

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

MAY 1974



THE REV. AND MRS. OBED S.D. MOOKI
OF SOUTH AFRICA — (See Page 67)

If You've Never Been to Convention

SEE THE REAL SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH IN URBANA

from the editor

The other night, I was talking with some friends, and one misunderstood me when I spoke of "reality". In fact, I was joking about "reality" at the time, and I'm hardly unaccustomed to being misunderstood (whether I'm joking or not)—especially when I'm talking about reality. But when the misunderstanding was clarified, there was less communication than before. Not only was my joke unfunny, but the lack of humor stemmed from a judgment that the aspect of reality I was talking about—which amused me because of its incongruity with other aspects of reality—simply wasn't worth talking about. Not idly, not seriously, not for fun, no way was this kind of reality going to get into the conversation. So I quit talking about reality, and confined myself for a time to the things that sensible people talk about.

The lesson was one I've been taught before, but I'm a slow learner in some areas. I tell the story here to demonstrate that I know what I'm getting myself into when I write—especially to those considering attending Convention for the first time—about how you can see the "real" Swedenborgian church on the hot and dusty (or hot and drenched) mid-western plain, the modern air-conditioned meeting place, the friendly lines and meal-times, of a convention at Urbana College. I realize that the "reality" I'm talking about may not be a blood relative or even a nodding acquaintance, of the concept-by-the-same-name that's living in your head. I recognize even more vividly that it might not be on speaking with the reality that invades and captures your consciousness while you're there. But I'm going to try. Knowing how easily I can be misunderstood, or sound irrelevant, I'll try especially hard to be clear and to make sense.

At the well-informed risk of sounding foolish, I'll say it: **You can get a glimpse of the real Swedenborgian Church if you come to Urbana in June; and**

until you've been to a Convention, you haven't seen the whole church as it really is.

That's a provocative statement. It's open to plenty of argument. But don't challenge it by sailing past those words "real" and "really" as if they were as common as they sound. After all, I just spent three weeks trying to condense the idea of separate-but-related realities into a one-hour lecture. There are at least three separate, radically different, discrete, and incompatible realities (or aspects of reality). All of them, however—inherently, necessarily, and inescapably are facets of the same reality. Their differences are united in a complementary, interconnected, and correspondential way. I can clarify that (and demonstrate it) by examples from astronomy, physics, biology, physiology, and psychology—not to mention my specialties: theology, philosophy, and biblical studies. Reality is my business, so to speak.

THE BACKGROUND OF REALITY

That lecture I just mentioned was a talk in May in an SSR course in *Correspondences*, and was related to last summer's *Eranos Conference* on correspondences (reported last October in *The Messenger*), as well as to work on the nature of reality that I've been doing for years. For part of the lecture, I spoke of three discrete-but-corresponding aspects of reality that we know from our day-to-day experience. I was tracing the same aspects through other branches of science and philosophy. To take one example (from astronomy), there is, first of all, the reality in which we see the sun rising in the

Cont'd. on page 93

THE MESSENGER MAY 1974

Vol. 194, No. 5

Whole Number 4972

Published monthly, except for the one double issue in July-August, by the Swedenborgian Church (founded 1817, incorporated 1861 as the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America).

Robert H. Kirven, Editor

Margaret Kirven, Lay-out Assistant

The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Department of Publication, or represent the position of the church.

EDITORIAL, BUSINESS, & SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS:

THE MESSENGER
48 Sargent St.
Newton, Mass. 02158

Subscription free to members of the Swedenborgian Church; non-members, \$3.00 a year; foreign postage .25 extra; gift subscriptions from a member, \$1.50; single copies, .25.

Our Guests from South of the Equator

by Marion B. Priestnal

Those who attended the World Assembly in London in 1970 were impressed with the delegation from Africa, and especially by the Rev. and Mrs. Obed S.D. Mooki from Orlando, Johannesburg. Mr. Mooki's dynamic personality, enthusiasm and dedication to the New Church were unmistakably present in everything he said publicly and privately. Eulalia Mooki is a gifted, radiant person, warmly responsive, and assured. The Rev. and Mrs. Mooki will be visitors to our country beginning early in May, staying through Convention—at which he will give the opening address.

In the New Church the Mookis are almost legendary figures. Their labors and successes among the black people of South Africa are well known to all informed New Churchmen. The Rev. Mooki's background may be less known, a matter which can easily be remedied.

Many years ago, quite inadvertently, David William Mooki, the father of Obed, came across a copy of one of Swedenborg's works. This opened up to him a new concept of the traditional Christian faith he had heretofore espoused. At the time he did not even know an organized New Church existed in the world. Through his efforts the New Church was established in South Africa. His passing to the higher life severed his leadership of the Church in this world but fortunately his youngest son, Obed Simon David, has continued with equal zeal and ability the work begun by his father.

After studying theology with the Rev. Edwin Fieldhouse; also at the Mooki Memorial College under the Rev. P. H. Johnson and later at the New Church College in London, Obed Mooki was ordained into the ministry of the New Church.

Rev. Mooki's talents for leadership extend beyond the limits of the New Church. For six years he was President of the Transvaal Inter-denominational Minister's Association. He has also been active in the field of education. For two years he was President of the Advisory Boards Council of South Af-

rica, a body consisting of town councils, local authorities and advisory Boards throughout the whole of South Africa, with both white and black members. He was Chairman of the Orlando School Board for twelve years, a board responsible for the building of schools and the employment of teachers. At the time of his retirement from this position in 1967 there were 51 schools, 500 teachers and 20,000 children under supervision of his chairmanship.

The Rev. Mooki is general Superintendent of the New Church in South Africa with a membership of 20,000 people; and Principal of the Mooki Memorial College at Orlando which holds sessions twice a year: in May for senior clergy and in October—November for regular students.

Turning to the distaff side, Eulalia Mooki's father was a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She was the eldest daughter in a family of eight children, every member of which we have learned, was very musical.

Mrs. Mooki was trained as a teacher and began teaching in 1937. For nearly twenty years she has been Head of the Tumelo Lower Primary School in Meadowlands, Johannesburg. The school has more than 500 children and a staff of 12 teachers. She is also organist and Choirmistress at the Orlando Church, which has a choir of fifty voices.

Mrs. Mooki gives a religious talk on radio in the Sotho language to women throughout the Republic of South Africa every Thursday afternoon. Her listening audience includes all denominations and numbers about two million. She is also President of the New Church Women's League in South Africa.

An extensive trip has been planned for these two remarkable people. Everyone in Convention is eager to have the pleasure of entertaining the Mookis. Briefly their itinerary includes: arriving

Cont'd. on page 68

OUR GUESTS cont'd. from page 67

in New York on May 2nd; after a day of rest they are scheduled to travel to Boston and Newton; back to New York for four days; then to Philadelphia, Kitchener, Detroit and Almont, Chicago, La Porte; thence to California for twelve days; after that Kansas, Washington, D. C. and finally to Urbana for Convention!

Fulfillment of the wish to bring the Mookis here has been made possible by the generous contribu-

tions of Convention, the Swedenborg School of Religion, the Swedenborg Foundation, the New York Association; many Societies and Alliance groups and numerous individuals.

Obed and Eulalia Mooki's love of the Church and its teachings, their rare spirit of complete devotion warmed by a delightful sense of humor and an interest in people will bring refreshing vitality to every situation they encounter as they travel among us.

Nominations

for Elections at Convention

PRESIDENT: The Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pretty Prairie, Kansas

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. Adolph T. Liebert
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SECRETARY: Mrs. Wilfred (Ethel) Rice
Cambridge, Mass.

TREASURER: Capt. August Ebel
Washington, D. C.

GENERAL COUNCIL: (4-year terms)

MINISTER: The Rev. Jaikoo Lee
Park Ridge, Ill.

LAYMEN: Miss Chris Laitner
Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Keith Mull
Pawnee Rock, Kansas

BOARD OF EDUCATION (1 3-year term)
Mrs. Richard H. (Ginger) Tafel, Jr.
Montgomery, Ohio

BOARD OF PUBLICATION (1 4-year term)
Mrs. E. Ellsworth (Jan) Seibert
El Cerrito, Cal.

BOARD OF MISSIONS (2 ministers—3-year terms)
(2 laymen—4-year terms)

The Rev. Paul Zacharias
Kitchener, Ontario

Mrs. Alan (Dorothy) Farnham
Brockton, Mass.

The Rev. Horand Gutfeldt
Urbana, Ohio

Mr. Tomas Spiers
Philadelphia, Pa.

PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

(1 3-year term)

The Rev. Wilfred Rice
Cambridge, Mass.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(2 to be nominated, 1 to be elected for
1 5-year term)

Mr. H. Page Conant
Bridgewater, Mass.

The Rev. Clayton Priestnal
New York, N. Y.

AUGMENTATION FUND COMMITTEE

(1 5-year term)

The Rev. Edwin G. Capon
Swedenborg School of Religion

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMISSION TO THE MINISTRY

The Rev. Ernest Frederick
Swedenborg House, Deland, Fla.

Mrs. Horace (Margaret) Briggs
Fryeburg, Maine

BOARD OF MANAGERS, SSR. (4 3-year terms)

The Rev. Horand Gutfeldt
Urbana, Ohio

The Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pretty Prairie, Kansas

Mrs. John (Martha) King
Boston, Mass.

Mr. H. Page Conant
Bridgewater, Mass.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Robert Tafel, Ch.

Roger D. Paulson

Gertrude Tremblay

Paul B. Zacharias

Galen W. Unruh



The Rev. Eric Zacharias



The Rev. Jaikoo Lee



Mr. Keith Mull



Mrs. Margaret Briggs

Biographies —

REV. ERIC ZACHARIAS

My New Church roots here beginning in the Western Canada Mission Field: Following graduation from Urbana College, Boston University and the New Church Theological School in 1950, I began my ministry in Kansas where I have served continuously except for four years with the El Cerrito parish in California. My wife, Betty and I are the parents of five children—only one of whom remains in the parental home.

At the present time I am employed full time as a marriage and family counselor by the Mental Health Institute in Hutchinson, Kansas. Several area newspapers have during the past number of years published my column which has been devoted to mental health and religious concerns. Also, I am currently Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion.

I am dedicated to the New Church—the source of its strength in the Lord's revelation for this New Age—the concepts for the unfoldment of life in all its variety and potential. The General Convention offers to us the structure through which we can bring together our diverse talents and interests. If elected to the office of the Presidency, I will work diligently with all those who have in their hearts the good of our Church.

ADOLPH LIEBERT

Mr. Adolph T. Liebert was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia, before moving to Pittsburgh where he now resides with his wife Anne. He is a

retired Research Engineer from the United Engineering and Foundry Company. His association with the Swedenborgian Church and its activities includes the office of Vice-President for the past year, membership on the General Council, Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion, Past President and current Trustee of the Council of the Swedenborgian Church in Pittsburgh, Trustee of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Association and member of the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Foundation.

For relaxation Mr. Liebert enjoys reading, music and all phases of photography.

ETHEL RICE

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Rice's earliest Church associations were with the Humboldt Park Parish, a society established by her grandfather, the Rev. Adolph J. Bartels. While still in her teens, she was employed at the Book Rooms of the Western New Church Union in downtown Chicago, and served as secretary to the Rev. Hiram Vrooman during his tenure as broadcasting minister for the Union.

With her husband, minister of the Cambridge Church, Mrs. Rice has worked energetically in such widely separated pastorates as Chicago; Fryeburg, Maine; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Elmwood, Massachusetts. Her chief interests are music and Sunday School work.

