

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X)(USPS 474460)
3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1578
Janesville, WI 53547

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590

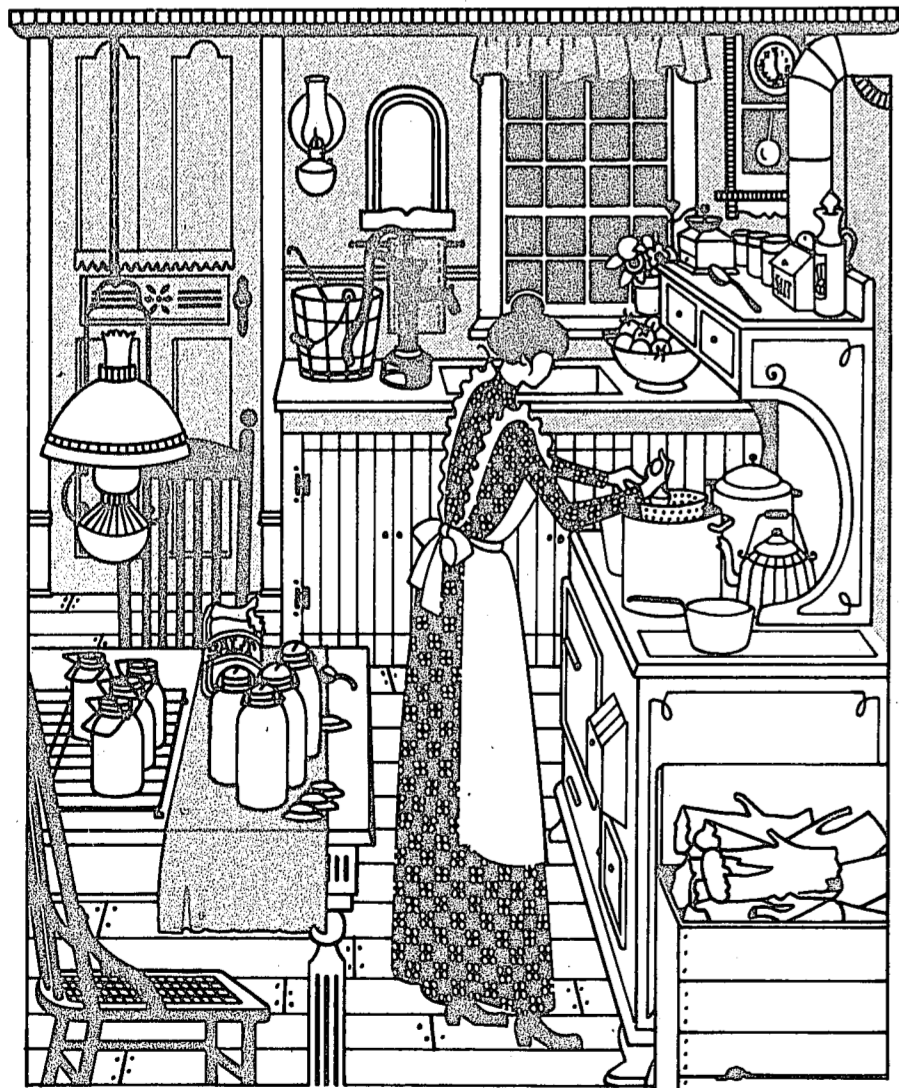
September 1984

THE ★ SEVENTH ★ DAY ★ BAPTIST
SABBATH RECORDER

The Ladies' Aid

The old church bell had long been cracked —
Its call was but a groan;
It seemed to sound a funeral knell
With every broken tone.
“We need a bell,” the brethren said,
“But taxes must be paid.
We have no money we can spare —
Just ask the Ladies' Aid.”

The shingles on the roof were old;
The rain came down in rills;
The brethren slowly shook their heads,
And spoke of monthly bills.
The chairman of the board arose
And said, “I am afraid
That we shall have to lay the case
Before the Ladies' Aid.”

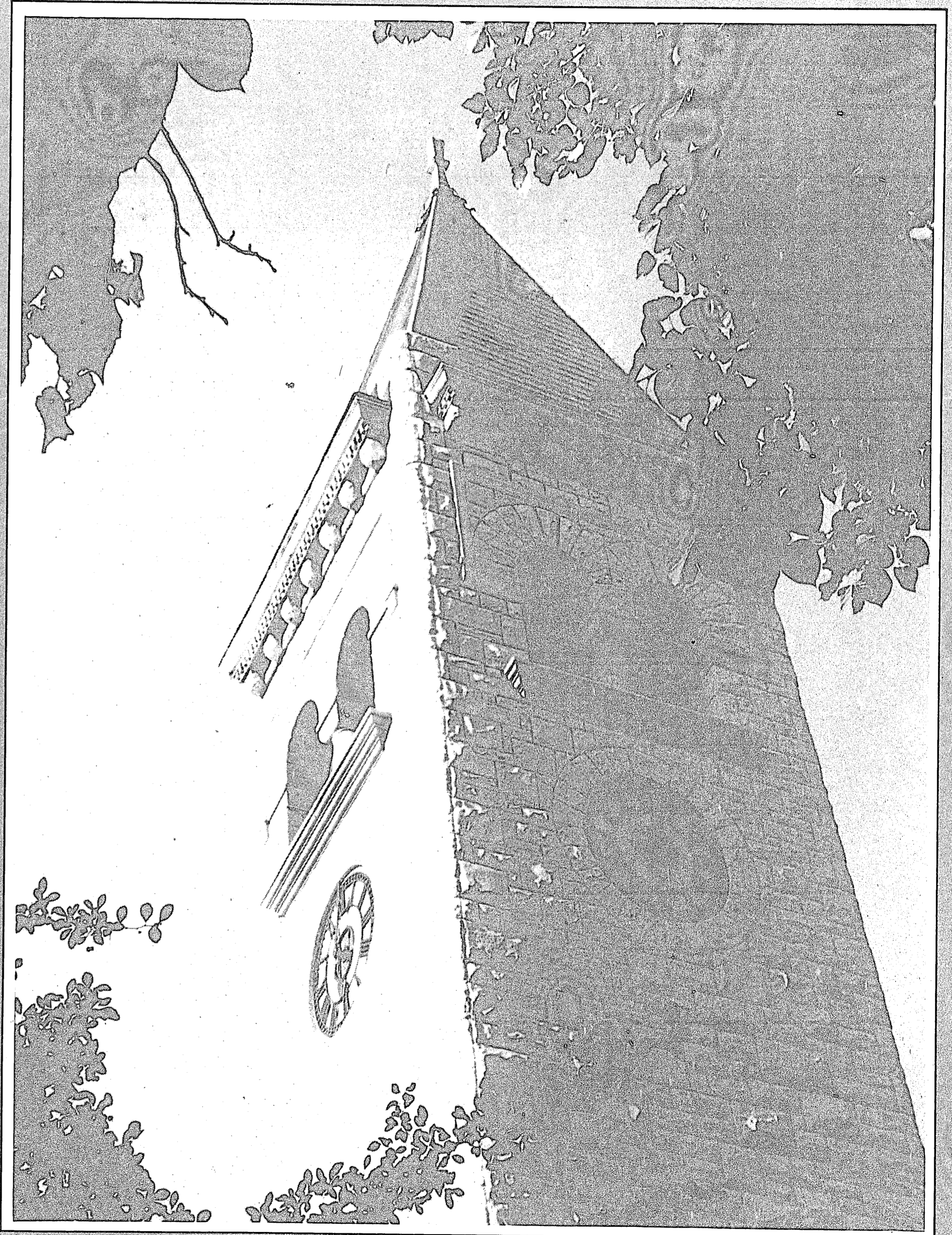


The carpet had been patched and patched
Till quite beyond repair,
And through the aisles and on the steps
The boards showed hard and bare.
“It is too bad,” the brethren said;
“An effort must be made
To raise an interest on the part
By members of the Aid.”

The preacher's stipend was behind;
The poor man blushed to meet
The grocer and the butcher as
They passed him on the street.
But nobly spoke the brethren then:
“Pastor, you shall be paid!
We'll call upon the treasurer
Of our good Ladies' Aid.”

“Ah!” said the men, “the way to heaven
Is long and hard and steep;
With slopes of care on either side,
The path is hard to keep.
We cannot climb the heights alone,
Our hearts are sore dismayed;
We ne'er shall get to heaven at all
Without the Ladies' Aid.”

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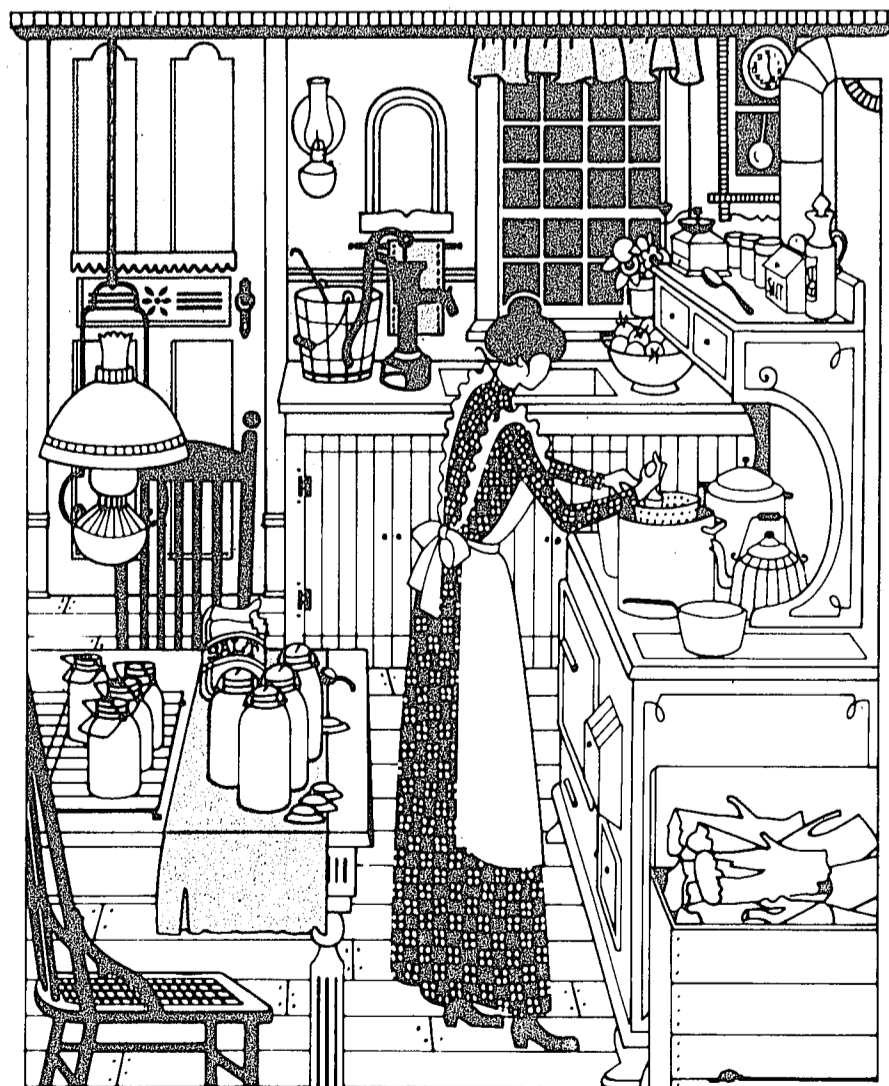
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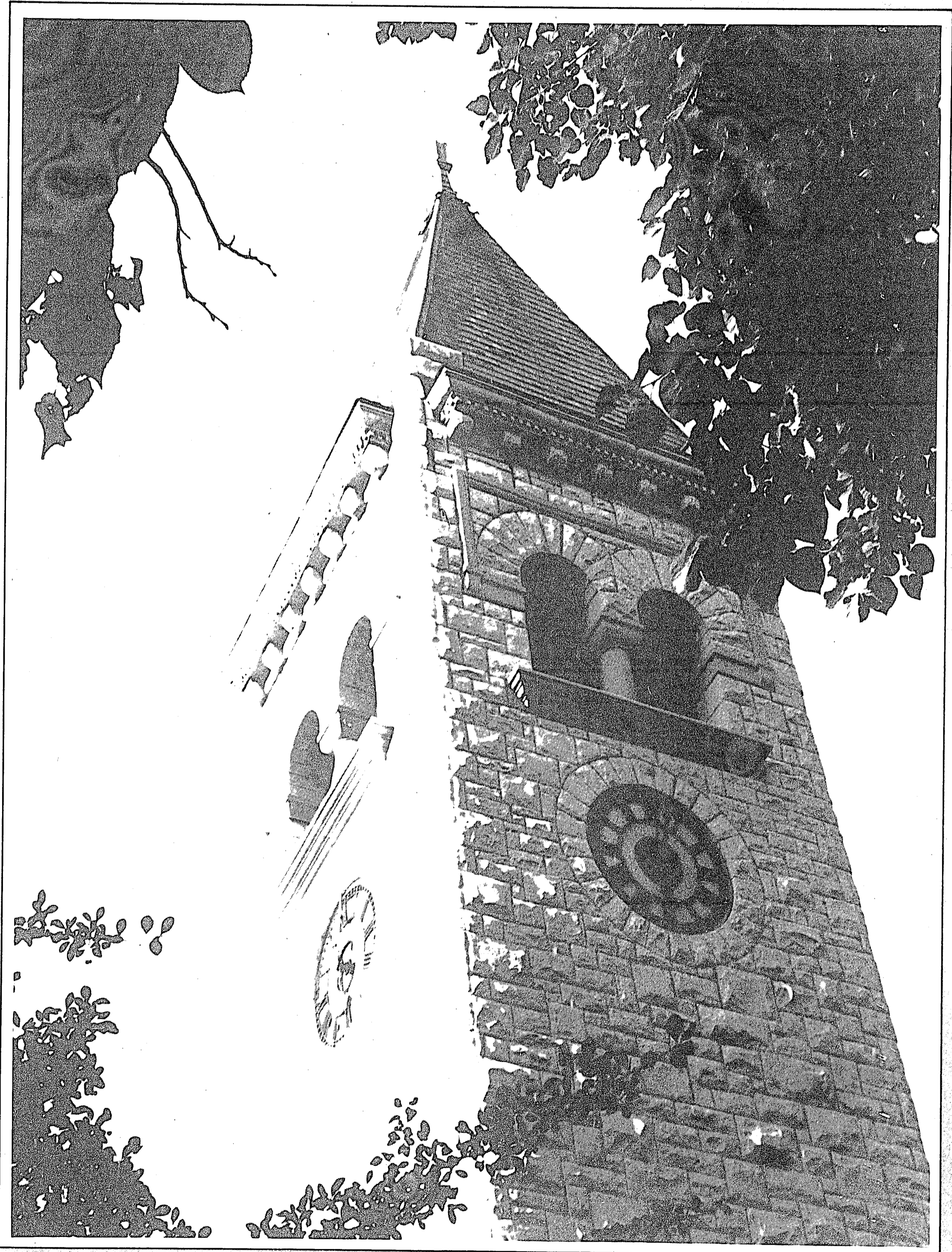


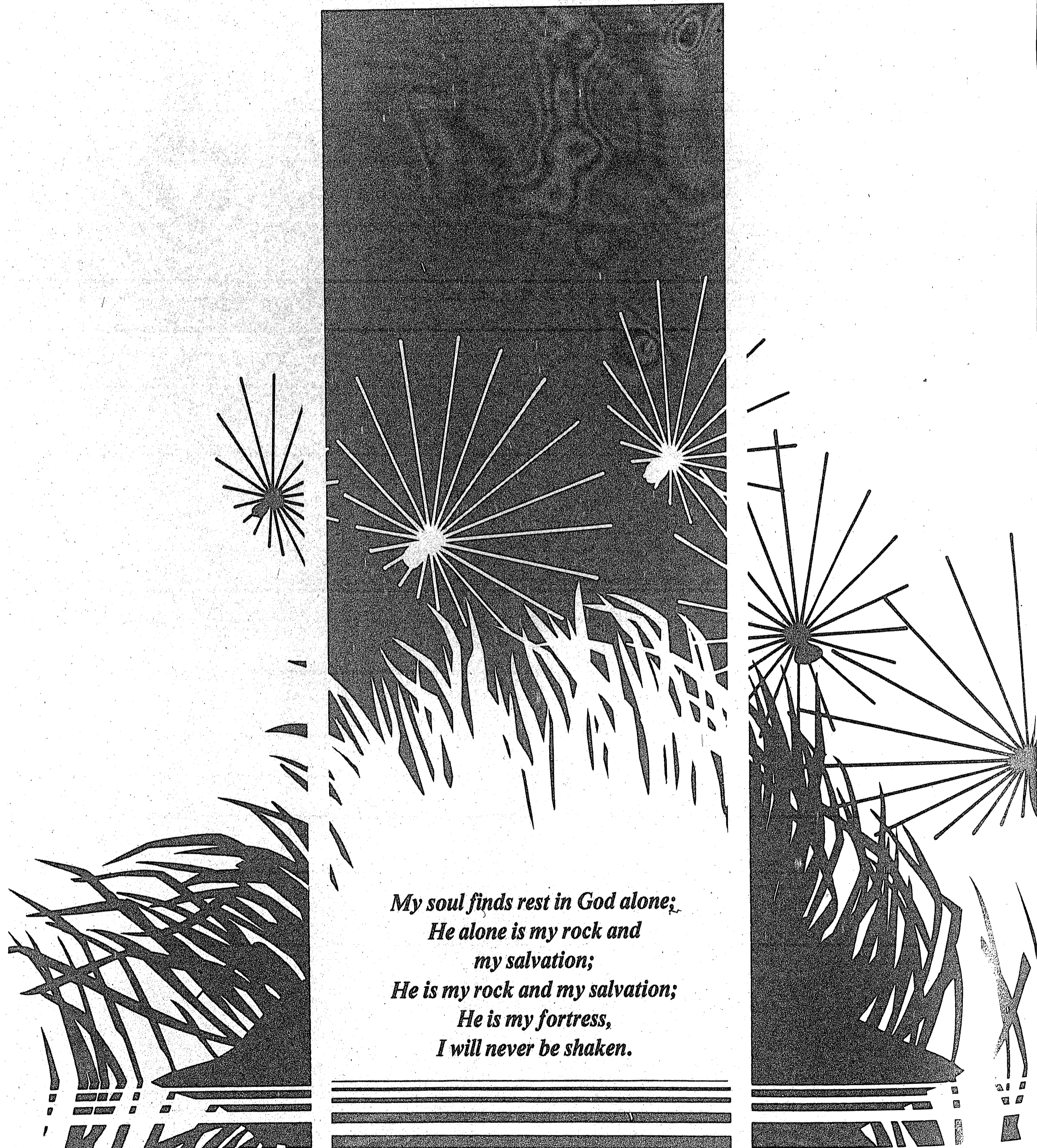
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*My soul finds rest in God alone;
 He alone is my rock and
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 He is my rock and my salvation;
 He is my fortress,
 I will never be shaken.*

Cover photo: The tower of Eaton Chapel at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.

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 Editor

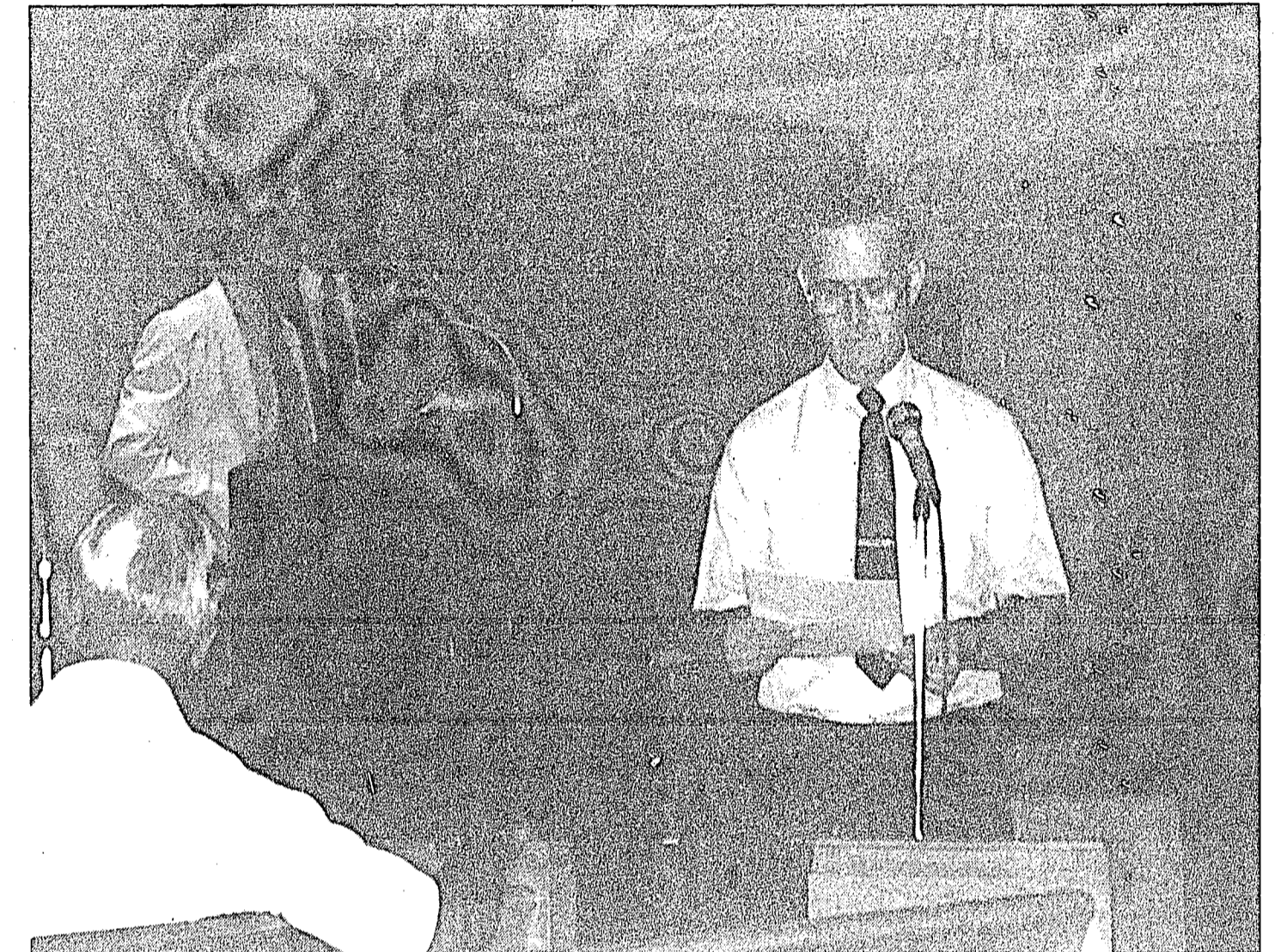
Leanne Lippincott
 Art Director

Contributing Editors

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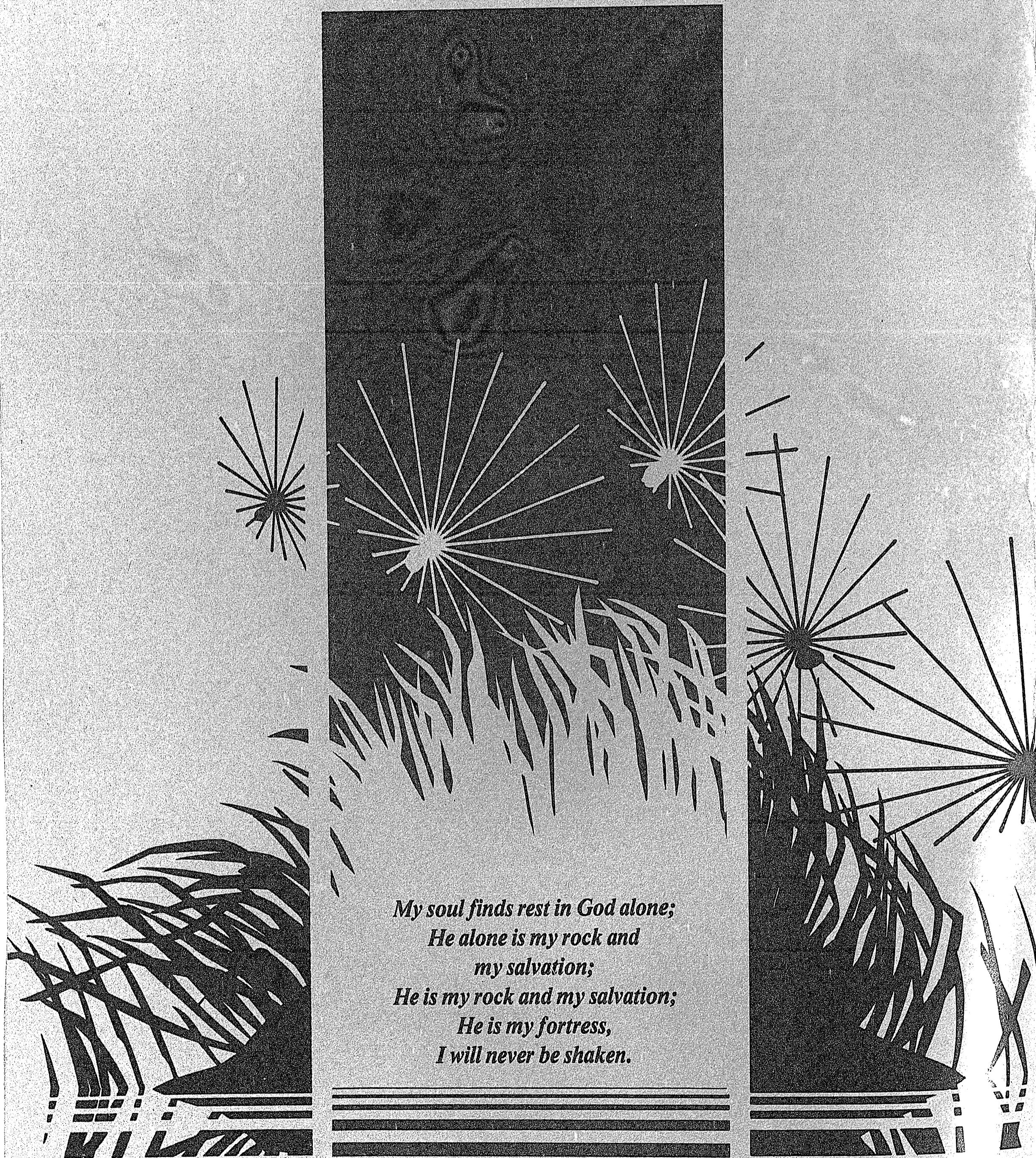


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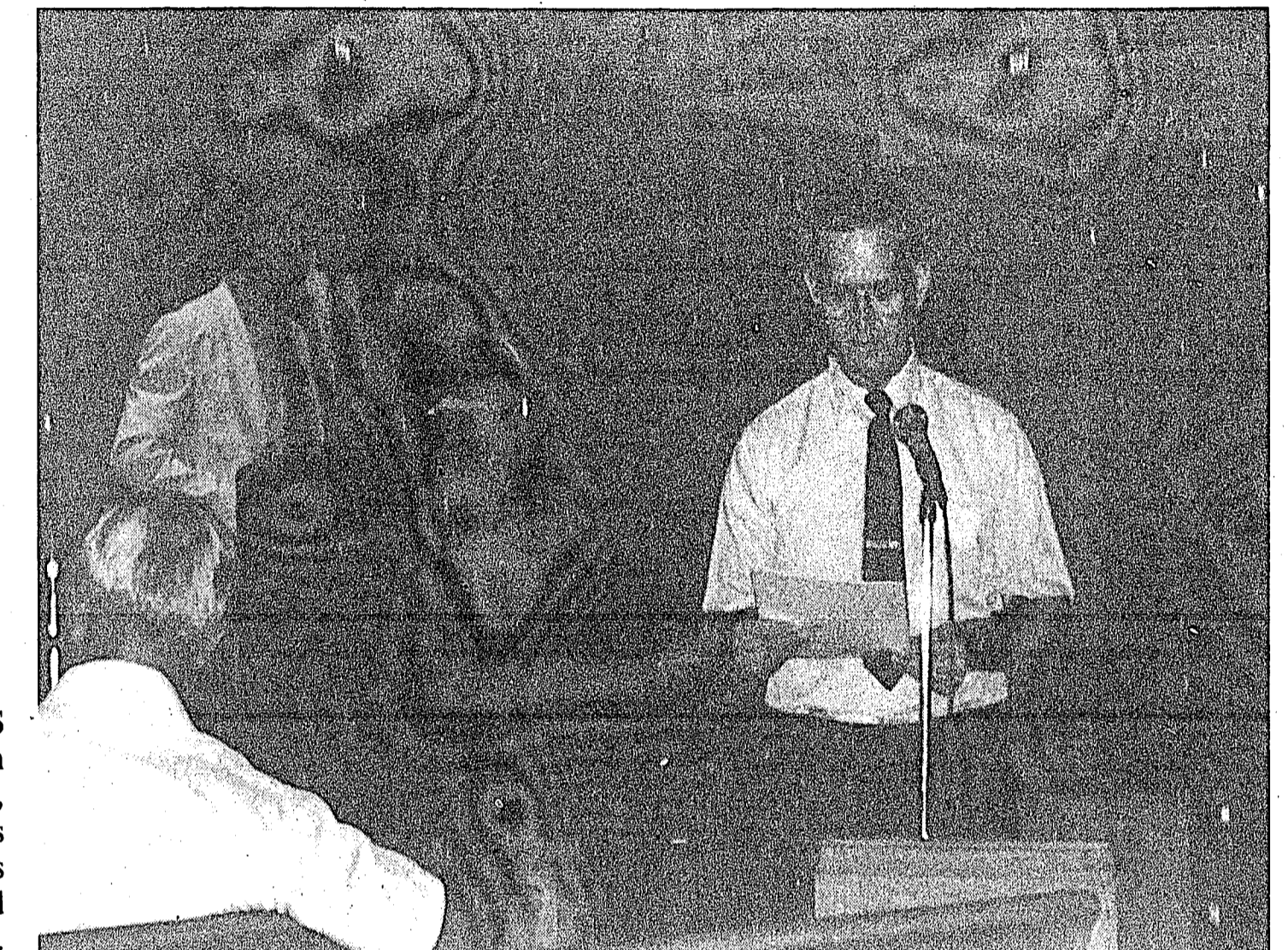
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Family: Building the Body of Christ

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So, they put it aside until morning as Moses had ordered. And it did not become foul, nor was there any worm in it. And Moses said, "eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord. Today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh, the Sabbath, there will be none."

And it came about on the seventh day, that some of the people went out to gather but they found none. Then the Lord said to Moses, "how long do you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? See, the Lord has given you the Sabbath. Therefore, he gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain, every man, in his place. Let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day.

