

THE HARVEST FIELD

Messenger

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Messenger

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Steven Brightbill

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The *Harvest Field Messenger* is a magazine of and for members of the Church of God (Seventh Day), and contains news, information and features about a wide variety of activities and programs.

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Editorial

"And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24, NASB).



AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE

For better or worse, as far as you might be concerned, I owe much of my interest in writing and editorial work to Miss Zeller, my high school English teacher. I like to write of course, but I don't pretend to be a great writer. On a scale of one to ten, I'd probably be generous and rate myself a seven and one-half. That's because I still struggle to keep my sentences shorter. Prepositions are words I sometimes end my sentences with. And my style is somewhat uneven. Nevertheless, Miss Zeller made a profound impact upon me.

Miss Zeller is one of those rare teachers who come along only once in a lifetime. She is tough, but great. She is a stickler for proper subject-verb agreement, dangling participles, and split infinitives. But when you finished her class at the end of the year, you knew you had learned something.

Miss Zeller is more than a great teacher. She is an inspiration. Miss Zeller worked us hard, but we all knew it was for our benefit. She challenged us and motivated us. We learned our grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary. But we left her classroom inspired.

Miss Zeller's example is one from which Christians can learn. As God's children we are supposed to make a positive impact on each other. We are obligated to inspire one another, stimulating our brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good deeds. I'm convinced that this simple admonition, if heeded and applied, possesses the power to transform God's people from mediocrity to excellence, from just plodding along to accomplishing great things in His behalf.

In a world that thrives on negativity, we need to work on emphasizing the positive. That's why the writer of the *Book of Hebrews* exhorts believers to consider how we might stimulate one another to love and good needs. As the Body of Christ is positively stimulated, we all benefit.

Speaking of stimulation, let me add a word about this issue's two feature articles. They discuss the impact and effects of television on children and on the Christian family. Television is, of course, one of the most powerful sources of stimulation in our world today. Even though it can be a very useful tool and positive stimulus, often it's a negative one. These articles will enable you to better evaluate the effects of television in your life. Hopefully they will provide insight which will also stimulate a more positive relationship between you and your Lord.

Steven Brightbill

FOR YOUR CHILD'S WELL-BEING...

TAKE CONTROL

by Patricia Skalka

Tommy, age 5, knows how to spell "relief" — R-O-L-A-I-D-S. Kimberly, 6, can say "hello" in Spanish and French. Jennifer, 3, thinks all doctors are men. David, 4, flawlessly recites the ABCs. Tommy, Kimberly, Jennifer, and David represent the nation's children. Like their peers, they watch an average of 26 hours of television every week. Like many kids in America, they learn about life from the images that flicker constantly across the rectangular screen in their home. But what are they learning? The question continues to nag parents, teachers, and child-development experts.

For many years people were concerned about the effects of TV violence on children's behavior, and of TV commercials on their dietary habits and buying demands. In response to pressure from the public and from special-interest groups, broadcasters have reduced commercial time on weekend kid shows. But as recently as 1981, industry representatives argued that the violence issue is spurious, despite much accumulated data to the contrary.

Today a larger question dominates discussion of television's impact on children: Does TV, which

is so much a part of life in the United States, stimulate growth and learning in children or is it turning our youngsters into a generation of zombies?

In a nation where many children spend as much as one-third of their waking hours watching television, and where, by the time he or she graduates from high school, the average child has logged 15,000 hours before the set, TV's effect on them is not a matter to be taken lightly.

In 1982 the National Institute of Mental Health issued a 10-year update on the role TV plays in our lives, especially children. Among points the report makes about TV and young viewers are these:

- Heavy viewing is associated with lower imagination and less creativity.
- Television does not provide material for imaginative play.
- Reading comprehension is lower for students who watch a great deal of TV.
- Television seems to interfere with educational aspirations.

In light of the fact that, for so



OF YOUR TV

many viewers, television provides programs that are entertaining and informative, why is it that the medium appears to fail children so miserably? There are many theories and answers to the question.

For parents to understand that television can have adverse effects on children, they must realize that youngsters do not "see" television in the same way adults do. "The impact television has on a viewer depends to a great extent on what the viewer brings to TV," explains Marieli Rowe, executive director of the American Council for Better Broadcasts.

The adult viewer can critique and analyze content, tune out irrelevancies, follow complicated flashbacks and absorb a fast-paced sequence of action. For the most part, children cannot.

Very young children are unable to distinguish fantasy from reality on the television screen. They do not know what is fact and what is opinion. They do not understand the basis of many of the events that occur. They are exposed to the whole world — as seen through the eyes of the TV screen — before they have developed the ability to understand and to cope with the larger society.

Peggy Charren, president of Action for Children's Television, cites two major TV-and-children problems. (1) Kids watch too much television, and the TV viewing comes at the expense of other activities critical to normal and healthy development. TV is a passive experience; young children

learn through active participation in play and social interaction. (2) Television offers too little diversity and too little programming especially created for child audiences. Despite the fact that adults tend to equate children and television with kid-TV programs, in reality 80 percent of what is offered on the screen is adult programming, which kids watch.


"Unfortunately, the situation is getting worse rather than better," says Charren.

Some programs that bore adults are good for kids. Studies show that *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, for example, which is slow-paced and provides time for kids to think things through, actually stimulates creative thought and imaginative play. Surprisingly, other children's programs, like the once-heralded *Sesame Street*, have come under limited fire. Critics warn that the fast format can contribute to a shortened attention span. They also question whether, because of these types of shows, child viewers learn to think or merely to repeat by rote.

Some detractors argue that the medium itself is detrimental to young children. A *Time* special on TV and kids reported on a Massachusetts study that found even exciting TV shows did little to stimulate brain-wave activity in children. Instead of being attentive, the young viewers were "just sitting quietly in the dark."

John K. Rosemond, a master's degree psychologist in Gastonia, N.C., who specializes in family

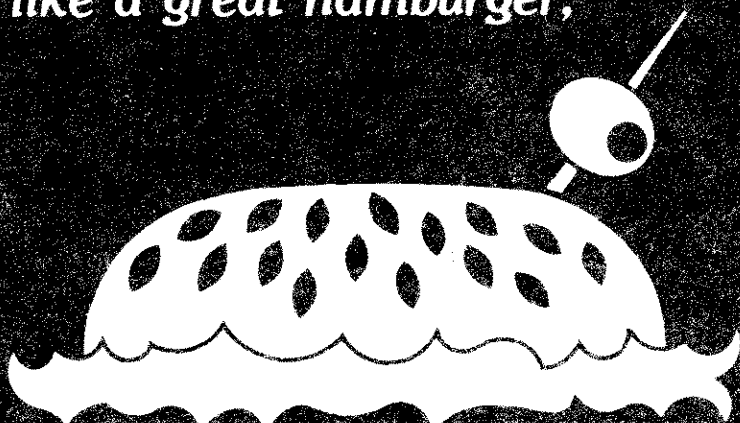
In a nation where many children spend as much as one-third of their waking hours watching television, and where, by the time he or she graduates from high school, the average child has logged 15,000 hours before the set, TV's effect on them is not a matter to be taken lightly.



practice and authors the syndicated column *Parents*, agrees that TV by its very nature is harmful to children. "Content is irrelevant," says Rosemond, though he makes a "slight exception" for *Mister Rogers*. "Television is bad for kids because kids watching TV are doing essentially nothing."

They are not, says Rosemond,

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exploring their environment; exercising their capacity for discovery and initiative; acquiring mastery over their surroundings; learning to scan for information (a skill needed in reading); improving basic eye-hand coordination; or playing, which is an important element in developing social and cognitive skills.

"Kids who watch TV learn to stare," Rosemond says.

The results can be alarming. Rosemond does not think it unreasonable to blame TV viewing, at least in part, for the increase in elementary-school pupils with learning disabilities and

*Very young children
are unable to dis-
tinguish fantasy from
reality on the tele-
vision screen.*

reading problems. He maintains, "If you talk to veteran teachers, they will tell you that young children today have more difficulty learning to read, are not as interested in learning, are not good analytical thinkers, and are not resourceful individuals."

Ironically, even while critics lambast TV's effect on learning and development, many educators and industry innovators are actively, and they say successfully, using television as a teaching tool. In Philadelphia, for example, a former high school English teacher used scripts from popular TV shows to establish a reading program for primary pupils. In Chicago, a non-profit organization develops TV-related study guides for use in the nation's schools.

The operative word is *use*. These are examples of people using television to a specific end, rather than being used by it.

And this, say experts, provides a valuable lesson for parents.

AND NOW, A WORD . . .

Here is a partial list of publications for parents; check your library or school for additional resources.*

"Television and Behavior: Ten Years of Scientific Progress and Implications for the Eighties," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Mental Health, DHHS Publication No. (ADM) 82-1195.

"The ACT Guide to Children's Television," Evelyn Kaye, Beacon Press, Boston, 1979 (\$5.95).

"Changing Channels: Living (Sensibly) With Television," Peggy Charren and Martin W. Sandler, Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1982 (\$24.95 hardcover, \$11.95 trade paperback).

"Parent Power! Common Sense to Raising Your Children in the Eighties," John Rosemond, East Woods Press, Charlotte, NC, 1981

(\$10.95). Paperback: Pocket Books, 1983.

"Teaching Television: How to Use TV to Your Child's Advantage," Dorothy G. Singer, Jerome L. Singer, and Diana M. Zuckerman, The Dial Press, New York, 1981 (\$10.95).

"Children and Television . . . A Primer for Parents," John P. Murray and Barbara Lonnborn. Single copies of the 12-page booklet are available free by writing: TV, Communications & Public Service, Boys Town Center, Boys Town, NE 68010.

For further information, write:

Action for Children's Television, 46 Austin, St., Newtonville, MA 02160.

The American Council for Better Broadcasts, 120 E. Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703.

