THE SABBATH RECORDER

510 Watchung Ave., Box 868
Plainfield, N. J. 07061

THE SIN OF SILENCE

"We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace" (2 Kings 7:9). The speakers were four starving lepers who had stumbled on the fully provisioned but deserted camp of the Syrians.

Imagine their ecstasy. The gnawing in their stomachs led them on a run to the mess tent. Then they found warm clothing in the supply tent. And think of all the gold and silver valuables left as the Syrians fled in haste! In the rapture of the moment they forgot that they were lepers.

But reality returned. They weren't the only Israelites left in the world. And they knew they had an obligation to share—and they did.

Silence in the presence of such wealth—far more than they could ever use—would have been a sin. Yet how many Christians have found a supply in Christ, far more generous than the abandoned camp of the Syrians, but keep the good tidings to themselves?

One can easily offer excuses to soften the sound of that word sin: "I don't have the ability to witness." "It is not my responsibility." "God will reach those He wants to reach in some manner." But the fact remains that a silent response to the Great Commission is sin.

ECUMENICAL NEWS

WCC Launches Appeal for Indochina

The World Council of Churches announced that it had made an initial five million dollar appeal to its 263 member churches for the first stage of "an expanding program" of reconstruction and reconciliation in Indochina. In addition, the Council said it would need an estimated 1.5 million dollars each year for the next three years to support the existing service programs of the Asian and the American churches in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia as well as provide medical assistance to North Vietnam.

These estimates were made by the board of the Fund for Reconstruction and Reconciliation in Indochina, an agency of the World Council of Churches which met at Hong Kong. The members of the board came from many parts of the world with a majority coming from Asia.

No specific program focus has yet been worked out for North Vietnam, the board reported. This will depend on discussions with the North Vietnamese authorities. But the board underlined its concern to participate in service to every part of Indochina.

Giving thanks for the cease-fire and the increased possibility for reconciliation, the board said that the churches "share the guilt of the war situation which has afflicted the people of Indochina and of other involved nations." Any contribution to the vast task of reconstruction and reconciliation must therefore be approached with humility, the statement declared.

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March 17, 1973

DIVINE LOVE to heal a broken world

Winnie Monroe '70
The Sabbath Recorder
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Member of the Associated Church Press
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Our Concern for Minorities
It is the American way to be concerned
about minorities and individuals. This,
we believe, is one of the main differences
between Iron Curtain countries and our
“Christian” land. To be sure, not every
minority has always received due con­
sideration, as our democracy has been
less than perfect. The minority that now
is getting red-carpet treatment is the
POW contingent returning from up to
eight years of captivity in Vietcong and
North Vietnamese camps. It is, indeed,
an insignificant number of men in com­
parison with other so-called minorities,
but we count this group as highly im­
portant. Our hearts go out to them and
their families.

Our nation’s concern for the POW’s
has been very strong. It was strongly
affirmed by the administration that there
would be no cease-fire agreement until
there were assurances that all prisoners
of war would be repatriated. Military
operations continued far beyond what
some people thought necessary, but the
majority of American people would have
been very unhappy if our country had not
taken all necessary measures to secure
the release of those who had spent so
long in captivity in the service of their
country. To abandon these relatively few
men would be contrary to the principles
that we hold dear. Napoleon was once
warned that his proposed campaign would
have wounded the pride of the French
people and cost France a million men.
His recorded reply was, “What are a million men to
me?” A few hundred POW’s we are
important to all of us because they are im­
portant to their families and their God.
One officer interviewed at Clarke Field
said, “We thank God for a nation that
does so much for so few.”

Television producers have given ex­
tensive coverage not only to the red-carpet
beating of the returning POW’s, but
also to some of the problems that will be
faced as they and their families adjust
after the long separation. When return­
ing POW’s spread out across the land
to their cities and hamlets, it is not likely
that many of us will be in close contact
with them. Our love and concern can be
expressed in intercessory prayer; we can
do something.

We can understand the readjustment
problems by listening to the story of
Christian missionaries who recently had
similar experiences. David Fite, who was
imprisoned four long years in Castro’s
Communist Cuba has something to say
about the problems of rehabilitation even
for a well-adjusted Baptist missionary.

All the POW’s, he says, will struggle
to adjust — caught in a mind-dizzying
corner, bunted by internal forces
which they may not know how to ver­
balize and which will mystify and per­
ean annoy family, friends, and
employers.

