

The Harvest Field

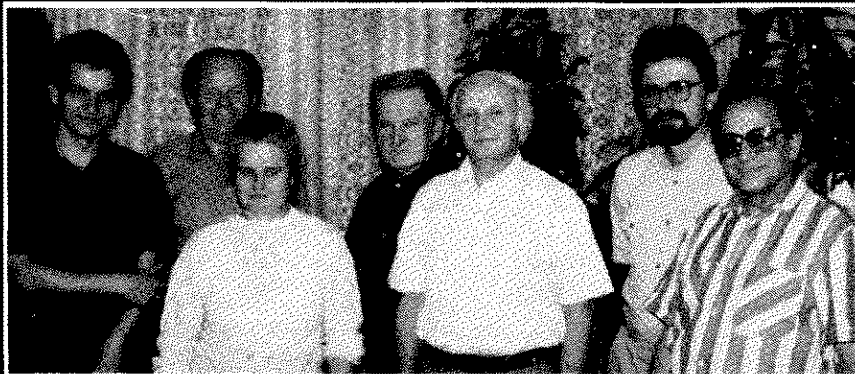
Messenger

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1992

A magazine
by and for
members and
friends of the
Church of God
(Seventh Day)

In this issue

- Spring Vale's Lady Flames Take Tournament
- Harrisburg, Oregon Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary
- Members of the Church Board at Ostrava, Czechoslovakia



The Model Health Spa

Once upon a time there was a health spa called The Model Health Spa. The MHS was unique in that it didn't cost anything to join. Anyone who wanted to could be a member. All one needed to do was love the owner of the health spa enough to follow the rules that he commanded. The owner knew that if his clients followed these simple rules, they would have healthy bodies and minds. He loved people and he wanted to be loved in return.

The rules weren't hard to keep. They went something like this:

1. You shall love and trust the owner enough to follow his directions.

2. You shall not make any likeness of junk food.

3. You shall not alter the program of the spa to resemble any other. To do so would cause the owner's goal to be in vain.

4. Remember to get proper rest. You are allotted a time to work and play and a time to rest.

5. Honor your instructors for they know what is best for you.

6. You shall not kill your power of reasoning with strong drink.

7. Do not lust after unhealthy diet programs.

8. Do not steal air your lungs need with smoke.

9. Do not cause your body to lie by using false drugs.

10. You shall not covet those who sleep late in the mornings or fail to get the proper exercise or follow unwise health programs.

The members of the MHS met at least once a week to learn how to be healthy, and especially to fellowship with their leader and with one another. Throughout the week they practiced the rules for healthy living. And they were blessed. The rules

worked for the members just as they had been promised they would.

The spa grew and prospered. Most of those attending the spa realized their owner loved them very much. They returned his love by carefully following his rules. Sometimes they asked the owner why he had these rules, but they were reassured the rules were in their best interest.

Some of the spa's members looked around and saw other spas springing up around them. These spas didn't have strict rules. Some of the spas didn't care what one did — "do what makes you feel good."

"Junk food tastes so good," these members of the MHS cried. "The other spas have studied health and know all about food and exercise. They don't think there is anything wrong with junk food or extra sleep. We want to be like the other spas."

There was one rule that was disagreeable to the other spas. In fact, some spas had the same rules as the MHS, except for one. These spas didn't feel proper rest was important. The rule for rest was the one rule everyone wanted to break. There just weren't enough hours in a day to do all they wanted to do.

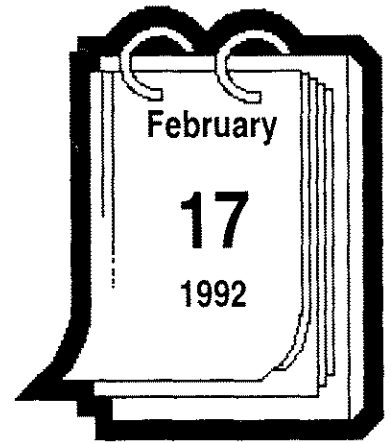
"Don't sports and games rest one's mind?" some reasoned. The unhealthy balance of work, play, and rest caught up with those who ignored the rules for rest. It wasn't long until they were sleeping so late that they were unable to attend spa meetings.

The MHS members were asked how they could love a leader who was so strict. Why, their leader loved them and look at all they were allowed to do! As long as they paid their spa dues and came to the classes, they could do what they wanted.

This appealed to some of the mem-

Continued on page 7

Deadline for the Mar.-Apr. issue is:



The Church of God (Seventh Day) is a fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel, introducing others to our Lord, teaching them to obey His Word, and nurturing spiritual growth in all members.

The General Conference of the Church exists to provide training, services, resources, and materials to assist our congregations and members in accomplishing our mission.

THE HARVEST FIELD
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The Ugly

Side of Alcohol

By Gina Tolbert, with a friend



"A December 1990, Gallup Poll found that 57 percent of Americans drank alcoholic beverages such as liquor (distilled spirits), wine, or beer. The remaining 43 percent were 'teetotalers,' or total abstainers." "Illegal Drugs and Alcohol — America's Anguish, Information Series on Current Topics," 1991 edition. Page 15.

"An alarming number of high-school-age and younger drinkers are surfacing, and we are seeing more alcohol related problems among children in the 12-15 age range; there are even reported cases of alcoholism in children as young as 8 or 9." *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs — Their Use and Abuse*, W. Wayne Worick and Warren E. Schaller, Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. Page 32.

"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — when we walked in licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries" (1 Peter 4:3, NKJV).

Alcohol affects every person's life, whether they drink or not. Somewhere, sometime, we are going to meet someone who has a problem with alcohol. It might be a friend or a relative. We need to be aware of what is happening in the alcoholic's life. They need God in their lives as much as anyone.

There is help for the alcoholic, as is witnessed in the following interview with a recovered alcoholic. She began drinking when she was 13 years old. She has been sober for nine years. To protect her privacy, I will

not mention her name. She is a very special person and I am proud to have her for a friend.

Read her message carefully. Let it serve as a warning to all of us that alcohol is a very dangerous drug. In the article, most pronouns referring to an alcoholic are masculine. However, women are also subject to the disease.

What is an alcoholic?

An alcoholic is someone who can't quit drinking on his own. He can't live under pressure without taking a drink. He drinks to escape. The person he is when he drinks isn't the person he thinks he is.

Many alcoholics start drinking when they are young. My guess is that about 90 percent of all alcoholics have psychological problems before they take a drink. Alcohol is a depressive drug. It takes away their pain; it makes them numb.

Alcohol makes a person feel bold. It made me bold. I came from a problem family where my mom and dad were fighting constantly. When I drank, I could be bold and I could speak out. Drinking gives you an artificial courage.

I started drinking because I was unhappy and drinking made me happy. When my drinking got worse, I became an angry person and I was verbally violent. People who know me now can't believe that I

was a physical person or somebody who could fly off in a second. I would have headaches because I would be so angry. I went into the hospital and had a lot of tests made because of the headaches. I didn't realize they were caused by alcoholism. Of course the doctors were puzzled because the tests came back negative.

How did you become an alcoholic?

I grew up in a very strict, unloving home. My father was a minister in a Pentecostal religion and we kids were never allowed to do anything. My mother was physically and verbally abusive.

There was a lot of hostility between my mom and dad. They were always screaming and yelling. My mother would pull my dad's hair, scratch and claw him, or hit us. There was never an "I'm sorry."

I was in my late 20's before I ever heard my dad say, "I love you." All I wanted when I was growing up was to be loved. I never felt loved at all.

When I tried my first drink with the kids at school, it pushed me into drinking, but that wasn't the reason I wanted to drink. It was the suggestion that "you'll feel good," and that's all I wanted to do — to take away the pain I was feeling. It took away the pain for a short time so I drank more.

Whether they did or not, I felt that people accepted me when I drank. All of a sudden I was popular because I was fun to be around. Everywhere I went, everybody liked me. When I finally sobered up, I discovered who my true friends were. My true friends stood by me but the ones I thought were my friends told me I wasn't fun anymore and disappeared out of my life.

When I was home I was very

quiet. I never shared anything with my brothers and sisters. I never talked to my mom and dad unless they asked me a question. But once I was out that door I was the biggest mouthed person you ever came across. Only once did it get back to my mother. My mother got a report in school that I was in trouble because I was being loud in school. Of course my mother found that very hard to believe, but she whipped me anyway.

My parents didn't know I was drinking until I was in treatment for two weeks. During my teens, they were so busy with their lives they didn't know I drank. I became a people pleaser. I acted one way before my mom and dad. I acted another way with my friends. In the business world I acted very professional. I may have been drunk, but I could act professional at my job. I have never met a recovering alcoholic who wouldn't tell you the same thing: an alcoholic is such a con artist, he can control anybody. He can fool anybody because he believes himself to be the person he wants to be when he is drinking.

I drank quite a bit. On an average day I could drink a case of beer and it didn't bother me a bit, except for the fact I was getting skinny.

I drank some hard liquor but I never cared for it. I remember thinking that I can't be an alcoholic because I drank mostly beer. But it doesn't matter what it is you drink or how much you drink, it's how it affects you. You can be addicted to one glass of wine a day. Some people call that social drinking, but it isn't if it changes your personality or you cannot live without it. If you cannot live or sleep without that one glass of wine, you are in danger of becoming an alcoholic.

I was 23 when I began having

severe blackouts. That is where you still function but you don't know what you are doing. I lived in Dodge City, Kansas, at the time. I would drive to Enid, Oklahoma, on one of my drunken sprees, never knowing how I got to my uncle's house. As soon as I sobered up he would lecture me and send me back home. Yet it wouldn't be a week or so later when I would do it again. I never remembered driving those 200-some miles. That is a long time to be functioning and not know it. I was lucky I never had an accident or killed somebody.

What brought you to the realization that you had a drinking problem?

It was when I went into treatment. I was in my early twenties and I was so miserable and depressed that I wanted to die. I went to many doctors and psychiatrists but nobody could help me. Finally a lady in her sixties asked me if I had ever tried Alcoholics Anonymous. She was a happy lady, smiling all the time. That is what attracted me to her.

I went with her to an AA meeting. The stories I heard there were so familiar. These people talked about the same emotions I was feeling. So I went to a treatment center and stayed there 30 days. We read; we held our AA meetings; we listened to each other. Everyone felt the same as I did. It took me five years after I was sober to believe I was an alcoholic.

I always thought I could stop drinking any time I wanted to. That is the lamest excuse an alcoholic can use. I could go two or three days without drinking so that proved to me I wasn't an alcoholic. Anytime I would go a few days without drinking I would get physically ill.

Only five percent of the people who go through treatment make it the first time. Most of them fall off the wagon two or three times before they ever stay sober the rest of their lives. Ten years from now, if I were to take another drink, I would pick up where I left off. It would be as if I had never stopped drinking. The addiction will still be there.

Some people think, "I can drink just one." My ex-husband was a recovered alcoholic. He was sober five years and put himself to the test. Within three weeks he was drunk and was very abusive. He wrecked his car. He was back to square one because of that one drink. That's why they say an alcoholic cannot be cured.

I never crave a drink, but when I get so stressed or so pressured that I feel I can't deal with things, a thought will come into my mind: why don't I just hang it up and go get drunk?

The closest I've come to drinking again was when I returned from Saudi. I came home to some very stressful circumstances. I went into a 7-11 and bought a six-pack of Bud and put it in my car. I was going to go get drunk in a motel but I never did find a motel. I thought, nothing is worth giving up all these years of being sober, because I know I'll die, whether it is spiritually, mentally, or physically, if I take one drink. That's a big gamble.

