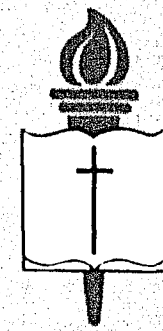


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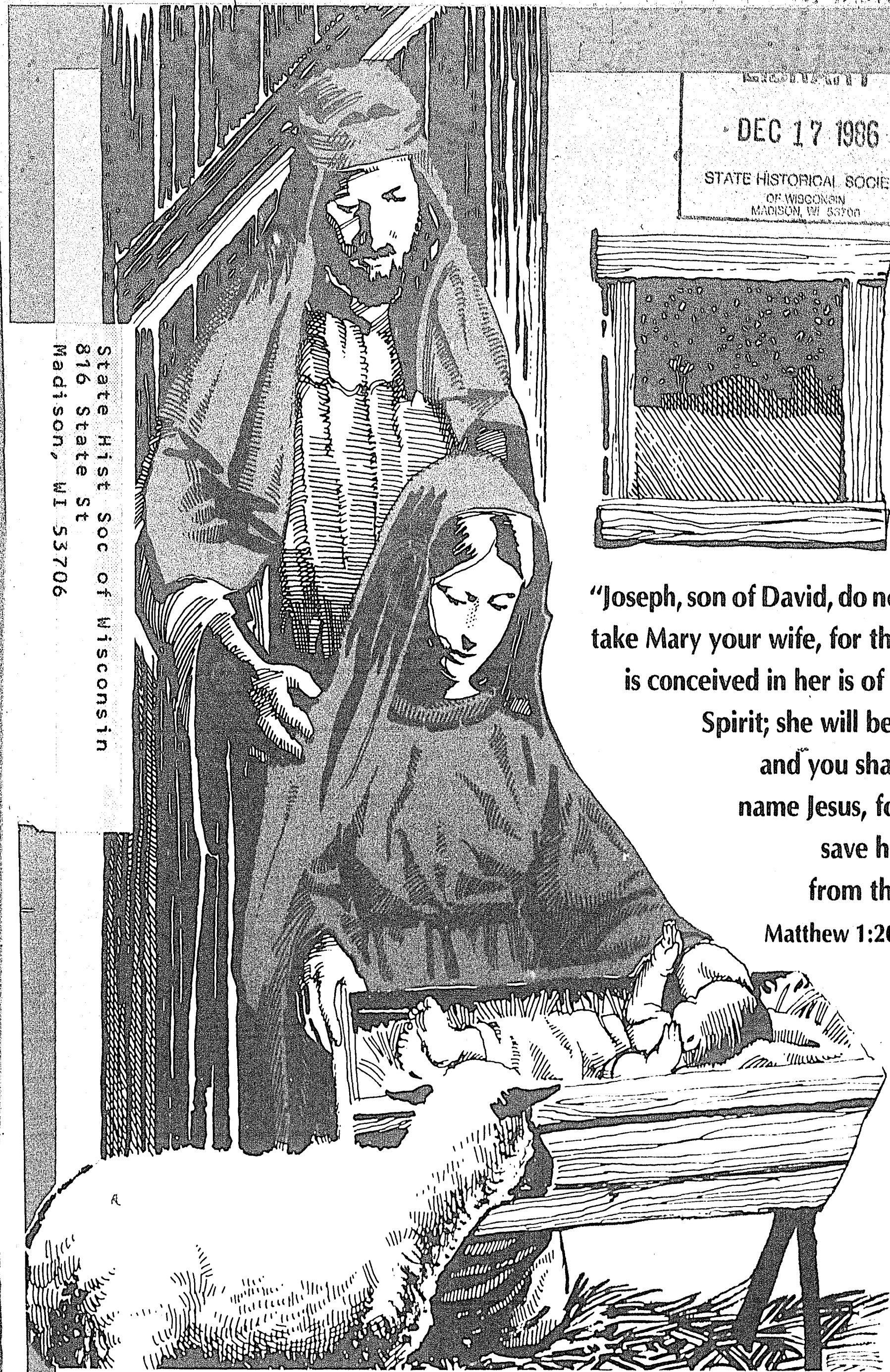


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616 State St
Madison, WI 53706



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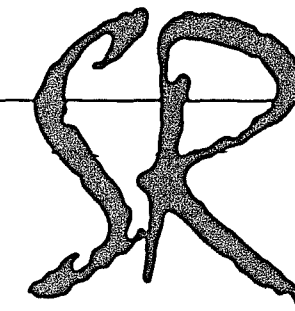
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Matthew 1:20-21 (RSV)

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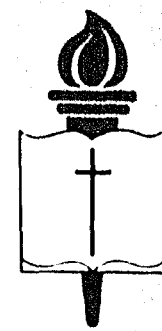
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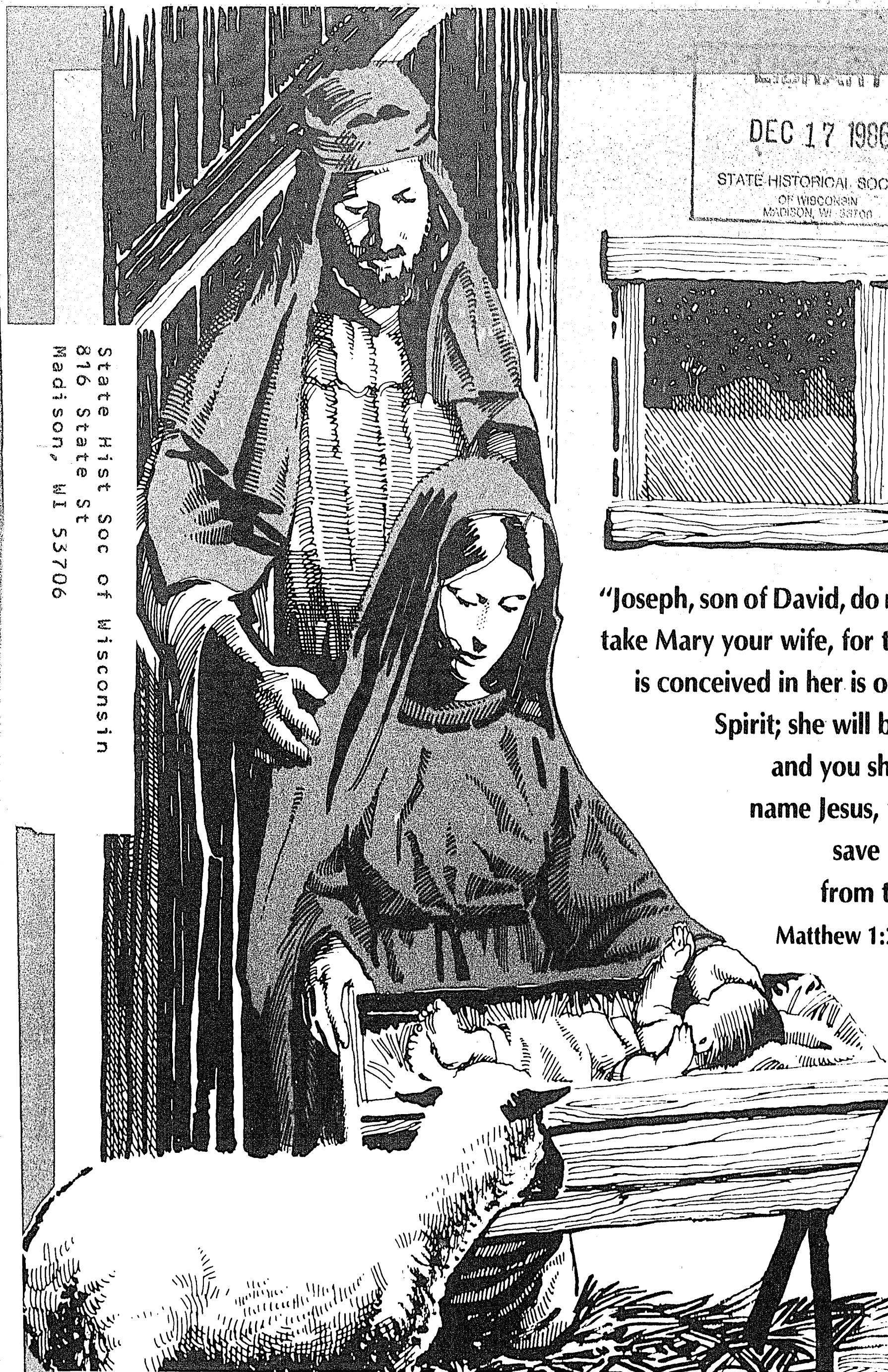


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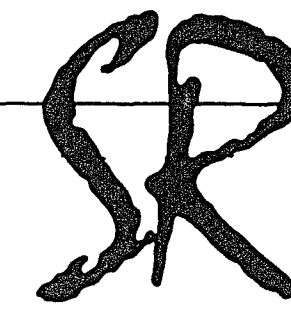
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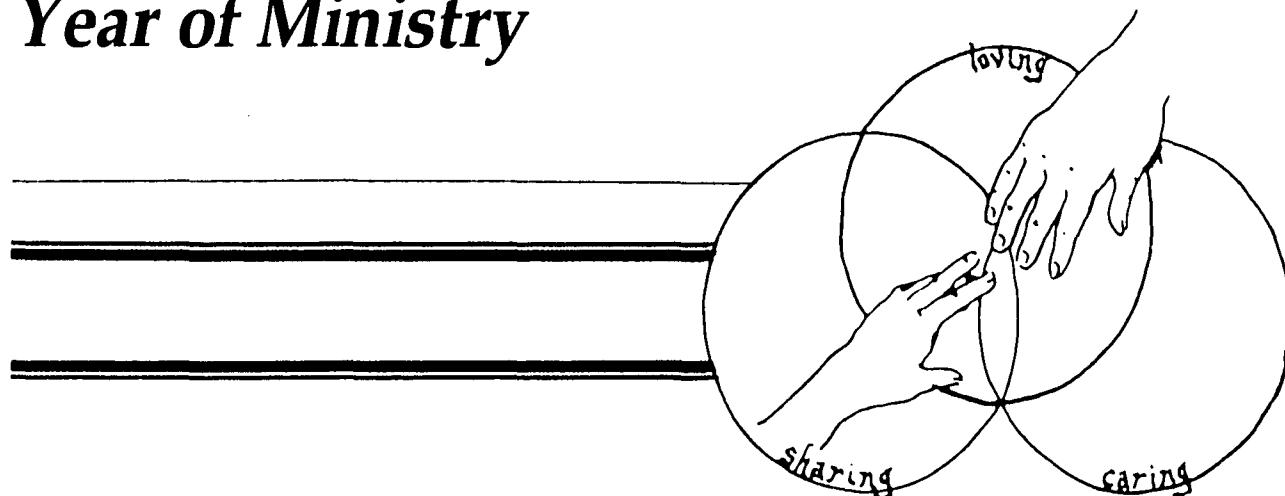
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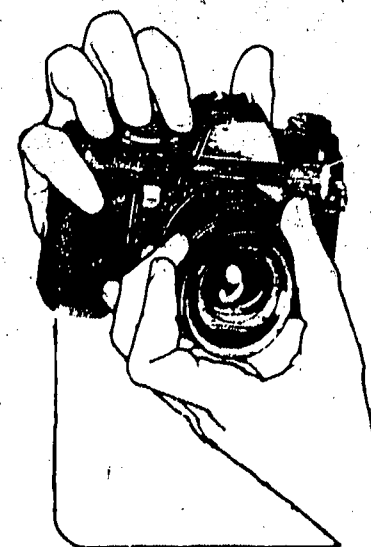
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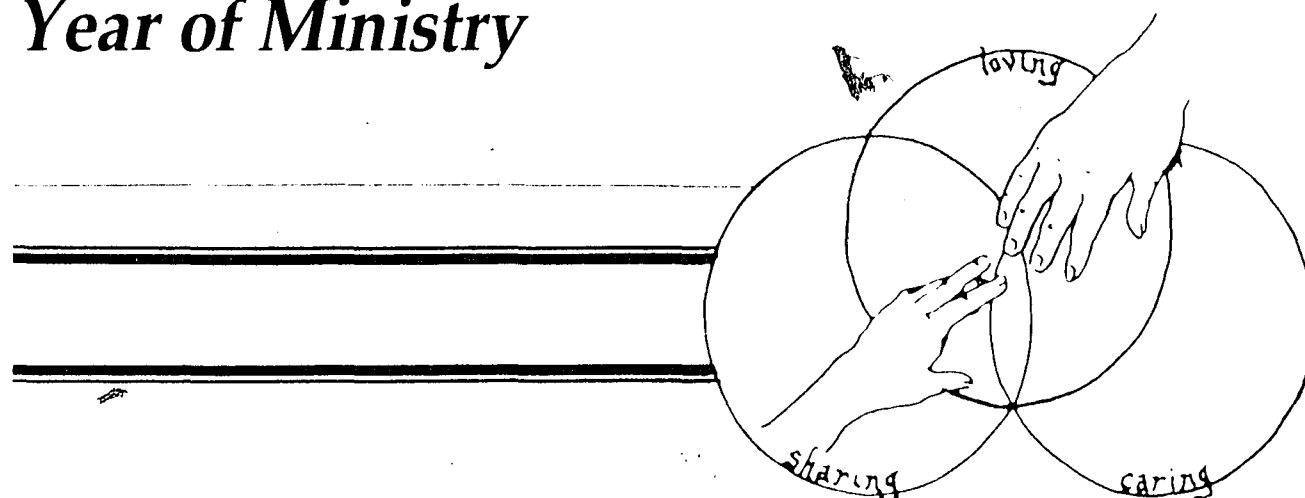
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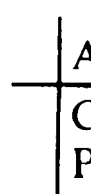
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I can remember, when I was a child, how we used to get the Sears catalogue at our home. I had great expectations. I do not know what *you* did with a Sears catalogue when it came to your home as a child, but I know what *I* used to do. I would take that catalogue, and I would go to my room and pretend that somebody had just said to me, "You may have one item from every page in this catalogue."

Skipping over the women's pages in the front, I would sit there with a piece of paper and write down one item from every page, and I would put down the price. Talk about great expectations! I had a house filled with absolutely incredible "stuff."

As I grew closer to adulthood, I had some other expectations.

