Conference photos taken by Kenneth Burdick and Stephen Rogers.
The Sabbath Recorder
A Seventh-Day Baptist Publication

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Our appreciation to Jennifer Lewis for her fine work in compiling this theme section on the Ministry of Music. Jennie worked for some time as secretary to the Editor of the SABBATH RECORDER serving Editors Leon R. Malhly and John D. Bevis.

I remember my days at Azusa Pacific College quite fondly—at least those moments that have the most impact upon my present being. Aristotelian physics, Kepler’s laws of planetary motion, and the sociological impact of advanced technology on the urban dwellings provided fantastically stimulating lectures, but I rarely bring myself to remembrance of such things. No—the moments that I recall most fondly are those moments that I shared with the concert choir.

We had a marvelous choir that had the opportunity to tour many parts of our country sharing beautiful music with our audiences in awe-inspiring locations. We were a Christian group from a Christian college that performed sacred music of such a nature that it was both uplifting and soothing, dotted here and there with those rare musical moments that make your heart skip a beat and a lump gather in your throat. The performances, the fellowship, even the rehearsals, are these the times that I will never forget from my college days.

For the past eight years, I have been teaching choral music at the junior high level in a public school system and will move to the same position at the high school this year. Almost every public school system is faced with budgetary problems and one of the first programs to be cut back is the arts. Fortunately, I teach in a community that not only supports its strong music program, but encourages growth. In return, we provide over one hundred fifty performances in and around the community, showing the good, and often overlooked, side of youth. But maybe even more importantly, it provides those same young people with rare moments and experience that will live with them forever.

Is it beneficial to young people for our schools to spend the time and money necessary for such an experience? I certainly believe so. Music allows a person to express his innermost feelings in a most natural way. One may find it difficult to express his emotions through speech, but it is so easy to express them through song. It doesn’t matter if the song is a gentle ballad, a rousing and spirited pop tune, or the most beautiful and reverent of sacred texts; if the feeling is there, it will come out for all to hear and see.

I have performed every type of literature with my groups, and each one affected the emotional growth of the choir members in a most positive way. The singer grows from within—he begins to appreciate and understand the pain, suffering, and the joy of living. He is rewarded for his efforts with the applause from his listeners and the satisfaction that he gave enjoyment to others while gaining a rich experience for himself. I have often observed how the Christian child grows stronger in his love, while the outsider begins to realize the fulfillment he receives from expressing himself in ways that God would approve.

These experiences teach us how to relate to each other as children of God. We appreciate and care for each other—we depend on and show a great love for each other. This may be the very first time that young people have the opportunity to share these wonderful feelings with others. Isn’t this what Christianity teaches us? Isn’t this what Christ had in mind when He commanded us to love one another? We teachers are blessed with the privilege of guiding the innocent through their early days of educational, emotional, and spiritual growth. Music makes it easier for both sides. If you don’t think a director receives a blessing in return, try standing in front of a group of young people performing beyond your expectations with such a marvelous glow in their faces and voices that it gives you goosebumps and brings a lump to your throat. I wouldn’t trade it for anything else on this earth.

Is the musical experience in our schools important to the growth of a Christian? For some children, it is the only opportunity they will have to experience these marvelous joys of loving and sharing in a very personal way. Is it worth the time and money to teach our children how to transfer love and grow within themselves through the beauty of song? You bet it is!

Music Education and Christians

by Rollie Masson

Rollie Masson is presently the director of choral activities at Arcadia High School in Arcadia, California. The school is well-known for its excellent music program and its success in the Southern California Jazz/Pop festival for six years. He is a member of the Riverside S.D.B. Church, its former choir director and participant in musical activities there.

November 1981
God Sings!

by Lois Wells

Lois Wells is well-known in the field of Music Education in Southern California. After dedicating many years to High School and College Choral and Vocal education, she spends most of her time as a private voice teacher, clinician, speaker, and traveler. She is a member of the Los Angeles Seventh Day Baptist Commission and Planning Committee.

Have you ever noticed the birds? Some of them have beautiful songs that make the heart glad. Some seem to have sad songs like the bird my mother says sings, “misery, misery” all morning and evening. Then there are birds that just seem to make a noise, a raven’s “caw, caw” may be irritating to some or music to others, but God’s gift of song to the bird, nevertheless.

The Lord has given us many wonderful gifts. One of these gifts is music. Everyone can share, participate and perhaps even benefit from music. Music is not just for those who can sing well or play an instrument, but anyone who has an ear to hear or a toe to tap. The deaf can even enjoy music. Music may be a blessing for us as is the Sabbath. God has given us these two gifts especially to enjoy for ourselves, to share with others and to use for His glory.

I love to sing, whether alone (in the shower), with a group with God as the audience, or performing before an audience. It’s exacting work performing numbers satisfactorily: the right pitch, the correct tempo, the clear diction and pronunciation to share the appropriate feeling. When music is performed well there is satisfaction in knowing music has added to someone’s life a touch of beauty, a laugh or an understanding that wasn’t present before. These are the gifts I receive when I sing alone, with a group, or listen to someone else perform.

When singing with a group, the music is usually already selected, but when I perform alone, I must do the choosing myself. Selecting the most appropriate music is not always easy. A great amount of thought and prayer goes into selecting music. The time of day, the place, the occasion, the people who will hear are all considered when choosing the appropriate music. Questions like “What do I think they want to hear?” “What do I want them to hear?” or most often “What does God want them to hear?” have bearing on what is chosen. When singing for a worship service, I attempt to discover the sermon topic and scripture, then I choose music and words that complement the worship atmosphere and theme for the day so the music becomes a part of the service as a whole and not just a piece of music performed because music is expected at some moment in the service. Music is enjoyable, but in the church service it is meant to give glory to God and enrich the worship of all.

I thank God for giving us the gift of music to enjoy and to recreate. I thank God also for giving me the desire and ability to sing. I had once received the message that many youngsters get, “You can’t sing, so don’t!” While discouraged, I didn’t stop. There was still the desire to sing. I sang for my own enjoyment until someone said “Come sing for us, too!” I’m glad they did, for joy shared is joy multiplied.

May we continue to “sing unto the Lord a new song; praise the Lord; and make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

The Christian Singer: Why I Love to Sing

by Yvonne Stephan

“O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.”

“Praise the Lord!” “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

Yvonne Stephan is a member of the Santeeville, Pa., church and is the wife of its pastor, Rev. Mel Stephan. She is a mother of three and an active participant in church and community activities.

November 1981
I don't remember when I started singing. My mother says my sister and I sang "In the Garden" for a talent show when we were four and five-year-olds. Music drew our family close because we did it together. We didn't plan it that way—it was just fun. We had many happy moments in our car singing, "Highways Are Happy Ways" and "Sing Your Way Home" coming home from swimming or visiting friends. Mom and Dad may have used singing to keep us four in the back (later six) from quarreling and complaining. Little did they realize that they were instilling in our little hearts and minds a real love and appreciation for music.

As we matured, most of us went through the piano lessons, church choirs and later band and chorus in high school. My sister, Connie, and I became pianists for church and school which proved to be the fastest way to become skillful. While in high school, my brother, Denny, and I took guitar lessons together and would often play for informal church and school functions.

As I was finishing high school, I had decided that Jesus was to be not just a part of my life, but my Lord. From the beginning, we always sang expressions of pure joy and praise. God opened doors that they 'were instilling in our little hearts and minds.