For the alcoholic, the only solution is to sober up and learn to live sober. Being sober is learning to live life without a drink and learning to deal with emotions when you don't know what those feelings are. You have to deal with emotions the right way instead of with drinking. I will always argue that it is a disease because I know I will never be cured.

Is it possible for an alcoholic to stop drinking on his own?

No. If he is an alcoholic, he cannot stop drinking on his own. You will never convince me otherwise. Alcohol becomes their god; it has power over them. I truly believe that the only One who keeps you sober is God. Once you admit to God that you are totally powerless and you ask Him to help you, then you can begin to sober up. Then you can quit drinking. To some alcoholics who have a big craving, it's a daily thing to ask God to not let them take a drink.

My parents never went to AA to help them stop drinking, but they totally depend on God to keep them from drinking again.

How long after you went through the recovery program was it before you began attending church?

I argued with God for five years because I knew that was where I should go. I kept remembering the childhood things I went through and I saw many hypocrites. I said to God, "If you want me to be a Christian, there is no way I'm going to be a hypocrite. We're either going to do this right or I'm not going to do it at all." I didn't even know the right way. Even though I was a preacher's kid I didn't know much about the Bible. I just didn't want to be like those people who would preach one thing and then do the total opposite. I struggled for five years, but when I walked into that church, I knew that was the right place to be.

I think many alcoholics turn to Christianity. They start with asking God to help them. They may not be leading a Christian life or even attempting to, but they start talking to God. I think that's God's way of getting the cobwebs

out of our minds so He can talk to us, so we can hear Him. Even though I never could hear God, I knew He had to be there. I was always told He was there and I always believed that, for some reason.

How should Christians react to the problems of alcoholics?

Many people who become alcoholics are from Christian families. In my situation, I was never around alcohol but I became involved anyway. Others become involved in the social aspect of drinking. It goes both ways. We must be educated. We must be aware.

You can't force an alcoholic to seek help. He has to want to get help, but you can encourage him to do it, whether he listens to you or not. It might plant the seed. One year before I went to treatment this guy who always took me out to eat, always bought me booze, told me I was an alcoholic. He said it very nastily. I was angry that he said it to me, but he planted the seed for me.

A Christian who has a loving spirit to reach out is one of the things an alcoholic is searching for. I went through so many years thinking no one loved me, or cared about or understood me. Most alcoholics feel that way.

A Christian who comes across an alcoholic in troubled times may stop the alcoholic from taking that next drink by being loving and caring at that particular time. You have to be cautious how you go about telling the alcoholic he needs help but you may be planting the seed for the future. He is going to think about it. He is going to remember you saying it and that could make him take the final step to seek help.

The Last Eight Hours



by Kim Tolbert, LPN
A True Story

He was 59.

He was at the age when most people start looking forward to enjoying the fruits of their years of labor: retirement, with the gold watches and celebrations marking the end of one stage of life and the beginning of another.

He was in the mountains, hunting, when he became ill. His hunting partner brought him to the hospital and quickly left. His condition was poor and he was not expected to live through the night. He was brought to the ward on the fifth floor and made as comfortable as possible for a man in the last throes of his disease.

When I reached his room, I stood at his bedside and observed him for a few minutes. I allowed my eyes to roam over his body, assessing his condition. He appeared much older than the age written on his chart. His skin was jaundiced and resembled leather. His gray hair and scraggly beard were matted and unkept. His eyes matched the deep yellow of his skin and were glossy from pain; his lips were caked with dry blood. His

abdomen was distended and hard, making it hard for him to breathe. His legs and feet were so swollen they seemed ready to burst.

I pressed my fingers to his pulse. His heartbeat was fast and irregular. His breathing was labored. I knew I would be spending a great deal of time with him and resigned myself to what I was sure would be a long night.

I had other patients who were depending on me but I managed to slip into his room often. Each time his condition was more grave than my last visit. At times he was awake and aware of his surroundings. He would cry out in pain, cursing and striking out at me. Other times he slipped back into semi-consciousness. His mutterings were incoherent. I had to restrain him from yanking the IV from his arm. In my frustration, I wanted to scream at him that it wasn't my fault he was in this condition. I was only trying to help him. But I remembered he was sick and afraid.

His disease was alcoholism. His life had been spent drinking, slowly

alienating himself from family and friends. His wife reached the point that she could no longer take his drunken abuse and finally left him. His children despised him for the pain and embarrassment he caused them.

I stood by his bedside, pondering what had brought him to such self destruction. Did he take his first drink as a youngster, stealing beer and liquor from the cabinet: did his parents laugh and think it was cute? Did the example his parents set before him tell him drinking was OK? Or did he feel compelled to "keep up with his peers"? Did he drink to ease the pressures of a job he despised, only to lose it? Had he become dependent on alcohol to "drown his sorrows" when his marriage began to crumble?

Any one of these reasons could have started him down the road of alcoholism. When he started, he never saw the end of the road. He told himself he could control his drinking, but in the end, his drinking controlled him.

It was near the end of my shift when the aide summoned me to my patient's side. His breathing was strangled. I summoned my supervisor.

There was nothing we could do but watch as the man shuttered and gasped. We could not find a pulse or hear a heartbeat. One last shutter and his life was over. I reached over and turned off the oxygen. My supervisor left to summon a doctor. I wiped his face, straightened his legs, and folded his arms across his chest. I pulled the curtains around his bed and left the room.

It was over. There was no one to hold his hand as he slowly slipped away. No one to mourn. No one to care.

He died — alone. He was only 59.

Looking Ahead

March 19-22, 1992 — "Hands On" Training Conference, Midlothian, TX. Contact Emogene Coulter, (817) 784-0303.

April 10-12, 1992 — Oklahoma State Marriage Retreat, SW Airport Hotel, Tulsa, OK. To preregister, send \$25 to Oklahoma Conference, Betty Eddy, Rt. 7, Box 240, Claremore, OK 74017.

April 16, 1992 — After sundown, Lord's Supper Service.

April 24-26, 1992 — Canadian Women's Retreat, Niagra Falls, Ontario. Contact Marjorie McLaughlin, (416) 252-9165.

May 26-28, 1992 — Southwestern District Pastors' Retreat. Contact SW District Office, (713) 674-5978.

June 14-26, 1992 — Summit Summer Session and Pastoral Orientation Class in Denver, CO. SST, (303) 452-7976.

June 28-July 3, 1992 — Summit Session at SVA. Contact SST, (303) 452-7976.

June 30-July 4, 1992 — SE District Family Bible Conference, Chattanooga, TN. Contact Dale Lawson, (615) 899-0869.

June 30-July 4, 1992 — Central District Conference, Marina Inn, South Sioux City, NE. Contact Jeff Endecott, (303) 777-4000.

July 6-11 — West Coast Bible Conference, Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR.

July 10, 11, 1992 — SW District Super Sabbath, Dallas TX. Contact District Office (713) 6745978.

July 19-23, 1992 — SW District Junior Youth Camp (ages 9-12), Wister, OK. Contact SW District Office, (713) 674-5978.

September 4-7, 1992 — National Hispanic Women's Retreat, Sacramento, NM (Approximately 100 miles northeast of El Paso, TX. Contact Adelina Salcido, (915) 757-2415.

The Model Health Spa

From page 2

bers of The MHS. They wanted to be just like the other spas.

Soon they were. They claimed to love their leader more than before, but they didn't want to follow his old fashioned health rules.

Why didn't they realize that the leader had their welfare in mind when he made his rules? Would they find their health and well being gone before it was too late to do something about it?

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:15-17, NKJV).

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41, NKJV).

Gina

News to Grow On

From page 27

better shepherds.

4. We need an inspired solution to our studies about Christ's nature.

For many years we have been unsure about the question of Christ's deity: "Is Jesus God?" Misunderstandings abound. Some think we are in danger of having two Gods; others fear the Heavenly Father may be removed from office. Our Ministerial Council is being asked to resolve matters this year, although the Chris-

tian Church has not fully resolved this question for almost 2000 years. But do not fear: God is!

5. We need leadership strategy for growth on the local level.

Perhaps ninety percent of what happens in local churches happens out of habit. Rather, congregational leaders ought to sit down and ask hard questions that could lead to those changes without which there can be no growth. Pastors must be educated in the principles of church growth, and congregations should not avoid analysis of their situation, with masterplanning for the future.

And here is my prayer for this new year: *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).*

Calvin Bunnell

AGENCY REPORTS



PUBLICATIONS

LeRoy Dais, Director

Reading Future Looks Good

"How can we be sure that what we print will be read? Aren't people reading less these days?"

These are valid questions in view of the many attractions that are competing for people's time and attention. A new Gallup Poll offers some reassuring news to publishers and bookstores: Americans plan to read more in the 1990's. This survey was reported in the November 1991 *American Demographics*.

According to the Gallup survey, 45 percent said they plan to read more. Only three percent said they will read less. Fifty-five percent among the young adults, ages 18 to 29, said they plan to read more. Definitely, the printed word still holds a very vital place in our societies. The challenge for publishers is to keep their materials fresh and interesting.

Facing the Challenge

The Church of God Literature Committee is working hard to write new tracts and booklets, as well as to update the older ones. Jerry Griffin and his staff have been working diligently to add new features to the 1992 *Bible Advocates* that will give greater appeal to Bible reading and Bible study. The staff feels challenged to combat the serious problem of Bible illiteracy by making a more effective impact on as large a constituency as possible.

Increasing the *Bible Advocate* readership depends upon active participation by the readers and supporters of the magazine. More people must be informed that the BAP has a magazine and literature that they need. Expanding the circulation requires more funds; and the need for more funds requires more supporters.

One Answer

The Editor's Circle offers an excellent avenue for increasing support for the *Bible Advocate*. The Editor's Circle pays for the cost of all subscriptions added to the current circulation and thus opens the door to reaching more readers with the Bible-teaching magazine. Unfortunately,

New Literature Is Available

Several new tracts and booklets are available — some in the Spanish language and others in English. The new Spanish literature includes:

- Salvacion: El Regalo de Amor de Parte de Dios
(Salvation: Gift of God's Love)
- ¿Que Debo Hacer para Ser Salvo? (new edition)
(What Must I Do to Be Saved?) (new edition)
- Credos Doctrinales de la Iglesia de Dios (Septimo Dia) (Edicion 1988)
(Doctrinal Beliefs of the Church of God (Seventh Day) (1988 Edition)
- Los Diez Mandamientos
(The Ten Commandments)
- ¿Por que Observar el Septimo Dia Sabado?
(Why Observe the Seventh-Day Sabbath?)

NOTE: The latter two titles will be available in February. The English titles for the Spanish literature listed above are shown in parenthesis for our readers who do not read Spanish. The English editions also are either new or revised, and have been available for a short while.

The new or revised English tracts which are scheduled to be produced in February include:

- The New Birth (new edition)
- Christian Baptism
(This will replace the two current tracts on baptism.)
- Finding Peace of Mind (new)
- What Christians Should Know About Easter (new edition)

An additional ten new or revised tracts and booklets will be printed in the English language, as time and funds permit, during the first several months of 1992. The new and revised English literature also will be translated into Spanish as promptly as feasible.

All this literature production will require very substantial funding. Your generous contributions to the Free Literature Fund help make possible the printing and distribution of these important tools for sharing the gospel message. You can give your offerings for literature at your local church, or you can send them directly to Bible Advocate Press, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

last year the Circle membership dropped to 265 after benefiting for two years from a membership of 300. It is necessary to go beyond the former milestone in 1992.

One charter Circle member enclosed this note with his membership enrollment for the sixth consecutive year:

I'm sorry to see the Circle's statistics. Not being a member of your church I just don't understand it. I'll increase my monthly contribution another \$10 per month over last year. I hope this gesture will motivate some of your church people.