Exodus 16:22-30

Conference sermon by John Peil

As we think about the family, we find that America is ambivalent. Europeans have chided us. They say, "You talk about the family continually, yet your actions are diametrically opposed. You talk of family farms and yet you continue to destroy them so that you may be more efficient with agribusiness. You talk of families in the city, yet you systematically destroy them through welfare. You talk of families all over the country yet, when a man is having problems in the family, you immediately jerk him out, thereby destroying the family; or you jerk out the wife or take the children away from the parents until the family is absolutely destroyed. You say, 'We love the family. We want the family to be strong in America today.' And yet all your actions say we want to destroy the family so that it will not exist any more."

The family is a powerful institution. It is one of the most powerful insti-

tutions on the face of the earth. Every dictatorship that has ever arisen has wanted to do away with the family. Whether it is in Nazi Germany or Russia, when a dictatorship arises, the first thing they attack is the family. As long as the family exists, it threatens the dictatorship. You cannot have absolute power if there is a strong family unit all across your country.

It is the family that teaches values.

The reason is that in the family, you are taught values. So, you may have a political leader standing up and talking continually but its over the dinner table that the children are taught what he really should have said and what he really meant and what it really means to be an American or a Russian. It is the family that teaches those values. It is the family that gives us our strength.

God, who created the family, also created the Sabbath. The Sabbath he gave to us for many reasons. Sabbath is a time when we come and adore God and thank him for Jesus Christ. One of the other reasons for the Sabbath was to strengthen the family.

Through the Sabbath, God says, "I want you to stay together as a family. I want you to stay in one place." And he says, "I am going to take care of you while you do that. I am going to give you enough food, enough clothes. I'll help you make enough money through the other six days so that you can stay at home on that seventh day."

So often people come to me, especially in the city (I'm sure it is the same everywhere) and they say, "John, you know, I really have to work. I absolutely have to have this money." At issue is the question, how much faith do you really have in God?

The people were out gathering manna and they came to Moses and they said, "Look, we've got twice as much, explain it to us." It was like God threw a big surprise party for the children of Israel.

They were joyful and Moses explained, "Yes, God wants you to keep the Sabbath." I wonder what surprise party God has for all of us, everywhere in this world, if we will only keep his Sabbath. I wonder how he will shock us as he provides for us and gives us food, clothes and a home.

Having faith in God...that does not mean that the Sabbath will be our salvation. God did not say, "Now, if you keep the Sabbath you will be my people," did he? They were already his people. He had already freed them from Egypt. They had already crossed the Red Sea. They were already receiving manna. Now he comes to them and says, "Keep my Sabbath. Here is a

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The Sabbath is a day of joy, a day of feasting. God could have said, "I'll give you nothing so that you can fast on the Sabbath day. You can meditate upon my word." Instead, we find that God gives us food. The Sabbath is meant to be a joyful time; a joyful occasion. Yet, as one commentator wrote, "God gave them a double portion, but then God demanded a different lifestyle." God put restrictions on them, that they might have the best possible kind of life here on this earth.

God took that Sabbath day, with its joys and restrictions and then he emphasized it twice. He said, "let every man stay in his own place. Let him stay in his own place. And they rested."

In the Hebrew, you cannot have exclamation points, they had not invented them yet, so when you want to emphasize something, you say it twice. "Let every man stay in his own place. Let him stay in his own place." You have exclamation points all over it saying, this is what God wants. This is the restriction.

That one day with our families is to influence the other six.

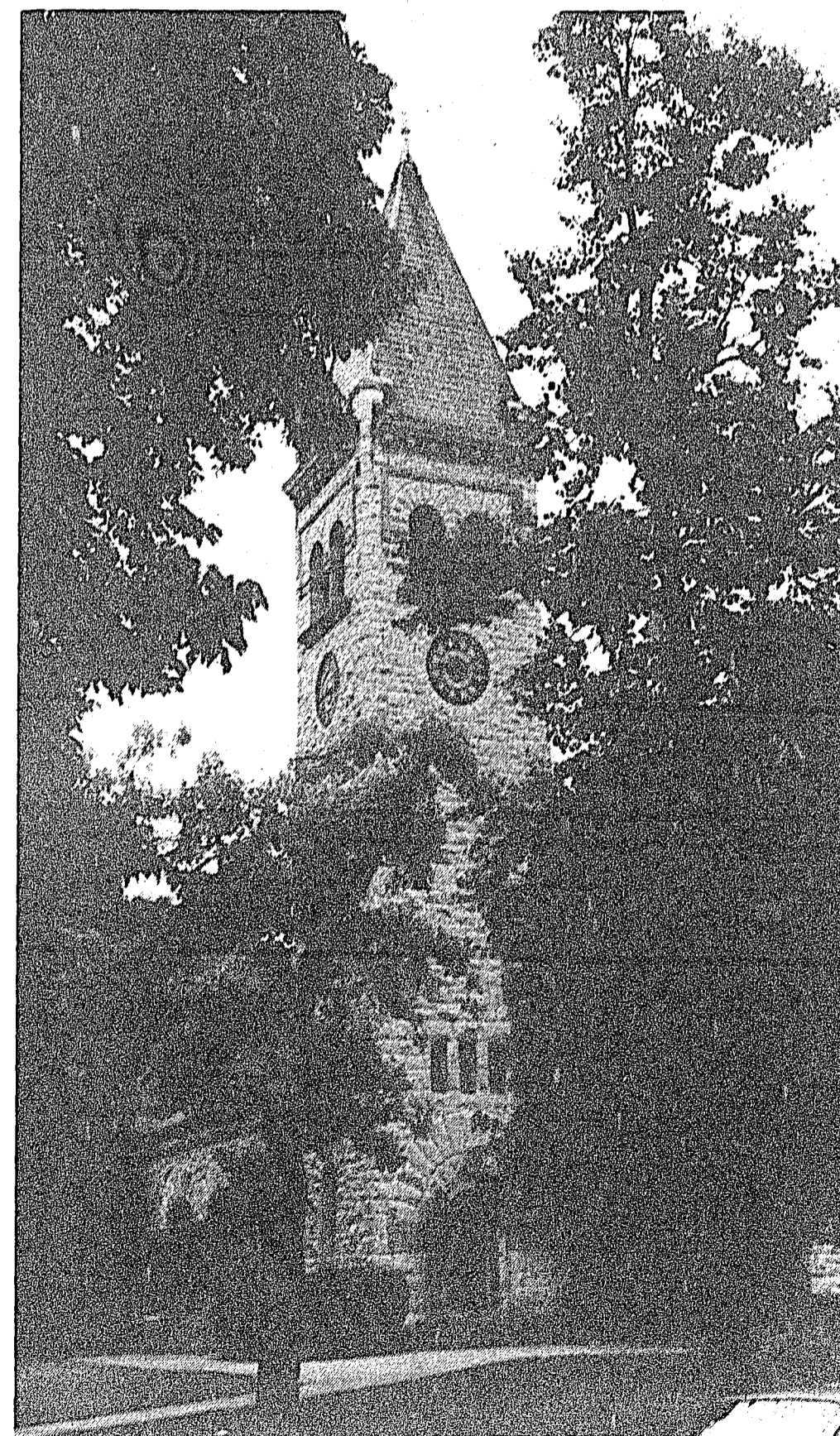
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God is saying, "Stay. Be changed that you might be ready to live during the week."

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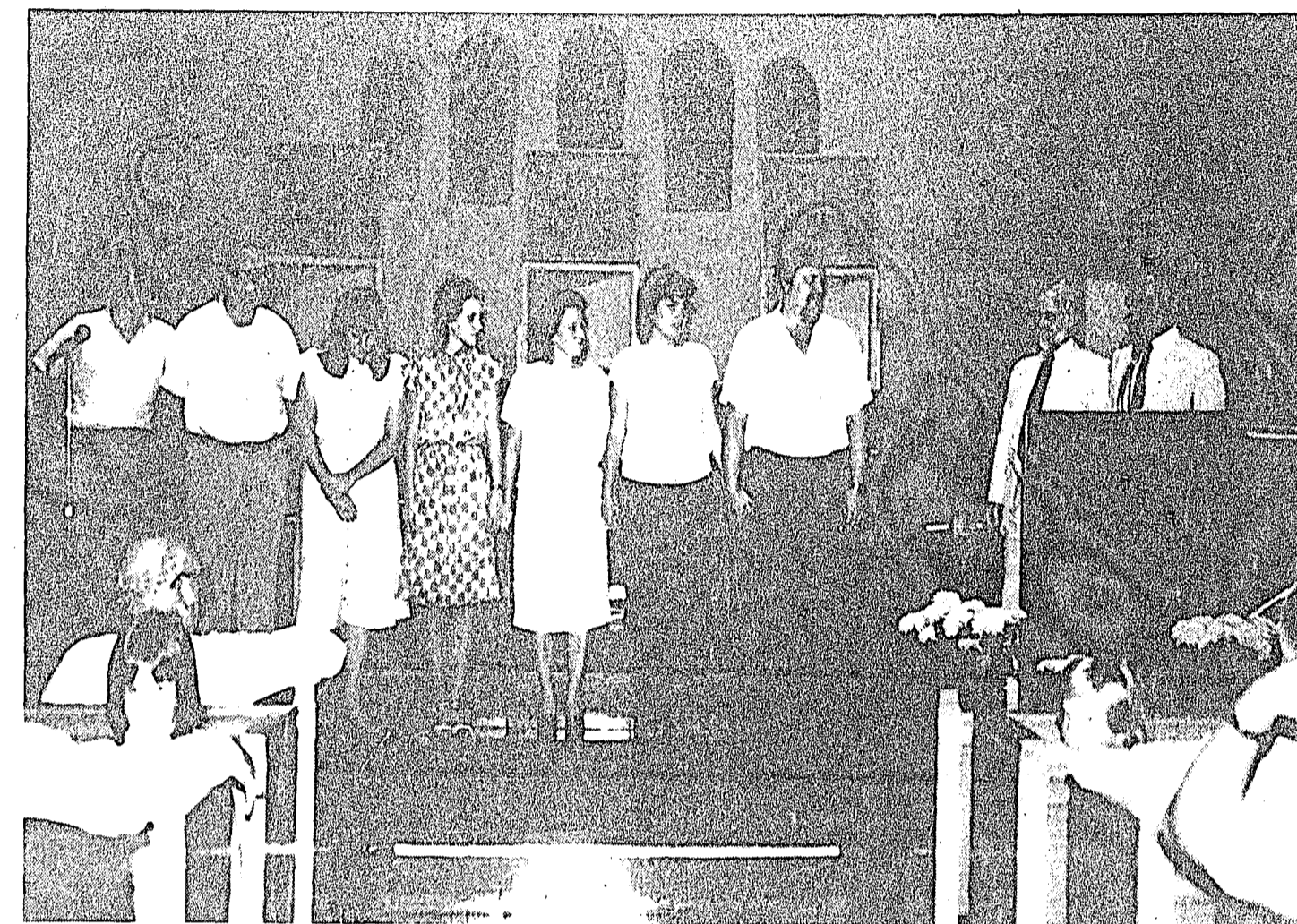
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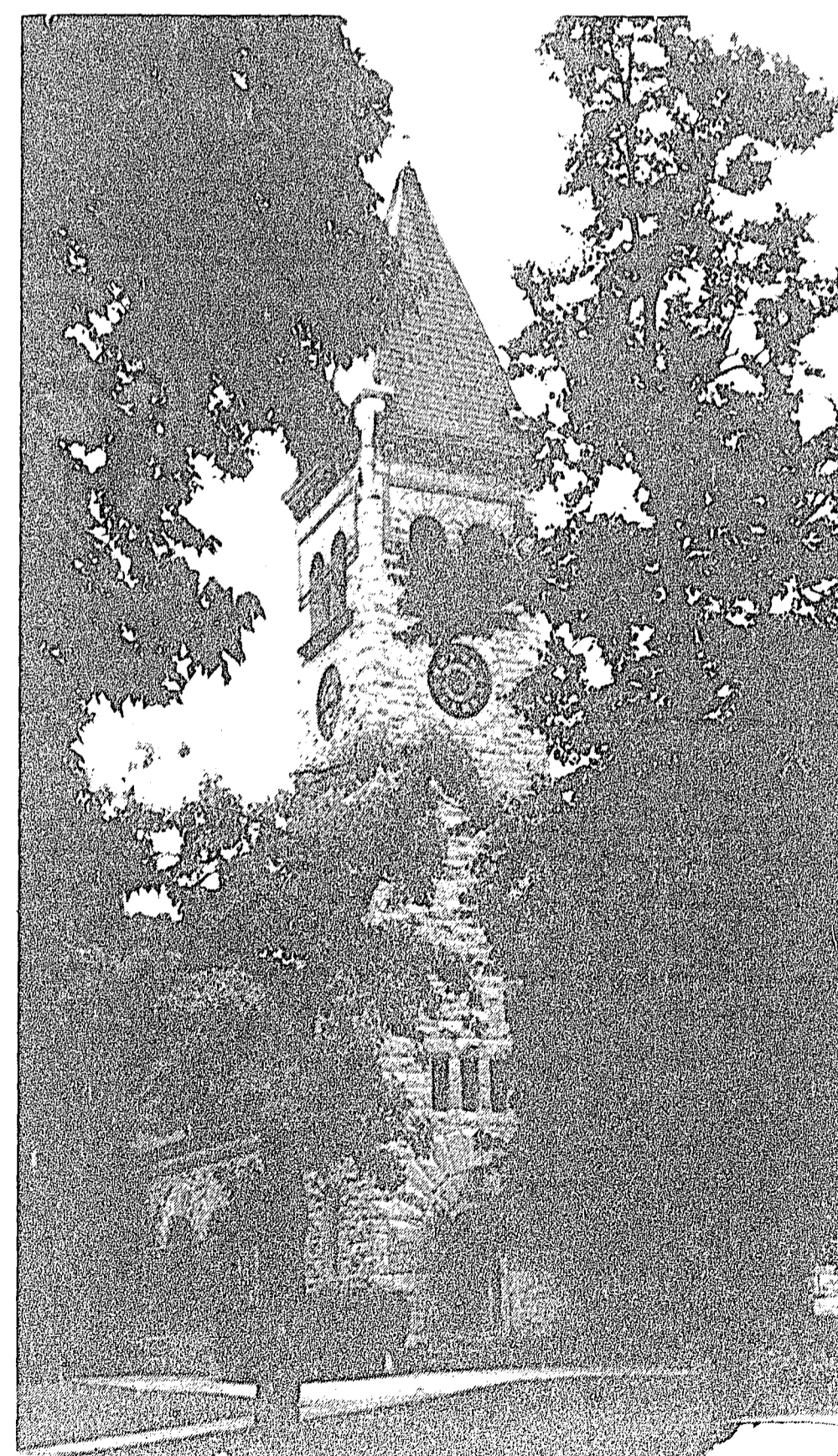
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I am a success. I'm glad there are hypocrites in church."

With a puzzled look they say, "That's good, John."

And I say, "No, I'm really glad. I thank you for telling me that. You know, if my church people acted in church like you act in the world, they would destroy the church. Thank God they're hypocrites on the Sabbath Day. Thank God they're struggling to change. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ that these people know what is a good life and they are working on it. For at least one day a week they try to be different that they might remember during the other six."

Then I tell them, "At your working place, are there hypocrites there?"

They have to say, "Yes."

Then I say, "Well, then quit."

The one is to influence the six. That one Sabbath was given to us—given to us that we might have strong families, that our country might be strong also. God demands that Sabbath for us. What he does is he puts the family together for 24 hours.

Sometimes I think God has a tremendous sense of humor. I work all the time; I'm a pastor and a therapist. And my wife works, and our children go to school. Then comes Friday night, and we're all home before the sun sets.

Is it amazing that we don't get along? Is it amazing that we've all changed during the week? For 24 hours we are to be together. We might be together at home, or we might be together at church, or we might be together visiting people, but we are together as a family. Those first few hours are a little rough. Maybe not in your home. I'm only 40, I'm just beginning.

Sabbath morning comes, and it is such a joy because we're yelling at the children. Did you know preachers yell at their kids? (Don't tell any other preachers I told you.) You yell at your children. My wife is yelling one thing, and I'm yelling another, and we just do not function very smoothly. What we are learning is to be a family again.

I really like what Pastor Herb Saunders has done in the past with his



The lawn in front of Chapin Hall became a favorite gathering spot.

family where he has the candle lighting ceremony. I've just come to realize in the last few years, the tremendous importance of gathering around and making it a special time for the children. "We are together. We are now a family. We are going to learn to work together, that we might not forget during the other six days that this is where we belong; and this is what is important." As we do that, you cut down on the divorce rate.

Divorces peak at two times. They peak at three years and then they peak at 25 years in a marriage. They peak at three years because, in that first year, people are learning to live together. What has happened during that first

The divorce rate stays low, and suddenly at 25 years it peaks again and it goes as high as the three year peak. For a long time, people were mystified by it and they said, "Why is this happening? What's happening in America?"

They went back and they studied and they found out that this is when all the children left. They headed for college, and one evening—while the man and wife were watching TV—they would suddenly look at each other. Either the power went off and the TV shut off, or something happened and they had to look at each other. And one said, "Who are you?" And the other said, "Who are you?" They said, "It's just as easy to start over if we don't know each other." And they got divorced.

If for your whole life you have been going to church, and for 24 hours a week you have been together, when the time comes that your children leave home, you are not strangers to each other. You have the same goals, you have the same God, you have the same Savior—Jesus Christ—you have the same church, you have the same friends, and all those ties bind you together.

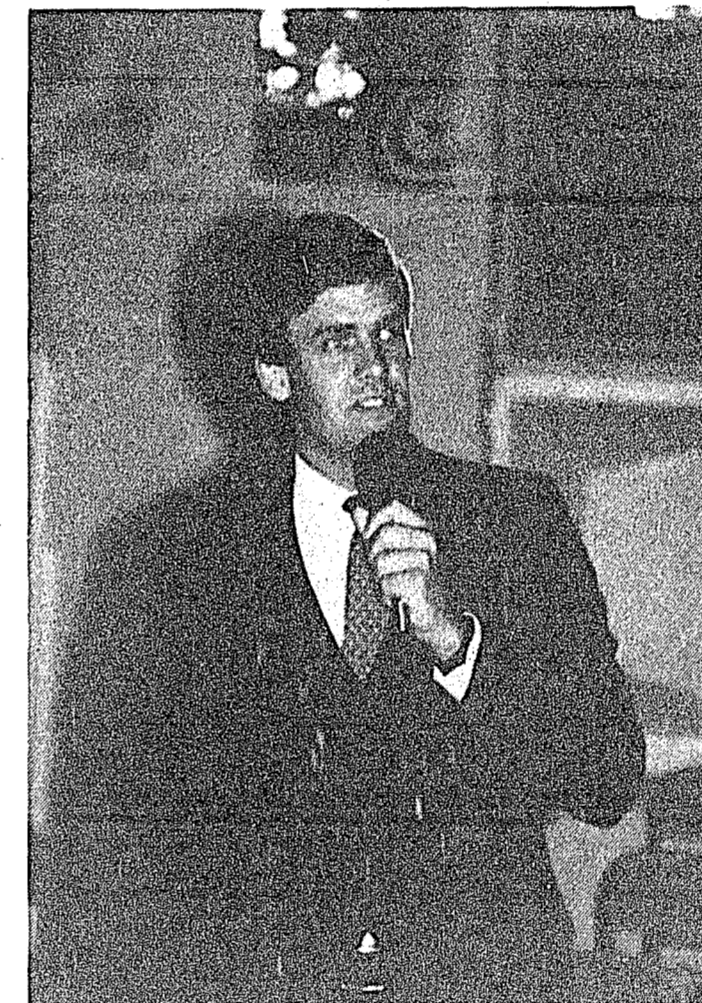
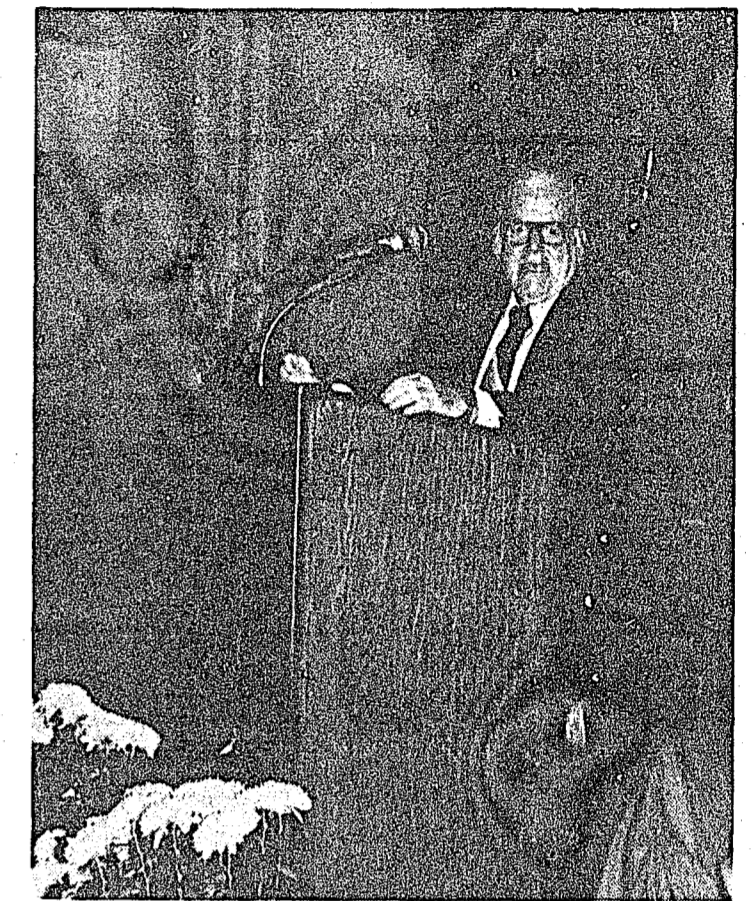
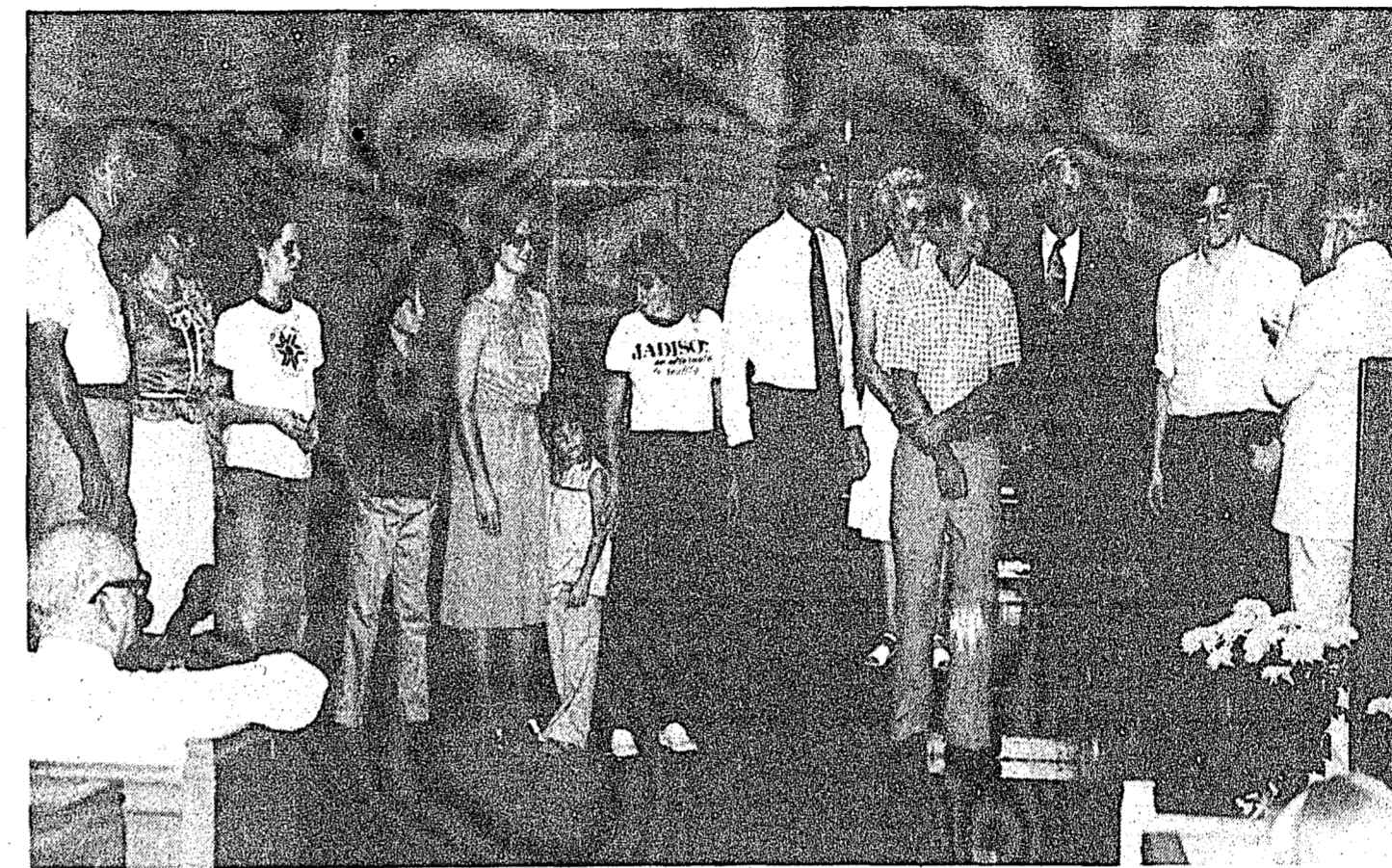
God gave us the Sabbath that we might have families. It is in the family that we pass on our Christian values. You can listen to all the sermons in the world; you can be taught in all the Sabbath School classes, but it is those first seven years at home with your mother and father where you learn what it means to be a Christian. It is there that you pick up all those values which you are going to keep for the rest of your life.

So what does the Sabbath mean to us

God gave us the Sabbath that we might have families.

year finally shows up at the third year, and you have a jump in the divorce rate that skyrockets. Then it begins to come down.

If you are going to church each Sabbath, you are learning to be together. As a man, you may be starting out on your career; as a woman, you may be starting out on your career. Yet, for 24 hours each week, you are together. And you do not forget each other.



(Upper left) the Madison, Wisconsin, church was recognized. (Upper right) S. Kenneth Davis spoke on "Building Toward Maturity." (Lower left) Steve Clapper gave a vesper in song. (Lower right) Charlotte and Tyler Chroniger enjoyed the fellowship.

as Seventh Day Baptists? As a people, we have valued the family and valued it very much. In fact, as Seventh Day Baptists we conceive of time in terms of generations instead of just in years.

I know when I first became a Seventh Day Baptist, I kept hearing about who was related to whom. I went to my first pastorate and they drew out all the genealogy on a paper sack (I wish I had kept it). Coming from California, where nobody was related to anybody, I thought, "What does all of this mean." I made fun of it, and I have heard other people make fun of it. I have heard people say that we are

really just related through Jesus, and that's true. But as the years went by, I kept wondering what all this was about. Why is it so terribly important that we all know who is related to whom? And why do we keep doing that?

Then I got involved in another Masters program, for Marriage and Family Counseling. There they began talking about the terrible importance of having a family, and an extended family. They said that those people who have extended families have better mental health. I learned that we are paying a terrible price in America today for all of our mobility and all of our individualism. Our rebelliousness says, "I don't need anybody; I will

stand all by myself." We are finding we do not stand by ourselves but we become crippled. A terrible price.

As I sat there I thought, so that's why these crazy Seventh Day Baptists are always talking about their genealogy. There is tremendous power in it; tremendous power. It is nothing to be ashamed of, but brings tremendous strength and stability. It was a terrible shock to me.

I first became interested in it when my daughter went up to camp two years ago and she came back and I said, "Well, did anybody bother you up there?"

And she said, "Daddy, I'm related to everybody."

I thought, a traitor in my own midst. 7

I said, "What do you mean you're related to everybody?"

We found out that we had an aunt and some cousins down in San Diego church, and she had an uncle in the L.A. church, and she had 5,000 cousins in the Riverside church, and she had all kinds of relations in the San Gabriel church. She literally was related to everyone.

I looked at her, and she was happy. She said, "I really enjoyed camp." She felt secure. In this world where we have no security or stability; in this impersonal, technological society which devalues each of us as a human being, we do not have any human contact. We do not even have tellers in banks and in the service station you just stick your money in a slot. As Seventh Day Baptists, as we have kept the Sabbath through Jesus Christ, we have what the world is looking for. Family.

I know I can go home, and there I am loved. I know I can go to my church, and there I am loved. When I go out into the world, there I have trouble. But I am safe at home, and I am safe in my church.

In counseling, we call people who can not trust anyone else "paranoid." Look at our society today. If you trust anybody you are going to have problems because they are going to take advantage of you. We are turning into a sick society. Yet, it is Seventh Day Baptists with our tremendous example of "familyness" and togetherness, that can say, "Look. Here is mental health. Look. We have what you're searching for."

It also has to do with a different time frame. As Seventh Day Baptists, we do not think in terms of years. *Double in a Decade* should be *Double in a Generation*. Tremendous power. All this power as a family, this tremendous stability, can do a couple of things. One thing it can do is to put you to sleep.

"I'm so secure, and I'm so strong, that I think I'll just kick back and relax." Or you can say, "We have what the world needs and know why they are dying, so let's give them the example."

How do we become an example?

How do we show people this family structure? I know people need it because of my work in a private mental health clinic. As a therapist, I have a two month waiting list. If you wish to see me you can call in and you can wait two months. I hope it isn't too serious! I see people that are hurting desperately. They come in and the first thing I say is, "Do you ever spend any time together?"

The answer is always, "No."

I say, "Well, what do you do?"

"We fight a lot."

I say, "Well that's some time together. Do you do anything as a family? Do you go to the beach, do you go to church...?"

"Church? Oh, no."

"Have you ever thought about church?"

"Oh, no."

"You might consider it. That way you might be together as a family for 24 hours and learn what it means to love each other instead of being enemies."

In our church, what we have agreed to do as a church is to say, "Ok, maybe we don't want to spend 23 years (it

took that long to have my daughter related to everyone) to make Seventh Day Baptists. That's a long time." But, it's not all bad! Maybe, in order to be a Seventh Day Baptist you should have to wait 23 years, I don't know. Maybe that is not all bad. Maybe that is what we are about.

As I looked at my church I thought, "How can I recreate this? How can I have this stability in a shorter time?"

The reason I worked with that is because I had brought four churches into the denomination and three are still alive. Each time I started a church, no matter how long I stayed there, they said, "It doesn't feel stable enough."

I kept thinking, "What do they mean by *stable*? Do they mean having a building or one hundred people? What do they mean?" Finally I understood, they meant that when you walk in the church you get this tremendous sense of extended family. When you walk into a Seventh Day Baptist church you have the sense that that church is going to last. It is going to make it. It made it for 330 years, it will make it for another 300.

