Sabbath Blessing

Our God has blessed us with a Sabbath beginning and ending (sunset) that comes when we can be conscious of it. This removes the ignorance and the uncertainty of the Sabbath experience. But to approach it in idleness or unconcern or too much hurry is to be unprepared for its blessings. To await its end with impatience is to spoil its hours and its blessing, for Jesus taught that its hours should be filled with joyful, helpful and satisfying relationships.

—North Loup Church Bulletin

25 Years of Youth for Christ

Youth for Christ International, with offices in Wheaton, Ill., has just passed its 25th anniversary. Starting in 1944 with just a handful of men determined to help the youth of our country, it is still going strong although its great youth rallies do not get as much publicity as before and its methods have changed somewhat with the times.

The president, Sam Wolgemuth, says:

"Now, 25 years later, thousands of teens who met Christ through YFC cover the globe as missionaries, pastors and teachers. They are the young leaders of our churches and communities. Many work in YFC positions all over the world."

"I look back over the year with joy and praise in my heart. Fifteen thousand kids went to local YFC camps this summer. Of these, more than 7,000 responded to the gospel. Our literature program grew. At least one million kids read the gospel of Jesus Christ (many for the first time) in YFC literature."

Ministering to Millions

Those who handle inquiries about Seventh Day Baptists and try to answer calls from around the world for literature are thrilled with the opportunity. We are almost staggered, however, by the volume of mail reportedly received by organizations that have an extensive radio ministry. The Far East Broadcasting Company, an outgrowth of ministries started near the close of World War II, can only estimate the number of homes on the islands and continents of the Pacific that receive gospel programs regularly. More than 12,000 letters from listeners are received by FEBC stations each month. Most of these letters have to be translated before they can be answered. It is no wonder that new hope is springing up in the hearts of many who inhabit the lands of the Far East.

There Is Hope

While giving proper attention to the fact that the institutional church is under attack by many strident voices let us give equal note to the fact that young people are dedicating themselves to Christian service and that the enrollment in American theological seminaries continues to be on the increase.

One can put his own interpretation on this distinctive Henry Moore sculpture in Brazil's capital, Brasilia. In that great country with its striking contrasts of modernity and backwardness these joined figures speak with some eloquence of the nation's dreams of the future and perhaps of the joint efforts of Christians for unity of international efforts.
Seeing the Invisible or Man's Space-Age View

Great new vistas of space and time have opened up to man in the last ten years and particularly in the last year. We are reminded of that beautifully expressed thought about Moses in Hebrews 11:27, “For he was a man who is invisible.” Unusual vision is no new thing and, with all our Twentieth Century know-how, we can’t claim to have outstripped Moses in the matter of spiritual vision or ability to endure because of being better able than he to see Him who is invisible. Our giant steps into space and the first flights for looking back at the earth may not create faith but they ought to make faith easier to hold.

A late 1969 book Space: A New Direction for Mankind by space scientist Edward B. Lindaman distributed by the Religious Book Club contains many challenging thoughts for man’s immediate future. To attempt to give even the high lights of these 158 pages packed with scientific facts and predictions is out of the question, but some things can well make us appreciate the world being able to see what the world has not had eyes to see.

How could the writers of Scripture maintain that God is omniscient, omnipotent—He is all-seeing? In the days when most people thought of the earth as flat it was possible to imagine a corner of the earth where God could see a thing on all of it at once. With the discovery that God had made the earth spherical it was harder to believe that God could see all the earth at the same time. We can’t see it with our eyes, but some people believe that well be able to see it with our eyes. With the discovery that God had made the earth spherical it was harder to believe that God could see the other side of this 25,000-mile globe. No longer.

Man has now artificial satellites with sensory systems that enable us to look down more than 200,000 miles on all lands and seas. So it isn’t very hard to think that God can do as well or better. But if God could see all of the earth all of the time, how much could He see from the remoteness of space?

