

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

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590

State Hist Soc of Wisconsin
816 State St
Madison, WI 53706

The Seventh Day Baptist

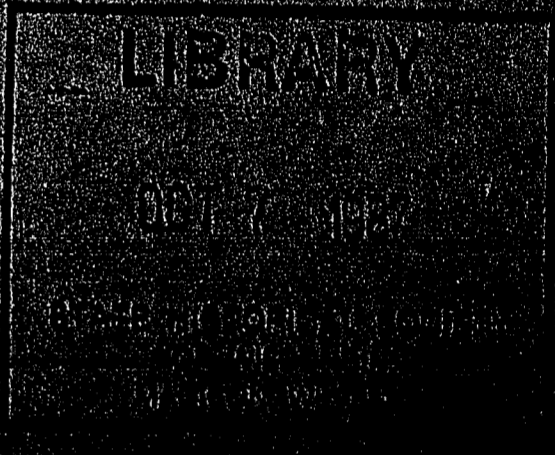
October 1987

Sabbath Recorder

Soaring with the eagles

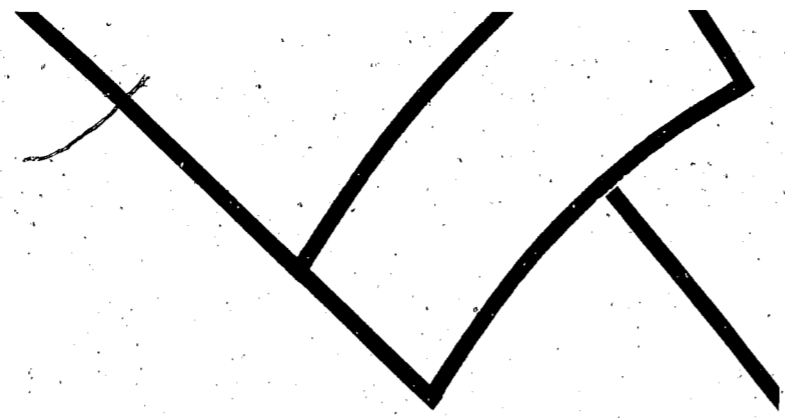


*Faith and
works*



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

Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590



State Hist Soc of Wisconsin
816 State St
Madison, WI 53706

The Seventh Day Baptist

October 1987

Sabbath Recorder

Soaring with the eagles

LIBRARY

OCT 7 1987

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN
MADISON, WI 53706



*Faith and
works*

How Your Skills can Help a Hurting World



From doctors to teachers to evangelists to data entry and more, your skills are needed!

Christian ministries have critical openings for personnel—in the U.S. and overseas—in nearly every occupation. And they're available right now!

Intercriso's Christian Placement Network will show you which of over 35,000 current openings fit you. Discover your possibilities. To find out how

Call Toll-free: 800-426-1342
AK, HI or WA: 206-546-7330
Or return the coupon below.



Intercriso a division of CRISTA
The Career and Human Resource Specialists
19303 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98133

Please send me information on how to find a job in Christian service.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Publication _____

Computer Games for Christians

New Covenant Ministries now has available **Bible centered computer games** that can be played on most home computers such as Apple, TI, Atari, Commodore, Kaypro & TRS-80 (color computer).

Accounting, word processing and mailing address programs also are available for TRS-80 (color computer) & Commodore.

Order the BASIC nine game **ELIJAH'S QUAIL** set for \$10.00 or send \$1.00 for catalog and sample game. Be sure that you mention computer type and send order to:



BIBLE BYTE SOFTWARE
NEW COVENANT MINISTRIES
2269 Field Street
Denver, CO 80215

The Sabbath Recorder



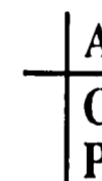
October 1987
Volume 209, No. 10
Whole No. 6,712

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communications Council (formerly the American Sabbath Tract Society), 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

This is the 143rd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



D. Scott Smith
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

Ernest K. Bee, J. Paul Green, Leon R. Lawton, Ralph Mackintosh, Marilyn Merchant, Matthew Olson, Don A. Sanford, Herbert E. Saunders, Dale D. Thorngate.

Staff

Leanne Lippincott, paste-up and typesetting; Camille Henry, typist; volunteer proofreaders.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Features

- | | |
|--|---|
| Eagles or prairie chickens?
by George Calhoun | 4 |
| My timely experience
by William Bowyer | 8 |

Departments

- | | |
|---|----|
| Enter the joy of faithful prayer
by Conference President Herbert E. Saunders | 10 |
| Report to General Conference
by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate | 12 |
| <i>The Beacon</i>
by Matthew G. Olson | 16 |
| Focus on missions
by Leon R. Lawton | 20 |
| Franklin proposes prayer
<i>Pearls of History</i> by Don A. Sanford | 22 |
| 1987 Scripture Memorization Program
by the Board of Christian Education | 25 |
| Keeping our eyes on God
Women's Society NEWS & IDEAS by Marilyn Merchant | 30 |
| Obituaries, Accessions & Marriages | 33 |

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, Seventh Day Baptists believe in...

the saving love of Jesus Christ...

the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. We use the Bible as our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.

We believe in freedom of thought and the congregational form of church government. That means that every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision making process of the church.

The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus showed that he agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience, and not as a means of salvation—salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information about Seventh Day Baptists, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

How Your Skills can Help a Hurting World



From doctors to teachers to evangelists to data entry and more, your skills are needed!

Christian ministries have critical openings for personnel—in the U.S. and overseas—in nearly every occupation. And they're available right now!

Intercriso's Christian Placement Network will show you which of over 35,000 current openings fit you. Discover your possibilities. To find out how . . .

**Call Toll-free: 800-426-1342
AK, HI or WA: 206-546-7330
Or return the coupon below.**



Intercriso
The Career and Human Resource Specialists
19303 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98143

a division of CRISTA

Please send me information on how to find a job in Christian service

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Publication _____

State _____

Zip _____

Computer Games for Christians

New Covenant Ministries now has available **Bible centered computer games** that can be played on most home computers such as Apple, TI, Atari, Commodore, Kaypro & TRS-80 (color computer).

Accounting, word processing and mailing address' programs also are available for TRS-80 (color computer) & Commodore.

Order the BASIC nine game **ELIJAH'S QUAIL** set for \$10.00 or send \$1.00 for catalog and sample game. Be sure that you mention computer type and send order to:



BIBLE BYTE SOFTWARE
NEW COVENANT MINISTRIES
2269 Field Street
Denver, CO 80215

The Sabbath Recorder



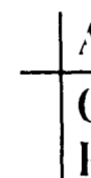
October 1987
Volume 209, No. 10
Whole No. 6,712

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communications Council (formerly the American Sabbath Tract Society), 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

This is the 143rd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



D. Scott Smith
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

Ernest K. Bee, J. Paul Green, Leon R. Lawton, Ralph Mackintosh, Marilyn Merchant, Matthew Olson, Don A. Sanford, Herbert E. Saunders, Dale D. Thorngate.

Staff

Leanne Lippincott, paste-up and typesetting; Camille Henry, typist; volunteer proofreaders.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a **space available** basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Features

- | | |
|--|---|
| Eagles or prairie chickens?
by George Calhoun | 4 |
| My timely experience
by William Bowyer | 8 |

Departments

- | | |
|---|----|
| Enter the joy of faithful prayer
by Conference President Herbert E. Saunders | 10 |
| Report to General Conference
by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate | 12 |
| <i>The Beacon</i>
by Matthew G. Olson | 16 |
| Focus on missions
by Leon R. Lawton | 20 |
| Franklin proposes prayer
<i>Pearls of History</i> by Don A. Sanford | 22 |
| 1987 Scripture Memorization Program
by the Board of Christian Education | 25 |
| Keeping our eyes on God
Women's Society NEWS & IDEAS by Marilyn Merchant | 30 |
| Obituaries, Accessions & Marriages | 33 |

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, Seventh Day Baptists believe in the saving love of Jesus Christ . . . the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. We use the Bible as our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct. We believe in freedom of thought and the congregational form of church government. That means that every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision making process of the church.

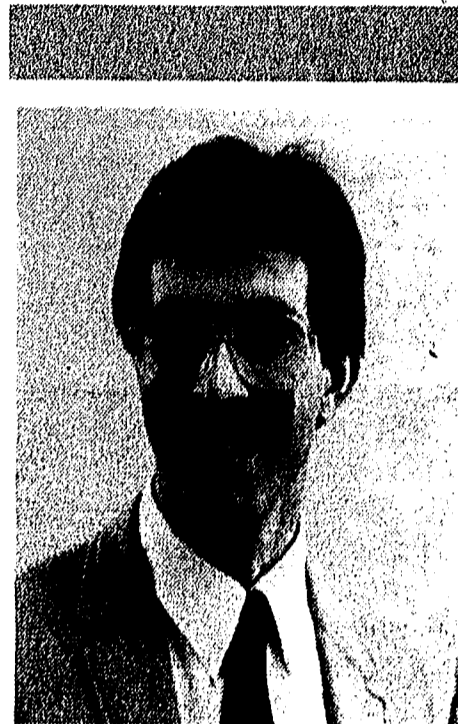
The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus showed that he agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience, and not as a means of salvation—salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information about Seventh Day Baptists, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Eagles or prairie chickens?

by George Calhoun



Rev. George Calhoun

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" (NIV) —Luke 17:5-10

In the above passage, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Lord, increase our faith." Can you imagine Jesus looking at them with the love and tender care that he has? He says, "You want more faith—great! But if you only have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to that tree, 'Be cast into the ocean, and it would be cast into the ocean.' Why do you come to me and keep asking for more faith when I have already given you faith? Why do you keep coming to me and asking me what you should do when I have already told you what you should do? Do not be like the servant that comes to me over and over saying, 'Lord, what should I do?' I have told you what to do. It is there. Do it. It is your responsibility. It is your duty to use what I have given to you. Why? Because all those who wish to follow me, all those who desire to be my disciples, must follow me and do the things I say to do."

Alexander the Great conquered huge land masses during his reign. In the midst of one of the battles was a young soldier. As the fighting got hot, he

turned and ran in fear. They caught him and brought him before Alexander. As he stood before this great leader, Alexander said to him, "Son, what is your name?"

The boy said, "Alexander, sir."

"Son, what is your name?" the emperor repeated.

"Alexander, sir."

"Son," Alexander said, "change your attitude, or change your name."

God wants to give you a new attitude. Seventh Day Baptists need a new attitude. Like the disciples, we are all too often busy looking for more faith. We ask the Lord what to do when he has already said to us what to do. But we are so busy, we are too exhausted to do what he said to do. As a result, many of us are like the Texas economics teacher who took his class to an oil refinery which was going bankrupt. They walked around and looked at the receiving department, the refining department and the offices. They were about finished when the teacher said to the man, "Where is the shipping department—where do you send it out?"

The reply came, "Well, we don't have one."

"What do you mean, you don't have one?" the professor asked.

"We just don't have one."

"Well, why not?"

"I'll tell you," said the worker. "It took everything we have to keep us going, so that we don't have anything left to send out."

How many of us are like this? Be honest with yourself. Do we, as Seventh Day Baptists, do a lot of moving around but never go anywhere? Do we desire to work for God but just cannot get it into gear? Do we desire to move *up and out* for God, but instead we move *down and out* for him. These are questions we must ask ourselves. If the answer is "yes," and I believe it is, then I ask that you listen very carefully. I think that God wants to say something to us.

Potential in Christ

The first thing he wants to let us know is that we have great potential in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works." We are his workmanship. We are created in Jesus. We get so out of perspective. God says "Do my work," but we are so concerned with budget and programs that we have lost perspective of what God is calling us to do as a people.

Why do we have so much trouble doing God's work? Why is it so hard? I think that the major reason is that we have not recognized our potential in Christ. We have not recognized our potential as a people. I believe that we are like the story of the American Indian brave who found an eagle's egg. He took it and put it in the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet hatched and grew up with all the prairie chicks. All his life, this eagle thought he was a prairie chicken. He would scratch for bugs, claw around looking for seeds, and cluck and clack. He would flap his wings, but he would only get a few feet off the ground. Years passed, and one day—as this eagle grew old—he looked up and saw a magnificent bird flying overhead, hanging gracefully on majestic golden wings. "What a beautiful bird," he said to himself. He turned to his neighbor and asked what kind of bird it was? His neighbor, the prairie chicken, said, "That's an eagle. Chief of the birds. But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like that." So the eagle never gave it a second thought, and he died, thinking he was a prairie chicken.

Do we think that perhaps we are prairie chickens? What a tragedy—built to soar to heavens, but conditioned to stay on earth. He pecked and scratched for seeds and bugs though he was designed to soar with the most awesome of creation. Instead, he took

his neighbor's counsel and settled for the life of a prairie chicken.

We look at other ministries and say, "Oh God, look at the eagles! But we could never be like that." Who says? It does not mean that we have to be them, but will not God bless us and allow us to soar as he has allowed others to soar?

We have not recognized our potential. Christians, many of you may find that you, your churches, and your ministries have the same view as this eagle who thought he was a prairie chicken. God has created you. He has created you in *Christ Jesus*. He has given you a job to do. God has cleansed us with the blood of Jesus, empowered us with his Holy Spirit and has given us work to do. Yet, for so many of us, we never get but a few feet off the ground. Instead of soaring the heavens, we settle for scratching bugs. We must recognize that we are children of God. We must do everything in our power, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, to break the mold of mediocrity among our people.

Recognize that you are a new creation in Jesus Christ. The same power ("dunamus" in the Greek—the same word from which we get our word "dynamite") that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you. It will quicken your mortal body if you let it. Recognize that the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, has called *you* to be an ambassador and spokesman for him. Jesus is calling us to be his hands and his feet—to take the good news to those who are hurt, to those who are oppressed, to those that are going to hell. People, we need a vision. Without a vision, the people perish. We need that vision. So, recognize that we have great potential in Christ and stop thinking like a prairie chicken.