Many, if they are as fortunate as Fite,
will return to normalcy and ability to
cope with life and assume useful roles.
Others may not.

A large measure of their success, Fite
says, will depend on the love and patience
of those closest to them.

Fite says he had it easier than the
men now returning from North Viet­
namese prisons.

“With some advantages,” he explains.
“I was not a combatant, and I had lived in Cuba
for quite a while and understood the culture
and language. During most of my impris­
onment, my father-in-law, Herbert
Caudill, was there with me, along with
imprisoned Cuban Christians.

That fellowship, the abiding faith I
had in Christ and brief monthly visits
from my wife, Margaret, helped me
bear up under the pressures.”

But the physical and mental cruelty
of his Communist captors, coupled with
severe “brainwashing” techniques and
daily management of his every move,
took their toll on Fite.

“In a prison environment,” he explains,
“every decision is made for you — hour­
by-hour, day-by-day. They tell you when
‘to get up, when to eat, what to eat,
whether or not to eat, what to wear,
what to do, when to sleep. ‘One of my major
adjustments involved relearning the pro­
cess of decision making.’

Not only may returning veterans face
a “decision crisis,” but family and friends
may expect them to reweave the threads
of their lives too quickly, Fite says.

“I hope the rehabilitation program
planned by the military may solve that,”
he says. Probably the most severe readjustment
facing the Vietnam returnees, Fite believes,
will involve overcoming the emo­tional scars of brainwashing.

“They try to destroy a person’s sense
of self-worth,” Fite explains. “They un­
derstand all the negative feelings one
has. . . . try to destroy your morale so
you will become putty in their hands for
propaganda purposes. Then they use you
and throw you away like a piece of old
tissue.”

“They abuse you physically, make you
fear for your life, treat you nicely one
moment and badly the next, reward you
for doing things that go against your
sense of values, punish you for standing
firm.

“I hope each one who returns will
have an understanding family and an
understanding group of friends like I did
people who accepted me and loved me
as I was.

‘Families facing these strains,’ he said,
‘should not be ashamed to call on all
available sources — personal resources
and community resources such as coun­
ers and pastors. That would not be
a sign of weakness, but one of hope,’”
he said.

‘Documented experiences have shown
that men with a sense of meaning in their
lives hold up better under duress. To the
Christian, that meaning is Christ, who
 gave me my sense of personal worth
and the strength I needed.”

How To Raise the Budget
The Southern Baptists support their
denominational work largely through
what they call the Cooperative Program,
which corresponds generally to what we
 call Our World Mission. The leaders
work hard to get all the local churches
to contribute to the Cooperative Program
with a significant percentage. The aggre­
gate is very large in this largest of all
Protestant denominations but their con­
ference president, Owen Cooper, notes
that there are 5,100 churches in the con­
vention that make no contribution at all
through the program and 27,000 that give
Planning Committee at Work

The denominational Planning Committee, chaired by General Secretary Alton L. Wheeler, and made up primarily of the major board executives met for a week-long working session beginning Sunday, February 18, in the Board Room of the Seventh Day Baptist Building at Plainfield, N. J. This meeting followed up the previous planning session held September 24-29. General Conference was represented by Ernest F. Bond, first vice-president, the Woman's Board by Myrna D. Cox. Charles H. North, president, represented the Tract Society Sunday and Monday in the absence of the corresponding secretary. The Rev. S. Kenneth Davis, a member of the Committee on Christian Social Action attended as a consultant.

The agenda included more than thirty-five items, some of which were reports needed to evaluate and correlate board and agency projects. Early in the week Secretary Wheeler presented a seven-page position paper to give a theological basis for action in the various areas of denominational concern and growth under the theme, "Pressing On." It served as a general outline of the planning session. We quote the following from the fourth division of the paper stressing the privilege and responsibility of exercising good stewardship of time, talents, and money:

"A significant and increasing number of persons are intimating that they feel restless to the point of wanting to dedicate time and to serve the Lord in some way even though they do not have academic or theological training.

1. If Seventh Day Baptists become increasingly evangelistic and mission-minded on the part of pastors, church councils, boards, and agencies, the listing of various types of opportunity for witness and/or service should lengthen phenomenally.

2. Short-course and on-the-job training techniques and procedures might well be explored, devised, and offered with adequate funding on a local, regional, or national basis.

