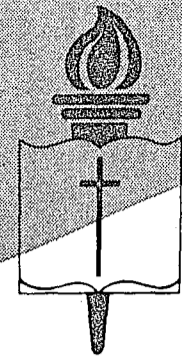


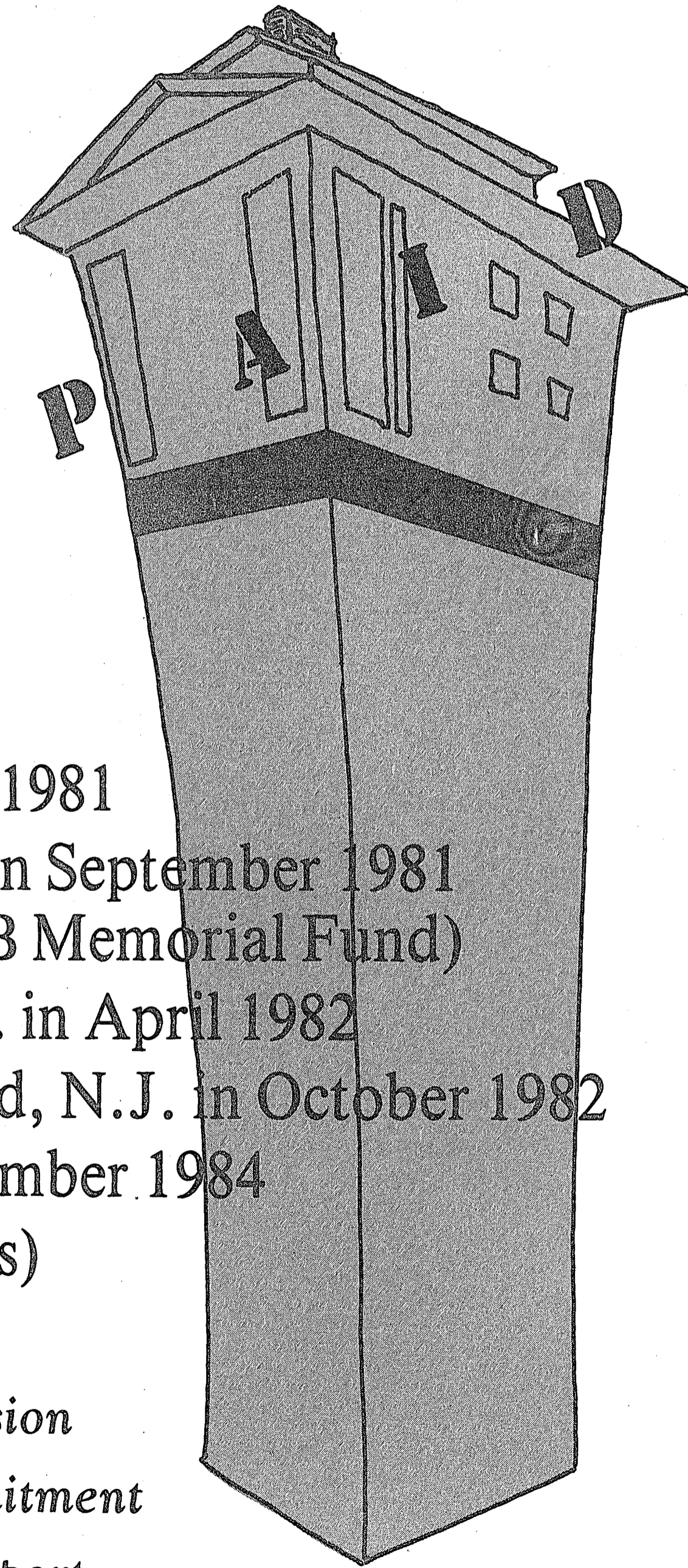
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Voted to move in August 1981
Purchased new property in September 1981
(with help of the SDB Memorial Fund)
Moved to Janesville, Wis. in April 1982
Sold property in Plainfield, N.J. in October 1982
Paid for building in November 1984
(3 years and 3 months)
Praise the Lord!

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Commitment
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March 1985

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SABBATH RECORDER

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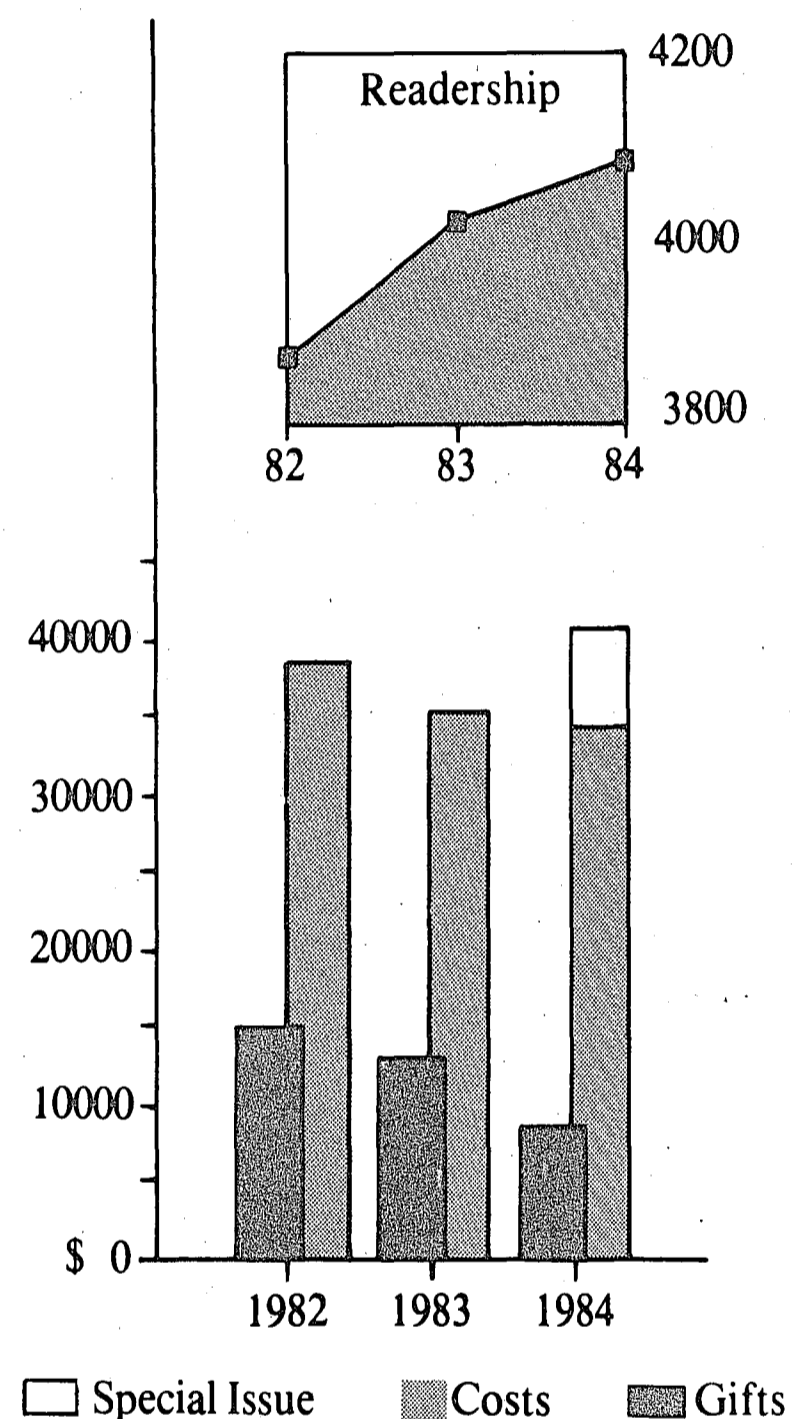


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SR

The Sabbath Recorder

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Since 1844



Today, *The Sabbath Recorder* is reaching more people than ever before. As the chart above illustrates, costs for producing the regular monthly issues have declined from \$38,228 in 1982 to \$34,091 in 1984.

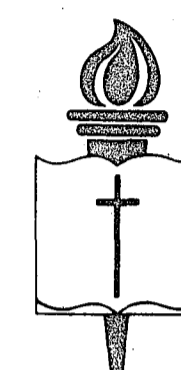
This decrease in the cost of the normal monthly issues has been achieved in the face of a growing mailing list and the associated increased mailing costs.

However, there has also been a decrease in the number of dollars donated for the work of *The Sabbath Recorder*.

Your tax deductible gift will help to reverse this trend and bring the magazine into the homes of all Seventh Day Baptists as well as the homes of many who are just getting acquainted with the denomination.

The Sabbath Recorder

March 1985
Volume 207, No. 3
Whole No. 6,681



A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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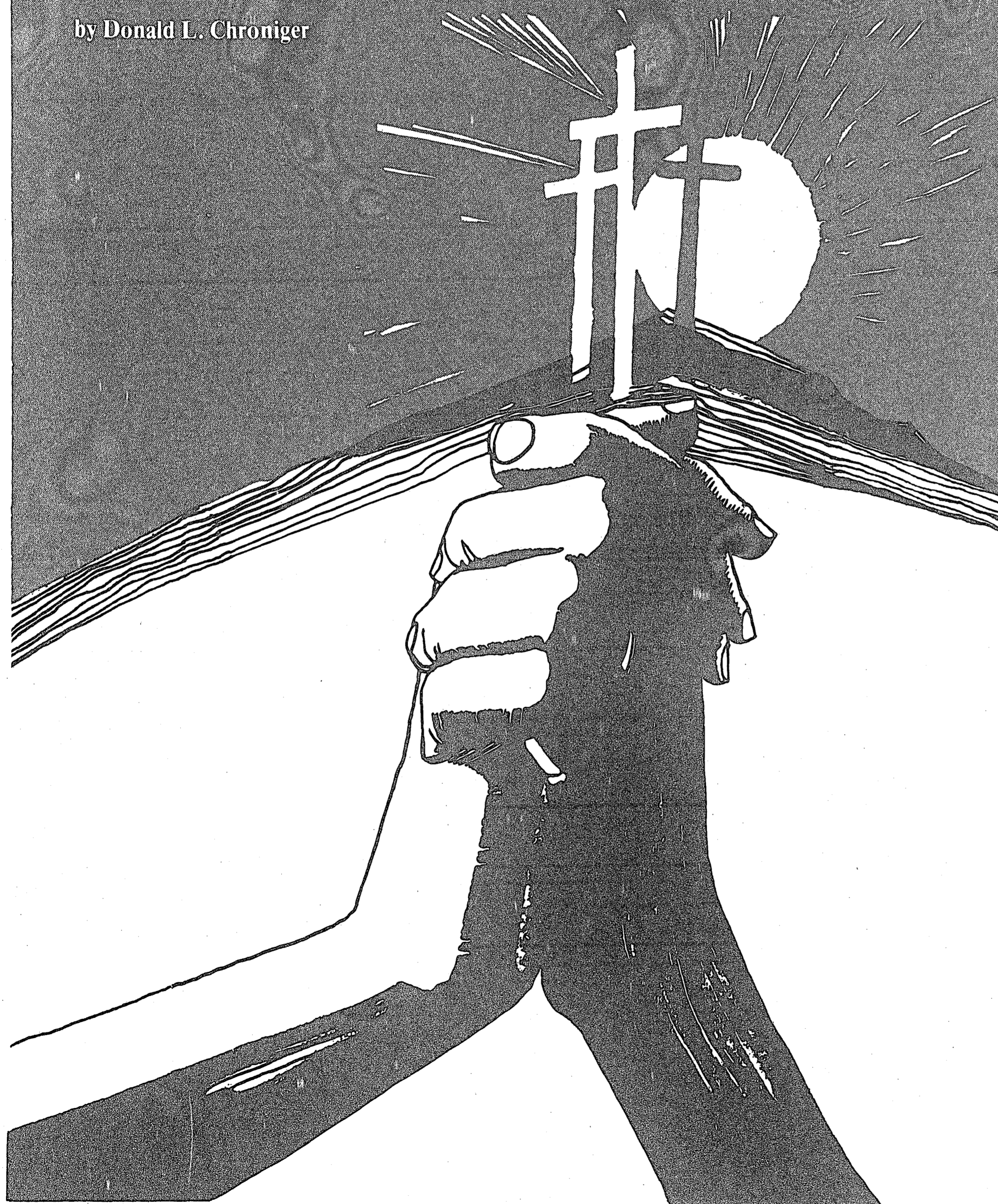
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The revival of prayer

by Donald L. Chroniger



Today we look around and we see signs of a weakness of faith, weakness in the work of ministry, and the struggle between maintenance and mission. Is it possible that we have lost the glimpse of Christ interceding on our behalf? (Romans 8:34) Is it possible that we have lost the idea that Christians have the Holy Spirit in them to provide the grace to do God's will? (Ephesians 1:13) The force and the power of all this cuts in our hearts and brings us to confess: we pray too little and forget too much.

It has been said that the first step in finding a solution to a problem is to recognize the problem. It also has been said that the first step in deepening the church's relationship to her Master is the realization of sin in her life.

Charles Finney illustrates:

"I once knew a minister who had a revival fourteen winters in succession. I did not know how to account for it until I saw one of his members get up in a prayer meeting and make a confession. 'Brethren,' he said, 'I have been long in the habit of praying every Saturday night till after midnight for the descent of the Holy Ghost upon us. And now, brethren, (and he began to weep), I confess that I have neglected it for two or three weeks.' The secret was out. That minister had a praying church."¹

Historically, revivals for which we have records have been immersed in prayer. Biblically, the pouring out of God's Holy Spirit is in connection with prayer; prayer that produces *one-accord-ness* from *divided-ness*. In Acts 1:14 we read:

"They all joined together constantly in prayer." Ten days passed—ten days of waiting and this is what followed:

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were together in one place. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and three thousand were added to their number that day."

From this point the early Christians met together in homes and continued to praise God together. In Acts four, they pray after the persecution of Peter and John, recognizing the sovereignty

We must confess: we pray too little and forget too much.

of God and the fulfillment of Scripture. They ask for boldness to speak, for the words to speak, and for confirmation by the action of God.

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

We see that prayer is miraculously linked to the filling of the Spirit. In Acts 10 we find the story of Peter and Cornelius, both of whom were

Prayer is miraculously linked to the filling of the Spirit.

praying. God, in answer to prayer, sends Peter in connection to Cornelius' need. Because of prayer, the Word of God is proclaimed and the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. We could go on and on talking about the importance prayer took on in the early church. Prayer was a major part in: 1) the selection of deacons (Acts 6:1-4), so that the apostles could "give attention to prayer and the ministry of

the word"; 2) the apostles praying for those in Samaria to receive the Spirit (Acts 8:14-17); 3) in the conversion of Saul, both Saul and Ananias are praying (Acts 9:10-16); 4) the release of Peter from prison, where the church earnestly prays to God for him (Acts 12:5); and 5) the calling of Paul and Barnabas for the work as missionaries (Acts 13:3). These examples, plus many others, point to one thing. If we want to be people of faith, strong in ministry, concerned about missions, then we must pray. We must pray, believing that the one who is our advocate will be praying and that the Holy Spirit will be carrying our prayers to the very ear of God.

