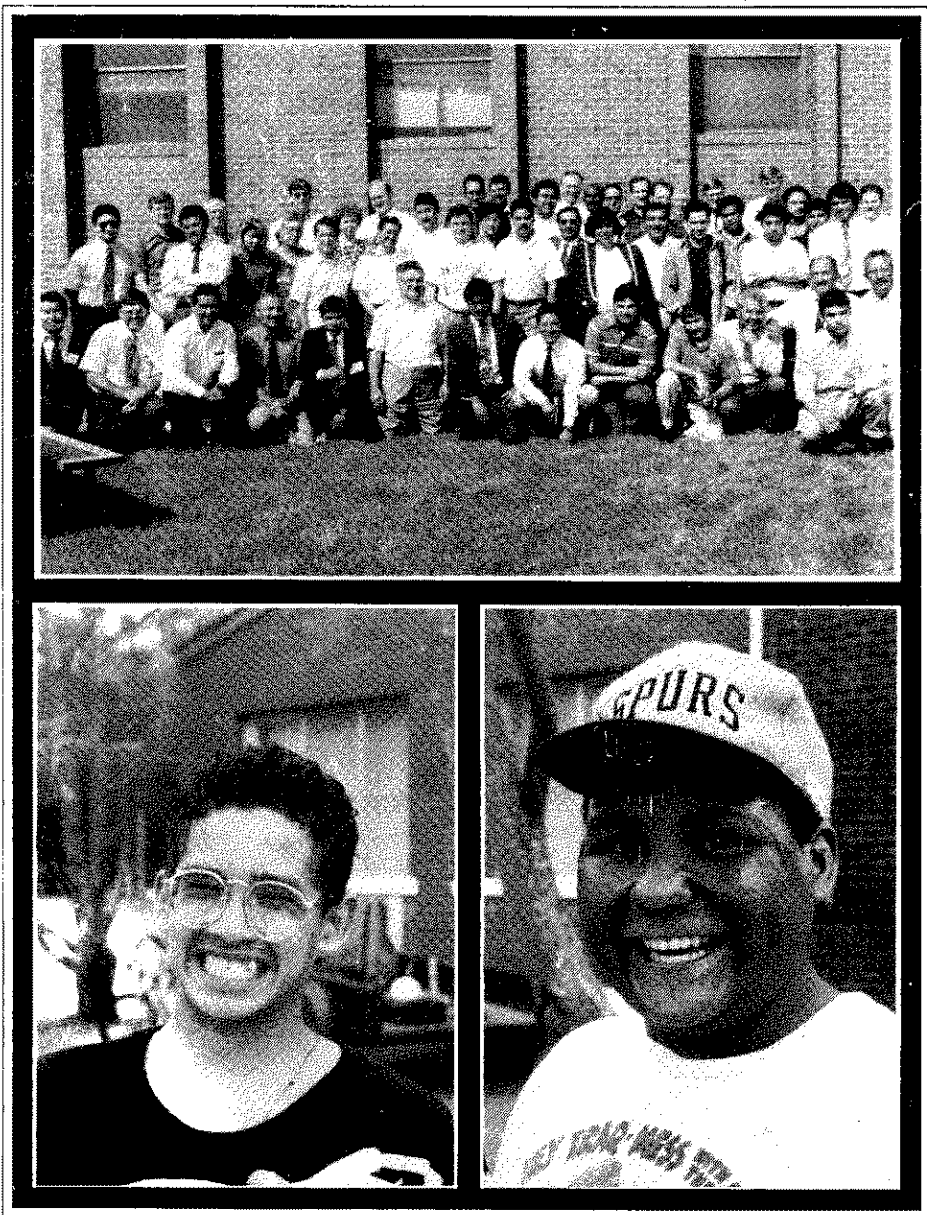


The Harvest Field

Messenger

JULY - AUGUST 1992

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



In this issue

- Summer Session at Summit School of Theology students take time out for a picture.
- Work, fun, fellowship and the Spirit of God made the first National Youth Camp a success.
- Whether it's pot roast or cornflakes, there's food for thought in this issue!

Gadgets and Recipes

Let's face it, cooking is not my favorite pastime. I do not like the feel of gooey dough sticking to my fingers, nor do I feel tension float away as it squishes between my fingers. The few times I fought with dough, I killed the yeast. How appropriate. The finished product was more suitable for a weapon instead of eating.

Cakes are little better. I made one from "scratch." I showed the hardened blob to my neighbor, "What did I do wrong?" She looked at the "cake," then back to me. Then she asked, "What is it?"

Doesn't it seem logical that if the recipe says to cream together the shortening and sugar, one would put the two ingredients in a pan and melt them together? Cream is a "runny" substance, isn't it? Why not say beat them together (or does it mean gently blend)? Whatever — melting them in a pan doesn't work in a cookie recipe.

I finally replaced my stove. It fell apart from disuse or misuse, rather than overuse. It's hard to cook dinner with one burner and an oven that may or may not work, depending on how urgently it is needed. (How did our ancestors survive with a campfire or fireplace?)

Here I have this room of plenty. There are gadgets to slice, chop, and blend, machines to slow cook or fast cook, a stove that automatically starts and stops as well as cleans itself, a refrigerator that makes its own ice, a freezer and pantry filled to the brim. There's an entire row of cookbooks in the bookcase. So, do we want the Colonel or tacos (carryout, of course) for supper?

Having all the ingredients for a recipe and gadgets to prepare it is one thing. Using them is another.

A good cook can take a basic

recipe for pot roast and have it come out tasty and satisfying. I can take the same recipe, start adding ingredients of my own choosing, and wind up with a stew that no one (except our dogs, who think I'm the world's greatest cook!) will touch.

God has provided us with a recipe (His Word) to follow if we want to enter into the Kingdom. It's a recipe we must give to all the world. This recipe does not need other ingredients added to it, yet people have tried to improve it until the original recipe is hard to recognize.

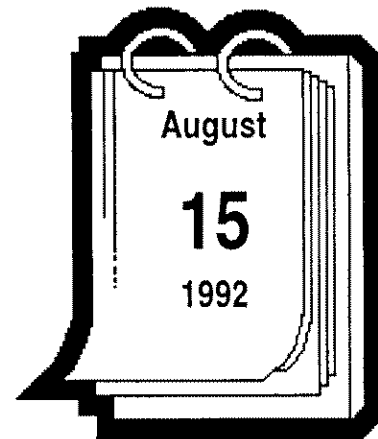
We have a commission to get God's message to a lost and dying world. There are all kinds of gadgets (methods) we can use. In fact, we have all the gadgets and ingredients to make our church really "on fire" for the Lord. But just as the gadgets in my kitchen will not do a bit of good if I don't use them, all the methods, or programs, for winning souls to the Kingdom that the Church provides, won't do a bit of good if we don't use and support them.

The apostles turned their world upside down as they went about the countryside preaching the Word of God. If they were able to preach the Word, winning souls to the Kingdom, without even the benefit of a leatherbound Bible, how many more souls should we be able to reach with the methods we have today?

Let's get back to God's balanced recipe. Let's use and support what God has provided and share His recipe (His Word) with the rest of the world. Let's work as a church, a group of God's people united together with one common goal: Winning souls for the Kingdom!

Gina

Deadline for the Sept.-Oct. 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.

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Forsaking the Call to "Come Out"

"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4, 5, NKJV).

by Roy A. Marrs

One of the clear principles followed by our leaders in the early days of the Church of God was an emphasis on the call to "Come out of her, my people." This was a clarion call, resounding from the rafters of school buildings and community centers, from brush arbors, tents, and small country churches. The call was sounded by servants of the Lord who proclaimed the need for doctrinal and moral purity.

This call provides the reason for our group to exist. Without such a call, there is little purpose behind the invitation, "Come, meet with us!" It cannot be matched by social welfare programs, by youth activities pandering to the whims of passing fancy, nor by catering to sensual desires.

The "her" out of which God calls His people is Babylon, a confused syncretism of heathen religious practices combined with truths from God's Word. The only identifiable entity which "Babylon" could possibly represent at any time since God gave the call through His Apostle, John, is the religious system developed by the Roman Empire; a combination of elements of Christianity, Judaism and paganism.

It was this system which persecuted and martyred millions of believers, a system which would not tolerate its errors being exposed. It conducted the inquisitions leading to torture, death, and exile of those who exposed it, and then to the Protestant Reformation.

It is the nature of this call to come out that makes one ponder whether he has progressed far enough really to be "out."

Since that Roman religious system recognizes the existence of God, of Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, and accountability for sin; since it teaches obedience to most of God's commandments, it's a bit confusing to know what to give up and what to retain of Rome's teachings. That approach is the problem.

Confusion can be avoided by relying on a credible source of authority. Our solution is found in a statement often heard among us, and among others who try to be assured they are "out" of Babylon, that "We speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is silent."

To break off the source of confusion, we limit our source of authority to the Bible, accepting that the Bible is inspired by God, and that it alone is an infallible source of information about His will. We compare what anyone teaches with what we find there. To insure that we are interpreting the Bible correctly, we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us, to give us the right interpretation.

How does that differ from the claims of any other religious group calling themselves Christian?

There is considerable difference. For example, the claim is made by Roman Catholics that their priests stand on earth in Christ's stead; more particularly, that the Pope is the vicar of Christ, that he stands in the place of Christ, and that the

authority of the Church is great enough actually to change the laws of God.

While not making those claims, a few other churches come near to the same effect by recognizing certain leaders to be prophets, whose interpretations of the Bible are accepted as the stand of the churches they lead. Some have written many volumes, which are studied with the same respect given the Bible, though they will deny that. Some study those writings even more intently; for if they must look there to find out what the Bible means, it is logical to go there first to find understandable truth. Fallacies and heresies spawned by these prophets are enthusiastically spread by their followers as the true gospel.

Most people are only one step away from that position. Men well known in denominational circles, and in the Protestant community as a whole, write volumes which are studied with almost the same respect as the Scriptures. The authors may never claim to be prophets, but a viewpoint written or spoken by them is given the most careful consideration by their disciples, who spread their fallacies.

In this, *how are we different?* Is it only in that we show *very little respect for any student of God's word*, almost disdain to study carefully the writings of our own leaders?

Would you seek solace among other denominations when political problems arise in the Church of God? For whatever reason, political problems in the church seem able completely to drown out the call to "come out of her, my people." Some can overlook another denomination's practice of disobedience to clear commandments of God, going there hoping

to find more spirituality, more love, a more worshipful attitude in services, a less rigid formality.

Some seem able to take in stride our young people marrying into groups which are only partly out of Babylon, or those obviously still in Babylon.

Rationalities include, "How do we know we have all the truth?" "They are so much more spiritual!" "They really worship in their services!" "They aren't judgmental like the Church of God." "It's better than not going to church at all."

