The North Central Association will host General Conference August 5-12, 1979, at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan.

Adrian College is a Methodist church-related school with a student body of approximately 1,500. The campus is mostly new and has a spacious appearance. Most of the buildings are of Indiana limestone, pleasingly separated by large green lawn areas and landscape plantings.

Worship services will be held in the chapel, a new building, which has an excellent organ and piano. Business sessions and other group meetings will be held in the auditorium, a short walk from the chapel. The auditorium, dining hall, and library are air conditioned; dormitories and classrooms are not.

The City of Adrian is located in Southeast Michigan. It is approximately 37 miles southeast of Jackson, Michigan; 70 miles southwest of Detroit; 35 miles northwest of Toledo, Ohio; and some 80 miles southeast of Battle Creek, Michigan, the nearest SDB church. Detroit and Toledo are the closest major airports.

The Host Committee has had lunch on two occasions in the dining hall, cafeteria style, and was pleased with both the quantity and quality of the food and the pleasant atmosphere. In addition to the regular dining hall, there is a large, beautiful dining room for any special occasions, banquets, etc.

Dormitory rooms are clean, pleasant, and of very ample size with two single beds in the rooms. All linens are furnished. Facilities are "down the hall."

Adrian is a great place to have a great Conference. See you in Adrian, August 5!

—George Parrish,
Host Committee Chairman
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SDB’S?
Rev. Leon R. Lawton
Evelyn Bigford Lutz
Rev. Francis D. Saunders

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Miss Florence B. Bowden, Chair; Rev. Charles B. Bond, Owen L. Probasco, Rev. Donald E. Richards.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Paweseck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 18, 1979, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. 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 report of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1978.
3. To ratify the appointments of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.
4. To consider and act upon other such matters as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on March 1, 1979 as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournments thereof shall be determined.

John D. Bevis, Editor

A SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST PUBLICATION

February 1979

Volume 201, No. 2
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The Sabbath Recorder

A covenant is "a formal, solemn and binding agreement: compact, a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action."

When a group of Christians with the same basic beliefs comes together to organize as a church one of the very first things they seek to accomplish is the drawing up of a covenant. The church covenant is an agreement concerning the duties of the members toward the church and each other. Frequently covenants include some doctrinal statements as well. Most Seventh Day Baptist church covenants are brief and simply written.

Recently the Conference committee on Faith and Order sent a questionnaire to the churches regarding the function of their covenants. Some of the questions asked were: When was the covenant adopted? Are new members introduced to the covenant prior to joining the church? Are members expected to sign (or agree to) the covenant? Is there a renewal of the covenant for the members? and, Is the covenant used on any periodic basis in worship and/or study life of the church? These questions no doubt will prove helpful to all as we seek to make our covenant relationship with the church and each other more meaningful.

The Mill Yard Church (1617) in England evidently originally used the Ten Commandments as its covenant. "The church records show that 'on the first day of the month (September, 1698), the Ten Commandments were set up in the meeting-house.' In 1704, the Ten Commandments, together with Matt. 5:19; Rev. 12:17; 14:2, are mentioned in such a way as to leave the impression that these were the Church's Articles of Faith; and indeed it seems never to have had any other."*1

We have not been able to locate a covenant, as such, for the Newport, R.I. (1671) church. However, the Picoteaway, N.Y., church, founded in 1705, no doubt gives a clear view of covenants in colonial times among Seventh Day Baptists. This covenant is entitled Articles of Faith.

We believe that unto us there is but one God, the Father, and one Lord Jesus Christ, who is the mediator between God and mankind, and that the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 3:16, 2 Tim. 2:5, 2 Peter 1:2)

1. We believe that all Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, given by inspiration, are the word of God, contain the rule of faith and practice.

The Sabbath Recorder
P.O. Box 869
Plainsfield, N.J. 07060

JOHN D. BEVIS, EDITOR


WEIGHT

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

WEIGHT

One of our newest congregations, Central S.D.B. in Upper Marlboro, MD (1978) has the following covenant:

We, the members of the Central Seventh Day Baptist Church, as followers of Jesus Christ, do solemnly covenant: To accept the salvation of God through the grace of Jesus Christ, and through no works of our own; To accept, as members of the family of God, His forgiveness and love in our relationships; To care for one another as Christian brothers and sisters, through joys and griefs in the experiences of life; To accept the Bible as the inspired revelation of God, providing guidance for our living; To partake of the Holy Sacraments, participating in Christ’s resurrection through Baptism by immersion, and experiencing the assurance of God’s forgiveness through the Lord’s Supper “till He come.” To celebrate God’s everlasting gift of each Sabbath Day as our time of refreshing, for He, the Lord Most High, is here; To delight in sharing the gifts that God has given each of us for the good of the whole Church, that the kingdom of this world might become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Amen.

No doubt as churches reexamine their covenants some will need revision in view of the current feelings and attitudes of the congregation. In churches where the covenant is seldom used we would suggest at least a yearly reading perhaps in the form of a renewal service. The church in Salem, W. Va., has done this for some years and discovered that it is very meaningful to verbally renew the covenant with fellow believers.

May God bless us as we not only review our church covenants but also our personal commitment to God and the building up of His kingdom during 1979.

*1 The First Part of the Church Records at Picoteaway, N.Y., 1704-1818, 1889, by Rev. Elston H. Van Horn

March 18, 1979

The Sabbath Recorder
THE MORAL BACKBONE
OF OUR FAITH

There are any number of Scripture texts which might be adopted as a basis for our thinking today. I have chosen one which to me is most pertinent, because it comes as an admonition from the One who is the very center of our profession. Jesus said, "Not everyone who saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." We might have gone, however, to the writings of Paul and used his "Now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light." On the other hand, we might have chosen the words of James, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Whatever text might be chosen, however, the admonition is basically the same, namely: The one who professes Christ as Lord and Savior should back up his profession by practicing the clear teaching of Jesus and the word of truth contained in the Scriptures. In the Bockmuhl article from which we have already quoted, we find these words: "We need to reaffirm that Christianity has a moral backbone. The Christian faith is inseparably joined with God's absolute moral standard as a change of our relationship to society. In the New Testament, truth is allied with justice and opposed to lawlessness. According to Christ, the very truth of His message can only be discovered in its obedient application." He here refers to John 7:17 and the words of Christ, "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Mr. Bockmuhl concludes: "Paul taught: 'Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity' (2 Tim. 2:19). There can be no Christian faith without distinct moral consequences." In the framework of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures, it is evident that a simple profession of faith on the part of the individual is not necessarily accompanied by consistent practice. So it is that Jesus affirms, "Not everyone who saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." So it is, also, that He sets a condition upon those who profess to sincerely love Him, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Paul today, sets a condition on spirituality by saying, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." In the Ephesian passage already quoted, he declares, "Now are ye light in the Lord," but adds, "Walk as children of light," indicating, it seems to me, that there may be some who claim to be the children who are not entering into the walk, because the James quotation, "He ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only," seems to suggest that there are hearers who have little or no part in doing. While it may be Scripturally evident that simple faith is set as the firm criterion for entering the Kingdom, it is also equally evident that the profession of such faith is meant to issue in a changed life with God-pleasing behaviour. John's "Who soever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life," taken in the context of all of the teachings of the beloved disciple, means much more than a simple, uncommitted profession of belief. It includes also a diligent walking in the way and example of the Master whose name is confessed. Again the same disciple says, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God." I assume that becoming sons means "obedient" sons. We can see from the writings of Paul that salvation comes to the individual as a gift from God, not dependent upon works. His declaration, "By grace are ye saved through faith," sets the scene for the salvation of the sinner, and his further confession and commitment, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," indicates the universal need; however, the very inclusion of the phrase of sin assumes the fact that there is a better way, and that a higher moral standard should be the norm for behaviour on the part of the one who confesses Christ. Now it is true that with the influx of so many differing and often contrary "Christian" ideologies, it is possible for the "professor" to practice what I choose to label "cheap grace," meaning that the profession of faith is not accompanied by a practice of the precepts of the same.

OBEDIENCE THROUGH LOVE

In the framework of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures, profession and practice Christianity involves obedience to the revealed will of God. Again, in our text,
Jesus emphatically affirms that the one who will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven is "he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." He logically follows that doing the will of God is contingent upon knowing what is the will of God. Both the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible provide ample evidence that the precepts embodied in the Ten Commandments were basically grounded in the written revelation of God's will. Somewhere the words of the Psalmist ring persistently in our ears, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Giving diligent attention to the answer Jesus gave to one of His disciples, "one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, until all is fulfilled." Both the commandment of the law, Jesus, in that most impressive phrase, "the love principle," He emphasized completes the set of principles included in the two tables of Old Testament law.

