### Comparative Figures

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L. M. Van Horn, Treasurer.

### DECEMBER 27, 1954

#### The Sabbath Recorder

**A Voice from the Early Days**

Among the papers of Rev. Enoch David, Philadelphia, Pa., is a pamphlet entitled — The Bible-Baptist, author — John Leland, date of publication — 1789, in Baltimore. (Pamphlet is not complete.) This is a portion of the introduction (quite appropriate for the year 1954): “Truth is in the least danger of being lost, when our free examination is allowed. As our government gives us this privilege, I am determined to improve it myself, and recommend it to others.”

#### Marriages

Parker - Hunting. — Edward J. Parker and Miss Ruth V. Hunting, both of Plainfield, N. J., were united in marriage in the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church on Sabbath afternoon, Nov. 6, with Rev. E. Wendell Stephan officiating, assisted by Rev. Lee Holloway.

#### Obituaries

Stillman, — George Alfred, son of Barton G. and Sophronia Wells Stillman, was born in De Ruyter, N. Y., March 13, 1862, and died Oct. 30, 1954. He was united in marriage with Cora A. Stillman of Friendship, N. Y., June 2, 1886. They had four children: Raymond, now deceased; Laurence of Alfred; Viola (Mrs. Clarence E. Greene) of Spring Valley; and Ruth (Mrs. Edwin Huggler) of Rochester. The Stillmans moved to Alfred in 1911. Mr. Stillman joined the church here in 1914. Mrs. Stillman died in 1927. In 1928 he married Mrs. Edna Windus, who died in 1929. Survivors other than children include a sister, Mrs. W. H. Cosum of Seattle, Wash.; ten grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Farewell services were held Oct. 23, at the First Alfred Church, with his pastor, Rev. Hurley S. Warren, officiating. Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

H. S. W.
RESTRICTIONS OR OPPORTUNITIES

The world stands in direct conflict with godliness in many New Testament passages. Jesus spoke of the world as not knowing Him but of His disciples as really knowing Him. In a message we found mentioned together in one breath: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christians worthy of the name have in all ages found themselves struggling against an old-world pressing around them. Sabbathkeeping Christians even more than others have felt keenly the pull of contrary forces. We are particularly reminded of this as this year draws to a close.

Our calendar, with its months of unequal length, its days of changing sunlight, and its weeks that do not correspond to the months, is a bit confusing. As sometimes happens, Christmas and New Year’s Eve fell this year on the Sabbath. The world has built up certain patterns of celebration for these events, and the pull of the world is strong. Some people ordinarily remembering to hallow God’s Sabbath find themselves struggling under the restrictions that come when a weekly day of worship coincides with an annual day of merrymaking.

If we stop to think, it was not the religious character of Christmas that made it impossible in some cases to have full attendance at the usual Sabbath eve service of the church; it was something else, even the yearly changing of the year, why not to make it a day of observance. The New Year is the longest division of time with its months of unequal length, its days of changing sunlight, and its weeks that do not correspond to the months, and the resolutions that come when a weekly day of worship coincides with an annual day of merrymaking.

The editor of the Recorder was encouraged by his Advisory Committee to take a two-week vacation at his convenience to make it possible to have full attendance at the usual Sabbath eve service of the church; it was either the family or the church, but not both. The resolutions that come when a weekly day of worship coincides with an annual day of merrymaking.

It is expected that these rich experiences will broaden our knowledge of our nearest foreign mission field and will enable us to visualize the needs of the people more clearly. The missionaries on the field have repeatedly encouraged people to come and see for themselves the beauties of the island and the evangelistic and educational work that is being done by and for its people by Seventh Day Baptists.

The Publications Committee, after a quarter of relatively little printing activity in the pre-summer months, has been busy with the preparation of a variety of filmstrips for the use of the churches.

