The missioner program included calling upon more than thirty families, Friday evening prayer meetings were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Palmer, and on Sabbath morning, June 18, there was a baptismal service for Mike Burdick, husband of Leona Welch Burdick.

The Leonardsville high school alumni banquet was held June 18. Among those who graduated 25 years ago were Miss Esther Burdick and Mrs. Emma Johnson, who were present, and the principal speaker was his father, who told of his impressions of certain African countries which he had visited on his recent trip.

On Sabbath day, July 2, the services of these churches were conducted at Brookfield by a team from the Verona church consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sholtz. This, a project promoted by the Missions Committee of the Central New York Association, and aided by a course given by the Rev. Don Richards, gave helpful suggestions for personal evangelism. It may well provide a good background for those who are serving at the Seventh Day Baptist booth at the State Exposition.

A fellowship dinner at the Brookfield Parish House followed that service.

On Sabbath, July 16 and 23, members of the Summer Christian Service Corps conducted our services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel
Youth Pre-Con
According to the director, the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, the staff is now complete for Youth Pre-Con Retreat with the procuring of the Rev. and Mrs. Oscar Burdick to care for the music.

The music leaders announce that they need a good guitarist to accompany some of the music that they plan to use, someone who reads and plays good music.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
for August 6, 1966
God's Way in the Home
Lesson Scriptural Ex. 20:12; Prov. 4:3-5; Mark 7:9-13; Luke 2:51-52; Eph. 6:1-4.

Accessions

ALGIERS, LA.
By Baptism:
Mrs. Odile Williams
Lester Moore
Patrick Moore
Ronaele Moore
Larry Azano
Timothy Moore
Curris Williams
Author Johnson, Jr.

1ST BROOKFIELD, N. Y.
By Baptism:
Mike Burdick
NORTH LOUP, NEB.
By Testimony:
Mrs. Vernon (Esther) Williams
Mrs. Nancy Hovey

Marriages

SEVIERVE - KEEP — Cletus Severance, son of Deacon Cecil F. Severance, North Loup, Neb., and Sharon Keep, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Veron Keep of Scotia, Neb., were united in marriage at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of North Loup by the Rev. Duane L. Davis on June 12, 1966.

Obituaries

HAMER — Ethel Mae Clement, daughter of Sherman L. and Winnie (Babcock) Clement, was born in North Loup, Neb., Sept. 23, 1892, and died in Ord, Neb., July 1, 1966. Ethel lived her entire life in North Loup. She accepted Christ and became a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in 1909. She was married to Thomas J. Hames at Boulter, Colo., July 1, 1911. For over thirty years she served as weekly newspaper correspondent in North Loup.

Surviving are her nine children: Lewis of Beatrice, Neb.; Winnie Williams, North Loup; Louise Kanumerlohr, Columbus, Neb.; one sister, Mrs. Oscar Richards, Riverside, Calif.; a foster-sister, Mrs. Clinton Miller, of Norristown, Pa.; 29 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Duane L. Davis, in the church and burial was in the Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

— E. K. B.

Riverside Church Prepares for Conference
Riverside is but fifteen or twenty minutes from Redlands and is thus the nearest of the California host churches. Its interior is different from eastern churches and is truly inviting. For weeks the loyal members have been encouraged to lend a hand in beautifying the building and grounds in preparation for the many visitors expected. The Commission of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference holds its important week-long pre-Conference session in the Parish House next door to this sanctuary. Many of the delegates who arrive before the Sabbath will probably worship in this church August 13.
The Role of the Clergy in Our Democratic Economy

Dr. Harold C. Passer, noted economist and author who works for Eastman Kodak, in a recently published essay, “The American Economy in Perspective,” compares that economy in some detail with that of Communist countries. His analysis of the nature of the two economies is perceptive and revealing. Midway through the scholarly article he has a subheading titled, “The Clergyman and Other Opinion Leaders.”

In our economic structure, Dr. Passer observes, there is an important service rendered by the clergyman: “He assists the consumer in reaching judgments about basic standards and values—and these judgments can guide him in the exercise of his economic and political freedom.” Ours is a consumer-oriented economy.

The consumer ultimately decides from a multitude of choices open to him that for which he will spend his dollars and therefore what will be produced to satisfy his needs and wants. The minister helps him in his value judgments.

“Under communism,” says the economist, “the influence of the nature of natural leaders in the way society uses its resources is severely limited, because only the top leaders decide how society’s resources are to be used.” In our system the economic freedom of the sovereign consumer creates an important role for religious leaders. The role is not to decide what to do with their freedom—a freedom which is not found in the Communist world. It is ironic that the worker-consumer whom the economist would lose out under capitalism has gained a status that is unbelievable to the Russians. The standard of living (real earnings per capita) in Russia as late as 1959 was below the 1928 standard in that country, while private enterprise was still permitted.

What is produced in goods and services in our country is dependent on the values of our individual citizens—not by what the top planners decide should be made available. Thus it is influencing our minds as to what we will buy or demand. The economist points out that if everybody refused to buy pornographic literature none would be produced; if nobody would watch trivial TV shows or sex-ridden movies none would be produced.

This, it can be seen, puts a tremendous responsibility on the opinion makers, of whom the clergy are the best representatives. Is it a sublimated role for the minister, that of “The Clergyman and Other Opinion Leaders.”

