

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X)(USPS 474460)
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Wise Men Still Seek

(the knowledge of God)

*Wise men still seek the knowledge of God,
And to know the wisdom that is found therein.
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom,
The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Wisdom is as the Sabbath Day,
Peace of mind, is found, therein.*

by Lloyd Douglas Cotner
Jackson, Missouri

*The Word of the Lord is;
"Ask, and it will be given to you,
Seek, and you will find,
Knock, and it will be opened to you."
ASK is the key to the three.*

*The Prophet Isaiah did proclaim God's Word,
"To the Eunuch and Gentile alike,
Forbid them not, to come in."
For the Cross opened the door to Your rest.
Let them repent and seek His way,
His blood still washes away sin.*

*The day that is from beginning to end, and yes, even beyond;
You, My Lord, My God, have given the beauty of
Your day of rest,
The Holy Day of my Lord.*

Wise men, still seek the knowledge of God.

The Seventh Day Baptist

Sabbath **SR** Recorder

March 1987

In this issue...

**New mission work in
Scandinavia**

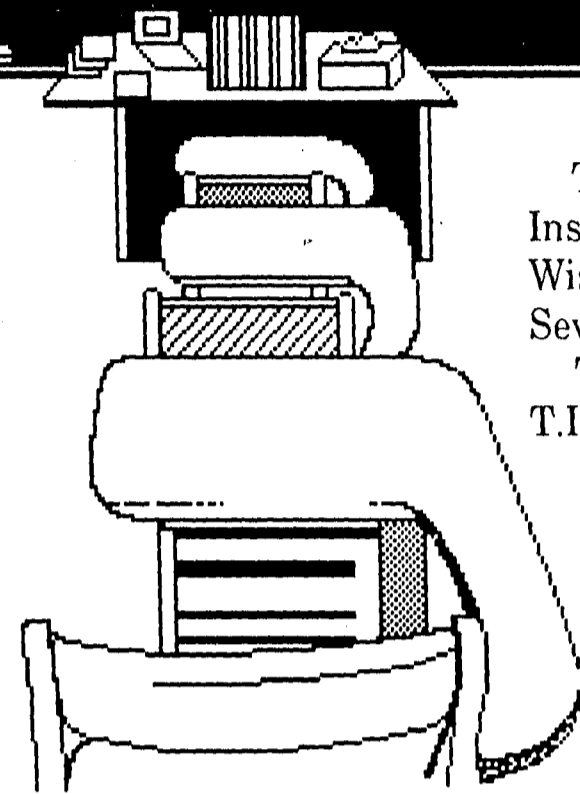
Good Wednesday

**What awaits you at
Conference '87?**

MAR 16 1987

STATE OF ILLINOIS

SUMMER INSTITUTE



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The three-week intensive course is offered for seminary students, T.I.M.E. students, and others interested in a study of a major distinctive of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination, the seventh-day Sabbath. Readings and discussions will center on an understanding of the Biblical character of the Sabbath, its history, the theological implications of Sabbath observance and modern-day applications. A comparative study of Sunday observance and its development will be included.

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Although the Institute is conducted as a graduate level course, anyone interested in auditing the course is welcome to attend. Additional work, including the writing of a paper, is required of those taking the course for credit.

For further information, including a course outline and reading list, contact Dean Paul Green, Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

SR

Seventh Day Baptist Pastors' Conference

Seventh Day Baptist Pastors' Conference will be held at Battle Creek, Michigan, April 28-May 4, 1987. Sponsored by the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry, the Conference will open with evening worship on Tuesday, April 28 and close in the evening on Monday, May 4. The Pastors' Conference, which is held biennially, will be hosted by the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, 202 N. Washington, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017. Dean Paul Green is Director of the Conference, and Pastor George Calhoun is Host Pastor. All of our pastors and their spouses are urged to attend.

Theme: Issues and Maturity in Ministry

Fee: Only \$35.00. Most meals will be served at the host church. Housing will be in the homes of the congregation.

	Don't forget
	Seventh Day
	Baptist
	Pastors'
	Conference
	dates:
	April 28 to
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Volume 209, No. 3
Whole No. 6,705

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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D. Scott Smith
Editor

Leanne Lippincott
Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors
Ernest K. Bee, J. Paul Green, Gerry VanDyke,
Leon R. Lawton, Marilyn Merchant, Dale D.
Thorngate.

Staff
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Camille Henry, typist; volunteer proofreaders.

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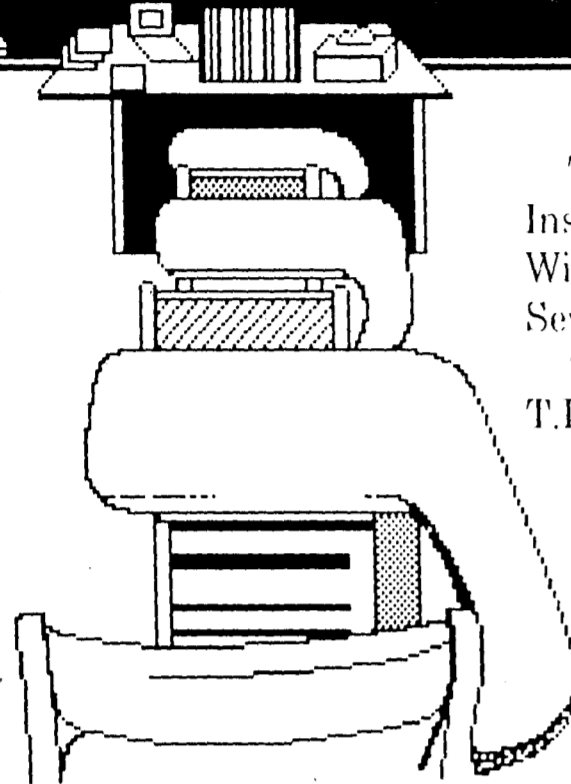
Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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.

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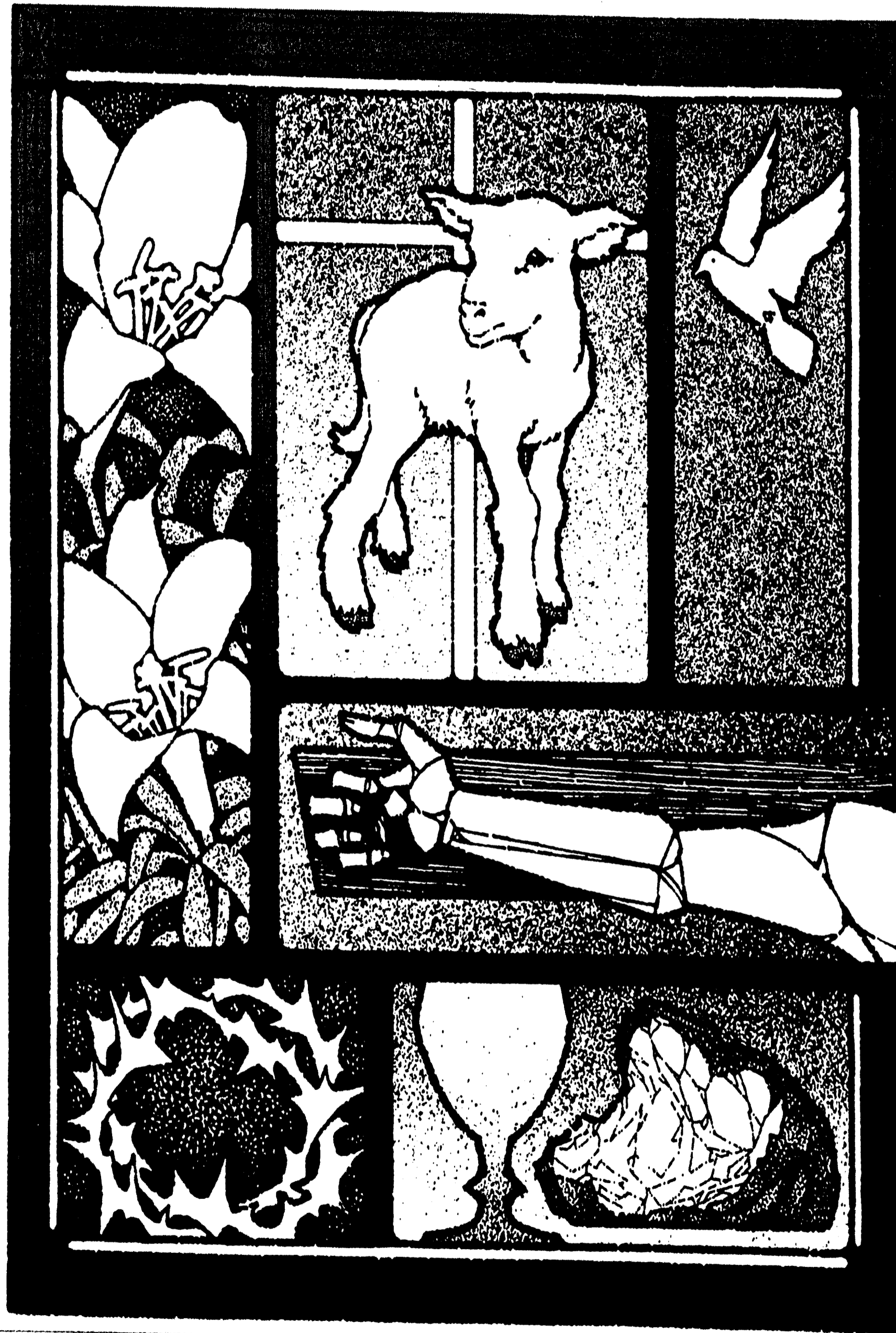
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Good Wednesday

by Tim Bond



With the approach of the Easter season, the most obvious difference between Sabbath and Sunday-keeping Christians comes more clearly into focus. There are several reasons that Sundaykeepers use to explain their observance of the first day of the week as a day of worship. The one I shall be dealing with herein is, "We keep Sunday in honor of the day Jesus rose from the dead."

There is one place in the New Testament which refers to what Christians should do in memory of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and it has nothing to do with Sundaykeeping. It relates to one of the sacraments which most Protestant churches recognize. Romans 6:3 and 4 says, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (KJV)

In this passage, Paul illustrates how being plunged beneath the baptismal waters symbolizes death to the old worldly self, while rising again from the water represents the new life a Christian receives in Christ. This is how the Christian is to memorialize Christ's atoning death.

Most of the Christian world accepts the tradition which says that Christ's resurrection took place on Sunday. The word "tradition" was used in the preceding sentence for good reason. There is no biblical basis for this assumption. All four Gospels tell of the empty tomb being discovered on the first day of the week, but none of them say Jesus rose on that day.

In order to understand the biblical term "day," one must first recognize that its beginning and ending are very different from our current method of measuring days from midnight to midnight. During Bible times, the

Jewish day ran from sundown to sundown, with the day beginning at the setting of the sun. This method of reckoning days was instituted by God at creation in the beginning of the Bible. Book one, chapter one, verse five says, "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." Genesis 1:5 (KJV)

Today, Sabbathkeepers observe their day of rest from sundown Friday until sundown Saturday afternoon, while the rest of the Christian world probably uses this biblical form of figuring days just once a year. That is when Christmas Eve is observed beginning at dusk on December 24.

On this footing, I would like to place the blocks building to the primary point of this article.

First, the Greek word "epiphosko" was used to mean "was beginning" in the Revised Standard Version of Luke 24:54: "It was the day of preparation and the Sabbath was beginning." This is referring to when Jesus was placed in the tomb, and it is universally accepted that this must have been late in the afternoon—a time commonly referred to now as "dusk." This passage says, "Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre." Logic should tell one that both passages refer to the same time of the day—which is dusk or

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sunset—which marked the biblical transition from one day to another.

In the *Helping Hand* lesson dated April 20, 1957, Rev. Don A. Sanford wrote the following in reference to Matthew 28:1: "It seems strange that Matthew should begin his account of the resurrection of Jesus with the Sabbath

unless it was still of vital importance to his religious thinking. When we consider that he probably wrote his account some 30 or 40 years after the resurrection, one can hardly account for the silence which all of the biblical writers have to the institution of

Sunday worship as a memorial to the resurrection unless it was a development which came years after Paul and the apostles had passed from the scene." Block one is therefore *Jesus rose late on Sabbath afternoon.*

According to Matthew 12:40, Jesus answered the Scribes and Pharisees saying, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (RSV) Taking these words of Jesus into consideration, one will realize that he could not have been crucified on Friday afternoon and been raised from the dead late Saturday afternoon (or Sunday morning, for that matter) and have fulfilled his three days and three nights prophecy. Block two is therefore *Jesus was not crucified on Friday.*

On the seventh day of each week, commonly referred to as Saturday, the Jews celebrate the Sabbath as a day of rest which God instituted in Genesis 2:2 and 3: (2) "And on the seventh day God

finished his work which he had done, and rested on the seventh day from all the work which he had done. (3) So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation." (RSV) This same Sabbath made the Top Ten a few years later. When Moses brought the commandments down from Mount Sinai, number four said, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:8 (RSV)

In the *Helping Hand* lesson for April 13, 1963, Don Sanford presented the following thought: "Although the term 'Sabbath' was normally applied to the seventh day of the week, it sometimes was used to designate other holy days, such as the day of the Passover. [John recorded that sabbath was 'a high day'—John 19:31 'Since it was the day of Preparation in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day,) the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.' (The Interpreter Bible)] The Passover falling on the fourteenth day of Nisan was a movable day, just as today Christmas or the Fourth of July falls on a different day of the week in succeeding years. It might therefore be possible that the Passion week contained two sabbaths, Passover and the weekly Sabbath day."

Block three is *there were two sabbaths the week Jesus was crucified, and the first one fell on Thursday.* This was the Jewish Passover celebration.