...I don't remember when I started singing, but I do remember when it all stopped. While driving to a Bible study in Riverside the night of Oct 2, 1979, I was in a tragic accident. I lost an eight-month unborn child, sustained a badly fractured leg, chest injuries, and facial lacerations. Seventeen days later the chest injuries turned out to be more serious. What appeared to be only rib fractures, was instead a torn aorta which had miraculously clotted off. During the eight-hour surgery, the built-up scar tissue complicated the situation and my recurrent laryngeal nerve leading to the vocal cords was damaged. The doctors didn't know at the time if I would speak above a whisper. Through it all, God's comfort was there. He didn't let me despair. Gradually, I was talking, and month after month I became more audible. However, I realized I couldn't sing. I tried not to think about it though I would become discouraged upon hearing my own voice on a Light Bearers record, or the church choir, just wondering if I could ever have that ability again. I never doubted that God could heal my voice because I knew the rest of me was a miracle. Gradually, He gently assured me that He would make up for what I had lost. I could still praise Him and experience the joy of music with the piano. Then He blessed me with total peace and contentment.

Now, two years later, I sing the best I can, however, to me it sounds more like "a joyful noise"! I can't sing solos or lead singing, but I love music (just like old times). As Paul, the apostle, I

"Why are you always singing?"  
"How do you manage to be so cheerful all the time?"  
"At this hour on Monday morning and you're singing?"

These are a few of the greetings I receive from time to time around the office or in a gathering.

Good questions all. And questions for which I have an answer in most cases, although the reasons for singing differ with the differences in circumstances.

I found long ago that joining in song with others no matter what the age difference is a heart-warming experience. It gives me a change, however inarticulate I might be, to express my emotions in clearly defined terms. It isn't always simple to state clearly just how one feels, and depending on the circumstances, nervous tension and emotion can seriously hamper self-expression.

With music I can usually find the words that say what I want to say, and in a manner that is acceptable. Dramatic lectures and impassioned speeches are all well in their places, but with music—with a song from the heart—even the least-gifted at public performance can present a message with meaning.

Yes, singing is important to almost everyone. Thousands of words have been written about the joys of music, the power of music, the beauty of music. Singing is probably the most powerful way to deliver a message of importance. Because of this—singing a message—much of history and countless inspired moments have been carried from generation to generation for their enlightenment. It is one of the axioms of show business that a musical play can survive if it has one memorable, hummable song that people can take away with them.

So it is with singing for me. After realizing that I could participate with others in song, giving both enjoyment and inspiration with the manner of the presentation as well as the words themselves, I

sing at nearly every opportunity. Frankly, I enjoyed choir and chorus, and eventually was emboldened to get into quartet work—both at school and church functions. Solo work developed with great difficulty. It seemed to me that it took a lot of just plain nerve to get up in front of a crowd all by yourself and hold the spotlight—a show of egoism.

A few vain attempts at solo parts within the choir’s anthem, after a few embarrassing experiences, finally led to the realization that I wanted to sing; I wanted to have my say in that medium.

Within the discipline of prepared words and melody I found the joy of expressing myself, my thoughts, my joy in living and my delight in God's world and my place in it. Unfortunately, I did not take the opportunity for formal training to develop this divinely-bestowed talent, so I just kept on singing in my own way. I say that this was unfortunate because now, after years of enjoying singing and after realizing more fully the importance of song, I am guilty of poor stewardship. Each of us has talent, and it should be developed to the fullest extent for the glory of the Creator and the enjoyment and inspiration of our fellow creatures.

Let's get back to the subject.

Singing is important to me and in my life for several specific reasons:

A message in song is disciplined. It won't go on indefinitely like some sermons or speeches do. A composition can be selected that says what is appropriate for the occasion without being misunderstood.

A message in song is presented in a pleasing manner, and even the same words and tune repeated will carry the weight of the meaning.

Singing not only influences the hearer, but can have a most beneficial effect on the singer as well.

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Through It All — I’ve Learned To Trust  
by Christine P. Davis

Christine Pederson Davis is a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church. She lives in Ontario, California, with her husband, Dr. Ron Davis, and their children Emily and Nathan. She is a former member of Light Bearers for Christ. She is active in many church, civic and political functions.

Singing Is Important  
by Loren G. Osborn

Loren Osborn, a respected member of the publishing community, and newspaper editor in Gacord, New Hampshire, is a former General Conference President. He is a talented singer, lending his voice to many church services.

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Psalm 100, besides being a psalm of praise, is also a job description for me. Making joyful noise is my career, my job and my hobby. Music isn’t my only job — career, job or hobby, but it claims as much time as I can give to it and still fulfill the demands of being a wife and mother.

My musical jobs have come to me easily, and usually at a most opportune time. When my husband was in the Army, I found that Army Chapels were always in need of an organist. Enter phase one of my career. I practiced on a lot of unsuspecting chapel congregations, loved it and actually became a Church Organist, which is altogether different from a person who plays the organ. A Church Organist is a leader. I still love being a Church Organist and gain a great deal of satisfaction from my job as organist for a Lutheran Church.

Phase two of my career began when I realized there was a need for a neighborhood piano teacher and I could fill that need. Now I began practicing on several unsuspecting little piano students. What fun! I was the teacher now, after all those years, and I could reap the benefits of frustration, satisfaction, glory and disaster. Teaching was an interesting look at myself and how I thought and how many times I didn’t think. I realized that I played much of the time simply by reflex. Stopping to realize exactly how I play, the mechanics of it, and how foreign a piano must be to a beginning student was quite a revelation. I set goals for myself and students, one of which is simply loving to sit down and play an instrument, in my case the piano, to make music. I have found that if you have that desire to make music, the Lord can do wonderful things with it. Look at me!

Phase three of my career began just recently, composing and arranging. I suppose it came about from a great deal of playing experience. After all, if you play the notes and chords for so many years, you develop an ear for the sounds you love best and automatically begin to use them and position them as you want to hear them. Actually, my beginning had to be arranged for me by the Lord! A friend asked me to accompany her for a solo at church. We found out in practicing that the song needed to be transposed to a different key, something I had never done well and consequently did not like to do (actually I felt a lot stronger about it than that sound!) Regardless of my feelings, I was nice and transposed the piece for her and that one piece of transposition seemed to free me from my dependence on having the notes in black and white in front of me. I can definitely look back and say that the Lord arranged that exercise for me because not too long after that I began writing melodies and the friend for whom I transposed the song began writing lyrics and we collaborated on several Gospel songs that we enjoy singing and playing. It was the creative process that I loved to get into and the Lord knew that I would, because it has improved all areas of my music. I enjoy writing different harmonizations for hymns and have written several piano and organ duets with hymns as the basis. Luckily, I have a wonderful friend who will play these with me. (Thanks Chris.)

All of these careers in music give the ability to do three things that are very important to me and to the Lord. I can communicate a lot of things with my music, not the least of which is the love of God. Every hymn I play is a tribute to the Lord. Every harmonization I put down on paper is to His Glory and every student I teach knows I love the Lord and them. The “and them” is very important. I love the congregations that I play for and have played for. When I play the organ in their churches and chapels my music is meant to tell them that I love them, I love the Lord and the Lord loves them.

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Music has always been a vital part of our lives. It seems as though we have been singing, humming and whistling longer than we can remember. Much of our love for music was developed by the foresight and influence of family, church and school. Early childhood memories include Denise achieving her father’s dream of having a daughter be the church pianist, and Paul became part of the “Green Trio” with his two sisters. Church choirs and school choirs were participated in with pleasure. Through all of this, our parents, church music leaders, school music directors and friends encouraged us to develop and use our musical talents. A poster hanging above our piano has a picture of a kitten with its ears perked up sitting on a piano keyboard. It says “Nothing improves my hearing better than praise.”