**These books are NOT available through the Bible Advocate Press. Check your local bookstore for these books.*

Despite the pervasive nature of television in society, parents can take a stand against it. You do not have to feel helpless — you can take control of the talking box. By doing so you will be performing a valuable service.

First, realize you are not alone in the struggle to understand and affect television viewing and programming; many organizations and resources are available to help. Second, realize you have options:

● You can limit viewing time.

"Cutting down to fewer than 10 hours a week makes sense for most families," says Charren. (She makes possible exceptions for bedridden or latch-key children, who may need television to fill a void in their lives.) Rosemond advocates *no* TV for preschoolers; and up to only seven hours per week for older youngsters. (His two children, ages 10 and 13, watch three to five hours of TV weekly; to keep view-

ing under strict parental control, the set is in the master bedroom, and the children must ask permission to enter and use it.)

● You can choose what will be watched.

"Watch programs — not television," says Charren. "Limit young children's viewing to the kinds of programs they can deal with," suggests Rowe.

● You can — and should — watch TV with your children.

Why? So you will know what they are watching; so you can ask questions about the programs and turn the session into a learning experience; so you can explain what is happening on the TV screen.

● You can teach your children to be critical viewers.

Make sure they understand there are different types of TV programs. Question them about what they've seen. Let them hear your own critical comments; point out to them what is real, what is not.

● You can get involved with the broadcasting process.

Television technology is burgeoning and the new word in TV, says Rowe, is "narrow-casting." Networks reach out to large, diverse audiences; new techniques enable TV to develop programs for small, specialized viewer groups.

Learn how you can become part of cable TV in your area (in many instances, cable franchises must legally offer studio access to the public — you can literally walk in the door and produce your own show). Learn about closed-circuit possibilities in your school system. Find out if your library or local public broadcasting station offers participatory TV activities for kids.

● You can demand better TV programming for your children.

Public airwaves are just that, says Charren — they are owned by the public. Stations must operate "in the public interest." As a parent, you have the right and the responsibility to voice opinions about programs available for kids and to demand better programming for them.

As for the recent government study that has prompted so much renewed interest and discussion of TV and children, here are two more points worth considering:

● Yes, violence on television does lead to aggressive behavior in children.

● Yes, children who watch a lot of television have poorer nutritional habits than children who do not watch as much.

The report cautions that we as a nation must begin to take TV and its impact seriously. TV is not just a casual part of daily life, not merely an electronic toy.

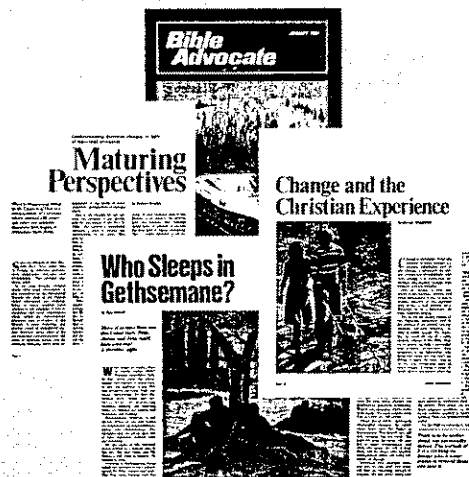
Rather, television is a powerful force we must learn to understand and control — for the sake of the children. ■

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Church News Wrapup



Elder Stanley Kauer is remaining active in Oregon, and the Eugene brethren are making good use of the January Bible Advocate.



Proposed Bylaws To Be Published

The Coordinating Committee will publish the full text of the bylaws it has prepared for presentation to the 1985 session of the General Conference and General Council meeting in Logan, Utah. The text will appear in the March-April issue of the *Messenger*.

These bylaws have been developed following exhaustive consultation with the executive boards of both the General Conference and General Council. They were introduced to the memberships in session during the 1983 General Conference and General Council meetings. At that time members were given opportunity for input and comment. Now, having considered each suggestion carefully, the Coordinating Committee has prepared a final draft of the bylaws and their adopting resolution.

If these bylaws are adopted by both memberships in July 1985, they will represent the basis for the unification of the Conference and the Council. Also, they will become the basis on which the unified church will operate.

Be sure to look for and read the report of the Coordinating Committee in the next issue of the *Messenger*.

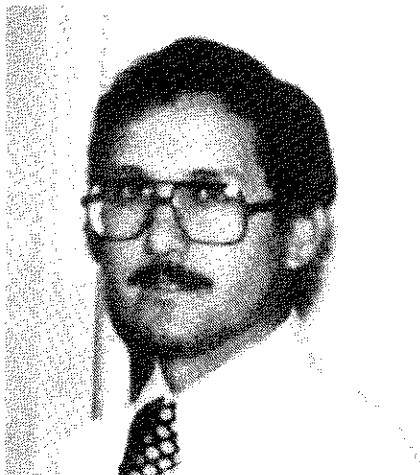
Ministers Attend Annual Retreat

Three ministers from the General Conference attended a ministerial retreat sponsored by the General Council. Elders Ray Straub, Rick Straub, and Abel Zaragoza attended the retreat, along with two dozen other men who met in Turner, Oregon, December 29-31 for the annual event. Workshop topics included: How to Get Out of a Rut; Leadership Styles; Marital Bonding; Cur-

rent Events in Light of Bible Prophecy; and Resources for Personal Development. Additional discussion related to the proposed unification rounded out the program.

Faithful Servant Memorial Fund Update

After a year or more of inactivity, two grants were made in December 1983 from the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund. The amounts were \$200 each to Daniel Davila and Ken Moldenhauer. Daniel is in the middle of a doctoral program at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, while serving the church at Summit and with Missions Abroad. Ken is pursuing graduate studies at Denver Seminary, in addition to his service as assistant to the pastor in our Denver Church. Both men are committed to an ongoing and im-



Daniel Davila (l) and Ken Moldenhauer (r) are recent recipients of grants from the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund.

John Roina, Director of Media Outreach, recently attended an important church planting seminar.

proving vocational service in the Church of God.

An additional award will be given to a Summit School student early in this year.

Students who wish to apply for a grant may write a letter of request to the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund, c/o the General Conference offices. Please state particulars about your current schooling and career goals.

John Roina Attends Major Seminar

Denominational executives, pastors, and laity, including John Roina, Director of Media Outreach, were among the 635 in attendance at the "How to Plant a Church" seminar sponsored by the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth held at Pasadena in late November.

"As evidenced by the response," which included participants from 66 denominations, 42 states, and four countries, "church planting is a widely felt need," said Carl F. George, director of the institute. "One of the most important denominational tools for growth is the establishment of new churches," he said.

Comments encouraging the Fuller Institute to hold more seminars in more places have already

resulted in definite plans for a seminar in Chicago, May 23 through June 1, and considerations for a more advanced event in Pasadena next fall.

The main speaker at the event, Dr. C. Peter Wagner, professor of church growth at Fuller's School of World Mission, considered the seminar a powerful work of God. Attendance far exceeded anything Wagner had expected.

Wagner and George originally intended to hold a seminar for between 40 and 150 pastors and denominational executives interested in church planting. Interest had been sparked among them by students who made career changes after taking Wagner's course in church planting at Fuller Seminary.

The first time Wagner taught the class, seven students committed themselves to church planting

instead of pursuing established pastorates. A similar response was seen as a result of the seminar. For example, one pastor called Wagner to say that the "seminar revolutionized his life." He gave notice to his church the day after the seminar telling them that in the near future he plans to start his church planting career.

John's attendance at this major seminar is a continuation and further development of the work initially authorized and begun under the Church Growth program. "Planting new churches is the next logical step for the Church of God," says John. He adds, "For a variety of reasons, there are limitations in the size and growth potential in some of our congregations. As an evangelistic alternative, participation in projects which plant new churches is a direction many con-

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

The next meeting of the North American Ministerial Council is scheduled for the campus of Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri. The dates are June 18-21, 1984.

All ministers licensed or credentialed by the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) are urged to attend.

gregations could pursue."

During the coming year John will be studying new approaches to church planting, and will be recommending strategies to develop church planting programs.

San Jose Seekers Host "All Nations" Day

Representatives of "All Nations" recently gathered in San Jose, California. Seeker Directors, Esther Garcia and Rita Arroya, helped organize the children of the San Jose Church in a gospel tribute to the missions work of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in 18 countries. The theme of their presentation was "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel."

So authentic were the costumes worn by the children that one of the newest members of the congregation asked if the children had been flown in from their respective countries, and asked who was going to pay for it. Many thanks to the mothers for making the children's costumes so genuine and for a job well done.

The "All Nations" presentation was so successful that the members of the Church asked that the program be repeated a second time in the same day.

The main purpose of the program was to inform members, via

the children, of the missions work being done in other parts of the world. The information given covered the names of the countries where the Church of God (Seventh Day) is present, the membership of each country, and the number of local churches they each have.

The San Jose Church was deeply touched by the presentation and will continue to actively support the missions work of the Church of God (Seventh Day).

Oklahoma City Church Needs Minister of Music

The Oklahoma City Church of God is in need of a Minister of Music. In recent months the Church has been blessed by considerable growth in attendance. However, the area of music, considered extremely vital, is seriously lacking.

The OKC Church is looking for someone who is capable in congregational song leading, choir directing, encouraging and developing local talent for duets, trios, quartets, etc., and planning a music schedule. This person should also have a sincere love for the gospel and be willing to consider his/her involvement in the church program a ministry.

A limited financial remuneration may be available, but should not be considered sufficient reason to accept this responsibility.

If interested, please contact Elder Ray Moldenhauer, 3019 S.E. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73115. Phone: (405) 677-1953 or (405) 670-5284.

Eugene Brethren to Sponsor Retreat

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE is the theme of a retreat being offered March 23-25, 1984. It will be at Woodland, Washington, 21 miles north of Portland Oregon. The purpose of the retreat is to encourage and illustrate how today's Christians can make a difference in their world.

