DAILY BIBLE READINGS
For May 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.")

Involved with Human Need
2—Tues. Planning To Meet Human Need. 2 Cor. 9:1-6
3—Wed. Gifts for a Needy Preacher. Phil. 4:14-19
5—Fri. Even to the Least. Matt. 25:31-40
6—Sabbath. Hospitality for Strangers. 3 John 2-8

Proclaiming the Gospel
7—Sun. Preaching to Israel. Matt. 10:5-15
8—Mon. Christ the Head. Acts 4:5-13
11—Thurs. Preaching Nicely. Rom. 10:11-18
12—Fri. Unsearchable Riches. Eph. 3:7-13

The Church's Teaching Ministry
14—Sun. Home Teaching. 2 Tim. 1:3-7
15—Mon. Pastoral Teaching Ministry, 2 Tim. 3:16-17
16—Tues. God Creates Only Good. 1 Tim. 4:4-10
17—Wed. God Depends on Exemplary Persons. 1 Tim. 4:11-16
18—Thurs. Pastoral Correspondence Teaches. 1 Cor. 4:16-20
19—Fri. Profitable Teaching. 2 Tim. 4:1-8
20—Sabbath. Renewing an Old Commandment. 1 John 2:1-11

Need for Renewal
21—Sun. Disorderly Conduct. 1 Cor. 11:17-22
22—Mon. Seek Higher Standards. Col. 3:1-6
24—Wed. Renewal Through Suffering. 1 Pet. 4:12-19
25—Thurs. Love Grown Cold. Rev. 3:17
26—Fri. Got Hot or Cold. Rev. 3:14-22
27—Sabbath. A Spiritual House. 1 Pet. 2:1-6

What Is the Devotional Life?
28—Sun. Prayer of the Troubled Heart. Ps. 61
29—Mon. Waiting for God. Ps. 62:1-7
30—Tues. Confidence in God. Ps. 62:8-12
31—Wed. The Mighty God. Ps. 50:1-6

Important Convention Speakers
When the Southern Baptist Convention meets at Convention Hall in Philadelphia, June 6-8, an attendance of over 13,500 Baptists is expected, partly because of the drawing power of some of the speakers. It is expected that President Nixon will give an afternoon address on the final day though a firm commitment is not yet possible. If he is able to clear his schedule for this engagement it will be the first time that a President of the U.S. has ever addressed the Convention (which is now the largest Protestant church in America). The theme for the meetings in the city of the Liberty Bell is "Proclaiming Liberty to All."

Evangelist Billy Graham has agreed to speak on Wednesday evening June 7. Also scheduled for an address is the Rev. Leon Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and founder and chairman of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers, a network of training centers set up to teach practical job skills to black people who are fighting the poverty cycle — an outstanding figure who is now a member of the Board of General Motors.

The three-day convention schedules about twelve hours of business.

Faithful Bible distributors carry the light-giving Scriptures to men on lonely park benches and smuggle the Word to forbidden places of the world, while some who have access to the gospel message still sit in darkness, not finding the light of life.
Area Spiritual Retreats for Pastors
Now in Progress

The first of three spiritual retreats for Seventh Day Baptists Pastors was held at Verona, N. J. April 10-17 and attended by most of the ministers of New England, New York, and New Jersey. If was followed immediately by a similar retreat at Camp Joy, Berea, W. Va. for the pastors of the Southeastern Association and others. A third study meeting is to be held at some place in the Middle West or Pacific Coast, which will draw pastors from the middle states and the Pacific Coast.

A certain amount of denominational news and program was included in the daily schedule at the Verona church, but the greater portion of time was devoted to in-depth Bible study designed to benefit the pastors and tone them up for more effective Bible presentations to their people.

The days were crowded full in order to justify the temporary absence from the parishes. The program began with a half-hour chapel at 8 a.m., and terminated at 9:30 each evening with devotions and prayer. There was no organized recreation though a little free time was allowed in mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Early spring in Central New York where the snow banks were not entirely melted away does not encourage outdoor athletic competition, which would have contributed to the well-being of the brethren at the bountiful free meals furnished by teams of local ladies.

Seldom, if ever before, has so much Bible study time been provided at a mini-sters' retreat or conference. For an hour and a half in the morning and a length of time in the afternoon the Rev. Leon La'vton, Wheeler led in a study of Hebrews with the use of notebook materials and projected charts and outlines, including the marking of the Bible and the wide use of various translations. Also for an hour each morning and from 5:00 to 6:00 in the afternoon there was a small group Bible study in areas of special concern organized by the Rev. Leon Lawton. The groups later reported back their finding to the whole group and different sub-groups later reported back their findings to the whole group and different sub-

Sabbath School Concerns

What is the future of our Sabbath Schools? Will they continue to train young people in religious knowledge and equip them to effectively serve the cause of Christ through the organized church? There is reason to ponder such questions, in light of the Inventory of Attendance and to determine whether controllable trends are in the right direction.