Our satellites take a close look with their sensory devices at the mineral wealth lying below the surface of hitherto vast inaccessible areas. They can see schools of fish in the ocean; they can tell the difference between poisonous and edible plants and can detect whether timber on the mountains is worm infested. The ancient past buried under arctic ice can be brought to view and the irrigation systems of massive cities in the Néger Desert lost through the ages can be seen below the surface of the earth. The desert uninhabitable to 1950 A.D. is again made to blossom as the rose because her harnessed infrared and can see what was before hidden. There are no clouds so thick that the infra-red cannot penetrate; there is no black that they cannot be penetrated at will.

Who then, believing in the existence of God, can doubt that He is able to see more than man? Before the end of this decade, says Lindaman, we will have hitched our wagon (farm wagon) to the stars and will be able to produce more food for the world by use of EROS (Earth Resources Observation Satellite). Man will know the fertility and water supply of previously unused land by gathering data from hundreds of miles in the sky. We can steal the march on world famine.

The United Nations found that 95 percent of Southeast Asia was geologically unmapped. Only 7 percent of earth’s land surface has been mapped well enough to multiply its yields. We now have the capability, if we had the funds and the political will, to map the whole world in a matter of months.

Man has this past year for the first time gotten far enough away from the earth to look down at it and see it whole. His great problem in the days to come, as in the past, will be to see the earth as God sees it and think of its resources as belonging to all and not just to a few favored nations. Man now has power and knowledge to solve this problem for a whole, somewhat as God has always seen it. The earth is like a giant orchestra that must be kept in harmony. Man is doing some things that will break that harmony if he does not view it as a whole. Prayer for wisdom and courage to do the right thing is more needed in this new age of space than ever before.

JANUARY 19, 1970
Announcing February Special

The special issue project of the Sabbath Recorder continues to be popular after the last one (November, 1970). Again there is great anticipation as a new guest editor, Glen Warner of Seattle, Wash., submits his theme and the outstanding articles for the February, 1970, issue. Regular readers look forward to these bonus issues, but the purpose is to provide quantities of a relatively undated magazine that can be handed out to people whom we would like to help.

It may be possible for lone-Sabbathkeepers to get their orders back before the printing deadline if action is taken as soon as that Recorder is received. Copies may be secured at the rate of 10 for a dollar or 15 cents each.

The eight articles in the forthcoming issue are centered around the theme, "Finding a Courageous Hope in a Time of Change." According to Editor Glen Warner there will be something for everyone in the age group as follows:

For children, a story by Dr. Kenneth Shaver,

For the high school age, "A High School Student's Thoughts About Change" by Judy Parrish.

For young adults, an article by Kathy Smith,

For middle years, two articles, "Change in Profession" by Garth Warner, and "Change in the Diminished Family" by Sarah Rogers.

For retirement years, "The Change to a New Style of Life" by Dora Hurley.

There is also a lead article by the editor on the theme "Finding a Courageous Hope in a Time of Change—A Study in 1 Peter." As an added feature the Rev. Elmo Randolph contributes a fable, "How the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church Changed."

Personal orders may be sent in to the Sabbath Recorder individually or grouped together through the home church (by telephone) to take advantage of the 100-copy rate ($8.50).

JANUARY 19, 1970

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Paul B. Osborn, Stewardship Chairman

"For which of you, if he builds a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he be able to finish it?"

Luke 14:28

Actual receipts for the interim budget (Oct. - Dec., 1969) were only 66% of what was anticipated. That looks bad compared with the December, 1968, figure of 71% raised, but in that month churches and groups reported, with a three-month total of only $172.23 more than the interim budget, with only 33 churches or groups reporting in December, 1969. So, per capita giving must be higher

But the interim budget still remains—and must forever be—unfinished business, since the money was not all raised. The Scripture text above also speaks of unfinished business, the context later indicating that we consider carefully lest we find folks laughing at us.

With Our World Mission, however, it is the Lord's work that is mocked. Our boards and agencies are criticized at times for not being visionary in programs . . . yet they try to be careful lest the Lord's work become scandalized by our failure to complete the tasks assigned to us. Either way we must note that Our World Mission is Unfinished Business, whether it's because of our lack of starting or failure to complete.

I was trying to think of some way to impress upon you the importance of raising the money in full needed for Our World Mission programs, but since I am running out of type (lead costs money, you know) I'll just have to let you figure something out for yourself.
make your plans with the help of the Conference Planning Commission. Don't think that because you are in your application to the corresponding secretary between now and next month.

