DAILY BIBLE READINGS
for January 1972

A lamp to my feet
A light to my path

(Including and supplementing the daily Bible readings of the Uniform Series of Bible Lessons published in “The Helping Hand.”)

Love is . . .

Our Compassionate Christ
2—Sun. The Call of Matthew. Matt. 9:9-17
3—Mon. The Example of Christ. Rom. 15:1-13
5—Wed. Comsum for Others. Gal. 6:10
6—Thurs. The Mercies of God. Ps. 103
7—Fri. The Sinful Woman Forgiven. Luke 7:36-50

Christ’s Love and Man’s Brokenness
14—Fri. Good News for Needy Men. Is. 61:1-7

What Price Discipleship?
20—Thurs. The High Costs of Discipleship. Mark 10:35-45
22—Sabbath. Obeying Christ’s Authority. Mar. 1:21-28

Facing Financial Responsibilities
27—Thurs. Stewards’ Faithfulness. 1 Cor. 4:1-7
28—Fri. Christian Liberality. 2 Cor. 8:1-9

Christ in the City

Quips and Quotes

Dr. Warren C. Young, professor of theology and Christian philosophy, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, recently indulged in a paraphrase of 1 Peter 2:18f, written especially for students.

Young’s revised version of the RSV and Phillips — 1 Peter 2:18f: “Students, submit yourselves to your professors with proper respect — not only to the good and kind, but also to the overbearing. For you to do something real nice, man, when you endure pain in the sight of God even though you know you are suffering from unjust grades.

“After all, it is no credit to you if you patiently bear when you get the poor grades you know you richly deserve.

“On the other hand if you work hard but still get low grades, and can still accept it without griping all over campus, you are doing something really cool in the sight of God . . . (Here endeth the paraphrase).”

—Let’s Talk
Honing His Birth

The major emphasis on the annual celebration of the birth of Christ, commonly called Christmas was in our last issue, but in this one, dated December 25 and perhaps more closely to fulfilling its divine purpose. There is a temptation or tendency to make the local church an end in itself (like a glorified or not very glorified) social club. This is in sharp distinction from the New Testament church where every member was expected to be a preacher according to his ability and opportunity.

Some have been trying to recapture that kind of apostolic times by stressing the ministry of the laity — with less than complete success. James Taylor, president of the Baptist Union of Scotland gathered up these ideas in a conference address on the ministry in which he challenged the church to abolish the laity. By this he meant that every layman must consider himself a minister if the church is to fulfill its God-given function. He contends that in New Testament times there was no priestly distinction between ministers and others; they were all ministers — the division was that of function.

It is a little involved in church work and perhaps quite another thing to be involved in the real work of the church, which is outside the building at the crossings of the streets. Grammatically, would Christmas fall on the Sabbath? Would He not say that is all the more reason for worship? A little uncomfortable comparison might be made. In the Catholic religion Christmas is a day of holy obligation. A good Catholic feels that he has to go to mass on December 25 regardless of what day of the week it is. Can a Good Seventh Day Baptist say that he shouldn't be expected to go to church on the Sabbath if that day is Christmas?

We like to think that neither Catholics nor any other denomination has more devotion to the important tenets of their faith than we have to our own. There is an expression in the New Testament in the familiar King James Version, "...for that Sabbath day was an high day" (John 19:11). This Sabbath Day is something special; it is "an high day," worthy of more, not less, sacredness. Let's remember these thoughts the next time there is a conflict of interest — ours and God's.

What Are Churches for?

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are healed, where their faith is strengthened, where their understanding is deepened, where their own questions and doubts receive a sympathetic attention and where the hard questions thrown at them by the world are honestly examined and the Scriptures studied.

There are many attempts in the closing days of the year to call the year back in retrospect and see what has happened or what has been accomplished. Editors try to decide which were the most outstanding news coverages of the year. Economists analyze the financial trends. Politicians try to convince their constituents that they have served well and ought to be returned to office at the next election. Church leaders look for the bright pages of local and cooperative achievement in what is broadly called the Lord’s work.

If we had made sufficient research into things that are hard to evaluate we would make some pronouncements on how things have gone in our local churches and in the denomination as a whole, but unfortunately we cannot claim the wisdom to do this. Perhaps it is better to ask each church to make its own evaluation, just as most of us do individually.

