Africa Success Story

There is a tendency to think that African people as well as others are slow to accept the gospel. This may be true in many countries, but for some reason Baptists are having great success in the Maryland-size country of Rwanda in East Central Africa, a land of 3½ million population. As a mission it is under the Danish Baptist Mission but the success appears to be largely attributable to the work of one native pastor, Gituro, who is the only pastor for 9,600 church members.

On one Sunday alone, 158 converts were baptized. On the following morning, baptism for 60 more took place.

In the first half of this year, there were almost 1,500 baptisms reported. There were another 6,000 persons awaiting baptism after finishing a class in instruction in the Christian faith when this item was written in late July.

In 1962, there were but 908 Baptists in this country. Now there are 9,600. The country gained independence in 1962 and the same year the church became autonomous. Gituro is a true circuit rider. Traveling mostly by bicycle, he pedals 200 kilometers (125 miles) in three days. Sometimes he goes afoot. "I preach every day, sometimes more than once," he said. He must visit each of 22 preaching stations regularly. Local lay people conduct services between visits.

Within two years a ministerial training program now in effect is expected to produce ten native pastors. It is expected that the rapid growth will continue, but there is a screening process to make sure the converts are true.

—EBPS

Mission of Mercy in Vietnam

Long before the stepped-up withdrawal of American military personnel from Vietnam there was the quiet transfer of missions of mercy from military to civilian auspices. The picture reproduced here originated with the Marine Force Logistical Command in Vietnam. A Vietnamese boy undergoing plastic surgery in the Hoa Kanh Children's Hospital, Vietnam, receives assurances from Dr. Everett S. Graf- fam, executive vice-president of World Relief Commission, on the occasion of the transfer of the hospital to the Commission by the U. S. Marines in Da Nang.
Ought Christians To Tithe?

I firmly believe that Christians ought to tithe their income. The obligation to contribute to the Lord’s work one-tenth of my income is perhaps more of a felt duty than a divinely led obligation, but that does not diminish the sense of owing it to Him, nor does it take away from the joy of doing it the Lord expects me to do. I also believe (far more Scripturally to back it up) that I ought to keep the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, sacred to the Lord. Let us make some comparisons.

In a little pamphlet “God’s Stewards” published by the Faith, Prayer and Tract Society, there is a good argument for the continued obligation of tithing. It said: “To guide us in our stewardship, God commanded tithing — giving one-tenth of our income again to Him.

‘Tithing was instituted long before Moses. Abraham had given the tenth when he had (Gen. 14:20), and Jacob said, And of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee (Gen. 28:22).’

‘Tithing therefore is 1/10 of the ceremonial law which ended in Christ. Tithing was neither symbolic nor figurative, and when the reason which originated a law continue to operate and there is no plain repeal of that law, the law remains in force. The reason therefore continues right into the New Testament. Indeed, Christ approved the tithing habit’ (Matt. 23:23).

Let us take note especially of one sentence in that tract, “When the reasons which originated a law continue to operate and there is no plain repeal of that law, the law remains in force. The reason therefore continues right into the New Testament. Indeed, Christ approved the tithing habit.”

The following sentences on the cover of the Sabbath Recorder help us in our stewardship. The following sentences on the cover of the Sabbath Recorder help us in our stewardship. To guide us in our stewardship, God commanded tithing — giving one-tenth of our income again to Him. ‘Tithing was instituted long before Moses. Abraham had given the tenth when he had (Gen. 14:20), and Jacob said, And of all that thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto thee (Gen. 28:22).’ Tithing therefore is 1/10 of the ceremonial law which ended in Christ. Tithing was neither symbolic nor figurative, and when the reason which originated a law continue to operate and there is no plain repeal of that law, the law remains in force. The reason therefore continues right into the New Testament. Indeed, Christ approved the tithing habit” (Matt. 23:23).
Vietnam Is Bad Business

There are various reasons advanced for trying to get out of Vietnam this year, as has been observed in the publicity about the moratorium demonstrations on October 15. A leading Republican bank­er, J. Sinclair Armstrong, has added a reason that is not so commonly heard. Economically it is bad business and Congress should rescind its authorization to spend $25.73 billion on the Vietnam War in 1970, he says.

