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The Seventh Day Baptist

December 1987

Sabbath Recorder



*“When the
fulness of time
was come, God
sent forth his Son.”*

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He Came

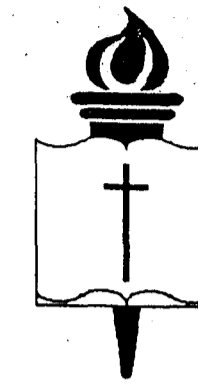
He came as a Wee One to Bethlehem's manger
 But He grew up to know suffering, shame and danger
 Along the hard path prescribed for Him to trod
 Till, after the cross, He would return to God.
 Full well He knew of each trial before He came,
 Yet He came to us; He came to us just the same.
 For He knew that, alone, we were no match for danger
 So He came as our Saviour by way of a manger.

Mabelle Wiard Willmarth



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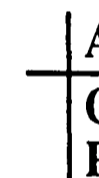


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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

God stepped out

by Charles H. Bond

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from *The Sabbath Recorder*, December 18, 1944.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Dr. E. Stanley Jones tells of a little boy who stood before the picture of his father and then turned to his mother and said wistfully, "I wish father would step out of the picture."

This little boy has expressed the deepest yearning of the human heart. We who have seen God at work in nature, in the hearts of men, and in the setting up of his kingdom, have said in times of depression: "If God would only step out of the mysterious darkness that we might walk with him. Then we would know his way, and life would be easier." And as these thoughts flash across our minds, the Christmas angel reminds us "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The time

"This day." "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son." God's clock struck, and he stepped out of the mysterious darkness into the light.

Through the years he had been working and planning for "this day."

The prophets waited for the day and pictured for the people what his coming would be like. Jeremiah says, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, the Lord Our Righteousness." Jeremiah 23:5, 6.

Isaiah could see a Righteous Judge among the nations rebuking the people, and he could see them beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and he could foresee the day when nations would live peacefully together.

Habakkuk could see him coming forth for the salvation of the people.

Everyone had been waiting for the day when the Father of all mankind would step forth and, while they waited, God worked with them preparing the road. One writer puts it like this: "As the expectant mother prepared for her child, so God had prepared those times for his Son. The Hebrew nation had been prepared as the spiritual vehicle of truth. The Greeks had given to the known world of that time a universal and flexible language. The Roman Empire, with disciplined government and far-flung roads, had opened the way for his message."

As God had everything prepared, he was ready to step out on "this day."

The place

"In the city of David." Bethlehem was a tiny town in an obscure part of the

world. It was here at the end of the wandering star that God stepped out.

Bethlehem is located about six miles to the south of Jerusalem. One might expect that the Son of God would make his appearance in the Holy City. He could not; and Dr. Edersheim, who has made a special study of this subject, tells us why:

"These Jerusalemites—townspeople, as they called themselves—were so polished, so witty, so pleasant... And how much there was to be seen and heard in those luxuriously furnished houses, and at these sumptuous entertainments! In the women's apartments, friends from the country would see every novelty in dress, adornments, and jewelry, and have the benefit of examining themselves in looking glasses."

Now do you see why? Jerusalem was not ready. In fact, they were happier, in their way of thinking, without him [the Son of God]. They did not want a righteous judge who would rebuke their evil ways; one who would talk of equality, the turning of the other cheek, and loving one another. These people were living as they pleased and to think of a change grieved them. Our Scripture tells us that "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him."

Then certainly Nazareth would be the logical place, as it was the home of Joseph and Mary. Yes, it might have been expected that the child would be born there. But an "edict was issued by Emperor Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken, so everyone went to his own town to register." Luke 2:1, 3. (Goodspeed) Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. But God, through his spokesman, Micah, had long before named "the place": "And you, O Bethlehem... From you, one shall come forth for me, who shall rule over Israel." Micah 5:2 (Goodspeed) God stepped out, making his personal appearance there in Bethlehem as angels announced his coming.

Christ was announced "King of the Jews," but he came not to them alone. They were God's doorway. He came through the Jewish door to all the people of every race.

The person announced

"Christ the Lord." A tiny baby was born, bringing "good tidings of great joy... of peace and good will." It was a child on the doorstep of the world, ready to step out and reveal to the world God's greatness and to divide time into the "before" and "after."

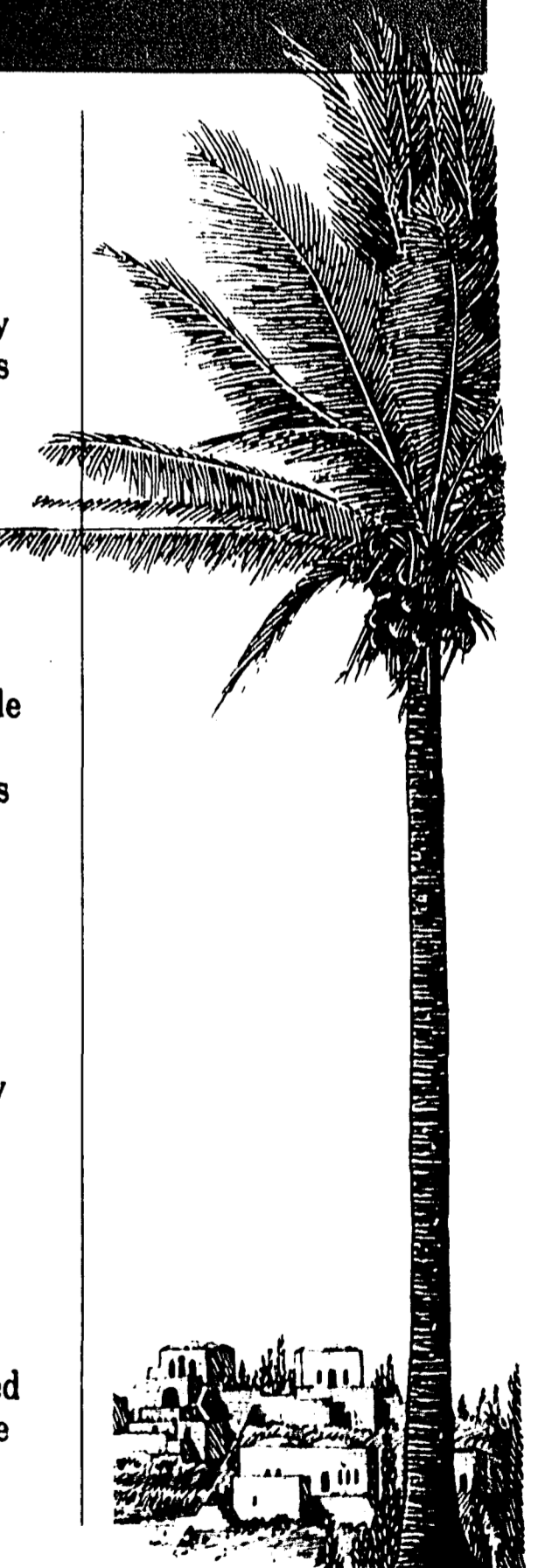
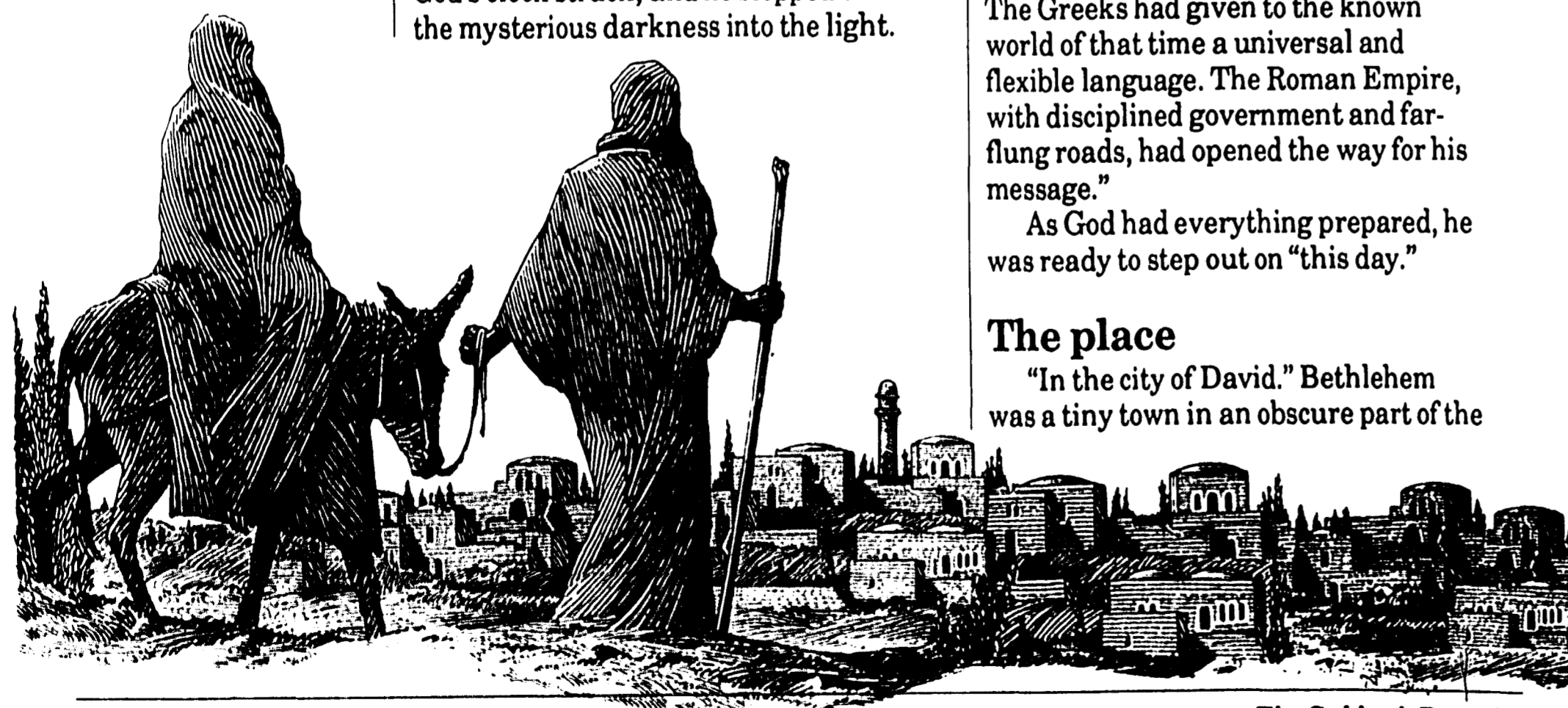
The Christ was not only a little boy; he was a "world man" in size and reach. He was announced "King of the Jews," but he came not to them alone. They were God's doorway. He came through the Jewish door to all the people of every race.

Christ could not be Lord of all unless he reached out and took in all. The one announced was to become the door—"I am the door of the sheep"—through which every man might enter into the kingdom. Is it any wonder that the "Shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen"?

The purpose

"A Saviour." It was a dark, stormy night; and a little child, lost in the streets of a city, was crying in distress. A policeman heard the child and stopped to see if he could help. He found that the child was lost and learned enough from

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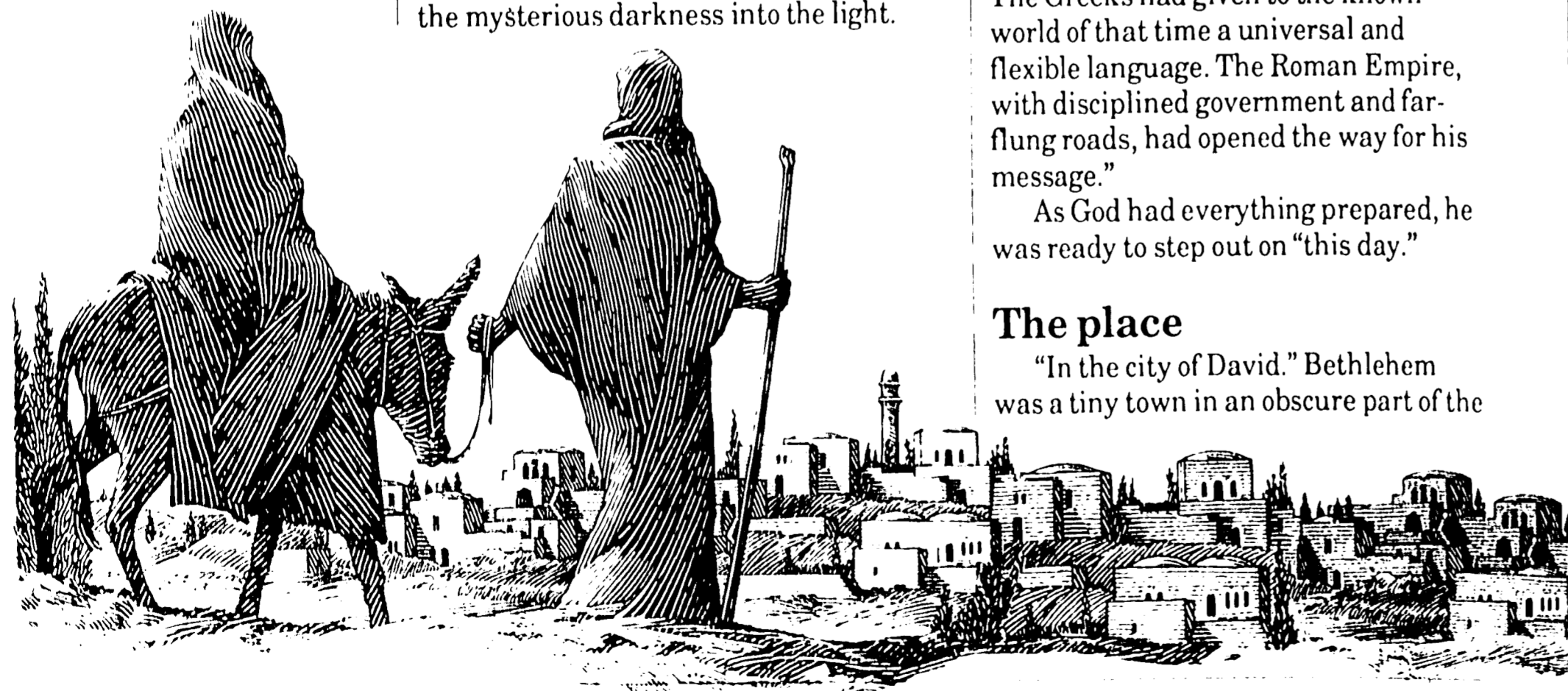
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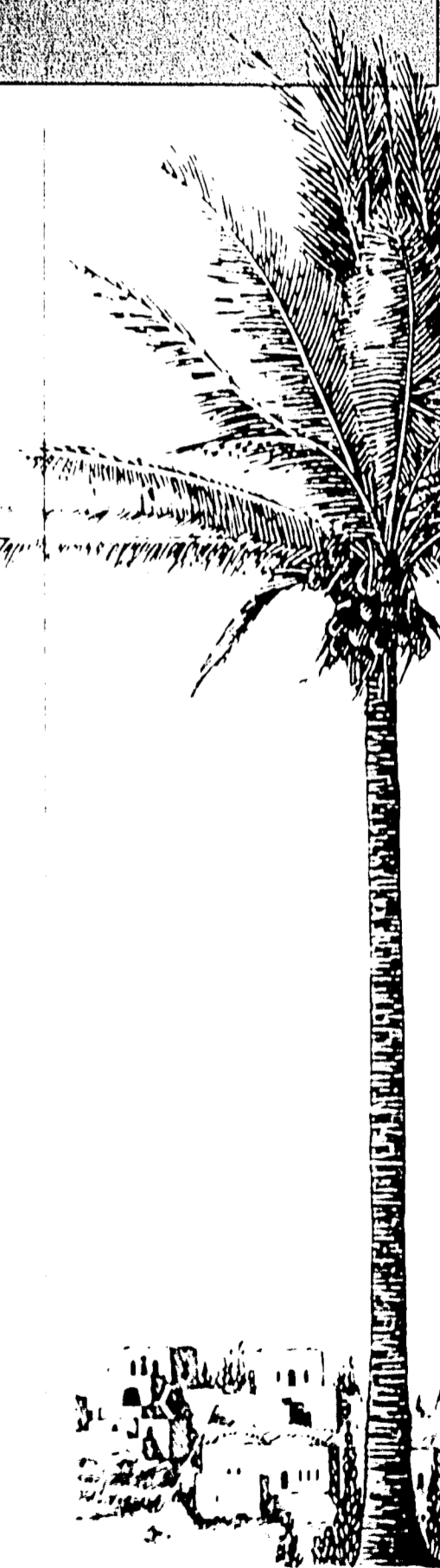
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Statement of faith The grace of God

