God's Work and Ours

Perhaps the biggest question that any individual has to face in life is to answer "Just what is life all about? What am I here for?" Many people not knowing God try to center their lives on that which will bring them the greatest personal happiness and they find that like the preacher of old, "All is vanity, nothing really satisfies."

Many of the people within the church today are concerned about God's plan for their lives. They state it in different ways but ultimately it comes out the same way: I want to know where I fit into the big scheme of things. This is important, for unless we as individuals know where we fit in, how can we as a group of individuals really understand what God is trying to tell us to do?

However, we can become so preoccupied with thinking about God's plan for "my" life that we may forget to ask God about His larger plan for the world, and that is what the Missionary Society is all about—God's plan for the world.

Basically it can be expressed in this way: God in His love, His plan, wants individuals to come to know Him, to receive His forgiveness, to enter into the fullness of life that He has for them when they become His children through faith in Jesus Christ. God has chosen individuals who have had this experience with others and what He is doing is calling evangelism: the carrying of the good news, the sharing of what God has done for me in my life.

The Scripture shows me that the end goal of God is that one day every knee shall bow to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. Recently that question came to me, and in turn, I have learned enough about how God operates to know that He leads us through the process of discovery and lets us sense in a fragmentary way, rather than clearly see, what process. of discovery. Here on earth to bring glory to God, through what He is doing and where He appears to be God will lead me in my own life, so I expect that He will lead His body, the church, in this process of discovery. God intends to carry out His plan through His body. The church is here on earth to bring glory to God, witness, through worship, and by demonstrating what the Missionary Society wants individuals to do. And why do we, who should know the reasons best—we who are followers of Christ, indeed, why do we seek to involve ourselves in other people's lives, in their cultures? Why do we emphasize evangelism, the message of salvation and reconciliation, above all other aspects of our ministry?

The answer is as starkly simple as the question. And it is dramatic. We do this because "there is no other name under heaven by which men can receive salvation" (Acts 4:12 NEB).

In a periodical that reports to dedicated and missionary-minded people it seems almost an insult to ask the question, "Why do we engage in missionary work?" However, from time to time the basic facts are sometimes lost, glossed over by programs, clouded by theory, and misunderstood.

The simple fact of the matter is, the backbone of the missionary movement—the people in the churches and denominations who support it prayerfully and financially—become confused and question not only priorities, but necessities.

This was brought forcibly into focus at a recent meeting of concerned Christians. This was a small group in a cottage-type discussion and prayer encounter. The people involved were all active in church work and more than ordinarily interested in overseas ministry. The discussion began on a general topic stemming from some reason, for example, the sacrifices and feasts outlined in Leviticus.

As the evening progressed, the subject became more specific, and the question of "Why?" came out. The question was not startling, because such a method of inquiry is the best form of learning. What was startling was the reaction of the group to the question, "Why?"

A blank look, collectively, took over as various participants sought to express some his own words, rather than pictures of how God is doing and where He appears to be heading. In the same way that I expect that God will lead me in my own life, so I expect that He will lead His body, the church, in this process of discovery. God intends to carry out His plan through His body. The church is here on earth to bring glory to God, witness, through worship, and by demonstrating what the Missionary Society wants individuals to do.

Why Missions?

"There is no salvation in anyone else at all, for there is no other name under heaven granted to men by which they may receive salvation" (Acts 4:12 NEB).

In a periodical that reports to dedicated and missionary-minded people...
hard words. It's a hard answer. But "Why?" is a hard question.

Let it be hoped that we never walk away from the question of "Why?" no matter what the composition of the group or the status of the individual asking it. We must not lose sight of this imperative even within the circle of church workers and missionary supporters, because without this actually we have no reason to do anything else for our fellow human beings.

Once we have established the imperative of the phrase "there is no other name under heaven" and fitted our action to see to it that all nations and all men know that Holy Name, then, and only then, can we effectively establish priorities. Priorities seek to open all available avenues of service so that the educational, medical, industrial, economic and artistic needs of the people can be served, too. These and other missionary endeavors are to complement the primary reason for missions, evangelism, not replace it.

The conclusion is as plain as the question. Why do we engage in missions? The articles in this issue speak about "God's Work and Ours." "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not" (1 John 3:1).


definition, P. O. Sandama, Malawi, during that time.

Following the WCC meeting in Addis Ababa Secretary and Mrs. Wheeler are spending a few days in Rome and Portugal before returning to Plainfield January 26.