One time, when I was travelling for the Center on Ministry, I spent a four-hour layover in—of all places—Las Vegas, Nevada. Lynne Skaggs Balog, who is Victor and Ardale Skaggs' daughter, lived there with her family, and I got in touch with them. They picked me up at the airport, and we got together for lunch. Now you talk about great expectations. It is enough to just sit there and eat lunch, but up on the wall was this huge Lotto board. I would say that about 50 percent of the people who were eating lunch were also playing Lotto. Great expectations! I am reminded of those people who have \$10 million dollar lottery winnings, or the man in Chicago who won \$34 million dollars. Do you know what *he* did? He refused to take the money. Why? He bought the ticket and it had his name on it, but all his family was involved. A lawyer told him that if he could get the authorities to pay the money to the members of his family, he would not have to pay so many taxes. Greed took over. His great expectations, all of a sudden, exploded into a sense of greed.

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We all have great expectations. We also have those great expectations in our faith. They are known as the promises of God.

"All things work together for good to those that love the Lord." How often have you used that phrase?

"The Lord is good unto all them that wait upon him, to the soul that seeks him." "How much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him." "Whosoever believes on him shall have everlasting life." "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. I will never leave you or forsake you." "Praise be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

You talk about great expectations! That is what we expect as Christian people. On and on, we can read those promises of God, and we trust God to be faithful to his promises.

We expect a lot from God. We expect him to comfort us when we grieve; we expect him to forgive us when we sin; we expect him to heal us when we are ill; we expect him to give us courage when we are frightened; we expect to get hope when despair threatens; we expect him to love us when we think no one else does; we expect him to strengthen us when weakness sets in; we expect him to inspire us, and move us, and revive us. He is God. After all, isn't that his business?

Then, all of a sudden, something happens. Our faith wavers, our confidence is shaken by some difficulty, our great expectations are shattered by problems we have or by circumstances that are beyond our control, or by other peoples' expectations, or with illness or death, or any of a multitude of uncertain events. And all of a sudden we cry out to God, "But you promised!"

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confronted and accepted, surrendered to the Lord and placed at his disposal for what he wants to teach us or change in us in our relationships, will become a source of deeper fellowship with him and an opportunity for our growth in grace.

If that is true, how do we deal with our problems and still hold onto our great expectations? How do we believe in spite of circumstances? How do we trust God completely and still face difficulties? I think the answer to that question lies in our preparation. The answer lies not in

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God expects a lot from us.

Several years ago, in Plainfield, New Jersey, in a sermon entitled, "Compound Promises," we talked about how God says "I will do this for you if you will do this for me." Whether we like it or not, God expects great things from us. He has great expectations about our lives. "Draw near to God, and [then] he will draw near to you." "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and [then] all these things will be added unto you." "Ask and [then] you will receive." "Seek and [then] you will find." "Knock and [then] the door will be opened unto you."

We have great expectations from God. What about his great expectations from us?

Paul writes about this in his second letter to Timothy, and he speaks to us as we enter another Sabbath School season. I believe that if we want help, if we want God to bless each and every one of us, we need to fulfill his great expectations from us. Paul says, "Rekindle the gift of God that is within you." (2 Tim. 1:6)

We cannot rest on our laurels anymore. As I was preparing for teacher training, I came upon a quotation that says, "A teacher that stops learning, stops teaching."

What brought you to Jesus? What brought you to that moment when you were able to say "yes" to God? I would assume that it was probably sound teaching. But sound teaching will also revive your spirit. Sound teaching will also give guidance for your life, answer your questions, and deal with your problems as an adult. *Gifted people* attend Sabbath School. Paul says, "Know whom you have believed." (2 Tim. 1:12)

Belief comes from knowledge, and knowledge comes from understanding, and understanding comes from the word of God. How can we know Jesus if we do not constantly grow by his example, study his words, listen to what he has to say to us? He promises that we will know him and love him. That requires learning. It requires seeking. *Believers* attend Sabbath School. Paul says, "Follow the pattern of sound words and guard the truth." (2 Tim. 1:13)

God has so much to offer each and everyone of us. We have that old cliché, "Practice makes perfect." A talented team will only be a good and successful team if they know the playbook and practice. The same thing is true of the Christian team. We must know the Bible (the playbook), and then we must practice what we know. *Team members* attend Sabbath School. Paul says, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15)

None of us have arrived. There is not

one of us who can say that we have arrived spiritually. We do not know all we need to know about God. We do not know all we need to know about faith. We do not know all we need to know about the spiritual answers to life's problems. How can we expect our children to believe that learning is important if we stop learning? Sabbath School for children is only as effective, I believe, as the involvement of the adults in Sabbath School. *Bible students* attend Sabbath School. Paul says, "Continue in what you have learned, in what you know and who you learned it from." (2 Tim. 3:14)

We have all had wonderful teachers. How about Byron Rood, or J. Fred Whitford, or Gladys Lippincott, or Aunt Etta Babcock, or Margaret Ochs, or Marjorie Burdick, or Mary Van Horn, or Sylvia Burdick, and many more. They gave us sound teaching and a good base for Christian living, and we are here because of them. A person who does not grow, retreats. We are all aware that what we stop using, we lose.

I was listening to 20/20 on television. Jesse Jackson had just returned from South Africa. We may not agree with his interpretation of the South African situation, but there was one thing that he said that really caught my attention. "You can't teach what you don't know, and you can't lead where you don't go." *Fellow learners* attend Sabbath School. Paul says, "Be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:17)

While we were driving to conference, we went by a Flexsteel trailer. (This is the company that makes the metal strips that are at the bottom of furniture.) On the side of the trailer was this motto: "Fine furniture begins on the inside."

Fine Christians begin on the inside—with God's word hid in our hearts, our minds challenged by debate and discussion, our wills are transformed. Paul says, "Be not conformed to this world, but

be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and perfect and acceptable." (Rom. 12:2) *Workers* attend Sabbath School. Paul says—in chapter four, verse five—that we are to fulfill our ministry. *All of us* are ministers. *All of us* are a part of this body of Christ. *All of us* need to go and develop and mature. If one of us does not do that, then the rest of the body hurts.

The study of God's word, faithfully, will lead us into a ministry we never dreamed possible. *Ministers of Christ* attend Sabbath School.

By now, you may have gotten the impression that I am encouraging all of us to attend Sabbath School. It remains a central theme in the history of our churches. The Bible and the Ten Commandments are also central themes, and the scroll and the lamp are familiar symbols. "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God." "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Is that true for everyone of us today? I believe—and I am becoming more and more convinced all the time—that Sabbath School is the most important vehicle for the growth of our churches. It is the most important vehicle for evangelism, spiritual maturity, fellowship, and for helping every one of us to be able to solve life's problems. You are all invited to attend Sabbath School. God wants to teach us. He wants to fill us to overflowing with every possible understanding of his will that he can give us. Let us go to class with great expectations.

SR

How can we expect our children to believe that learning is important if WE stop learning?



Reflecting on God's favor

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests"
(Luke 2:14)

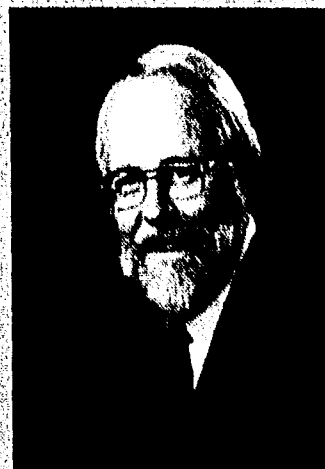
The above passage from the hymn of joy sung by the angels at the coming of the baby Jesus into the world some 2,000 years ago sets the tone for this end-of-the-year article. Indeed, we as Seventh Day Baptists can look back on 1986 as people "on whom his favor rests" and can look forward to 1987 with joy and anticipation.

Highlights of 1986

In 1986 we began the T.I.M.E. Project under the leadership of Rev. Rodney Henry. We have watched the development of each new training module and have experienced with those 16 pastors participating some of the joy and confidence as they develop their ministry skills. In March and April most SDB ministers and students (66) came together in three different area workshops studying "The Emerging Seventh Day Baptist Church" and discussing the nature, purpose and ministry of the SDB Church of the future.

In 1986 the Board of Christian Education has produced for us some exciting new material for our churches' educational ministry. The new High School Nurture Series has been produced by Rev. John and Linda Camenga. The Primary Nurture Series has been very colorfully revised under the leadership of RuthAnne Peil.

by Executive Secretary
Dale D. Thorngate



Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr., executive director of the Board of Christian Education, and Rev. Kenneth Chroniger have developed the Natural Evangelism Training program which is designed as a practical tool to teach evangelism and effective church membership for Seventh Day Baptists.

Our young people can feel much encouraged as Matthew Olson accepted the call to become the director of youth ministry. His work focuses exclusively on the young people of the denomination—the future of our churches.

Conference celebration

In August we gathered representatives from all 16 Seventh Day Baptist conferences around the world at Westerly, Rhode Island, to celebrate our

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This joy and feeling of expectancy spilled over into our annual General Conference sessions. I believe many sense that God has a renewed vision and life for us as his people. During these sessions we accepted two new churches into the conference and accredited four new ministers. We approved the new bylaws, voted to merge the American Sabbath

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This year of 1986 has truly been a year of excitement and accomplishment. I wonder what God has in store for us in 1987.

Approaching 1987 with prayer

In October I attended a two-week seminar at Fuller Theological Seminary on Spirituality and Ministry. This course is the first of several to be completed as I work on my Doctor of Ministry Degree program, each phase related to some aspect of our denominational ministry. Although this is not a required course and I might not have chosen it if a leadership course had been offered at the same time, I am very glad that it was first. I have learned a great deal about myself and my spiritual needs in the last several months as I have prepared for this course. I will be continuing to read and will be preparing a paper and work project into 1987 to be completed by April.

As I have been working developing my spiritual life, I have discovered a great deal about the importance of prayer in the life of the Christian. In a discussion of the different spiritual disciplines, Dr. Roberta Hestenes, the seminar director at Fuller, indicated that prayer, although it is

Prayer, although it is a discipline, is not an option. An essential part of the life of the Christian is prayer.

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You will be hearing more from me in 1987 about prayer and our spiritual lives. As we reflect with gratefulness to God on the joyous events and accomplishments of 1986, let us also look toward 1987, expecting peace in our Lord Jesus Christ and anticipating the future of joy and fulfillment in the great love of God who has been with us in the past. Let us begin the new year, joining with our brothers and sisters around the world, January 4-10, in the Seventh Day Baptist Week of Prayer. SR

1987



Partnership in Ministry

Reflecting on God's favor

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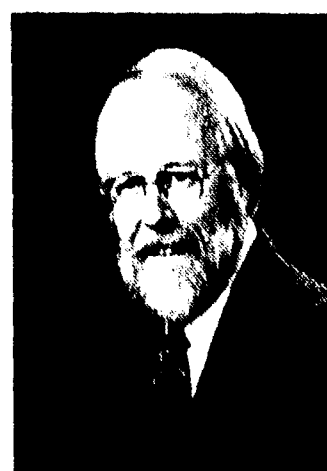
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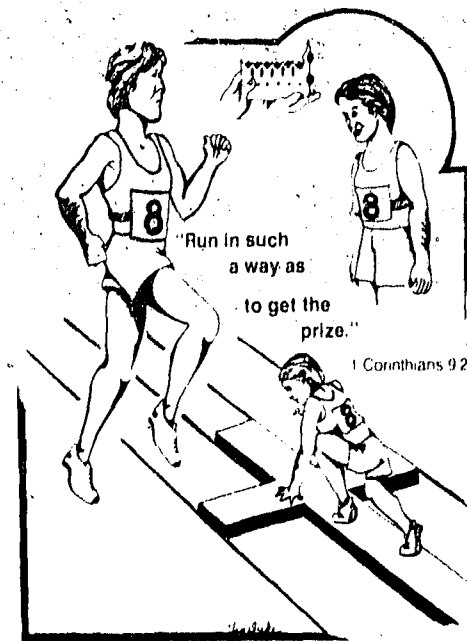
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LET US PRESS ON

President's Page

Running with a purpose

The World Series is over, and the Mets have been declared the winners. The owner of the ball team was awarded a large gold trophy, and the players celebrated their victory in a ticker-tape parade on their way to the bank. As I watched the excitement of the Mets sitting on the mound, spraying each other with champagne, I was struck with the awareness that this was an anti-climactic reward for such valiant efforts.

There was another scene that same night that was touching and very thought-provoking. As the cameras scanned the losing Red Sox, these men were totally dejected, tears streaming down their faces in disappointment and defeat. Many of the teachings Paul gave us on "the race" took on real meaning as I watched the series this year.

In the past weeks we have watched two ball teams press on to win the prize of becoming the World Series champions. It was a close race, and each team's ability to surge ahead when it seemed as though all was lost was evidence that they were well-trained. Yet only one team was able to get the prize. How great the excitement was for a few weeks. But the games are finished, and the New York City workers have busily hauled off the remains of the ticker-tape parade. Shortly two new teams will compete to become World Series champs, and the Mets and the Red Sox will become only statistics to be referred to in future World Series. The money will be spent and the trophy will collect dust, the cheering fans will be dedicated to other players, and this "ultimate" prize the Mets won will begin to fade.

In Phillipians 3:10-16, Paul tells us of his desire to press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called him to in Christ Jesus. That wonderful prize of seeing Christ face-to-face, and experiencing for himself the power of his resurrection, gave Paul the motivation he needed for his life because this prize will never fade into obscurity. It will last for eternity.

Paul urges us to train and run with him. He wants us to understand that we do not become winners by sitting in the bleachers or in front of our televisions, as so many people did during the series. It is time for us to train seriously, to run with a purpose, to mature as Christian men and women, and to bring every area of our lives into discipline so that we will not end up defeated in the dugout while others enjoy the rewards of victory. We

The race we have been called to run is more exciting than any game could ever be.

need to understand that the World Series was exciting but pales compared to the race we have been called to run. We also have a grandstand of fans cheering us on, but they are not fickle and they do not stop cheering. In Hebrews 12:1, we see that those who are witnessing our race are heroes who have already won, and they want us to also be winners. They will continue to encourage us and help us.

I want to win the race, and I also want each of us to share in the victory banquet that Christ has prepared for us, where we can hear him say, "Well done!"