Andrew Murray, who taught much concerning prayer, said many years ago:

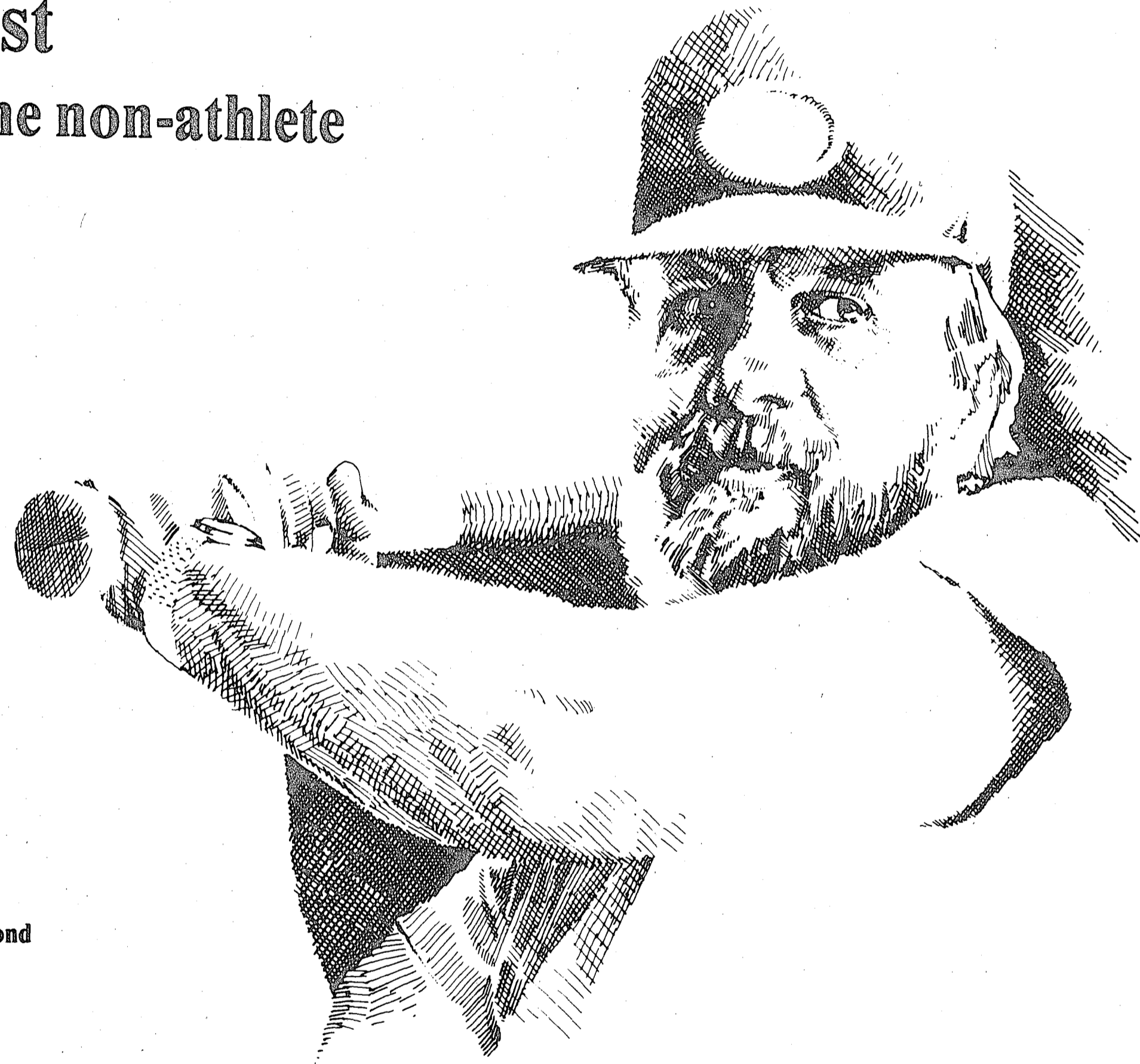
"Jesus Christ is the Healer of all diseases, the Conqueror of all enemies, the Deliverer from all sin; if our failure teaches us to turn afresh to Him, and find in Him the grace to pray as we ought, this humiliation may become our greatest blessing. Let us all unite in praying to God that He would visit our souls and fit us for that work of intercession, which is at this moment the greatest need of the Church and the world."

Today this should be our prayer and exclamation—that God will visit us in this way as Seventh Day Baptists. SR

¹Bounds, E.M., *Purpose in Prayer*, Baker Book House, 1978, page 154.

Christ and the non-athlete

by Timothy Bond



To start off an essay such as this, the term *non-athlete* should be defined; but, lacking a dictionary definition, I shall illustrate.

The most highly organized form of athletic competition I ever participated in was Little League Baseball. The tryouts I remember well. When signing up, I proudly told the man filling out the form that my best position was *right field*. Later I learned why I was such a good right fielder in the unorganized games played on the ball field next to Shiloh School. It is a hallowed tradition, extending to this day, to place the worst player on the team in right field because the fewest balls are hit to right field.

During tryouts, the hit which I am sure saved me from the farm league and placed me on Shoemaker Dairy's team was a lucky line drive which probably travelled all of 25 feet. It went all the way from my bat at home plate to the mid-section of a middle-aged father turned pitcher for tryout night. He caught the ball in self-defense, but he also remembered Bond could hit.

The highlight of my two-season baseball career came a little over a year later when I hit a ball that bounced once and came within an inch or two of going over the centerfield fence for an automatic double. I must have been showing off that night because

cheering me on from the prestigious position of my dugout was my guest—company all the way from Wisconsin—John Camenga. Twenty some odd years later, he is now my pastor.

Please do not assume that my non-athletic sports career ended with a hit.

I remember Coach Jim Moncrief teaching us some plays in church league basketball a few years later. In one play, I would have the ball at midcourt and a guard would yell some numbers like a quarterback. This meant the right forward was ready to catch the ball a few feet from the basket, dribble a couple of times and

score two points. It was easy in practice. I would pivot from left-center court, wing the ball to the right forecourt corner, and that player would drop it in the basket. It was simple.

Now it was game time. Our guard shouted, "24-17-32." I got the signal. My man was always in position. If I looked for him, that would have given the play away. Right? I pivoted on my left foot and, with a little extra *game strength* that I did not use in practice, I fired the cannon ball toward the right forecourt corner. But, lo and behold, the enemy was also on the battlefield that night. As a matter of fact, one of their better players—Joe Campbell of the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church—was between me and my mark.

I first realized my error when I looked into those eyes. They were in the midst of gathering information for one of those high pressure decisions which were already giving Joe prematurely gray hair. They contained both a look of joy and desperation. The appearance of joy must have been caused by a fleeting dream of intercepting my pass, driving down court all alone, and scoring a bucket to the cheers of his teammates. The look of desperation came because, being reasonably intelligent, Joe knew that you do not catch cannonballs.

His arms started rising from his sides. I never asked him whether it was to catch the ball and pursue his dream, or if it was an act of self-defense. It was too late anyway. The cannonball met the immovable object, Joe's chest. The immovable object won. The ball careened out of bounds, Joe's eyes returned to their sockets, and he lived to call numbers like a quarterback later in the game. The purpose was not to announce a newly devised play; it was to ridicule a certain non-athlete.

About a year ago I had a birthday and turned the magical age of 35. That started me thinking. According to the world, I am still a young man; but, in reality, if life expectancy is about 70 years, then this is really middle age. To

many people, middle age is always about 10 years older than whatever age they are, but you and I know they are only fooling themselves.

In the book of I Corinthians there are two references to our bodies being the temples of God. In 3:17 we read, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." This may give one pause for thought as he wonders whether his middle-aged spread is considered by God to be a defiling of his temple. This theme is

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

continued in Chapter 6, verses 19 and 20. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Assuming an individual is basically in good health, does his body glorify God as it gasps for breath while ascending a flight of steps? Does it glorify God as it sags from disuse? Does one glorify God while spending evening after evening plopped in front of the television set, watching mundane programs because he is too tired to do something worthwhile following a day at the workplace?

If your answer to these questions is a resounding "no," yet—when asked whether they portray you to *some* degree—the answer is "yes," there is still hope for you. This hope can find

fulfillment through a three-phase program, the first of which is Bible study.

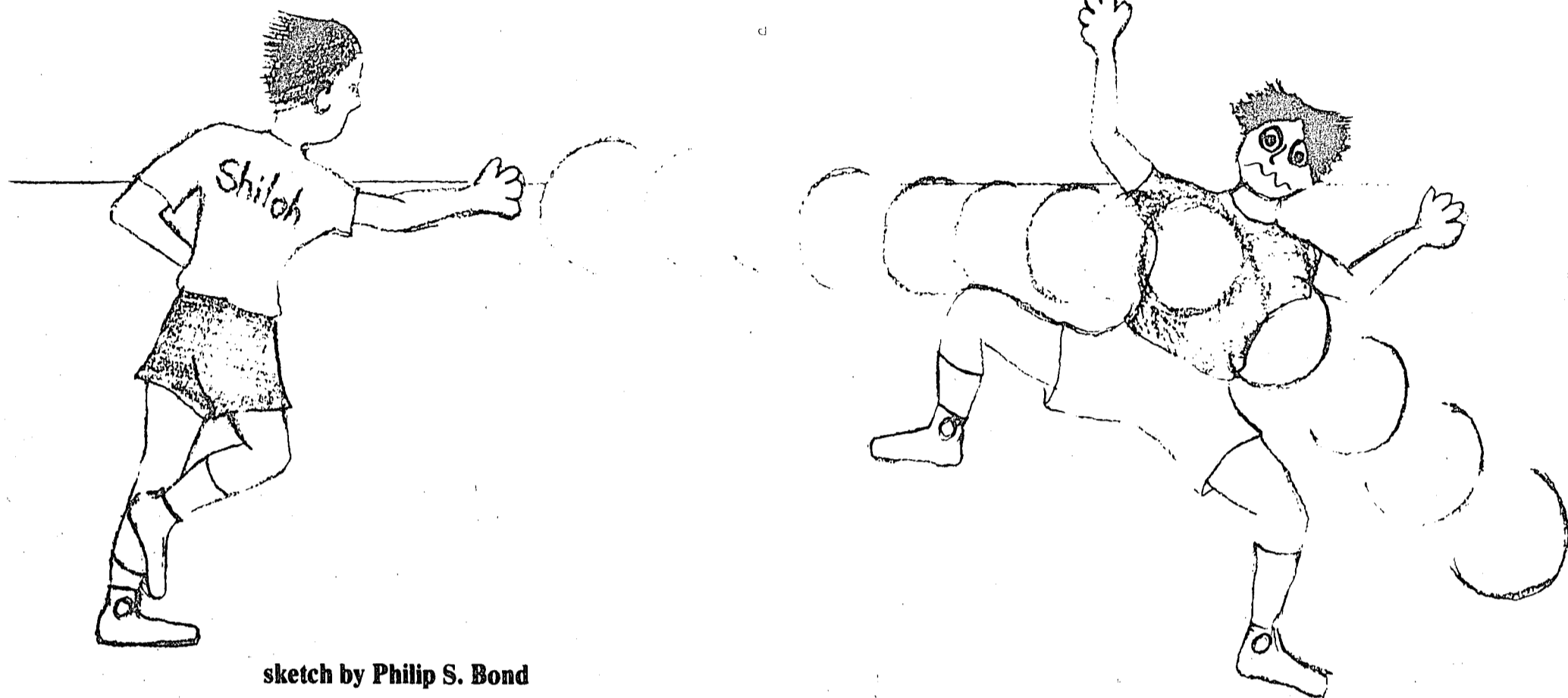
The Bible is a very human book. It tells the stories of many people who fell on their faces like you and I have, but they got back up and continued with God's work. Look at David and Elijah in the Old Testament, and Peter and Paul in the New Testament and remember the lapel button which says, "PBPGINFWMY" (Please be patient, God is not finished with me yet).

Study in the Bible about people and their relationship to God should lead to the second phase, which is the individual's relationship with God. The way one can relate to God is through talking to him. This is known as prayer, and it can feel a bit awkward talking with Jesus if he is not a close friend of yours yet. Following the advice given in I Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing" seems like a tall order at first. But if one shares joys, sorrows, problems and even loneliness with Christ all day, whether at home or at work, he soon will have developed a working rapport with a satisfying constant companion.

Phase three separates the men from the boys in the Christian sense of the word. In Hebrews 5 one reads, "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Just as the baby drinks milk while the adult eats meat, and the baby does not work while the adult does, the babe in Christ may not do works but the meat eater had better. Faith may be developed or strengthened in the first two steps of this program, but it needs to be demonstrated in the third phase. James 2:17 and 18 says, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast Faith, and I have Works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

There are as many different types of works to do as there are Christian



sketch by Philip S. Bond

personalities. These acts range from taking soup to the sick, to teaching Sabbath School, to fixing the neighbor child's bike, to giving shelter to a family whose home has been burned down, to coaching non-athletes in church league basketball. All these can be done as acts of Christian love. If Christ can give us the love to do these and hundreds more acts of kindness for others, he can also give us the love to perform similar works in helping ourselves.

The key to all of this is found in one word: discipline. Athletes know about discipline, soldiers do, and so should Christians. Discipline should be followed in having regular times of Bible study and prayer, as already mentioned, and it also should be followed in keeping the body in condition to better serve Christ.

There are Christian programs currently in operation which incorporate a self-discipline Bible study with nutritional information, diet planning and an exercise program to help take off pounds.

While speaking of exercise, one often thinks of calisthenics. These include push-ups, sit-ups, chin-ups, pull-ups and push-backs, to name a

few. The first four of these one may do from 10 to 100 each day to tone up the body. If a person is really out of shape, it would be wise to consult a physician before going too heavily into these forms of calisthenics.

Discipline for Bible study...discipline for prayer...discipline to keep the body in condition to better serve Christ.