Armstrong represented the Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace. This is an organization of 2,600 owners and executives of American business corpora­tions in 49 states. It is dedicated to "open and lawful means to bring about an end of U. S. participation in the War in Vietnam."

The business executives viewed the Vietnam war as "unwinnable." They continued, "The U. S. has no vital strategic or economic interest in Vietnam. That tiny country is no threat to U. S. Security. We continue to waste our resources—men and materials—there for no vital security reason."

The normal objections to the Vietnam war come from religious leaders, pacifists, conscientious objectors and humanitarian­ans of various kinds. The economic factor of the U. S. interest was em­phasized by the businessmen.

It is perhaps permissible to lift out one of these quotations from Mr. Arm­strong. It is true that "the U. S. has no vital strategic or eco­nomic interest in Vietnam. It is, indeed, a very small and poor country, which means nothing to our rich country eco­nomically. Are the businessmen saying the reasons for the war are that if the country was bigger, had more natural resources, or was important as a trade center, we would have more reason to keep our military forces there for an indefinite period? We hope not, but that is somewhat implied. Are they saying that if we were going to take a military stand with a democratic country against militant Communism we should have picked a country that could be more profitable to us? We hope not.

Others have used the economic insignificance of Vietnam as proof that our country is not the terrible aggressor in this instance that some would make us out to be. They maintain that we are willing to make economic sacrifices and to expose our men to the dangers of military conflict because when we went to the help of South Vietnam it was for a principle bigger than our nation. It would be costly, but it might be good for the world to halt the sweep of a ruthless, en­slaving Communism. To over­stress the economic loss is a little like being unwilling to pay the taxes neces­sary to fight the so-called wars on povert­y, illiteracy, and disease.

War is bad. Military force ought not to be needed at this stage of civilization. We should try to stop, not only this little war, but all wars. We pray for the time when people everywhere and nations everywhere will yield to moral persuasion and will seek the good of all. That time is not yet. Christian principles do not prevail. In the meantime enlightened people do well to pay more attention to the values of the battlefield. This is not to say that the issues in the present conflict are clear-cut. For that matter, they have been a little cloudy in every war. Good has come from some wars that were less than holy crusades. We may be too emotionally and economically involved to have proper historical perspective. We pray for wisdom while we pray for peace.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

OCTOBER 27, 1969

How Do You Fill the Blanks?

Let's try a little mental exercise. Following are part of the words of a well-known prayer hymn, with blanks to be filled in where words are omitted. Let's try to supply the missing words.

Lord, speak to me, that .......
In living echoes of Thy tone.
As Thou hast sought, so .......
Thy erring children lost and lone.
O teach me, Lord, .......
The precious things Thou dost impart,
And ......., that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with ......., Lord,
Until my very heart overflow.
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy ......., Thy praise to show.
......., Lord, ......., even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see.
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

(From the hymn "Lord, Speak to Me," words in full on page 11.)

How did you fare in completing the words of the above hymn? Even though your answers may not have included all the right words, did they reflect the spirit of this hymn of prayer? Did you catch the spirit of asking a blessing so that you could be the means of passing it on to others who need it?

We are voluntarily or involuntarily fill­ing in blanks in our lives every day. Certain factors are already established in our lives by virtue of being created human beings. We were created in the image of God with a moral nature, with personality, intellect, free will. There are certain abilities that are our own peculiar possession. Our potential is al­most unlimited. In particular this is true of the Christian, redeemed by the blood of Christ, having Christ in his heart and divine resources available.

The blanks are in this area of our lives—how will we use our divine gifts, what will we do with our talents, how will we reflect the personal privilege of being saved by grace to be a child of God? Only you can fill in these blanks. No one else can do it for you. How you fill them depends upon your faith, love and commitment to the Lord who has called and blessed you.

