Sunday Not Very Sacred

The New York Times on January 5 carried a story by George Dugan about the Washington Square Methodist Church in Greenwich Village. The pastor is taking a leave of absence for five months and the people are making some unconventional changes in the Sunday services and the use of the church building, according to the report.

During a discussion period that took the place of the morning service one of the worships proposed that the lower Manhattan church be transformed into a community center “to be lived in and not permitted to go to pot six days of the week.”

Jo Palmer, a member of the church’s temporary administrative board, agreed and added, “What is so holy about Sunday anyway?”

It is probable that such a remark made in the days of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, would have evoked a strong rejoinder, for in those days it was popular to hold that the sacredness of the seventh-day Sabbath of the Bible had somehow been transferred to Sunday, the first day of the week. Sunday was commonly called the Sabbath, and civil as well as church authorities enforced observance of the “holy day” of the Fourth Commandment.

Remarks like that of Methodist Board member Jo Palmer still sound a little sacrilegious, although the sacredness of Sunday has been pretty well eroded in most places.

In the churches that observe the Sabbath (seventh day) one would not be likely to hear a remark, “What is so holy about the Sabbath anyway?” The answer is so easily found throughout the Bible beginning at creation where we read in Genesis 2: “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.” It is holy because God set it aside as a holy day.

A PRAYER

(Composed at the end of a day when I had attended three meetings.)

Our Father, in these days when we live by the minute hand on the clock, help us to be calm and avoid ulcers.

Help us, when we rush to appointments, to be duly patient as we wait for those who are never on time. And, please, Lord, give those egoists enough humility to be a little bit ashamed.

Be forgiving with those who are duly notified and forget to attend meetings. May they be forgiven, and let them be as understanding when they are so inconvenienced.

Be charitable with the chairman who has no agenda and proceeds to lead the meeting in all directions, resulting in corporate confusion, unclear and fractured conclusions.

Where any of us have violated orderliness, forgive us and direct us that we may reflect the orderliness of the stars and the seasons. Amen.

Royald V. Caldwell, First Congregational Church, Portland, Oregon.

(Permission granted.)

Public Prayer

Some people when called upon to pray in public take the easy way and lightly read the prepared words of someone else. “It is better,” says Harold Lindsell, “to formulate a new one and bring to bear the mind, the heart, and the will in a deliberate and meaningful context . . . God nowhere indicates that He is concerned with the excellence of our prose or poetry.”
Discovering the Courageous Hope in a Time of Change

By Pastor Glen Warner

Our coffee steamed upward in twin columns as Amy poured it, "It seems impossible to make lifelong commitments now, everything is changing too fast." My young friend had summed an hour’s conversation, covering, among other things, a suspiciously nagging feeling that he belonged in the pastoral ministry. We had talked of that inborn surge toward creativity, that stretching toward the Light, that frank and passionate desire to do something worthy, that would somehow express his bursting energy and idealism. Then he asked, "Is it possible to control the way life goes, or does it just have to happen to us?"

Now definitions of life have always fascinated me. Recently I have begun thinking of it, and our struggle for values, as being like the universe; constantly in motion and operating in many dimensions and dimensions. I like to call it a multidimensional confrontation with reality. My friend’s observation that everything is changing too fast could not be more right. I see the sea of change around us, and the effect it has upon us, is a challenging dynamic. In the midst of change, we are searching to find the Bible’s answers. To all the questions, the Bible’s answers may not be all clear. The Bible is from a collection of stories on the back. It is impossible to show all the aspects of life to me cover is a series of collage panels which suggest something of the variety, complexity, and subtlety of change going on in our time. Panel compositions on the change in the treatment of the individual and the loss of communication. The bottom panel suggests the massive national and international events and changes that confront us. The biblical dimension is another aspect that any other generation has had. The television set was a medium, bringing the war, for example, into the living room. Bottom left panel shows bits of advertising and children’s stories. The card, a six of spades, is there to protect the loss of simple and basic joy. Top left panel shows the fascinating world of mobility and leisure, with the suggestion that twentieth century man faces unimaginable choices, both in understanding himself and his traditional values.