The fifth calisthenic I mentioned may be begun today with no risk to heart or health. The push-back only needs to be performed three times a day with perhaps six hours of rest between attempts. It is performed from a sitting position at a kitchen or dining room table, and the most crucial part is

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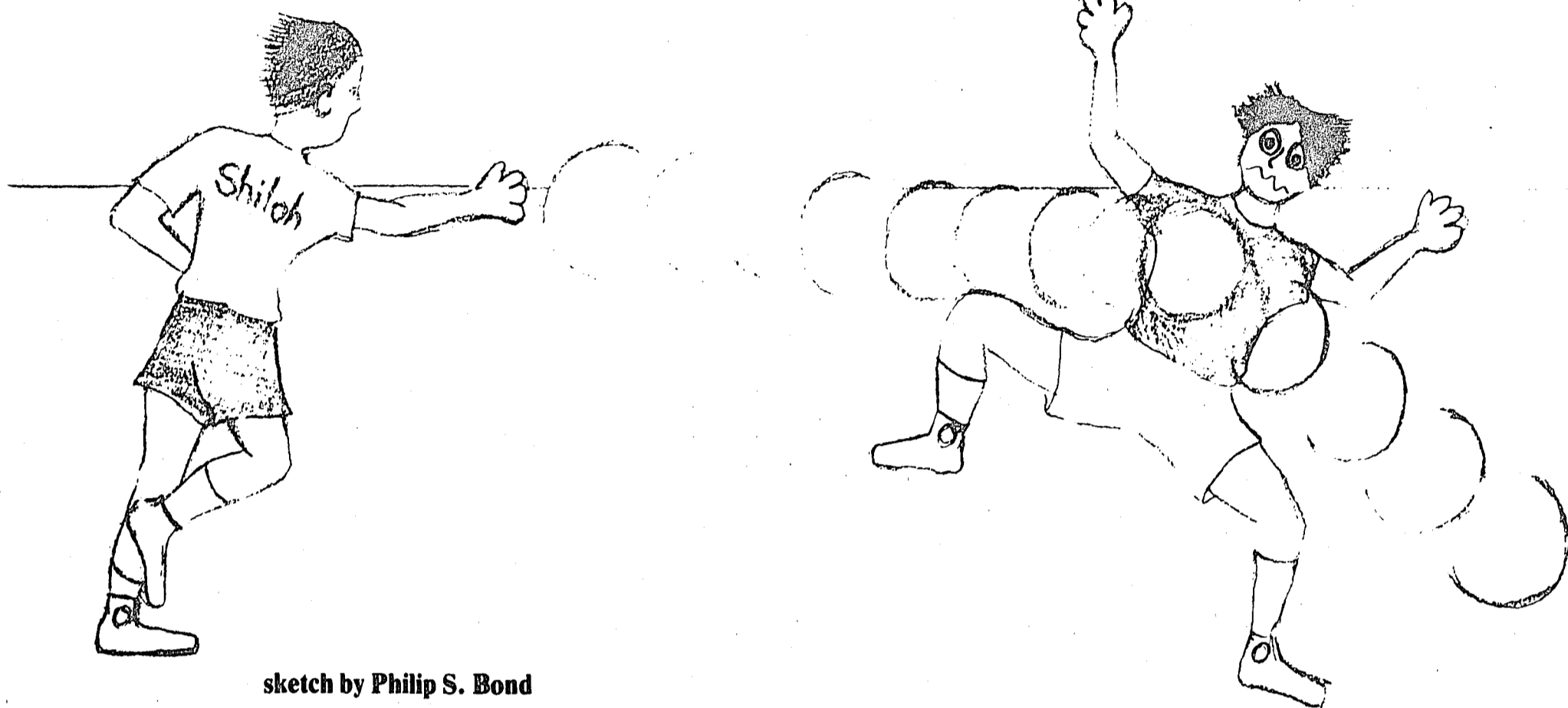
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Urging Baptists around the world to make this Congress their priority, because "it's worth it," Dr. Claas feels that "with some 20,000 Baptist people in town we could have a very strong outreach to the people of Los Angeles." SR

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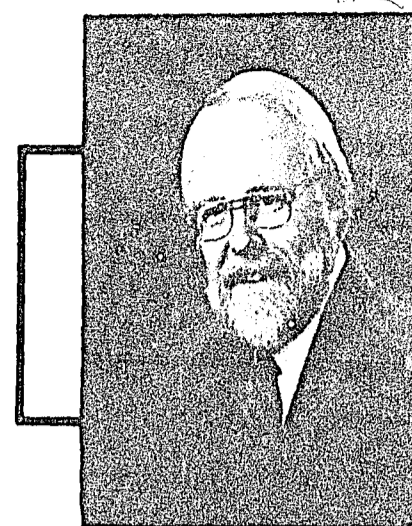
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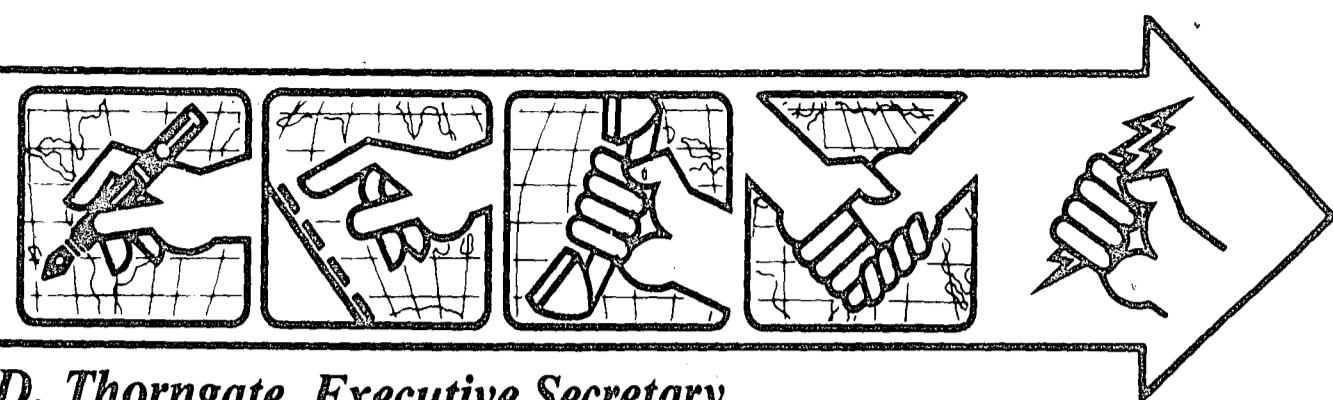
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Dale D. Thorngate, Executive Secretary



SCSC—A leadership development opportunity

It was he who gave gifts to mankind; he appointed some to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11 & 12 TEV)

We look at the passage of Scripture quoted above as the Apostle Paul's concept of leadership in the church and its purpose and role. One of the most important current programs of the denomination, from my perspective, is the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC). It is through this program that our young people are given the opportunity to receive leadership training and then are placed in churches where they are called upon daily to use that training. The ten day training session and five week work session in a local church project provides the atmosphere for development of many leadership skills necessary for work in the church.

The SCSC call

As we celebrated the 20th anniversary of SCSC last year, I was impressed by some of the statistics. In those 20 years there had been 234 workers altogether. That's an average of over 13 workers a year. Out of those 234 workers have come some of our present pastors, pastors' wives and many lay leaders in our churches.

Last month the SCSC Committee of the Women's Board sent out letters to pastors asking for names of prospective workers for this next summer. Also the committee is asking churches to look at their summer programs and to consider calling a team to come and work with them in that program.

A dual opportunity

This is an opportunity of a lifetime. For the young Seventh Day Baptist who wants to better prepare him or herself for leadership in the church there is no better place to develop those leadership qualities in the atmosphere of a loving, caring group of people, not only the training staff but the church leaders as well.

And for the church this is the chance to put together one of the most exciting summer events you have ever developed and to have some outstanding young people to help you with it.*

In my sermon last summer at General Conference I indicated that God is calling people to lead his church, your church, and that we in the church must be prepared to help develop that leadership. This is your opportunity to participate in just such an experience.

The SDB call

In that sermon I also indicated that God had called our churches to a role of leadership. Seventh Day Baptists are not called to be the only Baptist group

worshiping on Sabbath Day. We are called to develop and share our faith with others. If the Sabbath is an important part of that faith then we are called to lead out in the sharing of that faith. It is not just a day of worship like Sunday but a sign of the potential for ultimate rest in God and a sign of our obedience to him and his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The SCSC along with the local church is a significant program for developing and providing leadership. I encourage you to participate whether a young Christian wanting to grow in your Christian experience and to develop your leadership skills or if you are a church group excited about your faith and looking for some young people to help you share it.

This is your chance to be a part of that group of people who want to "make things happen." May God move you to enjoy this leadership development experience. SR

**The project director selected by the church also receives training with the team and gains leadership experience.*

Seventh Day Baptists are not called to be the only Baptist group worshiping on Sabbath Day. We are called to develop and share our faith with others.

The joy of obedience

by Gerry VanDyke
SCSC Training Coordinator

Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; abide in my love that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. John 15:9, 11b

Jesus spoke often of the joy he experienced as he did his father's will. He said in John 8:29 and 10:30 that he came only to do what his Father wanted him to do. In his wonderful prayer in John 17, Jesus prayed that each who would follow him might know the fulness of his joy as they, too, chose to be obedient to the Father.

This year in the training sessions in the Summer Christian Service Corps we will be concentrating on knowing the will of God through our studies of the Scriptures. Then we will be learning how to apply his Word to our lives in very practical ways as we prepare to serve those he sends us to through the projects that even now are being planned by many of our churches. We want to learn to be *doers of the Word and not hearers only*.

Often times we think of obedience as something unpleasant, or even distasteful, and our natural rebellion rears its ugly head, prompting us to perhaps obey outwardly, but continue to be unbending inwardly. Perhaps we are even like the little girl whose father told her to sit down. She did nothing, just stood there. He told her several times and even threatened to spank her if she did not. She sat down, but told her father that even though she was sitting down, inside she was still standing. Perhaps it seems to us that what God requires in the way of obedience will be unpleasant or something that will make us unhappy. Yet, God has created us and he knows the very things that we need to be doing to experience his wonderful joy and peace of mind. He has not left us to guess what those things are that he would have us do. Together in SCSC, staff, workers and project directors will pursue his Word to discover how to have a life of joy. When we come to your churches to serve, and as you meet us at conference, we want you to meet men and women who shine with the joy of the Lord.

If you are a high school senior who would like to know God and his Word more deeply, perhaps SCSC is just what you have been looking for. SCSC offers you the opportunity to:

- develop your faith in God,
- discover your hidden gifts and more fully develop those you already know about,
- get acquainted with other young men and women from many parts of the United States,
- spend ten wonderful days in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado studying and growing in the Lord,
- travel to another part of the country to serve in a Seventh Day Baptist church, doing a wide variety of activities,
- share with other young people and representatives of other SDB churches at conference, the wonderful

Each of us can be involved in the work of SCSC in some way.

things God has done in your life in one short summer, take back home with you a new wisdom, a stronger faith, and a life-style that is pleasing to God.

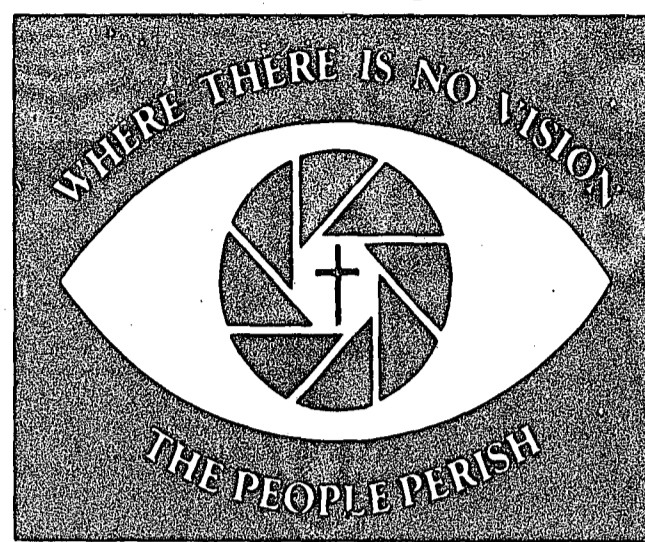
If you are a member of a church body, perhaps you are looking for a way for your church to give guidance and encouragement to our young men and women, and also for an opportunity to reach out to your own members and those in the community. Is SCSC just what you are looking for? SCSC offers you the opportunity to:

- plan a meaningful summer of work for your church in which you can be assisted by a trained team of SCSC workers,
- send a project director to training to receive spiritual and leadership training to increase the effectiveness of your summer project,
- get to know personally at least two workers that have a deep desire to grow in the wisdom and stature of the Lord,
- give a team of workers an opportunity to put what they have learned into practice in an environment that will encourage and guide them,
- see first hand the serious commitment your Women's Board has to our young people and to the churches of our denomination.

Each of us can be involved in the work of SCSC in some way. Perhaps you will choose to support this program financially. This would be a great contribution, for SCSC is an ambitious venture, and it takes money to work it all out. Maybe this year you will want to pray for the staff, or the workers, or the projects, and their directors. It is my hope, that however the Lord asks you to be a part of SCSC, you will respond in joyful obedience.

"As your plan unfolds, even the simple can understand it. No wonder I wait expectantly for each of your commands. Your laws are my joyous treasure forever. I am determined to obey you until I die. (Psalm 119:130, 131, 111, 112, LB). SR

FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

by Leon R. Lawton

Work grows in Australia

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, ASIA: There are now three Seventh Day Baptist meetings in this city— East Brunswick (Spanish), their new fellowship at Clayton (Spanish) and the Sabbatarian Baptist Fellowship (English) at Coburg. Pastor Joseph Alegre leads the Spanish witness and Peter J. Neivandt is leader of the English fellowship. **SR**

Construction in India

NELLORE, INDIA: "The arrangements for the construction of the SDB Head Church have been made and the function for the ceremony of the Foundation-Stone is set for 31 January 1985 at 8:30 a.m. Excavations for the foundations will start immediately. The building is expected to be completed in three months. ... Please pray for the smooth execution and completion of the work on the New Church building." -Rev. B. John V. Rao. **SR**

New Work returns

NEW WORK—1985: SDB YEAR OF EXTENSION, USA: In response to NEW WORK forms and information sent to all pastors and churches, four responses came in January—

1. Christ Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Missouri, is sponsoring a Children's Home and Youth Crisis Center (as noted above) with Rev. Kenneth Hatcher as the leader.

2. SDB Church at New Auburn, Wisconsin, is *mother* to a new group meeting at the Imalone Bible Camp on Sabbath afternoons, with plans to reach out into the Bruce Community. Pastor Don Chroniger is the leader.

3. SDB Church at Alfred Station, New York, began in March a Free Child Supervision Service on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays coordinated by Jean Pearce.

