A shadow loomed at the edge of the old ice pond where my dad and the older brothers were harvesting big ice squares for the ice house. A man with a black coat and derby looked on with interest before asking where he could find the house of Walter D. and Evangeline C. We escorted him to the old farmhouse at the end of the lane. My mother’s eyes lighted up with the special glow reserved for SDB ministers and VIP’s and we were soon seated around her table. Hardly had my father’s gentle blessing ended when our eyes widened. The man had bypassed our battered silver and was deftly flourishing two wooden sticks. That was our introduction to Jay Crofoot—an honest to goodness China missionary.

by Ruth Tate
Written at the Creative Writing Seminar during Conference at Houghton
A Tree of Bethlehem

A tree of Bethlehem was;
A jeweled mounted by the Lord
To join a hill and flowers of sky
In unforgettable accord.

A tree of Bethlehem was;
Enjoyed by sheep that paused to brush
Their quilled backs or stopped to sleep
When evening spread its soothing hush.

A Tree of Bethlehem was;
That fell one sacrificial hour
To be altered by human hands
That held the hay from
Those long, long years before the star.

A Tree of Bethlehem was;
Until the star came beckoning
While Mary hummed a lullaby.
I opened wide my wooden arms
To join a
A tree of Bethlehem
And flounce of sky
Glowing
It
It
was that
this
only
day.
"I
The tree of Bethlehem was I
Of Bethlehem was I
His Royal Name.
Our
...grew cut from God's own hand...
"...And, we
Marjorie Burdick
Twice Honored for Lifetime of Service

Marjorie Burdick, who will be eighty years old on Christmas Day, and is "retired in name only," has been honored twice this fall for her lifetime of service to both her church and community. Miss Burdick is a deaconess in the Milton, Wis., S.D.B. Church.

During the Sabbath morning worship service Sept. 11, the Rev. Earl Cruzan, her pastor, acting on behalf of the S.D.B. Historical Society, presented her a gold-headed cane in recognition of her many years of service to her denomination and the society.

The cane, first presented in 1881 to David E. Titsworth, a denominational leader, by the S.D.B. Memorial Fund, is presented for the life of the recipient. A similar award was made by the Historical Society to the Rev. Paul B. Burdick at the 1976 General Conference, and to the late Rev. John Fitz Randolph, also of Milton, in 1973.

The presentation of this cane was accompanied by the reading of a citation from the Rev. Albert N. Rogers, president of the Historical Society: "Marjorie Janette Burdick earned the master's degree in religious education at Boston University and worked professionally in that field in Michigan churches. Transferring her professional energies to public schools, she became a volunteer par excellence in New Jersey, Michigan, and Wisconsin churches.

"Growing up in a Seventh Day Baptist parsonage, Marjorie learned early to make scrapbooks of significant published material related to church enterprises. Many of these scrapbooks are now valuable resources material in the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society library. Her grandmother's life on the frontier in Minnesota and her family heritage in Rhode Island were thus vividly combined with the current outreach of her denomination overseas and in backwoods areas of this country, and from all of this she gained perspective and dynamic for her service."

"Miss Burdick was active in young people's work through the churches and in 1956 helped found Lewis Camp at Bradford, R.I., first of a series of permanent camps now considered integral to the life and work of Seventh Day Baptists. More recently she has been deeply involved in the women's work of the denomination, as well as in her local church. Through all of this she has kept careful records for the help of those who follow or want to understand."

"The Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society is proud to recognize Marjorie J. Burdick for her untiring efforts and her historical values by presenting to her the gold-headed cane once given to another."

Then, on Sept. 23, Miss Burdick was honored as Milton's "Citizen of the Year" by the Milton Kiwanis Club at an award dinner and program. In addition to her thirty-three years as a teacher and elementary school principal, she was recognized for her work with vacation church schools, summer church camps, and youth at church conferences; her taping of church services for shut-ins, those in nursing homes and other unable to attend church; her participation in church choir, the local Choral Union and orchestras; and her service to friends and neighbors day after day by being a "volunteer taxi service" for those who needed transportation.

And, we note with joy that as Miss Burdick approaches her Christmas-Day eightieth birthday, the Kiwanis concluded, "Her helping hand still goes on."

Congratulations, Marjorie Burdick!
SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS GO TO THE FAIR

GOOD NEWS GOES TO THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR

“What’s a Seventh Day Baptist?” Have you ever heard that before? We predicted we would hear that question many times over, and we were not disappointed.

“Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?”

“If you keep Saturday, don’t you believe in Easter, do you?”

“I’ve been a Baptist all my life and I’ve never heard of Seventh Day Baptists.”

Well - they’ve heard of us now!

Our 12” x 12” tent faced the west and needless to say - our days were mighty hot. We invited the passersby to “come have a drink of cool, clear water – then taste the Living Water and thirst no more.” Many questions were asked about Living Water.

About 96,000 attended the Fair. Two hundred eighty signed up for a free drawing for books that were given away each day. One for children and one for adults. Twenty-six adults and eleven children signed up for a Bible study in a group. Many came with a chip on their shoulder - and all left better informed - and happy.

One gentleman accepted some tracts - walked about thirty feet - turned around and came back - rather angry and practically threw the tracts at me. “I don’t want anything to do with you or your tracts,” he said very angrily. “I got into quite an argument with one of you people here last year and...” “Just a minute,” I butted in - and proceeded to inform him that we were not at the Fair last year. Well, we talked for about fifty minutes. We laughed together and cried together, and now I have found another brother in Christ. He even made a point to come back and visit later on in the day.

The booth was open about thirteen hours a day - Monday through Sabbath. Many blessings were received by those involved and many seeds sown.

The head security officer stopped by Sunday, following the Fair, as we were packing up and preparing to move out. He told us how much he appreciated our being there - that it was just what the Fair needed. PTL.

We wish to thank all of you who kept us in your prayers. We couldn’t have done it without you. We praise the Lord for giving us the opportunity to witness our faith to so many. With God’s help the harvest will be even richer next year. SO START PRAYING!®

—Jean Albion

The Fair Booth at the Arkansas State Fair.

December 1976

LIGHT SHINES IN LITTLE ROCK

The Little Rock Seventh Day Baptist Church operated a booth at the Arkansas State Fair again this year. The theme was “LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.” On a 4’x8’ plywood board was the S.D.B. “logo” painted by two of our young people, Jeffery Monroe and Donna Pearson. The center portion of the booth was left out so we could use the center of the logo as a projection screen. Slides were used to relate our daily living in living our light at work, at school, talking with friends, at church, visiting the sick. George Johnson (a recent member of our church) was very helpful in doing much of the photography and making the caption slides.

Last year George and his wife Velma were visitors to our booth and spent quite some time talking with Dr. Lloyd D. Seager, our senior deacon, who was manning the booth. They selected several of our tracts to take with them. They spent some time reading our tracts, their Bible, and discussing S.D.B.’s. Since they were already Sabbathkeepers, their interest was aroused and they telephoned for directions to the church and time of services.

Their first visit to the church was July 17 and they have attended regularly since the first of August. George and Velma joined our church on September 18. They both are enthusiastic and talented. They give freely of their time for the Lord’s work. Needless to say, I recruited them for part of our Church Growth team.

This year at the Fair we only distributed 3,200 pieces of literature. This was much less than any previous year, although we had many more personal contacts. We feel the Fair was a successful venture. We offered a correspondence Bible Study based on the booklet “GOD’S HOLY DAY.” There were 297 people who signed up for these studies. They will be spread over 75 cities and towns in Arkansas and in two other states. We are developing other studies on “Salvation” and “Law of God and Law of Moses.”

—James Mitchell

FLEMINGTON FAIR BOOTH MINISTRY

The North Jersey Seventh Day Baptist Church sponsored a booth at the Flemington, N.J., fair in early September. The artwork and layout for the booth was designed by Patricia Cruzan and Mary Jane McPherson. The backdrop read: “Remember the Good Old Days - Remember the Sabbath Day” and “North Jersey S.D.B. Church, Basking Ridge.” Lloyd and Margarette Coon were in charge of the coordination and staffing of the booth during the ten days of the fair.

Some 2,000 pieces of literature were distributed and over 300 signed up for the free Bibles. Those who signed up came from seven states. We had many good contacts with some returning to the booth to ask more questions or to request additional literature. The follow-up on these contacts continues.

We felt that perhaps the greatest good from the work was in making ourselves known in the area. Many who stopped by indicated that they were familiar with Seventh Day Baptists through one of our churches in New Jersey or through visiting the Ephrata Cloisters. Still some did a “double-take” as they passed the booth and saw the name “Seventh Day Baptist.”