How we fill those blanks in our lives is a matter of greatest import, for we are called apart—to be a part of our Lord's work and witness. Peter says: "We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

How you use your life, your privileges as a Christian, your abilities, does reflect upon God who through Jesus Christ has called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

How are you filling the ......... ?
My Heart—Christ's Home
By Pastor John A. Conrod
(A Communion meditation given at a joint Shiloh-Marlboro service.)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock! If any man hear my voice, open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." — Rev. 3:20

I would like to invite you to join with me as I seek to prepare my heart for Communion.

Lord, you said at one time that you would seek the fellowship of only my closest friends. Lord, I have let me create such a fellowship. Lord, you are welcome to come along; but on those other nights, Lord, you are welcome to come in the work that I do, but I would rather have you help me with the tools. If so, I would like to have the privilege of using some of the tools.

Yes, Lord, down in the basement I have a room where I occasionally go to tinker around with a few little gadgets. I can't produce anything substantial or make anything worthwhile down there, Lord. I do the best I can with my skills, but I sure would like to be able to do much more. But even as I would recognize that I need this skill and strength, Lord, I don't have any skill or strength. Lord, if you were to guide my hands and let your Holy Spirit work through me, I could be able to do great things for thee. Lord, I give to you my talents and my skills asking you to take full charge of all that is accomplished in my Lord and to verify with me.

I am glad you have given me more access to your home, but I long for the close fellowship that can only be found in your den. Lord, my den is reserved for the fellowship of only my closest friends. It wouldn't be right for me to ask them to share that room with someone who may be a total stranger to them. After all, they were my friends long before I ever let you into my home. True, they haven't always been true to me, and I must admit that they haven't come around as much as they used to since they found out that you were in the house. I guess I have spent many a lonely evening in the den by myself when my friends stay away. Lord, would it be possible for us to make the den our special room where we can meet and take the time of prayer and meditation? I am sure that if you would read a few verses of Scripture with me, you would take the time to explain their meaning and unfold to me their truths, I could better understand what I should do through each decision I must face each day. And Lord, even as I would recognize that I need this time to spend with you, I may realize how very important it would be to you as well. I know that you will be present each day, O Lord; don't let me forget and allow you to enter the den of my heart.

John, do you have a workshop in this house? A place where you keep your tools? I do so, so I would like to give you the tools. You will be working with them in the basement, Lord, and help me to find a place where I can share that room with someone who may be a total stranger to you. If so, I would like to have the privilege of using some of the tools.

Yes, Lord, down in the basement I have a room where I occasionally go to tinker around with a few little gadgets. I can't produce anything substantial or make anything worthwhile down there, Lord. I do the best I can with my skills, but it isn't much and I surely would like to be able to do much more. But even as I would recognize that I need this skill and strength, Lord, I don't have any skill or strength. Lord, if you were to guide my hands and let your Holy Spirit work through me, I could be able to do great things for thee. Lord, I give to you my talents and my skills asking you to take full charge of all that is accomplished in my Lord and to verify with me.

John, I am glad to be able to help you create great things as you work, and I also would like to be a part of your recreational time as well. Please let me enter the rumpus room of your heart.

Lord, I am glad to have you help me in the work that I do, but I would rather not have you join me in my recreational plans. There are activities and amusements that I enjoy which I don't think you would give your approval to. On the nights that I go out to attend prayer meeting, Lord, you are welcome to come along; but on those other nights, Lord, couldn't you be content to stay at home alone? Yes, Lord, I know you thought that when I opened my heart to you, we would be doing everything together. But as long as I am not able to do much, Lord, I would rather have you help me with the tools. If so, I would like to have the privilege of using some of the tools.

John, John! You have opened your whole heart to me. You have let me freely move from room to room, but still there is something wrong. There is a peculiar, deadly odor coming from the upstairs hall closet. We had better open the closet door and destroy it.