4. Ambassador William Vis reports outreach through Bible study, advertising and visitation in the Lakeworth and Miami, Florida, areas. **SR**

Houston on its own

HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA: The first Reach Out Now (RON) project that developed into the several Extension Projects, is coming of age in 1985- no longer seeking any aid in support of their pastor! Full time Pastor Robert Babcock went from seminary to begin the new work in mid-1976. In 1979 they became a Missionary Pastor church. Today their facilities need to be enlarged to meet growing needs. They were the Growingest SDB Church in 1983! **SR**

Aid for runaways

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, USA: The film *Interstate Orphans* was shown in December at the Seventh Day Baptist Christ Memorial Chapel to highlight the plight of runaway youth. The newspaper announcement stated, "It is estimated that more than two million runaway youth are on the highways each year and 35,000 of those children are murdered each year. The film is intended to increase the awareness of people in the trucking industry, teachers, youth service workers and young people themselves of such problems." Pastor Kenneth Hatcher has let the phone at their Children's Home and Youth Crisis Center be listed as a Runaway Hotline in Missouri to supplement the national hotline, 1-800-231-6946. He writes, "Our work is to provide shelter, food and medical help. Our aim is to not only provide the physical needs, but give the child direction and spiritual help. Please pray for us and our kids." Write him for information on how your church might enter a runaway ministry— 819 E. Dale, Springfield, MO 65803. **SR**

A prayer reminder for each day

April 1985

Verse of the Month: *For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit;*

1 Peter 3:18

Pray for

1. those youth and leaders committed to SCSC ministries this summer
2. new Church construction at Nellore, India
3. Hope (former Ambler, Penn.) SDB Church for adequate facilities
4. Rev. L.S. Thanga, Rangoon, Burma in his Correspondence Course
5. Pastor Vern Wright, Brookfield, New York
6. Praise God! Jesus, our Lord and Savior, lives!
7. the Adams Center, New York, SDB church
8. new SDB Church construction at Lilongwe, Malawi
9. Houston SDB Church as they plan to serve a growing congregation
10. Missionaries Rodney and Camille Henry, Philippines
11. the Waterford, Connecticut, SDB church
12. that God will raise up new pastoral church leadership to meet needs
13. for the blessings of Sabbath rest
14. Conference President Calvin Babcock
15. new SDB Church construction at Tuingo, Chin Hills, Burma
16. Portland, Oregon, SDB church seeking more worship space
17. Minister's Conference at Shiloh, New Jersey
18. medical leadership in the Central Africa SDB Conference
19. ministry opportunities and leadership in Florida work
20. for my Sabbath School teacher
21. the work of the Albion, Wisconsin, SDB church
22. a specific New Work outreach project in every SDB church this year
23. the staff of the SDB Center, Janesville, Wisconsin
24. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
25. the Women's Society committee preparing for this year's SCSC
26. the Boulder, Colorado, SDB church
27. SDBs worshipping today in Poland
28. Missionary Board quarterly meeting, Westerly, Rhode Island
29. the Texarkana, Arkansas, SDB church
30. preparations for SDB General Conference, 1985

Moving?

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

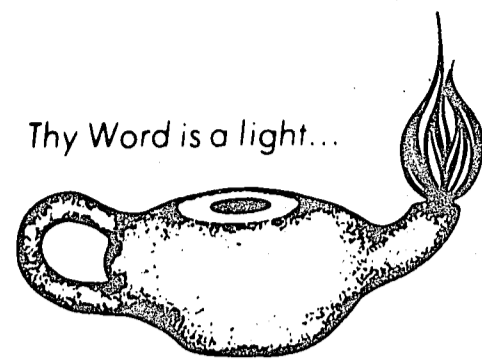
Circulation Department
The Sabbath Recorder
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

New Address:

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

Affix your
old mailing label
here

Thy Word is a light...



Board of Christian Education

Young adult interests

Viewpoint by John Haggai

Provide the Lord's need

We need so much from Christ, we tend to forget he needs anything of us. However, the Lord Jesus, the King of Glory, the Sovereign of the Universe, has put himself in such a relation to us as to be, for our good, dependent upon us.

Just before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he sent two disciples into the village. He said, "When you find an ass tied, and a colt with her, loose them and bring them to me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, 'The Lord hath need of them;' and straightway he will send them" (Matthew 21:3).

After we have received from him what we need in the

Whatever Christ uses becomes more valuable by such use.

way of salvation, the purpose of our lives should be to give him what he needs.

He needs our belief. He could do no mighty works on one occasion because of unbelief.

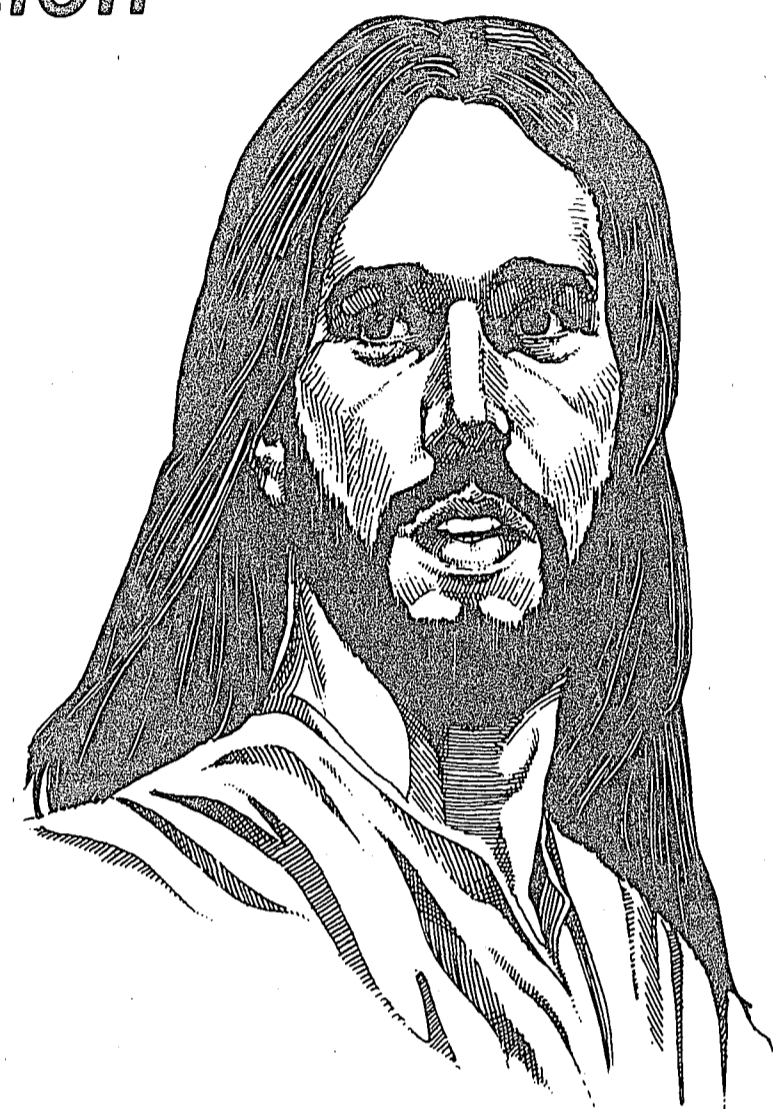
He needs our love. His plan is to love others through us.

He needs our hope. He works through optimists who, victorious over fear, demonstrate love and power and sound thinking.

He needs his Gospel incarnate in our lives. The truth in the Scriptures in his revelation; the truth in believers is his manifestation. The best translation of the Holy Scriptures is the translation into human lives.

He needs our bodies. He asks you for your feet with which to walk on his missions, your eyes with which to see human need, your heart with which to love those who hurt, your hands with which to serve those who need help, and your lips with which to speak his Gospel.

The Lord needs our belongings. He needs our money and our property. The donkey was a humble beast, noted



for its insignificance and stubbornness. It had no place in war. Only the horse was used in battle. And yet Christ had need of the donkey.

The priority of our lives should find expression in providing the needs of Christ.

There are two ways of doing it...giving directly and by asking others to give.

It may be inconvenient for us to give what Christ needs in terms of time, effort and money; but the value of the gift is enhanced when there goes with it the spirit of sacrifice. For some that will be millions; for the widow it was her entire estate—two mites.

On the other hand, the mission of the disciples in Matthew 21:3 was to ask from this man the use of his beast for the Lord. It may well be that the mission of many of you shall be to ask others to give to Christ that which you, yourselves, do not have.

When we induce others to give, we are bringing to them a greater blessing than they, themselves, impart. And, whatever Christ uses becomes more valuable by such use. What we lend to him will, inevitably, in some way, come back to us, multiplied.

Our example in giving to Christ what he needs will motivate others to do the same and more.

Providing Christ's needs fulfills the purpose of God. The owner of the donkey became a link between prophecy and fulfillment.

Our provision to Christ, much or little, will glorify him.

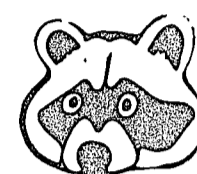
God is waiting upon us to supply the channel through which his blessing may flow.

What do you plan to do, in Christ's strength that can only be done if God is in it...guiding you and empowering you? Fullness, excitement and happiness and, above all, a sense of his approval await you if you dare to provide the Lord's need.

SR

Children's Page

Racco learns about love



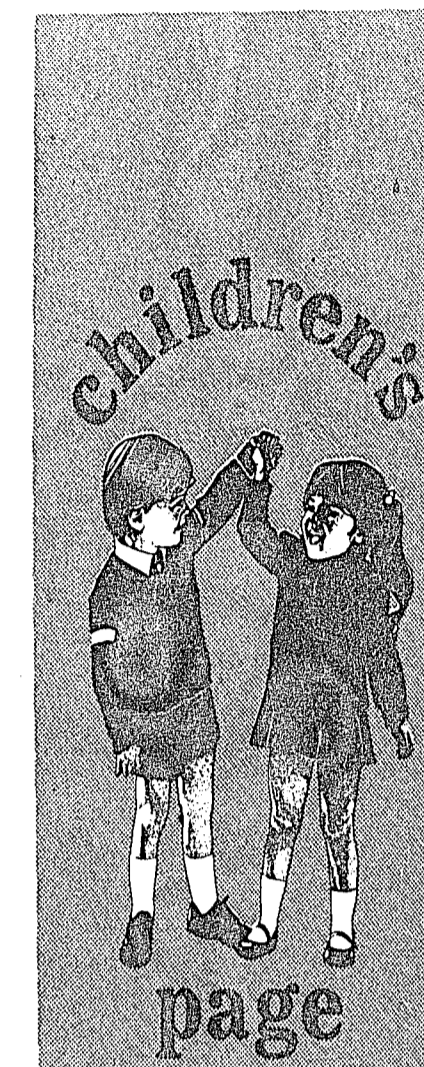
Racco



Bucky Badger



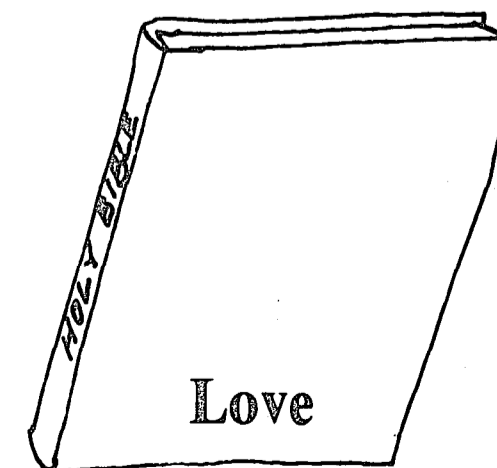
Balloon

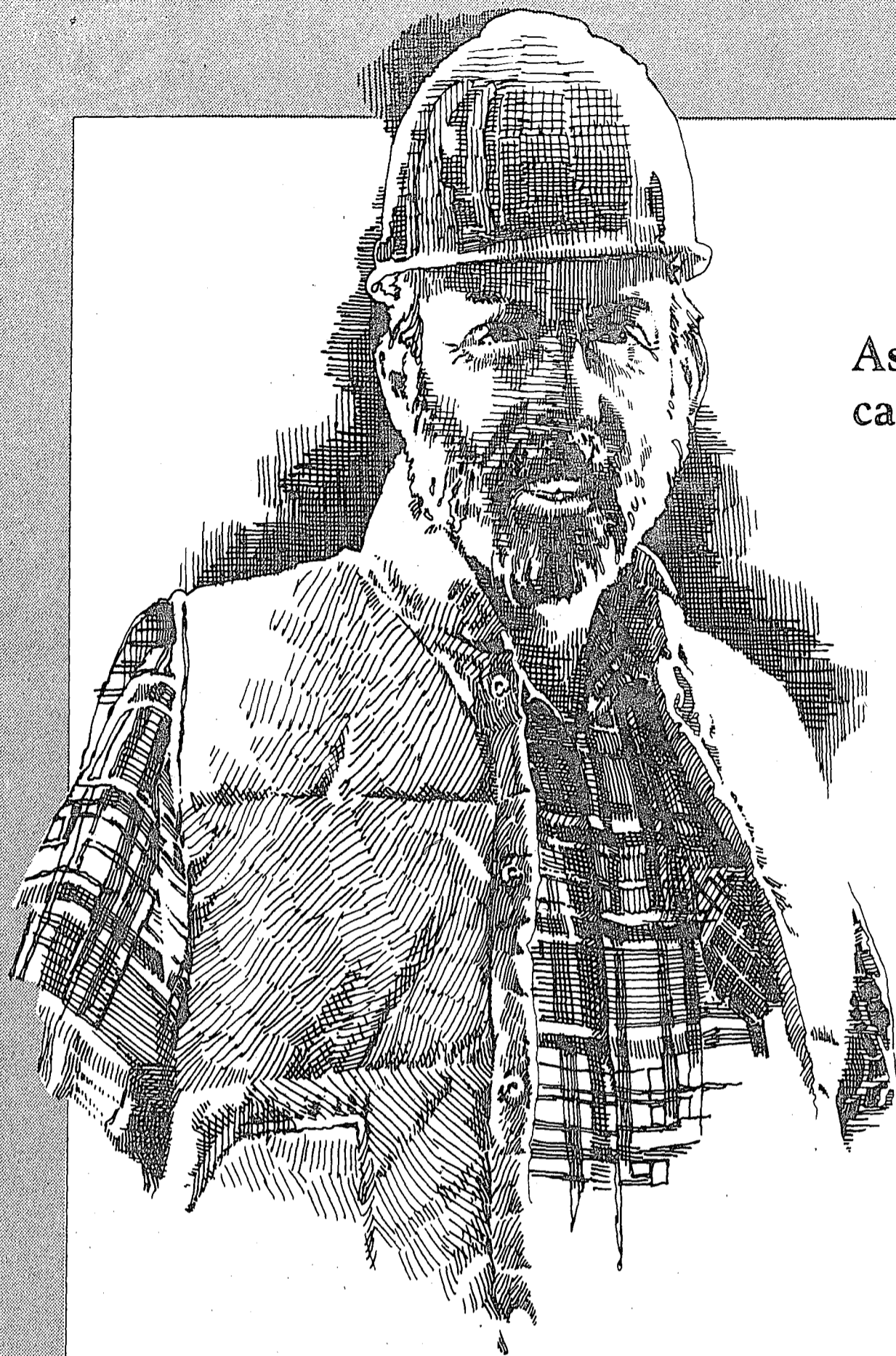


Racco's friend Bucky Badger was over to Racco's house. They were playing with Racco's Big Red Balloon. All at once, when Bucky Badger hit it the Big Red Balloon — POPPED! Bucky Badger started to cry and leave because Bucky Badger thought Racco would be mad. But Racco patted Bucky Badger and said "It is okay. I love you, anyway." Racco had remembered 1 John 4:19. "We love, because Jesus first loved us."