This past four weeks I have had the opportunity to visit many of our churches in the east. It has been good to be able to share with fellow competitors the things I have been learning, the hopes I have for our future as a denomination, and to be an encourager to each of you. The race we have been called to run is more exciting than any game could ever be, but it takes all of our efforts and lots of training and maturity. Today, let us decide individually and corporately that we will "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus." SR

President Gerry VanDyke



FOCUS on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

Retreat held at Stakili Beach

Cebu, the Philippines, Asia: Pastor Ely Paypa reports on a special post-convention retreat held at Stakili Beach. After the three-day meeting, four men volunteered to do pioneering work. Three of these men were in the Camotes area to lay groundwork before the crusade begins. Paypa also wrote: "Since I returned from the USA, six precious souls were baptized and five more candidates for baptism from Selocap were reported by Pastor T. Estender."

"Following the retreat, our youth president distributed a tract that has put us in touch with a new contact in the Metro Manila area. We served American food (at the retreat), and two suffered stomach aches, but the rest were very glad to have such a meal. All the brethren appreciated my experience and reports. On behalf of the Philippines SDB Convention, I extend out thanks and gratitude to all SDBWF officials and all SDB brethren in the states." SR

Branch church continues to grow

Santa Barbara, California, USA: Before Church Extension Pastor Robert Babcock arrived last June, the new branch church of Los Angeles moved into the Trinity Nazarene Church at 4973 Via Los Santos. This new facility is beautiful, easily accessible, reasonable and has provided space for growth and activities. In July, the church formed five new committees: Public Awareness, Christian Education, Community Outreach, Fellowship, and Steering and Planning. The church is currently averaging 20-25 faithful attenders each week. Within the last year, seven new people have made a public declaration of faith and expressed their desire to unite with the group. SR

Flood rains cause devastation

Nellore, India, Asia: When Rev. B. John V. Rao returned home at the end of August, he discovered that flood rains had devastated large areas of the states along the Indian Ocean. Funds were immediately sent from the SDB United Relief Fund and disaster funds held by the Missionary Society (\$1,000 from each). While these were helpful, they only were able to meet part of the needs of those in the SDB churches and villages. Pray that other funds may be provided for this need. SR

TIME group meets in Colorado

Boulder, Colorado, USA: The second Training In Ministry and Extension (TIME) seminar group was held here the end of October. There were nine participants from eight states. Six are involved in ministry with new extension groups at St. Petersburg, Florida; Rapid City, South Dakota; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Imalone, Wisconsin; and Carson, California. The other three are new pastors in Naylor, Missouri; Fouke, Arkansas; and Centralia, Washington. See the November *Missionary Reporter* for further information. SR

Conference holds annual session

Makapwa, Malawi, Africa: The annual session of the Central Africa Conference of Seventh Day Baptists was held here in mid-September. There was better attendance, with Rev. A.K. Harawa and Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson just back from the SDB World Federation and other meetings in the USA. Sabbath morning was a special time of blessing when many people came forward and rededicated their lives to the Lord, and others gave their hearts to the Lord. The message, based on Mark 8:34, "Take Up His Cross," was given by Pastor Harawa. "I started in a simple way," he wrote, "and ended up with fire that turned the gathering." Rev. and Mrs. Ronald H.F. Barrar, former workers in Malawi who are now serving in Auckland, New Zealand, visited many churches in Malawi during their visit October 4-18. They also planned to visit SDBs in India before returning home in November. SR

A prayer reminder for each day!

January 1987

Verse for the Month: "But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. Stay always within the boundries where God's love can reach and bless you. Wait patiently for the eternal life that our Lord Jesus Christ in His mercy is going to give you."

Jude 20, 21, LB

Pray for

1. a new year to be lived to the glory of God! Praise him!
2. Benjamin Hoffman, conscientious objector in Polish prison
3. Praise God for his purposes for my life, family and church
4. SDB Week of Prayer in churches around the world
5. Pastor Robert Coffman, St. Petersburg, Florida, branch church (Daytona Beach)
6. local churches that are seeking pastoral leadership
7. prospective SCSC workers and projects
8. Missionaries David & Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
9. Pastor Ronald Elston and church at Naylor, Missouri
10. my own church and its ministries in this new year
11. prayer and fasting by many today
12. Pastor and Mrs. Jim Gardiner, Rapid City, South Dakota, branch church (Denver)
13. revival in our hearts
14. Extension Director Rodney Henry and the T.I.M.E. project
15. those who are friendless
16. the Paffows and their ministry at Colorado Springs, Colorado, branch church
17. Pastor Ely Paypa, churches, and leaders in the Philippines
18. quarterly meeting of the Board of Christian Education
19. Pastor B. Ciesielski and leaders in the churches in Poland
20. Pastor Eleazar C. Paypa and the Philippine Convention
21. Pastor Dale Smalley, Imalone, Wisconsin, branch church (New Auburn, Wisconsin)
22. people experiencing financial difficulties
23. Pastor Oscar Godoy, Carson, California, branch group (Los Angeles, California)
24. fellow Christians struggling with doubts
25. quarterly meeting of the Missionary Society
26. Pastor Bill Bowyer, Schenectady, New York
27. churches attempting to reach their OWM goals
28. Pastor Keith Mogle, Centralia, Washington
29. Pastor James Siwani and pastors/brethren in South Africa
30. retired pastors, that the Lord may keep using their gifts
31. the blessing of good health in 1987

Moving?

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

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The Sabbath Recorder
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Janesville, WI 53547

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old mailing label
here

New Address:

Name: _____

Street: _____

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Religion in the News

Churches face liability claims

About 2,000 liability cases are now pending against churches, clergy, and religious groups, according to insurance specialists. In a *New York Times* story, Edward E. Carr, attorney for Alexander and Alexander, said that over the last 18 months more than \$100 million has been awarded to those suing religious groups and clergy.

While most of the charges involve child abuse or misuse of funds, there are also claims of improper counseling or inadequate teaching. Dean Kelley of the National Council of Churches has said that lawsuits may limit the involvement of clergy in areas such as drugs and psychological problems.

SR

Curran case challenges American Catholics

The decision by the Vatican to remove the Rev. Charles E. Curran from his teaching post at Catholic University of America has raised concern among Catholic educators. Curran, who calls himself a moderate among Roman Catholic theologians, has received considerable support from fellow faculty and academic leaders. According to public opinion surveys reported in the *New York Times*, a majority of American Catholics share Curran's views on many social issues.

Almost four of five Catholics in a *CBS News-New York Times* survey held the opinion that they thought it possible to remain "a good Catholic" while disagreeing with the Vatican on issues such as birth control, abortion and divorce.

Father Curran has stated that he will fight the ban against his teaching of theology through legal and academic channels.

SR

Castro invites religious ties

A best-selling book, *Fidel and Religion*, has sold over 600,000 copies in Cuba, and is said to reflect a new era in Castro's relations with religious groups. Observers have noted Castro's favorable reception of Catholic bishops in 1985, and his praise for the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1984.

The Cuban Communist Party has affirmed that "socialism won't be built on this continent without Christians," and Castro has expressed regret for Cuba's "subtle discrimination" against the churches following his revolution.

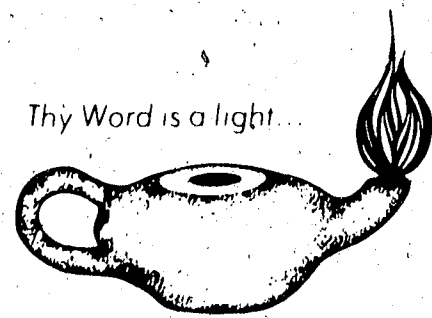
SR

Americans United file protest

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to cut diplomatic ties with the Vatican. The group, along with other national religious bodies, has charged that the relationships established by the Reagan administration in 1984 violate the constitution by showing special favor to one religious faith, and by involving the U.S. government in religious affairs. Lower courts have denied the charge, and have stated that the groups involved do not have "adequate legal standing" to challenge the government.

The plaintiffs include the National Council of Churches and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

SR



Board of Christian Education

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year is honored

Deacon George E. Parrish of the Battle Creek, Michigan, Seventh Day Baptist Church was honored at General Conference as the 1986 *Sabbath School Teacher of the Year*.

Parrish serves the Battle Creek church as deacon, treasurer, small group Bible study leader, *Decision to Disciple* leader and has been the Sabbath School teacher of the young adult class for the past six years.

Parrish's first experiences in Christian Education included serving a short term teaching in the children's Sabbath School department, two terms as general Sabbath School superintendent, and advisor to the Christian Endeavor group for four years.

Parrish's commitment to his church is demonstrated by the responsibilities he has fulfilled as head usher, church moderator, trustee, choir member, treasurer, and for over 40 years a deacon. He also has served in associational capacities, including president of the "old" Northern Association.

At the General Conference level, Parrish has served as Our World Mission treasurer (1960), Commission member (1961-1967), and General Conference president (1963). He is presently a

member of the Faith and Order Committee.

Parrish has been married to Madelene Lewis Parrish for 45 years. They have two children.

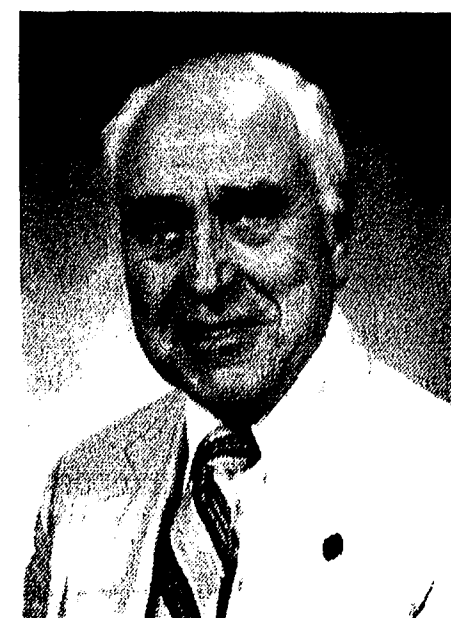
Parrish was nominated by his church for his life and teaching. Dorothy Parrott, Battle Creek Sabbath School superintendent, wrote in the nominating letter:

"Perhaps these comments from his class members will speak the best testimony of George's faithfulness, dedication and striving to be an example of all the possibilities God has for us when we have the indwelling Christ."

George Parrish is a terrific teacher. He really knows how to get you involved in class discussion. No matter what the topic is, he always makes it come alive and personal.

Uncle George is a caring, Spirit-led teacher. He also seeks God's guidance in lesson preparation. All those in the class come away with food-for-thought and encouragement in our Christian walk.

Parrott accepted the crystal apple and study Bible on behalf of Parrish at General Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts, this past August. SR



George Parrish

Memorization will focus on Sabbath

The Scripture Memorization Program for the *Year of Education* (1987) will focus on the Sabbath. Pastor William Shobe, Atlanta, Georgia, noted in the Christian Education Committee's report at conference that "the memorization of Bible passages is an important part of Christian discipleship, and God's people are repeatedly exhorted in the Bible to write God's word on their heart."

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education has chosen 12 passages of Scripture selected for their emphasis on Sabbath-keeping. We have decided on verses that may be

memorized by the family. Pre-school through primary-age children will learn the short beginning verse or a portion of the longer ones. Juniors will learn the first verse. Junior high students through adults are asked to memorize the two or three-verse Scripture passage.

Sabbath School students who complete the Sabbath Scripture Memorization Program will be honored at the 1987 General Conference at Bethany College, Lindsboro, Kansas. Pastors and Sabbath School superintendents will receive a copy of the age group brochures. SR

Churches enrolling in the memorization program may send for additional free copies of the age group brochures by contacting the SDB Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803.

The proposed Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Beliefs

The following Statement of Beliefs, adopted at the 1986 General Conference session, will be voted on as a whole in 1987 with no further amendments permitted. The vote will be by roll call by churches on the floor of conference.

Introduction

2 Corinthians, 3:17-18; 2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:3-6, 15; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Seventh Day Baptists consider liberty of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be essential to Christian belief and practice. Therefore we encourage the unhindered study and open discussion of Scripture. We uphold the individual's freedom of conscience in seeking to determine and obey the will of God.

The following statement is not intended to be exhaustive, but is an expression of our common belief, which is derived from our understanding of Scripture.

I. God

1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Kings 8:27; 1 John 1:5; Genesis 1:1-2; Acts 17:24-25, 28; Psalm 90:1-2; Matthew 28:19; John 3:16; Isaiah 57:15; 2 Peter 3:9

We believe in one God, infinite and perfect, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe who exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and desires to share His love in a personal relationship with everyone.

The Father

We believe in God the Father, who is sovereign over all, and is loving and just as He forgives the repentant and condemns the unrepentant.

1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8; John 5:24; John 3:16-18

The Son

We believe in God the Son, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He gave Himself on the cross as the complete and final sacrifice for sin. As our Risen Lord, He is the mediator between God the Father and mankind.

John 1:34; Hebrews 1:3; John 1:14-18; Romans 1:3-4; 1 John 3:16; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; 1 John 2:1-2.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who gives spiritual birth to believers, lives within them, and empowers them for witnessing and service. We believe the Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures, convicts of sin and instructs in righteousness.

John 14:16, 2:5-8; 14:17; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:7-11.

II. The Bible

2 Peter 1:20-21; Romans 3:2; 2 Peter 3:1-2, 15-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 5:17-19; Psalm 119:105; John 20:30-31; Hebrews 1:1-2

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is our final authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe that Jesus Christ, in His life and teachings as recorded in the Bible, is the supreme interpreter of God's will for mankind.

III. Mankind

Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:44-48; 1 John 1:3; John 1:12

We believe that mankind was created in the image of God and is therefore the noblest work of creation. We believe that human beings have moral responsibility and are created to enjoy both divine and human fellowship as children of God.

IV. Sin and Salvation

1 John 3:4-5; Romans 3:23-25; Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:8-10; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3; John 3:16-18, 36; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Matthew 25:41-46; Romans 5:10

V. Eternal Life

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 20-23; John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:30; Titus 2:13; John 17:3; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; John 10:27-28; John 6:40

VI. The Church

Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14, 27; Romans 12:4-5; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-22; Romans 15:5-7; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24-25

VII. Baptism

Romans 6:3-4; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:11; Galatians 3:26-27

VIII. The Lord's Supper

Mark 14:22-25; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-30

We believe that sin is disobedience to God and failure to live according to His will. Because of sin all people have separated themselves from God. We believe that because we are sinners, we are in need of a Savior.

We believe that salvation from sin and death is the gift of God by redeeming love accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection, and is received only by repentance and faith in Him. We believe that all who repent of their sin and receive Christ as Savior will not be punished at the final judgment but enjoy eternal life.

We believe that Jesus rose from the dead and lives eternally with the Father, and that He will come again with power and great glory. We believe that eternal life begins in knowing God through a commitment to Jesus Christ. We believe that because He died and lives again, resurrection with spiritual and imperishable bodies is the gift of God to believers.

