

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

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# Soul Freedom

*Baptists Living Their Biblical Faith*



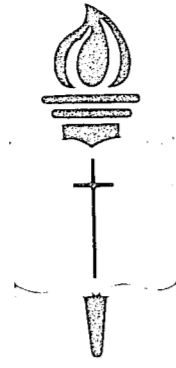
Observe Religious Liberty Day  
 June 1985

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

**PEACE  
 IS LIKE WAR.**

Walker Knight

Peace plans its strategy and encircles the enemy.  
 Peace marshals its forces and storms the gates.  
 Peace, like war, is waged.  
 But Christ has turned it all around:  
 the weapons of peace are love, joy, goodness, longsuffering;  
 the arms of peace are justice, truth, patience, prayer.  
 The strategy of peace brings safety, welfare, happiness;  
 the forces of peace are the sons and daughters of God.



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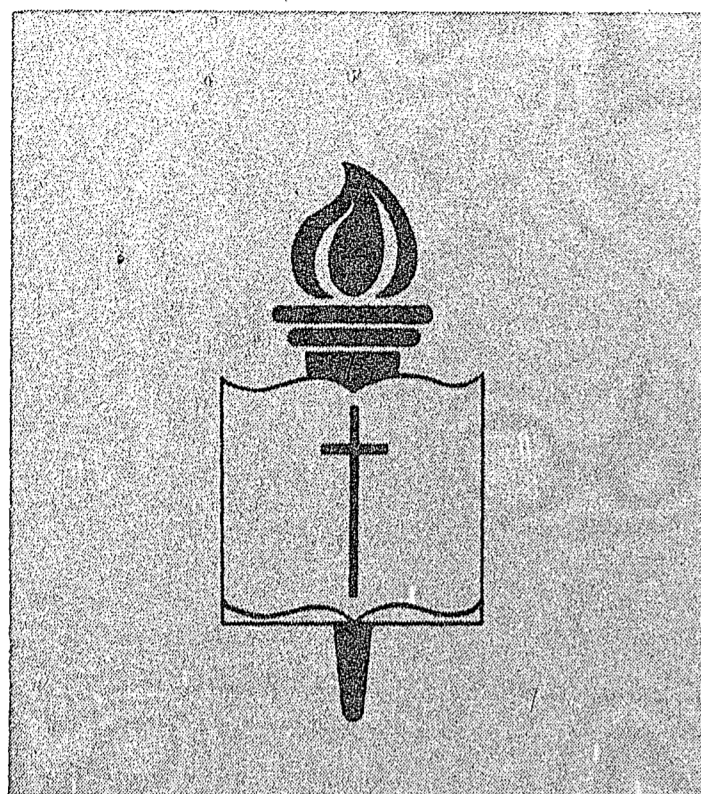
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THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST  
**SABBATH RECORDER**

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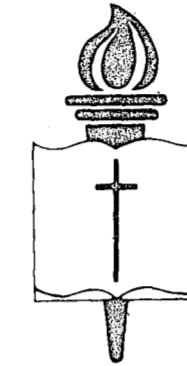


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## The Sabbath Recorder

June 1985  
Volume 207, No. 6  
Whole No. 6,684



A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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**D. Scott Smith**  
Editor

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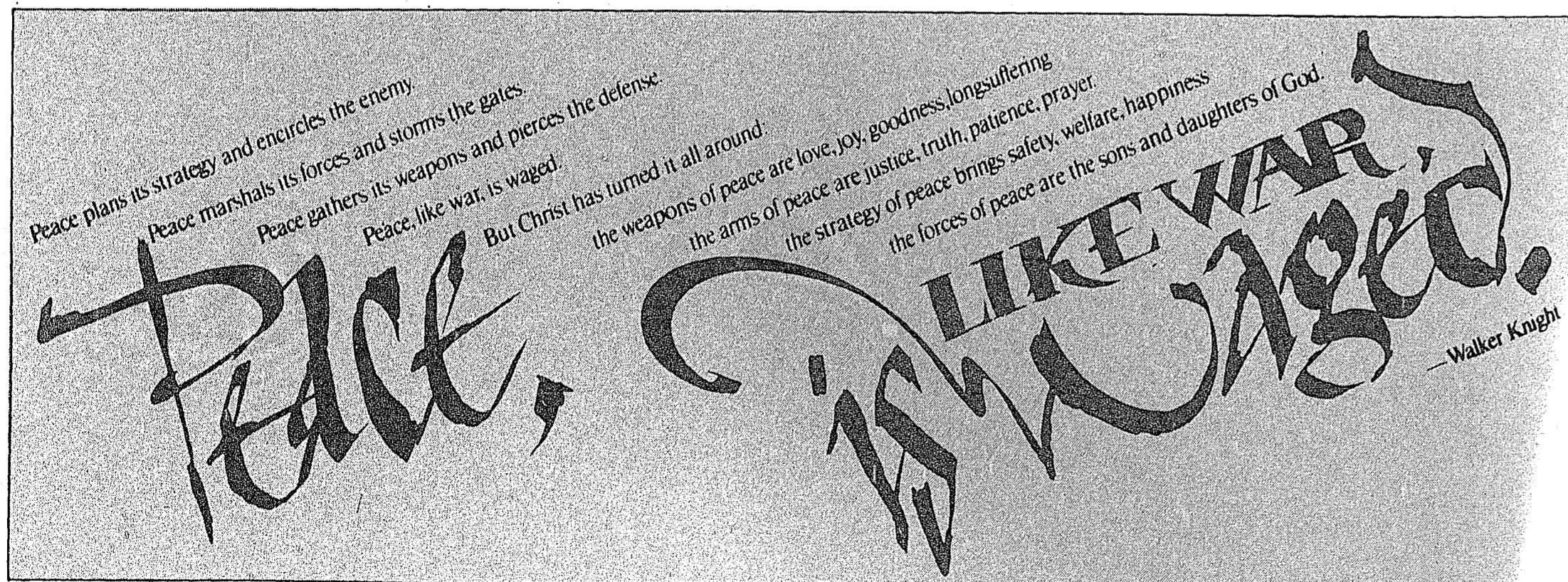
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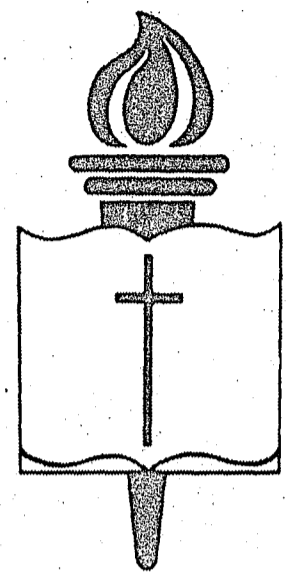
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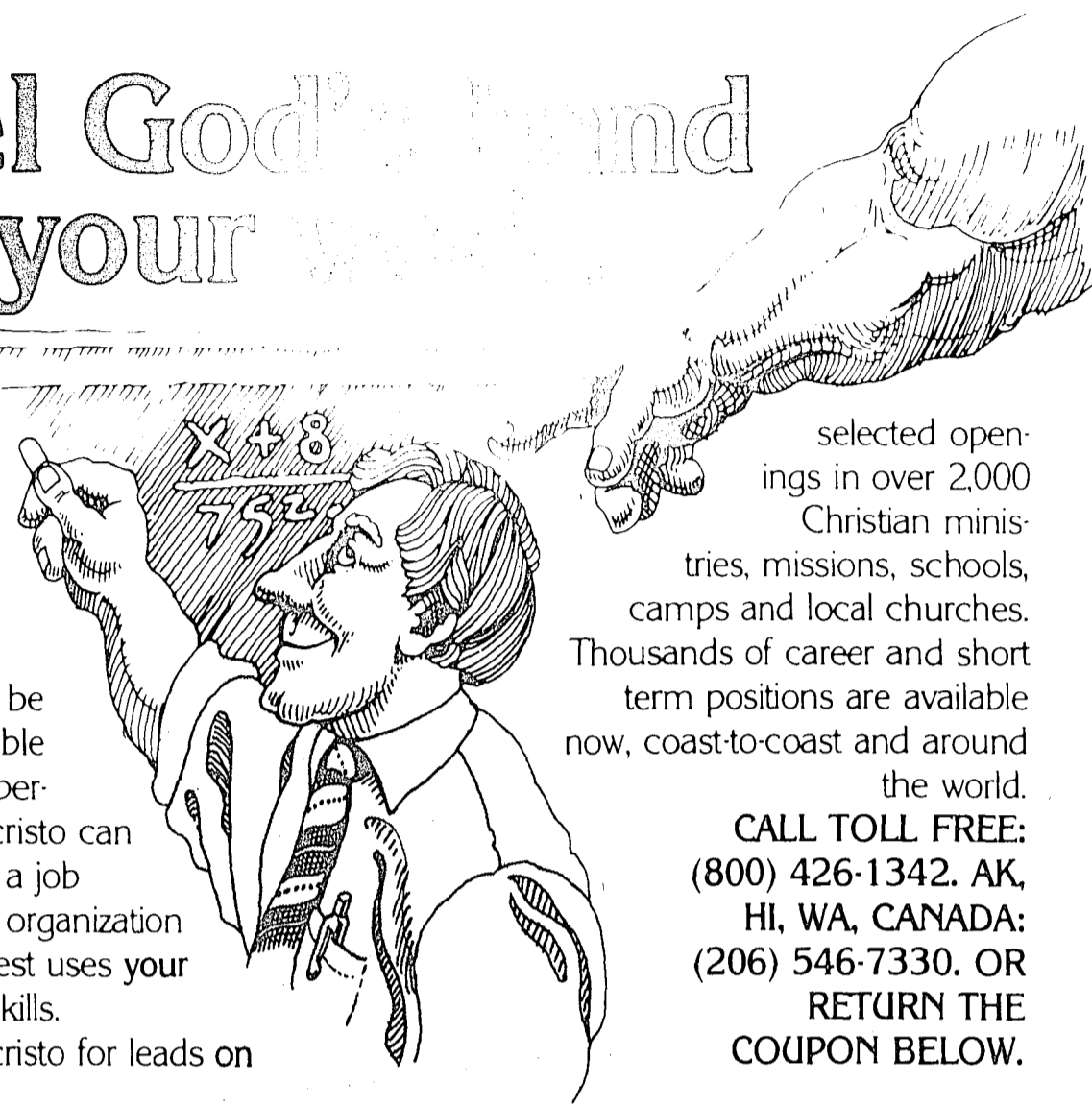


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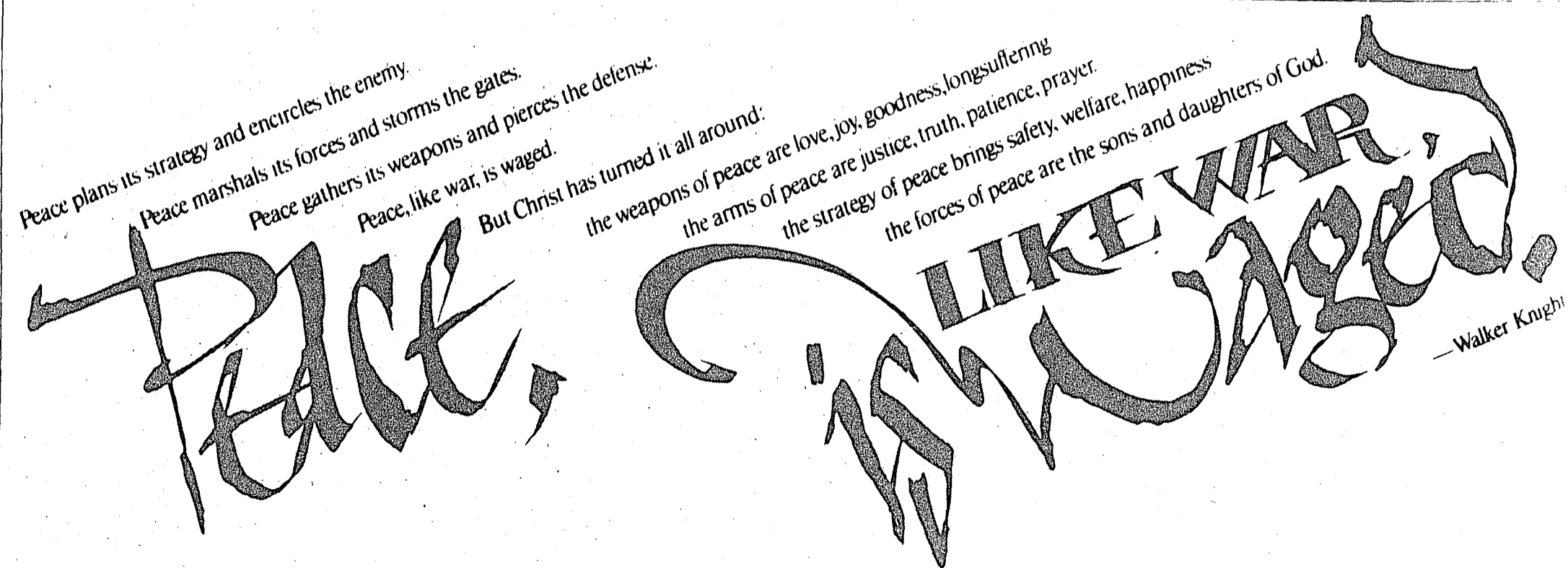
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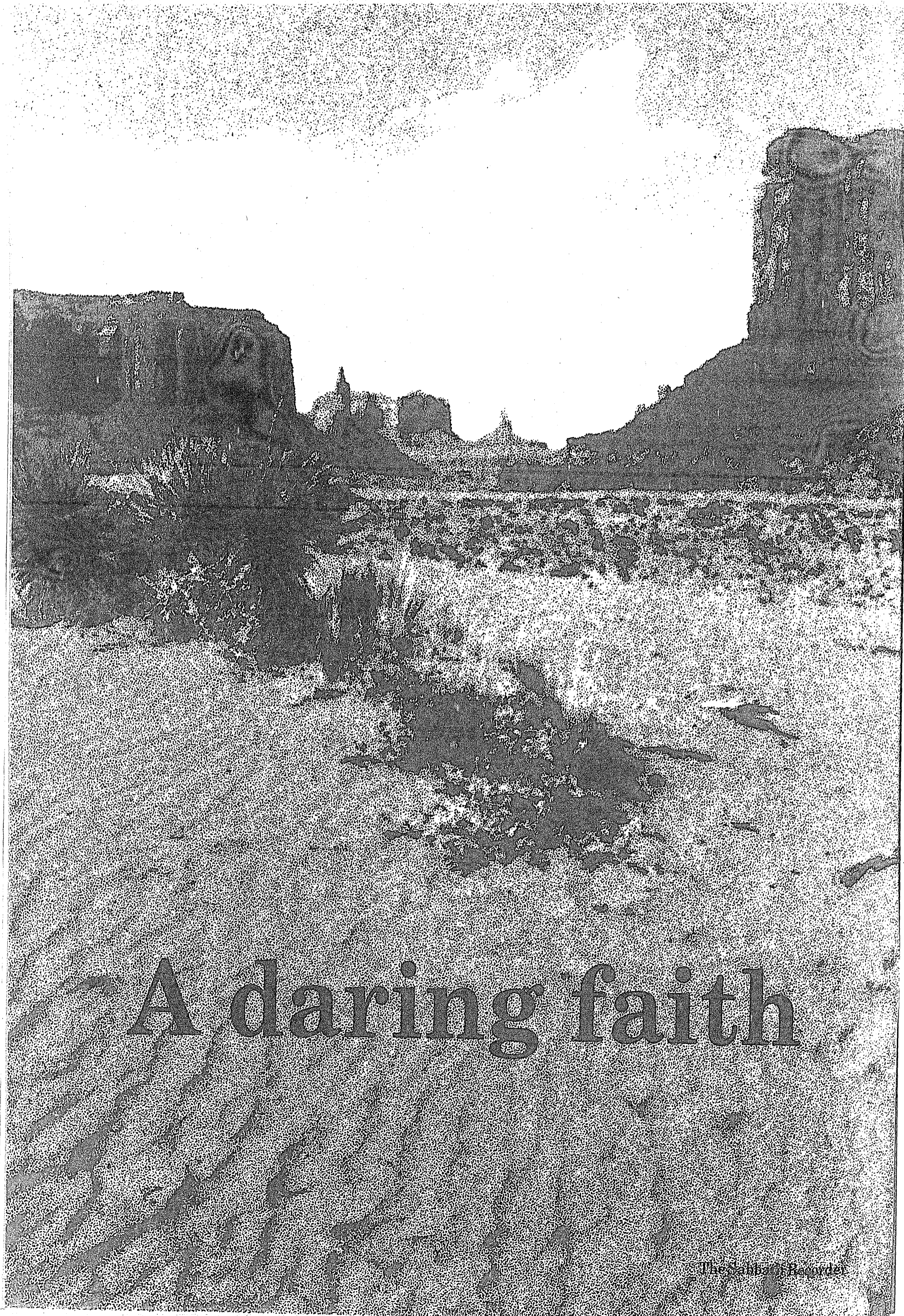
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The Sabbath Recorder