That is a *feeling* and feelings are not

Executive Dale D. Thorngate (right) welcomes Pastor Bill Sharon, representing the Wichita Falls, Texas, SDB Church.



The Sabbath Recorder

generated by buildings. It is a feeling of family. Somehow, we are all going to be together and we are going to make it.

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I look at the families and say, "How many generations can I bring into our church?" I want that stability. Living in Los Angeles, the second largest city in the United States, with a greater metropolitan population of 13 million, they are terribly lonely. At the clinic, 99% of the people who come to me do not have one friend. Looking out over that city, there is something that I can offer.

"I can be your friend. You can have a sense of family. Your family, no matter how badly it is damaged, can be loved back together. It may take a year, or two years, or three years but we will love it back."

They say, "Three years is a long time to mess around with someone." But, once you get divorced, you are looking

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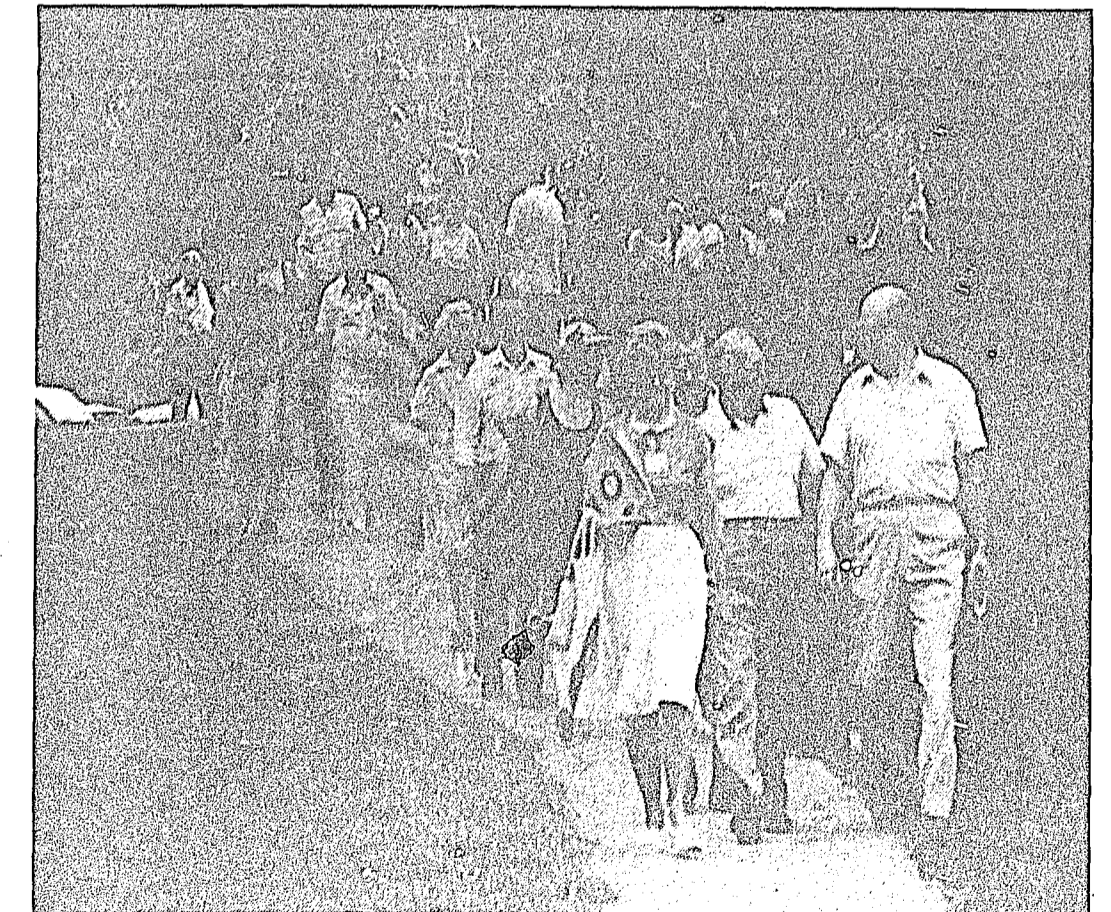
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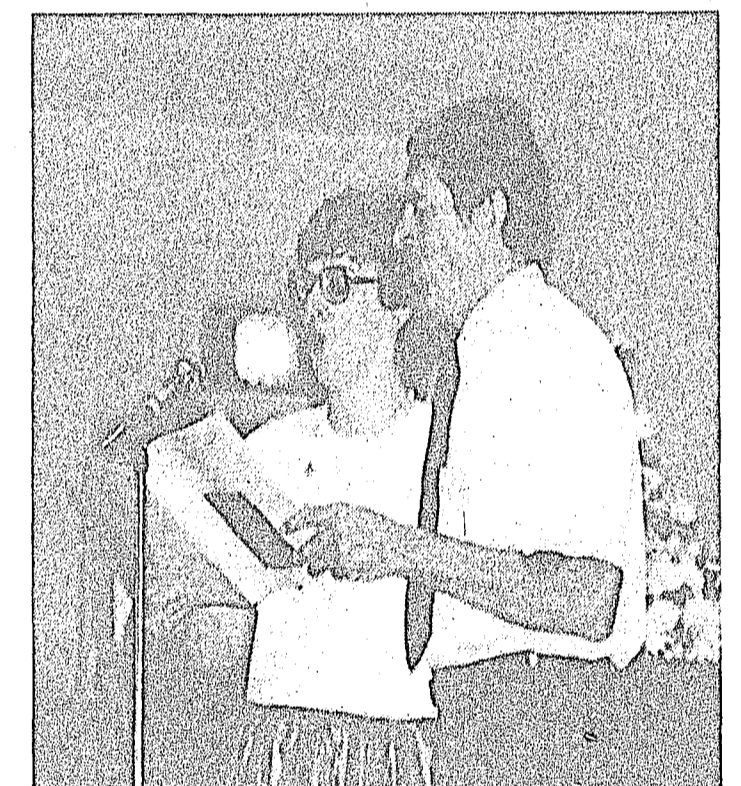


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I do not know if that is the best way. I know this...it is Biblical. It is a good way of keeping the Sabbath. And I know that that church will last at least 340 years.

I hope God will bless you where you are. I hope your way of growing is Biblical and stable and it helps people and that it will last 340 years.

May God bless us as a people. SR



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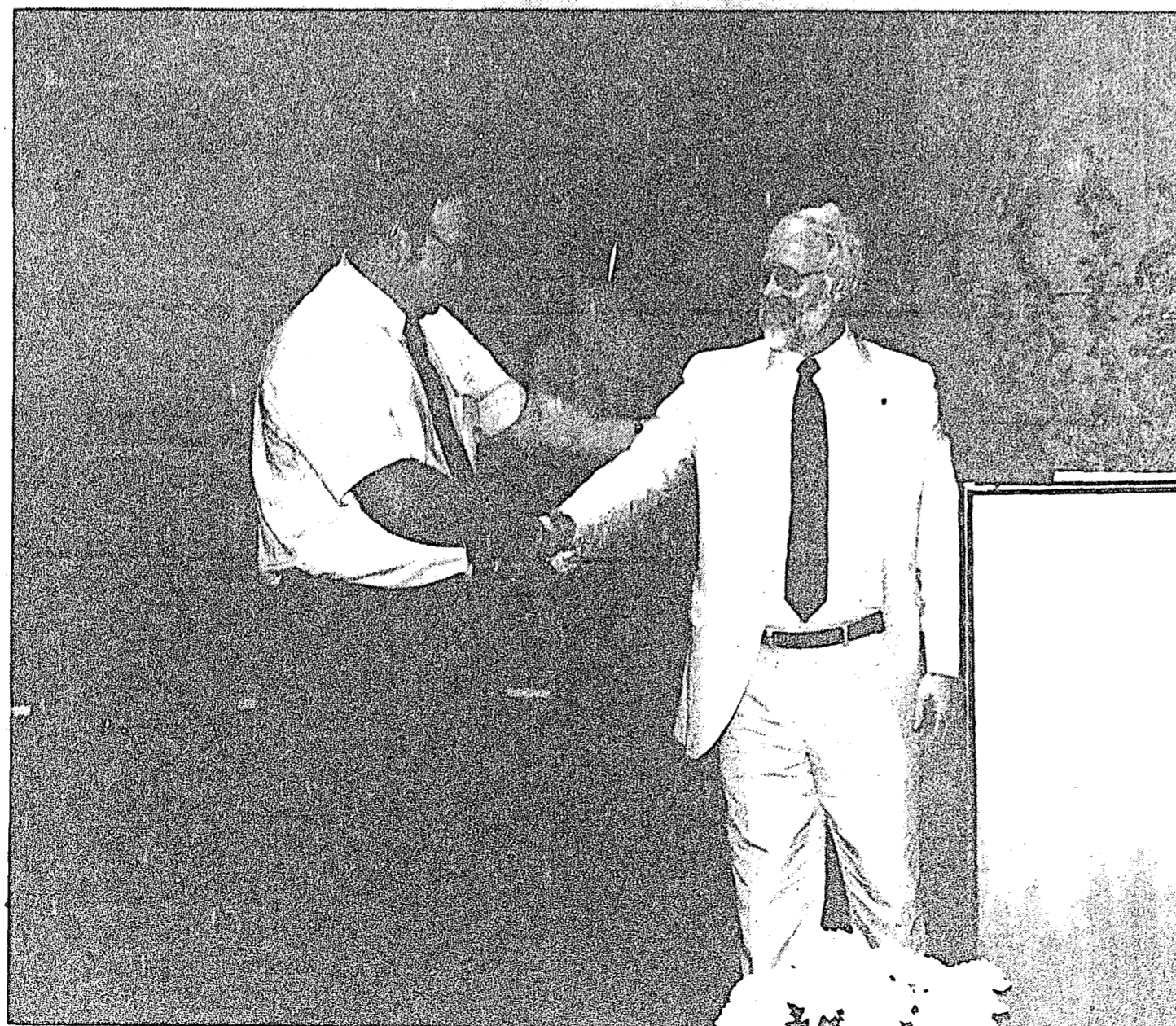
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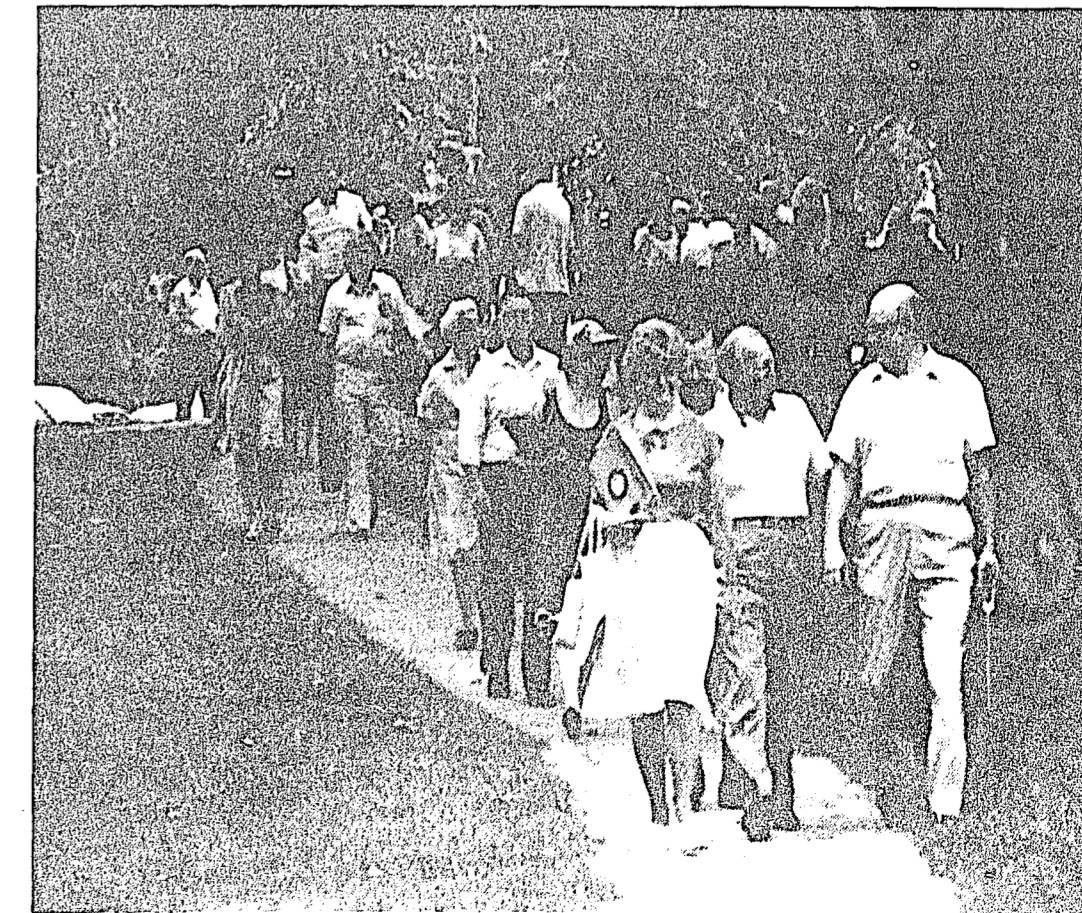
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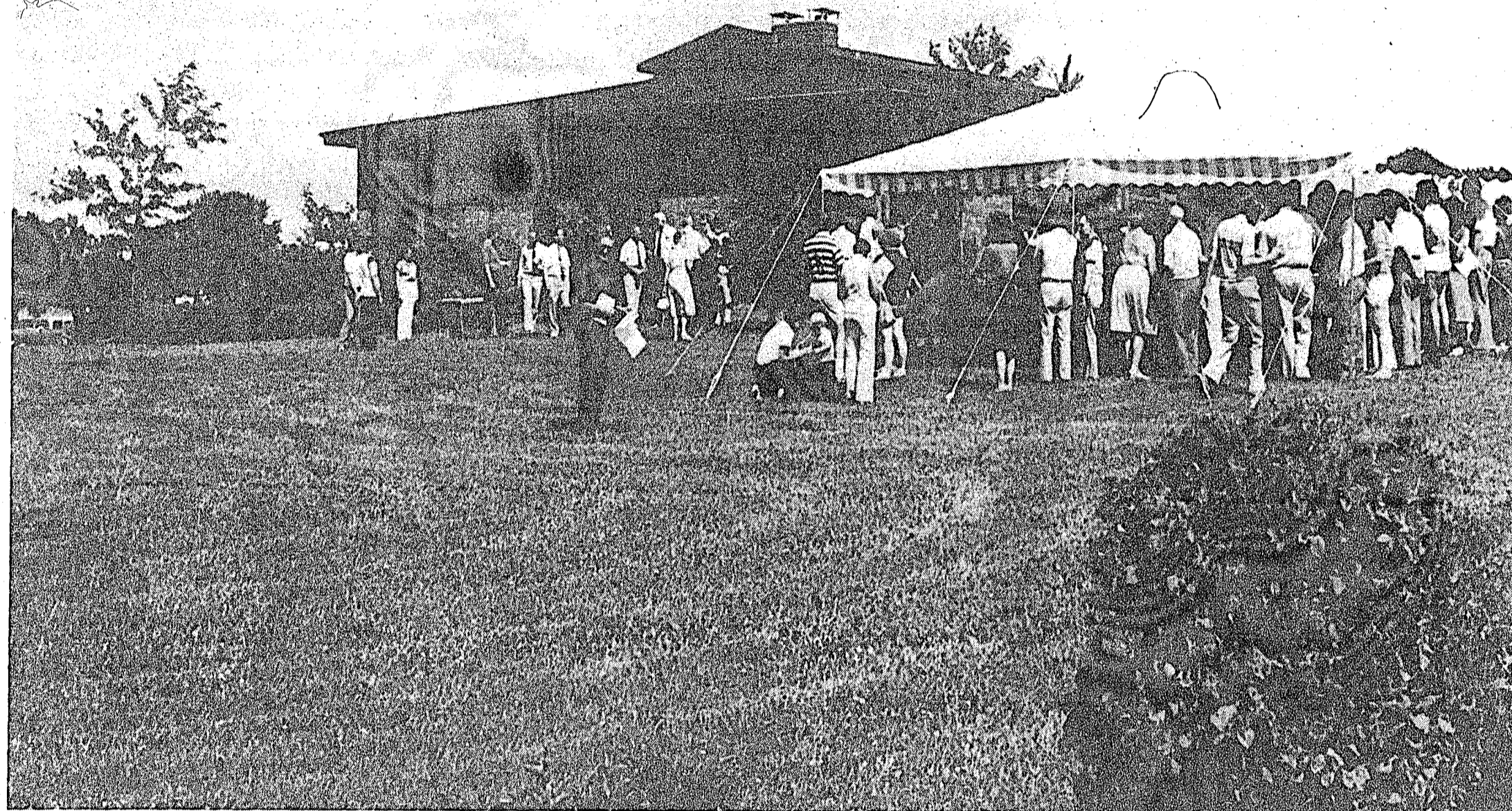
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John H. Camenga (below left) is the newly elected member of the General Council. (Below right) delegates left the plenary sessions heading for committees.





A large crowd came to Janesville (Wis.) for the dedication of the SDB Center.

Center debt retired

Representatives of denominational organizations were on the program.

by D. Scott Smith

When Seventh Day Baptist General Conference began on the campus of Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, I thought that the challenge of paying off the debt on the denomination's Janesville, Wisconsin, building was well beyond our grasp.

Just under \$50,000 was needed to retire the debt. Though that amount was small compared to the total that Seventh Day Baptists had given toward the project earlier, it still seemed an astronomical sum to raise in less than one week. No amount of faith, it looked like to me, would be able to find all of those thousands of dollars in such a short time.

The dedication of the Seventh Day Baptist Center had been planned at the end of the week (Friday afternoon) so that the full week could be used to encourage conference delegates to finish the drive.

For the first few days of the conference sessions, the thermometer-like posters that the General Council had had put up, did not change. Though the temperature outside kept climbing, I was concerned that the total for the *Relocation Fund* was not moving. As Friday's special afternoon services in Janesville came closer, it looked more and more like we were going to dedicate the building to the work of the Lord...but it would not be paid for and we would not be able to burn the mortgage.

Friday dawned bright and clear; a much cooler day that was more like what we had been telling people that Wisconsin was *really* like. During the breakfast meeting of the General Council, the group decided to put forward one last push to do the best job that could be done in finding the funds.

During the morning, I noticed that more and more of the green "thank you" ribbons were showing up on people's name tags. A table was set up at the entrance to the cafeteria and volunteers were in place so that people would be reminded to stop and make a gift or pledge. When the delegates were eating lunch, announcements were made pointing out how much had been raised and what was left to enable us to burn the mortgage. The climbing total started to look exciting. When I left the campus to drive to the Center building for the afternoon of tours and the dedication ceremony I did not know how close we were. But, I knew that the giving had increased greatly and that it was going to be close.

The building was crowded with

people looking at the museum, offices, libraries and work areas. It was wonderful that so many people could come and see what people all across the country (and around the world) had been working hard to pay for. At 3:00 p.m. we moved out under the shade tent to hold the service of dedication. Many were wondering if a "loaves and fishes" miracle had happened. Would we retire the debt?

Beautiful weather and surroundings helped to make the service an inspiring event. Planned by Bob and Linda Harris and Earl and Mabel Cruzan, the service included all of the elected members of the General Council. Representatives of the denomination's boards and agencies were also prominent in the service.

Following the final dedication prayer, General Conference Treasurer Ivan FitzRandolph announced how far we had come in the attempt to pay off the debt. From the beginning of conference sessions to the dedication service on Friday, Seventh Day Baptists (both at Conference and across the country) had donated or pledged approximately \$33,000! Six thousand more could be added from donations that were eligible for the Memorial Fund Trustees' matching program. There had been \$39,000 raised in just a few days. SDBs had come so close, but we were unable to burn the mortgage on Friday afternoon.

After a Sabbath's rest, people began to think about the very small amount left that had not been donated or pledged. During the evening's presentation of awards, Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate told the crowd in the Beloit College chapel that he would be asking them (hopefully) one more time if there were any who wanted to help in the effort to finish the debt payment program.

I thought, "These people have given a large Conference Sabbath offering for the Our World Mission budget. How can they find the \$11,000 that is left?"

Conference 1984 really was a "loaves and fishes" miracle for Seventh Day Baptists. During that program, enough gifts and pledges were turned in to cover the remainder of the debt.

Now, (late August, 1984) approximately \$13,000 of the pledges that were made during conference are outstanding. The best estimate from the General Conference office is that, figuring the added interest between now and the end of the year (when pledges are due), we will pay off the debt on the SDB Center...with \$80 to spare.

Thank you to all who have made this three year effort a success.



(Right) denominational leaders took part in the dedication ceremony: (l to r) Victor Skaggs, president of the Historical Society; Leland Bond, chairman of the Council on Ministry; Dale Rood, president of the Missionary Society; and James Skaggs, president, SDB World Federation.



Helen Kenyon Coon Waite receives Robe of Achievement



Barbara Barber and Connie Coon accepted the robe for their mother.

This recipient of the "Robe of Achievement" for 1984 is perhaps best known within the denomination for her long and faithful service to the Missionary Society. Her service has been primarily that of secretary to the Executive, a position she first held in 1929 and a role she continued, with occasional "breaks" for child rearing, for over 40 years. She has served under such familiar names as Rev. William L. Burdick, Rev. David Clarke, and Rev. Everett T. Harris, and most recently, under Rev. Leon R. Lawton. Those attending conference will gladly attest to her total ability to manage the office during conference and other activities which caused the executives to be away for extended periods of time. She retired from this role in 1976. She continues to be an active member and valued contributor to that Society to this date.

Her contribution to Seventh Day Baptists was not only through this Society. She joined the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, R.I., and continues to be an energetic and dedicated member of that group. She has served many roles,

Helen's devotion to Almighty God... (is) a high standard for all of us to follow.

including that of Sabbath School teacher, Deaconess, various offices with the Ladies Aid Society, and numerous other direct and associated functions. She always can be counted on with unexpected but much appreciated expressions of care and concern; and never fails to find a person in need and ways to help. But perhaps the role that identifies her unflinching and consistent love of Almighty God, Church, and friends is her role as church organist, a service she first started in 1924 and has only recently been forced, because of arthritis and other health concerns, to discontinue.

By now, many of you have guessed that our recipient is Helen Kenyon Coon Waite of Hopkinton, R.I.

Helen's life has not been easy. She was born in White Plains, N.Y., on July 19, 1906, daughter of Amos L. and Ethel (Collins) Kenyon. She was brought to the Ashaway area of Rhode Island as a young girl, brought up on a farm in Tomaquog Valley, attended the local schools, and became a school teacher upon graduating from high school. She married Leland Coon, and to this union were born two children—Philip and Connie. Tragedy was not far behind, however, as Leland was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident in 1929, leaving Helen with an infant and a toddler to raise. Philip was similarly injured in a farming accident in 1945. We have all been blessed by Connie's continued presence with us, a candidate in her own right for this same recognition.

On October 3, 1931, Helen married James G. Waite, a union that brought two additional children: Barbara Anne (Barber) and James L. It also brought new responsibility—that of a farm wife and a caring daughter-in-law. Early in that association, James' mother, Dr. Anne L. Waite, progressively became in need of special care. This care was continuously provided, without question or reservation, until her call to be with the Lord.

Another such responsibility quickly followed, with the sudden death of her mother. Dad's (Amos L.) needs were also more than met by two caring children, and it was fitting that he was in Helen's home (and his—Hopkinton) when he, too, was called to his heavenly home.

Helen's family has continued to grow, and all of her family has been blessed by her new role as a great-grandmother. But her real family includes all of God's children—those who will expose themselves to his love, concern and genuine care through Helen.

Helen's devotion to Almighty God and her teaching of his love, both directly and indirectly, has established a high standard for all of us to follow. SR

Marion C. Van Horn awarded gold-headed cane

Rev. Marion C. Van Horn, the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society honors you today for your many years of service to Seventh Day Baptists, but particularly for your contributions to the understanding and communication of our heritage.

After your graduation from Milton College (Wisconsin) and from Alfred Theological Seminary (New York), you served as pastor of churches in Salemville, Pennsylvania (1937-40); Beria, West Virginia (1941-44); Lost Creek, West Virginia (1944-47); Brookfield (1st & 2nd), New York (1947-56); Fouke, Arkansas (1956-60); Texarkana, Arkansas (1957-66); and Daytona Beach, Florida (1966-78). In 1940, you worked a year as Promoter of Evangelism for the Women's Board, and then for 10 years (1956-66) as Shepherding Pastor of the Southwest Field where you were instrumental in the founding of fellowships and churches in Texarkana and Little Rock, Arkansas; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Houston, Texas. Then there were years as a member of the Commission and as President of Conference in 1966.

Throughout your ministry, you always took advantage of the natural opportunities to share from our rich history — in youth classes and field trips; in church bulletins, newsletters and *The Sabbath Recorder*; and in special programs and anniversary celebrations. As an active member of the Historical Society through the years, you have often added to our collection of valuable manuscripts and artifacts, with such items as the griddle and Betty lamp carried in the Shrewsbury caravan from New Jersey to West Virginia in the 1700s, a complete bound file of the *Beacon* during its early years in the 1930s and 40s, and the carefully preserved first record book of the Little Prairie, Arkansas

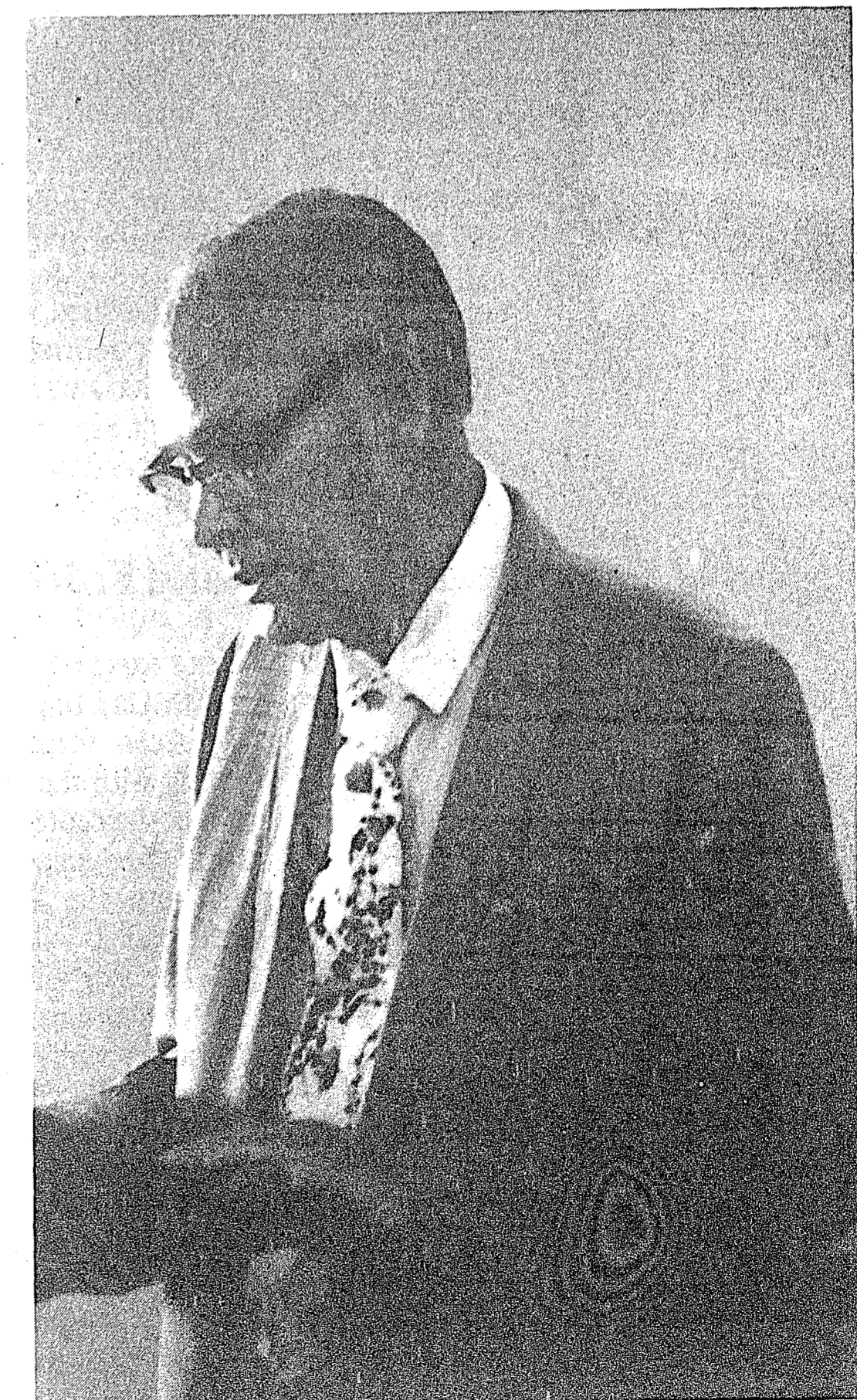
church.

Moreover, you have passed on to your family and many others an appreciation of things past, which enriches our present experience.

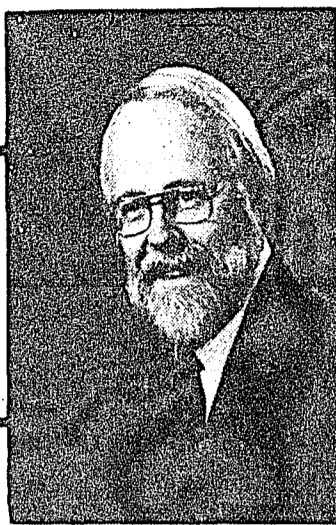
Recently, as Pastor Emeritus in Daytona Beach, you have also served as church historian, working with others to plan the series of commemorative activities for the centennial celebration. You presented the history orally at that time. Now we look forward to the publication of your written history of that

church's 100 years of service and witness.