Oh, no, Lord! No, not that hall closet! Not that place! You don't want to go in there! That room is full of stinking, putrid, filthy things. I have come in and locked them in, hoping that you would never find them! I don't want anyone to know what I am keeping in that closet. Lord, I have given you access to my whole house, my living room, my dining room, my library, my den, my workshop, my rumpus room; and now you want access to this little two-by-four closet. This is too much, I am not going to give you the key! Oh, but your fellowship slipping away from me. Lord, I love you too much to lose your love and fellowship. Here take the key and clean out that filthy closet. You'll have to do it, Lord. I don't have the strength to do it. Take out all that putrefying, rotting stuff and destroy it. Lord, I would rather have every little corner of my life be used in thy service and give me the victory over every sinful thing in my life!

Lord, I have been trying to keep this heart of mine clean for you; I start in one room and no sooner have I finished when I discover that another room has become dirty again. I clean there and discover still another dirty room. Lord, I have let me become the guest of this room so that my thoughts will be your purity and power cause impure with thy Holy Scriptures and meditate a picture of thyself to hang upon the wall of my heart. Help me to make this room to let you see some of the things I read. The room where I keep my thoughts and my memory. There I keep music into that living room — the living room of my heart. You came into the darkness of my heart and turned the room into a glowing brilliance. You began a fire in my cold heart and drove out the cold. You brought music into that living room and filled the emptiness with your loving, wonderful fellowship. Lord, I will never regret that I opened the door and let you into my heart.

John, the living room of your heart is not enough, I can't feel at home unless I can enter your heart's library as well! O no, Lord, not the library! That is the room where I keep my thoughts and my memory. There I store my reading materials that I am embarrassed to let you see some of the things I read. Many of the books and magazines I keep there are trash and I would be ashamed to let you enter that room.

Lord, I guess this room needs to be cleaned up if you are to feel at home in my heart. I can make this room what it ought to be. Help me to bring my every thought into captivity to thee. Lord help me to fill the library shelves with the good Scriptures and meditate on them day and night, Lord, give me a picture of thyself to hang upon the wall of my heart. I will be centered upon you and you alone. May your purity and power cause impure thoughts to retreat. May you truly feel at home in the library of my heart.

THE SABBATH RECORDER
OCTOBER 27, 1969
Youth Camp Meditations

(Prepared by Pastor Leroy Bass for use during "Alone with God" hour at Camp Mainstay, Guyana. Pastor Bass writes, "I give credit to various sources for information in these.")

Ultrasonic Singing

Do you know what this is? Have you noticed a canary go through the motions of singing, but you hear no sound? The canary is singing, even though you cannot hear it. Ultrasonic singing! And canaries only, the songs of many other birds contain parts that are too high pitched for us to hear. However, other birds can hear them.

Scientists using an audio-spectrograph can see on paper the ultrasonic notes we cannot hear, and they learn that most birds' songs are beyond the limits of human hearing. Our ears are clumsy in comparison to a bird's.

The song of the golden crowned kinglet as we hear it is really a poor shadow of how it must sound to another golden crowned kinglet, which can hear all of its wisest and tenderest words.

Birds' ears are also quicker than human ears. Some of the songs of warblers are so full of musical phrases set so close together that we cannot hear them separately. These details slip past our clumsy ears. These are interesting things to learn.

More important to us right now, however, is spiritual hearing. The things of God are spiritually discerned. (See First Corinthians 2:11-13). Do I hear God by His Spirit speaking to my soul, to me? He is eager to reveal His deep things of love, His power, and His will to me. Turn to 1 Corinthians 2:10 and read it right now, please.

Wait upon the Lord, even now. Meditate and talk with God as to a friend. Listen to Him. He will speak to you. Ask Him for spiritual hearing. Let your inward hearing be sensitive to His voice. This is heart-listening, and also ultrasonic. When you are listening with all your heart then God will reveal things to you. Your spiritual hearing is tuned sensitively to hear His voice, and you shall be blessed. See Matthew 13:9, 16, 17; and Revelation 3:22.

