HOPE OF THE WORLD
Georgia Harkness

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great Compassion,
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God’s gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let Thy spirit unto us be given
To heal earth’s wounds and end her bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
Showing to wandering souls the path of light;
Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways
Lure us away from Thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt;
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us;
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

Hope of the world, 0 Christ, o’er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to Thy gospel glorious;
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

The above hymn won first place among 500 entries in a contest sponsored by the Hymn Society of America. The purpose of the contest was to recognize the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches. This prayer hymn can be sung to the tune “Ancient of Days” or “Donne Secours.”
Fire on the Altar

The story is told of a church that was burning. The anguish hurt notice an unbeliever watching the blaze with undisguised interest. Somewhat bitterly he remarked, "It is the first time I ever saw you taking an interest in the church." The equally cutting reply was, "This is the first time I ever saw the church on fire.

At the contest at Carmel a vast throng stood by all day waiting to see some fire on the altar. People of Israel who knew how the forefathers had been led by a pillar of fire were now waiting for the Baal god to kindle a fire on a heathen altar, and some of their leaders were among those false prophets. Still Israel was the recognized people of God, and it was to win them back to God that Elijah had proposed the answer by fire.

We now know how not many of those present were like Christians behind the iron (alloyed with atheism) curtain secretly confident of the triumph of the true prophet. We are told a little later that Elijah was mistaken when he thought he stood alone, for there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal.

Fire on the altar was what the congregation waited vainly to see through the long hours of blistering sun in that dry and thirsty land. At eventide the true prophet repaired the broken-down altar, and after drenching it with water to remove all possibilities of human deception called down fire from heaven.

It is always glorious to see fire on the altar even when the issues are not as sharp as those of 1 Kings 18. There are other fires besides the heaven-cracking altar fire which include the sin-denouncing sermons of evangelists like Elijah and John the Baptist.

Quenchable, we know, are the fires reserved for the wandering prophet. Unquenchable is the flame of truth kindled from torch to torch through countless generations of the children of faith. Every succeeding ages remembers that torch as a fire upon his own altar.

Fires of persecution licking at the foundations of the church through the ages fade and relatively little is combustible if there is a fire of holiness within the church.

July 5, 1954

Passion is an uncontrolled burning of fleshly desires; but a passion for souls is the driving force of faithful pastors, laymen and missionaries. Is there such a fire in your heart -- and pew?

What do you take to church with you each Sabbath? Is it a stony heart, a stony face, just a question to be kindled to new love? Do you bring coins in your pocket rather than paper lest the altar fire claim too much of your finances? The time was when Godly preachers saw evidence of internal fires generating tears which streamed down the faces of the listeners. It may be that the picture has changed in your church. Is it possible that the fire in the pulpit is being quenched, as it were, by squirt guns in the pew? Cruel as this may seem there is truth in it.

Ministers of our faith, in general, have a burning desire to serve Christ acceptably. Their courage is somewhere between that of Elijah at Carmel and Elijah at the cave in his own altar.

Some of the material has already appeared in our pages.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Lee said he would not be informing us that his paper was the oldest in the nonconformist periodical in England, having had practically continuous publication for 117 years. He felt that only 20,000 Unitarians in England his paper held a record for tenacity. When Mr. Lee took his seat, we had heard from a Sabbath Recorder with a note that Seventh Day Baptist with membership only one third as large as his had been continuously publishing this paper since 1844. He seemed surprised and pleasantly impressed.

Mission Notes

The April issue of Mission Notes has just been received on the East Coast. This monthly publication is edited by Rev. Clifford W. P. Hansen and printed at the denominational publishing house at Plainfield.

It contains no news and no editorial comment as such. The purpose is to set forth the distinctive witness of Seventh Day Baptists on those topics not already covered by the denomination. Having this single purpose, it is felt that it fills a need in the propagating of our faith which will supplement the work of the Sabbath Recorder, not be in competition with it. In this first issue two of the four articles have previously appeared in our page.