God's Work and Ours
(Continued from page 2)

"God's Work and Ours." They share some of the experiences of those who have been involved in missions in the work of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. They share some of the experiences and some of the convictions that these individuals have. We hope and pray that they will speak to your heart and they will help you to catch a wider glimpse of God and work in the world and that you will join with us more fully in realizing that His purposes and His plans are being done in this day.

—L. R. L.

THE SABBATH RECORDER
OUR PLACE IN MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

Some years ago much opposition was directed against the Federation of Rhodesia (Northern and Southern) and Nyasaland, which had been imposed on the African people of these countries.

During this period of conflict, a leading politician asked a missionary acquaintance what he thought of the Federation of which he spoke was not the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, but the Federation of Sin, the Flesh, and the Devil.

Now that the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is no longer an entity, the struggle is directed against another federation: ignorance, poverty, and disease. The Malawi government recognizes these as enemies worthy of destruction, and has declared war against them.

Sin is an even greater enemy though few seem to recognize it. Though the government is desirous that its people be law-abiding, honest, and considerate, the word "sin" is not a part of its vocabulary. It is the man of God who must ever wage the war against sin.

Church World Service, the Christian Medical Association, the Christian Service Committee of Malawi, and a host of other similar bodies assist world governments in their fight against ignorance, poverty, and disease, but when it comes to the fight against sin, the Church has to stand alone. Sometimes for various reasons the Church fails to do so, and the battle is lost by default.

Ours is not simply a negative gospel in which evil is opposed, but it is a positive one in which a stand is taken for righteousness. But true righteousness is possible only through Christ. Martin Luther wrote, "Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, The man of God's own choosing... And He must win the battle."

It is a pity that church people will frequently rally around a varied assortment of worthwhile causes, but often fail to respond when the call comes to evangelize. The Church of Christ is the only evangelizing body. It has been given the sole agency. If it responds, it responds. If it does not, better luck next time. But what of those who died without Christ, while the Church failed in its duty?

It is heartening to know that Christ stands for right, but where His people are one is sometimes not sure. Christ can "win the battle," but apart from His power the Church will not be able to win it. Having come to know Him, it is now our place and privilege to make Him known to men and nations. The governments of this world, however good, will not perform this service. For the most part they are not interested, neither are they equipped to be. The Red Cross and all the benevolent organizations the world has ever seen cannot save us, but the Church can and should. It is precisely the work of the Church, the Body of Christ, of which Christians (you and I) are a part.

For some reason Christ chose to work through men, not angels. If men fail, great will be the consequences. In making Christ known and having Him accepted, not only is personal salvation brought to men, but a blow is struck to the very root of our world's many far-reaching problems, i.e. sin.

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Again, thanks be to God! (1 Cor. 15: 57, 58.) —David Pearson

THE SABBATH RECORDER

FOUNTAINS DEDICATED at Jamaica Mission School

At the regular chapel service on the morning of November 25th, 1970, students, staff and friends of Cran dall High School gathered in the Kingston Seventh Day Baptist Church for a dedication service of the new drinking fountains. One of the students, Miss Marva Jennings, read the Scripture and led in the singing. Pastor Joe A. Samuels offered the morning prayer and the secretary of the Cran dall High School, Byron Lewis, gave a tribute to Courtland V. Davis who served as principal and in whose memory the fountains were given. He accepted the fountains on behalf of the Board of Education, and presented Mrs. Frankie Davis with a wooden plaque with gold lettering. This plaque will be mounted on the wall above one of the fountains. It reads, "Fountains given in memory of Courtland V. Davis, Principal 1960-1968." A double quartet of students at the school sang special numbers in the program which was planned by Mrs. Joyce Harley. (See "A Drink of Cold Water" in issue November 23, 1970, page 12.)

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Frankie Davis holding the plaque

Double quartet of girls who sang at the dedication

It is small wonder that the world refuses to accept our acceptable Jesus. The world demands in short that there be some resemblance between the ministry of Christ and the ministry of His Church.

—John W. Nichol, a Georgia pastor
We recently read a very interesting article entitled “Agnostic Meets Missionary” by J. D. Douglas (Christianity Today, Sept. 25, 1970). The writer was described as being a “warts and all” missionary who had been commissioned by a London-based missionary society. The report was published in the “warts and all,” as written by a pair of agnostics.

Although it was obviously biased, it was somewhat refreshing to read that not everyone thinks that missionaries are ex officio saints. Too many people shy away from mission work because they have been led to believe that God does not call just anyone to the mission field but only those who are next to perfect.