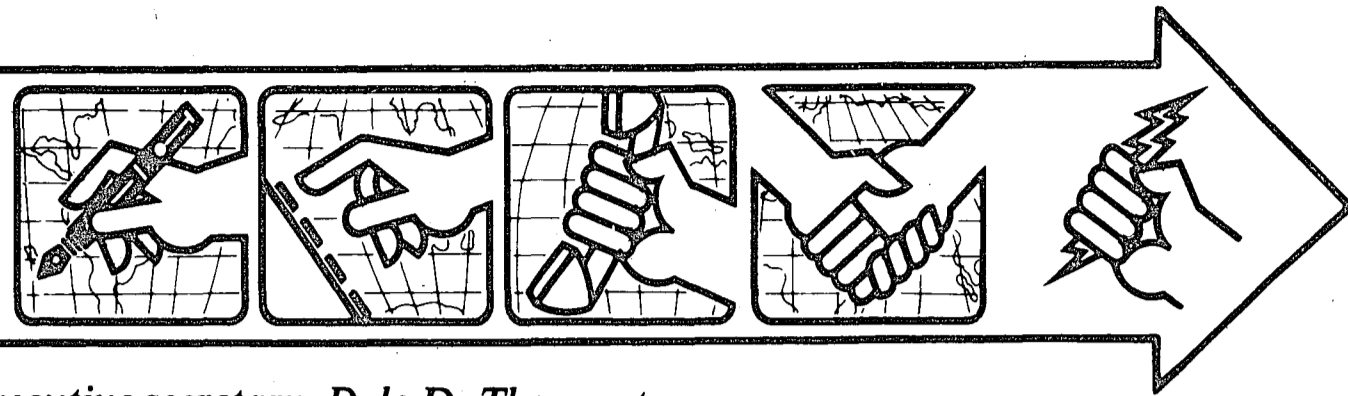
For all this and much more, we present you this gold-headed cane. It was first given 100 years ago, in 1884, to Rev. Joseph W. Morton, a faithful pastor, translator, and teacher. It has since been used by Rev. John Fitz Randolph and Rev. Paul S. Burdick, whom you have known. It is yours in trust for as long as you may use it, a symbol of our appreciation for your thoughtful service. SR



Marion C. Van Horn



from executive secretary, Dale D. Thorngate



Building the Body: 1983—84

A portion of the Executive Secretary's annual report

"By speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way (become mature) to Christ, who is the head. Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, and the whole body is held together by every joint with which it is provided. So when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love." (Ephesians 4:15 & 16)

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23 & 24)

Building the Body of Christ

During this year the above two passages of scripture have been my guide and goal, to serve the Lord Jesus with all my heart and to work at the maturing process of the church; helping the denomination work together in its primary goal of making new disciples of Christ.

Communications and Public Relations

Travel. For the Executive Secretary this has been a year of travel. Last fall Janet and I travelled to the West Coast visiting with the churches on an extended basis. We tried to meet with as many churches as possible on Sabbath and visited in the homes of as many families as possible. Our desire was to get to know the people where they live and work, to listen to their desires and needs and to gain as broad a perspective as possible for the work of the denomination in responding to those needs. This trip also gave opportunity for me to share the work of the denomination and to inform many new Seventh Day Baptists of the national and international aspects of our work.

The Spiritual Retreats sponsored by the Missionary Society gave me opportunity to share concerns about leadership needs and also provided for contacts with many pastors and lay leaders of our churches across the country. It is exciting to see how the Lord is causing us to want to share our faith and is opening up opportunities for us to do that sharing all across the country.

Meetings. During the year I attended 37 meetings: four with the American Sabbath Tract Society; three each with the Memorial Fund Trustees and the General Council; two each with the Board of Christian Education, Committee on Support and Retirement, Coordinating Leadership Team;

one each with Council on Ecumenical Affairs, Christian Social Action Committee, Sabbath Promotion Committee, Missionary Society Board of Managers, Council on Ministry, General Conference Trustees, Publishing Task Force, Summer Christian Service Corps evaluation with Gerry Van Dyke and with Dorothea Shettel, General Conference Host Committee and the Home Missions Committee of the Missionary Society. I also served on the General Council committee investigating options for Christian Education. I attended the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs meeting in Washington, DC and the Baptist World Alliance General Council meetings held in Berlin, Germany.

I attended Association meetings for North Central and Pacific Coast Associations.

I attended and participated in the Ordination Services of four men during the year: Lawrence Watt, White Cloud, MI; William Shobe, Atlanta, GA; Rodney Henry and Shinsei Hokama, Los Angeles, CA as well as the organization of the Madison, WI Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Visits. I visited with 32 different churches during the year, plus four retired pastors, as well as with 15 students or prospective students. I consider this to be one of the more important aspects of my work. Communication must flow two ways and the best way to do this is by personal contact.

World Federation

Your executive also serves as the executive secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation, corresponding with the fifteen member conferences around the world and meeting with the executive committee. This year the Federation has accepted the Sabbath Christian Church of Poland into membership. In connection with my trip to Berlin to meet with the Baptist World Alliance General Council, Janet and I will be visiting our churches in Germany, Holland, England, Finland and Poland. We will be officially welcoming the Polish conference into the World Federation while we are there. Expenses for this European trip were shared by the World Federation, Council on Ecumenical Affairs and the Missionary Society.

We have established a newsletter for the World Federation called SDB WORLD. It is published periodically to help accomplish the purposes of the SDBWF—provide increased communication among Seventh Day Baptist groups around the world, promote projects of mutual interest which will benefit from international cooperation, and stimulate fellowship among Seventh Day Baptist

Statement of Purpose

To provide advice and assistance to the churches in the accomplishment of their task of making disciples of Christ as required by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-21). To coordinate the efforts of our churches in the accomplishment of goals mutually agreed upon, e.g., sending of missionaries. In other words, the purpose for being of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference offices, boards and agencies is to serve the churches of the Conference.

Christians.

It has come to our attention through new communication with the Australasian Conference that membership there has more than doubled within the last six months. These are truly exciting and challenging times for Seventh Day Baptists around the world.

Reflections

As I have traveled this year my trips have had two specific purposes: (1) to articulate the new Statement of Purpose, (2) listen to feedback on how best to implement it. I hoped that we could begin to answer the following questions:

1. How do we in the boards, agencies and churches achieve this purpose?
2. What are the needs to which we should be responding?
3. How do we respond?
4. What can we do well?
5. What should we not try to do?
6. What are the priorities—who decides?
7. How do we finance the work?
8. What does it mean to be a member of the denomination? What is the commitment required?
9. How do we best communicate our faith to new Seventh Day Baptists?

I am convinced that these are good questions and we must continue to evaluate what we do by them.

One new way that we in the boards and agencies have been asking these questions this year was to appoint a Publishing Task Force. Their primary tasks are to evaluate our printed materials and to plan new publications for the future.

The Council on Ministry is developing a Certificate Pastor Program to help fill the needs for pastoral leadership until we can get more students into seminary. This program will help fulfill the need for qualified lay leadership, also.

The need for scholarship, leadership and quality printed materials is being responded to with new ideas.

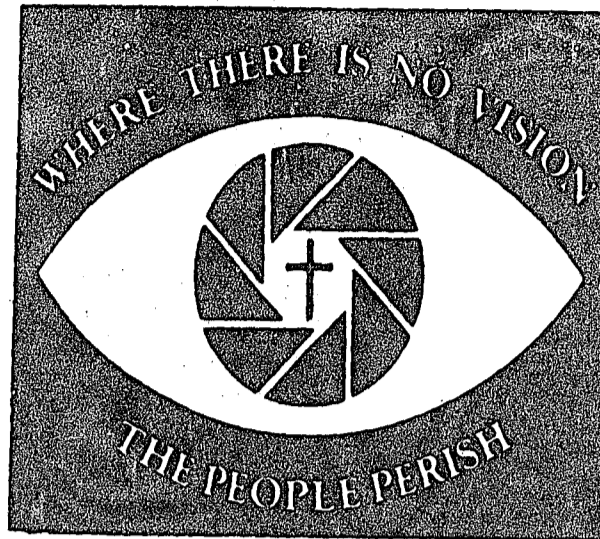
Pastors' Salaries. While I was traveling with the Retreat team in February we saw the article about pastors' salaries in US News Today. I don't know how you feel about having the lowest paid pastors in the country, but I personally don't like the distinction. The Committee on Support and Retirement and the General Council are studying the problem. Won't you pray, study and act with them to correct this real need? Our leadership families cannot survive on such inadequate salaries. Something must be done.

In May I attended a Church Planning Seminar in Chicago, sponsored by the Fuller Evangelistic Association. These are the people that brought us "Church Growth" principles. Leon Lawton also attended this seminar in November in California. We received an update on techniques and materials for Church Growth and many good ideas for our churches, new and old. We look forward to sharing them with you.

This has been a year of traveling and it isn't over yet. As I am writing this report Janet and I are preparing for our trip to Europe. The Lord is working in his *peculiar* people called Seventh Day Baptists and we are Building the Body of Christ numerically and spiritually. Join me in praising God for his ability to do far more than we can ask or think or even imagine.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale D. Thorngate



FOCUS

MISSIONS TODAY

by Leon R. Lawton

Burma Conference reports progress

BURMA, ASIA: "The last Burma SDB Conference annual session held at Tahan, April 4-8 was the best. Three full time workers are in the field ministry. Givings from churches and individuals was nearly double budgeted and the increase was remarkably 80 per cent. The set goal of Five Year Church building plan (1979-84) is partly accomplished. The actual goal was to build one church every year. Now we have church buildings of our own at: (1) Tahan, (2) Tuingo, (3) Kanaan, (4) Zonuam and (5) A pastor quarter at Zonuam village. We will emphasize nurturing and expansion of ministry under (our) next five year plan. All of these projects were undertaken in cooperation with the Missionary Society, Riverside SDB church, the Women's Society and the SDB World Federation. Our deep sense of gratitude to all the brothers and sisters in the faith in USA." -Rev. L. S. Thanga. **SR**

SDB witness in West Africa

LAGOS, NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA: Recent correspondence from Dr. F.O. Walters speaks of his conversion in Accra, Ghana in 1970, ordination in 1972, acceptance of the Sabbath in 1979 and the opening of a SDB mission in 1981. In 1983 he returned to his homeland of Nigeria and began a witness in Lagos. He reports a congregation of 150. In June he was able to meet with Rev. G. Harrison of the Nigeria SDB Conference and further meetings are planned "to work out a joint programme of promoting a united Seventh Day Baptist church in Nigeria." **SR**

Toronto added to missionary church program

TORONTO, ONT., CANADA: Pastor Joe A. Samuels, the Bi-vocational pastor of the First Toronto SDB Church came under the Missionary Pastor plan from May 1, 1984. Continuing his work part-time with the Probation Department, he is now giving more time to calling and ministry in his church with growth as a goal to build up membership in that growing urban area. **SR**

Parking project underway at Raritan Valley

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ, USA: The full use of grounds and building has been held up for several years seeking necessary permits, plans, etc. One phase was to have the required parking lot with landscaping, drainage, walks and other features. With a permit now in hand it seems that this project can begin this summer. Missionary Pastor Kenneth Burdick testifies, "We have had a year or two to raise this money, but it is really quite impressive that our small church of a handful of families (several retired) has been able to raise that much money (over \$6,600), while at the same time paying the mortgage on our building and all but \$100 per month of a full time pastor's salary (including modest increases for cost of living). The Lord provides, and when He does so out of the dedication and sacrifice of His own people, the provision is all the more 'wondrous in our eyes.'" It is interesting to note that in 1983 this congregation exceeded their OWM goal by 39%! **SR**



Mynor G. Soper was presented an award in thanks for his many years of service to the Missionary Society.

Two enter Bible institute

BLANTYRE, MALAWI, AFRICA: Applications for two new SDB students at Likabulu Bible Institute were recently submitted for the September term. Missionary David Pearson writes, "We are excited about these two men and have prayed and preached that the Lord of the harvest would raise up workers. They seem to be good men whom the Central Africa Conference secretary, Rev. A.K. Harawa, recommends." **SR**

Prayer Calendar

October 1984

Verse for the Month: "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

Matthew 23:11, 12 NAS

Pray for:

1. Praise the Lord for the Sabbath!
2. SCSC workers as they return home and continue their witness
3. Leon R. Lawton in his visit to Africa next month
4. our new Conference president
5. my Sabbath school teachers, leaders and new students
6. missionaries Rodney & Camille Henry and family, Philippines
7. Ambler, PA SDB church, Pastor Cruickshank and members
8. my church service today
9. my pastor's spouse
10. branch church (of Columbus, OH) in Canton, OH
11. Central Africa Conference meeting at Makapwa Station
12. Exec. Dale D. Thorngate and Conference ministries
13. pastors and churches in the SDB Philippines Convention
14. extension project(s) of my church and Association
15. Board of Christian Ed. as they examine church needs
16. SDB printed ministries
17. new pastors to meet the growing need for leadership
18. Florida field ministries of Leland and Lettie Bond
19. missionaries David & Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
20. God's strength that comes through the Holy Spirit
21. Pastor Jose Alegre, Melbourne, Australia
22. outreach ministries in the Southwest
23. Missionary Pastor churches
24. Our World Mission giving to meet churches' goals
25. the SDB Conference in South Africa
26. students in the Center on Ministry program
27. Editor-Historian D. Scott Smith
28. pastors and churches in Mozambique, East Africa
29. Extension Pastor churches
30. retired pastors and their spouses

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Measuring the maturity of the Body

Conference Sabbath morning message
by John Bevis

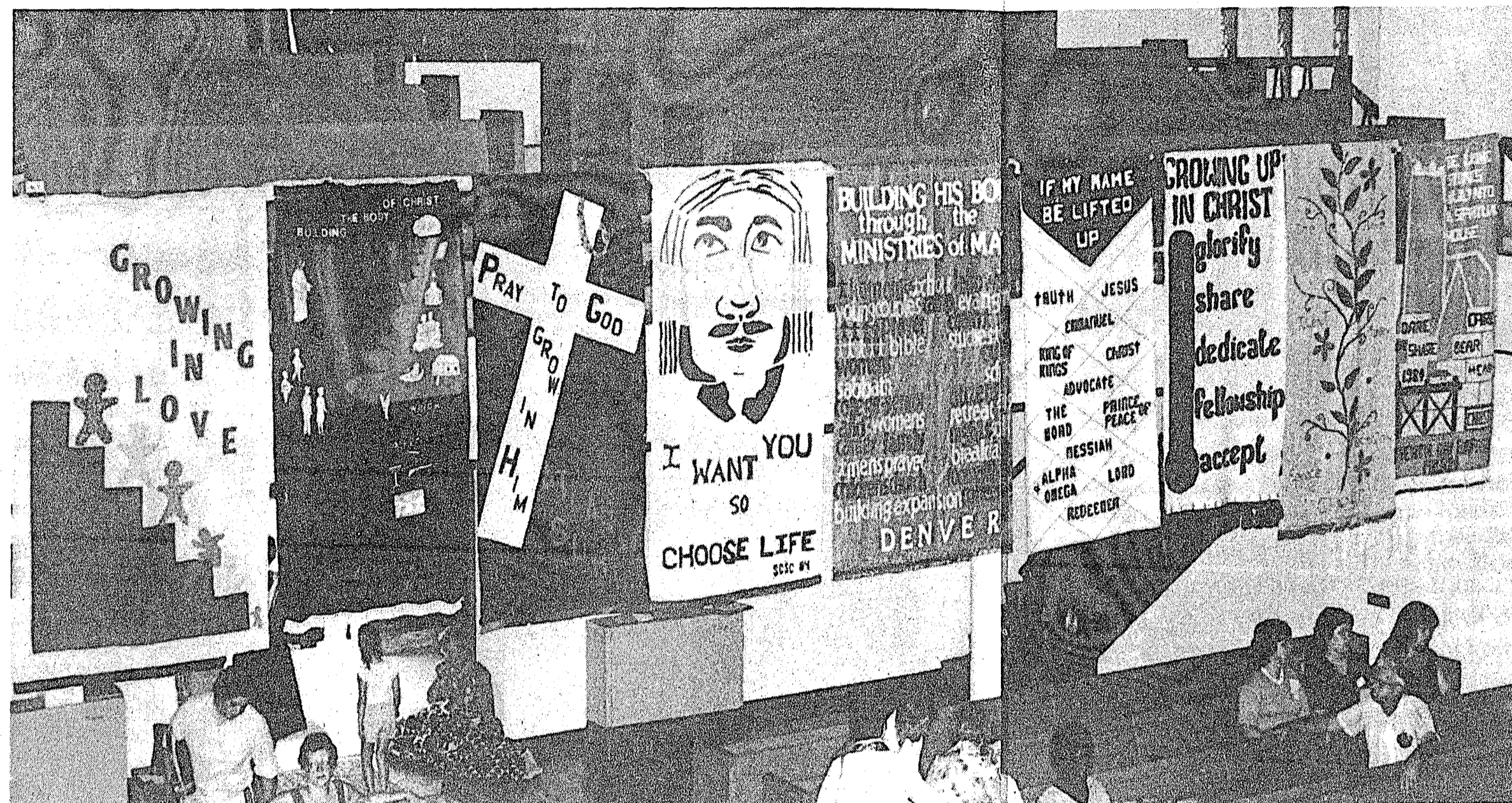
2 Peter 1:1-11

Babe Ruth is still considered one of the greatest of greats in American baseball. Some of you may recall that in his career he hit 714 home runs. But this day of which I am speaking, he was playing one of his last major league games. It was the Braves versus the Reds in Cincinnati. But Babe Ruth was not quite as young as he had been. He had become, like some of us, a little bit more mature. He was not as agile as he had been and in this game he fumbled the ball very badly. He threw badly and in one inning his errors alone were responsible for five runs scored by Cincinnati. As he walked off of the field after the third out and headed toward the dugout, all across that park, came a great crescendo of booing and hissing and yelling. The fans were very unhappy with Babe Ruth.

In the midst of their unhappiness, in the midst of that shouting, a small boy jumped over the railing and onto the playing field. With tears streaming down his face, he ran to the legs of his hero and placed his arms around Babe Ruth. Ruth did not hesitate for a second. He picked up the little boy, hugged him, set him down, and he patted him on the head. Something happened in those few seconds. All of the hissing, all of the booing, and all of the yelling ceased. A hush fell over the park. In those brief moments, the fans saw two heroes.

They saw Ruth, who—in spite of a very dismal day—had time to care and to express feelings about a small boy. They saw another hero, about three feet tall, who cared enough about another person to show his respect. They melted the hearts of the crowd that day in Cincinnati.

In the final analysis, the measure of the man, Babe Ruth, was realized. He



was not measured or judged for his one day. That day the fans took a second look at how they measured this man who would, in a few short years, become the great American legend in baseball.

It brings us to a question as Christian people, "How do we measure up?"

"How do we measure up as individuals? How do we, as members of the body of Christ, reveal the growth and maturity that God would see in us?"

In our Scripture passage, Peter is listing for us the virtues or the qualities that reveal the growth and the maturity of the body. I find that there is a condition to this growth; there is a condition to this maturity. That condition, as Peter says, is a full knowledge of Jesus Christ. It goes beyond a mere knowledge into what Peter finally discovered; a relationship with Jesus Christ.

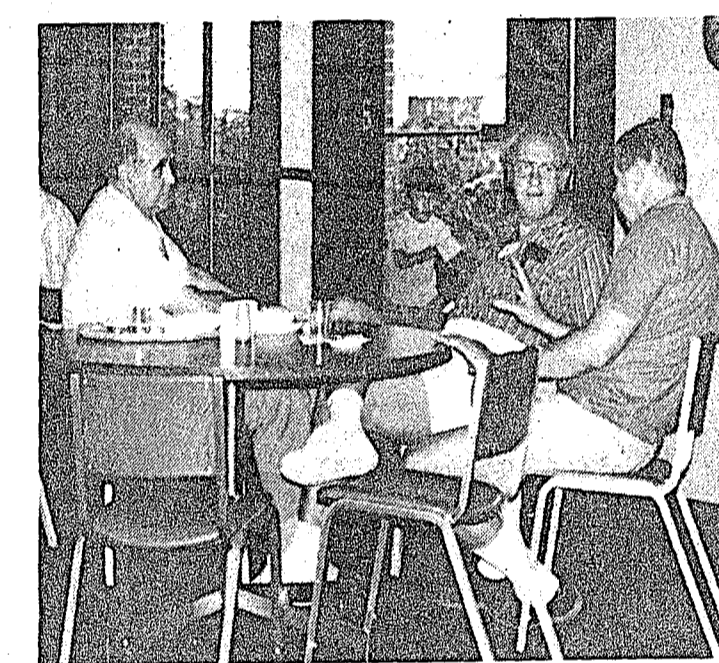
The third verse from *The Living Bible Paraphrased* is so very meaningful to us. "For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly great life." As you know him better, he will give to you the

power, the power to live for him.

The implication here is very clear to us that we are to continue to grow; that we are to continue to mature in the faith. The theological term that we often use is *sanctification*, growing up into the likeness and character of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I agree with Dr. Gary Collins who says that this goes beyond what he calls, "easy believism." There is a marvelous book out entitled *Beyond Easy Believe-ism*; I recommend it to you. We go beyond this point of just saying, "Yes, I believe." We go beyond, into the growth that is required of us as Christian people.

The Bible does not teach a cheap grace. It does not teach something for nothing. It was very costly to Jesus; it cost him his life. It was very costly to the apostles. I think if we are truly honest with ourselves, the most difficult thing we face in this life is living up to the standards we proclaim. It is easy to say, "Yes, I accept Jesus." Then comes the hard part; really living and growing into what he would have us be.

We notice the words of Paul where he says we strive toward the mark of



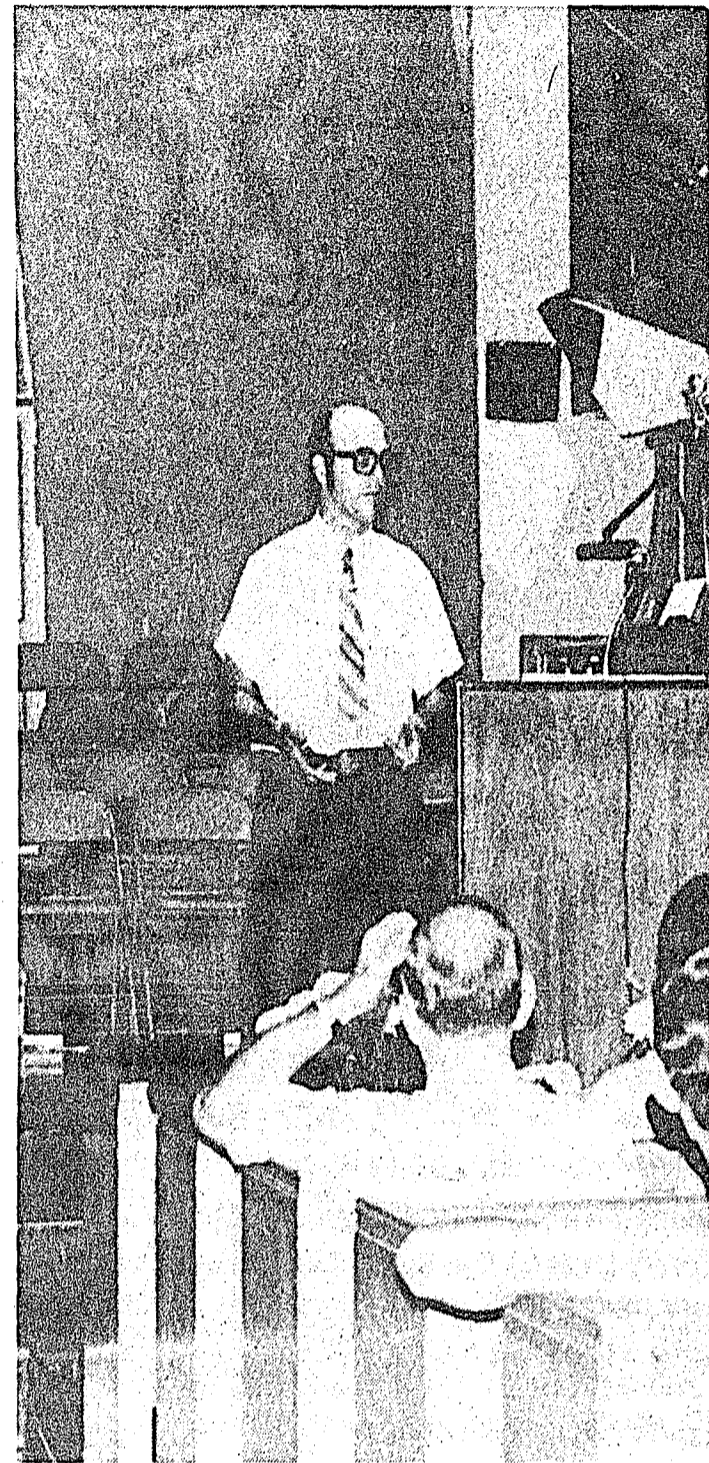
(1) Banners from local churches decorated the hall. (2) The mens' chorus. (3) The budget was hashed out during lunch. (4) The Milton Jubilee Ringers. (5) A Shady spot for a gathering of old friends.

the high calling of the Lord. We strive; we work at it. Push, drive, initiative. We need the knowledge and with the knowledge comes the power. We really need to know what we believe; to be well-grounded in Biblical truth. I am so thankful for this denomination which, for over 300 and some odd years has proclaimed solely the word of God. In 1984, just as in the 1650s, the Bible is all-sufficient as our guide as we are led through the Holy Spirit. We are not swept about by every wind of doctrine that comes along; nor by every charismatic leader that comes along with some new and hidden truth. We continue to grow in the faith and the knowledge toward the maturity that Jesus wants us each to have.

As you notice in verse eight, Peter suggests that it is impossible for us as individual Christians or as a church body to have these virtues that he has listed and be idle. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive. We

cannot have these signs of maturity in our own lives and in the life of our congregation and be stagnant. They impel us to action.

Alton Wheeler is my friend; though he and I do not agree on everything, for years he has insisted that Southern California was the Garden of Eden. 19



Pastor Russ Johnson (far left) was elected first vice president. The Pre-Con choir (above) presented vespers on Monday night. Lynette Calhoun inspired the group with her solo performances.

While living in New Jersey, I was inclined to agree with him. However, since moving to Denver, I have found something else. While visiting Alton some time ago, we drove through the barren, beige-colored, dry hills of Southern California. They assured me, as they tell me about the weather in Denver, this is unusual. There had been no rain for months, and it was dry. But, hidden in all of those hills around Riverside, California, were millions of seeds just waiting for the rains to come. And, sure enough, we went back when the rains had come, and we saw those hills green and virtual flower gardens for miles and miles. The potential was there, the seeds were there; they were simply waiting for the rains to come.

I find that to be true of us in the Church. There are so many brothers and sisters, and boys and girls, with so many talents and abilities, waiting for the rain. Peter is rather implicit here that the power is available to us to live this Christian life; the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter knew what he was talking about. Peter had the knowledge. He had been with Jesus three and a half years. But he denied, abandoned, ran, and he went into hiding—until the power came. When the power came, this man discovered a

boldness he had never known. He preached a sermon, as recorded in Acts, "and there were 3,000 people added to the Church that day."

The difference was in the power. I do not know about you, but I pray for the rain to come; for the rains of refreshment, for the rains of revival, to sweep our churches and our lives. I am just so sure this morning that we have yet to see what God is going to do through Seventh Day Baptists. We have yet to see how he is going to accomplish his will through us, how he is going to surprise us and amaze us, if we only make ourselves available to him.

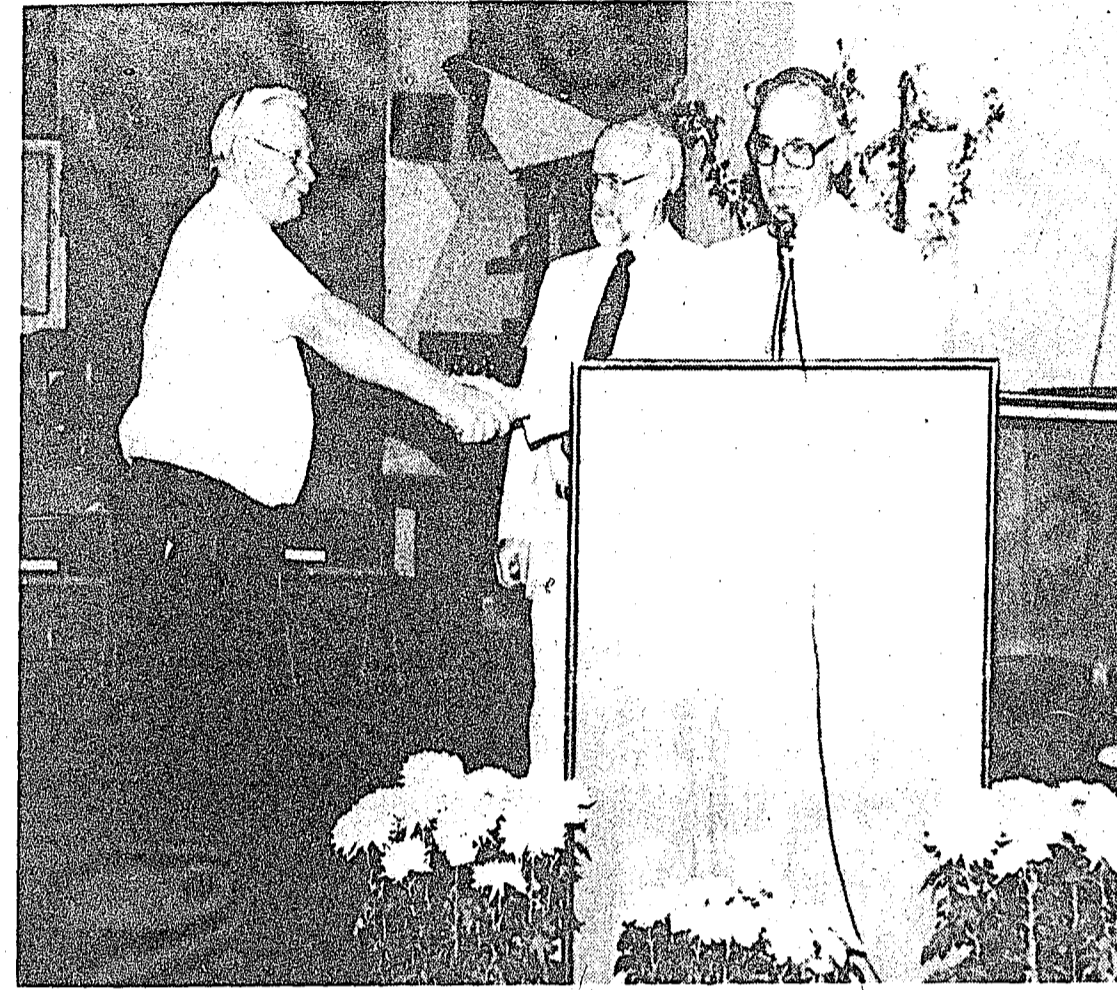
I am going to take some liberty with verse five, which is my prerogative, for

a few minutes here. He says, to obtain these gifts, we need more faith. I am going to add another word, an un-theological word. Another measure, another mark of the maturing congregation is *spontaneity*. Do you see that in Second Peter? Spontaneity?