Now we could without too much difficulty organize in survey to reveal youth and young adult trends and determine from questionnaires what the present situation is—if everybody was willing to give completely honest answers. Another way to get a pretty good idea of the trends is to study the surveys conducted in churches of other denominations and to compare the findings with what we informally observe in our own. There are some disturbing statistics available.

It is said that ten years ago the age group missing in the Sunday Schools and in church activities was between 17 and 22. Explanations were offered and hopes expressed that they would come back and are some interest there is. It now appears that the missing persons gap has widened considerably to include adults 17-30. It is reported that church school enrollments are off to an alarming degree. The conclusion is inescapable that if this trend continues for another ten years there will be very few, if any, who count the ages of 17 and 40. With such a gap can church leaders hope for Bible grounded adult leadership? And where will the church find qualified teachers for the children who supposedly need the Bible training?

Let us ask ourselves if we have observed in our Sabbath Schools the same lessening of interest in the Bible study among the age group between 17 and 30. If so, are we partly responsible for it? Have we catered to the prevalent young people's request to substitute discussion of social or other problems. Have we fostered the discarding of Bible lesson quarterly statements? In earlier days we had strong Christian Endeavor Societies where citizenship and other problems were dis-

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cussed — leaving the Sabbath School hour free for grounding in Bible truth that would lead to discussion that would come in afternoon or evening meetings. How far can we go in the neglect of systematic, year-round Bible study for older youth without losing the foundations on which church life rests?

Looking at it another way, we have long contended that one of the best ways of church extension by laymen is by establishing Sabbath Schools. It has been proven without question of doubt that new churches can grow out of local Sabbath School branches conducted by qualified Bible students who know what they believe and why. Such Sabbath Schools are only partly for the children. It is a very slow process to start a church just from children's classes, though such enterprises are worthwhile. The churches grow up when parents and others study Bible lessons together and then expand to preaching services. If, however, our young adults get the idea that Sabbath School is not for them they will not become leaders, and one indicator is that they will not study.

We put forth great effort to edit and publish a good adult and young people's lesson quarterly. And yet in many churches it is used by the very people for whom it is written. It could be a basic tool for establishing new Sabbath Schools — and it is to some extent. To be sure, there are people who are burning with religious or social question can take the place of the regular Sabbath School lesson, but the consistent habit of Bible study with adults for the extension and growth of the body of Christ—the church.

If the trend in your church is away from faithful attendance and Bible study the Lord may be calling you to reverse that trend and do what you can to get back into the position of the commended Bereans who were "more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11 RSV). The future of the church may depend on your attitude toward that Sabbath morning class where you belong.

Witnessing at Daytona Beach
By Steve Crouch

I was privileged to be a part of the team witnessing to the college students in Daytona Beach this year, and it was particularly exciting since I had been there last year as well. It's a temptation to compare the two years, and maybe it would be good to do so. This year, if you count the group from Salem who joined us the last four days, we had well over twenty on our team, while there were five last year. Campus Crusade had a thousand kids there last year but had none this year, so we did not have nearly so much "competition" in spreading the gospel.

What a joy it is to just yield myself to God and trust Him to bring about the results. He set up many appointments for us this year. One night I was standing in a very crowded part of the boardwalk, talking about the Second Coming of Christ with another Christian I had just met. Many students were milling around, but suddenly one student standing right there listening. After a while he said, "Is that in the Bible?" We assured him that it was, and I was able to share Christ with him quite extensively and he was very receptive.

Day by day, as I talked with students, I tried to get at least the first names of those who were particularly interested, and kept a list so that I could pray specifically for them. Here's part of my list:

Tim from Oshkosh, Wis.
Ed from Rochester, N. Y.
Andy from somewhere in Florida
Lou from Rhode Island
Ray from Milwaukee, Wis.

I also kept a diary so that I could have a record of what happened and how I felt about it at the time. Some quotes from this will hopefully give some of my impressions of the project:

March 27. I feel much more confident about the witnessing than I did the first day last year. I talk to 13 Ed for an hour. He was so close — he understood and wanted Christ, but I could sense his fear of the unknown. Made an appointment to meet him 9:00 tomorrow night.