We are so concerned with budget and programs that we have lost perspective of what God is calling us to do as a people.

"It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself wholly to him."

Give up small ambitions

The second thing that God wants us to recognize is our need to give up our small ambitions. Mark 9:23 says, "If you can, everything is possible for him who believes." Did it say "some" things? No, it said *everything* is possible to him who believes. In the third chapter of Exodus, the Lord spoke to Moses from a burning bush and told him that he was going to deliver the nation Israel from their bondage and lead them to the promised land. I am positive that Moses was very pleased by this, but then came the shock. "Moses," God said, "I want to send you."

Can you picture that? Moses might have answered, "God, I'm getting up in years, my hearing isn't as good as it used to be. What was that you said again?"

"Moses, I want to send you."

"God, I can't. I tried it 40 years ago. I've never done it that way before. What makes you think that they'll follow me now? Besides, God, I'm well up in my years, I'm settled in my ways, I'm comfortable and ready for retirement."

"Moses, I want you to go and tell Pharaoh to let my people go."

"Lord! Come on! You don't understand. I'm no talker—I trip over my tongue. Lord, I can't, I can't."

"Moses, do not worry about it. I will say everything that is coming out of your mouth. Depend on me."

"But Lord, I can't, I can't."

Moses protested and asked that someone else be sent to the mission field. If Moses had continued his small ambition, he would have missed out on the opportunity of a lifetime. Focusing on his weaknesses, inadequacies and smallness, disregarding God's promise to compensate him, he would have missed out on one of the greatest adventures of all time. Moses could have been like so many of us—retired at 65, dead at 25.

D. L. Moody once heard a statement that revolutionized his entire life and ministry. The statement was this: "It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself wholly to him." Do you understand that? It remains to be seen what God will do with a man, a woman, a child, an SCSC worker, a deacon, a pastor, *anyone* who gives himself wholly to him. As you well know, D. L. Moody, the shoe salesman from Chicago without any theological training, set the world on fire for Jesus. Why? Because he was wholly given to God.

Perhaps you feel inadequate. You know, there is not a time that I get up to preach or go out to share that I do not feel like getting sick. It is not easy. We are storming the gates of hell, and Satan knows it. But, God is calling you to do it. Remember, it is not your ability that matters; it is your availability. Are you available to God? It is an awesome job, and we are inadequate. But remember, with God, nothing is impossible.

"God, we just don't have the personnel." Have you ever thought of the disciples? There was Simon, a zealot, a political fanatic and Matthew—a trader of the nation. I suspect that they had some interesting conversations. How about the two brothers, James and John, nicknamed "sons of thunder"? What kind of guys get nicknamed "sons of thunder"? Did they wear black leather robes with a lightning bolt that said *Sons of Thunder*?

If God can use men like that, imagine what he can do with us. If he can use them, can he not use us? The answer is, he can. The issue is, will you let him?

Give up your small ambition and witness to your neighbor. When was the last time you did that—witness to your friend, your neighbor, the guy you work with, or your enemy? Take on that Sabbath School class that you have been asked to do. Join that committee or

mission. Go out and share the gospel with someone. That is *radical*, but it takes a radical commitment and a radical faith to be a disciple of Jesus. Talk to your neighbor about Jesus. Stop shelving God's calling, resigning yourself to the desert of defeat in Midian. Remember, today is the first day of the rest of your life in Christ.

Stop looking back

A third point that God wants us to recognize is our need to stop looking back. We do that so often. Paul, in Phil. 3:13-14 says, "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

After the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of Israel. Upon assuming his position, he went out and was assured of success by God. Things went well for a while, and then trouble came. One of the Israelites, named Achan, fell into sin. That robbed Joshua and the armies of all the power which they had displayed against Jericho; power that they would still need if they were going to take over the promised land. Tragedy struck as Joshua's soldiers ran from battle and fell dead before the army that came against them.

Joshua was heart-broken. He was hurt. He tore his clothes, and he fell on his face before the Lord and was consumed in defeat. All he could think about was defeat, defeat. "I lost, we can't go any farther. We can't do anything. We are stuck here." He forgot all about the crossing of the Jordan and the walls of Jericho! All he could focus on was his failure. All he could focus on was his doubt of God. But God would not allow it, and he is not going to allow it with us. I believe God is saying to Seventh Day Baptists the same thing he said to

Go out and share the gospel with someone. That is radical, but it takes a radical commitment and a radical faith to be a disciple of Jesus.

Joshua—"Joshua, get up off of your face." Get up off your face. Certainly, defeat will come, but so will the future victories. Joshua had to realize that if you are going to step out, you are going to have defeat. With defeat, also came victories.

Consider Thomas Edison, the great American inventor. He was confronted by two of his despondent assistants. "We've just completed 700 experiments, but we still don't have an answer. We've failed." He looked them right in the eye and said "Failed? My friends, you haven't failed. You've just discovered 700 ways not to do it. Don't call it a mistake; call it an education."

We have made some mistakes. Can we call it an education? I hope we have. Let's press on. Let's not look back, but forward. Learn from your mistakes and do not look back at decisions that you cannot change. As a pastor, I meet so many people that live in the land of *if only*. "Well, if only we had more money." *If only* this or that. The Hebrews did the same thing. If only we were out of bondage—and then they were set free. If only we were back in Egypt.

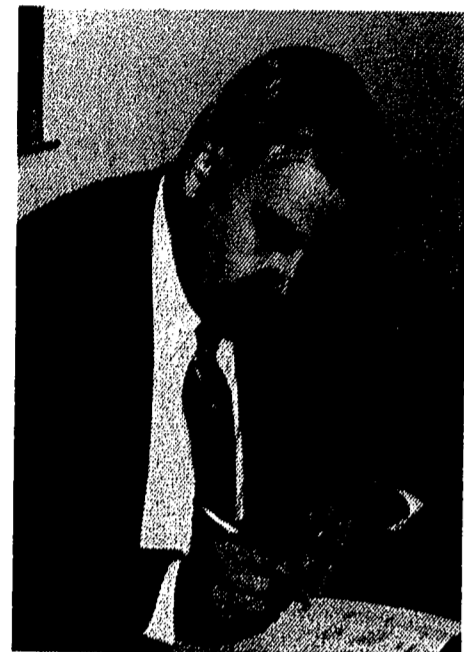
Perhaps many of you are like this, and it is hindering you from moving out for God. You are afraid to step out because you are looking back. Jesus said if you put your hands to the plow, look forward; do not look back.

Perhaps you are caught in a snare of past failures or a past decision that you have made, or that we have made. Push them aside. Let's push aside the mediocre life of a prairie chicken and let's soar with the eagles.

Cont. on page 24

My timely experience

by William Bowyer



William Bowyer

Given on Sabbath, August 15, 1987, at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, Westerly, Rhode Island.

I thought that you might be interested in hearing about the Training in Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) program from a participant, to give you a better idea about the program that you have read and heard about. This will be sort of a mixture of a report and a testimony of some of my experiences in this outstanding program.

A year ago, at General Conference, I spoke briefly about T.I.M.E. and said that Director Rodney Henry had a ghostwriter, which the King James Version (of the Bible) calls the Holy Ghost. During the last 12 months, that has been borne out repeatedly.

There are two groups in the program named for the location where the seminar meets: the Denver/Boulder group and the Salemville group. The Salemville, Pennsylvania, group—of which I am a member—will have completed one-half of the program this month; six of the 12 parts called

modules. A module consists of 30 days of reading and written assignments that takes from one, to one and one-fourth, hours per day over a six-week period.

Two-thirds of them are followed by a 10-hour seminar. Some involve an implementation project that takes an additional 10 hours.

Salemville, which is 450 miles from Westerly, Rhode Island, is located in a great natural surrounding which enhances worship. It is in a valley which is called a cove; in a quiet place, somewhat remote. The seminar was the first time I have been there. If you get a

chance to go there, I would encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity.

We gather together at worship on Sabbath morning, followed by a delightful dinner. Then the seminar runs from Sabbath afternoon into the evening—until about 9 p.m.—and continues on Sunday morning. I have found friendly hospitality by the people there and fellowship with the trainees, which I have enjoyed and look forward to when it is time for another seminar.

Learning in the program is practical, not just theoretical, and application to one's life and ministry is encouraged. For example, the Pastoral Theology module earlier in the year included counseling, marriage and weddings, and bereavement and funerals. It was most helpful to me in ministering to my brother's family following my 21-year-old nephew's death from cancer in May.

Another example is the message that you will hear shortly. Last fall, during the Bible Interpretation module, detailed outlines were used to analyze and study Scripture passages. Helpful feedback to our written assignments was given by Rodney Henry. Then, in the spring, during the Worship and Preaching module, we transferred it into outline form and prepared it for presentation at the seminar and in our churches. So, the message you will hear, "Learning from the Temptation of Jesus," actually began to take shape last fall.

We had to prepare two passages, and this one was my first choice. Then, at the seminar, we gave our sermon, which I prefer to call a "message." Each trainee and Herb Saunders, who led the seminar, wrote a page evaluation and discussed it following the presentation. It was a good experience; a new one for me. I did not enjoy giving mine, but I did enjoy listening to the others. I was

Cont. on page 9

Rev. J. Paul Green resigns from office of dean

by Edgar F. Wheeler
Chairman
Council on Ministry

After serving for six years as dean of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry, Rev. J. Paul Green has submitted his resignation to the Council on Ministry, effective by the end of 1987. The council expresses deep appreciation for his congenial and cooperative relationships with this body, and for his faithful service during a time of significant developments in the crucial area of ministerial training.

During his term of office, he has carried on already established programs, including planning, directing and teaching Summer Institutes; planning and leading pastors' conferences; and leading post-conference retreats for pastors and theological students. He served on the staff of Summer Christian Service Corps training camps, 1983 through 1985, and teamed with Historian Scott Smith to teach a Seventh Day Baptist History and Polity course in Jamaica.

During these years, important

forward steps were taken for the training of pastoral candidates coming from or continuing in secular occupations and for retirees who were unable to attend seminary. The first was the Certificate Training Course, taught by Rev. Melvin G. Nida. This led to the development of the Training in Ministry and Extension program (T.I.M.E.) through Rev. Rodney Henry. Wide acclaim has been accorded this program, both from its students and from churches pastored by these students.

In addition to his satisfaction in carrying out the various programs, Dean Green reflects with appreciation on "the privilege of working with dedicated, gifted students, several of whom are now in pastoral work" and the inspiration of participation in ordination; and "close personal relationships and good working relationships with denominational leaders and staff." SR



Rev. J. Paul Green

Learning in the program is practical, not just theoretical.

Timely experience

impressed by the quality of all the trainees and, particularly, by their solid-grounding in the Word.

Countless times, I have thanked God for the opportunity to be a participant in the program. He has used it—along with other experiences in the Word and in my daily walk during the past year—for definite personal, spiritual growth. In the words of 2 Peter 3:18, "to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Growth in biblically-based knowledge,

in understanding and in attitudes, while developing more maturity in the Christian life, have been sensed and appreciated. I "praise the Lord" for this excellent program. I solicit your prayers for the program, Director Rod Henry and for each trainee, so that it will continue to be a TIMELY program, used by God. SR

Enter the Joy

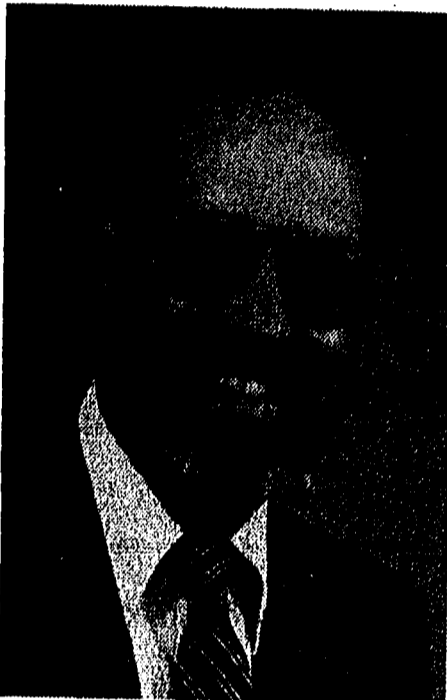
The President's Page

Enter the joy of faithful prayer

It is easy to suggest that Seventh Day Baptists are at a crossroad. Whenever a people perceive that they need vision; whenever there is a desire to consider a new direction; whenever there is a search for new ways to minister—there is a crossroad. And the signs are not always clear.

As we reflect on our heritage and those events in our history that have brought us to this moment, we are instantly aware that we have always been at a crossroad. There is nothing new in seeking new vision and direction—it is all part of the plan of God for us as we grow to maturity in Christ. But whenever we are faced with the crucial decisions of choosing the right paths, or the proper ministry, or the appropriate direction, we realize that we are in need of vision that we have not yet known. And, for the Christian, that uncertainty turns them to prayer.

It was Martin Luther who said: "Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith." When we pray we open up the windows of heaven which will illuminate our path and set our direction. If we are to "Enter the Joy" of God's blessing for Seventh Day Baptist Christians, we must pray! Paul writes: "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:17, 18).



Herbert E. Saunders, President

Seventh Day Baptists are at a crossroad.

The spirit of prayer is a joyful heart in close personal relationship to the Lord. As we are faithful to him, we are given our direction. We believe that he answers prayer. Prayer allows us to experience the God of joy in ways we may not have experienced before. He knows better than we know ourselves and desires the very best for us. But he will not force his will upon us—he will not give us a vision that we refuse to accept. He wants us to be receptive to his leading, and this receptivity we express when we go to him in prayer. In faithful prayer we know the mind of God and begin to see things from his point of view. It is then that our path is made clear and we are sent forth in praise.

What should we Seventh Day Baptists pray for as we seek to "Enter the Joy" of his promises? Think about these suggestions as you reflect on God's plan for your life, the life of your church, and our life together as a people:

Pray...

