

**Coming this month...**

*Do we need more leaders?  
Do we need more churches?*

**Ministry Promotion Sabbath:  
A challenge for leadership**

Answer the challenge  
to vocational ministry

**September 30, 1989**  
In your local church

**Annual Meeting Notice  
Board of Christian Education**

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., will be held at the Van Horn Office Building, 892 Route 244, Alfred Station, New York, on Sunday, October 22, 1989, at 2 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear and act upon the report of the Board of Directors, to elect members of the Board of Directors, and to consider and act upon such matters that may properly come before said meeting.

Members of Seventh Day Baptist churches entitled to representation in the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference are members of the corporation. Accredited delegates at the 1989 General Conference in Portland, Oregon, are entitled to vote at this annual meeting.

**Explore Your  
Calling Weekend**

Has God called you into  
full-time ministry?

Take a weekend retreat  
and confirm that call.

**December 15 & 16, 1989**

*At the SDB Center  
Janesville, WI*

Battle Creek will host  
**North Central Association**  
meetings, October 6 & 7

- Evangelism workshop  
at Camp Holston
- Family night bowling  
(bring money)
- Meals at the church

Call or write for housing info—  
Let's make it a BIG meeting!

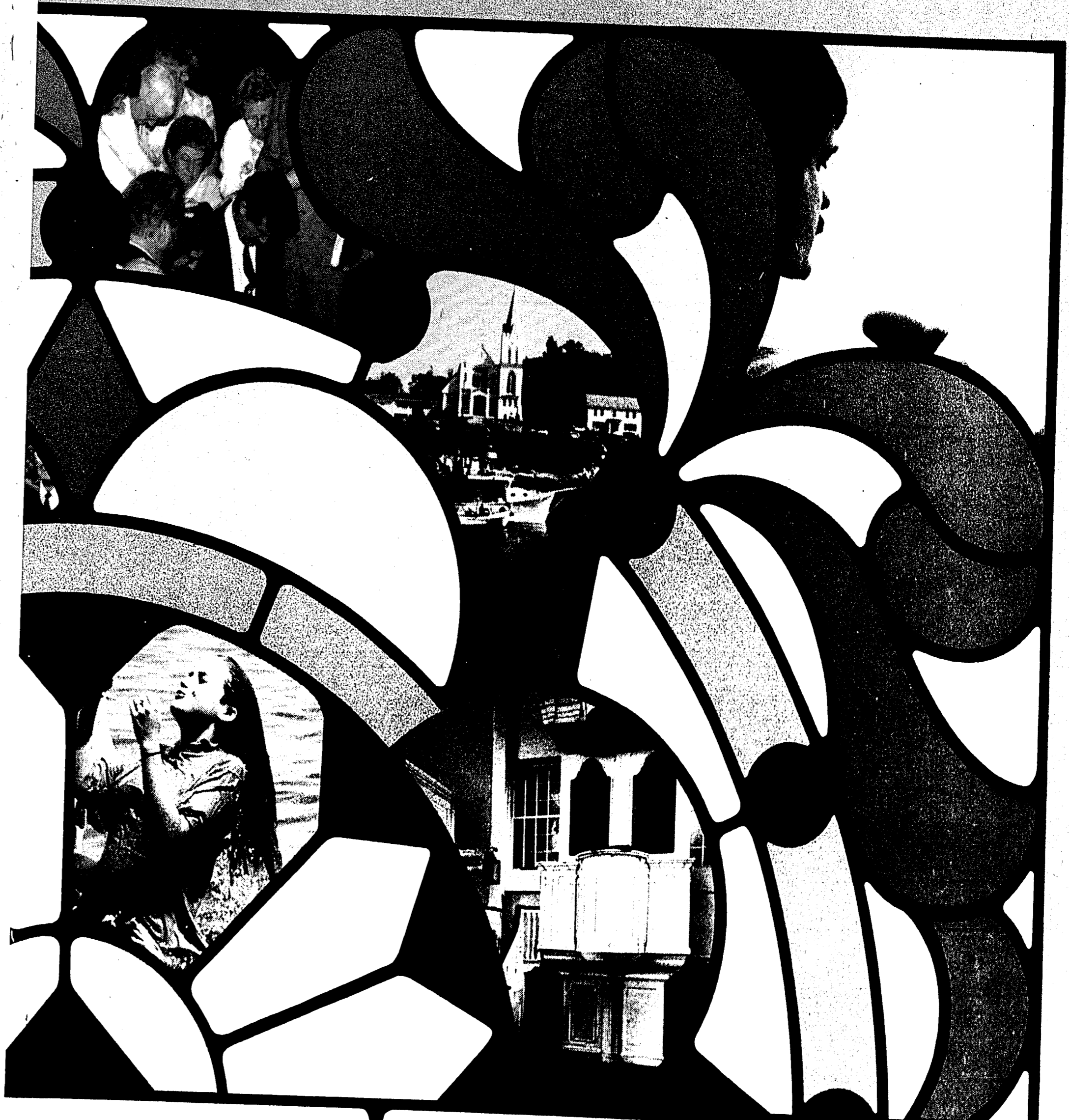
200 North Washington Ave.  
Battle Creek, MI 49017  
(616) 964-7177

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*Sabbath Recorder*  
v. 211, n. 10

**SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST  
DISTINCTIVES**



...this particular combination  
of distinctives is uniquely  
**Seventh Day Baptist.**







*The Sabbath Recorder* October 1989 Volume 211, No. 10 Whole No. 6,734. A Seventh Day Baptist publication. *The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This is the 145th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles. Kevin Butler, Editor. Leanne Lippincott, Assistant Editor. Camille Henry, Administrative Assistant. **WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a **space available** basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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

### Our Heritage

We recognize no individual person as the founder of our denomination. The real connection between us and the earlier Christians is a spiritual one.

When Jesus Christ said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." (Matthew 28:19,20), his disciples scattered in all directions. We do not know exactly where they all went. We do know that the effect of their going is evidenced from Africa to Sweden, from the British Isles to China.

We would join hands with all those who have gone before who were devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our heritage is in God, who planned the creation, which was carried out under His guidance and reached high fulfillment in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



*We eagerly join hands for fellowship and devotion as disciples of Christ. A seventh day baptist church is found throughout the world, as evidenced (in photo) at a recent SDB World Federation gathering.*





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**We eagerly join hands for fellowship and devotion as disciples of Christ. A Seventh Day Baptist witness is found throughout the world, as evidenced (far photo) at a recent SDB World Federation gathering.**



**Our Roots**

- Our right to sonship—John 1:11,12
- The only way—John 14:6
- Source of our power—Acts 1:8
- Chosen children of God before creation—Ephesians 1:3,4
- Workmanship of Christ—Ephesians 2:10
- A firm foundation—Ephesians 2:20-22
- Love-oriented—Ephesians 3:17
- Source and Perfecter of our faith—Hebrews 12:1,2

**Our Commitment**

Today, with a sense of responsibility, we take our place in the family of churches with purpose and commitment as set forth by Jesus Christ. This is expressed in these lines by John Greenleaf Whittier:

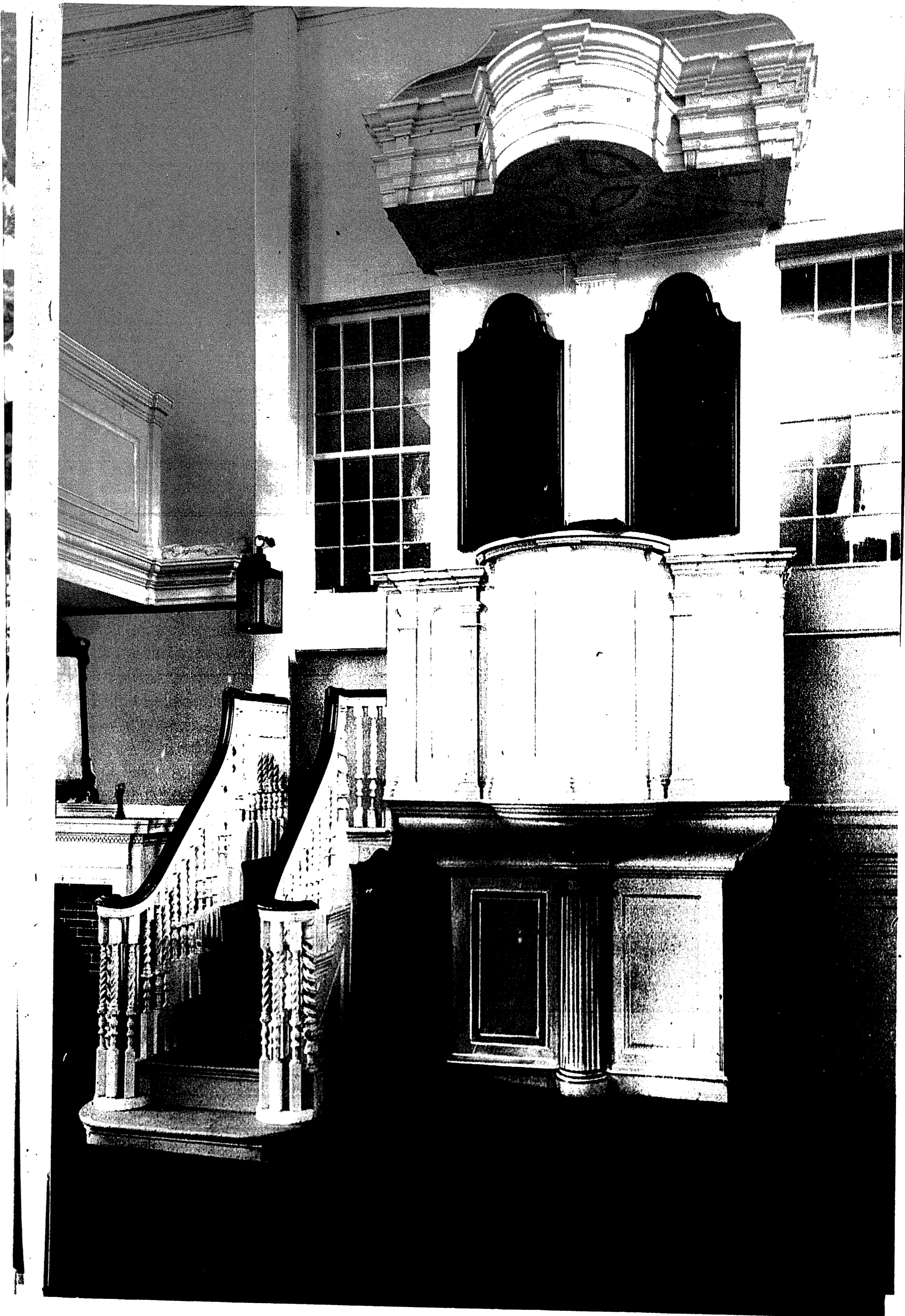
*Strike, Thou the Master, we Thy keys,  
 The anthem of the destinies!  
 The minor of Thy loftier strain,  
 Our hearts shall breathe the old refrain  
 Thy will be done!*

