NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DENVER, COLO.—A Christmas program held on Sabbath afternoon preceding Christmas featured music by the Junior and Youth Choirs under the direction of Mrs. Jerome (Geraldine) Van Dyke. A play entitled “Scrooge Revisited” was then presented which gave a modern application to the old message of Charles Dickens. The cast included Elno Davis, Edward Hansen, Darwin White with Richard Thorngate in charge.

Our Christmas Sabbath service included music by the Junior music by the combined choirs and the dedication of Morgan Dale Shepard, son of Richard and Mary Shepard.

The month of November witnessed an unusual increase of new subscriptions to the Sabbath Recorder. There were forty-nine new names added to the list and eight new names dropped. Quite a few of the readers who sent in an extra subscription for a friend or asked the editor to select a recipient at home or abroad.
Happy Hanuka 5725

We live in a pluralistic society. None have been more conscious of this in recent years than school teachers and others in public life who are directly fair to the three major faiths with which they deal, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish. One of the ways this fairness has been expressed in metropolitan Jewish areas where there is a significant percentage of Jews is to give recognition to the Jewish festivals of Hannuka (which comes about the first of December) a celebration which few people knew anything about until this emphasis was started.

It may be a demonstration of good will and good neighborliness to recognize the religious and national festivals of those whose history and customs differ from our own. Any attempt on the part of the community to promise harmony in our pluralistic society we should do. It is not amiss to wish your neighbor and friend a "Happy Hannuka" when and if it is appropriate.

Now that both the Jewish and the Christian festivals have passed for another year it may be a good time to put them into perspective and make some decisions about the next celebration. As parents and teachers we may conclude that we want to resist the present tendency to equate the two in public life.

Does Hannuka have religious significance like Christmas? This is quite doubtful. Jewish public sources speak of it as the celebration of the Maccabean victory, 2,130 years ago. This would imply that it is more national than religious. The Maccabean revolt of 165 BC was religiously motivated, to be sure, but religion was only part of it; it was a struggle for independence. The feast of Hanukkah, according to a brief note in the dictionary, was a national celebration instituted by the victorious Judas Maccabaeus to commemorate the dedication of a new altar in the temple, to replace the altar which was ceremonially polluted by Antiochus Epiphanes when he offered a swine's fat on it. This is mentioned once in the Bible (John 10:22). It has never been a great feast of the Jews like Passover, Day of Atonement, and Christmas before Christmas. Clothing, merchants, among others, do a great (and legitimate) business. It gives us a twinge of shame, however, to realize that the sale of suits for Santa would probably run into millions. Where is Christ in all this?

But to come back to our main theme, there is no comparison between the Jewish Feast of Lights, Hannuka, and Christmas (all its inconsistencies notwithstanding). To be good neighbors and to be fair does not require us to become fools in thoughtless and just as much as promoting in the name of religion something that has so little religious significance. Let us respect the Jews for their truly meaningful feast and for their great service in preserving the Sabbath. Let us accept and love them as Christ died for and for whose salvation the soul of Paul was poured out night and day in prayer.
Act, Public Health Service Act, Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act, and the Vocational Education Act. Affected by the regulations will be: loans for acquiring science, mathematics, and foreign language equipment, student loans for higher education, training institutes for teachers, graduate fellowships, health research programs in hospitals and universities, construction of facilities for institutions for higher education, nurse training programs.

National Science Foundation programs include: scientific research, equipment for undergraduate education, science education for undergraduate and secondary students, specialized projects, and institutes.

The war on poverty which became law after enactment of the civil rights bill is already subject to the nondiscrimination regulations. Churches and church-related institutions have been encouraged to participate in the anti-poverty program.

The problem facing churches in the South (and some in the North also) is twofold. There is the church-state problem of government control of church programs if the church is a recipient of the financial help offered and the further problem of discrimination against non-white people who are entitled by law to the benefits of the anti-poverty program, administered in some cases by churches.