The prophecies of Daniel in chapter nine begin talking of "a Prince, a Messiah," in verse 25; and 27a says, "In a week He shall make the covenant to prevail for many, and in the middle of the week He will cause sacrifice and offering to cease." (Modern Language) The covenant referred to in the first part of this quotation is what Jesus explained to his disciples when he instituted the second sacrament accepted by most Protestant churches: (26)—Now as they were eating, Jesus took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is

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Don A. Sanford
The Helping Hand

my body.' (27)—And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying 'Drink of it, all of you; (28) for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" Matthew 26:26-28 (RSV) The sacrificial death of Jesus fulfilled the first part of Daniel's prophecy in verse 27 by opening a new testament for those who believe in him.

The second part of Daniel's prophecy, "and in the middle of the week he will cause offering and sacrifice to cease," was fulfilled by Jesus' death because he was to be the final sacrifice which ended the old covenant by making sacrifices no longer necessary. (25) "Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the Holy Place yearly with blood not his own; (26) for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Hebrews 9:25 and 26 (RSV) Block four is *Jesus was crucified in the*

middle of the week.

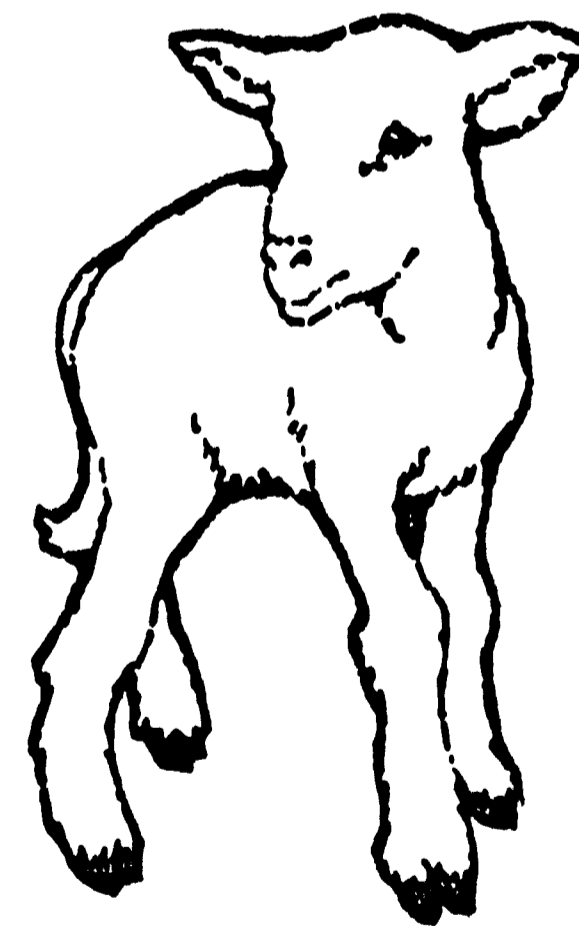
A recapitulation of the building blocks is: Jesus rose late on Sabbath afternoon; Jesus was not crucified on Friday; there were two sabbaths the week Jesus was crucified, and the first one fell on Thursday; and Jesus was crucified in the middle of the week.

Based on these premises, the execution of Jesus took place on Wednesday. His body was placed in the tomb before sundown that day, prior to the beginning of a holy day type of sabbath on Thursday. Jesus rose from the dead late on the seventh day Sabbath afternoon (at the same time he had been placed in the tomb on Wednesday), and the two Marys discovered the empty tomb after sunset Sabbath night—not at sunrise on the first day of the week, Sunday morning.

Thus this article can conclude with its title. Jesus' suffering on the cross as a sacrifice for the sins of the world should be commemorated, not on Good Friday, but on **Good Wednesday.** SR

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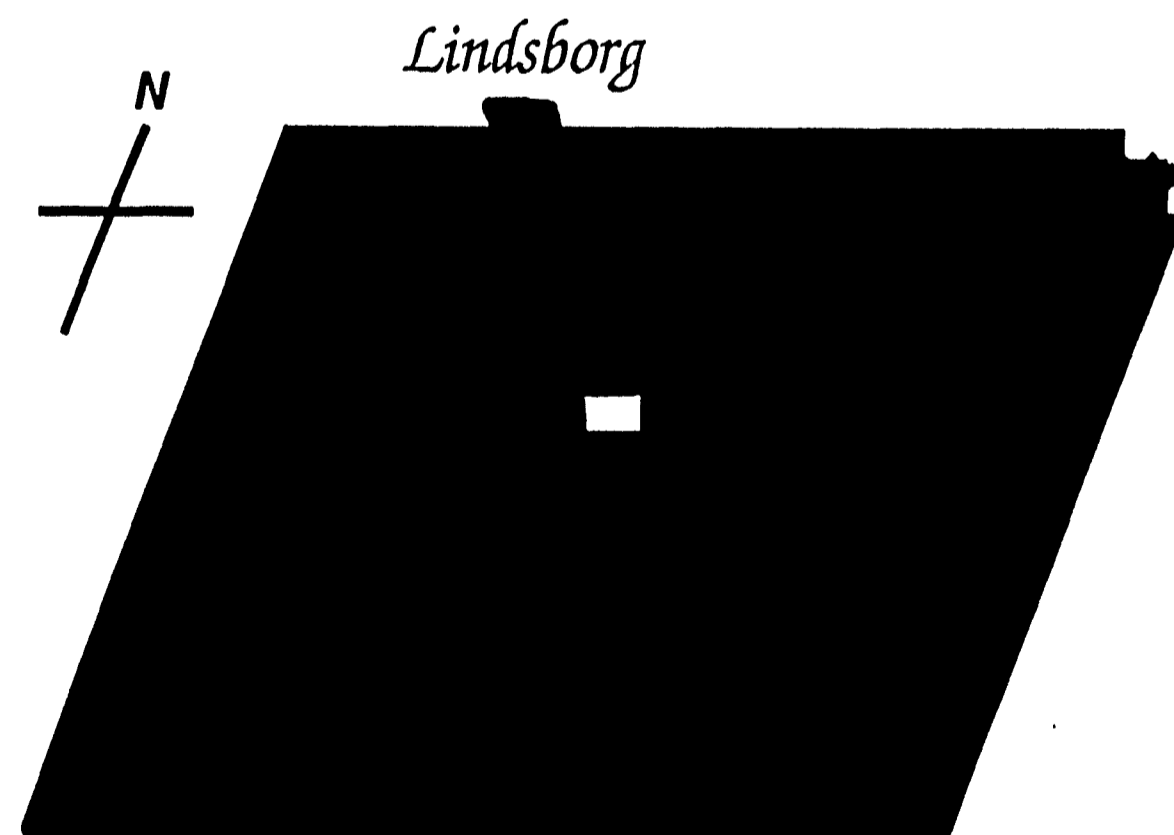


What awaits you at Conference 1987

from the Conference 1987
Host Committee

ome to conference this year at Lindsborg, Kansas, and this is what you will find—the beautiful, modern campus of Bethany College:

- 300 air-conditioned dorm rooms within walking distance of air-conditioned locations for all the regular activities of conference...
- tennis/racquetball courts, a community pool and municipal golf course...
- Swedish-American culture and heritage experienced in restaurants, bakeries and gift shops...
- a thriving community of local artists with numerous studios and galleries, including the internationally known Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery...
- the McPherson County "Old Mill" museum at the edge of town, which features the national landmark Smoky River Roller Mill, as well as a collection of other old buildings, including a 1903 one-room schoolhouse and an 1880 Union Pacific depot, plus 22,000 pioneer and Indian artifacts...
- a quiet, tree-shaded town of 3,000 containing turn-of-the-century homes with brightly colored trim, a Victorian-style inn that is now a restaurant, an old-remodeled hotel with bed and breakfast accommodations...
- and, yes, even a Pizza Hut.



Bethany College offers all that we traditionally expect of a modern, private college conference site (well-equipped Student Union, spacious cafeteria, etc.) and the bonus of the very attractive town of Lindsborg, plus quite a few interesting places to visit in central Kansas. If you do not discover Smorgasbord, Lingonberries and Ostkaka in Lindsborg, you will have only yourself to blame.

Central Kansas offers such points of interest as the Kansas Cosmosphere and Discovery Center, only 45 minutes away at Hutchinson. It houses \$100 million worth of space artifacts—such as a complete set of original spacecraft, the largest collection of space suits on display anywhere, plus Omnimax (the world's largest movie projection system). A planetarium there offers sky and laser shows. Other attractions are the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned at Larned; and the Old Cowtown Museum, County Zoo, and the Omnisphere and Science Center at Wichita. Come to Conference '87. You will be Valkommen.

Public transportation to conference at Lindsborg:

By air: Salina Airport (Eastern Air Midwest Express)

The best bet seems to be to fly into Kansas City, Missouri, and connect to Eastern Air Midwest Express to Salina, Kansas. At this writing, the roundtrip fare between Kansas City and Salina is \$117 (30-day advance purchase, stay over Saturday). If you connect in from Eastern, it should be less. Currently, there are two flights a day each way on Sundays (leaving Kansas City at 3:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.; leaving Salina at 11:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.), and three flights a day during the week. Check with your travel agent. You can travel from Kansas City to Salina by bus, taking airport's K. C. I. bus to bus terminal, then G. H. Trailways bus to Salina. However, that takes more than six hours, the connection times are awkward (6 a.m. and 5 p.m. from the

Kansas City terminal), and the fare is only \$31.60 cheaper (less than that if you connect from Eastern by air). Furthermore, Trailways is trying to disconnect some of their routes into small Kansas towns. There is no guarantee this route will be available. We will pick you up at the airport, or bus stop (if you are a glutton for punishment), in Salina. We are not offering to pick up at the Kansas City airport because of the distance (200 miles). Salina is less than 20 miles from Lindsborg, Kansas.

We are not offering to pick up at the Wichita, Kansas, airport (70 miles away) since the roundtrip fare between Kansas City and Wichita, as opposed to Salina, is only \$19 less.

By bus: The bus stop in Lindsborg and bus station in Salina are served by G. H. Trailways. (Note caution about bus service above.) We need to know which bus you are coming in on, if you want to be picked up.

By train: Not practical (Topeka closes AMTRAK).

Pre-Conference camps

Youth Pre-Con, August 5-9, will be held at Camp Wa Ja To near Lyons, Kansas. Owned by the Christian Church in Kansas, the 80-acre campsite contains five small lakes and sloping, naturally sculptured lawns. The cabins are clustered in two groups of four, with a large bathhouse between. They each sleep 10 people, for a total camp of 80. The conference center, where meals and meetings will be held, provides dining space for 100 people. It has a central fireplace and a wide expanse of porches. There are courts for volleyball, tennis, tetherball, basketball, shuffleboard and four-square, as well as a large softball and playing field. Canoeing and boating are also available.

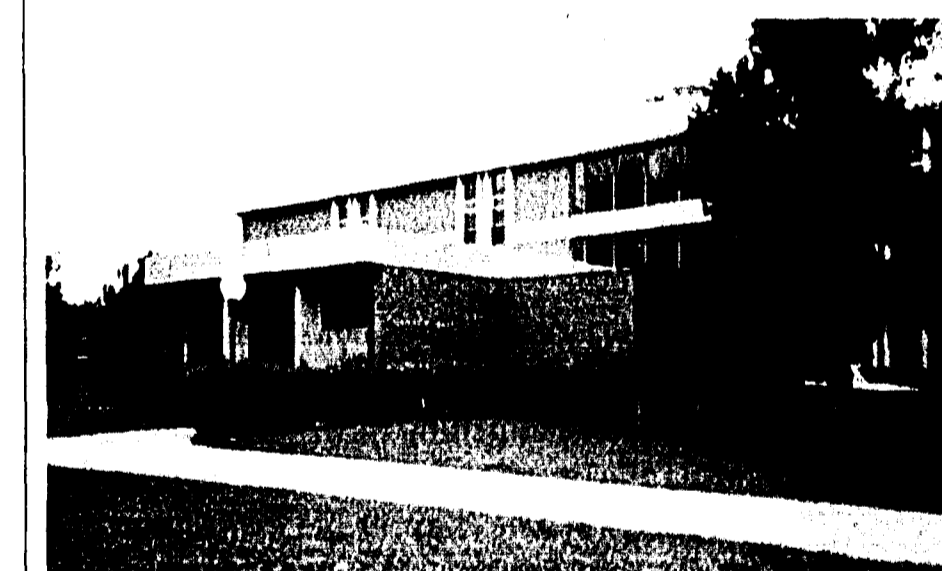
Young Adult Pre-Con, August 5-9, will be held at Camp Daniel, 25 miles west of Kansas City, at Bonner Springs,

Kansas. The camp is owned by the Walnut Grove Bible Church. It accommodates 48 people (12 in each of four cabins) and is located on 22 acres of rolling ground, with some large open fields, some timber, and a creek. There is a fenced swimming pool with attached showerhouse, a fishing pond, a gymnasium, and a multi-purpose building with chapel, dining room and kitchen. Several horses are available for riding. The grounds are beautiful in the summer, with a lot of lush green grass, trees and flowers.

Public transportation to Pre-Con camps:

Youth Pre-Con: Follow the same suggestions made above to those traveling to conference. We will pick you up in Salina at the airport or bus station.

