FROM THE DESK OF
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
K. D. HURLEY

"The Impossible
-A Little Longer"

"Faith and commitment are essen-
tial to the survival and growth of the Seventh Day Baptist
omination!"

That is one of the preliminary
clusions reached by the Task
ce of General Conference to study the effectiveness
ominal structure and procedure.

Almost without exception the
pondents to the Task Force's
latas and questionnaire of Oc-er 10, 1974 reply, "Amen. We
ee wholeheartedly!"

I am pleased by both the quantity
and the quality of replies. They
ly represent a cross section of
omination: boards, agencies,
urches and individuals.

A few universal reactions (like
one mentioned above) seem to
be emerging. They can be cate-
gorized, so far, under four head-
gs:

1. Frustration and dissapoin-
tment with lack of growth — even
after years of study and talk about
it.

2. A feeling that most any struc-
ture could serve the denomination
effectively, if the people "had a
mind" to work altogether.

3. The belief that a change of
attitude is imperative.

4. A sense of need for increasingly
strong pastoral leadership.

In dramatic terms, one long time
nant in denominational affairs
presses these apparently almost
iversal feelings thusly:

"After studying your resume, I
seize that my frustrations, assume-
tions, and attempts for resolutions
of twenty-five years ago prevail in
the minds of some today. If that is
ture, I still have fellowship with
them in their search for solutions.

It would seem that twenty-five
or more, of years of experience in
which we have freely attempted to
solve the problems of declining
ability by changing organizational
structures and having little to
show for it, would sell us some-
thing . . . ."

"It is my observation that the
basic reason for our declination is
our complacent attitude toward
ourselves. Seventh Day Baptists,
for the most part, are satisfied with
the status quo. There is little desire
(motivation) to share our Christ-
ian faith. The philosophical cliche,
"There is no hope for a sated
man," is apropos . . . .

"The task of developing a desire
(motivation) to be emissaries of
the gospel, including the Sabbath,
in men, women, and children who
sit in the pews of our churches is
an equivalent to one of air-condi-
ting hell. Yet, we ought not lose
hearts. The Marines have a motto,
which, in effect, states: 'The diffi-
cult we do immediately. The im-
possible takes a little longer.'

"If some denominational body
or individual would come up with
a program which would inspire lay-
men to be personal workers, then
members of statistics (the monitor
denominational health) would
rise more abruptly than they have
descended since the turn of the
century. Past and present denomi-
national components (Commission,
Planning Committee, boards and
other agencies) have not provided
the necessary motivation. I do not
imply that they cannot do it, with
or without change in their intra-
denominational relationships. I
only add my voice, with others, to
the statistics which show that it
has not been done during the past
twenty-five years . . . ."

"God help us to change our
course, or may He have mercy on
our souls if we don't."

The writer of these words inden-
tifies himself as a person with a
natural inclination to be identified
with organizations that are expand-
ing in membership and programs.

Most of us, I feel sure, fall into that
category.

A new year provides us with
new opportunities for new begin-
nings. Even before the Task Force
completes its work and before
General Conference officially con-
siders recommendations, we all
can initiate the remedial action
ecessary for denominational growth and
development — a renewed dedic-
tion to Christ and His Cause.

Out of such commitment will
come an enthusiastic, positive at-
titude: a basic ingredient for suc-
cess. One respondent summed it
up in these words: "Faith can even
overcome the anxiety that is mani-
festing itself at the present time.
Some of us will plant, and others
may do the watering, but only God
can give the increase!"

With such assurance even "the
impossible" will be achieved!

—Book of Ruth
The Recorder has always been worth reading and yet is improving. I was surprised and pleased to read “The Staff of Life” in the December issue. Of course, “Man shall not live by bread alone,” but he does live partly by bread. There is an old Scotch saying: “The whiter the bread, the sooner you’re dead.” It is also true that the more our beliefs are demoralized and despiritualized, the worse our character becomes. We live in an age of too many additives and too many subtractives, affecting our air, water, soil, food, government and opinions.

—Margaret E. La Mont

Abuse of Drug Alcohol

“Dad drinks; Mom drinks; why shouldn’t I?” is becoming the rationalization for the serious drinking problems of over one million American young people between the ages of 12 and 17. We, as Christians, need to be concerned and aware of the increasing drinking problem of adults as well as teen-agers. As we become aware of the problem, we need to look into the cause and contributing factors and then try, in our own way as individuals or as groups, to suggest some solutions and act on them.

The favorite topic of discussion in much of our communications media today is the misuse of drugs. But the most missed drug—alcohol—is often left out of these discussions. One of the greatest obstacles to surpass in getting at the root of the problem is to get people to admit that alcohol is a drug and needs to be treated as such.

Drinking has become more socially acceptable among adults as well as teen-agers. How many times have you been scoffed at for drinking ginger ale?... or has a teenager been considered an outcast for not joining in? Do you remember when you were considered an outcast when you didn’t wear knee pants? The difference in the peer pressure of today and that of the “old days” is that it has developed from physical to moral attitudes. As long as we can be strong in our own convictions we can have a great influence on those around us without having to say much to them. We can show, by our example, that one can have a very enjoyable time at a party without getting drunk and we can keep on enjoying it the next day because we can remember what happened, without a headache.

Parents sometimes are a scapegoat for the blame of teen-age drinking problems. Parents are more tolerant of their children’s drinking because they are relieved not to have them “on drugs.” Here again is the failure to admit that alcohol is a drug. Since anyone under eighteen cannot purchase alcoholic beverages, they must be able to get it from somewhere. Parents, have you checked your wine cellar lately to see if any is missing? Parents, themselves, many times set a bad example without really thinking how it may be understood by their children. They are also becoming less involved with the maturation of their children—relying more on schools and other groups to take care of the guidance of their children’s lives.

We’ve been pretty hard on the parents. They are not the only ones that need to become aware and act!! How many beer commercials have you seen recently with a famous sports figure as its star? There has been a noticed difference in the attitude about smoking since cigarettes are no longer advertised on television. Let’s join the drive to ban the advertising of alcoholic beverages on T.V. We certainly can’t go back to prohibition, but we can do something to prevent alcohol from being presented appealingly to the general public. Write to your local T.V. station and let them know you are concerned. We might also join the drive to produce some anti-drinking commercials to be shown. Our young children are so impressionable, and we need to be concerned about what they are learning from T.V.

Since our young people are impressionable, let’s start with them. Help them find something meaningful to do or be, and some place to go, so that they do not feel they have to drink to be part of the crowd. Let’s show them we love them and really do care where they are and what they are doing.

Mrs. Ronald Ellis, mother of three young children, actively serves the Alfred Station Church and the SD8 Board of Christian Education’s Life Ventures Committee. She also teaches high school math on a part-time basis at Alfred Area Central School. For several years she chaired the board’s Youth Committee.
MY RESPONSIBILITY TO FREEDOM

By Elaine Rymer

I have a responsibility to freedom. It begins in myself. I am just one, but because I am one I have a direct influence on those about me, either for good or for evil.

My responsibility to freedom includes having an understanding of the civilization I have inherited. Our country was developed by free individuals who placed spiritual values first and made their own decisions in economic affairs with the only limitation being the Ten Commandments. The greatness of America has come from the three fundamentals of our way of life—

1) Faith in God
2) Constitutional government,
3) Private enterprise.

Because I have a responsibility to freedom, I must also recognize that there are enemies of freedom. One of these enemies of freedom is immorality. National disintegration has always followed moral decay. It is frightening to compare ourselves in this generation with those who have fallen to tyranny—for at this time the signs of weakness are many.

I cannot sleep on as a silent American, saying nothing, thinking nothing, doing nothing, as though the problems of this nation will vanish away.

What can I do?

1) I must be honest at all times and do what is right—simply because it is right.
2) I must realize the importance of faith in God and take advantage of every opportunity which will strengthen that faith.
   Men cannot be free unless they are controlled from within, and I know that this faith is the most effective means for controlling people from within.
3) I must gain leadership qualities, which means that I must be willing when called upon, and eager to seek ways in which I can increase my confidence and self-motivation.
4) I must resist the temptation to expect others to do for me what I am capable of doing for myself. In history, freedom has always been removed from those civilizations where the individuals looked to their governments to provide for them what they could have provided for themselves.
5) I am growing into an adult, and as I grow, my responsibilities as a person and as an American grow. I must, therefore, remember always to look ahead, because the future is affected by what I do now.

My responsibility to freedom requires understanding, dedication, and hard work. But if I am faithful in living according to these principles, the future will be bright with an abundance of the liberty we seek to preserve.

PRE-PASTORAL PARLEY ON THE PRAIRIE

Eight Seventh Day Baptist ministerial students met over the weekend of January 2-4 to share together the love of God and witness to each other what the Lord has done as they have been preparing for the professional ministry. Meeting on the plains of Kansas in the small town of Nortonville the students, under the direction of the dean of the Center on Ministry, Herbert E. Saunders, shared together in discussing the pastoral office—its joys, its frustrations, its responsibilities, its calling, and its opportunities.

The students came from Chicago, Sioux Falls, and Kansas City, bringing their own personalities and insights to the discussions.

