

We Truly Are Blessed

By the time this issue of the *HFM* is in the mail, the election of a president will be history, plans will be made (probably carried out) for Thanksgiving, and we'll be looking back over the year, asking, "How did time go so fast — seems like only yesterday . . .!"

As in the poem, "Footprints in the Sand," the Tolbert family had times when only one set of footprints appeared in the sand — times when God "picked us up and carried us." But in every circumstance, there is something for which to thank God. As I write this in mid-October, it isn't too early to reflect on what God has done for us.

The year started out with the loss of a loved one. It was difficult to see him suffer but Herb lived his life for his Creator and secured the promise of eternal life. Praise God for His comfort and His promises.

I have a "proverb" on my bulletin board that reads, "Faith can move mountains. Doubt can create them." My husband and I moved up and down "mountains" as he faced surgery this spring. It was a time of faith one day and doubt the next. We're thankful for answered prayers and complete recovery; but more important, we're thankful for the lessons of compassion and patience we learned during this scary time. Praise God for not abandoning us when we are afraid.

There was the time when it seemed that the BAP staff was plagued with illnesses. God came through again. He blessed each one as the need arose and He blessed as the work continued to progress smoothly while we were without a couple of workers. God made us

strong enough to get the job done, and weak enough to rely on Him for strength. Praise God for lifting us up when we are weak.

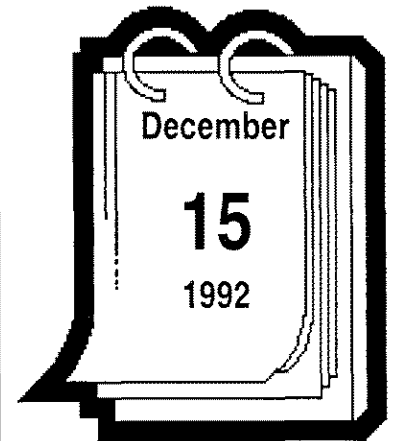
There were the "good" times as well. Early in July we were blessed with the arrival of a healthy, beautiful granddaughter. I'm thankful Laura has a mother and father who value raising their children themselves rather than sticking the kids in daycare for someone else to raise. I'm thankful to have another daughter who chose nursing for a career. She has the talent and compassion for tending to the sick. With a loving husband, daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren, I'm blessed all year long! Praise God for the love of families.

There was the vacation in late summer when George and I set out to see God's handiwork in the Black Forest State Park and the monument at Mount Rushmore. We were convinced that God has a sense of humor as we watched the antics of burros and observed the funny-looking buffalo in Custer State Park. We were able to relax and enjoy God's creation, be it in the form of animals, vegetation, or mountains. Praise God for giving us rest.

Through hard times and good times God is with us. We are His children. He is a loving Father who cares about what happens to us, supplies our needs, and knows our desires. Truly we can say along with the songwriter, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Gina

Deadline for the Jan.-Feb. 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 of God (Seventh Day) exists to provide training, services, resources, and materials to assist our congregations and members in accomplishing our mission.

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Participation through letters, news items, and articles is both welcome and appreciated. Address all correspondence to *The Harvest Field Messenger*, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.



Where Is Our Vision of the Kingdom?

by Rolando Barahona

*Pastor of the Hispanic
East Los Angeles, California, church*

I have a burden about our work that is based upon a recent experience. I would like to share it with you.

I have a close relationship with some brethren from a Protestant church where I rent my church office. I've compared our work, interests, and the love we have for reaching lost souls with the message of the Kingdom of God. I've asked myself, "What is each church group doing to make disciples for Christ?"

On one occasion when I was talking to their pastor, he asked me how old was our church as an organization. Right away I started to feel sad because I know that our church has about 135 years of history.

When the pastor learned our age, he exclaimed, "Brother Barahona, then you must have a large membership for the honor and glory of the Lord!"

Brothers, you must believe me. I felt ashamed. I responded that here in the U.S. and Canada our membership is only around 5,700 members. Just imagine, brothers, that little quantity for Christ! Is this how little Christ is worth for the Church of God (Seventh Day)?

I asked the pastor, "What about you? How many members do you have in this country only?"

He answered me, "90,000 members."

When I reflected on why that big difference between our

churches, I realized that the difference is based on the different vision we have about the kingdom. This has very serious implications that are affecting us today and will affect us tomorrow.

Our vision of the gospel of God has been poor, as has been our response to Christ's order to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (etnos), . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Our vision has responded to our beginnings by stereotypes of biblical truths left from preachers who taught and interpreted our teachings. Their expressions were absolutes — "Thou shalt and thou shalt not, with little emphasis on grace — so our ability to share the proclamation of the holy gospel to the lost didn't reach out to the nations.

Perhaps our disobedience left out the Holy Spirit, resulting in the state of distress in which our church became immersed, resulting in a lack of growth.

The Gospel that Arrived Late

Maybe this subtitle sounds strange but in fact, it is an undeniable truth. The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which was preached by Him and later by the apostles and disciples, arrived late to our church.

I say this because for many years we became immersed in the depths of ignorance by believing and teaching that we were saved by the Law alone. But God had mercy on us and brethren were illuminated by the Lord. The full gospel was discovered, clearing the way to the truth of God's Word (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

While other denominations moved forward, preaching the

We have heard the gospel message, accepted it for ourselves, but haven't responded to the command to tell the world.

gospel of grace (albeit without total obedience to God), our church became so occupied in activities without objectivity, such as disagreements and divisions, that we overlooked the grace of God.

The Gospel that Arrived to Stay

God is awakening us to a new era, the era of the gospel and our need to proclaim that gospel. Today a real motivation that Jesus Christ be exalted should be in every member of our church (1 Peter 2:9, 10).

It is understood that if we are in Christ, we are new creatures. If we are in Christ, we are the light and the salt of the earth. We must work hard to make the Church of God greater. Our little number of Christians must be duplicated, triplicated, and so on. The parable of the talents has a message that concerns us and we should pay attention to it (Matthew 25:14-30). We have heard the gospel message, accepted it for ourselves, but haven't responded to the command to tell the world.

Dear brethren, the gospel came to stay among us and with it is the challenge to reach out to as many souls as possible for the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to establish goals and work on strategies to effectively respond to this challenge.

In order to see how big our responsibility is, briefly take note of the world population growth this century. The January 1900 world population was 1.600 billion. By the middle of the century, it had increased to 2.565 billion. In 1991, this number was 5.384 billion souls, increasing by over 50 million from the previous year, 1990.

For a biologist, this is an explosion of the species. For a theologian this represents a tremendous increase of souls who someday will be presented before judgment to give account of their lives. Here is where the true application of the parable of the watchtower in Ezekiel 33:1-20 takes place.

Dear brethren, I conclude this article by inviting you, with all my heart, to give thanks to God for the love He has for the Church of God (Seventh Day). Above all, thank Him for giving us the precious understanding that we are saved by His grace which He gave through His only Son, Jesus Christ.

I encourage each one of us to make our church a true worship altar so many souls will come to worship Christ with us. God bless the Church of God (Seventh Day). Amen.

The above article is also appearing in the October-December issue of Mensajero Hispano.

You Can be a Partner in a Sharing Ministry

by LeRoy Dais

The *Bible Advocate* editor and the BAP staff have many partners in their ministry, but there is a great need for more.

The Editor's Circle is a special inner circle of partners for the editor and staff. These partners are men and women who are concerned about sharing the gospel message with more people through the *Bible Advocate*. They underscore their concern by committing financially to help share the magazine with more readers.

How Does the Editor's Circle Help the Bible Advocate?

The funds contributed by Editor's Circle members are used to support the following commitments and activities:

- All individual subscription increases since July, 1987 (3,030 at present);
- All individual subscriptions mailed to foreign countries (880 at present);
- Shared cost with stateside clubs that subscribe to 20 or more copies per issue (100);
- Periodic newsletters to Circle members;
- Promotion to enlist Circle members;
- Promotion to solicit new readers for the magazine;
- Bonus gifts for Circle members;
- Stationery, office supplies, and postage.

How Does It Work?

An Editor's Circle member makes a commitment to contribute a specific amount to the Circle Fund each month for one year. The suggested amounts are \$5, \$10, \$20, \$30, or \$40 or more. Usually, several go higher than \$40 per month — even as high as \$100 per month.

At present, the Editor's Circle Fund pays for about one-fourth of the 16,000 *Bible Advocates* produced and distributed each month, along with the related expenditures listed above.

Unfortunately, contributions from the 237 '92 Circle members will fall considerably short of covering the demand placed on the Circle Fund this year. A reserve built up earlier will help meet the demand for this year.

What of the Future?

Information that has come to light in recent years, and especially during this election year, indicates the U.S.A. has become a "has-been-Christian" nation. A majority of the citizens may still claim to be Christian, but much of the claim is in name only — not in actual practice. There is a tremendous need for evangelization right in our own communities.

The *Bible Advocate* has impacted many lives, and it is still doing so today. More of these printed "missionaries" need to be sent out to make an impact for Christ. However, subscriptions to the magazine have not been promoted in the last two years because of lack of funds to print and distribute more copies. More men and women with a concern to share the gospel need to join the Editor's Circle and put their concern into action.

We are looking for more than 300 concerned men and women to join the Editor's Circle in 1993. This many are needed just to maintain the current level of distribution. Growth in readership will be accomplished only as Circle membership grows to 400 . . . 500 . . . and beyond.

How Can You Help?

By enlisting as a member of the Editor's Circle for 1993, you will help pay the cost of subscriptions the Circle already has obligations to honor, and hopefully also provide more free *Bible Advocate* subscriptions as well.

You can help make 1993 a banner year for Editor's Circle. It doesn't cost much to be a Circle member. As little as \$5 a month pays for five subscriptions to the *Bible Advocate*; \$20 monthly will pay for 20 subscriptions. Why not make a list of trivial things for which you freely spend money, then determine how you might make Editor's Circle a priority. If concerned Christians don't make sharing the gospel a priority, it won't happen.

