

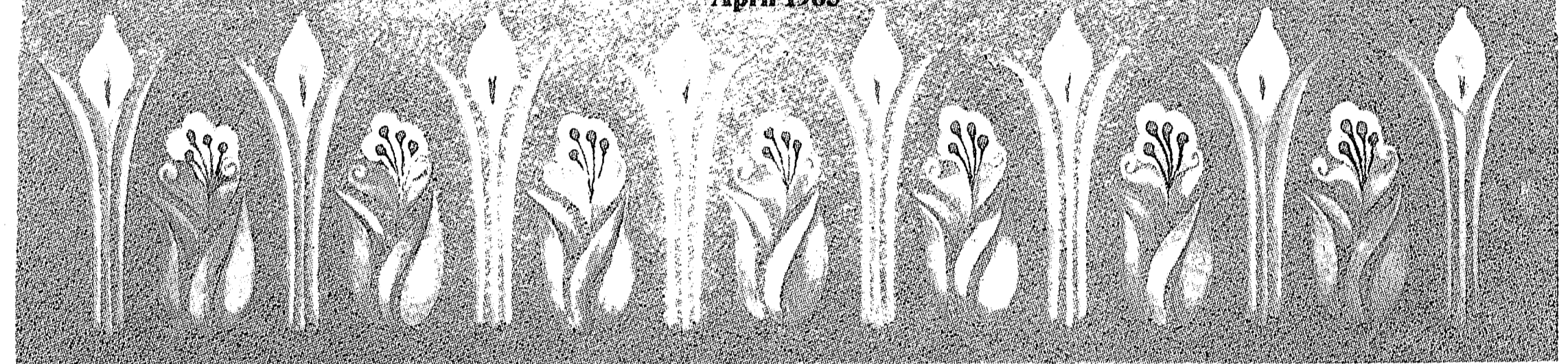
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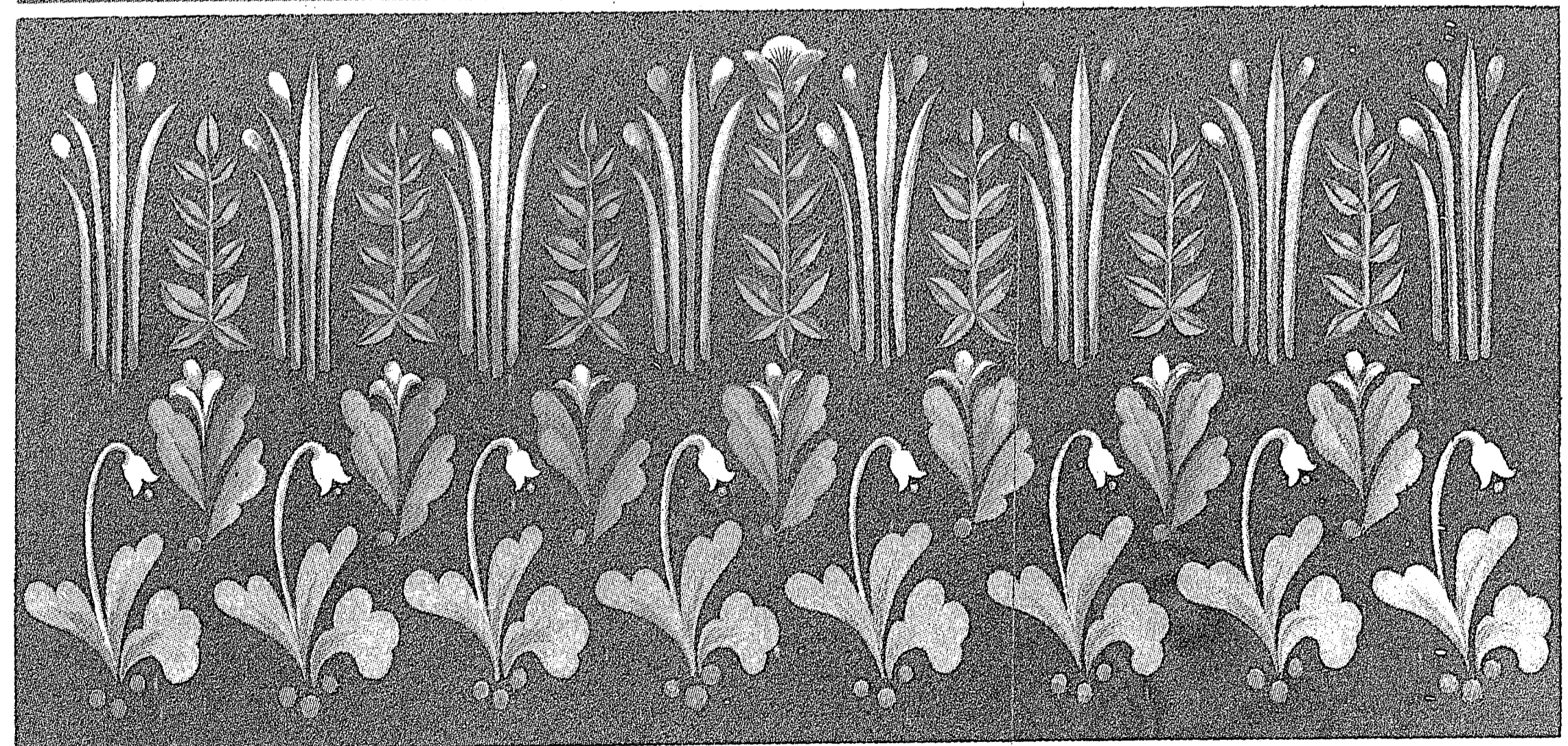


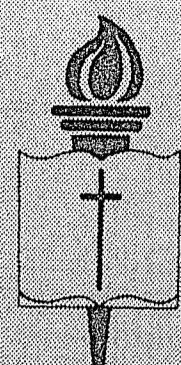
Christ
The Lord
is risen today,
Alleluia!

April 1985



THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST
SABBATH RECORDER





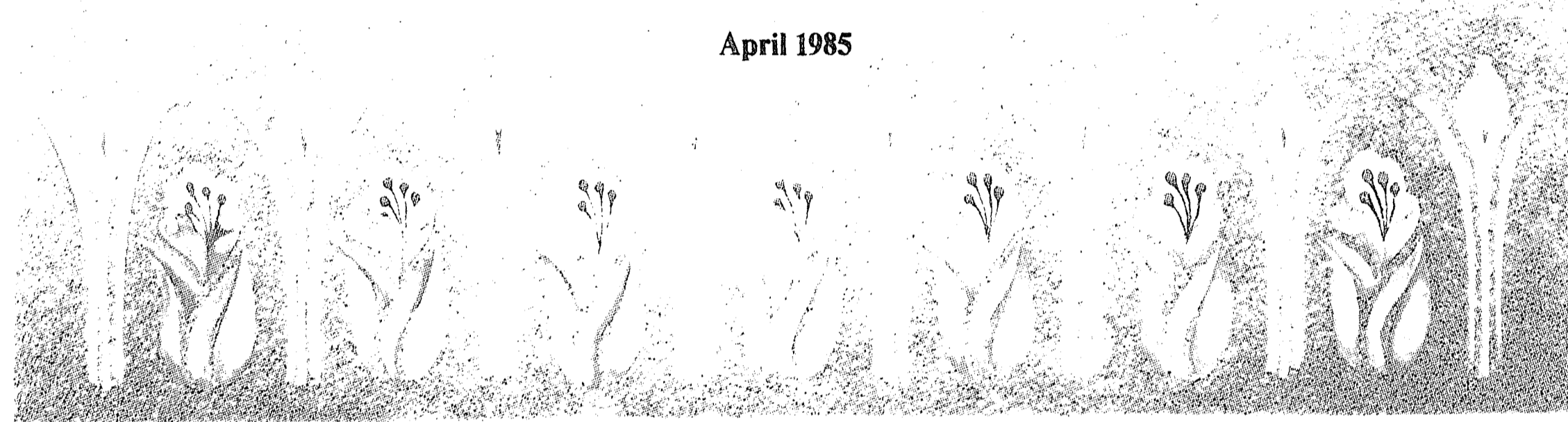
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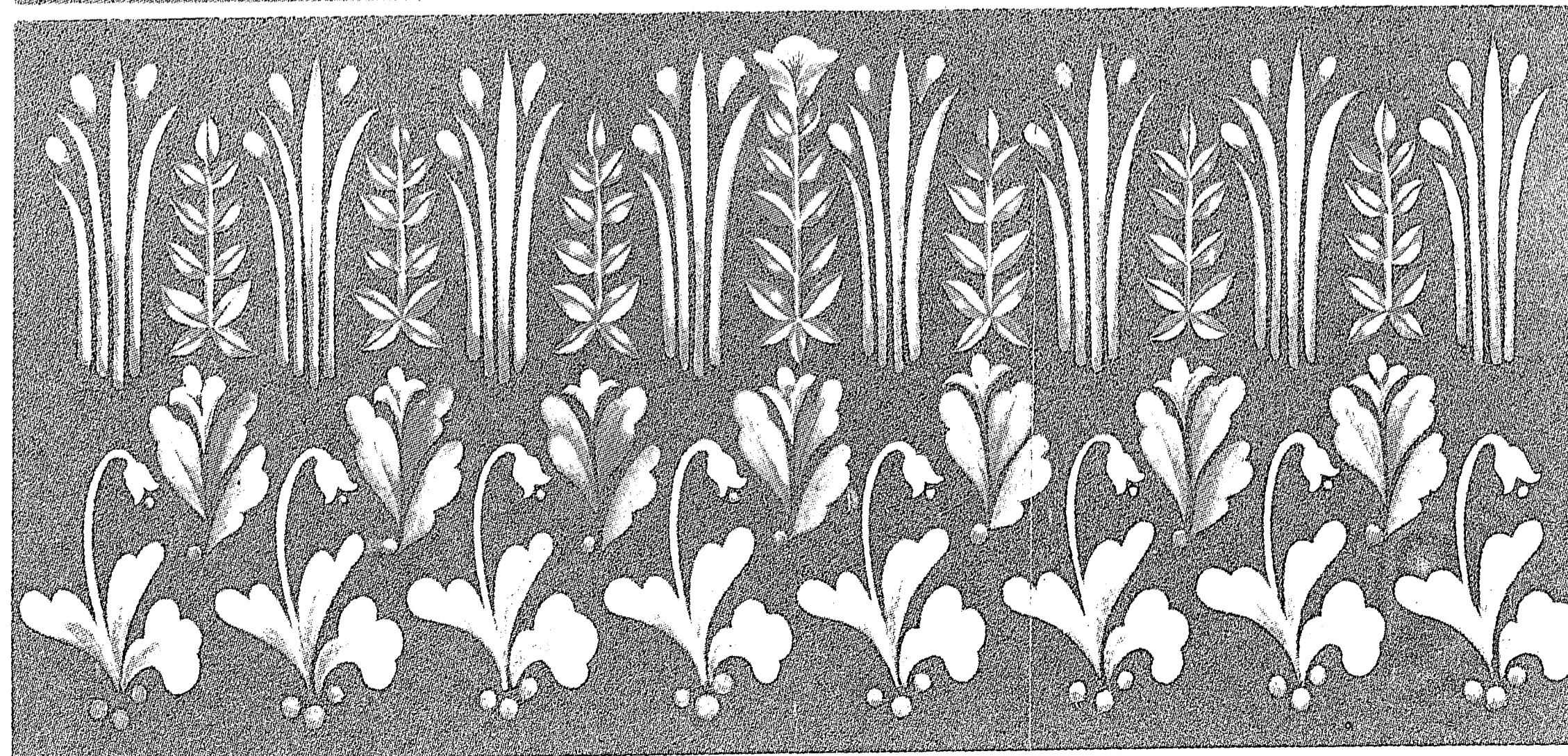


Christ
The Lord
is risen today,
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THE ★ SEVENTH ★ DAY ★ BAPTIST
SABBATH RECORDER



**Sabbath Emphasis Day
May 18, 1985**

**Let's celebrate God's love
together on that day
thanking God for giving us
the Sabbath.
Let's all be in church!**

Sabbath Emphasis, May 18, 1985, should be a day of celebration uniting us from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We will all be thinking together on a theme based on *the Year of Extension* and Conference President Calvin Babcock's theme, *The Great Commission*. We will be considering the theme:

Extending God's Sabbath—Teaching All Nations

The Sabbath Promotion Committee of the American Sabbath Tract Society is sending to each church and group, a packet containing posters, a sermon for you who

have no regular pastor, a children's message for the church service, and worship services for youth and children. There will be bulletins for all with a Sabbath responsive reading.

It should be a marvelous day with an expanded feeling of fellowship as we remember our brothers and sisters everywhere are giving attention to the same truth—that

God loved us and gave us his sacred Sabbath day for worship.

Thanks!

A special thank you from Sunshine Mountain Children's Home to all the SDB friends who helped to make Christmas a blessed season.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of the continued prayer and financial support of the ministry, and we are humbled by the words of encouragement and interest that are delivered in each day's mail.

NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the Seventh Day Baptist Center, in Janesville, Wisconsin, on Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 p.m.

**Youth
Congress
85**

July 26-30, 1985
Washington, D.C.

25,000 high school students and their youth advisors joining together, led by the Campus Life division and Student Venture of Campus Crusade for Christ. For information, write:

Youth Congress 85
9948 Hibert St.
Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92131

or call: (619) 695-3557

**The
Sabbath
Recorder**



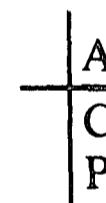
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Good news—Great joy!

Selections from Luke 2, 23 & 24, Today's English Version

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them: "You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now, I have examined him here in your presence, and I have not found him guilty of any of the bad things you accuse him of." Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he called out to the crowd again. But they shouted back, "To the cross with him! To the cross!" Pilate said to them the third time: "But what crime has he committed? I cannot find anything he has done to deserve death! I will have him whipped and set him free." But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus should be nailed to the cross; and finally their shouting won. So Pilate passed the sentence on Jesus that they were asking for.

At that time Emperor Augustus sent out an order for all the citizens of the Empire to register themselves for the census. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.

They took Jesus away, and on the way they met a man named Simon, from Cyrene, who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth, in Galilee, to Judea, to the town named Bethlehem, where King David was born. Joseph went there because he himself was a descendant of David.

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him. Jesus turned to them and said: "Women of Jerusalem! Don't cry for me, but for yourselves and your children. For the days are coming when people will say, 'How lucky are the women who never had children, who never bore babies, who never nursed them!'"

He went to register himself with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him and was with child.

When they came to the place called "The Skull," they nailed Jesus to the cross there.

It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shining and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was split in two.

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

4 Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my spirit!" He said this and died.

And she gave birth to her first son.

There was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took the body down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a grave which had been dug out of the rock.

She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the grave carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the grave, so they went on in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there uncertain about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them.

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. The Lord's angel appeared to them, and the Lord's glory shone over them.

Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them: "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; He has risen."

They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them: "Don't be afraid! For I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord!"

Then the women returned from the grave, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the grave; he bent down and saw the grave cloths and nothing else. Then he went back home wondering at what had happened.

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." He led them out of the city as far as Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them.

When the shepherds saw Him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them. Mary remembered all these things, and thought deeply about them.

As He was blessing them, He departed from them and was taken up into heaven. They worshipped Him and went back into Jerusalem, filled with great joy, and spent all their time in the Temple giving thanks to God.

The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.

Two testimonies of God's grace

Barry and Greta Cummings of the Verona, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church share the stories of their personal encounters with the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Testimony of Barry Cummings

Three years. What can happen to a man's life in three years? At this time three years ago (February, 1982) I was holed-up in an apartment in Houston waiting to go back to Florida. Waiting because the cocaine that I had deposited there had yet to make it's full transformation into cash. This was the life that I had been living for some time. I was working for an organization as a mule and bag man. I was given cocaine in Florida and I would drive to Houston where I would deposit half the load. Then either drive or fly up to Montana where the other half was dropped. Once there I would wait for the coke to be sold, take the cash back to Houston. There I would wait for the Houston cash to accumulate. Once it did I would drive back to Florida, rest and load up all over again.

At this point in my life I was quite proud of my job. I had moved to Florida back in 1976 and quickly moved into the underground economy. I started selling small quantities of whatever drug was marketable. I started out on the streets and slowly moved up the ladder. That meant moving larger and larger quantities. It meant working and socializing with people who dealt in these larger quantities.

I was eventually asked to come and work with some people as their mule.

I was taking the place of someone who had progressed upward to where he did not have to travel all the time. Now it was my turn at this breaking-in level job. All I had to do was do my job, bide my time and eventually I would be taken off the road. I thought I had finally found my avenue of success.

I always wanted to be successful, but not through the established channels that society had to offer. In my mind, my actions were justified. I was doing nothing worse than what the tobacco or alcohol companies are doing. The only difference was a question of legality. And legal is a word that means different things to different people. Cocaine in moderation, as other substances, does not cause life threatening situations. But it can get hold of you and it has taken many people down. I was well aware of what cocaine dependency could do, having gone through a severe bout back in 1979. But my tendency to binge on coke was eradicated.

Slowly I got back into a familiar pattern. Sleep all day, start coming alive around twilight and stay up all night partying. A lot of times, I was alone. But this time things changed a bit. I started reading during those dark morning hours; reading a Bible that I always carried with me. After bingeing, I would be so wired and wound up. Alone and wanting, I longed to go to sleep but was unable to because of the coke in my blood. My heart would pound so hard

and fast that I would lay there in terror listening to it's furious beating.

In order to calm myself down, I would take out my Bible and that would pacify me so that I could go to sleep. There is power in God's Word. Then I started reading it more often. I would read it while partying. A beer in one hand, a headful of coke and the Bible in front of me. The Word had created a thirst for itself. I began to understand about the power of God. What spoke to me was Jesus saying that we will be identified by the fruit we bear. I immediately tried to apply this to others but I knew in my heart my ways and God's ways did not line up at all.

One morning, after another all night cocaine vigil, I was walking through a parking lot on my way to get a bite to eat. I saw a bumper sticker on a car which read "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his

*...the words went past my worldly ways
and psuedo-mystical awareness and etched
themselves deep in my heart.*

own soul?" I knew that was God speaking to me at that moment. I know it might sound corny—God speaking through a bumper sticker? But it happened. The realization of those words burned down deep in me. Deeper than I knew I went. Past my worldly ways and psuedo-mystical awareness and etched themselves deep in my heart. It was an understanding that I could not shake. I tried to keep it out of my mind, but two days after that I had an auto accident with no injuries. I stayed in Houston for a week wondering and pondering the sequence of events that had happened in light of the revelation of God's Word.

One morning, I awoke with the understanding that God wanted me out of the business I was in or I was on the road to hell. I packed one suitcase, called a cab, hopped a bus and left. I went first to the northwestern part of South Carolina. I had a friend there who would put me up and the mountains near by would help me sort out the change that was happening to me. I spent some time with my friend and then went up into The Sumter National Forest. I camped, walked, prayed and read the Word. One night I was reading outside my little one man tent. I was coming close to making a decision for the Lord. I told God "Lord, I'm going to stick with you. I know that you're going to test me. That is O.K." As the rain beating on my tent put me to sleep, I thought in the days or years to come that

God might test me to see if I meant what I said.