Mrs. Rice was elected to the post of Recording Secretary at the 1968 Convention held in Windsor, Ontario.

Cont'd. on page 70

AUGUST A. EBEL

Society Membership: Washington, D. C.

Occupation: Retired from U.S.Navy in 1973 with rank of Captain

Convention offices held: Member General Council five years; Trustee Pension Fund eight years; Chairman Trustees of National Church seven years.

Association offices held: Vice-president six years.

Society offices held: Treasurer eight years; president four years; various other offices

Other relevant offices: Trustee of Urbana College; Member Board of Directors Swedenborg School of Religion.

Education: Ph. D. in physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Age: 54

Reason for candidacy: The treasurer is a critical office. I believe I can fill it capably and this is one of the most challenging ways I can serve Convention.

REV. JAIKOO LEE

Presently I am the pastor of Good Shepherd Community Church in Park Ridge, Illinois. I have been serving on the Ministers' Council's Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee on Admission into the Ministry. Along with my training at SSR, I earned the Bachelor of Divinity from Harvard and studied the sociology of religion at Rutgers University. During the past six years, while taking my ministerial candidacy to a good number of local churches throughout the country, I learned rather intimately about their conditions. All these experiences and knowledge will be very useful, should I be elected to serve on the General Council, which, according to the Convention Constitution, is to supervise the business of the Convention.

KEITH W. MULL

I am a member of the Pawnee Rock (Kansas) Swedenborgian Church. I have served my local church first as treasurer and then as president for the past twenty years.

My college education was in business and agriculture. I was chairman of our local board of education in our public schools and am presently serving on the First National Bank board at Larned, Kansas.

I have served on an advisory committee for the General Council and would hope to be able to assist in the orderly transaction of business in the General Council of the Swedenborgian Church.

GINGER TAFEL

Graduated 1960 from Jackson College, Tufts University with a B. A. in English.

Wife of Dick, and mother of John (13), Gretchen (11), and Beth (9).

I have lived in Cincinnati for 12 years.

In addition to family and church activities, I have done graduate work in English, sociology, statistics, and community planning, worked at General Electric as an engineering technician and for the last five years have been with the University of Cincinnati as a programmer analyst, a job which has a blend of human relations and technical challenges which I enjoy. It has given me more intimate involvement with contemporary issues, especially in the medical field, than I would have had otherwise.

I find that the direction of my own growth is toward more self-understanding and with that a greater capacity to appreciate others. I identify with the women's lib but I identify more with human liberation. I would enjoy the opportunity to participate in our mission as a church through the Board of Education.

JAN SEIBERT

I'm retiring this year as senior editor of International Population and Urban Research, University of California, Berkeley, after a long editorial career in scholarly works only. I've been on the board of the Department of Publication for twelve years and am currently serving as (the reluctant) chairman. I've also done editorial work for Prentice-Hall, John Wiley, and other major publishing houses, to which I am returning in a free-lance status upon my University retirement (already signed up to do a Wiley book commencing July 1). My emphasis on church publications is on timely materials written in the modern mode which will attract and hold new people. We might call it Swedenborg for the Twentieth Century Reader.

REV. PAUL ZACHARIAS

I was born in Herbert, Saskatchewan in 1926, the son of Rev. John Zacharias. I am a graduate of Urbana College, Boston University and the New Church Theological School, graduating from the latter in 1956. I have served New Church parishes in Elmwood, Mass., Portland, Oregon, and presently am pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener, Ont.

Having been born and raised in Western Canada, I have a good feel for the Board of Missions responsibilities and opportunities in that part of the world. This spring I am privileged to attend a four-day meeting of the Continental New Church Ministers in Zurich, Switzerland, which will give me a good first-hand working knowledge of the Mission Field in Europe. I believe I could make a worthwhile contribution in this area of our church life. I would like to serve on the Board of Missions.

DOROTHY FARNHAM

Dorothy Farnham (Mrs. Alan W.) is the daughter of New Church parents and grandparents and has been a member of the Brockton Church since the age of 16. She is a graduate of the Executive Secretarial Department of Burdett College in Boston and has served as secretary of almost everything she has ever belonged to, including the Brockton Church; the Massachusetts Women's Alliance; the Alliance of New Church Women; the American New

Church Sunday School Association; the Massachusetts Association of the New Jerusalem; the Brockton Church Women United; and for the past three years the Board of Missions.

Currently she is secretary of the Brockton Church, president of the Brockton Ladies Circle and an active member of the NTO's, a group of younger women in the Brockton Church. For many years she taught Sunday School, usually teenagers or an adult class, though not teaching at present. She retired as Secretary of the Massn. in 1973 after 13 years.

The Farnhams are the parents of one son and one daughter and grandparents of two lively grandsons. Hobbies include photography, bird-watching, knitting and crocheting and travelling.

REV. HORAND K. GUTFELDT, PH. D.

Rev. Horand K. Gutfeldt hopes to be able to make a special contribution to the Board through his intimate knowledge of the European field. As a missionary he has served 13 years overseas, of which 3 were spent in Berlin, Germany and 10 in Vienna, Austria. He was ordained in 1958 in Zurich, Switzerland, and has participated in a number of meetings of the Council of Ministers on the European Continent, of which he was secretary for a few years. Almost every summer he has conducted an International Young People's Camp mainly in Austria and Switzerland. He has participated in two sessions of the Minister's Summer School in London and acquainted him with the British Conference. He has visited many New Church centers in the Western world and also families beyond the Iron Curtain, especially in Czechoslovakia. He is now Assistant Professor of Psychology at Urbana College, having obtained his Doctorate at the University of Vienna which is famous for its contributions to psychiatry. Other diplomas include one from the New Church Theological School (now the SSR) and a master's degree at Harvard, both in 1955. Presently he is part-time minister and college chaplain at our Church in Urbana, vice-president of the Sunday School Association and member of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Association.

Cont'd. on page 72

TOMAS H. SPIERS

Mr. Tomas H. Spiers earned his BA (with honors) at Johns Hopkins University in 1918 after majoring in modern languages. In 1919 he joined the First National City Bank and spent forty years in their employ, mostly overseas in Europe, South America and the Orient. While in Japan he was instrumental in the publication of a Japanese translation of True Christian Religion. He has made a Spanish translation of the same work and also of Spalding's *Introduction to Swedenborg's Religious Thought* and the booklet *Real Religion*. He has also translated from the German two new booklets by Ernst Benz and by Gerhard Gollwitzer, beside an early work by the Rev. Alfred Regamey from the French. He is currently translating H. De Geymuller's *Swedenborg and 20th Century Parapsychology*. He is Executive Secretary of the Swedenborg Foundation and has membership in the Swedenborg Publishing Association; the Board of Missions; the Swedenborg Press; the New Church Tract and Publication Society and the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

Mr. Spiers was married to the late Leonore Tafel whose granduncle, Johann Frederic Immanuel Tafel was the pioneer translator of Swedenborg's works into German. They had three children and ten grandchildren.

H. PAGE CONANT

He was born on August 18, 1914, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Harold Sargent Conant. This event took place in a camping-tent in the woods at S. Hanson, Maine, perhaps prophetically during the worst tempest of the decade.

The Conants were on summer leave from the Reverend's duties with the Baltimore Society.

Page's work-a-day life has consisted of the Merchant Marine, National Guard, U. S. Navy (W.W.2) and stevedoring on the docks of New York. For the past 30 years he has been associated with the refrigeration and air conditioning industry. He is at present warehouse manager and outside salesman for a large wholesaler.

He has served one term on General Council. He is a member of the Board of Managers, chairman of the Directors and president of the Theological School. He is also secretary of the Massachusetts New Church Union and moderator of the Bridgewater Society.

He graduated from the Bridgewater school system, attended Chauncy Hall school and Boston University Evening College of Commerce. He is married and the father of two grown sons.

REV. CLAYTON PRIESTNAL

Son of the late Rev. James Priestnal, who was for many years an active minister in Convention. For the past sixteen years he has been Pastor of the New York Society and prior to that was associated with the Baltimore New Church for fourteen years. Presently he is active in the Radio and Television Department of the New York Council of Churches and also serves on the Finance Committee of that body. For a number of years Mr. Priestnal has been Chairman of the Editorial and Publications Committee of the Swedenborg Foundation.

REV. EDWIN G. CAPON

When first elected to the Augmentation Fund Committee, I had been asked to accept nomination by its Chairman because my travels through the Church have made me familiar with our Churches and my position at the School keeps me familiar with student needs. These same reasons still apply, and I offer them as my qualifications. Furthermore, I have served as Minister of the Bridgewater Church (1948-1951), of the Elmwood Church (1949-1955), and at various times as Acting Minister of the Elmwood, Brockton, Boston, and Manchester Churches. I have been President of SSR since 1955.

REV. ERNEST L. FREDERICK

Rev. Ernest L. Frederick, after having been in music and insurance for some years, came across Swedenborg's Writings and these brought him into the ministry where he served the Brockton Church 2 years and the Miami Church for 15 years. He is

now located at our new regional center, Swedenborg House, at DeLand, Florida, serving all the southeastern states.

He writes: My education consists of Grammar School at Melbourne, Australia; High School at Peking, China; McMaster University (A.B.) Canada; Harvard University (S.T.B.); and the New Church Theological School (now Swedenborg School of Religion) in the United States. I have served on Convention's Public Relations Bureau (now defunct); Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; Committee on Spiritual Healing; Trustees of the Pension Fund; National Council of Churches; and on special committees and I am now President of the Southeastern Association. My special interests include working with people in small groups for spiritual advancement and my hobbies are electronics, travel, languages and clocks.

MARGARET WORCESTER BRIGGS

Childhood, youth: Philadelphia, Cambridge. Vassar '23. S.S. Teachers course: NCTS. Exposed to needs of 7 diverse N.C. Societies. Minister's wife, educational end; last 23 years, Fryeburg, Maine.
 Acquainted with Almont, early L.E.I., Fryeburg Assembly.
 Visited (with Wm. Worcester in official capacity); Philippines, British Conference, European Federation, most Societies on Continent, '23, '24.
 World Council of Churches, Amsterdam, '48.
 World Assembly, London, '70.
 4th generation N.C. ministerial line, observing important changes.
 Acquainted with NCTS since 1911 (President's daughter, long service on Board of Managers, Visiting Com.)
 On ACAM hope to recognize and encourage individual ministerial qualifications—concerned to strengthen peculiar N.C. functions. Recent ACAM interviews extremely interesting.

MARTHA KING

I want to serve on the Board of Managers of SSR for two reasons: one is that I have been interested in the theological school for many years, beginning when my husband became a member of the faculty

in 1952, continuing until his death in 1962. My interest has continued up to the present. The second reason is that I am interested and excited by the changes in the approach to theological education which I have seen developing in the years I have served on the Board of Managers. I feel that in a time of rapid change, our school and the church must change its approach and philosophy of education to keep the door open to those who are searching for meaning beyond themselves, and I see the new developments at the school as significant and essential to this "open door." I should like to feel that I can contribute further to this development as a continuing member of the Board of Managers.

FRYEBURG WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NEEDS YOUR HELP

So much interest was aroused in the children at the Fryeburg Assembly when we started classes in arts and crafts that the Auxiliary has made it a permanent project.

We need yarns, cloth, crayons, paint boxes, drawing paper and anything you can give that will inspire the creative instincts of the children.

And don't forget our Sales Table where attractive jewelry and good cosmetics are popular.

