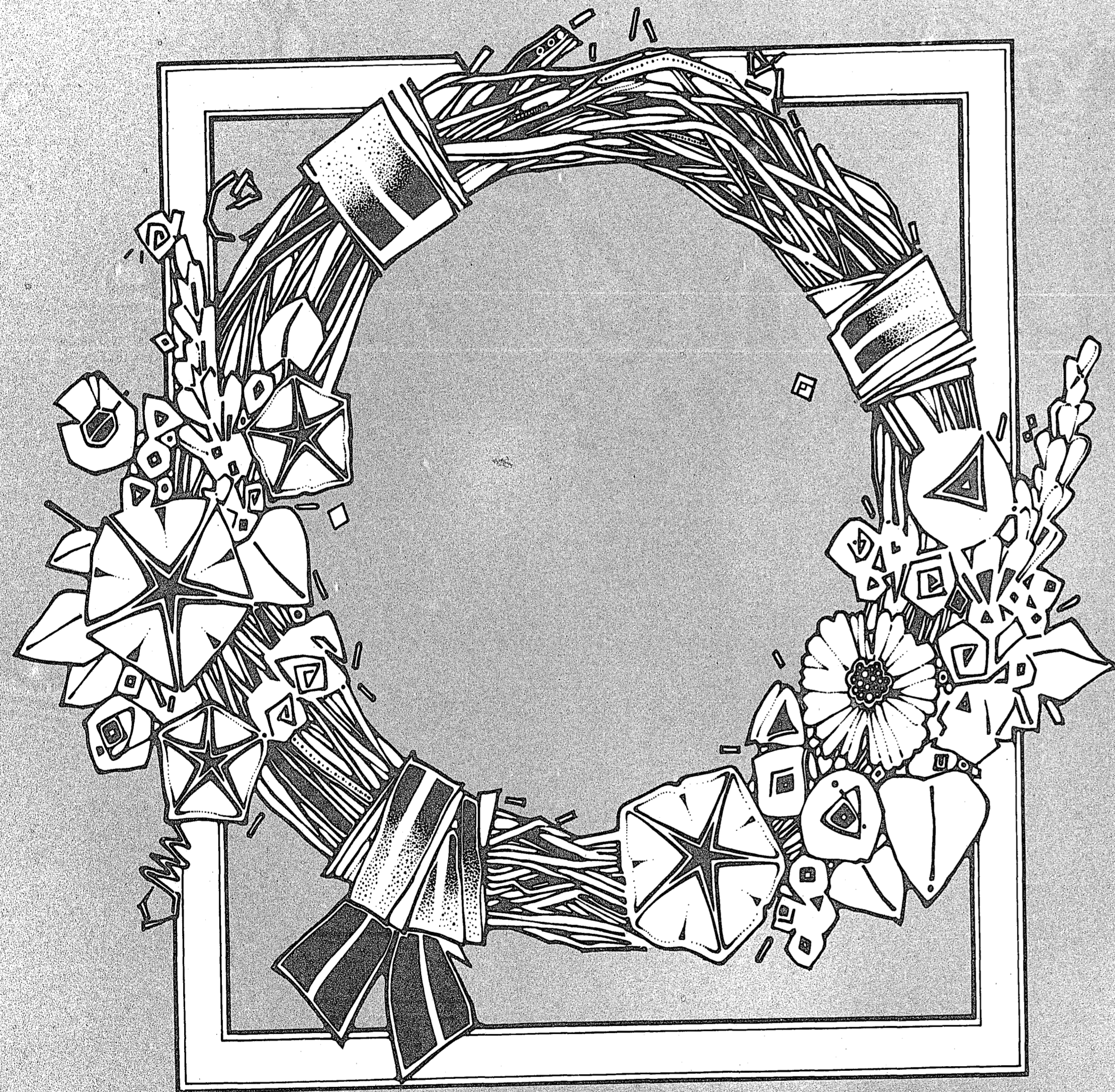


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The Seventh Day Baptist

November 1985

# Sabbath *SR* Recorder

*Thanksgiving*





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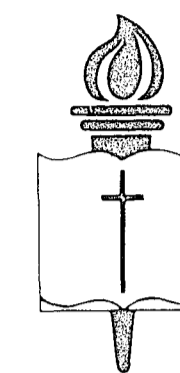
*Salary range:* \$15,000 to \$25,000 depending upon education and experience.

For more information contact Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547; Telephone (608) 752-5055.

Please send resumes to the above address, *Attention: Dale Thorngate.*

## The Sabbath Recorder

November 1985  
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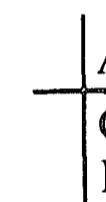


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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November 1985

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## "A stitch in T.I.M.E."

Seventh Day Baptists want to provide the best ministerial training possible for our future pastors. To accomplish this our Council On Ministry provides grant/loans to seminary students training for the Seventh Day Baptist ministry. Students are allowed to go to some of the finest seminaries in the world for their training. These seminary students participate in two Summer Institutes which give them the necessary training in Seventh Day Baptist history and polity as well as a thorough understanding of the Sabbath. This program has been very successful in providing academic training for ministry.

### Historical perspective

Seventh Day Baptists have always been concerned about the training of their pastors. However, training and preparation for pastoral ministry has taken on different forms throughout our history.

#### First Hopkinton.

From our original church in Newport, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptists moved in a "westerly" direction. In 1708 the Hopkinton church (originally called "Westerly") separated from the Newport church. This is after twenty-eight years of worship in their own meeting-house.

For the next one hundred and forty years only nine pastors would provide continuous leadership for that church. Their model of leadership preparation was simple. A man was seen by the congregation to possess ministry gifts. The congregation would call such a one to be ordained as a deacon to "improve his gifts." The next step in preparation for the pastorate was to be called to become an elder in the church. Finally, the church would select among the elders, a leading elder. The leading elder was the pastor of the church for life.

William L. Burdick gives insight into the preparation of these Hopkinton pastors for their ministry.

*It will be seen from these facts that these men did not enter the pastorate of the church without preparation, as has often been represented. They had not had the advantage of colleges and seminaries, but they had long years of experience and testing before being entrusted with the pastoral care of the church. Their prepara-*

*tion was different from that of the schools, nevertheless it was real preparation of the highest character. The church, while being very diligent in endeavoring to lead men into the ministry and in giving them opportunities to develop, was also most cautious as to the preparation and ability of its elders. They were able men, monuments to any church. The work they wrought speaks louder than words (Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, Volume II, page 623).*

Indeed, the work of these unschooled pastors does speak louder than any words. It was under the leadership of these pastors that the Hopkinton church grew to a membership of 947 (in 1816 it would have been one of the largest churches in America). Besides producing nine fine pastors for itself, the Hopkinton church also provided eighteen other Seventh Day Baptist pastors and missionaries during this time. The Hopkinton church was indeed a "seminary" in that it was a "seed bed" for producing pastoral leadership for our emerging denomination.

#### Alfred Theological Seminary.

By the mid-1800's Seventh Day Baptists were experiencing phenomenal growth. We grew from 1782 members in 1811 to 6345 members in 1852. With this kind of growth we needed more and better trained pastors. In 1852 an Education Committee was formed to look into the possibility of establishing a theological department at Alfred University. The theological department was established in 1855 which became the Alfred Theological Seminary in 1901.

The addition of a theological department at Alfred University broadened the options for the preparation of Seventh Day Baptist ministers. Besides the "on-the-job" training for the ministry, Seventh Day Baptists could pursue academic training related to ministry. Even with a formal school of training for the ministry the need for pastors in our churches could not be fully met.

Even in 1901 we realized the need for training lay workers. Besides the normal three year course in theology, Dean A.E.

*Besides producing nine fine pastors for itself, the Hopkinton church also provided 18 other S.D.B. pastors and missionaries during this time.*

Main offered a one year "Bible Normal Course" which was designed to train lay workers and evangelists. He also provided a correspondence course which was offered to the denomination.

At this time pastors who could not pursue academic training FOR the ministry were trained IN the ministry. While going "up through the ranks" from deacon to elder to leading elder (pastor) they were being challenged to "improve their

**General Conference  
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This resulted in the  
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the Certificate  
Pastors Training  
Program.**

gifts" in the context of the ministry of the local church.

By the turn of the twentieth century we were at our peak of growth. At this time we also had options for ministerial preparation. We had a theological seminary for the academic training of our pastors. We had "on-the-job" training for pastors who could not go for formal schooling, and we had training for lay workers and correspondence courses, as well.

### Training in Ministry

This century finds Seventh Day Baptists without an option for training pastors who are not able to go to seminary, for one reason or another. Today, there is little or no "on-the-job" training like that provided by such churches as Hopkinton. We have an excellent program that provides quality seminary education for our future pastors. But, we have not had any program which trains pastors of our churches who do not have a seminary education.

General Conference has recognized the need for this type of training since 1981. Every year since then we have recommended that the Council on Ministry develop and implement a lay-pastor training program. This resulted in the implementation of the Certificate Pastors Training Program.

Rodney Henry is being employed by the COM (half support) to expand the Certificate Pastors Training Program into what will be called "Training In Ministry." Training In Ministry or TIM will train people who are presently pastoring our Seventh Day Baptist churches but who have not had formal seminary training.

TIM will not be training pastors FOR ministry, which is the focus of theological seminaries. These pastors are being trained IN ministry because they are already pastors of Seventh Day Baptist churches. TIM is not to compete with seminary training. It is simply designed to broaden our ministerial preparation so that all who are called to pastor can have the benefit of training.

TIM will be designed to take theological

education to the pastor as he continues to minister in the church. It will focus on the training needs of the pastors with limited disruption of the pastor's life and ministry. The ministry of the pastor must be enhanced by the training and not disrupted.

*I am excited about the possibilities of the Training In Ministry project! I see it as a way of implementing new forms of training which are greatly needed. The Council On Ministry has been working on this for some time but development has not moved along very fast. What we have been needing is someone who can concentrate on the project and really get it in gear. Now that is beginning to come about. (Paul Green, Dean of the Council On Ministry.)*

### Training in Extension

Seventh Day Baptists are evangelicals who desire to share their faith and extend the church of Jesus Christ around the world. However, we have not been very successful, in our recent past, at bringing these desires to fruition. With our shortage of seminary trained leaders, it would be easy for us to believe that church extension (church planting) is impossible. How can we even think of starting new churches when we hardly have enough pastors for our existing churches?

Training In Extension is built on the concept that church extension is possible if we can develop a non-traditional means of training church leadership within an extension church setting. The basic idea is that there is an opportunity for church planting wherever God's people need and want there to be a Seventh Day Baptist church. We do not have enough trained people to take advantage of the many opportunities for church planting. There are many in our land who want to be a Seventh Day Baptist church but who live far away from existing churches and

there are no leaders available to send to be their pastors.

Your Missionary Society has a vision for capitalizing on these many opportunities for church extension to an even greater extent. They have employed Rod Henry (half support) to develop Training In Extension. Training In Extension will bring church planting knowledge and skills to leaders who want to start a church but who do not have the necessary knowledge or skills. These extension leaders involved in the training will most often have full time jobs. Therefore, Training In Extension will be very careful to bring training in a way that these new leaders will be able start churches while being trained with the least amount of disruption to their lives and ministry.

### Training In Extension... focuses on existing resources for church planting.

Very few people will be able to handle the challenge of a career and church planting. Our history shows that our pioneer ancestors were just such people. Today, we are looking for more such pioneers who are called by God and willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom work. There are still frontiers in the Kingdom of God and He is still calling out pioneers.

The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society wants to start new churches. Training In Extension is a strategy which focuses on existing resources for church planting. We may wish that we had more or different resources for church planting. But TIE takes the resources we do have

and puts them to work in our present extension opportunities with the prayer that churches will be started.

*In the last ten years, fifteen new churches have been started that still go and grow. Four others have not. Of these fifteen, ten have been helped with aid in support of their pastors. Seven of these had seminary trained pastors while three did not. And there are other new groups with leadership that has not, and can not receive seminary training but need some encouragement and help in their ministries. Also, we feel that other new work can begin and grow IF there is adequate leadership. Thus the vital need for Training In Extension. (Leon Lawton, Executive Vice President of the Missionary Society.)*

### Training in Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.)

Training In Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) is really two training projects, Training In Ministry and Training In Extension. Training In Ministry is being initiated and sponsored by the Council on Ministry and is focused on training persons already serving as pastors of Seventh Day Baptist churches. Training In Extension is being initiated and sponsored by the Missionary Society and will train church leaders in the extension setting with a goal to starting a Seventh Day Baptist church.

Rod Henry is being employed jointly by the Missionary Society and the Council on Ministry to develop and implement both of these training projects by General Conference time in 1986. Though the training context for the participants will be different for each of the programs, they will share many of the same materials. This will save time in the preparation of training materials.

