SHILOH, N. J.—A special part of the regular morning worship service for a period of five weeks, proclaiming Christ’s kingdom and highlighting the Christmas season, proved inspirational again this year. Pastor Charles Bond lighted the first candle, the gospel candle, as part of this service; Mary Ayars lighted the candle of faith the second week; Teddy Davis, the candle of hope the third week; Robert and Kathleen Vanderslice, the candle of love, the fourth week. Lighting the unnamed candle, the fifth week, by the congregation, climaxed this beautiful program. It was preceded by an outstanding presentation of a Christmas cantata called “The Night the Angels Sang” by the senior choir directed by Anita Harris. Special selections by the youth choir directed by Matilda Dickinson and the junior choir directed by Eleanor Fogg added to this special performance.

Several of our young people were home for the holidays. We were glad to see Phil and Tim Bond, David, Erwin, and Mary Sheppard, Randy and Everett Dickinson, Phil Davis, Jeff Fogg, Clara Richardson, and Joan Schaible.

Dale Rood, a dedicated student attending Crozer Seminary, is to be working with the Shiloh church his second semester.

The annual business meeting and the fellowship dinner were held in the new Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 7.

A dream of an educational building has been realized and was used for the first time for the business meeting and the dinner. We speak of having willpower enough to accomplish something, or enough brainpower to be capable of a task. For the Christian, the source of power is of great importance. Through prayer, much effort, and dedicated workers a new building is being put to use in the Lord’s work.

Projects are on the move to equip the new building. One such project, “Give a Chair for Christmas,” designed to secure new folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall and Sabbath School classrooms has been quite successful—250 brand-new chairs! A baby grand piano has been donated by Harry and Sara Bowen.

We look forward to any opportunity to advance Christ’s work.

—Correspondent.

Births

Holt.—A daughter, Laura Virginia, to Dr. and Mrs. William S. Holt (Jean Cushman) on November 24, 1967, Rochester, N. Y.

Sholtz.—A daughter, Deborah Sue, to Louis and Nina (Skaggs) Sholtz, Oneida, N. Y., on November 25, 1967.

Van Horn.—A son, Clarence Brad, to Chris and Sarah Jane (Rogers) Van Horn of Salem, W. Va., on December 12, 1967.

Obituaries

HEILMAN.—Ernest Walter, son of Valentine and Emma Heilman, was born Sept. 26, 1895 and died of a heart attack at Indianapolis Nov. 29, 1967.

He had lived in Indianapolis for 46 years. On Aug. 26, 1961, he married Helen Iris Hall, who survives. A veteran of World War I, by trade a watchmaker, he was a charter member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Indianapolis while that church was in existence.

Other survivors are four brothers, all of Ohio, and three married sisters, one in Ohio and two in Pennsylvania. Graveside services were conducted by Paul E. Byard December 2 at Hillcrest Cemetery, North Vernon, Ind.

—Mrs. E. W. Heilman.

Youth as Pioneers

There is abundant evidence that the gospel is reaching a high percentage of the young people of this generation as it has in preceding generations. When converted and committed, our youth become pioneers and lead the way in purposeful living. We salute our young people—strong in faith. Let us challenge them with meaningful service for the Lord and the church!
The Sabbath Recorder

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Theodore T. Morris, B.D.
WOMEN'S WORK
Woman's Christian Education, Rex E. Zwiebel, B.D., M.A.

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PLAINFIELD, N. J.
January 29, 1968
Volume 184, No. 5
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Editorials:
Baptist Doctrine in Sweden
American United
Religion Goes to School

Features:
Russian Churchmen Guests
Looking Ahead
Memorial Fund
Civil Rights Gains in Spite of Black Power
The Blasted Fig Tree
Denmark's Church State Building
Fund Drive
Waterman Youth Group Makes Pilgrimage
Then Came Jesus
Rev. James L. Skidmore

Missions:
Home Field Pastors Report
Director of Evangelism

Christian Education:
Selective Services Proposal Sharply Criticized
The Art of Teaching Christianity

YOUPH:
How Can You Witness?

Accesstions — Births — Back Cover

Baptist Doctrine in Sweden
At the annual Baptist Pastors' Conference in Sweden attended by some 250 pastors a Swedish Baptist historian, Torsten Bergsten, who advocates strong ecumenical ties, warned his audience that the Baptist movement in Sweden "has lost its power of appeal, both as a denomination and as an advocate of believers' baptism." He predicted a steady decline in membership from 28,000 to 17,240 by the year 1990, adding that they would then be too weak to continue as a separate church. What he would do, if anything, to halt the decline in membership he apparently did not say. Last spring he was one of ninety Baptist leaders signing a petition urging the Baptist Union of Sweden to seek membership in the World Council of Churches. The Union decided not to join. No evidence is presented that the denomination would reverse its predicted downward trend by becoming more ecumenical. The speaker put it this way: "Today an ecumenical step would be as strong a witness as the proclamation of our view of baptism was in the last century."