In the book of Revelation, a contrast is repeatedly drawn between people deceived by the Babylonian system and the people of God. The basic contrast is seen in the willingness of the deceived to disobey, and a dedication of God's children to obedience.

It is in this very distinction that the Church of God finds its reason to be. We emphasize the concept that we must not choose *which* of God's commands we will obey, but that it is our proper function to discover *all* of His will and comply with *the whole* of it.

It is in line with this concept that we find it incomprehensible for anyone, knowing the imperative to obey all the will of God, to take steps back *into Babylon* rather than steps *further out of her*. Such steps are being taken by members who flee local or regional turmoil, associating with a group which teaches a gospel that allows disobedience to part of the commands of God.

Attempting to find peace in such a manner is not realistic. That solution to one's discomfort indicates an unwillingness to suffer through problems with the people of God, to devote one's life to helping God's people past their problems, an unwillingness to tolerate anything but one's own

concept of how to solve problems.

Such a tendency to flee from discomforts, rather than suffer some and correct others, condemns such people to a life of church-hopping, despondency, or dropping out of the Christian community altogether.

Examine the call again. *It is not just that we, ourselves, obey God.* The call is to **come out, to be out**, so that *we will not share in her sins.* This is guilt by association, and the implication is that *association implies validation of what our associates do.* The warning is that God, refusing to forget her sin, her crime of persecuting, killing His people, is going to plague not only her but *His people also* if they do not come out.

There is no difference here than in Paul's admonition and questions:

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

"Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord.

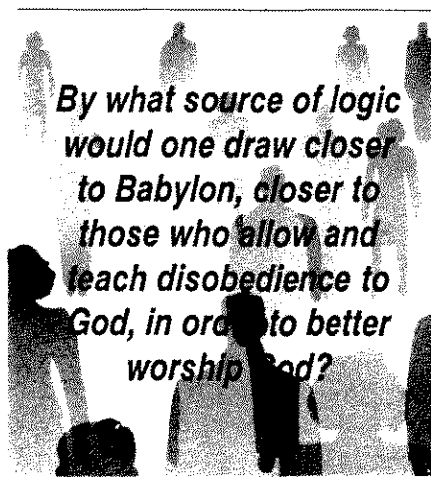
Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 6:14-17; 7:1, NKJV).

Some seem to say, "Lord, You may live with them, walk among them, and be their God — they may even be your people, but we're outa' here! We can't stand any more of their humanness!"

A good look at congregations of

different denominations shows many of the same evidences of human nature. People differ over furnishings for the church, over church location, whether emphasis ought to be given to a building program or to youth programs, whether the congregation ought to rent and let someone else bother with the building.

We see people who think they are given no attention; people who think they are given only the menial assignments; people who always think the church ought to be doing this or that, but what the



church ought to do does not include them because they are too busy; people who will or won't lead in prayer or serve on the church board.

In all congregations, we find people stumbling and causing others to stumble; we find people getting married and getting divorced; we find people struggling over their sexuality, families struggling with abuse of one sort or another. We find people who think they are perfect and others who know they are certainly not!

We also find members who are staunch in their loyalty; who, in

spite of others who make mistakes, in spite of their own mistakes, remain faithful to "their" church.

There are also those who come and go, flitting from one congregation within the denomination to another, seeking a congregation which meets their own needs as they see them. There are also the newcomers to the denomination, who have come because they've given up on all congregations of another denomination, never finding a congregation which suited them.

So we find all sorts of people "coming out of her," but not in response to what God had in mind!

Well, Brother, Sister, which way are you headed? As far as you can get from Babylon, or edging nearer to Babylon in order to obtain what you feel you ought to have for yourself and your family?

By what source of logic would one draw closer to Babylon, closer to those who allow and teach disobedience to God, *in order to better worship God?* Do you believe that God respects such decisions? What is the Scriptural basis for such a move?

We are made to wonder what happened to the "staunch, pillar-of-the-Church" concept. What happened to the "serve others" concept? If a missionary family can go into uncharted territories and plant churches without a supporting cast of church servants, why is it we cannot be staunch, steady, and strong in the faith when all we face is disagreement with others of our brothers and sisters who love us?

Paul has good admonition:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58, NKJV).



Clark Caswell, Director

Graduation Week Highlights

Spring Vale's 44th school year came to a close May 31 with the graduation of the class of 1992. The campus was filled with students, friends, family members, and guests who came from as far away as Washington, California, and Texas to celebrate with the graduates.

The end-of-the-year activities began at the completion of final exams on Wednesday. That evening we held our annual awards dinner in the school cafeteria. Many of SVA's sixty students were honored for their achievements in English, math, Bible, computers, history, science, drama, art, sports, for their service in the dorm, and for their work.

Thursday, campus cleanup day, was capped by the 1992 Grad Play, "The Butler Did It." It was a humorous mystery story directed by Lee Meadows, and assisted by Christie Vlad. Actors included Hope Boese, Mike Adams, Irmina Guerrero, Stuart Minica, Sandra Thrasher, Kevin Swanson, Eunice Molinar, Daniel Watters, Melanie Villarreal, and Danny Dávila. Helping backstage were prompter Alice Anklam, set designers and builders Sheenah O'Haver, Brent Pedersen, and Norbert Tumalski, concession manager Julie Nease, and artist David DeLong, faculty member.

The weekend belonged to the seniors and their families. Valedictorian Brent Pedersen's father, Gerry, gave the message after the choir

concert Friday night; his mother, Jan, played for the baccalaureate service Sabbath morning. Salutatorian Sheenah O'Haver's father, Tom, presented the Sabbath school lesson. Class vice-president Eunice Molinar's father, Manuel, gave the baccalaureate address, and class president Melissa Winchell's father, Tom, offered the benediction. Kevin Swanson's father, Doug, played the commencement processional, and Dan Watters' father, Mike, gave the invocation. The commencement address was presented by Heber Vega,

become an RN; Dan Gilbert (MI) — go to college and be successful; Joe Guerrero (CA) — go to college and become a psychologist; Tim Jenkins (MO) — college; Eunice Molinar (TX), class vice-president — seek first the kingdom of God and become a law enforcement officer; Julie Nease (CA), class secretary — become a secretary; Robert Ogren (CA) — go to college; Sheenah O'Haver (WA), salutatorian — go to college to study graphic design; Brent Pedersen (OR), valedictorian — get a teaching degree; Kevin Swanson (CO) — go to college; Norbert Tumalski (MI) — go to college and be successful in life; Daniel Watters (MI), student of the year — major in elementary education "and focus on Christ as the role model for my life"; Melissa Winchell (MI), class president — maintain a Christian walk and become a surgical technician.



School director and baseball coach Clark Caswell awards the Most Valuable Player for Baseball trophy to Senior Brent Pedersen.

who became loved as a brother by many SVA students during the 14 months he lived on campus before his move to Maryland.

By Monday, the campus was quiet as students and guests headed home. The SVA Sound left for their three-week tour to Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Graduates' Plans

The graduating seniors shared some of their future plans in the school yearbook: Dawn Crites (MI), class treasurer — go to college to

Senior Class Trip

In April, the seniors went to Washington, D.C., with class sponsors Tom and Esther Winchell and Kevin and Beverly Caswell. On their way they

tasted chocolate in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and visited the battlefields at Gettysburg. In Washington, they went to the Smithsonian Institute, the Supreme Court Building, Washington Monument (climbed by Dan Watters), the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and Arlington Cemetery. On the Sabbath they attended the Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day) near the capital.

Junior-Senior Banquet

On May 17, the juniors treated the 13 members of the Class of '92 to a

very non-traditional, junior-senior banquet. The formal dresses and tuxes, the excitement and photographs were typical — but that was all. The banquet took place on a Mississippi-style riverboat on the Grand River west of Lansing, Michigan. While the boat churned its way up and down the Grand River for three hours, the juniors, seniors, staff members, and spouses indulged in pizza, soda, and vegetables and enjoyed a beautifully warm May afternoon and live piano and vocal entertainment.

Vern Patchen was called upon to sing "Fuzzy Wuzzy" one more time, and Wes Coulson, maintenance supervisor, not known as a party lover, said it was the best junior-senior banquet he'd ever attended.

Preparing for 1992-'93

While the seniors are graduated and other students are home for the summer, we are busy planning for

the next school year. The week after graduation, staff members met several days to work on school policies and standards of dress and conduct. This work, which will continue through the summer, is part of our effort to develop more clearly defined expectations for students and more consistent, standardized consequences for infractions.

Some staff changes for next year can be announced: Vern Patchen, after serving the school for 28 years, many of them as boys' dean, is leaving the dorm to Mark Caswell, who has been chosen as the new dean. Mark previously served as a VISTOC in the boys' dorm and lived on campus last year while his wife, Arlene, worked as assistant cook. Not quite ready to retire completely, Brother Patchen will continue on staff as food service manager. Roy Keim of Stockton, California, a former staff member, is slated to return as math teacher. Maryellen Muffley (Bradenton, Florida) and

Marinda Durham (Grand Rapids, Michigan), both 1991 graduates, will be returning as VISTOCS for the 1992-'93 school year. We are still in need of male VISTOCS.

Thanks to Outgoing Staff

Lee Meadows is moving back to Holland, Michigan, after serving as math and drama and speech teacher for three years. We also appreciate the service of Kristi Adams, our food service manager for the past year, and Arlene (McQueary) Caswell, who served as assistant cook. Her service ended just one week before she delivered her second baby, Cory Alan.

Choir and Drama Students Minister in Toronto

During April, 38 choir, Sound, and drama students went to Toronto for a weekend. The vocal groups, under the direction of Peter Wannemacher, sang for church services on Sabbath; Saturday evening the drama students, under the direction of Lee Meadows, performed two one-act plays.

On Sunday the students, along with their directors and chaperones, Michelle Molinar, Teresa Rice, and Lisa Forster, were treated to a visit to Niagara Falls before returning to campus. The next day several students remarked on the experience of spending all day in church, and a number commented very positively about the enthusiastic singing and expressive worship of the brethren in Toronto.

Danny Dávila wrote in the student paper, *The Torch*, "The experience was also an inspiring one of worship and praise. The church worship was alive and moving. The joy of the Lord was clearly seen."



Senior boys coax Vern Patchen to sing "Fuzzy Wuzzy"; Mary Patchen (l.) and science teacher Shelley Whitehead (r.) add their encouragement.



Four freshmen and a paint can: Jennifer Martinez (OK), Kathy Estrada (OK), Claudia Arroyo (IL), and Irmina Guerrero (CA) are supposed to be painting the dorm, but . . .

Edna Kauer Visits Campus

In May we were privileged to have a very special guest: Edna Kauer visited from her home in Oregon. She and her late husband, Stanley J. Kauer, were among the founding forces of Spring Vale. In communication with Elder Lidell when the school was just a dream, the Kauers moved here from Missouri in 1946 to help get the school started.

Elder Kauer served as principal until 1962, when he left to work at Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri. Later the Kauers moved to Oregon.