Pray about it, then sign up for the amount you feel led to give. Whether you give \$5 or \$100 per month, each dollar will help spread the gospel. Why not start the new year off right by signing up now? Fill out the coupon on the back cover of this magazine and mail it this week.

Should We Have a Delegate System?



During the 1991 General Conference Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, the following motion was adopted:

WHEREAS the size and scope of the business of the General Conference is increasing and

WHEREAS a delegate system would more fairly represent the growing and diversified geographic membership;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 1991 General Conference request the President of the Conference to appoint a committee to prepare for a delegate system to conduct the business of the Conference in session; further

This report and proposal be printed in *The Harvest Field Messenger* in 1992 for the membership to have input in, further

The proposal be presented to the Conference in 1993 with necessary amendments for consideration and possible adoption.

CARRIED.

President of the Conference, Elder Calvin Burrell, appointed the following people to the committee: Elder Ken Knoll, chairman; Marie Dailey; and Elder Fred Walter.

Their assignment is to prepare a proposal for conducting Conference business by a system of representative delegates. The committee has prepared the following report to inform the membership of progress made on this assignment and to actively seek feedback from the membership before we, as a committee, design the final proposal to offer to the 1993 Convention.

Delegate System Proposal

The main part of the proposal is stated as follows:

The Conference shall hold a convention biennially on odd-numbered years. The convention shall be divided into two parts as follows:

A. A business convention shall convene for the purpose of electing the Board of Directors, receiving reports and transacting such other business as may properly come before it.

B. A membership convention shall convene immediately following the business convention and provide a program of information, instruction, and inspiration for the Church of God (Seventh Day).

The voting body of the business convention shall be composed of:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| A. Board of Directors | = 12 |
| B. Elected and appointed officers of the Conference | = 3 |
| C. Directors of the United Ministries | = 7 |
| D. Chairmen of Convention committees | = 2 |
| E. Officers of the North American Ministerial Council | = 3 |
| F. Members of the North American Ministerial Council who are actively employed by the Conference, a district, or a congregation by April 1, preceding the Convention | = 80-130 |
| G. District Coordinators | = 6 |

- H. Delegate representation from each congregation = 215
1. One delegate for each congregation of fifty members or less
 2. One additional delegate for each unit of fifty members or major fraction thereof, as of April 1, preceding the Convention
- I. Delegate representation from members-at-large shall be one delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof. District Boards shall determine representatives for members-at-large = 6-10
- Total potential delegates = 334-388

Advantages

1. *Economics:* The size of Conference conventions has grown to the point that finding a Conference site that is cost efficient and adequate for our needs is more difficult. Local churches could help sponsor their delegates so the cost is more easily borne by the membership.
2. *Representation:* Location of the Convention as well as costs affect the makeup of those who will attend the Convention. A delegate system assures that each church will be represented. This reduces the feeling of alienation to those who are unable to attend due to any reason. Further, the makeup of the proposed delegates puts greater influence and power with the delegates from the local churches, yet it still maintains a good balance of power and influence from the ministry and the various organizations within the Church of God (Seventh Day).
3. *Efficiency:* With local churches sending representatives to the Convention there should be a better opportunity for local churches to discuss pending business at the local church. Business at Conference can be made more

efficient because of better prepared delegates.

4. *Fellowship:* This proposal allows for a membership Conference to take place as a part of the business Conference. Members still may participate nationally.

5. *Leadership Training:* The Board of Directors has identified leadership training as one of its top three priorities. By having a business Convention and a membership Convention, the Board has the opportunity to provide tools and inspiration to equip the church in areas of growth and ministry.

Disadvantages

1. *Economics:* Churches may now be asked to increase their local budgets to fund the cost of sending delegates to Conference.

2. *Loss of Control:* A delegate system will lock out those who would normally be able to attend a business Conference because it reduces the amount of delegates available to vote at Conference.

3. *Representation:* Some may consider that too many ministers will be delegates. Because of their positions, they may be perceived of as carrying an unfair influence at the Conference.

The Committee invites the response of the membership to this proposal. If you have suggestions, please let us know by February 1, 1993. The entire final draft of the proposal will be printed in *The Messenger* before Conference. Send your comments to: Delegate System Committee, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

Comments, for or against the proposal, will also be printed as space allows in *The Harvest Field Messenger*. Please address these comments separate from the suggestions to the committee.

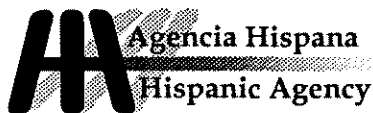
Ken Knoll, Chairman

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The biennial convention of our General Conference is scheduled for June 29-July 3, 1993, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It will be preceded by A WORKERS' CONFERENCE beginning at 7:00 P.M. on MONDAY, JUNE 29. All congregational PASTORS, OFFICERS, and LEADERS are invited to this ONE-DAY TRAINING SESSION.

Watch the pages of the next Harvest Field Messenger for details on the Workers' Conference and the General Conference Convention. Start making plans to attend now. You won't want to miss a minute of this Convention!

— Calvin Burrell, President



Oscar García, Director

Hispanic Honor Roll

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24, KJV).

Yes, my brethren! I am glad and I am rejoicing in the Lord because of the opportunity to write one more time. I want to share with you some of the Lord's blessings.

In the last report, I briefly related to you about what has happened in the Hispanic Agency's work during the past fourteen months. I also expressed my gratitude to those churches and districts who helped the Agency's efforts to visit churches on site.

At this time, I would like to recognize the individuals who have contributed with prayers, notes of encouragement, and most of all, economic support through their offerings earmarked for the Hispanic Agency. Without this kind of support it would be difficult to keep up with the development of this new agency.

I would like to list the following members and churches who, in some cases, gave beyond their means. To all of you: *Thank you very much/ Muchisimas Gracias!* and *God bless you abundantly/Dios Los Bendiga en Abundancia!*

There are others who contribute to the general fund of United Ministries, and that also benefits the Hispanic Agency. To all of those individuals and churches, we also ex-

Agencia Hispana/Hispanic Agency Roll of Honor

Wayne Chandler, OK
Gerson and Lilian Amaya, IL
Carrol Diaz, CA
Kenneth Haffner, OR
Alan Reid Knight, CA
Ignacia Molinar, CO
Reyes de Jesus Matute, CA
Kendra Noble, MI
Edy and Amparo Oseuera, TX
Angelina Paredes, AZ
Rodolfo Pasadas, TX
Jorge and Elisa Roman, TX
Robert and Lela Sheppard, WA
Elmer and Fennie Schlenker, MO
Thelma Willhelm, CO

Local Churches

Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Los Angeles, CA
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Mount Rainier, MD
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Riverside, CA
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Denver, CO
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Socorro, TX
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Corpus Christi, TX
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), San Fernando, CA
Hispanic Church of God (Seventh Day), Bronx, NY

tend our gratitude. Please, keep up with that wonderful support of the work of the United Ministries.

The Agencies are only tools that the General Conference has to provide for the membership of our church by means of communication and assistance. One church by itself would not be able to maintain these services. By uniting together in support and prayers, we not only maintain, but promote the church's growth and services.

I believe that the second coming

of Jesus Christ is at hand. He will not ask how much money the church has in savings or how many church buildings the church owns. Rather, I believe He will ask: "How many souls have you won for Me? How many times have you reached out to those who were thirsty to hear my words?"

It is not a matter of having enough to spare in order to give, but to realize that anything we have has been given to us in order to give it back to the One who gave it in the first place.

So, the enlargement of His kingdom is to keep on going.

My dear brethren, the purpose of the previous words is to encourage you to see the importance of God's work and, perhaps, to see a little bit of how important our full participation in it is. I trust the Lord that the spiritual and numerical growth of our church will increase as we keep on working according to our means.

Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions (Matthew 24:45-47, NAS).

Until next time, Peace be with you.

Oscar Garcia

Speaking of journeys . . . I hope everyone can enjoy the journey God is taking them on in this life. It really is a journey and it can be very exciting if God is your tour guide. Giving Christ total control, which is very hard at times, is so liberating. It puts life's occurrences in perspective. So what if times are tough! Christ is still here, fulfilling His plan in us. I personally can't wait to see what's going to happen next. I can't wait to participate. IT'S EXCITING! I just pray diligently for Christ to be the center of all our plans, visions, and efforts in the months and years to come. The Youth Agency is alive and well and the strength of our youth is here to promote the kingdom of Christ. To God be the glory!

The Coordinating Committee, made up of the District Youth Coordinators, will be meeting this fall in Chicago, Illinois, as part of the bi-annual Youth Worker Seminar. The National Youth Council will be meeting soon after to go over the Agency plans for the upcoming year. Together, we hope to have an exciting year with more Youth Worker Seminars, General Conference program and more.

I want to extend to everyone the opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions to the Youth Agency before we complete our plans. After all, we are here to serve you and want to make every effort that we are meeting your needs.

What would you like to see coming from the Agency? What can we do to help you promote the gospel of Jesus Christ on a local level; to your neighborhood and community? What can we do to help motivate youth workers and youth alike to develop and implement successful local programs?

If anyone has ideas, please share them with us. If you see things coming out of the Agency that are not working or have created

problems, we need to know. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we should not be afraid to openly communicate with one another. So share with us openly.

We should have our plans finalized in December for presenting to the Executive Board in January. Send us a letter or give us a call before then. I hope everyone looks forward to the upcoming journey in 1993 as much as I do. God bless.

John Tivald

New Book for Children!

Adventures with Bubbles is a devotional book for children by Lettie Siddens, with full-page illustrations by Julie Mae Siddens.

Bubbles, a lively cocker spaniel puppy, provides important lessons to her new family. Each short story is followed by Scripture readings and a Bible verse memorize.

Paperback, \$3.00.

You will also enjoy these books by Lettie Siddens:

Gary and Mary Goodmanners in Church and Paul and Peggy Poormanners in Church

This two-part book is a guide to help parents teach proper church manners to their children.