Is the Swedish educator right in assuming that in the church there is no longer much interest in believer's baptism? Does he mean that the minority is being swallowed up by the majority or does he imply that the denomination has lost its power of appeal? From news releases of that organization. Why? Because we believe that its goals and aims are in close harmony with those of our denomination in the particular area of its emphasis. The full legal name is Protestants and Others United for the Separation of Church and State. It is better known by its initials POAU. For convenience and better public relations it is now called simply Americans United (AU). It watches the encroachments on the constitutional separation of church and state and frequently takes matters to court—rendering a great service to churches that are not inclined or able to do this.

The organization has grown during 1967, adding ten new chapters and conducting a successful campaign for an adequate headquarters building. It is reported that the halfway mark has been reached in the building fund. Americans United will hold its 1968 National Conference in Cincinnati on February 6 and 7 (Netherland-Hilton Hotel).

MEMORY TEXT
For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. John 5:21.

and be swept up in a revival greater than that which started the church a century or more ago. A decleror of the established church might give rise to a rediscovery of the significance of believer's baptism. Again, our own denominational experience would seem to show that a group does not have to have a membership of 17,000 to warrant a separate existence. We could assume any Baptist leader that the Sabbath is something important, more important biblically than the manner or the time of baptism. It is a reason for being, even if we are a very small minority.

Americans United
From time to time material appears on these pages either commenting on the work of Americans United or quoting portions of the folder sent to the Sabbath Recorder by the American Sabbath Union, Inc., an independent, tax deductible organization located at 4001 Fairwood Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46807. Its purpose is to protect religion in the public school in strict accordance with the Supreme Court ruling. The folder goes toward clearing the somewhat clouded atmosphere on what may or may not be done in regard to prayer and Bible study. It goes farther by offering the kind of courses that may be taught and outlines a variety of things that may be done to create appreciation of the place of religion in history and contemporary life. The purpose is to teach that one who teach or are on school boards might well look further into what this organization offers. We quote portions of the material in the folder because we believe it to be good.

Religion and the School
The court has not ruled against prayer and Bible reading in all forms in a public school, but only when those forms are part of a state sponsored practice of religion. Any student is free to pray or read his Bible at his own initiative. The court ruled against school sponsored practice of religion, but the court encouraged school sponsored study of religion. The difference between the two situations is in the attempt of what a public school may and may not do with religion in the curriculum.

Within the framework of what the court will allow, and what sound education principles dictate, there are many activities that may be done with religion in the school including special courses, approaches to courses, curriculum enrichment procedures, and moments of meditation.

Special Courses
Biblical Literature. A survey of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing the literary and historical content.

Biblical History. Survey of the historical literature of the Old and New Testaments emphasizing the place of Israel,
Christ, and the early Church in world history does not conflict with the rights of those who do not wish to pray. The “moment of meditation” is emerging as the solution to classroom prayer. During moments of meditation all classroom activity is stopped allowing each student to pray or not to pray as his conscience dictates (usually silently). Many teachers, schools, and entire school systems are requiring a moment of meditation in the classroom. Several states have state-wide laws mandating a moment of meditation in every classroom every day. Teachers have a right, an obligation, to provide an opportunity for prayer for those who want to pray.

Russian Churchmen Guests
At the close of a 20-day visit in the United States as guests of the Church of the Brethren, three Russian Orthodox churchmen and their interpreter were guests at a private luncheon on November 30 of the National Council of Churches. The delegation was headed by Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad and Novgorod and chairman of external church affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate.

The six-member association committee held its first meeting in one of the elegant conference rooms of the Administrative Building of Nyack Missionary College on Thursday, December 14, 1967. The committee (left to right): Rev. Herbert Saunders, chairman, Charles North of Plainfield, James Davis of Marlboro, N. J., Ruth Ellis of Berlin, N. Y. Not shown: Bill Barber of Westerly, R. I., and the editor. After a Sunday dinner with the missionary-minded student body and some of the administrative staff the committee toured the stretch-out hillside campus. They then got down to the business of determining what must be done to insure the convenience of officers and delegates. They divided up the responsibility and arranged for additional committees. It was apparent that this central committee was made up of capable workers who were enthusiastic about the possibilities of this campus as the site of the 1969 General Conference. The location is beautiful and very accessible to those who travel by auto. It is at the western end of the Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson River less than one hour’s drive north of New York City.

Looking Ahead to 1969 Conference
Although our primary interest in Conference publicity is for the 1968 session at Kezey, Nebraska—and such publicity of place and program will be intensified—it is good to know that substantial plans were being made by the Host Committee of the Eastern Association for the 1969 session.

The Sabbath Recorder
January 29, 1968

Memorial Fund
Does Business, Loses President
By C. Harmon Dickinson, treasurer

Early Thursday, January 18, 1968, the Lord of life called B. Colwell Davis, Jr., from this earthly life to his eternal home. Four days earlier Mr. Davis, the president of the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Board Fund, called the quarterly meeting of the Board to order in Plainfield, N. J.