Later on, in the middle of the night, I woke up and could not breathe. I tried to get out in the air but I was all twisted up in my sleeping bag. I finally got out but could not unzip the flap. There was no air in the tent. I started to get uptight and confused and my lungs were airless. I finally got the zipper and opened the flap and out I went. I started pacing around asking God never to test me like that again. For he had taken the air out of my lungs. I realized, through the personal power of God, that a commitment to him is not to be taken lightly. He is who he says he is. God is powerful, I know it first hand. After this, in a couple of days, I felt led to come back to Central New York, where I grew up and had family. Since coming back, God has done many great things in my life. On June 28, 1982, I made a final commitment to the Lord. My wife and I were married in February, 1983. On February 4, 1984 my wife, Greta, gave birth to our first child. God has blessed us with his grace through our faith in his Son, Jesus. We know that the type of believers that we are is a direct result of our personal relationship with his Holy Spirit.

How much can a man's life change in three years? With God, an incredible amount. As I turned away from the world and responded to the promptings of His Spirit, God has blessed me abundantly. And as Job said; "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

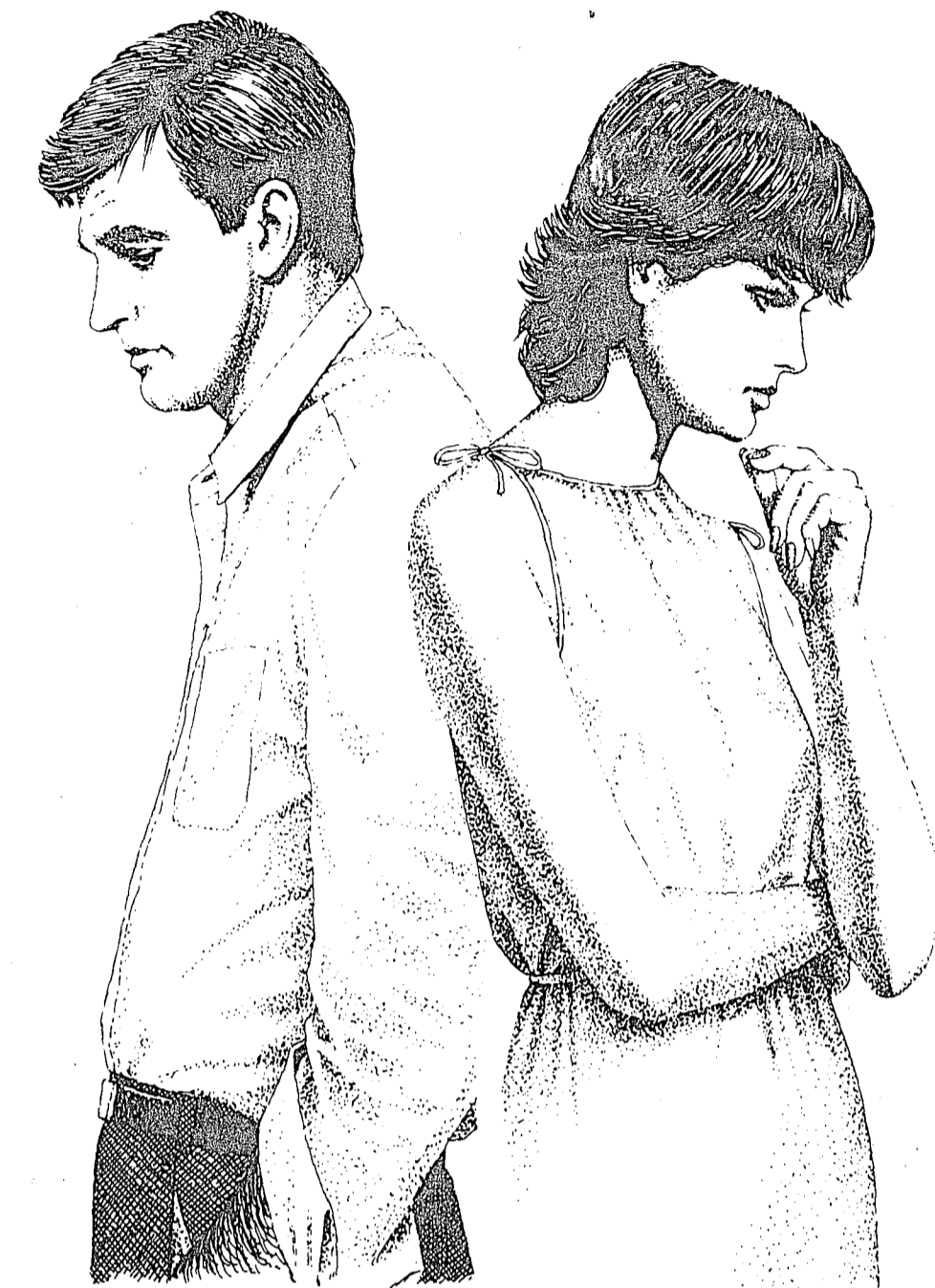
Testimony of Greta Cummings

If someone were to ask me five years ago, if I could get out of the mess and confusion I was in, I would have said, "No, never! I would rather die." That was just the way I felt: like dying, until I accepted the Lord Jesus into my heart.

I never thought I would have serious problems with food. Most people consider drugs and alcohol to be serious problems, but food compulsion can be just as devastating.

In the beginning, I started out on a simple diet. I had tried diets in the past so that I could lose 5 to 10 pounds, and I had done really well on them. I had had good discipline and control. I actually was not overweight at the time, except in my own eyes. I started a strict exercise program and followed it to-a-tee. I bought books on nutrition, worked in health spas, and ate low calorie health meals, and began to use diet pills. People started to compliment me and say how well and how thin I looked. My first reaction was to not believe them. At the same time, I also wanted to believe them because it made me feel like I was doing a good job with myself.

I thought I could do even better; just five or 10 pounds more and more exercise. I was not working at the time, and my entire day was devoted to how much I could exercise



and how little I could eat. I began weighing myself at least 10 times a day. After a party at my parents' home, where I ate a lot and felt very anxious and desperate, I went upstairs and saw a box of laxatives. I thought that that would be a good way to counteract overeating. I had become so concerned about my weight that after drinking a glass of water I would weigh myself, and if it was up a pound, I would take another diet pill or laxative. I could not imagine thinking of anything else. My strict regimen continued to grow slowly. I would wake up early in the morning, go for a walk, come home, do hundreds of sit ups, jump rope, and go for a bike ride. Then I would eat a small lunch and go out walking again. I walked at least seven miles a day. Then I would come back home, and do more sit-ups. If I liked what the scales said, I would eat a decent dinner. I felt as though I deserved it. After dinner, I

*They diagnosed me as having anorexia
nervosa. I had read about a case ... it
sounded familiar, but I did not really
think I had (it) ...*

would weigh myself only to get mad that it went up a pound. Then I would feel fat and not want anyone to see me. So I would isolate myself and then do more exercises until it was time to sleep.

The more that people would comment on my appearance, the harder I tried to look skinnier. Even with my ribs and bones sticking out, that was not enough. I thought I could do better.

It became harder and harder to follow my routine strictly because I was getting more tired and hungry. If I

ate too many things, I would take more laxatives to get rid of it in a hurry. I could never vomit (which made me furious). At first I had only taken five or six laxative tablets along with at least 10 diet pills a day. But by now, I was regularly using 10 or more laxatives plus the diet pills, and I was under 100 pounds. My parents took the scales away from me because I was so obsessive with them.

I would only wear clothes that were too big for me. I hated anything tight, but not too many things were tight on me at this point. I was 25-30 pounds underweight for my height and build. I had stopped menstruating long before.

My parents were very concerned. I was hospitalized at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. They diagnosed me as having anorexia nervosa. I had read about a case in the newspaper about a woman who had anorexia. I thought that it sounded familiar, but I did not really think I had anorexia because I was not down to 70-80 pounds like she was. I spent three months there. We had the freedom to walk the streets, and I did. I was very sneaky and bought food and laxatives.

When I was released, I came home and started all over again. I returned to Upstate, and only got worse. I was eating incredible amounts of food and taking large amounts of laxatives. I remember taking 19 laxatives at one point. We were allowed to go home on weekend passes, and I was bingeing at home. All the laxatives I had taken were beginning to have bad effects. I urinated some blood and that really frightened me. From that point on, the laxatives seemed to be no longer effective. The more I took, the less they seemed to work. I was losing control. I felt as though I had lost my best friend.

I stopped using laxatives completely because I had had a blood work-up done, and found that I had liver damage due to all the laxatives and abuse of my body. By the end of the summer, I had gained a lot of weight. I confined myself to my home and wore only certain clothes. I really

"Greta, I went to doctors and got help, but the only thing that helped me the most was the Lord Jesus."

felt like I was in hell. I could not stand having an ounce of fat on my body and here I had let myself get 20 pounds overweight. Actually to me, that seemed like being 40 pounds overweight.

I had failed. At a desperate point, I took a lot of aspirin and then got scared and told my mother. I did not really want to die, I just wanted all this to end. I went to the emergency room and the doctors made me vomit to get rid of the aspirin. My parents were very concerned because nothing had changed; not with any of the help of doctors or hospitals. Then we heard of a good program at John

Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. I was accepted, and I was very afraid when I arrived there. I was so far from home, and I knew I would have to stick out this program until the end. All the girls were anorexic and here I was 20 pounds overweight and diagnosed as bulimic. I felt like a freak. The hospital was very strict and structured. They watched every movement you made. At meal times they sat and watched to be sure you ate every morsel. You could not leave the table if you did not eat everything. The first meal there, I dropped some dressing on the floor, and they made me eat it. I thought to myself, "I will never make it." They watched you go to the bathroom and take a shower. You had no privacy at all. You could not go outside. The only time you were allowed outside was when you earned their trust, and even then you were accompanied by someone. It was like a prison. I hated it, although I got to be very close to a lot of the girls. I spent three months there. I had lost the 20 pounds, but I left there feeling scared. I was not assured that I would not lose control again. Being fat was the worst feeling in the world to me.

One day I was out walking and a girl stopped and offered me a ride. We talked about exercising and walking. She also liked to do the same things I did and was very open with me. We went walking and she told me that she had anorexia and got down to 70 pounds. She refused to be hospitalized even after seeing a doctor.

I will never forget what she told me: "Greta, I went to doctors and got help, but the only thing that helped me the most is the Lord Jesus."

I knew from what she said that I was missing something. All the hospitals and doctors I went to, forced me to tell them all my life story. Interns, nurses, aids, doctors all knew very personal things which was very painful for me to share, and I always left there feeling empty. Only the physical problem was taken care of. I still continued to struggle, because I did not have an understanding of the Lord.

I went to visit a friend in Florida who is a Christian. I felt really safe around her and did not feel like abusing myself. She took me to church three times a week, and one night I accepted the Lord into my heart. I did not feel any great difference, just a big relief. She told me to start fellowshiping and going to church when I

got home, but I did not know where to start.

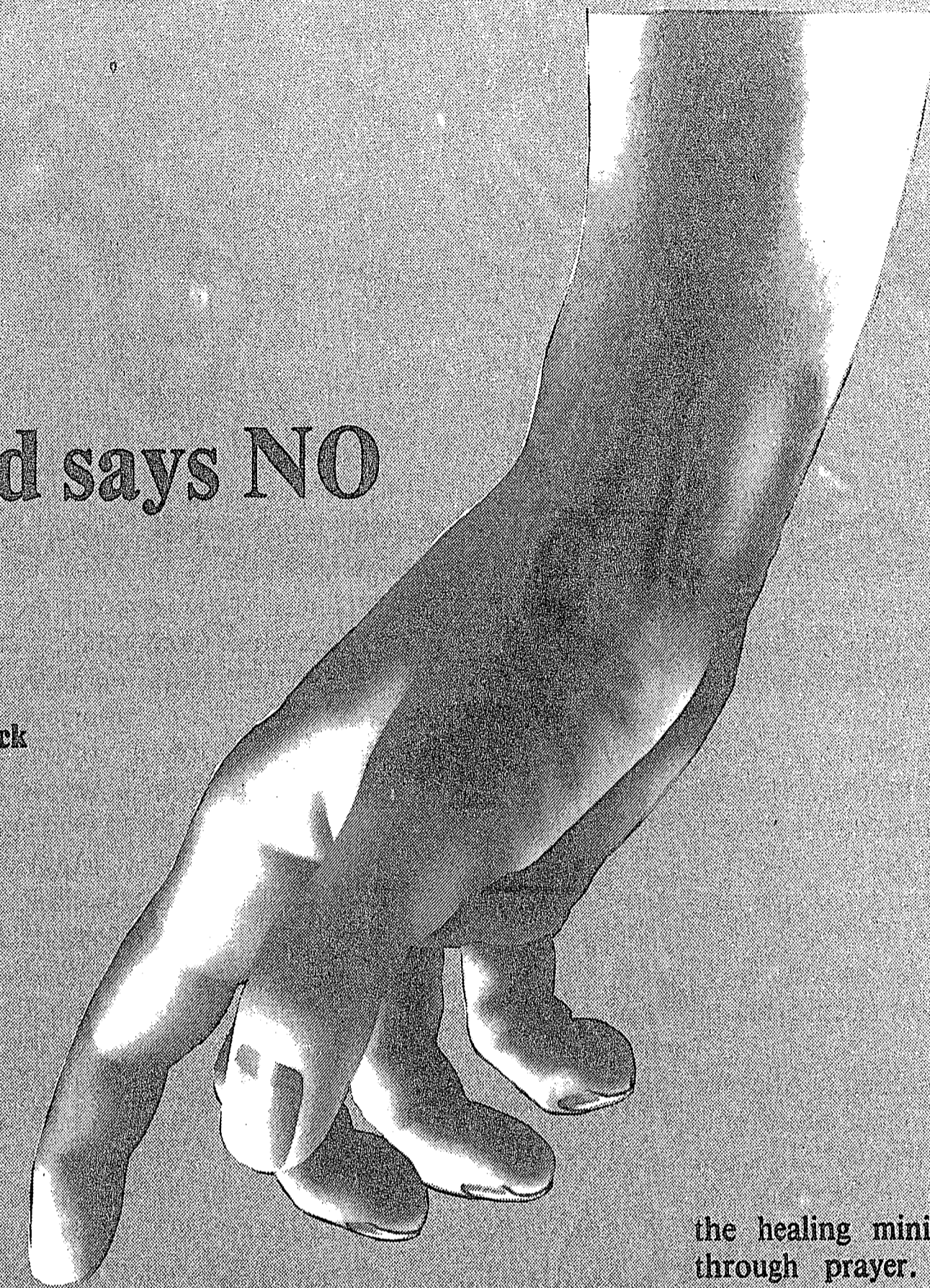
My grandmother became ill and passed away. I was very close to her and took her death very hard. I believe the Lord brought Barry (now my husband) into my life to ease the pain and to help me. As our relationship grew, I still continued to struggle, wondering how he could love a fat person like me.

He could see more than my outer appearance, which I could not see. It was not until we got married that my binges and weight started to finally come under control. I

Cont. to page 18

When God says NO

by the late Rev. Paul S. Burdick



Sometimes his answer to our prayers is NO.

Why should that be so?

Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped; then he came into his own house; and when he required, they set before him meat, and he did eat.

Then said his servants unto him, "That thing is this which thou hast done? Thou didst weep and fast over the child while it was alive, but when the child was dead thou didst arise and eat bread."

And he said, "While the child was alive I fasted and wept, for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious to me that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he cannot return unto me." II Samuel 12:20-23

Much interest has been shown among the churches recently regarding

the healing ministry of the church through prayer. Dr. Alfred Price, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal church of Philadelphia, has a Thursday afternoon healing ministry, with some very outstanding results.

In the field of psychiatry it is being recognized that the spiritual state of a person is all-important, and that often to correct the state of one's awareness of God will truly reverse the course of a disease, and bring a person back to health. The physical and the spiritual nature of man are so interrelated that what affects one part, affects the other.

And why should this not be so? God is the author of our life, and in him is both life and death.

Psalm 103:3—"Who forgiveth all thy iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases."

Deut. 33:27—"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Matt. 10:1—"Jesus called unto him his twelve apostles; he gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of diseases and sickness among the people."

ate too many things, I would take more laxatives to get rid of it in a hurry. I could never vomit (which made me furious). At first I had only taken five or six laxative tablets along with at least 10 diet pills a day. But by now, I was regularly using 10 or more laxatives plus the diet pills, and I was under 100 pounds. My parents took the scales away from me because I was so obsessive with them.

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Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. I was accepted, and I was very afraid when I arrived there. I was so far from home, and I knew I would have to stick out this program until the end. All the girls were anorexic and here I was 20 pounds overweight and diagnosed as bulimic. I felt like a freak. The hospital was very strict and structured. They watched every movement you made. At meal times they sat and watched to be sure you ate every morsel. You could not leave the table if you did not eat everything. The first meal there, I dropped some dressing on the floor, and they made me eat it. I thought to myself, "I will never make it." They watched you go to the bathroom and take a shower. You had no privacy at all. You could not go outside. The only time you were allowed outside was when you earned their trust, and even then you were accompanied by someone. It was like a prison. I hated it, although I got to be very close to a lot of the girls. I spent three months there. I had lost the 20 pounds, but I left there feeling scared. I was not assured that I would not lose control again. Being fat was the worst feeling in the world to me.

One day I was out walking and a girl stopped and offered me a ride. We talked about exercising and walking. She also liked to do the same things I did and was very open with me. We went walking and she told me that she had anorexia and got down to 70 pounds. She refused to be hospitalized even after seeing a doctor.

I will never forget what she told me: "Greta, I went to doctors and got help, but the only thing that helped me the most is the Lord Jesus."

I knew from what she said that I was missing something. All the hospitals and doctors I went to, forced me to tell them all my life story. Interns, nurses, aids, doctors all knew very personal things which was very painful for me to share, and I always left there feeling empty. Only the physical problem was taken care of. I still continued to struggle, because I did not have an understanding of the Lord.

I went to visit a friend in Florida who is a Christian. I felt really safe around her and did not feel like abusing myself. She took me to church three times a week, and one night I accepted the Lord into my heart. I did not feel any great difference, just a big relief. She told me to start fellowshipping and going to church when I

got home, but I did not know where to start.