Paperback, \$3.00

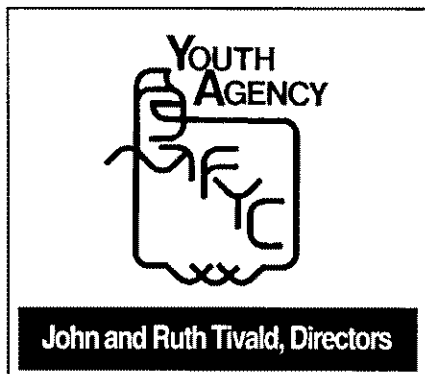
Sabbath at Sommerhase

This book teaches your child the joys of celebrating the weekly Sabbath. An activity packet completes the lessons.

Book and activity packet, \$7.00
6 or more of each, \$5.00 ea.

Order from:

Bible Advocate Press
P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233



Journeys

Well, here it is: Coming up to the end of the year already. It certainly has been an eventful year for the Youth Agency and I mean that in a positive sense. National Youth Camp, National Youth Week, Youth Worker seminars, *Youth Reach* and Challenge Month have kept us busy. In our spare time, we moved our home and the Youth Agency office 1,700 miles. Talk about a journey!



Clark Caswell, Director

Students of the Month

Each month during the school year, the staff chooses one or two students who have set an outstanding example of life at SVA — in study and work, in the dorm and at recreational and worship activities. Selected as Students of the Month for September were two senior girls: Miriam Pell, a first year student from Alabama, and Liz Bravo, a returning student from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Fall Retreats

The second weekend in October provided students with an opportunity to get away from the rigors of school and to receive spiritual food and enjoy fellowship and recreation in a completely different setting. The girls went to Sleeper State Park up in the "thumb" of Michigan, near the shores of Lake Huron. The staff for the weekend included Laura Caswell, director, Lisa Forster,

Teresa Estep, Marinda Durham, Maryellen Muffley, and Donn Estep, cook.

The guys went to a Seventh Day Baptist Camp near Battle Creek. The staff included Kevin and Beverly Caswell, Eddie Peña, Scott Fischer, and Bruce Noble.

SVA's School Board

The SVA school board meets five or six times throughout the year to review the school's progress, deal with policies, and provide oversight and direction to the school's administration. Six board members live in Michigan and are able to attend most of the meetings. They are: Brian Dais, president; Kevin Morrow, vice-president; Norman Caswell, secretary; Elden Fischer, Art Cummings, and Brian Noble.

Board members from other states, who try to attend at least two meetings a year (usually May and October) are Barbara Burrell (CO), Dixie Mease (TX), Dr. Larry Moldenhauer (CA), Glenda Caswell Patton (OR), Ken Pell (AL), and Keith Werley (TX). All but three members attended the October board meeting.

The board reviewed the state of the school (staff, students, and finances), examined ways to promote the school in the church, reviewed and approved a whole set of policies developed by the school staff over the past year, authorized the installation of energy efficient lighting equipment under Consumers Power rebate program, discussed enterprises that could provide income to the school, and reappointed three board members for four-year terms (Glenda Patton, Keith Werley, and Dr. Larry Moldenhauer).

Election of Student Leaders

About four weeks into the school year, the students elected their

Halfway Through Semester

As this is being written in mid-October, we are halfway through the fall semester of SVA's 45th school year. Already we've had our Welcome Banquet, a fireside vesper service, hayride and wiener roast, a trip to a Michigan State University Orchestra concert, election of student officers, fall retreats, class fund raising projects, and Harvest Hike. Teachers are busy calculating first quarter grades. As though that weren't enough, we just harvested over 200 bushels of soybeans.

Support the West Indies Scholarship Fund

This newly organized fund sponsors students from the West Indies to attend Summit School of Theology with the aim of providing more ministers throughout the Caribbean Islands and churches of Caribbean descent in the U.S. and Canada.

The fund is under the direction of Church Renewal Ministries. Send donations to: West Indies Scholarship Fund, c/o Church Renewal Ministries, P. O. Box 98, Mocksville, NC 27028. Make checks payable to Church Renewal Ministries, but please note on check memo that your donation is for the West Indies Scholarship Fund.

For more information contact:

Whaid Rose
Church Renewal Ministries
P. O. Box 98
Mocksville, NC 27028
(704) 492-5483

Byron Roye
P. O. Box 4070, Station D
Hamilton, Ontario
Canada, L8V 4L5
(416) 575-1766

sen ate for the year. Senior Rhonda Werley from Missouri was voted student body president. Elected class representatives were: Liz Bravo (MN) and Dan Dávila (CO), seniors; Esli Arroyo (IL) and Josh Smith (TX), juniors; Lucy Ling (OR), sophomore; and Shavonn Clanton (MI), freshman. Seven students from seven different states—what an opportunity for young people to get to know and work with others from all across our country!

Under the guidance of staff advisor Mary Werley, girls' dean, the student senate's primary task is planning Saturday night and other special activities. It also serves as a communication link between student body and staff.

FYC Officers Selected

In elections held at a joint dorm worship in September, SVA students elected officers for the school's chapter of the FYC. They are: Jamie Portlock (senior, IA), president; Liz Bravo (senior, MN), vice-president; Miriam Pell (senior, AL), treasurer; Rebecca Palmer (junior, ID), secretary. One of the main FYC tasks is planning the Sabbath afternoon activities that they intend to have twice each month.

Girls' Basketball

After losing their first three games, the Lady Flames won two in a row. Then they lost to Grove Christian in a hard-fought overtime contest that, due to injuries and fouls, ended with only four SVA players on the court.

The Lady Flames lost to Valley Christian Academy and then won two lopsided victories against Perry Baptist and Capital City Baptist. Overall their record stands at 4 wins and 6 losses.

Team members are: Lucy Ling, Rhonda Werley, Tricia Hall, Alisa



Roy Keim, formerly of Stockton, California, is SVA's new math teacher.

O'Haver, Teresa Howell, Liz Bravo, Starr French, Alice Anklam, Arnika Miller, Rhoda Smith, and Jacci Arroyo.

New Sewer Line

The septic system failure for two of our trailers near the highway forced us to put in 500 feet of sewer line just before the school year began. We connected the two trailers and the farm house to the manhole near the chapel. Thanks to the supervisory expertise of Ken Noble (assisted by his laser beam), the line was laid straight and true with a very proper and consistent fall. He was helped by his two sons, Keith and Bruce, John Lewin on back hoe, Mike Feaster, Wes Coulson, and others.

While this kind of unforeseen expense can eat into a repair and maintenance budget, it is a permanent improvement that eliminates the last of the old septic tanks on our campus. All buildings, except for the Patchens' home, are now connected to our lagoon.

Energy Conservation Opportunity

Right now we're preparing to take advantage of a rebate program offered by our local power company. Preliminary indications are that if we invest about \$9,500 in energy efficient fixtures, ballasts, and light bulbs, the power company will rebate all but \$500! We should recover that cost in energy savings within two or three months!

The only catch is that installation of some items must be completed by November 15; others must be installed before March 15. We would certainly welcome volunteers to help on this project.

Fund Raising Plan

Occasionally we receive questions about the school sending out letters requesting financial help. About a year ago our school board approved the following plan.

1. In September, we invited alumni and friends of SVA to contribute to the Students on Scholarship Fund, to provide financial aid

for qualifying students. Depending on the response to this letter, there might be a follow-up request toward the end of the year. Contributions to the SOS Fund can be monthly pledges or one-time donations.

2. During January or February, we would invite contributions toward campus improvement projects, such as our lagoon, energy conservation, new roofs, etc.

3. At the end of the school year, if necessary, we would invite contributions to help us end our school year in the black.

Besides these three or four letters going out from Spring Vale, the General Conference supports the school by distributing a bulletin insert about the school once a year and by mailing a letter to all subscribers to the *HFM*. Usually the letter is mailed in October, but this year it was done in September. As a result, many people received the letter from the General Conference office about the same time they received our letter about the SOS Fund.

SVA is also supported by a grant from United Ministries. This year the school received \$5,000 for financial aid to students who wrote essays.

Altogether, donations from all sources make up about 25% of our annual operating budget, and 100% of our investments in campus improvements (lagoon, boys' dorm roof, energy conservation). We are deeply grateful to all who support the SVA ministry through donations. For those who cannot or choose not to support SVA we ask for and thank you for your prayers.

Area Representatives

SVA Alumni Association chairman, Virginia Dais, has put together a list of people around the country who have agreed to serve as local area representatives for SVA. You are welcome to contact the one near you for more information about the school; the area representative may also be able to help prospective students line up financial help from local churches and individuals.

If you don't know how to get in touch with a representative near you, please contact the school for a complete address and phone number. Area representatives are:

Alabama: Ken Pell, Sylvania.
California: Keith and Cindy

Nienhuis, Galt; Dr. Larry D. Moldenhauer, Corning; Clay Smith, Sacramento; Larry Zaragoza, Yucaipa.

Colorado: Barbara Burrell, Thornton.

Idaho: Sheldon McQueary, Meridian.

Illinois: Erwin Carrera, Chicago.
Michigan: Brian Noble, Cutlerville.

New Mexico: Pedro Capetillo, Albuquerque.

North Carolina: Sandy Jones, Raleigh; Whaid Rose, Mocksville.

North Dakota: David and Jamie Nienhuis, Lawton.

Ohio: Art Roche, Monclova.

Oklahoma: Andy and Debbie Hassen, Poteau; Ed and Pearl Lewin, Oklahoma City.

Oregon: Glenda Caswell Patton, Eugene.

Texas: Sammy Dávila, Corpus Christi; Dixie Mease, The Woodlands; Florence Mellado, Willis.

Washington: Roy and Candy Roche, Seattle.

Canada: Dorothy Nimchuk, Mission, British Columbia; Marjorie McLaughlin, Toronto, Ontario.

Richard Wiedenheft



Press Breakdown Causes Delay

The BAP publication printing press suffered a major breakdown when this issue of the *Messenger* was only partially printed. This misfortune postponed the mailing date by one week and created havoc with the BAP printing schedule. Although the press is 18 years old, this breakdown was somewhat of a fluke. Overall, the press is in good condition.