3. Our people might be encouraged to become increasingly missionary-minded by preparing, circulating, and showing of third dimension films, tapes, etc.,

—by publicizing small project needs which would be interpreted as "special appeals" in conflict with denominational guidelines,

—by encouraging such persons to visit given situations including mission locations at home and abroad.

4. Pilot projects of outreach involving persons offering dedicated service might be funded through denominational assistance if such is requested and needed."

The Planning Committee, which takes major responsibility for all forms of dedicated service, spent some of its time reviewing the prospects for this year's Summer Christian Service Corps. New applications were received and tentative decisions made as to which church projects could be served with the available personnel. The outlook is good for widely scattered projects. New guidelines were prepared for project directors to make for more effectiveness in planning and supervising. Decisions were made about the continuation of evangelistic teams such as the youth ministry at Daytona Beach, which is shaping up well for this spring under the leadership of the Rev. Mynor G. Soper and the local church. There was also discussion of ways to make extended dedicated service more effective in the future.

Florence Bowden, general editor of the "Renewal in Faith" series of lessons, now in its second year of production, met with the committee the first day, and procedures were set up to guide the writers in developing pupil-centered lessons during the next few years, according to the previously agreed on schedule.

The committee discussed the relation between the present Key '73 program and the Baptist World Alliance Reconciliation concept to be emphasized in the next few years under our denominational Era of Action program. New materials promoting the Era of Action were decided on to aid the churches in their...
witness and growth.

There was a strong feeling shared by both the Commission and Planning Committee that the time has come to respond to the Lord's call to move forward in additional ways in response to the Great Commission and that this type of mission demands priority of funds and personnel. It was agreed that help should be given to churches and Associations to start outposts.

The New Inquiries Committee that carries on correspondence with new workers in foreign countries and on this continent was evaluated. It has been chaired by the corresponding secretary of the Tract Society. New guidelines were developed for the functioning of this committee and its relationship to the New Fields Committee of the Missionary Society.

The week of planning was considered by those involved as a most profitable session, one that may help the work to move forward on all fronts as we grow spiritually and devote time, talents, and financial resources to the cause of Christ in this time of opportunity.

Prayer and Faith

Encouraged POW's

Almost all of the returning American prisoners of war are testifying to the power of prayer and faith in the prison camps.

"The key to their survival and to their mental and emotional health was a deep abiding and growing relationship with God," said Chaplain (LCDR) Alex B. Aronis, an American Baptist involved in the ministry to returning POW's at Subic Bay Naval Air Station, the Philippines, in a letter to Chaplain Charles F. Wills, director of American Baptist Chaplaincy Services, Valley Forge, Pa.

"The story of the religious experiences of these men is inspiring beyond words," Chaplain Aronis wrote. "During the most difficult, the most painful, the darkest hours, God sustained them and enabled them to get through."

One returning POW told Chaplain Aronis, "Without God, I would not have been able to survive."

"In other words," Aronis replied, "God really helped you."

"No," the returnee said, "not merely helped. I mean it when I say I could not have made it without God pulling me through."

The former POW's told Chaplain Aronis of worship services, choirs, and Scripture studies which occurred in most of the prisoner of war camps. The favorite hymns of the prisoners had been, "In the Garden," "You'll Never Walk Alone," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

The twenty-third Psalm, beginning, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," was cited by the POW's as their major means of Scriptural support. "Everyone should know the twenty-third Psalm," one returnee told Aronis. Also memorized and shared among the men were the Beatitudes, Romans 12, and 1 Corinthians 13. The men reconstructed whole sections of Scripture out of their memory due to the unavailability of Bibles.

Their byword, Aronis said, was "God bless you." The greeting was addressed freely to one another, even to those who professed to be agnostics or atheists.

When returning POW's sat down for their first meal at the Subic Bay Naval Air Station, a Navy dietician noted that she had never seen so many people bow their heads to say table grace.

"The religious experience was so significant and so beneficial for some," Chaplain Aronis wrote, "that two that I know of said they were glad they had the prison experience because of what they learned in terms of life, values, and priorities."

The prison experience made the men "so thankful to God that the thankfulness expressed itself in a spirit of courtesy, graciousness, and thoughtfulness," Aronis said. "I was tickled by the way one man spoke of God's presence: 'The moment my feet touched down on North Vietnamese soil, God was standing next to me. He was three buildings tall, and the tip of his shoes came to my forehead and he said to me, 'I'm going to be with you and I'm going to take care of you.'"