If the well-church South resists the war on poverty, what types of aid the war on poverty will offer to the poor in the South is the question. The plan was conceived in 1964, the Foreign Minister of Israel has repeated this demand on various occasions in its contacts with the Bonn authorities....

Is it possible for us on this side of the Atlantic to take a more calmly objective or judicial view of this and related areas of Christian concern? We hope so. Justice and mercy need to go together. It occurs to some of us that here is another case where the larger view is better than the prejudiced, or unprejudiced, view. True, enough, terrible crimes were committed against the Jews in countries dominated by Germany in the days of Hitler. They must not be forgotten. But that generation has almost gone. It may be time now to show some mercy and forgiveness. Perhaps the Merchant of Venice has some parables he could offer us from the Portia. "The quality of mercy is not strained..."

How does this spirit in the parliament of Israel fit with the decree of the Vatican Council relative to the guilt of the Jews in the crucifixion of Christ? Here is a matter that has been on the conscience of Protestants as well as Catholics. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that it is high time the statute of limitations was applied to the crime of Calvary. To be sure, there is a great difference between nearly twenty centuries of varying degrees of persecution of the Jews for religious reasons and the one generation since Hitler. Nevertheless, we could hope for a display of more mercy and goodwill and less vindictiveness from the people who inhabit the land of the Bible.
A Message to All Churches in the Baptist World Alliance

Jesus said: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 14: 6) Often we seem content with a statement of faith rather than actual obedience (Romans 16: 25-27). But Christ called us to continue in His Word, not just to admire Him (Matthew 16: 24).

This does not mean that statements of faith should be neglected (1 Peter 3: 15). As Baptists we believe in the sovereignty of God, the Lordship of Christ, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the authority of the Scriptures, the personal nature of faith, believers' baptism, regenerate church membership, the memorial nature of the Lord's Supper, and the priesthood of all believers, and the submission to wills.

Our world is not congenial to the practice of these tenets. The world never has been (John 16: 33). But under every political, racial, and economic condition the follower of Jesus Christ must reflect the truth in Christ. We must seek religious freedom for others that oppose the coercive power of the state in matters of faith and conscience (Acts 4; 19-20). We must seek to safeguard the God-given dignity of every man in the midst of problems caused by increasing world population, unemployment, the threat of war, and moral decay (Genesis 1: 27; Acts 17: 24-28). We must surmount every barrier of class and race (Galatians 3: 26-29) and be actively concerned with one another's welfare (Galatians 6: 2).

The Case of D. M. Canright

Another book on Adventism by Norman F. Douty

Those who were interested in Another Look at Seventh-day Adventism by Norman F. Douty, which was reviewed in the April 15, 1963 Recorder may wish to examine this new book. The author, published by Baker in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Rev. Mr. Douty, a Baptist minister from East Lansing, has done external research on the subject and limited interest because he feels that the charges made against D. M. Canright by Seventh-day Adventist leaders down through the years are groundless and damaging not only to the man charged but to those making the charges.

For those unfamiliar with the situation, the facts are that Elder Canright was a leading S.D.A. preacher very close to the two men were somewhat alike in their outgoing love and evangelistic spirit, as revealed by this character study. Elder Canright's love for his former brethren may have been the occasion for the baseless assertions that he wanted to come back. For example, he attended the funeral service of Mr. White, who was repudiated, and wept with the mourners. Elder Ballenger says of one of his deathbed visits to Canright: "I had a pleasant talk with him. He never expressed any regret" (at having left Adventism). He also adds (p. 135): "I talked freely with him about his hope of eternal life, although I expressed confidence showing no signs whatever about his hope of eternal life."

January 11, 1965

Recorder Survey

Last week we published the responses to the first five questions. The answers to questions 6 to 8 are printed this time. It is suggested that all the Recorders containing partial results of the survey be kept together so that the reader can view it as a whole after reading the installments. By way of explanation, these three questions were to be answered only by readers. A large percentage of our readers failed to answer question 6 and 7, in full, finding it difficult to rank their interests and their benefits. It may be interesting to note that one reads (first question 8) is not necessarily the same as what interests most or benefits most.