Parents please read all of 1 John.

SR





Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you will be successful in carrying them out.
Prov. 16:3 (TEV)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven.
Matt. 5:16 (RSV)

Some People keep on doing good, and seek glory, honor and immortal life: to them God will give eternal life.
Romans 2:7 (TEV)



...May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will, and may he, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him. And to Christ be the glory forever and ever!
Amen
Hebrews 13:21 (TEV)

Whatever vocation you choose, work to the glory of God.





Blessings in the snow

by Marilyn Merchant

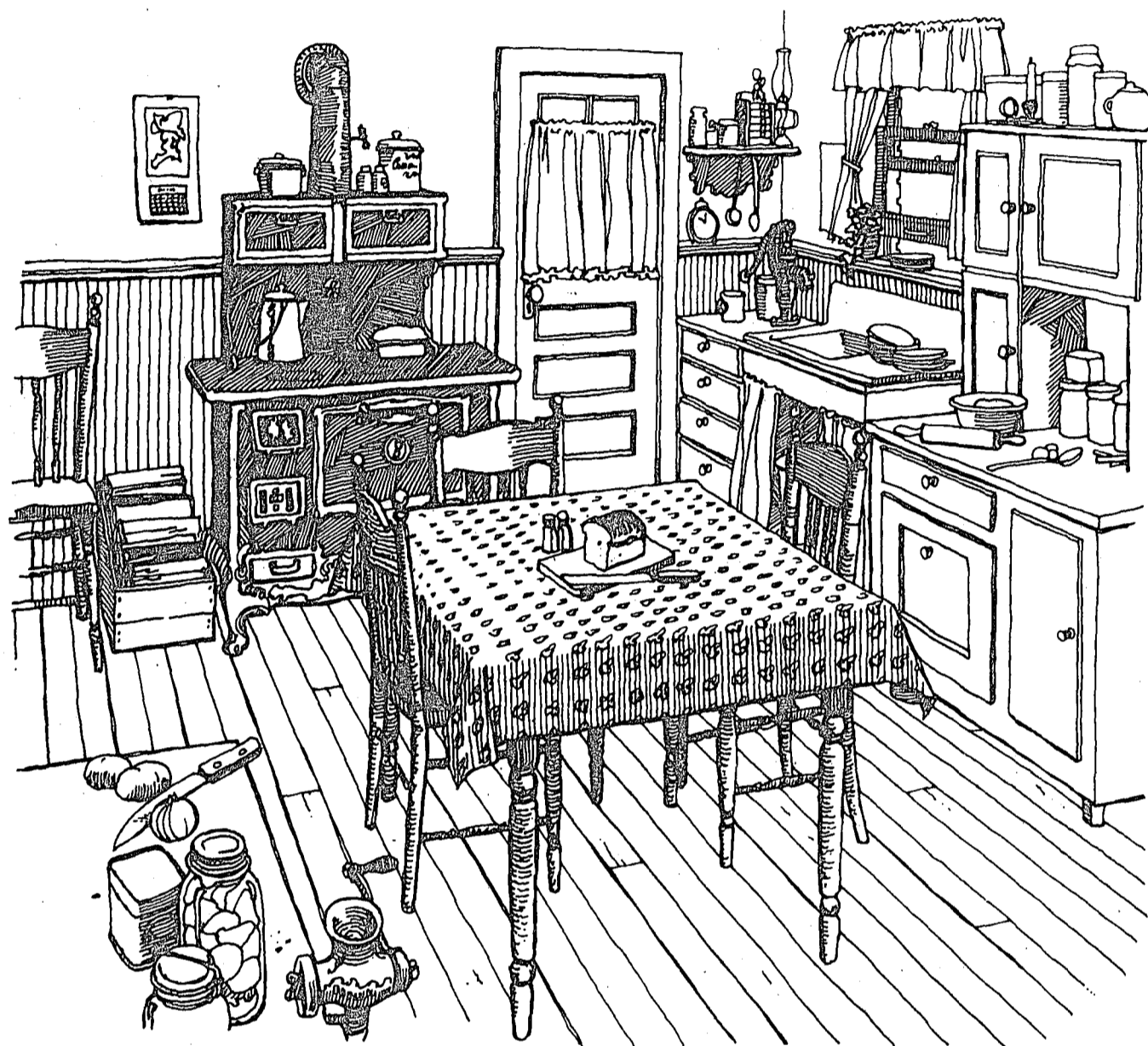
Dear Ones All,

In January, Michigan suffered one of the worst ice storms in history. If you want to get in touch with yourself, go for a week with no electricity, especially if the furnace cannot operate without it and the pump cannot work: no water—no facilities. Temperatures have to be low and you need blowing snow to make the conditions just right.

I was one of the lucky ones. We had installed a wood burner in tandem with the furnace and after my husband's death, I had been forced to learn to operate it. There was lots of dried wood in the basement so by going down there and feeding the burner every hour or so I kept very comfortable. In the process I found I could cook on its top and I was transported back to the old wood cookstove in the big farm kitchen on the farm. With water supplied by my neighbor's artesian well, I felt so blessed.

I spent a lot of time in the dark. Candles supplied my light for writing, reading and such other activities that needed light to perform. I always admired Abraham Lincoln's determination to learn but I appreciate it more now. Much of my darkened hours were spent just thinking of how we take so many things for granted and are inclined to feel deprived when denied conveniences that a great deal of the world does not possess. A cardboard box on the front porch served as my refrigerator and not once did I go hungry (this in the days when Ethiopian hunger is at the forefront of the news). There was a lot of time for realigning priorities.

One of the candles that was creating my light was a large, red Christmas candle that had been stored in the attic and in the summer heat had become a modified "S" shape. When we found it, a friend insisted it was useless and should be destroyed but I insisted it would still burn and used it as part of my holiday decorations and now it was providing light. As I looked at it my



thoughts ran along the comparison that God can use less than perfect individuals to accomplish his plans. The flame can burn as brightly whatever our shape, size or handicap. I discovered another facet. As my candle burned, the flame was just as bright but appeared more and more faint because it was burning deeply into a well of molten wax. It was not until I removed the outer shell allowing the useless wax to run off that the flame again burned brightly shedding the needed illumination. We too, have to shed our shell to let our light for Christ shine forth. (Matthew 5:15-16)

One morning the sun came out and it was as if God had decorated the trees and wires for Christmas. Every color of the spectrum flashing on and off. How could anything of such spectacular beauty cause such devastation? Yet, is that not what Satan does, make sin look so attractive that we become bedazzled by its attractiveness and it ravages our lives?

Did you use the Love Bible study last month? I was so pleased Dorothy Parrott found time to write it for us.

The Women's Board is delighted over the invitation to Alefa Lozani, Chairman of the Women's Group of Malawi, to represent them at the Baptist World Alliance in Los Angeles, California, in June and July this year. Mrs. Lozani will remain in California until Conference, visiting churches in

*The sun came out
and it was as if God
had decorated
the trees.*

that area and acquainting ladies there with Women's work in Malawi. Please pray that plans for Mrs. Lozani's itinerary may be within God's will and that she may have safe travel. So you can feel you know her, look again at

her picture in the January *Sabbath Recorder* on page 11.

Now for some more Mighty Mites. Here are some ideas to raise that added Love Gift. Share triple the size of your shoes. Another idea is to share 1 cent for each letter in the state of your birth, be it Mississippi or Ohio. Last one for this month is to share 1 cent for each letter in your birthstone. Again I remind you, one need not be limited to paying the designated amount but may contribute that figure or more. Maybe your society would like to raise the ante to 5 cents. The small amount makes it fun and possible for all to participate. There are only three more for next month.

At last, I know someone is reading this page. I got a response from Nortonville and Denver. Thank you both. I found things of interest to all of you in both their bulletins. Now if you all will just take the responsibility of getting me on your mailing list, the page can truly be a two way communication. Once again, the address is 22511 Capital Ave. N.E., Battle Creek, Mich. 49017.

With this current arctic cold snap we are having in the Eastern two thirds of the nation, it seems impossible that it is getting down to the wire about Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC); but so it is. The schedule has now been set up and is as follows:

Staff arrives at training site June 11th.

Project Directors arrive June 12th and leave June 24th

SCSC participants arrive June 14th and leave June 24th

This leaves a good five weeks for their projects. The theme that has been chosen for this year is "The Joy of Obedience". Review will be July 29-31.

Applications must be returned to Mrs. Chris Davis by April 1st. Churches are reminded to request their SCSC workers as soon as the need is ascertained, not later than the April business meeting.

If your society or group has not gotten their nominations in for Robe of Achievement, this also needs to be a priority. Mrs. Jean Lewis of 5060 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA 92507 is looking for your letter.


Spring is approaching. New life will soon be springing up all around you. Use this time to study and find God's will for your life so that you too can spring forth with renewed energy to do his will. Are you planning any special Easter activities or Mother-Daughter

events? I would love to hear about your plans. They might give another society the impetus that is needed to try something different.

Love in him,

Marilyn

SR

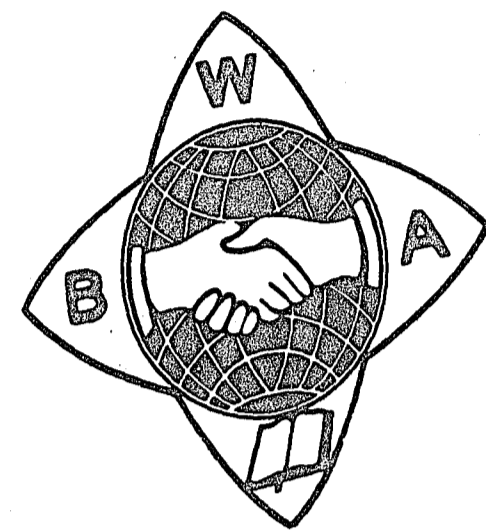


*Are you tired
of shoveling snow
and fighting the cold?*

Come and fellowship with us in Daytona Beach, Florida. We have a two bedroom guest house available at \$50 a week or \$150 a month donation. Just write for reservations. It is all furnished except for linens. You can share in our church fellowship and see the wonders of central Florida.

Write:
Daytona Seventh Day Baptist Church
145 1st Ave.
Daytona Beach, Fla. 32014

**Baptist Men's
Worldwide Day of
Witness and Prayer**



**Saturday
April 27, 1985**

To: The Baptist Men of the World

This morning my wife and I were watching the launch of the satellite Discovery on T.V. The moment it left the launch pad, we ran outside to see it lift above the tree tops, trailing fire and smoke until it was out of sight. You see, we live only a few miles from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Just think of the power these giant engines generate. We could hear the roar long after Discovery was out of sight and nothing was left but a trail of smoke. It is a thrilling sight as we pray for the safety of the Astronauts...

This made me think what would happen if we Baptist Men of the World were to unleash our prayer power for the safety of the three billion lost people without Christ? WOW!

We are 10,000,000 Baptist Men strong and just think what could happen if we banded together with the men in Florida churches who have already begun.

They meet each Sunday morning, on their knees, praying for their pastors, for the teachers, for the Sunday services, praying that at least one person will respond to Christ's invitation during the service.

Join with us and pray—pray—pray for the lost in our great world. Write me and let me know your results.

Make April 17, 1985, your launch day and let us win this lost world to Christ. We are his Ambassadors together. Let us get all Baptist Men into orbit for Christ.

Ken Merrick, Chairman
Baptist Men's Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer
1807 Cedar Street
Rockledge, Florida 32955 Telephone 305/631-0025

*"Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."
John 20:21*

Doings at Daytona Beach—1984

The first project for our church during 1984 was the remodeling of the rostrum, re-positioning of the organ and installing a carpet in the aisles, on the rostrum and across the back of the sanctuary. A new, heated baptistry was put in, thanks to memorial gifts. This all took place in January and February. Also plans were formulated for the observance of our church Centennial in March.

This celebration began with the dedication of a lovely communion table, which was handmade by one of our members. On March 3rd, a plaque, with pictures of all former pastors from Rev. Uri M. Babcock in 1884, to Pastor Emeritus Rev. Marion C. VanHorn, was hung in the back of the sanctuary. (Present pastor, Rev. Kenneth Van Horn's picture was there, too.)

The next event during the Centennial was an open air meeting beside the original Seventh Day Baptist church. The highlight of this meeting was a historical paper, written and presented by Pastor Emeritus Marion C. VanHorn, "100 Years of Seventh Day Baptists in Florida." A representative of the City Historical Society was present and spoke.

Sabbath Day, March 17, the service included songs by the choir used at the meeting in 1884, a sermon by former pastor, Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, now of Battle Creek, and a historical article, with pictures, by Pastor Emeritus Marion C. VanHorn. Letters from sister churches were read.

The celebration of the Centennial and Homecoming ended with a chicken-barbecue at Hollyland Park on March 18th.

The following week, a Spiritual Retreat for pastors and laymen was held in our church. Wayne LeClaire, of Middletown, Connecticut, lectured on "The Cults and How to Deal with Them." Leon Lawton and other S.D.B. officials led in discussion of denominational affairs.

We enjoyed a slide presentation on "Archaeology and the Bible" given by Col. Sedgely Thornbury.

For several years the church had been seeking property for more

classrooms and parking space. In April the property east of the church came on sale. It contains two houses and a sizeable lot. We voted unanimously to purchase the lot, at a called business meeting on April 1st. A loan from the Memorial Board and many generous pledges helped us do this.

One of the houses has been made into Sabbath School classrooms and a study for the Pastor. The other has been rented.

We discussed means for reaching, visiting and encour- aging the 10 or so branch groups of Sabbathkeepers in Florida.

Also in April, on Resurrection morning, the men put on a pancake breakfast. Then in May we had an ice cream social. We have had other socials, honoring special anniversaries of members, and a 90th birthday party for Mrs. Leona Jeffrey.