"To love God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength is not only the avowed teaching of the Son of Man; it is also the applied principle and purpose of His very being. Thus the first responsibility of the practicing professor is toward the Son by the practice of His love principle which He exemplified completes the set of principles included in the two tables of Old Testament law."

There is no place for doubt as to what law He has reference to as He picks out specific from the ten and gives them true spiritual interpretation. "Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, 'Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not commit adultery,' but this is true that He lists other specifics not literally quoted from the ten, all are closely connected with the high standard of moral behaviour. He expects from those who profess His name, this same standard having its conception in the law which He came not to destroy but fill full of meaning. Concerning this obedience to principle, both Paul and James lend their support. Paul's "walk as children of light," speaks of consistent moral behaviour, and He strongly emphasized this in writing to the Romans, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." One of the lessons I, personally, have had to learn with my health condition, is to walk daily. Probably the first question the doctor asks me when I go for appointment is, "Are you walking every day?" I have found that when I fail to walk daily, I feel the results of my neglect. How true this is also in the matter of the spiritual walk of the Christian. Daily, consistent, moral behaviour brings spiritual health and satisfaction. Likewise James "Be ye doers of the word" is an admonition to obedience to the will of God.

In the framework of the teachings of Christ and the Holy Scriptures, the Christian who practices his profession enters into the Kingdom. This is vitally important, for the phrase "enter into the Kingdom" has both present and future connotations. When John writes, "He that hath the Son hath life," he affirms that the very acceptance of Christ with its connotation of the "new birth," has to do with a new quality in contemporary living. The same is the essence of his declaration, "Now are we the sons of God?" There is something noble and beautiful in the change which has taken place in the believer's experience. He has, in a very real sense, "entered into the Kingdom of God." Spiritually, although he is still present among the same people, viewing the same scenery, and expending the same time, he is in another world. That is, his purpose are new, his desires are different, the quality of his life is superior. This is precisely what Paul was referring to when he spoke of the Christian as being "transformed by the renewing of your minds." The professor's allegiance has been redirected toward Jesus Christ, now enthroned as King of His life. A present entering into the Kingdom, if you will. It is sure, however, that there is a future Kingdom which will be even more glorious than that which here and now we witness as the result of our profession and our practice. As Paul asserts to the Corinthians, "If this life only hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Theenter proclamation of the universal Church attests to the historical faith position it holds in regard to the Kingdom yet to come. Thus Jesus promises, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." This we believe, as believers. Karen, and we all after death now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be. He has to know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as He is." It may be that there are those who so are heavenly minded as to be of no earthly goods, but it cannot so be so said of the Christian who is a practicing professor of his faith. This then, is the purpose of this message: that all of us who really love Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as Savior and Lord of our lives, might become most actively involved in fulfilling the will of God in our daily lives; that the quality of our living might be patterned after the teachings of God's revealed will, and the perfect example of Jesus Christ, our Lord. May this be our constant prayer, that as professors of the faith we might be practicing the Christian life.

"THE CHURCH IS WORKING together," Shirley maintains. "Families need to participate together. The church itself is a family. We can learn from others and grow and become a part of each other, that really gives us a different way of looking at a lot of things." GEORGE AND SHIRLEY CHAMBERLIN have a daughter, Karen. One of their first requests was for a dedication of Karen to God. Karen is four and has the abundant energy of most four-year-olds, with perhaps an extra measure of "wild imagination." George is employed as a fireman for the Mifflin Township Fire Department. Shirley is a nurse technician, but she has not worked as such since Karen was born.

The family's favorite pastime is to take long walks together, especially in the snow. George plays the guitar and sings (mostly country music), and Shirley likes to cook and experiment in the kitchen ("Poor George," she laughs). She also enjoys her loyal Boston terrier. "But so many things that were so important before just aren't important now," she notes. She has developed a special interest in working with older people and is excited about the idea of a senior citizens daycare center. "I feel the people in the church really care for each other," she says. "That's what it's about—caring."

THINGS HAVE LOOKED UP, George agrees. "I didn't gain riches or money. I've gained some self-respect. I'm just thankful to this church for their warmth. We had a lot of trouble. But the Lord is with us now and that makes all the difference."
Saturday, April 21, 1979

BAPTIST MEN’S WORLDWIDE DAY
OF WITNESS AND PRAYER

"Striving Together in Prayer"

In a world that is torn by its many divisions, where disunity, prejudice, envy, greed and hatred are evident in all societies and among all people, the People of God strive for unity in service and witness to the glory of the Name of Jesus Christ. Baptist men, united together in the Baptist Men’s movement have long realized the seriousness and urgency of Christ’s call and have dedicated themselves to His glorious service.

Dispersed as we are in countries across the wide world, divided as we are by distance and by language, we nevertheless proclaim the unity there is in Christ the Saviour. Further, Baptist men believe and proclaim that we are never more united than when we join in common cause in prayer.

The Baptist Men’s Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer provides just the opportunity to demonstrate “togetherness” and a unity of concern and purpose.

To this end, the Baptist World Alliance, in conjunction with the Baptist Men’s Movement, announces the following call.

The Baptist Men’s Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer will be observed on April 21, 1979, with the purpose of announcing, gathering, and promoting potential prayer needs for the world, to promote a greater awareness of prayer in the Baptist Men’s Movement, and to provide an ongoing opportunity to pray for unity and witness around the world.

The Baptist Men’s Movement challenges each man to participate in this day in his own church, association, or country.

As the call goes out today to the men of our churches and congregations to enter into the call of the Kingdom in the ongoing every moment, every day, every place, and every battle against the evils of the “Kingdom of this World,” April 21, 1979, is the day! Your home and your church is the place! You will know the areas of prayer concern which surround you. They must have a place in your prayer program. However, on this particular day and at this particular time we are called to remember each other and to share in the concern and needs, the aspirations and hopes of each other worldwide.

MEN’S DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

JULY 1975 — 1980

1. Encourage men to realize the importance of getting involved in their local church.
2. Encourage men in every association, union, convention, or country to be involved in aggressive evangelistic lay witness penetration.
3. Encourage men in all areas around the world to set aside one day each year for a Baptist Men’s Worldwide Day of Witness and Prayer, to develop a real concern for each other.
4. Encourage close involvement of laymen with their pastors, to work together as a team—that all may feel a part of the work of the Men’s Department.
5. Encourage our Baptist men to have local, regional, and continental committees to organize and promote the World Conference of Baptist Men every five years.

KEEP THESE IN MIND AS YOU PRAY!

The Chairman’s Message

Dear Fellow Baptists:

We urge you, as a body of Christians, to get together a group of concerned Baptist men for a prayer time on April 21, 1979, as close to that date as possible. This group could be members within one church, several churches or even an association.

At this meeting, use the attached material as guidance for your group, but remember this is primarily a time of prayer, and gathering ourselves for witnessing.

At these meetings an offering is taken, with one-half of the proceeds going to the Men’s Department of the Baptist World Alliance, and one-half to the National union, convention, or association.

The address of the Men’s Department is as follows:

Baptist World Alliance
1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

May God bless you as we utilize this day to bring Glory to His Name.

Stephen S. Steeves

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR CONVENTION LEADERS AND MEN’S GROUP ORGANIZERS

1. The day is suggested as a "target" time for our getting together. It certainly would be good to know that at the same time on the same day Baptist men were gathered "striving together in prayer." As good as it might appear, it is impossible. The movement of the sun with its ensuing time factor spoils this possibility.

Therefore, if we cannot do that then arrange your coming together as is most convenient to your local situation. An early morning watch, a breakfast, an evening meeting, or even, as some do, share an all-night prayer vigil.

2. Prepare well ahead and prepare carefully. Previous preparation must see that the day, the place and the purpose are widely advertised. For program material, write to the Men’s Department of the Baptist World Alliance, 1628 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

3. When people ask, "Only a day of prayer? What happens after that?" they are asking a good question.

The Day of Prayer provides an excellent opportunity for the launching of a witness and outreach program or the commencement of a service project. In considering this, the leader might want to consult with the pastor as to the way the whole church could become involved. It could be not only a "Day of Prayer," but a "Day of Beginnings."

THE LONGEST DAY

by Warren Bigford
as told to Evelyn Bigford Lutz

February 1979

Reprinted with permission of the author from Bible Advocates, a publication of the Church of God (Seventh Day), Denver, CO.