To the Pastorless Churches-

We hope you are in no way discouraged. Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together. Carry on still! The Lord is still with you! Remember the advice the Rev. Mr. Hays gave: "If you are quite free to call the pastor of your choice to serve you."

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

Brethren, the Lord bless and keep you. Keep looking up to Jesus "the author and finisher of our faith." May the Christmas bring much joy and happiness and every rich blessing for the coming year to us all as a people to the plan.

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, let us press forward toward the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14). Let me hear from you.

Adopt Poor Family Plan Presented at Texarkana

(Note: The following article is reprinted from a Texarkana, Arkansas, newspaper. It has been learned that there were several other responses to the plan.)

The Rev. Ralph Hays, pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, 24 Pleasant St., Texarkana, announced plans for a "people to people", program that will hopefully make Christmas a time of joy for underprivileged Texarkana families.

The Rev. Mr. Hays appealed to more fortunate Texarkanians to adopt a poor family for Christmas. He explained that those in a family adopting another will take them out shopping for food and a few inexpensive toys.

"What I don't want," the Rev. Mr. Hays explained, "is someone just sending, say, $25 to me. We've got to start talking to one another as human beings. We've got to make contact by communicating with one another."

Mr. Hays requested that those interested in helping a needy family write to him in care of his church, giving their name, address and telephone number, and in return he will send a card with the particulars of the family to be helped. Contacting the family will then be entirely up to those who wish to help.

Our Prayer Corner

Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:

1) The quarterly meeting at Alfred on January 18 of the Board of Christian Education, that members may have wisdom for the work ahead.

2) The quarterly meeting at Shiloh on January 18 of the Board of Trustees of the American Sabbath Tract Society that it may be led to make such plans as will further the cause of Seventh Day Baptists throughout the world.

3) The adults in our churches that they may narrow the generation gap by setting a good example in the Sabbath convictions they profess.

4) The impatient young people that they may grow in maturity and reach a balance between their personal as well as social reformation.

Make Your Own Prayer

A mother of four children, the proud possessor of a doctor's degree, came to her pastor for help in praying. He explained that there was limited time in the daily routine of "Now I lay me down to sleep." She learned to put more in and thus get more out.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

JANUARY 19, 1970
Faith for a New Decade

By Rev. Herbert E. Saunders
Pastor of the Plainfield, N. J., S.D.B. Church

Man has just passed through a most dramatic decade. Search in the history of mankind and you will find few ten-year segments of human history that record such a wide range of human emotion and change. Creativity has been matched by destruction. Hope has been shattered by fear. Progress has been equalled by regression in the areas of purpose. Life lived to the utmost has been marred by the lonely faces of people existing in a state of slow death. The bearing of new life and the healing of the chronically sick has been matched by death through war, famine and assassination. Those of us who have lived through this decade of sixty have to believe that anyone could find a decade to match it.

And perhaps, as we anticipate the 70's we see little hope for our new decade. Two weeks ago on the TV program "Laugh-in" one of the sarcastic comments made was that if the seventies were anything like the sixties, we wouldn't have to worry about seeing the eighties. But I have been in the life of man on earth than that. And I hope that we all do. We are living in the most creative era of man's life, and to question the whole thing, just because some of life is not as creative and alive as we might hope it to be, is being unrealistic and defeatist. Life can be lived to the fullest, and the message of the Christian hope is that in Jesus Christ every man can find peace and hope and joy in living. The seventies are upon us, not to destroy us, but to bring us to our new hope in the future of life as lived according to the will of God. Peace can come in our time. Joy can pervade the whole of humanity in our time. Hunger and pain can be relieved in our time. And love can be made manifest in our time. But it will require a new faith and a new purpose on the part of all of us.

If we have any faith at all, it must be in the fact that on the cross, Jesus Christ gave His life in order that all of us might know the hope of eternity and realize the life abundant. The message of this hope is for all men—the redemption of life is for every man, woman and child that walks the face of this earth. Such faith ought to bring us to the seventies with new vision of what we can be and do for the world in need.