Young Adult Pre-Con: We will pick you up in Kansas City at the airport or bus station. **SR**



(Above) Warner Hall Dorm



(Left) Pihlblad Memorial Union

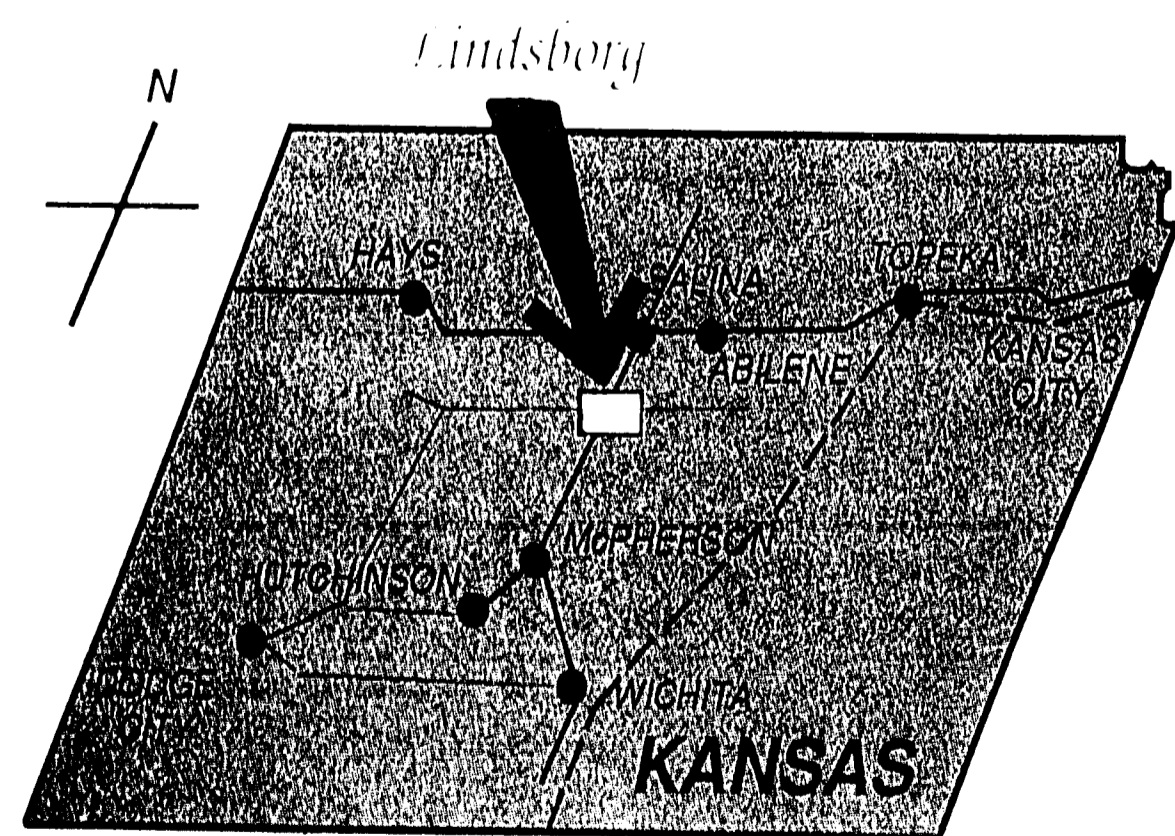
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from the Conference 1987 Host Committee

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- 300 air-conditioned dorm rooms within walking distance of air-conditioned location for all the regular activities of conference...
- tennis, racquetball court, a community pool and municipal golf course...
- Swedish-American culture and heritage experienced in restaurants, bakeries and gift shops...
- a thriving community of local artists with numerous studios and galleries, including the internationally known Burger Sandzen Memorial Gallery...
- the McPherson County "Old Mill" museum at the edge of town, which features the national landmark Smoky River Roller Mill, as well as a collection of other old buildings, including a 1903 one-room schoolhouse and an 1850 Union Pacific depot, plus a 2,000 pound and Indian artifact...
- a quiet, tree-lined town of 3,000 containing two of the century home with brightly colored trim, a Victorian style inn that is now a restaurant, an old remodeled hotel with bed and breakfast accommodation...
- and, yes, even a Pizza Hut!



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Kansas City terminal) and the fare is only \$41.60 cheaper (less than that if you connect from Eastern) by air. Furthermore, Trailways is trying to disconnect some of their routes into small Kansas towns. There is no guarantee this route will be available. We will pick you up at the airport, or bus stop, if you are a glutton for punishment—in Salina. We are not offering to pick up at the Kansas City airport because of the distance (200 miles). Salina is less than 20 miles from Lindborg, Kansas.

We are not offering to pick up at the Wichita, Kansas, airport (70 miles away) since the roundtrip fare between Kansas City and Wichita, as opposed to Salina, is only \$19 less.

By bus: The bus stop in Lindborg, and bus station in Salina are served by G.H. Trailways. (Note caution about bus service above. We need to know which bus you are coming in on, if you want to be picked up.)

By train: Not practical. Topoka close AMTRAK.

Pre-Conference camps

Youth Pre-Con, August 5-9, will be held at Camp Wa-Ja-To near Lyons, Kansas. Owned by the Christian Church in Kansas, the 80-acre campsite contains five small lakes and sloping, naturally-sculptured lawns. The cabins are clustered in two groups of four, with a large bathhouse between. They each sleep 10 people, for a total camp of 80. The conference center, where meals and meetings will be held, provides dining space for 100 people. It has a central fireplace and a wide expanse of porches. There are courts for volleyball, tennis, tetherball, basketball, shuffleboard and four square, as well as a large softball and playing field. Canoeing and boating are also available.

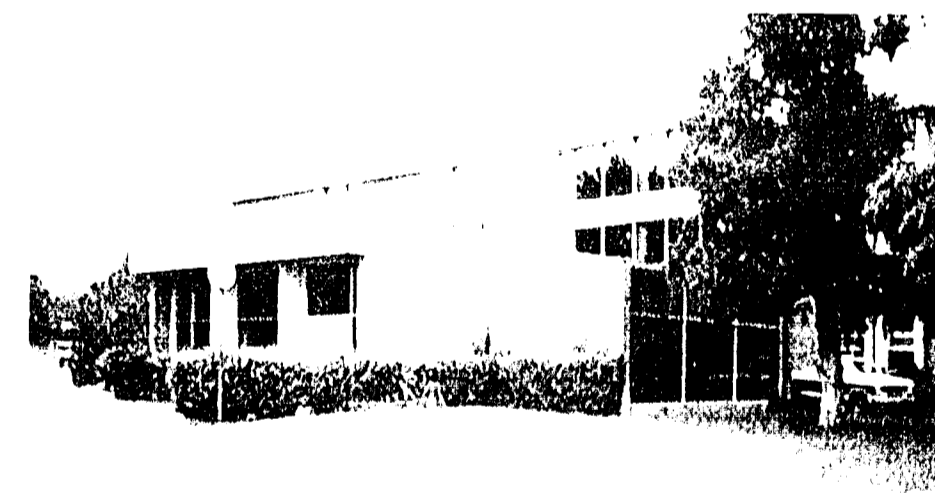
Young Adult Pre-Con, August 5-9, will be held at Camp Daniel, 25 miles west of Kansas City, at Bonner Springs.

Adult Pre-Con, August 12-16, will be held at Camp Daniel, 25 miles west of Kansas City, at Bonner Springs. The campsite contains five small lakes and sloping, naturally-sculptured lawns. The cabins are clustered in two groups of four, with a large bathhouse between. They each sleep 10 people, for a total camp of 80. The conference center, where meals and meetings will be held, provides dining space for 100 people. It has a central fireplace and a wide expanse of porches. There are courts for volleyball, tennis, tetherball, basketball, shuffleboard and four square, as well as a large softball and playing field. Canoeing and boating are also available.

Public transportation to Pre-Con camps:

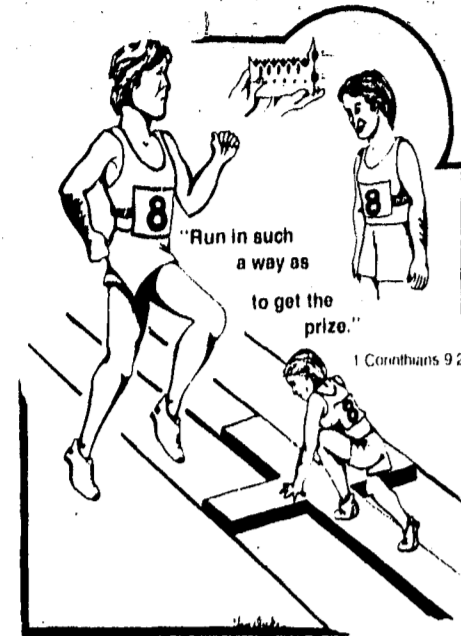
Youth Pre-Con: Fly as with the same arrangements made above to the youth travel agent in Kansas City. We will pick you up in Salina at the airport or bus station.

Young Adult Pre-Con: We will pick you up in Salina at the airport or bus station. SR



At Camp Wa-Ja-To
Pre-Conference Campsite
Lindborg, Kansas

The President's Page



LET US PRESS ON

Let us press on to be like Christ



President Gerry VanDyke

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."
Col. 3:12-14 NIV

We are God's chosen people. Not because we are Seventh Day Baptists, but because we believe in Jesus Christ. As a result of this, we have the right to be called the Children of God (John 1:12).

There is nothing more pleasing to our Heavenly Father than when we strive to become like his precious Son. We are dearly loved by the Father and the Son. And the Spirit continually works in our lives to help us become more and more Christ-like. Yet, as we study God's word, we see how important it is for us to train ourselves in godly living. We are to put forth every effort to become all that God would have us be.

In the preceding Scripture, Paul calls us to "clothe ourselves" in certain characteristics. It does not seem too complicated to take off an old garment and put on something new. This is what Paul tells us we should do. But, back in verse five of this chapter in Colossians, we see that he tells us we are to put to death whatever belongs to our old life.

Have you ever looked in your closet and discovered that you have been hanging on to clothes that you have not been able to wear for years? Have you found that you have certain favorite garments that you keep dragging out and wearing, that are seedy looking and should have been thrown away long ago?

I think this is what Paul wants us to see in this wonderful passage of Scripture. Because we are God's chosen people, we are to have his Son's character. It is impossible to put on that character until we take off and discard, once and for all, our old character. This is not dependent on our temperament or circumstances, but on our willingness to train ourselves, and then our diligence to persevere in the training until we have the nature we are intended to have.

In a day when we are encouraged to take care of number one, to protect oneself from every form of hurt, Paul speaks out to us and tells us to be compassionate. Compassion calls for a willingness to be vulnerable, to open ourselves up to another's needs, sorrows, disappointments and dreams. To be compassionate means setting aside your own needs for the needs of someone else.

In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus gives us a living demonstration of that kind of compassion. He had just received the news that John the Baptist had been beheaded, and he had been so busy healing and teaching that he had not had time to even eat. He called his disciples to come away with him to a quiet place.

When he got there, the crowds literally mobbed him. Yet the Scriptures said he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. He set aside his own need to rest, and he met their needs. He probably taught lessons that he had taught many times before and listened to stories that had been repeated many times. He hurt with them and shared in their pain and needs.

The situation called for kindness and patience. Nothing takes more patience than a mob of people clamoring around you. Yet Jesus taught them, healed them and once again helped his disciples step out in faith by telling them to feed these 5,000 people. The love he had for all of them makes an exciting story incredibly believable. It is the desire of our Heavenly Father for us to have this kind of love and compassion, not only

Cont. on page 34



Study... to show yourself approved

"Study to show yourself approved by God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (1 Timothy 2:15) (my translation)

Our focus verse this month comes from the apostle Paul's letter to Timothy, his young protege in ministry. We know from reading Paul's letter to the Philippians that he had studied to be the best Pharisee that he could be. Now, no longer a Pharisee, he has directed his study to the principles of Christ and is writing Timothy to do the same. In my column on the discipline of prayer, I indicated that my Fuller Seminary professor had said that some disciplines are not options for Christians. Prayer is one. Bible study is another.

Why do it?

In the present Seventh Day Baptist statement of beliefs we say this about the Bible:

"We believe that the Bible is the inspired record of God's will for man, of which Jesus is the supreme interpreter; and that it is our final authority in matters of faith and conduct."

We have this on a passage from Paul's letter to Timothy:

"All scripture is [inspired] by God and is useful for teaching, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the

man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

If the Bible is to be our final authority for our belief system and is to indicate what we believe is correct behavior, then we must study it. We must spend good quality time reading the Bible for understanding and direction. I interpret our statement to mean that we are not just reading for information. We are reading for the purpose of comprehension and behavior change or reinforcement.

Gordon Mac Donald in his book, *Ordering Your Private World*, says, "The ordering of your private world cannot take place without strong mental endurance and the intellectual growth this endurance produces." He is talking not just about gaining knowledge and behavior change but also about what motivates this behavior.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) RSV

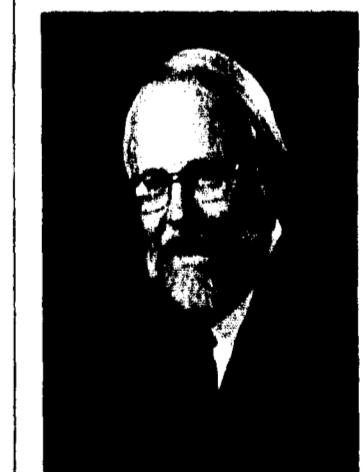
Richard Foster, in his book, *Celebration of Discipline*, tells us the purpose of this spiritual discipline is the total transformation of the person. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

In this experience of Christian development it is important for us to

Cont. on page 25

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by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate





Religion in the news...

TV evangelist criticized for plea

Oral Roberts has told his television viewers that he will die if he does not raise \$4.5 million by March. As a result of his plea, a number of broadcast stations have dropped the program, "Expect a Miracle," from their schedules.

Roberts said that God had told him to raise the funds needed for scholarships at Oral Roberts University medical school or, "I'm going to call you home in one year." With \$3.5 million raised, Roberts asked his audience to spare his life by giving generously.

Criticism from local stations was heavy, with the chief complaint that most of the program time was devoted to fund-raising. Oral Roberts' weekly program is broadcast in more than 200 cities across the country.

SR

Church holds "fast" from the media

Members of Valley Christian Center, Fresno, California, joined in a "fast" to abstain from all television, newspapers, and other media for a period of one week. The experiment was to spend the time previously devoted to television on spiritual and family matters.

Participants reported better sleep and relaxation, and a sense of inner peace.

SR

Cardinal O'Connor ends Middle East tour

Cardinal John O'Connor has ended his controversial tour of the Middle East with mixed reviews. Focus of the issue was a Vatican ruling that O'Connor could not visit Israeli leaders in an "official" setting since the Vatican does not recognize the state of Israel. The Cardinal met Israeli President Chaim Herzog at his official residence.

In what was intended as a goodwill visit, the issue raised new tensions between the Vatican and Israeli leaders. O'Connor said that Israel "has the right to self-determination, the right to defend its borders, the right to maintain the struggle for freedom."