We believe that the church of God is all believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and joined into one body, of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the local church is a community of believers organized in covenant relationship for worship, fellowship and service, practicing and proclaiming common convictions, while growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We believe in the priesthood of all believers and practice the autonomy of the local congregation, as we seek to work in association with others for more effective witness.

We believe that baptism of believers in obedience to Christ's command is a witness to the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We believe in baptism by immersion as a symbol of death to sin, a pledge to a new life in Him.

We believe that the Lord's Supper commemorates the suffering and death of our Redeemer until He comes, and is a symbol of union in Christ and a pledge of renewed allegiance to our risen Lord.

IX. Sabbath

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:23-30; Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42-44; 16:11-13; 17:2-3; 18:4-11; Ezekiel 20:19-20; Hebrews 4:9-10; John 14:15; Isaiah 58:13-14

We believe that the Sabbath of the Bible, the seventh day of the week, is sacred time, a gift of God to all people, instituted at creation, affirmed in the Ten Commandments and reaffirmed in the teaching and example of Jesus and the apostles.

We believe that the gift of Sabbath rest is an experience of God's eternal presence with His people.

We believe that in obedience to God and in loving response to His grace in Christ, the Sabbath should be faithfully observed as a day of rest, worship and celebration.

X. Evangelism

Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-6; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 6:14-20; Luke 23:56

We believe that Jesus Christ commissions us to proclaim the Gospel, to make disciples, to baptize and to teach observance of all that He has commanded. We are called to be witnesses for Christ throughout the world and in all human relationships.

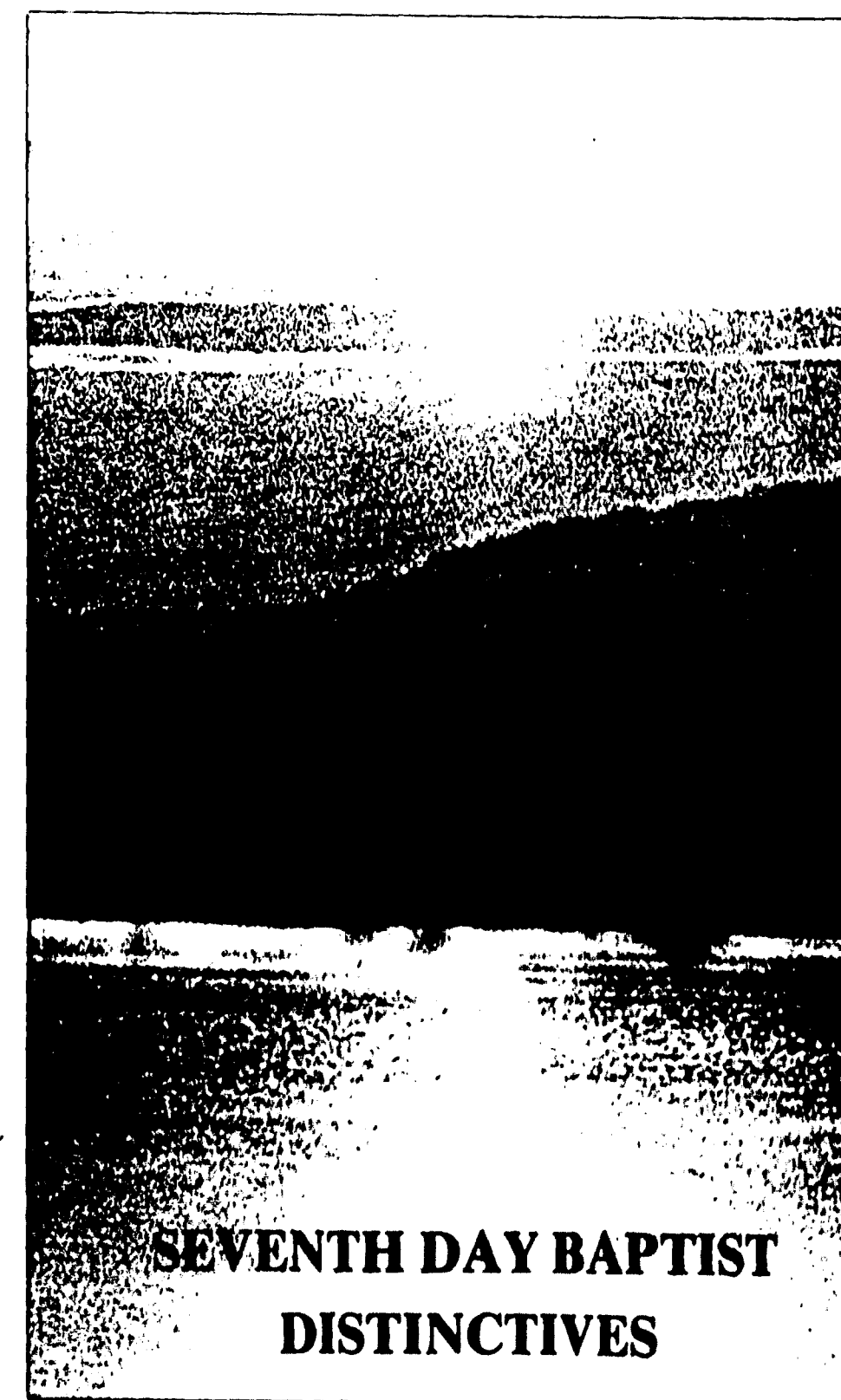
SR

Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives

Distinctives which set Seventh Day Baptists apart are found in varying degrees throughout the spectrum of Christian churches, but the particular combination of distinctives mentioned in this booklet is unique.

Discussion topics include: Our Heritage; Individualism; A Congregation of Equals; A Covenant People; Involved but Separate; The Sabbath; Baptism and Communion; and The Bible, Our Only Authority. Material for the booklet was gleaned from several sources, including the Bible; *Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs, A Manual for Study; A Manual of Procedures for Seventh Day Baptist Churches, The Helping Hand*, and several Seventh Day Baptist pastors and lay persons.

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Helps in the study of SDB beliefs

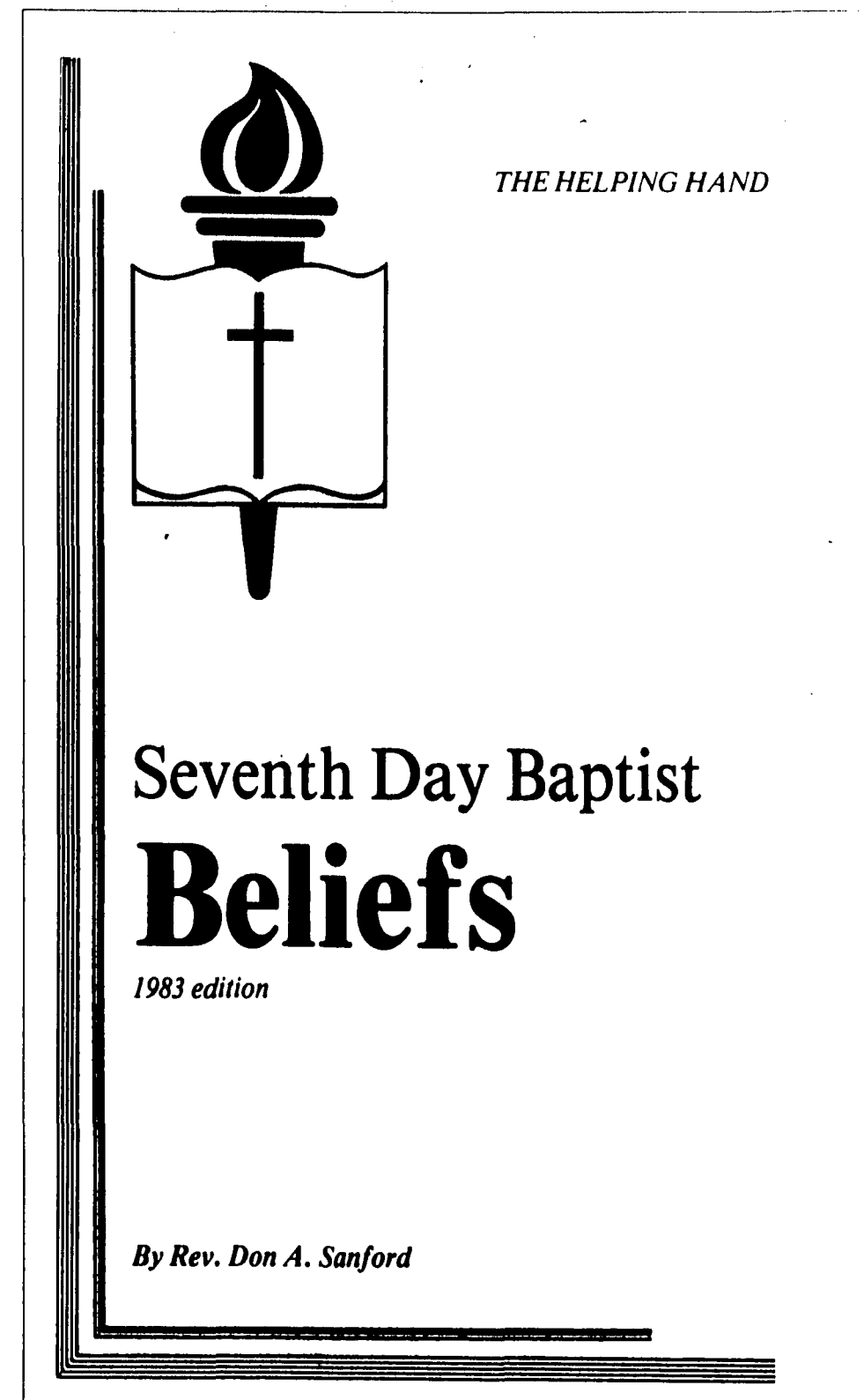
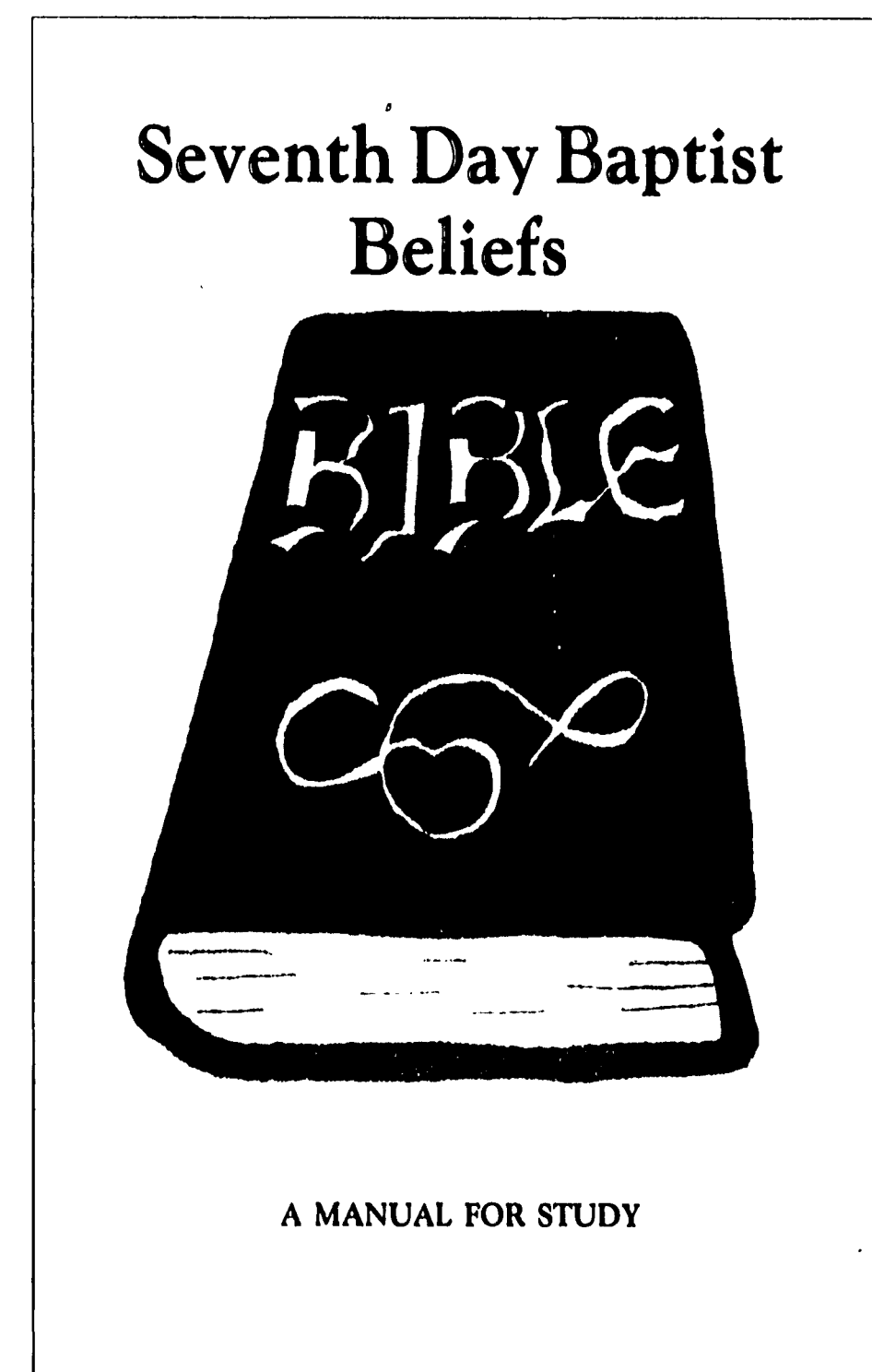
Values from the Seventh Day Baptist Center

Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs *Helping Hand Special Edition 1983*

by Don A. Sanford

A 14 lesson series on the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Beliefs, this study focuses on each point of the statement and studies the Biblical backgrounds. Includes discussion starters and ideas for teachers.

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Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs *A Manual For Study 1941*

by Boothe Davis, Alva Davis, Erlo Sutton and AJC Bond

The original supplement to the Statement of Beliefs of Seventh Day Baptists, this booklet was written at the request of General Conference as "a guide to the teaching of the Biblical truths held by Seventh Day Baptists..."