Some future issues come up to the standard of attractiveness and content of this first issue. Sabbaththekists will do well to purchase many copies at 10 cents each to hand out as tracts.

Mission Notes

The April issue of Mission Notes has just been received on the East Coast. This monthly publication is edited by Rev. Leon Lawton of Los Angeles is largely responsible for always challenging and is unusually so this time. If the Sabbath Recorder reader who has not asked to be on the mailing list we would urge him to do so. You may write to the church address 4976 North Figueroa St., Los Angeles 42, Calif.

Some of the material has already appeared in the Sabbath Recorder, but most of it is new. The face of the man pictured on the cover has been blurred out with a big question to obscure his identity but perhaps to raise the question in the mind of many ministers. If I were someone must face that question, 'Is it I whom the Lord would send to supervise the mission work in Nyasaland, Africa?'
TRACT BOARD MEETING

About half of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society were present at the quarterly meeting held in the denominational building Sunday afternoon, June 20. This was an important meeting since it included all the reports which is the 1954 Year Book in addition to the business centering around the quarterly reports of committees. The minutes have been mimeographed by the Recorder Press office staff and mailed to all trustees.

From the annual report of the corresponding secretary it is learned that we have published about 10,000 more tracts than last year and have distributed 22,000 more.

The editor of the Sabbath Recorder noted a relatively normal year with a substantial though not large net gain in subscriptions. The over-all cost of the Recorder for the year June 1, 1953, to May 31, 1954, was $12,762. Last year it was $11,898, and the previous year $15,140. Nearly one half of this total cost comes from the earnings of invested funds, it may be noted.

The Committee on Distribution of Literature headed by David Sheppard, Cedarville, N. J., asked for approval of its plans to prepare 1,000 tract packets to be distributed by the way to Conference.

Requests for the attractive envelopes containing three tracts should be sent to him. The board did not accept one of the other recommendations of this committee that the matter of giving 200 copies of the current issue of the Helping Hand to the denominational school at Salem, W. Va., be referred to the Board of Christian Education. Instead, this item (about $47) was charged to the Distribution fund.

Another action recommended by the Publications Committee was the reduction in price from 60 to 25 cents of the book, "Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs - A Manual for Study." In effect, the board is contributing about $75 of the cost of the remaining 500 copies to make possible a wider distribution.

The treasurer's annual report and the comprehensive report of the publishing department both were found in the statement to the General Conference in August. Since there have been questions raised in some quarters in regard to the current and previous year's deficit cost, the board printed which is published by the Tract Society for the Board of Christian Education, we are extracting here a portion of the report of L. H. North, manager. Though he does not mention the budget item for next year it should be noted that the anticipated deficit for the year has been reduced from $750 to $300 due to the increase in price which will be in effect, and to the suggestion of the publishing house to cut off $150 from the cost.

HELPING HAND

Cost of printing and mailing......$5,027.19
Receipts
Average number sold per quarter......2,954
For the thirty years ending May 31, 1954, there have been 111,594, or nearly one half of this total cost comes from the earnings of invested funds, it may be noted.

Of course, to offset that amount is the money still due on subscriptions which as of May 31 was $57,666.18 domestic, or a total of $877.44.

For the past year it was $150 from the Nyasaland field.

Valuable Historical Books

By recent action of the Tract Board the price of our two-volume historical work "Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America" has been raised to $12. This was done to conserve the dwindling supply, and also, because the previous price was less than the cost of binding and mailing. Such a price ought also make those who have copies value them more highly, and to make us perhaps less likely to carelessly discard them. This will be the case, but we want it to be a time of spiritual refreshment and deepening of Christian life, so come expiring a blessing from the Lord. And come ready to make your contribution to this purpose, too.