Meeting on Friday evening, the students shared with various families in Nortonville. Sabbath morning, they participated in a service of praise and Communion led by Pastor Paul B. Osborn and Dean Saunders. A fellowship dinner was enjoyed by all before the students met together to consider their major topic of study—the pastoral ministry. The evening after the Sabbath all participated in a Center on Ministry program to which the members of the Kansas City church were also invited.

On Sunday the day began by worship led by the host pastor. Then, until a closing worship late in the afternoon, there were intensive, exciting, and inspiring discussions. Each student brought to the discussion an excitement and joy that gives great hope for our future as Seventh Day Baptists. There is a deep desire to give concerned and dedicated leadership to our people when seminary is over. Each student declared what fulfilling and exciting educational opportunities have been his during the year.

Much thanks goes to the people of the Nortonville church for their gracious hosting of our weekend sessions. Out of their generosity they provided homes and meals which met all the physical needs of those in attendance. It was a real joy to be a part of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church for a weekend.

Students who attended the seminar were: Robert Babcock and Larry Graffiti from North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls; South Dakota; Helen Green from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, Illinois; John Rau and Kenneth Burdick from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois; Ken Chromer from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri; and Larry Watt and Gordon Lawton from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas.

Two wives came to Nortonville and participated with the congregation in events of the weekend shared by all. Another weekend is scheduled for those students from the East sometime in the spring.

All in all, the weekend was a success. Seventh Day Baptist ministerial students got acquainted with each other—talked with each other and generally discovered that behind all the facial features and theological mind lies a person, dedicated to the Lord, and seeking each day to serve Him in love.

COMMISSION COMMITMENT COMMUNITY

The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is historically, like other Baptists, congregational in polity and desires that its churches and its members shall continue to enjoy freedom of conscience in all matters of religion.

1976 Summer Institute
June 14 - July 2

COURSE OF STUDY: Seventh Day Baptist Polity

Seventh Day Baptists cherish liberty of thought as an essential condition for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore they have no binding creed to which members must subscribe. They hold, however, that certain beliefs and practices, having the support of Scripture and adhered to by followers of Christ through the centuries, are binding upon all Christians.

You are welcome to join us in this study.

For information write:

Seventh Day Baptist
Center on Ministry
510 Watchung Ave., Box 366
Plainfield, N. J. 07061

February 1976
STUDENTS IN SEMINARY

LARRY WATT
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
SENIOR STUDENT

CENTRAL BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
"Entrusted with the Gospel"
I Thessalonians 2:4
916T AND MINNESOTA • SEMINARY HEIGHTS • KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66102 • 913/371-5313

GORDON LAWTON
DENVER, COLORADO
MIDDLER STUDENT

GIVE TO OUR WORLD MISSION
and
GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT TO THE
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Council on Ministry
Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061

The Sabbath Recorder

February 1976

ALIKE BUT DIFFERENT

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
K. D. HURLEY

Seventh Day BAPTIST General Conference

"Seventh Day Baptists are just like other Baptists - except for the day which they keep!"
That is an accurate way to distinguish among Baptist denominations when a person is explaining the basic difference in practice relating to the day of worship - the Biblical seventh-day Sabbath rather than the first of the week, Lord's Day.

Hopefully, Seventh Day Baptists as people are "different" in some other important personal ways, too. Because Sabbath observance (in opposition to the more universal tide of society) is not easy, it takes an extra measure of conviction and determination. Such characteristics should result in an extra measure of Christian influence and conduct: greater commitment to Christ and His Cause, more true love and concern for one's fellowmen, complete integrity, unflinching honesty, and exemplary character.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Through the years Seventh Day Baptists in many communities across the country have been respected for their outstanding attributes. They have been community-minded, substantial, participating citizens. They have been motivated not by a "holier than thou" attitude but by a desire to do God's will and truly be more like the Master. Let us pray that Seventh Day Baptists will continue to be so motivated and thus be recognized as "different."

It has been my privilege to attend a number of ecumenical meetings in recent weeks, including sessions of the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee, with officers of the BWA, members of the Relief Committee and the Men's Committee, as well as the North American General Council.

The Larger Fellowship

Baptists are obviously great people, all of them; and, in customary Baptist tradition to provide freedom of thought and a place for individual differences, they fully accept Seventh Day Baptists in their ranks. We are recognized and respected for what we are.

The Baptist World Alliance is a voluntary association of national Baptist conventions and unions. The Alliance's objectives, as declared in its constitution, are "To show the essential oneness of Baptist people in the Lord Jesus Christ, to impart inspiration to the brotherhood, and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and cooperation among its members."

The latest tabulations show 33.8 million baptized members of Baptist churches throughout the world. Baptists live and witness in at least 112 nations and 29 dependencies, including many countries which are predominantly Moslem, Buddhist or of other non-Christian or atheistic backgrounds.

Christians seem to thrive in adverse circumstances. Though there are fewer than 1,000 Baptists in each of 50 countries and dependencies, they get a sense of world fellowship through the Baptist World Alliance.

Seventh Day Baptists are a minority even among Baptists, but we, too, "seem to thrive."

A Sense of Outreach

Our participation in the activities of the larger Baptist fellowship gives us a sense of outreach. It helps us guard against turning inward and becoming narrow and provincial. It also gives us the incentive to reaffirm within our own ranks the validity of individual differences.

A part of the greatness of the Baptist tradition is liberty of personal thought and action; it can also be our greatest weakness if, in our freedom to be different, we begin to insist that everybody else think and act just as we do.

A Place for Differences

Within the broad spectrum of Baptist beliefs there is a place for conscientious, though sometimes (continued on page 27)
THE FOURTH BEATITUDE

Charles D. Swing, Pastor
DeKuyper, N. Y., SDB Church

(Matthew 5:6) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” It was a hot, sultry day. No doubt the wind was blowing and there was dust in the air. The sun was beating down upon the heads of those who were gathered around Jesus that day on the flat plateau between two small mountains.

I imagine their eyes were hollow with hunger. Their throats were parched with thirst. Those who heard the Sermon on the Mount could well identify with the first three Beatitudes. They were certainly acquainted with poverty and they knew what it meant to mourn.

The Roman government had taught them the meaning of control. If some were beginning to lose interest by now, Jesus regained their interest with the Fourth Beatitude. Perhaps at the very time that Jesus spoke these words, the stomachs of many grewled with hunger and their mouths were parched with thirst.

The challenge of this Beatitude is to develop a hunger in our hearts for righteousness. Many are seeking happiness when they should seek righteousness. Those who make happiness the goal of their lives seldom find real happiness. A religious sect in Hungary had as its chief doctrine that salvation was gained by laughing so they practiced their religion by laughing all the time. They were not really happy because they were too busy doing things which they thought would bring happiness. Instead of seeking happiness, one should seek righteousness. Our Lord challenges us (in Matthew 6:33) to “Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”

Recently I saw a disturbing ad for dehydrated foods which read, “How can you sleep tonight when tomorrow you may have nothing to eat?” Although sensible preparation for the future is commendable, I disagree because this kind of selfish preoccupation will do little toward saving our souls. The remedy for this selfish habit is found in the words, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”

By concentrating on spiritual values and placing our confidence in the Lord, we will banish anxious care. We won’t needlessly concern ourselves about the future, an illness that might disable us some day, or a food shortage which may come a few years from now. We will live in quiet contentment because we have left tomorrow’s cares in our Father’s capable hands. Our God is Lord of earth and sky. And all our needs He will supply; so do not worry, come what may—just praise His name and trust and pray. When we put our cares into God’s hands, He puts His peace into our hearts.

This Beatitude is considered by many to be the most challenging and the most comforting of all the Beatitudes. The challenge is to be tall and the comfort is that we shall be filled. In Matthew 6:33) “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” We feed on Him in our hearts by faith. He is the food of our spirits. In Him we find the secret of endurance, our true sustenance. Throughout the world there is a growing hunger, a stirring of conscience, an awakening of a passion for righteousness. Do you crave this something better? Do you long to know God, and have Jesus as a present friend? Thank God for your craving, your hunger and thirst.

Although you may never seem to arrive, you are arriving all of the time. The paradox of this Beatitude is that the Christian is filled but he continues to hunger and thirst. The more he is filled, the more he hunger and thirst. It goes on and on and yet the Christian is filled and fully satisfied.

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Rex Zwiebel
THE FOURTH BEATITUDE

Charles D. Swing, Pastor
DeRuyter, N.Y., S.D.B. Church

(Matthew 5:6) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." It was a hot, sultry day. No doubt the wind was blowing and there was dust in the air. The sun was beating down upon the heads of those who were gathered around Jesus that day on the flat plateau between two small mountains.

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The Roman government had taught them the meaning of control. If some were beginning to lose interest now, Jesus regained their interest with the Fourth Beatitude. Perhaps at the very time that Jesus spoke these words, the stomachs of many grewled with hunger and their mouths were parched with thirst.

The challenge of this Beatitude is righteousness. Many are seeking happiness when they should seek righteousness. Those who make happiness the goal of their lives seldom find real happiness. A religious sect in Hungary had as its chief doctrine that salvation was gained by laughing so they practiced their religion by laughing all the time. They were not really happy because they were too busy doing things which they thought would bring happiness. Instead of seeking happiness, one should seek righteousness.

