The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X)(USPS 474460) 3120 Kennedy Road PO Box 1678 Janesville, WI 53547-1678 Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK

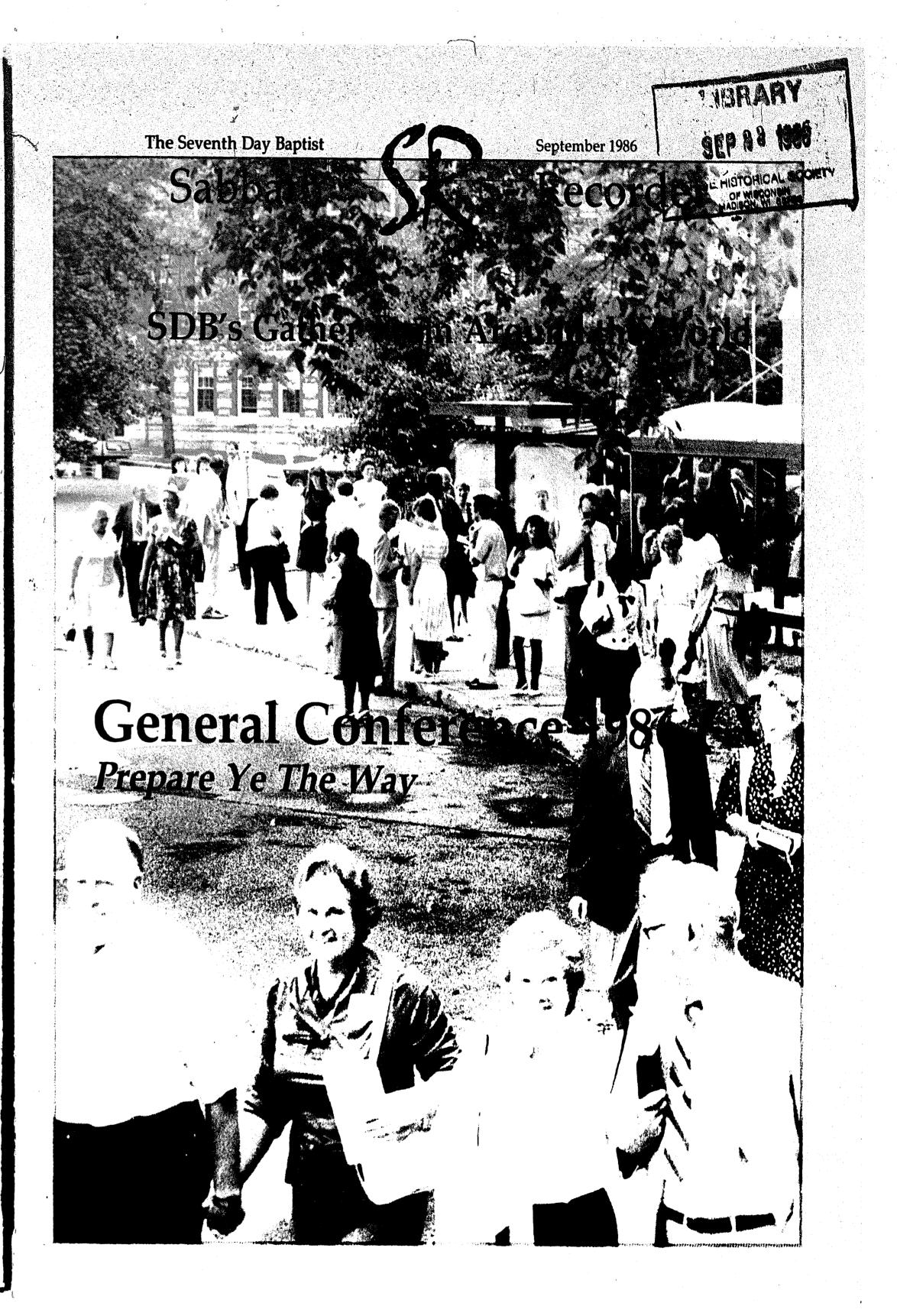
September 28—October 4

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- —Sabbath School studying
- —Campers creating
- —Bible school singing
- —Youth Fellowship fundraising
- —Choir caroling
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(Words from the song "Love One Another"



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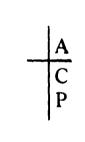
September 1986 Volume 208, No. 9 Whole No. 6,699

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

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D. Scott Smith **Editor**

Leanne Lippincott Assistant Editor

Contributing Editors

Ernest K. Bee, Linda V.H. Camenga, J. Paul Green, Gerry VanDyke, Leon R. Lawton, Marilyn Merchant, Dale D. Thorngate.

Staff

Leanne Lippincott, paste-up and typesetting; Camille Henry, typist; volunteer proofreaders.

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Features

by Russell Johnson	
Building on the Rock by Gerry Van Dyke	1
Prepare ye the way: By dying to selfby Kenneth Chroniger	28

Donartmonte

The Beacon....

Depai lillelits		
Report to General Conference	6	
Conference '86 news	. 13	
Why a church camp?	. 15	
The Children's Page	. 16	

Accessions, Marriages

by Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowships

Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. We use the Bible as our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.

We believe in freedom of thought and the congregational form of church government. That means that every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision making process of the church.

The Seventh Day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus showed that he agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience, and not as a means of salvation—salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

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Report to General Conference 6 by Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate

Women's Society NEWS & IDEAS by Marilyn Merchant

Why a church camp? 15 The Board of Christian Education Page by Ernest K. Bee, Jr.

The Children's Page 16 The Beacon..... by Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowships

Obituaries

Accessions, Marriages 34

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by 1986 Conference President Russell Johnson here once was a family preparing to travel to Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. Everything was ready until just before they were to leave, the family car broke down. And so, after refiguring their budget, they began the process of looking for another car.

One day, after a difficult search, the husband found a remarkable car. It was lovely through and through. It was a thing of mechanical beauty—the engine "purred." He realized that he was looking at a tremendous gem. The price was only \$5,000 and that was within their budget.

Excitedly, the man called home saying, "Sweetheart, I've got the dream car. I've got the car that we want. Pack the bags; we're ready to go."

You can imagine her excitement when he came home and drove

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into the drive. You can also imagine the shock on her face when he arrived in a 1930 Ford, in mint condition.

That is a bad example of how to prepare to make a trip—how to prepare the way that is in front of you.

There are three things that I see as a pastor and as Conference president that Seventh Day Baptists are to prepare today for Christ's return. The first area of preparation is a question that we need to answer in our hearts. Who is in charge of our denomination; who is in charge of our people; who "heads it up?" In our local work, who causes it, formed it and protects it?

I think that the people of God will find it in their hearts that it is often very easy to find ourselves saying, "I think... I believe... I don't want..." But the first words from our mouths should be, "I need to consult the Lord... the Lord says... the Lord wants..." Are we not his sheep, his people? Is he not our Good Shepherd? I believe so with all my heart. We need to reaffirm that in our hearts and minds and in our churches. We need to turn loose of the possession that we sometimes hold when we say, "Not in my church." It is his church. Let God be God; let God arise.

I want to point out that the Bible says very clearly that unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers labor in vain (Psalm 127:1). I have known (and you' have known) of churches that have arisen on the work of man. They have grown, blossomed and then withered and died. Such is not the way of God; his way prospers and brings fruit and increase. We are a people of God. He wants us to confess it and let it be known.

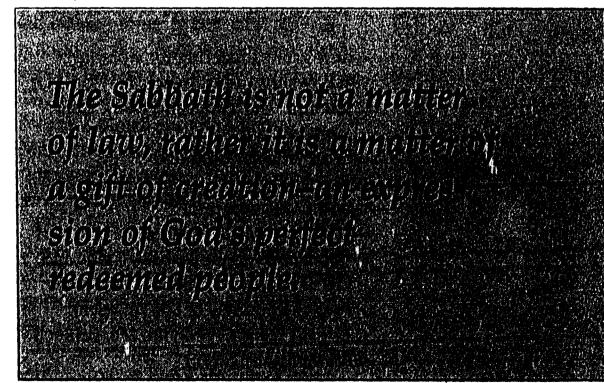
Pastors, we need to tell the truth. If we know the Gospel in its fullness, God wants us to declare the fullness of the Scripture. If you see a people in error, you need to speak up about it and not be afraid. We need to be loving, but bold in the Word.

Acknowledge who our God given leadership is. Recognize that pastors need to give account in our congregations. Many times I think that we allow our pastor not to develop in the Lord because, within our congregation, we take back the leadership and responsibility. Hebrews 13:17 says, "He will give account for his leadership." The pastor is accountable. So make him accountable and trust God to work through him. Trust that he will be shaped by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord provided him and the Lord will remove him if he is wrong. The Lord will correct as he should. It is a humbling thing to recognize the responsibility for 20, 50, 100 or 5000 people-and know that you must give answer for

what you have done in leading or deceiving. So, trust the Lord; trust him to work through your pastor. Get behind them and let God work through them.

A third area that we need to develop within our lives as we prepare for the Lord's return is in the unique truth that you and I hold; or we would not be here tonight. It is a unique truth that not every Christian has. We do not have all truth; we are still growing. But, Seventh Day Baptists, we do have truth that has been given to us while others still have it hidden from their eyes—the unique truth of the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is not a matter of law, rather it is a matter of a gift of creation—an expression of God's perfect redeemed people. It was a gift in the perfection of the garden. It was not given in sin. If it was beautiful to people who were already in perfection, how Cont. to page 24.



The Sabbath Recorder

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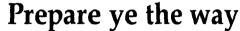
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Report to General Conference

July 1985 to July 1986



Our Conference President, Russell Johnson, has challenged us, as Seventh Day Baptists in the United States and Canada, to "prepare the way" for Christ to come into the hearts of his people. Russ says: "Seventh Day Baptists are discovering that God has delivered a wholeness about the Gospel into our hands..."

In this sixth year of the Decade of Discipleship, the emphasis has been on ministry: ministry to the church, ministry in the church, and ministry by the church to the community using the Luke 4:16-21 model. In this passage Jesus, reading from the book of Isaiah, identifies his role in the world as he begins his ministry. If we are to respond to the call to "prepare the way for Christ," we must accept the same role in our society.

Year's highlights. A review of the year from last conference to this one reveals the following measurable results of our

- —annual net increase in total membership: 1983, 91; 1984, 31; 1985,
- —new groups meeting for worship, fellowship and outreach: Naylor, Mo.; Austin, Tex.; Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Carson, Calif.
- —Leon Wheeler ordained
- -Harold King graduated from seminary and COM program
- -extension pastors placed: Rev. Robert Babcock in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Oscar Godoy in Carson, Calif. (both branch churches of Los Angeles); Ronald Elston in Naylor, Mo. (branch of Memphis, Tenn.)