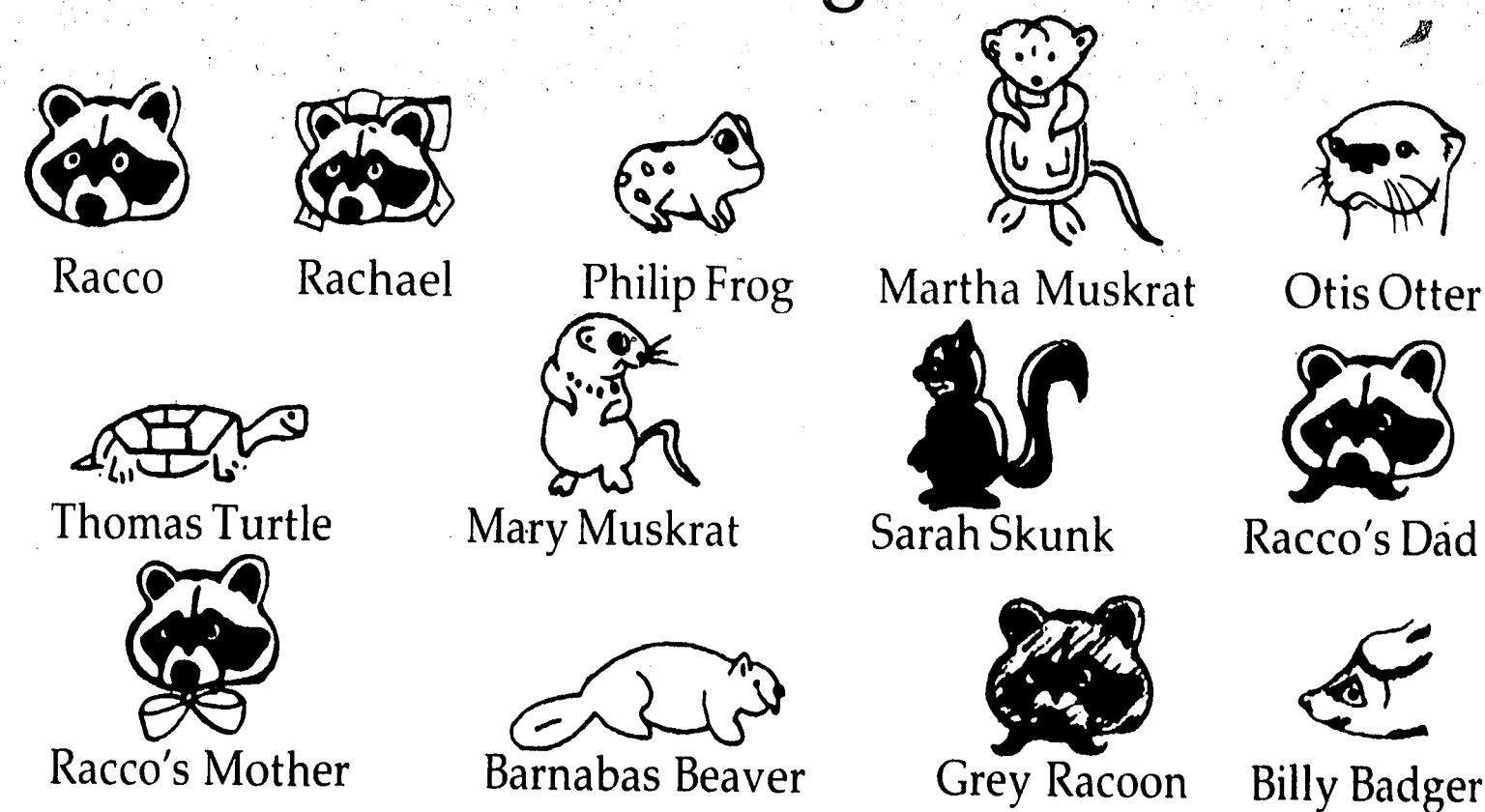
Eleven chapters of Bible study plus questions for discussion.

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The Sabbath Recorder

The Children's Page

Give thanks and sing



was sitting on a log singing, "Jesus loves me." came out of the house singing, "Jesus loves the little children." jumped from lily pad to lily pad singing, "I am so glad that Jesus loves me." and were playing and singing, "I will make you fishers of . . ." watched the water running over the rocks in the creek and sang, "It's bubbling in my soul." limped along the creek bank (her paw had been hurt in the storm) singing, "Deep and wide." was fixing three fish for supper singing, "... Running over, my cup is full and . . ."

finished mudding up his hut for the winter singing, "Praise him . . ."

was running to play with and singing, "Oh, how I love Jesus." and and were watching the youngsters playing and sang, "God is so good."



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

December 1986

Christmas service projects

by Matthew Olson
Director of Youth Ministry

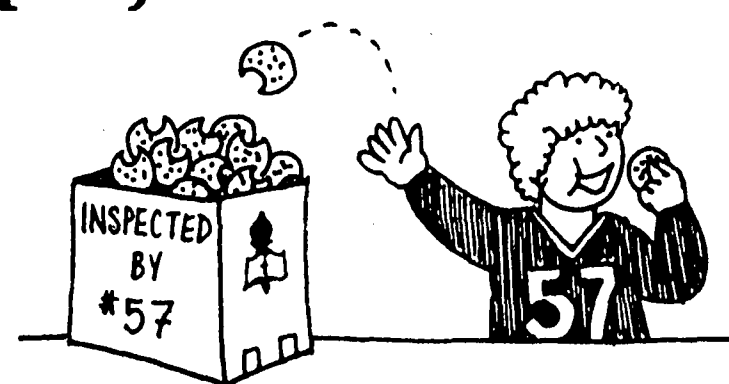
Christmas is the time of year that is known the world over for its spirit of peace and goodwill. It is hoped that our local Youth Fellowships would have a desire to promote such feelings in their community. To this end, here are some ideas that will help our YFs from "Cali to Rhodi" to accomplish this. By using one or more of these ideas, any YF can share the real message of Christmas: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord." (NIV)

Christmas cookie giveaway

Get your YF together for an evening of baking. As a group, make several dozen Christmas cookies. Box the cookies and wrap them in Christmas paper. Take them with you when your YF goes caroling. Instead of simply singing at each house you visit, surprise the people you sing to with a box of cookies. Try to concentrate your efforts on the elderly and disadvantaged of your community.

Holiday fundraiser

Plan a fundraiser of your choice to be held just before the holiday season. Instead of depositing the proceeds into your YF treasury, donate the money made to a local organization like the Lions Club, or your town's food bank. The Lions Club, Rotary Club, and Kiwanis all collect money for various projects, such as food baskets, Toys for Tots, etc. Food banks often have an increased demand for food



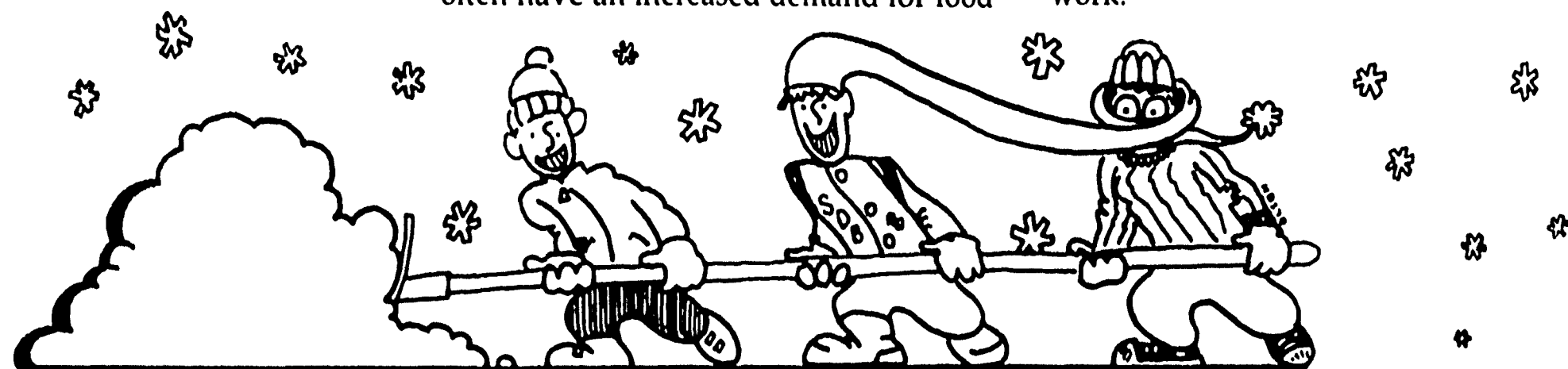
during the holiday season, and extra donations are needed.

Secretive service

Offer your congregation a free concealment service. Inform the parents in the congregation that your YF members will hide the gifts they buy for their young children in different YF member's homes. Have a sign-up sheet at the back of the church and assign each member of your YF a family that he or she will hide gifts for. Be sure to keep the hiding place and gifts strictly confidential!

Community snowplow

Organize your YF ahead of time to meet at the church right after a heavy snowfall. Have each member bring a snow shovel. First, clear the church's walks and then spread out around your town in teams (two to a team). Shovel walks that belong to the elderly or any walk that might need it. Meet back at the church a couple of hours later for hot chocolate and cookies. This is especially nice to do when your YF is enjoying Christmas vacation, because you can surprise the adults of your community by clearing their walks while they are at work! SR



The spirit of joy and giving

Christmas! The time of year that is wrapped up in memories of wishes coming true, a new spirit of joy and giving, and a fresh realization of how much our Heavenly Father loves us to send his only Son to earth as a baby. In celebration of our Father's gift, my church begins to prepare early. The choir started in the beginning of November to practice Handel's *Messiah* for performance on Christmas Sabbath. Soon after, rehearsals commenced for the annual play that is staged during the Sabbath School hour.

After Thanksgiving, the worship time includes more and more special music, both vocal and instrumental. Our pastor recently instituted the tradition of lighting the advent candle during each of the four Sabbaths prior to Christmas. The church building itself begins to reflect the joy of the season as large wreaths are hung, candles sparkle in scattered places, greenery adorns the organ and piano, and poinsettias appear along the steps of the

choir loft. The YF makes its yearly contribution by decorating the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall and by participating in the all-church Christmas party that is held about a week or so before Christmas.

Caroling is one more way in which the YF gets involved. We visit convalescent homes and our more elderly church members, singing our way clear around town and meeting back at the church for chili afterwards. Another ministry in which our church takes part is sharing food and presents with one or two needy families in the area. Clothing, toys, food, and a tree are collected, or bought, and delivered in time for Christmas.

Together, all of these elements help us to turn our minds toward God. Once again we recall the miracle of Almighty God taking the form of a helpless baby, readying our hearts to answer the call of "O come, let us adore Him." SR

by Ginger Rosa

Ginger Rosa is a member of the Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Last year, Ginger was a member of the Summer Christian Service Corps, serving with Mark Green at Camp Joy. She is currently attending Riverside College.

Christ's birthday: what does it mean?

by Andrew Camenga

What does the celebration of Christ's birth mean to me? It has never meant a huge meal and presents. Nor has it meant a vacation from school when all the family can get together. I would like to review some of the facts that we may know but tend to forget.

1. Mary, Jesus' mother, was engaged to Joseph. Before their marriage, she became pregnant with a child of the Holy Ghost. Joseph was going to break the engagement and give her back to the family privately so that she would not have to be stoned. But while he was trying to decide what to do, Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, appeared to Joseph and explained to him what had happened. Gabriel told Joseph to marry Mary and to name the child Jesus.
2. Caesar Augustus declared that all the world should be taxed and that everyone should go to their own city.

3. When they got there, it was time for her to give birth, and she wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger. There was no room for them in the inn.
4. There were in the area shepherds, watching their sheep. An angel suddenly appeared, and God's glory shone around them, and they were extremely frightened. The angel told them not to be afraid for he was bringing good news: their savior was born in Bethlehem. Then suddenly a great number of angels appeared and praised God. The shepherds then went to see Jesus.
5. Later, a group of wise men came from the east to Jerusalem and asked King Herod where the King of the Jews was born. Herod consulted his scribes

Cont. on page 30

Andrew Camenga is a member of the Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church and served as National SDB Youth Fellowship treasurer this past year. Currently, Andrew is an active participant in his local YF, serving as vice-president.



The gift of time

Dear Ones All,

A joyous, blessed Christmas to you all. I have a really interesting project to tell you about this month which can involve the whole family in a learning and "doing" activity every day from now until Christmas. It can become a tradition if preserved or added to from year to year.

The project was brought to the last women's board meeting by Executive Secretary Jackie Wells, who found it in **Becoming*, a newsletter for church women of the Baptist General Conference. It was developed by Marie Schultz, a former employee of the organization, and is called a "Jesse Tree."

To make a Christmas Jesse Tree, you can use the traditional evergreen or a bare branch, whatever is available. Each day of

There seems to be at least three groups in need of time.



December, an ornament is made to represent one of Jesus' ancestors, plus all the holy men and women of the Old Testament who inspired them. As you read the references, you will see how the symbols represent these people of God who prepared the world for our savior.

The originator suggests that you can use colored paper, yarn, straws, pipe cleaners and foil to make the ornaments; or, if you wish your child to make them, they can be drawn and colored before being cut out. Here are the symbols and Bible references:

1. Tree for Jesse, I Samuel 16:1-13
2. Apple for Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-24
3. Ark for Noah, Genesis 6-8
4. Tent for Abraham, Genesis 12:1-7, 13:2-18
5. Lamb for Isaac, Genesis 22:1-19
6. Ladder for Jacob, Genesis 28:10-22
7. Coat for Joseph, Genesis 37
8. Burning Bush for Moses, Exodus 3
9. Heart for Ruth, Ruth 1:15-28
10. Lamp for Samuel, I Samuel 3:1-21
11. Harp for David, I Samuel 16:14-23
12. Crown for Solomon, I Kings 1:22-48
13. Dove for Elisha, II Kings 5:1-27
14. Rose for Isaiah (some translations say "crocus"), Isaiah 6:1-8
15. Word of God for Jeremiah, Jeremiah 31:31-34
16. Church for Nehemiah, Nehemiah 13:10-22
17. Wheel for Ezekiel, Ezekiel 1:15-21
18. Lion for Daniel, Daniel 6:1-24
19. Whale for Jonah, Jonah 1
20. Sandals for John the Baptist, Luke 1:57-80
21. Lily for Mary, Luke 1:26-38
22. Saw for Joseph, Matthew 1:13-25
23. Star for the Wisemen, Matthew 2:1-12
24. Manger for the Birth of Jesus, Luke 2:1-20
25. Sun for Christ our Lord, John 14:1-18

Of course, the sun goes at the top for Christ's birth. There are all sorts of variations of this idea. One church, at their Christmas party, asked members to bring ornaments for their tree which the children of the congregation were allowed to place on the tree. Each family could bring their favorite person's symbol. I wonder if they would all be represented. I would love to hear from you if you find the idea attractive and useful.

