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THE ☆ SEVENTH ☆ DAY ☆ BAPTIST
SABBATH RECORDER

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Glad Tidings

1984
1985

Mystery of the Universe

by John C. Mastor

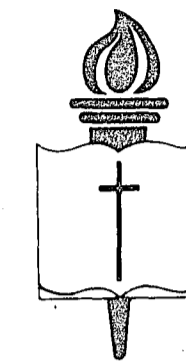
The mystery of the universe
with all its splendor
holds me spellbound.

The twinkling stars and distant constellations
are wonders to be seen.

Oh, foolish Man!
Who are you to think that
you can unlock the secret of creation.

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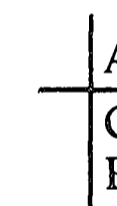


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X)(USPS 474460) is published monthly by the American Sabbath Tract Society, 3120 Kennedy Road, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

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This is the 140th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



D. Scott Smith
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Art Director

Contributing Editors

Linda V. H. Camenga, Mary G. Clare, J. Paul Green, Calvin Babcock, Leon R. Lawton, Jane Mackintosh, Marilyn Merchant, Dale D. Thorngate.

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Special thanks to
Leon R. Lawton

for the special missions emphasis sections of this issue.

Features

Equipping for evangelism	4
by Russell Johnson	
1985—Year of Extension	8
A visit to Africa and Brazil	10

Departments

Focus on missions	14
by Leon R. Lawton	
Ideas for a new year	17
by Marilyn Merchant	
Physical and mental exercising	20
Board of Christian Education, Mrs. Mary Clare	
The Beacon	22
The Toronto, Canada, Youth Fellowship	
The Children's Page	24
A new year—life in it's fullest	29
by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate	
Accessions, Marriages and Births	35

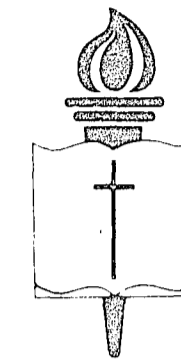
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Equipping for evangelism

by Rev. Russell Johnson

Sermon at SDB Conference sessions at Beloit, Wisconsin, Thursday night.

During this year's Olympics, I have gained some insight and perception about Christian life and about my own personal experience.

I discovered, that in the area of gymnastics, the equipment which they use is critical. I had thought that it was man against bars, but I found, through the TV commentary, that on the high bar for men there is a special glove which they have developed which allows them to do more maneuvers at higher speed than they ever had been able to do before, and more break-aways than they had. And that is marvelous. In other words they had to equip themselves to do the job.

But there was another thing I noticed. Not only did they equip themselves with the proper equipment,

the proper techniques, years of training, and the best of coaches, but they had the knowledge of the rule book. This is an amazing and difficult thing to know. They knew the entrance requirements, and had advanced to the place where they were now qualified to compete internationally. They had been proven and tested. And, as they put their equipment on, they also stripped off unnecessary gear. It was a two-fold process: putting on what was needed and taking off what was no longer necessary—the warm up suits and the extra gear which they had carried with them to that point.

I find this a tremendous parallel for us in evangelism. Over the years, I know this conference has taught and thought and prayed about evangelism. At heart, we are evangelicals. We have professed that before our Lord. We

have learned and improved techniques and we have developed schools where we could send people to learn about church growth, all for the purpose of becoming more reproductive as Christians.

Seventh Day Baptists, as part of that goal, have developed the theme *Double in a Decade*. I believe that was a marvelous inspiration—the moving of God amongst our people. There was a *wind* which moved across our denomination, which was beginning to blow and to make a deep impact which would revitalize our people. All of us realized that for a long period of time we have been sitting still. That is not God's purpose nor his intent for his people. And so, we have gone through a period of time, and I believe, without question, we have seen fruit.

There are definite results as a result of the goal which was set and the prayers which were lifted up. God has begun to answer. But, I think that anyone who competes in an international event, one who is competing for the kingdom, needs as every athlete does, to take a time to evaluate where they have been, where they are and where they need to go.

I would challenge you, as we think about equipping the Body for evangelism, as we think about where we have been and where we are going, to think for a few minutes about evaluating where we are. Think about the things which may be weighing us down that we need to strip away. I believe we are basically well equipped right now, right here, to do the job that God is calling us to do. But we are weighted down with *warm ups*. We are weighted down with extra gear and hardware which needs to be stripped away so that we can get down to carrying out the tremendous symmetry of God's plan in our life.

We have, without question, the perfect manual. We are following God's guide. We know what the Bible teaches—II Timothy teaches the fact that all Scripture was given by inspiration. It tells us the entrance requirements and techniques for performance of our life. It tells us exactly how we can perform what we

have been called to do and do it well. All we have to do is to stick to it and we know that we are secure.

As Seventh Day Baptists have begun to see growth in numbers, and that is marvelous. But I think we need to look at this *body building* and evangelism in another way. I think that our problem is not to begin to weigh the numbers at this point, but to weigh some other factors. I would challenge you to quit counting the tens, the nine point sixes, and the nine point fives, and begin to look at what God says it takes in order to complete the competition. I believe, that when we have completed the competition, God will award the perfect score. We have to follow through before we start looking for tens. Some of things mean that we

The Great Commission is God's blessing on the Church.

have to follow the manual well.

Do you believe that the Great Commission is an obligation for every Christian? I do—but there is something more about that Great Commission which I never really sensed before. I felt it was an obligation. Do you know what *obligation* says to me? *I've got to do it*—and that is a weight which holds me down. The challenge is that the Great Commission is his benediction. It is his blessing on the Church. It was his final promise of what he was going to do with you and through you. You never saw it that way? I never did. I never realized that God was promising to his Church what he was going to accomplish and he has never failed in a promise yet.

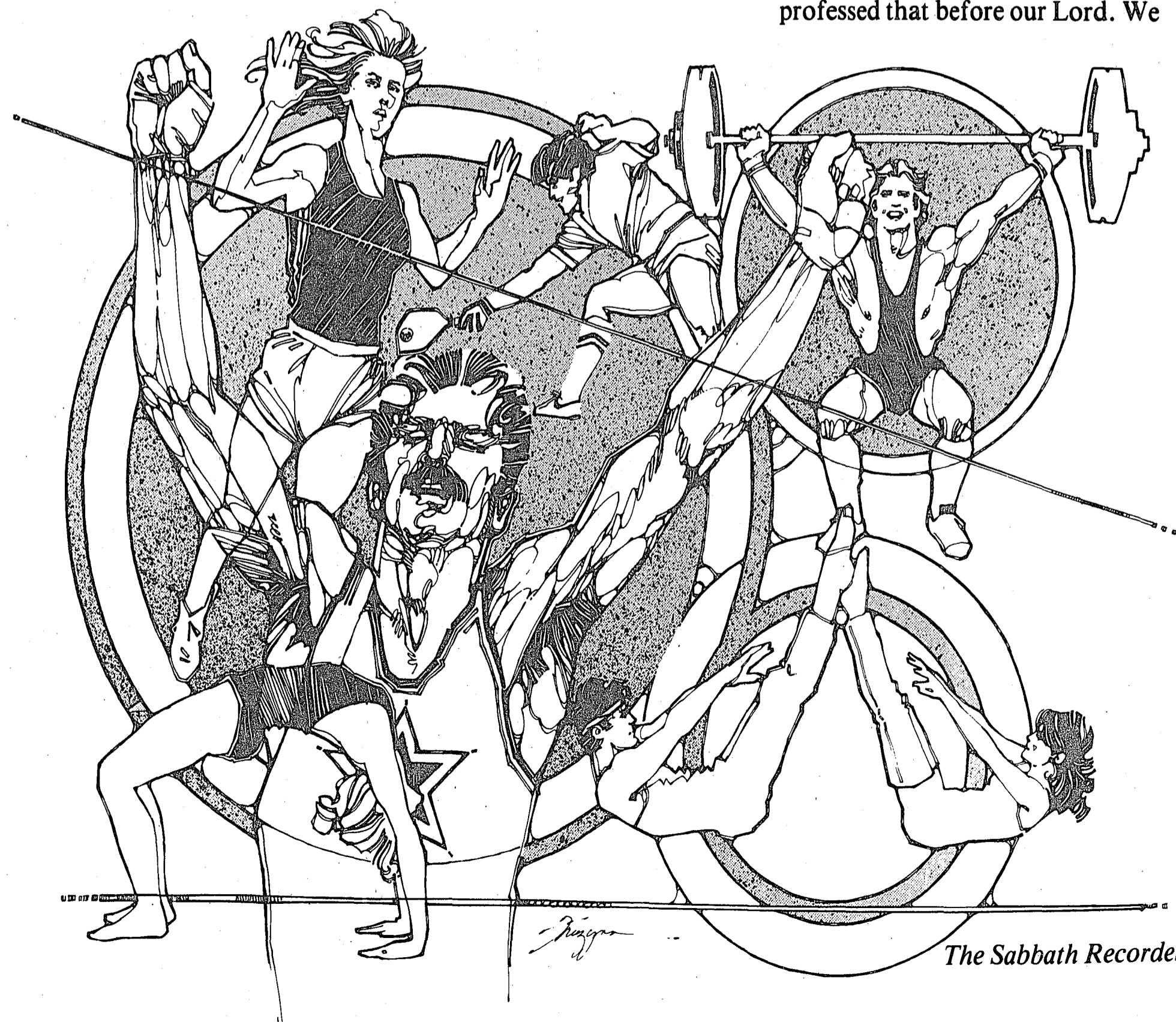
There are some things which can interfere with this promise and obviously can deter us from achieving our

goal. There is no question but that we have a perfect goal—to evangelize the world! God loves the whole world. To reach out to the world is obviously a compassion which has come from Christ's own heart and from his own life. What can we do and how can we help? Where can we develop that part of our life?

Seventh Day Baptists have the personnel. We have swallowed the idea that if we were just bigger, we would be better evangelists, we would be better teachers and we would be all these things we need. There were 500, one tenth of our denomination, in that early discipleship group and they turned a world upside down. Do you remember that Acts 8 says, "All but the apostles had to flee from Jerusalem." They scattered throughout the land and they did not go witnessing—they went preaching.

Now most of you panic a little bit at the idea of witnessing, but these people went *preaching*. This is a step further than most of us have been willing to see, but God empowers it. It is not something you have to do in your own strength. God is able to do it through you. You say, "I don't know the formal preaching words." God does not ask for *special* words. He speaks in a language you know, and he uses your heart and your lips, to touch the lives of people around you. We have to be willing.

Young people, do not buy the idea that it takes somebody beyond the age of 20, 21, 23, 40, 45, or a pastor in order to evangelize. This is something that I discovered while I was in SCSC. In the church in which I had grown up, we tried to hand out tracts and we were told, "Don't do that, you'll offend people." The youth group had wanted to go out and distribute tracts and they said "No, don't do that. You'll offend the neighborhood and we won't be able to get them to come to church." And it was not until I was in SCSC that I was finally turned loose and allowed to experience someone coming to Jesus Christ. It happened quickly, and it happened easily. But it was not a part of my life style. It was not a part of my experience at that time and it was new



The Sabbath Recorder

wine to me. They respond and you know the answers and how to take them further. So you take them on into Christ and they move boldly forward.

Afterwards, we have to be ready to disciple. When you move to the area of discipling, most of our churches are not nearly as well equipped. Though we have already asked the Lord to double our number in a decade, we have not acted as if we expected it. We are not prepared to receive if he doubled our membership in this next year. We are not geared to receive 5000 new people.

If we are going to equip the Body for evangelism we have got to act like we believe it, because God cannot bless us until we are ready to move forward expecting he is going to do it. Has he not already done it? Have we not found that we have been outstripped. Have we not discovered already that we have come up short? Will he continue to bless us when we are not prepared for what more he provides? Will he let us lose those which he has given to our care? I believe not. He is holding them in abeyance until we equip ourselves for the path before us.

I believe we are well equipped for evangelism. I do not believe, at this point, that we are ready for discipling the way we should be. God is not going to give us birth until we are ready to maintain life.

We need to clean up our lives. Before the Lord and speaking from your heart, is it possible that you know of some doctrine that the Scripture teaches that you have *set aside*? You may have said, "that's true but as for me and my house we are not quite going to get around to doing that yet." Is that the case? Do you know of some things that you have hedged on, or backed away from?

Let me just give you some Scriptures for you to study which speak about and remind you about the fact of what happens if we disobey. Disobedience shuts off blessings. Disobedience interferes with God's ability to pour out everything that he wants us to have.

6 You may have received some blessings

already, but the flood gates are held back. You have not experienced what God wants you to know. Go ahead and simply explore a deeper obedience than you have been willing to try until now!

Ezekiel 20, says, "you ignored my statutes and my laws, you have disobeyed and disregarded my Sabbaths." This is a beautiful Sabbathkeeper's understanding. But remember it speaks to you too, if you have been disobeying. Look into what Acts 7:51-53 says about the same incidents of Israel. We are the new Israel and we can disobey just as easily as they did.

Focus on Hebrews 3:12 as you think and meditate before the Lord. Disobedience delays, hampers or may completely stop God's blessing for you-for your church. It will, many times, hold up evangelism. It is possible that if we were to begin to obey more completely, the Lord would open those flood gates, and that doubling in a decade would happen more quickly than we think.

As Samuel is speaking to King Saul, (I Samuel 15:23) Saul has just *blown it*. He had a good opportunity. He had a good relationship with God—and he blew it. He went off, disobeyed and put himself into direct opposition to God. When he found himself *up against it*, Samuel says to him, "Is it not better to obey than to offer sacrifice?"

What is better than the offering and

sacrifice of Jesus Christ? Have you ever thought about that? What is more pleasing in God's sight, than the sweet flavor of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—*your obedience*! No sacrifice is necessary where obedience is found. Do you want to offer something up to God that is more beautiful than just accepting Jesus Christ? Learn what it means to obey more fully. He delights in your obedience.

I believe that in the days ahead, our people will never be the same. We have enough sound doctrine within our congregations, if we will obey it. What we know and what we already understand, if we will put it to practice in our lives. God will bless us richly. It does not have to stop there. I hope we will push on to discover more of what God has in the way of sound doctrine for us. But we have enough to begin. We are beginning to discover, that people are beginning to practice their faith like never before.

Have you ever noticed that the things which we fight doing the hardest are the things that, when we ultimately get past the barrier, bless us most richly. Is it not true, that the Prince of Darkness is not going to obstruct the things which mean nothing to you? Would you not expect to find the greatest resistance to the things which will bear the greatest fruit through your life? He does not want you to

Do you want to offer something up to God that is more beautiful than just accepting Jesus Christ? Learn what it means to obey more fully.

know the blessing, and he does not want the Kingdom of God to know the fruit. So why do you marvel? It is what we should expect. Yet we do not recognize those signs when we come up against resistance and rebellion in our spirit. We need to push on and search the Bible to know what God expects, and step out in faith and discover the blessings each new act of obedience brings.

With a well practiced faith, sound doctrine, talented people, our text book and a clear goal, we are ready and willing to evangelize.

There is one more area that I believe obstructs us more than anything else on this earth. An athlete can go into competition with high hopes and high potential, but if they lack concentration he or she is unlikely to win. One athlete that I saw during the Olympics was just such a person. You could see it in her face. She knew she was going to lose. Previous gold medal winner or not, she hit the bar and missed. She already knew and accepted in her mind that she was a loser. An athlete without the concentration and the right attitude is doomed to failure.

Christian, I say the same thing to you. If you have got the wrong attitude about what you have asked from God, you will come up short. If we have a wrong attitude about our goal to *Double in a Decade*, we will not be equipped for the evangelism which we can work. SDBs will come up short.

What do I mean by attitude? First, we have to believe that it is going to happen. If you ask in prayer, in faith believing, it will be given to you. If we ask without wavering, it will be done. If we are going to vacillate and say, "Yes, Lord we want this, but I really don't believe that it is going to happen," you can not expect that God will follow through.

Much of my life, I have pleaded, "Lord why can't I know some of the fruit that I see at this Baptist church or that Presbyterian church? This one over here is growing and seeing your

Much of my life, I have pleaded, "Lord why can't I know some of the



New people stretch you like children do grandparents

fruit that I see at this Baptist church or that Presbyterian church? This one over here is growing and seeing your blessing. Why is it that Seventh Day Baptists must be passed by?" I discovered that it was partly my disobedience. When I began to obey, listen and *follow* the Lord, he began to give fruit that I had never seen before. It is exciting! It is *new wine*. I do not want to go back! I want to go forward, and I want you to come with me, because it is joyous and it is blessing. There is nothing to fear and everything to be gained.

I discovered that many people come up against an attitude problem. We are afraid. Did we really know what we were asking when we asked to *Double in a Decade*? I believe I can say this because I am a Seventh Day Baptist of Seventh Day Baptists of Seventh Day Baptists. I have Bonds, Babcocks, Clements—name one of the old SDB names and it is in my background. But, I grew up in Alexandria. I was down there in Kansas City in the sticks. I had a chance to do some studying on some studying away from Seventh Day Baptists. One of the things I have observed as I have come back and

worked with our people through the years is that we are afraid of outsiders. The more we have among us, the more scared we get. We seem to have thought, when we prayed to *Double in a Decade*, that God would give us 5000 more full grown, fully matured, fully developed Seventh Day Baptists who would be exactly like we are. That way, we could have the same sweet fellowship, exactly like it was, just bigger. No, no!

You know your fathers and grandfathers would not believe the kind of fellowship we have. It is different now because you are different and I am different. This has made it a new kind a fellowship. It has grown and it will continue to grow with every new person that walks in the door of our church. Are you prepared for 1000 new people sitting here next year and 5000 in our congregations? Can you not already feel the threat? They are

Cont. on page 26

Seventh Day Baptist Decade of Discipleship

1985—Year of Extension

Goal—100 new works in 1985! Every church at least one!

A new work is an extension effort of a local church to launch an extension Bible class, Sabbath School, Bible Club, Branch Church or some other outreach, including a social service ministry, aimed at meeting the whole needs of the whole person.

There should be no pressure to get a new work organized into a new church until the Holy Spirit directs and they have reached the level needed for such a step—leadership, number of regular participants, resources and above all, a vision for witness and outreach in their area.

Beginning in January 1985, the Missionary Board office will record the new works being launched throughout the denomination. A New Work Report form will be sent to every pastor and church. Initially we will also list those currently in operation during 1984 continuing into 1985.

Church Extension Ministries offers this tool to the local church to help them in the beginning of a new work. Remember, A new work is not equal to a new church. It may well become a fully organized church someday, but the primary intention is to reach out to some segment of society with the love of Jesus in a form that group will understand.

Action steps

I. Prepare

A. Make a commitment to start a new work. Meet with the local church board to make the initial decision to begin a new work in 1985: among the poor, the disadvantaged, or those at a cultural or physical distance from the local church.

B. Call a special prayer meeting. Engage all church members in prayer to seek God's will and direction.

C. Form a mission action committee to evaluate, plan and prepare action plans for the church and/or its various groups.

D. Solicit suggestions. Ask each officer, teacher, and prayer meeting participant to help compile a list of known mission possibilities.

E. Present this list of suggestions to the mission action committee in a public service, commissioning them to act. Engage in united prayer for divine guidance.

II. Pray

A. Select a prayer leader. Assignment: To communicate with the church in leading a prayer effort.

B. Arrange a calendar. Purpose: To publicize at least twice a month the work of the mission action committee and to channel specific prayer needs.