JULY 5, 1954

President's Column

Women At Conference

Two luncheons are being planned by the Women's Board, to be held Wednesday and Friday noon at Conference. The Friday luncheon the annual society meeting will take place. Extra time is allowed for this in the Conference program of the hundred deficit cost is $300 and prior to the delegates in attendance. The theme of this program, if the president's suggestions are followed, will be "Making Him Known Through the Local Church." The Women's Board has been raised to $12. This was done to conserve the dwindling supply, and also, because the previous price was less than the cost of binding and mailing. Such a price ought also make those who have copies value them more highly, and to make us perhaps less likely to carelessly discard them. This will be the case, but we want it to be a time of spiritual refreshment and deepening of Christian life, so come expiring a blessing from the Lord. And come ready to make your contribution to this purpose, too.

SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Now that we are in the midst of association meetings, with several of them just completed and two to be held in the very near future, the importance of the association work in our denominational life is again re-emphasized. There is a growing feeling among denominational leaders that the associations should play their more important part in our denominational functioning than it does.

With this objective in view, the associations were requested by Conference to indicate their attitude on broader participation in denominational work. Reports so far received indicate that all of the associations are willing to assume broader responsibility in these fields.

A year ago each of the associations was asked to appoint a Missions Committee; they all did so. This year they have been asked to appoint a Tract Committee, and we wonder if we know that all of the associations have done so. At least one association adopted a resolution directing each of its active committees to demonstrate activity by meeting at least once a quarter.

Some of the associations are studying possibilities of utilizing some of their meeting time, or some special occasions, for instruction on denominational work or for instruction on denominational work or for. Some are suggesting that the associations are to become sufficiently strong to suggest that biennial conferences of the associations should be adopted. At the same time the Junior and Mid-dler Conferences, under the direction of Miss Ellen Swinney and Miss Ethel Wilson will be in session.

So... Come to Conference!

There will be special things for all age groups, and also, for the leaders, for there is to be a nursery for them.

As you plan to come to Milton, don't think of it just as a vacation trip, or a trip to visit friends. It will be that, but we want it to be a time of spiritual refreshment and deepening of Christian life. So come expiring a blessing from the Lord. And come ready to make your contribution to this purpose, too.

MEMORY TEXT

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16: 23b, 24.
A LETTER TO MY CONGRESSMAN

Roberta Ann Randolph

This essay won First Prize for Wisconsin in a national contest sponsored by Christian Endeavor. The writer is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Randolph of Milton, Wis.

Mr. Congressman:

Have you thought to think of the responsibility that lies on the youth of today? If you haven't, I wish you would take time to look into this important responsibility.

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Our country will be run by the youth, which today, are faced with many important problems.

As a Christian youth, I would like to present the problems that are facing the youth of today.

Oftentimes you can hear older people saying, "What's this younger generation coming to?" If they really think we are so bad? If everyone would take time to investigate the situation, they would find that the youth of today have many more problems than they and their ancestors had.

As the situation is now, the boys have nothing to look forward to. They know that when their time comes, they will be fighting for the freedom of our wonderful country.

If spirit-filled persons accept their assignment, the good that could be the outcome is limitless... Many jobs for young people could be found associationally if the churches become enthusiastic over this plan.

Herein lies one of the most important possibilities of stronger associational activity, namely, giving more church responsibility to young people. The young people are the future strength of our denomination.

Communism has set a problem before us. What are we going to do to fight it? Our boys are giving their lives to keep our country free from the evils of Communism. Do we appreciate this? Sure, we honor our dead on Memorial Day, but what can we do every day to help keep our country free from all of these problems?

We can train the youth of today and tomorrow to face the problems with knowledge and willingness to fight for democracy.

Every money is spent for tobacco and liquor than is spent for the education of our young people. Whose fault is that? It's the people over twenty-one that spend the billions of dollars each year on tobacco and liquor. This money could be saved for the education of the young people.

What can the people of our churches do to help the confused youth? Our ministers do a fine job in the interests of the youth of these churches by having special Bible studies, services, and fellowships for the youth of the church. But why don't they do something about helping the youth that don't have such opportunities? Everyone should invite a friend to come to church with him. If your neighbor doesn't belong to any church, why not ask him to go with you? Maybe a little encouragement is all he needs.