The breakdown also generated financial adversity. The press repairman's first projection was that a major part of the press would need to be replaced at a cost of about \$5,000. However, after further study, he was able to disassemble the extremely complicated part and replace the worn parts within it. Many hours of labor contributed toward a repair bill that cost \$1,280.

Even this size repair bill is a problem for the BAP budget because of the shortage in contribution support this year. Contributions to help pay for this unforeseen expense would bring welcome relief.

Spring Vale Alumni Made a Difference

Virginia (Nimchuk) Dais attended Spring Vale for four years, graduating in 1980. After graduation, she received her B.S. Chemistry degree and her Ph.D Chemistry degree. She is presently employed as a Senior Research Chemist with Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan.

Virginia attends the Freeland and Owosso, Michigan, churches. She has several outside interests. She serves as a volunteer at Pregnancy Aid of Midland County, assisting women in crisis pregnancies — pro-life; speaks to teens about sex and abortion; performs chemistry demonstrations in area schools; and is the SVA Alumni chairperson. She is also a member of the Executive Committee for the Polymeric Materials: Science and Engineering division of the American Chemical Society.

Virginia's testimony of what SVA means to her is: "I reflect fondly to my time at SVA. I gained a 'family' away from home and now have wonderful friends in every corner of the United States and Canada.

"God showed me, at a critical time in my personal development, that I was valuable and had skills and talents. SVA allowed me the opportunity to discover and develop these talents. I learned to truly rely on God. He was with me always and I was able to speak openly about my faith in a safe environment. God still charts my course. I freely share this fact with those I meet, and I wouldn't have it any other way!"



Art and Marie (Tedrow) Roche graduated from Spring Vale in 1959. Art attended SVA for three years; Marie, one year. Not only are Art and Marie SVA graduates, but both their sons, Rick and Roy, and their daughter-in-law, Candy (Schelert) graduated from SVA.

The Roches have been married for 31 years and are active members not only in their local church at Toledo, Ohio, but in the national organization as well. Art served, or is currently serving, on several boards: local church, SVA, Northeast District, and United Missions. He is a member of the Board of Directors. Marie is the secretary/treasurer for the Northeast District. She served as the National Women's Agency treasurer for several years. She continues to be active in the Toledo church.

Of their experiences at SVA, the Roches say, "While at SVA we had the privilege of receiving our high school education in a Christian atmosphere and at the direction of a staff chosen by God. By their example, they demonstrated the true meaning of dedicated servants. This was a unique opportunity to develop spiritually and prepare for Christian service.

"The Bible classes were especially helpful for we have used the foundation they provided to continue our lifelong study of God's precious word."

Vernon Caswell, a 1975 graduate, attended Spring Vale Academy for two years. After graduation, he attended college, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering. He currently is self-employed as a computer software consultant.

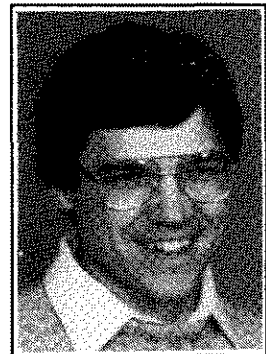
Vernon and his wife, Teri (Palmer), are active members of the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day).

Vernon tells how SVA influenced his life: "God, family, and church are my highest priorities. Spring Vale played a significant role in all of them.

"The spiritual environment nurtured my relationship with God and contributed to my 'rooting and grounding' in Christ. The social give-and-take of a 60-member family drew me out of my shell, gave me lifelong friendships, and influenced who I am today regarding family, church, and business relationships.

"I had opportunities and challenges at Spring Vale that I would never have had where I previously attended school: Challenges that helped develop the leadership skills I've needed as a board member, teacher, father, and businessman.

"I thank God for Spring Vale Academy."



Spring Vale Academy made a difference in their lives — it can make a difference in yours!

If you are looking for a high school that offers a solid academic program in a Christ-centered environment, consider Spring Vale Academy. For more information, write or call: Spring Vale Academy, 4150 S. M-52, Owosso, MI 48867. Phone: (517) 725-2391.



Jerry Griffin, Director

As Simple as ABC

At Summit, we believe in the ABC's of ministerial training: "know your Audience, know your Bible, and know how to Communicate." Our top priority is to give each student the nuts and bolts he'll need to minister within the Church of God. We strive, therefore, to make our basic course of study Bible-centered, practical, and relevant.

To help the student know his audience, he is exposed to classes on the pastoral ministry, church administration, evangelism, and pastoral care and counseling. These classes stress the importance of understanding the needs of people, both inside and outside the church,



Lorenzo Arroyo

and how best to work with them in meeting their needs.

To help the student know his Bible, we offer a variety of classes on the biblical languages, the Old and New Testaments, biblical interpretation, and Bible doctrines. The Bible is our primary textbook, and most of our instruction is centered here because we believe the Bible contains God's answer to the needs of people.

Yet it is not enough to know the needs of an audience and the Bible's answer. The successful minister must also know how to communicate the Bible's answer to his audience. Classes on preaching, teaching, and worship help the student hone his communication skills so that he can be an effective communicator of God's Word.

At Summit, we want to help those who have been called of God do their very best, because their calling is the highest. There's no better foundation on which any student can build his ministry than the ABC's of ministerial training.

If God is calling you into His service, then we invite you to contact SST today. We're here to help you fulfill your call. It's as simple as ABC.

New Instructor

Lorenzo Arroyo will join the SST staff in December '92. Elder Arroyo has ten years of ministerial experience, having pastored Church of God congregations in San Jose and Bloomington, California.

He also has several years of teaching experience. Most recently, from 1988 to 1990, he took a leave of absence from the pastoral ministry in the U.S. to teach at the Church of God seminary in Mexico.

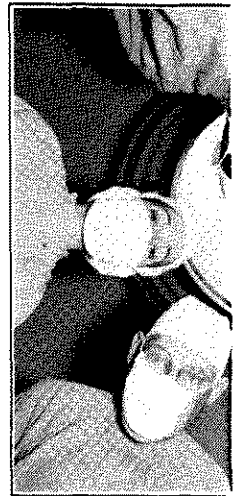
His bilingual ability will allow SST to offer instruction in both English and Spanish and to develop more lay training programs for Hispanics. Elder Arroyo's enthusiasm,

experience, and call to be a teacher will be a big asset to Summit's entire program.

New Student

John Silverstone, from Kingston, Jamaica, enrolled in the Master of

Would You in This I



If These Pe Received Full M

In today's complicated and ch trained and competent workers h And the ministry is no exception. needs of others are expected to o: the highest. To meet that expecta ping ministers for the challenge.

Stand behind those in training Summit.



Winter quarter begins Janua
P. O. Box 33677, Denver

Divinity program this fall. In Jamaica, John worked as a high school teacher and was a recent graduate of the Jamaica Theological Seminary. This is the first time he has traveled outside his country.

He has come to SST to further prepare himself for ministerial

service within the Church of God (Seventh Day). John feels called to a pastoral/teaching ministry and hopes one day to see a Church of God ministerial school established in Jamaica.

John is also the first recipient of the newly formed West Indies Scholarship Fund. This fund is the brainchild of Byron Roye of Hamilton, Ontario, and Whaid Rose of Mocksville, North Carolina, and is being sponsored under the auspices of Elder Rose's evangelistic association, Church Renewal Ministries.

The purpose of the fund is to sponsor qualified students from the West Indies to attend Summit School of Theology, with the ultimate aim of providing more ministers for the West Indies and the West Indian churches within the U.S. and Canada. The fund covers all school costs, plus room and board.

If you would like to help sponsor John Silverstone and future West Indian students, send your donations to: West Indies Scholarship Fund, c/o Church Renewal Ministries, P. O. Box 98, Mocksville, NC 27028.

Two Students Start Field Training

Third year student, Robert Hernandez, began his 12-month internship on September 1 in Stockton, California. Elder Ray Moldenhauer is serving as his supervisor.

Jose Velis, also a third year student, began his field training requirement with the fall quarter. Instead of an internship, Jose will meet the field requirements through a program of six supervised practicums in preaching, teaching, worship, administration, pastoral care, and evangelism. Each practicum lasts a minimum of 10 weeks and will be conducted in the



John Silverstone

Denver English and Denver Spanish churches.

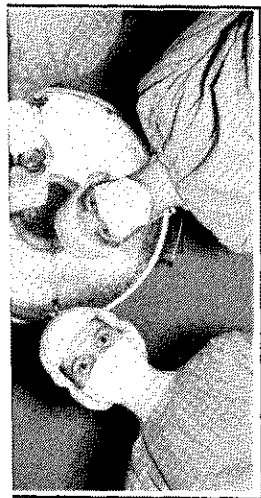
Winter Session in Mexico

December 14-23, Jerry Griffin and Lorenzo Arroyo will be guest lecturers at the 1992 Winter Session of Seminario de Entrenamiento Ministerial, the Church of God seminary in Mexico. The session will be conducted in Temisco, Mexico, with over 100 ministers and Christian workers expected to be in attendance. Elder Griffin will present a class on the Distinctive Doctrines of the Church of God, while Elder Arroyo's class will analyze various Systems of Theological Thought.

SST Calendar

- Jan. 4 — Winter Quarter begins
- Feb. 15 — Enrollment Deadline for Pastoral Orientation Course
- Mar. 22 — Spring Quarter Begins
- June 6-18 — Summer Session and Pastoral Orientation Course

Put Yourself in Position . . .



People Had Not Received Medical Training?

In a changing world, the need for highly trained medical professionals has increased in every profession. Those who care for the spiritual need the best, because their calling is to prepare and equip-

become a regular supporter of

TRAINING LEADERS FOR THE CHALLENGE.

4. Write or phone for details.
CO 80233, (303) 452-7976.



The Lord Is Blessing the Church Around the World

I want to share with our readers some of the encouraging things that have happened in the church abroad in recent months. God has led many churches and individuals in the United States to help meet specific needs and encourage change and development in some of these areas.