—That you may grow in faithfulness to God and his purpose for your life.

—That your church may gain a vision of faithful response to God's love as you minister within your own community.

—That the Seventh Day Baptist denomination may celebrate the goodness of God's leading of our people as we try to see things from his point of view—and embrace his vision for us.

—That God's Holy Spirit will lead us into stronger faith.

—That every Seventh Day Baptist Christian may experience spiritual growth and see the plan of God fulfilled in their lives, including the one who bears your name.

—That there may be a renewed resolve to be "faithful unto death" on the

part of each of us.

—That there may be a renewal of worship, and praise, and study, and service as God leads us.

—That the Seventh Day Baptist denominational budget for ministries of faith we share together may be raised in 1987 and exceeded in 1988.

—That our leadership, which includes pastors, teachers, administrators, deacons and elders, clerks and secretaries, may have a vision of new life for Seventh Day Baptists and the wisdom to share it with us.

—That we might, in the power of God, follow Christ and those we have chosen to lead us into new areas of ministry and love.

—That we might be enthusiastic

about our faith and "Enter the Joy" of God's promised presence.

We are a people whose life has just begun. We have a tremendous message to share with the world, of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Master, and of the Sabbath as a gift of joy for those who believe. May we stay with God in prayer as we seek his will for us in the days we have ahead of us. May we bow our heads and knees to arise to new heights of joy and service. God has called us to be faithful. Jesus said: "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21). "Enter the Joy of Faithful Prayer!" SR

We are a people whose life has just begun.

New Covenant Ministries provides many services

by Joyce L. Conrod

The New Covenant Ministries continues to provide full accounting and auditing to churches and Christian organizations. Some new churches are using our computer accounting programs on their own Commodore and Radio Shack computers, and other new churches and Christian organizations are also having New Covenant Ministries do their complete bookkeeping and prepare quarterly and annual reports for them. Demonstrations of the church computer accounting package continue to be given at various church and Christian conferences.

An annual actuarial study for the Seventh Day Baptist Committee on Support and Retirement (C.O.S.A.R.) has again been prepared, as well as putting the *Guidelines* for the committee on a computer file to make it more convenient to update. We are also still preparing many of the Daily Bible

Readings for *The Helping Hand* Sabbath School lesson manual.

We have tried several new projects this year, stepping out on faith that the financial responsibilities will be met. Our biggest project—and one of the most enjoyable—was to use our Plymouth mini-van to take three of the Mid-Continent Association pastors to ministers' conference in Battle Creek, Michigan. Other new projects are the publishing of bulletin inserts, as well as two gospel tracts, a song sheet and a Christmas greeting card to be made available on a donation basis.

New Covenant Ministries continues to stand ready to serve the Lord and the local churches in every way we can. We are deeply grateful to all who have been prayerfully and financially supporting us during this past year. SR

Report to General Conference

July 1986 to July 1987

by Dale D. Thorngate

If we as Seventh Day Baptists believe what our Statement of Beliefs says, then education must be an important function of the church.

Let us press on

President Gerry VanDyke reminds us that we are called. First we are called out—"out of slavery, out of fear, out of death, out of impurity, out of hatred, out of sin and out of condemnation." But we are also called into: "freedom, wholeness, resurrection, life eternal, holiness, forgiveness, love and acceptance." As we "press on (together) toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," we are called to make commitments, give of our time, talents and money, so that the Kingdom of God can be realized on the earth.

In this seventh year of the Decade of Discipleship, the Board of Christian Education has emphasized for us the importance of educational materials for our Sabbath Schools, our young people and our children. If we as Seventh Day Baptists believe what our Statement of Beliefs says, about the "priesthood of all believers" and the role of Scripture in our lives, then education must be an important function of the church. Our study of God's word and his action through people he has chosen provides us with the vision, the wisdom and the strength to "Press On..."

Highlights

A review of this past year reveals the following measurable results of our efforts:

- Annual net increase in total membership:
1981—91, 1984—31, 1985—126, 1986—45
- New groups meeting for worship:
Lake Elsinore, CA; Bradenton, FL; Milwaukee, WI; Los Angeles, CA, Spanish Congregation; Colorado Springs, CO; Rapid City, SD; Imalone, WI
- Pastors ordained:
Oscar Godoy, George Calhoun, Kevin Butler, Verne Wright
- Six new pastors:
Lacey Joiner, Stonefort, IL; Michael Burns, Washington, DC; Leland Bond, Bradenton, FL; Keith Mogle, Centralia, WA; Earle Holston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX; Jim Gardiner, Rapid City, SD
- Seminary graduates:
Sharon Wauls, Arthur Rowe, George Calhoun
- Two new seminary students:
David Thorngate, METHESCO; Marty Pederson, Fuller, CA
- Pastors' Conference, Battle Creek, MI—43 pastors and 13 wives attended
Emphasis on Leadership concerns
- Revised Statement of Beliefs to be voted on at Conference
- Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund contributions:
1983—\$8,200 1984—\$11,000 1985—\$12,386 1986—\$13,759
- TIME program Western training center added in Denver/Boulder, CO area: 9 TIME students added. Sixteen students currently enrolled in the Eastern and Western centers.
- Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) workers increase:
1985—12 1986—18 1987—20
- New missionary appointed in Europe
Dr. Thomas McElwain, member of the Salem, WV, church who lives in Finland, was appointed by the Missionary Society effective February 1, 1987.
- Rev. Don Sanford appointed historian by SDB Historical Society. A retired school teacher, he began work February 1987.
- Santa Barbara, CA church organized March 21, 1987. Extension pastor is Rev. Robert Babcock.
- Addition of Director of Youth Ministries, Matthew Olson

Relocation

At conference last year, the American Sabbath Tract Society was merged with the General Conference and became the Tract and Communication Council. The papers were filed with the Wisconsin Secretary of State's office in September 1986 and were officially recorded October 7, 1986. This completes the transfer of all the New Jersey corporations to Wisconsin.

Office management

In November a new computer system was installed at the SDB Center, which increases the hard disk storage capacity from 5 megabytes to 40 megabytes. It increases the number of terminals from 3 to 7 and from one printer to three. We have had our problems with software and hardware. As of this time we have a new software vendor and have requested a refund from the original contractor for the unfulfilled portion of the contract. The new IBM-compatible system was made by the former Sperry Corporation, now Unisys.

In October 1986 Linda Harris, editor of *The Helping Hand*, began working in the office at the Center.

On February 1, 1987, Don Sanford, new historian for the Historical Society, began work at the Center, converting the library workroom into his office.

On May 7, 1987, Matt Olson, director of Youth Ministry for the Board of Christian Education, began working at the Center. This is to be temporary until his wife Ellen completes her internship at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, WI, as an occupational therapist.

On January 31, 1987, Ivan FitzRandolph retired as business manager and denominational treasurer. At a retirement dinner and "roast" on February 17, the General Council and over 90 coworkers and friends shared in a retirement celebration. Ivan developed for the conference and its agencies an accounting and bookkeeping system which we had never had and which will serve the denomination well for many years. With patience and professional skill, he has taught the staff much about effective office procedures, for Ivan is a master teacher as well as experienced manager.

On February 1, 1987, Jeffery Crandall began work as business manager. Although Jeff lacked skills in Accounting, Ivan FitzRandolph had agreed to assist us on a two-days-a-week basis to train Jeff in these skills. By June 5, Jeff had determined that the business manager/treasurer job was not what he had expected it to be and he tendered his resignation.

We are fortunate that Ivan has agreed to work with us two days a week while we recruit a replacement for this vital position.

Communications and public relations

LEAD-LINE

This newsletter continues to provide a vital information link with SDB leadership. I continue to appreciate my wife Janet's creative dedicated service in this very important area of our work. We have increased the circulation to 500 copies.

Meetings

During the year I attended 36 meetings of our boards and agencies as well as ecumenical organizations.

Church visits

During this year I have visited over 24 churches, making presentations and listening to concerns and ideas.

Lead-Line provides a vital information link with SDB leadership.

I have continued to emphasize partnership between the churches.

Pastors' Conference

In April I conducted seminars on Pastoral Leadership for the Pastors' Conference. Topics presented and discussed were Vision, Money and Power.

Slide program

Because of positive reaction to the "Partnership in Ministry" slide program and the concept of our partnership as churches, boards and agencies, we have updated the pictures and will present it as part of my report to this General Conference session.

Every member mailings

Last year (1986) we conducted a monthly program to inform individual families and friends of on-going denominational work. These every-member mailings also provide opportunity for people to support specific portions of the work through direct contributions.

This year, in an effort to reduce costs, we have sent a mailing every other month. Of course, our costs have been reduced by 50%; however, I believe that this no doubt contributes to the lower income for the current giving to Our World Mission.

Sabbath Recorder articles

In the executive secretary's *Recorder* column during the past year, I continued to emphasize the three major functions of the church: discipleship, leadership and stewardship. I have studied the Bible and many new books by contemporary Christian authors on all three subjects in an attempt to communicate information and guidance in each area. I pray that God will strengthen our ministry through a clear understanding of these vital issues.

Stewardship

During this year I have continued to emphasize partnership between the churches, boards and agencies as we seek to minister in God's name across the country. At its February meeting the General Council voted to change the name of the denominational budget from Our World Mission to Partnership in Ministry. Reasons for the change included (1) evidence of misunderstanding of what Our World Mission referred to and (2) desire to point up and encourage the partnership concept.

It is my hope and that of the General Council that as we all work together in this partnership in God's work that the end results will be effective and that his glory will be magnified.

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

This last year was indeed a celebration year for the World Federation. For the third session and its 20th anniversary, all 15 of the member bodies were represented at the 1986 sessions in Westerly, Rhode Island. The more than 40 overseas delegates and observers also attended our General Conference the following week.

President James Skaggs' theme, "By Means of His Power" (Ephesians 3:20), certainly set a high tone for sharing and planning for the next five years of World Federation activities.

The key issue identified for future emphasis was leadership development. Several of the conferences, ours included, are developing new leadership training programs. The cooperative international projects identified for volunteer funding are in the leadership development area.

I am convinced that Seventh Day Baptist ministry must become more and more international in the future. As our travel and communications technologies become more sophisticated and available, the necessity for a world-wide focus is imperative.

Before I close this section I want to say "thank you" again to all those who contributed their time, talent and financial assistance to make the World Federation sessions possible and a great experience for everyone involved.

Ecumenical

During this year I personally attended meetings of two ecumenical organizations with which we cooperate: Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the American Bible Society. I believe both of these organizations are important for us to participate in.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is the Washington-based Baptist organization with responsibility for monitoring the government's actions regarding the First Amendment and freedom of religion. The long-standing Baptist principle of the separation of Church and State is being challenged both by the government and by many within Christian circles today. It is important for Seventh Day Baptists to be involved in this committee at this time as our freedom of Sabbath worship could be in jeopardy as well as our freedom from other encroachments by government agencies, especially the Internal Revenue Service.

The American Bible Society continues to be a most effective organization at publishing and distributing Scripture around the world. If Christianity is to grow to keep up with the world population, then translation, publication and distribution of the Bible is imperative. Seventh Day Baptist support of the American Bible Society (designated through OWM or sent direct) has dropped in the past year. I encourage Seventh Day Baptists to support this vital work of God's Kingdom.

Reflections

During this year I began work on a Doctor of Ministry Degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. My focus of study is Church Leadership, which I believe to be an important issue in development of our on-going work. The degree program is designed to be pursued at the same time I am directly involved in ministry. I arrange my visits to churches and meetings on the west coast to coincide with attendance at course seminars in Pasadena. Each course involves reading done ahead of time, attendance at a one or two-week seminar, followed by additional reading and a paper or other project related to my work.

For the Spirituality and Ministry course last winter, my project was to develop a Sabbath Retreat model for use by Seventh Day Baptists. The project for the second course on Leadership Development to be completed this fall, will be the writing and teaching of the TIME program module on Church Leadership and Administration. The Pastors' Conference seminar and many of my *Recorder* articles, as noted above, have also grown out of this experience. I conducted the Sabbath Retreat for the Summer Institute students in June. It was timely since they were studying Sabbath Theology this year. I look forward to conducting a similar retreat experience for the General Council in August between their meetings and the conference sessions in Lindsborg.

While reading for the Spirituality and Ministry course, I discovered that many contemporary writers are calling for a Christian Sabbath experience, pointing up a great spiritual need in our society. It seems to me that Seventh Day Baptists, although having a mandate to communicate the Sabbath to others, have too often gotten bogged down in scriptural justification for a Seventh day experience and have failed to emphasize enough its purpose as articulated by Christ so effectively.

Cont. on page 34

I want to say "thank you" again to all those who contributed their time, talent and financial assistance to make the World Federation sessions possible...



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

October 1987

Director's Ditty

Can your YF help?

I've never really liked the heat of summer, so autumn's cooler weather is always welcome. Autumn provides not only chilly nights and breezy, sunny days; it also brings a change in fall color. These changes are breathtakingly beautiful in Wisconsin, New York and other states that enjoy a change in season. Autumn also brings falling leaves and a new source of yard work. October is here, and it's time for preparation for winter.

Perhaps your Y.F. can be instrumental in helping those who

need it in their preparation for winter. Volunteering to rake lawns, weatherstrip doors and windows, wash and put up stormwindows—and so on—can be an effective and helpful way for you to be of service to your church. Be sure to make plans for service projects that will show your willingness to help others in your church and community.

Fall is a time to have fun, but it can also be a time of sharing and caring. Remember that, as you serve others, you are serving Christ.

Vital Statistics

Watch in upcoming issues for news about General Conference and the introduction of this year's slate of officers for the National Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship.



Scripture: Proverbs 16:1-3
Memory Scripture: Proverbs 16:3

Whether we choose to recognize it or not, once we accept Christ as our Savior, we must commit every act to him. Before we knew Jesus, our accountability for our actions rested on other people's knowledge of those actions and our motives. Nothing was wrong, as long as you weren't caught.