by George D. Calhoun

I believe that there is no greater biblical theme that has stirred my heart and fueled my ministry more than the grace of God. For throughout the ages, writers have vied with one another in extolling the grace of God. Bernard of Clairveaux (1090-1153) said of grace, "Grace freely justified me and sets me free from slavery to sin." More recently Billy Graham has stated, "Grace is not sought, not bought, nor wrought, it is a free gift of Almighty God to needy mankind." To this one might add the words of Llion Jones, a Welsh preacher: "The word 'grace' is unquestionably the most significant word in the Bible."

Some have suggested that the Old Testament pictures God in quite a different manner. However, numerous passages speak of the graciousness of God (Genesis 43:29, Exodus 22:27,

Psalms 84:11, 85:15). In Exodus 34:6, for example, God says of himself, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

As for the New Testament, it might be said that it is a "grace book," with over 150 references to God's gracious acts toward his people. I believe that this is nowhere seen more clearly than in the book of Romans. Everyone is justified by the grace of God (Romans 3:24). In other words, a Christian now stands before God's bar of justice as innocent, because of God's grace (Romans 8:1). His grace provides the final answer to our sinfulness in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on our behalf (Romans 5:12-17). Thus a Christian is no longer under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).

I believe that grace is that irreducible attribute of God's love whereby he deals with his people, not on the basis of their merit or worthiness, but according to his goodness and generosity. Grace is uniquely God's to give, and it comes to needy mankind as a gift of God (Romans 6:23). To the Galatians who were troubled by legalism, Paul explained that the call of God was a product of grace (Galatians 1:15). This can further be seen by the fact that he chose us before the foundation of the world (2 Timothy 1:9), while grace came into full bloom in the incarnation (2 Corinthians 9:8, Titus 2:11, 3:7).

I believe that "grace" conveys the truth that God is free in giving the gift of salvation to sinners through Christ (John 3:16). This means that God is free in giving salvation because he is not obligated, nor constrained, by any inner necessity or moral merits of people who have earned salvation. In writing to the Ephesians, Paul repeated the truth that salvation is by grace

through faith plus nothing else (Ephesians 1:6, 2:1-10).

I also believe that the New Testament word "grace" is also synonymous for the entire event of Jesus Christ and his ministry. In Titus 2:11 we read, "That the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men." This can only mean that God's decision to save mankind has been enacted in Christ's appearance. When Ephesians 2:5 says that we are saved by grace, it can be taken to mean that we are saved by God's action in Christ.

I further believe that grace is significant in the life of Christians in that it enables them to endure suffering (2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 1:7) and provides them with spiritual gifts by which they may serve God (Romans 12:6, Ephesians 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10).

In all, I can say—in no uncertain terms—that grace is perhaps one of the most significant themes in the Bible and in my ministry. I concur with John Newton when he so appropriately stated his summation of grace in the words of that great hymn:

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see."

Doctrine of Scripture Revelation

I believe that God, in his infinite grace and mercy, continually presents himself to mankind through a variety of viable evidences. These are found in two general categories:

General

Through the means of general revelation, God has chosen to present himself to all of humanity through means of nature and providence (Romans 1:19ff, Acts 14:17, Psalm 19:1ff) and through the natural operations of human consciousness

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(Romans 1:32, 12:12-15). This continual self-disclosure by God, as well as man's inner need to seek his Creator, has proven only to be insufficient in leading mankind to a knowledge of who God is. General revelation serves then only to display God's eternal power and glory (Romans 1:21) yet leaves mankind void of a true understanding of God's character.

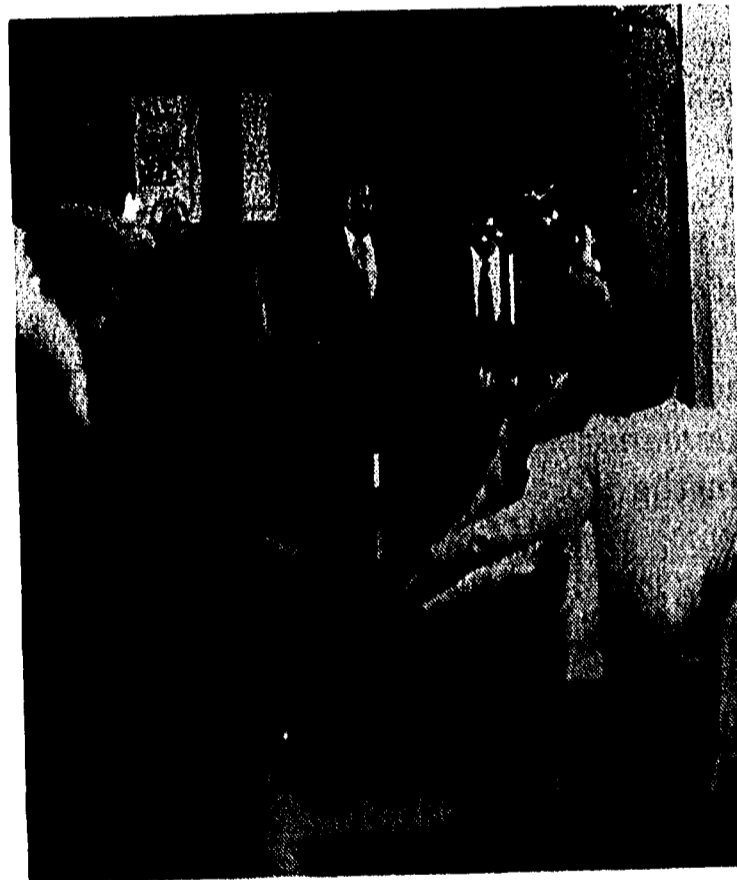
Special

Since general revelation is insufficient in itself to reveal God's true nature and purpose, I feel it adequate to say that God chose to establish a more personal means of self-revelation. This special revelation serves to disclose God through the intimate manner of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16), the prophet's voice (2 Peter 1:19-21), history (Deuteronomy 20:5-9), the incarnation of Jesus Christ (John 1:1-14), and through the changed lives of believers (Romans 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-6). Special revelation is God's primary source of revealing himself to mankind, so that through his grace he may redeem and have fellowship with us (2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, I can say with confidence that God has willingly and without reservation, chosen to reveal himself and his divine purposes to us.

Inspiration

I believe, according to 2 Timothy 3:16, biblical writings were inspired by God as he spoke through means of his Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20ff, 1 Peter 1:10-12). Without neglecting the

The congregation joins hands in the closing song of dedication during the ordination ceremony for Rev. George Calhoun (standing between his wife, Lannette, and Dean Paul Green).



I believe that God is the ultimate authority in all of creation and has the right to establish the standard for belief and practice.

personalities or literary abilities of each writer (Luke 1:1-4), God has revealed himself, as well as his divine plan of redemption for mankind.

I further believe that God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, often directed the exact wording to express his desired message as well as allowing the writer's own distinctive personality to choose words and expressions as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 1:11-12, 1 Corinthians 2:9-13). With this in mind, I believe that the statements of the Bible are accurately true and authoritative in their expectations of faith and conduct, and in their revelation of God himself.

Inerrancy

I believe that the inspired word of God is without error in the original manuscripts and accurately conveys the purposes and intended message of God as he spoke through the original writers. Where the text is brought into question or doubt, I believe that it is safe to say that while inspiration was active in the original texts, it did not necessarily extend to the copyists or translators. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that the copies and translations remain the inspired word of God, to the degree that they preserve and convey the original message of God's purpose (Matthew 5:17-19, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 12:6, Psalm 119).

I am further convinced, however, that while the Bible does not err in its content, the treatment of certain subjects is not exhaustive and, therefore, one must apply the overall biblical principle to the subject in question.

Lastly, I believe that the writers of both the Old and the New Testament reported how things appeared to their eye and made no attempt to be scientifically exact. Therefore, reports of historical events and scientific matters were reported in what one might call phenomenal language, rather than

technical language.

In all, the Bible remains accurately true and continues to be God's desired standard for all of mankind.

Illumination

I believe that, as a result of mankind's unregenerative state, man is unable to recognize and respond to God's divine truth (Romans 8:5, 1 Corinthians 2:13-14). However, when regeneration through conversion occurs, the same Holy Spirit that inspired the original writers and raised Christ from the dead comes to dwell within the believers (John 15:26, Ephesians 1:13), to illuminate and transform their unregenerative minds (Romans 8:9-10, 12:1-2). Now after regeneration occurs, there is a continuing need for progressive growth and illumination (John 15:3-4, 16:13-15). I believe that without the illumination, teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for an individual to fully comprehend and know the truths that are expressed in the Scriptures (John 8:32).

Authority

I believe that God himself is the ultimate authority in all of creation and has the right, both by virtue of who he is and what he does, to establish the standard for belief and practice. Therefore, the word of God stands as an authoritative record of how he desires his creation to live in relationship to himself, to others, and the rest of creation (Psalm 12:26, Proverbs 30:5-6, Matthew 4:4, Luke 24:25, John 10:35, 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The doctrine of God

The existence of God

I believe that it goes without saying that Scripture does not argue for God's existence, but rather assumes it, affirms it, and unquestionably promotes it. It is

a reality which is affirmed by general and special revelation, as well as by the incarnation, redemptive history, and the changed lives of those who have been redeemed. (Genesis 1:11, Exodus 3:4, 20:3, Jeremiah 10:10, John 17:3).

Furthermore, I believe that history reveals that all of humanity has sought after their creator since the beginning of time and stands as an inherent need that stands only to affirm the existence of God.

The nature of God

I believe that, in his nature, God is a spirit (John 4:24, 1:18, 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:15-16). He is without form or parts, and for that reason has no physical presence. When we say that God is an infinite spirit, it passes out of the reach of our experience and understanding. His infinity as to time is called eternity; as to space, omnipresence; as to knowledge, omniscience; and as to his power, omnipotence (Psalm 139). Nevertheless, I am convinced that God, in his infinite love for us, chose to reveal himself at particular times anthropomorphically (in bodily form), so that we might have a better understanding of who he is (Psalm 18:36, 2 Samuel 22:16).

I further believe that God is transcendent over his universe. This emphasizes his detachment from his creation and emphasizes his being external to the world as its sovereign Creator and Judge (Isaiah 6:1-5, 40:12-17, 55:8-9). At the same time, God's infinity also implies his immanence as seen in his presence within his creation. He is not a spectator or a non-involved bystander, but actively and purposefully involved within nature, history and all of mankind (Isaiah 57:15, Acts 17:24-28, Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 104:29-30). I believe that God is characterized by life, depicting himself as the living God (Jeremiah 10:10, Exodus 3:14, Hebrews

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11:16). He is a personal, rational, self-conscious, and an intelligent moral agent who acts (Genesis 1:2), thinks (Numbers 23:19, Romans 11:43), sustains (Hebrews 1:3), has compassion and mercy (Romans 9:14-16), and loves (1 Chronicles 16:33). Scripture also depicts him as showing anger and jealousy (Exodus 20:5), though his various emotions cannot be equated by man's finite definitions of the terms. As the supreme mind, he is the source of all rationality in the universe. The Old Testament reveals a personal God, both in terms of his own self-disclosure and of his people's relations with him (Genesis 3:4, 4:24, Psalm 20:7-9), while the New Testament clearly shows that Jesus spoke to God in terms that were openly personal (John 17). Because of these characteristics, God is to be treated as a being, not an object or force to be used and manipulated.

