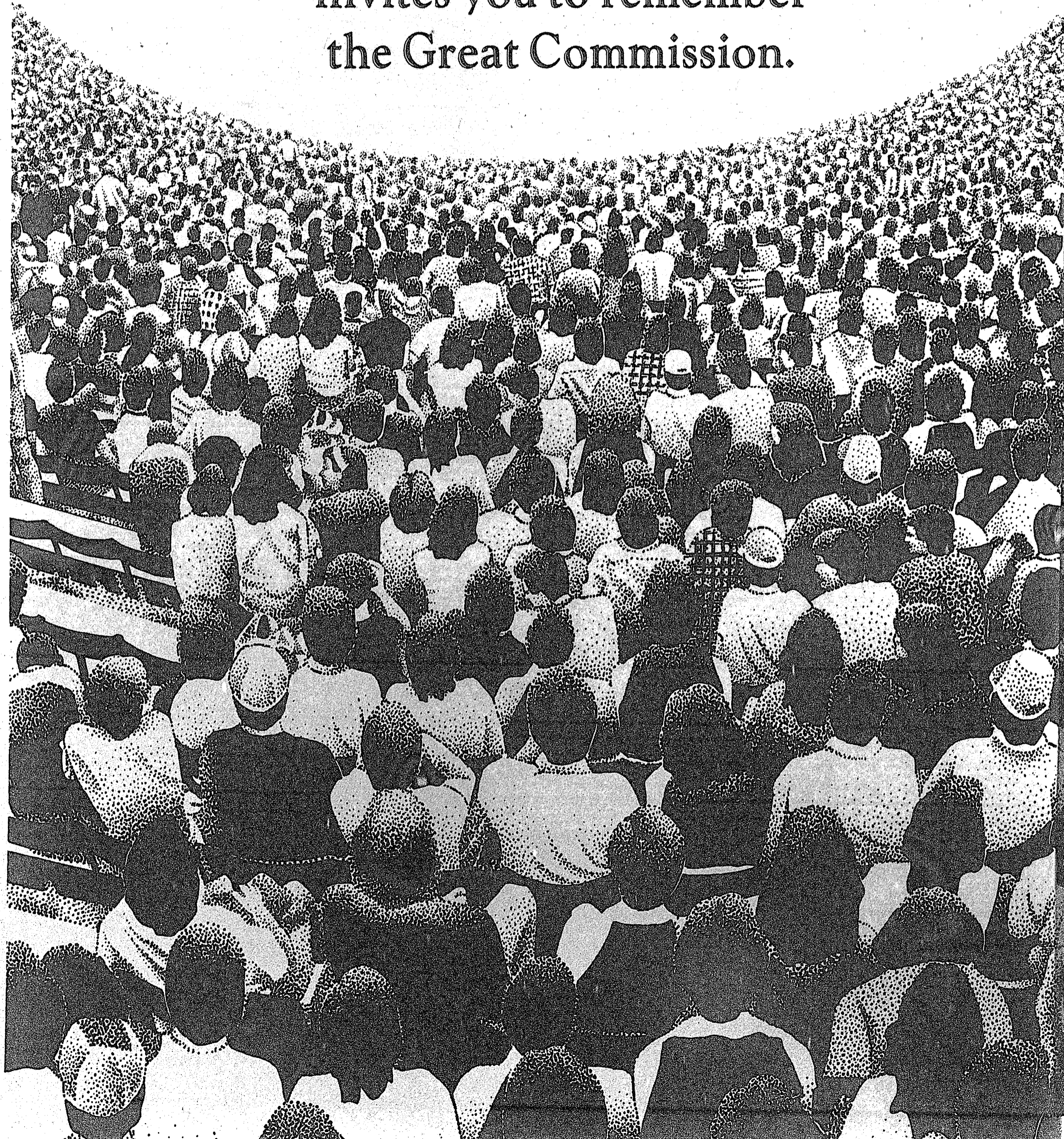


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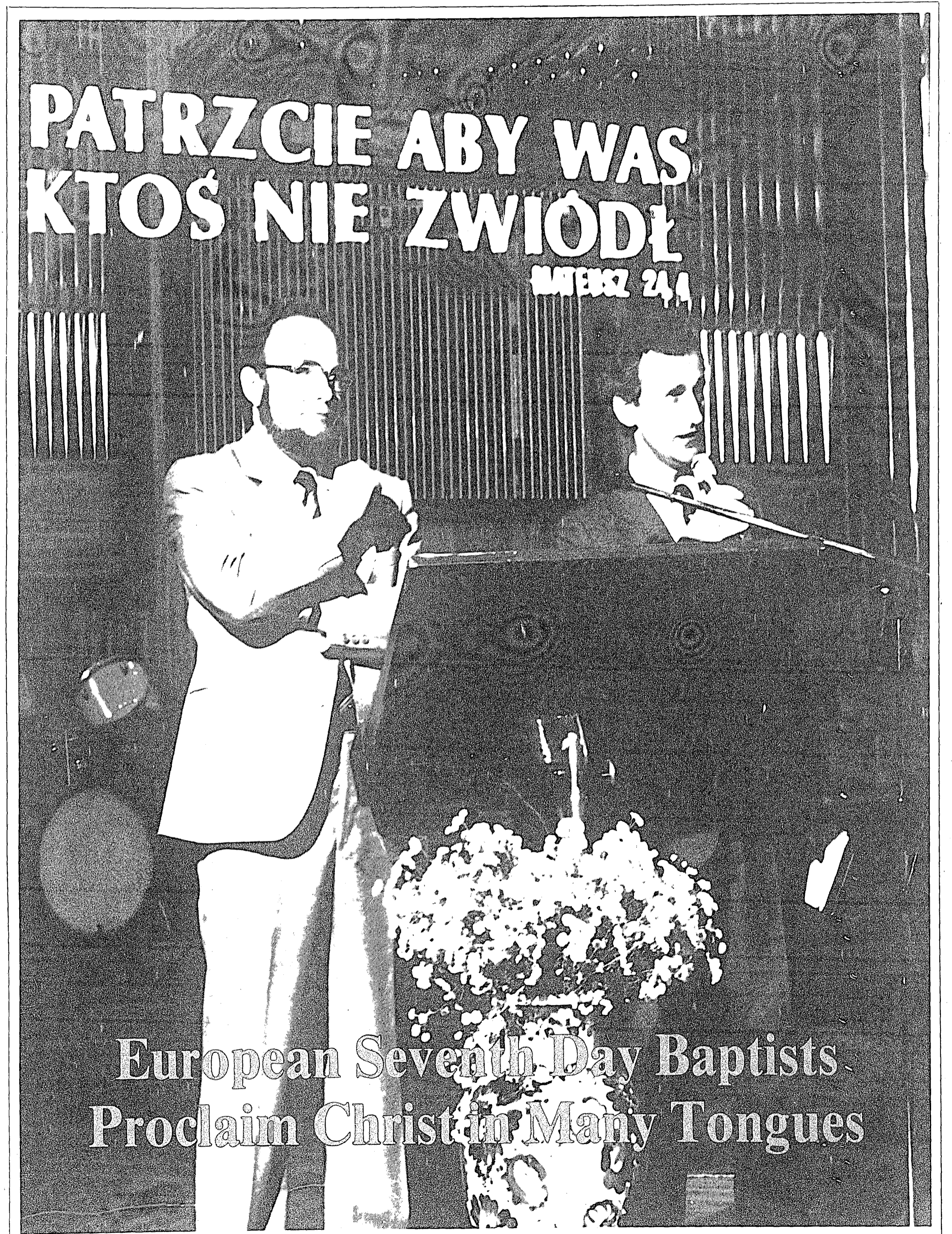
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President Calvin Babcock
invites you to remember
the Great Commission.



October 1984

THE ☆ SEVENTH ☆ DAY ☆ BAPTIST
SABBATH RECORDER

**PATRZCIE ABY WAS
KTOŚ NIE ZWIÓDŁ**
MATK 24,4

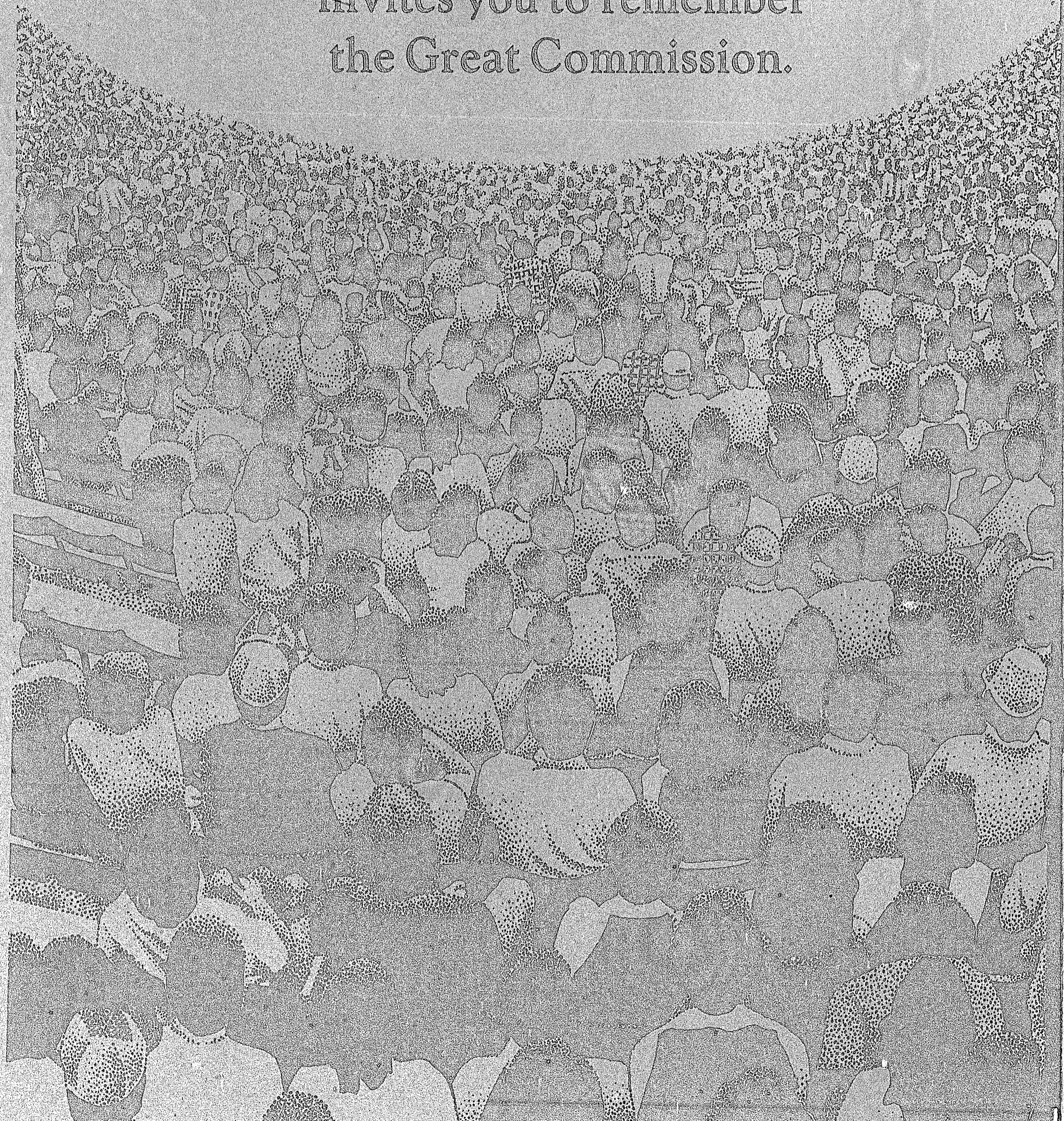


European Seventh Day Baptists
Proclaim Christ in Many Tongues

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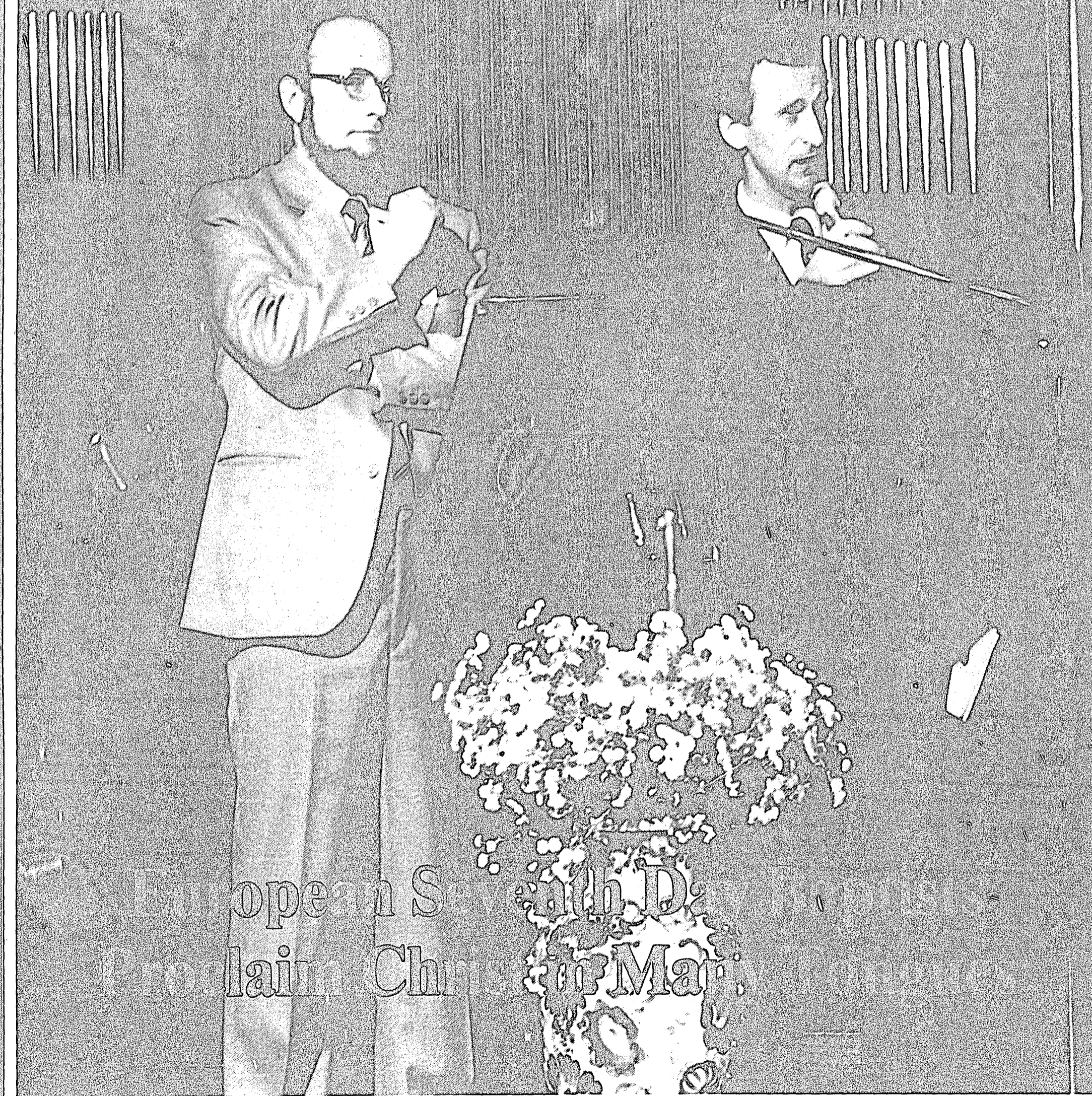
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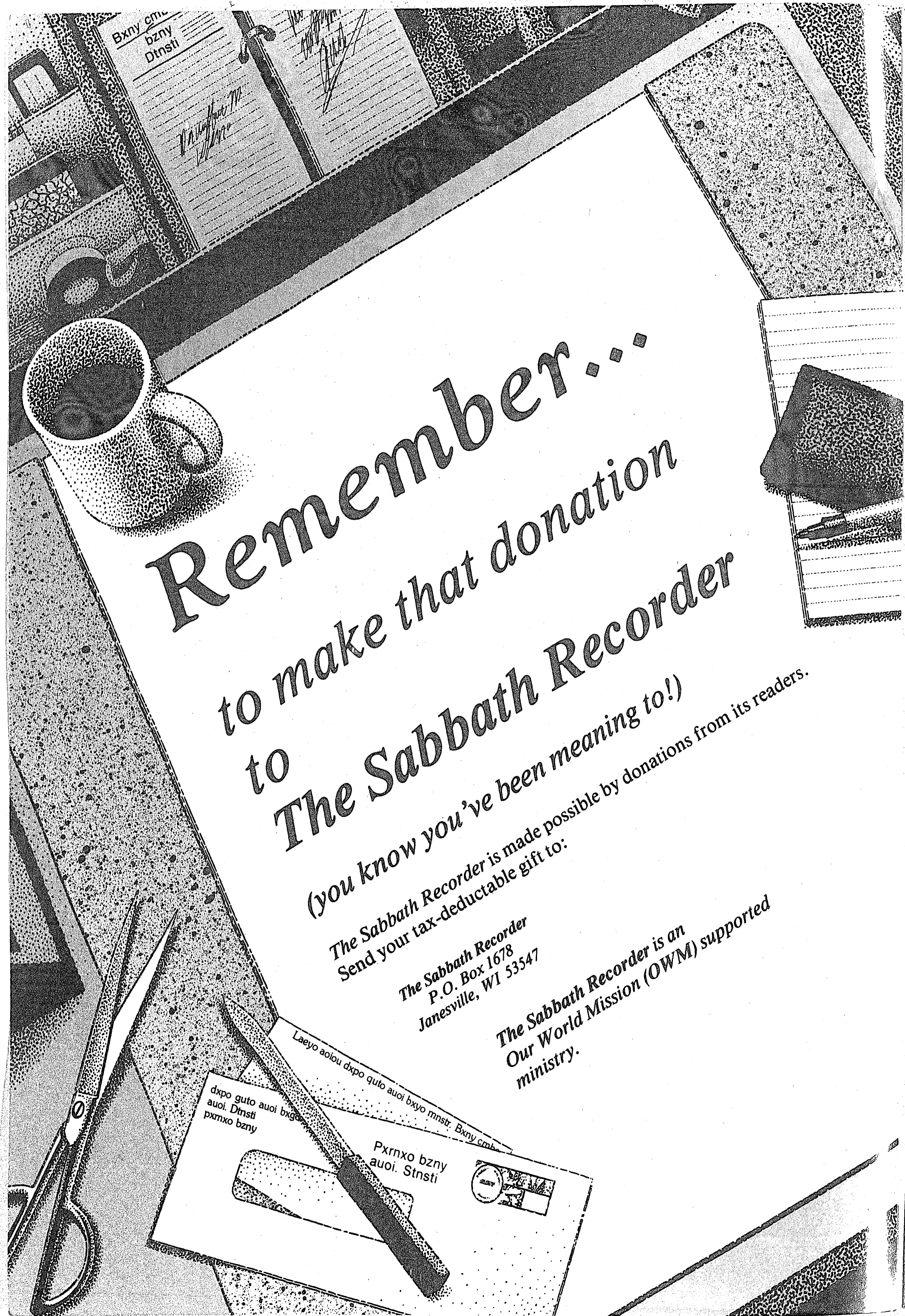
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SABBATH RECORDER

**PATRZCIE ABY WAS
KTOŚ NIE ZWIÓDŁ**
MATEUSZ 24,4



European Seventh Day Baptists
Proclaim Christ in March



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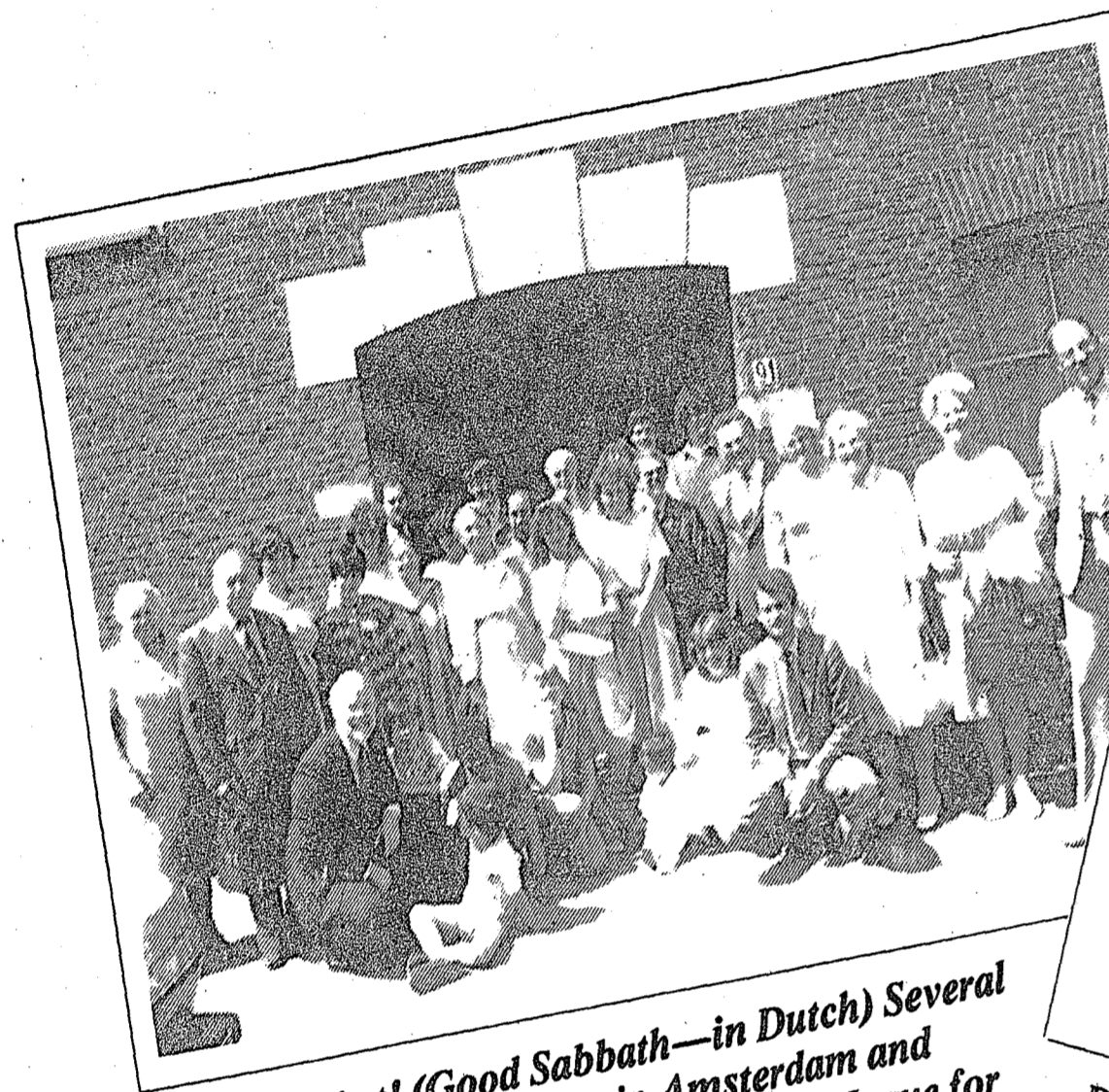
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Cover photo by Janet Thorngate.
President Bronislaw K. Ciesielski (left) and Secretary Stanislaw Kosowski speak to the over 400 people who attended the annual conference of the Sabbath Day Christian Church in Poland, July 13-15 in Bydgoszcz.
The Polish conference was welcomed into the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation during sessions which focused on the theme (above podium): "Watch out that no one deceives you." (Matthew 24:4)

Excerpts from a diary of six good Sabbaths (and several great days between)



Goede Sabbat! (Good Sabbath—in Dutch) Several families from the churches in Amsterdam and Haarlem join with the members in The Hague for a full day of worship and fellowship on June 23, the Thorngate's first Sabbath in Europe.