Chaplain Aronis is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He was commissioned as an ensign in 1955, and resigned his commission in 1959 in order to enter Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He returned to active duty in the Navy as a chaplain in 1964.
The Greatest Unused Power
(a study of Ephesians)
By Don I. Phillips

The famous Baptist clergyman, A. J. Gordon, often related the story of a godly English gentleman who stood with a friend at the foot of the great Niagara Falls. His friend enthusiastically remarked, "There is the greatest unused power in the world." To which the Englishman responded, "Ah no, my brother, not so! The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God!"

The tremendous underlying message of the inspired epistle of Paul to the Ephesians has to do with this "greatest unused power." The word power, and its equivalent, is considered the key word to the book of Ephesians. In this present study we will think through the epistle, giving a title, centered around the word power, to each of the six chapters. You are invited to observe the following chapter headings and to read the verses indicated in this outline:

Chapter one: "The Knowledge of Power," verses 16-21
Chapter two: "The Position of Power," verses 4-6; 1:21
Chapter three: "The Secret of Power," verses 16-21
Chapter four: "The Hindrances to Power," verses 17-32
Chapter five: "The Appropriation of Power," verse 18
Chapter six: "The Victory of Power," verses 10-18

How much we need power! It is necessary in our lives to enable us to live victoriously. It is essential in our homes to help us live harmoniously. It is needful in our churches to empower us as effective witnesses. It is indispensable in our pulpits to enable us to preach with unction. Power in our lives is often conspicuous by its absence! A dear old black minister in the South was heard praying earnestly for unction. A white minister, overhearing the prayer, asked him, "What is unction?" "Brudder," he replied, "I dunno what it is, but I know when it ain't."

The Knowledge of Power
Do we have this knowledge? The Ephesian Christians had the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit did not have them. They did not have this knowledge of power. The apostle, therefore, prayed that God might give them wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. He was deeply concerned that the eyes of their understanding might be enlightened in order that they might know the exceeding greatness of His power. We too believe (vs. 17-19). Here was a tremendous force within, but unrecognized and unused. It was a supernatural energy equivalent to that which was operative in raising Christ from the dead (vs. 19, 20). This same marvelous power is still resident in the Holy Spirit. He indwells us, but is His strength demonstrated in our lives? Perhaps we neglect and need the eyes of our understanding enlightened that we might know, experimentally, the exceeding greatness of His power in us and through us.

The Position of Power
Have we appropriated our position? Our condition may not be all it should be, but our position of strength is in heavenly places in Christ. In fact, God has raised us up together with Him and made us sit together in the heavens (2:6), far above all principalities and powers and might and dominion satanic (1:21; 6:12). This is a position of power, a place where we can reign, in the strength of the Spirit, over sin, self, and Satan. Have we acknowledged this heavenly place as our position? We can do something about our unsatisfactory condition and by faith accept our position in heavenly places and reign, as kings, in this present life. (Rev. 1:5, 6; Rom. 5:17).

The Secret of Power
Do we know the secret? The third chapter of Ephesians rather spells it out. It certainly is not in man! Man, at his best, is impotent without Him! The secret is found in the Holy Spirit indwelling and enabling the "inner man" (3:16). The apostle Paul says clearly that the believer can be strengthened with might by His Spirit. Man can be made strong in his spiritual life. How? By the Holy Spirit controlling completely every aspect of his life. You and I can have this might in our souls and spirits. Further, in verse 19, the apostle Paul indicates that the secret of power is to be found in our being "filled with the fullness of God." He quickly goes on to say, "Now unto him that is able to do." What is this indwelling, all powerful God able to do? He can do in us and through us "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." But we can limit God! According to the writer of Ephesians, He is able to do according to the power we allow to be operative in us. Could it be that we hinder God by our unused, unsubmissive wills and sin in our lives?

Hindrances to Power
Is there some hindrance in your life? The fourth chapter has to do with the sins which grieve the Holy Spirit and hinder His power. The thirteenth verse emphatically declares: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God." This command comes in the midst of a long list of sins. Starting with chapter four, verse seventeen, we should look at each sin and allow the Holy Spirit to convict us. Then, in view of the fact that we have committed our sins one by one, we should confess them one by one. We have a God who graciously forgives and cleanses from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Having been cleansed of every hindering sin, we can present to Him a clean vessel for His fullness, and begin to experience His enabling strength.

