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July 1985

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SABBATH RECORDER



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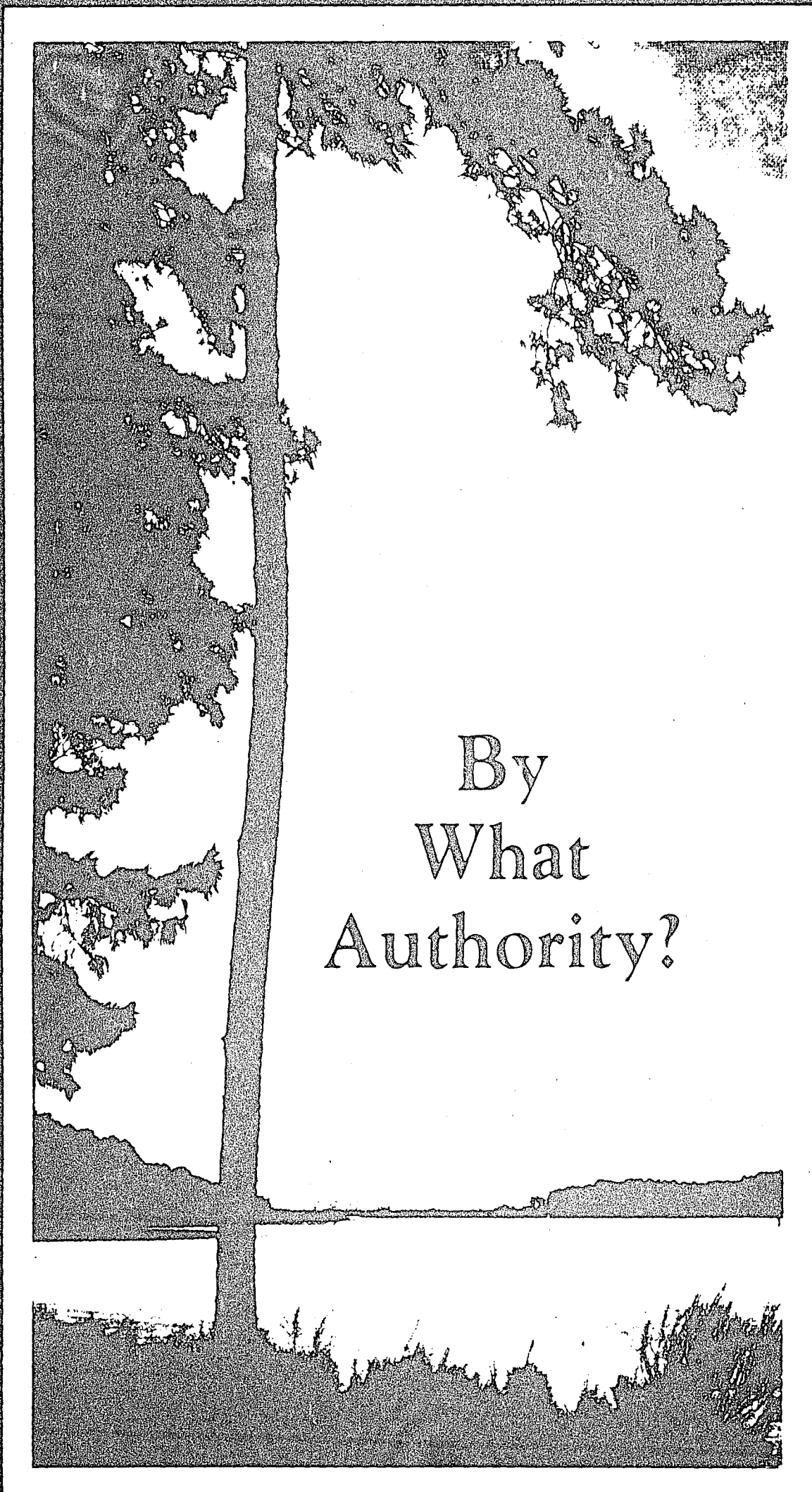
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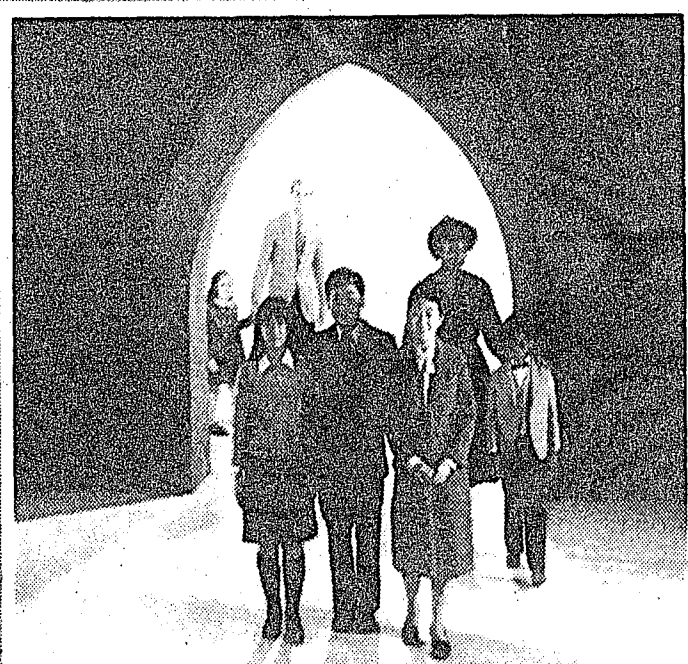
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July 1985

THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST  
SABBATH RECORDER





**Worship together.  
Grow together.**

"Love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
And care for each other,  
as I have cared for you.  
Bear one another's burdens.  
Share each other's joys.  
And bring each other home."

(Words from the song "Love One Another"  
by Germaine Habjan.  
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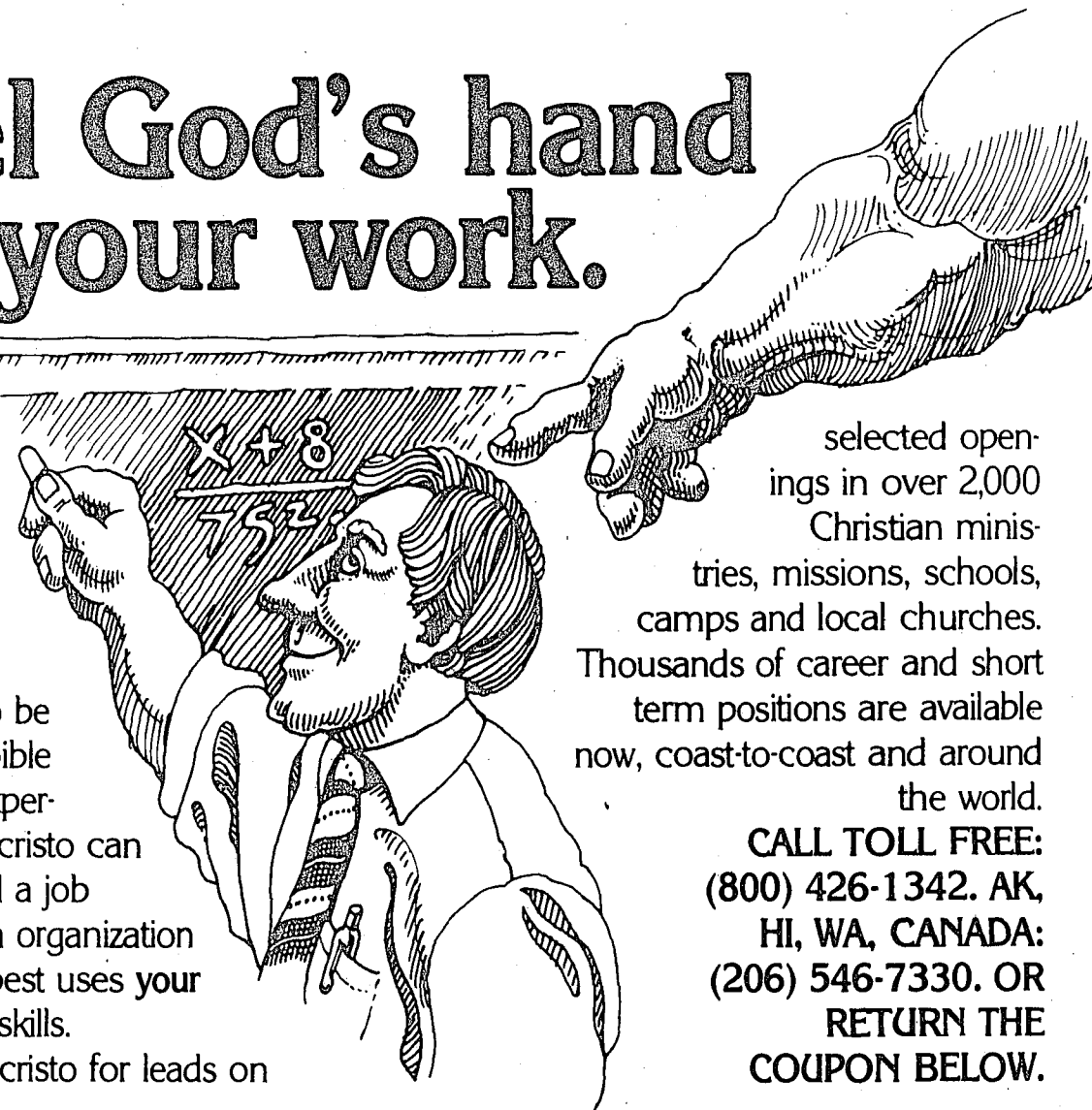
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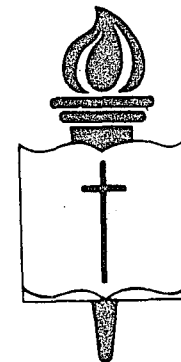
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**Nighties for Newborns**

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**

**The  
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Recorder**



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## Advocates for freedom

by Jeffrey Warren Scott  
from *Report from the Capital*

Although the Baptist role in the painful struggle for religious liberty in the U.S. has been well documented, few have viewed the efforts of the early Baptist leaders as lobbying per se. This writer contends that Baptists learned early the importance of a personal representative or lobbyist to plead their case before government officials and bodies.

Baptists discovered that despite their small numbers, their views could be effectively aired by a skillful lobbyist. As the Baptist position was eloquently explained by the professional lobbyist, officials would gain an important understanding of the plight of this persecuted minority. In time, these efforts of advocacy would bring the religious liberty that was so desperately needed.

Three excellent examples of early Baptist lobbying can be seen in the work of John Clarke, Isaac Backus, and John Leland. These men might well be labeled the first Baptist lobbyists in America.

### John Clarke

John Clarke was a contemporary of Roger Williams and while Williams is credited with the founding of the first Baptist Church in America at Providence, Rhode Island in 1639, Clarke is responsible for the founding of the second Baptist Church in America at Newport, Rhode Island in 1644.

Rhode Island was a haven for religious dissenters. In fact, it was the first of the colonies to offer the guarantee of religious freedom. In its early years, Rhode Island lacked the security of a Charter from the British government. This would become significant as rumors spread that Massachusetts was considering an attempt to annex Rhode Island and thus bring back the dissenters underneath the umbrella of establishment.

To block this attempt, and to ensure a "lively experiment" of religious liberty, Williams and Clarke crossed the Atlantic to obtain a Charter from the Crom-

well government in England. The men met with one delay after another. Williams finally returning to Rhode Island empty-handed, Clarke remained in England for 12 years trying to obtain the Charter. During that time, he represented the interests of Rhode Island in seeking a charter which would guarantee religious freedom. These lobbying efforts were for the most unpaid. In fact, Clarke went into considerable personal debt to finance his lobbying efforts on behalf of Rhode Island. He would be compensated for his efforts only after his death.

Clarke's lobbying methods included personal correspondence, meetings, conferences, speeches, sermons, and publications. His work *Ill News From New England*, which depicted the bitter persecution occurring in the colonies, was published during his stay in England in 1652 and did much to aid his cause.

Because of the lobbying efforts of Clarke, the Charter was granted to Rhode Island, and not only prevented the rumored annexation by Massachusetts, but guaranteed religious liberty for the first time in the Western world.

Upon his return to Rhode Island, Clarke continued his involvement in

the political realm as an avid spokesman for religious liberty and other Baptist causes. He held a number of elected offices, culminating with election to the position of Deputy Governor in October 1669 and again in 1672.

### Isaac Backus

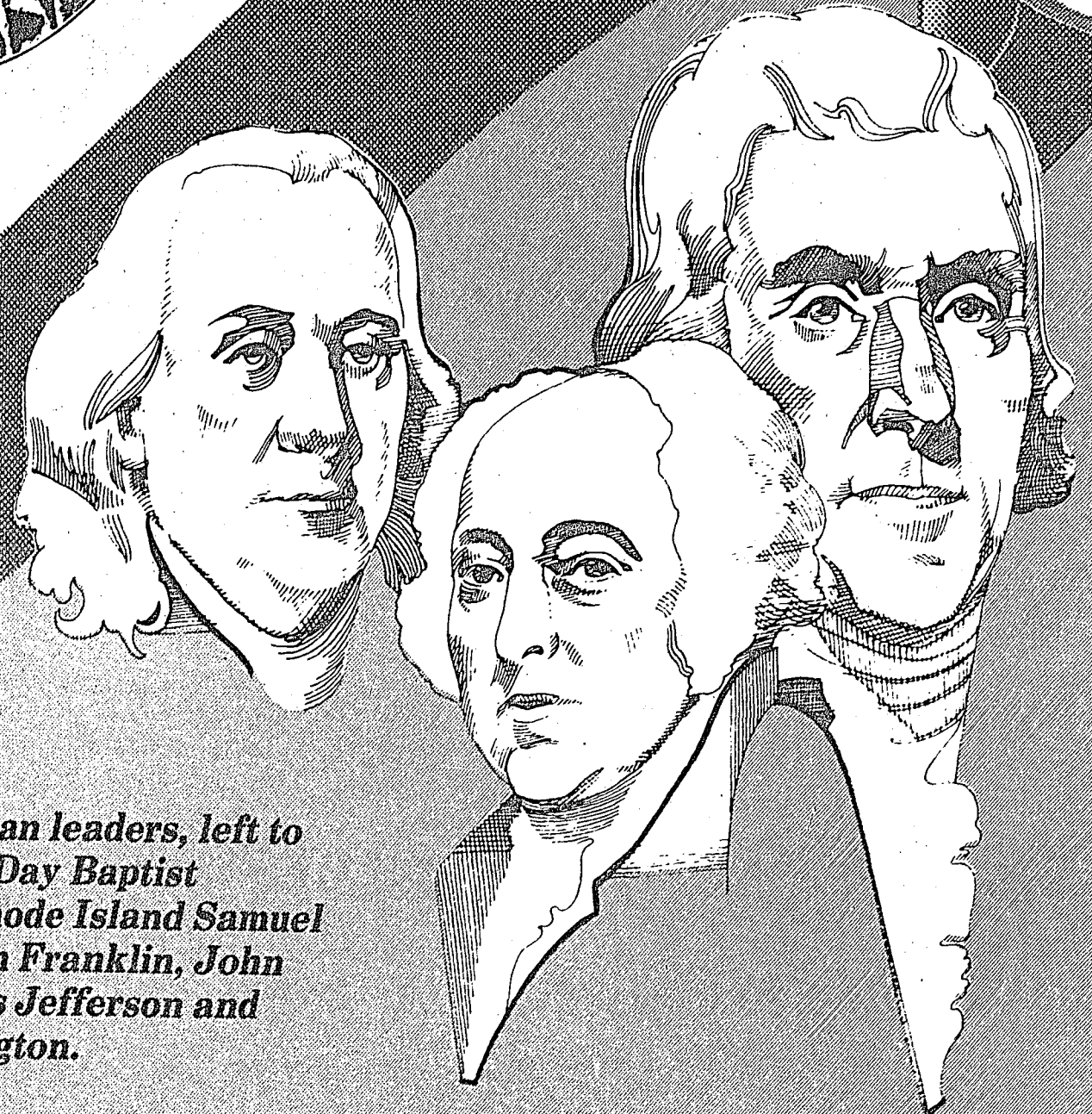
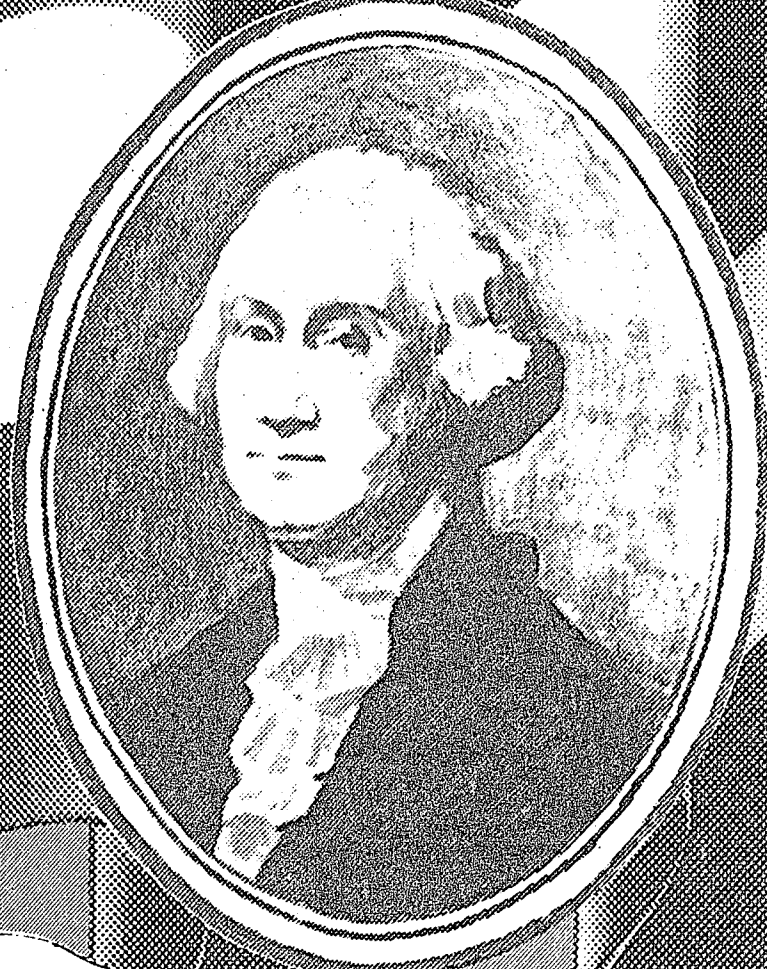
Another example of early Baptist lobbying may be found in the efforts of Isaac Backus. Backus is considered by many to be the finest example of Baptist views on the separation of Church and State since Roger Williams.