Our Lord challenges us (in Matthew 6:33) to "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." Recently I saw a disturbing ad for dehydrated foods which read, "How can you sleep tonight when tomorrow you may have nothing to eat?" Although sensible preparation for the future is commendable, one disagreed because this kind of selfish appeal caters to our natural tendency to worry. This is contrary to Paul's admonition (in Phil. 4:6) where he advises "Be anxious for nothing." In Matthew 6, Jesus tells us how to overcome anxiety by explaining that it's unnecessary and by prescribing its cure. He says that morbid concern about the future is foolish, for it doesn't make sense to think that the Lord would give us the gift of life and then withhold our physical necessities without good reason. Worry is also blind, for if we look at nature we see that God provides food for the birds and clothing for the flowers. Would He do less for those created in His image and for whom He gave His Son? Fretting is useless, because it can make no more change our circumstances than wishing to be taller can add to our height. We insult our Heavenly Father if we live in perpetual fearfulness, for we imply that He doesn't really know our needs. The remedy for this sinful habit is found in the words, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." By concentrating on spiritual values and placing our confidence in the Lord, we will banish anxious care. We won't be needlessly concerned about a future accident, an illness that might disable us some day, or a food shortage which may come a few years from now. We will be able to sleep well because we have left tomorrow's cares in our Father's capable hands. Our God is Lord of earth and sky, and all our needs He will supply; so do not worry, come what may. Just praise His name and trust and pray. When we put our cares into God's hands, He puts His peace into our hearts.

This Beatitude is considered by many to be the most challenging and the most comforting of all the Beatitudes. The challenge is righteousness. The comfort is that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, not those who attain it.

The Christian who hungered and thirsted for righteousness shall be filled. There are many of us who are familiar with the feeding and fattening of cattle with fodder and grain. Just as the animal is fattened a little bit more at each feeding, the Christian, who hungered and thirsted for righteousness, gradually grows in the Christian life. Jesus said (in John 6:35) "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." We feast on Him in our hearts by faith. He is the food of our spirits. In Him we find the secret of endurance, our true sustenance. Throughout the world there is a growing hunger, a stirring of conscience, an awakening of a passion for righteousness. Do you crave this something better? Do you long to know God, and have Jesus as a present friend? Thank God for your craving, your hunger, and thirst. Although you may never seem to arrive, you are arriving all of the time. The paradox of this Beatitude is that the Christian is filled but he continues to hunger and thirst. The more he is filled, the more he hungers and thirsts. It goes on and on and yet the Christian is filled and fully satisfied.

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DENOMINATIONAL DATELINE

MARCH 5-7 Rev. Leon Lawton Rev. Myron Soper Area Spiritual Retreat North Loup, Nebr.

MARCH 9-12 Vocations Sabbath Denver, Colo.

MARCH 14-17 Rev. Leon Lawton Rev. Myron Soper Area Spiritual Retreat Camp Paul Hummel, Colo.

MARCH 21-27 Planning Committee Denver, Colo.

MARCH 21-27 Annual Meeting S.D.B. Missionary Society Western, R.I.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 1976

It's not too early to make plans to attend the next sessions of General Conference. They will be held on the campus of Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y., August 8-14, 1976.

Conference president, Mr. Gary Cox, and our Executive Secretary, Dr. K. Duane Hurley, have visited the campus, along with the Host Committee, and we all feel that the facilities are very well suited to meet our requirements for a successful conference.

The distances between dormitories, meeting rooms, the auditorium, and the cafeteria are not far and are all on level ground. The auditorium is spacious and is well equipped for sound. The cafeteria is new and is well equipped. The dormitories are clean and adequate.

Nearby, on the campus, are camper-trailer sites that will accommodate twenty-two Reese units. Three sites have all accommodations, eleven have electricity and water supplied; and nine have electricity only.

Supporting the spiritual aspects of our conference will be the physical attributes of the countryside. The scenery all about gives evidence of a benevolent Creator, and just a few miles north of the campus is the famous Letchworth State Park. There one can stroll about and view the wondrous creation of three waterfalls of breath-taking wonder.

Watch for further publicity. In the meantime questions about facilities may be addressed to the chairman of the Host Committee, Mr. Ronald Ellis, R.F.D., Alfred Station, N.Y. 14803. Plan to come, see, and participate.

—Rex Zwibel
What? Why? and how? What is it?
Why must we practice it? How can we practice it?

What is Christian stewardship?
It is an act of service.
It is not like an eight hour a day job which we can walk away from at the end of the day nor is it like spending two to four years in the military.
Both of these examples are types of service but neither of these come close to the service required of a Christian steward.
A Christian steward or servant has only one master - God.
Since he is a steward or servant he must give totally of himself - everything to God.
Man must realize that he is a servant of God, that God has given him and made him all that he is, and that he must serve God at every moment.
To illustrate this idea of giving totally of oneself to the Lord, we would like to tell the following familiar story.

One day a hog and a hen were visiting as they walked along a street when they spotted a church sign that read, "Give to the missionary fund, help needy children at home and abroad.
Both were silent for a moment considering what they could possibly do.
The hen spoke up, "I've got a terrific idea how we could help in this drive, we could put on a ham and egg breakfast to raise money for the missionary fund."
The hog replied, "That's easy for you to say because for you that would only be a donation but for me, it's a total commitment."

All too many Christians are like the chicken and are not willing to make a total commitment...to become true Christian stewards.
Christian stewardship must be the devoting of one's whole self to the service of the Lord.

Why must we practice Christian stewardship or why must we be Christian stewards?
The Bible is clear in teaching that all our possessions, everything we have and are, belongs to God.
At the heart of the Biblical concept of stewardship lies the basic fact that God is Creator, owner, upholder, and giver of all things.
Starting with the very first verse in the Bible we find this "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth," not man but God created the world.
He has created everything or we might call our own.
In the New Testament, in John 1:1-3, we find that, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..."
All (not a few but all) things were made by him and without him was nothing made that was made.

Psalm 24 again supports this fact that everything is the Lord's, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world, and they dwell therein."
We are the Lord's thus we must be His stewards.
Not only we but everything is the Lord's.
Haggai 2:8 reads, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts;--even the silver and gold are God's! The last verse I would like to quote again supporting this fact of God's ownership of all is found in James 1:17a. Here we find the following: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." So you see, because God owns all things, nothing comes into our possession that does not belong to God already... Why must we be Christian stewards - Because we (ourselves) belong to God and everything we possess is His, thus we must ourselves and our (not our but His) possessions the way He would want us to. He has entrusted things to us - how should we manage them?
This leads us to the third question - How can we practice stewardship or, or what are our duties? or, how can we be better Christian stewards?

1. First, God or Christ must be our only master; we must realize that all we have is His, we're just entrusted with it.
We must not have this view that may become a place of profit rather than a stewardship of responsibility.
Nor should we be satisfied with a merely nominal knowledge of stewardship.
It is not simply a matter of selecting a church and becoming a member.
Nor is it just going to church on Sunday and participating in a Christian service.
It is a matter of giving generously and joyfully of our tithes and offerings.
This leads us to the second question - Because we are stewards of God's possessions we must keep these possessions under the careful consideration of the Lord and His will.
We must be careful not to be led astray by the world's desire for material things.
We must not become so focused on the material world that we neglect the spiritual world.

2. God or Christ must be your personal master.
We must each personally give away our talents and abilities for the benefit of God and His kingdom.
This may partially be true but we also need to be receptive to the guidance of God and His will.
We must be open to the leading of God and His will.
This leads us to the third question -

3. God's will must be our top priority.
We must be willing to give away our talents and abilities for the benefit of God and His kingdom.
This leads us to the third question -

What can we do for God? What is stewardship?
Stewardship may mean the giving up of our personal ambition or goal to serve God more fully.
Young people must especially consider God's purpose for their life when thinking of vocational goals.
But as individuals get older, they should continue to reevaluate their lives...are they serving God maximally or could they serve Him better if they quit their job and became a mission leader or evangelist or secretary or took on some other job.
We must not let our personal ambitions hinder us from being good Christian stewards.

Another important responsibility we have as a Christian steward is witnessing to all people.
We must see that God's saving power, the message of the Gospel, can be made known to all people.
This leads us to the third question -

We must make a total commitment...to become true Christian stewards.
Christian stewardship must be the devoting of one's whole self to the service of the Lord.
**Wisconsin**

"Wisconsin's are all over the place today!" So says the editor of a page in the November 75 issue of World Vision magazine. That word “Wisconsin” hit me right between the eyes. These are people who are always wishing they were missionaries—always wishing, but failing to realize that they are already missionaries. They seem to believe that the only time they will be able to serve will be many hundreds of miles away from home in a tropical jungle.

We have all spent a great deal of our lives wishing that we might serve in some capacity—in some other land. This is a noble thought to pursue, but have we considered what “missionary” work might be waiting for us right here at home? In no way do we disparage the dedication of those who do go to the foreign field, but there is much for us to do here...those of us who are “missionaries.” Why is it that we cannot see the missionary tasks to be done in our daily rounds of life?

