**Miracle Happens on a City Bus**

The Sunday school class was just beginning as Juanita and a stranger entered. Juanita's expression showed that she was unusually happy. She told the class why.

That morning, as usual, she had ridden a bus to downtown Madrid, Spain, to get to the First Baptist Church. On the bus, she had sat down by a woman, who immediately turned to greet her and to give her a gospel tract.

Juanita asked the woman from what church the tract had come. She replied that it had come from a Protestant church in Valdepenas, a town south of Madrid in La Mancha, the central plateau.

Juanita then told the woman that she too was an “evangelical” and was on her way to church. The woman asked her if, by any chance, she knew where the First Baptist Church was located.

“Of course, that’s where I’m going,” Juanita replied.

The woman almost shouted with joy. Then she explained her reaction: “I came to Madrid two weeks ago to be with my brother, who is ill. Last Sunday I was not able to find an evangelical church to attend, and I was so very miserable.

“Yesterday I prayed and told the Lord that I just had to find one. None of my family here are Christians, and they offered no help whatsoever.

“I got up this morning and prayed, and I told God that I was going to get a bus to the center of town and He would just have to do the rest.

“The family said I was crazy—that I couldn’t go out alone to look for a small Protestant church in a city of over three million people, in a predominantly Catholic country, with no idea of where it was.

“Nevertheless, I left the house, boarded the bus, and then you sat down beside me.”

Who but God could have worked this miracle? You see, the woman from La Mancha is totally blind.—Written by Christine Buie, Madrid, Spain. —EBPS

**Growing Churches**

The question is often asked, “Are your churches growing?” To be honest, we have to reply, “Not all of them and not enough of them.” Also, to be honest, we can add that some are showing very healthy growth, and much of that growth is adults who have come to recognize the Scriptural truths and practices which characterize our church.

Take, for example, the membership report of the Los Angeles church submitted to Conference by the clerk.

It reveals a membership increase of twenty-six. Of this number, nine were by baptism, six by letter of transfer, and eleven by testimony. There were four decreases in the membership, one of which was by death, and three by letter. Total membership now stands at one hundred thirty-nine, which is a net gain of twenty-two during the past church year.

Make your Sabbath a meaningful experience. It belongs to Jesus Christ, who declared Himself to be Lord of the Sabbath Day. We encourage you to be present in His house on His holy day.

—Seattle SDB bulletin
am here to tell you that the greatest thing in the world is not love; it is hate!"

It was the late G. Amos Brissey speaking, at Berea, W. Va., in the summer of 1938. Hitler and Mussolini were at the height of their power in Europe, and the pot was boiling for the Second World War. There was plenty of evidence to support his thesis, which, by the way, he didn’t believe; he was wanting to shock us into thinking.

Now, more than forty years later, we are again living in a time when the world appears to be falling apart. Not love, not even hate, but fear seems to rule. We live under the awesome threat of nuclear war; we fear the apocalyptic fear, fostered by scientific prophets of doom with an array of statistics to prove their predictions: that the human race is at the end of its rope. But there is more hope in fear than in hate. Fear can start your knees to shake, but hate can embitter your soul.

Therefore, let us talk about love, how rich and pure! How endless and strong! To write the love of God a love, would drain the ocean dry.

However, it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell. When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call, were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade.

"The Guilt-y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; God’s love, so sure, shall still endure. All measure less and strong, to write the love of God a love.

The guilt-y child He rec- o- nized, and par-doned from his sin. Re-deem-ing grace to Ad- am’s race—The saints’ and an-gels’ song. Nor could the scroll con-tain the whole, ’Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.

Let us then, with perfect love, not even hate, but fear at His feet, love, not even hate, but fear, to the scroll contain. Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.

CHORUS

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measure-less and strong!

It shall for ev- er-more en-dure—The saints’ and an-gels’ song.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

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Published weekly (except August) at Berea, W. Va., in the summer of 1938. Hitler and Mussolini were at the height of their power in Europe, and the pot was boiling for the Second World War. There was plenty of evidence to support his thesis, which, by the way, he didn’t believe; he was wanting to shock us into thinking.

There is need, and urgent need, for perfect love in today’s world; it is our only hope. How, then, can we have it? And how will it cast out fear? It is our desire that this issue of the Sabbath Recorder may help you answer these questions.

—C. A. B.
In a world where people are running to escape reality we certainly do need divine love.

On a recent trip to California one Saturday evening around midnight a group of us visited "His Place" which is located on Sunset Strip. The main ministry is to those who have run away from home and those who are trying to run away from reality by taking drugs.