Faith in Our God

We need faith — in God — first of all. At a time when men need God more than ever there has been a conscious and determined move away from Him. Perhaps the awesomeness of our technology — that scares us to death on one hand — has been the culprit in turning our faces away from God. At the very time that we need faith in something besides ourselves the very success of our enterprises has given us a feeling of individual ability and independent projects help. We call out to be on our own, and God can only sit back, weep, and keep us in His love.

My friends, let's find a new faith in God. Let's boldly, once again, as we did when children, that God is good and determines that we will have the best life has to offer. When things go bad, and life becomes tragic and destructive, we question God's sanity in creating the world — not our own sanity in destroying it. When God created, He looked around and saw that everything He had created was "very good." And it is still "very good." It has only been our own selfishness and bungling that has brought evil into the world. Today we need a faith in God — basking in the heart-felt faith that, as Jesus said, "can remove mountains." We need to believe that God is with us, keeping us, directing us, pointing us to His purpose in the world. We need to exercise the freedom God gave us to see that His will is brought into play in all the human circumstances we face. And God will help us, if we will only let Him.

The message of the cross is that God came to help us be what He wanted us, and created us to be. And the seventies will record whether or not we have been aware of what He has done for us, and what we can do for Him. Have faith in God, and He will be much more blessed.

Faith in Our Fellows

Secondly, we need to have faith in our fellowmen. How difficult this is as we reflect on the sixties. Assassination, murder, war — all the horrendous acts we can think of, paint a black picture for us to hang on the walls of the seventies. But there needs to be a new awareness of each other, the kind of awareness that transcends the barriers that only we ourselves have erected, and instead brings ties that bind brother with brother.

I made a mistake on New Year's Day. I went to Philadelphia and saw the Mummers Parade. Never in my life have I seen such a spectacle of obscenity, drunkenness, and outright mockery of life. One man, obviously crocked, noting the looks of disgust that must have been on our faces, leaned on the police rail and insisted to some of the ladies in our company that he wasn't like all the rest.

Thank God, I don't have to judge all of mankind on the basis of what I saw there — I'm glad that I didn't. We need not suggest that we have faith in our fellowmen. One thing stands out from all the rest — several people walked through the crowds passing out portions of Scripture. I still have faith in my fellowmen.

I think that today we need to look beyond the questionable things in life, philosophical things, and build a faith in the basic decency of man that can eventually wipe out the indecency and immorality that seems to be so much part of twentieth century living. Faith in our fellowmen is needed for each of us to be let in the best of today, to build a world of faith and hope for tomorrow.

I'm sorry I attended the Mummers Parade, but I'm glad that I can put up against it my memories of sitting with my feet in the gutter in Pasadena all night waiting to see the creative qualities of man being expressed in the gorgeous floats produced for the Rose Parade. Here, the beauty God gave man — the creative genius God gave man — and the appreciation God gave man for the good in life all seem to converge to bring one to a moment of hope for a world in need.

And my friends, set against the tragedies of the sixties, is the face of Jesus Christ on the cross praying, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." As we anticipate the seventies and our part in bringing to them a redeeming quality, let us look not at the sixties and the struggles that have characterized them, but at the cross and that struggle that still gives life to man.

Faith in Ourselves

Finally, with faith in God and renewed faith in others, let us not forget that unless we have faith in ourselves, all is lost. We often lose faith in ourselves. We do such things as we have so badly. I'm sure that we can all recall today times in the sixties when we would like to have stuck our heads in the sand and kicked our butts too. But God created us to be free — to be able to try our best and perform according to the abilities that lie within us. He made us useful and creative — He made us.

(Continued on page 12)

THE SABBATH RECORDER

JANUARY 19, 1970
How Does a Child Know?
By Mrs. Dorothy Parrott

This is another in a series on Family Life sponsored by the Family Life Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education

If it is true that a child's attitudes are established at a very early age; if we accept the Bible teaching that to love God is the first commandment and to love fellowman is the second, and if we believe that God is love, then the responsibility for developing this concept rests with the Christian home. Just to mouth the words is not enough. To be meaningful a child there must be demonstration.