As Paul said, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim. 1:15). Even as this great New Testament missionary felt far from saintly, we too feel just as inadequate. But Paul reminds us that God often uses “the foolish things of the world to confound the wise” and “the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1 Cor. 1:27) and this is no less true on the mission field.

We have discovered that the national Christians realize that the missionary has a lack of ability in a certain area. Sometimes we would think that their decisions would be respected and acted upon, they found a joy in responsibility and accountability. The difficulty is in making a decision by the nationals is definitely wrong and wanting to step in to change it. This happens more in financial matters than doctrinal. But here again we have found that the nationals are more talented than they realized. In our pride we could overlook this and say that they don’t have much talent to improve.

Instead, we have discovered that once the nationals realized that they weren’t going to run everything, they could take the tempting attitude that our ability in the ministry is greater than that of the nationals by reason of the many years of seminary training spent and that we will have to stay here the rest of our lives because the work will fail without our talented leadership. However, we know that such an attitude tends to stifle the workings of the Holy Spirit in the nationals and they don’t try to improve their talents. In our pride we could overlook this and say that they don’t have much talent to improve.

We have discovered that when the national Christians realize that the missionary has a lack of ability in a certain area the missionaries will often ask but missionaries have often acted upon, they found a joy in responsibility and accountability. The difficulty is in making a decision by the nationals is definitely wrong and wanting to step in to change it. This happens more in financial matters than doctrinal. But here again we have found that the nationals are more talented than they realized. In our pride we could overlook this and say that they don’t have much talent to improve.

Today’s missionary is a specialist and he comes to do a job which is specifically his talent. But he also realizes that a very important part of his job is to train the nationals to take over. He cannot afford to think of his job as eternally above the nationals’ capability without causing a situation of stagnancy.

We received special training at the Christian Service Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C., where the theme is, “All the Gospel to All the world by All the church.” We were shown that every Christian is a missionary and should be encouraged to give at least two years of his life and talents in full-time service to help a missionary work at home or overseas.

We came to Malawi to help in two areas in which our talents lie: the ministry and accounting. Because we take the tempting attitude that our ability in the ministry is greater than that of the nationals by reason of the many years of seminary training spent and that we will have to stay here the rest of our lives because the work will fail without our talented leadership. However, we know that such an attitude tends to stifle the workings of the Holy Spirit in the nationals and they don’t try to improve their talents. In our pride we could overlook this and say that they don’t have much talent to improve.

We recently read a very interesting article entitled “Agnostic Meets Missionary” by J. D. Douglas (Christianity Today, Sept. 25, 1970). The writer was described as being a “warts and all” missionary who had been commissioned by a London-based missionary society. The report was published in the “warts and all,” as written by a pair of agnostics.

At the time of this article being written, the general secretary has received only two applications from young people and two applications from groups applying for help with summer projects. Triplicate forms are available through the office of General Conference, and it is hoped that both individual workers and organizations will make their possible participation a matter of prayerful consideration.

—Alton L. Wheeler

THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM


THE SABBATH RECORDER

JANUARY 4, 1971
Remembering... and Thanking God

“...the man from whom the demons had gone out begged Jesus, ‘Let me go with you.’ But Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Go home to those who gave you this assurance of recovery. And for many, many years to come, your name will remain in my memory among kind acts done for Christ and his church’” (Luke 8:40, 43, 47).

Time and distance have a way of making events that once were common-place in one’s life become very dim. This is so evident when one begins to change his way of living considerably. Money that once one used every day, now looks and feels so strange, words you heard daily, now fail to have meaning. Names and faces are hard to recall.

However, some events, faces, and names are deeply etched in one’s memory. I would share with you one of these.

Soon the day would be upon us when we expected Sarah Becker to arrive from America to take over the medical work at Makapawa Mission Hospital in Malawi, Africa. On this particular day Victor had taken the two younger children to school to Cholo some eighteen miles away, or if calculated in time, it would be nearly an hour away. He was to go on to Blantyre with many things to attend to, and arrangements had been made in advance so that the children would stay with friends until he returned. That evening I came in late afternoon to bring them home.