March 28. I'm amazed by the real boldness the Lord is giving everyone on the team this year. They look for all opportunities to share Christ, and we really take advantage of them.

March 31. This afternoon, I talked to about four people, including an old man (81) Talked with him for a long time. He just seemed to feel that going to church was enough . . . . But he invited a couple others on the beach to have supper with us, so they came.

April 3. I talked to five real contacts this afternoon, including one Jew. He still seemed to believe the Messiah was coming, but was quite stubborn that Jesus was not He.

April 4. Several of the Salem kids have been witnessing somewhat and are getting quite excited about it.

April 5. I honestly believe the Lord is really making witnessing a part of my life style.

Eastern Association
May 19 - 21

The Host Committee at Western cordially invites all interested in attending Eastern Association to contact either Mrs. John Edmond, Shore Road, Westerly, R. I. 02891, telephone (401) 322-0329 or Mrs. James Hays, Mayflower Ave., Pawcatuck, Conn. 02891, telephone (203) 599-1126 if you have not contacted your church clerk. Those who wish to be independent may find the following helpful:

Blue Star Motel, Post Road, Westerly 4 in room, $18; or 2 in room $14 No cooking. (401) 596-2891
Ambassador Motel, Franklin St., Westerly 1 night $12.60; 2 nights $21.00 No cooking. (401) 322-7995
Franklin Garden Motel, Franklin St., Westerly 1 double bed $14; 2 double beds $16 No cooking. (401) 596-2705
Elm Tree Inn, Franklin St., Westerly No cooking. (203) 599-5721
Pine Lodge, Franklin St., Westerly family cabin for 4. (203) 322-0333
The Sabbath Day dinner will be served at $2.25 per person. Supper Sabbath night will be 75c.

Washington Church Evaluates
By Janet Thorngate

For the Washington, D. C., S. D. B. Church, March was program evaluation month. Under the direction of the Church Planning and Coordinating Board, the total church program from overall goals to individual activities was examined in terms of past accomplishment and future plans.

Dale Thorngate, who was appointed by the Planning and Coordinating Board to work with theimg the evaluation, indicates that he was very pleased with the involvement of so many people in the evaluation process. "When questionnaires were mailed to all members of the church congregation, 44 percent responded promptly with constructive replies. Then eight people devoted a whole Sunday in a nine-hour meeting to study the questionnaire results along with other data and prepare a report."

The Planning and Coordinating Board then discussed the report of the eight-member evaluation committee making some changes before presenting the revised program outline to the church at the April ninth quarterly business meeting.

According to the evaluation report, "Out of it all emerges a picture of a church which is active."

Numerical growth is reflected in membership and attendance figures and in financial receipts. In 1971 there was a 18 percent increase in average attendance at Sabbath worship and a 46 percent increase in local giving. The increase in total receipts was 52 percent with 62 percent of the total receipts coming from local contributions.

Over the past four years the figures show a 107 percent increase in average attendance at Sabbath services. At the end of 1971 there were 41 active members. Average attendance for the year was 44 and total receipts $22,578.

"Spiritual growth," the report notes, "is much more difficult to measure but one indicator of such growth noted is the warm, accepting fellowship of Christian love shared by the congregation including the group's concern, for the
welfare of its individual members and its ability to accept new ones quite naturally.

In addition to pointing out the positive factor of growth in so many areas of church life, the report noted problem areas and suggested areas of emphasis. There was no recommendation to expand the program at present since the church is probably doing all it can in light of its present resources of money and time which can be contributed by individual members. Instead the objectives, means of expansion, areas of outreach, and areas of service were listed in order of importance with the suggestion that the church concentrate its resources of time and money on those items near the top of each list.

Second on the list of service activities was the Wednesday afternoon tutoring service for grade school children in the church neighborhood. An average of six­teen children are attending this winter. They work in small groups with five teachers on a variety of games and exercises designed to improve both their basic arithmetic skills and their attitude toward their school work.

The Neighborhood Night Program—classified under both service and outreach—is now held monthly. Assistant-to-the-Pastor John Pettway is in charge.

Our Prayer Corner
Suggestions for Prayer This Week

Pray for:
1) The ministers from all parts of the United States who are attending the area spiritual retreats, that they may return to their parishes with batteries recharged and a new appreciation of the use of the Bible in the central work of the church.
2) The national pastors and leaders in mission situations who cannot be brought together for spiritual retreats, but must carry on alone in the face of many obstacles.
3) The strengthening of family ties and Christian parent-child relationships.
4) The wide use of Sabbath and other Christian literature as evangelism tools.