In conclusion, the minister can influence the way we think. One of the best ways he does that is by the way he has carried out his role. If any evidence is needed of the influence of the clergy, it can be seen in any country where the clergy have had a voice in the determination of the public policies. In the US, the political leaders were not heatheans, just as the clergy for the most part were Congregationalists, and that is a religion that is basically different from the church that is controlled by the state.
Short Terms Abroad
There are many young people and some older ones who would like to do some foreign work of some kind, but for various reasons cannot fit into a program that calls for one or two long terms on a mission field. If there was an organization cutting across denominational lines and searching out opportunities for and support of short terms of service it would appeal to such people far more than the Peace Corps. Furthermore it would provide more places to serve than a single, small denomination could offer. There is such an organization called STA (Short Terms Abroad). It is located at 129 North Main St., Wheaton, Ill. 60187.

An example of what STA does is seen in the case of Marcia Worley, a 1965 graduate of Nyack Missionary College and a member of an Evangelical Congregational church in Lancaster, Pa. She applied to STA in February and is now under appointment to serve as a secretary in a hospital in the Evangelical Alliance Mission in Maaeud, South Africa. She is one of the first to go out under STA, which appears to be a growing agency for matching short-term candidates with the needs on the field—an agency that co-operates with about 100 mission boards.

The organization has just appointed Mr. Odd Carlson of Wheaton as assistant director. For the past five years he has been the administrative secretary of the Greater Evangelical Missionary (GEM). He will represent STA on campuses across the nation.

Each denomination, like our own, is now trying to promote short-term dedicated service in foreign fields as well as the much needed longer term service. This is good, but it may not be possible in a given year to channel the talents of all to fruitful service. STA broadens the opportunities. It may be something that considerable numbers of Baptists will want to learn more about.

Decisions on Publishing Work Made by Tract Board
A major portion of the July 10 board meeting was given to discussion of recommendations relative to denominational printing and distribution of denominational literature by the board. The committee in charge of the task has been named and is active in their task.

The committee after two meetings in the middle of May had recommended a special meeting of the board held on June 23 that an all-board meeting be called on June 26 of two representatives appointed by each of the boards and agencies needing printing done or needing space in the Plainfield buildings. The advice of this representative committee was sought as one of the ways of studying the situation. This largesse is a first step in regard to phasing out of commercial printing and into an enlarged denominational printing ministry, with a very early date suggested. The special board committee in reporting its findings to the July meeting passed along these recommendations with a modification of the suggested date, or phasing out the commercial operations of the Publishing House.

The action on this matter as finally adopted by the board reads: "That the board formulate plans to phase out commercial operations of the Recorder Press as soon after August 1, 1966, as we find it to be judicious, economic, and in the best interest of the Society and the denomination, and at the same time move forward into a denominational ministry, with the intention that commercial operations be ceased by October 1, 1966."

Further action recommended by the special committee was that the Supervisory Committee employ a (named) business consultant from New York City (who had already conferred with the two committees) to "analyze the business and plant of the Recorder Press and to make recommendations designed to carry out policies adopted by the board (at its July 10 meeting)."

Growth by Groups
By Dale Rood, member of the Summer Christian Service Corps

How real has the Bible been in your life? Has it always seemed far away and hard to apply in this day and age? This week in the SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) training session at Milton, the Bible, for me, found a new reality. We used a Bible study method which is called "Growth by Groups." Here is how it works.

The most important thing is preparation ahead of time. This usually goes over a week-long period. At the end of the week, the group meets to discuss the Scripture. The method of preparation involves several steps:

1. Paraphrase. Put the passage into your own language. Be sure to include in it things that you yourself have experienced some way in your private life. For example, Philippians 4: 4 could be paraphrased: "Be joyful in the Lord constantly, despite the fact the washing machine just broke down and Johnny just threw a rock through the neighbor's window." How many of us can relate to this?

2. Problems. Does this passage bring up any questions in your life, or things you can't understand? Write it down under "problems."

3. Cross reference. How can I apply what has been said?

Now the real experience begins when the group meets. At the training session we usually met in groups of four. The experience was very real. We would first go over the paraphrases. This brought up some of those problems which had bothered us. We felt free to talk these things over and even more so to see that others actually had many of the same problems. We would discuss these, and how they pertained to the passage. Then we would talk about how these might be overcome. The group members found a new reality in being able to get deep problems off their chests. This discussion actually helped us to discover what those deep-seated problems were that really bothered us. In a sense, you could say we found ourselves.

Based on our experiences with this type of Bible study, everyone should have a chance to try this "Growth by Groups" program. It is being distributed to the churches mentioning this, among other things. Let's everyone take advantage of this!

Alfred Sesquicentennial Coming
The Alfred N.Y., church is actively preparing historical program material for celebrating in the fall the 150th anniversary of its founding.

It is interesting to learn from the historians that between 1812 and 1816 the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church in western New York existed as a branch of the Berlin church of eastern New York near the Massachusetts state line. It was in October 1816 that the Alfred church was officially organized.

The committee in charge of celebrating the event is setting aside three dates to "think on these things." The dates are Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 - Oct. 3, 1966. They hope to have many of the descendants of early members and of the various pastors present on one or the other of the three sessions. The third session will be devoted to young people with the purpose of looking forward to new ways of worship and attempting to see where the church needs to do in the coming years.