Our schools could join in the campaign to train our youth to become better Christian citizens. Many schools have organizations which fight the evils of liquor, narcotics, and gambling. This is a very worthwhile project and has helped many young people to get on the right road. Why not spend a little time working with the young people of our schools?

Our parents and homes play a very important part in our future. Do our parents include God in our families? Is He a part of our lives? If our home is centered around God, our lives will be more likely to be as they should. Our parents should take God into their daily activities by taking us to church with them.

Parents can be the main influence on our lives. What we are used to at home, we will find in our own future homes, God, liquor, gambling, or Communism.

What does the government have to do with the training of Christian citizens? The government shows us the responsibility of our lives. The government urges people to fight for freedom, upholding the freedoms of our country, and vote for our leaders. What better way could the youth of today learn the responsibility which they will have to present the problems of today and teach how they are handled. The leaders of our past preachment should stress the exercise of voting, fighting for freedom, and fighting Communism.

Community responsibility helps train the youth to become a better Christian citizen. Treat everyone with equality and fairness. Don't be prejudiced, fight Communism, liquor, gambling, and crime. Win others to Christ and don't be afraid to speak for Christian citizenship.

Everyone in the community can help. They can provide interest in community affairs and take an active interest in the youth of the community. Are they providing enough interest to prevent juvenile delinquency?

If part of our lives can be devoted to Christian work to help others, we have made a success of our life. But in order to win others to Christ, we must speak for Christian citizenship. We must not be afraid to show others our belief in God. We must fight for the freedoms of our country and we must urge to uphold our Christian beliefs and rights. I speak for Christian citizenship!

Local Tract Committees

Several of the associations have taken action naming a Tract Committee in the associations. Why is it carrying out the action of the American Sabbath Tract Society secretary in Plainfield would appreciate it very much if the recording secretaries of all associations would send him a copy of the action taken.

It is evident that such committees cannot function unless each church has an active tract distribution chairman or committee. The Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society feels that it is carrying out the action of the 1952 and 1953 General Conferences in appealing to all local churches to re- evolve the tract distribution programs and to make sure that well-chosen men are pushing this ministry.

SABBATCHEEPPING CHURCH AT ESPY

A letter from K. Duane Hurley, president of Salem College, tells of an interesting visit to East Central Pennsylvania on the weekend of June 12. Accompanying President Hurley were his father, P. B. Hurley of Riverside, Calif., and Rev. Clifford P. Hansen, pastor of the Salem W.Va., Church. They visited the independent Sabbathkeeping church at Espy, Pa., which was organized some 6 years ago under the leadership of L. E. Martz and his family.

We quote from the letter:

"They have a membership of twenty-five, and an attendance of about forty persons. A church building is under construction.

"Their membership includes a number of young people who have attracted a nice group of other young people. It was my privilege to talk to them at their meeting on Friday night, June 11.

"On Sabbath morning, a church service was held in the Martz home (the church building being not yet ready for use). Pastor Hansen spoke to them, giving ten practical, compelling reasons for keeping the Sabbath.

"They have been in correspondence with Pastor Hansen for some time, and have expressed their desire to join the Seventh Day Baptist denomination at a later date.

"We also visited the Leroy Stone family, at Roaring Branch, near Canton, Pa. They are lone Sabbathkeepers. The family includes two teen-age daughters and two younger boys. They had written to Salem because they had heard there was a college there and a Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Hansen has been in correspondence with them, and visited them once, previous to this time.

"During this visit the daughters requested baptism, and the mother, father, and daughters requested membership in the Salem Church. Mr. Hansen is their pastor and has lived with them, and she also is fatherestr in the denomination and the church.

"On Sunday morning Pastor Hansen baptized the daughters in a nearby stream, with my father, as a deacon, witnessing the services and assisting in it."
NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

WHITE CLOUD, MICH. — A new sign was erected in front of the White Cloud Church the middle of June replacing one which has served for many years. On it appears the name of the church in letters cut out of plywood and painted white. Inside the glass door is the message board on which, with removable letters, different messages may be placed. It is designed to be illuminated within, the lights being controlled by a time clock.