This Circle member from Wisconsin increased his commitment to \$50 per month because he is aware of the importance of sharing the gospel. He exemplifies the heart of the Editor's Circle program. He would like to have many more join him in the Circle family. One can be a Circle member for contributing as little as \$5 per month.

Second Quarter Curriculum

The *Sabbath School Lessons for Adults* for the spring quarter take a new look at the Book of Revelation. Here are some statements from the introduction to this quarterly:

The message of Revelation is filled with optimism, expressions on the sovereignty of God, the security found in faithfulness to Christ, and the ultimate triumph of the saints. Revelation simply contains 'good news' in a world filled with gloom and despair.

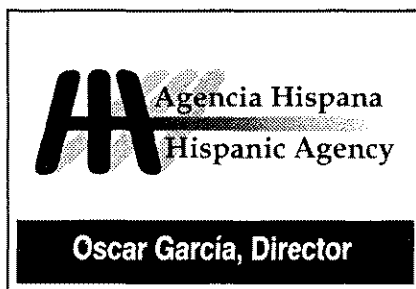
While for many Revelation is shrouded in mystery, our purpose in these lessons is to understand the value this book has for our day. While not every prophecy will be agreed upon by all, we may still uncover the timely truths that provide good news for our faith and hope for a better world to come. As we study Revelation, may we find encouragement much like our brethren of long ago.

A teacher's guide is available for

these adult lessons on Revelation. The guide will be very beneficial to the teacher in helping his class understand the value and intent of each question, and thus provide for well-focused discussions. (The recent survey among the churches that use the Sabbath School Lessons for Adults showed considerable interest in having teacher's guides available regularly, even at possible costs of \$5 or \$6 per guide. However, the present tentative orders for the guides may still be inadequate to make them available on a regular basis. (Those who failed to respond to the survey should still do so.)

The Senior Youth lessons for the spring quarter are titled "Israel — God's Soldiers on Earth." Each lesson tells about a leader in the Old Testament times, and it draws lessons from that person's life that can be applied to the lives of young people today.

"The Church Begins" is the title of the Junior High quarterly. The book of Acts provides the resource material for these lessons. The lessons teach how the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of men and women to share the gospel though they faced many trials and adversities.



Hello again! I'm sure that you will agree with me on: "Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" "He is good: because his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalms 8:1; 118:1b).

For the fiscal year of 1991-1992, the Hispanic Agency has been operating under a very limited budget. Nevertheless, God's faithfulness has been manifested through the Agency's work. Abundant fruits were reaped as a result of visitation made to the churches in the field.

As was mentioned in the last issue of *The Harvest Field Messenger*, I visited the Hispanic Calgary, Canada, Church of God (Seventh Day) on November 1-3, 1991. There, I preached three times and conducted

a couple of workshops.

I also briefly mentioned in the last issue about attending the Southwest District Hispanic Convocation. There were workshops for adults, youth, and children. I conducted a workshop on the Hispanic Agency's nature, work, and future direction. A leadership meeting took place. Among those who were present were Elder Calvin Burrell (General Conference president), Elder Lorenzo Arroyo (Board of Directors member), Elder Daniel Dávila (SST Director), as well as other district leaders and workers. More than 900 people attended the Convocation.

The middle of December found my wife, Ofelia, and daughters, Miriam and Rachel, traveling with me to Southern California. We spent two weeks visiting the local Hispanic churches.

The first church we visited was the Santa Ana, California, Church of God (Seventh Day). I preached there twice on Sabbath and the next day conducted a couple of workshops for the local area workers. Approximately 55 people attended. The

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workshops were conducted in the facilities of the Hawthorne Christian Church of God (Seventh Day). That evening I preached a short sermon for the youth of the Hawthorne church.

On Monday evening (December 23), I conducted a workshop on Effective Leadership to the local church workers in the Los Angeles Church of God (Seventh Day). Brother Benjamin Escalante, a former SST student, is teaching a class on the book of Romans in the same church. One of the best qualities that I would like to mention about this particular body of workers is their eagerness to study and learn about God's Word.

Friday (the 27th), we returned to the Los Angeles church where I preached a sermon entitled "A Difficult Conversion, based on chapter three of John's Gospel. The next day,

Sabbath, we attended two more churches, Hawthorne and San Fernando Valley, where I again preached to the brethren.

To finish our activities in Southern California, I returned to the Santa Ana church where I conducted a workshop with the local workers (men and women). It is appropriate to mention that the Santa Ana Church Women's Association financed the cost of our trip. Their generosity touched me because they gave us not only part of their economic blessings, but their love and hearts. The Southern Hispanic Coordinating Committee, which is formed of representatives of the churches in the area, helped us with part of our expenses while we were visiting in the area. God bless them all!

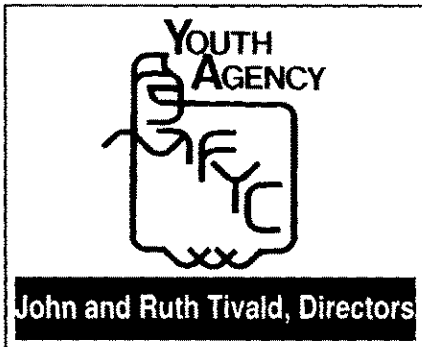
As you can see, the last two

months of 1991 were busy months. I'm glad God is allowing me to serve Him when I serve His people. There are projects to visit other churches in the field. Please keep praying for the Agency, sending your notes of encouragement with suggestions that will help the Agency work, as well as contributing with your offerings as God would place in your hearts to give.

Remember this: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7, NKJV).

Until next time, may God abundantly bless you and your families in all you do.

Oscar Garcia



Mark of Merit

The National Youth Agency sent Youth Worker Guides to all our churches in the United States and Canada. Enclosed in the Guide is the program for the Mark of Merit. This program encourages FYC groups to have an active program.

The program is set up so youth groups earn points for activities such as rallies, socials, fund raisers, etc. The National Youth Agency gives

awards to each group that earns enough points. The FYC group can earn a Silver Award or Gold Award, or, by earning the most points, can become the FYC of the year and earn the Lighthouse Award.

Make sure that your youths are involved in this program. It will benefit every local church, as well as train the youth in many areas (leadership, planning, working together, etc.). If you do not have an organized youth group, we ask that you start one.

The Youth Workers' Guide also includes a booklet called "Active FYC." It will help you with the many problems a youth group faces. We are planning other help booklets for youth to use in the future.

May God be with you and your commitment to work with the youth and may each young person be blessed because you have made that commitment.

National Youth Camp

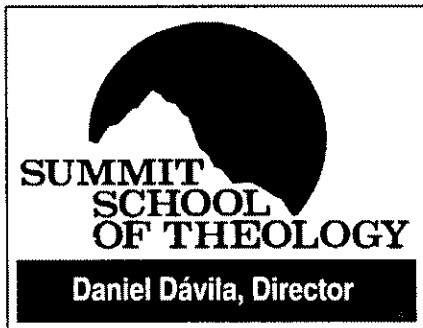
A National Youth Camp is being planned for this summer, June 7-13, in Oklahoma. We are working on an exciting program that will offer the youth the classes we feel would be most beneficial.

We are arranging the best youth speakers and the Spring Vale Academy SOUND. We are expecting around 200 youth from across the country.

We hope the youth in your church will be able to attend. If there is a possibility that the school district in your area is not out at this time, check to see if the youth can complete his or her final school work ahead of time to attend the camp.

We need 84 metal bunkbeds for the camp facilities. If you know where these can be purchased, loaned, or donated, please let us know.

John Tivald



Courses Planned for Summer Session

Principles of Church Growth — This course examines foundational principles of church growth. Church growth is the discipline that investigates the nature, expansion, planting, multiplication, function, and health of Christian churches related to the effective implementation of God's commission to "make disciples of all peoples." The class will integrate the eternal principles of God's Word that concerns the expansion of the church with the best insights of contemporary social and behavioral sciences.

Students who take this course will learn what causes churches on the American scene to grow or to decline. They will examine the scriptural basis for church growth, with emphasis upon the Great Commission. They will learn the four axioms for church growth and study the impact that both local contextual and local institutional factors have upon church growth.

Eight growth inhibiting church diseases will be examined. Ways of treating those diseases and of re-

moving the blockages to church growth will be discussed. The seven vital signs of a healthy church will be examined in detail.

Students who take this course will study the infrastructure of a church and come to understand how small and mid-size groups can help or hinder growth in the local church. Definitions of evangelism will be discussed, showing which ones are most conducive to church growth. Characteristics of the church growth pastor will be studied, with practical suggestions on ministry methods and priorities.

Those who take this course will be trained in how to diagnose the growth health of their church and what steps to take to encourage growth in their local congregation.

Walter Hastings, the instructor of the course, is a church growth consultant in Denver, Colorado. He is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree with the Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, with emphasis on church growth and church planting.

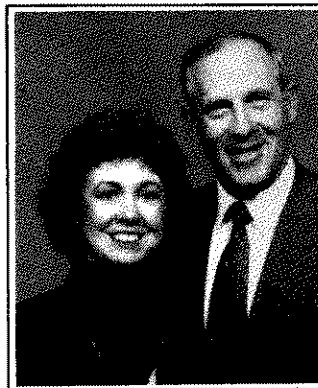


Walter Hastings

Christian Group Dynamics — So much of the life of local churches seems to revolve around how people within the church interact. From Sabbath school classes, Bible studies, small group fellowships, camps and retreats, people interact in various ways. How can we involve everyone in the learning process? How

do we control someone who dominates the discussion? How we interact in these situations determines if our times together are building opportunities or merely activities.

Knowing how to encourage effective group interaction is essential in churches today. The information and the experiences shared in this class will equip students to better group people together in ways that enable a meaningful discussion taking place in the above mentioned groups. We communicate more effectively and use time more effi-



Ken and Mary Jean Knoll

ciently when people are enthusiastic participants through group dynamics.

Several methods of group dynamics will be modeled so that students may have practical experiences to help make their group interactions more efficient and meaningful in the local church.

A partial bibliography for this class includes *Keeping the Dream Alive* by Robert D. Dale, *Serendipity — Small Group Resources* by Lyman Coleman, and *You Are Loved and Forgiven* by Lloyd John Ogilvie.

This class will be taught by a husband and wife team. Mary Jean Knoll has been an elementary classroom teacher for 20 years. She has a Masters degree in elementary education and special education. She has served at local church and General Conference functions. Ken Knoll has served in the pastoral ministry of the Church of God (Seventh Day) for 23 years. He has been involved at the General Conference level. Ken is currently pastoring in Eugene, Oregon.

AGENCY REPORTS

Report of Trip to Mexico

Friday, December 13 — There was no thirteenth row on the airplane I boarded in Denver, but it flew well on this Friday the thirteenth. Upon arrival in Mexico City, a welcoming committee, who included the Mexican Church Conference President, its secretary, and a translator, met me at the airport. The first two were appreciated, and the third was a necessity as well as appreciated.

We made the two-hour drive east from the Mexican capital to Puebla, capital of the state with the same name. Puebla has a million and a half people — about the same as Denver, but in less space. Its streets, filled with pedestrians and minibuses, are mostly clean and well maintained. It is known as the city of churches (one for every day of the year) — most of them Catholic. I toured two cathedrals while there.

Sabbath — We had services in the Chula Vista Church of God (Seventh Day), just off a main boulevard near downtown. This impressive church, sandwiched between modest retail shops, is listed among the city's historic buildings. In three stories, it houses the pastor's family home, an office complex, and a large kitchen and dining room besides the 200-seat chapel. It was built by Aurelio Rodriguez, a pioneer minister who recently became a first-time father at age 74! Brother Rodriguez continues to be active in church planting and building — operating on only one leg!