The attributes of God

I believe that when we speak of the attributes of God, we are referring to those qualities of God which constitute who he is. They are the characteristics of his nature and are permanent qualities which cannot be gained or lost; they are intrinsic. His natural attributes reveal to us that he has perfect and complete knowledge (Job 37:16, 1 John 3:20), sovereign power and control that is without limit (Genesis 18:14, Job 42:2, Isaiah 45:7, Jeremiah 32:17). He is everywhere present and active (Psalm 130:7-12, Jeremiah 23:23-24), without

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beginning or end; eternal (Isaiah 9:6), self-existent, an independent being (Nehemiah 9:6), and his nature is absolutely unchangeable (Malachi 3:6, 1 Samuel 15:29, James 1:17). His natural attributes reveal to us that he is holy and unable to sin (Exodus 15:11, Job 34:12, James 1:13), righteous and just in his nature and actions (Genesis 2:17, Psalm 145:17, Romans 6:23, 1 John 1:9), as well as being faithful and always true (Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 33:4, John 1:14).

In light of these attributes, I believe that we must view God as transcendent and apart from all that he created, yet realize that his immanence controls and interacts with all that he has created. He is a God that is truly above all, in all, and through all.

God's creative act

I believe that while God was not under any obligation to create, he did so for good and sufficient reasons (Psalm 19:1, Revelation 4:11). When we speak of creation, we are affirming that what now exists was begun by God and not fashioned or adapted by something already in existence (Matthew 13:35, 25:34, Romans 1:20, Hebrews 1:10). While creation refers to the bringing into existence that which has not existed, this does not limit new entities being fashioned out of previously created materials (Genesis 1:24, 2:21). The doctrine of creation teaches us that:

—Everything that is not God himself has derived its existence from him.

—The act of God's creation is unique in that it is not limited, but rather open to his creative purposes.

—Nothing is intrinsically evil, but rather it is good (Genesis 1:1-31).

The providence of God

I believe that while creation refers to God's originating creative work, providence refers to his relationship to his work. Providence therefore, refers to the ongoing action of God by which he preserves the creation he has brought into being and guides it along his intended purpose. For the Christian, this is significant because we are able to live in the assurance that God is present and active in our lives, and that we can face the future confidently, knowing full well that God indeed has the "whole world in his hand." Providence, I feel, can be considered in two major areas:

—God's preservation is the maintaining of his creation. It involves God's protection of creation against harm and destruction and his provision for the needs of the members of his creation (Nehemiah 9:6, Colossians 1:17, Exodus 1:12, Matthew 6:26-32).

—God's guidance is his activity in the universe so that all of its events fulfill his plans for it:

In nature (Psalm 135:5-7).

His animal creation (Psalm 104:21-29).

Human history and destiny of nations (Daniel 2:21, 4:24-25).

Individual lives (1 Samuel 2:6-7, Psalm 31:14-15).

(Editor's Note: George Calhoun's Statement of Faith will be continued in the February, 1988, issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*.) SR

Enter the Joy

Enter the joy of the Bible

The apostle Paul was very clear when he wrote to the young pastor, Timothy, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, RSV) The purpose of the Bible is to lead us into truth and hope and promise. It is our "textbook of faith" and as such gives instruction and guidance as we grow in our understanding of God. Each of us must study the Word to receive the approval of God and rejoice in his favor.

The wonderful truth is that the Bible was written "in order that the joy of us all may be complete." (1 John 1:4, NEB) There is a wonderful reason for its inspiration—to bring joy to our lives and strength to our character. The Bible is God's Word for us today—a word that brings promise of hope to every event in our daily living.

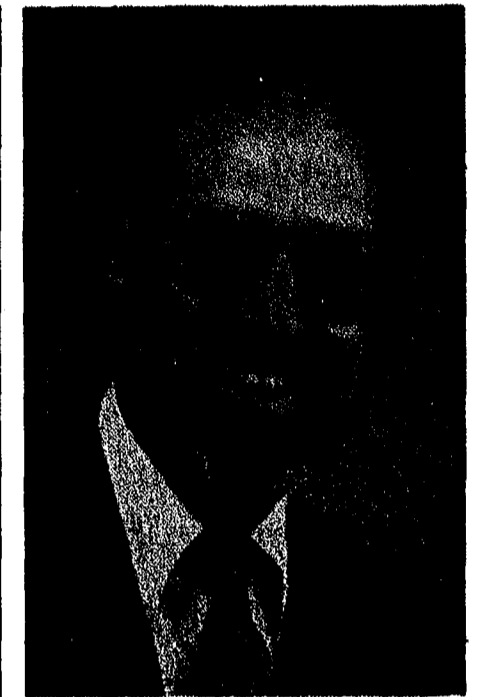
We have just adopted a new Statement of Belief for Seventh Day Baptists. What prompted the consideration of our old statement was a desire to more adequately describe our common conviction about the Bible. We claim that the Bible holds the answers as we seek to discover God's plan for our behavior and conduct. We interpret the Bible differently as individual Christians, but we maintain that its words are eternal and that what it has to say to modern man is relevant and timely. Our new statement reflects that conviction: "We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is our final authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe that Jesus Christ, in his life and teachings as recorded in the Bible, is the supreme interpreter of God's will for mankind." We believe what God has shared with us through the inspired gift we know as the Bible.

God has chosen to make himself known in so many ways—the most

precious being through the life and death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. But he has also revealed himself in the voices of the prophets, the actions of the faithful, and the gifted words of inspired writers—all of which are recorded in the pages of this wonderful book.

Sometimes we are not sure that we want to hear God's message or challenge. It was Mark Twain who wrote: "Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they cannot understand; but as for me, I always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me the most are those which I do understand." God has promised to reveal his will to us through the pages of Scripture. If we do not understand his will, perhaps it is because we have not studied the "textbook" enough.

God has promised us joy if we take the time to absorb ourselves in his Word—his Word for today. We have an opportunity to understand God's will and follow it faithfully. It is to be found throughout the pages of God's gift to us—the Bible. This is God's book—he inspired it. This is our book—it is his precious gift. Open it. Read it believing. Appropriate for yourself the gift of life that is recorded on its pages. Share it with others as a message from God. Share the truth. The promise of God for such faithful response to his Word is an understanding heart and the faith capable of removing mountains of doubt. This is God's Word for us today. Read it with rejoicing. Enter the joy of the Bible!



Herbert Saunders
Conference president

**"Most people
are bothered by
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most are those
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understand."**

Riverside prepares to ring their bell

by Marilyn Merchant
Correspondent

One of the most delightful features of the new church is the bell tower, which will house the beautiful old bell given to us by the Farina, Illinois, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

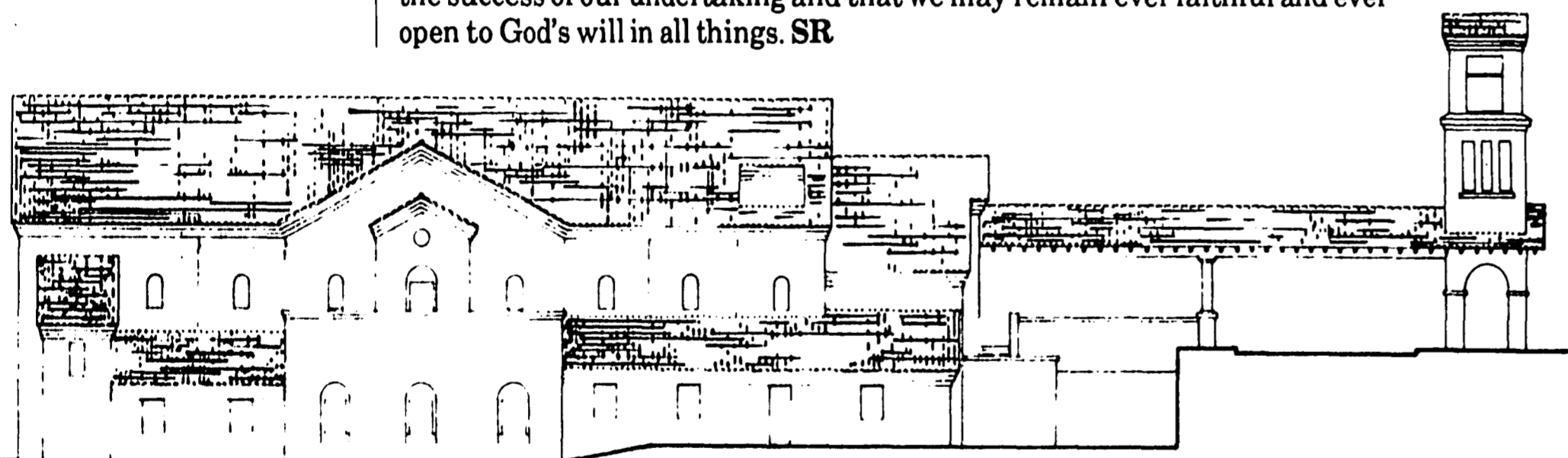
The Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church is halfway to the top of its \$1,200,000 "mountain" of a building fund. Praise the Lord for his goodness to us. We realize that the last incline will be the steepest.

The largest portion of the funds raised came from the sale of our present lovely, vine-covered church and adjacent parish house to the local newspaper plant which was surrounding us. They had long wished to expand. Our biggest hurdle seemed to be finding the location God wanted for us. The Riverside church is probably the only church in history to purchase a piece of property only to have the city buy it out before the conditional-use permits could be obtained. It was obvious God did not want us there (nor did the neighbors).

Our present property, on Chicago Avenue, is a beautiful spot. We are right on schedule, and we go forth with great hope and tremendous faith. We also hope for a lot of charity from all concerned. Situated on the edge of an arroyo, with the much travelled artery on the other side, the church will be positioned so that the large patio adjacent to the lower level social and class rooms overlooks the lighted city of Riverside in the evening, a fabulous sight. As we look forward to gathering there, we pray the Lord will increase our vision for service and our concern for souls to be brought to him.

Prayer teams are blanketing the congregation, sharing a bit of the history of the church, plans for the future, and soliciting ideas on how our new facility can best serve the congregation and the surrounding area in the future. They are also urging a unity of prayer that God's will be done in all things and that there will be no disunity in the congregation as we attempt this tremendous undertaking.

One of the most delightful features of the new church is the bell tower, which will house the beautiful old bell given to us by the Farina, Illinois, Seventh Day Baptist Church. This will indeed *Bind Us Together with Love*. We covet your prayers for the success of our undertaking and that we may remain ever faithful and ever open to God's will in all things. SR



Proposed Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church, located at Chicago at Ransom Road.

Hope church writes of Palmer's graduation

by Georgiana M.
Bennett
Secretary

Recently, Pastor Dennis Palmer of Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, received a permanent teaching position at Holmesburg Christian Baptist School in Northeast Philadelphia. While there, he will teach two subjects: Bible and literature.

Pastor Palmer earned his master of divinity degree in 1982. He later earned his master of theology in May, 1987. Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church is proud of Pastor Palmer. We congratulate him on his success. "Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good." SR

Bay Area Church has active year

Greetings in Christ from the Bay Area, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The people of our church continue to be spread from one end of the beautiful Bay Area to the other. But we are one in Christ, and we serve him in our own cities as well as when we gather on Sabbath. Here are a few activities that have been happening in the Bay Area church:

This year we have taken on a new ministry of helping at a Soup Kitchen, which was started by Iris Suhl of our church. Once a quarter, we make 300-400 sandwiches and serve them with soup and fruit to needy people in western Contra Costa County. We cooperate with many other churches and groups in this effort.

Labor Day weekend we were to have our annual Church Retreat at Yosemite National Park, but extensive fires in

the Sierra Nevada Mountains kept us away. Instead, we held an abbreviated retreat at the Mackintosh's house in Half Moon Bay, California. Good fellowship and videos by Dr. Tony Campolo were highlights of our weekend together.

One week later, we left right after Sabbath School for a progressive dinner. It took the rest of the day to make it around to four homes in three counties for various courses of the dinner.

Plans are now being made for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Bay Area church. Special services were held on Sabbath day, October 24, 1987. Theona (Rasmussen) Andersen of Johnstown, Nebraska, who was instrumental in organizing the church 25 years ago, joined us for our celebration. SR

Plans are now being made for celebrating the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Bay Area church.

Miami seeking growth opportunities

by Jasmine J. Lynch
Secretary

"Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory." The Miami, Florida, Seventh Day Baptist Church is still moving along despite recent setbacks. All our members are solid Seventh Day Baptists working together in love and harmony. We have asked William Vis, who was our ambassador, to serve as interim pastor until the search committee can find a pastor.

The members are optimistic as we see great potential for growth. We have started a monthly tract distribution in the community. Our first visit was well received, and we had three requests for Bible studies. We have reconnected the telephone at the church with the same number, 785-7075. Pastor Vis will be at the church office on Tuesday and Thursdays.

A Youth Day was held on November 28, 1987. Andrew Samuels from the Plainfield, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church was our guest speaker.

If you are escaping the cold weather, please come and worship with us at 520 N.W. 103rd Street, Miami. Sabbath School begins at 10 a.m. and is followed by divine worship. We are conveniently located one block east of I-95.

Please remember us in your prayers. If you are a Seventh Day Baptist minister who is interested in building a great Christian church, in a great American city, contact Pastor Vis or Jasmine Lynch, secretary. SR

The members are optimistic as we see great potential for growth.

Ashaway welcomes new pastor

by **Thelma Tarbox**
Keyworker

On Sabbath, September 6, 1987, the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, Rhode Island, welcomed its new pastor, Rev. Verne Wright; his wife, Betsey; and their four children.