M

She and her sister, Esther, had attended church regularly as children. They never missed Sabbath services at the little church in a small Wisconsin town. Growing up, they had been baptized, and gradually had taken on various responsibilities in the church.

One Sabbath a new face appeared at church — mine. I had been in the church only a short time and had come from Illinois to work for a family in the community. Arbutus and I were at-
tracted to each other from the start, and in due time our friendship ripened into courtship and marriage.

Evenly I had decided to return to Michigan, my home state. I had hopes of obtaining a better paying job. Shortly after our arrival, the little luxuries so dear to the hearts of young women.

Things had been disappointing, however, because the local builders hired only men whose work they knew. They seemed unwilling to take the chance of letting me prove what I could do. I tried several other kinds of work. None were steady or lucrative.

Esther had found things no smoother. Doing housework for an irritable old woman was the only work she had been able to obtain, though she had filled out innumerable applications. Looked upon as little better than house servants, we had kept my wife busy enough, but living in the city certainly wasn't the sort of thing we would be.

It had been living as we should, this would never have happened. As we were very much more often than we attended. Now we were even breaking the Sabbath. "It was once living as we should, this would never have happened," Arbutus sobbed aloud.

"We mustn't go on like this or we'll be lost." Dropping to her knees, she began to pray. She poured out her heart to her heavenly Father, begging Him to forgive her for drifting away from Christian principles and asking for strength to bring her life into harmony with His will.

At the factory that morning my day had begun like any other—by thinking of other men who'll be glad to get the work. Make up your mind—take it or leave it!

"My heart said, 'No, you can't work on Sabbath,' but my head said, 'You have to support your family.' The struggle with my conscience was brief as the clerk waited impatiently for my answer. 'I'll take it,' I answered.

Strangely enough, my sister-in-law's 'luck' had changed that same time. Esther had received a notification that her application for work at a new variety store had been accepted and she was to begin work on their opening day—Saturday. She had hoped to begin during the week and prove herself so diligent that the manager would be willing to grant her Sabbath off. But now it would be impossible to do this.

What could she do? She certainly didn't want to work on Sabbath and yet here was an opportunity for steady employment and a chance for advancement for those wishing to accept responsibility, according to the newspaper ad she had answered. With this glowing opportunity at hand she felt she couldn't bear to face the scrupulous and dusting for that creature old woman any more. Perhaps later on, when she had become established at the store, the manager would be more willing to let her have Sabbath off. She must be there on opening day, she reasoned.

As my wife sat pondering the situation we were all in, she tried to remember just when our spiritual life began to deteriorate. It was so gradual. First we neglected family worship and studying the Bible. Then we were saved from church much more often than we attended. Now we were even breaking the Sabbath.

"If we neglected family worship and studying the Bible, why hadn't we thought of it sooner? It seemed that 'Nearer My God to Thee' was the only tune coming from the music counter. The words beat upon her brain. It was the longest day she had ever spent and the shortest job she ever had. When at last it came time to close the store, she knew what she must do. "I cannot come to work on another Saturday," she told the manager.

Her answer was just as final. "Then you will have to be replaced."

She left the store with mixed emotions. Discouraged and disappointed about losing the job that had seemed so promising a few hours before, she was happy that she had decided never to work on Sabbath again.

When I reached home that day I at once told my wife of my decision not to work on another Sabbath, regardless of consequences.

I'm so happy for that, dear," Arbutus beamd at me. "Now we can make a fresh start together." Then she told me of her own thoughts and feelings of the morning and how in the afternoon she had prayed for me and for Esther.

Hardly had we finished exchanging the day's experiences when Esther came in.

"I was just fired," she stated. She looked tired, but her eyes were shining.

Learning about Esther's day in the store, I remembered that the 'anow' hymn my fellow worker man had been whistling that day was also "Nearer My God to Thee." The fact that the hymn was so familiar at the time had certainly 'worked together for good' in impressing our hearts.

Did all the events of that day just happen? We don't think so. None of us were surprised to learn that my wife's mother had also spent much of the day on her knees praying for her wayward children. This happened many years ago. Never had we ever again worked on the Sabbath. There have been many evidences through the years that our heavenly Father has rewarded us with His blessings.

Points To Ponder

**WILL IT WORK?**

The Golden Rule says, "Whatever you would that men should do to you, do even so to them..."

Matt. 7:12

Some years ago in Cincinnati there was a man who came to be known as "Golden Rule" Nash. When he bought a clothing business, it was operating at a loss. This man called in his employees and told them that in the future the business was to be operated according to the "Golden Rule." He immediately raised the wages of all the employees; some of them received pay two and three times as much as before. Immediately they took a new interest in the work and the business prospered. At the end of the first year they had taken three times their previous profit.

Then the company began a plan of "Profit Sharing," and the ones who were making the largest salaries even asked that their wages be reduced. Salesmen argued the owner to put up the prices of suits because they were becoming so popular, but he wanted to share also with those who bought them. Mr. Nash proved that the "Golden Rule" was one which would work in the business world if it were given a chance. **IT WILL ALSO WORK FOR YOU.**
If only all the hands that reach could touch...

NEEDED:
Workers
Projects
Love Gifts

MAIL GIFTS TO:
Mrs. Jane Bottoms
1118 Ravenwood Rd.
Boulder, CO 80308

MAIL APPLICATIONS TO:
K. Duane Hurley
510 Watchung Ave., Box 868
Plainfield, NJ 07061

February 1979

What Does the BWA Mean to Us as Seventh Day Baptists?

by Dorothy Parrott

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." Our denomination is helping the Christian Church accomplish this goal through our home and foreign missions. We also share in spreading the gospel when we cooperate with the Baptist World Alliance.

February 4 (February 3 for SDB's) was the date for observing the efforts of Baptists in telling the Good News around the world. In his President's Message, David Y. K. Wong, President, BWA, concludes, "The Baptist World Alliance has much to say to us as we seek to share Christ's message with the world. If we are ever to bring God's light to all corners of the earth, we must not be divided. We cannot work alone, we must work together."

According to reports in the December issue of The Baptist World there are 13,280,874 baptized believers in 140,118 churches in 140 countries allied in this international organization. It is thrilling to read the account of Robert Denby (General Secretary, BWA) of his visit to Europe, including Austria, East Germany, Poland and the USSR. While in the U.S.A. he visited our neighbors to the north to realize how difficult it is for Christians in many parts of the world. We know little of the suffering of our brothers and sisters because they have been weakened by the onslaught of Communism. Our prayers and financial support can help to alleviate the suffering of the crusaders and others, making it possible for more people to share the Gospel of Christ. Denby says, "Although we have learned to love each other, and political differences, we have stopped sharing the Word of Christ."

Several Baptist teams went out to witness following a youth encounter in Ecuador where Baptist youth from several South American countries met in an encounter described as a "time of spiritual renewal and dedication.

We have participated in the Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund through our contributions to SDB United Relief Fund. We do not have the resources or the expertise to be on the scene when disasters occur but BWA does. All Baptists working together are a powerful force in helping relieve suffering in the world.

At Conference we were made aware of the BWA immunization program to eradicate childhood diseases from the world. A portion of our Love gift went to support this project.

BWA is calling for contributions to raise a fund of $50,000 to buy Bibles for Russia. "Baptists in the U.S.S.R. have been granted permission to import 20,000 Bibles and 5,000 concordances in the Russian language." (Baptist World, p. 1, December 1978)

Samuel E. Kuma, from Cameroon in an article in The Baptist World, says, "The Baptist World Alliance is calling on Baptists to rise up and walk... To walk in love... To walk in unity... To walk in harmony... To walk in purity... To walk in the light... To walk in victory...

Let's be knowledgeable about this fellowship of Christians we belong to and lend our support in whatever way we can whether it's in the men's fellowship, women's union, youth activities or relief efforts.

The meeting of the Fourteenth Baptist World Conference in Toronto July 8-15, 1980 will surely be an inspirational time. It's important for SDB's to be there and share in the fellowship and the commitment to spread the gospel to all parts of the world."

The Sabbath Recorder
Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." Our denomination is helping the Christian Church accomplish this goal through our home and foreign missions. We also share in spreading the gospel when we cooperate with the Baptist World Alliance.

February 4 (February 3 for SDB's) was the date for observing the efforts of Baptists in telling the Good News around the world. In his "President's Message," David Y. K. Wong, President, BWA, concludes, "The Baptist World Alliance has much to say to us as we seek to share Christ's message with the world. If we are ever to bring God's light to all corners of the world, we must not be divided. We cannot work alone; we must work together."