When the day-long church activities concluded about sunset, our group traveled to a member's home for supper. Then the extended family gathered around

the table and sang enthusiastically — both in Spanish and what I taught them in English.

Sunday — Worship and orientation were scheduled for evening, so I had the day free for studying and walking. My quarters were with a church family, sharing their second level with two brothers from Belice. One is a missionary out of Mexico (Theodulo Hernandez — whom we assist through Missions Abroad), and the other is a pastor (Julian Reynosa) to whom I brought an accordion for his congregation's worship. He received it with obvious gratitude, played it well, and called it a "concertina." I think I was even happier than he.

Monday — The classes started this morning at 8:30. I was a guest lecturer for the first half of the ten-day winter session held by the seminary (S.E.M.) of our sister church in Mexico. My topic was Old Testament Theology, and nearly a hundred students showed up for the first class. Some of them were familiar faces (from previous visits south of the border), and I enjoyed calling several by their names, before reintroduction. These are my friends, and they

always show themselves friendly. More than a dozen members of the class are women, and one of them is the only person to make perfect score on my first class quiz.

Another student is Lucy Herbert, one of a congregation of inmates to whom I preached two years ago — behind prison walls. Today she is a rehabilitated citizen, a regenerated Christian, and a member of our Church — thanks to the grace of God and the ongoing prison ministry of some members in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco.

Tuesday — Today my lecture topic is the Covenant and the Law. Hearing of the relationship between covenant and law seems to encourage the class, although they hear it through an interpreter. Three willing men named Moses, John, and Daniel (almost everybody there seems to have a Biblical name; they told me that Calvin in Spanish means "bald") do most of the interpreting. They are assisted by Lorenzo Arroyo, and later by Daniel Dávila — also guest instructors from the United States.

Wednesday — Music plays a big part in the Church down here. Each morning we do a few songs before class — everybody loudly singing the same part. Followed by earnest, kneeling prayer, this is an inspiring way to start the day.

After classes today several of us are invited to another home for an evening meal, and for a private concert of classical guitar. The musician is Ariel Lopez — member and choir director of our church in Vera Cruz — and he is marvelous! The fingers on both his hands fly to dozens of positions in a mere second or so, and the sounds



Students attending the Winter Session in Puebla, Mexico, discuss possible answers to a question.



Three students of the approximately 115 attending the Winter Session.

from the guitar are angelic! Ariel will begin a classical guitar tour of Mexico in the next few weeks, sponsored by PEMEX, the government owned petroleum industry.

Thursday — After class today three brothers (Menahen, Moises, and Marcos) have volunteered to take me for an outing to pursue my hobby of mountain climbing. One of Mexico's highest (Volcano Popo — 17,887 feet high) is nearby, and I've been eyeing it wistfully. But it requires an early morning start, so we settle for a more rugged, but much lower, mountain in the nearby state of Tlascala. After a ninety-minute scramble to the top, we sing a hymn of praise to the Creator, and the brothers suggest that we pray. As we do, each of them weeps unashamedly — revealing both an intimate love for God, and a compassion for the one who shared a personal request.

On the way back to the city we eat with some brethren in a small village, and shop in a town noted for its garments and blankets of homegrown wool.

Friday — This is my final day of class, and the students listen attentively to the last. Less than half of them will serve as ministers or pastors, but all of them display a determination to know the Scripture and to serve God in the Church of God (Seventh Day).

I feel some disappointment with

myself — knowing that some course content is always lost through translation, and that many students have made a greater effort to learn my language than I have made to learn theirs. This time I resist the temptation to promise that I'll speak Spanish when I return. There have been no barriers to the heart-language of these brethren,

however; and God willing, I will return.

Sabbath, December 21 — My last morning in Puebla is spent worshipping with the Los Pinos congregation on the outskirts of town (a new building also from the hands of Aurelio Rodriguez). A sister sitting behind me knows enough English to hurriedly write the words so I can join the singing in this all-Spanish service.

Later in the afternoon about 500 members from six area congregations come together in a large downtown auditorium. There we hear an hour-long concert of sacred music presented by the 30-voice choir of our Chula Vista congregation. They practice three hours per week, sing without written music, have been recognized for their choral achievements, and sing "The Hallelujah Chorus" such that I can do little but worship and tingle. Also, the President of our Mexican Church, Ramon Ruiz, reports about the audience he and other Protestant church leaders recently had with the President of the Republic of Mexico, Carlos de Gortari Salinas. The purpose of the audience was to assure the denominations that the government intends to respect their autonomy and property.

After this rousing, Sabbath-ending service, we say our goodbyes to many brethren (even one week's attachment can be dear), and ride

with Brother Ramon Ruiz to Mexico City, from where our flight home leaves early the next morning. As we descend the last range of hills and into the basin where sits the most populous city in the world (approximately 20 million persons), Brother Ruiz assures me that the Church in Mexico is growing — not only in Mexico City (over 7,000 members), but throughout the entire nation.

To all of us in the United States and Canada, I say with conviction: We may be proud of our sisters and brothers who belong to the church in Mexico, and we should support their work through prayer and in other appropriate ways. And when Mexico is in our travel plans, we should certainly include a visit to the church there. All we need to be welcomed is our Bible, a smile, and "Paz a vos, hermanos."

Calvin Burrell

Winter Session in Mexico

The Fifth Winter Summit Session was held in Puebla City, Mexico. Puebla City noted for the "Cinco de Mayo" (Fifth of May) celebration among the Mexican people. This celebration signifies the victory day over the war fought in Puebla City against French occupation in Mexico.

Approximately 115 students attended this year's session. Students came from many parts of the country. Two students came from Belize. The first week, Calvin Burrell taught Old Testament Theology and Lorenzo Arroyo taught Anthropology and Harmatology. The second week found Daniel Dávila teaching Pastoral Counseling. Other courses taught by members of the Mexican Seminary Training Center (Seminario de Entrenamiento Ministerial) were Christian Spirituality, Christian Sexual Education, Studies in the Book of Romans, and Evangelism.

Date Correction

In the last issue of *The Harvest Field Messenger* the incorrect date was given for Summit Summer Session. The correct date for both

The Summer Session and The Pastoral Orientation is June 14-26, 1992.

The last day for registering for the Pastoral Orientation is February 15, 1992.

Check the last issue of the *HFM* for costs and tuition discounts, or write: Summit School of Theology, Registrar, P. O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

Summit at Spring Vale Academy

July 28-July 3, 1992

Topics to be covered:

Counseling Skills for Church Leaders — Art Cummings

Approaches to the Study of Prophecy — Richard Wiedenheft

Use and Misuse of Greek Words — Paul Heavilin

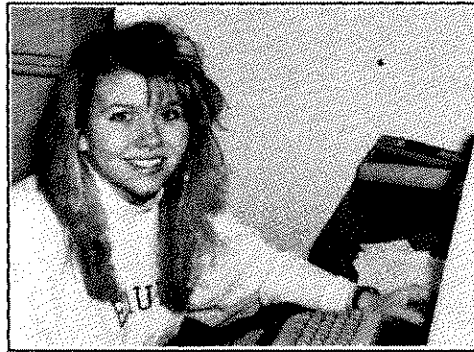
Pastoral Care in Public Worship — Heber Vega

Studies in the Book of Daniel — Calvin Burrell

Tuition, room, and board is \$160. Send payment and registration to: Summit at SVA, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

Note: If you plan to arrive early or stay an extra day, you need to make arrangements with Dick Wiedenheft, c/o SVA, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso, Michigan 48867.

Write to SST, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233, for discount rates for the Summer Session at SST.



Lynn Sauer

New Secretary at Summit

There's sad news and glad news concerning the secretarial position at Summit School of Theology. First the sad news: Brenda Swanson, who served faithfully as secretary for several months moved to Texas. She is missed by the staff and students.

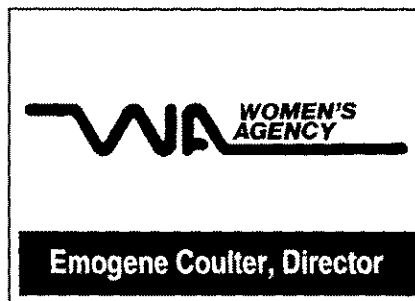
We wish her the best in her new adventures.

Now for the glad news: Lynn Sauer was hired to replace Brenda. Lynn has been a resident of Colorado most of her life, having moved here from California at the age of six weeks.

Lynn lives with her mother, Joyce. Lynn graduated from the Belleview Christian School in Denver, last May. She is enrolled at the Front Range Community College, studying for a degree in Elementary Education.

She is involved in several organizations in the local church that include the drama ministry and choir. She also helps with the local youth group.

We are happy to welcome Lynn Sauer to our Summit staff.



January-February Project

Can you imagine being many miles from a hospital or clinic when you or a loved one becomes ill? Even though we trust in prayer, we no doubt would be concerned because we want everything done for our loved ones. Our brethren in Africa and other places aren't as fortunate as we are here in the states. They may live miles from the nearest medical help.

Our brethren in Africa have been developing a clinic for the past few

years to help the people in their community with better health care. Pictures we have seen of their efforts show a very primitive area of medical help, but God has performed miracles through the devoted brethren who have given what they have — time and talent.

We have had another call for help for the clinic in Nigeria. The Women's Agency is responding by sponsoring a fund raising event during this January and February. You and your local church can be an important part of this project. We are calling on you to give them some financial assistance.

Why not make this a church project involving all ages? Choose one of the following ideas — or one of your own — and donate the money raised to this project.

1. Plan an African night. Research the people of Africa and use this as a theme. Get to know the people and the country. Decorate your fellow-

ship hall to resemble an African village. Serve foods that are grown in the area of Africa you researched. If you know of an African who would be willing to come, invite him/her to speak to your group about life in his or her country.

2. Involve the children. Teach them there are children in Africa who attend the church the same as they do, but miss the convenience of class rooms, teaching materials, and other conveniences they enjoy in their class rooms. Remind the boys and girls that some of the children in Africa don't have a church building in which to worship but have to sit on the grass under trees. Remind them, also, that in some areas of Africa there are no doctors or nurses if a boy or girl gets hurt or ill.

Suggest the children help with the clinic project by save their pennies, aiming for a goal of "a mile of pennies." If your children's classes are large enough, you might have a contest to see which class can raise a mile of pennies first. Offer a prize to the child who collects the most pennies. However, if you do have a contest, be sure the children realize the real prize comes in helping someone less fortunate than they.

3. Have each family take inventory of their medical supplies and figure how much it would cost them for such items as aspirin, cold remedies, first aid supplies, toothpaste, etc., and plan to give the amount of money it took to purchase these items.

4. Use your imagination and plan something exciting and different for your church to acquaint them with the needs of the clinic.

We find giving can be fun and educational for your church if you will take an interest in the needs of others. The money you give for special projects in our church goes for those projects, not for administration costs. May God bless you as

you and your church consider this important project.

All funds may be sent to the Women's Agency, General Conference Office, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233. Be sure to earmark the funds for the African Clinic Project.

After you have completed your project, we would like to have you share your ideas with others by sending a report to *The Harvest Field Messenger*.

Training Conference

March 19-22, 1992, Midlothian, Texas, is the time and place for the Training Conference sponsored by the Women's Agency. In times past, we have had meetings entitled "Worker's Conference" or "Leadership Conferences." We have found so many people felt they weren't a part of this group because they don't hold office in the local church, so we decided to change the title to "Training Conference." It is open to anyone, man or woman, who would like to improve their serve.

The Training Conference will begin promptly at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, and will close at noon, Sunday, March 22. This meeting will be a "hands on" type of meeting with sessions lasting from one hour to an hour and a half. We will be teaching you how to do things and letting you practice what we teach so when you return home it will be more than just a hearing and trying to remember session.