The cost for the weekend is \$28 per person. If you wish to attend, send your reservation request and a \$15 per person deposit before March 1, 1984. For further information write Don Patton, P.O. Box 21215, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

Hispanic Coordinating Committee Meets

The Hispanic Coordinating Committee met following the annual Hispanic Convocation, McAllen, Texas, November 27, 28. The purpose of this meeting was to develop guidelines for the operation of the committee and to address some of the immediate concerns of the Hispanic membership of the Church. The members of the Hispanic Coordinating Committee are: Manual Ochoa, chairman, Hawthorne, California; Jesus Martinez, San Antonio, Texas; and Manuel Molinar, secretary, Marion, Iowa.

The committee has submitted its report to the Executive Board for action in its February meeting. Its report contains a policy statement identifying the scope of the Coordinating Committee's assignment and recommendations on how the committee will function in 1984. This is accompanied by an operating budget.



San Jose Seekers in multi-national costumes.

The first issue addressed by the Hispanic Coordinating Committee and recommended to the Executive Board is the certification of lay ministers or pastors. While this program addresses the pastoral needs of many small Hispanic churches and missions, it represents a general approach to the identification of and certification of laymen who may offer pastoral leadership to any small church, mission, or Sabbath school.

Three Church Pioneers Recently Die

Three church pioneers who were instrumental in developing the church's work in the north central part of the United States died recently. They include Clarence Wilkinson and C. H. Heywood. Both men were church leaders in Michigan. Brother Wilkinson was one of the founders of Spring Vale Academy in Owosso.

Sister Emma Weir, nearly 101 years old, was the oldest member of the Church of God at the time of her death, December 12, 1983. She and her husband, Martin, were church pioneers in Wisconsin.

Notes From All Over

The CENTRAL DISTRICT reports three new pastoral assignments in recent months. Elder Nick Nimchuk, formerly the pastor of the Calgary, Alberta congregation, is now pastoring the Eureka, South Dakota Church. Delvin O'Banion, who was serving the Shawnee Church is now serving the Joplin, Missouri brethren. And John Lemley, who served in Walla Walla, Washington, is now the pastor at Stanberry, Missouri.

Folks from the TOPPENISH, Washington Church of God have been visiting among Church of God groups in the northwest, presenting their childrens' musical play, "Kids Under Construction."

This issue's "HATS OFF TO" AWARD goes to Abel Zaragoza, pastor of the Eugene, Oregon

1 Corinthians 13 Revisited

Though I have taken three years of Greek and Hebrew, if I have not love, I am become a scholarly windbag.

And though I teach a Sabbath school class, and come to every mid-week service, and though I have missed only one week of visitation (when I had the flu), if I have not love, I am nothing.

And though I tithe every week, and always have my Sabbath school lesson done on time, and though I send my kids to a Christian school, and have driven the kids' Sabbath school class to the lake once, and though I invited the minister and his family over for dinner last month — if I have not love, the whole thing means nothing.

Love keeps on loving when the other guy doesn't love back.

Love doesn't get jealous when the next door neighbor can afford a new Datsun B-210.

Love doesn't show off to the next door neighbor when you can afford a Datsun 240-Z.

Love isn't rude to the persistent salesman at the door.

Love is gracious when the line you've been standing in for an hour closes when you reach the counter.

Love is not happy when your lazy partner at work finally gets laid off.

Love keeps on loving, even when embarrassed by your teenager's hair, music, or friends.

Love isn't thwarted by ten hours of screaming kids, soiled diapers, dirty dishes, and a perpetual mess in the living room.

Love never fails. Whether there be knowledge of Greek or Hebrew, you'll eventually forget it. Whether there be your kids in a Christian school, they'll graduate. Whether you tithe every week, your wallet will get stolen.

And now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these, genuine love, keeps on loving . . . because God did.

Michael Bechtell in Eternity

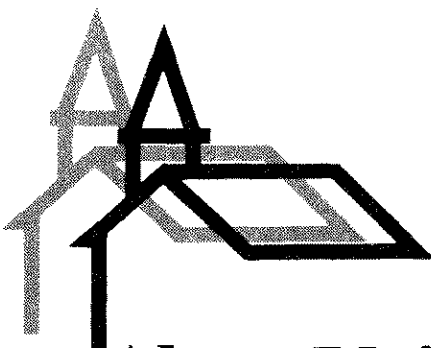
Church, and the brethren who recently benefited from a Bible study on the subject of change. These folks used the January issue of the *Bible Advocate* as the basis for their discussion. Now that's making use of one of those "17 Ways to Use and Introduce the *Bible Advocate*." The pamphlet, which contains a number of useful ideas was recently distributed throughout all of our congregations.

David Gartner, who has been serving the brethren in

ROSWELL, New Mexico, recently received a Provisional Ministerial License, based upon the recommendation of the Southwest District Board.

CORNERSTONE Gospel Singers are on the road again. Following a successful tour among Southwest District church groups, they are presently on tour throughout the Central District. Not only does Cornerstone perform before Church of God

(Continued on page 14)



DIALOGUE

Questions & Answers About Unity

Q: Who authorized the formation of the Coordinating Committee? I don't recall the general membership having any say in the matter.

A: The General Conference's representatives on the Coordinating Committee were appointed by the chairman of the Executive Board in response to a request for such representation by the Board. The Executive Board asked that this be done after being informed that the General Council (Meridian, Idaho) appointed representatives to a committee to discuss possible unification of the two church organizations. They anticipated that the General Conference would do the same.

It is true that the general membership did not express itself in the *formation* of this committee. It would have been impractical to hold off on this until the general membership could communicate its feelings. Without some initial action there could have been no forum through which to discuss forming a committee.

The Executive Board has constitutional authority to serve in behalf of the General Conference, except when the Conference is in session. Appointing members to the Coordinating Committee would fall within that prerogative. It felt that it served the Conference well in so doing.

An early item on the agenda of the Coordinating Committee was to consider the feasibility of an organizational unification of the two church bodies. The Committee felt that such a move would be possible and desirable. Its sentiments were drafted into a statement and published to the membership of both churches.

Since the time that this feasibility

statement was made available, the question concerning whether to proceed toward unification was placed before every body which represents each national church. This includes meetings of the Executive Board, the ministerial bodies, and the General Conference. Each of these organizations has had opportunity to consider the question at least twice. Every official expression gave encouragement to proceed.

The Coordinating Committee seeks to represent the thinking of both memberships in its meetings. Were the members of this committee concerned only with their own feelings, the unification might already be completed, because the committee members appreciate each other's fellowship and efforts. They can work together smoothly and happily within one organization.

The timing and strategy employed by the Coordinating Committee seeks to accomplish what will serve as great a portion of the membership of both organizations as possible.

The members still have their say on the proposal to unify the two churches. Opinions and suggestions may be given to pastors or directly to members of the Coordinating Committee.

Furthermore, it is not only the legal right, but the moral responsibility of a governing board to pursue ideas and actions considered to be of benefit to the body it serves. This includes the formation of committees to study and then present its findings.

The formulation of a committee on unity first developed in the spring of 1976. A general statement of its findings was released to the membership of the General Conference and the General Council. This committee functions for one year.

The present Coordination Committee was appointed in the winter of 1980. It met in June 1980, and again,

a statement of purpose was released to the membership. Less than one month later those committeemen representing the General Council gave its report at the General Council business session. In each year after, 1981-1983, the General Council has passed a resolution authorizing the committee to continue its efforts toward unity.

In May 1982, a joint Ministerial Council convened in Boise, Idaho, and adopted a resolution containing the following endorsement:

1. That the joint Council reconfirm its support of unification of the two bodies.

2. That the joint Council request the Coordination Committee to prepare the mechanics for full unification of the respective bodies to be presented before each conference or council in session in 1983 or at the earliest possible opportunity.

Furthermore, committee members from both organizations were present at the business sessions where *each* body passed a resolution authorizing the continuation of the committee's efforts.

Although it is true the membership was not involved in the formulation of the committee, it is abundantly evident that the membership has endorsed the committee and its efforts since the summer of 1981.

—Ray Straub and Glen Palmer

Q: It sure seems to me that the decision to unite the General Conference and the General Council is a foregone conclusion. I would like the Coordinating Committee to respond.

A: If I understand your sentiments, you feel that the unification of the Denver and Meridian Church of God (7th Day) organizations is a decision already

made by certain leadership, with everyone else expected to fall in line without objection. If that is correct, then my answer is, "No; the decision to unite is not a foregone conclusion in any official sense."

The reason for my response is simple: the full and final decision to unite will be made by the memberships of each organization in session during the summer of 1985 — and not until.

All discussion and promotion of the issue prior to that time is only the pre-game warmups. These are the preliminaries. The time that really counts is when we will meet in session in 1985. That vote, and that vote alone, will determine officially whether unification succeeds or fails.

Considering that fact, the concern expressed reminds me of the problem supposedly experienced in Moscow when someone broke into the Kremlin and stole the results of next year's election. Perhaps that is possible in some churches, but not in either of our organizations.

In matters such as this one, the decision rests completely in the hearts of our church memberships who will attend the national meeting in 1985. We operate democratically, and there is no way that the outcome of the vote can be known prior to the time it is cast.

From now until then is the time for every member to get involved, to participate in the preliminaries by asking questions, giving opinions, and exerting influence in the direction of their conviction. Not until after the final vote is taken will it be too late.

Perhaps the reason it may seem to some people that unification is a foregone conclusion is the strong favor given to it on official levels. Some of the church assemblies which have gone on record endorsing unification are the General Conferences of 1981 and 1983, the Ministerial Council of 1982, the Executive Board (of the General Conference), as well as the corresponding assemblies representing the General Council. In most cases, the votes have been with large majorities favoring unification.

Such evidence can certainly lead one to believe that unification has a better than average chance of success. But the concluding vote is not yet taken. Officially, the score is still zero to zero, and it will be so until July 1985. So in the meantime, get involved!