If you can't bring donations to camp, please send them to Mrs. H. W. Briggs, Box 111, Fryeburg, Me. 04037, marked "For Fryeburg Assembly."

Thank you.

Women's Auxiliary of Fryeburg Assembly

Change of address:

Rev. and Mrs. Wilfred G. Rice
 194 Sylvan Street
 Malden, Mass. 02148

Advance Reports of . . .

THE PRESIDENT, BOARDS, & COMMITTEES

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

During the last year I have reported to Convention members through the pages of *The Messenger*. The "President's Corner" appeared in the October 1973, the January 1974, and the April 1974 issues. My convention address was printed in the September 1973 issue. At the convention in Edmonton I was privileged to ordain three men into the ministry: Matthew S. P. Glowe, Yuzo Noda, and Walter E. Orthwein. On Sunday afternoon, July 23, I consecrated Paul Tremblay as a Lay Minister to serve the Edmonton Church.

Perry and I participated in the annual meeting of the Ohio Association in Cleveland last September, and I look forward to attending the Illinois Association meeting in St. Paul, and a retreat for members of the Middle Atlantic Association in Maryland. I have visited many of our churches and preached in Cleveland, Manchester, Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Park Ridge, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Whenever possible, I have attended meetings of Convention boards and committees, including the Department of Religious Education, the Department of Publication, the Board of Missions, the Augmentation Fund Committee, the Board of Managers of the Wayfarers' Chapel, the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion, the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, and the Advisory Committee on Admission to the Ministry. Much time has been spent in planning for the 1974 convention, and I have met several times with the local planning committee. Many of the Convention committees meet at the theological school in Newton, and we are able to entertain members in our home as overnight guests. We look forward to entertaining the Rev. and Mrs. Obed Mooki of South Africa when they visit the Boston area in May.

The church continues to be intimately involved in the life of Urbana College. Twelve of the trustees are church members, and I serve as chairman of

Ministers, the General Council, and the Convention at large." This committee has been appointed, and a week-long conference will be held at my summer home in Bridgton, Maine, in August.

Our future as a church denomination depends on the initiative, creativity, industry, and productivity of Convention officers and boards and committees. Facilities exist to help implement committee decisions and program planning. We must make better use of the personnel we have in the church, to harness the efforts and abilities in constructive ways. The potential exists (in our theology, personnel, and material resources) for an effective church. We must clarify our goals and purposes, establish priorities, engage in long-range planning, and support our programs and projects with greater dedication and enthusiasm.

Ernest O. Martin

BOARD OF EDUCATION

During this last year, the Board of Education has been concerned with education for a variety of age groups in Convention. The Board's Religious Education Workshop in Edmonton, offering new ideas and direction in the use of art, music, film, and other techniques for learning, had a good response, and another workshop in Religious Education for the home and small groups is planned for the 1974 Convention. Erik Allison, a student at the SSR, has been working for the Board with young people in local leagues. Resources, leadership, and direction for LEI have been considered. Concern for adults has included the planning and carrying out of the Post-Convention Conferences, planning of other conferences, work in preparation of tapes for adult study materials, and, for the 1974 Convention, a variety of workshops intended to offer all members a chance for learning together about areas of current concern for the church.

the board. I preside at monthly meetings of the executive committee and regular meetings of the full board. Alice Blackmer Skinner is chairman of the Education Committee, and Stewart E. Poole is a member of the Financial Advisory Board. Swedenborgian members on the faculty include Dorothea Harvey, Horand Gutfeldt, and Ted Klein. Roger Paulson is a church stalwart on the administrative staff. Six Swedenborgian students were assisted by scholarship funds during the last year.

The Rev. Randall Laakko and I represented Convention at meetings of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in New York last October. At the meetings in February in Los Angeles, I was joined by Harvey Tafel, John Billings, and Chungsun Lee. I am secretary of the Constituent Membership Committee which makes recommendations regarding membership in the Council. It is an inspiration for me to become acquainted and work with leaders of the 33 denominations represented in the National Council of Churches.

One of my major responsibilities as full-time president has been to establish a central office for Convention at the Swedenborg School of Religion. This office was set up in September 1968, and after evaluation by the General Council, a decision was made to employ a full-time director. A screening committee will interview candidates for the position and make a recommendation to the General Council in January 1975. The chairman of the screening committee is Adolph T. Liebert, vice-president of Convention. It is expected that the person selected will begin work in the spring of 1975.

The central office staff includes a bookkeeper and two secretaries who provide services for many of Convention's boards and committees, including the General Council and the Council of Ministers. *The Journal*, *The Messenger*, and the *Prayer Fellowship* bulletin are published here, and copy is prepared for booklets and pamphlets. Central files are maintained at the office, and an effort is made to keep an up-to-date address list of Convention members.

In my report last year, I proposed that "a Research and Planning Committee be charged with the task of developing proposals for long-range planning and that this committee make specific recommendations to the Council of

The paragraphs which follow give instances of this work of the Board as seen by those active in the different areas. In all these areas, as well as in its excellent Executive Secretary and in the functioning of the Board itself, the Board of Education is grateful for the good services of its members and associates.

Dorothea Harvey, Secretary

ADULT WORK COMMITTEE

This sub-committee of the Board of Education has been involved in the sponsoring, planning and execution of the past two Post-Convention Conferences. Currently it is involved with the planning of the 1974 Post-Convention Conference. In addition to these projects the AWC is considering the development of conferences for those of retirement age and older. Discussion and plans for such a conference are just beginning for a possible mid-winter event in 1975, to be held in DeLand, Florida. Any suggestions for themes for such conferences coming from members of Convention would be helpful. At this point in the life of the AWC, retreat and conference programs for adults of all ages appear to be the most useful and practical directions to pursue.

Randall Laakko, chairperson

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION INSTITUTE

A group of about 25 LEI'ers—past, present and future staff or students, met at the home of Erni and Perry Martin the weekend of February 8, 9 and 10 to discuss the philosophy of LEI, and to consider its present position and possible future directions.

Since staffing has become a major problem, a new policy was agreed upon. Staff is to be encouraged to participate in group training together. This policy will hopefully entice new people who are interested in participating in LEI, but who feel the need of training. A further advantage will be the development of a feeling of solidarity in the staff before the LEI session.

Cont'd. on page 76

Plans for the 1974 session were discussed during the Board of Education meeting at the SSR March 22-24, and "all systems are go" for an Institute this August 25 through September 2 at Fryeburg.

Muff Worden

LEAGUE REPORT

The 1973 convention inspired a new enthusiasm for the future of the league. This enthusiasm has manifested itself in several ways throughout this past year. One of the goals established at convention was to start a league publication. *Clear Blue Sky*, and *A.N.C.L. Journal* have since been published and distributed. These publications were produced by and for leaguers. Also new this year is that in every issue of *The Messenger* there has been an article by a league member. Aside for writing A.N.C.L. members have been communicating in other ways. The Ohio and Michigan associations have met together and communicate regularly about plans for the future. SSR student Eric Allison was appointed by the Board of Education to hold a retreat in the winter. However, no place was available to hold the retreat. Instead of a retreat a one-day "get together" was held for the New England area leagues. Eric has also regularly visited the New England area leagues and will have a retreat with them at Blairhaven in May. Aside from these activities, leaguers across the country feel a sense of movement, and are looking forward to this year's convention as a time to synthesize the past year, and find a new direction for the coming year.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION

The need for new literature is felt keenly throughout our churches, but it appears to be most intense at The Wayfarers' Chapel, Urbana College, and Kemper Road Center, the three Swedenborgian centers visited most often by nonmembers of our church. To meet that need, the Department of Publication has commissioned several new writing efforts, asking specific authors to accept assignment to write on specific topics. Although we continue to evaluate thoughtfully all submitted manuscripts, we find that few authors are aware

cost printing should enhance the usefulness of the low-cost literature thrust.

92

The Department of Publication coordinates the publishing activities of all church bodies, keeping each publisher aware of the work in progress of the others, fielding manuscripts and requests among them, offering help and support where needed or possible. In no way, however, does it interfere with the autonomy of the individual publishers.

The Department met September 18-20, 1973 and February 15-18, 1974, both times, as has been our custom, at the home of Richard and Corinne Tafel. We are greatly in debt to Corinne who manages to contribute actively as representative from the Swedenborg Publishing Association and concomitantly to be our hostess who plans and prepares three delicious meals per day for the eight to ten participants.

This brief summary of our activities should suffice to acquaint Convention with the general thrust of our work. We solicit not only your supportive suggestions and your prayers but also your keen awareness of qualified church people who could serve well as members of this body.

Jan Seibert, Chairman

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF THE MESSENGER

Ten issues of *The Messenger* were published during the fiscal year, carrying preliminary material and advance reports for the Edmonton Convention, two issues of reports and pictures from the convention, and other news of the church and doctrinal material. Total pages for the year were 208.

The fact that the page total is smaller than it has been in the last few years, like the facts that several issues were late and no December issue appeared at all, relates primarily to several months when my health and work-capacity were extremely poor. President Martin and the Central Office staff helped in many ways during that period, to keep publication as close to schedule as possible. At this writing my health is improved and improving.

of the subjects considered to be most urgently in need of coverage. The Department therefore intends to spread the word about the topics not now covered which appear to be of greatest interest to the greatest number.

We believe that by commissioning pieces, we will make the best use of the time and talents available to Convention and the most efficient use of the perennially limited publication funds. Further in line with the Doctrine of Uses, we have proposed to the Swedenborg School of Religion that theological students be assigned classwork to eventuate in publishable leaflets and pamphlets. The new SSR journal, *Studia Swedenborgiana*, will carry Wilkinsons's translation of the *Journal of Dreams*, in four installments, thereby increasing the availability of an important rendition of one of Swedenborg's works.

In our emphasis on the need for new literature to serve both present and potential church members, the Department plans to underwrite periodic one-week writing sessions for one or more authors. The first of these writing weeks is slated for Richard H. Tafel, Sr., who hopes to complete work on his booklet on the meaning of The Beatitudes. Several other authors who need an uninterrupted period of time to complete a piece of work are seriously interested in this time-out possibility.

As a part of the Department's interest in meeting felt needs, we are developing a questionnaire for submittal to the full membership of Convention. It will ask for specific information on what *The Messenger* should cover. When the results of that questionnaire are tabulated—and we're hoping for a full response—we should have a firmer direction to follow, a direction pointed by a *majority* of the membership.

Based on all the information we can assemble, the Department has developed a clear consensus that completely free literature often is discarded, unread. Low-cost materials, at however minimal a charge, have a better chance of being read and retained. To that end, not only are we commissioning works to be written, we are also actively soliciting responses concerning a book rack designed to attract attention in our churches and to serve the greatest number of users. Tasteful, eye-catching covers and quality-at-low-

I have informed the Board and the Department of Publication that my present appointment, which ends with the 1975 convention after nine years as editor, will be my last. The work has been challenging and rewarding—in spite of a variety of frustrations—but *The Messenger* may well profit from a change in editorial perspective, and both I and my full-time employer, the Swedenborg School of Religion, will benefit from the freedom to bring my activities into more unified focus. The Board and the Department are making plans for editorial policy review and candidate selection during the year.

Robert H. Kirven, Editor

BOARD OF MISSIONS

The newly elected chairman of the Board, Rev. Dr. Gutfeldt is finding his way in his new position with the help of the experienced veteran members. It is our hope that we can develop more long-range planning in order to focus our energies in a more effective manner upon prospective areas for the expansion of our New Church. At the present time, the main function of the Board is the maintenance and support of existing centers, especially for providing and supporting the services of ministers.