6. What types of content in the Sabbath Recorder interest you most? (Rank 1, 2, 3, etc., in the boxes, in the order of interest)

Church and denominational news...... 101
Editorials...... 16
Sermons...... 11
Evangelistic & missionary appeal...... 13
News about our part in ecumenical affairs...... 1
Other (specify)...... 363
No Response...... 375

7. How does the Sabbath Recorder benefit you most? (Rank 1, 2, 3, etc., in the boxes, in the order of their importance, the types of benefit received)

It helps improve spiritual growth...... 38
It helps in Bible study...... 35
It strengthens my loyalty to the Baptist way of life...... 36
It sends me an excellent outline of the week's events...... 14
Other (specify)...... 357
No Response...... 357

8. What I usually read first (check one)

Sermons...... 38
Christian Education...... 55
General Secretary...... 40
Associate Secretary...... 138
General Secretary...... 138
Associate Secretary...... 357
No Response...... 357

No Response...... 357
No Response...... 357
No Response...... 357
No Response...... 357
No Response...... 357
A Time to Remember

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians to forget the things that are behind and to press on opportunities for service that lie ahead. There are some things that we do well to forget such as past failures that cause discouragement and even drudgery that have a way of making us self-satisfied.

But over against this, there are some things that we do well to remember. Some precious memories should be guarded and treasured as long as life shall last. Memory is one of our most valuable faculties. Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of me," as He established the Lord's Supper.

There is a time to forget and a time to remember. In living a full life one must take time to reflect upon the experiences of the past that set the guidelines of our lives. We grow so involved in the business of living that we tend to forget those high ideals and resolutions to which we have come? This is one of our most valuable faculties.

There is a time to forget such failures that cause discouragement and even drudgery, but they need to consult His Word, to meditate, and to pray. We also need such time of quiet prayer to remember. In living a full life one can be sure that we do well to remember:

1) Considerable concern was expressed over multiplying incidents of violence during the past few years. A resolution was urged for law and order, and for Dr. Bandu's call for peace and calm. A letter was composed to the Prime Minister requesting an urgent approach to discuss matters and the way over which we have come? This is one of our most valuable faculties.

2) Mkhoma Synod (Presbyterian) turned over to Christian Council, a few years ago, their Gospel broadcasting program (one-half hour daily in Chichewa, on Adila Ababa Radio Voice of the Gospel), but continue to subsidize it heavily (about 9/10th of the cost). Now they want the Christian Council to take over more of the financial burden. Ways and means of raising more for this vital and effective ministry were discussed. This is quite a problem since the total budget of our Christian Council is only a small fraction of the amount needed. Donations, anyone?

3) The Chichewa translation of the Bible is considered one of the best in Africa, and we should use it as much as possible. A revision was discussed, particularly with reference to an offering for the Roman Catholic Church, in the hope that we may be able to subsidize it heavily (about 9/10th of the cost). A letter was sent to Rome to request this help. A letter was sent to Rome to request this help. We certainly have had a cool session of CoWoCo deliberations, presented at the Baptist World Congress in 1965.

NOTE: Pastor and Mrs. Pearson return to this country on terminal furlough around July 1, 1965. — E.T.H.

11th Baptist World Congress
Miami Beach, Fla., June 25-30

Plans are rapidly taking shape for the program of 11th Baptist World Congress. These world gatherings of the Baptist World Alliance come but once in five years and are usually held in faraway places, the last one being in Rio de Janeiro.

The relative nearness should make it possible for a number of Seventh Day Baptists to participate. Registration fees will be made early, for an unprecedented attendance of 30,000 is expected. Registration cards are already available. Single registrations are already available. Available registrations are $12, couples $17. The cards, with remittance, are to be mailed to Baptist World Alliance, 1452 N.W. 36 St., Miami. For hotel reservations, write to P.O. Box 1511, Miami Beach.