The actual training process will probably involve participation from the various  
*Cont. to page 26.*



# Thanksgiving

by Theodore L. Gardiner, Editor  
*The Sabbath Recorder*

From *The Sabbath Recorder*, November  
24, 1913

There lies before me a rather homely angular poem entitled, "Cobbler Joe's Thanksgiving," which so attracted my attention that I read it over and over, and then took it to the dinner table and read it to my wife. The real thought in the poem is the thankfulness of Cobbler Joe for, in his own words, "the things I haven't got."

He was a cheery soul, with a twinkle in his eye and a jest upon his lips, and well endowed with common sense. Fortune had never smiled on him but he did not

## *For what are you thankful?*

care for that. With a merry whistle he kept at his work on Thanksgiving day just as upon any other, saying, "I am thankful all the time, and why should I take a holiday in which to thank the Lord?"

Having but one coat, he never was puzzled over what to wear. Having no automobile, he never had to go to the hospital with broken limbs. Being obliged to live on simple fare, he knew nothing of dyspepsia's pangs and that he regarded as a very great blessing for one who had to toil. He had no horse and carriage to carry him to town, so he did not lack for the exercise so essential to good health. It was no trouble to keep his little shack of a house warm and clean. Not having tooth in his head, he never suffered from toothache. Having no gold, he escaped all worryment over prowling thieves. For all this he was thankful. He said, "I need no yearly holiday to bless my happy lot, when every day I'm thankful for the things I haven't got."

It is a great thing to be sweet-spirited amid privations, to look upon the bright side of life, and to be contented with what comes, or doesn't come, even if one has little to be thankful for but the things he hasn't got. Sometimes having but little is greater cause for thanksgiving than we realize. Many a soul is able to read his title clear to mansions in the skies, and to enjoy the sweet peace of God's approving smile amid a life of toil, without a home of his own, who would never have enjoyed these priceless blessings if he had been given a title clear to great earthly possessions. Many a palace home in this land contains unhappy souls, conscience-troubled and vexed with care, having no bright hope for the future, who if they stop to think must feel that with all their

wealth on earth they are facing eternal bankruptcy. On the other hand many a Cobbler Joe in his "little shack" possesses a peace that passeth knowledge, enjoys the health that comes by honest toil and which makes this life bright and sunny, and at the same time holds the title to eternal riches in the real life, to which he hastens without any misgiving. Many a poor man has reason to thank God that he has escaped the overwhelming temptations that riches have brought to others.

Whether poor like Cobbler Joe or rich in this world's goods; whether strong or weak; whether the lot is cast in city or in country, there is a sense in which every one has abundant cause to be thankful for things he hasn't got. The world is full of things to which we have no special title, which we have never earned, and which we do not possess, but which give us great pleasure and bring us much profit. Even those things which have been secured by human effort and at a great cost bring blessings and help to thousands who never toiled to secure them. Who can visit the beautiful parks, with their shaded walks and drives, their flowers and statuary, or traverse the streets of great cities, lined with palace homes, magnificent cathedrals and churches, or even pass the great beautiful display windows in business houses, showing the industrial arts of many lands, without feeling a thrill of pleasure for things he hasn't got? Who can spend hours in magnificent art galleries and museums of antiquity filled with wonderful works of master minds and with the wonders of nature, all free to the public for pastime and for study, without a deep sense of thankfulness for the things he hasn't got, and yet things that are his to enjoy?

Then there are the many commonplace things that tend to make us comfortable and happy and that are likely to be overlooked when one tries to count his blessings. The "littles" are the larger in these matters as well as in other things. The sum of the little things make up the most of life. But we are prone to forget

this when we try to enumerate the causes for thanksgiving. To be sure there are many great things—things of nation-wide or world-wide importance—that should not be forgotten. These are sure to be mentioned when people meet on Thanksgiving day to praise the Lord for his goodness to the children of men. But what about commonplace, nearby things belonging to each individual life? Many a millionaire who is envied by his poor neighbor, would give all he possesses for the health that blesses your life, for the peaceful sleep you enjoy, and for your good appetite and good digestion. If he could eat and enjoy the dinner such as you sit down to on Thanksgiving day, he would be thankful from the bottom of his heart. Yet you scarcely think of this as a cause for thanksgiving. If the things we haven't got, yet sometimes covet, would rob us of these blessings, as happens in the case of many another, then indeed do we have cause to thank God for the things we haven't got.

Once more. Who can look upon the beautiful world about him, breathe the pure air of heaven, admire the sunset glow, study the starry heavens, behold the wonders of mountain, and plain, and ocean, without a deep sense of thanksgiving for things he neither holds nor controls, of which no man can say, "By my hand, my brain have I got all this?"

"I thank Thee that I love the things of earth—  
Ripe fruits and laughter, lying down to sleep,  
The shine of lighted towns, the graver worth  
Of beating hearts that laugh and weep.

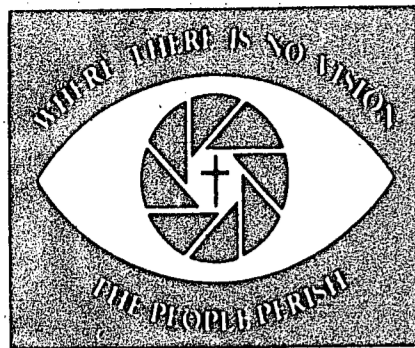
"I thank Thee that the sight of sunlit lands  
And dipping hills, the breath of evening grass—  
The wet, dark rocks and flowers in my hands,  
Can give me gladness as I pass."

*The sum of the  
little things make  
up the most of life.*

*Thanksgiving*







## FOCUS on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

### Contact attempted in China

**Shanghai, China, Asia:** Jim Ayars of The Heralds quartet has reported on their visit to China in July. They tried, unsuccessfully, to make personal contact with James Chang. Their visit was part of an evangelical church group of 50 invited by the Three Self Movement to have the first direct contact of Christian church leaders from the west with church leaders in China. They had good fellowship and learned that the gospel is being proclaimed, churches are reopening and Christians number more today than in 1949. Most church buildings are used by several congregations and are served by pastors of different denominations. This supports word received from James Chang that Seventh Day Baptists were meeting on Sabbath with other believers in a Baptist church. SR

### Madison Church makes progress

**Madison, Wisconsin, USA:** Pastor Kevin Butler reports, "We thank God for our dedicated service worker this summer, Kim Aiken. Kim helped with so many behind-the-scenes jobs, counselled at camp, and designed and made a new church banner for our meeting room and future displays. She was a Godsend. September brought a new organization of our Sabbath School program. We have more definite age groups with suggested learning goals for those ages. September also brought some new families eager to learn more about the church. This fall I will be on the Madison Christian radio station periodically commenting on the 'Good News verse of the day.' They choose local pastors to give five-minute talks on the daily Bible verse. Great chance for exposure and learning!" SR

### Information from Brazil shared

**Brazil, South America:** First Secretary Dr. Ruben Nisio shared copies of their publication *Mensagem Cristao* in time for them to be placed on the Missionary Society display table at General Conference. Though published in Portuguese, one can gain insight on their growing ministries, especially in the northeast states at Natal, Rio Grande do Norte and Fortaleza and Quixada in Ceara state. One issue gave report on their Bi-annual Convention held in January, 1985, in Curitiba. Both the women and youth had special sessions. SR

### Tucson group reaches out to community

**Tucson, Arizona, USA:** In his report Pastor Bill Shoffner wrote: "The church has already committed to advertise in the Tucson Shopper, which is mailed to homes once a week. The people at the paper have been most helpful and interested in what we are doing since most of the churches here do little or no advertising. One of the first ads brought five calls in one week! I have had the opportunity to meet with the religion editors of both of Tucson's daily papers and have received small write-ups in their respective religion sections. We have been busy researching other possible outlets for advertising such as regional magazines and the local fair.

Visitation locally has gone very well with a high degree of interest and some support from some who have not previously known of or affiliated with SDB's. Attendance has already been as high as 21, with a low of 18. This, of course, does not include the 'snow birds' who will be arriving over the next month or so. There has been at least one new visitor each week, having come as a guest of a member or in response to the advertising.

The Tucson area has the potential to conceive one of our most dynamic new churches. God's Spirit is obviously already at work here. We seek your prayers now for—as we learned at Conference—fellow laborers, not just members. This is a vast area of the country, with a great variety of interests, churches and cults. In order to reach Tucson for Jesus, it will require your prayers and the dedication of many here. We love you and thank our God for your support." SR

### Pastor wounded by gunmen

**The Philippines, Asia:** Pastor Ely Paypa, Sr. wrote (Aug. 14): "Brother Teofilio Estendar was giving a Bible study at Lala Lanao del Norte when armed men came in and gave him warning to stop. But he continued. The following night another group of men came and asked him to join them or else he will lose his life. Instead, Bro. Teofilio read the text in the Bible from Mark 8:35 and Romans 13:1-7. Two days passed after that. Then he was shot in the left arm. SR

He was released from the hospital not totally recovered because of money. Being disabled he moved to Silocap Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte to stay with his father-in-law. But even with an infected arm he started a new group of believers in Silocap. He wrote asking for prayer, song books and lessons for the new group. On learning that his arm was already infected I brought him to Cebu to see the doctor and he was admitted to the Southern Island hospital. But he was released without taking the pieces of bones from his wounds. The doctor told us, if the small pieces of bone were not taken out, this will cause cancer. One thing we pray for, that his arm will not be cut off."

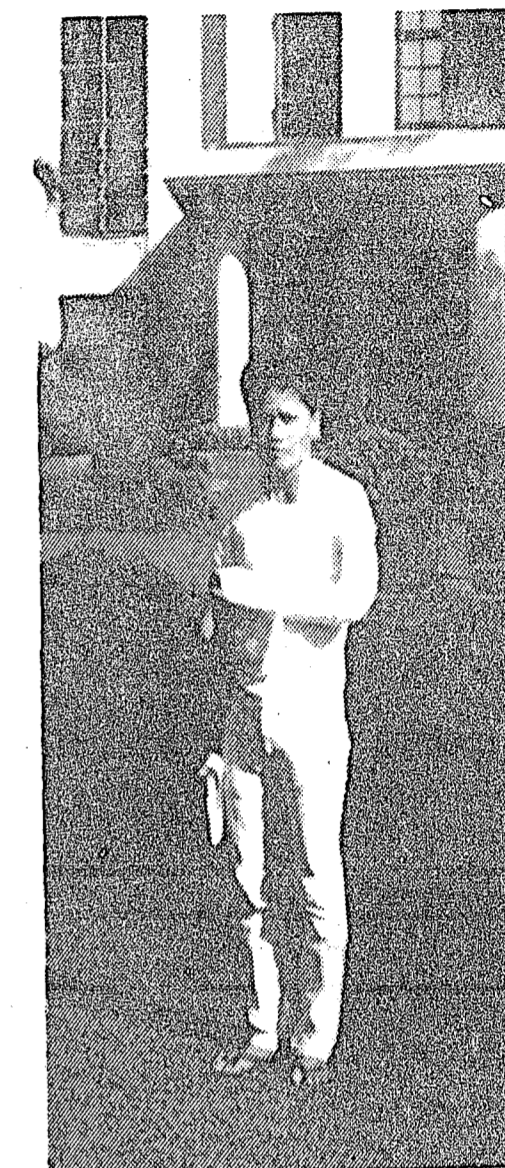
(Sept. 9) "Thank you for the prayers extended for Brother Estendar. We praise the Lord for the answers of your prayers as what happened to his arm was unbelievable. According to Doctor Baylon a miracle happened. He noted that Bro. Estendar uttered some prayers before going into the operating room. He was not operated on as x-rays showed the arm bent only a little. Thus they put it in a cast which is to be removed on October 2nd. Then he will go back to Silocap Liloy to serve as a pioneer in that area. At the same time he will be visiting San Miguel to help Bro. Sabanal.

Translation of the Pastors' Training Course (PTC) is going on smoothly. There are three candidates for baptism from Penes

Oroquita City, the result of Bro. Batapa's effort. Teodora Lapuz is pioneering in Negros and will join Bro. Estendar in the new PTC."

(Oct.1) "The sick persons whom we are caring for were all healed and they are thankful to God for the help we have extended to them. All were completely healed and released from the hospital—Lorenzo Paypa, Teofilio Estendar. Only Mrs. Basilia Lapuz is still under observation. As what we have known through their confessions they were so thankful not because of the healing that they have supported by us but also they know Christ. I know this act of helping the needy and sick people is the right hand of ministry and it paves the way for people to know Christ. In Ecclesiastes 11:1 we are commanded to cast our bread upon the water. So, we did this through this ministry.