That definitely changes when Christ is made Lord of our lives. "All the ways of man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives." God knows why we take the path we choose. He also knows our every thought and action. Unlike the non-Christian, we must recognize that nothing we do is done in secret. Although other men may not know our hearts, God does and judges us accordingly.

If we will honestly commit our every work to the Lord, then our actions will be for the glory of God. It will be very difficult for our works to go wrong, because they will be established by God. Ask God to help you in this, that your actions might be dedicated to him and guided by his hand.

The children's page

Thoughts from our primary summer camps

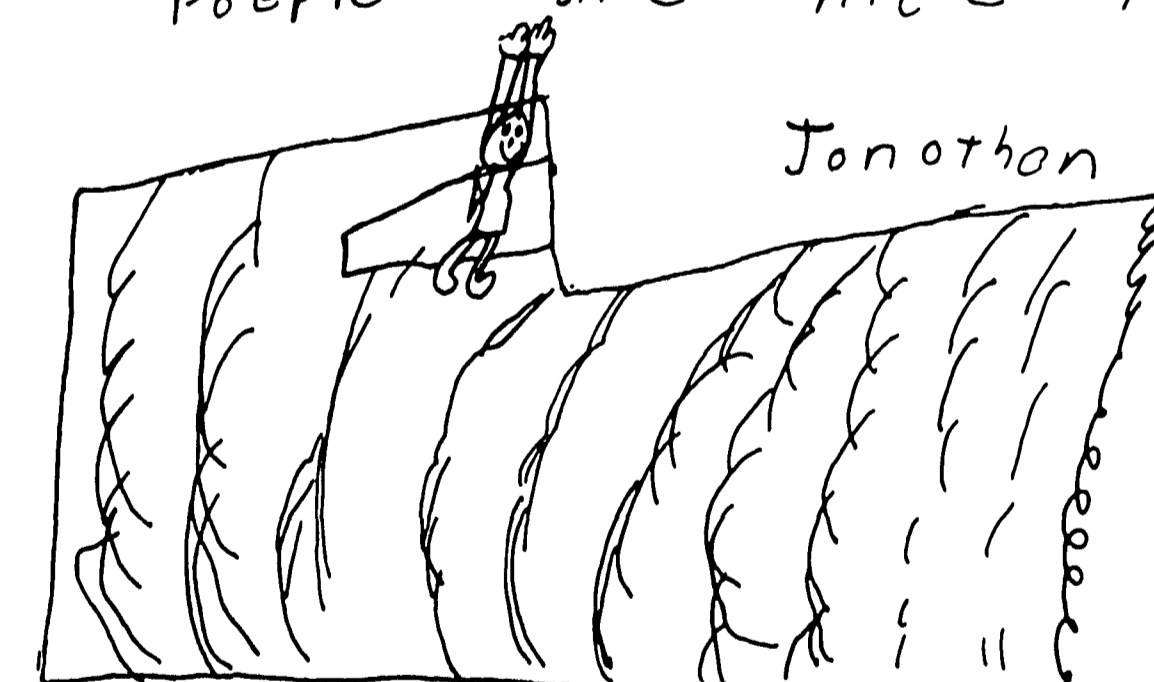
I ♥ camp because

I tis fun You can meet
New friends



Martina
you lean about Jesus

and it is fun and the
people are nice there.



Jonathon Rawle.

1. We go swimming
2. We have games
3. I meet people
4. We have camp fire
5. We sing songs

Heather

We do a bunch of fun things

and I come closer to Jesus
CATH

Summer Christian



Pawcatuck (Westerly, Rhode Island)
Project Director: Helen Brayman (center)
Workers: Deanna Wright (left)
Dina Taylor (right)

Project: vacation Bible school, camps, children's messages, visitation and physical labor (painting church)

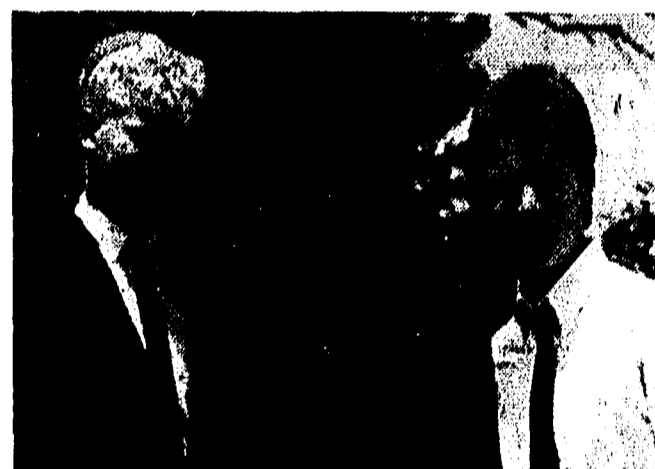
by Camille Henry

As everyone knows, one of the first questions asked of young people following summer is, "What did you do this summer?" Most would answer, "Oh, not much," or "We took a vacation with the family," or "I don't know—but it sure went by fast!" However, there are 20 young people who were *not* at a loss to find words for what *they* did during their summer vacation. Certainly, as the new SCSC brochure suggests, they "invested" their summer.

At training, the 1987 SCSC workers learned how to go about serving in their assigned churches through classes on Christian education, music, sharing their faith, interpersonal relationships and Bible study.

As usual, when the workers left for their projects, the staff began praying for them. Now that they have returned to their home churches and schools, we are praying that God will continue to use them in his work. What they also need is prayer from you as they get back into their regular routines.

Take this picture page and post it somewhere where you will be reminded to pray for each of these dedicated young people. They are our future leaders! **SR**



Plainfield, New Jersey
Project Director: Marlene Samuels (center)
Berlin, New York
Project Director: Ed Sutton (not shown)
Workers: David Carmichael (left)
Mark Green (right)

Project: vacation Bible school, community Bible school, visitation, children's messages



Shiloh / Marlboro, New Jersey
Project Director: Jan Bond (front)
Workers: Laura Hess (left)
Scott Paulin (center)
Tonia Gibson (right)

Project: camps, visitation, children's messages, special music

Project: vacation Bible school, community survey, Bible study, physical labor, VBS follow-up, Sabbath School



Washington, D.C.
Project Director: Paul Andries (front)
Workers: Nathan Crandall (left)
Paula Davis (center)
Steve Osborn (right)

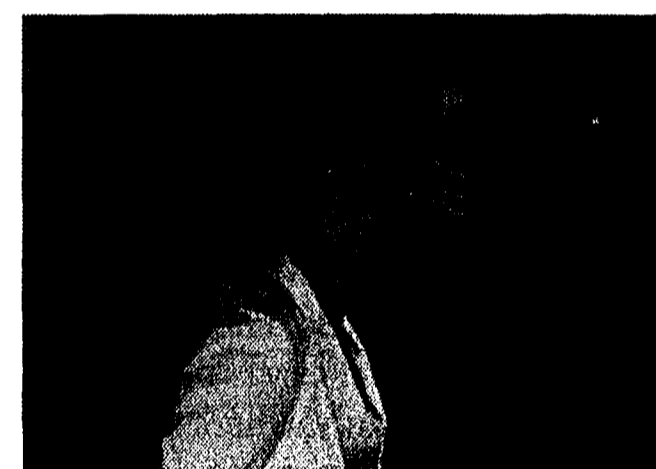
Service Corps—1987



Salem, West Virginia
Project Director: Charles Randolph (center)
Workers: Sanja Severance (left)
Troy Munn (right)

Project: camps, physical labor, special music, children's messages, visitation and Sabbath School

Theme:
Conquerors



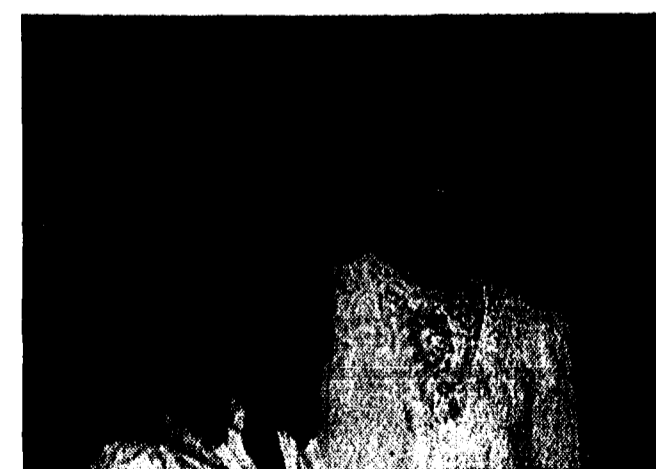
Battle Creek, Michigan
Project Director: Jeanette Noel (not shown)
Workers: Keith Bond (left)
Jeff Roberts (right)

Project: camps, special music, children's messages, testimonies



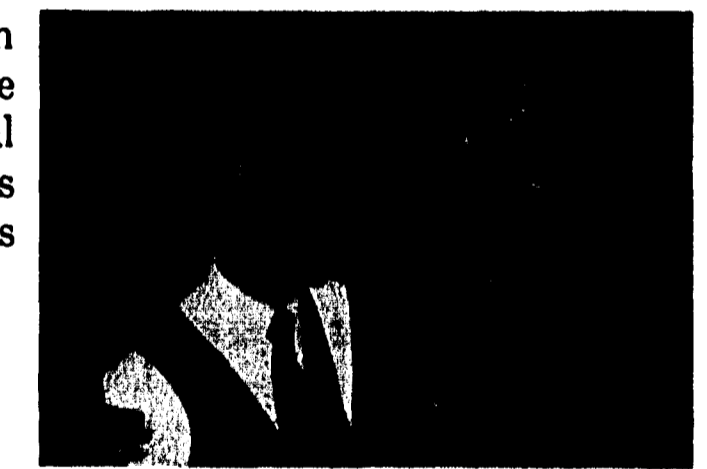
Madison, Wisconsin
Project Director: Kevin Butler (center)
Workers: Amy Palmer (left)
Brad Malby (right)

Project: camp, physical labor, county fair booth, community survey, vacation Bible school, visitation



White Cloud, Michigan
Project Director: Rochale Watt (not shown)
Workers: Angie Pierson (left)
Kerith Camenga (right)

Project: camps, community survey, visitation, special music



New Auburn, Wisconsin
Project Director: Don Chroniger (not shown)
Workers: Paul Barber (left)
Cliff Rosa (right)

Project: "Fun in the Park," Bible studies, special music, children's messages



Focus on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

Seventy-eight make decision for Christ in Guyana

Georgetown, Guyana, South America: Secretary Jacob Tyrrell writes: "Our local churches are busy repairing and erecting new church buildings and doing evangelism. Three people have been baptized at Correia, the new branch group in the Amerindian area. In Kitty, Georgetown, 78 persons signed decision cards after seeing a film entitled *Jesus*, which was shown by eight American young people from Campus Crusade International. These were part of a larger group that conducted film evangelism in Demerara and Berbice with various denominations. These eight were housed by us and worked with us in Kitty for two weeks. It was wonderful working with them. They were able to train some of the young people in our church in how to present Christ to sinners. We are working on the 78 persons who have signed the decision cards."

Charleston Branch Church

Charleston, SC, USA: The Atlanta Area, Georgia, SDB Church has received several new members from this area that have formed a branch church. Their goal is to organize into a local church. This would be the first SDB church in South Carolina. PTL!

SDB's struggle in China

Shanghai, China, Asia: A recent letter from Brother James Chang reports: "I have also heard how the Lord has multiplied his people in Chinese countryside. Though they have no church and pastor, they always come to Shanghai or other city to invite pastor, or sisters and brothers, to go there and tell the doctrine, in family, where a crowd soon gathers. But in the city, the family meeting is forbidden. Christians may congregate and worship at church (buildings) only. As I know, there are only seven churches (buildings open) in Shanghai, all of them work out nicely under the leadership of the government. There is a church which has a Sabbath day worship, but the doctrines are the same as the Sunday meetings. I do hope that SDBs might again have their own congregation and witness here, even in other churches (buildings). In reality, by man it is impossible; but, by the Lord, miracles will appear. I hope all SDBs will pray for us, Chinese SDB church. If God's will, everything will be done."

Lake Elsinore branch church

Lake Elsinore, CA, USA: The Riverside, California, SDB Church has recognized a branch group of their members meeting here as a new extension ministry. A meeting place has been obtained, and Rev. Leland Davis, retired pastor, is acting as the pastor.

New bicycle for Malawi

Blantyre, Malawi, Africa: A special gift designated for bicycles has been used to purchase a new one for Pastor Makwere. The minutes of the Planning Committee of the Central Africa Conference (CAC) read: "It was suggested that he be asked more details about his bicycle, which was stolen. Tires (to be provided to) Pastor B. G. Malonda, Pastor H. J. Mwango, Mr. B. Matewere, Mrs. S. K. Nyirenda and Pastor Chokomoni. Mr. Mandama should be asked if he has a bicycle and, if so, considered. Pastor Mwango should be asked to secure repair parts needed for his bicycle, to be reimbursed."SR

A prayer reminder for each day

November 1987

Verse for the month: "O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and I still declare thy wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and grey, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare thy strength to this generation, thy power to all who are to come."—Psalm 71:17,18 NAS

Pray for...