C. Report answers to prayer and requests

III. Probe

A. Select a community probe team. Four persons, including the pastor, to conduct observational research.

B. Conduct community probe No. 1. Plan specific ministry, checking details. Is this a vital need? Others involved?

C. Conduct community probe No. 2. From February through April is a good time to do a thorough community probe effort.

D. Prioritize the top three targets.

IV. Publicize

A. Publicize the best targets. Inform the congregation through the local newsletters and church bulletins.

B. Alert the prayer network. Pray for God's choice of the target area.

C. Inform all area S.D.B.s of developments. Other local churches, Association leaders, Missionary Board office.

D. Continue publicity. As new work is launched, alert the Association and Board office of your plans.

V. Pioneer

A. Choose the new work target—be specific!

B. Plan details of first effort—brief and clear!

C. Launch the new work—March, April, and May are excellent times to start something new.

D. Report—Report new work status to Church Extension Ministries of your Mission Board. (Use form provided.) Report to Association leaders the status, results, and future plans.

IV. Praise

Plan a praise service to thank God for victories won. Make a list of all who have made a significant contribution and publicize their efforts. SR

National Ministries:

Extension Pastors:

- Atlanta, Ga. Bill Shobe (6/81)
Portland, Ore. C. Justin Camenga (4/82)
San Gabriel Valley, Calif. John Peil (4/83)
San Diego, Calif. George Calhoun (7/84)

Plus one new Extension Pastor in 1985!

Missionary Pastors:

- Central, Md. Kenneth Chroniger (3/78)
Raritan Valley, N.J. Kenneth Burdick (4/78)
Houston, Texas Robert Babcock (1/79)
(our first Reach Out Now-RO project, 76-78)
White Cloud, Mich. Larry Watt (9/82)
Columbus, Ohio Perry Cain (1/83)
Memphis, Tenn. William Shoffner (1/83)
(our first Extension Pastor project, 80-82)
Blountville, Tenn. Bobby Wright (8/83)
Bay Area, Calif. Steven Crouch (11/83)

One new Missionary Pastor church is approved for 1985.

Remember, a new work is not equal to a new church

Field Pastors:

John Camenga served as a Missionary Pastor (half time) and a Field Pastor (half time) in the eastern Tennessee, southern Virginia and Carolina area.

A new Field Pastor in Florida is being planned for 1985

International Ministries:

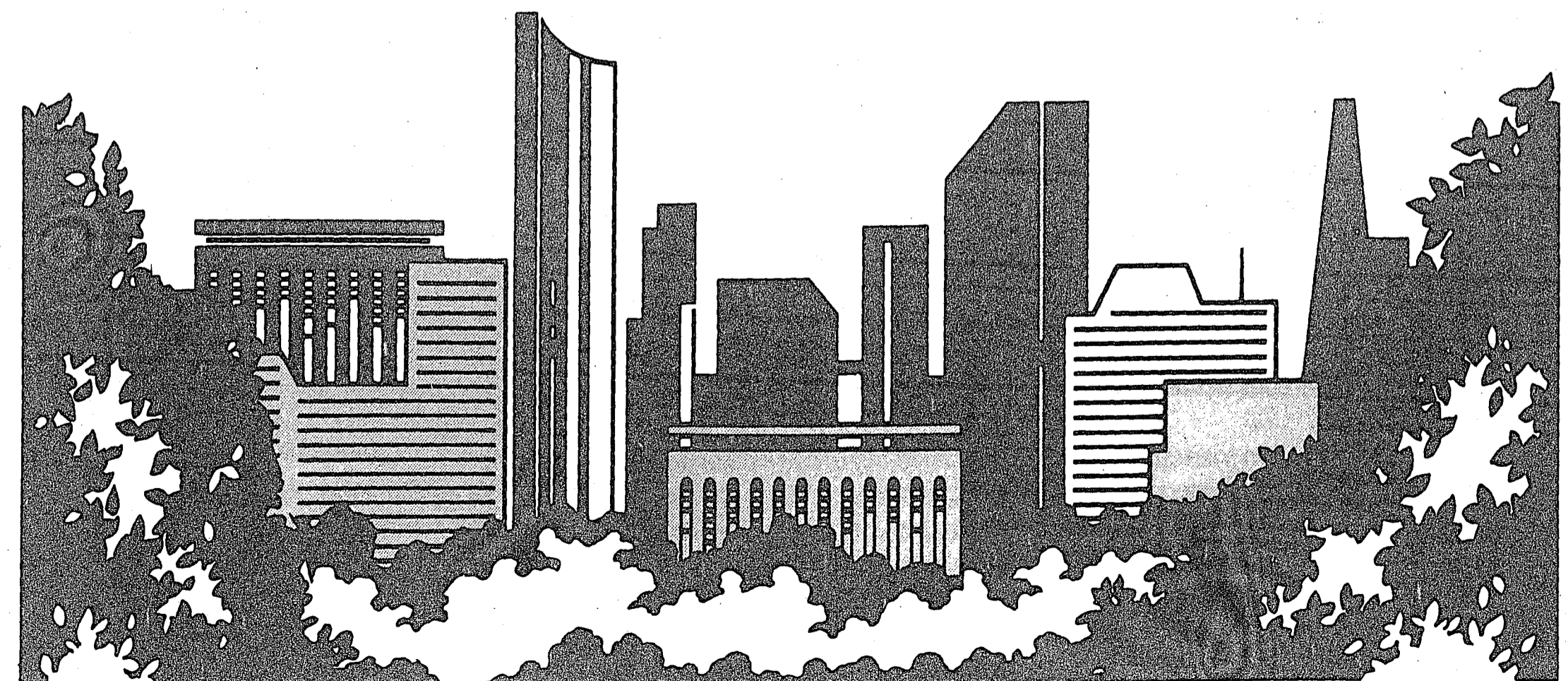
Malawi, Africa—David and Bettie Pearson continue to work with the Central Africa Conference (CAC) of SDB in pastoral training, evangelism and Christian education. Bettie is currently acting Medical Administrator.

The CAC has called for a Medical Administrator and a construction foreman who could supervise several church and medical building projects. This is being studied and might come under extended dedicated service.

The Philippines—Rodney and Camille Henry are in their second term of service with the SDB Philippine Convention with the focus on training leadership through Theological Education by Extension (TEE).

As we are in contact and fellowship with sister Conferences and Conventions in the SDB World Federation (currently there are 14 in addition to ours) there are calls from time to time to come over and help us.

Support for National Ministries is given in six geographical areas—Burma, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi, The Philippines—as we enter 1985. SR



A visit to Africa and Brazil

In September and October, Executive Vice President Leon R. Lawton of the Missionary Society visited Malawi, The Republic of South Africa and The Republic of Transkei with a weekend in Brazil enroute back to the USA.

He attended the annual session of the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists held at Makapwa Station, Malawi. There, he led in a seminar on pastoral leadership and met with conference and medical leaders. The new rural hospital building at Thomas Medical Center was dedicated during his visit and he also went to the capital city of Lilongwe to see the site for their new church building and pastor's residence.

Near Johannesburg, one Sabbath was spent with the South Africa Reforming congregation. This group of Afrikaanse speaking brethren left the SDA church over a decade ago and have similar doctrine with Seventh Day Baptists. A second Sabbath was spent with their largest group at Uitenhage, near Port Elizabeth.

Also near Port Elizabeth several days were spent with leaders in the SDB Conference of South Africa whose history goes back to 1906. Since a visit in 1974 by Alton L. Wheeler and Leon R. Lawton on a Sabbath, Rev. N. J. Siwane has received training at the Theological College of South Africa and is presently the president of their conference.

In another stop, Lawton visited with Rev. C. Mngonyama in Butterworth in the Republic of Transkei, one the the national homelands. He is leading a new SDB fellowship group there and has a mission outpost at Colley Wobbles, about 30 miles east. While

they are in fellowship with Seventh Day Baptists in the Republic of South Africa, there is no common bond as yet.

In Brazil, the Sabbath was spent in the new Temple at Patriarch City, Sao Paulo and in a night service at Curitiba. Meetings were held with the directorate of the SDB Conference of Brazil and in another new temple (de-

dedicated a month previously) at St. John of the Pines, south of Curitiba near their airport.

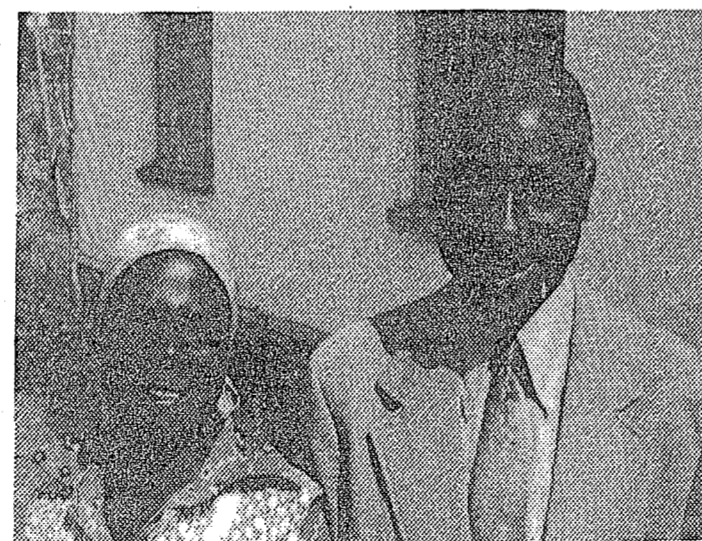
Slide sets giving more information and pictures of these brethren and their work have been made and announced to pastors and missionary keyworkers for loan from the Missionary Society office from January 1985. The script will be on cassette and includes music from each of the groups visited. SR



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#1 Rev. and Mrs. A.K. Harawa, Blantyre. He is the secretary of their conference and pastor of the Blantyre SDB Church.

#2 Two days before the conference sessions, a pastor's seminar was held. Here the pastors attending are pictured on the steps of the Missionary Cottage where the seminar met and where the Board of Trustees and Medical Committee had their sessions.



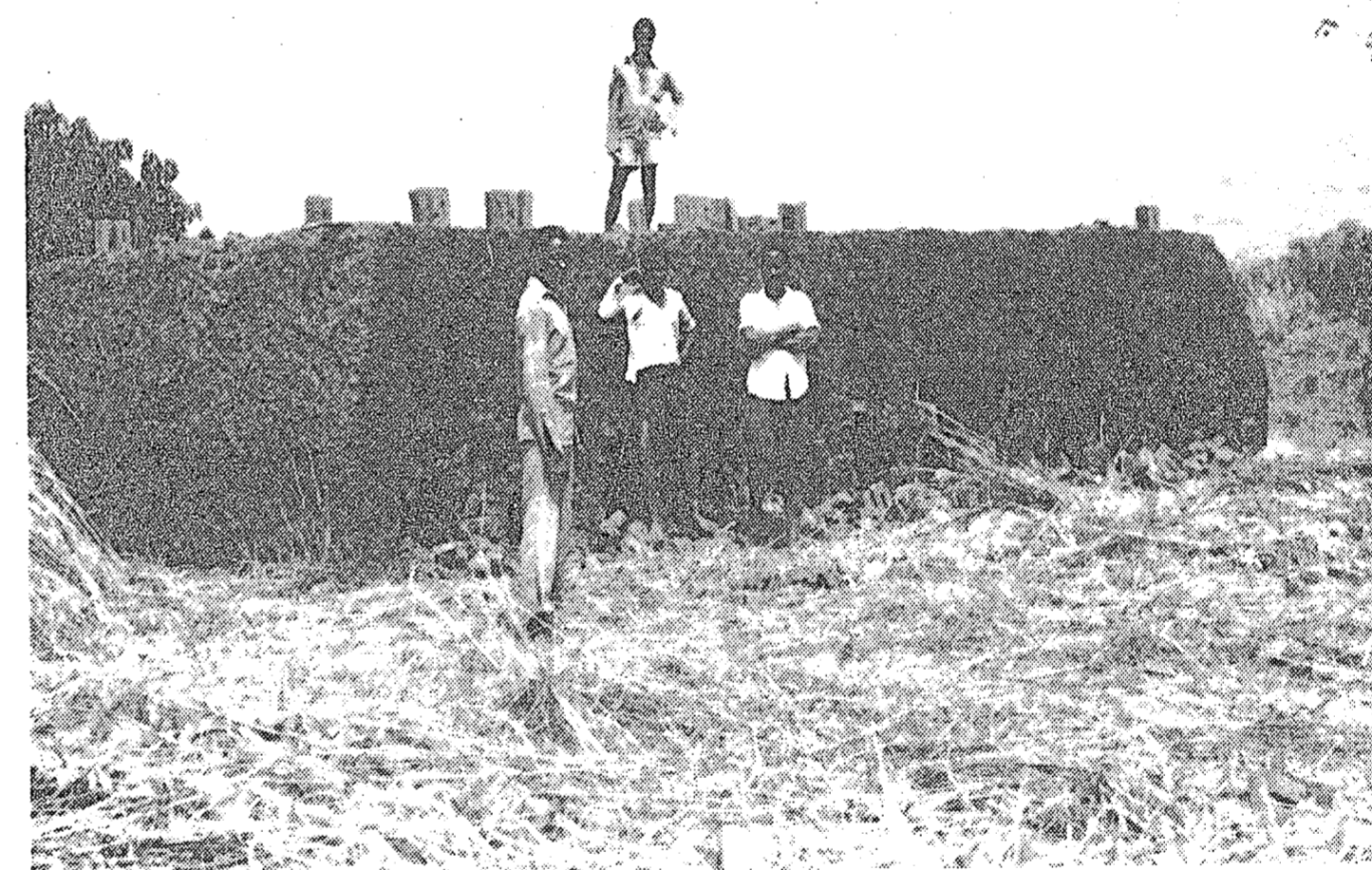
#3 Mrs. Lozani, leader of the Women's Society of the Central Africa Conference. She has been chosen to attend the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Los Angeles, California in July 1985 representing the women of Malawi.



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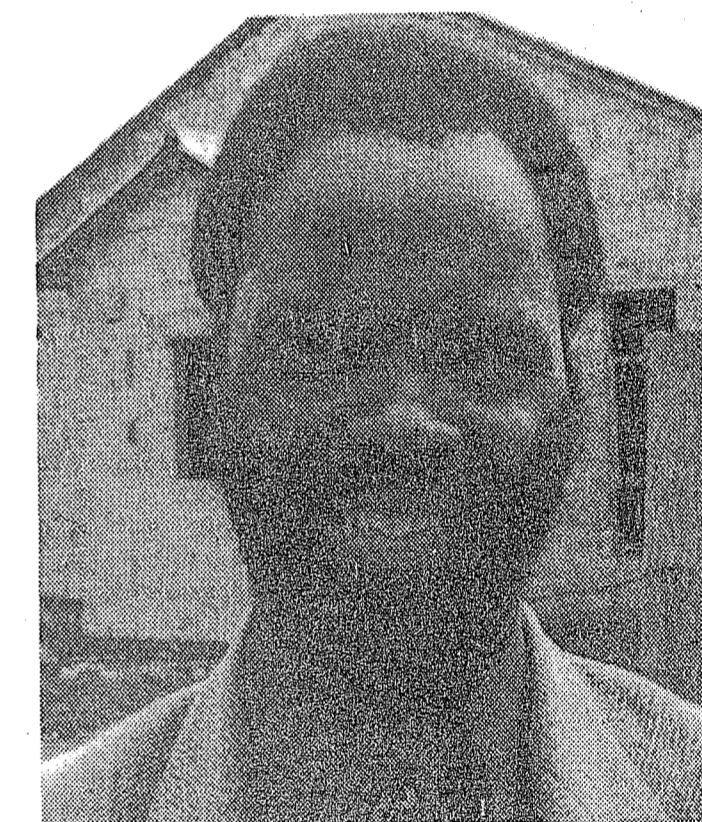
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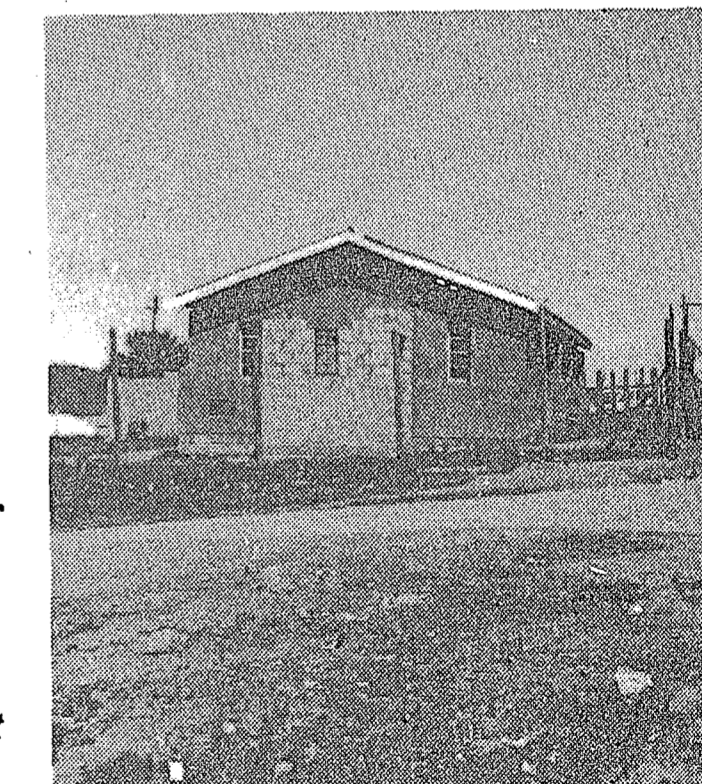
#4 The new rural hospital building—maternity and children, at Thomas Medical Center, Thyolo District, Malawi. Built with special medical funds from the Missionary Board, it offers service to an area of over 30,000 people without other medical facilities. Thomas is one of five areas where the Central Africa Conference has medical ministries.

#5 One of two brick kilns at Thomas to provide materials for two new housing units for the staff at Thomas Medical Center. Funds for these are mainly provided by the Malawi Christian Service Committee and approved by the Private Hospital Association of Malawi. Additional funds are needed to fully complete this units, however.



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#6 Rev. N. James Siwane, president of the SDB Conference of South Africa and pastor in the Port Elizabeth area. He stands before the new church building in Kwazakhele Township that is hopefully to be completed in 1985.

