Christ has filled us with His own Spirit, and released us to express to men everywhere the adventure of living in fellowship with Him.
The Rejected Cornerstone

by Rev. Don A. Sanford

The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

—Matthew 21:42

A few years ago, I was involved in the building of a new church in which the congregation contributed a large share of the labor. A portion of the building was of native sandstone. We did not have to rely upon huge stones for the support of the corners, but we did find that the cornerstones were the most difficult to prepare. The sandstone was delivered in large rough pieces just as it had been blasted from the pit. It had to be carefully split and chopped into manageable pieces with at least one side which could be faced. It was often difficult to get good stones for the corners, particularly at the end of a wall which sometimes required three sides which could be faced.

On one occasion, I worked for some time on a stone trying to get a good surface. It seemed that whatever way I struck the stone, it would not break right. Finally I cast it aside and started to work on another. The mason who was laying the wall picked up the stone that I had discarded, and with his experienced hand gave it a tap in the right spot, and had a well-shaped stone which he used in the corner of the sanctuary.

This has served as a potent reminder that often what we may overlook or reject, can in the hands of the master be very valuable and useful. How many times have we overlooked potential leaders within our churches because of some external rough appearance? How much talent might be hidden waiting only the touch of the Master craftsman.

But the rejection of the stone was not told by Matthew in relation to the rejection of other human beings, as false a practice as that may be. The great sin of the Jewish leaders was their rejection of Jesus Christ. He is the chief cornerstone. We do not know what might happen if the Jews had more generally accepted Jesus as the Messiah and followed His teachings. It might be that the nation could have avoided the destruction of the Temple and much of the persecution which followed. Certainly much of the disaster which has plagued the Jewish people throughout history would have been avoided.

The early church may have taken delight in seeing part of Jesus’ parable of the wicked tenants of God’s vineyard coming true in their own time. While Judaism was declining, Christianity was spreading throughout the known world. There was no accounting for its growth outside the fact expressed by Paul, “For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus” (1 Cor. 3:11).

But to center our attention on the past without seeing its relevance for our time is as grave a sin as the rejection by the Pharisees and scribes. The parable of the vineyard was historical in its application. God had put man in His well-equipped vineyard with considerable freedom; His demands for a portion of the produce were fair and just. He could have demanded much more. Prophet after prophet appeared to the children of Israel, but in one way or another, each was rejected by the selfishness and shortsightedness of the people. As a final measure God sent His own Son to remind His stewards of their obligation to the owner of the vineyard, but He, too, was rejected and killed. As punishment, the tenants were dispossessed and destroyed.

(continued on page 29)
Fruits of the Spirit -- Joy

Most of us are familiar with that spiritually exhilarating chorus which begins, "Let's just praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Let's just lift our hands toward heaven and praise the Lord. . . ." In moments of worship born feelings of holy boldness, we become almost embarrassed by our desire to literally respond to the dictates of that song. In fact, the very April morning this article was begun, it was almost more than this writer could bear to suggest that one could ever feel very far removed from such an attitude of spiritual ecstasy. After all, was not another writer inspired to say: "Thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto" (Deut. 12: 18)?

Truly, we are being "transformed" into such an evidence of Christian perfection (Rom. 12:2); but few, if any, of us have totally arrived there, except for the sense in which our status in Christ has indeed credited us with such an "arrival" already. Paul's life is an outstanding example of what sometimes appears to be the "mixed blessing" of Christian joy. A lack of understanding on this point can needlessly pull us down into the cynicism of human despair (see Ecclesiastes), and yet we have often felt or been made to feel guilty for thinking about this other side of the fruit of the Spirit called JOY.

Whether Biblical or not (I), this other side of Christian joy may not have been the kind of fruitfulness we had in mind when we opted for the Christian WAY. After all, when you think of Spirit-born joy, what comes first to your mind? A message movingly preached? A spiritual "high" coming out of last summer's camping experience? Deliverance from anxiety or overt danger? An experienced or known about experience of healing? No one would deny (and, in fact, "let's just praise the Lord") that all of this and more is offered to us as part of the joy of the Christian experience.

But Paul's Spirit-filled example to us also contained growth-bearing aspects which we are quite ready to scrutinize as he himself would have certainly liked to do had God allowed. Though we often fail to discern the true intent of Paul's words, he sarcastically reports at the conclusion of the eleventh chapter of 2 Corinthians that he was so gloriously received by the authorities in Damascus that "... I was let down by rope and basket from a hole in the city wall, and so I got away!" [What popularity!] Note particularly how this paraphrased rendition by The Living Bible amplifies what is being implied by Paul's manner of reporting.

He is actually boasting about and joyfully reporting an event which had seen his very life endangered. Such a one would be counted just a little strange and unbalanced in Christian (Seventh Day Baptist?) circles today. Who in the world would count it joy to boast in being let down over a high city wall in the dark in what was probably a smelly fish basket? Some might facetiously respond that it was perhaps easier for him to do so after the fact. Nevertheless, a theme of Paul's writings and even our "witness" of his actual experience is his counting it all joy to serve our Lord.

This is the part of the Christian experience that the Corinthians, like us, had chosen to ignore and even disdain. They looked upon Paul's problems and weaknesses as proof of his "minor league status" as a Christian. To them the Christian experience was to be based only on status-giving spiritual highs such as, perhaps, exhilarating visions and speaking in tongues. What their problem was has been speculated upon in a number of ways, but we do know that they were "super-Christian types" who no longer raised issues soberly. Paul's sense of spiritual upliftedness or joy would certainly not have been characteristic of Christianity for them. That is why Paul continues in humble JOY with --

Fourteen years ago I (implied) was taken up to heaven for a visit . . . there I was in paradise, and heard things so astounding that they are beyond a man's power to describe or put in words... That experience is worth bragging about, but I am not going to do it. I am going to boast only about how weak I am and how great God is to use such weakness for his glory (1 Cor. 12:2-6).

He even admits God gave him a "thorn in my flesh" to "prick my pride," and that this "thorn" (from Satan!) continued to buffet him -- yet he continued to joy in the Lord.

Throughout the entire tenure of the apostle's ministry he continued to encounter struggle after struggle, so that some have even suggested that this general prominence to suffering was his "thorn" in the flesh. But he nevertheless continued to be assured of the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in his life. His utter joy continued to abound.

I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am happy about "the thorn," and about insults, and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong -- the less I have, the more I depend on him.

Is Paul trying to tell us something about an added dimension of the JOY of serving God? Might there be a JOY which comes from recognizing that our human strength can be God's rival while our weakness can actually show forth His purpose and glory.\[2]
DARING THE IMPOSSIBLE

A Preview of General Conference College of the Ozarks Clarksville, Arkansas August 7-13, 1977

Conference President Delmer Van Horn invites you to plan to share in the work and worship of Conference '77.

The Host Committee for General Conference continues to lay plans and initiate actions for the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference which will be held at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR, August 7-13, 1977.

Registration: Adult for the week, $9.00. Children age ten and under, $3.00 for the week, weekend rates $3.00 per person.

Room and board for adults $12.50 per day in air-conditioned rooms (a limited number are available), $11.00 per day in non-air-conditioned rooms. No charge for children in sleeping bags.

Meals may be purchased separately for those who do not plan to stay on campus. Meals per day-Adults $5.50, children age 6-12, $2.75.

There is a charge of $2.00 per day to park recreational vehicles; this charge includes use of campus showers, etc. Camping facilities are available on campus and also in a State Park a short distance away. There are also motels and restaurants in Clarksville.

Send your registration to: Mr. Irving Seager 6108 Brentwood Little Rock, AR 72207

CHILDREN’S CONFERENCE

CHILDREN’S ASSOCIATED CONFERENCES at the 1977 Seventh Day Baptist General Conference will be conducted by these wonderful volunteer leaders: Kindergarten-Mrs. Muriel Osborn of Nortonville, Kan., Primary-Paul and Dusty Davis of Salem, W. Va., Junior-Mrs. Mildred Lawrence of Paint Rock, Ala., Junior High-Pastor and Mrs. Floyd Goodson of Fouke, Ark.

Parents are reminded of their responsibilities as planned by the Church School Program Committee of the Board of Christian Education which works out details with the General Conference leaders. Mrs. Doris Van Horn heads the Church School Committee.