No matter how you decorate your tree (if you have one), do not forget to have a

birthday cake for the One whose birth we celebrate.

In my October women's page, I asked you to write and tell me of *unusual* projects your societies had for the holiday season. From your annual reports, I found out that many of you give fruit or "goody" baskets to the elderly or shut-ins in your church or community. Many have Christmas parties or programs rather than meetings this month. Many also have gift exchanges, some with secret pals. I received only three letters, one coming as a result of that appeal. A big thank-you goes to Nortonville, Battle Creek and Salem.

Although it was not a Christmas project, Nortonville's "Sunshine Boxes" really intrigued me. Each member of the society provides a small gift to go into the boxes, which are then sent to members who have extended illnesses. Gifts include such items as note paper, thank-you notes, stamps, a pen, tissues, even a joke gift or two. Wouldn't that brighten your days if you were down?

There is a television commercial whose punch line is, "It's about time." Where you put the emphasis makes a lot of difference. I have been thinking a lot about *time* as a gift. I started thinking along this line after seeing several articles telling about how many people there are in this world who just need someone to talk to, someone to do some little thing for them.

Christmas is the traditional time of year to exchange greetings and gifts. In spite of living in what is said to be an "upward economy," more and more people are finding it difficult to spend the money they once did on others. By the year 1990, statistics tell us that one in every three women will be living below the poverty level. I have been told that the number of those seeking shelter locally is already up 60 percent over last year.

There seems to be at least three groups in need of time. One is the elderly, a fast-growing group because of improving technology that is allowing us to live longer, and in many cases, care for

ourselves. The possibilities of a gift of time to this group are endless—a visit, a phone call, an offer to go shopping, running an errand or two, etc. A little imagination can go a long way.

Then there are the abuse centers. People who populate these centers need so many things, especially *good* used toys, furniture and clothing. Many flee their homes with literally nothing but the clothes on their backs.

There are also the local food stations which feed the hungry.

Have you, as a group or individually, found some area where you can extend your circle of caring with a little time and energy? It is about *time*.

Baptist women's groups and Church Women United have adopted these needs for their area of concern for the coming year. This is the Year of the Women and Children. Our "Nighties for Newborns" certainly fits into that category. Bettie Pearson spoke very highly of this project at conference, and the Women's Interest Committee asked the Women's Board to continue it. So please do not let up on the sewing now.

One church group, after hearing of the desire to reactivate the homemaking department at Crandall High School in Jamaica, suggested that perhaps we could make this a project for Christmas concern. We have not as yet heard any specific details about exactly what is needed or useful, so we will have to wait on this for a later date. Of course, money is always acceptable if you are looking for a white-gift recipient.

Until next month, when we again start a brand-new year, I wish you peace and joy.

Marilyn

*Reprinted from Fall 1986 *Becoming*, by permission of women's ministries department, Baptist General Conference.

Have you found some area where you can extend your circle of caring with a little time and energy?

The story of God

by Leon Wheeler

Printed below is a portion of the ordination paper of Leon Wheeler, presented at the First SDB Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, Rhode Island, on May 31, 1986.

Statement of beliefs

Introductory statement

In order to help you to experience my understanding of God, Jesus Christ and the "basic" elements of the Christian faith, I will share with you what I consider to be the story of God. Interwoven in this story you will discover some of the doctrines which I feel are important. This is not a full exposition of my beliefs, but I have attempted to address the most important ones. I share this in place of a more traditional statement because *this* is where I am in my journey. What I have come to believe is based on a broad, Biblically centered, portrait of God and his creation. That is, my understanding of individual verses, chapters and books of the Bible is interpreted through my understanding of God, revealed throughout the Bible, and most completely (authoritatively) in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

I have chosen not to footnote this paper with Scripture verses, for to do so would have been a monumental task and would have resulted in more footnotes than body. You will, however, note many supporting Scripture verses interwoven throughout the worship and ordination services. I have tried to remain true to my reading of Scripture, and would welcome you to check me out . . . not so much by isolated verses, but in light of a broader reading, understood especially in our Lord Jesus Christ.

His story: statement of beliefs

In the beginning the Spirit of God hovered over the deep, dark emptiness,

and in the deafening silence God had a dream. He dreamed of a universe . . . a world . . . a creation upon which to shower his love, with which to unite and fellowship. And so God created.

God made the infinite universe . . . the sun and moon and stars. He made the beautiful earth with all its majestic mountains and peaceful valleys, its lush grasslands and mysterious deserts, still waters and awesome oceans. And God was pleased. God covered the land with a colorful bouquet of flowers, with a multitude of plants and trees, offering beauty and nutrition, and the capacity to sustain life and reproduce itself. And God looked and was pleased.

God filled this world with every creature and organism which creeps and crawls and swims and walks and flies on the face of the earth; ants and alligators, beetles and bears, chickens and cows, dolphins and dogs, elephants, eels, eagles and every other living creature. And as God saw what had been made God was happy and said, "this is good."

Then God made humanity, the most beautiful and sacred of all the creation. God made human beings in his own image and likeness. God made them male and female, and commissioned them to care for the world, for all creatures upon the face of the earth, and for each other, sharing in the love and joys of the Creator and the creation. And God looked upon all the creation and smiled, saying, "This is very good."

God rested from the work of creation, pleased that the dream, born deep within him, had come to life and that he would no longer be alone, but would have a people like himself, and all his creation, to share in his love. And God fellowshiped with that which he had made, and blessed the day his creating was completed, setting apart the seventh day

as a sacred memorial to the completion of his creating.

God's desire was for humanity to make his dream their own, to live in peace, harmony and fellowship with each other, with nature, and with him. Yet in order for his relationship with his creation to be meaningful it had to be freely chosen, not demanded. And so those made in the image of God were given the ability and responsibility to choose their own dreams.

In their freedom, humanity turned away from God, from love, peace, caring and intimacy and sought their own desires without regard for each other. Man/woman turned away from both the dream and Dreamer. Soon violence had

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And God became very angry, regretting the day he had created man and woman, and in his anger he chose to start again, to destroy all that lived and breathed on the face of the earth, all but one righteous family and a few of every creature. Maybe with a new start his creation would walk in his love. And so God destroyed.

God afterward looked upon the vast destruction, was filled with compassion for his creation, and in his love and mercy vowed never again to initiate such destruction. As a symbol of his sincerity he set the rainbow in the clouds, that whenever the rains came down and intersected with the rays of the sun, the rainbow would appear, as testimony to

his unconditional love and as silent witness to his dream.

Such a loving God, however, was incomprehensible to self-centered humanity, and again they turned their backs on God and the peaceful, unified life he had intended.

And so God chose one line of people from all the nations on the face of the earth, a people upon which to shower his love and mercy that through them, the whole earth would see his salvation and would come to know his peace. God liberated them from their oppressive bondage in Egypt, led them through the arid wilderness, provided manna and quail when there was no food, and water when there was no drink. He was established as the one true God, King above all kings, their Redeemer and Provider. God gave them his "Ten Words" as laws to guide them into relationship with him, with all persons, and with the whole of creation. And God brought them through the desert into his land of promise, making them into a great nation.

Yet even these chosen ones turned away, and in their selfishness refused to live, or even acknowledge God's vision.

God gave them priests to lead them into his truth, to initiate acts of sacrifice and call the nation back into right relationship. And the nation did not comprehend.

God lifted up judges and kings to lead them, but they continued to rebel. He called forth prophets to bring before the nation his desire for love, mercy and justice, and to warn of his judgement against violence, injustice and all other manners of idolatry. Yet still the people refused to hear, to turn away from their sins, and love the Lord their God and their neighbor, which was God's desire.

And God realized that humanity would never know him, would never know the love and fellowship he desires, until they saw him as he really is, until they experienced his unconditional love for them, his mercy, his acceptance, and his



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And God realized that humanity would never know him, would never know the love and fellowship he desires, until they saw him as he really is, until they *experienced* his unconditional love for them, his mercy, his acceptance, and his



power; until they saw his dream lived out. And so God sent his son, Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, to show the world his way, to reveal his truth, and open the doors to his life.

By word and deed the Son revealed the essence of the Father, and led his followers to understand what it means to be bearers of his image. Jesus made known the truth that "God is love," and in his love desires his creation to love him, to be like him, and to love the neighbor.

Jesus did more than preach about God's love, he embodied it, sacrificing self-interest, allowing himself to suffer the agonizing pain of crucifixion on a cross.

Jesus taught that the law was given to serve people, to promote justice and love in all relationships, and to point toward God who is at the center of all life. He showed that this is true of all laws, including the Sabbath, and that the subservience of law to the love of people must never be forgotten. Jesus revealed that God's creation matters, and that those who truly know God will preserve, protect, and restore all of his creation, and especially all humanity.

Jesus desired all humanity to so vividly see the love of God in him that they would in turn love one another in the same way. He taught that if they would allow love to be their guide, they would need no other law, for in obedience to

love's guidance, God's vision of peace, unity and community will be fulfilled.

Jesus did more than preach about God's love, he embodied it, sacrificing self-interest, allowing himself to suffer the agonizing pain of crucifixion on a cross. And thus he laid down his life, not only for his friends, but for his enemies, that all might know God's love and experience his salvation.

In dying, Jesus became the once-for-all sacrifice for all sins, satisfying humanity's perceived need for atonement, and opening the door to God's acceptance of his creation by grace through faith, and not through righteousness. The debt humanity sensed, which created a barrier between them and the Creator, was paid in full.

But death was not the end. This same Jesus who became our sacrifice also became our victory by rising from the dead and breaking the stranglehold of sin and evil in this world. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, humanity can know with certainty that our God, the Creator, is greater than the power of evil in this world, and that ours is the victory through Jesus our Lord.

While Jesus was walking on this earth, his followers were dependent upon him to be their master, their teacher, their guide. Jesus knew that in order for them to experience the fullness of God's power and to become dependent upon God alone, he would have to leave them. After Jesus had gone up into heaven the believers were gathered together in one place. It was then that the power of God's Holy Spirit descended upon them, and they were filled with the reality of his presence. All those around saw the transformation in their conduct and heard it in their speech, and many believed and were baptized into his body.

And thus the church, the whole company of "believers in" and "followers of" Jesus Christ was born. The

church is God's new chosen people, the ones through whom he sheds his love and grace upon the world and draws all persons unto himself. The church is the extended body of which Christ is the head, in whom and through whom the Holy Spirit works to bring to fruition the seeds of the kingdom of God. The church is set apart to be witnesses to God's dream of restored relationships, of peace, and of unity in his love, by word and deed. It is to proclaim the Good News of salvation, liberation and shalom in Christ Jesus. It is to work, worship, pray and fellowship as one body, under the leadership of one Lord, with one purpose, though made up of many parts.

And when the church looks unto the Lord as the sole source of its hope, as it allows the Holy Spirit to continue to descend upon it with power, it will become the light of the world, preparer of the way for the Lord. And then the Lord shall come as king to establish his kingdom on the face of the earth, to destroy the powers of evil, heal all wounds, dry all tears, and make everything new. And God's dream shall be fulfilled and we shall all share in his glory. And he shall reign forever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords! Halleluia! Amen!

Postscript

The Day of our Lord will be a day of loud hosannas, but it will not come easily. Though Jesus Christ alone can usher in the fulfilled kingdom, we, his followers, have a tremendous responsibility to make preparations. We must live the standards of his kingdom in both word and deed. We must stand firmly in the power of the risen Lord *against* all forms of injustice, oppression and other evils. We must stand *for* that which leads to peace, fellowship and love. We need to ground ourselves firmly in the person and work of Jesus Christ, worship only him, and allow him to lead us into all truth.

Today, more than ever, the world is

desperately searching for truth. *We know the truth!* Now let us live it that the world may see God in us, and that seeing, they too might experience his peace and life.

I believe the Western Christian witness has been totally contrary to the teachings and example of Jesus Christ in attitudes toward war and materialism, both of which are expressions of our selfishness. The time has come when we must choose whom we shall serve. If Christ, then we need to be like him, living by the law of self-giving love for our enemies as well as our friends, being peacemakers, laying down our lives, upholding the brotherhood and sisterhood of all humanity. We need to follow in the steps of the first and early second century believers who refused to bear arms and participate in the propagation of any national ideology, for their allegiance was to God and God alone. To live any other way is to crucify, again, the Lord we seek to serve.

We further need to take seriously Jesus' statement that "no one can serve two masters, both God and money." We are called to store up *our* treasures in heaven, not on earth. Yet so many professed Christians are pulled into the subtle evil of material comfort. We complain about our excessive debts, debts incurred to purchase our nice homes, new cars, VCR's, color TV's, etc. And we seldom acknowledge our responsibility for the multitude of hungry, homeless, destitute persons around the world . . . and in our own nation. No matter how hard we attempt to rationalize and justify our prosperity, our comfort, we cannot escape the call of Christ to sell all we have and give to the poor, and *then* follow him.

Brothers and sisters, since Jesus Christ loved us so much, while we were still his enemies, let us also love one another.

To God be the glory now and forever.