In June of 1989, on their tour of the West Coast, the SVA Sound had the privilege of singing for Elder Kauer less than a week before his death.

We were pleased to have Mrs. Kauer here to share a few days of life at SVA more than 45 years after she and Elder Kauer came to Michigan to help launch this ministry.

Virginia Lippincott Memorial Donations

Our girls' dean, Mary Werley, was called home to Missouri the last week

of April to be with her mother, Virginia Lippincott. Sister Lippincott, who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, was in a coma for a week, and then passed away.

The family asked that donations be given to Spring Vale's SOS Scholarship Fund as a memorial to her. Our special thanks to all who have contributed so generously in memory of Mrs. Lippincott: Evelyn Mae Blair, Marvin Lippincott, David and Sharon Lotz, Ida Lee Hoskins, Judy

Schmidt, Patricia Linn, Gary and Pamela Bussell, Robert and Adair McElynn, Dr. and Mrs. Albert Carlin, Gregory and Dorothy Christy, and James and Kay Coen.

Boys' Dorm Roof and Energy Conservation

The shingling is completed on the new pitched roof covering the boys' dorm; work on the eaves and gable ends is in progress and should be completed during the summer. As of graduation time, donations to the Energy Conservation/Building Improvement fund were over \$8,000 — a little short of our goal of \$10,000. We appreciate this generous response! It will enable us to complete work on the boys' dorm and to do other much needed building improvements.

Unfortunately, it looks like only one of our buildings, the auditorium, will qualify for the federal energy conservation grant (a \$3 to \$1 match) for which we applied. While this will be a blessing, we're disappointed that we won't be getting grant money for all four of our older buildings.

We can apply for grants for the

other buildings again next year, and we are investigating an energy conservation program made available through our power company. Some of the energy conservation measures we were planning are so cost-effective that we may decide to do them even without federal money. Please pray that we will have wisdom as we consider various options.

Honor Roll/Honors Club

This year the Honors Club (students who achieve a 9.5 grade point average on an 11 point scale) took a one-day canoe trip on the Rifle River and spent three days in Michigan's upper peninsula.

Privileged to go on the longer trip (qualified for Honors Club for at least two quarters during the year) were seniors Eunice Molinar, Brent Pedersen, Kevin Swanson, Dan Watters, and Melissa Winchell; junior Chris Rousseau; sophomores Alice Anklam and Jake Carper; and freshman Robbie Werley.

Send in your Campbell's Soup and other labels

Campbell's Soup labels — as well as Mrs. Paul's, Prego, Franco-American, V8, Swanson, Marie's, Vlasic, and Pepperidge Farm — can be used by Spring Vale Academy to obtain a wide variety of equipment and furnishings for the school.

Please send us your labels. Also, you can put out a box at church or work and invite others to contribute their labels.

Send labels to:
Spring Vale Academy
4150 S. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867

Patchens Build Home on Campus

After 28 years of service to our school, Vern and Mary Patchen were given permission by the school board to build a home on the campus. Located south of the school building near the orchard, the modular house will be the Patchens' home for as long as they live; thereafter, it will be donated for the school's use.

This will allow the Patchens to continue ministering to SVA students — but they won't be quite as much in the thick of things as they have been for the many years they lived in the boys' dorm. We deeply appreciate their long years of dedicated service and their continued commitment even as they look to retirement.



Did the butler do it? A scene from the graduation play.

New Members Join School Board

School board meetings during graduation weekend included two new members: Norman Caswell (Owosso, Michigan, elected secretary) and Art Cummings (Jenison, Michigan), both of whom have served in previous years. Other Michigan board members present were Brian Dais (reelected board president), Elden Fischer, Brian Noble, and Kevin Morrow (elected vice-president). Out-of-state members were Barbara Burrell (Colorado), Larry Moldenhauer (California), Dixie Mease (Texas), and Keith Werley (Texas). Board members Ken Pell (Alabama) and Glenda Caswell (Oregon) were not present. We owe a debt of gratitude to outgoing board members Art Roche (Ohio) and Ken Noble (Michigan), whose terms expired in May. We appreciate their service to the school.

Know Any Teenagers?

Do you know any teenagers in your area who could be blessed by receiving a Christian education at SVA? Do you know any parents who are dissatisfied with the education

their children are receiving in local schools? If so, please contact us right away. Now is the time for us to begin communicating with students and parents about coming to SVA next fall for our 45th school year.

Three Ways You Can Help SVA

As we prepare for Spring Vale's 45th school year, we can use your support in three specific ways:

1. Pray for God's continued guidance and loving care for all of us here. Pray for His blessings so the school will be well prepared to minister to the students He sends us in August.

2. Send us names, addresses, and ages of young people who could benefit from attending SVA.

3. Please help us financially according to your means. We can really use your gifts toward this ministry — especially during the summer when income from student families slows to a trickle and many expenses continue.

Thank you for your loving concern and support of this important ministry.

Richard A. Wiedenheft

Help Wanted

Spring Vale Academy is looking for dedicated Christians who are accomplished in their fields and who have a deep desire to minister to young people. As we prepare for future years, we want to develop contacts with people who are outstanding in their vocations and who want to devote two or more years serving at Spring Vale. Perhaps the time isn't right for you now. But what about in a year or two or five or ten? Could you minister at SVA as a teacher, a dean, an administrator, a cook, or maintenance person? If so, let us know. Now is the time for us to begin talking about the possibilities. Now is the time for you to join our talent bank for the future of our school.

Spring Vale Academy
4150 S. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867
(517) 725-2391

SOUND Tour 1992

The 1992 SOUND tour included 18 presentations during the 20 days from June 1 to June 20. Our travels took us to churches in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The theme of our program was that the Body of Christ should be one voice. To that end, we invited the congregations to join in our praise rather than to simply listen to us as a performing group. We encouraged this by singing a mixture of performance songs as well as choruses and familiar hymns, projecting lyrics onto a screen before the group. We sang in English and Spanish, when appropriate. The brethren consistently expressed appreciation by joining the SOUND and by remarking that a program of praise was worthwhile and enjoyable.

We were especially encouraged by singing before several groups composed of believers from many different congregations. Smaller or isolated congregations remarked that we served as ministers to them.

Our students had opportunity to mix with local youth and even spent some time together at the beach in Corpus Christi. A trip to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, was the first time for many in our group to visit that country.

Completing this year's SOUND tour were Melissa Winchell (senior, Michigan), Donna Burrell (sophomore, Colorado), Rhonda Werley (junior, Missouri), Alice Anklam (sophomore, Oklahoma), Stephen Smith (sophomore, Toronto), and Stuart Minica (junior, Texas).

Mary Werley, the girls' dean at Spring Vale Academy, was indispensable as sound board mixer, driver, girls' chaperone and counselor to all.

Peter Wannemacher, Director



Philippines

Luzon

Here in Luzon, God is continually trusting more souls to our churches. Recently, we baptized five adults and 16 young people.

Last February 26 to March 5, a five-man team went to Bicol, 530 kilometers south of the Philippines, after receiving a call from one of our brethren who spent his vacation there. After much prayer and deliberation, the Board of Trustees of the Calumba church decided we should go. As a result of our survey mission,

30 high school students and 15 adults responded to the gospel invitation.

We plan to return to that area to follow up and organize the believers into a church. The prospect of leading many people to Christ is very bright and promising. God is also sending Christian workers who will dedicate their lives to the gospel work.

This follow-up team will stay longer to help establish the faith of the believers and the many interested people in that area. God willing, this will be the first Church of God (Seventh Day) in the Bicol region. Pray for the success of this mission. Thank you for assisting the work in Luzon. Our efforts are producing good fruits for God's glory and kingdom.

Mike Dizon

Mindanao

Our protracted evangelistic effort conducted in Ozamis City and Tangub City from December 14,



*Baptismal candidates at Calamba, Laguna, Philippines.
Pastor Mike Dizon is standing at the right.*

1991, to April 7, 1992, was very fruitful. Nineteen souls were baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, one in Ozamis City and 18 in Tanguib City.

About 20 people still need further study on the Scripture. Pastor Lucio Esic stayed in Ozamis City to conduct the Bible studies among these interested people. It is our prayer that they will soon accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior for their salvation.

Please include us in your prayers.
Baltazar Wooton

Mizoram, India

Greetings to our brethren in America. We are thankful to all of you for the relief funds we received to help reconstruct church buildings damaged by the last cyclone. Your assistance made it possible to provide help to seven churches, including one in Bangladesh. Four other churches have applied for roofing subsidy.

Since April 1, the Conference opened new office facilities in the same building where my office is located, and appointed two new helpers, one an office clerk. This should relieve me from much of the clerical work to spend more time for administration and home Bible studies.

The Lord's Supper service, which was held in our church here, was attended by 132 members. A baptismal service was held prior to the supper.

In March two new churches consisting of 130 members were dedicated. Churches in several villages and the neighboring countries of Bangladesh and Myamar (formerly Burma) are showing vitality and growth. A steady stream of new converts is being received and baptized into the church.

Despite deteriorating economic

conditions, God's blessings are evident and He is providing for His people and His work, much of it through the generosity of brethren in North America. We are grateful to God for these blessings.

George Hamte

Director to Visit CIS (Russia)

God willing, on August 2, I will begin a one-month journey which will take me to Germany, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Poland before returning to the United States.

The most important stop will be in Russia, where I will meet with three brethren from Germany and Czechoslovakia. We will spend about two weeks making contacts with Sabbath-observing brethren, learning about their history, beliefs, needs, and goals. (There is a possibility that others from the United States will join us when we arrive in Russia.)

We hope to lay a foundation for a lasting and fruitful fellowship. Remember us when you pray.

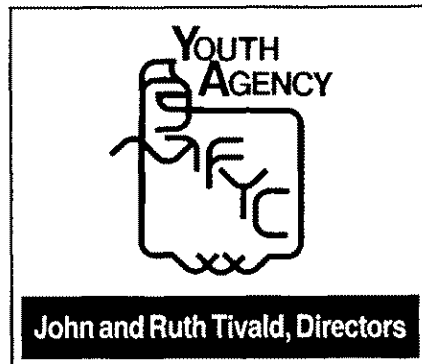
Victor Burford

Correction

The January-February report from Missions Abroad mentioned the 22 Sabbathkeeping congregations which meet in Poland.

A reference to the official ties between the Sabbath Day Christian Church of Poland and the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation inadvertently left the impression that relationship currently does not exist. In fact, the historic organizational ties between the two bodies remain unchanged.

There are no organizational ties between the Polish church and the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day).



"We Are Soldiers Again"

"This was the best camp I've been to." "I really had a lot of fun." Were these comments about the National Youth Camp made because of the many hours of hard work? Hardly. Were they made because of the morning calisthenics or afternoon recreation? Doubtful. Could they have been made because of the great concerts and even better food? Possibly. We believe, however, that this camp was a great blessing because of God's Holy Spirit moving upon the hearts of the young people who attended.