by Rev. Don A. Sanford

Matthew 6:25-34

*"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

Matt. 6:26

These words taken from the heart of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount speak a familiar message of complete trust in God. Yet the question has often been raised as to whether man can just "live like the birds," without a care in the world or without working and planning. For a trusting faith often involves risk, effort and commitment which goes beyond that of the birds and the flowers of the field. "Aren't you of more value than they?" asked Jesus. The New English Bible is even more positive in its translation: "You are worth more than the birds!"

When one considers the fact that the greatest single cause of death among birds is starvation, he has to be a little cautious in any literal interpretation of this concept of being "as free as the birds." For faith, if it is true, for man recognizes that he has decisions to make which must be made in absolute trust.

Let me illustrate by a little parable which is over 50 years old, but continues to speak its message. On a seldom used trail across a desert waste there is an old pump to which has been fastened a baking powder can with the following letter inside:

"This pump is all right as of June 1932. I put a new sucker washer into it and it ought to last at least five years. But the washer dries out and the pump has got to be primed. Under the white rock I buried a bottle of water, out of the sun and cork end up. There's enough

water in it to prime the pump, but not if you drink some first.

"Pour about one-fourth in and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest medium fast and pump like crazy! You'll get water. The well has never run dry. Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller.

Signed, Desert Pete

"P.S. Don't go drinkin' up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold."

Here is a prime example of a trusting and daring faith. Picture a man who has come along that trail and is nearly perishing for thirst. Then he stumbles onto that pump out in the wilderness. He knows that there is a bottle of water just a few feet away which could offer him relief from his thirst. What a temptation it would be to drink that water which was certain, rather than pouring it out into an old pump. For once it is poured out, there is no reclaiming it again if the pump does not work.

All sorts of possibilities might run through his mind. How does he know he can trust that note? What if the

leathers have deteriorated? After all, even new pumps sometimes cannot be completely guaranteed. Or suppose the well has gone dry? Just because it never has gone dry is no real assurance that it never will! There is always a first time.

But the note wisely says: "Have faith!" This is the key to the whole situation—have faith. But this faith is not the faith of a bird, or of the flowers; it is a faith which has four specific characteristics.

First, faith must have an object. In this case, one must trust Desert Pete, even though he has never seen or known him. In fact, if he were asked to prove if there actually was a Desert Pete, one would be hard pressed to produce him. Yet his very survival, and the survival of others who follow him, depends upon faith that this unknown man was trustworthy.

The only tangible evidence which one has is contained in that can tied to the pump handle and the bottle of water beneath the rock. But if one is to survive, he must have faith in old Desert Pete.

It seems to me that there is a great

*Don't go drinkin' up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold.*

June 1985

parallel here. For mankind as a whole, and each one of us individually, finds himself thirsting. The road has been hot and lonely. We yearn for a cool drink of water. But in man's struggling there comes a hope. There is a Christ who beckons us on. He says to us: "I am the living water."

How many times God has given the promise of water to his people. In the wilderness, the children of Israel were thirsty. God said to Moses, "Thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it" (Ex. 17:6). Moses had faith in God; he obeyed; and the people's thirst was quenched. The psalmist sang often of the waters. As the shepherd, the Lord led his sheep by the still waters and there was trust in the sheep who followed. The prophet gave his great invitation to worship with the word, "Lo every one that thirsteth; come ye to the waters" (Isa. 55:1).

John records for us the experience of the woman at the well in Samaria who was greatly puzzled over how one who had no bucket could possibly quench her thirst. But Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never thirst; that water that I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." And the woman said, "Sir, give me of the water, that I may not thirst, nor come to draw" (John 4:13-15).

How did Moses know that there was a God whom he could trust? How did the psalmist know about the Shepherd who led beside the still waters? How did the prophet understand that in the midst of captivity men could be comforted by water without price? How did the Samaritan know that Jesus was telling the truth when he spoke of the water which would quench all thirst?

We do not know all of the experiences which led to these affirmations of faith, but they had evidence which was similar to that which the traveler had at Desert Pete's well. He had the fact that a well was there. Somebody had cared and had put a pump at that desolate spot, put it there perhaps because he knew that others would have need of it.

How many ways one sees that God has anticipated his needs. He has

blazed a trail for us. We may not be able to see him, literally, but he has left his pump. He has also left a note for us, a written message. His Word has been preserved telling us how to prime our pump. The living water which we are to use is also present. "Have faith," we say, knowing that the one who left that message and means of survival was honest. "Have faith!" is a message for our time.

The second element in this daring faith is demonstrated in the fact that one must risk something in order to gain more. "Don't go drinking up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold."

There was a risk involved in it. The water which he had to use to prime the pump was something that he could see; it was right there in his hand. But trusting that the one who left the note was

telling the truth, he risked the tangible present for an uncertain future.

As we reflect back over Biblical history we become aware of this same element of risk. Abraham went out, not knowing where he was going. But he risked the security of Ur and Haran for the land God had given to him. Moses risked everything in returning to Egypt. Even the children who were held in slavery left a certain amount of security which they had in slavehood, risking this to gain the Promised Land. The book of Ecclesiastes acknowledges the risk of faith as one reads: "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days" (Ecc. 11:1).

Jesus' whole ministry was centered about the risk of faith. He called the disciples to leave their nets. He called men to put their hand to the plow without looking back. "He who finds his life

shall lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 10:39).

This is one of the hardest things which we, as Christians, have to do: risk our faith—cast the certain security which we may have in our hands for an uncertain promise of greater blessings. Perhaps part of our reason for this hesitancy on our part is due to the fact that we have been let down so many times before. We have trusted in things which are not reliable. We have trusted in other people who have let us down. We have seen false hopes, mirages in a wilderness, and gone after rainbows in the sky.

Ours is a generation which has been very skeptical. Even the best intentioned actions have been met with suspicions, so we dare not risk our faith again. We drink up the water intended for priming the pump, but leave the well, dissatisfied, selfish and self-centered. Those who follow in our footsteps are thus deprived of even that water to prime the pump and die of thirst, with a supply of water just beneath their feet. It has happened to churches, and it has happened to individuals.

But, by the grace of God, it need not happen. For God's word is true and his resources are unlimited. Only trust with faith and dare risk something. Cast thy bread upon the waters; give of yourselves; and you will be satisfied. Withhold yourselves, and your thirst will continue.

The third characteristic of a trusting and daring faith is patience. "Pour about one-fourth in and let her soak to wet the leather. Then pour in the rest, medium fast," said Desert Pete. What a temptation it would be to begin pumping too soon, before the water has had time to soak the leathers. The hardest thing for some people to do is wait. We are obsessed with speed; we want miracles to happen immediately.

There are those in our society, even within the framework of the Christian church, who have capitalized on the concept of instantaneous results of faith. These capture the imagination, even to the extent of providing television entertainment in publicizing miracle healings. To be sure, there are

*What have I personally done to bring the life-giving waters up to the surface where they may be used to satisfy the thirst of man?*

times when the results seem immediate. Jesus touched the sick and they were healed. But there were also times when the healing was delayed. The blind man at Siloam had to go to the pool and be washed. In the Old Testament, Naaman, the leper, had to dip seven times in the river Jordan. It took God only a few days to get the children of Israel out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to prepare the people for entrance into the promised land. Or consider the conversion of Paul; he was struck on the road to Damascus in an instant, but he reminds the Galatians that it was at least 14, possibly 17 years, before he was ready to be used by God in missionary outreach.

Sometimes it does take time for our "leathers to get soaked up," particularly when our faith has been inactive for considerable time. One cannot come to church on Easter, or Christmas, or at a spiritual renewal meeting, and expect to find full meaning in the Christian life in a moment. It takes time and patience. "Pour about one-fourth in and let her soak to wet the leather....then pour in the rest medium fast."

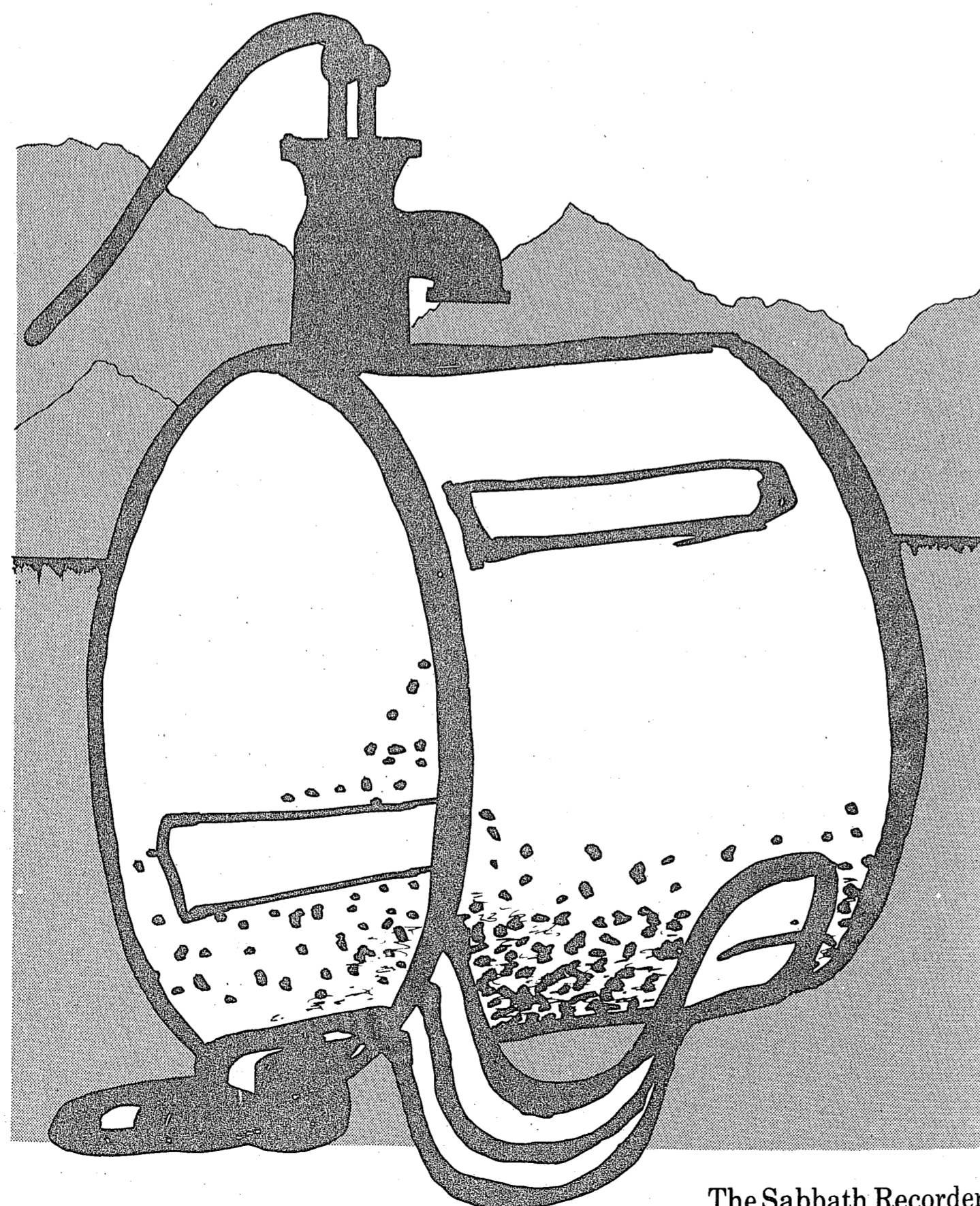
This brings us to the final characteristic of a trusting faith: it needs action. Desert Pete reminds us that after we have trusted, and risked, and waited, "we are to pump like crazy!" Then we shall get water. After we have been satisfied, the action must extend to those who may follow after us. "When you get watered up," he said, "fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller."