It was Isaac Backus who, along with James Manning, took the lead in forming the Warren Baptist Association composed of Baptists from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Warren Association selected Isaac Backus to represent it before the Continental Congress in 1772 on matters of religious liberty.

Backus may be cited as the first Baptist lobbyist to appear before a "federal" legislative body to urge religious liberty.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts delegation to the Continental Congress on October 14, 1774, he addressed the lack of religious liberty in Massachusetts. A four hour discussion culmi-

*John Clarke's lobbying efforts  
gave Seventh Day Baptists the  
assurance of religious liberty.*



Early American leaders, left to right, Seventh Day Baptist Governor of Rhode Island Samuel Ward, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.



nated in the promise of John Adams to look into things for the Baptists. He did not seem convinced by Backus, and said that if the Baptists wanted to change the religious order in Massachusetts they may just as easily change the course of the sun in the sky.

Backus, not trusting Adams' commitment to the cause, presented his petition for freedom from taxes to support an established clergy to the President of the Continental Congress. Although it appeared as if the petition would pass, it was tabled at the last minute by what may have been the work of Adams.

Backus provides an excellent illustration of Baptist lobbying. He stood on the floor of the Continental Congress and boldly advocated the position of Baptists on religious liberty. Despite the fact that he represented a despised minority, Backus had some success in making contact with the leaders of his day, and even went as far as to draft legislation for consideration by Congress on the subject of religious liberty. It is not difficult to see why William McLoughlin, in an article in the *American Historical Review*, identifies Backus as the representative of Baptist thoughts on Church and State separation.

### John Leland

John Leland, more than any other Baptist, had a direct influence on the Constitution and First Amendment due to his relationships with the prominent thinkers of his day. Like Clarke, Leland could play the role of the diplomat, yet like Backus he could be a fiery and eloquent speaker, whose greatest asset as a lobbyist, however, was the ability to cultivate personal relationships with prominent men.

Jefferson seems to have been attracted to the fight of the Baptists for religious liberty because of his friendship with Leland. He is said to have attended Leland's church to hear him

preach on a number of occasions. That Leland influenced Jefferson may be surmised from the numerous letters of Jefferson to various Baptist groups. It was in one of these letters, the letter to the Danbury Baptist Association, that the phrase "wall of separation" appears.

### Baptist John Leland lobbied for a Bill of Rights which would guarantee religious liberty.

Leland may also have struck up a friendship with George Washington. Correspondence between the General Committee of Virginia Baptists, of which Leland was a prominent member, and Washington indicate that a friendship had been cultivated.

Of all of Leland's personal contacts, none was more significant than the one with James Madison. It was Leland who extracted from Madison the promise of the Bill of Rights which would guarantee religious liberty in exchange for support for the ratification of the Constitution as originally proposed. Without Leland's support of the ratification it appeared that Virginia would refuse to ratify the Constitution, effectively nullifying the wishes of the less

prominent colonies especially if New York were to follow Virginia's lead.

Clearly the work of Leland was significant for the passage of the Constitution and First Amendment. He had a long and successful career as a lobbyist. He continued his work in the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut where he fought for religious liberty on the state level until his death.

From these examples, it is clear that the early Baptists learned the importance of having a special representative or lobbyist to plead their case. The office of lobbyist developed from the unpaid position of Clarke to a more sophisticated and realistic arrangement with Leland.

The methods of the lobbyists would improve over time. Leland seemed to have a keen awareness of the necessity of personal contact with legislators in order to effect change.

For Baptists today, this study of Baptist influence reaffirms their heritage of involvement in the political realm for purposes of achieving and maintaining religious freedom. Second, it shows the importance of focusing divergent Baptist voices in a way that can have the biggest impact upon decision makers. Last, it demonstrates that even a small persecuted minority can have a profound effect upon the course of a nation if it will speak out boldly and dare to be involved in the political process to facilitate change.

Today more than ever, Baptists need the patience and diplomacy of a John Clarke, the bold advocacy of an Isaac Backus, and the unwavering commitment to religious freedom of a John Leland. It is through the skill of the lobbyist that Baptists can have an important effect upon the legislative process. SR

(Jeffrey Warren Scott is assistant pastor at Grace Temple Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, and a doctoral student at Baylor University.)

The Sabbath Recorder

## Samuel Ward, founding father

by Kenneth E. Smith

*The following address was given on Independence Day, July 4, 1964, by Kenneth E. Smith for the congregation of the Milton, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist Church.*

Sam Ward was the second son of Gov. Richard Ward, governor of the colony of Rhode Island. His uncle was secretary of state, and so one could say he was born with a political silver spoon in his mouth. After serving in the General Assembly he became chief justice of Rhode Island, then governor. Also, his brother Henry became secretary of state, so it was a political family.

But Sam Ward was not supposed to be a politician. Born in 1725 he was trained to be a farmer. He did not go to college like his brother Thomas who was supposed to follow in the political heritage. Instead he settled down on a small farm, and at the age of 20 he married Anna Ray from Block Island. (Block Island is that little bit of haze you see when you look out from Misquamicut, Rhode Island, across the ocean.) It happened that her family had a little bit of money, and they acquired a 300 acre plantation—of rocks, very close to the sandy beach. This whole family of Seventh Day Baptist statesmen is a fascinating study.

This young man Sam could not remain a farmer very long. He held out for 11 years before he ran for office in the Town of Westerly, Rhode Island. He caused so much furor in the town that he was noted and very soon was in the state assembly. From there he went on to become the colonial governor of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations. The important thing about him for us is that he became governor at a very crucial time. It was the beginning of the harassment of the British upon the American colonies.

One of the first things Governor Ward had to deal with was that a British ship had come into the harbor at Newport, Rhode Island. The sailors had committed all sorts of crimes, and the captain of the ship regarded them as under his absolute jurisdiction. Governor Ward decided that as long as they were in the

territory of Rhode Island they were under the laws of Rhode Island. He arrested them and put them in jail. Some of the boats of the ship—long-boats—were in the harbor; and these were carried by the citizens of Newport to the town square and burned. This caused some little trouble, of course, and before long Governor Ward was in correspondence with Great Britain as to what were the rights of the Colony of Rhode Island. This was very early, and before the Stamp Act. But it was the Stamp Act that brought Governor Ward to fame.

As you know, there are many historians who regard the infamous Stamp

ble was coming, as some of his letters indicate.

To make a long story short, I must get to the Continental Congress. By the time the Continental Congress of 1774 came about, Sam Ward had retired, he thought, from public office. He was still stirring up all sorts of trouble in Westerly, asking people why they were not doing more to resist the British encroachments. In 1774 people of his reputation were needed for the work of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. Governor Ward and another former governor were sent as the official delegates of the Colony of Rhode Island to the Continental Congress. Of course

### All the governors of the 13 colonies with the exception of the stubborn Seventh Day Baptist, Governor Ward, signed the document.

Act as the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The governors of all the colonies were each asked to sign an oath that they would support the Stamp Act. All of the governors of the 13 colonies with the exception of the stubborn Seventh Day Baptist, Governor Ward, signed the document. He chose rather to write a warm letter to Great Britain telling them why he could not sign this document. Before very long his stubbornness was regarded as patriotism. He sent copies of his statement to the other governors. This was to their embarrassment.

Before very long Governor Ward established in every community in Rhode Island a committee on intelligence. The purpose of the committee was to secretly secure data as to what the British were doing. He felt that this would be of some future use when trouble would come. Governor Ward knew that trou-

they went on horseback. I like to think how we would take a trip from Westerly, Rhode Island, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on horseback; but they made it a number of times. And Governor Ward was a man of such leadership and persuasion that he was elected as chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

The Continental Congress worked largely as a Committee of the Whole. Governor Ward is remembered as the man who nominated George Washington to be the general of the Revolutionary Army. He was the man who, sometimes as the minority of one, urged that what the colonies needed was a navy; and he carried that battle until they built 13 ships, two of them at Westerly. Governor Ward also insisted that the colonies needed to realize that as long as they were being fought against, they

Cont. to page 27.

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# Information for Conference visitors

by Mynor Soper  
Chairman, Host Committee

For those of you planning to attend General Conference at Ouachita University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, August 4-10, here are some "tidbits" of information that we hope make your trip more interesting. Maybe someone who hadn't planned on coming will be enticed, also.

Southwest Association (your host) is spread widely and churches are far apart, except for Fouke and Texarkana (15 miles). The farther-most southwest church is Houston and the eastern-most is Memphis. Witchita Falls, Texas, (Lakeside) is the farthest west and the new branch church at Neelyville, Mis-

souri, (near Poplar Bluff) would be the farthest northeast. Sunshine Mountain at Chattanooga, Mississippi, is farthest southeast. On your way to or from Conference, we hope you will visit some of these groups.

## Camping facilities

For those dedicated to camping, there are two camping areas near Arkadelphia. (1) KOA Campground at Caddow Valley, Exit 78. Cost for two people, no hook-ups, is \$9.50; \$2.00 electricity; \$1.25 sewer; \$2.50 air conditioner; \$1.50 each additional person over three years of age. For reservations, write KOA,

221 Forest Road, Arkadelphia, AR, 71923. Phone: (501) 246-4922. The campground is 5.6 miles from the campus. (2) DeGray State Park has 82 class A sites (tables, grills, water and electricity); 31 class B sites (same as A but no water hook-ups); and two trailer sanitary stations. No reservations. Beautiful lake and camping among tall pines and hardwoods; large lodge on island; golf course. The campground is 10 miles from the campus.

There are a number of motels and numerous eating places both in Arkadelphia and along I-30. However, there is no way you can beat the accommodations at Ouachita Baptist University.

If you are traveling by car from the east, come I-40 to Little Rock, take the 440 loop to Texarkana—which joins I-30. Same directions if you are coming from the northwest. From the southwest (Dallas), simply follow I-30 all the way. Those flying will come into Adams Field at the Little Rock Airport. Amtrak trains stop in Arkadelphia, also.

## Pre-Con ers

To get to Camp Canfield from the east, follow I-30 to Hope, Arkansas; then south on Highway 29, 35 miles to Canfield. Do not blink or you will miss it! There you turn east on No. 360 about two miles, and there it is!

## Points of interest

I had no idea of the vast number of really exciting and interesting places to visit in Arkansas until doing a little research for this article.

For example, the community of Magnet Cove. It gets its name from the magnetically charged iron ore found in the region. It is world famous for its tremendous variety of minerals; there are as many as 65 valuable minerals in the area. It is said that no other place in the world has so many different minerals concentrated in such a small area. "Rock hounds" and geologists come

from all over the world to search and study the area.

Many of the most interesting and beautiful spots are within an hour's drive of our Conference site in Arkadelphia. Here are three other spots you might want to consider on your time off:

**Hot Springs.** This site is world famous for its hot mineral baths. Situated on beautiful Lake Hamilton, it has become a great tourist and retirement area. It is located 42 miles from Arkadelphia.

**Old Washington Historic State Park.** Washington served as a convenient stop for travelers on the rugged Southwest Trail. Famous men such as Stephen Austin, Sam Houston and

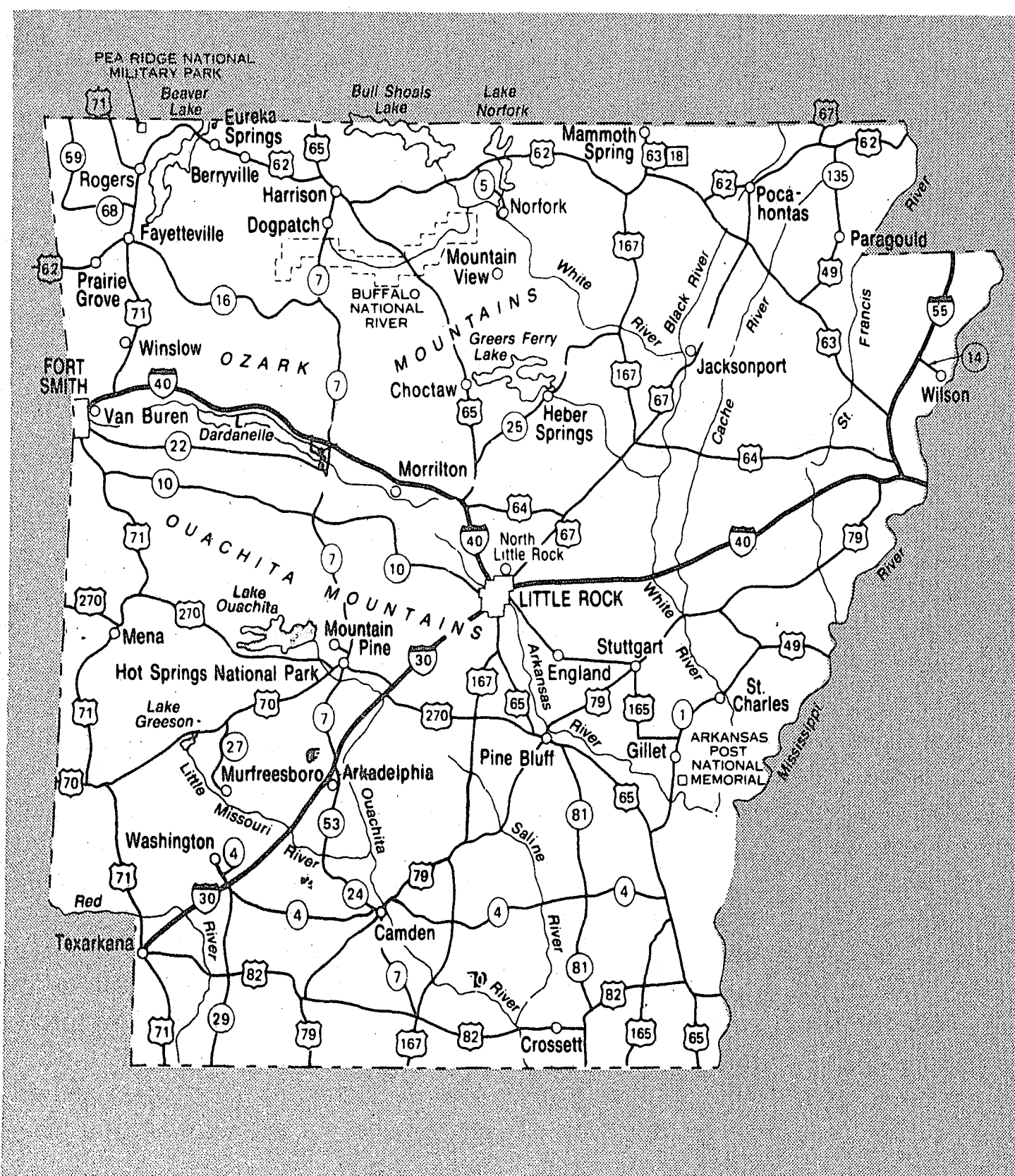
Davy Crockett visited Washington before heading on to Texas. During the Civil War (1861-65), Washington became the Confederate capital of the state after Little Rock was captured on September 10, 1863. Many of the old historical buildings have been restored at this park, which is located 51 miles from Arkadelphia.