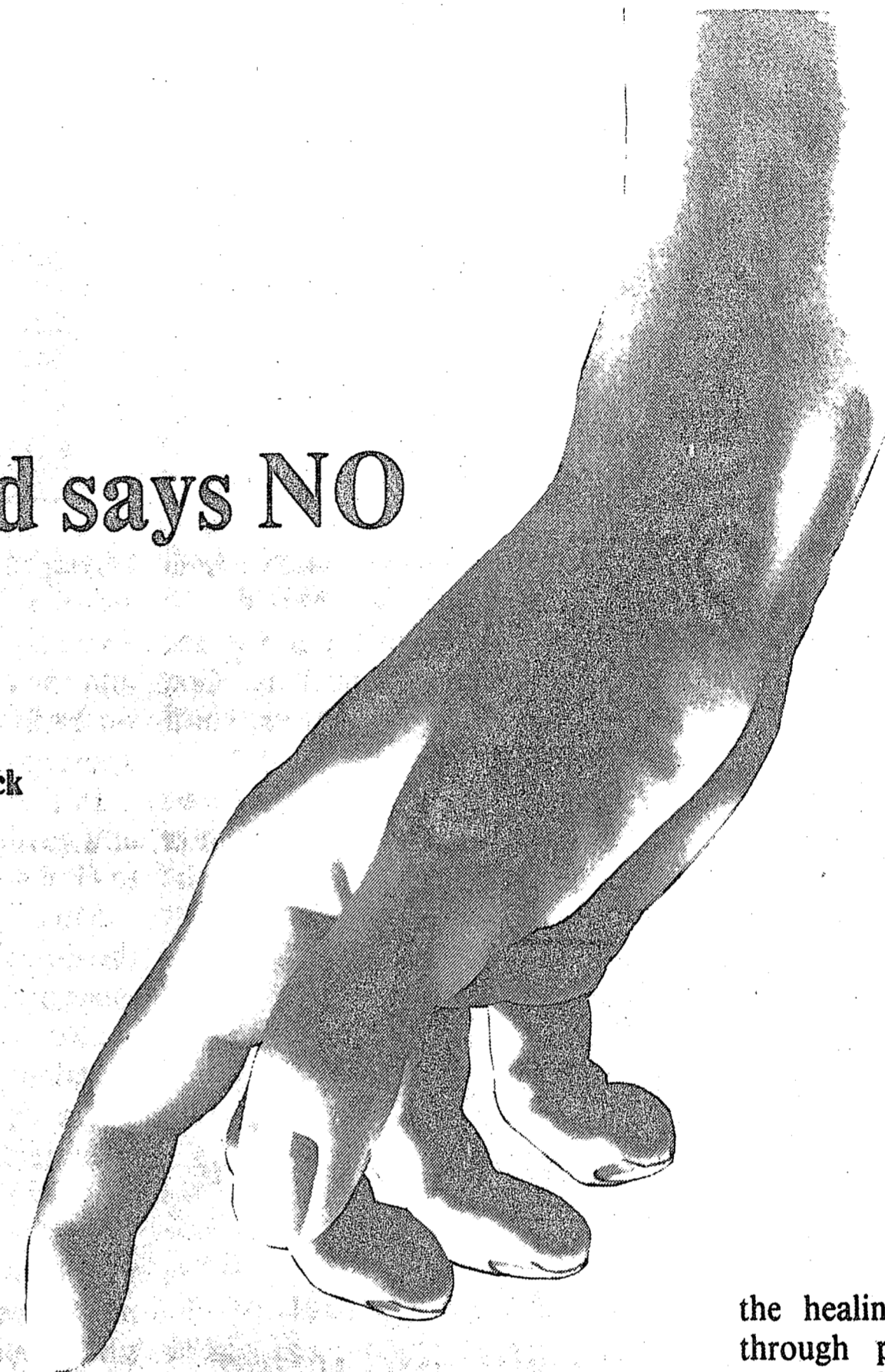
My grandmother became ill and passed away. I was very close to her and took her death very hard. I believe the Lord brought Barry (now my husband) into my life to ease the pain and to help me. As our relationship grew, I still continued to struggle, wondering how he could love a fat person like me.

He could see more than my outer appearance, which I could not see. It was not until we got married that my binges and weight started to finally come under control. I

Cont. to page 18

When God says NO

by the late Rev. Paul S. Burdick



Sometimes his answer to our prayers is NO.

Why should that be so?

Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped; then he came into his own house; and when he required, they set before him meat, and he did eat.

Then said his servants unto him, "That thing is this which thou hast done? Thou didst weep and fast over the child while it was alive, but when the child was dead thou didst arise and eat bread."

And he said, "While the child was alive I fasted and wept, for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious to me that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he cannot return unto me." II Samuel 12:20-23

Much interest has been shown among the churches recently regarding

the healing ministry of the church through prayer. Dr. Alfred Price, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal church of Philadelphia, has a Thursday afternoon healing ministry, with some very outstanding results.

In the field of psychiatry it is being recognized that the spiritual state of a person is all-important, and that often to correct the state of one's awareness of God will truly reverse the course of a disease, and bring a person back to health. The physical and the spiritual nature of man are so interrelated that what affects one part, affects the other.

And why should this not be so? God is the author of our life, and in him is both life and death.

Psalms 103:3—"Who forgiveth all thy iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases."

Deut. 33:27—"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Matt. 10:1—"Jesus called unto him his twelve apostles; he gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of diseases and sickness among the people."

Even in later days (Acts 19:12) God wrought special miracles by the hand of Paul, so that from him were brought unto the sick, handkerchiefs, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

And why should it not be so? God, who is the author of our lives, and who holds the stars in his hand and knoweth all their names—is it not possible that he could stay the course of our diseases?

And yet, sometimes his answer to our prayers is NO. Why should that be so?

One dear friend said that she prayed every day for the healing of a dear one, but God refused her request. Has not God power? Surely, God has all wisdom, also, and sometimes his wisdom denies us our prayers.

Sometimes it is because of the welfare of the one prayed for. To live on, and to be in pain, or to have the loss of some of the spiritual or physical powers—there may be quite a few reasons why death and heaven would be preferable to life and its handicaps.

Paul said, (Phil. 1:20b-23) "So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or death. For me to live in Christ and betwixt the two, having a desire to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better, nevertheless to abide in the flesh if more needful to you."

He who had "fought with wild beasts at Ephesus," and who had to "buffet his body to bring it unto subjection," and who was afflicted with a "thorn in the flesh," looked forward to the future state with Christ with joy and anticipation.

It is comforting to think that heaven is not a place where all is static, immovable. But there is growth, a blessed state of activity. Souls go on in glory, and God has need of the best that this world has developed, to assist him in some celestial project. The very

stars are kept from wrong, and we shall be as angels in heaven, we are told.

Not only is it sometimes for the welfare of our loved ones that God must answer NO to our prayers, but it may also be for our own good.

We have a need to direct our love above this earth to those who dwell in

When earthly relationships mean everything, as with a child, there is no knowledge of the heavenly. But when earthly staffs fail, we learn to depend more and more upon God and the promises and gifts of God.

heaven. To desire a continuation of a friendship enjoyed on earth, is one thing, but to desire a continuation of that relationship with one who has gone to heaven is much better.

When earthly relationships mean everything, as with a child, there is no knowledge of the heavenly. But when earthly staffs fail, we learn to depend more and more upon God and the promises and gifts of God.

So when God says NO, he may have our very best welfare in mind. We need to direct our love above self, from friends on earth to friends in heaven, from earthly things to heavenly things.

Are we worthy of those heavenly

friendships? Do we live a life for self alone, or do we have time for God? Some day we shall hope to be received into the company of the blessed. Shall we be in a state of mind and heart to appreciate spiritual things?

In this life we can find time for TV and gossip. How much time do we give to God and things of the Spirit?

Most important of all, then, may be the thought that God says NO because he wants to give us more of himself.

Our loved ones had graces, qualities of mind and heart, that we admired. These qualities came from God, because they depended upon him.

Their patience came because God is patient. They endured slights and hardships because Christ said "Forgive until seventy times seven," not just seven times. There must be no limit to our willingness to forgive, as there is not to God's.

Their cheerfulness was based upon the faith that God will bring good out of our present evil and harm. From him we have the promise that "All things work together from God for good to them that love him, who are the called according to His purpose."

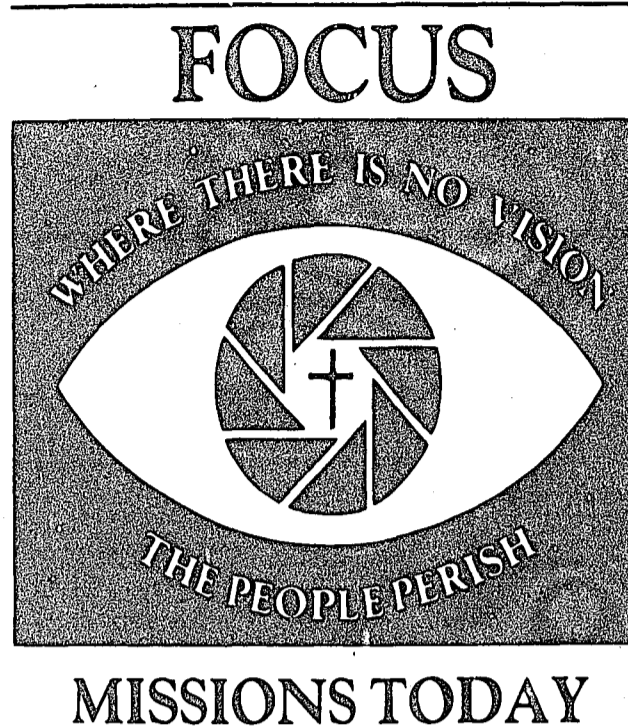
Their generosity was the giving of self to their friends, because of what God had given to them.

So when God says NO it is because he wants us to accept more of himself as a gift from heaven, to take the place of the loss of earthly benefits.

When God says NO it is for our benefit, that we shall have more ties with heaven and with those who have gone to watch over and to wait for us.

When he says NO it is because he loves the one he takes from us, too much to leave them to more pain, or suffering, or loss that this world might bring to them. SR

Address given by the late Rev. Paul S. Burdick at the funeral of Mary Brooks, November 20, 1963.



by Leon R. Lawton

Henry's report from Philippines

PHILIPPINES, ASIA: "In our last prayer letter we (Rod and Camille Henry) prayed for a way in which we might train the pastor of our newest church in Baluran, Mindanao. Because it is so far away from our other churches, it would require too much time for Ely Paypa's (the Dean of the Pastors Training Class -PTC) travel. The only way that Ely would have the time to be able to do that kind of travel is if he could be in ministry full-time. At our last Executive meeting Ely was called to full time service! This church is one of the 'first fruits' of a totally Filipino work. I think that we will very

soon have another fellowship started on the island of Camotes."

There are now five pastors enrolled in the PTC, those from Molave and Camotes at one level and the pastor from Baluran at a different level. This will simplify Ely's task in the training of these men.

"I continue to marvel at the power and wisdom of our God. Ministry seems so complicated at times especially when you are working on a denominational level. So much is beyond our control and responsibility. Yet, there is nothing that is beyond the control of the One who sits on the throne of the universe."

Church uses Yellow Pages ad

BAY AREA, CA USA: We maintain Yellow Page ads/listing in 15 Bay Area phone books. Outreach has been mainly the building of relationships with other people by our own members. The Pastor follows up on all visitors and inquirers. Results were four new members in 1984 and several others attending regularly. Goals for 1985 include: Evangelism committee draw up and coordinate plan for pastor to visit other Sabbath-keepers in outlying areas of Northern California, perhaps quarterly trips; develop 2 weekly home Bible studies; develop 2 NEW weekly Bible clubs for children; have 2 five-day clubs in the summer; continue children's church and a children's choir with it; average attendance at worship and Sabbath school of 50 (up from 34 in 1984).

Filipino outreach

LOS ANGELES, CA USA: The Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist church called one of its members, Oscar Godoy, to a full time ministry, continuing his work in evangelizing and leading Bible studies for those from the Philippines. Beginning in this new relationship from February 1, 1985, and supported with matching funds from the Missionary Society, the initial followthrough on those reached for Christ brought baptisms at the church on three successive Sabbaths in February.

This is a NEW WORK in the YEAR

OF EXTENSION, even though Oscar Godoy has been ministering to about 500 people in small groups for some time. Members of the local congregation are visiting and participating with him. It is hoped that a new branch church can be established in the southern part of the city at an early date.

In seeking to reach some of the over 400,000 Filipino residents in Southern California, the Los Angeles church is sponsoring an ethnic ministry which it is hoped will continue to provide its own leaders and grow to several local congregations.

Difficulties to overcome in Malawi

MEDICAL WORK, MALAWI, AFRICA: "We have really been discouraged recently with the difficulties of keeping our places staffed with honest, dependable and qualified personnel. The elderly M.A. (Medical Assistant) at Thomas resigned in November and we had to bring our midwife who was in charge of maternity at Makapwa to handle the Thomas dispensary until another person was found. We now have a new M.A. who went to Thomas in mid-January. The new Makapwa M.A. who seemed to be what we needed and

thought would be of much help stayed only three months and left the end of December. I knew of his going only two days before he left, and though we talked to him hoping to work out his problems, he would not be persuaded to stay. All the three who left in the last three months of 1984 left apparently because of our tightness in asking them to be accountable for funds and drugs. However, if the Lord wants us to continue in this work, someone will be found, I know. We want it to be the Lord's leading and His choice for us. Only then can they be honest and stay

on with us." -Bettie Pearson, Medical Administrator

At least monthly visits to the four medical clinics are made by Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson. At Thomas two new buildings for staff members are under construction. The road to Thomas has been eroded but a trip early in March was planned. David wrote in mid-February, "We've had a few days of dry weather, a welcome change from such an abundance of rainfall. How thankful we should be for the likelihood of an abundant harvest. Praise God."

A prayer reminder for each day

May 1985

Verse for the Month: Lord, with all my heart I thank You. I will sing your praises before the armies of angels in heaven. When I pray, You answer me, and encourage me by giving me the strength I need. Psalm 138:1,3
TLB

Pray for:

1. Missionaries Rod and Camille Henry return from the Philippines
2. Pastor Oscar Godoy and his outreach ministries in the L.A. area
3. Sabbath School Mission Offerings in my SS this month
4. Sabbath peace
5. Tract Society meeting, SDB Center, Janesville, Wisconsin
6. SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corp) workers
7. medical staff at Makapwa and Thembe, in Malawi, Africa
8. Conference President Calvin Babcock in the east this month
9. Extension Pastor George Calhoun, San Diego, CA SDB church
10. Allegheny Association meeting, Alfred Station, New York
11. Sabbath joy
12. SCSC training staff
13. Extension Pastor C. Justin Camenga, Portland, OR SDB church
14. pastors and leaders of the SDB Conference of South Africa
15. individuals and leaders to form a new branch church in Hawaii

16. pastor at Lilongwe, Malawi and plans for their first building project
17. Eastern Association meeting, Berlin, New York
18. Sabbath Emphasis Day

19. staff of summer camps in my church or association
20. Extension Pastor William Shobe, Atlanta Area, GA SDB Church
21. Pastor B. John V. Rao and wells and church ministries in India
22. that the Lord may raise up his chosen field pastor for Florida
23. SCSC local church projects and their directors
24. Our World Mission budget goals to be reached
25. Sabbath insight

26. those planning for General Conference sessions
27. COM Summer Institute, SDB Center, Janesville, Wis. (Thru June 14)
28. Pastor Ely Paypa, dean of Pastors' Training Classes in Philippines
29. Extension Pastor John Peil, San Gabriel Valley, California
30. medical staff at Thomas and Sandama, in Malawi, Africa
31. a Sabbath blessing

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

Religion in the News

Holy See Ambassador exchange faces first court test

A suit challenging the Reagan administration's exchange of ambassadors with the Roman Catholic Church faced its first legal test in a Philadelphia courtroom last month. Judge John P. Fullam, of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, was scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case on Friday, March 15, at the U.S. Courthouse on Market Street.

The Reagan administration has asked Judge Fullam to dismiss the case on grounds that Americans United for

Separation of Church and State and 16 other organizational co-plaintiffs lack standing to sue and that the court does not have the right to review the dispute because it is a "political question." The administration claims that the separation of powers doctrine prevents the judiciary from interfering with the executive branch of government.

Americans United has filed a 119-page reply refuting the administration's claims. The basic premise of the suit is that U.S. government ties with the Holy See, the institutional arm of the Roman Catholic Church, violate the constitutional principle of church-state separation.

Plaintiffs include the National Council of Churches, the National Association of Evangelicals and the National Coalition of American Nuns. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, representing the Southern Baptist Convention and other Baptist groups, has also filed a brief supporting the complaint. SR

Drug abuse statistics released

While there has been a slight increase in the use of cocaine in American high schools, a recent government report indicates that overall drug use was down slightly last year. Twenty-seven percent of the students surveyed had used at least one illegal drug in the 30 days prior to the poll. That is down from a level of 38 percent in 1979. SR

Church groups deal with child abuse

Christianity Today reports that churches and religious agencies are facing evidence of child abuse, including child-sex abuse, in church-sponsored organizations. Concerned groups are receiving increased reports of abuse in unexpected environments. A spokesman for Focus on the Family notes that their mail is largely from Christian families, but problem situations are increasingly reported. Media attention appears to have opened communications.

Bruce Ritter, of Covenant House in New York City, regards pornography as a contributing factor. "The most intellectually dishonest thing a person can say is that there is no connection between pornography and child abuse," he asserts. SR

Vatican challenges petitioners

A petition by 24 Roman Catholic nuns in the New York Times has led to a threat of dismissal by the Vatican. The published statement contended that a number of Catholic theologians believe that abortion may be a moral choice in special cases. Catholics for a Free Choice sponsored the signed advertisement.

Vatican officials have called for a public statement of retraction, or dismissal of the nuns from their orders will result. SR

Rock videos and violence

The trend toward rock video programming is accompanied by increased glorification of violence. That is the finding of the National Coalition on Television Violence. NCTV reported that 46 percent of the 900 rock videos reviewed contained violence, or imitations of violent acts. A significant number were described as sadistic in their message. SR

Politics and Ethiopian hunger

The long-term problem of Ethiopian starvation is compounded by political realities. The official position of the Ethiopian government is that the Soviet Union is its greatest benefactor when, in fact, the American relief efforts dwarf the Soviet aid. The policy of relocating thousands of hungry people from relief camps to distant areas of the country has also created tension.

The U.S. House Select Committee on Hunger has concluded that the famine in Africa is likely to continue for a number of years, and that relief efforts must continue. SR 13



Women's Society NEWS and IDEAS

Busy summer coming

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear ones All,
Happy, glorious, beautiful Easter!

Who Can Dare?

Who can watch the rising sun, or see the wonders God has done,
Who can count them one by one and say, "There is no God?"

Who, the orchard's gifts can share, can taste the fruit that ripens there,
Can watch it grow and yet declare that God is dead?

Who can see the wonders done by missionaries' efforts spun,
Or count the souls their works have won and claim there is no God?

Who can look upon the grain, the clouds above that bring the rain to
nourish crops on field and plain, yet dares infer that God is dead.

Who is so blind he cannot see the wonders wrought in Galilee by Christ
who came for all to see—and know—There Is a God!

by Ronald Eyrich*

In Dorothea Shettel's report given to the Board some months ago, she spoke of the S.C.S.C.'s who were recognized at Conference in 1984. She continued "there have been 318 terms of service with one giving four summers, 8 giving 3 summers and 34 giving two summers for about 275 different young people being involved during the 20 years. That is just the tip of the iceberg. Most of these young people were indelibly impressed by their experience, but so were the people whose lives they touch. How many can you remember who worked in your area? It is as though they sometimes almost belong to your family, your church. This is such an important period of their lives." I hope your group will feel the importance of your support as this year's group goes forth to serve. Watch for more on S.C.S.C. in Lead Line, and the Beacon page of the Sabbath Recorder.

This is the last of our Mighty Mites. How about sharing five cents for each sister, five cents for each brother and 10 cents for a husband. (I'll bet there are a lot of us that would gladly give more than that if we still had ours.) Then there is two cents to share for each letter in your birth month. The

last is why worry, share 10 cents, nuff said. Share your blessings.