I remember my first experience of being a “wisarion” My dear teacher in church school gave her life to the service of our Lord in a Baptist school in China. Those of us left behind, a class of eight-year-old girls, were very much inspired by the letters she would write to us from the mission field. “I am certainly going to China and be a missionary some day,” I declared to my family. Through the years somehow the inspiration for such a project faded, but there was always present in the back of my mind the wish that I should be it which the population was partrrerto know, of course, that you are doing missionary work here for us...

I well remember my about a recent Journey. That word "missionary" is all over the place and has come to the realization that the work of missionaries—always "wisharionaries" are people who are always "wisharionaries," which might be waiting for us...

We do not have a strict formula for "missionary" work. We are extending the love and tasks of our Lord in every area of our lives. Witnessing through a life style. Indeed it is a way of life; a way to proceed, and we want to know accepted by the Lord.

Pastor Watson Mataka, missionary from the Central Africa Conference serving in Kitui, Kenya, since the spring of 1975, returned to his family and pastoral ministry in Malawi in mid-December. His new work is to be in the Mulanje District working closely with Pastor L. Nowthala, director of the Southern Association.

At the November 1975 Jamaica SDH Conf. Board meeting in Kingston, Pres. Vincent R. Smith pointed out that the Summer Crusade held during August brought great blessings to the churches involved and many souls were won to the Lord. He recommended the Crusaders and the Evangelistic Committee for the fine job. This is a true progress and we praise the Lord.

Pastor and Mrs. Sam Peters and children were able to spend a brief "New Year" holiday with her family in Mordelde, Jamaica. They returned to their ministry in the Guayana SDH Conference at Georgetown in January.

Forming a prayer group is certainly one form of missionary work. We are extending the love and tasks of our Lord when we pray, and we are enriching our lives spiritually, as well as the lives of others when we pray purposefully in a group.

There are many ways to go about the formation of such a group. Some have felt rewarded by just choosing a particular prayer time with at regular times. We hear of groups in industry, both men and women, who get together for a prayer session at one time a group of church women set the hour of 9:15 a.m. morning, when each in her separate place would pause for a space of time and pray alone. A prayer list was used, so that each one in her own way might pray, and her prayer combine with those others who were praying for the same cause. In another place, a neighborhood "coffee hour" prayer group crossed denominational lines, and as non-believers were included, proved to be a tremendous blessing to all involved.

Bernice Troy, chairwoman of Spiritual Growth Department of American Baptist Women has written on the subject, "What Makes an Evangelistic Life Style?" Jesus asked a question of His disciples "Why call ye me Lord, and do not the things which I say?" When we become His disciples we should find the religion we profess expressed in every area of our lives. "Like many other lay persons, I was of the opinion that "church work" entailed attending worship, teaching a class and attending the women's organization" says Mrs. Troy, "however, in recent years I have come to the realization that the work of the church must be demonstrated in terms of witnessing through a life style. Indeed it is a way of life; experiencing, living and sharing the good news. As Jesus accepted and helped all people, we, do need each other."

We do not have a strict formula for forming a prayer group. We know that there are more than one successful way to proceed, and we want to know what has succeeded for you. Will you share with us your own experiences as you go about a way to become "missionary" bringing spiritual enrichment for yourself and for others?

We know that God does not call all of us to go lands far away but that He calls some of us to stay where we are. Too often we stumble over or ignore a job desperately needing to be done just to find wider fields of service.

The Sabbath Recorder February 1976

**Prayer Corner**

**Missions Notes**

We love because God first loved us.

1 John 4:19

by Madeline Fiz Randolph

Where there is no vision the people perish.

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Urinary

Thereafter Mr. Dzumani went to Blantyre in Britain to welcome Mr. Harold A. Dzumani who is coming from Hospital of the Central

Ms. Dzumani will be landing at the two-year course and graduated

rectangular "I am.

diploma,"

Mr. Dzumani went to Britain to study to become a State Registered Nurse so that he could assist in the medical work at Makapawa Station Hospital of the Central Conference of Seventh Day Baptists.

In Britain, Mr. Dzumani took a two-year course and graduated as an Enrolled Nurse at Orpington Hospital. Thereafter, Mr. Dzumani went to Shafthury and St. Paul's Hospital where he received a Genito-Urinary Diploma, specializing in kidney diseases, kidney transplant, metabolic disorders, and kidney machines; here, "I got a first class diploma," Mr. Dzumani said smiling.

Brother Dzumani then said, "I worked in a Coronary Care Unit where heart conditions are monitored and treated at City Hospital." The seven years in Britain therefore are not wasted, but used properly indeed. We thank God therefore for keeping him well and strong while studying.

Asked how he felt when he arrived back home in Malawi, Mr. Dzumani said that he was happy to come back home to Malawi, his own country, and to work among his own people. He went on to say that it would be a great privilege to help his own brothers and sisters.

At Makapawa Mission Hospital Mr. Dzumani will be working hand in hand with Mrs. Audrey Fuller who is the medical director for Makapawa Hospital, Sandama Clinic, Tembe Clinic, and Thomas Health Centre. He will also be working with the medical assistant, Mr. E.P. Mhara.

Mr. Dzumani then said, "We thank God that he is back now. We began to wonder if it was a dream that there was such a man, and it's something we have looking for, for a long time.

"At Chilkeea Airport Mr. Dzumani was met by Rev. and Mrs. D.C. Pearson and their daughter Joanna; Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Fuller; Mr. F.R. Mazinga; Rev. O.B. Manani; Mr. F. Mbawa and Fedson F. Makatanje. Thereafter all went to Rev. Pearson's house where a lunch in honour of Mr. Dzumani was served. Therefore is to Fedson F. Makatanje, Makapawa Literature Office.

The standing committees and councils of General Conference are an integral part of the denominational structure, rendering invaluable service in spite of small budgets, dependence on volunteer labor, geographic division and infrequent meetings.

Yet someone wanting to learn about the committees during this year of denominational structure study is faced with a difficult task. Whereas the constitutions and bylaws of Conference and the boards and agencies are periodically included in the Yearbook, the guidelines for the committees are strewn through years of Conference minutes.

The following material is a synthesis of the scattered references to committee structure.

The Committee on Obligations is the eldest of the standing committees, literally "appearing" in 1865. There have been some conference directives concerning the committee - tradition alone dictates that the five members, including the chairman, are elected annually by Conference.

The Committee on Support and Retirement resulted from the merger in 1974 of the Committee on Retirement which originated in 1928, and the Ministerial Support Committee, organized in 1956.

The purpose of the former was "to investigate all cases of need, and make recommendations to the Memorial Board and to the Missionary Board for assistance from funds provided for the aid of retired ministers and their dependents," and the purpose of the latter, "to formulate and execute, by any and every means at its disposal, plans and activities that will ultimately lead to increased growth and increased salaries for the ministry." The committee consists of three members elected to staggered three-year terms by General Conference, one member appointed by the Memorial Fund trustees, and the dean of the Center on Ministry. In addition, boards and agencies with three or more employees covered by the retirement plan may appoint a non-voting member. The chairman of the committee is nominated by Commission.

The Council on Ministry evolved from the Committee to Consider the Theological Training of Our Ministers, established in 1952, and took its present form in 1971, when it was directed to phase into support, recruitment, education and pastor-church relations.

The six members are nominated by Commission and elected by Conference, two annually, for three-year terms. One member should be someone who has recently finished a modern seminary education, or a layman who is able, because of identification through age, to more easily associate with our ministerial students." The council elects its own officers annually.

The Council on Ecumenical Relations, born in 1954 as the Committee on Ecumenical Relations, promotes ecumenical activities, participates in the naming of representatives to ecumenical gatherings and agencies, and receives reports from these representatives.

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The council is composed of five members serving five-year terms plus the executive secretary of General Conference ex officio, non-voting. Commission nominates one member each year; the council elects its own officers annually, and no member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Christian Social Action Committee, formed in 1962, has as its purposes to study social problems, to formulate policies on these problems, and to suggest methods of implementing these policies, and to present denominational policy between sessions of Conference.

The commission nominates four to serve three-year terms on the twelve-member committee, which is to be composed of approximately two-thirds laymen and one-third ordained ministers. Further, "a core group of at least four members shall be named in the same geographic location. Each time the core group is relocated Commission shall name a convener, and the core group shall select its own officers." The executive secretary of General Conference is a member ex officio. A recommendation that the entire committee be located in three or four geographic areas so that it could be organized into subcommittees seems to be still in effect.

The Faith and Order Committee, established in 1963, is "to stimulate the development of an atmosphere for the creative discussion of convictions and provide for general theological dialogue, to promote the continuous efforts to clarify and communicate our faith in a changing world, to consider any proposed change in our Statement of Belief..." and to give continuous study to the procedures and practices in church organisation and policy, and to recommend such revisions in the Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedure as may be needed and helpful." Two members are nominated annually by Conference to serve three-year terms on the six-member body, which is to be composed of laymen and ministers.

February 1976

by Thomas L. Merchant

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Who, What, Why of STANDING COMMITTEES

by Rev. Myron Super

Four area Spiritual Retreats are planned for ministers and their wives and laymen this spring. The retreats will be divided into two sections: 1) Friday night through Sunday afternoon will be for laymen of the area as well as pastors and wives; 2) Pastors and their wives will continue for three days after the weekend.