We held Vacation Bible School June 11-15, with Pastor Ken as Director and an able staff of teachers. About 20-25 pupils attended, and gave a helpful program on Sabbath Eve in closing V.B.S. Some of these children and three from our outreach fellowship in Miami attended Camp Joy at Berea, West Virginia.

A goodly number of our members attended General Conference. We all rejoiced in the presentation of the Gold-headed Cane for historical research, to our beloved Pastor Emeritus Marion C. VanHorn. He was able to attend part of Conference. On their return from Conference our delegates gave glowing reports of the meeting. (The Church Aid had provided funds for pastor's wife to attend.)

Our Family Retreat was held at Silver Glen Springs in October with 22

attending. At that retreat plans were begun for a Youth Group. This had its first meeting on October 27, with Deacon Alan Crouch and his wife Janette as sponsors.

In November Charles Thomas, President of Southeastern Association, was here to discuss plans for the meeting to be held here in June. Leon Lawton came to help us with methods of outreach. As a result, a called business meeting was held December 3rd in the Parish House. There we discussed means of reaching, visiting, and encouraging the 10 or so branch churches and groups of Sabbathkeepers in Florida. Many of them receive cassettes of our church services. Deacon Kay Bee, Anita Harris and Geraldine Kline were chosen as a coordinating team for Florida New Churches Project.

Our Christmas program, held December 16, consisted of songs and recitations by children and young folks, songs by the choir, organ and piano duet by Anne Lastinger and Anita Harris. The song "Under the Stars" was especially beautiful. To conclude the program Pastor Ken showed a movie, "The Birth of the Savior." We had refreshments and a social time in the Social Hall.

The last noteworthy event of 1984 was the visit, on December 26, of Conference President Calvin Babcock and his wife Meleta. His theme for Conference is the *Great Commission*. He discussed plans for Conference, to be held at Ouachita College, near Arkadelphia, in Arkansas. He and Meleta showed the slides of S.D.B. churches used by Dale and Janet Thorngate on their European trip last summer.

We feel that the year 1984 has been one of not only physical, but also spiritual outreach. We are still searching for a missionary pastor to help with our Florida New Churches Project. Lettie and Leland Bond are ministering to the Okeechobee Christian (S.D.B.) church, and William and Roselyn Vis are "Ambassadors" in Miami.

Pray that our aims and actions are in accord with our Father's will. SR 21

Denver church celebrates history

by Donna Hastings,
Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church
Historian

The people of the Denver church have been involved in enriching and exciting happenings this past year of 1984.

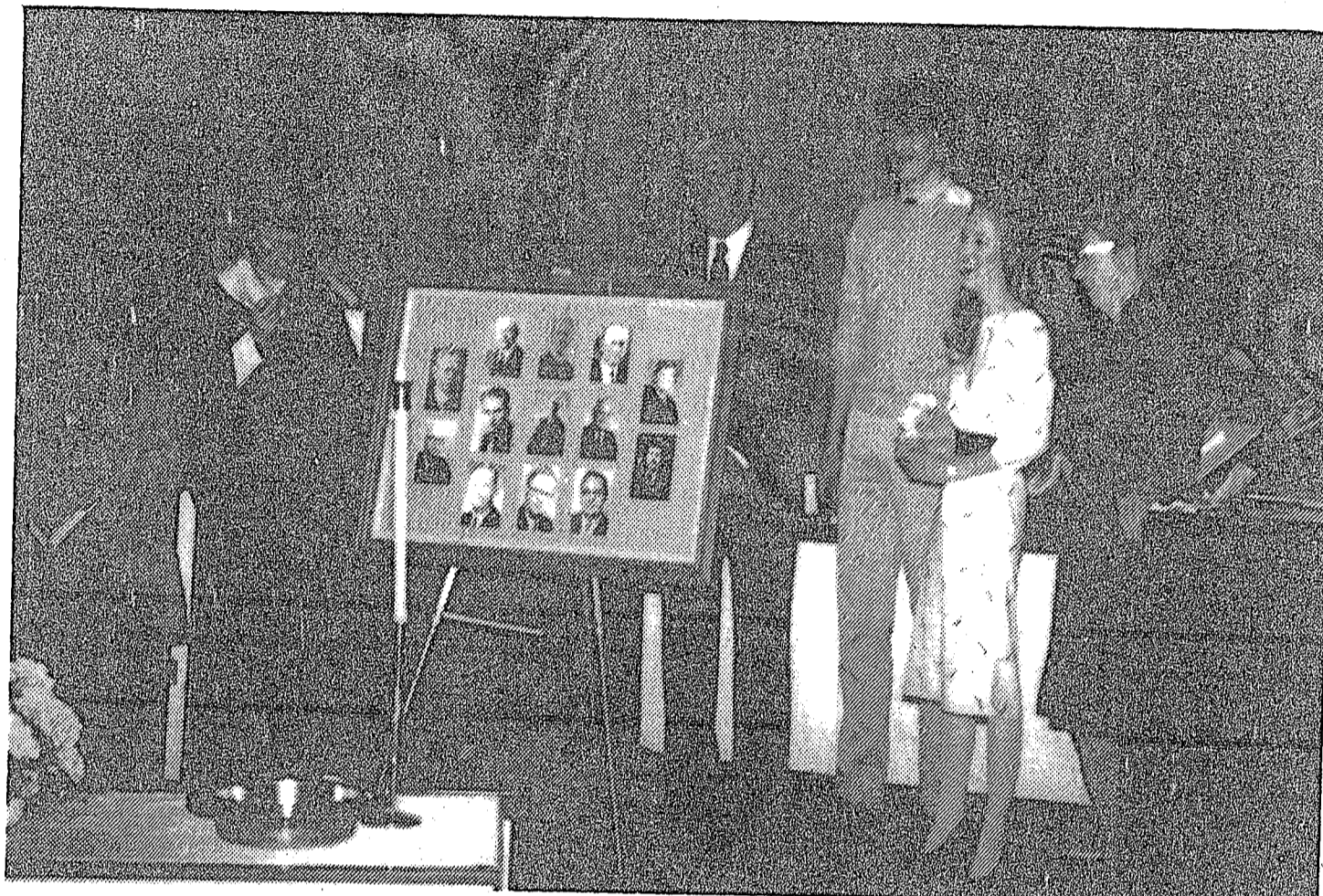
We have received 40 new members into our congregation during the year. Praise be to God for these blessings.

An evangelism seminar with Rev. Gabriel Bejjani as the speaker was held the first part of September. In November, we attended a seminar on Missions with Rev. Leon Lawton the speaker. We appreciate the added learning we received from these meetings.

During Sabbath morning service, Nov. 17th (our church anniversary), we had a special time of sharing. The Memorials Committee and the Historian presented to the church portraits of all the ministers who have served Denver since they organized in 1928. Even Rev. D. Burdette Coon, who spoke to them in their fellowship meeting prior to organization, was included. Mildred Jeffrey was instrumental in starting this project many years ago. She lovingly saved each picture and we are grateful to her for her efforts. It was our privilege to dedicate the portraits to the memory of Mildred Saunders Jeffrey. The funds for this endeavor came from the Blanche Sutton class where Mrs. Jeffrey was the teacher.

It is interesting to note here that from the 13 ministers who served our church, seven of their children are still active in our church work.

Luther Hansen, son of Carl Hansen
Doris Rood, daughter of Ralph Coon
Gladys Randolph, daughter of Erlo E. Sutton
Phillip Conrod, son of John Conrod
Richard Wheeler, son of Edgar Wheeler
Willie Wheeler, son of Edgar Wheeler
Laura Bevis, daughter of John Bevis
The five present that day were honored with corsages and lapel



The Denver church dedicated portraits of their pastors to the memory of Mildred Saunders Jeffrey.

flowers.

Christmas season, as always, was filled with beauty, joy, and music. What a wonderful way to Praise God by singing! The choir sang "The Night of Miracles."

Our Sabbath School program was very special. The little ones are so sweet as they sing of the gift of Jesus' birth. The older classes presented a play entitled "Christmas in the Cobbler Shop." A candlelight service with a ring around the entire church closed the worship part of the program.

Plainfield welcomes new pastor

Pastor Joe Samuels was installed as pastor of the Plainfield, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath, December 29, 1984. About 130 were present at the worship service, and at least 85 enjoyed the fellowship dinner.

Missionary Society Executive Vice President Leon R. Lawton and Mrs. Dorothy Lawton drove in from Westerly, R.I. The Raritan Valley SDB Church and the Hope SDB Church in North Hills, Pa., (formerly Ambler), came almost in their entirety. There were also visitors from our New York City and Shiloh, N.J., churches.

The Lord blessed us with sunny,

Refreshments and a Happy Birthday, Jesus cake were served. Each person left with the excitement of the season within them.

Sunday evening, the 23rd, the "first annual" Messiah Sing-In was held in the Sanctuary for those who wished to participate and those, like us, who just listened and enjoyed. Four church choirs from the metro area participated. The Sing-In was led by Robin Planer. Soloists were Darryl Dixon and Lisa Spencer, graduate students at the University of Colorado. SR

warm weather for both the installatio. and the trip of the Samuels family from Toronto, Canada.

The installation service was arranged by Jeanne Yurke, our former assistant pastor and interim pastor. Six local ministers took part, and Plainfield's Mayor Richard Taylor greeted Pastor Samuels. Greetings were also given by Rev. Edward Schneider and Rev. Kenneth Burdick, pastor of the Raritan Valley SDB Church. A letter from the Dean of the Center on Ministry, J. Paul Green, was read.

Rev. Kenneth Mart, pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Market,

Cont. on page 31

Religion in the News

New resource on African hunger

A special 24-page resource on hunger in Africa is now available to churches and religious groups for use during the Easter season. Three Christian organizations, *Bread for the World*, *Seeds*, and *Alternatives*, have created the resource publication for worship and study on the current famine's long-term problems and solutions.

The call to create this new resource on Africa came in October 1984 at an interdenominational conference when church leaders from around the country expressed the need for materials on Africa which could be used in the church. The project took shape as *Bread for the World* offered to use *Leaven*, the quarterly publication for its Covenant Church Program, to publish the materials. The result is an expanded spring edition of *Leaven* for people just beginning to learn about Africa and to view hunger as a Biblical issue, as well as for those already committed to the elimination of hunger as part of their Christian faith.

Included in this Africa-edition of *Leaven* are food-related worship aids for small-group or congregation settings, background articles, and an

Growth of Islam

According to reports in *Christianity Today*, Islam is the fastest growing among the world's major religions, with total adherents close to one billion. That figure is approximately equal to the number of Christians in the world survey.

Since 1934, Christianity has increased by 47 percent while Islam has increased by about 500 percent over the same period. Hinduism has about 500 million adherents, and Buddhism numbers approximately 245 million. SR

educational placemat on Africa which could be used at hunger awareness dinners. There is also information on the 1985 *Bread for the World* Offering of Letters campaign on Africa.

Copies of *Leaven* are available from

BJCPA's John W. Baker succumbs

Washington (BP)—John W. Baker, general counsel and director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and one of the nation's foremost specialists in church-state law, died January 12 at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 64.

Baker, who had been ill since suffering a heart attack on Christmas Day, died of congestive heart failure.

During 1967-68, when he was a visiting scholar at The Brookings In-

Tax reform concerns charitable groups

Tax-reform proposals put forward recently could cost charitable organizations 13 billion dollars, or 25 percent of voluntary contributions. That is the view of Bob Smucker, vice president of Independent Sector. Since 40 percent of all contributions go to churches and religious organizations, many religious leaders have expressed concern.

Deductions for contributions would not be allowed unless the donor files an itemized tax return, according to the proposal. Many features of the tax-simplification proposal would discourage itemized returns, thereby reducing

gift incentives, according to Independent Sector. Other provisions of the proposal would reduce incentives for major gifts of appreciated property with the loss of capital gains deductions. SR

Bread for the World, the national Christian citizens' lobby against hunger: 802 Rhode Island Ave NE, Washington D.C. 20018. Each copy is \$1. For bulk orders or other information, call (202) 269-0200. SR

stitution here, he was asked by the late C. Emanuel Carlson to join the staff of the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee, a post he assumed in 1969. He earned his law degree at American University's Washington College of Law in 1977.

During his 15 years with the Baptist Joint Committee, Baker wrote or filed 21 friend-of-the-court briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal panels, the latest on Jan. 7 in a challenge to the Reagan administration's decision last year to establish full diplomatic relations with the Vatican. SR

Clergy held for alien smuggling

Six members of the clergy were among 16 arrested for smuggling aliens into the United States from Central America, according to the Associated Press. Federal prosecutors said that indictments were the result of a 10-month investigation of a refugee sanctuary sponsored by a number of church leaders. Two Roman Catholic priests, three Catholic nuns, and a Presbyterian minister were listed among those arrested.

The refugee transfer efforts have been widely endorsed by church groups, and an organization called Sanctuary Issues has advocated greater assistance for Central Americans fleeing the area. SR

Springfield church begins ministry to runaways

Jesus said in Matt. 19:14; "Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." That is why Satan is working so hard to destroy them. He would like to destroy heaven itself.

Two million of our boys and girls run away from home each year. It is estimated that over 35,000 of them are murdered each year!

Motorists and others who come in contact with these runaways, do have an alternative to either picking them up or simply ignoring them. If the drivers ignore them these youngsters could become one of the "statistics" in the annual death rate of 35,000—if they pick them up the drivers could be aiding in having the youngsters end up in such places as "Hell's Hotel" in California.

The alternatives are to: 1. Give the child a brochure on where he or she can contact help. 2. Encourage child to call home or use the national toll free Hot Line number 1-800-231-6946. 3. Do not lecture! Let literature or brochure do the talking for you. At least communicate the dangers of being on the highway alone. 4. If you see a child on the highway, you can: (a) CB ahead to an in-town base to notify law enforcement agency; give mile marker or some location marker. (b) Stop at the next port of entry and give report to the State Patrol.

You are a key person in this situation; you are going to make the difference between a child being safe or in great danger. There are places everywhere to help these children in need.

The purpose of Christ Memorial Children's Home and Youth Crisis

Center is to save our kids. The center's phone number is on file at the Governor's office for volunteer services in Austin, Texas. When the runaway child dials the toll free Runaway Hot Line number, volunteers will refer the child, if he or she is in our area, to our Youth Crisis Center. We will then provide shelter, showers, good food and security. Hopefully with enough T.L.C. the child will choose a new direction and return if possible to his or her home.