Our acquaintance with each other began on a walk home after choir rehearsal at the Milton Church. As our friendship grew, we enjoyed participating in musical things together, something that still continues to be a joy. Somewhere along the way in our romance, we discovered the fun of singing duets together, most appropriately, love songs.

Pastor Loyal Hurley helped get us started in our ministry to music. We have over the years. We also have a collection of secular songs he particularly wanted to include in our summer” and three other members of a male quartet on an evangelistic tour. Pastor Hurley gave us some duets to sing that he particularly wanted to include in the service. We have added others to our repertoire over the years. We also have a collection of secular songs. (It’s still fun to sing the love songs!)

Music is His Ministry to Us and Our Ministry Through It by Denise and Paul Green

In the summer of 1974, after graduating from high school, I came face to face with a decision everyone faces once in their lives: whether or not to continue my education or to fulfill my life in some other way. My final decision to join Light Bearers was one I never regretted.

The years I spent on the team were filled with more learning and growing for myself than I probably ever realized I needed. It made me more aware of myself, what I really like, and more aware of the people around me. I also had the opportunity of learning how to get along with and caring deeply about others. But when it came down to it, sometimes I wasn’t nearly as caring towards the other team members as I should have been. Not only that, but I came to the realization that maybe I thought a little more of myself than I ought. I found out I had a temper, usually controlled, but it brought out feelings and emotions that I didn’t like and wasn’t proud of. Through all of this, I was growing and maturing as a person but especially as a spiritual person.

Paul’s pastoral ministry has greatly benefitted from our teamwork as musicians. It’s helpful to have one’s wife as church organist, one who can guess your next move (usually)! Worship and music go hand in hand and we enjoy trying to use music creatively in Sabbath worship services and other aspects of the life of the church.

As many Christian musicians will testify, music is one way of sharing your Christian testimony. Music so often expresses what we feel, hymns and songs so often say what we want to say, be it praise, prayer or witness. We are glad that we can one way of sharing your Christian testimony.

“Through the whole creation cried: Alleluia!”

Hymn text by E. Pratt Green, quoted from the Lutheran Book of Worship

In the future, it is my prayer that Light Bearers will hold as many learning and loving experiences for team members as it held for me. I believe in the ministry and know that it has a place in God’s eternal plan. As the organization continues to grow and change, I feel that it will continue to bless us all as individuals and as a denomination. My prayers are always with them as they strive to further Christ’s kingdom.

WHAT IS LIGHT BEARERS FOR CHRIST?

It is Seventh Day Baptists dedicating themselves to serving Christ and His Church through their music. It is a fellowship of Christians travelling across the country, learning to live together, practicing the love of Christ.

It is a group desiring to serve Seventh Day Baptists by contributing to their greater visibility. It is an opportunity for individuals to learn and grow, both spiritually and musically, and to deepen commitments.

It is a ministry which requires a great deal of dedication, but offers great spiritual rewards.

OUR GOALS

To communicate what it means to be a Christian, and how to become a Christian.

To let the public know that Seventh Day Baptists exist!

To help to nurture and strengthen the body of Christ.

Light Bearers for Christ

by Dawn Soper Richards

Dawn Soper Richards is a member of the North Loup, Nebraska, Seventh Day Baptist Church. She lives in North Loup with her husband Ray Richards and their son Gregory. She is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Myron Soper, founders of Light Bearers for Christ.

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God has given to each of us varied and unique talents. When we use these talents to further God's purposes and to reach others with the Gospel message, then God in turn blesses us. Sometimes He does so in material ways, but more often in spiritual ways.

God has been so gracious to me. I have had a music gift and have been able to use it to help others. I have always been interested in singing and have been involved in church music since I was a child. As far as formal training is concerned, I have had music lessons and have taken some courses in music theory.

Music has been one of the best ways for me to express myself. It has helped me to meet new friends, to communicate with others, to reach out and touch the lives of others who might have passed by without hearing what I had to say. Music has caused me to laugh, it has caused me to cry, it has lifted my spirit to bring me out of depression, and it has brought me down to my knees in repentance. God has seen fit to grant me a talent in vocal music, for which I am very thankful. He has made me what I am and has given me the raw talents. What I do with them is my choice, but they really work best when God is served by them. I have sung in many places with a variety of groups, both secular and Christian, and believe me, the happiness that comes from thinking you have performed well is not happiness at all when compared to the joy you receive knowing that you have served God to the best of your ability.

Music has taken me to a lot of places, but the place where I have grown the most spiritually has been my time in Light Bearers for Christ. I was in North Loup, Nebraska, when Light Bearers first began, and I sang with them during that first summer in 1972. Since that time I have sung with the group for two extended periods of time: from May 1975 to September 1976, and from September 1980 to the present. Each time I have grown: in the way that I relate to people, in interpersonal relationships, in my musical abilities, and in my spiritual walk with the Lord. I thank God for the vision of Myron Soper to begin this ministry, for its growth over the years, and for its expansion into a viable part of the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination.

I believe that in this Decade of Doubling and Discipleship, that the Light Bearers can and will be a valuable tool to help achieve God's plan for Seventh Day Baptists. Music has been called a universal language, and what better medium is there for reaching out into the hearts and lives of others than music, which tells of the love that God has to offer. I myself am looking forward to the growth and outreach of Light Bearers for Christ, as we spread God's message of truth to a thirsty and seeking world. I ask that you continue or begin to support Light Bearers in your prayers, that we may be an instrument for God's glory and a vital part of the Seventh Day Baptist outreach.

Light Bearers for Christ: From a Team Member
by Jerry Van Horn

My first experience with Light Bearers for Christ was in the spring of 1976, when as a new Seventh Day Baptist living in British Columbia, Canada, I was invited to host the group for a week. I kept them busy with schools, nursing homes, a prison, a cable-TV taping, and a couple of public concerts. There was hardly a moment for rest or sightseeing! To their credit, the team members were very gracious through it all. Jerry Van Horn was the leader of the group then, and Patty Lawton was the music director.

I was interested in Light Bearers for Christ because of my own musical background. In high school and college, what I lived for were the choirs and quartets I sang in. From an early age, my desire was to be involved full-time in Christian music. This dream came true when I joined the Continental Singers in 1971. While during that summer, I experienced a spiritual birth and committed my life to Christ. I was then invited to join the Heritage Family, a 12-member gospel singing group, and sang with them for the next two years.

For a period of several years, music became a hobby, but in 1979 I began to seek ways to be involved vocationally with the Seventh Day Baptist church. Music seemed the logical avenue, and my pastor, Rev. Duane Davis of Seattle, and I had many discussions about it, culminating in an article I wrote for the Sabbath Recorder titled "Music in the Decade of Discipleship" (February 1980, page 8).

The article discussed various ways music could serve the themes of Nurture, Extension, and Ministry; and while many of the suggestions I made have yet to come to fulfillment, I'm thankful that I was given the opportunity to become directly involved in Seventh Day Baptist musical witness. It is my desire that Light Bearers for Christ should successfully "represent the position Seventh Day Baptists occupy within the Christian framework."

(Continued on page 13)
God gave the song

by Jennifer Lewis

Jennifer Lewis teaches Choral Music in ten Berendoa, California. She lives in Redlands, California. She is a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church where she is choir director. She is the daughter of Philip and Jean Lewis. She is the guest editor of this theme section.

God Gave the Song

by Jennifer Lewis

were musical and emotional and wonderful. We always stood in a circle, hands crossed and held, singing “We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder.” It’s the same in camps everywhere. Camp is such a great experience, not to be missed by any child. It was there I found I could harmonize, and felt pride when other campers would look around to see who was making that sound and see that it was me.