The Appropriation of Power
You can personally acquire this inner strength. His energizing power can be your continuous portion. In chapter five, verse 18, we have an emphatic twofold command. The first has to do with drunkenness. God says, "Be not drunk with wine." Do we not admit that it is sin to disobey this injunction? The second is also response compelling: "Be filled with the Spirit." Now, if it is a sin to disobey the first command, is it not a sin to disobey the second? The Greek tense here indicates continuous action. The verse may be rendered, "be being filled — continuously filled with the Spirit." God anticipates obedience! The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God. Is this because we are disobeying the Command, "Be filled with the Spirit"? You and I can be constantly overflowing. This will be possible only as we are kept clean by our continual attitude of surrender and confession. As clean vessels, we can daily—moment by moment —appropriate the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.

The Victory of Power
We can know, experimentally, the victory of power. The sixth chapter of Ephesians speaks specifically concerning this inner strength. Paul says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (vs. 10, 11). Now, God will never command you to be something you cannot be! If God says, "Be strong," then, it is reasonable for you to say, "I can be strong!" In like Spirit Paul says, "Be filled" (5:18). Someone has said that God's commands are backed up by His enabling. His demand to be something is the equivalent of being that very thing, providing we obey Him by faith. You, therefore, can be filled. You can be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! Here is the victory of power. It is possible to take on the whole armor of God (vs. 11 through 18) and, therefore, stand strong in the Lord.

Ludwig Nommensen, a pioneer missionary to the Batak tribesmen, had labored for over two years, when the chief of the tribe came to him with these words: "Stay! Your law is better than ours. Your law is better than ours. Ours tells us what we ought to do. Your God says: 'Come, I will walk with you and give you strength to do the good thing.' Missionary Nommensen did stay to labor in the power of the Spirit and now 450,000 Batak Christians know Christ as the answer.

The greatest unused power can be released and be used to impart victory and evangelize a world through us! But He is, for many of us, the untapped power within. He indwells every believer, but many have yet to discover His power. Will we allow Him the right-of-way in
our lives? It is not enough to have the
knowledge of His power; nor to see that
the position of power is in heavenly
places; nor even to acknowledge that
the secret of power is not in ourselves, but
in Him? We must remove, by sincere re-
pentance, the hindrance to power, and
continually appropriate the fullness of
the Holy Spirit and experimentally enjoy
the victory of power. We can release the
greatest unused power — the power of
the Holy Spirit of the living God.

Evangelism Congress
Coming to South Africa
Billy Graham has accepted the invita-
tion from Michael Cassidy, president of
African Enterprise, to participate in the
South African Congress on Evangelism
to be held in March of 1973. Among
other speakers expected from outside
South Africa are Leighton Ford, David
Hubbard, Paul S. Rees, Festo Kivengere,
Bruce Larson, and Tex W. Enstrom.

Cassidy writes, “Excitement over the
participation of Dr. Graham is running
high. There is no doubt that the whole
thing has come alive in a special way
since it became known that he would be
participating. Many people feel that this
Congress is coming at a critical moment
in the country’s history.”

This will be Dr. Graham’s first visit to
South Africa and his first opportunity to
speak directly to a multiracial cross-section
of the church in southern Africa.

Prayer is being concentrated in many
parts of the world on this unprecedented
gathering. The urgency is because the
Congress aims at a new understanding
and brotherhood between Christians of
call races as the basis for planning together
methods and strategies of mission and
evangelism for the next decade.

—African Enterprise

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON
for March 24, 1973
GOD LOVES US
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 103:8-14;
John 3:16-17.

THE SABBATH RECORDER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Sec. David S. Clarke

Board of Christian Education

On January 21, 1973, the quarterly
meeting of directors of the Seventh Day
Baptist Board of Christian Education
was held. Twenty members and one guest,
Linda Davis, were present. Linda
had been assisting the secretary under
the Conference dedicated service pro-
gram, January 1 - February 16, with help
also to Allegheny Association churches.
This was the first quarterly meeting with
new committees in operation. President
Mary Clare led the session and Mrs. Reid
Mattison served in her new capacity as
recording secretary. Pastor Hurley War-
ren led the group in prayer.

New directors elected in October were
introduced: Mrs. Susie Robinson, Mark
Lewin, Von Mattison, Russell and Jennie
Johnson. Sandy Snyder and Helen Ald-
rich were elected as directors at this
meeting. Mrs. Aldrich replaces Mrs. Don
Pierce who resigned for health reasons.