Last Sept. 27-29 the youth president together with his team was officially sent to Caridad SDB church in Baybay, Leyte, for a youth revival. Through this the youth were revived with the help of Pastor Santianez and now they are just waiting for the tracts that they can receive, especially the Bible Correspondence Course. This is one of their major goals—spreading the Good News through correspondence." SR



Teofilio Estendar was shot by gunmen who had ordered him to stop preaching and join them. Estendar continues his ministry.



## A prayer reminder for each day!

### December 1985

*Verse for the Month: Why am I praying like this? Because I know you will answer me, O God! Yes, listen as I pray. Show me your strong love in wonderful ways, o Savior of all those seeking your help against their foes. Protect me as you would the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings as you hover over me."* Psalm 17:6-8 TL3

#### Pray for

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. faithful stewardship as we close the 1985 OWM budget year  | 17. Extension Pastor George Calhoun, San Diego, Cal.             |
| 2. North American Baptist Fellowship in Nashville, Tenn.      | 18. people with mental health problems                           |
| 3. Extension Pastor Bill Shobe, the Atlanta, Ga. SDB church   | 19. for those alone this holiday season                          |
| 4. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa      | 20. that my church may reach their OWM goal for 1985             |
| 5. Coordinating Leadership Team meeting, SDB Center           | 21. joy in serving the Lord                                      |
| 6. Extension Pastor Kevin Butler, Madison, Wis.               |  |
| 7. God's spokesman in the Sabbath worship hour today          | 22. those seeking forgiveness                                    |
|   | 23. Rodney Henry and the T.I.M.E. project                        |
| 8. Pastors and brethren in the sister churches in Poland      | 24. Rev. L. S. Thanga, Rangoon, Burma                            |
| 9. Extension Pastor Justin Camenga, Portland, Ore.            | 25. what a wonderful Gift God has given us! Praise him for Jesus |
| 10. Pastor Elias Comacho and the work in Mexico               | 26. those living apart from Seventh Day Baptists                 |
| 11. Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate and his ministry    | 27. children who do not know the security of a Christian home    |
| 12. our brethren in Nigeria as they continue to witness       | 28. openness to the leading of the Lord in my life               |
| 13. Extension Pastor John Peil, San Gabriel Valley, Cal.      | 29. courage to face the future                                   |
| 14. Sabbath School Mission Offering (SSMO) in my local church | 30. health and strength for Rev. B. John V. Rao, Nellore, India  |
|   | 31. thank God for his guiding hand and blessings                 |
| 15. travelers going home for the holidays                     | Pray that 1986 will be a time for real spiritual growth!         |
| 16. Pastor Bredešlav Kudelk, Ostrava, Czechoslovakia          | Year of Ministry   |

## Moving?

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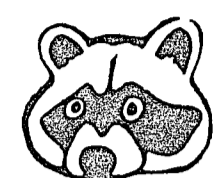
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## The Children's Page

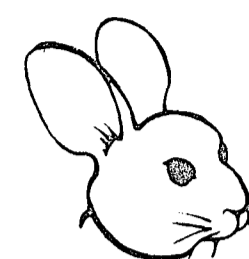
### Take care of yourself



Racco



Pud G Muskrat



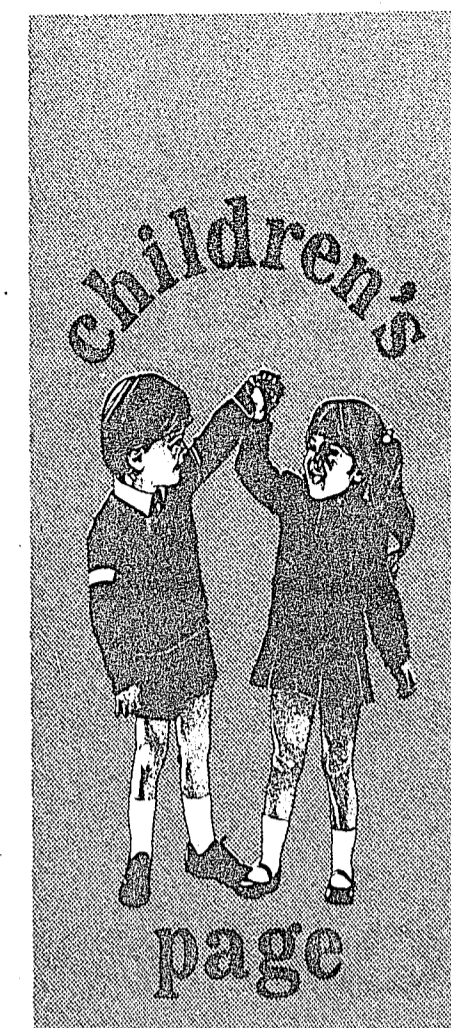
Peter and Sandy Rabbit



Prissy Skunk



E-Z Possum



family were walking to church.



saw his new friend



didn't look like he felt well.



had just eaten 8 muffins.



wouldn't be going to church with them. On down the path



saw



sleeping.

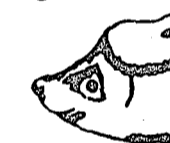


had stayed up late last night. Now



was too tired to go to

church.



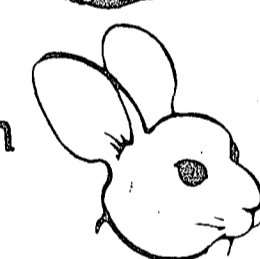
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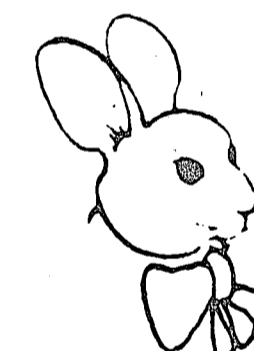
and wouldn't go to church either.



family was almost there when



and



called to



"May we walk with you?" So both families walked to church. Later the 3 little ones went sliding by the creek bank. Oh what fun they had!



was happy that he had parents to teach him how to take care of himself.



God.

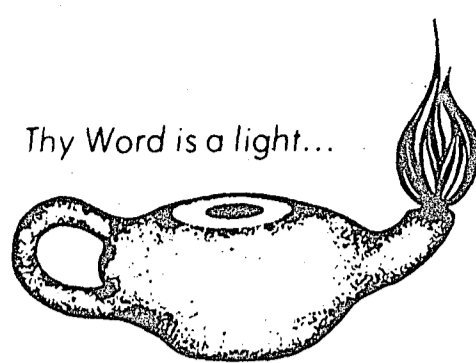
was learning every day what would help keep him healthy and right with

Can you name some things you do?

Parents Please read 2 Peter 1:5-11 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.







Thy Word is a light...

## Board of Christian Education

### Worship life of the teacher

The golden brown leaves sway in the gentle autumn breeze. The solitary leaf dances down the sidewalk playing tag with the sun's wavy light. The shadows formed by objects blocking the sun's path to the ground are different. The sun is not as high in the sky nor is the angle the same. Such movement creates the altered angle and the ethereal quality of an autumn day. There is a certain laziness about autumn. It beckons us to dreamy reflection.

About now the reality of having agreed to teach the Junior High Sabbath School class or co-sponsor the Youth Fellowship has made itself felt in your life. Sure, we realized that the task would be challenging. But after a few weeks we've a few questions. "How does what I'm attempting to do fit the larger picture? What's the purpose of all this activity, anyway? I tried to get a discussion going and only one person responded. The Youth Fellowship game night almost didn't make it. Three were late and four didn't show at all. How does this fit with God's plan for his church?"

There is a story told of the teacher who went to the gates of heaven at the end of a long career. Upon meeting the Keeper of the gates our teacher was asked, "What have you done to obtain entry?"

"I've been a member of my church for over sixty years," was the teacher's reply. The Keeper searched the Book and indicated that this fact was not in evidence.

He asked, "Is there anything else you have done to merit entry?"

The teacher hesitated and then said, "I've been faithfully in attendance each

Sabbath Day when I wasn't ill or on vacation."

The Keeper commented, "I don't seem to find that recorded. Think hard about your life. There must be something."

Turning to leave the gates for another realm, the teacher was heard to say something about her classes being too small to count. Some years she only had one or two pupils. She stopped and asked, "You wouldn't happen to know what became of the young man who was a pupil of mine many, many years ago who had difficulty reading in front of others? We worked together until he mastered his problem."

The Keeper touched her arm and said, "Welcome home, my teacher. Enter the Kingdom!"

Worship keeps our focus upon God which lends meaning and importance to our tasks within the work of his church. The teacher must focus upon God or risk losing the relationship that is the reason for what is done. Worship is both private and public. It is personal devotions and celebration with the congregation.

Worship is the most typical activity of the church. The Sabbath morning worship service is the hub of all the church's activities. It is the primary meeting of the entire congregation which may meet in its separate groups for Bible study, prayer, service or fellowship. A few years ago our church growth emphasis was stressing the importance of God's people at worship. It is the time "when we all get together." As a teacher in the church's educational program, it is vitally important that you and I are present each Sabbath with our people to celebrate our love for God. It is so important that we be present—for ourselves and for others. It is the public confession before the community of our personal commit-

*Personal devotional life means assigning a time in each day to thank God and to listen to his Word to us.*

ment to God. If we believe that God has given us the gifts of life, talent and time, then we shall wish to honor his goodness with our worship.

Personal devotional life means assigning a time in each day to thank God and to listen to his Word to us. It should focus upon his messages through Bible Study, the writings of his saints, and his blessings to us. I know of Sabbath School teachers who organize their devotions through study of the "Daily Bible Meditations" in *The Helping Hand*. It also serves to center their thinking upon the Sabbath School lesson for that week. Another person uses the work of Thomas A. Kempis, "Of the Imitation of Christ." The important thing is to choose your time and sources for personal meditation and to discipline yourself by commitment to personal worship. Our teaching will reflect our experiences with God through our worship—private and public.

It's the conditioning that counts. This past August at General Conference in Arkansas I joined Dean Paul Green and Norman Burdick for an early morning jog. In less than a mile they began to pull away from me. I quickly realized that I had not put in enough miles recently nor had I kept

a regular schedule of jogging. It was evident that going the distance at a comfortable pace requires private practice.

It is our regular spiritual conditioning that keeps us with God's pace and develops an understanding of his will for our lives. Will you worship each day?

- \* Select Scripture from the background to your Sabbath lesson or related to it and read it.
- \* Read the Scripture a second time. What does it say? Takes notes this time.
- \* Look up the difficult words in a Bible word book or dictionary.
- \* Reflect on its meaning to you. Listen to God's message.
- \* Apply it to the life of your students. Write this down. You may wish to keep a journal.
- \* Conclude by writing a prayer. Thank God for the opportunity to teach.





## Thanksgiving thoughts

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All,

Thanksgiving is approaching again. I wonder how *thankful* you are? The Sabbath School lesson of September 14th said in the *Standard Lesson Commentary* which I occasionally use as a supplement, that "We are accustomed to such expressions as 'Bless your heart' or 'Bless your soul.' It is also a popular prayer cliché to thank God for his blessings." We sing *Count Your Blessings*, name them one by one.

Are we blasé about blessings? Have we come to the point we expect to be blessed unendingly? In that same help, the author explains that the Greek word for blessing is a combination of one meaning *well* and one meaning *speak*. Usage has broadened the meaning to include doing good also, so we bless God when we speak well of him and he blesses us by doing something good for us. More about that later.

I have been thinking a lot about why I do what I do. Why can I not let down some of my rules and regulations that keep me on the straight and narrow, and enjoy some of the pursuits I see others apparently getting pleasure and satisfaction from? I know my upbringing had a lot to do with it, but why were we raised the way we were?

I get some pleasure from trying to trace my Seventh Day Baptist ancestry back. I know something about my mother's family's church history, less about my father's, but when I came across an article on the

New England Conscience the other day, I had my answer, for that is where half my family started out in this country, at least. In *Yankee* magazine, the founder, Rob Sagendorph, is quoted as saying, "A New England conscience never prevented anyone from doing anything, but it does keep one from enjoying it." Now if it is not going to be enjoyed, why bother. I think I am much happier with my strict guidelines which are admittedly self-imposed at this point, thanks to my New England Conscience. Just a note of humor, here. In discussing this theory with my daughter, she reminded me I had brought them up with the idea that their conscience was God within them and she asked if God had a New England accent? Touché, P.J.

Back to my sermon for this month. It really does not matter where you are from, I think, for I have no idea where the family hails from originally, but in a Sabbath school class I taught recently, a couple visited from another class. In the discussion of setting up guidelines, she spoke of having to deal rather sternly with a problem regarding their daughter's (now a grandmother) dating. The daughter thanked her for helping her make the "right" Christian choice and has faithfully walked in that way since. Now, a little postscript. The granddaughter of the original Sabbath School participant, is a member of my Ladies Prayer Breakfast group and she confided the other day how much happier she was in a Christian High School. "It provides a discipline I need," she said as she whipped

out a tiny little Bible from her purse to share a promise she had recently discovered. Our churches are full of such families and I am so thankful for them and yes, you are a blessing I count "one by one."