Here’s the plan for parental cooperation with the Associated Conference leaders:

Responsibility of Parent(s):
1. Parents are responsible for their youngsters at all times when the Associated Conferences are not in session.
2. Do not bring children early to the sessions and leave them unless the director or a helper is ready for them.
3. Pick the children up promptly at the end of each session, or make arrangements to meet them at a designated place.
4. Parent(s) may be asked by the directors to take to take responsibility for some portion of the Associated Conference in which their children participate.

PLANS FOR PRE-CONS IN ARKANSAS

J. Paul Green, Jr., directs the Young Adult Pre-Con Retreat to be held at the College of the Ozarks, Aug. 3-7, 1977. "Pastor Paul" is hanging his program on the theme "LET YOURSELF GROW," and is particularly well-fitted for the Young Adult Pre-Con because of his work with Salem College and its students and staff.

The music staff starts with Pastor Paul’s wife, Denise, who will be aided by Jean Davis (Mrs. Kenneth) of Battle Creek, Mich. Bible studies will develop in the flexible and warm teaching experiences of Pastor Elmo “Randy” Randolph of Boulder, Colo. Mrs. Madeline Randolph will help staff the Pre-Con activities also. Efficient management of some Pre-Con time goes into lectures by Pastor Ken Davis on “Managing Your Time in Your Life.”

Eligible Pre-Cons are any persons from 18-35 years of age. No children are expected here, but a Family Pre-Con invites young adults in this age bracket—and older—along with children. (See details below.)

“Pastor Chuck” Graffius, soon to be pastor of the Los Angeles S.D.B. Church, will direct the Youth Pre-Con Retreat to be held in another part of the College of the Ozarks during the same period as Young Adult Pre-Con. Youth of ages 15 years (or completed grade 9) through 18 years, are invited to share these exciting four days under the able leadership of this veteran camper and churchman.

Pastor Chuck is gathering program and staff which will be announced in later detailed information for advanced registration of Youth Pre-Cons.

Both these Pre-Con Retreats will cost about $50 which will pay for board, room and insurance. Supervising these Pre-Cons is the National Youth Ministries Committee of the S.D.B. Board of Christian Education, headed by Mrs. Amanda Snyder.

The Family Pre-Con Retreat meets at Beaver Forks Camp near Conway, Ark., beginning its program Aug. 4, with families coming into the camp Aug. 3 to set up. Pleasant, large A-frame cabins will provide major housing needs of the campers, although trailer-trailers, tents and camper-units will, of course, be used by some. The Beaver Forks Camp has provided enjoyable environment for Southwestern Association’s youth camp for several years. Family Pre-Cons can anticipate a refreshing experience together with such fine hospitality.

The program for this Pre-Con is arranged by the Life Ventures Committee headed by Mrs. Luan Ellis of Alfred Station. As with the other Pre-Cons, fine details for families’ advance registration will be sent out soon to each church.
The Quilts

We are reminded of the song we have heard, "Pass It On," as we look at the results of our worship together last summer in our Women's Interests Committee... "It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing...that's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it—you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on..."

And so it is that something really beautiful is happening with "our" quilt...the women of the Adams Center, N.Y. Society have taken on the gigantic task of putting it all together under the guidance of Mrs. Harold (Mildred) Scriven. The response to the appeal for more blocks has been phenomenal. The blue ribbon goes to the Buffalo "gals" who sent in the most blocks from one society—120!

The Ladies' Aid members of Adams Center, N.Y., are putting the quilt together. Mary Ellen Rand, Helen Chrysler, Nellie Barbur, Alfreda Shupper, Bertha Hunter, Delphina Greer, Irene Sundlun, Mildred Scriven, Lora Diffis, and Beatrice Malaby.

The blocks came in from societies far and wide, Mildred Scriven began to embroider the name of each society on the quilt. Some individuals sent in a single block, and three names, too, were worked with loving care. Later, when the embroidered block came from the Netherlands, the quilt was taken apart and reassembled, with the new block in the center.

As the blocks came in from societies far and wide, Mildred Scriven began to embroider the name of each society on the quilt. Some individuals sent in a single block, and three names, too, were worked with loving care. Later, when the embroidered block came from the Netherlands, the quilt was taken apart and reassembled, with the new block in the center.

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HOSTS
DAYTONA BEACH

Ministers Conference

"A very worthwhile session combining lectures, discussions, worship and fellowship," is how one participant described the 1977 Seventh Day Baptist Ministers Conference held in Daytona Beach, Florida, on April 27-May 3. Bringing together pastors from New England, the Midwest, the South, California, and places in between the Conference focused attention on leadership, management skills and stewardship principles.

Leaders for the session directed by Dean Herbert E. Saunders, were Dr. Kenneth E. Smith, vice-president of Dowling College in Oakdale, New York; Dr. Kenneth O. Gangel, president of Miami Christian College in Miami, Florida; and Dr. Gilbert A. Peterson, director of the School of Christian Education at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Each leader brought a wide range of experience into the discussions and created an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm as our ministers shared possibilities for growth in leadership and ministry.

The Conference convened at the Daytona Beach church on Wednesday morning, April 27. Throughout the week various pastors led in worship to start the day: Paul Osborne, Paul Green, Dale Rood, Harmon Dickinson, Don Richards, and Leland Davis. The four-hour workshop on Stewardship was led by Ken Smith as he shared in the motivation, program, and leadership for giving. He was assisted by the Stewardship chairman of the General Conference, Dr. E. Keith Davis of Denver, Colorado. The sessions were thoughtful and satisfaction was expressed throughout the conference for the exciting beginning of the week.

Each afternoon and evening there was opportunity for members of Planning Committee to share informally with the ministers. Discussions focused on the Ad Hoc Committee Report, General Conference plans for 1977, "Quiet Saturdays," the "Touch of His Hand" evangelism emphasis of the World Home Bible League, establishment of goals for Seventh Day Baptists, and other items of interest.

Devotional Bible studies on the Gospel of John were daily occurrences. Bible study leaders were Charles Bond, Rex Burdick, Dale Thorngate, David Pearson, John Camenga, and Alton Wheeler. Each study leader brought insights to the discussion using various Bible study manuals. Prayer sessions closing the day were led by Perry Cain, Ken Davis, Russ Havens, and Earl Cruzan.

On Thursday, April 28, Dr. Kenneth O. Gangel flew in and out to share with the ministers a "Theology of Management." Developing a Biblical base for management is more important than establishing principles for management. The three-hour workshop focused our attention on the meaning of being leaders as Christ taught us, as was evidenced in various persons in the Old and New Testaments, and as was seen in the development of the early Christian community. Regret was expressed that we could not get better acquainted with Dr. Gangel and pick his obvious experienced and fertile mind. He is the author of ten books with two more on the way, including "Leadership for Church Education," "Competent to Lead," and "So You Want To Be a Leader!"

Friday evening and Sabbath day were shared with the Daytona Beach and Palatka church people. Friday evening we all shared in one of Marion and Erma Van Horn's patented slide vesper services. It was an inspiration to all. Sabbath morning the ministers divided to attend services in Daytona Beach and Palatka. Pastor Jack Hays of Sunshine Mountain, Chatawa, Miss., was the speaker in Palatka and several persons requested baptism following the message — baptism that will be held at a later date with Pastor Clifford Beebe officiating. Pastor Delmar Van Horn of Lost Creek West in Daytona Beach on his General Conference theme "Daring the Impossible!" On the night after the Sabbath all shared in a delightful twilight trip to Marion Van Horn and his forty years in the Seventh Day Baptist ministry. A surprise to him (and in some ways to Erma), Dale Thorngate (as "Christopher Church Mouse") related the life story of Marion through today. Members of the Van Horn family had secretly invited all in Daytona Beach for the affair. It was a joyful occasion that was expertly prepared by Janet Van Horn Thorngate, Marion's oldest daughter.

Very, very late on the night after the Sabbath, Dr. Gilbert Peterson joined us in Daytona, and for the next three days shared with us in a twelve-hour workshop on the principles of management and leadership for the pastor. Going through planning, reading for results, objectives, organizing, delegation, job descriptions, leader-board relationships, communication, decision making, and budgeting, he shared with the ministers assembled guidelines for continued leadership. Using as a resource a notebook prepared by himself and Dr. C. Lorum Henderson, he gave practical principles for effective and strong leadership and management in a local church. The seminar objectives were outlined as follows: Knowledge — To introduce the subject of management as the body of management knowledge applies specifically to Christian and voluntary organizations. Attitude — To whet appetites so as to create desire for further development of attitudes, skills and knowledge as related to management. Skill — Present practical working methods for selected management tasks and to show where to go for further management help. As the notebook states: "Management is not the most important subject for the Christian organizational leader — just indispensable!"