The theme of the camp was "We Are Soldiers Again," using the famous hit song by Holms, Sheppard and Johnson, "Soldiers Again."

In boot camp style, everyone woke up to reveille every morning; took part in calisthenics after breakfast; and participated in work teams every afternoon, building picnic tables, benches, basketball hoops, playground equipment, painting murals, and creating stained glass windows.

Most evenings began with a special concert leading into the word of God with Whaid Rose as the guest speaker. Whaid showed, through God's Word, how we are fighting many spiritual battles such as the battle for our minds and sexuality, and that we must be equipped to be victorious. He presented the whole armor of God and brought every

AGENCY REPORTS



These campers didn't let a little injury stop them from enjoying camp.

message back to our deep need to have Jesus Christ in our lives as Lord and Savior. We realized that no matter who we are or what culture we are from, we are all soldiers fighting this spiritual warfare together and we must stay close to one another in Christ.

Many of the morning services were planned by several of the attending FYC groups, including San Antonio, Texas, Marion, Iowa, and Shawnee, Oklahoma. Sabbath afternoon was an inspiring singspiration exhibiting the many talents of our young people. The importance of all



What better place to make new friends than at youth camp?

the issues we "adults" fuss and fight over seemed to fade away while watching the young people worship in music with special songs of praise.

God blessed in more ways than we could even present in this article. When most areas of the Southwest were experiencing rain, tornadoes, and hail, Camp Cimarron, Dover, Oklahoma, enjoyed a break in the clouds every evening, allowing most concerts to be outdoors. One could literally see the dark clouds all around the area. The Spirit was felt to such a degree that 21 campers turned their lives over to Christ. Six young people were baptized at camp in the Cimarron River. Fifteen others plan to be baptized at their home churches.

Satan threw many fiery darts at this camp months before it began. He attempted to defeat the good things God planned, but through Jesus, we were victorious. Many prayers by the staff calmed the storms, without and within the camp. Even the various injuries that occurred could not stifle the Spirit, but they sure kept Dr. Carlin busy.

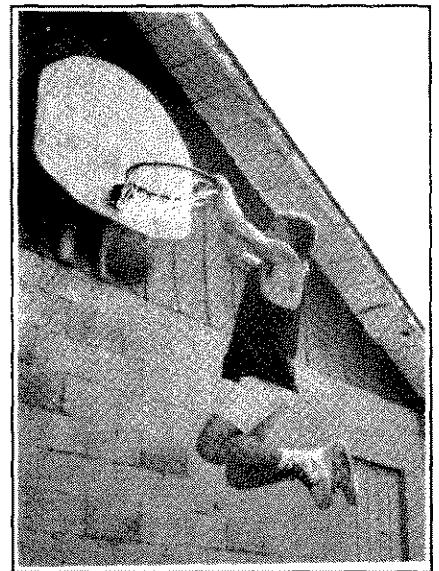
God truly made sure these campers left better equipped to fight the

many battles ahead. We hope they also left with the realization that our spiritual bodies need to work and exercise to be equipped for battle just as much as our physical bodies need to work and exercise.

The more than 105 young people and 20 staff members worked hard, played hard, and worshiped hard during the seven days of Camp Cimarron. Many friendships were made, but most important, we all drew closer to our great and awesome God.

A great amount of hard work went into preparing for this camp. We would like to express our gratitude to the following (order does not suggest priority):

There were those who provided for our comfort needs: The Conroe, Texas, church built bunk beds; Don Nichols, who transported mattresses; J.C. Kanady, maintenance; Irma Cancino and Connie Rodriquez, our excellent cooks; Dr. Albert Carlin, camp doctor; Tim Hinds, who operated the sound equipment; and Mark Burrell and Lawrence Eddy, who worked so faithfully behind the scenes.



Gotta make sure this basketball hoop is hung right!



Children and parents are busy doing people and things projects.

There were the staff members who graciously brought the message of Christ. Elder Alfred Nowak, pastor, Virgil Ward, singing group, the Hinds and the Family of God sang songs, and the staff of the YWCA and Grace Church staff and construction: Bob Norvell, Raymundo Mancha, Lynn Taylor, Kyle Hall, Steve and Lydia Salazar, Naomi Lawrence, Winston Sweet, Roberta Bauman, Clea Endecott, Dale Lawson, and Calvin Burrell, the rest of staff.

There were those who brought the message in song through concerts: The Family of God, Lisa Taylor, Sound, Dávila Brothers, Cornerstone, Randy Sanders, and the Hinds Family.

A special thank you goes to the excellent job performed by the cooks and their helpers who cooked and cleaned almost 24 hours a day, and kept smiling when the rest of us couldn't. Thanks, also, to the many others for working on the facilities and especially, gratitude to God for bringing it all together.

National Youth Week

"The Mission" was the theme for the National Youth Week held April

23-26. FYCers across the United States and Canada participated in similar programs at their local churches during this time.

The Youth Agency sent out gifts for each of our FYC groups to follow, which included the program outlines for the four days, a poster, a banner, a video cassette tapes, and receipt booklets for the hunger lock-in.

Among the many things that we did during this week was a craft night, banquet at a fast food restaurant, and a hunger lock-in where they each collected pledges for the time the group would not eat or leave the place where they were holding the lock-in.

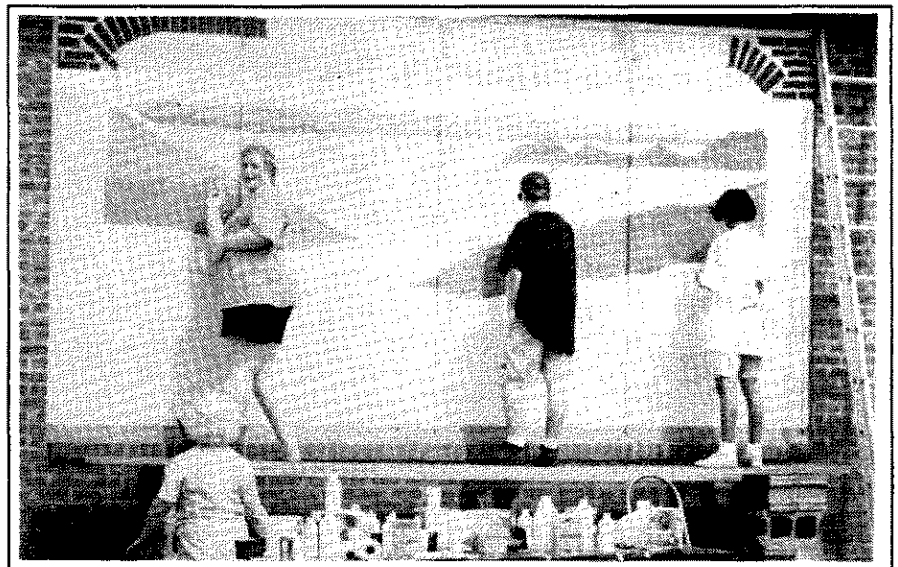
Half the money raised for the hunger lock-in goes to the National Youth Agency and half goes to our church orphanage in Nigeria (through Missions Abroad). As far as we know, the United States and

Canada FYCers are the only donors to this project. These youths make a difference: so far they have raised approximately \$2,500 and some FYC groups have not reported yet.

If your FYCers did not participate in the National Youth Week and you would like more information, write or call the Youth Agency c/o John and Ruth Howard, 2433 Copperopolis Road, Lander, California 95236-9729. Phone: (309) 887-0345.



What is camp without KP duty?



One of the three murals painted at the camp.

AA Agencia Hispana
Hispanic Agency

Oscar García, Director

Tips and Teaching

The last two weekends of May were filled with joy as well as plenty of work. I visited two remote areas away from Denver. The first visit was to Montreal, Quebec, in Canada. Brother Byron Roye, from Hamilton, and I visited a Hispanic congregation that is in the process of being formed. The members are immigrants from three Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. We trust God will bless their work and that in the near future we will hear that many others have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, as a result of this group's preaching and sharing of the Good News.

I visited the churches in Chicago again. This time I went alone (the first time Calvin Burrell accompanied me). On Friday, May 29, I arrived at O'Hare airport where Brother Jesús Dávila, pastor of one of the Hispanic churches, picked me up. That evening I preached at the North Chicago Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day) to a crowd of about 80 to 90 people. My sermon title was "Death to Disunity."

Sabbath morning I attended the Church of God (Seventh Day), an independent group in the city of Cicero, Illinois. My sermon was titled "United in Spirit and Dedicated to One Purpose." Following the morning service, I ate lunch with them and we discussed some aspects on how their affiliation with

the General Conference could be possible. (We received their petition to be accepted as an affiliated congregation on June 19.)

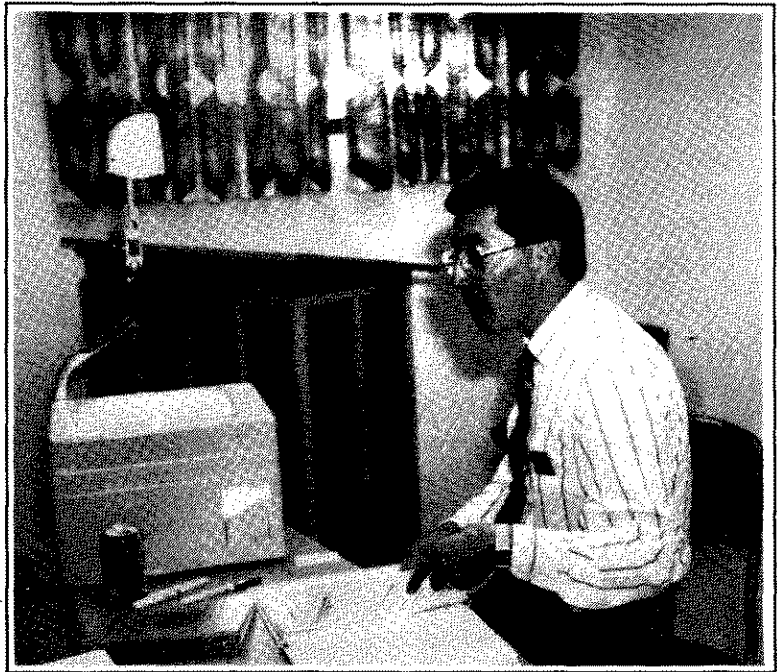
After visiting the Cicero church I went to the Damen Street Church of God, where I enjoyed listening to the special music that was presented, as well as participating in the worship experience with the more than 300 people who were present. There I presented a sermon titled, "Prophets Without Honor, an Unpardonable Sin."

On Sunday, May 31, we began the day with a meeting at the Damen church facilities where workers from the five churches in the area participated. After the first workshop, I discussed with board members from the five churches about a project that would coordinate the Lord's work between these churches so the effectiveness of their labors could be increased. I believe that the results

of these two trips in the field were effective to the work of the church.