Now, lest someone accuse me of being one of the "cliquish" Seventh Day Baptists always tracing who is related to whom, let me tell another story. At Conference this year, a young minister's wife remarked that everyone was always wanting to know what her maiden name was. It made no difference, because she was a convert to Seventh Day Baptists. The return mission worker, to whom she was speaking, assured her she too was a convert to the Seventh Day Baptists and said "I hope it made her feel a little better." Well, my husband too was a convert, but his maternal grandmother had a great and glorious old Seventh Day Baptist name which his sister insists is pure Jewish. So, what's in a name? The only one that really counts is Child of God. For that, we can be eternally thankful.

I would like to suggest we all start our Thanksgiving feast, be it a 20-pound turkey or a frozen turkey pot pie, by reading the 100th Psalm before saying a prayer of joy and thanksgiving. Be sure to include your "blessings," and that is no cliché.

One of the ways of showing our thankfulness is passing along some of our blessings. The San Diego ladies sent a lovely bunch of *Nighties for Newborns* to Malawi recently. Is your group working on some? The bulletin from Nortonville, Kansas, stated their ladies were meeting to work on clothing for the Clothing Bank for the needy. Battle Creek, Michigan, will soon be driving hard to surpass their last year's contribution of new socks for needy children for Christmas and the White Cloud, Michigan, ladies are busy on hand-knitted mittens for the local orphanage. I listed lots of other such activities of groups last month. So it goes. Remember the poem, "God has

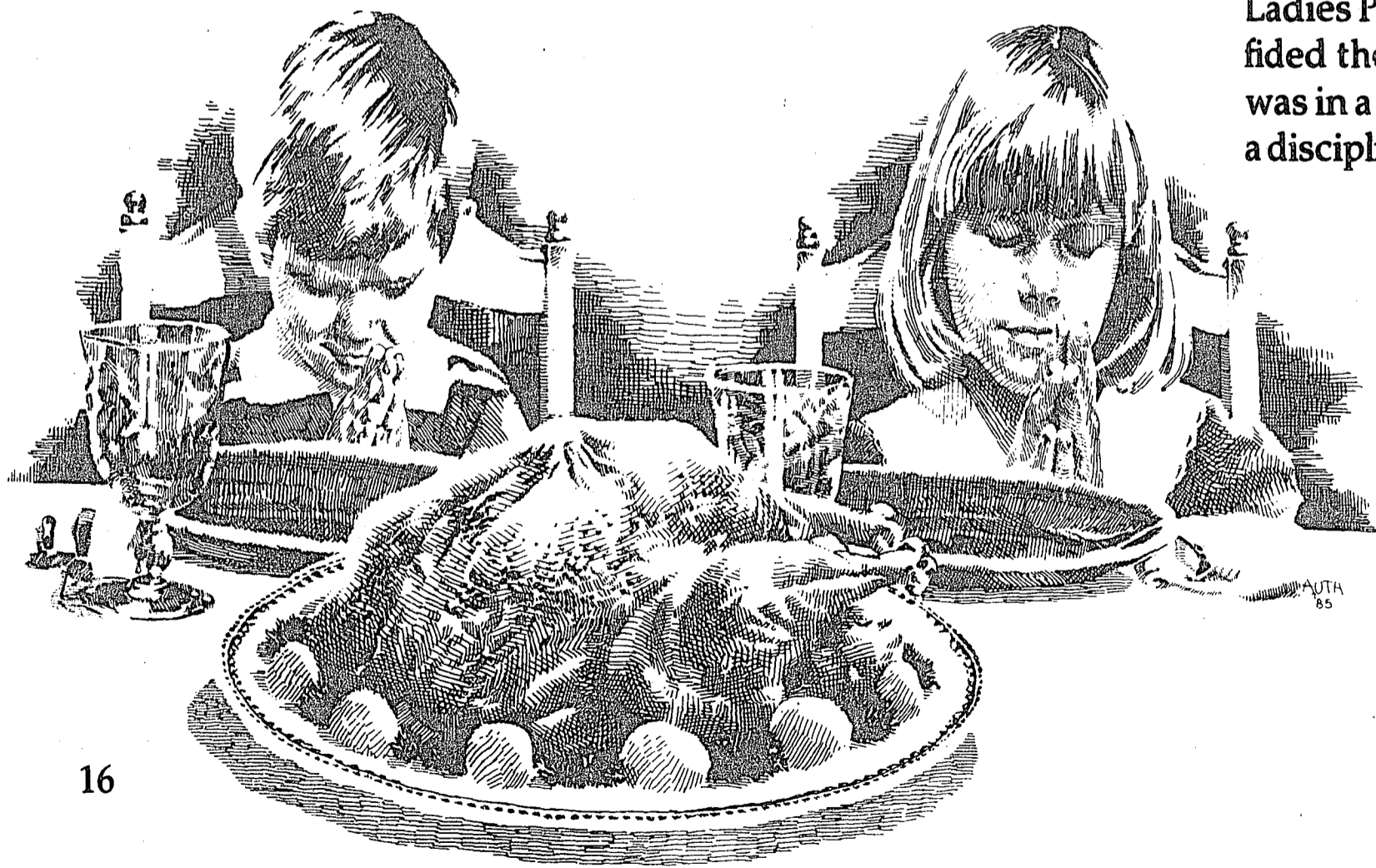
Whenever we pass on a blessing, do something for someone less fortunate than we are, we are acting for God.

no hands but our hands to do His work today—?"

That same Sabbath School lesson reminded us that we are the body of Christ on this earth. Whenever we pass on a blessing, do something for someone less fortunate than we are, we are acting for him. (I seem to be talking a great deal about Sabbath School this month, and this isn't even the Christian Education Page.)

Did you see the Peace Ribbon from Church Women United on television when it was wrapped around the Pentagon and many of the Washington monuments, August 4th? It was termed the world's longest piece of folk art, with more than 25,000 peace panels making it up, depicting what the stitchery creators could not bear to think of as lost forever in a nuclear war. Over two years ago, Church Women United caught the vision from Justine Merrett of Denver, Colorado, who envisioned it at a religious retreat there. I saw a few of the individual panels in Michigan and some were truly exquisite works of art, some were more simple but all, none-the-less, as heartfelt as the next. 350 segments became a permanent exhibit at the Peace Museum in Chicago. Others are housed at Oakland

Cont. on page 23





## Religion in the News

### Warning of television boycotts

About 1,000 Christian leaders have threatened to boycott offending sponsors unless they reduce the levels of sex and violence on television. An Associated Press report noted that the National Federation of Decency has sponsored a petition signed by top officials of 67 denominations which accused the networks of "anti-Christian bias," including the negative portrayal of persons representing a religious viewpoint.

The National Council of Churches is scheduled to release a first draft of a commission study on the problems of sex and violence in film and television this Fall. **SR**

### Prayer bill defeated in Senate

A Senate bill to prohibit the Supreme Court from acting on cases concerning voluntary prayer, Bible readings, or religious meetings, was tabled by a 62-36 vote. Leader for the measure was Senator Jesse Helms, who said that the measure was brought to the floor to get an on-the-record vote. The Associated Press quoted Helms as saying, "I imagine people in the evangelical movement are going to be willing to circulate it." **SR**

### Browning is new Episcopal leader

Edmond Lee Browning, a bishop of the Episcopal Church in Hawaii, has been named presiding bishop for the twelve-year term. Browning, 57, is known for his opposition to the arms race. **SR**

### Mormon plans stir Israelis

The announced plans of Brigham Young University to establish a branch campus in Israel have stirred Jewish reaction. Demonstrations have occurred weekly on the proposed construction site, with concerns expressed that the center will provide a base for Mormon missionary efforts.

University officials have sought to calm the tension by stating that no proselytizing of Israelis will be allowed by university staff. **SR**

### Britain acts on ordination of women

The ordination of women has emerged as an emotional issue in both England and Scotland in recent months. The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church has voted not to permit the ordination of women, while the Church of England voted last year to ordain women. According to synod rules a two-thirds vote will be required next year to enact the measure in Church of England law. **SR**

### Chinese Bishop reports Christian growth

Bishop K. H. Ting Guangxun, president of the China Christian Council, painted a positive picture of church growth and religious freedom in China at a recent symposium with Western church leaders. While some of the participants viewed Ting's remarks as too close to the Communist party line, he described recent developments under the government of Deng Xiaoping.

Bishop Ting reported that 3,500 churches have been re-opened under the regime, and that freedom of religion is protected by law. He estimated that Protestant and Catholic Christians each number between three and four million.

Participants drafted a paper urging Western Christians to give support and encouragement to the church in China, even though it has indigenous characteristics unlike our own. It was reported that Bishop Ting has encouraged a visit by evangelist Billy Graham. **SR**

## Conference '86 planning underway

As the events of '85 slowly fade in our memories, the reality of Conference '86 is picking up momentum.

Conference '86 will be held in the Great Northeast on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the State of Massachusetts.

The "heart of the Commonwealth," Worcester is not only centrally located in the state, but also serves as a commercial, industrial and cultural center. The town was famous for its dramatic, musical and civic events throughout the 18th century, which influenced educators to found several colleges here.

Specific historic sites abounding in Worcester will be listed in future articles.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute is located in a residential section of Worcester with its facilities set on 62 quiet acres surrounded by parks and lakes. WPI is a ten minute walk from downtown Worcester, a 45 minute drive from Boston and 3 hours from New York City.

The theme of Conference '86 will be "Prepare Ye the Way" (John 1:1-28) with President Russell Johnson from Verona, New York, presiding. Rev. Dale Rood from Westerly, Rhode Island, is chairman of the conference host committee.

Looking forward to seeing you at WPI, August 10-16, 1986.

Conference Publicity Committee

### Plainfield's special weekend

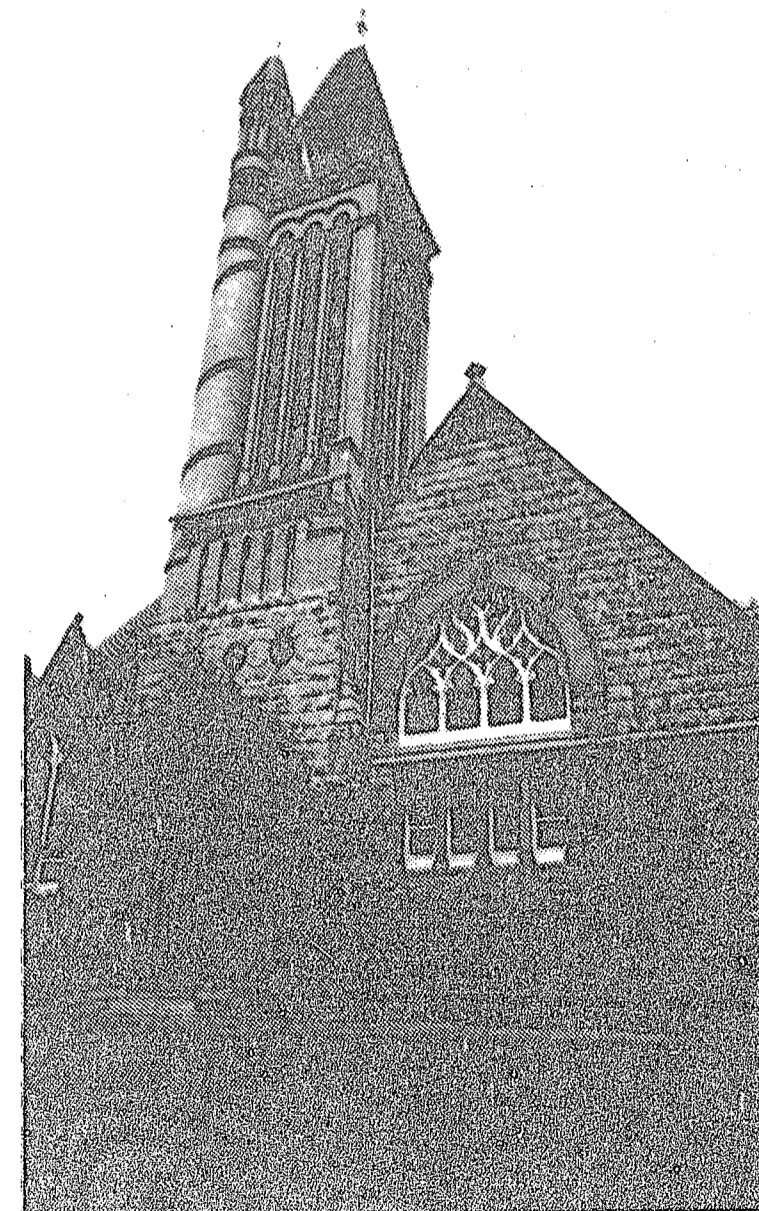
by Ruth Parker

The Plainfield, New Jersey, Church had an attendance of 75 on August 31, when many visitors from Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario, and from our New York City Church and other churches were present. They came early for the wedding of Sharon Samuels of our Toronto Church and Barry Dailey of the Seventh Day Church of God in Hamilton. Sharon is the daughter of Pastor Joe and Joyce Samuels.