When we take a good look at the past twelve months of local church life, we probably have some discouraging things. That is true of the churches that have made the most growth, had the strongest programs, or the greatest evidences of revival, just as it is true of those others who have had a net loss in membership and have struggled along without the desired leadership.

The situation of the whole congregation is likely to run a fairly close parallel to what you determine to be your own spiritual experience of the year. There are exceptions, of course. You may have been about the only member of the church who can speak of rich spiritual experiences and growth in the faith, but it isn’t likely that you have done well and all the rest badly. Furthermore, if you or I had a new experience and the birth of a child, the Lord during the year it is proved by what it has done.

**Memory Text**

"... he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matt. 2:4-6).

**Church Life Inventory**

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In the lives of others, love doesn’t stand still or stand alone; it encompasses others and creates a nucleus.

There have been some bright spots in your church life this year, haven’t there? Not as many as desired, but some. You can rejoice in certain services rendered in the name of Christ and appreciated. Some life was touched by Christ. A witness was borne; tracts were given out; seed was sown. We could wish that harvests were predictable at the end of the calendar, church or denominational year. They are not, but seed sown, cultivated, and watered is in the process of eventually bringing forth fruit. God has promised. If the devil is also working to smother the seedlings or otherwise try to thwart the purpose of God for the individual and the body.

Much good has happened where you are and where I am. Let us keep our eyes on Christ and move forward in faith.

**Our Prayer Corner**

**Suggestions for Prayer This Week**

**Pray for:**

1. The united effort of church members in these closing days of 1971 to contribute enough to meet the needs of Our World Mission.

2. A strong sense of gratitude for all the blessings and celebrations of this New Year, and the founding of our first American church at Newport, December 23, 1671.

3. A thoughtful assessment for our spiritual and material resources and a new determination to use them to the glory of God.

4. A personal effort to win some soul to Christ and make that soul available to every man on earth in his own language and at a price he can afford,” asserted Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, ABS general secretary, “So it is that we boldly ask our Bible Society family to provide us with the necessary funds to carry out the mandate you have given us... With your prayers and support to undergird us, we will become ‘much more bold, fainting not without fear’ (Philippians 1:14 KJV).

—Alton L. Wheeler

The Book of Job in TEV

The newest book in Today’s English Version is what many believe to be the oldest book of the Bible, the Book of Job. It will be recalled that Psalms is the only other portion of the Old Testament now available in this popular simple language edition. Since very few of our readers have had an opportunity to purchase this book, we would like to present here a portion of the message of the young man Elihu to the afflicted patriarch. It speaks to us.

35 1. It is not right, Job, for you to say that you are innocent in God’s sight, 2 or to ask God, “How does my sin affect you? It has done me no good not to sin.”

3. I am going to answer you and your friends too.

4. Look at the sky! See how high the clouds are!

5. If you sin, that does no harm to God. If you do many wrongs, does that affect him?

6. Do you help God by being so righteous? There is nothing God needs from you.

7. Your fellow-men who suffer from your sins, and the good you do helps them.

8. When men are oppressed they groan; 9 do you help God by being so righteous? There is nothing God needs from you.

10. It is your fellow-men who suffer from your sins, and the good you do helps them.

11. They cry for help, but God doesn’t answer, 12 They cry for help, but God doesn’t answer.
because they are proud and evil men.

13 It is useless for them to cry out; Almighty God does not see or hear them.

14 Job, you say you can't see God, but wait patiently—your case is before Him.

15 You think that God does not punish, that He pays no attention to sin.

16 It is useless for you to go on talking; it is clear you don't know what you are saying.

14 Job, you say you can't see God, Elihu

36

11 If they obey God and serve him, those who are godless keep on being but that a whole cupful makes pious.

15 But God teaches men through suffering to turn away from evil.

14 He protects those who are righteous; he lets them rule like kings and lets them be honored forever.

8 But if people are bound in chains, suffering for what they have done, God shows them their sins and their pride.

10 He makes them listen to his warning to turn away from evil.

11 If they obey God and serve him, they live out their lives in peace and prosperity.

12 But if not, they will die in ignorance and go to the world of the dead.

13 Those who are godless keep on being angry, and even when punished, they don't pray for help.

14 They die while they still are young, worn out by a life of disgrace.

15 But God teaches men through suffering and uses distress to open their eyes.

A recognized modern scientist has said that a drop of science leads to unbelief, but that a whole cupful makes pious.