SR

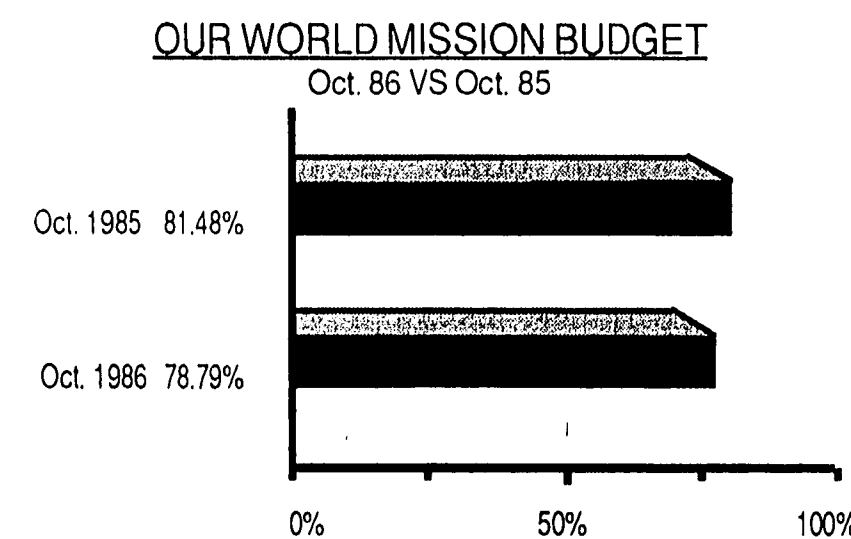
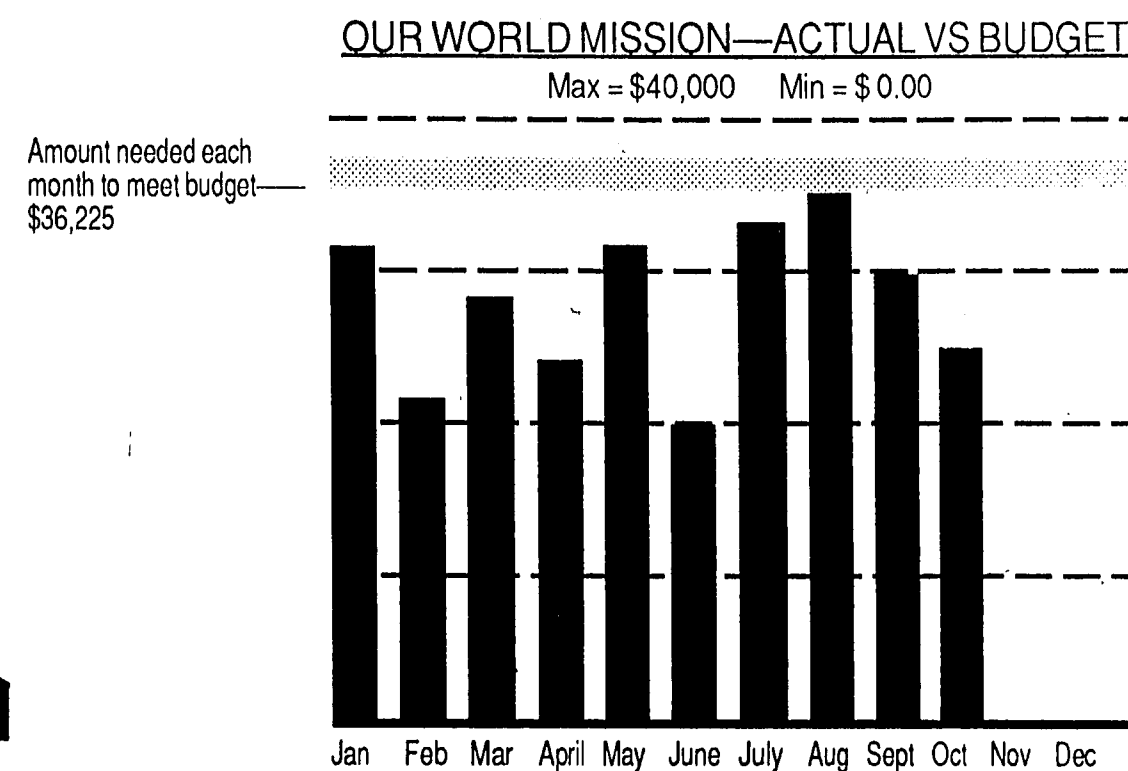
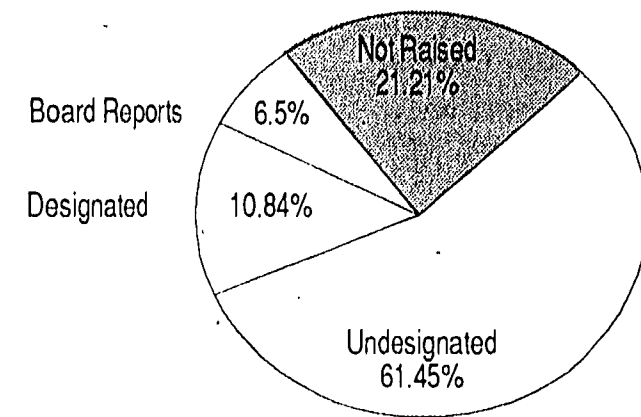
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Our World Mission budget update

Our World Mission is a Partnership in Ministry

You can be an active part of this partnership through your ongoing relationship to your local church. At the same time, you can help to carry the responsibility of the partnership by supporting our combined denominational budget—Our World Mission. Your dollars are needed to do the work that is the denominational agencies' responsibility in the partnership. Your prayers, ideas and reactions are also needed to support the work that Seventh Day Baptists are doing together.

"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."



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

My Partnership Plan:

One week's salary or income

Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip: _____ **Church:** _____

This contribution is to:

OWM undesignated giving

OWM designated to:

Evangelism and Missions

Christian Education

Publishing (Sabbath School, Bible, Quaker, etc.)

Radio, TV, and other media

Hunger Relief (SDB, etc.) and other

Please make checks payable to Our World Mission

Madeline Fitz Randolph receives Robe of Achievement

Editor's Note: The following statement was read by Jean Lewis of the Women's Board at General Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts, during the presentation of the 1986 Robe of Achievement. Madeline's pastor's wife, Linda Lawton, received the robe in her absence. The Robe of Achievement was officially presented to Madeline in her home church in Boulder, Colorado, the following Sabbath. The presentation was a total surprise, much to the amazement of those familiar with the speed and range of the "SDB grapevine."

What would a little girl dream of becoming when she grew up? A wife and mother? Probably. A teacher or librarian? Possibly. A pastor's wife? Possibly not. This year's recipient of the Robe of Achievement award grew up to be all of these and more.

She was born, grew up, and graduated with a degree in English and Library Science in West Virginia, and later did

she has been involved in music, singing, and directing both junior and handbell choirs. She has continued to write for publications and has been active in church concerns from local through international levels. She has served the denomination at home and abroad. She has particularly enjoyed working with adolescent youth in camps and as a school librarian, and in pre-conference retreats. Although she and her husband are now retired, she continues to be actively involved in life around her. Because I want to quote some of her specific achievements, I will name the lady whom many of you already recognize—Madeline Watts Fitz Randolph of Boulder, Colorado.

When the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board moved to Milton, Madeline became an active member, focusing her talent for writing on the preparation of program materials under the direction of the board president, Caroline Gray. Toward the end of the Milton pastorate, she organized and directed a handbell choir in the church—a "first" for Seventh Day Baptists.

During the first year of the Boulder pastorate, the church received a gift of handbells, and Madeline organized and directed a handbell choir of young people which achieved high acclaim in the Denver-Boulder area, and in 1967 was invited by Conference President Dr. Pete May to give daily concerts during the program and also in several churches.

She played a major role in encouraging the Boulder and Denver women to bring the Women's Board to Colorado and served as president for several years. She edited the monthly newsletter, and a number of times special sections on women's interests for the *Recorder*. During that time, at the invitation of the Missionary Society, Madeline gave a period of several weeks in a dedicated

Madeline's life has always been a partnership with her husband in his service as a pastor, but she has accomplished much in her own right.

advanced study in New York, Illinois, Wisconsin and Colorado. She and her husband were married in 1937. He became a Seventh Day Baptist minister, and their life together has been a succession of putting down new roots in New York state, Maine, Wisconsin, and Colorado. To them were born seven children, six of whom are living.

Always her life has been a partnership with her husband in his service as a pastor, but she has accomplished much in her own right. Wherever she has lived,

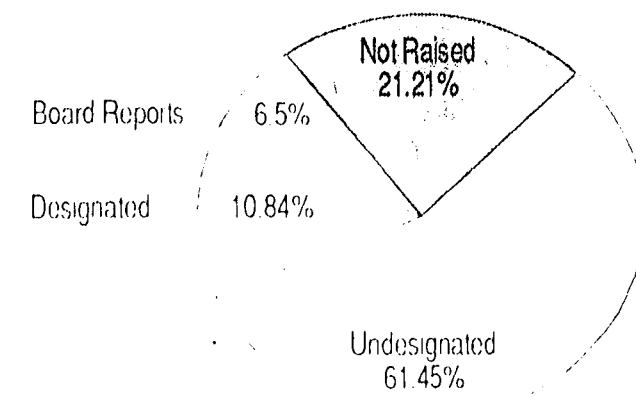


Our World Mission budget update

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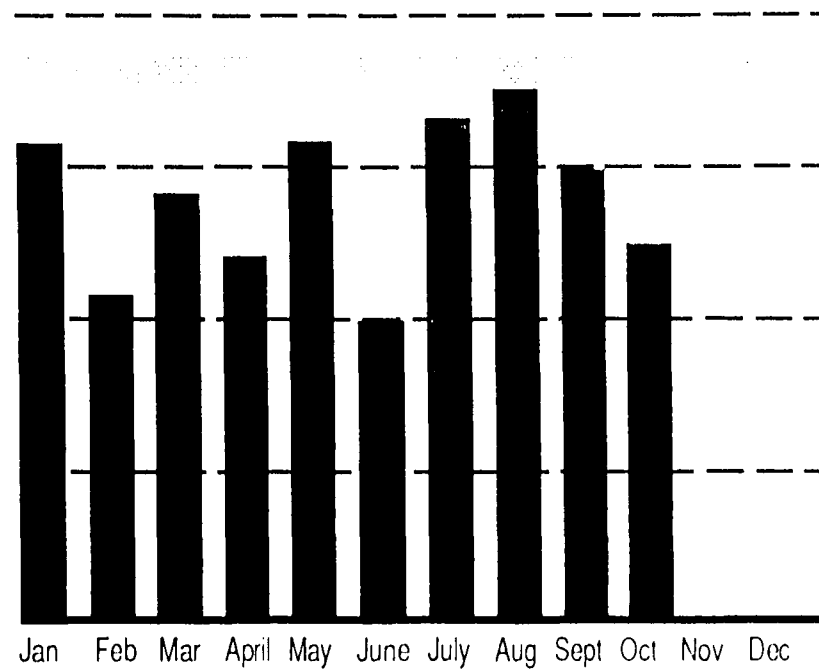
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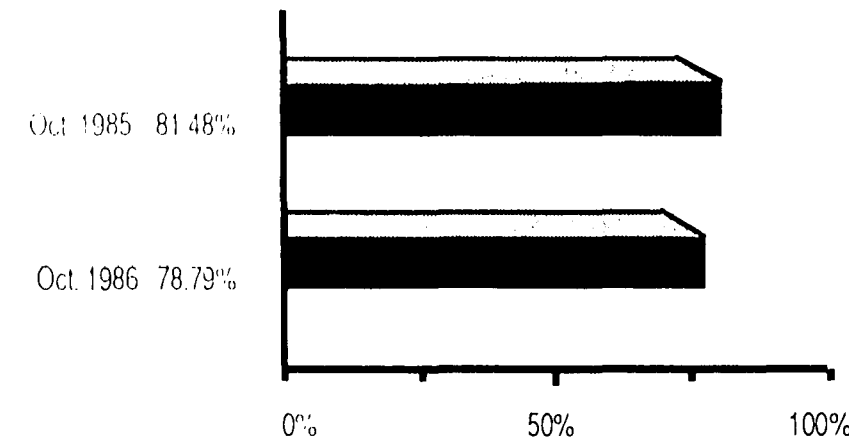


Amount needed each month to meet budget—\$36,225

OUR WORLD MISSION—ACTUAL VS BUDGET
Max = \$40,000 Min = \$0.00



OUR WORLD MISSION BUDGET
Oct 86 VS Oct 85



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

My Partnership Plan:

- One week's salary or income
- Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Church: _____

This contribution is for:

- OWM undesignated giving
- OWM designated for:
 - Evangelism and Missions
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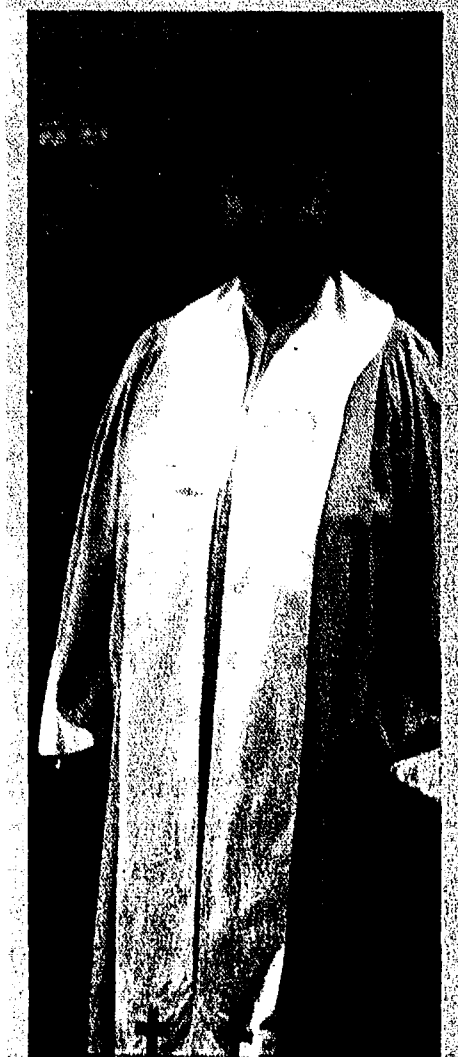
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Madeline Fitz Randolph

service project working to improve the library at Crandall High School in Kingston, Jamaica.

As president of the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board, she served on the Executive Committee of the North American Baptist Women's Union, and following her presidency, she was elected to a five-year term as a member-at-large of that body. In this capacity, she represented Seventh Day Baptist women at meetings in Stockholm, Sweden; Toronto, Canada; The Bahamas; Pittsburgh and Kansas City.

In addition to Madeline's work with Seventh Day Baptist women, she has served under the sponsorship of the

Board of Christian Education as leader of a workshop on writing at General Conference.

She and Randy are continuing a lifelong tradition of oneness with nature at their retirement home near Camp Paul Hummel in the Rocky Mountains. As one of the letters for her nomination phrased it, "Her life is an inspiration and a living example of showing God's love through her caring for others."

Although she is not here in Worcester to receive the robe in person, all of us join in honoring Madeline Fitz Randolph, tireless worker for the Lord and his church. SR

Christ's birthday Cont. from page 21

and then told the wise men that he was born in Bethlehem. Herod asked the wise men to come back and tell him where they found him. The wise men then proceeded to Bethlehem, but the star moved until it rested over the young boy. When they found him, they presented him with many presents (namely gold, frankincense and myrrh). They were warned in a dream not to tell the king where Jesus was, so they left a different way. King Herod realized he had been tricked and gave instructions to kill off all children two years old and younger. Joseph, being warned in a dream, fled to Egypt and stayed until Herod died.