God is continually blessing the work in Luzon, Northern Philippines. There is so much growth and excitement going on in this region of the country. I can't wait to visit there again to experience firsthand the spirit of success and hope that is driving the brethren. Mike Dizon, the leading pastor in the region, reports, "We have established another new church in Bicol region, an area 500 kilometers away in south-eastern Philippines." Good news such as this comes with almost every report I receive from Pastor Dizon.

There is remarkable sacrificial spirit here also. The Calamba congregation, the mother church in the region, made personal pledges to buy land and building materials for this new church, despite the fact they desperately need a building of their own. Even the FYC got into the act, donating all the proceeds from a recent gospel music concert. Luzon has five congregations, five outreaches, five full-time pastors, one part-time pastor, three full-time workers and three part-time workers. It is one of the fastest growing

areas of our foreign work. Currently, Missions Abroad is supporting one full-time pastor in this part of the Philippines, and a \$1,500 grant from the Agency is helping to construct the new Calamba church.

Four hundred persons attended a recent campmeeting in the Kericho District in Kenya. Delegates from five other districts participated in the four-day event that included Bible studies, seminars, and praise services. A recent appeal from President George Nyatangi for a \$500 contribution to construct a meeting place for one church in Narok District caught the eye of the ladies' group in the Houston church. The ladies donated the \$500 and fulfilled a seemingly impossible dream for those brethren.

As a result of a four-day house to house evangelism drive, 10 new members joined the Umuomei church in Agburuik District, Abia State, Nigeria. President E.N. Onwere reports, "These new members, formerly of the Anglican church, will soon be baptized in Jesus Christ." He adds, "God is blessing His church by opening the hearts of men and women who seek Him."

Over in Ovom, the lease on a community building where the church met was abruptly ended, leaving the people "out in the cold." The building project, started many years ago, was hopelessly abandoned for lack of funds. Now the brethren needed the building but had little money to buy materials for the floor, doors, and windows, and for the most expensive part of all — the roof. I shared this story with a small group at the West Coast District Conference last July and a generous couple from northern California donated \$5,000 to finish the roof.

In northern Nigeria, a predominantly Moslem region, the Kaduna church, faced similar circumstances.

At the urging of Brother John Crisp, members of the Conroe church raised over \$3,000 to help finish the roof of the building in Kaduna. Windows and doors have been ordered and the floor will be finished as soon as more funds become available. The church will have its "grand opening" October 31.

The church women are operating an orphanage in Akwa Ibom State, providing food, clothing, shelter, education, and loving care to 122 destitute children who are barely surviving. When the Tivalds, National Youth Directors, got wind of this need, they presented the Faithful Youth Challengers with a challenge. Many FYC groups across the country sponsored a hunger lock-in last spring to raise funds to help. As a result, over \$1,800, half of the proceeds, was donated to the orphanage.

In recent months, ladies' groups across the country have been raising funds to assist with the continuing development of the clinic in Nigeria. So far, over \$2,000 has been raised for that ministry.

On the other side of the globe, the work continues to expand in India. In Mizoram, northeast India, scores of new converts have entered the church and several Sabbath school groups have been established.

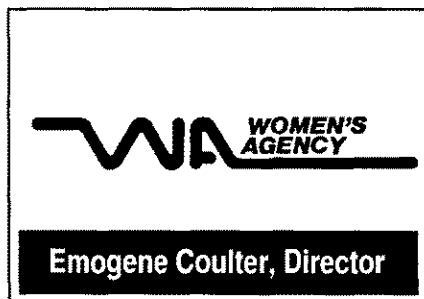
Nineteen leaders participated in a pastors' conference. Discussion involved issues relating to church doctrines, leadership, and church administration. In Manipur, an adjoining state, the governing board of an independent Sabbathkeeping organization recently made an unanimous decision to affiliate with our work in India.

These are some of the encouraging developments in Missions Abroad in recent months. I can't tell you how grateful I am for the generous way many of our brethren in the United States are responding to the

needs of our brethren overseas. These acts of love are having immeasurable impact on the church in these areas. Lives are being changed and remarkable growth is taking place.

On behalf of Missions Abroad, I want to thank you for your generous support. Without your help many needs would remain unfulfilled.

Victor Burford



Friendship Quilt Nears Completion

Esther Sheffield and Doris Grantham are devoting many hours to create a beautiful hand-embroidered quilt. Each block of the quilt has flowers and the names of ladies from throughout the United States and Canada. The blocks are bordered in light blue.

Next summer, at General Conference, the quilt will find a new home. One name will be drawn from the names of all the ladies who have paid their dues. That happy lady will receive the quilt.

The deadline for adding your name to the Women's Association Friendship Quilt is rapidly approaching.

How can you be sure your name is included on the quilt and in the drawing? By paying your dues of \$10 by February 1993, your name will be added to the quilt and you will have the opportunity to own the quilt. If your group is paying dues for all members at the same time, be

sure each person is listed.

Dues for the Women's Agency pay for *Afterglow*, *Seekers'*, postage, materials and promotions for the Agency, and other worthy projects.

Don't delay! Send your dues to the General Conference Office, Women's Agency, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

Mary Jean Knoll

Midlothian Retreat

Attendance was near 150 ladies at the recent Southwestern District Women's Retreat held at Midlothian, Texas, this fall. Many were first time attendees.

Workshops dealt with Church Growth, Guilt, and Finding Your Ministry.

The organization of this year's retreat was different. Usually a local church plans all the activities. This year a committee of several churches planned the meetings. This gave better interaction between large and small churches.

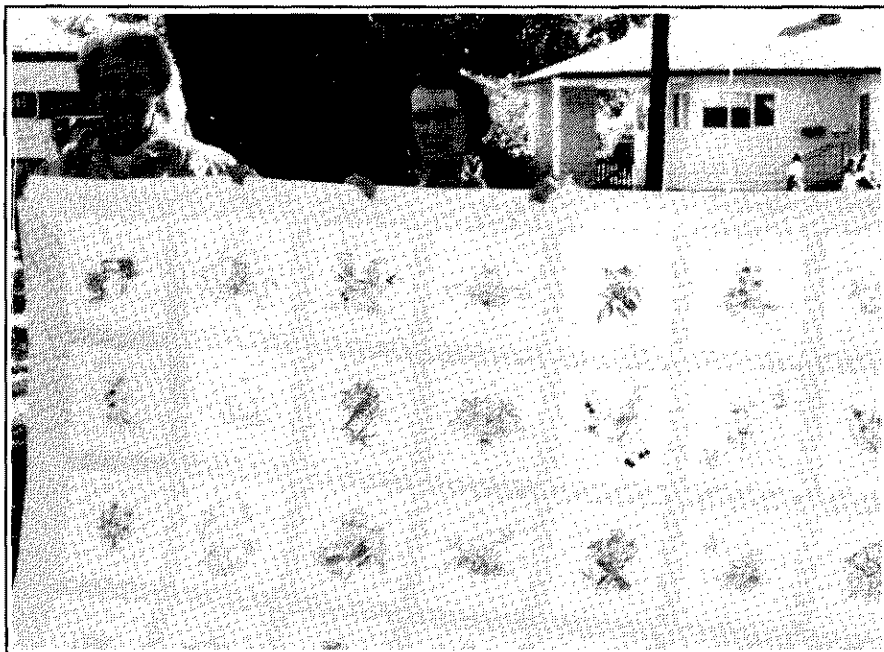
With the Director

The last weekend in August found your director enjoying services with the women in Pastor Henry's church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The morning seminar was on Self-Esteem. The afternoon program discussed women's roles in church. The men were included in this discussion. Many scriptures were discussed.

Board Meeting in January

The Women's Agency needs to submit a proposed budget and list of goals to the Board of Directors who will meet in January.

Your input is vital to the work of the Women's Agency. We would like to extend the work of the Agency to include singles, widows, young adults, the elderly, as well as women's needs. What do you think? Send your ideas to Emogene Coulter, 6104 Bay Hill Drive, Arlington, Texas 76018.



Esther Sheffield and Doris Grantham hold the Friendship Quilt to be given away at the next General Conference Convention.



PUBLICATIONS

LeRoy Dais, Director

A Response from the South Pacific

A man in Australia does not recall when or how he received a 1985 issue of the *Bible Advocate* which he recently found in his files. Nonetheless, it motivated him to request a subscription to the magazine.

This man says he is a student of the Scriptures, and he is eager to learn what the Church of God (Seventh Day) teaches. A packet of literature was sent to him, and a correspondence exchange also has been initiated.

Evidently, this man was not moved to take any particular action at the time he first received this copy of the *Bible Advocate*. When he came across the magazine recently, it made an impact, and he was ready to respond. The printed page can lie around unnoticed for years, then at the right moment the Holy Spirit can use it to present a forceful message to a prepared heart.

A Response from Africa

A Bible Advocate Press tract that was more than 10 years old came into the hands of a man in Nigeria. In March 1992, he wrote the BAP office to request literature that was listed in the tract he had received. Surface mail to Nigeria is very slow, so he probably received the literature in June.

Following are excerpts from a letter received from him in October:

"I have now become a new creature in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before, I was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, not knowing that I was missing a road that will lead me to the kingdom of God. . . . Today, I thank God that the Holy Ghost has directed me to the true way of salvation.

"As a matter of fact, these books have changed my life. I have now become a B.A. (born again) child of God. Not only that . . . , but I am now no longer worshiping with the Roman Catholic Church in our village.

"Since I have departed from the R.C.C., and I want to follow the rightful way to worship God, being seventh day, and this church [Church of God (Seventh Day)] is not in my village, what must I do? Therefore, I am appealing to you to come and establish this church in my village so that people will know that there is a way for salvation . . . since the purpose of this church is to preach the gospel to every creature. That's why you sent to me these booklets.

"After reading [the booklets] I showed them to some ladies and gentlemen, who have surrendered themselves to God by following me to worship on Saturday in a small house hired by me. Brethren, for the fact the work of God is now working miraculously, we are now one hundred and sixty members forming the Church of God (Seventh Day) in my village."

Although there are quite a number of Church of God (Seventh Day) congregations in Nigeria, apparently there are none in the area where this man lives, and he had not been aware that such an organization existed. Fortunately, Missions Abroad will be able to have a representative of the church in Nigeria visit the converts in this village to help organize the church and to share the gospel more fully with them.