Pastor Wright preached on the Lord's Prayer, as recorded by Luke. He asked us to pray that he would be filled with the power of God, because only by God's power will he have a successful ministry in Ashaway. A dish-to-pass lunch and time to get acquainted followed the worship service. Guests included Rev. and Mrs. Douglas Vinez of the local Babcock Presbyterian Church, with whom we have sponsored a number of activities, including an Easter musical, "To See a Miracle," and Vacation Bible School.

During the year that we have been pastorless, area ministers have ably filled our pulpit, and we are thankful for the opportunity to become good friends with them. The deacons appointed James Waite to be in charge of pastoral supply. We are grateful to the Pastoral Search Committee, chaired by Michelle Crandall, for their many hours spent in procuring a pastor.

This has been a busy year. In May, we hosted Eastern Association. The Ladies Aid provided all meals except the Sabbath noon meal, which the

Grange provided. Members of the Ladies Aid and Sabbath School made and distributed Thanksgiving and May baskets and valentines. Other projects include the planning of a turkey dinner for the Chariho Seniors' Christmas party, a joint meeting with ladies from the Niantic Baptist and Babcock Presbyterian churches to exchange cookies and craft ideas, a banquet for Ladies Aid members and guests, and an August bazaar.

Gifts of money have been sent to Pastor Helen Green's Prison Ministry, to the Philippines for medical supplies, and to the Ashaway Library. Recipients of the Love Gift were Amanda Brimlow, Alta Armstrong and Jean Armstrong. Jean especially needs our prayers. A year ago last June, she underwent abdominal surgery and is still hospitalized. Helen Waite retired as secretary and was given a love gift in appreciation of her many years of faithful service to the Ladies Aid. The society has provided a smoke detector for the parsonage and donated money for furnace and pump repairs at the parish house.

A new sump pump and septic system have been installed for our meeting house. The Carillon bells have been repaired and tape purchased. Also, we have bought another copy machine.

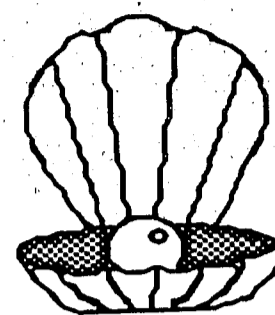
Our newest member, Joe

Roberts, operates a thriving thrift shop in the parish house. Joe is currently training with Young Life, and he has spent two weeks at Lake Champion, Port Jarvis, New York. He and his wife, Wanda, receive local instruction and hope soon to organize a Community Youth Group. They solicit all our prayers.

After an August vacation, Sabbath School resumed in September. A Sabbath Eve informal worship service is held every other week at the church. Each Thursday, a Bible study, praise and prayer group meets at the home of Ruth and Walter Thorpe.

On October 10, 1987, there was a special service of installation for Pastor Wright at the morning worship service. Guest speaker was Pastor Russ Johnson of the Verona, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church (our special sister church). In the evening, there was a reception for Pastor and Mrs. Wright in the parish house.

We are thankful for the dedicated members and friends who provide the services that are necessary to keep a church going—and for those who keep our meeting house and grounds beautiful. We praise God. By his love and power, he maintains and nourishes his Body at Ashaway. **SR**



Pearls of history from the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society

Faithful in Bible study

by **Historian Don A. Sanford**

"... Unless I am convicted of error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of Pope or of councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning I stand convicted by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us. On this I take my stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Since Martin Luther first uttered these words in his defense at the Diet of Worms in 1621, Protestants have taken their stand on the Bible for the final authority in matters of faith and practice. The experience of Edmund Dunham of Piscataway, New Jersey, about 1703 is but one illustration of a person whose conscience was taken captive by the word of God.

Soon after the Baptist church had been organized in Piscataway, Edmund Dunham was selected as a deacon "with liberty to improve his gift as opportunity might arise." He took his call seriously and was very zealous in his work with the church. One Sunday morning as he was on his way to church, he saw Hezekiah Bonham doing servile labor on the first day of the week. Dunham sharply rebuked Bonham for his violation of what he supposed to be the Sabbath of the Lord as given in the Bible. In response, Bonham challenged him to bring one single passage of Scripture proving the sanctification of Sunday. Deacon Dunham thought this was presumptuous to question the accepted practice of the church. Yet try as he did, no passage came to mind with which to answer Bonham. He became determined to find biblical justification for the common practice of the church.

Edmund Dunham then began a serious study of the Scriptures which lasted for months. He studied both Old and New Testament passages but could find no answer to Bonham's question. On the basis of this study of the Bible, he was astonished at his own former ignorance, and was ready to acknowledge that Bonham's challenge was in order. He also became convinced that the Seventh Day was the true Sabbath and still ought to be observed. Yet before he began to observe the Sabbath himself, he raised the issue with others in the church but got no help. Soon others were persuaded to study the matter, and so they met each Sabbath day for study. They continued membership in the Baptist church for a while, but as the subject became more heated, they concluded that for the sake of peace and their own conscience, which had been taken captive by the Scriptures, they had better withdraw.

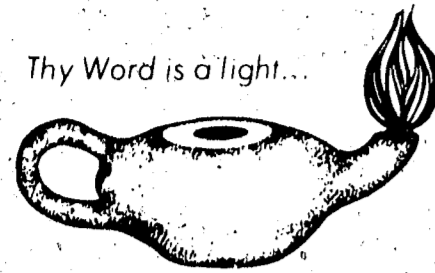
Thus it was that in 1705, the Piscataway Seventh Day Baptist Church was founded with 17 charter members. For 250 years the church continued, giving rise to a number of other churches, to families, and to individual Christians whose consciences have similarly been taken captive by the word of God through faithfulness in Bible study. **SR**

On the basis of his study of the Bible, Dunham was astonished at his own former ignorance, and was ready to acknowledge that the Seventh Day was the true Sabbath and still ought to be observed.

Visiting another country?

Plan to spend your Sabbath with one of our sister SDB churches—
in 18 countries.

Write to the Missionary Society office for specific information and guidelines for those who do visit sister SDB churches. Plan ahead—at least four to six weeks.



Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Deaconess Shirley Severance Cargill of the North Loup, Nebraska, Seventh Day Baptist Church was honored at the annual sessions of the General Conference, Lindsborg, Kansas, as the 1987 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

Cargill serves the North Loup church as deaconess and Sabbath School pre-school class teacher. She has been a deaconess for 12 years and has served the diaconate as secretary. She has served on many committees of her church, such as Nurture, Outreach, Christian Education, Advisory Board, Trustee and Women's Dr. Grace Missionary Society.

Cargill chose teaching as a goal for her life. In the fall of 1958, she entered

Salem College, Salem, West Virginia. With her mother's illness in 1960, she chose to remain in Nebraska, teaching at a country school while taking summer school classes. Following her mother's death, she helped her older sister and father care for her four younger brothers while continuing to teach school. She has also experienced the learning process as a member of the Horace, Nebraska, School Board, serving as president for seven years.

Shirley has been married to Ron Cargill for 23 years, and they have three children. She takes an active part in the family farming business.

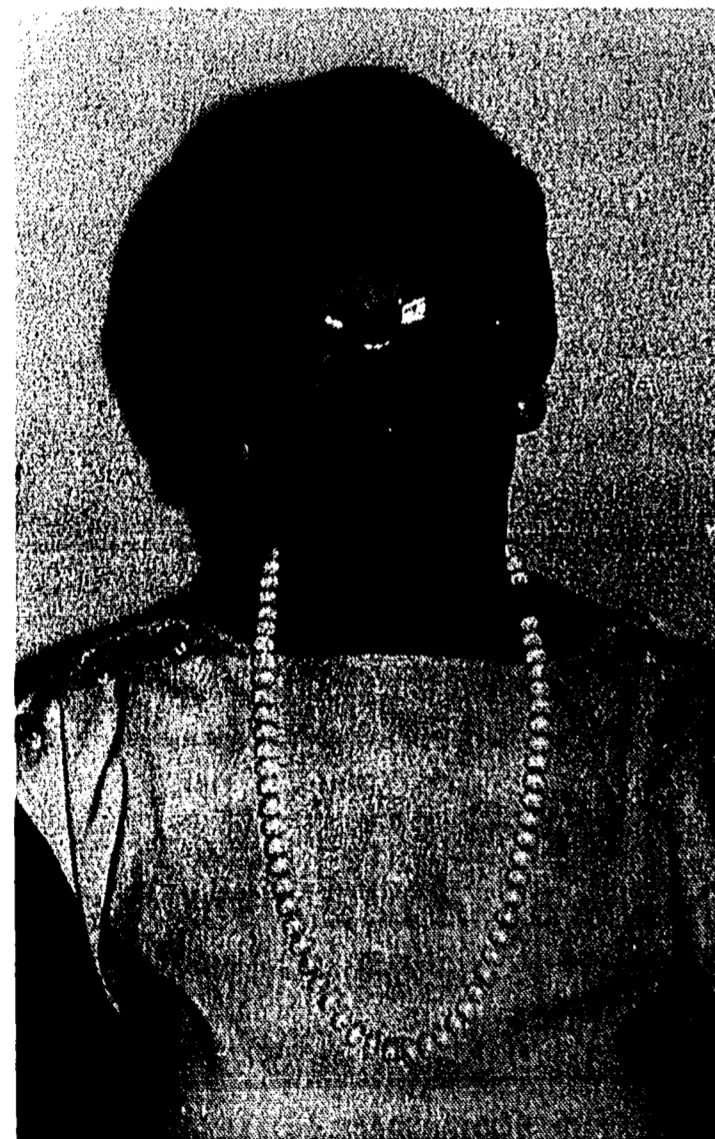
Cargill's letter of nomination from her church expressed their admiration for her life and teaching.

"Shirley has taught all ages, from her present pre-school class up through sixth grade. She has taught most of the years since she graduated from high school in 1958. An occasional break from teaching would come as the Sabbath School began a rotation plan for teachers, to give a quarter of relief time. This was to make it easier to find teachers. However, Shirley seemed more content in her classroom than out, ever anxious to do what she felt God had called her to do. She is truly devoted and faithful in all areas of life. Her love for her Lord and his little ones is evident in the variety of methods she has implemented in getting the Word deeply imbedded in their hearts."

"God's wisdom and guidance were clearly at work as she was able to use her professional training expertise as creative steppingstones to reinforce the Bible teaching."

Ron Cargill accepted the crystal apple and study Bible on behalf of his wife on Sabbath afternoon of General Conference. SR