My thoughts as I prepared to go to the pharmacy to give out the daily medicines were not a long one in which to accomplish a lot of the many things that need attention. With my hand on the doorknob, I happened to glance towards the path that led to the railway, and there coming down the hill was a long line of people. In the midst was a homemade stretcher on which a woman was being carried by several men. Watch­

ing, I happened to glance for a moment, and noticed the ambulance was on its way. Two hours after the arrival of the patient at Makapawa she was lying on a stretcher in the back of the Land Rover Ambulance with an intravenous still dripping merrily away, and her blood pressure at this time was 100/70. After a time of getting helpers in the back, baskets with Food and blankets, and hundreds of tubes tucked here and there, we stood back as they slowly pulled away in four-wheel-drive up the steep hill leading away from the railway.

So it was with a prayer of thankfulness to our heavenly Father that I tried again

Why I Am a Missionary

When Christ said, “Go ye... and teach all nations,” this beautiful but heavily populated little land of Malawi was included. Although not getting its independence for about 1964 years since his coming to the earth, Christ, omniscient, knew the needs that would be here today.

When I, too, know that more than one thousand children are reached through the Sabbath Schools of the Seventh Day Baptist churches in Malawi, and I see the needs of the teachers for more training and more materials to reach them effectively, I know that His command has not been completed. When I know that hundreds of women in our churches are desirous of making their Christian lives more useful to Christ and their churches, I feel the need to share in fulfilling His command. When I read the replies to a questionnaire sent to our pastors in Malawi, and their pleas that they need their missionaries for the purpose of teaching them, I know that Christ’s work is not completed.

Christ said the nations should be taught His commandments, and these people ask to be taught. When I think of His love for me in leaving the glories of heaven to live a trouble-filled life on earth, and dying on the cross for my sin, in order to show me—

To start on the many things that were waiting. But in the meantime I went over in my mind all the countries of the world that had been involved in this one incident. The patient from Portuguese East Africa coming to Makapawa, Malawi, for help, and I, a nurse, came from America to help. Mr. Makatanje, a Malawian, a Malawian, taking a message to an English nurse, who in turn telephoned for help to a Danish doctor; who then sent the ambulance away. The only other way faster than walking would be by bicycle. We found that Mr. Makatanje had his bicycle and was willing to ride up and down our hilly terrain to Lajenda Tea Estate taking a letter to the manager’s wife, who was a nurse, asking her if she would please come to the house. She agreed, and the daddy came in late afternoon to bring them home.

Within the hour Mr. Makatanje was back and happily reported that Mrs. Henning had been at home, and had called Dr. Kristenson explaining our need, and that the ambulance was on its way. Two hours after the arrival of the patient at Makapawa she was lying on a stretcher in the back of the Land Rover Ambulance with an intravenous still dripping merrily away, and her blood pressure at this time was 100/70. After a time of getting helpers in the back, baskets with Food and blankets, and hundreds of tubes tucked here and there, we stood back as they slowly pulled away in four-wheel-drive up the steep hill leading away from the railway.

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Betty Pearson
The power of God revealed by casting out the demonic power caused an awesome fear and challenged their sense of values, so they asked Jesus to leave their coasts—and He left.

Sad, indeed, was the parting for the one who was now “in his right mind,” “clothed,” and who longed to spend the rest of his days worshiping and working with Jesus — restorer of life, full and spiritual. I note that Mark records the instructions of Jesus as “Go and tell” while Luke uses “Go and show” (KJV). Different words are used in the text and although most all translations use only the word “tell,” Luke implies by the word that he uses that the telling is backed by the authority of the changed life that he portrays. Furthermore, Luke’s phrase “Go and show.” Yes, go back to the family, the friends, and the people of the “Ten Towns,” (TEV). Tell with authority because life has changed. He is now that “new creature in Christ,” (2 Cor. 5:17) who is worthy of attention.

He did just that—and people were astounded by his story. Although we have no definite account of the results of this testimony, based on similar recorded experiences, I believe it would be safe to assume that many of the Decapolis people believed on Jesus. If so, then this one-hundred-thousand-dollar man has now become, by multiplication of the same standards that Jesus applied, a millionaire—and all because he was willing to “Go back home, show, and tell how great things God had done for him.”

What about our sense of values? Have we really changed or are we still measuring in terms of the pig rather than abundant spiritual life? It is probably this changed sense of values, more than anything else, wrought in my own life by the Spirit of God. There is another reason I am numbered among the missionary pastors. I hope some “pigs” have been destroyed. How about you? Your potential is just as great as the Gadarene who became a “millionaire” when others believed. Go! Show! Tell!