Representatives from the Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in The Netherlands meet with World Federation Executive Secretary Thorngate to exchange information and discuss specific needs and hopes. Pictured (from left) are Jo, Evert, and Ruel Dijk, all from Amsterdam.

Janet and Dale Thorngate share notes on their visits with Seventh Day Baptists in six European countries—

**Thursday
June 21
Hank
Holland**

Arrived at the home of Jan and Ruth Lek in the charming small town of Hank in southern Holland. Ruth has studied English all year in preparation for our visit. We feel at home here.

**Sabbath
June 23
The Hague
Holland**

During the one-hour drive to church in The Hague we struggled with the gutteral Dutch "G" practicing to say *Goede Sabbat!* ("Good Sabbath" in Dutch) and *Gemeente* (church). It all kind of evaporated as we were engulfed in "many greetings."

John Farenhorst took notes in English for us during the worship service. With his help to find the numbers we could sing in Dutch with the rest. No trouble understanding the music of the Sa-Jo (Sabbath Youth) choir, complete with guitar accompaniment. We invited them to sing at our conference. They'd love to! Wouldn't that be wonderful!

Dale had his first experience preaching with a translator—sentence by sentence. It takes twice as long. Jan seemed to

work hard to get it across, but several people obviously understood the English. We made friends quickly over coffee. After lunch the slides from all 15 conferences in the World Federation were well received. (John F. read in Dutch from our English script.) They wanted to keep the pictures. (We must have duplicate sets made.)

Yet, the real hard work of communication came later in the afternoon at a meeting with some of the officers of the Dutch conference. To talk about plans and techniques for reaching out to new people, to share deepest concerns and highest hopes for God's kingdom, to admit disappointments and frustration, to encourage each other in faithfulness—that takes hard listening. We are glad we will have another Sabbath in Holland.

Along the super highways and across the *polder* to Hank, late. Windmills against the sunset. Jan will go with us across the Channel tomorrow to England.

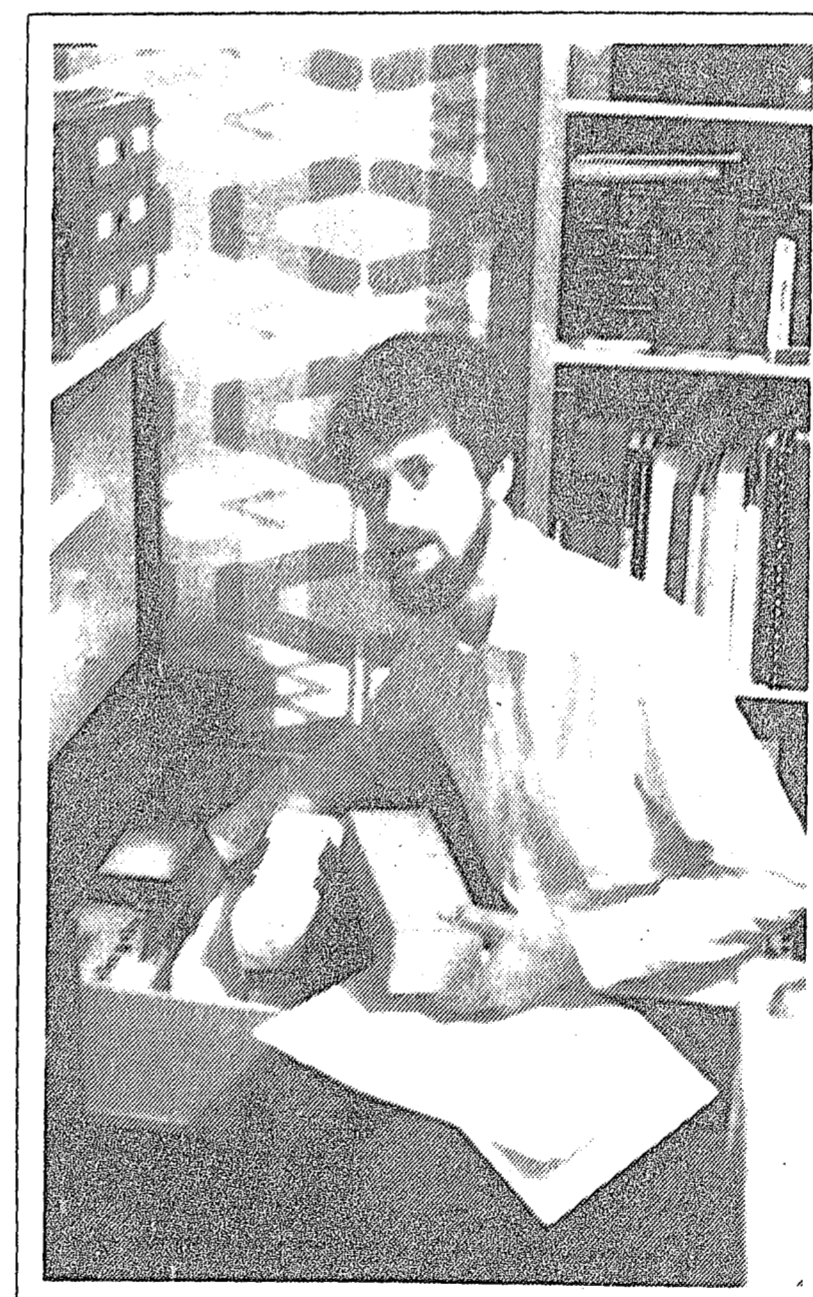
**Wednesday
June 27
Birmingham
England**

Our two days with the church in Birmingham have been full. Last night we met with most of the church members in the home of Enid Codrington in Handsworth, in the house where they first began meeting as a fellowship 20 years ago. It was a time of informal Bible study and open personal sharing of our Christian experience. Some of them were Seventh Day Baptists in Jamaica before they moved here. Some have come to know Christ in this group.

Pastor Owen Lynch has taken time off from his full-time job with a telecommunications company to be with us. This morning he fixed our breakfast after Josset and the three children were off to school. He was ordained in 1980 when

the fellowship became a church and has recently completed a theological training in cross-cultural program at Birmingham University. Besides serving as pastor here, Owen travels to Bristol one Sabbath a month to meet with their daughter fellowship. He is also executive secretary for the British conference.

We visited the newest member, a young nurse from nearby Coventry, and saw the Anglican church where they meet in the Sparkhill section of the city near the homes of the Lynch's and four other families. Tonight's meeting was here in the Lynch's home. Their usual Wednesday night prayer meeting was expanded to include the World Federation slides. They especially enjoyed Jamaica!

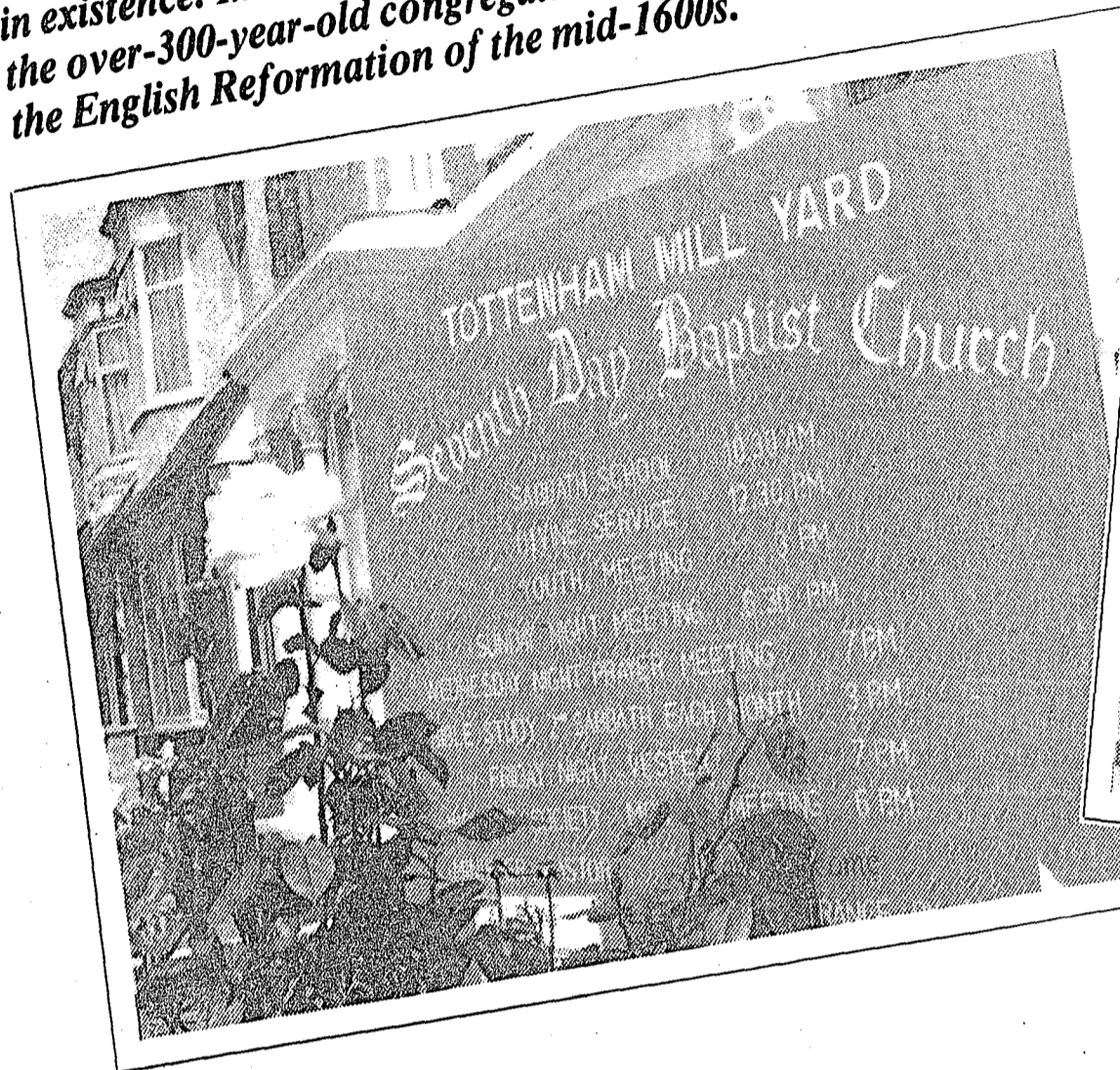


From the small office in his home in Hank, Southern Holland, Jan Lek publishes THE LINK, a contact periodical for European Seventh Day Baptists. All articles are in Dutch, English, and German. Jan's work as a vice president for the World Federation makes of this small room a travel agency, library, mailing center, publishing house, collection depot, and a guest house.

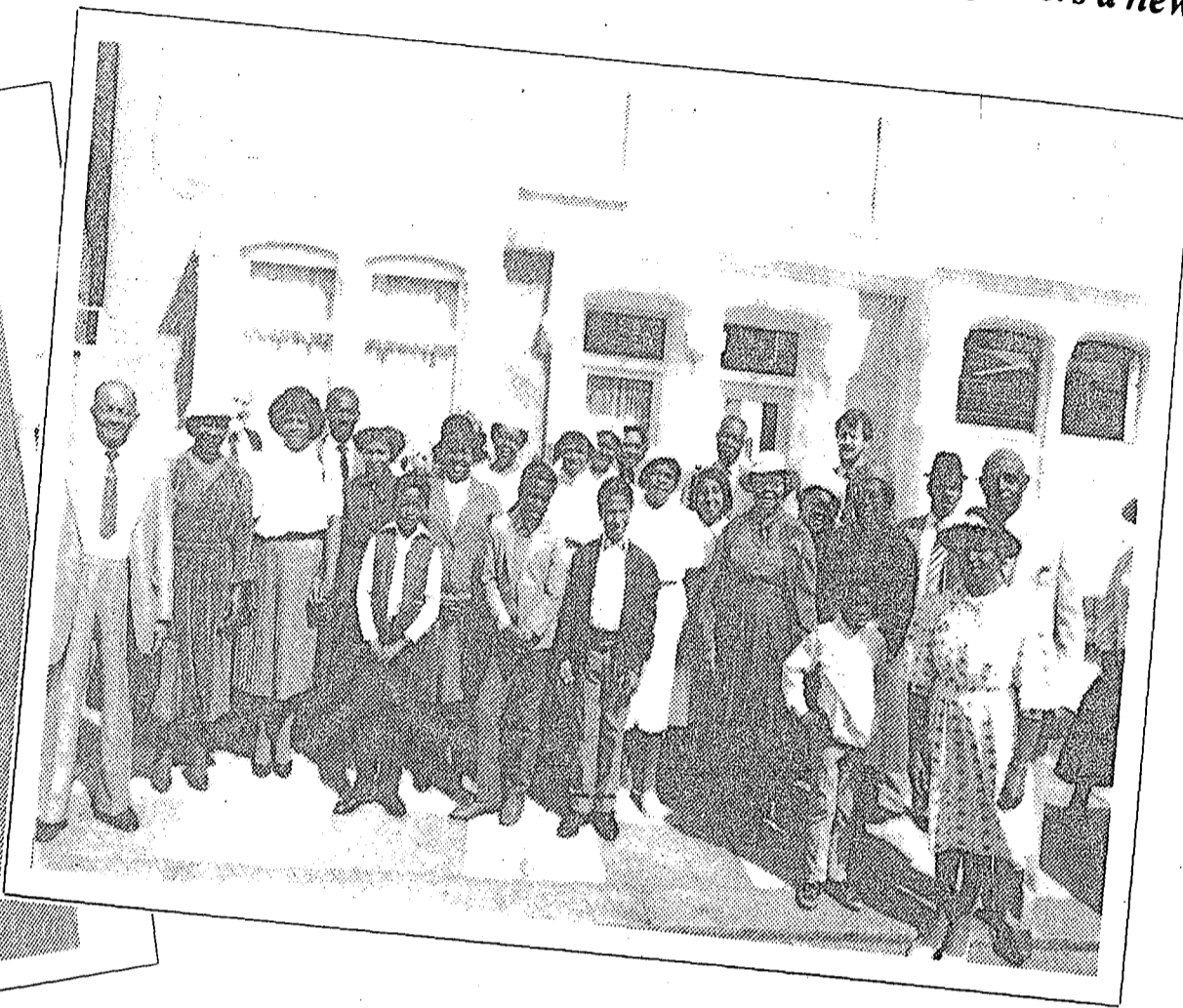


Zevendags-Baptiste, Gemeente (Seventh Day Baptist Church) are the words over the doorway of the church in Haarlem, Holland, the oldest SDB church on the continent (est. 1877). In the doorway are the Hans Sizmanns from Hilden, Germany. Sizmann is international secretary for the Dutch Conference and a World Federation representative.

A bright blue and white sign in the yard of a beautifully re-modeled row house in the Tottenham section of northern London invites visitors to the oldest Seventh Day Baptist church in existence. Immigrants from the West Indies bring new life to the over-300-year-old congregation which traces our heritage to the English Reformation of the mid-1600s.



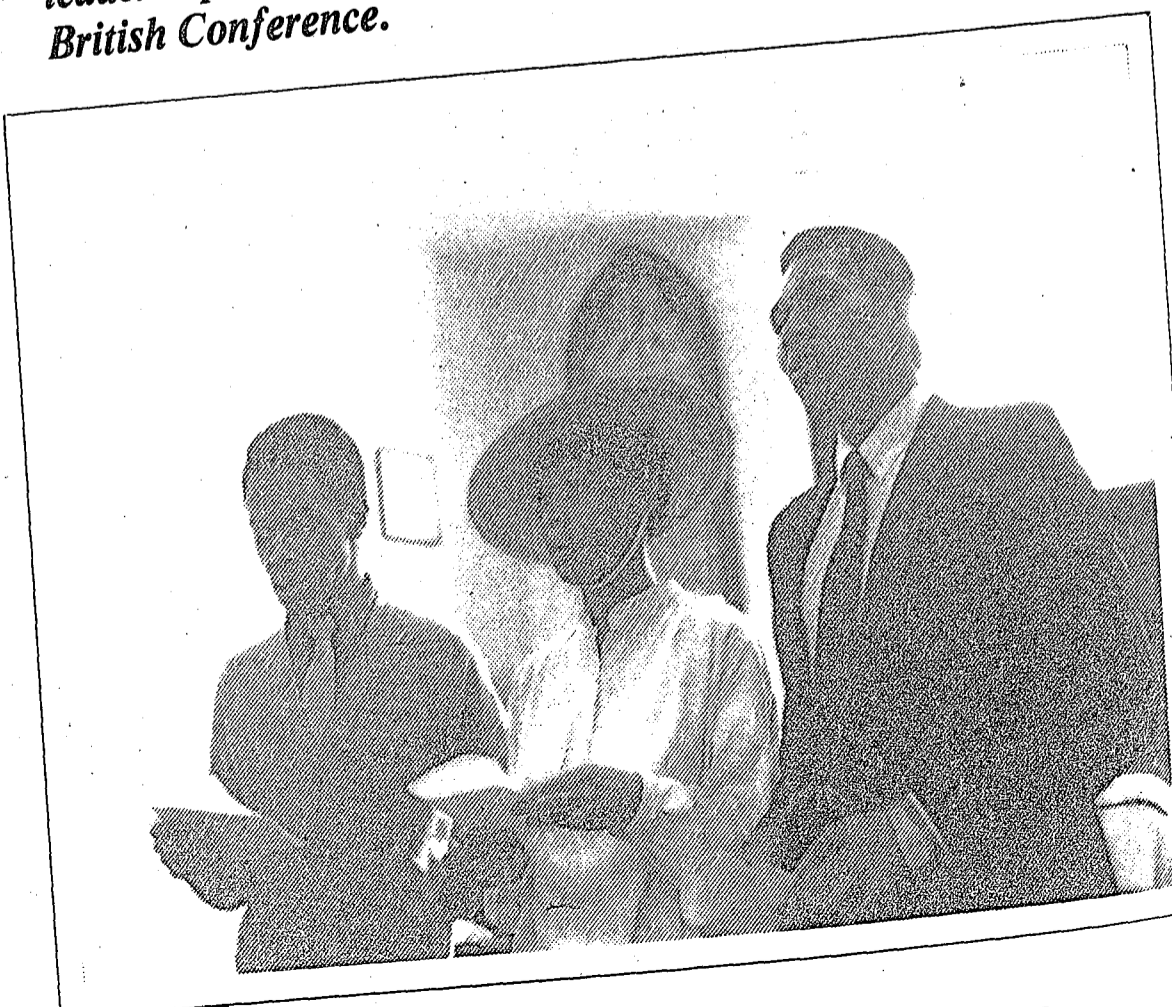
Elder Alborne Peat (far left) pastors the Tottenham congregation and Iris and Egbert Codrington (far right) open their hearts and their home (adjoining the church) to all who will come. Mill Yard has daughter groups in Lewisham and Brixton (South London) just as the church in Birmingham fosters a new group in Bristol.