At the time of this writing, I am about to finish with the Summer Session classes at Summit School of Theology. I have been teaching a class on Church Administration and Polity for the Hispanic brethren who are in the Pastoral Orientation Program. It has been a busy two weeks, but the Lord has been faithful in providing His strength and blessing the whole session.

Some talks about cooperation between the Publication Agency of the Mexican Church of God (Seventh Day) and the Hispanic Agency have taken place and some agreements have been reached. We will be informing you all about those in our next report. In the meantime, please keep praying for us so we can be effective in serving the membership of our Beloved Church of God (Seventh Day).



Oscar García taught a class on Church Polity at the Summit Summer Session.



PUBLICATIONS

LeRoy Dais, Director

Transition Time

Elder Roy Marrs will become editor of the *Bible Advocate* magazine on July 1, 1992. He has been preparing for this transition by contacting prospective writers, reviewing manuscripts, and communicating with the BA staff. He spent several days at the BAP offices in June to work with the staff. The September issue of the magazine will introduce Elder Marrs' editorship to the readers.

Elder Jerry Griffin is only two issues short of completing 11 full years as editor of the *Bible Advocate*. He did a great job during his tenure as editor. Elder Griffin is tied with Elder Floyd A. Turner, his immediate predecessor, for the third longest tenure as *Bible Advocate* editor. One predecessor served for 23 years, and another for 18 years.

The BAP staff members pray for the Lord's abundant blessings upon Jerry as he assumes his duties as Director of Summit School of Theology. They are grateful that they still can enjoy his friendship here in the same facilities.

Literature Committee Met

The Literature Committee met one day in June, taking advantage of two out-of-state members' presence in Denver for other matters. The committee completed work on two booklet manuscripts, and did considerable work on a third. A new

booklet entitled "Christian Baptism" replaces "The Ordinance of Baptism." Another new booklet, "The Weekly Cycle," replaces "Has Time Been Lost?"

Total Impact of Literature Is Unknown

It is impossible to know the total impact made by the printed messages which come off the BAP presses. Some copies of the *Bible Advocate* may be read by only one individual. Others are shared by several homes. One subscriber recently reported that her copy is shared by at least six homes. Copies sent to other countries where reading material is less plentiful are read and reread, and shared with any number of people.

Recently a program was initiated among Editor's Circle members to share used copies of the *Bible Advocate* and Sabbath school quarterlies by sending them to other countries for evangelistic use. The used copies are saved up by individuals and local churches, then periodically are sent to the BAP office. The BAP Editor's Circle and Missions Abroad jointly finance the cost of sending large quantities to several church leaders in other lands to use in outreach ministries. Anyone interested in participating in this program can contact LeRoy Dais at the BAP office for further information.

Another aspect of sharing involves translating *Bible Advocate* articles and quarterlies into other languages for reproduction and distribution. Over 10,000 combined English and Spanish *Sabbath School Lessons for Adults* are printed and distributed from the BAP office. Camera-ready pages in Spanish are sent to our sister publishing house in Mexico so they can print and distribute another 14,000 copies from there. Some churches in other coun-

tries also translate the lessons into their native languages.

Gospel tracts and booklets also are translated and published in other languages: Spanish, French, German, native dialects in the Philippines, India, and other countries. Only English and Spanish are printed and distributed from the BAP offices at present, but other languages could be printed here if camera-ready copy were provided, and if there is a feasible distribution plan.

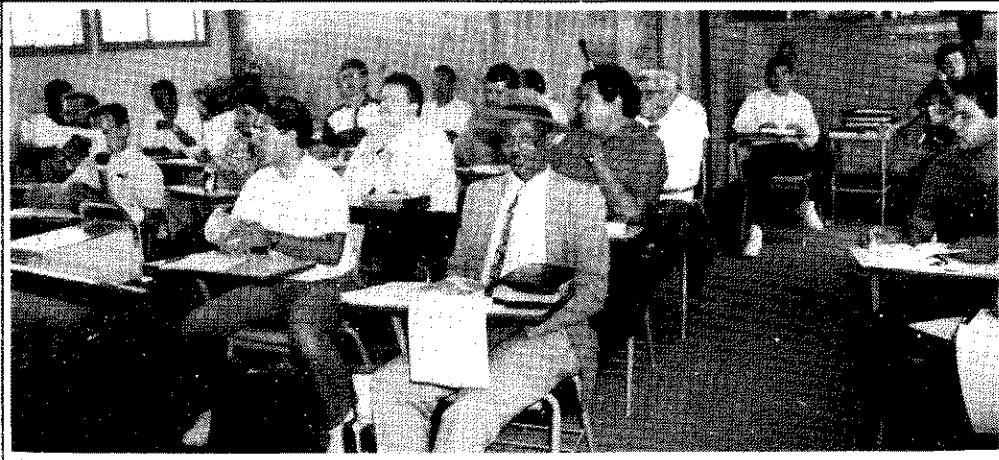
Update on Teacher's Guide for Adult Lessons

By June 1992 the number of standing orders for Teacher's Guides for the *Sabbath School Lessons for Adults* was still inadequate, from a financial aspect, to warrant publishing the guides. The BAP staff is still interested in providing the Teacher's Guides if several more Sabbath schools and/or families decide to purchase the guides, should they become available.

Bible Advocate Offering Support

Offerings for the *Bible Advocate* are still being received in response to the *Bible Advocate* Month mailing in May. No complete report is available at this time, but indications are that only a very small percentage of the readers have made contributions thus far. A follow-up mailing will be sent to the readers who have not responded by August. Strong contribution support during this fiscal year is crucial to the existence of this 129-year-old ministry.

If you haven't responded to the May *Bible Advocate* Fund Drive, please do so today. Your support is vital to this ministry.



Students came from as far away as India to learn how to better teach others the Word of God.

our glorious Lord. We encourage more of you who have a heart for God to attend our classes next year.

On Sunday, June 21, Summit students went on the annual Hike-A-Thon. Sixteen students attempted to climb to the top of Mt. Bierstadt, a 14,016 foot mountain. It took several hours for twelve of them to make it to the top. Five of the men went on and crossed over to climb to the top of Pikes Peak, in spite of an awful lightning storm. They all made it safely to the top, although their hair was standing on end!

The two-week session was filled with a great amount of learning and late nights of studying, but more than that, it was filled with good fellowship and the love of the Lord.

SST at SVA

Summit School of Theology also hosted a one-week Summer Session at Spring Vale Academy in Owosso, Michigan. This was held from June 28-July 3. There were 10 students who attended this session. Hopes for a larger turn-out were high, but by having a smaller group, there was a better chance to have closer fellowship and more individual attention from the instructors.

The classes offered at this session

were slightly different from those of the SST session in Denver. Studies at the second session included "Studies of the Book of Daniel" by Calvin Burrell; "Counseling Skills for Church Leaders" by Art Cummings; "Use and Misuse of New Testament Greek Words" by Paul Heavilin; and "Perspectives on Prophecy" by Richard Wiedenheft.

Most of the students who attended reside in Michigan. However, students also came from Canada, California, and Colorado.

For this one-week session, SVA provided the men with room and board. The meals were provided by the Patchen family. We thank them for their hard work, and we thank Mary Werley for providing comfortable rooms for the students.

We also want to thank everyone who attended either session of Sum-

mit School of Theology this summer. It is very moving to see so many brothers and sisters who have a desire to serve the Lord!

If you are interested in attending the Summit Summer Session next year, or attending the regular classes beginning in September, please contact us at Summit School of Theology, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233. Att: Registrar.

Student Comments

I would like to thank all the staff of SST for a job well done. All services provided for us were excellent. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Denver Women's Association for the meals. They were delicious. I look forward to being here next year. May the Lord continue to bless you all. — *Ruben Yanez, TX*

Summit Pastoral Orientation was awesome! I learned many things that will be very valuable for ministry. The instructors are filled with God's



Israel Hernandez translates for the Spanish brethren.

spirit, are well equipped, and have a tremendous desire to teach. The brothers and sisters who came enriched my life. I'll never forget this incredible, though intense, learning experience. — *Mark McLellan, CO*

My husband came to Summit to qualify for his Ministerial License. I came for a vacation. I was looking forward to some "recreation," i.e., mountain climbing, hiking, socials, etc. I am leaving after two weeks, "re-created" through an emotional healing that occurred while here. What a mighty God we serve. He truly does work in mysterious ways! — *Esther Luginbill, MN*

Asistir A Summit: Fue una experiencia inolvidable! No solo potque adguiri conocimiento de parte. De todos los maestros, sino tambien porque conoci y convivi con muchos hermanos. Y A todos ellos mi deseo se que dios los prospere y los bendiga donde quiera que esten! — *Manases Calvillo, TX*

The one thing that I liked the most was the interaction that I had with some of the leaders of our church. I never associated, the way I did at Summit, with the elders of the church. They saw me as a fellow student and we were equals. They were not my leaders, they were my friends and will always be. I had an opportunity to see a side of them I had never seen. I even discovered that my pastor is funny and human also. Now I can understand the life of a pastor. There were many things I learned not only in the classroom, but also just hanging around with them. I would recommend it for young people. — *Ruben Obregon, TX*

I've gained a greater appreciation for the Hispanic brethren. I feel closer to them. I've also learned a small amount of Spanish through the

translating that took place in class. I especially enjoyed the "Preaching on the Book of James" class by Calvin Burrell. The sermons were incredible. — *Brian Baker, CO*

I really enjoyed these two weeks. Because of this trip, I feel as if I know myself better than before. I also feel closer to my cousins and other people that I have met here. Most of all, I feel closer with the adults, especially my pastor. I learned that, in spite of the church's size, and the size of the school, the love of the Lord is great here. People here have a great desire to learn, and that is what counts. — *Carlos Banda, TX*

I thought it was going to be hard, but God helped me. This experience has helped build my faith. I encourage you to read the story of Moses, in the book of Exodus. I hope to see you at Summit next year, if God is willing. — *Javier Obregon, TX*



Hispanic brethren benefited from classes offered in Spanish.



Elder Dávila was presented with a plaque in honor of the many years of service he has given to Summit School of Theology.

Alumni Association Report

By now, alumni of Summit School of Theology and Midwest Bible College should have received a letter explaining what the Alumni Association has done in the past year and also asking you for a contribution. We have received only a half dozen replies to this letter.

Last year, the alumni of either school responded well to the fund. The Alumni Scholarship Fund is designed to help make it possible for men who are called to the full-time ministry to respond to that call. We hope we have a good response again this year as well, not only from those who responded last year, but from others and local churches.

It is important that we alumni, who believe in the importance of education, support this scholarship fund. We need to show those who are studying for the ministry, as well as the church at large, that we are willing to support an educated ministry.

Thank you to those who have contributed this year.