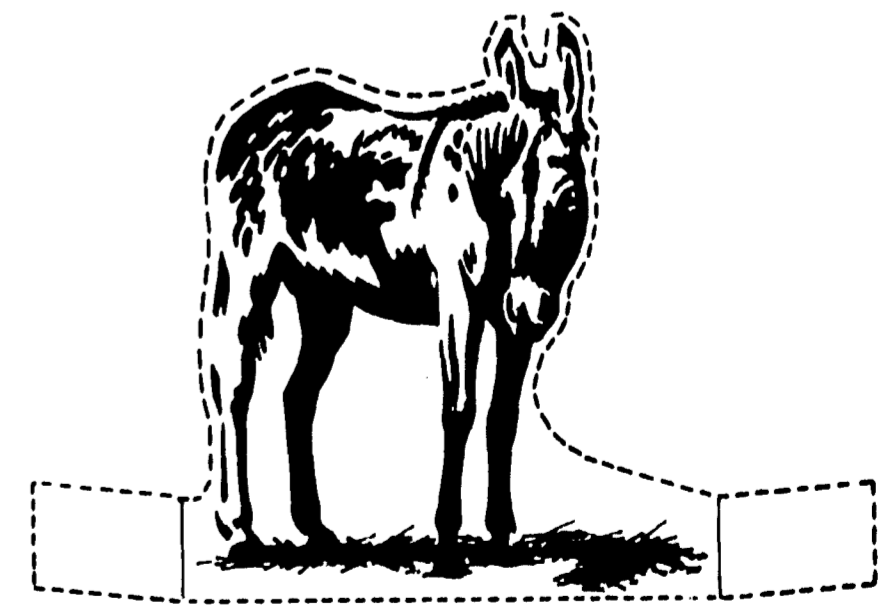
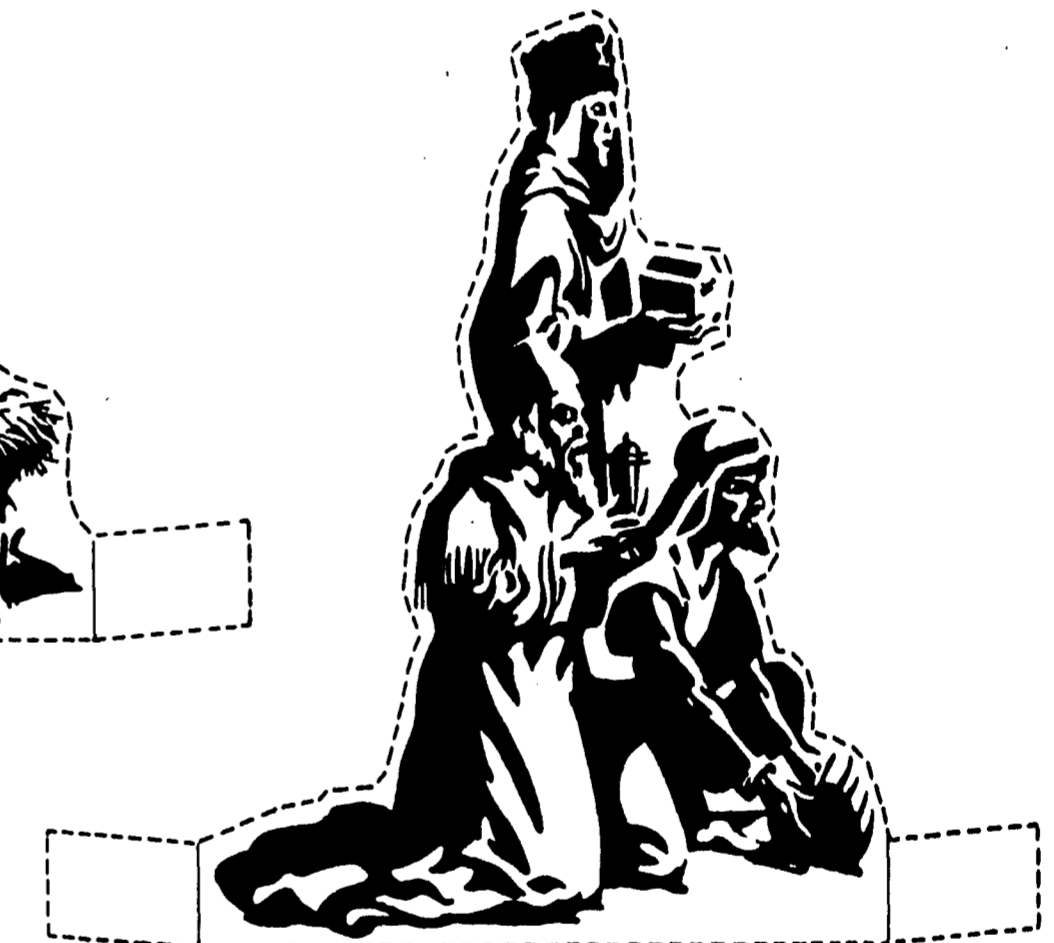
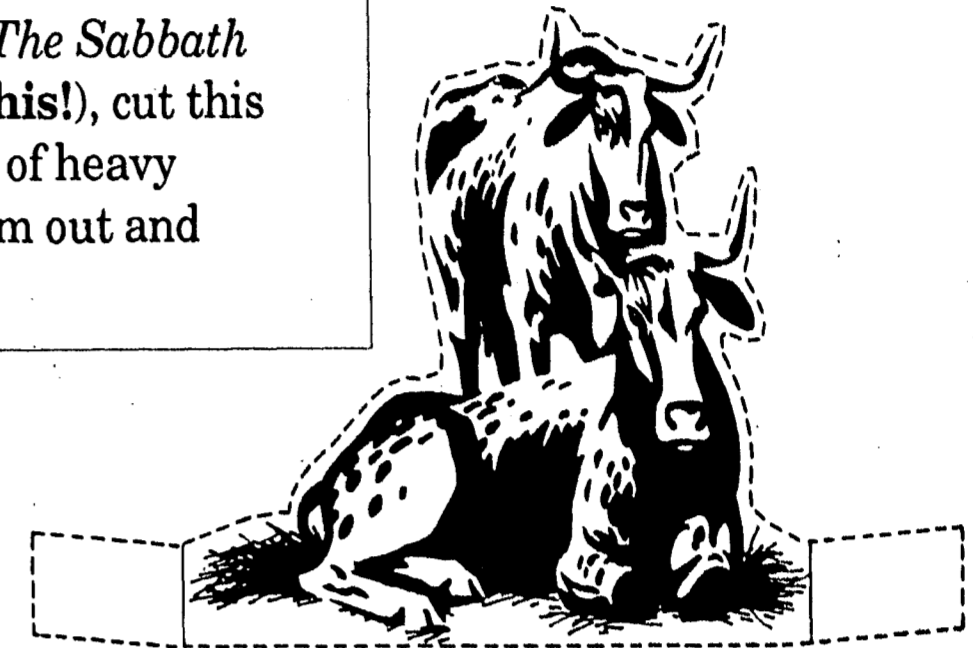
Shirley seemed more content in her classroom than out, ever anxious to do what she felt God had called her to do.



Shirley Severance Cargill
North Loup, Nebraska

The Children's Page

When your mom and dad have finished with *The Sabbath Recorder* (please, ask them if you can do this!), cut this page from the magazine and glue it to a piece of heavy paper. Then you can color the figures, cut them out and set up your own nativity scene.





the BEACON

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

December 1987

Eggs and their shells

by "A"

Greetings! Well, here's the scoop. While dining out with Matt at "Joe's World Famous Sushi Bar" (the only type of bar we frequent), he asked me, "A," to write an article

for America's favorite magazine, *The Sabbath Recorder*. By the way, if you haven't been asked yet, don't worry. If Matt's a good youth director, and he is, he'll get to you sooner or later. Anyway, I asked how much I would get paid, and he said, "I'm sorry, but you'll only get

\$250." I thought to myself, "Wow! That's just enough to get those goofy blinking lights to put around my license plate. Front and back! A dream come true! It will be better than Peggy Saunders' license plates!" Before I knew it, I was saying, "Yes, yes, yes!" (*Editor's note: Don't be deceived—He's not getting paid one dime for this stuff.*)

For some reason, I thought it was going to be easy. I was wrong. So now I sit here in my room, in a very fine yoga position, wearing no make-up, with canvas on, nothing on my head, a clean fish tank, my "Yule Log" tape rewinding in my VCR, surrounded by incense and candles. "How can you write to millions of people about friends and not be boring?" I thought. "Sure, maybe together, Howard and Mike Green could do it, or even Rod... maybe. But, I can't do it."

I mean, sure, I have friends and stuff. You probably do too—maybe not as many as me, but who cares? I could tell you that "Mrs. Webster" says a friend is a person on intimate and affectionate terms with another. Or I could list types of friends, like real friends, good friends, best friends, big friends, small friends, Howard Green, girlfriends, boyfriends, when-I-need-a-favor friends, parents, Christian friends, bad-influence friends, neighbors, conference friends, imaginary friends,

friends *where* they are and accept them for *who* they are; not who you hope they will be someday. Accepting means taking the good with the bad. Jesus showed this in his life, too. He met everyone, even the "outcasts," where they were and loved them no matter what, and he still does that today.

Being a friend isn't always easy; it is a very real giving of yourself that comes from the heart. It may be a lot of work, but the effort that you put forth in being a friend will always be rewarded in the friendships that you will receive back!

*"Friends will always see you through,
Believe in things you want to do,
Feel happy when your dreams come true—
That's just the way friends are.
Friends will always know your heart,
Will understand you from the start,
And still be close when you're apart—
That's just the way friends are."
—Amanda Bradley*

Friendship

by Angie Butts

Friendship is something that we all treasure. My very best memories are times spent with good friends. Although friendship is a lot of fun, it is also a lot of work. Being a friend and having a successful friendship is a full-time job.

The best friendships are those that are rooted in love and acceptance. Those are two powerful—and not so simple—words.

The kind of love that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is a very special love. It is a very giving love. This love is the ideal love that we all like to see in our friends. It is also the kind of love that we should offer our friends. Paul's description of love shows the kind of love that Christ, the perfect friend, exemplifies. As Christians, it is the love we should try to exemplify.

Acceptance is also crucial to friendships. Being a true friend means being able to meet your

material friends, animal friends and, most importantly, Jesus. The list goes on, right? Well, I'd be the first to admit that I have all of these friends and more.

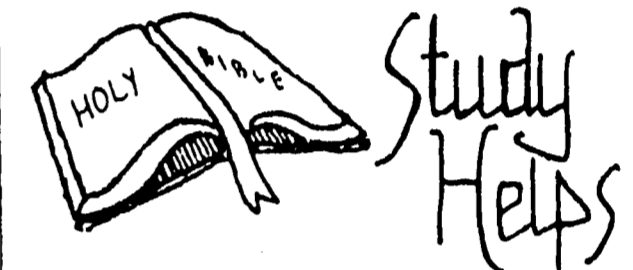
Speaking of friends and, specifically, bad-influence friends, I just want to remind you of something in Galatians 6:7 and 8. "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." (Thanks for the kick, Nate!) I don't think even Steve-O could have worded that better! There is a very big word in those verses: **destruction**. I think that "destruction" in this verse has more than one meaning. It could mean destruction during life on earth and destruction after life on earth. Your reaction to this warning might be, "Be quiet! I can hang out with liars, drinkers, cheaters and jerks without being affected by them." That statement might be reflecting an immature

attitude. The destruction talked about is true for me and others I know that really felt spiritually strong. Some people say they can go to beer parties and spread the Word, but I feel that that is very dangerous. If you can truly do it, then more power to you. With prayer and by taking one step at a time, you can do anything. Just be sure that you're not sowing to please your sinful nature, so as not to fall off the "ladder." We're not talking the ladder of material success—compared to this ladder, material success is no more than a stepping-stool! There are no elevators here either, so if you are going to make it to the top, honey, you have got to climb, climb, climb. And it ain't easy.

In fact, now we're talking sacrifice. It's common sense that everyone is going to have to sacrifice some of their former ways, and for each person it will be different. If you don't sacrifice time to work, then you will not get any higher on the material ladder, and you won't get the reward of money, right? In the same way,

God's not letting anyone off easy. To climb the spiritual ladder, some things must be sacrificed. What might be a major sacrifice for Tom might seem easy to Jerry, and what's hard for Jerry might be easy for Tom. Confused? No? Good! Don't wait too long after becoming a Christian to start climbing, either. You've got to kick yourself *now*, because if you

Cont. on page 29



Read: John 15:12-17

Memorize: John 15:13

It never ceases to amaze me when I consider the fact that I can be friends with God! To imagine that one can have a close, personal relationship with a being that is all-powerful would seem ridiculous, if not for Christ's words. The knowledge that God is my friend—and is with me even when all others seem to have deserted me—is one of my greatest joys and comforts in times of trouble.

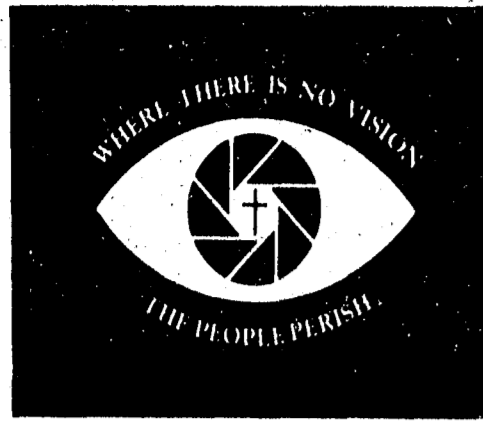
Of course, none of this would be possible without the sacrifice of Christ. Truly no friend has a greater love for me than Christ, who died for my sins while I was yet a sinner. This fact only increases my joy, because it proves that God is not only my friend in word, but in deed.

Director's Ditty

December is a month in which many of us renew our "family ties" with people we might see only once or twice a year. It is also a time when those of us in school get to take a break and relax for a week or two from the pressures of homework and school activities.

Much of this free time is spent with friends, doing things that there isn't usually enough time for, like spending a whole day—or even a weekend—skiing. This month, the theme is "Friendship," and the articles and Bible study take a close look at what friendship is and how important it is in our lives.

Perhaps you might take some time to reflect on friendship and how important it is in your life. Maybe you'll even decide to let those people who are your closest friends know that they're extra special.



Focus on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

New opportunities for outreach seen in Finland

Helsinki, Finland, Europe: After an initial visit to new contacts by Missionary Thomas McElwain, public meetings were scheduled on October 17 and 31, with the possibility of the organization of a new branch church. Their leader is Pastor Risto Sorsa. Twenty-three were in attendance at the service on October 3. Missionary McElwain writes: "More interests have come in from other cities, and Pastor Sorsa and I will be visiting people in Homeenlinna and Valkeakoski. Other queries have been met by letter and telephone. Pastor Sorsa and I are in touch with the Polish Conference and have been invited to attend the ministerial conference on December 12 and 13, when we will be in Poland for seven days."

Vis to serve Miami church as interim pastor

Miami, FL, USA: Ambassador William Vis has been appointed to serve as interim pastor until a regular pastor can be called. He will spend two days a week in the church office and lead in Bible studies Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Miami, Florida, area. He will also lead a Bible study in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday night; make home visits in south Florida; prepare the bulletins and publications of the church; and preach three Sabbaths each month.

Twelve baptized at annual conference in Poland

Zory City, Poland, Europe: The annual conference was attended here July 4 and 5, 1987, by about 350 persons, including about 100 visitors. This was followed by a three-week children's camp for 25. The youth camp was held in August for 27. A "central baptism" was held in Skoczow, near to the river Vistula. Twelve persons were baptized, and an additional five, previously baptized, joined the church with "laying on of hands." It was a very blessed Sabbath, both for the new members and about 150 witnesses from many parts of Poland. Brother Jan Lek and a friend were in Poland July 17-22, bringing good quality white paper and colored paper for our publications, as well as ink, clothing, parts for the mimeograph and other items for our ministries. —from letter of Pastor Bronislaw K. Ciesielski.

Stress seminar held

Santa Barbara, CA, USA: A church camp-out offered a time for emphasis on goals and priorities for the coming year. Each Tuesday evening, October 27-November 17, the church is participating in sponsoring a Stress Survival Seminar to help meet recognized need of those in the area. Topics include: Recognizing Constructive and Destructive Stress; Causes of Distress and Who Experiences It; The Relationship of Stress to Illness; Feeling Good Emotionally and Physically; Being Your Own Best Friend; How Values Affect One's Stress Level; Effective Tools for Dealing with Stress; and Reaching Your Full Potential. In addition, a literature outreach is being conducted.

Pastor's refresher course conducted

Makapwa Station, Malawi, Africa: Pastor A.K. Harawa reports, "A Pastor's Refresher Course was conducted the week before General Conference, August 31-September 4. Subjects covered were SDB Church Polity; Bible Study—Colossians 2:16-23; The Pastor and His work; Faith; Divorce; Church Growth; Music; etc. Teachers were Pastors L.A. Manyamba, W.L. Sulani, A.K. Harawa and Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson. A total number of 22 met, 11 ordained and 11 unordained but serving different SDB churches. During discussion periods, they were given a chance to explain their main problems and their success. Our togetherness (at) this time drew oneness and understanding."