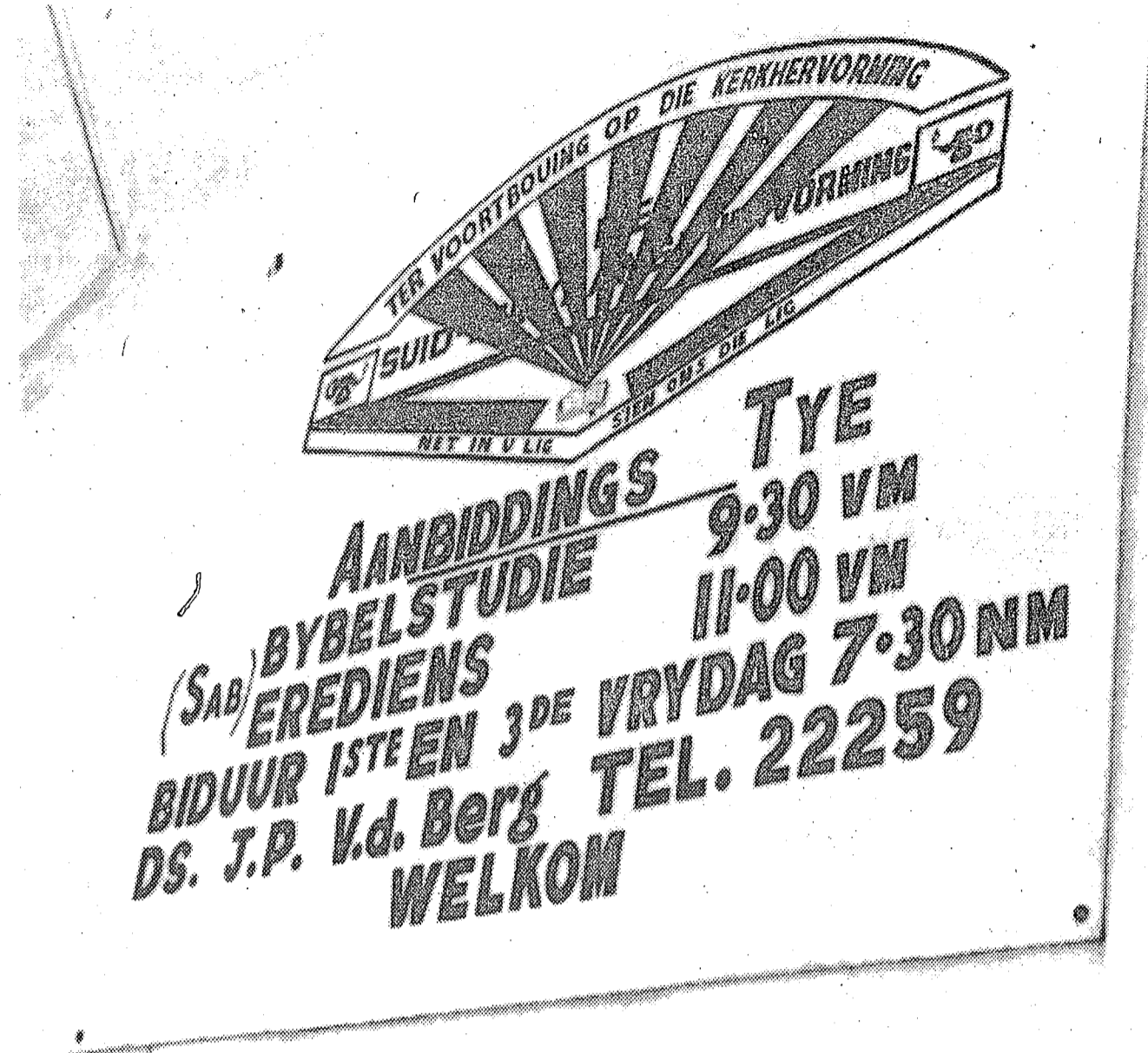


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#7 SDB church building at Township near Uitenhage where a welcome service was held the first night Leon R. Lawton was there. This building was dedicated in 1982.

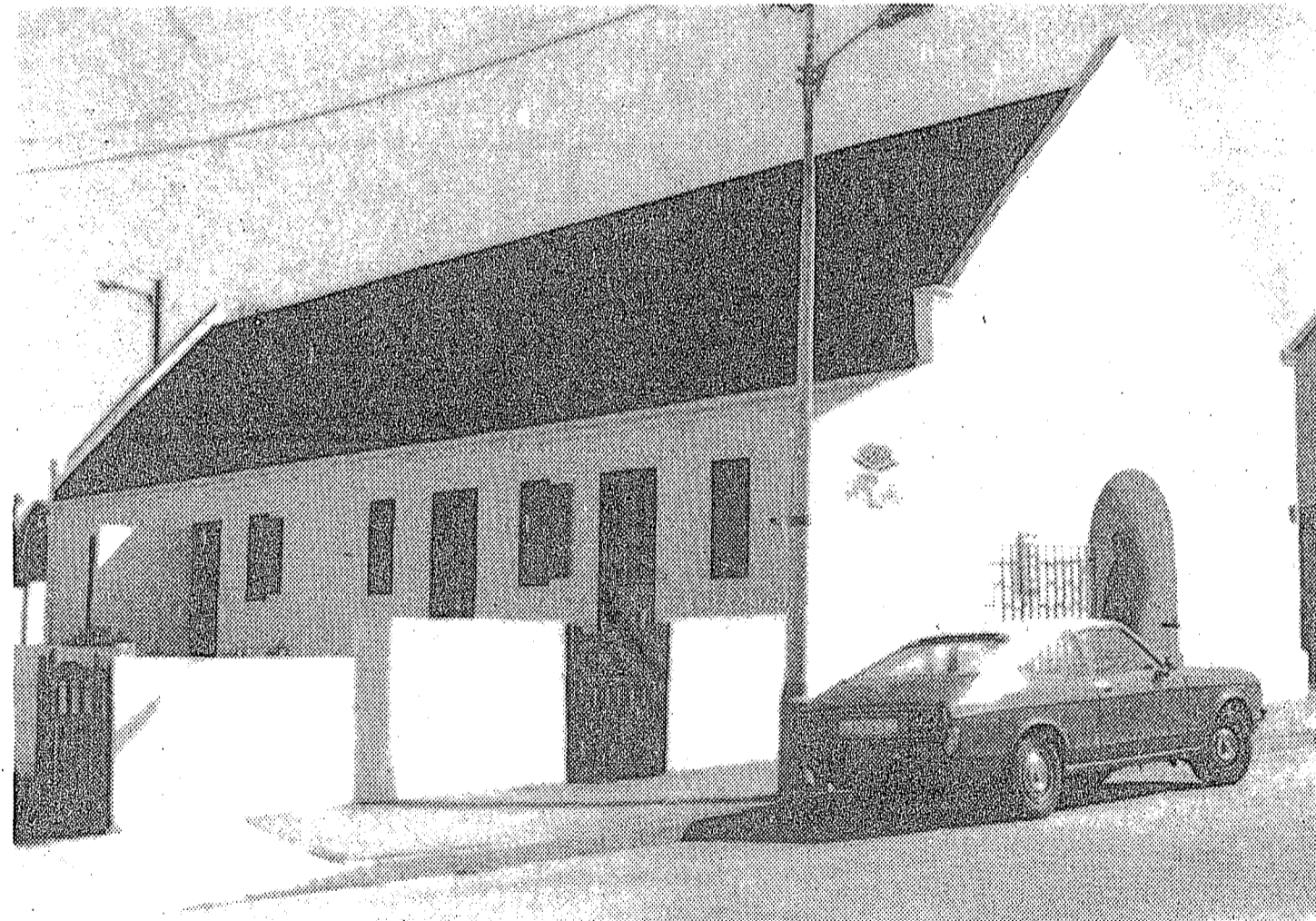


#8 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cary who had corresponded for over two years and were hosts during the visit to the Republic of South Africa. Both ex-SDAs, they now worship with the South Africa Reforming Church—a group that left the SDAs about 10 years ago.



#9 The sign on the building of the South Africa Reforming Church at Uitenhage. This shows their logo as well as the hours of service, the pastors name and telephone number. Afrikaanse is the language of this conference of churches.

#10 The Uitenhage S.A. Reforming Church. It is one of the earlier pioneer buildings in that area.



#11 Pastor (Ds) J.P. V.d. Berg and his family of the Uitenhage S.A. Reforming Church.

#12 The congregation of this church following Sabbath worship.

#13 Rev. C. Mngoyama of Butterworth, Republic of Transkei. A missionary with the Railway Christian Fellowship, he has sought to raise up a SDB work and has a group at Butterworth and a mission at Colley Wobbles.

#14 The congregation following service in a school at Butterworth, Transkei.

#15 A mission service was held at Colley Wobbles, a rural area. Ladies here are enjoying singing.

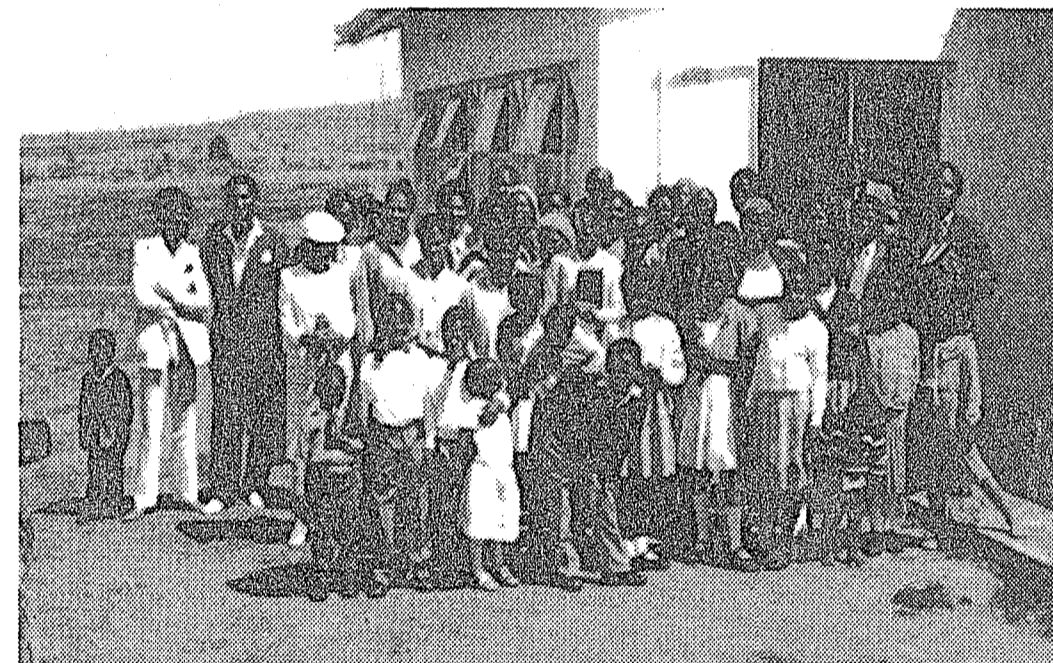
#16 The Directorate meeting at the Curitiba, Parana, Brazil Seventh Day Baptist Temple. They discussed SDB polity and organization and the coming plans for the 1986 SDB World Federation session to be held in the USA.



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FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

William Vis to serve in Florida

MIAMI, FL, USA—The branch church here has called William Vis to serve them under the Ambassador dedicated service program. Brother Vis formerly served the church at Paint Rock, Ala., before retiring to Florida. He will be the contact person in the Miami area, visit homes and lead in Bible Studies in addition to leading in worship. SR

District Conference meets in Tuingo

BURMA, ASIA—The ninth annual session of the Seventh Day Baptist District Conference, held at Tuingo October 25-27, was well attended and concluded successfully. The ministry of Pastor Neihchana, an energetic youthful leader, is bearing fruit. He is the first trained pastor, aided with scholarship funds of the Missionary Board. Rev. L. S. Thanga writes, "While I was in Tuingo, three families joined our church and another two families are likely to join soon. I baptized eight persons on Sabbath day, 27 October. More are likely to be baptized in the near future." SR

Leon Lawton visits Florida

FLORIDA FIELD, USA—The weekend following Thanksgiving, Leon R. Lawton visited south Florida to learn how the Lord was increasing the witness and the vision of the people there. Ambassadors Leland and Lettie Bond are serving the new Seventh Day Christian Church at Okeechobee, providing needed leadership in response to their call for Leland to be their pastor. The Miami branch church has taken action (see Vis news item) to more effectively reach new people in their area. The mother church at Daytona Beach is working together with the Missionary Board to cooperatively provide a field pastor to serve throughout the state and coordinate possible ambassador ministries to begin by mid-1985. SR

Ministry continues in Africa

MALAWI, AFRICA—Last October, Missionary David Pearson and Rev. A.K. Harawa, secretary of the Central Africa Conference (CAC) of SDB, had a special ministry in the northern region. Traveling by bus because of the continuing petrol shortage, they participated in the ordination of Pastor L. Kakhuta and led in special evening meetings at Mzuzu, Oct. 14-20. Classes for pastors were also held. Excavation and construction work has begun at Thomas Medical Center on the first of two staff houses. A visit to Sandama (south of Makapwa on the rail line) where a mobile clinic has been held and land (about two acres) is available for a static clinic, renewed possible options which need permission of the Ministry of Health before implementation. SR

by Leon R. Lawton

New work in Mindanao

THE PHILIPPINES, ASIA—A new work has begun at Campo Uno, Mindanao, where one of Pastor Ely Paypa's students, Pastor Gacayan, is the minister. Fourteen people were baptized to form the core. Missionary Rodney Henry wrote, "If you count the children there will be nearly 30 people in the new fellowship." An earlier new start on the island of Camotes has nine adults with twice as many children. There is also the possibility of a second group on Camotes about eight kilometers away. Praise the Lord! SR

NOTICE

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, 120 Main Street, Westerly, Rhode Island 02891, on Sunday, March 17, 1985, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

- ★ To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.
- ★ To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1984, to December 31, 1984.
- ★ To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
- ★ To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1985, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

Elston H. Van Horn, Secretary

The Sabbath Recorder

A prayer reminder for each day February 1985

Verse of the month: "But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ..." Titus 3:4-6 NAS

Pray for:

1. Summer Christian Service Corps workers and projects—1985
2. a Sabbath of peace and rest
3. Board of the American Sabbath Tract Society meeting today
4. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
5. Rev. Elias Camacho and work in the Mexico convention
6. Women's Board President Dortha Shettel
7. Missionary Pastor Bill Shoffner, Memphis, Tenn.
8. SDBs in Poland and Czechoslovakia
9. for greater vision and faith in my local church fellowship
10. SDB Board of Christian Education meeting today
11. Missionary Pastor Kenneth D. Chroniger, Central, Md.
12. peace in the trouble spots of the world
13. Missionary Pastor Robert W. Babcock, Houston, Texas
14. Missionaries Rodney and Camille Henry, The Philippines
15. Missionary Pastor Steven Crouch, Bay Area, Calif.
16. your Sabbath School teacher
17. Missionary Society Executive Leon R. Lawton
18. Missionary Pastor Perry I. Cain, Columbus, Ohio
19. Rev. L.S. Thanga and pastors and churches in Burma, Asia
20. Coordinating Leadership Team as they meet in Janesville, WI
21. Missionary Pastor Kenneth B. Burdick, Raritan Valley, N.J.
22. SDB Conference President Calvin Babcock
23. the ministry that my church and I have to new people
24. General Council meeting beginning today at SDB Center
25. Missionary Pastor Bobby D. Wright, Blountville, Tenn.
26. preparations for the 15th Baptist World Congress in July
27. our retired pastors
28. Missionary Pastor Larry O. Watt, White Cloud, Mich.

Moving?

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

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

Affix your
old mailing label
here

New Address:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Five types of ministry support

The Missionary Society has five different types of service in the US and overseas

Certain ministries have been forged in the work of the Society on national and international fields of service. While these have been flexible, seeking to meet the challenges and needs presented in-so-far as possible, they presently relate to five types:

Missionary pastor: The pastor of a local SDB church who is given support by the Society up to matching funds. It has been possible for the local church to supplement their funds with grants from sister churches or the area Association, in some cases.

Such help is given where there is vision and opportunity for growth. Application and report forms allow the church to set goals for the coming year, report on activities and accomplishments of the previous year, renew their commitment and indicate the various financial aspects. It is expected that the church will increase their support each year by at least 10% of the initial Missionary Board grant so that they would be fully self-supporting within ten years.

Church extension pastor: The pastor in a new area where it is possible to raise up a new SDB work or strengthen a new church. While some local and association support is sought, the participation of the Society can be up to 100% in an initial year. Such projects offer opportunity for growth and the early organization of a new SDB church and its being able to meet an increasing amount of their financial need. Thus the goal suggested is that in a second year the support be only 75% and the third year, 50%. At that point it may be that the Missionary Pastor Plan could be implemented, or if there is enough local stability and financial strength, that the fourth year the support could be only 25% and the fifth year the church meet all their local expenses.

Field pastor: The pastor in a state or area field where there may be several

new contacts, small group Bible studies, fellowship meetings, etc. His support could be 100% from the Society initially but it would be expected that an area association and tithes or offerings from those to whom he ministers, might add such support in a second and following years.

The goal would be to minister to people and groups, seeking to bring them together and help in their outreach to new people so that, where possible, new SDB churches might be organized. Such a ministry means being away from home much of the time. A field pastor would need to have unique gifts, vision and stamina for daily and routine tasks.

Ambassador: There are times when local church leaders reach retirement and seek to be of service to the Lord in special ways. The Society has appoint such individuals or couples as *ambassadors*. They have used their unique ministries in various places and in ways that have strengthened churches who are between regular pastoral leadership, offered leadership for small groups or branch churches, in music and Bible study ministries, in visitation, etc.

The Missionary Board is anxious to

help such individuals or couples (of all ages) discover how their ministries can fill vital needs. This service has usually come under the SDB Dedicated Service guidelines. Orientation and training can be given and their role of service for the Lord coordinated. A special brochure is available to explain more fully the Ambassador plan.

International ministries: Missionaries are appointed to serve in other countries, usually in fellowship with a national SDB conference or church. After orientation and adequate training and experience their appointment is for a four year term. Job descriptions, guidelines and goals are drawn up with the local conference and second and following terms of service are undertaken with the call of both that conference and the missionary board.

Short term dedicated workers have also been appointed for service in a specific area of need and usually for at least one year.

Those seeking further information on these, or other, extension ministries should write to the Missionary Board office: 401 Washington Trust Bldg., Westerly, RI 02891

The goal is to minister to people and assist in their outreach so that where possible, new SDB churches might be organized.



Women's Society NEWS and IDEAS

Ideas for a new year

Dear Ones All,

Happy New Year. What do you suppose it will bring? Maybe you've joined me in giving up on making formal resolutions, but there are lots of things you can sort of mentally list that will help you in your daily walk.

At the November Women's Board meeting, they decided to each bring a book to the next meeting that they had found entertaining or helpful, which they were willing to share with another. Perhaps you could initiate this in your church. A short paragraph or two of review to me would be most welcome so it could be passed on to whet our readers' appetites. I keep a small notebook in my purse containing titles and authors of books I have seen or heard mentioned so I can pick them up when I chance upon them.

Marion Brannon of the DeRuyter, N.Y., church has a unique ministry. She has collected—from various

sources—tracts, poems, scripture passages, etc. to comfort the bereaved. The collection would benefit no one but herself if it were not shared and this she does graciously, bring much comfort at a time of need. This same type of ministry could be expanded with any number of occasions. It would be interesting to see how many different ones could be found and shared.

The beginning of the year is an ideal time to start thinking about your church program for this year and whether or not you'll be needing SCSC workers to help with its accomplishment. The earlier you get your requests in, the more surely they can be met. Send them as soon as possible to Mrs. Chris Davis, Chairman, California Committee SCSC, 233 Armsley Square, Ontario, Calif., 91762. While we are on the subject of SCSC, I'll mention again the need for funds for travel, food and the like. Now is not too soon to set up a money raising project to that end. Read further for some ideas.