The night I was there they carried out an eighteen- or nineteen-year-old fellow who couldn't face the reality of going to Vietnam. The love of God in the hearts of the management put faith into action and took this fellow to the hospital where he couldn't face the reality of going to Vietnam.

There are many young people across the nation trying to really live—by experimenting with drugs, getting drunk, or participating in violent demonstrations against nonviolence.

Oh, that they would come to Jesus! Know that they can have a new life in Christ. If possessing Christians practiced the love that Jesus taught, the world would readily see that the Christian way is the right way to help eliminate the wrongs that men might know (deep, instinctive, personal affection) type of love which Jesus used when speaking to Peter (John 21:15-16).

Young people are searching and many of them are finding the true meaning of love sent from above. This was especially made clear to me in the Pre-Con experience at Asbury Acres. Discussions in informal groups, at meal times, songs chosen by the youth to sing around the campfire all indicated a tremendous personal relationship to Christ.

If you're reading this article and you've been trying in many ways to really live and haven't tried Christ who said: "I am the way, the truth and the life (John 10:6) why not open your heart to Him right now? He says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20).

Maybe you'd like to use this prayer or say in your own words something similar:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be" (Four Spiritual Laws).

It is only when the love of God dwells in our hearts that we in turn can have real love for others. This was expressed in the song used as a round which we sang many times in camp and elsewhere this summer.

"Love, love, love, love, Christian this is your call. Love your neighbor as yourself for God loves us all."
What God's Love Means to Me Personally

By Patty, Karen, and Jan

Jan, Karen, and Patty

I am sure that God means different things to different people, but to me God is love and I know from experience that "Things (all things) go better (much better) with God."

Working this summer in SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) caused me to start thinking about God and who and what He is. Many questions entered my mind and I really didn't know what the answers were. Hoping that working with the churches I might gain some insight to my questions, I plunged ahead trying to do my best in whatever way possible.

Prayer, this summer, and now, really means a lot to me, for through praying with someone you can really get to know that person, his feelings and thoughts. Prayer, I think, is one of the many ways in which God shows us His love. Just knowing that someone is praying for you gives you a really deep sense that others are your brothers in Christ and really care about you and what happens.

This year's Youth Pre-Con sang a folk musical, by Ralph Carmichael, for Conference which really talks about love. One of the songs says, "Love is surrender to His will" (not our will). This really makes the big difference, I think. When you're doing God's will, you know He loves you and you can feel Him with you every step you take!

I personally know that God's love is real, for I've felt it and experienced it. It's just so great that once you get a sip of it you just have to have more! And to get more you have to do God's will, and God's will is so well expressed in the song:

Pass It On
By Kurt kaiser
It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it;
You spread His love to everyone;
You want to "Pass it on."

What God's Love Means to Me Personally

By Karen Osborn

In one of the Bible Schools I worked in this summer the nursery class repeated the Bible verses they had learned during the week at the closing program. Even though I had heard the same verse the week before, when the little boy stood there on the platform and said "Love is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4) it hit me how true that verse was. At least it is true when the love spoken about is God's love.

After working with children for two summers I have found that I need God's love in my life to be able to love some of the children. Of course if I didn't know the love of God I would not have done the work at all, but knowing God and all He has done for me I just have to go out and tell people about it. Since it is easier for me to go to a child rather than to an adult I enjoy working in Bible Schools or any place where I will be in contact with children. I believe that if we as Christians do not reach these children when they are young that it will be more difficult to reach them when they are older. Some of the children I have worked with recently have been hungry for the love of God that it was just a joy to be able to work with them. This is the time we need to reach these children. Later may be too late.

As a sophomore in college I know how true this is. By the time young people reach college age they are pretty much set in their way of thinking. Of course there is always hope and we should be always witnessing because we never know what miracle God is going to perform.

It is terribly hard for me to talk to people I don't know, but with God in my life (backing me up, you might say) I find it much easier. I just have to forget about myself and let the love of God flow through me to be able to reach any person for God. My prayer is that I will be able to do this more and more.

What Does God's Love Mean to Me Personally?

By Janis Mitchell

How can we as Christians witness for Christ? It is clear that it is our duty to witness. All of us have talents of one kind or another. Some of us can sing, give talks, write messages, write; and some of us can just smile and convey our feeling of love for Christ. I have been given the opportunity to witness for Christ in this special issue of the Sabbath Recorder. I was given the question, "What does God's love mean to me personally?"

The first thought that came into my mind was, how can I say what His love means to me, because it means different things to me at different times. My life becomes turbulent at times with doubt and tangled with webs so that I stumble blindly around, and I must remember, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6). God has promised to direct our paths. I know I am not the only one who at times feels discouraged about the future, goals, love, and my own worthlessness. It seems like I am down in the darkest pit. Doubt is flying around my head on wings of fear. Then it comes to my mind, a promise made to me, "and he shall direct thy paths." God's love is a tranquilizer for my troubled mind.