Top Deceivers

Pitcher plants are mimics; they look like flowers, have pretty colors, nectar, and odors. But they are top deceivers! Deadly and as deadly as a lion. Woe be to the insect that lands on one of these death traps. The curled, sugary lips act as a trap to prevent the escape of the victim. The inside walls are covered with an invisible wax powder that is slippery and entangling, and any helpless fly or bee or ant that strikes the leaf goes down into the "pitcher's mortal juices." When he tries to get out his path is blocked by the points of directional hairs, and so he slips back into the juices at the bottom, and this juice contains nature's own anesthetic. There he is preserved until he is digested.

The pitcher plant is beautiful to the eye, and enticing, and this makes it a perfect symbol of the attractive but sinful world of pleasure about us. Satan paints a bright picture of sin, and if we listen to him, his talk becomes so deceptive that we become paralyzed.

Satan's easy traps are the seductive shows in the cinemas, the liquor parties and night dances over the trapdoor of hell, the gay cymbals and jazz music, and babies-before-marriage talk. We are trapped before we realize it, and when we try to free ourselves it is only to find that it is nearly impossible to do.

Right now open your Bible to read these two texts: 1 Peter 5:8, 9; and 1 Corinthians 15: 33, 34.

The pleasures of sin are only "for a season," and then comes hell and "weeping and gnashing of teeth" and the second death. Only God can save us from the miner's pit and pit of destruction. God's pleasures are either for God or God can keep us out of the "pitcher plants of sin."

Psalm 16:11 is your verse today. Read and memorize it now. Remember the awful pitcher plant and try to help others choose the superior way, with God. Jesus is a wellspring of joy to every young person who makes Him first, last, and best in his life.

Youth Camp, Malawi Version

By Rev. David C. Pearson

For the first time in history a Seventh Day Baptist youth camp was held in Malawi. This was conducted near the Tchilila River in the District, by kind permission of the local chief.

This river, more like a rock-studded mountain stream, provided refreshment to those who bathed, swam, or merely gazed upon its beauty. Mountains in the background stood as rugged towers of God's handiwork.

It was a fitting place to study God in nature, and much emphasis was given to creation as seen in Genesis. Classes met out-of-doors under a spreading mango tree, and were taught by Mrs. O. B. Manani and Pastor Watson Mataka.

Evening camping-fire gatherings should long be remembered as treasured times of inspiration. Choruses sparked by the zest of youth were sung in Chichewa and English.

Temporary grass structures served as barracks, and the well-worn mission tent provided something of refuge for Pastor Pearson.

Recreation included: swimming, horse-shoes, croquet, tug-of-war, dodge ball with a net, improvised softball using a short wooden paddle and tennis ball, and a number of rousing (exhausting) activities. Some of these were entirely new to the campers, as were the marshmallows on the closing night of camp.

Enrollment passed the fifty mark, and boys and girls were nearly evenly God's pleasure. And some desired their lives to shine for Christ.

Camp was a brand new experience for most of the campers, and proved rewarding. It will be a safe guess to assume that camp will be considered a "must" next year.

Memorial Fund Trustees Meet Denominational Needs

By Rev. Albert N. Rogers

Purchase of additional U. S. Treasury Bills currently paying the highest rate in recent times was authorized by the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund at their meetings October 12, 1969. Conversion of savings and loan certificates to term certificates was also specified.

The fourth increase in allotments for ministerial retirement in four years was announced. Maximum benefits are now $126.80 per month. Another five per cent increase is scheduled for next year.

In response to the request of General Conference voted at Nyack in August, the board decided to make a grant of $5,340 to the Conference and forgive interest due on the note of the Conference trustees for that amount. The loan was negotiated a year ago to fund necessary waterproofing and repairs on the exterior of the Seventh Day Baptist Building. A grant was also made from denominational agencies for ministerial retirement and subsistence for Steven Crouch who is giving dedicated service to General Conference and other denominational agencies.