A prayer reminder for each day of the month

January, 1988

Verse for the Month: "...you can go directly to the Father and ask Him, and He will give you what you ask for because you use My Name. ...Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and your cup of joy will overflow."—John 16:23b, 24b TLB

Pray for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1— effective outreach by my church in community | 15— Jan Lek's ministry with the Poland Conference |
| 2— Council on Ministry meeting | 16— your Sabbath School teacher |
| 3— SDBWF Week of Prayer: The Individual Christian's Spiritual Inventory | 17— meeting of the Board of Christian Education |
| 4— The Individual Christian's Place in the Church | 18— special evangelistic meetings of Gabriel Bejjani in Kerala, India |
| 5— The Individual Christian's Responsibility Toward Conference or Church | 19— Missionary Thomas McElwain in Helsinki, Finland |
| 6— The Individual Christian's Place Among God's Children Everywhere | 20— a T.I.M.E. student you know |
| 7— The Individual Christian's Share in the World's Need for Salvation | 21— a T.I.M.E. student you do not know |
| 8— The Individual Christian's Place in the SDB World Federation | 22— Pastor James Siwane in South Africa |
| 9— The Individual Christian's Place in Sabbath Keeping | 23— a Sabbath blessing |
| 10— Lawton and Bejjani world travel | 24— quarterly meeting of the Missionary Board |
| 11— my pastor and church leaders | 25— your closest friend |
| 12— meeting of the Australasian SDB Conference, Melbourne, Australia | 26— Pastor Ely Paypa, Cebu City, Philippines |
| 13— SDB Center staff with three fewer workers | 27— a child you know who needs love |
| 14— David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa | 28— the Joy of being Faithful in Convictions |
| | 29— General Council preparing for meetings |
| | 30— meeting of the Memorial Board of Trustees |
| | 31— meeting of the Committee on Faith and Order |

MOVING?

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

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The Sabbath Recorder
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Obituaries

Perry.—Margaret Hogan Perry, 70, of Almond, New York, died at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, New York, after a long illness.

She was born on February 13, 1917, near Scio, New York, and was married 35 years to Sovelin Perry, who died in 1969. She moved to Alfred, New York, in 1950 and operated a bakery for 17 years. She later was employed at the Alfred Sub Shop. She was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include sisters and brothers and two sons, Joseph Doorley of Almond and Thomas Doorley of Rochester, New York, whom she informally adopted and who cared for her in the last years of her busy life.

Burial was at Angelica, New York, following funeral services officiated by Rev. Albert Rogers on behalf of the Alfred church. ANR

Simpson.—Helen (Lawton) Simpson, daughter of Frank B. and Dora (Potter) Lawton, was born on October 15, 1892, at Albion, Wisconsin, and died on September 8, 1987, at Battle Creek, Michigan.

She was a graduate of Milton, Wisconsin, high school and was married to the late Lloyd L. Simpson in 1911. They moved to Battle Creek in 1920, where she worked in the office at the Battle Creek Food Company until 1949, and then was a secretary for the late Dr. Roy H. Baribeau until 1962.

She was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she taught children's Sabbath School classes, served on the Denominational Young People's Board for several years, and was a member of the Ladies Aid Society.

Her husband, Lloyd, died in

1938. They had no children.

Surviving are a brother, Stephen R. Lawton of Battle Creek, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A graveside service was held on September 11, 1987, with Rev. Robert Harris, pastor of the Albion, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Albion. LRL

Atcherson.—Larry M.

Atcherson was born on November 12, 1930, and went into eternal rest on September 15, 1987.

Larry resided in Madison, Wisconsin, and expressed a lot of interest in the Albion, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Larry's wife, Janet; daughter, JoDee; and mother, Edna, mourn his passing. He was preceded in death by his father, Glenn Atcherson.

His pastor, Robert E. Harris, conducted funeral services on September 18, 1987, in the Albion Seventh Day Baptist Church. Graveside services were conducted at Evergreen Cemetery, Albion. RH

Birth

Hashit.—A daughter, Ashley Lynn Hashit, was born to David and Karen Hashit of San Diego, California, on September 18, 1987.

Accessions

Brookfield, New York
Ernest Clemens, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Carol L. Washburn
Edward C. Washburn

Milton, Wisconsin
Herbert E. Saunders, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Agnes McCumber

Joined by Letter
Wayne Baum
Judy Baum

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(Branch of Milton, Wisconsin)
Earl Cruzan, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Beatriz McPherson

Joined after Testimony
Robert McPherson

Salem, West Virginia
S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Perry Cain
Christina (Rogers) Cain

Employment Notice

Accountant

Duties include: Accounting and bookkeeping, publishing cost accounting, payroll and benefit administration, denominational treasurer functions, including computerized accounting and fund distribution systems.

Salary range: \$18,000 to \$21,000, depending upon education and experience, plus benefits package. For more information or a detailed job description, please contact:

Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

Send resumé to the above address, ATTN: Dale D. Thorngate

History of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, New Jersey

1987 edition

Now available: 360 page 1987 hardcover edition of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church history book. Approximately one-third of this volume is a reprint of the 1937 church bicentennial edition, with new material written by Tim Bond and others comprising the remaining two-thirds. If a picture says a thousand words, then 65,000 additional words have been added through this medium. Read of the events and personalities that have shaped this 250-year-old body of believers; read also of the church's witness to the community and denomination.

Price: \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. (Make checks payable to: "Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.")

Order from: Rex Ayars, P.O. Box 75, Shiloh, NJ 08353

— Please print —

Please send me _____ copies of the 1987 Shiloh Church

History. I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$20.00 for each book).

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

God stepped

Cont. from page 5

"No one can really see Christ and go back the same way. Life becomes different from that hour."

the story to locate the home. Then the directions were given in this manner: "Just go down this street half a mile, turn to your right and follow the river down a little way, and you'll see then where you are."

The poor child, only half comprehending, chilled by the wind and bewildered in the storm, was turning blindly about when another voice spoke and said, in a kindly tone, "Just come with me." The little hand was clasped in a stronger one, the corner of a warm cloak was thrown over the shoulders of the shivering child, and the way home was made with ease.

In a way, this parallels the story of the human race—man blundering around in the darkness, being told that this way and that was the way to God, and he started out in all directions—confused as to which road was the highway to righteousness. Then a voice said, "Fear not... for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour."

God did not just point the way saying, "Go!" But he stepped out and said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Do not worry about the way to the throne of God, because "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." "God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him."

The person addressed

"Unto you." Why has God stepped forth? "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Nothing could be more personal than "unto you." God's greatest gift is for you. God so loved the world (you) that he gave." Let us accept the gift, for "as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become children of God."

You need not wait longer for the Father to step out into the world. Everything now depends upon you. The time for you to let him enter in is "this day." "The place"—"let every heart prepare him room." Take him into your heart and so live that your very actions and words will "announce" that Christ the Lord liveth in you. Then your life will have "purpose," and that purpose will be to "show forth his salvation from day to day."

*Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born
If he's not born in thee,
Thy soul is still forlorn.*

It was a star that led the Wise Men to that little town of Bethlehem and to the Christ child. And as they looked upon the Saviour, something happened to them—God stepped into their hearts, and they "went back another way." Dr. Jones speaks the truth when he says, "No one can really see Christ and go back the same way. Life becomes different from that hour."

As you pause before the manger at this Christmas season, do not leave until you are ready to go back another way. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

*God stepped out to walk with you.
Won't you walk with him? SR*



Religion in the news

An interdenominational dedication of a new Bible was held in Japan during September. The celebration marked the first common Protestant-Roman Catholic translation of the Bible into Japanese.

The new Bible was the result of work by 44 Roman Catholic and Protestant scholars, and it took 18 years to complete the task.

With a collection of cards and letters urging him to run, TV evangelist Pat Robertson announced his candidacy for the presidency of the United States on October 1. Robertson said that the names of 6.3 million supporters have been registered, and he plans to work toward a total of seven million.

Robertson upset predictions with a surprise victory in the Iowa straw poll among Republican candidates.

Three out of four American Catholics have high regard for the personal attributes of Pope John Paul II, but they rely on their own consciences on difficult moral issues. That is one of the findings of a Gallop survey during the Pope's visit to the United States. Seventy-seven percent were reported to rely on their own judgements rather than the Pope's teachings.

At the same time, 81 percent of non-Catholic Americans gave Pope John Paul II a positive rating.

Seventy-eight percent of American Catholics declared themselves to be church members, but only 49 percent were regular in church attendance. Fifty percent of American Catholics say that religion is "very important" in their lives.

The U.S. Senate has approved a bill which will allow the armed forces to wear yarmulkes, turbans, and other distinctive religious apparel, provided that such attire does not "interfere with the performance of the member's military duties." A similar bill is pending in House legislation on military programs.

The Reagan administration has opposed the legislation but may be forced to accept it as part of a larger legislative package.

Last year, the Supreme Court upheld an Air Force rule which prohibits wearing the Jewish yarmulkes. The Senate action was taken to allow orthodox Jews to serve in the armed forces.

**Interfaith
Japanese Bible**

**Robertson to
make
presidential bid**

**Gallop religion
poll**

**Bill to allow
yarmulkes in
services**



Women's Society **NEWS & IDEAS** by Marilyn Merchant

God's genuine gift

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All,

*I wish you peace,
I wish you joy,
I wish you contentment,
And most of all I wish you the Love of the Father.*

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."—John 3:16-18

We have to seek the inner beauty that comes with knowing him, the genuine gift—not the synthetic glitz of some of the anti-Christ's that seem to be proliferating in the world.

You are probably wondering what the above Scripture has to do with Christmas. Read it again. God gave his son. The other morning, I found myself singing that beloved Stainer anthem from start to finish as I whizzed (as close as I can come to whizzing) through my household chores. It had been years since I sang it with the choir, but it is not a song that is easily forgotten. We used to sing it often. As I contemplated the words, the word "genuine" kept coming to mind. God's gift was genuine.

This brought to mind our business we had in Michigan, a rock and gem shop. One day our daughter was invited to a birthday party. She wanted us to make something "real" for her little friend, so we devised a dainty little bracelet set with a lovely variegated rose colored stone known as rhodochrosite, one of the calcite family. She came home absolutely crestfallen because her little friend had preferred a sparkly, synthetic stone ring given her by another friend. She sobbed, "But Momma, she said the ring was a real synthetic stone." We then had a lesson in man-made stones and God-made

ones. (Since that time, of course, chemists have learned to grow crystals in laboratories that are the right composites without the fluctuations of nature.) We talked about the lasting qualities of the genuine versus the sparkle, and my daughter soon felt better.

Not everyone enjoys the more subdued beauty of non-faceted stones; but then not everyone has the discrimination to appreciate God's genuine gift, his Son, either. He gave us the most perfect and real gift possible to give. We have to seek the inner beauty that comes with knowing him, the genuine gift—not the synthetic *glitz* of some of the anti-Christ's that seem to be proliferating in the world now. And so, along with the above wishes, I wish you the gift of discernment, that you may know what is true, what is good and what is God's **genuine gift**.

The Baptist Women's Bible book of the month is John. Read it all. In summing up the book, I quote, "John emphasizes the **gift** of eternal life through Christ, a gift which begins now and which comes to those who respond to Jesus as the way, the truth and the life." (The emphasis is mine.) They urge us to pray for the oppressed peoples of the world, that through God's love and mercy they might truly be free. My mail is full of appeals now for this very thing. They are crying out for Bibles, in their own languages; for lesson helps, also in their language; and for freedom to worship the one true God openly, not in secret.

One does not need to go far from home to find a need for lesson helps. I would certainly not classify Sunshine Mountain as "oppressed," but Linda Hays shared with us at conference that she has been driving many miles across the mountain to duplicate all the Sabbath School materials they use. They desperately need a copy machine to handle the task. To this end, the

Women's Interest Committee designated 15 percent of their Love Gift to start a fund. If you have not yet decided on a White Gift recipient, why not add this to the basket of choices? And, while we are on the subject of White Gifts, the Milton, Wisconsin, church circle mentioned setting aside \$100 for their White Gift during the past year.

From our reports to conference comes word of these activities during the Christmas season: the North Loup, Nebraska, society reported holding an annual Christmas luncheon with another church in town, which is exciting and "puts everyone in a Christmas spirit." What a lovely way to share the joy of the season. Plainfield, New Jersey, has a party to reveal their Secret Pals. Their ladies group has assumed the giving of gifts to the church sexton and organist. Partying seems to be one of the things we do best at this season. Alfred, New York, spoke of cooperating ecumenically with other churches in a "Christmas in Alfred Weekend" for students before they leave for mid-winter recess. They provided cookies and cocoa for them after a tramp through the snow carolling.

Salem, West Virginia, purchased gifts for Sabbath School children and presented them at a party following their special Christmas presentation. They also adopted one of the congregation's families for Christmas. Battle Creek, Michigan, gave Christmas food baskets and packed decorated boxes of cookies and candy for the church's elderly and shut-ins.

In the September 1987 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*, there is a survey titled, "Are American Families Finding New Strength in Spirituality?" It hopes to find out about personal and family beliefs, the value and importance of faith, participation in organized religion, spiritual practice and other relevant areas. A copy of the

questionnaire was sent to the Women's Board through its president. The results of this national survey will be printed in the January 1988 issue of the magazine. We anxiously await it. If you are not a regular subscriber, you may wish to pick up a copy on the newsstand this month. Keyworkers, this may be an area on which you will wish to report to your society.

Now for a few Mighty Mites: Pay one cent for each card you send out. If you do not contribute to an outside charity this month, pay 10 cents. For each shut-in you visit and bring cheer, deduct one cent. (Not fair counting each patient in a nursing home unless you speak to each one.) Pay two cents for each decoration on your tree (a string of lights counts as one). Send one dollar to the Verona, New York, church for their Prison Ministry, along with a card they can pass along to an inmate. Read the Christmas story from the Bible with your family and each contribute what you wish toward the White Gift in your church. Wish a complete stranger a Blessed Holiday season and pay three cents for each smile you get in return. Remember the pastor's wife with something from your kitchen and pay two cents. Finally, attend the church Christmas observance in reverence and joy and pray God's blessing on each one there. This is free, just as is my personal greeting to each and every one of you. I love you in the love of the Lord. Felice Navidad—Joyeux Noel; whatever the language, Merry Christmas.