After twelve years of public school, filled with choruses, choirs, festivals, madrigal singers, trips to Hawaii, I went away to college and spent my first year without music. I didn’t take a music class—not even one. I used to walk around my college campus, deliberately going by the music building to listen to the voices of people warming up, harmonizing, practicing. I would cry all the way back to my dorm. I would wait for the chance to go home to hear my former choir perform. What a feeling of belonging!

It didn’t take me long to realize that music was too important to give it a low priority in my life. It seemed to come naturally and seemed such a good way to express feelings. The Lord was steering me in the direction that would help me to use my gifts for His glory.

What’s that I hear?
I still hear that music.
Day after day that song goes on.
For once you know that source of music
You’ll always hear it.
God gave the song.

I find much joy in my life from many kinds of music, but especially in these ways:

Teaching: Yes, thirteen-year-olds are a joy! (I sometimes have to repeat that phrase to my reflection in the mirror on foggy mornings when it’s still dark outside). Music can help me to witness to my students in ways that other teachers cannot. I don’t allow songs in my classes that don’t speak positively about life. I hope that my students leave my choruses feeling better about themselves. Life is rough for them. They need all the songs that I can give them. God is working through me, and yes, the Public Schools too, to feed these children a more positive food for their lives. My students know that I am a Christian. They know I am “square” and don’t compromise myself with some of the worldly temptations that are so accessible to them. I feel great about being that kind of model for them. And I get to stand up and sing for four hours every day, and get paid too.

Singing: I thank God for my voice. I thank Him for control and knowledge and ability. I thank Him for an education that has taught me to create something that can bring pleasure, comfort and witness to others. I feel pride, I feel value, but more than anything I feel gratitude to God because He has blessed me with a singing voice. I thank my parents for giving me biological gifts that help me and my sisters to sing. I also thank them for opportunities and encouragement. I thank my mother for endless patient hours of accompaniment, working with me to improve my voice.

I have really been blessed. Everyone who has written something in this issue feels, I am sure, that God has richly blessed them with a love for music. I know that everyone who has music in their hearts, if not in their voices, feels a blessing too.

“It is good to say, ‘Thank you’ to the Lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods.” (Psalm 92:1 Living Bible)

A LOOK BACK — AND FORWARD

(Continued from page 13)

I hope that someday soon the history of Light Bearers for Christ to this point will be written, so that the vision and contributions of the founder, Rev. Myron Soper, the various team members and the support staff over the years can become a part of the historical record. At the time of this writing, a significant change is taking place in our organizational structure. A merger is being effected between Light Bearers for Christ, Inc., and the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. This means that the LBC musical team will not be a ministry affiliated with the Missionary Society. A committee has been formed to oversee our work; its chairman, Phil Burrows of Milton, Wi, is also a member of the Evangelism/Home Missions committee.

As in the past, Light Bearers for Christ will continue to be self-supporting. We will have a separate budget, and although it will now be possible for contributors to channel their gifts through Our World Mission, neither the OWM nor Missionary Society budgets will routinely include allocations for the Light Bearers for Christ.

During the past 12 months about $1 out of every $4 of our income came from offerings at concerts. The other $3 came from other donations, and regularly pledged giving by Seventh Day Baptists. We are very thankful for this support from individuals and local churches! Probably Light Bearers for Christ will always need some support of this kind. However, I feel the part of establishing Light Bearers for Christ on a solid foundation is to begin to reduce the need for this amount of subsidization. One way to do this is to give more concerts—but there is a limit to how much the team can travel at a time without experiencing “burn-out.”

Another solution is to seek concerts in larger churches which will yield larger offerings. This, too, is a good point, but I believe God is calling Light Bearers for Christ to minister, to a great extent, in smaller churches—where better-known groups may not go. In particular, I want Light Bearers for Christ always to be available to local Seventh Day Baptists. If a local Sabbath-keeper is willing to work with us in generating the greatest possible publicity, we will come to his community to present a concert which will help to create visibility for Seventh Day Baptists.

The solution, then, to our financial needs is, I believe, firstly, to work together with you to increase the number and size of Light Bearers for Christ concerts where feasible; and secondly, to trust that the Lord will continue to impress local churches and individuals of the need for continuing regular support, so that we can continue to be available to small churches.

My goal for Light Bearers for Christ is to see it thought of positively within our denomination, as our foremost musical public relations vehicle, and outside our denomination, as a respected and professional ensemble, noted for its musical diversity and sincere, effective Christian witness. To help make this goal a reality, here are some of the plans currently under development or consideration:

1. An attractive promotional kit.
2. A plan of pre-concert preparation and follow-up to make the evangelistic aspect of our work more effective.
3. Having a home-base staff member whose duties would include arranging the concert schedule, so that this could be done in an orderly manner, and well in advance.
4. Recording. A record album permits us to be heard in places we may not be able to go. Thus it

(Continued on page 27)
TUESDAY Love is the permanent element in life. Prophecies shall be done away—fulfilled or not—I can’t pin my religious life on them as some do. Tongues—high moments when God talks through mortal tongues—stop at death. Knowledge—fiction or assumptions, and memory can fade. But love never fails! True love never dies; it is that element of life which we carry into the eternal.

A DAY IN MARCH My heart is a garden. Each day I poured out the things I do not want to grow. I cherish only the seeds of the Kingdom: love, truth, beauty, planted there by the Creator. And they must have sun, rain, elements of growth. Help me to recognize the dark clouds as part of my growth... What can China do today? What can she teach her youth? What have I to offer her? The law of God shows us our condition. A mirror does not wash the face, it simply reveals the need for washing. So the law of God is a mirror; it introduces the sense of shortcoming, the sense of sin... Dear Lord, help me to look in the mirror today to see my dependence on these. Go, visit Mrs. Wei (WAVY). Help her to see what Christ can do for her home—more love, patience, faith, hope.

SABBATH DAY (After Bible Study) I’m so proud of my humility! I’m ready to fight for peace. I hate a man who doesn’t love others!

SUNDAY Philosophy and theology are the art and music of thought and feeling. In Christ the practical man sees a solid example of practical working ethics; no more. It takes Paul to see in the same Christ a great Saviour. Both go as far as their type of mind is capable of... Christ is all things to all men. Am I, do I help only one type of person with only one type of need? Do I touch only the physical?

WEDNESDAY Jesus’ greatest appeal was to the highest and best within man’s heart. How often he asks “What man of you...?”. Not dogmatic creeds or statements in regard to prayer, providence: “Man is the highest revelation of God.” The Bible is not the supreme revelation of God. That is to be found in the human heart.

THURSDAY Woke up early with (Chinese girl) excited about troop movements. We were the only people in Liusho that had slept. Started getting the hospital closed up hoping a truck would come. Stream of patients coming in. No buses now. Mr. Davis (Rev. H. Eugene Davis, head of the Mission in Shanghai) arrived with the news that the U.S. Consulate had ordered us in. He took in Dr. Palmberg and others. Wei-Zei and I threw the dishes in the center.

Dr. Crandall (Dr. Grace, that is) refused to leave me so we all stayed together. Mr. Davis didn’t get back till nearly 4:00 and hurried us off before the Consulate should send the Marines out to get us. No trouble getting into Shanghai. Every grave mound with a machine gun. Many Chinese soldiers going to the river.

FRIDAY Spent the morning with Dr. Crandall trying to find a hospital for Mrs. Zia. (Zee-AH!) No luck. St. Mary’s very crowded. Red Cross Emergency headquarters—no luck. Miss Koo had Prayer Meeting: Psalm 23. It came to me that the Psalmist walked through great dangers with a still greater assurance of being led.