1. young people pursuing a college education
2. branch church in Milwaukee, WI
3. Pastor Verne Wright, Ashaway, RI
4. Missionaries Tom and Ritva McElwain, Turku, Finland
5. the Finnish people
6. Pastor Lawrence Watt, White Cloud, MI
7. Sabbath School Mission Offering (SSMO) in my local church
8. T.I.M.E. seminar on Christian education in Salemville, PA, today
9. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Blantyre, Malawi, Africa
10. the people of Malawi
11. branch church at Lake Elsinore, CA
12. Pastor Gene Smith, Adams Center, NY
13. new Pastor Arthur Rowe, Daytona Beach, FL
14. a healing ministry to the mentally ill
15. Pastor Tom Johnson, Memphis, TN
16. Extension Director Rodney L. Henry and T.I.M.E. students
17. Prudence Robinson, Jamaica SDB Conference
18. branch church at Imalone, WI, Dale Smalley, pastor
19. God's will to be done, and not our own
20. Pastor Bredoslav Kudelkr, Ostrava, Czechoslovakia
21. new people attending my church for worship
22. Committee on Support and Retirement (COSAR), meeting in Janesville, WI
23. Pastor Jeanne Yurke, Raritan Valley, NJ
24. Pastor Bobbie Wright, Blountville, TN
25. Australasian SDB Conf. and President Ronald Barrar, Auckland, NZ
26. thanks and praise to God
27. those who have never accepted Christ as Savior and Lord
28. the November 1987 denominational budget goals
29. those considering pastoral/missionary ministry
30. Historical Society directors meeting today in Janesville, WI

MOVING?

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

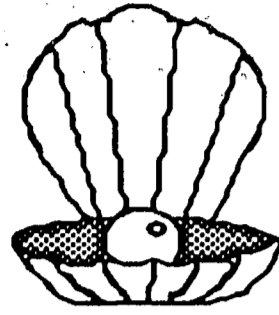
Circulation Department
The Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

New Address: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Pearls of history from the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society

Franklin proposes prayer

by Historian Don A. Sanford

During this year, 1987, Americans are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Many of the framers of the Constitution relied upon God's direction in much of their action. Nowhere is this more dramatically illustrated than in notes from James Madison's journal, which record the proposal of Ben Franklin to the assembly. He is reported to have said, in part:

"The small progress we have made after four or five weeks close attendance and continual reasonings with each other—our different sentiments on almost every question... is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding... In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our

"... if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?"

prayers were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten this powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

"I have lived a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that **God governs in the affairs of men.** And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we shall become a reproach and bye word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Government by Human Wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

"I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business...."

It was reported that Franklin's request eased some of the tensions which had arisen and that the Constitution slowly but steadily began to take shape. SR

Blackmun examines religion clauses

by Kathy Palen

Washington (BPA)—Reconciling the tension between the First Amendment's two religion clauses complicates the already difficult task of properly interpreting them, said Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun.

Blackmun, in a rare public address, spoke about the First Amendment and its religion clauses as part of a series of programs sponsored by the National Archives in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

"At first glance, it all seems so clear," the justice said in reference to the two religion clauses. "We shall not have a specific religion formally established by government. Indeed, we shall have the very opposite—each of us shall be free to exercise his own religion, if he cares to profess one.

"But is it really so clear? Is there not tension between the two clauses in their application?"

Blackmun, who has served on the nation's highest court for 17 years, said the tension can be seen in the exemption of church property from local real estate taxes. While the exemption could be interpreted as assisting the congregation in its exercise of religion, it also could be understood as placing the state in the business of establishing religion, he explained.

He added that the nation's public life is "replete with examples of an ambiguous religion," saying: "We pledge allegiance to a nation 'under God.' We have a National Prayer Day mandated by federal statute. Our nation's motto is 'In God We Trust.'"

The justice said the historical record of the religion clauses also is ambiguous. He said there were at least three distinct approaches that influenced the framers of the Bill of Rights.

The evangelical view—associated with Roger Williams—saw the separation of church and state as a

means of protecting religious groups from the state, while the view espoused by Thomas Jefferson saw separation as a means of protecting the state from religion. James Madison's view, he added, reflected the belief that both religion and government could best achieve their respective purposes if each was left free from the other.

Blackmun said that, although there is still belief in Jefferson's idea of a wall of separation between church and state, there are signs that wall "has been crumbling a little of late—some would say it has crumbled a lot." He pointed to exceptions to complete separation, such as legislative prayer, creches on public ground and certain forms of aid to parochial schools.

In offering suggestions on being a "contributing American," the justice encouraged the audience to realize that Americans are a diverse, multiple people.

"We must have a belief, indeed a conviction, that there is room for all to live under the Constitution and its amendments," he said. "What less than this is there for the religion clauses to stand for and to assure?" SR

There are signs that the wall of separation between church and state has been crumbling.

Eagles or Prairie Chickens?

Cont. from page 7

**God wants us
to recognize
our need to
start exercising
our faith.**

Look forward

The fourth thing God wants us to recognize is our need to start looking forward. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Think of the thrilling possibilities of faith. Do you remember the priests of Israel, bearing the Ark of the Covenant? It was not until they stepped into the Jordan River that the water halted and that the nation was able to cross over. Remember, it was not until the seventh day, the seventh time around, that the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. It was not until David came face to face with Goliath and acted on faith that Goliath was brought down. It was not until the woman who was ill for 12 years touched the Lord's garment that she was healed. And it was not until a desperate father came running to Jesus to save his little girl from the clutches of death, that she got up and walked. Can we get up and walk? Can we get up and run? Can we mount our wings as eagles? The list goes on and on and on. John said it would take so many books to fill it all.

You must believe that God can do anything in you and through you and that he desires to use you. The famous missionary, Hudson Taylor, once said that he liked to find himself cornered so that he could see how God would get him out. Are we in a corner? Can you trust God to get you out? Can we trust God to get us out? I do not believe that God built his home in us to move away. He is here for us. Faith lifts its hands through the threatening and despairing clouds and grabs hold of God. A little faith will bring your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul.

So many of you say, "But how do I get more faith?" I believe it is very simple. Believe in a great God. If your God is a great God, there is nothing too big for him to do. Great faith is built on the conviction that our God is a mighty God.

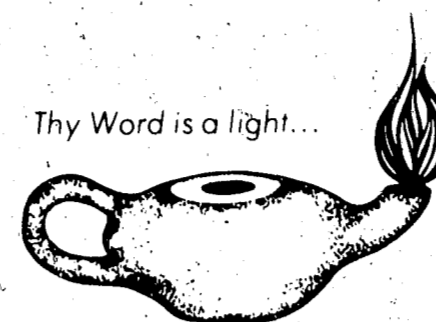
God can do anything if you are willing to pay the price. If you are willing to let go, stop looking back and start looking forward.

God wants us to recognize our need to start exercising our faith. James 2:17 says, "Faith, by itself, is dead." It does not say that it is lukewarm; it says that it is dead. Faith without action is dead. I am sure many of you have experienced this. I can remember, one day, reaching into a drawer and finding a flashlight that I had not used in over a year. I took that flashlight and tried to take off the end. Finally, I broke it loose and tried to get the batteries out. I shook it loose, and the batteries fell out and all the battery acid fell all over my hands. What a mess! I had never used the flashlight before. They were brand new batteries when I put them in a year ago. I thought they would work. I put them in a safe, comfortable place. What happened? Those batteries were not built to live in a safe, comfortable place. They were meant to be turned on and to be used. That was the reason for their being. We are created in Christ Jesus for good works. Many of us may have corrosive battery acid in our lives, and it is choking us. We need to turn on to Jesus. You and I were made to be turned on, to apply our faith to our lives and to put our faith to work.

Victory in Jesus takes work. It takes prayer and perseverance. It takes getting down on your knees and weeping. It takes looking to your neighbor and recognizing that if they were to die tonight, they might spend eternity in hell. It seems that we have lost that elusive four letter word that has escaped our vocabulary—work. Work for Jesus. Will you do it?

One of my favorite stories is taken from Sir Winston Churchill, the five-foot, two-inch, 235-pound fireplug who saw England through the dark days of World War II. After the war was over, Sir Winston Churchill went back to his

Cont. on page 34



Board of Christian Education

1987 Scripture Memorization Program

The 1987 Scripture Memorization Program focused on the Sabbath. The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education had chosen 12 passages of Scripture for their emphasis on Sabbath keeping.

To encourage family participation, the beginning verse or portion of each passage was memorized by pre-school and primary-age children. Juniors learned the first verse, while youth and adults were expected to memorize the two or three-verse passage. Many churches used different approaches to assist memory work. Linda Hays of Sunshine Mountain, Mississippi, provided a musical score for the primary selections to help her Sabbath School children with memorization.

Sabbath School students completing the program were honored with certificates at the General Conference sessions held at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. They were:

Albion, Wisconsin

Joanna Harris
Linda Harris

Boulder, Colorado

Charity Heath
Linda Lawton
Miriam Lawton
Nathaniel Lawton

Bradenton, Florida

Leland Bond
Lettie Bond
Martha Scull

Daytona Beach, Florida

Evalyn Camenga
Iris Maltby
Doris VanHorn

Hebron, Pennsylvania

Ruth Brock
Denise Thomas
Leigh Ann Thomas

Houston, Texas

Catharine Jacox
Ellen Taylor
Sarah Taylor

Lost Creek, West Virginia

Margaret Allen
Susan Bond
Rita Hickok
Bridget Lawrence
Cindy Lawrence
Luke Lawrence
Mary Beth Lawrence
David Taylor
Margaret Taylor

New Auburn, Wisconsin

Jennifer McCracken

North Loup, Nebraska

Daniel VanHorn
Heather VanHorn

Riverside, California

Emily Davis
Lori Hoskins
Lynn Lyons
Hazel Nophsker
Florence Ritz

Seattle, Washington

Maude Posey

White Cloud, Michigan

Rebekah Cruzan
John Meeuwes, Jr.
Kerri Meeuwes
Christy Shulz



Reader Reaction

Letters to The Sabbath Recorder

On Judge Hand's ruling

Dear Recorder,

I would commend Dr. Mad-dox for his insight into Judge Hand's ruling. However I do not share his concern, for I agree with the judge.

The First Amendment states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." (emphasis added). As I understand it, this statement was included in the Bill of Rights primarily because most of the states had their own preferred, though unofficial, denomination. None of them wanted the other states joining together and forcing them to support another church through tax revenues, as was the case with the Church of England.

Many of the people who claim to be advocating separation of church and state actually want separation of

God and state, and this should not be. The Apostle Paul refers to civil government as an authority "established by God" and as "an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:1-7). Both church and state, along with another God-instituted authority, the family, rule over their respective jurisdictions without interfering with each other. But all are under God, the ruler of the universe.

As Judge Hand has implied, government cannot be neutral. Our Lord Jesus said, "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters" (Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23). And another time he said, "for whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:40). On the surface these two statements may seem contradictory. But taken together they actually emphasize that there is no middle

ground.

If a government is going to attempt to fulfill its God-ordained duty of punishing wrongdoers, there must be some standard of right and wrong. If that standard is not God's standard, as revealed in his word, then another standard must be established. To do so is to put oneself in the place of God, as Satan attempted to do when he fell. It may even have been the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden, if you translate Genesis 3:5 as "You will be like God, determining good and evil," as some commentators suggest.

It is time for all Christians, but especially we as Sabbath-keepers who know the dangers of antinomianism, to begin proclaiming and exercising the validity of God's Law in every area of life.

Phillip B. Osborn
Farmers Branch, Texas

Reminiscences... Available Again

Reminiscences of Early Days in the Seventh Day Baptist Southwestern Association

by Clifford A. Beebe

An illustrated booklet of sketches on early church and leaders in Arkansas and Texas—includes Col. Robert Crockett's significant 1885 speech on religious liberty

Reprinted by the SDB Historical Society as a memorial to Clifford Beebe, first published by his Bible Witness Press in 1975 \$1.00 per copy—order from the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547



Editorial

by D. Scott Smith

On a decreased budget—where do we go from here?

As editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* and executive for the Tract and Communication Council of the General Conference, my time is dominated by words. My days are usually spent arranging, modifying and juggling words. Once a year, I focus on the next budget—a budget that attempts to financially describe our work two years in the future.

Since conference sessions in August, the 1988 budget has filled my vision, both literally and figuratively. I have worked it through over and over again and come to some new insights. They are disturbing.

First, the impression that I received at conference was that a 20% decrease in our giving expectations (10% decrease for the Board of Christian Education) would "cut the fat" and force our organizations to be less administratively "top heavy." The fact is, however, that there is almost no "fat" in any of the budgets of the boards and agencies. The programs that are currently in place will suffer from the decrease because there just is no easy way to absorb the decrease in giving (even for those organizations that have other income).

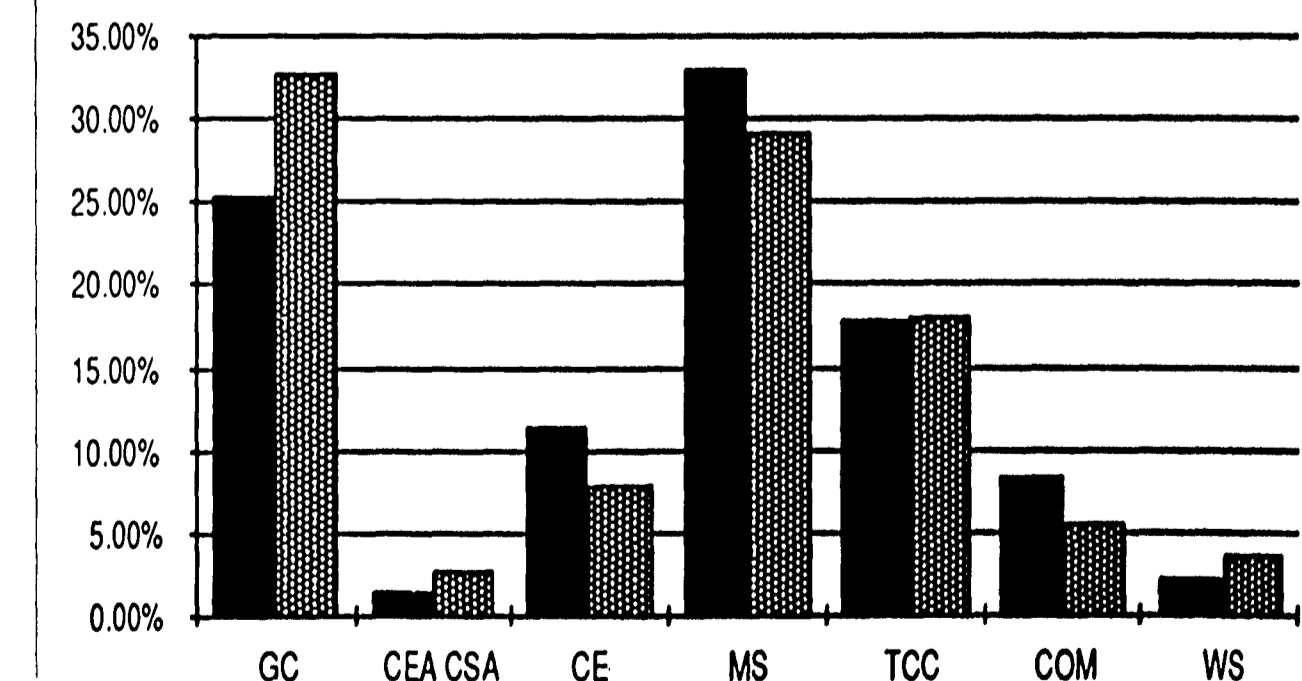
I was disturbed by the way conference action seemed to race past the budget decisions without asking the hard questions. Did anyone ask, "What does this cut mean? Will this affect the services that the local churches expect from denominational agencies? Does the cut focus on low priority items?" No one asked these questions in regard to the budget of the Tract and Communication Council and I suspect the same is true of other organizations. Will the cuts affect services that are currently available to local churches?—absolutely. Do these changes have an affect on new program ideas?—without a doubt.