**Point of View**

With no human founder, we are free to go directly to the Bible and Jesus Christ for our needs, including a deeper understanding and closer relationship to God.

The individual person is free to choose to be a part of God's family and to accept personally the gift of life provided in Jesus Christ. We can join the company of many witnesses who have preceded us and give testimony to our personal faith as expressed in our obedience to the Father's will.

Our heritage in America began at Newport, Rhode Island. In 1671, the high steeple reflects our New England roots, from which other Seventh Day Baptist centers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania formed. Today, our churches reach from coast to coast.





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**Holy Bible, Book Divine**—John Burton

Holy Bible, book divine,

Precious treasure, thou art mine;

Mine to tell me whence I came;

Mine to teach me what I am;

Mine to chide me when I rove;

Mine to show a Saviour's love;

Mine thou art to guide and guard;

Mine to punish or reward;

Mine to comfort in distress,

Suffering in this wilderness;

Mine to show by living faith,

Man can triumph over death.

**The Bible, Our Only Authority**

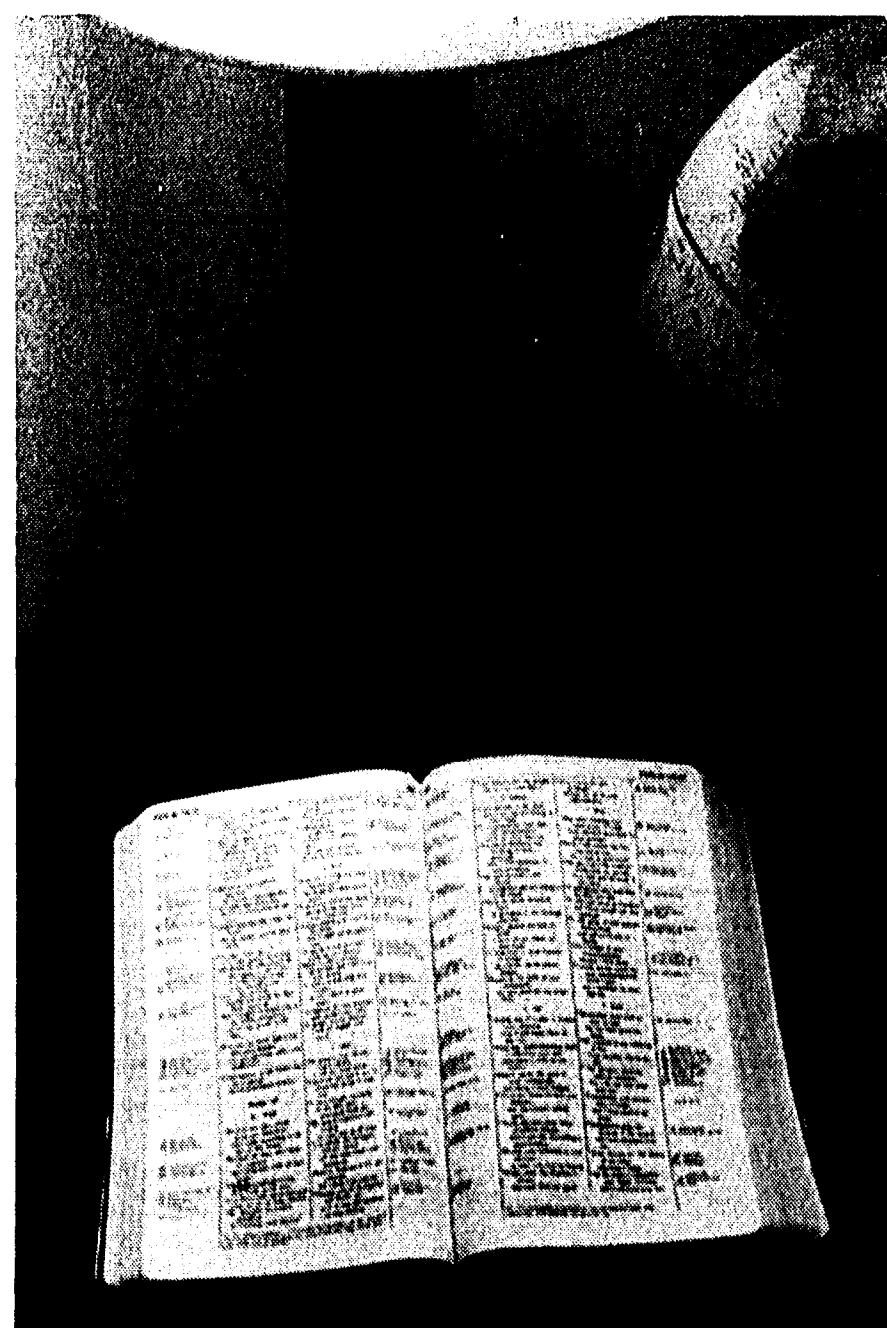
We covenant and agree to take the **Bible** as the only guide to our faith and practice, striving to fashion our lives according to its holy precepts.

We take it as essential to read and seek to understand the Bible, the inspired Word of God, and to follow its teachings. We accept it as the final authority in matters of faith and practice, with Jesus Christ as the supreme interpreter of God's will. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, ...full of grace and truth" in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

*Christianity is not a mere book religion, but a life religion. It centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and the Scriptures are its servant, not its source. If there were no Bible, Christ would still be what He is. The*

*Old Testament came into existence because of the revelation through inspired men of all that was preparatory to the coming of Christ, and the New Testament came because of Christ Himself. Both are records, written by inspired men, showing God's dealings with them, and revealing His will for them, which culminated in Christ. The Bible was inspired, written, and preserved that we might know God through Christ.*

—SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST BELIEFS:  
A MANUAL FOR STUDY



**A lamp to our feet and a light for our path. The Bible reveals the Lord to us, that we might reveal Him to the world.**

**Inspiration** may include:

1. Revelation—Ezekiel 1:3; Revelation 1:11; Ephesians 3:1-7
2. Dictation—Exodus 20:1,22; Revelation 14:13
3. Supervision—Ephesians 2:20; Colossians 2:6,7; 2 Peter 1:21
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5. Combination of above—Jeremiah 36:2; 2 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 22:18

*Inspiration is that activity of the Holy Spirit which enables us to discern or express truth which the unaided mind could not accomplish.*  
—Rev. Loyal F. Hurley

**Point of View**

To follow the Bible requires an honest, open dedication to study—both individual and corporate. It is essential that one be filled with the Spirit to understand what the Spirit has inspired to be written.

We are reluctant to give inspired status to anything outside of the Bible. Coupled with our belief that all humans are subject to error and that God leads individuals in their understanding and relationship to Him, we avoid requirements to subscribe to man-made statements like creeds or tests of orthodoxy. We encourage all men and women to study God's Word prayerfully and carefully. Their decisions should then be made in accordance with the understanding God reveals to them. This personal accountability before God can strengthen each individual in doctrine and behavior and actually result in a life of fellowship and harmony with God.