This also is one of the pressing needs of our time; we need people who will "pump like crazy." One may have all the faith in the world in God, and he may even be willing to risk a little here and there. One may pour out his faith to prime the pump. In fact, that is what a great deal of our giving to the church is—just a prime for the pump. But how many are there who are willing to grab a hold of that pump handle and pump like crazy?

Perhaps each one of us ought to ask in all sincerity, "What have I personally done to bring the life-giving waters up to the surface where they may be used to satisfy the thirst of man?" How many meetings have been held which have inspired a priming of the pumps, but fail because there are too few who are willing to work the handle. Concern may be shown over the barren and dry wilderness of the church in the world or the community. There have been those who have risked, both in the past and the present, pouring years of service into the well. But unless there are also those who will grab hold of that handle and pump like crazy, the well will appear dry. The water will never get quite to the top.

Now it is true that sometimes God's blessings are like an artesian well whose waters flow to the top without any effort. There is a faith like that of the birds or the flowers. God invited us to drink of this water also. But more often God's blessings are like the pump in the desert; one has to put forth faith

*Cont. to page 22.*



The Sabbath Recorder

## A special assignment—power charged

by Dale D. Thorngate

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth."*  
Acts 1:8

A commission is a special assignment. In the military, there are commissioned and non-commissioned officers. A commissioned officer is appointed by the Congress of the United States and is responsible to the President and his senior officers for that special assignment. It is different in the church. There is no difference between the pastor or other leaders and the members. All are commissioned by Jesus for the same assignment.

In this fourth year of the Seventh Day Baptist "Decade of Discipleship," our Conference President, Calvin Babcock, has challenged us to respond to the Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19 and 20. Perhaps the Acts version of the Commission is easier for Seventh Day Baptists to relate to. It reflects the situation the disciples found themselves in after Jesus' ascension.

### Afraid and small

The disciples must certainly have been in a state of fear and frustration. They had just lost their leader in a very strange series of events. Most of them had expected to be lead into a campaign that would replace the Roman empire with the Jewish empire and would install Jesus as the Emperor of the World. Instead, in the last few days surrounding our Biblical account, Jesus had died a criminal's death on the cross. He had been resurrected from the grave, appeared to several of the disciples and then disappeared up into the heavens.

It is a time of fear, frustration and soul-searching. As the disciples look around at each other in the upper

*For God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and self-discipline.*

*II Timothy 1:7*

room, they must surely feel small and insignificant with no hope for the kingdom to which they had been commissioned. When Seventh Day Baptists think about Christ's commission to us to "Go into all the world," it can be very easy for us to feel as the disciples must have during those days before Pentecost. There are only 54,000 Seventh Day Baptists in 16 different countries of the world. In the United States, there are only about 5,100 in 70 churches. I like the Great Commission from Acts because the assignment "to go to the ends of the earth" includes a promise—the power of the Holy Spirit to make it possible. I remember the Apostle Paul's words in II Timothy 1:7, "For God did not give us a Spirit of timidity, but a Spirit of power, of love and self-discipline."

### Wait, pray, remember

Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. We know this time was a time of prayer, study of the Scriptures and reflecting on what Jesus had taught them. Our challenge to "go into all the world" must be preceded by prayer, Bible study, and reflection on Christ's teachings. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will not fail. Our Commission is to share God's love and promise of Salvation.

In John we get a new insight about this Commission. Jesus says, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

Love each other and be ready to respond to Christ's Commission with power. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

## Summer Christian Service Corps

by Dierdre Sanford

As a program sponsored by the S.D.B. denomination, Summer Christian Service Corps has many benefits. It's an excellent opportunity to try out new skills at a church where people don't have any preconceived ideas of what you normally do. It's a good chance to experience and develop new talents. You meet many new people and really develop lasting relationships. (Just ask Marian Marteny.)

I personally still keep in contact with

my host family of two summers. I wouldn't trade that relationship for anything.

There's a lot of learning "smushed" into one summer. It takes place in all different forms. I learned that in the south, people almost always put sugar in their ice tea and that the beaches in Los Angeles are always crowded. In learning how to get along with my partners, whom I saw 24 hours a day, living peacefully with my college room-

mates was a snap.

Most important of all is the personal growth and increased understanding of God. Each summer of SCSC I got a bigger picture of who God is. I learned God could be trusted. When he says his grace is sufficient and that we can do all things through him who strengthens us, he really means it! It was a true opportunity to learn to depend on God. For example, before going to my first project in Memphis, I was petrified. The city seemed so big and foreign. The work to be done seemed difficult and impossible. But I went and lived through it and actually grew to love it there because God was with me, patiently teaching me that he was looking out for me. God taught me in a way I'll never forget.

Sometimes the projects didn't turn out to be all I had hoped. Sometimes they were better than I had ever dreamed of. But God is unchanging and faith-

### God rewarded every summer of service by a bigger picture of himself.

ful. He never disappointed me. He rewarded every summer of service by a bigger picture of himself. Sometimes I didn't always realize what I learned until weeks or months later, but I always grew from the summer.

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."

II Cor. 3:18

Editor's Note: Dierdre Sanford served three years as an SCSC worker and later on the staff. She is a medical technologist at Edgerton Hospital, Edgerton, Wis. SR

### Profile of an SCSC worker

**Height:** Small enough to "humble himself in the sight of the Lord" yet tall enough to "be raised up with Christ in the heavenlies."

**Weight:** Variable—but must be willing to expand from all the good home-cooking of church ladies.

**Eye Color:** Heavenly blue.

**Eyesight:** Needs expandable vision to see God's power at work.

**Age:** Seventeen plus years. It's never too late for SCSC.

**SDB Genealogy:** Adopted as a son/daughter of God.

**Occupation:** The Lord's bond servant.

**Educational Background:** Must have completed the 11th grade.

**Available Time:** Mid-June to mid-July.

**Mobility:** Must be willing to relocate to any willing host church in the U.S.

**Sociability:** Must be able to work closely with at least one other SCSCer on the project.

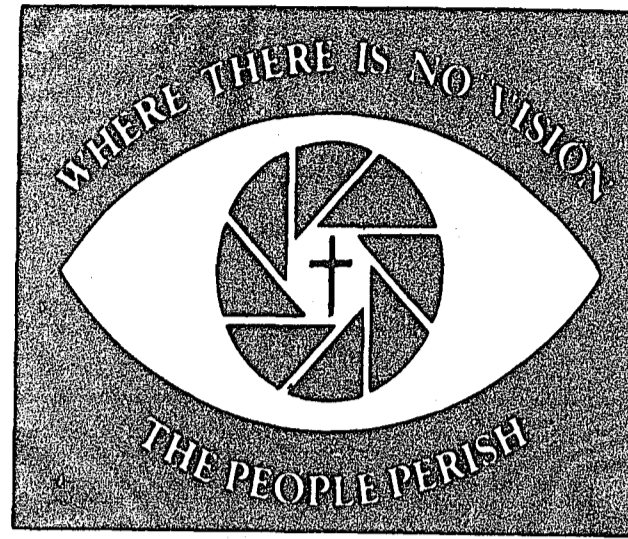
**Requested Summer Wage:** The work is voluntary but the retirement plan (i.e., Eternal Life) can't be beat.

**Abilities:** Variable, but will be equipped by God for every good work, depending on project needs. This may include camp counseling, youth leading, fence building, roof gutter cleaning, church painting, worship service leading, freeway driving, Bible Club leading and planning, tree moving, sign painting, lawn mowing, video taping, sheet ironing, cookie taking and okra eating.

**Interests:** Travel (especially at the expense of others).

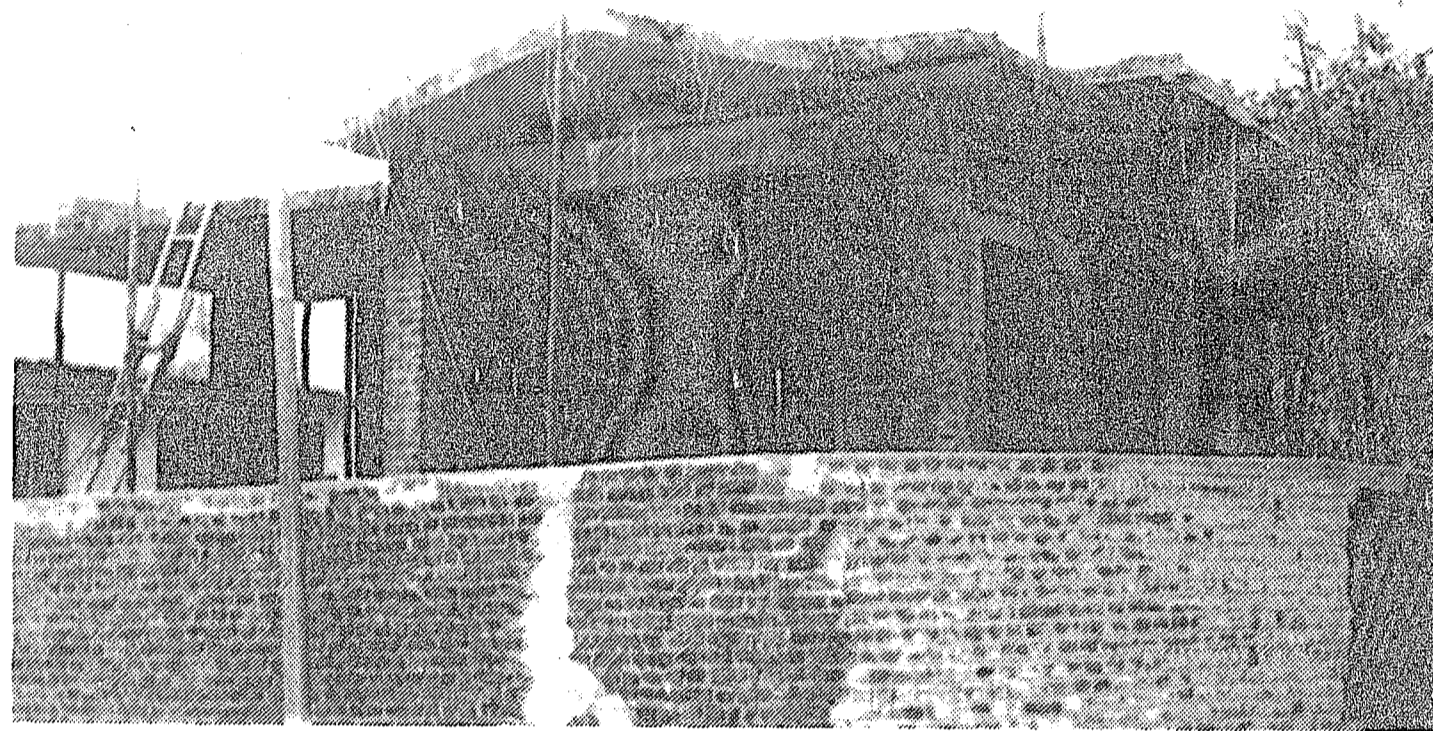
June 1985

## FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

by Leon R. Lawton



NELLORE, INDIA, ASIA.

### Project underway in Burma

TAHAN, BURMA, ASIA: The special building project for a new chapel and Burma SDB Conference office at Tahan, the major town in the Chin Hills, was started by their conference. At the April meeting of the Missionary Board, \$7,000 was voted to aid in reaching their goal. (See pictures of Burma on pages 13 and 14.) SR

### Tucson witness continues to grow

TUCSON, AZ, USA: Last October the Denver, CO church, with help from the Mid-Continent Association, encouraged several of their members to begin a regular witness in Tucson. Monthly visits have been made by the mother church pastor, John Bevis, by Rev. Alton L. Wheeler from Riverside, CA and others. For the first several months a Sabbath School class was held each week in a home and a monthly worship service in a church building when the pastor visited. In March they voted to have both meetings each week at the church and continue throughout the summer; obtained a phone with listing in the Yellow Pages; and adopted an outreach budget to increase visibility. They also asked for regular pastoral help. Their application for aid in support of a new Extension Pastor was approved at the April Missionary Board meeting. SR

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### Madison church gets pastor

MADISON, WI, USA: One of the newest Seventh Day Baptist churches located in the capital of Wisconsin receives their first pastor this month. Kevin Butler, who completed seminary in Columbus, OH in May, is their new Extension Pastor in cooperation with the Missionary Society. Immediately following graduation he was able to take a "How to Plant a Church" seminar in Philadelphia, sponsored by the Charles E. Fuller Institute. Until now the Madison church has been served by Rev. Earl Cruzan, visiting pastors and their own members who have conducted services. They meet at the First Baptist Church, 514 N. Franklin Ave., Madison, each Sabbath morning. SR

### Church plans renovations

WAKENAAM ISLAND, GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA: For some years the SDB church on this island has not met. Their building is in disrepair. Now Sister Inez Peters writes, "We are planning to make (the church building) smaller using whatever materials are good from the (old) building and purchasing a few new pieces according to what our treasury can afford." There is hope that this witness can be revived this year. SR

### Missionary Board aids India

NELLORE, INDIA, ASIA: Inflation pressures have caused the costs for the new church/conference building to exceed earlier estimates. Rev. B. John V. Rao reported that local funds were being used wherever possible but could not meet additional costs. Thus an additional \$1,000 was sent by the Missionary Board the first of May to meet this need. SR

### Groundwork laid in Hawaii

HONOLULU, HI, USA: A Seventh Day Baptist service and informational meeting was held on Sabbath, May 25, bringing together some members of SDB churches on the mainland and others looking for a Sabbath church home. Preparation was made by Rev. Shensei Hokama, of the Los Angeles church, with Leon R. Lawton of the Missionary Society participating. It is hoped that from this small beginning a new congregation can be formed in our island state. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

## A prayer reminder for each day

### July 1985

**Verse for the Month:** "Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this—that I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Matthew 28:19, 20 TLB

### Pray for:

1. summer camps in session and planned for this month
2. Baptist World Congress, Los Angeles, CA (thru the 7th)
3. Extension Pastor Kevin Butler, Madison, WI
4. new awareness of our nation's freedoms and responsibilities
5. Rodney Henry as he seeks the Lord's leading in ministry
6. Mrs. Lozani from Malawi as she ministers at the L.A. church
7. the closing session of Baptist World Congress, tonight
8. Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate (50 today!)
9. the Tucson, AZ branch church in their outreach ministries
10. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
11. SCSC Teams in their witness and work this month
12. early completion of Nellore, India church and conference building
13. printing ministries of Seventh Day Baptists
14. Matt. 9:38—for additional leaders for churches and ministries
15. L.S. Thanga and Tahan building project—new chapel and offices
16. Mynor and Marion Soper, ministering in Texarkana, AR
17. medical ministries at four centers in Malawi, Africa
18. Vacation Bible Schools
19. the Conference in Poland and their new hymnbook publication
20. the "Center" staff in preparation for Conference
21. local churches seeking pastoral leadership
22. retired pastor Charles H. Bond, Shiloh, New Jersey
23. Dennis Palmer, graduate seminary student, Philadelphia
24. sister churches and pastors in South Africa and Transkei
25. the New Work projects, especially those in my own church area
26. travelers to Conference
27. Robert and Linda Harris ministering at Albion, WI
28. Leon and Linda Wheeler ministering at Ashaway, RI
29. Conference President Calvin Babcock and Conference sessions
30. General Council in their pre-Conference sessions this week
31. Pre-Con camps in Arkansas: Leaders and those attending

## Moving?

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June 1985

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## Pearsons' prayer letter

April 1985

Dear Friends,

In spite of all that has been said about drought in Africa, Malawi is clothed in green and soon to emerge from an excellent growing season. The Psalmist said, "Let us exalt His name together." Hopefully, other countries are experiencing similar blessing.