Friday
July 6
Piikkio
Finland

It was good to begin Sabbath with the people we have spent this last week with. They have prepared us meals in their homes (wonderful Finnish dishes!), taken us blueberry picking, and showed the sites of ancient Turku—and the church where they began meeting two years ago. Now we were ready to read the Bible and share the Lord's supper together. It was in Paula's house out in the country. Afterwards our hosts (and English speakers), Tom and Ritva McElwain and their daughter Kaisla, took us to a tiny ferry boat (for four cars)

Desmond Smith, Marcia Kelley, and Mark Miller lead in worship as the whole congregation attends Mill Yard's Sabbath afternoon youth meeting. Encouragement and opportunity for leadership by the young people predict a bright future for the British Conference.



The Sabbath Recorder

Sabbath
June 30
London
England

We welcomed the Sabbath last night with our hosts Iris and Egbert Codrington. The young people led in Sabbath School opening exercises before division into classes. One of the newer members taught the adults—a lively discussion of the *Helping Hand* lesson. The children came back to recite their Bible verses.

Deacon Smith led us in singing choruses to prepare for worship. The sanctuary, which seats 90, was nearly full. Worship conducted by Elder Alborne Peat was quite formal with Gillian Brooks accompanying the hymns on the organ. Jan led in prayer and Dale gave his challenge to "shine like stars in the universe," (Philippians 2:15)—this time with no translator!

Everyone attended the youth meeting. Music was lively with tamborines and much clapping. The Bible quiz they got Jan and Dale and me involved with included very tricky questions! These kids know their Bible! Ansel and Janet Marshall told us about plans for the first British youth camp to be held this summer. (Other years they have attended the camps in Holland. This time some from The Netherlands will come here.)

Nearly everyone stayed for the slides, and we are charged to deliver many greetings to Finland, Holland, Poland and the USA. While many hurried to catch a bus or the underground, others came to the Codringtons' to stretch further the rich fellowship.



In Turku, Finland, Tom and Ritva McElwain provide unique accompaniment for group singing during Sabbath worship. As the youngest congregation in the international family (organized 1983), Finnish SDBs share with others the joy of expressing their faith in musical praise.

and a drive along a lovely wooded island. At 10:30 p.m. the sun is low in the sky, its soft light glowing across the golden fields of yellow safflowers.

Sabbath
July 7
Turku
Finland

Iloista Sapattia! (Joyous Sabbath, in Finnish). The meeting place for the new congregation in Turku is in a bank on the edge of the city—a light pleasant room where we sat around tables in an open circle. Pastor McElwain welcomed the several visitors who later participated in the usual pattern of each person sharing some Scripture, song, or meditation thoughts from the week's experience. We enjoyed the rich harmony of the hymns accompanied with the portable electronic keyboard and a violin. Tom described the basic covenant and distinctives of the fellowship (for the visitors) and translated Dale's message with seeming ease. (He is fluent in only six languages!)

Most of the visitors stayed for the fellowship meal and some came to the McElwain's apartment for the evening meeting. There we welcomed a new member into the church—a very old lady who told us she is preparing to study Eng-



In a country with a traditionally strong state church, the Seventh Day Baptists in Turku emphasize the significance of an intensely personal relationship to Christ. Each person brings to the Sabbath service thoughts to share from the week's experience and meditation on Scripture.

lish! After the slides from 15 countries they said good-bye with a lovely song in honor of Dale's birthday tomorrow. *Iloista Sapattia!*

Thursday
July 12
Braunschweig
Germany

Yesterday in Hamburg, Lorenz Bruhn and his daughter Carola spent the evening with the Leks and us sharing the desire for a more active SDB witness in Germany. Today the Alfred Melmanns express the same hope. They send the four of us off to Poland with their prayers and financial support for the trip. Although there are only a few SDB families in Germany today, they continue to participate in the larger work through contributions to a number of mission projects.

Sabbath
July 14
Bydgoszcz
Poland

Szczesliwego Sabatu! (Good Sabbath in Polish). We can't quite believe we are here. It was a very long drive across East Germany and Western Poland. We arrived very late last night at the Orbis Hotel where the conference has arranged to entertain us. No problems at the borders. The official invitations from the conference had smoothed the way for special church visit visas obtained at the Polish consulates in America and Holland before we left.

We were seated near the front of the huge auditorium quickly filling up with people of all ages. It seemed much like the Sabbath morning crowd at our own annual conference—a very special dressed-up formality mixed with warm greetings and kisses of long-time friends and the welcomes and introductions of newcomers.

During the opening Bible study led by a dynamic young coal miner, Dale was called out for an interview with the local television station and briefing for the later videotaping

of his welcoming the Sabbath Day Christian Church in Poland into the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. The technicians from the national TV company in Warsaw seemed much interested in the conference. From the opening pipe organ prelude through the day's many sermons, musical

Bronislaw K. Ciesielski, President of the Sabbath Day Christian Church in Poland, speaks to the over 400 people attending the conference sessions in Bydgoszcz. His message emphasizes the conference theme from Mat. 24:4—"Watch out that no one deceives you."

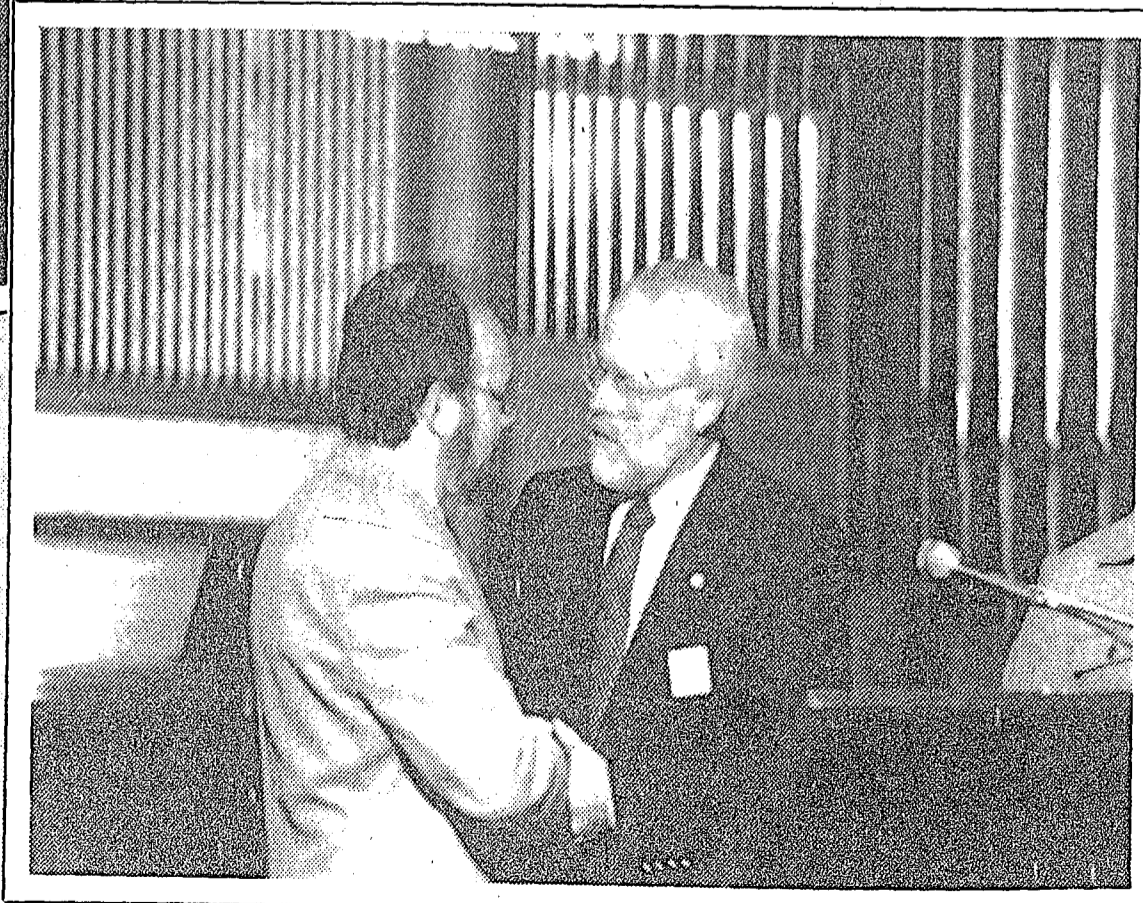


President Ciesielski receives the official welcome of the Sabbath Day Christian Church of Poland into the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. Executive Secretary Thorngate extends greetings from Seventh Day Baptists around the world. A television crew from Warsaw is on hand to film this part of the conference sessions for broadcast on Polish national television.

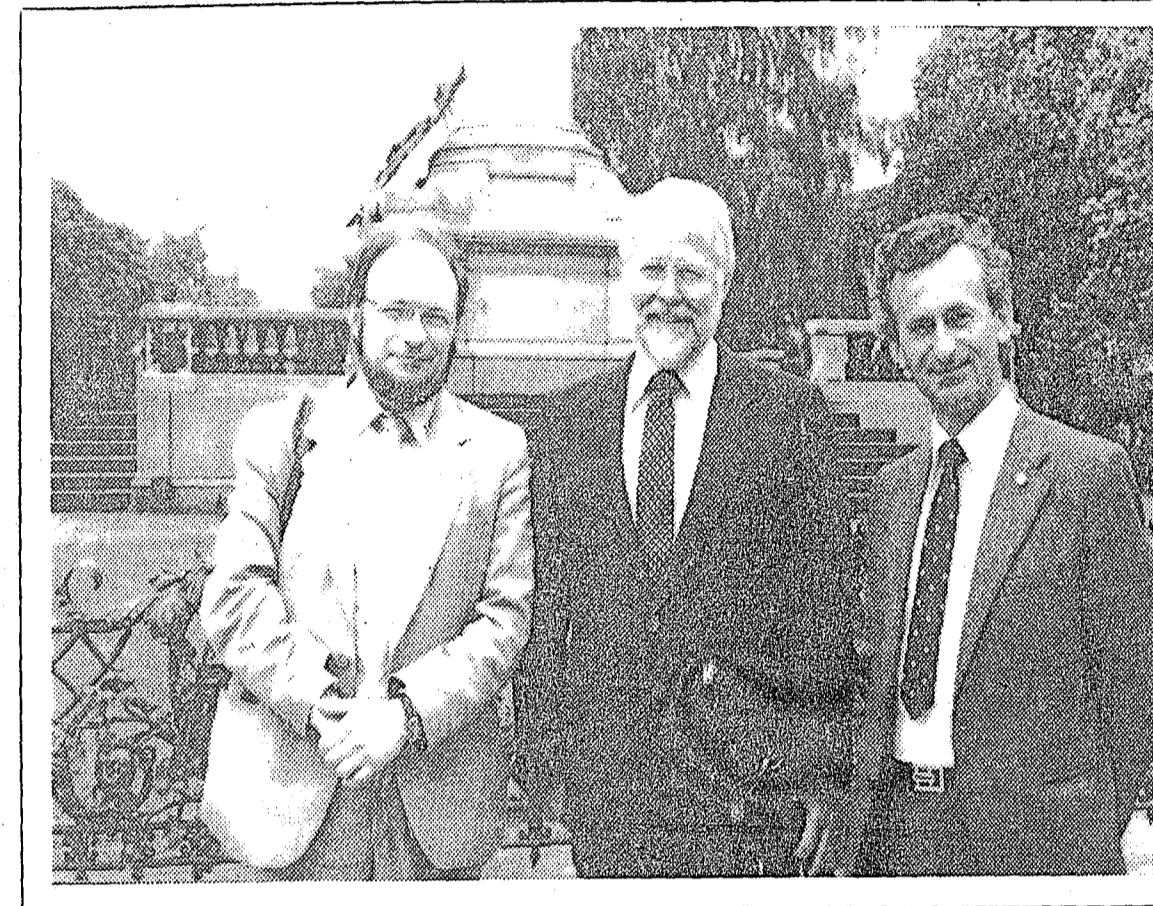
selections, announcements, and group singing, everything seemed to be smoothly coordinated by the officers and the conference pastor, Josef Pilipczyk from Gdansk (in northern Poland) and his assistant, Pastor Emil Stekla from Bielsco-Biala (in the south).

We were much impressed throughout the conference by the active participation of the young people. A musical group of them led out in most of the congregational singing, accompanying with guitars, drums, electronic keyboards and bells. Theirs is an exciting full-of-praise music that we would call *contemporary* and quite professional. Jan and Ruth also sang—in Dutch, German, and English accompanied by Jan's guitar.

We are grateful for our new friends Roman Sypniewaki and Gregor Konneluk, a very new SDB from Warsaw. One sat between us during all the sessions quietly describing in English all that was being said or done. The messages all come from the same Bible. We feel very much one with these Christian brothers and sisters. Fellowship times between sessions are the same everywhere. In this 50-year-old conference there is much *family* but also the excitement of new members and visitors. Near the end many stood up who have requested baptism. *Szczesliwego Sabatu!*

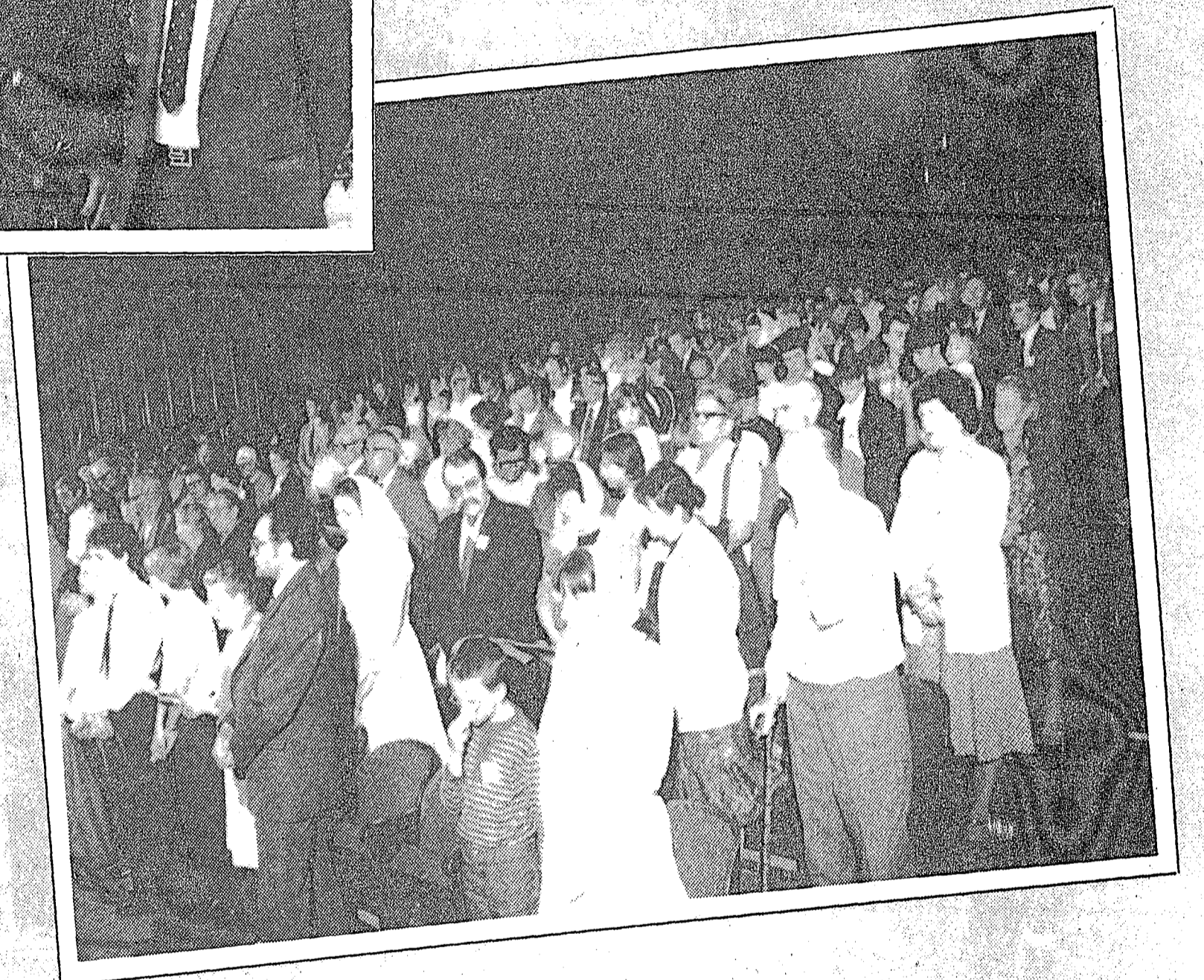


The Sabbath Recorder



Posing near the government buildings in Warsaw, Ciesielski, Thorngate, and Kosowski are pleased with the results of their good-will visit with Tadeusz Dusik, Director of the Department for Non-Roman Catholic Alliances and Churches. It is his office that approves publication of the church's magazine and gives permission for its sale in the book stores.

Between the many sermons and spiritual messages during the two-day Polish conference, the crowd fills Bydgoszcz's beautiful Philharmonia Hall with the music of traditional hymns of the church as well as more modern choruses from the youth hymnbook. There are young and old, some with families, and many visitors who saw the posters or took the Bible correspondence course.



**Tuesday
July 29
Lodz
Poland**

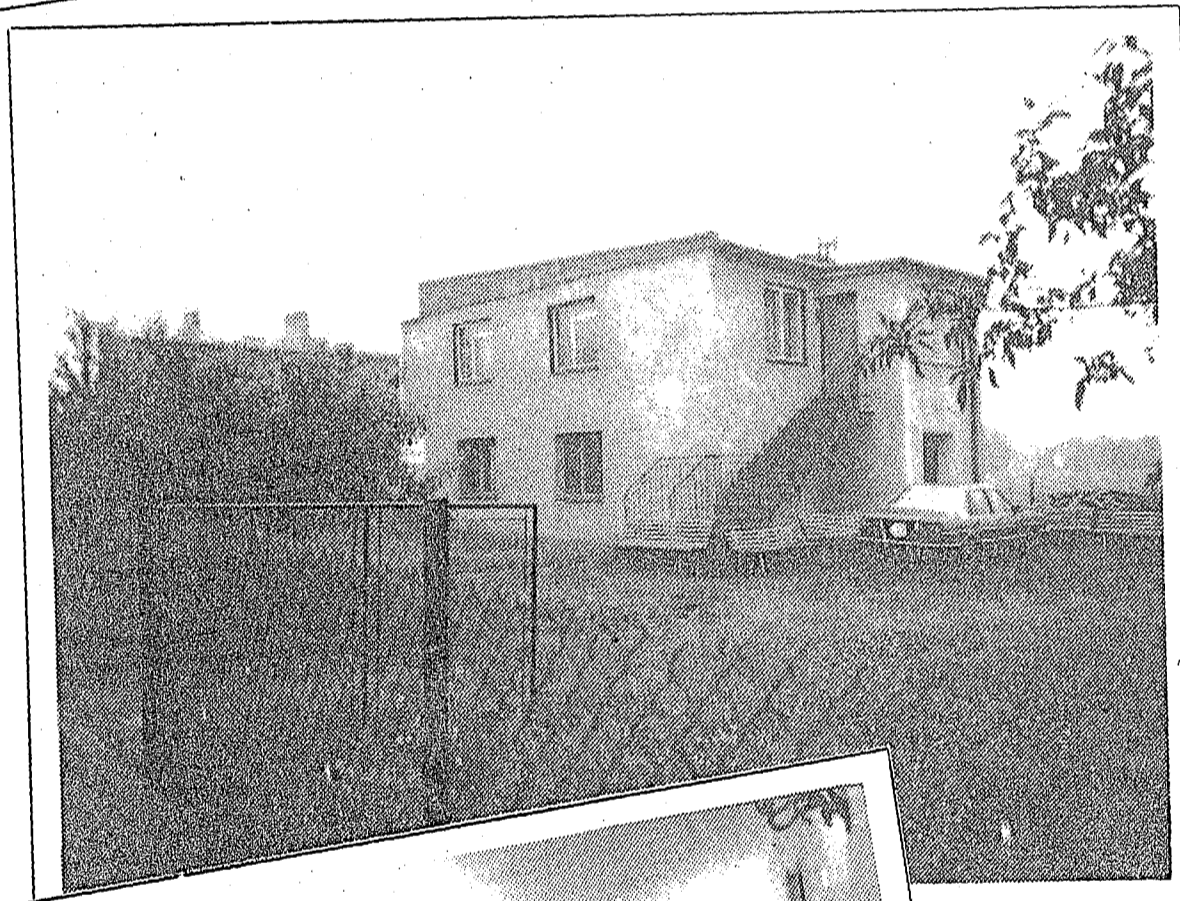
Today we are guests in the Ciesielski's home in Lods after our day in Warsaw yesterday to meet with Tadeusz Dusik, Government Director of Non-Catholic Churches. (He asked our impressions of the conference and questions about Seventh Day Baptists, their history, purposes, and numbers in the world. We asked how this office functions in relationship to churches like ours and about statistics on church membership in Poland. He has been in his office for 16 years and Polish protestants have benefited much from his cooperation. Our time was cordial and informative.) Ciesielski understands English very well and speaks enough for us to learn much from him about the work of the conference. Such memorable times around their table with his wife Dorota and daughters Izabela (6) and Estera (2). Little charmers!