**Crater of Diamonds State Park,** Murfreesboro, Arkansas. Admission fees: Adults, \$3.00; ages 6-15, \$1.00. Group rates: 15 or more, advance notice, half price. This is the only diamond area open to the public in North America. Some large diamonds have been found and many small ones. Some people make a vocation (and a living) searching for diamonds full time. What-

ever you find will be evaluated and certified for you free and it is yours to keep. This park is 69 miles from Arkadelphia.

Old Washington and Crater of Diamonds are in the same general vicinity and could both be taken in on the same afternoon. If you just want to drive to see the scenery, a looping trip north and west and back south will give you the flavor of the Ozarks.

We of the Southwest Association do hope you will come and that you will register early. For registration forms, see *The Sabbath Recorder* for May. Remember, we have truly great facilities for you to enjoy and all are air conditioned. SR



# BWA headquarters will move to Virginia

The Baptist World Alliance headquarters, presently located at 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW, in Washington, DC, will have a new home in McLean, Virginia, beginning October 1, 1985.

Although the building no longer met the needs of the growing worldwide ministry of the Alliance, joint ownership with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention prohibited a pos-

sible expansion at the present site. The move into the four-year-old building in McLean, about 12 miles from Washington, will mean more space for all divisions and departments of the Alliance.

The new headquarters building was acquired for \$1.28 million. Remodelling and new furnishings will require additional funds. The BWA will start a

\$1.5 million fund raising campaign as soon as a master solicitation plan has been developed.

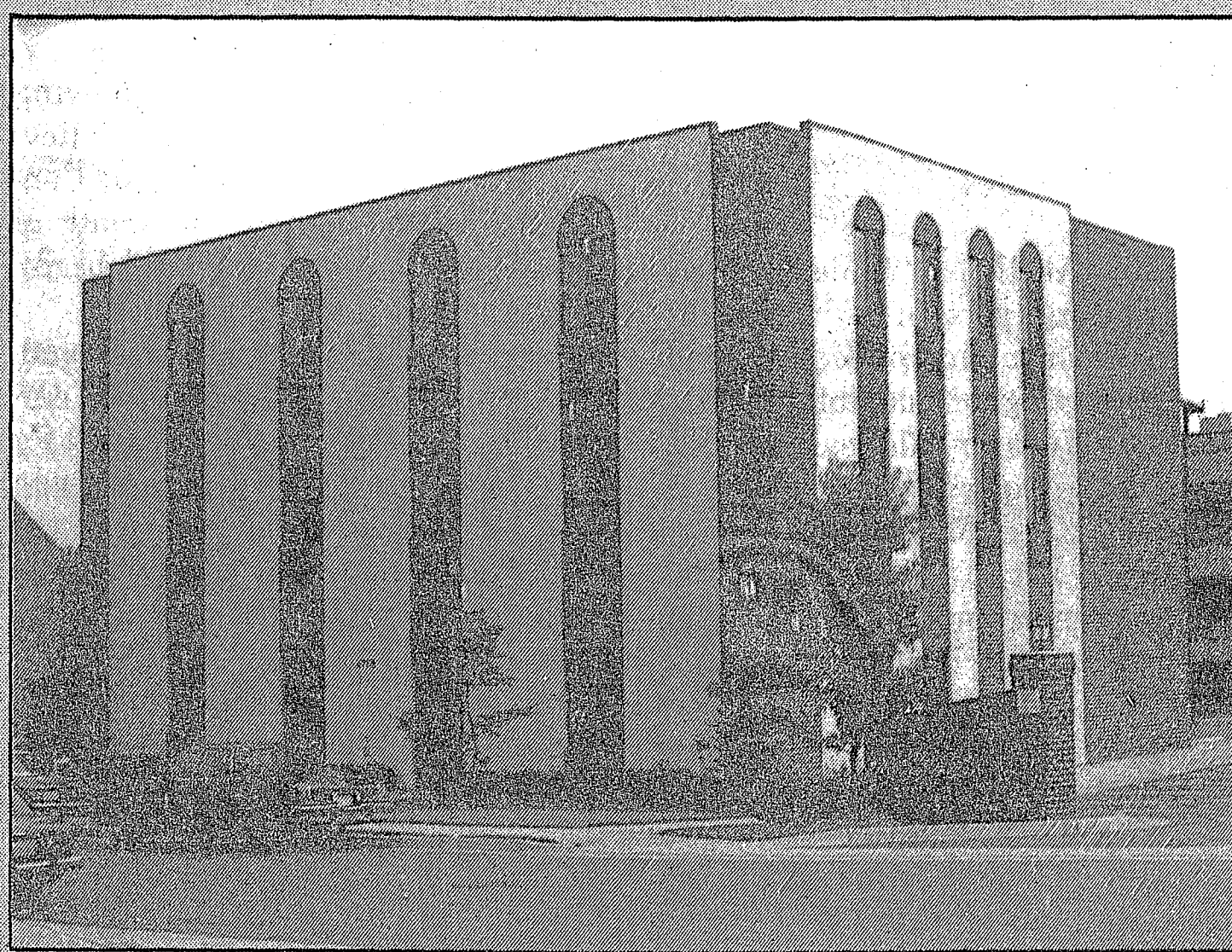
The 12,000 square foot brick structure is located in the central business district of McLean, with needed business facilities—such as post office, print shops and restaurants—within a few hundred yards. Bus connections link the office with both Washington airports and with the city.

BWA President Duke K. McCall is excited about the upcoming move to the new building. "I am thrilled to see what God has been saving for us," says McCall.

The many thousands of Baptists who will participate in the 15th Baptist World Congress in Los Angeles, July 2-7, will be the first to get detailed information about the new headquarters building. Right there, and in the months to come, they will be given the opportunity to share in the financing of this project.

Beginning in October, the new address of the Baptist World Alliance headquarters will be: 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Virginia 22101.

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary fellowship of 131 Baptist conventions/unions with headquarters in 93 countries, and a total membership of more than 34 million SR



Future home of the Baptist World Alliance headquarters in McLean, Virginia.



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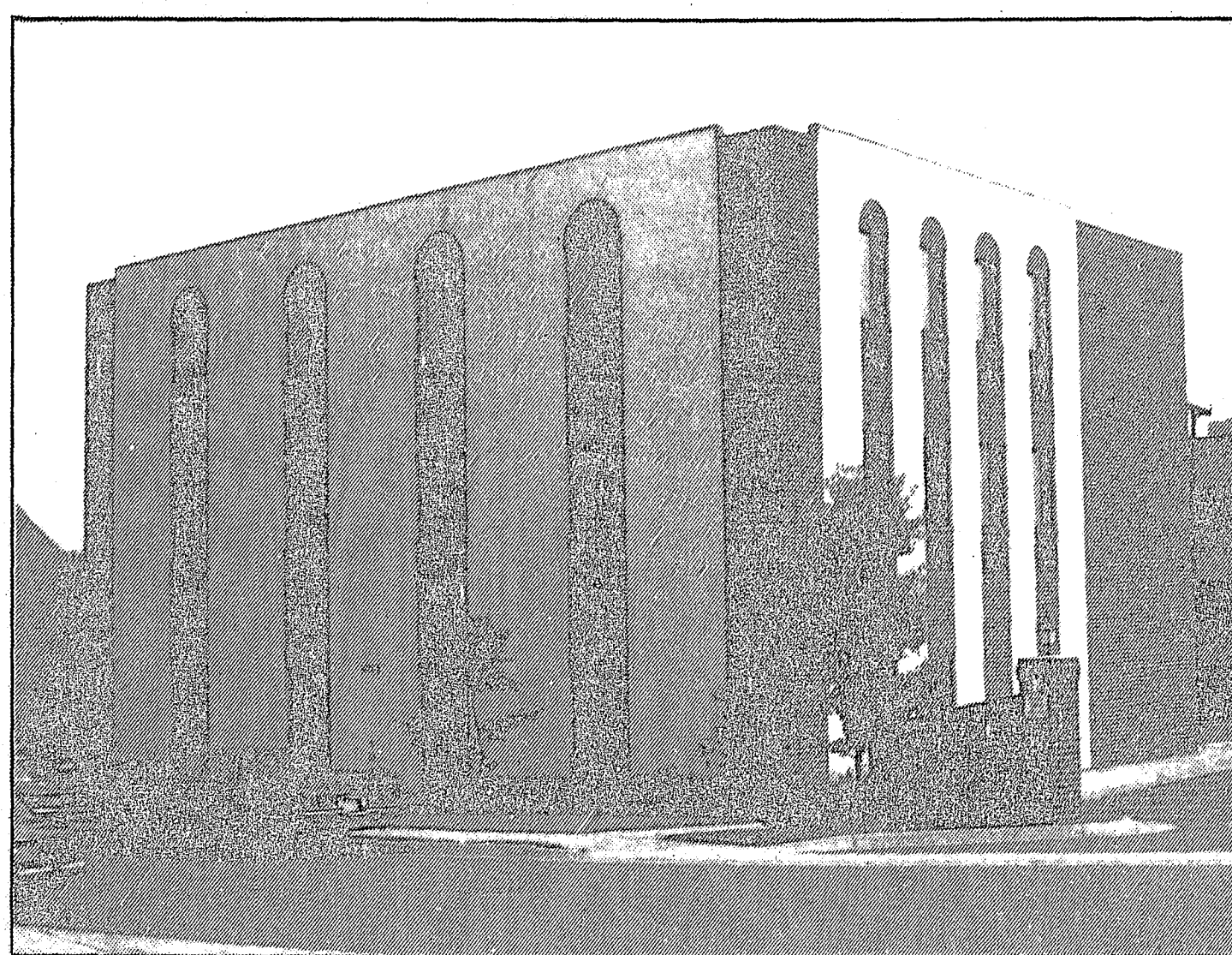
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BWA President Duke K. McCall is excited about the upcoming move to the new building. "I am thrilled to see what God has been saving for us," says McCall.

The many thousands of Baptists who will participate in the 15th Baptist World Congress in Los Angeles, July 2-7, will be the first to get detailed information about the new headquarters building. Right there, and in the months to come, they will be given the opportunity to share in the financing of this project.

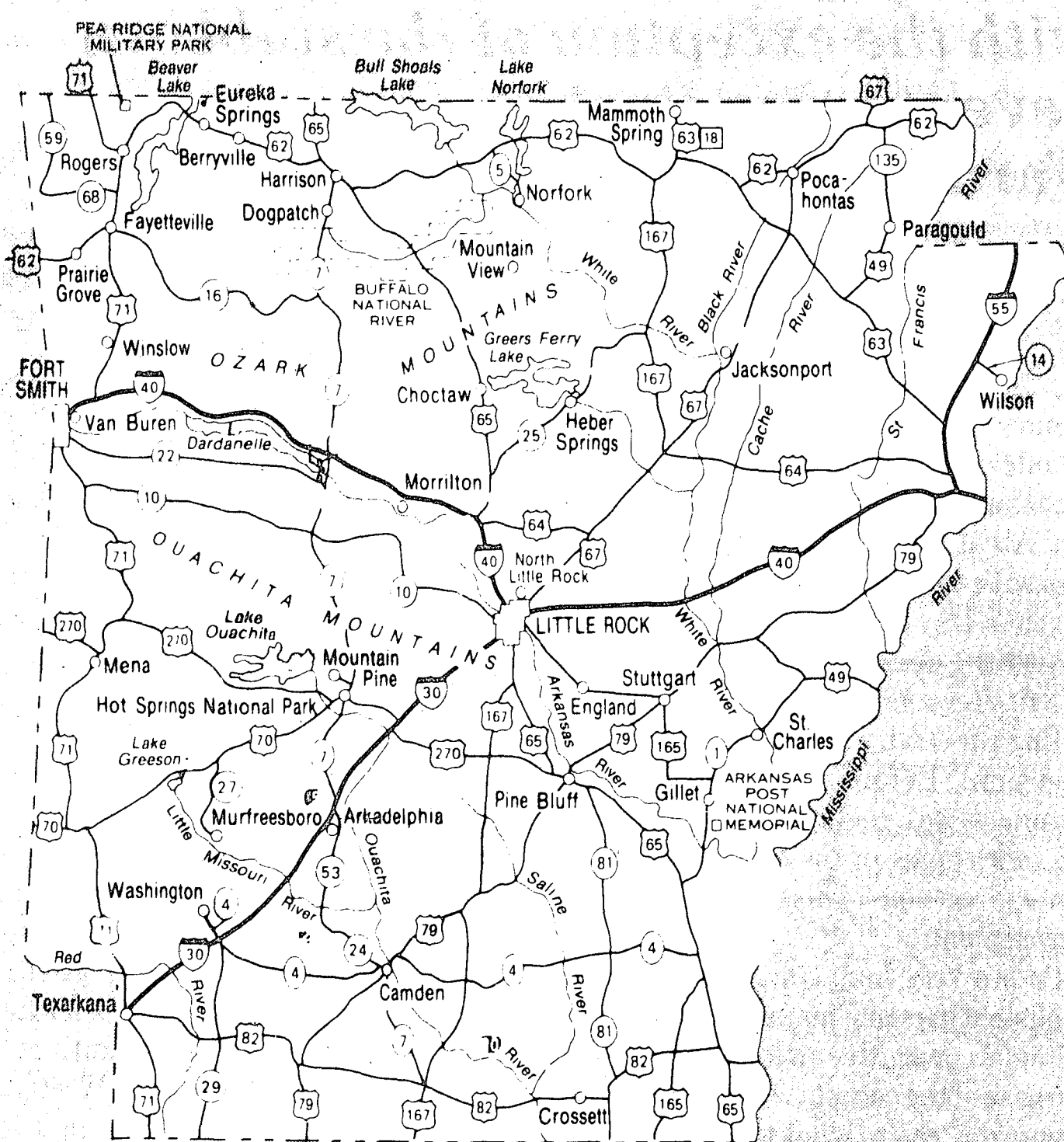
Beginning in October, the new address of the Baptist World Alliance headquarters will be: 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Virginia 22101.

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary fellowship of 131 Baptist conventions/unions with headquarters in 93 countries, and a total membership of more than 34 million **SR**



Future home of the Baptist World Alliance headquarters in McLean, Virginia.

July 1985





## FOCUS



MISSIONS TODAY

by Leon R. Lawton

### Africa Committee relocated to New Jersey

SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY, USA: Since 1979 three of the standing committees of the Missionary Board have been located away from New England-Asia Committee, Southern California; Evangelism and Home Field Committee, Southern Wisconsin; and the Africa Committee in the Mid-Continent Association area. The Africa Committee has now been relocated to Southern New Jersey with the nomination by Eastern Association of Everett H. Dickinson to be a member of the Board and chairman. Members will be from both the Shiloh and Marlboro, New Jersey, churches. This allows input and participation by individual SDBs in the work of their Missionary Society as they serve on such committees. SR

### Rev. Shoffner accepts call

TUCSON, AZ, USA: Following approval as new extension pastor branch church by the Missionary Society, the call was extended to Rev. William Shoffner of Memphis, Tennessee, to serve this new group. He has accepted the call and plans to begin his ministry in August! SR

### Hymnbook editing completed

POLAND, EUROPE: For over a decade the sister churches in Poland have been working on editing a hymnbook (with music) for their use. This task has now been completed and approval and paper for printing assured. But a capital sum was needed for publication. The Missionary Board has advanced them \$2,500 sent through Jan Lek, who visited them in May, and has set up a special project to raise this amount. It will be used twice: First, for the initial capital amount; and second, as books are sold for outreach ministries in Poland. Will you and your church or group give for this special need? SR

### Record crop reported

MALAWI, AFRICA: "While famine is gripping large parts of Africa, the tiny East African nation of Malawi finds itself exporting considerable grain surpluses. The country also earns foreign exchange by exporting tobacco, tea and sugar. How does Malawi do it? Part of the answer is two years of good rains. But much more important is the attention paid to good husbandry by Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the country's authoritarian, but benevolent, leader. Agricultural extension services, price incentives, and a regular supply of good fertilizer all contributed to recent good years, including last year's record bumper crop."—*Evangelical Missions Information Service.* SR

### Henrys return to United States

THE PHILIPPINES, ASIA: Missionary Rodney Henry wrote in mid-April, "Pastor Eli Paypa's trip to South Cotabato yielded 22 decisions for Christ, 9 baptisms and a new church." The annual SDB Convention meeting was held in April and Stefen and Vicki Kube of Warrimoo, Australia, were in attendance. The Curidad, Leyte SDB Church was host. The Henrys left for the USA on May 7 and visited Janesville, Wisconsin, and Westerly, Rhode Island, enroute to Florida May 31-June 5. SR

### SDB Conference sessions are set

JAMAICA, WEST INDIES: The annual Seventh Day Baptist Conference sessions are being held at the Wakefield SDB church in the Parish of Trelawny, July 15-22. The theme is "Approving the Will of Christ in Our Lives." Rev. V.R. Smith is the president. The Conference will be having one month of evangelistic out-reach in Bath beginning August to early September.