B. Colwell Davis, Jr., son of the late president of Alfred University, Dr. Booteh C. Davis, was appointed to the Memorial Fund Board in July 1942. He was a devoted member from that time serving on standing committees and as president since 1943. Meetings were conducted in an orderly way with due fairness for the varying opinions of the members. Mr. Davis was deeply concerned that the Board exercise with integrity the stewardship of the funds entrusted to it. Although no longer a member of one of our churches he desired that incomes from funds be greater for good of the denomination, for causes approved or recommended by the Commission and General Conference, and where the need was most evident.

With the serious illness of Secretary L. H. North, the uncertain health of two other members, and the severity of weather conditions, President Davis was concerned as to whether there would be a quorum of five present to conduct official business on January 14. Living at considerable distance at Richburg, N. C., the writer had thought not to attend this meeting, but Colwell Davis very much wanted me to come, invited me to stay in his home, and met me in New York City.

A few minutes before the hour of ten on the morning of the meeting, the fifth member walked in the door—Clarence M. Rogers of Salem, W. Va. The other two members present were Robert M. Coon and Adelbert A. Whitford. Also present were the general secretary, Rev. Alton L. Wheeler, Dr. Charles E. Brundage and Samuel C. Williams, Jr., investment counselors.

JANUARY 29, 1968
Not just leaves but fruit is the message of—

THE BLASTED FIG TREE

(Continued from page 14)

By Rev. Paul S. Burdick

It was not that Jesus was angry with the fig tree when he found on it nothing but leaves; He wanted to teach the disciples about their responsibility. This was truly a parable in action.

The promise immediately following, that with faith they could remove mountains, would have prepared them for the time to come when the church would need such mountain-moving faith for its tasks.

There are many ways in which the church can be likened to the tree. Prayer is the sap which nourishes all the branches from the eternal source, which is God. Stewardship is the action whereby the branches and leaves take use of the gift of God's sunlight through photosynthesis. Evangelism is the action of the wind continually stirring the leaves, prodding them to action. The blossoms are for beauty, and that the church is right in seeking—stately buildings, beautiful music, stained glass windows, soul-stirring liturgy. But most of all beauty shines forth in the saintly lives of its members.

Prayer, stewardship, beauty—all have their place in the healthy church, but what about the fruit?

Good Deeds Are the Fruit

It is interesting to note how much emphasis Jesus puts upon "doing the work," and however heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them . . . . 

"Ye call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say." The Pharisees he accused of "robbing widows' houses, and for a pretense saying long prayers." James sums it up when he says, "For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his face in a mirror . . . ." then forgetting to do anything good. Works are not a substitute for faith, but they should follow it, as fruit follows the seed.

What is the Church for?

Many today are asking: "What can and will the church do? Is it solely for its own self-perpetuation?" Saintliness is a fine thing when found in a church, but what will it do? Will it bring justice to the underdog? Will it correct conditions that lead to poverty? Will it help to bring peace on the earth? Multitudes are turning away from the church because they do not see in it the answer to the most vital questions of our times. "Repent and bring forth fruits meet for repentance." Christ is saying to the church today. Creedy landlords, public officials indifferent to the filthy conditions existing in our cities—all these lead to riots. Lify-white neighborhoods, prejudice against a black child in a school, bombed churches, and the bodies of three civil rights workers buried in a dam—all add to a feeling of hopelessness and despair.

What are the churches doing to stop the murder due to war? Pope Paul has spoken out, but other voices have been hushed or muted. Businesses that get their profits as "merchants of death" and hire great numbers of men, make any effective protest against war seem like picking away at a mountain with a toy shovel. But remember Jesus' words! The prayer of faith will move the mountain.

"There is a difference between the mountain-moving faith prayer? Is it ready to put its trust in the love of God through Christ, or does it cling to the false notion that great armaments will save the world from destruction?"

In Praise of the Church

But the church has done some things very well. For 100 years the church has sought to help the developing countries. Missionaries have been sent out, not only to preach healing of the soul but healing of the body as well. This has been done without the use of the sword, except the sword of the Spirit. When one of these soldiers of Christ has fallen, ten more have stepped forward to take his place. (Continued on page 14)
In a nearly unanimous ballot the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church voted at its annual meeting, January 7, to launch a campaign for $75,000 and build a sanctuary adjoining its present Fellowship Hall. Building plans were approved at a previous meeting. The theme of the campaign is "Our Denver World Mission.

Donald E. Widman, fund drive chairman, is setting up teams of canvassers with Mel Stephan, church stewardship chairman, and Rev. Albert N. Rogers, pastor. The planning committee headed by Deacon Elno R. Davis, which spent months of intensive work on plans with an architectural consultant, is awaiting outcome of the campaign. A special church meeting will be called in mid-February to hear reports of contributions and pledges.