—Dieter Heimke, Munich

7

DECEMBER 25, 1971
Enter into the Stream of the Spirit
and Abide There!

Don Richards

God's plan included the church, composed of persons committed to Christ and commissioned to be God's peculiar people within the world during this age. The disciples, whose faith for awhile was paralyzed by human reason, became the nucleus of a Spirit-filled band, who ultimately turned the world upside down. Jesus, though absent in bodily form, was a living reality and active force changing men and society through the church.

The stage had been set and drama of life begun whereby men, estranged from God because of sin, could become sons of God. All the necessary provisions were made possible through Jesus, and the invitation issued—"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). It was, and is, an invitation to enter into the stream of His Spirit and abide there.

But when, where and how do we enter it?

It is frustrating to desire passage on a nearby freeway, and not find the access route. One may keep wandering trying to find it. Or directions may be sought by consulting someone who knows the area, or a road map. The Bible is our spiritual road map, giving directions in how to know God and enter into the spiritual stream of His life and activity. Spirit-filled Christians always find ways to make progress in their relationships with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

The access route is always one of faith. We "must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6). In John 1:12 we read, "But as many as received him (Jesus), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." Faith is acting upon the trustworthiness of God and a commitment that He will do everything promised in His Word. A simple heartfelt prayer of confession of sin and need, coupled with an invitation for Jesus to live His life in him, initiates on the human side a whole series of spiritual happenings. Cleansing from sin and being born into the family of God is a supernatural experience which releases the person from the bondage of sin, darkens, and death. The positive forces of light, love, and truth become the new motivating forces released by God into personal life and experience.

At this point in a person's experience, a twofold requirement arises. On the one hand, there are the adjustments necessary in one's thought and life which requires a reevaluation of past, present, and future. Every aspect of one's life and experience must be refocused in the light of a growing understanding of the Spirit. Ingredients which foster spiritual growth and understanding include systematic Bible study, prayer, fellowship with God's people, and a humble but joyous sharing of personal God-given experiences. A personal discipline of time and energy is required. Pressures and demands made upon the Christian must not crowd out the Spirit, and may become a further means of spiritual grace. The church and/or small groups may contribute much to this personal growth.

On the other hand, it is possible to be led out from the main stream of the Spirit's activity. Instead of a triumphant life it is possible to become stuck in the mud of personal sin through yielding to desire, or outside pressures. Or one may be sidetracked by becoming involved in side issues_bills, problems, etc._and not realizing one is not facing God's will. God may have broken into the life of a person who is not interested in His Spirit. Sometimes this happens as a result of human mistakes or errors in spiritual judgment. When this happens, God's love and power were cease to wonder about the truth declared. From these seemingly simple new beginnings God's love and power were made possible through Jesus. The Bible is our spiritual road map, giving directions in how to know God and enter into the stream of His life and activity. Spirit-filled Christians always find ways to make progress in their relationships with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God meets with each person where he is, in any circumstanced at any given moment in time. The inner person develops a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

The dominant need of the hour is to enter into the stream of the Spirit, and to abide there. God has broken into the human scene with great love and power. He has released human life from the bondage of Satan, selfishness, sin, and death—forces that enslave a person as well as the whole human race. God waits anxiously for men to awaken to His Spirit.

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MISSIONS—Leon R. Lawton

Voices at Christmas

I spent a lot of money
For friends at Christmas time.
But when it came to missions,
I didn't give a dime.

When Christmas was all over,
I reckoned what I'd spent,
It was so vast and large a sum,
I could not but repent.

For it just seemed that morn
A far-off mother say,
"How long ago was Jesus born
To take our sins away?"

Her words began to haunt my heart
And work with all my might
To win a lost and dying world
To God and glory.

—By Dr. Fred Jarvis, veteran missionary

Praise to God

"Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God . . . ."

1—copy the presence and power of God in our lives and the daily opportunity to be His witness.

2—For His forgiveness and patience and continual love calling us to live a full and purposeful life to His glory . . .

3—for those who have received Christ into their hearts and have taken the first steps in obedience, fellowship and service . . .

4—for our missionaries, in Guyana, Jamaica, and Malawi, who share His love with those in need and encourage local believers in their witness and work . . .

5—for the faith and vision of the friends who have given sacrificially so that the ministry given us as a people of God may continue and grow . . .