*"...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11b*

**In Sabbath School or in personal study, God's Word takes precedence. He expects us to study and live according to His inspired record.**





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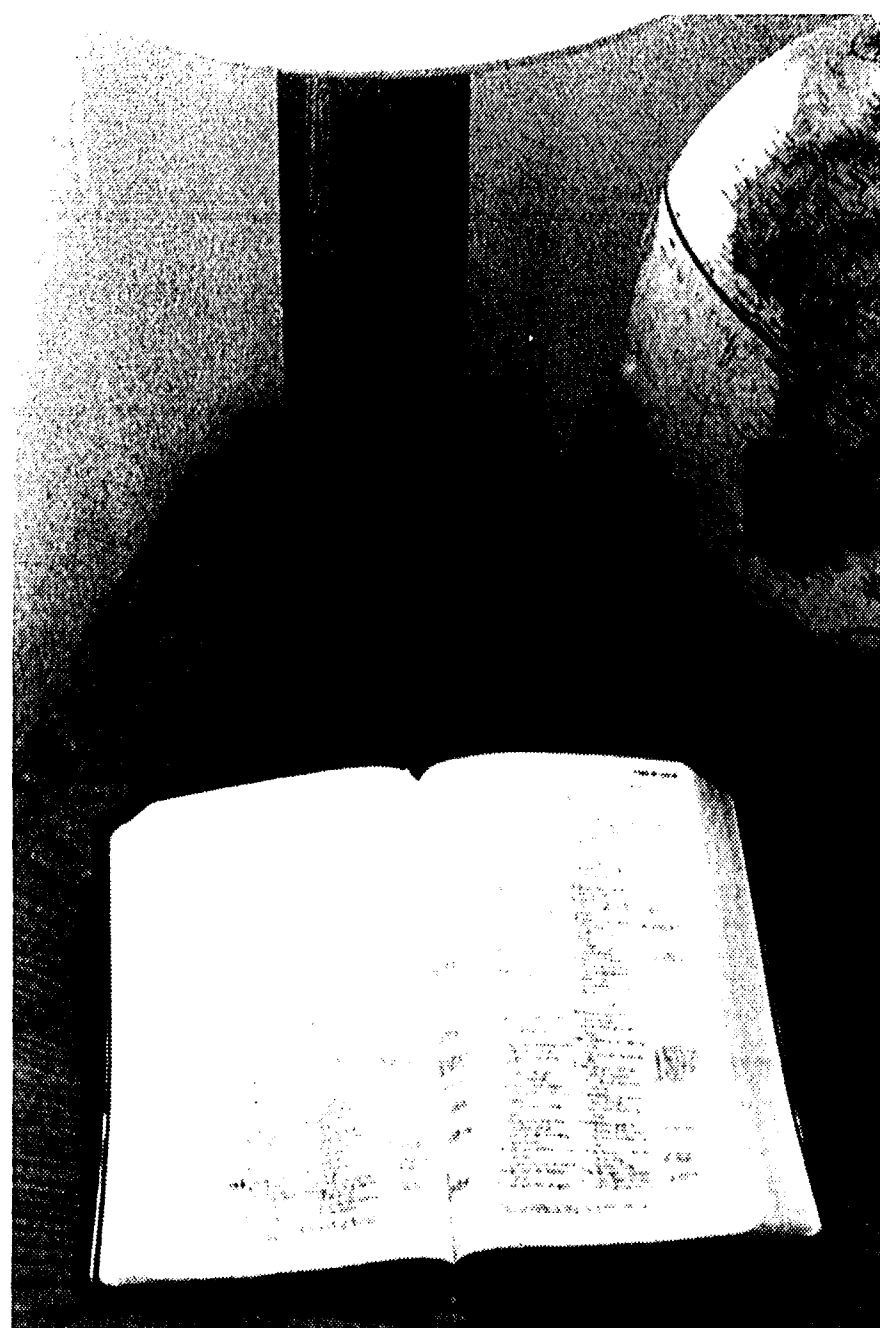
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**Covenant**, as used in the church, shows forth the concern we have and the commitment that we are willing to make, under God's grace, in our relationships with each other.

## A Covenant People

The church covenant usually involves four areas:

1. Commitment to God—Matthew 22:36-38; Mark 8:34-38
2. Commitment to principles—John 5:39; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 15:4
3. Commitment to each other—John 13:34,35; Colossians 3:13-16; Galatians 6:2
4. Commitment to the congregation—Matthew 6:12-15; Hebrews 10:24,25; Romans 15:5

### The Life of a Christian

In Titus 2:11,12 we read, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."

### Live Soberly

Turn and deal openly and effectively with the tendency to sin. Receive Christ and believe God when He says He will forgive. Receive the criticisms and pains of life and grow thereby. Live as good stewards, using all things that He gives to His honor and glory.

### Live Righteously

Turn and love as God loves. See the best in yourself and those about you. Get into action and live and help others to live. Relate your faith to those about you and let not the sun go down on your upset condition in a troubled world.

### Live Godly

Turn your life over to God, accepting not glory to self. Glorify God rather than people. Turn in obedience to God, striving always to do His will.

**Seventh Day Baptists are a covenant people.** That is, a solemn agreement, entered into by a number of people before God, is the basic foundation of the local church. To be without a covenant is to be without a church. Therefore, the covenant of a Seventh Day Baptist church is a carefully worded document which states the responsibilities of members and their purpose for joining together as a congregation. It is essential that care be taken to make the covenant a meaningful assertion of individual and corporate responsibility to which members may conscientiously subscribe.

—A Manual of Procedures for  
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCHES

Though we are strangers and pilgrims on earth (Hebrews 11:13), as a covenant people we are no longer strangers to one another (Ephesians 2:19-22), but are friends (John 15:13,14).

### Point of View

A people gathered by a common covenant between themselves and God are united in a commitment which is stronger than the ties of many of earth's other organizations. A covenant unites us in a common purpose and with a love for each other that sees beyond externals or identical beliefs and opinions. The covenant means we agree to share each other's joys and sorrows, our needs and problems as well as our blessings and strengths, and are united to share the love we have found in Christ and in each other with his needy world.

### A Friend

A friend! Dear Father, what is a friend?  
Another soul—a kindred mind,  
One who loves you—in your presence finds  
Joy and contentment—peace of mind.

A friend! Dear Father, make me a friend  
To the souls that on Thee call,  
The meek and lowly, the bond and free,  
And to Jesus the Friend of all.

A Friend! My greatest desire in life  
Is that Thou shouldst say of me:  
"She has been a friend to all of these;  
Yes, she has been a friend to me."

—May Rathbun



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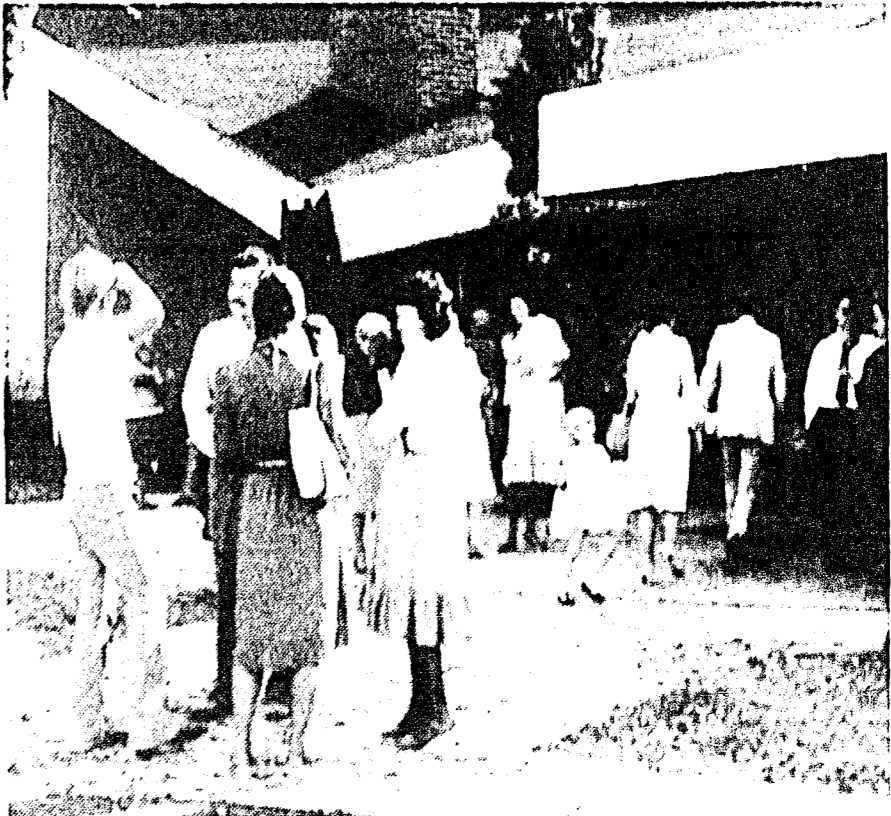


### A Congregation of Equals

The right of the individual to approach God with no other mediator than Jesus Christ, the responsibility of each Christian to counsel with and intercede for others, and the concept that we are all priests are all confirmed by the Scriptures. Seventh Day Baptists have adhered to these beliefs for over 300 years, and they have shaped our polity. This conviction has led local congregations to struggle for freedom from any form of coercion other than the inner coercion of the Holy Spirit. The concept of the priesthood of all believers has been the basis of both local church autonomy and the associational principle.

The local Seventh Day Baptist church is autonomous; it accepts programs and procedures through prayer and dedicated labor under the Spirit's guidance. The congregation is responsible for adequate organization. It is responsible, not to an organization nor to a man, but to God. It is **He** to whom the church reports, and it is **He** who judges the worth of the church.

From our largest churches to our smallest fellowships, each member has a voice, a vote, and equal standing before God.