MEMORY TEXT

“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproving, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17 RSV)

Origin of Christian Scripture—Some Things To Think About
By John L. Wagaman

1—Who decided the content of the Holy Bible?
2—When and where did this take place and under what conditions?
3—How was it decided which of the informative, sagacious, inspiring accounts and letters of the early Christians were truly God-inspired?
4—What were the criteria for including some writings and rejecting others?
5—Who decided on the criteria?
6—What qualifications did he or they have to decide such an important matter?
7—What writings were rejected? Would it be interesting to read them? Where can they be found?
8—Do you think these qualifications were sufficient for the task?
9—The Bible says it is cursed to add or subtract anything to or from Scripture—how do we treat writings which today meet the criteria for Scripture but which were written since the time of the initial decision?
10—What writings would you say would be in this group?
11—Would you add them to Scripture or would you group them in a single-bound supplementary Scripture? Or how would you handle them?
12—Do you agree on the original criteria used in deciding the content of the Bible?
13—Do these criteria apply today?
14—This question is often asked in Bible-study groups, “Do you believe God inspires us to write, or speak today? Does God talk to people today, either through inspiration or even in a voice that can be heard?”
15—What do you think?

A Letter from a Friend

The following is a portion of a letter from a Sabbathkeeping friend who is pastor of a new church which he raised up. He is a reader of our history and our denominational weekly. His friendly evaluation of our churches may gi. The people in the power saddle said it was, and that made it so. The only people who were not ‘properly brought up’ were the scum in the slums and the heathen trash along the frontiers. And to a lot of people that’s the way it is right now.

Perhaps I did not see the best of your search, but the Seventh Day Baptists I met seemed unaware of the need to convert their neighbors. Or else they really did not want anybody in their churches except the people already there. Worded a little differently, do your people really believe they have something to sell? Something important enough to risk public condemnation, jail terms, physical assaults upon their persons and property? Thinking about you and your denomination, Avis and I went back through both volumes of Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America, reading the accounts. A lot of really inspiring material there. But do any of your people read these things? When Volume III comes out I hope it contains some equally incisive writing.

—Holli S. Howard

Having mentioned the inspiring material he quotes several passages from Volume I closing with this one:

“Mistress Trask lay for fifteen or sixteen years a prisoner for her opinions about the Saturday-Sabbath; in all which time she would receive no relief from anybodT notwithstanding she wanted much... Conﬁned in the same prison was a Mr. Richard Lovelace... while there he wrote... the following lines... supposed to refer to Mrs. Trask:”

“Stone walls do not a prison make, Nor iron bars a cage; Minds innocent and quiet take That for a heritage.”

(Pages 110-111)

OF PAIN AND SWEETNESS

Once I heard a song of sweetness, As it cleft the morning air, Sounding in its blent completeness, Like a tender, pleading prayer; And I sought to ﬁnd the singer. Whence the wondrous song was borne; And I found a bird, sore wounded, Pinioned by a cruel thorn. I have seen a soul in sadness, While its wings were furl’d, Giving hope, and cheer and gladness That should bless a weeping world; And I knew that life of sweetness, Was of pain and sorrow borne, And a stricken soul was singing, With its heart against a thorn. Ye are told of one who loved you, Of a Savior crucified, Ye are told of one who pinioned, And a spear that pierced His side; Ye are told of cruel scourging, Of a Savior bearing scorn, And the thorns of His crown, With His brow against a thorn. Ye “are not above the Master.” Will you breathe a sweet refrain And His grace will be sufﬁcient, When your heart is pierced with pain. Will you live to bless His loved ones, ‘Tho’ your life be bruised and torn, Like the bird that sang so sweetly, With its heart against a thorn?—Selected.
The following article drawn from Missionary Crusader sets forth a heart-warming attitude of Chinese Christians toward the longed-for evangelization of their homeland and some thoughtful comparisons between the opportunities in the First Century and in China. The author, Raymond Buker, with eighteen years of missionary experience in China expresses faith in the eventual acceptance of the gospel by the China of tomorrow, but does not advocate missionaries rushing in.

Praying for China

Three Reasons for Hope
By Raymond Buker, Jr.

In an unscheduled noon prayer during the Congress on Evangelism in Singapore, God manifested His presence and power in a wonderful way. It was called spontaneity, as a result of the prayer for China. The participants were mostly Chinese. Weeping was profuse. Their faith was unshaken. Their reasons: that China is in the process of fulfilling signs of the coming of Jesus. The answer found in 2 Peter 3:9. With the Lord's intent to answer their prayers. Years ago God raised up groups of people - Chinese, missionaries, Taiwanese - to begin praying for the doors of China to open to the gospel of Christ.