Recently I heard the remark that some of the key workers saw no need for their positions since the Women's Board Newsletter has been discontinued. Wrong! Just because you do not need to pass out the letter, there are still matters nearly every month mentioned on this page that need to be presented for action to your group. Remember, in December, when the board suggested you write to the Denominational Center in Janesville and ask for a print-out of your church membership and addresses. You were asked to correct them, bringing them up to date for the denominational mailing list. When a copy of *The Sabbath Recorder* is returned, it is costly. What is everybody's business tends not to get done. You, the key worker, are the liason between the Board and your group. They look to you to refresh their memories on what is on this page as well as various communiques such as the one from S.C.S.C. you received. Besides, who else would get them to adopt some of the Mighty Mites. We depend on you.

In the *Midweek Messenger* from Los

Angeles, I read that the Rosa Palmberg Missionary Society ladies prepared 80 hand designed boxes filled with candy for distribution at a nursing home in the neighborhood of their church building. These boxes were given individually to the residents at the holiday season for which they received a special *Thank You* from the recreation director. Thanks, L.A., for sharing this with us. Very few of our groups have reported any sort of Easter activity in their Conference reports. Little Genesee, New York, Sunshine Society remembered nursing home residents and shut-ins by making little Easter baskets from nylon mesh and filling them with candy. The Daytona Beach, Florida, Society holds an annual Men's Easter Pancake

You, the keyworker, are the liason between the Board and your group.

Breakfast. Sounds yummy. Their group is made up of both men and women and they have a great many activities and service projects throughout the year. White Cloud, Michigan, is making 110 Easter basket tray favors for the residents of the local medical facility from plastic canvas and yarn. Sounds great.

By now, I am sure most of you have seen the announcement taken from a church bulletin regarding the Easter service and this being the time that Mrs. Nameless will lead the congregation in "laying an egg on the altar." Instead of laying eggs, I wonder how many of you will be placing a Love Loaf on the altar as we do here in Battle Creek, Michigan. These loaves are meant to feed the hungry, bring them new life and hope.

Whatever your mode of celebration of the Easter season... I pray for you a renewal of spirit, a revival of hope and expectation of great happenings.

Exciting plans are going forward for the visit of Mrs. Lozani of Malawi to the California area, the Baptist World Alliance and Conference. She will arrive in Los Angeles on June 26th and her housing and entertainment while in California is being coordinated by Joy Ross of the Women's Board along with local pastors. Board President Dorothea Shettel will also assist. Lead Line will have more information about her visit. It is a great honor for one of our African sisters to be invited to represent her country and her Seventh Day Baptist sisters at the Alliance and we are anxious to hear her speak at Conference.

I have at last received the first of the Book Reviews promised by the Board, and one, at least, I can attest to. Dorothea recommends the book *Lydia* by Henderson. It is, admittedly, a novel. However, "it tells a very possible tale of the Biblical Lydia and how her life was changed and how she changed others' lives. It seems to stick to all the Biblical facts we know and yet makes her a much more real person to the reader." (The above quote was taken from the president's report to the Board.)

"When I had to make a choice of which of my beloved books I would part with when packing, *Lydia* was one of the first to be packed for shipment to my new home. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and in fact shared portions with my Sabbath School class when we studied her. Many of the historical facts the author divulged were an added dimension."

At the January meeting of the Board, Joy Ross gave an oral book

report on Colson's new book, *Loving God*. She highly recommended it to that body and suggested that the readers of *The Sabbath Recorder* would also enjoy knowing of it. Please drop me a line if you have recently (or not so recently) read a book that has inspired and helped you. All that is needed is a short paragraph about it. Many of our women are great readers and having a

We know the joy of morning, the glory of the sunrise...

book that someone else has enjoyed makes it that more interesting.

I have a narrow view of life today. The snow is so thick it looks as though the sky is full of feathers. The snow is up as high as the bottom of my mail box and the delightful neighbor who plows my drive has made a track just one blade wide and straight in off the highway so you might say I have tunnel vision. The view is rather bleak today. That is the way it would be with Easter if the crucifixion was all there was, but we have a wider view. If all there was was the cross and the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, we would have a very narrow view. We know what comes later. We know about the resurrection, about everlasting life. We have a wider view. We know the joy of the morning,

the glory of the sunrise, the budding and greening of the springtime and the beauty of the Easter season. How blessed is our vision.

I was so saddened by the news of the death of one of God's very special servants in February, Miss Lois Wells of Nortonville, Kansas, and Los Angeles, California, churches (see Obituaries, in this issue). How glorious that we know there is a resurrection when we shall meet her and all our dear ones who have left us behind to work for the Lord here on earth. Lois certainly made the most of her time here and the God given talent. We are all richer for it. Dear friend, we shall see you in the morning.

Whatever your mode of celebration of the Easter season, be it participation in the community Good Friday services, attending lenten luncheons, attending a sunrise service or just your regular church worship service, I pray for you a renewal of spirit, a revival of hope and expectation of great happenings in the coming months not only for you but our whole church family universal. Christ the Lord is risen again, Hallelujah!

Joyfully, in his service,

Marilyn L. Merchant

*Taken from "His Touch" published by the Salesioan Missions of St. John Bosco.

New Zealand church rebuilt

from The Link

Bro. Daniel Barrar reports from Christchurch, New Zealand: The church is now dedicated. Ron (pastor R. Barrar) came down from Auckland several days before to help with the final preparation. There was a photo in the "Press" newspaper of the church with me leaning on the fence. In the other paper there was a small article in a much read column and it was also on radio. As well we had some fairly big ads in the paper.

We asked the man who did the repairs on our "new" organ to play for us to "show it off," so Sr. Hopkins could sit back and just listen for a change.

Several people supplied flowers and some lovely arrangements were made for the big day. Extra chairs were put at the back of the church and were needed.

At 10:45 (Sabbath, Nov. 10, 1984) the Pastor (Edward Barrar) came and after a short prayer opened the door and led us in as the organ was played. After everyone was seated the pastor then dedicated the church and the organ etc. The Pastor, Ron and myself

IRS investigates NCC

According to an article in *Church and State* magazine, the Internal Revenue Service is investigating the National Council of Churches for possible misuse of tax-exempt church contributions for political purposes.

The article, which appeared in the March, 1985 issue, said that a spokesman for the Washington-based Institute on Religion and Democracy, reported that an IRS official asked the group for help in an investigation of the council. Evidence of partisan political use of tax-exempt contributions by a nonprofit organization could lead to revocation of the council's tax-exempt status. SR

spoke during the service, which we recorded and photos were taken.

We all are very thrilled to be back in a church again (the original wooden chapel was destroyed by fire just over a year ago) and certainly have much to thank the Lord for our being able to rebuild such a lovely church again. Counting children we had about 45 people for the dedication, a thrill for us

Park crosses contested

A "friends-of-the-court brief" submitted in the US Court of Appeals' Fifth Circuit, contends that a Texas county commissioner violated the Constitutional requirement of church-state separation when he placed three Latin crosses and a Star of David in a public park.

The brief, filed by the American Jewish Congress and the Synagogue Council of America, said that Robert Eckels, Commissioner of Harris County, acted "impermissibly" to advance religion when he set aside a portion of Bear Creek Park in Houston, Texas, for "meditation" or use as a war memorial and decorated it with religious symbols.

The controversy began in 1980 when Commissioner Eckels agreed to requests from constituents that three crosses be erected in an area of Bear Creek Park which was to be devoted to personal reflection or meditation. A Star of David was later added to the display, also at county expense, when several Jewish constituents requested it. When the constitutionality of Harris County's actions was questioned, Commissioner Eckels personally reimbursed the county for the construction costs of the religious symbols.

In 1982, several taxpayers and citizens filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the county's action in placing the religious symbols on public property.

The district court ruled that the

all. Since then we have had several visitors. We are continuing to advertise in papers in the South Island and are getting quite a bit of response; several people wanting to know more about Seventh Day Baptists. So remember this work in your prayers. We really feel God is starting to use us in a greater way here now in Christchurch. SR

county's actions were unconstitutional. It held that even if the designation of the area as a war memorial was legitimate, the placement of religious symbols was impermissible because the Establishment Clause of the Constitution does not allow government to use religious means in order to achieve non-religious ends. SR

WCC to meet in Atlanta

New York—The World Council of Churches, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is convening an international meeting with U.S. and Canadian Protestant church representatives to discuss local and global directions for ecumenism. The meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-29, 1985.

Sponsor of the meeting is WCC's Unit III, which oversees education and renewal programs and activities of the Council's work. The unit's three-fold purpose is to increase the participation of women, youth and other lay people of all ages, races, cultures and disabilities, in both church and society; to stimulate thinking about Christian education; and to assist in the interpenetration and expression of the ecumenical movement on the parish level. SR

New building and E.E. working in Milton

Over 100 people attended open-house in the new educational wing of the Milton (Wisconsin) Seventh Day Baptist Church on February 17. Youth Fellowship members gave guided tours. Members of the building committee were stationed at various spots to answer questions.

Many guests paused in the new library to view picture displays of the construction process, from ground breaking on May 18, 1984 to dedication services on Sabbath, November 24th. Another display depicted construction of the *old* part of the building (sanctuary and fellowship rooms) just 50 years ago (1934).

In the pastor's annual report to the church, Rev. Herbert Saunders ex-

pressed his joy not only in the completion of the major construction project but in the expanding outreach and nurture programs of the church including Evangelism Explosion training and the welcoming of three new families as members in 1984.

Less than one year after the decision to build (January 1984), the new wing housed seven of the 12 Sabbath School classes and provided handicapped access by elevator to all three levels.

Besides adult classes, the Sunday morning prayer services and a wedding have been held in the new chapel, and the library doubles as a meeting room. Movable partitions provide flexibility in classroom area.

During the dedication service in the basement area of the new wing, then-president Virginia Burdick presented certificates of appreciation to the building committee: Roselyn Geske (chairman), Walden Lippincott (building project manager), Phillip Burrows, Frank Green, and Steven Call; and to the finance committee:

Beaumont Gilmore (chairman), Ronald Ochs, Harmon Dickinson, Herbert Saunders, and Roselyn Geske.

With completion of the first semester of Evangelism Explosion training led by Herbert and Barbara Saunders and Erlo Nelson, six new trainers were certified during Sabbath worship on February 16: Cathy and Steven Call, Roselyn Geske, Debbie Punzel, Douglas and Renee Sanford. Seven new persons are being trained under their leadership in the second 15-week term.

Evangelism Explosion is an international equipping ministry designed to train Christians in witnessing and evangelism. Its purpose is to enable participants to "effectively share the gospel" with others and to "become trainers of other soul winners." The Saunderses and Erlo Nelson attended the Evangelism Explosion Training Clinic in Rockford, Illinois last spring to earn their certification before beginning the training in the Milton church. SR

All day meeting held

A special all-day meeting was held at the Los Angeles, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath, January 26, with 93 people participating during the day. Following Fellowship lunch, a Video Seminar was held with four simultaneous training sessions conducted. Video Cassette Recorders and TV's were set up in each room. The series included a *Spiritual Gifts* series by John Wimber; a *Teaching Series* by Jaun Carlos Ortiz; *Your Money Matters* by Malcolm Mac Gregor; *The Challenge of Raising Kids* by Dr. Kevin Leman and an *Evangelism Series* by Luis Palau and Richard Halverson. A separate children's program was also held.

At five p.m., dinner was served featuring submarine sandwiches and home-made ice cream furnished by Ralph & Dede Mackintosh. There were 55 people at the dinner. This was followed by a meeting of the Coordinating Council and special business meeting.

Special thanks go to Ralph & Dede Macintosh and to everyone else who helped make this a *high Sabbath* to be long remembered. SR

Ministers to consider beliefs

from March Lead Line

The theme for the biennial ministers' conference to be held in Shiloh, New Jersey, April 17-22, will be *The Faith We Share*. In addition to review and discussion of the proposed revisions to the SDB Statement of Belief, the six day program includes a workshop on starting branch churches, Bible study on Colossians, and sessions on personal spiritual and devotional life led by Dr. Stephen J. Brachlow, Professor of Christian Heritage at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Rev. Leon Lawton will lead the workshop on branch churches to include procedures and a panel discussion with pastors who have been involved already with branch groups. Others will lead portions of the Colossians Bible study as well as the beliefs examination.

Ministerial students and spouses of pastors are encouraged to attend. Some separate discussions are planned for pastors' wives. Cost is \$30 (\$5 registration, \$25 meals). For information contact Dean Green at (608) 752-5055. SR

Leland Davis announces retirement

Leland Davis, pastor of the Washington, DC, Seventh Day Baptist Church, who will be 65 in September, indicated his desire at the annual church session in Washington to retire the latter part of this year or not later than the spring of 1986. He presented five important goals which he hoped the local church could accomplish in this year of extension:

1. Complete the present Teaching Training Course being held monthly.
2. Continue with the Wednesday Evening Bible Study Fellowship.
3. Implement the Lay-shepherding Plan of family ministry through the Diaconate.
4. Conduct an Evening Vacation Bible School and a Teen-Time program this summer.
5. In this exciting "Year of Extension" undertake a "new work" of outreach in the community.

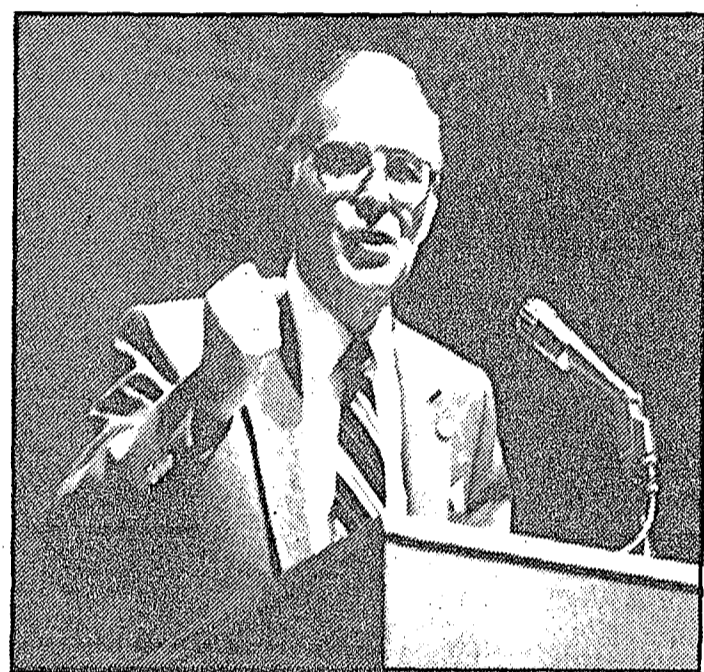
Pastor Davis who has been serving the Washington church since the fall of 1976, highly commended the brethren for completing five and one-half years of radio ministry on December 29, 1984 with "Word of Truth" over WFAZ from Falls Church, Virginia.

In the open business session on January 27, the President, William Melby, was asked to appoint a Pastoral Search Committee. Those whom he selected were Paul Andries, Lelia Bishop, Dean Fox, Don Harris, John Nagel and Douglas Rausch.

Most of the "old" officers from '85 were reelected. Three new members were elected to the Diaconate and will be ordained by the church. They are Brenda Harris, William Melby and Charlotte Rausch.

The Treasurer's Report by Douglas Rausch showed that the annual budget for 1985 of \$47,600 had been raised in full, but total expenditures exceeded the budget by \$5,100 due to improvements that were made on the church facilities, including painting of the interior.

The new 1986 budget adopted was



Leland Davis

\$44,671, which is about \$3,000 less than last year due to the fact that two of the families are now affiliated with other Seventh Day Baptist Churches which are near where they moved.

Appreciation with hearty 'thank you' was extended to Susie Fox who lovingly and efficiently served as the Youth Fellowship sponsor for the past

two years. It was noted that it was necessary for Susie to give up this position mainly because of increased family responsibilities.

The new Youth Fellowship Advisor, Brenda Harris, was assured of the church body's support, help and prayer. She indicated that their program plans center around spiritual growth, social activities, and dedicated service projects for the church.

The Board of Directors disclosed that the \$2,500 in the 1986 budget reflects the need to procure new drapes for the sanctuary level which may cost about \$1,500. Their report showed the new drapes have been installed in the Panel Room.

The Board of Directors have been requested to review the need for replacing the old typewriter with a new one at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. This item is not reflected in the new budget. SR

Testimony

Cont. from page 8

was not controlling it, for once. The Lord was in control. I had someone else to focus on and to take care of rather than just myself. Once I stopped trying to control my life, the Lord released my burden.

Now having our daughter, Brooke, I know that I must stay healthy and well to take care of her the best that I can.

The Lord delivered me and without him, I would have died. I will not say that I do not have moments of temptation, but I have to stop and remember what it was like before. I remember what it could do to me and my family, what the Lord delivered me from, and my responsibilities to the Lord. Matthew 6:25, 28-31 helps me to keep on going forward:

"Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and body more than clothing?... So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin. And yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now, if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, o you of little faith. Therefore do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

What a wonderful feeling to know that I do not have to live in that hell again. Thanks be to the Lord.

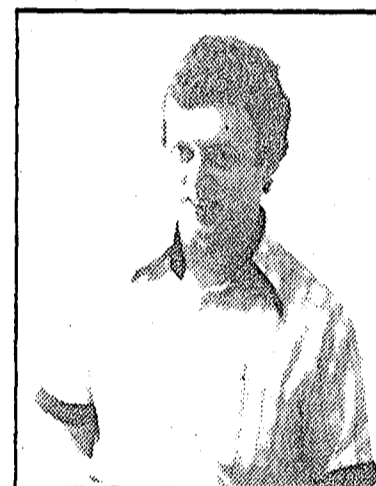
My only wish is that people would realize that food abuse can be just as serious as drugs or alcohol. Hopefully more people could then feel comfortable sharing their struggle with the obsession and not feel so foolish or alone. SR

Three complete Center program

Three students will complete the theological seminary training this spring.

Kevin J. Butler grew up near Verona, New York, and joined the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church in January of 1981. He met his wife, Janet (Davis), when both sang with

The Power Company at Verona. Kevin is a graduate of Houghton College. He and Janet have been active with the Columbus, Ohio, SDB



church while living at Delaware, Ohio, where he attended Methodist Theological School. In June, the Butler family, which includes daughters Jennifer and Crystal, move to Madison, Wisconsin, where Kevin will begin service as pastor of the new Madison Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Everett C. "Bus" Dickinson grew up in the Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church where he was baptized in 1961. He and his wife, Linda (Ayars), both grew up on farms near Shiloh.

After military service, he and Linda moved to Anaheim, California. There he attended Melodyland School of Theology and their two sons, Greg and

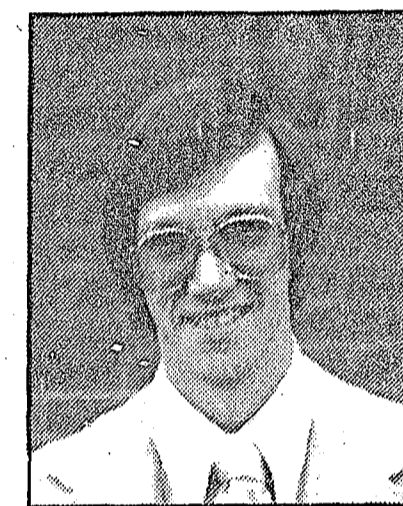


Jeremy, were born. They returned to New Jersey, and Everett will be graduating from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Since June of 1982, he has served as pastor of the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Leon A. Wheeler was born at DeRuyter, New York, where his father was pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist church. The family soon moved to

Salemville, Pennsylvania, and later Ashaway, Rhode Island, where Leon joined the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church, had all of his schooling, and married Linda, whom he met in Christian Endeavor activity.