The program chairman is Dr. Theodore F. Adams, former president of the World Alliance who presided at the Baptist Jubilee in Atlantic City last spring. Speakers are drawn from around the world but include some of the best known Baptists of the United States. The keynote speaker on Friday, June 25, will be Hershel H. Hobbs, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. C. Oscar Johnson will deliver the Coronation address at the closing session, Wednesday, June 30. On the weekend Billy Graham will speak twice in the 70,000-seat Orange Bowl. Representatives from fifty nations are expected. This is the first time such a Congress has been held in North America.
A Relevant Witness
Is Needed Today

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a group of leaders from eight or nine Baptist denominations, gathers twice a year in the nation's capital to discuss such subjects and arrange such projects as fit with its purpose. The committee at its October meeting adopted an operating budget of $106,320 for 1965, which includes special funds for the projected development of a program for a Baptist research center in Washington. Seventh Day Baptists have been represented on this committee for the past two years. Their presence and their viewpoint is welcomed by the leaders as a broadening influence especially in the area of religious liberty.

One of the valuable things sponsored by the Joint Committee on Public Affairs is the annual religious liberty conference each fall to which are invited over 200 representative Baptists for a three-day discussion in depth of some aspect of religious liberty on the American scene. The subject at the eighth such meeting was "Exercise of Religion: A Historical Baptist View" and had to do with making the Baptist witness in today's world relevant to the issues of the day, a subject which Albert McClellan, program planning secretary of Seventh Day Baptists, said he was arguing for a change of message.

Mass mind, mass knowledge, mass institution, mass government, and the plural-ism of America combine in the human situation and are some of the forces that confuse the Christian in his message to man, said the denominational leader. Speaking of the need to make our message more relevant he mentioned the need of new techniques in home missions for effectiveness among the scientific and the secular. He also stressed the need of an effective Christian education, and of something new in our manner of preaching the Gospel. "What is lacking," he said in the leadership to analyze the relevance of the daily newspaper to the Word of God, to give a technique for tying truth to experience."

McClellan strongly stated that he was not arguing for a change of message. However, he said the way the sermon, the public witness, and the confrontation are used must always be related to (1) "the God who never changes" and (2) "the fickleness of the mind of man that is always changing."

Mosteller, speaking of the heritage of Baptists in religious liberty, cited Thomas Helwys, Roger Williams, and Isaac Backus as examples of men unafraid to apply the principles of freedom to the issues of their day.

Of these men he said all ministered in a "political and religious climate quite similar." He said the issues they faced the free exercise of religion: were: "coercion at the point of forced attendance at worship, prohibition at the point of illegal conventicles" or secret meetings. He said for worship according to conscience, and taxation for the support of religious practices.

"There are two sides to the coin of religious liberty, the positive side which is freedom of exercise the same, and the negative — freedom of exercise without hindrance," the seminary professor states. There is still a third aspect he said, the freedom of exercise not to worship.

Maintaining that the issues which Helwys, Williams and Backus faced are not different from those Christians face today, Mosteller asked:

"Have we the courage today to face up to the implications of the issues in this spirit in which it may cost us federal grants, tax exemptions, 'moral susion,' and cast us out upon a cruel and unbelieving world without a stitch of support — of that Christ, the only king and lawgiver?"

Reports from the study groups repeatedly emphasized the voluntary nature of most response to God. They upheld the free exercise of religion as a God-given right "essential to the fulfilling of the individual's responsibility to God."

The conference, sponsored annually by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, is for study only. No position was taken. C. Emuel Carlson is executive director of the public affairs committee.

The 1965 conference will be October 6-8, centering on the theme "Church, State and Public Funds." The theme for 1966 will be "The Christian's Role Through Church and State."