- —66 pastors and students gathered in three workshop locations to seriously study the "emerging Seventh Day Baptist Church": Riverside, Calif., 23; Milton, Wis., 15; Verona, N.Y., 28
- -two pastoral assistants placed: Clifford Mays in Shiloh, N.J.; Marty Pederson in Riverside, Calif.
- -Matthew Olson appointed new Director of Youth Ministry
- —"Called Together" videotape being used to introduce SDBs to new contacts: 18 purchased, eight borrowed
- —SDB World Federation sessions held: Theme, "By Means of His Power"—18 countries (16 conferences, South Africa added in 1986); 32 delegates and over 30 observers attending in Westerly, R.I.
- —TIME Program (Training in Ministry and Extension) developed: eastern training center established in Salemville, Penn., with nine people enrolled and having received first and second training modules, first graduates to be recognized at Conference 1989
- —revised Statement of Belief prepared by Committee on Faith and Order for consideration by General Conference for first reading
- —SDB United Relief Fund contributions growing: 1983, \$8,200; 1984, \$11,000; 1985, \$12,386
- —Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) workers increase: 1985, 12; 1986,

Relocation

Mergers. During conference last year, the General Conference New Jersey corporation was merged into the Wisconsin corporation. Since then, the Memorial Fund and Historical Society

The Sabbath Recorder

have also merged into their respective Wisconsin corporations. At the annual meeting of the American Sabbath Tract Society, September 1985, the society voted—upon recommendation of their Board of Trustees—to merge with the SDB General Conference in Wisconsin as the American Sabbath Tract and Communications Council of the Conference. This August, the conference will be asked to vote for this merger.

Office management

Staff changes. Staff turnover in progress a year ago has resulted thus:

—Jill FitzRandolph Groelle became the new Assistant Denominational Treasurer. She also works in the Center office as financial secretary and secretary.

—Brenda Appel Cornelio began in February as part-time secretary.

-John Vergeer became the new financial manager for the Memorial Fund Trustees in March. Rev. C. Harmon Dickinson retired in May, his service recognized at the volunteers' reception and again at General Conference.

—Camille Henry works part-time at the Center in several capacities. For the Tract Society, she enters publications copy into the computer for editing; she provides secretarial services in several other areas, including the Historical Society Library and the TIME project.

held a reception to say thank you to over 70 individuals and families that had provided very important assistance to the denomination during the past year. Services ranged from stuffing envelopes for special mailings to entertaining visitors in their homes. It is impossible to say thank you enough for this kind of dedicated service, but we keep trying.

Editor-Historian. During the year, the Executive Secretary and presidents of the Tract Society and Historical Society—Dr. Neil Aiken and Rev. Victor Skaggs, respectively—met on several occasions to evaluate the Editor-Historian position, created as an experiment three years ago. The committee concluded that the positions should be separated. Both

societies are evaluating their needs and will have new job descriptions prepared, at least by the end of the year.

New computer system needed. The present computer system at the Center, which provides for accounting, mailing list and word processing services, has been filled to capacity and more for over a year. Also, since the first of 1986, it has been down a great deal of the time (50% of usable time in April). Since the new financial manager is on board, there is more need for accounting time. At present, two staff members are using their own computers to do word processing. We are asking the using agencies to help purchase a new system which will cost \$15,000. Pray with us as we seek a faster, more flexible and larger system.

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Communications and public relations

Lead-Line and SDB World. The two newsletters continue to be the main inhouse communications links with SDB leadership in our conference and around the world. I thank my wife, Janet, for her extensive dedicated service in this very important area of our work. We are presently printing 450 copies. They are mailed first class so news is up-to-date.

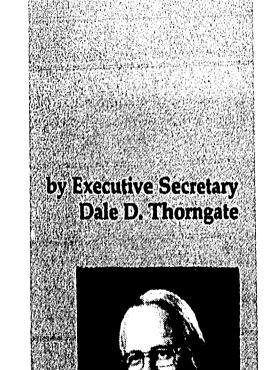
Meetings. During the year, I attended 53 meetings of our boards and agencies as well as ecumenical organizations.

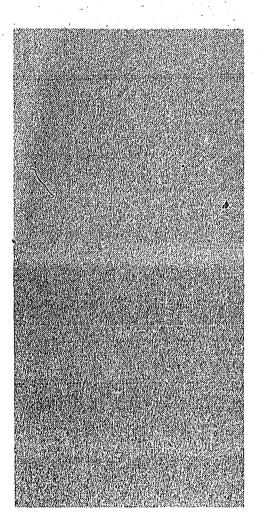
Coordinating Leadership Team. Volunteers. On May 18, the Center staff

Meetings this year have focused on the TIME Project, reviewing catalyst papers and making input to this vital new ministry of the denomination. We also worked together to prepare a viable OWM budget for consideration by the General Council and the General Conference. Our efforts are aimed at providing a dynamic program for a growing denomination.

Church visits. I have had opportunity to visit over 30 churches during the year, making presentations and listening for concerns and ideas. In most of these, I also have opportunity to preach.

Pastoral contact. In addition to meeting with pastors as I visit churches, I was





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pleased to be able to conduct two seminars at the Area Pastors' Workshops—on "Planning and Implementation" and "The Role of Leadership." (Because of a bout with pneumonia, I was unable to attend the third workshop.)

Slide programs. We have developed two slide-tape programs that can be used by churches to describe our ministry activities. They are being used:
"Our World Mission—A Partnership in

Ministry," 20 showings
"Around the World in Christ—SDB World

Federation," 10 showings
I used the "Partnership" one as I visited churches, two associations and also during the three Pastors' Area
Workshops. It is updated with new slides for this Report to General Conference.

Every-member mailings. In 1986, we began a monthly program to inform individual SDB families and friends of ongoing denominational programs. These every-member mailings also provide opportunity for people to support specific portions of the work through direct contributions. Over the past several years, we have discovered that information regarding the denominational work was not getting to the individual members. People will not support things they do not know about. We pray that people will be informed and will get excited about what is happening around our country and in many areas of the world for our Lord Jesus Christ through the service of Seventh Day Baptists.

Sabbath Recorder articles. My writing for The Sabbath Recorder focuses on what I consider the three major functions of the church: discipleship, leadership, and stewardship. Sometimes it is impossible to write about one without involving at least one of the others. That is how it is being the church in the world.

Stewardship

Partnership in ministry. This year, I have tried to emphasize the relationship between the churches that make up the General Conference. It is this partnership that makes our resources become greater than the sum of the parts. Without each other, our churches, boards and agencies would be unable to do the work we are called by our Lord to do.

Our World Mission budget. We have changed our reporting procedures this year. Every month now there is a page in The Sabbath Recorder that shows graphically how we are doing. Receipts by church are listed monthly in Lead-Line. Quarterly, the treasurer of your church is informed about how your church is doing on its part of the OWM goal. Although we still have not met the budget, an exciting, dynamic denominational program is going on, as indicated by many of the "highlights."

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

New member groups. In the eight years since the last World Federation session, three new groups have been received as members: Poland, Nigeria, and South Africa.

Third session. In August in Westerly, R.I., we will be gathering over 60 delegates and observers for an exciting time of fellowship and planning under the theme chosen by Federation President James A. Skaggs—"By Means of His Power" (Eph. 3:20).

We want to say thank you to the many people who have given financial support so that the program could be accomplished and so that many delegates could attend (at least one from every member group). Special thanks goes to President James Skaggs; Sessions Pastor Rev. Gabriel Bejjani; Hosting Coordinator Janet Thorngate; Travel Coordinator Rev. Leon Lawton; and Local Host Committee Chairman William Bowyer.

Ecumenical

Baptist World Alliance. In November, I attended the dedication of the new BWA Building in McLean, Va.

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA). Rev. Kenneth Chroniger and I attended the BJCPA meeting in Washington, D.C., in March. This continues to be a vital agency concerned about the separation of church and state, a significant part of our Baptist heritage and extremely important in the current political climate of our country.

North American Baptist Fellowship.
The meetings scheduled for November in Nashville, Tenn., were cancelled.

North American Baptist Men's
Department. Kirk Looper was asked by
the General Council to represent Seventh
Day Baptists at the April meeting of this
body in Kansas City, Mo. He reports:

"We were challenged. .. to consider our congregations. How many members and attenders are under 40 in our churches? How many men are regular attenders? Many tidbits of spiritual awareness were gleaned for future analysis. It was a most enjoyable experience and I am looking forward to the next meeting."

Our thanks to Kirk, who has been asked to serve as a vice president of the Men's Department.

Reflections

Executive Secretary evaluation. In February, after preparation of an instrument to evaluate the executive secretary, the elected members of the General Council evaluated my performance in the position. The report of the elected members to the rest of the council was that the evaluation was "positive" and they were recommending that I be extended another three-year term. I felt the evaluation was a good experience. I was pleased that there were no surprises to me since I had been involved in self-evaluation over the past year.

In preparation for this evaluation, I had done a five-year review of the events and accomplishsments and felt very pleased

with what has occurred in the life of the denomination and my role in those experiences.

I believe that the potential for Seventh Day Baptists is unlimited, but there are those among our people who do not believe that. They seem to think we are dying and seem to be doing what they can to make it happen.

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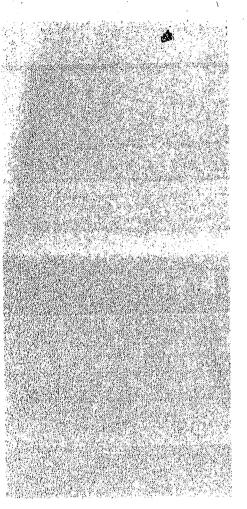
We are called to prepare the way for Christ to come into people's lives. May God give us the vision to be excited and motivated to see new life in our churches and people. May we be given the strength and wisdom to move into the 21st Century with love and courage and a desire for Christian excellence in our lives, our churches and our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jale D. V.

Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate introduces the representatives from the World Federation.





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Stewardship

Partnership in ministry. This year, I have tried to emphasize the relationship between the churches that make up the General Conference. It is this partnership that makes our resources become greater than the sum of the parts. Without each other, our churches, boards and agencies would be unable to do the work we are called by our Lord to do.

Our World Mission budget. We have changed our reporting procedures this year. Every month now there is a page in The Sabbath Recorder that shows graphically how we are doing. Receipts by church are listed monthly in Lead-Line. Quarterly, the treasurer of your church is informed about how your church is doing on its part of the OWM goal. Although we still have not met the budget, an exciting, dynamic denominational program is going on, as indicated by many of the "highlights."

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

New member groups. In the eight years since the last World Federation session, three new groups have been received as members: Poland, Nigeria, and South Africa.