As they prayed, God began to answer. The falling out between China and Russia, the loss of Communist influence in Africa seemed to be a direct answer to their prayers.

Reason No. 1
The Long-Suffering of God

This is found in 2 Peter 3:9. With the signs of the second coming of Christ being fulfilled in many parts of the world, the question comes: Why hasn't Jesus come to this earth? The answer: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

China today has 800 million people. Population-wise the largest nation in the world. One-fourth of the population of the world! And one-half of the population of Asia. These Chinese Christians do not believe that the God of justice, love, and mercy will leave China, this largest nation in the world, without another chance to repent.

Reason No. 2
The Burden of Christians Everywhere

God has burdened Christians everywhere to pray for China these days. This is particularly true of the Chinese themselves. If you could have heard these Chinese brethren praying in that noon prayer meeting, you would have known that that burden was from the Holy Spirit. And God does not burden people to pray unless He intends to answer their prayers.

In a very similar way God has used the Communist nation of China to prepare their vast area much larger than once dominated by the Greeks, the new Roman empire brought political unification to the world. It became the largest empire that the world had ever known up to that time. It stretched from Iraq to England and from Turkey to Ethiopia. God used the Roman empire to prepare the world politically for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The third language was Latin. It is the language of the Roman Empire. By capturing this vast area much larger than once dominated by the Greeks, the new Roman empire brought political unification to the world. It became the largest empire that the world had ever known up to that time. It stretched from Iraq to England and from Turkey to Ethiopia. God used the Roman empire to prepare the world politically for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The early apostles were able to travel freely from one land to another. North Africa, Egypt, Turkey, Asia, Spanish, etc. They had no need for passports. No need for residence permits. No need for visas.

God used the Roman empire to prepare the headquarters where the spreading of the gospel. The Romans built efficient roads. In fact you can go from Rome to the interior of the world. The Romans built highways and the method of transportation which facilitated so greatly the spread of the gospel. The Romans built efficient roads.

Before the Communists came in, the missionaries who were there could only go into the interior of China a short ways by road or railway. Then the roads or railways stopped and the rest of the trip into the interior had to be made by wheelbarrow, horse or on foot.

But the Communists came in. They unified the country. They built roads and
railroads way back into the interior provinces. When China opens again to the gospel, travel into the interior will be greatly facilitated. Even the Himalayan Mountains — twice the size of the highest mountains in the United States — have been conquered. It was a tremendous engineering feat that the Communists were able to accomplish.

The faith of those godly Chinese who met to pray during the Congress on Evangelism in Singapore was greatly strengthened as they realized how God has prepared the way for the spread of the gospel in the China of tomorrow. Who knows but that President Nixon’s visit to China a few years ago, and the custom duty on vehicles is 84 percent on non-commonwealth countries, such as the United States. The figure on the landed cost/value at Georgetown. Thus a U.S. $3,000 car here might have a C.I.F. value of US $3,400 to which is added 104 percent so the selling cost or value there would be over US $6,900.

After searching for just the right car to use in carrying on his mission work Pastor Bass reports that he has found and purchased a good and satisfactory one — a 1967 Holden 4-door sedan, with only 21,000 miles on it. The Holden, by the way, is an Australian car, but the engine is really an American General Motors engine. The Holden is the Australian Chevrole.

He further wrote: “You were praying that the Lord would help me find the right car. This 1967 Holden has every appearance of being a new car. It has beautiful upholstery, clean inside, rugs hardly worn at all, curved glass windows, a superb humming, quiet running engine, no rust out spots along the bottom edges of car, a strong non-rust muffler and tail pipe.” It seems evident that Brother Bass feels that the Lord answered prayer in leading him to this particular car.

Fifth Sabbath Emphasis

GUYANA

A fifth Sabbath emphasis on the overseas ministries of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society begins with Guyana, South America, on April 29. Local church missionary keyworkers have received information on the work in Guyana to share in the Sabbath School or other meeting.

Visual aids will continue to be an important means to convey information from the field. Missionary Leroy C. Bass has produced a new filmstrip containing sixty frames with live sounds from the place of action. It is titled, “Independence Crusade of the Americas.” The viewer is shown something of the history, the Seventh Day Baptist mission work and the outstanding Kaeiteur Falls. These are to be ordered directly from the AV Library, Plainfield, N. J. Other filmstrips and slide sets also are available, with the list being sent to each keyworker.