Second, the way the decrease was

applied did not make a statement about what Seventh Day Baptists feel are our denominational priorities. It was a simple percentage cut for each organization, regardless of size, resources or program. The affect of the cut will be felt most heavily by organizations that have little or no investment income. The General Conference itself, for example, will have a very difficult time dealing with the giving decrease. While the conference's budget is 25% of the total denominational budget, it will be asked to account for almost 33% of the actual dollar decrease.

The upcoming year may bring some difficult surprises for Seventh Day Baptists. Changes are on the way. However, Seventh Day Baptists have missed the opportunity to direct those changes for 1988. We have not looked for church needs and planned a denominational program to address those needs. We have simply decided to reduce our expectations. Perhaps in the future, this blanket budget cutting will teach us the value of setting our priorities. Let's not miss our next opportunity.

The chart below depicts the difference between the portion of the budget that each organization enjoys (black bars) versus the portion of the dollar decrease that the organization is being asked to carry (grey bars). (GC=General Conference, CEA=Board of Christian Education, MS=Missionary Society, TCC=Tract & Communication Council, COM=Council on Ministry, WS=Women's Society)

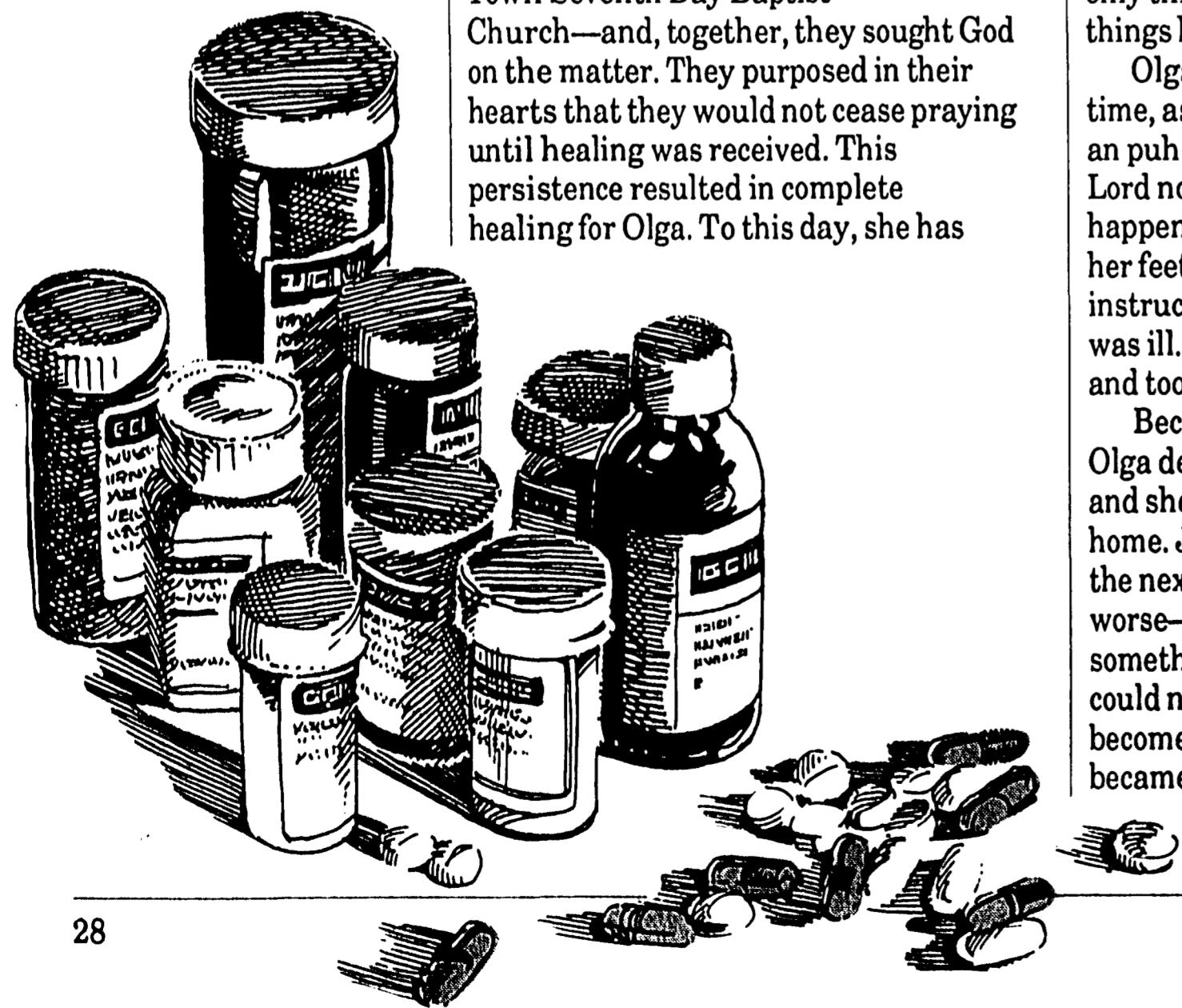


...conference action seemed to race past the budget decisions without asking the hard questions...

A God of miracles

Lois Annette Steer

Olga was seldom ever sick, and nothing of this nature had ever happened to her—until now.



It had happened so suddenly that, for a moment, it appeared it would go away; unfortunately, however, that was not the case for Olga Steer. She had been diagnosed as a diabetic patient. She was seldom ever sick, and nothing of this nature had ever happened to her—until now.

Olga is the mother of seven grown children, all more than 21 years of age. She was always a hardworking person and often had to rear her children single-handedly.

Olga has experienced several healing miracles from God, two of which she would like to share, along with her testimony of faith.

The first healing miracle happened in Jamaica, when Olga was struck in the head by a tall pole which fell from a tree she had been sitting under. The doctors tried very hard to help her, short of an operation. Nothing seemed to diminish her pain, and Olga decided that she had been going to the doctors too often. She therefore called for the Prayer Band of her church—Higgin Town Seventh Day Baptist Church—and, together, they sought God on the matter. They purposed in their hearts that they would not cease praying until healing was received. This persistence resulted in complete healing for Olga. To this day, she has

never gone back to the doctor for that problem, and that was over 18 years ago. Much praise and rejoicing was given for that miracle God performed in Olga's life.

One would think that a person would be limited to only one miracle, but that theory has proven to be untrue. As long as problems, sickness and sin are in this world, God will continue to work miracles. He is a God of miracles, and his power will never fail.

Olga had another encounter which was a marked experience in her life. This caused her to really want to share her blessings with everyone.

She had gone to her regular job of housekeeping for Jonathan Bagwell, as on any other Monday morning. She had been feeling a little under the weather all weekend, but she blamed that on the common cold and the flu. However, on opening the door to Jonathan's apartment, she fell to the floor on her face. She must have laid there for almost half an hour before she could move. She whispered a phrase which is usually the only thing one can say when these things happen, "Oh Lord."

Olga believed in praying ahead of time, as the patois version says—"pray an puh dung." She had always asked the Lord not to allow anything serious to happen when she was alone. She got to her feet and called her boss' sister, who instructed her to return home since she was ill. Her son, Aaron, came to get her and took her home.

Because she was feeling so weak, Olga decided not to stay at home alone, and she spent the night at another son's home. Junior had to take her to the doctor the next day because she was getting worse—craving something hot, then something cold. It seemed that her thirst could not be quenched. Her throat had become so parched with thirst that it became "gluey," and her tongue seemed

stuck to the roof of her mouth. The feeling was getting unbearable.

On her arrival at the doctor's office, Olga was met by the nurse, Cindy, who informed her that the doctor was out but that she would make her comfortable until he returned. Olga always maintained a good relationship with her doctor and nurse.

When Dr. Mark Belski arrived some time later, he examined his patient, and his diagnosis shocked everyone. "Olga is very sick and will have to be taken to the hospital immediately," he said. Even at that point, Olga protested because she had no idea how very ill she was. She was moved to the Mt. Sinai Hospital and had to be taken straight away to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where emergency treatment was administered. Her blood sugar was at a high of 1,568, and her blood pressure was extremely high. Everyone was amazed that she had not gone into a coma, and now they had to try to keep her from sleeping. Every few minutes, Olga had to be aroused from sleep for fear of losing her in a coma. Her heartbeat was irregular, and everything looked critical at that point.

The brethren at the Holiness Church of God, Seventh Day, heard of her illness and, all over, prayer was offered for her healing. Two and a half days later, after showing signs of improvement, Olga was taken out of ICU. The next seven days were spent in the hospital, under close supervision. Olga's blood had to be tested three times a day, and she had to get her insulin of 45 units each day. Slowly, her blood sugar began to go back to a safe stage, but it seemed then that she still was destined to spend another week in the hospital. However, this was not to be because the miracle had begun.

Olga was given a safe release from the hospital only after her daughter, Jean, had come for instructions on how

The brethren at the Holiness Church of God, Seventh Day, heard of Olga's illness and, all over, prayer was offered for her healing.

to care for her mother. Jean was told, in detail, how to do each thing because Olga's health depended on it. Olga's vision had been affected, so it was important that she had someone to measure her insulin dosage and record her blood test each day.

A week after she arrived home, Olga went into insulin shock. Later that same day, she visited her doctor, who told her that he had to reduce the amount of insulin she was getting. He told her she was doing so well that her body was able to cope without all that insulin. On her next regular visit, however, Olga had to be taken off the insulin completely. The doctor was amazed by her condition and the fact that he did not have to prescribe any added medication. Olga's blood sugar had returned to normal after only two and one half weeks. When the doctors and nurses asked her how this could be, she simply explained that it was the power of God. She had proven again that God still is in the business of working miracles, and that she had been healed once again.

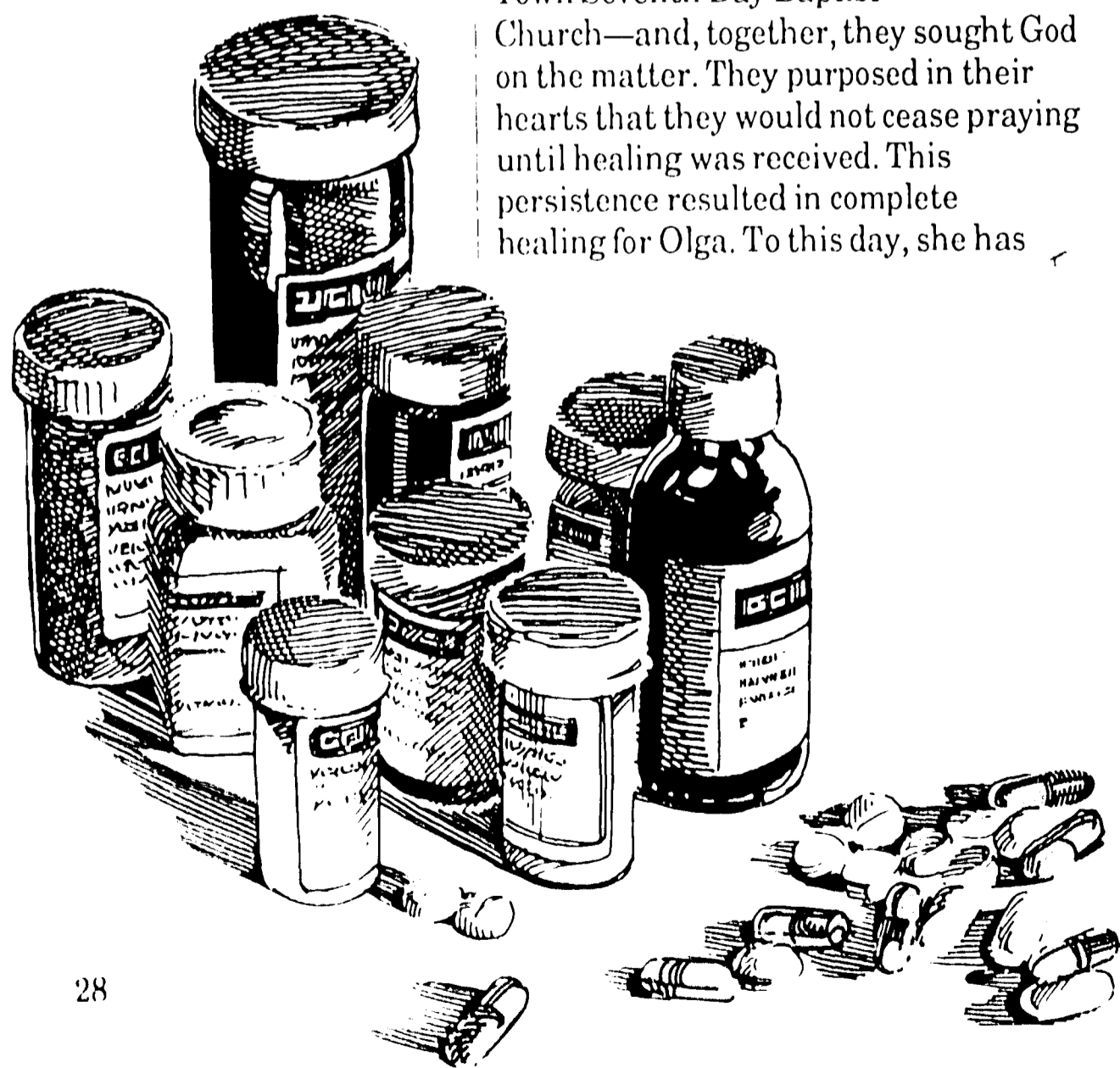
Today, Olga takes a blood test once in a while, just to make sure everything

Cont. on page 34

A God of miracles

Lois Annette Steer

Olga was seldom ever sick, and nothing of this nature had ever happened to her—until now.