I am reminded of a Home Economics class that was discussing family relations. One girl said, "My folks fight all the time." When this remark was related to her parents they were quite shocked that she felt this way about their relationship. Analyzing the situation they realized that the sharp little barbs they tossed at each other had been completely misunderstood by the child. To them this was a game but to the child it was real. She did not have the knowledge that the meaning behind outward appearances...

Lesson Annual

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803, has a few copies of the International Lesson Annual for 1970 left for sale. At the time you may purchase a copy for $2.95 as long as they last. Write to the above address.

Join SDBYF

All Seventh Day Baptist youth are urged to join the National Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship. Membership entitles you to vote, to receive 1971 officers, to give you a subscription to the Beacon, and signals your support of any program the national officers undertake. A challenging project is now under discussion, and we need the encouragement that you can give through your membership support. Send your name, address, and $1 to Miss Catherine Clarke, 10 Church Street, Alfred, NY 14802. To be sure of getting the Beacon, you may send your name and address at this time to Miss Alice Rood, Milton, Wis. 53563. Miss Rood is the able editor of the Beacon. If you are not receiving it, you are missing new challenge and inspiration. Do not delay.

Participation Covenant

Seventh Day Baptist churches or Sabbath Schools who are using the Participation Covenant plan to increase enrollment and attendance in their Sabbath Schools include Alfred Station, N. Y.; Battle Creek, Mich.; First Hopkinton, Ashaway, R. I.; Lavender Mountain, Mount Berry, Ga.; Lost Creek, W. Va.; Pawcatuck, Westerly, R. I.; Plainfield, N. J.; Richburg, N. Y.; and Shiloh, N. J. Recognition will be given at General Conference in Milton to the Sabbath School which has the greatest percentage of increase in enrollment of new pupils and in average attendance during a six month period.

Local Workshops

The secretary of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education conducted a series of workshops in the Alfred Station church the first week in January. A committee setting up a leadership education institute for the churches of Allegany County, N. Y., where most of the Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptist churches are located.

Helping Hand

The new editor of the Helping Hand, the Rev. Duane L. Davis, will have his first quarter's lessons published for July, August, and September, 1970. He works on a schedule that calls for copy six months prior to the publication date.

Patience is a virtue praised by many, perhaps by few, and sought only occasionally.

- Lindsell

TOGETHER

Have you read your December issue of 'Together' which is put out by the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance? If you have, you have seen on the very first page an exciting article by our own Mrs. Arthur Drake entitled "A Christmas Message." I would like to share the last paragraph of her article with those of you who have not read it.

"May the holy season be rich in spiritual meaning for everyone, and as we look forward to a New Year may we, too, pray this 'After Christmas Prayer' written a number of years ago by Irene Hulett, my mother."

"As Christmas joyousness departs Stay Thou, 0 Christ, within our hearts May humdrum living cease to mar The brilliancy of Bethlehem's star, And may Thy manager cradle be A symbol of humility. Through the glad and happy Christmas tide Thy Presence has seemed amplified Oh, may we never lose the sense Of comforting Omnipotence And lest we miss salvation's cost 'Grave deeply on our hearts thy cross.'"
A More Inclusive Church Body

One of the outstanding proposals given to the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches was a complete reorganization plan drawn up by R. H. Espy, general secretary, who was elected for a third term at the Detroit meeting.

The plan, which Mr. Espy says, might take three to five years to implement, among other things, for broadening the structure to include Southern Baptists (largest Protestant church), Roman Catholics, Pentecostals and other religious groups not now involved in the council. It is manifest that there would have to be some changes in the aims and emphasis of the council to make these groups willing to join when some of them have been strongly opposed to membership in the NCCC.

In a telephone interview with Baptist Press (Southern Baptist) following the council's triennial General Assembly, Dr. Espy said that he envisioned emphasis of the new proposed council to be on "fellowship, communication and dialogue" rather than creation of a super-church ecumenical organization.

"My real concern is for communication and dialogue and fellowship and understanding and collaboration," Espy said in the interview. "As such, it would become more natural for a religious group not now in the NCCC to consider membership." It is noted that a ploy to increase membership in the council.