Many factors form to separate young people from their homes, and put them "on the road" where their future can swiftly turn bleak and sometimes tragic. Divorce, alcohol, or

drug problems in the home, threat of physical and sexual abuse are just a few of the crushing reasons they run away. Whatever the reason, their future, if they arrive in our big cities, is anything but bright. The pimps and drug pushers are always on the lookout for children to exploit, destroy, spiritually and physically, for their illicit gain.

Do not turn your back on a runaway. You may be their last hope!

Jesus said, as recorded by Matthew in chapter 25:40, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Do not turn your back on Jesus. He is your only hope. SR



Two million of our boys and girls run away from home each year.

The Sabbath Recorder

Man of God

by Ellen Lyddane

By a direct command of God, the people of Israel marched around Jericho and the walls fell. Why march on the Sabbath? God could have caused the same result in seven seconds or less. It was the same authority that gave both the order to march and the commandment to keep the seventh day holy.

It is wise to obey God and to follow his commandments.

The opposite of such clear instructions can be found in the sad story that is recorded in I Kings 13. This Scripture deals with the acceptance of a change in the order of command.

We here meet a prophet who is called and commissioned for a mission by the Eternal himself. We are never advised of his name; however, he is referred to as the *man of God*.

This *man of God* was ordered to go to the king of Israel and pronounce judgement on him, and then to return home—making no stops until his mission was completed.

March 1985

This messenger of God performed well in his going and in the confrontation with the shrewd and forceful king Jeroboam. But, he fell on his return home.

An old prophet intercepted him. The old prophet lied to our *man of God*. The old prophet assured the *man of God* that an angel had instructed him to bring him to his own home. Thus we arrive at the change in command. An angel could not change God's orders. There is not even a "thus saith the Lord."

From verses seven and eight, we see that he was not swayed by greed. He had *insulted* a dangerous king. It would seem that he would have wished to *make tracks* away from such a monarch.

Perhaps, after such a nerve racking episode, he liked the support and comfort of a *fellow* prophet! Yet, the principle remains: obey God.

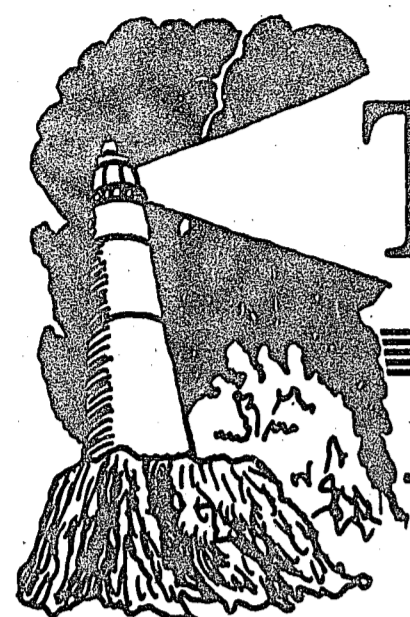
Why, at least, did not our main character go and inquire of God as to the possibility of a change? Verse 23 causes us to ask the question: "Did he just continue eating after the pronounced judgement against the man on a mission?"

Of the 14 times the titles "man of God" is used, the last three are used after the messenger defaults. Two of these three times it is the man speaking. The third reference is to a dead carcass.

In contrast to these latter three utterances, the former 11 times are before his fall and the usage of the title *Man of God* is mostly used by the Scripture itself.

Since the Almighty gave us the Sabbath, we must keep to those orders "though an angel of light" should plead with us. It is wise to obey God and to follow (do) his commandments and be *men and women of God*. SR





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

March 1985

1985—International Year of Youth

The United Nations has designated 1985 as International Year of Youth. Baptist young people are active members of the society in which they live. They are participating in many national plans for this special year.

However, Baptist youth of the world also have a special contribution to make as followers of Jesus Christ.

The European Baptist Federation Youth Committee has sent an open letter to Baptist Young people in Europe. Suggestions are given as to how they might participate in IYY-1985.

1. Peace-

How can you share the Peace of Jesus

Christ?

Are you at peace within the family?

Are you at peace with your neighbors?

What can you do to bring about peace in the world?

2. Participation-

Are you a good member in your family?

Do you involve yourself in the work of your local church and community?

Arrange a meeting of all members in your church to discuss the International Youth Year themes.

3. Development-

How can you develop your spiritual life?

What can you do to help the spiritual and social development of young people in your community and the world?

Pastors, Deacons and local congregations are requested to make a place for Baptist Youth to lead or participate in worship services on Sabbath, June 8th. That is Baptist Youth Day of Prayer. This is a real opportunity to give youth a chance to lead in worship and to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ.

Brochures for this youth day of prayer may be obtained from: BWA Youth Department, 1628 Sixteenth Street, Washington, DC 20009.

Do you know us?

Greetings from Battle Creek. My name is Dave (Fruitcake) Carmichael, and I am the President of the Battle Creek SDB Youth Fellowship. We have a small, but excited little bunch of 6.

Our fearless advisers are Rudy and Doris Lingg, and the officers are Senez Rodriguez, Vice President; Jodi Gnadt, Secretary; and myself, President. We elected officers in December. They have stayed the same for about three years, with the exception of Jodi, our newest member. We meet Thursday nights at the Parsonage. Our main topic is usually how to make money so that we will all make it to Conference this year. We are planning a massive candy sale, a Sloppy Jo Dinner, and a Car Wash as soon as it gets warmer.

Meet the members

Robert Carmichael, at 17, is the oldest of the group, and is a Senior at Lakeview High School.

Senez Rodriguez, 17, is a Junior at Battle Creek Central High School.

Jodi Gnadt, 14, is a Freshman at Pennfield High School.

Scott Paulin, 14, is a Freshman at Bellevue High School.

David Yates, 14, is a Freshman at North Western Jr. High.

Dave Carmichael, 15, is a Sophomore at Lakeview High School.

This issue of *The Beacon* was prepared by the Battle Creek (Michigan) SDB Youth Fellowship.

The Battle Creek youth would like to say "Hello" to all the youth who attended Pre-Con, Conference, and the Year End Retreat in Kansas.

"I've Come Back"

As I stood singing with my friends, I heard a call and started crying. I had to get out and pray. The doors seemed to get farther and farther away every step I took. Stepping outside I saw only darkness, no moon, no stars, just thick blackness. As I knelt down to pray I felt the call again only stronger this time.

"Lord", I prayed, "what do I say?" I paused for a moment, then started.

"I love you Lord, I know I have sinned and I confess to you my sins. I left you when I was born, death was mine from my fathers, but now I pray that you'll be my Father. I give myself to you. I ask that your son, Jesus Christ, will enter my heart and thoughts, and I will be your son. Thank you, Lord, thank you." I finished my prayer and broke down into tears. It was as if the tears were my sins pouring from my eyes. Then spoke one last time, "Thank you, I've come back, I've come back!"—Dave Carmichael

Year End Youth Conference—1984

by Mark Green

Well, once again it's that great time of year when I sit down and chronicle the events of one of the biggest happenings in the Seventh Day Baptist Youth's year, Year End Youth Conference at Nortonville (USA), Kansas. Ah yes, five days of fun and fellowship. There were 24 of us youths who came, traversing this great land and from far away places like Battle Creek, Michigan, Boulder, Colorado, and New Auburn, Wisconsin. There was even one weird guy from Milton, Wisconsin!

We all arrived on the 26th of December in time for supper, which was prepared like all our meals by our wonderful cooks, Vivian Looper, Murial Osborn, and Billy Wheeler. The

Ephrata Society

(Seventh Day Baptist)

By Jodi Gnadt

The Ephrata Society was founded in the early 18th century by John Conrad Beissal in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. He named the religion after the place it was founded. It was later given the name *Seventh Day Baptist*.

Ephrata was a communal society. The members excluded physical pleasure of any sort and wore monks' robes. They led a monastic life and lived under harsh conditions. They slept on planks and used wood blocks for pillows, and suffered through cold winter nights in unheated cells that were only five feet by 10 feet. In place of horses, they let themselves be harnessed to plows for tilling their fields.

Ephrata had three main orders: Unmarried brothers, unmarried sisters, and married householders. The householders farmed their own land, but were joined to the congregation both religiously and economically. The unmarried brothers and sisters lived in Monasteries or Colleges and performed the crafts.

Source: Shea, John. *Pennsylvania Dutch and Their Furniture*. 1980

March 1985

food was delicious! (If any of you ladies are reading this I'd love you forever if you'd send me one of those great sweetrolls or even a bowl of Rice Krispies!©)

Our evenings were spent in fun and games, and our mornings were filled with class, Bible study, and music. Edgar Wheeler taught a class on different ways to praise God, including fasting and Bible study. Our Bible study on Philippians was led by Pastor Paul Osborn. Last but certainly not least Billy Wheeler led us in making some really jamming tunes (better known as *singing* to some of you out there)! We were really rocking out! Special thanks to Steve Osborn for keeping us basses in tune.

For our afternoon recreation period we did everything from roller-skating to a somewhat dangerous game of soccer. Thursday night we watched the classic film "Dragonslayer." So, do we know how to have a party, or what?

I know the question that most of you are asking yourselves, "Were outside criminal elements a factor at the Conference?" Well, the answer is a fortunate "no" thanks to the ever vigilant Kirk and Vivian Looper who kept us dudes safe from the darker elements of Nortonville. Our fears were also calmed by the King; the amazing Harold King that is, who roomed next to us. Special thanks again to Steve Osborn to whom I will be forever grateful for spending those three hours trying to convince me the shadow in the corner was indeed just a shadow and not the "Boogie Man."

Saturday was spent in uncontrolled silliness as "Mark and the Imposters" took the stage in what shall forever be known as the greatest talent show in the history of Year End Youth Conference. The band's rendition of Steve Taylor's "We Don't Need No Color Code" was truly something to behold.

Cont. to page 30

Victory over sin

Devotional Reading: Romans 7:15-25

Key Verse: Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free. —Verse 25 (TLB)

Unscramble each puzzle by solving the clue sentence. Extra letters appear in both puzzles.

Instrument of sin

W B Z

O Y D

Synonym for sin

T E H

A X D

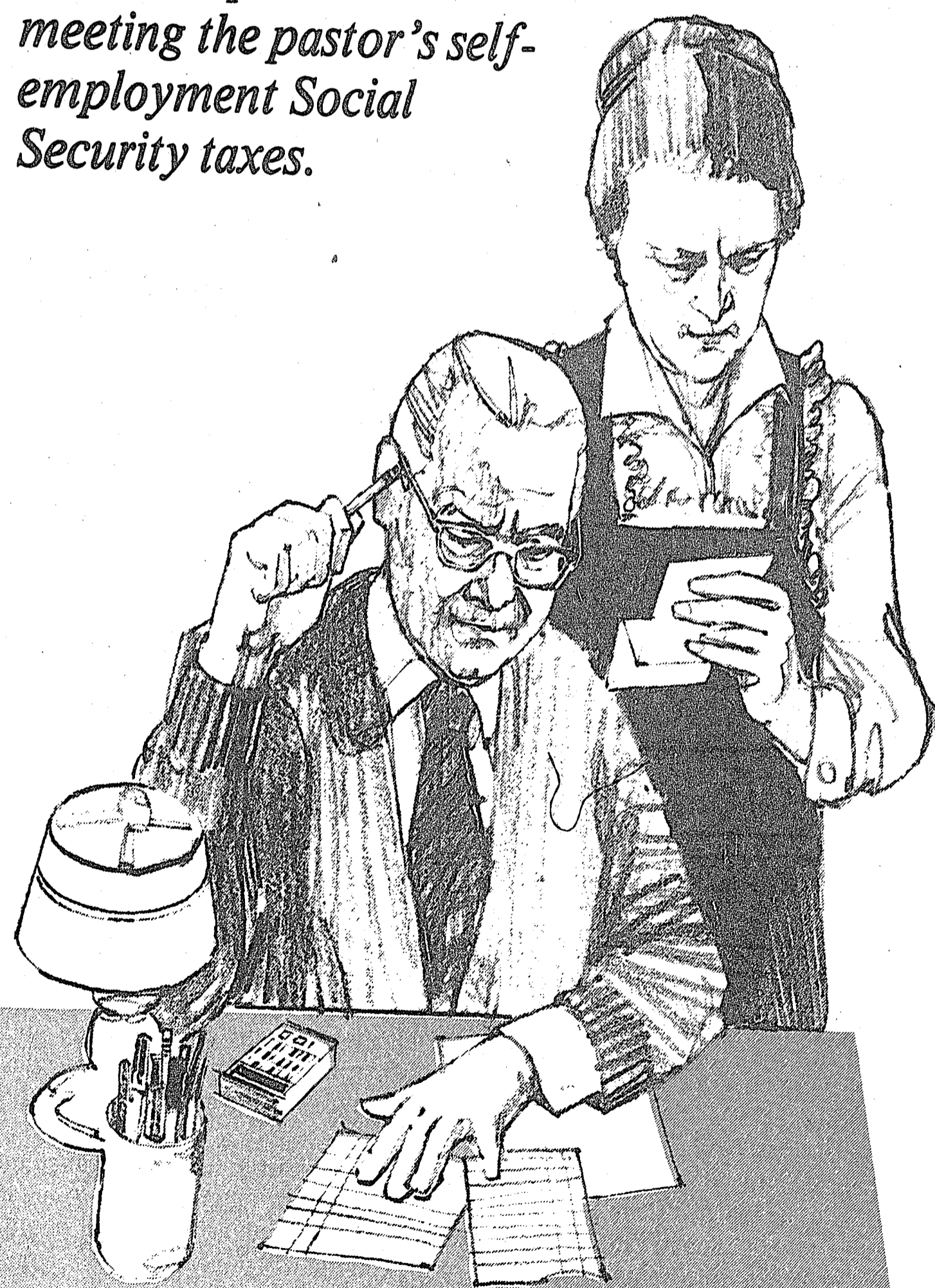
Just like a virus is a "foreign enemy" that invades your physical body and makes you sick, sin is a deadly infection to your spiritual body. The two puzzles show that the attack of sin on your spiritual body is fatal every time. "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23, KJV).

Paul recognized the deadlines of sin and agonized within his soul because he wanted to be rescued from his "body of death." Not being at a loss as to what prescribed medicine to remove from his spiritual medicine cabinet, Paul gladly downed a dose of a remedy available to all Christians. Paul spelled the cure: J-E-S-U-S.

Author, Willie L. Hill, Jr.
Submitted by Dave Carmichael

ad
A shared venture

Now is the time for churches to consider entering into a partnership with their pastors in meeting the pastor's self-employment Social Security taxes.



The financial security and well-being of our active and retired pastors, missionaries and lay employees is a shared venture. No single church alone can provide adequate employee benefits and retirement income for all of its pastors and staff members—past, present and future. This is why the Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR) was established by the S.D.B. General Conference to coordinate what churches could not do

Better maintenance of the ministry is a partnership in responsibility.

by themselves. The General Conference realized that the better maintenance of the ministry was a partnership in responsibility. Recently COSAR became aware that something was needed beyond our own pension plan and in 1979 entered into an agreement with the Presbyterian Ministers Fund. COSAR has also supported making Social Security available to ordained ministers.