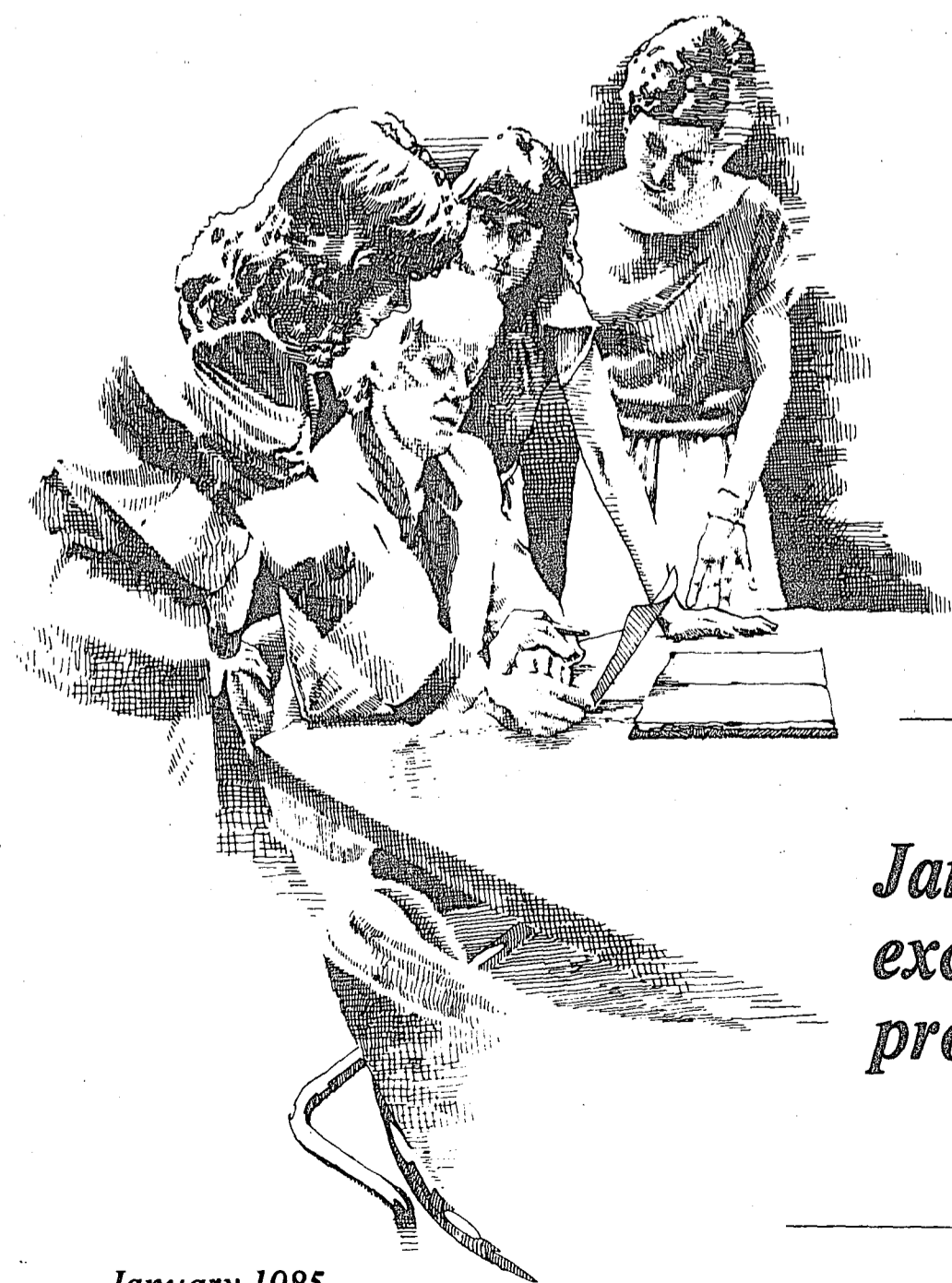
In many societies, a great many of the members are now on fixed incomes. This makes the constant drive

for funds, for various needs, a burden to them. We all want to do our share but just cannot stretch our mites too far. This makes the need for attracting outside money a necessity. Also a priority is the ongoing drive to get the young women of the church interested in the work of the Women's Society. How does your society attract this vital source of energy and ideas to your ranks, thereby enriching the interaction of all ages?

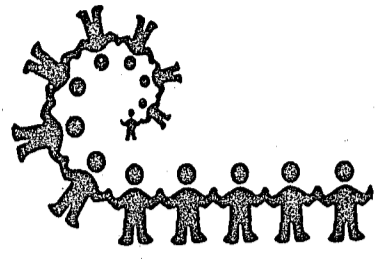
New Years is also an ideal time to consider a nominee for the Robe of Achievement. Mrs. Jean Lewis would be most pleased to receive your nomination and statement of that person's activities with all haste. You can send them to her at 5060 Sierra Street, Riverside, Calif., 92504. It is quite a chore to sift through the many worthy nominees and narrow it down to one, so the earlier they can start, the more satisfying will be the results.

I flew out to California to celebrate my birthday, visit my girls and, hopefully, check in with the Women's Board. (I feel like the ugly step-sister way out here with the Board so far way.) At the same time, Dorothea Shettel flew to Janesville, Wis., for the Council meeting. Oh well, the day before I left for home, I did have a delightful afternoon with Dorothea and Board secretary Jackie Wells, as well as with my old and dear friend, Doris Fetherston. They said they are looking for Love Gift suggestions for Conference this year. Have you any new and innovative ones? Also, Dorothea gave me a list of **Mighty Mites**. Remember when I told you to keep reading? Well, here are a few, and I will list a few each month until they have all been shared. Maybe your society will want to try them all or continue with the one or two that you might choose. Here are the first three: (1) Share one cent for each year of age up to 49, and one-half cent for each year after that. (2) Share 25 cents for the first 100 pounds of weight and one-half cent for each additional pound. (3) Share two cents for each letter in your whole name. More next month. I can see some real fun coming

Cont. on page 25

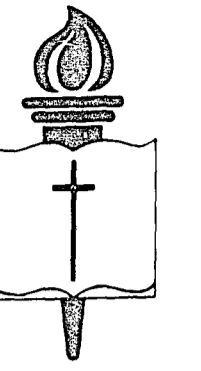


January is an excellent time for program planning.



Seventh Day Baptist Decade of Discipleship

Year of Extension 1985



January 1985

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Bill Shobe
Atlanta, GA

February 1985

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Justin Camenga
Portland, OR

March 1985

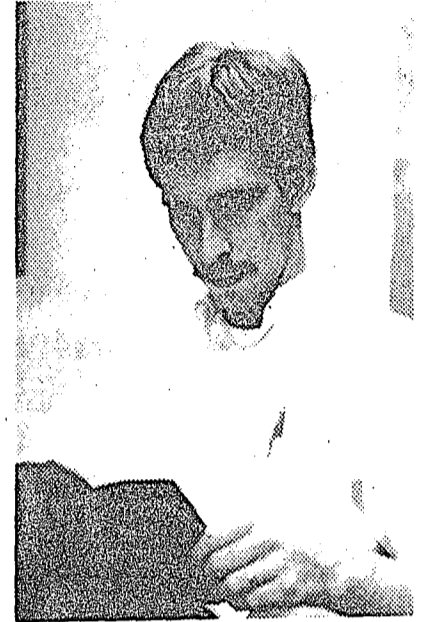
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John Peil
San Gabriel Valley, CA

April 1985

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George Calhoun
San Diego, CA

May 1985

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Ken Burdick
Raritan Valley, NJ

June 1985

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Ken Chroniger
Central, MD

July 1985

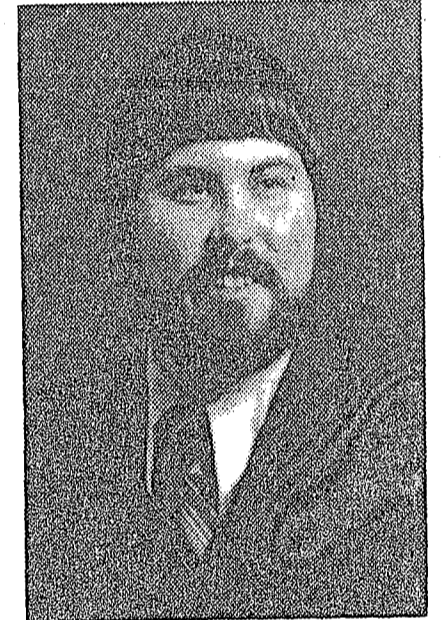
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Larry Watt
White Cloud, MI

August 1985

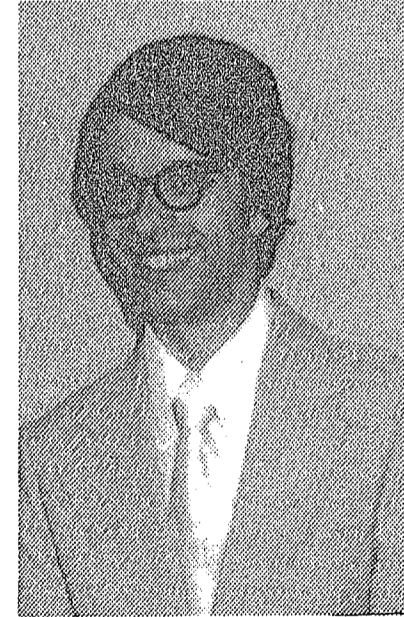
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Perry Cain
Columbus, OH

September 1985

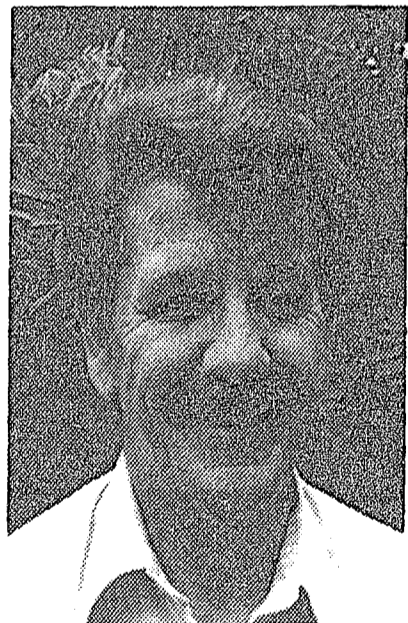
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Steve Crouch
Bay Area, CA

October 1985

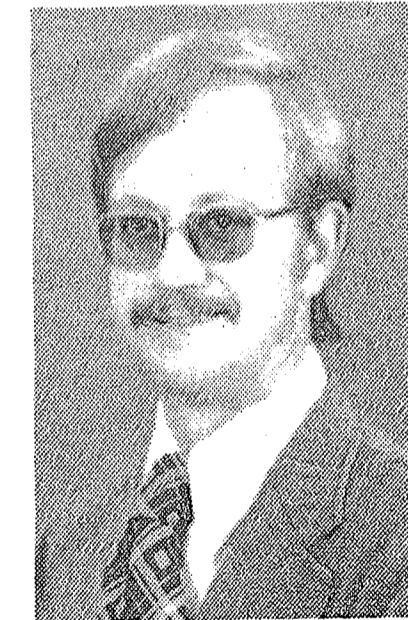
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Bob Wright
Blountville, TN

November 1985

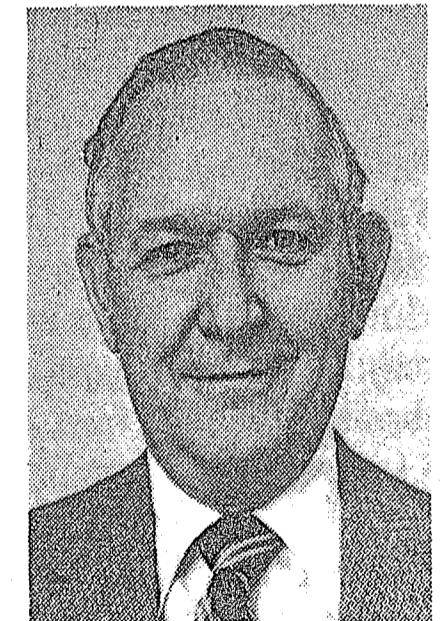
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Bill Shoffner
Memphis, TN

December 1985

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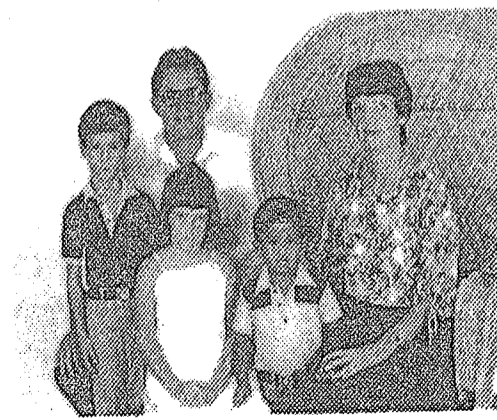
Leon R. Lawton



David and Bettie Pearson
Blantyre, Malawi, Africa

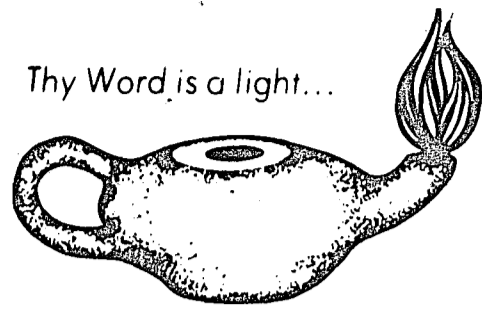
Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society

401 Washington Trust Bldg.
Westerly, RI 02891



Rodney and Camille Henry
Cebu City, The Philippines





Thy Word is a light...

Board of Christian Education

Mrs. Mary Clare

Physical and mental exercising

Many people are involved in physical fitness programs, either in the privacy of their own homes or in class groups. These programs have a high priority in their lives with the focus on beauty and health for the immediate future. As important as these qualities are to the person's well-being, spiritual and mental health is of even greater value. The stretching of the mind and reaching toward God can be accomplished in several ways.

God may be reached through prayer and Bible study, which in turn develops a deep and abiding faith in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. Stretching the mind may come by becoming vitally interested in a project, a group which seriously works in a specialized area, or reading material on specific subjects.

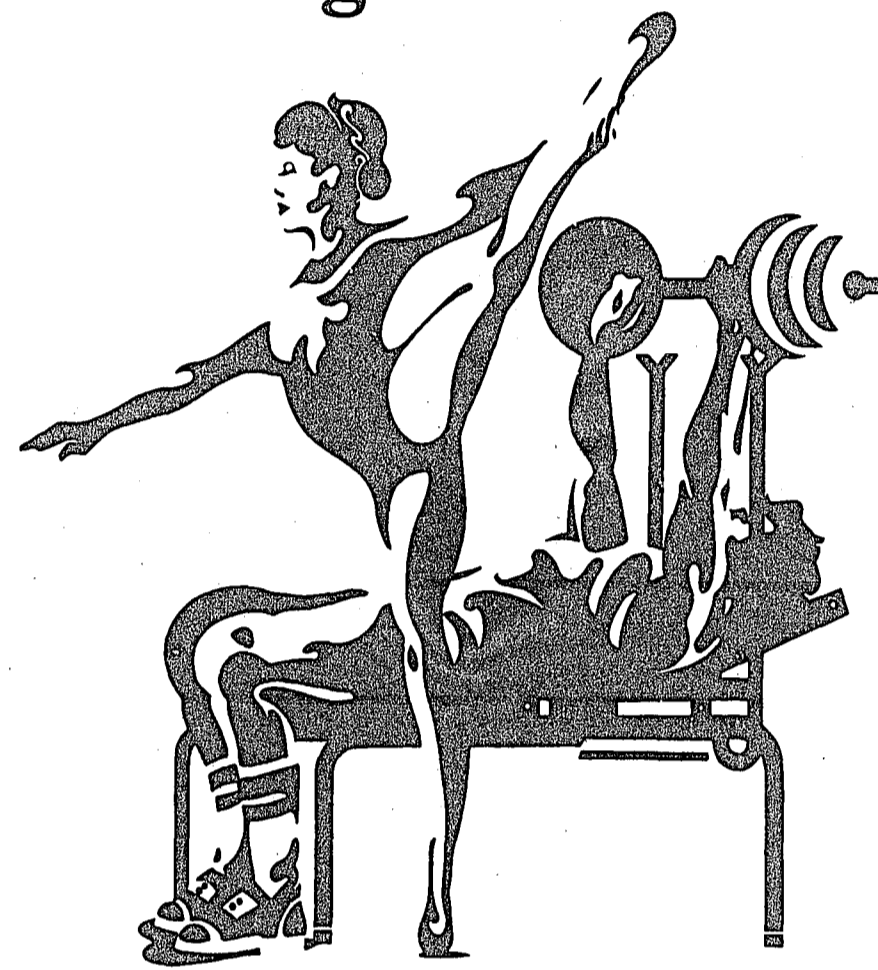
Several books, promoted by Educational Ministries, are good mind-stretchers. They may be ordered from Educational Ministries, Inc., 765 Penarth Avenue, Walnut, CA 91789.

The Original Ideas of Jesus that are Changing the World, by George E. Drew.

This book introduces a daring new addition to the greatness of Jesus; not only does he occupy the central position in humanity but, in addition, Jesus is also the greatest intelligence the world has ever known. He introduced in human thought at least six great, original, world-changing ideas. Any one of these would have placed him among the greatest minds of all time. When the six ideas are seen together, he rises above all comparison. There are six complete sessions—each one includes discussion starters, Biblical references, and questions for reflection. Ideal for Lent or anytime of the year for a short-term study group (or family) resource. (\$5.45)

Christians as Peacemakers, by Henry R. Rust.

Undoubtedly the number one prior-



ity for us as Christians, as a nation and, yes, as a world, is the question of peace. This timely book deals with what have become provocative issues in the church, but issues that none the less need to be faced, even though they are controversial. Christians have a high ethical responsibility to be faithful to the Gospel in the face of such profound questions. What does that mean? Isaiah preached about peace in ancient times and even then cried out bitterly that the people would not listen to him. Jesus in his time had the same problem with many of his listeners—they heard his words, but would not change their ways. What about us in our time? Dr. Rust's study book reminds us that there is a moral demension to our faith. If Isaiah's vision and God's plan for peace for all mankind are to be fulfilled, then our covenant with God calls for changed attitudes and behavior. This book deals with these questions. They can be pondered individually, in classroom settings, or in youth and adult discussion groups. ISBN 0-949754-21-5 (\$5.95 each)

The Beatitudes—Attitudes for a Better Future, by George Drew.

Ten great chapters! Each one a complete study program for adults. Each chapter gives a refreshing insight

into the meaning and effect of the Beatitudes—and there is a separate chapter on the meaning of the words used. Jesus' teachings are based on unique understanding of the seeking, forgiving, and loving character of God.

Family Enrichment Workshops, by Scott Sullender.

The Family Enrichment Workshops is an eight session curriculum workshop designed to enrich and strengthen your family life. It is written for families with adolescents. Each family member participates fully in the various components that include: home study, devotional exercises, lectures, discussions, and experiential exercises. This program is ideal for intergenerational programing, a Lenten Family Night series, a summer camping program, or just individual family growth and renewal. A valuable resource for pastors and Christian education leaders. This material has been created and taught by the author for four years through the Pastoral Counseling Agency where he is the director. The Leader's Manual includes everything in the Participant's Book, plus helpful tips and instructions for use of the book.

Participant's Book—\$7.50
Leader's Manual—\$12.95

SR

The Sabbath Recorder

Young Adult Page

Handling family problems

This roving reporter has heard much about the demise of the family unit in the United States. In speaking with a few Christians on the street, some helpful suggestions for handling problems all families might face were given.

Question: How do you avoid the Sabbath morning confusion and rush before going to church and Sabbath School?

Answer: It's hard to do. We try to have everything in readiness the day before—food prepared, clothes ready. Every member of the family knows the schedule and what is expected of them. I found (the mother of the family) that when my attitude about the Sabbath changed, the atmosphere around the house was different. When I was anticipating the day with joy, the day became a delight for me, and that joy rubbed off on everyone else.

Question: How did you (or do you) influence the selection of your children's friends?

Answer: My first reaction is that we never influenced the selection of our children's friends. This, however, is not true. We tried to help them become loyal, responsible, loving, unselfish, non-prejudiced, thinking individuals. I believe they have expected to find the same qualities in their friends.

We attempted to make our home a place of warmth and love. Our children knew, provided they helped prepare for the entertaining, their friends were always welcomed in it. We did request that a friend be entertained in our home before we gave permission for them to go to their friend's home. We also made it a point to become acquainted with any parents we did not know.

How we encouraged or discouraged I do not know. I do know that we have always enjoyed our children's friends and found something to love in each one.

Question: How do you find time for Family Worship?

I found that when my attitude about the Sabbath changed, the atmosphere around the house was different.

Answer: We always make time at meals to have any or all members of the family share a prayer, even the littlest one. We may pray together the following prayer:

*Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored.
These creatures bless,
and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.
Amen*

Family Worship needs to be made a priority item so time is definitely set aside for it. Try not to let less important things steal the time set aside. We need to always keep in mind that our relationship with the Lord is the most important thing in this life and, if we don't find time to spend with the Lord, we can't possibly develop a rewarding relationship.

We have found that the Daily Meditations in *The Helping Hand* are a very rewarding type of Family Worship. We are also very well pre-

pared for the Sabbath School lesson when Sabbath Day arrives.