In 1980, they felt God's call to ministry and moved to Kansas. There they were active in the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church while Leon finished college at Ottawa University and began studies at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Since 1983, they have been back at Ashaway, where Leon serves as student pastor while completing his studies at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Boston. The Wheelers are the parents of Jon and Coral. SR



Summer Institute on Sabbath Philosophy to be held

Sabbath Philosophy will be the topic of the 1985 Summer Institute to be held May 27-June 14 at the Center on Ministry in Janesville, Wisconsin. The course will be taught by Dean J. Paul Green and former Dean Herbert E. Saunders.

The three-week intensive course is offered for ministerial students and others interested in a study of a major distinctive of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, the seventh-day Sabbath. Readings and discussions will center on an understanding of the Biblical character of the Sabbath, its history, the theological implications of Sabbath observance and modern-day applications. A comparative study of Sunday observance and its development will be included.

Travel and living expenses during the

institute are paid for students regularly enrolled in the Center on Ministry program. Licensed pastors, theological students not enrolled at the Center and ordained pastors are encouraged to attend as partial fulfillment of qualification for General Conference accreditation. They may apply to the Dean for financial assistance.

Although the institute is conducted as a graduate level course, anyone interested in attending the lectures and doing the reading is welcome to attend. Additional work, including the writing of a paper, is required of those taking the course for credit.

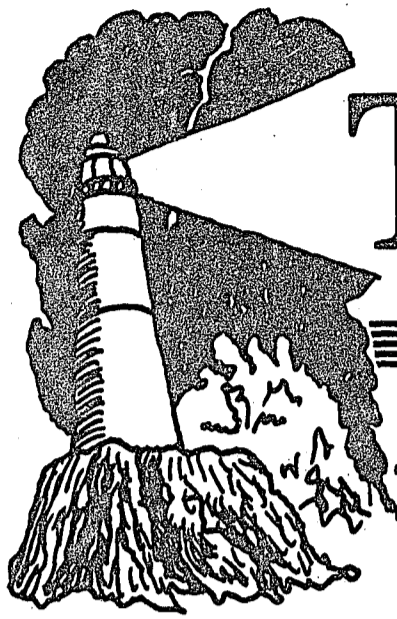
For further information, including a course outline, reading list and application form, contact Dean J. Paul Green, Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547. SR

Good Saturday and Easter Monday! What next?

from Ministry Magazine, January 1985 by J. R. Spangler, Editor

An incredible advertisement has appeared in recent issues of *Christianity Today*. The bold heading declares, "Sunday is God's Seventh Day." The purported proof for this proclamation is a calendar "specially designed for Christian life. Its most unique quality is the Seventh day of the week is Sunday, not Saturday." The promoters of this day-changing calendar bravely put in italics, "For on the Seventh day He rested" —as if this settled the matter.

It is a well-known fact that the publishers of the Official Airline Guide (OAG) have for years labeled Monday



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

April 1985

Youth Sabbath in Plainfield

by Ruth Parker

The Plainfield, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church, led by Pastor Joe Samuels, celebrated its first monthly Youth Sabbath on February 23. A large youth group from our New York City Church sang for us, and two of our own young people, Lorna Porter and Alexis Tyler, took part in the service. Andrew Samuels, our pastor's nephew from New York, gave a challenging message, "Wanted for God: the Young and the Restless," based on 2 Timothy 1:7-14.

A fellowship dinner followed Sabbath School. In the afternoon Pastor Kenneth Burdick of our Raritan Valley Church presented an interesting and comprehensive account of the worldwide work of the American Bible Society. He showed how we can use many of their publications for children and new Christians and for evangelism. Pastor Ken is our denominational representative to the society.

Next came a surprise birthday party for our pastor, complete with cake, punch, and ice cream, cards and gifts. It was a humorous and enjoyable oc-

casional. After that the youth group assembled in the church parlor and were led in singing by Pastor Joe.

Starting March 2 we are having Sabbath School at 10:00 and worship service at 11:15, to give more time for the service and for seeing our friends. Choir rehearsal and Bible study are being held on Wednesday evenings and visitation seminars on Sabbath afternoons. We are filling a barrel of food and clothing for Mrs. Joyce Samuels to send to our people in Jamaica, where there's not enough food for everyone. Our church is coming to life again! SR

Shiloh celebrates youth week

by Donna S. Bond

A ten-day week has been the dream of many of us who are involved in so many activities that we cannot seem to get everything done in six (leaving the Sabbath for rest). A quick glance at the Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church's Youth Week schedule appears to be a *ten-day week*. Our celebration of youth began on Friday, January 25 with a semi-professional vocal concert and ended on Sunday, February 3 when the primary department celebrated Valentine's Day with a pizza party.

Kicking off our ten-day Youth Week was a presentation by a 17-year-old committed Christian, Miss Lisa Taylor. All of our regular Friday evening youth groups convened in the sanctuary to enjoy Miss Taylor's beautiful testimony of song as she related her walk with Christ to his walk on earth.

On Sunday evening, three children's films were shown by the church's 20 Board of Christian Education in the



The Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church.

Fellowship Hall—just for fun—with free popcorn and punch. A *Little Rascals* episode premiered, followed by a short English comedy and the full-length main feature, Walt Disney's *Gus*.

Each of the week nights featured a special event for our young people. On Monday our church youth center, with its pool table, shuffleboard and other games, was open to children in grades four through seven. On Tuesday, the

The Sabbath Recorder

Church Basketball League games were held for both boys and girls; a volleyball game took place at the school gym on Wednesday; and, the church youth center was open for grades eight through 12 on Thursday. On Friday, our six youth groups met, *as the custom is*.

Highlight of the special week, of course, was our special day, the Sabbath. At 9:30 a.m., the church social committee honored all young-in-spirit with doughnuts, coffee and hot chocolate, before we assembled to worship God through our children and youth.

As we entered the sanctuary, we were greeted by Julie Vanderslice and Brenda Davis, with Jimmy Moncrief distributing the bulletins. The service itself had been planned by the high school Sabbath School class using *Giving of Ourselves in Worship* as a theme with five sub-themes on various aspects of giving. Members of this class are: Andrew Camenga, Cheryl Davis, Jamie Hitchner, Robbie Jernosse, Janet Lupton, Bill Probasco and Suzanne Vanderslice. Bill Probasco was worship leader and Mrs. Jane Jernosse, teacher, served as pianist.

Part one, *Giving Through Praise*, consisted of the call to worship; hymn, *Give of Your Best to the Master*; invocation; Lord's Prayer; and response, *God of the Sabbath*.

The children's choir, led by Miss Cheryl Mackey, sang a medley of praise songs—*Jesus Loves Me*, *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, and one verse of *Battle Hymn of the Republic* with the congregation joining on the last verse. Members of the children's choir (ages three through third grade) are: Chris, Levi and Sylvia Bond, Grace and Mark Camenga, Ronnie Campbell, Natalie Forte, Mary Jane Jernosse, Veronica Manning, Frankie and Kellie Mazza, Jeffrey McAllister, Donald and Melissa McGowan, and Debbie and Julie Moncrief.

A dramatic children's message, *You're Someone Special*, was presented by Jimmy Moncrief, Joy Davis and Ward Bond.

Silent prayer and directed prayer (led by the worship leader) with piano meditations comprised the second portion of the program, *Giving Through Prayer*.

Andrew Camenga led *Giving of our Offerings* with Cheryl Davis offering a piano solo *Love Was When*. Richelle Dixon, Karen Lupton, Julie Van-

The service focused on "Giving of Ourselves in Worship."

derslice and Brenda Davis served as usherettes.

The newly-formed youth choir, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Dickinson, sang *It's Not the First Mile* with Brenda Davis accompanying. Members are drawn from those who

Meet Your Board

Terry Ellis

I am 17 years old and a Junior in high school. I am in the Alfred-Almond (New York) school band, chorus and drama club. I have been in most of the school plays since sixth grade and enjoy that very much. I am in the church choir and youth group. I have been a member of the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education a little over a year.

Why are you a Seventh Day Baptist?

I guess the main reason is because my parents brought me up to be. I think a better question would be: "Why am I still a Seventh Day Baptist?" I think that I am still a Seventh Day Baptist because I believe in Jesus Christ and what he has to teach us, and I can learn more about him through the church.

Seventh Day Baptists give comfort to those who need it and help those in

are in the fourth through eighth grades, including: Ward Bond, Faith Camenga, Brenda and Joy Davis, Danielle and Richelle Dixon, Matt Hitchner, Jenny Jernosse, Karen Lupton, Cliff McAllister, Dottie and Jimmy Moncrief, and Julie Vanderslice.

The climax of the program was the fourth sub-theme, *Giving of Our Talents*. The audience was challenged to use their own talents by the excellent example set by our youth. Karen Lupton began with a piano solo, *When I Grow Too Old to Dream*, followed by Dottie Moncrief and Danielle Dixon singing *Did You Ever Talk To God Above*, and Beethoven's *Fur Elise* played by Jenny Jernosse on the piano.

Then a skit, entitled *Giving* and based on Luke 21:1-4, was performed by Joy Davis, Andrew Camenga, Karen Lupton and Richelle Dixon.

We Are the Reason was sung by a

Cont. to page 23

need. It's a good feeling to be a part of such a large family. There is a close fellowship between Seventh Day Baptists and a lot of love between the people of the churches—people who care about other people. When Seventh Day Baptists are with other Seventh Day Baptists you can't help but have a good time.

One day I had a friend over and he was looking around my room and saw my SDB pins, stickers and folders from conferences and he said, "Boy, Terry, you really are Seventh Day Baptist, aren't you?" and I hadn't really thought about it before but I guess I am and I'm proud to be.

Terry Ellis, son of Ron and Luan Ellis of Alfred Station, is a member of the Board of Directors and the Youth Committee of your Board of Christian Education.

SR 21

April 1985

1984—A Year of Change, and Growth, for the Hope SDB Church

AMBLER-NORTH HILLS, PA.—The year began with the arrival of Pastor Dennis Palmer, who came to our area to work on his Master's degree at Westminster Seminary. He became our assistant pastor and, in spite of heavy workload at school, stepped in to officiate for several weeks in the spring when Pastor Ken was called to Jamaica by the deaths of his father and maternal grandmother.

The owners of the bar across the street from our store-front church became upset when they heard we were planning to move next door into larger quarters. They complained to the Boro Council that we were in violation of the "Off-Street Parking" ordinance, which the council does not enforce unless a complaint is received. We immediately applied for a variance and when, after a hearing in April, our application was denied, we voted not to appeal the decision as we felt the Lord had a plan for us elsewhere. We started a prayerful search for another meeting place. The Boro did not rush our move as several of the council members had voted for us and others seemed to feel very guilty.

We continued to hold services and each week seemed to bring different

One of the highlights of the spring was a dedication service for Simone Cruickshank. Pastor Everett Dickenson from Marlboro officiated and was accompanied by his family and others from the Marlboro church. The service was preceded by a fellowship dinner.

The majority of the congregation attended the Eastern Association at the Pawcatuck church (Westerly, Rhode Island) in early May. At a special Sabbath Eve service on May 25th, a slide show was presented of Jan Lek's visit to Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Pastor Ken had bought a home at 118 Logan Ave., North Hills, in late 1983. In June of 1984 the Christian Memorial Mission (a small building at 334 Logan Ave.) was also being used as an emergency shelter until the "portable" that Rev. Hall had purchased could be put up behind it. When Rev. Hall heard of our plight she offered the mission, free of charge, for our services. It causes her much inconvenience to ready it for service each Sabbath and we praise the Lord for this dedicated lady and her congregation. Arrangements were made to store our furnishings and we moved from Ambler to North Hills on

on July 28th to celebrate the addition of six members, former members of one of our churches in Jamaica. We praise the Lord for these two families and also for others who are participating in our services and regularly attending, although they have not yet joined.

On September 28th 17 of our group attended the Harvest Home service at the Marlboro church. Following special music by the Hope members and friends, Pastor Ken taught the Sabbath School lesson.

On October 13th, the majority of the congregation attended yearly meeting at the Shiloh church.

"13th Sabbath" afternoon programs were held in August and December with large attendance and participation.

On December 29th, 20 members and friends attended the installation service of Pastor Joe Samuels at the Plainfield (N.J.) church.

At our December business meeting we set goals for 1985 as follows:

(1) To raise \$10,000.00 for our building fund—a "Rally of the Seven Churches" will be held June 1, 1985 at 2:30 p.m. at the Calvary United Methodist Church.

(2) To secure a satisfactory location for a church home so that we will have sufficient space to hold separate Sabbath School classes for young people, children and adults; and to allow, God willing, our congregation to double in 1985.

The Lord has truly blessed us. Adversity has strengthened our faith and determination and added to our members. In January of 1984 our average attendance was six to 12 and our membership was 11. In December, 1984 our average attendance was 20 to 30 and our membership was 18.

We praise the Lord for his guidance and blessings in 1984 and ask for your prayers that we may continue where he leads in 1985. **SR**

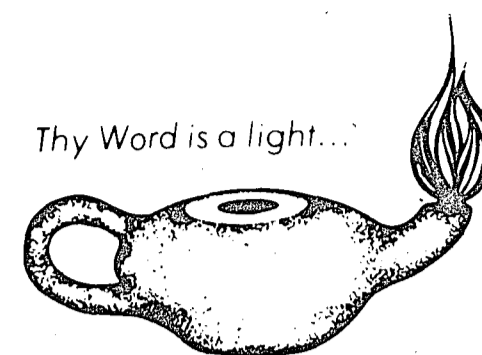
September 1st.

Because of our move from Ambler and the uncertainty of where our permanent location will be, a vote was taken in July, renaming the church the Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church. This was reported to the General Conference by Sister Rolli who, with her husband, attended for three days.

A special fellowship dinner was held

A vote was taken in July, renaming the church—the Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church.

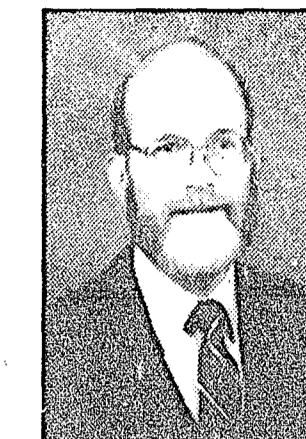
visitors. We were also encouraged by the attendance at the Sabbath afternoon young people's services conducted by Pastor Ken, and during the winter months Sabbath Eve services were held in members' homes. Womens' Sabbaths were held monthly and the women conducted the entire service, from teaching Sabbath School to the morning message.



Thy Word is a light...

Board of Christian Education

Board of Christian Education is changing



by Ernest K. Bee, Jr.



Outgoing Board of Christian Education President E. Donald Van Horn (left) and incoming President Mae L. Bottoms (right) congratulate retiring Executive Director Mary G. Clare (center). The board presented Mrs. Clare with a lamp, symbolic of the organization's theme, "Thy Word is light."

It's a bright crisp March day in Western New York State. The wind is blowing the snow just enough to remind us that winter is still here. So it is with the changes that occur in our lives and in the organizations which we construct to accomplish tasks and service our needs. Change is felt in the passing of a dear friend and the birth of a grandchild. Change is the lengthening of the day and the brighter sun. It is the substance of Life—through the conversion of the sandwich we had for lunch into chemical energy for our afternoon's work. Change is life itself.

Sometimes we have a moment to reflect on change. We cherish some of the past. We regret some of the past. We have occasion to feel with the hymn writer, "Change and decay, all around I see. O Thou who changest not, Abide with Me." In talking with Phyllis Mattison, Alfred Station Church member and school teacher, last evening she commented that our children don't have the problem with change that we who are older do. They look to the future. With little history and so much ahead the younger frequently become impatient with us who have less future than history.

Just as we all feel the March Wind and anticipate the longer days and brighter sun so your Board of Christian Education is experiencing change. The membership on the Board of Directors has been reduced from 30 to 20. Twelve of the directors reside in the Allegheny Association with representation from neighboring associations being requested. The new working committees of the Board are Youth (Amanda Snyder, Chairman); Life Ventures (Luan Ellis, Chairman); and Sabbath School (David Clarke, Chairman). The reduction in working size and structure of the Board will enable us to work more efficiently. Further changes are anticipated with your help.

An evaluation of Programs and Materials is being

conducted by the Board. A subcommittee under the leadership of Mr. George Bottoms has constructed a questionnaire that will be arriving shortly in the churches. Each Church is being asked to respond. Your comments will be invaluable in directing future changes within Your Board of Christian Education. March winds dry the earth for planting. The seed will produce the new growth.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Pray with us that the March Wind will prepare hearts and minds for the seed of God's love through his Son. **SR**

Shiloh youth

Cont. from 21

quartet called (for obvious reasons) Cousins Four. Members are Brenda and Cheryl Davis, and Julie and Suzanne Vanderslice.

Additional special music was then provided by Brenda Davis' piano solo, *Take Time to Be Holy*, Faith Camenga and Jenny Jernoske singing *My Father's Angels*, and Suzanne Vanderslice playing *Benediction* (a medley of closing hymns) on the piano.

Finally, all the youth were introduced personally to the congregation. They led us in the *Youth Rally*

Song, while the old-timers betrayed themselves by looking at the song sheet for words to the newer verses!

Give of Ourselves to Others This Week was our final challenge in the form of a bulletin listing of those who had performed supporting roles in the service (all of whom are listed in the body of this article).

While a ten-day week is still just a dream, we adults in Shiloh are proud of our youth and feel they deserve 365 days of recognition each year. Fortunately, we have a God who gives that to them (and us). **SR**

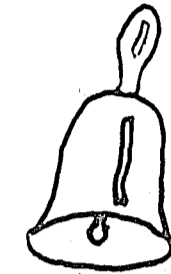
Raccoo obeys God's rule



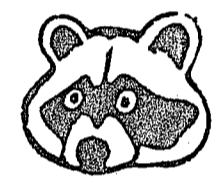
Raccoo




walnut cookie



bell

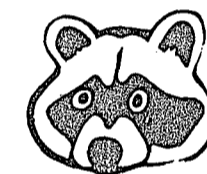



saw one  sitting on the table.



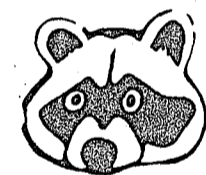
was sort of hungry

but it was almost supper time.



reached out to take the  anyway.

Then



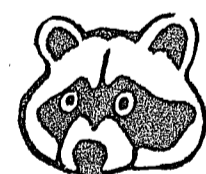
stopped. That would be stealing. That would be wrong. So



went back outside to wait for the supper



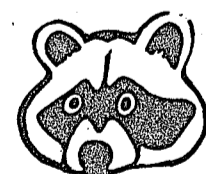
to ring.



skipped rope and whistled.



knew he had obeyed God's rule.



was full of JOY.



John 15:10-11 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I

have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have

24 spoken to you, that My JOY may be in you, and that your JOY may be made full." SR

Whatever will be will be?

by Edgar Wheeler

A few years back, there was a song going around entitled, *Que Sera, Sera—Whatever Will Be Will Be*. This was a mother's answer to each of her daughter's questions. She was not to trouble herself about the future, but just wait to see how things would happen.