Paul Vander Horst

God's Way — The Right Way

by Whaid Rose

On Thursday, November 7, Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced to the world that he had tested positive for the HIV virus. To millions of Johnson's admirers, it seems improbable that he, one of NBA's leading stars and someone with such "magic" could truly be infected with the HIV virus. It was unbelievable, the close of a magical career — at the young age of 32. Prayers were said, and expressions of sympathy for Johnson's plight were overwhelming. Young people all across the nation were needing help to cope emotionally with the news. And above all, there was echoed the sentiment that the AIDS crisis had just gained its most eloquent spokesman.

Johnson indeed has a chance to proclaim a powerful message to the world concerning the serious consequences of sexual misconduct. But this most eloquent spokesman has already begun to do more harm than good. This article is not intended to put Mr. Johnson down. But when he makes statements such as, "This could happen to anybody, even me, Magic Johnson," he gives the impression that those who adhere to God's rules for sexual conduct and those who reject it, are sailing in the same boat. It doesn't draw the line. It makes no difference the way we live our lives, because it could happen to anybody. It stops short of pointing

our society to the consequences — the things we suffer from disobeying God. Johnson says, "I'm going to tell young people that safe sex is the way to go." That statement is a terrible disappointment. The use of a condom, or whatever else Magic Johnson has in mind, cannot stop the spread of AIDS. Abstinence is the way to go. It's God's way.

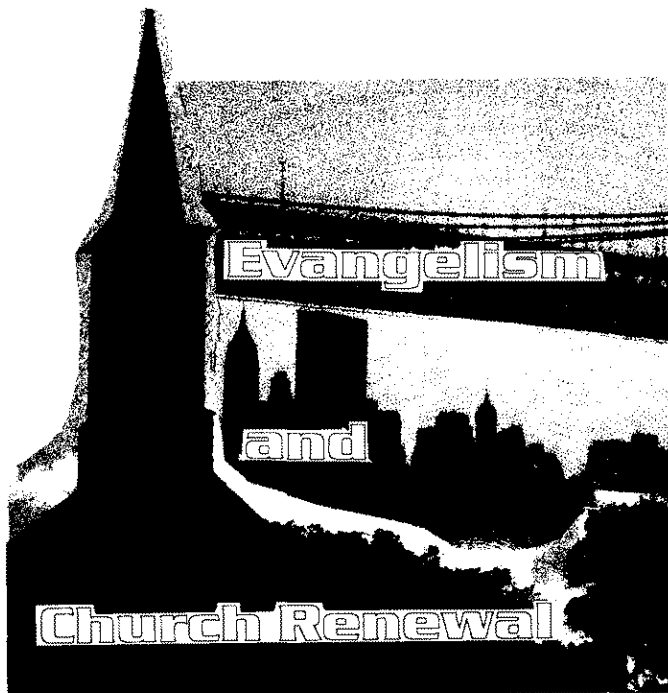
We learn from the scriptures that sex is God's idea. As such, we should allow Him to make the rules. And He has. The pages of the Old Testament are laden with instructions concerning chastity and sexual purity. When in the New Testament the Apostle Paul instructs us to honor God in our bodies (1 Cor. 6:20), it is clear that the context of that verse is sexuality. Thus, sex was designed by God to be experienced and enjoyed only within the context of marriage. It expresses the love, commitment, and infusion of two separate lives into one. It's a whole lot more than fun. To deny those facts is to bring one's self the most serious of consequences.

The people of the world should not seek to legislate their own morality because they do not have the right nor the capacity to do so. Un-

fortunately, they have taken this dangerous path and are suffering the tragic consequences. God is the final arbitrator of morality and He will have the last word.

Johnson contracted the virus by doing something wrong. He has no idea where he caught the virus. There were many women in every city on the NBA tours. What Johnson suffers today proves that God has always been right!

Taken from Rekindled, newsletter for Church Renewal Ministries.



Upcoming Crusades

Whaid Rose, Speaker

July 21-25 — Northeast District
Family Conference

September 4, 5 — Church Renewal
Institute, Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada

October 11-17 — Evangelistic
Crusade, Muskogee, Oklahoma

New Members

Central: Bob Gillam, Jennifer Lynn Hassen, Kelly Ryan Peterson.

Northeastern: Yolanda Alcantara, German Borja, Elvira Carvajal, Elva Flores, Wilfredo Flores, Donald Frith, Tricia Sue Hall, Edith Ortiz, Connie Pribish, James Pribish, Claudia Quinonez, Lucia Roman, Ana Lilian Santibanez.

Southwestern: Yolanda Alcala, Alicia C. Alfaro, David Alvarez, Lorenza Alvarez, Enrique Octavio Arellano, Isaias Bahena, Juan Jose Bahena, Manuel Benavidez, Marthalicia Z. Camero, Eva Chagolla, Brenda Chavarria, Lizi Jo Contreras, Diana C. Cook, Ronda K. Cook, Elia Coronado, Rosseven Coronado, Richard G. Cress, Jesus Cruz, Martha Cruz, Erik Dunn, Sara Elizondo, Carmen M. Esparza, Elda Franco, Guadalupe Navarro Gama, Victor Garcia, Cesar Garza, Jr., Claudette Griffin, Jerald Griffin, Benjamin Hernandez, Hipolito Hernandez, Asuncion Herrera, Petra Herrera, Rodolfo Herrera, Guadalupe Ibarra, Dennie Jones, Esmeralda Lopez, Aurora Teran Martinez, Julio Martinez, Myra Martinez, Andrea Mayfield, Apolonia Melendez, Erick Melendez, Irma Leticia Melendez, Amalia Garcia Morales, Elfego A. Morales, Vicky Muro, Alfredo Olguin, Velia Ontiveros, Silvia Oregon, Angelica Maria Pena G., Rolando Posadas, Israel Rodriguez (Houston), Israel Rodriguez (Midland), Tisbe Rodriguez, Trejo Santiago, Jr., Jose Daniel Sosa, Favian Soto, San Juana Torres, Oscar Villalobos.

West Coast: Juanita Alas, Larry J. Bailey, Sr., Judy Bauer, Daniel Castillo M., Delia Ivette Cortez, Patrick Kenneth Farmer, Rita Joyce Farmer, Rosaura Diaz Flores, Sergio Garcia, Maria Candelaria Hernandez, Abraham Castillo Mendoza, Martha Rossana Molina, Amanda Ortiz, Ana Linda Ortiz, Carlos Valdemar Ortiz, Carisa Regaldo, Maria Angelica Renteria, Norma Raquel Palma Tarin, Ernest Valencia, Marta Valle, Dana Van Cleave, Alfredo Vargas, Carmen Vargas, Jesse Zamora, Myrna Zamora.

Births

Caswell — Carmen Michael Caswell was born May 8, 1992. His parents are Clark and Laura Caswell, Owosso, Michigan. Paternal grandparents are Nelson and Wilma Caswell. Great-grandparents are Alpha Munro and Fulton and Lois Caswell.

Caswell — Cory Alan Caswell was born June 8, 1992. His parents are Mark and Arlene Caswell, Owosso, Michigan. Maternal grandparents are Warren and Kaye McQueary. Paternal grandparents are Norman and Linda Caswell. Great-grandparents are Warren and Cora Stewart, Fulton and Lois Caswell, and Evelyn Werley.

Hayes — Jennifer Marie Hayes was born June 10, 1992, to John and Laurie Hayes of Boise, Idaho. Maternal grandparents are Warren and Kaye McQueary. Paternal grandparents are John and Nancy Hayes. Maternal great-grandparents are Warren and Cora Stewart.

Hassen — James Anthony Hassen was born June 11, 1992, to Andy and Debbie Hassen of Poteau, Oklahoma. James' paternal grandparents are James and Carrie Hassen. His maternal grandparents are James and Barbara Taylor.

Rodriguez — A daughter, Leah Marie, was born in May to Rita and Lorenzo Rodriguez, San Antonio, Texas.

Smedley — Ross Charles Wheeler Smedley was born April 3, 1992, to Tom and Marsha Smedley, Denver, Colorado.

Yañez — A son, Ruben Alejandro, was born April 28, 1992. His parents are Ruben and Theresa Yañez of San Antonio, Texas.

Anniversary

Caswell — Fulton and Lois Caswell, Canton, New York, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary August 26, 1992. A four-generation family reunion is planned for August 13-16 on the Spring Vale campus, with open house in the fellowship hall on the afternoon of August 15.

Wedding

Williamson-Hicks — Connie Williamson and Blaine Hicks were married June 11, 1992, at the Denver, Colorado, Church of God (Seventh Day). Connie is the daughter of Wayne and Mary Williamson of Boise, Idaho.

Deaths

Meier — Evelyn Meier, 85, passed away May 27, 1992. She was a member of the Denver, Colorado, church. She is survived by her daughters, Audrey Louise Holland, Lola May McNeal, and Nora Wallace; 25 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.

Thurman — David F. Thurman, 70, passed away May 28, 1992. Brother Thurman was a member of the Kansas City, Missouri, church. He is survived by his wife, Neal B. Thurman, and three sisters.

Wirth — Jennie E. Wirth, Nevada, Missouri, passed away May 29, 1992. She was 95 years old. Survivors include a son, Bob Wirth; two daughters, Laneta Phelps and Kleetis Wirth; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two nieces and two nephews.

Prayer Corner

Samuel Babu, India — healing

Jean Blalock — healing and encouragement

Hugh Harvey, California — recovering from a stroke

Financial needs of the Bible Advocate Press

Financial needs of Spring Vale Academy

For the Lord to send workers into the harvest

The youth of the Church

The Ministerial Council meeting in September

FMSF

The following donations were made to the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund for the months of April and May:

In memory of Emma Lawson — the Gerry Schlenker family.

In memory of Virginia Lippincott — Keith and Susan Werley.

In memory of Bland Sheffield — Harold and Carol Bidwell, Vernon and Gladys McKheen, and Kenneth and Thelma Severance.

The balance of the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund is \$20,707.38.

The following contribution was made to the Women's Agency:

In memory of Shirley Straub — Charlotte Lydy.

Looking Ahead

August 24, 1992 — First semester at Spring Vale Academy begins.

September 4-7, 1992 — National Hispanic Women's Retreat, Sacramento, NM. Sadelina Salcido, (915) 757-2415.

September 7-12, 1992 — Ministerial Council in Phoenix, AZ.

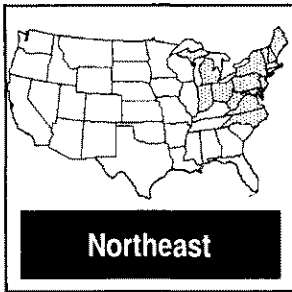
September 14, 1992 — Fall semester at Summit School of Theology begins.

October 9-11, 1992 — Women's Retreat, Camp Hoblitzelle (near Dallas, TX). Deborah Kurtright, (713) 674-5978.

November 26-29, 1992 — Spanish Convocation, McAllen, TX.