**Wednesday
July 30
Bielsco-Biala
Poland**

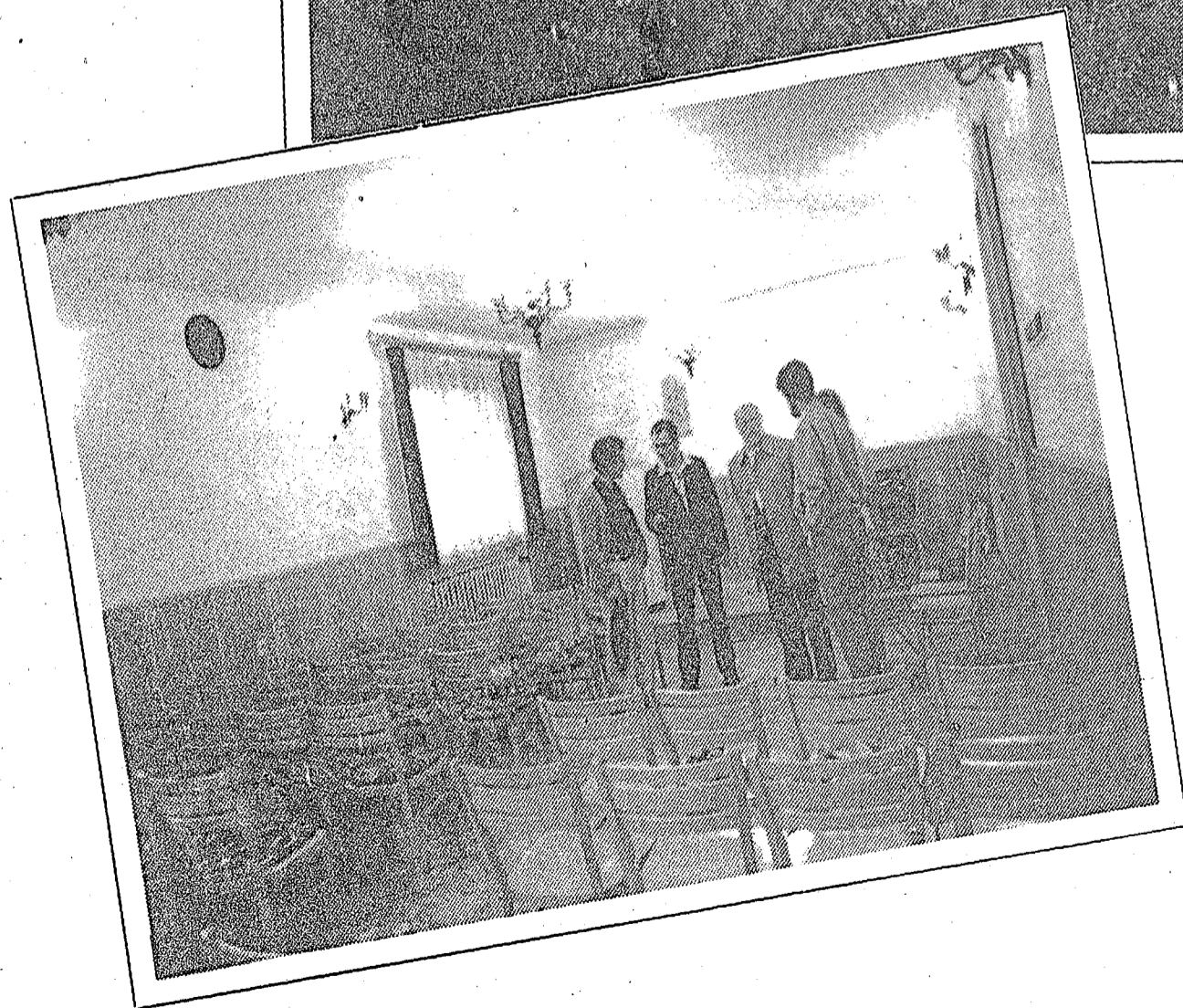
Tonight we are staying with the Kosowski's in their very nice modern apartment. The meeting with the church here went well. Ciesielski translated for the slides after the official interpreter had to leave. The people asked questions about how we do outreach and evangelism work and how young people in America are involved in the church. They wanted to know our impressions of their conference. Later we met with the conference leaders in the headquarters office (part of the church). A view of their publication work and the outreach correspondence course—They are busy and effective! Tomorrow we will visit the church in Gorki and in the home of Pastor Bujok, who is also conference treasurer—then to Kcorzow where brother Wiecek will show us how they do the printing and collating of their paper *Duch Czasow* (Spirit of Times). 2,000 copies are made of each



It takes a long time, even over coffee in Jan Bujok's home, to understand "how our conference works compared to yours." Left to right: Jan Lek (speaking in English and German), Jan Bujok (speaking Polish), Secretary Kosowski (speaking Polish and German), and Executive Secretary Thorngate (listening in English).



Purchased with assistance from many Seventh Day Baptists through the World Federation, the church in Gorki serves a growing congregation in a rural area of Southern Poland near the Czechoslovakia border. Many of the other ten congregations and 30 small groups across the country are located in major cities.



Secretary Kosowski and a deacon from the Gorki church give the visitors a tour of the remodeled building which was formerly a residence. Now it includes a large sanctuary, office, kitchen, and several classrooms.

issue, many sold in the government-operated book stands in several cities. We are sad that Dale could not obtain a visa to visit Czechoslovakia (because of his occupation), but the days are so full! If only we could stay longer with our Polish friends!

**Sabbath
July 21
Haarlem
Holland**

Members from all four of the Netherlands churches came to Haarlem for our last Sabbath with them. Elder Nieuwstraten led in worship with his wife playing the organ and telling the children's story. Dale reported on our trip and Nell Nieuwstraten, secretary for the conference gave a formal response to his challenge to them for continued leadership among SDBs in Europe.

The afternoon included a car caravan sight-seeing in Haarlem and north, then coffee and dinner at the Nieuwstraten's with the Kramers from Leeuwarden and the Sizmans from Hilden. Again they expressed the need for young trained leadership in Western Europe—and the vision for a much stronger Christian witness there. It was very

late as we drove with Jan and Ruth once more back to Hank—sad that tomorrow we must say good-bye.

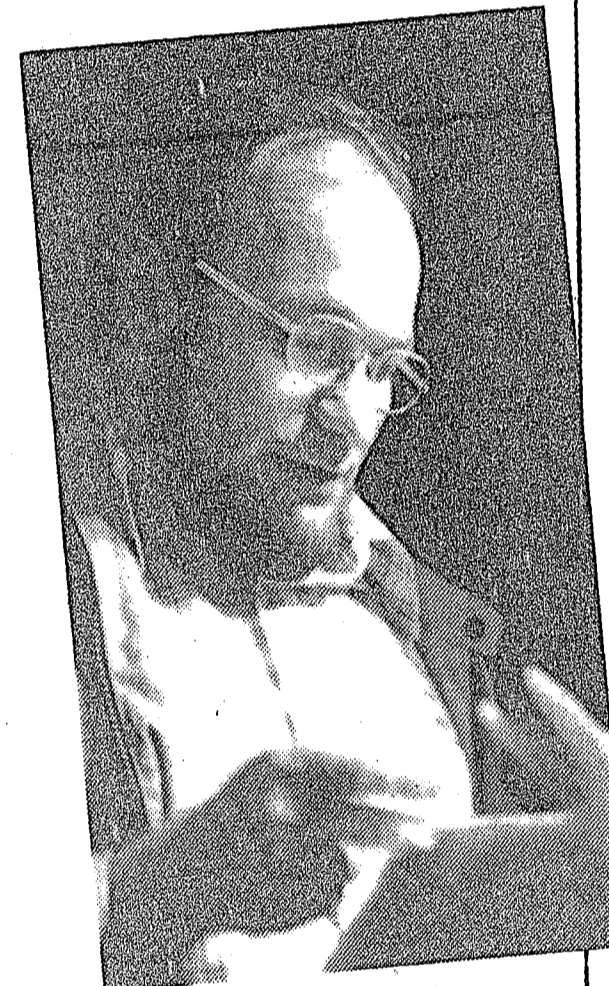
**Sabbath
July 28
Berlin
W. Germany**

It's been kind of lonely this week, after the strong, close friendship of our SDB family, to stretch into the bigger world of all Baptist Christians at the Baptist World Alliance meetings here. Yet we see the common concerns, needs, and dreams and the strength that can come as we share in both the vision and the struggle.

We were blessed when before we could find her, Dorothy Riehle found us in this huge city to show us her photo album of Berlin Seventh Day Baptists through the years. We were blessed when Carl Tiller, BWA representative to the United Nations, met us in the assembly room this morning with a warm "Good Sabbath, Thorngates!" We will be blessed to try to share all this—somehow—with the folks at home.

Many greetings and Good Sabbaths, in Jesus' name! Our lives and our continuing ministry will be immeasurably richer for these Good Sabbaths.

by Janet Thorngate



Bronislaw K. Ciesielski

Kosciol Chrzciscijan Dnia Sobotniego
w Polsce
Sekretariat
UL. Cieszyńska 96
43-300 Bielsko-Biala
Skrytka Pocztowa nr411
Bielsko Biata August 21, 1984



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Seventh Day Christian Church in Poland, desires to express their gratitude for the visit of the Brother and Sister Thorngate, who together with the Brother Lek, were at our Conference in Bydgoszcz and in other places of our country, meeting with many brothers and sisters. We are thankful to God for this visit, for the possibility to get to know and to treat our kind visitors. Each moment is fixed deeply in our memory and will remain there a long time.

This stay had also a historical dimension by official publication of our affiliation to the World Federation SDB, which also has been registered on the documentary film made by the Polish Television. We hope you can purchase this film with English translation.

We are pleased, that we could hear much and see our world family. We are convinced, that we succeed to show our daily life and church life in Poland. But we desired to show more from life of churches, institutions, plans and difficulties. There was too little time. Perhaps some time the occasion will arise for you to come to Poland. We think, that our guests have been informed well—as much as possible—with our work and life.

The meeting with the Government representative allowed an opportunity for you to get to know in what reality we live. But here is to mention, that in religious respect, the present authorities give much freedom. It allows such a small church as ours to develop better and better.

We invite the willing to come to Poland. And all the interested with our work and life please we ask to write to us and willingly we shall write about us something more. Our church can and must grow, to fulfill to the end its mission.

At this occasion, we would like to thank all Country Conferences, which voted for the incorporation of our church into the World Federation. We hope, that the cooperation will develop and deepen.

May God bless you and help you to perform God's will. We desire to ask you for many prayers for the church in Poland and its development.

We shall be thankful, if the Brother Editor will publish our letter in *The Sabbath Recorder*.

In the name the Board of the Church
With great respect and in service to Christ
President of the Church
Bronislaw K. Ciesielski

Przewodniczący Kościoła
Bronislaw K. Ciesielski

October 1984

God's call to leadership

by Dale D. Thorngate,
Executive Secretary

You may remember that a year ago, President Davis encouraged us to read through the Bible. I took him seriously, and I began to read through the Bible again. But this time, it was from a little different perspective. I decided, and I believe that the Lord encouraged me, to look at the Scriptures in light of what he had to say about leadership. As I read through the Scripture this last year, I looked at it specifically considering those people that God chose to lead his people on earth, some of their characteristics and how they accomplished God's work.

I rediscovered that the Bible is a fantastic history book. It reveals that God works through people. In fact, since creation, God has never acted in the world on his own, without people.

I want to take one of these Bible characters to reflect with you some of the things that I learned about leadership. It was difficult to choose, since there are a lot of outstanding Bible personalities. In the Old Testament, I especially liked Moses, but there are Moses, David, Joseph, Noah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Nehemiah. I could have used any one of those. I could have gone to the New Testament and talked about Peter, John, Paul or Timothy.

I decided that I would talk about the apostle Paul; someone that we should all be able to relate to. He alone, besides our Lord Jesus, had more impact on the growth and development of the church than any other human being in the first century. So, let us reflect on his writings and upon him as a character; upon him as one of God's chosen leaders.

Look at Ephesians 3:1-19 in terms of Paul's total life, thinking about the four aspects that I see in the lives of all of God's chosen leaders.

First, God calls and provides a vision to his people. Secondly, he trains these leaders and, third, he empowers them. Fourth, God evaluates their performance. These are the four things that

*God calls and provides
a vision to his people.*

we should reflect on as we read from Ephesians three.

Vision

God calls and gives his leadership vision. Perhaps I should define vision, because I think that it is a significant part of the call. Vision is a supernatural presentation to the mind; a way of seeing or perceiving; an unusual foresight. All of God's chosen leaders have it.

You will remember that Paul was on the road to Damascus, persecuting Christians and he was struck down by a bright light. God intervened in his life. He turned him completely around, after having caused him to be blind, first. God sometimes has to knock us down to get our attention. But, in that process, he was able to give the apostle Paul a vision of what he was to do.

We read that, as a result of this process, Paul understood what had been a mystery to him for all of these years. Now, it was no longer a mystery. He had a vision. I wonder how much of that vision he had. Did he really know that God would get him all the way to Rome and all the churches in between? He *did* know that his ministry was to the gentiles and he lived that out.

Training

The second item is that God trains. Do you remember in studying about the apostle Paul, that he studied under Gamaliel and that he saw himself as a Pharisee of Pharisees? My understanding of his training is that he had the equivalent of a Ph. D. in law. God prepared him. Even before he understood that he was being prepared, he was being trained.

I have a favorite passage about Jethro and Moses in the Old Testament. Remember that Moses had led the children of Israel into the desert. He was sitting out there in the hot sun making critical decisions. His father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit with him and he observed Moses in this very important job.

Jethro was my kind of manager. He did not waste any time. He called Moses over and, in an *on-the-spot* evaluation, he said, "Moses, what you are doing is not good! It's not good for you and it's not good for the people. You're going from morning until dark; you're just as tired as you can be. You'll never last and you are wasting your people's time. They're standing around here waiting for you to make these big decisions." There are many good management principles in the Scriptures.

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Evaluation

The fourth concept, evaluation, may have you wondering. It is one that was difficult for me at first, because, like most of us, I do not like being evaluated. Most of us would rather just go along; do the things we like to do and feel good about everything. Every once in awhile, however, we get caught up in that. Everything can come to a screeching halt because the evaluation process says, "Hey, friend. What you're doing is not good! Remember Moses and Jethro."

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If leadership is defined by followers, then the reason that leaders are great must be because they have great followers.

I shared with you, in my report this morning, that I have done quite a bit of traveling. This year, not only have I been reading the Scripture to look at this idea of leadership, but I have been thinking about it as I traveled. I believe that one of the important keys to growth in our churches is dynamic, creative and effective leadership. Whenever we establish a new church, we need to have that kind of leadership there. Even the churches that have been around for a while need the same kind of leadership. Growth is necessary for all of us.

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God's call to leadership

by Dale D. Thorngate,
Executive Secretary

You may remember that a year ago, President Davis encouraged us to read through the Bible. I took him seriously, and I began to read through the Bible again. But this time, it was from a little different perspective. I decided, and I believe that the Lord encouraged me, to look at the Scriptures in light of what he had to say about leadership. As I read through the Scripture this last year, I looked at it specifically considering those people that God chose to lead his people on earth, some of their characteristics and how they accomplished God's work.

I rediscovered that the Bible is a fantastic history book. It reveals that God works through people. In fact, since creation, God has never acted in the world on his own, without people.

I want to take one of these Bible characters to reflect with you some of the things that I learned about leadership. It was difficult to choose, since there are a lot of outstanding Bible personalities. In the Old Testament, I especially liked Moses, but there are Moses, David, Joseph, Noah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, and Nehemiah. I could have used any one of those. I could have gone to the New Testament and talked about Peter, John, Paul or Timothy.

I decided that I would talk about the apostle Paul; someone that we should all be able to relate to. He alone, besides our Lord Jesus, had more impact on the growth and development of the church than any other human being in the first century. So, let us reflect on his writings and upon him as a character; upon him as one of God's chosen leaders.

Look at Ephesians 3:1-19 in terms of Paul's total life, thinking about the four aspects that I see in the lives of all of God's chosen leaders.

First, God calls and provides a vision to his people. Secondly, he trains these leaders and, third, he empowers them. Fourth, God evaluates their performance. These are the four things that

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we should reflect on as we read from Ephesians three.

Vision

God calls and gives his leadership vision. Perhaps I should define vision, because I think that it is a significant part of the call. Vision is a supernatural presentation to the mind; a way of seeing or perceiving; an unusual foresight. All of God's chosen leaders have it.

You will remember that Paul was on the road to Damascus, persecuting Christians and he was struck down by a bright light. God intervened in his life. He turned him completely around, after having caused him to be blind, first. God sometimes has to knock us down to get our attention. But, in that process, he was able to give the apostle Paul a vision of what he was to do.

We read that, as a result of this process, Paul understood what had been a mystery to him for all of these years. Now, it was no longer a mystery. He had a vision. I wonder how much of that vision he had. Did he really know that God would get him all the way to Rome and all the churches in between? He *did* know that his ministry was to the gentiles and he lived that out.

Training

The second item is that God trains. Do you remember in studying about the apostle Paul, that he studied under Gamaliel and that he saw himself as a Pharisee of Pharisees? My understanding of his training is that he had the equivalent of a Ph. D. in law. God prepared him. Even before he understood that he was being prepared, he was being trained.

I have a favorite passage about Jethro and Moses in the Old Testament. Remember that Moses had led the children of Israel into the desert. He was sitting out there in the hot sun making critical decisions. His father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit with him and he observed Moses in this very important job.

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I believe there are more opportunities today for Seventh Day Baptists to reach out and evangelize this country than ever before. Even back when we were on the frontier, back at the time when we had ten thousand members in this country, we did not have the opportunities that we have

today. The dramatic evidence of the need for strong leadership came across to me even more dramatically when Janet and I were traveling in Europe this summer. I hope that our brothers overseas will forgive me for using them as an example without their opportunity to respond.

I observed in England that leadership is encouraged. Their young people are trained and given opportunities to lead and the church in England is growing. There are new groups. The young people teach Bible studies and lead in the Sabbath Schools. They have a young people's meeting once-a-month on Sabbath afternoon. When they get together the young people have full charge of that meeting. But, everybody is there—all of the membership of the church—all the deacons and the deaconesses. They sit there and they sing songs and clap their hands and encourage those young people. Then, during Sabbath School the young people have leadership positions there as well.

In Germany during World War II, the young people who were being trained to provide leadership for the churches there, were all killed in the war. I think that Janet and I talked to most of the Seventh Day Baptists that are left in Germany. There may be 12 of them and so we probably did not talk to about half of them. The SDB church in Germany is shrinking, and it is because they have no leadership. They have no one there with vision. No

one to whom they can look for leadership.

But in Poland, a place where I expected to go and find repression, poverty and no opportunity for the church because of the fact that they are 95% Roman Catholic, I found just the opposite. Our church in Poland is dynamic and growing. During their conference on Sabbath morning, they had a young man who was probably 25 who led a Bible study for about 400 people. On Sunday their youth pastor from Bielsco Bia, which is their headquarters church, preached. Even though I could not understand the language, I knew that that young man was filled with the spirit and was able to communicate God's word to those people in that congregation. I could watch the electrifying dynamics going on between them. Young people in the Polish church are given opportunity to lead and they work with dynamic, creative pastors who provide opportunity and training for those young people.

I was excited to listen to our young people sing tonight. I always like to preach after they sing, because I feel most inspired. But in the Polish churches, the young people have the same kinds of instruments; guitars and pianos. It was exciting. The music, the harmony and the excitement is electrifying. It was good to see that.

I am pleased to be a part of a conference that also encourages young people. It excites me to see our Pre-

Conference Campers, knowing that a lot of these young people have been in camp already this summer. It is also good to see our Summer Christian Service Corp. develop and grow and provide opportunities for leadership for our young people.

It is good to see that this experience and training is supported by a scholarship program, that our Memorial Fund Trustees have provided, so that there is that transition from high school to college. Then the Council on Ministry picks up and provides a scholarship program for Ministerial training as well.

I believe that our people understand the need for leadership and are providing for it.

What is our role then, as people responding to those whom God calls to leadership? First of all, I think our role is to watch for the vision. The people who have the vision are going to tell you about it. They are going to look for every opportunity to tell you about it. We need to listen and hear them and if you see the vision too, confirm it in them. Because that is just the beginning. Then, we need to continue to provide the opportunity for training, through the educational process that we have discussed and through the experience with older dynamic leaders. We need to give a great deal of encouragement and support to those who would lead God's people.

In that process of confirming and providing opportunity for training, we need to be willing to be followers. When God empowers, if we do not give the opportunity and if we are not willing to be followers, then those empowered people will go somewhere else and we will lose our opportunity to be a Jethro or a Barnabas or a Joshua.

We are called also, to be a part of the evaluation process. One of the things I learned in the Scriptures is that even those whom God called were not perfect. Even after they had been empowered, they had problems. Remember, Moses did not get to the Promised Land, because he was disobedient—even though he may have been one of the greatest leaders of the

people of Israel. Remember that the apostle Paul spent time in jail. And David had some personal problems as well.

We have talked about this process of leadership and confirmation and encouragement and training. We have talked mostly about individuals. But, I believe that Seventh Day Baptists in the 1980's, as a group of people have been called to be leaders. Leaders of God's people around the world. I was sitting there in Berlin, in this beautiful, huge convention center, with all of these other Baptists on Sabbath Day. I realized that Janet and I were the only Seventh Day Baptists—the only Sabbath keeping Baptists in that group. And it came home to me, most vividly, when Dr. Carl Tiller, who is friend of many of us, came to me and said "Good Sabbath, Brother Dale." I was encouraged that, although he was the only one, someone remembered.