Marilyn

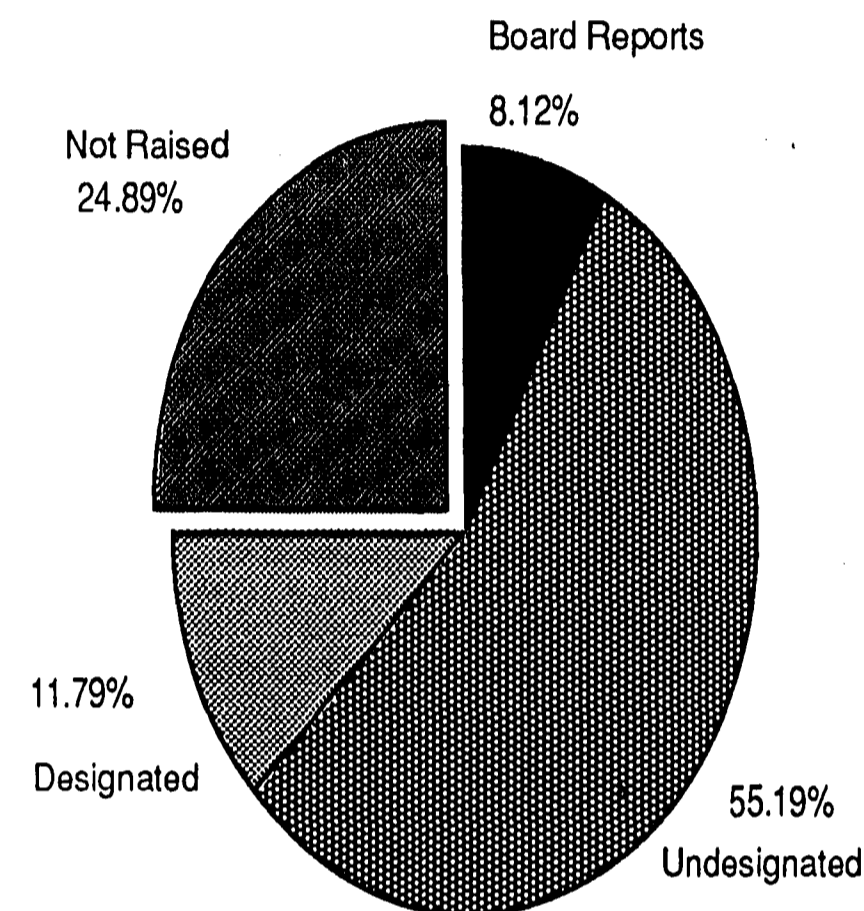
Attend the church Christmas observance in reverence and joy and pray God's blessing on each one there.

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.

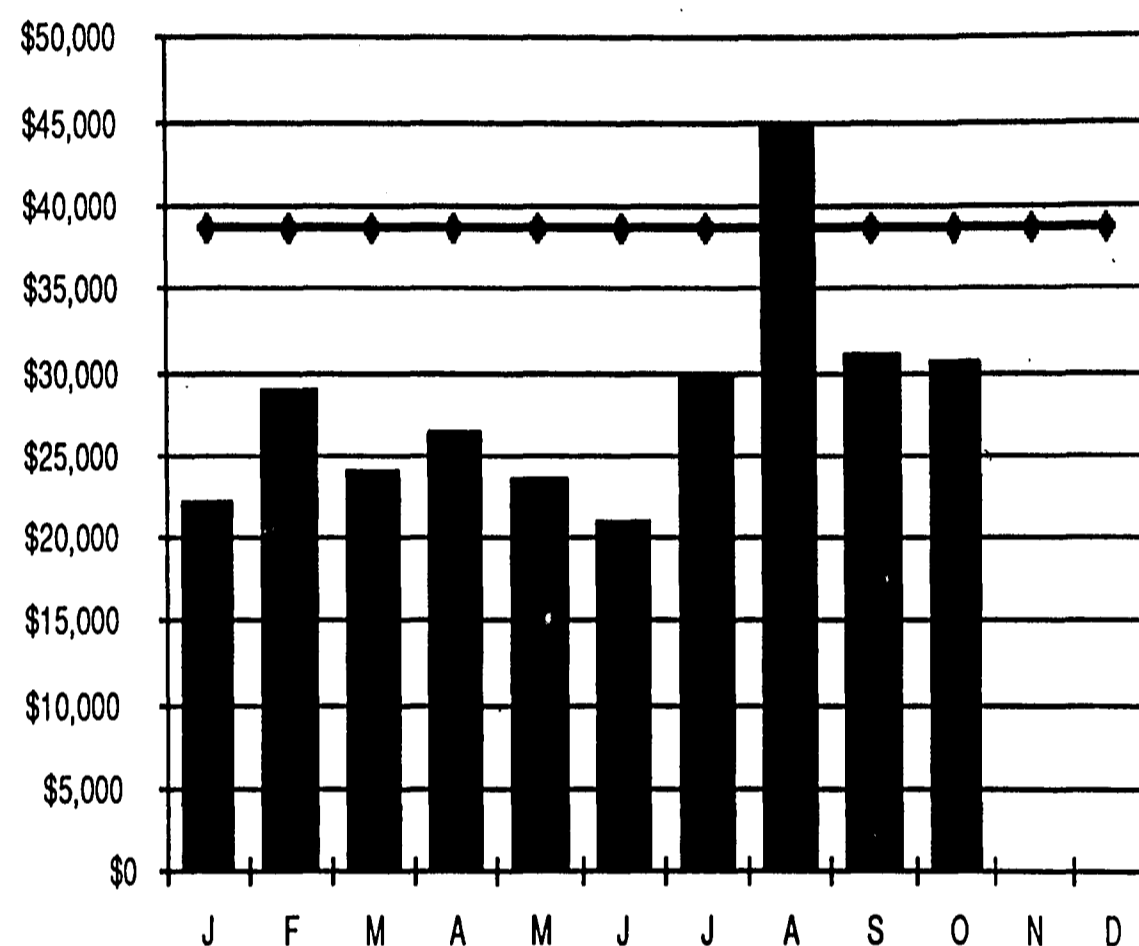
"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."



1987 Accumulative
(Percentage of dollar raised as of October 1, 1987 — Totals 10 month budget)

Partnership in Ministry—Actual vs. Budget

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



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 - 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

News from Poland

Bronislaw Ciesielski, president of the Sabbath Day Christian Church of Poland, reports that 350 attended their annual conference in Zory city, July 4-5. Over 100 of these were visitors. A children's camp followed for three weeks, July 7-23, with 25 attending. Brother Ciesielski directed the two-week youth camp attended by 27 from August 10-23.

At a baptism ceremony in Skoczow near the river Vistula, 12 were baptized and 17 new members added to the church, a total of 21 since the beginning of the year. "It was a very blessed Sabbath, both for the new members and about 150 witnesses from

many parts of Poland."

Ciesielski reports that Jan Lek and friend Paul from the Netherlands visited in July delivering "good quality white paper, colored paper for covers and calendars, the black ink which we use for better quality print, some parts for mimeographs and the organ and amplifier recorder. . . . Our Board of Conference met with Brother Jan to talk about our mutual cooperation, presently and in the future, and to say thanks very much." Lek is consulting with them regarding plans to obtain a computer to help in the publishing work, the first priority at present for the Polish Conference. **SR**

Twelve were baptized and 17 new members added to the church, a total of 21 since the beginning of the year.

Eggs and their shells

Cont. from page 19

wait too long, God's gonna do it. And he is BIG—it's easy for him to do things. They might be in ways you will not agree with, like, or understand, though. That may be hard, but so is getting up on Monday mornings.

It can also be lonely. Sometimes (usually, for me) being a Christian is lonely (until you get married, ha ha ha!!). Some people become "Joe Christian" overnight and blow off all of their pagan friends the next day. They end up getting laughed at for their beliefs. There are more sensible, gradual ways of letting others know of your new life in Christ. Some people might still laugh, but you'll find that most people will respect you for your beliefs. Once you become a Christian, BANG! You will understand how you can love a person but still hate the evil inside him/her, even if he/she is laughing at you. I guess that we need to distance ourselves from their sin in some cases, right? But by doing this we can be rewarded.

I'd love to go on and on about this and about boyfriends, girlfriends, animal friends and, the best of all, Jesus. But, my jello is ready, and I want to play. Well, *Beacon* readers, I hope you've enjoyed these last few paragraphs. Get ready for a real treat next month when we review Howard Green's new book, *One Flare Left*. Have fun! **SR**

There are more sensible, gradual ways of letting others know of your new life in Christ. Some people might still laugh, but you'll find that most people will respect you for your beliefs. Once you become a Christian, BANG! You will understand how you can love a person but still hate the evil inside him/her, even if he/she is laughing at you.

Low Country Christian Center Seventh Day Baptist Church organizes

by Bill Shobe

The Low Country Christian Center Seventh Day Baptist Church has been the vision of several individuals in the Charleston area for at least two years.

Sabbath, October 3, 1987, will be a day remembered by nearly 50 people who gathered in North Charleston, South Carolina. The focus of the memories will not be on the clarity of the blue skies nor on the crisp sea breezes that mingled with our conversations. The memories will be of lives joined together, of visions shared, and of worship of our Lord.

The Low Country Christian Center Seventh Day Baptist Church has been the vision of several individuals in the Charleston area for at least two years. Yet, only within the last eight months has the Lord drawn these people together, and with such excitement that they quickly set a date for organization. Rev. W.H. Winborne, pastor of the new church, learned about SDBs in the 1960's from literature displayed in a bus station by the Paint Rock, Alabama, Seventh Day Baptist Church. He frequently checked that display for different literature and was not disappointed to find the same tracts repeated. The Lord has long been preparing for this ministry in Charleston.

The day's events began with a Spirit-led worship service. Pastor Larney Washington and Elder Jasper White opened the service with song, Scripture and prayer. The morning message was presented from 1 Peter 1 by Rev. Bill Shobe, pastor of the sponsor congregation in Atlanta, Georgia. All were touched and uplifted by the Davis Brothers a cappella trio and the gospel singing of Rita Winborne.

At 4 p.m., a meeting was called to order to officially organize the Low Country Christian Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Winborne

recounted the history of events leading to the meeting and called for a motion to organize. That being quickly done, Pastor Washington was appointed moderator of the meeting, and Janni Washington appointed as clerk. Following the vote to organize, the congregation voted to confirm their church covenant and a Statement of Faith.

As the organist led the congregation in "When the Saints Go Marching In," three groups marched forward to record their participation in the events. First, eight representatives of the Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church signed as witnesses to the events. Next followed the nine charter members of the church. Finally, all friends and guests were invited to identify themselves as witnesses of record. A brief challenge to the new congregation was delivered by Rev. Shobe, as well as greetings and congratulations on behalf of the SDB General Conference.

Two members, Torreah Anderson and Hal Washington, were received as members, contingent on their baptism. Pastor Winborne introduced them again to the congregation, and portions of their testimonies and faith in Christ were shared. Then, according to their request, both entered the waters of baptism, and their membership was confirmed.

The day concluded with celebration in music brought by friends from several area churches: the White Sisters, the Davis Brothers, Rita Winborne, Shiloh Church Youth Choir and the T.A. MacSingers.

The congregation already has two mid-week prayer and Bible study meetings, with the probability of beginning Sabbath worship services at a second site in Summerville, South Carolina. Keep them in prayer as they share the gospel of our Lord and seek to establish their ministry in His Name. SR

Plainfield ordains new deacon

by Ruth Parker

One of our newest deacons, Thomas Sheffield, who was elected in April, 1986, was ordained on September 12, 1987, in the Plainfield, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Sixty-four people were present.

Evelyn Troy of St. Peter's Lutheran Church sang two soprano solos. Deacon Tom gave a moving account of his Christian experience, and Rev. Jerry Henry, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Plainfield, gave greetings and read 1 Timothy 3:8-16. Rev. John Camenga, pastor of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church in southern New Jersey, presented the message, based on Timothy's advice and on Acts 6:1-6 concerning the first deacons. He said that deacons and deaconesses can multiply the church's message and deal with individual needs.

Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank of Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church in Pennsylvania gave the charge to the candidate, and Rev. C.P. Williams gave the charge to the church. He is pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Long Branch, New Jersey, and chaplain of Monmouth County jail, where Deacon Tom is employed as captain. Pastor Joe Samuels led the ordination prayer and the laying on of hands by all ordained ministers, deacons and deaconesses present. Kay Maltby, chairman of the Board of Deacons and Elders, then welcomed Deacon Tom to the diaconate and presented a certificate of ordination. Almost everyone stayed for the dinner, which was served by the Fellowship Committee.

In July, we were blessed by having two SCSC workers here to help us—David Carmichael of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Mark Green of Milton, Wisconsin. They served as teachers in our Vacation Bible School July 6-17, together with Milton Wright of Jamaica, who made a special trip to Plainfield at Pastor Joe's suggestion. All three were welcomed at our worship service and dinner July 4.

Twenty-three children attended Vacation Bible School, which was held for 10 days from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. These long hours were a great help to the working mothers but were difficult for the teachers. A closing program was held during our service July 18, with the beginner, primary, and junior classes participating. Prizes and certificates were presented by Lucy Tyler, Sabbath School superintendent. A farewell fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all, and appreciation was expressed.

The next day, Mark and David left for Berlin, New York, where they were to spend the last three weeks of their SCSC work. SR

Deacons and deaconesses can multiply the church's message.

Marriages

Noel-Snyder.—Roderick Neal Noel and Melissa Ann Snyder were united in marriage on July 11, 1987, at the Alfred Station, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Melvin F. Stephan and Pastor Paul Andries officiated.

