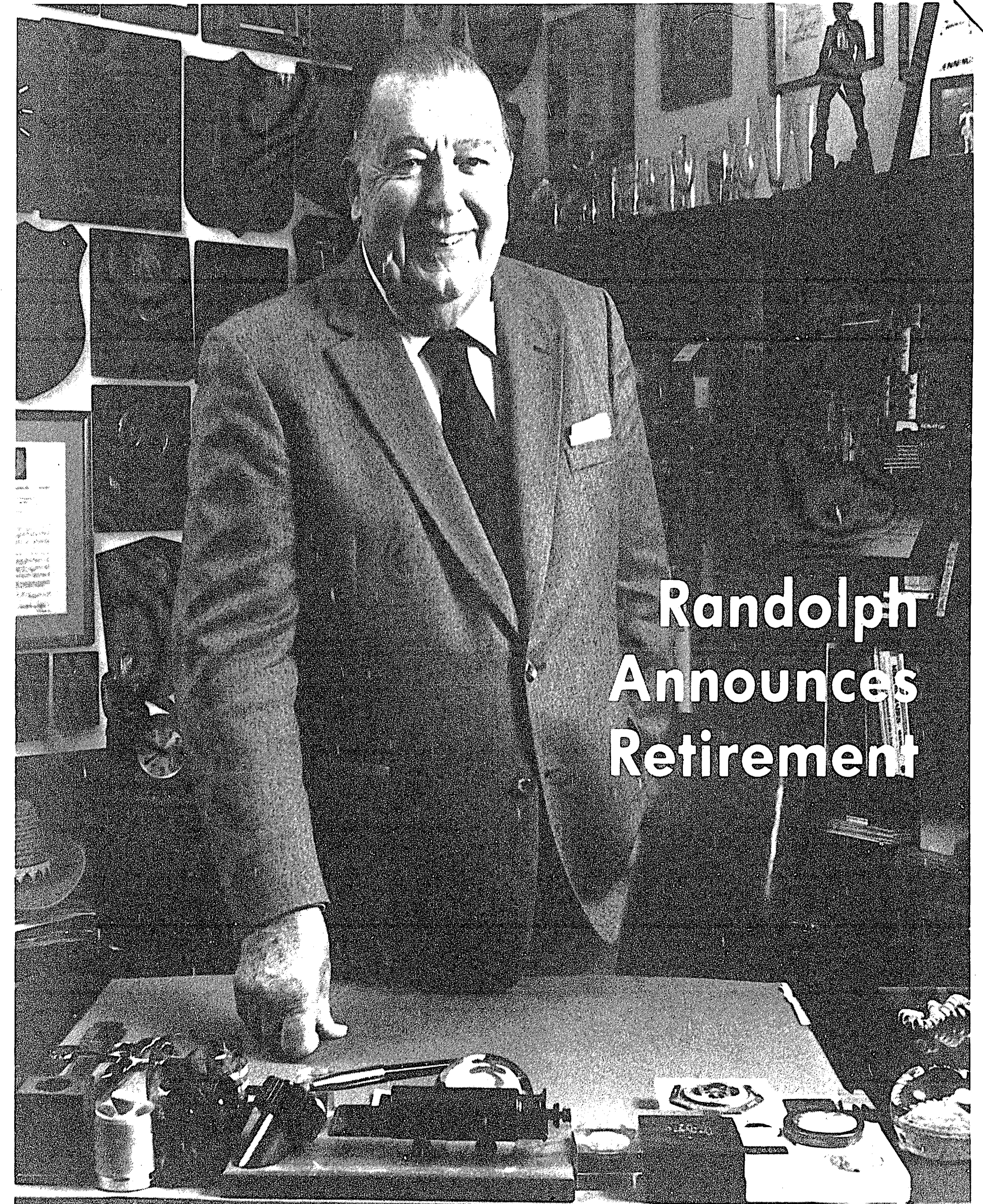


May 1983

The Seventh Day Baptist

Sabbath Recorder

1983
Conference
Registration Forms Enclosed



**Randolph
Announces
Retirement**

SPECIAL EMPHASIS: THE SABBATH