The European Continental Association, meeting this May in Switzerland, has been strengthened through the application of the society in Copenhagen, Denmark, to join its files. A new candidate for the ministry is there in the person of Rev. Gudmund Boolsen, who hopes to be confirmed as their pastor. Convention sent Rev. Paul Zacharias as official representative to Zürich, Switzerland, to attend the meetings of the Continental Ministers Association as well as the other sessions, and to report back to the Board and to Convention.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, the General Pastor for the New Church on the European Continent, Rev. Alfred Regamey, had been invited to attend the last Convention in Edmonton, where he attended a meeting of the Board, answered questions, and told the Council of Ministers about his experiences. Rev. Regamey has returned to his home city, Lausanne (Switzerland) to continue his work there; he will preside at the meeting of the European Societies.

Cont'd. on page 78 2

BD. OF MISSIONS cont'd. from page 77

In Switzerland also, Rev. Dr. Friedemann Horn is expanding his able leadership especially through the publication and sale of Swedenborg and collateral books, which are distributed throughout the German-speaking countries. In value ordered, this means an amount over 40,000 Swiss francs in 1973. Dr. Horn also continues his regular scheduled visits to West and East Berlin, and to various centers in Italy.

In Freiburg, Germany, a lively center is developing under the leadership of Rev. Werner Schmidt, who also visits a number of dispersed centers in West Germany and Austria, notably Bochum and Vienna.

The society in Berlin (Germany) was visited by the Rev. Dr. Kirven from the SSR on occasion of his visit to Europe, and we were able to obtain a firsthand report of their remarkable activities in spite of their isolated position.

In Paris, France, the society is taking steps to expand its work into Central France, and Rev. Claude Bruley will extend his activity in that direction. Here, again, there are a number of publications appearing, and two new translations of essential titles of the writings witness the initiative here.

The passing away of Rev. Hardstedt of Stockholm has meant a severe blow to the church work in Sweden. The Board attempts to fill the pulpit there in spite of local disagreements.

In Japan, we have been able to send out a well-prepared young minister, Rev. Yuzo Noda, who is at present continuing his higher education at a university in Tokyo. Substantial gifts have been received to support the work there, although there are still open questions about the mode of succession of Rev. Doi.

In Guyana, we are hoping to send an able and dedicated trainee, Mr. Murray, who is presently at the Swedenborg School of Religion. An exploratory visit is arranged this spring.

On the occasion of a trip to Europe by the chairman of the Board, he took

Bentz, janitor. Joe Murphy has joined the staff this past year as part-time janitor. Our Choir Director, Dorothy Simpson, retired in June. She has ably led the choir in providing music to countless wayfarers over the past twelve years.

The Sunday morning worship services continue to provide a meaningful worship experience both for regulars and visitors alike. The annual special worship services continue to be an integral part of the Chapel program. They are: "The Meal in the Upper Room" on Palm Sunday morning, which is a re-enactment by the minister and choir of our Lord's last days on earth culminating in the Holy Supper; the traditional Easter Sunrise Service in the amphitheater at 5:30 a.m., and hourly Easter services in the Chapel; World Wide Communion Sunday; the Advent Carol Service on the first Sunday evening in December, with "wayfarers" walking out with lighted candles, symbolizing the taking of "the light of the world" into their homes for Christmas, with a pinata party followed in the Visitors' Center for all the children; the Christmas Eve Midnight Service of Carols and Scripture Readings; and the New Year's Service of Rededication and Renewal, with rededication symbolized by the Sacrament of Communion and Renewal by the burning of resolutions in a charcoal brazier on the altar steps. The A Cappella choir participates in the Sunday morning services and in the special services adding the beauty of choral anthems and responses to the worship experience.

Since the Chapel is one of our best missionary adventures, the Visitors' Center building has been undergoing refurbishing in order to provide the public with a better understanding of our Church and its Teachings. The main exhibit is a Bible Diorama picturing the holy land, with biblical figures such as Moses placed on it. A self-guided brochure is available to explain the exhibit to the wayfarers and give some of our Church's explanations of the Bible. Hopefully, phone stations will give taped messages for wayfarers. The first two units are installed, with the last unit expected in July. A new literature desk, with books, pamphlets and cards greet the visitor as they enter the building. Carpet is planned for May. It is hoped that the new exhibit, along with other exhibits and display boards, will acquaint wayfarers with a deeper appreciation of the Chapel and Swedenborg.

advantage of a stopover in London to discuss with the president of the English Conference, Rev. C. Presland all projects for future cooperation. Our exchange of minutes is going to be continued, and plans for sending an African minister for further training to the United States were aired.

The Board faces a problem of succession in its field in Western Canada, where Rev. Henry Reddekopp is planning to retire; a wide range of dispersed groups will need pastoral leadership. In the United States also, a project of a number of members of the Board is developing: the building of a tape library for worship services. These will be made available on a rental basis to anyone subscribing for this service. It is hoped that such a modern set of programs will find people interested in using it.

In Vancouver, the church has opened a bookroom in rented quarters, and is encouraged by public response. This represents the culmination of much planning and effort.

Horand Gutfeldt, Chairman

WAYFARERS' CHAPEL

We would like to begin this report by looking forward to an event in the coming year. This year the Chapel will observe a milestone in its history. Twenty-five years ago the cornerstone of the Wayfarers' Chapel was laid at a special dedication ceremony. On Sunday, July 14, 1974, we will celebrate this occasion with a special Worship Service. We would like to invite you, the members of the Church to join us in this joyous event at the Wayfarers' Chapel.

The year just ended (April 1973), through March, 1974) has been indeed a busy one. The Chapel staff continues as in the past, with Rev. Harvey A. Tafel as the Resident Minister; Annella Smith as Business Manager; Jess Fernandez as landscape gardener; Lucille Fullerton, office and Visitors' Center attendant; Raymond Fullerton, usher, wedding attendant and maintenance; Eldon Smith, lay leader, wedding attendant and maintenance; Ric Thomas, part-time office and wedding attendant; Stella Hollingsworth, receptionist; and Bill

The usual repair and maintenance work continues, such as pipe replacement, gardening, trimming and pruning, cement work and painting. The gold metal work in the Chapel was repainted and the accoustical plaster in the Chapel ceiling painted.

The Board of Managers has met twice during the past year. The local Management Committee has met several times in between these meetings to help facilitate the work of the Chapel. This committee is composed of the minister, business manager and three board members.

During the year numerous groups such as the Jobs Daughters, Girl Scouts, and members of the YMCA Day Camp groups have visited the Chapel for special services or to attend regular worship services. Several Bethels have taken part in the service by forming their cross and singing "Nearer My God to Thee," which is their special anthem. President Martin was the guest preacher at our Thanksgiving Sunday Service. The Chadwick School held their Baccalaureate Service at the Chapel in June. One program we instituted this past year is guided tours of the Chapel and grounds to bus tours and other groups requesting it conducted by Gene Denning. Miss Diane Messman, a member of the LaPorte Church, spent six weeks in the summer as an additional attendant in the Visitors Center. "The Reflections," a young gospel singing group, gave a concert in the Chapel in December which was enjoyed by all. The Portuguese Bend Homeowners meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Visitors Center.

During the year approximately 410,693 wayfarers visited the Chapel and grounds, coming from about 60 countries besides the United States and Canada. There were 43 baptisms, 4 memorial services, and 491 couples were married at the Wayfarers' Chapel with approximately 14,000 guests attending the weddings. The annual income was \$107,253 and the operating expenses and capital improvements, notably the Bible Diorama, were \$112,493, with a deficit of about \$5,240 being incurred. There were 1094 paper back volumes of Swedenborg's Works and collateral volumes, and 1787 pamphlets distributed to wayfarers from the Visitors Center. Each month 500 copies of *Our Daily Bread* are distributed in the Chapel as a meditation resource. There were 56

worship services with 4,177 worshippers in attendance.

The Chapel grounds are open to the wayfaring public seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*R. Irving McCallum, Chairman
Harvey A. Tafel, Minister*

SSR BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

It is one function of the Swedenborg School of Religion to educate its students for ministry in Convention—to prepare them to lead our people to the good of life. What a challenge this is! What a soul searching responsibility. This charge is not taken lightly by the Board of Managers, the President of the School or by his faculty.

The Board of Managers has a prime obligation to work with the School administration, the faculty and the Convention to provide the academic and the spiritual climate so essential to the process of educating for the ministry. To this end, the Board this past year met for two two-day meetings. The Executive and the Visiting Committees also met for specific assignments.

The Board has become increasingly interested in the whole area of theological education. Society attitudes and values are changing. Directions in study and forms of worship within Convention are being looked at from new positions. What are the effects of this upon ministry not only for today but also for the future of our Church? Each Board member was requested to prepare a statement of philosophy of education that would best define his vision of education for the Swedenborgian ministry. These statements—some concise, others lengthy and quite detailed—reveal a diversity of thought and also a dedication to the principles of New Church doctrine and life. The Board, as we believe it has in the past, will in the future, continue to be acutely sensitive to spiritual needs as these are expressed in our church and in the larger community.

for the regeneration of the human spirit. The importance of curriculum building, the degree of competency asked of students, the growth of students as persons, forms of ministry—all these are of ongoing concern to the Board of Managers and to the School faculty. Problems, yes—but healthy ones. The Lord is leading us along untried paths and there is, at times, pain and discomfort. Out of this struggle will rise our future.

The Board of Managers this year, as in the past, has enjoyed and benefited in its deliberations from the wisdom of the Board of Directors; the President of Convention, the Rev. Ernest O. Martin, and the Vice President of Convention, Adolph T. Liebert. We express our appreciation also to the administration of the School, the faculty and the students for having shared with us their hopes and dreams for the best possible Swedenborg School of Religion.

Eric J. Zacharias

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT SWEDENBORG SCHOOL OF RELIGION 1973—74

It has been a good year at SSR. Student morale seems to be up considerably over last year. The faculty is working more effectively as a planning and teaching team. Bugs in our covenant curriculum are being ironed out. And a new publishing venture has had a successful launching.

We began our school year in September with four students in off-campus field education and eleven individuals related to the campus program in one way or other. Three of the former worked with faculty member Owen Turley in the San Francisco area: Yuzo Noda, Dick Baxter, and Polly Baxter. Noda returned to Japan shortly before Christmas. Russell Viau has been serving an internship in Urbana under the supervision of Mrs. Horand Gutfeldt and Dr. Dorothea Harvey. At the moment he is spending much of his time preparing for four days of comprehensive exams in the teachings of the New Church, in traditional theological disciplines, in ministerial skills, and in interpersonal relationships; the results of these exams will largely determine the

The Executive Committee has begun a study of the responsibilities that define the role of the Board of Managers, the President of the School and the faculty to one another and to Convention. A preliminary report was prepared for the March 29th Board meeting. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee will pursue this study and that out of this will emerge a more efficient functioning of the administrative structure. There is a growing feeling on the part of the Board, the President of the School and the faculty that the Board should be more closely involved in curriculum planning and in the strengthening of student admission policies.

Dr. Horand Gutfeldt, faculty member at Urbana College, will complete a temporary three month assignment at the School in June of this year. Preliminary plans are moving forward for Dr. Friedemann Horn of Zurich to join our faculty for a short term in the spring of 1976.

The Board at both its November and March meetings had opportunity to participate in chapel services led by students. In both instances, the services were well planned and conducted. The students demonstrated a sensitivity to the Lord's presence and there was a warmth of feeling in the whole of the experience.