One participant in the seminar wrote this evaluation: "Gil Peterson was one (if not the one) of the best leaders I have studied under. Even if I do not get back and study the syllabus, I will use his teaching because I'll remember it." Many expressed similar sentiments as the Conference was brought to a close.

The final experience together was a time of worship and Communion led by Elmo Randolph and Edgar Wheeler. Seated in a circle around the table of the Lord lit by candlelight, the ministers and others from Daytona Beach and elsewhere shared together the love that Christ gives to His children. It was a fitting climax to an enjoyable but busy week.

The Seventh Day Baptist Council on Ministry, through the dean, planned and directed this conference, utilizing Continuing Education funds to provide program support for the ministers. One participant wrote: "Continue to use qualified speakers — this year's were great." At the close of the Conference the Center on Ministry granted four continuing education units to each attendee in recognition of his participation.

A special note of thanks goes to the church family in Daytona Beach, Florida. Their warmth and love, shared in so many ways, was an inspiration to all. The meals were served with grace and joy, and eaten with relish. We recognize the tremendous time put into hosting this conference which listed forty-seven participants. Those who were on the hosting committee were: Erma Van Horn, Iris Malby, Martha Perry, Mary Green, and Marguerite Heinig. Pastor Marion C. Van Horn served us well as host pastor. To each of them goes a tribute to Marion in his fourty years in the Seventh Day Baptist Church. A special note of thanks goes to the church family in Daytona Beach, Florida. Their warmth and love, shared in so many ways, was an inspiration to all. The meals were served with grace and joy, and eaten with relish. We recognize the tremendous time put into hosting this conference which listed forty-seven participants. Those who were on the hosting committee were: Erma Van Horn, Iris Malby, Martha Perry, Mary Green, and Marguerite Heinig. Pastor Marion C. Van Horn served us well as host pastor. To each of them goes a tribute to Marion in his forty years in the Seventh Day Baptist Church. A special note of thanks goes to the church family in Daytona Beach, Florida. Their warmth and love, shared in so many ways, was an inspiration to all. The meals were served with grace and joy, and eaten with relish. We recognize the tremendous time put into hosting this conference which listed forty-seven participants. Those who were on the hosting committee were: Erma Van Horn, Iris Malby, Martha Perry, Mary Green, and Marguerite Heinig. Pastor Marion C. Van Horn served us well as host pastor. To each of them goes a tribute to Marion in his forty years in the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

—Dean Herbert E. Saunders
Dr. Kenneth Gange spoke on the theology of management.

Ministers from all sections of the country shared in the worship and workshops of the conference.

Rev. Rex Burdick was one of several pastors who led in the evening Bible studies.

The conference provided time for informal sharing as well.

A workshop on stewardship was led by Dr. Kenneth E. Smith.

Leaders Take Leave
Fran and Dave Clarke

Dave and Fran Clarke have lived and loved for the SDB Board of Christian Education since October 1970, and Dave's resignation as executive secretary was accepted with great appreciation by the board at its January meeting. Home responsibilities are a matter of life for Dave (his mother is 90 and his aunt who lives with them is 100), and the board reluctantly agreed.

Leaders Labs, the Uniform Lesson Committee (NCC Division of Education and Ministry), the camping program of our denomination, curriculum building and other interests are very personal for Dave; and he drove himself to be our leader in them. Long days and nights on the road and away from home were one of the reasons he paid gladly for these interests. Local church leaders across the denomination received from him on-the-spot counsel and recommendations.

Fran has served officially as editor of The Sabbath Visitor, as corresponding secretary of the board, and as coordinator of Dave's work when he was on the field. She has kept "the home fires burning" and also found time for Church Women United at local and state levels, and for the area Migrant Resettlement Committee. On occasion she has also served in the privileged grandmother role. She is chairperson of the Alfred church's music committee and has taught a Sabbath School class.

As a former pastor of the Alfred SDB Church, the Rev. David S. Clarke is recognized in the community. He is a director of Harvest Center, Prattsburg, N.Y., a corporation aiding agricultural workers in western New York state. Frequently he preaches in area pulpits on invitation. His brief moments of relaxation are spent with his colonies of bees or doing carpentry and crafts. He has agreed to stay on with the Board of Christian Education half time as consultant through 1977 while he assumes a larger share of home responsibilities.

We are not saying good-bye to Dave and Fran since they will still be part of the board's ministry. We salute them both gratefully. May Fran know she is considered "a good wife... far more precious than jewels... she reaches out her hands to the needy," etc., etc. (Proverbs 31, RSV). May Dave enjoy a season of rest in the harness and rest in the Lord "sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb," even "honey from the rock" (Psalms 19:10, 81:16).

-Albert N. Rogers
CHARLES H. NORTH

It is difficult to describe the kind of dedication to God that leads one man to respond to the needs of a people, and perhaps in that dedication to place in jeopardy his relationship to his family and his profession. But all who know Charles H. North know that over the years he has evidenced a dedication to the life of Seventh Day Baptists that has been sincere and open. Sometimes it has placed him in an awkward position with family, friends, and supervisors; but he has maintained that sense of dedication and urgency that has served his God and his denomination well.

Born in Milton, Wisconsin, on October 28, 1913, the son of L. Harrison and Josephine Goodrich (Post) North, he moved with his family to Plainfield, New Jersey, at the age of eleven and has been a resident of the Queen City ever since. Sometimes circumstances of time and location make marks on a person’s life and Charles witnessed the sincere and dedicated life of his father as he served the denomination as manager of the Recorder Press and as trustee of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund. Albert N. Rogers, long an associate of Charles North, made this comment recently: “Charles North has been a worthy son of his father, L. Harrison North, denominational wheeler horse for many years.”

Because he lived in Plainfield, because of the influence of his father, because of his own personal dedication to the task of Seventh Day Baptists, Charles became actively involved in denominational life, particularly through the work of the Plainfield church and the American Sabbath Tract Society.

But service to the denomination was not limited to Tract Society work. For eighteen years Charles was a member of the Trustees of the General Conference, whose responsibility is to keep in trust the facilities at denominational headquarters at 510 Watchung Ave. “Recognizing that those who are given responsibility must also exercise some authority,” he took his personal responsibility to the denomination seriously as he helped administer denominational holdings.

One cannot, however, limit service to God to the roles Charles played in denominational affairs. He was baptized and joined the Plainfield Seventh Day Baptist Church of Christ in May of 1925, and has been a part of that fellowship of believers ever since, singing in the choir, acting as moderator, chairing numerous committees, and since 1942 serving as a member of the Board of Trustees. He has held positions as president of the church and secretary of the board of trustees, and since 1968 treasurer of the congregation.

In his personal life Charles has shared many experiences, some of which would bring down a lesser man. He graduated from Plainfield High School in 1931 and went to Milton College. He was a member of the Milton College Glee Club and joined a summer quartet that toured the west. Graduating in 1937 he began work as a spectrographer.

Mr. Rogers writes: “[A]s treasurer and then president of the American Sabbath Tract Society, Charles did a careful job of stewardship. He made himself familiar with the complicated finances of the Tract Board as well as its working committees; and took a personal interest in the Publishing House, which his father had made a successful business as well as an important servant of the Seventh Day Baptist work.”

No one will deny that he put responsibility to the board high on his own priority list, and as Victor Skaggs writes: “imitated that plan he carried through.” He gave many hours of dedicated service and conducted meetings with dignity. He continues to serve the Tract Board today, using his tremendous knowledge of financial affairs as the chairman of the finance committee.

There’s a new wind blowing in our churches... It’s the wind of the Holy Spirit! It’s bringing new life to church members and new members to the new life.

Christ has filled us with His own Spirit, and released us to express to men everywhere the adventure of living in fellowship with Him.

He knows both our need and our potential; He will heal the one and lift us to the other. He will not let us go; we belong to Him; we are His people.

Our communion is with Him and through His love, with each other. Having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in our faith, let us open ourselves to one another and the world.

(continued on page 29)
SHARING IS... CARING

by Ann Williams

In his book "The Four Loves," C. S. Lewis wrote: "If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Avoid all entanglements, lock it up safe in the coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, silent—it will change. It will not be broken, it will become unbreakable, impeneetrable, irredeemable."