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### Equality Before God

The simplest congregation—Matthew 18:19,20

Each member gifted for ministry—Romans 12:3-13

Everyone included in God's family—Ephesians 2:18-22

Importance of assembling together—Hebrews 10:23-25

Each member a living stone—1 Peter 2:4-9

Everyone a king and priest—Revelation 1:6

Everyone taught of God—1 John 2:27

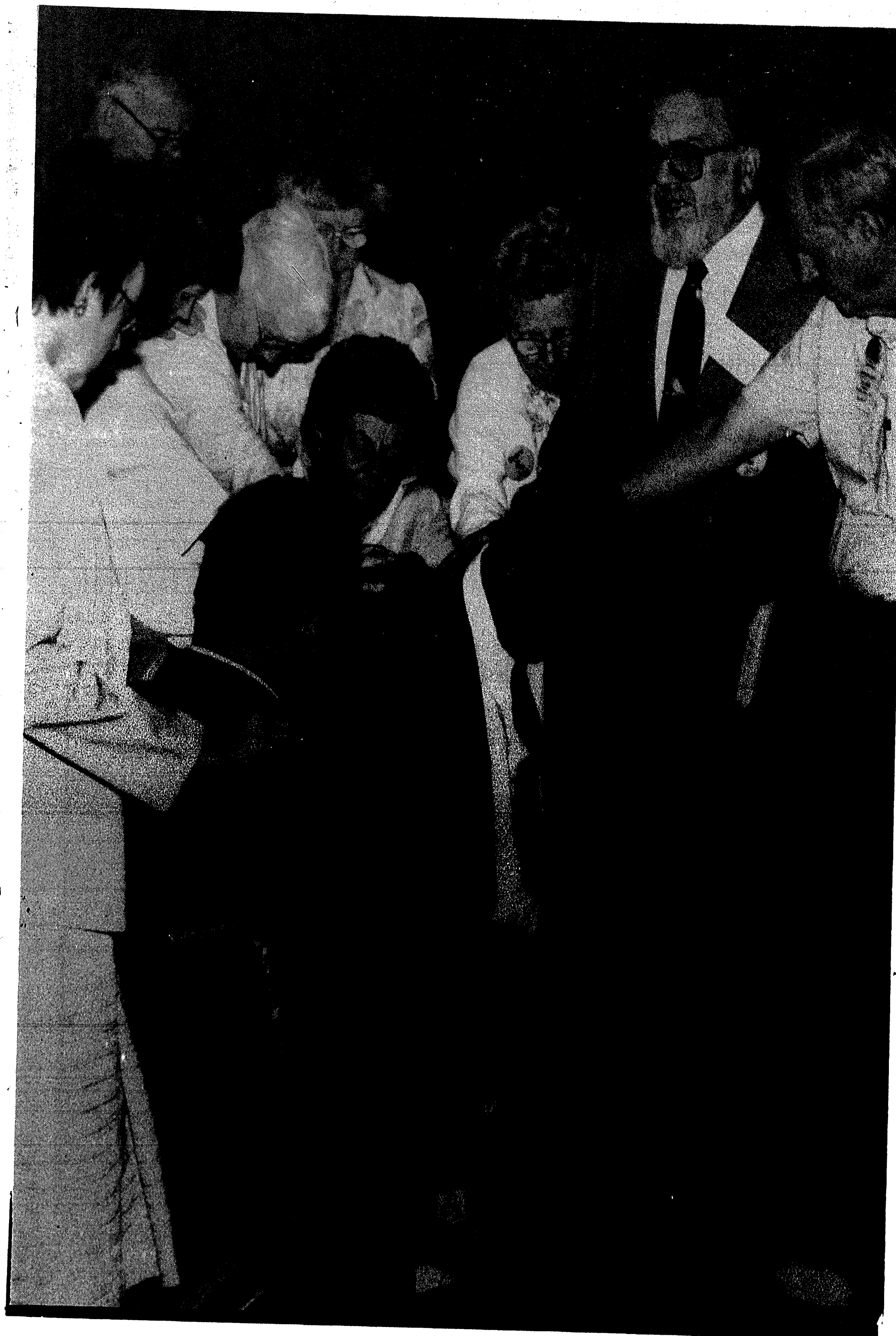
One Father and one Lord—Matthew 23:9,10

### Point of View

The Bible teaches that some are called to be leaders of churches, but the leaders of the church follow our Master's example—they come not dominating others with authority but as humble servants (Matthew 20:25-28). Jesus washed his disciples' feet (John 13) as a symbol of the kind of equality he calls us to—not demanding "equal rights" but humbling ourselves and pledging our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thus, whether pastoral leaders, elected officers, or participants of the congregation, members humbly assume responsibility for their own actions but do not demand rights or impose authority on others.

*Seventh Day Baptists believe that the church is a local congregation. That is to say that the people who gather together in a fellowship in Christ are the church. It is proper to think of it as an association of individuals led by God's Spirit to unite for mission in the name of Jesus Christ. Baptized believers, joined by covenant, become the church through which God speaks to his world. Such a congregation is an assembly of equals: each voice may be heard, each life bears its influence. Some may be set apart to special tasks by ordination, but this does not confer special sanctity or special class. Some may be elected officers of the group, but this does not give them authority to rule. **The congregation is a gathering of equals.***

—A Manual of Procedures For SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCHES





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

—SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST BELIEFS

## Individualism

We have, *as individuals*, each been given a unique combination of gifts and talents. We may serve different functions within the church body but still must meet God *as individuals*. We are, *as individuals*, each accountable before God for the proper use of our gifts, talents, and capabilities. We have, *as individuals*, each been given the Holy Spirit to lead us into truth.

There is a hazard here—if we turn inward and keep the talents unto ourselves, we lose them. Our personal growth in God's creation depends upon each of us being an active part of that creation. We cannot let another person use our talents for us. We must do as expressed in Phillips' translation of Ephesians 5:15: "Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do."

What Jesus left behind him was not an organized society with constitution and rules; nor was it a book which he had written for the guidance of the disciples. It was a group of disciples united to one another by their common allegiance to him. It was a living, dynamic, praying fellowship, united in Christ.

### I'm Glad to Know

*I'm glad to know though on earth  
We seldom meet,  
Yet we do know dear fellowship  
At Jesus' feet.*

*I'm glad to know in all the work  
You have to do,  
That even I by prayer to God,  
May help you, too.*

*I'm glad to know that when you  
Bow at Jesus' feet  
E'en as I pray for you, you pray for me  
And thus we meet.*

—May Mackintosh

## Unified in Christ

Children of God—Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1-3

Children known by name—John 10:3,14

His people known intimately—Psalm 139:1-6

God to be known personally—John 14:6,7; 17:3

Partakers of the divine nature—2 Peter 1:3-9

God unprejudiced—Acts 10:34,35; Galatians 2:6

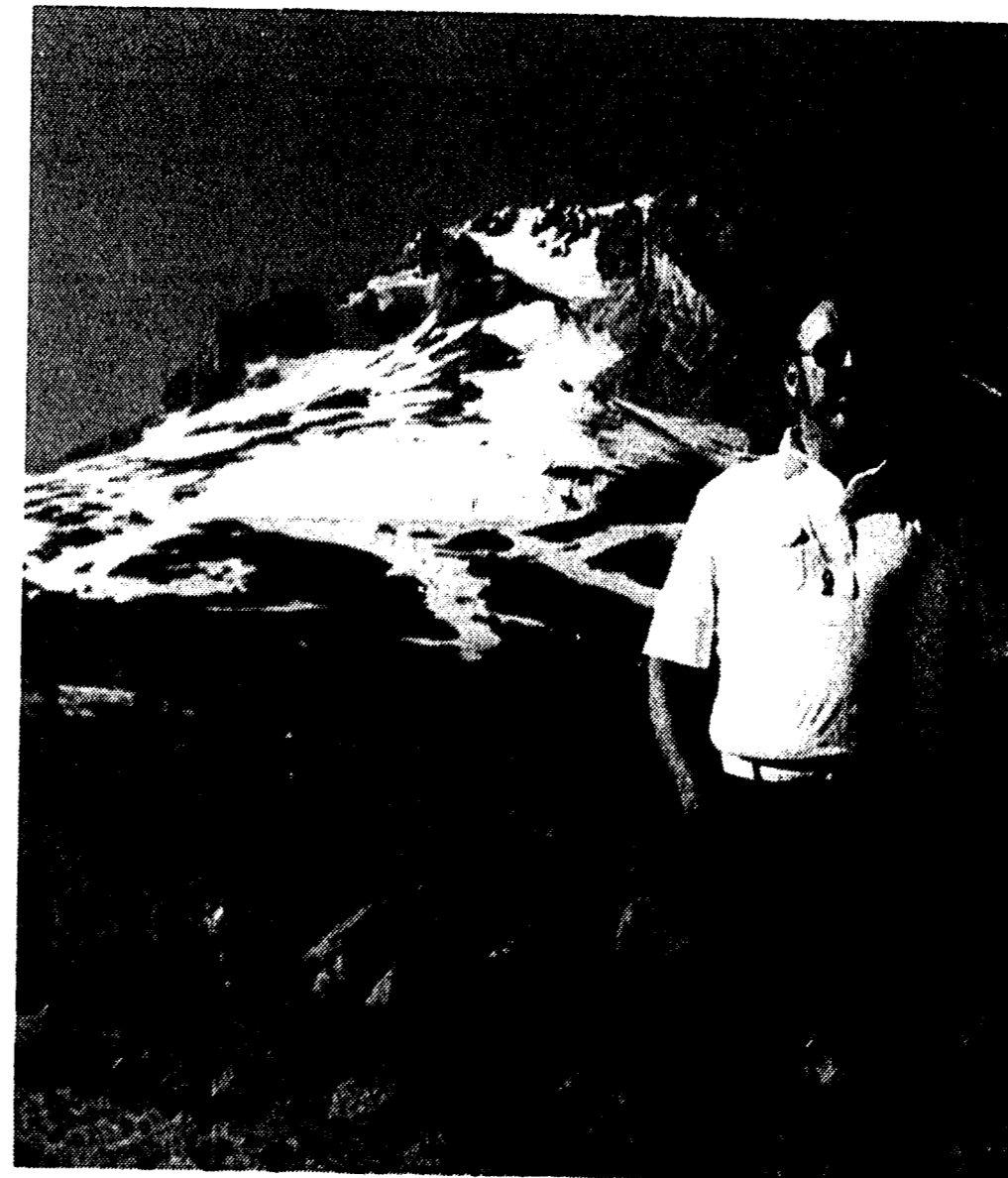
Open-door policy—Mark 8:34-38; John 3:16