The center picture is of a stunning find, under the sea. It is a 15 foot tunnel discovered by archaeologists, which fits the biblical description of one that Hezekiah built down to the Sea of Egypt. The tunnel was built under the wall of Jerusalem, and its purpose was to serve as a water supply to the city of Jerusalem. It is a beautiful example of the ingenuity and skill of ancient builders.

Top right panel shows the massive national and international events and changes that confront us. The biblical dimension is another aspect that any other generation has had. The television set was a medium, bringing the war, for example, into the living room. Bottom left panel shows bits of advertising and children’s stories. The card, a six of spades, is there to protect the loss of simple and basic joy. Top left panel shows the fascinating world of mobility and leisure, with the suggestion that twentieth century man faces unimaginable choices, both in understanding himself and his traditional values.

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embraces some former vision?

Now I am not advocating all-out, indiscriminate change. Inordinate and ir
responsible change is not the path to new mission. Furthermore, we are not the
pawns of fate or the puppets of an irrational and capricious God. We can have
controlled and creative change. For too often the "soft paganisms" in our society and our churches
is largely due, not only to our inadequate proclamation of our gospel, but also to
simple fact that rapid change leaves us without boundaries.

In the last decade the church has tried to rediscover its identity by entering the
arena of Christian social action. There are many, including myself, who feel that
our society and the church are certainly far too permissive. "Society goes to seed" is another term I have learned recently. There is much Scripture to support the church's mission in social action. I agree with Trueblood who wrote, "The church exists by mission, as a fire, as an electric spark. History is good as
Christian social action may be, the more primitive reality is, that a genuinely new
man begins by the invasion of divine love into his heart. Christ may be incognito in
the ghettos all right, but it is when the Divine Friend, at my most irreconcilable
point, loves me unconditionally, that I

Pamm and petted generation, pampered and pampered. It has been variously called,
by his mighty acts, the God who raised Jesus Christ from the
dead and gave him glory that our faith

The letter is at once basic and highly
guide and pattern for Christian living.

These are many, including myself, who feel that
failure to encourage the communion of saints
to as an inheritance, which

We cannot always control the events
around us, and we may be outraged at them sometimes. It may be that we can do
something about them — work within them rather than scraping the whole
situation. We can have the courageous hope that is rooted in the primitive and
welcome message of Jesus Christ, and we can even become instruments of conversion.
If the condition of our heart is sound, we can find the spiritual and emotional maturity to
live life at its growing edge in our time. But more than the capacity for personal
conviction, the vitality of faith, rooted not in tradition but in personal experience
with the Christ. Finding Him, meeting Him is the most total and redeeming ex
perience that you can have. This is the way that we are saved, the way that we are
redempted, the way that God uses the Church to save the world. There is no deed we can even
welcome message of Jesus Christ. and

In simple outline, the letter appears this way:

I. Salutation (1:1-2)

II. The blessings of God's redeemed children (1:3 - 2:10)

III. The duties of Christians in the world (2:11 - 4:11)

IV. The trials of Christians in the world (4:12 - 5:1)

V. Conclusion and blessing (5:12-14)

Change and the gospel are not necessarily mutually exclusive. In fact, there is evidence that they are mutually dependent. First Peter can help us to learn what our reaction as Christians can be to inevitable change. Will the change limit the possibilities of being Christian? Does change have to destroy our faith and hope? Is it possible to control the way life goes, or does it just have to happen to us?

And now the coffee cups are empty. My young friend still waits for my answer. We cannot always control the events around us, and we may be outraged at them sometimes. It may be that we can do something about them — work within them rather than scraping the whole situation. We can have the courageous hope that is rooted in the primitive and welcome message of Jesus Christ, and we can even become instruments of conversion. If the condition of our heart is sound, we can find the spiritual and emotional maturity to live life at its growing edge in our time. But more than the capacity for personal conviction, the vitality of faith, rooted not in tradition but in personal experience with the Christ. Finding Him, meeting Him is the most total and redeeming experience that you can have. This is the way that we are saved, the way that we are redeemed, the way that God uses the Church to save the world. There is no deed we can even welcome message of Jesus Christ. and
Bowed Heads
A story for children adapted from Hans Christian Andersen
By Dr. Kenneth Smith