SABBATH DAY Mr. Davis and Dr. Crandall got our missionary friends, the Esyps, to South Gate. We had church at Miss Burdick’s. I led, reading T.J. Van Horn’s sermon about Jacob’s surrender. He depended on his wits, his cleverness, his money; but finally came to the end of all this security and depended on God. About 4:00 p.m. the first air raid bombardment began, cracking overhead like a thunder storm with rings of smoke from the anti-aircraft guns. Bloody Saturday—history alone will tell why or who. Four bombs dropped on the (International) Settlement. One bullet came through the roof of the church as the Chinese pastor was preaching.

TUESDAY Decided to go to the emergency hospital to work. Tension is terrible to endure when you’re just sitting. Reported for night duty at 7:00 p.m. Put on ward with 13 refugee babies—what a night! One towel to wash all 13. Almost no breakfast for them. One little fellow died. At dawn I looked out at the air raid going on overhead. All over the city roofs people were coming up for a breath of air and a view of the city. Off to the north was a perfect rainbow across the city! I accepted it as a covenant of God that He had not forgotten His people—that it takes a cloud to make a rainbow—and that somehow behind all this horror was a universe that was indestructible.

THURSDAY Worked all day washing, ironing and packing. The U.S. liner Hoover will sail tomorrow for Manila. Went over to say goodbye to Mrs. Zia (Zee-AH!) and the girls. We had prayers at Miss Susie Burdick’s: “God is not dead.” O what a spirit she has. She has been through many wars and rumors of wars, and knows!

PRAYERS (on board ship) Dear Father who knows my heart, who forgives my weaknesses, my self-pity, my pride, who knows all my secrets, I do promise tonight to turn over the burden of my heart to thee. My pride has been hurt in leaving China. I would rather have died there. I see it now. I am not afraid so much of death as of what people will say. I come home to save my parents from grief, to relieve Mr. Davis’ anxiety. As Dr. Crandall said, I am not an individual.

Take my pride, Lord, and transform it into strength to face the world with an understanding smile. If they only knew they would understand. And, dear God, please may I go back to China. I have been planting seed there for seven years. I watered it with tears. I laughed over it. Those funny, narrow, dirty streets where I have followed thee past the houses of the poor, by the forbidding walls of the rich, through the fields of grain always seeing thy hand. But not as I will, but as Thou wouldst have me. Amen.
COMMUNICATION IS NOT SIMPLE

In the technological age of television and electronic gadgetry and with all the efforts to communicate facts to people, we discover that there is still a lack of understanding in most areas of people’s lives. I understand that with all the information available on sex education even in most school systems across the country, the majority of teenage girls who become pregnant don’t know how it happened. The ability to communicate with understanding is complex and difficult, but as the apostle Paul indicates in the 14th chapter of I Corinthians, it is crucial if people are to understand what is going on. Effective communication takes at least two people, one talking the other listening. Now that doesn’t sound too difficult, but it is. The one talking must be able to use words that the other person understands. He must give the opportunity for the other person to respond, indicating that he understands or asking questions. The listener needs to listen, not being think up what he is going to say in response.

The need for real communication is important in any interpersonal relationship whether it is in the family, in the office, or in the church. It is important not to just communicate words, but feelings as well. It is not uncommon for people, particularly in the marriage relationship or in the church, to communicate in words something contrary to their emotions and feelings. A hint to people in any close relationship: try to hear not only what the other person is saying, but what he is feeling. And the other side: try to indicate your own feelings when you talk.

TEN HELPFUL HINTS FROM ENSTROM

In his book, THE MAKING OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER, Ted Enstrom gives the following ten suggestions: “to help you in communication.” (1) Stop talking! You can’t listen if you are talking. (2) Put the talker at ease. Help him or her feel free to talk. (3) Show them that you want to listen. Listen to understand rather than to reply. (4) Remove distractions. Don’t doodle, tap, or shuffle papers. (5) Empathize with the other person. Try to put yourself in his place. (6) Be patient. Allow plenty of time and don’t interrupt. (7) Hold your temper. An angry person gets the wrong meaning. (8) Go easy on argument and criticism. They put the other person on the defensive. Even if you win, you lose. (9) Ask questions. This encourages and shows you are listening. It helps to clarify your understanding. (10) Stop talking. That is first and last. You just can’t do a good job listening while you are talking.

EVEN IN THE CHURCH

Communication within the church is crucial. If the pastor keeps the people informed it cuts down on rumors and complaints. The people feel as though they have a part in the ongoing program of the church. Open lines of communication facilitate any plans for change. Again the art of listening is crucial for the pastor. It helps him/her know what are the needs of the people and answers the question, “Do they understand what I am saying or trying to do?”

It is also important for members of the congregation to communicate with the pastor and with each other. It is important to hear what is being said and to understand. If you don’t ask questions, This is the only way to get the sense of vision and purpose that is being communicated by the leadership. It is important for the pastor and the leaders to know what you think and how you feel. They need your reactions and feedback.

In October I initiated a newsletter called LEAD-LINE in an effort to open new lines of communication to keep our Seventh Day Baptist leadership informed. The goal is to aid in coordination of the many facets of our work as a people. For LEAD-LINE to be a real tool of communication, I must have reactions and input from the leaders who receive it. Unless I know what is helpful and what isn’t, unless I have their suggestions on which to base improvements, LEAD-LINE may be talking but not hearing, thus not communicating. Its goal of coordination will then not be served. Communication is essential to success.

Third in a series on the five elements of success: Vision, Leadership, Communication, Time and Commitment (Financial)
How You Can Help Us Meet Goals

women throughout the denomina-
tion to encourage the reading and
use of them by others.

3. A personal spiritual growth
book which would be a tool
which each member could use to
measure her spiritual growth year­ly.

- Information and helpful
resources regarding the problems
faced by young families.

Personal spiritual growth seems
to be the theme behind these goals
and particularly the recommenda­
tions regarding the Newsletter and
the Women's Page. The potential
for helping each other grow
spiritually is really exciting if we all
pitch in and help. What can you do?

You can help Beth Burdick
(editor of the Newsletter) and
I gather the information suggested in
the recommendations. We cannot
begin to do a good job in
meeting these needs without your
help. The second recommendation
about paragraph reviews of helpful
books is one in which we can all par­
ticipate. My first suggestion would be
to sit down right now and write a
review about the book (next to the
Bible) that has been most helpful in
your spiritual growth. Since most of
we haven't written book reviews
since high school or college days,
here is a form you might wish to
follow to simplify the process.

Book Title: 150 Bridgeport
Author: Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019
Publisher: or Beth Burdick
Address of Publisher: Los Angeles, Calif. 90042
(if available)

1. What is the book about (basic
theme)?

2. What do you feel is the most
important thought or thoughts
the author shared in this book? (If you
can find a quote from the book to il­
lustrate your point, that would be
effective.)

3. How has what you read in this
book affected your life? (How has
God spoken to you through this book?)

This review form, in an adapted
version, could also be used to share
an insight into a portion of
Scripture; or if you have attended a
nation-wide event like Marriage En­
counter, Basic Youth Conflicts,
SCSC, What Happens When
Women Pray, etc., you may also
wish to adapt this form to share the
blessings you received from that ex­
perience. Make a habit of jotting
down a simple review every time you
read a helpful book, are spoken to
in a new way, by a passage of Scrip­
ture, or attain any blessing-filled
retreat/seminar. We do each have a
responsibility and an opportunity to
share with one another what God is
saying to us through His Word and
through other members of His
Kingdom, so SHARE. These
reviews may be sent either to me:
Jane Mackintosh
150 Bridgeport
Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019
or
Beth Burdick
9796 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90042

Also, if you can share a list of
study books based around a theme
or if you know of some resources
for helping young families cope with
their problems, please share these
with us so we can get this information
delivery to others. I have never seen a
"personal spiritual growth scale" as
suggested in Recommendation #3,
but if you have ever seen such a tool,
please share it with us.