Question: What do you feel is the strongest point in your family life and why?

Answer: I feel the strongest point in our family is our openness with one another. We each try to give selflessly of ourselves. When one requires special help, the others forget their own problems and desires in order to meet that person's needs. Only through a strong Christian background could this be possible. I am happy to say that because of my upbringing, it is easy and delightful to rear my daughter—with God's help—to be a Christian. Our relations and, in turn, our relationships with others, are better and brighter because of Christ's teachings.

Question: How do you deal with a death in the family?

Answer: We talk about it with our children—not waiting for it to happen to a close member of the family. We stress that both old and young must be ready at any time to meet their Savior, and a better home awaits all who are believers of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

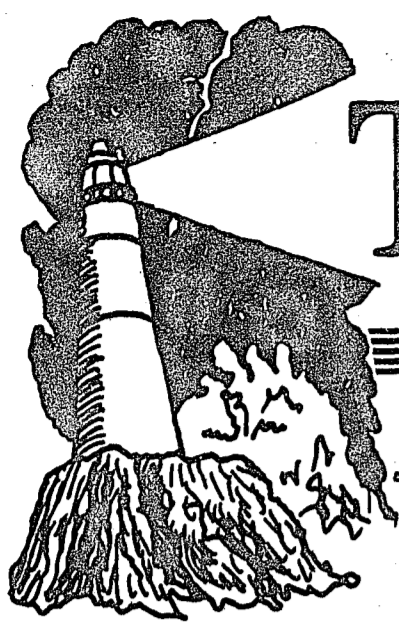
Question: How do you relate to having an older member living with the family?

Answer: We let the older member know they are a part of the family but don't let them rule the roost or divide the family unit which existed before they came. We try to provide them with a room of their own. The children need to understand and accept the situation.

These are just a few questions you might ask to help your family become more Christian. If you have any other questions you would like to have answered, or if you would answer any of the above questions differently, please contact:

The Roving Reporter
c/o The SDB Board of Christian Ed.
Box 771
Alfred, NY 14802

SR 21



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

January 1985

Toronto Youth Fellowship reports

Administration

by Gaye Sharon Samuels

The president presides over the weekly meetings, and the vice-presidents not only serve in the absence of the president, but they co-ordinate the activities of the various committees.

The Youth Fellowship is governed by officers whose functions are similar to those in other SDB churches. These officers, along with two adult representatives from the Advisory Committee of the church, and six other individuals—including the adult leader from the under-12 group—comprise the Planning Committee. The functions of the committee are vital to the running of the fellowship.

Weekly meetings are held on Sabbath afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. Although there is a constitutional age limit, the meetings are open to anyone to attend and to participate. To stimulate interest and heighten participation, a *house* system was instituted. Two houses were formed: *Faith* and *Love*. The duties of each house includes planning the week's meeting and being responsible for alternate monthly Sabbath Day worship services.

One of the highlights for the year was an inter-house Bible Quiz competition on the book of Esther for children over 15 years, and the book of Ruth for those under 15. *Faith House* was the overall winner, and a trophy was presented to them.

Other incentives for stimulating interest in the fellowship are: points awarded for attendance, offering, the members bringing their Bible to church as well as bringing a visitor. The fellowship has also agreed to purchase a guitar to enhance the quality of our music time.

Prepared by the Toronto, Canada, Youth Fellowship

Future goals

by Charlene Lyons

As a group of young people, we have positive plans for our future. Some of us will be attending university, some will be graduating, while others will be seeking employment. However, we cannot neglect the spiritual aspect of our lives, and our goal in Christ is to witness and to tell others of the love that Jesus has for us.

One way of allowing Jesus to shine through us involves visiting the sick and imprisoned who, possibly, would not have a chance to hear the gospel of salvation.

For those who have ever visited the sick and have seen the suffering, felt the pain and experienced the grief when someone dies, it is hard not to feel the compassion and love that Jesus had for sick people when he walked the earth. Especially for those individuals serving a life sentence in prison and who have a very bleak outlook on life, we need to tell them about Jesus and the love that he has for everyone. If we only put our trust in God, I know that he will enable us to reach others for him. God said that he is "not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Another way of reaching people, involves holding outdoor evangelistic meetings. This would involve getting permission to speak the word in a public park or at shopping plazas. A group of young people would give their testimony, sing songs, and someone would minister the word to those listening. In this way, we could reach the needy souls who are looking for something more than just what the world gives them.

Sometimes one just has to look into people's eyes to see that hopelessness and despair that the pressures of this life have placed on them, and that any solution to their problems would be almost desperately accepted. We are not any better than those who are lost and dying in their sins; but for the grace of God, we would find ourselves in the same place. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

I would challenge every young person to share Christ with at least one person, and let us not be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

Interdenomination

Bible quiz

by Christine Lindo, June Taylor and Norma Anderson

"Fisher Street, who is 'Hadassah,'" the Quiz Master asked. "Ruth, the cousin of Mordecai," was the reply given by the Youth Fellowship member. This initial question began for the Youth Fellowship of *Fisher Street* (our identification among the Sabbath-keeping community of Toronto) their participation in the first Bible Quiz competition.

The quiz has become an annual event since its inception in April 1983. Our fellowship was invited to join very late in the all *Church of God*

The Sabbath Recorder

competition, but our young folks entered the contest with great confidence and hard work. They were rewarded with a second place win from among seven other churches. Our hard-earned trophy adorns the church office and is a constant reminder to us of our co-operate effort as a fellowship.

The fellowship has started an internal competition between the *houses*; namely, *Faith* and *Love*, with *Faith* emerging as the year's trophy winner.

All the members of the fellowship are enthusiastic about studying the word of God, but the competition between the *houses*, and on an interdenominational basis, serves as an added incentive.

Worship service

The Youth Fellowship is responsible for the Sabbath morning worship service the last weekend in every month. Various members are asked to give the message for the day, and outside speakers may be invited as well. The day is entirely that of the YF, and their plans reflect their desire for spiritual growth and for greater responsibility in the church.

Prayer in the church

Our YF has its own Prayer Group apart from that of the adults. There are 17 members in this group, which meets every first Friday night of each month. The group has an all-night prayer meeting with fasting on the Sabbath Day following. The purpose for this special weekend of prayer is to develop a closer relationship with the Lord and with each other.

Sister Linette Reynolds and Pastor C.S. Lyons (two of our senior members) are leaders of the group, and we are experiencing a wonderful feeling of fellowship with each other. In case you wish to contact us, we are known as the Ebenezer Prayer Group.

Recreational activities

Last year we put on a spectacular gospel concert which featured several popular gospel artists. One group, *The Chariots of Fire* (of which Sister Christine Lindo is a member), brought the audience to its feet with its soul stirring, foot-stomping music. The

entire concert was one of heart-stirring praise to the Lord. Thanks to the charisma of the chairman, who spiced up the program with her winning

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The program was followed by a refreshment sale. It was a well-spent evening of praise to the Lord.

A very brief history of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Toronto, Ontario

by Herlitz Condison

It was in the summer of 1973 that three Seventh Day Baptists, originally from Jamaica, decided to start meeting on Sabbaths in order to establish a Sabbath School group. The three members were Isolyn Sinclair, Sylvia Lindo and Herlitz Condison. Our first meeting took place in the apartment of Sister Sinclair and her husband, Brother Elon Sinclair.

As the word of our meeting got around, others started to attend and, after about six weeks, we started to meet in the home of John and Freda Cain and their nine children. The Cains were disenchanted Seventh Day Adventists. It soon became clear that if we were to remain SDBs, we had to be *on our own*. Through the instrumentality of Rev. L.R. Lawton, we got in contact with the then Moderator of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, Rev. Archie Goldie, and in 1974 we rented space in one of their churches, Temple Baptist Church in the eastern section of Toronto. Other SDBs living in Toronto heard about the group, and it was not long before we had a vibrant SDB Fellowship going.

Sports day

Occasionally, we participate in what is known as a *Youth Day of Sports*. This is a sports competition sponsored by the Sabbath-keeping churches in and around Toronto. It is held during the spring at a conservation park. The competitive activities for the day may include sack races, tug-of-war, baseball, etc.

The churches make this a picnic day for their congregations, so there is usually a very large turnout of supporters for each team.

The event provides not only enjoyment of the game, but a time of rich interdenominational fellowship for all ages. At the end of the day, a trophy is awarded to the winning church and runners up. The events are keenly contested by the youth fellowships in each group.

SR

Again, with the help of Rev. L.R. Lawton, then corresponding secretary of the SDB Missionary Society, we drafted a constitution with the idea of organizing ourselves into the first SDB church in Canada. The constitution was submitted to the federal government in Ottawa since we would come under the Non-Profit Organizations Act. In 1978, our constitution and proposed method of operation were accepted, and we received our tax-free status.

Just about that time (August 1978) we outgrew the rented facilities at Temple Baptist Church and, although there were not many of us with *good steady jobs*, we decided—after seeing the leading of our God—to purchase a church. On the first Sabbath in September, 1978, we moved into our church—*The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Toronto*, located at 48 Fisher Street in downtown Toronto, a little west of the center of the city.

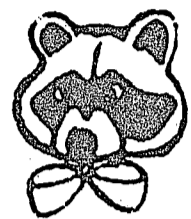
The church has a seating capacity of 200 people. Our mortgage is high and, during the winter time, we realize that it has very little heat insulation, but over the last six years we have seen the leading of the Lord Jesus

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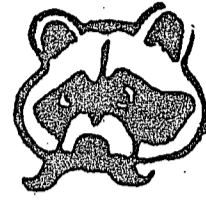
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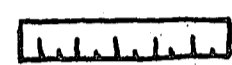
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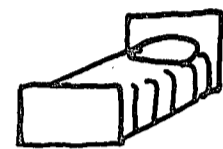
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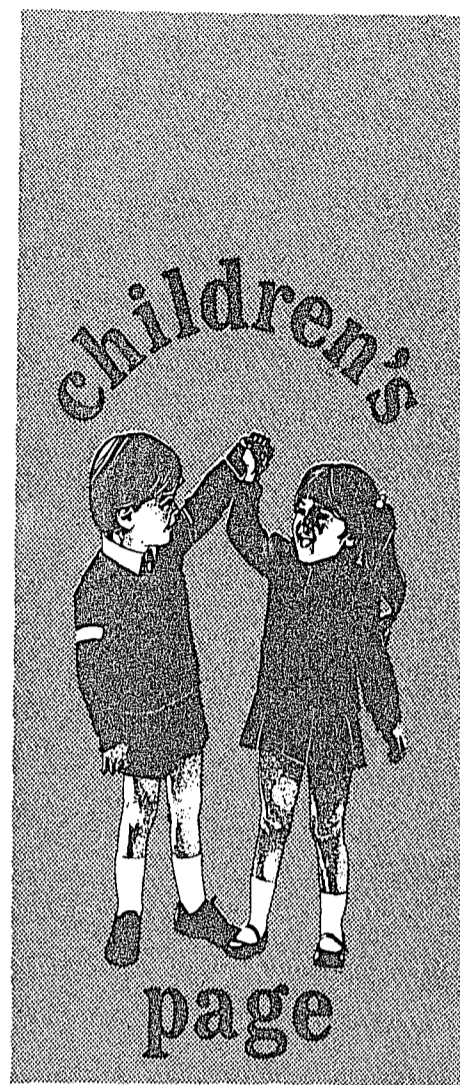
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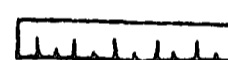



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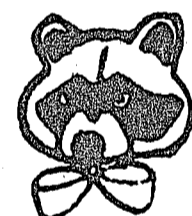


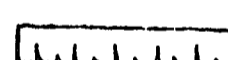
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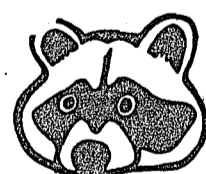
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That night



heard about Jesus growing.



's



read

Luke 2:40, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and Man."

Church retreat focuses on discipleship

by Pastor Kenneth Burdick
Raritan Valley Seventh Day Baptist
Church
Bridgewater, New Jersey

What we gained from our fall inspirational retreat (held Sept. 14-15, 21) was the understanding that evangelism is not just a few frightened church members knocking on the doors of people they do not know. Evangelism is a natural function of the "Body of Christ" as a whole which supports and works through its members, utilizing their individual spiritual gifts their and network of contacts with the unsaved.

Our major program source was the Institute in American Church Growth's "Dynamic Laity" film series. We viewed four out of the six films available and found them informative and motivational, as well as entertaining. They portray the developing commitment to disciple-making of a fictional, *ordinary* layman, Chuck Bradley, and his wife, Diane. The experiences of these two characters were very easy to relate to, and gave us a vision of the potential we have for making disciples as a natural and on-going process in the life of our local church.

To encourage attendance we scheduled our meetings for Friday evenings and Sabbath day, with no overnight stays. We left Sunday free for members' commitments at home. By meeting four times on the first weekend (Friday evening, Sabbath morning—during the Sabbath School hour—Sabbath afternoon, and Saturday evening) we gained some of the intensity of a retreat setting. For the Saturday evening meeting, we rented a room with a fireplace at a nearby Christian retreat center, which gave us that experience of *closeness* that is also part of the more traditional overnight retreat.

We had also planned some *optional* activities at the retreat center Sabbath

afternoon (hiking, etc.). We rented campsites for those families that wanted to camp overnight as part of the retreat experience. This part of our program had to be cancelled because of rain; however, our evening get-together was still a highlight.

We did not leave our children out of the program planned. They had sep-

arate activities during most of the adult meeting times (this included viewing some of the "Circle Square" Christian video tapes, which we rented from the Media Project, Inc.).

We have already voted to hold another retreat next year. Try it this way. Be flexible. You will like it! SR

Women's Society

Cont. from page 17

out of some of these. Wait till you see number 4.

One more time I am going to ask you to add me to your church mailing list so I receive your bulletins, newsletters, etc. Only then can we truly have a full-circle communication. The address for now is Mrs. Marilyn L. Merchant, 22511 Capital Ave. N.E., Battle Creek, Mich., 49017. I have a very large mailbox so don't worry about filling it too full. I want to thank Shiloh, N.J., and White Cloud, Mich., for their quick response.

I've been told all my life that "All things come to those who wait." Sometimes I want to say "I'm waiting, Lord, I am waiting!" Well, I told you that the Shiloh ladies had sent me their bulletins, but this week I received their newsletter and it answered a question I had had since receiving a copy of their report to the Women's Committee at Conference. I'll share more of that next month, a unique money-raising project I believe.

As I rode the Amtrak from DelMar, Calif., to Los Angeles the other day, I saw three white boats in the ocean. It appeared they were on a collision course. When I watched for miles, I saw the perspective change, and it

became clear there would be no collision; each had its own path when my line of vision changed.

There was no more need for fear or concern.

Suddenly, I saw an analogy to our reading of the Scripture. As we study and become more familiar with God's word, the puzzling passages come clear with our new perspective. What may have seemed a contradiction is not at all when viewed from a direct line with God. With this in mind, an in depth Bible study makes an exciting prospect for small groups or whole societies. Do you have one? What is your emphasis, your perspective? More about this, too, next month.

I pray God will be closer to you this coming year than you've ever been aware of; that you will open your life to his leading and let him fill your life with Joy.

Yours, in Him,

Marilyn Merchant

Equipping

Cont. from page 7

going to go to the microphone just as fast as you are. Their ideas are going to be different. They are going to ask you to do things you never thought of before.

Are we ready to say, "Lord, this isn't what we wanted—these aren't the kind of people we thought you were going to give us so send them away, we don't want this kind of a blessing?" I am not ready to because I knew when we asked that we would be different. If the Lord does not build the house the laborers work in vain. If we build this congregation in this denomination without the Lord putting his signature onto it, it is not his! Is this denomination not his to design and develop as he wills? Can he not shape it and structure it the way he wills? He is going to shape us, or else we are doomed to fail.

I believe you have a heart for God. We just never realized the attitude. You see, we have been secure so long. We are grandparents. We put the cribs away so long ago that we have forgotten what it was to have children. We have been comfortable with adults who think and talk in a certain way. Oh, we have our arguments, but we at least know where we are coming from. It seems to have always been the same. You can feel consistency.

These new people coming in are unpredictable. They do things like we never did before and they challenge us on every hand. Yet, I have discovered that through their spirit I am growing and I am being blessed. They stretch me, like children do grandparents. It is nice to be a grandparent, you know. You can send the babies home with the kids afterwards, and you can go back to your nice peaceful home. But it does not work that way in a church family because grandparents are living in the same home with the children. We need to learn how to grow with them and be blessed again by young voices.

If we are preparing our attitudes

Is this denomination not his to design and develop as he wills? He will shape it or we are doomed to fail.

now, you will find in the days ahead that this is a great joy. I have seen it in two churches. People have gone through struggles in our families. They have had a hard time dealing with the tithes. You see, God sent *poor* people in. He did not send middle class people who were ready to pay tithe or people who had big money to give tithes. Poor people came in. They came with needs. They asked more from us than they could give. But they have a heart for God.

Right now, somehow, our church has received blessings that exceed any reasonable understanding. Our finances are in better shape than they have been. God is providing in ways I can not explain to you. We have had signs and wonders and we have seen all kinds of joy of the Lord. It can happen everywhere. But we have to make our attitude right to receive it. I believe if our attitude is prepared and you are ready now, that within this next year your church will be blessed as never before.

My basic challenge to you as Seventh Day Baptists is to think about what it would be like to have your

church double this next year. What do you need to do? Do you have a plan of evangelism? Are you participating in that plan? Does discipling back that plan? I hope you do have a plan for evangelism. After all, we did covenant before the Lord to double. I hope you have some system in your church. Are you participating in some way knowledgeably towards contributing towards that? It is not just the pastors job. It is the people's responsibility too. Together we are going to watch a tremendous harvest!

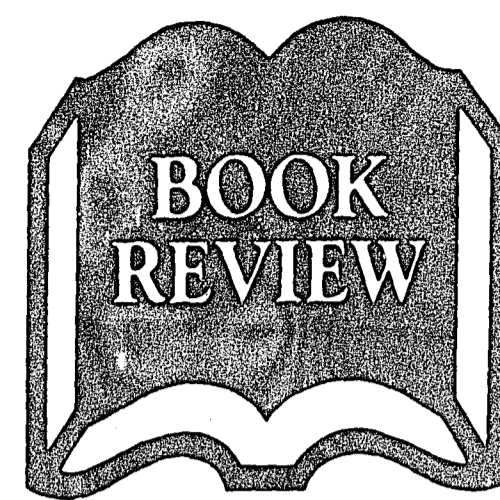
There is one more thing that I have discovered. To keep us humble, the Lord is going to allow us to sow seed and sometimes to see some harvest—but we will not have the benefit in *our* church. You have got to accept that. They are still children of the Kingdom. They are still God's children. But, do you know what is going to happen? Every time you go out, every time you touch a home, and every time you win a soul for Jesus Christ, somehow, through the side door, comes somebody else. Those souls went over to that other church or they are still waiting to get over old hurts before they come into our family. But in this other door, the Lord sends somebody else.

I said, "Lord, why is it this way."

He said, "You will sow and you will not reap, and you will reap where you did not sow."

You see, I can not brag about the people he sends in the other door. I would be very tempted to be conceited about the people I win to Jesus Christ. But the fact is, as I go out and am faithful to what he told me (that is to witness and disciple), he sends in people who add to my Body and make me more capable of then producing the fruit that I want to do. There are sound principles here. Open your eyes, open your ears, open your heart, and prepare the Body for the glory of God. SR

The Sabbath Recorder



Review

by Rev. Earl Cruzan

Lay-Shepherding

How to Start Lay-Shepherding Ministries by Charles A. Ver Straten

This book of 102 pages was copyrighted by Baker Book House in 1983. It comes out of the experience of the author, Charles A. Ver Straten, and deals with the frustrations which he found in his ministry and the ways by which he was able to overcome many of these frustrations while, at the same time, bringing the church into a caring, sharing ministry.