In addition to these quarterly emphases on our home field ministries in this Era of Action, it will point up Outreach — U.S.A. Like the Worldwide Witness for Christ series, information and filmstrips will be mailed directly to each local church. The first of these will speak of the unique and growing outreach ministries of the Washington, D.C., and Seattle area, Wash., churches. It will be available in June and July with a more flexible scheduling allowing the filmstrip to be at each church for a two week period.

The comments and suggestions of individuals are solicited as we seek to inform, instruct and inspire you to find a growing place in the witness and work to which the Lord has called us — as individuals and a people.

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Guyana, Crusade of the Americas

In carrying through on their vision and plans for evangelism and outreach in Guyana, plans have culminated in a special series of the Bona Ventura Seventh Day Baptist Church on the Pomeroon River. Prayerful preparation has been carried through for the past several months.

Before the public crusade began there was special church member preparation from April 6 - 8, conducted by Pastor Bass. This included the forming and training of a Bona Ventura crusade team. Taped messages by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade were also shared in the preparation classes.

Phase two of the crusade involved two weeks of nightly evangelistic meetings Sunday through Thursday. These began in Sunday night, April 9, with Pastor Bass preaching the five meetings the first week. His topics included: “Our Nation’s Real Enemy,” “A Question God Cannot Answer,” “The Greatest Reentry from Outerspace,” “Prophecies Fulfilled in Christ,” and “Guarded Property No One Has Broken Into, Yet a Child Can Get In.”

In the printed brochure that was distributed by members throughout the Pomeroon area the following was included: “These messages are given in the interest of your happiness, in a spirit of concern, to serve you and your family. They will bring you a hope that is radiant today and for the future. They are fully illustrated with color pictures from the magic lantern.” The second week Conference President, George Bow- en, was the speaker. His topics: “What Happened to the Young Man Who Did His Own Thing,” “Beware,” “My Favorite Sin,” “Seven Women to One Man.”

The back of the printed folder is titled: “Life Begins with God” If your plans have gone wrong, Try God’s plan. If your methods have failed, Try God’s method. If your life is not complete, Let God complete it. “You just cannot afford to miss these meetings to learn how God speaks to us.
all in this modern age. There will be wonderful music, singing, and beautiful pictures on the screen.

Phase one of the crusade was a series of informal Bible studies using visual aids and led by Pastor Bass beginning Sunday night, April 23 and continuing through Sabbath, April 29. Pastor Bass has shared with us these outline for these follow-through Bible studies: Sunday, “How Did Sunday Observance Begin?”; Monday, “The Ark of Death, Resurrection, Judgment, and Eternal Destinies” (with diagrams); Tuesday, “Know Your Enemy — Satan, and His Strategies”; Wednesday, “The Ark of Noah and the Ark of Christ”; Thursday, “Opportunities and Blessings for This Life”; Friday, “The Holy Day — Sabbath: (Illustrated with seven posters).”

It is hoped that April 29 would be a day when some of those who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ would follow Him in baptism. Each person attending these meetings was handed a card on which he could check one of four squares: “I would like to study a Bible course”; “I would like to know Christ in a personal way”; “I would like a visit from a crusade team member”; “I would request special prayer for a certain need.” A second card was given to those who responded to an invitation to make a decision for Christ. It is headed: “John 3:16 Personalized” and the printed words say, “For God so loved,” and then there is a blank so that a name may be written in, “should believe in Him, and have everlasting life.” Mark 9:24 is also quoted: “I believe; help my unbelief!” and there is a place at the bottom for the date to be entered.

We look forward to reports from this special crusade of the Americans at Bona Ventura on the Pomeroon River, Guyana. As many of our readers have continually upheld the work of our brethren in Guyana, we know that prayers are being answered and we look forward to reports of victory for our Lord in the lives of many individuals because of this witness.

“What this church needs is . . . .

Some Good Old-Fashioned Preaching

By Ben Hartley

A friend remarked recently that he had not heard a good sermon in many months or a “really good sermon” in years. He thought maybe this was the “main thing wrong with the church” that we needed “some good old-fashioned preaching.”

You’ve got to wonder if this man truly wants to hear the kind of sermons he listened to back in the 1930’s or 20’s. It might be interesting if we had tapes to play back some of those sermons he recalls as great old-fashioned preaching.

An elderly minister recently looking through a book of sermons preached by one of the great pulpits around the turn of the century said to a friend: “Isn’t it odd that I once thought these were marvelous sermons, even borrowed parts of them. But this looks like mighty shaky theology to me now!”