He explained that the new body would still be comprised of the "top ecclesiastical bodies" of the various denominations, but would also consist of "autonomous units," committed to such specific tasks as education programs, social action, theological matters, worship and liturgy and church government.

Dr. Espy pointed out that the proposed new council would have no authority to enforce priorities except in broad policy terms, and that the annual meeting of the board would make such decisions which reflected agreement of the constituents.

The changes in emphasis are not fully spelled out. It is reasonable to think that such changes as would make the new council acceptable to these denominations, Pentecostals and Southern Baptists might also make it easier for some denominations already in to soothe their members who object to some of the other changes in emphasis.

The council has been criticized for its liberalism, its church union promotion and its claims to speak for the whole Protestant church. Usually, Dr. Espy adds a message to the churches. This time it did not approve such a message.

On the final day of the General Assembly meeting, the delegates adopted a resolution authorizing its General Board to explore the possibility of the Espy proposal for a broader, more inclusive fellowship.

There was not immediate response from Southern Baptist Convention leaders, since no official or informal contact had been made with them by National Council leaders, concerning the proposal.

Faith for a New Decade

(Continued from page 9)

us prosperous and talented. He gave to each of us the power and ability to be something that blesses others and bring honor to Himself. And we must have faith in that which is within us.

I am often stricken by the lack of logic on the part of those who have re-elected to a position of leadership. They cry out for freedom - for the ability to be themselves and "do their own thing" but at the same time they deny the Creator who gave them the power and character to be free. Part of the freedom that we have as individuals - part of that which makes us creative, is the freedom to be ourselves.

The writer of Hebrews defined faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." What do we hope for? What is there that is a certainty among the things that are not yet seen? Have faith in God - His purpose, His general plan. Have faith in your fellow-man - he deserves it because he has been created in the image of God. And have faith in yourself — Jesus Christ died because of your worth. If there is anything that brings hope for the future it is faith — faith in those things which God promised and which we, by His power, are living in the decade of the seventies.

EXTREMISM

Henlee H. Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told a nation-wide Baptist conference on "Extemism - Left and Right," that both left and right extremists are actually "twin brothers whose mother is frustration and whose father is fear."

Barnette predicted that unless Americans who stand for peace and progress through democratic means enter more vigorously into the struggle for a more just society, the extremity - both left and right - will continue to flourish.

Ordination to Diaconate at Salemville, Pa.

On October 25, 1969, the Salemville Seventh Day Baptist Church held special services with representatives of sister churches of the denominations pastored by the ordination of Mr. Warren Lippincott and Mrs. John H. (Linda) Camenga to the diaconate. Sabbath morning services were held with Mr. and Mrs. Camenga of Salemville and Rev. Delmer E. Van Horn of Washington, D. C. Pastor Camenga gave the morning message which called all of us to follow Christ with our deepest dedication, pointing out that we should demand the same depth of dedication and service from ourselves as we expect from our parishioners.

The ladies of the church served a noon meal for those present. At 2:30 p.m., the ordination council was called to order by the host pastor. The Rev. Francis Saunders of Lost Creek, W. Va., was selected as moderator and Mrs. John (Frances) Kagarise of Salemville as clerk of the council. Representing Lost Creek were lost Creek, Ritchie and Salem in Washington, D. C. Following the reading of the action of the church in calling the candidates to consider, the candidates were welcomed to the congregation led by Pastor Camenga and Rev. Leslie Welch of the Ritchie church led the congregation in a season of prayer. Warren Lippincott and Linda Camenga made their statements of Christian experience and religious beliefs.

The candidates were excused and the council then deliberated and unanimously called the candidates to ordination.

Pastor Camenga led the congregation in the Lord's prayer. Change to the candidates was given by Mrs. Leslie (Henrietta) Welch, deaconess of the Ritchie church. Deacon Leland Bond of Lost Creek, Ritchie, and Washington, D. C. Following the prayer of consecration, offered by Pastor Van Horn, the newly ordained deacons and deaconesses were welcomed to the church by deacon Sherman Kagarise of Salemville.