A few of the sessions being planned include: Parliamentary Law Made Simple; Vacation Bible School — An Outreach; Panel Discussion, "What I Expect of My Pastor"; Bulletin Boards That Say Something About Your Church; Newsletters, Bulletins, etc., Made Camera Ready; A Saturday night of old fashioned, toe tapping, hand clapping, gospel singing and a special program on

the Search for Noah's Ark with Marvin Wilson and his wife reporting on his capture and release by the Kurds in Turkey are planned.

Costs for the conference are: \$125 in motel units for four nights and ten meals; \$110 in the dorms for four nights and ten meals. Two dorms will be available for women and men. Send your reservations, along with a \$15 deposit, to Dorothy Barthel, 4861 Preston Trail Drive, Mesquite, Texas 75150.

Come help the church "Build a Bridge into the Future"!

Membership Quilt

Would you like to be the proud owner of the one-of-a-kind, hand-made quilt being made by Sister Esther Sheffield and others in the Eugene, Oregon, area? This beautiful quilt will have the names of each woman who pays her dues to the Women's Agency between now and the next General Conference.

These ladies will be eligible for the drawing to own the quilt at the next General Conference.

Send in your dues today and maybe the quilt will be yours!

Lost — Have You Found It?

A pink, jeweled, butterfly brooch was lost in Little Rock before the Sabbath evening services. It was lost somewhere between the parking garage and the first door entrance. The brooch has high sentimental value to the owner. If you found it, please contact Dorothy Barthel, c/o The General Conference offices. We will forward it to her.



Victor Burford, Director

Director's Travel to Europe

Last October, Gus Zeibert, a U.S. based brother from Germany, and I visited churches in Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

The church in Munster, Germany, is a German and Polish speaking congregation with about 110 members. Because it has no pastor, this church is currently under the direction of the church board.

My visit to Munster was very pleasant. The brethren were very gracious to us. We spent four days there, including a Sabbath, visiting in the homes of families and meeting with the congregation and the church board. In the end there was a general feeling that efforts should be made to develop closer ties to the church in North America.

In Czechoslovakia there is one congregation in the town of Ostrava with about 60 members. There is no pastor. We met with the church board during our one day stay in the country. Here, too, we were well received by the brethren. This church has close association with the church in Poland. The board members were grateful for our visit and expressed the hope that closer ties can develop between us in the future.

Poland has 22 congregations and a current membership of about 300. Many of the members have migrated from Poland to Germany in recent years. This church has had official

ties with the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. In recent years, they have developed a positive relationship with us. Emanuel Wicek, their current president, attended the International Ministerial Congress in 1990, at the invitation of its president.

Occasionally we have donated funds for special projects to the church in Poland. Most recently a brother in the United States donated over \$3,000 toward the purchase of printing equipment. At the time of our visit, the acquisition of that equipment wasn't completed but the brethren are still working on that project.

The Polish church produces a correspondence course that has reached over 4,000 people in the past ten years, among them 40 prisoners. One thousand people have completed the course and 20 have been baptized.

They have a young evangelist training course focusing on Bible knowledge, personal enrichment, and ministry to Catholics. They also

produce and publish a quarterly magazine called the *Spirit of the Times*.

Each year they have a four-day youth conference, a one-day evangelism conference, and either two two-day regional conferences or one three-day national conference. The main congregation at Bielsko, Biala, has a membership of about 70.

While in Europe we learned of a "Macedonian call" from Sabbath observing brethren in Russia who are interested in establishing communications with the churches in Europe and North America. Preliminary estimates indicate there are about 5,000 people whose Christian convictions are closely related to ours. In the free and open climate that now prevails in what was the Soviet Union, the door of opportunity is open to us to perform a vital ministry in that part of the world. Your continued support of Missions Abroad will help us achieve that worthy goal. As further information becomes available it will be published in the future issues of *The Harvest Field Messenger*.



Some of the members of the church at Bielsko, Biala, Poland.



Clark Caswell, Director

Two Video Tapes Available

Several years ago the Women's Agency donated funds for a camcorder so life at SVA could be shared with parents and friends. Last year the camcorder was in the repair shop so many times that we finally got the company to replace it with a new model. Throughout each quarter of the fall semester we made short video recordings of campus events. For example, "Highlights of the First Quarter" contains scenes from the work on the lagoon, orientation day, segments of worship services, chapels, classes, soccer games, and the Harvest Hike.

"Highlights of the Second Quarter" contains segments of girls' basketball games, rest home singing, and ends with a SOUND concert. A log listing the scenes on each video is available free; the videos are available for a donation of \$12 each, which includes cost of mailing.

Student of the Month Awards

Our director, Clark Caswell, revived a tradition at SVA — Student of the Month awards for students who have made outstanding contributions to life at Spring Vale — academically, socially, spiritually, and in work. The following students received the award: for September, seniors Dan Watters and Brent Pedersen; for October, sophomores Jake Carper and Alice Anklam; for November, freshman Kathy Estrada

and junior Christie Vlad; and for December, freshman Irmina Guerrero and senior Eunice Molinar.

SOUND Members Named

Music teacher Peter Wannemacher announced the students selected to sing in the 1992 SVA SOUND. They are seniors Eunice Molinar, Kevin Swanson, and Melissa Winchell; juniors Hope Boese, Stuart Minica, Perry Swanson, and Rhonda Werley; sophomores Alice Anklam, Donna Burrell, and Stephen Smith.

After graduation the group's tour will take them to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Southern California, and back to Michigan, by way of Oklahoma and Missouri. If you live in any of these states and would like the SOUND to sing in your area, please write immediately to Mr. Wannemacher at SVA.

Lady Flames Take Tournament

Saturday evening November 2 was the championship game of the Eagle Invitational Tournament, hosted by New Covenant Christian School of Lansing. Down by several points at the end of the first half, the Lady Flames pulled ahead to win the game (58 to 52) and the championship. We congratulate Eunice Molinar, Lucy Ling, Alice Anklam, Melissa Winchell, Kathy Estrada, Rhonda Werley, Tricia Hall, and to the coach, Clark Caswell.

Boys' Basketball Teams Chosen

After preliminary practices, the following boys were chosen to play for the SVA Varsity Flames: seniors Jim Camero, Joe Guerrero, Brent Pedersen, Kevin Swanson, and Norbert Tumalski; juniors Rodney Baker, Wayne Hall, Tim Jenkins, Adam McQueary, Stuart Minica;

and sophomore Esli Arroyo. The coach is math and drama teacher, Lee Meadows.

The junior varsity team, coached by science teacher and principal, Keith Noble, includes seniors Robert Ogren and Chris Rousseau; juniors Danny Dávila and Deward Little; sophomores Jeff Brunson, Jacob Carper, Andrew Pinnock, Stephen Smith; and freshmen Brian Gartner, David Smith, Shaun Wedderburn, and Robert Werley.

Participation is contingent on the students meeting academic eligibility and work time requirements. Of the games played during the fall semester, the varsity team won two and lost one; the JVs won one and lost two.

Volleyball Team Season Begins

Concurrent with the boys' basketball season is girls' volleyball. Under the coaching of Michelle Molinar, this year's team includes: seniors Eunice Molinar and Melissa Winchell; juniors Hope Boese, Rhonda Werley, and Christie Vlad; sophomores Alice Anklam, Donna Burrell, and Sandra Thrasher; and freshman Claudia Arroyo, Erin Dávila, Kathy Estrada, Irmina Guerrero, Tricia Hall, and Melanie Villarreal. Their record at the end of the fall semester was two wins and two losses.

Drama Class Presents Plays

"A Night for the Romantic at Heart" was the theme of three one-act plays presented by the SVA students on November 16. "The Ugly Duckling" opened the evening. Under the direction of Lee Meadows, Mike Adams starred as the king trying to marry off his daughter (Sandra Thrasher) to a prince (Kevin Swanson). Other players included Hope Boese, Christie Vlad, Dan

AGENCY REPORTS

Watters, and David Smith.

The second play, "Three on a Bench," starred Jerrica Morgan as an older widow who devoted herself to reconciling estranged young couples in the park near her home. Rhonda Werley and Tim Jenkins played the part of the young couple; Perry Swanson was the local cop. The play was student directed by Eunice Molinar, with Lisa Forster as staff advisor.

The final play, "Last Night's Paper," was about two high school boys (Brent Pedersen and Stuart Minica) who were trying to get enough courage to call about a lonely hearts club ad in the local paper — without letting their parents (Irmina Guerrero and Shaun Wedderburn) or sister (Alice Anklam) and friend (Melanie Villarreal) know what they were doing. Mike Adams was student director; Kristi Adams was staff advisor.

Lee Meadows and Clark Caswell built the set. Other helpers included Christine Keehbauch and Sandra Thrasher (costumes); Renae Helms and Sandra Thrasher (make-up), David DeLong (art work), and Peter Wannemacher (music).

Top Student Workers

All boarding students at SVA are required to work 12 hours per work month. Those who work more receive tuition credit, which reduces their bill. The following students were the top workers for November: Donna Burrell, Joe Guerrero, Robbie Werley, Irmina Guerrero, Wayne Hall, Maggie Robinson, Claudia and Esli Arroyo, Robert Ogren, Kevin Swanson, Jeff Brunson, Tammy Davison, Steven Smith, Julie Nease and Jacob Carper.

Students on the SOS program receive \$2 in student aid for each dollar they earn in tuition credit; with this financial help, several students

are able to "work off" almost half of their monthly bill.

SOS/Scholarship Needs

Last fall we embarked on a campaign to raise funds for SVA's SOS Scholarship Fund, which is used to help students needing financial aid to attend SVA. To provide for those needing SOS awards and scholarships, the school needs \$40,000 in donations to this fund. During September and again during November, letters were sent from the school to 1,500 alumni and friends of SVA asking for support for these students. Another letter was mailed from Denver to all subscribers to *The Harvest Field Messenger*. By mid-December, approximately \$7,000 in one time donations and 30 pledges totalling \$1,000 per month for seven months brought the amount received and anticipated to only \$14,000. We invite you to join others in contributing to the SOS Scholarship Fund to help students at Spring Vale. This spring we intend to begin raising the funds for the SOS Scholarship Fund for the '92-'93 school year.

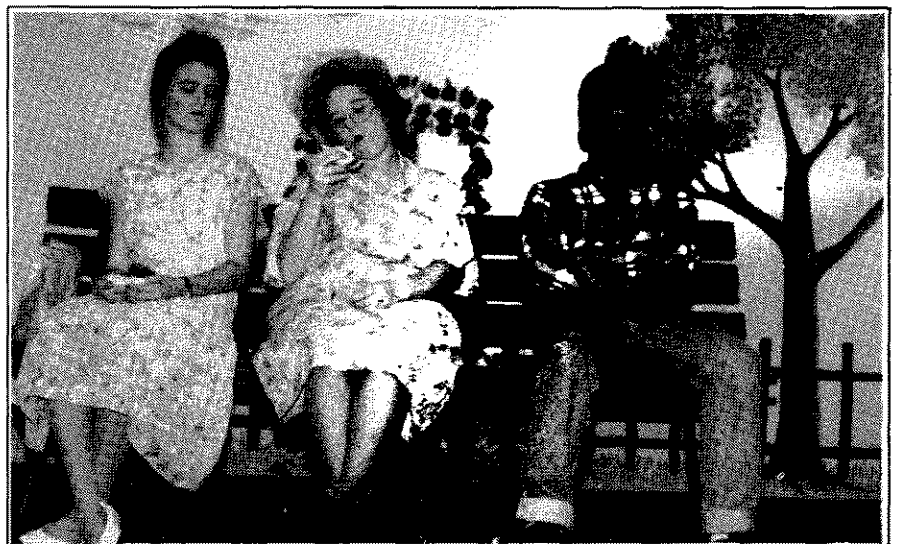
Energy Audit Completed

This fall Eneritech Engineering Co. completed the energy audit for which we received a \$7,500 grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy. The audit identified a number of energy conservation measures (ECMs) for the four older SVA buildings. The most cost effective of these ECMs will cost \$16,000 to implement and have the potential of saving the school \$4,532 in energy costs each year. During January 1992, we will be applying for another grant that will cover three-fourths of the cost of implementing these ECMs.