—Leslie A. Welch

THE SABBATH RECORDER

Living Expectantly

A twelve-year-old son was run over by a truck while sledding on the street in front of his family home. He was rushed by ambulance to the hospital. The doctor was a trusted friend. After a thorough examination of the unconscious boy he said, “This case must be treated expectantly—minute by minute, and hour by hour.”

For two days the boy hovered between life and death. His parents and friends prayed and the doctor used all his skills. Then, God answered prayer in a wonderful way. The harsh labored breathing became easier and the temperature began to go down. On the third morning the boy said faintly, “Hello, Dad.” So they went to the hospital to pick up their lives again. But the phrase to “live expectantly, minute by minute and hour by hour” has never been forgotten.

And what does it mean to “live expectantly, minute by minute and hour by hour”? For one thing, it means that every minute of our time is precious. We dare not squander it. Tomorrow never comes. We must live to the full today.

If we feel the urge to do some kindly, thoughtful deed, we dare not put it off until some time in the future. If the Spirit of God within us gives the urge to speak some word of encouragement or share some insight or experience, we must do it on the spot. It is the joyous anticipation that just around the next corner, some poor young soul will be looking and waiting and our words may mean the difference between life and death. Jesus said “Ask and it shall be given unto you.”

And what does it mean to “live expectantly, minute by minute and hour by hour”? It is probably that “minute by minute and hour by hour” is the last phase of living. When we are so occupied with our work that moment by moment we are living expectantly and taking every turn in life’s journey some wonderful surprise is awaiting us. And, if we confidently expect it to be so, it will work out that way. It is done to us according to our faith just as Jesus said it would be. When the disciples were paying attention to their master He read the thoughts of man who longed to spend the time with Him. Then, He added “In every turn of life’s journey some wonderful surprise is awaiting us. We must seek Him out and speak to God. We will surely gain the right words when the time comes.

His Spirit will lead in the way. Acceptance of Christ’s leadership demands honesty, fair play and high ethical standards of conduct every day we live and in every part of life. We cannot “talk a good battle” and then run away when the pressure grows hot. It is “cheap grace” to profess Christ at the Sabbath service and then behave as though we were sons of God and do not get the things in the life. As children of God, growing in the likeness of His Son, Jesus, we must be constantly alert to do His work. On one occasion Jesus exclaimed, “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things I say?” Acceptance of Christ’s leadership demands that we live as though we were sons of God and do not get the things in the life.

For one thing, it means that God must carry our profession of faith into our profession of work.

Another remark, “When in Rome you do as the Romans do,” meaning that you go along with the crowd, matching smutty story with smutty story or talk when “out with the boys” I think Jesus would look at us with sorrow and shame in His eyes, as He looked at Peter when he denied Him. Which Romans will we imitate—those who worshiped in the catacombs and died or those Roman soldiers who coarsely gambled for Jesus’ clothing at the foot of the cross? Do as the Romans do indeed!! There are many kinds of Romans—then
Out of their personal experience with Jesus Christ, and with a burning conviction of the relevance of the message they taught, believing it to be most important for the people to hear, the disciples had put on a kind of crash program to tell it out. But as would be expected, they met with the opposition, prejudices, and jealousies of the leaders, who, through the high priest of Judaism, were now seeking to stop the blessed message. For the second time they were brought before the high priest of Judaism, were now warned by the high priest:

"Put on a kind of crash program to tell It Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us in this name, yet here you preaching and reaching out. Artists must now, as never before, be and cities, filling all life."

This is how we as Seventh Day Baptists are not forbidden to teach Jesus Christ, yet neither are we zealously filling America with our teaching in a manner like them "to bring this man's (Christ's) blood upon" this inhabitants.

Since I have returned from South America, I see more clearly than ever that it is imperative that, throughout this decade of the 1970's, we begin in this new year of 1971. The handwriting of God across the walls of men and nations to our secular, technological era absolutely must be heeded if we will prevent waves of human horror from leaping toward us all. Problems are just that serious. We believe America to them, as all nations, is now so steeped in idolatry and worshipping false gods, in greed, in selfishness, prestige, power, position, lust, and carelessness, that unless there is very soon a cry of repentance toward God with a definite revival and change of life values, that we will witness a full, final, and complete. But we cannot allow America to go on playing the fool to its own destruction. If we do, then the blood of the inhabitants of the land will be upon us, rather than Christ's blood be upon them if they reject the message we know to give them. We have to try to persuade them that the gods of their making are not gods at all. In other words, their man-made solutions will not be a salvation. We must try to persuade them they are using "cart before the horse" solutions, and this will not work. This is why it is known so helpfully and helpfully to use in peace, without crime, without war, without poverty, without broken marriages and broken homes, without starvation, without power politics, and last but not least, without life-strangling pollution.