Furnished by Mrs. H. O. Burdick.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION — Sec. Rex E. Zwiebel

Campus Witness

By Robert Frankson, president of Alfred Youth Group.

( Given at the Alfred church on National Christian College Day.)

A witness is defined as a person who can give a firsthand account. How well do we go along with this definition? Most of us not too well. We really don’t know all that we should about Christ and God to tell others and be an example of Him. Our task should be the relearning or learning of God and His words each day, also learning from the experiences God has given us.

With this knowledge and feeling for God we can witness to those around us. Every time we witness the words must come from our hearts and say what is pertinent at the time.

We must not try to play God, as if we knew everything, but just try to get God across to the people.

Don’t try to knock them down but try to understand them and tell them about God and what He does in our life. We must listen to them, as well as expect them to listen to us. This accomplishes two things; we find out what they think and it gives us something to think about. We learn from what they say because many times questions are brought up in our minds which we have the answer to. These questions sometimes help us to better understand ourselves and God.

Witness to the complete love of Christ. Christ was able to forgive those who had sinned. He was able to forgive those around us and forget their wrongdoing. Help these young people to see their point of view. We must listen to them, as well as expecting them to listen to us. This accomplishes two things; we find out what they think and it gives us something to think about. Christ’s love for the “persons” whom He healed was more than love for keep- ing the rules of the day. In healing the lame man and asking him to pick up his bed on the Sabbath day He placed people above the law.

The concept of a university was molded by Christian thought during the Middle Ages. During this period students endeavored to relate not only theology and worship, but philosophy, but philosophy, but philosophy. However, art, music, and literature to God. They did do not by way of speculation but in the light of revelation; not so much in a search for truth as to see how to understand the truth as revealed by God. There was not the spirit of gropeg for God’s forgiveness, but rather of expressing gratitude for God’s gift of salvation and waiting for the complete fulfillment of His promises.

As time passed Christianity or religion has come simply to be one of a number of departments in a university. The other departments have cut loose their bonds with the Christian world and life view and begun to go their own way developing a new philosophy.

From this development the campus today has been characterized as a marketplace of ideas, each with its own booth hawking its wares. In the absence of the earlier unifying force of Christianity, with God at the center of education, today it is pretty much every idea for itself. As a result, many students have substituted their own unifying principles, the grade curve, the laboratory, the football field, the house party. The campus elevates scientific progress and success.

Willis M. Tate has said this about modern college students: “There are many competing philosophies which seek to meet the basic need of fulfillment and meaning. Colleges and universities have within their halls thousands of students for whose ultimate loyalties these many philosophies are competing. Students are in a crucial stage of formation and development. It is the plastic character of life and experience which creates an unique opportunity for the church to communicate its gospel, but how the gospel is to be communicated is crucial. Such communication must be done in full understanding of what is taking place in the life of a student. There must be understanding of sociological, psychological, and personal forces at work in the student during the concentrated period of time when the past is handed over to the present generation. To be examined, changed, appropriated.

Mr. Tate is saying that Christianity is now one of the many philosophies dominant on each college campus. Students give their complete loyalty to the most forceful philosophy. Christianity has not to be presented as a philosophy in such a way that Christianity will become their dominant loyalty.

Christian students must look out to the campus to learn how to communicate the gospel in the thought patterns and language non-Christians will understand. A great weakness of the average evangelical Christian group on campus is that its expressions are unintelligible to most non-Christians. Christians generally speak a language all their own. As a result of this, Christianity is not something which the non-Christian has thoroughly comprehended and received of which he has never really seen or understood at all.

Students who present the gospel must understand the basic characteristics of the gospel message is in revolt against the authority of God and of a divinely inspired Bible. From this position it strides itself on being objective, neutral, unemotional, and tolerant of non-Christians. Wise Christian will realize these things and not meet them head on. Rather, he will try to show the honest seeker that objectivity and noncommitment are illusions. Every man is constantly in the act of committing himself to that to which he gives his time and energy.

Christian students should be encouraged by the fact that underneath all the intellectual problems and discussions, their non-Christian friends are very much like themselves. They are often confused and uncertain as they struggle with the problems of sin and temptation, of vocation, of dating and courtship and other social problems. The communicative, despite the modern mind, have the same basic spiritual need as students in the time of Christ. The gospel of Jesus is as it was when He left—the key to salvation for everyone who believes.

Today’s Christian students have a tremendous responsibility placed upon them—being Christian witnesses for God. They must remember that the non-believers are like themselves and they can communicate with the non-believer better than anybody else. You and I must be constantly advancing in the knowledge of God and as college students must be witnesses to guide people to God.

Pre-Con Preregistrations

Only a few Pre-Con Retreat preregistrations are trickling in to the directors of the Youth Pre-Con and Young Adult Pre-Con Retreats. While we have found that preregistrations are no real deterrent of the total persons who will attend, yet they do give us a feeling of what might happen.