The executive secretary reported his ac-
tivities since the October meetings. One
major aspect had been a field trip to the
southwest. He reported on a four-hour
consultation en route at Milton, Wis.,
with the National Y. F. officers and
mentors, plus a survey of the
on site at Lake Geneva. The
Nortonville church hosted him in a five-
session Sabbath encounter which
provided a variety of sharing opportunities.

The last full-scale assembly of the Na-
tional Council of Churches of Christ
was attended at Dallas. The next Sabbath
was spent with the Houston Fellowship,
including a consultation with Stephen Pierce
of the Southwestern Association’s Camp
Committee. Visits were made in a short
stay in New Orleans area, chiefly with
Pastor Jack Hays and family. The next
Sabbath was shared with the Paint Rock
curch where he spoke Sabbath morning,
visited with the pastor in the parish,
shared denominational concerns Sabbath
afternoon. He also consulted with Pastors
Ken Van Horn and Leslie Welsh on camp
matters. He took part in the local Youth
Fellowship’s Sabbath Eve prayer and Bi-
ble study.

The secretary sent out a letter and
materials for camp leaders, having given
the same mailing list to the American
Camping Association and the federal En-
vironmental Protection Agency for their
sending of camp resources. (If anyone
wishes to be included in future mailings
who wasn’t included this time please
notify our office. The “sharing tool”
questionnaire used in Denver Conference
consultation would also be appreciated
when sent back full of suggestions for
Seventh Day Baptist camp improvement.)

He also reported work on an extended
letter on Seventh Day Baptist camping
to the Memorial Fund, along with con-
tinuing preparations for camp evaluations
for that body. He mentioned plans to
attend a regional conference of the Amer-
ican Camping Association February 27-
March 3, to participate in a seminar with
camp development authorities Maurice
Bone and Norwood Wright.

Work had gone into correlating the
preparations of members of his subcom-
mittee of the Uniform Series Committee
for the April 28 - May 4 work session of
that body. These outlines will guide
writers (including the Helping Hand edi-
tor) in producing lessons for the summer
of 1978.

The treasurer reported the annual fi-
nancial operations for calendar 1972. His
accounting was appreciatively received
for filing and printing in the 1972 report
of this board.

Harmon Dickinson, chairman of the
Leadership Development Committee, re-
ported progress on the 1973 Ministers
Conference of which Rex Zwiebel is dean.
He also reported for the Finance Com-
mittee the budgets projected for the next
three years as recommended by that com-
mittee to the Executive Committee on
November 19.

Resource Development Committee con-
cerns were reported by the chairman,
Ethel Dickinson. An exploratory letter
was decided upon for finding out how
well our printed materials meet the felt
opportunities of our people. The com-
mittee is studying materials, planning,
and criteria of other publishers, and will
propose a variety of improvements for
our own materials.

Luan Ellis reported on the last two
months of her Youth Work Committee’s
work related to the National Youth Fel-
lows, Beacon, Pre-Cons and field
work. The new Youth Program Commit-
te, chaired by Edward Sutton, continues
all the old committee’s work except camp
development which goes to the Camp
Program Committee, chaired by Bob
Stohr.

Burton Crandall was elected chairman
of a committee to secure new offices for the
board since the executive secretary is
moving to an apartment in Alfred. Mr.
Crandall was asked to report to the Ex-
cutive Committee his group’s recom-
mandations for their referral to the Board
of Directors for approval. Financial ar-
rangements during the change-over were
discussed, and volunteer labor in moving
both the office and household was offered.

After deciding to meet at the Little
Genesee Church on April 15, the direc-
tors prayed together under the leadership
of Pastor Edward Sutton, and adjourned
their meeting.

Special Board Meeting Feb. 25

A special meeting of the directors of the
Board of Christian Education was
called for February 25 when the Execu-
tive Committee’s recommendations on the
report of the office search committee were
considered.

The Office Search Committee had in-
vestigated at least eighteen specific pro-
erties for office relocation. The Executive
Committee discussed these and recom-
ended that the directors rent an office
suite on route 21 just south of Alfred
Station, newly built by Martin Curran of
Alfred. The offices are part of larger
building with reception lobby, coat closet,
rest room, and another office fronting a
large work area. A very reasonable rent
offer was made by Mr. Curran. It is hoped
that a photo of the building and offices

MARCH 17, 1973
I distinguished, and deeply human leader."

'The Late Great Planet Earth' takes a long look at Old and New Testament prophecies, at Spiritualism and Mysticism and Astrology.