Third session. In August in Westerly, R.I., we will be gathering over 60 delegates and observers for an exciting time of fellowship and planning under the theme chosen by Federation President James A. Skaggs—"By Means of His Power" (Eph. 3:20).

We want to say thank you to the many people who have given financial support so that the program could be accomplished and so that many delegates could attend (at least one from every member group). Special thanks goes to President James Skaggs; Sessions Pastor Rev. Gabriel Bejjani; Hosting Coordinator Janet Thorngate; Travel Coordinator Rev. Leon Lawton; and Local Host Committee Chairman William Bowyer.

Ecumenical

Baptist World Alliance. In November, I attended the dedication of the new BWA Building in McLean, Va.

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA). Rev. Kenneth Chroniger and I attended the BJCPA meeting in Washington, D.C., in March. This continues to be a vital agency concerned about the separation of church and state, a significant part of our Baptist heritage and extremely important in the current political climate of our country.

North American Baptist Fellowship. The meetings scheduled for November in Nashville, Tenn., were cancelled.

North American Baptist Men's
Department. Kirk Looper was asked by
the General Council to represent Seventh
Day Baptists at the April meeting of this
body in Kansas City, Mo. He reports:

"We were challenged. . . to consider our congregations. How many members and attenders are under 40 in our churches? How many men are regular attenders? Many tidbits of spiritual awareness were gleaned for future analysis. It was a most enjoyable experience and I am looking forward to the next meeting."

Our thanks to Kirk, who has been asked to serve as a vice president of the Men's Department.

Reflections

Executive Secretary evaluation. In February, after preparation of an instrument to evaluate the executive secretary, the elected members of the General Council evaluated my performance in the position. The report of the elected members to the rest of the council was that the evaluation was "positive" and they were recommending that I be extended another three-year term. I felt the evaluation was a good experience. I was pleased that there were no surprises to me since I had been involved in self-evaluation over the past year.

In preparation for this evaluation, I had done a five-year review of the events and accomplishsments and felt very pleased

with what has occurred in the life of the denomination and my role in those experiences.

I believe that the potential for Seventh Day Baptists is unlimited, but there are those among our people who do not believe that. They seem to think we are dying and seem to be doing what they can to make it happen.

We are called to prepare the way for Christ to come into people's lives. May God give us the vision to be excited and motivated to see new life in our churches and people. May we be given the strength and wisdom to move into the 21st Century with love and courage and a desire for Christian excellence in our lives, our churches and our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

I believe that the potential for Seventh Day Baptists is unlimited.

Jale D. 8

Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate introduces the representatives from the World Federation.



Building on the Rock

"Upon this Rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it." Matt. 16:18

Report of the 1986 SCSC Training sessions at Camp Paul Hummel, June 16-30.

by Gerry Van Dyke SCSC Training Coordinator

Building on the Rock insures that what we build will stand through both time and eternity. What an assurance this truth is for us in this particular day of "instant everything." One day we can drive down a particular street and the lots might be filled only with weeds. If we drive down that same road only a few days later, we might see houses, lawns, trees and shrubs that appear to have been there for many years. That can all be changed again into a vacant field or a parking lot in just a matter of a few days at the whim of a city council or a building. But Jesus promised us his church would be built on the solid rock of the gospel, which is Christ, the Son of the Living God. He has said that his church will withstand every kind of storm or whim that arises, and we can be confident that is true. The God we serve is not a man that he sould lie, nor a son of man that he should change his mind.

At Summer Christian Service Corp (SCSC) training this June, seven staff

1986 Summer Christian Service Corp workers

members, eight project directors, one guest and eighteen workers came together at Camp Paul Hummel in the Colorado Rockies. The mountains themselves give a small picture of the kind of rock that can endure and give us a lesson in how to build our lives on the rock. We develop a true sense of confidence that the part God has called us to do in the building of his church will stand, if we follow his blueprints and work at the jobs he has given us to do. The desire of each of our hearts is to become skilled workmen, and excellent builders. To become that calibre of workman takes study and experience. Because of our convictions, we decided to take on the work of learning to become that kind of builder.

The staff members diligently began to study and prepare themselves to be good trainers. The project directors busily planned schedules, and studied how to be good communicators so that they would be able to keep communications open, and give clear directions. The workers prepared themselves for the training by completing a study book, a Bible study, and several on-the-job assignments before they came to training.

The training staff were the first to arrive on June 16th. We spent time in prayer for workers, project directors and our denominational leaders and churches. We familiarized ourselves with the schedule, adding workshops and special classes that would train the workers for specialized needs their projects might have. The staff started out with structured group prayer that was to become the foundation for each day, and for the summer's work ahead. This year we were privileged to have Christine Davis, SCSC Chairman, with us for several days. She was a great source of encouragement and help to everyone involved. Rod and Camille Henry were also with us for the first time. They are to be SCSC Training Coordinators beginning at the end of training in 1987. Their abilities, along with their enthusiasm and love for our young people and our churches will enhance the SCSC program in years to come.

Our project directors arrived on June 18 and we spent the next two days giving them an overview of what their workers would be taught. We worked hard on schedules and expectations, and had workshops on good communications skills. One part of our prayer time that became meaningful was our desire to become caring people, who will love the lost enough to share the gospel with them. The tempo of training increased by the arrival on Friday, June 20th, of our 18 workers. The next few days were busy and exciting times as workers and project directors got to know each other and as they began to plan and pray together for a effective team. It is so good to see the hand of God work as he takes people of different ages and backgrounds and molds them into a team in a short time. As we studied the building of the wall from the book of Nehemiah, we found one of the keys to this. "For the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6). Certainly this describes all who were present at the 1986 SCSC Training sessions.

Our project directors left us on June 23rd to "Prepare the Way" for the workers, who diligently sat through long hours of classes. They were trained to write and give testimonies, children's messages, to lead music, to prepare lesson plans and conduct vespers, worship services, campfires, and to share the gospel whenever the occasion arose. The workers prayed about what God's will was for them this summer, and then went about setting goals so they would have direction and a way to measure whether those goals were being met.

In the midst of all the hard work there was a lot of joy and fun. Being a Christian is a joyous lifestyle. There were a couple of rousing volleyball games, some good hymn sings, soft ball and lots of laughter. Cont. to page 32.

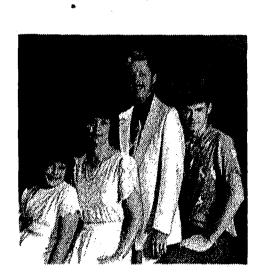




Top: SCSC Training Staff Above: Sabbath worship at Camp Paul Hummel

We had wonderful walks to vesper and wedding rock, were we worshiped and watched the sunset. We also took time to walk to the south meadow for a delightful picnic.

Santa Barbara welcomes new pastor



Pastor Bob Babcock and family

The Seventh Day Baptist Church, a branch church of the Los Angeles, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church, welcomed Pastor Bob Babcock and family to the Santa Barbara, Calif., area on Sabbath, June 14. Pastor Babcock, wife Nelta, son Matthew, and daughter Amanda relocated from Houston, Texas, where they were involved in starting a new church. Pastor Babcock has been in active ministry the past 10 years and received his master of ministry degree from American Baptist Seminary in South Dakota.

On hand to welcome the Babcocks were Pastor Duane and Katherine Davis of the Los Angeles church, and Pacific Coast Association President Norman Burdick and his wife, Vicki, and family of the Riverside, Calif., church. After the morning worship service, the church members and visitors stayed for a fellowship dinner at the church facility.

Pastor Babcock will be serving as an extension pastor with financial support

coming from the SDB Missionary Society, the PCA, and the local church. The members praise God for what has occurred these past 10 months, and we look forward to what God is going to do in the next 10 months. We thank members everywhere for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We also thank the Los Angeles church members for their dedication and willingness to come and minister with us on Sabbath mornings. As God has used you to bless us, he will continue to use you in similiar expanding ministries that further his kingdom.

The Babcocks are now living at 232 Ancona, Goleta, CA 93117. Pastor Babcock and the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Church invite you to come and visit them in worship any Saturday morning at 4973 Via Los Santos, Santa Barbara, where they are renting the facilities of the Trinity Church of the Nazarene.

Calhouns begin Battle Creek ministry

by Judy Fatato

The Battle Creek, Michigan, Seventh Day Baptist Church is very pleased to have a new spiritual leader, Pastor George Calhoun. A Search Committee contacted many candidates in the five months preceding March, 1986, when a call was extended to Pastor George after visiting, preaching and sharing with us.

He arrived in Battle Creek on June 25. A crew was on hand to help unload his truck at the parsonage, where the pantry had already been stocked by a kitchen shower. His wife, Lanette, and three children arrived shortly after, with the help of her parents.

At the annual church picnic on the Fourth of July at Camp Holston, a welcoming reception was held for the Calhouns, with Jean Albion in charge. The welcome was given by Judy Fatato and refreshements were served, including a

decorated cake which read, "Welcome to Calhoun County." It also was decorated with the family's names. Battle Creek is located in Calhoun County, so the standard joke is that we were so glad to have Pastor George arriving that we renamed the county after him.

On Sabbath, July 5, a special installation service was held for Pastor George during the morning worship. Deacon George Parrish led the service, including the Charge to the Pastor, his wife, and the congregation. Deaconess Dorothy Parrott led the Consecretion Prayer, while several deacons and deaconesses laid hands on Pastor George and Lanette.

Our new pastor has given a series of sermons on what we may expect of him and what he expects of us as a congregation. With his enthusiasm and love of the Lord, we plan to do great things for each other as brothers and sisters, and for our community, all to God's glory.





Conference '86 news

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All:

One of the nicest things about life is having friends. For Seventh Day Baptists, August is a great month to see old friends and make new ones. Sometimes they even do you a favor, and such is this month's page. Since I could not attend conference sessions and tell you about the exciting women's programs, I asked my friend to do so for me. I knew the page would be in great hands, so I declared myself a holiday. Please join me in welcoming Virginia M. Burdick to these pages.

Interest committee

As usual, the ladies showed much enthusiasm in the planning of their year's goals in the Women's Interest Committee under the able guidance of Mae L. Bottoms. She had her program so well planned that the ladies finished their work in an incredible time of three days. You see, we don't fool around.

After presenting the questions to be considered, we were especially priveleged to have the ladies of the World Federation as guests, bringing greetings from their respective conferences and telling of some of their outreach projects—even to the rebuilding and restoring of one of the older churches.