If you are reasonably sure that you will be attending Youth Pre-Con Retreat please send your name to the Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, c/o the Rev. C. R. Burdick, 4415 Lemon St., Riverside, Calif. 92504. Youth Pre-Con is for young people who have completed the 9th grade or are 15 to 20 years of age. Those in the range of 18-20 may elect to attend either Youth or Young Adult Pre-Con. Youth Pre-Con will be held at Redlands University Grounds Where Young Adult Pre-Con Meets

Pacific Pines, high in the San Bernardino Mountains under Pastor Saunders’ direction. An excellent staff of helpers will be there to lead you to a new appreciation of the qualities of the Christian life. The dates are August 10-15.

If you are reasonably sure that you will be attending Young Adult Pre-Con...
Malawi Central African Conference

(Prepared by Rev. Orson B. Manan)

**S.D.B. World Federation**

By the grace of the Lord, after his health was somewhat restored from the major surgery, Pastor O. B. Manan undertook a trip during June and July of 1965 to explain more of CoWoCo to the churches. For this purpose he visited some churches in the Southern Region in June. As one of the people to undertake the trip, he was also able to visit and explain CoWoCo to some of the conferences in the Central and Northern Regions. He explained more of CoWoCo to the people during the sessions of all our Associations (Northern, Central, Southwest, and Southeastern), also information on the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. At Conference sessions last year, he took up the matter of CoWoCo with the entire Conference, and as the explanation and answers to the necessary questions were given, the Conference unanimously voted in favor of joining the Federation on Friday, August 13, 1965.

Some money in the region of £20 from our Conference treasury has been sent to the Federation to defray the expenses of our delegates attending the Federation's General Conference. We are happy to see that the World Federation has been formed, for thus Seventh Day Baptists are furthering the work of God; giving a witness of the saving power of our Lord Jesus and of the Sabbath truth.

**The work is going ahead**

The Seventh Day Baptist churches of the Central Africa Conference are still trying to spread the “Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ” in all possible ways. Usually the pastors and the churches are trying to reach out to new villages and areas with the saving gospel of our living Savior. Jesus Christ. Missions and evangelistic services have been conducted in various places with very good results. A number of young preachers and missionaries have been held in various churches. New areas have been opened to church work. Around our new branch church in Porong, East Africa, souls are still being won to Christ. Some of our mud and pole church buildings have been replaced by sun-dried-brick buildings, while others are in the process of being built. One stone church is being planned. Stones have already been gathered, and the necessary funds for building are being collected. In spite of the fact that death has taken some members, and others have been taken back to their ways of sin, we are happy that the work of the Lord is still going forward. We continue to see new souls saved and added to the church.

**The urban work**

In recent years the Central Africa Conference has been interested in urban evangelism, with the aim of providing pastoral care to our people working in town. Last year the Board of Trustees of Central Africa Conference of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation recommended that Pastor O. B. Manan be sent to Blantyre to begin this work. He moved to Blantyre in November 1965. At this time, some of our members working in Blantyre and Limbe meet for worship each Sabbath afternoon, using a beautiful chapel built by one of the large companies of Limbi, which they let various groups use free of cost. This church work was dedicated in this chapel during a special service of dedication on January 16. Many people have become members, and a few others are awaiting baptism.

The Central African Conference has proposed that Blantyre be the center of evangelism and Church safety for our people of Malawi. Negotiations are ongoing between the Central Africa Conference and the Missionary Society of the U.S.A. Conference to work out the necessary details to establish this, and to have the Rev. David C. Pearson come to Blantyre next year to head this work.

**The Board of Trustees**

During last year’s Conference, the Executive Committee was replaced by the newly formed Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of Pastor L. Nothale. Many problems have come up before this board, but have been discussed with understanding, and a gentle spirit. Three of five pastors, and four of five preachers, recommended to be transferred by the board, have gone to their expected places. Preacher C. Nangazi of Makapwa Station Church was ordained as a pastor on February 26, and has gone to pastor the Mechidzu church. The board decided that a delegation chosen by them would be sent to the churches to help in settling any troubles. So far this plan has proved successful, and we are very happy and satisfied in the way in which the Board of Trustees has carried on its duties. Among many pastoral visits this unity and cooperation these days, and the churches are learning their responsibilities.

**Revival has began**

For two years now, a period of one week each year, the evangelistic team from Dorthea Mission from South Africa have been holding services at Makawan Station. Some of our people (including the writer) have attended the Keswick Convention of Malawi at Blantyre. This is an interdenominational convention, consisting of evangelistic messages and prayer services. For approximately one month, Preachers C. Makatangwe and Pastor O. B. Manan held evangelistic meetings in fifteen of our churches in the Southern Region. All of these efforts have really helped, and many are returning to Christ. We greatly praise the Lord, for indeed through the Holy Spirit, Preacher C. Makatangwe and Pastor O. B. Manan helped many souls to return to Christ. The number of those who have come forward with troubled hearts some with tears, and repenting of their sins and confessing their need of evangelistic messages, came to 115. We continue praying for these men and women who now struggle to live victorious and holy lives for Christ would be very much appreciated.