6—for God's continued guidance to those on the Board of Managers of your Missionary Society as they seek to be sensitive to needs and open to opportunities afforded us in these days . . .

7—for sister conferences and churches in a growing number of lands where God's Word is being read and believed and individuals coming to a like faith seek our fellowship, prayers, and help in their growing witness . . .

8—for missionary pastors who seek more effectively to make known His truth in urban and rural areas, leading and training those in the local fellowship to exercise and find the joy of service for the Lord . . .

9—for the perfect gift of Jesus Christ, His Son, our Savior, who has brought us life, hope, love, joy, and all that gives our days meaning and purpose . . .

Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God.

"With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by telling others of the glory of His name. Don’t forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to Him."

—Hebrews 13:15, 16 (Living Bible)

To God be the glory!

Jesus and Today's Youth

By Rev. David C. Pearson

Many of today's youth are expressing fascination with Jesus. Some of this interest is genuine; some is not. Jesus is communicating with many in an uncertain tone. His voice is coming through, and His love is being felt. Many are finding Him a most worthy recipient of their love, and love Him with a passion. Why not? This Jesus is very special.

Recently it has been my privilege to meet with youth in California, Oregon, and Washington. It required courage to meet with one group in California, which has not recognized their need of a preacher. They listened, though at times looked away. A cigarette, probably marijuana, was passed about held in tongs that it might be smoldered to its very end. At one point a cloud of white smoke came my way invited.

A petite blonde whose face appeared so cold and so distant asked me what I meant by being saved. An explanation followed as did also the realization that theological terminology is not readily understood by many and ought to be used very sparingly.

A male member of the group could not see that Jesus would be the answer to his problems. He spoke of the lack of parental love, of unemployment, and of the problem of war. It was said that if Jesus were to walk the streets today preaching peace, He would be shot down.

The writer was privileged to point out that Jesus was real and that He could minimize one's problems. They were told that God loved them.

Elsewhere it was my privilege to meet with those who were "high" on Jesus. It was delightful to attend two prayer meetings led by Peter Morris. These were largely Share and Prayer Sessions in which people simply opened their hearts to God and each other. Sometimes prayer requests would accumulate to two or three before heads would bow. At other times the weight of a single request was sufficient to call forth prayer. Such sessions were found warm and alive, difficult sometimes to close.

One young adult in reading a Scripture passage felt the compelling urge to share his newly found treasure. Picking up the phone he dialed his pastor, and read to him the words of God. Another, though married and having a family, finds time to further his education at a nearby college. He finds his fellow students a ready parish.

These examples speak of more than mere enthusiasm. These people have entered into a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ. It tells on them, shows in their faces, and is revealed in their lives.

One thing is certain, It is not just a passing fancy. These people have exchanged the hollowness of living for the reality of knowing God a personal Savior, who has brought us life, hope, love, joy, and all that gives our days meaning and purpose.

"I will give us wisdom and strength to be peacemakers in every area of our lives.

"I will strengthen our desire to choose and cooperate with leaders who are Spirit led.

"I will call our young people from among us to whom we can give support and encouragement as they take places of leadership.

"I will make us more aware of His presence in everything around us each day.

"I will open our eyes to situations where the healing and redemptive power of His love is needed and give us the grace and wisdom to act in meeting these needs.

"I will give us wisdom and strength to be peacemakers in every area of our lives.

"I will teach us how to worship and commune with him so that we can go forth to be instruments of His Spirit in the world.

Whether you have available one of the booklets or not, would you as an individual join in special prayer on these days that the above experiences might be ours as a people of God?

Part of any real prayer is also praise. In the accompanying article we would challenge you in the words of Scripture: "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God . . . ."

Week of Prayer

The first full week of the new year, January 2-8, 1972, is designated as "A Week of Prayer for Seventh Day Baptists." The special booklet written by Mrs. R. T. (Doris) Fetherston has been distributed to churches in this land and to churches around the world where individuals and groups will be joining together under the theme "Workmen Approved of God."

As we join together let us bear in mind the call given on the first page of the booklet:

"As Seventh Day Baptist Christians around the world unite in this week of prayer, we have faith that God through the Holy Spirit will work in us to accomplish several things:

1. He will create in us a spirit of fellowship and caring, making us each concerned that all may be effective and blessed in serving Him.

2. He will strengthen our desire to choose and cooperate with leaders who are Spirit led.

3. He will call our young people from among us to whom we can give support and encouragement as they take places of leadership.