The church felt the entire project was both a learning experience and an opportunity to put our faith to work. Next year Seventh Day Baptists will be back at the Flemington Fair!

—John Bevis

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

“Are you Christians?” “Our family fought a lot until we learned about Christ. Now we are happy and get along really well.”

This was the testimony of a young man of about fourteen who stopped at “Pixey Park,” the children’s booth sponsored by the Allegheny Association at the Allegany County Fair. He had been reading the posters, illustrated Bible verses concerning the topic, “Keep Christ in Your Heart,” which decorated the walls of the cubicle. Not only did these verses speak to children and
The Women’s Interest Committee was out in front too, setting a goal for fifty Summer Christian Service Corps workers in 1977. And Conference bought it! With the goal went the challenge to develop enough SCSC service projects to effectively use each person enrolled. And, behind these lies the goal of financial support—designated gift fund—to place workers on projects to reach the individual project goals.

Though Conference seems like only “yesterday,” 1977 will be here “tomorrow!” If the goal accepted by our vote is to become a reality, our dreaming, planning, commiting, preparing options, challenging individuals for potential SCSC service, praying, and giving must BEGIN NOW if not already under way!

Was it only wishful thinking? Was it an attempt to “out goal” someone else? Was it only a vague dream? Was it realistic?

You, who read these lines, are answering these questions. You, who have the opportunity to become involved in planning projects for outreach and growth, in encouraging youth and older persons as potential workers, in implementing a goal by putting flesh and blood and resources on it—YOU HAVE THE ANSWER!

There are many skeptics. There are those who sit back to “wait and see.” There are some who, as yet, know nothing about such a goal or such a possibility. Others are those who are interested and enthusiastic and what is needed only to be turned on by knowing facts by being encouraged, by having opportunity to really share their inmost self. Let’s give them the “GO”!

Fifty in ’77? It can be done! It will be done IF each of us does our God-given part! “Without God it is utterly impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

“Then I heard the Lord asking, ‘Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go?’” And I said, “Lord, I’ll go! Send me.”

Goals for S.C.S.C.: 1. To train young people to be effective witnesses for Christ in any given situation. 2. To give young people the opportunity to give summers of dedicated service. 3. To aid in special summer projects. 4. To give churches the opportunity to give in-service training to dedicated workers. 5. To give all interested people the opportunity to give financial and prayerful support to the S.C.S.C. program.

Qualifications for S.C.S.C.: 1. Must be a high school graduate. 2. Must have made a decision for Christ. 3. Must be willing to serve in any assigned situation, unsuitably. 4. Must be willing to abide by the guidelines set forth by the S.C.S.C. Committee and special guidelines set forth by the project director. 5. Must be willing to learn how to teach and accept responsibility.

Summer Christian Service Corps

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

"Houghton Conference was like nothing SDB’s have before experienced. This could be validated in many ways—the COMMITMENT TO GROWTH workshop; the participation of youth; the clear, crisp voting on emotional issues; the Bicentennial Day; the vision of individuals and committees; the adoption of a record OWBM budget to DO what we sense is God’s will in the year ahead; the skill-building seminars;...

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

(continued from page 1)

adults who visited the fair but also were left on the walls as silent reminders to others who use the building at a later date, of the joy of being a Christian.

Also on the walls were a dozen large pictures of birds. The main activity of the booth was listening to a cassette on “Who Am I?” First, there was a description of the bird, followed by the bird’s song, then came the opportunity for the children to identify the bird with help from the pastors and other related pictures. It was a joy to see the light of recognition on the faces of the ones who played.

In addition to the main game, we had coloring books, games and puzzles, and, as is the custom, we handed out children’s tracts.

We are indebted to Rev. Kenneth Van Horn, Hebron, Pa., who developed the bird game and loaned the cassette and pictures; to JoAnn Barber and Pat Hensel SCSC’ers, who painted and helped set up the booth and to the youth of Allegheny Association who prepared the posters. Thank you all.

Have you tried Fair Booth ministry to children? In the atmosphere of commercialism of the fair it gives adults and children alike a reminder of God and the feel of security of His world; it may be the only place some of them ever hear about Him. The booth, with emphasis on quiet activity, is a haven for children of parents who are involved in fair work; it is a place to find a friend; to find satisfying activity. Even those who become too old for “The Park” look in to see what is happening—keeping in touch with our work.

God is everywhere—Christians should witness everywhere.

ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

—Mary Clare

The Sabbath Recorder

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

K. D. HURLEY

FIFTH in ‘77?

GET CHANGED

AND

GET TOGETHER

GET GOING

Seventh Day Baptists are committed to growth in the 1970’s.

This may well be the most significant development for the denomination in this century. It involves a change in perspective. It involves a change in attitude. It involves a change in direction.

Change is seldom easy for individuals or groups, although it is often highly significant.

Karl Olsson, writing for the September-October 1976 issue of Open Circle (the Faith at Work Newsletter) dramatically points out the importance—yet difficulty of constructive personal change. He says that in order “to stay alive” in his own Christian commitment and in his association with others, he “had to work at being changed.”

He quoted an oft repeated exhortation of one of his close associates: “Get changed, get together, and get going.”

Then Mr. Olsson went on to explain that by “getting changed” his friend meant conversion, but he meant more than that. He meant entering a process of change in which ongoing openness and vulnerability were crucial and in which “getting together” and “getting going” provided support and opportunity for the new life.

Mr. Olsson admits that he had been looking at the phenomenon of conversion for a long time.

“I had seen how important it was in the renewal of the Church,” Mr. Olsson continues, “and had often echoed John Wesley’s words on his return from America in 1738, ‘I went to the Colonies to convert the Indians, but was not myself converted to God.’ But I had not seen a context which provided both the opportunity for change and a process for enabling continuing change. Nor had I seen changing people. By changing people I do not mean changes in the sense of being blemished or flashy. I mean people who are willing to check out their course day by day, who, because they have gone through the big change of direction in their conversion to God, are not for that reason through with change and growth.”

December 1976

We now see changing lives among Seventh Day Baptists. That is good! Now the people of the denomination have the opportunity to get together and get going!

One evidence that the change-around in perspective, attitude and direction is occurring comes from reactions to recent telephone contacts with pastors and other leaders in our churches across the country. The reason for the call—namely, to commend the church members for outstanding support of Our World Mission—was encouraging in and of itself. But the responses were even more exciting.

One lay leader in a relatively small fellowship spontaneously proclaimed; “I begin to feel called to become a ‘tent-making’ minister.”

From another small group were reported four baptisms. The pastor’s wife was almost rapturous in explaining how they had gone to a nearby river the previous Sabbath afternoon for the special service.

The representative of a little out-of-the-way congregation announced with understandable pride the completion of a new church building. “Come and see! Worship with us! See how we are growing!”

A pastor in the midwest, where circumstances had not been encouraging for a long time, reported with keen satisfaction that average church attendance had increased markedly.

Almost universally, enthusiastic participation in the Commitment to Growth plan was mentioned; and in several instances it was reported that increasing numbers of church members are becoming involved.

Along with these examples of progressive changes among individuals and churches, it is gratifying to observe the evidences of growing coordination of activities among the boards and agencies and a willingness to consider new programs and new structures to accomplish even more effectively denominational level work for Christ and His Cause.

A special ad hoc committee of General Conference has been activated to study specific Task Force recommendations regarding denominational reorganization and help prepare to activate new procedures.

To grow as individual Christians and to progress as Seventh Day Baptist churches is indeed most encouraging. As an added incentive to keep changing for the better during the ’70’s, the Baptist World Alliance has outlined a challenge to all of us—in union with fellow-Baptists around the world—to be “new persons for a new world through Jesus Christ.” The suggested pattern is remarkably like the one provided in our Commitment to Growth plan: a people renewed through Bible study; a people renewed through witness and service; a people renewed for evangelization. And thereby the Church will be renewed for MISSION!

MISSION! That is the heart of the matter!
We have just had our wonderful annual, General Conference meeting dated September 14-18 this year at Makapwa S.D.B. Station, The Lord led the prayer and preaching meetings, as well as brethren, some of whom are students, led in devotional and choir singing and all the other special songs which small groups of 2, 4, or 6 people sang in the rests of well-selected Bible stories presented by school children and young people (members of church) all added much to our spiritual life. In fact, we have just had a wonderful time of spiritual fellowship and refreshment.

On Friday afternoon, September 17, twenty-three people were baptized in Thuchila River at our usual, natural well, in front of the River. Mr. Makombe, a married young lady accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Personal Savior, and nine people were baptized during Kisii in Kenya from August 25 to 29 and nine people were baptized during various church meetings in our central region and another four from the time 6 people were baptized by him. Three more people were supposed to be baptized on September 11. Perhaps these are already baptized by now. As we have previously said, many of the people were from the villages, who are being attended by the church in Mandala Mission.