Yes, a lot of progress has been made on the road to unification. It has been the Coordinating Committee's assignment to plan and promote unification, and we are gratified with the support we have received from many quarters. We feel that unification will be a step forward for us all. It would be a disappointment, and a waste, we believe, in God's work, should unification fail. That is why we continue our promotions.

But perhaps we are wrong. And if we are, we are certainly trusting that God's good purposes will prevail among our brethren who will make this decision in 1985.

Plan to attend that convention! Your vote will count just as much as mine!

— Calvin Burrell

Q: Why can't we vote on unity in our local church? Why must we come to conference in 1985 to vote on unity?

A: There are several legitimate reasons why the vote on unification between the General Conference and the General Council must be taken when the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) is in session. Presently, that vote is scheduled to be taken by the Conference in its 1985 session.

The question on unifying the General Conference and General Council is a complex issue. We are discussing much more than a vote of uniting two very closely related

groups of believers. We are dealing with some rather complex legal issues which involve the merging of two incorporated bodies. The General Conference has been incorporated in the State of Missouri since 1899. The General Council is currently incorporated in the State of Idaho. Each corporation has assets in terms of its real estate and other holdings. Therefore, you can easily understand that the question of unification, from a legal standpoint, is not a simple issue.

When the vote is taken on unification it will be on the adoption of a lengthy resolution containing at least thirteen paragraphs. This resolution makes provisions for several necessary and practical issues which must be settled as a basis for bringing the two churches together. Let me list the provisions contained in the resolution for unification which is being proposed by the Coordinating Committee:

1. Its stated objective is to unite the General Conference and General Council into one body.
2. It proposes a revised set of bylaws for the adoption of each of the churches under which the unified organization will operate.
3. It identifies the headquarters for the unified church as those of the General Conference, Denver, Colorado.
4. It authorizes the organization to function under the provisions of the General Conference's Missouri Corporation.
5. It makes special provisions for the restructuring of the General

The Messenger encourages its readers to participate in this dialogue. It is recognized that many of our members have earnest questions and concerns about the proposed unification of the General Conference and General Council. At the same time we believe it is necessary to properly air the issues, address the concerns, and answer the questions related to unity. This feature serves that purpose, and we invite your questions and comments. They will be used anonymously. Answers and responses will be provided by members of the Coordinating Committee.

Council's Idaho Corporation to serve as the trustee of local property in Meridian.

6. It makes special provisions for the first election of the Executive Board of the united conference.

7. It offers a statement regarding the impact of unification of the churches on their foreign missions.

8. It states a policy on membership recognition and documentation of ministers.

9. It provides for the continuity of the church's publication and literature through the Bible Advocate Press. Summit School of Theology is to function as the church's ministerial training center.

10. It provides for the continuity of the Conference's district operations until they can reapportion membership and hold new elections for district board members.

11. It provides for local churches which need some time to fully comply with the conference's funding programs.

12. It provides instructions to the Executive Board in how it may assist and promote unification in the field.

The nature of these questions do not lend themselves well to a vote taken anywhere other than the Conference in session. They need to be fully discussed before they are finally adopted.

The most important item contained in the resolution for unification is the revised bylaws. Before the resolution itself is voted on, the Conference will be asked to review each article, section, and paragraph of this document. It will be perfected at that time for final adoption when the resolution for unity is voted on. Hence, since the resolution for unity contains a provision for amending the Conference's bylaws, it must meet several requirements. Our present bylaws require that any amendment offered to them must first, be sent to the membership at least 30 days in advance; second, receive a two-thirds vote; and third, be presented to the Conference in a regular or special meeting of the Conference.

This provision alone would prevent a vote on unification from occurring in local churches outside of a regular or special meeting of the Conference. Added to this, our own organizational documents, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the General Conference, specifically Article 3, require that the business of the Con-

ference be conducted in session. Further, when the Conference is not in session, its Executive Board of twelve men is to "manage" the business of the conference. Article IV, Section 9, Paragraph H, of our Bylaws restates this provision by authorizing the Board to, "Exercise the duties of the Conference when the Conference is not in session." In both cases the intent of the Charter and Bylaws are clear: the business of the Conference will be conducted in its sessions.

This principle is basic to general or common parliamentary authority. Please observe the following quotations from *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*:

"Nature of Deliberative Assembly"

"A deliberative assembly — the kind to which parliamentary law is generally understood to apply — has the following distinguishing characteristics:

"It is an independent or autonomous group of people meeting to determine, in full and free discussion, courses of action to be taken in the name of the entire group.

"The group is of such size . . . that a degree of formality is necessary in its proceedings.

"Persons having the right to participate — that is, the members — are ordinarily free to act within the assembly according to their own judgment.

"The opinion of each member present has equal weight, as expressed by vote, in the decisions made.

"Failure to concur in a decision of the body does not constitute withdrawal from the body.

"If there are absentee members as there usually are in any formally organized assembly . . . the members present at a regular or properly called meeting act for the entire membership, subject only to such limitations as may be established by the body's governing rules."

Perhaps a further quotation from *Robert's* will provide further insight into the importance of conducting the business of an assembly, such as the General Conference in session.

Under the heading of "Absentee Voting," *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, page 355, states: "It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time the vote is taken in a legal meeting. Exceptions to this rule

must be expressly stated in the bylaws."

Regarding voting by proxy, I wish to quote one more passage from *Robert's*. This quotation appears under the heading "Proxy Voting," on page 360: "A proxy is a power of attorney given by one person to another to vote in his stead; the term also designates the person who holds the power of attorney. Proxy voting is not permitted in ordinary deliberative assemblies unless the laws of the state in which the society is incorporated require it, or the charter or bylaws of the organization provide for it. Ordinarily it should neither be allowed or required, because proxy voting is incompatible with the essential characteristics of a deliberative assembly in which the membership is individual, personal, and nontransferable, by use of a proxy. But in a non-stock corporation, where membership is usually on the same basis as in an unincorporated, voluntary association, voting by proxy should not be permitted unless the state's corporation law — as applying to non-stock corporations — absolutely requires it."

To summarize, sometimes when we start to answer a question by raising technical objections, it appears that someone is trying to sidestep the real issue raised by the question. That is not my intent. My interest is to demonstrate from our own organizational documents and from our adopted parliamentary authority, that it is neither practical nor permissible for us to conduct the business of the Conference outside its sessions. When the Conference is in session, it represents the highest earthly authority of the Church of God (Seventh Day). It was from this body that the Coordinating Committee received its earliest mandate to seek the means by which the General Conference and General Council could be unified. The Conference in session has continued to be supportive of the unification efforts between our two churches. Now, in keeping with its legal and historic role, the Conference in session will decide the fate of unity in its scheduled 1985 meeting.

— Robert Coulter

¹ *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, General Henry M. Roberts: Scott, Foresman and Co.; pages 1, 2.

Notes From All Over

(Continued from page 11)

brethren, but they have been receiving many invitations from other Christian groups. These musical ambassadors are creating lots of goodwill throughout the larger Christian community.

Seventeen youth and six teachers became "stuck on each other" as the ST. JOSEPH Youth Sabbath School Department recently held an old-fashioned taffy pull.

The EUREKA, South Dakota brethren were apparently blessed this past year. At their annual Harvest of Thanks services on November 12, they received a

PLEASE NOTE

This year the Lord's Supper should be observed Sunday night, April 15.

United Missions offering of nearly \$3,000. And to show you how God is faithful to those who are faithful to Him, revival services several weeks later yielded an impressive number of visitors and new contacts. Keep up the great work Eureka!

Several churches in OREGON have been blessed with an active Elder Stanley Kauer who has been traveling among the congregations, preaching on a variety of prophecy themes.

The five HOUSTON area HISPANIC congregations are planning a cooperative revival featuring Elder Arturo Gonzalez from Mexico City.

THE FELLOWSHIP HERALD, a publication of the General Council, has been promoting the *Messenger* among the membership of their church in order to give the folks an opportunity to learn more about the General Conference and its activities. If you would like to learn more about the General Council and its members, feel free to request their publication. Though it is free for the asking, offerings are accepted in order to help defray publishing costs. You may write to the *Fellowship Herald* at 302 East Gruber Avenue, Meridian, ID 83642.

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\$85 until March 15



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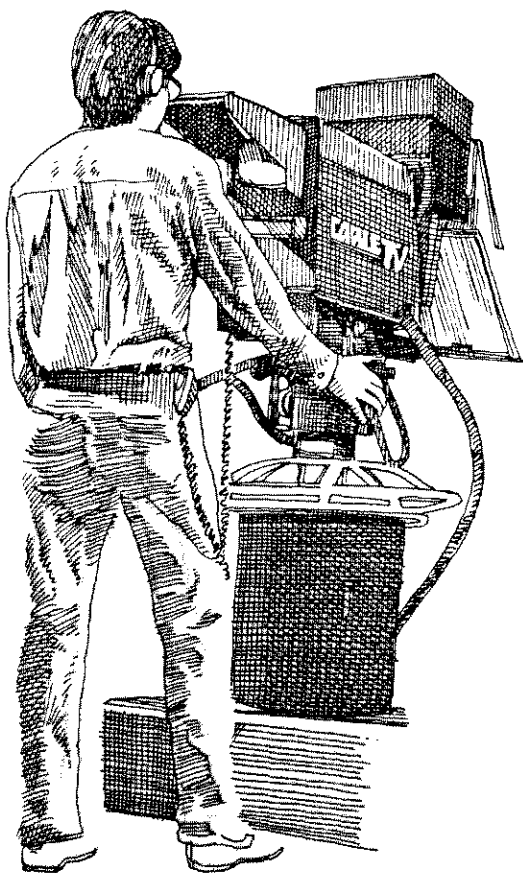
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Assault from Hollywood

by George W. Reid

Two full generations of Americans now have grown to maturity in an environment powerfully swayed by the entertainment industry, first through films and radio, then by television as well. If recent government studies are accurate, by the time the typical American youth reaches 18, he or she has spent more time being entertained than attending school. There is little reason to believe the picture is different in many Christian homes.