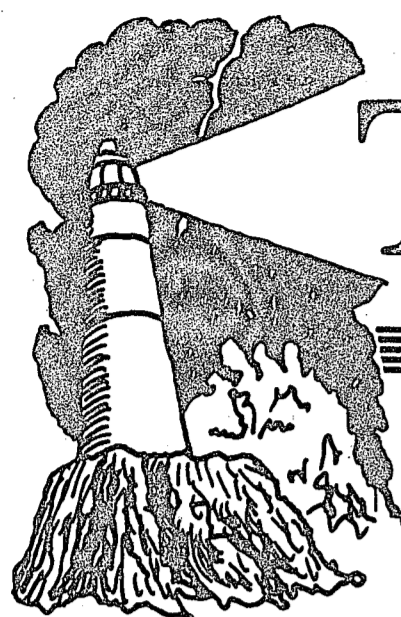
Everything about the wedding and reception on Sunday afternoon was beautiful—the worshipful service conducted by the bride's father, the appropriate music, the abundant flowers, the colorful handmade gowns of the wedding party, the gorgeous homemade cakes. The Samuels' daughter Marlene and son David from Jamaica were in the wedding party, and Pastor Joe's 93-year-old mother, his sister, and Joyce's mother from Jamaica were also there.

The sanctuary was full and overflowing with at least 200 present, and almost all of them stayed for the delicious buffet prepared by family and church members and for the cutting of the cake and the toasts. It was a memorable occasion for both the Samuels family and the Plainfield and Toronto churches. **SR**

Everything about the wedding was beautiful!







# THE BEACON

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

November 1985

## Meet your Board member



Melissa Snyder

I am Melissa Snyder. I am a senior at Alfred University majoring in Elementary and Special Education. I teach the primary class at the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church. I also sing in the church choir. I have been a member of the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education for the past three years.

### Why I am a Seventh Day Baptist.

Like most of you, I was raised in a Seventh Day Baptist family and church. I still am a Seventh Day Baptist because I feel at home and loved by the people. It is easy to share opinions and ideas with people that share your beliefs and support you. I feel this support throughout our denomination. I am on the Youth Ministries Committee so I know what is happening and how we, the youth, are considered in Board action. I have opportunity to add my input on how to deal with different issues that face our committee.

As a member of the Youth Committee and also as one of you, the youth and young adults of our denomination, I urge you to continue your involvement with your church family.

Don't forget the calendar photo contest. This calendar will help keep us together nationwide. For more details see the back

**Don't forget the calendar photo contest!**  
Details on back cover.

of your July *Sabbath Recorder*. If you need any help or have questions regarding youth work please contact the Board. Send us ideas that worked in your church so we may share them with other youth groups.

(Melissa Snyder, daughter of Nelson and Amanda Snyder, is a member of the Alfred Station church and the Board of Directors of your Board of Christian Education.)

## Hello YF's,

For those who do not know me, I am Bill Probasco, serving you as President and "gavel-banger." We in the great metropolis of Shiloh have already met to discuss projects. Plans are underway for a great Conference, but we have a major problem with a starting budget-balance of \$00.00.

So, that means we have to get on the ball, all of us.

Last year all YF's were asked to help by sending in money, but only two did. Thanks to Milton and Nortonville for past accomplishments. I know that those of us in Shiloh did little last year, so the other YF's are not alone. But this year Shiloh is already hard at work raising funds.

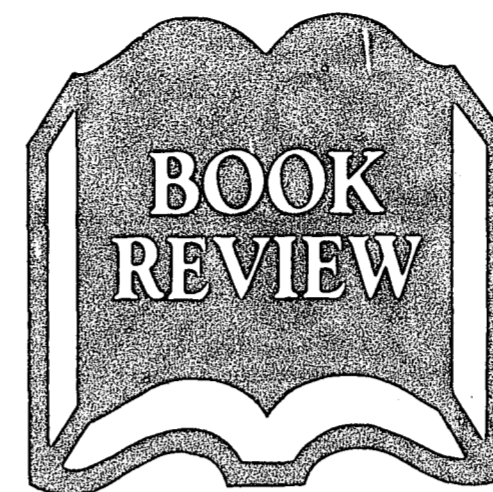
Remember, the more you send in for our Youth Conference, the better our programming efforts can be. So let's keep this thought in mind, that whatever we collectively raise will be well-used in a great cause.

Sincerely, Bill Probasco

P.S.—Any questions on Conference, YF, fund-raising, or even just a chance to say "Hi" or keep in touch, write me, and thanks.

Bill Probasco  
RR1, Box 464  
Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302

The Sabbath Recorder



## Starting a Youth Ministry

### Book Review

#### Starting a Youth Ministry

by Larry Keefauver, P. O. Box 481, Loveland, Co. 80539. Group Books, 1984. \$5.95, 80 pp.

Do you like small books? Easy-to-read print? Do you think about beginning or revitalizing your youth group? If you do, you'll find Dr. Keefauver's book will meet your needs. His book begins by asking us to examine our situation, motives and abilities. Checklists in each area help in this self-analysis.

Following the analysis of leadership is the formulation of the purpose for a youth ministry program. Why do we want to start a youth ministry? Is it our natural desire to involve the youth of our church in Christ's ministry? We are asked to answer these and other questions of purpose before we begin to build the program.

Keefauver constructs a strong case for not going alone in youth ministry. Often our youth ministry depends upon a strong individual and when they move on the group struggles. The author recommends building a support team or youth ministry council which may be composed of the Pastor, youth leaders, parents and youth.

*Starting a Youth Ministry* outlines the process for getting started. It covers the groups participation in program selection, social events, study topics and trips. It explains the necessity for publicity, parent volunteer support, and regular contact with the youth.

Pastors and Christian Education Committees will especially appreciate the checklists on recruiting youth leaders. This book

stresses the importance of adults of varied ages and lifestyles working with youth. This is NOT a resource book of games, activities or programs. It is a step-by-step guide for starting or "starting over" with a youth group in your church. SR

## There's A Reason A Musical for Youth Choir

Music by  
Chuck Morrison

Book and lyrics by  
Terry W. York

"There's A Reason," a musical for Youth Choir, is available for purchase from the Board of Christian Education for \$3.50 (new) and \$2.00 (used). This Unison/Two Part musical written by Chuck Morrison and Terry W. York, was presented by the Youth Pre-Con at Conference Vespers. Send checks to the:

Board of Christian Education  
15 South Main St.  
Alfred, NY 14802



## NYS Assembly of SDB Churches announces

by David Clarke

The 1985 Annual Meeting of the New York State Assembly of Seventh Day Baptist Churches, held September 22 at Delta Lake Conference, had one major focus: possible dissolution. At the Executive Committee's July 7 meeting, their recommendation for disbanding (reiterated after the August 1984 proposal to disband called for additional time for local church consideration) was tied with an urging for local churches to consider a successor organization. Central NY Association proposed to the Executive Committee the formation of "an extended single regional association for strengthening the work of outreach, fellowship, legislation, camping and other forms of mission."

Wisely, a delegate called for division of the question. The motion to disband was passed by a 12 to 6 vote, counting the votes by member-quotas for each church. The motion to urge local churches to consider the Central New York Association's proposal was passed by a unanimous vote, counted by delegates present and voting. It is therefore up to Central New York Association to convey suggestions to SDBs of New York and immediate bordering areas (Toronto and Hebron).

The balance of funds that was anticipated, including the \$100 deposit for use of Delta Lake Conference Center, was to be turned over to the Adams Center SDB Church to be used for next year's State SDB Spiritual Retreat. The Treasurer Don Pierce reported a balance of \$504.31, before accounts were settled up with Delta Lake. Retreat receipts of \$925.50 were reported by Helen Brannon, co-director. Records of the Assembly (and former SDB Council) will be deposited in the SDB Historical Society archives in Janesville, Wisconsin. An old Remington typewriter, in working order, is available for any church desiring it. Contact Rev. Russell Johnson, Verona.

President David Clarke summed up significant events or movements in which SDBs have made a contribution to Christian mission in New York State. These contributions were made through our own programs as well as through the state ecumenical

Council of Churches. Included in his summary were: projecting our faith through our booth at New York State fair (initiated by Central New York SDB Association but supplemented with other SDB help); family and spiritual retreats for many years; active work in camping with Rex Zwiebel editing the first interdenominational state directory of church camps; Christian education leader training ecumenically; migrant ministry; links with higher education ministries (i.e., George Calhoun listed in recent ecumenical chaplaincy directory); prison reform and hunger ministries with Warren Brannon leading our SDB studies from ecumenical resources; institutional chaplaincy collaboration (Rev. Carl Maxson accredited through state council and served effectively many years as full time chaplain); sharing our convictions in legislative conferences through Rev. Paul Maxson, Rev. Rex Burdick and Roberts Ellis; sharing views and ideas at representative Council of Churches meetings.

The Assembly is deeply indebted to Ken and Helen Brannon for a challenging and refreshing Retreat this year. The study of "Living as Christians in a Secular World" left us hungry for achieving meaningful simplicity of lifestyle so that we can more fully serve Christ in our world. The generous and tasty meals prepared by the volunteers from Verona and Adams Center were very much appreciated. Hearty thanks goes to all involved, among whom we name the following (with due apologies for missing some who significantly contributed to the Retreat's goodness): Leona Ferguson, Mary Lyndaker, Luella Reardon, Josephine Messina, Frieda Roggie, Alfreda Shippee in meal provision; Angela Smith and Paula Davis in children's care; Pastor Russ and Jennie Johnson in over-all supervision; our fine Delta Lake Retreat hosts. SR

## Washington church has busy summer

by Leroy Tsutsumi

### Vacation Bible School

The Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church held its Community Vacation Bible School from July 15-19 in the evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. There were ten teachers and helpers, some of them who also teach Sabbath School. There were 40 youths present, most of whom came from the community.

### Women's Society

Cont. from page 17

Museum in California. Most went back to their home states to become a part of a grass-roots peace movement.

I do hope many of you participated in the Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, November 4th. The theme and program was prepared by Clelia Machinadiarena, a missionary of the Convención of Argentina and Vice-President of the Baptist Women's Union, and the women of Latin America. The program was on "Experiencing God's Healing."

I received some new "Mite" suggestions from BWA. Here are a few of them, and I am afraid I shall go broke. Twenty-five cents if you let the water run while brushing your teeth. Two cents for each pair of shoes or boots in your home. Twenty-five cents if you have season's tickets to any entertainment. Ten cents for each shelf of books in your home or office (thank goodness I had an auction, I had two walls full), and ten cents for each magazine or newspaper which comes your way. That reminds me, Nortonville, Kansas, Ladies have subscribed to *The Christian Woman* for their church library. Good idea!

Remember Psalm 100 and have a beautiful, thankful season. Last month I said this is the best month of the year. Thankfulness is one—guess what the other two are.

Lovingly,



November 1985

An offering of \$20.00 was collected by the youths for the African Famine Relief which was sent through World Vision.

The youths came at 6:00 p.m. to play outdoor games. A 15-minute worship service period was held at 7:00 p.m. The evening activities ended at 9:00 p.m.

There were five classes—kindergarten, primary, middler, junior, and youth. The youth class, including a few 10th graders, was the largest. This has usually been the case in the past.

Everyone was blessed by the participation.

### Mid-week Bible study

Last year several members of the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church decided to start a mid-week Bible study on the letters of Paul. Pastor Davis has been leading out whenever possible. However, there have been several others leading out when he was away. The letter to the Romans or the Book of Romans ended recently with much enthusiasm.

On July 20, Pastor Kenneth L. Davis, son of Pastor and Mrs. Leland Davis, who is a home missionary for the Baptist Mid-Missions, brought the message. His message dealt with the sharing of the Gospel with others, which is our message as well.

In September, Pastor and Mrs. Davis started a course called, "Witnessing Made Easy" and will continue into October. This course requires the participants to go into the community by teams to actually present the Gospel to their neighbors. An invitation is extended to them to come to Sabbath School and church service. This course is an out-growth of an intense desire by the church members to reach out and touch the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The work is an out-growth of an intense desire by the church members to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus.

The motion to consider a single regional association was passed unanimously.



## Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund

by Leon M. Maltby  
Chairman  
Christian Social Action Committee

That time of year when we recognize the bountiful blessings of God (Thanksgiving Day) is almost upon us. This is a time of special appeals from many worthy Christian agencies claiming our attention. No claim should have a higher priority than one which concerns our own work as Seventh Day Baptists, for we express our love and concern best through our own channels. Our primary aim is to proclaim the gospel, not forgetting to stress the joys of keeping the Sabbath of the Lord a holy day. But the gospel is more than the good news of what Christ has done for us; it must be lived out in terms of what we do for Christ. He said about social service "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)

Seventh Day Baptists a number of years ago set up a Christian Social Action Com-

mittee and gave it the responsibility of promoting and allocating the Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund (SDBURF). Thus in an organized way we all cooperate in "doing it unto the least of these my brethren." It was an idea, as one has said, whose time had come. Through SDBURF we have been able to meet many emergency needs that could not have been met adequately without the reserve fund. Many have thanked us, and untold thousands in foreign lands have thanked the Lord for life or a better life.

We can and we must continue to be prepared for famine and other natural catastrophies. Money may be sent to the Conference Treasurer at the S.D.B. Center in Janesville at any time. But "any time" is hard to remember. Sabbath, Nov. 23, is the focus date; it is SDBURF Day. How much is needed? Not less than six or seven thousand dollars. A Pre-Thanksgiving check brings joy to the giver and puts hands and feet on our desire to serve others. SR

## Severe earthquake strikes Mexico

Severe earthquakes struck Mexico on September 19th and 20th. Rescue efforts from the first earthquake were just getting underway when the second struck 36 hours later.

Latest reports from the Mexican Government state that 3,461 people have died (*Washington Post*, Monday, Sept. 23/85). It is feared that many more have died and that the total number dead will be several thousands more. One source estimates that the total will reach 10,000.

Many injured in the first earthquake died in the collapse of two crowded hospitals in the second. As many as 900 people may have lost their lives in one of the hospitals destroyed.

Extensive property damage was sustained in the center of Mexico City. Office buildings, hotels, apartment buildings, hospitals, schools, churches, and many more have been destroyed.

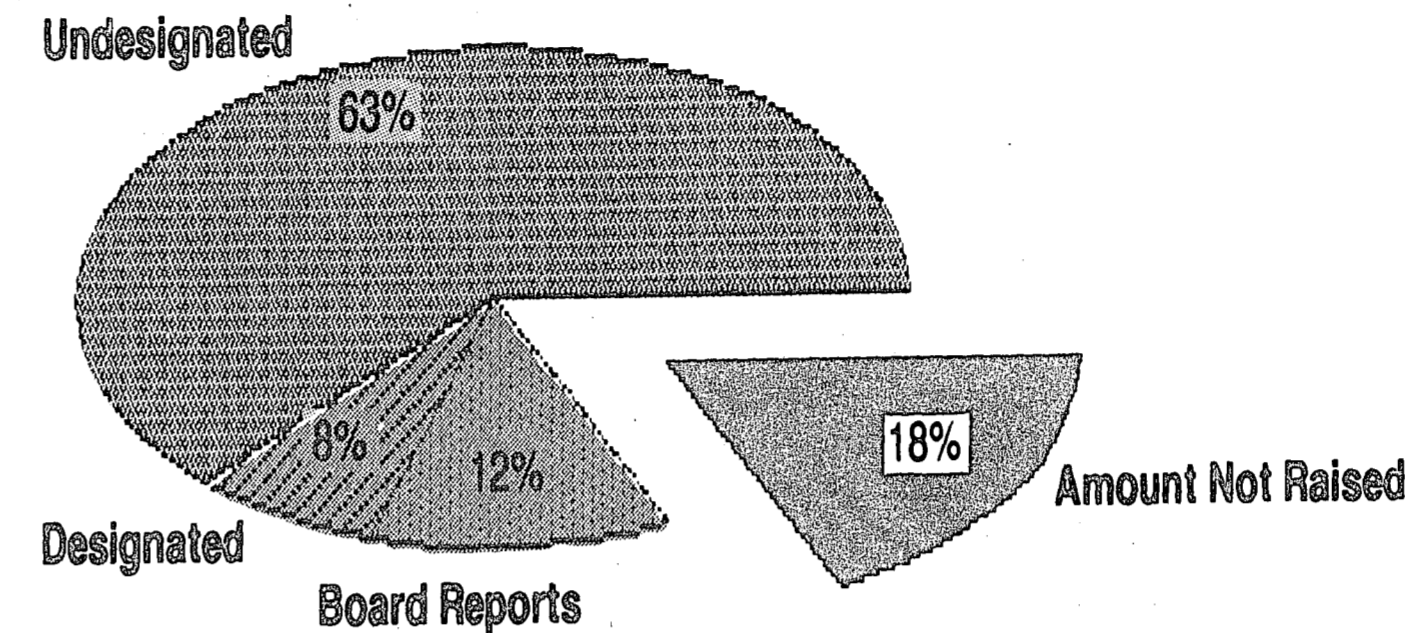
Rescue workers continue to cut through steel and concrete in hope of finding survivors in the tangle of twisted wreckage of the buildings in the center of the city.

Damage is reported from other parts of Mexico. Some people have died as a result of the earthquake, but casualties appear to be light by comparison with Mexico City. The brunt of the disaster has been borne by the capital city and its people.

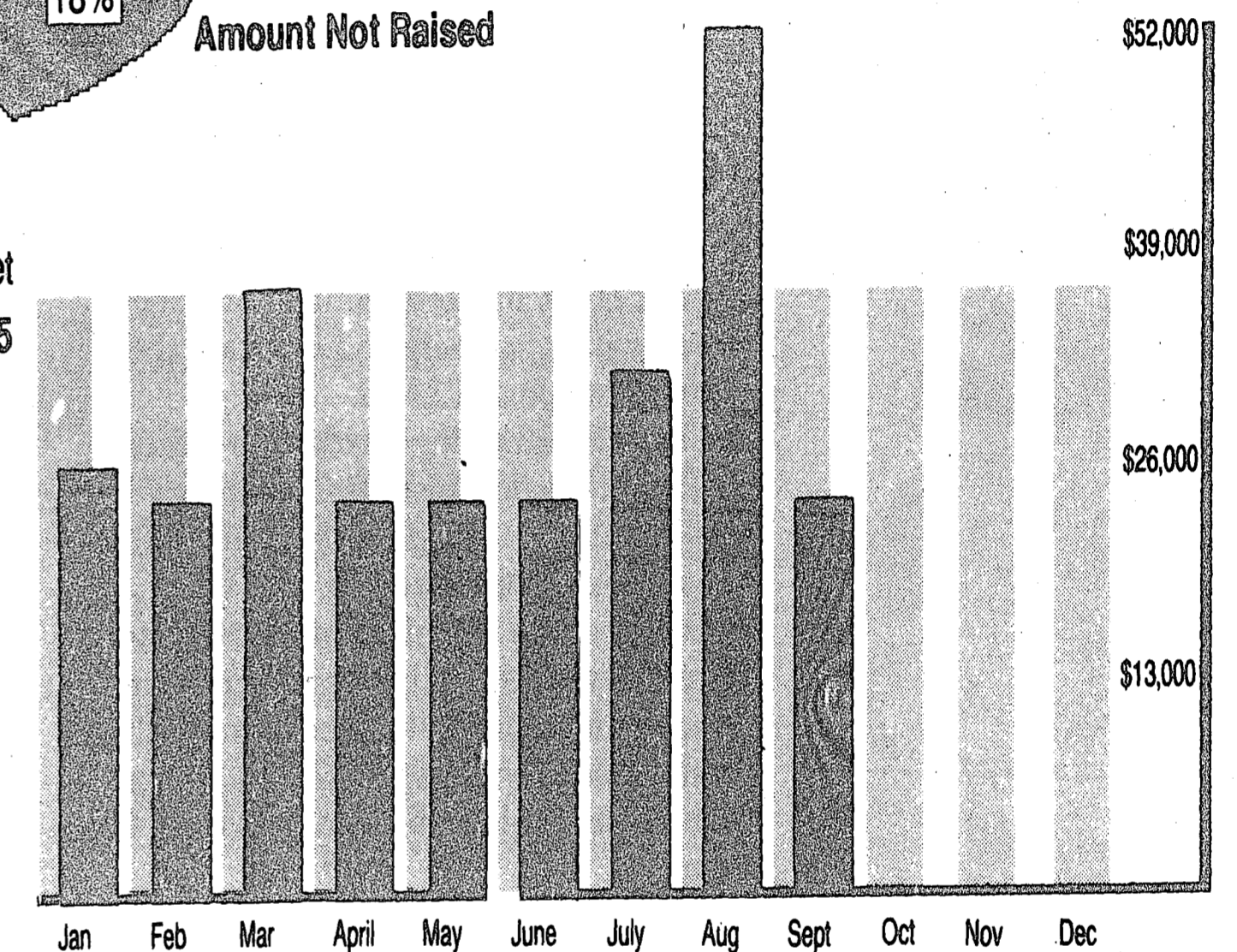
Baptist World Aid will serve as a channel for assistance to the victims of the earthquake. An initial response of \$10,000 will go immediately, and further help as soon as effective means are established.

Send gifts to Baptist World Aid to assist in this emergency. They may be sent through the SDB United Relief Fund, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, Wisconsin 53547. SR

## Our World Mission budget update



Needed per month to meet budget  
\$35,585



At General Conference sessions in 1985, the Conference voted to include a monthly update on the status of the denomination's budget. Information provided here is as of the end of September, 1985.

Pastor Elias Comacho reports Seventh Day Baptist churches undamaged.

Yes! I want to be a partner in Our World Mission.

### My Partnership Plan:

- One week's salary or income  
 Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

### This contribution is for:

- OWM undesignated giving  
 OWM designated for:  
 Evangelism and Missions  
 Christian Education  
 Publishing (Sabbath Recorder, Lead-Line, Tracts)  
 Leadership Training (Ministerial or Lay Training)  
 Hunger Relief (SDB United Relief Fund)

Please make checks payable to Our World Mission.



## Births

**Wright.**—A son, Ryan Michael Wright, was born to Vern and Betsy De (Richards) Wright of Brookfield, New York, on March 16, 1985.

**Wiley.**—A daughter, Carol Jeannette Wiley, was born to Bill and Donna (Davis) Wiley, of Sherrill, New York, on April 14, 1985.

**Shoemaker.**—Christina Olitha Lenice Shoemaker was born to Charles and

Lenice (Hedghes) Shoemaker of Graham, Washington, on June 2, 1985.

**Tucker.**—A daughter, Valerie Ann Tucker, was born to Steve and Nancy (Davis) Tucker, of Verona, New York, on August 20, 1985.

**Gaff.**—A daughter, Shontel Margreta Gaff, was born to Jody and Vicky (White) Gaff of Utica, New York, on September 20, 1985.

## A stitch in T. I. M. E.

boards and agencies. This plus the wide denominational scope brings the T.I.M.E. project to the Coordinating Leadership Team. Here, the denominational executives will coordinate and evaluate the overall scope of T.I.M.E.

The Coordinating Leadership Team wants to be optimistic and visionary but also cautious because this is a new direction for us. Therefore, the CLT will embark on an examination of past and present models of the church, ministry, and leadership. With these in mind they will explore possibilities for the future which are both biblical and Seventh Day Baptist.

The exploration of these models of the past, present and future will be initiated by the presentation of Catalyst Papers prepared on these subjects by Rod Henry. The Catalyst Papers will be written to stimulate discussion and observations about the church, ministry, and leadership within the CLT.

Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate, in reviewing the T.I.M.E. project, indicates excitement about its possibilities.

*Since 1976 when Seventh Day Baptists found out about Church Growth and heard anew the "Great Commission," we have been looking for the way to proceed that was right for us. This study of our present understanding of the church and how we got this way should help us know how to share our faith in a way that will honor God and increase our understanding of his Good News for today. I am personally excited about the potential for this new project.*

Cont. from page 7

At the 1986 Area Spiritual Retreats, the CLT discussions and observations about the Seventh Day Baptist model of the church ministry and leadership will be shared with those pastors in attendance. Pastors at the Area Spiritual Retreats will have plenty of opportunity to respond to these models and to the T.I.M.E. project as well. (These will be "pastors only" retreats and it is hoped that every church will make it possible for its pastor to attend. They will be in Riverside, California, on March 18-20, in Milton, Wisconsin, on April 8-10, and in Verona, New York, on April 15-17. Please see "Leadline" inserts or contact Rod Henry at the Seventh Day Baptist Center for complete details on the retreats.)

Training In Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) is a new step for Seventh Day Baptists. We will not be borrowing programs developed by other denominations which do not quite fit our setting and needs. We will be surveying new ground in many ways. For this reason please pray for the Council on Ministry, the Missionary Society, the Coordinating Leadership Team, and Rod Henry as they work together on T.I.M.E.