But the real cry of the world, unknowingly, is for the power of God. Yet the world rejects, and God's ways. Is modern man too sophisticated and too smart for God? Man is going to day by day as long as God grants us to live. —E. T. Harris

How I Became a Seventh Day Baptist

By George Leyland Bowen

Georgetown, Guyana

Edited by Leroy C. Bass

How would have it — a "put the cart before the horse" style of solution. The double trouble today of Christendom is going right along with this.

A revival of Peter's and Paul's vision, experience, and faith among all of us is an absolute must if we will truly help the world with the only, the only way to forestall the coming destruction, and save mankind from extinction. To this end I say again, there is an impelling necessity for us to put on a crash program of evangelism in this decade of the 1970's beginning right now. The apostle Paul was empty and our purse was empty. It appeared to me that in order that night I would have to ask for credit at the store. But as we reached our gate I heard a man behind the store. A man who owed me some money had come to pay me in the evening. Now it so happened he had come earlier in the day with his money and learned from neighbors that we had gone to church. By this the Lord spared me from going to be, for credit after being in church all day, but prompted this man to come back.

On the conclusion of my story, my neighbor Pastor Davis, challenged me to come back to the Lord and he invited me to his church. On his next visit to the store he brought me a nomenclature invitation to his church and on that particular Sabbath he was to dedicate the new pews. I did not go to the program, but Pastor Davis continued to come into the store and invited me to the Sunday night services. I finally made up my mind and started to attend on Sunday nights rather than on Sabbath Days.

I found the people in the church to be very friendly and I found out the Church had the Bible only. I learned that Seventh Day Baptists allow for the freedom of individual conscience, thus allowing the Holy Spirit to work in the believer's life and now. We, who love Christ, will try to make Him our guide and example in life.

We all have a part to take in making Christ known today. But the way we live speaks so loud it is difficult for some to hear what we say. This doesn't mean that we should be silent when the opportunity to witness for Christ is given. It only means that we must strive mightily to live as we talk, God grant us the wisdom and grace to live expectantly in Him, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day — as long as God grants us to live. —E. T. Harris

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life. Some time later at a Sunday night service I rededicated my life to the Lord. With my rededication I took the opportunity to attend several Bible classes and began coming to church on Sabbaths. This is how I became a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Note: Bro. Bowen has been a key assistant at our Georgetown Crusade of the Americas in 1969 and then in 1970 he led out in evangelistic meetings in at least two rural villages since Pastor Bass returned to America. Also, it is anticipated that he will be director of our Youth Camp this August.

Congress Acts To Speed Up Church War Claim Payments

The U. S. Congress has completed action on a long-delayed bill to give equal treatment to nonprofit charitable and religious organizations in the payment of war damages claimed after World War II.

Two Baptist denominations, the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society are among thirty-three nonprofit groups due to receive full payment for their claims.

Under the terms of the bill, nonprofit organizations “operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare, religious, charitable or educational purposes” will receive the same priority of payment as small business concerns.

The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, according to a spokesman for that group, is due to receive, upon final action of the bill, up to $310,000. The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will receive about $20,000.

Filmstrip Library Continues to Grow

Three Burma filmstrips have been added to the library for the free use of the churches. One not previously mentioned is entitled “Burma Playmates.” The script is written for children of junior age and up. It pictures Baptist work in Rangoon and has been used to promote interest in that work.

Attention is again called to the two new Burma filmstrips with records that were described in the issue of December 14, “Boys and Girls of Burma” and “Baptists in Burma.” It is suggested that church leaders plan for their use in January or at any convenient later time.

A series of four filmstrips designed for use in church membership classes, mentioned in the Tract Board emphasis issue of December 7, can now be ordered. Pastors are urged to note that this teaching material is available.

All of the filmstrips on our foreign mission fields and conferences come back to the filmstrip library and can be ordered for use at any suitable time as well as the month they were originally scheduled to be shown.

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

The desire of the people of God in regard to the Holy City is beautifully expressed in Psalm 122, “Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.” Jews and Christians alike have echoed those words with new meaning since 1967 when the city was again thrown open to all. Other words in that psalm are equally applicable to all Christians, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” There may be little about modern Jerusalem that is qualitatively holy, but praying for its peace in these uncertain times has world significance.