NEWS BRIEFS
Up-to-date Israel

We are so accustomed to reading of the giant strides of progress in Israel that we think of it almost as a little Manhattan island in an oriental mediterranean land mass. It is quite surprising to learn that Israel's first bowling alley (16 lanes) was opened in late 1964 at Haifa by the leading U.S. corporation. Some of us live in areas where 60-100 lane alleys are hardly ten minutes apart in any direction. A bowling alley is apparently not the first requirement in civilized society.

Volunteer Now

An item in the Los Angeles church bulletin stresses the need to contact the camp program planning committee if you are a high school graduate and wish to serve as Junior Counselor at Primary Camp. December 31 is the deadline. Don't let this opportunity slip by of you are interested.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

CHRIStIAN EDUCATION — Sec. Rex E. Zwibel

Improving Methods of Church Contact with Its Membership

(A Mission 65 Mailing)

Organize an attendance committee.

Chosen ones of the committee will check the attendance at every worship service while the members, singly, of absentees (individuals or families) on cards printed for that purpose.

The card with an absentee's name will be given to a member of the committee or someone who has agreed to co-operate. He will make a call on the person or family as early in the week as possible, find out the reason for the absence, record it, and report it to the committee if the reason requires follow-up action. The committee will bend its efforts to remedy the cause.

Causes of absences that can be corrected:
Lack of hospitality.
Lack of personal interest. Each letter of welcome should express the sincere desire for their presence; (2) A sponsor to sit with. For a time the sponsor will attend to every need of the hesitating member; (3) Greeters at the door every Sabbath; (4) An atmosphere of genuine Christian welcome; (5) Attendance at special occasions. The seminary professor states: (6) Important events and announcements in the lives of individual members recognized.

No feeling of responsibility.
Putting members to work at important jobs brings a sense of responsibility. A mature church member will not try to hold on to a job in a jealous manner if he sees that a new member is able to do it.

Inadequate social activities.

PLEASURABLE social events and good recreation contribute directly to the maintenance of good attendance.

Poor preaching and/or irrelevant services.

Individuals responsible should evaluate their part in the services and work toward a sound worship experience.

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JANUARY 11, 1965
Unattractive surroundings. People do not like to come to an institution if attendance is poor, a clean-up, paint up, or remodel campaign may be in order.

Lack of Purpose: An atmosphere of deep spiritual earnestness and conviction that services and evangelistic work are important builds good attendance.

Improving Contacts with Nonresident Members
Show your interest by:
1. Mailing church bulletins promptly.
2. Mailing church-published periodicals.
3. Mailing denominationally published periodicals.
4. Inviting their interest and participation in:
   a. Sabbath Recorder
   b. Helping Hand
   c. Sabbath Visitor for Boys and Girls.
5. Helping them become aware of other denominational work are important.
6. Improving professional automobile costs. Relatively few ministers receive regular annual increases in pay.

Ministers Conference Next April
The biennial conference of Seventh Day Baptist ministers in the United States and Canada will be held at Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church April 28 to May 3, 1965. The Rev. Victor W. Skaggs, dean of the Ministerial Training Center, is in charge of programming. Dr. Hurley S. Warren, chairman of the Board of Christian Education Committee on Higher Education, is over-all chairman.

Strong Words at Unity Conference
"To what end do we conduct skillfully organized and statistically successful evangelistic campaigns in ecclesiastical Caucasian clubs which would slam their doors against both Jesus of Nazareth and the Ethiopian eunuch, if either came in the flesh and sought to gain admission?" —Hubert W. Porter, associate general secretary, American Baptist Convention.

Education Fight Again Looms in New Congress
By W. Barry Garrett
Federal aid to education will have top priority in the legislative program of the new 89th Congress he current indications prove to be true. Along with this will be the knotty problem of public aid to church schools.

The Nebraska bill has been stymied in the past in their efforts to get federal aid to education. Roadblocks have been thrown up by those who fear federal control and by those who have differing views on tax aid to church schools. New educational ideas are now popping up all over Capitol Hill.