Service-oriented ministry—Mark 10:43,44; Galatians 6:1-5

Diversity of gifts with unity of purpose—Romans 12:5-8; Ephesians 4:11-13

## Point of View

Standing firm in this distinctive, we stress the worth of each person on earth, our responsibility before God, as well as the privilege and liberty in conscience. We have found a fellowship of love for and with others, based not on agreements or conformity, but structured around an appreciation of God's love for all and our common fellowship as individual members of his family. This fellowship of love places restraints on individualism as seen in John 17:26 and 2 Corinthians 5:14.



**Away from the congregation, yet hardly alone. We meet God as individuals; He empowers us to better serve His people and kingdom.**





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

## Baptism and Communion

"Baptism is received after a person declares belief in God through Jesus Christ. We believe that baptism by immersion (entering into the water until the body is completely covered) is the form that best symbolizes the believer's complete dedication, or devotion, to the cause of Christ."  
 —YOU AND YOUR CHURCH

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

In the observance of the Lord's Supper, we tend to prefer simplicity and have developed no standard forms nor times for the event. The service is carried out with quiet examination of our lives and thankfulness for the forgiveness expressed in the words, "This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Then with renewed trust in the coming of the Kingdom of God, we listen to the words, "Till he come."

By taking Christ, the Bread of Life, into our lives and hearts we can become **one in him**, we can have the **love of Christ**, we can be of **one spirit**, and we can have an abiding **love** for each other.

Signifying our death to sin (facing page) we rise from the waters, cleansed and ready for a new life in the Lord. The communion elements remind us of Jesus' great sacrifice.





We fulfill all righteousness by doing the Father's will, as expressed in this hymn by Samuel Frederik Coffman:

### **We Bless the Name of Christ, the Lord**

*We bless the name of Christ, the Lord,  
We bless Him for His Holy Word,  
Who loved to do His Father's will  
And all His righteousness fulfill.*

*We follow Him with pure delight  
To sanctify His sacred rite;  
and thus our faith with water seal  
To prove obedience that we feel.*

*Baptized in God—the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit—Three in One,  
With conscience free, we rest in God,  
In love and peace, through Jesus' blood.*

*By grace we "Abba, Father," cry;  
By grace the Comforter comes nigh;  
And for Thy grace our love shall be  
Forever, only, Lord, for Thee.*

### **Buried—Raised—United with Christ**

Righteousness fulfilled—Matthew 3:13-15  
Baptism of John and Jesus—John 1:25-34; 3:23-30  
Our commission to baptize—Matthew 28:19,20  
Importance of baptism—Mark 16:16  
Repentance and baptism—Acts 2:38-41  
Baptism into His death—Romans 6:3-8  
The body and blood of Jesus—Matthew 26:26-30;  
Luke 22:17-20  
The true bread of life—John 6:51-55  
The cup and the loaf—1 Corinthians 10:16,17  
A memorial of Christ—1 Corinthians 11:23-34

### **Point of View**

In the baptismal service there are two basic essentials:

1. The recognition by those approving the baptismal service that they believe here are persons who are ready to be loyal members of God's Family.
2. A public demonstration by the person baptized that Jesus Christ has been welcomed into their lives as Lord and Savior.

Baptism is a symbolic testimony that the one baptized has repented, the past life is buried and a new life is started, dedicated unto God and Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Supper, an outgrowth of the Passover, reminds us that the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, shed on Calvary, makes atonement for our sins. As often as we partake of the symbols of his body and blood, we express our faith in his saving grace and our continuing desire to have the Spirit of Christ indwelling and empowering us.





Seventh Day Baptists observe the seventh day, that is from sunset Friday until sunset Saturday, as the **Sabbath**, simply because they love God and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of the **Sabbath**, and desire to obey His will as expressed in the Commandments. "If ye love me, keep my commandments...."

## The Sabbath

Therefore, we believe that it was the pre-incarnate Christ who, as the Word, created all things, and consequently He it was who rested on the first seventh day from the work of Creation, who blessed and sanctified it, and so to us it is in the deepest sense the Christian **Sabbath**, the only day of the week of which the incarnate Son of God claimed to be Lord, and therefore, to us the true Lord's Day.  
—Rev. James McGeachy

Like a rudder to a ship is the **Sabbath** in the life of every Christian who devotes its sacred hours to God. To hold one steady to the Christian course; to direct our perilous way amid the storms of life; to bring us back to the chartered path if a sudden tempest has driven us aside; all this, and more, can the **Sabbath** do for any conscientious observer of the holy day...

The Eternal Christ knew Eternal Purpose!  
"Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" "The Sabbath was made for man." That takes us all in. Let no one call Jesus, Lord, unless willing to accept His authority. He has given the authority of His sanction to the **Sabbath** which He always kept. And in reverence and love may all men hallow the **Sabbath** on the authority of Him who is Lord even of the **Sabbath Day!**  
—Rev. Loyal F. Hurley

Away from stormy seas  
our weekly port of call:  
the Sabbath gift from God above—  
safe harbor for us all.



## Following in the footsteps of Jesus

The Sabbath created—Genesis 2:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2  
The Sabbath remembered—Exodus 20:8-11  
The Sabbath a delight—Isaiah 58:13,14  
The custom of Jesus—Luke 4:16  
Lord of the Sabbath—Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:27,28  
Lawful Sabbath activity—Matthew 12:9-13  
Deliverance from bondage—Luke 13:14-16  
Loving obedience—John 15:9-14; 1 John 5:1-3  
Righteousness fulfilled—Matthew 5:17-20  
Eternal Sabbath rest promised—Hebrews 4:4, 9-11

### More Like Jesus

*I want to be more like Jesus,  
And follow Him day by day;  
I want to be true and faithful,  
And every command obey.*

*I want to be kind and gentle,  
To those who are in distress;  
To comfort the brokenhearted,  
With sweet words of tenderness.*

*I want to be meek and lowly,  
Like Jesus, our Friend and King;  
I want to be strong and earnest,  
And souls to the Savior bring.*

*I want to be pure and holy,  
As pure as the crystal snow;  
I want to love Jesus dearly,  
For Jesus loves me I know.*

### Point of View

Today's world needs a "North Star" principle even as mariners of an earlier time guided their ships by the fixed stars at night.

The Ten Commandments are God's fixed moral law for all people for all time, including His unchanging weekly cycle of six days for work and service, followed by the seventh day Sabbath for commitment to Him.