Abundant rainfall in neighboring Mozambique has resulted in some flooding. Pray for the people of this war-torn, famine-hit Marxist country. Someone said, "It's a good land, but the people have ruined it."

Not all are in position to enjoy Malawi's greenery. Earlier this term, Jean, the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Nantikwa, was taken from us. She was a Form IV student at Stella Maris Secondary School, a Catholic institution. After contracting hepatitis and a period of illness, she was gone. School staff assisted greatly at the time of this painful loss. Moslems were helpful also. The funeral was something of an ecumenical event when even political leaders were present. I was invited to preach at the village, and what a wonderful opportunity it was to open the book of books, for the Lord of Lords. Recently two of our medical workers were called upon to relinquish their beloved children. None, not even medical workers, claim exemption.

Meet Mr. Nedson Mabedhi, a man of 28 who lives on the upper side of our plot. He is very helpful when we are here, and also when we are away, watching the property. His services to us mean that we have more time and strength to give to missionary tasks. Though not a Seventh Day Baptist, he is an enthusiastic member of the Christian Church and already has assumed some leadership.

Bettie is once again saddled with the work of Medical Administrator. Though a non-med, her medical vocabulary increases as she works hard providing leadership to the business aspects of running our three centers: Makapwa, Thembe and Thomas. Recently she took out time to rewrite 13 Bible Class lessons to be used with baptismal candidates prior to baptism.

On the monthly medical inspection visits, I join Bettie as driver. At Thomas we are constructing a staff house. I give direction to the project, pay workers, keep tax cards, purchase materials and arrange for delivery.

The Thomas road being so poor, we were delighted to see evidence that the government is soon to improve it. So far little has been done, though the road has been extended beyond our place. With the use of tire chains on the rear wheels, and the four-wheel drive of the Daihatsu hardtop jeep, we have always managed—with God's help—to get up and out. Last time we did lodge a rear wheel in a deep rut, which made forward and backward movement impossible. I was pleased to find a part of the chassis where I could place a jack with-

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*There is need to better demonstrate the Lord's power and beauty.*

---

out having to get underneath. It was now a matter of screwing and piling stones in succession until stones could be put under the sunken wheel. Being more on level ground, our little mechanical "work horse" was enabled to surge forward.

In town, we have four places of worship. One of these is Mbayani, where I was scheduled to speak on February 2, Baptist World Alliance Day. We drove nearly two miles, and then left the truck to do the remaining mile on foot. A stream was higher than before but we both managed to cross over. Sabbath School was held behind the house of the lay leader, under a sparsely thatched lean-to structure. Rain began to prove a problem, so we were pleased

to move into a small room for church. We were about 40, though many were children requiring less space. Through an interpreter—a microbiologist—I gave a message on Baptist Distinctives of considerable interest to the young men.

We continue to enjoy participation in an interdenominational, Monday evening prayer service which began over 20 years ago at the suggestion of Michael Cassidy of Africa Enterprise. The group meets in our home as well as others, and sometimes at the Good News Bookshop.

I have been asked to serve on the Nominations Committee of The Bible Society in Malawi, a new experience for me. The committee is chaired by the head of the Malawi branch of World Vision International, who has a degree in law, as does the Executive Director of the Bible Society who sits with us ex-officio. I am the only white person on the committee.

The value of the U.S. dollar has run high and given excellent exchange into local currency. Gasoline has frequently run short and sells at about \$3.14 per U.S. gallon. It would be much higher in dollars were it not for the excellent exchange rates. Ensuring one has sufficient fuel for a given trip can be hectic at times.

Our greater problems, however, are spiritual, and there is need to better demonstrate the Lord's power and beauty in our lives. Some of our workers have let us down at times, but the Lord, in typical goodness, enables the work to go on.

Bettie and I enjoyed a book by Watchman Nee entitled, "Sit, Walk, Stand." I want to go back and take some notes, possibly to share with others. Mr. Nee has an excellent understanding of the Christian life.

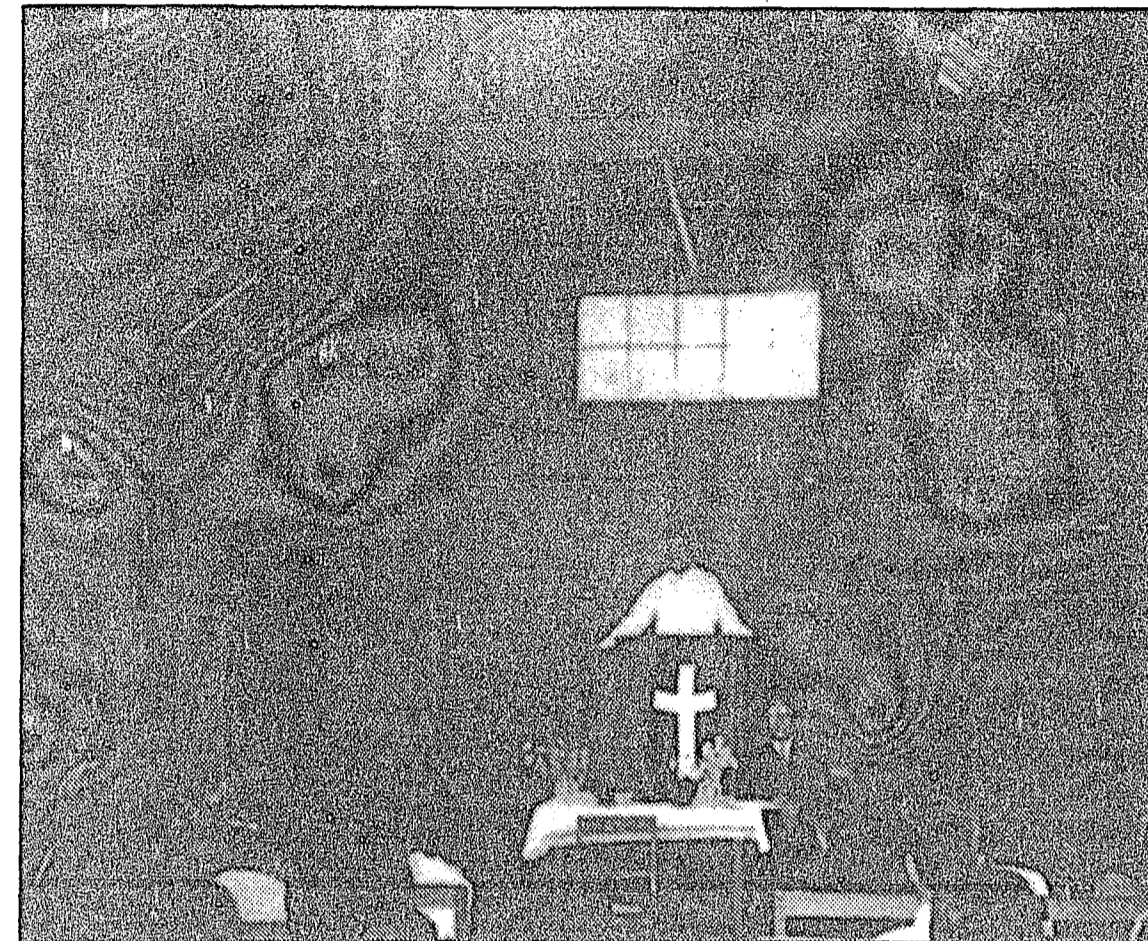
Let us pray for our joint success, both here and there. The enemy of our souls is frequently present, but so is the lover of our souls who is greatly superior. God wills that he, Jesus, win the battle. And this is how it will end, one of these days. Together we can say, "Amen."

In His Love,  
Bettie and David

SR

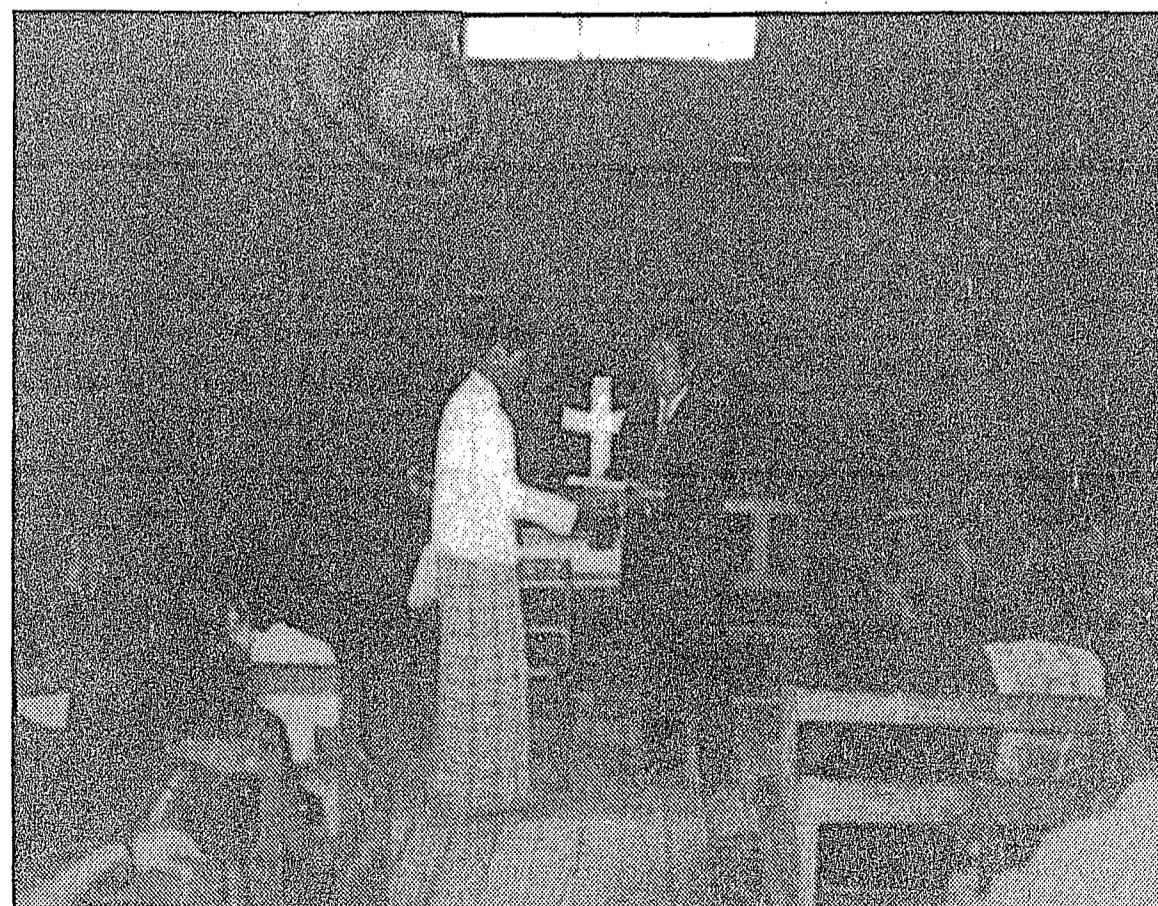
The Sabbath Recorder

## Pictures from Burma



*Mr. Neihchana completed his theological training in 1984 and has served as a pastor since then. At the annual Conference sessions at Tahan he was called to ordination. Rev. Neihchana giving his testimony.*

*Worshippers on Sabbath day, 23 March 1985 after services.*



*Rev. L.S. Thanga hands Rev. Neihchana a holy Bible and Ordination Certificate following the prayer.*

June 1985

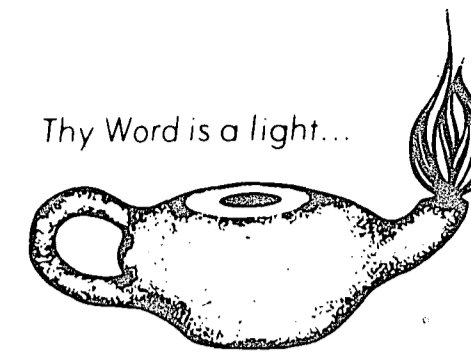
*Eating is part of public gathering in Burma and everywhere. Some of the SDB leaders take a meal at the kitchen of Elder Hrathnuna on Sunday 24 March 1985.*



*Laying on of hands at the ordination of Rev. Neihchana, 23 March 1985 at the Tahan SDB Church.*



*Mr. Kapmanga, a new theological student to begin his studies from June 1, 1985.*



## Board of Christian Education

### Feed my sheep

#### A pastoral instruction from our Lord

When they had finished breakfast,  
 Jesus said to the pastor,  
 "Pastor, do you love Me more than these?"  
 The Pastor said to Him,  
 "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."  
 He said to the pastor,  
 "Feed My Sheep"