The fall quarter’s work of the American Sabbath Tract Society and the plans for the months ahead were brought together in a concentrated business meeting held Sunday afternoon, December 19, from 2 to 4:15 p.m. in the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield, N. J. The building showed considerable activity in the morning as final touches were put on some of the reports and preparations made for the afternoon. By 1 o’clock three or four rooms were busy with committee meetings that could not well be held until the members from the southern part of the state were present. One committee held a two-hour meeting while making the trip by car to Plainfield. Another met after the board had adjourned.

The usual reports of officers and employees were read and accepted. These showed normal or above normal work being done in the various offices. Then followed the reports of committee chairmen and special committees with recommendations which mapped out the work lying ahead.

The Committee on Distribution of Literature solicited a number of books and a letter from the Tract Society. They recommended the sending of other books from the Tract Society. The committee did not see its way clear, in view of the reduced budget allowed the committee, to recommend the printing of a block of subscriptions to the Sabbath Interpreter. It did take action to send to our churches, pamphlets on how to use tracts.

The Committee on Audio-Visual Aids, as already noted in the Recorder, was able to report considerable activity in the previewing and purchasing of a variety of filmstrips for the use of the churches.

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THE SABBATH RECORDER

GREETINGS
Clarence M. Rogers

As president of General Conference I take this occasion to send each of the readers of the Sabbath Recorder my personal best wishes for this Christmas and New Year season. Christ as a babe has long been symbolic of the humility and simplicity out of which the Christian experience is made. His babyhood is meaningful to us today in that it demonstrates the fact that God in His infinite wisdom found it desirable to enter into the life of mankind by the process of birth as well as by the occurrence of death. May we each, at this season of the year, give special attention to the birth and development of the spirit and presence of God within our lives, that others may glorify not us, but our Creator God, and the Father of us all.

God has built countless bridges to men's minds, but He has placed one limitation on Himself. He does not cross the last drawbridge in our minds until we invite Him. It is a drawbridge which we open and close from within the castle of our souls. Don't ask me why, I don't know. I suppose it is because He wants His sons to have free wills. Whatever the reason, God's final problem in bridge-building is to get past the portal of our own minds.

From Channels of Spiritual Power, by Frank C. Laubach.

SECRETARY'S COLUMN
Who Misses Christmas?
During November we gave to the Denominational Budget $2,850. This is 44 per cent of the monthly requirement for meeting our budget adopted at Conference last August.

This giving amounts pretty close to reality on two counts. First and foremost, it indicates that we have not taken our responsibilities sufficiently to heart. Failure to meet our denominational obligations contributes to a spiritual loss to those who do not give. Second, the work for which we have obligated ourselves is hurt by inadequate financial support.

A large portion of our Denominational Budget goes for salaries for workers in God's church. If all salaries are paid out of other aspects of the work must suffer. But the tragedy in our giving for the first two months of the current Conference year lies in the fact that we are not even meeting the salary requirements. For instance:

- Monthly salary checks for the Missionary Society amount to slightly over $2,000. Budget giving to that board for November was $1,083.
- Monthly salaries for the Tract Society are a little over $400. Giving during November was $256.
- Monthly retirement checks amount to over $1,100. November budget distribution was $422.

Fortunately none of these agencies depend exclusively on current giving to meet their bills. If they did, many of our workers both at home and abroad would indeed be in a serious predicament. Not that they would be driven into the sea and Africa would no longer be able to support them. In a way, it is just a reminder to those half raised, there lies a serious threat to their continued meeting of salary needs for our workers. It has not been unknown for salary checks to be delayed, and so far as your secretary knows there has been no recent occasion when salary checks were not ultimately paid.

Let us keep constantly in mind that our budget is $5,896 per month, rather than the $7,750 for the year that was set at Conference. Let us not threaten the pay checks, we are, of those whom we have sent to Nyasaland and Jamaica to spread the Gospel Sabbath truth, or of those working the home vineyard who have often to assist in servicing the same subsistence. As we enjoy our own Christmastime, let us give thought to whether others who might be directly responsible are enjoying theirs, or if they are waiting in vain for checks which we have failed to send in to our budget.

PTL PROGRAM FOR AFRICA
In January, 1955, the Pocket Testament League will launch the greatest Scripture distribution campaign of its career—taking the Word of God to Africa.