George W. Reid is Associate Editor of Advent Review.
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From their earliest days many concerned Christians have been uncomfortable with commercialized entertainment. To believers under profound conviction that Christ is soon to come and that humanity is moving rapidly toward final decisions of eternal consequence, the idea of investing substantial time or money in amusement seems out of character.

Beyond stewardship of time and means, as important as they are, we see a greater issue. What is the impact of the entertainment industry upon us?

It would be simple to condemn categorically all forms of amusement. In fact, that approach has a hoary and respected past among Christians. During its first two centuries the Christian church found itself immersed in a society increasingly taken with entertainment. Greek paganism had perfected the drama, and the Romans added to it their spectacles and circuses. Although some of the entertainments were bloody and cruel, most were marked by frivolity rather than gore.

Early Christian writers found fashionable amusements to be out of character with a faith whose practice exiled believers to catacombs and not infrequently

cost them their possessions, freedom, or even life itself. The popular entertainments were perceived to be so threatening to spirituality that members who persisted in patronizing them were dropped from church fellowship.

But the simple fact that a practice was accepted or rejected in the past is insufficient reason for a fixed opinion today. Genuine religion is more than fortification of past positions; it is progressive, forever in pursuit of understanding how God's eternal truth speaks to us anew.

Since the 1930s the entertainment industry has been identified with Hollywood, although other notable centers have developed in several countries. It would be difficult to exaggerate the industry's hold on the minds of Americans, especially through television, which recites its secular litany continuously in most homes when families are at home.

Where does faith in God stand with the Hollywood power brokers who command the mind of America each evening? Norman Lear, influential producer of several popular television series, leaves no doubt on his part. His newly created organization dedicated to combating the influence of some religious leaders in American life is well known. Recently the Playboy organization confirmed reports of its subsidies to Lear's war chest.

Although Lear's project is well publicized, he is far from alone. *Public Opinion* magazine recently carried a report of a scientific

study based on interviews with 104 key Hollywood professionals, acknowledged leaders in their field. The study, written by Robert Lichter, of George Washington University, Linda Lichter of George Washington and Columbia Universities, and Stanley Rothman of Smith College, recently was carried in summary form in a release from the Religious News Service (RNS). Its findings are revealing.

Although nearly all the 104 professionals came from religious backgrounds, 45 percent now say they have no religion and only 3 percent of them attend a religious service as often as once a month. As the RNS report put it, "Eighty percent of the respondents said they did not regard homosexual relations as wrong and 51 percent did not deem adultery as wrong. Of the 49 percent who called extramarital affairs wrong only 17 percent felt that way strongly." The study reported that 97 percent favored the right of a woman to choose an abortion. These figures are in sharp contrast to the opinions of other Americans as sampled by other surveys.

The entertainment leaders come almost wholly from the Northeast or California and are well educated and well paid, most having annual incomes above \$200,000. In religious heritage, 59 percent come from Jewish backgrounds, 25 percent Protestant, and 12 percent Catholic. Most regard themselves as political liberals.

Of greatest concern to thoughtful Christians, however, is their sense of purpose. "Two out of three," the study revealed, "believe that TV should be a major force for social reform. . . . According to television's creators, they are not in it just for the money. They also seek to move their audience toward their own vision of the good society."

It is painfully clear that their concept of goodness lies far from the principles of the Scriptures. We find it alarming that an elite

It is alarming that an elite group holding largely anti-Christian views systematically manipulates the entertainment industry to implant its set of values.



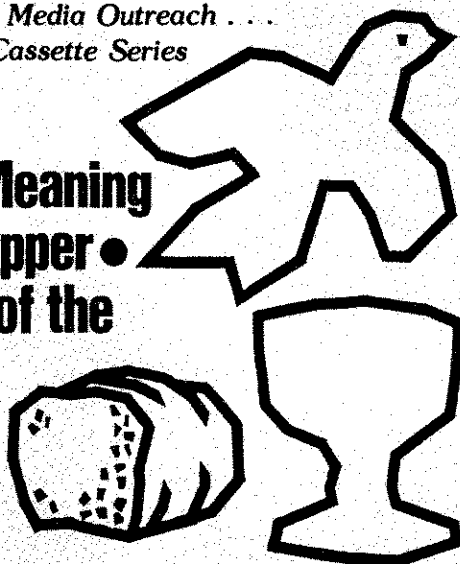
group holding largely anti-Christian views systematically manipulates the entertainment industry to implant its set of values. Little wonder so many programs and films reek of violence, treachery, infidelity, profane language, nudity, and coarse sexual suggestion. In such hands the entertainment industry has become the most powerful single force to combat Christian values.

What does this mean to Christians? As ambassadors for Christ and recruiters for His kingdom, our post of duty lies along the sharp line where values conflict. Two relatively easy alternatives tempt us: to withdraw as far as possible, sheltering ourselves from the challenge; or to accommodate ourselves with wistful gesture of hands and simply melt into that which surrounds us. Tragically, both these easy answers hamper our efforts to win others to Christ, who died for them.

Recognizing both the need for diversion and the hazards involved in commercialized entertainment, Christians should seek wholesome recreation rather than mere amusement. In place of theater attendance and its counterpart on television, substitute outdoor activities and creative indoor pursuits that build both personal and interpersonal skills. Hobbies, learning new things, music, crafts, and other interests enrich life while at the same time

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Part 1 contains *A Profile on the Sabbath, Does Man Possess Immortality?* and *The Kingdom of Heaven*. Part 2 contains *Jesus the Christ, Did Jesus Pre-Exist?* and *How Jesus Changed the Law*. Part 3, just released, contains *Baptism, The Meaning of the Lord's Supper, and The Frequency of the Lord's Supper*.

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opening new avenues for reaching others, especially the millions who grow weary of the ceaseless round of shallow entertainment.

Already American society feels the weight of Hollywood, evidenced by the nearly universal tolerance of divorce as an easy solution for marital disagreement, militancy of homosexuals, widespread acceptance of unmarried couples living together, and the increase of violence as an acceptable means to personal desires.

The thoughtful observer can see that on the whole these represent the ideas of many in the Hollywood establishment. It is striking to watch their rapid spread through the general public.

Recognizing the problem, some denominations and churches have turned to vilification and boycott to bring about change, but with little success. Hollywood has retaliated by portraying earnestly religious people as weaselly, unbalanced, often woodsy types obsessed with a "cause," people who can be written off by those among us who are rational.

As concerned believers we must deal wisely with this problem. Rather than simply leveling broadsides at the entertainment industry, we would do better to recognize its anti-Christian character and guard ourselves consciously from its influence, which now no longer appears in theaters alone but is transported into almost every home.

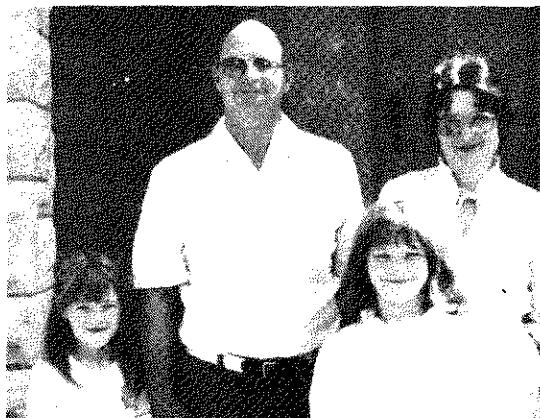
But the best defense against evil is the advocacy of good. Sensing our peril, we must reinforce deliberately our walk with Christ. Firmly tied to Him, we are secure. Our families and other members need to plan constructive activities for themselves and other church members, leaving nothing to default.

Leisure time can and should be used in creative ways, not simply for time-killing amusement. Rightly used, the human need for diversion could attract people bored with an impersonal, secular world.

Agency News Highlights



LeRoy Dais and the B.A. editorial staff recently met with the district overseers, and the Washicks (r) of the Kansas City Church are but four of dozens who have been impacted by Faith For Our Time.



Missions Abroad

South America Trip Yields Progress

Robert Coulter, Director of Missions Abroad, and Daniel Davila visited several Church of God groups in Colombia and Ecuador in December. The purpose of their trip was to observe firsthand important Missions-related activities, and to offer guidance to the leaderships which will further enhance the Church's work in those two countries.

The Colombian Church of God has come a long way since its beginnings in the mid 1970's. It was then that the Antonio Vega

family moved from their native Guatamala to Bogota, the capital city. It was Brother Vega's desire to plant a new church among the few contacts we had in that city. However, due to problems with his immigration status, he was unable to remain in Bogota for more than three months.

In 1980 the Vega family was able to resume the work he had begun four years earlier. Today, the work in Colombia has been visibly blessed, and the Church in Bogota is thriving. In the four years Brother Vega has been working in Colombia, the church has grown from a small group of about 20 members to a church of more than 150 people.

While in Colombia, Elders Coulter and Davila visited the La Victoria Church in the hills of south Bogota, the central church, and a mission church in Sibate, about 30 miles southwest of the capital city. In addition to visiting these churches, Elders Coulter

and Davila participated in a number of meetings with the church leadership there. In meeting with the Colombian Conference board, Robert Coulter reaffirmed Missions Abroad's support to the Colombian work. Missions Abroad will continue to offer assistance to Brother Vega who has not only fulfilled his assignment but is continuing to train pastors and leaders as new groups are being started. Also, Missions Abroad will assist the church's current building program.

After visiting the Church in Colombia, Elders Coulter and Davila flew south to Quito, Ecuador. The mission in that country began in 1970 when Missions Abroad sponsored the transfer of the Andres Leiva family from Honduras, Central America. Since that time the church has been solidly established in Quito, the capital, and in Guayaquil, the largest city. Also, groups have been established in the provinces south of Quito in the

towns of Latacunga, Pujili, Saquisel, Salcedo, and Santo Domingo. The church in Ecuador ministers to up to 200 members and sympathizers.