Prudence Robinson, the corresponding secretary, has shared that the earlier Board meeting pledged support for the Conference procuring a mini-van which it is hoped can be procured by the end of the year. This would help in the ministry as public transportation is most difficult. She wrote further: "Crandall High School is progressing nicely, and one would feel that we have just found the right man. He is certainly doing a good job. At present there are 55 students on roll and others are expected in the new term. There is not a school board as such but Bro. N. Harley is working along with him." SR

## A prayer reminder for each day

### August 1985

**Verse of the Month:** We can make our plans, but the final out-come is in God's hands. We can always **prove** that we are right, but is the Lord convinced? Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed. Proverbs 16:1-3 TLB

### Pray for:

1. those traveling to Conference at Arkadelphia, Ark.
2. General Council as they close sessions
3. those visiting other churches on the way to Conference
4. Conference President Calvin Babcock as sessions begin
5. committees considers opportunities and challenges
6. those attending Conference sessions for the first time
7. wisdom as those at Conference make decisions
8. God's Word to Seventh Day Baptists during Conference
9. Conference offering: that we might reach goals
10. Conference Sabbath celebration
11. Post Conference General Council meeting this morning
12. consecration of time and abilities to God
13. SCSC churches doing follow-through
14. Trevah & Mary Sutton, retired pastor, Aztec, NM
15. Pastor Leon Wheeler, Ashaway, RI, on his birthday
16. NEW WORK extension projects in my church and association
17. a deeper awareness of the blessings of Sabbathkeeping
18. considering and implementing Conference action in my life
19. Pastor John & Hope Bevis, Denver, CO
20. Pastor Justin & Sue Camenga, Portland, OR
21. new pastoral students planning to enter seminary
22. a desire to know more of God's Word
23. new Conference President Russell and Jennie Johnson
24. new vision and victories in my personal and church life
25. healing power to be upon those who suffer
26. forgiveness for our lack of faith
27. Executive Ernest K. Bee and the Board of Christian Education
28. retired Pastor Elmo and Madeline FitzRandolph, Boulder, CO
29. Sabbath School teachers and students promoted to new classes
30. all teachers beginning a new school year
31. fifth Sabbath opportunities to invite another to worship

## Moving?

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

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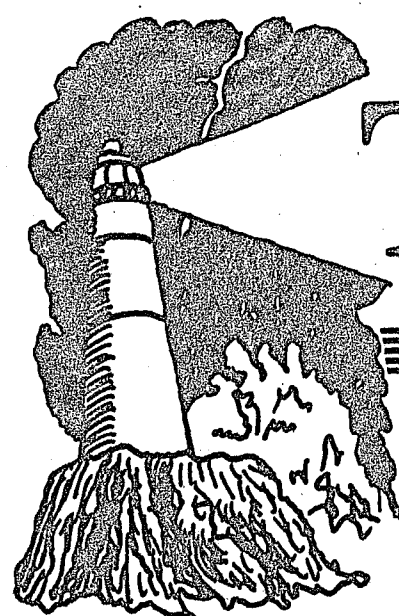
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July 1985

The Sabbath Recorder





# 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

July 1985

## From a Youth Pastor

by Rick Perez

Christianity essentially is the growing of people and relationships in Jesus Christ. The work of the church, the work of theology, the work of pastoral care exist for the caring of people and the cure of souls.

I see the church as a cultural medium. We create an atmosphere and environment where love and support help people to feel more secure and hear God's voice calling them to a life with purpose, direction and meaning—calling them to a relationship with him. We know this as "vocation." Vocation is crucial for the believer. Our reason for being, our purpose and therefore our directions and goals are shaped by our perception of that vocation to which God is calling every one of us. With Christian vocation our self-esteem is at stake, our very identity hinges upon our perception of our vocation. It is an

intensely personal issue and yet it also receives a mold from our Christian community. We must create community. We must create a community where there is clarity. We must be open and real—even candid—with one another. We must speak and live the Gospel with clarity.

Young people, especially those in their teens, crave this kind of clarity. They need to hear and see the winsomeness and warmth of Jesus in the Church. We are not ashamed of the compassion and tenderness of Jesus. We are compelled to live it and demonstrate it—we will think it and talk about it.

A great need in the church of 1985 is

the need for Christian realism. This is that mindset that submits to the designs of our Sovereign God and yet is willing to live in and deal with the harsh realities of a competitive and broken world.

I like to be confrontive with my kids. I find that they appreciate this. These young people are aware of the challenges of being "successful" and maintaining a Christian commitment. I am impressed with the nerve and verve of our youth leaders. Our young people, as a group, are a courageous bunch. I can feel their desire to be "somebody." I am committed to their making it. **SR**

## Meet our fellowship

**Lara Bates**—Enthusiastic and fun loving. Loves leadership. A very dependable person. We couldn't make it without her.

**Tonia Gibson**—Our treasurer is so great. She always makes time for the YF in her busy schedule and plans the "funnest" parties. She's a joy to be around.

**John Bates**—A challenging and playful guy. He has a lot of charm and a sparkle in his eye. Too hip.

**Bob Driver**—Our resident surfer, is always on top of what's going on in Southern Cal. He's really into basketball and the beach and is fun to know.

**Keith Curtis**—A special guy who is considerate. He may seem quiet at first, but once you get to know him he isn't quiet anymore! He appreciates others.

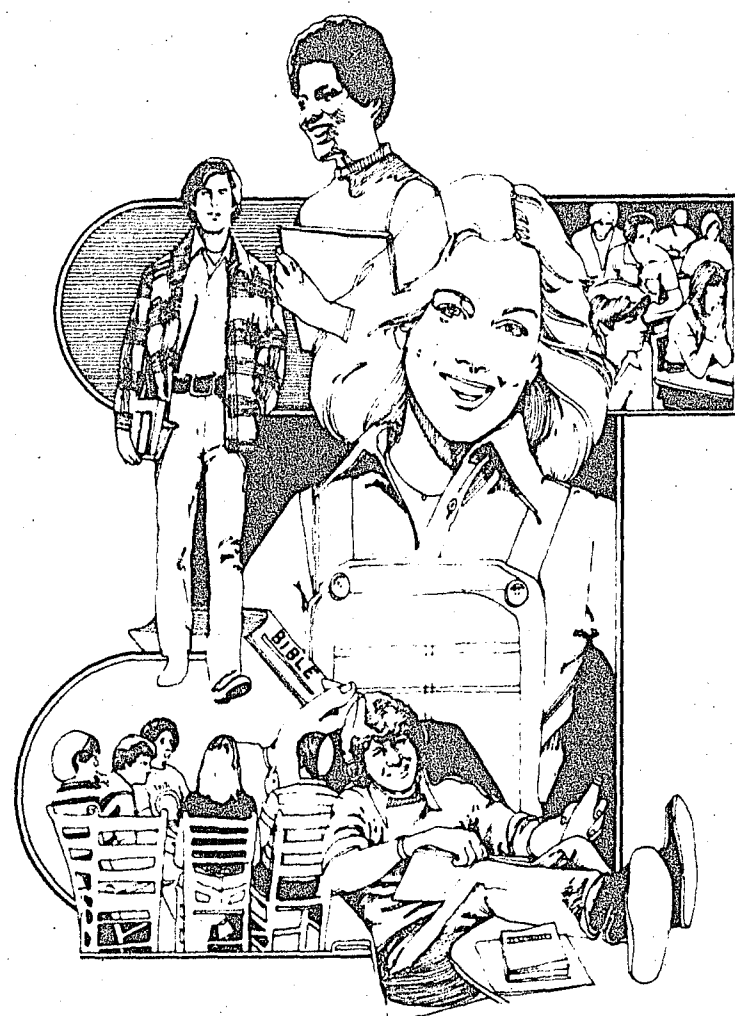
**Richard Driver**—Also a surfer, enjoys music, basketball and Karate. You always enjoy talking to him. He's very intelligent and humorous.

**Cliff Rosa**—A guy that will make you laugh! He does excellent children's sermons. Someone that makes you want to be around him.

**Alfred Bejjani**—A very energetic person—is always taking people by surprise. His spunk makes him well liked by everyone.

**Shelly Davis**—A cute personality. Quiet at times—but fun to be around. She's very good at talking until late at night.

**Alan Serl**—Is a very intelligent person. He's very much into electronics and computers. He's very understanding and easy to talk to.



## President's view

by Virginia Rosa

Hi. My name is Virginia Rosa and I am the president of the Riverside YF.

This past year has been quite a learning experience for me. I have discovered new ways of relating and developed new skills in planning the various activities in which we have been involved.

The year began with elections at the end of September. The first activity we planned was a costume party for Halloween. Tonia Gibson led out in a creative way to the success of the party. November was the month of our square dancing party as we celebrated the theme of Thanksgiving. December was a busy month with a get-together at a pizza parlor and a week at winter camp—which was a special time of fun and growing together and learning more about Christian commitment. We also had a new experience of foot washing at a special event planned by Dr. Tom Davis.

In February we had a video party, at which time the picture on this page was taken.

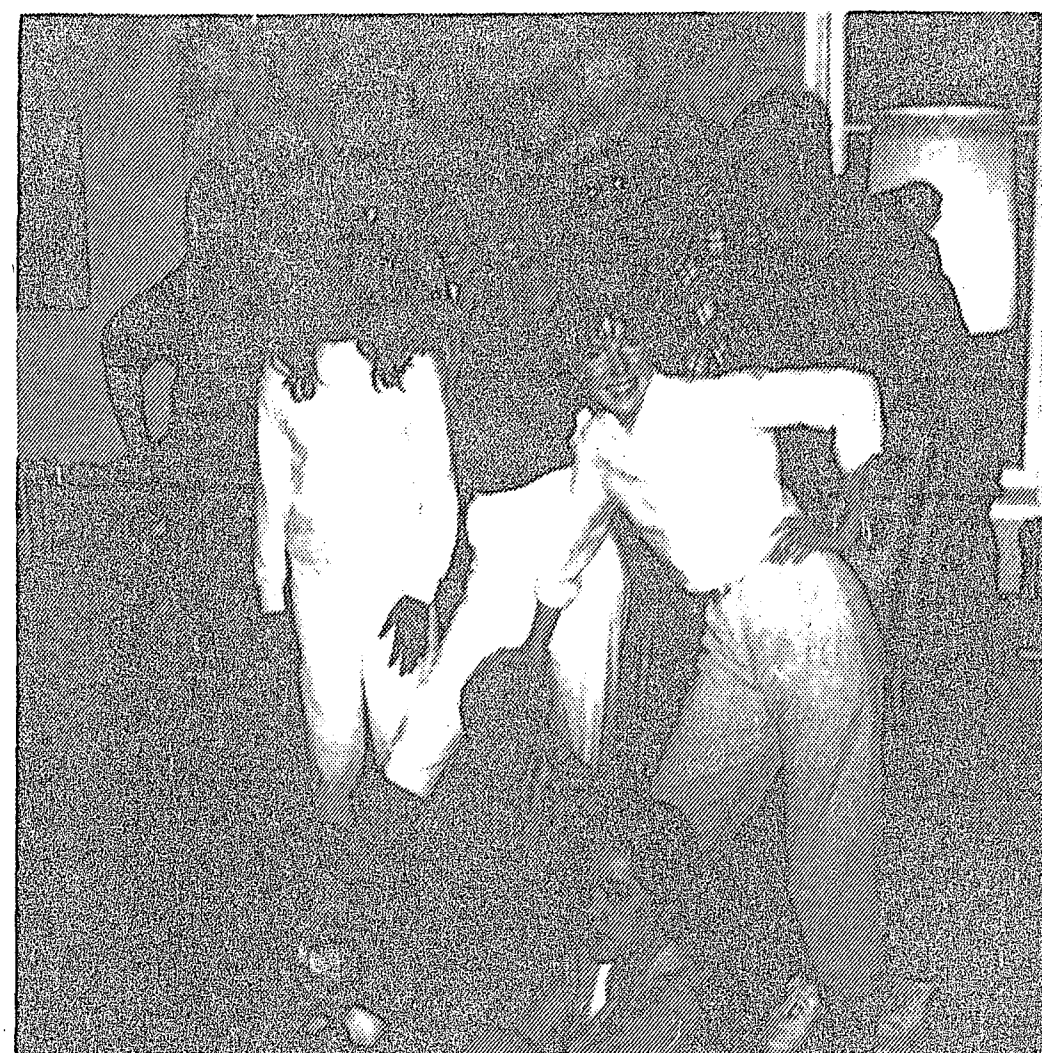
Cont. to page 23.

**Tammy Bates**—A gentle girl. She seems always to be laughing inside. Very sweet someone who makes you giggle.

**Claudine Bejjani**—Is so kind. She loves music and enjoys leadership. She is very perceptive and is always there for you.

**Becky Serl**—Is the sweetest person. She loves to work with children. She's a very giving person and is always willing to help.

**Virginia Rosa**—A very dependable person. A person that one can't help but appreciate. She loves the Lord and we love her! **SR**



The July issue of The Beacon comes from the Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship.

A poem by our SCSC representative

## Him

by Virginia Rosa

Perched beside my window,  
With the sunset streaming in;  
Jotting down this note to you—  
But how shall I begin?

I'll tell you of the day's events,  
And how my heart grows weary—  
Waiting, pining for your return—  
Oh, how I need you near me!!

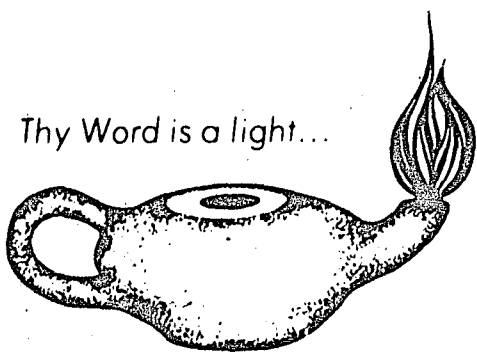
Today, I told someone of you,  
But, alas, he could not see—  
His blinded eyes would not perceive—  
How much you are to me.

And as I struggled on this day's path  
And worked each simple task  
My mind was dwelling still with you  
And in your love I bask'd.

And soon, when we're together,  
Never more to part  
Living in wealth beyond compare—  
I'll know you as Thou art.

I'll lift my voice in song and praise  
And know down in my heart  
That you were always worth the wait—  
Dear Jesus, from the start.





Thy Word is a light...

## Board of Christian Education

### Conference workshop planned

A workshop on "How to Teach Others to Claim God's Promises" will be held during General conference this summer in Arkansas.

#### Who should attend:

Pastors  
Sabbath School Superintendents  
Christian Education Leaders  
Sabbath School Teachers

#### Why you should attend:

You will learn the 3-m's of teaching others to claim God's Promises.  
You will learn how to apply each "m" in your Sabbath School.  
You will be challenged to explore the implications of our leadership for the ministry of claiming God's Promises.

#### When you should attend:

Wednesday, August 7, 1985  
11 a.m.-Noon

#### Where you should attend:

Seventh Day Baptist  
General Conference Sessions  
Ouachita Baptist University  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

### Associated Conference

The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring the annual Associated Conferences, August 4-10, 1985, at Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. The Associated Conferences will provide a memorable learning experience for young people from Pre-school through High School age.

The Bible studies centered on the theme, "In the footsteps of Jesus," and the other activities will be held during the sessions of the General Conference. The High School Associated Conference will be centered around an exploration of our beliefs as Seventh Day Baptists. Information sessions with Board, Agency and Conference leaders will be scheduled as their time will permit.

The Associated Conferences will be under the leadership of the following directors:

14 **Preschool**—Lenna Weber, Eden,

North Carolina; Mary Jo Johnson, Waterford, Connecticut, assistant.