**Religious leadership training continued**

The Central Africa Conference was privileged to have among us the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Burdick, a period of one week each year, the evangelistic team from Dorthea Mission from South Africa have been holding services at Makawan Station. Some of our people (including the writer) have attended the Keswick Convention of Malawi at Blantyre. This is an interdenominational convention, consisting of evangelistic messages and prayer services. For approximately one month, Preachers C. Makatangwe and Pastor O. B. Manan held evangelistic meetings in fifteen of our churches in the Southern Region. All of these efforts have really helped, and many are returning to Christ. We greatly praise the Lord, for indeed through the Holy Spirit, Preacher C. Makatangwe and Pastor O. B. Manan helped many souls to return to Christ. The number of those who have come forward with troubled hearts some with tears, and repenting of their sins and confessing their need of evangelistic messages, came to 115. We continue praying for these men and women who now struggle to live victorious and holy lives for Christ would be very much appreciated.

**A trying period of Central Africa Conference**

Dr. and Mrs. Victor Burdick, the only missionaries among us, now plan to leave August 9 for furlough in America, hoping to return to us once again in early January 1967. This will be a long, trying period for Central Africa Conference leaders, who have been experiencing these trials.
For as the Land Rover from Makapwa stopped by my house in Blantyre this morning, as the people began the trip to the coast, and being recent converts, I saw no faces of the missionary brethren, only those of the native pastors. What a hard, trying period this is going to be for us of the Western African Conference! Since it is only from above that we can acquire the necessary courage and wisdom to enable us to do well during this period, we should very much appreciate the prayers of our fellow Seventh Day Baptists throughout the world. Also we would ask for prayers for special Revival Meetings we will be having for the next week in August at Makande Trading Centre in Chikwawa, and again for two or three weeks during September in the Central Region.

SCSC Converses with God
By G. Timothy Looney

How often do you talk with God? Are you "wishy-washy" when you pray? Too many of us are not specific when we do put around to praying. We "beat around the bush" because we are afraid to let the Lord know what we want. Sentence prayers at prayer meetings usually go something like this: "Lord, be with all the sick and in need of our prayers. And, dear Lord, be with the missionaries overseas."

When a wish-washy he does not come to his dad and say, "Daddy, I want a toy for my birthday." Instead the youngster says, "Daddy, I want a little red fire truck for my birthday." When we talk with the Lord we should be definite, the same as the child. God wants us to know what we want. How is our Heavenly Father to know what we want if we do not tell Him? Our prayers should go more like this: "Lord, be with Mrs. Jones as she goes through her operation and if it be Thy will, bring her back to good health. Lord, we also pray for John Doe, one of our missionaries in Thailand; he needs help in finding a means to replace the mission that burned down." We of the Summer Christian Service Corps experienced some of the blessings our training session in Milton, Wisconsin, with the missionaries.

MEMORY TEXT
And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 1 Cor. 2: 1, 2.

We learned of the power of being definite in our prayers with God. The corps closed each day with a form of prayer called "conversational prayer." Each individual states in one or two sentences some specific things for which he wishes to seek the aid of the Lord. When someone "feels led" he speaks up with his petition to the heavenly Father. The SCSC members found that it pays to be positive in our talks with our Father. Many doors were opened to the Word and quite often chances arose to witness for the Lord. Because of being definite in our prayers a soul was won for Christ. If all followers of Christ were exact and to the point in their praying to God the chances that this world is in just might be ended.

Are you definite in your praying?

I Shall Not Fear
I shall not fear the path that lies ahead Of me in life's brief span; I shall not dread The unknown dangers hidden in my way— The storms, the stones, the dismal skies; The gray; For looking back, I see God's hand has led. From heaven's vast supply I have been fed. Protecting angels hover near my bed And keep me safe in life's unending fray. I shall not fear. My spirit daily feeds on living bread— The Lord's sure Word—for He Himself has said That He will not forsake me, come what may.
I'll trust the future—I have seen today. I shall not fear.

—Eugene Lincoln

The Bible and American Life
By Kenneth Scott Latourette

The sesquicentennial of the American Bible Society in 1966 provides an opportunity for assessing the place which the Bible has played in the life of the United States and the part which the American Bible Society has had in that contribution.

On first thought the Bible would seem to have been a major factor in shaping American culture. With the exception of the Indians and the Negroes, at the outset of our independence as a nation the overwhelming majority of the population was Protestant in background. All but small minorities sprang from stock that came from countries which were officially Protestant.

Part of the distinctive genius of Protestantism is the emphasis on the Scriptures as the record of God's dealing with man and of the salvation which He has wrought through the long succession of writers inspired by Him, culminating in the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of His Son, and in what was wrought by His Holy Spirit in the creation of His Church. For the continued vitality and even the survival of Protestantism, therefore, familiarity with the text of the Bible and its study by the rank and file of those who call themselves Protestants is essential.

Moreover, again and again we are reminded of the part which Protestant refugees from persecution in Europe had in the founding of our nation and of the emphasis placed by these refugees on the Scriptures. We recall that one of the founders of New England declared that God had yet more light to break out of His Holy Word and that this faith had inspired much of the American dream.

Yet from the beginning of the United States, even in the years of foundation-laying, the Protestant heritage and with it the influence of the Bible was threatened.

Dr. Latourette, one of America's foremost historians, and Emeritus Sterling Professor of Missionary and Oriental History at Yale University, was recently elected Honorary Life Member of the American Bible Society.