J. M. Stillman,  
**WE GLORIFY THY NAME**



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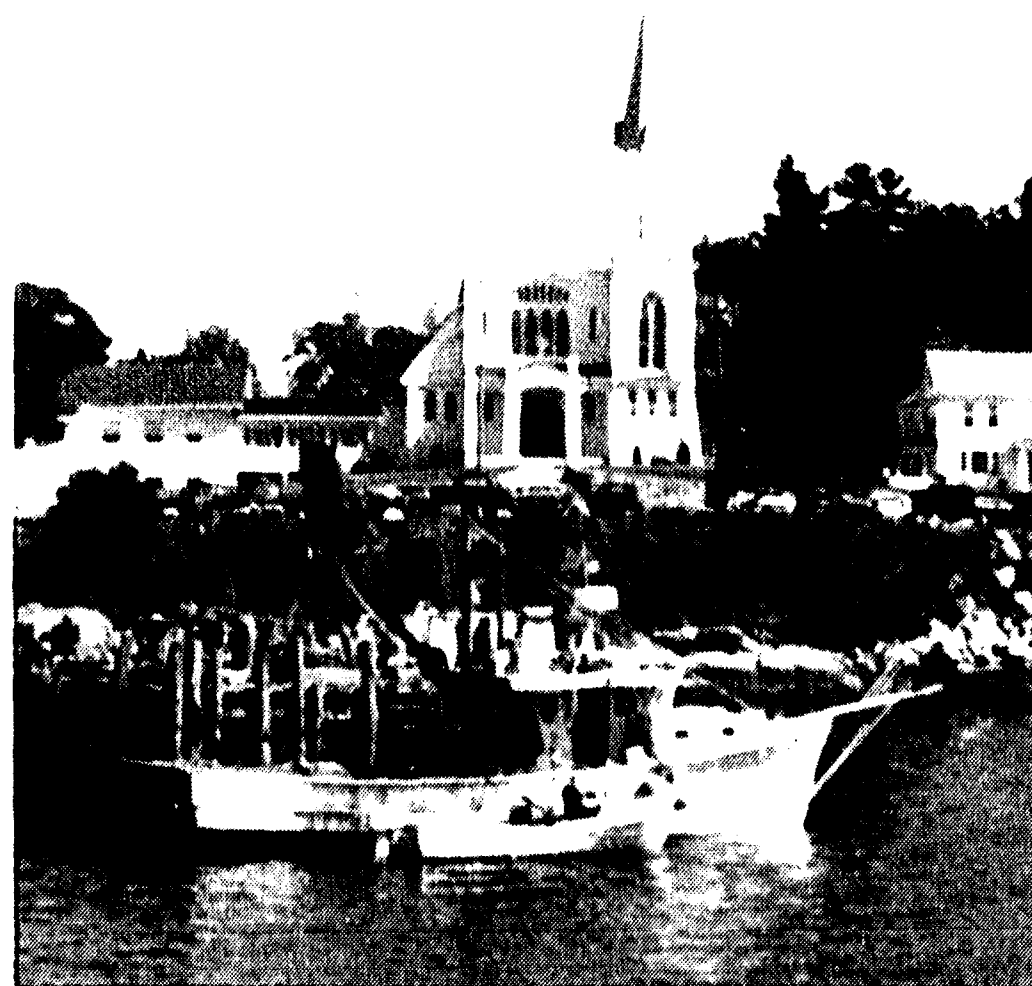
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*Church and state have separate reasons for being; they have particular interests; they have distinct methods and must have separate and distinct administrations.*

## Involved But Separate

In the question of "Separation of Church and State," we would maintain the broadest sense of "separation" that can be conceived, lest there come an entering wedge leading to the very destruction of the principle. We would make clear that "separation" is not aimed against any religion, race, or government, but rather on the foundation principle of "love." Church and state have separate reasons for being; they have particular interests; they have distinct methods and must have separate and distinct administrations.

### Citizens of God's Kingdom

His kingdom not of this world—John 18:36,37

Strangers and pilgrims here—John 17:14-18; Hebrews 11:13-16

God's kingdom—Matthew 6:10

Submission to civil authorities—1 Peter 2:11-15; Titus 3:1

A question of tribute—Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17

Prayer for those in authority—1 Timothy 2:1-3

The highest authority—Acts 4:13-21

Conflicting commands—Acts 5:27-32

In this country we have supported the First Amendment to the Constitution; supported the struggle against slavery; stood firm for liberty of conscience in religious matters, supporting those who opposed government decrees on religious grounds even though not always agreeing with them as individuals. We recognize that such involvement requires education.

Education can increase our appreciation of the glories of God's creation; provide us with tools of communication in our Christian witness; enable us to contribute to easing the problems of humanity around us; provide more efficiently for the needs of our families and free us to give more of our time to working specifically as priests and leaders in God's family here on earth.

*One of the duties of the Christian Church is to speak to the people of our day about the responsibility each of us has to the moral situations around us. We may not be called to speak a prophetic voice to the head of the government as Jeremiah was to kings that governed his nation during his lifetime. I believe at this time that God wants the Church to become a purified and living example of his kind of people.*

—The Helping Hand, Fall 1974

**As this great bell rang out for liberty  
in this country, so we speak out for  
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One must live by the highway of life;  
One must build his house near the pressing throng,  
In a world that is weary with strife.*

*But I must go up to my hilltop again,  
One can stay in the valley too long,  
It's so easy to lose the whispers of peace,  
And grow deaf to the angels' song.*

*So I must go up to my hilltop again,  
For a grasp of the Spirit-hand,  
If I am to live by the highway of life,  
And make it God's heavenly land.*

### A Family of Trained Teachers and leaders

Jesus' learning experience—Luke 2:40,52; Hebrews 5:8  
A new method of teaching—Hebrews 8:10-12  
Our own personal teacher—John 14:15-17,25,26; Hebrews 10:15-22  
Key to spiritual discernment—1 Corinthians 2:13,14  
Our commission to teach—Matthew 28:20  
Leaders and teachers (kings and priests)—1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10  
Incentive to study diligently—2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 1:3-5

### Point of View

All activity needs to be approached with the positive faith and trust in Father God which Jesus Christ consistently displayed. With his approach, one becomes active in the world, but not of the world.

We have recognized that there is a place for responsible government and that people must share in establishing it where they live. However, through the centuries we have known the experience of suffering for not conforming to a governmental state which tried to dictate religious views and practices. We have always stood for liberty of conscience and separation of church and state. This is based on the principle that Peter set forth in Acts 5:29.

## Statement of Belief of Seventh Day Baptists

### Introduction

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

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

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

### God

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

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

### The Father

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

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

### The Son

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

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

### The Holy Spirit

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

John 14:16; 3:5-8; 14:17; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:7-11.

### The Bible

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

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

### Mankind

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

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

### Sin and Salvation

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

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

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

### Eternal Life

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

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

### The Church

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

We believe that the church of God is all believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and joined into one body, of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the local church is a community of believers organized in covenant

relationship for worship, fellowship and service, practicing and proclaiming common convictions, while growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

### Baptism

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

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

### The Lord's Supper

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

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

### Sabbath

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 16:23-30; Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42-44; 16:11-13; 17:2-3; 18:4-11; Ezekiel 20:19-20; Hebrews 4:9-10; John 14:15; Isaiah 58:13-14; Luke 23:56.

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

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

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

### Evangelism

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

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



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

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

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

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### The Bible

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

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### Eternal Life

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

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

### The Church

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

We believe that the church of God is all believers gathered by the Holy Spirit and joined into one body, of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the local church is a community of believers organized in covenant

relationship for worship, fellowship and service, practicing and proclaiming common convictions, while growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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

### Baptism

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

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

### The Lord's Supper

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

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

### Sabbath

Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 16:23, 30; Exodus 20:8, 11; Matthew 5:17, 19; Mark 2:27, 28; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42, 44, 16:11, 13, 17:2, 3, 18:4, 11; Ezekiel 20:19, 20; Hebrews 4:9, 10; John 14:15; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Luke 23:56.