It had happened so suddenly that, for a moment, it appeared it would go away; unfortunately, however, that was not the case for Olga Steer. She had been diagnosed as a diabetic patient. She was seldom ever sick, and nothing of this nature had ever happened to her—until now.

Olga is the mother of seven grown children, all more than 21 years of age. She was always a hardworking person and often had to rear her children single-handedly.

Olga has experienced several healing miracles from God, two of which she would like to share, along with her testimony of faith.

The first healing miracle happened in Jamaica, when Olga was struck in the head by a tall pole which fell from a tree she had been sitting under. The doctors tried very hard to help her, short of an operation. Nothing seemed to diminish her pain, and Olga decided that she had been going to the doctors too often. She therefore called for the Prayer Band of her church—Higgin Town Seventh Day Baptist Church—and, together, they sought God on the matter. They purposed in their hearts that they would not cease praying until healing was received. This persistence resulted in complete healing for Olga. To this day, she has

never gone back to the doctor for that problem, and that was over 18 years ago. Much praise and rejoicing was given for that miracle God performed in Olga's life.

One would think that a person would be limited to only one miracle, but that theory has proven to be untrue. As long as problems, sickness and sin are in this world, God will continue to work miracles. He is a God of miracles, and his power will never fail.

Olga had another encounter which was a marked experience in her life. This caused her to really want to share her blessings with everyone.

She had gone to her regular job of housekeeping for Jonathan Bagwell, as on any other Monday morning. She had been feeling a little under the weather all weekend, but she blamed that on the common cold and the flu. However, on opening the door to Jonathan's apartment, she fell to the floor on her face. She must have laid there for almost half an hour before she could move. She whispered a phrase which is usually the only thing one can say when these things happen, "Oh Lord."

Olga believed in praying ahead of time, as the patois version says—"pray an puh dung." She had always asked the Lord not to allow anything serious to happen when she was alone. She got to her feet and called her boss' sister, who instructed her to return home since she was ill. Her son, Aaron, came to get her and took her home.

Because she was feeling so weak, Olga decided not to stay at home alone, and she spent the night at another son's home. Junior had to take her to the doctor the next day because she was getting worse—craving something hot, then something cold. It seemed that her thirst could not be quenched. Her throat had become so parched with thirst that it became "gluey," and her tongue seemed

stuck to the roof of her mouth. The feeling was getting unbearable.

On her arrival at the doctor's office, Olga was met by the nurse, Cindy, who informed her that the doctor was out but that she would make her comfortable until he returned. Olga always maintained a good relationship with her doctor and nurse.

When Dr. Mark Belski arrived some time later, he examined his patient, and his diagnosis shocked everyone. "Olga is very sick and will have to be taken to the hospital immediately," he said. Even at that point, Olga protested because she had no idea how very ill she was. She was moved to the Mt. Sinai Hospital and had to be taken straight away to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), where emergency treatment was administered. Her blood sugar was at a high of 1,568, and her blood pressure was extremely high. Everyone was amazed that she had not gone into a coma, and now they had to try to keep her from sleeping. Every few minutes, Olga had to be aroused from sleep for fear of losing her in a coma. Her heartbeat was irregular, and everything looked critical at that point.

The brethren at the Holiness Church of God, Seventh Day, heard of her illness and, all over, prayer was offered for her healing. Two and a half days later, after showing signs of improvement, Olga was taken out of ICU. The next seven days were spent in the hospital, under close supervision. Olga's blood had to be tested three times a day, and she had to get her insulin of 45 units each day. Slowly, her blood sugar began to go back to a safe stage, but it seemed then that she still was destined to spend another week in the hospital. However, this was not to be because the miracle had begun.

Olga was given a safe release from the hospital only after her daughter, Jean, had come for instructions on how

The brethren at the Holiness Church of God, Seventh Day, heard of Olga's illness and, all over, prayer was offered for her healing.

to care for her mother. Jean was told, in detail, how to do each thing because Olga's health depended on it. Olga's vision had been affected, so it was important that she had someone to measure her insulin dosage and record her blood test each day.

A week after she arrived home, Olga went into insulin shock. Later that same day, she visited her doctor, who told her that he had to reduce the amount of insulin she was getting. He told her she was doing so well that her body was able to cope without all that insulin. On her next regular visit, however, Olga had to be taken off the insulin completely. The doctor was amazed by her condition and the fact that he did not have to prescribe any added medication. Olga's blood sugar had returned to normal after only two and one half weeks. When the doctors and nurses asked her how this could be, she simply explained that it was the power of God. She had proven again that God still is in the business of working miracles, and that she had been healed once again.

Today, Olga takes a blood test once in a while, just to make sure everything

Cont. on page 34



Keeping our eyes on God

by Marilyn Merchant

Unconsciously we let attitudes, fatigue and all manner of problems drift across our vision of our Heavenly Father's will

Since fall is upon us full-fledged and evenings are cooling down, my practice of sitting outside and star gazing before bedtime will soon have to be curtailed until another spring. I do a lot of looking up, literally and figuratively. One reason for this is that my stature makes it necessary for me to look up to almost everyone. Another reason I look up a lot is my nature. I enjoy looking on the "up" side of life; there are enough "downs" without looking for them.

What brought all this to mind were two incidents, both of which happened last week.

One evening, after a warm and hectic day, I was spending an hour or so cooling off. As close as I can figure out, my apartment is on the flight pattern between March Air Force Base and Norton Air Force Base. All the planes that pass within my line of vision go from one horizon to the other. I will not try to say what *direction*, because I am sure the sun comes up in the south out here and sets in the north. (Mentally, I know that the planes come from the east and fly west, but my eyes tell me differently.)

While watching the twinkling lights as they passed overhead, one especially large plane disappeared from view. I had not been aware of any clouds in the sky but, sure enough, further on the lights became visible again. Peace permeated my being as I contemplated how I lost track of the plane for a few moments but still knew it was up there; just as I know God is always here, even when I cannot see him for a few moments.

The second incident came a day later when I attended an outdoor evening performance of an art show. Between the tableaux, the amphitheater became dark and, one by one, the stars came out with brilliance. Sitting there in the velvety darkness, I was filled

with wonder and felt as though I could reach up and pluck a star out of the sky. Suddenly, I realized that I had not seen stars so clearly since the last time I took a night flight. I was consciously aware of the pollution in the air during the daytime, but I thought it went away at night because I could often see a few dim stars from my patio.

Our lives are often like that. Unconsciously, we let attitudes, fatigue and all manner of problems drift across our vision of our Heavenly Father's will, without ever being aware that we are not seeing as clearly as we once did. It is not until we have an encounter where clear vision is possible that we even become aware of the smog in our lives and take steps to clear it away. That night was so lovely and beautiful that I never wanted my stars to become dim again—or my vision clouded.

As your fall programs start, I ran across an interesting program suggestion from the *American Baptist Woman*. They suggest that a panel of women of **different** ages describe their main roles at this particular time in their lives—how they deal with the roles they do not like, how they make time for the ones they enjoy and how they set their priorities. If your group has a diversity of ages, this might make for a very interesting meeting. The floor could be opened at the end of the presentation for helpful suggestions from the rest of the group.

Getting organized in the fall is always a big job. Some time ago, the *Los Angeles Times* printed this guide. You have it "all together"...

- If you only go to the grocery store once a week.
- If you know what you will serve for dinner.
- If you pull up the bed covers when you get out of bed in the morning.
- If you can find a postage stamp in less than 60 seconds.

- If you do not have more than one load of clothes on top of the dryer.
 - If you have all the dishes done once a day.
 - If you set goals and work toward accomplishing them.
- How did you score? Five out of seven "yes" answers show that you are well on the way to being organized.

It is time to start thinking about next year's Love Gift. I again found some excellent suggestions in the *American Baptist Woman*. A lady in Montana wrote that the Love Gift, to her, meant a means of becoming love in action for God. Another wrote that it was a way for her to say "thank you" to God and help someone at the same time. She spoke of dropping a coin in a box on the kitchen table whenever she had a special blessing—or when a friend recovered from an illness, or she had a safe journey. She also drops in a coin when she sees a beautiful bird in her yard, thanking God for the beauty that surrounds us.

A lady from Ohio says that, beside giving her an awareness that we are laborers together with God, the Love Gift makes her feel useful since it means life and help to those who are less fortunate than she is. She describes it as "divine arithmetic," explaining that her small gift, given in love, when added to that of other women, is multiplied as it is divided with others. A New Jersey lady reminds us that the Love Gift is not one that comes from the top of your purse but from the bottom of your heart. And, finally, a woman from New Hampshire sends this tidbit: "All of us are involved in missions as we love, pray and support one another."

I had two very nice personal letters this month. One told of the election of officers in Alfred, New York, and included the program for their spring banquet, which was held in their church social room. A program on "Operation Haiti" was presented, along with the

installation of officers. The other letter, from Battle Creek, Michigan, was an additional note to their annual report which was presented at conference. Since I knew only a little of the background of their undertakings, this was much appreciated. The key workers (in both cases) wrote that the annual rummage sale at the parsonage was accompanied by a bake sale and netted \$400.

Their contribution to S.C.S.C. was received from a dinner put on by a local market from which members and friends had been collecting sales tapes for many months. The market provided all the food, expert supervision, many door prizes and the program. The Ladies Aid members did the cooking, sold the tickets and cleaned up. All the proceeds from the ticket sales went to the society. You might make a search of your locality and find someone willing to cooperate in this way. I attended one of these dinners at another church in their area and attest to the delightful occasion. I even won a gallon of windshield de-icer about a month before I left for California. **That** stayed there.

Since the church camping season is pretty much behind us, it is a good time to thank all those ladies and gentlemen across the country who spent such long hours putting palatable food on the tables. I saw an announcement in one bulletin also thanking the husband of one of the cooks for his boundless hamburger variations on the home front. I think that is great—get the whole family into it.

Seriously, take time out this month to say "thank you" to someone who provides such service willingly and lovingly. You will get a head start at practicing being thankful for next month. Do not forget to attend a World Community Day service in your area on November 6. God bless and keep you. **SR**

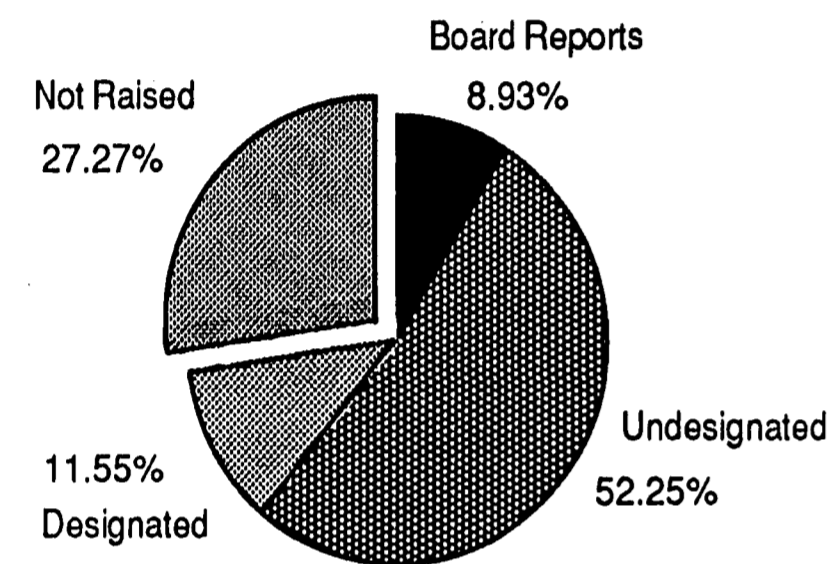
All of us are involved in missions as we love, pray and support one another.

Partnership in Ministry

Denominational budget update

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. 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.