Appears that the "across the board" concept of aid to schools is being abandoned. In its place the idea of "categorical aids" is catching on. Attending to this plan federal grants and loans may be made to both public and private schools for specific categories, such as aid for teaching mathematics, science, languages, or to provide equipment. The plan would specifically forbid government aid to religion.

The Washington Post recently reported that an education task force appointed by President Johnson before the election will recommend inclusion of parochial schools in some federal programs. This task force, headed by John W. Gardner, president of the Carnegie Foundation, is reported to believe that the National Defense Education Act can be expanded further to give parochial schools more constitutional benefits in several new categories.

The National Education Association has shifted from adamant opposition to public aid to church schools to endorsement of categorical aids to parochial schools. This is the most powerful educational lobby in the nation.

Catholic spokesmen are reported to be highly encouraged. They are quoted as saying that a Protestant President from the South can propose what might have been political suicide for a Catholic President.

The American Federation of Teachers is proposing a reversal of its position and may no longer oppose federal aid to parochial and private education. Such a resolution will be presented to the union's convention in Los Angeles next August.

Although President Johnson has not made a clear-cut statement against federal aid to parochial schools as did President Kennedy, he has made it clear that he plans to fight for every constitutional aid to education that is needed. If the constitutionality of federal aid to church colleges is settled, no distinction will be made by the Congress or the courts in categorical aids to private schools on the elementary and secondary levels.

Competition Still Open for Youth Citizenship Awards
Individuals can enter the 1965 Citizenship Awards Program, sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor. Individuals may enter an article, editorial, talk, poster, black and white photograph, or cartoon.

Topping the list of awards, which total $1,375 in cash plus award emblems, plaques, and certificates, is $125 to the individual winner with a grant to a maximum of $100 for attending the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention, Dallas, Texas, July 6-10, 1965.

Each entry will be evaluated on the basis of originality of literary or art form used, the manner in which it implements the folder What Is Christian Citizenship? and Christian witness to the community.

Award recipients often receive more than cash! Widespread recognition awaits the winning entries and projects, plus the opportunity to make a real witness for Christian citizenship in the local community. In addition, youth are aroused to an increased awareness in Christian citizenship today.

The Awards Program is open to all youth in the United States and Canada under 25 years of age. Deadline for entries is February 15. Complete details may be secured from the Citizenship Director of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

JANUARY 11, 1965
WOMEN’S WORK — Mrs. Lawrence W. Marsden

UCW Message to Churches

United Church Women — interdenomina
tional arm of the National Council, ac
ting in local communities and states — has
sent this message (in part) to women in all major Protestant communions.

"We are urging church women im
diately to work together to break down all forms of discrimination in their com­mu
nities, beginning with their churches. As we move into a new phase of the civil
rights struggle, the task for all citizens
help open up new opportunities for all
minorities, and to effect reconciliation
between individuals and groups of people.

"We would pray for the courage to face in love the splintering of other relation­ships that may come as we try to heal
and acting the. Christian message of recon­ciliation and
justice.

GET’S THINK IT OVER
Church Favoritism Checked

Few people realize the apparent favor­itism of our local communities to secure
favors of our local communities to secure
the support of one religious organiza­tion over another. This favoritism is ex­pressed in many ways: picking one church over another, ignoring the needs of churches of less popular denomina­tions, and so on.

Since 1946, the U.S. government has
given churches millions of dollars worth of surplus Federal lands and buildings. For 15 years, 10% of this property went to Roman Catholic institutions. Then, for the two years starting July 1961, the Catholic share soared to 93.5%!

"In only two years this church picked up a tax money more than it had in all the preceding 15 years!

At this point, POAU began its investiga­tion and publicity of the giveaways. Today, a year later, the Catholic share has dropped to just 7% of the dollar value (though still 41% of the acreage) given. The sun total of church property donations has declined too.

"When churches compete for tax bene­fits, the greediest will always get more. That is why we oppose Federal aid pro­grams of any kind for ANY church.