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**WOMEN'S WORK—Mrs. Elmer W. Andersen**

**Attention All Youth**

**It’s December Already!**

You have been fliers at your church and the news is spreading fast. Yes, the Summer Christian Service Corps Training Session will be held in Euless, Texas (near Dallas). The session will include one week of training with Seventh Day Baptist leaders (June 6-11) and a second week (June 12-17) attending the Explo Crusade for Christ and will be featuring Baptist leaders (June 6-11) and a second man!

*72. Explo is being sponsored by Campus opportunity and in order to meet the scse as WOMEN1S sentenced to death as of December 1972*

**Christian Journal of Religious Education,** unless some greater distribution and use—

SPIECmUM faces Deai'h the successor to the Interna­

**tion Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027.**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Soc. David S. Clarke**

**SPECTRUM Faces Death**

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October 25, 1971, at Seabury House in Greenwich, Conn., Dr. Clarke represented Seventh Day Baptists in a dis­

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**Religious Teacher Institute**

At Indiana University in Bloomington, July 3-28, 1972, "Teaching the Bible in Secondary English" will be taught to sixty-five junior and senior high school teachers of English. These sixty-five teachers will be selected from more than 600 applicants all across the country who asked before this Christmas to get into this program.

Headed by Dr. James S. Ackerman, the program has mushroomed in popularity in the last five years. He is ably assisted (Continued on page 14)

**THE SABBATH RECORDER**

**December 25, 1971**

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**Our church is growing and becoming more active with several younger families, which we feel is a good sign. Regular meetings held for one and all are the Sabbath Eve vesper at 7 p.m., the morning worship at 10 a.m., and Sabbath School at 11 a.m. An all-church fellowship dinner is held after services on the third Sabbath of each month, including a brief program usually of denominational interest.**

The Sabbath School earned the Bronze Certificate and Plaque this year. A monthly Sabbath School workers’ meeting is held. The White Christmas gifts this year are divided in three parts — money will go for tapers for the Rev. Leroy Bass, food items which are collected each December go for food baskets distributed by the Daytona Community Christmas Club, and gift items for men and women are collected to send through the local mental health organization to the state hospital.

The pastor has an older youth class which is an enthusiastic group. They have a retreat at least four times a year. They did an excellent job this past year helping promote our termite riddance program. At present they have little church banks saving toward their White Christmas gift which will be divided equally between Youth Camp work in Guyana, S. A., and work for retarded children here in the Daytona area. This group put on the service October 30, Youth Sabbath. Our Church Aid holds a dinner at noon on the first Wednesday of each month which is attended by men as well as women. The dinner is followed by a program of devotion and business meeting. This group supports many local benevolent causes. They are a part of the local yearly Chain of Witness programs and the Church Women United. A work meeting is held at least once a month and the women work on lap robes throughout the year for local nursing homes. They make layettes for Church World Service, knit leprosy bandages, make clothes for the local Head Start program, and make things for the new annual bazaar. This year the bazaar was held November 18 with more than $200 taken in. The aid also sells note paper and stationery of several types throughout the year. While the women are sewing, the men are often doing needed work around the church property.

The Advisory Council has made plans accepted by the church for two special periods of evangelism. The Rev. David Pearson, missionary on furlough from Malawi, Africa, will be with us for evangelistic meetings Dec. 12 to 18. We will
again have an SCSC team at Easter time to work with those who come to our community.

The Southeastern Association’s Christian Education Committee is made up of members of our church and the group meets the Wednesday of each odd numbered month. We have sent questionnaires to try and learn more about our sister churches and plan to send more correspondence which we hope to be a sharing of ideas of the different churches.

The Fair-to-Middlers have a pot luck supper at 6 p.m. the second Sabbath night of each month. Afterwards the pastor leads a short unique Bible study, each time presented a different way, and this is followed by various games and good fellowship.

An all-church social is held one Sabbath night a month, as an oyster roast one month, housewarming for someone, beach picnic, Halloween party, etc. Young and old enjoy the fun.

The Janitor work of the church is done by a different family each month. Our bulletin is prepared by us and friends of the church to help stretch our budget. A monthly newsletter is sent out from the church to the events to take place the church’s past activity, and news about our people.