The first point I would like to make is that Mary was pregnant before being married. It was a God-sent pregnancy, but it could be easily misunderstood. The punishment for adultery was stoning.

Secondly, Mary had to take a 70-mile trip very late in her pregnancy. Today, this trip would take one hour and 16 minutes by car at 55 miles per hour. Just think how long it would have taken by walking (and all of this for taxes).

The next point is that when they finally got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. Jesus' time had come, so they took a stall in a stable. (How would you like to sleep in a stable overnight?)

Even with all of these hardships—the long trip, the less than "perfect" accommodations, and the timing of the birth—God was being praised, by man and angel.

The wise men's visit and presents brought joy to the family of the King of the Jews. But they also brought the wrath of Herod down on Israel. Joseph, Mary and son were forced to flee to Egypt to save Jesus' life. The family came back after Herod died, but can you imagine having to flee a country to save your life?

Yes, I feel that we should feel free to celebrate Christ's birth, but we need to remember that everything that is written about his early years indicates some type of extra burden to his family. Though none was his fault, Jesus could not have been himself without this history. Christ came to earth in a lowly stable, lived the life of a servant, died the death of a sinner, but rose in victory!

This is the reason we celebrate his birth: He came to instruct us how to live and to teach us to serve. He suffered and went through what he did so that we would have a chance to live with him forever. Christ's birth represents a wonderful life that began in a way suitable for his purpose, which was to live, teach, die and live again, so that we might live. SR

The Sabbath Recorder

**Jesus came to
instruct us how to
live and to teach
us to serve.**

Obituaries

Chapman.—Ralph G. Chapman, 56, died September 11, 1986, at Robert Packer Memorial Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania, where he had been a patient for about two weeks. Born in Dansville, New York, he lived in Alfred Station, New York, for the past 14 years. Mr. Chapman was a welder with the Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation in Dansville for 32 years.

Mr. Chapman was a member of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Alfred Station Volunteer Fire Department. He was an avid hunter and skeet and trap shooter.

Survivors include his wife, Kathryn Snyder Chapman; a son, Ralph Jr. of Dansville; four daughters, Barbara Farrow of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Sandra Atkinson of Okinawa, Debra Townsend of Theresa, New York, and Pamela Washburn of Almond, New York; his mother, Irene Pfuntner Chapman of Dansville; three brothers, Howard and Terry of Burns, New York, and Duane of Dansville; nine grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and stepsons, Craig, Don and Mark Mix of Alfred Station.

The funeral service was conducted on Monday, September 15, 1986, at the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Melvin F. Stephan officiating. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery, Alfred, New York. MS

Alderdyce.—Gail (Wells) Alderdyce, 93, of Yale, Michigan, and formerly of Battle Creek, Michigan, died September 23, 1986, in Yale after a lengthy illness.

She was born in Farina, Illinois, and lived in Battle Creek from 1916 until 1975 when she moved to Yale. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church and its Ladies Aid Society. Her husband, Lynn Alderdyce, died in 1968.

Surviving are a son, Duaine W. Alderdyce of Yale, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services September 26, 1986, were conducted by Pastor George Calhoun at Battle Creek Memorial Chapel.

Burdick.—Elois Winona Burdick was born in Kremmling, Colorado, on July 23, 1913, the daughter of George H. and Lola Hendrix, and died September 24, 1986, in Wheatridge, Colorado.

For many years, she was a teacher at Parkes Business School in Denver, Colorado. She joined the Denver Seventh Day Baptist

Church in 1945 and was always an enthusiastic member. She was involved in Bible study groups, the Women's Outreach and was a member of the Memorial Committee. Even in her years of declining health, she was faithful in her support and attendance at church. Her warm friendship, pleasant smile and sweet spirit will long be remembered.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Grant Burdick, and two brothers, Robert and Lavern. She is survived by two sons, Richard G. Burdick and Edwin E. Burdick, both of the Denver area; four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on September 29, 1986, at the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, John D. Bevis, officiating. Burial was in Chapel Hill Cemetery. JDB

Marriages

Watkins-Pantoja.—Mack Watkins of Whittier, California, son of the late Melton and Mildred Watkins, and Guadalupe "Lupe" Pantoja of Pico Rivera, California, daughter of Sra. Carmen Pantoja of Mexico and the late Jesus Pantoja, were united in marriage by their pastor, Duane L. Davis, on September 14, 1986, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California.

Births

Lee.—A son, Joshua Daniel Lee, was born to Dan and Danita Lee of Wichita Falls, Texas, on September 9, 1986.

Davis.—A son, Liam Jacob-Paul Davis, was born to Dr. Paul D. and Dusty (Goodson) Davis of Illesheim, Germany, on October 11, 1986.

Accessions

Wichita Falls, Texas
William L. Sharon, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Christene Wiese
Heidi C. Horsley-Layman
J. Roy Layman
Earle Holston

Lost Creek, West Virginia
David Taylor, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Richard Bond
Susan Bond
Julie Bond
Chet Bond

Joined after Baptism
Richard Fenstermacher

Nortonville, Kansas
Harold King, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Rev. Clifford Mays
Ester Mays

Joined after Testimony
Michael Graves
Sharon Graves

Portland, Oregon
Justin Camenga, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Jerry Vaught
Martha Vaught

Joined after Testimony
Kerith Camenga
Tom Mitchell
Bonnie Mitchell

Chatawa, Mississippi
Ralph Hays Sr., Pastor

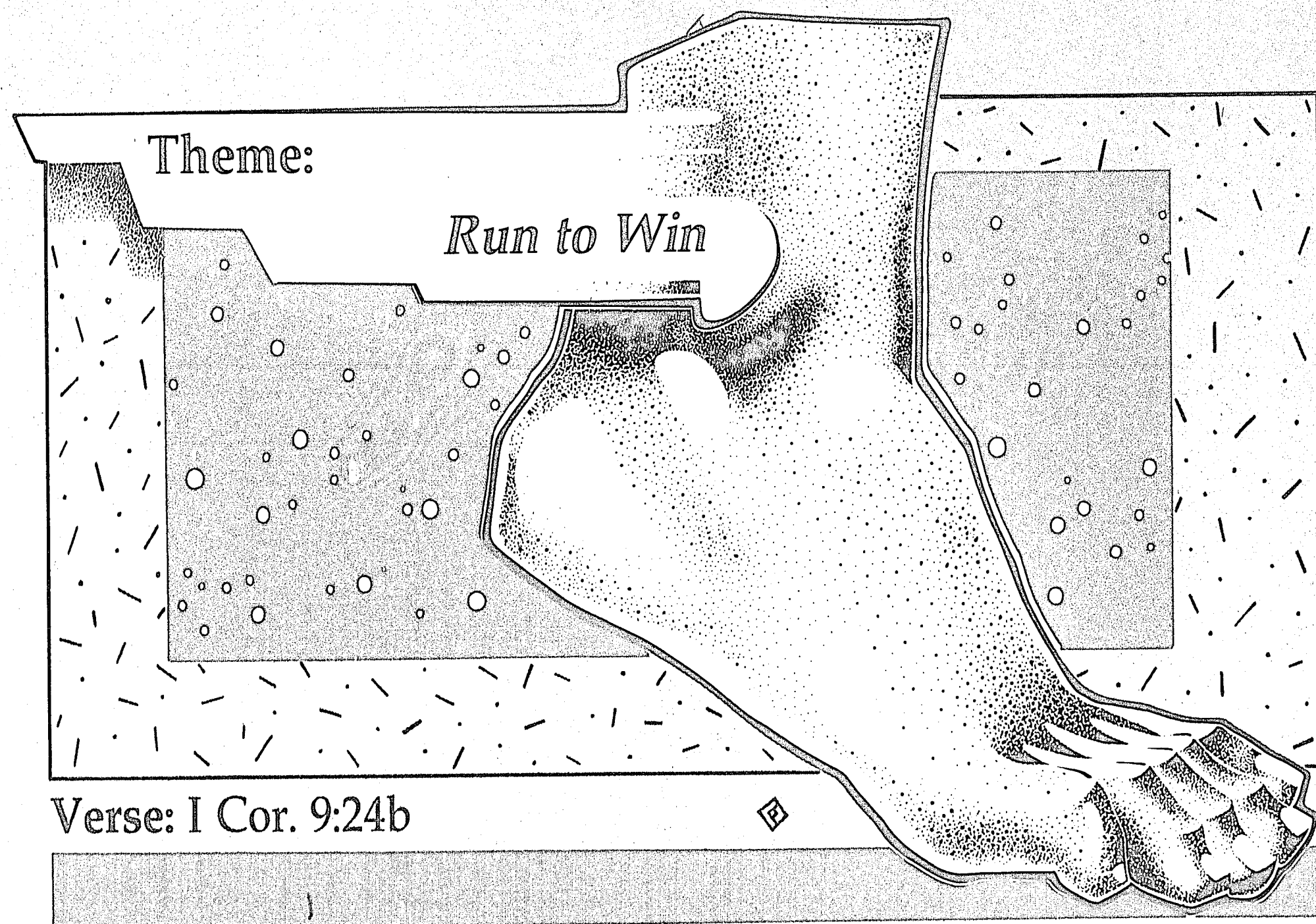
Joined by Letter
Anne B. Lastinger
Otis Lastinger

Joined after Testimony
Stacey Hartley

Associate Membership
Clara L. Beebe

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Summer Christian Service Corps 1987



Training Dates: June 19-29

Application Deadlines:

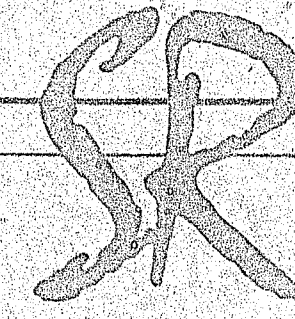
Workers — March 1, 1987
Projects — March 15, 1987

Send applications to:
Chris Davis
3740 Ulla Lane
Lake Elsinore, CA 92330

The Seventh Day Baptist

January 1987

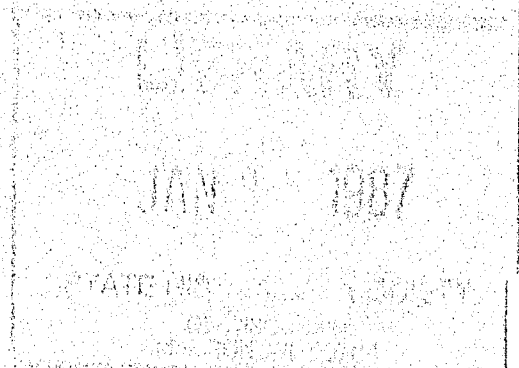
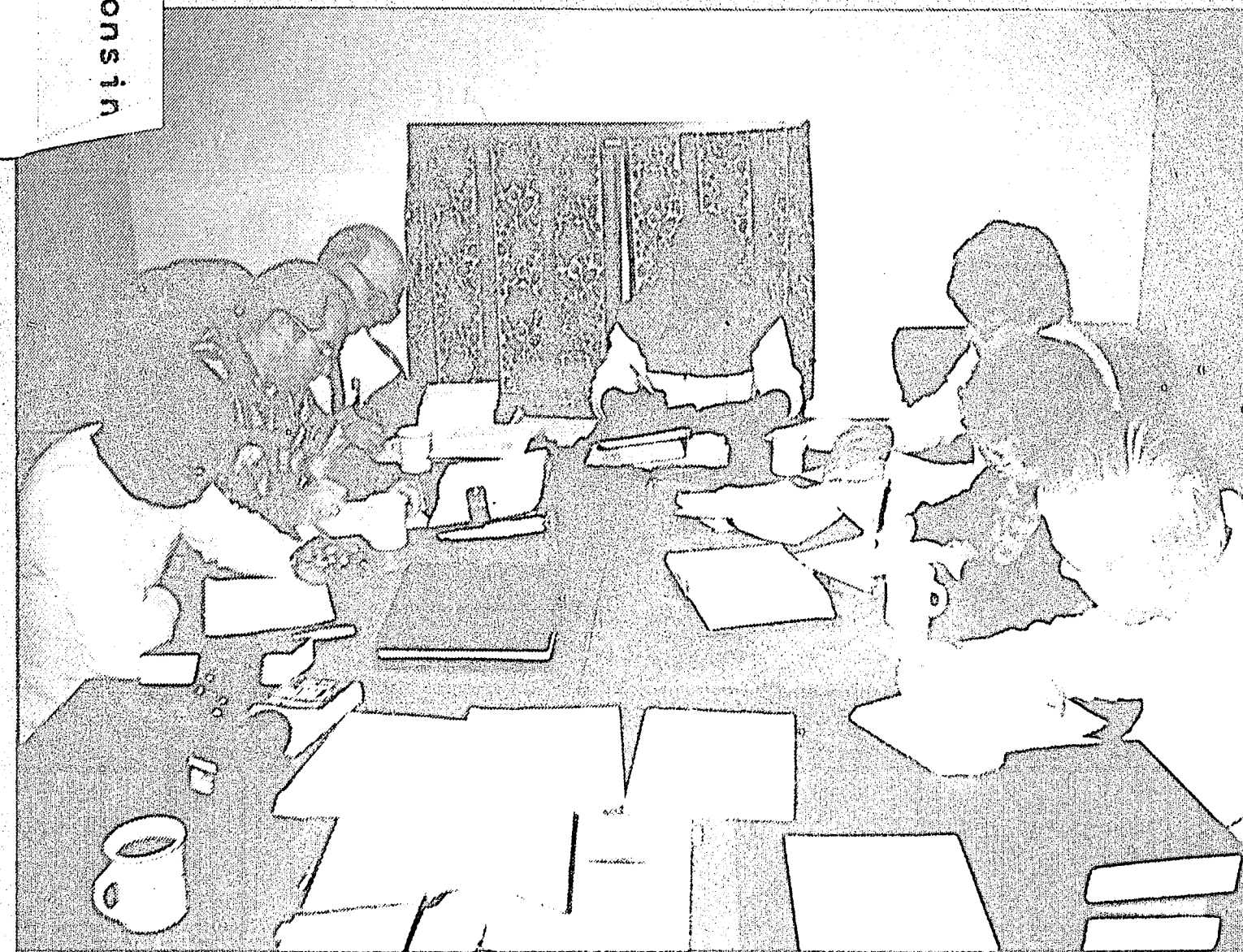
Sabbath



Recorder

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Special
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emphasis



Training our
churches'
leadership