Expert observers — both white and black — voice strong fears that Africa's problems may prove too much for her — that they may burst suddenly into a wild, continent-wide rebellion of black against white. If this happens, they say, the white man will be driven into the sea and Africa will lapse back into its centuries-old darkness — a continent lost forever to the Gospel.

Millions of Africans remain unreached by the Gospel. Time is running out in Africa. With ordinary missionary methods it would take years to reach these people. Mass evangelism and mass Scripture distribution can do the job that must be done in Africa in the time that there is left.

The Pocket Testament League campaign has been urgently requested by mission leaders as a vital supplement to the mission work now being carried on.

The campaign will include Kenya, Congo, and Tanganyika. In response to a letter from your editor urging them to include Nyasaland in their Testament distribution, Alfred A. Kunz, the executive director, promised that he would try to visit the Makupa Seventh Day Baptist Mission at Sandama on his way to South Africa from Tanganyika. The PTL leaders also expect to make a survey of Nigeria.

Only he who can see the invisible can do the impossible. R. S. MacArthur.

WHAT THE SECRETARIES DISCUSSED
A. Burdet Crofoot

Various areas of joint responsibility, and lines of demarcation between areas of special responsibility were discussed at the meeting of the Co-ordinating Council held in the Seventh Day Baptist Building, Plainfield, N. J., on Friday, December 17.

Administrative officers of each of our boards were present and participated in the discussions. Those participating were A. B. Crofoot, chairman, Rev. E. T. Harris, Rev. N. D. Mills, Mrs. Robert T. Petherston, Miss Evalois St. John, and Rev. L. M. Malby.

Among the areas considered were the possibilities of integrating our people into a closer sense of unity through use of visual methods of showing our various co-ordinated activities. The possible development of filmstrips and sets of slides to show some interesting parts of Sabbath history and the current work of our various boards for possible consideration. Plans for summer evangelistic campaigns, offering both young men and young women opportunities for work for the Lord, are being developed by the appropriate boards.

As a broad matter of definition, it was the expressed feeling of the council that where an outside contact arose which required the presence of specially employed personnel, the matter was properly the responsibility of the Missionary Board. Otherwise the contact might equally well be handled by the Tract Board, the Board of Christian Education, or the Women's Board as the nature of the contact seemed to demand.

Other matters that received some consideration without any necessary resultant decision included the possible necessity of a restudy of our ministerial retirement program in the light of the availability of Federal Social Security to our ministry, the development of a more adequate program for Lone Sabbathkeepers, Conference's suggestion of holding society annual meetings coincident with Conference, and the "package proposal" for biennial Conferences as asked for by the Milton Conference.
but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1: 7.

Sabbath Thought

Sabbathkeeping is based on love and gratitude to God. Sabbathbreaking is truly the essence of sin — selfishness — using God's time for our own selfish ends. Excuses are usually disobedience in disguise. "If ye love me," He says, "keep my commandments." — L.G.O.

Los Angeles Guest Leader Evaluates Work of Church

As reported (in part) by the pastor, Rev. Leon R. Lawton, in the Angelus.

Adoniram Judson's statement, The future is just as bright as the promises of God," was Rev. Alton Wheeler's closing sentence in his message at the semiannual business meeting, Sunday, Nov. 14. He helped us through some of the peculiar problems that face us as a city church realizing its responsibility to reach out into the world for the Kingdom.

The Highland Park Christian Mission showed that this community has a predominantly middle-aged population. No wonder we don't have, as other churches do, a large number of community children and young people attending our Sabbath school, swelling our community influence. We are not a community church, but an area church, drawing our families from widely divergent parts of the city. The problems of transportation, congested traffic, time, and distance diminish our number of active members, limit their activity, hamper committee work, and prevent adequate follow-up visits on our "responsibilities." As we attempt to meet these difficulties in an on-going program, Pastor Wheeler suggested a re-evaluation of the goal of group fellowship of which we are already doing and consideration of some possible changes and improvements.