The letter conveys several noteworthy facts: 1) Some people in the developing countries are tired of their old, formal "religion" and they are looking for something better. 2) The Holy Spirit is working in the lives of these people and is preparing them for greater things. 3) A gospel tract which may seem insignificant to us is a precious treasure to them. The Holy Spirit can use it to ignite a spark and light a flame in the hearts of these people.

This group of new believers in Nigeria is excited about the Bible truth they learned from the nine tracts sent to them last April, and the conversion they have experienced. They are not keeping these truths to themselves; they set aside three times a week for witnessing to others. They are doing what comes naturally for new converts who have found what is most important in their lives. And, they are asking for more literature and Bibles to make their witnessing even more effective and fruitful.

How Can We Help?

The BAP staff can respond to the needs mentioned above, and others that come in each week, by sending more literature, by writing letters of encouragement and instruction, and by praying for God's continued blessing and guidance for these people.

But, for the BAP staff to continue providing gospel tracts, booklets, and publications to share the gospel and plant the Good Seed, there must be greater financial support from the members and friends of the Church of God (Seventh Day). The past two-year trend of diminishing support must be reversed in order to experience survival and growth.

The Great Commission and individual Christian commitments deserve high priority as the return of the Lord draws nearer.

Another Choice in Curriculum

The Bible Advocate Press has become a dealer for the Standard Publishing curriculum for children. Some Church of God Sabbath school classes have been using the Standard curriculum and are very satisfied with it. The Gospel Light curriculum will continue to be offered also.

Sabbath schools which have not used Standard curriculum may order free teachers' kits for review to become acquainted with the materials. Each kit contains a sample of each item available for one class for one quarter. Or, a Sabbath school may request, for free, all the materials needed to teach an entire class for one quarter.

Those who have not been using Gospel Light curriculum also may request free sample packets of the Gospel Light materials for review purposes.

Standard Publishing and Gospel Light catalogs, order forms, and detailed information have been sent to all the Church of God Sabbath Schools in time to place orders for the winter quarter.

Remember

**Your offering
to the**

**Free Literature
Fund**

**goes a long way
toward winning
souls for
the Kingdom.**

Ministerial Council, 1992

by Paul Heavilin

September 7-12 found 86 ministers attending the Ministerial Council in Phoenix, Arizona. Several activities were planned for the ministers and several wives who also attended.

At the top of the list of activities were the studies on the Godhead and the Sabbath.

After spending hours (indeed several years) studying scriptures, debating, and praying together, the Council DID NOT change in any way Doctrinal Belief Number Three: "Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born to the virgin Mary. He is the Christ, or Messiah, sent from God to be our Savior and Redeemer."

There are those who would like to see that reworded, but no agreement has been reached as to any changes. We are not Binitarian or Trinitarian. We stand on Paul's statement: "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we in him" (1 Corinthians 8:6).

That is a simplistic answer to a difficult theological study and discussion, but I thought you would like to know our conclusions to that difficult question, "Who and what is Jesus?" There are things we just can't grasp; we don't seem to be able to understand. But the Bible tells us it will be that way. "Now we see

through a glass darkly." The Word also says that our wisdom is foolishness to God. But then, when we meet Him, we shall know, even as we are known. Praise God!

We also discussed proper Sabbath observance. Again, we reaffirmed our belief in the Sabbath and the necessity of curtailing our normal activities. However, we declined to set up a list of "do's and don'ts" because then we would be no better than the Pharisees of old who did that and criticized our Lord and Savior. We recommend that all of us continue to study the question and set for ourselves guidelines for our personal observance. Then let us show love toward those who may not have quite the same guidelines that I have. "To his own master he standeth or falleth." God shall be the final judge, not I.

Again, it is difficult to condense into a short paragraph or two what was studied and decided. I believe that in the near future some study material will be forthcoming on Sabbath and Sabbath observance.

Those two doctrinal discussions consumed most of our time at Phoenix, plus some necessary revisions of our Bylaws and Standing Rules.

The highlights of the Council, to me, were the devotional times led by various ministers. We were made to examine our own personal Chris-

tian lives and witness. We reexamined OUR relationship with the Creator, His church, and with our personal families. We learned of "margin" time — time away from the office and work, just for self and family, in order to prevent burnout and failure. We reaffirmed our commitment to Christ and the church.

We ordained new men into our ministry. There were some great spiritual experiences interspersed with other work. They were great times!

Because men in the ministry face personal problems, we brought in a professional counselor to lead us in four seminars geared to our personal type of problems. Dr. Sydney Draayer of Paraklesis Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan, led us in the study of "The Minister as an Object of Affection," "Emotional Hazards in the Ministry," "The Ministry and Family Dynamics," and "The Minister and Criticism."

Officers for the next two years are Paul E. Heavilin, president; Roy

Henderson, vice-president; and John Lemley, secretary. The License and Credentials Committee for the next two years consists of John Howell, chairman; Steve Kurtright, vice-chairman; Paul Heavilin, secretary; and Clay Smith, Glen Palmer, Roy Henderson, and Humberto Lopez, committeemen.

Actions of the License and Credentials Committee during that same week granted Credentials to Andy Hassen and Ministerial Licenses to Al Spangler, Denis Burrell, Juan Rios, and Luis Lopez. Paul VanderHorst and Ben Escalante were granted licenses upon completion of their internships. Ray Youngs' resignation from the ministry was accepted. Ben Coulson, Manuel Zurita, and Roy Keim received retirement certificates.

The closing event was a banquet during which Elder Calvin Burrell challenged us with a very inspiring message. I trust that those present were all inspired to go home and accomplish more for our God and our church.



These ministers were ordained during the Council meetings: Elder Luis Lopez, Elder Ramiro Vasquez, Elder Lazaro Gutierrez, Elder Heber Vega, Elder Richard Cress, and Elder Carl Smith.

Pastoral Orientation Course Enrollment Deadline February 15

All men, over 30 years of age with five years of lay-pastoral experience, who seek a ministerial license under the Local Practitioner Program must register for the 1993 Pastoral Orientation Course by February 15. To register, contact Summit School of Theology by phone or mail.

Early registration is necessary to give candidates time to complete required reading and written assignments in preparation for the Orientation Course, scheduled for June 6-18 at SST in Denver, CO.

Because of the preliminary assignments, registration after the February 15 deadline cannot be accepted.

Questions and Answers About the New Financial Plan

by Calvin Burrell

Question: In simple terms, will you describe the changes recently made in our system of church financing?

Answer: For more than forty years, the General Conference has used a system that called for the pooling of most or all of the tithes received in local churches. Under this system, the districts were the primary managers of the tithes, and all pastors were employed by the districts.

In 1992, the amended Conference Bylaws provide a new alternative, without discarding the older system. Now churches have the option of managing most of their tithes locally, and employing their own pastors — rather than through the district.

The change is not a mandate, but a choice. It is the choice of reducing the flow of tithes from a congregation to its district. In exchange the congregation agrees to pay for any pastoral service it receives.

Q. How many congregations are staying with the original plan of pooling tithe in the district, and how many have taken the new option of managing most of the tithe locally?

A. Because of some uncertainty about the choice of a few congregations, our figures are not exact. It appears, however, that a few more than 40 congregations have exercised their option. The final number will be between one-fourth and one-third of our affiliated congregations this first year.

Most of the congregations in the mid-section and eastern parts of the Conference stayed with the original plan. The largest number of churches to withdraw from the district pool were in the Southwestern and West Coast Districts.

Q. I heard that some churches are having difficulty negotiating their fair share with the districts. What about congregations who do not participate under either of these financial options?

A. It may be that the local "fair share" called for in the Bylaws has created sensitivity in a few cases. Together, we are trying to define how districts are to negotiate with the churches for this amount. Earlier this year, the Conference Board adopted a resolution designed to assist congregations and districts in the process. It is my observation that district leaders are usually willing to consider the unique needs and circumstances of local churches when these are communicated to the district office in good faith.

When any congregation declines the repeated invitation of the district to contribute according to Bylaws, it should not rightfully consider itself as a participating church in the General Conference.

Q. Isn't this a rather hard-nosed approach to take over a few dollars?

A. Perhaps it seems an overly business-like approach. Please notice, however, two factors that make it a reasonable one.

First, no church's affiliation should be questioned unless that congregation is first given ample opportunity to express its concerns and to ask for temporary special status.

Second, the Church of God (Seventh Day) sees itself as a voluntary organization of God's people, not the full organism. If a congregation finds itself unable to work cooperatively with us, we wish them a brotherly "godspeed" in their work elsewhere.

Q. Why is a congregation that has taken the new option still asked to contribute to the United Ministries Fund and other projects?

A. The recent Bylaw changes only affect the flow of tithes to the districts. No other funds of the church were affected.

The seven United Ministries Agencies still depend upon contributions to the U.M. Fund as they always have. We continue to invite all members of the church and all affiliated congregations (both pooling and non-pooling) to voluntarily support our Agency work and other Conference-wide projects.

Q. What has been the overall effect of these changes so far, and what do you anticipate will be their long-term effect?

A. Although it is a bit too early for a confident assessment, the early results indicate there may be a decrease in funds at the General Conference level. (Fifteen percent of congregational tithes has been designated for Conference operations.) One or two districts have had to make significant changes in personnel and programming because of the reduction of funds available to them.

Over the longer term I expect that several local churches will enjoy increased ability to fund local projects, and will experience greater satisfaction and growth as a result. There may be fewer full-time pastors for the intermediate future, and more part-time.

After all congregations have adjusted to the new Bylaws, I expect that the General Conference and district offices will not experience a noticeable reduction in their capacities to serve the church.

Births

Chesney — Samuel James was born October 9, 1992, to Bruce and Mary Chesney, Marysville, PA.

Hall — Levi Aaron was born October 6, 1992, to Kyle and Margaret Hall, of Fort Smith, AR. Grandparents are Lawrence and Betty Eddy and Carl and Christine Hall.