During this year Preacher Ikase Jolamul of Chawa S.D.B. Church in Mangochi District (one of the districts along Lake Malawi), and Preacher Edward the head of the S.D.B. Church, Mulanje (who now lives with his wife in Mandala Mission District) who were ordained pastors following the recommendations of their church members and after being attended by the Board of Trustees. They will continue to serve as pastors where they are now.

While the Fullers were here last Wednesday, September 22, Brothers Mhura and Mazinga came from Makapwa with bad news to say that our good Chief, Traditional Authority Mchere, is in charge of the area where we are establishing our medical and church Centre in Thyolo District. He reported that the chief was at Mzuzu in the Northern Region where he was attending Annual General Conference, and he died there (Mr. Mhura said that the chief had been ill for some time). Tomorrow morning Mr. Fuller and I will leave for Chief Thomas' headquarters for condolence. Mr. Mhura and Pastor Aina will take bus from Makapwa for the same trip, and we will meet at twelve miles (twelve miles from Blantyre) where the road branches off from Shire Road to Nachingwea Tea Estates. From there we will all travel together to Chief Thomas' house for condolence and to check up our work.

Christian greetings and many thanks to You, our sincere brother in His service, Otrair B. Manani, Corresponding Secretary.

MISSION NOTES

"Where there is no vision the people perish"

December 1976

The Sabbath Recorder

A Prayer Reminder for Each Day!

January 1977

Verse for the month: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." -2 Chron. 7:14

Prayer for February:

- To magnify the effectiveness of your prayer life in 1977!
- To magnify the effectiveness of your prayer life in 1977!
- To magnify the effectiveness of your prayer life in 1977!
- To magnify the effectiveness of your prayer life in 1977!
It was the last evening which Jesus would spend with His disciples. Supper was ended. Judas had gone out into the night bent on treachery. Jesus looked about Him at the remaining eleven disciples who would be His picked representatives in the world, and He said to them, "Where I am going, you cannot follow; now I am giving you a new command, love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another. This is how all men will know that you are My disciples, because you love one another. (John 13:33)

Jesus knew what experiences the next hours would bring to Him—that love of the divine nature that all eternity would set this world and set the entire universe aglow with the ultimate demonstration of love. And in that setting, with His face set resolutely to the cross He said: "Love one another as you want to be loved. For what divine love should be shared and become a human attribute.

The light of our world is the sun. The sun provides light and warmth for our little corner of the universe, that is, for our small solar system. What part of the sun's light and heat comes to our world, the planet earth? We are situated approximately 93 million miles from the sun, with the sun pouring out its rays in all directions. We might think of ourselves as being situated in a sphere 186 million miles in diameter with the sun in the center. Those rays therefore are covering an area of astronomical size. The area of that sphere is estimated at approximately 100 million plus 18 square miles. We might think of this room in which we are standing at this time as being a sphere instead of basically a rectangle. The sun is in the middle of that sphere and our little world is situated on one of the walls. Our world then is 5,000 miles in diameter and gets an infinitesimal percentage of the sun's warmth and light. But think of the effects of that fragment of the sun's energy. That minute portion of the sun's warmth on this earth creates all the energy which we observe and use, all the growth which occurs all over the surface of the world, it sustains all life, it creates deserts, it melts great masses of snow and ice creating spring and summer, all by that small minute portion of energy coming to our world as it is poured out by the sun as it burns up its great atomic pile of nuclear energy. Think of its effect upon you as an individual. You lie in the sun and within minutes you feel its warmth, your skin begins to change color, and you must seek protection.

Having seen the incomprehensible, the mind boggling enormity of the light and warmth emanating from our sun at this corner of the universe, let us now consider light of God that lightens and warms not just the entire universe, the earth. To what myriad planets and worlds, to what galaxies is His love extended? What are the borders of His Kingdom and the limits of His sovereignty? His light has gone out not just to the ends of the earth as the psalmist said, but to the ends of galaxies, to the end of the universe, to the end of time and past the limits of comprehension.

But that warmth, that love, that light of God which reached to this remote speck of His universe is to us like light on us. That small portion of God's light is enough to create life, to transform life, to make life beautiful and lovely and worthwhile. That tiny upraised hand of a pilgrim-passing love which reached our world is enough to energize and purify and warm every person in this whole earth.

The glory of God shone in the face of Jesus Christ but the love of God shone in the cross of Christ and that love has warmed this world ever since.

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." Love has been the distinguishing characteristic of God in this world and it is His desire and His command that love should be the distinguishing characteristic of His people. "Love is the badge by which Christ's disciples may be recognized, the sign that they are God's children, that they have passed from death to life. Love is the mark of the church." Such is God's design, would to God that it was a complete reality.

Christ's followers, the apostles who penned the letters of the New Testament, were seized by this love and imparted it to the church to "love the brethren," "love one another," to support and encourage one another, to be one another, "to bear each other's burdens," to support the weak, the infirm, the widows, and orphans. But while the church is to be a great storehouse of His love, Christian love is to be lived out within the fellowship of the church.

Christ taught us, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, who our neighbor really is. He taught us in His portrayal of the judgment that acts of mercy, acts of kindness and love to those in need whom we do not recognize as brethren are done to His brethren and to Christ Himself. Those in need, and who is not in need of some form of love, those in need to whom we minister come to us "in Christ's name to receive from us the love and service we owe to Him; in our neighbor we meet Christ.

Not all of those around us are easy for us to care for and to love. But to those who were sinners, Christ loved enough to die for, to see that other man and that other woman were loved by the light of God's love is to be enabled to love them so tenderly. To be enabled to share in what God has done in our own lives, to be enabled to see them as our brethren as well as His brethren.

Light is warmth but it is difficult to appreciate warmth unless we feel a need. There is no need like the experience of having been out in the cold and been chilled through and through, chilled to the bone. Who has not come out of the cold into a room with a blazing fireplace and stood close to it, warming one side and then the other, and rubbing hands full of heat onto cold arms and cold face?

I remember in the early 1940's when I used to travel by the generosity of other people. I was hitchhiking on one cold autumn night through southern Idaho. I stayed in an all-night restaurant for several hours, but with the first hint of light, I was out on the highway. The stars were still shining and there was a skiff of snow on the ground which would swirl a little with the gusts of wind. Time passed and a very few cars with their steamy windows and sleepy occupants passed by. The cold seeped deep into my tissues. I pulled my hat down deeper between my shoulders and huddled into myself as much as I could. Cold was misery. Cold was pain. But at such a desolate time the edge of the sun came over the horizon. I felt a faint warmth on my face as I turned toward that welcome sight. Light was warmth in the truest sense and as the sun rose higher I unbuttoned my coat and unfreeze my stiff, aching muscles. As it rose higher I unbolted my coat buttons and let those rays that were closer to me and I thanked God for warmth and light and life.

The sun was never more precious before. The Lord indicated that out of a sense of need comes an appreciation of God's love and forgiveness. Out of darkness comes the plea for light. Luke 1:36-47. How much more do you need today? Has Christ done enough for you to bring you a response of love? Would you be so cold and lonely and destolate that the warmth of God's love was the only thing that you desired? Or did you need only $5 worth of His love and forgiveness?

Love in our experience is often fragile, often a transient and emotional experience. If we accept God's love is not an emotion, it is not sentimental. Love is being, His character, His basic nature. God is Love. What kind of love is this Love of God?

His love is spontaneous, it is not generated in response to something beautiful and lovely. He is not attracted by the value or the worth of a person, not even by the potential for the good of the other. His love is objective, that is, it arises in His own nature. It was while I was a captive in an Idaho prison that I discovered this world to reconcile me to Himself.

My acceptance of His love brought joy in Heaven and to God. But He loved me, whether or not that acceptance was my will. His love is independent of human response. He cannot deny His own nature.

God's love seeks moral fellowship. While I was in prison, there were many who were sinners, the purpose of that sacrifice was to free us from the power of sin and bring us into fellow­­ship with Himself. His work for sinners is to make them saints. Fellowship with a God of holiness is possible only with those whose sins are forgiven and whose lives are being transformed into the likeness of the Lord. The purpose of Calvary was not only for my justification, it was also for the purpose of fellowship with a God of holiness, to achieve His potential for my life.

God's love which provides forgiveness to all who receive Him, must by the same token provide for judgment. God's plan is to bring (continued on page 26)
CHIJLDREN'S PAGE 12

GIFTS
(a Christmas playlet approximately five minutes long)

-Mrs. Juania Ogden
Texarkana, Ark.