Clarence M. Rogers, Salem, W. Va., was unanimously reelected president of the board and Robert M. Coon, Bronxville, N. Y., and Charles F. Harris, Bridgeton, N. J., were reelected vice-presidents. Frederik J. Bakker, Plainfield, N. J., was elected secretary and Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson, Richburg, N. Y., was reelected treasurer. Board members who serve in other capacities are Elston H. Van Horn, Westerly, R. I., and Rev. Albert N. Rogers, Plainfield, N. J. The resignation of Thurman C. Davis for health reasons was accepted with regret and appreciation of his ten years of service.

Attention was given to the new Rev. Erlo E. Sutton Memorial Fund, to care of the Piscataway Cemetery, and to a brochure being prepared which describes the fund and its work.
We were impressed with the sincerity and order in which they sang. Be the tie that binds. At the conclusion of the song, "Christ's Side," "Christ for the World We Sing" "Revive Us Again," and "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." At each church service, the visitors attended, they sang "Bien Venidas," a hymn of Christian welcome.

Everyone, men, women, and children, takes part in the discussion of the questions and Bible verses in the lesson for the Sabbath. The city group of about a dozen children came to the front of the church, at the end of the afternoon service, and answered questions about the lesson they had studied class.

We were impressed with the sincerity and sacrifice being made by many. They are happy, wonderful people, with a delight in the spirit of humor. They ask for our friendship and prayers — but that is all they want. So, may we remember these Christian neighbors, often, as we pray.

"And Ye Visited Me"

It is natural for each new generation of bright-eyed young members to think that they discovered how to apply the teaching of Jesus, "I was sick and in prison and ye visited me." That is good. None would deny them the thrill of finding a new joy in ministering to those in need. However, there ought to be some credit given to those who have been consistently doing this for many years and in countries other than our own.

Sister Emily Smikle, long-time leader of the Post Roads church in Jamaica, now on the retired list, writes of her continuing work in behalf of the poor indigenous patients with the full cooperation of the head of the institution. She writes that the program was intended to render a token of thanks to him and his staff for their night and day service to all the sick folks in and around Chapelton. He arranged for the patients to be cleared and set up with benches, tables, chairs, and flowers. When the patients had packed the room Sister Smikle gave out the opening address. The tapes also carry the discussions that followed the lectures. The tapes are for loan. Write the above address.

Miss Connie Coon, field worker for the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board, will be the director of Junior High Conference at General Conference next August in Milton, Wisconsin.
The Baptist Religious Liberty Conference held in August was evaluated in the current issue of Report from the Capital. These annual conferences have been considered successful for several reasons. There has been thoughtful preparation, skillful leadership, selected participants and honest digging. The analyst added: "Indeed, they have achieved what they have attempted from the beginning — an honest effort by the various segments of the Baptist movement, assembled together, to do their own homework on current issues before speaking out from a background of unexamined concepts or pooled ignorance.

Discussions of the great issues of church and state or the social implications of the gospel are of little value unless the people engaging in the discussions have done some homework and are willing to listen to those who have the facts and figures. Far too often at every level of discussion, from the class or the local community to the political convention or the denominational gathering people "speak out from a background of unexamined concepts or pooled ignorance."

Ways To Curb Pornography

A House Judiciary Subcommittee has opened hearings on what one Republican member called "the deadly serious business" of pornography. The hearings, likely to go on for some time, concern some 150 obscenity bills sponsored by more than 200 congressmen.

A Republican from Ohio, Rep. William McCulloch, said that Congress must "jealously guard" the right of every citizen to be free to think whatever he wishes, to read whatever he wants to and to hold whatever moral and spiritual values he chooses. "We must respect the right of a citizen to expose himself to pornography if he desires," McCulloch declared. "We must also respect the right of persons not to receive this material when it arrives unsolicited in the mail."

Two bills supported by the Nixon administration are representative of the large number under consideration by the Judiciary Committee. One would prohibit the use of interstate facilities, including the mails, for the transportation of "matter harmful to minors."