Do I move on to another church because I can no longer maintain a personal shepherding ministry of a larger congregation by myself, or is there some way that a truly shepherding ministry may be developed? Faced by that decision, he was led to develop the lay-shepherding ministry which he describes in this book.

Drawing upon experiences of other churches seeking to develop a nurturing fellowship, he was also reminded of the advice which Jethro gave to his son-in-law, Moses, when he saw that one man alone could not hear all the problems of the Israelites, let alone help them settle their differences. Ver Straten thought back to his days on his father's sheep ranch in Wyoming, where there was a ranch foreman and many bands of sheep, each with its own shepherd. The ranch foreman directed the activities of the shepherds and helped them to find the right pasture for their flock.

He began the ministry of lay-shepherding with the deacons which the church had already chosen for spiritual leadership. The wives of the deacons had also been designated as deaconesses. He decided to use the term *little flock* for the small groups. Each little flock had a deacon and

his wife as their lay-shepherd. Approximately 12 households were placed in each *little flock*.

A weekly training period was established for the lay-shepherds. This was held from September through June. In the weekly sessions as pastor, he shared with the lay-shepherds from his experience as a pastor. Seven areas of study were involved: assignments, memorization, personal growth, doctrine, *little flock* ministry, how to shepherd, and management principles. There was opportunity for report time in each of these sessions.

Certain minimum requirements for *little flock* ministry were established. Among these were a meeting of the entire *little flock* once each three months, establishment of a meaningful pastoral relationship, a hospital call when one was hospitalized, the training of a couple from within the *little flock* for undershepherding, and a home communion service in one of the homes at least once a year.

He relates some of the experiences of the lay-shepherds as they moved into this form of ministry. There was growth in the lay-shepherds, and a

real sense of belonging to a caring, sharing church was developed within the church and the *little flocks*.

One chapter deals with case studies of in-depth relationships from this ministry.

Another chapter is devoted to a Scriptural study of shepherding.

As Ver Straten came to share the shepherding responsibilities within the church, he found that, although it involved hard work and some changes in his previous concept of the duties of a pastor, it had greatly enriched his life and the life of the church. He also discovered that he had lost the frustrations which almost caused him to move to a smaller church because he could no longer accomplish the shepherding which he felt was needed by himself.

There are many principles in this book which could be incorporated into the life of any church. Adaptations would need to be made according to each situation. The development of this type of ministry could well again bring the comment from the world, "Behold, these Christians, how they love one another." SR

Canada

and we have been able to meet our financial obligations. To God be the Glory!

Our church membership now stands at 38, and our Sabbath School membership is 50. From the humble beginning in 1973 to 1980, we operated without a pastor and Brother Herlitz Condison was the leader of the group, and then the church. In 1980, Rev. Joseph A. Samuels, formerly of the Jamaican Conference, immigrated to Canada and became our part-time pastor.

In 1980, our church became the sixth member-church of the Allegheny Association of SDB churches and, in

Cont. from page 23

August 1982, we were accepted into membership of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of the United States and Canada. The Conference changed its constitution in order that we may be brought *in*—we are the *Canada* part of the title. This was a very, very wonderful gesture, and we are very happy and appreciative.

We praise God for his faithfulness to us and for his leading, especially in these last 11 years. We are praying and working and, with God's Holy Spirit guiding, we can see where the church is just the first of many churches here in Canada. Again, to God be the Glory! SR 27

January 1985

Ordination at Sunshine Mountain

by Linda Hays

Sabbath, November 3, 1984, was a day of great rejoicing for the Sunshine Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church. As a part of the morning worship service, Mrs. Persus C. DeLand was ordained as a deaconess of the church. Although she had served in several different churches in her lifetime, doing in many practical ways what might be considered the work of a deaconess, she had never been formally

recognized as a spiritual leader of the church. The body at Sunshine Mountain believed it was time for such recognition.

In accepting the call of the church, Persus expressed the thought that she seemed to be following in the footsteps of her mother, Lela Coalwell, who had been ordained a deaconess of the Metairie church at the same age Persus is now.

Participating in the laying on of

hands and the prayer of dedication were her husband, Rev. Earl DeLand, pastor Ralph Hays, and other members of the diaconate of Sunshine Mountain - Bob and Elsie White, and Jack Hays. Following this, the Lord's Supper was served to the congregation.

After a delicious dinner served by the ladies of the church, the congregation gathered around the swimming pool where pastor Hays, assisted by pastor John Forrest of McComb, baptized nine people into the church. The nine were: Carl Donaldson; his wife, Pat; and three of their daughters, Tasha, Shaprisha and Angel; Evelyn LeBlanc, Nelda Doucet, Frances Hodges and Helen Newton. Although the air was cool, the warmth of the sunshine (the sunshine of God's love) and the glow of the presence of the Lord caused a spiritual *high* on this joyous occasion.

New officers have been elected by the church (or, in some cases, *old* officers have been re-elected). The are: moderator, Jack Hays; clerk, Linda Hays; treasurer, Helen Newton; trustees, Bob White, Jack Hays and Carl Donaldson; and pastor, Ralph Hays. With a renewed sense of purpose and commitment, these and all the members of the Sunshine Mountain church are pressing on toward the mark, being about our Father's business.

The wooded hilltop camp site has been officially initiated with an overnight camp-out for the young people. Eighteen gathered around the campfire for roasted weiners and *s'mores*, but when it came down to the matter of laying out a sleeping bag on the floor of a tent, several folks retreated to the comfort of a bed inside the house. For those who braved the adventure, however, and put up with the mosquitoes and the creepy-crawly that inhabit the woods, it was an experience they hope to repeat in the not-too-distant future. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund

November 2, 1984

Mr. W. Garth Warner
4124 Sholtz Road
R.D. 2
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Garth,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter of appreciation to you for your many years of dedicated service to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund.

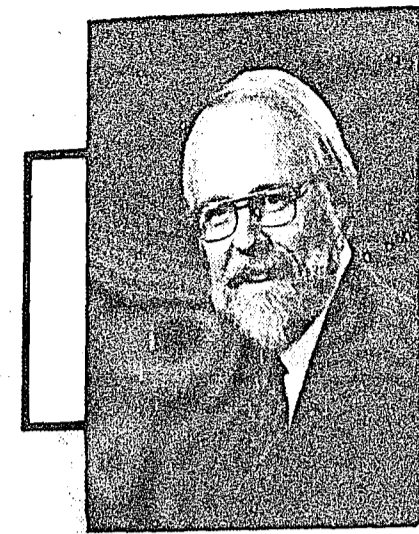
As members of the Board we miss your spiritual influence and guidance and we would express our sincere appreciation for your leadership and wise council in making the many difficult decisions of the Board.

We would also express the sincere thanks of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, as well as each individual member of the Memorial Board who have served with you, as you carried out your responsibilities on the Board which included: Second Vice President, First Vice President, the Investment Committee and, since its inception, as member of the Scholarship Committee.

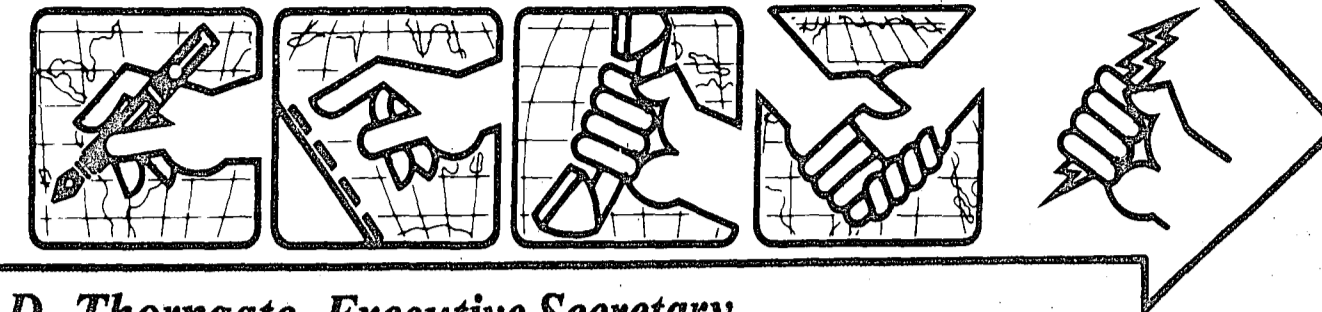
Your progressive insight and dedication to the Lord's work as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Fund is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, in His Service,

Ernest F. Bond
Ernest F. Bond, Secretary



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



A New Year- Life in all it's fullness

"I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness."

(John 10:10 TEV)

Expectancy

During the advent season, that period just before Christmas, most of us in the church read and meditate on the oldest new testament scriptures that foretell the coming of the Messiah. We sense along with these prophets of old the excitement, expectancy and anticipation of what was going to happen when the Christ appeared on the earth.

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 40 speaking of God says: "Comfort my people. Comfort them. Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord." (TEV) And John the Baptist when asked by the Jewish authorities, "Who are you?" told them: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert: Make a straight path for the lord to travel.

We read the stories of the wise men and shepherds looking for the new baby who was to be a king but more than a king. He was to be the special one sent from God who was to rule the entire world.

Reality

The remainder of the church year is spent in studying the life of Christ and his impact upon those who surrounded him.

We see Jesus teaching on the mountain in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 instructing his disciples and many more what it was like to be in the Kingdom of God. Many of his teachings were quite contrary to what many of the priests and levites had been teaching. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies. But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'" (Matt 5:43 & 44) (TEV) It was obvious to many, especially the Jewish leaders that Jesus was not going to be part of the establishment.

Are our lives full and complete, possessing a rich and pronounced quality?

Wherever Jesus went he created controversy, not just by what he said but also by what he did. Many people who had been sick or handicapped even from birth were healed. In John 9 Jesus heals the man born blind. When asked by the Pharisees if this man who cured him was a sinner, he said, "I do not know if he was a sinner or not. One thing I do know: I was blind and now I see."

As we trace through Jesus life in the Gospels we discover that this man Jesus who had been anticipated with such excitement was really different than what was expected. Not only was his teaching different and his lifestyle different. He also made some pretty outlandish claims about himself.

Fulfillment

Jesus said: "I am the Good Shepherd." Then when addressed as

Good Master (teacher) he replied: No one is good except god. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He did not equate himself with the sun or any part of the solar system, but as the light of the world he was called to reveal God's will for Man: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes the the Father but by me."

In our opening scripture Jesus says: "I am come that you might have life-life in all its fullness." The King James version says "abundantly." I was surprised to discover that abundance refers only to affluence and wealth, whereas fullness is a much richer word. Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary in defining fullness says: "Rich in detail, possessing a rich or pronounced quality, complete without qualification."

As we begin the new year I think Seventh Day Baptists should evaluate their lifestyle and church relationships in light of this passage of Scripture. We need to ask ourselves, "Are our lives full and complete possessing a rich and pronounced quality?"

So many of us think of God's Kingdom being only in heaven or at some future time. I believe Jesus understood that his life and teaching were to reveal God's kingdom as available right now. We don't have to wait until death or any other time.

I sat down the other day and listed some of the rich life experience I have had in the church. I listed worships, fellowship, the Sabbath Bible Study, camping and my personal involvement in music. God through Jesus Christ has helped me to realize that I can participate in His Kingdom now. I pray, that your new year will be one of abundance and fulfillment in Jesus Christ. SR 29

Ordination at Sunshine Mountain

by Linda Hays

Sabbath, November 3, 1984, was a day of great rejoicing for the Sunshine Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church. As a part of the morning worship service, Mrs. Persus C. DeLand was ordained as a deaconess of the church. Although she had served in several different churches in her lifetime, doing in many practical ways what might be considered the work of a deaconess, she had never been formally

recognized as a spiritual leader of the church. The body at Sunshine Mountain believed it was time for such recognition.

In accepting the call of the church, Persus expressed the thought that she seemed to be following in the footsteps of her mother, Lela Coalwell, who had been ordained a deaconess of the Metairie church at the same age Persus is now.

Participating in the laying on of

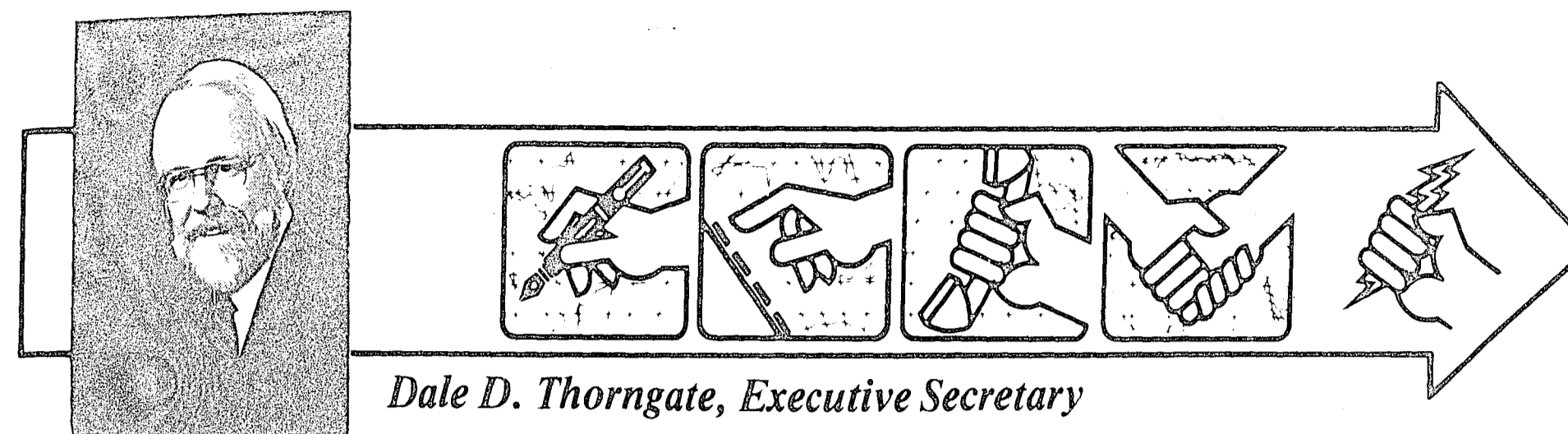
hands and the prayer of dedication were her husband, Rev. Earl DeLand, pastor Ralph Hays, and other members of the diaconate of Sunshine Mountain - Bob and Elsie White, and Jack Hays. Following this, the Lord's Supper was served to the congregation.

After a delicious dinner served by the ladies of the church, the congregation gathered around the swimming pool where pastor Hays, assisted by pastor John Forrest of McComb, baptized nine people into the church. The nine were: Carl Donaldson; his wife, Pat; and three of their daughters, Tasha, Shaprisha and Angel; Evelyn LeBlanc, Nelda Doucet, Frances Hodges and Helen Newton. Although the air was cool, the warmth of the sunshine (the sunshine of God's love) and the glow of the presence of the Lord caused a spiritual *high* on this joyous occasion.

New officers have been elected by the church (or, in some cases, *old* officers have been re-elected). The are: moderator, Jack Hays; clerk, Linda Hays; treasurer, Helen Newton; trustees, Bob White, Jack Hays and Carl Donaldson; and pastor, Ralph Hays. With a renewed sense of purpose and commitment, these and all the members of the Sunshine Mountain church are pressing on toward the mark, being about our Father's business.

The wooded hilltop camp site has been officially initiated with an overnight camp-out for the young people. Eighteen gathered around the campfire for roasted weiners and *s'mores*, but when it came down to the matter of laying out a sleeping bag on the floor of a tent, several folks retreated to the comfort of a bed inside the house. For those who braved the adventure, however, and put up with the mosquitoes and the creepy-crawlies that inhabit the woods, it was an experience they hope to repeat in the not-too-distant future. SR

The Sabbath Recorder



Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary

A New Year- Life in all it's fullness

"I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness."

(John 10:10 TEV)

Expectancy

During the advent season, that period just before Christmas, most of us in the church read and meditate on the oldest new testament scriptures that foretell the coming of the Messiah. We sense along with these prophets of old the excitement, expectancy and anticipation of what was going to happen when the Christ appeared on the earth.

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 40 speaking of God says: "Comfort my people. Comfort them. Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord." (TEV) And John the Baptist when asked by the Jewish authorities, "Who are you?" told them: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert: Make a straight path for the lord to travel.

We read the stories of the wise men and shepherds looking for the new baby who was to be a king but more than a king. He was to be the special one sent from God who was to rule the entire world.

Reality

The remainder of the church year is spent in studying the life of Christ and his impact upon those who surrounded him.

We see Jesus teaching on the mountain in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 instructing his disciples and many more what it was like to be in the Kingdom of God. Many of his teachings were quite contrary to what many of the priests and levites had been teaching. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies. But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'" (Matt 5:43 & 44) (TEV) It was obvious to many, especially the Jewish leaders that Jesus was not going to be part of the establishment.

Are our lives full and complete, possessing a rich and pronounced quality?

Wherever Jesus went he created controversy, not just by what he said but also by what he did. Many people who had been sick or handicapped even from birth were healed. In John 9 Jesus heals the man born blind. When asked by the Pharisees if this man who cured him was a sinner, he said, "I do not know if he was a sinner or not. One thing I do know: I was blind and now I see."

As we trace through Jesus life in the Gospels we discover that this man Jesus who had been anticipated with such excitement was really different than what was expected. Not only was his teaching different and his lifestyle different. He also made some pretty outlandish claims about himself.

Fulfillment

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Good Master (teacher) he replied: No one is good except God. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." He did not equate himself with the sun or any part of the solar system, but as the light of the world he was called to reveal God's will for Man: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me."

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Board of Trustees
of the
Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund

November 2, 1984

Mr. W. Garth Warner
4124 Sholtz Road
R.D. 2
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Garth,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter of appreciation to you for your many years of dedicated service to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund.

As members of the Board we miss your spiritual influence and guidance and we would express our sincere appreciation for your leadership and wise council in making the many difficult decisions of the Board.

We would also express the sincere thanks of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, as well as each individual member of the Memorial Board who have served with you, as you carried out your responsibilities on the Board which included: Second Vice President, First Vice President, the Investment Committee and, since its inception, as member of the Scholarship Committee.

Your progressive insight and dedication to the Lord's work as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Memorial Fund is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, in His Service,

Ernest F. Bond
Ernest F. Bond, Secretary

Religion in the News

Adventists show strong gains

The Seventh Day Adventist Church has reported good results in its current membership campaign. With a goal of one million new members, church officials report that 660,000 have joined during the past two years. The campaign is to conclude next summer.

SR

Seminaries show growth

Enrollment at North American seminaries was up by 4.7 percent for 1983, according to Religious News Service. That represents a stronger rate than enrollments in general higher education. According to the report, seminary students are starting their programs later in life, and the number of part-time students is increasing. The enrollments of women continue to increase, and represent 24.4 percent of seminary population compared to 10.2 percent in 1972.

SR

Ethiopian hunger worsens

Despite massive relief efforts, reports from Ethiopia show little hope of preventing large-scale starvation in that country. Estimates from the U.S. Agency for International Development are that six million are faced with starvation, and more than 150 million Africans are seriously affected by current food shortages.

While media attention has focused on the crisis in Ethiopia, four other countries are faced with similar conditions, according to World Bank sources. Mozambique, Niger, Sudan, and Kenya have serious pockets of hunger and face ruinous crop conditions.

Relief agencies have joined in a consortium, and are working cooperatively to distribute available grain supplies.

SR

Church receives refund

Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral has received a refund payment of \$473,000 from California tax authorities. That amount is more than half of the payment made under protest last year. The church had lost its property tax exemption because of its profitable activities, but the exemption was partially restored by the California Board of Equalization.