"The purpose of trials is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed." — 1 Peter 1:7

In a beautiful valley of peace and quiet, a farmer had planted four kinds of grain. Barley, wheat, and rye were waving their golden heads back and forth in the sunshine. The fourth kind of grain did not stir. It was buckwheat. I do not know very much about grain, but the field of buckwheat did not act very friendly with the other kinds of grain. Somehow the buckwheat thought that it was better stock than the others. For it always stood straight and tall even when the wind was blowing. Branching high above the heads of the stalks of grain, a willow tree waved its arms back and forth with every breeze. The willow had been there for many years, and the young grain asked for advice now and then that is, except the buckwheat. The buckwheat thought it was wiser than the willow or anyone else, for that matter. Next to the willow stood a maple tree. The maple tree was very important to the neighborhood, because whenever a storm was on the way, the maple would warn everyone by shaking its leaves above. Everyone watched these storm warnings, that is, everyone but the willow tree. The willow could not remember a storm as long as she has been there. The lightning flashed and the thunder roared and the lightning flashed. That is, except the buckwheat. The willow called up the other kinds of grain and then the other kinds of grain told the willow that the buckwheat thought it was better stock than the others for it always stood straight and tall and spoke to no one. Certainly a terrible storm was coming. The maple for her warning and then she bowed its head. The willow tree held her leaves bottom and tall and spoke to no one.

"I shall never bow my head for anyone," answered the buckwheat, "I will always stand straight and tall."

And so through the long night the thunder roared and the lightning flashed. The willow tree could not remember a worse storm. The wind blew with all its might and the barley, the wheat, and the rye, bowed their heads and waited for morning.

When the sun came over the hill and shone down on the valley below, the willow tree noticed that the maple leaves were waving back and forth in the gale. That is, everyone except the buckwheat. The willow called out loudly to the buckwheat above the noise of the thunder and the roar of the wind. "Get down, buckwheat," she called. "Bow your head for the wind."

"I shall never bow my head for anyone," answered the buckwheat, "I will always stand straight and tall."

In any era of history there has been change, but today's change is more spectacular. Barley, wheat, and rye once were there before. There were certainly changes in past times that were perhaps radical or controversial, but now change affects each of us in many ways. Since change is part of all of our lives, we should have an attitude toward change in general and toward specific instances of change. This attitude should be formed in part by our faith.

Young people are becoming more and more concerned with the world, the US, and its problems. Greater awareness on the part of all people is due, in part, to the news media we have today. Greater awareness on the part of youth is due to a greater understanding of responsibility and concern, not lack of it, as some think. Young people are a part of the change around us. We want to be heard and we want to be sure we are. A lot is heard about college campuses and the sit-ins, riots, and holding of buildings. High schools don't make the news as much but there is a minor revolution there too. Dress codes are being changed, students councils are being formed and broadened. Underground newspapers are present in many schools, calling for more student participation and the revamping of present structures.

We can influence changes by having an opinion, not being indifferent. We as Christians have an obligation to do so. As youth, we can tell others our ideas which are founded in love, not in selfish acts. We as youth can participate in neighborhood projects and other action that shows change through love. Our Youth Fellowship has not done too much for the community good since the projects I mentioned in a previous article. I hope other Youth Fellowships are doing better, and if not, let us put our minds to it.

Change is around us all, we can not escape it. It's good! It's necessary! Having recently been to the National Council of Churches of Christ Assembly in Detroit, I have had quite an exposure to change and the crying need for it. We were petitioned to listen, study and then act by women, youth, Indians, Blacks, Palestinians, and many others. The need for change was dramatically made known to us in such issues as the draft and the Vietnam war. Everything else that is going on is but a minor revolution. We as Christians everywhere are being challenged to change the world so it is a better, more as God would want it, place to live. Will we face the challenge?