The other bill, supported by the Nixon administration, would make it a crime to sell or exhibit for the purpose of corrupting minors. It also would make it a crime to exhibit or exhibit in interstate commerce any material that is injurious to the morals of children.

The American Civil Liberties Union has urged members of Congress to vote for the bills. The group says the bills are needed to protect the constitutional rights of adults and children alike.

Church Homecoming at Milton

The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton, Wis., is planning a Church Homecoming and Covenant Renewal for Sabbath Day, November 15. Members, former members, and other friends are invited to attend morning service, Meal of Sharing, and afternoon program. Greetings from those unable to attend will be very welcome.

Anyone who may need lodging for Sabbath Eve may contact Mrs. Erlo Nelson, Milton, Wis. 53563.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

MILTON JUNCTION, WIS.—The Sabbath of Aug. 30, the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar F. Wheeler and children were at our church. The sermon, "Called Apart—To Be a Part," was given by President Wheeler. We considered it a privilege to have him with us shortly after Conference, and to have him discuss the Conference theme for 1970.

On September 18, the Ladies' Aid served a birthday supper at the church for the members, and men of the church. A silent auction was also held.

Mrs. Thelma Wright and Mrs. Jeanette Appel have given us interesting Conference reports at our Ladies' Aid meetings.

—Correspondent

THE SABBATH RECORDER
Becky Higuera, Jonel Smith, and Mrs. Yvonne Stephon were baptized and received into church membership. In a very impressive service five new members were ordained to dis­ciple Mrs. Margaret Crosby, Mrs. Barbara White, Kenneth Crosby, Gary Cox, and Joe Higuera. We are now joyous in anticipa­tion that the formal dedication of the sanctuary on Nov. 22. The Rev. Min­yor Soper conducted meetings here from September 22-28. He emphasized the glorious chal­lenge of the life wholly committed to our Lord.

Many are using the New American Bible Society publication, Good News for Modern Man, in the planned Bible reading. Pastor Lawton is conducting a 9:30 a.m. Sabbath study on Basic Christian Doctrines. Mrs. Cox, Sabbath School superintendent, is giving dedicated service as church secretary one day each week and is editor of the church news monthly bulletin, "Bulletin Extra." We are grateful for our many con­secrated workers and thank God for their giving of time and talents in our "greater involvement" church program.

SHILOH, N. J.—Our church entertained delegates from Berlin and Schenectady, N. Y.; Plainfield, N. J., and a neighbor­ing church, Marlboro, at the Yearly Meet­ing of Seventh Day Baptist churches, Sept. 26-27.

The theme of this year's meeting was, "The Christian's Responsibility in To­day's World." Many great Biblical prin­ciples governing the Christian life were presented at all the meetings using the Scripture theme, "Be Ye Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only" (James 1:22).

The services opened Friday evening with a welcome by William Fogg, mod­erator of the host church. The Rev. Albert Rogers of Plainfield, director of the Historical Society of the denomina­tion spoke on "The Church's Responsibility To Get Outside of Itself," stressing the need of following Christ's example in ministering to all people. A heart-warming element was woven into the meetings through special musical selections conducted by Mrs. Charles Harris, director of music of the Shiloh church, a narration by Pastor Bond, and through music presented by a youth choir comprising members of the Shiloh and Marlboro churches. In addition to the music by the choirs, there were solos by Charles Norton of Pittsfield, and Owen Pro­basco; a male chorus with a ladies' trio comprising Misses Barbara Dickinson, Jane Harris, and Mrs. John Harris.

A special communion service followed the Sabbath morning service. A main feature at one of the afternoon meetings was a presentation of the work of "Teen Challenge," an organization of Philadelphia, by the chaplain, Rev. Nor­man Cole.

A special highlight was a presentation by Alan Crouch, Everett Dickinson, Jr., and Florence Bowden. Enlightening messages were presented by Alan Crouch, Everett Dickinson, Jr., and Florence Bowden. John and Lucy Harris, Joseph and Carol Loper rendered special music.