If you don't feel comfortable
writing a review, please don't let
that stop you from sharing ideas.
Jot down thoughts and I will be glad
to write or edit the review for you.
Be sure to include your name, ad­
dress, and phone number along with
your review, in case we need to
clarify anything we don't under­
stand.

Beth and I look forward to hear­
ing from many of you soon. We are
depending on your help.

November 1981

The Sabbath Recorder
The only way the commercialism of Christmas is to be combated is for people to refuse to participate. It is in the homes and churches that the celebrations must become simple and the purpose of the day returned to its original meaning.

The first Christmas was celebrated by the angels as they sang in exultation to declare the Christ-child’s birth; by the means of their livelihood, to worship and to announce National Bible Week, November 22-29, 1981.

The Life Ventures Committee of the Board of Christian Education has prepared a booklet, "LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM," ... to help families focus on the significance of the season. In it are brief statements which may be used as meditations or discussion starters. The “Christmas Remembrances” suggest ways to bring Christ back into celebrations.

... "LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM," has been sent to each church to be given every family. If you have not received one, check with your pastor or clerk or send to the Board of Christian Education, 15 S. Main St., Alfred, NY 14802. We will be happy to send you one.

The life of the season.

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the additional special gifts. It is hoped that the sale of the present building will provide

The new center in Janesville is on the northeast side of the city, just a few miles from the Milton and Alton churches and Milton College. The two-year-old building has 9,600 square feet of space on four levels. Sixteen offices, conference rooms, lunch room, and reception area are included along with storage areas and ample parking on the 2½-acre lot. The fuel-efficient design includes five furnaces and air conditioning units for zoning and heating and cooling. Major reasons for the move are to be in a more central location geographically and to lower the cost of operation. Lower cost of living for the area and greater feel and space efficiency were major considerations.

While the present building is in the New York metropolitan area, Janesville is seventy-five miles northwest of Chicago. Air transportation service is available through Milwaukee, a sixty-minute drive east, and Madison, forty minutes north.

The move to Wisconsin will affect the McDonald's, the German Church, the Post Office, and the Social Action Committee. But we all need to be reminded that now is the time in all of our churches to think about building up again that fund that has been depleted during the year as crying needs have been met.

We have seen the Bible-based wisdom of collecting in advance a substantial fund to meet catastrophic or other special relief needs for which our Christian love makes us responsible. In New Testament times the Apostle Paul saw the financial needs of the home church at Jerusalem and urged the church people of Macedonia and Greece to "lay by them in store" so that the fund would be ready when needed and their appointed committee could forward the money to Jerusalem.

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Included in the group of ordained elders, deacons and deaconesses who joined in the laying on of hands were: Roberta's parents, Rev. and Mrs. David Clarke, and her grandmother, Mrs. Agnes Bond, elder and deaconesses from Alfred, NY; Joyce's parents, Floyd and Elimina Sholtz from the diaconate of the Verona, NY, church; and Wesley's parents, Alva and Clarence Fouke, both members of the Diaconate in the Berlin Church. Irene Greene welcomed the new members to the Diaconate.

During the service Delmar Ellis was presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for serving faithfully as the pastor of the Berlin Church for 45 years.

The Sabbath Recorder

November 1981

FOUKE ACADEMY OPENS

FOUKE, AR,—Fouke Academy at Fouke, AR, opened for the 1981-82 school term on September 1. The headmaster is the pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Rev. Floyd Goodson, and his wife, Lois, who is giving dedicated service as a part-time teacher.

There are seven students: Misty and Christy Pilgreen, third grade; Brent Pilgreen, fifth grade; Jim Biggs and Jay Hays, seventh grade; and Sandy Akins and Clara Goodson, ninth grade. Three adults are enrolled in special classes. Lena Mae Staton is taking typing; Frankie Briggs is studying for the GED examination for the high school diploma; and Darline Hickey is studying Spanish.

Of the ten students, three are Seventh Day Baptist, seven are not. So it seems that the Academy is providing a service to the community. Both Dr. Floyd Goodson and his wife are experienced teachers. This is his 25th year and her 30th in the classroom.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PREPARES TOO

The Historical Society trustees began their meeting on September 15, 1981, at the New Home Library. The move to the top floor of the new denominational center in Janesville. Arrangements are being made for a professional appraisal of the Society's library and artifacts. Board members are going through the library collection to cull out unnecessary books. Members in the collection are not related to Seventh Day Baptists or their history.

Minor repairs and other preparations are being made for the sale of the present property at 310 Wach­

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MILTON, WI—An installation service for Pastor Herbert E. Saunders was held Sept. 12 at the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Carl Osborn was the charge to the Candidate, and Dale Thongate, Executive Secretary of General Conference, gave the Charge to the Church.

A prayer of dedication and installation was given by Pastor Herb’s father, Pastor Francis D. Saunders.

During the service, several people welcomed Pastor Herb on behalf of various organizations. They included: Dr. Laurence Burdick, welcome from the church; Margaret Burdick, Advisory Board; Ellen Green, youth; Bill Arthur, Quarterly Meeting; Phil Burrows, North Central Association; and Rev. Virgil Holmes, Milton Clergy Council.

Don Sanford served as liturgist, and Steve and Lisa Thongate provided special music.

The following day, Sept. 13, a welcoming reception was held at the church for the entire Saunders family—Pastor Herb, Barbara, Brian, Peggy, and Michael. The event was open to the public as well as the church family.

A commissioning service for Extension Pastor Earl Cruzan was held at the Milton SDB Church Sept. 12. The service of commissioning was given by Pastor Herb Saunders, while the prayer of dedication was given by Dale Thongate, General Conference Executive Secretary.

Pastor Cruzan, who retired April 1 after more than 40 years in the ministry, will engage in a southern Wisconsin-northern Illinois evangelical outreach program. His duties will include contacting people who have inquired about Seventh Day Baptists, calling on parishioners who live far from established SDB churches, providing occasional pastoral leadership, and helping to set up house churches and Bible study groups.

SEVEN BAPTIZED AT CAMP

NORTH LOUP, NE.—Our last report left off with our looking forward to our camping season at Camp Riverview as a lot of preparatory work was taking place. Well, our anticipation was met with success with seven youth being baptized in the North Loup River. We praise the Lord for these newly-committed lives.

Church and Christian fellowship were enhanced by having an SDB softball team take part in the church league of this area. Winning the championship was not essential for us to have fun, but it did top it off nicely!

August 31 through September 2 were the dates for our annual North Loup “Popcorn Days.” The church had its food stand, as it always does, serving hamburgers, drinks, ice cream and homemade soups, barbecue beef and pies. This project helps us to maintain our church building and properties.

The people of our community who are 70 years of age and older were invited to a party sponsored by the ladies of the SDB and Methodist Churches of North Loup. Fifty-nine people attended and enjoyed the singing by pastors of both churches, the games and the food which was donated by individuals. Pastor Larry Graffius read an appropriate scripture and the songs also pertain to Christianity.

Our Friday night Bible studies have recently embarked upon the “Life and Journeys of Paul.” The Dr. Grace Missionary Society organized a rummage sale with proceeds of $600 going toward a new dining room for Camp Riverview.