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

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

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

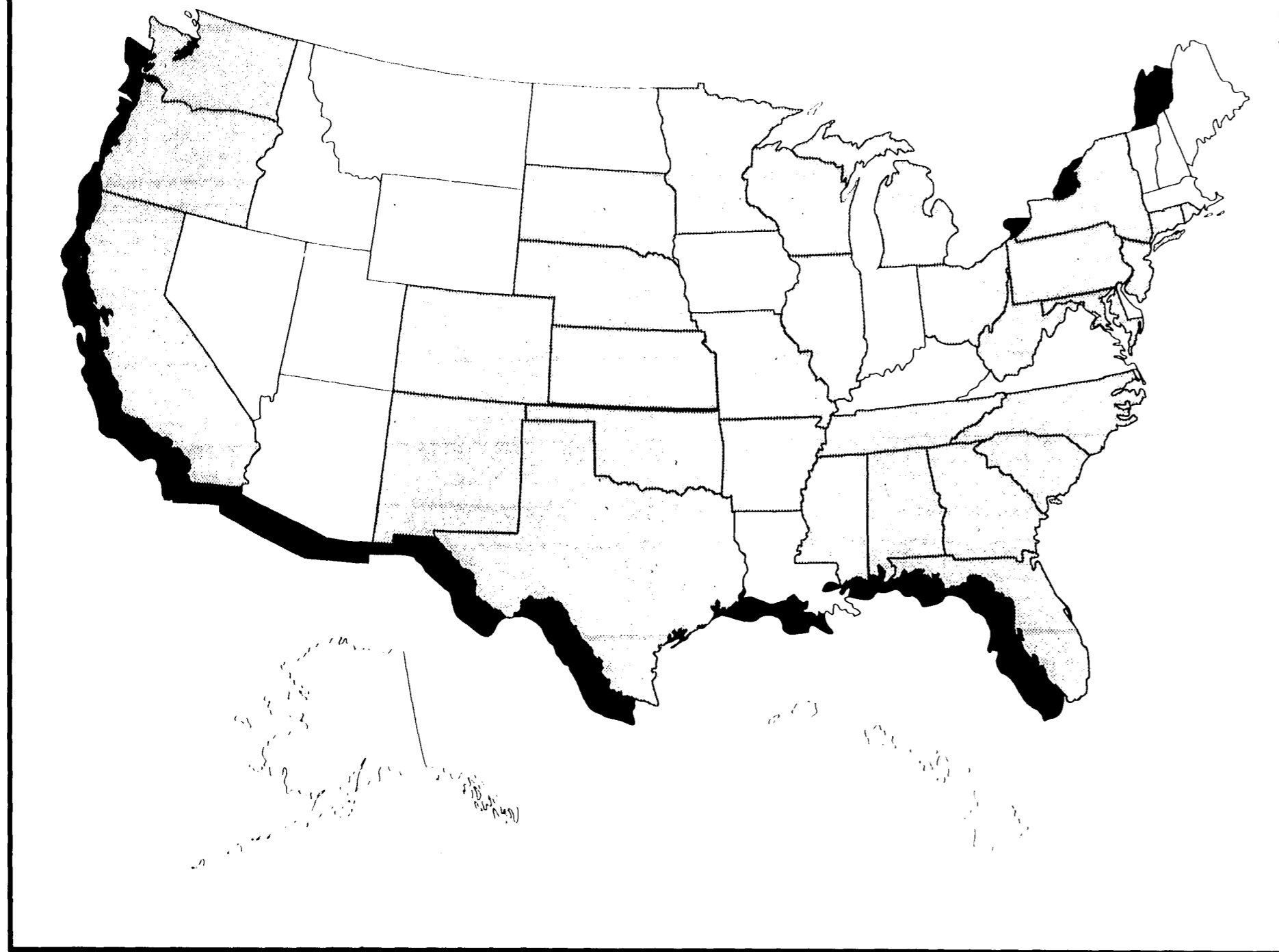
### Evangelism

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

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



## Seventh Day Baptist churches and groups



**ALABAMA**  
Paint Rock, Paint Rock SDB Church

**ARKANSAS**  
Fouke, Fouke SDB Church  
Little Rock, Little Rock SDB Church  
Texarkana, Texarkana SDB Church

**CALIFORNIA**  
El Cerrito, Bay Area SDB Church  
Lake Elsinore, Evangelical SDB Church  
Los Angeles, Los Angeles SDB Church  
Carson, All Nations SDB Church  
La Cañada, Foothills SDB Church  
Lenox, S.W. Los Angeles SDB Church  
Highland Park, Primera Iglesia Hispana

Riverside, Riverside SDB Church  
San Diego, San Diego SDB Church  
San Gabriel Valley, SDB Church of Faith  
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara SDB Church

**COLORADO**  
Boulder, Boulder SDB Church  
Denver, Denver SDB Church

**CONNECTICUT**  
Middletown, Pine Street Gospel Chapel

Waterford, Waterford SDB Church

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
Washington DC, Washington SDB Church

**FLORIDA**  
Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach SDB Church  
Bradenton, Bradenton SDB Church

Palatka, First SDB Church of Putnam County  
Miami, Miami SDB Church

**GEORGIA**  
Atlanta, Metro-Atlanta SDB Church

**ILLINOIS**  
Stonefort, Old Stonefort SDB Church

**KANSAS**  
Nortonville, Nortonville SDB Church

**MARYLAND**  
Upper Marlboro, Central SDB Church

**MICHIGAN**  
Battle Creek, Battle Creek SDB Church

White Cloud, White Cloud SDB Church

**MINNESOTA**  
Dodge Center, Dodge Center SDB Church

**MISSISSIPPI**  
Chatawa, Sunshine Mountain SDB Church

**MISSOURI**  
Centertown, Central Missouri SDB Church

Doniphan, Naylor SDB Church  
Kirkwood, Kirkwood SDB Church

**NEBRASKA**  
North Loup, North Loup SDB Church

**NEW JERSEY**  
Marlboro, Marlboro SDB Church  
Plainfield, Plainfield SDB Church of Christ

Raritan Valley, Raritan Valley SDB Church  
Shiloh, Shiloh SDB Church

**NEW MEXICO**  
Albuquerque, Albuquerque SDB Fellowship

**NEW YORK**  
Adams Center, Adams Center SDB Church

Alfred, First SDB Church of Alfred  
Alfred Station, Alfred Station SDB Church

Brookfield, SDB Church of Brookfield-Leonardsville  
Berlin, Berlin SDB Church  
Little Genesee, First SDB Church of Genesee

New York, New York City SDB Church  
Richburg, Richburg SDB Church  
Schenectady, Schenectady SDB Church

Verona, Verona SDB Church

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Hendersonville, Berean SDB Church

**OHIO**  
Columbus, First SDB Church of Columbus

**OKLAHOMA**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City SDB Church

**OREGON**  
Portland, Portland Area SDB Church

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Hebron, First SDB Church of Hebron  
Philadelphia, Hope SDB Church  
Salemville, Bell SDB Church of Salemville

**RHODE ISLAND**  
Ashaway, First SDB Church of Hopkinton  
Rockville, Rockville SDB Church  
Westerly, Pawcatuck SDB Church

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Aiken, Aiken SDB Church  
Charleston, Low Country Christian SDB Church

**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
Rapid City, Black Hills SDB Church

**TENNESSEE**  
Memphis, Christ SDB Church  
Blountville, First SDB Church of Upper East Tennessee

**TEXAS**  
Austin, Austin SDB Church  
Dallas/Ft. Worth, Dallas/Ft. Worth SDB Church  
Houston, Beth-El SDB Church

Houston, First SDB Church of Houston  
Lakeside City, First SDB Church  
Lubbock, Lubbock SDB Church

**WASHINGTON**  
Centralia, Centralia SDB Church  
Seattle, Seattle Area SDB Church

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
Lost Creek, Lost Creek SDB Church

Middle Island, SDB Church at Middle Island  
Salem, Salem SDB Church

**WISCONSIN**  
Albion, SDB Church of Albion  
Bruce, Imalone Fellowship  
Madison, Madison SDB Church  
Milwaukee, Milwaukee SDB Church

Milton, Milton SDB Church  
New Auburn, New Auburn SDB Church  
Walworth, Walworth SDB Church

**ONTARIO, CANADA**  
Toronto, First Toronto SDB Church

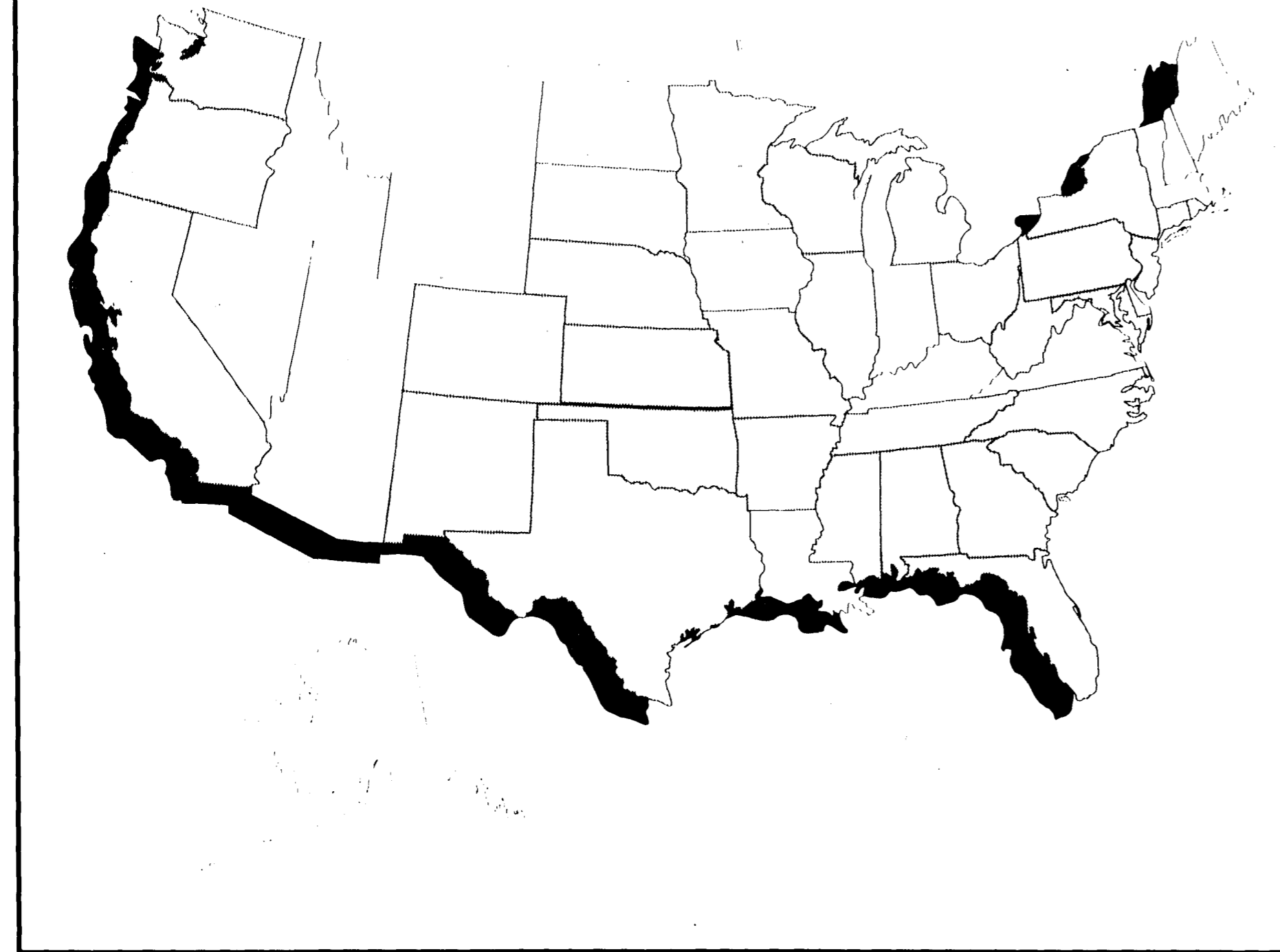
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**Houston**, First SDB Church of Houston