The Visiting Committee spent a part of two days at the School in December of 1973. In the classes and tutorials visited, the Visitors found the faculty to be competent and professional. There was a genuine concern for student needs, individual capacities and interests.

Do we have problems at the Swedenborg School of Religion? Yes, indeed, we do. If there were no problems, there also would be little activity of real value. There are a variety of currents of religious thought and experience swirling through our society—and to a degree through the windows and doors of the Swedenborg School of Religion. How do we respond to this? How do we relate these to the revelation of the Lord's Second Coming and to this New Age? Religious experience, as we approach the mid-1970s, is becoming more subjective in nature with an emphasis upon the inner life, upon self awareness. Thus, the challenge heightens to break new ground in the discovery of perhaps yet untouched resources in the Lord's Word and in the writings of our Church

length and nature of the rest of Mr. Viau's program at SSR, though the evaluation of his internship will also be a determining factor.

Six of those in our campus program were continuing studies already begun. David Rienstra has been mainly involved in an undergraduate program at Boston University, though participating in several things at SSR each semester and serving as president of the student body. Eric Allison was accepted as a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton Theological School and has been studying both there and at SSR. The same is true of Barbara Scholz.

Bob and Rose Murray have been taking a full program at SSR this year, though technically Rose participates as a student's wife and not as a student. The Murrays are scheduled to leave for Guyana shortly to explore the possibility of preparing for service there in the church of which the Rev. Walter Fraser was formerly the minister. Steve Brown has had a tutorial in Swedenborg all year, but has not lived on campus.

New students accepted for the usual initial probationary year were James Rowe, Bruce Kemmell and Gladys Wheaton. Jim resigned from the school in March because he felt some of his theological views were not in accord with the teachings of Swedenborg; he did express considerable appreciation for what he had learned at SSR. Bruce was dismissed in April. Gladys is continuing until the end of the present school year with no decision at this time by her or by the faculty as to her future relationship to the school.

In the week before school opened in September, we had applications from two young men of Jewish background: David Ruvich and Jay Cherney. Since there was not time then to process their applications properly, both were invited to study with us for between four and six weeks while decisions on admission were being made. David quickly discovered that SSR was not what he was looking for and left. Jay participated fully for about six weeks and then left; he has since written us very appreciatively about his work with us and expressed interest in the possibility of returning.

Cont'd. on page 82

PRESIDENT, SSR, cont'd. from page 81

During the second semester Peter Collins, a graduate of Urbana College, has been attending our seminar on Swedenborg's *Concept of the Psychic Structure of Persons*, a seminar being conducted jointly by Drs. Dole and Turley.

It is neither possible nor appropriate for me to go into detail in regard to students who have left or been dismissed during the past year. I do want to report that they represent kinds of interest in Swedenborg which are new to the present faculty, interest centered in mysticism or interest combining his teachings with Pentacostalism. Neither interest is necessarily inconsistent with our understanding of Swedenborg but in specific cases this year each has presented a problem either to the faculty, to the student, or to both. Our conviction that the first year must be a probationary year has been strongly enforced by this year's experience; we continue to favor a reasonably open admission policy.

In September Dr. George Dole advanced to full-time status on the faculty and Dr. William Woofenden to half-time status. The Rev. Owen Turley has continued on a half-time basis and Drs. Turley and Kirven have again had full-time appointments. Mrs. Kirven gives full-time to the library.

Much faculty time this year has been given to improving our covenant curriculum, to developing satisfactory statements of the competencies to be required of our students, and to the writing of comprehensive exams in the four areas of competency. We have come to the conclusion that the first year program must be pretty well set for all students except the few who can convince us that they have already covered one or more of the prescribed areas. Covenanting will, therefore, begin toward the end of the first year and apply to the remainder of a student's program. Specific requirements for this first year will be determined by the faculty within the next two months.

During this past year we have tried out a series of student-faculty retreats with community-building, improving communication, and the sharing of learnings as their objectives. One in the Fall was held at Blairhaven; this and two others were over-night affairs. A fourth retreat was held on a Friday af-

Rev. Andre Diaconoff has continued as director, with Rev. Thornton O. Smallwood as his assistant; and Marion Greene as secretary-treasurer has supervised the office work and mailings.

Because of generous contributions we have been able to send each member a copy of Rev. Paul Zacharias' *Celebrate Life*, and the pocket-size compilation from Swedenborg, *Golden Thoughts*.

Andre Diaconoff, Director

REPORT OF THE ROTCH TRUSTEES

Through this year work has been going on at Urbana College to combine the Swedenborgian books which had been at the college with the greater part of the library formerly in our church at Cincinnati. This is a project of the Rotch Trustees for which a professional cataloguer is being employed, with clerical assistance from students. These combined libraries are together in one room, with representative Swedenborgian books also in place on the open stacks. This is the largest New Church library west of the Alleghenies, and it contains some books unique in historical importance to the church. When the organization of it is finished, the Rotch Trust will add all current New Church publications and keep it up-to-date.

The work now being done is a pilot project which is working out relationships between the subject-grouping of books by Swedenborg and collateral literature usual in New Church libraries and the framework of classification developed at the Library of Congress which is now in use in many college libraries. This is where the professional cataloguing now in process has particular importance.

Some of the collateral publications which have been sponsored by the Rotch Trust are out of print and steps are being taken to bring them into circulation again. This may extend to some reproduction by offset processes.

Franklin H. Blackmer, Secretary

ternoon from one to nine. All seem to have been successful in varying degrees and to have contributed to the improved student morale we sense at the school.

Scholarly publication has long been something wanted from the faculty by the Managers and by the faculty members themselves. This winter the first issue of a new scholarly journal, *Studia Swedenborgiana*, came off the press under the editorship of Dr. Woofenden and the faculty. This issue consisted of a heretofore unpublished translation of part of Swedenborg's *Journal of Dreams*. Subsequent issues will complete the printing of the *Journal of Dreams* and will also contain articles by members of the faculty and other scholars on Swedenborg and related topics.

At a time when I believe the school is increasing both the scope and the quality of its program, I regret that I must report that the financial crunch already known to so many non-public schools is catching up with SSR. There will be a small deficit this year. A much larger deficit is probable next year unless we cut program and personnel or unless we find additional funds and/or new sources of funds. Inasmuch as the Managers and faculty both desire and expect the school to increase in both the scope and quality of its usefulness to the ministry and Convention, it seems unthinkable to consider any course but that of finding new money.

Edwin G. Capon, President

THE NEW CHURCH PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

The New Church Prayer Fellowship reports 43 new members during the past year, making a total of 197, of whom 28 are New Church ministers, 55 members are in Puerto Rico, Norway, Australia and England.

In our canvass each fall asking who wants to maintain membership, those who drop out are always out-numbered by new applicants.

We are grateful to Gwynne Mack for help with prayer lists and bulletins, and to the office of General Convention for printing our monthly circulars.

REPORT OF THE GRAY FUND

The list of contributions by the Wesley N. Gray Fund towards New Church Uses during the calendar year of 1973 follows:

1. Blairhaven New Church Camp	\$ 500.00
2. Boston New Church Society	500.00
3. Cincinnati, Kemper Road Church	1000.00
4. Rev. Yonezo Doi, Japan	400.00
5. Fryeburg Assembly	700.00
6. Fryeburg Sunday School—pupil transportation	500.00
7. Fryeburg Assembly—repairs	2000.00
8. General Convention	1500.00
9. Mass. N. C. Union, Advertising	500.00
10. Swedenborg Book Center, <i>Our Daily Bread</i>	1000.00
11. Urbana College	3650.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 12250.00

Laurence R. Atwood, Secretary/Treasurer
Trustees u/w Wesley N. Gray

ASSOCIATIONS

CANADA ASSOCIATION

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener is the only active congregation in the Canada Association. We have about 25 isolated members in the province, who support the work of the Kitchener Society with varying degrees of interest.

The Executive Committee of the Canada Association meets twice yearly and carries on a number of useful programs for the New Church in the province. This past year the Association appropriated funds for the following purposes: to assist clergy, lay members and Leaguers to attend Convention in Edmonton; to broadcast five Sunday morning worship services over the major local radio station; to carry weekly church advertisements in the local newspaper; to fund a Homecoming Sunday in May, with Dr. Dorothea Harvey as guest speaker; a contribution of \$500 was sent to Urbana College; funds were allocated to purchase and distribute New Church literature in Ontario and in Western Canada; a contribution of \$500 was sent to the Convention Appeal; funds have been appropriated for a visit to Kitchener by Rev. and Mrs. Obed Mooki in the summer of 1974; and a sum of \$400 has been set aside for the possible reprinting of the booklet, *Insights into Heaven and Hell*.

The Church of the Good Shepherd carries on a full and varied program throughout the year, including Sunday morning worship services, Church school classes for all ages, special seasonal programs during the year, a Women's Auxiliary that meets twice monthly, a local discussion group that meets twice monthly, regular visits to our study group in Toronto, bi-monthly "Birthday Parties" for the girls at a nearby training school, special meditation type services were held during Lent, and 4 or 5 social type activities were held during the year. The church building is also used regularly by three outside service organizations. Each week 115 bulletins are mailed to members and friends of the church. The Church of the Good Shepherd is actively involved in the work of the K-W Council of Churches, and the minister also serves on

conducted by the Rev. Eric Zacharias with Lay Leader Frank Unruh of Grand Junction, Colorado delivering the message, stressing the fact that each and every one can be a lay leader if he wishes. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was administered to seventy-five persons by the Rev. Galen Unruh and the Rev. Eric Zacharias, and this was followed by a noon meal in the church dining room.

A short business meeting was conducted by the President, the Rev. Eric Zacharias. Reports from Pawnee Rock, Pretty Prairie and Montezuma were given. These societies are all active and are working to keep as many interests as possible. *The High Plains Banner*, the Kansas Association Newsletter, is published by the Rev. Galen Unruh with the help of guest writers. *Our Daily Bread* is sent to each county seat library.

The next meeting of the Association will be held in the fall of 1974 in Montezuma.

MAINE ASSOCIATION

FRYEBURG

There have been the regular and special services through the year, including the Assembly ones during August and the League Service on March 18. The Pastor has baptized 20 children since the last Association meeting, baptized one adult and confirmed 8, making 9 new members (now 239 since we lost 3 by death). There have been 11 marriages by the Pastor, 15 funerals and 2 commitals only.

We don't know what we should do without the Alliance to support the Church. Having become famous for their catering, they have been busier than ever. They have catered for wedding receptions throughout the year and supplied, gratis, many an after-funeral lunch; put on a luncheon for the Women's

the On-Call Chaplaincy program of the K-W hospital. Mr. Matthew Glowe completed his internship program at the Church of the Good Shepherd during 1973, and is now serving as pastor of the LaPorte New Church.

During the year 1973 there were 2 baptisms, 6 confirmations, 10 weddings, and 6 funerals in the Canada Association.

Paul Zacharias, President

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut Association of the New Church continues to meet twice a year in New Haven at Center Church House. The Rev. Clayton Priestnal of New York City conducts the worship service.

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, April 29, 1973 at four o'clock. The theme of the meeting was The Here and the Hereafter. There were twelve present. It was at this meeting that the members learned of the death of Mrs. Carl Scholfield, a devoted member of the Connecticut Association.

The regular fall meeting was held on Tuesday, October 23, 1973 at eleven a.m. with fourteen people present. The theme was the Changing Church. It was voted at this meeting to make a contribution toward Mrs. Mooki's expenses in coming to this country.