Seventh Day Baptists are called, not just to be the only Sabbath keeping Baptists, but to be a growing and a sharing group; a leadership group of people for sharing the blessed Sabbath experience. And not just here in the United States, but around the World as well. God has called us to be leaders in sharing his Kingdom everywhere.

I hope you will pray with me for a clear understanding of God's will, his vision for us and of his call to us as a people. Pray that he will build on the rich training and heritage that we already have, but that he will not allow us to remain confident and comfortable. Pray that he will empower us to share his love in a way that we never have before. Pray that we will be sensitive to his will, that we will always be willing to respond to his evaluation and not wait for a flood, or an earthquake, or a fire. Pray that we will hear his still small voice guiding us to a role of leadership, that role of leadership to which we have been called, in what is left of the 20th century and the future.

I pray that God fills us with his Spirit, that we may truly lead the world in a full and clear understanding in his will for us as a people. Amen. SR

Post Conference notes

Beloit College
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
August 20, 1984
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Green
1328 Ruger Avenue
Janesville, WI 53545

Dear Barbara and Dale:

I am writing to thank you for holding your Conference on the Beloit College campus. Your group was terrific and you certainly showed everyone here that you live your faith.

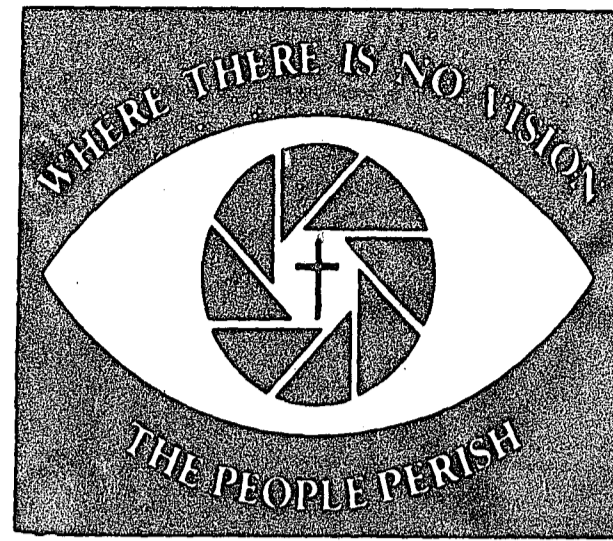
Cordially,
Ed DeGeorge
Conference Director

August 1984
(Message taken during Conference week by Dale Green.)
Operator 22, Poland
Ref. Ch 1304-09
Lodz, Poland

The Christian Seventh Day Church in Poland send all in the Conference a lot of blessings of God. Good health and success in personal and church life. We are one family in love and spirit. Please pray yourself and work for Christ. 1 Cor. 15:5-8

The Board of the Church
B. Ciesielski

We need to give a great deal of encouragement and support to those who would lead God's people.



FOCUS

MISSIONS TODAY

by Leon R. Lawton

Calhoun begins as Extension Pastor

SAN DIEGO, CA: George Calhoun, a student at Bethel Theological Seminary, West, at San Diego, has become the student extension pastor of the San Diego Seventh Day Baptist Church from July 1st. This congregation, organized in 1982, was led by Extension Pastor John Peil who moved on to San Gabriel Valley in 1983 to establish another new church. Meeting in downtown San Diego in the chapel of the University Christian Church, they have ministered to a growing number of families. As they prayed for pastoral leadership, the Lord answered with this young couple who have the calling, skills and experience for the challenging outreach opportunities in this rapidly growing area. Your prayer support is vital in this continuing ministry. **SR**

New contacts in India

KERALA STATE, INDIA: An independent group of Sabbath believers recently wrote, learning of Seventh Day Baptists through earlier correspondence with the General Conference office by a contact letter received from Texas. Pastor K.S. Zachariah has been put in touch with Rev. B. John V. Rao, secretary of the SDB Conference of India and an early meeting is anticipated. At present there are no SDB churches in Kerala affiliated with the India Conference. Pastor Zachariah has written, "There are ample opportunities for the Seventh Day Baptist work in this part of India. There is great need in these last days, of preaching the message among Christians and non-Christians in India." **SR**

Missionary to return for special visit

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA: Former Missionary Rev. Leroy C. Bass and his wife are scheduled to visit Guyana about the first of November in special ministries. It is planned for them to participate in an ordination council, seek to aid the Guyanese brethren in gaining official documents on their church property, and to have special classes for pastors and church leaders. Their visit is sponsored at the request of the Guyana SDB Conference by the Missionary Board. **SR**

Come Alive In 85

COLUMBUS, OHIO: "I am excited about the potential for spiritual and numerical growth in our church as we become more intentional about evangelism and kingdom building. I am prioritizing my role as a pastor to equip the saints for ministry. I look forward to a great harvest of souls for God as we proclaim the good news."

In addition to Pastor Perry L. Cain's report, clerk Roxie Freeman shares, "With a new commitment to COME ALIVE IN 85 a mobilization of our church membership seems to be very eminent. We have a special advantage with several 'new' Christians who are excited about their faith and who are eager to learn how to share the Gospel. ...Many are already experiencing spiritual power and edification through (a) new approach to our Christian Education program. ...We praise the Lord for the new enthusiasm and opportunities that he is providing." **SR**

Institute to be held in Jamaica

KINGSTON, JAMAICA: A Pastor's Institute is planned for October 22-November 4 in Kingston with Dean J. Paul Green and Historian D. Scott Smith leading. This is a ministry supported in part by the Missionary Board, as other special workers sent to Jamaica have been, over the last two decades to meet special needs. **SR**

Memphis continues outreach

MEMPHIS, TN: Missionary Pastor Bill Shoffner reports continuing outreach with a good youth outreach ministry and new contacts. One couple who has been attending regularly has moved to the Blountville, TN area and were very happy to learn there was another SDB church in this location they could attend! It is good to have the opportunity to continue to serve those seeking fellowship with Seventh Day Baptists, even when they move. With their branch church at Springfield, MO becoming a full member of Conference, they already have a new branch they are sponsoring—the new work at Neelyville, MO. **SR**

The Sabbath Recorder

A prayer reminder for each day

November 1984

Verse for the Month: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace..." Phil. 4:6, 7a TLB
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Pray for:

1. Church Extension Pastor George Calhoun, San Diego, Calif.
2. Jamaican History & Polity Institute—exam today
3. the Holy Spirit to fill us, empowering us
4. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
5. Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
6. voters who go to the polls today
7. Church Extension Pastor Bill Shobe, Atlanta, Ga.
8. Faith and Order Committee meetings
9. missionary emphasis, Denver, Colo. SDB church this weekend
10. outreach work of Dorothy Parrott in Hendersonville, N.C.
11. Executive Committee, SDB World Federation, SDB Center
12. Coordinating Leadership Team meeting, SDB Center
13. forgiveness for failure to do the things we should
14. evaluation-planning session, Central Md. SDB Church
15. Pastor Joseph Alegre's work in Australia
16. new group meeting at Stone Mountain, Ga., tomorrow
17. SDB United Relief projects—offering taken today
18. Tract Board's work with publishing ministry
19. Missionaries Rod and Camille Henry, The Philippines
20. Church Extension Pastor Justin Camenga, Portland, Ore.
21. Church Extension Pastor John Peil, San Gabriel Valley, Ca.
22. a spirit of thankfulness in all things
23. college students home for Thanksgiving
24. new branch church (of Denver) meeting in Tucson, Ariz.
25. renewed vision for what your local church can do
26. How to Plant a Church seminar—Pasadena, Calif. (L.R. Lawton)
27. Missioners Leland and Lettie Bond and Florida ministries
28. ecumenical activities—North American Baptist Fellowship
29. a positive spiritual attitude
30. your Sabbath School teacher

Moving?

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

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

Affix your
old mailing label
here

New Address:

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Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Religion in the News

Graham Accepts Soviet Union Invitation

Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 31, 1984—Evangelist Billy Graham has accepted invitations to preach in the Soviet Union from September 9-21, 1984. Although some details of the schedule are still being finalized, his trip is expected to include four major Soviet cities (Moscow, Leningrad, Tallinn, and Novosibirsk), where he will preach in both Baptist and Russian Orthodox churches and cathedrals. The invitations came from the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians—Baptists of the U.S.S.R. and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Mr. Graham arrived in Europe this week following a visit to Korea, where he preached to more than one million people in a single meeting on Sunday, August 19. Before going to Korea he finished three months of Crusades in England, which a prominent Anglican historian called "the most historic three months of evangelism in British history." Mr. Graham and his wife are meeting with members of his staff and advisors for final briefings and preparations for his trip to the Soviet Union.

The decision to accept the Soviet invitations, Mr. Graham stated, was not an easy one. For one thing, Graham's doctors have strongly urged him to cut back on his heavy schedule due to fatigue and a mild attack of phlebitis, for which he is taking medication. Others had suggested the present state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States might make this visit more difficult. "I agonized over this decision as much as any of my entire ministry," Graham stated, "but after much prayer I feel God has opened a rather remarkable and historic door in the Soviet Union

for me to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This will be my primary purpose in going—to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, just as I have done in many other parts of the world throughout my ministry. There will be no restrictions on my message. During my brief visit to the Soviet Union in 1982 I sensed a deep spiritual hunger on the part of many people of all ages."

Mr. Graham's next Crusade will be October 14-21, 1984 in Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. SR

Mail-order church loses status

The Internal Revenue Service has removed the Universal Life Church from the list of tax-exempt religious organizations. The church has been in controversy since it was formed, apparently for the primary purpose of providing tax-exemption for the "ordained" clergy and "churches," many of which have been existent on paper only. The Modesto, California, organization claims to have 11 million members, and an IRS spokesman said that the group has taken multi-millions of dollars in deductions." The group was founded by Kirby J. Hensley in 1962.

The IRS district director in San Francisco said that "those who contribute up to 50% of their income to a facade church in an effort to disguise their taxable income will be audited." The Universal Life Church has often been charged with mail-order ordinations which frequently result in "churches" made up largely of the members of one household. SR

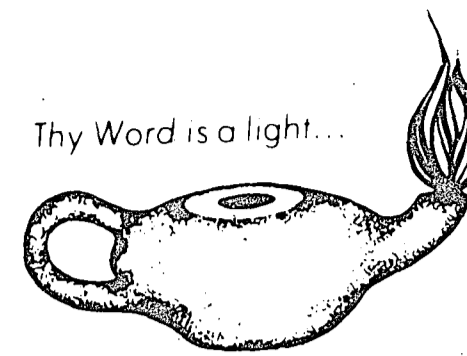
Religious separation a campaign issue

In speeches and statements from both presidential candidates it is clear that the separation of church and state has emerged as a campaign issue.

Mondale has attacked the close relationship between Reagan and several evangelical groups and their leaders. "In America," Mondale said, "our faith has always been intensely personal. It is between the individual and God, between families and their churches and synagogues, with no room for politicians in between."

President Reagan responded that his view of religious values in the national life is no threat. "I'm not seeking to install a state religion in any way," he told reporters.

In recent weeks conservative groups, such as the Reverend Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, have come out strongly on behalf of the Reagan campaign. SR



Thy Word is a light...

Mrs. Mary Clare

Board of Christian Education

Celebrate National Bible Week

November 18-25, 1984

The Laymen's National Bible Committee, Inc. is sponsor of a special week to emphasize the importance of reading the Bible. They are an independent ecumenical group who are supported solely by contributions. Between 1944 and 1983 daily Bible reading by Americans increased 50% (reported by a Gallop survey). The upward trend in Bible reading coincides with the observance of National Bible Week which was started in 1941.

Special persons in governmental agencies have been designated to encourage others in their group to sponsor the week of November 18-25, 1984 as Bible reading week. Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York and Representative Charles O. Whitley of North Carolina are serving as Co-chairmen of the congressional Committee; Hon. Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago, is chairman of the Mayor's committee and Martha Layne Collins, governor of Kentucky is chairman of the governor's committee.

In her acceptance statement, Governor Collins said, "The Holy Bible forms the basis for the very fabric of our society, and the Holy Scriptures permeate every aspect of our nature as creatures of God."

Seventh Day Baptists can urge recognition of the importance of Bible reading through sponsoring one of many possible activities. Ask clergymen of every church in your town to preach a sermon on the importance of the Bible in daily living. Sponsor an essay, art or poster contest using a favorite scripture as the theme. Organize an ecumenical church choir and present a special concert some time during the week. Ask the mayor to proclaim the week of November 18 as National Bible Reading week, have him open or speak at some one of the events.



Alfred held a mini-marathon on Sunday, November 20, 1983 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The organization of the event was relatively simple. Three persons, from two churches, were the "steering" committee. Each of the six churches in the immediate area were

Between 1944 and 1983 daily Bible reading by Americans increased 50%...

invited to provide readers at a specified time, they were given specific Scriptures so that they could become familiar with the selection they would be reading. The preparation such as getting the site, the sound system, lectern, chairs, etc. was parceled

among the committee and was not a burden to any one person.

At the debriefing each person who read agreed that it was a rewarding experience, and should be done again.

The packet provided by the national committee explains how to organize a marathon and divides the whole Bible into sections which take approximately 15 minutes to read. You are urged to take this opportunity to reach persons who may never have read or heard any portion of the Bible.

The packet also includes samples of a special National Bible Week Bookmark, 1985 Daily Bible Reading Guide and the "Consumer's Guide to Buying a Bible" as well as "Planning and Leading Bible Study" published by the United Church of Christ and "Discovery is the Word" an article by Dorothy Mann.

To obtain a free Bible Week Materials Packet write: Laymen's National Bible Committee, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. SR

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Building family unity

Some "Do's"

1. Schedule family meetings regularly, otherwise the children won't trust the process.
2. Schedule them at the most convenient time for all members of the family.
3. Make the agenda available to everyone (having a piece of paper posted where everyone can see it to write items on helps considerably; otherwise children often forget what they want to discuss).
4. Include agenda items that involve family plans, family fun events, family service opportunities; don't limit the agenda to problems or conflicts only.
5. Start the family meeting with family worship (a song, prayer and Scripture reading), end with a special dessert, a family game, a trip to the ice cream store).
6. Rotate leadership, so that children get a chance to develop their leadership skills.
7. Be sure that decisions are clear, tasks are assigned, consequences are identified when necessary and that there is a time to evaluate how well a particular solution is working.
8. Give everyone a chance to speak; help less verbal members of the family get their points across.
9. Whenever possible, consider the children's agenda items

- early in the meeting, so that they experience the process working for them.
10. *Keep your sense of humor* no matter what happens.

Some "Don'ts"

1. Don't try to cover too many items at one meeting. If some family member(s) are having a hard time staying with the process, consider continuing the meeting at another time.
2. Don't vote on possible solutions; try to come to a consensus; if that isn't possible at the time, carry the item over to the next meeting. Sometimes it works to ask a lone "hold-out" on a decision if they would be willing to go along with what the others propose for a limited amount of time and then evaluate it.
3. Don't always settle on the first solution proposed; brainstorm alternatives before deciding on one.
4. As adults, don't always be the first to speak to an item and don't criticize brainstormed possibilities or the language the children might use unless it is hurtful to others; strong feelings need to be expressed.

Adapted—Parenting for Peace & Justice SR

1984 Conference Highlights

Beloit, Wisconsin
Leland Davis, President
Aug. 5-11, 1984
Theme: *Building the Body of Christ*

- ✓ 60 churches represented—579 delegates registered—620 in church Sabbath Day.
- ✓ Dedication of the new Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville with total debt paid or pledged to be paid before the end of 1984. (PTL!)
- ✓ Richard Dobbins film series: "Building Families That Last" in 6 parts with open discussion following film—"Love & Affection (Parts I & II), Cooperation, Communication, Discipline, and Forgiveness."
- ✓ Playlet by Nancy May, "Dear Sisters of the Faith," drawing out numerous highlights and humorous anecdotes in the development of the Women's Board over the past 100 years.
- ✓ 41 attended Youth Pre-Con at Camp Wakonda directed by Larry Graffius. 16 attended Young Adult at Camp Holston directed by John Camenga.
- ✓ Alton and Ethel's presence and participation—Alton in Sabbath morning service.
- ✓ Book of greetings for Pastor Duane Davis. Pictures of him with walker and in car.
- ✓ Women's Banquet with many in costume circa 1884 celebrating Board's 100th Anniversary.

- ✓ Slides of Dale and Janet Thorngate's European visit to the churches.
- ✓ 90+ former SCSCers attended 20th Anniversary SCSC Banquet. Over 270 have served.
- ✓ Rev. Bill Shobe (Atlanta) accredited.
- ✓ 4 new churches—Madison, WI; San Gabriel Valley, CA; Springfield, MO; Wichita Falls, TX.
- ✓ Robe of Achievement to Helen Waite (Connie Coon and Barbara Barber's mother).
- ✓ Recognition of Daytona Beach Sabbath School class for Bible memorization; Recognition of Mary Clare for her years of service to the Board of Christian Education; Recognition of Mynor Soper for 15 years of service to the Missionary Society; Recognition of Ministers having given extended years of service; Recognition of Evangelism Explosion participants; Recognition of Summer Christian Service Corps participants; Recognition of Jim Jacob for dedicated service in the nursery.
- ✓ Rev. Marion Van Horn was awarded the gold headed cane.
- ✓ "Growingest Church" award to Houston—36% membership increase.
- ✓ Rev. Ernest K. Bee, new executive of Board of Christian Education.
- ✓ Conference Choir Sabbath Eve concert directed by Ann Williams and the variety of great music all week.
- ✓ All the new faces at Conference. Seeing the Ministerial Students! & on & on & on. . . SR

The Sabbath Recorder

The children's page Something special

children's

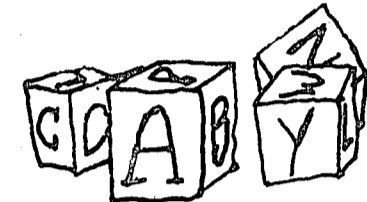


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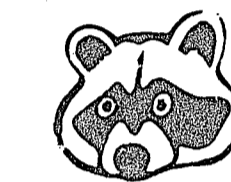
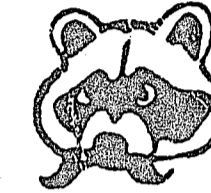
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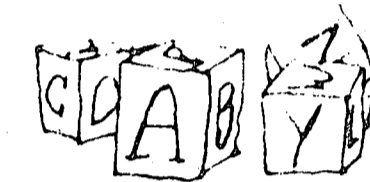
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Racco's Dad

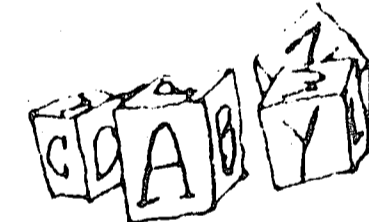


was playing with his A B C

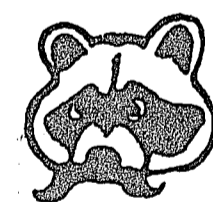


tried to stack the  up high. The stack would fall over

every time it was 5  high. So  stacked his



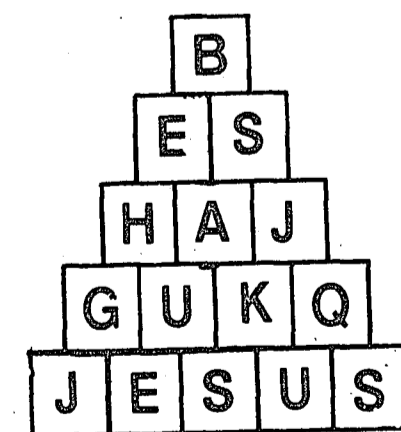
a different way and they stayed standing. When

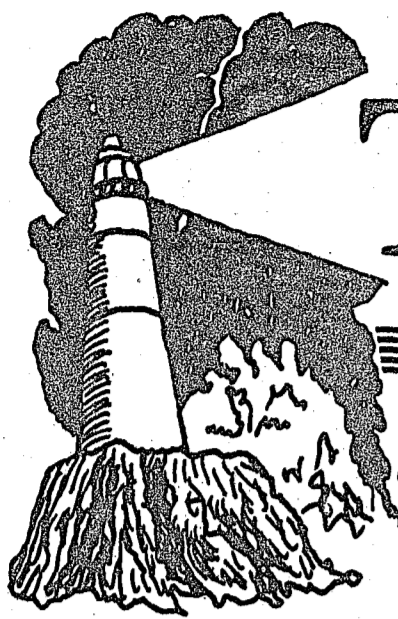


came home he saw something special about the



. Can you see what was special?