As Christians, how many times have we fallen into the condition Lewis describes? In Colossians 3 it is written: "Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience." At times we must shamefully admit that others who make no Christian profession show more compassion than those of us who claim to know Christ.

John R. W. Stott in "Basic Christianity" wrote: "The pages of the church's history have often been stained with stupidity and selfishness, even by open disobedience to the teaching of Christ. Still today some churches appear to be dead or dying, rather than vibrant with life; and others are torn by factions and bickering by lovelessness. We have to admit that not all those who profess and call themselves Christians exhibit either the love or the life of Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless the Christian's place is in the local Christian community, however imperfect it may be, there to seek the new quality of relationship which Christ gives His people, and in that fellowship to share in the church's worship and witness." As a unique denomination, Seventh Day Baptists in the past have often refrained from sharing their feelings and faith with others simply because it was easier to love or the life of Jesus Christ.

"A time of sharing for Florence Bowden and George Parrish. (Photographs courtesy of Bob Austin.)

However, the potential loneliness that may arise by not expressing love and concern, far outweighs the risks that accompany such actions. We soon learn from experience that the satisfactions far exceed the occasional hurts we experience.

Even God risked creating a being so independent of Him that He could either love Him or ignore Him and turn its back. He went even further when He decided to love each one of these beings as His own child. He was involved and concerned to the extent that He gave up His own Son to live with them. He knew such decisions would include suffering. But He must have figured it be worse, the risk, for without it, even God would have experienced the ultimate loneliness of having no one to care for or love.

A person's growth should not be measured by clocks and calendars; but rather by seasons of the heart. Therefore, as a Christian and Seventh Day Baptist, radiate joy, love and light to everyone.

The home is an ideal place to begin broadening one's ability to care. Try to really listen and watch as your children tell you something. When you have one finger in a magazine or newspaper to keep your place, from their perspective you are saying: "Keep it short—I'll allow you a maximum of two minutes for conversation." Instead, lay aside what you're reading, talk about their day, and give your undivided attention. Upon finishing their story, they will leave with the realization that you have really listened and cared.

As an alternative or change from times of family devotions and prayer, at bedtime try praying alone together in private with your children. Each child will look forward to having a few moments alone with you every evening. Such a practice results in more intimate relationships and provides a time for sharing the joys and pains of life. When one of you is worried or you are touched by a crisis or tragedy, gather together as a family for a simple prayer. If someone experiences a good day, let him know you're glad things went well for him.

"I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.

—Kagawa

Don't limit the time of caring to only birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. If you know of an upcoming event in someone's life, call or write and let him know you are thinking of him and wishing him the best.

Someone has written: "Friendship is not only a giving, but a receiving... Not only a going to, but a being invited in." And so it is with those who visit our churches and join us in worship. If they have made an effort to come, we must not forget to invite them in. And that includes inviting them to share your Sabbath meal with you. Some of the deepest and most satisfying relationships have developed as a result of "breaking bread" together.

Through the acts of sharing and caring, you will gain as much as you give. Give support and help as best you can, and you will gain back fresh reserves of yourself. You will discover small new talents you never suspected. You will meet new and interesting people in walks of life previously closed to you; and learn a great deal about human nature. Ideas, viewpoints, and outlooks will be stretched and enlarged. Prejudices will be dissolved, opinions revised, personal enrichment will be broadened and maturity developed.

As we learn to share our concern with others, may the following prayer be the prayer of each one of us:

Merciful Heavenly Father,
When there is a need for teaching,
When there is need for understanding,
When there is need for understanding, listen through me.
Whenever prayer is needed, pray through me.
When a helping hand is needed, reach through mine.

—Alma Hendriks McNatt
...GROWING

"Jesus said the church is his body, that he is the life of the body. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:4-6).

"But in many places today it seems the life has gone out of the body.

"In the early church all Christians were intimately and actively involved in the vibrant life of the body. Their witness to unbelievers coupled with their deep love for each other rocked the Roman world. And it must be so again."

...*

GROWING OUT NOW

"The church is to be patient and forbearing, knowing that the seeds of truth take time to sprout, grow and come to full harvest." - Ray C. Stedman

"Body Life"

"Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love" (Eph. 4:15-16).

"If you genuinely want lay renewal in your church, you will have to have a living, growing fellowship of people who are being gently crushed into the wine of new life. This family will be the spiritual home, the true center of Christ's church, into which other people can be brought to be loved and reborn." - Keith Miller

"Taste Of New Wine"

by Brandon Crandall

( Brandon and his wife, Grace, are members of the Growth Force of the Milton church. During the worship service in that church, Brandon shared these thoughts - Ed.)

Phase one of our study and work as a growth force is concerned with preparation; the preparation we are doing individually as members of the growth force, and also the preparation we all must do as a church. To be successful, church growth must be more than a simple plan of action. We aren't just drawing up plans for canvassing the community, or preparing ourselves as teams to witness, or any other single plan as such.

We are trying to renew ourselves as Christians. We are trying to make ourselves more aware of the joys and blessings and responsibilities of being Christians together. We know that the foundation of Christianity is Love. The love of Christ for us makes each of us precious to Him. That same feeling of Christian love should fill our whole church life. When it does, our church will grow; not because we confront people with the Sabbath Truth, but because Christ and the Holy Spirit are alive and well here, in you and me. When we make ourselves vessels to be filled by the Holy Spirit, He will fill us, and when that happens we will want to share the good news of our joy in Christ, and we will grow as a church.

I would liken our church growth to growth in the cells of the body. Body cells grow by drawing nutrients into themselves. The higher concentration within the cell draws fluid into the cell. It can even draw until it bursts the cell. Our church is a cell in the body of Christ's church. We are surrounded with the membrane of Christ's love. Outside are many people who are dilute Christians and non-Christians. Phase One of our plan of growth is to make the concentration of "Christian Particles" here high enough to have drawing power in the community. When the church life we share with each other is vital enough, full enough and joyful enough, we will draw until our programs are full, and there are willing workers with nothing to do. Then new churches will form.

Future reports from the growth force will be concerned with the gifts which each of us have, and how those gifts can be used in our church and its program. Phase One will take from a year to eighteen months, or longer if necessary. We are fortunate here, because of the tremendous effort made by those who went before us in both the physical facilities and in the programs themselves. We listed in growth force all the things we have to be thankful for in our church. The list was long. There is much love here. Let's enjoy it, praise God for it, and pass it around. When we do, we will be ready to grow.

What does "reaching out now" mean to you? When I started thinking about this and about how sharing is "reaching out now," I found that several ideas came to mind. There are so many possibilities of ways that we can reach out now through sharing.

The Bible is very clear concerning the fate of those who have not acknowledged Jesus as their Lord and Savior; and while we may not wish to dwell on it, God's word is true and will surely come to pass. The Scriptures are even more explicit concerning the responsibility of those who already know Christ to share this "Good News" with others. It seems that thanks to our new Commitment to Growth plan, many Seventy Day Baptists all across the country are beginning to recognize just how ineffective we have been in reaching out to those who are lost. More and more of our churches are expressing their dissatisfaction with a mere maintenance ministry. Praise the Lord! A fire of enthusiasm to witness for our Lord and Savior seems to be sweeping through our denomination. Our fellowship here in Houston is beginning to really become a part of this fire, and the people here are really beginning to accept that each of us needs to be involved in some way.

As we've been studying our Commitment to Growth materials, it has become increasingly apparent to us that each of us is responsible to study the spiritual gifts and to determine which gifts God has given us severally to use. I personally feel that these gifts are very valuable tools that God has given us that enable us to reach out to others. In refusing to acknowledge these gifts or refusing to use them, we are being selfish and self-centered and cannot fully share with others as God intends for us to do.

Another truth that has become apparent to me recently through these studies, has been that every Christian shares the responsibility of witnessing, regardless of the gifts that God may or may not have bestowed upon us. I had fallen into the rut of thinking that this was the job of the evangelists, preachers, etc. I would witness only when it was forced on me. Someone had to practically come right out and ask me if I was a Christian and if so why was I a Christian, before I would be willing to expound on it. Since I've become convinced that each of us should be willing and eager to talk about our experience of how Jesus changed us, I find it much easier to witness and to share with others.