August 1, 1966

and seemed to be waning. For the large majority of the immigrants in colonial days, the religious impulse was not present. The outstanding fact is that for more of this world's goods—was predominant. So far as can be ascertained, when the Declaration of Independence was issued in 1776, not more than one hundred of the population were members of churches. Moreover, as thousands left the Atlantic Seaboard and moved westward, it is likely that many might have had with the Church and its faith dwindled.

Early travelers on the frontier reported the seeming godlessness of the new settlements. Disregard of religion, the floating of Christian moral standards, the absence of worship prevailed, whether by individuals, families, or groups. With the one-sixth century came new waves of immigration from Europe. Only a few of the arrivals had religion as a dominant purpose. Millions were Roman Catholics, and in their homes had had only slight if any touch with the Bible. Urbanization and the decline of the small town and the rural church, the growth of Protestantism and with it the Bible did much to shape, have threatened biblical faith.

In spite of these apparently insuperable obstacles the Bible has been a mounting influence in American life. This generation will seem quite contrary to the facts. No one with his eyes open can fail to be aware of the gross ignorance of the Scriptures in the public at large and among those who call themselves Christians, even the members of Protestant churches.

Yet some incontrovertible data can be adduced to support the seemingly preposterous conclusion. Outstanding is the mounting proportion of the population who are members of Protestant churches. With two exceptions, each decade in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has seen an advance in that proportion. The exceptions are the decade of the Civil War, which brought an actual decline and that of World War I when neither advance nor decline was seen.
Obviously membership in a Protestant church does not insure a knowledge of the Bible. But Protestant instruction and Protestant worship are Bible-centered and with them some familiarity with the Scriptures penetrate the rank and file of the membership and through them the national life. Moreover, the published totals of Protestant church membership are not an adequate measure of the influence of the Scriptures, ancient and modern. Some denominations include in their statistics only adult members and take no account of children who are under an instruction which includes the Bible. Then, too, millions who have once been members of Protestant churches have dropped out, or have a lapsed, or have been ejected. Yet many thousands of others who from time to time have attended churches or are members of fraternal orders which in their offices, in example and action, have a Bible-centered and Bible-influenced life and have used the Bible as a daily guide and a source of constant inspiration have been exposed, even though the text most widely sold is what inaccurately bears the designation of the “authorized” or “King James” version. Yet in the last few years the Revised Standard Version has sold by the millions and other versions have from time to time had a wide circulation. We must also remind ourselves that outside Protestantism—notably in the Roman Catholic circles, the study of the Bible is mounting. 

(Tribute to the Life of Deacon Leon Lamont Lewis)

By Hurley S. Warren

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5: 1).

In writing to the Corinthian Christians, Paul declares the Christian certainty that if our bodies, the temple in which God’s Spirit dwells, shall be “destroyed, we possess a building in which God has provided—a house not made by hands, eternal, and in heaven” (NEB).

Leon Lamont Lewis devoted his life occupationaly to building. He enjoyed his chosen work. His greatest joy and most lasting contribution is best seen in how he lived, in that “building which God has provided.”

He was the son of Cushman W. and Anna Mosher Lewis, and was born at Alfred Station, N. Y., February 26, 1893. He was baptized and joined the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church in February, 1915, and has been a lifelong and faithful member.

On June 10, 1917, he was united in marriage with Miss Edna Pierce of Alfred Station, his childhood friend and sweetheart. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis began housekeeping in the home where they have lived for over forty-eight years. The team work of Leon and Edna Lewis was extended and enhanced when they were ordained to the diaconate of the Alfred Station Church on August 7, 1954. Their dedication to the privileges of their office, in example and action, has made a lasting impression upon the pastors and people with whom they have served.

He is survived by his wife: a son, Robert Piemer Lewis, and a daughter, Pearl Evelyn (Mrs. Dale) Woodworth of Wellboro, Pa.; and six grandchildren, three in each of Robert’s and Pearl’s families; by two sisters; Mrs. Marguerite Palmer of Alfred Station, N. Y.; and Mrs. Fern Barber of Franklinville, N. Y.

Mr. Lewis had been associated with his son Robert in the contracting and building business for the past twenty years. Miss Lamont Lewis years there never had been a disagreement or misunderstanding between father and son. Brother Lewis was a friendly person and a man of deep compassion. He will be remembered for his peace-loving and peace-making qualities.

The life of Deacon Leon Lamont Lewis confirms our faith in the apostle Paul’s declaration that we have a building of God.

Farina Centennial a Success

By Ernest Furrow

On July 9 and 10, the Farina, Ill., Seventh Day Baptist Church by specially arranged program celebrated the 100 years of service in the Farina community, which centennial date was April 14, 1966. From twelve states other than Illinois and from twenty-nine Illinois communities, 219 persons registered in the specially prepared registration pages in the church’s pulpit Bible. Milton had the largest representation of any church. Then there were others who were bookkeepers, although others added to the group.

The old church organs were used during these services. A men’s chorus, made up of many old-timers who grew up in the Farina church, and augmented by others, provided special music. A former pastor, A. Addison Appel, and Pastor Carlos McSparrin of the Old Stone Fort church presided over the Sabbath morning worship and conducted communion. The sermon, "Desert to Desert" by Mr. Appel of the Albion and Milton Junction churches was a very appropriate message.