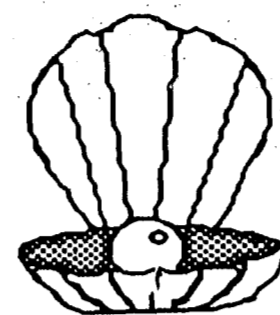
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Top 10 news stories

Christianity Today listed its choice of the 10 leading religious news stories of 1986.

1. The question of whether TV evangelist Pat Robertson will run for the presidency.
2. Corazon Aquino becomes president of the Philippines with strong backing of the Catholic leadership.
3. The debate over pornography, with the U.S. attorney general's Commission on Pornography at the center of attention.
4. South Africa's policies on apartheid, and the related issue of economic sanctions.
5. The appointment of William Rehnquist as chief justice of the Supreme Court, and Antonin Scalia, as an associate justice. The appointments stirred questions regarding the abortion issue and a conservative agenda.
6. Jerry Falwell announced that he would draw back from politics, saying that his ministries had suffered financial reverses.
7. Teenage pregnancy was described as a national crisis, and new controversy stirred over sex education and birth control.
8. Billy Graham conducted crusades in Paris, France, and Washington, D.C., as well as an international conference for itinerant evangelists held in Amsterdam.
9. The first national observance of Martin Luther King Day was promoted to urge racial equality and nonviolence.
10. Human-rights groups claimed violent acts by the Contras in Nicaragua, while others protested the denial of freedom by the Sandinistas. Christians were on both sides of the issue, while Congress debated support for the Contras.

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Pearls of history

A grain of sand in the eye causes great irritation and discomfort. It can cause one to close the eye, or try to flush it out with tears. A grain of sand in an oyster may serve as the irritation which stimulates the formation of a lustrous pearl. Even the pearl of great price which Jesus mentioned in his parable in Matthew 13 was once but a grain of sand cultured within one of the least of God's creatures.

It is the purpose of this column from the Historical Society to bring into view some of the events and ideas of history which may bring luster to our lives. Some events which may have caused irritation for some may be pearls to others.

Even the Sabbath, which is one of our distinctives as a people, has been an irritation to those who have allowed it to cloud their vision. But properly nurtured within a body, it becomes a pearl of great beauty and luster. So beautiful can it be that others have tried to copy it with a synthetic or man-made substitute, but the true connoisseur can tell the difference. Few would take the synthetic when the real is readily available.

Rev. Don A. Sanford
Historian
Seventh Day Baptist Center
Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547



Don Sanford

It is possible that one reason this pearl has been so often neglected lies in the fact that we have kept it "clammed up" within a hard shell instead of exposing it for all to see and enjoy.

As I begin the work as historian-writer for the Historical Society, I would invite you to contribute some of the precious gems which may be in your memories or experiences so that, strung together, a beautiful necklace may emerge which may be worn proclaiming God's patient love through a very special people. Some may be used in this column; other anecdotal material may find its way into pages of a book being prepared to document and highlight our history; still other contributions may be filed for some future reference.

Let us break open those shells and show the world the brilliance of what God has done in our past, what he is doing in the present, and what he intends to do in the future.

SR

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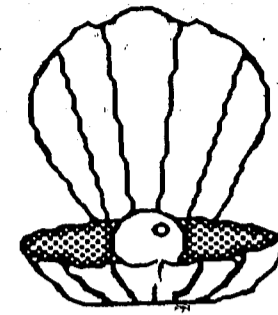
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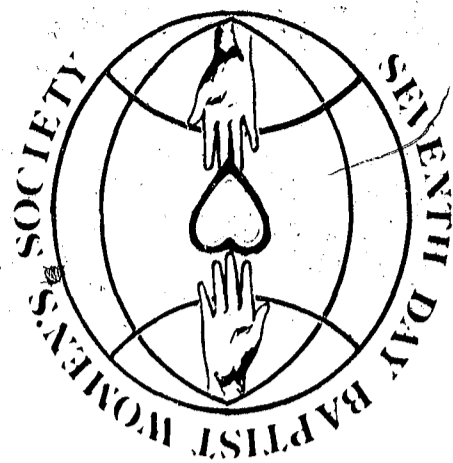
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Listening to God

Dear Ones All,

by Marilyn Merchant

How does God speak to you? Very few of us have dramatic interviews with the voice of God as some of his prophets did in the Bible. But I have a story to relate in which the teller (who I will refer to as Mrs. X) said she did not hear the words, but all of a sudden she knew the answer.

I am sure you have known persons that try to do everything right. They have never, or seldom ever, been rebellious. They are kind, thoughtful, loving and have tried to follow God wherever he led. This young woman of whom I am speaking (I will refer to her as Mrs. Y) was just such a person.

For many years, Mrs. Y suffered one disaster after another. These were not the everyday variety of misfortunes; these fell into the category of **catastrophes**.

Through them all, Mrs. X said she had prayed for wisdom to say the right thing, do the right thing and help Mrs. Y when asked.

Mrs. Y would weather one problem and have a few day's—sometimes week's—respice, and then something else would come crashing down on her.

Mrs. Y would weather one problem, and then something else would come crashing down on her. Were I to list them all, you would agree that it was indeed an awesome burden to be carrying.

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One morning, after a fervent prayer on this young woman's behalf following the latest disastrous occurrence, Mrs. X cried out in desperation, "Why, Lord, why must this poor child of yours go through so much?" This is when she said she heard no voices, but suddenly she felt calm and just understood the reply: "I have such great things ahead for her, if only she will trust me to handle it."

At the same time, miles away, Mrs. Y was doing her own praying. She had finally reached the resolution that there was no more she was able to do about the situation in which she found herself, and worrying over it was only causing the physical problem to worsen. So she prayed what Katherine Marshall, in her book *Beyond Ourselves*, calls the "Prayer of Relinquishment." One has to have great faith, I believe, to do this. It simply says, "All right, Lord, I give up my will; you do with the situation whatever is your will." Then leave it there.

The end of this story has not yet occurred, but some of the details are so unique that it absolutely had to be God's doing to work it all out in this manner.

I had been mulling over Mrs. X's story in my mind for several days. I had tried to conclude if this is what God wanted me to relate in this month's pages. When I entered the church on Sabbath and settled back to be fed, I discovered that the Scripture lesson and sermon were taken from the Sermon on the Mount.

If you can get hold of a *Living Bible* translation, I would urge you to review this passage. Our family all had the *Reach Out* New Testament, and I love the simple language of Matthew 6:19-34.

If at all possible, I would urge you to reread the passage in the Marshall book on the Prayer of Relinquishment. I say "reread" as I assume most of you have

read the book since its publishing in 1961. If you have not, I feel it is one of the best books describing a woman's walk through life that I have read. I deeply mourned the death of this beloved author, but she has left a legacy of true worth in her writings.

If you do not have a copy on your own bookshelves, perhaps your church library—or surely the public library—would have a copy. If none of those fill the need, perhaps this would be a good memorial to present to the church library in memory of one of your church ladies who has left a void in your group. Do not just place it on the shelves though; use it.

Do you remember the action taken by the Women's Interest Committee at conference regarding the need of direct correspondence with the local key workers? We are sorry, but somehow the board slipped a cog and the first of the letters did not get out. But they are coming, so do not despair.

However, before they get mailed out, there is something for your group to do. The Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, maintains the list for us of the current key workers. If you have changed key workers and have not advised the Center of that change, we would urge you to drop a card to the Seventh Day Baptist Center, c/o Jill Groelle, P. O. Box 1678, Janesville, Wisconsin 53547. Every returned letter just adds to the postage needed for this project, so please do your part to update this list and keep it current.

Also listed as a priority project by the Women's Interest Committee was the restocking of the Homemaking Department of Crandall High School in Jamaica. We had written to Prudence Robinson, who attended World Federation meetings, asking for specific needs. This is a project that the ladies of the denomination can really get behind. We have received her list, as well as acknowledgement of the "cheque of one hundred dollars" from the Love Gift.

Along with thanking you for this gift, she went on to express her personal

Money is desperately needed for S.C.S.C. According to the treasurer's report, we are \$5,000 short of where we were a year ago in this fund.

thanks for the privilege of being a special guest at the conference banquet. She spoke of how much she enjoyed that and the Women's Interest Committee, and how much she had to share with the ladies of her conference now.

There is quite an extensive list of items, all needed in one dozen lots. After discussion at the January board meeting, it was felt that the soft goods could be sent directly to Jamaica. Because of import fees and transportation costs, it would be wiser to send money earmarked for pots, pans, dishes, etc. to the Women's Board, which will forward it through proper channels.

Items to be sent directly should be put in small packages, properly labeled (they should not be marked "used" unless they truly are), and sent to Prudence Robinson, Crandall High School, 29 Charles Street, Kingston, Jamaica. Needed items include dish towels, dish cloths, white aprons, and table cloths. The board added potholders and hot pads to the list. Money is needed for mixing bowls, measuring cups, cooking spoons and forks, palette knives, spatulas, vegetable peelers, a blender (osterizer), one small pressure cooker, cooking pots, sauce pots, frying pans, teapots, and one set of dinner service.

I can think of many more things to add, but this is what they need to start. Prudence wrote that the first term will be

Continued on page 25



FOCUS

on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

Santa Barbara church organizes

Santa, Barbara, California, USA: "The Sabbathkeeping Christians in Santa Barbara believe the time has come to organize a church, to be known as the Santa Barbara Seventh Day Baptist Church. Of course, we want to invite you to share in this time of celebration with us. It will be March 21, starting at 2:30 p.m. We have intentionally set it in the afternoon so that those who need to attend worship elsewhere may still be able to be with us." They meet in the Trinity Nazarene Church at 4973 Via Los Santos. Though you may not be able to respond to their invitation in person, remember this new group and their pastor, Robert Babcock, in your prayers. Their mailing address is: P.O. Box 92002, Santa Barbara, CA 93109. Their phone number is: (805) 967-3277

SR

Whites visit Mexico

Tampico, Tam, Mexico: A newly provided AB Dick 360 printing press, platemaker and supplies were delivered by Daryl and Barbara White to the work being led by Pastor Elias Camacho last December 10th. The two-week mission by the Whites in their pickup truck brought many experiences, especially with Mexican customs at the Brownsville, Texas, crossing.

They wrote, in the *Rocky Mountain Messenger*, "Brother Camacho and everyone were so happy with it. They could not say 'gracias' enough to satisfy their feeling. Brother Camacho's son, Rosalio, a very intelligent and devout Christian, was a big help in the final test of the operation of the platemaker and the press. He made both units work perfectly, and again we all praised the Lord.

Before our return home, we visited five of their churches in the Tampico/Modero area. We really learned through these visits and understand better now the conditions under which they work, worship and serve the Lord.

A special thank you to all who helped make this mission project possible: the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society for the financial help; the Mid-Continent Association for their assistance; the members of the Denver church for their private contributions and their donations of clothing; and a special thank you to Paul Robles for his help in the acquisition of the equipment and supplies."

SR

Wichita Falls named "Growingest Church"

Church growth—1986, USA: The Wichita Falls, Texas, SDB Church was named the "Growingest Church in 1986," based on data in the accessions column of *The Sabbath Recorder* showing nearly 54% growth. The growth of this new church, organized in 1983, reflects their outreach across northern Texas. They have sponsored a reorganized branch in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, area, as well as a group in Lubbock, Texas.

For the second year, the Hope SDB Church, North Hills, Pennsylvania, came in second with a growth of over 42%. Others in the top seven were: Madison, Wisconsin, 31% growth; Atlanta, Georgia, 29%; Los Angeles, California, 28%; Texarkana, Arkansas, 26%; and Portland, Oregon, 23%. (See the February *Missions* for other details.)

Churches having the highest number of new members were Los Angeles, 31; Denver, Colorado, 19; Texarkana, 11; and Washington, D.C., and Pawcatuck, Westerly, Rhode Island, 10 each.

The Growingest Church banner, awarded last year to the San Diego, California, SDB Church, will be presented to the Wichita Falls church at conference in August.

SR

A prayer reminder for each day!

April 1987

Verse for the month: "Give your burdens to the Lord. He will carry them. He will not permit the godly to slip or fall." —Psalm 55:22

Pray for...

- 1- the newly organized church at Santa Barbara, California
- 2- conference Host Committee chairman Kenneth Burdick
- 3- Missionary Tom McElwain and family and their ministry in Turku, Finland
- 4- Sabbath School Mission Offering in my church
- 5- miracles for churches having problems
- 6- Extension Director Rodney L. Henry as he responds to new inquiries
- 7- Extension Pastor Earl Cruzan as he leads the branch church in Milwaukee
- 8- Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson as they serve in Malawi, Africa
- 9- new workers for the Lord's vineyards around the world
- 10- Rod Henry and Leon Lawton traveling to Jamaica
- 11- Memorial Board meeting today
- 12- pastors and church leaders in sister churches in South Africa
- 13- the San Diego, California church as it seeks pastoral leadership
- 14- Jamaican leaders setting up new theological training program
- 15- Pastor Ciesielski and church leaders in Poland
- 16- the Memphis, Tennessee church and Pastor Tom Johnson
- 17- seminary student David Thorngate, Columbus, Ohio
- 18- Resurrection Sabbath! Praise God for fulfilled promises
- 19- seminary student William Edwards, Austin, Texas
- 20- Tucson, Arizona branch church as they seek to reach out in their area
- 21- seminary student Martin Pederson, Pasadena, California
- 22- Board of Education and Missionary Board meetings next Sunday
- 23- seminary student Arthur Rowe, Denver, Colorado
- 24- Our World Mission giving, as we close the fourth month of 1987
- 25- Southern California churches meeting today with San Gabriel church
- 26- Tract and Communications Council meeting today
- 27- center staff as they serve the Lord
- 28- Pastor's Conference beginning today at Battle Creek, Michigan
- 29- Pastor G. Harrison and the growing ministries in Nigeria, West Africa
- 30- seminary student Sharon Wauls, Columbus, Ohio

MOVING?