Poor attendance is still a matter of concern. However, advertising will be continued even though it appears that it does not bring results. The Association is planning a meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 1974.

Louise W. Lynn, Secretary

KANSAS ASSOCIATION

The Kansas Association of the New Jerusalem Church met in Pretty Prairie, Kansas on October 21, 1973 for its annual meeting. The adult Sunday School class was led by the Rev. Eric Zacharias. The morning worship service was

Liberty Club; and, of course, had their summer fair and public supper. Their booth at the Fryeburg Fair topped all expectations this year, netting well over \$2600, and the Church parking lot \$534. Silent auctions are frequently held at Alliance meetings. The Alliance cleaned the downstairs rooms thoroughly and had the walls and floor of the big room painted. They remember those who are sick, take care of the Christmas party and gifts for the Sunday School and conduct the Mothers' March. It is a willing and hard-working group of women, especially considering that most of them have jobs and families! And there is fun too—like the Progressive Supper they'll have next week. They have a wonderful President.

The Trustees meet each month and always find plenty to do in the way of improvements and upkeep; elms to take down, roofs to repair (David Richardson was up on one 8 hours this week, hoping to make it proof from leaks and from young mischief-makers). They have another young man for Chairman this year, and right on the job.

The Senior League, though slow at first in pulling together, had an especially active and worthwhile year, culminating in a houseparty, at which they entertained 14 guests. Good things came out of it and carried into the League meetings at Convention, largely due to the interest and enthusiasm of Julie Rankin, our League President now for the second year and in her second term as national League Secretary. She was recognized as the one through the country who had done most for League this year—given the Poole Trophy. Alliance and parents helped not only with the houseparty but with the League's very successful public dinner, the day of Town meeting. This enabled the League to adopt a little Korean girl, be represented at Convention by 3 members, and have a camping trip to Gotts Island. The League edited a League Journal and had panel discussions through the year. Two attended the Fryeburg Assembly full time.

The Junior Leagues did numerous interesting things at their level, including a visit to a Service at Temple Beth El at the time of a Bar Mitzvah. They collected at Halloween, for UNICEF.

MAINE ASSOC. cont'd. from p. 85

The Sunday School has had an unusually fine staff of teachers, last year and this. The children and parents are appreciative. If *all* parents could see the school's value as some do, we could reach a much larger group. We are especially proud of what goes on in the group of littlest children, up through the first grade—40 or so of them. A Vacation Bible School was held again last summer for a week in conjunction with the Congregational Sunday School.

There is real devotion in all the work of the Church.

BATH

Morning services have been held regularly on Sunday throughout the church year. Sunday School sessions have followed the morning services with the five classes—Beginners thru Adults—being conducted by our regular teachers. The children, especially some of the newer and younger ones, have taken a pleasing interest in their scripture lessons and have responded eagerly to the questions posed. The Adult class has been most fortunate in having Rev. Blackmer bringing forth a clearer understanding of the adult lesson through his knowledge of the doctrine and the writings.

Services were conducted by the Lay-leader on November 5, February 11 and April 1. The Rev. Franklin Blackmer has served as guest minister at the Association service on October 22, at the Easter service April 22, and the closing service June 10. The Rev. Dr. George Dole officiated as guest minister on January 14th. Following this service Rev. and Mrs. Dole were dinner guests of the congregation at the Holiday Inn, Cooks Corner in Brunswick.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered on October 22, April 22 and June 10 by the Rev. Franklin Blackmer, and on January 14th by the Rev. Dr. George Dole.

The Lay-minister officiated at marriage ceremonies on September 23, November 16, and June 2.

The Bath Society has experienced a deep loss in the calling to their Heaven-▼

An outing and picnic was enjoyed by our Portland Society at the Salvetti summer cottage on Crystal Lake, Gray, Maine on July 20, 1973. 88

Five members (four men and one woman) of the Unification Church attended our church services on February 18, 1973.

There were no marriages, births, baptisms, or confirmations.

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION

Society: Detroit

Minister: Rev. Walter E. Orthwein

Membership: 117 (77 Active; 40 Inactive or Isolated)

During the 1973-74 church year the Church of the Holy City in Detroit had Sunday School and regular worship services each Sunday morning. Other regularly scheduled activities included a Sunday School teachers' meeting every other week to plan lessons, the monthly meeting of the Women's Alliance, a monthly doctrinal discussion group and League meetings. We have had several breakfasts and dinners at the Church on special occasions.

In addition to its other activities, the Women's Alliance studied the book, *Saul, David and Solomon* by the Rev. Dr. Hugo Odhner at its meetings this year. League members from other churches visited our church several times. The national ANCL officers met here in April and a large League meeting is planned for the Memorial Day week-end in May. In addition to our own young people, we will have guests from out-of-town League groups and from the General Church Society in Troy, Michigan. Then, on Memorial Day, the adult members of both societies will join the young people for a picnic at Almont.

Our minister has been going to Grand Rapids once a month this year to meet with a group of New Church people from Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, held in the home of Mr. August Rienstra, who has been a member of the Detroit Church for many years and who organized the group. As many as 18 people have attended the meetings this year, including several enthusiastic

ly Home of Mrs. Carolyn Blackmer on October 19, 1972, and Mrs. Anita Dole on April 7, 1973—such is recorded in the church records.

As customary, two students graduating from the primary class were presented with personalized bibles June 3.

The Annual Christmas Auction, sponsored by the Ladies Aid, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Aitken on December 13. Participation was particularly enthusiastic with the resulting financial success.

The Bath Society realizes the Divine blessings bestowed upon us, particularly the warmth of the fellowship prevalent in our congregation.

PORTLAND

Sunday Worship services were conducted regularly by Mr. Salvetti throughout the church year from April 11, 1972 to April 9, 1973 with the following exceptions:

The Church was closed for summer recess from June 4, 1972 to September 24, 1972. Services were cancelled October 22nd in order to permit members to attend the two-day annual meeting of the Maine Association of the New Jerusalem being held at the church in Bath on October 21 and 22. Services were cancelled on December 31 due to a severe snow storm. No services were held on April 8th.

The principal newsworthy item of interest is this year marks the centennial of the incorporation of the Maine Association. Following the business meeting a delightful repast was enjoyed at the "Stone House" the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Aitken. A discussion followed after supper on the question, "What would we like our Church to do?"

On Sunday the Rev. Franklin Blackmer gave the sermon and administered Holy Communion assisted by the Rev. F. Waldo Marshall and Michael B. Salvetti. The two-day convention came to a happy close with a dinner at the Bold Navigator, a roadside restaurant a few miles away.

newcomers. These are held on Saturday mornings and consist of a worship service and discussion, with a Bible class for the children.

In November our society participated in a Men's Retreat with men from several General Church societies at our camp at Almont, which has ideal facilities for such a program. The Rev. Dr. Horand Gutfeldt and two laymen from Cleveland also attended.

We also joined with the General Church Society in Troy for the Swedenborg Birthday dinner, as we did last year when the Rev. George McCurdy was the speaker. This year the speakers were the Rev. Geoffrey Childs and the Rev. Walter Orthwein, who also served as Toastmaster. Our ladies prepared the banquet this year and we met in the Troy Church. There was an excellent attendance from both churches and the evening was very enjoyable.

We are looking forward to the visit of the Rev. and Mrs. Mooki in May. They will stay with Mrs. Helen Keith and Mrs. Elizabeth Harder at their new home in Almont adjacent to the Assembly grounds. A dinner will be held for the Mookis at the camp.

Our dreams for Almont are being realized one by one. We hope to have a new Youth Center, including an auditorium, kitchen, dormitories and shower facilities completed before the camp session this July. We also plan to have the church moved onto a new foundation before camp time.

This has been a busy and productive year and a wonderful first year in the ministry for me.

Walter E. Orthwein

PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION

The Association met in San Diego August 31 to September 2, 1973, enjoying the good hospitality for which San Diego has an excellent reputation, and sharing Christian fellowship. The next meeting is scheduled for San Francisco and El Cerrito, August 30 to September 1, 1974.

Cont'd. on page 88

San Francisco holds its worship services every Sunday of the year, using the traditional New Church form of worship. The choir adds much to the service, and also provided a special Christmas concert. A fellowship hour is held each Sunday. Classes for children are held two Sundays a month, and a young people's class meets monthly. An interest supper group and a Young Couples Club each hold monthly meetings. The Martha's Alliance is active and helpful. San Francisco's picturesque chapel has attracted many as a beautiful wedding chapel, and over two hundred weddings are solemnized each year. All such couples are interviewed, and many receive counseling, as well as literature and information about the New Church, and the book, *Marriage*, on their wedding day. There are a great many baptisms performed also, a great number of them for non-New Church families. The Society announces with regret the resignation of Miss Jane Sugden as Music Director last December.

El Cerrito still holds two distinct Sunday services—an evening meeting for those who found the traditional forms not meaningful and a morning service for those who favor the traditional setting; in both services the members take turns in leading. The minister edits the monthly publication, the *Hillside Echo*, and airs his views in an editorial. There is no Sunday School, but the Women's Alliance is still active, though reduced in numbers.

The San Diego minister is still on leave of absence, and the church worship is ably conducted by laymen. The Thread Twisters are still very active, and the Sunday School continues.

Riverside reports an increase in attendance from friends who live near the Church. Sunday School classes have also increased in attendance and the young adults are planning some special activities, hoping to interest new people. The Women's Alliance has been reactivated under the name of the Busy Bees. The Rev. John Spiers preaches once a month, with lay people serving the other Sundays. A Thursday evening doctrinal class meets regularly.

Los Angeles continues its many activities, in addition to its Sunday morning worship. The adult class and the "Little Angels Church" (children's classes) meet regularly each Sunday. In addition, there is a school for children

Wayfarers' Chapel continues to serve many people by its various services. 88

The League held a retreat in San Francisco on the long week-end of Feb. 16-18, and a number of Leaguers from Southern California joined their friends in the North. Split Mountain Camp held its regular two-week session near the Kern River, on Forest Service Land.

Alice Van Boven, Secretary

SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Southeast Association was held at Swedenborg House of DeLand, Florida over the week-end of November 2-4, 1973. A summary of the reports and activities in the area will indicate the nature and extent of the work being carried on in the Southeast.

Miami and West Palm Beach: Meetings and services are conducted in both places on a monthly basis, except during the summer months, by the Rev. Ernest Frederick. New members have joined and attendance has increased and practically all of the members participate in and take a lively interest in the various phases of church work.

St. Petersburg: This society has initiated and successfully carried out a number of projects. The Rev. Leon LeVan also conducted a series of public lectures and an outreach campaign as well as meeting monthly with a group at Sarasota and having an annual Swedenborg birthday celebration. The Rev. Leslie Marshall still collects stamps and packages them for sale with the proceeds going to assist the Board of Home and Foreign Missions. Recently the 158,000 order was mailed out, and frequently Swedenborgian literature is included. In addition, Mr. Marshall completed work on a one-volume condensation of the *Swedenborg Concordance* for the Foundation, and is now busy on a *Topical Concordance of the Theological Works*.

Isolated Members: These are visited, whenever feasible, at least once a year by the Rev. Ernest Frederick who, during the summer, made an extended journey through Georgia, the Carolinas, Alabama, and other nearby states. The isolated are also kept in touch with through the *Newsletter* and

and young people held each Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with fun and spiritual nourishment. The pastor conducts a class in the Writings on Wednesday evenings. Since he is the secretary of the Korean Ministers Association, he has opportunities to be helpful to many people. The Stitch and Study Club is active, and the Church Library continues to serve a large public.