THE BEACON

Produced by the Youth Ministries Committee of the Board of Christian Education, Alfred, NY 14802

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

October 1984

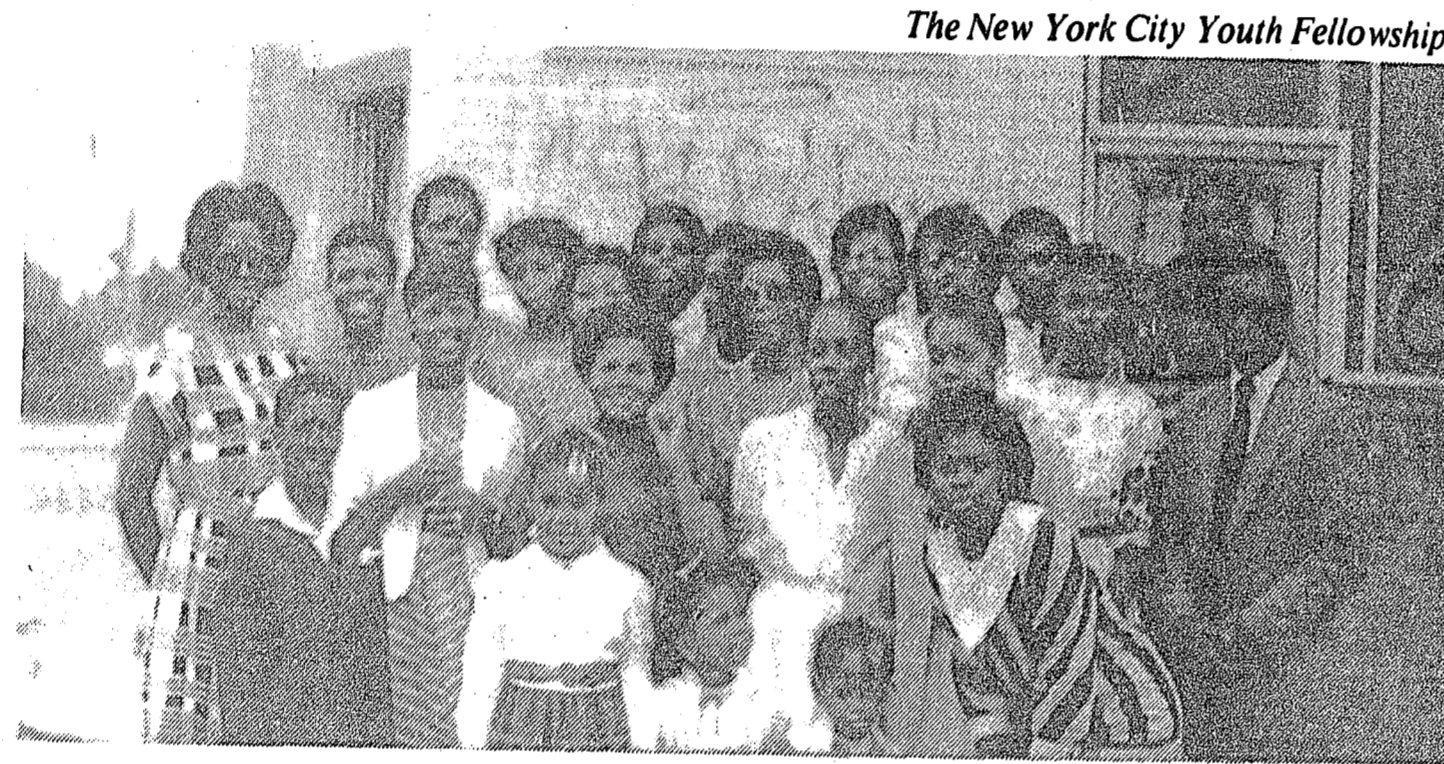
Talents for Christ Festival is held

by Andrew Samuels

The Youth Fellowship held its first annual inter-house Talents For Christ Festival on September 1, 1984. The two houses within the fellowship, Samson and Gideon, competed for the top honors in seven different areas.

In the female solo area, Diane McKie of Samson emerged victorious over Pauline James of Gideon. In the next category, the Samsonites continued to display their strength as their elocutionist, Kay Samuels proved too much for Gideon's Pheona Radcliffe. Gideon however, was not to be outdone, so in the duet category, Dawn Comrie and Erica Radcliffe were winners over Othneil Murphy and Shevaughn James of Samson.

The teen speaking area was next, and in this category, Gideon's Fay McKie lost to Samson's Andrew Samuels. In the male solo category, Ericessen Astley Cooper Jr. of Samson did a very brilliant rendition but was still not good enough to defeat Gideon's Samuel Murphy. The instrumental was very evenly matched and after two



The New York City Youth Fellowship

excellent performances, Othneil Murphy of Samson narrowly edged out his brother, Norman Murphy of Gideon. Gideon then won the final area which was choral speaking.

Our judges were Winsome Wright, Diane Brown and Pastor Henry Grant. All in all, the competition was very rewarding and helped to confirm the fact that the Lord has given us many talents and we need to use them all to His glory. SR

Thanksgiving service

by Jacqueline and Sandra Henry

On Sabbath, June 23, the fellowship held a Thanksgiving service for the life of one of its former members, Marcia Henry, who passed away on June 19, 1983. The remembrance was done by one of her school mates and items were rendered by our youth choir and a group from the fellowship called The New Inspiration. Sister E.R. Comrie recited a poem and Dawn Comrie read a tribute entitled "She Walked With God."

A memorial plaque, donated by the fellowship, was presented to Marcia's mother, Sister Rose Henry. The message for the afternoon was brought by our President, Brother Andrew Samuels, whose text was from Hebrews 11. He encouraged the congregation to emulate the lives of the saints recorded in Hebrews 11.

We pay special tribute to our dear sister Marcia and give thanks to God for her short but exemplary life. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

Youth choir activities reported

by Pauline James

Our youth choir, although having a relatively short history, has distinguished itself whenever called upon to perform. Our theme "We Will Sing Till The Power Of The Lord Come Down," expresses our main objective. Under the directorship of Sister Pauline James, we have been privileged to perform at Eastern Association in Plainfield, New Jersey in May 1982, at the Youth Emphasis Day of the 22 Remnant Seventh Day Church of God

in Philadelphia, at the first Missionary service held at the Ambler Seventh Day Baptist Church and the 1983 session of our General Conference at Houghton College in New York.

Presently the choir has approximately 20 members. Our organists are Sister Pearl Cooper and Brother Othneil Murphy (former member of Seventh Day Baptist Lightbearers for Christ) who is also our assistant Director. SR

Sports was summer highlight

by Dawn A. Comrie

For our Fellowship, the highlight of the summer was our weekly athletic competition. There were two teams, Team one, captained by Ericessen Astley Cooper Jr. and Team two, captained by Wayne Powell. After a hectic season of strong competition, Team one emerged victors with a total of 377 points, while Team two ended up with 339 points. Some of our events included, 50M., 100M., 200M., 400M., and 4x 100M. relay.

Most outstanding male athlete for Team one was Norman Murphy who gained 52 points and their outstanding female athlete was Michele Radcliffe who accumulated 67 points. For Team two the most outstanding male athlete was Andrew Samuels with 52 points

and the most outstanding female athlete was Shevaughn James with a total of 68 points.

Medals will be presented to first and second places of all individual races. SR

Giving Quiz

by Pauline James

Fill in the missing word;

- 1) Give him thine _____
- 2) Give to the _____
- 3) Give the _____
- 4) Give to him that _____
- 5) Give myself unto _____

Answers in this issue! Can you find them?

Meet the officers

The following is a list of our officers for 1984:

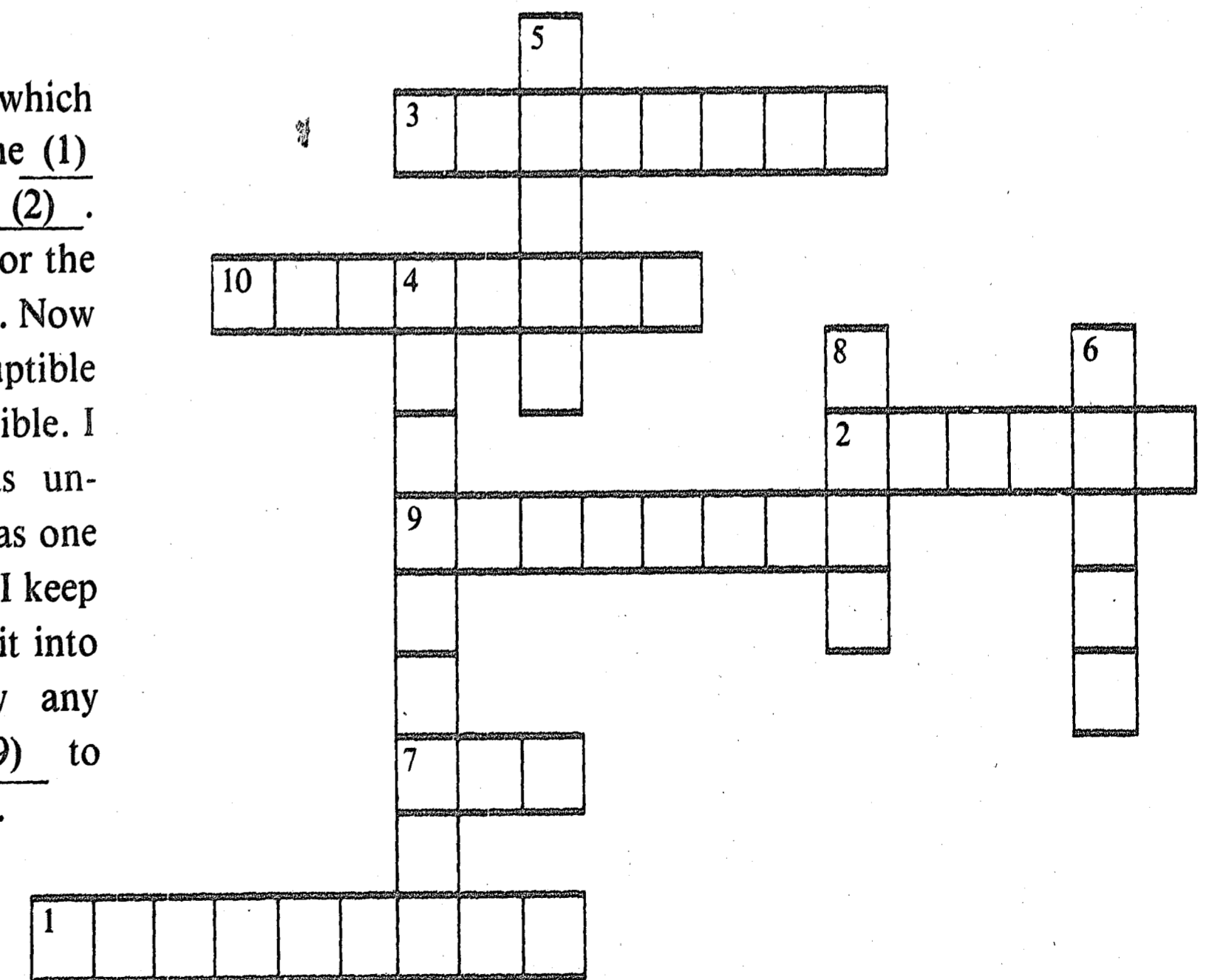
- President: Andrew Samuels
 Vice-President: Tyrone Walsh
 Secretary: Lavern Walsh
 Assistant Secretary: Shevaughn James
 Treasurer: Erica Radcliffe
 Assistant Treasurer: Karlene Virgo
 Choir Director: Pauline James
 Assistant Choir Director: Othneil Murphy
 House Leaders: Samson: Ericessen Astley Cooper Jr. and Avis Roberts.
 Gideon: Samuel Murphy and Dawn A. Comrie.

Crossword Puzzle—Theme Verse

First Corinthians 9:24-27 (KJV)

by Karen Johnson

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one (1) the prize? So run that ye (2). And every man that (3) for the mastery is (4) in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible (5); but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so (6), I, not as one that beateth the (7): But I keep under my (8) and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have (9) to others, I myself be a (10).



Prepared by The New York City Youth



Women's Board presents playlet

One of the most entertaining events during Conference was the playlet "Dear Sisters of the Faith" presented by the Women's Board in celebration of their 100th birthday. Researched and written by Mrs. Nancy May, the play featured two groups of ladies in 19th century costume: the Women's Board (portrayed by Jean Davis, Althea Rood and Yvonne Stephan) were meeting around a table while a "typical" ladies aid group (Lorna Austin, Meleta Babcock,

Hope Bevis, Nancy May, Iris Maltby and Norma Rudert) stitched diligently on a quilt.

Quotations from actual Board correspondence and reports were read by its members in chronological order with bits and pieces of "back home" conversation interspersed from the quilters.

The opening scene was an 1814 meeting of the Female Mite Society discussing their dues of a penny a week and the price of a quilt. "If a quilt is priced by its thread, this one should

bring \$2.75. Maybe we can buy the pastor a new shirt, or at least a collar."

In 1884 the Tract Society suggested that a Women's Executive Board be appointed by the General Conference to raise funds. This was adopted by Conference that year at Lost Creek, VA, with the further suggestion that each country lady donate proceeds from the sale of one egg to this Women's Executive Board.

Back home discussion had shifted

slightly from the pastor's shirt to furnishing the church building. The final unanimous analysis: "We'll have to ask the men for permission."

Through the ensuing years the Board became increasingly involved in missions: "care" packages and support for Susie Burdick were sent to China in the late '80's. In Africa, an annual donation of \$12.00 provided for 50 girls in the '90's. In 1911 the Board requested \$2300 from the local societies to help the Missionary Society keep Dr. Grace Crandall and Anna West on the field in China; and in the '40's a box of 353 articles (many "unmentionable" on these pages) was sent to Russian women and children.

The Board's request that "every sister help" establish children's missions, inspired a rhythm band from the quilters as they traded their needles for kitchen utensils and sang a lively and noisy rendition of "Brighten the Corner Where You Are."

Comments on the home front during this period represented every relative aspect of the work (and some not-so-relative):

"Men should tend to missions. Women are not womanly when they push missions."

"We ought to be able to say what we want our money used for."

"Maybe one of these days we'll even get to vote."

"Let's have an all-day social and get the men to give money, too...yes, we can sell our preserves to the men."

"Maybe we could pick cotton for the Board."

"Let's save pieces from our quilts to make a rag rug for the parsonage. The floor is so cold for the children to play on...Do you suppose there's another one expected, Sister?"

"Did you know Marlboro has obtained a spittoon for their pulpit?"

"The more things change the more they stay the same. The men make the decisions while the women do the work."

At this point a group of four men in bright vests and black derbies dropped in and asked to join the Mite Society. They were asked if they could quilt. They didn't know but were willing to try. "Try not to get any blood on the quilt," they were admonished. When one of the dear brothers fell off his chair, it was suggested that maybe their singing would be appreciated more than their sewing. And it was, for Paul Green, Herb Saunders, Ed Shaw and Ivan FitzRandolph did a beautiful serenade of "I Will Extol Thee" and "It Was From Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party I Was Seeing Nellie Home." Having fulfilled their mission the men left the women to their "women's work."

The years passed until 1964 when the Board announced that Mrs. Agnes Post Schertz had donated a beautiful hand-embroidered robe to be used for a special purpose. Since the robe had been given originally to Dr. Rosa Palmberg in appreciation for her work in China, it became an annual tradition

to honor one of our women with this Robe of Achievement expressing love and appreciation for her work in local, denominational and interdenominational affairs. Mrs. Doris Fetherston, the first women president of General Conference, was the first recipient.

Speaking of robes and other apparel during the '60's, the comment "We have to use dis-cre-tion" was answered by "I know, Sister Hope, I wish you'd show it."

A 1964 Women's Board newsletter was read announcing the establishment of the Summer Christian Service Corps. It was then suggested that a 1984 play be written entitled "It Is Just Beginning" with congratulations extended to the Women's Board on their centennial celebration and to the Robe of Achievement and SCSC for their 20th anniversaries.

Audience response was a standing ovation. SR

Frances Clarke attends CWU assembly

Frances P. Clarke, president of the Alfred-Alfred Station unit of Church Women United (CWU) joined more than 2800 participants at the 16th Ecumenical Assembly of CWU, held at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., July 19-23.

Attracted by the Assembly theme, "Come! Build a New Earth: Pieces to Peace," women of different ages, races, religious traditions, economic and cultural backgrounds gathered with a common purpose—to seek solutions that will restore wholeness to a world torn by injustice and violence.

The Assembly provided opportunities for inspiration and spiritual enrichment, interaction and networking, envisioning for the future and training to strengthen individual peace-building efforts.

The moving conclusion of the first evening was the candlelight processional on the Purdue Mall, with its dramatic lighted fountain, and the first national assemblage of a "ribbon of peace" created in sections by CWU units and individuals, destined for use in Washington, D.C., in August 1985 as part of a national peace observance on the 40th anniversary of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings.

Women from 62 nations participated in the Assembly, some of the 250 of

them coming July 16-18 to meet with one another and key CWU leaders and discuss issues of the U.N. Decade for Women—peace, equality and development.

This group contributed much to the 100-voice International Choir featured at the opening session on Thursday evening, and heightened the drama of the dedication of the 1¼-mile long "ribbon of peace" that had been painted, stitched, embroidered, needlepointed and brought together, the result of the dream of a Denver, Colorado, woman, Justine Merritt.

Men were encouraged to accompany their wives and share the experiences. Children from 6 to 15 were invited to participate in the Global Village where they shared with children from around the world to learn about peace and peacemaking. One afternoon at the Global Village some of the children presented a play using the Japanese legend of the crane, then were led in prayer by a Japanese woman for a peaceable planet and the end of war.

There were at least 125 attending from New York State and Mrs. Clarke was one of 42 of those traveling by charter bus. She also represented Seventh Day Baptists of the U.S. and Canada and the NYS Assembly of S.D.B. Churches. SR

Each of the eight regions of the USA was paired with a global region and a color was designated for each. Yellow was assigned to North America and to the Northeast Region, of which New York is one of the eight states. People located their regions by colors of the balloons, pennants, & sashes, etc., as they gathered for the Grande Opening Plenary. The section of the "ribbon" made by Mary Clare for the Alfred-Alfred Station unit was displayed along with others in the procession.

After dinner Friday night each unit president was given a notebook and a mini set of 12 promotional slides to be used to interpret CWU along with the handbook presented at Los Angeles in 1980.

The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference is one of 30 supporting organizations of CWU, and, as president of our Women's Society, Dorothea E. Shettel is a member of the Common Council of CWU.

Sylvia Talbot of Atlanta, GA is the new president of CWU for the 1984-1988 quadrennium. For the closing communion, bread and figs were shared as symbol of solidarity, as a community to be strengthened for the journey ahead, and as an expression of the collective mission in the hunger and thirst for peace with justice. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

Promised Land

by John C. Mastor

Rising above the clouds

in the twinkling of an eye,

a long awaited promise

ascends to the Father.

The sounds of trumpets blare—

centuries pass as seconds.

Affliction shall not rise

a second time.

Home at last.

October 1984

What's new in Nortonville, Kansas?

by Juanita Wheeler

Much has been going on here. The Ladies Missionary Society held a soup, salad, and pie supper late in April. The young people had a garage sale in Leavenworth early in June. Proceeds will go toward financing the Year End Retreat, and they also held an ice cream social for the church family. Now summer brings out-door work and maintenance to our church properties. Plans are well under way to reroof the parish house and replace the front steps of the church and add a ramp.

Again this year our church affiliated with the Lutheran church for Bible School. One of our ladies was a teacher. Some of our young people have been involved in camps and one is serving in SCSC. We've had special Sabbaths to honor laymen, graduation, mothers and fathers. The Alumni Banquet brings visitors to our church as it is held in mid-May and so does the Bond reunion near the 4th of July. The Wheeler reunion was held August 18th.

New officers for 84-85 have been elected and are at work in our church and Sabbath School offices. The Ladies Missionary Society held its annual July meeting in Leavenworth. A covered dish luncheon preceded the annual business meeting and installation of officers. Theme for this year has been *Bearing the Fruit* and during the year we have studied the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25). Pastor Wheeler

has led our Bible study of some of the women of the Bible who were good examples of those *fruits*. Role call was

Christians build their trust on Jesus Christ, who declared: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

answered each month with Bible verses containing the *fruit* for that month. Devotions for each meeting were taken from a series of articles printed in *The Sabbath Recorder* in 1977. The July devotions were taken from Pastor Duane Davis' Sabbath Eve sermon *Bearing the Fruit* at Conference in 1978. The Conference song *Bearing the Fruit* was also sung by the group. This coming year the society will study "the fruits of faith" from II Peter

1:1-11.

We look forward to hosting Association October 5-7. Our theme for Association is *Practical Faith for Pressured Times* to live life more abundantly. Scripture for our theme is Gal. 2:20. A pamphlet was prepared listing twelve enemies of abundant living—one for each month. Each month the *enemy* has been noted in the church bulletin. The aim of the pamphlet has been for each person to select the enemies preventing abundant living for him/her and then through suggested Scriptures, Bible study and prayer work on and eliminate, if possible, those enemies.

Something new has been added to our Sabbath worship services. Beginning on May 5th, candles are lighted at the beginning of each worship service. Several members including the pastor, have felt that the lighted candle is an appropriate symbol in worship as an expression of faith.

The Psalmist saw God as a guiding light and bringer of hope to his people: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). Christians build their trust on Jesus Christ, who declared: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12). And from the bulletin that week: "Let the lighted candles stir a spirit of reverence and faith in God; let them remind you that Jesus Christ has opened the way to eternal life, shows us clearly the way we can live the life of righteousness; let them make you aware of the inner guidance of the Spirit of God and of Christ. Be thankful that our God has revealed himself to us and instructs us in the way we should go." The candles are snuffed during the Postlude. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

Atlanta church continues growth

When we first began the work in Atlanta three years ago, there were a few times when we wondered when and if the church would grow. Now, we no longer question this as a result of the Lord's blessing and work in our church.

Now, one year after we purchased eight acres of land and a double-wide modular, we are growing so rapidly that we can hardly keep up. Due to advertizing in the yellow pages, our regular notices in the local papers, and a new sign, phone calls and Sabbath

visitors have become a weekly occurrence. Several new families are coming regularly and many are in the process of joining the church. During the first three weeks in June alone, we had three walk-in visitors on Sabbaths and four phone calls requesting information. That is more new contacts than during most of last year. God is at work answering prayers and honoring our efforts to spread the gospel and good news of the Sabbath.