—Marion C. Van Horn

Religious Teacher Institute

(Continued from page 12)

by college and high school teachers from all sorts of schools across the nation. Dr. Thayer Wurshaw of Newton High School in Massachusetts is associate director and has been associated with the Indiana program in its rapid growth. Both men presented their goals and methods to the recent meeting of the Department of Educational Development of the National Council.

No standard curriculum is recommended in the Indiana institute, but rather each student surveys in detail many curricula and then develops a written unit or special project adapted to his style and the needs of his school and community. Each student is given help in selecting media to support the teaching and is provided resources for producing slides or tapes of his own.

The summer institute covers: background to the Bible, the Bible as literature, the Bible in literature, the Bible in the classroom. Staff of Indiana University comes from the Department of English, Fine Arts, Religious Studies, Music, and the Centers on Audiovisuals and English Curriculum Studies.

Free room, board, tuition, and a $50 book allowance is provided each student accepted, thanks to the Lilly Foundation.

If you know of any junior or senior high English teacher who might be interested, it would be well to have them phone Dr. Ackerman at Bloomington, Ind. (812-337-7086). If you or they can’t get into the ‘72 institute, you will hopefully be among the first for the ‘73 session. Syllabus, philosophy, and explanations on teaching the Bible in public schools are available from the S.D.B. Board of Christian Education, or Indiana University, Ballantine Hall 644, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

LETS THINK IT OVER

Unionism in Vietnam

We hear much talk among liberals that the people of South Vietnam would be just as well off under the rule of North Vietnam. One indication to the contrary is the relative situation in regard to labor organization. South Vietnam (perhaps because of American connections) has a free union movement with 500,000 members. It is not so in the Communist North. With respect to the situation in Vietnam, union leaders ask a simple question: “What will happen to you if you go to Hanoi and try to start a free trade union movement?” The answer: “You’ll be shot. There isn’t much more to say on that subject.”

Unions, called brotherhoods, may not come up to the full measure of Christian brotherhood, but they have enough fellow feeling as to want no part of a regime that shoots their brothers. So says an AFC-CIO publication, The Machinist.
TRANSPOSITIONS

By Eugene Lincoln

Much enjoyment in the publishing industry comes from looking over galley proofs and noticing misprints that might have been made had it not been for the alertness of a proofreader. Some of the most amusing misprints — and the most embarrassing, when they are not caught and corrected — are caused by two adjacent letters being transposed; sometimes the resulting word can change the meaning of a sentence entirely.

One classic example was when a newspaper told of a church choir presenting a “scared concert.” Another told of a couple who had been “happily married since 1095.”

Great care is taken by publishers to see that such misprints are corrected before they are published, for once published, they may turn out to be far from humorous. Thousands of readers may be misled by a transposition. One time, a recipe, which was supposed to say “Bake at 350 degrees” became “Bake at 530 degrees.” No doubt many husbands ate blackened meals because of that one!

The proper order of things makes a great difference to all of us. Such a small thing as the improper placement of the decimal point on a pay check can cause complications. It makes a difference if the “on” and “off” positions of an electric switch are transposed. And it could mean some discomfort to anyone who took a shower and found that turning the “cold” faucet produced a spray of scalding water. Most people would object if, at a restaurant, they shook the “S” shaker on their food and a large quantity of “P” came out!

Yet there are many persons who claim that it really makes little or no difference to the Creator which day is observed as His holy day. He plainly said, in words written in His own hand on tables of stone, and later on the very hearts of His followers, that “the seventh day is the sabbath”; yet man has transposed the rest day from the seventh to the first day of the week.

Of all of the Ten Commandments, only the Sabbath command is prefaced by the word “Remember.” Could this be because God knew that it was the one that man was most likely to forget? He could have said “Thou shalt not desecrate the sabbath day” or “Thou shalt keep the sabbath day.” But He did not; He said “Remember the sabbath day.”

The Lord is truly “gracious and merciful” (2 Chron. 30:9), but He is also an exact God Who pronounces a curse on anyone who would add or take away from His words (Rev. 22:18, 19). It is an awesome responsibility that one takes upon himself when he turns his back to God and to His command and says, “No, I’ll choose my own way of doing things.”

Oriental Imports

It is estimated that more Japanese have accepted Santa Claus than have accepted Christ. The Far East Broadcasting Company hopes to change such percentages.

Key ‘73

The first stated objective of Key ‘73 is “to confront every person in North America more fully and more forcefully with the gospel of Jesus Christ.”