Temple City continues Sunday services, attended by a small but faithful few. The minister conducts a bi-weekly study class in members' homes. The last Sunday of each month a hospitality luncheon is held after the service; on the last Sunday of July the members are guests of the minister and his wife in their lovely garden.

Portland meets on alternative Sundays in the homes of members; their church building having been sold. They especially enjoy receiving the newsletters sent by the Association to members-at-large.

Bellevue still specializes in group therapy and counseling, reaching a number of people in that way.

Advance Reports of . . .

GENERAL PASTORS

GENERAL PASTOR, ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION

The past year has been a busy and fruitful one in our Association. A committee was created a year ago to plan and to coordinate the activities of the young people in our Churches. Mr. Larry Person of Minneapolis, is chairman of this Youth Committee. I have kept in close touch with him, and cooperated in his writing and sending a letter to the Churches, which brought an excellent response.

I have corresponded with some New Church people living at a distance from the Churches. My wife and I visited in the Fall of 1973 a ninety-seven

through regular correspondence. Many of these members and their friends visit Swedenborg House quite often for regular meetings or when traveling in Florida.

DeLand: The Swedenborg House Regional Center, under the direction of the Rev. Ernest Frederick, holds worship services, Sunday School, and study groups every week, and the Women's Service Club has been exceptionally active in many fields of endeavor, including the remodeling of one of the buildings and its furnishings for Sunday School classrooms. The Chauncey G. King and Lily Frederick Memorial Funds have also helped provide extra facilities for our young people. Many guests from the United States and Canada have enjoyed our Swedenborg House hospitality, the last ones being the church ministers and their wives and the members of General Council who met here during the winter for their meetings. For those who may not know it, rooms with or without kitchen facilities are available to all Convention members and their friends throughout the year by the day or week or month, and oranges and grapefruit may be had for the picking from October through May.

Herbert Young, Secretary

year old lady in West Central Illinois. She is very alert to the work and publications of the Swedenborgian Church. She reads and delights in discussion of recently published books and other literature of our Church. I also visited a family in Northern Minnesota whose home is on the shore of a lake, and who own several acres of forest land. The suggestion has come that we might develop a Summer Conference or Camp there.

I was Chairman of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Association in Chicago in the Fall of 1973. Together with the Reverend Ernest Martin I attended the annual meeting of the Good Shepherd Church in Park

Cont'd. on page 90

ILL. ASSOC. GENERAL PASTOR cont'd. from page 89

Ridge, Illinois, in January 1974. I am to visit the Church of the Open Word in Creve Coeur (St. Louis) Missouri this Spring (of 1974) on the occasion of their annual meeting.

Andre Dicaonoff

GENERAL PASTOR, PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION

As General Pastor of the Pacific Coast Association of the New Jerusalem, I have authorized two men to serve as Lay Leaders for the year 1973-1974. They are: Mr. Eugene Denning to serve at the Riverside Church, and Mr. Eldon Smith to serve at the Wayfarers' Chapel.

I attended and presided at the annual meeting of our Association at San Diego last September. In November I attended a meeting of the Wayfarers' Chapel Board as ex-officio member, and plan to attend the next meeting in April, 1974.

There have been no other duties required of me as General Pastor.

Erwin D. Reddekopp
General Pastor, Pacific Coast

GENERAL PASTOR, EUROPEAN FIELD

On November last, I went to Stockholm to preside over the service for the passing away of the Rev. Jack Hardstedt. I took the opportunity of introducing to the congregation the Rev. Gudmund Boolsen who will serve them as visiting pastor once a month, and clarify the relationship of the Society with our Continental Association.

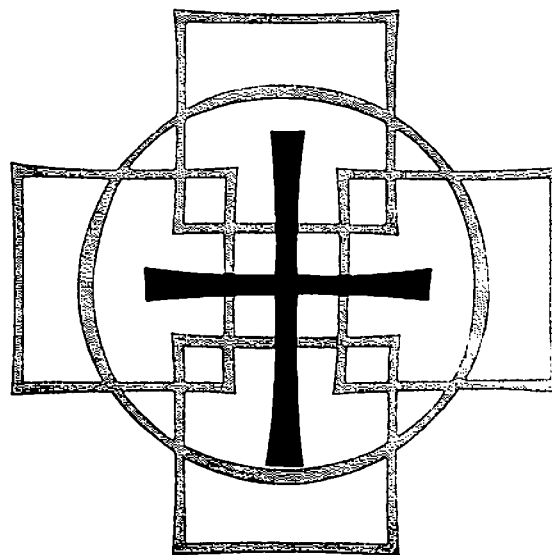
On the way back, I stopped over in Copenhagen where I celebrated the Holy Supper and had a useful meeting with the Church Committee. The result is that the Dansk Nykirkeligt samfund has now applied for membership into our Continental Association and will be received as such at the coming

general Assembly in May next in Romanshorn. Our Continental Council of New Church ministers will meet at the same date and place for a session of three days, thanks to the support of the Board of Missions. A new member will be received, viz. the Rev. Gudmund Boolsen of Copenhagen who will numerically compensate for the loss of the Rev. Jack Hardstedt.

The authorizations as lay leaders of whom a list was given a year ago have been renewed for another year, to which is still to be added the name of Milan Pokorny, who already used to occasionally assist the Rev. Jack Hardstedt when the latter's strength was decreasing these past years.

As General Pastor, I presided at the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Geneva New Church Society, on February the 24th, and will be present also at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the German Swiss organization (Zürich) on May 4th and 5th in Romanshorn.

Alfred Regamey



RESOLUTION

The following Resolution submitted by the Rev. Richard H. Tafel of Philadelphia will be presented for discussion and any action required during the meeting of the General Convention in Urbana, Ohio, June 1974:

In the light of the fact that it has been bruited about, both in letters and by word of mouth, that the New Church, the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches, has departed from the "Faith of Our Fathers" and is no longer in agreement with the purposes of our Church as laid down in our Constitution and with the traditional position as to the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

Be it resolved that at this session of the General Convention held in Urbana, Ohio, we reaffirm our belief in the Bible as the Word of God and in the divinely inspired truths for the New Church as revealed in the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, the Servant of the Lord; and that we reaffirm our allegiance to the faith that at this day our Lord is moving to his promised Second Coming and to the establishment of a New Church as he moves to make all things new.

Since this was not received by the Committee on Resolutions in the time limit set by General Council, if the mover wants it presented at the Convention meeting, requirements for prior submission will have to be waived by a concurrence of two thirds of the delegates at Convention.

*Committee on Resolutions
Adolph T. Liebert, Chairman*

ALMONT NEW CHURCH ASSEMBLY

This is the second in a series of articles on Swedenborgian summer camps, requested by Convention's Board of Education.

Fields of ripening wheat and corn. Cows grazing. Ducks and geese swimming on a lake. Old weathered barns with amber lightning rods. Wildflowers. The sun setting behind distant pines. Cool nights filled with stars, and an owl hooting in the trees behind the dorms. Almont is all these things. The

scenery is good and refreshing, and it provides just the right background for the kind of program we have.

Almont is dedicated to a deepening understanding of the teachings of the New Church, and to family fun. There is a sphere at Almont that can't very well be described, but which is what makes these two weeks an experience people treasure.

We begin the day with exercises and then gather around the flagpole, hand in hand making a big circle, for the raising of the flag and our morning chapel service in the little church across the road. We plan to have this beautiful 100-year old chapel repositioned and on a new foundation by camp time this year. After chapel there is the morning lecture, followed by discussion groups. The theme of the lectures this year is, "The ABCs of the Writings." In addition, there are Bible classes for the children.

After lunch we have a rest period and free time before the afternoon activities. These may include crafts, games, field trips, or swimming. This year for the first time we will have our own lake to swim in at the camp. It is full of water now, and already two ducks are nesting on the shore!

The lecture staff this year will consist of the Rev. George McCurdy of the Boston Church, Rev. Walter Orthwein of Detroit, Rev. Donald Rose of the General Church Society in Pittsburgh, Rev. Geoffrey Childs of the General Church Society in Detroit, and Mr. Rafael Guiu of the Swedenborg Library in Boston.

In the evening we have such activities as hayrides, hikes, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts or other games, dances, costume parties, a talent show or a play. And there are always snacks and card games or chess and good conversation in the lounges at night.

Our session this year will last from July 14 through July 28. All ages are most welcome, and we would be very happy to have you with us. For reservations, for all or part of the time, please write: Mrs. Helen Keith, 16399 Tubspring Road, Almont, Mich. 48003.

Rev. Walter Orthwein

1974 Convention	ANCL SCHEDULE	Urbana College
TUES.		7:30 p.m.— ANCL meet with COM (Listen-in) and exchange ideas for topics for Wed.
WED. 7:30–8:30— Breakfast 9:00— ANCL meeting 10:15–10:30— “coffee mingle” 10:30—Discussion followed by devotional (ANCL)	12:00–1:00— Lunch Greet Newcomers Put up exhibit (pictures, etc.)	5:30–6:30— Supper 8:00— Opening of Con- vention After—music with Muff 9:30—ANCL Get-together
THURS. 7:30–8:30— Breakfast 9:00— ANCL meeting (construct the “Statement of Purpose”)	12:00–1:00— Lunch 1:30–3:30—Mini courses 3:30–5:30—Open	5:30–6:30— Supper 6:30–8:00—ANCL gather- ing 8:00—Convention meeting with “Testimonials” 9:30— Reception
FRI. 7:30–8:30— Breakfast 9:00— ANCL meeting (nominations for officers and Poole Trophy)	12:00–1:00— Lunch 2:00–4:00— mini courses 4:00–5:30— Open	5:30–6:30— Supper 6:30–8:00— Open 8:00— Evening Program (Business, Film, reception) 10:30—Communion
SAT. 7:30–8:30— Breakfast 9:00—Elections (prompt) Delegates go to other elections, Others make lunches	TRIP TO CLIFTON GORGE	6:30— Banquet followed by party (square dancing, etc.)
SUN. 7:30–8:30— Breakfast 10:30—Worship Service	Lunch Depart	Depart

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, June 16

5:00–10:00 p.m., *REGISTRATION for ministers and wives* 8:00–10:00 p.m., *OPEN HOUSE at Dorothea Harvey's*
MONDAY & TUESDAY, June 17, 18

9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., *COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, and MINISTERS' WIVES' GROUPS*

WEDNESDAY, June 19

9:00 a.m., *MINISTERS, and MINISTERS' WIVES*

1:30 p.m., *GENERAL COUNCIL*

8:00 p.m., *CONVENTION OPENING, Address by the Rev. Obed Mooki*

THURSDAY, June 20

9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., *CONVENTION BUSINESS*

1:30 p.m., *MINI-COURSES*

8:00 p.m., *TESTIMONIALS, and Reception for Urbana President Roland Patzer*

FRIDAY, June 21

9:00 a.m., *CONVENTION BUSINESS – ANCL BUSINESS*

10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., *MINI-COURSES*

4:15 p.m., *SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION*

9:30 p.m., *RECEPTION for Chester Cook & 50-year ministers*

10:30 p.m., *SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION*

SATURDAY, June 22

9:00 a.m., *CONVENTION BUSINESS (elections) – ANCL elections* 2:00 p.m., *OPEN MEETINGS of Boards & Committees*

8:00 p.m., *BANQUET, CONCERT, & SOCIAL*

SUNDAY, June 23

10:30 a.m., *WORSHIP SERVICE, with the Rev. Andre Diaconoff as Convention Preacher*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR cont'd. from page 66

east, moving across the sky, and setting in the west. Don't sell it short: that's "real" reality (400 years after the "Copernican Revolution" that same reality still guides ocean liners accurately to their destined ports). There's also the theoretical reality by which we know that the apparent movement of the sun is "really" the spinning of the earth as it revolves around the sun—which is revolving at the same time around Polaris, which is revolving around..., etc., *ad infinitum*. In spite of the ubiquitous brainwashing of modern Scientism, this theoretical reality is no more real (nor less real) than the first, sensible one; and it is no less (nor more) real than the next—the reality that's actually *there* beyond any possibility of our perception of it. All those realities are real in equal measure. They're all separate. They're all radically different. They're all discrete from each other, and incompatible. Nevertheless, they're all inherently and necessarily complementary, interconnected and corresponding. They all are aspects of one reality, because one is all there is.