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the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education,
or and by Members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

March 1987

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

by Paul R. Andries

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This month, I want to share with you a contribution sent in by Paul Andries (who also wrote the feature article). It is entitled, "Give Our Young People Hope."

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Let them know God cares
Let them know they are special

Let them know they are important

Let them dream dreams
Let them know they can be the best

Let them know they are loved
Let them share their needs
Let them be themselves

Let them touch us with their dreams and needs

Let them enjoy the fellowship with each other

Let them know we trust and care for them

Let them be real
Let them know God's truth is The Truth.

I know it's hard to let them go because we love them so...

Don't hold them because of fear, lack of trust, our dreams, possible failure, others' immaturity and their youth.

Rather, train up a child in the way he should go, instruct a child in the Holy Scripture, despise not their youth, give them a chance, allow them to grow in favor with the Lord and man, encourage them to be faithful, pray their gifts would be stirred up.

Let us believe in our young people; they are special to God.

With proper instruction in the word of God and continual prayer, they will be the effective leaders in the Seventh Day Baptist denomination God would want them to be.



Read: Galatians 6:1-5

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—"Carry each others' burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

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(This, then, is the law of Christ: that we love each other as God has loved us.



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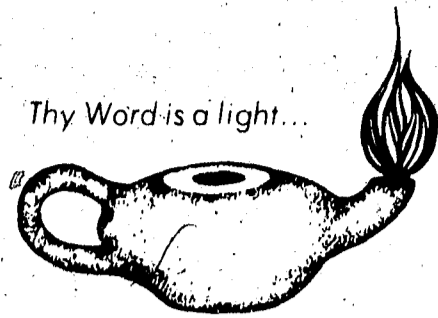


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Board of Christian Education



The least common denominator

The Sabbath School Class had started as it usually did with Deacon Faithful giving an overview. The Scripture lesson centered on the key verse from Galatians (2:20), "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (RSV)

Deacon Faithful was writing on the markerboard "The Least Common Denominator." Underneath he placed the fractions: 1/4; 1/2; 1/3. Mr. Newmember wondered if he was in the wrong place. "What do fractions have to do with Christ or the church?" he thought. "Those three fractions do not even relate to each other!"

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Mr. Newmember listened carefully as Deacon Faithful explained that we are similar to fractions in our differences and must find a common basis in order to relate to each other. He stated, "The mathematical concept of *The Least Common Denominator* operates in our churches. In our church, the different members who wish to relate to each other agree to the terms expressed in our church covenant." Deacon Faithful continued, "In fractions, the denominator is that number under the horizontal line which shows the number of equal parts into which the unit is divided. The numerator indicates the value or relationship of a part of the larger unit. The least common denominator is the smallest number into which all the fractions which you wish to relate to each other may be grouped."

Pointing to the fractions on the markerboard (1/4, 1/2, 1/3), Deacon Faithful told the Sabbath School class that the fractions may relate only on the

basis of their common classification or value. They must be changed in order to relate to each other. Finding the *Least Common Denominator* is important only if we wish to involve the separate fractions in interaction. It has no value if you do not wish to relate the fractions to each other.

The teacher said, "In our church being a member has value only if we wish to relate to each other in commonly agreed beliefs and actions. We come to study and worship together each Sabbath Day. We agree to do this. We agree to support the activities and work of our church. We have to change some if we wish to accomplish our goals. If 1/4, 1/2, and 1/3 wish to relate, they must be changed to become 3/12, 6/12 and 4/12. If we wish to relate to each other in our church, we must be changed also. We must find our *Least Common Denominator*."

The whiteheaded Deacon wrote three names under the fractions 1/4, 1/2 and 1/3, on the markerboard: Mr. Newmember, Mrs. Oldmember, and Mrs. Interested. Deacon Faithful then asked the class how each was related. Mrs. Oldmember stated that she had discovered that Mr. Newmember's great, great, great-grandfather was her great, great-grandfather's brother. Mrs. Oldmember and her husband were retired. They had been members of the church all their lives. She was a school teacher in the local high school.

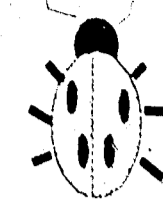
Mrs. Interested, who worked for a local lawyer while raising three children by herself, pointed out that Mrs. Oldmember and Mr. Newmember were members of the church and, including herself, belonged to Christ.

Mr. Newmember became excited. "Commitment to our Church Covenant! That's the *Least Common Denominator*!" He suddenly realized that everyone was looking at him. He

Cont. on page 27

The Children's Page

Reprinted from *The Sabbath Recorder*, July 1974



If I were an insect, what would I be?



If I were an insect, what would I be?
Let's see... I wouldn't be a bee.
Bees make honey, but there's the sting.
I wouldn't be that sort of thing.
An ant runs gayly round and round,
but his own house is under ground.
I wouldn't want to be a fly.
Oh my! No one likes a fly!
I wouldn't be a bug that bites
or a scary one that runs at night. ...

Children's Page readers

You have enjoyed Racco, the young Raccoon, since September, 1981, when Linda Camonga introduced him as a three-year-old. We said "farewell" to Racco in the December, 1986, issue. We are grateful to Linda, wife of Pastor John Camonga, Shiloh, New Jersey, and her artists for over five years of dedicated service. The Board of Christian Education wishes to join you in saying, "Thank you, Linda, and may God bless."

A LADY BUG!

A lady bug I'd be. That's for me!

A jolly little lady bug,

a shiny orange lady bug who eats the bad bugs off the roses
and larkspurs and the other posies—



A lady bug all clean and neat,
with spotted back and dainty feet,
with little wings tucked safe away
beneath a coat that very gay.



From spring time till the summer's end,
I'd be your happy, helpful friend!
by Susie & Mimi

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. Prov. 20:11



Marlboro—175 years of history

by Diane F. Cruzan

The year 1986 was a very busy year for the Marlboro, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church. It seems that we hosted everything that is possible to host. Due to the rotation schedules, this included both Eastern Association and yearly meetings. As a result, we spent very little time reflecting on our history; we were preoccupied with the demands of the present. And, perhaps, that is the way it should be.

However, someone has said that it is difficult to discern where you are going until you have some grasp of where you came from. The Marlboro Seventh Day Baptist Church was 175 years old in 1986. Major anniversaries, such as this, are good opportunities to pause and reflect on our historical roots.

It was back in February of 1811 (our fourth president, James Madison, was in office at the time) that a small group from the Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church asked permission to separate and build a meeting house of their own. Permission was granted, and 26 people formed the charter membership.

Fifteen of this group had the name of Ayars. There were three whose name was Campbell, two whose name was Crosley, and the remaining six people had the following names, respectively: Kelly, Bennett, Wood, Bee, Bacon and Davis. Two years later, the first meeting was held in the new church, located about two and one-half miles northwest of our present location. It is our understanding that this new church was called the **Second Seventh Day Baptist Church in the Western Division of New Jersey**. It was not until 1844 that the church got its present name of Marlboro, after marl was discovered in the area.

Then, in 1854, the present building was started, and meetings were held in the basement until May of 1861, when

the present sanctuary was dedicated to the Lord's service. We have had a total of 30 pastors since our beginning.

Some of the more important (and some of the less important) historical facts contained in our records are as follows:

May 30, 1813—A singing school was started, to be held once every two weeks from 4-6 in the afternoon, with three deacons chosen to attend to keep order.

June 12, 1825—Sister Patience Ayars was appointed to sweep and cleanse the meeting house until next June for \$2.00. It was also voted that each male member pay a tax of twelve and one-half cents, and each woman six and one-fourth cents, per year, for expenses of the church.

June 1, 1828—Sister Patience Ayars was again appointed to sweep and cleanse the meeting-house. However, because she neglected to wash the meeting-house one time during the year 1827, it was left to the women to decide on how much deduction should be made. They agreed that the deduction should be one dollar and that this deduction should be made each time this duty was neglected.

June 7, 1829—Sisters Patience Ayars, Tamar Ayars and Eunice Moore agreed to sweep and sand the floor every two weeks for a year, free.

February 3, 1839—It was voted to consult our sister church, Shiloh, by letter, to know their minds, whether they were willing to have a joint communion with us. Shiloh accepted the invitation on April 7, 1839. In 1841, it was voted that joint communion with Shiloh be held semi-annually.

1840—The Sabbath School was organized.

Someone has said that it is difficult to discern where you are going until you have some grasp of where you came from.

1862—A horse shed was first discussed and later built; used until 1933.

1880—The Ladies Benevolent Society was formed; later changed to Ladies Aid.

1880—The first "Chicken Picking" was held. This became an annual money-making project until it was discontinued in 1926 (46 years later).

Most of the records after 1880 are of church improvements: installing new seats, adding foam rubber cushions, recovering the three pulpit chairs,

installing a new heater, painting the church four different times, and—in 1985—installing aluminum siding. During the last three years, we have repaired and improved our church in many ways and are, in 1987, beginning a remodeling project of our church basement.

We, at Marlboro, have pride in our history and wish to faithfully build for tomorrow's believers. **SR**

News from Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church

by Jeanette Appel

Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church is proud to announce we have a new pastor as of July 1986—Rev. Lacey Joiner of Stonefort, Illinois. Pastor Joiner is a retired Baptist minister who has served pastorates in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Illinois. He and his wife, Ruby, graduated from Moody Bible School.

Pastor Joiner is fast becoming acquainted with Seventh Day Baptist doctrine and enjoys *The Sabbath Recorder*. He and Ruby are anticipating attending Ministers' Conference in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Our congregation is grateful to the Farina, Illinois, church for donating some much needed furniture and equipment. Four trucks and drivers made a trek to Farina in November, where Deacon and Mrs. Stanley Crandall met us. We are sorry to see the Farina church close its doors.

A recent highlight of our church was helping our oldest member celebrate her 90th birthday. Verdi Campbell was 90 on Thanksgiving Day. In addition to a

family dinner, we secretly invited her children and their families to church, so Verdi was surprised and delighted to have 15 members of her immediate family present to enjoy a special sermon, dinner and two birthday cakes.

Verdi has five children, nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. She is a much-loved member of our congregation, and we pray God's blessings on her and her family.

We covet the prayers of all of you. **SR**

*Old Stonefort is proud to announce they have a new pastor—
Rev. Lacey Joiner—as of July, 1986*

Berlin church honors long-time members

by Jessie Stuart

Our oldest member, Matie Bullock, has been a member for 89 years.

Those who have been members of the Berlin, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church for 50 years or more were honored on October 25, 1986, during the morning worship service. Eight of the 11 persons were present and received a gold rose boutonniere from Deaconess Irene Greene. Church Moderator Elmer Stuart presented each one with a certificate denoting the number of years they had been a member.

Our oldest member, Matie Bullock, age 102, has been a member for 89 years, joining in 1897. She was able to attend in a wheelchair. Others honored were Ruth Canfield, Marion Bentley, Blanche Wilcox, Whitfort Bentley, Delmar Ellis, Frances Ellis, Ellen Yarmchuk, W. Robert Bentley, Erwin Greene and Arlie Greene.

Special music was provided by a quartet, and a solo—"Jesus Loves Me"—was presented by Geraldine Greene.

Pastor Edward Sutton paid tribute to the honored members. "We give you tribute because, through the years, you have faithfully given tribute to Christ," he said. Deacon Paul Cushman led in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. Former pastor, Rev. C. Rex Burdick, brought the morning message, "God's Leading," taken from the life of Moses in the book of Exodus.

A fellowship dinner followed the morning worship service.

On the evening of December 6, 1986,

our church was filled to hear the musical, "Psalty's Christmas Calamity," presented under the direction of Geraldine Greene and accompanist, Roberta Ellis. They were assisted by Dorothy Stall and several others. Twenty-three children from our church and the community, in grades one through seven, participated.

Everyone enjoyed the children's wonderful presentation, showing the message of God's love in song. **SR**

Bonds to serve Florida Fellowship

The Bradenton (Florida) Fellowship of Seventh Day Baptists have taken a step in faith by calling Leland and Lettie Bond to serve them as a team in establishing a new Seventh Day Baptist church on the west coast of Florida.

The group has already moved from meeting in a home to meeting in a church that they are sharing with a Sunday-keeping group. At the present time, there is an average attendance of 11, with a high of 16. The present meeting place is: Abundant Life Fellowship Church, 804 22nd Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida.

We invite all the winter guests who are in Florida to come and visit us. We would also like the names and addresses of persons in our area who are interested in our fellowship. You may contact Leland W. Bond, #93-570 57th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 33507 (telephone: 813 756-8831). **SR**

Listening to God

Cont. from page 15

on the theoretical aspect, and the third term they hope to begin the hands-on training. What an exciting prospect to be able to help reestablish this vital addition to their education.

Please do not neglect the other projects, though. Money is desperately needed for S.C.S.C. According to the treasurer's report, we are \$5,000 short of where we were a year ago in this fund. This, of course, is the result of the popularity of the program and increased insurance and travel costs.

This month I would like to share the benediction used at the close of the year's program booklet from the society in New Auburn, Wisconsin, sent to me by the secretary, Genny Pederson. Today, O Lord...

Let me stand for whatever is right and just and good;

Let me keep the edges of my mind keen;

Let me keep my thinking straight and true;
Let me keep my emotions in control;
Let me keep my will active;
Let me keep my body fit and healthy;
Let me put right before interest;
Let me put others before self;
Let me put things of the spirit before things of the body;
Let me put principle above reputation;
Let me keep my mind busy with worthwhile ideas;
Let me keep my hands busy doing constructive work.
In Jesus' name, amen.
Till next month, when I pray the April showers will be showers of blessing on you.

Marilyn

Study... Cont. from page 11

gain new insight, to think, to analyze and to order our behavior on the basis of sound spiritual truth.

How do it?

MacDonald, in speaking about his own early development says: "[I realized that] if I was going to endure and become useful to the level of my potential, it was not going to be because I was talented or degreed, but because I had learned to take the muscles of my mind and work them into shape." To me, this says that Bible study must not be a "sometime" thing but a regular discipline.