According to reports in the December issue of The Baptist World, there are 33,700,874 baptized believers in 140 countries allied in this international organization. It is thrilling to read the account of Robert Denny (General Secretary, BWA) of his visit to Europe including Austria, East Germany, Poland and the USSR. We, in the U.S.A., take our religious freedom so for granted we fail to realize how difficult it is for Christians in many parts of the world. We know little of the persecution they suffer because they continue to worship our Lord in spite of the difficulties. By means of our prayers and financial contributions we can support such efforts of the BWA, the Billy Graham Crusades and others in making it possible for more people to come to Christ. Secretary Denny says, "Although we are separated by language, culture and political systems, we are together in the Spirit of Christ."

Several revival teams went out to witness following a youth encounter in Ecuador where Baptist youth from several South American countries met in an encounter described as a "time of spiritual renewal and dedication."

We have participated in the Baptist World Alliance Relief Fund through our contributions to SDB United Relief Fund. We do not have the resources or the expertise to be on the scene when disasters occur but BWA does. All Baptists working together are a powerful force in helping relieve suffering in the world.

At Conference we were made aware of the BWA immunization program to eradicate childhood diseases from the world. A portion of our Love Gift went to support this project.

BWARF is calling for contributions to raise a fund of $150,000 to buy Bibles for Russia. "Baptists in the U.S.S.R. have been granted permission to import 25,000 Bibles and 5,000 concordances in the Russian language." (Baptist World, p. 1, December 1978).

Samuel E. Khama from Cameroon in an article in the Baptist World says, "Baptist World Alliance...is calling on Baptists...to rise up and walk.—To walk in love.—To walk in unity.—To walk in purity.—To walk in the light.—To walk in victory."

Let's be knowledgeable about this fellowship of Christians we belong to and lend our support in whatever way we can whether it's in the Men's Fellowship, Women's Union, Youth activities or relief efforts.

The meeting of the Fourteenth Baptist World Conference in Toronto July 8-13, 1980 will surely be an inspirational time. It's important for SDB's to be there and share in the fellowship and the commitment to spread the gospel to all parts of the world.

What Does the BWA Mean to Us as Seventh Day Baptists?

by Dorothy Parrott

If only all the hands that reach could touch...
Christian Ministry in National Parks extends the mission and ministry of the church with people in leisure, in national parks, forests, resort areas, places of unique and spectacular beauty, where millions of people live, work, and vacation.

This ministry serves: Government workers, millions of visitors who winter; millions of visitors who resort workers, who are employed in leisure, in national parks, forests, and ecumenical experience with students and visitors from all parts of the country.

The qualifications are: a faith in Jesus Christ which is imaginative, dedicated and open to creative expression. The ministry demands maturity of thought and conduct, keen intellect and above all, an ability to understand and live with other people and other faiths.

Opportunities are available for both men and women from denominations or churches proclaiming the Christian faith. There are positions for both single students and married couples—twenty years of age or older. There is a need for 175 seminary students who have preaching experience and organizational ability. They will be called upon to lead in worship and coordinate planning of ministry activities. Some will serve as staff directors and group leaders.

Several positions are open which require special skills, e.g., skiing, water safety instructors, theater, coffee house administration, and typing.

There are opportunities for fifty college students who have special ability in one or more of the following areas: Bible Study, Christian Education, Drama, Bull Sessions, Music, Recreation, Coffee Houses, and Publicity. In some locations students are assigned to work in one or more of the above mentioned fields. In other locations they will need some know-how in two or more fields.

Thirty music students are needed to organize and direct employee choirs and choirs, and to provide music for services of worship. Often the Director of Music will organize a special event, i.e., Handel's Messiah, a Broadway musical, Hootenanny, Folk Song Festivals, Talent Shows, etc.

Worship and Work is the theme that pervades the whole meaning of the ministry, providing opportunities as a worker-priest. Each member of the staff has a full-time job with either a park company or with the National Park Service. Students work as desk clerks, cabin boys, maids, store clerks, trail crewmen, rangers, waitresses, etc. To many, the most important aspect of the movement has been the "secular" world. Here, on the job, significant communication takes place. After working hours, the students may organize and conduct different phases of the ministry with park and company policy.

Finances are paid for by the park companies. Mouth earns between $400 and $500 in three months. In 1976 no student earned less than $350 for three months (after paying room and board). When married students are involved, both students work. Students must find their own transportation to and from the parks. The movement attempts to arrange car pools to keep the cost down.

For arrival and departure dates, with few exceptions, students must be in the parks by June 1-15. Some parks open May 1. All students are required to stay until their contract terminates: between Labor Day and September 20. Some seasonal parks will remain open until October 1. Do not apply unless you will stay until Labor Day.

There are nine two-day orientation conferences from mid-April to early-May. All students and spouses on the staff are required to attend one regional spring conference. Expenses of room and board are provided. Students must pay transportation to and from the conference.

Applications should be sent to Warren W. Ost, Director, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, 222½ East 49th Street, New York, New York 10017. Deadline for applications to reach the office is March 15, 1979.

WITH GOD'S HELP, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

"With God's help," but who is this God? Theologians can describe the facts that surround God's mystery, but they cannot reveal the mystery itself. Much depends on faith.

God is love. Christians also believe that God is unchanging in His very nature. These two concepts make a wonderful love story. God is unchanging love. His love for you is totally loyal and ever constant because He is love itself. His love is infinite; He loves you the same on good days and bad, and this love is given to you to be shared.

Every Christian has the responsibility to pass on God's love.

It is up to the individual to take the initiative; the mother in her home and neighborhood; the assembly-line worker in his factory; the student in his classroom; the nurse at her station; the salesperson in his territory; the executive in the boardroom.

You can do something, not necessarily by group action—though this may be called for at times, but by quiet perseverance in carrying out your responsibility, and by speaking up when it counts.

February 1979
God has given us a priceless treasure which, strange as it may sound, increases in value as it is shared with others. It is the treasure of the Scriptures, the Word of truth (John 17:17). God has ordained that we, as Christ’s heralds, make His message known in whatever ways possible and consistent with His direction for its dissemination. Our forefathers were mighty with the printed word, which continues to be blessed by God. Now a new opportunity is before us—radio.

Many in our day, under the providence of God, are once again turning to the Bible, searching for the truth concerning God. Radio has become a tool for the distribution of God’s Word. The American Sabbath Tract Society, Pastor Russell W. Havens, has begun to prepare a series of programs to be known as the Word of Truth. These programs, which will be available on tape for local use from the Tract Society, are being designed with the idea of informing people as to the existence of the Word of Truth and to other groups who need to be stimulated to do so.

With the encouragement of the Audiovisual Committee of the American Sabbath Tract Society, Pastor Russell W. Havens has begun to prepare a series of programs to be known as the Word of Truth. These programs, which will be available on tape for local use from the Tract Society, are being designed with the idea of informing people as to the existence of the Seventh Day Baptist church. They are located in Fremont, MI; Columbus, OH; Warwick, RI; Churches and individuals interested in sponsoring the Word of Truth in their vicinities are invited to write to the American Sabbath Tract Society, Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

The format of the 15-minute program opens with the theme, “God’s Book,” a hymn widely identified with our churches. Following initial words of welcome and a musical selection, Pastor Havens presents comments designed to provoke serious thought concerning various subjects. The first thirteen programs are divided into sub-series with the themes: “God’s Book,” “God’s Law,” and “God’s Day.”

Currently negotiations are being carried on with at least three radio stations with respect to airing the Word of Truth. They are located in Fremont, MI; Columbus, OH; Warwick, RI. Churches and individuals interested in sponsoring the Word of Truth in their vicinities are invited to write to the American Sabbath Tract Society, Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

All of those involved in the Word of Truth recognize that a radio broadcast will not be the total answer to our need for greater visibility, nor will it fulfill Christ’s commission by itself. Nevertheless, it is at least one step in a positive direction which may have continuing and, God willing, eternal consequences. Let us all pray to that end.

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Rev. Russell W. Havens

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ZEALAND AUSTRALIA

Rev. Leon Lawton visited the Seventh Day Baptist work in New Zealand and Australia prior to Conference this year. Our work in New Zealand consists of two churches, Auckland and Christchurch. The churches sponsor a youth camp each year and are aiding in the development of the work in Australia. The work in Australia is growing and is located in several areas. Pray for God to continue to bless and guide our brothers and sisters “down under.”