I am human, therefore I possess human weaknesses. Things I know to be wrong I find myself swayed into doing; and I quickly make an excuse for the act. It is not that I truly wanted to do it. It was just easier to choose the wrong way. Later I do become sorry and ashamed for my weakness. Then, I look to God for my strength. "Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness; for in thee do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee . . . . Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy Spirit is good: lead me into the land of uprightness." (Psalm 143:8, 10). When I am weak and say, "Why not?" God shows His love to me in His strength and He answers, "No, Jan." He is the legs that help me take a stand.

God's love to me means just what He says, "The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace." (Psalm 29:11).
The major problems that confront the world today include disease, ignorance, poverty, population, war and peace. Though great advances have been made in medical sciences, the gap between that knowledge and the delivery of medical services continues to widen. While in most medical centers in this country a team of specialists may successfully do open heart surgery, ordinary medical care is provided by medical assistants who nearly always do so in the worst areas listed in southern Malawi. The major problems that confront the world today include disease, ignorance, poverty, population, war and peace. Though great advances have been made in medical sciences, the gap between that knowledge and the delivery of medical services continues to widen. While in most medical centers in this country a team of specialists may successfully do open heart surgery, ordinary medical care is provided by medical assistants who nearly always do so in the worst areas listed in southern Malawi. The major problems that confront the world today include disease, ignorance, poverty, population, war and peace. Though great advances have been made in medical sciences, the gap between that knowledge and the delivery of medical services continues to widen. While in most medical centers in this country a team of specialists may successfully do open heart surgery, ordinary medical care is provided by medical assistants who nearly always do so in the worst areas listed in southern Malawi.
is our passion.” We must help to educate in the ways of peace by precept and by example and work toward the day when “the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ” (Rev. 11:15).

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN
Oh that the wounds of the nations
So painful, so festered, so deep
Could be brought to the great Physician
His wisdom and skill to seek.
For He would be full of compassion
As before the Galilee throng
Where He healed the lame and the lepers
Their blind, their mentally wrong.
He would cleanse all the wounds with goodness
Apply Gilead’s soothing balm.
Analgesics of hope and cheer
Would bring a feeling of calm.
He would treat all the pains with kindness
Of justice, of faith, of will.
Then He’d bind them with love eternally
The spirit of His peace instill.

Clothing for Missions
There is a constant appeal for used clothing in mission lands. Fashion designers seem to have gone to primitive lands for some of their ideas in women’s clothing. The missionaries have persuaded their people to wear clothes when they accept the Christian way of life. Then the Christians of more affluent lands are asked to send much to send to Africa. Perhaps we missionaries have persuaded their people to wear clothes when they accept the idea of the new way of life.

There was a time when America was, or at least appeared to be, a deeply religious country. It was common knowledge that God, in His merciful goodness had blessed and prospered this nation above all others. Indeed, many Americans compared themselves to the children of Israel as being “God’s Chosen People.”

America symbolized a new beginning to the persecuted and downtrodden masses of Europe. Here was a land of opportunity, a place where the landless European peasant could have his own farm and where the religiously persecuted could worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. Through the years, literally millions of people have chosen to leave home, friends and relatives to begin life anew in America.

For many years numerous writers, politicians and ministers have agreed that God had a special love for the United States. Even when the country became imperialistic and took the Philippines in 1898 President William McKinley expressed the idea that this too was the leading of the hand of God. In defending the take-over of the Philippines he stated that our purpose was to educate, civilize and Christianize “our little brown brothers over whom Christ also holds dominion.”

The current situation in America brings to mind the text found in Psalm 20:7: “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember... the Lord our God.”

In 1831 a well-known Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, set sail for America. He returned to write a tour of the country. Later he wrote: “I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning, and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution — and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.” One wonders how this would compare with the observations of a contemporary traveler.

It is evident today that we have placed too much trust in our superior armaments and our intellectual progress. Throughout history we may witness many great nations that have had all this and still gone down to defeat. Our hope and faith must be in God, for “safety is of the Lord” (Proverbs 21:31).

Throughout her glorious past America has been associated with the ideas of dependence upon God, and the constitutional provision of separation of church and state which has fostered complete religious freedom in the country. One is impressed by statements of belief in God and dependence upon Him made by most of our national leaders. Even a recent Governor like Andrew Jackson realized the importance of God’s leading and said: “The Bible is the rock on which our Republic rests. However, in the presence day it seems to be an ‘old-fashioned’ to express a belief in God, or even love of your country for that matter.”