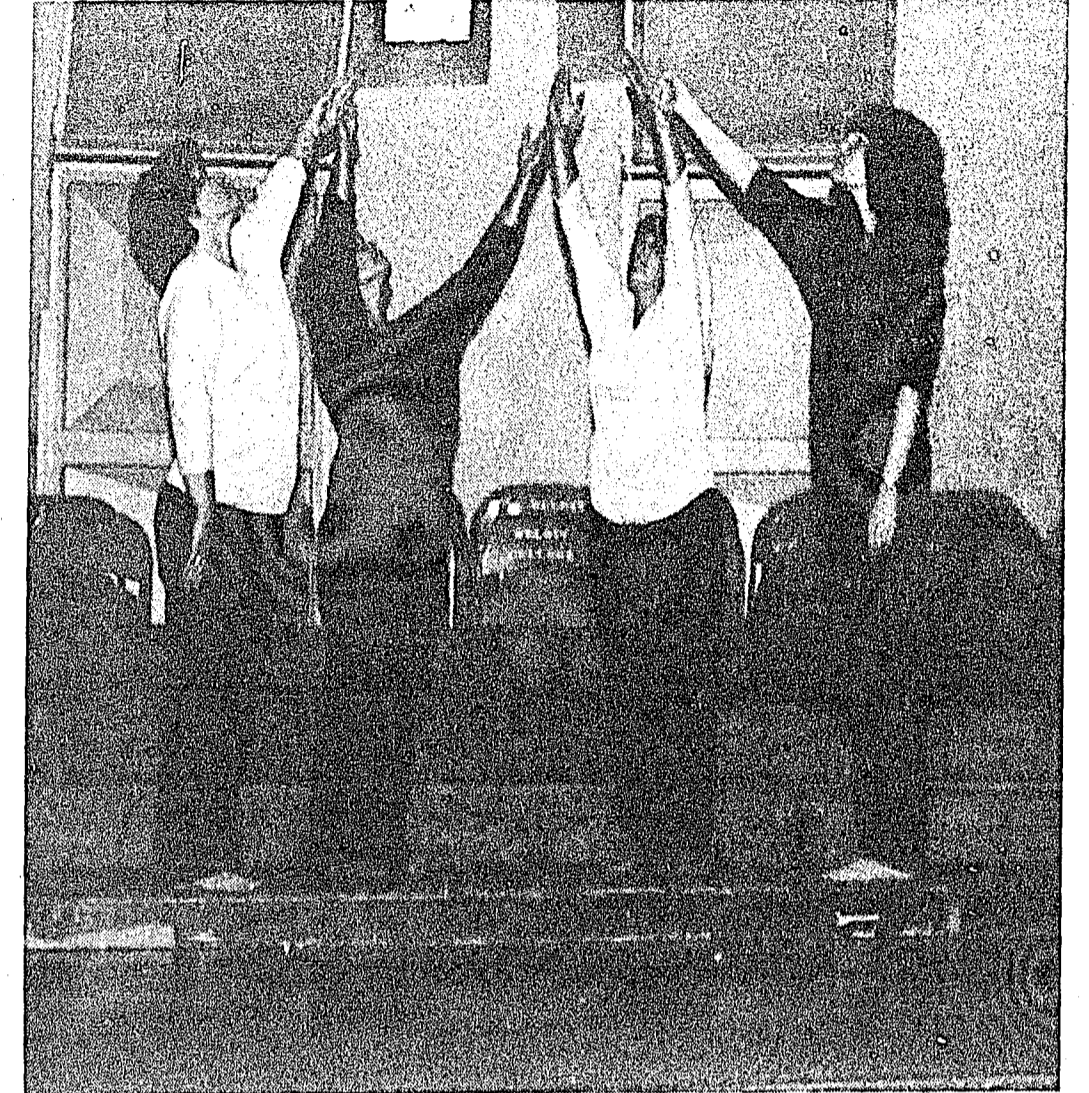
By that I *do not* mean confusion in our worship service or disorganization, but rather that we are so open to the leading of the Lord, that we are willing to be just a little bit daring and a little bit spontaneous. That means that we would not be so tied to our structure, and so tied to our committees, bylaws and our traditions and, yes, our building, that we are not open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We need to have expectation that the Lord, as weak as we are, will work through us a willingness to be surprised as we see what he does for us. Some of you pastors know what I am talking about; how exciting it is when we feel so bad that Sabbath morning and we stand up and we see the word of God bless somebody's life. You know it was not you. He surprises us.

The opposite of spontaneity is *stagnation*. Perhaps you have had the experience that I have had, from time to time, to belong to some fraternal organization — or whatever — that could best be described as stagnant.



(Left) the Springfield, Mo., church, represented by Pastor Kenneth Hatcher, was welcomed into the Conference. (Right) Alfred New York's "Worship in Motion."



(Which is a nice way of saying dead.) I do not know about you, but I am not interested in spending too much of my time in an organization if it is not going anywhere.

Several months ago, I came across a rather alarming document, which I am sure will be news to all of you. It is entitled, "The Seven Steps to Stagnation for the Church."

Number one, "We've never done it that way before." Number two, "We're not ready for that." Number three, "We're doing all right without it." Number four, which I must confess I have heard, "We tried that once before." Aunt Susie says way back in 1934 we tried it and it didn't work. Then one we sometimes hear at Conference: "It costs too much."

How many ministries have we decided not to do because it was not written nine months ago into the budget?

Number six, "That's not our responsibility." Number seven, "It just won't work." Seven steps to stagnation in the church.

I believe that a mature faith is one that is moving forward, that is willing to try new ideas, that is willing to fail, but at least is doing something. We need to keep pace with modern life. If we tried it five years ago, maybe now is a good time to try it again.

My father has, in his carport, an exercise bicycle. It is one of those devices that you get on and you pedal just as fast as you can, you perspire just as much as you can, as long as you want to, but when all is said and done,

you are still sitting in the carport. It does not move forward. It does not move backward. You are still there. You use a lot of energy, but you are still there.

Some of you ride bicycles—maybe a few, exercise bicycles—but some real bicycles. You know that when you get on a bicycle, one of two things happens. You either go forward, or you fall off.

The last two weeks, I have been thrilled as we have watched the Olympics, portions of it at least, on television. I have been thrilled to see the very best of American young

I believe that a mature faith is one that is moving forward.

people doing their very best for their country. Not druggies or some other weird group that we hear so much about, but the very, very best that we have. I have seen them win medals that Americans have never won before. I have seen a rebirth of patriotism as these young people stand there singing the national anthem with the tears running down their cheeks. Doing what could not be done.

A few years ago, it was said no one can run a mile in less than four

minutes. "It has never been done; it is impossible." Everybody believed that except Roger Bannister, who went out and ran the mile in less than four minutes. Since he did, it has been done over and over and over again, and even a few pastors have done it.

You will recall that Pastor Delmer Van Horn had as a Conference theme some years ago, *Daring the Impossible...* with a slash across the "im". Daring the possible. I believe that God would have us as maturing Christians, as maturing congregations, to dare to do the things that we thought we could never do. To dare the impossible.

In doing that, I think we need to remember that God has put in us the ability to do anything that he wants done. I want to back up and say that again because I want you to notice the pronoun. He has given us the ability to accomplish anything as a congregation that he wants accomplished. Peter says that we do not have to do this in our own power, but that he will send the Holy Spirit to lead us in daring and innovative ministries.

The statement that Paul made in Philippians 4:13 is true for us in 1984, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The secret to this strength, and the secret to this power, is availability. Not ability, but availability. As we make ourselves available to God through the Holy Spirit, he will work through us to his glory, to the edification of the church, which he says is his body. We are going to be amazed at what he is going to do. 21

In verses six and seven, Peter concludes with a challenge. I want to go back again to *The Living Bible Paraphrased*. "Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have his way with you." That is the first step toward maturity. The first step toward leading the Christian life is allowing my will to be in subjection to his will. That means rearranging priorities. He says this will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people, and to like them; and, finally, you will learn to grow to love them deeply. He is asking us as Christian people to be recognizable as Christian people.

How are we recognized as Christian people?

How do we know that we are Christian?

We have some identification; we have some mark. If you see someone with a cross around their neck, or a religious symbol on their clothing, you know they are Christians. Walk with me through O'Hare Airport some busy day and let us see how many people we see with crosses and decide if we think that is a good mark. Or perhaps it is because we have a bumper sticker on our car. In Denver, we have hundreds of bumper stickers with Christian messages. Is that a good way to identify...is that how we know? If you see someone who says, "Honk if you love Jesus," don't do it. They have forgotten they put that on their bumper.

Some people think that the mark of a Christian is to have a long face like a sanctified mule. Some think that the mark is to have a rigid list of rules and regulations, so when someone comes into the church, the first things we tell them are the things that we do not do. We are glad to share the list with you.

Peter says learn to like one another and, if you learn that, you will learn to love each other with a genuine and authentic love. That love is expressed in John 13:33-35, which concludes, "All men will know that you are my disciples; they will know it if you have love for one another."

Many of us have been blessed by the

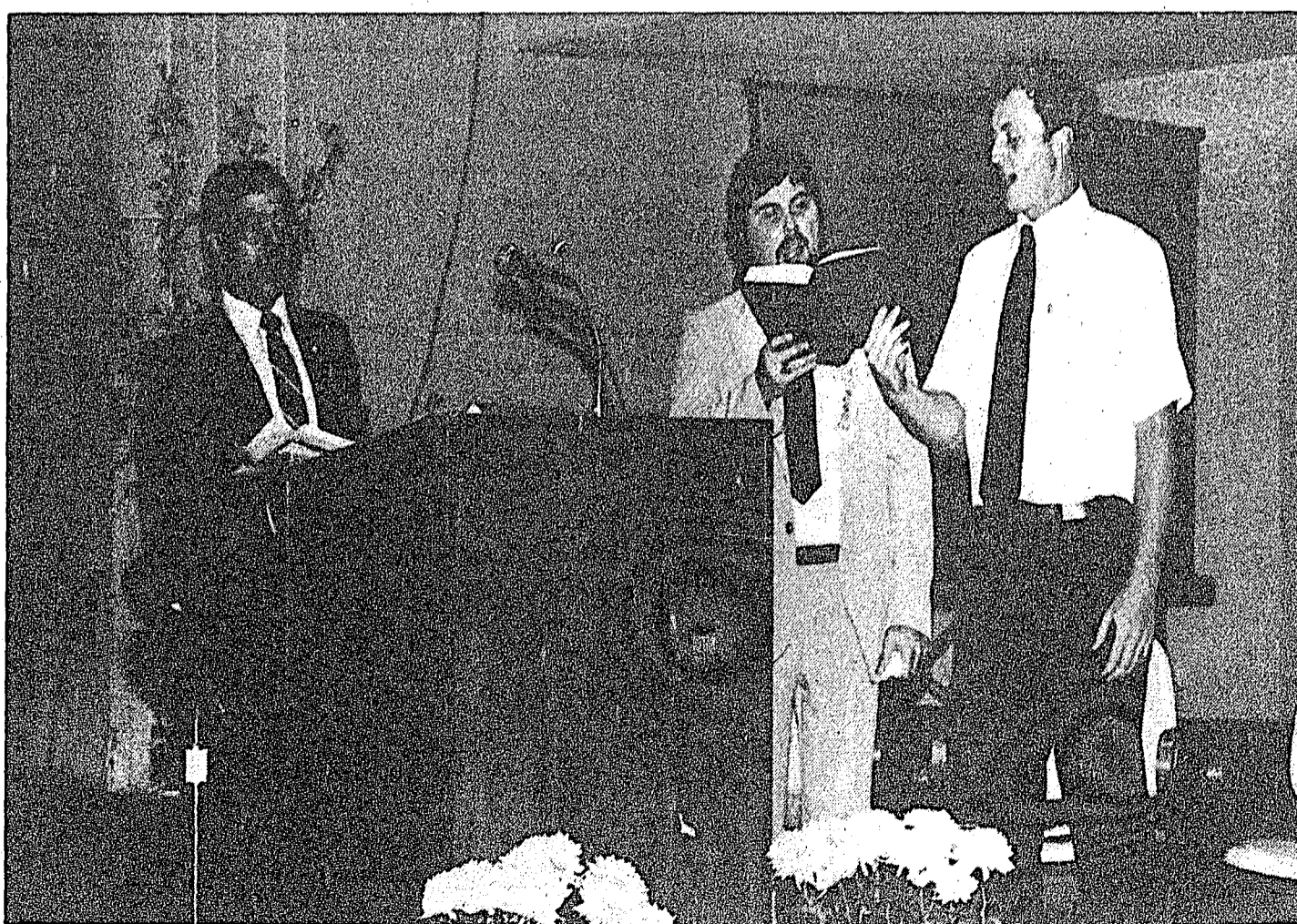
writings of Dr. Francis Schaeffer, who recently passed away. In the last book that he has written, he has come out with a great challenge to the church; to those of us who profess to be the Body of Christ. He calls us to be recognizable in the society in which we live by an attitude of love and tolerance and acceptance of one another. I am so

Learn to love each other with a genuine and authentic love.

glad that I have the privilege of being in a church that is loving, caring, accepting, and tolerant.

Schaeffer says the church, our local church, is to be a loving church in a dying culture. How can we expect the world to want what we claim to have, if they do not see some reality of it in our lives. It is not the sermon that is preached (that is soon forgotten); it is not the Bible study that we have; it is not the tracts that we publish, though even all of these have their place. The world today wants to see a practical manifestation of Christianity in our

(Left to right) leading in worship were William Shobe, Perry Cain and Kevin Butler.



The Sabbath Recorder

lives. When they see it, they are drawn to us.

Our churches, I believe, need to be caring centers where people who are hurting can come and know they will receive the help they need. Our churches need to be cities of refuge, places of ministry and healing. The function of the mature body is to love God and to serve him; that is number one. Then, the function of the body is to love and to serve each other. The body is intended to heal those who hurt, to take away fear, to restore community, to belong to one another, to get involved with one another, to be open to the leading of the spirit, to grow in the knowledge and, yes, to claim the power—to claim that wonder-working power that God says is so available to us. And so the Church in 1984, the mature Body, proclaims the Good News while living it.

I think that makes the difference. To declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. The church is the invisible made visible.

May God bless us and challenge us as we go back to our fields of labor, to be the Church of Jesus Christ, the mature Body—the loving, and caring, and sharing fellowship that he has called us to be—and to expect his power to fall on us. SR

Religion in the news

Religion up; morality down

A recent Gallop survey concludes that Americans are taking their religion more seriously, but there is evidence that morality is losing ground. The public opinion survey indicates that widespread cheating in marriage, business, and at various levels of daily life is occurring at a time when religious interest is strongly up.

Gallop reports "very little difference" in the behavior of the church and unchurched, but dramatic differences were found in the religious group called "highly spiritually committed." A much higher ethical standard was clearly identified among 12% of the population called "highly spiritual" in the study. Gallop called this category "a breed apart from the rest of the populace."

Other finds were that 90% of Americans believe in God, and 70% are church members. Sixty percent indicated greater interest in religion than five years ago. SR

Church support is increased

Gifts to religious organizations were up by 10.6% in 1983, according to the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel. Total giving to churches and religious agencies was a record \$31 billion, or nearly 48% of all American philanthropy.

Support for education and for hospitals and health agencies was about equal at just over \$9 billion for each category. SR



Dr. Sylvia Talbot

Talbot elected president of CWU

New York, N.Y., August 10, 1984—Dr. Sylvia Talbot of Atlanta, Ga., is the newly-elected president of Church Women United, largest ecumenical women's organization in the United States. A native of St. Croix, the Virgin Islands, and an African Methodist Episcopal laywoman, Dr. Talbot was officially installed at ceremonies during the final plenary of CWU's 16th Ecumenical Assembly held on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., from July 19 through 23. She cited evangelism, ecumenism, mission and cultivating relationships as major thrusts for Church Women United during the coming year and emphasized the need to continue theological interpretation as the basis for CWU's action and advocacy on national, regional and local levels.

Dr. Talbot, whose tenure runs through 1988, heads a 33 member Executive Council and a 13-member Administrative Committee. SR

Protestors interrupt worship services

Churches in western Pennsylvania have been visited by demonstrators who represent groups of unemployed and union workers. In at least four instances, services of worship have been disrupted by the groups while other demonstrations have been conducted quietly. The worship of a Pittsburg church, attended by wealthy business executives and the city's leading bankers, was broken up when 35 protestors handed out dead fish. The group accused the congregation of insensitivity to the area's economic plight. SR

Presbyterians oppose Gay ordination

In the first General Assembly of the recently unified Presbyterian Church, the 3.1 million member denomination voted against the ordination of homosexuals for the ministry. The action came in a vote to change personnel policy to prohibit discrimination against any job applicant on the basis of sexual preference.

The assembly, meeting in Phoenix, was the first full meeting of the unified Presbyterian Church in the United States and the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., since their merger last year.

In other actions, the assembly took a strong stand in a resolution against pornography, with special attention to action against offending television programs and their sponsors. SR 23

Centennial celebrated

From *Beloit Daily News*

Wearing gowns that reflected styles of several generations, about 100 women came together in Beloit to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board.

Some of the older women wore gowns, hats, shoes, fascinators and other garments handed down by mothers, grandmothers and aunts. There were graduation dresses, wedding gowns and elaborate nightgowns.

Taking part in the Women's Society play were (l to r standing) Jean Davis, Norma Rudert, Iris Maltby, Althea Rood, Yvonne Stephan, (seated) Lorna Austin, Hope Bevis, Melita Babcock and Nancy May.



It all provided a festive atmosphere for the observance, a part of the SDB General Conference meeting being held this week on Beloit College campus.

An unusually high number of the women have been to 25-30 and even 40 of the General Conference sessions. A few were attending for the first time, and among these were new members of the denomination.

The Women's Board was organized at the General Conference session of 1884 in Lost Creek, W. Va. One purpose was to have a Women's Society in every church. The seat of the Women's Board moves about from

time to time. It was in Milton, Wis., for 43 years. Both Milton, and later Albion, were founded by Seventh Day Baptists, Baptists who adhere to the observance of the Sabbath on the seventh day, or Saturday.

In 1929, it was decided the board should be entirely free to make its own plans and formulate its own policies. There were 56 Women's Societies by then. At the 1938 conference, it was recommended that a missionary evangelist be employed by the women. That year, Key Workers were appointed in each society to provide liaison with the board.

Seat of the board in 1951 moved to Battle Creek. Each woman was asked to give a dollar to the denomination budget. Funds also were provided to assist with tuition at Alfred University, Milton and Salem colleges, and to missionaries bound for Nyasaland.

A lone Sabbath Keeper project was launched. Because the denomination is small, many members live where there are no congregations. The women provide them with materials for home worship services and Sabbath reading. This is still a concern of the board. (A Milwaukee family travels the 70 miles every Saturday for Sabbath services in Milton.)

During the years, the board has received some large gifts, including one from Walworth in memory of Mary Maxson to establish a Christian Writer's scholarship.

The board seat was in Milton from 1886 to 1929. It returned to Milton in 1961. Interest was great in keeping contact with the missionaries. In 1962, the board decided to become more active in Church Women United.

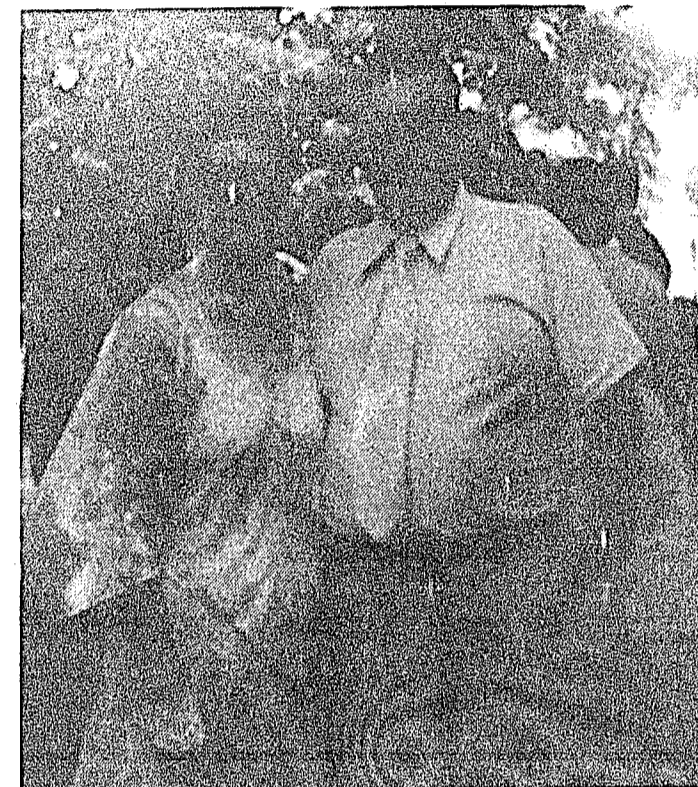
For many years, the board has bestowed an annual Robe of Achievement on a woman who has served her local community and denomination and who has had an impact across denominational lines. Gladys Drake of Milton is one who has received the robe.

Every year, the Women's Board gathers a love gift. At the dinner this week, they collected \$2,086. SR

by Minnie Mills Enking

The Sabbath Recorder

Taylor Ordained



David and Margaret Taylor.

On the day of his ordination to the gospel ministry, David L. Taylor counseled his congregation, "Forgive one another as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32b) This was the text of the morning sermon which he preached at Lost Creek, W. Va., on June 9. He also sang two special numbers with tape accompaniment.

An ordination council held May 5 had recommended that the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church proceed with the ordination of their pastor. On this second Sabbath in June visitors were present from David's home church in Richburg, N.Y.; from New Auburn and Milton, Wis.; and from Upper Marlboro, Md., as well as from the churches of West Virginia. A large number of family members were present.

Rev. Edward Sutton was worship leader for the afternoon service of ordination. Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, a former pastor of the ordinand and representative of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, gave the charge to the candidate and the welcome to the ministry. Rev. Melvin Nida conducted the laying on of hands and prayed the consecrating prayer.

In his first act as an ordained minister, Rev. David L. Taylor led in the laying on of hands and the consecrating prayer for two deaconesses ordained the same day — Mary Curry and Leora Pinder — the first deaconesses ever to be ordained by the Lost Creek church. SR

September 1984

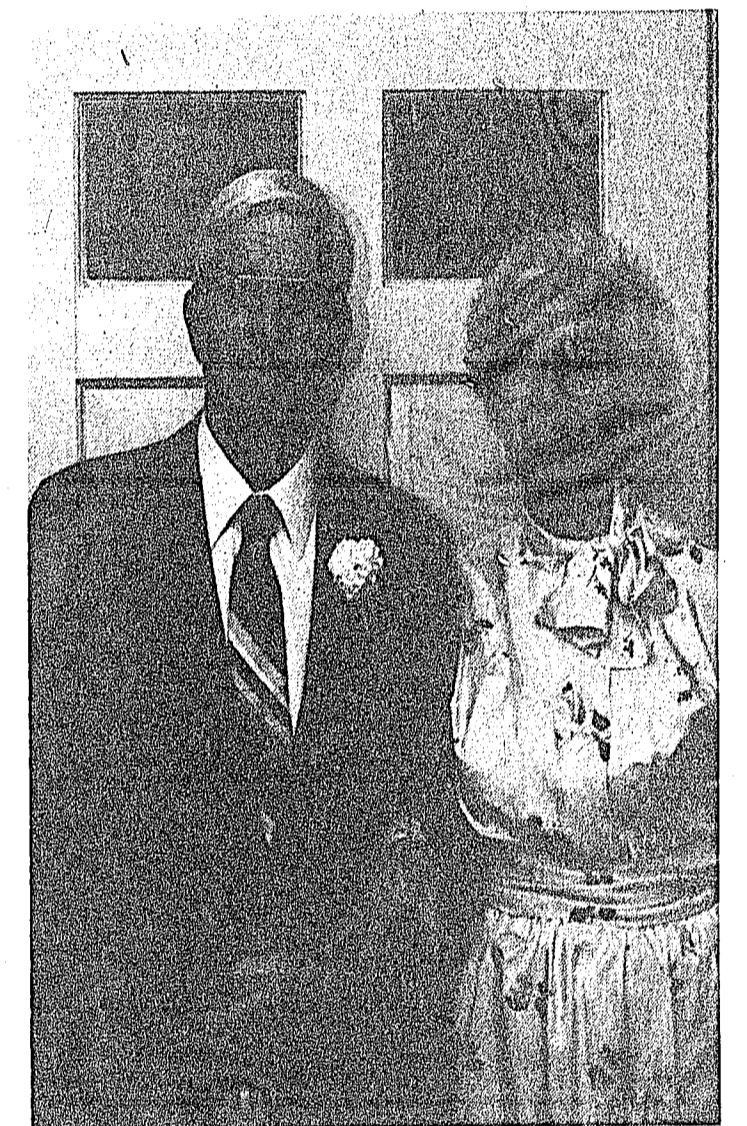
Christchurch chapel nearing completion

from the Link

The new Christchurch (New Zealand) S.D.B. chapel, replacing the old one destroyed by fire in 1983, is now nearing completion and will soon be dedicated. The designer of the new building is Bro. Daniel Barrar, who at one stage availed himself of the services of a structural engineer. The new chapel is constructed from concrete blocks standing on a concrete slab foundation. The interior walls are painted ivory and support large Oregon timber trusses

with a varnished particle-board ceiling. The brown carpet adds a homely touch to the chapel.

Up to now \$18,500 N.Z. dollars were spent on rebuilding of the new chapel. SR



50th anniversary celebrated

by Cynthia Rudolph

Over 200 relatives and friends helped Rev. and Mrs. Albert N. Rogers celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary recently at the Union University Church Center in Alfred, New York. They were married June 26, 1934 in Lost Creek, W. Va., by Mrs. Rogers' father, Rev. Eli F. Loofboro.

The Rogers received many cards from well-wishers, including one from President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan.

Following the reception, a special carillon recital was given in their honor by Joanne Droppers, Alfred University carillonneur.

Al and Janette continue to enjoy excellent health and remain very active in the community.

What if your pastor was a school teacher?

by John A. Conrod

If your pastor has completed his seminary education and has an M. Div. degree, and if he has been working for ten years in the pastorate, he has the equivalent education and experience of a teacher who is receiving an annual salary of no less than \$27,000! If your pastor had decided to become a teacher instead of a minister that would probably be his salary!

You might say "But teachers don't get a house furnished to them." True, but if you figure that the parsonage that is furnished is worth around \$400.00 per month, then deducting \$4,800.00 from the \$27,000 salary means that the equivalent salary would still be \$22,200! "Oh, but teachers do not receive that much in our area," you may claim. Have you checked the teacher's salaries in your area lately? The \$27,000 level is from one of the lowest areas in the country, the West North Central States. The equivalent salary for New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, East South Central and Mountain States is 11% higher, \$30,000 and the South Atlantic, West South Central and Pacific Coast areas are 22% higher, \$33,000!

Is your view of your pastor's value on a par with your school board's view of a teacher's worth and does the amount that you are paying reflect this value? Think about it! Pray about it! And act on it!

Committee on Support and Retirement

New York church says thanks

by S. A. Thompson

The New York City Church wishes to express gratitude to all whose generosity helped us in overcoming the vandalism of our building.

Things have largely returned to normal with improved fortification.

With labor donated by some of the brethren, the second floor of the building is now under renovation. It is our hope that by the fall, our auditorium with a "stop-over rest suite" will be completed.

We also hope to make certain changes on the first floor with a view of improving its accessibility and meet standards required by the city.

A tract ministry has been started by some of our women and the Brooklyn Project is continuing with Pastors Grant and Thompson doing monthly exchanges between the two groups.

The Victory Tabernacle Church in Manhattan plans a concert in our church for September 28, in order to raise funds to aid in our vandalism cost.

Plans are afoot for raising funds in order to raise an SDB witness atop the building. This, we hope, will be a representation, not of the church so much, as of SDB's in general. The advertising space is marvelous and is sought by several commercial firms as it commands an unsurpassing view of both land and air—commanding enough to outdo that of the view from the boat on the lake Gennesaret. Any individual or group who wishes to participate in this project will be most welcome. Gifts should be designated for the sign. The quality of the sign will be limited only by our financial ability since its possibilities are so great.

Again, as a church we express our heartfelt thanks to all those who have from time to time contributed to our continued progress. We continue to pray that our Heavenly Father will not cease to lead us from "still waters to green pastures."

SR

Pawcatuck SDB Church hosts Eastern Association meetings

The Eastern Association of Seventh Day Baptists met at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., on May 18-20, 1984, with the theme "Equipping the Family". The program developed by Mrs. Althea Rood, president, and her executive committee included a Family Sabbath Welcoming/Communion service on Sabbath Eve with Pastor and Mrs. C. Rex Burdick leading the service around the tables in the vestry. Over 100 people participated in this special experience.

On Sabbath morning, David Ward of the Groton Bible Chapel, Groton, Conn., spoke on "Family Roots". Over 220 people attended this Sabbath celebration and were thrilled by worshipping the Lord together, as well as by the special music. Kathy Miller (Pawcatuck SDB Church) and Mary Jane McPherson (Raritan Valley SDB Church) played several organ/piano duets. Joint choirs (both Senior and Junior) practiced preceding the worship service and were led by Althea Rood.

Following a fellowship meal, five simultaneous video programs were available. These programs focused on

such topics as: *Respecting Your Elders, More Than A Carpenter, The Challenge of Raising Kids, and Spirit-Controlled Living*. Also in the afternoon was a deaf ministry presentation for all which included a sign choir and a testimony by a hearing-impaired person. This presentation was planned and led by Mrs. Betty Crane of the Pawcatuck Church.

Supper and another video presentation were followed by a choice of evening activities for all: roller-skating or a social hour at the church. Many enjoyed the opportunity for renewing and making new acquaintances.

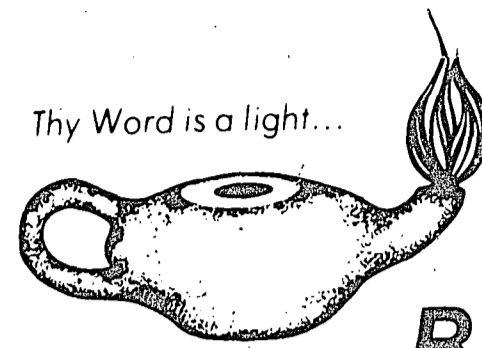
At the business session on Sunday morning, the Ambler, Pa., church was welcomed into membership in the association. It was noted that nine of their 12 members were present on Sabbath Day. Another business concern was finding a site for Conference in 1986. A couple of subcommittees are pursuing this. The Association ended with a moving slide presentation on the family by Pastor Don Richards and a fellowship meal.

Next year's Association meetings will be at Berlin, N.Y., with Paul Greene as president.

SR

Answers to Wackie Wordies Puzzle

1. I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart
2. This Little Light of Mine
3. Day by Day
4. All Creatures Great and Small
5. When the Walls Come Tumbling Down
6. Crown Him with Many Crowns
7. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
8. In Christ There is No East or West
9. Morning Has Broken
10. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
11. Peace on Earth
12. Spread the Good News



Thy Word is a light...

Mrs. Mary Clare

Board of Christian Education

The Sabbath for such a time as this

This discussion is based on the article prepared by the Rev. Elmo F. Randolph as printed in the special issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*, 1968.