September 27 we began the “Decision to Discipleship” course. This looks as if it will enrich those who participate affecting the Church Body in a positive way.

—Pam Soper

JOHN CAMenga CALLED TO SHILOH

The Rev. John H. Camenga, pastor of the Upper East Tennessee Seventh Day Baptist Church since October 1979, has accepted the pastorate of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Shiloh, N.J. The Shiloh church has been without a pastor since the retirement of the Rev. Charles H. Bond. Pastor Camenga has served several churches, and has been involved in church planting and outreach in the Carolina’s as well as Eastern Tennessee in recent years. The Camenga family will be moving to New Jersey sometime prior to April 1, 1982.

MARRIAGES

WARNER-PARK.—Wendy Sue Warner and Jerry Park were united in marriage July 12, 1981. Wendy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Garth Warner of Orleans, NY, and Jerry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen T. Park of Sherill, NY. The wedding took place at The Root Glen in Clinton, NY, with an outdoor reception on the lawn of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church. The couple will live in Verona, NY.

SUITS-PEACHANINI.—Fran Suits, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Suits, of Vernon, NY, and Domenick Peachanini, of Goshen, NY, were married on August 22, 1981 in the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church by Rev. Russell Johnson. They reside on Orange Road, Vernon, NY.

BIRTHS

PSOTA.—A daughter, Kristin Diane, to Diane and Darlene (Kong) Peot, of Shendehauk, IA, on May 30, 1981.

RAND.—A son, Benjamin Ellings, to Richard and Waynete (Burdick) Rand of Aurora, CO, on August 8, 1981.

SmiTH.—A son, Travis Jon, to Ross and Sharon (Williams) Smith on August 10, 1981. They reside on Quaker Hill, Ayr, NY.

WILLIAMS.—By adoption, Anne, age 3½ and Michelle, age 2½, to Ross and Paul Williams of North Loup, NE.

The Sabbath Recorder

ALFRED STATION, NY

By Pastor: Russell Sperger

By Testimony: Georgia Marvin

HERBERT E. SAUNDERS, Pastor

By Letter: Rev. Francis D. Saunders

LIL S. SAUNDERS

RIVERSIDE, CA

ALTON L. WHEAT, Pastor

By Baptism: James Driver

Robert Driver

Richard Driver

Lucille Whitney

By Testimony: Cheryl Driver

Tom Davis

Donna Davis

John Thorpe

Patricia Thorpe

Glen Fritz Henley

Peggy Bannerman

ACCESSIONS

ALFRED STATION, NY

By Baptism: Russell Sperger

By Testimony: Georgia Marvin

HERBERT E. SAUNDERS, Pastor

By Letter: Rev. Francis D. Saunders

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Glen Fritz Henley

Peggy Bannerman

OBITUARIES

GELLEFF.—Mrs. Olive May, who had been living at the Hasselwood Home for the Elderly in England, died at Ellin General Hospital on September 1, 1981. She was the oldest member of the Mill Yard Seventh Day Baptist Church in London, England. She was baptized on Oct. 15, 1927 at the age of 22, and was admitted to membership on Nov. 1, 1927, by Rev. W. Winston Handen.

The funeral service was held in the Chapel of Rest at the Mountain Cemetery. Interment was on Sept. 10 with Pastor Albourne L. Peat officiating.

—A.L.P.

A LOOK BACK — AND FORWARD

(In continued from page 19)

is invaluable as a means of witness and of publicity. It can also be a source of additional income. I believe that the present team will be ready to record by January 1982, if funds are available.

I hope to be involved with Light Bearers for Christ, and with Seventh Day Baptist music, for a long time to come, though musical trends in the group may change to accommodate my need for further education and my desire for a Christian home and family. Despite the frustrations found in any task, I am older and grateful to have completed my first year as Director of Light Bearers for Christ.

November 1981

In my previous Sabbath Recorder article, referred to above, I wrote:

"Music can be legitimately used to state the Christian case, to give opportunity for personal testimony of the validity of that case, and to invite the hearer to personal acceptance of our leader, Jesus Christ."

"The music of a church can also serve to put that church’s name before the public, and to leave a favorable impression."

My prayer continues to be that the ministry of Light Bearers for Christ will be a fulfillment of these words.
IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE PRAISE UNTO THE LORD

(Continued from page 6)

SINGING IS IMPORTANT

(Continued from page 7)

One of my fondest memories is that of working on a South Jersey farm and hearing my black working partner across the field break into lively song even when he was feeling quite down in the dumps. When asked, he always said, "I'm just trying to fool myself." Singing can lift the spirits.

Singing is probably the most important when several voices are combined. The group effort becomes harmonious, giving joyful expression of a single theme by many people, and I, as one of the singers, become a part of a greater, grander expression of the chosen message.

Singing is important to me for these and many other reasons. The simplest way to say why it is important in my life is to say that "I just plain love to sing." I have always been surrounded by music lovers, mostly singers, and I shall continue to sing as long as I have breath enough to carry a tune.

Phoebe in the Garden

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Phase Seven of the Decision to Disciple

Phase Seven of the Decision to Disciple was written by Rev. Herbert Saunders. Although it is numbered "seven" this section may be used at any point in the study the Disciple wishes. It may also be used as an independent study by groups or individuals.

It was written especially for Seventh Day Baptists and focuses attention on several important issues in the Christian experience. As a Seventh Day Baptist disciple opportunity is given to grow in your faith. You are urged to study Phase Seven of the Decision to Disciple in order to understand Seventh Day Baptist beliefs and policy.

You may order Phase Seven from the SDB Board of Christian Education, Alfred, NY 14802.

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rhythmically, and may be unheard of five years from now.
People frequently learn their theology from songs they sing. For instance: from “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony) we have these words—"Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who do in love are Thine” is what Paul taught. This is the social gospel. Our responsibility as choral conductors is to teach both children and adults songs that contain strong and correct theology—texts that square with the teaching of scripture.

2. Do the rhythms enhance the texts or drown out the "Word of God"? Are they compatible with the human heartbeat or against it? Is the new sound, the Christian rock 'n roll, an honor to God or is it primitive and neo-pagan?

In his article, "Christian Rock, a Strategem of Mephistopheles," Dr. David A. Noelte tells us that Dr. John Diamond, a New York physician and psychiatrist, “discovered that the snarled apocalyptic rhythm (short, short, long, pause) ‘heightens stress and anger, reduces output, increases hyperactivity and weakens muscle strength.’ Diamond found that the apocalyptic rock music is ‘the exact opposite to our human and shelter rhythm’ and of hundreds of persons tested on an electronic strain gauge, 90% registered an instantaneous loss of ¾% their normal strength when they heard the beat. Such music, he claims, cannot be considered harmless or fun to carry the Christian message.

Noelte states further that those who defend the practice of using the rock idiom with sacred lyrics are quick to point out that “Luther and Wesley used popular tunes to carry the Christian message. True, but Luther and Wesley both had a musical mode available in their rebellion. In the field of classical music, there are composers who purposely set out to create chaos, also, with their use of particular rhythms, melodies, and harmonies.

Music does affect us physically and spiritually. Long before historians and scientists gave us sufficient proof, God revealed that music affects a man. Under His direction the music we write and use can be positive, uplifting—sacred. It can be healing as in the case of David playing for Saul. But the ultimate results should be a spiritual victory.

I look forward to the time I will be permitted to discuss these musical matters with God, of hearing Him sing; and should He care to be the Soloist in a choir I am directing, no audition would be needed.