Most sermons don’t wear well with time, though, and today we have the century. So perhaps what someone means when he voices a yearning for “good old-fashioned preaching” is, in fact, sermons that speak simply to his innermost needs without subtlety or fancy phrasing, sermons that comfort and strengthen him in his daily life battles with the forces of evil.

Experts in the art of preaching, testify that preaching has never been better than in churches today, that ministers have a marked drop in interest. Some of the leaders spoke of their failure to reach youth. The general secretary, David S. Russell, tried to analyze the situation. Why they lose interest more often than biological. He went on to speak of it as an “incredible religion” but not a science. He advanced an interesting conjecture that life might have been created many times — not just once. This perhaps could be more easily harmonized with the latest scientific studies and with Scripture than Darwin’s early theory.

Professor Moore significantly noted, “Evolution should not be taught as fact but only discussed as theory and taught as an idea.”

Why They Lose Interest

A study has been made as to what caused people to lose interest in church. When this study is published later in the year, it will show that most people expect high in church and the other social, moral, and religious issues.

Baptisms of converts were reported as 1,500 fewer than the previous year. There was a fall of 12,500 in numbers of Sunday School children under seven. Church membership dropped from 274,000 to 269,000.

The new president of the Baptist Union in his inaugural address said the message needed today is simple, “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things, including the cure of inflation as well as the relief of world poverty, will accrue.”

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Our Taxes Are Low

Compared with Israel taxes are low in our country. Israeli individuals are said to be taxed heavier than in any other country, yet there is little complaining about the system and high taxes. Defense expenditures in 1979 were equal to about 31 percent of the country's gross national product. Since a large percentage of the population is in the military, the populace does not find the taxes too burdensome. A survey in the United States shows that 61.9 percent of those questioned were against any reduction in defense expenditures.

Patriotism means willingness to make some sacrifices for the common good, both in wages and taxes.

Sabbath Testimony

After keeping Sunday strictly for twenty-eight years I can't do enough for my Savior who led me from church to church until I found the blessed Sabbath. In sickness, weakness or sorrow He gives a peace in my heart that can't be described and I want everyone to know that same peace.

—Ruth Fuller

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Announcements in the bulletins and newsletters included the following full program for this growing metropolitan church serving the community and a wide area. On Sabbath eve there is Evensong and four discussion and Bible study groups. "Facing Issues" is the general heading for youth. Other groups take up "Studies in Stewardship," "The Master Plan of Evangelism" and "Growth by Groups."

Each Monday night there is on-the-job training in evangelism. Currently on Tuesday evening there is a freshman class. On Wednesday afternoons there is an arithmetic tutoring program. Monthly neighborhood nights are scheduled with a good response. A tract distribution program involves a number of the members on a regular schedule. Besides these there are the regular Sabbath services with frequent guest speakers and special musical programs. The pastor has the help of an employed assistant, the Rev. John Pettway, besides the growing number of consecrated laymen. It is all part of the well-organized Washington Pilot Project in which the Southern Baptist Association, Metropolitan Community, and denominational boards and agencies are involved to some extent.

One of our service and outreach projects is the monthly Neighborhood Night program. Of the fifty-two people who attended the program, about twenty were from the church congregation, the rest from the neighborhood. They sang a variety of songs together, with guitar accompaniment supplied by a couple of the youth. The main program feature, an Easter movie "Crucifixion and Resurrection," was followed by a fellowship time of games and refreshments.

Also in March the church enjoyed a Sabbath with the Rev. David Pearson family's sharing with them in the worship service, fellowship dinner, and an afternoon mission emphasis program on Malawi.

The Rev. David S. Clarke spent another Sabbath with us observing the various phases of the Christian Education program. He and his wife have had a busy six months getting acquainted and then meeting with our Board of Christian Education for supper and a sharing of observations, reactions, and suggestions.

Pastor Van Horn and Assistant-to-the-Pastor John Pettway will attend the area minister's retreat in Berea, West Virginia, in May. Mr. Pettway will also be enrolled in the summer institute at the denominational Center for Ministerial Education.

ALFRED, N. Y. — Our new pastor and his wife have had a busy six months getting to know our people, the town, and the area. Our Congregation was the focal point of a number of the colleges. They both have won a place in our hearts for their enthusiasm for living religion and their dedication to God.

The youth of the church are publishing a bimonthly town paper the About Town, the local printing company having discontinued printing a weekly paper. The youth took this project over and circulate it throughout all of the Alfred area.