Kiesz — Taylor Jonathan was born August 31, 1992, to Richard and Glenda Kiesz, of Sacramento, CA. Grandparents are Paul and Violet Chalus and Nathaniel and Darlene Kiesz.

Neidhardt — Angela Marie was born July 27, 1992, to George and Melodie (Reimche) Neidhardt of Marysville, CA.

Noble — Brendon Josiah was born July 23, 1992, to Bruce and Pam Noble, Owosso, MI.

New Members

Canada: Clarence Duff.

Central: Nino Arnoldo, Catherine E. Bargas, Aurora Bernal, Sara Crowner, Lourdes Dominguez, Antonia Garcia, Felipe R. Garcia, Juan S. Garcia, Margarita Garcia, Richardo Garcia, Gerald H. Helsper, Susan C. Helsper, Daniel Hernandez, Esperanza Hernandez, Joel Hernandez, Socorro Hernandez, Blane Hicks, Ruth Kall, Celestino Ojeda, Jr., Celestino Ojeda, Sr., Celia Ojeda, Elizabeth Ojeda, Enrique Ojeda, Jose Louis Ojeda, Josephine Ojeda, Maria Elena Ojeda, Estela Patino, Renato Rojas, Celene Rubio, Casey Schlenker, Elizabeth Silva, Raul Silva, Linda Tamez, Rebecca Villagomez, Jose

Zavala, Juanita Zavala, Deborah Zuniga.

Northeastern: Rinda S. Kelly.

Southwestern: Norma Guerrero Acosta, Vicente Ponciano Alcala, Jase Neftaly Alvarenga, Olivia Arzaga, Jose Enrique Ayala, Angi Lou Brown, Elvin Wayne Brown, Jim Brown, Mary Lou Brown, Tiffeny Delo Burna, Glenn R. Case, Carrol Joyce Foster, Marva Heaton, Fca. Leticia Mendoza Hernandez, Isabel Hernandez, Leo Hooper, Erika Acosta Lira, Brian Nicholas Maher, Jose Mendoza, Mara De Jesus Morales P., Nora Munoz, Arturo R. Ramirez, David A. Rodriguez, Rey Fernando Sanchez D., Hector M. Alvarenga Sosa, Reynaldo Alvarenga Sosa, Elizabeth Ann Taylor, Calvin Wayne Ullrich, Jerad Henry Ullrich.

West Coast: Georgia L. Carpenter, David Antonio Salazar Hernandez, Margoth Rivas.

Deaths

Stucker — Leonard Austin Stucker, 71, of Meridian, ID, passed away October 14, 1992. He is survived by his wife Floy Pearl; two daughters, Lenora Weir and Susie Palmer; six sons, Virgil, Bob, David, Dean, Dale, and Wesley; one brother, one sister, and 20 grandchildren. Instead of flowers, the family requested memorials be sent to the Spring Vale SOS Fund.

Teem — Hattie Teem, 87, Arnold, CA, died September 17, 1992. She was the mother of three sons: Steve, Clifford, and John; and three daughters: Emily Gowens, Rosie Barnes, and Jewell Johnson. She is also survived by 22 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Weddings

Guthrie - Alexander — Janice Guthrie and Dave Alexander were married April 26, 1992. The couple attend the Scarborough Church of God (Seventh Day) in Canada.

Jasnica - Clavell — Margaret Jasnica and Richard Clavell were married August 9, 1992, in Oak Park, Illinois.

Stanko — Johnny and Claudia Stanko were married October 17, 1992. They attend the Roseville, CA, church.

Prayer Corner

Please remember the following requests for prayer:

Requests for healing:

Sue Cory
LeRoy Dais
Georgina Halstead
Howard Mesick
Delvin and Wilma O'Banion
Ken Reemsnyder
John Sell, Jr.
Kara Syvanen
Gilbert Tuller

Prayers of thanksgiving:

Viola Endecott
LaVerne Grey
Fred Walter
Alma Ward

Continue praying for:

Work in Regina, Saskatchewan
Adequate finances for Agencies SST and SVA
Johnny & Claudia Stanko
Committees responsible for planning the 1993 General Conference Convention



Two District Churches Reach Milestones

The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Marion, Oregon, church brought back special memories to our congregation and visitors during September 17-19.

Elder Calvin Burrell began our celebration by delivering two excellent messages on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Sabbath morning began with a praise service, recitation of The Ten Commandments (as was the custom of this church for many years), followed by a prayer and share time. Instead of the regular Sabbath school lessons, each class gave a special "old-fashioned" presentation. Our children sang songs most of us learned as young children. Several school-aged children individually recited favorite scripture — The Beatitudes, The 23rd Psalm, The Ten Commandments, 1 Corinthians 13. The High School and College Class gave an overview of the topics discussed and admonished us to accept the responsibility of upholding the moral foundations of our nation. The

Adult Class gave a presentation on the Fruits of the Spirit.

During the Worship Service "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," was sung by Mark and Martha Ling and Lee and Becky Larson. While our church may not sit "in the vale," it is in the country and many find "no spot is so dear to their childhood." Jo Helms read an original poem about events that have taken place in our church. The "Dynamic Duo," Delores Fischer and Darlene Kiesz, from Lodi, California, enhanced the day with their beautiful piano and organ music.

Over 275 people enjoyed the potluck fellowship lunch as space dwindled and food multiplied!

The afternoon brought musical numbers from many who had attended the Marion, Oregon, church in its early years. During "The History of Our Church," Kenneth Severance, Alice Henion, and Dee McGill presented historical

vignettes on how the early families came to the area. Mattie Lou McGill presented facts on the original church building, how the congregation grew, the construction of the current building, and many of the programs the church offers. Others shared memories as well.

In laying the foundation of "The Future of Our Church," Will McGill testified of the miracles that have taken place over the past few years (acquiring additional property, getting zoning and variances, etc.) for us to develop The Family and Youth Center to accommodate potlucks, wedding receptions, recreation space for the youth in the church and community, and eventually, a day care center and school. Elder Fred Walter added to that by sharing the goals of our church body in developing a "Body Ministry" as described in 1 Corinthians 12. A skit, "A Broken Heart," by the FYCers described how people are

lonely and in need of love and encouragement, and how the parts of the Body of Christ (the individuals in the church) can minister to those people. A concert by "Bethel" (a musical group of young adults in our church) brought the celebration to a close.

Many memoirs were on display: a pew and pulpit from the original building; a piano scarf crocheted by Sister Effie Dugger, the first pastor's wife; two decorated cakes depicting the original and current church buildings, made by Ruth Sheffield; and many photo albums.

Also on display were the blueprints for the Family and Youth Center. Throughout this occasion, our thoughts turned to the possibilities of the next fifty years, should the Lord tarry. Our future appears as bright as its past because our conviction is Christ-centered and people-focused.

Holly Stucker



A Bethel Concert concluded the special services in Marion; (L.to R.) Priscilla Hawkins, Michael Hawkins, Craig Hawkins, Lori McGill, and Debbie Hawkins.

CHURCH NEWS WRAP-UP

Thirty-nine years ago a group of forty people met in Sacramento, California. The purpose was to decide whether or not to build a church facility. The idea wasn't new, for almost 13 years of work had taken place.

In November of 1940, Elder E.A. Straub drove from Lodi, California, to Sacramento to hold Bible studies with a small group of people. A Sabbath school was soon organized.

Through the years several ministers assisted the young congregation. Elder Ray Moldenhauer began visiting the congregation in 1946 and Elder Israel Haeger ministered to the group on a regular basis beginning in 1950.

During the early years, services were held in private homes. For a while the church rented the Women's Club House in North Sacramento before deciding to build their own building. Property was purchased on

Altos Avenue for \$1,600 in 1952.

Ground breaking services were held March 13, 1954. Elder Israel Haeger, the first pastor, and Ivan Harlan officiated. The first meeting in the church at Altos Avenue was on August 7, 1954, when the building was only half finished. Dedication services were held a month later.

The church grew under the leadership of Elder Haeger and the second pastor of the church, Elder Ray Straub. The day came in 1972 when the church building was too small. The building was sold and arrangements were made to rent facilities at the Arden Church Center where it is presently located.

Elder Jerry Griffin served his ministerial internship under Pastor Straub for one year, ending in June 1973. Pastor Straub, who was West Coast District Overseer and national radio speaker, moved to

Lodi. Jerry became pastor in July 1973. When Brother Griffin moved to Colorado to serve at Summit School of Theology, the church was without a pastor for over a year.

Brother Benton Williams moved into the area after attending SST. Following his term as pastor, the church again functioned without a pastor. The work in the area did not suffer during the times it was without a minister due to the dedicated effort of the church's lay leaders.

Pastor Jerry Camero and his family moved to Sacramento in the spring of 1980. Jerry pastored the Sacramento church until 1985. This period of the church's history was characterized by both increasing attendance and increasing uneasiness. Tensions grew to the point of breaking in the spring of 1985. The darkest moments in the history of the congregation took place when a split oc-

curred in the body of the church. The departure of many long-time members and friends was a painful experience.

In August 1985, Pastor Rick Straub moved to Sacramento from his pastorate in Harrisburg, Oregon. Pastor Straub led the congregation through a time of recovery following the division. Through the struggle, the church was able to dig deep within for the faith to carry on. The church maintained its commitment to rebuild, and moved forward again.

In 1991, the Sacramento church took the most significant step in the congregation's history since moving to Arden Church Center. It decided to call a second full-time pastor to join Pastor Straub. In April 1992, Elder Clay Smith and his family moved from a successful pastorate in Kansas City, Missouri, to join the Sacramento congregation.

The Church of God (Seventh Day) has existed in the Sacramento area for over half a century. It is a past filled with both joyous events and disappointments. How we respond to our past shapes our future. The Sacramento congregation looks to the future with excitement and determination. May we never forget where we have come from and ever look forward to the work God chooses to do through us.



Boys and girls who attended Vacation Bible School in Sacramento, California, this summer.