**Kindergarten/First Grade**—Linda Dickinson, Marlboro, New Jersey; Andrew Camenga, Shiloh, New Jersey, assistant.

**Primary, Grades 2 & 3**—Ruth Bennett, Battle Creek, Michigan; Donnie Coon, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

**Juniors, Grades 4-6**—Debbie Kagarise, New Enterprise, Pennsylvania.

**Junior High, Grades 7 & 8**—Charles and Faye Thomas, Kingsport, Tennessee; Denise Thomas, Kingsport, assistant.

**Senior High, Grades 9-12**—Harold and Kathy King, Kansas City, Kansas.

**Music**—Althea Rood, Westerly, Rhode Island.

**Recreation, K-3**—Melissa Snyder, Alfred Station, New York.

**Recreation, 4-8**—Paul Andries, Hyattsville, Maryland. **SR**

### Scripture memorization program

The Scripture Memorization Program for 1984-85 featured learning the scriptural basis for Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs. This program, as revised by Rev. Dale Rood of the Pawcatuck, Rhode Island, Seventh Day Baptist Church, was announced in the November *Sabbath Recorder*. Those eligible to receive a Certificate of Honor and whose names have been submitted to the Board of Christian Education will be given recognition at General Conference. Send your list to:

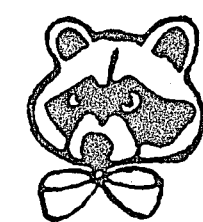
Scripture Memorization Program  
Seventh Day Baptist  
Board of Christian Education  
15 South Main Street  
Alfred, New York 14802 **SR**

The Sabbath Recorder

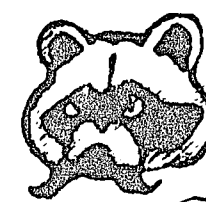
### The Children's Page

## Racco learns to love

Mr. Grey Raccoon Racco Racco's Mom heart smile



"Get off of my yard!" shouted old



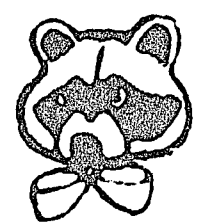
, "and stay off!



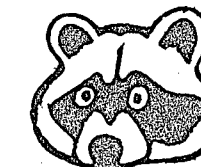
lowered his head and went home.



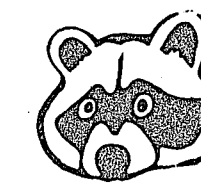
had gone over to say "hello" to his new neighbor.



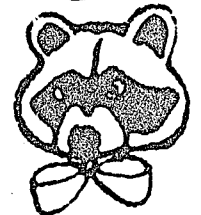
saw this and called



to her. Listen to this,



."

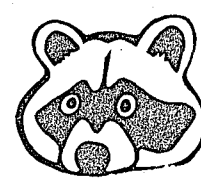


read Ephesians 4:32: "And be KIND to one another, tender

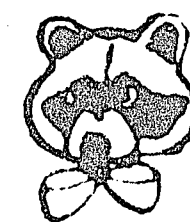


ed,

forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." "Do you understand this,



?"



asked. "No" said



. This tells us how to act even to


that cross



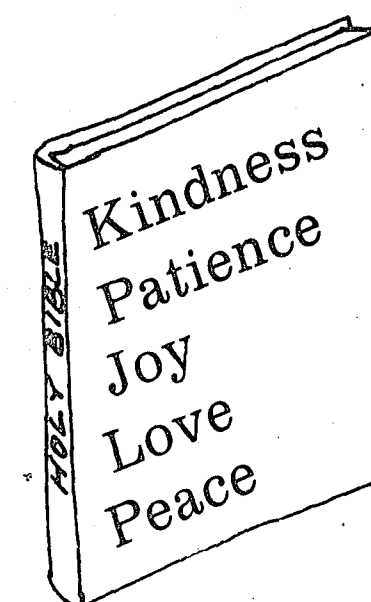
. We are to be kind. Forgive him for being mean. Just like Jesus forgives us

when we do wrong things. Let us name some kind things we can do this summer to show our love for

him no matter how he treats us. Here is the list they started. Can you finish it?

1. Say "hello" and wave whenever we see him.
2.  a lot.
3. Keep our yard and house happy places.
4. Share the corn when it is ready.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

July 1985







## Cherish your freedom

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All,

I wish you all a happy, sane and safe Fourth of July. Beyond the fireworks—the picnics—the parades and all the rest, is the basic issue of our blessed freedom. I have thought a lot about that lately. I wonder what it means to you.

A friend of mine of Slavic descent, who has visited her father's family numerous times, remarked that all her relatives there thought everyone in America was rich, an idea she scoffed at as she struggled to pay the rent. That was until she really compared her life style with theirs. Small as it was, she had her own apartment, car, education, clothes, etc. Underlying it all was the fact she could worship as she chose, vote her convictions and cherish her roots. Yes, she is rich in more than money.

I decided to talk to some of our women who had experienced other cultures and asked what freedom meant to them as related to their travels. One sighted the opportunities we have. She told of a young man in France who said their lives were like a long furrow. You just stayed there plowing straight ahead with no hope of getting out your whole life long, while we in this country can change direction whenever circumstances dictate. She also spoke of the openness and forthrightness of American women as compared to other cultures. While playing with a baby on a subway ride, she missed her stop. Being a visitor in the country, she was unsure how to return to her station. Because she could speak the language of the country, she told the mother of the infant her problem and she was more than helpful and kind to assist her. In parting, she told them she was an American in their country studying and they assured her they knew that because she looked them straight in the eyes when she talked to them, not with

lowered eyes and head. They recognized the freedom that was part of her makeup as an American.

Another woman I talked to spoke to me of the caste system that exists in much of the world. Another example of the furrow theory? The rich are very much so and the poor are more so. She said the rich could not exist in many countries without the services of the poor, yet they are never seen as persons. They do not exist in the con-

*New directions,  
new places, free-  
dom—and through it  
all I can worship  
how and where I  
please.*

sciousness of the higher castes who are uninterested in improving the lot of those less fortunate than themselves, whose living conditions are appalling to most Americans. She spoke also of the many dialects spoken making conversations and understanding among different sections of the same country impossible.

Even though I have been told I "talk funny" in Michigan, they can understand me in California. It seems I speak with the inflections of both my Nebraska roots and my short sojourn in the East (Connecticut), according to a linguistics professor at the University of Michigan. What will I pick up in California? The point to all this is that I am free to adopt any accent I choose or just speak naturally, and I will be understood anywhere in our great country.

New directions, new places, freedom—and through it all I can worship how and where I please.

My survey was no Gallup poll but you get the picture, I am sure. Cherish your freedom this Fourth of July; that is really what it is all about.

With freedom comes responsibility. Some of the families of great material wealth in this country, and undoubtedly in others, have taught their offspring a sense of duty to their fellowmen; a sense of responsibility to use the resources at their disposal for the most good. I am sorry to say that this is not always so nor is it always followed when taught. Jesus taught this same precept in his parable of the talents, the Prodigal Son and many other parables and teachings. So you are blessed—what are you going to do about it? We hear a lot about the "gifts of the Spirit" lately in our churches. Well, you may have every one of them or only one or two, but unless you put them to use you will waste them and be in your furrow all your life.

One of the lovely freedoms of being Baptist women is that each one is as important as another. Your ideas and suggestions are not only solicited but they are considered in making Board policy. Two examples: Are your delegates to Conference instructed as to your wishes regarding our continued co-operation with Church Women United? It will be discussed so come prepared to make your society's wishes known. Second example: I visited one of our churches recently and was told they had nominated one of my dear friends for the Robe of Achievement. They felt they did not know a great many of you but so enjoyed feeling a part of the process that they chose a lady from another church, did some research and wrote their letter. I am proud of them and of any of you who want to see one of our own honored in

such a way. Of course, only one can win, but like the Academy Awards, just being nominated is a great honor.

While we are on the subject of Conference, please do not forget your fifty (50) copies of your societies' activities for the past year to be shared with the interest committee under the direction of Joyce Burdick. There will be no church banners this year, and the luncheon and business meeting have been placed on Monday noon while the banquet remains scheduled for Wednesday night with Mrs. Lozani as speaker. She will also participate with the SCSC ers in the Friday Women's Program. **Do not forget your love gifts, too.** "Enthusiasm is contagious" says the Salem, West Virginia, bulletin, "but so is the lack of it." Come to Conference full of enthusiasm and help spread the epidemic.

In the *Los Angeles Messenger* there was a note that Mrs. Alefa Lozani will be met by Beth Burdick, who served in Malawi, when she arrives and plans were made to have her attend their service on July 6th. The Board is hoping you will come with many questions for Mrs. Lozani that can be asked during the Wednesday night banquet.

Mrs. Lozani is not our only visitor to the BWA. Mrs. Dorothy d'Alpuget of Australia also came but must return home immediately following the meetings, so she cannot visit the churches or Conference.

At last, I got some letters. I guess threatening to tell you about my girls worked. Jackie Wells (she already knows about them) wrote about the success of Riverside's pilot program of Bible Study on the book of Phillipians. She said it is "the best Bible Program I've run into and well worth the time and energy. Truly a blessing." Eighty seven women were enrolled. They are starting up again in September, Tuesday a.m., for unemployed ladies, and Monday p.m. for working ladies. They are hoping for 200 enrollment in the fall. On a much smaller scope other churches are noting new life, new spirit, etc., and are equating it with their small group studies, noting a much freer receptiveness which is traceable to the group studies.

*Come to Conference full of  
enthusiasm and help spread  
the epidemic.*

Shirley Cruzan wrote about her society in White Cloud, Michigan, saying they had been deeply involved with providing cookies and fruit trays for their county medical facility, as well as Easter baskets full of flowers. The plants they supply for special holidays for their church sanctuary are later given away. They had a very well attended Mother-Daughter Banquet, which will be told of at a later date. They also held a two-day rummage sale in May.

Westerly, Rhode Island, and Battle Creek, Michigan, had rummage sales also. Battle Creek's was somewhat different this year. The cul-de-sac, where the parsonage is located, has a yearly garage sale weekend. All in the area who wish to participate pay a small fee, and the advertising is done collectively. This was their first year of participation in this area.

Floreen Bond of Nortonville, Kansas, wrote of their upcoming Fall Bazaar and all the beautiful work being done for it. Special mention should go to 90-year-old Essie Kenyon who does so much fancy work. She also told of their yearly Soup, Salad and Pie Supper. Each lady is solicited for two pies and other assigned goodies. The other five church congregations in Nortonville look forward to it yearly.

While we are on the subject of food, Westerly had a Greenback Dinner, and Shiloh, New Jersey, had their annual Memorial Day Chicken Potpie Dinner. They had a time set up to pick up the take-out dinners as well as serving at

the church. The logistics of this undertaking staggers the mind. Judy Hitchner was the chairman who dealt with it all.

Milton Wisconsin's two Women's Circles serve an Annual Turkey Dinner, and the afternoon circle is in its eighth year of serving First Wednesday Luncheons. The evening circle, with the Youth Fellowship, served their Annual Soup Supper. Their contributions to the church and denomination are truly impressive.

Pastor Nida of Salem, West Virginia, in his quarterly report, enumerated many contributions of the ladies of the church and ended with "and have continued their many services for the church whenever the needs arise." That is what we all do, I guess; meet the needs as they arise. Someone should do a survey of how much support the local churches and denomination receive from the women of the denomination. That would open some eyes.

Ready for some more "Mitey" suggestions? Now that gardening season is in full swing, how about saving 1¢ for each jar of food preserved or package of food frozen for the winter, 1¢ per mile driven from home to work and back for a month, and 5¢ per visitor in your home for a month. Those suggestions are from Shiloh, Dodge Center, Minnesota, suggests Praise the Lord for your grandchildren and pay 2¢ for each, 3¢ for each pound you are overweight, Praise the Lord and pay 1¢ for each SCSC worker your church has sent

Cont. to page 30.



## Shiloh and Marlboro churches work together

by Donna S. Bond

At a recent business meeting of the Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church, a committee was established to work with the Marlboro church more closely. Several special events this spring have brought the two churches closer together in Christ's fellowship.

The first of these was the ordination of Pastor Everett C. Dickinson, who has been student pastor at Marlboro during his three years of seminary at Eastern Baptist in Philadelphia. The ordination service took place at Marlboro on Sabbath, March 30. Since Everett (known locally as "Bus") is a native of Shiloh, many of our church family participated in the services, with Bus' former pastor, Charles H. Bond, delivering the message. Bus is the son of Everett H. and Wilberta ("Billie") Dickinson and has four sisters whose families comprise a significant portion of the Shiloh congregation. His own family—now of Marlboro—consists of wife Linda (Ayars) and sons Greg, 10, and Jeremy, 7.

Another cooperative venture was a baptismal service held on Good Friday. Rev. John H. Camenga performed the baptism of his parishioner Ward Charles Bond, while Pastor Emeritus Charles Bond lighted a candle in honor of his grandson and namesake. Then Rev. Everett C. Dickinson ("Bus") baptized Anna Marie and Ryan Daniel Cruzan, requesting the Lord's blessing on each of them.

Ward, son of Philip and Janis (Skinner) Bond, affirmed his belief in Jesus Christ in requesting baptism. Anna stated that she wanted to serve others for Christ, and her brother Ryan declared baptism to be a symbol to others of his acceptance of Christ. Anna and Ryan are the children of Daniel and Diane (Ferguson) Cruzan.

On the following day, as Anna and Ryan joined the Marlboro church, Ward

Bond was extended the right hand of fellowship by Moderator Owen Probasco. "As his custom is," Mr. Probasco yielded to temptation and offered a comment on "how nice it will be to have a maturing Bond in our midst."

*It was a real joy for all of us to work together and to become better acquainted with our current and future leaders.*

(As if we did not have any maturing Bonds already...)

Later in April, the Shiloh church, with much assistance from the Marlboro people and other community friends, had the privilege of hosting 80 ministers and other guests at the biennial Ministers' Conference. It was a real joy for all of us to work together and to become better acquainted with our current and future leaders. Although many Christian workers were involved in this project, special effort was given by: host pastor John Camenga and his family; Benevolent Society Dinner Committee—Dodie Moncrief, Cathy Dixon and Audrey Fuller; Housing Committee—Jan Bond and Linda Camenga; and Transportation Committee—Ted Davis, Oliver Dickinson and Everett H. Dickinson.

During Ministers' Conference, Rev. Leon Lawton met with a group of interested parties from both churches to see

if an African Interest Committee might be located in our area as a branch of the Missionary Society. Groundwork is now being laid to see if this might be feasible.

On Sunday, April 21, a surprise open house was held in the Fellowship Hall in honor of Miss Florence Bowden's birthday. I will not mention which birthday was being celebrated; let us just say she is a charter member of the local "1900 Club." While the planning was done by her friends Dodie Moncrief and Helen Ellzey, the super-abundance of good things to eat and a special children's table with clown centerpiece suggested that our beloved "Aunt Florence" might have masterminded the whole affair herself. (If she had, of course, someone else would have been the guest-of-honor.)

Among the 142 names in the guest book were: visiting ministers and denominational leaders who have been touched by her SCSC and national committee work; two generations of adopted nieces and nephews who have basked in her love; numerous former students who have benefited from her guidance; and 14 former co-workers who are now organized state-wide as retired helping teachers. (Needless to say, there were Marlboro parishioners present at this event also!)

At our bi-monthly business meeting on May 12, it was voted to accept the challenge of the Council on Ministry to call Rev. Clifford Mays of Marysville, Kansas, to serve as our Associate Pastor for approximately one year beginning September 1. Pastor Mays is an American Baptist pastor who, through contact with recent S.D.B. seminary students and personal Bible study, has become convinced of the Sabbath truth.

It is believed that his special talent in ventriloquism and puppet ministry will be a bonus for the Shiloh church and, no doubt, the Marlboro church also. His previous experience as a pastor will

Cont. to page 30.

## Religion in the News

### NCC criticizes South Africa apartheid policies

The National Council of Churches at its Governing Board meetings last month condemned the apartheid policies of the South African government, and sharply criticized the Reagan administration for its program of "constructive engagement." The statement contends that the current Washington approach to the problem has "proven ineffective in bringing about a peaceful change in the South African government's apartheid policies."

In other statements the NCC Board called for "pastoral and material care" to those who practice civil disobedience in protest of the U.S. policies in Central America. SR

### Malpractice case dismissed by judge

In what may be the first malpractice suit against a church and its clergy, the judge dismissed all charges last month. The case was brought to a California court when the parents of Kenneth Mark Nally charged that their son committed suicide as a result of counsel received at Grace Community Church near Los Angeles.