T.I.M.E. is an attempt to take advantage of our ministry and extension opportunities while they still exist. If we do not take advantage of them now, then we may have to spend much more in the future trying to get those opportunities again. "A stitch in time saves nine." Please pray for this "stitch in T.I.M.E." SR

## Obituaries

**Babcock.**—Mrs. Mabel B. Babcock was born December 28, 1917, in Ellisburg, New York, to Charles Butz and Ina Zufeldt Butz. She was married to the Rev. Orville W. Babcock on August 16, 1937, in Adams Center, New York, where the Rev. Babcock was pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

They served together in Adams Center, New York, Salemville, Pennsylvania, and Milton Jct., Wisconsin, before moving to White Cloud, Michigan, in 1948. After moving to White Cloud, Mabel worked for Gerber Products in Fremont, attaining the positions of Supervisor of Secretarial Services and Corporate Librarian before her retirement in 1979. Mabel was a member of the National Secretaries' Association, Women's Resource Council, and Friends of the Library.

Mabel had been elected to the Board of Deacons in December, 1984, to serve as deaconess. She has also been active in her church in many other ways that will cause the void left by her going home to her Lord to be the more keenly felt with the passing of time. Mabel served as church clerk for many years. She was active in the Ladies' Aid, and served as their president. Mabel was part of the task force that formed the present North Central Association of Seventh Day Baptists, and has served in numerous other positions in the Church and the Association.

Mabel is survived by her husband, Orville, one son (George and Emmy Babcock of Allegan), one brother (George Loomis of Adams, New York) and three grandchildren. L.O.W.

**Randolph.**—Orson W. F. Randolph of Daytona Beach, Florida, died September 5, 1985, in the Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach at the age of 92 years. He was born September 26, 1892, in S. Plainfield, New Jersey, the son of Alexander and Jessie Witter F. Randolph.

Mr. Randolph was employed by the New Jersey road department before his retirement. He worked at the Sabbath Recorder Press for many years. He was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, and was ordained and served as a deacon for many years. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 270 of Daytona Beach.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie. A son, Kenneth, and a daughter, Evelyn Ahearn, 8 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 16 great, great-grandchildren survive to honor their memory of him.

Funeral Services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Kenneth Van Horn of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist church. Graveside services were conducted by the memorial team of the Masonic Lodge and Rev. Van Horn. Interment was in Cedar Hill Memory Gardens, Daytona Beach. K.V.H.

**Sutton.**—Oma C. Sutton, 84, of Berea, West Virginia, died September 9, 1985, after a period of declining health.

Born July 9, 1901, to Herman and Genevieve (Gribble) Sutton at Berea, he became a member of the Ritchie Seventh Day Baptist Church at Berea where his membership remained throughout his lifetime. He married Nellie Davis at Berea on October 26, 1923. (Oma and his brother, Guy Sutton, married sisters in a double wedding on that date and celebrated their common 50th wedding anniversary on October 26, 1973.)

Oma moved from Berea to Akron, Ohio, where he worked in a tire producing related industry until his retirement in the '70s when he returned to Berea to live out his last years.

Gardening, wood-working, fishing, hunting and playing music on any of the four, stringed musical instruments he played, were pastimes he enjoyed.

Surviving him besides his wife Nellie are; daughter, Dewanda (Gribble) McVicker of Kent, Ohio, and three grandchildren, all of the Akron area.

Funeral services were held September 11, 1985, in Pennsboro, West Virginia, with the Revs. Harlan Hodge and Edward Sutton officiating. Interment was in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Berea. E.S.

*For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.*

## Accessions

Lakeside City, Texas  
W. L. Sharon, Pastor

Joined by Letter  
Danny Lee  
Danita Lee

Tucson, Arizona  
(Denver, Co., branch)  
W.E. Shoffner, Jr., Pastor

Joined after Testimony  
Jeff Crandall

Joined by Letter  
Denise Crandall

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

Joined after Baptism  
Waveney Blackman



# The wind and fire of the Spirit

by Gabriel Bejjani

*The following is the third in a series on The Great Commission. It was originally presented at Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, 1985. Rev. Gabriel Bejjani is the pastor of the Los Angeles, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church.*

Monkeys are very funny creatures. When my wife and I take our children to the zoo, we always go to see the monkeys. My children will stay there, watching the monkeys, as long as I will allow them. The children make gestures and faces, and the monkeys seem to imitate them.

The story is told of a missionary who was going to Africa and had to walk quite a distance. As they were walking, monkeys were accompanying them all the way. The monkeys were imitating them as they walked.

One morning they got up and the missionary looked around, and the monkeys were not there. He began to look around and found them on the other side of the hill. He was very surprised. They were really busy going around from one place to another and coming to the middle apparently putting something there. The missionary got his binoculars and he began to watch them as they were picking up sticks of wood. The monkeys made a pile of wood in the middle and surrounded it attempting to warm themselves. They had seen the missionaries doing this in the morning and at night, and so the monkeys imitated them. They did everything the missionaries had done except one thing was missing—there was no fire!

Sometimes we are busy like these monkeys, but there is no fire. The fire is missing. Christ does not want us to be witnesses without the fire. He wants the fire to be in us so that we are not witnessing with emptiness in our words. He wants a fire in our midst!

I want to take you back in history for a moment and visualize the situation that was happening in Acts chapter 2. The doors are closed. There are about 120 in the upper room. They are sitting, waiting

and praying, as Jesus has told them to. Then suddenly we start to hear wind—a strong wind, coming right here in the midst of this room. Now I ask one of you to go and see if there is any wind outside; if there is a storm coming. You look outside and there is no storm, no wind, nothing is moving. So you get a little scared. You come back and sit and the sound of the wind is increasing in its intensity. You look around you. You are seeing something strange now. You are seeing fire on the head of each person beside you and in front of you. Do you see that tongue of fire? Yet their hair is not burning.

What a scene! It scared the disciples, but it was an incredible scene—a beautiful scene! Wind and fire—let us think of these two symbols.

Wind and fire—what does the wind symbolize? Look at John, chapter 3:7, 8. Jesus is speaking with Nicodemus and says, "The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." The wind has been a symbol of the Spirit.

Now, look in the Old Testament, Ezekiel, chapter 37:5, 9, the vision of the dry bones. "Thus saith the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live.'" (Or, Spirit to enter you and you shall live.) The word for Spirit in Hebrew means wind. Then in verse nine he says, "Prophesy son of man and say to the breath or the spirit, breathe on these slain that they may live."

No matter how dry as bones we are, this Spirit will come and will make us live—make us alive. This is the prophecy that was fulfilled in Luke 3:16 when it speaks of this prophecy that they were to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. It was fulfilled that day. What does the wind do? The wind, when it comes, blows many things away. In your minds, there are some cobwebs and dust. This wind is

here, now, to blow these cobwebs and dust away so we will be free and not paralyzed any more.

The fire is coming! What does the fire do? In Luke 3:17 we read, "His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor, to gather the wheat into his granary. But the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So what does the fire do? It burns anything—it burns. So the fire of the Holy Spirit is in us, now, to burn anything in us that will cripple our walk with Christ—our witnessing walk with him. That is what the fire is going to do in you and in me. But the fire does more than that—not only does it burn everything, but it also refines things. This refining process began in my life years ago and it is still going on. I hope it is beginning in your life, if it has not already begun to refine you. But the fire adds one more thing to us. The fire adds enthusiasm! It kindles enthusiasm. Friends, I want to put you on fire so you will have enthusiasm and be able to share this good news and indeed be following in the steps of the apostles in the great commission. The Holy Spirit puts us on fire to be enthused.

The power came on the disciples and apostles for this simple reason: that it will change them from common, uneducated people into powerful witnesses for Jesus Christ. That is exactly what happened. But, there is another reason, perhaps just as important, that maybe you have not thought of. I would like you to start thinking of that reason now, as we see what happened to these apostles. What is this other reason for the Holy Spirit besides giving them boldness and power and changing them to people who were not afraid to share their faith even though they were uneducated? Look at Acts 2:1-6 as this experience unfolds. The people were gathering around them and Peter stood up to preach in verse 14. There was a change in Peter. This is the same Peter that followed Christ from afar and denied Christ three times. He is changed now.

Throughout the Acts of the apostles, we see how many times this happened. He had this boldness, no matter what the consequences. He was not following Christ from afar any more. He was a changed man.

What is the second reason for the Holy Spirit and Pentecost? Let us look at Acts 8. What was the background of this first group in the early church? It was Jewish. This will give us insight into the second reason for the Holy Spirit. They were mainly Jews. There were three thousand added and then two thousand and they are increasing. In Acts 8 we see Philip going some place. In verse 5 we read that he went to Samaria. Is this not strange? Why would he go there? When the apostles were with Jesus, did they not ask that fire come down from heaven and destroy Samaria? Why is Philip going to Samaria? They were told to go into all the world. But something had to be broken—prejudice! That is the second reason for the Pentecost—barriers of prejudice had to be broken down. That is what was happening with Philip.

How is this related to us today, as a church, a denomination? Do we have prejudices? Think about it. Philip went to Samaria and preached there. We see in verse 14 that the apostles doubted that these Samaritans had a true conversion. So a couple of apostles went to make sure that the Samaritans had the Holy Spirit. There was good intention in sending the apostles, but they were not really sure of the conversion of the Samaritans. In verse 26, Philip, after being such a successful missionary in this city, the Lord tells him to go. And he went—where? To a desert road.

*The Holy Spirit puts us on fire to be enthused.*

*Peter was not following Christ from afar any more. He was a changed man.*



Can you see Philip as he asks Lord, why? "Why are you sending me from a populated city to a desert road?" But it does not say he questioned the Lord. He went. But as he went, there was a chariot going by. The Lord told him, "go, and witness to this man." The chariot is being pulled by horses and is going quite fast. We see Philip here running, until he caught up with the chariot. He is talking to the eunuch while he is running, out of breath. Then the eunuch stopped the chariot and Philip got in and started to share with him. He sent the first missionary to Ethiopia. And the word spread. But prejudice barriers had to be broken down.

Look now at Chapter 10, Peter's vision. Peter had a lot of prejudice. So, the Lord gave him a vision, to prepare him. We read, "Kill and eat, from all these animals."

But Peter said, "Lord, I cannot. There are some that are unclean."

And God said, "Do not say that what I am telling you is unclean. Do not make it unclean. Kill and eat!"

**We are all for the great commission, but the right kind of growth. What we mean is the right kind of people. The Holy Spirit does not want prejudices to be in our minds.**

Then in the morning, the Lord told Peter to go to an Italian man named Cornelius and talk to him. I could see Peter—hesitating. Can you imagine Peter going there with the foul smelling Italian sausage, the pork, being cooked in that house? Can you see the feelings going on inside of him? But he went there anyway. The Holy Spirit used Peter in spite of his hesitation. But when Peter returned, he had to defend himself. In Acts 11:7 he defended himself to all those Judaizers in the church. He said, "If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus

Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" Who am I that I can withstand God?