It wasn't until I went to seminary that I learned how to "rightly divide the word of truth." Until that time I had only had what I consider to be a rather surface understanding of Scripture. I am not suggesting here that you need to go

to seminary to learn to study for wisdom and understanding. In fact, Foster gives us what I consider to be an effective four-step approach to study.

1. Repetition. Scientific studies have shown that just the simple act of reading a passage several times is "significant in the learning process."
2. Concentration. This one I could identify with right away. To write this article I stayed home because at the office the telephone rings, people want to talk to me. There are too many distractions. Concentration helps you focus only on the subject being studied.
3. Comprehension. This word is a synonym for understanding. This step leads us to insight and discernment.
4. Reflection. To spend time thinking

and ruminating on what we have just read helps us to hear and perceive things in a new way. Foster says "it helps us to see from God's perspective."

In his three rules of intrinsic study, Foster tells us we should read the passage three separate times. The first reading is for understanding. (What does the passage say?) The second reading is for interpretation. (What does the passage mean?) The third reading is for evaluation. (Is this important and what do I do about it?)

What happens?

Foster encourages us in our study to "expect to hear new things in a new way." I recommend the three steps suggested above so that we may indeed gain "God's perspective." **SR**

Obituaries

Brauer.—Roger Ernest Brauer of White River, South Dakota, died suddenly on August 28, 1986.

Roger was born on June 19, 1927, in Struthers, Ohio, and was married to Alice Hemminger on June 7, 1955. They lived in Ohio where they both worked as teachers. After retiring, Roger and his family moved to South Dakota.

Roger is survived by his wife, Alice Brauer; five children, Vicki Mullner, Roger Ernest Brauer Jr., Pam Underwood, John Brauer, and William Brauer; two brothers, Gerald Brauer and Edwin Brauer; one sister, Charlotte Gilliland; and seven grandchildren. GH

Tucker.—Lyle B. Tucker, 73, of New Port Richey, New York, died November 1, 1986, at HCA New Port Richey Hospital.

Tucker was a retired auto salesman and a long-time member of the Alfred Station, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Dorcus L. Tucker; his mother, Neva Trask; two sons, Donald of Washington, D.C., and Roy of Portland, Oregon; two daughters, Judith Peterson of East Aurora, New York, and Linda Patterson of Elma, New York; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Arrangements were by Howe Funeral Home, East Aurora. MFS

Rowe.—Merle D. Rowe, 83, a member of the Battle Creek, Michigan, Seventh Day Baptist Church, died on November 8, 1986, at the home of a daughter in Litchfield, Michigan.

He was employed by the Kellogg Company in Battle Creek for 24 years before retiring a number of years ago. He had moved to Litchfield one year ago.

Surviving are his wife, the former Nellie Lingle; three daughters, Dorothy Barker of Litchfield, Velma Richards of Huntington Station, New York, and Helen Spieler of Lutz, Florida; two sons, Merle Rowe Jr. of Battle Creek, and Charles Rowe of Orlando, Florida; a sister, Pearl Moser of Battle Creek; a brother, Fred Rowe of Decatur,

Michigan; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held in Litchfield on November 11, 1986, with committal service and burial in Battle Creek.

Pratley.—Carl A. Pratley, 67, died on November 18, 1986, in the hospital in Marshall, Michigan. He was a life-long area resident and a member of the Battle Creek, Michigan, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

He retired from the Calhoun County Road Commission in 1982 after 13 years of service. Earlier, he was employed as an auto mechanic.

He is survived by his wife, the former Zenith VanZandt; one daughter, Karen Thorngate of Battle Creek; four stepdaughters; one stepson; a brother, Floyd Pratley of Battle Creek; two sisters, Helen Field of Deford, Michigan, and Elsie Cavinder of Tekonsha, Michigan; and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor George D. Calhoun on November 21, 1986, in the Marshall funeral home.

Appel.—Rev. Albert Addison Appel, 70, passed away on December 15, 1986, at Halifax Hospital, Daytona Beach, Florida, after suffering a massive heart attack. Born on October 25, 1916, in Pope County near Stonefort, Illinois, he was the son of Albert and Sarah (Lewis) Appel.

Rev. Appel was a 1939 graduate of Harrisburg (Illinois) High School and was able to enjoy attending his 50th class reunion, which fell on his 70th birthday earlier in 1986.

On July 23, 1938, Addison married Jeanette McSparin in Wasson, Illinois. During the early 1940's, he farmed with his father and later attended Southern Illinois University, earning a two-year teaching certificate. He taught elementary grades, combining teaching with preaching for eight years in Illinois and New York.

In the late 1940's, Rev. Appel became pastor of the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church, and was called to pastor the Farina, Illinois, Seventh Day Baptist

Rev. Albert Addison Appel



Church (1953-58), where he was later ordained. During summers in the mid-1950's, he attended seminary training at the School of Theology in Alfred, New York. Pastor Appel also served in Leonardsville, New York (1958-61), and the Albion, Wisconsin, and Milton Junction, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist churches (1962-80).

In 1979, a heart attack, subsequent six by-pass heart surgery, and later congestive heart failure caused doctors to advise his early (1980) retirement from the pastorate. Upon his retirement, the Albion church voted him Pastor Emeritus.

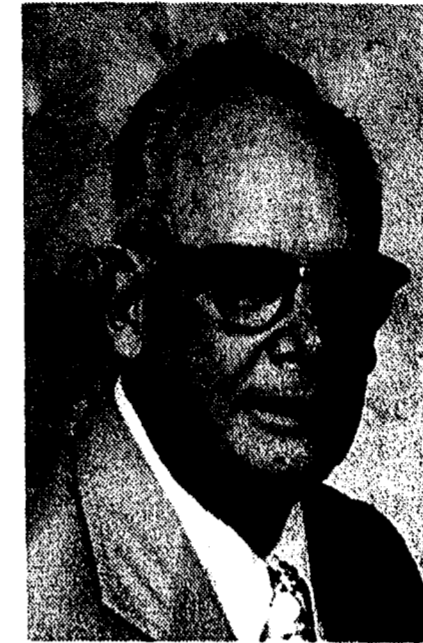
Addison and Jeanette moved to the Appel home farm in Stonefort during 1982 to live with son Al. There, they rejoined the Old Stonefort church, which also conferred upon him the honor of Pastor Emeritus.

Survivors include his wife, Jeanette; five sons, Al of Stonefort, Jim, Paul, and Rob of Janesville, Wisconsin, and Joel of Payne, Ohio; two daughters, Mona Reieron of Edgerton, Wisconsin, and Brenda Cornelio of Janesville; a brother, Edward, of Stonefort; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death was a granddaughter, Kelly Appel.

The funeral service was conducted on December 19, 1986, at the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church with the Rev. Lacey Joiner officiating. Interment was in Joyner Cemetery, Stonefort.

"He has gone home to God."

Rev. Marion C. Van Horn



Van Horn.—Rev. Marion C. Van Horn died on January 6, 1987, in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was born on April 28, 1909, in Gentry, Arkansas, the son of C. Columbus and Laura (Whitney) Van Horn. He served 41 years in the active Seventh Day Baptist ministry.

Marion Van Horn was baptized and joined the Fouke, Arkansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church in his youth. He was a graduate of Alfred University, New York (1937), and Alfred School of Theology (1939). He married Erma Josephine Burdick, a native of Alfred, on May 29, 1937.

Ordained to the Christian ministry during his first pastorate in the Salemville, Pennsylvania, Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1939, Pastor Van went on to serve churches in Berea and Lost Creek, West Virginia; Brookfield and Leonardsville, New York; Fouke and Texarkana, Arkansas; and Daytona Beach. He served two three-year terms on the Seventh Day Baptist Commission (1957-60 and 1964-67) and was president of the General Conference in 1966. During his service in Arkansas as shepherding pastor of the Southwest Field for the Missionary Society, churches were organized in Texarkana and Little Rock, Arkansas; Metairie, Louisiana; and a fellowship in Houston, Texas.

Active throughout his ministry in camping programs (Camp Joy, Camp Harmony, and Camp Miles), Rev. Van Horn was also—for many years—a leader in Boy Scouts, as well as numerous civic and ministerial associations. As Pastor Emeritus of the Daytona Beach church during his eight-year retirement, his work included authorship of the 100-year history of that congregation. In 1984, he was honored with a gold-headed cane by the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.

He is survived by his wife, Erma, of Daytona Beach; one son, C. Chris, of

Williamsburg, West Virginia; three daughters, Janet Thorngate of Janesville, Wisconsin, Josephine Rogers of Belpre, Ohio, and Laura Hambleton of Port Orange, Florida; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dale Thorngate, son-in-law, assisted by Rev. Kenneth Van Horn. Burial was at Belvue Memorial Gardens in Daytona Beach.

Constable.—Helen M. Constable of Akron, Ohio, died January 18, 1987, at the age of 65.

Helen was born February 14, 1921, in Clarksburg, West Virginia, the daughter of Clevenger and Georgia Davis Barnes.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Okey Edward Constable. Survivors include one daughter, one son, three brothers, one sister, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Although she resided in Ohio, she retained her membership in the Lost Creek, West Virginia, Seventh Day Baptist Church, having joined in 1935.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. David Taylor at the Davis Funeral Home in Clarksburg on January 21, 1987. Interment was in the Brick Church Cemetery, Lost Creek.

Least common denominator

Cont. from page 20

was a local businessman and had recently become a Seventh Day Baptist. He heard himself saying, "We're all different. We are different sizes, ages, conditions of health, interests, talents, and personal preferences. But we have a *Least Common Denominator* in our commitment to Christ. We agreed to accept Christ. We all were baptized and signed the church covenant."

Deacon Faithful picked up a book by Lois Barrett, *Building the House Church* (Scottsdale, Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1986), and read from page 33. "Without clear understandings and some way to hold each other to them, any group can fall to operating according to the standards of the least committed, and the least committed gradually drive out the most committed." He asked the class, "What is our commit-

ment? As a class? What's our *Least Common Denominator*?"

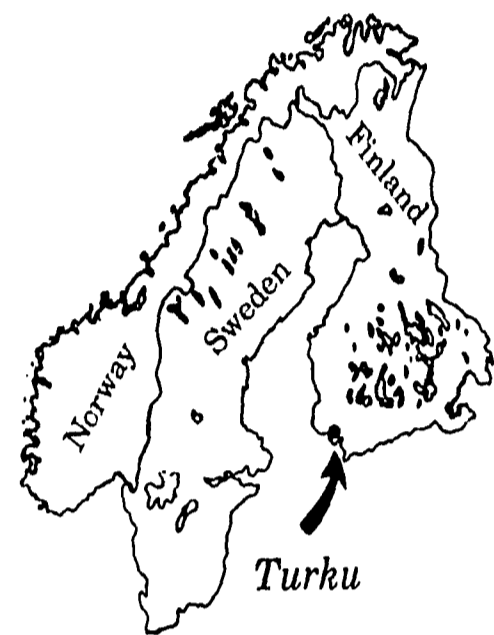
Mrs. Interested felt it was the excitement from the Bible Study and learning how our commitment to Christ may be lived each day. Mrs. Oldmember felt it was faithful attendance and being with old friends in the faith. Mr. Newmember said it was the Sabbath, which reminded him of God's grace to his people. But they all agreed with Deacon Faithful that their *Least Common Denominator* was commitment to Christ and each other as expressed in their church covenant.

"For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4,5 RSV).

What is the *Least Common Denominator* in our church?

SR

New missionary appointed in Europe



For the last two years, the annual letter sent to every SDB home by the Missionary Society listed as one of their goals: "to enlist, train and send missionaries to a new international field." In their report to conference in August 1986, the General Council stated, "... Believing that Christ calls us to fulfill His Great Commission, and that our people need the challenge and inspiration of new missionary efforts, we urge the Missionary Society to give high priority to the realization of this goal." Recommendation three of the Interest Committee on Missions-International, which was approved by conference, encouraged the early implementation of this goal.

We praise the Lord that he was ahead of us preparing a place, a ministry and a worker for a new work. In the spring of 1981, a seminary-trained university professor, Thomas McElwain, a resident of Finland, joined the Salem, West Virginia, church as a non-resident member. We let him share something of his spiritual adventure:

"In 1977 I participated in a research project in Egypt and lived in a Coptic monastery for three weeks. This experience awakened a renewed interest in Christian faith. For the following three years I was active in the Society of Friends, Stockholm Yearly Meeting, although I was never a member. My relations with Quakers continue to be close and cordial.

"In connection with my research on native American religion, and my work as a native language consultant for the Education Program of the Seneca Nation of Indians and for the American Indian Movement, I often met with historical reference to both German and English-speaking Seventh Day Baptists. I decided to investigate

Seventh Day Baptists and visited a number of churches incognito while doing fieldwork among the Seneca Indians. I was impressed that I aroused neither flattery nor disdain in any of the congregations I visited.

"During the periods of residence in Europe, I worked as a language teacher in various adult education programs, teaching English, French and Spanish. After finishing the doctorate (Ph. D. in Comparative Religion from the University of Stockholm in 1979), I worked as lecturer in Abo Akademi and the University of Turku and in the latter was acting assistant professor from 1980 to 1984."

After becoming a Seventh Day Baptist, Tom held formal Sabbath services in his home in Finland for a year, with only the occasional visitor. In 1984, those who were participating in these meetings covenanted together to form a Seventh Day Baptist church. Until the autumn of 1986, they met in the clubroom of a bank on the outskirts of Turku for Sabbath morning worship and, on Sabbath Eve, at a youth center in another suburb for Bible study. Most recently, these meetings have been consolidated at the McElwain home in the center of the city, resulting in the attendance of several new contacts and a core group of nine.

Several times in the last few years, he has visited the USA for his work and to visit his family. This made it possible for him to be a guest lecturer at the COM Summer Institutes in 1983 and 1985. He also wrote a book of verse, *Handfuls of Corn*, which was published by the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. His most recent writing, an article titled "Seven Thunders," was published in the April 1986 Sabbath Recorder.