The primary thrust of the visit to Ecuador was to work with the church's national conference and ministerial staff. Elders Coulter and Davila held two lengthy sessions with the national board. In addition to evaluating particular needs of the Ecuadorian Church, several programs concerning ministerial training and assignments were developed.

One of the most productive activities of the trip was being able to spend three days with Brother Leiva and his workers as ideas, programs, problems, and solutions were discussed. Because of this particular mini workers' conference, the conference board gained insight into the needs of the church and how many of them could be met immediately and in long-range planning. Expressions of gloom and defeat among the workers were replaced with renewed enthusiasm and excitement as the board members came to see that they could deal effectively with their local problems.

Other highlights of the trip to Ecuador included participation in Sabbath services, baptizing five new members, and conducting Bi-

ble studies among a sizable, enthusiastic youth group in Quito.

Missions Abroad plans to follow up this visit by sponsoring a two week training seminar in Ecuador, in August 1984.

African Trip Planned

Robert Coulter, Director of Missions Abroad, is making plans to visit the Nigerian Church of God (Seventh Day) in March 1984. It has been some time since Elder Coulter last visited the Nigerian Church.

While in Africa, Elder Coulter will also make an in-the-field inspection of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Kenya, East Africa.

The Kenyan Church may be sizable. It reported that more than 2,000 persons attended its annual convention in August 1983.

Summit School of Theology

S.S.T. News Notes

Nine students enrolled in Summit's winter quarter classes: John Baird, Vernon Caswell, Dave Carson, Jack Hines, Lee McClendon,

Ken Moldenhauer, Steve Opher, Whaid Rose, and Eric Straub. Only four of these men are fulltime enrollees. In addition, two men who formerly attended classes on campus are continuing their studies by correspondence. John Castellanos is home in his native San Antonio, Texas, while Luis Lopez is assisting in the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Church.

Instructor Daniel Davila was busy during winter break. He accompanied Robert Coulter on a Missions Abroad tour to Colombia and Ecuador, South America. In addition, he participated in the annual Hispanic Convocation, and was a guest speaker at the Southwest District youth retreat, both held in Texas.

Spring Quarter classes begin on March 9. Classes being offered are Systematic Theology, New Testament Literature, Christian Ethics, and Urban Ministry.

It is not too early to begin planning for Summit's Summer Session, which is scheduled for June 4-15 in Denver, Colorado. Courses planned include: Ghandi & Non-Violence; The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit; The Doctrine of the Church; Theology and Practice of the Ministries of the Church of God (Seventh Day); Pre-Marital Counseling; and Practical Pastoring. In addition, several Spanish languages classes will be offered: Evangelio de Mateo; Decisiones y la Biblia; Predicacion Trematica Textualy Expositiva, and Dinamica de Gropos. More complete information will be included in the next issue of the *Messenger*.

Whaid Rose Spends Break in South America

S.S.T. student, Whaid Rose, spent part of his winter break ministering to church brethren in Guyana, South America. Whaid assisted Elder Lael Tikili in a number of activities, including a crusade held in Georgetown, the capital city. Despite economic difficulties there, the enthusiasm of the brethren, who are spread



The Antonio Vega family of Bogota, Colombia.

among seven congregations, remains high, according to Whaid. A major concern of the brethren in Georgetown is the purchase of a church building. Without it, Whaid reports, the church's appeal to the community is hampered. Whaid also visited the Church in St. James, Trinidad, West Indies. He observes that the church's progress there has been enhanced due to its ability to sponsor a regular radio ministry on the island.

Spring Vale Academy

S.V.A. Semester Wrapup

Spring Vale ends its first semester and first half of the school year on a positive note. Enrollment was up and several new students joined the program beginning the second semester. What is especially encouraging is that for the second year in a row, the number of freshmen is more than 20. Assuming these students attend Spring Vale for four years, total enrollment could be over the 100 mark in a few years.

Finances always are a source of concern. However, contributions have been good. In fact, response to our recent fund raising drive to complete the cafetorium project has been encouraging. We are now using the upstairs portion of the facility, even though we are making do with some of our older equipment. About \$11,000 is still needed to complete all of the objectives associated with this major effort.

Students Score Well on ACT

Eleven students recently took the American College Testing

(ACT) program exams. All of our students scored well. Of particular note is that two students tied for the highest score at Spring Vale. Monique McCoy and John Crisp, both from Conroe, Texas, scored at the 92 percentile of college-bound students who took this test. Hugh Harvey scored 89, while Jennifer Lincoln scored 82.

Computer Science Added to Curriculum

Due to monies received from a Federal grant, Spring Vale has purchased a Commodore 64 computer, forming the basis for adding computer science to the school's curriculum. Presently, the system features a single disk drive unit and CRT. A printer will be added in the near future.

Students are excited about the new piece of equipment. Denise McCoy, who has experience with the computer, is working with the other students during the familiarization process. Several basic disks are helping the students understand how the computer works, while additional programs will be added.

Publications Agency

B.A.P. Staff Meets with District Overseers

The *Bible Advocate* editorial/management staff met with the district overseers on November 13 and 14 to discuss the magazine's ministry and its future. In these discussions it was recognized that although the *Bible Advocate* ministry is 120 years old, the magazine is current and is still one of the most viable teaching and outreach ministries of the Church of God (Seventh Day) today.

Calendar Notes

MARCH 1984

- 9 SST Winter Quarter Ends
- 16-18 SVA Spring Break
- 19 SST Spring Quarter Begins
- 31 Free Literature Day

APRIL 1984

- 3 S.S. Report Due at BAP
- 15 Lord's Supper

CAMPMEETINGS

- Meridian: June 29-July 7
- Central: June 20-23
- West Coast: July 4-7
- Southeastern: July 11-14
- Northeastern: July 17-21
- Canadian: July 26-28
- Dover: July 29-August 4
- Southwestern: August Date To be Announced

The men focused on plans for the *Bible Advocate* for the next three years as they relate to the mutual interests of the districts and the Publications Agency. The plans include the following features:

1. Increase the circulation of the *Bible Advocate* to provide for the spiritual needs of more people, especially in areas where we have churches so the churches can help with personal attention and followup.

2. The B.A.P. will redouble its efforts to increase support from families and individuals so the percentage of support from the districts can be decreased.

3. The B.A.P. staff will offer to train personnel from local churches in doing followup work in their areas. This will become an important part of this ministry of meeting the overall needs of the people.

While discussing the need to expand the circulation beyond the present 9,000 stateside subscribers, the group decided to get a step ahead of the losses which may result from the present

Vital Statistics

BAPTIZED AND/OR NEW MEMBERS

West Coast District: Pedro Avalos, Martha Bigas, Joyce Campbell, Betty Courtney, Allen House, Juanita House, William Ross, Jose Sanchez, Pat Tirk, Ofelia Torres, Max Van Hoy. **Southwest District:** Don Bailey, Denise Civatarese, Harold Dokupil, Inez Dokupil. **Southeast District:** Marion Mooney, Teresa Mooney, Gaylord Muffley, Rosemarie Muffley. **Northeast District:** Alice Boor, Cheryl Perez, Vernon Porter, Tabeth Vaughn, Teresa Young. **Central District:** Lawrence Jensen, Sandra Ludwig, Jesse Sanchez, Rhonda Sarcione, Tresa Surbeck.

DEATHS

C. J. Hewood, December 9, 1983, Battle Creek, MI. **George Lowe**, December 21, 1983, Holdenville, OK. **Esther Rodriguez**, age 32, January 3, 1984, San Antonio, TX. **Emma Weir**, age 100, December 12, 1983, Chippewa Falls, WI. **Clarence Wilkinson**, age 86, January 10, 1984, Midland, MI.

BIRTHS

Christopher Brown, born December 5, Jim and Debbie Brown, Denver, CO. **Nina Louisa Civatarese**, born May 2, Vince and Denise Civatarese, Houston, TX. **Joshua Caleb Cummings**, born May 24, Nolan and Elda Cummings, Houston, TX. **Stephen James Kyner, Jr.**, born November 20, Steve and Vangie Kyner, Gadsden, AL. **Hannah Marie Lewis**, born December 23, Paul and Laura Lewis, Neck City, MO. **Justine Rae Moore**, born May 31, Larry and Vicki Moore, Houston, TX. **Justin Pyatt Tinnel**, born January 5, John and Connie Tinnel, Houston, TX.

WEDDINGS

Deborah Lynette Lewis and **Tobey Eugene Simpson**, married December 24, 1983, St. Joseph, MO.

survey among *Bible Advocate* readers. It was noted that up to 3,000 subscriptions may be deleted, due to lack of interest on the part of some readers, or due to failure to return the response card on the part of others. To fill this gap, as well as to introduce the magazine to new readers, the group formulated plans for a *Bible Advocate* subscription drive in the local churches during the month of January.

Local church participation in this subscription drive is very important. Bulletin inserts were made available to the churches for distribution on the last three Sabbaths of January. Members who presently are not receiving the *Bible Advocate* are especially being

encouraged to subscribe and become readers of their Church's magazine. Folks will also be asked to submit names of relatives, friends, and neighbors whom they know would enjoy receiving the magazine and would benefit from it.

Response Card Returns

Late in December when the mailing labels for the January issue of the *Bible Advocate* were processed, about 4,600 readers still had not returned the response cards which were on the November issue. About 2,000 readers had returned their cards. Second reminders were sent to the 4,600 in the form of a special cover on the

January issue. Procrastination is a way of life for many, and *Bible Advocate* readers are no exception.