Mother: "Children, how about looking at this new Christmas catalog that just came?"
Dantel: "Oh, goody! I bet it has a lot of pretty things in it!"
Sharon: "Yes, and I can show mother what I want."
David: "Turn to the bicycles first, Mother."
Mother: "You know, children, that if we think only of ourselves at this season of the year, Old Man Selfishness can take over in our lives and make us very unhappy people as well as disagreeable to others. Now, do you want to be like that?"
Dantel: "I don't want to be like that, Mother."
Sharon: "Neither do I."
Mother: "I know that all of you want to be unselfish and follow the example of Jesus."
Sharon: "Mother, where is Jesus now?"
Dantel: "He isn't a baby now, is He, Mother?"
Mother: "No. He became a grown man and went back to heaven from where He came. You remember the story in the Bible about how wicked men killed Him, don't you?"
Sharon: "I remember that story, Mother."
Dantel: "So do I."
David: "Me too. There are lots of pretty things in this catalog for a baby."
Sharon: "Don't you know that mothers would have been nice to have taken Baby Jesus a present when He was on earth, Mother?"
Mother: "Yes, it would have been wonderful, all right. But, do you know something? We can still give a gift to Jesus here in December 1976."
All the children: "We can?"
Mother: "Yes, we can honor Him with gifts any time we choose. In fact, there is something in the Bible that is most interesting about that very thing. Will you bring me my Bible, Sharon?"
Sharon: "Of course, Mother. Here you are."
Mother: "Let's see. Here it is... Matt. 25:40. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Do you understand this Scripture? That when we do something for others we are really giving a gift to Jesus?"
David: "Do you mean, Mother, that I can give one of my toys to a little boy that doesn't have any, that Jesus would like it just as much as if I handed it to Him?"
Mother: "That's right... and I'm happy to know you understand it, son."

Sharon: "When we took some food over to the Brown's last night, was that the same as giving Jesus a meal?"
Mother: "Yes, I'm proud of all of you! And you know why, I'm sure."
All the children: "Yes, yes, Mother... we know what it means."
Mother: "I'm happy... and I know Jesus must be, too! Here's something you may never have thought about before. You see, children, it's possible to honor Jesus all year long. None of us should wait until Christmas to celebrate the Christmas season. Let's remember that everyday someone may need our help and friendship. What a wonderful world if we treated each other with the same love and friendly concern all through the year as we did at Christmas!"

ON SABBATH AFTERNOON

Christmas is a time of sharing gifts and love with our families. Let us on these Sabbath afternoons in December think of things which we can do with and for the whole family to enjoy in this season. Here are just a few ideas:

Have the whole family bundle up in winter clothes and go for a walk to discover items for a family beauty contest (to be used as the worship center for family worship) such as evergreen branches, pine cones, etc.

Winter is a season when it is hard for the birds who stay here to find food. Select a tree in the backyard—preferably an evergreen—and each member of the family place food on the branches. When you are through with your Christmas tree, put it outside for this purpose and make it a Bird's Christmas Tree.

Secure a book which tells of Christmas in other lands, and then have the whole family gather around for these stories. The singing of Christmas carols from these other lands would be enjoyed.

The Sabbath Visitor December 1950

December 1976

THE BOOK THAT SHOWS THE WAY

by Eugene Lincoln

There are probably few people who enjoy nature more, but who know less about it than I. When I learned of the self-guiding nature trail near our campground in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I said to my two sons, "Boys, this is the thing for us—a short, easy trail where everything is explained.""

At the starting point was a rustic container from which we took a guidebook, which described the points of interest along the way. Each stop on the trail was numbered, and by comparing the numbers with corresponding numbers in the book we could learn about many of the natural features in this area of the park.

Point 2 on the trail was a white rhododendron. Once before, when visiting the park in early June, we had observed its flowers in all of their wild, tangy sweetness. A post numbered "18" stood in the midst of a plant with shiny, sawtooth leaves growing in groups of three. The guidebook identified it as poison ivy, and warned: "Beware of the three shiny leaves!" It informed us that the leaves change their color to a brilliant red in the autumn and added that poison ivy is scarce or absent above three thousand feet altitude in this area.

A pile of stones was the only remains left of a homestead where a family had once lived. In our imagination we could almost see a happy family resting at the end of a day, with fire burning cheerfully in the fireplace.

At Stop 25 the book stated, "This is the last stop. You will return... by following the paved trail ahead."

As we read our Bible that evening we were just scratched—or was it chance?—to read from Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Later as I lay in my sleeping bag, I pondered the significance of David's words in the psalm, and somehow my thoughts kept drifting back to the guidebook we had used on the nature trail. Then it came to me! The Scriptures are a Guidebook for mankind, telling us what to expect along the way and warning us of dangers.

We open the Bible to read, as the Christian's path; later-sometimes years later—we realize that the trails were "rhododendrons" which we did not recognize at the time because the "blossoms" were not evident. In the words of the hymn writer William Cowper:

"His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower."

If we relied more on the Guidebook when trials come to us, we would recognize them as blessings in disguise.

We often observe other Christians whose spiritual roots do not conform to what we consider the accepted norm. But before we judge them, let us ask if the Guidebook does not give an explanation for their being different.

When life seems sour, the Guidebook brings back to us the sweetness of times when our spiritual experience was in the heights. "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him!" (Psalm 34:8).

Sin can look attractive as we encounter it on our path; its appearance changes with the season, making it difficult to identify unless we rely on the Guidebook.

Reading Hebrews 11, we see evidences of others who have traveled the path before us. The fervency of their faith brings warmth to us when the world seems cold and unresponsive to the message of salvation which we proclaim.

And now, at last, in these eventful days we can see the signs all around us that have been foretold in the Guidebook, telling us that "...as we have last stop. It's only a short path ahead to your eternal reward—an eternal home prepared for all who follow the Savior!"

—Eugene Lincoln is editor of the Sabbath Sentinel.
SHANGRI-LA?

SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN!

by Shireen Hurley

"You ready to go fishing?" Old Mr. Cramer beckoned to the vacant-faced boy standing near the door of his room.

"Yeah!" Greg's voice came out with surprising energy and his face became transformed by a radiant smile. His awkward feet began to move him forward in sort of a lurch down the path to the pond.

The Cramers built their own home on the grounds, but pay a small fee monthly for maintenance and utilities. They have promised to give the house to the community so that another elderly couple may live there, as they have, when they are through with it. Other couples enjoy similar privileges and also spend much time with the children. All are content with their lives.

A company store sells them all their necessities for only 10 percent above cost, and simple recreational activities are available along with the nearby Seventh Day Baptist Church with its many services and activities.

This pretty picture may be a reality somewhere at present but it is still only a beautiful dream at Sunshine Mountain in Mississippi.

Ralph Hays stands beside the artesian well that will someday supply water for Sunshine Mountain.

The Sabbath Recorder

December 1976
GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!

The message from the herald angels so many centuries ago has been repeated time and time again. The world was suffering then and welcomed the song, and it is still suffering and still welcomes it...or does it?

Lately we have noticed a tiredness and lack of enthusiasm when the subject of Christmas is brought into the conversation. "I just feel so turned-off," a friend complained, and another said, "I don't think I'll ever be able to get into the mood." "O, well, it's for the children, anyway, isn't it?" or "It's no fun now that the children are gone."

We have many obstacles to overcome when we approach the season in question. There is the ever present specter of commercialism which robs us of the spirit of wonder and awe with its cheapness and gaudiness taking Christmas too much for human makeup to want happiness. A joy spoken of by the angels, so many centuries ago has been repeated time and time again. What do you really want this year for Christmas? I want the great joy of the Lord is my strength. That is on my list for Christmas...and there's more; I want to see small boys in shepherd's costumes watching "over their flocks by night"...little girls in shining robes and tinsel halos singing the glad tidings...Nativity scenes depicting our Saviors birth, and carols sung over and over...and over again. I want surprises and secrets, and families getting together and getting in touch.

Most of all for all of us I want joy...it is ours and has been since God's gift of His Son. It is more than mere light-heartedness which dims at the first sign of trouble. It is the serenity of the spirit which carries us through our lives and keeps within us the heart of a child.

Another wish for Christmas is an "after" Christmas one, and that is that the spirit of joy stays with us for the next 365 days. The spirit of loving and giving, so very strong in us for the season, must stay with us always. Remember that the shepherds had to go back to the monotony of tending the sheep, but they "returned glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." They kept the spirit of Christmas and told everybody what had happened to them. It was such a wondrous tale that all who heard it "wondered" (Luke 2:20).

Our little "angels" must take off the tinsel halos, the shining garments and our little shepherds must doff their costumes, but you may rest assured that the wonder of it will always remain with them. God gives us that wonder and let it become a reality in our lives!