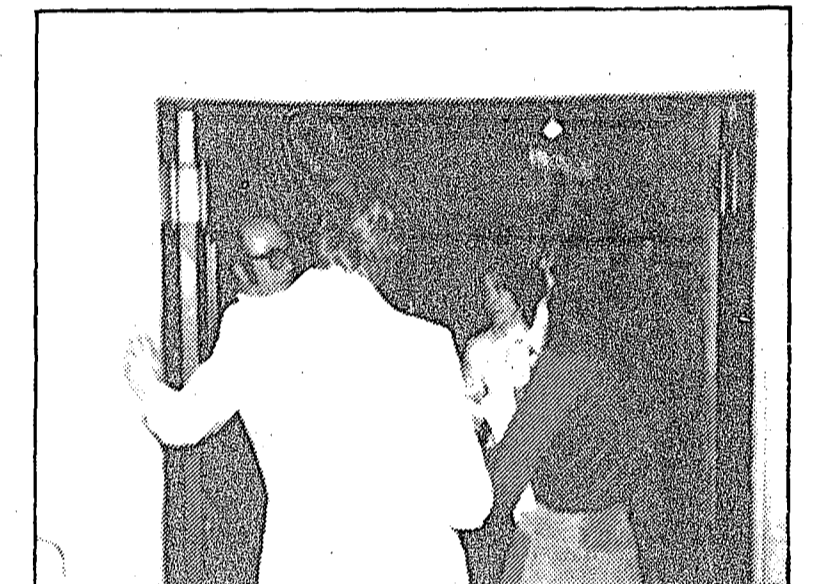
He said to the pastor again a second time,  
 "Pastor, do you love Me?"  
 The Pastor said to Him,  
 "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."  
 Jesus said to the pastor,  
 "Feed My Sheep"

He said to the pastor the third time,  
 "Pastor, do you love Me?"  
 The pastor was grieved because Jesus said to him  
 the third time, "Do you love Me?"  
 And the Pastor said to Him,  
 "Lord, You know all things;  
 You know that I love You."  
 Jesus said to the pastor,  
 "Feed My Sheep"

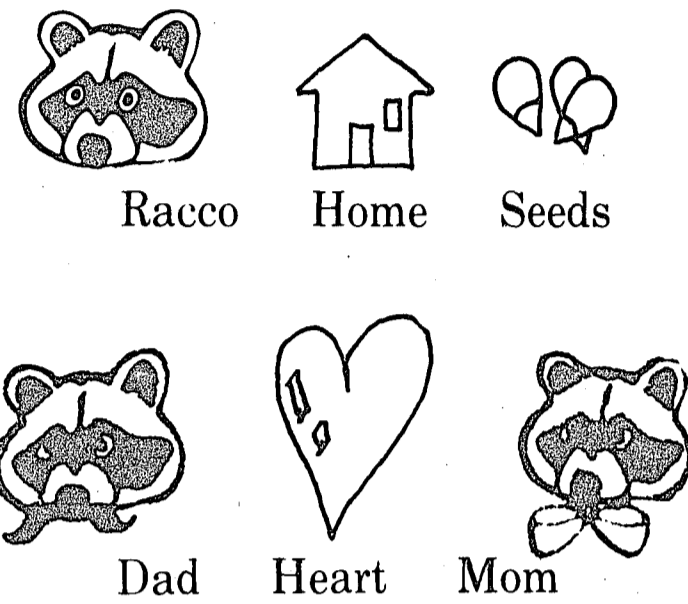
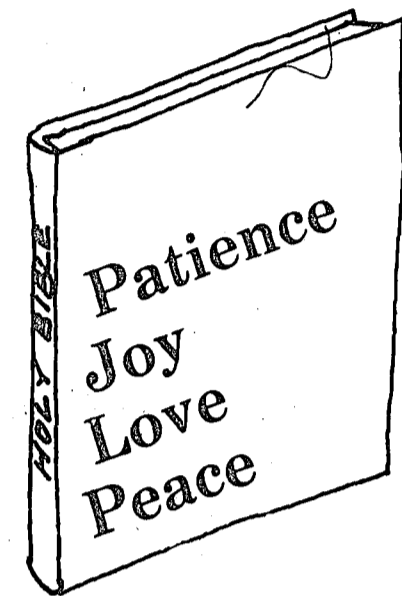
The Pastor, turning around, saw another whom Jesus loved  
 following them.  
 The Pastor seeing him said to Jesus,  
 "Lord, what about this man?"  
 Jesus said to the pastor,  
 "If I want him to remain..., what is that to you?"  
 "You Follow Me"

*Adapted from John 21  
 For Minister's Conference, Shiloh, New Jersey, 1985*

*Pastor Russell Johnson talks with Chris and Mallie Petrie at the Verona, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church.*



## Raccoo learns about patience



family moved to their new . It was bigger and there was more yard to play in. One day

went with his to the far back corner of his new yard. helped dig in the ground.

gave some corn to put in the ground. They covered the and watered them.

Patience, they would go and look at the garden each day. Seven days went by and they found some tiny corn

sprouts. They would patiently water and weed the corn patch. More days went by and the stalks grew taller.

More days went by and the ears formed, then the silks. Each day and his would pull weeds and

water the plants. Patiently they waited for the corn to develop.

read from Luke 8:15, "And the in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an

honest and good , and hold it fast, and bear fruit with **patience**." knew that his was the

good soil. Reading the Bible was the seed and living what and taught him each day was the

## Chronigers ordained in New Auburn church

by Genny Pederson

Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger of the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church were ordained into the gospel ministry at services on Sabbath Day, April 13. Special guests were Pastor Don's parents, Jim and Rose Chroniger of Lanham, Md.; grandmother Geraldine Kramer, also of Lanham; and Charlotte's parents, Jesse and Joan Mennen of Aplington, Iowa.

The weekend services began on Friday night with a time of testimonies and singing, and with a message by Pastor Chroniger.

Sabbath morning services were at 10:00 with an organ and piano duet by Elizabeth Zenner and Charlotte Chroniger. Loyal Pederson, who was worship leader, introduced Pastor Don and Charlotte, who each in turn presented their statement of belief. The scripture lesson was read by Dale Smalley of the Imalone Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship.

Elizabeth and Joan Zenner, Bloomer, favored us with a duet, "One Day Too Late." "The Greenfields," a local barbershop quartet composed of Jim Erickson, Pat Hogan, Art Harelstad and Wayne Olson, harmonized with a group of hymns. Nursery care was provided by Colleen and Kelly North. A delicious dinner was served by ladies of the New Auburn Methodist Church.

Afternoon services began at 1:30 with an oral examination of the Chronigers, with the ordination service at 2:30. Genny Pederson, church president, was worship leader and led the invocation and singing of hymns. The responsive reading on Christian Ministry was led by Esther Looftoro.

Judy North, church clerk, read letters of greeting to the Chronigers from area churches and from Seventh Day Baptist churches where delegates were unable to attend. She then called for greetings from the same in the congregation. Greetings were extended from the following Chetek churches: Lutheran, Full Gospel Tabernacle, Advent Christian, Methodist, and Prairie Lake Covenant.



(L to R) Loyal Pederson, Genny Pederson, Don Sanford, Muriel Osborn, Paul Osborn, Perry Cain, Paul Green and Earl Cruzan. (Seated) Don Chroniger, Tyler Chroniger and Charlotte Chroniger.

The Bloomer and New Auburn Methodist churches and the Lord's Sheepshed, New Auburn, also responded with Christian greetings. Delegates responded from the Milton, Wis., Dodge Center, Minn., and the Columbus, Ohio, Seventh Day Baptist churches.

A selection from Gaither's *Alleluia* musical, "The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference," was presented by soloist Polly Paulson and trio—Pam North, Art Harelstad and Loyal Pederson.

Delegates and officials from various Seventh Day Baptist churches then participated in the ordination service. Rev. Paul Osborn and his wife, Muriel, of Dodge Center gave the Charge to the Candidates.

Rev. Don Sanford of Milton, a former pastor of the church, gave the Charge to the Church, emphasizing the importance of working together in unity.

Dean Paul Green, chairman of the S.D.B. Center on Ministry headquartered in Janesville, favored us with a solo, "Build Thee More Stately Mansions, O My Soul." He was accompanied by his wife, Denise.

The afternoon scripture and message was given by Rev. Perry Cain of Columbus, who spoke on "The Power Within the Church Body."

Dean Green then led in the Prayer of Consecration and Laying on of Hands. Participants were Seventh Day Baptist pastors, deacons and deaconesses.

A Welcome to the Ministry was given by Rev. Earl Cruzan, extension pastor from Milton, followed by the Presenta-

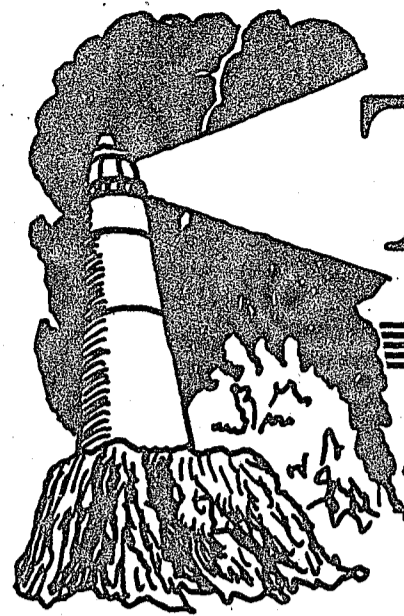
tion of Certificates of Ordination by Genny Pederson. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Chroniger.

A reception for the Chronigers was held in the church dining room immediately following the afternoon ceremonies. Two beautiful cakes made by Donna Kellen, along with punch and coffee, were served by Jacky McCracken, Pat Goodremote, and Judy, Pam and Lois North.

The evening Singsperation Service of testimonies, hymn singing and special numbers was enjoyed by all. Presenting solos were Kenneth Stelter, Bloomer; Art Bond, Dodge Center; and Walter Looftoro and Pastor Chroniger, New Auburn. A duet with Rev. Paul and Muriel Osborn, and a trio with the Osborns and Pastor Chroniger, were also enjoyed. The accompanist was Charlotte Chroniger. Visiting and a light lunch brought the day's activities to a close.

Planning the weekend activities were Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger, Grace Looftoro, Judy North and Genny Pederson. Meals chairman was Juanita Torgerson, and housing guests were taken care of by Ramona North.

Altar plants for April were given by children and grandchildren in memory of the Elmer Nelsons. Other plants and flowers in appreciation of the Chronigers were given by St. Jude's Catholic Church, Duane and Jessie North, Jim and Joan Erickson, Jim and Rose Chroniger, and the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church. SR



# THE BEACON

Produced by the Youth  
Ministries Committee of the  
Board of Christian  
Education, Alfred, NY  
14802

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

June 1985

## Jesus loves me

by Mary Jo Johnson

*Jesus Loves Me.* I started singing those words when I was about four, and I still don't really comprehend what they mean. However, I recently came to understand a little better what God's love means to me and it has changed my outlook on life.

An important part of love is acceptance. Remember the phrase that so many people write on yearbooks and senior pictures, "Don't ever change"? I always thought it was kind of dumb. Of

course I'm going to change! But it implies something about love. A person who loves accepts others just as they are now. To say God loves us means he accepts us just as we are, with all of our faults. Romans 5:8 says that God shows unconditional love in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

I see that I have spent a lot of time in my life worrying that I won't be accepted, ignoring the fact that the greatest being in the universe loves and accepts me already. For instance, I've spent hours—maybe days of my life—wondering about whether my hair, my face or my clothes look funny. Many times I've kept quiet in school when I could have contributed because I was afraid of what people would think of me if I said the wrong thing. Even in church I wonder, "Do I sound 'spiritual' enough when I share a testimony or

pray?" Many times when I did make a mistake, I mentally "clobbered" myself and put myself down.

I'm not saying I still don't try to be the best person I can, but that I shouldn't waste my energy fighting against myself and not believing in the abilities God has given me. God has created each one of us special, with great care. He loves us, has faith in us, works through us in our victories, and is quick to forgive and encourage us when we fail.

Life is like learning to play the violin and God is our teacher. We play much better when we have faith that we will play well. When we make mistakes, it is better not to cringe and tense. We can just recognize the mistake; be forgiven and forgive ourselves; imagine how it would be to play that passage correctly; relax and do it! **SR**

## Honor and respect

by Cindy Hays

In Exodus 20:12 it says, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." (NIV)

Just what does it mean to "honor your parents" is a question that is often asked. To honor your parents means to listen to them. It means to respect their opinions and ideas even if you don't agree with them. If you want them to respect you, you must respect them.

Your parents are older than you are and have experienced many things. They have made their mistakes. Because they care about you, they are trying to protect you and save you some hassles.

When your parents tell you to do

something you don't want to do, stop and think. What is their reason for telling you this? They say that hindsight is 20/20. Your parents are just giving you the benefit of their hindsight. They don't want you to say, "I wish I hadn't done it that way."

So, remember, your parents care and are just trying to help you. They deserve your respect because of who they are. No one is perfect whether it be a parent or a child.

Now, I would like to say a word to parents who may be reading this. Remember a few years ago when your parents thought your ideas were a little radical? Do you want your children to respect you? You can help by respecting their opinions. They may be different but they're valid, too. **SR**

The Sabbath Recorder

This issue of *The Beacon* was prepared by New England Seventh Day Baptist Youth.

## Being part of the family

by Teresa Johnson

Have you ever wondered what exactly your role is in your church? Fitting into your role can be a hard and difficult task to perform. I had a hard time trying to fit and find my role in my church.

I attempted to volunteer for different things that needed to be done but I wasn't feeling that I was taken seriously. Later I was and I had several positions in the church. I started to dream about the great things that I could do with youth and in missions. I tried so hard to be a part of the family that other parts of my life slowly started to diminish.

My social life with youth my own age had hit the point where I didn't know how it felt to be a part of the secular world. The more I got involved with the activities of school, the less interested I became in my church family.

From my experience I found out that being a part of the church family is very important and everyone in the family is important for its growth. The church family can give more moral and spiritual support. They can help you out of a crisis, especially through their prayers.

The more the family grows in itself, the more equipped it is to grow as a body and witness. Everyone in the family needs to participate in one way or another to make the process of sharing the good news work.