One example of this was a common ordinary trip to the laundromat one day. At least that's the way it started out. I was just doing some reading with me and I had every intention of getting some reading done while my clothes were washing. As I sat there trying to read the book I'd brought with me, I was interrupted a couple of times by the lady sitting down a seat or two from me. At first, I talked of mundane things and I wasn't inclined to continue the conversation; but this lady had mentioned her daughter who had died recently. I almost didn't say anything more, but the Holy Spirit prompted me to ask her about her daughter, so I did.

It turned out that this lady and her daughter were very close friends and she very nearly had a nervous breakdown after her daughter's death. During the course of our conversation, I was able to witness and share with her. I found out that her daughter had accepted Christ before she died and had been active in Bible studies with some of her friends and family just before her death. As our conversation came to a close, we were both praising the Lord that her daughter had died knowing Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She agreed that it was good to know that death did not terminate their love for one another and that they would be able to meet again in the life hereafter. It gave me such a good feeling to be able to share this hope with her and to share with her that God loved us enough to provide life eternal through His Son, Jesus Christ. I found that sharing really is "reaching out now" to those around us.

"God's purpose is like a stream of good news flowing out into the world and all its needs. But it is our privilege as God's children to help this stream of goodness to reach other people, becoming ourselves like channels."

-MEANING OF PRAYER
“Love binds all things together in perfect unity”
(Col. 3:14).

When God made man, male and female, He made them for relationships with God and with other people, intending that they should live in a loving, supporting relationship. Selfishness soon crept in and drove a wedge which separated people one from another. Someone has defined sin as “self-centeredness.”

Being Christian and living a Christian life are characterized by one Greek word, “agape,” which we translate as “love.” This love begins with God. “For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life” (John 3:16). This becomes a possibility for man through Christ’s love which took Him to the cross.

The greatness of love a person can have for His friends is to give his life for them” (John 15:13). It becomes a reality as we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and commit our lives unto God through Him. Jesus said: “This, then, is what I command you: love one another!” (John 15:17). It matures in our living relationships with one another.

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love” (John 15:10). “If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:35).

The greatness of love underlies all of Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth. Paul’s love for them is evident. “The message about Christ has become so firmly established in you, that you have not failed to receive a single blessing, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed” (1 Cor. 1:6-7). Paul supports them with his love and the love of Christ even as he seeks to show them how they can grow in maturity in Christ.

The lack of maturity was evidenced by the divisions in the church. They liked different leaders, and compared their greatness. Paul reminds them that it is Christ who was crucified for them, and this is more important than the greatness of the person who led them to Christ.

There was dissension in the church over the gifts of the Spirit and the importance of each one. Paul writes to them: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for all services. Each one is given some proof of the Spirit’s presence for the good of all” (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

Paul follows with a list of Spiritual gifts which were evident at Corinth. He follows this with a strong statement about love and love’s place in Christian living.

If I may be pardoned for summarizing, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13: No matter what spiritual gift I may have, or how generous I may be with my money, or even have a willingness to die for my faith, if I do not have love, I am nothing. There is an emptiness, a futility to all of it. This is the place of love in Christian living.

Then Paul very succinctly defines love. “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous, or conceited, or proud; love is not ill-mannered, or selfish, or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal!” (vs. 4-8).

Jesus spoke often of this need for love. John’s Gospel is full of these statements. Peter asked: “How many times should my brother sin against me and I forgive him, seven times? Jesus’ answer to him was “seventy times seven.” Jesus also said: “So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother; and then come back and offer your gift to God” (Matt. 5:23-24). “But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the sons of your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:44-45). Out of a spirit of love and concern, Jesus tells us to seek to make things right with others about us. We should do all that we can to promote harmony with others so that growth is possible.

Paul likens the church to our body. We can all relate to this. One afternoon at camp while playing volleyball, I sprained my right ankle and broke a couple of bones in my foot. It throbbed with pain all night. I didn’t get very much sleep. My whole body tried to compensate for that pain, trying to find a comfortable position, etc. The other parts of my body didn’t start hurting so that they would get attention. And in the days that followed, other parts of my body, my arms, my other leg took on extra work to enable me to get around and do the things that needed doing while my right ankle and foot were healing.

Paul says the church of Jesus Christ is like this. When one member hurts, we should all hurt and hurt in such a way that it helps to heal the hurt. When on has occasion for rejoicing, we should all rejoice with him. Love should be so evident in our midst that there is no place for jealousy, for envy, for judgment. We should be filled with empathy for one another and seek to help one another in Christian maturity.

In Romans 12, we find Paul saying: “Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you” (vs.3). “Ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep. Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise” (vs. 14-16). “Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody” (vs. 18).

Dealing with another aspect of our relationships to one another and the love which should dominate our lives Paul continues in Romans 14:1, “Welcome the person who is weak in faith, but do not argue with him about his personal opinions.” “We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. We should not please ourselves. Instead, we should all please our brothers for their own good, in order to build them up in the faith. For Christ did not please himself. Instead, as the scripture says, ‘The insults which were hurled at you have fallen on me’ ” (Rom. 15:1-3).

Love, the essence of Christian living, is that quality of life which reaches from God to us through Christ. As we respond to that love, we become free from the slavery of sin. We know that we are children of God, a part of God’s family. We are free and given strength to live in a way which builds.

Being human, and living in a human frame, surrounded by the world and the temptations of the world, we do not all arrive at the same state of maturity at the same time. It is a growing process and the growing never ceases. The love of Jesus Christ keeps calling us onward and upward. That love must develop in our lives. It begins with the blossom, the awareness of it. Even as the fruit tree sets its fruit and nurtures it to maturity, so we must set fruit and it must grow toward maturity.

Because we are at different stages of growth in our Christian lives, it is all the more important that our relationships with one another are undergirded by love. Love is supportive and helpful, love strengthens. As the family of God, we need to be helping one another. We need to be healing hurts, we need to be strengthening muscles. It takes love to keep us from being judgmental. It requires love to bring healing instead of destruction.

"Let there be such oneness in you that when one cries, the other will taste salt."
COME,
HASTE YE, TO THE WATERS

Fellow Christians, I am not writing a new law for you to obey, for it is an old one you have always had. The message to us from the beginning has been that we should love one another. We know what real love is from Christ's example in dying for us. So, dear friends, let us stop saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions. For though no one has ever seen God, when we love each other, God lives in us, and His love in us grows ever stronger.

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love. Try always to be led along together by the Holy Spirit, and so be at peace with one another. We are all carefully joined with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. We belong to each other, dear friends, so lovingly follow the truth at all times, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly......

Pastor
Marion Van Horn
...forty years in the service of Christ

The Daytona Beach SDB Church and the pastors and staff attending the Ministers Conference honored Pastor Marion Van Horn for forty years in the Christian ministry Sabbath night, April 30. Dale Thorngate, Pastor Van's son-in-law, became Christopher Parsonage Mouse, complete with mouse ears, as he related the highlights of Pastor Van's life and ministry. Snapshots projected on a screen let us all see the family as it grew, the various churches and parsonages, and special events. Christopher Parsonage Mouse took us to Salemville, Pa., Pastor Van's first pastorate; to Salem, W. Va., when he served as director of Evangelism for the Women's Board; to Berea, W. Va.; to Lost Creek, W. Va., when he also served the Roanoke church; to Brookfield, N.Y., when he was also pastor of the church in nearby Leonardsville; to Fouke and Texarkana, Ark., where he served as shepherding pastor of the Southwest field and established the Little Rock, Ark., church, the Metairie, La., church, and the Houston, Tex., fellowship; and finally to Daytona Beach, Fla., his present pastorate.

Christopher Parsonage Mouse allayed Elmo Fitz Randolph to tell only one story, the Saga of the Psychological Cookie Taster. The late Luther Crichlow's comments on the merits of Erma's cookies and Madeline's cookies kept the cookies coming to Alfred where "Crich," "Van," and "Randy" were students. (Of course, later Erma became Mrs. Marion Van Horn and Madeline became Mrs. Elmo Fitz Randolph.)

Earl Cruzan shared the fun the Cruzan and Van Horn families had together camping near Adams Center, N.Y., where Earl was pastor while Van Horns were serving in Brookfield. It is amazing how each of the four Van Horn children has a counterpart of the same age in the Cruzan family. Legend has it that Wayne Cruzan and Chris Van Horn learned to right an overturned canoe in spite of Pastor Van's unsuccessful demonstration.