Nally, age 24, was despondent over a breakup with his girlfriend. The parents charged that the church gave the advice that suicide was an acceptable alternative, although that interpretation was denied by the ministers of the church.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Kalin ruled that the court should not interfere in the pastoral counseling of a church. "Such interference could result in excessive entanglement of the state in the church and religious beliefs and teachings," the judge declared. SR

### Paperback Bible passes million mark

Tyndale House Publishers have sold more than a million copies of *The Book*, a paperback edition of *The Living Bible*, since its appearance last August. The publication is distributed at supermarkets, chain stores, and truck stops. An additional million copies will be printed this summer. It is estimated that 30 million copies of *The Living Bible* have been sold during the past 14 years. SR

### Influence gained by radical groups

In a feature article, the *Wall Street Journal* noted the rise of conservative religious groups who are engaged in radical social action. Described as Biblical and theological evangelicals, they are opposed to government policies in such matters as the arms race, Central America, and cutbacks in social programs.

Groups such as Evangelicals for Social Action and the Sojourners Community insist that "the poor must be right at the top of any Biblically informed moral agenda," according to Ronald J. Sider, president of ESA.

Ann Monroe, *Wall Street Journal* reporter, noted in the article that the radicals "don't fit comfortably anywhere on the modern U.S. political spectrum." SR

### Scientology church charged with fraud

A jury awarded a former member of the Church of Scientology a total of \$39 million in a fraud judgment on May 17th. The woman charged that the church claimed its teachings could improve her eyesight and raise her I.Q.

The Oregon trial raised landmark legal issues regarding the liability of religious leaders and churches in matters of healing. The Reverend John Carmichael, head of the Scientology group in Oregon, called the trial "akin to burning a witch." He indicated that the decision would be appealed.

In the week following the decision members of the Church of Scientology have held rallies outside the Multnomah County Circuit Court where the trial was held. Groups from as far away as Europe and Australia have flown to Portland for protest rallies. The group's leaders described the decision as an attack on the First Amendment, and "an outright attempt to exterminate a religious group." SR



## Graham reports success in New England

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT—“Billy Graham stands in the New England tradition. He is God’s annointed evangelist for our time. Historically this may well prove to be the Third Great Awakening,” explained the Reverend Donald Morgan, pastor of the historic First Church of Christ in Wethersfield. During the eight days of the Southern New England Crusade, nearly nine percent of the people in attendance registered personal commitments to Jesus Christ.

Both Connecticut Governor William A. O’Neill and Hartford Mayor Thirman Milner declared the week of May 19-26 “Billy Graham Week.”

Seeing a shift in the religious climate of New England, The Reverend Garfield Thompson, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Windsor, said “A lot of change is going on. There has been dissatisfaction with the old presentation of the Christian life. Many of my own people have gone forward at the Crusade which I am believing will bring new life to our church. It is not a big emotional surge; this is going to be a very solid time. My own ministry will change, God is not going to leave me alone.”

Early in the Crusade, Mr. Graham visited a soup kitchen and a food distribution center. Then he encouraged people attending the Crusade to bring food items to the Friday evening meet-

ing. Eleven thousand pounds of food were collected for distribution to needy persons. Also at previous Crusade activities, people were encouraged to bring food. Total food collected was right at 35,000 pounds.

The result of this togetherness is the creation of new fellowships that did not exist before in New England, according to the Reverend Dr. Leroy Bailey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hartford. Speaking about what he as a black pastor is seeing in new inter-racial harmony, he said “The white community is crying out to blacks. Confessions are being made. Billy Graham has a warmth, a realness and gives us all a sense of what Christ was like and what we ought to be like.”

“Dr. Graham inspires everybody,” said the Reverend Paul Gonzalez, pastor of Hartford’s Glory Chapel. “For the first time the Hispanic Christians have an association going. For 15 years we have been praying for this breakthrough; now it is coming true.” The Reverend Greg Groh, pastor of the Glastonbury Community Church, said “We are rallying around the cross and the resurrection. There is a maturing in the church, a real answer to prayer.”

Retired United Technologies Corporation Senior Vice-President Wesley Kuhrt said, “The Lord is doing some great things in the lives of people. He is using Dr. Graham very well and I am seeing churches cooperating far more than I thought would be the case. This is badly needed in our area.”

Dr. David Topazian, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery at Yale University Medical School said, “I feel the tremendous effect of the Holy Spirit working. We have prayed for this. God is using Billy Graham and we are thankful.”

Following the Southern New England Crusade, Billy Graham will be preaching in Sheffield, England, where the meetings will be televised via satellite to millions of people throughout the United Kingdom and as far south as Zambia. **SR**

## Eastern Association held

Over 100 delegates from 10 churches were in attendance at Eastern Association in Berlin, New York, in May. A highlight of the meetings was the music and singing, ranging from congregational singing of hymns and choruses to enjoyment of the music by *The New Creations* from the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church in Verona, New York.

Another highlight was the honoring of Pastor C. Rex Burdick, who is retiring this year. Pastor Rex is pastor of the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Major business decisions of the Association were as follows:

(1) Recommendation of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, as the site of conference 1986, which is to be hosted by the Eastern Association.

(2) Developing a procedure for setting up a host committee in the New England area.

(3) Adoption of budget of over \$3,000.

(4) Raising the per attendee assessment for Association member churches from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per person.



Conference President Calvin Babcock (left) congratulates retiring pastor C. Rex Burdick (right).

(5) Accepting the invitation of the Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church near Bridgeton, New Jersey, to host the next Association meetings on May 16-18, 1986. **SR**

## Reflections on Ministers’ Conference

by Donald L. Chroniger

Arriving at Shiloh, New Jersey, one could see the freshness of green trees and a sun that shone as bright as any sun on a new spring day. The key to the week that started April 17 and ended April 22 could be summed up in one word—“focus.”

It was good to begin listening to each other as ministers and to communicate

### *We shared our ideas, thoughts and reactions on the Statement of Beliefs with the Committee on Faith and Order.*

our feelings regarding our beliefs as Seventh Day Baptists. The discussions did not divide, nor was it filled with so many expectations that nothing could be accomplished. All this sharing helped most, if not not all of us, to focus on the question, “Do I really believe what we are saying here or am I giving so much weight to this statement because of its historical significance?” All of our ideas, thoughts, reactions and negative and positive comments were shared and turned over to the Faith and Order Committee of the General Conference for consideration.

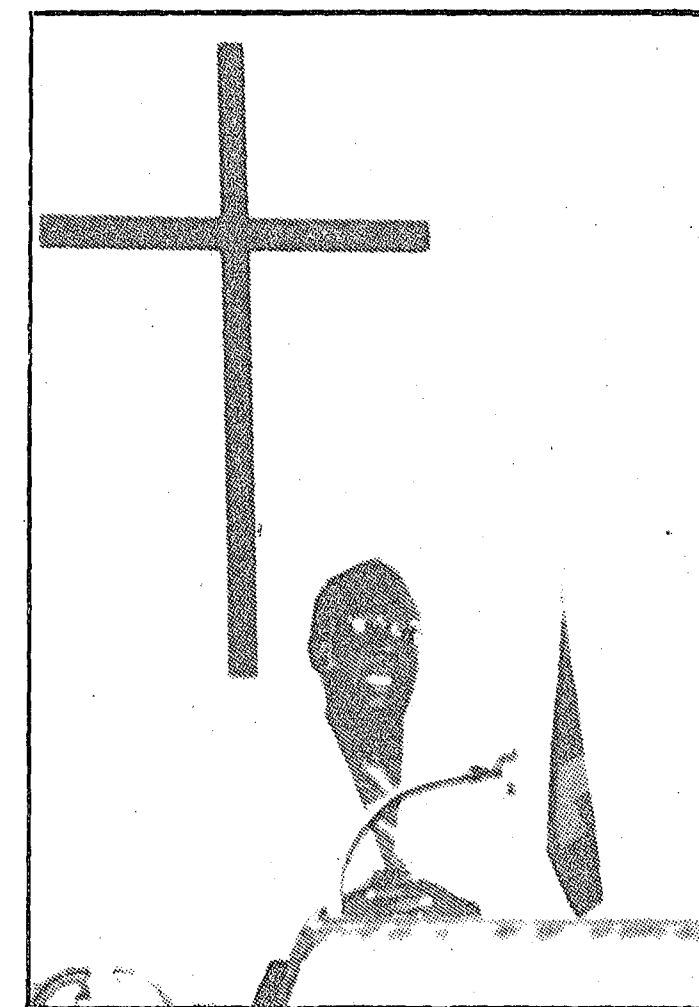
We also shared in worship and, as a matter of course, there was much group singing besides quartets, duets, and solos. Seventh Day Baptists are a singing people. When the singing is from the heart to God, the path of our beliefs will not stray far from the Biblical imperatives that are set forth. It was

Martin Luther who set the church to singing doctrine, for he believed that music and teaching were interwoven. “When morning gilds the sky to when evening draws nigh, let us sing.”

On Monday, the 22nd, a new slant concerning prayer was presented to us. The emphasis was that prayer was a way of listening and waiting on God. In a world full of words, the Word of God many times becomes one word among many words. With TV, radio, newspapers, sermons, Sabbath School, committee meetings and such things bombarding our minds, we need silence before God. Without distractions, we are able to see God’s Word and God’s people more clearly. Prayer should not be part of our business—it should be our business. We need to change every disciplined, ordered step or interruption into an opportunity. “Redeem the time because the days are evil.”

After the meetings and the renewing of friendships, after the words have been said and the songs sung, we realize that our warmest thoughts and innermost confessions fall so short of who or

what our incomprehensible God and his son Jesus are. So we sat together and shared the Lord’s Supper, focusing on that event that binds us to each other. “Oh, bind us together, bind us together...” Amen. **SR**



Joe Samuels



Pastors from all across the country came to Marlboro and Shiloh, New Jersey, for Ministers’ Conference.



## Riverside members take active role

by Doris H. Fetherston

On November 4, 1984, our church family gathered at the Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church to honor Pastor and Mrs. Wheeler for their 20-plus years of service to our church.

Pete and Nancy May had written a delightful life history of Alton and, as this was read, the story was enacted for us by several thespians whose talents had never before been realized. The program was recorded on tape, and that and a video camera were presented to the couple at the end of the program. They were also presented with twin quilts. Blocks had been distributed and 65 church families were represented. Many willing hands helped assemble the blocks and tie the quilts so they became truly an expression of our love. Then came a receiving line and delicious refreshments and a time of warm fellowship.

While Pastor Wheeler has given over the major duties of church leadership in Riverside, he still continues to work with Pastor Bejjani in the calling and counseling phase of our church ministry. God has also opened up new fields of service. At the request of the Denver church to our Pacific Coast Association, Pastor Wheeler was enlisted to help in Denver's undertaking to survey and nurture a missionary effort in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. Pastor and Ethel have been to Arizona three times and another trip was scheduled for May of this year. God is leading and blessing so that those who love him may reach out to others with his love.

God is also blessing our church with many new people seeking and hungry for the gospel and for the love and fellowship a church can offer. Pastor Bejjani has challenged us—each one—to have a part in answering this need. He is training workers weekly in a Lay Shepherding Ministry class. Pastor says, "I believe in the ability and varied gifts of the members of this church to lead in various roles of ministry."

Our youth had been requesting adult

leadership for some time. The church voted to hire Rick Perez as part-time Youth Pastor. Rick has had considerable experience in several fields of pastoring and at present is in school continuing his education. The youth are meeting for Bible study, prayer and sharing each Sabbath evening (Friday night). They also enjoy fun trips and parties and have a project of raising money for a new grand piano for the church.

April 20, 1985, was Youth Sabbath, and the youth led us in worship and several brought messages based on the scriptures concerning "Forgiveness." The service was a challenge and we thank and praise God for our youth.

One of the most exciting ventures being undertaken is the project of church relocation. A very active committee is working to locate a suitable site and real progress is being made. Our Pacific Pines Camp property and a residential property are for sale. God

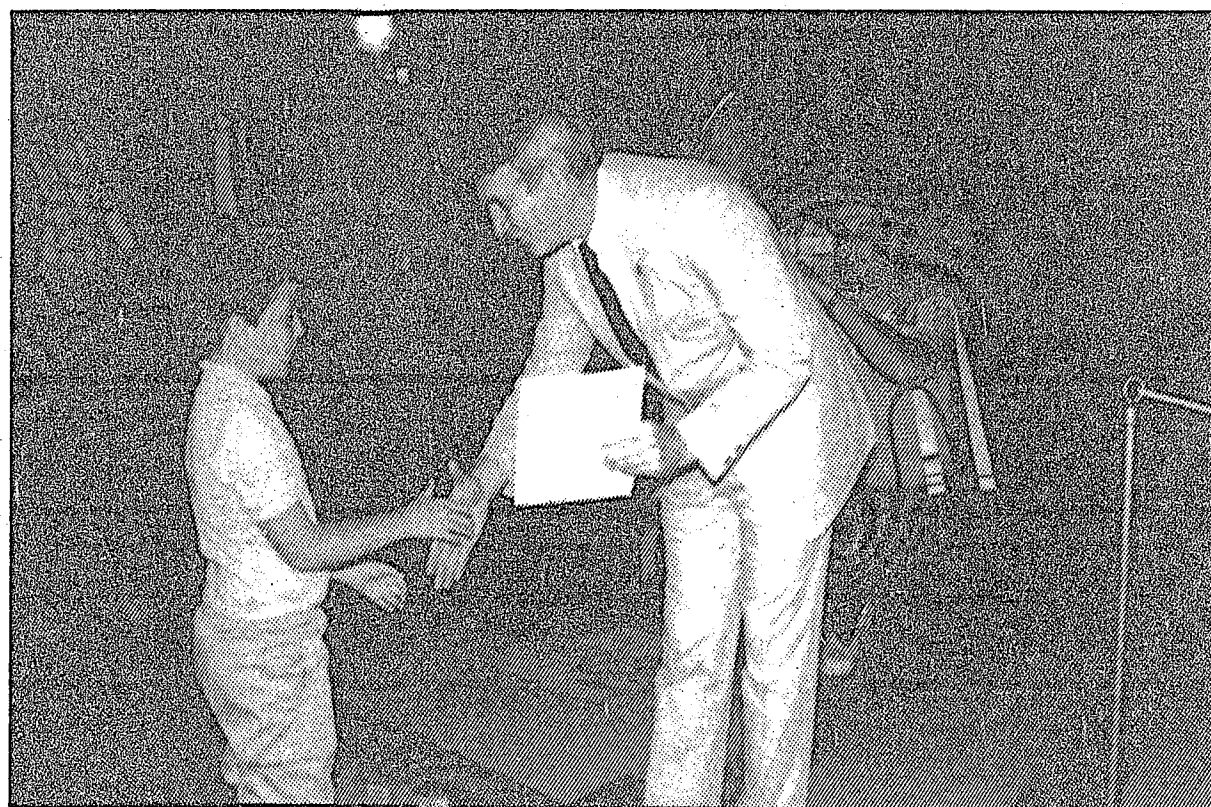
seems to be leading and blessing, and we truly believe he is honoring our desire to grow as a church and to bring his love and saving grace to others.

On Resurrection Sabbath, our choir presented the cantata "Alleluia" under the direction of Jenny Lewis. All who were there were uplifted by the beautiful music and the spiritual message.

We are blessed by having a number of our church members active in the work of General Conference. Victoria Burdick is now editor of *The Sabbath Visitor*, Dorothea Shettel is president of the Women's Board, Norman Burdick is a member of the General Council, a goodly number of our ladies are members of the Women's Board and several members are working on the Asian Interests Committee.

We all praise God for our Pastor Bejjani and his family who are so ably leading us in our efforts to fellowship together and to serve our Lord. SR

### Albion youth receives award



Ross Slagg, 8, of the Albion, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist Church, received the Governor's Youth Award for Bravery and a citation from the state's assembly recently after saving the life of a playmate.

Ross' friend, nine-year-old Brenda Krauter, fell through the ice of Lake Koshkonong while skating on Dec. 29, 1984. Ross crawled out onto the thin ice and held Brenda's hand until she was able to get up onto the ice.

Ross is the son of Ross and Barb (Green) Slagg of Charley Bluff, Wisconsin.

The Sabbath Recorder

## Pastors need our help

COSAR (Committee on Support and Retirement) is an elected committee of your General Conference whose job it is to aid and assist you and your church in supporting your pastor and all our pastors. It is the committee's job to see that our pastors receive adequate compensation to support their families and themselves while serving our churches and during retirement.

This year COSAR has had two meetings, one at Janesville, Wisconsin, in February and the other at Shiloh, New Jersey, in April. One of our concerns is to reactivate P.R.O.P. (Pastor's Retirement Offering Project). This program was to raise \$300,000 in three years. With the move to Janesville and poor economic conditions, we allowed this program to be put on the back burner. It is time we get the program back in full swing and raise our goal.