The Better Way

Southern Baptists are convinced that they have chosen the better way of gaining strength. W. L. Howse, Nashville, told several hundred convention leaders at a meeting called by the Sunday School board, "While many denominations are trying to get their strength from merging with other denominations, Southern Baptists are seeking to strengthen their in­dividual churches. The figures seem to bear this out. C. E. Autrey pointed out that Southern Baptists in 1961, 1962, and 1963 were way ahead in baptisms of the nation’s population increase. To match the proportionate increase they should have baptized 763,000, he stated. The number baptized was 1,145,000. They be­lieve that that opportunity for evangelism is greater now than ever before.

American Heart Association

"Don’t filter the facts," says the American Heart Association about anti­smoking education for children. It urges parents to teach their children to stop smoking "since twice as many high school students start the habit when both parents smoke as when neither does."

The statement declares, "Strong parental disapproval results in less smoking by students than parental indifference or mild disapproval."

THE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

Shiloh Pastor and Wife Honored at 25th Anniversary

(Shiloh Pastor and Wife Honored at 25th Anniversary

(Please fill in the back page of the Shiloh church bulletin for December 26 tells a story of past that was different from what a correspondent would write.

We saw the difference in the surprise modifications of what may be enjoyed by other friends of Pastor Charles and Margaret Bond.

Nine-thousand-one-hundred-and-twenty­eight nights had come and gone since Margaret A. Skaggs and Charles H. Bond said, "I do," and the bride’s father, the Rev. James L. Skaggs, pronounced them hus­band and wife. Then came another night they shall never forget — a surprise silver anniversary celebration (Sunday evening, December 21).

Were they surprised? Now since I was able to view all that took place from the inner circle, I would say they certainly were. I understand they grew weak when they entered the vestibule and saw the church filled with friends and the choir of the church, and realized they had all come together. Also they had the home of the first shock was not over when they reached the love seat on the platform. What a thrill to turn and look into the faces of so many friends.

The program that followed was wonder­ful — taped voices of family members — choir selections — kind words from those in the church — the three sons and their stories. What a night!

Thanks for the gifts — silvery candlesticks and frame and certificate for the family portrait in color, the "mat­tock" or grubbing hoe (painted silver), and the gift of money — 150 silver dollars weight 8 lbs. and 8 ozs. Thanks, too, for so many cards received.

The reception in the dining room with the special cake and musical recitals as tops. If a thanks to all would express our feeling that is what we could say, but once again words are inadequate. May God bless you all. (The Bonds were married at the Church in the soft glow of candlelight on Sabbath night, December 23, 1939.)

THE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

THE SABBATH ASSOCIATION

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

ADAMS CENTER, N.Y.—Rev. and Mrs. Orville Babcock of White Cloud, Mich., a former pastor, worshiped with us August 22. He gave us a very inspiring message. On September 12, Mrs. Cruzan and daughter Nancy of Westerly, R.I., were our guests. He brought a very helpful message. A fellowship dinner was planned by the Social Committee that we might visit with our former pastor and family.

A baptismal service was held in the afternoon of September 12, with seven of our young people, also four youth of the South Rutland church, receiving the ordinance. Pastor Van Horn serves that church. The Rev. L. F. Hurley gave the worship meditation.

An Open House in the church parlors was held as a farewell recognition service for the Albert Gilmore family who have now moved to Plattsburg, N. Y. Refresh­ments were served by the Ladies Aid So­ciety. The program was given with Mr. Klaus Ebeling as narrator, showing pictures of this family’s activities in the various yearly pursuits in church, school, community and 4-H work. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Brannon presented a humorous skit de­picting the yearly experiences of the open­ing and closing of the youth camp which the Gilmore served as managers. They received gifts and a purse of money.

Mrs. Nellie Babcock represents our church and pastor in conducting the wor­ship services for the Syracuse group once in August and once in September.

Our Worldwide Communion Sabbath service was extended to the three nursing homes. Several of the guests joined in the singing of the hymns.