In an hour of fast-talking, I could give the class only a small fraction of the data that buttress my conviction of the truth of this Swedenborgian perspective on reality. Here, I've given you only the smallest hint of that. But I hope that with this illustration and some trust, I can make the point I want to make: the real Swedenborgian Church is seen at Conventions.

THE REALITY OF THE CHURCH

From all I've just said, it should be obvious that there are at least three "real churches." There is one that you know from the experience of worshiping, working, greeting and being greeted, loving and being loved. There is a second church (or second aspect of the same church) that you learn about from your minister or from reading Swedenborg. You can understand (or somehow believe) that in that aspect of the church your experience is shared by the angles in a way that unites you with them. Thirdly and finally, there is the church which you can try to imagine on the basis of your experience and understanding. The reality of that church is so far from the reality of experience that words cannot describe it literally, but are confined to symbols which share its reality. This is why we speak of the church as our mother, and we speak of

the church as the Lord's bride. Such language is not "only" or "merely" symbolic. It's really true—in a way that only symbols can express. The church that we understand, and the church that is our mother and the Lord's bride: these are radically different churches, but still they are one church. They are one church, just as the universe in which the sun appears to go around the world, and the universe in which we understand that the world goes around the sun, and the universe which no one can describe except in symbolical formulae of relativity, all together are one universe.

That's a lot to grasp, though the parallel is clear. But it's not enough, because religion is more complex than astronomy. Just at the level of experience, the first of the "real churches," the church is you, individually and in private; but at the same time, the church is the congregation in which you worship, and it is the Convention, and it is Christianity, and it is the whole communal fellowship of people everywhere who answer "Yes!" to the highest and best they know. Outside of direct sensible experience, the parallel categories are fewer but no easier. Let's stick with experience for a moment.

THE REALITY OF CONVENTION

On the continuum of experience of the church that runs from the most personal to the most universal, Convention is a kind of mid-point. A convention can be a sort of high point on that scale as well. The experiential sensation of *belonging*, that intensifies geometrically as you move from private prayer to common worship, seems to peak at a Convention Sunday worship service. Christianity, and the world-wide communion of the "Church General," are too vast to be experienced as acutely.

And if the church that you *experience* becomes most intensely real at a convention, then it is at conventions that your experience of the reality of the church corresponds most closely to the theological reality of the earthly-and-heavenly church. Sometimes, the correspondence comes so close as to be transparent, so that the theological reality almost can be experienced. But wait a minute. This kind of philosophical analysis of the reality of the church can run away with the intellect, and lose its reality-base in the concreteness of experience. The kind of reality-unifying, reality-clarifying experi-

Cont'd. on page 94

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR, cont'd. from page 93
 ence I've been talking about sounds like worship (and I referred to the big convention worship service as a symbol of it). That in itself is not misleading. My own keenest experiences of it have indeed come to conscious awareness in worship—especially in the Convention Communion. But that isn't the whole story, not by any means.

I have known several friends who have missed all of a convention except the Sunday service. Usually, they have rejoiced at the beauty and significance of the service, but always it has been plain that the service meant less to them than it did to me. The reason for the discrepancy is obvious. The essential quality of Convention Sunday Services lies in their intimate connection with the convention. People who have worked, discussed, wrestled, even fought together for a common purpose; people who have learned and grown together in shared experiences; people who have relaxed, laughed, celebrated together; people who have renewed dear friendships and/or made new ones together; people who have done so much together find worshipping together richly rewarding, spiritually expanding experience. The convention makes the closing service. The service symbolizes the convention.

Of course you work together, learn together, make friends and worship together in your congregation at home. At least three things make these things different at a convention. One difference is the intensity of the experience. For several days, the working—learning—loving—worshipping experience that is one aspect of the reality of the church takes over your whole life. Another difference is the scale of the experience. A church numbering in hundreds is a qualitatively (as well as quantitatively) different experience than a church counted in tens. A third difference is the uniqueness. Issues that are faced, friends that are met, good times that are had, and worship that grows out of it all *only at conventions* give special intensity to every experience.

After thirteen consecutive conventions (including two at Urbana College), I know a good deal of what to expect for myself. I will be frustrated in some ways, and I will be so exhausted at the end that I cannot help anticipating the experience with some anxiety. But also, I will be stimulated, de-

lighted and expended; I will give and receive love; I will work hard, play hard, worship deeply (indeed, it is the intensity of all this that produces the exhaustion); and I will renew once more this life-nourishing contact with the reality of my church.

The church at convention is no more real than your church at home, nor the church in you when you pray or read the Word or help your neighbor for God's sake. But it is another aspect of the church's reality; and the more aspects of reality you experience, the more real you become. The more aspects of reality that you unite in your experience, the more whole you become.

If you possibly can attend the Urbana convention, I hope you will. The church will be more real for you if you can. And your being there will make the church more real.

Robert H. Kirven

YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS WANTED

The Stamp Outlet of the Board of Missions needs your used postage stamps, used or unused picture postcards, used postal cards, revenue stamps, etc. For 36 years it has been gathering these up worldwide to sell to collectors in order to raise funds for its mission work, and we estimate that over \$25,000 has been raised for that purpose. The stamps can be off-paper or on pieces of the envelopes and wrapping paper, and we ask only that the foreign stamps be kept separate.

Send to the Outlet at Box 386, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33731, or if in large cartons, use the office address 419 Fifth St., So., 33701. Postage and remuneration will be paid if desired.

L. Marshall

MEMORIAL VINCENT ALMOND

Mr. Vincent Almond, resident of St. Albert, Alberta, passed into eternal life on Wednesday, February 20th. The resurrection service was held from the Howard and McBride's Chapel in Edmonton with Rev. John Jeffery officiating, and Mrs. Annette Brissette at the organ.

Vince, as he was known by his many friends, was born on August 5, 1927, in Haslingden, England, the son of Percy and Margaret Almond. There he grew up with his brother Tom and sister Margaret (now Mrs. Gordon Robinson). He attended regular school and college, and during World War II served in the Royal Air Force. Shortly after the war he met Anna Maria Doifl, whom he married on November 5, 1949 in the New Church in Haslingden.

In September 1952 the Almonds moved to Canada, and Vince devoted himself to his work in the insurance business, making friends throughout the Edmonton area and far beyond. Two sons, David and Roland, were born to the Almonds during this period. In 1966 Vince left the insurance business to enter the Office of the Public Trustee, Government of Alberta, attaining the post of Estate Officer and serving with a dedication which earned him the love and respect of his co-workers and of many individuals and families he was able to help.

Soon after his arrival in Edmonton, Vince got in touch with the New Church group, which at that time held its worship services in the Howard and McBride's Chapel where he began his religious activities. His interest in the New Church grew rapidly in the years following, and he soon became one of its most active and respected members. He has served in many offices, including that of President of the local Society, Vice-President of the regional Western Canada Conference, Sunday School Pastor, member of Conference's Children's Camp Committee, and the Paulhaven Camp Development Committee. For the past three years he has been a member of the Lay Council, and a few weeks before his passing the Society at its annual meeting voted unanimously to request his authorization as Candidate for Lay Ministry. He was beginning to be recognized in the international organization, serving on the local planning committee for last

year's annual international meeting in Edmonton; and his name had been put forward by several individuals for nomination to the General Council.

It will take many people to fill the places left vacant by his passing into the highest life. He wore many hats, and in all that he did he earned the highest commendation: "Well done, good and faithful servant." His passing will enrich the life of heaven, as his presence among us has enriched the lives of all who knew him.

The past year saw the death of three women who were known throughout the church. They were known as widely as they were, partly because each was married to a minister, but that is too little to say: each was loved where she was known because she was who she was.

Josephine Giunta Zitto, wife of the late Rev. Henry Giunta, died on November 3, 1973. Born in Pacino, Sicily, in 1899, she met Henry Giunta while he was a student at the New Church Theological School in Cambridge. They were married in 1921, and after his ordination they moved to parishes in Boston, Mansfield, Mass., Providence, and Cleveland; while Mr. Giunta earned his doctorate in education, and was consecrated General Pastor of the Ohio Association. Following her husband's death, she moved to Los Angeles in 1959, where she has been an active and inspiring member of the congregation and association ever since. She married Mr. Nicholas Zitto in 1964; and after his death intensified her church activities for the rest of her life.

The Reverend and Mrs. William F. Wunsch were memorialized in a service on March 22 in the New York church. The Rev. Clayton Priestnal and the Rev. Edwin Capon led the service—"an expression of our gratitude to the Lord for the blessings which came into our lives through these two beloved friends and an affirmation of our faith in everlasting life." Mrs. Wunsch would have been 86 years old on that day; Rev. Wunsch, who died in 1969, would have been 92.

Elinor Turley, former wife of the Rev. Owen Turley, died in her sleep on May 1, in Bellevue, Washington. A memorial service was conducted in the Bellevue church on May 17, the Rev. David Johnson and the Rev. Owen Turley do-officiating.

THE MESSENGER
MAY 1974
TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	66
OUR GUESTS FROM SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR	
<i>By Marion Priestnal</i>	67
NOMINATIONS	68
BIOGRAPHIES	69
FRYEBURG WOMEN'S AUXILIARY	73
CONVENTION ADVANCE REPORTS	
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT	74
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION	74
REPORT OF ADULT WORK COMMITTEE	75
REPORT OF L.E.I.	75
REPORT OF A.N.C.L.	76
REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION	76
REPORT OF EDITOR OF MESSENGER	76
REPORT OF BOARD OF MISSIONS	77
REPORT OF WAYFARERS' CHAPEL	79
REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGERS, SSR	80
REPORT OF PRESIDENT, SSR	80
REPORT OF ROTCH FUND	82

REPORT OF NEW CHURCH PRAYER FELLOWSHIP	83
REPORT OF GRAY FUND	83
REPORT OF CANADA ASSOCIATION	84
REPORT OF MAINE ASSOCIATION	84
REPORT OF CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION	85
REPORT OF KANSAS ASSOCIATION	85
REPORT OF MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION	86
REPORT OF PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION	87
REPORT OF SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION	88
REPORT OF GENERAL PASTOR OF ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION	89
REPORT OF GENERAL PASTOR OF PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION	90
REPORT OF GENERAL PASTOR OF EUROPEAN FIELD	90
* * * * *	
RESOLUTION	91
ALMONT	91
ANCL SCHEDULE	92
CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS	92
STAMP OUTLET	94
MEMORIALS	95

THE MESSENGER
48 Sargent St., Box E
Newton, Mass. 02158

Second Class
Postage
PAID
at Boston, Mass.