If it is true that God has led us in the past — what of the future? Will He continue to bless and prosper a people who have seemingly turned their backs upon Him? America must acknowledge her dependence upon God if she is to maintain her independence in a world where true freedom is becoming a lost commodity. May we say with the Psalmist, “We will remember the Lord our God.”

By the Editor—

Love on a Button

“Smile! God luvz you.”

This motto, promoted by the youth at the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference this summer, is preferable to another I have seen:

“Love is a Four-Letter Word.”

Well, it is a four-letter word; that is undeniable. So is hate; so is fear; so also is hope; and so is the unspoken and unspeakable Hebrew name of God, which is known to scholars as the Tetragrammaton; literally, “The Four-Letter Word.”

But “four-letter word” in our day has come to mean something obscene; and so, unfortunately, has “love,” thanks to publicity of the Playboy and Hollywood concept. This is a false, because misdirected, love; just as there is misdirected faith, and misdirected hope, which also can be evil. But love itself — romantic love — is holy, for it comes from God. Else Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:7-8, and the Song of Solomon would have no place in the Bible; celibacy, as the old hermits believed, would be the only pure state, and every marriage service would be blasphemy.

Perhaps it is the prevalence of this false, Playboy conception that has led our youth to adopt that new phonetic spelling, "LUV."
There is a kind of love which seeks to receive. There is a kind of love which seeks to give. The love which seeks to receive is a love which reaches out with a cupped hand (and sometimes with a grasping hand). When it reaches out with a cupped hand it is good but when it reaches out with a grasping hand then it does not receive love; it crushes love and it destroys itself. The other kind of love is the kind of love which reaches out with an open hand to give. And that is the love that God gives.

These two kinds of love are described in a poem written long ago by William Blake. In the poem are two verses. One describes the love that gets and one describes the love that gives. The first kind of love is this:

Love seeketh only self to please,
To bind another to its delight,
Joys in another's loss of ease,
And builds a hell in heaven's desire.

That is the kind of love which grasps. It is usually and properly called "lust." But the love that gives — of this William Blake writes:

Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care.
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a heaven in hell's despair.

Now it seems to me that much of the problem of our world today has to do with the failure to distinguish these two different kinds of love. This is, I think, one of the major problems of the philosophy of the "flower children." It is, I think, one of the major problems of the younger generation in general: that it knows that "what the world needs now is love, sweet love," but it does not always know what kind of love the world needs now. The world does not need much more of the love which grasps: the loving of luxury, the loving of fragrance, the loving to "get what you really wanted." The world has too much of that kind of love already. The kind of love the world needs is the kind of love which asks no price, takes all risks, and gives itself away — even in the face of the fact that it may look ridiculous and stupid. This is the kind of love the world needs now, the kind of love that the world has always needed.

And this is the Christian gospel: that once that kind of Love came into the world, came down from heaven, allowed itself to be made foolish and ridiculous, helpless, crying like a baby; that God was in a manger, that God was utterly and completely helpless because He loved us; that God was on a cross with no power whatsoever, not the slightest power to defend Himself — and God was crucified. This is the stupendous and the ridiculous message of the Christian gospel. That is what Christians believe above all else: God became a man. Every human being must be made foolish and ridiculous. That is the kind of love which asks no price, takes all risks, and gives itself away — even in the face of the fact that it may look ridiculous and stupid. This kind of love is what the world needs. The second thing which it seems to me is said by this tremendous and incomprehensible humiliation of God and His descending to be born in Bethlehem is not often noticed but is very profound and very true. That is that since God condescended to be born in human flesh therefore He made the human form and the human flesh holy. If God has been among us, if God has been one of us, then He has consecrated our form, our faces, and our flesh to be holy. Therefore every human being must be holy because he is in the image of God — and God is in his image. Every human being must be loved, because it was in the image of this person that God once lived! And it is not possible to love God unless you love the human form into which God was born.

William Blake also wrote a poem about that, a poem which includes these words:

"Love, and Love Alone, Can Overcome"

Consider the Poor
Dumb Dinosaur

By Paul S. Burdick

He had a body the size of ten elephants, and a brain the size of a walnut. When he walked, the earth trembled, and when he pressed his foot into the soft mud, and that hardened into stone, it left an impression of his feet.

He built no cities, tunneled no mountains, made no boats to sail the seas, and yet he managed to live on the earth for millions of years.

He didn't smoke cigarettes but kept his body strong.

He didn't smoke pot, but kept his mind (such as it was) clear.