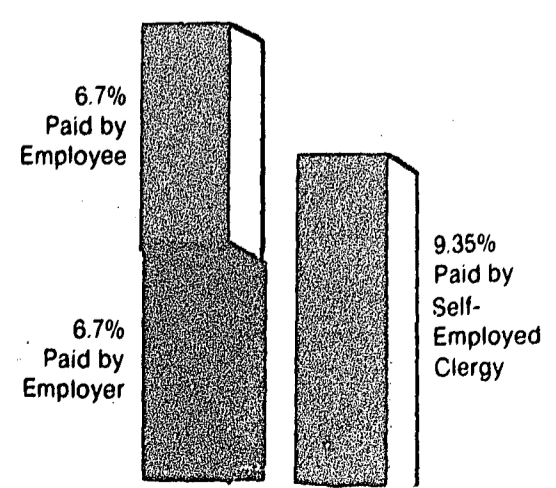
This responsibility has become a four-way partnership of churches, COSAR, Presbyterian Ministers Fund, and the federal government. It would

be difficult to imagine what the quality of life in retirement would be for our pastors and widowed spouses without Medicare coverage and supplements, and the basic monthly retirement check received from Social Security. The financial security and well-being of our active and retired pastors, missionaries and lay employees is a shared venture.

Now is the time for churches to consider entering into a partnership with their pastors in meeting the pastor's self-employment Social Security taxes. In order for Social Security to be a viable system of financing retirement for our nation's work force, the federal government has dramatically increased Social Security taxes. The most seriously affected are self-employed persons. Pastors are considered self-employed by the government and are required to pay their own Social Security taxes. Churches presently are not permitted to pay this for their pastors.

In 1983, the combined Social Security tax was 13.4 percent and was divided by the employer and the employee. The self-employed tax, which clergy had to pay, was 9.35

1983 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX



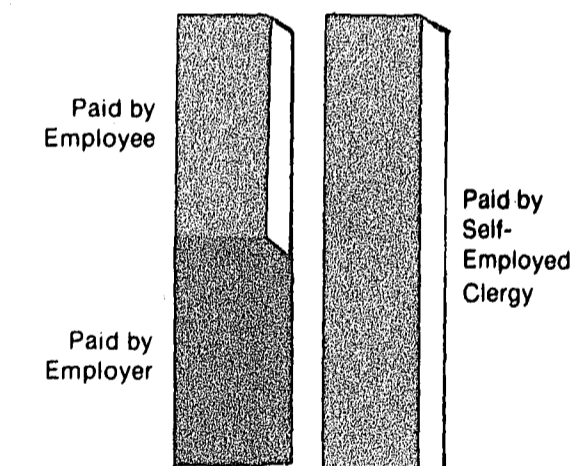
If your church gives your pastor a 10 percent salary increase in 1985, the increase will not be enough to pay the full Social Security tax.

percent. Now in 1985, the self-employed will pay the same tax, 14 percent, as the combined employer/employee, but with a 2.2 percent tax credit. If your church gives

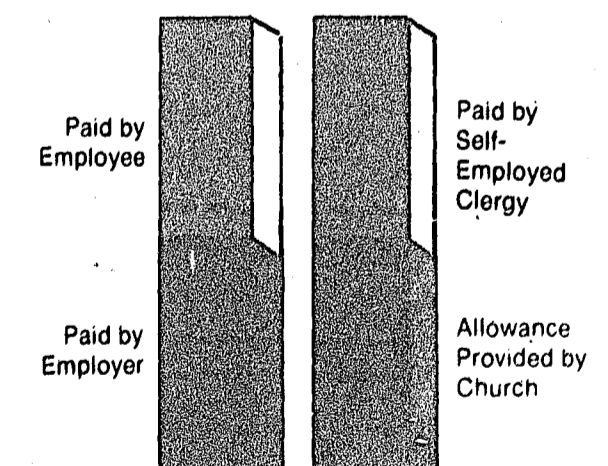
Security payments, become an annual item, separate from salaries, in the church budget.

While such an allowance is taxable income for pastors, it can provide a helpful and much appreciated way for a church to assist its ordained staff members. COSAR urges all S.D.B. churches to consider this important matter of shared responsibility. This proposal for a Social Security

1984 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX



PROPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE FOR MINISTERS



your pastor a 10 percent salary increase in 1985, the increase will not be enough to pay his or her full Social Security tax.

In light of this Social Security legislation, all major Protestant denominations are recommending that churches share in this increased cost. COSAR is recommending that Seventh Day Baptist churches and agencies provide at least one-half of the annual Social Security tax that must be paid by their pastors. Remember, a church cannot pay a portion of its pastor's Social Security taxes as is done for lay employees. It is proposed that this Social Security allowance, which assists the pastor with his or her Social

allowance for ministers, to be provided by S.D.B. churches and agencies is fair, timely and necessary.

Copied by permission from the Ministers and Missionaries American Baptist Board with appropriate comment and inserts of our denominational concerns by COSAR. SR 29

Obituaries

Bartlett.—Grace Stillman Bartlett, 92, was born the daughter of Frederick and Matilda Garrettson Stillman in Plainfield, N.J., on October 29, 1892; and died Thursday, January 3, 1985, at her home in Roselle, N.J.

She married John L. Bartlett on October 5, 1920, and they lived in Roselle. Mr. Bartlett worked as an oil refinery engineer. He died in 1971.

Mrs. Bartlett was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ at Plainfield, N.J., for nearly 80 years, having joined following her baptism on June 2, 1905.

Surviving are two sons, Fred L. Bartlett of Berkeley, Calif., and John S. Bartlett of North Arlington, N.J.; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held Sabbath, January 5, 1985, at the Parow

Funeral Home, North Arlington. Jeanne Yurke officiated. Burial is at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, N.J. A memorial fund has been established by the family to benefit the Plainfield church.

JY

Travis.—Ollie Gay Travis, 86, a life-long member of the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Milton, W. Va., died Sunday, January 6, 1985, at the Salem Health Care Center.

Services were held on Wednesday, January 9, at the West Union Christian Church with Pastor Larry Kennedy officiating. Interment was in the Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery at Sugar Camp Run.

DKZ

Accessions

Boulder, Colorado
Gordon P. Lawton, Pastor

By letter
Connie Green

Columbus, Ohio
Perry L. Cain, Pastor

By testimony
Billie Dollinger
James Gibson
Karen Gibson

Joined after baptism
Stanley Dollinger

Denver, Colorado
John D. Bevis, Pastor

By letter
Jane Bottoms

Fouke, Arkansas
Floyd Goodson, Pastor

By baptism
Gloria Nearhood

Los Angeles, California
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

By baptism
James Sherman

Memphis, Tennessee
Bill Shoffner, Pastor

By testimony
Troy Munn
Mark Hunter
Russell Ward

New York City, New York
Socrates A. Thompson, Pastor

By testimony
Gloria Cooper
Gloria Hutchinson
Pastor David Taylor

By letter
Kay Samuels
Othniel Murphy

White Cloud, Michigan
Lawrence O. Watt, Pastor

Jeffrey Goven
Earl Laisure
Carol Laisure

Births

Colvin.—A daughter, Katie Lynn Colvin, was born to Robert and Jennifer (Pierson) Colvin of Canon City, Colo., on May 10, 1984.

Coombs.—A son, George Janvier Coombs, was born to John H. and Donna (Cruzan) Coombs of Elmer, N.J., on August 28, 1984.

Brooks.—A son, Wesley Cole Brooks, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brooks of Kansas City, Mo., on September 30, 1984.

Spaur.—A daughter, Carrie Rebecca Spaur, was born to William and Doris (Bond) Spaur of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, on December 9, 1984.

Marriages

Fletcher-Pearson.—Rory Fletcher, son of John and Lois Fletcher of New Enterprise, Pa., and Mariann Pearson, daughter of Dorothy Pearson of Williamsburg, Pa., were united in marriage on September 1, 1984, at Zion Lutheran Church in Williamsburg by the Rev. Stevens Lynn, pastor of the bride.

Year End

Cont. from page 22

Members included Steve Looper (sax), James Trower (drums), Ernie Wheeler (keyboards), Mike Looper (bass guitar), Steve Osborn (lead guitar), Jodell Looper (ghetto blaster), and another dude who jumped around a lot and apparently did lead vocals. Other acts included Mike and Abe, the incredible break dancers, and Chris Severance, Louis Williams, and Shane Severance's stunning rendition of "Happy Trails." It was indeed something for Ed McMahon and *Star Search*.

I think it would be safe to say everybody who attended had a great time. Kirk Looper did a great job planning the Conference. I'm sure he and a lot of others put a lot of time in on it, and I personally would like to thank them. I hope Year End Youth Conference continues for many years to come.

So like, that's it, eh. There's no more to be said except "Hi Camille!"

SR

Ministers' conference scheduled for April

A Seventh Day Baptist Ministers' Conference, sponsored by the Center on Ministry, will be held in the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church beginning with worship at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17. Dean Paul Green is director of the conference, and Pastor John Camenga is host pastor.

The major focus of the conference, which will end with communion at about 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22, will be review of the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, under the leadership of the Faith and Order Committee. Sabbath will be spent with the Shiloh and Marlboro congregations.

SR

Plainfield installs

Cont. from page 22

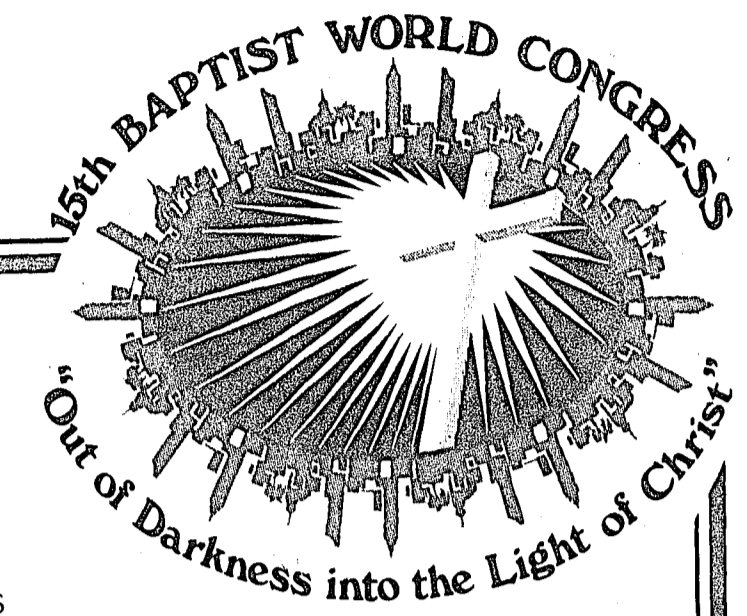
conducted the installation ceremony, with response from the congregation, and Rev. Jerry Henry of the local Shiloh Baptist Church offered the prayer of consecration. Evelyn Troy of St. Peter's Lutheran Church sang a beautiful solo, "The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon You."

A Bible, hymnal, portable Communion set, and a map of the area were presented by members of the church. Using Joshua 1:6-9 as his text, Pastor Joe gave a thrilling response. Then Virginia Sheffield, one of our newest members, introduced the Sammuels family.

The Helping Hand class, led by Woodley Dewar, a new associate member, met in the sanctuary before dinner. In the afternoon Pastor Joe led us in a rousing singspiration. Mary Jane McPherson of the Raritan Valley Church did a superb job of accompanying us on the piano, with or without the music. Several members of the Samuels family and a trio from Hope SDB Church presented beautiful special numbers.

The bulletin listed 38 men and women who had filled our pulpit during our pastorless period. Now we are looking forward to an exciting and fruitful 1985 under the leadership of our new pastor.

SR



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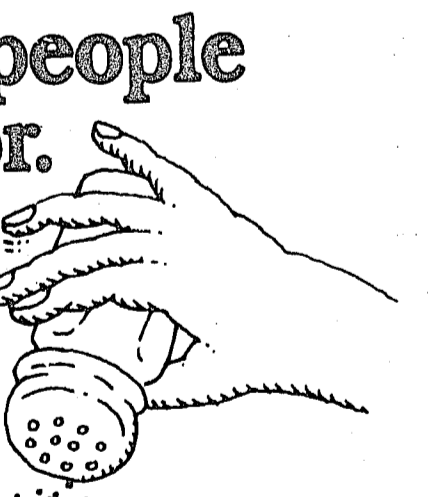
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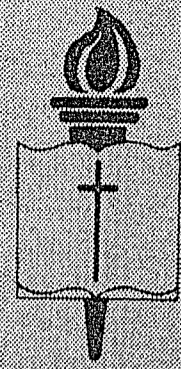
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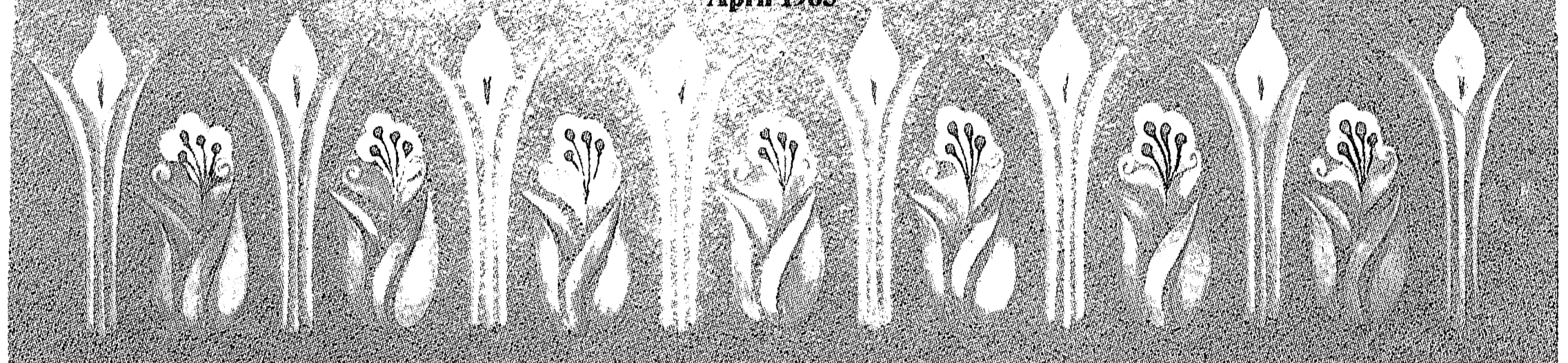
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Alleluia!

April 1985



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