While Thomas McElwain and his daughter, Anna Maria, were in the USA late in 1986, they visited the SDB Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, local SDB

churches in several states and met with the Missionary Board executive committee. The proposal for new work was presented for prayerful consideration a few weeks earlier after an interview with Executive Vice President Leon Lawton in Wichita Falls, Texas.

At the January 25th Missionary Board meeting, it was voted "that the board adopt as a new field, Finland (and the Nordic area), with Thomas McElwain, a member of the Salem, West Virginia, SDB Church as our missionary, effective February 1, 1987, for the calendar year, the work to be reviewed beginning in October 1987 for calendar 1988."

The initial objectives set forth for Missionary Tom McElwain were:

1. To continue to fill the pulpit two meetings a week in Turku until someone can be found and trained to carry on that work. Outreach and nurture in Turku will constitute, at the beginning, one-half of the missionary's work time.
2. To continue outreach in the Helsinki area in view of starting a group there.
3. To implement a new outreach. It has become apparent that the native psychology is not receptive to Baptist ways, either clinging to State church formalism or swinging into the charismatic movement. It has been noted that university students in the Sabbath Eve Bible study group, who have been exchange students in the United States, seem more receptive. It is proposed to acquire a list of former exchange students and to approach these systematically, either by mail, telephone, or visitation.
4. In the event that the new outreach is successful, to allow the Turku church to become independent of missionary support and apply all of the working time of the missionary to this kind of outreach. Pending on its success in Finland, it could be applied to the situation in other Nordic countries.
5. To begin an outreach in Sweden among Finnish-speaking immigrants,

since this also seems to be a receptive group.

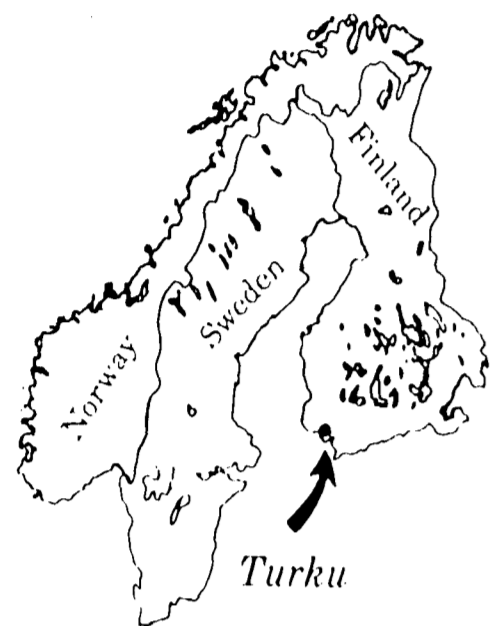
In his letter of January 27th, Tom wrote: "The cold weather has passed. It apparently did more harm in central Europe where there were record snowfalls. We had very little snow, which increased the frost damage. Personally, we lost our store of potatoes and apples to the freeze, but continue to use them in potato soup and applesauce with good results. During the cold time, attendance at meetings was still good. People came in helmets with only their eyes showing. I have had several inquiries and contacts, one from a retired Adventist pastor who apparently has had difficulty accepting Ellen White for many years. I have written him and sent literature at his request. We pray that his interest will continue and I shall be able to visit him personally. So I continue to be busy. I have some ideas for starting an outreach among the Finnish speakers in Sweden. Considering the situation here, I think that could add to the stability of the community in this country."

We praise the Lord for his leading and the provision of new workers already on the new field. Tom's wife, Ritva, is an English teacher who met her husband while they were in school in France. They are able to speak several languages and know the culture, Finland being her home country. They have made it their primary residence since 1973.

Let us uphold in prayer our new missionaries, Thomas and Ritva McElwain, and their pioneer work in Finland. Initially, they will be receiving only part-time salary from the Missionary Society, depending on her work for part of their support. Pray that the Lord may bring many in that land to faith in Christ and that several of these will become local church leaders. Pray that wisdom, insight and strength will be given to know and to do God's will. SR

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5. To begin an outreach in Sweden among Finnish-speaking immigrants,

since this also seems to be a receptive group.

In his letter of January 27th, Tom wrote: "The cold weather has passed. It apparently did more harm in central Europe where there were record snowfalls. We had very little snow, which increased the frost damage. Personally, we lost our store of potatoes and apples to the freeze, but continue to use them in potato soup and applesauce with good results. During the cold time, attendance at meetings was still good. People came in helmets with only their eyes showing. I have had several inquiries and contacts, one from a retired Adventist pastor who apparently has had difficulty accepting Ellen White for many years. I have written him and sent literature at his request. We pray that his interest will continue and I shall be able to visit him personally. So I continue to be busy. I have some ideas for starting an outreach among the Finnish speakers in Sweden. Considering the situation here, I think that could add to the stability of the community in this country."

We praise the Lord for his leading and the provision of new workers already on the new field. Tom's wife, Ritva, is an English teacher who met her husband while they were in school in France. They are able to speak several languages and know the culture, Finland being her home country. They have made it their primary residence since 1973.

Let us uphold in prayer our new missionaries, Thomas and Ritva McElwain, and their pioneer work in Finland. Initially, they will be receiving only part-time salary from the Missionary Society, depending on her work for part of their support. Pray that the Lord may bring many in that land to faith in Christ and that several of these will become local church leaders. Pray that wisdom, insight and strength will be given to know and to do God's will

SR

I investigated Seventh Day Baptists and was impressed that I aroused neither flattery nor disdain in any of the congregations I visited.

Ordination in Polish Conference

On Saturday, September 27, 1986, in the chapel of the Gorki Male church, a splendid ceremony was performed: the second "laying on of hands" and ordination of our brother, Roman Witek. Br. Witek is 30 years old, is married and has a very young daughter. He is the secretary of the Polish Conference and secretary of the editorial office. He works part time, too, in a local church in Wroclaw as pastor, and as a member of the management of the Biblical Education Center Polish Conference.

Br. Stefan Matuszewski preached the Word of God. In the sermon, he pointed out the great need for work in the churches, the work for our Lord. This is what carries a lot of experiences and difficulties. God's special help is necessary here. After the sermon, Br. Witek was ordained by prayer and "laying on of hands" by brothers/pastors J. Bujok, S. Kosowski and S. Matuszewski. We wished Br. Roman and his wife God's blessing in their everyday work for the Lord.



The ordination of Roman Witek.

Autumn baptism-1986 in Polish Conference

On the 27th of September, 1986, the immersion of six members joining the Sabbath Day Christian Church took place in Gorki Male by Skoczow. The baptismal service began at 10 a.m. in the church house in Gorki. Those were blessed moments for the persons who decided to sacrifice their lives to Jesus Christ, for all of us present, for the church, as well as for the heavenly host rejoicing at the conversion of one sinner.

In the afternoon, Br. S. Kosowski spoke about God being full of love. It is owing to this ideal, God's love, that the first human couple received the possibility of salvation, just after their fall. God desires to free us from sin and does so through Jesus Christ. The Son of God came to the earth to suffer and die for our faults. Baptism is a request for a clear conscience. It expresses the belief in the beneficial power of Jesus Christ's blood, shed on the cross.

After the sermon, we went to the Brenica River where six persons professed their belief in the Lord Jesus. They were immersed in the waters of that mountain river in order, after Paul's words, to be immersed in the



The candidates for baptism just before immersion in the Brenica River.

death of Jesus Christ and to enter a new life—the way Jesus rose from the dead thanks to his Father's glory (Romans 6:3,4).

Next, we returned to the church house to finish the ceremony of baptism. In the sermon, Br. Teodor Banas spoke about the apostolic practice of laying hands on newly baptized persons. The power of God's Spirit overwhelming the newly-born Christian is indispensable when starting a life with Jesus Christ. After the service, the pastors laid hands on the persons admitted to the church community, and the brothers prayed for the descent of the Holy Ghost.

The ceremony ended at 6 p.m. with common singing, prayers and vocal performance of the youth. The whole ceremony was conducted by Br. Jerzy Adamczyk.

It was a day full of spiritual impressions.

SR

FitzRandolph retires...

Over 90 co-workers and friends shared in a retirement celebration for Ivan H. FitzRandolph, business manager at the Seventh Day Baptist Center for the past five years. The dish-to-pass dinner and mini "roast" was hosted by the SDB Center staff on February 17th at the Milton, Wisconsin, Seventh Day Baptist Church so that members of the General Council, meeting that week, could share in honoring FitzRandolph for his service.

"Ivan developed for the General Conference and its agencies an accounting and bookkeeping system which we had never had and which will serve the denomination well for many years," said Dale Thorngate, executive secretary of the conference. "With patience and professional skill he has taught the staff much about effective office procedures, for Ivan is a master teacher as well as an experienced manager."

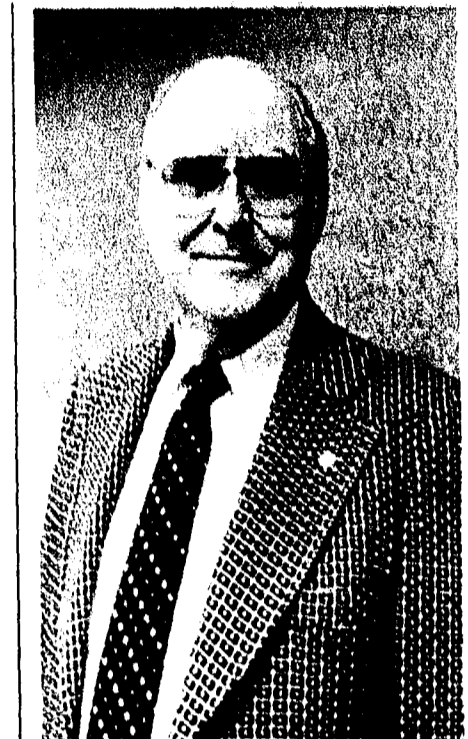
As master of ceremonies, Leanne Lippincott called on individuals associated with Ivan at various points in his career to pay tribute—a succession of humorous anecdotes and grateful praise. Kenneth E. Smith, former president of Milton College, reflected (via cassette tape) on Ivan's years at Milton College where he was professor of economics and business administration from 1954 to 1982, serving seven years as chairman of the department and periodically as assistant treasurer, comptroller and business manager for the college.

Others told stories from his years as radio announcer, as an accountant for General Motors, as a student at Milton College and as a member of the Board of Education of the Milton Area Schools for 16 years.

Ivan's twin brother, Irwin, speaking on tape from his home in Mesa, Arizona, delighted the guests with tales from their childhood as preacher's kids (sons of Rev. John and Emily FitzRandolph) growing up in Milton. His son Jeff of Verona, Wisconsin,

contributed a family fish story and tribute to the parenting that Ivan and his wife Virginia provided him and his three sisters, Sue Cruzan, Robin Bliese and Jill Groelle, all of Milton.

FitzRandolph's areas of responsibility at the SDB Center have included accounting and bookkeeping, production of printing and duplication, personnel administration, building maintenance, and denominational treasurer functions. He is a member and deacon of the Milton SDB Church, which he has served as president, treasurer, and trustee. He is presently serving as financial secretary. SR



Ivan FitzRandolph

New business manager hired

Jeffery S. Crandall, formerly of Tucson, Arizona, has accepted the position of business manager at the Seventh Day Baptist Center in Janesville, Wisconsin, and began work there on February 1, 1987. A systems software engineer in the U.S. Air Force, Crandall has just completed a bachelor's degree in business management at the University of Phoenix in Tucson.

"We are grateful for the computer experience Mr. Crandall brings to the offices here," says Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate. The position includes management of accounting and bookkeeping, fund distribution, printing and duplicating, payroll and benefits, and building and maintenance.

Recently licensed to preach by the Denver, Colorado, Seventh Day Baptist Church, Jeff and his wife, Denise, have been members of the Tucson Fellowship where he has served as associate treasurer and worship leader. The Crandalls and their children are living in Janesville. SR



Jeffery Crandall

Assessments

Verona, New York
Russell Johnson, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Verne Wright
Betsy De Wright

Joined after Testimony
Sharon Warner

Denver, Colorado
John D. Bevis, Pastor

Joined by Letter
Darcy Burdick
Victor Burdick

Joined after Testimony
Eialeen Hauschild

Rapid City, South Dakota
(branch of Denver, Colorado)
Jim Gardiner, Pastor

Joined after Baptism
Shantell Maddox
Cameron Maddox

Joined after Testimony
Shelley Maddox
Arnie Maddox

Births

Keown.—A daughter, Jessica MacKenzie Keown, was born to Tom and Joan (Kurpguweit) Keown of Lincoln, Nebraska, on May 27, 1986.

Warner.—A son, Ryan Stanley Warner, was born to Wayne and Constance (Cummings) Warner of Rome, New York, on July 6, 1986.

Kuzma.—A daughter, Crystal Joy Kuzma, was born to Mark and Joni (Goodrich) Kuzma of Grand Island, Nebraska, on August 1, 1986.

Wright.—A daughter, Kerith Dawn Wright, was born to Verne and Betsy De (Richards) Wright of Oneida, New York, on August 8, 1986.

O'Brien.—A son, Quinn Thomas O'Brien, was born to Patrick and Cheryl (Abel) O'Brien of Carroll, Iowa, on September 5, 1986.

Thorngate.—A son, Josiah David Thorngate, was born to David Michael and Christina (Boyd) Thorngate of Columbus, Ohio, on September 8, 1986.

Layman.—A daughter, Melissa Gwyn Horsley Lauralee Layman, was born to Roy and Heidi Layman of Lubbock, Texas, on December 31, 1986.

Marriages

Sharon-Smith.—William Sharon Jr. and Shannon Smith were united in marriage at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, on December 27, 1986, by Pastor Bill Sharon, father of the groom.

Jacob-Price.—Matthew Jacob, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Jacob of Pomona Park, Florida, and Carolyn Price, daughter of Aaron Price and Ida Price, both of Palatka, Florida, were united in marriage by Alan Crouch on December 5, 1986, at the historic Madison House in Palatka.

Fourth World Conference of Baptist Men to be held

The World Conference of Baptist Men, an arm of the Baptist World Alliance, will be holding its fourth conference in July, 1987.