"Our purpose in this presentation is to re-examine the Sabbath — rooted in the Ten Commandments from God to his people and faithfully observed as a meaningful religious blessing throughout the Hebraic-Christian tradition to the present day. Specifically, we are interested to discover if the Biblical Sabbath concept can serve man significantly in this new age whose birthpangs we now suffer.

"Clearly, as attested by the leadership of the Church through the ages, the Sabbath principle providing a regular day of each week for rest and worship, and for honoring God, is essential to the spiritual (yes, and to the physical) well-being of mankind.

"... it is important to understand that change, in order to be a benefit and blessing to mankind, does not necessarily involve the risk of completely new and untried ideas. It is logical and realistic, as objective students of history, to rediscover truth that has been abandoned or misused and bring about the change necessary to incorporate its values into our systems of thought and practice. It is our conviction that the Sabbath of the Bible represents a rich opportunity for man to receive great benefit and blessing through its rediscovery and disciplined use.

"But the experts are quick to remind us that unlimited leisure for man is not an unmixed blessing. Having time on one's hands without knowing how to use it creatively could become as great a curse as was the oppressiveness of labor for many people in the past.

"What a challenge and opportunity this trend toward more leisure time for

individuals presents to the Church of Christ, and especially to those in the Church who have valued the Sabbath of the Bible for its spiritual blessings. If the people of antiquity needed a Sabbath for rest and worship — a spiritual change of pace from the daily routine of living — how much more

...true Sabbath observance goes well beyond self-centered physical advantages or well-being secured through rest.

acute is the need of modern man for respite from the pressures of the age of jet planes and atomic power. An obedient return to God's Sabbath would go far toward restoring man to a

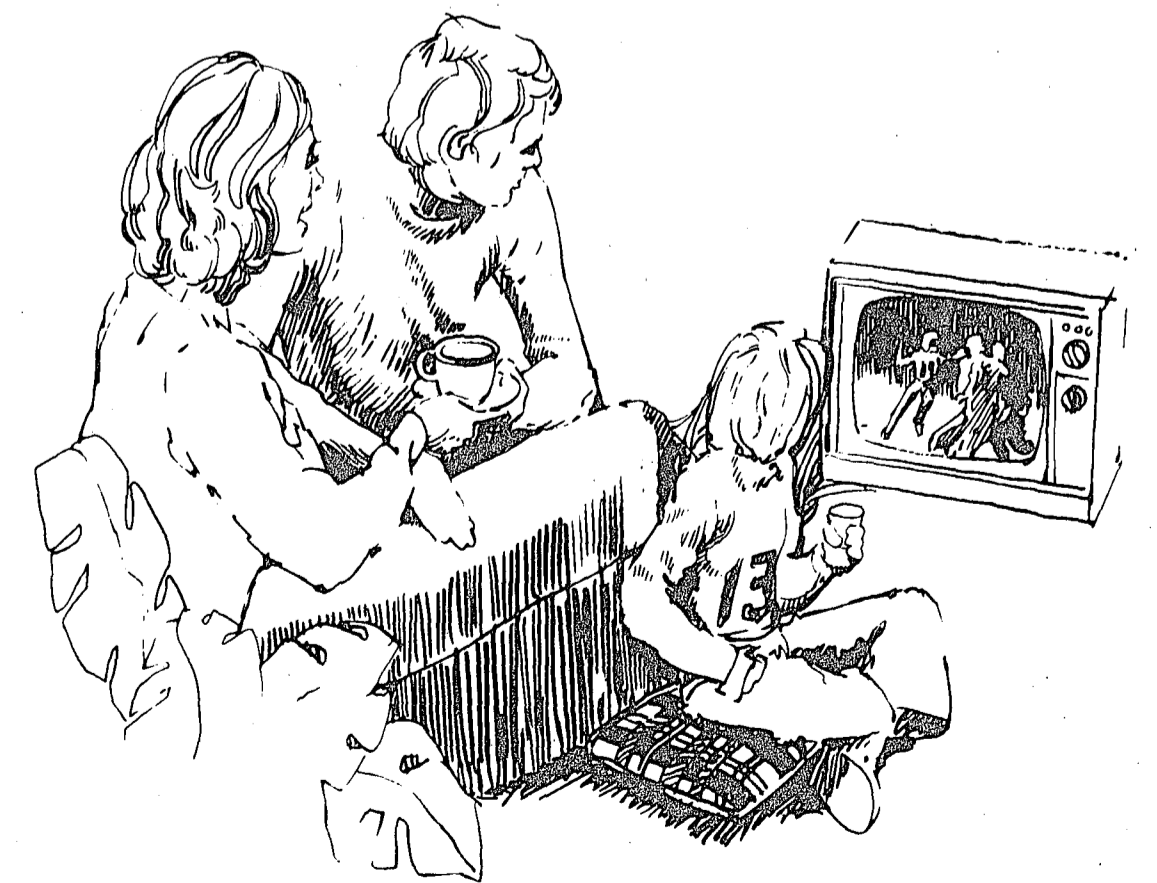
realization of his potential and destiny as a child of God.

"It should be made clear, in promoting a return of Christians to the Sabbath of the patriarchs and Moses, of the kings and the prophets, and of our Lord Jesus Christ, that true Sabbath observance goes well beyond self-centered physical advantages or well-being secured through rest. The creative experience of remembering and honoring God brings a new dimension of life — the dimension of things spiritual in which we are attuned to eternal truth and value and in which we can know genuine fulfillment.

"Someone has said, 'In all the world, there is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come.' There is good cause to believe the day of the return of God's people to his Sabbath may be at hand. Surely in creative Sabbath observance there is offered assurance of blessings sorely needed by modern man.

"Is God calling you to be a sharer of his 'Good News?' Give prayerful attention to the Sabbath with its 'Good News for Modern Man' in such a time as this."

SR

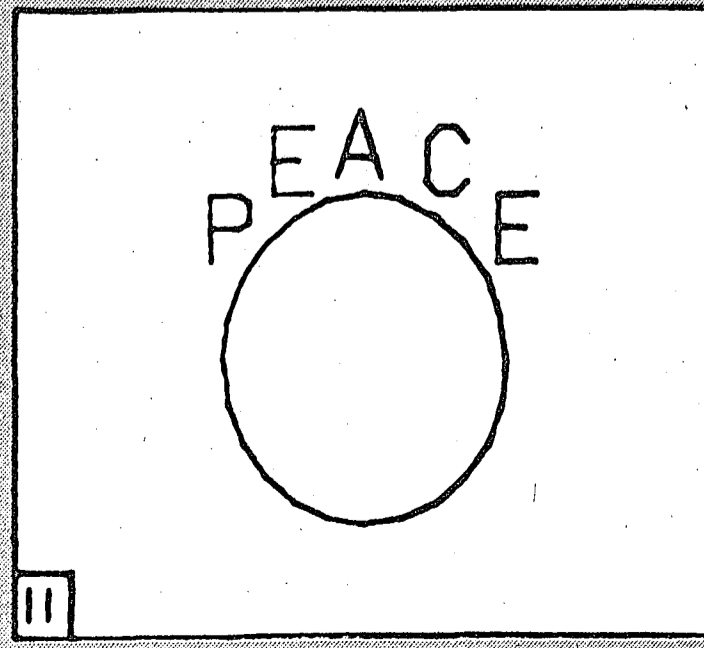
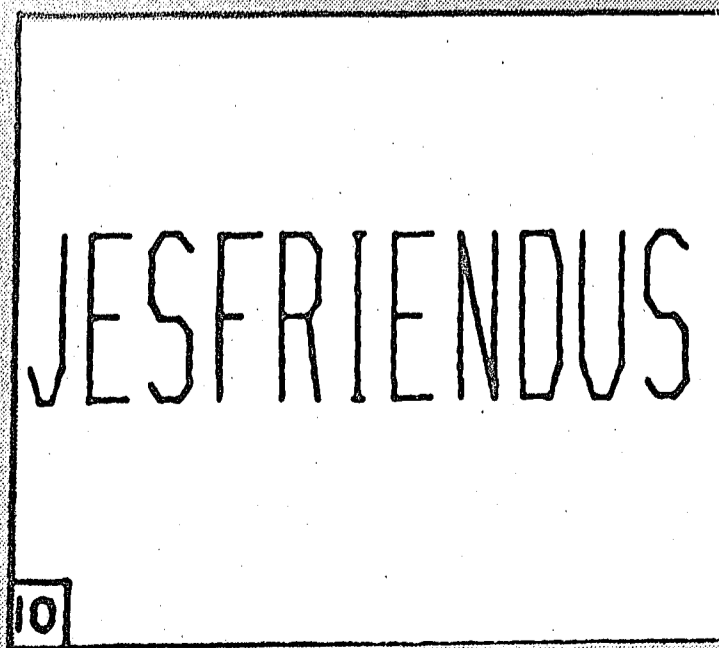
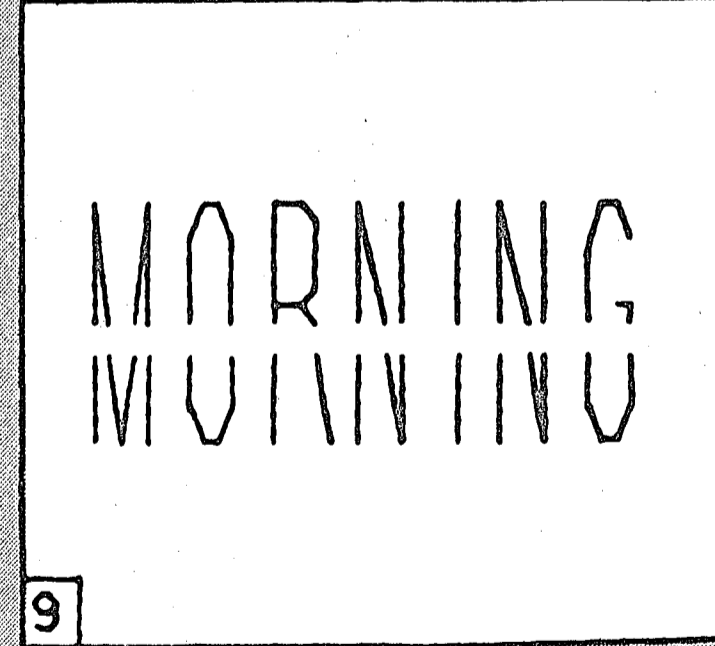
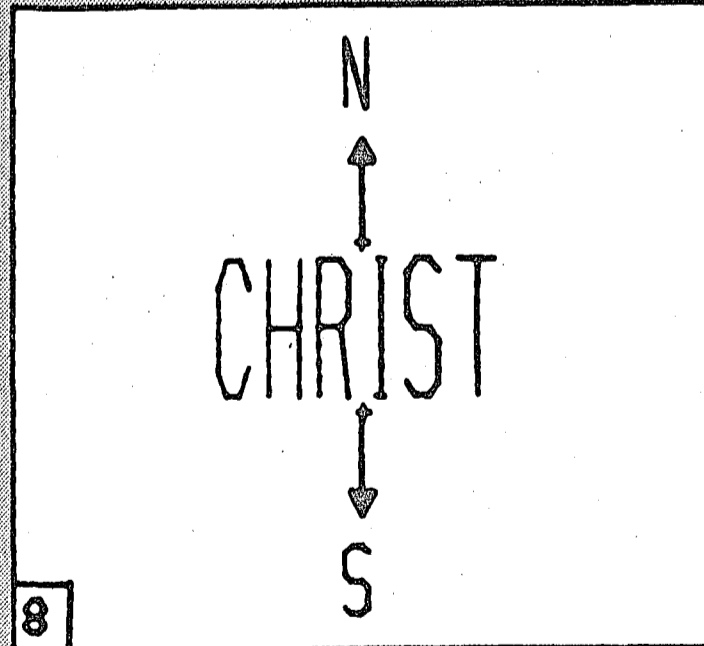
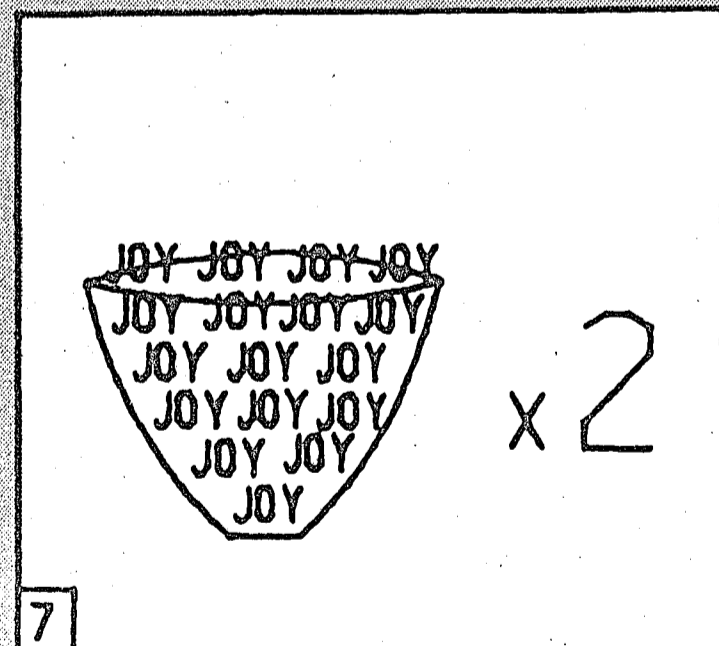
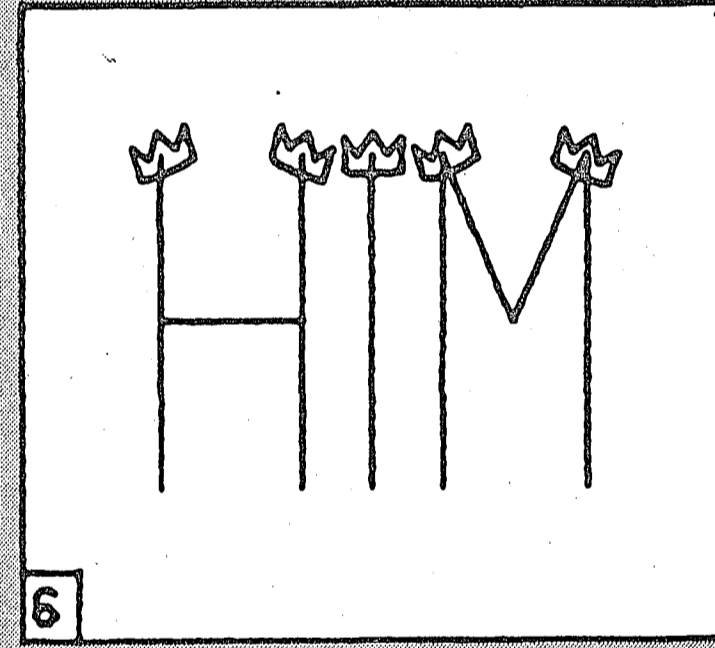
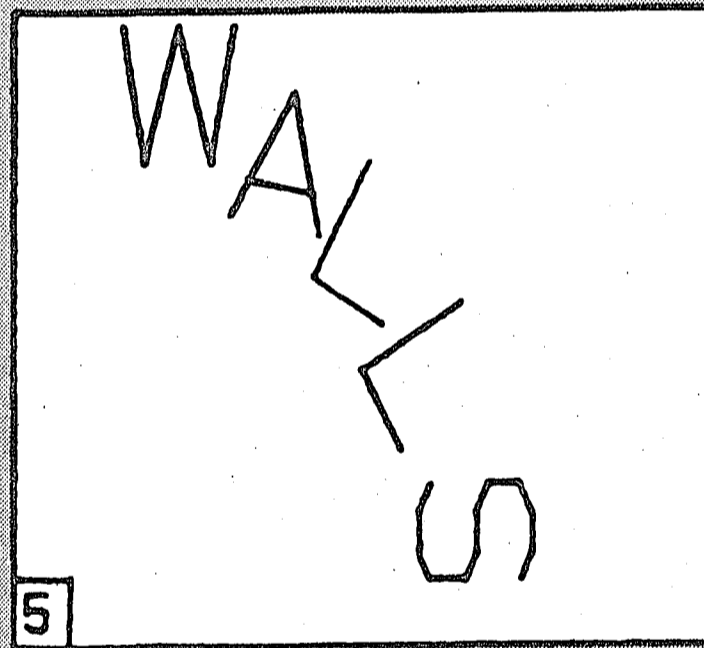
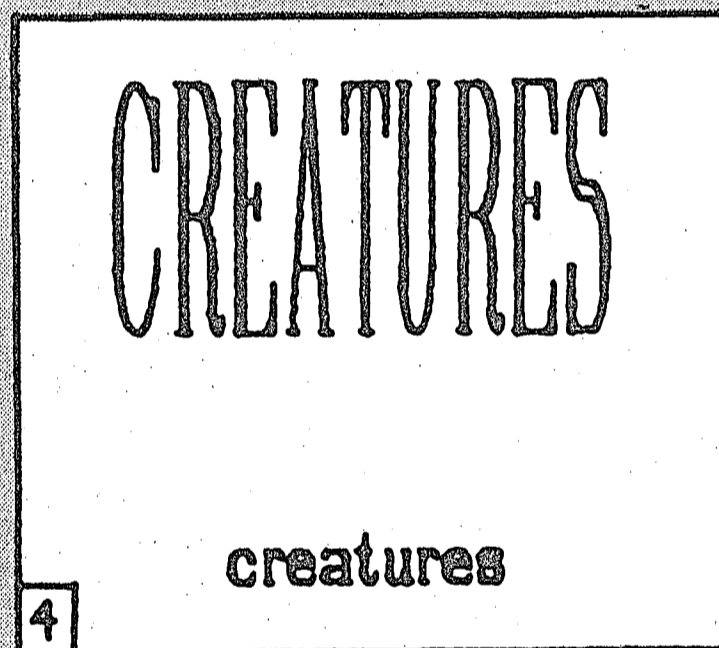
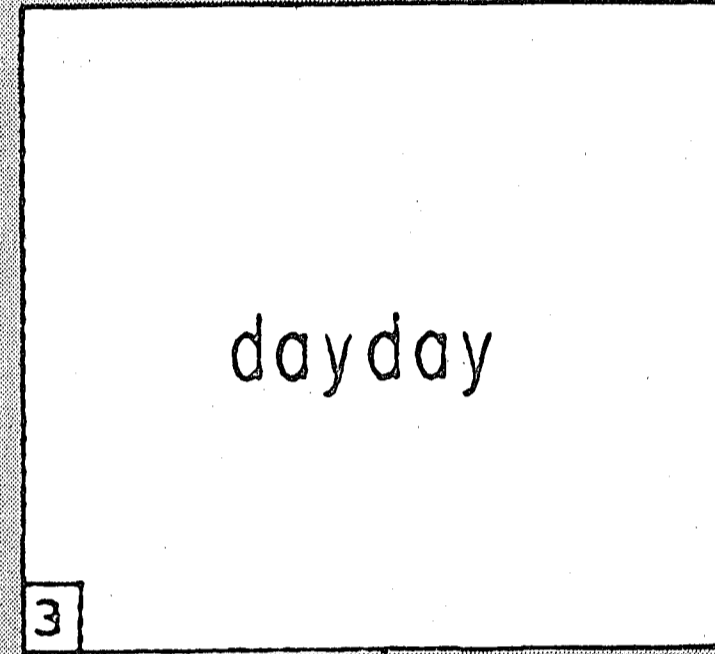
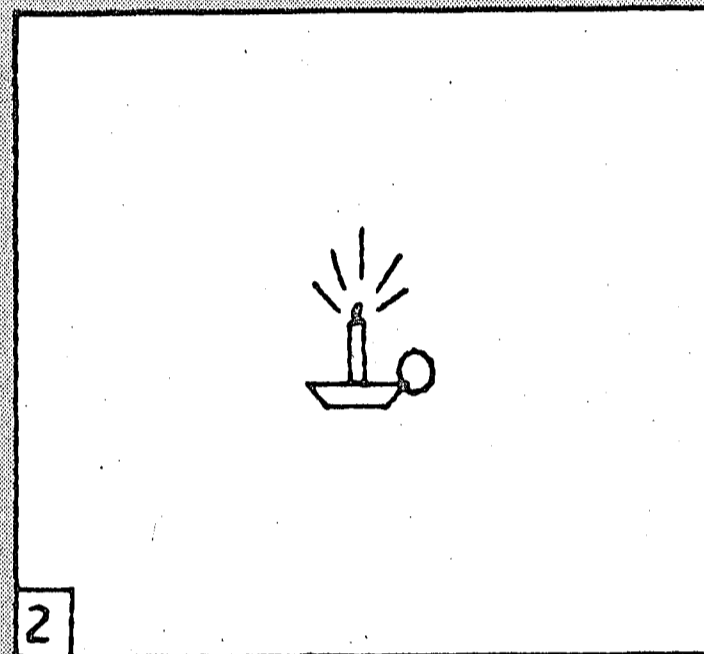
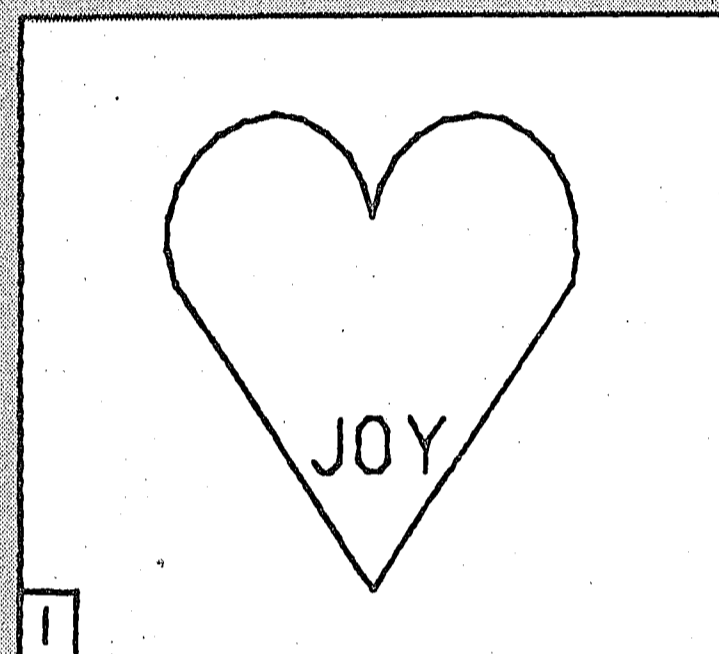
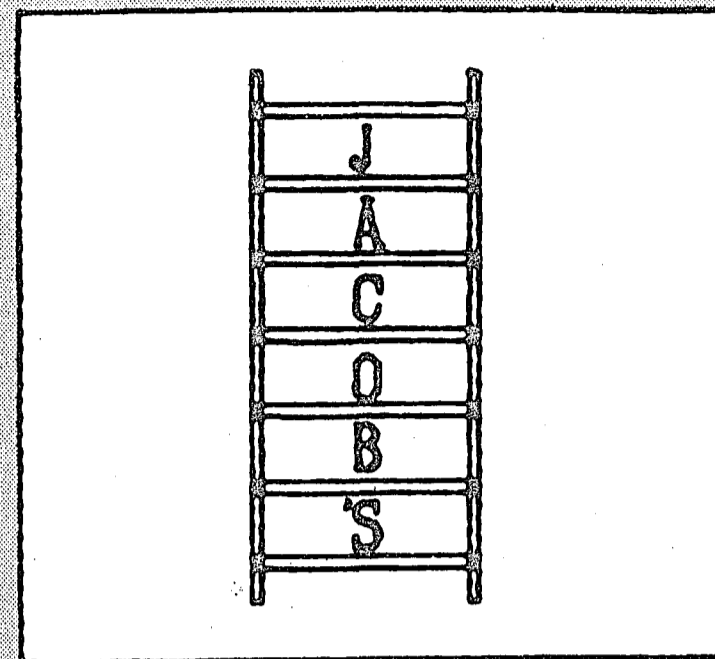


Young Adult Page

Wackie Wordies

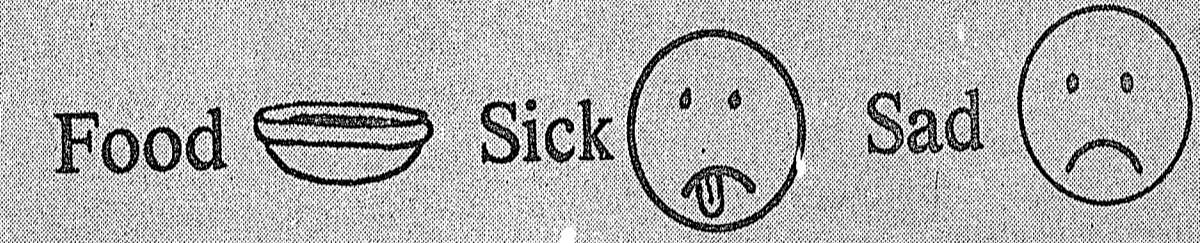
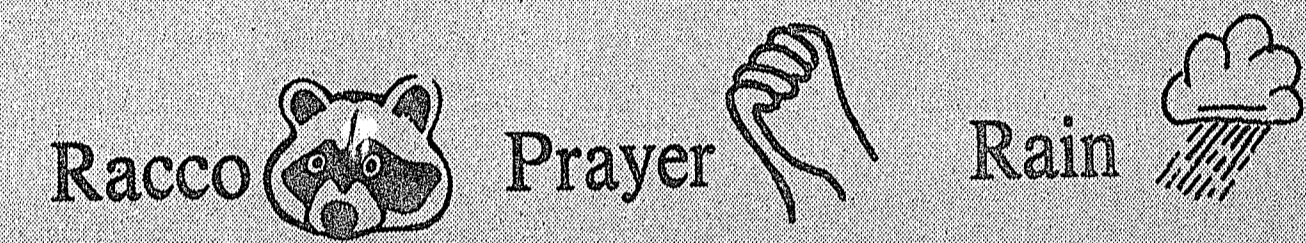
Here is a game for all ages. The object of the game is to discern the hymn title, song title, or phrase suggested by the arrangement of letters and/or symbols in each box. For example, in the box to the right the symbols suggest the song, "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder".

Puzzle answers are listed on page 26 of this issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*.



The Children's Page

Thank you, God



friend Mark, a five-year-old boy, shared this God, thank you for the beautiful day. (Even when it .)

Thank you for the we have to eat. It helps me grow big and strong.

Thank you for Mom and Dad, who take care of me.
 Help me, God, to do the right things.
 Help me, please, to obey my parents and Sabbath School teachers.