We have special monthly evening meetings aimed primarily at an evangelistic outreach. Although these have been poorly attended, it would seem that this witness should be continued on a regular, dependable basis. Would every two months be better?... Our assistant pastor has ministered primarily to young people and children during the summer, carrying on an extensive work of opening new channels and making new contacts for the church. Too much of this work slackens when he leaves. Can we find a more effective way of following up the work he starts, or should we alter his work to projects that we can more easily follow up through the year?

Our expenditure of money and effort toward distribution of tracts has been extremely little. What can we do to encourage one another in this Gospel ministry of the printed word? We need to put more personal effort into placing these printed truths in public places and in the hands of neighbors and friends.

This is a Gospel-preaching, open-Bible church with a budget that reflects much evangelistic- and mission-mindedness. Our pastor gives many long hours to our work; others give much. But let us constantly re-evaluate our goal to individual efforts to see how each one might give more, more effectively, that together we might press on to the high calling in Christ lives, out-flowing with the love of God.

Japan Christian Activity News reports that $62,950 of the needed $75,000 had been pledged by mission boards, removing the last obstacle to beginning the projected two-story Christian audio-visual center in Tokyo.

The new center will be to serve all the Christian churches and organizations of Japan in the various areas of audio-visual aids and mass communications. The emphasis will be put on the training of Christian leaders in radio, TV, and audio-visual aids through workshops and classes.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON for January 8, 1955

The Living God

Lesson Scripture:

Psalm 105: 11-14; Romans 8: 25-29;

DECEMBER 27, 1954

Suggested New Year's Resolution

Rev. Albert E. S. McMahon

A New Year's Resolution that, in the opinion of the writer, will put the Seventh Day Baptist Church forward as a witnessing power for Christ and God's Holy Sabbath:

I am resolved to show my love to Christ and His Church by launching out in faith on these changes in my life.

First: I am resolved to give up any job of employment that robs God of my keeping His Sabbath day holy.

Second: I am resolved to stop the habit of tobacco and to use what has been tobacco money for supporting God's work.

Barabbas was a robber, and the Jews were asked, "Whom shall I release unto you, Barabbas or Christ?"

Tobacco is a robber. The average tobacco user spends $50 and more per year robbing the treasury of the Kingdom. If we use this money in the Seventh Day Baptist Church [The editor seriously questions this figure.], it means more than $50,000 dollars a year is spent on this weed that doesn't make the users smell like a holy people for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Let us ask ourselves this question: "What would we think if the Denominational Budget called for $50,000 this coming year for tobacco?" "Whom shall I release?"

Our nation has become enslaved to tobacco and drink and it hurts the name of Christ when members of his church parade before the world as tobacco slaves. Is it any wonder the church lacks the spiritual power that wins souls to Christ?

Peter looked upon the best catch of fish perhaps in his lifetime, and how he loved those fish! but he heard the Master say, "Lovest thou me better than that tobacco habit?"

"Peter, thou art Simon the son of John, and thou art Peter, and the keys of the kingdom of heaven shall be given unto thee. Whatever I shall command thee in heaven shall be done on earth. Lo, I am with thee always, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 16: 16-20.

So, here we go with the Master and Peter. Can you hear the Master asking: "Lovest thou me better than that tobacco habit?"

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. C. Rex Burdick

This is not a report of the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches, nor is it a summary of the work done at that Assembly. It is simply an attempt to give some of the impressions which I received while in attendance at this meeting of churchmen as a delegate from our General Conference.

Cradle of Liberty

When I arrived in Boston I found that the Bellevue Hotel where I held a room assignment was some distance from Hotel Statler, the Assembly headquarters. I soon discovered that what might have been a tedious walk between the two hotels would prove to be not the least of the blessings to be enjoyed in Boston, for that walk would lead directly through beautiful and historic old Boston Common and past the life-size Nativity scene where Christmas carols were sung regularly by outstanding musical groups. It was also our privilege between sessions to visit such points of interest as Old North Church, where the lantern was rung by Paul Revere to start his famous ride, the site of the Boston Massacre, Bunker Hill Monument, the famous "Constitution," better known as "Old Iron Sides," Faneuil Hall, and other historic landmarks which added interest to the time spent in Boston.