If you don't already participate, I would urge you to find your role in your church family and take a stand for your beliefs. I plan to try harder to take my stand and remain in my part of the church family. **SR**

June 1985

## Reflections

by Mary Jo Johnson

Go—

On a sunny day  
To sit in solitude  
By the Sea.

Gaze—

At the shimmering, living glass  
Brightening, making vivid  
Colors of pebbles and seaweeds.

Listen—

To the gentle voices  
Of the waves  
Splashing on sand.

Sense—

The golden laughter  
Of flecks of sunlight  
Bouncing off the water;  
The majesty and power  
Of never-ending swells  
In infinite ocean;  
The Spirit of God, reflected  
In his Creation.

# Religion in the News

## Sanctuary issue intensifies

With the conviction of Jack Elder and Stacey Lynn Merkt for assisting undocumented aliens, the issue of church involvement has intensified. A federal jury in Texas found the two defendants guilty, despite church sponsorship of their "sanctuary" activities to protect Central Americans from deportation. Elder, who directs a Roman Catholic-sponsored shelter, was charged with assisting Salvadorians to enter the United States.

The conflict revolves around the definition of "refugee," a status which the sanctuary workers claim for the persons in their protection. The government refuses to recognize refugee status for those fleeing Central American countries, such as El Salvador. Approximately 400 such undocumented aliens are deported each month. SR

## Conservative Jews approve women rabbis

A recent vote of approval by the governing body of Conservative Judaism has approved women as rabbis. This action leaves only Orthodox Judaism opposed to acceptance of women rabbis, since Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism has ordained women for several years. Since Conservatives are closer to the Orthodox movement, the recent decision is expected to create relational tensions. SR

## Post Office accused of violating rights

The American Jewish Congress, in a brief filed in U.S. District Court, has accused the United States Postal Service of breaking federal law when the Post Office refused to excuse two post office clerks from handling draft registration material in violation of their religious convictions.

The Jewish organization says the Postal Service's requirement that the two window clerks, members of the Temple Methodist Church in San Francisco, either handle draft materials, quit or be transferred to inferior jobs, contravenes an employee's right to religious accommodation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Postal Service has conceded that the postal employees' religious convictions were sincere. But, it refused to implement their request to be allowed to refer draft registrants to other window clerks, claiming it would cause administrative inconvenience and interference with management's prerogative to determine the nature of an employee's duties. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

## Unification church launches campaign for understanding

In a mass mailing campaign to about 300,000 pastors and church leaders, the Unification Church has launched a campaign to improve its public image. The effort, estimated to cost more than \$5 million dollars, is aimed at greater unity among all religious groups and appears related to the imprisonment of Sun Myung Moon. The Unification Church leader is now serving an 18-month prison term for income tax evasion, and his case stirred up new interest in the group and its teachings. SR

## Student interest in religion termed "academic"

According to a sociologist at Catholic University, the current growth of enrollment in religion courses is strictly academic. Dean Hoge is quoted in *Christianity Today* as viewing the growth as no indicator of an increase in religious commitment. "The speculation is that general interest in religion is independent of commitment," he said. SR

## Battle Creek reviews Task Force

by Marilyn Merchant

About a year ago the Battle Creek (Michigan) Seventh Day Baptist Church voted to try the Task Force approach to going about the business of the church. There were some who had reservations, some who took a "wait and see attitude" and some who said "we'll give it a try" as well as

those who were wholeheartedly in favor. The old committee structure was getting unwieldy; thus a new approach was deemed tryable.

At the end of this year, a Task Force Review Sabbath was set up to do just that. Out of the 100 Task Forces that were appointed by the Personnel Task Force, 60 were represented with displays. Some were very creative, some quite simple (such as the vacuum cleaner representing the church custodian). There are 61 different members involved. The displays represented thousands of hours of service and ministry. Tables and room dividers lined the outer walls of the church's social room with the center being occupied with chairs for the brain-storming session that followed.

## Miami news

The Miami Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship meets every Sabbath at 10:00 a.m. for divine worship service led by Alcott Lynch and Ambassador William Vis, former Pastor of the Paint Rock S.D.B. Church.

Sabbath School follows where everyone participates in the Bible Study. Sister Beryl Mamby, former member of New York S.D.B. Church, and Jennifer Dixon from Kingston S.D.B. Church, lead out in Sabbath School. There are adults, youth, and children's classes.

At present, the group meets in the main sanctuary of The Evangelism for Christ Church. The sanctuary is quite comfortable and attractive. The church is located one half block from interstate I-95. (Exit 103rd St. and go East.)

It is far from the once riot plagued area of Miami. In fact, the church is within 15-30 minutes ride of several quiet and lovely residential areas. One half of its members live in the Palm Beaches and make the one hour drive every Sabbath.

We would encourage S.D.B.'s who are relocating or retiring to make our church their church home. Employment in the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale area is good, and we have sunshine with no fog and lovely beaches all year round. SR

Immediately following the church service, all members were urged to proceed to the kitchen where a meal of finger foods was served by the Personnel Task Force. Members were then urged to view the displays and ask any questions of the Task Forces that came to their minds. There were listings of all the Forces and who did what for each member. The children not

involved in Junior Y.F. were cared for in the nursery so their parents might participate.

As the organizers anticipated, the first negative comment was that there is less fellowshipping since the concept was put in practice. On the plus was the fact that many hours are now freed to pursue small group Bible studies, prayer and social groups. One of the most prominent pulses was that work now has specific guide lines. Another is that tasks can be taken care of at once, not waiting until committees could meet. The consensus was that it would probably take five years to fully evaluate the system, but for such an innovative program, the system seemed to be functioning quite well.

Each person in attendance was given a card in which they could list their evaluation, suggest areas of concern not yet covered with a Task Force, an area of interest where they would like, at some time, to serve etc.

Anyone wishing information on this approach to church involvement is urged to contact Rev. S. Kenneth Davis at 200 No. Washington, Battle Creek, MI 49017. SR

### Employment Notice

#### Financial Manager Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund

*Duties include:* Management of the Memorial Fund investment portfolio under the direction of the Trustees; management of the office in Janesville, Wisconsin, including the computerized accounting and fund distribution system; and development of new endowment and investment possibilities.

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

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

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

June 1985

## Why God cannot say no!

by Deb Keown

Things are getting pretty exciting at our house. Bibles, which were once stacked neatly on the bookshelf, are found everywhere you want to sit, eat, or cook. Time usually passed sleeping is now spent studying, memorizing, and claiming the blessings of God. Kenneth Copeland tapes on healing and prosperity have overcome the house and cars. The excitement abounds as we begin to realize that the promises of God are ours for the asking!

When Jesus walked the earth, he set himself against all sickness and disease. As a doctor's wife, I can certainly relate to that. My husband has dedicated his life to "stamping out disease and pestilence," and as I read the New and Old Testaments, I realize that is my goal, too. "Lay hands on the sick and they shall recover!" (Mark 16:18)

"Incline your ear to my sayings, Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body!" (Prov. 2:20-22) We have been sick all we

are going to be; on to living in health through the blood of Jesus. "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our disease." (Matt. 8:17) He can have ours because we certainly do not want them anymore!

Not only did God's plan of salvation deliver us from our infirmities, but he

***He cannot fail;  
he cannot say no  
to what he has  
promised from  
his word.***

also made us to prosper financially. Third John 2 says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Lord, our souls are prospering; we are ready and willing to grow financially and be well in every area of life. "Obey

the laws of God and follow all His ways. Keep each of His commandments written in the law of Moses so that you will prosper in everything you do, wherever you turn." (I Kings 2:3) As God meets our needs above and beyond what we can ask, we in turn receive the joy of giving and meeting the needs of those around us. We can support others because we are being backed by the richest Jew we know!

As we begin to touch God's truths and follow his command to love, no matter what, we begin to receive the desires of our heart—whether it is healing, protection, financial prosperity, deliverance, or a long life. They are ours for the asking. Claim what he has to give! He cannot fail; he cannot say no to what he has promised from his word. Begin to believe it and act upon it. SR

## Faith

Cont. from page 7.

and works on his own behalf in order to bring them to the surface.

We have the evidence of God's concern for us; the pump is there. We have his instructions written that tell us how to prime the pump. The priming water is present.

Will you risk something? Will you pour out your faith once more into the pump that you and those who follow can be filled? Above all, will you show that faith by grabbing hold of that handle and pump like crazy?

If you do, God has promised that we will get water. His well has never run dry. "Have faith. When you git watered up, fill the bottle and put it back like you found it for the next feller."

But remember the postscript of old Desert Pete, "Don't go drinkin' up the water first. Prime the pump with it and you'll git all you can hold." SR

The Sabbath Recorder

## The fourth temptation

by John A. Conrod, Director  
New Covenant Ministries

A Christian was tempted by the devil while he was in the wilderness. Satan said, "If you bow down to worship me, I will give you all the riches in the world." But the Christian replied, "The first of the Ten Commandments says, 'Thou shalt have no other gods before me.'"

Then the devil said, "If you at least worship an image of me, I will make you a millionaire." The Christian pulled back as he answered, "The second commandment says not to make any graven images nor to bow down to them."

The devil tried again. "If you at least become an atheist and proclaim that God never existed, I will see to it that you will be financially secure throughout your life." The Christian was shocked at such a thought. "The third commandment says not to take the name of the Lord in vain," replied the Christian.

"Well," said Satan, "how about if you just stop observing the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath. I have a good paying job for you, but it requires working on the Sabbath."

"That sounds reasonable enough," said the Christian. "I guess I can at least do that." James 2:10 SR

## BJCPA, others ask court to uphold "equal access"

beginning of the school day for extra-curricular groups, including some not related to regular school curriculum. After principal Wayne E. Newton denied their request, the students took their case to the local school board. But that body sided with Newton.

**Washington (BPA)**—Religious bodies totaling more than 70 million members and led by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs asked the U.S. Supreme Court May 6 to uphold the right of high school students to meet for religious purposes on an equal basis with other non-curriculum groups in public secondary schools.

Written largely by Baptist Joint Committee research and legal specialist Rosemary Brevard and submitted to the high court by the outgoing chairman of the Washington-based group, Chicago attorney Donald R. Brewer, the friend-of-the-court brief asked Supreme Court justices to overturn a federal court of appeals ruling last year upholding school officials' denial of permission for meetings to a student religious group known as "Petros" in the Williamsport, Pa., Area High School.

The brief, filed also for the National Association of Evangelicals, National Council of the Churches of Christ and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), argued the lower court improperly upheld Williamsport officials, thereby denying the students' First Amendment rights of free exercise of religion and free speech. At the same time, the brief expressed support for the findings of U.S. district court Judge William J. Nealon Jr., who ruled earlier for the students.

The conflict arose in 1981, when a group of students led by then-Williamsport senior Lisa Bender unsuccessfully sought permission from their principal to conduct Petros meetings during a twice-weekly, half-hour period at the

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unqualified right to corporate free exercise of religion" in the public school setting, Williamsport school officials unconstitutionally "burdened" the students' legitimate free exercise right "without demonstrating a compelling state interest."

Besides the free exercise argument, the brief also contended the students' free speech was violated. While "freedom of speech is not absolute," school officials "prohibited speech solely because of its religious content," the Baptist Joint Committee argued. "This the state may not do."

In addition to the First Amendment arguments, the brief also maintained the students were denied equal protec-

***...Williamsport school officials unconstitutionally "burdened" the students' legitimate free exercise right...***

dents' claimed rights.

In their brief for the students at the nation's high court, Brevard and Brewer argued the establishment clause does not require that groups like Petros be denied "equal access" to school facilities. Pointing to the court's 1971 three-pronged test in determining practices that violate the establishment clause, the Baptist Joint Committee brief maintained that granting permission to Petros to meet on equal footing with other student groups would have had a secular purpose, would not have had the primary effect of advancing religion, and would not have excessively entangled school officials in religious practices.

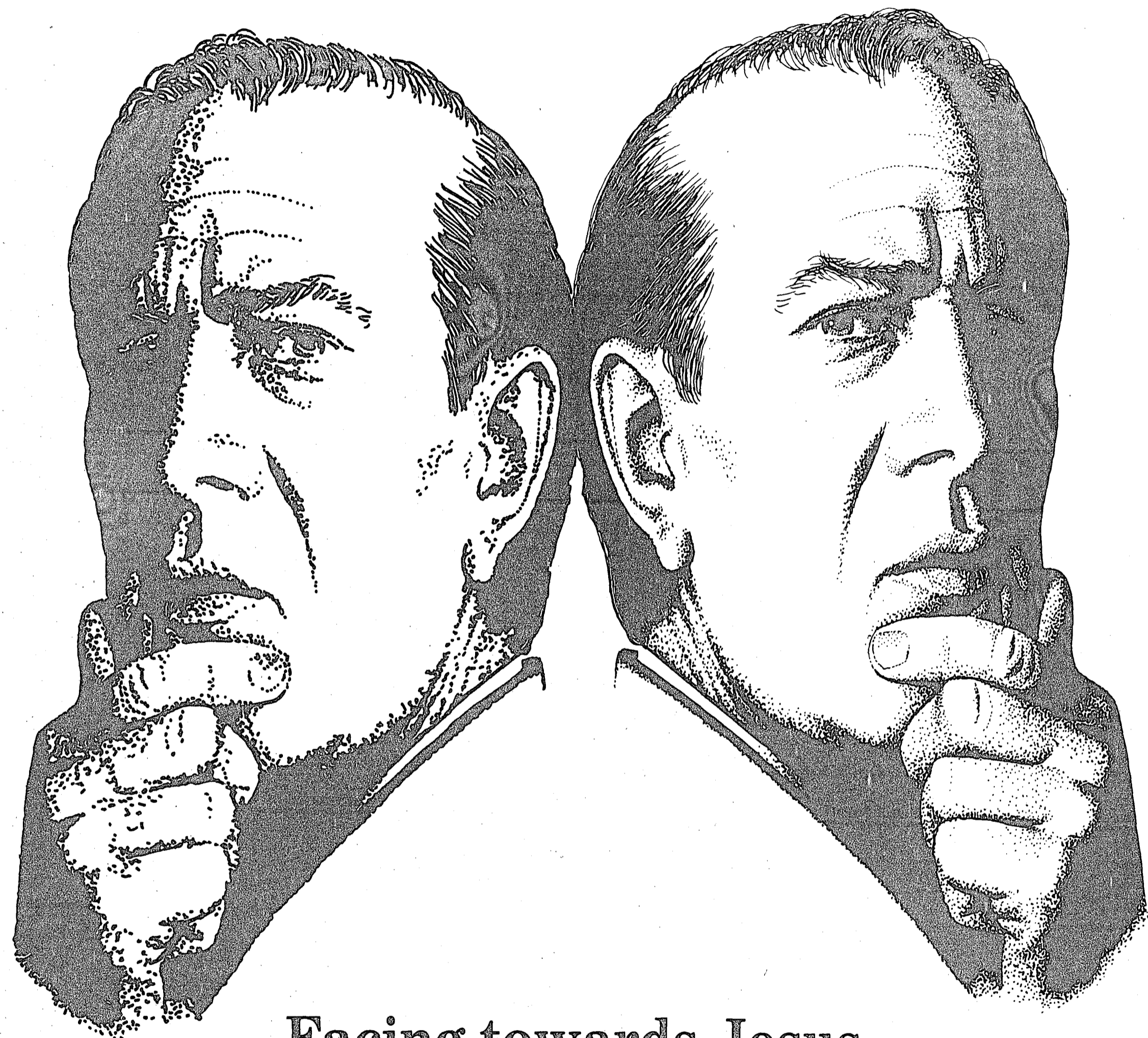
In another argument, the brief acknowledged that while "students have no

tion of the laws in violation of the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment.