The Auckland, New Zealand, SDB Church building. Reconstruction to enlarge the chapel area was planned for late 1978 or early 1979.

The SDB Church in Christchurch, New Zealand, is pastored by the Rev. Edward Barrar. Pastor Barrar was remembered by many who met him at Conference this past year.

Rev. Ronald Barrar is pastor of the Auckland, New Zealand, church and a former SDB missionary in Malawi. He maintains contact with the brethren in Australia and visits them from time to time.

These SDB families welcomed Rev. Lawton as he arrived in Budberg, Australia. They make up the core of the Fellowship there—the Beatties, Rudds, and Mackenzies.
Verse for the month: "It is good to say, Thank you to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods. Every morning tell your praises, accompanied by music from the harp, lute and lyre. You have done so much for me, O Lord. No wonder I am glad! I sing for joy." -Psalm 92:1-4 (LB)

FIELD TRIP: Director of Evangelism Myron G. Soper spent most of January in the southeastern states, visiting new contacts and encouraging new churches and groups. It is thrilling to have new SDB Baptists move to new communities write and ask, "How does one start a new SDB church?" We are anxious to answer that question! Pray that this might become a new pattern during 1979!

U.S.A.: More than fifteen churches have made application for aid in support of Missionary Pastor. Two have given more than 1979—A NEW ALL TIME HIGH. Seven of these are new work! Most have received partial support during 1978. Continuing churches are paying more of the total salary and thus freeing more for new work. New extension ministries also call for evaluation and possible support. Will Seventh Day Baptists meet the growing opportunities these present? Their month-by-month support of Our World Mission and designer gifts for missions will give their reply.

GUIDES: FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT ELECTED! Dr. Pastor Sandy Shoffner writes, "The course in Theology sponsored by the Birmingham University...is now a reality. The first class will be held on December 6, 1978. As many as five SDB's may be participating in this course, I sincerely hope that this will greatly enhance our ministry." This task which lies before the brethren in England is a difficult one. Remember them with your prayers as they try to reach out to others with the saving love of Jesus.

MEMPHIS MINISTRY

YE, Seventh Day Baptists are extending into new areas and new groups are being born! SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS ARE EXPERIENCING GROWTH! Webster defines growth as "progressive development." SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS!

Less than one year ago (April 29, 1978) a new church body was organized in Little Rock, AR—Christ SDB Church. Near the time of their organization as a church this group of believers began making contacts in Memphis, TN, RESULT: SDB's have been meeting regularly in the Memphis area since the end of May. Weekly Sabbath worship services are held at the Frayer Church of the Nazarenes (T223 Steele at Delano, Memphis, TN). The Christ SDB Church is the "mother church" for this new group.

GROWTH IS EVIDENT!

Mr. William Shoffner has been serving as leader in this new group since they began meeting early this year. We must give all glory to God for the decision to support the work in Memphis and pray that He will bless us with opportunities to serve new contacts and new families in the church. We have had a few additional contacts in the past couple of weeks. Of course at this time it is hard to say how favorable they will turn out to be.

Let us remember this new extension pastor in our prayers as well as the whole group in Memphis that God will work through them to reach the unsaved in that area of our country. Pray also for the new contacts that are being made that their response to the Lord may be favorable and pleasing to Him.

Bill writes further: "I know that whatever happens here now must be with God's help and His guidance. We will be praying for other groups to begin also." GROWTH is evident and God is to be PRAISED! For it is through Him and Him alone that Growth is possible. It is He who is the giver and sustainer of ALL life, both physical and spiritual, and without life there would be no growth! How about it, Seventh Day Baptists, are you alive with the Spirit of God? Do you thrive on His love and gain nourishment from His Word daily? God has blessed us with life through Jesus Christ and He will bless us with growth IF we really are alive in Him!

To Him be all glory and honor for the birth of a new group in Memphis, TN, and may His name be glorified with the birth of many, many more new groups of SDB's both in this country and around the world!!
THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

William R. "Bob" Austin
Dodge Center, MN

I would like to share my conviction with our readers that the concepts of management and the principles, techniques, and methods thereof, that are applied to all types of business enterprises, hospital and school systems, and non-profit organizations, can also be applied to organize and structure a body of believers into an effective church, association or conference of churches as part of a denominational structure formed to fulfill the purpose of serving God and His people.

In today's society of organizations, management is a basic means for personal growth and enrichment of an individual to assume responsibilities and perform successfully to attain personal goals and objectives, as well as the organization they serve, regardless of its purpose or mission in the world. I believe that management functions performed can be adapted and applied to a denominational organization and its basic units, so as to meet the needs of its people and others, and to proclaim and propagate, through them plans, programs, and activities that will fulfill the purpose and objectives of the denomination.

I see the purpose and objectives of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination to be the following:

- bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world and to lead persons to Christ
- seek the will of God on all moral, spiritual, social, economic, political, denominational and ecumenical matters, and to express ourselves on these matters to society
- guide, unify and assist Seventh Day Baptists in their individual witness to the world and to prepare the members for their part in the evangelical and missionary ministry within the continental U.S.A. and the world
- honor and obey God's command that the Sabbath Day be kept by all Christians as a day of rest and worship.

THE LINK

"You heard it here first!"

by Barb Snyder

I am quickly learning the ropes here at the circus, I mean headquarters office. I am constantly amazed at the unending piles of materials that can be put to good use. Actually, they tend to be a distraction. I see so many good things I want to stop and read, but I must make a rightful note and continue working. I've beaten down several piles already, but there are plenty more waiting. I have come to realize some of the major problems of our denomination already and hope I can play a small role in this column at trying to solve these problems. Our size is our first handicap. Our headquarters has the amount of materials normally utilized by a very large church. Yet these materials need to be shared with over sixty churches all over the country. This requires major communication and a considerable effort. I've also discovered that communication is not our forte, but then you probably knew that already, right? The spiritual care of children is a true celebration of God's spirit in our lives. Over and over again, this fact is presented to us, and as we think of the nurturing of any living thing that God has given us, we must know that the CHILD is in the most precious. We are outraged over the slaughter of baby whales, and we are saddened to see our national emblem, the bald eagle, placed on the endangered species list. Yet much worse things happen to children in this world. One needs only to read the newspapers and magazines to know that man's atrocities are most heinous against his own kind. My purpose is not to stress the negative facts that are known, but to suggest positive action we may take to DO SOMETHING about it.

In any situation, we are more effective in our mission as stewards of His bounty, if we begin right where we are. Many of us have a sphere which does not encompass a foreign country, but instead, radiates from us to our immediate neighborhood. In fact, we often see much more clearly the needs of those next door or down the street. The Year of the Child means any child—not only Hindu children, or Vietnamese, but all those children of the world. By all means, let us not overlook the one next door.

The American Bible Society is urging that we bring the Bible to as many children as possible this year. It is recorded that many instants of children accept danger, handicaps, disasters, and long for the Word that brings hope for the spirit. We must do what we can to bring the message of hope in Christ to the children of the world. Five hundred dollars will place Scripture portions in the hands of 8,366 children, and $100 will place a Bible in the hands of thirty-three children. Pray for the spirituality of the children we know, and for the children we know exist, and do your best to see that they have the Scriptures.

THE YEAR OF THE CHILD

As we consider the needs of children in our neighborhood, we must feel responsible for at least investigating what is being done, if anything, and see what we might do. Some communities have charge in sponsored tutorial services for children, while others are behind in school work whose mothers are supporting the family and have not time to help them. Some children whose own grandparents do not live near need special attention and perhaps supervision. Grandmothers—be thinking of some child near you—neglected children are all around us. Offer your time for loving care, if only an hour or two a day.

Most schools are seeking volunteers to come in and help individual students with the basic curriculum subjects that are difficult for them. This can be a rewarding activity. Retired persons are doing much to help children who really need it. Personal contact with children is truly "letting your light shine."

There are so many appeals to help in a material way with clothing, food, etc., that we become confused and decide to do nothing. This is actually an attitude which your editor has encountered more than once. One of the most satisfying kinds of "helping" activity is doing something right in one's home, knowing that this is a real help to some child somewhere who is in need. Through Church World Service, many are finding it fulfilling to sew clothing, knit or crochet articles of outerwear or make baby layettes, blankets, new or used, or perhaps supervise church activities that will sell green stamps which are worthwhile gifts to that child who is cold, whom we do not see, but pray for. We may find that doing this will open a door to a meaningful activity by writing to Church World Service, Division of Overseas Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027. A project which made me want to knit and might start someone on the way to making baby blankets is the Remsen Baby Blanket. It uses up "rainbow-colored" scrap yarn and is unique. Just to get you interested included the pattern:

Cast on 2 stitches
Row 1: knit off 1st stitch, increase 2nd stitch
Row 2: k 1, increase 1 k
Row 3: k 1, increase 1 k, k 1
Row 4: k 1, increase 1 k, k 1
Subsequent rows: continue as above, always knitting off the first stitch and increasing on the second stitch, then continuing with the plain (garter) stitch to the end of each row. When the finished edge of the blanket measures about 32 or 33" (this will be half of the blanket) start to decrease.