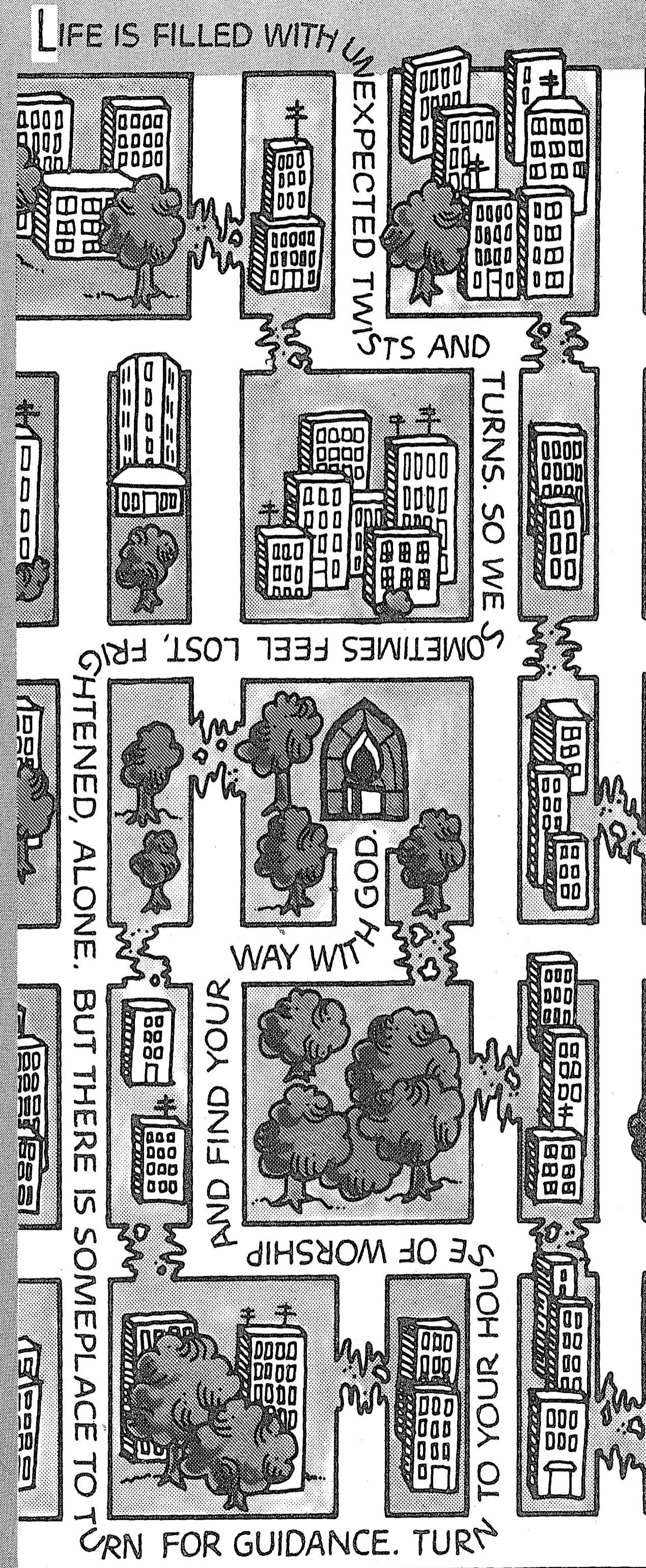
We continue to see in Acts the struggle that was going on with this prejudice. Now in what ways are we prejudiced? We say we want to follow the great commission. I want to give you a few numbers here which I think resemble us in so many ways. I would say that the apostles at this time, although their numbers were increasing day by day, were not more than 50,000—just like us, around the world. They could not have been more. They were mainly Jews, so they were threatened by outsiders. Do you feel frightened at times? We do not want Gentiles to come in. We are all for the great commission, but the right kind of growth. What we mean is the right kind of people. We want people who are an asset, with backgrounds that we agree with so they will not come and change what we have. What if they will be in committees and want to do things different from what we are doing and bring some new ideas—what will happen? The Holy Spirit wants to break this down. He does not want these prejudices to be in our minds. We say yes to the great commission, but in reality we are saying no to the great commission.

I want us to have this wind, this fire that is going to break these prejudices and give us the power to move ahead as witnesses of Christ.

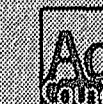
We read in Psalm 85:6, "Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in thee?" The Holy Spirit wants to come and revive us again. Do you know what the word "revive" means? It comes from a Hebrew word some of you have heard before. It is my wife's name: Hyatt. It means "life." That is why I know it very well. It comes from a verb that means "to bring back to life." Christ wants to bring us back to life. He wants to put his Spirit in us—kindle this fire of enthusiasm. He wants to bring us back to life. He is ready. Are you ready to be brought back to life? I hope that everyone is ready for this revival that the Holy Spirit wants to bring in us.

SR

The Sabbath Recorder



**ADRIAL**  
RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE.





# Photo Contest

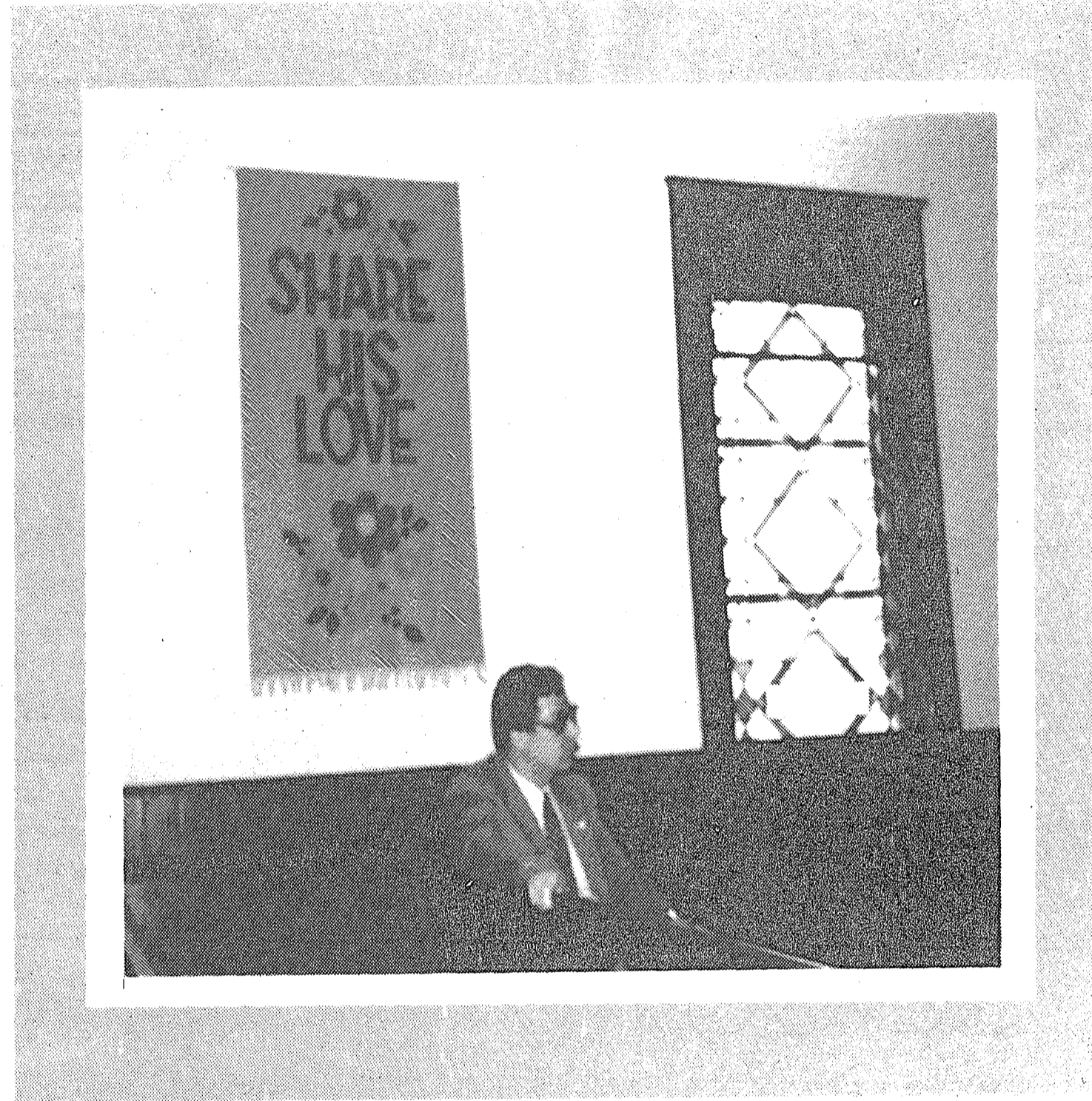
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## Camp and Fellowship Activities

Age Groups  
12-16  
17-22

Black & White prints  
Identify and mail  
Deadline: December 31  
See your Pastor for Entry Forms



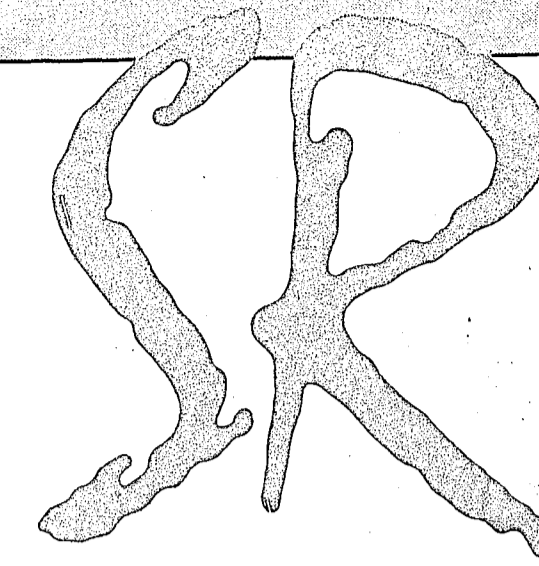
Age Groups  
12-16  
17-22

## Religious Objects

Prizes: Four (by age group in each category)  
First: Picture in Calendar and \$35.00 for Pre-Con or General Conference.  
Second: Picture in Calendar and \$20.00 for Pre-Con or General Conference.  
Send to: Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education  
15 South Main Street  
Alfred, NY 14802

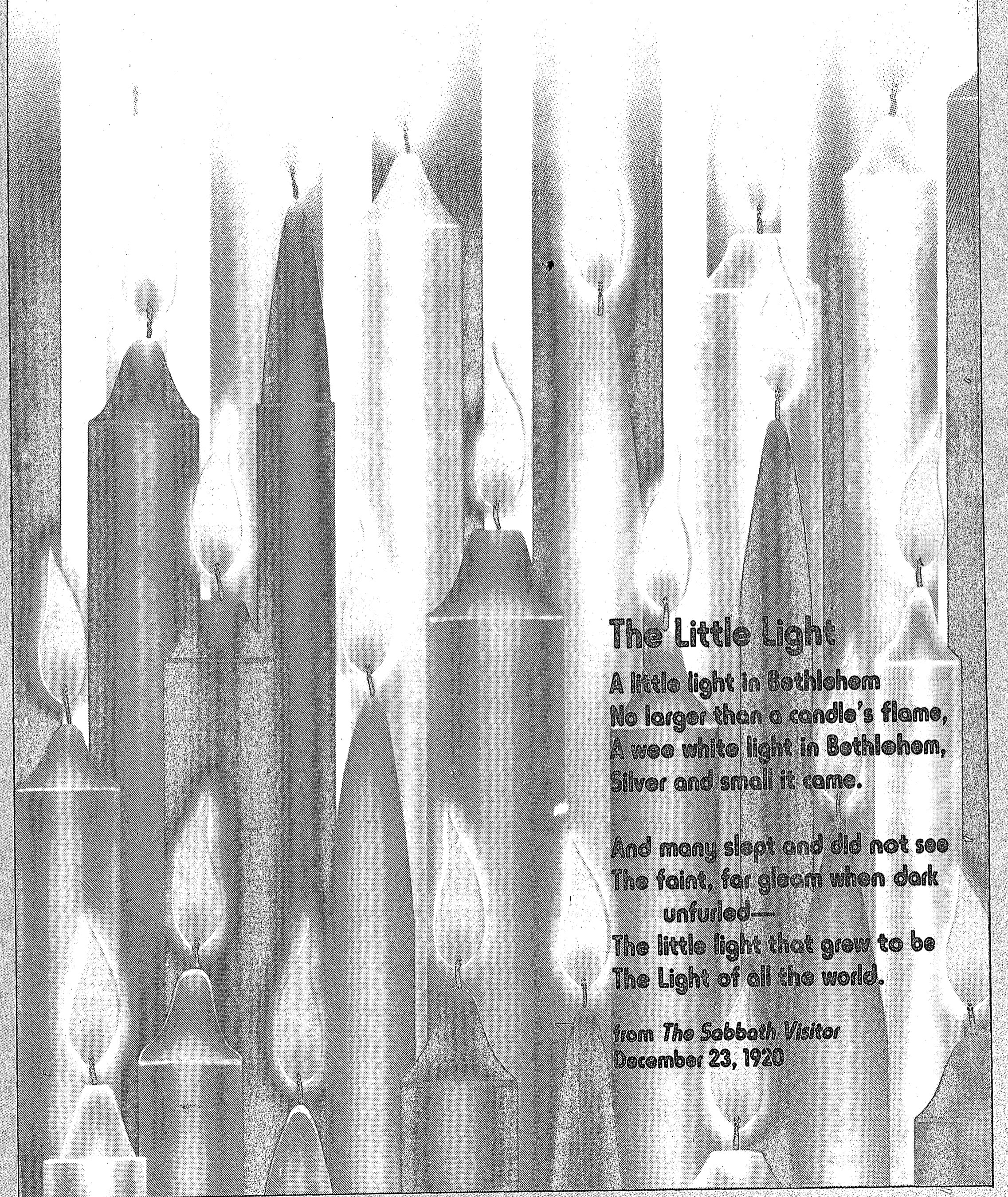
The Seventh Day Baptist

# Sabbath



December 1985

# Recorder



### The Little Light

A little light in Bethlehem  
No larger than a candle's flame,  
A wee white light in Bethlehem,  
Silver and small it came.

And many slept and did not see  
The faint, far gleam when dark  
unfurled—

The little light that grew to be  
The Light of all the world.

from *The Sabbath Visitor*  
December 23, 1920