Such a philosophy of life may be calculated to avoid unpleasant life situations and the hard decisions. However, it is unworthy of beings who are created in the image of God with capacity for making moral decisions and the intelligence for wise actions—particularly since our God offers divine enlightenment and strength.

You, no doubt, remember the incident during the Exodus of Israel for Egypt (Exodus 14) when the Israelites found themselves trapped in a seemingly hopeless situation. With the Egyptian army on one side and the sea in front of them, there were cries of despair and accusations against Moses for leading them into such a dilemma.

Moses, on the other hand, was supremely confident. "Don't worry, folks! Everything is going to be all right. Just wait to see how God is going to get us out of this one."

God acted by prodding Moses to action. "Why are you just standing here crying to me to do something? Don't just stand here. Tell the children of Israel to go forward (right into the sea!). Then I will see that everything is all right." And, sure enough, when the people obeyed the command to go forward, and Moses obeyed God, he opened up the sea, bringing them to safety and destroying the pursuing army.

You say that Moses' expectation was the result of faith, and you are right. But it was faith that needed further enlightenment. Faith is always an active word that causes people to move with God—not wait for him to make things happen. He had brought them out of Egypt by the Passover, but only after the people had followed instructions by killing and eating the Passover lamb, marking their doors with the blood, and preparing for the

journey. Now God was reminding Moses that deliverance from the present danger would come when they moved to do something about that situation as an act of faith.

Although the "whatever will be will be" philosophy may appear to us very attractive and as the ultimate in faith, it may very well be a practical denial of the faith that calls us to be decisive and

obedient. God wants us to share with him in the shaping of our lives and destinies. Passiveness in life can only win loss and failure. Success calls for our effort and God's help. Possibly Davey Crockett's remark, "Be sure you're right and then go ahead," carried more religious truth than he realized. SR

What next?

Cont. from page 19

"day one" and Sunday "day seven," but to my knowledge never have they claimed Sunday as the seventh-day Sabbath. Several European countries have also rearranged the numbers of the weekly days, beginning with Monday as "day one" of the week. But no serious student of Scripture would claim that this makes Sunday the seventh-day Sabbath. Calling a peach tree an apple tree does not make it so.

It is comforting to know that the weekly cycle of seven days is of divine institution. Our day of 24 hours is based on the earth's revolution on its axis. Our year is tied to the earth's circling the sun every 365 1/4 days. But the week stands uniquely and exclusively alone. It has no connection with any element of nature. Someone designed it in Eden's garden, and man still has it. It is one of the very few things that changeable man, Christian or non-Christian, with his fads and furies, has been unable to alter or eradicate. Calendar changes have been made, but they have not affected the days of the weekly cycle.

W. O. Carver, author of *Sabbath Observance* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1940), referring to the weekly cycle, pointedly states: "The explanation given in Genesis 2:2, 3 must be the starting point for any effort to explain the origin, the continuance and the growing extension of this unique time division..."

"So far as our knowledge goes the week was used only by the progenitors of the Hebrews, by them and related

Semitic peoples, and where their influence extended...

"From the anthropological approach we would say that this rational time construction, having no relation to any natural phenomenon from which it could have been derived, was an invention of man's ingenuity. But anthropology finds no date in its own field bearing on this subject. The week, with its Sabbath is an artificial device. The reason for it is found only in the Old Testament...."

"In connection only with the week is religion obviously the explanation of its origin, and the week only is uniformly attributed to the command of God. The week exists because of the Sabbath. It is historically and scientifically true that the Sabbath was made by God."—Quoted in the *SDB Bible Students' Source Book*, p. 1077

Our Lord was crucified on Friday, the sixth day of the week. Dr. Luke stated, "It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin" (Luke 23:54, N.I.V.). The women went to the tomb "on the first day of the week, very early in the morning.... But when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Chap. 24:1-3, N.I.V.).

With the exception of a very few, all Christendom stands by a Friday crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection. And a few million of us stand by the Creator's original seventh-day Sabbath, as commanded by God in the fourth commandment and chronologically lodged between the Friday crucifixion and a Sunday resurrection. SR 25

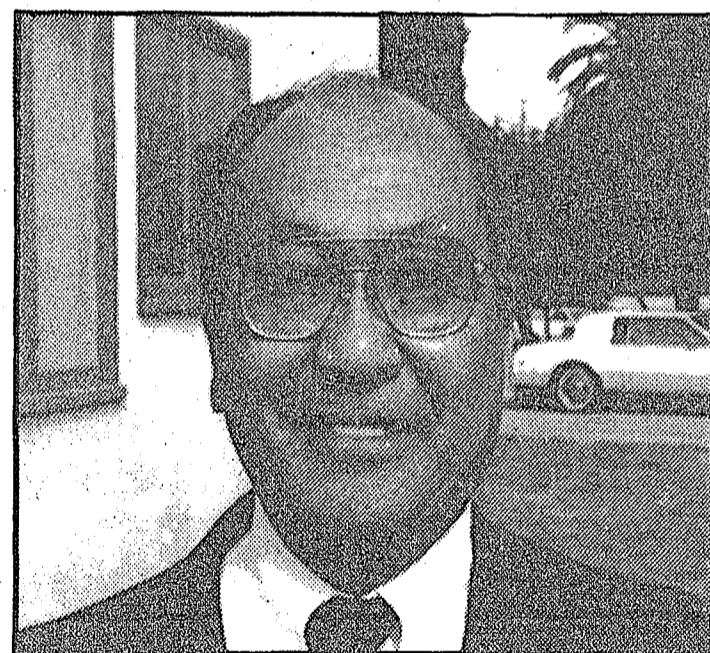
Los Angeles church opens new works

from Missions, Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society

"In answer to the challenge of the Missionary Society for the Year of Extension to start New Works in 1985, the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church has launched an exciting program of outreach under the leadership of Oscar Godoy.

"Oscar came from Manila, the Philippines four years ago, after a successful vocation in sales management. He became a member of the Los Angeles SDB church in May 1983 and was licensed to preach by the church. Since this time he has been in self-supporting work as a personal evangelist.

"He makes personal home calls, primarily among the Filipino people and has led scores to Christ. He has established 24 home meeting groups



(Above) Rev. Shinsei Hokama.
(Right) Oscar Godoy works with over 600 Filipino families.

which meet regularly to teach the Bible. In recent months he has been led to bring these groups into our Seventh Day Baptist denomination.

"He has over 600 families he has worked with and believes that many of these are ready to be active disciples in Seventh Day Baptist churches. Fifteen of these families are in the vicinity of the Los Angeles church building in Highland Park. Other strong groups are in central Los Angeles, Carson and Cerritos.

"As leadership is raised up within these groups we are excited about

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seeing a self-supporting work in several places in the near future. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for Seventh Day Baptists right now! We ask for your support and your prayers."

This information was shared by the clerk of the Los Angeles church, Upline Tabor, with their application for matching funds in support of Oscar Godoy on a full time basis. After review by the Board's Evangelism/Home Missions committee in Milton, Wisconsin, the Executive Committee of the Board approved



their recommendation and support began on February 1st.

To aid those won to Christ by Oscar, baptismal services were held on three consecutive Sabbaths in February! In the church *Mid-Week Messenger* issued the end of February it was reported:

"Oscar is holding Bible Study groups week-ends and nearly every night in various parts of the Los Angeles area. He would like two or three of our church members to accompany him at every meeting. Don't wait for him to ask you. This is your opportunity to go to him and volunteer. Everyone is asked to earnestly pray for this exciting outreach for Christ."

The goal of the Los Angeles church is:

- to mother three new congregations in 1985 from nuclei of present Bible study groups;
- to involve members of present church and ministers in personalized home Bible study;
- to have at least one baptism a month from new groups;
- to advertise in local areas when new groups start meeting in public places;
- to teach stewardship of time, talents and money and promote tithing and love offerings among our new converts;
- to rent public buildings for Sabbath services for two areas in the Los Angeles area in 1985.

While this New Work expresses the desire to Extend Now, Rev. Shinsei Hokama has led the church in a Saturday night outreach for over a year through recreation in the Highland Park High School gym. Open to youth and adults of all ages, this program has brought Christians and non-Christians together in fellowship and fun and allowed interpersonal relationships and witnessing for Christ.

We need to ask ourselves the question: "What is my church doing in New Work ministries in this Year of Extension-1985?" SR

Criticism and Christian love

by Dale E. Rood

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

Criticism is a problem in many churches, and ours is no exception. Therefore at the beginning of this new year, I think it might be good in our church to resolve to use criticism rightly. Notice I did *not* say eliminate criticism, for that would be wrong, too. We must rather use it rightly and constructively.

There are two aspects to criticism: giving criticism and receiving criticism. All of us find ourselves at one time or another on both the giving end and receiving end of criticism.

First, how do we handle the receiving of criticism? We must always receive criticism as being brought to us out of a concern for us and our best interests. Receive it as bringing something to you in a spirit of Christian love. That does not make it easy. I do find it easier to accept however if I believe the person sharing it truly cares for me and has the same ultimate goals as I do. Sometimes it is easier to accept than others, depending on the relationship that has already been established. But accept it we must, even from those we tend to view as our enemies.

How can we do this? We have to see things from God's perspective. (See I Corinthians 2:10b-16 on the insight God gives by his Holy Spirit to us). I like the Phillips paraphrase of Colossians 1:9: "We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view."

We need to see our critic from God's point of view. What hurt is he or she feeling? What problems is he or she

facing? What is motivating him or her right now? I find that if I can understand where my critic is coming from, I can listen to him and accept what he has to say more easily. The insight to do this must come from God. Also, I must recognize that my critic may be God's instrument to bring something to my attention.

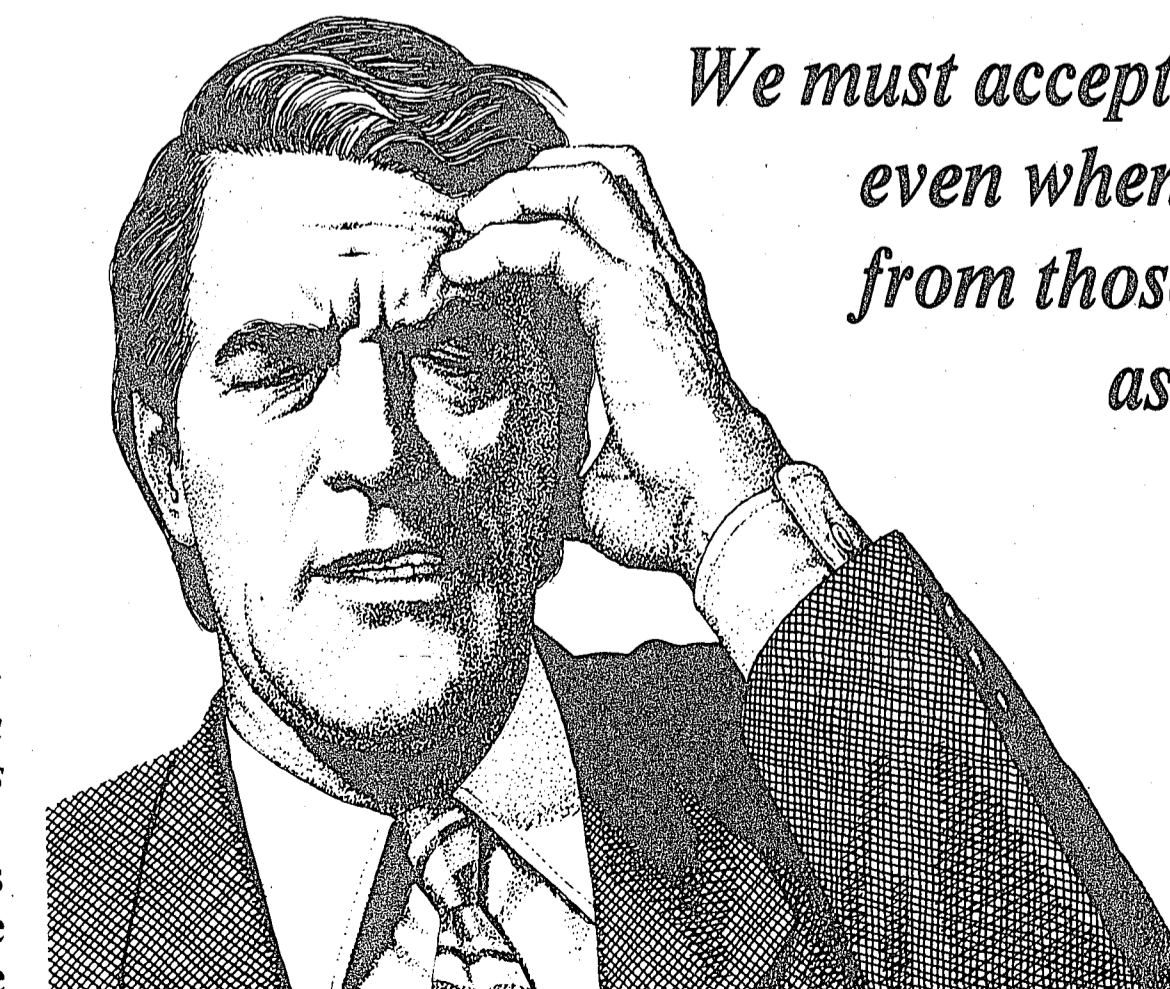
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him as a brother in Christ, and love him from the depths of my heart?

A final thing needs to be said. Often poor handling of criticism either in giving or receiving indicates stress in other areas of our life. In this situation, criticism is merely the trigger which sets off a volcano full of built up stress. My wife, Althea, and I have found that our unity together as a couple dramatically affects how we handle stress and criticism outside our home. Thus I would ask, how is your home life? How is your marriage relationship? How is your relationship with your parents? It could make a significant difference in the way you handle criticism outside your home.

God's purpose is for us to be united in harmony with and respect for one another. Criticism, given and received properly, can and should be a part of that. SR

from the Pawcatuck SDB Church Newsletter, winter quarter



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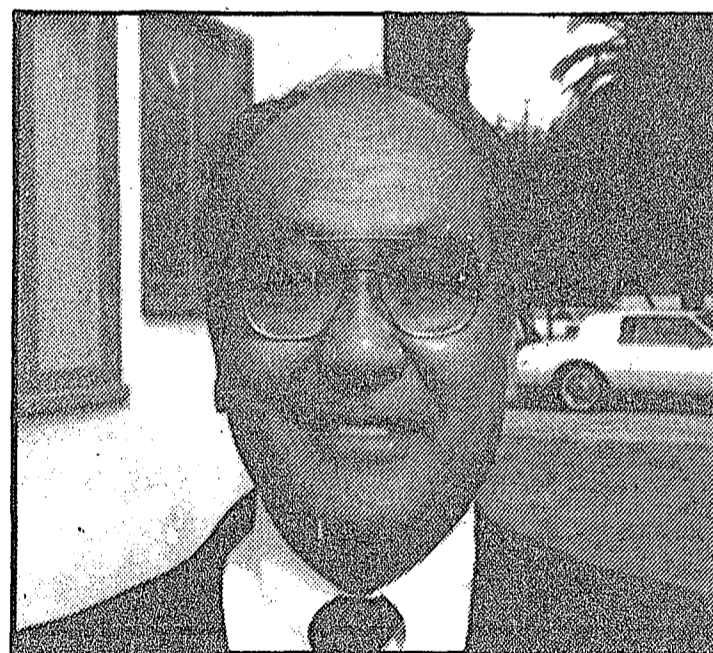
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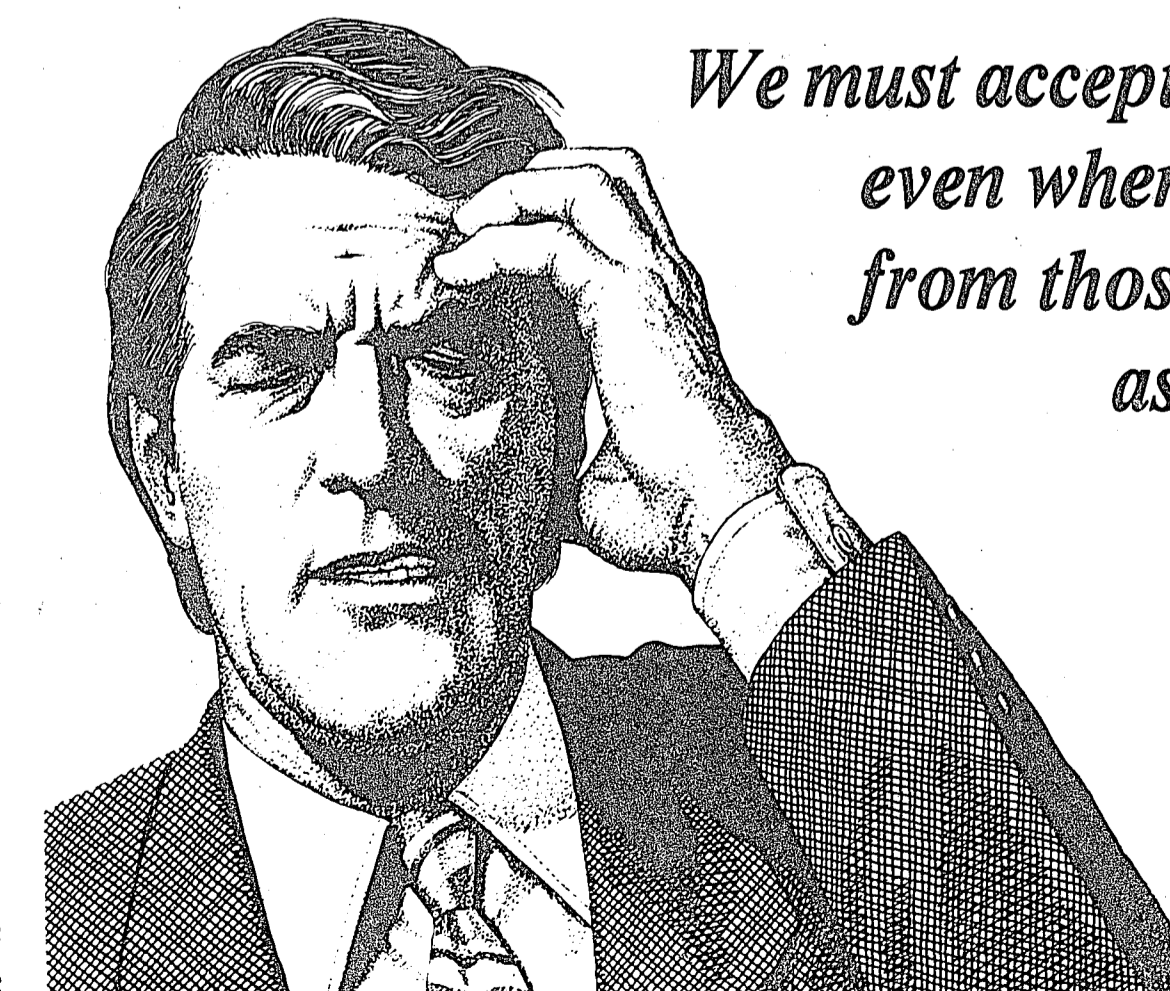
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The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee



The purpose of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is "to foster constructive communication between the congregation and its pastor and to implement the congregation's responsibility for the pastor's professional and personal well-being."