The details of the program continuing from Sabbath eve through Sunday afternoon were carried out as previously announced in the story carried in the July 4 issue. It is reported that the special music on Sunday afternoon when Dr. Lloyd Seager spoke on “The Tie that Binds” was by the Seager family. All six of their living children and their families constituted the group. The numbers sung were written by the Rev. and Mrs. L. D. Seager, parents of Dr. Seager.

August 1, 1966
ITEMS OF INTEREST

New Theological College in Jamaica

A veteran missionary and skilled administrator will spend the next two years as president of a United Theological College of the West Indies, on a special grant from the Theological Education Fund of the World Council of Churches.

The Rev. Dr. Wilfred Scopes, a former missionary to India, will begin his assignment in Jamaica August 1. As a WCC employee, he recently directed a survey on the training of the ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The United Theological College of the West Indies currently is under construction adjacent to the campus of the University of the West Indies at Mona, a suburb in the southwest of Kingston, Jamaica. The new school, toward which the Theological Education Fund has already contributed $133,500, will open in the spring of 1967. It is combining three separate existing theological schools—St. Peter's College (Anglican), Calabar College (Baptist), and the present United Seminary of the Caribbean.

Dr. Scopes will gather and orient the faculty, develop curricula for the school, and relationships with the university, while overseeing construction of the new buildings.

A Japanese Baptist Convention

A missionary on furlough from Japan feels impelled to contrast the atmosphere and attitude of delegates to the Japan convention and the United States convention according to a brief article prepared for Baptist Press.

Worth Corry, a young Baptist pastor in California, was especially impressed with an exhibit of the men beating the summer heat by wearing open-collared shirts in an auditorium that is not air-conditioned. The women do not wear short pants, but are dressed plainly. The agenda is placed on a blackboard and daily erased and revised.

About the business of the convention, Grant observes: "A vote among Japanese Baptists is usually not taken on a controversial issue until there is a meeting of minds. There are seldom any dissenting votes. This is the Japanese way of not forcing an issue which can cause a serious breach of fellowship. After everyone has had his say and a few confessions made here and there, the messengers can then vote without any fear of losing face."

Christian Publisher Dies

Following an extended illness, Mr. B. D. Zondervan, Sr., passed away July 4, 1966.

As co-founder with his brother, P. J. Zondervan, of Zondervan Publishing House, a firm begun in the back bedroom of his parents' farm house 35 years ago, he saw the company grow into one of the world's major Christian publishing firms. B. D. Zondervan served as an officer and director of eleven major corporations, including Zondervan Publishing House, Family Book Stores of America, WIBL, AM and FM Radio Station (Holland, Mich.) and Singspiration, Inc.

The name Zondervan is one that bookstores and the Church have learned to count on. The publishing work will go on.

Baptist Pastor, Catholic Priest, Perform Wedding

A Southern Baptist pastor and a Catholic priest participated together in a wedding ceremony in Memphis, Tenn. The Rev. William Jackson helped to marry his sister, Joyce, and Rev. M. Larkin during ceremonies at the St. Michael Catholic Church in Memphis. The bride says she will remain a Baptist and her husband will remain Catholic.

Father James Miller, assistant pastor of the St. Michael church, led in the exchange of the vows, Jackson delivered an exhortation and led in the closing benediction. The Catholic priest said the ceremony might possibly be the first of its kind in the United States.

Mr. Jackson said that Father Miller was very generous with the time allowed him during the ceremony. "There were about the business Mr. Grant writes, except that he had to exchange the vows," said Jackson. "And this is something I would want to do at any wedding performed in my church." He explained that his sister had wanted him to perform her wedding ceremony ever since he had been ordained.

Two days after the Vatican decree liberalizing restrictions in Protestant-Catholic marriage ceremonies, Joyce went to the Catholic priest and asked what her brother could do at the wedding. Father Miller later told him that he almost fell out of his chair when she requested that a Southern Baptist minister be permitted to partici­pate in the ceremony.

Cathedral Films Founder Dies

Dr. James K. Friedrich, founder and president of Cathedral Films, a major producer of religious films, died Tuesday morning, July 12, as the result of a severe heart attack suffered the previous Sunday while he was celebrating Holy Communion at All Saints Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills. He was on the staff of the church as well as having established an Episcopal parish in North Hollywood.

The consuming interests of his life was the presentation of the Christian message through audio-visuals. During his career of 26 years in Hollywood, Dr. Friedrich produced a series of 12 films depicting the life of Christ and 12 more on the life of St. Paul. His Living Christ film series immediately became the most widely used among youth of Christ throughout the English-speaking world.

Note.—Dr. Friedrich's filmstrips based on the above-mentioned films are an integral part of General Tract Board's filmstrip library, much called for by our people.

For August 13, 1966

Are You a Murderer?


For August 20, 1966

Life Can Be Clean

Lesson Scripture: Ex. 20: 14; Matt. 5: 27-28; John 8: 3-11.

August 1, 1966

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

ASHAWAY, N. Y.—During recent weeks Pastor Wheeler has conducted three studies on the denominational Yearbook. These were held Sabbath afternoon following a fellowship dinner at the Parish House and have proven more interesting than was expected.

At the morning worship service, June 11th, there was a dedication of seven children.