SR

Lawsuit won against Chicago Archdiocese

Dennis Fitzpatrick, owner of FEL Publications, Ltd., a Los Angeles music publisher, characterized as *divine timing* a Chicago federal court jury's \$3,190,400 award to his company in a protracted lawsuit against the Chicago Archdiocese. The six-member jury, including only one Catholic, ordered the Archdiocese to pay FEL \$190,400 for copyright infringement on its hymnals, \$2 million for loss of business, and \$1 million in punitive damages and to set an example for other potential infringers.

SR

Proctor & Gamble fights rumors

The *Wall Street Journal* reports that Proctor & Gamble has been forced to deal with new claims that it is in league with Satan. Much of the controversy stems from anonymous charges which the company describes as absurd.

Flyers have been circulated from churches, schools, and shopping malls with the claim that Proctor & Gamble's corporate symbol, a drawing of the man in the moon, is symbolic of Satan worship. The company is launching a campaign of response, and has threatened to bring litigation against those who circulate the rumors.

SR

Anno Domini

A major 12-hour television event, *A.D.*, will be aired beginning Sunday, March 31, 1985, through Thursday, April 4. The mini-series is being presented by the Proctor & Gamble Company on the NBC television network.

The Sabbath Recorder

Jamaica courses successful

Dean J. Paul Green shares excerpts from his trip diary.

Friday, October 19 — Up very early (3:30) and got ready to catch Alco bus at 5 a.m. I'm taking two large cases filled with hymnals, 70 pounds each, for the Jamaica churches. Leon Lawton had them shipped here from Indiana for Scott and met to take. Far more than we want to horse! Other methods of shipping are not satisfactory, I guess. They take a long time and sometimes things never arrive.

Flew from Chicago to Miami, Miami to Kingston.

Going through customs at Kingston airport was time consuming, at least an hour and a half. Naval Harley, Pastor Joel Roberts and Prudence Robinson, corresponding secretary of the Jamaica Conference, met me.

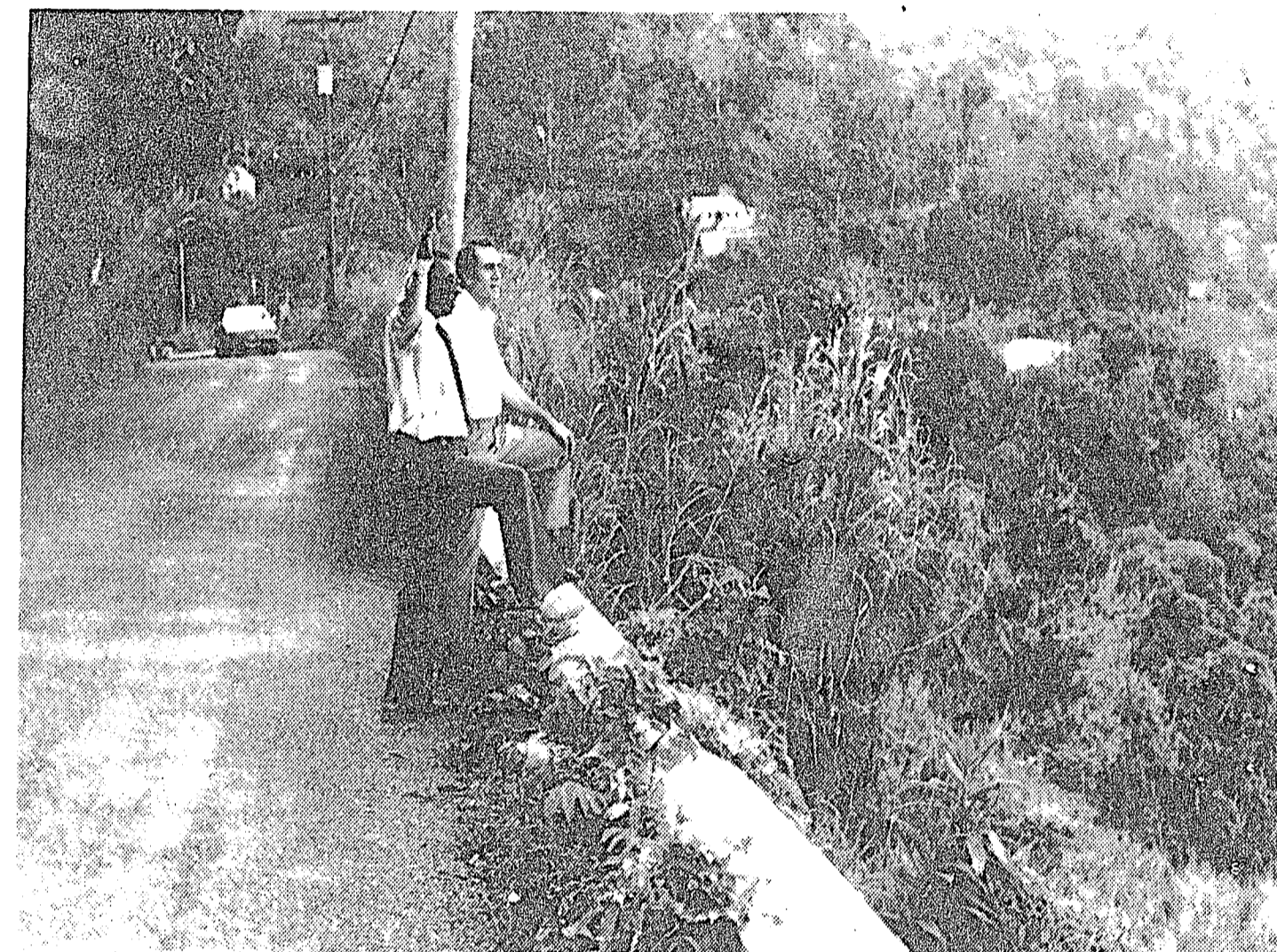
Very hard rain. We went to the Conference office through flooded streets. Sister Lucille Roberts, wife of Pastor Joel, tends the office. Then a slow drive through stream-streets to my lodging. Sister Mavis Beckford is my hostess.

Sabbath, October 20 — Rode to Blue Mountain Church with Pastor David McLean, Prudence Robinson, Sister Fuller and Sister Pottinger, who was driving.

A pleasant and interesting drive across the southern plain, which is surprisingly broad, and up into mountains along the border of Manchester and Portland Parishes. Rather like going to Crites Mountain in West Virginia. Beautiful scenery and long vistas.

The young people led the service, a monthly occurrence. I preached *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. About 140 people attending, teeming with people of all sizes, a lively congregation. Strong leadership is evident. I was especially impressed with young West who led worship service.

Some kind of good fish for our late lunch. A small group of us, mainly visitors, ate in the little dining area on the back of the church. Then was the youth meeting, and it



Deacon Comrie of the Higgin Town church points out the scenes to Dean Paul Green.

looked like the entire congregation returned for it. Good singing with a combo of young men giving instrumental backup. Then I answered questions for about 20 minutes. Good but difficult questions on beliefs and Bible topics.

Sunday, October 21 — A day of study at Sister Beckford's. She is a pleasant hostess with quite a sense of humor.

Orientation and first lecture at Charles Street Church. A big crowd of more than 40 people. About 12 indicate a desire to take the course for credit so Scott must bring more books.

Monday, October 22 — Studied through the day, called the Center with no problems and a good phone connection, ordered more books.

The two classes tonight went well. A big issue here is the meaning and practice of *liberty of thought as an essential condition for the guidance of the Holy Spirit*.

Tuesday, October 23 — Rode to the airport with Pastors Roberts and

Chambers and Sister Prudence to meet Scott Smith.

Scott and I were welcomed with a nice program led by Prudence, Pastor Vincent Smith, who is president of the Conference, and Ben McLean and Kenneth Higgins, who are student pastors. This had been planned for Sunday evening but was postponed when people realized that Scott and I were not arriving together. We were presented with a lovely basket of fruit, far more than we can eat! We very quickly sampled the most unusual things: sweetsop, nesberry, ginape. (Later note: we did eat most of the fruit; nothing went to waste.)

Scott and I shared teaching tonight. His initial lecture went well and was well received though I imagine some people were taken aback by the number of names and dates.

Wednesday, October 24 — As we study through the day, we eat fruit. Avocado is delicious with oil and vinegar dressing. Jamaicans call it *pear*. Our meals include breadfruit (boiled or fried), ackee (which is o.k. but not the salt fish that goes with

January 1985

31

it, thanks). Grapefruit here is super, not a bit sour! Best I ever had! Oranges and bananas are good, too. I don't care for boiled banana and mangoes.

Thursday, October 25 — Scott and I had a quiet day of study. We are beginning to get an idea of the polity issues and the hot questions here, I think. One concerns women: should they wear makeup, jewelry, slacks, straighten their hair? Another is whether local church and Conference polity should be moving toward true congregationalism or be Conference and pastor-centered.

Brother Kelvin Campbell is doing most of the transporting of Scott and me. He is a far more cautious driver than some. It is five and one-half miles to Charles St., and we are beginning to get familiar with the way even though our drivers take a variety of routes. One quickly gets used to the unusual sights and begins to take them for granted.

A group of 25 to 40 attends the lectures each night. Nearly 20 of these are regulars. This includes a dozen pastors and student pastors. Half of the group is women. Most of the people are from Charles St. and Mountain View churches. Too bad there can't be more representation from country churches.

Friday, October 26 — Midpoint of the trip already! We have a lot left to teach, many polity questions would be good to touch on.

Sabbath, October 27 — A Sabbath to remember! Brother Harley Pottinger took us across the island to Higgin Town. The other passengers were Prudence Robinson and Sister Fuller, who is a spunky and tireless little lady. We drove first through Spanish Town, the original capital, and saw the lovely government buildings there. Then up through the Rio Cobra River (it winds like the snake), crossing Flat Bridge and on up and over the mountains. Improved roads make the trip easier than it used to be. In the midst of close calls, Brother Harley keeps calmly whistling *Rock of Ages* and the like. The more exciting things get, the more calmly he whistles.

The Higgin Town church is a super-lively group. They live out this chorus:



The Higgin Town church lives the chorus: "Going to sing and shout and dance about..."

"Going to sing and shout and dance when we get on the other side, won't that be fine?" Sister Kidd is an absolutely charismatic leader of choruses, and has a darling two-year old daughter. A congregation of about 90, very short on men. This was the annual Ladies' Day service. The ladies led everything, except the pastoral prayer, which was led by Deacon Comrie. Everyone seems very capable. Scott gave the children's sermon, on *blinking*. I preached, "In the Beginning." In the afternoon, Scott talked briefly and I sang, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

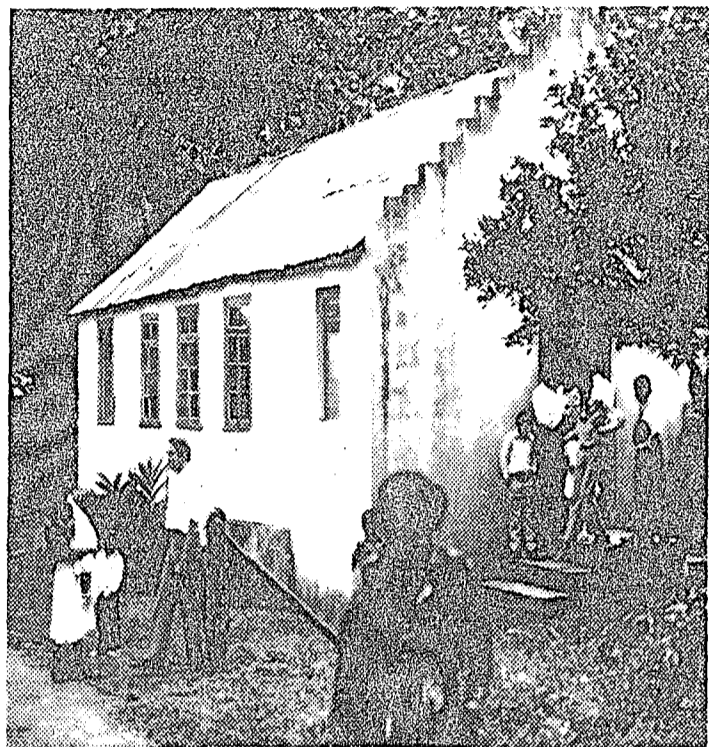
On the way back we stopped at Dunn's River Falls, drove through Ocho Rios and Fern Gully, and stopped at the Cottage church building.

The roads here are about like Routes 19, 20 or 23 in West Virginia. Heavy traffic, very daring and impatient drivers. It is beautiful country across the center of the island. I thought about the Youth Rally Song which was sung this afternoon, with one line revised to say, "We're scattered all over Jamaica, the Island for Christ in our aim." We were very honored and 'oppy to be at Higgin Town today.

Church choirs here have a uniform amounting to robes; they all wear white and it looks neat. There is no *special music* here, instead everything is called *item* — now we're going to have an *item* — which may be music, a poem or whatever. I like that terminology. If I am doing it, it is presumptuous to call it *special*, and I've observed that many *specials* are not very special!

Pianists here seem to be able to play, without music, in any key, and to

The Cottage church building.



quickly pick up the key when someone else starts a song.

Sunday, October 28 — Brother Kelvin Campbell and Sister Prudence Robinson took Scott and me to visit the University of the West Indies. Very impressive facilities, large modern buildings on an expansive campus. Three thousand students from all over the islands, except for Cuba.

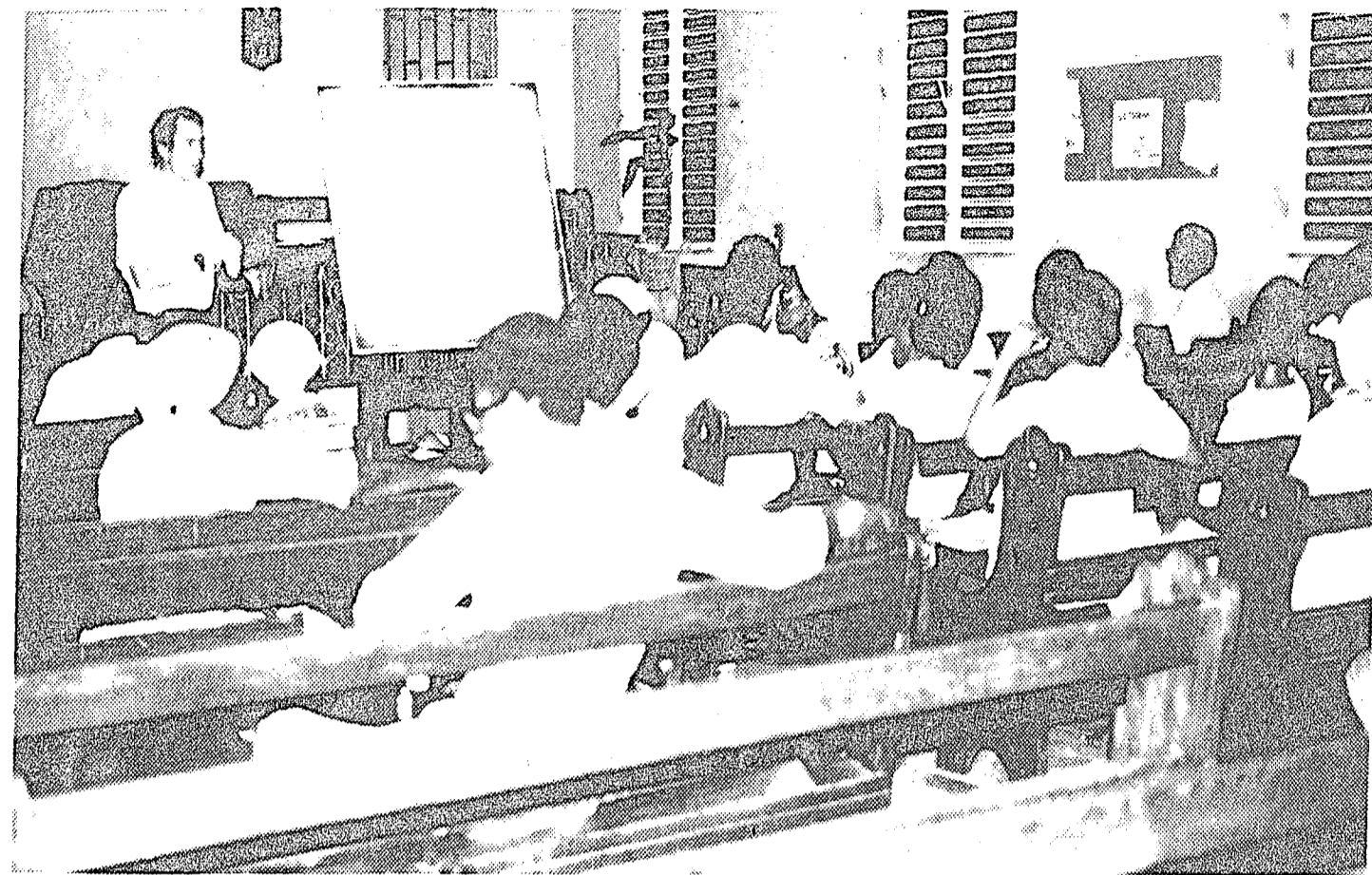
Along one of the drives through the campus we saw a sign that said, "Slow — Sleeping Policemen Ahead." I said, "Sleeping policemen? What in the world does that mean?" Scott guessed it: a speed-bump. That's wonderful! Here we boring Americans call them speed-bumps when we could be calling them something colorful like *sleeping policemen*.

Scott is really excited about Jamaica history and about our experience at the Higgin Town church. He is collecting material to compile a history of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist churches, and he would like to come here and make recordings or videotapes of church services.

Monday, October 29 — Jamaica is a veritable paradise of lush growth. All manner of lovely blooming trees and shrubs. Perhaps less emphasis on flowers because of that. Oleander, bougainvillia, poinciana, hibiscus, something they call wild rose though it's different from ours, etc., etc.

Scott and I enjoy watching happy-looking green lizards as we sit on the veranda. Some like to puff out their orange throats. Scott entertains with

The Sabbath Recorder



The class, which covered SDB history and polity, had as many as 40 people in attendance.

tales about the lizards he had for pets when he was a boy.

We have a very dedicated group of students. Twenty-one have attended at least six of the seven sessions so far. Nine men and five women are working for credit. They are very earnest. There was much lively discussion tonight of Corinthians, Jamaica Conference organization, SDB missions and world scene, and the USA Dean's work, especially as it relates to getting churches together with pastors. I think they were very much surprised to learn that I have no authority to assign pastors to churches and don't do that at all. They are practicing a kind of dual system here where the larger churches call their own pastors but the smaller churches have pastors assigned to them by the Conference. The churches seem to be generally satisfied with this arrangement, perhaps because it assures them of a certain amount of pastoral service. They are really not getting much pastoral service, though. Most of the pastors do not live near the churches they are serving and only get to each church one or two weekends a month.

Tuesday, October 30 — Sister Beckford fixed salad with tiny red peppers on top which she suggested we remove. She said they were to make the salad look pretty. Ignoring this, I ate one and it's like fire! It makes a jalapena seem like a sweet pepper. For at least two minutes it was like being seared by acid. I kept eating and drinking as quickly as I could to try to drown it out. Never again! Scott loves hot Mexican food — he has been using pepper sauce freely — so he ate his tiny

red pepper, too, and got equally burned! He says the pepper has a bitter taste. I don't see how you can tell how something tastes when your whole interior is on fire.

Wednesday, October 31 — Pastor Roberts transported us today. He took Scott and me to Jamaica Theological Seminary where we visited with Dr. Clive Afflick, the principal, and attended chapel. Ben (Herbert George) McLean, Seventh Day Baptist student attending here, gave us a tour. We are well impressed with the place, the people and program.