TO DECREASE: k 1, k 2 together, continue to k 1 to end of row. Continue above with each row until you are down to the end. You will have a blanket 32" X 33", with a finished edge that is good looking.

You may use fine yarn or heavy with small needles or coarse, depending on the weight of the yarn used. An excellent way to use leftover yarn is to make a project that will use it all. Send finished clothing or blankets to: Church World Service Clothing Center, 201 S. Main Street, Naperville, IL 60563.
"THE LINK"

"You heard it here first!"

by Barb Snyder

I am quickly learning the ropes here at the circus, I mean headquarters office. I am continually amazed at the unending piles of materials that can be put to good use. Actually, they tend to be a distraction. I see so many good things I want to stop and read, but I must make a mental note and continue working. I've beaten down several piles already, but there are plenty more waiting.

I have come to realize some of the major problems of our denomination already and hope I can play a small role in solving these problems. Our size is our first handicap. Our headquarters has the amount of materials normally utilized by a very large church. Yet these materials need to be shared with over sixty churches throughout the country. This requires major communication and a considerable stock. I've also discovered that communication is not our forte, but then you probably knew that already, right? Now more than usual, half the battle is over, I wish.

What I propose to do is serve as a link between the supply and the demand. My first interest is of offering sources for discussion, literature and growth to leaders of youth and adult groups and Bible study classes. I will do this by reviewing books, study guides, audiovisual and filmstrip programs and movies for youth, adults, and ministers. I also hope to be a link between services offered and services needed. Maybe you can call me your church want ads.

TIREDF OF THE SAME OLD TOOLS FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES?
SEE ME NEXT MONTH FOR SOME FRESH IDEAS IN "THE LINK."

"THE YEAR OF THE CHILD"

As we consider the needs of children in our neighborhood, we must feel responsible for at least investigating what is being done, if anything, and see what we might do. Some communities have charge in sponsored social services for children who are behind in school work, whose mothers are supporting the family and have not time to help them. Some children whose own grandparents do not live near feel special attention and perhaps supervision. Grandmothers---be thinking of someone child near you---seek to help child near you---unless some child near you, unless, unless.

There are so many appeals to help in a material way with clothing, food, etc., that we become confused and decide to do nothing. This is actually an attitude which you editor has encountered more than once. One of the most satisfying kinds of "helping" activity is doing something tangible with one's hands, knowing that this is a real help to some child somewhere who is in need. Through the Church World Service, we can fulfill the need for clothing by writing to Church World Service, Division of Overseas Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027. A project which made me want to knit and might start someone on the way to making baby blankets is the Remsen Baby Blanket. It uses up "rainbow-colored" scrap yarn and is unique. Just to get you interested, I included the patterns:

Cast on 2 stitches
Row 1: k1, k2 together, *k1, k2 together, continue to k1, k1, k1, k1
Row 2: k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1
Row 3: k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1
Row 4: *k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1, k1
Subsequent rows: continue as above, always knitting off the first stitch and increasing on the second stitch, then continuing with the plain (garter) stitch to the end of each row. When finished, edge of the blanket measures about 32 or 33" (this will be half of the blanket) square, with a finished edge that is round looking.

TO DECREASE: k1, k2 together, continue to k1, k1, k1, k1 until you are down to the end. You will have a blanket 32 or 33" square, with a finished edge that is round looking.

You may see fine yarn or heavy with small needles or coarse, depending on the weight of the yarn used. An excellent way to use leftover yarn is to make a "sweater of the world"---use up leftover scraps of yarn and make up a sweater for a child who is in need.
A new Light Bearers for Christ team will start training in January. Due to the fact that all the previous team members needed to move on to other pursuits, mostly college, following General Conference, a new team was not formed in the fall. This allowed for our family to have a very short Sabbath rest from the responsibilities of training and providing for teams. This seemed appropriate since it has been seven years since we first started the Light Bearers program. During that seven year period the team housed the time home of nearly forty team members. It has been a great experience with many blessings and a lot of hard work. Now after a short rest from those responsibilities we are ready to start fresh.

The new team at present consists of only three members—Marita Pederson and Ann Anderson, both of New Auburn, Wis; and Mynor Soper II. We are asking the Lord to raise up at least one or two qualified members. Qualifications are:

1. Committed to Christ through the new birth experience and willing to dedicate at least one year to serving the Lord in everyday Christian living.
2. At least one year out of high school. Preferably older with some college or work experience.
3. Musically capable! Either with some college or work experience.

NEW YORK CITY CHURCH FINDS TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

NEW YORK, NY—In a time when essentially religious experiences are becoming more and more commercialized and secularized, members and friends of the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church came together Nov. 25, seeking the true spirit of Thanksgiving. They were not disappointed, as praises to God poured forth throughout the church’s first Harvest and Thanksgiving celebration.

The day’s schedule included Sabbath school and worship in the morning, a prayer service and special Thanksgiving program in the afternoon, and a Harvest Supper and Sale in the evening.

The morning worship service, led by Deacon Leonor Stewart, featured a special Thanksgiving sermon by Pastor Socrates Thompson. The afternoon program, chaired by Joan Miles of Victory Tabernacle, an independent Sabbathkeeping church in New York City, featured musical and literary presentations by members and friends of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, a Thanksgiving litany by Associate Pastor Henry A. Grant, and a special address by Historian Tom Merchant of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Center.

Reminding the congregation of the Biblical references to the relationship between reign and sowing, Mr. Merchant called upon the congregation to take stock of the spiritual harvest of the denomination, the church, and themselves as individuals, and to begin now to sow for next year’s harvest.

Special thanks were offered for the church’s new house of worship, which was filled for the afternoon’s special event.

But perhaps the highlight of the day was the presence of Alcott Lynch of West Palm Beach, Florida, who personally delivered oranges for the evening’s Harvest Sale.

FARINA, IL. CHURCH SEEKS NEW PASTOR

Must be ambitious, willing to meet the public. Sales background preferable but not a requirement.

Very small flock, but well disciplined to church duties.

Long legs would be an asset, but built-in overdrive would save gas for Sabbath morning services.

Our shelter is old, better than a century, but will house more than 200 head.

All pews are straight backed without cushions, so there is little danger of napping until you make your point.

A special bonus might be considered for each new face counted if they were in attendance more than twice a month.

The staff included: Kirk Looper, Pastor Paul Osborne, Dave Neff, Kent and Bern Wheeler, Randy Langworthy, Charles and Reb Wheeler, Vivian Looper and Muriel Osborne.

- The Los Angeles, CA, S.D.B. Church has begun regular Sabbath services in the afternoon for the Christians in their Spanish-oriented neighborhood, in addition to the regular Sabbath morning worship services.

PASTORAL CHANGES

Rev. Robert E. Harris, who has served the church in Paint Rock, Ala., since June 1976, has accepted a call to serve the Pine Street Chapel (SDB) in Middletown, CT. Rev. David C. Pearson, who has served the Plainfield, NJ., church since January 1977, has resigned effective April 1. The pastors and members of both churches have expressed their appreciation for the work and ministry of both men, and for their example and leadership in the local and regional church.

May we be open to the Holy Spirit to minister to each of us as we strive to carry out the calling God has given to us in this community and in the surrounding area.
RIVERSIDE, CA—A church worshipping, studying, praying and playing together is a healthy group. So we look over our past activities and assess their values in terms of our spiritual growth.

We are greatly blessed to have Pastor Allan Wheeler and Assistant Pastor Gabriel Bejjani as our spiritual leaders. They share in the preaching, Bible studies and calling, and they are always ready to counsel us and share their love with us in any circumstance.

Two special prayer groups are held each week: the Men's Prayer Breakfast is held Monday morning at 6:30 and a Praise and Prayer Group for the ladies meets Wednesday morning. Once a month the two groups meet together.

For some time the Friday evening service has been a study of the Holy Spirit and His gifts to us as individuals. On Monday evenings the Young Adults have a Bible study and the Young People on Wednesday evenings.