The theme for the retreats is "In All Things Grow." It is taken from Ephesians 4:15 where it says, "We will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ" (New International). The emphasis will be on positive one, even as the verse says, we will grow! Four areas of growth will be stressed:

1. Growth in the church (numbers, outreach)

It is planned to have outstanding men from various seminars present to conduct this part.

2. Growth in the Spiritual Life

This will be a presentation by Rev. Charles Graffin dealing with the Holy Spirit.

3. Growth in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word

An in-depth study of the Bible by Rev. Leon Lawton

4. Growth in our desire and ability to evangelize

Motivation and training in evangelism by Myron Super.

Following is a schedule for the retreats:

Fouke, Ark. - Feb. 27 - Mar. 3
North Lourp, Nebr. - Mar. 5-7
Boulder-Denver, Colo., Area - March 9-14
Milton, Wis. - April 28-May 2

We urge the churches to participate in these retreats to the fullest extent possible. There will be much information and help which could make a real difference in the life of the individuals involved in the retreat as well as for your church.

January 15, 1976

The Sabbath Recorder
SABBATH RECORDER DAY

February 21

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The Sabbath Recorder
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AGAPE

OUR Father we thank You
For this caring life-line
That You extend to us
Right out of Your good Earth
For body sustenance
To work and serve brothers
Where “all that’s mine is thine.”

We also thank You for
Jesus the bread of life
The spiritual life-line
That You extend to us
From the font of Your love
To raise our dead spirits
To life in communion.

Amen.

Francis Gerald Landry

Gerry Landry for some twelve years served as our typesetter on the Linotype machine. Now retired, Gerry plans to spend much of his time in sharing the Good News of Christ with students at Princeton University. He plans to operate a Christian coffee house. We pray God’s blessings on him in this endeavor.

February 1976
At the Yearly Meeting of the New England Seventh Day Baptist Churches at Ashaway, R.I., November 22, a question was asked that should give us all deep concern. We had been considering the matter of growth of the people, and whether we could be considered as “just like the Baptists except for the Sabbath,” when a young woman asked, “What is our distinctive message? Why has God called us for such a time as this?”

The Ten Commandments

Seventh Day Baptists have always thought that these Ten Words were given to all men, for all time, and in all places in the world. The tablets of stone, given to Moses upon Mount Sinai, were not the first appearance of these laws found upon earth. Cain knew that he was doing wrong when he killed Abel his brother. Jacob had some strong inducement when he set up the stone at Bethel. So I believe that the Sabbath was not just a late afterthought of God. It was there from the very beginning.

Thou Shalt Not Kill

The Old Testament prophets did not call always for the destruction of Israel’s enemies, as being the highest goal of God’s people. Jonah learned not to hate, but to redeem Ninevah. Hosea revealed a God of infinite love. Jeremiah advised conciliation with Nebuchadnezzar’s army rather than an insensate war. He was over- railed by the people who accused him of cowardice and treachery. He was thrown into prison for “weakness of the hands of the people,” but lived to see the city destroyed and the best of the people either killed or led away into captivity. Hosea lived to see the city destroyed and was thrown into prison for love. Jeremiah advised conciliation, Hosea revealed a God of infinite love. Jeremiah advised conciliation, Hosea revealed a God of infinite love. So I believe of these laws found ’a: at Ashaway, R.I., November 16, that we might be the children of our Heavenly Father,” who shows His love to all both small and great.

God’s Call to Seventh Day Baptists

by Rev. Paul Burdick

Waterford, Conn.

Seventh Day Baptists
Fulfilling Their Task

Here is where Seventh Day Baptists may find their true place in God’s Kingdom. Obedience to the Commands of God, given at Sinai, but more importantly, placed in men’s hearts from the very beginning, they find the secret of their being. In the Ten Commandments we are shown the real purpose of God for us and for all mankind. In the life and sacrifice of Christ we are shown an infinite love which we are called upon to emulate, while in the power of the Holy Spirit we are given the impulse and the ability to obey.

Now this is not a “shut-eyed” faith that says, “I believe,” and then leaves it up to God to accomplish. It is an open-eyed faith that makes use of all instruments at hand. For some it will mean electing, and writing letters to those in government or leaders, and use every measure in our power.

Remember again that the Holy Spirit of God, the Comforter, Who inspires, corrects, impels us with new energy can make this world God’s dwelling place. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in peace will be when He finds men doing their best to prepare the way for Him. When the Sona appears, will He find faith in the earth? Yes, when faith such faith is backed up by practical deeds, open-eyed belief, and a willingness of Seventh Day Baptists and others to put God’s Kingdom first in their thoughts, hearts, and actions.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
REPRESENTATIVE VISITS
HEADQUARTERS

As a part of the Conference mandated study of the pros and cons of Seventh Day Baptist membership in the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Charles H. Long, Jr., Executive Secretary, New York office, World Council of Churches, met with Commission and other denominational representatives on Tuesday, December 30, 1975 at denominational headquarters in Plainfield. In his presentation and the subsequent discussion, Mr. Long included the following observations:

1. WCC provides smaller churches with a channel for meeting human needs in a corporate way.
2. WCC provides smaller churches with resources—study papers, small group Bible study.
3. WCC provides smaller churches with media for designated giving, promotional support, missionary, and evangelism support.
4. Budgetary allocations of the WCC are made approximately as follows: a. Human needs – 25% b. Theological order (faith and mission) – 25% c. Education, renewal, communication (pastoral understanding) – 25% d. Secretariat (administrative, press relations, etc.) – 25%
5. WCC requires 25% minimum membership for new applications.
6. Some reasons for maintaining membership in the WCC are the following:
   a. You are the WCC since WCC is the fellowship of churches.
   b. WCC is the most visible unity of the Church.
   c. Thy Kingdom comes, the greater value of WCC.
   d. You are the WCC if you belong to it; if you do not, you may be considered a denomination without official recognition.
   e. WCC provides an opportunity for selective indignation. Mr. Long’s question to the churches is: What is your concept of the call of the Church to its mission?

He emphasized that, with official mem- berhip in the WCC, Seventh Day Baptists are the only fully participating Sabbath-keeping group in the council.

In addition to serving as executive secretary of the New York office of the World Council of Churches, Mr. Long is also executive secretary of the U.S. Council of Churches, composed of twenty-seven member churches in the United States.

Prior to assuming the top U.S. post in the World Council of Churches in January 1974, Mr. Long was Rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, for thirteen years.

In attendance at the special meeting with Mr. Long were the following Commissioners: Gary G. Cox, Barton B. Crandall, Leeland E. Davis, S. Kenneth Davis, Richard D. Shepard, and Delmer E. Van Horn. Also in attendance were John D. Taves, Publishing Director of the American Sabbath Tract Society; Thomas L. Merchant, Historian; Herbert E. Saunders, Dean of the Center on Ministry; George Parrish and James Skaggs, Task Force; and K.D. Hurley, Executive Secretary.

It is anticipated that, at the direction of the Council on Ecumenical Affairs, a number of articles, letters from readers, and expressions of opinion about the WCC will appear in various issues of the Sabbath Recorder between now and the General Conference meeting in August, at which time a roll call vote by churches will be taken.

EXTEND NOW

Visits to the RON project in Houston recently have included Mynor Soper, director of Evangelism and Herbert Saunders, dean of the Center on Ministry. Mynor Soper is national coordinator and his meeting with the fellowship centered around continued planning for the year ahead. Herbert Saunders met with the fellowship on January 8-11. During his visit, at which time he focused on the Sabbath, several new people attended. Currently the group meets at the Southwest YMCA, 4210 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, but are searching and praying for a church location. We would ask that everyone make this matter a prayer.

Future visitors to the project will include the “Light Bearers” who will be working there March 7-21. Our Conference president, Gary Cox and his wife Myrna, president of the Women’s Board, will be meeting with the fellowship on March 26-28. Also Mr. and Mrs. Elno Davis of Denver will be spending time with the fellowship in March and April. We hope you will make the RON project next priority, and God will bless if we are concerned.
LEADERS OF YOUTH AT
SALEMVILLE SEMINARY

An Effort To Aid Our Youth Groups

The Youth Program Committee chairman, Rev. Russell Johnson, reports unique event Nov. 24-26 hosted by Salemville, Pa., Seventh Day Baptists, and directed by his committee of the Board of Christian Education.

In the wake of the General Conference decision to set aside plans for a full-time Youth Field Worker, the Youth Program Committee of the Board of Christian Education began to follow an alternate course of action that we had hoped would be a supplemental effort in denominational youth work. As it became apparent that no other options would readily present themselves, the chairman of the committee met with Rev. Russell Johnson, reports unique event Nov. 24-26 hosted by Salemville, Pa., Seventh Day Baptists, and directed by his committee of the Board of Christian Education.

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The National YF secretary and vice-president also were present. We shared Sabbath worship services in the two local SDB churches, and following a delicious fellowship lunch, the work really began. People had really come to learn and work. For the rest of the afternoon and evening, intensive sessions were held on such topics as leadership, advisors, officers' responsibilities, a healthy youth group and what makes it healthy, worship experiences, learning encounters in the youth groups, fund-raising projects, service projects, musical social events, and resources that are available to be used. Group discussions were held at several points with the assembly being divided by position (youth officer, pastor or advisor) and by local church youth groups. The Youth Program Committee members sat in to observe, offer advice where needed and to generally be a resource to the small groups. During the day, the new SDB Youth Source Book was given to each group, with appropriate introduction to the contents and potential uses.