The appearance of the three older children at the appropriate times during Christopher's narration completely surprised Pastor Van and Erma. Janet Thorngate, Chris Van Horn, and Jo Rogers drove down for the occasion. Laura, the only local offspring, baked and decorated the beautiful cakes for the reception. The church presented Pastor Van and Erma with a gift of money, an engraved desk set for Pastor Van and a floral candle centerpiece for Erma, as tokens of our appreciation and love for them. A double quartet composed of Paul Green, K. D. Hurley, Russ Johnson, Perry Cain, Dale Thorngate, Mel Stepban, Al Crouch, and Herb Saunders added their special touch with a collection of favorite fun songs. - Janette Crouch

June 1977
LITTLE GENESSEE, N.Y.—The Little Genesee SDB Church is looking forward to a joyous sesquicentennial celebration, July 9, 1977. Many ideas have been tossed about, and tentative plans have been made from those suggestions. It should be a day of real homecoming and it is hoped that nonresident members, former members, inactive members, friends of the church, former pastors and their families, will be able to come and help make it a truly beautiful celebration.

NEW SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST MINISTERIAL STUDENT

W. Jay Zaremba, who recently joined the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church, has become the newest member of the student body of the Seventh Day Baptist Center on Ministry. Originally from California, Jay was a student at Conservative Baptist Seminary in Denver when he and his wife, Teresa, began attending the church. He also attended IFIl School of Theology. After joining the Denver church Jay and Teresa moved to Berkeley, California, where he is attending the American Baptist Seminary of the West. After graduation he plans to return to Denver and become the assistant pastor for a year. We welcome Jay and Teresa to our fellowship and to the continuing ministry of our people.

The church is proud of the two living ministers who were born and brought up in the Little Genesee church, and the wish is that both will be able to come and have a part in the services (the Rev. Paul Burdick, son of Walter and Mary Burdick, and the Rev. Don Sanford, son of Mark and Edna Sanford).

A vespers service is planned for the beginning of the Sabbath, Friday night, July 7. It will be a perfect time to start the celebration. On Sabbath morning there will be no Sabbath School because of the length of the special worship service that is planned. Besides, "singing praises to God," the usual participation by the congregation, and a sermon, there will include a Communion service, roll call, and reading of the church Transcript.

If it is possible to get together a choir of ex-church members, it will be done...and what a joy it would be to sing together again! A turner dinner at the community center will follow the morning service. In the afternoon another service will be held at the church. Perhaps, this will be a time for looking back and remembering things which happened in days gone by.

There are plans for a get-together at the community hall in the evening, a time for socializing and perhaps dishes depicting interesting items of business from the early church period.

The church members are anticipating a wonderful day of glorious celebration and looking forward to a rebirth in the church. With God's help, it can and will happen.

-Leta DeGroll

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

The church has a new piano in its sanctuary. Funds were raised for this project by selling plates with the church logo imprinted. You may order from: Peak Publications, P.O. Box 1210, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

The lost Creek, W. Va., church has a new piano in its sanctuary. The special worship service that is planned will include a Communion service, roll call, and reading of the church Transcript.

If you are interested in "calling cards" with the Seventh Day Baptist logo imprinted you may order from: Peak Publications, P.O. Box 1210, Colorado Springs, CO 80901.

The Lost Creek, W. Va., church has a new piano in its sanctuary. Funds were raised for this project by selling plates with the church logo imprinted.

Richard Shepard, president-elect of the General Conference was the speaker at the Michigan SDB Churches annual meeting in April at Battle Creek.

Congratulations to Mrs. Levy (Muriel) Bass of New York City, a former missionary to Guyana, has been accepted into the medical school of the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Looking for aids for your Bible school this summer? The American Bible Society has a new program built around the Scriptures for 1977. Ask for the booklet "Scriptures for Your VBS." The American Bible Society, 1656 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

Messages from Down Under... We now have in the Audiovisual Library two cassettes of the worship service at the Auckland, New Zealand, SDB Church. Rev. Francis Johnson is the speaker. These may be ordered for free use through the AV Library.

Anniversary congratulations to Robert and Grace Spier of Andover, New York, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 24.

CROSSES DEDICATED EASTER IN DENVER

DENVER, CO.—This Easter week has been very special. One Sabbath, April 2, 1977, a very snowy day with lots of "liquid sunshine" for which we were especially grateful, 198 had gathered to praise the Lord. They enjoyed a beautiful worship experience in song as the combined choirs of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church of Boulder with Gary Cox as their directress. "Now is Christ Risen." Everyone's hearts and souls were lifted to God at the beginning of the Easter week.

Again we gathered together "just to praise the Lord." These were the words that filled my heart as we gathered this beautiful Easter Sabbath, April 9, 1977, in the sanctuary of the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church.

A sizeable group of 114 praised the Lord in song, commitment, dedication, and prayer. Nine souls committed their lives to Christ through the beautiful experience of baptism during the worship service in the sanctuary in which Pastor Edgar Wheeler led the service. Presented were "Alleluya! Christ is Risen" and Scott Weir, our tenor, sang "The End of the Story."

Opey Speaks, which lifted our hearts to God. As I sat in the beautiful environment of our sanctuary, a very warm feeling came over me and my mind went back quite a few years ago when the design and building of the church were just a dream. A very personal, meaningful experience to me as the church had given me the privilege of doing the interior and exterior design, decorating and landscaping of our church. This is a talent I give God the praise for, and it has been a very rewarding experience to me in using it to His glory. It takes inspiration, much time in planning and a mental picture before in reality one can consummate the work.

At the end of the year 1969, Mary Waterbury, a very faithful member of our church family, gave a sum to be set aside for a memorial to her dear husband John. In talking with me about it several years later as the money had been set aside in the bank drawing interest, she asked me if the church could use the money. I suggested "a cross" would be a perfect idea which could be used for. I suggested "a cross" would fit beautifully somewhere in the church planning. After trying to plan for "a cross" for many months having designs drawn, etc., I just wasn't satisfied and discarded that idea.

Then finally I knew we must have "three crosses," giving a message to the world as they drive by 2301 Wadsworth Blvd., presenting that day of Christ's Crucifixion with the thrones on both sides. Two crosses representing mankind — all make a choice: the one thief on the cross of rejection; the other on the cross of acceptance — both offered salvation.

Both the men who were crucified with Jesus had at first railed Him. One became more desparate and defiant representing those who view Jesus Christ and react with disbelief considering it myth and legend and reject Him. The other penitent thief turning to his fellow criminal says "Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? Both dying thieves have no longer anything to fear of man. But upon the one presses the conviction that there is a God — he cries, "Lord, remember me." Christ the center — that other cross — the cross of REDEMPTION — answers with a voice full of love, compassion and power, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." That day eternal life began for that sinner. This message of hope, of forgiveness, of love and compassion we wish to present to the world, to the community and to the individual, as they drive by 2301 Wadsworth. These were the thoughts and inspirations that swelled up in me as I designed the "three crosses" and placed them at the front of the property giving a message to the world.

After a meaningful service of commitment through baptism and a fellowship time, we gathered in the parking area in front of the church for the dedication of "the three crosses." This was a beautiful occasion, witnessing to the world on a warm sunny 80 degree Sabbath morning, a worship service of the world.

Gary Cox gave a brief resume of the cross fund. Dr. Horsley gave us a spiritual sermonette — "That Other Cross" and we all joined in singing "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." Thus we all left carrying with us the special blessings of a very uplifting Sabbath service filled with love and POWER TO WITNESS. —Ruth Horsley

The dedication service was held at the base of the crosses.

S.D.B. Church, Little Genesee, N.Y.
NEW PASTOR HELPS TO AWAKEN ENTHUSIASM

PLAINFIELD, N.J.—Our Growth Force enjoyed the workshop in Marlboro April 2-3, which was led as usual by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Bond of Clarksburg, W.Va. Pastor and Mrs. David Pearson, Perry Cain, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Merchant, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Van Horn, and Mrs. Ruth Parker attended, but Mrs. Barbara Saunders could not be there. We have met weekly with Pastor Pearson as our leader, since the January workshop in our church.

On March 27 we held a “town meeting” upon our congregation, led by Douglas Wheeler, to discuss specific ways of achieving church growth. On the evening of April 16 we showed the color film “Reach Out and Grow” and then administered the questionnaire on spiritual gifts. Now we are holding weekly meetings for all who are interested in discovering and using their spiritual gifts. These Bible studies are based on “19 Gifts of the Spirit” by Leslie Flynn.