Beginning January 1, 1979 we are using a devotional booklet, The Daily Work, which is a reading plan and study which enables the reading of the Bible through, in a year. An explanation of its author, D. D. Enns, says, "While a monthly reading guide will be made available, the reading goal is to be up to each individual. There will be no meetings to attend, nor reports to be made! While small groups may decide to utilize the reading plan, or an adult Sabbath School class, the plan is primarily designed for the individual and/or family use." At present thirty-five are enrolled.

On December 16 our annual Christmas party was held in the Fellowship Hall when everyone sang Christmas carols and a play was given by the Youth Fellowship. The VF was also active in soliciting food and money for baskets and aid to needy families both at the Nativity Season and at Thanksgiving. As a group they went Christmas carolling.

Perhaps the climax of the year was the Sabbath of December 23 at the worship service. The church was banked with red poinsettias and a lovely Christmas tree at one side. The tree always reminds us of God's creation and the growth He desires in us. The heavenly angels with white lights making us think of Christ, the Light of the world, and was topped with a beautiful white dove and small doves on many branches, bringing to our minds Christ, the Prince of Peace. The choir came down the aisle in blue robes and gold stoles singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful." On this Sabbath our choir of thirty voices presented Handel's "Messiah." Jean Lewis was at the organ, Cheryl Driver at the piano and all were ably directed by Jennifer Lewis. It was a thrilling performance, beautifully sung and most uplifting. Seldom has a group of this size presented the "Messiah" with such a magnificent performance. The "Messiah" is old, yet always new, and we look forward to the time in heaven when we gather around the throne and sing, "Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah! And He shall reign forever and ever. Hallelujah!"

—Maude O. Carus

ALFRED STATION CHURCH GAINS VISIBILITY

ALFRED STATION, NY—The church recently gained high visibility with a large announcement on the church page of the Hornell Tribune. The announcement, which was placed as a public service at no charge to the church, featured a photo of the church and Pastor Rev. E. Zwiebel. Pastor Zwiebel was able to share the following message with the readers.

We are interested in what "shows" in our lives and in our churches. While some of us apparently want to be seen, others are more interested in programs to be accomplished without any publicity for themselves.

There must be a middle ground. Perhaps the test for visibility Matthew 5:16—"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Whatever a church does, or whatever a person does, is not done to say, "Look at us," but to say, "If what we do attracts persons to the church of God, then His will is being done." The visibility that the Tribune and the people who make this church page possible is good, and the churches are thankful. Since our church is listed equally, and without bias, one might imagine that he could enter any church and feel right at home. While it is not to be said in that way, it is not so, and for many reasons. Our churches reflect our heritage, our experiences, our attitudes, our devotedness, our intelligence, our common sense, our outside relationship-ships, our state of mind, our use and understanding of the Bible, and so on.

It is my belief that God can use all of the above in the building of His church, and it's world, but the true test of any church, and of any person, is the extent that we obey the Lord's Commandment TO LOVE—TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR. Each church has its own peculiarities that are attractive, or unattractive, to an individual, but its true visibility is the way they love God and each other, and their love for the people who are in heaven.

P.S.—As the above was being written, the following news item was received from President Carter appealing to Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat to keep up the good work in finding a solution to their differences. That's the right way to begin and the right visibility.

RECONCILIATION

God, who has made all men and women.

And loves all whom thou hast made, Reconcile us with one another and with thee.

And is the Son our Savior, was born of a Hebrew mother, But rejoiced in the faith of his people, And of a Roman soldier, Welcomed the Greeks who sought him, And allowed a man from Africa to carry his cross, So teach us to look upon the members of all races As fellow heirs of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sophie Shane

The Sabbath Recorder

ORDINATION

The Second full year as a church for the Columbus, Ohio, S.D.B. Church was one of steady growth. The membership increased by 1%, and for 4% in contributions by 7.2%. Would that every church could experience such yearly growth?

—E. Mae Lewis, who chairs the Executive Secretarial Science Department at Alfred State College, has been elected president of the State University of New York Educators Organization. She is a member of the Alfred Station, N.Y., SDB Church.
OBITUARIES

Burdick.—Dighton G., son of the late Lester and Grace Cowan Burdick, was born June 29, 1907, in Hartville, N.Y., and died Nov. 4, 1978, at his home in Plainfield, N.H. Burdick was a graduate of Alfred University, where he had belonged to the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, since boyhood, and loyally supported its mission. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge at Alfred. He served with the U.S. Army during World War II and died at the age of 71 after a long illness.

Arthur was a faithful member of the Dodge County Seventh Day Baptist Church for many years, serving in a number of official capacities and always doing his part to keep the church running smoothly.

He is survived by his son, Donald; three daughters, Mrs. Roy (Dorothy) Shemel, Mrs. Walter (Malcolm) Greene, and Mrs. Robert (Lorna) Austin; also 17 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, 4 sisters and a host of friends.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Seventh Day Baptist Church on June 9, 1979, with burial in Fernwood Memorial Park.

C.-H.B.

MARRIAGES

Lawton—Burdick.—Gordon P. Lawton, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Leon R. Lawton of Pascagoula, Mississippi, and Linda J. Burdick, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. Henderson Burdick of Milton, Wis., were united in marriage at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church on December 29, 1978, with the Rev. Leon R. Lawton, father of the groom, and Pastor Earl Cruzan, pastor of the bride, officiating. Their home will be at the parsonage at Ashaway, R.I., where Gordon is pastor of the First Hopkinson Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Palmer—Mrs. Palmer and Brenda Moore were united in marriage November 11, 1978 at the Pascagoula Seventh Day Baptist Church, Westerly, R.I. The Rev. Russell W. Havens officiated.

Vanhorn —Sutton.—E. Donald Van Horn, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Edgar D. Van Horn, and Madge Sutton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson, were united in marriage December 30, 1978 in the Alford, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church. They were married by the Rev. William Weisbert, officiating. Their home is in the LeRoy, N.Y. parents' parsonage, the Rev. E. Zwetzel, Mr. and Mrs. Van Horn will reside in Alford.

Births


Applegate.—A daughter, Melissa Lynn to Kenneth and Mary Applegate of Milton on December 13, 1978.

Cook.—A son, Troy Wayne, to Samuel and Mrs. Jerry (Carr) Cook, Tomba bankruptcy, was born on December 17, 1978.

Hanson.—Travis Lee, son of Rick and Kaylene (Shults) Hanson, was born at the B.C. Hospital, June 29, 1979.

Meeks.—John Earl, son of Kenneth D. and Carole Meeks, Renova, W.Va., was born in Seattle, WA, on October 19, 1978.

Robinson.—A daughter, Sonya Elizabeth, to Ralph and Sharon (Jones) Robinson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, on October 25, 1978.


“AM SENT FROM GOD.”

John 1:6

by Claston Bond

I would like to share with you my association with Pastor Charles W. Thorngate and his faithful wife Ethel.

Pastor Thorngate came to our little church at a very critical time. At that time, as now, there was great interest in the gifts of the Spirit. There had been misunderstandings, feelings hurt, and things carelessly said. He came to us knowing of the problems but firmly believing that the Bible held the answers.

I vividly recall one Pastor Thorngate’s first sermon; it was based on First Kings 19. In that chapter Elijah felt an earthquake, a windstorm and a fire, but God came as still, small voice.

As we listened to Pastor Thorngate, we were moved by his sincerity and strength of conviction—all small voice speaking the truth in love. I am convinced of the “little ministers” in this world move more mountains than the world famous evangelists.

When Pastor Thorngate first came to our church, we were helped by the Missionary Society. We soon felt we should pay the salary ourselves. Pastor Thorngate told us he would take a reduction in pay to make this possible. I never knew Pastor Thorngate to do a selfish act.

Pastor Thorngate was a carpenter, as was our son-in-law, and he was a fine pianist and loved music. Pastor did not sing but when he heard a favorite hymn, he would soundly tap his foot in time with the music.

I wonder, when the angels sing their heavenly music for us, will Pastor Thorngate be tapping his foot? I believe so, and surely his wife Ethel will sooner or later be playing their heavenly music for us, as she did so faithfully.

I truly believe for our Seventh Day Baptist Church in Dodge Center, Pastoral Thorngate was “a man sent from God” to help us in times of great spiritual uncertainty.

1978 YEARBOOKS are ready!!!

Order from: SDB Publishing House
Box 866
Plainfield, NJ 07061

$4.00 each

Scripture Gems

Window view of Bible texts selected by pastors and ministerial students.