Staff—Nearly one hundred people attended the dedication of our new Hammond organ Sunday afternoon, June 19. The instrument was dedicated to the memory of Albert Babcock Crandall, a life member of the church. Pastor Wheeler conducted the service. A program of organ music was presented by Pastor Wheeler and Mrs. T. Jackson, Jr., which was followed by a reception in the church basement.

—Correspondent.

RICHBURG, N. Y.—A special series of revival meetings was held in our church May 4 to 7. The average attendance was 60 and the interest showed signs that some of other churches in our community and by some from our distant churches, was appreciated.

Pastor Herbert Saunders of Little Genesee gave us assistance by leading the song service. There was special music each evening. A contest for the youth was conducted, consisting of questions on the previous night's sermons. The prize was awarded on the final night to Bob Cartwright.

Pastor Pearson did the speaking, using for his sermons questions such as "Where Art Thou?" and "Where Is Thy Brother?" These messages presented the gospel message simply and also reached into the hearts of Christians and caused them to rethink their experience with the Lord. The words challenged Christians to witness to others, and gave hope in meeting spiritual depression, which may so often defeat a victorious life. It is felt that these meetings were a blessing to the church and the community.

—Richburg Insporer.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Family night in August will be held on the night
of the 13th, rather than the first Sabbath as usual. Everyone will want to share in this program since our Guyana missionary, the Leland Davises will be bringing the program that evening. Also on that Sabbath, the Victor Burdicks will be with us. They will arrive from Africa by plane on Wednesday, August 10, at 3:30 p.m. at International Airport in Los Angeles.

Our missionary, Miss Florence Bowden of Shiloh, N. J., will be with us the two weekends of September 2-4 and 9-11. Miss Bowden is a specialist in the teaching field and will be giving of her talents to help better equip our Sabbath School teachers for their responsibilities.

The church Planning Retreat will be held at Pacific Pines Camp on the weekend of September 16th.

-Church Bulletin.

SALEMVILLE, PA.—During the month of April we enjoyed having a former pastor, Rev. Paul Burdick and his wife with us working as missionaries. They were very much at home in the parsonage. He preached for us on five Sabbaths and conducted Sabbath eve prayer meetings.

Special guests who were entertained during that month were Rev. and Mrs. Loyal Hurley on their way to Salem, W. Va., a group of young people from Alfred, N. Y., on their way to Ephrata, and the Rev. Rex Zwiebel, who held a workshop on Christian education.

Friday evening, April 29, Pastor Burdick showed slides to a joint meeting of the two Sabbathkeeping churches, pictures taken by him of the mission work in Malawi, Africa. He was presented with a purse for the work there.

About the time the sun was setting on the eve of May 6 a baptismal service was held around the pool at the Roy Como home when four children were baptized by Pastor Burdick. This was very impressive.

Do you recall that
Conference Offering Sabbath
is August 13?
Be sure your gift is
included for
OWM

Pastor and Mrs. John A. Conrod and sons are with us for the summer months. We are most happy and grateful for their leadership. Pastor Conrod spent the week days during the month of June at the Ministerial Training Center at Plainfield, N. J.

Cottage prayer meetings are held each Friday evening in different homes.

The two Seventh Day Baptist churches honored their graduates with a chicken dinner June 1 in Loysburg. The Rev. Charles Graffius, pastor of German Seventh Day Baptist Church, was master of ceremonies. Gifts were presented to the graduates by the pastors. Students honored were Ruthanna Kagarise, Kenneth Lippincott, Michael Crawford, Roger Lippincott, Frank Dasher, Martin Ferry, Joe Yoder, and Nancy Wohhhas.

We were happy to have Rev. David Pearson as our guest speaker Sabbath day, June 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boyd and children and Rev. Charles Graffius and son Donald attended the Southeastern Association at Salem, W. Va.

A number of children from the two Seventh Day Baptist churches attended camp at Shelbysville, W. Va. Mrs. Lois Fletcher served as counselor, Mrs. Robert Kagarise assisted in preparing the meals. Robert Kagarise served as "Handy Man" around the camp.

—Correspondent.

"Unconsecrated wealth of Christians is the greatest hindrance to the church's progress."

Marriages

Lovering-Crandall.—Joseph Fredrick Lovering, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Lovering of Ashland, Ohio, and Miss Ellen Camille Crandall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne M. Crandall of Arkport, N. Y., were united in marriage June 11, 1966 in the Gothic Chapel at Alfred, N. Y., by the Rev. Philip Hollembake of Wellsville.

Saunders-Bond.—Irene Bond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Iras Bond Nortonville, Kan., and Stephan Saunders, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Francis Saunders of Lost Creek, W. Va., were married June 8, at the Seventh Day Baptist church at Nortonville. The Rev. Francis Saunders performed the double ring ceremony assisted by the Rev. Allen Bond, uncle of the bride. The couple are at home at 420 Greenman St., Milton, Wts.

The Sabbath Recorder

Conference President Marion C. Van Horn

As of the date of this issue the Rev. Marion C. Van Horn calls to order the 154th session of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference at the University of Redlands in Southern California. He will deliver a brief president's address presenting the printed program and calling attention once again to the theme of the year, "I Have a Stewardship," around which the inspirational messages of the six-day program are centered. Mr. Van Horn's leadership through the year culminates during these days when he is the presiding officer over the business sessions. It continues, however, for another year during which he will presumably be chairman of the Commission.