Renew us in the sense of Thy gracious promise and let it be a constant impulse within us to peace, trustfulness and courage on our pilgrimage. Behold, we bring our poor hearts as a sacrifice unto Thee; come and fill Thy sanctuary. Let Thy Divine Spirit flow like a river through our whole souls, and lead us in the paths of Thy commandments. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gerhard Tersteegen (1697)
The Gospel Means an Inner Change

By Bob Harris

"But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and make him your Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. But do it with gentlemanly and respectful. Keep your conscience clear, so that when you are insulted, those who speak evil of your good conduct as followers of Christ may be ashamed of what they say. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if this should be God's will, than for doing wrong. For Christ Himself died for you; once and for all for sin, a good man for bad men, in order to lead just to death physically, but made also an example of suffering for righteousness' sake. Now don't want you to get the impression that suffering is all bad. You see suffering for righteousness' sake is a cause for rejoicing, not to be ashamed of them. It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil, if it is God's will. Verse 18 continues, stating for you and me, good and bad, a good man for bad men. He did this so that we could have life eternal.

This verse is one reason that caused the biggest change in my life. After I was baptized and joined the church in 1965, I was a true Christian. I knew that Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. Then a big change in my Christian life occurred in the late winter of 1967. During this time I first became aware of a program called the summer Christian Service Corps. But I was only an inexperienced senior in high school. Inexperienced in that I never taught in a Bible School, or served on the staff of a church camp. I had been in the secretarial program and I had a talk with secretary Wheeler and I had a talk with her that the best thing for me to do was to work with the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church in Bible School and camp. I get some experience. During my experience at Senior camp another change came into my life. On Sabbath eve that happened for a clear conscience is that when the workers of iniquity hurl insults at you, they will later be ashamed for what they said because you are a follower of Christ. I think that verse 17 is one that Christians need to consider. The verse reads: For our house gone, our belongings sorted very tidily, and then off into the sunset we rode, our goal very much in mind. Now I see suffering for righteousness' sake is the same, to serve the Lord. But I have a better concept now of how really hard it is. When you get serious about serving the Lord, you will experience all sorts of things to start happening. Forewarned is forearmed, and we were prepared for the disappointments that came.

Trueblood says that "The power of the early Christian movement arose from the clear recognition that it was by no means a program of a cheap grace. The hope of reaching the masses with a redemptive power was always prefaced by the clear recognition that the opposition was intense as well as abundant."

That being a Christian is hard, is something that we Christians have to keep in mind. Being a Christian is not easy. As the apostle Peter wrote: "Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, and have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts. For through the living and eternal word of God you have been born again as children of a parent who is immortal, not mortal. As the scripture says, 'All men are like the wild grass, And all their glory is like its flower; The grass dies, and its flower falls off, But the word of the Lord remains for ever.' This is the word that the Good News brought to you." — 1 Peter 1:22-25.

I like ultimate projects and ultimate answers. I am not a giant steps that cover a lot of territory. So the Lord is teaching me that I am taking a journey of steps, some of them very small, and on occasion even standing still.

We moved to Seattle two years ago to help start a Seventh Day Baptist church in this area, and the Lord included a nice bonus in that we had close friends here too. At the time we made this move, it seemed like the ultimate journey to me. Everything in the Riverit was taken care of, our house gone, our belongings sorted very tidily, and then off into the sunset we rode, our goal very much in mind. Now I see suffering for righteousness' sake is the same, to serve the Lord. But I have a better concept now of how really hard it is. When you get serious about serving the Lord, you will experience all sorts of things to start happening. Forewarned is forearmed, and we were prepared for the disappointments that came.

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and so she has a Good News Club meeting where they talk about, but by their silences. I wish I could say I am seldom (even never) in the pulpit, but my family and I spend a lot of time in clothes.

We are called to serve outside of our family too. Because we are all different and in different places, our ways of serving others are going to be different also. One of my friends is good with children and so she has a Good News Club meeting every other Saturday night last summer in the hope of an evangelistic outreach sponsored by several churches in the area. My family and I think this is especially important for the housewife to remember. Washing clothes is terrific with older people, especially geriatric cases in convalescent hospitals.

Ray and I like teen-agers and spent every other Saturday night last summer with a group of kids that came in off the street to spend time happening at The Door. The Door is a small bookstore sponsored by several churches in the area in the hope of an evangelistic outreach to the young people there.

In our relationships with other people, like these kids at The Door, it is very important not to get bogged down by their problems. My new motto is — Be concerned, be helpful, and above all be loving, but don't get discouraged. If their problem are getting too much of me, then I am not being of much help to them.