A special part of the Sabbath service was the observance of the Lord's Supper led by Pastor Bond and Alan Crouch.

The afternoon meeting was occupied with setting up the church calendar for the fiscal year 1968-1970. This meeting was followed by a fellowship supper.

The committee planning this treat was Mrs. Belford Harris, chairman; Mrs. Alan Hanford, and Miss Katherine Davis.

---Correspondent

THE SABBATH RECORDER

---Correspondent

OWM OUR WORLD MISSION

Owm Budget Receipts for September 1969

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Total Disbursements $17,772.31

S E P T E M B E R D I S P E N S E M E N T S

Board of Christian Education $1,607.43
Historical Society 17.57
Ministerial Education 1,714.29
Ministerial Retirement 795.65
Missionary Society 8,167.22
Tract Society 2,084.57
Trustees of Gen. Conf. 124.44
Women's Society 281.60
World Fellowship & Service 492.21
General Conference 1,708.35
S. D. B. World Federation 20.00

Total Disbursements $17,772.31

S U M M A R Y

Owing to the 12 mos.
1968-1969 Budget $157,570
Receipts for 12 mos.
OWM Treasurer's 12,078.55
OWM Boards 7,265.67

1968-1969 Budget Arrearages $5,225.78
OWM Treasurer's 12,344.22
OWM Treasurer's 334.22

Percentage of Budget year elapsed 100%
Percentage of Budget Raised 95%

Gordon L. Sanford
OWM Treasurer

September 30, 1969
Speaking on radio station WINS, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of the Interreligious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee, called America’s pioneer human relations organization, said that “when we heard talk of a holy war this past week we shuddered at the terrible implications. ... The fact that it was the destruction of a holy place that aroused fierce emotions in the Moslem world is especially sorrowful. We had all hoped that such time-and-tradition honored shrines might inspire the building of bridges of understanding rather than the digging of chasms of hatred and fear.”

Rabbi Tanenbaum said further:

“Surely, if there ever was a contradiction in terms, it is Holy War. How can war be holy? War is evil — anathema, and in a nuclear-missile age, threats of war unleashed by fanatic emotion must be condemned by all mankind because military technology is so lethal that if its buttons are ever pushed by a demagogue it can destroy the entire inhabited world. ...”

“The irony raised by this medieval cry for holy war is deepened by the fact that the very geography on which the mosque of Al Aksa stands ought to have strengthened bonds between Moslems and Jews rather than alienate them. For this is Mount Moriah where the Patriarch Abraham turned away from human sacrifice, the same Abraham whose monotheism the Prophet Mohammed claimed as his own. Here, too, was erected the Holy Temple of King Solomon, who prayed for the welfare of ‘the stranger that is not of thy people Israel’ (1 Kings 8:41). “The Prophet Mohammed himself is recorded as having said, ‘Whoever wrongs a Christian or a Jew, against him shall I myself appear as accuser on Judgment Day.’ ...”

“The prayer of King Solomon on Mount Moriah and this tolerant utterance of the Prophet Mohammed are the compassionate voices of religion that mankind needs to hear at this difficult hour, not those calls for holy wars or crusades against infidels which deserve to stay buried in the ruins of the medieval past.”

Church Attendance Emphasis

Religion In American Life (RIAL), organized in 1949 to promote church attendance, has spent large sums of money in advertising attendance at the church of one’s choice particularly in November (RIAL month). It has reported significant results benefiting all churches. Seventh Day Baptists are not now officially affiliated with RIAL. Five years ago RIAL changed its emphasis to stress the importance of putting religious faith to work seven days a week.

Alliance, Ohio, which is credited with originating the new emphasis under the leadership of the Rev. George L. Cutton (American Baptist) has won for the second time the Community of the Year award from RIAL.

It is reported that since Alliance shifted emphasis five years ago from church attendance to action, church attendance has been increasing at the annual rate of 2 per cent for the past four years. Prior to that time church attendance had been declining at the rate of one-half of 1 per cent since 1958.