Jennie Johnson reported on her "Link of Love" program; a newsletter she compiles for ministers' wives and those also serving the Lord. She is certainly to be commended for her excellent work on this project. It means so much to the recipients. She concluded her report with this challenge to all women: "Become a friend to the wife of your pastor. She needs friends—she needs someone who she can call her friend. Include the pastor's family in your special events; a picnic, a lemonade on a warm summer night, a trip to the library, a game of croquet. You will find a special friend in her. God has called her, as he called her husband. She serves as a teammate with

him. Support her in prayer; encourage her as a Christian; share a bit of your heart with her. She shares much of her life with

It was suggested that Crandall High School Home Economics Department be one of the projects for the Love Gift for the coming year as a means of personal involvement. The local societies might choose to make needed kitchen linens, etc. Pen Pals from Jamaica could provide information on needed items and the possibility of purchasing items locally, rather than shipping.

Before adjourning, the ladies requested that the following projects be continued: Summer Christian Service Corps; Robe of Achievement; Women's Page of The Sabbath Recorder, Love Gift; Pen and Prayer Project; Tuition Fund for Ministers' Wives, Wives of Ministerial Students, and Women in the Ministry; Financial Support for the publication of Link of Love, and "Nighties for Newborns."

Women's banquet

A group of over 100 ladies gathered on Wednesday night of conference for their annual banquet at tables very beautifully decorated with pink carnations and crystal souvenir cups donated by the Shiloh, New Jersey, church. At the head table were gathered all the ladies of the World Federation.

After the blessing by Prudence Robinson of the Jamaica church, Jossett Lynch of Birmingham, England, favored us with the very beautiful "Make Me a Blessing." Due to the shortness of the time available, the program was continued during the dinner hour. Each of the delegates were introduced and told a bit about themselves and the projects undertaken by the women's groups in their home areas.

A round-table discussion was ably conducted by Yvonne Stephan, with some of the SCSCers presenting special music and the eighth chapter of Romans,

September 1986

Pastor George Calhoun and

which a couple of the girls had memorized. What an accomplishment!

The Love Gift collection taken up at the banquet amounted to \$2,168.22, with more collected later.

A very deep and meaningful benediction was given by Marie Barrar of New Zealand. It was indeed a privilege to attend this event and learn more of our sisters of the world.

You can see that a great time was enjoyed by one and all. Another year of SCSC has come to a conclusion, and you will be hearing much about plans for next year right here in this section of The Recorder. Another "Robe of Achievement" recipient has been added to our list. Please be thinking of someone you would like to see receive this honor

and start sending in your nominations early.

My address remains the same: Mrs. Marilyn L. Merchant, 3429 Canyon Crest Dr., Apt. 13B, Riverside, CA 92507. If I do not receive your bulletins and newsletters, and you do not wish to mail them to me, how about dropping a note telling me of some function your women's group is having that might be an inspiration to another group. I promise I will use everything I possibly can.

Until next month, when we will start a brand-new year of service to him.

I love you, I *really* do.

SCSC: A summer of service

Eighteen youth from 13 churches served as 1986 Summer Christian Service Corps workers in nine locations. Their team names were cleverly created from the foundation word, "Builders." As they presented a series of clever skits in their Thursday morning program at conference, we were made aware of their talents and areas of service.

Primarily, the SCSC teams assisted with vacation Bible schools and summer camps, but they also did some door-todoor calling, as well as helping with other tasks, as needed. Any attempt to describe their mini-dramas would be totally inadequate, but they presented themselves as ladies and gentlemen, dedicated to having cheerfully served the Lord well in various ways this summer.

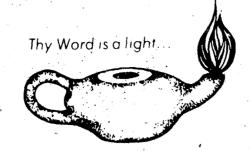
The Summer Christian Service Corps program is funded by the Women's Board—that is, training and travel, with the participating host churches supplying housing and meals during the weeks of service.

Dorotha Shettel, president of the Women's Board, presented ribbons of recognition to the volunteers, according to their terms of service. Eleven white ribbons, for one year of service, were given to Tonia Gibson, Steve Looper, Mark Green, Dave Carmichael, Kim Zincke, Keith Bond, Michelle Griffin, Laura Hess, Maggie Rhodes, Maritza Baez, and Becky Saunders. Six red ribbons, for two years of service, were presented to Ginger Rosa, Sanja Severance, Bill Shoffner, Kerith Camenga, Michael Looper, and Teresa Johnson. A special blue ribbon was awarded to Steve Osborn for three years of dedicated summer service.

The training staff and various project directors were given yellow booster ribbons. All recipients deserve our grateful thanks.

Closing remarks of appreciation were given by Gerry Van Dyke, training SIR co-ordinator.

The Sabbath Recorder



Board of Christian Education

Why a church camp?

Rex Zwiebel, who lives in Jackson Center, Ohio, is a retired Seventh Day Baptist minister and former executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education. The article printed below was originally written for the June 15, 1959, issue of The Sabbath Recorder.

Not very often, but once in a while, objections come our way in regard to the camping program of our churches and associations, such as:

"Let them go to secular camps. They are better prepared for camping."

"Our camp program costs too much." The main reason that Seventh Day Baptists have camp programs is that here is one setting where we can teach and review the beliefs and philosophy of Christian living as interpreted by Seventh Day Baptists in an unhurried, natural fashion.

While any youngster of any faith, or none, is welcome to attend our camps, it should be understood that study emphasis is going to be of a nature kindred to our understanding of God's will as expressed through and by Jesus Christ.

Initial revelation of God came to men in the out-of-doors. Many of the settings for Jesus' teachings came "by the sea" or "on the hillside."

Experience has proved that all of us, regardless of age, naturally respond to the call of God when it is ushered in through quiet meditation in harmony with the songs of birds, the sunshine through the leaves, the gentle blowing of the wind, the quiet pond or dashing waters of a stream. In a comparatively secular camp, all this may be enjoyed, but children ages 5-13. Several of the series God is often left out.

Evangelism is our goal in our camps. Camps present one of our best opportunities to confront boys and girls with the Gospel message. Along with this Cont. to page 32.

opportunity comes the temptation to take undue advantage of the pliable emotions of our youngsters. No pressure of any sort should be placed upon them, especially juniors—only gentle leading, through examples of Christian love, toward the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Through sharing of chores, worship periods, attractive and sincere study presentations, counseling, and recreation, the camper discovers the "Way of Life."

In our camps, the boys and girls are taught to get along as a community. The spirit of fellowship should carry over into living back home. The relating of all problems, discussions and decisions to the standards of Christ presents a challenge that is not found in a secular

Adults who do not have children of their own are urged to finance the sending of a child to the nearest association or Seventh Day Baptist church camp, or make a gift to help along the camping program. Believe me, camping is worthwhile.

Teacher's corner

by Charlotte Chroniger

Would you like to use some creative and fun Christian education materials at a very small cost to your church?

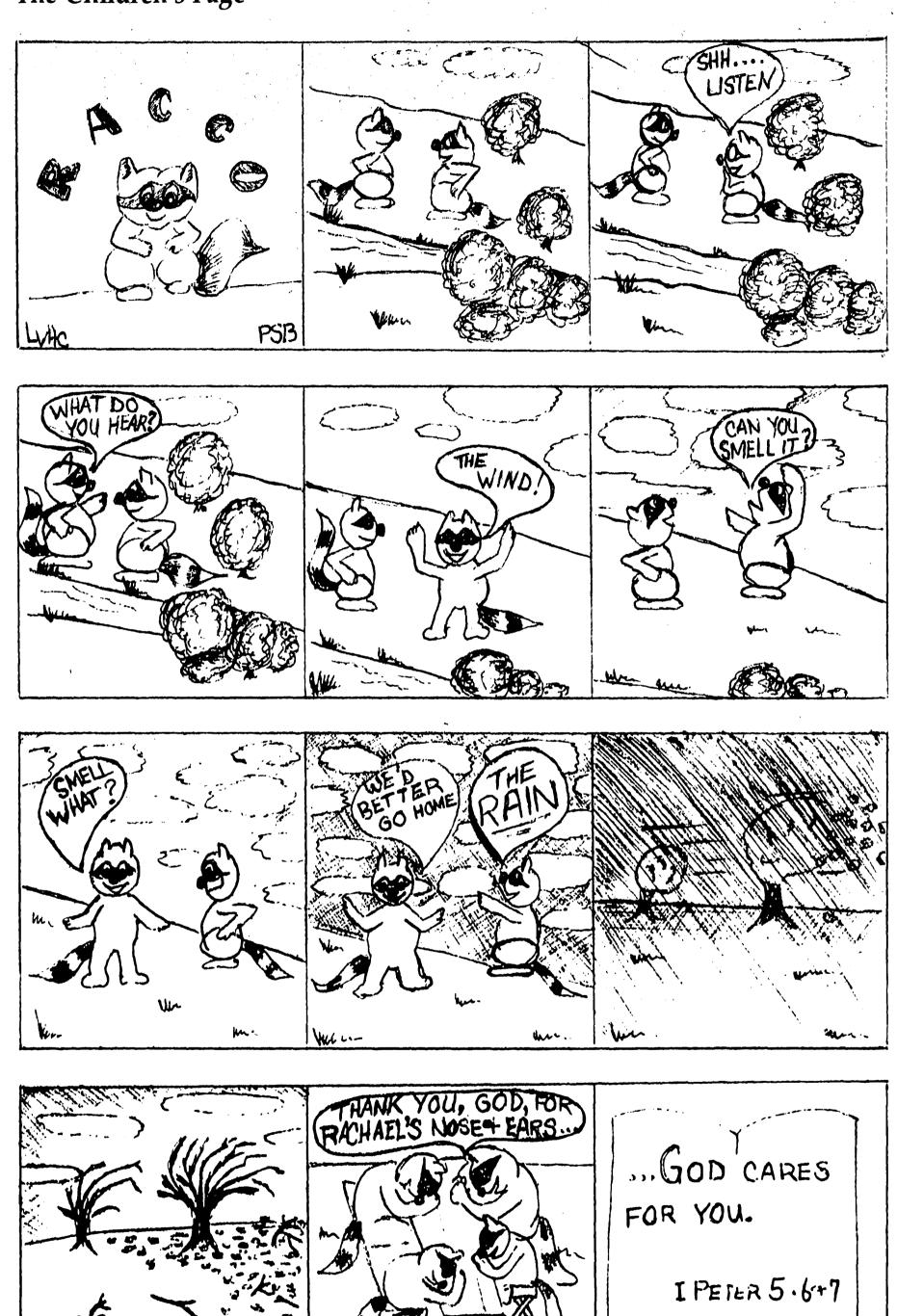
Then please consider the materials available from Shining Star Publications, a division of Good Apple, Inc. of Carthage, Ill. These materials, written by a number of different Christian educators, contain many, many creative activities for available are:

Celebrate Series—six books of 144 pages each (\$9.95) that have activities, games, puzzles, songs, etc. for spring,