Other leaders named at the annual meeting include Paul Thorngate, moderator; Mrs. John A. Waterbury, treasurer; Mrs. E. Keith Davis, evangelism chairman; Mrs. Gary G. Cox, worship chairman; Richard L. Steele, Christian education chairman; and Gordon Thorngate and Ted Turpin, trustees. Standing committees and departments are being set up by the Advisory Board. Positive though informal support has been given through informal support has been given to the church program by an "Involvement Group" of members who voluntarily undertook special assignments in stewardship, church attendance and Sabbath School work.

As the funding drive begins the church has about $9,000 on hand and debts of $10,362.87. Nearly $5,000 was paid in 1967 on indebtedness incurred when the present property on Wadsworth Blvd. was bought in 1959. The church, organized in 1930, worshiped many years on lower Kalamath St., in downtown Denver, now an industrialized area. The move to a suburban location on a major traffic artery was led by Dr. E. Keith Davis, senior deacon, and Rev. Kenneth E. Smith, former pastor. The 1968 general fund budget is $15,614.70, including $1,700 for Our World Mission.

The church has received ten members in the past three months and five new families have identified with the congregation in three years time in addition to transfers from other churches and young people from the Sabbath School.

—Albert N. Rogers.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
for February 10, 1968
LIFE’S HUNGER SATISFIED
Lesson Scripture: John 6:35-44, 48.

for February 17, 1968
THE LIGHT OF LIFE
Lesson Scripture: John 9:1-7; 35-41.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Washington Youth Group Makes Pilgrimage to Plainfield

As a result of spending the fall quarter studying Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs there came to Earl Hibbard and others of the Sabbath School at Washington, D. C., the idea that a pilgrimage to Plainfield would be good. What could a day at an international headquarters do for the youth (and some of the adults) of the Washington church? I would allow an hour or two in the historical library where the heritage of the past is preserved and where a feeling of belonging to something solid would be fostered. Some, of course, had been in Plainfield before and knew the value of seeing and hearing the story of our origin. Others had not and perhaps never would unless they came in a group.

A caravan of three cars was organized for Sunday, January 21, with Earl Hibbard and his wife in charge of arrangements. They made the four hour trip on schedule and were ready to begin their national headquarters at eleven o’clock. They wanted to improve their knowledge of the denomination of which they are a part and felt that four or five hours spent in the Seventh Day Baptist Building and Publishing House would help to generate enthusiasm for their own church work. They found work going on in the print shop, which is not often the case on Sunday. The press work on the 1967 Yearbook had been completed and Henry Poulin was running the folder and cutter so that the book could be put together as soon as possible. He was able to give the group a quick demonstration of how denominational printing is done.

When the Washington folks had completed their tour they paused for a moment front of the building for the picture shown on this page. They expressed satisfaction for a profitable excursion. They can now visualize how many of the functions of the headquarters are carried on, including the Ministerial Training Center. Many across the denomination have prayed for the Washington project. It is now evident that the prayers have in large measure been answered. These young folks can now pray more intelligently for the future of Seventh Day Baptists as a whole.

Jim Chroniger, Mrs. Rose Chroniger, Carl Davis, Mrs. Delmer Van Horn, Donald Chroniger, Darwin Van Horn, Rev. Delmer Van Horn, Ted Brissey, Earl Hibbard, Charles Brissey, Douglas Brissey, Barbara Dixon, MRS. Earl Hibbard, Mike Hildebrand, Robert Van Horn, Karen Van Dresson, Mrs. Charles Brissey, Kevin Chroniger.

Then Came Jesus
(a book review)

Rev. Clyde A. Kirby has had a most interesting ministry in the way of winning souls that were hard to reach and an unusual skill in writing the story of some of these experiences. In a book of 11 chapters he combines the longing to change hearts with supernatural descriptions of nature, for which he has great appreciation. It makes a heartwarming book, deeply religious, but reading much like a descriptive novel. The theme, "When came Jesus," climaxes each expanded incident. Chapter headings are such as, "The Big Mean Cop," "The Lonely Mountain Cabin," "A Minister's Despair," and "The Alcoholics Return." Zondervan, $3.95 list.

L.M.M.

FLASH

As this Sabbath Recorder went to press (Jan. 24) the 1967 Yearbook was stapled and being readied for mailing during the week beginning January 29, not quite as early as hoped, but earlier than usual.
MISSIONS—Sec. Everett T. Harris

Home Field Pastors Report
(The following reports may be added to those presented in last week’s issue.)

Schenectady, S. D. B. Church
(As reported by Mrs. Leland E. Davis)

The quarter ending December 31, 1967, has been full and fruitful. The pastor conducted 12 of the 13 worship services and led the choir in 8 services. Others bringing messages were: Arthur Burns, Rev. Alton Wheeler, Miss Connie Coon, and Kenneth L. Davis (son of Pastor and Mrs. Leland Davis). Also, sons Kenneth and Ronald assisted Pastor Davis in a visitation program during Christmas vacation, making follow-up calls on contacts made by Miss Connie Coon in November.

An extensive teen-age evangelism program was carried on, also a door-to-door witnessing and soul-winning program in which 400 homes were reached with the gospel during November, with the help of Miss Coon. Statistics show 14 decisions made for Christ and several rededications on the part of church members.