Needs for 1992-93

Looking ahead to the next school year, indications are that we may be in need of dedicated individuals who can serve in the following areas: boys' dean, mathematics, music, and foreign languages. If you believe you are called to minister to young people and are qualified to serve at SVA in any of these positions, we invite you to submit an application.

Richard A. Wiedenheft



"Three on a Bench": Mrs. Moore, the widow (Jerrica Morgan) works her wiles to reconcile a quarrelsome couple (Rhonda Werley and Tim Jenkin).

Board of Directors Meet

by Calvin Burrell



Board of Directors Sub-Committee: (l to r) Harris Kinzler, Calvin Burrell, Art Roche, and John Crisp.

The General Conference Board of Directors met in Denver, Colorado, January 19-23. In this annual business session, the Board conducted interviews with five District Coordinators and with all seven Directors of the United Ministries Agencies. On one evening an appreciation dinner honored these appointees of the Board, and the workers at the General Conference Offices and Bible Advocate Press.

Actions approved by the Board during the meeting were:

*Reappointed Steve Kurtright to serve as Coordinator of the Southwestern District for a two-year term.

*Reappointed Victor Burford to serve as Coordinator of the Northeastern District and the Eastern Canada sub-district for a two-year term.

*Reappointed Paul Chalus to serve as Coordinator of the Western Canada District for a two-year term.

*Reappointed Albert Fischer to serve as Coordinator of the Central District for a one-year term.

*Extended the term of Loren Stacy as West Coast District Coordinator through December 31, 1992.

*Appointed Bill Hicks to serve as Coordinator of the Southeastern District for a two-year term.

*Adopted a proposal for District Coordinators, district board-members, and local churches. (Entire proposal follows this article.)

*Reappointed Oscar García as Director of the Hispanic Agency for a two-year term, with half-time employment. (Oscar is also employed by the Central District half-time to pastor the Denver Hispanic congregation.)

*Reappointed John and Ruth Tivald as Directors of the Youth Agency for a two-year term.

*Reappointed Emogene Coulter as Director of the Women's Agency for a two-year term.

*Reappointed Victor Burford as Director of Missions Abroad for a two-year term.

*Reappointed LeRoy Dais as Director of Publications Agency for a two-year term.

*Appointed Roy Marrs as editor of the *Bible Advocate*, effective July 1, 1992.

*Appointed Jerry Griffin as Director of Summit School of Theology, effective July 1, 1992.

*Appointed a sub-committee (Lorenzo Arroyo, Carl Palmer, and Whaid Rose) to serve with the leadership of Summit School of Theology in the future development of the School.

*Appointed a committee (Robert Coulter, Calvin Burrell, and Whaid Rose) for personnel search. The committee will look for persons interested in preparing for editorial staff positions at the Bible Advocate Press, and for candidates to fill Co-

ordinator positions in the West Coast and Central Districts.

*Approved the appointment of Elden Fischer, Art Cummings, and Norm Caswell to four-year terms on the Spring Vale Academy Board.

*Selected the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the site of the next General Conference Convention, June 28-July 3, 1993, and appointed Art Roche, Virginia Dais, Marlene Smith, Jim Fischer and Oscar García as its Program Committee.

*Approved the following motion:

MOVED that the Board of Directors go on record as favoring a site along or west of I-25 for the 1995 General Conference Convention.

CARRIED.

*Appointed Oscar García and Delvin O'Banion to complete the Nominating Committee for the 1993 General Conference Convention. (Previously selected to the committee were Jerry Griffin and Mary Jean Knoll.)

*Adopted a position statement regarding the negotiation process for fair shares underway between Districts and local congregations. (Entire position statement follows this article.)

*Adopted policy statements regarding the Church's employee benefits package.

*Increased the salary of workers in the General Conference Offices by

three percent for the next fiscal year.

*Approved the survey plan proposed by the Bible Advocate Press for determining the interest levels of its readers.

*Granted \$3,000 from its General Fund to underwrite a trip to the Soviet Commonwealth of Nations by Missions Abroad, during 1992-93.

*Approved the establishment of

"The Pooled Endowment Fund for the Ministries of the Church of God (Seventh Day)" and the appointment of a committee to administer the endowment fund.

*Agreed to meet again for one and one half days at the conclusion of the North American Ministerial Council in September.

All members of the Board were

present for this meeting. They are Lorenzo Arroyo, Calvin Burrell (President), Robert Coulter, John Crisp, Albert Fischer, Roy Henderson, Ken Knoll, Harris Kinzler, Roy Marrs (Vice-President), Carl Palmer, Art Roche, and Whaid Rose. Jayne Kuryluk (Secretary-Treasurer) was also present.

Calvin Burrell

Proposal No. 1

Better Communication

WHEREAS there exists a need within our organization for a more viable interaction and communication among local churches, pastors, lay leaders, district boards, and the Board of Directors to increase effectiveness in the field, therefore

BE IT MOVED that the Board endorse the concepts of the following proposal, that we recommend that the District Boards consider their implementation in 1992, and that we request the District Boards to report any action to this Board in January 1993 — all with the spirit of mutual accountability.

PROPOSAL:

1. District Coordinators

A. Should become more assertive in implementing the General Conference and District policies and programs.

B. Should give clear guidelines to the duties of the district staff and district board members in the implementation of this proposal.

2. District Board Members

A. Should make monthly contact with each church in their area, either in person, by phone, or by letter.

B. Arrange meetings two or three times a year with the leaders of the churches (pastors and lay leaders) in their area to discuss problems and plan activities, conduct workshops and training seminars.

C. Report quarterly to the District Coordinator the activities of the churches in their area such as retreats, youth meetings, leadership seminars, Bible study groups, etc. This would give the District Coordinator information to publish in the district newsletter highlighting different areas each month.

This proposal would allow a closer relationship within each area while creating a certain amount of challenge

between the areas to develop more programs. It would enhance communication and accountability between the board members and the churches they serve.

3. Implementation of Proposal

The Board of Directors recommends that the District Boards review this proposal for methods of mutual accountability and implementation appropriate to their districts.

CARRIED.

Proposal No. 2

Negotiating Fair Share

WHEREAS the Church is experiencing a change in its financial flow procedures, and the Districts have requested a statement from the Board to help them in the process of negotiating fair shares with the local churches, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board offer the following position statement:

The Board is pleased to know that the establishing of fair shares for those local congregations who opted out of the District pool is well under way in most locations, and that there appears to be considerable harmony in the process. The Board commends the efforts of the District personnel to keep the fair shares at conservative levels, and it commends the willingness of most congregations who are exercising their option to accept the responsibility of these amounts.

The Board recognizes the problems introduced by the bylaw provision that local congregations who take their option may negotiate with the Districts over their fair share for District support. The word "negotiate" implies that each party will participate in the process of arriving at the fair share, but it does not denote how any resulting differences will be resolved.

In those few instances where agreement has not been

reached through negotiations thus far, we recommend that negotiations continue in a spirit of mutuality, and that a District respond favorably with tolerance where the congregation has evident or demonstrable financial limitations related to the economic circumstances of its members and expresses a good faith intent to move over time toward compliance with the District fair share.

If, on the other hand, a congregation indicates that it is unwilling to accept responsibility, even on a phased-in basis, for support of those programs and products that presently have common support among us as indicated by the District budgets and fair shares, that congregation should consider the question of its good faith compliance with the financial plan of the General Conference as revised in July 1991, and the District may consider the

question of its standing as an affiliated congregation.

In the ongoing negotiations over fair shares, the Board affirms the responsibility of the Districts' boards to propose popular programs which provide for the needs of all membership groups, and it affirms the right of the congregations to provide feedback and information regarding the goods and services that they wish to purchase through the District. By this method a consensus of support should develop for commonly approved ministries in the Church, and no individual congregation or congregations may elect not to support those ministries through reduction of its fair share. The Board appeals for all levels of the Church to think and plan unselfishly as we bring methodical change and progress to our corporate work.

License and Credentials Committee

The License and Credentials Committee of the North American Ministerial Council met in Denver, Colorado, January 26-27. Members of the Committee are Paul Heavilin (Chairman), Ray Benight, John Howell, Steve Kurtright, Humberto Lopez, Roy Marrs, and Clay Smith.

The Committee issued Ministerial Credentials to William Umana, pastor of the San Jose, California, church. It issued Ministerial Licenses to Lazaro Gutierrez of El Paso, Texas; to Ramiro Vazquez of Houston, Texas; and to Heber Vega of Owosso, Michigan. And it granted Ministerial Licenses to Jeff Endecott of Denver, Colorado, and to Carl Smith of Houston, Texas, contingent upon the successful completion of their pastoral internships.

Upon their request, several ministers were issued Certificates of Retirement by the Committee. A Certificate of Retirement does not reduce the opportunity of a minister to serve the Church in any way; it merely

relieves him of his obligation to attend the biennial meetings of the Ministerial Council. One who holds a Certificate of Retirement is not counted when determining quorum for the Council business sessions. A minister becomes eligible for a Certificate of Retirement when he attains retirement age, or when he has completed twenty years of service to the Church.

Those ministers who now hold Certificates of Retirement are:

Credentialed Ministers: Ray Benight, Harold Carlson, L.L. Christenson, Aaron Fauth, Burt Ford, Israel Haeger, Paul Heavilin, John Kiesz, Roy Marrs, W.T. McMickin, Jacob Miller, John Moldenhauer, W.H. Olson, L.I. Rodgers, S.R. Tedrow, K.C. Walker, and O.T. Whitten.

Licensed ministers: Festus Brown, Nelson Caswell, Curn Gilchrist, James Granger, W.H. McCann, Emmett Samson, Marion Strunk, Belton Sweet, George Tolbert, and Felix Valencia.

Kids Say the Funniest Things

Common sayings, verses, etc., take on new meanings when children interpret them. Priceless quips such as "Fall off (follow) Jesus, I will fall off Jesus, anywhere he leads me I will fall off" as sung by a three-year-old, or a nine-year-old's version of the Seekers' Promise, "I pledge my heart to puberty (purity)," will be printed in "Our Kids Say the Funniest Things," to be published this spring. You are invited to send YOUR kids' funniest versions of misinformation. Their precious blunders are needed for immortalization in this book. Hurry, the deadline is March 20, 1992. The books will be available for purchase by June 1, 1992. Follow the instructions below:

1. Print each blooper on a separate sheet of paper, but enter as many times as you want.
2. Print the child's name, age (at the time of blooper), parent's name, home church, and the name and telephone number of the person who is submitting the blooper.

Send to: "Our Kids Say the Funniest Things," Phyllis Tuller, 9210 King Way, Westminster, Colorado 80030.



Harrisburg, Oregon Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Harrisburg, Oregon, Church of God (Seventh Day) is a vital church made up of people who, through the years, have met in various places, often homes of members, in the Junction City, Eugene, and Harrisburg areas. Some of these meetings date back to 1924.

The congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary last fall. Many of the families who built the foundation of the church group in Harrisburg are still active in the church today. Here are highlights from the church history compiled by Blanche (Severson) Miller and read on the anniversary.