We have a living Christ who is nearer to us than hands or feet. We should feel as near to Him as did those staunch disciples who walked with Him in those days of His ministry. Robert L. Stevenson said "The saints are the sinners who keep on trying," and, we add, they keep the spirit of Christmas and the spirit of Christ "keeps" them. "We are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation" (1 Peter 1:5).

We add to Christmas this year with this thought...the most important question of the day is not "When will the economy become stable?" or "When will we be able to explore the planet Mars?" but it is, "When will we go to Bethlehem?"

KEEP THE "MILL WHEEL" TURNING!

Did you ever think that the flow of cash to Our World Mission keeps the work of our denomination going, just as a steady and strong flow of water turns a mill wheel?

The Council on Ecumenical Affairs would like you to consider this analogy for a minute while they take it one step farther.

There are many concerns of Our World Mission which are the personal concerns of many Seventh Day Baptists, as well-causes and projects worthy of financial support. Take the work of the American Bible Society, for instance. The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is an active participant in the American Bible Society, both as a contributor and recipient of its services. As a denomination we have a commitment to back up this participation with financial support. Sometimes this contribution seems very small in comparison to the work going on. But this financial support is probably larger than the record actually shows, because many Seventh Day Baptists, as individuals, give donations directly.

This is fine. Like a stream going past a mill wheel, the water flows together eventually whether it goes over the wheel or not. But water that trickles off to the side in little rivulets is not doing the job of turning the mill wheel.

There are other aspects of our denomination's work that need support in a way that keeps "the mill working," too. Our work in the Baptist World Alliance is important, and needs to be strengthened. Our financial leadership in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation is vital.

Consider these projects worthy of your support. Then put the full power of that support into the mainstream of OWM.

Keep the contributions flowing! Keep the "mill wheel" turning!
Some of these same concerns were reflected by Archibald Goldie of the Baptist Federation of Canada, reporting on a group conference by mission administrators. He urged increased communication and promotion of Baptist mission activities, so that Baptists will support denominational rather than non-Baptist mission projects.

Ernest K. Bee Jr., moderator of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., was elected chairman of the NABF for the coming year, succeeding Robert C. Campbell, general secretary of American Baptist Churches in the USA, who has served two one-year terms as chairman. Mrs. Dolores Duck, executive director of Woman's Mission Board in the General Association of General Baptists, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, was named vice-chairman, succeeding Floyd W. Harris, a Southern Baptist layman.

The NABF is a voluntary association of nine North American Baptist bodies with a combined membership of more than 19 million believers. Previous chairmen have been V. Carney Hargrove, American Baptist Convention; Duke K. McColl, Southern Baptist Convention; S.S. Hodges, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Inc.; G. K. Zimmerman, North American Baptist Conference; and Campbell.

The two-day meeting in Arlington, a Washington suburb, October 1-2, featured a program of understanding and sharing. A pattern of past years for small sharing sessions by leaders in special interest areas was continued. Discussions this year dealt with church and society, missions administration, services to the churches, disaster preparedness, and the work of executive secretaries.

Dialogue on ecclesiastical and theological similarities and differences gave an added dimension to this year's meetings. C.C. Goen, a Baptist professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, moderated when spokesmen for American Baptists, Canadian Baptists, Seventh Day Baptists and Southern Baptists related the heritage and doctrinal views of their respective groups and submitted to questions from the floor. Other members groups of the fellowship will be heard at next year's session.

In reports of the various sharing sessions, the meeting of executive secretaries expressed hope of "finding ways within the church" to accommodate people with different points of view on the charismatic movement. A group on services to the church for elderly people called for additional aids for churches in evangelism, church growth, and enrollment of absentee members. And a group on disaster preparedness told of establishment of a "manpower bank" under Southern Baptist direction to process men and skills for emergency service at times of natural disaster; the manpower bank is now to be opened for participation by other Baptist bodies.

The next meeting of the general committee was set for October 5-6, 1977, also in the Washington area. Sharing sessions will be held that time on Christian ethics, communication, evangelism and education, missions, and stewardship development, as well as the annual meeting of executive secretaries. [1]

-C.E. Bryant

The Sabbath Recorder

December 1976

THE CHURCH IN ACTION

JAMAICA SUMMER CRUSADES RESULT IN OVER SEVENTY BAPTISMS

Camp is still fulfilling its major contribution to the spiritual life of the young people. The days of our toll and labour to establish camp have been rewarded. Then out of camp the idea of Summer Evangelistic Project. Many of the campers are talented high school students, college students, and graduates and some of average educational standard. The idea was to utilize these young people's talents during the summer holidays by training them in Evangelism and Christian Education, and divide them into teams and send them to a number of our churches, upon the churches' request, to conduct Vacation Bible School and Evangelistic Meetings. We have embarked on this project for the past four years, and the Lord has been really blessing our efforts.

This year, with over thirty young people involved, the results from these summer Crusades have been heart warming. Over seventy persons have been baptized so far. The largest number is from Higgin Town where thirty-two were baptized at one baptism. Carlton Ferguson has been serving there as student pastor and has been doing a marvelous job. Crusades were held at Fort Hill, Coker, Fort Roads, Jackson Town, Luna, Deeside, Waterford, Bowensville, Barrett Town and Lotterys. [1]

-Joe A. Samuel

ERNEST K. BEE ELECTED TO HEAD BAPTIST GROUP

ARLINGTON, VA.—More than fifty representatives of seven North American Baptist denominations heard reports of continued growth in both membership numbers and stewardship response when they gathered here for annual meetings of the general committee of the North American Baptist Fellowship (NABF).

They also heard, however, expressions of concern on three developments that might hamper the growth pattern.

Carl W. Tiller, secretary of the NABF and an associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, viewed as divisive threats "the increasing pull that church growth missions organizations have upon our people and their purses," the growth of the charismatic movement, and the appeal of "the Unification Church."" Seemingly unaware that our own church, the gospel church, is still here and by its actions affecting the spiritual life of our people.

Many Baptist people, Tiller reported, are responding to "the expensive advertising and promotional efforts" of faith missions, famine relief organizations and disaster relief bodies, "seemingly unaware that our own Baptist denominational bodies are doing an effective work toward accomplishing the same objectives."

Tiller said that the neo-Pente­costal or charismatic movement "often unites its adherents across denominational lines and often divides people in the local church." The Unification Church, he said, appeals to youth "with its high powered promotion, 'surface' statements that closely resemble the sayings of Jesus, and its hidden bundle of false doctrines that are taught the unsuspecting."
ELDER MEMBERS HONORED AT ALFRED

ALFRED, N.Y.—“Wisdom Sabbath” was celebrated Oct. 2 at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church when 50-year members and those more than 40 years old were honored in a service of appreciation for their many years of faithful service, patience, labor, love and devotion to the church community.

Ogareta Seager and Georgia Grecen, who were among the 14 honored members present, took an active part in the service. United with them were Janette Rodgers and Burton Crandall also assisting the pastor, Rev. Russell Jones.

As their part in the service, the children in the congregation presented “love gifts” a corsage or bouquet, to the eight members with 50 years or more of service to the church and six members who have reached their 80th birthday.

Among those attending as 50-year members were Mabel Reynolds, Fredora Jones, Aloha Peck, Addison Sheldon, Ethel Wilcox, John Jacob, Prentice Stillman and Eugene Reynolds. Members in attendance having reached their 80th birthday were: M. Elizabeth Kanyon, Georgia Grecen, Eva Post, Lois Reid, Ogareta Seager and Evaline St. John.

Those honored who were unable to attend were: Hannah Burdick, Olive Watson, Ethelyn Place, Phoe Poian, Ellen Sutton, Ruth Brooks, Frances Lorz, Dighton Burdick, Edward Saunders, Robert Place, Irving Jones, Raymond Witter, Philip Post, Charles Post, Mildred Yars, Clifford Potter, Elsie Potter, Gladys Green, Doris Norwood, Agnes Bond, and Arthur Burdick.

Following the church service, a reception was held at the Parish House where the senior members were greeted by the congregation. Agnes Bond and Doris Norwood, who were unable to attend the church service, arrived at the reception and were greeted joyfully by everyone. As Doris Norwood entered, the group sang: “Happy Birthday to You, for she celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 6 - centennial birthday in our bicentennial year, good reason for a celebration!”

Our church is blessed with a multitudes of members who have contributed their knowledge and wisdom down through the generations. To all of you, please know that we do appreciate you and we love you.!
were held with the theme “God’s Love Is Jesus.” We had an average attendance of 19. Following VBS we held a mini retreat in Glen Falls with the theme “Label God Able.” There were three teens and seven juniors in attendance. The retreat ended with the Sabbath School gathered at the church and the retreaters conducted the morning worship service together. We were blessed while working with our SCSC group and all the children participating in the activities.