The Lord is also opening avenues for new areas of ministry. Three of our new families have been in prayer about beginning an out-reach study in their homes two Sabbath afternoons a month. We believe that this will begin in September with newspaper notices starting in mid-August. Another family has been burdened concerning a ministry to those in convalescent homes. This too, appears to be an area for ministry in the near future.

Rev. David S. Clarke is recipient of Scouting award

At a celebration in his honor, August 25, 1984, Rev. David S. Clarke was presented "The Good Shepherd," a recognition given through the Association of Baptists for Scouting in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. James Tinklepaugh, representing the Steuben Area Council of BSA, spoke of the significance of the award in acknowledging distinguished service by Baptist laypersons and pastors to youth through church and Scouting. Edward W. Crandall, himself a Seventh Day Baptist long involved with Scouting, mentioned Rev. Clarke's involvement with Scouting as a youth, his service as Scoutmaster in New Auburn, Wisconsin in the 1950's and his receipt of the Order of the Arrow. Mr. Crandall presented the Good Shepherd emblem, hanging it around Rev. Clarke's neck, and Frances Clarke, his wife, fastened the pin which also carries the emblem of a cross and shepherd's staff.

Rev. Albert Rogers and Rev. Melvin Stephan told of Rev. Clarke's leadership in church and camping, relating some humorous recollections. Rev. Clarke responded with a few memories and expressed appreciation. SR

October 1984

Semi-annual meetings held

by Judy North

The Dodge Center SDB Church in Minnesota joined the New Auburn SDB Church in Wisconsin for Semi-annual meetings on April 27-29, 1984. Participants began to arrive on Sabbath Eve for a social gathering.

During the Sabbath morning worship, George Calhoun, then of St. Paul, Minnesota, gave the proclamation. Pastor Paul Osborn of the Dodge Center church, and Pastor Don Chroniger of the New Auburn church were also present to stress the theme, *Commitment*. The theme song was *Give of Your Best to the Master*. Members of the Semi-annual choir sang the ever-inspiring favorite, *Something Beautiful*. A fellowship was served by

As a result of our rapid growth, there is much work ahead of us. The number of children in attendance has tripled in the past three months. So we must prepare at least two additional Sabbath School classrooms for use this fall. There are two unfinished rooms in our basement as well as a large fellowship hall which we plan to prepare for the new classrooms. We also have a teacher workshop scheduled for mid August to train our new teachers. Pastor Bill will be using some of the materials from his SCSC classes this past June. Pray with us as we meet all our growing needs.

Excitement is spreading and enthusiasm becomes contagious as new faces join our Sabbath School classes, worship services, Bible studies and fellowship. The spiritual as well as numerical growth is a sign of God at work in Georgia and to him be the glory! SR

the New Auburn Women's Society.

On Sabbath afternoon, a film entitled, *It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming*, was shown. Special activities for the young children were held in the church parsonage, lead by Charlotte Chroniger.

A concert by the group, Selah, was given Sabbath night. This group is composed of ladies from Bethel College. They touched each person in attendance with praise to God.

Sunday morning began with devotions. A business meeting followed. After a luncheon, the people departed to their homes. Meetings closed with a special invitation to the New Auburn SDB Church from the Dodge Center church to attend North Central Association in October, 1984, at Dodge Center. SR

27

Answers to Giving Quiz

- 1) Heart Prov. 23:26
- 2) Poor Mark 10:21
- 3) Tenth Gen. 28:22
- 4) Asketh Matt. 5:42
- 5) Prayer Ps. 109:4

Winding down at Camp Wakonda

by Harold King

It was a time to relax and reflect upon another Conference week. The Council on Ministry has come up with a really great way for their seminary students to wind down after a busy week.

Post Conference Retreat was held at Camp Wakonda in southern Wisconsin this year, under the able direction of Dean J. Paul Green and his lovely wife Denise. Time was given for the students to become better acquainted with each other's families. Students were joined by several of the local pastors and their wives. Also attending were some members of the Council on Ministry.

Each day the students were challenged by a very informative Bible study on discipleship led by Pastor Gordon Lawton.

Council Chairman Leland Bond and his wife Lettie shared ideas on what the students should be looking for and questions to be asked when considering a call to a church.

One morning, Pastor Mel Stephan gave two presentations on *What Are You Worth?* dealing primarily with finances and taxes.

Evening activities included a slide presentation of their trip to Europe by Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate and his wife Janet, a slide presentation by Pastor Herb Saunders and his wife Barbara on their recent Holy Land tour, a campfire in which the local ministers shared some of their experiences, followed by a slide presentation on contemporary Christian music by Kevin Butler. There was also a picnic held at a nearby lake.

Those taking part in the retreat were Earl and Mabel Cruzan, Herb and Barbara Saunders, Leland and Lettie Bond, Paul and Denise Green, and Gordon Lawton.

Those attending part-time were Dale and Janet Thorngate, Harmon and Ethel Dickinson, Mel and Yvonne Stephan and sons Richard and Karl, Don and Ilou Sanford, Fran and Lila Saunders, Neal Mills, Helen Green, Elizabeth Green, Bob Harris and his daughter Joanna, and Aaron Smith.

Students attending were Kevin and Janet Butler and daughters Jennifer and Crystal, George and Lanette Calhoun, Sharon Wauls, Harold and Kathi King...and last, but most assuredly not least, our cook of delicious meals, Margaret Coon.

It was a challenging and relaxing time.

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	TEMPLO BAUTISTA DEL 7 ^{MO} DIA
EVERY SABBATH (SATURDAY) at 2:00	TODOS LOS SABADOS 10:00
EVERY SABBATH (SATURDAY) at 4:30 YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING	MIÉRCOLES 6:30 ESTUDIO, BIBLICO Y ORACION
MINISTER: REV. JOSEPH ALEGRE (MARRIAGE CELEBRANT)	
WE OFFER THE SAME	CHANGE DOES
Welcome	189 6778

Melbourne SDB Church celebrates sixth anniversary

On Sabbath, August 18th, our church celebrated its six anniversary with a special meeting. Our guest speaker was pastor Ronald Barrar from the Auckland (New Zealand) church. There was music by the "Maroondah Singers," a very well known Christian choir which delighted us with inspired hymns. There were 134 adults and 11 children in attendance.

We are grateful to our Lord for his strength during the past six years. We are also grateful to our minister, pastor Joseph Alegre, his wife Beatrice and their children. They came to Australia with the purpose of serving the Lord and they have worked with faithfulness and love.

For the past eight years, the Seventh Day Baptist work in Melbourne was held in two languages: Spanish and English. As both groups grew stronger our church felt the need to appoint a leader to take care of the English Fellowship since our minister feels he wants to devote his full time for working among Spanish people. Our church doors will continue open for everyone.

Our church anniversary meeting was celebrated with a huge birthday cake and a beautiful spirit of Fellowship. Now, the new leader, Brother Peter-John, will continue the work among English speaking brethren.

The Sabbath Recorder

Portland: land of opportunities for Christ

by Richard Steele

Portland is an old seaport town, and even now, it accepts large ocean-going freighters for repair. Some of those freighters are large enough to *drag bottom* as they traverse the Columbia River. There is constant dredging of the river to remove build-ups which would impede the natural flow of ocean traffic to our fair city. Portland has also been a town connected very closely with the timber industry. From these two major industries, there has evolved an electronics technology, tool manufacturing, aluminum casting, plastic injection molding, large truck manufacturing with supportive tool and die shops. The manufacturing of small boats, and their repair, make this great Northwest quite an ocean and large river fishery.

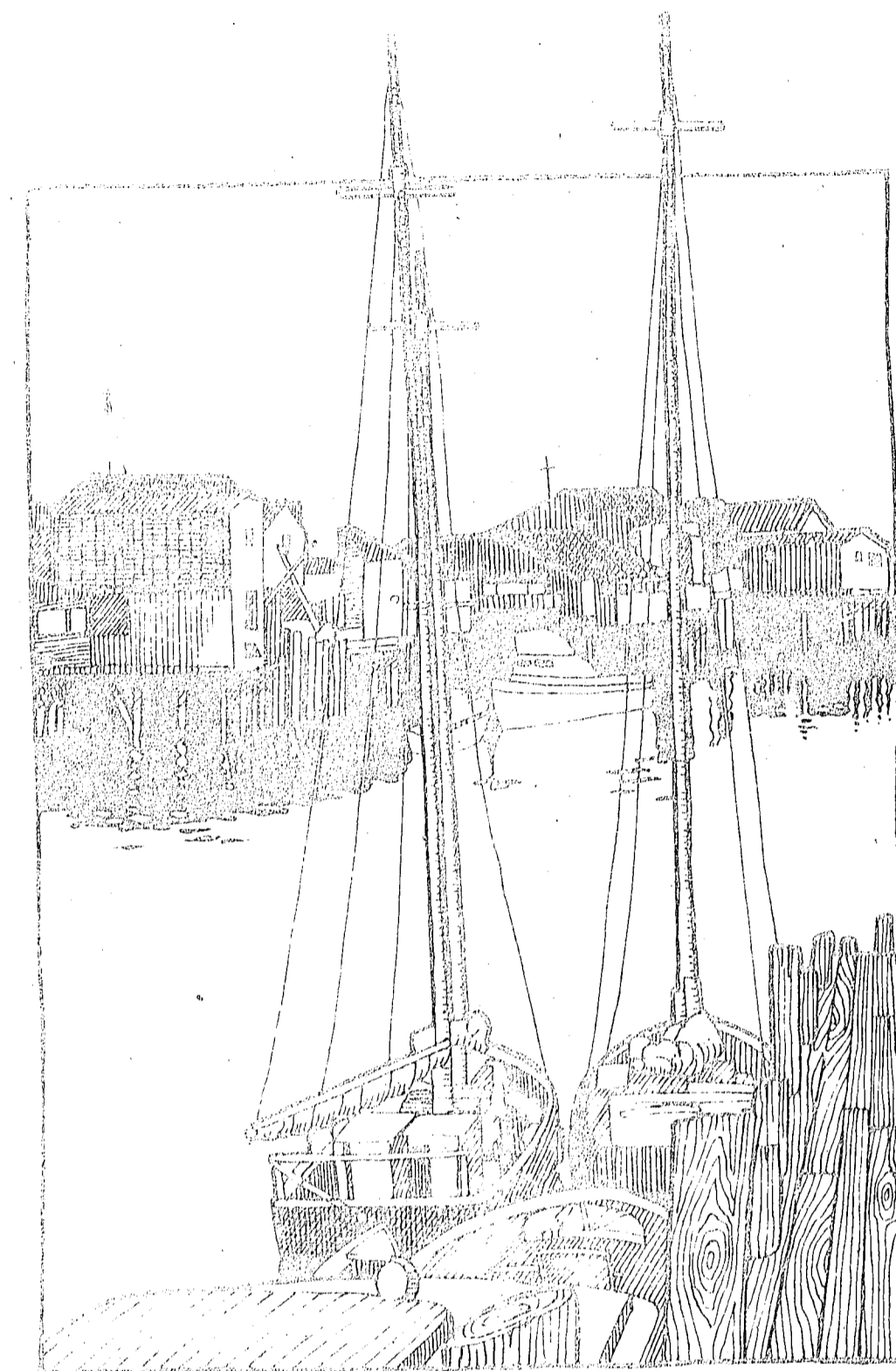
Amongst all of this technology, 74% of our populace are *unchurched* people. This is higher in percentage than most any place in our continental U.S.A! It is the sad fact that when the urge comes upon this great percentage, the boat and boat-trailer are hooked up and drawn to a favorite place on the river or ocean marina. The entire day is usually spent just trolling back and forth, trying to land the *big one*. Should many of these people be asked about their life in Christ, they may say, "Please, not today—another time!"

How many of us have worded the same answer when we were too busy for Christ? What did it take for me to be turned around? What does it take to change one's priorities of *choice* in life? God's Spirit is knocking on every door! He wants all to be drawn to himself. If we become so rich with our pleasures of life that they become our *idols* of worship, then Jesus cannot center in that life until the idols are removed; the attitude must undergo change!

This is just part of our ministry here in this Portland area. We have another difficult ministry. Several of us have come from another church and constant study is necessary to sort out the ideas in our backgrounds which take away or add to Scripture! This task is sometimes quite difficult. Scripture must be thoroughly studied and accepted before other *supportive* literature can be evaluated. One other way to think about this is that Scripture answers Scripture! Let us

God's Spirit is knocking on every door! He wants all to be drawn to himself.

go a step further. John was very strong as he relayed to us in John 1:16-17, "Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." From Jesus' words in John 8:31b-32, we read "If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." In



First John 4:6 (to the believers of his day and to us too) John writes, "We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood." In John's gospel the Spirit of truth is given freely to those who study and to those who *truly* accept the Counselor as relayed to us in John 14:15-27. Scripture may have very little meaning until *the Counselor shows you the true meaning*. We cannot interpret accurately for ourselves, but only the Spirit of truth will lead us into all truth (Second Peter 1:20) (John 14:26).

We might conclude safely that no one gets all of it in one study; it is simply by bits and pieces, like the pieces of a puzzle. When a piece *fits* somewhere to *fill* our lives, we have gained much for this growth. Indeed, this process of continually growing in Christ is God's process, for which I praise him.

We ask your prayers for our development as a true church in Christ, serving the Body and tending to the needs of the Body. We live far from each other here, but there are rewards, vested only in Christ, as we meet together.

Cont. on page 30

October 1984

New Auburn church has busy six months

Greetings from beautiful Northern Wisconsin—winter or summer—minus 30 degrees or 90 degrees! Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger continue to minister to the church body and community in many ways, providing challenges to spread the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Something new for us and lots of fun was our Valentine Banquet at a local restaurant. After the meal, the Chronigers had a musical program on love songs. About 30 attended.

The Community Choir, under the direction of Pastor Don and ac-

companied by Charlotte, presented Gaither's musical "Alleluia" to an appreciative audience at the New Auburn school. Eleven different churches were represented. The choir sang a selection from the musical at the Community Good Friday service on April 20th at the Lutheran church.

The men and boys have a fellowship breakfast once a quarter at the church with a short devotion and program. They enjoy preparing, serving and eating the meal!

The women had a guest night on April 30, when about 80 women from local churches enjoyed hearing Mabel

Louise Steward speak on "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Mable Louis is heard daily on our local Christian radio station. A light dessert was served.

Though Bible and choir practice was held each Sunday night, it was disbanded for the summer months because of camps and vacations. Prayer and Praise continues to meet each Friday night in homes.

The After-School Special, a program for kindergartners through sixth graders from the community, met each Tuesday after school. About 30 boys and girls attended the session and, on May 9, presented their program of songs and memory work and the cantata, "Rock on the Head." The next session will start in September. This program is the only spiritual training many of these boys and girls receive. Pray for the staff as they teach the children about Jesus Christ and minister to parents as well.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting with the Dodge Center (Minn.) Church was held on April 27-29 with blessed fellowship in the Word and song. George Calhoun spoke at the Sabbath worship service.

The Youth Fellowship met each Wednesday night for worship, fun and service, and had several fund-raising projects which enabled them to spend several days during Easter vacation in the Twin Cities touring many interesting places. They were guests of the pastor and youth of Oakdale Community Church. Meetings will resume in the fall.

The Women's Society meets monthly, and there are two women's Bible Study groups which meet once a week. A Prayer Chain is a blessing to many. The women contribute to many denominational as well as local needs, as well as helping with church expenses and equipment.

Pastor Don, Charlotte and seven-month-old Tyler directed Senior Camp in Milton, Wis., with Missy Cutsforth as one of the campers. Junior campers in Milton were Nancy Pederson and Brigett Schamburg.

Portland

Cont. from page 29

Visitation is not easy sometimes, as the one needing a visit might live as far as 50 miles away; but that is no excuse! Those in need are to know our attention, as we strive to build each other up, according to Scripture. Phil. 2:4 says it even better: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Even a telephone call of encouragement serves the needs of a loved one with weighty problems from which none of us are exempt.

We have a vigorous prayer life here so that God can intercede into everyone's needs. Only God can tend to and heal those deep hurts or encumbrances of life. Our prayer life does not stop with just the needs of our immediate Body; there are friends who have, at times, greater needs. There is nothing more powerful than the *Word* to study and the *Word* to do. Part of that doing process in a Christian's life is an active prayer life!

Another part of our work here is ministering to the *street people*. They come from all walks of life; they do not have regular meals; they sleep under our many bridges or in the alley-ways. As a point of fact, their needs are many. Some of our money or food and clothing goes towards this ministry, and there is one in our body who regularly visits the *Burnside area* to minister to them. We ask your prayers for this continuing ministry.

Wherever you go in life, whatever you do, whenever you are confronted with the needs of others, we are commanded to give of ourselves in service. It might be just a cold dipper of water from the well; it might be an item of clothing or just a pair of shoes; it might be a place to lay a weary body for rest. Whatever God's call for that hour, we remember the passage in Matt. 25: 40b, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

All Bible quotations from the New International Version. SR

The gift of tears

by Leanne Lippincott

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ...

a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 (RSV)

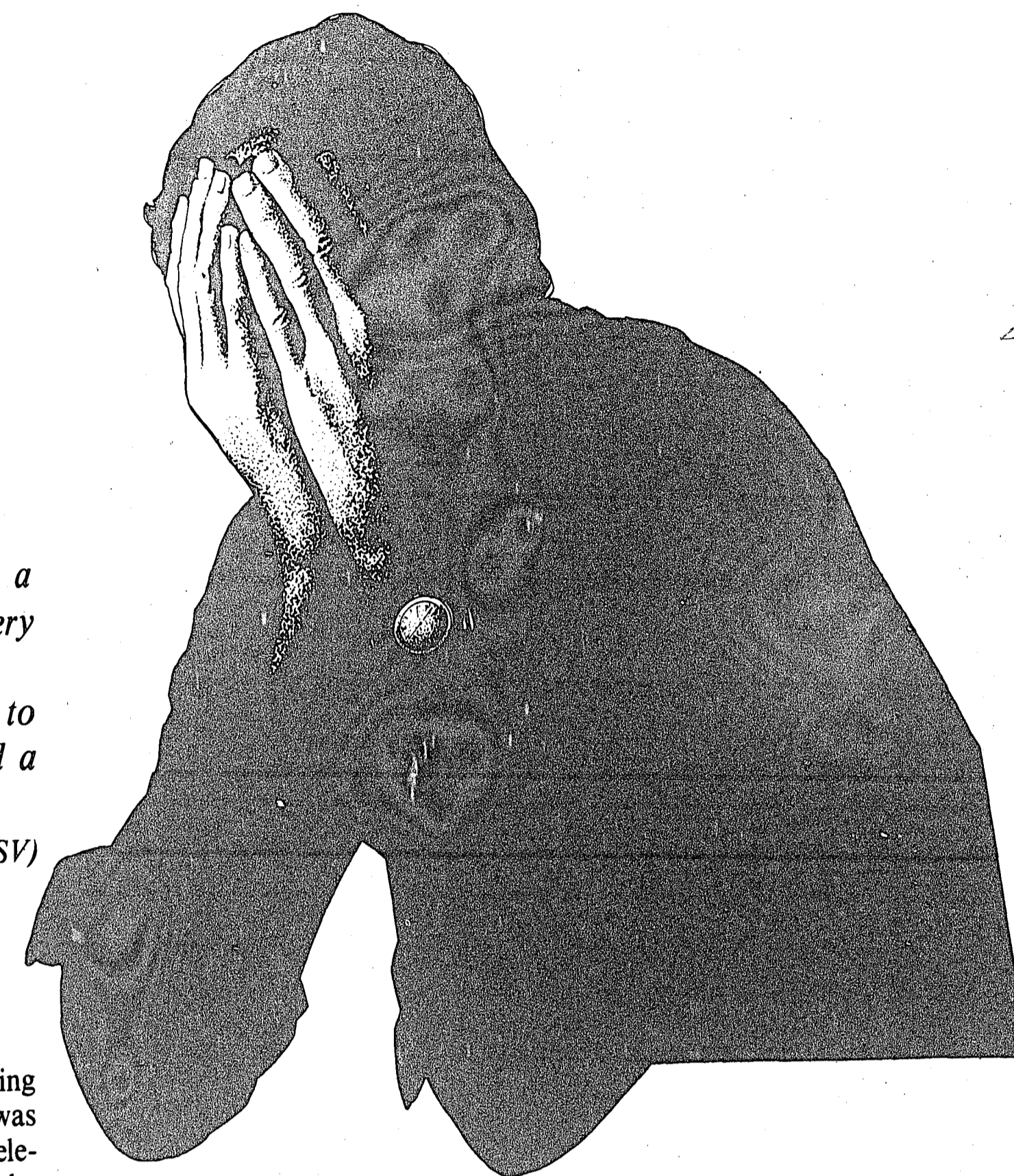
In the span of nine days during June of last year, my life was marked by three milestones: I celebrated my 38th birthday, I attended the 20-year reunion of my high school graduating class, and I became a widow.

I'm still uncomfortable with the term *widow* and the vision that it brings to mind; that of a sweet white-haired woman sitting in a rocking chair, peacefully gazing at a picture of her deceased husband and basking in the memories of their 60 wonderful years together.