Sullivan, Daniel J., B.M., M.M. A Plan for Reformation in Music, Chalcedon Report, May, 1981, No. 109, P.O. Box 158, Valleccio, California, 95251

Noelte, Dr. David A., Director of Summit Youth Ministries, Christian Rock, A Strategem of Mephistopheles, Summit Youth Ministries, P.O. Box 207, Manitou Springs, Colorado, 80829

THAT JOYFUL NOISE IS MUSIC TO MY EARS

(Continued from page 9)

He has given me this unique opportunity to witness for Him, and He has made it very easy for me.

Another thing I can do is earn a living and in today’s world that is very important. It seems as if I was trained from childhood to make a living at the keyboard. I guess if I was tiling paragraphs this one would be titled “From Music Lessons to Money,” or “How to Make Your Childhood Activities Earn You Living.” Nevertheless, it is a success story for me and more importantly for the people along the way who gave their time and resources, the people who pushed, scolded and paid for my music lessons (Thanks Mom).

But the best thing about earning a living the way I do, is that I can stay home. I have been needed at home these years with my family. I am a mother and housewife and I live and love those careers, too. I know my family thinks I have a tendency to get too absorbed in my music. They know that if someone asks me to do something and it has to do with music—I can’t say “No”! At the very least, it’s difficult for me. It’s a great thing for the kids to know that Mom has her other life (besides being mother) and that her temperament can be very artistic (that is to say volatile)—but, they know too that I’m there and the Lord knows that I needed to be there for my family and made it possible for me to witness for Him, stay home, earn a living, and do what I love to do.

Thank you Lord for my musical ability. Thank you for the opportunities given me. Thank you for Psalm 100, my job description. Help me Lord, to always make a joyful noise unto You, for that joyful noise is music to my ears. Amen.

The Sabbath Recorder

GUEST EDITORIAL

"I would not be a radical when young for fear of being a conservative when old." —Robert Frost

I MUST HAVE GOLDSIULDENNY OLD. Not only has this old radical campaigner turned conservative, 1 seem to have awakened on the right-hand side of Jesse Helms.

This summer we registered our five month daughter to begin school in the fall. Almost immediately I began reading about a US Senate proposal to curb the authority of the Supreme Court to enforce the Constitution. Some radical senators, such as Mr. Helms, want to allow the states to decide whether children should pray in the schools.

As a parent, I can’t imagine a more knee-jerk idea, and as a Pennsylvania taxpayer I can’t imagine a more impractical one. I live in a state which can’t fill its potholes, decide where its roads are going, make up its mind whether the governor should be a Republican or Democrat, or accurately predict whether the annual budget will be a deficit or surplus. This is the state which gave the world the Johnstown flood, the Erie blizzard, and Three Mile Island. I’m supposed to turn the religious training of my children over to a state which can’t even compute my income taxes accurately.

I happen to be very particular about the sort of religious training my children receive. That’s why I follow them to Sunday school each week, sit beside them in church, lead them through bedtime and bedtime prayers, read and interpret Bible stories to them, and stay prepared to answer any question they may have. I look forward to the day when the state may make their own personal decisions to invite Jesus into their lives as a personal savior. I don’t try to tell them I have a corner on prophecy or the right answers to the big questions. There’s even a slight chance some of the things I tell them might be wrong, and that’s not an easy thing for a parent to acknowledge. Be that as it may, religious training is a responsibility I take seriously and don’t intend to share with a secular and inefficient entity, like the State of Pennsylvania. The biblical injunction to raise up a child in the way she should go was not aimed at monarchs or caesars. It was aimed at parents.

Oh, I’ve listened to the arguments in favor of mandated school prayer. Bleeding-heart poppymock for the most part. Like those sad stories about children who receive no religious training at home and need to be exposed to God somewhere, such as school. But what kind of prayers do the schools suggest? Quite meditations, silent moments, bowed heads. This is evangelism? What if my children share their classroom with children of other religions, such as scientists, mooseies, or Jehovah’s Witnesses? They can have broad-minded encounters even with enough groups in bus-stations and airports.

The strange thing is that so many of the parents who advocate mandated prayer in schools also consider themselves to be evangelical. I don’t understand why parents who have fairly clear ideas about faith and religion would want to expose their children to watered down, secular, or quasi-religious experiences. I had enough of that approach in the Air Force, which acknowledged only three major faith groups: Roman Catholic, Jewish, and “General Protestant.” The latter group included everyone from high church Episcopalians to Seventh-day Adventists, with assorted Unitarians in between. It was an interesting ecumenical experience, and chaplains who were able to adapt their sermons to such a group were nothing if not creative. But I don’t want to raise my children to be “General Protestants.” I want to raise them to be Baptists, and I want to see them decide on their own to be born-again Baptists. Mandated prayer in schools is not going to be of much help to them on that pilgrimage and will probably be a hindrance.

All throughout history we Baptists have had bad experiences with monarchs and governments. Sometimes they tell us how to pray and what to believe. We’ve ended up in jail, at the stake, and at the gallows because we’ve insisted that individuals must encounter God in their own way. When the state before Roger Williams established the idea that no government should regulate our religious experiences, Now a handful of radical senators want to overturn all that history and deliver our children from the religious faith over to the hands of public school systems. Fortunately, Henry VIII is not the governor of Pennsylvania—but even well-meaning and benign government officials have no credentials and certainly no right to usurp parental authority when it comes to prayer training.

I expect my children will pray in school. I hope so. But I also pray that will happen on their own terms, in their own time, and in their own way. If the state tries to impose its own style on that process, then I want it known that I am one conservative parent who is not about to stand for it. Shoot, if you must, this old gray head—but spare the religious freedom of my children.

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Philip E. Jenks is Editor of THE AMERICAN BAPTIST.

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Every gardener knows that the seed you plant determines what crop you'll raise.

When our boys Jack and Ted were five and six years old they helped sow the carrot seeds in a shallow groove marked with two sticks connected with a white string.

After we had waited and watered for several weeks we decided that it was time to tug on some of those green leaves that were growing in the row.

Little Jack pulled carefully. He pulled again. Suddenly there it was in his hand.

With a happy grin Jack exclaimed, "It's a carrot!"

Yes. We had put in the tiny carrot seeds and now he had a carrot fresh out of the soil to eat standing there with his feet planted in the row.

It's exactly the same with any other seed that's put into the ground. If you want a crop of potatoes for baking don't plant small potatoes. You will only dig up small potatoes at the end of summer.

Many people are careless with their lives. In effect they plant small potatoes and expect superior size Idahoes.

Esau was like that. He planted small potatoes and then wept when the harvest netted him only small potatoes in return.

Because Esau was born first of twins he automatically would receive the extensive blessing of his devoted father. But at planting time Esau said, "I'll take the pottage today. I want it immediately. What profit shall the birthright be to me?"

Jacob eagerly bargained for the future crop, the blessing that had been denied him by birth. Jacob wasn't to be satisfied with the small potatoes. He anticipated the very best. And even though we cannot condone the method by which he attained his goal we must credit him for his choice of wanting God's best.

Today many people are like Esau. Young folks often see only the present and fail to anticipate what God's larger blessing would be if they were willing to plant more carefully. The obvious isn't necessarily the Gardener's best.

There must be selection and choices and decisions. Selections include friends, occupations, priorities. Some friends inspire our best. Others drag us down with their lack of ideals.

There must be preparation for all occupations. The higher our goal the greater will be our achievement.

If we live only for a day our priorities will probably be limited to what can be accomplished in the present.

The Bible says, "Delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart" (Psalm 37:4).

How could anyone still desire a crop of small potatoes when God offers Himself and His boundless love?

**Light has come into the world**

—John 3:19

*don't plant small potatoes* by Janet Van Rys