On June 12 the Scheunetten church voted to license David Taylor and this was done on July 3. A baptismal service was also held at this time.

On July 31 we enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Beverly Kilts, clerk Pre-Con.

On September 3 another baptismal service was held. A time of prayer and sharing is now being led by Margaret Taylor for the ladies. We praise the Lord for His many blessings and for His guidance. □

-Mrs. Beverly Kilts, clerk

-SUNSHINE-STATE NEWS

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—Our summer church attendance was noticeably higher this year. Tradition­ally, we spent our last two weeks of the summer months with our winter people gone and many of the other families left or visiting family members in the North.

Our congregation was represented at Southeastern Association and at the “Get a Room” Conference in Virginia. Members, movies, slides, and reports of these two events gave the rest of us a sense of what we were missing. During Pastor Van Horn’s absence, Alan Crouch conducted the services. Matthew Jacob and Susan Riley attended Camp Joy; Mark Jacob attended Youth Pre-Con.

The assistant superintendent of our Sabbath School, Otis Lastinger, has been called upon with serious injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. We continue to pray for his recovery. His faith and attitude throughout this ordeals inspire us as well as patients and staff at the hospital.

Two new Sabbath School classes have been started this fall. Maity Mcairy teaches the Primary class and Alan Crouch teaches a young adult class.

These are in addition to a primary, a youth, and two adult classes already meeting.

The Church Aid is busy fund­raising with rummage sales and potato dinners. These funds go toward projects such as the current remodeling in the parsonage. The Social Hall has undergone improvements recently. The new roof has been completed. Fresh paint and new drapes brighten the interior. □

-Grace P. Matthews

SUNSHINE-STATE NEWS

SILHO, N.J.—Two from South Jersey joined singers from all over the state in presenting the musical “If My People” on July 4 in an open field arena around Bordentown, N.J.

This musical was written by Jimmy and Carol Owens and he directed the 125 voice choir. Stephen Davis of our church and Richard Hinchman of Hancock’s Bridge sang in the bass section.

A “Birthday Church Party” with many from the community attending was held in July. Twelve tables representing the months of the year held birthday cakes as center pieces, each beautifully decorated in the theme of the month. There was a large and festive parade of these cakes following a salad buffet supper. The evening was then spent in singing an anniversary sing-along. Gifts were given to Pastor and Mrs. Bond by Miss Florence Bowden in behalf of the church. Our Sunday youth worker, Gordon Watson, who served us so well, was presented with a love gift by Pastor Bond.

The opening meeting of our Ladies Benevolent Society was well attended and held with the theme “The Kitchen Is the Hub of the Home” was introduced. A peek into the kitchen was provided by members who will be presenting them. Each monthly meeting will focus on a different aspect of the kitchen and its function as hub of the home. Barbara Davis led the meeting, and showed how her own mother fit this picture by her devotion and provision for her family. Two volunteers were installed by Margaret Bond; Cathy Dixon as president and Donna Bond as secretary. These volunteers installed in June were: Jan Bond as first vice-president, Florence Bowden, second vice-president, and College Hinchman secretary, Billie Dickinson the key­worker.

Church reports were given and the evening closed in fellowship around an abundant table of apple crisp and ice cream. □

-Katherine F. Davis

PLAINSFIELD PREPARES FOR ANNUAL VBS

PLAINSFIELD, N.J.—After fifteen pastorests months, we were so happy to have our youth and adults be­ginning our plans for the upcoming church year. Our church and our fellow church­members, such as Rev. Socrates Thompson of New Jersey, were so happy to receive three new members into our church. They concluded the meeting by challenging us to be on fire with the Holy Spirit in order to share our faith and thus to grow. This was done; and to do it WHEN He wants it. □

-Rev. and Mrs. L. Sawi Thanga and their three beautiful children: Henry, Robert, and Helen. The Thangas live in Rangono, Bur­na, founded rev. Thanga serves as the general secretary of the Burma SCSC Conference. Let us continue to support them with our prayers as they lead us out in the Lord’s work in Burma.

The Sabbath Recorder

BUSY YEAR FOR PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH

HEBRON, PA.—The life of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hebron is evidenced by its activities of the past year. Regular attendance at church and Sabbath School has been maintained. Giving has increased. Storm windows for the parsonage of Church Hill have been replaced with new, and all the cracked or broken windows have been repaired. It has been put to a railing on the front porch steps of the parsonage, and to look into the possibilities of building a much­needed new back porch at the parsonage. It was voted to have a load of crushed rock hauled into the parsonage driveway.

This church conducted a consider­able sum of money toward the pastor’s new car which the two churches (Little Genesee and Hebron) provided for the pastor at the beginning of 1976.

Much credit is due for the loving care Edith Burdick (81 years young) spent in singing and tributes and service.

On September 30 the New Jersey workshop at Shiloh, September 20-26. The next New Jersey workshop at Shiloh, September 20-26. And a mini retreat in Glens Falls, October 15-16.
PAINTING PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT-ELECT AND MRS. CARTER

Mrs. Marietta Fansler, a member of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church, recently had the honor of presenting her painting "In God We Trust" to Mrs. Rosalyn Carter in a ceremony held in Plains, Georgia. Mrs. Fansler describes her experience for Recorder readers: "Jimmy who?! I asked my sister, Lucy Harris. 'Jimmy Carter! He's been again and running for President of the United States.'

I began to read everything I could find about this man, then I prayed for guidance as to how I could help him. The idea came quickly, and I began to work. The pencil sketch, the canvas stretched and on the easel, and after some twenty-five hours of work my painting "In God We Trust" was complete. I believe that God's hand and my excitement showed in every stroke of the brush.

It was in July when we started going through channels to see our dream come true. A showing of the painting was requested for a Senator's home. It was then displayed at the Wilkinson Mall and that was the day of Rosalyn Carter's visit. During her visit it was presented to her and she requested that we make an appointment and bring it to Plains.

Our entire family went to Plains on October 3. We arrived there in time for Sunday School at the Plains Baptist Church. Bob introduced himself to Jimmy Carter and reminded him that we had brought the painting. Governor Carter said, "Oh, is that the one with Christ's hands holding the world?" Bob excitedly replied that it was. And so the painting was presented.

Despite the unfamiliarity, the painting hung in the White House or in Plains, the painting reveals the work of God, a love, and the story of a country that still gets excited about God's plans for the future.

-Marietta Fansler

HELEN WAITE HONORED FOR SERVICE

After over forty-one years of dedicated service Mrs. James G. (Helen) Waite retired the first of October as secretary in the Missionary Board office. She began her ministry when the late Rev. William L. Burdick was secretary and continued almost without a break since 1929.

In recognition of her devoted service a Resolution was voted by the Board of Managers of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society at their quarterly meeting at the Pawtucket SDB Church, October 31:

Be it resolved that the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board of Managers, in session October 31, 1976, express their very great appreciation to Mrs. James G. Waite for her many years of faithful service beginning in the office of the corresponding secretary of the society, the late Rev. William L. Burdick, and continuing in the office of the executive vice-president, for a period of over forty-one years. Helen often served far beyond the stated hours of service.

Be it further resolved that this labor of love in past years and the expectation of continuing interest and services as a member of the Board of Managers will find reward in the respect, prayers, and regards of fellow members and also in the final commendation of our Lord, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Following the board meeting an informal reception was held for Helen with many members of her family present.

News Notes

- Weekly Bible studies are being held in Randle, Washington, in addition to the regular monthly worship service.
- The fall meeting of the Pacific Coast Association was held at the Los Angeles church. A combined choir conducted by Miss Lois Wells presented the 'Aleluia' by Gaither. An annual budget of $6,900 was adopted.
- By CHURCH GROWTH we mean ALL that is involved in bringing men and women who do not have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ into fellowship with Him and responsible church membership.
- Friendly Guest.
- Birthday greetings to Mrs. Allie H. Lewis of the Battle Creek, Michigan church. Mrs. Lewis recently celebrated her 93rd birthday.
- Pastor Elmo F. Randolph of the Boulder, CO, SDB Church recently conducted a Stop Smoking Retreat at Camp Paul Hummel. The retreat was co-sponsored by the Boulder branch of the American Cancer Society.
- New officers for the Mid-Continent Association are: President, Ed Hansen of Denver; President-Elect, John Ryschon of North Loup; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Kent Wheeler of Nortonville.
- According to Christianity Today, a poll conducted by George Gallup reveals that 50 million Americans say they have been "born again." In reply to one who had been born "once at most," the magazine replied: "Once-born men die twice, twice-born men die once.
- Recent guest speakers at the North Jersey SDB Church include: Dr. Kenneth E. Smith, Women's Society President Mrs. Myrna Cox, and Dean Herbert E. Saunders.
- Menzo Fuller writes, "Mr. Mhuna and I went to Thomas to assist with the supervising building of the kiln (for brick making) and cutting wood to fire the kiln. They have some 30,000 bricks stacked so far (for the new Medical Center in Thomas)."
- Seventh Day Baptists are meeting Friday evenings at 7:30 at the First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin, in Madison, Wis.