Joyce Hifler has said in To Every Thing a Season, “We learn so many good things from great souls, not always by what they talk about, but by their silences. There is often a more meaningful communication of understanding and trustworthiness in silence than in conversation.

“There would be much less clamor if we would learn to be silent enough. The plight of the human being is that he creates a mountain of disturbances and then tries to climb over it.”

“We see nothing is working well for us unless we can see it, and to make up for what we cannot see, we talk about it until we create problems where none existed. When time is all spent talking there is no time for listening, and without new ideas talk is very cheap.

“Robert Louis Stevenson said, ‘You start a question and it’s like starting a stone from on top of a hill, away the Lord is teaching me that make up for what we cannot see, we spend time in the hope of understanding and trustworthiness, and without new ideas talk is very cheap.’

Throughout the service, the Lord was extending a call to me. A call to enter the ministry of the gospel. From that time on I knew that our confidence is in the Lord. I take to try the same thing, but she is so above the hill.”

The following summer the Lord continued to encourage my thoughts to enter the ministry. I think this is especially important for the housewife to remember. Washing clothes is terrific with older people, especially geriatric cases in convalescent hospitals.

By these ideas from First Peter 4:7-11, “Above everything, love one another earnestly, for love covers the many bad things we do. We also have the special gift of the ability to love. The Scripture further states, “Above everything, love one another earnestly . . . Open your homes to the Lord in a new parsonage, associational responsibilities and the Creative Ministries we have found valid.

The same comment by Bruce Larsen often we feel as though we are in a period of transition. Sometimes I am uncertain about what the new relationships will be. We know that only God is responsible — that while we are sometimes inadequate in our capacity to love others, or in knowing how to express that love, or in our confidence to do so. Through his “living and eternal word” we are born again.

(Continued from page 8)

We are rewarded as we see growth in bringing full of sharing my time with younger persons (including one of my daughters) with whom I serve in religious education.

As a wife and mother of five children, grandmother of three boys, church and college faculty member I find my days racing by full of sharing my time with others. Training my children, grandchil- dren and students is very rewarding to me. A great deal of love, hope, patience goes into this effort. Verse 7 of the chapter cited says: “You must be self-controlled and alert.” And I try! When the time comes for children and students to use time on their own without my guidance, I am rewarded as I see growth continue in a new dimension. Growth implies change. Since growth has been a goal of my training, changes are some-what invited in my way of life.

Sometimes we are too comfortable with things as they are and we dislike being disturbed, disrupted, interrupted or whatever we may dub our resistance to change. However, if we view change as a blending of the past and present with growth for the future we find it exciting. If change comes as a result of stagnation, disintegra- tion and decay the elements of hope, anticipation, and expectation are replaced by resignation and even despair. So we take steps toward change as we continue to grow using always the principles of Christian living we have found valid. Thus we approach new experiences con- fidently, and we find new emphases in our Christian living. In the area of new ex- periences I think of trying new areas of service in the church.

A rewarding experience for me has been to relinquish my years of responsi- bility of Sabbath School teaching to younger persons (including one of my daughters) with whom I have worked and who are now qualified and working in religious education. I now have new responsibilities in the area of planning for a new parsonage, associational responsi- bilities and continued music committee work. New opportunities for service ever await our willingness to forget ourselves and to give. We have found a new awareness, fear of failure, fear of change and all other selfish excuses we use for not making changes and growing. Look about and see what needs your time — be it a large or small task — and just start!

THE SABBATH RECORDER
Risks and Rewards When You Change Your Profession

By Garth Warner

"The end of all things is near. You must be self-controlled and alert, to be able to pray. Above all, love one another earnestly, for love covers over many sins. Open your homes to each other, without complaining. Each one as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use the special gifts he has received. One person must preach God's word; whoever serves, must serve with strength that God gives him, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the power for ever and ever! Amen." — 1 Peter 4:7-11

It's not pleasant to realize that you're not going anywhere. I had been given a partnership in a small service business a few years before and for a while things had gone well. I had enjoyed the independence of being my own boss, and in the slow season I had been able to build a home for my family. But I was beginning to realize that, just working a day by day, trying to meet other people's wishes for wages, was not meeting my own needs. There was work, but there was little satisfaction or sense of accomplishment in doing it. I began to resent the hours of working alone and felt that I had really let myself and my family down by not preparing myself for more interesting work. I had not gone to college because I had no definite vocational goals and I felt inadequate, not only vocationally but as a person. It was apparent that a change was needed.