On Sunday morning, following a worship experience, the individual youth fellowships sat down to project a program for the 1975-76 school year. The intensity and sound thoughts that emerged were rewarding to those of us on the Youth Program Committee.

Following the fellowship of lunch, served bountifully and deliciously by the Salemville ladies (as had all the meals), we returned to the individual communities that we each represented to resume our regular lives. But the committee sent each group home with a promise: Each group would be visited by a committee member in a few months to follow up and see how things have progressed.

In general, we felt that what we had to say was well received and put into practice during the weekend. It was our first experience and we feel we have much to learn, and of course, time and the people who came are the only way we'll know how successful this effort has been. We hope to be invited to share other such experiences in the future. Our chief limitation is that this effort is largely a volunteer effort on the part of the dedicated committee members. Their time and resources are the chief limitations to the size of the program. However, it is our dream that we'll be able to offer our services to area groups that would use us to aid them in their youth work until such time as the denomination can find a more intensive and extensive ministry to youth.

The Sabbath Recorder

February 1976
WESTERN ILLINOIS FELLOWSHIP

MONMOUTH, ILL.—The members of the Western Illinois S.D.B. Fellowship who shared in worship service with the members of Faith Chapel. We shared the Bible together and Clarence White was asked to share the history of S.D.B. with the group. Pastor Ed Dewitt of the Faith Chapel stated that he was happy to share his chapel with the Seventh Day Baptists. Our services are held on Sabbath morning with Sabbath School, mission talks, and a short sermon. We must sow seed even though we may not see the complete harvest. We must work now because the Bible says that the night is coming when no work is done.

We know if we do His will in the few years that we have on this earth and are faithful in teaching all things that He will "be with us always, even unto the end of the world." It remember the motto that hung on my grandmother's wall: "only one life, I'll soon be past—only what's done for Christ will last." Please pray for the work and witness of Seventh Day Baptists in western Illinois. —Clarence T. White

YOUTH RETREAT

HOSTED

NEW AUBURN, Ill., W.S.—On October 31 to November 2, the New Auburn Y.F. hosted a retreat for the Youth Fellowships of Brown, Mitchell, Dodge Center, Minn., and Milton, Wis., at the beautiful setting of Camp Wildwood near New Auburn.

The theme of the retreat was "Be Ye Filled with Power" with the Scriptures: Acts 1:8 and Ye 2:42.

Friday night was devoted to the refreshing of old friendships and making new ones. Sabbath Day the members of the New Auburn church joined us for a worship service with John Rau presenting a message on the Holy Spirit. After a fellowship dinner, we had a film followed by Bible studies with leaders working in pairs.

In the evening, Ken Burdick showed slides of his trip in Jamaica with another film afterwards. Later we were joined and entertained by Tannis, a group of Christians from the New Anahim area.

Sunday morning Pastor Leroy Bass led us in devotions, after which we had to break up and come home. We are now looking forward to the next gathering and retreat. 

—Madelyn Payne

NEWS NOTES

Seventh Day Baptists in Ventura, California, are meeting monthly in the community room of the AVCO Savings and Loan Association Building on South Mills Road. This new work is an outgrowth of the recent Fair Booth held in Ventura. Pray that God will continue to lead and bless.

Pastor and Mrs. Dale Rood of the Waterford, Conn., S.D.B. Church conducted a weekend of Lay Evangelism Training Sessions at the North Jersey S.D.B. Church, Jan. 16, 17.

The Farina, Ill., S.D.B. Church has put a new roof on its parish house; other improvements in the church plant are planned. The church recently honored Mrs. Eva Coon Gage and Mrs. Besse Stewart, two of its oldest members with a birthday dinner served in the parish house. 

ARKANSAS STATE FAIR BOOTH

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—As in past years the Little Rock church sponsored a booth at the Arkansas State Fair. With its theme "I Am the Vine, Ye Are the Branches" the booth sought to meet the needs of Christians seeking a fuller relationship with their Savior as well as seeking to introduce the unsaved to Him. Under the able direction of Jim Mitchell, evangelism chairman, the booth took shape and presented a beautiful opportunity to introduce the Sabbath and Seventh Day Baptists to many who had never heard before. While fewer tracts were distributed this year it seemed that there were more opportunities to share at length with individuals. —Outreach

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—Madelyn Payne

LIGHT BEARS AT MARLBORO

MARLBORO, N.J.—The Marlboro Light Bearer quartet truly blessed to have the Rev. Myrton G. Soper and the Light Bearers for Christ team here in Marlboro. We enjoyed the testimonies and music of these seven dedicated young people. Much prayer and preparation preceded their visit here!

Several from our church went to see the film, "The Hiding Place," which tells the story of Corrie ten Boom. Our Harvest Home service and dinner was held in November and the youth group enjoyed a skating party in Franklinville.

We were happy to learn of the organization of the North Jersey S.D.B. Church. Mr. and Mrs. Myron McPherson will be attending there now as they have moved to Clinton, N.J. Our loss was North Jersey's gain.

One week we received a special offering for the N.J. Council on Alcohol Problems. These funds will be used to purchase educational materials for the schools. We also participated in the annual S.D.B. United Relief Fund offering. We were glad to be able to express our love to those who are less fortunate.

Christmas Sabbath was observed with special music by the choir led by Donna Harris. Our Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 21, was directed by Barbara Froding. The decorations were by Mrs. Marion Peterson. Several went out caroling on Christmas Eve. The memory of a special visit by Mrs. Allyn Davis in Shiloh.

On December 20 we had a get-together with the Light Bearers for Christ team. The first one was a success, and the others were a lot on coming Sabbath. The meaning of the Advent message was explained, and we were encouraged to sing appropriate hymns.

We observed Stewardship Sabbath Nov. 29 with Exec. Sec. K. Duane Hurley in charge. A men's double quartet sang; Diane and Thomas Merchant presented a challenging dialog on the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be," and Editor John Bevis, Historian Thomas Merchant, and Dean Herbert Saunders told about the work of the Tract Society, Historical Society, and Center on Ministry.

Our German soubrother dinner Dec. 1, prepared by our expert chef, Robert Pociatek, and sponsored by the Women's Society, was an outstanding success. With nearly a hundred guests, $226 was netted, of which $100 was given to the Robert Babcock, our theogel family, and $100 to the Youth Fellowship camp fund.

The Women's Society had a Christmas dinner and party Dec. 8 at the home of Mrs. Betty North. A baby shower for Mrs. Dorothy Pociatek was the main programe of the evening.

The church Christmas party Dec. 20 began with a light supper at 5:30. Elders and Mrs. Herbert Sauders, who coordinated the party, were presented with a check in appreciation of their tireless work in filling our pulpit, in playing the organ and directing the choir, and in many other ways.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight and Communion service was sponsored and led by Elders Sauders. Many symbolic candles were lighted as Scripture was read and carols were sung. The offering of about $65 was for Menzo and Audrey Fuller in Malawi. Our huge Christmas card was signed by everyone, and the money saved by not sending cards to one another was to be given to the Lord's work.

Our Thanksgiving offering Nov. 22 amounted to $94.75 for the Ballocks and $72.75 for the local Star-Fish. The sermon was given by Elder E. Wendell Chappell, our former pastor. The Chicago Fellowship training program at the Hartford, Conn., hospital. Others who filled our pastorate are Rev. Edward Peterson, who served from November and December were Rev. Kenneth Smith (twice), Rev. Willard Bickel, and Elders Sauders (four times).

We pray for the continued leading of the Holy Spirit during 1976.

—Ruth Huntington Parker
ORDINATION SERVICE FOR WILLIAM FRED PALMER

BROOKFIELD, N.Y.—The Second Brookfield Seventh Day Baptist Church was the setting for a service of ordination for William Fred Palmer as Deacon on Sabbath afternoon November 8, 1975.

Rev. Charles Swing of DeRuiter was in charge of the service. Other pastors participating in the program were Rev. James Cross, supply pastor of the Second Brookfield church, Rev. Neal Mills, retired, and member of the DeRuiter church, Rev. John M. Pel, pastor of the Verona church, and Rev. Thomas Goldbush, pastor of the Brookfield First Day Baptist Church. Mrs. Joan Cross was organist.

Mrs. Ruth Palmer, church clerk, read the call to ordination and read a list of delegates present from Adams Center, Berlin, Brookfield First (Leonardsville), DeRuiter, Verona, and Second Brookfield churches.

Rev. Charles Swing was voted chairman of organization and ordination council.

William Palmer in his statement, gave credit to those who influenced his early Christian life. His mother and father provided Christian home. Also, he mentioned Sabbath School teachers, pastors of his church and a reception followed.

During this past year the ladies have been doing so many exciting things at Salemville that we want to share them with all of you.

One really great thing is that we completed the kitchen November 1. It is a wonderful space and we are looking forward to future use.