Buffington-Linto.—James Lavaughn Buffington and Margaret Annemarie Linto were married in the chapel of the Sunshine Mountain Seventh Day Baptist Church on October 10, 1987. Pastor Ralph L. Hays performed the ceremony.

My statement of Christian experience

by Nellie Jo Brissey

Editor's note: The following was delivered on the occasion of her ordination to the diaconate of the Salem, West Virginia, Seventh Day Baptist Church on October 24, 1987.

When I was approached by the pastor to be a deaconess, I was very much surprised and honored. I also felt terribly unworthy of such an honor. After much inner argument and prayer, the Lord won again, and I decided to make the commitment. For this is what I consider my acceptance to be—a commitment to serve.

As I was thinking about making a statement of experience, I took time to reflect on the love that has been showered on me from so many people. How very fortunate I am to have come from a family filled with love. My mother was never too busy to listen. My brother is always there when I need him. As many of you know, my father mirrored the love of God, making it

easy to picture God as a loving Father. In later years, I have been fortunate to have a very loving husband, marvelous children and grandchildren.

My family has also extended to God's family, the church. I cannot remember when I was not a part of this church. My nurturing took place here. Even though we were away from Salem for a number of years, we still considered this our home church. Whether sharing in my joys or in my depths of despair, my fellow Christians in this church have always been there.

I was baptized at the early age of nine, professing my belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. My Christian experience has been a series of ups and downs—varying from lukewarm to serious doubt, from searching to belief and commitment. The *Decision to Disciple* study started me on my search. The Bible had never spoken to me so deeply before. It instilled in me an awareness of God in my life and a desire to serve him. During this study, I resolved that a person does not have to have a mountaintop experience to make a commitment to the Lord. Christian growth can be a process. There have been a lot of people who have helped me in my search, many in this church.

Even though I felt I had resolved that my Christian growth could be a process, I felt that I needed to make an outward commitment to the Lord's work. It was a decision that I fought against. One evening at General Conference sessions in 1980, at a service led by Alton Wheeler, I felt called to go forward during the altar call. However, I had an aversion to altar calls and did not want to make a commitment I would not carry out.

Was I really serious in my commitment or was it just the emotional heat of the moment? I left the auditorium, only to be followed by Dorothy Parrott and Myrna Cox. They

talked to me for a long time, but I still fought such a commitment.

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The Lord has made great changes in

me and still has a lot of work to do. I fall short so often. I consider myself still a babe in my Christian growth. Psalm 40 tells where I have been and where I am...

*I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.*

I do sing a new song in my life. Today I answer God's call to serve him in a different way. I do so with much feeling of inadequacy, but I know that if I listen and wait patiently for the Lord, he will show me how he can use me. SR

China press to be dedicated

Christian leaders in China will meet on December 5, 1987, in Nanjing, the People's Republic of China, to dedicate the Amity Printing Press. The press has been designed for publishing Bibles in Chinese.

In a statement announcing the dedication, American Bible Society General Secretary John D. Erickson said, "The significance of this occasion can only be appreciated when it is realized that this most populous nation on earth now enjoys a new spirit of openness... The shift to this new spirit by the Chinese government has created the conditions which make the Amity press a possibility, but it could not have become a reality without the financial and technical assistance provided by the

American Bible Society and our United Bible Societies partners around the world."

On October 14, 1987, the first Chinese copies of the Bible were sewn, bound and ready for distribution. They will ultimately be available to millions of Chinese throughout the country. The building of the press facilities was completed in less than one year. SR

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My statement of Christian experience

by Nellie Jo Brissey

Editor's note: The following was delivered on the occasion of her ordination to the diaconate of the Salem, West Virginia, Seventh Day Baptist Church on October 24, 1987.)

When I was approached by the pastor to be a deaconess, I was very much surprised and honored. I also felt terribly unworthy of such an honor. After much inner argument and prayer, the Lord won again, and I decided to make the commitment. For this is what I consider my acceptance to be—a commitment to serve.

As I was thinking about making a statement of experience, I took time to reflect on the love that has been showered on me from so many people. How very fortunate I am to have come from a family filled with love. My mother was never too busy to listen. My brother is always there when I need him. As many of you know, my father mirrored the love of God, making it

The Decision to Disciple study started me on my search. The Bible had never spoken to me so deeply before.

easy to picture God as a loving Father. In later years, I have been fortunate to have a very loving husband, marvelous children and grandchildren.

My family has also extended to God's family, the church. I cannot remember when I was not a part of this church. My nurturing took place here. Even though we were away from Salem for a number of years, we still considered this our home church. Whether sharing in my joys or in my depths of despair, my fellow Christians in this church have always been there.

I was baptized at the early age of nine, professing my belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. My Christian experience has been a series of ups and downs—varying from lukewarm to serious doubt, from searching to belief and commitment. The *Decision to Disciple* study started me on my search. The Bible had never spoken to me so deeply before. It instilled in me an awareness of God in my life and a desire to serve him. During this study, I resolved that a person does not have to have a mountaintop experience to make a commitment to the Lord. Christian growth can be a process. There have been a lot of people who have helped me in my search, many in this church.

Even though I felt I had resolved that my Christian growth could be a process, I felt that I needed to make an outward commitment to the Lord's work. It was a decision that I fought against. One evening at General Conference sessions in 1980, at a service led by Alton Wheeler, I felt called to go forward during the altar call. However, I had an aversion to altar calls and did not want to make a commitment I would not carry out.

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Reader Reaction

Letters to *The Sabbath Recorder*

On decreased budgets

Dear editor,

I was first challenged, and then angered, by your editorial in the recent *Sabbath Recorder* concerning the decrease in budget. I decided that I could not resist a reply to some of the statements that I felt were not representative of the thinking of the delegates to the General Conference sessions held in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Let me say first that I do not disagree with your basic premise that the lack of funds will be a burden on every one of our boards and agencies throughout the denomination. That is an unfortunate truth. I don't doubt that there will be some "difficult surprises" in the coming year if funds do not come in above what is anticipated. However, the facts that you used to address the issue were not entirely accurately presented.

First, I was on the committee that worked on the budget at conference, and at no time was there a consensus that there was fat in the budget. Nor did I hear from the floor of any business meeting that there were groups that were squandering OWM funds. On the contrary, most who were at conference saw that we have been struggling to maintain excellent programs for several years, and that we have already trimmed not only fat, but some skin and meat as well, in past

years. While some have feelings about certain employees and what they should or should not be doing, the fact was generally apparent that we have the people and programs necessary to operate the denomination, and little else.

Second, the contention that conference action raced through the budget seems a slap in the face of everyone who was there, yourself included. The budget proposed by General Council was in the hands of every delegate from the day they arrived, and no one was prevented from offering input into the situation during the week. The fact that, there was not a single opposition to the budget offered on the floor of conference is an indication of the fact that when there is a budget shortfall, there are no easy solutions—at least there were none to be found by those present. Indeed, our committee spent many hours in coming up with generally the same conclusion that the General Council did, that everyone would have to share in the cuts.

The contention that in reducing the budget we have reduced our expectations is ridiculous. Identifying a budget is not dictating how much money will come in. It only says how money that comes in will be spent. We did not do a dastardly deed by making the budget that we did. Indeed, had we left

the budget intact, it would have had no impact on the actual amount of money that may come in during the next year. There is nothing to stop us from oversubscribing the budget, and I hope we do. But we felt that we would be amiss if we did not create a budget that reflected current giving, and lack; thereof, compared to the current budget.

If the segments of the General Conference that require funds need more than they are receiving, it is not the fault of the budget. We need to raise more funds if more are needed. In order to do that, our churches and people must be convinced that they can give more and that more is needed. Perhaps that can be done. But, for the present, how can we expect to receive more than we have been? And how can we honestly make a budget that does not reflect what we think we will raise?

I am not satisfied with the budget, either. But it is not the fault of the budget, or those who drafted or approved it, that it is faulty. To imply that it is does a disservice to all of us who were there and worked on preparing for the coming fiscal year. The questions asked were hard. The answers given were even harder. It is now up to us to do something about it.

Sincerely,
Jim Goodrich
North Loup, Nebraska

Having faith

by Deanna Wright

*Knowing the Lord is a delight;
Reading your Bible and praying is all good
and right,
And showing others this is how you should
be.*

*But having faith
is pure ecstasy!*

*Telling them good things come by faith, not
fate*

*is a task that is very great,
And sometimes the response may be small.*

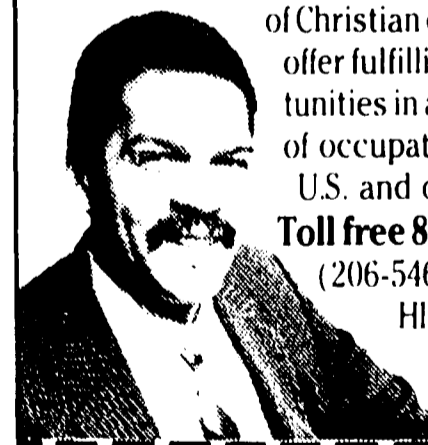
*But having faith
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*So know the Lord and believe.
For by faith you will receive,
after your trouble and strife—and not
before,
the "Crown of Life"—joy forevermore!*

*Be a good and faithful servant to the Lord;
Read your Bibles and pray even more,
All of this to you I employ.
But having faith
Let's Enter the Joy!*

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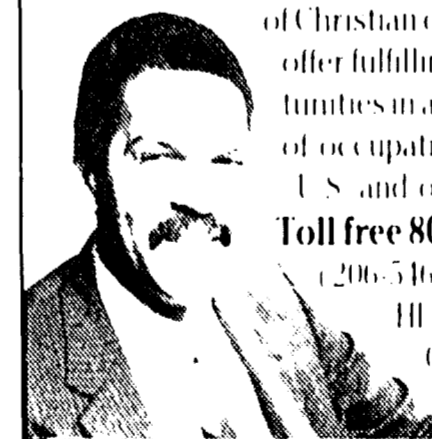
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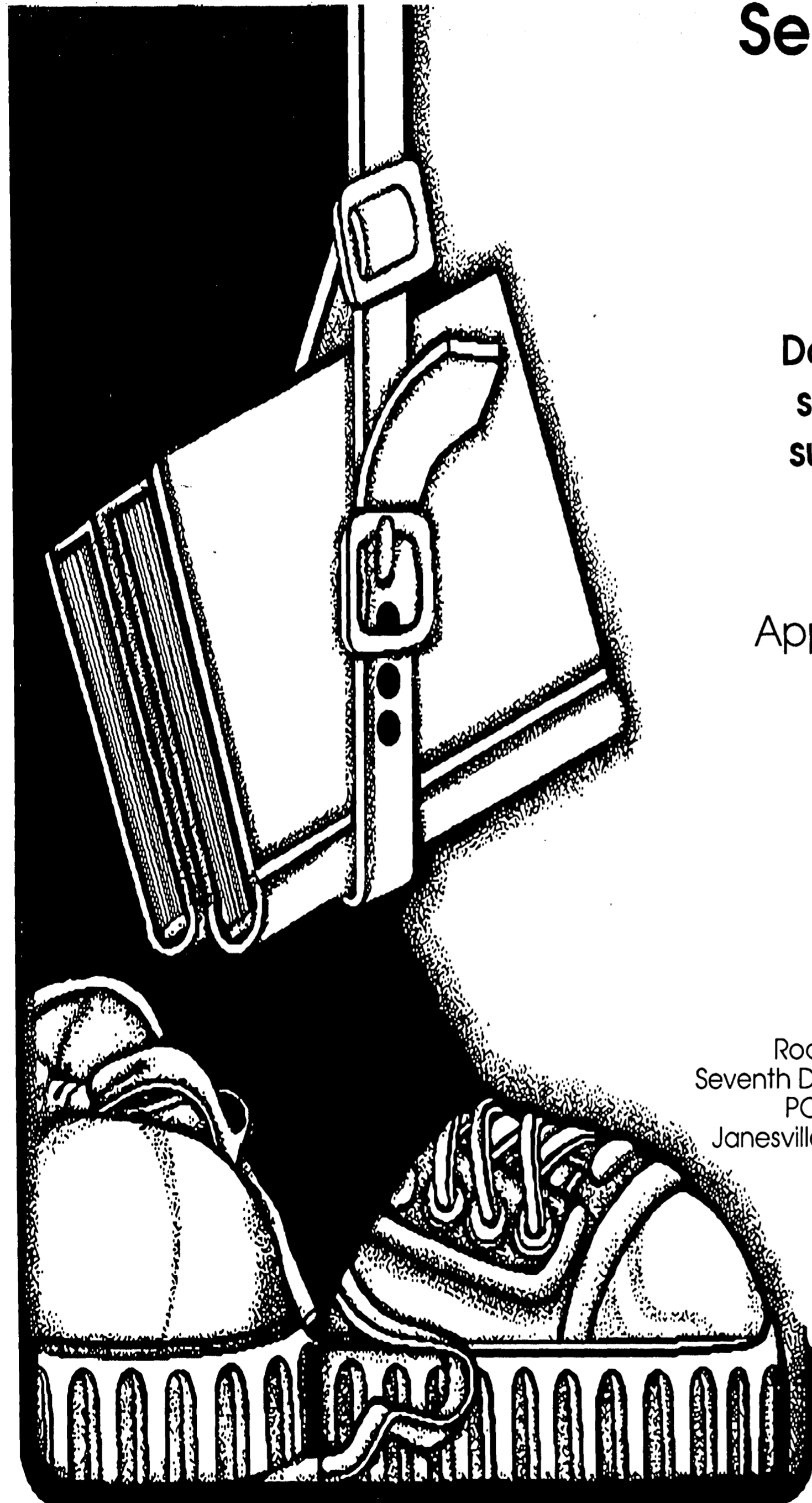
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The Seventh Day Baptist

January 1988

Sabbath Recorder

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