Realizing that much more than making a living was involved and deciding that this was something we should pray about. We soon felt that I should start taking a class in education at a local college and tuition costs put an added strain on our finances. Again God answered our prayer by providing a church scholarship for graduate study in counseling and guidance. It seems that God feels that at this point in my life I can make the best use of His gifts by working with teenagers and their problems as a junior school counselor.

The past few years have been a time of reevaluation and self-analysis that had made a poor decision and that a change was necessary. There were times of having to say that I would be willing to fail if God wanted me to. There were times of having to deal with family relationships that were strained and to ask for forgiveness. There are still times of thankfulness for a long marriage and understanding wife and family. There was the unforgettable experience of realizing that God really cared about something as small as my feelings.

Change is such a simple word. We toss it around so easily and carelessly, perhaps hoping to convey the idea that we have mastered the concept as easily as the vocabulary. The idea of change (Concluded on page 15)

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Is There a New Style of Life When You Retire?

By Miss Dora Hurley

"For what credit is there in enduring the beatings you deserve for having done wrong? But if you endure suffering even when you have done right, God will bless you for it. It was to the test of God's own will that you endured suffering; because Christ suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps." — 1 Peter 4:12

"That ye should follow in His steps.

Though buffeted when ye do well—
Be patient now, Christ suffered for you,
To the end of life, through the "Golden Years" Continue to "follow in His steps."

A new style of life is my assigned topic. There is no new style of life after 65. It's the same old style. If we follow how can one expect life carries on in the framework of motivation and role it's proper to give an invitation and answer; command and obedience. "Come unto me," Christ said, "and I will give you rest." "Open the door of your heart and I will come in and sup with you." "Go ye into all the world, and I am with you always." He also said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

There are some adjustments to make, however, if our values in life are viewed through the prism of these words: "That ye should follow in His steps." We can be grateful for our challenges. As happens in a gardener's garden, I have learned to accept what I can't control and to focus on the things I can control. Christ has been with me in the past, present and future.

With the passing of years, we notice our bodies are different. It's been said, "The years have not been kind, but the Lord has been kind." We do not want to fall into a somber mood. The life of faith is an experience of growth and development. It is a change in our thinking and our lifestyle. Our Lord has always been with us. He is always on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. You were like sheep that had lost their way, but now you have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of your souls."

One evening before Christmas a Boy Scout Troop came to sing carols. One sweet 91-year-old little lady being pushed in a wheelchair was overheard to say, "We are never alone. Jesus is always with us." She was answering Christ's knock at the door of her heart. Contrast the calm and happiness of this individual to another's adjustment to buffeting—this senior citizen propels her wheelchair up and down the halls constantly saying "Granpor." She is seeking for something, and a vital relationship to other people. Her response to buffeting has been only fretfulness.

You see, through all of life there must be motivation. The individual to be fulfilled and reached out, must realize a sense of accomplishment. Through all of life there must be a vital relationship to God and a vital relationship to other people, and always discipline. Discipline is a framework of motivation and response; with God's help, we can learn to make the best use of our gifts. Christ has been with us. He is always on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. You were like sheep that had lost their way, but now you have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of your souls.

(Concluded on page 15)
How the Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church Changed

A Modern Moon Fable

By Rev. Elmo Randolph

"But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to be a light to the Gentiles, that you may shine upon them with the darkness of your own marvellous light; At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people; at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy." — 1 Peter 2:9-10

Emily stood at her kitchen sink doing the supper dishes. This had been the afternoon of the first Ladies Aid Society meeting in the new year and she had arrived home barely in time to prepare a quick meal for her family. Now her thoughts were flitting back to that meeting. The refreshments were delicious; visiting with friends was pleasant, but the worship was uninspired and the business was routinely dull.