Clyde Branch, church moderator, made the case and presented his part in the labor and construction in dedication to the memory of his father, Mortimer Branch, first pastor of the church. This occurred in April, on the Sabbath nearest the birthday of his father.

Funds for the purchase of materials and the sign itself were made available by the Ladies’ Aid Society.

New road signs have been placed on the highway approaches to the city. Thus information as to the existence of the church is placed before the public.

- White Cloud Eagle.

ADAMS CENTER, N. Y. — Our church mourns the passing of two of our oldest members. Frank S. Jones, aged 84 years was an active member for more than 72 years. John P. Langworthy, aged 93 years, had been a faithful member for over 78 years. (Obituaries in June 14 issue.)

The Ladies’ Aid Society held their annual meeting May 11 at the home of Mrs. Chauncey Reed. The annual report showed that we have contributed to the Denominational Budget, Women’s Society, Jamaica Mission, School of Theology, U.C.W. Fellowship Fund, “Mission Notes,” and Central Association Scholarship Fund, in addition to local items. Mrs. Clyde Ehret was elected president for the coming year.

As the host church, June 4-6, we feel that we have received abundant blessing from Christian fellowship with members of the Central Association and the visiting delegates. The sermons and meditations have increased our vision of larger service and deeper devotion in personal worship. — Mrs. Paul D. Greene, Correspondent.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

for July 17, 1954

Growing Through Bible Study

Scripture: Acts 17: 10-11; 1 Tim. 4: 13-16; 2 Tim. 2: 15; 3: 14-17; 2 Cor. 3: 4-6.

Thereupon, if heaven enter a man’s earthly duties, then the Lord has come to that man; and, if a man do anything in the Lord’s name, the Kingdom of God has come to earth. — Lee.

Obituaries

McWhorter — Henry M., son of Deacon Walter Field and Roana Davis McWhorter, was born April 7, 1863, and died at his home in Edelstein, Ill., June 4, 1954.

Baptized in 1874 by Elder C. M. Lewis he joined the Middle Island, W. Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church, later transferring his membership to Lost Creek, W. Va., and to Jackson Center, Ohio, where it was at the time of his death. In 1890 he was married to Rosa M. Davis at Alfred, N. Y. In 1920, five years after her death, he married Fronia Newman, who died 2 years later. A third wife, Elva Lipincott, taken in 1936, survives him. He also leaves a number of nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held in the Edelstein Congregational Church with burial in West Hallow Cemetery in Edelstein. — Edward K. Heminger, minister.

Dean — Christine, daughter of Nels and Carna Nelson, was born Dec. 7, 1869 in Sweden, and passed away May 19, 1954 after a short illness.

She came to the United States in 1888 to live in Rockford, Ill., for a short time, finally moving to Gladbrook, Iowa. She was baptized and joined the Garwin, Iowa, Seventh Day Baptist Church. In 1928 she was married to Mr. Nels Dean of Byron, Minn., and moved to Dodge Center in 1932. She joined the Dodge Center Church in 1939. She leaves to honor her memory her husband; a niece, Mrs. Clyde Ehret of Dodge Center, and a nephew, Marvin Lindahl of Dodge Center. — Mrs. Clyde Ehret.

Hevener — Grace Mae, daughter of Andrew and Isabella Harkness Bertram and wife of J. L. Hevener of Roanoke, W. Va., was born in Ontario, Can., Sept. 18, 1887, and died in the Buckhannon Hospital June 17, 1954, the victim of an auto accident.

Besides her husband there survives one son, Willard, at home, and one sister, Anna E. Hasberger of Riverside, Ontario.

She was an active member in the Roanoke Seventh Day Baptist Church. Farewell services were conducted by her pastor, Rex E. Ziebel, at the Alkire Funeral Home in Ireland, W. Va. Burial was in the Hevener Cemetery at Roanoke with burial rites by the ladies of the local Rebecca Lodge. — R. E. Z.