**Lakeside City**, First SDB Church

**Lubbock**, Lubbock SDB Church

### WASHINGTON

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**Milton**, Milton SDB Church

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**Walworth**, Walworth SDB Church

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**Toronto**, First Toronto SDB Church

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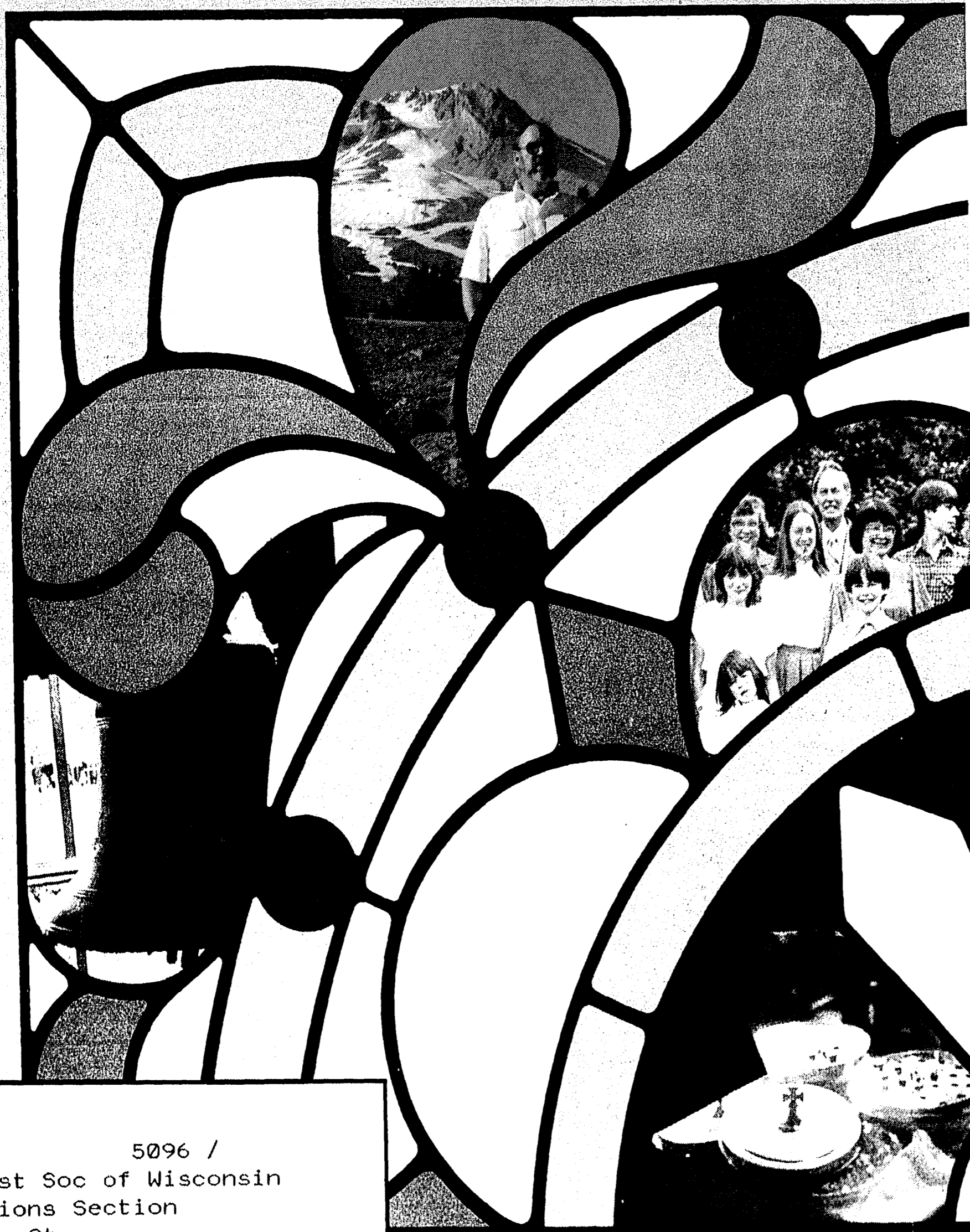
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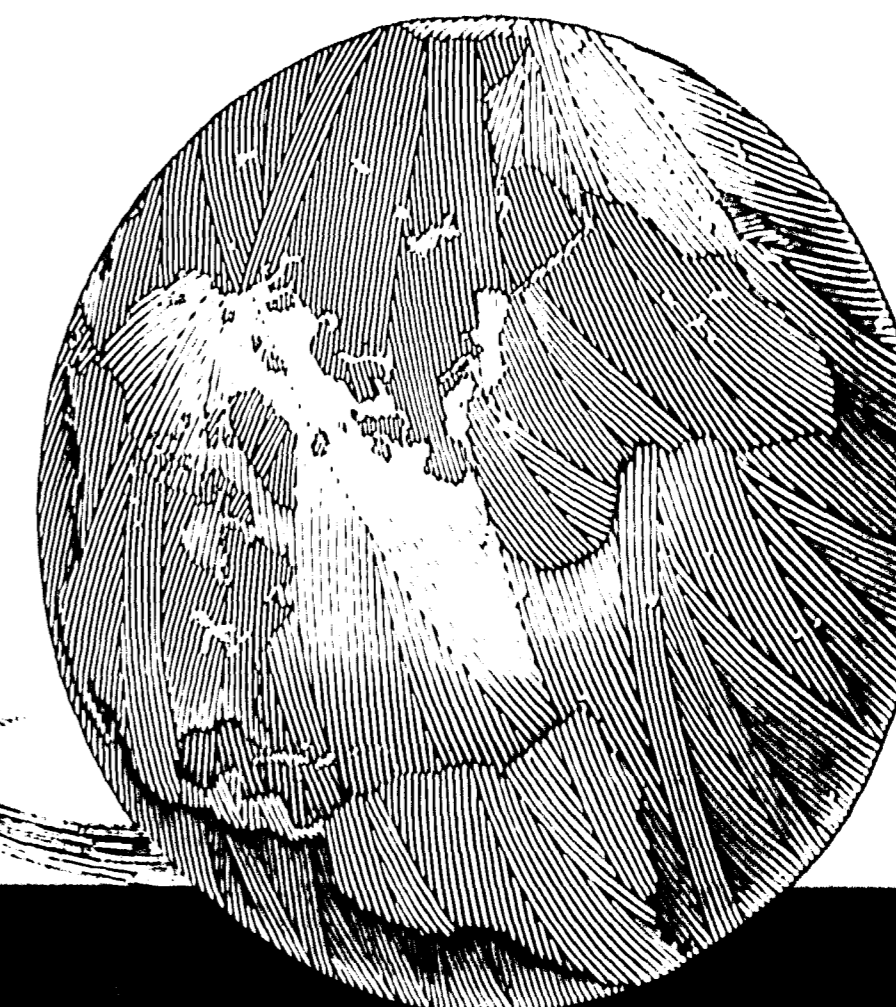
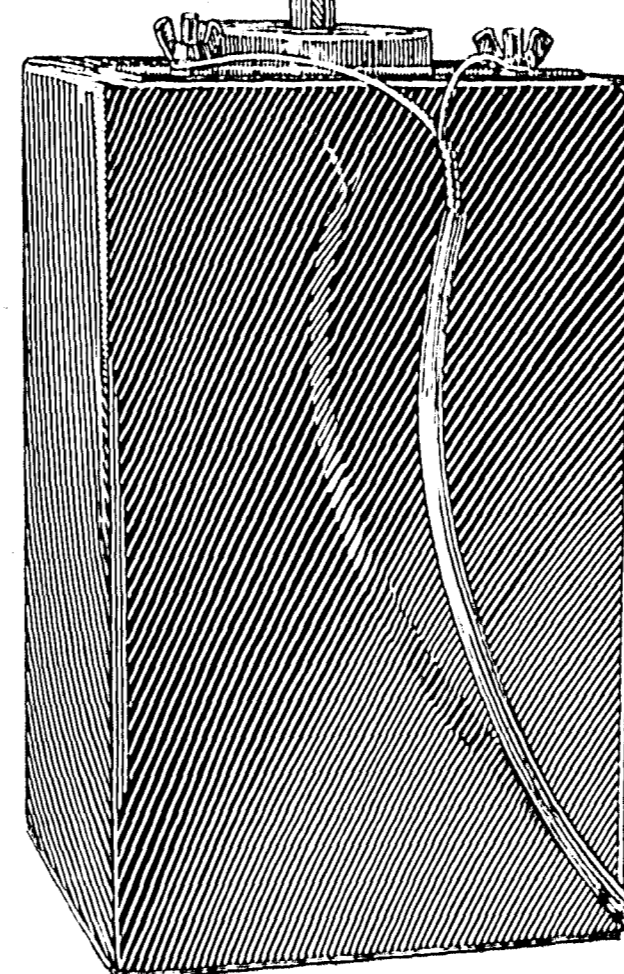
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News for and about  
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## The Environment

What on earth  
are we doing?