We have lost two members by death since the last issue — S. Sherman and Mrs. Grace Ladd. Sympathy is extended to their families.

Sabbath Heritage Day, November 28, was planned by Pastor Van Horn as a Homecoming Day. The Rev. Leon Maltby was the invited guest speaker. His reminiscences of his childhood days in the home church of my interest. He gave a very challenging message. Guests...
were present and enjoyed the fellowship dinner. The afternoon program gave recognition to the guests. The family with the most present—the Maltby family; the oldest persons present, Mr. and Mrs. DeChois Greene; those coming the greatest distance, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Clark, Berwick, Maine. The reading of messages from absent ones was of much interest, preceding the vesper services, including anthems by the choir, congregational hymns sung, and anthem by the junior choir, two poems, solos by Connie Reed and Gareth Greene, and a choral benediction by the choir. It was a wonderful day of worship and fellowship.

The community Thanksgiving service was held at our church on November 24 and the community candlelight Christmas service on December 22.

The children's Christmas party was held in the church parlors December 13. After the dinner, the children presented the pageant "The Christmas Story." The adult choir sang Christmas hymns as each child took his place. It was a very reverent and moving program. Much thanks is given to Miss Ruth Ellis and her helpers. — Correspondent.

WATERFORD, CONN.—Something new has been added to the work of the Waterford church. A monthly meeting called the "Church Planning Group" of all members of the church carries on a discussion of things which concern the church between regular business meetings. Its findings are advisory only and not official. This has taken the place to some extent of the former "Friendly Visitors" meetings.

Our associate pastor, the Rev. Paul Burdick, takes charge of the Communion Sabbath. Other Seventh Day Baptist ministers have been called upon about once a month. These have included the Revs. Harold R. Crandall, Wendell Stephan, Everett Harris, and others. At other times we have called upon local ministers of other faiths.

The visit of the Rev. James McGeachy of Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church of London, England, was an exceptional treat, when he was on his way to CoWoCo meeting and General Conference in Salem, W. Va. At our Friday night prayer meetings we have recently studied the books of Colossians, Philippians, and Ephesians. We are now on a study of the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Belief, with special attention to the Conference request for improvements in the statement.

As to the physical needs of the church, recoating of the south side, and some attention to work on the inside has made us aware of the continued help of the active Ladies Aid Society.

Our associate pastor's planned trip to Malawi, Africa, to visit his son Dr. Victor and family for eight months in 1965, has called for volunteers to take charge of the Friday night prayer meeting and other duties. But this should make us more conscious of the sacrificial work of our missionaries, and of the need for our continued support by prayer and effort. May God grant us a realization of the need for unity and harmony in the Lord's work.

— Correspondent.

Accessions

By Baptism, Dec. 19, 1964:
Leon Calvert Bresley
Rebecca Dawn Bresley
Theresa Louise Clement
Lana Kay Hamer
Sherry Sue Larkin
Jerald Lynn Van Horn
Paint Rock, Ala.

By Baptism:
Carolyn Sutton

Obituaries

Davis.—Ruth Cook, daughter of Irving and Sarah Lewis Cook, was born in the township of Sangerfield June 12, 1892, and died at her home in Brookfield, N. Y., Oct. 18, 1964, after a long illness.

Mrs. Davis was a member of the 2nd Brookfield Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1908 and had served as church clerk for the last 26 years. She had also been a Sabbath School teacher. She was postmistress at Brookfield for 19 years, retiring in 1962.

She was married Nov. 19, 1914, to John W. Davis, who survives her. Other survivors are a brother, Orlo Cook, Sangerfield, and three sisters: Miss Inez Cook, Hamilton; Mrs. Mary Hansberger, Rome; and Mrs. Grace Whitten, South Edmeston; as well as many nephews, a niece, and great-nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were held in the Seventh Day Baptist Church at Brookfield with the Rev. Herbert Levoy officiating. Burial was in Brookfield cemetery.

— Bernice D. Rogers.