Richburg, N. Y. (S.D.B. Church
(As reported by Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson)

The redecorating of the church basement was completed in October. A project for the future is “pilaning the walls of the sanctuary.” Cottage prayer meetings were held the week of Prayer for the Nation. Attendance outside of the homes visited was small but the meetings have been spiritually refreshing.

The pastor has conducted daily devotions on three mornings over a radio station in Wellsville, N. Y. He continues to teach a class of fifth graders in Boulevard public school on “sacred stories,” also a class in Richburg school on “released time.”

Statistics show 26 sermons preached during the quarter. The pulpit has filled with the pulpit of the First Baptist Church of Friendship, N. Y., while they are without a pastor. The report of pastoral calls as having been made during the quarter. He has continued to serve as treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society and has done 22 hours of research for Volume III of Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America.

Rockville and Second Hopkinton, R. I.

We are happy to report that a new missionary pastor arrived on Tuesday, January 9, to serve the Rockville and Second Hopkinton churches. Pastor and Mrs. Clifford Bond were assigned to the parsonage at Rockville ready for their occupancy. We understand that they drove through from Kansas City, Mo., and arrived at the homes early. The church in Wellsville, N. Y., was spiritual refreshing.

The first day of the quarter found me in Westerly as missionary where I was also able to meet with members of the Hope Field Community Section of Youth Fellowship in an evaluation of their visitation that morning. Counseling was done with Connie Coon and Secretary Davis on her work at Hopkinton City and Rockville under extended dedicated service. Harold King, also serving under the extended dedicated service rode back to Brookfield where he began four weeks as student pastor.

October was spent in field work. Meetings were held with families and groups in Toronto and Woodstock, Ont., Canada, and a two-day meeting of the regional Crusade of the Americas committee was attended in Chicago. Mid-Continent Association was attended at Nortonville, Kansas, and time was spent in the Kansas City area where two radio broadcasts were taped and household gospel meeting setup at the booth at The American Royal Livestock Show. Between October 13 and 28 I traveled with Pastor Duane Davis visiting lone-Sabbathkeepers in Nebraska. We traveled 2,700 miles. There was counseling, Bible reading and prayer in over 30 homes and participation in services in Ogallala, Arthur, Bassett, Omaha and North Loup. This included work in Great Britain, Mexico, Jamaica and the United States in two places. A workshop on witness and outreach was led in North Loup and a meeting of their Evangelism Committee was attended to discuss the journey and its implications for their work. There was also an opportunity to visit the National Council of Churches site for the conference site for 1968—Kearney State College, and the Youth Pre-Con Camp Comeca location. Pictures of the latter have been shared with the Board of Christian Education.

The Dedicated Service-1968 folder and the Week of Prayer material was edited for publication. A class on visitation was led in Berlin. A meeting of delegates from New York State Seventh Day Baptist churches to prepare a constitution for a State Council was attended. Counseling was done with Pastor Leland Davis on their extended dedicated service worker project and also with the chairman of the Central New York Association Missions Committee. Three days were spent in Plainfield during Planning Committee session. There was an opportunity to be with the NCC was attended in New York City, which allowed another two days in Plainfield to publish the Bible Reading Guide for 1968 and posters for Crusade of the Americas Day of Prayer.

During the quarter 96 individual letters were sent and 96 letters were added to the list of letters to pastors, clerks and dedicated service workers. Two individuals professed their faith in Christ. As acting pastor of the Brookfield churches, two were baptized and received into the church, assistance was given on an ordination council for the diakonate at Des Moines, Ia. The Mid-Continent Fellowship was encouraged in their distribution of over 200 New Testaments just prior to the holy days. You cannot be silent about something that has important implications for our ventures. Halting in our obedience, searching to share His Word in deed and word. As His people we confess we are too often hesitant in our faith, timid in our ventures, hiding in our obedience, and cynical about our fellowship.”

I find people today looking for an authority beyond God for men and for them. Thus, they “search” the lives of others. What do they find in the way we live, speak, and react to life’s pressures? To be “His agents of reconciliation,” we must first be reconciled with God through Christ and daily living in faith. The nearest testimony is that which is lived out in life and shared openly in love with our fellowmen. “Lord, may my life speak more for you and my lips not be silent when opportunity for witness is given!” This is my prayer.

—Leon R. Lawton.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. Rex E. Zwierbl

Selective Services Proposal
Sharply Criticized

A recommendation that draft boards declare delinquent all those liable to the draft who obstruct enlistment procedures or otherwise protest military service, and conscript them, has been strongly criticized by a spokesman for the Department of Civil and Religious Liberties of the National Council of Churches. Commenting on the proposal made by national director of Selective Service, Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, the Rev. Dean M. Kelley declared: “Induction into military service should not be used as a punishment for dissent.” While not condoning acts of protest, he added: “The opportunity to live in Brookfield and serve the local fellowships as able.”