We have been blessed with three new little bundles of joy—a daughter, Tracey, to Brian and Sharon Kagarise; a son, Robert, to John and Carol Claycomb; and a son, Mark, to Minnie and Dwight Kagarise. They remind us of God’s great love.

The Youth Fellowship and Juniors meet every other Sunday under the leadership of Beth Boyd, Yvonne Stephan, Mary Ellis and Shirley Boyd.

The Women’s Group meets once a month. We held our 19th Labor Day Festival, forced inside because of rain. Several others of God’s gifts, once at a bridge about half a mile from us and not a drop at the festival, and once as we were cleaning up. So we’ve been pretty lucky.

Jada Kagarise, daughter of Orlo and Arlene Kagarise, accepted the Lord and was baptized and accepted into the church. Our pastor spent a week in the hospital following surgery on his arm. We pray for him and his recovery.

We solicit your prayers that our church will continue to grow for the service of the Lord.

MAYOR’S WIFE SPEAKS AT S.D.B. CHURCH

WHITE CLOUD, Mich.—The Christmas activities in the White Cloud church were varied. During the Sabbath services on December 20, we had a dedicational service for two of our babies, Christy Lynn, daughter of Kenneth and Cheryl Schultz, and Rebekah (Becky) Dawn, daughter of Sam and Sandy Cruzan.

Mabel Bahock gave us the explanation of the decorations which were on our beautiful Christmas tree in the called "Messiah". Robert E. Harris shared some of his experiences in the Holy Land at a recent Friday evening prayer service. He has now completed his Seminary training at Ashland, Ohio. Our pastor and his wife are serving as chaplains at the Bridgeport Hospital and also on Dial-A-Devotion, in addition to his regular duties.

"MESSIAH" PRESENTED AT SHILOH

SHILOH, N.J.—The spirit of Christmas was ushered in at the Shiloh church by the annual candle-lighting services held in December. Fifty white candles held in place by a wooden structure and circled with a nine-foot high decorated the center table. The Gospel candle was lit by Pastor Charles Bond; the candle of Faith by Williams and Mrs. Mabel McHenry; the candle of Hope by Brian Davis; the candle of Love by Timothy and Donna Bond and the services concluded with the lighting of the unnamed candle.

A new annual Christmas vesper was presented by the Senior and Youth choirs of sixty voices. Handel’s "Messiah" was given before a capacity crowd in the sanctuary, directed by Mrs. Melvin Dickinson, with Mrs. Robert Jengruck, organist, and Mrs. William Fogg, pianist. Solos included David E. Hitchner, Owen H. Probasco, Carol H. Loper, Mary B. Hitchner, and Marrie Hitchner. The special service was concluded by Pastor Bond assisted by Fred Davis, William Richardson, Ted Davis and J. Harold Fogg.

A surprise program was given to celebrate the 36th wedding anniversary of Pastor Charles and Mrs. Mabel McHenry. Joseph Locke was in charge of the program which included selections by the bell choir, original poems and singing. A Love Gift was presented to the Bonds by Mrs. Bert Cruzan in behalf of the church and a reception followed.

NEW WORK BEGUN IN ENGLAND

LONDON, ENGLAND.—The Mill Yard Church in London continues to reach out to the gospel message and, in doing so, they have been doing so many exciting things at Salemville that we want to share them with all of you.

The one really great thing is that we completed the kitchen November 1. It is a wonderful space and we are looking forward to future use.

The church in Westerly, R.I., on December 20, 1975, to December 31, 1975.

2. To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

3. To ratify the appointments of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting.

The Board of Managers has fixed the meeting for March 1, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. at the time at which members entitled to notice shall be held at the church.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON CHURCH BUILDING

SALEMVILLE, PA.—Hi, Christian friends, we have been doing so many exciting things at Salemville that we want to share them with all of you.

One really great thing is that we completed the kitchen November 1. It is a wonderful space and we are looking forward to future use.

We have been requested to start a "Sing Along" at one of our Nursing Homes in Frement. Some of our members donate time to assist in the Occupational Therapy room for this home. The Ladies’ Aid has taken over the need to aid in our small Rest Home here in White Cloud as an additional project. During this past year the ladies have been made and donated ninety-four shooting caps and mitten to thirty-four of these to the Newagco County Community Service for the school children for Christmas. This same project is continuing.

Men’s Brotherhood continues to meet once a month and some of the men have donated a new home for Dale and Carol Cruzan.

We have put in new sidewalks and painted the church inside and out. The pulpit has been finished in honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Kagarise by their daughter, Jada, and sons, Orlo and Arlene.

So we’ve been pretty lucky.

Jada Kagarise, daughter of Orlo and Arlene Kagarise, accepted the Lord and was baptized and accepted into the church. Our pastor spent a week in the hospital following surgery on his arm. We pray for him and his recovery.

We solicit your prayers that our church will continue to grow for the service of the Lord.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at Salemville Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 21, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers, and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

2. To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1975, to December 31, 1975.

3. To ratify the appointments of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

4. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting.

The Board of Managers has fixed the meeting for March 1, 1976, at 2:00 p.m. at the time at which members entitled to notice shall be held at the church.
CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL!
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST HISTORICAL SERIES

One People Bound Together — by Rev. A. N. Rogers
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BIRTHS

BURDICK — A son, Jeremy Keith, to Norman and Victoria (Lewis) Burdick of Riverside, Calif., on Dec. 31, 1975.
MORRIS — A daughter, Sarah Marjorie, to Peter and Sue Morris of Los Angeles, Calif., on October 29, 1975.
PRESTON — A son, Scott Newton, to Richard and Donna (Rosa) Preston, of Riverside, Calif., on Dec. 30, 1975.
ROOD — A son, Timothy Joseph, to Philip and Irene (Lodder) Rood on Nov. 30, 1975, at Boulder, Colo.
WEAR — A daughter, Holly Mac, to Roy and Carol Wear of Richmond, Virginia, on October 2, 1975.

OBITUARIES

BOND — Carroll Arnold Bond, son of Emery and Rena Bond was born May 8, 1903 and died January 2, 1976 in Parkersburg, W. Va.
He was twice married, first to Lucinda Thompson, who died March 18, 1963. On March 27, 1964, he married Sue Cripps who survives.
Also surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Leland (Dorothy) Green, Occoquan, Va., and Mrs. Lyle (Sylvia) Shreves, Provincetown, W. Va.; one brother, Randolph Bond, Los Creek; five grandchildren.
Also surviving are three stepchildren, Stanley Chips, Bridgeport; Cloyd Chips, Manassas, Va.; and Mrs. Doris Wescott of Salem.

ELLIOTT — Edward M., son of George and Phoebe Elliott, was born August 11, 1909 in Sheehy, N. J., and died in Madison, Wis., on January 13, 1976.
Edward was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, and of its Christian Social Action Committee.
Funeral services were held at the Harbert Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Green, pastor of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, officiating. Interment in Brick Church Cemetery at Lost Creek.

FAMINE RELIEF STILL NEEDED AND PROVIDED IN BANGLADESH

Bangladesh, the young nation which once was the eastern part of Pakistan, continues to have first place in the list of food-short countries of the world, and first place in the response of Baptists to hungry people.

The country was hit successively by a tidal wave, the war of independence, typhoons, and floods. One of the most densely populated of countries (1,390 persons per square mile), Bangladesh is located in an area which seems prone to bear the brunt of unfavorable weather conditions, its small resources are few, its industrial production is very limited, and hence its economic viability is always on the edge. Visitors report that the country is riddled with despair.

Muslims dominate the religious scene in Bangladesh, though some Hindus are also present. The Baptist Christian witness is found in three different groupings, known as the Bangladesh Baptist Union, the Baptist Union of Bangladesh, and the Garo Baptist Union.

Through the Baptist World Alliance, a number of Baptist bodies in other countries have continued to contribute toward the relief of hunger in Bangladesh. The moneys are administered by the Bengali and Garo Baptist leaders on the scene. Since August 1974, $36,220 has been sent through the Washington office of BWA, and 3,332.14 pounds sterling have been sent through the London office.

Some of the money has been used to buy seed rice, to enable farmers to replace seed lost in the storm. A seed rice from the Philippines has been found which seems especially suitable for the Bangladeshi climate. Other portions of the money have been used to buy food for direct feeding of hungry people. In the case of able-bodied hungry people, the administration of relief has been on a food-for-work basis (called "task relief" by the local people). Some money has been used to sink tube wells for irrigation; the water thus obtained can be used to grow three crops per year in that semitropical country, provided that the weather does not produce a crisis.

The Baptist World Alliance is grateful to the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and to its Christian Social Action committee, for its financial participation in this work of human compassion undertaken in Jesus' name.

Relief Coordinator
Baptist World Alliance

NEPALESE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS WORSHIP ON SATURDAY

The Southern Baptist publication Home Missions reports the completion of the first all-Nepalese Southern Baptist congregation to obtain its own facilities in Clearwater, Fla. The church was formed some nineteen months ago and now has a membership of forty-three. There are several other Nepalese churches in the U.S. (These churches traditionally worship on Saturdays, according to the report.

Southern Baptists are actively engaged in establishing congregations among the many ethnic groups in this country.