September 1986

by Rex E. Zwiebel

The Children's Page





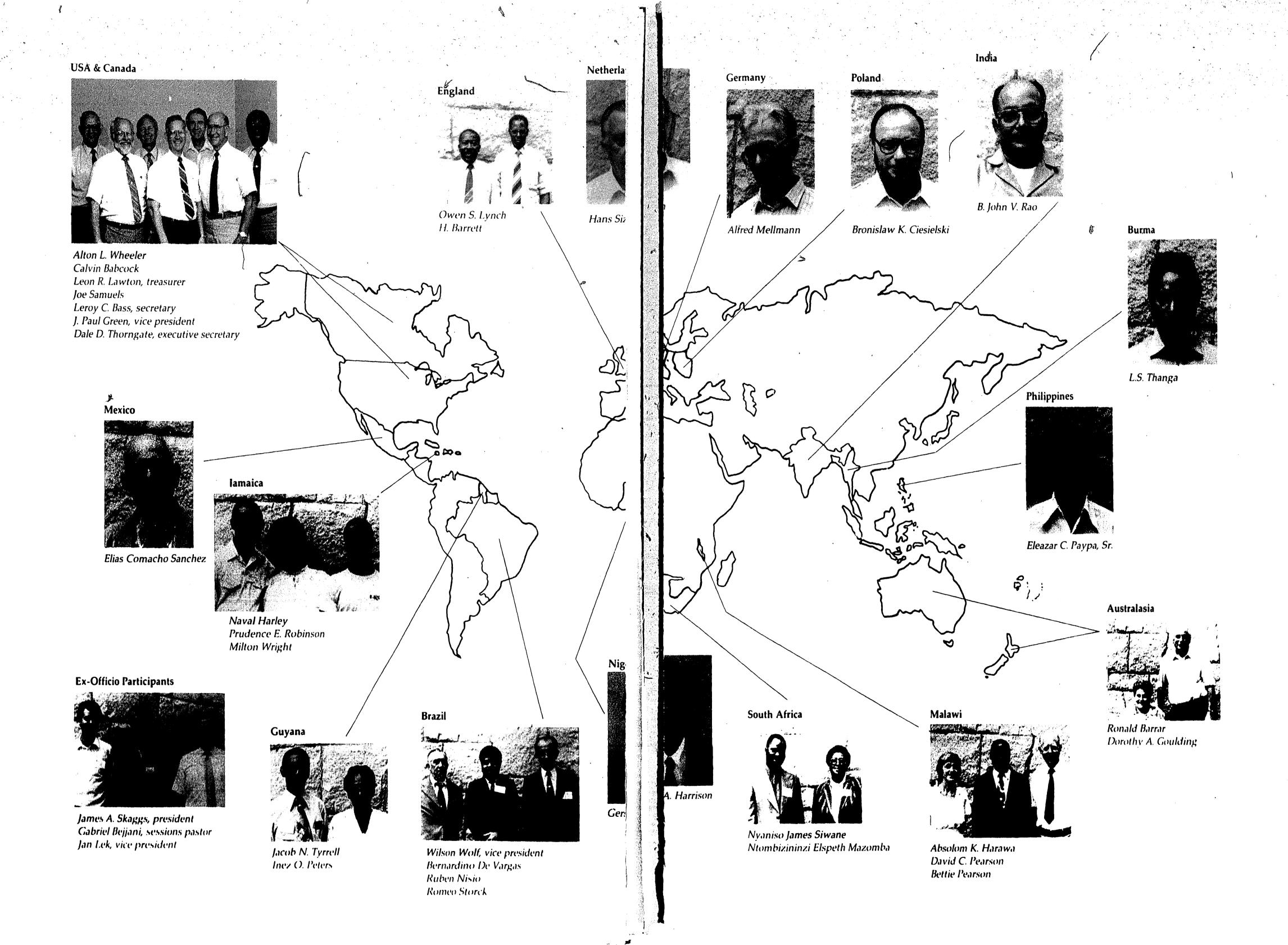
Seventh Day Baptist World Federation Delegates and observers attending the 1986 Sessions

Front row (from left): Dorothy Goulding (New Zealand), Iris Codrington (England), Milton Wright (Jamaica), Elizelot Ferreria (Brazil), Prudence Robinson (Jamaica), Egbert Codrington (England), Jossett Lynch (England), Joyce Harley (Jamaica).

2nd and 3rd rows (on ground): B. John V. Rao (India), Joyce Kelly (England), Everal Kelly (England), Leon Lawton (USA), Alfred Mellmann (Germany), Magdalene Mellmann (Germany), Maria Barrar (New Zealand), Dale Thorngate (USA), Ethel Dickinson (USA), Harmon Dickinson (USA), Dorotha Shettel (USA), Joyce Samuels (USA), Absolom Harawa (Malawi), Inez Peters (Guyana), Ronald Barrar (New Zealand), Elspeth Mazomba (South Africa), Elias Comacho (Mexico), Barnardino De Vargas (Brazil), H. A. Barrett (England), James Siwani (South Africa). Delvares Archeleigar (Brazil), Eleazar Paypa (Philippines), L. S. Thanga (Burma), Janet Thorngate (USA).

On stairs (from left): Bronislaw Ciesielski (Poland), ruben Nisio (Brazil). Naval Harley (Jamaica), Wilson Wolf (Brazil), Paul Green (USA), Lenice Mancini (Brazil), Jacoba Sizmann (Netherlands), Kenroy Cruickshank (USA), Jaire Ferreira (Brazil), Joe Samuels (USA), Hans Sizmann (Netherlands), Gabriel Bejjani (USA), Romeo Storck (Brazil), David Pearson (Malawi), Jacob Tyrrell (Guyana), Ruth Lek (Netherlands), Jan Lek (Netherlands), Owen Lynch (England), Leroy Bass (USA), Alton Wheeler (USA), James Skaggs (USA).

The Sabbath Recorder September 1986



Seventh Day Baptists gather from around the world

by Janet Thorngate

Sixty people participated in the 1986 sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation held in Westerly, Rhode Island, August 6-9. Thirty-four were official delegates representing the sixteen conferences (18 countries) of the Federation plus congregations in Czechoslovakia and Paraguay. It was the first time in the 20-year history of the Federation that all member conferences have been represented.

"It was a special joy," said Executive Secretary Thorngate, "to welcome delegates from Burma and India, who had not been able to send representatives before, and from Poland, Nigeria, and South Africa, the conferences which have joined since the last sessions were held in 1978." (Although Rev. Gershon Harrison from Nigeria did not arrive for the Federation sessions, he was able to attend the USA and Canada conference and the post-conference retreat.) All 40 overseas representatives were fraternal delegates at the USA and Canada conference, and all but those from the Netherlands were able to stay for the post-conference retreat at Jersey Oaks Camp in Shiloh, New Jersey.

Highlights of the Federation sessions included formal reports from each member conference; worship, sermons, and Bible studies conducted by the various delegates; and a closing communion service. Major business items included the identification and priority listing of projects in the various countries which will benefit from international cooperation. For these, programs of leadership training in several conferences were given top priority among projects to be promoted by the Federation.

After much discussion of statements of belief, delegates authorized the executive committee to appoint an international

20



James A. Skaggs, outgoing president of the World Federation, carries the American flag as over 40 representatives from the 18 nations of the Federation parade their flags in the opening session of the USA and Canada conference, Sunday, August 10, in Worcester, Massachusetts.

committee to work on a possible statement. They also drafted a statement on apartheid, recommended to the member conferences to use as they deem appropriate. Other action called for increased communication among conferences through a regular World Federation section in *The Sabbath Recorder*, expansion of the newsletter *SDB World*, and plans for the next session in five years.

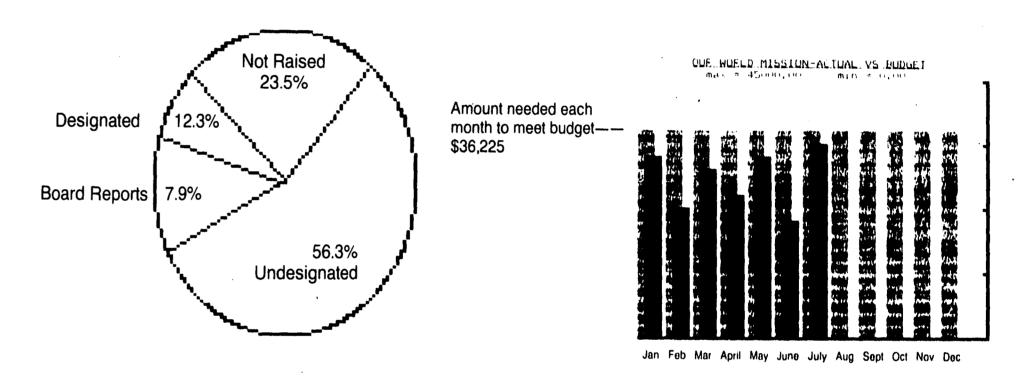
New officers elected by the body are President, Gabriel Bejjani, and Vice Presidents: Wilson Wolf (Brazil), Jan Lek (Netherlands), Prudence Robinson (Jamaica), Absolom Harawa (Malawi), and L. S. Thanga (Burma). Other officers remain the same: Dale Thorngate, Executive Secretary; Leon Lawton, Treasurer; and Leroy Bass, Secretary.

Our World Mission budget update

Our World Mission is a Partnership in Ministry

You can be an active part of this partnership through your ongoing relationship to your local church. At the same time, you can help to carry the responsibility of the partnership by supporting our combined denominational budget—Our World Mission. Your dollars are needed to do the work that is the denominational agencies' responsibility in the partnership. Your prayers, ideas and reactions are also needed to support the work that Seventh Day Baptists are doing together.

"The whole is greater than the rum of its parts."



Yel! I want to be a partner in Our World Mission. This contribution is for: My Partnership Plan: ☐ One week's salary or income ☐ OWM undesignated giving ☐ OWM designated for: □ Other ☐ Evangelism and Missions ☐ Christian Education ☐ Publishing (Sabbath Recorder, Lead-Line, Tracts) Address: ☐ Leadership Training (Ministerial or Lay Training) State_ ☐ Hunger Relief (SDB United Relief Fund) _ Church: . Please make checks payable to Our World Mission.



Produced by the Youth Ministries Committee of the **Board of Christian** Education, Alfred, NY

For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

September 1986

Denver Youth Fellowship reports on activities

Progressive dinner party

We left from church on March 29 to go to camp, hoping for a glimpse of Halley's Comet.

Evening started at church with everyone making a name tag with their nickname or something that matched their personality. We also played a game where you got signatures of people who had done, or could do, special things. We split into five groups and went into five different cars. In one car, we played the "say 'and' and you are out" story game. In other cars, people sang. Needless to say, we didn't get our dinner in order, but these were the dishes: appetizers—Susan Scott; "veggies" and bread—Rich and Michelle Wheeler; main dish—Daryl and Barbara White; salad and crackers—Dale and Donna Hastings; dessert—Frankie Barnett.