On October 14, 1967 our Conference President urged a Proclamation to be read in our churches. In this it stated: “This church is God’s people—the new testimony which is lived out in life and shared openly in love with our fellowmen. ‘Lord, may my life speak more for you and my lips not be silent when opportunity for witness is given!’ This is my prayer.

JANUARY 29, 1968

THE SABBATH RECORDER
and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, the signers declared: "There are thou­ sands—perhaps millions—of young Americans who are now faced with the choice of either violating their consciences or being imprisoned. The statement also says that "the Selective Service system . . . represents an effort to obtain obedience without assent."

The current Selective Service Act declares that anyone who knowingly coun­ cels, aids or abets another to refuse or evade registration or service in the armed forces . . . shall be liable to imprisonment for not more than five years or a fine of $10,000 or both.

—Religious Newsweekly.

The Art of Teaching Christianity


This unique approach to the teaching of Christianity reflects a thorough knowl­ edge of education and presents insights into what makes Christian teaching distinc­ tive.

Dr. Rood sees the teaching of Chris­ tianity as the art of enabling dialogue—the meaningful encounter offered by God to man. He develops this definition in four parts:

Part I — an explanation of the special nature of the content of Christianity.

Part II — practical preparations for dealing with learners, teachers, content, environment, and lesson plans.

Part III — teaching methods and techniques: lecturing, visual aids, discussion, group activities.

Part IV — problems of discipline and evaluation.

Part V — categories of content: teaching the Bible, teaching history, teaching theology, and teaching with music.

Most of the aspects of education — learners and teachers, content, environment, lesson plans, methods, discipline, evaluation — are considered within the author's own definition of Christian education. Final chapters concentrate on an educational analysis of the content of Christian education. The author, Wayne Rood, professor of religious education at the Pacific School of Reli­ gion, Berkeley, California.

REV. JAMES L. SKAGGS

By Earl Cruzan

The Rev. James L. Skaggs, son of Leroy F. and Rosanna Pearce Skaggs, was born May 26, 1878, near Boaz, Mo. As a young man he came to Milton, Wis., to attend Milton Academy and Milton Teachers College. On July 11, 1900, he was united in marriage with Hettie Ann Whitney, who preceded him in death on Nov. 19, 1963.

To this union were born five children: Allison of Battle Creek, Mich., Evalyn (Mrs. Kenneth Camenga) of Beaver Dam, Wis., J. Leland of Milton, Wis., Margaret (Mrs. Charles Bond) of Shiloh, N. J., and Victor W. of Plainfield, N. J. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

James studied at Alfred University School of Theology and while in school there accepted the pastorate of the church at Nile, N. Y. Other pastorate were Shiloh, N. J. Nortonville, Kans., Plain­ field, N. J., Milton, Wis., New York City, and Salem, W Va. He also took some theological training at Crozer while serv­ ing pastors pastorate.

He retired in 1947 and lived in Salem, W Va., until 1959 when he and his wife moved to Wisconsin where they made their home the remainder of their lives, living in Beaver Dam, Milton and James­ ville.

The following testimony from a Milton neighbor speaks of the respect with which he was held:

"To the family of Rev. James Skaggs— "Extending sincere sympathy and sharing your sorrow in the passing of your father and grandfather—also a very good friend and wonderful neighbor."

"He was a Christian gentleman of clean habits, dignity, refinement and strong character—was a fine family who are all well established in polite society and good citizenship—showing active concern for his welfare, comfort and increasing needs.

"The living of his long, happy and useful life contributed much to many—he was not a follower of the crowd but stood out as a leader and landmark in the several communities that were privi­ leged to come under his spiritual leader­ ship—and I knew him as a personality whose eyes exposed a keen sense of humor—he enjoyed and created good wholesome fun.

"It was good to live when he did and have a chance to be his friend and neigh­ bor.

"The McQueens were among the many who enjoyed with profit, the beautiful flowers and the delicious fruits that grew and flourished in his well ordered garden of life which was guarded by character and fertilized by his refreshing personal­ ity.

"Rev. James Skaggs will not be here in person but pleasant memories of what he stood for and will long re­ main and continue to serve.

"Surely a kind of generous future will provide him with whatever nice things it can store.

"I'm proud to be a good friend of the family."

Ed McQueen

(The following is taken from that which was used by his funeral service.)

I have known him for over thirty years. During these years I have been made closely associated with members of his family than himself as I was in school with some of them, both in college and in seminary, have served in the associ­ ated with pastors and pastor's families, and in denominational work. My fellowship with them speaks highly of his faith and of his influence on them.

While Salem the pre-theo­ logical students gathered in his home for fellowship and discussion, an experience which they highly cherish.

His father was a convert to the Sabbath and served and worked for well as earn­ ing his living by farming. It is a testi­ mony to his faith that he could conduct his mother's funeral at his father's re­ quest and these lines written in her mem­ ory on a Mother's Day also speak to his faith:

I'll carry here a little while With shoulders, God wants me to do. But when I hear Master's call I'll gladly come to Him—and you.