Please help those who are or to feel better.
 Thank you, God, for Jesus. He is my friend, you know.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

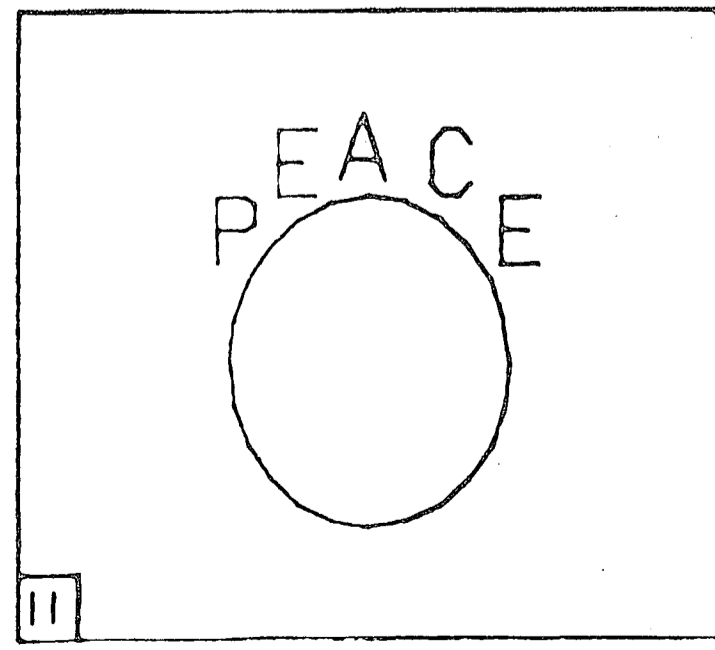
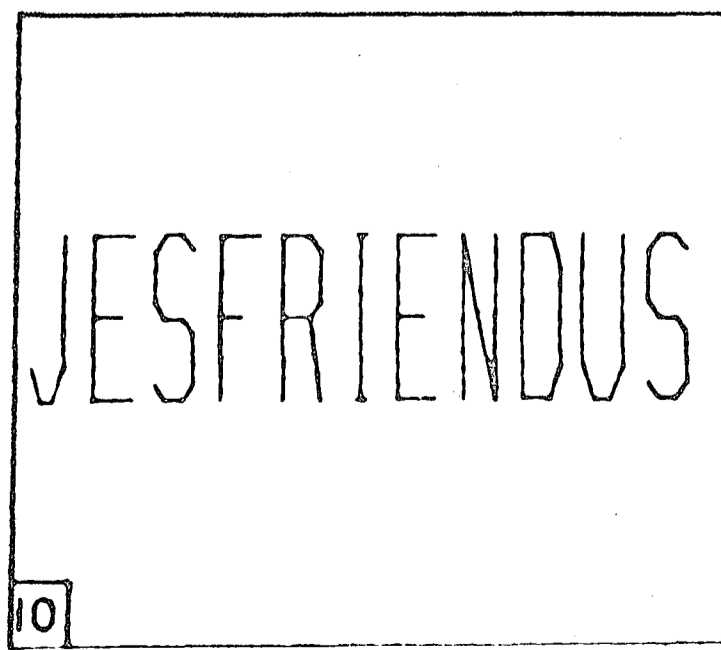
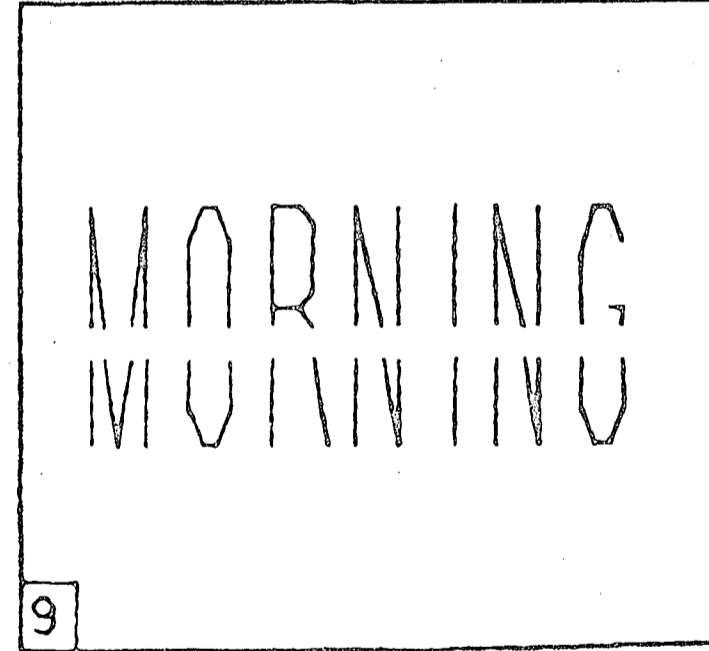
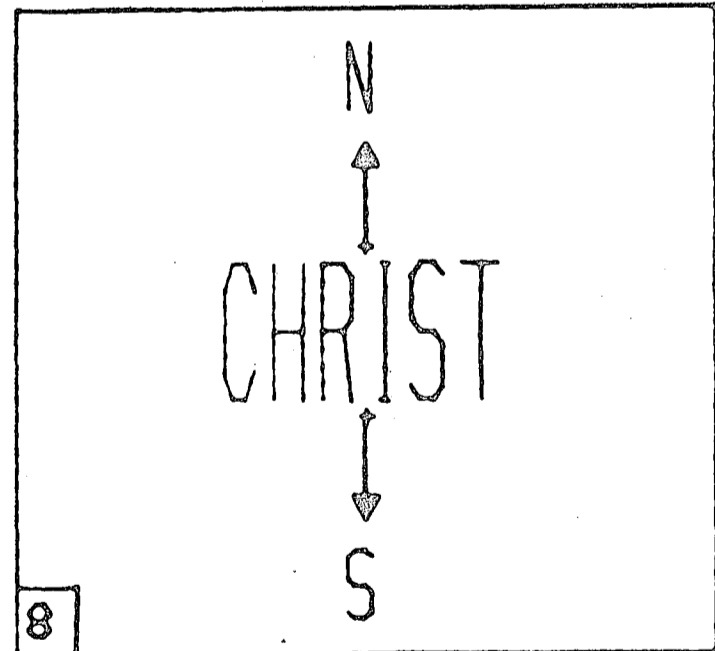
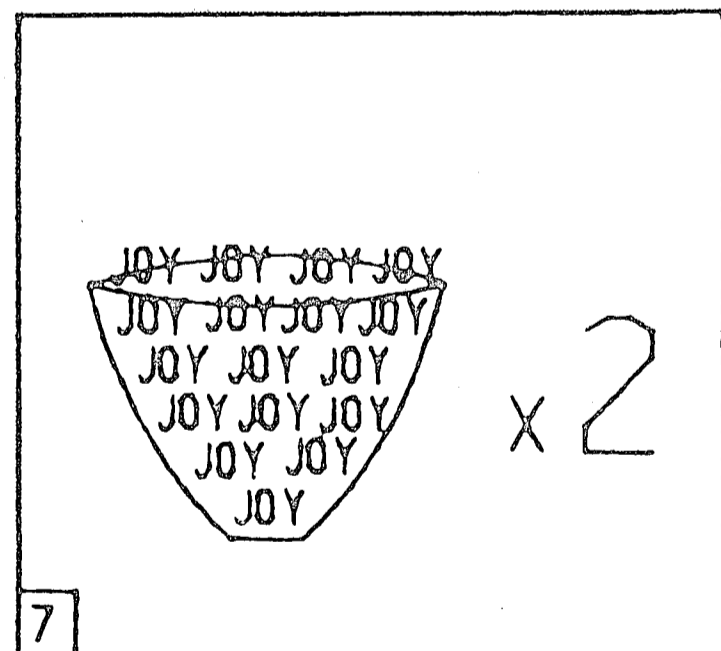
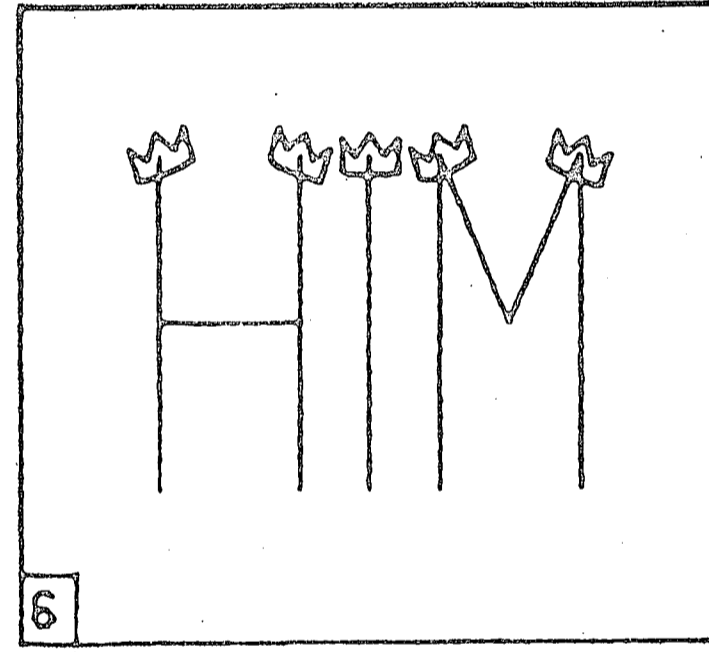
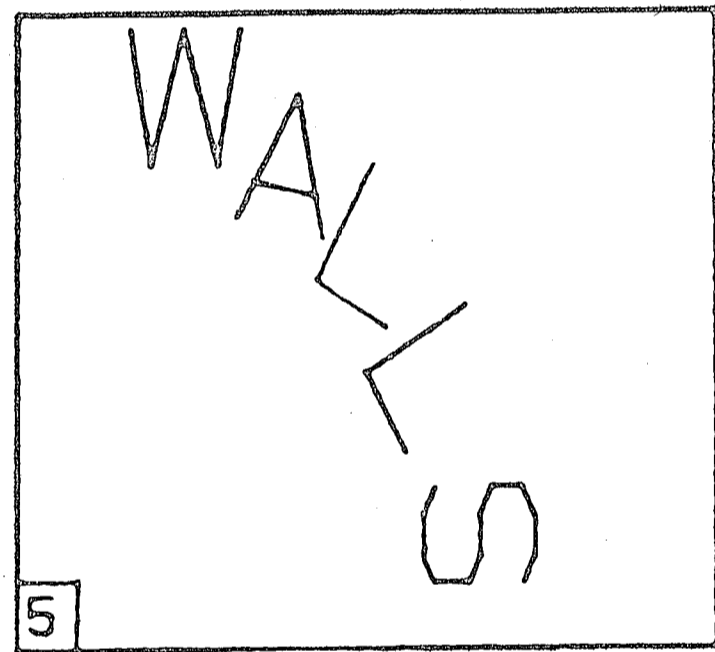
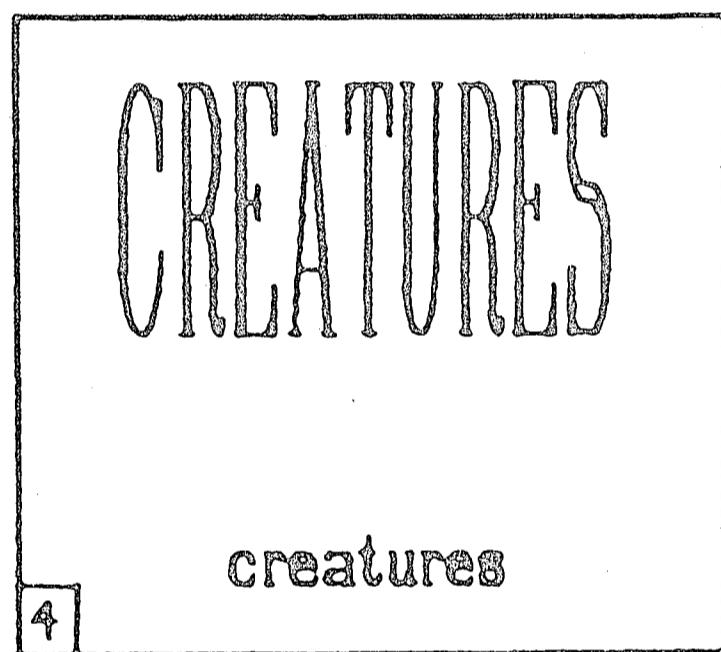
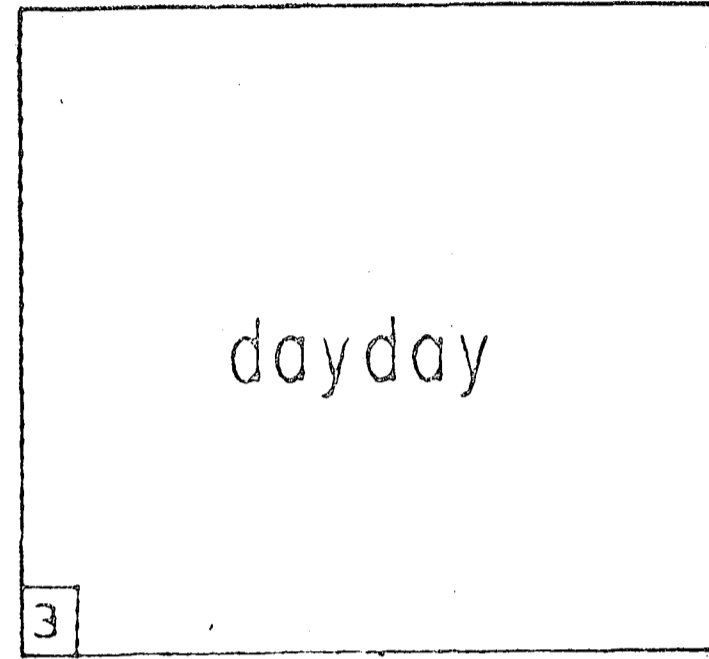
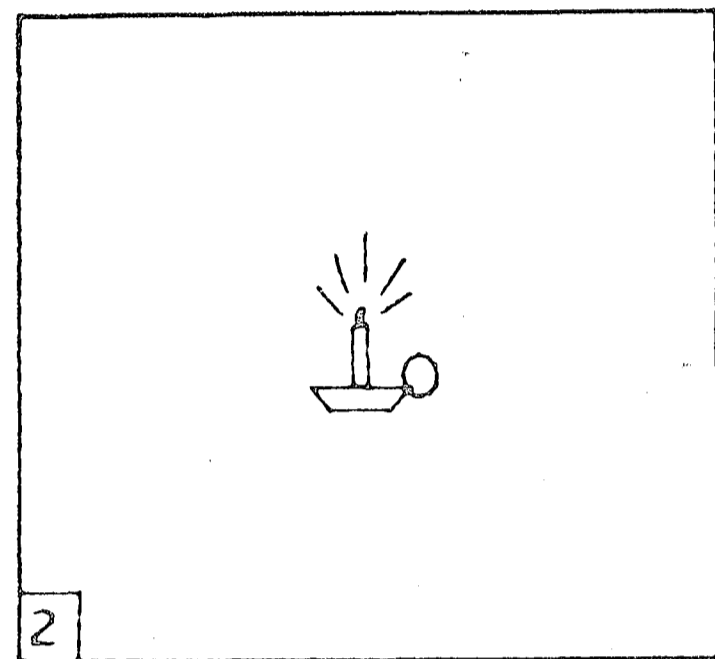
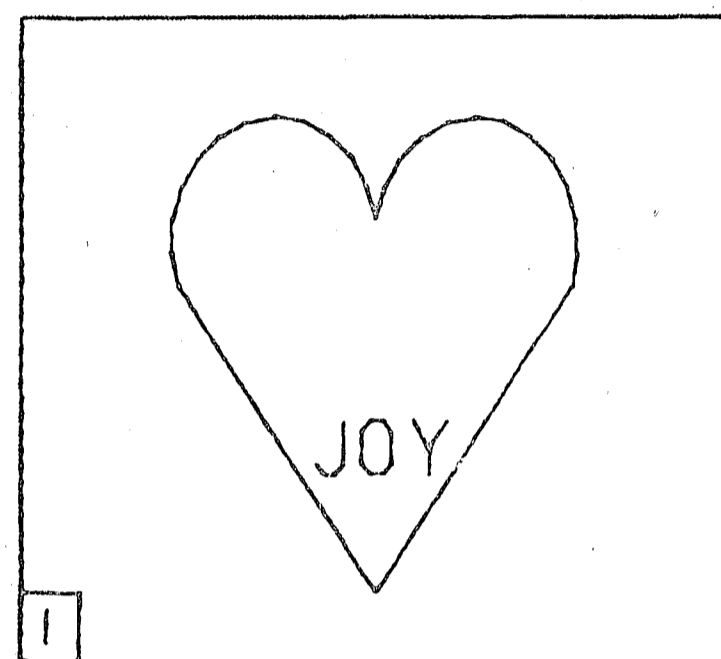
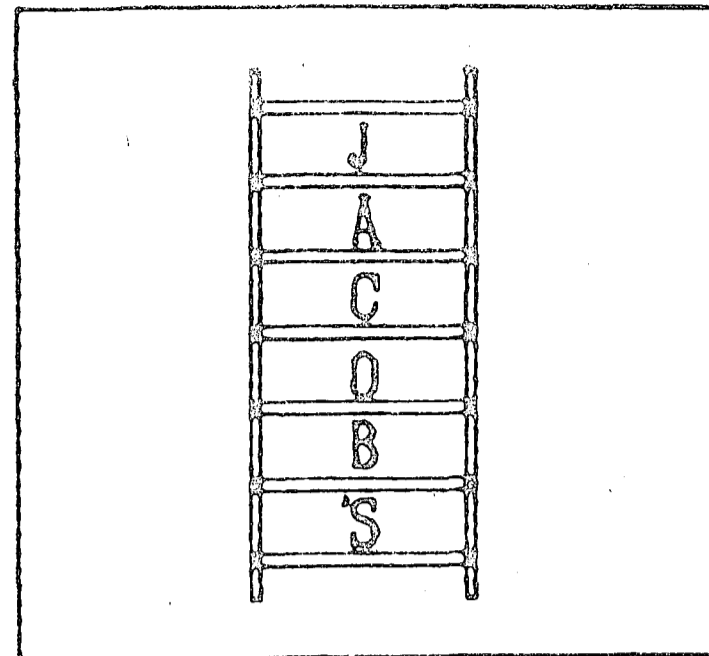
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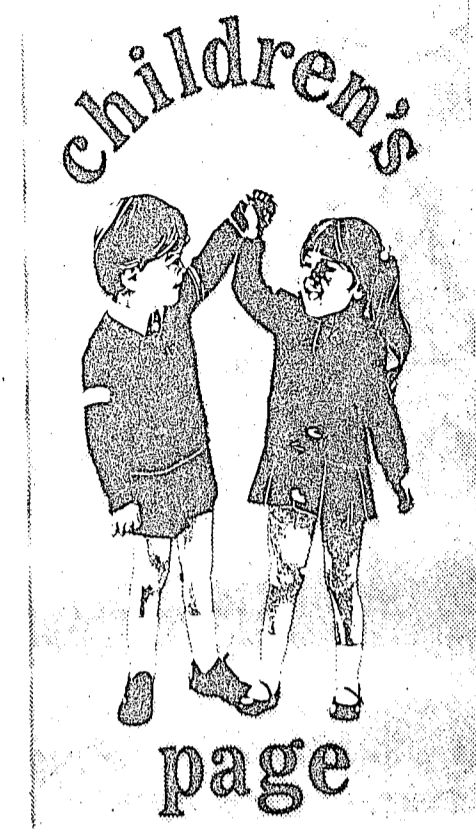
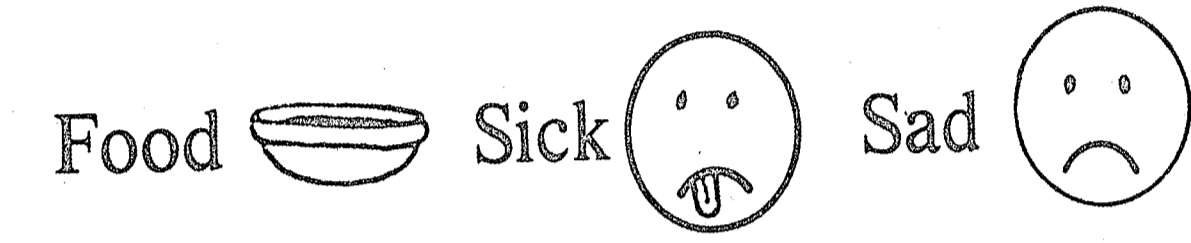
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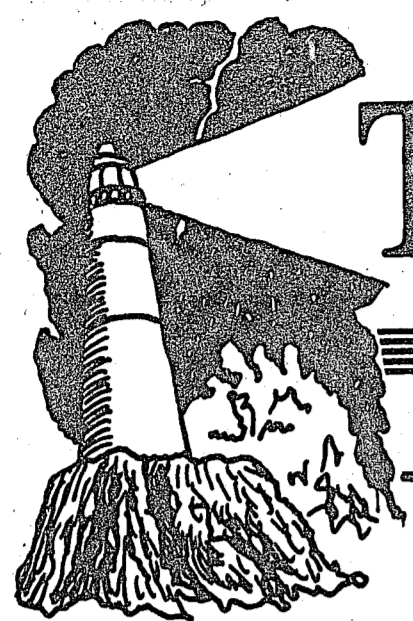
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In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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

September 1984

On stewardship

by Deacon Lloyd Coon

One of the definitions of a steward is a person hired to supervise a large estate. In the realm of the Christian life, we as Christians are caretakers of God's possessions. What does God own? Psalm 24:1 clearly states "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." God owns everything, since he is the creator of all things. All the things he has entrusted with us, we are responsible to him for.

However, we often fail to use God's resources for God's glory. So we should ask ourselves this question: Am I making decisions and living as if things belong to God or to me? The way we live unmistakably declares the answer.

Our responsibility as stewards of God's money does not simply end with giving it away, but we should also check out each organization we give to by making sure that it is *truly* engaged in the Lord's work and that it makes efficient use of the funds.

What about the quality of our giving?

The principal of tithing or giving 10 percent is an historic scriptural practice and is helpful as a beginning point to our giving. It is a guide to minimum giving. Using agricultural terms, the Bible speaks of the tithe as coming out of the "first fruits" of a crop. In terms of money, this means the first 10 percent of our income. Before any of our income is used for personal needs, God's tithe should first be given. Many feel that it is acceptable to give 10 percent of our take-home pay. I feel, however, that if we are truly giving our "first fruits", it should be 10 percent of our gross pay. Although we may not have as much control over the portion that is withheld from our pay as we might like, we need to remember that the more we give to the Lord, the more we usually receive back from what is withheld. I am thankful to God that we live in a country that in a sense rewards us for giving to him by not taxing religious organizations. The scripture says "Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all

your income, and He will fill your barns." (Proverbs 3:9-10, *Living Bible*) I have found that if we obey God in faith, he will enable us to accomplish far more with the 90 percent that is left than we could have done with the original 100 percent.

"First fruits" giving has always been God's special way of teaching his people to be like him. He is a giver, and he wants to lead his children to be conformed to his likeness. As we give, we grow spiritually, learning to honor and reverence God and to always put him first. Although Spirit-led giving has a vital part in helping the church and Christian organizations carry out their mission, we must remember that its primary purpose is not to help God pay his bills, but to help us grow more like Christ. SR

This material was prepared by the "youth" of the Raritan Valley, N.J., Church for "The Mustard Seed".

Christ is alive!

On one occasion Michelangelo turned to his fellow artists in a spirit of great indignation. "Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the one theme of Christ in weakness, Christ upon the cross and, most of all, Christ hanging dead?" he asked. "Why do you concentrate upon that passing episode as if it were the last word, as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dread scene lasted only a few hours. But to the unending eternity *Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!*"

What an awe-inspiring picture we get

of the Lord Jesus as John viewed him on the isle of Patmos! His trumpet voice and powerful figure of strength and grandeur made the apostle see him as the victorious conqueror over death and hell who will one day come to rule in unexcelled glory. We need to concentrate more on the risen Christ who declared, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). He is now our Lord, our Captain through life, our Intercessor at the throne, and our soon-coming King.

Reverently recognizing his supreme majesty, let's emphasize his thrilling words, "I am alive forevermore!" SR

Grant us then
the grace for giving
With a spirit
large and free,
That our life
and all our living
We may consecrate
to Thee!

The Sabbath Recorder

SCSC Epilogue

by Linda Hays

The summer of 1964 was the summer civil rights was on everyone's mind. It was the summer Andrew Young and Jesse Jackson with the SCLC were raising the issue in the deep south. It was the summer civil rights activists from the north were murdered in Mississippi for registering black people to vote. It was the summer the Civil Rights Amendment was passed by the United States Congress.

The summer of 1964 found four young people from Milton, Wis., working with a group of children in the New Orleans suburb of Gretna, La.

The children thrived on our attention. They swarmed over the car when we arrived and clung to our hands as we prepared to leave. They co-operated during the Bible lessons, songs and handwork, but their favorite part of our weekly visit to their neighborhood was the period of games and recreation with which we closed the afternoon. Dodger ball was nearly always their first choice. One day a little girl fell and skinned her knee as she jumped to avoid being bumped by the ball. Her older sister was much too involved with the game to be bothered, so I swept the smaller child into my arms.

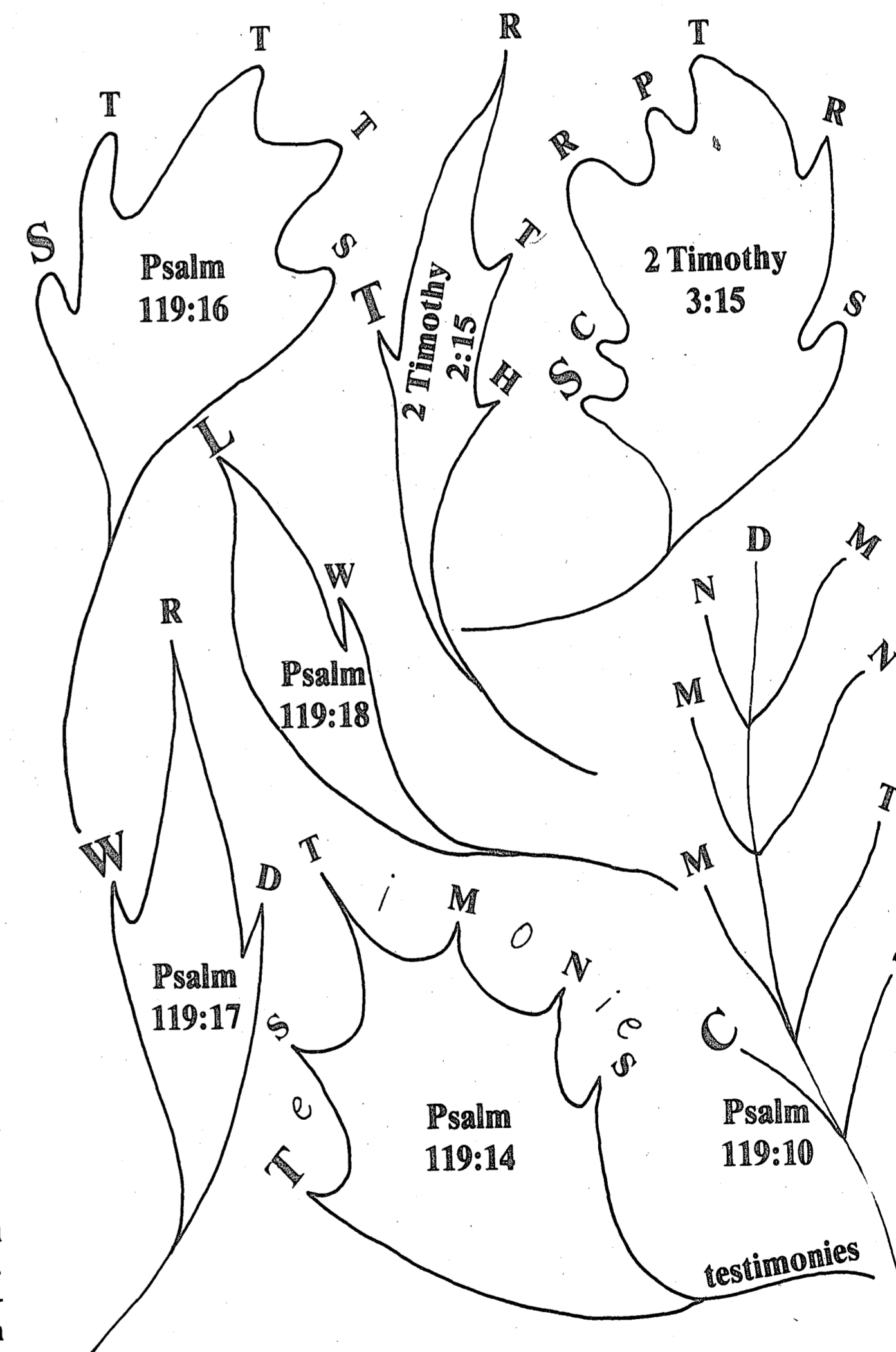
Tears streamed from the big brown eyes and streaked her hot cheeks. On the injured knee red blood seeped to the surface of the dusty skin. I found a damp tissue, dabbed at the tears and the knee, and held the sobbing four-year-old close until she became quiet.

"You got pretty hands," she smiled. As she turned to look into my face, her eyes grew wide with wonder. "Why, you a *white* lady!" she exclaimed.

That was the summer of 1964. Civil rights is not so great an issue now. Integration, which began with legislation and court orders, has become an accepted way of life. But I still pray for the day when a person will be accepted, evaluated, hired, and promoted on the basis of personal merit rather than on the basis of gender or skin color. When the brotherhood of mankind becomes a reality of practice rather than a hoped-for ideal. SR

Leaf Through The Word

Start with the large letters and go to the right, filling in the vowels to make other names for the Bible. Then write the answers on the stem of each leaf. Scripture verses are given to help you. (The bottom leaf is done for you.)



Puzzle Answers

Psalm 119:16, statutes; 2 Timothy 3:15, scriptures; Psalm 119:10, commandments; Psalm 119:14, testimonies; Psalm 119:17, word; Psalm 119:18, law.

Report of the Conference Interest Committee on Youth Work

Youth Involvement and Training for Ministry or Is There Life Before and After SCSC?

Through the SCSC program we have seen 1) the development of spiritual leadership, 2) that the young people are capable of being trained, 3) that the young people are willing to sacrifice, grow and adapt in order to meet the challenge of a cause they believe in.

The Seventh Day Baptist denomination has a tremendous source of power and dedication that is not being used or challenged to its full potential. We need to be challenged and trained in effective methods of Bible reading and interpretation. We need teaching in areas of SDB Church history, beliefs and church organization. We youth in the church need avenues into service for the church.

We, the SDB youth, realize that many times we are unpredictable, disinterested and often times let the older people of the congregation down. One of the problems of youth is that we are immature, but we do feel a need to grow into maturity and spiritual responsibility. The public school system does not offer this opportunity. For many of us, even our home offers very little encouragement for spiritual development. The church is the only vehicle available to help us become the people God wants us to be.

1. We need both training and real life situations that we can observe, in witnessing to the people around us.
2. We need opportunities for active participation in the church service.
3. To the Center on Ministry, we suggest that the courses in polity and beliefs of SDB's that are being offered to our ministerial students be made available to the youth in the local churches.
4. To local churches, we need understanding in what pastors, deacons, trustees, etc. do. We suggest that

The church is the only vehicle available to help us become the people God wants us to be.

programs be developed that will allow youth to observe first hand these people in operation.

5. We feel that the Senior High Conference could be a good opportunity to have youth seminars on SDB history, beliefs, etc.

We realize the need to become more active so that the church will become stronger and we can work together to build up the Body of Christ.

National SDB Youth Fellowship and Conference Youth Activities

We recommend that each local YF group be urged to contribute the proceeds of one fund raising activity to the Board of Christian Education to subsidize the cost of youth activities at Conference. The deadline for these contributions will be April 15.

All money received will be added to the current Board of Christian Education budgeted amount of \$100.00 for this purpose. National SDB YF officers will be responsible for planning and disbursement of this fund.

Furthermore, we suggest that some recognition be given to our National SDB YF officers. We recognize the importance of the members of the Body of Christ serving without hope of reward, since our true reward is with our Heavenly Father. However, we also recognize that many times the people who are serving us need our financial help to continue.

Recognizing this, we, the SDB youth, wish to aid them in any way possible. Therefore we suggest that any part of

the budget of the National SDB YF that is not used for Youth Activities be used to aid our officers in paying Conference expenses each year. This amount would not exceed 30% of the total costs of General Conference, and would be distributed evenly among the officers. Furthermore, no more than 15% of the total National SDB YF budget may be used for officers' Conference expenses.

In this manner, and with the other guidelines within this suggestion, the amount of money would be carefully regulated. The financial aid would be distributed by the Board of Christian Education, who would have final approval on the amount of aid.

National Youth Field Worker

It has been brought to the attention of this committee that the Board of Christian Education is studying the possibility of hiring a National Youth Worker. We are both excited and encouraged that such a ministry is being researched, and urge the Board of Christian Education to prayerfully continue in this effort, asking our Lord's guidance that we may more effectively "Build the Body of Christ", which is his church.

We recognize that the world we live in is desperately searching for answers which make a difference, but often looks in the wrong places. Though this search encompasses all ages, it seems to be accented in the youth. In what ways do our churches address these problems and help young people find

answers? How effective are we in this? It is the experience of the members of this committee that much much more needs to, and can be done to help teens and college age persons discover "The Answer", even Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.

In the words of Paul, Rom. 10:14, 15: "How are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are feet of those who preach good news.'"

In order to insure that this suggested ministry be both effective and efficient, giving honor and glory to God as it successfully invites, unites and strengthens individual youth, and youth groups, we strongly urge the Board of Christian Education to search and research the issues which combine to make a National Youth Worker, in our eyes, such a vital ministry within the churches of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. Only as the needs, concerns, and problems of the youth, our YF's, and leaders, are accurately identified and addressed, will this work be of value.

We believe, and were confirmed in this belief by the inspiring message of our Executive Secretary, Rev. Dale Thorngate on Monday evening, that our youth are a vital link in the life of the church, and that where active youth participation in the leadership and programming of the church is developed, the church as a whole springs to life. Therefore we are convinced that a well-thought-out National Youth Worker ministry could be a key to the revitalization of God's work through Seventh Day Baptists in America. We thank Executive Secretary Thorngate for his insightful words and suggest the Board of Christian Education study his Monday evening message in the light of this statement.

Once again, we strongly urge the Board of Christian Education to seriously pursue this issue, not being held down by concerns of man, but freely following the leading of our

Lord, that his will be done "on earth as it is in heaven", and that all may believe and be led to his salvation. SR

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Bass	Mary Jo Johnson
Kim Bethel	DeLynne Jorgensen
Laura Bevis	Debbie Kagarise
Julie Bond	Brad Maltby
Kevin Butler	Matt Olsen
Steve Osborn	David Carmichael
Nathan Crandall	Garett Patrow
Kerith Camenga	Bill Probasco
Lisa Crump	Mike Saunders
Matthew Crump	Dana Taylor
Paula Davis	Dina Taylor
Nora Dutcher	James Trower
Debi Ellis	Adam Van Horn
Jodi Gnad	Alicia Van Horn
Clara Goodson	Ernie Wheeler
Jan Graffius	Esther Wheeler
Howard Green	Leon Wheeler
Laura Hess	Marjorie Jacob
Sanja Severance,	Secretary
Larry Graffius,	Chairman

Births

Lawrence.—A son, Cory Lawrence, was born to Mark and Kelly Lawrence (Snyder) of Alfred, N.Y., on January 24, 1984.