After we finished eating, we went midnight bowling. The first game was played normal. Then Arlouene Edwards, our YF leader, had us play handicap bowling-throwing the ball between your legs, backwards!, bowling with the "other" arm, and many other crazy tricks.

Following bowling, we had an all-night lock-in at the Edwards home with movies,



Pyramids of Camp Paul Hummel

"munchies," a Bible study, a sing-along, games and a little sleep. The morning was wrapped up with a breakfast of doughnuts and milk; and off to home, to bed, we went.

The comet

We left from church on March 29 to go to camp, hoping for a glimpse of Halley's Comet. The best time for viewing was 4 a.m.!

We started the evening out with snacks and a movie. We played the anti "and" story-telling game before making our beds in the lodge. When "lights out" came, we talked and told stories from our sleeping bags. Sleep finally came, but only minutes later, Art Rowe woke us up to go see the comet.

We went to the observatory where Pastor Randy FitzRandolph met us. The comet was just above the horizon, but we were unable to see it because of low-lying haze and smog. So we saw the moon and Saturn, with it's rings, instead. We went back to the lodge, a little disappointed, and ate breakfast. Following breakfast, we had a sunrise service outside at Vesper Rock. We went back to sleep at the lodge until it was time to leave.

A later interview with Pastor Randy yielded this information about the telescope: This 121/2-inch reflecting telescope, which was a gift from Pastor Randy and his wife, Madeline, is housed in the John Watts Memorial Observatory. Madeline's father ground the mirror. The dome house is fiberglass and was originally built by the Air Force for their satellite tracking program.

The telescope can easily get up to 300 power, while most binoculars are eight power. The Lottie Baldwin Association makes its money available to camps for

The Sabbath Recorder

various projects. They have helped three times with improvements for the telescope, including purchasing the dome - Arriving at camp, we all unpacked into and the clock drive.

The clock drive is an automatic tracking device that keeps the telescope trained on a star or planet so you don't have to move the telescope. The six eye pieces used on the telescope were donated to the observatory by a man from Boulder, Colo.

Sabbath

We believe that you shouldn't work on Sabbath days, watch TV, or do anything of that type of pleasure. I, myself, like to ride my bicycle on trails or to the park. On Saturday weekends, there are lots of things to do. You don't have to work, or think you need to watch TV, to have something to do. God created nature for us to enjoy, and he wants us to rest on that day. So, whenever you need something to do, remember the nature God has given us.

What Christmas means to me

When asked to contribute to the 1985 Christmas program, the junior high class responded by writing their own three-act play, "Christmas at the Rutherford's."

The story portrayed Christmas Eve in the life of a typical Christian family who have a late-night visit from a stranger. The play goes on to explain how the family is able to minister to the stranger through the Christmas story. Costumes were lively; and the play, well accepted.

The cast was as follows: Grandpa— Damian Robles; Grandma—Stacy Wagner; Father—Rocky Laxson; Mother—Jennifer Robles; Big Sister—Kara Hansen; the Twins—Rachel Willhoit and Kelly Ingram; Baby Sister—Shannon White; the Cousins—Karen Barton and Jennifer Barton; and the Stranger—Frances Trujillo.

Youth retreat

The Denver Seventh Day Baptist youth group had a retreat April 11-13 at our very own camp, Camp Paul Hummel. Seventeen of us left the church at 6 p.m. It took one and a half hours to get up there.

On the way up, we had this idea to give people strange looks as they passed by!

the main lodge where we would spend the next two nights sleeping. Already there were two "foreigners" present— Mark and Lane from Syracuse, Kansas. The remainder of the night was spent playing games and having a huge snowball fight, which the guys won.

On Sabbath day, we had three or four class sessions on friendship and loneliness, in between organized games. We also had a friendship walk, led by Doreen Sanford. We went to certain destinations across the camp, and when we arrived at each point, we sang a song and Doreen told us a story relating to friendship based on Scripture. During the late evening, we had a "trust walk" which led us through the snow to the south meadow, where Phil Conrod left us with Don Willhoit (which was an experience!). A "trust walk" is where everyone is attached to a rope and there is a leader at the front with a flashlight. You have to trust the person in the front to lead you back to the lodge, which he did.

After the walk, we decided to build a pyramid. After four or five tries, we finally got the human pyramid up to its four levels, with the help of Terry Patrow and Phil Conrod on the bottom.

When the weekend was over, we were all tired, but we all had a fun time and we're looking forward to our next youth

How much more beautiful is the Sabbath to those who have known separation and know the reconciliation that comes by grace.

> much more important is it to you who are laboring with the burden of sin; a weight that we were never meant to know. How much more beautiful is the Sabbath to those who have known separation and know the reconciliation that comes by grace. We are saved by grace and the Sabbath is a symbol of that grace.

> We need to protect the Sabbath's holiness. It is holy because God declared it to be holy-set apart for him and for us. We need to remember the commandment to keep it holy in our lives. How much more beautiful is that rest for those who have done battle through the week for Jesus Christ.

> The challenge is like this: the problem with the vintage Ford was that, although it was shiny and nice-it was transportation. I say to you that there was transportation before that car and there will be transportation beyond this point in time. But it is

not the model that makes the difference, it is the need that it fulfills. God wants us to focus on the transportation, not the model. In our leadership, in acknowledging where God fits in and in our Sabbath we need to recognize that God has provided for need. We can trust in him and he will not fail us. Let God arise and we will see great wonders in our people.

I sense that across our congregations and across our conference, our people have been preparing the way. This challenge continues for us as a people. I encourage you, because the Lord wants us to understand that we need to move boldly forward in obedience and faith.

Come out and be separate from the world. Blending in with the world does not glorify God. If you are camouflaged and you fit in to do everything that the world does, and you participate in what they do, they cannot distinguish you from themselves. You can say that you are a Christian and it will be meaningless because they will see no difference. If we compromise and allow ourselves to slip into it, we will no longer be distinct.

God says, "Be holy for I am holy." That implies a separation and there will be distinction in your life. The world is not ruled (at this time) by the King of Glory. Your heart is ruled by the King of Glory and we need to be distinct

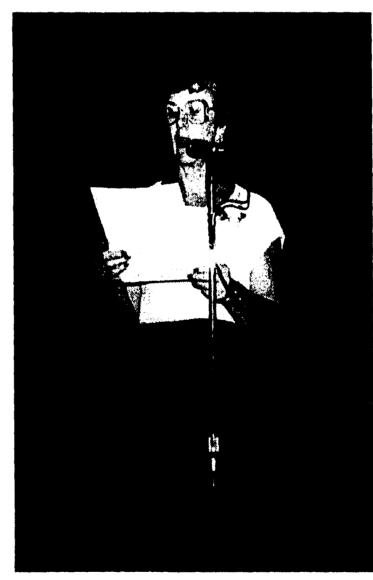
and not afraid of being different. Be in the world but not like the world; be conspicuously unlike the world but rather humbly like Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives testify, "Come, Lord Jesus, if it is your will, come today. We seek to sanctify ourselves as your word truthfully says. Come, for

we have gladly prepared the way."

Seventh Day Baptists, let us set the house in order-to gather in the fullness of the Gentiles. Let rightousness increase. Do not be afraid to sell the old Ford and seek good replacement for the task at hand. Prepare the way of the Lord. Let God arise.



SCSC presentation at General



President Gerry VanDyke



September 1986

Nortonville church reports on activities

by Juanita Wheeler

On May 10, Sabbath Renewal Day was celebrated at the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Pastor and Mrs. Harold King hosted a "thank you" party on Sabbath afternoon, May 17, sponsored by the seminary students who have worshipped and worked with us. Amid lovely decorations, Pastor Harold presented the church with a memories album. Gordon Lawton, Cliff Bond, Don and Charlotte Chroniger, Leon Wheeler, and Pastor Harold donated

Pastor Harold King was installed during special Sabbath services on June 7.

letters and family pictures for the album. A lovely cake, punch and ice cream were served to the group. The church family has been blessed through the years by the presence and efforts of these young people, and our hearts have been warmed as each "set forth" in the Lord's service.

In May, the Ladies' Missionary Society hosted a Fellowship Tea for the ladies of our area. It is hoped that this will become a regular practice with all the churches cooperating as we work, fellowship and uplift one another.

Graduates within our church family were Pastor Harold (master of divinity from Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kansas); Billie Wheeler (with honors from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas); Camille Bond (valedictorian at Oskaloosa High School); James Trower (Atchison County Community High School); and Steve Looper (Northeast KA VO Tech, Atchison, Kansas).

The Sabbath School picnic was held on the church yard the afternoon of June 1. The group enjoyed a beautiful day, a bountiful potluck meal, fun and fellowship. Some were not able to attend because of pressing farm work.

Special time was given during worship services June 14 to commission our SCSC workers—Mike and Steve Looper. The Scripture, Acts 13:1-3, was read and prayer of commissioning was offered.

Pastor Harold King was installed during special Sabbath services on Juné 7. Worship leader was Chaplain Cliff Bond. Dr. Ken Smith gave the challenge to the church and led the congregation in affirmation of our covenant. Moderator Winston Wheeler welcomed Pastor Harold to the pastorate of our church and also charged him with shepherding "his flock." Welcome to the community was given by Pastor Don Basye of the Christian Church. Pastor Harold's sermon was entitled, "Something Old, Something New." The service closed with the hymn "To God be the Glory."

On the first Sunday in June, the Youth Fellowship held their summer yard sale in Leavenworth, Kansas, and did well.

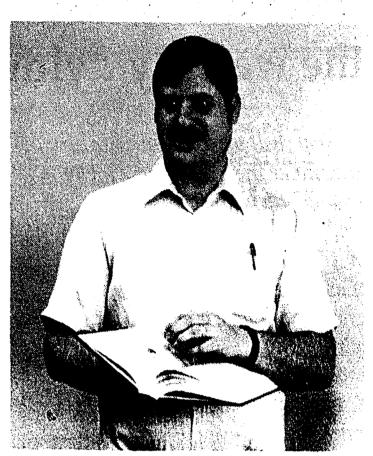
Doughnuts, sweetbread, juice and coffee were served between church and Sabbath School in honor of the new officers of the Sabbath School.

Meal of Sharing continues to be celebrated each fifth Sabbath as we give thanks for God's goodness to us and pray for those who are in need. Donations are given to organizations which are helping those in need.

The church has purchased a copier and a new riding lawn mower. Both have been quickly put to use.