The first of our bimonthly fellowship dinners and Sabbath afternoon programs was held March 26. Peg and Phil Van Horn had charge of the meal, and Pastor and Mrs. Pearson showed color slides of our Malawi growth. We enjoyed the Light Bearers’ evangeline concert in our church March 17. The Salem Marlboro April 2-3, which was led by Pastor Pearson, Perry Cain, and expressed its support of the world Bible cause by 199 gifts.

The council recommended this action because, it said, only increased support of the Bible Society’s work would ensure an adequate supply of Scriptures for the ministry of the churches at home and around the world.

We have also started a Parish Ministry. Each week, those present at church have been given a pamphlet dedicated to the Lord by their parents recently. New prospects have been added to the work and witness of the American Bible Society. The council met for three days at the American Bible Society’s headquarters in New York. With a representation of the whole Christian community in the United States, it united many different denominations around the common cause of the Bible and its worldwide distribution. Each organization of the church has been encouraged to initiate a money-raising project for the Building Fund. The Youth Fellowship had a successful pancake breakfast in March.

The Growth Force has made plans for a plant and miscellaneous sale the last Sunday and Monday in May.
Why Was Amy Baptized?

Baptists are not especially surprised when a girl the age of Amy Carter is baptized. We are very familiar with the concept of "the age of accountability." However, to people who practice infant baptism and to those who have no understanding of believer's baptism, the baptism of the President's daughter prompted the question, "Why was Amy baptized?"

As this question and others were discussed at the meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs we were made aware of how little the public really understands the beliefs and practices of Baptists. We became very aware of how little those who have no understanding of these new tenants may actually destroy the entire vineyard so that no one can possess it. Yet all along the solution has been so easy; a recognition that God is the owner and we are just stewards, placed here to till and tend the earth. In this recognition, accompanied by a return of the fruits in their season, can come peace and security.

God is not a harsh landlord. He has given us the opportunity for a good or an evil purpose. It is we that have failed through our rejection of Him and His Son.

The Sabbath Recorder
NEW FAMILY EMPHASIS CASSETTES

Are You Telling Your Children Enough About Sex?—Someone's life depends on what you tell your kids. Can a home be a haven in the American home? “Failure to provide proper sex education,” says Dr. Shedd, “will be a source of trouble before it starts. This tape will tell you how through a simple talk to start early sex education-presiding over the growth to a better sex life." A proven, positive, easy-to-learn plan that stops a "straight talk" in its tracks. One-to-one communication, and the gift of the simple compliment. How to keep your Year Turned On OK! If you really want to know how the self-proclaimed, "grandest husband" in the world does it, here are Dr. Shedd's most closely guarded secrets. Hear his hilarious "ten ways to treat a woman in public." Discover the importance of loving with words, continuing to court her, one-to-one communication, and the gift of the simple compliment: "Love her well," admonishes Dr. Shedd. What's that fascinating program all about? Guaranteed to work or your "old marriage" back.

The Art of Openness: Common Sense About Uncommon Trust—The Art of Openness is one of the crucial keys to a successful marriage. Openness to one another, and the gift of the simple compliment, how to handle and avoid hostility, and the seven rules for a good clean fight. This program will give your marriage new confidence and joy.

Fun and Romance in Marriage—Want to make your marriage more romantic? Want to improve your marriage? Dr. Shedd shares with you his famous wedding gifts for a great marriage. Discover practical hints that every husband and wife can put to practical use right away. Here are fun and romantic couples, question and answer sessions, and stimulating discussion ideas. Practice the key to keep your love "fire" burning. A proven, positive, Biblical approach to a happy marriage.

So Your Husband Won't Talk! Helpful Hints on Opening Up—If the most asked question by wives today is, "Dr. Shedd, why don't my husband talk to me?" Learn the marriage-solving "say it back" technique; how you can turn a complaint into a compliment; Dr. Shedd even shares his own wife's secrets—including a "forty-eight-hour pledge" that stops his wife from talking before it starts. Tips to change the entire course of your marriage and set you on the road to bridging the communication gap.

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Free use to S.D.B. Churches/Groups

BIRTHS

NICHOLS.—A son, Jason Alan, to David W. and Patricia Nichols, of Riverside, Calif., on May 6, 1977.

PEDERSON.—A son, Jon Alan, born to John and Linda Pederson, of Cannon Falls, Minn., on May 7, 1977.

WALKER.—A daughter, Margit Kanar, born to Alan and Margaret Walker, of Ames, Ia., March 27, 1977.

OBITUARIES

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

John 11:25

BOND.—Gerald Clark, oldest son of Clifford and Alena Maxson Bond, was born November 12, 1899, in Nortonville, Kans., and died February 23, 1977, in the Veterans Hospital in Fayetteville, Ark., after a long illness. From early youth he had been associated with printing activities, especially as a lino­ graphic printer. Throughout his life, and the last days of his life, he practiced his calling with a Master’s call by studying himself to a point of dedication to his trade. In his final rest both by sharing the truths entailed to him, and by sharing the love and friendship that was a part of him in life, and in death, the bond between him and his home, was a father. can do. Our home, be run and the children lead. Ever felt uncomfortable or embarrassed about talking to your kids about sex? This program can give you the self-confidence and courage you need.

What I Wish Someone Had Told Us About Sex Before We Got Married—is it ever too late to learn? Married, engaged, or older youth need to hear this program. With complete candor and no apologies, Dr. Shedd takes you right to the heart of the issues. Hear live discussions with serious couples. Learn how to talk about sex in marriage. Discover what’s right and wrong for you. Probe your guilt feelings, fears, and problems. I’ve talked to a thousand couples, and here are some of the questions you’ve always wanted to ask about sex in marriage answered as live in Dr. Shedd’s candid, yet humorous, style. (Recommended for mature listeners.)

Prayer in Duet: The Secret of Secrets in Marriage—"The greatest single asset to any marriage," says Dr. Shedd, "is a great prayer life in common. How to pray together; when to pray; the right kind of prayer. Hear Dr. Shedd share his marital 15 cent rule for sentence prayer; having help from your family around the world; a sharing of the prayer life; the daily practice of prayer; the key to keys, the gift of gifts; it will work for you forever.

How To Be a Great Dad Here are some things any father can do if he wants to be a good father: love your wife; love your children; love God. A proven, positive, Biblical approach to a happy marriage.

What You’re Telling Your Children About Sex—Someone’s life depends on what you tell your kids. Can a home be a haven in the American home? “Failure to provide proper sex education,” says Dr. Shedd, “will be a source of trouble before it starts. This tape will tell you how through a simple talk to start early sex education-presiding over the growth to a better sex life." A proven, positive, easy-to-learn plan that stops a "straight talk" in its tracks. One-to-one communication, and the gift of the simple compliment. How to keep your Year Turned On OK! If you really want to know how the self-proclaimed, "grandest husband" in the world does it, here are Dr. Shedd's most closely guarded secrets. Hear his hilarious "ten ways to treat a woman in public." Discover the importance of loving with words, continuing to court her, one-to-one communication, and the gift of the simple compliment: "Love her well," admonishes Dr. Shedd. What's that fascinating program all about? Guaranteed to work or your "old marriage" back.

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SATTERLEE.—Alma C., daughter of George and Sarah Dodge Green, was born in Andover, New York, and died in Hornell, N.Y., March 27, 1977. She was the widow of Albert C. Satterlee, a native of the Town of Alfred most of her life. She was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church for seventy-two years.

She was survived by her daughter, Mrs. Grace Mans of Alfred; four sons, Harold and Clinton Olnorfs of Alfred South, Raymon Olnorfs of Perry, New York, and Stanley Olnorfs of Attica, New York; thirty-six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Alfred, Ill., Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, the Rev. Ernest E. Engdahl, officiating, and her Rev. Edward E. McDonald conducting the interment services at the Texarkana Cemetery near Arline Station.

STEWART.—Beatie M. Forst, eldest daughter of Milton E. and Adeline A. Forst, was born Sept. 1, 1885 in Wilkes Barre, Pa., and died of a short illness at her home in Raymond, Ill., April 6, 1977.

She married Dwight T. Stewart June 2, 1909 in Carpen, Iowa, and worked in the School District for ten years before retiring to her home in Raymond, Ill., April 6, 1977.

She is survived by their only daughter, Mrs. Lena Mae Goodson Konklin of Raymond, and Rev. John T. Davis. To this union were born five sons and one daughter, all of whom are legally adopted in 1973.