Mr. Lindsey, assisted by Carole Carlson, links many ancient prophecies directly to recent world events, explaining how each is a part of God's plan for this earth.

Do you have questions concerning "The Rapture," Christ's Second Coming, the "Seven Years of Tribulation," the "Millennium," and who will be on earth to experience these amazing events?

In a neat, orderly way, using Bible references, Mr. Lindsey discusses the events leading to the end of the world as we now know it. Certainly, his references are worthy of reflection, but are his interpretations and timetable believable? Why not read this most interesting book and decide for yourself?

Russell G. Johnson
in Alfred Church Bulletin

Baptist Response to Earthquake

The earthquake that virtually demolished the city of Managua, Nicaragua, on December 23-24 prompted one of the greatest demonstrations of Christian love in the history of Baptist World Relief.

As of mid-February, the Baptist World Relief department knew of more than $250,000 in aid channeled to Nicaragua from Baptist individuals, churches, and conventions. In addition, mission groups were making long-range plans for rebuilding destroyed church buildings, schools and hospitals.

Carl W. Tiller, BWA Relief coordinator, said that the monetary figure does not tell the full story of response.

The true measure of concern is reflected in reports of numerous sacrificial gifts, such as US$25 from Baptists in Bangladesh which is still plagued with damage from its 1971-72 war for independence, and US$50 from Baptists in India where both flood and famine are even now a pestilence.

Contributions and reports of direct help have flowed into the Washington BWA offices. The American Baptist Churches USA, which has mission work in Managua, appealed directly to its churches and raised more than $200,000 in special offerings to be disturbed by ABC people in Nicaragua. The Southern Baptist Convention USA channeled a generous though lesser amount through missions in countries adjacent, and made plans to help Nicaragua churches rebuild their houses of worship. Appeals were made also by conventions and unions in Europe, Australia, Africa, and countries in Latin America.

Southern Baptist Growth

Last year, Southern Baptists reported a record 445,725 baptisms (conversions) — the greatest number since 1959. In addition, total church membership passed the 12 million mark for the first time, and total gifts exceeded the $1 billion milestone.

"Statistical reports never tell the whole story, but numbers do represent persons and reflect compassion and concern," commented Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee.

Routh pointed out that the 12 million milestone in church membership represents the first time in the past ten years that the denomination has exceeded two percent in its growth rate. He attributed the growth partly to the record number of baptisms.

The acting director of the SBC Home Mission Board's evangelism division, Fred B. Moseley, of Atlanta, attributed the record year of baptisms to a national climate of religious concern and the effective involvement of the laity in evangelism.
ly social activities in the Parish House.

Our church is participating in the Key '73 visitation program from March 4 through April 1. In this we are cooperating with several churches in North Stonington, Pawcatuck, Westerly, and Charle-sto. Our pastor was named coordinator of the overall effort.

—Correspondent

HEBRON, PA.— The committee met the first of the year and made out the church calendars. Copies were made for each family. Each church event is given, also birthdays listed.

Mrs. Georgianna Snyder, superintendent, notes the weekly Youth Sing as being worth special credit in the Sabbath School. It is held each Wednesday night from 7:00 to 8:00 under the direction of Mrs. Kathryn Thompson, with Mrs. Pearl Brock as pianist. There are ten to fourteen children attending.

Due to the snow, no church was held February 17.

February 24, David Taylor, Richburg, brought the message. Following the service, a dinner was held at the community hall. Then a Youth and Adult Hymn Sing was held upstairs. Mrs. Pearl Brock was pianist and Mr. Taylor accompanied on his accordion. This was an enjoyable afternoon.

The projects agreed upon to receive used recently for the presentation of the Bible are:

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24; World Day of Prayer for the Rich- burg-Bolivar-Little Genesee area at Rich- burg, March 2; General Secretary Al- ton L. Wheeler's re-evaluation follow-up March 22 to April 2; Pastor Dickinson's attendance at Minister's Conference at Shiloh, N. J., April 25 to May 2; Roll Call Sabbath with fellowship dinner and afternoon roll call response, June 2.