Although the brief concluded the religious bodies submitting it "firmly oppose establishment of religion in schools by government's mandating, sponsoring, initiating, promoting or organizing religious activity," they "are equally concerned that religious speech not be discriminated against because of its religious content and that public school students not experience an official state hostility toward religion."

The Supreme Court announced Feb. 19 it will hear the Williamsport dispute sometime after it convenes for a new term next October. Its decision in the case could also determine the fate of the federal Equal Access Act passed by Congress last year. SR

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## Facing towards Jesus

by **W. Dayton Roberts**  
 Editorial Director  
*Together* magazine

from *Together*, March 1985

I was seated in David Wang's office in Hong Kong. He is the executive officer of Asian Outreach, an evangelistic ministry which provides him with access to information about the status of the Christian community of mainland China. I had been told he could answer my questions and satisfy my curiosity about how things are going in the world's largest nation.

"Is there any truth to the reports one hears about the amazing spread of the gospel in mainland China today?" I asked him. "I understand you are the one who can answer such questions."

"I don't know what you have heard," David chuckled, "but the encouraging reports certainly reflect an encouraging situation. I have heard estimates ranging from five million all the way to one hundred million Christians in China.

"Of course," he explained, "I do not go along with the highest estimates, unless..." He paused for a minute. "Unless you define a Christian, like I do, as one who is facing towards Jesus. In that case, there may indeed be that many."

"One who is facing towards Jesus"—the phrase rang a bell. I remembered another Christian leader, Raymond Fung, also from Hong Kong, whom I had heard use the same words on the other side of the world. At the time I had been struck by their aptness.

One who is "facing towards Jesus" is a Christian, whereas one who is facing away from him is not. Sounds simple—like something Jesus himself might have said. Like, "He that is not against me is for me," or "Whoever is not with me is against me." The implications are clear. You have to face one way or the other—there is no middle ground.

Often we make "being a Christian" dependent upon intellectual concur-

rence. We require the affirmation of theological propositions, or the endorsement of creeds as signs of identification with Christ. But while Christians are indeed expected to believe, and to exercise faith, Christianity is basically not a matter of conviction—but of relationship.

I can remember "ignorant" brothers in Christ overseas who addressed God

*He paused for a minute. "Unless you define a Christian, like I do, as one who is facing towards Jesus."*

in prayer as "omni-president" instead of everywhere present; who thought the "trinity" was "faith, hope and charity," who prayed to "Our Lord and Father Jesus Christ." It was not their theological perception or their doctrinal orthodoxy which made them Christians—it was the fact that they belonged to Jesus. They were facing towards him.

In other evangelical circles, "being a Christian" may be *defined* by putting one's faith in Christ, but it is frequently *judged*—superficially, at least—on the basis of a person's behavior. If one abstains from certain practices, or prays in certain patterns or displays certain gifts—these are the accepted credentials of Christianity.

In contrast to these boundaries of creed and ethic, the simple Chinese definition of Christianity makes it to be a matter of position—"Are you facing towards Jesus?" This is the language of Isaiah, "Look unto me and be saved;" of John the Baptist, "Behold the Lamb of God;" of Jesus himself, "And I, if I be

lifted up, will draw all men to myself." It is the language of looking and facing and seeing.

Raymond Fung says a key verse is Mark 8:34: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." The cross is at the center of the Christian experience. Looking to Jesus, and following him, are the essence of Christianity. You must face him to follow him.

I asked David Wang how he explained the rapid spread of Christianity in China today—why so many Chinese on the mainland have turned to face towards Jesus?

"I can't explain it," he replied. "At least not in human terms. It's not because of the modernization of the Chinese language, or the infrastructures of communication and transport. It's not the literature, the radio..."

"Then what is the explanation?" I asked.

"Signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit" was his answer. "I don't know how to explain it, but all over China God is performing miracles, answering prayers, doing a work of grace that causes people to turn to him. They don't know much theology or many hymns. Most of them can't read or write. But they are facing towards Jesus and their hearts are warm to him."

David Wang went on to describe how many Chinese young people are disillusioned with official Communism. In their opinion the party has lost face through its radical reversals of policy. Some even dare to suggest that Communism has failed. The government, they say, has lost its "dao"—its "heavenly authority," its moral integrity, its credibility. This makes people open to hear about Jesus and turn towards him.

My conversation with David was brief. But I left his office with an assurance of God's hand upon the world that I had not felt before. In China, God is showing us that he is in control. In the fulness of God's time, the world's largest nation will be a showcase of his grace. Countless multitudes whom we have not yet recognized as brothers and sisters will be seen to be "facing towards Jesus." SR 25



## June friends

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All,

June is the month for friends and lovers. So many weddings and we pray each one will be the forever-after kind. More and more I have become convinced that it is more likely to come about and stay that way if friendship is there, too.

Somehow, it seems easier to be friendly with neighbors when the weather warms up. Neighbors get out in the yard and you see folks you haven't seen since winter began. Older members find it easier to get out to church and other meetings when the ice and snow of winter doesn't threaten their safety. People stop and visit when meeting, while during colder weather, they hurry on.

Proverbs 18:24 tells us, "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." KJV

There is a great deal to be learned from this verse. The persons who are greatly loved are those who give of themselves. Often one only finds out after his death how many friends he has had when row upon row of friends show up at the funeral. How marvelous it is when something happens to make it obvious during a lifetime. That has been happening to me as I wound up my affairs in preparation for moving to California. Such lovely visits, meals, and many times just a few words of love and encouragement.

How does one be a friend? I'm so encouraged to read in various bulletins of the programs societies across the nation have to express this friendliness to those in their area. I have shared many of these with you in months past, but let me share from the bulletin of one of our eastern churches. There was an announcement that went something like this: Most of us have been going to the...County home one Sunday a month, spending a great deal of our lives to sing with the residents there and visit with them.

It went on to list two ladies who always passed out fresh fruit to the res-



Albion, Wis., honors mothers. (Back row) Shirley Dooley, Donna Smith, Adele Schock, Linda Harris, Lenora Saunders, Ann Nicoll, Florence Barker and Greta Bjornstad. (Seated) Marg Green, Eleanor Walters and Clara Loofboro.

idents, some ladies who visited and some who sang. They mentioned the joy brought to many by this friendly act of sharing. Friends? You bet! Probably the only friends some of these res-

### Persons who are greatly loved are those who give of themselves.

idents have, and it takes only a few hours a month.

I have been sharing some of my magazines with neighbors who cannot afford to subscribe and they get such joy from the pictures, articles and recipes. I would have to dispose of them otherwise and there are a great many of them. What can you find to do to be a loving Christian friend to someone?

June is always a special month because of Father's Day. If you happen to be blessed and still have your father, think up some friendly thing you can do to show him you want to be his friend as well as his child. Another special event in June, in a great many states, is graduation. Many a tear will be shed as the graduates part from life long friends, some never to touch again. Many will pledge eternal friendship but circumstances may intervene in the course of getting on with one's life. Only by concerted effort can one sustain the friendship begun during a period of life.

Remember the hymn "What a Friend We have in Jesus?" A gentleman named Norman Godbey\* has written another verse which goes as follows:

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our hopes and joys to share.  
All because He has inspired them  
And He's with us everywhere.  
Oh, what blessedness He brings us!  
Oh, what peace and joy this day!  
All because we have Him with us—  
And He's with us all the way.

Pray that we may indeed be friends and have them. That we may cherish them, and him—who is our Best Friend of all.

### What can you find to do to be a Christian friend to someone?

June seems to be a month for spring cleaning and the resultant rummage sales, judging from some of the bulletins I receive. Especially noted are Albion, Wis., and, of course, my own home church. The Milton, Wis., evening circle held one in the fall to help raise funds for their new church addition, among other projects they support. Have you ever noticed how the persons doing the sorting end up being some of the best customers? Seems like you always find something you just can't do without. How fortunate someone else felt they no longer had need of the item.

Don't forget to include SCSC when you are channeling your funds. This will be their 21st year. Costs seem to go up and up despite an ever vigilant committee.

While we are on the funds angle, here are some more suggestions shared with us by the Dodge Center, Minn., women's group. Pay 2¢ for each plate you washed and praise the Lord for food. Pay 15¢ for a miracle in your life this week and praise his Holy Name. Pay 15¢ per washerload of clothes washed this week and praise the Lord for supplying your needs. Pay 5¢ each for your own teeth or 50¢ for a full set. Pay 25¢ if you missed your women's group meeting.

I have just had one of my brilliant ideas! (Who is that who says that on television?) Some societies are hesitant

to adopt any of these suggestions saying they do not add up to enough money to accomplish a project. Of course, if everyone in the group did them, it would add up—and every little bit helps. Sooo...if your group is not adopting these "mitey" (how do you like my new word?) suggestions, why not find a pretty jar or box or some other special place and do your own thing. Then when your group has some project to which you wish to give, you'll have your contribution already collected.

Are you planning your Love Gift for Conference? Also, don't forget your reports for the Women's Interest Committee (50 copies). With Mrs. Lozani as speaker and Marion Soper and her committee in charge of arrangements, I am sure the banquet will be an inspiration and a delight. Rod and Camille Henry are home now. Praise the Lord for the successful completion of their mission assignment. You can bet they will be in song at some time during the week.

I would like to leave you with a prayer for June taken from the Pawca-

tuck Newsletter. (They, in turn, borrowed it from the 1982 *Guidepost*.)

Dear father, I can see why this is such a favorite month for marrying. There's so much harmony in Your creation now.

Earth, plants, rain, sun—  
All join in growth together.

Thank you for inviting me to this beautiful

wedding of your works.  
I'll try with all my heart to be a worthy guest.

A faithful witness—  
To another summer of your abiding love.  
Amen

Your loving friend,

\*The Secret Place, March 8, 1985

## A Christian's witness lives on

from the Los Angeles Messenger

Often we never know the effect of our lives as Christians on others. An interesting proof of this was shared with our congregation last Sabbath by a visitor, Pedro Reyes. Mr. Reyes lived through the battles and the suffering on Bataan in the Philippine Islands during World War II. After General MacArthur's return and the liberation of the country by the Americans, a number of soldiers who were Christians were good to the

people there, including two Seventh Day Baptists. These men spent Sabbaths with the Reyes family and shared their faith and their food with them. Mr. Reyes has been remembering what good Christians they were and looking for Seventh Day Baptists ever since. After 40 years he visited his first Sabbath service with S.D.B.'s and shared his inspiration received by these two Seventh Day Baptists long ago! SR



## Historical Society holds first Wisconsin meeting

At its first annual meeting in Wisconsin, the SDB Historical Society elected S. Kenneth Davis to a five-year term as trustee and expressed grateful appreciation to retiring trustee Albert N. Rogers for his many years of service to the Society and to Seventh Day Baptists. Rogers has served 30 years as trustee, 16 as president and six as Historian. Plans are underway for a formal recognition ceremony.

President Victor W. Skaggs announced that the Trustees, at their meeting earlier in the day (May 12), had voted to continue the editor/historian position for another year and concurred with the Tract Society in creat-

ing a three-member committee (the society presidents and the executive secretary) to review the editor/historian agreement and make recommendations to both societies.

The Society approved Historian Scott Smith's draft of the annual report to the General Conference. It highlights the new computerized library catalog, increased use of the library, museum displays for the SDB Center tours and dedication, and research and presentation for several major 1984 anniversaries.

The trustees announced completion of the Society's incorporation in Wisconsin, and new bylaws (to ac-

company the new Constitution) to be presented at the 1986 annual meeting. Other action reported: progress on memorials to Evalois St. John and Clifford Beebe, completion and placement of a plaque at the site of the former School of Theology (Gothic) at Herrick Memorial Library on the Alfred University campus, N.Y., and plans for publication in early 1986 of a brochure on the Historical Society and library and a pamphlet-length history of Seventh Day Baptists. Treasurer C. Harmon Dickinson reported 36 proxies in addition to the 20 members present. Other trustees are Frederick Bakker and J. Leland Skaggs. SR

## Peace Fellowship elects new member, appoints director

Rev. Emory Searcy, Jr. has been elected to the executive committee of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA).

Rev. Searcy, an Atlanta, Ga., resident, serves as regional representative for the national office of Clergy and Laity Concerned, an interfaith peace and justice organization. He is also project coordinator for the "Guns and Butter Project" for the local Clergy and Laity Concerned chapter in Atlanta. The focus of his work involves educating people on the connection between military spending and issues of eco-

nomic justice.

Rev. Searcy represents the initial presence of participation in the BPFNA governing structure by someone from a black Baptist body. Searcy is the son of a former president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Rev. Emory Searcy, Sr., now pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Atlanta.

"I'm genuinely excited about the role which the BPFNA can play in linking black and white Baptists together for common witness and ministry on peace and justice issues," says Rev. Searcy.