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THE SABBATH RECORDER

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The witness of his faith is also re­ vealed in the fields of service where his Christian spirit and courage were put to serve. Not trying to single out one from another or to value one place of service against an­ other. Throughout his life, one son is a minister, one daughter a minister's wife, another son a deacon in the Milton church, one grandson is studying for the ministry and another is caring for the sick.

For a few weeks he was my pastor during my last year in college, and for the past few months I have served as his pastor. He was in church as long as he was physically able to attend. In my last conversation with him as he firmly grasped my hand, he spoke of his ap­ proaching death, not with sorrow, but with a smile of great peace. He told me that he saw things more clearly than ever before. He tried to tell me some of it. As is so often the case, the glimpse of the things that come near the end of our days, while clear to the one who receives them are seldom such as can be clearly under­ stood by those of us who are more in this world than in the one to come.

Truly it may be said of him as the Psalmist writes: "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools . . . O Lord of hosts blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (Psa. 84: 5-12).

His life, his service, his influence upon others speaks of the assurance of the faith in which we trust—the confidence which is ours in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ.

And while his parting leaves an empti­ ness in family circles, a lack of physical friendship and fellowship to which we must adjust, the confidence which John Oxenham expresses is ours: "There is no death. They only truly live Who pass into the life beyond, and see The earth is but a school preparative For larger ministry."

"There is no death To those whose hearts are set On higher things than the little dosh afford; How shall their passing leave one least regret, Who go to join their Lord?"
Hope Can You Witness?
Matthew 5:13-16

You have ever felt as if you're the only Christian at school? Do you feel as if you're just there and no one seems to care or notice that you're a Christian? I have felt this way many times while at school. I know, myself, that I have Christian beliefs that I would love to share with others, but many kids don't want to stop and hear a "religious fanatic" preach them a sermon.

There are many other ways of witness though, and to me, one of the most important is through a person's character.

When was the last time you said "hi" to or smiled at someone in the hall who needs a friend? Have you offered a comforting word to someone in trouble or sorrow, or did you tell yourself that he'll get over it and walk away? Do you walk through the halls with a dreary look on your face while thinking about how tired you are and that assignment you didn't get done, when a smile could show others how much you have to be thankful for?

A Christian has the greatest thing in the world, Jesus Christ. This isn't something to hide, and we should show how happy we are to be a Christian in every little act we do. When a Christian is a walking fountain of kindness and happiness, these characteristics will really stand out and the doors will be opened for verbal witnessing. A Christian can perform one of the greatest acts in witnessing by breaking through with a smile or a cheerful word. There isn't really anything to worry about if you let God help you with your problems.

Let us remember the words of our Lord and Savior in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."—Alice Rood, Milton, Wis.

The Blasted Pig Tree

(Continued from page 7)
The leadership of the church has been quite active in this has been an inspiration to governments in sending out the Peace Corps. Even the Communists have adopted this method as their own. Here is where the real battle for the souls of men is going on.

This whole matter could not be stated better than in the words of a sermon recently published "under the editor, on Christian maturity. The signs of maturity in Christ are, the writer says, "to teach effectively, to act responsibly, and to love compassionately." It is in these three areas that God will test us as to the quality of our fruit-bearing.

To Teach Effectively

The message of God in Christ must be relevant to our changing times, the author says. We cannot unlock the future with the "past's blood-rusted key." The problems of war and peace, of racial tensions, and of poverty in cities and rural districts, must be faced with new insights, new methods. God will teach us if our hearts are open to his teaching.

Act Decisively

The work of saving the world to righteousness and peace will not be done by those who say, "My vote, or my influence, will not count for much." When Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland, it was the result of hard work on the part of a group of persons who were pitted against the power and black, who went from street to street, ringing doorbells, or meeting in prayer in some church. Success in God's Kingdom is not the result of accident or in- difference. Let us then act decisively.

Love Compassionately

Jesus had sympathy for the down-and-out, the underdog. No one came to Him for help without getting it. When the church expresses that same spirit of compassion, it will find all needy folk coming to its door. Do not turn them away! Be it a Negro in a ghetto of our city, or a child in a village of North Vietnam, or an African boy afflicted with sores—all have a claim on our sympathy and our help.

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, and so forth. When these are found in the church, she will have no fear but that Jesus will say, "I was hungry, you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, you gave me to drink; I was in prison, you came to visit me; and you visited me, sick and heart-broken and you brought me comfort." May God help us!

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

DODGE CENTER, MINN.—The annual chicken pie dinner and business meeting were held Sunday, January 7. The following officers were elected: president, Donald Payne; clerk, Selli Bond; treasurer, Vivian Kloppsteiin; building fund treasurer, Roy Langworthy; trustee, Arthur Payne; chorister, Barry Clapper with Bill Bond, assistant; head usher, Claston Bond. Committee representatives are: Finance, Millicent Greene and Joyce Longworthy; Music, Ida Babcock; Evangelism, Bette Bond and Linda Greene; Lord's Acre, Clare and Ardith Greene and Mike and Lorna Zinke.