DENOMINATIONAL DATALINE

December 11
- Dr. K. D. Hurley
- Dean Herbert Saunders
- Church Organization
- Columbus, Ohio

December 26-28
- Commission Sessions
- Plainfield, N.J.

January 2-8, 1977
- SDB Week of Prayer

January 9, 1977
- Memorial Fund Trustees
- Plainfield, N.J.

January 16
- American Sabbath Tract Society
- Shiloh, N.J.

Board of Christian Education
- Alfred, N.Y.

January 30, 1977
- Missionary Society
- Westerly, R.I.

December 1976
God's love is exclusive. He requires our allegiance. God has declared Himself a judge. No one who cannot accept divided loyalties or a shared allegiance. "He who is not for Me is against Me." Love that went all the way to Calvary cannot be satisfied with anything less. "His love is a principle. He cares for people, but all of us are committed to the total and permanent removal of sin from His universe.

Light is warm, and that requires the eradication of sin. "His Spirit was not only His death that was His Spirit who is not the word of warmth, but the voice of God, descend upon my heart; "And the words and expressions of love. Caring about everyone, using endearing terms. The language includes sacrifice. He has loved us before we knew and were still in the church. The baptism of the heaven-descended Christlike as a matter of principle and loveless. Far better to show warmth and love than to act through duty than not to act.

The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment. ‘Love one another as He loved us. To "loving one another as He loved us."" The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment, an order, that we should love, ‘As He has loved us." Why a commandment? Because we have been changed into the fullness of His nature and its nature, it won't come naturally. We may have to love as a duty, as obedience to His command. But far better act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

My heart an altar, and Thy love the

POST--Grenier was born June 11, 1899 in Good Hope, W.Va., and passed away October 21, 1976, in Charleston, W.Va., following a brief illness. Mr. Post was an honorary alumnus of West Virginia University and a past president of the college. He was a graduate of Davisville High School and a member of the class of 1919. He was a past president of the sale of the United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Knobling of Pythias Memorial Garden in Salem.

Simplified word is hard to love. words, although words and expressions of love. Caring for people, everyone, using endearing terms. The language includes sacrifice. He has loved us before we knew and were still in the church. The baptism of the heaven-descended Christlike as a matter of principle and loveless. Far better to show warmth and love than to act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment, an order, that we should love, ‘As He has loved us." Why a commandment? Because we have been changed into the fullness of His nature and its nature, it won't come naturally. We may have to love as a duty, as obedience to His command. But far better act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

My heart an altar, and Thy love

POST--Grenier was born June 11, 1899 in Good Hope, W.Va., and passed away October 21, 1976, in Charleston, W.Va., following a brief illness. Mr. Post was an honorary alumnus of West Virginia University and a past president of the college. He was a graduate of Davisville High School and a member of the class of 1919. He was a past president of the sale of the United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Knobling of Pythias Memorial Garden in Salem.

Simplified word is hard to love. words, although words and expressions of love. Caring for people, everyone, using endearing terms. The language includes sacrifice. He has loved us before we knew and were still in the church. The baptism of the heaven-descended Christlike as a matter of principle and loveless. Far better to show warmth and love than to act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment, an order, that we should love, ‘As He has loved us." Why a commandment? Because we have been changed into the fullness of His nature and its nature, it won't come naturally. We may have to love as a duty, as obedience to His command. But far better act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

My heart an altar, and Thy love

POST--Grenier was born June 11, 1899 in Good Hope, W.Va., and passed away October 21, 1976, in Charleston, W.Va., following a brief illness. Mr. Post was an honorary alumnus of West Virginia University and a past president of the college. He was a graduate of Davisville High School and a member of the class of 1919. He was a past president of the sale of the United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Knobling of Pythias Memorial Garden in Salem.

Simplified word is hard to love. words, although words and expressions of love. Caring for people, everyone, using endearing terms. The language includes sacrifice. He has loved us before we knew and were still in the church. The baptism of the heaven-descended Christlike as a matter of principle and loveless. Far better to show warmth and love than to act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment, an order, that we should love, ‘As He has loved us." Why a commandment? Because we have been changed into the fullness of His nature and its nature, it won't come naturally. We may have to love as a duty, as obedience to His command. But far better act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

My heart an altar, and Thy love

POST--Grenier was born June 11, 1899 in Good Hope, W.Va., and passed away October 21, 1976, in Charleston, W.Va., following a brief illness. Mr. Post was an honorary alumnus of West Virginia University and a past president of the college. He was a graduate of Davisville High School and a member of the class of 1919. He was a past president of the sale of the United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Knobling of Pythias Memorial Garden in Salem.

Simplified word is hard to love. words, although words and expressions of love. Caring for people, everyone, using endearing terms. The language includes sacrifice. He has loved us before we knew and were still in the church. The baptism of the heaven-descended Christlike as a matter of principle and loveless. Far better to show warmth and love than to act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

The answer to the problems of the church and of the community and of the world is a new commandment, an order, that we should love, ‘As He has loved us." Why a commandment? Because we have been changed into the fullness of His nature and its nature, it won't come naturally. We may have to love as a duty, as obedience to His command. But far better act through duty than not to act. Far better to show warmth and love through obedience, than to be cold and loveless.

My heart an altar, and Thy love

POST--Grenier was born June 11, 1899 in Good Hope, W.Va., and passed away October 21, 1976, in Charleston, W.Va., following a brief illness. Mr. Post was an honorary alumnus of West Virginia University and a past president of the college. He was a graduate of Davisville High School and a member of the class of 1919. He was a past president of the sale of the United Methodist Church. Interment was in the Knobling of Pythias Memorial Garden in Salem.
In Joyful Response... 
Sound The Trumpets!

Rejoice!

As Seventh Day Baptists we can be both thankful and glad during this year-end holiday season.

We have responded to the challenge of Commitment to Growth by giving of our time, talent, and treasure, perhaps more generously than ever before.

+ We will surely oversubscribe the OWM budget for 1976 by at least 110 percent. That will assure the underwriting of the first phases of our growth plan.

+ We almost succeeded in meeting the basic minimum budgetary requirements in ten months.

HALLELUJAH!!

The record shows (see the enclosed summary of budget receipts for October 1976) that TEN churches have already passed their suggested goals for the year. PRAISES BE! Those churches are to be highly commended. With a little extra effort, they can help assure raising the budget 110 percent.

The record also shows that TWELVE churches have almost reached their suggested goals! THANK THE LORD! They are to be congratulated and encouraged to make the necessary extra effort to go over the top - 110 percent.

All other churches, groups, and individuals are earnestly urged to do whatever is necessary to assure reaching our 110 percent goal by the end of December.

In doing for others - in this special monetary way - we do for ourselves!

We find that, in our Christian philanthropic efforts, we benefit ourselves, our churches, and our denominational programs.

* Happiness is receiving and giving! *

("It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35)

We find that, by making charitable contributions to such things as Bible distribution, reconstruction at times of disaster, relief for the destitute, and for missionary endeavors, we actually strengthen ourselves.

* We can never outgive God! *

("God so loved the world..." - John 3:16)

In Joyful Response... We Give!

by Dr. K. D. Hurley

OUR WORLD MISSION

OUR GOAL IS IN SIGHT!

If we keep moving as fast until December 31 as we have moved in ten months, we will achieve 110% of OWM resources and assure our Commitment to Growth plan!

OWM BUDGET RECEIPTS FOR OCTOBER 1976

---

The following ten churches reached their OWM goal in ten months. They are to be highly commended for meeting the challenge!

- ADAMS CENTER, NEW YORK
- BERLIN, NEW YORK
- DODGE CENTER, MINN.
- HOUSTON, TEXAS
- IRVINGTON, NEW JERSEY
- LITTLE GENESEE, NEW YORK
- NORTH JERSEY, NEW JERSEY
- NORTH LOUP, NEBRASKA
- SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK
- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

---

The Sabbath Recorder

December 1976
Blue laws forbidding businesses to operate on Sunday have appeared on the books in every state in the United States, but in recent decades they have become increasingly controversial. Jews and Seventh-day Adventists have been among the severest critics, arguing that blue laws violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in which Congress is forbidden to make laws "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." They claim that the practice places an undue burden on those who observe Saturday, not Sunday, as their day of worship. Equally vocal in their opposition have been secularists who do not want any day set aside for religious purposes.