—Correspondent

RIVERSDIES, CALIF.— Each Sabbath during the Sabbath School hour there has been a well-attended class taught by Pastor Phillips. These lessons are titled "Spiritual Life Instruction." The material used is sent out to at least thirty people each week, Lone-Sabbathkeepers and people becoming interested. This same study is given on Wednesday evening at the home of Elmer and Harriet Maddox. Early in December there occurred on Friday evening a candlelight "baptismal service. This was beautiful in the spirit of the Lord. As each of the individuals receiving this sacrament was immersed the soft glow of candles seemed to symbolize the change that comes as a heart is cleansed by the "Light of the world." Then as a bright floodlight flashed on a screen carrying the words of a familiar hymn, which all present joined in singing, our thoughts reflected on the words which came from heaven when our Savior was baptized, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

As Christmas time, under the able di-rection of Rolland Maxson, John Peters-son's cantata, "Love Transcending" was presented during the morning worship service by the choir. The sanctuary was filled, and the people were thrilled. Each person present was blessed with the realiza-tion that God's love, coming to each person through a personal encounter with Jesus, is real.

The shepherding program was started early in January. You will hear more about this in a special article for the Recorder soon.

During February many of our members have been attending the "BRASS" lectures and classes at the Municipal Au-ditorium on each Monday evening. This is a thrilling series conducted through the joint efforts of Bible School workers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. It was exciting to hear Ralph Carmichael in person at an all-choir meeting as one of the workshops.

Our church is cooperating with Key '73 all-city program which will include distribution of Scripture portions to every home in Riverside, the showing of the new Billy Graham film "Time To Run" in one of the main theaters in the city (May 2-8), and an evangelistic campaign with Evangelist Bob Harrington (Sept. 16-23).

Many of our church members will be attending Basic Youth Conflicts sessions in Long Beach, April 9-15.

The Missionary Conference, February 21-25, was an exciting and inspirational program arranged under the leadership of Pastor Phillips with the Missions Evangelism Committee helping. This will require a special report.

We are looking forward to the return of Elizabeth Maddox in April, and the missions concept will move right on.

Our pastor's calling card carries this message: Picture a folded card—on the front the picture of the church, pastor's name, and the address of the church. Now unfold the card and on the top half of the card the Scripture verse "By grace are ye saved through faith... we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Eph. 2:8-10). Then below—"Something to think about..."


"The vine covered church depended upon Christ, the Vine."

One more thing — soon a radio pro-gram, "Burden Bearers for Christ," will be started. You'll be hearing more about that, too.
DAILY BIBLE READINGS
FOR APRIL 1973

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.")

Christ Suffered for Us
2—Mon. Jesus Keeps the Passover. Matt. 26:14-29
3—Tues. Suffering in Prayer. Matt. 26:30-46
4—Wed. The Suffering Christ, Our Mediator. Heb. 9:11-15
5—Thurs. Through Suffering to Glory. Mark 10:16-45
6—Fri. Comfort Through Christ's Sufferings. 2 Cor. 1:3-11
7—Sabbath. The Suffering Servant. Isaiah 52:9-12

Jesus Christ Is King
9—Mon. The Gates of the King. Psalm 24
10—Tues. Your King Comes. Zech. 9:9-15
11—Wed. The Heavenly Praise. Rev. 19:1-10
12—Thurs. Jesus Is Lord. Phil. 2:11
13—Fri. Praise to the King. John 12:1-16

Christ Conquered Sin and Death
15—Sun. Lesson from the Fig Tree. Luke 21:29-38
17—Tues. Christ Died for All. John 11:45-57
18—Wed. He Bore Our Sins. 1 Peter 2:21-25
20—Fri. The Eve of Victory. Matt. 16:21-27

Man Responds Through Faith
25—Wed. The Armor of Faith. Eph. 6:10-18
27—Friday. The Reward of Faith. Heb. 11:24-27

Christ Makes Men New

New Drive Against Religion
In a front-page article, the Soviet newspaper, Pravda, has called for a new drive against religion and accuses some Communist party members and officials of attending religious services. This practice must be "combatted," it declares.

It adds that a more militant attitude toward religion is needed in Russia, and that atheistic education of young people must be increased.

The article says that every Communist must be a militant atheist and that the party will not tolerate members attending religious services.

Commentators see in the article and its publication an admission that Soviet authorities are troubled by the continuing vigor of religious faith in the USSR and the increasing number of officials and party members who have been attending services, taking their children to church for baptism, and generally showing a revived interest in religion.

Good-doers
A social worker, Alex Calder, addressing a Baptist group in Scotland, challenged them to be good-doers rather than do-gooders.

Because God stretched out His hands to save us we put our hands together to bring salvation to those who need a helping hand. God can use our hands of whatever size and color to do His work today. When the Lord touches our hearts, our hands respond and do His bidding.