The effectiveness of the church's mission is the ultimate reason for healthy pastor-people relationships. The congregation is called by the gospel to demonstrate a style of life and sensitivity to others which will give evidence of the impact of the grace of God on its life. This applies to the congregation's treatment of its pastor and to the pastor's attitude toward the congregation.

Recurring throughout Jesus' teachings and the New Testament are themes of positive relationships within

the church and of ministering to one another. There are clear differences of function, but one body, the church. The church is expected to be a demonstration of what happens when people are alert to the leading of God's Spirit.

Functions of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The Role of the Pastor

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee should interact with the pastor to come to mutual understanding of appropriate pastor-people relationships and the role of the pastor.

Available in pamphlet form from the SDB Center on Ministry, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547

The committee should seek to interpret to the congregation these understandings and their correlation with the church's program objectives.

Channel for Communication

Part of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee's responsibility is to act as a channel for congregational reactions to the pastor's leadership and for the pastor's reactions to the congregation's responsiveness to his or her leadership. Meetings may be a meeting point where the mutual concerns of pastor and congregation may be shared so that each may be kept fully informed of the feelings, desires and needs of the other, to the end that there shall be a continued harmonious relationship. The absence of this provision in many churches has permitted situations of mistrust and dissatisfaction to arise which might have been avoided.

Pastor's Compensation

The committee should preview, annually, the church's responsibility for the pastor's compensation, including cash salary, fringe benefits, professional expenses and the ability of the congregation to care for these needs. They then make recommendations to the appropriate group of the church which formulates the budget. The committee can secure information for evaluating the pastor's compensation from the denomination's Committee on Support and Retirement. Terms of the pastor's employment other than financial, such as housing arrangements and vacations, may well be considered.

Continuing Education

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee should take the initiative in seeing that the congregation provides

adequately for their pastor's continuing education. This will include the granting of study leave and providing of funds for educational experiences mutually agreed upon by the committee and the pastor.

Future Pastors

Another way that this committee can aid the church is to take the lead in helping the congregation to recognize and carry out its responsibilities for identifying, encouraging and assisting potential leaders within its ranks. The committee can help the church to be an interpreter of the professional ministry to those within its membership who should answer for themselves whether God is calling them to consider this type of service.

Pastoral Search

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee should make up the core of the Pastoral Search Committee when the need arises, for several reasons:

1. To help the Pastoral Search Committee have a clear understanding of the nature and function of pastoral leadership
2. Ongoing discussions with the previous pastor should have prepared the members of the committee to recognize the congregation's weaknesses as well as its strengths. These often become clues to the type of leadership needed in the future.
3. Pastoral Search Committees often disband as soon as their immediate task is completed. A continuing relationship provided by the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is valuable in orienting the new pastor and assuring that the church's commitments to the pastor are fulfilled.

The church may state in its by-laws: "When the congregation votes to form a Pastoral Search Committee, the

current membership of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee shall be voting members of this committee."

Organization and Work of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

By-law Provision

The establishment of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (sometimes called Pastoral Relations or Parish Relations) should be written into the church's by-laws, with the nature and task of the committee concisely described. It would be made clear that the committee does not make decisions for the church but may make recommendations to the pastor, the church or appropriate officers, committees and groups within the church.

Committee Membership

Qualifications

The task calls for persons of Christian maturity and understanding who are able to exercise a great deal of patience and flexibility. It is important to select persons who are vitally interested and involved in the life of the church.

Makeup and Selection of Committee Members

Committees are usually composed of three members, two of whom are elected by the church (one of these designated as chairperson) with the third named by the pastor. In larger congregations, the committee may have more members. Usually, members serve a term of one to three years and are not reelected in order that there may be opportunity for

various members of the congregation to serve. Care should be taken to insure that membership of the committee is not confined to any single group within the congregation, for example, all members of one age group or family group, all male or all female.

The Pastor's Relationship

The pastor should not be an official member of the committee, but should be expected to participate in its sessions. The committee needs the pastor's input and close cooperation in order to accomplish its purpose. Only in rare instances would a committee be likely to declare an executive session from which the pastor is excused.

Meetings

The group should meet at least four times a year and stand ready to meet more often at the call of the pastor or chairman. Any member of the committee may request that a meeting be held. Meetings should be publicized ahead of time in order that all members of the congregation may have opportunity to express concerns which they feel should be dealt with by the committee.

Confidentiality

It is crucial that all conversations within the committee be confidential and minutes not be kept. This enables real openness about any troubling matters regarding the church and pastor. Members of the congregation who bring concerns to members of the committee must be able to do so with the assurance that their identity will not be disclosed. Anything which is to be reported to the congregation or groups within the church should be mutually agreed upon by the members of the committee and the pastor. SR 29

Obituaries

Bottoms.—Charles H. Bottoms, Little Genesee, New York, was born February 20, 1916, in Alabama, the son of the Rev. Emmett H. and Nettie Goodwin Bottoms. He died December 13, 1984, at his home of an apparent heart attack. He was married to the former Janice Voorhees who died several years ago. Later he married Ruth Bucher who survives.

Mr. Bottoms was a charter member of the Buffalo Seventh Day Baptist Church, actively sustaining its fellowship and its relation to the Allegheny Association for many years. He was also an associate member of the Richburg S.D.B. Church. He was a building contractor and had operated C. Bottoms, Inc. in Farnham, New York, until retirement nine years ago, when he moved to Little Genesee.

Surviving besides his widow are one son, Jack Bottoms of Orchard Park, New York; two daughters, Shirley Horwood and Sara Dahlgren both of Buffalo; six stepchildren, Mary Steesy of Interlaken, New York, Margaret Taylor of Lost Creek, West Virginia, Jean Cook of Hyattsville, Maryland, Robert Cartwright of Alfred Station, New York, Gregory Bucher of Savona, New York, Sue Anne Bucher at home; five grandchildren and several stepgrandchildren; and three sisters, Martha Hammack of Punta Gorda, Florida, Cora Lu Hutton of Fontana, California, and Sara Burnash of Adams Center, New York.

Funeral services were conducted in Angola, New York, by Rev. David Clarke. Burial was in Glenwood Cemetery, Silver Creek, New York, on December 15, 1984. DC

Drake.—Gladys M. Drake of Milton, Wisconsin, was born on October 8, 1901, in Allentown, New York, and died January 12, 1985, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wisconsin.

The former Gladys Hulett married Arthur M. Drake on September 9, 1927. She taught school in Friendship and Verona, New York, and Milton. She was a member of the Milton Historical Society, the Woman's Club and the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton. She represented the Seventh Day Baptist Church at the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Tokyo in 1970. She was on the Commission of the Seventh Day Baptist Church General Conference from 1970 to 1973. She received the annual Robe of Achievement Award presented by the Seventh Day Baptist Church Women's Society in honor of her service as president of the national Women's Board.

Surviving are her husband; two sons, Donald of Milton and Gordon of Janesville; a daughter, Janet Rote of Janesville; a sister, Ainsell Nottingham of Milton; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted on January 15 at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church with Pastor Herbert E. Saunders officiating, assisted by Extension Pastor Earl Cruzan. HES

Dixey.—Elvira K. Dixey, 66, of Marlboro, New Jersey, died January 25, 1985, at Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia where she had been a patient two days. She had been in failing health for two months.

Mrs. Dixey was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, the daughter of the late Harry A. and Elizabeth Ware Killian and was the wife of Henry F. Dixey. Mr. and Mrs. Dixey would have observed their 39th wedding anniversary in March.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are a son, Michael F. Dixey of Princeton, Florida; three daughters, Barbara Smathers of Pennsville, New Jersey; Elizabeth Merritt of Bridgeton; and Maryelin J. Dixey, at home, and three grandchildren.

The deceased was a member of the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church where she was active on various committees and taught Sabbath School for many years. Rev. Everett C. Dickinson, conducted services at the Garrison Funeral Home.

Contributions in Mrs. Dixey's memory may be made to the Marlboro 30 Seventh Day Baptist Church. ECD

August.—Jami Antonette August of Boulder, Colorado, died January 18, 1985, at the age of 18 after an automobile accident. She was born May 26, 1966, in Boulder, Colorado, the daughter of Frances Barr August and James LeRoy August.

After graduating from Boulder High School in 1984 where she had been a gymnast, twice named athlete of the month, she spent a summer in Summer Christian Service Corp, serving at the Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin. Jami was a student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, where she was on the diving team. She was a preliminary candidate for the U.S. Air Force Academy Class of 1986.

Jami was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, active with other youth in the church, and an integral part of the Handbell Choir. She also participated in the life of her church through Children's Messages, piano-organ duets with her mother, and as a member of the Social Committee. She spent much time at Camp Paul Hummel, both as a camper and assisting her family and church in construction and maintenance projects. Her vibrant Christian faith and her loving personality endeared her to all in her church family and beyond, from toddlers to senior citizens.

Survivors include her parents Jim and Fran August; a brother Scott E. August of Boulder, at college in Phoenix, Arizona; her maternal grandparents, Anton and Oletha Barr of Boulder; and paternal grandmother, Ruby August of Atchison, Kansas.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastors Elmo FitzRandolph and Gordon Lawton at the Howe Funeral Home in Boulder on January 21, with interment following at Green Mountain Cemetery. GL

Bardeen.—Frank D. Bardeen, 87, died Friday, January 18, 1985 at Cuba Memorial Hospital following a long illness.

A native of Alfred Station, New York, Mr. Bardeen was a graduate of Alfred University. Prior to retiring, he was a supervisor at the former Worthingtons, now Dresser Industries. He was a life-long member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, and a member of the Belmont Lodge No 474 F & AM and the Wellsville Garden Club.

Survivors include his wife, Josephine Cozy Bardeen; a daughter, Doris Scribner of Cuba; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; three sisters: Bernice Parsons of Bradenton, Florida; Helen Conderman and Alice Crosby, both of Wellsville, New York; a brother, Howard Bardeen of Hornell; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, January 21, 1985 at the Nicholson Funeral Home in Cuba with the Rev. Melvin F. Stephan, officiating. Burial will be in Cuba Cemetery. MFS

Palmer.—Francis W. Palmer, 67, of Brookfield, New York, died in Ormond Beach, Florida, on January 23, 1985.

Mr. Palmer was born in Brookfield on June 20, 1917, the son of William and Mary Witter Palmer. He married Ruth Crandall Palmer on August 14, 1939. Mr. Palmer was employed by the Remington Arms Company of Ilion, New York, for over 31 years, retiring from there in December, 1974.

Fran was a member of the Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department, served for over 20 years as clerk of the local school board, and was elected as a County Supervisor from the town of Brookfield, serving for four years following his retirement.

Fran was a loyal and active member of the Second Brookfield Seventh Day Baptist Church, having served the church as treasurer and trustee. He also served the Central New York Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches as treasurer and trustee. Fran was a deacon of the Second Brookfield Church. The past few years Fran and his wife have made Ormond Beach, Florida, their winter home, fellowshiping with the Daytona Beach SDB Church. His friends remember him as an outgoing person who liked to help people and who always had time to stop, talk, and visit.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Crandall Palmer of Brookfield; a son,

James Palmer of Jacksonville, Florida; a daughter, Joan Furgison of Brookfield; a brother, Dr. Kenneth Palmer of S. Dayton, New York; one sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Bessie) Whitacre of Brookfield; six grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held on January 26, 1985, at the Brookfield First and Seventh Day Baptist Church with Rev. Verne Wright and Rev. Thomas Goldthwaite of the Brookfield First Baptist Church officiating. VW

Boyd.—Eva P. Boyd, 72, of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, January 29, 1985 at Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring, following an extended illness.

She was born June 6, 1912, at New Enterprise, a daughter of Howard and Annie (Mauk) Stiffler.

On May 13, 1932, in Cumberland, Maryland, she married Jerome K. Boyd who survives along with these three children: the late Shirley Richards, of Waterford, Conn.; Joe A., and Mary Ellis, both of New Enterprise.

Mrs. Boyd was a member of the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Enterprise.

Funeral services were held February 1 at 11 a.m. in the German Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Enterprise, with Rev. Kent L. Martin officiating. KLM

Richards.—Shirley M. Richards, 51, of Waterford, Connecticut, formerly of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, died February 20, 1985, at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London, Connecticut, following a brief illness.

She was born, January 12, 1934, in South Woodbury Township, Bedford County, a daughter of Jerome K. and Eva P. (Stiffler) Boyd.

On September 19, 1982, in Salemville, she married Rev. Donald E. Richards, who survives along with four step-children: Daniel E., of North Loup, Nebraska; Timothy R., of Penns Grove, New Jersey; Elizabeth Wright, of Brookfield, New Jersey; and Doneta Osborn, of Milton, Wisconsin.

Five step-grandchildren and her father of Salemville, also survive along with a brother and sister, Joe A., and Mary Ellis, both of New Enterprise; and four nieces and three nephews. Her mother preceded her in death on January 29, 1985.

Mrs. Richards was employed as a nurse's aid at Canterbury Villa in Waterford, and was a former employee of New Enterprise Rural Electric for 30 years. She was a 1952 graduate of Replogle High School and member of the Waterford Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held February 25, in the German Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Enterprise, with Rev. Kent L. Martin officiating. KLM

Wells.—Lois Margaret Wells was born December 24, 1910, at Nortonville, Kansas, and died on February 7, 1985 at El Monte, California.

The daughter of Jason R. and Lucy I. Randolph Wells, Lois grew up in the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church where she accepted Christ and joined the church. She began playing piano for Sabbath School at age 12. She graduated from Nortonville High School; Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin; Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas; and received a Masters in Music Education at the University of Southern California.

Music and her Christian faith were Lois Wells' life. She taught music in Kansas high schools from 1936 to 1943; at El Monte High School, California, from 1943 to 1966; at Rio Hondo College, Whittier, California, from 1966 to 1976. She was a voice teacher at Brethren High School, Paramount, California, from 1960 to 1981, and a private voice instructor from 1976 to 1984. She was active in many musical organizations, leading voice and choral workshops throughout the Western States, and took the Southern California Youth Chorale abroad six times. She received many distinguished honors and awards. For over 50 years she served as director of church choirs at Nortonville and Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist churches and was the Minister of Music for the Los Angeles church for many years. She was a former moderator of the Los Angeles church. Lois directed Pre-Conference Retreat Youth Choirs and directed the music at General Conference in at least 10 states. From 1976 to 1979 she was a member of the Commission of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

Lois is survived by one sister, Mrs. Vivian Harris of Santa Ynez, California, and one brother, Alfred R. Wells of Lawrence, Kansas.

Memorial services were held at the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church, the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Church, and the First Baptist Church of Pasadena, California. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery. DD



Lois Margaret Wells

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality... ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I Corinthians 15:51-53, 55-57 (NIV)

Is your church making a joyful noise?

by Donna Bond

I will never forget the time my family and I were visiting another church for an informal Sabbath afternoon hymnsing. As the group began to assemble, the song leader called for a volunteer pianist from the audience. Getting no response, he proceeded with the business at hand—calling for selections from the hymnal and attempting to lead them.

I am not generally a music critic but let me tell you this: I had never participated in or listened to such singing—a joyful noise, maybe, but even that is debatable for the tempo did not suggest even a hint of joy. After three hymns an almost-about-to-approach-the-beginning-of-middle-age mother stood and, keeping her shaking knees under control *en route* to the piano, said she would try to help out but it had been 17 years since she had played in public.

Three more hymns were sung, this time a tempo and on key. Maybe there was even some harmony. I do not really remember. You see, I was that almost-about-to-approach-the-beginning-of-middle-age rusty draftee.

This unexpected incident in a sister church became a turning point leading me down a new avenue of serving God. He and my parents' investment had once given me the necessary training, but circumstances (i.e. no apparent need for my services, a sarcastic

remark from a college piano major, and a lack of keyboard instrument in my own home) had caused me to allow that training to rust during my young adult years. But my own experience is not what I am writing about.

The job of the organist and pianist

Consider what it would be like to be your church organist. You would have to be at church early on Sabbath—even if you had small children to feed and dress. You would probably be on display through the service, separated from your own family. You would have to learn or revive three musical selections from your repertoire of preludes, offertories and postludes every week. You would have to set the proper tempo on all hymns and lead out confidently on the unfamiliar ones. You would have to be one step ahead of the pastor at all times—even if he inadvertently made an unplanned change in the order of worship. You would have to be ready for the numerous musical interludes which add so much to the spirit but are generally unnoticed by the average parishioner. You would have to learn the anthem accompaniment each week (the choir director's choice, not yours). Besides spending hours of rehearsal time at home, you would have to be available to work with choirs, soloists, and other small groups at their convenience. You would undoubtedly have to spend

some time practicing on the organ at the church unless your home was blessed with its twin. Finally, you would be among the last to leave the sanctuary—even if you had a Sabbath School class to teach.

As you may begin to realize, the list of weekly responsibilities for the church organist is endless. But all of this is just part of a day's work compared to the added task of accompanying a 60-page contemporary Easter or Christmas cantata. I have brought three of these works home to read through on my electrified antique pump organ (inherited three years ago) and have been overwhelmed by the complexity—and length—of their accompaniments. They use all parts of the keyboard and have frequent repeated sections when the accompanist must turn pages back and forth without missing a beat. Their harmony is *weird* to my old-fashioned classically-tuned ears and they change key signatures and tempo frequently, often using very uncommon combinations. As if all this was not enough, there is usually a verbal narration to which the accompanist must adjust her timing, even though the words are not necessarily printed near the music.

I was absolutely flabbergasted by this task this past Christmas when Shiloh's choir was accompanied not only by an experienced organist but also a teen-aged pianist—a young lady who was born during my seventeen-

Your efforts may pay off in years to come when your church has an abundance of dedicated musicians.

year *siesta*. (I must also add that the *weird* dissonance became planned dissonance under skilled fingers.)

Developing your church's talent

What can churches do to develop potential talent in their members? At the Shiloh church, our pipe organ (very old and valuable) is well worth protection, but it is available to any organ student who needs to practice. As a result, three ladies (and an occasional alternate) currently rotate two-month shifts on Sabbath morning, and there is a promise of more to come. Most of them are also hired by Sunday churches to perform the same duties we take for granted and term *dedicated service*.

We also have a number of pianists who take turns (by month) accompanying the organist on the hymns each week. Some are experienced musicians, some are young students who are developing their expertise and self-confidence. One is a resurrected former piano student making up for lost time. This practice not only helps the individuals involved, but it also gives added support to the organist and congregational singers.

Our total church program is complex enough to require several musicians and we have an active Music Committee to see that those who are

willing to serve have the opportunity. Besides our adult worship and Bible study on Friday evening, we have six youth groups meeting simultaneously (see December 1984 *Sabbath Recorder*). Here is a potential need for seven pianists, which may be members of the groups, or adult leaders, or non-leaders who can help in this way. The same is true of our Sabbath School departments. Two children's and youth choirs perform monthly with a piano, and an adult choir now uses both organ and piano accompaniments.

Special occasions (Youth Sabbath, holidays, anniversaries, celebrations, talent shows, fund-raisers, etc.) frequently call for the services of a pianist—perhaps someone who does not ordinarily play in public but can work a selection up when needed. In the summer, our choirs take a vacation and other special music is provided. These nearly always require an accompanist. Sometimes we give our organist a mid-morning break and have a piano offertory performed by someone who would not be playing otherwise, or we may have an organ-piano duet as a special number.