Although the white hairs are springing forth daily, I'm neither sweet nor peaceful. There are days when I fluctuate between anger and self-pity because my husband and I had only 13 years together; years, as in most marriages, that were filled with bad times as well as good, ups and downs.

Like my idealized widow, there are days—or at least moments—when I smile and bask. There also are days when I bawl like a baby.

It goes without saying that the past 15 months haven't been easy. (Before I finally graduated to months, I counted days and then weeks.) But mixed in



with all the despair and anguish, guilts and regrets, and fears and loneliness—the list is almost endless—there have been several positive, equally powerful forces active in my life: hope and joy,

Like my idealized widow, there are days—or at least moments—when I smile and bask. There also are days when I bawl like a baby.

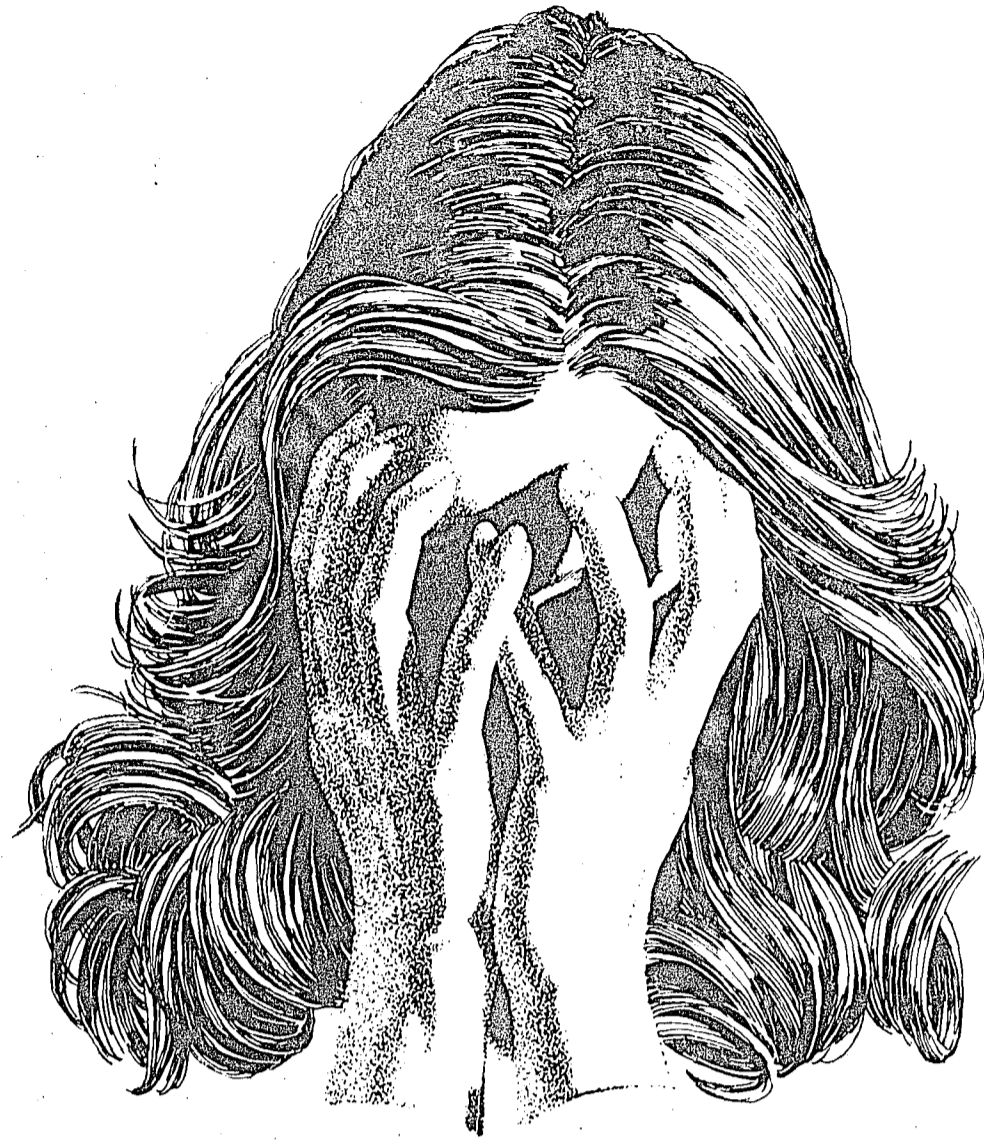
confidence and faith, trust and friendship.

The latter are gifts from a loving God who flinches when we hurt, and cries when we cry. Sooner or later, if

we choose to allow him to, he'll lift us out of our valleys and light the darkness that surrounds us. In the words of the psalmist, "O my soul, why be so gloomy and discouraged? Trust in God! I shall again praise him for his wondrous help; he will make me smile again, for he is my God!" (Psalm 43:5)

Although I'm beginning to smile again—inwardly as well as outwardly—I realize I still have a number of bridges to cross, and valleys to climb, before I'll feel whole again. In the meantime, I'd like to share some of the things I've learned as I've stumbled along the way.

Anyone who has ever lost a loved one to death is familiar with tears. Crying is a very human, very automatic, very acceptable response when death arrives and grief drapes itself around our shoulders. Or is it?



Even though we were made to smile through our tears, God wants us—and expects us—to cry when we hurt.

Studies have shown that crying, with its accompanying release of inner tension and certain body chemicals, is very beneficial to man. There even is scientific evidence that “criers” live longer than “non-criers”. Yet many people—Christians as well as non-Christians, and women as well as men—look at tears in a completely negative light. They view crying as a sign of weakness; or, in the case of a Christian mourning a loved one, as outward evidence of an inward lack of faith.

When Clark Gable was starring as Rhett Butler in the 1939 movie classic, “Gone With the Wind,” there was a scene in which he was supposed to cry following the death of his daughter. According to co-star Olivia de Havilland, Gable worried about the scene for days before the scheduled filming.

“He had never cried on the screen before,” Miss de Havilland later explained, “and it became an obsession with him. He didn’t think it was masculine for a man to cry.”

Gable confided that he couldn’t do the scene and threatened to quit the film, but Miss de Havilland prevailed.

“I talked with him and convinced him that the tears denoted strength of character, not weakness,” she said. “It turned out to be one of the most memorable scenes in the movie.”

Even though many people view tears with disdain, they tolerate them under certain circumstances, in certain settings. In this country, the primary setting where tears have gained acceptability, even a

semblance of respectability, is the funeral or memorial service. It’s okay to cry in the mortuary chapel, in the church, or during the graveside rites, just as long as it’s not too loud and done in good taste.

An acquaintance once related how she was “coached” after the death of her mother. “Don’t forget to cry at the funeral,” she was told. She was expected to grieve in the prescribed manner, in the acceptable setting.

It’s okay to cry in the mortuary chapel, in the church, or during the graveside rites, just as long as it’s not too loud and done in good taste.

Are tears a sign of weakness?

Are they an embarrassing, annoying inconvenience that should be avoided whenever and wherever possible, especially by strong, spirit-filled Christians?

Jesus, the embodiment of divine strength and power, revealed his humanness by his tears. He wept when he learned of Lazarus’ death (John 11:35) and cried as he foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem. (Luke 19:41-

42) As he agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane the night of his betrayal, Jesus not only *felt* but freely *admitted* his vulnerability. “...My soul is crushed by sorrow to the point of death;...” he told his disciples. (Mark 14:34)

For me at least, the simple knowledge that Jesus cried makes my tears less bitter.

On those days when my tears are bitter, when I feel as if no one else has ever experienced sorrow as painful and as deep as mine, I open my Bible to the book of Psalms. Although they were written hundreds of years ago, the words are my own:

“Day and night I weep for his (God’s) help, and all the while my enemies taunt me. ‘Where is this God of yours?’ they scoff.” (Psalm 42:3)

“All your waves and billows have gone over me, and floods of sorrow pour upon me like a thundering cataract.” (Psalm 42:7)

“I have wept until I am exhausted; my throat is dry and hoarse; my eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to act.” (Psalm 69:3)

“O Lord have mercy on me in my anguish. My eyes are red from weeping; my health is broken from sorrow. I am pining away with grief; my years are shortened, drained away because of sadness...” (Psalm 31:9-10)

“I am worn out with pain; every night my pillow is wet with tears. My eyes are growing old and dim with grief...” (Psalm 6:6-7)

As I re-read the passages, I grow

more and more ashamed of my self-centeredness, my “why me-poor me” attitude.

In addition to the weakness argument, there are many other reasons why people are reluctant to cry.

For instance, people are afraid they won’t be able to *stop* crying once they start. Human nature is such that we need to feel we’re in control; consequently, the prospect of crying uncontrollably is very frightening to most of us.

Last year I met a young widow whose husband had died several months earlier. Although she admitted crying over things like Social Security and bureaucratic red tape, she confessed she hadn’t shed tears for her husband. She was afraid she would literally fall apart if she “gave in” and started to cry. She was strong, almost to the point of defiant, and adamant in her resolve *not* to cry.

It also was obvious that she was hurting.

I was seated directly across from the woman, one of several people situated at a large, rectangular table. I fought back tears as she talked, doodling in my notebook and silently staring at the box of Kleenex® in the center of the table.

To this day I regret that I didn’t walk over to that widow, wrap my arms around her and whisper, “It’s okay to cry.” I think that’s all she would have needed; someone to say, “Let the dam burst, let it all out. I promise that you won’t drown in your sorrow; God and I won’t let you.”

Another reason for not crying is the embarrassment we feel when we do. For one thing, we’re embarrassed not to be in control. We’re also embarrassed if we feel we’re crying too often, or for inconsequential reasons.

During Conference at Beloit this past summer, an SDB minister approached me to say how sorry he was to hear of my husband’s death. As we talked, he began reminiscing about his own father’s death and the effect it had had on his life. Suddenly, he was a fatherless teenager again, and he started to cry.

Wrapped in a Christian embrace, we stood in the dim light outside of Eaton Chapel, surrounded by people and yet alone. A son, who was crying for a father who had gone to be with God 24 years ago; and a wife, who was crying for a husband who had made the same journey last year.

We could have been embarrassed by our tears, or even ashamed of them, but we weren’t. Although our circumstances were, and are, different, we *understood* each other’s loss; each other’s pain. And we were willing—even eager—to share it.

As Christians, we don’t mourn as “those who have no hope.” However—and this is the crux of the matter—we *still mourn*.

It hurts, and hurts deeply, to lose someone we love. A sense of loss and the accompanying heartache will always be with us but, with God’s help, we eventually learn to accept it and to live with it. As Christians, we weren’t

meant to withdraw into ourselves and wallow in self-imposed misery the rest of our lives. We were created by a loving God to love life; to live it in confidence and with zest. But living with enthusiasm, savoring life to the fullest, means drinking from the cup of sorrow as well as from the cup of joy.

Even though we were made to smile through our tears, God wants us—and expects us—to cry when we hurt. He wants us to share that pain so that we, in turn, can share the pain of others. That’s what Christian love is all about. Being willing to say, either through words or simply by gestures, “My father died 24 years ago, and it still hurts. Because of that, I know how much YOU must hurt. Please let me help.”

Thank God for tears.

Thank God for the means by which to vent our frustrations, to release our tensions, to give form and substance to our sorrows, to show and share our human vulnerability. In the words of my eight-year-old son, who is gradually learning to cry, “It feels good to get the sadness out.”

Although we, as Christians, can comfort each other, our ultimate hope rests in the Supreme Comforter: “Hear me, Lord; oh, have pity and help me.” Then he turned my sorrow into joy! He took away my clothes of mourning and gave me gay and festive garments to rejoice in so that I might sing glad praises to the Lord instead of lying in silence in the grave. O Lord my God, I will keep on thanking you forever!” (Psalm 30:10-11)

Obituaries

Smith.—James Elvin Smith, 64, of Texarkana, Ark., died in a local hospital, June 15, 1984, after a long illness.

Mr. Smith was born June 30, 1919, in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, son of James Pierce and Sadie Perkins Smith. Later the family moved to Texarkana.

On March 7, 1942, he married Ruth Joy FitzRandolph, daughter of Wardner T. FitzRandolph. After World War II, he returned to Texarkana where they made their home.

Mr. Smith was a retired employee of Day and Zimmermon, a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Texarkana, life member of the V.F.W. and a proud veteran of World War II with General Patton's army.

Survivors include his wife Ruth Joy Smith of Texarkana; two daughters, Elisabeth Jane Scott of Texarkana, Ark., and Shirley Lou Griffin, of Fouke, Ark.; one son, James Ray Smith of Jerseyville, Ill.; one sister, Georgia Lowe of Texarkana; and twelve grandchildren.

Services were held on June 18 at East Funeral Home, with Rev. Mynor Soper officiating. Burial was in East Memorial Gardens.

Stillman.—Elizabeth Carleton Stillman, 87, wife of the late Karl G. Stillman, died July 26, 1984, at the Mary Elizabeth Convalescent Home in Mystic, Conn.

Mrs. Stillman was a member of the Women's Society of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., and of the Westerly Hospital Auxiliary. She was born in Hartford, Conn., on October 24, 1896. Her only survivor is a niece.

A memorial service was held in the meeting house of the Pawcatuck SDB Church, on July 30, with Pastor Dale E. Rood officiating. Burial was in the Riverbend Cemetery in Westerly.

DER

Soden.—Floyd L. Soden was born December 26, 1910, in Benton County, Iowa and died August 19, 1984 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Though he was not a member of a Seventh Day Baptist church, he was a long time friend of many in the Nortonville, Kan., Dodge Center, Minn. and other churches. For many years, he had been a part of those congregations through cassette tape ministry.

Mr. Soden had a love for the printed word, and aided local Seventh Day Baptist churches as well as the American Sabbath Tract Society by printing material on his own press.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine, and a daughter, Rose, both of Des Moines. Burial was in the Jordan Cemetery, West Des Moines, Iowa.

DSS

Stenographer-Clerk Needed

A stenographer-clerk to work in the Seventh Day Baptist Center, Janesville, Wis., is needed to begin work November 1, 1984.

Salary range: \$8,500 to \$9,500.

Duties may include: typing letters, reports, meeting minutes and schedules; transcribing dictation from machine; organizing and maintaining files; ordering and maintaining office supplies; serving as receptionist; operating office machines including word processor; providing secretarial services to several executives. May be responsible for mail room operation. Bookkeeping skills would be helpful.

Send resume to:

Dale D. Thorngate
Seventh Day Baptist Center
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Marriages

Williams-Davis.—Vernon Williams of North Loup, Neb., and Ada Davis of Boulder, Colo., were united in marriage at the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church on September 1, 1984. Pastor John D. Bevis of the Denver Church officiated.

Births

Grassham.—A son, Daniel Barron Grassham, was born to Robert and Barbara (Burdick) Grassham of Albuquerque, N.M., on April 12, 1984.

Accessions

Denver, Colorado
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By Baptism:
Karen Carmichael
Mijin Cha
Carrol Fleming
Gilbert Martin
Karen Martin
Helen Ream
Rob Scott

Atlanta, Georgia
William Shobe, Pastor

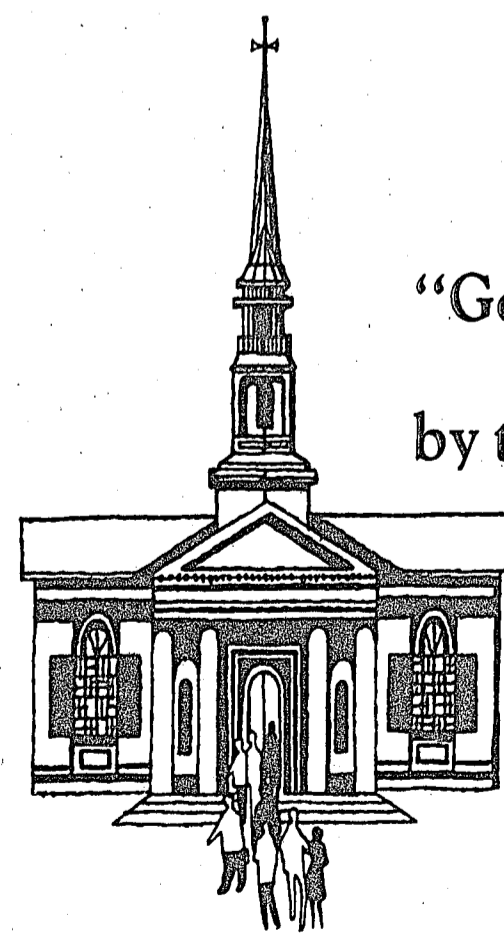
By Letter:
Charles Hutto
Danny Hutto
Elma Hutto
Larry Hutto
Lisa Hutto
Joanna Lovelace

By Testimony:
Charles Dunton
Miriam Dunton
Daniel Hutto

By Testimony:
Dr. Chang Yul Cha
Songhee Cha
Reeduk Choi
Tina Laxson
Susan Scott
Teri Scott
Jenny Thomas
Don Thomas

"God is Spirit, and only
by the power of his Spirit
can people worship
him as he really is."

John 4:24 TEV



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"I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk...and leaping up he stood and walked...leaping and praising God." Acts 3:6-8

In a scene from "A.D." re-enacting this famous story, Peter (Dennis Quilley) rejoices with the cripple who asked for alms but got the miracle of healing. "A.D." is a 12-hour mini-series re-telling the biblical and historical events surrounding the birth of the Christian Church. It will be seen on NBC TV February 10-14, 1985.

OWM

"Bring the full amount
of your tithes to
the Temple...
Put me to the test... I will
open the windows
of heaven and pour out
on you in abundance all
kinds of good things."
Malachi 3:10 (TEV)

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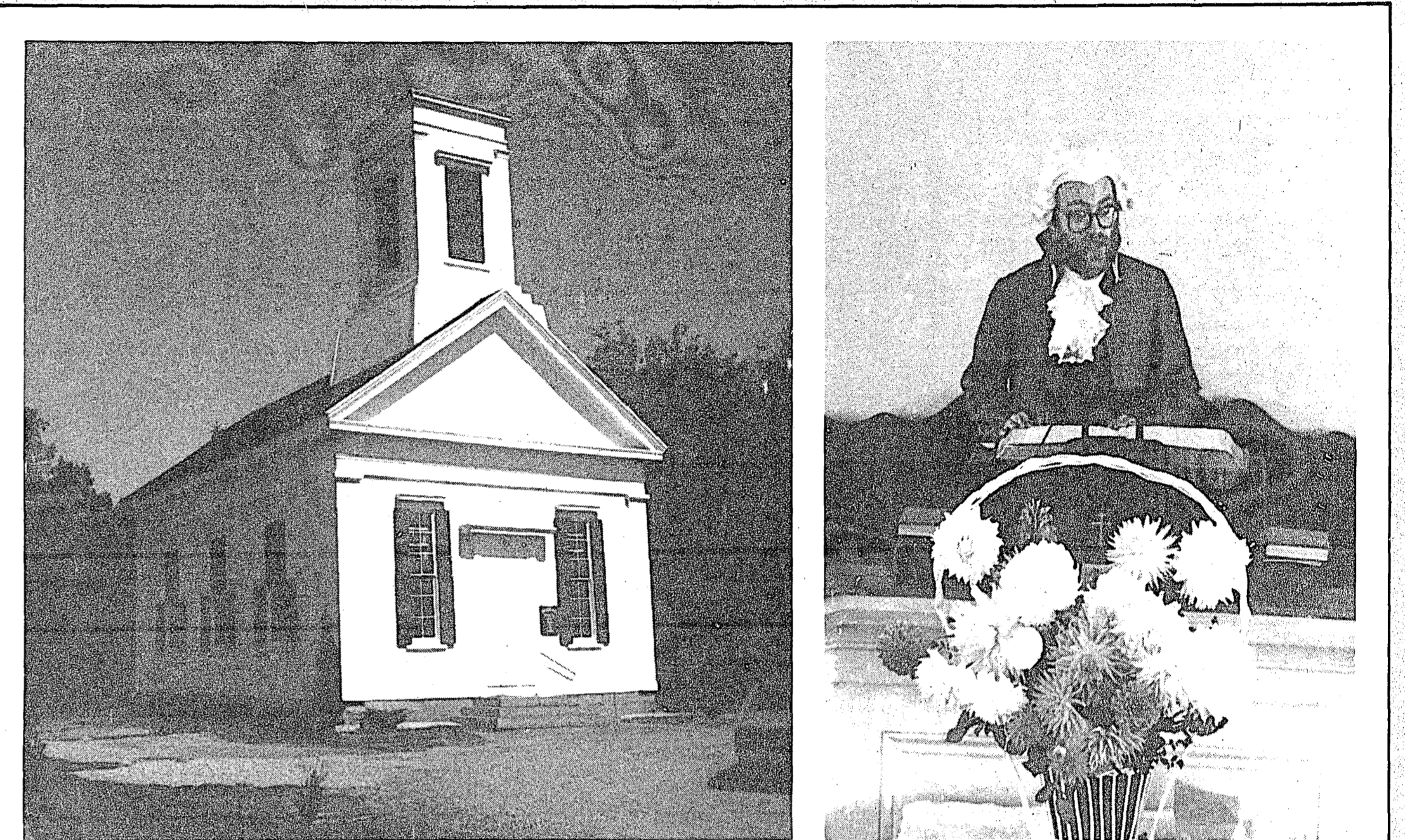
**“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
a time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.”**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (RSV)



November 1984

THE ★ SEVENTH ★ DAY ★ BAPTIST SABBATH RECORDER



200 years in Connecticut