Vilaysack.—A daughter, Virginia Rae Vilaysack, was born to John and Laura Vilaysack of St. Petersburg, Fla., on June 18, 1984.

Marriages

Stillman-Katz.—Benjamin S. Stillman and Karen G. Katz, Houston, Texas, were united in the Lord on May 12, 1984, during a garden marriage ceremony conducted by Pastor Mark Simpson.

Stillman-Underwood.—2nd Lt. Andrew E. Stillman, Omaha, Neb., and Lisa G. Underwood, Whitesboro, Texas, were united in marriage on June 2, 1984, at the 1st Baptist Church of Whitesboro by the bride's pastor, Rev. Harold Watson.

Brown-Noel.—Victor E. Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Brown of Bellevue, Mich., and Julie Noel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon L. Noel of Battle Creek, Mich., were united in marriage on June 17, 1984, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Battle Creek by the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

Accessions

Alfred, New York
Roger Gardner, Pastor

by Testimony:
Sandra Briggs
Kristen Balch
Patricia Goodyear
William Seamans
Dale Foster
Cathy Foster
Leroy Rote
Joseph Lestingi

Battle Creek, Michigan
S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor

by Baptism:
Lucille Beaver

Daytona Beach, Florida
Kenneth B. Van Horn, Pastor

by Baptism:
John Phonthadent Vilaysack
Rita M. Rodriguez
David M. Lander

New Auburn, Wisconsin
Donald Chroniger, Pastor

Matthew Olsen
Steve McNamee

Riverside, California
Alton L. Wheeler, Pastor

by Baptism:
John McDonough
Mark Webb

Washington, D.C.
Leland E. Davis,
Pastor

by Testimony:
Alyce McDonough
Gary Smith
Stanley Ermshar
Marti Ermshar

by Baptism:
Joseph Wheeler

by Testimony
Leroy Tsutsumi

Barber-Brainard.—Michael R. Barber, son of Lucille Beaver of Battle Creek, Mich., and Deborah Brainard, daughter of Norman Brainard and Delores Sanford of Battle Creek, were united in marriage on June 23, 1984, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Battle Creek by Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

Hines-Rudert.—David John Hines, son of Mrs. Marian Hines of Chicago, Ill., and Glenna Gail (Gigi) Rudert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Rudert of White Cloud, Mich., were united in marriage on July 6, 1984, at the Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Fremont, Mich., by the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis.

Stillman-Garza.—Daniel J. Stillman and Denise Garza were united in Christian marriage on July 14, 1984, at the Heritage Presbyterian Church by their pastor, Rev. Robert W. Babcock, Houston, Texas.

Twenty years of SCSC celebrated

by Linda Hays

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going. And soon the world around is lit up by its glowing..."

The familiar words brought tears to my eyes as I visually toured the banquet room where more than 60 participants in Summer Christian Service Corps, with their spouses, members of the Women's Board and SCSC training staff personnel gathered in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the SCSC program. Tears of joy and of celebration, of humility and awe, at the realization of what a magnificent glowing has grown from the spark of an idea launched in 1964.

There is really no way to determine the extent of this glowing, for the whole impact of SCSC is not confined to the statistics of those who have been directly involved. But it is like a chain reaction or the ever-widening circumference of a brush fire as the love of God is passed on from one person to another, life touching life touching life.

In 20 years, more than 300 young people have given one or more summers in dedicated service with SCSC. Those of us who attended General Conference were recognized and presented ribbons by the Women's Board. A white ribbon was given to each person who had served one summer, a red ribbon for two summers, a blue ribbon for three, and one young man received a purple ribbon for giving four summers to the program. Ribbons will be mailed to SCSCers who were not able to be in Beloit.

Mrs. Debbie Keown served with charm and wit as emcee for the banquet program which featured Leon Lawton as speaker. "Elder" Lawton used a passage of Scripture from the ninth chapter of II Corinthians, emphasizing Paul's comments that God is able to make "all grace abound toward you for every good work." SCSCers experience God's sufficiency

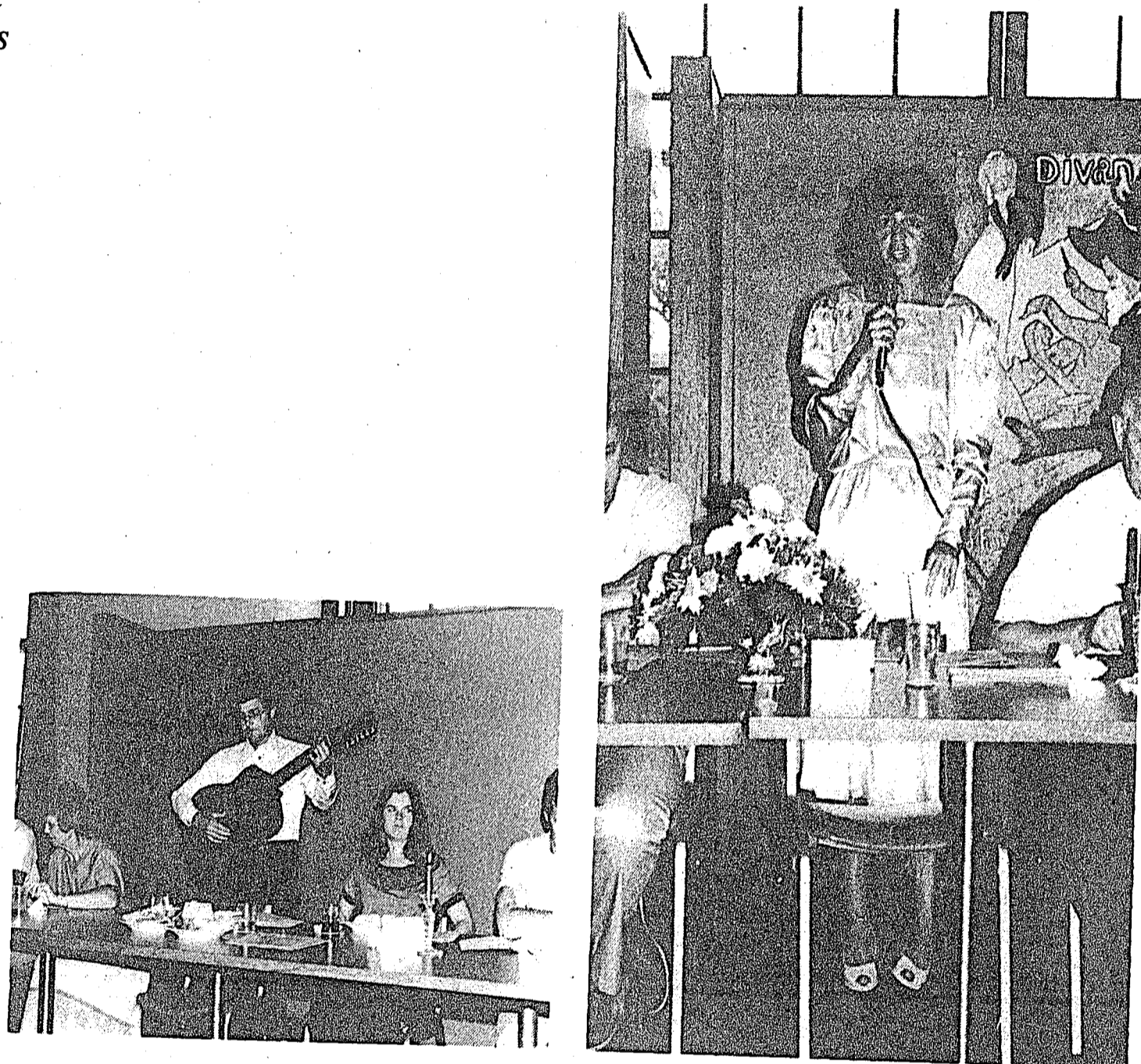
for every need as they take, however timidly begun, steps of faith, trusting God to do what he has promised. Although it was not mentioned at the time, I believe the experiences of SCSC have proven two spiritual truths. First, if Jesus is lifted up, he draws to himself not only the "others" with whom we are concerned, but also us who are doing the lifting. A young person in SCSC, telling others about Jesus in sincerity, serving him with a true heart, can not help but be drawn closer to Jesus himself. Second, the branch that brings forth a little fruit will be cultivated that it might bring forth more. For many young people, SCSC has been only the beginning of a life style, of a total commitment to serving the Lord in whatever career they may ultimately choose. And I heard at least one of our pastors testify to the assembly of General

Conference that SCSC had been the "clincher" for him. If my count is correct, there are no fewer than 20 SCSCers who are now pastors or pastor's wives.

One of that number, Larry Graffius, who is now pastor of the SDB Church in Nortonville, Kansas, led the banquet diners in songs which have become a part of the SCSC tradition. So we come full circle, back to the words of "Pass It On" --

*"I'll shout it from the mountain top,
I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me;
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Pass it on, Seventh Day Baptist young people. Hold high the torch, and keep it brightly glowing. We've only just begun. **SR**



Larry Graffius (left) led singing and Debbie Barber Keown was the hostess for the SCSC banquet.

Obituaries

Parry.—Nellie Bond Parry (Mrs. William D.) died April 25, 1984, in Hornell, N.Y., after a long illness which had for only brief periods kept her away from her caring relationships with family and friends.

She was born Nov. 6, 1915, in Salem, W.Va., the daughter of Ahva J.C. and Ora Emford Van Horn Bond. She grew up in Salem and Plainfield, N.J., graduated from Alfred University, taught public school in western New York, was children's librarian in Westerly, R.I., and librarian at Alfred State College, besides mothering her family and graciously hosting countless friends.

She married William D. Parry on April 5, 1942, and after his return from military service, they resided in Philadelphia where they were active in the old Philadelphia SDB Fellowship. When they moved to Alfred in 1963, she served church and community in a wide variety of ways. One of her many significant contributions was her choral and solo singing.

Survivors include her husband; three daughters, Megan Brill of Boulder, Colo., Wyn Frechette of Rocherter, N.Y., and Amanda Oglesbee of Alfred; four sisters, Elizabeth Percy of Salem, Mary Lewis of Bradford, R.I., Wilna Wilson of Charlestown, R.I., and Ahtagene Clarke of Chalfont, Pa.; her step-mother, Agnes K.C. Bond; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church on May 3 was led by her own family, with spoken tributes by many friends in the audience. A memorial fund for college library books was established.

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A family funeral service was held in Lakeland, and a memorial service will be held in Alfred at a later time. Burial of her ashes in the Alfred Rural Cemetery will be beside the grave of her first husband, A. Burdet Crofoot.

Mrs. Saunders was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church and of several community organizations where she was serving her community until recently. Most of her adult life was spent in Alfred. She graduated from Alfred University in 1921 and married Mr. Croft in 1923. To them were born three daughters, Patricia Anne (Mrs. Robert Turnbull) of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Constance Louise (Mrs. John Quirk) of Lakeland, and Leah Camille (Mrs. Stanley Harris) of Greenville, N.C.

Mr. Crofoot died in 1955 after a career of college teaching and a short term of church administration cutoff by his sudden death. His wife married Paul C. Saunders of Alfred in 1965. Mr. Saunders died in 1975.

Besides the three surviving daughters, she leaves 11 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Due to his convictions, Karl became deeply involved in the work and life of his church and denomination. He served for many years as president of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church and was chairman of its Centennial Celebration Committee in 1940. In 1929, he became treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society which is headquartered in Westerly, serving in that capacity for 49 years. Almost single handedly, he restored the Society to a strong financial position after it had suffered severe damage to its assets in the 1929 stock market crash. He also served as a trustee of the Memorial Fund and as president of General Conference in 1948.

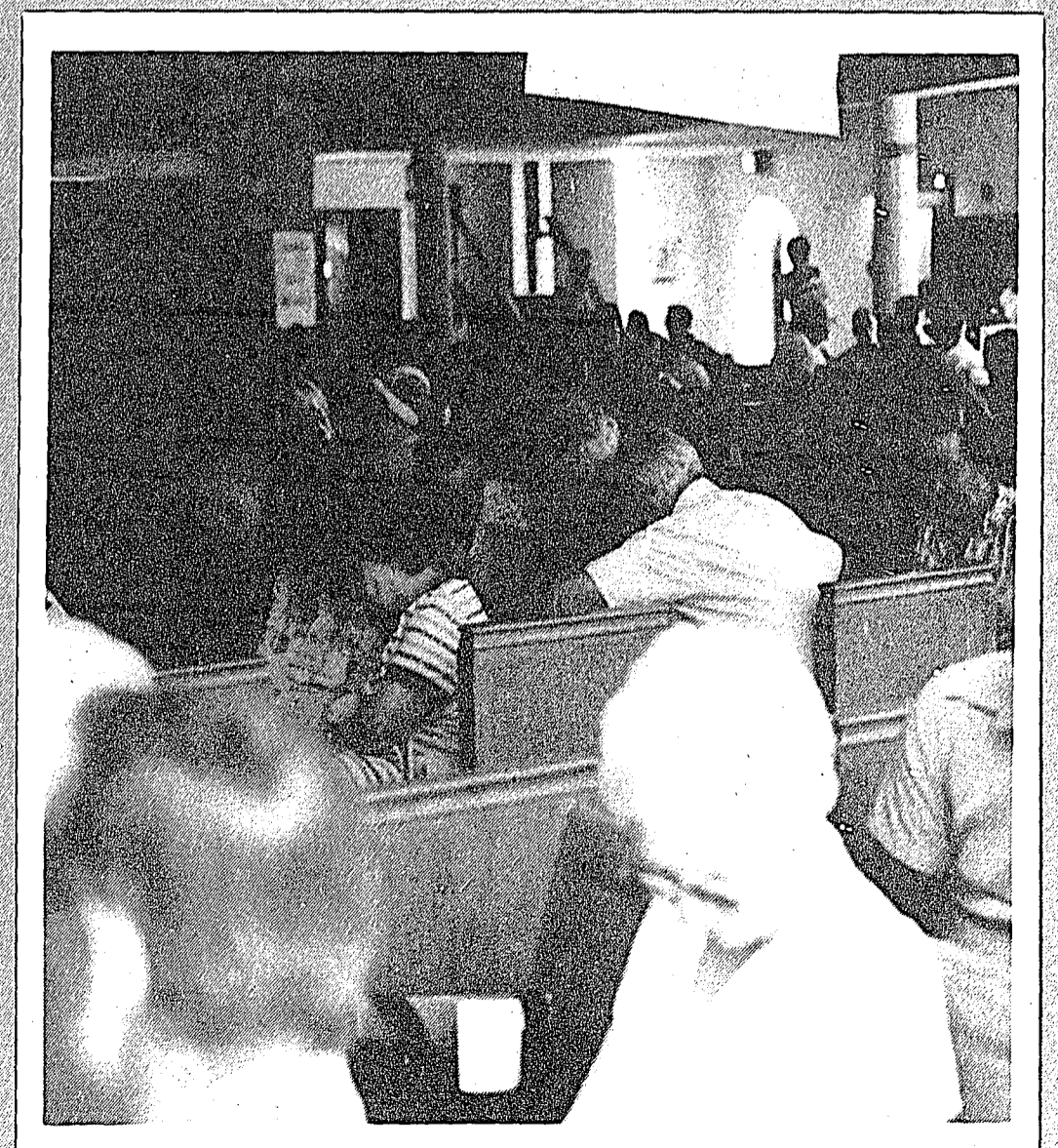
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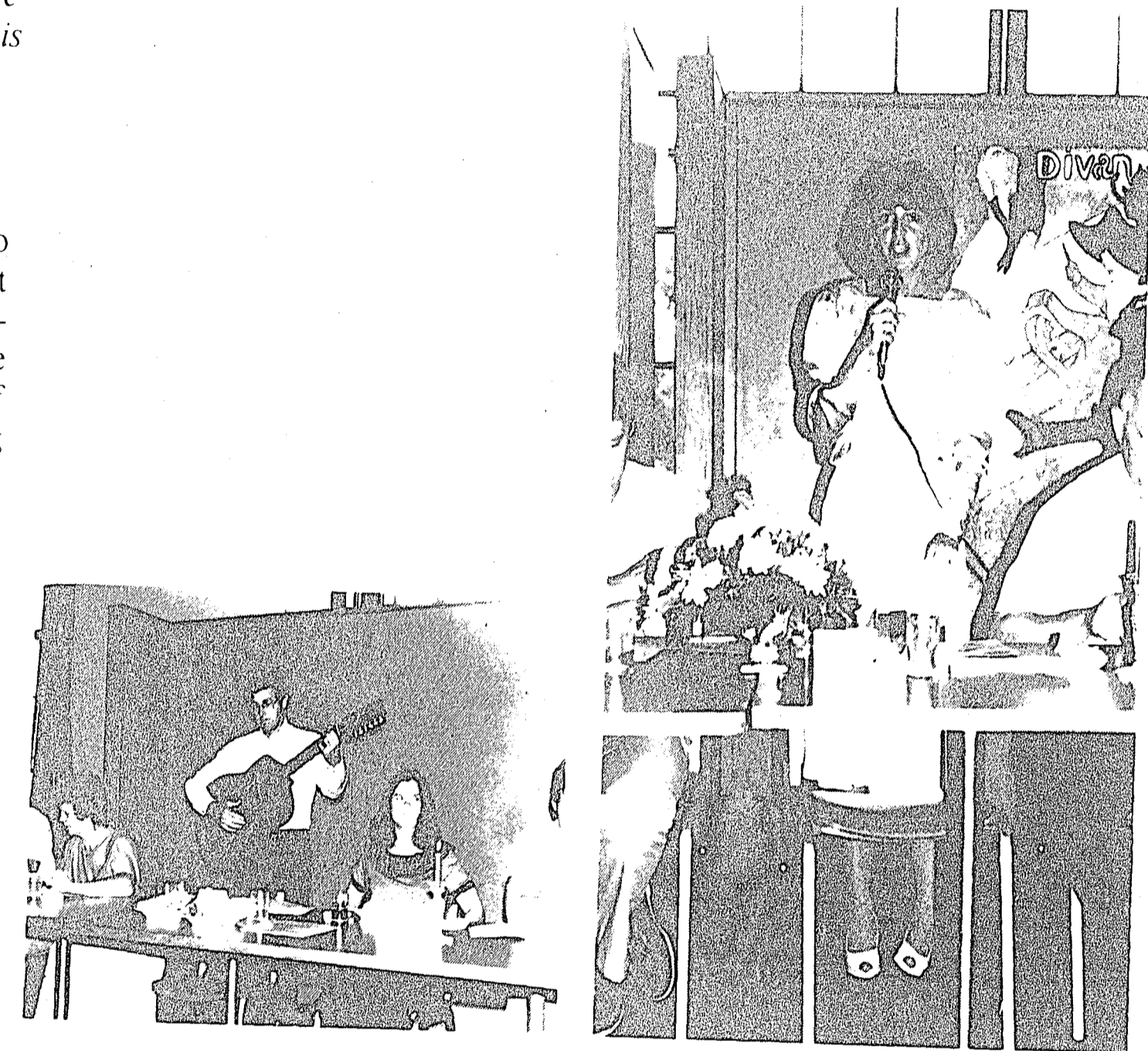
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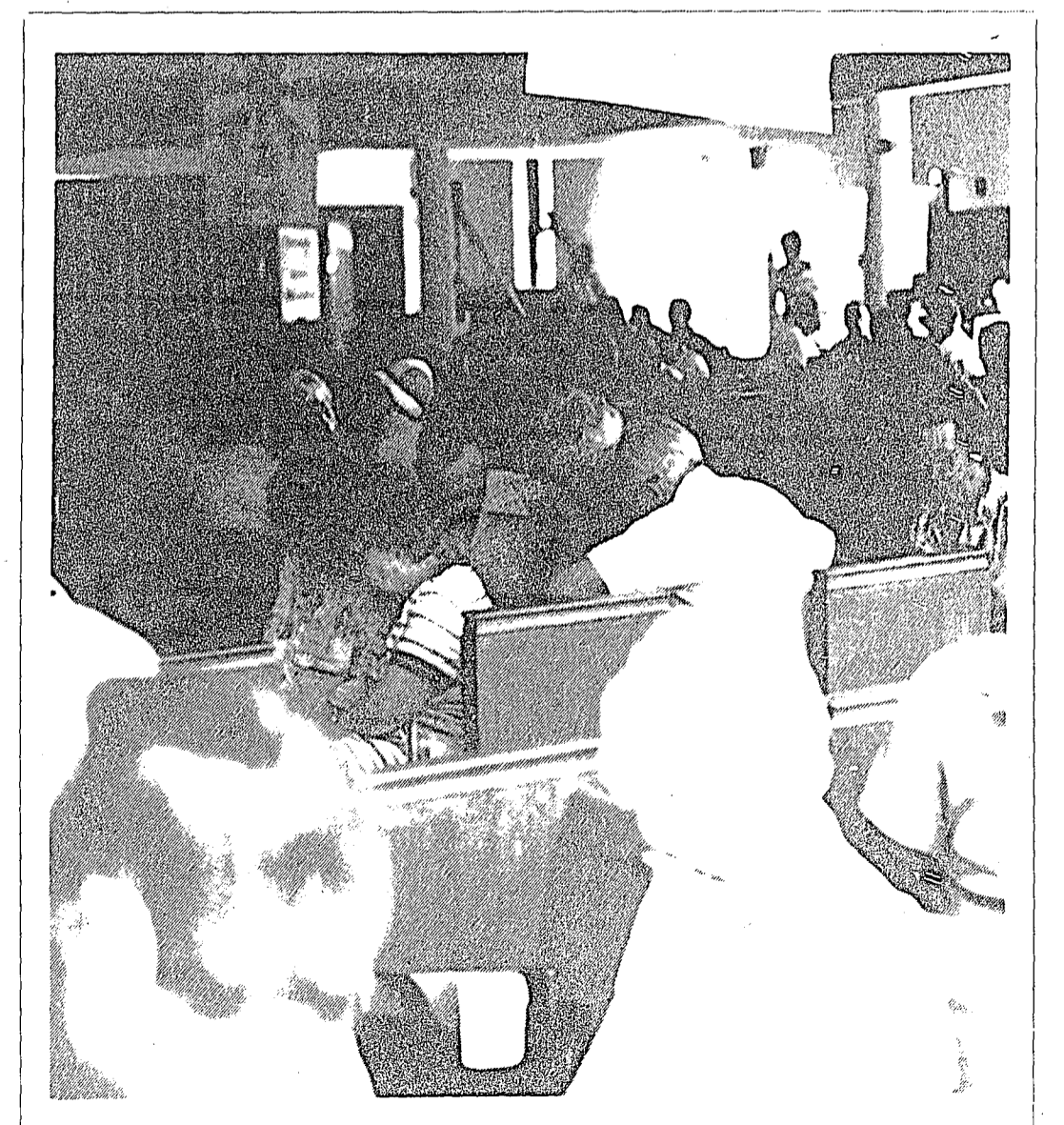
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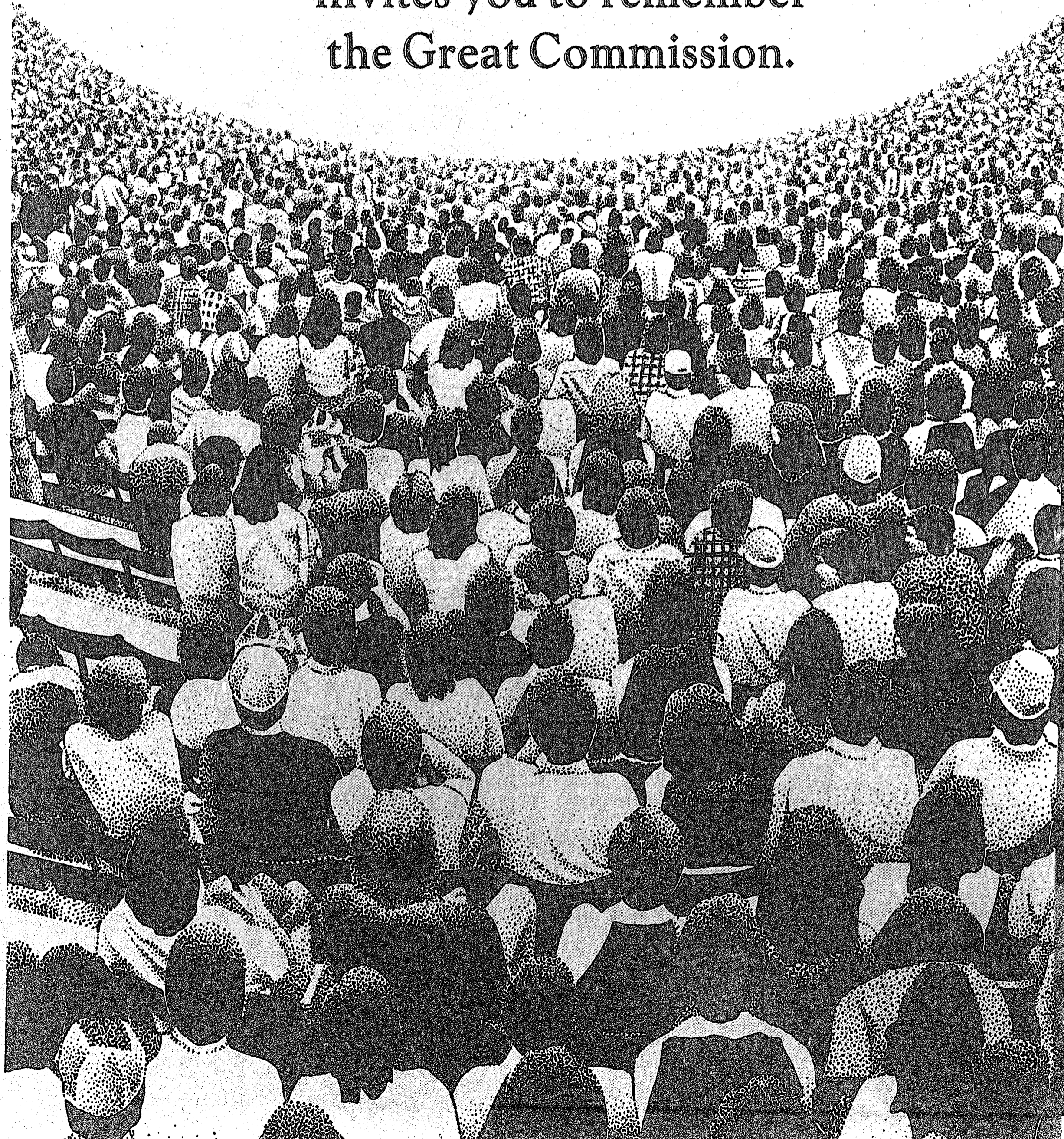
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The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X)(USPS 474460)
3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590

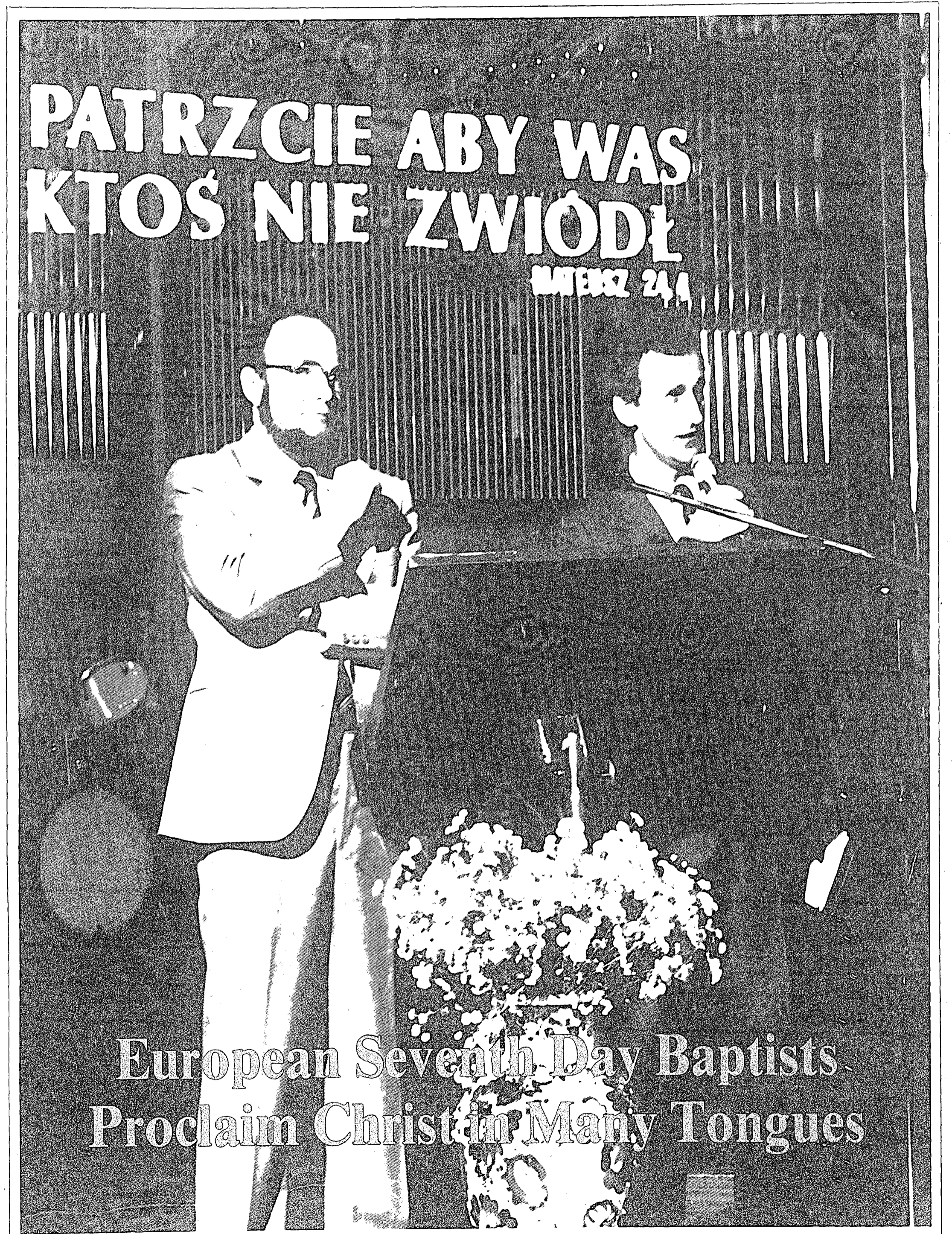
At Conference 1985,
President Calvin Babcock
invites you to remember
the Great Commission.



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