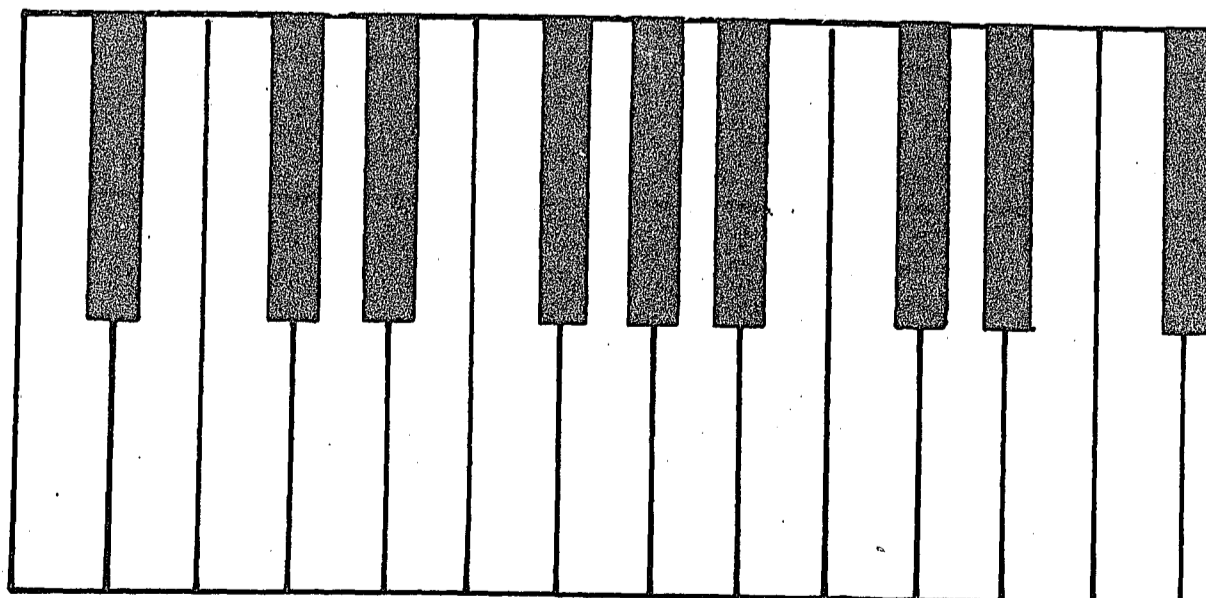
Another very important factor in developing talent is the giving of encouragement. As children's choir pianist, I had the privilege of sitting in

the front row during our 1985 Youth Sabbath service. After each performance—piano, vocal or dramatic message—I could hear a whispered "good job" chorus as each participant joined his or her peers in the row of young people behind me. I have personally received much verbal encouragement and, in the 11 years that I have been in Shiloh, I have never heard an unkind remark about anyone's keyboard performance (although I suspect brothers are capable of such, as they were in the '60's).

In order to ensure a good supply of pianists and organists for the future, churches should encourage as many children as possible to begin lessons and develop their skill to the fullest potential. Then, when some of these beginners inevitably become adult leaders in other churches, there will still be enough left to share the burdens and joys in the old home church.

For example, our Shiloh youth week service (see related article elsewhere in this issue) featured five excellent piano solos performed by young people from 10 to 17. There are others who will be ready next year. All of these girls began lessons with one of our leading musicians who gave lessons as a sideline to a life that was already full. This teacher, a virtuoso pianist and organist herself, knew when to refer the older ones to a professional music teacher and their parents were wise enough to go the second mile with her advice. This has already developed good piano-playing into outstanding musicianship.

Besides giving necessary verbal encouragement and creating opportunities for students, individual church members can help in another way, too. Before selling Aunt Hilda's piano to a stranger or giving it to a charity, find out if there is a Sabbath School room where it could be used. Check to see if there is a church family with an eager child who cannot afford a major investment in a new instrument. Your consideration may pay off in years to come when your church has an abundance of dedicated musicians while the church down the street has to use God's money to secure just one. SR 33



After three hymns an almost-about-to-approach-the-beginning-of-middle-age mother stood and, keeping her shaking knees under control en route to the piano, said she would try to help out...

Accessions

Atlanta, Georgia
William Shobe, Pastor

Joined by Letter:
Luis Lovelace
Chuck Hayth

Daytona Beach, Florida
Kenneth B. Van Horn, Pastor

Trudy Russell

Milton, Wisconsin
Herbert E. Saunders, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Douglas Lubke
Michelle Loofboro
Angela Gilmore
Jennifer Lippincott
Lance Call

North Hills, Pennsylvania (formerly Ambler)
Kenneth Cruickshank, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Val Bennett
Olga Bennett
Juliet Bennett
Georgiana Bennett
Benjamin Samuels
Eunice Samuels

Joined by Letter
Dennis Palmer

San Diego, California
George Calhoun, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Barbara Roberts
Kay Horsley
Edward Horsley
Dennis Rakestraw

Joined after Baptism
Anita Bechtolt
De De Littler

Sunshine Mountain, Mississippi
Ralph L. Hays Sr., Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Jeanette Reach
Cherie Carlisle

Joined after Testimony
William Hildebrand

White Cloud, Michigan
Lawrence Watt, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Earl Laisure
Carol Laisure
Jeffrey Goven

Births

Dye.—A son, Duane Chester Dye, was born to Chester and Leola (Welch) Dye of Brookfield, New York on April 26, 1982.

"...Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3,4 NASB)

The opening verses of the eighteenth chapter of Matthew's gospel affirm Jesus' care and regard for children. The point would be missed however if it was not pointed out that these verses are a message to all believers to have the simple and humble faith a child has.

Last Fall the First and Second Brookfield churches were happy to celebrate the dedication of Duane C. Dye to the Lord. Duane is 2 1/2 years old now. The significance of Duane's dedication is that Duane has spent a good deal of the first two years of his life in the hospital. The joy of Duane's dedication service was that it served as an affirmation of God's presence among his people.

The dedication of children serves as an act of faith in God's purposes for humanity in an age that seems to abound in evil. Duane's dedication in particular was a celebration of how God blessed one particular child in one particular

family. We share our joy with our brothers and sisters in the Lord with this article.

"And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me..." (Matthew 18:5 NASB).

Cruickshank.—A daughter, Simone Cruickshank, was born to Pastor Ken and Maulene Cruickshank of North Hills, Pennsylvania, on January 9, 1984.

Thorngate.—A daughter, Jennifer Sara Thorngate, was born to Russell and Lynne (Blinkenberg) Thorngate of Cable, Wisconsin, on March 17, 1984.

Thorngate.—A daughter, Sarah Christine (Sally) Thorngate, was born to Stephen and Lisa (Cudahy) Thorngate of Burlington, Wisconsin, on August 27, 1984.

Webb.—A son, Jonathan David Webb, was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Webb, on October 27, 1984.

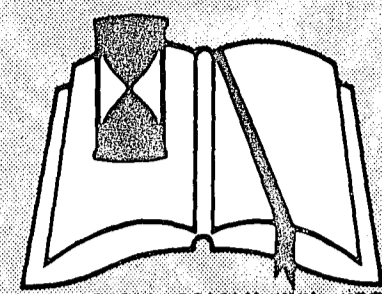
Pickard.—A daughter, Elaina Marie Pickard, was born to Theodore and Jeannine Pickard on January 14, 1985.

Marriages

Sakamoto-Ayars.—Thomas K. Sakamoto, son of Harry and Aiko Sakamoto, of North Wales, Pennsylvania and Barbara A. Ayars, daughter of Fredrick and Virginia Ayars, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage on October 20, 1984, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Marlboro, New Jersey, by Pastor Everett C. Dickinson.

Bailey-Long.—John Bailey and Vickie Long of Janesville, Wisconsin were united in marriage at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on February 14, 1985 with Pastor Herbert E. Saunders officiating.

Lubke-Geske.—Douglas Lubke of Edgerton, Wisconsin and Jayne Geske of Janesville, Wisconsin were united in marriage at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on February 24, 1985 with Pastor Herbert E. Saunders officiating, assisted by Pastor Earl Cruzan.



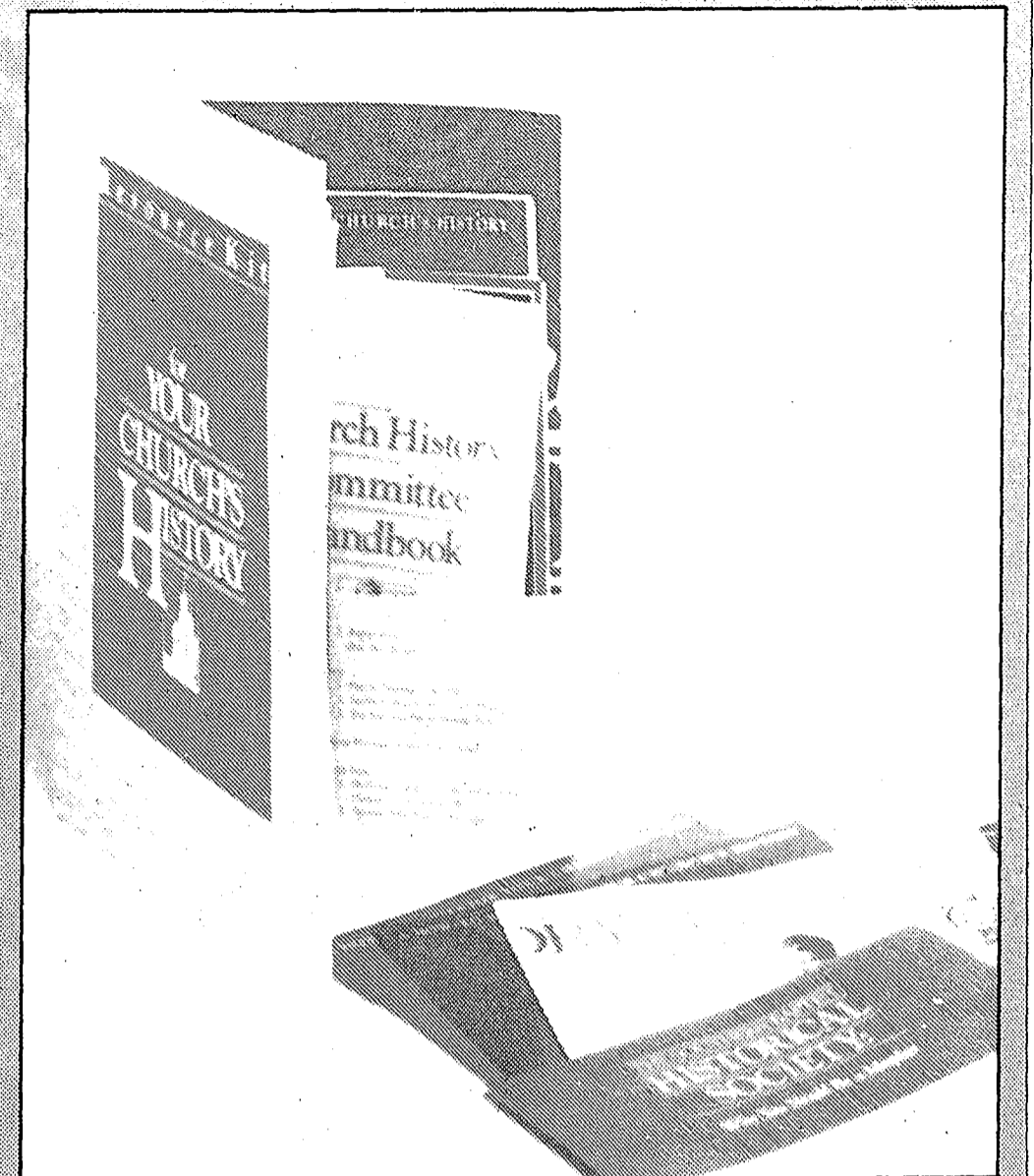
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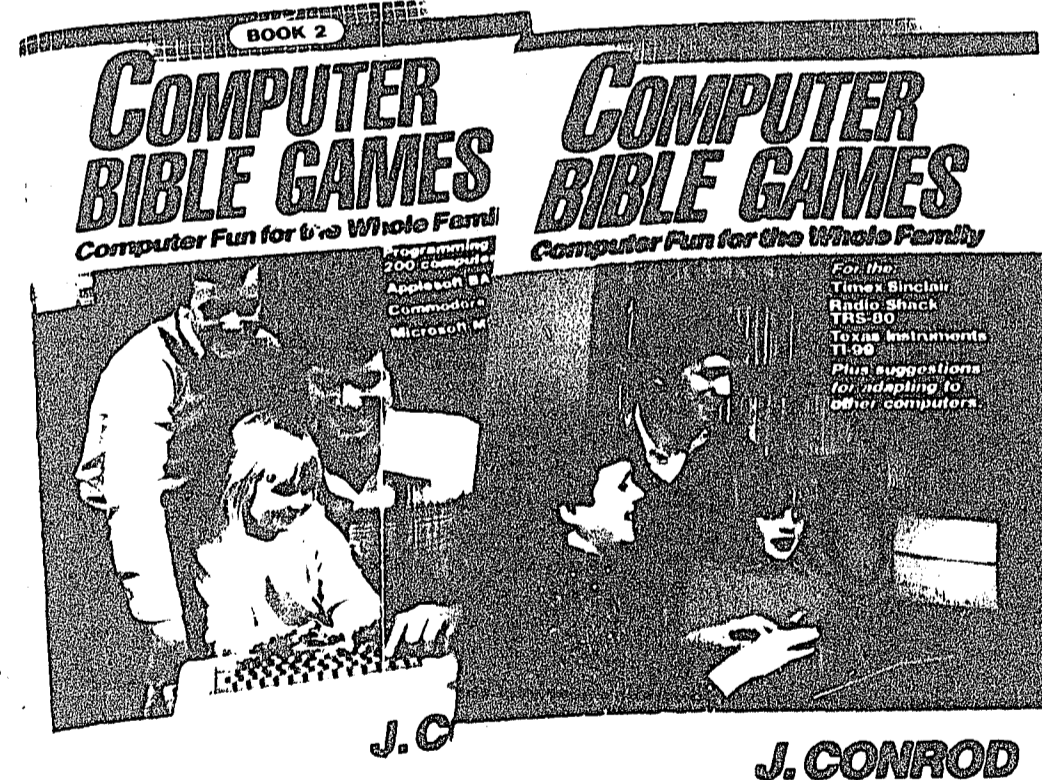
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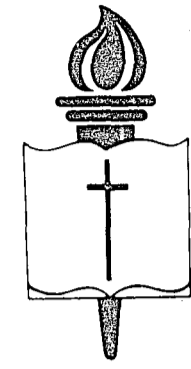
New Covenant Ministries
2269 Field St.
Lakewood, CO 80215

Yearbook Correction

Please note the following correction in the Conference Business Minutes of the Annual Session, Beloit, Wisconsin, August 5-11, 1984:

On page 47, in the Report of the Committee on Nominations, add the following under "Council on Ministry": (term expiring 1986)—Ruth Anne Peil

Also, in the Seventh Day Baptist Directory, 1984, on page 62, under "Council on Ministry"—terms expiring 1986—delete "Ernest K. Bee, Jr." and replace with "Ruth Anne Peil."



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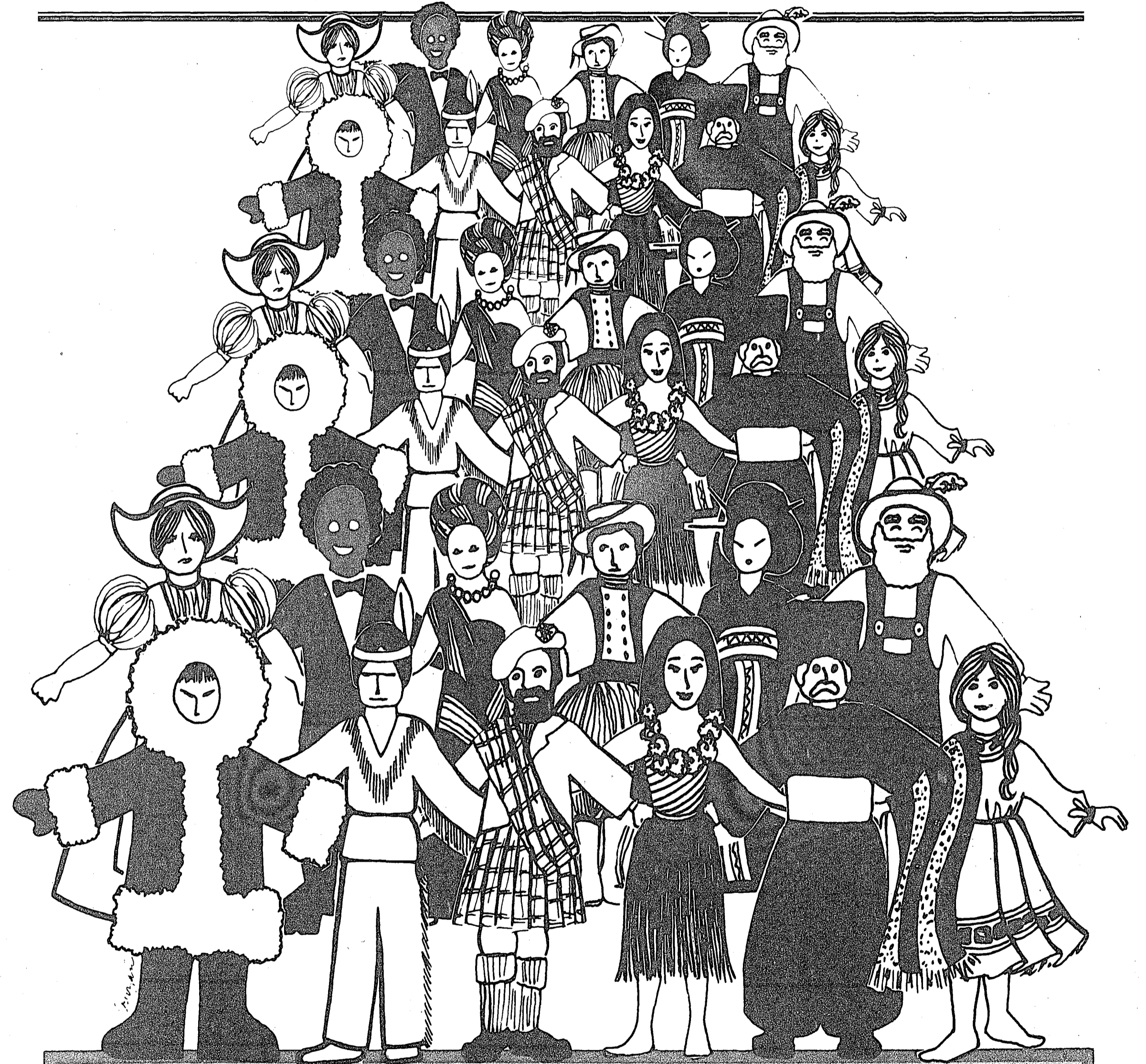


See! The winter is past; the rains are over
and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the
season of singing has come, the cooing of
doves is heard in our land.

Solomon's Song of Songs 2:11-12

May 1985

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