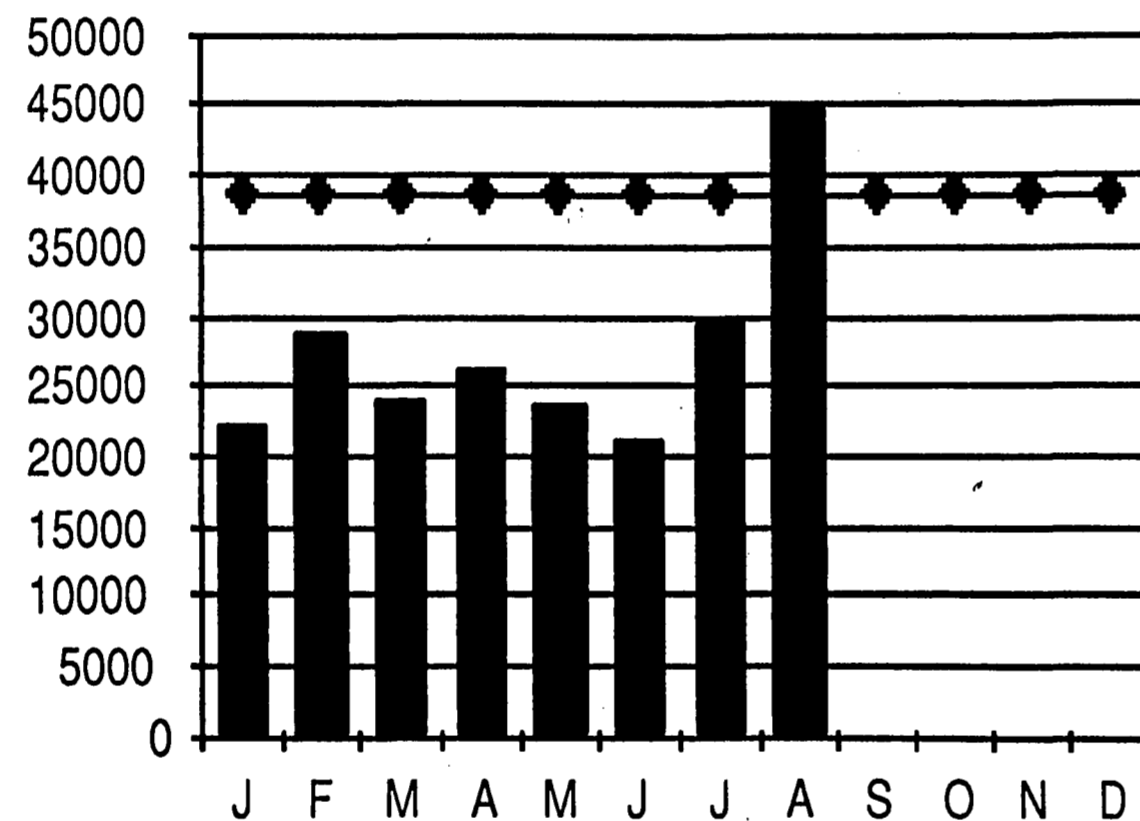
'The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.'



1987 Accumulative
(Percentage of dollar raised as of August 1, 1987 — Totals eight month budget)

Partnership in Ministry—Actual vs. Budget

Needed each month to raise budget: \$38,762



Count me in... on the partnership

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Church: _____

Please make checks payable to Our World Mission

- This contribution is for:
- undesignated giving
 - designated for:
 - Evangelism and Missions
 - Christian Education (Sabbath School, camps, youth materials, etc.)
 - Publishing (Sabbath Recorder, Leadline, tracts)
 - Leadership training (ministerial or lay training)
 - Hunger relief (SDB United Relief Fund)
 - Summer Christian Service Corps
 - SDB World Federation

Partnership in Ministry

The Sabbath Recorder

Obituaries

Johnson.—Morton F. Johnson was born on July 13, 1900, to Frank and Missouri "Zou" (Penniger) Johnson and died on May 21, 1987, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, at age 87.

He professed faith in Christ at 12 years of age, joining the Old Stonefort (Illinois) Seventh Day Baptist Church on May 18, 1912. On May 22, 1976, he was ordained a deacon and was a faithful, devoted member. In later years, he attended the Bradenton, Florida, fellowship, where he lived.

Morton was a barber by trade, working in Wisconsin and Florida. He was a quiet man, always happy and of jolly disposition. He was married to Hilda Matzig, and to this union were born two sons: Nyle M. Johnson of Van Dyne, Wisconsin, and Jerry L. Johnson of Houston, Texas.

Morton was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; three brothers, Robert,

Joe and Joseph Ernest; and three sisters, Lola De Jarnet, Pauline Borum and Minerva. He is survived by two sons, Nyle and Jerry; one sister, Mary Harris of Stonefort; grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were conducted by Rev. George Smith, Stonefort. Morton's ashes were interred in Trammel Cemetery, Stonefort.

Morris.—Woodrow Wilson Morris died on July 31, 1987, in Corpus Christi, Texas. "Woody" was born on September 27, 1916.

He was married on October 16, 1950, to Elvira "Toni" Pogter, who preceded him in death in December, 1985. Woody and Toni Morris were long-time friends of the Kansas City and Nortonville, Kansas, churches. They are survived by their children, Al Potter of Corpus Christi, and Virginia Christianson of Hollister, California. LW

Meehan.—Anna Meehan was born on August 11, 1883, in Germany and died at Janesville (Wisconsin) Health Care Center on August 3, 1987.

She was married to Joseph H. Meehan on July 2, 1904, and lived most of her life in the Janesville area. She is survived by two sons and three daughters, 28 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Milton Junction (Wisconsin) Seventh Day Baptist Church for many years and transferred her membership to Milton, Wisconsin, at the time that the Milton Junction church ceased to function as a church. Although unable to attend due to health and age, she was faithful in her support of the church.

Funeral services were conducted at Overton Funeral Home by Rev. Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville. EC

Accessions

Albion, Wisconsin
Robert Harris, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Emily Hardesty
Sally Hardesty
Donna Stearns
Ross Slagg Jr.

Boulder, Colorado
Gordon P. Lawton, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Eleanor White
Ron Williams
Pat Williams

Chatawa, Mississippi
Ralph Hays, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Shannon Gunnell
Arthur Schech

Joined after Testimony
Linda Meche
Ted Meche

Milton, Wisconsin
Herbert E. Saunders, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Matthew G. Olson
Eric Camenga

Middletown, Connecticut
James Galanaugh, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
John Pratt
Dawn Pratt
Darren Katcher
Jill Katcher
JoAnn Cordova
Dianne Galanaugh



Ross Slagg Jr., Pastor Robert Harris and Donna Stearns prepare for baptism.

Marriages

Schech-LeBlanc.—Arthur Schech and Evelyn LeBlanc were united in marriage on July 11, 1987, by their pastor, Ralph L. Hays, in the chapel of the Sunshine Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church at Chatawa, Mississippi.

Executive's report

Cont. from 15

I believe the Seventh Day Baptist understanding of the Sabbath is unique and brings an opportunity for relief from a hectic and turbulent 20th century lifestyle.

to save lives and for healing of the soul. My desire in developing the Sabbath Retreat was to offer this 24-hour Sabbath experience as an example, encouraging us as individuals and churches to experiment with creative ways to experience and communicate the Sabbath. I believe the Seventh Day Baptist understanding of the Sabbath is unique and brings an opportunity for relief from a hectic and turbulent 20th century lifestyle. God provided it as an essential means of nurturing our relationship with him; we are called to

present it in a new and significant way.

On July 1, I began a new three-year term as executive secretary. I am motivated by God's challenge to "press on for the prize to which Christ has called us." I continue to pray that God will give us the vision to be excited about the new life and potential in our churches and people. May we be given the strength and wisdom to move into the 21st century with love and courage and a desire for Christian excellence in our lives, our churches and our communities. **SR**

Miracles

Cont. from page 29

She is convinced that it was all the work of God

is alright. She also has to keep to a strict diet, but the danger she faced has totally been cleared up. She is convinced that it was all the work of God. Olga has no fear of this dreaded disease, for she claimed her healing and proved, once more, that God is real. "It is no secret what God can do, what he has done for

others, he will do for you."

You, too, can claim a healing miracle—or whatever other miracle that is needed in your life today; for, what God has promised, that he will do. There is definitely no denying that "our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver." Claim your miracle today. **SR**

Preview Conference 1988

Enter the Joy

A videotape on Conference President Herbert Saunders' theme, *Enter the Joy* is now available. Based on his slide presentation at General Conference 1987, this program is a review of the plans for the 1988 sessions. Make your viewing reservation now.

Write: *Enter the Joy* video, SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

Prairie chickens

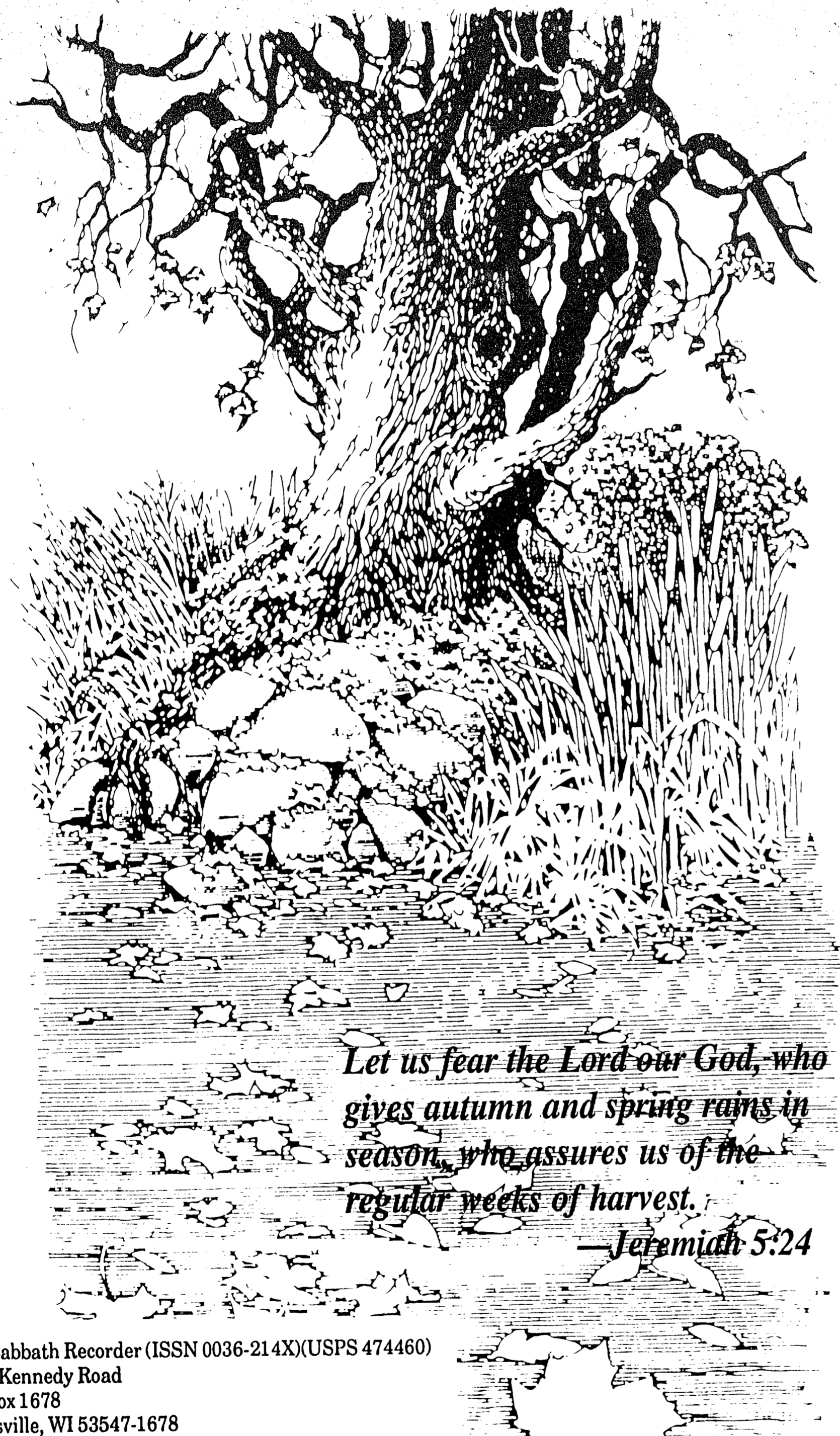
Cont. from page 24

school. After a grandiose introduction, he stood up and said these simple words: "Men, never give up. Never, never, never, never, never give up." So I say to you, from God, never give up. Recognize your potential in Jesus Christ. Give up your small ambition. Stop looking back, start looking forward, and let's march together unto faith. The choice is ours—to either be with the prairie chickens or soar with the eagles. God is calling you. Will you hear the call? **SR**

Thank you Lord

Thank you Lord for being You,
The only God who's living and true.
Thank you Lord for having a plan,
Creating all, then saving man.
Thank you Lord for sending Your Son,
For every man His deed was done.
Thank you Lord for sending Your Ghost,
To help man reason why to boast.
Thank you Lord for sending Your gifts,
Just one when used so much uplifts.
Thank you Lord for sending Your Book,
It's wisdom true to those who look.
Thank you Lord for saving me,
You cast my sins into the sea.
Thank you Lord for saving others,
My precious spiritual sisters and brothers.
Thank you Lord for future days,
When new-born souls can voice their praise.
Thank you Lord for sending power,
To strengthen us in every hour.
Thank you Lord for sending light,
To quell the fear of darkest night.
Thank you Lord for sending love,
And all Your blessings from above.

—by Charles Anderson



Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.

—Jeremiah 5:24

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

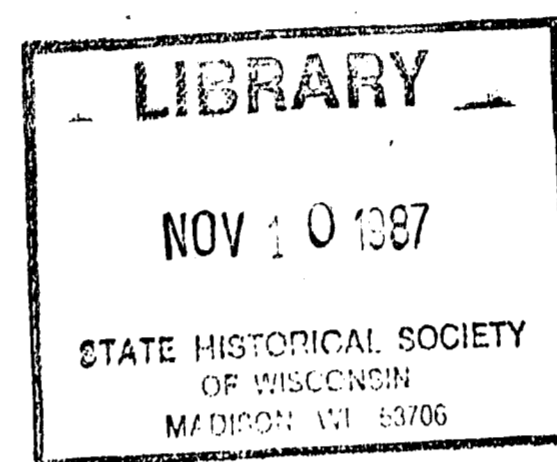
Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590

State Hist Soc of Wisconsin
816 State St
Madison, WI 53706

The Seventh Day Baptist

November 1987

Sabbath Recorder



***The Sabbath:
It's relationship to God
and mankind***