A Gigantic Machine

Most of us have had the experience of being carried along by a great machine; a ship, a locomotive, an airplane, or an automobile, unconscious of the operation of the engine and other necessary parts of the machine. I had always wanted to observe the power plant of a great ship, and one day I was able to enter the engine room of such a ship. It was quite a thrill to observe the operation of the machinery, both large and small, which drive the ship.

As Seventh Day Baptists we have been swept along by the gigantic machine, the National Council of Churches. Some of us have promoted it; some of us have opposed it; but few of us have an intimate acquaintance with the National Council because we have not observed it in action. I am grateful for the opportunity
which was mine to look into the “engine room” and observe the more or less complicated machinery in motion at the Third General Assembly of the National Council of Churches which convened in Boston November 28 - December 3, 1954.

In 1950, twelve interdenominational bodies, including the Federal Council of Churches, were welded together into one giant organization. This new National Council continues the policies of the older Federal Council, and speaks the majority voice of its thirty-member denominations with a combined membership of more than thirty-five million people. According to a breakdown of the budget at one of the plenary business sessions at the General Assembly, the National Council operates on a budget of over ten million dollars annually, approximately one third of which supports Church World Service. It is our opinion that an exceedingly large portion of this tremendous budget is used in promoting the machinery of the Council, and all too small a portion is channelled into an objective outreach for Christ.

Of the approximately two thousand delegates who were in Boston for the Assembly, about five hundred were the voting representatives of the member bodies. A disproportionately large number of Council officials and denominational officials were among this group, and pastors were present in quite large numbers, with the result that the man in the pew had very small representation. Concern was expressed about this inequity of representation, and though nothing was done about it, it is to be hoped that a better balance will be sought in the future. This same situation is even more in evidence in the General Board, the policy-making body of the organization.

The major portion of time at the Assembly was spent in routine business, most of which had been done at a higher level and passed along to the Assembly for approval. A very fair policy of floor participation was adhered to, and any one could be heard on any subject. If a few persons did most of the business of the Assembly, as seemed to be the case, it was only because others did not seek the floor and express themselves. Hope was expressed from time to time that in the future more time might be given to the consideration of the message and work of the church, and less to routine business.

We wonder if this will be possible in such a large and complex body which will meet only triennially in the future.

Concern

The leaders of the National Council are men who are concerned about the Church and the world. The intense earnestness of their concern could not escape our notice. These men had not come for a vacation, nor for a spiritual retreat. They had come with concern in their hearts for the Church and her program. They came seeking truth and expressing what they considered to be truth. We question their evaluation of the truth of the Bible at many points. We question, their evaluation of the person of Christ. We question many of the ends at which they arrived, but that they were seeking truth in earnestness is beyond question.

Unfortunately, in our opinion, concern for the church as an organization seemed to overshadow concern for the Lord and for the evangelization of the world. It may have been partly a matter of terminology, but we had the feeling throughout the Assembly that the primary concern was for the enlargement of the church organization, and the strengthening of her ministry to the world along social and economic lines. It would seem to us that while this concern most certainly is not without merit, it should remain secondary to a concern for the evangelization of the world, and the salvation of souls for whom Jesus gave His life. A redeemed people will make a redeemed society, and only as people are won to a faith in the person and work of Christ will they unite in promoting a truly Christian society.

(To be continued)

ITEM OF INTEREST

Rev. Ivan L. Bennett (Maj. Gen.), retired Army Chief of Chaplains, has been appointed a secretary of the American Bible Society and the executive secretary of the Washington City Bible Society with headquarters in the nation’s capital.

Dr. Bennett will serve as the society’s liaison man with the Armed Forces in distributing Scriptures to men and women in the Armed Services and with the diplomatic corps in Washington for the society’s world-wide work.