How We Got the Bible

Many readers found the series of articles, "How We Got the Bible," printed in the *Bible Advocate* especially interesting. They also appreciated the article entitled, "The \$100 Reference Library," because it answered many questions about what books would really be helpful for personal Bible study. For many years the *Bible Advocate* has spurred its readers to deeper study of God's Word. The B.A.P. staff is concerned about helping to make that study as interesting and beneficial as possible. Good reference books are very helpful in gaining a better understanding of the Bible. A wide variety of Bible study helps and other useful books are available from the Bible Advocate Press.

Did You Remove The Catalog?

The November-December issue of *The Harvest Field Messenger* contained a catalog insert. Did you remove the catalog so you can keep it in a special place for future reference? Be sure to keep this Bible Study Resource Catalog where you can find it easily when you need to order Bibles, study reference books, or other good Christian books.

Faithful Youth Challengers

Landmark Convention

Would you like to be sure about your relationship with Jesus Christ? Would you like to be able to speak confidently with your friends and acquaintances about your faith? Would you like to be

used of God to lead others to eternal life in Christ? If so, the 1984 National Youth Convention is for you.

The 1984 National Youth Convention has been scheduled for June 25-30, 1984, in Denver, Colorado. If you don't attend another conference all year, don't miss this landmark convention.

We encourage any adults who work with young people to make this convention a priority. Youth sponsors, pastors, and young adult leaders, will learn practical things they may use in their local ministries. In fact, our program will be aimed more at the older FYCers who may have leadership potential rather than at all FYCers in general. Our purpose is to train local leaders so that they may train others. Also, for the first time, we are officially opening the National Youth Convention to Young Adults as well as to FYCers.

The 1984 convention will be held in Denver, Colorado. Most meetings will be held in the Denver Church of God (Seventh Day). Convention attenders will sleep in the homes of Denver church members or in facilities otherwise arranged. Meals will be provided.

Convention attenders will learn how to effectively share their faith in Jesus Christ. You will learn how to prepare and present the story of your personal relationship with Christ. You will learn how to approach people for Jesus. You will learn how to answer common objections to Christianity. You will learn how to lead people to Christ.

The climax of the convention will be three special evangelistic slide programs by Campus Crusade for Christ's paragon Productions. These programs, using three large screens and up to 16 projectors, dynamically present the Gospel of Jesus Christ using contemporary situations and music. Convention attenders will be involved in inviting people to attend and in counseling those

who decide to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Costs for the convention have not been yet determined. But the reason we are meeting in the Denver church and trying to arrange housing and meals at the church and in the homes of local members is to keep costs at a minimum. The Youth Agency will provide the program free of charge. Attenders may be asked to cover the cost of their meals.

This convention won't be an old-fashioned "camp" meeting. But it won't be a "Love Boat" cruise, either. Bring your sleeping bag, come ready to study and to learn, and think of all the money you won't be spending on lush rooms and extravagant meals.

Watch for registration details in up-coming issues of the *Harvest Field Messenger*.

Youth Worker's Library

Our long awaited "Youth Worker's Library" is open for business. Eventually, youth leaders will be able to "check out" books, tapes, perhaps even video cassettes, and films. Right now we are able to offer twenty cassette tapes offering seminars on various aspects of effective youth ministry.

Seminar leaders include Anthony Campola, Les Christie, Dawson McAllister, Wayne Rice, and many others. Seminar titles include *Ministering to Junior High-*

ers, Counseling Youth, How to Get Started in Youth Ministry, Youth Ministry Graphics You Can Create, and more.

For detailed information concerning what is available and how you may take advantage of this wonderful resource, clip out the order blank in this section, fill it in, and mail it to Youth Worker's Library, 2237 Newbury Circle, Lodi, CA 95240.

New N.E. District Youth Coordinator

John Schott has been named by the Northeast District as its new District Youth Coordinator. John is a high school teacher from Dundee, Michigan. He is replacing James Patchen, who recently resigned.

New to the district and national youth work, John has been working closely with his district's overseer and board. He was initiated into the national work at the January meeting of the National Youth Committee in Lodi, California.

John will be profiled in an upcoming issue of *The Harvest Field Messenger*.

Pen Pal Wanted

Want to travel half way around the world without leaving home? Learn new things and meet new people? You can visit the Philip-pines by becoming a pen pal to Edwina Satur. You can write to Edwina in care of Pastor Baltazar

YOUTH WORKER'S LIBRARY

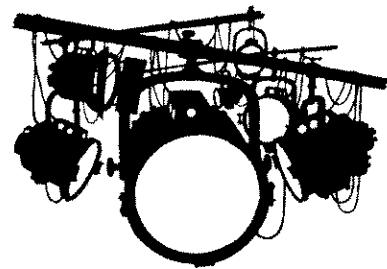
Yes! Please tell me how I may become a member of the Youth Agency's "Youth Worker's Library" and borrow cassette tape messages on effective youth ministry.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Youth Worker's Library, 2237 Newbury Circle, Lodi, CA 95240.

equipping the saints for service



Special Events

Did you know that there are people in your community who would eagerly enter your church doors under the right circumstances? They're not quite ready for Sabbath School or worship services, but given the right invitation and occasion, they would be there. What would it take? Read on.

Many people today are looking for help. They want to be better parents, better marriage partners, better managers of personal finances. They want to live less complicated, more healthy lifestyles. They want antidotes to anxiety, depression, and loneliness. People are looking for reliable, credible, professional help, and will go anywhere to get it — even to church!

The New Testament Church knew how to reach out to people, meeting them at their point of greatest need. Paul exhorted Titus to, "Let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs that they may not be unfruitful" (Titus 3:14). Look at the people in your community, learn to recognize their needs, and look for ways to meet those needs. Your church can learn to engage in good deeds, also.

One of the simplest, yet most effective, ways to help people is to host special events where expert guidance can be obtained. If there is someone in your local church who has expertise in a given area and experience in making public presentations, call upon that individual to help

with a special presentation in your church. If there is no such local expert, look for a recognized expert in your area, preferably one who is also a Christian.

There is yet another alternative that may be even better. Look for help from nationally recognized Christians who are experts in the field for which you need a resource. No, you probably can't afford to fly them in for a live presentation, but there are many fine film presentations available. Check with your local Christian film distributor for a catalog of film titles, and ask which films are currently the most requested. Film series from such notables as James Dobson, Joyce Landorf, or Charles Swindoll are excellent for special events. They have been used successfully by Church of God (Seventh Day) congregations to attract visitors, meet peoples' needs, and win new church members.

After you have identified a need of people in your community, and after you have found good presentation materials for your special event, plan, organize, and advertise the event for maximum impact and benefit to the visitor. Media Out-

reach can help you with ads. Remember that the special event will attract people; but, only a caring, loving community will keep them. The visitor needs to be impressed by two things: first, the presentation; and second, the church people. The congregation must view itself as the host of the special event, not the consumer. Yes, your congregation will be helped by the presentation, but keep in mind this is an outreach event. The needs of the visitor come first.

When this outreach event takes place, recruit people to serve as greeters. They should welcome the guests, ask them how they heard about the event, thank them for coming, and show them to a seat. Also, the pastor should make brief introductory remarks at the beginning of the presentation. He should also welcome the guests, and let them know that this special event is being offered as a service to the greater community. His remarks should convey the feeling that your church is trying to be a help to parents, families, singles, and others. Assure the visitor that your total church program — worship, study, special ministry groups —

is also available to them. Be sure to offer other resources such as free samples of the *Bible Advocate*. Invite your visitors to fill out a subscription request card. This will give you names and addresses to followup later.

A few brief congregational hymns are okay. They give a few more minutes for late arrivals to enter without missing the start of your presentation. Your whole introduction, pastor's remarks, and songs should take no more than ten minutes. Then get right into the presentation.

After the presentation, (if it is a film, turn the house lights on to the lowest setting), the pastor should lead in a closing prayer that will encourage everyone to apply what has been learned from the presentation to daily living. Then bring the house lights up full, and invite everyone to gather briefly for refreshments in some other area in your facility. This will give everyone a chance to become better acquainted. Moreover, it is the most important opportunity for the visitor to test the openness of your congregation. This is the time when your church can demonstrate the strength and sincerity of its love and concern for others.

After the event is over, share your experiences and insights that you gained from your visitors. Identify what went well, and what didn't. What would you do differently next time? Then start planning the next event. Between now and then, keep in touch with those people who paid you a visit. And be sure to invite them to the next event.

Keep looking for new ways to meet the needs of people in your community, and you will keep seeing new faces in your church. Some of them will even end up staying as regulars in your fellowship. Could you ask for anything more?

Wooton, Kabasalan, Zamboangga del Sur, Republic of the Philippines.

FYC News From Jamaica

FYC leaders and coordinators met in Kingston at the Maxfield Avenue Church on Sunday, January 29, for the first ever workshop since the beginning of the organized Youth Agency of the Jamaican Conference. An interesting and informative program was planned. Topics discussed included developing good leadership qualities, developing good relationship between FYC groups and the FYC Board, financial reports, individual group matters, and an open forum.

In the meantime, the Faithful Youth Challengers are preparing for their National Concert in April. Groups are being asked to send two songs on cassette by February. And FYCers, don't forget the National Quiz in our August convention. More on these events as time draws near.

—Submitted by Winston Mills



The "King's Kids"

I would like to tell you about a special group of children in Meridian, Idaho. They call themselves the "King's Kids," and they are doing something for their heavenly Father.

A few years ago their sponsor, Vanessa Stucker, worked out an arrangement between the children and a nearby nursing home in which each child became a special friend to an elderly resident at the home. The children go

to the home as a group once a month, sing with the folks there, and do other activities. But equally important is that each child also spends time with his or her special friend. The results have been quite positive. Here are comments from two of the children and one of the parents:

"I first started going to the nursing home over a year ago, and have been blessed by it. Going to the home and having a friend to take a present or card to every month gives me something to look forward to. Going to the home taught me how to talk and respond to old people. An old person is just as young as a young person. They can be just as good a friend as your best friend.