A committee has been hard at work trying to finalize plans for completely remodeling our present church structure and solving the problem of how to finance such a project.

The Constitution and bylaws, revised and brought up-to-date, were adopted at our annual meeting.

Because we appreciated the work of our Evangelism Committee this past summer, we instructed the Evangelism Committee to invite another team to come next summer.

Plans are underway for calling an Ordination Council during the annual Meetings in Dodge Center, April 19-21, for the purpose of ordaining our pastor, Wayne Babcock, to the gospel ministry. All the churches in the Northern and North Central Associations have been invited to send representatives to act on the Ordination Council. And Victor Skaggs has been invited to participate also. The Christian Fellowship group again is sponsoring an "Odds and Ends" night every other Sabbath night during the winter months. This is a time of fun and fellowship at the church for young and old to play games, sit and visit or have committee meetings if they wish.

Their project of selling Seventh Day Baptist signs to our churches all over the nation has been quite successful and they still have some available for the churches that haven't ordered.

Our Sabbath School and its auxiliaries reported another busy year with Bible School, camps, Pre-Con and Conference being well attended.

The Ladies Benevolent Society reported a very busy year with Bible School, camps, Pre-Con and Conference being well attended.

A Baptist meeting point in the city of Bilbao, Spain, has been closed despite legislation which guarantees religious liberty in the nation, the New York Times news service reported from Madrid.

The meeting place, located on the first floor of an apartment house, was shut down by police on the allegation that the Baptists lacked official authorization to continue services.

All non-Catholic religious denominations in Spain, under the new religious liberty measure, are considered to be "associations" or "communities" and must be specifically approved by the Ministry of Justice. The measure was approved by the Cortes (Spanish Parliament) in June.

The New York Times news service pointed out that, to its knowledge, the church in Bilbao is the first institution to be affected by the new law. The Baptists have worshiped there normally during the last few years without government interference, it said.

Special Issue Next Week

It is expected that the February Special Issue will be mailed on schedule next week (Feb. 2). The articles are wonderful reading, in your editor's opinion.
Accessions

MILTON, WIS.

By Letter:
Lester Hurley
Thelma (Mrs. Lester) Hurley

Births


Severance.—A daughter, Shawn Dianne, January 9, 1968, at Ord, Nebr., to C. Brice and Peggy Hawley Severance of North Loup.


Obituaries

AYARS.—Mrs. Margaret H., daughter of Lewis and Margaret Hall Hummel and widow of Dr. Oscar S. Ayars, was born in Shiloh April 6, 1885; and died at her home in Salem, N. J. Dec. 28, 1967, after a long illness.

Mrs. Ayars was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

Surviving are: a daughter, Mrs. William R. Smith, and a son, Everette, both of Salem; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Salem with her pastor, the Rev. Charles H. Bond, officiating. Interment was in the Shiloh Cemetery.


He was married to Corabelle E. Crandall May 14, 1907, at Dodge Center, Minn. She died in 1963.

Mr. Crandall was a long time resident of Milton and was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was employed about ten years in the Dunn & Boss Department Store and farmed several years in the Otter Creek area. He had been employed about 40 years as an interior decorator with Shadel Company, Janesville, retiring in 1955.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry and Willy Crandall, and two sisters, Byrd Coon and Maude Hurley.

Surviving are: three daughters, Mrs. Paul (Geraldine Cleone) Van Horn of Milton, Mrs. Edmar (Wanda) Hansen of Milton Junction, and Mrs. Victor (Gwendolyn) Leoborn of Milwaukee; nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. A. Appel at Albrecht Funeral Home, Milton Junction, and interment was in the Milton Cemetery.

EVANS.—Phebe E. Bassett, daughter of William H. and Myrta Bliss Bassett was born at Alfred, N. Y., May 11, 1889, and died at the Rebecca Hospital of the Odd Fellows Home, Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1968.

Baptized April 25, 1902, she became a lifelong member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was active in church and community life.

She was married to James R. Evans of Alfred Aug. 30, 1910. He preceded her in death in 1960. To this union were born one son and two daughters.

She is survived by her daughters, Carolyn (Mrs. Harold Alty) of Freeland, Mich., and Ruth (Mrs. Hugh Williams) of Springfield, Ohio; her son, William H. of Alfred; her two brothers, Leon of Alfred and Robert of Beaver Falls, Pa.; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and nephews and nieces.

A memorial service was conducted Jan. 5, 1968, at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church by her associate pastor, Hurley S. Warren, and Pastor David S. Clarke. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

SKAGGS.—Rev. James L., son of Leroy Forest and Rosanna Pearce Skaggs was born May 26, 1878, near Boaz, Mo., and died after an extended illness at Caravilla, Janesville, Wis., Jan. 1, 1968. Funeral services were conducted from the Milton Seventh Day Baptist church, Jan. 3, by Pastor Earl Cruzan. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

(A more extended obituary is included elsewhere in this issue.)