Angels God's Secret Agents, by Billy Graham
The Bible mentions angels nearly 300 times, yet until recently many people have doubted their existence. You will find yourself engrossed in this book as you read the answer to such questions as: How long have angels existed? What purpose do they serve? How many angels are there? What is their relationship to people? Available at your local Christian bookstore or order from: Box 1240, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440.
Ivar, was born on August 4, 1878 and died in a hospital in Loma Linda, Calif., on November 18, 1975 after a brief illness. In the absence of Earl Grote of the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she attended regular services and was a Sabbath School teacher there. She is survived by her two sisters, Ruth (Mrs. Alphonse H. Neudorf) and Mary (Mrs. Howard W. Way), a niece, Martha (Mrs. Timothy F. Boye) and a nephew, William W. Way. Memorial funeral services were conducted at the Van Hise and Callaghan Funeral Home in Brick, N.J., by Dean Herbert E. Kellogg (a pioneer Seventh Day Baptist minister). He is survived by his wife, Bertha (Davis) Ivar, and a sister, Frances Bishop, of Madison, Wis., and two sisters-in-law, Irene Bury, of Yucaipa, Calif., and Mrs. Helen Bacon, of Loma Linda, Calif.

The funeral services were held in the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church, with his pastor, Rev. Larry Busby officiating. His body was laid in state in the Village Cemetery behind the church, at which time military honors were provided by the American Legion.

The Sabbath Bearers Tour PLANNED

The Light Bearers for Christ musical tour is currently at head quarters in North Lopez, Nebr., where they are resting up following their successful one-month tour in the New England States. They will be at headquarters until February 20, at which time they will leave on another extended tour.

While the team is at headquarters they are being given special training in Sabbath Philosophy, Evangelism and Counselling. Pastor Victor Skaggs is conducting the class in Sabbath Philosophy while Mynor Soper, president of L.B.C., is conducting the training classes in Evangelism and Counselling. There are currently twelve full-time staff members. They are: David Davis, Seattle, Wash.; Robert Van Horn, Lost Creek, Wash.; Jerry Van Horn, North Lopez, Nebr.; Patty Lawton, Westerly, R.I.; Patty Burdick, Boulder, Colo.; Dawn Soper, North Lopez; Beverly Hamilton, Fontana, Calif. (secretary), Beverly Austin, Ashaway, R.I.; Ewald Fick, Battle Creek, Mich.; Stan Soper, North Lopez; Dan Richards, Marlboro, N.J.; and Teresa Clement, Kearney, Nebr. Some of the members are being trained to help in special evangelistic outreach efforts.

The schedule for the spring tour is as follows:

- **February 20**: Nortopolis, Kansas
- **February 24**: Northern Arkansas
- **March 2**: Fouke, Ark.
- **March 4-6**: Fouke-Texarkana Retreat
- **March 7-21**: Houston, Texas
- **April**: West Coast (So. Calif. to Seattle, Wash.)
- **Early May**: Boulder-Denver, area

Julie looked at the beautiful Bible which she had received from Aunt Sue last month for her birthday. She had opened the covers just enough to peek in, but she had never used it. She did not want anyone else to use it either. "I want to keep it like new," she said.

"It won't do you any good unless you read it," replied her mother.

"But it's so pretty!" Julie said. "I don't want to spoil the looks of it.

Each day Mother tried to show Julie that the Bible would do her no good unless she read it, but Julie could not be convinced.

One evening Mother decorated the supper table beautifully. She had candles on the table. The best silver was used, and all of the dishes were filled with food. Everything looked lovely. After Julie's father had offered thanks for the food, Julie said, "Please pass the meat.

"Oh, no," said Mother. "It looks too pretty on the plate. We're not going to eat it.

Julie looked after in surprise. "May I have some salad, then?"

"No," said Dad. "Mother has fixed it so it looks so nice in the bowl. We don't want to spoil the looks of it.

"But I'm hungry," said Julie.

"Oh, I'm sure you are," said Mother, "but you wouldn't want this beautiful plate of food to be spoiled, would you? We are just planning to sit here at the table and look at it. Isn't it lovely?"

Suddenly Julie realized that her mother was trying to teach her a lesson. "I guess that is what I have been doing with my Bible, in it, Mother?" she asked. Julie had learned her lesson.

Boys and girls, many people treat their Bibles in this manner. They dust them. They put them on a doily on the table. They keep them in a special box. They are just pretty to have around. But a Bible is a living, breathing book of the Word of God. It is the source of our strength and joy. And it is the foundation of our faith. So let's treat it with respect and reverence. Let's use it as it was intended - to help us grow in our relationship with God. Amen.
One of the main issues facing the next session of the General Conference as it meets in August is whether or not to continue our affiliation with the World Council of Churches. As in 1973 when Conference voted to withdraw from the National Council of Churches there will be a roll call vote of the churches on this issue.

Seventh Day Baptists have been urged to study our relationship with the WCC. It is apparent that there are advantages and disadvantages to be weighed concerning the extent of our continued involvement with the body. Each Seventh Day Baptist should study carefully the issues at hand and above all – be informed as to how these issues relate to us as a people!

The Council, whose symbol is a ship on a stormy sea, continues to face tough weather as it seeks to represent its 285 widely diverse member churches. Seventh Day Baptists are the only Sabbath-observing denomination with membership even though the Seventh-day Adventists, like the Southern Baptists, send observers.

We plan in the next few issues of the Sabbath Recorder to have what we hope will be an OPEN FORUM on this issue. We invite our readers to share their constructive thoughts as they pertain to this issue. We plan to publish all letters that are signed and are concise. We do not have space for lengthy articles – so share your thoughts as briefly as possible. We would urge you to become involved – let us hear both sides of the issue and then be prepared to cast our vote in August as truly informed Seventh Day Baptists.

Houston, Texas, where we have had an active fellowship for some time. During the two years our churches were organized: New York City, N.Y., and North Jersey, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist groups (some are fellowships) are now located at Sioux Falls, S.D.; Houston, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Ventura, Calif.; Portland, Oregon; Randle, Wash.; Cities Mountain, W.Va.; Lincoln, Neb.; Monmouth, Ill.; Galena, Ohio; and East Lansing, Mich.

The two churches with the largest percentage growth during the year were Boulder, Colo., and Texarkana, Ark. The Shiloh, N.J., church is our largest, fellowships) are now located at Houston, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Ventura, Calif.; Portland, Oregon; Randle, Wash.; Cities Mountain, W.Va.; Lincoln, Neb.; Monmouth, Ill.; Galena, Ohio; and East Lansing, Mich.

The two churches with the largest percentage growth during the year were Boulder, Colo., and Texarkana, Ark. The Shiloh, N.J., church is our largest congregation in terms of average Sabbath attendance, followed by the church at Milton, Wis. Several other churches reported increased attendance and membership.

Another indication of “new spirit” among Seventh Day Baptists is the fact that we raised 99 percent of our World Mission budget this year. The hope is that we will be able to raise the budget in FULL during 1976 and begin to expand again our programs of outreach, growth, and advancement. If we are going to continue to have growth in 1976 we are going to have to do it together as Boards, Agencies, Associations, Churches, Pastors and Laymen. No solo jobs! The great missionary of the New Testament, the apostle Paul, didn’t solo. He took someone with him on his God-appointed rounds. And he could say to a flock: “We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves” (II Thess. 2:3).

Let us give of “our own selves” in a united effort in 1976 to see renewal, revitalization, and revival among Seventh Day Baptists. Let us EXTEND NOW!

The headline looks very good doesn’t it? And what’s more – it is true on a worldwide basis. The 1975 Yearbook reveals that our worldwide membership as reported is now 52,184, an increase of 3,571 over last year’s report.

However, these figures are not accurate because the listing includes only those Conferences which hold membership in the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. There are, for example, over 1,000 Seventh Day Baptists in South Africa and additional organized believers in Korea, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Kenya. The Conferences which show an increase in membership over last year are: Brazil, Burma, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi, and the Netherlands. Our “mission field” in Malawi now has a larger membership than the U.S. Conference and has its own missions in Rhodesia, Mozambique, and Kenya! Program was made at work as well as during 1975. The R.O.N. project was launched in September at

February 1976

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A Religious Ghetto?
Sure.

Most cities have scores of them. Even small towns usually have several, commonly called churches.

Really, we Christians with a transforming and eternal message are all too often content to stay within our four fancy walls, muttering to ourselves about ourselves. Sometimes we do pause to malign that silly world outside.

Our Master was so different. He burst upon history moved by a divine urgency to help and heal the hurting. Jesus ate with sinners, chatted with harlots and pardoned the penitent.

The early disciples preached and healed like their Master, liberating yet others long trapped in the wreckage of their hopes. Those spiritual revolutionaries were properly accused of turning the world upside down.

We'd be glad to suffer that epithet today, if we could deserve it. Fact is, you are reading this piece right now because someone is determined to break out of this stifling ghetto of our own making.

Jesus is alive, and we are finally getting anxious to have you know that. He is real. We ought to have told you before that you can know Him, receive eternal life and be sure of it — now.

The Saviour put it this way, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." 

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Let's escape together. Into Him.

John 14:6  John 8:32  John 8:36