June 7-18, 1993 — Summer Session at Summit School of Theology, Denver, CO.

June 28-July 3, 1993 — General Conference Convention, St. Paul, MN.



Northeast News

Spring has finally arrived in Michigan. Scripture says: "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come" (Song of Solomon 2:11, 12). With the return of spring, we think of renewal and rebirth. Here at the **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, church we have had three of God's children come forward for baptism on April 18. They are Cindy Miller, Christi Keely, and Merrill Ivey. Brother Paul Heavilin officiated at the ceremony. The baptism was followed with a reception for the new members.

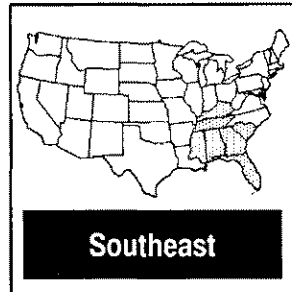
Approximately 90 people attended the Michigan Regional Meeting on May 2. The Spring Vale Sound came and everyone enjoyed their performance. We had visitors from West Virginia besides those from Michigan. It was good to fellowship with each one.

Margie Coulson was honored with a surprise party June 6, after church. She recently retired. She has been the local church treasurer since 1966. Everyone expresses our heartfelt

thanks for her dedicated service through the years.

Our youth group is busy. They participated in the lock-in in March to raise money for the orphanage in Nigeria. A few weeks later, they got together for a pizza party. The young adults are not to be out-done! They have a pizza party scheduled for sometime in June. The Busy Bees and Seekers are planning their last event for the season: a picnic at a local park. They have had an enjoyable time this year, meeting at the West Olive church. The Seekers earned their first badge, which was the Bible badge. They worked hard, but had fun at the same time.

Jeanne Vander Horst



Southeast Events

The annual ladies retreat at the **Oak Grove, Alabama, Church of God (Seventh Day)**, was held the last weekend in April. We received so many blessings from our Father in Heaven. We laughed, wept, and helped each other in so many ways. Our prayer huddles gave us insight about what others are

going through in this life and how much we need our Lord and Savior.

The retreat began on Friday evening with registration and supper, after which Ethel Lawson gave us an opening welcome. Rosemary Conklin presented the devotional.

Sabbath morning's service began with Arline Dick reading the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. A discussion followed.

Doris Lowery presented a workshop entitled "Love Endureth All Things." She read Hebrews 12:11, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." She asked, "Why do Christians suffer?" God allows suffering to teach us the power and faithfulness of God and to help us learn to trust Him. She pointed out that it is difficult to patiently endure problems in our lives. Apostle Paul said we are able to comfort others after we have suffered. The group discussed their own hurts after hearing what Doris had to say.

Terri Wiley gave a heartwarming devotional. She stressed that perseverance is keeping your eye on the goal. To endure is the holdout of pain and suffering. She gave us several scriptures that showed how Christ responded with love and compassion to others' unkindnesses and cruelty. She also presented a song

The following poem was presented at the Southeastern District Women's Retreat:

Sweetest Name

by Polly Belotti

**Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And from Him all blessings flow.
He gives meaning to our life,
And helps us through our troubles and strife.
Oh, what would we do without His love,
That hovers over us like a motherly dove?
I can't imagine how it would be;
If my precious Savior turned His back on me.
But His love surrounds us one and all:
Why He even knows when a sparrow falls.
He will never leave us to walk alone,
He is closer to us than the nearest phone.
So in this life we will discover,
That we need Jesus like a book needs a cover.**

that complimented her theme.

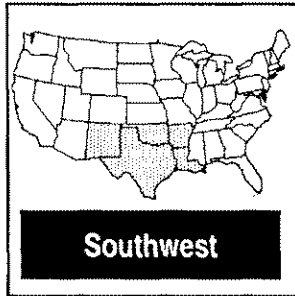
Other workshops were lead by Louise Beal and Helen Walker. Louise gave the dictionary's definition of love and an order of importance that we should place on love in our lives. Helen's topic was "The Power of Love."

The workshops, testimonies, songs, poems, prayers, and fellowship will long be remembered by all who attended.

Phyllis M. Pettit

Elder Dale Lawson has resigned as the District Coordinator for the **South-eastern District**. William C. (Bill) Hicks has been assigned to this position. His job will begin July 1, 1992.

Elder Lawson will continue to pastor the Chattanooga, Dayton, and McMinnville churches.



Southwest Works

A prayer team ministry is underway at the **Houston (English), Texas**, church. This ministry exists to provide opportunity to pray for leadership and congregational involvement of the local church, as well as the needs brought to the ministry from the prayer request cards turned in by the congregation.

Margaret Crisp is leading this ministry. Monthly prayer meetings are held before services on the first Sabbath of the month.

The last week of April

was the beginning of two small group classes. One class, "Growing Strong in God's Family," meets on Tuesday evenings. This class emphasizes timeless Christian basics such as Bible reading, scripture memorization, and prayer. Fifteen individuals are enrolled in this class.

The second class meets on Thursday evenings and has nine individuals enrolled. The class discusses the topic of "Love Hunger." This small group grew out of an adult LifeChange elective class. It provides a multifaceted approach to changes for the body, mind, and soul. It is not only about losing weight, but includes other aspects of codependency tendencies.

A new series of lessons is being taught to the Chapel Class on Sabbath mornings. During the months of June and July, the class will explore Old

Testament characters. To add interest to the lessons, each character is researched and taught by a different person. In August, the class will study the video series, "I Have Decided to Live Like a Believer," by Tony Campolo.

The YouthLife Summer Class will be studying the video series, "Who Changed the Price Tags?" by Tony Campolo. They will be learning proper attitudes about work and money as well as the value of the family and the church. How to accomplish and realize those values will be highlighted in a following presentation of "Who Is Jesus?" This course will show the students that knowing Jesus as a friend, teacher, and Savior is what "real" life is based upon.

"Bummer Summer — Not!" is the theme for the children's summer Sabbath school program. Directors Diana Cruz and Larry and Vickie Moore are planning a great summer with an active learning experience in mind. Kids will travel from one classroom to another learning Bible lessons, hands-on crafts, skits, music, and more.

Although the weather was rainy outside, the ladies enjoyed a cheerful brunch May 17. The 16 ladies and two (well behaved) children met at the Strawberry Patch restaurant to make plans for the coming year. Plans are being made to meet again to discuss organization and scheduling of meetings, as well as

Did you receive a "Bible Advocate Month" letter in May? Have you responded with an offering?

The *Bible Advocate* magazine ministers to at least 16,000 homes each month. Many copies go to elderly folks who have a very limited income, and to prisoners, who have no income. Others are sent to readers in countries from where they are not allowed to send money, even if they had it.

Individuals and families who give donations to the magazine are extremely important partners to this vital ministry. Many hunger for the spiritual nourishment provided by these printed pages. You can help fill an urgent need.

Send your donation to Bible Advocate Press, P. O. Box 33677,
Denver, CO 80233.

adopting a project for the coming year.

The Church of God (Seventh Day) Ceralvo, **San Antonio, Texas**, sends you greetings and this update of our latest activities.

April 26 was a memorable day for all who participated in the Children's Competition Day. Over 30 children participated in the spelling bee, Bible trivia, seek-a-book, and the challenge (an outdoor obstacle course). Gloria Muñoz, Joshua Silva and Caleb Cortez were winners in these events.

Taking part in the Lord's Supper service was the children's choir. The hours of practice paid off as the congregation appreciated the melodious voices of the children. Their singing made a special and inspirational event more so.

The women's conference held in May at San Antonio, Texas, was a success. The theme of the conference was "Women of the Bible, Women of Today," and focused on the role of women and their importance to the unity of the family and the church. Women today are just as important as they were in Biblical times.

The conference was sponsored by the congregations of Ceralvo, Willard, and Muskogee in San Antonio.

The language barrier is no barrier to these conferences. All sessions, discussions, and devotional ser-

vices are in both Spanish and English. The purpose of these conferences is for women to communicate and receive spiritual edification as they relate their experiences, regardless of cultural background.

Pray that such events will continue to remain a success. Also pray for those who participate.

The **Tulsa, Oklahoma**, Seekers are at it again. This time their project was participation in the community project, Operation Clean-sweep. Youngsters and parents volunteered to pick up trash along a portion of roadway in their area. Participants were given tickets for a Tulsa Drillers' baseball game.

Following the cleanup project, the youngsters enjoyed a kite flying contest at a ballfield near the church. Everyone provided their own kite, either purchased or homemade. Prizes were given for the Highest Flyer, Dive Bomber, Longest Tail, and other categories.

The Tulsa church had a unique experience during the Lord's Supper service. The electric power went out due to a storm that evening. The pastor reports, "It was a blessing to see the spirit of cooperation in working together as we used headlights, flashlights, lanterns, and candles so we could continue the service. I was almost disappointed when the lights came back on

after the 45 minute power outage. Overall, I would say the electrical problems enhanced rather than detracted from the service in which we celebrated our 'common union with our Lord and with His church' (1 Corinthians 10:16, 17)."

The **Grand Prairie, Texas**, congregation is proud of its two high school graduates. Eunice Molinar graduated from Spring Vale Academy and Carrissa Falcon graduated from a local high school.

The local church welcomes John and Ruth Tivald and family to the Dallas area and the Grand Prairie church. John and Ruth are moving to the area from California. John and Ruth are the directors of the Youth Agency of the General Conference.

The weekly Bible studies are well attended. The studies are held each Wednesday evening.

The church's parking lot is being expanded and improved. When finished, it will extend across the entire front of the church building and will have a sidewalk beside it.

On May 9, Raymond Mancha, youth coordinator for west Texas and New Mexico, traveled to El Paso, Texas, to meet with the youth leaders and young people in the three churches in the area.

In the morning service, he fellowshipped with the Central Church and in the afternoon he visited with the Socorro Church. It was a great blessing for him to meet the fine youth in these churches.

Luis Mendoza, district board member, arranged a meeting on Sabbath evening during which time Brother Mancha met with the youth leaders. Several items were discussed, such as registration with the National Youth Agency, this year's youth camp, and attendance at quarterly meetings.

The district is blessed to have two active and enthusiastic coordinators such as Brother Mancha and John Winfrey. They have made plans for an exciting youth activity at the Super Sabbath in Dallas, as well as plans are already being made for the winter retreat to be held in the San Antonio, Texas, area.

Twenty-one of the district's pastors and leaders met at the St. Crispin's Conference Center near Wewoka, Oklahoma, on May 26-28 for a retreat. Two pastors from the Ft. Smith's area Southside Church of God (Seventh Day) were guests of the retreat.

Discussions included "The 50-Day Spiritual Adventure" program, women's roles in the Bible, the new financial plan, ministerial council agenda, and the purpose of the local

church. Times of devotion and prayer also were shared.