In 1924, and for a few years following, several people met in various homes. In 1926, Elder Michael Unzicker, and his wife, Francis, ministered to the group.

In 1928, Elder Roy Dailey and his wife, Esther, helped establish a church in the Noraton area, north of Junction City, Oregon. The group met in the Noraton school. This congregation is still a part of the present congregation now meeting in Harrisburg.

In 1934, Ed Severson, a minister of the Church of God living in Crowder, Oklahoma, attended a ministerial conference in West Virginia. Elder Otto Haeber and other ministers encouraged Brother Severson to work for the church in the Junction City, Oregon, area. The

following year, Elder Severson loaded his family in the car and headed for Oregon. By the end of the year, there were 21 members. The group rented a First Day Church of God building in Harrisburg.

In July of 1935, the first campmeeting was held in Jefferson, Oregon. The big tent went up on a grassy area near the river bridge. At the close of the campmeeting 15 people were baptized.

In 1939, the congregation started a building fund for a church of their own. In September 1940, Joel McGill and Ed Severson were made trustees of a \$200 mortgage as more money was needed to get things going to start the church building. The new church was built next to the Severson property.

The first wedding to be performed in the Harrisburg church was that of Albert Miller and Blanche Severson on July 22, 1944. Ed Severson performed the ceremony.

The year 1946 found the congregation working on another remodeling job. Rooms upstairs were finished, larger windows were installed, and new drapes were added.

The property next to the church was obtained with plans for expansion in the future. Remodeling took place in 1958 with the addition of a fellowship hall, a new entrance to the chapel, a covered porch, and indoor plumbing. The church con-

tinued growing until more remodeling was needed in 1967. Additional space in the fellowship hall, a kitchen, and class rooms were added. A parsonage was built in 1970.

In July 1976, the Elmira congregation joined with the Harrisburg church family. Again plans were made for enlarging the Harrisburg church. This time a spacious sanctuary with baptismal, pastor's study, foyer, nursery, and an extra storage room were added.

It is well to note that each addition to the church was paid for when it was completed.

In 1982, a split occurred in the Harrisburg church, but this was a split which was welcomed. Elder Rudolph Haffner had said that when all the benches were full in the Harrisburg church, an outreach work would begin. On July 10, 1982, the benches were full to capacity. It was time to launch out.

The outreach program involved starting a church in Eugene, Oregon, a city within 20 miles of Harrisburg. A church facility was rented and the new work was begun. The first Sabbath at the new location there were 105 in attendance and on that same day there were 105 in attendance at the Harrisburg church as well. Both churches are still prospering in 1992.

In 1987, Elder Roy Henderson, his wife, Myrna, and five sons arrived in Harrisburg to become the

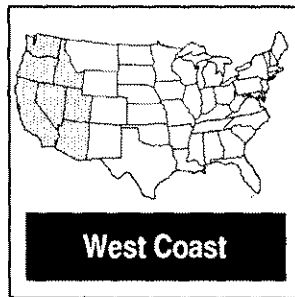
current pastor.

In 1989, the church began videotaping the sermon portion of Sabbath services for a group of members in Southern California. This effort soon grew into a tape ministry reaching more than 150 individuals each week, some as far away as Nigeria.

On October, 1941, the church building in Harrisburg was completed and paid for. On October 12, 1991, the congregation celebrated the 50 years since that beginning by inviting those who have been a part of the Harrisburg Church over the years to worship with us, to look back over the years, and to praise God for granting us such a heritage.

Over 300 people gathered for the celebration, including the following former pastors: Emmitt Samson, Ray Moldenhauer, Ken Knoll, Rick Straub, and Marion Strunk. West Coast District Coordinator, Loren Stacy, also attended. The present pastor, Roy Henderson, was the Master of Ceremonies for the program which included special music, comments from the pastors, and the reading of the church history by Blanche Miller, one of the original members of the church in 1941. The entire program is on video tape for future history buffs, and updated histories are available upon request.

May God continue to bless this congregation as it serves His people.



West Coast

Happenings on the West Coast

The Seekers group organized in Roseville, CA, in December, has 15 kids ranging from 6 to 13 years of age. They begin the year by sponsoring a Seekers Rally. More than 250 Seekers, FYCers, and adults from San Jose, South Sacramento, Stockton, and North Fellowship participated.

A "Strategic Planning Day" took place in Lodi, CA, in October. Five professional meeting facilitators met with 67 adults from the church. The planning session brainstormed the church's future, evaluated the present, and devised specific action plans and recommendations to turn vision into reality.

The door-to-door literature ministry in Stockton, CA, was a success. We now have ten interested families who want us to visit them soon. One family has already come to church.

The Spanish work here is showing an upbeat trend. Spanish services are held each Sabbath at 4:00 p.m.

The Nampa, ID, church is opening a part-time position. They are considering the following: Youth Minister, Music Minister, and Associate Pastor.

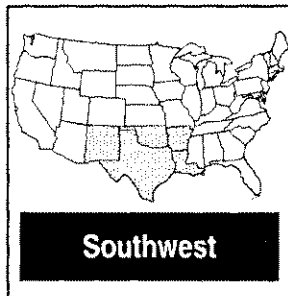
Direct inquiries to: Church of God (Seventh Day), Larry Childers, P.O. Box 441, Nampa, ID 83652-0441.

On October 26, 1991, Bob and Carol Pettibone were baptized and welcomed to

the family of God at the Marion, OR, church.

Food was collected from for Thanksgiving baskets. Alice Henion coordinated and delivered the baskets.

Looking ahead, a Running/Walking Camp will be held at Sis-Q-Meadows (Cave Junction, OR). For information, contact Darrel Deedon (503) 769-5903 or Dennis Samson (503) 928-1471.



Southwest

Southwestern District Roundup

Revivals are making the rounds in the Southwestern District. Recent revivals were held in Wister, OK (John Howell, speaker), Artesia Wells, TX (John Kiesz, speaker), and Crystal City, TX (Manuel Solis and Arnulfo Salazar, speakers). Whaid Rose conducted revivals for Tulsa and Shawnee, OK, and is scheduled to hold meetings in Conroe, TX, February 5-8.

The Dover, Oklahoma, Maintenance Committee held a work day on December 15. A dozen people

came out to begin preparing the roof and to level off part of the camp ground. More work days are being planned in the coming months.

A Pastor's Support Group has been organized in Oklahoma. Pastor John Howell, pastor of the Tulsa, OK, church, was instrumental in starting the group. The support group is for pastors and lay leaders in the eastern half of Oklahoma. The December meeting was held in Henryetta, OK. While family members enjoyed the Holidome recreation facilities, the pastors and lay leaders attended a Bible study on Workaholics. Twenty-one people attended the meeting.

As a result of an active role in the McAlester, OK, ministerial alliance, Marvin Troutman, pastor of the McAlester Church, was invited to meet with a group of area ministers from

mainline churches each week.

It has been an enriching experience as well as an avenue of opening up understanding since Marvin is the only fundamentalist and sabbatarian in the group.

There were over 250 people in attendance at a recent Quarterly Fellowship held in **Tulsa, OK**. Unable to find a larger facility, 100 folding chairs were rented and three TV monitors set up. Needless to say, the church was full of worshippers!

The ministers who attended the morning service sat in the choir area and served as the "Amen Corner."

A second fellowship meeting was held with the **Claremore and Tahlequah, OK**, congregations. This featured a Prophecy Forum with Ernest Johnson as moderator and Hubert Weekes, Archie Craig, and Ross Johnston as panelists.

We at **Artesia Wells, TX**, were privileged to have Brother and Sister John Kiesz with us recently. The purpose of their visit was to hold a revival. Elder Kiesz delivered several good sermons, most of which were on prophecy.

The George D. Crisp family first became acquainted with Brother and Sister Kiesz fifty-four years ago. Brother and Sister

Kiesz came to Artesia Wells and held several nights of services. At the conclusion of this meeting in 1937, several teenagers came forward and were baptized.

The Kieszes wintered near the Crisp farm home that year, spending the winter in their small house trailer. More young folks were baptized during this time.

The Seekers and the children's department of the **Houston (English), TX**, church are receiving good instruction. Folks observe the Seekers following the worship service more, and using the song books when they should. They were working on a badge for their October meeting. It was called the "Living With Others" badge. One of the requirements was to learn good church manners.

For the November meeting, Shellie Westphal was the guest speaker for the Seekers. She had an excellent presentation on Safety and Drug Awareness.

The December meeting had the youngsters looking at Exodus 35 to earn the Arts and Crafts badge. They learned that art is called another way of seeing. By reading Exodus 35 through 39, the Seekers learned about the beauty of the tabernacle as well as the craftsmanship that was needed to develop it.

The second, third, and fourth grade class in Sabbath school looked at the history of the early Church

section of the New Testament. They learned about the importance of Jesus, what the Holy Spirit is, what speaking in tongues at Pentecost was all about, and the importance of telling the truth.

The Pauline Epistles were the next section of study. From Romans, they looked at the Gentiles being grafted into the tree of the believing Jews. In Corinthians, they learned how the believers are all important in what they do. In Galatians, the children learned about the fruits of the spirit and what that means to them.

For the last several months, the **Lubbock, TX**, church has enjoyed having guest speakers at their services. Bob Norvell (Conroe, TX), Arnulfo Hernandez (El Paso, TX), Joe Romero and Jose Balboa have helped fill the pulpit.

The real news from Lubbock is that the Avenue S Church and the First Place Church have merged. They will be served by lay pastor, Florencio Veyro. New leaders were elected which represent members from both congregations.

They have asked that we pray for them in this new beginning. Also an invita-

... And Two Shall Become One

The Oklahoma State Conference is sponsoring a Marriage Enrichment weekend, April 10-12 at the S.W. Airport Inn in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The cost is \$110 per couple if you preregister by April 1, 1992.

The theme is "And Two Shall Become One." Our leader for the Marriage Enrichment weekend will be Elder Carl Palmer, pastor of the Spokane, Washington, Church of God (Seventh Day). Elder Palmer has taught classes on Premarital Counseling and Pastoral Counseling. He is an experienced minister who has a special burden to strengthen family relationships.

The S.W. Airport Inn has spacious rooms, convenient meeting and banquet facilities, a hot tub, saunas, and an indoor pool in the atrium area.

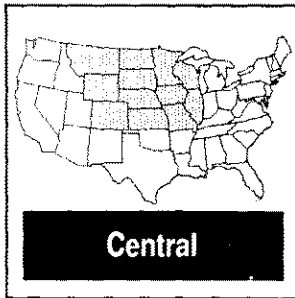
To preregister, send \$25 to Oklahoma State Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), c/o Betty Eddy, Route 7, Box 240, Claremore, Oklahoma 74017. Registration will be \$120 after April 1. This fee includes motel accommodations for Friday and Saturday nights, conference materials, continental breakfasts and noon meals Sabbath and Sunday, and dinner Sabbath evening.

If you would like to come earlier or stay later than the planned sessions, group rates of \$35 a night plus tax are available. You will need to contact S.W. Airport Inn directly at 1-800-843-7829 to make those arrangements.

For more information, contact Pastor John Howell, Weekend Director, 13902 E. 11th, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74108, or phone (918) 438-5720 or 438-3832.

tion to visit with them on Sabbath is extended to all who may be in the area.

The Southwestern District, as all the districts in the Conference, is in the midst of the revision of the financial structure of the Conference. As of this writing the Southwestern District has heard from 33 congregations. Sixteen of those responding will remain with the pool. The additional 17 congregations have opted out of the financial pool. They still have to hear from 13 congregations.



Kansas City Keeps Going

The Kansas City congregation is currently participating in the Love Loaf program. This is a program sponsored by World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization. Because of World Vision's size and experience, each dollar given to this program goes farther in purchasing power than if we sent the money directly for food for the needy.