"There is an unfortunate and unne-

cessary split between these concerns. Whites tend to focus on 'peace' concerns and blacks on 'justice' concerns. But the crises we face in both arenas stem from a common root."

The organization had earlier appointed Rev. Ken Sehested as its first executive director.

The Baptist Peace Fellowship was created at a Louisville, Ky., meeting of Southern and American Baptists in March 1984. The organization is seeking to be a catalyst and network for peacemaking witness and ministry for Baptists in the various traditions of North America.

One of the Fellowship's first tasks, according to Sehested, is to begin making contact with Baptists already active on peacemaking issues:

"There really is a surprising amount of ferment within Baptist ranks on peace issues. But since this subject has not been a priority for our various denominations, the folks who are concerned and active feel isolated and alone."

Rev. Sehested, an ordained Baptist minister, has worked for the past six years with *Seeds*, a magazine and educational ministry for Christians concerned about world hunger. SR

Donations are now being accepted  
for new linen for the  
Communion tables used at  
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

If you would like to contribute, send donations to:

Communion Linen  
Seventh Day Baptist Center  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547

Please make checks payable to  
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

## Important events in Poland—1984

For us here in Poland, last year, there were many important events and there were many different solemnities.

The most important event was our annual nation-wide Conference of the members and the sympathizers of the Church, which we held from 14 to 15 July in Bydgoszcz, at the beautiful auditorium of the Pomeranian Philharmonic. It was a great edification for all the participants.

We entertained Executive Secretary of the World Federation of Seventh Day Baptists, D. Thorngate with his wife Janet and the vice-president of World Federation, Jan Lek with his wife from Holland. At this Conference, Brother Thorngate officially welcomed our Church as a member of the World Federation of Seventh Day Baptists.

Other guests included brothers and sisters from our fraternal church in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia and preacher B. Kudelka and K. Riemer from the Church in Munster, West Germany.

We organized our first Missionary Conference from 28 to 29 January, which reflects on the state of the missions of the Church and to shows the new ways. The materials from this conference are the base of activities for the year and the plans for future. We prepared for the next conference, which was from 19 to 20 January, 1985.

As it has been our practice for the last few years, we had two Theological Conferences. The first one was from 17 to 18 March and the second one was from 22 to 23 September. It is an excellent forum for the exchange of thoughts and allows the brothers to come to a common viewpoint.

We had two meetings of the Church Council: the first one was from 28 to 29 April and the second one from 27 to 28 October. The Church Council as the highest organ, looked after the current business of the Church and traced out new plans for the growth of our work.

On 19 May, in Katowice, we had a Youth Conference, which assembled not only young people but the older ones, too. Brother Emil Stekla, the president of our young people, was ordained to the work of the Church.

On the next day (20 May) we had an

**Thank God for  
new friends, which  
we met last year,  
particularly those  
from new groups in  
new places.**

evangelization trip to the Fun Fair, where we distributed many of leaflets, the "Spirit of Times" and the Bible. In the first and in the second day, the young vocal-instrumental group of the Church played. Following the national Conference, from 23 July to 12 August, we organized a holiday camp for the children in Gorki Male.

From 22 to 26 August, we had the third all-Polish Youth Rally in Gorki Male. We had a Sabbath service in Skoczow—in the hired room. Many interested people attended.

The beautiful youth songs, the performances of the youth group and the young brothers sermons sounded all day and it was an exciting experience for all gathered.

The next day, 19 August, in the morning-hours, there was a baptism in Brennica River and the laying-on of hands. In the afternoon, we listened to the youth singing, particularly during the evening watch-fire. On Monday, there was a trip with a worship service near the so-called "white stone," a place of evangelical meetings.

We must add, that all of the services were filmed by a group of Television Film Producers "Poltel," which created a film about our Church entitled, "Spirit of Times" or Duch Czasow.

Last year, we had a total of seven evangelizations:

1. 3-5 March in Gorki Male.
2. 13-15 April in Bielsko-Biala.
3. 1-2 June in Gorzow Wielkopolski.
4. 14-16 September in Wabrzezno.
5. 13 October in Lublin.
6. 23-26 November in Warsaw.
7. 15 December in Chrozow.

These evangelization efforts were new seeds of God's Word and intensified

the faith of the members of the Church.

There were four services of the baptism with the laying-on of hands:

1. 9 June in Bielsko-Biala, brother Kosowski baptized.
2. 19 August in Gorki Male, brother Ciesielski and brother Pilipczyk baptized.
3. 12 October in Chelm Lubelski, brother Kosowski baptized.
4. 26 October in Gorki Male, brother Matuszewski baptized.

Furthermore, the service of the laying-on of hands were held in Biskupiec Reszelski and in Chrozow.

Two programs about our Church were broadcast by IV Program of Polish Radio. The first "The divine service of the Sabbath day Christian Church" on 23 September, and the second "A Religion in the family's life" on 23 December.

The Biblical Correspondence Course has been a beautiful evangelization tool, which has above 800 members. The extra-mural Evangelist Church Course, which has 40 students, concentrates on further personal education for the activity of the Church.

We are appreciative to God, that we can print our quarterly "Voice of Preacher" or Glos Kaznodziejski and circulate 500 copies, and the Biblical Lessons, circulating 1,000 copies. We seek to spread the "Spirit of Times" to many more readers than we are currently able to do. The Minister of Religious Matters agreed to our printing 10,000 monthly, but the Ministry of Culture refused the paper for the project. If we will obtain our own paper, we could get an agreement on the printing of 10,000 at the beginning of the year.

Thank the God for the new members, which joined the Church; thank God for new friends, which we met last year, particularly those friends that come new groups in new places. We must say, none of our members died last year.

Thank the God for everything that we experienced in 1984. Glory the God for every blessing which he gave us. We are asking God for continued blessings in 1985.

Church Board  
B.K. Ciesielski

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## Obituaries

**Galt.**—Birdie "Betty" Marie Galt, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died March 31, 1985, at Prairie Manor Nursing Home where she had lived since suffering a stroke two and one-half years ago.

The former Birdie Marie Van Horn was born July 22, 1900, near Deadwood, South Dakota, and moved with the family to North Loup, Nebraska, in 1905. She married Baird Alvin Rood on August 29, 1921, and he died in May, 1958. She married Hamilton S. Galt May 15, 1965, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He died July 9, 1972. She moved to Blooming Prairie in January of 1979.

She was a member and a Deaconess of the Boulder, Colorado, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Donald (Deane) Payne of West Concord, Minnesota; a step-daughter, Mrs. Henry (Lorraine) Heggelund of California; seven grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by five brothers, four sisters, a granddaughter and two great-grandsons.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Paul B. Osborn at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center, Minnesota, at 2 p.m. on April 4, 1985. Interment was in the Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center. PBO

**Thomas.**—Florence Louise Thomas, 95, died March 16, 1984, in Seattle, Washington.

She was born August 23, 1888, in Flandreau, South Dakota. She was one of the charter members of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church and was active in its formation.

Survivors include a daughter, Maude M. Posey, of Edmonds, Washington.

Funeral services were held March 22, 1984, in Beck's Garden Chapel, Edmonds, with Pastor Gary Hemminger of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Seattle officiating. Interment services were held March 23, 1984, at Desert Lawn Cemetery, Kennewick Highlands, Washington.

## Accessions

**Alfred Station, New York**  
Melvin Stephan, Pastor

Joined after Baptism:  
Vaughn E. Slack

**Bay Area, California**  
Steven Crouch, Pastor

Joined after Baptism:  
Michelle Griffin

**Daytona Beach, Florida**  
Kenneth Van Horn, Pastor

Joined by Letter:  
Beryl Mamby  
(Miami Fellowship)

Joined after Baptism:  
David Lander  
Maria Rodriguez  
John Vilaysack  
(St. Petersburg Branch Church)

**Los Angeles, California**  
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

Joined after Baptism:  
Debbie Herrera  
Edgardo D. Sipin

Joined after Testimony:  
Gloria Godoy  
Isagani "Sunny" Guevarra  
Aurora Relatores  
Elias N. Relatores  
Edna Rivera  
Cleveland Chambers

**Seattle, Washington**  
Gary Hemminger, Pastor

Joined after Baptism:  
John C. Mastor

Joined after Testimony:  
Carl L. Brown  
Alice M. Brown

Joined by Letter:  
Gareth D. Hemminger  
Kristi A. Hemminger

**Whichita Falls, Texas**  
W.L. (Bill) Sharon, Pastor

Joined by Letter:  
Woody Morrison  
Charolette Morrison

## Births

**Rand.**—A son, Nathan Richard Rand, was born to Richard and Waynette (Burdick) Rand of Aurora, Colorado, on December 7, 1984.

**Graffius.**—A son, Gabriel Charles Graffius, was born to Donald M. and Linda (Bond) Graffius of Salemville, Pennsylvania, on March 9, 1985.

**Bonser.**—A son, Tyler McLain Bonser, was born to Burt and Brenda Bonser of Kasson, Minnesota, on March 24, 1985.

**Calhoun.**—A son, Joshua Aaron Calhoun, was born to George and Lannette Calhoun of Santee, California, on April 4, 1985.

### Correction

In the May issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*, air travelers to Conference were advised to land at Love Field in Little Rock, Arkansas. The correct name of the air field at Little Rock is Adams Field.

The Sabbath Recorder

## Nighties for Newborns

In Malawi, Africa, where missionary Bettie Pearson is working, there is a hospital where 100 village mothers a year come to have their babies. When they leave, they often have nothing but a little rag to put on the new baby to take it home. The Women's Society has started a project called "Nighties for Newborns." Our goal is to supply one diaper and one nightie for each baby. If you can bring any used baby clothes to conference, give them to Joy Ross, chairman of this committee.

The committee is also sending money to Malawi so that Bettie can have women sew nighties. Contributions can be made to the Women's Society. SR

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Observe Religious Liberty Day  
June 1985

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

## Obituaries

**Galt.**—Birdie "Betty" Marie Galt, of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died March 31, 1985, at Prairie Manor Nursing Home where she had lived since suffering a stroke two and one-half years ago.

The former Birdie Marie Van Horn was born July 22, 1900, near Deadwood, South Dakota, and moved with the family to North Loup, Nebraska, in 1905. She married Baird Alvin Rood on August 29, 1921, and he died in May, 1958. She married Hamilton S. Galt May 15, 1965, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He died July 9, 1972. She moved to Blooming Prairie in January of 1979.

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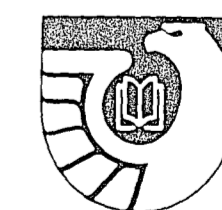
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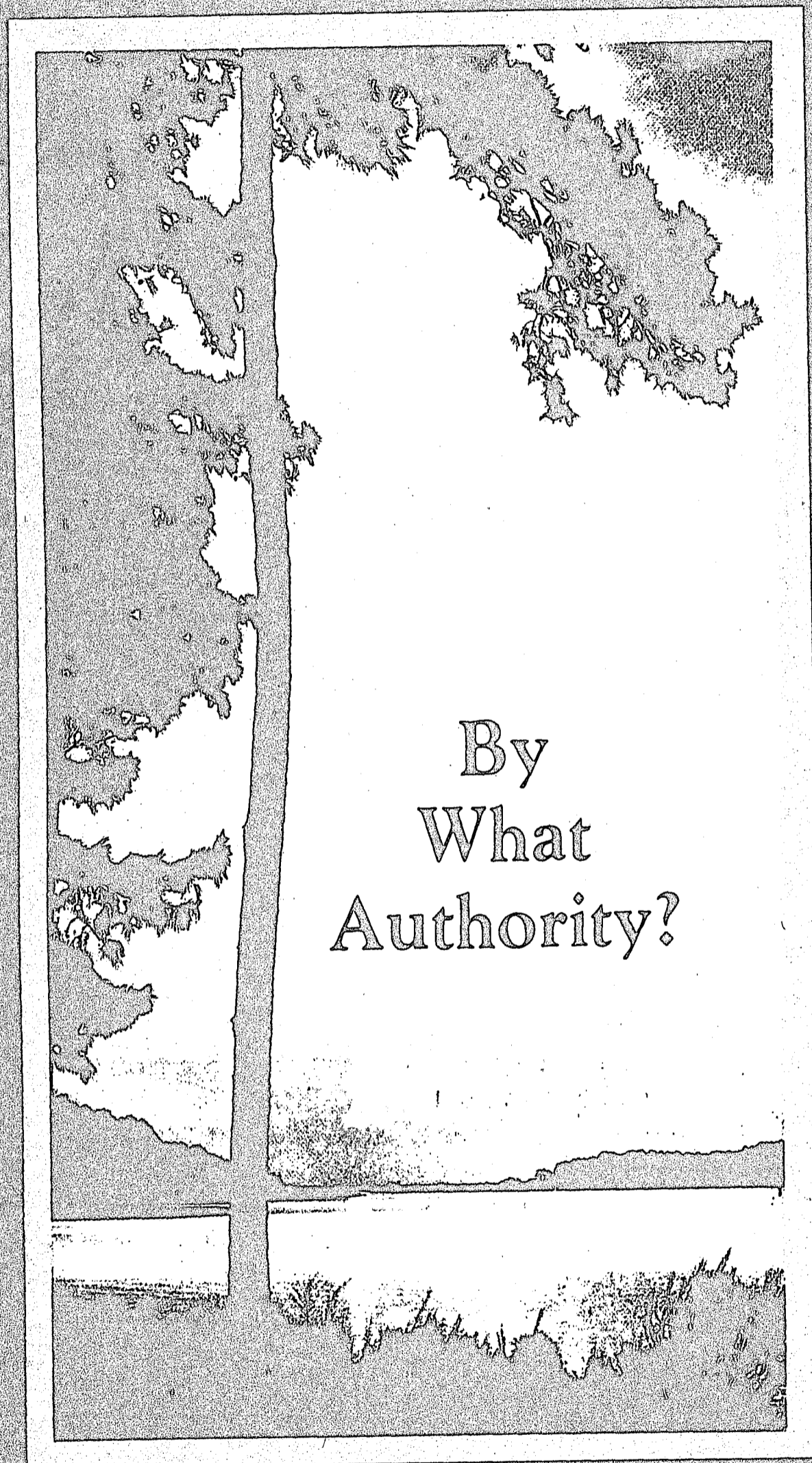


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