There are six grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren and twenty-five great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Fairview, Ill., Seventh Day Baptist Church where she was a member, by her pastor, Rev. Francis D. Saunders. Interment was beside her husband at Raymond, Ill., April 7, 1977.

STUART.—Adeline Lee, age 83, daughter of George and Sarah Dodge Green, was born in Andover, New York, and died in Hornell, N.Y., March 27, 1977. She was the widow of Albert C. Satterlee, a native of the Town of Alfred most of her life. She was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church for seventy-two years.

She was survived by her daughter, Mrs. Grace Mans of Alfred; four sons, Harold and Clinton Olnorfs of Alfred South, Raymon Olnorfs of Perry, New York, and Stanley Olnorfs of Attica, New York; thirty-six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Alfred, Ill., Seventh Day Baptist Church with her pastor, the Rev. Ernest E. Engdahl, officiating, and her Rev. Edward E. McDonald conducting the interment services at the Texarkana Cemetery near Arline Station.

WHITNEY.—Mae Green, daughter of Minor and Emma Davidson Green, was born in Damascus, Ohio, and died of a long illness on October 9, 1977.

She was born at Nile, N.Y., and lived there many years up to the time of her death.

In 1908 she became a member of the Friends (Quaker) S.D.B. Church at Nile, where the church disjoined she was associated with the S.D.B. Church of Richburg.

Mrs. Whitney is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Berg of Pompano Beach, Fla., and Mrs. Virginia Gibson of Nile; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and one great-great-nephew.

The funeral service was at the Davis Family Home in Friendsville, Neb., on February 7, 1978 with Rev. C. Harmon Dickson officiating. Interment was at the Lunape Cemetery, Nile, Neb.

N.C.,-C.H.D.
Discover your ROOTS!

- read your Bible
- study your history
- use and support your Historical Society

"Let's push it over the top in 1977!"

*Note the difference between this total and the 1977 budget. Some extra giving will be necessary*

The Sabbath Recorder
The national Planning Committee held its annual spring meeting in the facilities of the Seventh Day Baptist church in lovely Daytona Beach, Florida, April 24-27, 1977. The meetings were planned to coincide with the Ministers’ Conference which also met in Daytona Beach April 27-May 4. Planning Committee members felt it was very beneficial to be able to share in the worship and workshop sessions with the ministers as well as to have them share in an exchange of ideas with us.

Thos in attendance were: Dr. K. D. Hurley, executive secretary of the General Conference; Mrs. Ada Davis, vice-president of the Women’s Society; Editor John D. Bevis, American Sabbath Tract Society; Historian Thomas Merchant, Historical Society; Dean Herbert E. Saunders, Council on Ministry; Rev. Leon R. Lawton, Missionary Society; Rev. Mynor Soper, Conference evangelist; Mrs. Dorothy Parrott, Christian Social Action Committee; Rev. David S. Clarke, Board of Christian Education; Conference President Delmer Van Horn; President-Elect Richard Shepard; and Dr. and Mrs. Keith Davis representing the Stewardship Committee. Much time was spent in coordination of denominational concerns for the coming months.

The committee was happy to hear firsthand reports regarding the Houston Project from Church Extension Pastor Robert Babcock. Evangelist Mynor Soper shared a new program utilizing filmstrips, cassettes and books on church growth entitled: “The Touch of His Hand.”

Other items discussed were the Commitment to Growth program, the report of the ad hoc committee on denominational reorganization, stewardship emphasis, deferred giving, denominational goals, as well as coordination of board and agency programs.

It was evident that the Planning Committee members desire to be used more fully by the Lord in their various areas of service. They would request your prayer support that they may be responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

### BIBLE COURSE GRADUATES EIGHT

We have been very pleased with the tremendous response to our home Bible Course – Guide to Bible Understanding. There are many ways this six-lesson study course can be used. One church ordered some 500 lessons to be mailed with their regular bulletin mailing to their membership. Several churches are using the course in connection with newspaper advertising. The Seattle church had good results with their television “spot ads” which resulted in some fifty enrolled in the Bible course there.

The young people of the New York City church are taking the course together in their regular weekly meeting. One church is using door-to-door enrollment, while another is using the telephone to make contacts for the course. We also believe the course will be helpful at the fair booths conducted by many of our churches in the fall.

We have some sixty people at the present time who are taking the course through our office. Upon completion of the series of lessons we send the graduate a diploma and urge him to make contact with the nearest Seventh Day Baptist church. We also share all names of enrollees with local pastors.

We are happy to announce our first eight graduates; you will note they come from all parts of the country. They are: George Delligener, Indianapolis, IN; Stephen Misrey, Homestead, FL; Madeleine Profitt, New Rochelle, N.Y.; Frances Tritschler, Seattle, WA; Audrey Hutchinson, Columbus, OH; Edwin Espenshade, Shipshewana, IN; Mrs. David Macdonald, Seattle, WA; and Mrs. R. W. Burdick, Milton, WI.

### BIBLE TREES

Many trees are important because some event took place beneath them, like the Charter Oak in Connecticut, or because of their association with some famous person, like the General Grant trees in Sequoia National Park, or because of their association with some famous person, like the General Grant trees in Sequoia National Park, or because of their association with some famous person, like the General Grant trees in Sequoia National Park.

1. After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, they made themselves aprons from the leaves of the ___ tree (Genesis 3:7).
2. As the Lord Jesus rode a little donkey into Jerusalem, the people shouted and waved branches of the ___ tree (John 12:13).
3. Elijah, discouraged and fleeing from Jezebel, went on a day’s journey into the wilderness, sat down beneath this tree, and prayed that he might die. While he slept, an angel touched him and he awoke and found food and water set out for him. Name the tree ___ (1 Kings 19:4).
4. When the spies returned from the land of Canaan, they brought back grapes, figs, and the ___ of the tree (Numbers 13:23).
5. King David’s palace was built from the wood of the ___ tree (2 Chronicles 2:3).
6. When Noah released the dove the second time from the ark, the dove returned with a leaf from an ___ tree in her mouth (Genesis 8:11).
7. When Zaccheaus wanted to see the Lord Jesus, he climbed a ___ tree (Luke 19:4).
8. King David’s son, Absalom, died when his long hair caught in the branches of the ___ tree (2 Samuel 18:9).
9. God told Moses to have the leader of each of the twelve tribes of Israel bring a rod or slender tree limb to the tabernacle, and the following day Aaron’s rod had buds which blossomed and bore a certain type of nut. Name the tree ___ (Numbers 17:8).
10. When the children of Israel were taken captive and sent to a strange land they were sad and could not sing. They hung their harps on the ___ trees (Psalm 137:2).
11. The Lord told King David he should go to battle in order to find the ark of the covenant. He heard the sound of marching in the branches of the ___ trees (2 Samuel 5:24).
12. In John’s vision of the heavenly city, he tells about the tree which bears twelve kinds of fruit. Name the tree ___ (Revelation 22:2).

Now, young people, why don’t you see if you can find other kinds of trees mentioned in the Bible. There are many more.

- Rev. Kenneth Van Horn
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?
There's a new VISITOR COMING!

That's right boys and girls, moms and dads, there's a new VISITOR coming — really an old friend with a new face — THE SABBATH VISITOR.

Mrs. Ruth Peil is the editor of the VISITOR in a new format, 8½ x 11 inches with lots of color and illustrations. The issues July through December 1977 are now off the press and ready for mailing.

THE SABBATH VISITOR is a publication of the Board of Christian Education and is now published at our own Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House in Plainfield, N.J. Appreciation is expressed to Mrs. Lloyd Pierce of Alfred Station, N.Y. who has handled the circulation work for several years.

All orders and changes of address may now be sent to the Seventh Day Baptist Publishing House, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, N.J. 07061

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IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the States united, States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, wherein the just powers of Government are derived from the consent of the governed.

We, therefore, the Representatives of theUnited States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these States, solemnly publish and declare, That these United States are, and of right ought to be free and independent; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually agree to associate ourselves together, for our mutual Safety and Happiness; in a firm Union with each other, the Forms of our Union shall be that of a Federal Republic; a Union in which the Power of the Federal Government shall be supreme.

In witness whereof, We, these, our Representatives, have hereunto subscribed our Names, at the Seat of our Government, the 4th Day of July, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy six.

John Hancock
President.