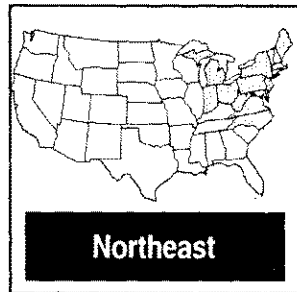
The Kansas City church began the program November 23, when the Love

Loaves were distributed. January 25 is the collection date. One half of the proceeds will be forwarded to World Vision and the remainder will be sent to Missions Abroad, which is the international ministry of the Church of God (Seventh Day).

The average attendance for the year 1991 was 68.

At a special business meeting on December 7, the membership of the Kansas City Church of God made the decision to stay in the current district financial plan.

The next Missouri State Fellowship Meeting will be held March 21 and will be sponsored by the Kansas City church.



News from the Northeastern District

Heber Vega has finished his internship under Elder Max Morrow at the Owosso church and has accepted the pastorate of the Freeland and Saginaw churches.

Freeland was the scheduled church to host the Michigan Fellowship Meeting on January 18. Freeland, Saginaw and

Owosso churches provided special music. Marvin Mallow of the Detroit church was the guest speaker.

The Western Michigan Regional Meeting will be held February 15, 1992, at 3:00 p.m. at the Decatur church. A special feature of the meeting will be a report by Elder Victor Burford on his recent trip to some of the church's foreign fields. He will show slides of our brethren and their churches overseas.

A special offering will be received for Foreign Missions, and a pot luck dinner will follow the program.

Churches in the western region of Michigan are introducing some exciting new programs.

At the Tallmadge church, Elder Heavilin has organized a "Preaching Class," which meets every other week. This is a class for the young men in the church to help them in sermon preparation. Also, the young adults of the Tallmadge church are holding Bible studies every other week. Paul Vanderhorst is the leader.

Both the Tallmadge and West Olive churches are working together on a Seekers program for the children. A program called "The Busy Bees" has been organized for the younger children. The Vanderhorst, the Gillian, and the Mike Meadows families are the directors of these programs.

October 27 through November 3 was proclaimed "National Pornography Awareness Week." Spring Vale students joined with members of the Owosso, MI, congregation to distribute flyers on the dangers of pornography.

The Owosso congregation does much to help Spring Vale Academy. On October 27, the Watchmen Club members helped with the cleaning and improvement of SVA vehicles. The men's club also keeps busy with repairs and upkeep on the chapel.

Attendance at the Harvest of Thanks Banquet in November was good. There were 158 people enjoying food and fellowship as well as an inspiring program. The offering collected for the United Ministries was \$656.80.

The Owosso congregation still sponsors a Bread of Life Ministries for the Owosso community.

On November 9, 1991, the Toledo, Ohio, Church of God (Seventh Day) hosted the first celebration Sabbath ever held in this area. Our theme was "The Art of Worship."

Over 100 people attended the services from throughout the Michigan and Ohio region. Max Morrow was the guest speaker and special music was provided by the Spring Vale Sound.

The entire day was a blessing from God for all those who attended.

PASSAGES

Anniversaries

Stucker — Leonard Austin and Pearl (Marrs) Stucker of Meridian, Idaho, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 19, 1992, with many family members and friends in attendance. The couple met as teenagers through church activities and were married near Shawnee, Oklahoma, on January 19, 1942.

They have two daughters, six sons, and 20 grandchildren.

Births

Braun — Katy Braun was born November 21, 1991, and dedicated to the Lord in the Sabbath service of the Grand Prairie, Texas, church on December 7. Katy's parents are John and Mary Braun.

Carbajal — Carissa Rae was born November 26, 1991. Her parents are Jose and Diane Carbajal, St. Paul, Minnesota. Maternal grandparents are John and Dorothy Nelson. Paternal grandparents are Heriberto and Maria Carbajal.

Erman — Daniel Robert was born November 5, 1991. His parents are David and Pam Erman.

Lincoln — Makayla Joy was born September 6, 1991. Her parents are Greg and Vaniece Lincoln.

Molinar — Gabriel Armando was born to Leticia and Manuel Molinar III, St. Paul, Minnesota, on December 31, 1991. Grandparents are Dan and Joyce Camero and Mary Lou and Manuel Molinar II. Paternal great-grandparents are Rudolph and Rebecca Cardenas.

Morrow — Brianna Justina was born December 4, 1991. Her parents are Brent and Karen Morrow of Kent, Washington. Archie and Alice Lang are maternal grandparents and pa-

ternal grandparents are Max and Shirley Morrow. Muri Morrow is her great-grandmother.

Scigliano — Samuel Obadiah was born October 23, 1991. His parents are Fred and Lynn Scigliano of Graham, Washington.

Yach — Morgan Diane was born December 7, 1991. Her parents are Troy and Laura Yach, Liberty, Missouri. Morgan is the granddaughter of Floyd and Lenore Huff and the great-granddaughter of Louise Huff.

New Members

Canada: Elsy Elizabeth Mena, Francisco Eduardo Mena, Margarita Mena, Marlene Jacqueline Mena, Roberto Peraza Mena, David C. Peterson.

Central: Katherine Jean Casteel, Michael Basil Casteel, John David Walton.

Northeastern: Betty Marie Baker, Heather Hall, Elizabeth Schupbach, Wayne A. Schupbach, Ronald Henry Zuccaro.

Southwestern: Cesar Bena, Myrna Bena, Edgar Lopez, David Eli Melendez, Angelica T. Rocha, Gregory Michael Suttmiller, Stella M. Velasco, Noemi Velasquez, Eva May Waller, Robert G. Waller, Linda Hardy White, Wesley David White.

West Coast: Linda A. Belanger, Adam Bernal, Claudia Bernal, Patricia Angelica Cortez, Charvae Dannette Hawkins, Craig Daniel Hawkins, Michael D. Hawkins, Sandra del Carmen Martinez, Dimas Orduno, Felipe Moyses Orduno, Graciela Orduno, Juanita Orduno, Monica Elizabeth Orduno, Pablo Ricardo Orduno, Ana Ruth Ornella, Lois Palmer, Ismael Perez, Juan Carlos Prado, David Ramirez, Miguel Salvador, Dianne Sanders, Gene Sanders, Benjamin Paul Sandford, Joanna Carole Sweeney,

Jonathan Hal Sweeney, Stephanie Lynn Sweeney, Maria Julia Torres, Armando Trevino, Rebeca Trevino, Diane Emma Verdugo.

FSMF

The following contributions to the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund were made during the month of November:

In memory of Eunice Mayhugh: Mr. and Mrs. H.K. Severance; Mr. and Mrs. Vern McKheen; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hamilton.

The principal balance of this fund is \$20,507.38.

Deaths

Charbonneau — Irene R. Charbonneau, Shawnee, Oklahoma, passed away January 10, 1992. She would have been 75 on February 10. Elders O.T. Whitten and L.L. Christenson officiated at the services.

Pedersen — Oleda V. Pedersen, 70, of South Haven, Michigan, passed away January 8, 1992. Oleda was the widow of Elder Roland H. Pedersen. She is survived by five sons, Kenneth, Gerald, Howard, Carl, and Roland; a sister, Mrs. Claretta Nelson; 17 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A son, Paul (Arne) also preceded her in death.

Smith — Joe A. Smith was born July 5, 1918, and passed away in Durant, Oklahoma, on January 12, 1992. He was 73 years old. Elders O.T. Whitten and Belton Sweet officiated at the services.

Ward — Herbert Ward, 70, passed away at his home in Salina, Kansas, after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two sons, Stephen and Mark; three sisters, Alma Harden, Viola Endecott, and LaVerne Grey; and two brothers, Virgil and Lloyd.



News to Grow On

The hours of 1991 are ticking toward zero as I write this, and I'm a fan of those "top news stories" columns we always read at this time of year. Let me try something like that for our Church, from the perspective of the General Conference and its ministries.

The Five Biggest Church News Stories of 1991:

1. *The success of our biennial convention in Little Rock, Arkansas.*

It may not be too much to say that more people had a better time at General Conference this year than ever before. The program was well-planned, and lots of folks fell in love with Little Rock. God blessed his people, and we give him the praise for all of it. The problem we face now is finding a location and facility for the 1993 convention without risking a letdown from Little Rock.

2. *The decision of the Conference-session to alter its financial plan.*

After more than forty years of operation under one system of financial flow, the Church decided this year to permit an alternative plan for management of the tithe. This option allows congregations to retain most of the tithe and employ pastors locally, provided they meet minimal levels of support to the District and Conference. The new option is being phased to become operational on July 1, 1992.

3. *The establishment of an office for Hispanic affairs in Denver.*

For more than a decade that segment of our Church with ethnic

origins in Mexico and other Latin American nations has been the fastest growing. Because of language and culture adjustments, the integration of this new membership into the existing church has been slow and difficult. The new office, under the direction of Oscar Garcia, is designed to address these issues.

4. *The renewal of a National Youth ministry and area Youth Camps.*

Our enemy's primary way to thwart the mission of the Church is to discourage us by attacking our youth. In 1991, there was encouraging evidence that the Lord would raise up a standard against him: fresh leadership in the FYC Agency and among young people; the revival of several tried-and-true programs; and a rebirth in our camping and academy programs, including ownership of a camp in Oregon.

5. *The demand for and acceptance of Church Renewal Ministries.*

More than one year ago Elder Whaid Rose became available to the Church, generally for preaching campaigns in local churches. In 1991 alone he has preached over 100 times in 20 congregations. Elder Rose aspires to continue and expand his evangelistic ministry among us under the heading of Church Renewal Ministries.

Let us join together in thanking the Lord for each of these benefits to our corporate work this past year.

And what about the year ahead? Here are the five biggest challenges facing the Church in 1992, as I see them. Please join me in prayer that God's strength will truly be revealed

in our weakness.

1. *We need to reaffirm God's sovereign purpose for our movement.*

God brought the Church of God (Seventh Day) movement into being more than 125 years ago, and for a reason! We have a valid and vital place in the Body of Christ, both in proclaiming the gospel and in our unique doctrinal understandings. We must overcome our inferiority complex, and reclaim both our right and our responsibility to be what we are called to be without apology and without shame.

2. *We need to guarantee the ministries of the General Conference.*

The heartbeats of our movement are in 150 local churches, to be sure. But our congregations are scattered, and many are small. The Conference and Districts provide identity, cohesion, and service without which our commonalities would soon erode. It is tempting to think we could do better without the organization; the truth is that, over the long haul, we probably wouldn't do as well.

3. *We need more laborers and leaders available to serve the Church.*

The Lord told us to pray that He would send more laborers into the harvest, and so we should. But there is another half to such a prayer. We should help identify and encourage those among us who are gifted and called, and we should be ready to say "Yes" when the call for service comes to us. Quietly, almost desperately, the sheep of the Church of God are bleating for more and

Continued on page 7

Looking for fun and fellowship for your summer vacation?

Here's the answer!

Attend a District Bible Conference near you. (Or be adventuresome and attend a conference in an area you want to visit. You will meet other Church of God members and make new friends.) Use the map below to decide which District Bible Conference you plan to attend!

West Coast Bible Conference
July 6-11, 1992
Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon

Central District Conference
June 30-July 4, 1992
Marina Inn
South Sioux City, Nebraska

Northeastern District Conference
July 21-25, 1992
New Heritage U.S.A.
North Carolina

Dover Campmeeting
June 14-20, 1992
Dover, Oklahoma
(Near Kingfisher)

Southeastern District Family Bible Conference
June 30-July 4, 1992
Chattanooga, Tennessee

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