He had no automobile to pollute the air, no factories to pollute the rivers, and no weapons of defense and offense (so far as we can discover) to create fear and distrust among the other inhabitants of the earth. And yet he lived over a
God's Love Has Provided—

Sabbath Rest a Balm of Healing

Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you" (Exodus 31:13).

By Paul V. Beebe

Friend, do you come to the close of your work week worn out? Is your brain tired, do you feel a need to be refreshed, renewed? Do you need a "healing balm"?

I have good news for you. Our heavenly Father in His infinite knowledge foreknew your needs and provided, in the very beginning, the means of refreshing. The Sabbath is one of the sanctified, blessed Sabbath Day, the seventh day of the week (Gen. 2:2, 3; Ex. 20:8–11).

"The world, weary and sin-sick, needs nothing more than it needs to feel the presence and power of a righteous and benevolent God. Men, busy and preoccupied with the burdens of life, need frequent reminders of God's interest in them. The holy Sabbath ordained of God in the beginning is the means at hand for this high service."

“The Sabbath idea is in harmony with the Bible, religious history, and reason and advance a special regard for the seventh day, not for the day's sake (alone) but for the idea's sake (also), having conviction that attending to the "logic of events" or the witness of history, the observance of that day is essential to the preservation of the great principle.”

High above the "logic" of Sabbath observance though, is the fact that God in His infinite wisdom foreknew man's needs and limitations and created the weekly span of one hundred million years. That is some doing!

He had a cousin, however, the tyrannosaurus, who was equipped with sharp teeth and claws. Some were protected by heavy armor. But the more specialized ones became, the harder is some doing!

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteous shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward" (Isa. 58:8).

The Sabbath: Symbol of Creation and Re-Creation

By Herbert E. Saunders

This book reviews the Sabbath from its institution by God to the present day, evaluating the meaning of the Sabbath to meet man's spiritual needs and moral relations. A book that is recommended for the library of every person interested in conserving the value of the Biblical Sabbath. An attractive paperback edition in red and gold, only $2.50. Special discount of 10% on orders of five or more to one address. Order from: American Sabbath tract Society, 510 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.
Who's Who in this Issue

THE EDITOR
Clifford A. Beebe, editor of this special issue, has been an ordained Seventh Day Baptist minister for forty-four years, serving for most of this time as pastor of rural churches in the South, but also as a printer and publisher. Now officially retired, he is presently acting as supply pastor at Paint Rock, Alabama.

THE ARTIST
Winifred (Mrs. Berwin L.) Monroe, who has pictured our theme so graphically on our cover, is an active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas.

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"Pass It On" quoted briefly on page 6 was copyrighted 1969 by Lexicon Music, Inc., with all rights reserved. Used by special permission.

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Miss Connie Coon, a public school teacher in Michigan, has given two years of service as assistant in evangelism for the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, specializing in Child Evangelism. She is a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Ashoway, Rhode Island.

James M. Mitchell, (who prefers to be called Jim) is an ordained evangelist of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas, and has served as pastor of churches in Arkansas and Texas.

Paul S. Burdick, a veteran Seventh Day Baptist minister, now retired, served as pastor of churches for some fifty years, now lives at Waterford, Conn. He has been a lifelong crusader for the cause of peace.

Lloyd D. Seager, M.D., recently retired after over twenty years as head of the Department of Pharmacology of the Arkansas University Medical Center. He is a deacon of the Little Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church, which he was instrumental in founding, and has served as president of the General Conference, and as delegate to the organizational meeting of the World Council of Churches.

John D. Bevis, a native of Alabama, is assistant professor of history at Salem College, Salem, W. Va., specializing in American History. He is active in the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, of which he is a licensed minister.

David L. Beebe has been for the past four years chaplain of Berry College, an undenominational Christian school at Rome, Georgia. Not now connected with Seventh Day Baptists, he yet has an active interest in our denominational work.

Paul V. Beebe, twin brother of David, was accredited by the 1970 General Conference as a recently-ordained Seventh Day Baptist minister. A practical farmer, he is interested in a rural church ministry.

Karen, Patty and Jan. These three girls all daughters of Seventh Day Baptist ministers, worked together in the summer of 1970 in Dedicated Service. Karen Osborn and Patricia Lawton served as a Summer Christian Service Corps team, while Janis Mitchell assisted the teams at Paint Rock and Texarkana in Child Evangelism.

National Bible Week, Nov. 22 - 29
"Life for Modern Man," is the theme for National Bible Week. Life, as pictured here, seems to be badly out of focus. There is much uncertainty about the form of life and the direction of life in our cities. Reading the Bible can do much to bring it back into focus. Let us observe Bible Week by making more of its message our own.