May 17 was the last scheduled work day at the Dover Campgrounds. Twenty-four people came to help paint the inside of the dining hall and two dorm rooms, and to clean dorm rooms, bathrooms, and auditorium. Due to bad weather, only half of the dining hall was reroofed.

The maintenance committee wishes to express their great appreciation to everyone who helped this year, either physically or financially. Many big improvements have been made at the camp.

The Fort Smith, Arkansas, youth visited the Heifer Project International, located near Morrilton, Arkansas.

The Heifer Project fights poverty in many areas of the world, including the United States, by giving a heifer (or other suitable farm animal) to those in need. Those who receive such a gift must, in turn, pass along a gift of the offspring to others in need.

The project devotes most of its resources to researching and teaching the most effective ways to use limited resources of land, animals, water, etc. A 1,225 acre ranch near Morrilton is maintained for these purposes.

Excellent tour guides and facilities made the trip enjoyable, instructional and inspirational for the youth.

The Conroe (English), Texas, church has completed a big project for the Dover, Oklahoma, campground. Members in the congregation constructed bunk beds and purchased mattresses for the beds. This was an effort to get the camp ready for the National Youth Camp that began June 7.

Walkin' in the Light

The Wister, Oklahoma, FYC is sponsoring a retreat the weekend of September 25-27, at Lake Wister State Park's Victor Group Camp. We are looking forward to a great time of fellowship with the Lord and each other.

Due to camp limitations, we are asking for pre-registration by September 1. The cost for the weekend is \$15 per person.

Everyone needs to bring his or her own bedding, towels, and personal items. Also bring your Bible and pen and paper. We ask that radios, cassette players, TV's, etc., be left at home.

Send your registration to: Church of God (Seventh Day), P.O. Box 608, Wister, Oklahoma 74966. Phone for more information: (918) 653-2267.

God has been doing many wonderful things at the Dallas (Texas) Oak Cliff Church. Our attendance has steadily increased since the beginning of the year.

Minerva Alvarado was elected president of our ladies' group. The ladies have been working to raise funds to remodel the church. We have been selling homemade tamales once a month, among other types of sales.

We want to thank Emanuel Trevino and George Alvarado, members of the church, for their help in remodeling the chapel. It was completed in time for the Lord's Supper service.

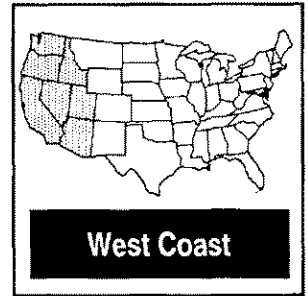
Nineteen participated in the Lord's Supper service.

On May 16, Daniel Fernandez was dedicated to the Lord. His parents are Enrique and Juanita Fernandez.

We have organized a junior group. On May 23, we treated the children from age 6 through 12 to a potluck lunch. Afterwards we took pictures of the children. We plan to send the pictures to other churches so the children can meet and fellowship with other Christian friends.

If you live or are visiting in the Dallas Oak Cliff area, stop by and visit with us. Contact Cirilo Limon, (214) 224-1628, or Jose Limon, (214) 291-0320, for service information.

Bernice Limon



West Coast Update

The attendance for the Sacramento, California, Church of God (Seventh Day) averaged 94 for the first four months of 1992. We have set a goal to reach 110 for the average attendance by the end of 1992.

A second pastor has been added to serve with Pastor Rick Straub. On April 14, Elder Clay Smith and his family arrived from Kansas City, Missouri, to begin service with the Sacramento congregation.

The Seekers (ages 8-12) and the Searchers (ages 7 and under) held a picnic on May 17. Twenty-three Seekers and Searchers enjoyed baseball, swimming, fishing, and boating.

The Harrisburg, Oregon, church hosted their annual "Friend's Day" service. With a completely changed schedule, a special worship program, and a delicious lunch, we experienced another great time of fellowship. Almost 200 people attended the service.

The ladies of our church continue to be active. One way they continue to

support and surprise each other through the year is through the "Secret Sisters" program. On May 17 the ladies met to reveal the identity of the secret sister they had for last year.

"New" is the key word for the Lodi, California, congregation during June. They started the month off with a "new" summer camp fund-raising season. A barbecue dinner, pie social, and church auction was held June 7. Hamburgers and hot dogs, plus the trimmings, started the afternoon off. Those who still had room, enjoyed pie and ice cream. While let-

ting the meal settle, Lodi's silver-tongued auctioneer, Mylo Fischer, auctioned items donated for the event.

June was the final month for the "new" Sabbath schedule. Attendance for the added 8:30 AM worship service averaged 50. Several of our "regulars" were not attending at all (or only sporadically) before. While there is no doubt that the added service meant more work, the work has led many more of us to become involved in leadership or service to one another. The added service provided us with choices — choices as to the time of our worship and the style of our worship. We may try this again in the fall.



Canadian Activities

A new District Youth Coordinator for the Canadian District has been appointed for a two-year term. He is John Leteta, 18122-81 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5T 1S4. His telephone number is (403) 487-3676.

The Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Church of God (Seventh Day) held its second couples' retreat on April 24-26, 1992. It was held at Deer Valley Meadows Christian Camp in Alix, Alberta. Couples attended from the Calgary and Parkland churches. The turnout was smaller than expected but the retreat was a blessing to all who attended.

Friday evening was restful as it brought in the Sabbath. On Sabbath, the weather cooperated for an outdoor session of courses and a stress test. Participants found that even positive things can be counted as stressful.

Saturday night found the group gathered in the lodge for a sing-a-long. Sunday morning's session was again held outside. We discussed the beginnings of our marriages and where they can go in the future.

After lunch, it was clean up time before heading home.

We have reserved the weekend of April 30-May 1, 1993, for our next retreat. We are planning to include the entire church family at the next retreat, with separate sessions to minister to all. If you are planning to be in our area then, come join us. For more information, contact Pastor Gary Riggs, Calgary Church of God (Seventh Day), 2515 Centre St., NW, Calgary, Alberta T2E 2V1.

As you plan for the eventual distribution of your estate, consider leaving a portion to . . .

The Pooled Endowment Fund for the Ministries of the Church of God (Seventh Day)

The Pooled Endowment Fund can provide support for years to come for such ministries as the *Bible Advocate*, Missions Abroad, Summit School of Theology, and others. The principal in the Fund is invested wisely, and the earned interest supplements the operating funds of the ministries.

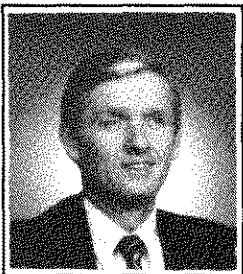
Would you like information about writing a will, or about how you can include the Pooled Endowment Funds in your will? If so, fill out the information below, clip out this ad, and send it to: Planned Giving, P. O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

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Oldsmobiles and Cornflakes

Though I'm not much of a watcher of television, there were two recent advertisements on the tube that caught my eye. These two ads used opposite strategies for promoting their products, and both were apparently effective.

Oldsmobile used the appeal of something new. Recognizing that the new generation of car buyers faces a choice among many options (body style and color, motor size, and a myriad of extra features), Oldsmobile knew that it must market its product as "the greatest of the latest." If an automobile manufacturer stands pat with yester-years' model, its sales will certainly decline. Because "new" is the name of the game in cars (and also, perhaps, to encourage customer loyalty) Oldsmobile pictured its shiniest number off the assembly line and told us

**THIS IS NOT YOUR
GRANDFATHER'S
OLDSMOBILE!**

Cornflakes used a different approach — that of the "oldy, but goody." One of the original favorites for breakfast cereal, it evidently believed that many of today's generation had never tasted cornflakes, or that those who had were later lured away by the many choices that line today's grocery shelves. So the commercial was aimed to win back customers to the tried and true — the old, but faithful.

There are a few classics around that are often imitated, but never improved. Each time we return to

them, their appeal is displayed afresh. The Cornflakes jingle goes

**TASTE THEM AGAIN — FOR
THE FIRST TIME!**

These commercials illustrate a couple of lessons for the church of God, as well. As Christians we have the privilege of retasting cornflakes and the challenge of buying new Oldsmobiles. There are some things that ought to change over time in serving our Lord, and there are some other things that must never be changed. Here are some examples of each:

CORNFLAKES

Under this category we may list those items that comprise the essence of the Christian message: The truth of One God, the Creator; One Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior; the message of salvation and holiness for humanity; and the abiding presence of God's Spirit. These are classic truths that can never be altered or bettered.

For most of us who read this, there are more: the truth that the first week of history ended with God ceasing from work as a Sabbath example and gift for us; the truth that the Savior who died for us is coming again to consummate His work by redeeming our bodies and restoring our earth; and the truth that only the righteous shall enter eternal life: the finally rebellious will not live forever in torment.

These are some of the old truths that we have long been taught from Scripture. Now, may we taste them again? They are delicious and nutri-

tious. It may seem to us that each new taste is as pleasant as was the first!

OLDSMOBILES

Here we list the possessions of the Christian church that relate to its methods, rather than its message. Some examples are: the design of the building in which we meet; the timing and outline of our Sabbath worship service; the specific strategies we employ to win others to Christ; and the organizational structure we use for both the local and national churches. These are important matters we will decide as churchmen, but they are more related to the culture in which we operate than to the unchanging message of Scripture.

Because times change and cultures change, it follows that some aspects of the church's procedures must change over time. The most important question we may ask about our church's structures and methods is this one: are they functional and effective?

As we adjust our operations to meet the needs of people in this generation, we should be prepared to hear, "This is not my grandfather's church."

CONCLUSION

This then is the challenge for the church: to understand and teach the truths of the Biblical message without addition or subtraction; and to find methods, however new or bold, which will effectively transmit these truths into today's world.

Both "defenders of old truths" and "pioneers of new trails" are needed.

Calvin Bunnell

Ministerial Internship Fund

Calling



Teaching



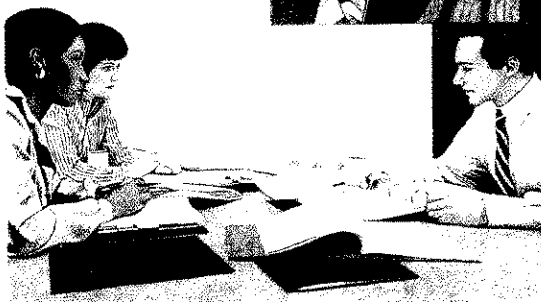
Visiting



Church Administration



Counseling



Created by the Ministerial Council in 1990, this fund is under the direction of the Internship Committee. It is used to place, train, and employ third-year ministerial students under the guidance of experienced pastors.

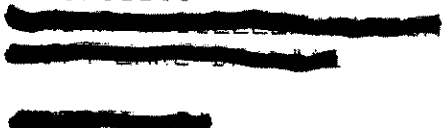
About \$20,000 is needed to give each intern the field training he needs. Your voluntary contributions are the only source of income for this fund.

Invest in the future Ministers of the Church

Send your donations to:

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