The purpose of P.R.O.P. is to raise funds so that we can meet the costs of adequate retirement benefits for our older pastors. To date, P.R.O.P. has raised \$88,000, of which half came from the Memorial Board and interest earned

support of all churches and members. The need is real and *your* support is needed. The committee has instituted an increase in benefits to retired pastors of approximately 13%, from \$5.75 to \$6.50 per month per year of service. We have also added another 50 cents to the \$6.50 on a temporary basis until we can determine whether the retirement fund can carry this load of payment on a continuing basis. This level of retirement benefits is still woefully inadequate for living in today's world. What it means is that a pastor who has served 40 years receives 40 times \$7.00, only \$280 per month. To do better requires money. We are promoting P.R.O.P. in order to keep the retirement fund sound and to be able to pay higher benefits.

It is not just the retired pastors that we are concerned with. We are also con-

cerned that a suitable package is paid each pastor so that the pastor can maintain an adequate standard of living. If pastors are to devote their time and energy to the work of the gospel, they must be free from financial worries. This means pastors ought to be compensated adequately. This means salary, living quarters or allowance, auto allowance, health insurance and other benefits. The fewer the financial problems, the more time your pastor has to do the Lord's work. Let us get our money's worth and let the pastor preach, teach, evangelize, etc., so that we can grow and meet the challenge God has for us. Support your pastor.

Our pastors, especially those who are retired, need our help. The question is a big one and an important one. Are we going to help and support our pastors? SR

## Beacon

Cont. from page 13.

In March we instituted a Friday night Bible study. In our Bible studies, we have studied forgiveness for five weeks and, at present, we are doing a six-week study of emotions in the Christian life. We are using the Bible, a small book written by Dr. James Dobson and a study guide.

Also in March, we visited a church in the area that is popular among the youth of Riverside and were impressed with their outreach to the community. Afterwards, we visited a local favorite ice cream parlor.

In April we celebrated Easter by going to a play about Christian vocation and life commitment at another popular church in our area. Even though the play was done by the youth of the local church, it was professionally done and impressive and included live music, both vocal and instrumental. The play was about two young people who met at Moody Bible Institute in

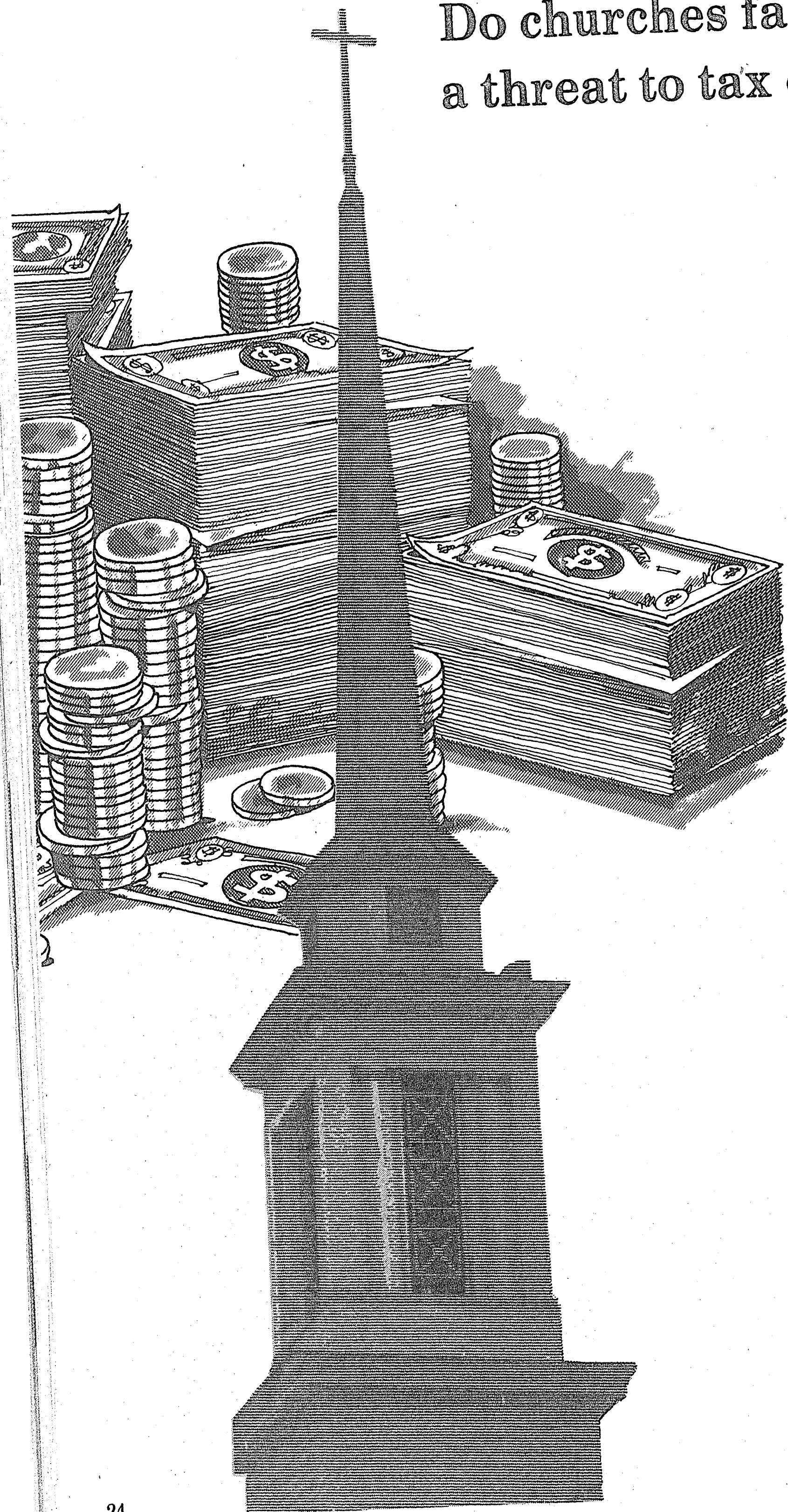
the twenties who later married and gave their lives to service in missions in the country of China and ultimately came to martyrdom. We spent the night together at our new youth pastor's house and, before sunrise, climbed the slopes of Mount Rubidoux for the annual sunrise service.

In May we left for the beach one Friday afternoon to eat, play volleyball, walk along the beach and close with evening sunset vespers, which included singing and Scripture reading. We look forward now to youth camp at Pacific Pines Camp in June and a summer of many more times together.

Also this June, I look forward to my first SCSC experience. I am excited and grateful for this Christian opportunity to learn and to serve. I continue to learn more about myself and about the Lord in my experience as a youth leader. All in all, it is both a challenging and rewarding experience. SR



## Do churches face a threat to tax exemption?



NASHVILLE, TENN. (BPA)—A trio of tax experts dissected the increasingly complicated area of tax exemption and churches during a Nashville meeting on Baptists and the history of church-state relations and warned religious institutions face hard times ahead.

All three—Nashville attorney James P. Guenther, National Council of Churches official Dean M. Kelley and South Carolina state official Flynn T. Harrell—found common ground by agreeing the American tradition of exempting churches from taxes is constitutional and makes good public policy sense. But in tone and approach, each presented a distinct viewpoint.

Guenther, among whose clients is the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, warned participants at the conference that local, state and federal governments “are frantic in their search for new revenues” due mainly to soaring federal deficits. “There is a growing willingness on the part of government to rethink all tax exemptions, including religious exemptions,” he declared.

He further warned that just as the courts and the public now accept that churches may be sued for damage along with corporations, churches should prepare for the prospect of a thoroughgoing reexamination of the philosophy of tax exemption for religious institutions.

One limitation already codified by Supreme Court decision, Guenther noted, rests on the principle that an “over-riding governmental interest”—such as the eradication of race discrimination—may cost religious schools their tax exemptions. That was the issue in the 1983 decision in *Bob Jones University v. U.S.*, he said.

“Now the churches, their institutions, and all the other charities of this country have been conscripted to achieve the public purpose,” Guenther declared. “If they don’t gee-haw with public policy, they lose their exemption.”

He declared further: “Our Baptist institutions exist not to parrot public policy but to proclaim and witness and

minister to a world of people with needs and hurts. Our institutions do not exist to serve the shifting ideas of what has been called ‘piety along the Potomac,’ but to serve the eternal truths of a higher kingdom.”

At the same time, Guenther urged Baptist institutions to claim tax privileges carefully, saying “Southern Baptists are in need of an apology for tax exemption” that is “theologically sound.” Such rationale is needed “right now as we try to address Congress in the midst of the current tax debate,” he said. But, he added, “If we are not careful, we’ll come off as simply another special interest group fighting to protect its selfish purposes.”

Arguing “Southern Baptists have in their church-state philosophy a tradition steeped in integrity,” Guenther said further: “We have said we will not trade free exercise of our religion for the beads and baubles of the great white father in Washington.”

While “the bottom line dollar argument may be an acceptable standard to the world,” he concluded, “I am not sure that it is to Christ’s church.”

Kelley, director of religious and civil liberty for the New York-based National Council of Churches of Christ, decried the Supreme Court reasoning in *Bob Jones* and another decision announced one day before the justices upheld revocation of the South Carolina school’s tax exemption two years ago. That reasoning was based on the novel legal idea that tax exemption amounts to a government subsidy.

While some may believe the court’s shift is “technical and of little practical importance,” Kelley warned, “they should contemplate a few of the long-term implications.” First among them, he said, is the principle that “if tax exemption can be denied or revoked for ‘violation of public policy,’ then that becomes a sword of Damocles hanging over every voluntary nonprofit citizen organization which might find itself in disagreement with the policies of an incumbent administration.”

Kelley, author of a 1977 book, *Why*

**“We have said we will not trade free exercise of our religion for the beads and baubles of the great white father in Washington.”**

*Churches Should Not Pay Taxes*, also asked “If tax exemption is a ‘subsidy,’ then may the courts not eventually conclude that churches are not entitled to it at all?”

He argued further that if the “subsidy” logic is followed, the legislature is

**“If tax exemption is a ‘subsidy,’ then may the courts not eventually conclude that churches are not entitled to it at all?”**

entitled to tax everything and “can discern how best to dispense such largesse.” The view also assumes tax exemption is “a favor granted to a private organization for performing public services the state would otherwise have to perform,” he charged, although it “is clearly inapplicable to churches, since they do not render a service which government (under the First Amendment) could supply if they did not.”

Kelley contrasted the “subsidy”—or “tax-expenditure”—theory with what he called the “tax-base” rationale, the view that nonprofit organizations are not taxed “because they do not produce wealth.”

Harrell, executive assistant for special projects to the attorney general of

South Carolina, told of his conclusion “that the time is propitious for... churches who can afford to do so to consider making some voluntary contribution, in lieu of taxes, for certain services received,” including water and sewage disposal, sanitation and trash pick-up, street maintenance, and fire and police protection.

“It is the right and just thing to do,” he insisted, “and it will enable us not to compromise our integrity.” At the same time, “it would confirm the principle of religious liberty and help to assure the continued freedom of churches to exert their prophetic influence upon public policy.”

While agreeing with another landmark Supreme Court decision, the 1970 decision in *Walz v. Tax Commission* upholding the constitutionality of local tax exemption for church property, Harrell underscored Guenther’s warning that in the immediate future, “Pressures will continue for a reexamination of the favored status of tax exempt property.”

That pressure is due in part, he said, to the fact that whereas in 1880 the percentage of estimated tax exempt property value in the U.S. was less than five percent, by 1968 it had risen to nearly one-third of the estimated of all real property, both urban and rural.

“I believe there will be growing sentiment for some contribution by churches and church-related organizations” for local services they now enjoy without cost, he declared.

SR 25



## Triple ordination held in Washington

by Leland E. Davis

May 18th was a memorable Sabbath in the Washington, D.C., church with the ordination of three new members to the Diaconate. They were William Melby, Brenda Harris, and Charlotte Rausch. Over 80 persons were present with delegates from the Central, Lost Creek and the two Salemville churches. The message was given by Pastor Dave Taylor of Lost Creek on "The Servant's Heart." A bountiful dinner provided rich fellowship around the tables.

With seven members now serving as deacons and deaconesses, the Washington church has set up an undershepherd plan with a ministry to families within the congregation. The goal is to develop a close-knit relationship of love and care among those of the household of faith.

The mid-week Bible Study Fellowship provides quality time not only for instruction in the Scriptures but also ample opportunity for a ministry in

intercessory prayer. New evidences are seen of God's power at work in making fragmented lives healthy and whole.

In April an extensive Teacher Training Seminar with seven sessions was completed with 18 persons receiving vital instruction under Gertrude Davis, chairman of the Board of Christian Education. Certificates of achievement were awarded. We trust that the knowledge and skills acquired will enable us to be more effective teachers at home as well as in Sabbath School, Vacation Bible School and summer camps.

The church librarian, Leroy Tsutsumi, is working tirelessly in setting up a workable library system that will provide a variety of Christian books for youth and also additional resource books for teaching staff.

The church nursery is being refurbished with fresh paint, additional furniture, and toys. A committee of seven has been appointed to work with Charlotte Rausch, chairman.

Last summer, the interior of the Washington church was repainted, including the living quarters for the pastor and rooms for guests. This summer, the installation of new drapes for the sanctuary and two adjoining classrooms is near completion.

Sixteen persons enjoyed the fellowship of laboring together at a recent work-day on the church facilities. Among noteworthy achievements was the installation of two new outdoor church signs in a "V" formation. This enables people in vehicles approaching from both directions to read the sign with six-inch letters at a distance of nearly one block away. We are deeply grateful to Margaret Taylor from Lost Creek, West Virginia, who skillfully painted and lettered the signs. Measuring four by eight feet, the well-designed and placed signs should give the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church much greater visibility in the capital city. SR

## Kansas church completes building improvements

by Juanita Wheeler

The church family is really enjoying all the improvements to and around the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church building.

The new cement ramp at the north of the church is widely used by all. The porch and front steps are cement, also, replacing the old wooden ones. Ramp, porch, and steps have black metal railings. Beautiful new wooden doors have been installed at the church entrance. At the top of each door is a small stained glass insert that matches very well the shape and design of the large window above the doors, and gives light in the vestibule. Part of the front walk has been replaced, too, and new grass seeding was done.

In addition to the convenience and beauty the improvements have added, they have helped insure the safety of all who come and go and have given new meaning and new direction to our Christian walk and service.

We call to remembrance that we assemble, then, for—

The promotion of righteousness;  
The comfort of all who mourn;  
Light to those who seek the way;  
The extension of the Kingdom of God.

The porch and steps remind us of Jesus' command "Follow Me." Psalm 85:13 tells us "Righteousness shall go before Him (the Lord); and shall set us in the way of His steps." May all come in the service of men and dedicate themselves to—

The glory of God the Father, who called us by his grace;  
The honor of his Son, who loves us and gave himself for us;  
The praise of the Holy Spirit, who illuminates and sanctifies us.

As we view the beautiful doors we

remember a promise Jesus gave us: "I am the Door; by me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." (John 10:9) We seek God's blessing on all who pass through these doors for the—

Worship of God in prayer and praise;  
Teaching and guiding the young;  
Hallowing of family life;  
Celebration of the holy sacraments.

As we note the ramp and railings, the thought comes to mind that Jesus not only said "Come Unto Me," but also told us "Go out in the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:23) Outside our church doors is the mission field. Let us, therefore, go out in—

The unity of faith;  
The charity of good will;  
The bond of Christian brotherhood;  
Full surrender to God's will. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

## Samuel Ward

Cont. from page 7.

were at war; and so he was one of the earliest to propose that certain military actions be taken that were regarded as reckless by some of his colleagues. In any case there is no doubt that Governor Ward was one of the leaders of the Continental Congress.

Ward's correspondence with General Washington in the field indicates that Washington regarded Ward as his personal emissary to the Continental Congress. Ward says to Washington in one of his letters, "I, Sir, have dedicated to you my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor." These words, as you noted, are in the last sentence of the Declaration of Independence; and I think some good scholar could trace some other of Ward's statements in the Declaration of Independence. He was a personal friend of Jefferson, of Adams; and his special friend was Benjamin Franklin who many times visited him in his home and with whom he carried on a lifelong correspondence.