On February 26, our congregation held a Meal of Sharing in the Parish House. Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Rase showed slides and told of their trip around the world during Dan's Sabbatical last spring.

On March 8, the local weekly Community Lenent Service was held at our church. The Rev. Leon Neu of the Almond Catholic Church was guest speaker. The Rev. and Mrs. Russell Johnson attended a two-day pastors conference at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa., on March 13 and 14.

On March 26, the Alfred Community Lenent Service hosted a communion Service at our church. At 6:00 a.m. breakfast was sponsored by the youth of the church.

The same day a Lenent oratorio, "The Holy City," by A. R. Gaul was presented by the combined choirs of our church and the Union University Church under the direction of Dr. Melvin LeMon at the organ.

Among those being welcomed back from the war were new members of our church, Secretary, Mrs. Mary Lou Clare, who has been caring for her father, Mr. Harry Gige, for six months.

—MWR-Board of Christian Education

Accessions

By Baptism: Newell Babcock, Maxine Langdon, Greg Lewis, Kathy Lewis, Pamela Lewis

By Letter: Alfred Lewis

By Testimony: Mrs. Alfred Lewis, Mrs. Robert Musson, Mrs. David Robinson

Marriages

Halter-Dickinson—Daniel James Halter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob M. Halter, Bridge­ton, N. J., and Barbara Ann Dickinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin R. Dick­inson, Sr., Shiloh, N. J., were united in marriage on March 25, 1972, with the Rev. Charles H. Bond, pastor of the bride's church officiating. The newlyweds reside at 71 Cedar Street, Bridgeton, N. J.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

APRIL 29, 1972
"In the Sabbath is to be found the peace and comfort and joy that come from God. In the Sabbath is the reality of spiritual fellowship with the Father and with Jesus Christ. . . . In the Sabbath is to found the experience by which men become dedicated Christians committed to service and love in the world of men. Salvation is paramount. . . . But the Sabbath provides the spiritual vehicle through which the redeemed Christian finds moral and spiritual expression."

The preceding is quoted from the book: **THE SABBATH: SYMBOL OF CREATION AND RE-CREATION** by Herbert E. Saunders

Order your copy today and reflect upon what the Sabbath can mean for our day and age. Cost: One copy $2.50. Second copy $1.00.

Order from: Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House
510 Watchung Ave., Box 868
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**World Baptist Youth To Meet in USA**

Portland, Oregon, has been named meeting place for the eighth Baptist Youth World Conference July 31 - August 4, 1974.

Theo Patnaik, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said that the all-Baptist Administrative Committee voted for Portland after considering twenty other possible North American sites. It was chosen over Squaw Valley, Calif., the second place contender, because of its proximity both to travel terminals and university campuses.

It will be the first time the youth conference has met in the United States. Other conferences were in Prague, Stockholm, Zurich, Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Beirut, and Berne. A poll of youth after the Berne conference showed they preferred the United States as the next meeting place.

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**Biggest Baptist Church**

The First Baptist Church of Dallas, pastored by Rev. W. A. Criswell, has a membership of over 15,000. The church has oversubscribed its budget by more than $38,600 for a total of $2,600,000. The pastor, who is the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, indicated that $1,003,274 of the 1971 giving program was directed to mission efforts at home and around the world and $325,000 applied to building expansion.

Recently the Dallas church announced the opening of Criswell Bible Institute, not to compete with other Bible institutes, but primarily to give training to its own Christian Education people. The church has over 800 teachers, some of whom have not had opportunity to equip themselves for the work. The evening school is designed to ground them in the Scriptures with the help of seminary professors, it is said.

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Paul sent a message to the elders of the church asking them to meet him. When they arrived he told them, "You men know that from the day I set foot in Turkey until now I have done the Lord's work humbly and have faced grave danger from the plots against my life. Yet I never shrinked from telling you the truth, both publicly and in your homes. I have had one message for Jews and Gentiles alike—the necessity of turning from sin to God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"And now I am going to Jerusalem, drawn there irresistibly by the Holy Spirit, not knowing what awaits me, except that the Holy Spirit has told me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the good news about God's mighty kindness and love. And now I know that none of you among whom I went about teaching the Kingdom will ever see me again. Let me now say clearly that no man's blood can be laid at my door, for I didn't shrink from declaring all God's message to you.

"And now beware! Be sure that you feed and shepherd God's flock—His church, purchased with His blood—for the Holy Spirit is holding you responsible as overseers.

"And now I entrust you to God and His care and to His wonderful words, which are able to build your faith and give you all the inheritance of those who are set apart for Himself."

_SDBs - QUO VADIS?_