"Must it always be so?" she reflected, and as she contemplated the thought, her eyes lifted toward the east through the window above the sink. There it was—a full moon, magnificent brilliant, breathtaking. Emily had been awed many times before by such a moon-view, but this evening new and different ideas gripped her mind. "The moon has been conquered... I am crucified with Christ, and it is now... dreams have become reality... what was once believed impossible is now possible... dreams have become reality... a women's group... things are possible... a women's group... dreams have become reality..."

With these thoughts tumbling over one another in his mind, John walked over the rise leading to his home and was suddenly struck by the sight of a full moon, clear and beautiful in the January sky. Now he was focusing on that moon as if it were the footprints of his heroes who had stepped out on it a few months ago. Here was his personal inspiration for the New Year—his God-given symbol of discipline. A Verse of Scripture memorized several years ago now etched itself with new meaning on his mind. "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." In this luminous moment, he knew without doubt that he was in the process of being transplanted to himself to being Christ's new man.

In his Christian ministry the pastor of Mountain View Seventh Day Baptist Church had experienced many New Year's Days in the church. Often, in past times, he had been motivated and thrilled by the opportunity of new beginnings. This year, however, as the new decade opened, the pastor felt disenchanted. He thought, "God may be in His heaven, but very little is right with the world." This evening he had felt defeated as he met with his Board of Deacons to present new plans and programs to forward Christ's Kingdom in the local parish. Now as he sat alone in his darkened study, the burden of his problems weighed heavily upon him.

At first the pastor was startled to see a beam of light crossing the room. A glance over his shoulder revealed a moon that seemed larger and brighter than he had ever seen before. In imagination he was rocketed into space as he remembered that man, in the year just past, had followed the light of the great exploration of all time to the surface of the moon and safely back to the planet earth. Suddenly shame gripped him as he asked himself, "Is God defeated?" Then followed a great surge of hope and courage as the words of the great apostle Paul caught him up in their meaning and power, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."" How the moon last week?" the pastor asked Emily and John after the morning worship the next Sabbath. Unnoticed and unheard, like the leaves in the loaf, a change began to take place in the church.

The Gospel Means an Inner Change

(Continued from page 10)

change in my life.

As I am growing older I am beginning to realize how fast time passes on. I am beginning to get changing . . . dreams have become reality . . . what was once believed impossible is now possible . . . dreams have become reality . . . men have walked upon the moon and safely back to the planet earth. Suddenly shame gripped him as he asked himself, "Is God defeated?" Then followed a great surge of hope and courage as the words of the great apostle Paul caught him up in their meaning and power, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." As I am growing older I am beginning to realize how fast time passes on. I am beginning to get changed . . . dreams have become reality . . . what was once believed impossible is now possible . . . dreams have become reality . . . men have walked upon the moon and safely back to the planet earth. Suddenly shame gripped him as he asked himself, "Is God defeated?" Then followed a great surge of hope and courage as the words of the great apostle Paul caught him up in their meaning and power, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
"God wanted to make it very clear to those who were to receive what he promised that he would never change his purpose; so he added his vow to the promise. There are these two things, then, that cannot change and about which God cannot lie. So we who have found safety with him are greatly encouraged to hold firmly to the hope that is placed before us. We have this hope as an anchor for our hearts. . . ." — Heb. 6:17-19

ACROSS:
(See Gospel of John)
1. 16:33 threshing sledge (from Latin)
2. 12:5 to sell
3. 16:33 ............ things
4. hour ... now come, 16:32
5. 14:17 where the Spirit may be
6. should
7. signify
8. ask
9. 14:18 depart
10. 9:1 beginning
11. 2 down
12. the ink is
13. wager
14. 16:14 .... shall glorify
15. function of the Holy Spirit

DOWN:
1. a true ........ 21:24
2. 11 across
3. 14:8 shew
4. 17:21
5. anger
6. 2:25 -d. +th
7. assent
8. 15:5 what we can do without Christ
9. 4:38 reward from others
10. 6:20
11. 10:1 doesn't use the door
12. God cannot . . . (above Scripture — Hebrews)
13. string
14. stock

Sea of Galilee from Church of the Beatitudes
This church, the back of which overlooks the Sea of Galilee, marks the probable spot on the Mount of the Beatitudes where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

(See back page also.)