The parish house continues to be utilized in a number of ways. Guests have

been made comfortable there for the July 4th Bond reunion, a 50th wedding anniversary of friends of our church, and the Wheeler reunion after conference. Missionary meetings for out-of-town hostesses are held at the parish house, and members of the "clothing bank" committee meet and work with the other church women each week. The "bank" is open once a month to the public but honors emergencies. This has been a program that has benefited those in need since clothing has been mended, is clean and ready to use. It is called a "bank" because anyone can deposit or withdraw used clothing. The enjoyment and fellowship of the ladies in our community has been beneficial to those who have participated.



Pastor Harold King

Pennsylvania churches meet

by Kent L. Martin

On May 10, 1986, approximately 100 people attended the first Pennsylvania Churches Day sponsored by the Bell and the German Seventh Day Baptist churches in Salemville, Pennsylvania. West Virginia Churches Day inspired this joint cooperative endeavor, which was held at the Brick church where Pastor Charles Graffius brought the Sabbath morning message.

Sizeable delegations of Sabbath keepers from new Sabbath-keeping congregations in both Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, joined us for this special

West Virginia Churches Day inspired this joint cooperative endeavor held at the Brick church.

celebration, which we hope to expand in upcoming years.

Following Sabbath School and church, the Salemville churches provided a fellowship meal at the Bell church. Many

first-time acquaintances were made and not a few addresses were exchanged, extending the mission of each participating church for the future.

Richburg church adds facility

by Suzanne McCrea

The need of an adequate pastoral study and office in the Richburg, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church has been met. A brief dedication service for the new facility was held on June 7, 1986.

The project, in which a room in the basement of the parsonage was converted into an office and study area, was started in the early spring. The work was done solely by supporters who donated their time and efforts to make the project a success.

Prepare ye the way: By dying to self

A Conference Sermon by Kenneth Chroniger

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might abound? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him through baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead in the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who has died is free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, knowing that Christ has been raised from the dead and he is never to die again. Death is no longer master over him. For the death that he died, he died to sin, once for all. But the life that he lives, he lives to God. Even so, consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God, in Christ Jesus.

I want to take you on a trip with me back to the hills of West Virginia at about the turn of the century. We are going to a little creek called Middle Island

Creek. It is the middle of winter and a funeral is about to take place—a strange kind of funeral. They are going to break the ice, take a teanage girl and bury her in the creek.

Come with me a little closer to our time—about two years ago.
Come to a town in Maryland.
There in a Christian church, in a baptistry, a man of about 38 years of age is about to have his funeral.

Then go back to West Virginia, to a place called Shelbyville. There was a time, a place and a decision made–another funeral held. The performing pastor was Pastor Ed Sutton and the dead person–was myself.

You see, the Apostle Paul was speaking to you and I, and he wants to speak here about the condition that all of us must go through. A condition of dying to self that is going to be marked out by some things that he is going to speak to us about in Romans, the sixth chapter.

When I was a younger pastor and was learning "how to preach," I was in a car one day with Pastor Paul Osborn and he told me that one preaching techique was to begin not by defining what you are doing in the positive but to begin in the negative. So before we talk about those positive things that the Apostle Paul says dying to self is in relationship to the funeral, let us define what dying to self is not. You and I as Christians are going to have to

The Sabbath Recorder

decide that dying to self does not mean "cheap grace."

The Apostle Paul starts in Romans 6:1,2: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? And Paul gets very angry here. He almost yells out from Scripture, May it never be! For shall we who died to sin still live in it?

The phrase "cheap grace," which was coined by the Lutheran pastor Detrich Bonhoffer, is something that our generation needs to hear. It is the kind of grace that does this; you have heard it said, "I am saved, I am born again. Therefore I can do anything I want to and God is going to forgive me of it. He is going to take me to heaven."

In a way, there is a Scriptural reality in that testimony. At the same time, it denies that there is a relationship between faith and works and it offers up "cheap grace." The kind of "cheap grace" that says, "What, shall we continue in sin," and the answer is "Yes, that is alright to do."

The second thing that Paul would say to us is that this kind of dying to self is not some kind of "good doer" moralism. It has been phrased this way; "I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't dance, I don't chew and I don't go with girls that do." It is moralism. It says, "All we have to do is be good and we can take care of the world."

Paul says that is not true. In Romans six he says that salvation

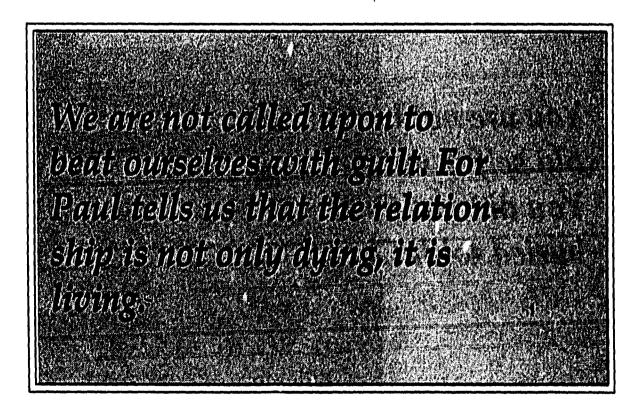
and dying to self is based on a relationship with Christ.

The third thing that Paul would say dying to self is *not* is that it is not some sort of new self-imposed legalism. We can no longer set down the rules and say, "This you must do in order to be the true person who has crucified yourself." We are not called upon to grab the whip and begin beating our bodies into submission. We are not called upon to beat ourselves with guilt. For Paul tells us that the relationship is not only dying, it is living.

Those are the *nots*. Now let us ask the question, what *is* dying to self.

Dying to self is, first of all, an historic moment in the life of every beliver. It is an historic moment with three different kinds of marks.

The first mark is the mark called "immersion" or "baptism." Look at it in verse three—"Or do you not know that all of us who



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We are not called upon to beat ourselves with guilt. For Paul tells us that the relationship is not only dying, it is living.

have been baptized into Christ
Jesus have been baptized into his
death?" As Seventh Day Baptists
we say that we believe in
something called baptism by
"immersion," an adult baptism
that says we have made a personal
choice. It is a moment that is our
funeral—our burial. It marks the
fact that we have died. The
historic moment is marked by
baptism.

Secondly, Paul says that this historic moment is marked by an identification. It is marked by an identification because of the context in which we read it—with the Christian church, the local group that is ministering to us.

How do I know this? Take the Apostle Paul. He was a good Jewish Rabbi. Having studied well for the ministry, he goes to Damascus, is blinded and winds up in Antioch. What happens to him there? A man called Ananias, after being told of the Lord to take care of the one called Paul, goes,

You are not buried alone. Your old self is not dead by itself.
You did not do it. You are buried with Christ.

allows him to see and Paul is baptized. Paul declares himself to be separated-dead to all that was before. He declares himself to be a new person with a public act of profession. He is not a secret believer. When he makes a public profession he is dead to his past and must have a new community to enter into. That community is the Church and that is the context in which Romans is written. It cannot, however, be the Church without the Christ. And so, the second point of identification is the person of Christ.

You are not buried alone. Your old self is not dead by itself. You did not do it. You are buried with Christ.

There is a third "mark" that happens in that historic moment. In the story of the teenager in Middle Island Creek, the girl did not stay under the water. The 38 year old man did not stay under the water and I did not stay under the water in Shelbyville. Pastor Sutton brought me back up. Why? Because Paul says that there is an identification in baptism with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So many times we have a hope that we will be raised from the dead. Paul says to forget that attitude because you have already been raised from the dead. The Kingdom of God is not something that is just in the future. It is now, in the present and it is "marked out" or defined by the act of baptism. The resurrection power

belongs to us and so that thing that is an historic moment, moves on to something else—an historic process. For you see, dying to self is not something that happens in just a moment. It is something that continues in resurrection power.

Pauls says that there are four marks of that too. The first is in verse eight. The Apostle Paul says that when the process of dying to self begins, you now have a new life—brand new—you live again.

In verse four, Paul says that you have a new walk. Do not go back to what you were doing before, for a new walk belongs to you. In other places, Scripture calls it the "holy conversation."

Then, in verse 11, it says that you have a new will. Consider yourself dead, is what it says—and that is an active decision of the will. It says, "I must continually consider that act that happened to be real in my life and I must consider myself to be dead."

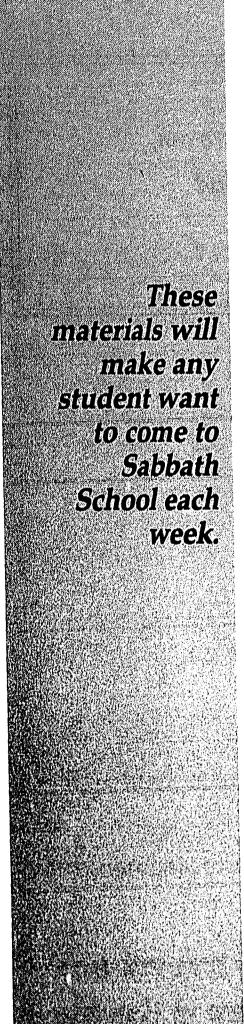
We who are considered dead to sin, consider ourselves alive to God₂ in Jesus Christ.

Fourthly, in verse 11, Paul says that we as Christians have a new focus. Our priorities are different. Life is different for us. For now, we who are considered dead to sin consider ourselves alive to God in Christ Jesus. We know this because we remember our baptism.

For the death that he died, he died to sin, once for all. But the life that he lives, he lives now to God. Even so, consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Remember that historic moment and make it your historic process of resurrection.



The Sabbath Recorder



Teacher's corner

Cont. from page 15.

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These materials, combined with flannelgraphs or used by themselves, will

make any student want to come to Sabbath School each week. These materials are also good to be used for Bible clubs, Vacation Bible School, or use in the home.

The address is:
Shining Star Publications
P.O. Box 299
Carthage, Il 62321
Phone: (217) 357-3981

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Building on the Rock

Cont. from page 11.

In SCSC we have many traditions.

Inviting the Denver and Boulder churches to come for a picnic and a time of sharing is one that none of us wants to break. We had an opportunity to eat together, and the workers had a chance to put many of the skills they have been learning to use. The climax of the training sessions is a very special banquet. Each of us have the opportunity to share something with the group. Either a song, a poem, a musical rendition, or testimony, that will help and encourage each of us in the days ahead. This is followed by a commissioning service and communion.

Now the SCSC 1986 Team "Builders" summer's work is over, and their reports have been exciting. The young people filled many different responsibilities as they built, but they all followed the same blueprint, because they have all done their part to build the church on the Rock. Perhaps you have seen some of the work that has been done. In Nehemiah's day everyone worked, and the job was done quickly, to the glory of God. Each of us needs to say as those people did; " 'Let us arise and build.' So they set their hand to the good work" (Neh. 2:18). If we do that we will be able to see the results of our hard work and hear the Master Builder, our Lord Jesus Christ say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." The celebration follows the completion.