In any case, while the Continental Congress was in session an epidemic of smallpox broke out in Philadelphia and many of the delegates to the Congress were inoculated. This was in the early days of inoculation when it meant that you had to be deathly ill for two weeks and hope that you would live. It was still the best way to avoid the smallpox, but it meant you had to resign yourself to sickness for some time. The other delegate from Rhode Island, Mr. Hopkins, decided to be inoculated. Ward decided that since his colleague was to be out of action he had to push through his efforts to secure a navy. So week after week he continued to postpone his inoculation, always convinced that he had so much else to do that he could not do this. And on the 15th of March in 1776 the chairman was taken ill while he was presiding over the Continental Congress. And on the 25th of March, 10 days later, Governor Ward died of smallpox at the age of 51.

I wish we could see in our mind's eye the entire Continental Congress with black bands on their arms, going in

solemn procession to the funeral of their friend Sam Ward. The Baptist minister, Mr. Stillman, gave the address. And, of course, at that occasion

*You and I should realize how prominent a part Seventh Day Baptists played in the American Revolution and in the independence of the Thirteen Colonies.*

we could see in our mind's eye all these persons: Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Adams, Benjamin Franklin—all of them his personal friends.

I think that the importance of all this is that you and I should realize how prominent a part Seventh Day Baptists played in the American Revolution and in the independence of the Thirteen Colonies. I will close with this statement that Governor Ward wrote to his brother Henry about the impending Revolution:

"When I first entered this contest with Great Britain, I extended my view through the various themes that my judgment pointed out to me. I saw clearly that the last act of this cruel tragedy would close in fields of blood. I have traced the progress of this unnatural war through burning towns, devastation of the country, and every subsequent evil. I have realized with regard to myself the bullet, the bayonet, the halter. And compared with the immense object I have in view they are less than nothing. No man living, perhaps, is more fond of his children than I am; and I am not so old as to be tired of life. And yet as far as I can judge the tenderest connection and the most private concerns, they are minute objects. Heaven save my country! I was going to say this is my first, my last, and almost my only prayer." 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.



Appeal of the Participants  
in the 43rd Congress of Evangelical  
Christians-Baptists in the USSR  
to All the Christians  
of the World

Dear brothers and sisters in the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ:

We, delegates to the 43rd All-Union Congress of Evangelical Christians-Baptists held in Moscow on March 21-23, 1985, greet all of you in the name of him, "which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8).

The theme of our 43rd Congress was: "Let your light shine before men" (Mt. 5:16). For three days we had the possibility to discuss and reflect on these words, and we call upon all the Christians to be more deeply committed to proclaiming the Gospel to the sinners, to the ministry of charity to our neighbors and those who are far from us.

Surveying the way we have covered for the recent five years we joyfully find many blessings of God, which took the form of conversion to God of about 40,000 new souls and distribution of more than 120,000 copies of the Bibles, New Testaments, and hymnbooks among our believers.

We thank God for the fact peace has been maintained in Europe for 40 years. At the same time we are deeply alarmed by the aggravation of international tension and the ever-increasing threat of nuclear holocaust.

We are glad that the government of our great nation, which is constantly striving for world peace, has made a very important and responsible non-first use decision, and we urge you, as our fellow believers, to prompt your governments to join this decision.

We are quite agreed with the words of Dr. Duke McCall, president of the Baptist World Alliance who said: "We know that the Lord has given us the sacred gift of life, and for this reason we should oppose any manifestation of the arms race, we should implement the mutually verifiable arms reduction program until all the swords are beaten into plowshares (Is. 2:4)."

This is an arduous way demanding much patience and courage from us, but this is the way of peacemaking we are called to go through by our Teacher and Lord who said: "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Dear friends! God created the heaven and the earth. David the Psalmist exclaims: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork" (Ps. 18:2). It is painful and horrible to hear that the United States are working out plans of deploying nuclear weapons in the outer space. It must not be permitted. The dates of our Congress have coincided with the beginning of the new US-USSR talks in Geneva on the non-deployment of nuclear weapons in the outer space. Let us pray incessantly for the success of these talks that humanity may finally utter a sigh of relief.

This year will see the 40th anniversary of the victory of our people and our allies in World War II and the 10th anniversary of signing the Helsinki Final Act on security measures and confidence building in Europe by heads of states, and we call upon the Christians all over the world to intensify their prayers for peace and cooperation among nations and preserving the sacred gift of life from nuclear catastrophe.

On the eve of the great feast of Christ's resurrection we greet all of you, dear brothers and sisters, with the ancient appeal: Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!

With fraternal love,  
Participants in the 43rd Congress  
of Evangelical Christians-Baptists

Moscow, AUCECB  
March 23, 1985

## Baptists—don't deny your history

by Stan Hasteley

NASHVILLE, TENN. (BPA)—Declaring contemporary Baptists "are marching under the scrutiny of history," a prominent pastor challenged fellow Baptists to "fight to the finish against...pernicious and pretentious revisions and denials of our heritage."

In the concluding address to a conference on Baptists and the history of church-state relations sponsored by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Historical Society and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Detroit pastor Charles G. Adams electrified his audience with a challenge to preserve the Baptist legacy of religious freedom.

"Too much blood has been shed, too many sacrifices for freedom have been made for us casually to surrender our history and our hope," the Harvard-educated pastor of Detroit's Hartford Memorial Baptist Church declared. "We must not allow anyone to revise history to pervert it, or revise the news so that no criticisms of state will be published, or revise reality so that evil is defined as good and good is castigated as evil."

He added: "In these days of euphoric, self-congratulatory, nationalistic, racialistic and religionistic narcissism, we do well to remember our Baptist his-

tory and the atrocities that our forbearers suffered...."

A former chairman of and current Progressive National Baptist Convention representative to the Baptist Joint Committee, Adams said "one of God's greatest gifts to humanity is the gift of historical consciousness," which he called "the ability to investigate, commemorate and celebrate the past as we work in the present and look toward the future."

He suggested, nevertheless, "that we may not be as much in charge of our history as our history is in charge of us," adding: "It is not so much we who examine history as it is history which examines us. It is not so much that we evaluate the past as it is that we are evaluated by the past. For better or worse, we must live our days under the telling searchlight of the inexorable past."

As for Baptists, Adams said, "We are living under the invisible watch of Baptist pioneers. We are serving under the judgment of Thomas Helwys, Roger Williams and Isaac Backus. We are marching under the scrutiny of history."

Pointing to those and other early Baptists who fought to apply the biblical doctrine of freedom to political life in the United States, Adams warned: "The separation between church and

state which guarantees both civil liberty and the free exercise of religion is now being surrendered ironically by the contemporary descendants of those who gave it to us in the first place."

He identified a half dozen key church-state issues on some of which "Baptists are dangerously divided and confused," including prayer in public schools, tuition tax credits, "court stripping," the proposed constitutional convention, an ambassador to the Vatican, and use of public funds for Christian religious observances.

On proposals for a constitutional amendment to return to the days of state-sponsored prayer in public schools, Adams demanded, "Is there any doubt where Baptists ought to stand?" He answered: "Any cursory perusal of our history will determine our stance against state compulsion of any religious practice. Prayer must be left uncoerced and unenforced. It is voluntary, spiritual, personal and a matter of conscience. It is not to be defined, prescribed or imposed by the government."

He added: "Baptists of today must know the rock from which they are hewn and declare to this nation struggling with a crisis of identity, 'We need no help from Congress, no preachments from the president, no public referendum about where to pray, when to pray or who shall pray.' Prayer is not on the government's agenda nor should it be; prayer is grounded in faith, allegiance to God, surrender to one's highest and ultimate concern. Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, not the government's instrument of regimentation and conformity."

Adams told the audience of historians and other students of Baptist history, "The worst thing that a Baptist or an American can do is to forget, to lose our God-given historical consciousness." Recalling the preacher described in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, he paraphrased the ancient message: "If we remember what the Lord did in Egypt and what the Lord did in America to set the captives free, we will do the right thing...if we remember and are instructed and inspired by the scrutiny of our history."

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SR

*Prayer is the soul's sincere  
desire, not the government's  
instrument of regimentation and  
conformity.*



## Accessions

Columbus, Ohio  
Perry Cain, Pastor

Joined after Testimony:  
Bob Griffin  
Vivian Griffin  
Bobby Jones, Jr.

Los Angeles, California  
Duane L. Davis, Pastor

Joined after Testimony:  
Beverly Davis  
Cory Remick  
Debby Remick  
Ralph Remick

Riverside, California  
Gabriel Bejjani, Pastor

Joined after Baptism:  
Richard Perez  
Dorothy Perez  
Barbara Perez

Joined after Testimony:  
Larry Dunaway  
Sally Dunaway  
Younan Dawood  
Sandra Dawood  
Randy Hicks  
Debbie Hicks  
Kurt Berg  
Richard Paul Perez

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

Joined after Baptism:  
Twan Bridges

Joined after Testimony:  
Maria Hall

## Marriages

Owen-Ames.—Brian Lane Owen, son of Paul and Floy Owen, Jr., of Glendale, California, and Leslie Dian Ames, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ames of Salinas, California, were united in marriage on April 20, 1985, at Salinas.

Irwin-Stenard.—Mark Irwin, son of Donna and King Irwin of Adams Center, New York, and Karen Stenard, daughter of Lawyer and Mrs. Stenard of Watertown, New York, were married April 26, 1985, at the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. They were united in marriage by close friends of the groom, Tom Bushey and Michael Bartholomew, both of the Faith Fellowship Church of Watertown, New York.

## Births

Owen.—A son, Jonathan James Owen, was born to Paul and Jan Owen, III, of Montrose, California, on May 8, 1985.

## Obituaries

**Hopkins.**—Jeannie May (Durfee) Hopkins of Rockville, Rhode Island, died unexpectedly March 28, 1985, in her home at the age of 53. She was born in Charlestown, Rhode Island, on October 7, 1931, a daughter of the late William and Katherine (Peckham) Durfee.

Jeannie is survived by a son, William B. Hopkins of Rockville; a daughter, Juanite Edwards of Hope Valley, Rhode Island; three brothers, Edward Durfee of Hope Valley, Samuel Durfee of Westerly, Rhode Island, and Carl Durfee of Bradford, Rhode Island; two sisters, Charlotte Parker and Arlene Brayman, both of Westerly; and a granddaughter, Jeanine Edwards of Hope Valley. Jeannie was a member of the Rockville Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Funeral services were held March 31, 1985, at the Avery Funeral Home in Hope Valley, with Pastor Dale E. Rood officiating. Interment is in Pine Grove Cemetery, Hope Valley. DER

**Saltarelli.**—Bertha (Williams) Saltarelli, who was born June 21, 1901, died April 20, 1985, in Utica, New York. She was married to Paul O. Saltarelli in 1941. He died in 1982.

Bertha, who was a registered nurse and supervisor of Faxton Hospital, Utica, was baptized and joined the Verona, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

## Shiloh news

Cont. from page 18.

give our Pastor John needed assistance and will give our congregation a new perspective on some issues. Finally, Pastor Mays will learn of our S.D.B. idiosyncrasies (yes, we do!) before he is put into a "sink-or-swim" position of leading a church unsupervised. In fact, the close proximity of the Marlboro church may give him first-hand insight into the fact that no two S.D.B. churches operate the same way! In any event, the entire denomination should ultimately benefit from this experience.

As I ponder Shiloh's relationship with the Marlboro church in recent months, I look ahead to summer events which we will share: Vacation Bible School, our traditional Joint Communion at Shiloh in July with a message from the Marlboro pastor (reversing place and pastor in January), and three sessions of Jersey Oaks Camp. Then, in the fall, our Friday evening youth groups will begin their ninth year of community service with several Marlboro children attending and occasional adult leadership from their parents. And, with a special committee hard at work, there may be even more special events for us to share in the coming months! SR

## Women's Society

Cont. from page 17.

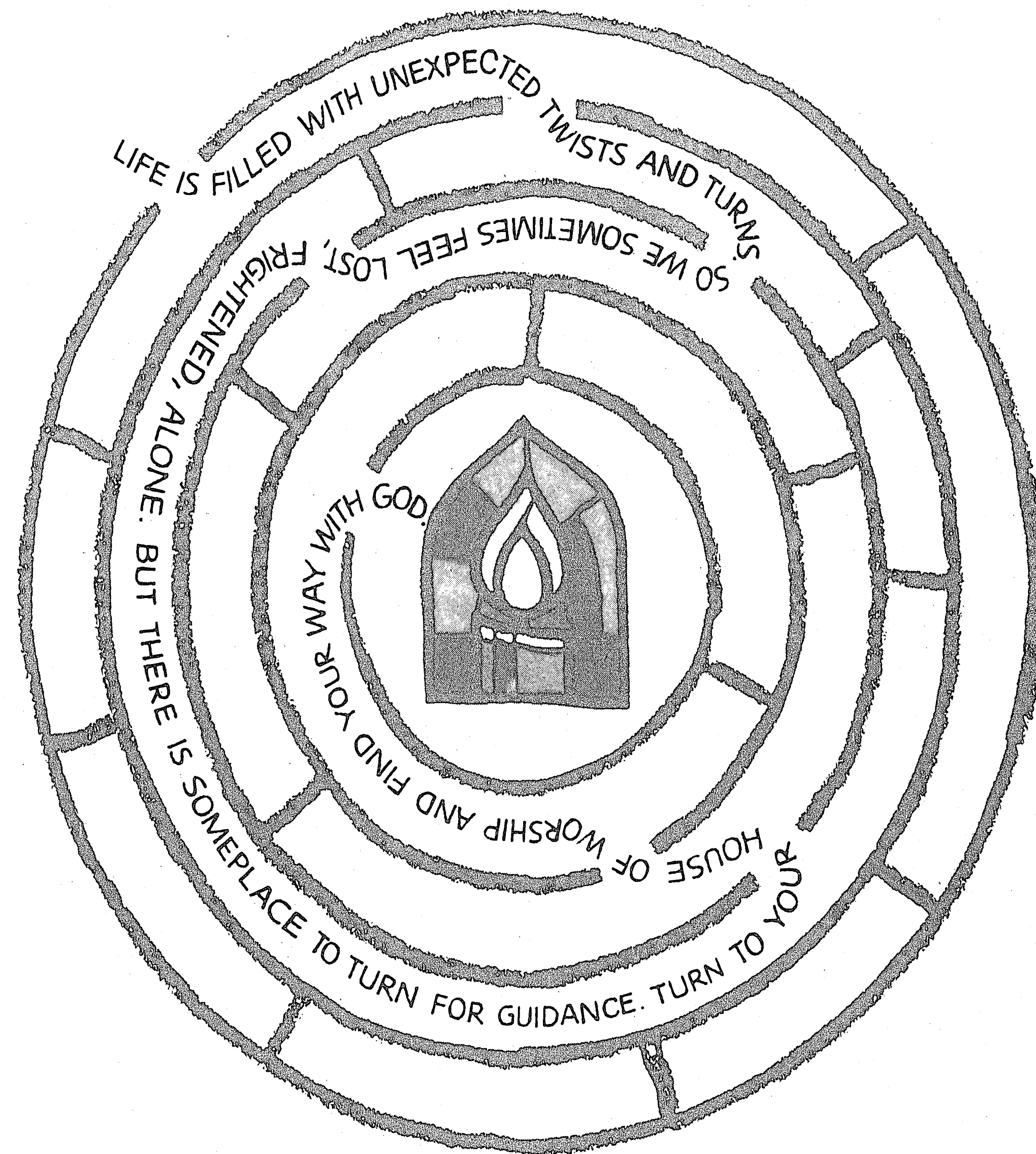
over the years, and 15¢ if you did not pray for your pastor. Also, another 15¢ if you did not study your Sabbath School lesson, and 20¢ if you complain about the weather. Now they are getting down to heavy giving. That is enough for this month.

From the Denver bulletin comes this suggestion. "A study reveals that 90% of new members will stay in the congregation if (1) they can articulate their faith, (2) they belong to subgroups such as Sabbath School, choir or home Bible Study and (3) they have 4-8 friends in the church." How about being one of those friends and inviting them to join your women's group? That makes you two solutions and may help with the third.

Until next month, be the salt that makes the world thirsty. See you at Conference.

Love,

The Sabbath Recorder



**RIAL**  
RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE.





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# National YF Photo Contest

For Calendar to be Sold at Conference '86

## RULES

1. Age groups: 12-16, 17-22
2. Categories for pictures: Camp/Youth Fellowship Activities  
Religious Objects
3. Black and White glossy prints only.
4. Minimum photo size: 3 inches by 3 inches.
5. Mail photo between two cardboard pieces.
6. Identify each picture; put your birthdate, name and address on entry coupon.
7. Deadline: December 31, 1985.
8. Prizes:  
First Prize—Picture in calendar and \$35.00 toward Pre-Con or Conference expense.  
Second Prize—Picture in calendar and \$20.00 toward Pre-Con or Conference expense.
9. Send to:  
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Alfred, New York 14802

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August 1985

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