Back to our lodging for lunch, then Joel took me to Radio Jamaica to record the weekly program which our Conference sponsors. It is broadcast at 4:30 a.m.! They say a lot of working people hear it. I was a bit nervous but it went o.k. Milton Wright is the announcer for the program and does a smooth job. He is a neat, dedicated guy. David McLean and Geoffrey Smith are the regular speakers.

For the devotional period each evening the group is led by a pastor or student pastor. During the course of the two weeks we *prayed around the world* — all the various conferences and other countries where there are Seventh Day Baptists. Jamaicans follow an interesting pattern of prayer. The leader divides up the group and asks each section to pray for a specific individual, group or country. Then all stand and pray simultaneously, and mostly audibly, for maybe three to five minutes. Group volume tends to vary according to the leader.

Thursday, November 1 — We lunched on patties (pronounced pah-tees), some sort of meat mixture cooked inside a big pocket of thick bread. Took a ferryboat ride to Port Royal and walked all through the old city, including Fort Charles, Giddy House, a museum. Dozens of goats and a walk through the hot sand down to the clear, warm sea at the oceanside. Then back across the seventh largest harbor in the world, followed by shopping in the big straw market near the wharf. Scott and I bought several things to take home.

Then on to the church for our last evening. At the Conference office we ate the food we had been carrying around with us all day: bread and salt fish. This fish is very popular here and makes a good snack. You have the whole fish and gnaw the meat off it, then throw away the skeleton. Very tasty.

Students were cramming for the exam, like they do all over the world, I suppose.

After the exam, the wonderful folk gave us a very nice send-off. Little gifts, a poem by Brother Higgins, a song by Lois Boland, thanks from everybody. Ben McLean told with glee how I cracked up the group one night as I talked about communion and used the word *juice*, which in Jamaica means hard liquor, and I didn't even notice their amusement.

The going-away party ended with refreshments, then huggy singing and goodbyes. Then back home where Scott and I graded exams until midnight.

Scott and I feel really good about our visit to Jamaica. Interest and participation in the History and Polity course was good, although we learned that the Jamaica leaders had hoped for a larger attendance. There was an average of 31 people, including 20 we had perfect attendance or nearly so. Altogether almost 70 people came at least once; many, I think, just to find out what was going on. A lot of good learning took place. There are some very capable people here. They seem pleased with the course and that we came to do it. We feel that it was a very good use of our time and the Missionary Society's money. We hope for future invitations, here or to other parts of the world.

Cont. on page 35

January 1985

33

Columbus: Come Alive In '85

From: Pastor Perry L. Cain,
1st SDB Church of Columbus, OH
RE: Report on "Come Alive in
'85 Seminars"

Our church family was blessed and edified on the weekend of Sept. 21 and 22, 1984. On that weekend, we were privileged to have Pastor Bob Swanger and Pastor Steve Campbell from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio, share with us, "What Every Disciple Ought to Know." These seminars were instructional in nature and served to equip the saints for ministry by rooting us more firmly in the Word of God and in challenging us to exercise the various gifts in making disciples.

A particular emphasis of the weekend was in the area of spiritual victory for the believer. Many Christians, it was pointed out, do not have success in their spiritual lives in such areas as witnessing, worship, discipling, and fellowship because we are not rooted firmly enough in the Word. This is

particularly true in relation to accepting and believing the Word and the many promises of victory for the believer if we will live in submission to the Holy Spirit. A result of this emphasis was the recommitment and desire on many people's part to do more than maintain the status quo; to go into all the world and to take the demands of the great commission more seriously, on a personal and a corporate level.

These seminars were held in our church as a *kick-off* affair in our relationship and official endorsement as a congregation in the city-wide *Come Alive in '85* program. This program is an interdenominational cooperative effort with two goals:

- (1) To claim the Central Ohio area for the Lord Jesus Christ by taking the Gospel to every household in a clear and understandable way.
- (2) To unite the body of Christ in the common cause of kingdom building by affirming existing methods of evangelistic outreach and by coming

together for mutual encouragement, prayer, and sharing.

Already, some 100 congregations have committed themselves to the program. Several visibility projects are in the works, such as bumper stickers, billboard advertising, radio and TV endorsements from two Christian radio stations in the area and our one Christian TV station. Several Mass Rallies are planned for the year, beginning with a concert and rally on New Year's Eve.

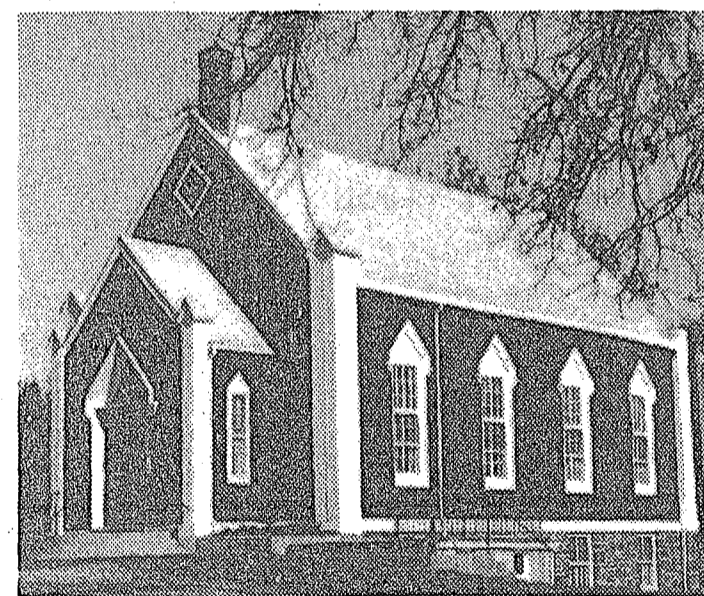
Our congregation is excited about the potential for involvement in the work and has committed itself to the task. One of our Sabbath School classes is presently studying the Evangelism Explosion method of evangelism and will be doing actual on-the-job training as part of the class. We are also presently in the process of re-location of rental facilities to an area where we eventually plan to purchase land and locate permanently. As part of this re-location strategy, we plan to canvas the area, doing door-to-door personal evangelism.

Another part of this plan will be to assimilate new converts into *neighborhood* Bible Study groups for important nurture and development. One of our laypeople is already responsible for teaching on a quarterly basis a *new-comers* class which serves as a basic assimilation class for these new people. As the overall program develops and becomes more organized, we look for the church to grow and to be strengthened.

The bottom line to our involvement in the program is the serious commitment to making disciples. We have found that often, because people are not effectively nurtured and equipped in the body, our new people find themselves going out the revolving door of unsuccessful church growth. We hope, by becoming more intentional and directive in our outreach efforts, to reverse this trend. Thus it is that we are committed to *Come Alive in '85*. We look forward to many blessings from the Lord because the victory is already ours through Christ Jesus. SR

Marlboro church news

by Diane Cruzan



we have had some regrading done in the church yard to keep the rain water out of the basement, and we have had a yard light installed.

Our next projects are to have the church sanctuary and vestibule painted in a rosy beige color with an off-white trim, and replace the old carpet runners with new ones of a rosy brown color. If you find yourself in South Jersey, we'd be very pleased and proud to have you stop in.

The annual church Halloween party was a little different this year. Each person dressed as a Bible character. No one wore a mask as the challenge was not to guess who they actually were, but to guess who they were portraying. Some of the more difficult characters to guess were Aquilla and Priscilla, Ezekiel, Daniel, Goliath, Mephibosheth, and the Queen of Sheba. After everyone was identified, we played games and enjoyed refreshments. It was a great evening. SR

Marlboro Church just isn't the same. We've made a few changes during the last year or so, and we aren't done yet. We began by repairing the plaster in the church sanctuary. Next, there was a lot of discussion, and then we voted to give the church building a brighter look with aluminum siding and to have new storm windows installed. The windows are in and the church is now covered with a deep red siding. The results are beautiful.

Accessions

Ashaway, Rhode Island
Leon Wheeler, Pastor

By letter
William Camara
Robert Camara
Michael Camara
Joined after baptism
Michelle Camara

Milton, Wisconsin
Herbert E. Saunders, Pastor

By letter
Donna Babcock Loofboro

White Cloud, Michigan
Larry Watt, Pastor

Joined after baptism
Cathleen Cruzan
Wendy Meeawes

Marriages

Hays-Rinker.—Ralph L. Hays, Jr., son of Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Hays, Sr., of Chatawa, Mississippi and Mary J. Rinker, daughter of Warren Rinker of Janesville, Wisconsin and Katherine Rinker of Edgerton, Wisconsin, were united in marriage on December 18, 1983, at the Seventh Day Baptist church in Milton, Wisconsin, by Rev. Herbert E. Saunders.

Loofboro-Babcock.—Al Loofboro, son of Carroll and the late Ivabelle Loofboro of Milton, Wisconsin, and Donna Babcock, daughter of Calvin and Maleta Babcock of Carthage, Texas, were united in marriage on July 28, 1984, in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church by Rev. Herbert E. Saunders.

Cruzan-Bleiler.—Cathleen Ruth Bleiler, daughter of Everett and Joan Bleiler and Edward E. Cruzan, son of Marion and Ruth Cruzan of White Cloud, Michigan, were united in marriage on October 20, 1984 at the White Cloud Seventh Day Baptist Church by the Rev. Lawrence Watt.

Lewis-Pantoja.—Josie Pantoja, daughter of Mrs. Carmen Pantoja, and Stephen G. Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Lewis of Pico Rivera, California, were united in marriage on November 25, 1984, at the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church, by their pastor, Rev. Duane L. Davis.

Victoria Burdick busy as new editor

from Lead Line

As children in the churches receive their first issue of *The Sabbath Visitor* done by the new editor, Victoria Burdick, she is already working on those for the third quarter (summer) of the year. (*The Visitor* is printed three months at a time at the SDB Center; those for April through June are already in the review and layout phase.)

"I am enjoying the work," Vicky says, "and I have already discovered

Jamaica

Cont. from page 33

Friday, November 2 — Scott and I got along beautifully on this trip. It was good to have two persons to share experiences and check perceptions. Leon Lawton wisely advocates this for such trips. I enjoy Scott's good humored and enthusiastic frankness. Our hostess calls us David and Goliath.

Pastor Joel and Naval Harley came to take us to the plane, after lunch which included tripe — yuk! Prudence met us at the airport. Our return trip retraced the route over Jamaica, which was partly covered by spectacular clouds, then over Cuba to Miami.

A super trip all the way! Praise and thanks to God! SR

Births

McAllister.—A son, Michael William McAllister, was born to Maynard and Marie McAllister of Bridgeton, New Jersey, on March 9, 1984.

Appel.—A daughter, Lacey Nicole Appel, was born to Joel and Peggy Appel of Edgerton, Wisconsin, on June 18, 1984.

Allen.—A daughter, Delilah Mae Allen, was born to Arthur and Ellen Bowyer Allen of Hopkinton, Rhode Island, on September 6, 1984.

Bliese.—A daughter, Breah Nicole Bliese, was born to Brian and Robin Bliese of Milton, Wisconsin, on November 23, 1984.

that it goes better if I dictate into a tape recorder, then transcribe from the tape. It's more natural for me that way."

A member of the Riverside, Calif., church, Vicky has long experience as a Sabbath School, camp, and Bible School teacher. She is a graduate of Riverside City College (AA in English) and the mother of Jeremy (9) and Erin (10), both about the age of most *Sabbath Visitor* readers. She also teaches in a Christian school.

"My big hope," the new editor says, "is to expand the use and readership of the *Visitor*. Many churches use it for children's church and Sabbath School as a supplement to other materials. Each issue has something about the Sabbath. I view it also as an outreach tool. One lady in our church subscribes so she can give it to some neighbor child. Some leave it in doctor's offices." SR



For more details, write to:

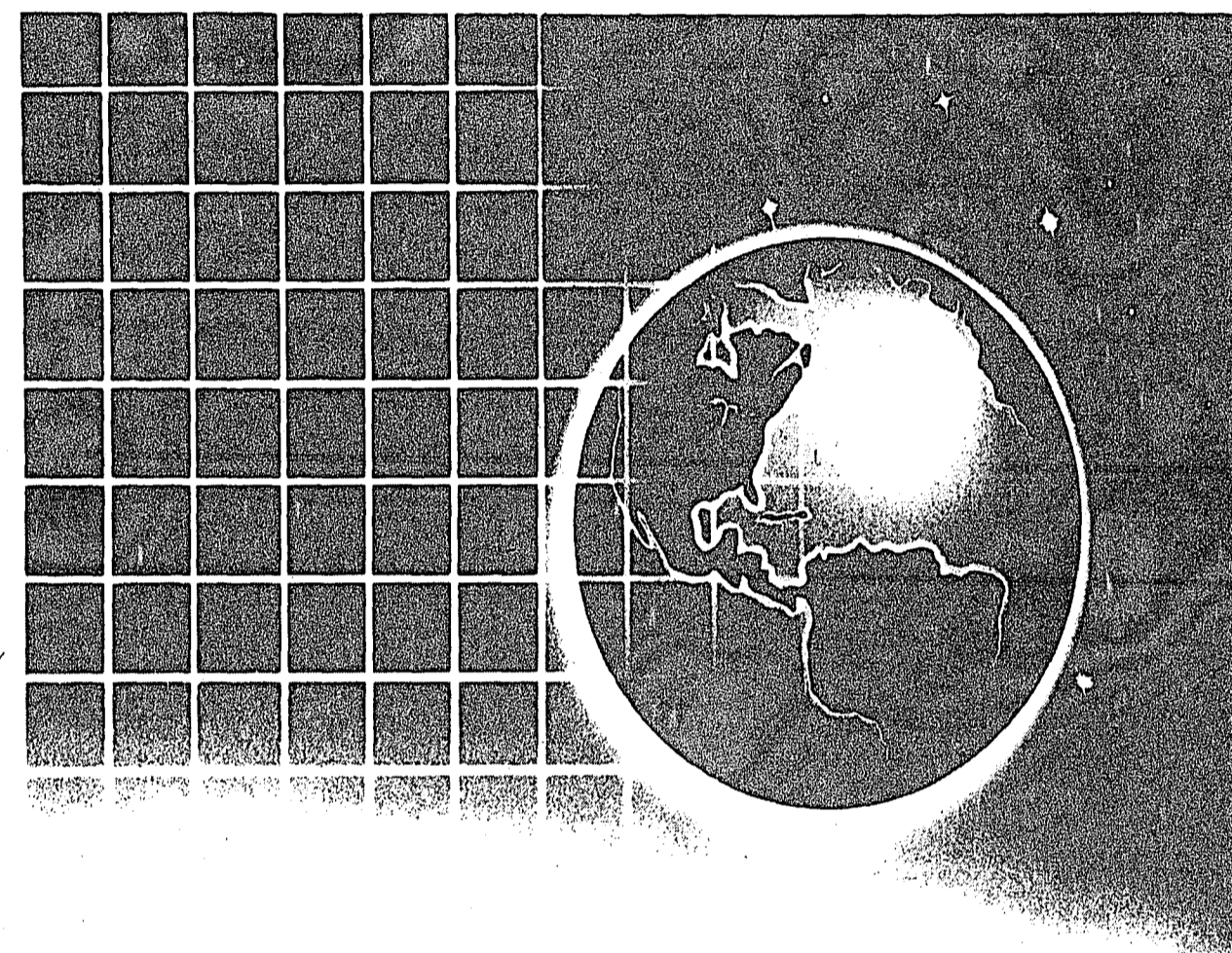
Baptist World Alliance
1628 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009 USA

Meeting is postponed

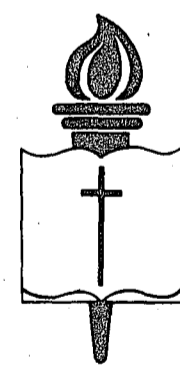
The quarterly meeting of the Board of Christian Education has been postponed until February 10, 1985.

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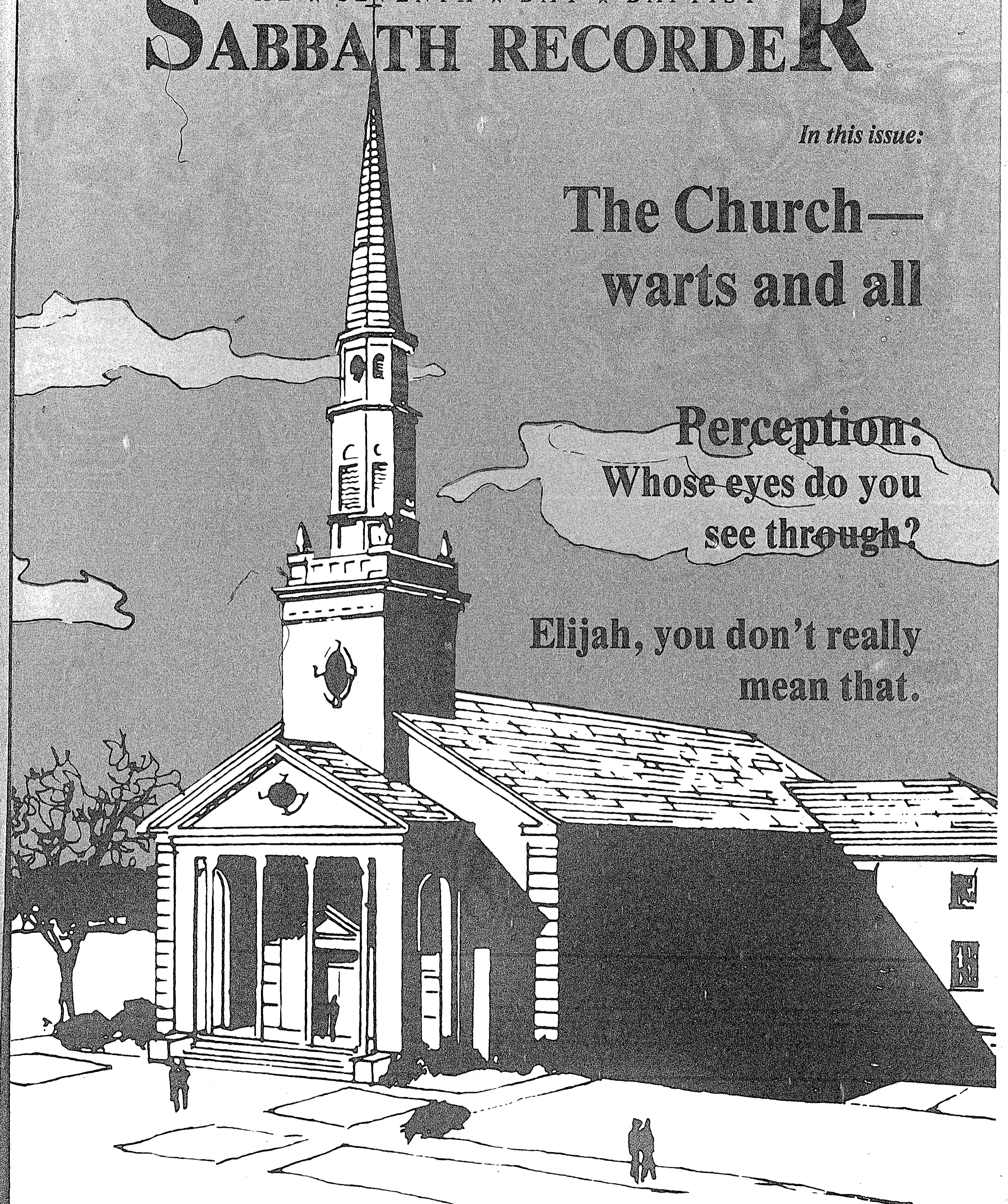
THE ★ SEVENTH ★ DAY ★ BAPTIST SABBATH RECORDER

In this issue:

The Church— warts and all

Perception:
Whose eyes do you
see through?

Elijah, you don't really
mean that.



Are you a steward or a squatter?