Jay Zarembo
Bay Area, CA

THE "TATE" FAMILY

"Do you know how many members of the TATE FAMILY belong to our church? There is old man DIC TATE who wants to run everything, change everything. Their sister AGI TATE stirs up plenty of trouble, and their sister VEGE TATE and his wife, VEGE TATE, want to wait until next year. And of course, there is the black C.C. who has completely cut himself off from the Tate Family. Winfry D. TATE is quite helpful in church matters. And of course there is Mrs. Beeve D. TATE who has completely cut herself off from the Tate Family."

Cousins COGUY TATE and MEDU C. TATE always think things over, and Cousin WINFUY TATE always does big shot. Cousin WINFUY TATE always does big shot.

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"In these days of rising stormy seas of Christian and non-Christian religious subjectivism, wherein the believer experiences of peace, joy, happiness, sanctification, etc., are paramount, these verses are a shining beacon pointing to the objective gospel which is the power of God. The gospel is the good news about the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

Let us cry aloud with Luther: “Mine are Christ’s living, doing, and speaking. His suffering and dying; mine as much as if I had lived, done, spoken, and suffered, and died as He did.”

THE "TATE" FAMILY

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WE ARE ABLE TO POSSESS THE LAND

by Rev. A. L. Peat
Mill Yard Church, England

"But Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!'" (Num. 13:30). After their journey of forty years, the children of Israel had arrived at the border of Canaan. But before entering the Promised Land they wanted to make certain all was well. So it was that Joshua, a great military leader, selected twelve men as spies, one from each tribe. They spent forty days in looking over the land.

They found it to be a beautiful land and very fruitful. When they returned to their camp they took proof of its bounty—the grapes, the pomegranates and figs. They presented the products of the land to Moses and the congregation. However, the spies gave an evil account which shattered the hopes of the people. They said, "We are not able to possess the land." The other two men, Caleb and Joshua, stilled the people and urged that the land be taken. It is always said that the majority rules, so it was that the people hearkened to the report of the timid and fearful ten who also reported that the land which would be given to the children of Israel was all of this be of good courage; we can command, and every one of us has been praying again; but greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world. We are able to possess the land."

PUT SOME ACTION INTO YOUR LOVE

"What does the word 'love' mean?" asked Mrs. Patrick. The boys and girls of the Sabbath School class were quiet for a moment while they thought about what love means. "It means caring about people," said Sharon.

Mrs. Patrick, who had been writing the answers on the chalkboard, laughed with the rest of the class and said, "That can be a kind of love too. But these other answers are about the way we act toward other people. What are some ways we can show our love?"

This time the boys and girls thought even harder. "We can obey our parents," said John. Sue said, "We can share our toys with our friends when we play."

"Good Sue and John," said Mrs. Patrick. "Can you think of some other things?" Mary was very serious now and she said, "We could do something nice for somebody who is lonely."

"I'm glad you said that, Mary," Mrs. Patrick wrote Mary's answer on the board with Sue's and John's. "Can we do something as a class to show our love to someone who is lonely?"

"Sue brightened and said, "When we go to see my grandmother in the nursing home, I see a lot of people there who seem lonely. Grandmother says that some of those people never have anybody visit them. We could do something special for them!"

MEMORIZE VERSE: 1 John 4:18 (TEV)

"My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action."

Younger children may memorize "True love shows itself in action."
Suggested December OWM and Boards

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**Summary:**

- Budget: $252,717.53
- OWM Treasurer: $2,120.00
- Board Report: $2,094.10
- Arrangements for 1978: $2,058
- Percentages: year elapsed, 100%, raised: 91.58%

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**TO THE CHURCHES WHO REACHED THE SUGGESTED OWM GOAL FOR 1978**

- Adams Center, NY
- Albion, WI
- Ashaway, RI
- Bay Area, CA
- Berlin, NY
- Boulder, CO
- Christ, AR
- Daytona Beach, FL
- Houstoun, TX
- Ironville, KS
- Little Geneva, NY
- Little Rock, AR
- Los Angeles, CA
- Upper East Tenn
- Western MA
- Milwaukie, OR

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**Book Reviews**

*How To Make Your Church Hum* by Paul W. Burdick

Paul W. Burdick, a noted church leader, has written a short but comprehensive guide to effective leadership. "It's not just a book of easy techniques," rather Dr. Burdick seeks to point church leaders to God as "the only source of true power." He presents in a readable and thought-provoking manner how to develop fresh and workable plans for church growth—how to make the church "hum." Some of the chapter titles are: "Wake Up the Worship; Give Dynamic Leadership; Involve the People; Advertise Well; and Cult Excess Meetings."

In regard to leadership Powell states: "Groups do not lead. Individually we dream, an idea, a vision begins with one person, and he then inspires, motivates, and leads the group to accomplish it. If the church is to hum today, it must have dynamic leadership. We must lead, follow, or get out of the way."

Perhaps many Seventh Day Baptists could profit from the chapter "Cult Excess Murmings." Power gives useful advice on how to accomplish more with fewer committee meetings, etc. The book is a history of the early settlement of the area with emphasis on many of the notable "uncommon folk" over the years.

We found the chapter on Hiram P. Burdick especially interesting, indeed worth the price of the book alone. Dr. Burdick, a leading Seventh Day Baptist of his day was a unique man who is described as a physician, dentist, preacher, evangelist, temperance leader, scholar and inventor.

Perhaps our Alfred readers already know how the bell of the church steeple—"if you don't, you simply must read Phelan's account.."

The Burdick family had definite ideas about health and "were living 100 years ahead" of their time. The doctor established the "Alfred Highland Water Cure" sanitarium which flourished for some years. In an advertisement which appeared in the June 18, 1857, edition of the Sabbath Recorder, Burdick stated that the facilities "for successful treatment of various (stated) diseases are not excelled in any establishment."

If it appeared in the Recorder it must have been so! Hiram P. Burdick would no doubt be happy with the current SDB commitment to evangelism and church growth; no doubt if he were living today he would be a leader in the cause.

In the 1830's the author points out that the term "Born He is" is radical enough to suggest: "there is no value in continuation of a meeting or activity simply because you have always done it. Tradition is no justification for "continuation." He concludes: "The SDB Missionary Society has sent copies of this book to all pastors as well as members of the General Council. However, this book can profitably be read by all laity who share the concern for seeing the church move forward."

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- Little Geneva, NY
- Little Rock, AR
- Los Angeles, CA
- Upper East Tenn
- Western MA
- Milwaukie, OR

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**February 1979**
We welcome you to take a lesson from us—in fact, we would invite you to enjoy a complete set of six lessons to study the Bible in your home, perhaps with your entire family. We have prepared our GUIDE TO BIBLE UNDERSTANDING course to have appeal to youth as well as adults. This past year over 600 have studied with us—from all across the United States and around the world.

We receive letters of appreciation from those whose lives have been blessed by this systematic study of God's Word.

"I really enjoyed and learned a lot from the two courses I took with you, GUIDE AND CHRISTIAN NURTURE AND GROWTH. They are fantastic courses and have provided much spiritual nourishment to me. I would like to take an additional course if you have one."

-Schenectady, N.Y.

"The correspondence studies and the teaching of the young people's class in the churches are moving on fine. Twenty students have finished GUIDE AND CHRISTIAN NURTURE AND I have given them their diplomas which were sent to me through Rev. Mataka. However, we need additional copies of the lessons and diplomas as well. I shall have many students."

-Pastor Joel Omari
Kenya, East Africa

We rejoice to know that our Bible courses have been helpful to our Seventh Day Baptist people as well as valuable as an evangelistic tool. We recently received 115 enrollments as a result of a booth sponsored by Seventh Day Baptists at the Little Rock, AR, State Fair. It is indeed a special joy to learn of those who have studied with us and have now affiliated with our churches—we welcomed three such just last month.

The Bible remains a best-seller today in the United States—it is relevant to our generation. As Seventh Day Baptist Christians we have no more "sure Word" than that of Holy Scripture. Our Bible lessons are based solely upon God's Word—a GUIDE to daily living.

If you haven't already, we would invite you to enroll in one or both of our courses. We have prepared enrollment cards to share with your friends—now is a good time to share God's Word with others. There is no charge for the lessons. To enroll write to GUIDE, P.O. Box 868, Plainfield, NJ 07061. We would be happy to send you enrollment cards free for the asking.

-John D. Bevis

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain.

Isaiah 11:6, 9