In an article entitled "The Lord's Day and Natural Resources" (May 7, 1976, issue), the editor of this magazine argued that the developing natural-resources crisis requires prompt action. He proposed that all businesses in the nation be closed one day a week and cited Sunday as the logical day for this. The suggestion was based on natural law and the common good of humanity, as it binds them in a way we are not bound. For Quiet Saturdays, says the editor, we could keep Sunday as our sabbath; whatever constitutional rights have been violated. Several of these cases (e.g., Parker Seal Co. v. Cummins) are due to be heard this term by the Supreme Court of the United States, and there is good reason to believe that the complainants will win.

In 1961 the Supreme Court ruled that "insuring the public welfare through a common day of rest is a legitimate interest of government." This opens the door to legislation closing all businesses on one day of the week. Claims that such laws would violate church-state separation might therefore be hard to prove before the highest court of the land.

Conservation of dwindling resources is a valid reason for agreeing on a certain day for shutting down all business operations. Even though the world has vast underdeveloped sources of energy, there is a shortage of the kind of fuel that keeps buildings warm, provides electric power, and makes possible the operation of industry. To close down virtually all energy-consuming business operations one day a week would be a useful step. The sticky point is the question of which day; no decision would please everyone.

We propose that Saturday be set aside as the day of rest for all people. Those who choose to join in corporate worship of God that day could do so. Others could spend the time in their own way.*

Jews and other Sabbatharians would be well served by this decision. For Protestants and Catholics it should prove no theological hardship: apart from the fact that our Lord rose from the dead on the first day of the week, there is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day.* In the interest of the nation, Protestant and Catholic churches could change their worship services from Sunday to Saturday. Or we could keep Sunday as our sabbath; whatever inconvenience we suffered would be a token of our good will toward a minority whose sensitivities we respect and whose legalistic attachment to Saturday as the sabbath binds them in a way we are not bound.

Saturday closing could not possibly be construed as a religious ploy. It would provide no church-state problem. It would serve the larger interests of humanity. Responsible leaders should discuss the possibility. *Sabbath Recorder Emphasis

Support needed for Bible Society

When people want a Bible, they know they can get one from the American Bible Society. It is indeed interesting to note that in this age of diverse ideologies, cultures, and religions, interest in the Word of God remains strong and long. Since 1816 the American Bible Society has existed to translate, publish and distribute the Bible all across America. The society has met the need of this publishing in various editions so all may understand and at prices all can afford.

There is a close relationship between the society and the various Christian denominations. Many churches include some support for the society in the annual budget. For many years Seventh Day Baptists have had a part in this ministry. In the past we have observed Bible Sabbath once a year at which time a special offering was received for this work. Also many of our people are regular contributors to the work of the society through the Bible-A-Month plan or some other program.

In order to encourage broader support for Bible Society work and also to improve our reporting we may now designate funds through our World Mission.

We urge all Seventh Day Baptists to support, on a regular basis, the nondenominational work of the American Bible Society. You may designate your gift "ABS" and give through your local church or mail directly to Gordon L. Sanford, Our World Mission Treasurier, Little Cenese, N.Y. 14754.

If you would like more information or a current ABS catalog, please write to the Editor, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061. Let us strive to double our giving to the Bible Society in 1977 and join hands with other Christians as we work together, making God’s Word available to all.

COURT VICTORY FOR SABBATHKEEPERS

We have followed closely the test case Parker Seal v. Cummins which deals with the rights of employees to observe a day of rest other than Sunday. We are indebted to Stan L. Haste, associate director in charge of Denominational Services of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for the following report. Both Mr. Haste and Senator Jennings Randolph communicated to the court decision the day it was issued. Mrs. Haste writes.

In an unusual 4-4 tie vote, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that employers may not fire or refuse to hire persons whose religious beliefs require them to refrain from working on Saturdays.

The tie vote resulted from the abstention of Justice John Paul Stevens. Although the court’s junior member would not reveal his reasons for declining to participate in the decision, the Washington Post reported here that Stevens’ former law firm represented the parent company of the Parker Seal Co., of Berea, Ky., the employer involved in the controversy.

December 1976

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BIBLE SOCIETY

When people want a Bible, they know they can get one from the American Bible Society. It is indeed interesting to note that in this age of diverse ideologies, cultures, and religions, interest in the Word of God remains strong and long. Since 1816 the American Bible Society has existed to translate, publish and distribute the Bible all across America. The society has met the need of this publishing in various editions so all may understand and at prices all can afford.

There is a close relationship between the society and the various Christian denominations. Many churches include some support for the society in the annual budget. For many years Seventh Day Baptists have had a part in this ministry. In the past we have observed Bible Sabbath once a year at which time a special offering was received for this work. Also many of our people are regular contributors to the work of the society through the Bible-A-Month plan or some other program.

In order to encourage broader support for Bible Society work and also to improve our reporting we may now designate funds through our World Mission.

We urge all Seventh Day Baptists to support, on a regular basis, the nondenominational work of the American Bible Society. You may designate your gift "ABS" and give through your local church or mail directly to Gordon L. Sanford, Our World Mission Treasurier, Little Cenese, N.Y. 14754.

If you would like more information or a current ABS catalog, please write to the Editor, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061. Let us strive to double our giving to the Bible Society in 1977 and join hands with other Christians as we work together, making God’s Word available to all.

COURT VICTORY FOR SABBATHKEEPERS

We have followed closely the test case Parker Seal v. Cummins which deals with the rights of employees to observe a day of rest other than Sunday. We are indebted to Stan L. Haste, associate director in charge of Denominational Services of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for the following report. Both Mr. Haste and Senator Jennings Randolph communicated to the court decision the day it was issued. Mrs. Haste writes.

In an unusual 4-4 tie vote, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that employers may not fire or refuse to hire persons whose religious beliefs require them to refrain from working on Saturdays.

The tie vote resulted from the abstention of Justice John Paul Stevens. Although the court’s junior member would not reveal his reasons for declining to participate in the decision, the Washington Post reported here that Stevens’ former law firm represented the parent company of the Parker Seal Co., of Berea, Ky., the employer involved in the controversy.

December 1976

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR BIBLE SOCIETY

When people want a Bible, they know they can get one from the American Bible Society. It is indeed interesting to note that in this age of diverse ideologies, cultures, and religions, interest in the Word of God remains strong and long. Since 1816 the American Bible Society has existed to translate, publish and distribute the Bible all across America. The society has met the need of this publishing in various editions so all may understand and at prices all can afford.

There is a close relationship between the society and the various Christian denominations. Many churches include some support for the society in the annual budget. For many years Seventh Day Baptists have had a part in this ministry. In the past we have observed Bible Sabbath once a year at which time a special offering was received for this work. Also many of our people are regular contributors to the work of the society through the Bible-A-Month plan or some other program.

In order to encourage broader support for Bible Society work and also to improve our reporting we may now designate funds through our World Mission.

We urge all Seventh Day Baptists to support, on a regular basis, the nondenominational work of the American Bible Society. You may designate your gift "ABS" and give through your local church or mail directly to Gordon L. Sanford, Our World Mission Treasurier, Little Cenese, N.Y. 14754.

If you would like more information or a current ABS catalog, please write to the Editor, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061. Let us strive to double our giving to the Bible Society in 1977 and join hands with other Christians as we work together, making God’s Word available to all.

COURT VICTORY FOR SABBATHKEEPERS

We have followed closely the test case Parker Seal v. Cummins which deals with the rights of employees to observe a day of rest other than Sunday. We are indebted to Stan L. Haste, associate director in charge of Denominational Services of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for the following report. Both Mr. Haste and Senator Jennings Randolph communicated to the court decision the day it was issued. Mrs. Haste writes.

In an unusual 4-4 tie vote, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that employers may not fire or refuse to hire persons whose religious beliefs require them to refrain from working on Saturdays.

The tie vote resulted from the abstention of Justice John Paul Stevens. Although the court’s junior member would not reveal his reasons for declining to participate in the decision, the Washington Post reported here that Stevens’ former law firm represented the parent company of the Parker Seal Co., of Berea, Ky., the employer involved in the controversy.

December 1976
From the Comfort of Your Home...

Study the Bible from the comfort of your home...
We are happy to offer a tuition-free six-lesson home Bible course GUIDE to Bible understanding

Lesson Titles
The Hope of Humanity
Our Lord and Savior
God's Revelation
God's Eternal Gift
Liberty in Christ
Oneness in Christ

Enroll today – send for enrollment cards to share with others. Write to:

GUIDE
P.O. Box 868
Plainfield, N.J. 07061