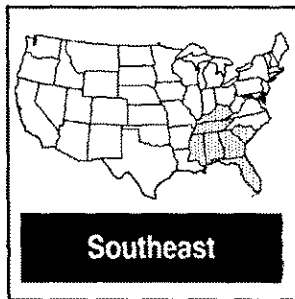
For the first time in fifteen years, Vacation Bible School was held during July at the Sacramento, California, church. For five days the Arden Church Center was abuzz with 46 children, ages 2-12.

VBS was filled with activities for children on the theme, "Team Up With Jesus." The schedule for the week included an opening session where children listened to a message from Teamer J. Bunny, the mascot for VBS.

On Sabbath, the children presented a musical program entitled, "The Great Team-Up Mix Up." The program's setting was an athletic training center on "All Star Street." The training center focused less on competition and more on helping each individual feel like a winner. The ultimate lesson was that life presents a variety of challenges. As we identify with Christ and choose to serve Him, we are all winners.

Even though September 13 was a cool day, the weather didn't dampen the fellowship of close to 100 members of the Harrisburg and Eugene, Oregon, churches, as they gathered to enjoy a day in the park. There was plenty of fun, fellowship, and food. Two weeks later, on September 26, the Harrisburg, Oregon, congregation held a "Fiesta of Friends." The services were festive, the

food was spicy, and the atmosphere was charged with friendship. That's the way they wanted it as they welcomed those new to the congregation over the past year. Even though not everyone could be present, it was a pleasant surprise to see the large group of folks who were introduced as new friends of the church family.



Groundbreaking Ceremony in McMinnville

The Church of God (Seventh Day) fellowship at McMinnville, Tennessee, gathered on the afternoon of September 19, 1992, for a groundbreaking ceremony. The congregation, which has met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Reynolds for the past several years, is beginning construction of a new church building. The building site is east of McMinnville, at the intersection of Dark Hollow Road and Melvin Scott Road, one mile east of Highway 30.

Elder Dale Lawson, pastor at Chattanooga, Tennessee, officiated at the ceremonies. Two members of the McMinnville congregation, Willburn McDowell

and Lonnie Markum (deceased) were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the project. Brother McDowell has been the lay leader for the McMinnville congregation since its beginning twenty years ago. Brother Markum attended services regularly in his later years, and made a significant donation toward the building project.

Construction work on the new building is progressing on schedule. The building is expected to be in use before next spring.

Kenneth Pell

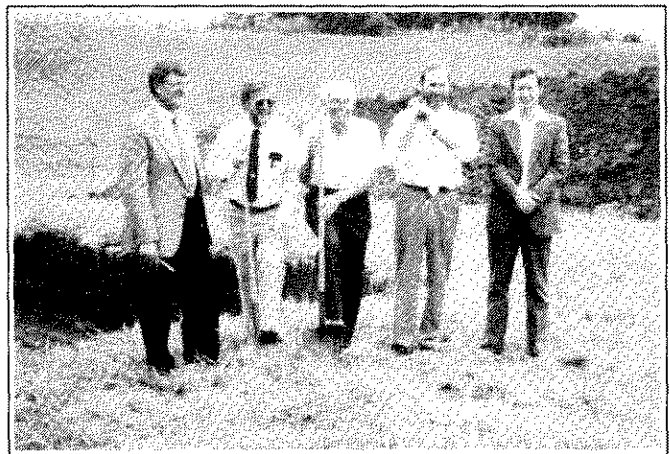
Bread of Life Ministers in Miami

A picture may be worth a thousand words and moving pictures worth even more, but all the TV coverage of the damage of hurricane Andrew could

not prepare me for the vast destruction we saw first hand.

John Lewin and Bill Rice (from the Bread of Life Ministries in Detroit, Michigan), and I left Haines City, Florida, about three in the morning with a loaded pickup truck pulling an RV trailer. Everything was fine until first John and then Bill became too sleepy from their two days of preparation and driving from Michigan. Fortunately, we had reached the Interstate before I had to take the wheel. A combination of night, rain, 18-wheelers passing by, and a definite lack of knowledge with driving this type of rig, kept the prayers going between the snores of the other two. By daylight, when we reached the Miami traffic, one of the real truck drivers took over.

Much of the day was



Elder Dale Lawson; the McMinnville Church Board, Ronnie Reynolds, Willburn McDowell, and Paul Dunlap; and Tennessee representative to the Southeastern District Board, Sam Wiley, participate in the groundbreaking ceremony at the McMinnville church.

CHURCH NEWS WRAP-UP

spent viewing the incredible results of Andrew and talking to different agencies involved in relief. The big problem was trying to pick where to focus our efforts to help.

The next day we set up a somewhat permanent location for the headquarters for the Bread of Life Ministries work. Our goal was to find a secure location from which we could use the pooled resources of the Church of God and the Bread of Life. This location would have to

have facilities for key persons who would stay for the longer term as well as for people who could only spend a couple of days or weeks to help the people in need.

There is much work to do. Anyone with construction skills or who can do manual labor is needed. Beyond the obvious physical rebuilding, there are broken lives. Here is a chance to bind up broken hearts and offer God's love in a way we never have been able to before.

Bill, John, and I are now home. Sister Betty Deems, a volunteer from North Carolina, is in Miami preparing the opportunities to minister. I pray that as God moves on our hearts we will accept the challenge and respond. As we do, God will bless!

Stephen Kyner

(Editor's Note: Watch for a more detailed report in a future issue of The Messenger.)

Here's What's Happening

December 25-27, 1992 — Southwestern District Youth Leadership Conference. For information call John Winfrey (501) 376-6925, or Raymond Mancha (915) 682-6953.

January 17-21, 1993 — Board of Directors Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

February 15, 1993 — Enrollment deadline for Pastoral Orientation Course at SST. Send registrations to Pastoral Orientation Course, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

April 4, 1993 — After sundown, Lord's Supper Service.

June 7-18, 1993 — Pastoral Orientation Course, Denver, Colorado.

June 7-18, 1993 — Summer Session at Summit School of Theology. For information write to Summit School of Theology, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, Colorado 80233.

June 28-July 3, 1993 — General Conference Convention, Bloomington, Minnesota.

How to Criticize your Pastor

From page 27

other cases only the judgment day will reveal the terrible truth. In the same way, everyone knows how much good some pastors do, but sometimes their good deeds aren't known until long afterward" (vv. 24-25).

It is inevitable that offenses and opportunities for offense will come, even among the people of God. But

woe be unto us if we cause such an offense unnecessarily, or if we are among those unnecessarily offended. (See Matthew 18:7.)

Please join us in prayer each week that all our congregations and their pastors will be blessed with long and productive relations.

Calvin Burrell

Statement

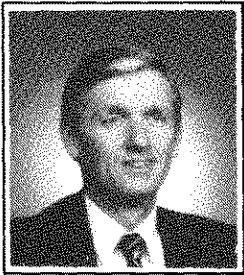
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How to Criticize Your Pastor

A group of us in the Denver office gather every Friday morning to pray — especially asking God for a good Sabbath in all the churches. We usually mention a few congregations that may be experiencing distress or disappointment of which we are aware. That there is need for this sort of prayer should not surprise us. But the number of churches that presently need it disturbs me.

Most of the congregational conflicts of which I hear are over leadership, and often involve the pastor. Even when the primary issue seems to be something else (doctrinal differences or disagreements over property), still the dispute often deteriorates to that of opposing personalities up front.

It is not realistic to think that we can entirely avoid unpleasant circumstances and decisions in our congregations. They occur in every culture and in all religious organizations. Thus, it is better to ask what we can do to alleviate such tensions and work through them successfully when they do arise.

Let me repeat the Biblical counsel of an apostle to a pastor and his congregation regarding the relationship between them. This instruction is found in I Timothy 5:17-25, using the paraphrase of the *Living Bible*:

How to treat a good pastor?

"Pastors who do their work well should be paid well and should be highly appreciated, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching" (v. 17).

And if he is not serving well?

"Don't listen to complaints against the pastor unless there are two or three witnesses to accuse him. If he has really sinned, then he should be rebuked in front of the whole church so that no one else will follow his example" (vv. 19-21).

How to select a new pastor?

"Never be in a hurry about choosing a pastor; you may overlook his sins and it will look as if you approve of them" (v. 22).

Based on these texts, here are some things we can do to reduce the likelihood of conflict over leadership, and to lessen its damage when it does occur:

1. *We can select a pastor, not so much by his gifts, as his character.*

It is likely that more men have succeeded in the ministry by living well than by preaching well. A congregation can endure many mediocre sermons if they love and admire the man in the pulpit; but even a strong sermon can seem intolerable if we do not like the preacher.

Therefore, a pulpit-search committee ought carefully to examine the spirit of the candidate, for it is the character of a Christian spirit that can keep us loving and serving together when our minds and methods have clashed.

2. *We can support a pastor, not only by our tithes and offerings, but also by our appreciative service.*

With just a few well-chosen words now and then, you can insure that your pastor will not feel that his is a thankless job. The greatest honor you can give him, however, is not a com-

pliment on his sermon, but an investment of your time and resources in the gospel ministry which he leads. Few of us have ever overdone such expressions of encouragement. Good pastors are worthy of "double honor."

3. *We can criticize a pastor, not with gossip or with selfish complaining, but only as others agree with us to follow the Biblical pattern to obey Scripture.*

When problems with local leadership must be addressed, let's first check our motives: is our criticism prompted by some hidden anger, or jealousy? Then let's honestly evaluate the seriousness of the complaints: do these issues compromise Christian morality and seriously hinder the church's witness, or are we just nit-picking? When leadership is clearly ineffective, we ought still to ask a few hard questions: what relational price will be paid in the congregation for this change? And, would we do any better with other available pastors, or with no pastor?

Let not the pastor be by-passed in this process, but provide healthy opportunities for him to be directly aware of the growing concerns, and to respond. When all of these circumstances point in the direction of a change in leadership, then let the appropriate evidence be presented to the board by spiritual members who are appropriately aware of their own weaknesses and failures.

"Remember that some men, even pastors, lead sinful lives and everyone knows it. In such situations you can do something about it. But in

Continued on page 26