The meetings will be held in Cardiff, Wales, from July 1-5, 1987. A short video tape about Cardiff and the conference has been produced and is available for showing to interested groups. This can be borrowed from Dr. Archie Goldie at the

Baptist World Alliance Washington office, or from Doyle Pennington c/o Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30367-5601.

About 1,000 people from all parts of the world are expected to be present for this conference.

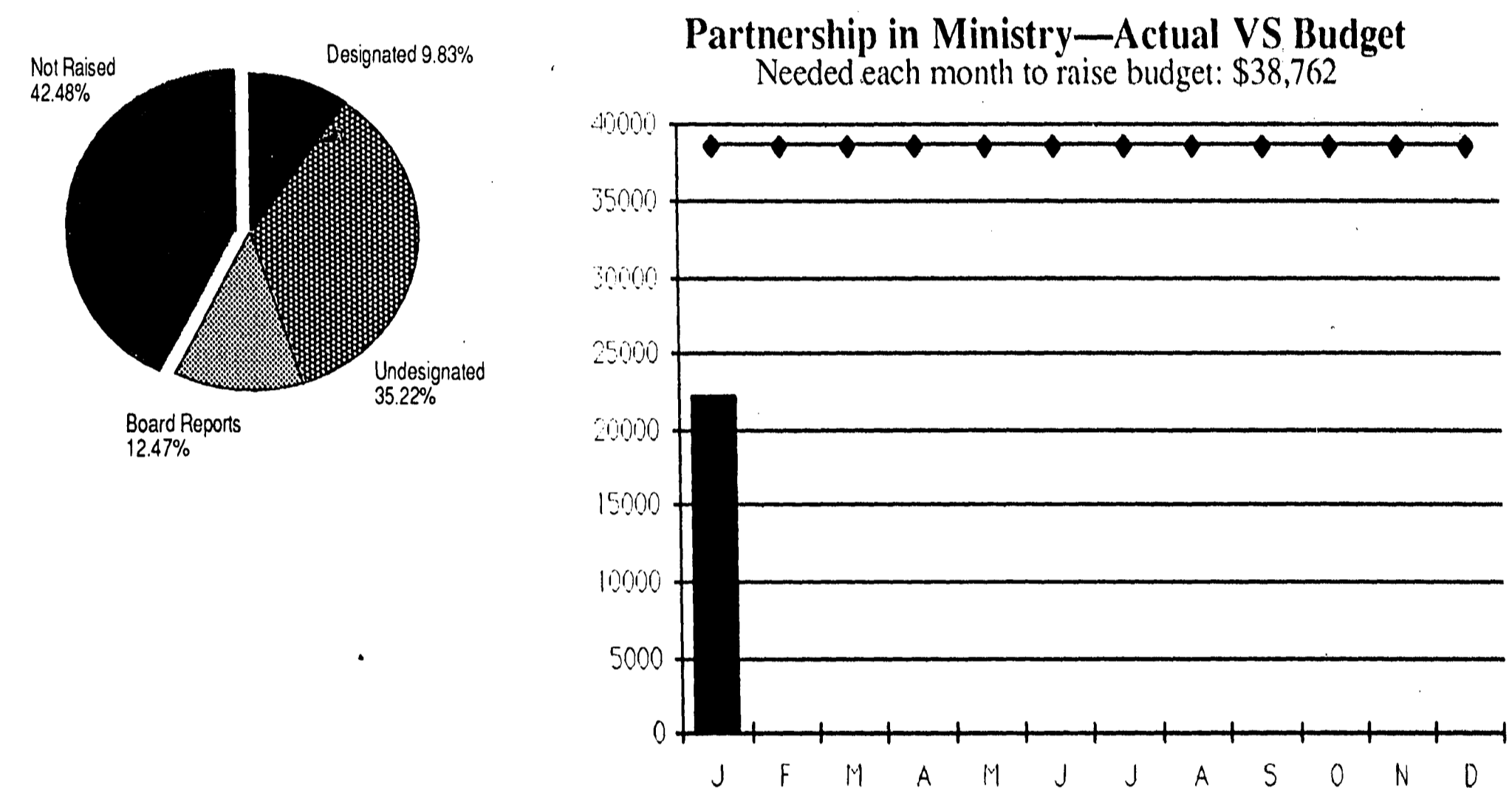
Additional information about Cardiff or the conference can be obtained from David Beaumont, Holmestower Wellwood Drive, Dinas Poweis, S. Glam., CF64TN, Great Britain. **SR**

Partnership in Ministry

Our World Mission 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—Our World Mission. Your dollars are needed to do the work that is the denominational agencies' responsibility in the partnership. Your prayers, ideas and reactions are also needed to support the work that Seventh Day Baptists are doing together.

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



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Church: _____

This contribution is for:

- undesignated giving
- designated for:
- Evangelism and Missions
 - Christian Education (Sabbath School, camps, youth materials etc.)
 - Publishing (Sabbath Recorder, Leadline, Tracts)
 - Leadership Training (Ministerial or Lay Training)
 - Hunger Relief (SDB United Relief Fund)
 - Summer Christian Service Corps
 - SDB World Federation

Please make checks payable to Our World Mission

Partnership in Ministry

Assessions

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Russell Johnson, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Eileen Hanschild

Joined by Letter
Verne Wright
Betsy De Wright

Rapid City, South Dakota
(branch of Denver, Colorado)
Jim Gardiner, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
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Joined after Baptism
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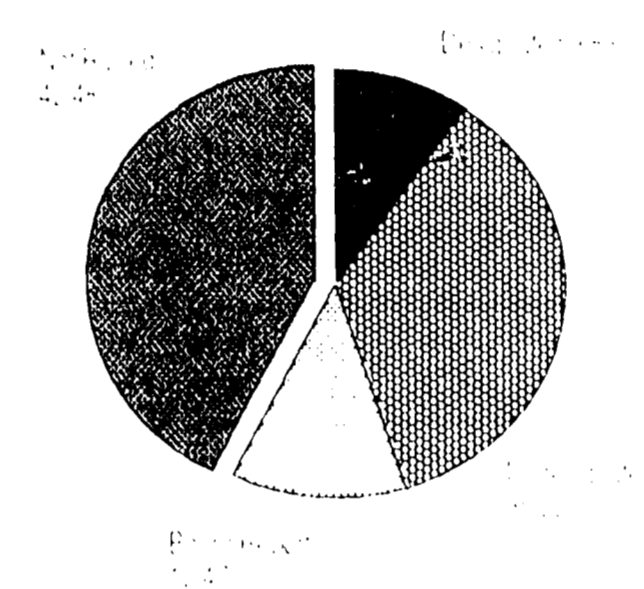
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Partnership in Ministry

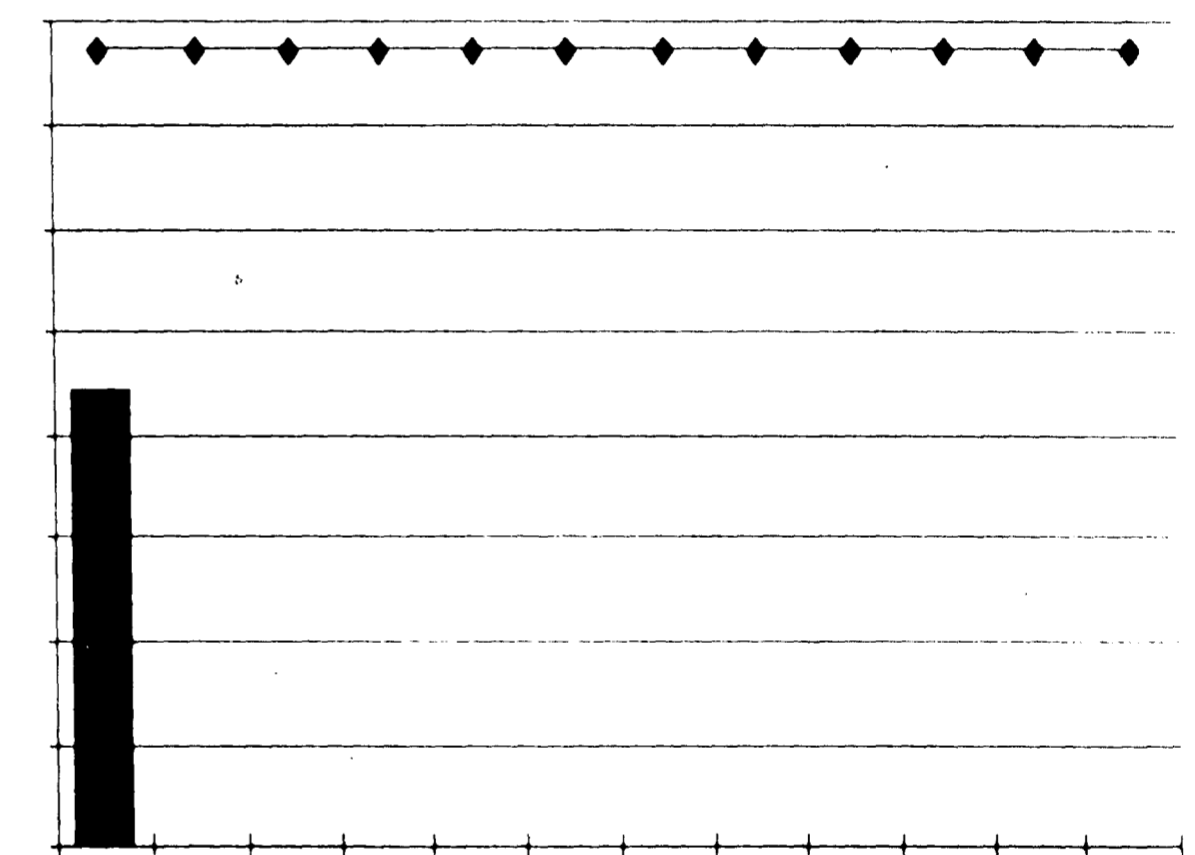
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The whole is greater than the sum of its parts



Partnership in Ministry—Actual VS Budget
Needed each month to raise budget: \$38,762



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For the Partnership in Ministry
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Address

City

State

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Church

March 1987

Partnership in Ministry

Let us press on... *Cont. from page 10*

for our family and close friends, but for those around us who are hurting.

Developing these qualities of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience takes great perseverance. It is possible to be kind for short periods, but when circumstances press us, it is so easy to just blow it and step back into our old nature.

That is the reason Paul said we must constantly be aware of who we are being controlled by. We do have an obligation, but it is not to our old sinful nature. We are to set our minds on what the Spirit desires us to be, and then we are to press on in our pursuit of a Christ-like character.

Each day we train ourselves in one lifestyle or another. We can make excuses for our behavior and say "Well, that's just the way I am," or "I wanted to be loving and helpful, but you wouldn't believe the kind of day I have had," or we

can choose to do what is right simply because it is right.

Without the Holy Spirit's help, it truly is impossible to develop humility, kindness, patience, compassion and gentleness; but without daily training ourselves in these things, it is also impossible.

There is an interesting tension in what the Spirit does and what we are to do. Some would have us think we can just let go and let God do it all, and others would have us believe it is all up to us. As I have studied the Scriptures, I find that when we are willing to work, God enables us to become a people that he is happy to call his own.

What a motivation it can be for us to know that as God's sons and daughters, we are to the "praise of his glorious grace." Press on in your desire to please him who has given you so much.

SR

Easter is theme of new Scripture meditations booklet from ABS

Meditations from the Scriptures, slim enough to slip into a pocket for quiet reflection during a break in the daily routine, are now being prepared by the American Bible Society (ABS) for Easter, one of the important milestones in the church year.

The 32-page booklet, with illustrations in full color, is called "Easter Lasts Forever" to signify that the Resurrection offers hope for all time. It is one of several new Scripture publications for Easter specially designed by artist Nancy Carpenter.

Other publications include passages from Luke's Gospel in leaflet form to be read and shared; a Scripture postcard for people to send the good news to

friends in other places; and a card designed to be placed on a meal tray and cheer up a hospital patient.

All of the Scriptures are being produced in both the King James and Today's English (Good News Bible) versions, while the leaflet, postcard and tray card will also appear in the Spanish "Version Popular."

ABS senior officer Alice E. Ball reports that last Easter, churches and other institutions—including prisons and hospitals—ordered more than 21 million copies of the society's special Scripture editions. Their main use, other than for Scripture evangelism, was as inserts in church bulletins and newsletters.

SR

Keep a song in my heart!

Enter into my heart, Great Heavenly King
With gladness and joy, let every day ring!
When worries and wrongs darken all high above
God forgive! Wipe doubts away with Thy Mercy and Love.

The Creator has made Life a most wonderful gift
Life with great power to lower or lift!
The world He created, He holds in His hands
There's no human soul who fully understands!
When, where, how He knows secrets to employ
Man, woman, child, beasts, birds, fish of the sea
Are conceived, born, mature as years quickly flee!

Be you strong, weak or ill of whatever age
God has chosen you to fill an important page
He has given you talents, no other possessed
He asks only that you give all of your best!

Keep a song in your heart—Fill the air with gladness
Praise with loving service, help to banish the world's sadness!
A hundred years to the Master, is like a sparkle in the dark
He alone can call His loved ones—When for Heaven to embark!

—Flora Whitford
100 years old Easter Sunday 1987

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Hymn 338 L. M. Doddridge
From A Selection of Psalms and Hymns

Seeking Directions in the Choice of a Pastor.

Shepherd of Israel, bend thine ear,
Thy servants groans indulgent hear,
Perplex'd, distress'd, to thee we cry,
And seek the guidance of thine eye.

Send forth, O Lord, thy truth and light,
To guide our doubtful footsteps right;
Our drooping hearts, O God sustain,
Nor let us seek thy face in vain.

Return, in ways of peace return,
Nor let thy flock neglected mourn,
May our blest eyes a shepherd see
Dear to our souls and dear to thee!

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

The Seventh Day Baptist

April 1987

Sabbath **SR** Recorder

Difficult
SABBATH
Questions