The Sabbath Recorder

JANUARY 19, 1970
The following are some of the highlights of the past quarter. October began with a Ladies Aid meeting at the Rice’s Nursing Home in Everett. The Junior Christian Endeavor and Youth Fellowship had a special Christmas devotion on Sabbath eve, December 19 with various numbers of special music and Scripture reading.

The Junior C. E. under the direction of Mrs. Joe (Beth) Boyd sang carols at the Rice’s Nursing Home on the Sabbath before Christmas. The Youth Fellowship went caroling on Sunday night, the twenty-first ending up at the parsonage for some warm refreshments.

The church’s regular appointments are:

- Sabbath Welcoming Service on Sabbath eve at 7:30; Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m., and Worship at 11:00 a.m., Sabbath morning: Junior C. E. and Youth Fellowship meet at 2:00 p.m. Sabbath afternoon.

Correspondent LOS ANGELES, CALIF. Eighty attended the Youth Fellowship winter retreat. Quite a number were non-Seven­th Sabbath Day Baptists. An inspiring program was presented and planned by Jack Jensen, the youth under the direction of Jack Jensen. Several made commitments to Christ. Some asked for Bible correspondence courses. Much interest was shown in the Bible by the questions asked during the open forum. We want to follow up the contacts now.

Church bulletin

Note: The retreat was a joint project of the Los Angeles and Riverside churches at Pacific Pines Camp, December 30, and closed on Friday, January 2, at 10:30 a.m.
Late Mail

Sometimes we feel like writing an open letter to the postmaster or to anyone who can do something about the late delivery of second and third class mail. The editor and all those who work at getting the Sabbath Recorder out on time are distressed when subscribers tell us that they missed an issue — that they got the January 5 issue but had not yet received the one dated December 22 or 29. People can more easily put up with a few days delay caused by the Christmas rush than this leapfrogging and delay of two or three weeks. Supposedly all of us are responsible for late delivery because we glut the mail with Christmas cards and packages. But the Post Office Department puts on a great number of extras to maintain service. It does seem as though they could render better service by revising the rules that allow mail handlers to throw second class mail in and out of a bag of mail is set aside there is no telling when it will be picked up and set in motion again. We get the impression that a little better supervision of employees would be in order. We have a right to expect efficiency and devotion to duty, including reasonable speed.

The frustration of being unable to keep a weekly coming through on time must be felt more keenly by those who get the news late and find that announced programs and concerns are long gone by. There is little consolation in knowing that others are having the same problems. In our office we have received numerous magazines and church bulletins in mixed-up order this month. It is an inconvenience when our mail is three weeks late, but it is more than an inconvenience to some. Our hearts go out to those missionary and relief organizations whose very life depends on answers to their Christmas appeals. They ask us to pray for their work and make a special gift before Christmas so that they can render their intended service. Literature of this kind in red or green ink with an early December date and arriving two weeks after Christmas cannot produce as many gifts as hoped for.

What can any of us do about this late mail problem? Perhaps not much more than to express ourselves and exercise patience. Let's be Christian about it. Furthermore, we might remember that the needs of our denominational work and the needs of other worthy causes are not just Christmas needs; they continue, and our support should be steady. Again, let us remember that some of us must make up for those who only respond to special appeals. Most of us could give a little more.

Prosperous and Plagued

The United States today is both prosperous and plagued. We are plagued by a war we can neither understand nor find our way out of; black demands which society cannot deny and is willing only slowly to meet; disintegration of city life; fear of crime; and confusion about our real goals. One of America's great achievements has been the growth of the middle classes—those who are having the same problems. In our office we have received numerous magazines and church bulletins in mixed-up order this month. It is an inconvenience when our mail is three weeks late, but it is more than an inconvenience to some. Our hearts go out to those missionary and relief organizations whose very life depends on answers to their Christmas appeals. They ask us to pray for their work and make a special gift before Christmas so that they can render their intended service. Literature of this kind in red or green ink with an early December date and arriving two weeks after Christmas cannot produce as many gifts as hoped for. Of course we cannot respond to all the appeals that come, but we do think that a greater effort could be made to get the mail to its intended readers on time.

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Dedication Knows No Race

Vera Lee, a specialist in child care from Hong Kong, gives a little Vietnamese refugee her first lesson in writing under Asian Christian Service.