"My special friend, Emily, and I have become very close, even though she is much older than I. We have lots of fun together. Sometimes she'll repeat things, but I've learned to deal with that.

"Maybe some day you'll want to do something like this. It's very educational, and you'll learn things from each other. I love it because it has touched me. It's fun and I have come to love Emily. I will always remember her for what she was." — Lisa

"I like to be a King's Kid. I like to go to the rest home and visit the old people. They liked it when we came to visit them. I had a man that I would mostly visit. His name was Rolley. We would make things for our people like jars and stuff. The jars we decorated were to put flowers in. We decorated them with crepe paper. It really makes me feel good to make the old people happy.

"When Rolley died, my family was sad. I was really sad when he died. We had a lot of fun together." — Dallas

A parent writes: "To see the lonely hearts of these older folks warmed by the care and personal attention of our children is a very real blessing. It is truly a double ministry. It's undoubtedly uplifting to those who are shut in and in many cases neglected. But it's also

important to the children as they are impressed with the personal satisfaction of giving of themselves to others.

"There is nothing I would rather see my children involved in than this ministry of caring, and from it developing character traits essential to the life of a Christian." — *Kathy Burnham*

Marion, Iowa Women Sponsor Conference

The Marion, Iowa Women's Association is sponsoring a women's conference April 20-22, at Picture Rock United Methodist Camp in Monticello, Iowa. The conference theme is "Our Children — Our Future." You are encouraged to attend and bring friends. The cost for the conference is \$15 per person, which includes room and board.

Send your registration fee of \$10 and request more information from Mary Lou Molinar, 880 Second Street, Marion, IA 52302.

Help for Ministers' Wives

A new magazine from the publishers of *Christianity Today* is premiering this February. It is called *Partnership*, and is billed as "the magazine for wives in ministry."

In reviewing this new magazine, Patti Sprinkle writes that "all pastors' wives are not alike. Their ranks include traditionalists, feminists, artists, and athletes, women who work fulltime at home and women very much involved in careers.

"Some women feel they are a 'ministry team' with their husband, some feel pressured to be far more involved in church than they prefer . . . some feel left out of their husband's work. *Partnership* will speak to all, because it recognizes that in spite of our differences, pastors' wives face some

PARTNERSHIP

realities few other women understand."

From all indications this magazine should be a much needed help to minister's wives, an all too often neglected segment of our church population. Besides benefiting wives of ministers, *Partnership* will also enlighten lay people in ways that will enable them to better understand the ministerial household.

A charter subscription for one year (six issues) is \$12.70. Send your subscriptions or inquires to

Partnership, Subscription Services, P.O. Box 1966, Marion, OH 43306.

Media Outreach

Director's Report

Nineteen eighty-three was a long year for Media Outreach; long on attempts, long on completions, and long on accomplishments through the blessing of the Lord. The services of Media Outreach, in conjunction with the efforts of local church workers, brought 38 new people into fellowship during 1983. The newspaper ads produced by Media Outreach and used to promote attendance at regular worship and special services led over 100 people to first-time visits in local churches during the year.

In 1983 the new 30-minute, weekly version of our radio program, FAITH FOR OUR TIME completed its first year of broadcasting since its revival. Currently, the program airs in four locations under the sponsorship of eight local churches and one district. Of the 38 new members brought into fellowship last year, six of them came in through the radio program.

Last year Media Outreach provided services to over 50 congregations in the United States plus several congregations abroad. In addition to local churches, services were provided by Media Outreach to the General Conference, United Missions Board, and Summit School of Theology. Agency Director, John Roina served as the Chairman of the Program Committee for the 1983 Centennial General Conference Convention. For United Missions, six Emphasis Sabbath filmstrips and six special audiovisual presentations at General Conference were pro-



One of the King's Kids and a special friend.

duced by Media Outreach. Editing and pastup of the PULSE newsletter for church leaders, plus concept and copy assistance for the *Harvest Field Messenger* back cover promotions were also provided to United Missions. For Summit School of Theology, three classes were taught by John Roina: Evangelism, Motivation and Influence (co-taught with Steven Brightbill), and Practicum in Evangelism.

Media Outreach's accomplishments in 1983 didn't come easy. For budgetary reasons we operated with a 25 percent reduction in staff for the first five months and a 50 percent reduction during the next two months. We are now back up to full staff, and we will need to continue at that level to maintain the quantity and quality of output the Church needs in its outreach work.

With continued prayer and financial support from you, we will be able to meet the challenges and opportunities for outreach in 1984. During the coming year, Media Outreach hopes to expand the number of churches sponsoring FFOT. We would like to see more churches participating and benefiting from newspaper and magazine ads. In 1984, we will strengthen our partnership with you and the Lord to help His Church continue to grow.

Doctrinal Cassette Series Part 3 Now Ready

Production of the third part of Media Outreach's "Doctrinal Cassette Series" has just been completed. Three new doctrinal studies have been recorded with Elder Ray Straub as the speaker. Elder Straub, pastor of the Marion, Oregon Church of God (Seventh Day), did the research and writing on this latest installment of the DCS as well as the two previous parts.

Part 3 consists of three new recorded studies on the subjects of Baptism, The Meaning of the Lord's Supper, and The Frequency of the Lord's Supper. These three

doctrinal studies are packaged in a padded vinyl cassette album that fits neatly on your bookshelf or in your glove compartment. You can listen to them while working around the house or while driving. They are an effective way to share your faith and to help others gain a better understanding of Bible truths.

Parts 1, 2, and 3 are available for \$12 each, PREPAID U.S.A., and \$14 each, PREPAID outside the U.S.A. Use the coupons in the *Bible Advocate* and *Harvest Field Messenger* to order.

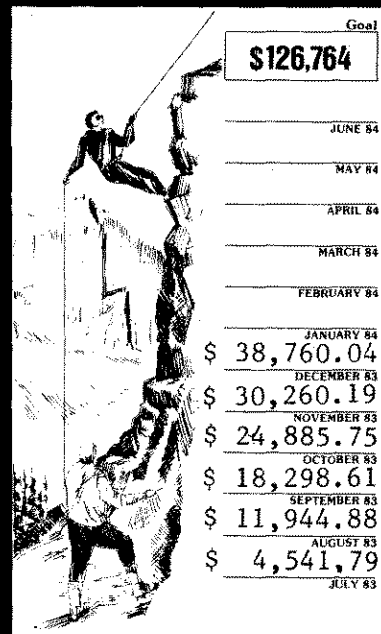
Faith For Our Time: Ministry, Outreach, and Goodwill

FAITH FOR OUR TIME, the 30 minute weekly radio program of the Church of God (Seventh Day), can help your church in three important ways. First, FFOT is a ministry to the people of your community. Whether church or not, there are many people in your community with spiritual needs that are not being met. FFOT is a radio ministry that encourages and inspires its listeners to seek a closer walk with the Lord and a greater understanding of His truths as revealed in Scripture.

Secondly, FFOT is an outreach program to your community. Those listeners who are seeking Jesus Christ and a church to worship Him in are introduced to the Church of God (Seventh Day) through FFOT. They are exposed on a weekly basis to the pulpit ministries and messages of a variety of Church of God ministers. A major purpose of our FFOT programming is to acquaint listeners with our local congregations. Through familiarity and trust built from listening to the radio program, we seek to lessen the fear of a first-time visit to the local church. Additionally, FFOT encourages listeners to seek regular fellowship and nurture that can be experienced only in the local church. FFOT is a support to the ministry of the local church, not a substitute for it.

prog'ress

noun. 1. a moving forward or onward. 2. an improvement or advancement toward a higher state. 3. that fragile, elusive, constantly sought after measure of success as in the work of United Missions.




The desire for progress drives us on to greater achievement. Not for vain self-glory, but as confirmation of the Lord's working in our lives. Your faithful support of United Missions means more progress in the Lord's work and more honor to His name.

GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE

Third, FFOT promotes goodwill for the local church. FFOT is a quality radio program that can help to build a better awareness of your church in your community and a greater confidence in your ministry. These are bridges worth building since they eventually become pathways by which people enter your church.

During 1983, six people were led into fellowship with local churches through the ministry of FFOT. If you think FFOT is an outreach ministry that could benefit your church, contact John Roina at (303) 452-7973, or write in care of Media Outreach, Post Office Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233. A free sample tape explaining how to sponsor the program in your area will be sent to you upon request.




Thank You for supporting United Missions

Great things were accomplished, thanks to your support and the Lord's blessings. Here are just a few.

Media Outreach produced and aired 52 weekly radio broadcasts; produced and distributed more than 2,000 instructional, informational, and inspirational tape cassettes; developed dozens of print media ads; produced more than a dozen filmstrips and slide presentations; and generated several hundred new contacts which have brought more than 30 people into regular fellowship with the Church of God. Spring Vale Academy dedicated its new cafetorium, representing a major improvement to its campus; boosted student enrollment; and added several new classes to its curriculum.

The Publications Agency wrote, produced, and distributed nearly one-half million pieces of literature.

and has sought new ways in making its literature ministry more effective and more accessible to others in sharing good news in printed form.

Summit School of Theology continues to offer ministerial training of a number of levels, and enjoys continued success in attracting larger student enrollments to its summer sessions.

The Women's Association has sponsored a medical supply effort to our sister churches in Nigeria, and has conducted a highly successful retreat challenging women to greater service in the Lord's work.

The National Youth Agency has developed important training tools and resources for youth workers, which are now available.

Missions Abroad continues to support missionary activities in 18 countries overseas, and distributes literature in more than 60 countries; offered important leadership to the developing Jamaican and Ecuadorian Conferences; provided resources for food and medical supplies to missions in several overseas countries, and much more.

These great things are just the beginning.
We look forward to your support in 1984.

United Missions

THE HARVEST FIELD MESSENGER
P. O. Box 33677
DENVER, COLORADO 80233