The Sabbath Recorder

Obituaries

Burdick.—Frances Kemp Burdick (Mrs. E. Burdette Burdick) of Scio, New York, died February 20, 1986, in Hornell, New York. She was born November 6, 1912, to John H. and Frances Irene Tunning Kemp in Youngstown, Ohio.

She lived most of her adult life in the Alfred, New York, area. Her husband, Burdette, died in 1973. They were both members of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons, Frank, Raymond and Robert; a daughter, Jeanette Retorick; 17 grandchildren, and 22 greatgrandchildren. She is also survived by three sisters, Mildred Harcelroad, Roberta Flynn and Jennie Clark; and four brothers, Martin, Richard, Howard and Charles Kemp.

She was active in the Grange and in Senior Citizens of Alfred-Alfred Station, New York. She was a much appreciated cook at dining halls related to Alfred University (Campus Center, fraternities and sororities).

A funeral was conducted February 24, 1986, in Hornell by one of her pastors, David Clarke. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery. DSC

Sutton.—Dr. Ellen Holmes Sutton was born in 1893 in China and died March 11, 1986, in Waterville, New York. She was the daughter of Thomas D. and Lois Maxon Holmes, former Alfred residents who were Presbyterian missionaries.

Dr. Sutton received her bachelor of arts degree from Alfred University in 1917, and her doctorate in medicine from Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She had served as a medical missionary in Foochow, China, for 14 years. Her husband was a ceramics teacher in Foochow and later in Indonesia, as well as at Alfred University College of Ceramics.

The Suttons were members of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church and active in church and community affairs from 1937 until 1970, when Mr. Sutton died and Mrs. Sutton went to live with her children. She was public school physician from 1938-1952. They spent about 10 years in Indonesia, from 1952 on. Both were known for their gentle relations with others and their deep devotion to encouraging Christ-likeness in youthful lives.

She is survived by two daughters, Lois Tappan of Houston, Texas, and Marion Attaly of Paris, France; a son, Willard, of Clinton, New York; two sisters, Lillian Jacobs of Horcham, Pennsylvania, and Marion Holmes of Ashville, South Carolina; seven grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery after a memorial service in Hornell on March 13, 1986, conducted by a former pastor, David Clarke.

Fisher.—Lee W. Fisher of Oakville, Washington, died June 30, 1986, in his home in Oakville at the age of 84. He was born September 18, 1901, in Washington and was a resident of Oakville for the past 83 years.

Mr. Fisher married his wife, Mary, on June 21, 1927. For 35 years, he was a logger in Grays Harbor, Washington. Following his years as a logger, he became a dairy farmer, which he did for 15 years before retiring. He was a friend and regular attender of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Centralia, Washington.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; two sisters, and nieces and nephews. Graveside services were conducted by retired hospital chaplain Richard Barada at the Oakville Cemetery on July 3, 1986

Davis.—Cenith Dale Davis was born near Berea in Doddridge County, West Virginia, on July 12, 1889, and died in Charlotte, North Carolina, on July 2, 1986.

Dale and her late husband, Irving Saunder Davis, made their home in Shiloh, New Jersey, where they were members of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church. In later years, they made their home in Charlotte.

She is survived by three daughters, Zelda Blackwelder, Alice Manning, and Mary Whildon, all of Charlotte; and one son, Norman B. Davis, also of Charlotte.

Funeral and burial were in Charlotte.

Carter.—George S. Carter was born January 29, 1917, in Gyor, Hungary, the son of Max and Irene Seckarash, and died July 10, 1986, in Denver, Colorado.

He was a graduate of the law schools of the universities of Budapest, Hungary; Paris, France; Erlanden, Germany; and Denver, Colorado. He practiced law in France, Germany and in Denver from 1957.

In 1949, he was married to Rose P. Voros. Surviving, in addition to his wife, are three daughters, Sue Lombari of McCall, Idaho, Agnes Carter of San Diego, California, and Esther Sponenberg of Northglenn, Colorado; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church July 14, 1986, with the Rev. John D. Bevis officiating. JDB Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 NIV

Teacher's corner

Cont. from page 15.

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The Shining Star Magazine (four issues a year) is packed full of ideas for the Sabbath School teacher to use to make her or his class fun and exciting. There are several excellent bulletin board books available, as well as books for crafts, Bible games, drama, creative writing, and positive self-image.

These materials, combined with flannelgraphs or used by themselves, will

make any student want to come to Sabbath School each week. These materials are also good to be used for Bible clubs, Vacation Bible School, or use in the home.

The address is: Shining Star Publications

P.O. Box 299 Carthage, Il 62321 Phone: (217) 357-3981

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Building on the Rock

Cont. from page 11.

In SCSC we have many traditions. Inviting the Denver and Boulder churches to come for a picnic and a time of sharing is one that none of us wants to break. We had an opportunity to eat together, and the workers had a chance to put many of the skills they have been learning to use. The climax of the training sessions is a very special banquet. Each of us have the opportunity to share something with the group. Either a song, a poem, a musical rendition, or testimony, that will help and encourage each of us in the days ahead. This is followed by a commissioning service and communion.

Now the SCSC 1986 Team "Builders" summer's work is over, and their reports have been exciting. The young people filled many different responsibilities as they built, but they all followed the same blueprint, because they have all done their part to build the church on the Rock. Perhaps you have seen some of the work that has been done. In Nehemiah's day everyone worked, and the job was done quickly, to the glory of God. Each of us needs to say as those people did; "'Let us arise and build.' So they set their hand to the good work" (Neh. 2:18). If we do that we will be able to see the results of our hard work and hear the Master Builder, our Lord Jesus Christ say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." The celebration follows the completion.

Obituaries

Burdick. Frances Kemp Burdick (Mrs. F Burdette Burdick) of Scio, New York, died February 20, 1986, in Hornell, New York. She was born November 6, 1912, to John H. and Frances Irene Tunning Kemp in Youngstown, Ohio.

She lived most of her adult life in the Alfred New York, area. Her husband, Burdette, died in 1973. They were both members of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church.

She is survived by three sons, Frank, Raymond and Robert; a daughter, Jeanette Retorick; 17 grandchildren, and 22 greatgrandchildren. She is also survived by three sisters, Mildred Harcelroad, Roberta Flynn and Jennie Clark; and tour brothers, Martin, Richard, Howard and Charles Kemp.

She was active in the Grange and in Senior Citizens of Alfred-Alfred Station, New York She was a much appreciated cook at dining halls related to Alfred University (Campus Center, fraternities and sororities)

- A funeral was conducted February 24, 1986, in Hornell by one of her pastors, David Clarke Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery. DSC

Sutton. Dr. Ellen Holmes Sutton was born in 1893 in China and died March 11, 1986, in Waterville, New York. She was the daughter of Thomas D. and Lois Maxon Holmes, former Alfred residents who were Presbyterian missionaries.

Dr. Sutton received her bachelor of arts degree from Alfred University in 1917, and her doctorate in medicine from Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She had served as a medical missionary in Foochow, China, for 14 years. Her husband was a ceramics teacher in Foochow and later in Indonesia, as well as at Alfred University College of Ceramics.

The Suttons were members of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church and active in church and community affairs from 1937 until 1970, when Mr. Sutton died and Mrs. Sutton went to live with her children. She was public school physician from 1938-1952. They spent about 10 years in Indonesia, from 1952 on Both were known for their gentle relations with others and their deep devotion to encouraging Christ-likeness in youthful lives.

She is survived by two daughters, Lois Tappan of Houston, Texas, and Marion Attaly of Paris, France, a son, Willard, of Clinton, New York; two sisters, Lillian Jacobs of Horcham, Pennsylvania, and Marion Holmes of Ashville, South Carolina; seven grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery after a memorial service in Hornell on March 13, 1986, conducted by a former pastor, David Clarke

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Fisher. Tee W. Fisher of Oakville Washington, died June 30, 1986, in his home in Oakville at the age of 84. He -was born September 18, 1901, in Washington and was a resident of Oakville for the past 83 years

Mr. Fisher married his wife, Mary, on June 21, 1927. For 35 years, he was a logger in Grays Harbor, Washington Following his years as a logger, he became a dairy farmer, which he did tor 15 years before retiring. He was a triend and regular attender of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Centralia, Washington.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; two sisters, and nieces and nephews. Graveside services were conducted by retired hospital chaplain Richard Barada at the Oakville Cemetery on July 3, 1986

Davis. Cenith Dale Davis was born near Berea in Doddridge County, West Virginia, on July 12, 1889, and died in Charlotte, North Carolina, on July 2,

Dale and her late husband, Irving Saunder Davis, made their home in Shiloh, New Jersey, where they were members of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church. In later years, they made their home in Charlotte

She is survived by three daughters, Zelda Blackwelder, Alice Manning, and Mary Whildon, all of Charlotte, and one son Norman B. Davis, also of Charlotte. Funeral and burial were in Charlotte

Carter. George S. Carter was born January 29, 1917, in Gyor, Hungary, the son of Max and Irene Seckarash, and died July 10, 1986, in Denver, Colorado

He was a graduate of the law schools of the universities of Budapest, Hungary, Paris, France, Frlanden, Germany, and Denver, Colorado He practiced law in France, Germany and in Denver from 1957

In 1949, he was married to Rose P. Voros. Surviving, in addition to his wife, are three daughters, Sue Lombari of McCall, Idaho, Agnes Carter of San Diego, California, and Esther Sponenberg of Northglenn, Colorado, and three grandchildren

A memorial service was held at the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church July 14, 1986, with the Rey John D. Beyis officiating

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 NIV

September 1986

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The Sabbath Recorder

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Obituaries Continued

Olson.—Carl C. Olson was born November 5, 1924, in Wheaton, Illinois, and died on July 18, 1986, in Denver, Colorado.

Ho was a tool and dve designer by trade:

He was a tool and dye designer by trade; however, his great interest was the Bible. He spent many hours in research and study. During the last two years, he was an active participant in the Denver Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Carl is survived by his wife, Mary, and two sons, Brian and Kevin; one brother, Glenn; and five sisters, Marie Reese, Jean Olson, Gladys Pieterzak, Ellen Olson and Lillian Lund. Graveside services and burial were held at the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver on July 23, 1986, with the Rev. John D. Bevis officiating.

Accessions

Centralia, Washington

Joined after Testimony Frank Waltermire Al Waltermire

Denver, Colorado John D. Bevis, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
James Gardiner
Cindy Gardiner
Daniel Gardiner
Jeremy Gardiner
Adam Gardiner

Los Angeles, California Duane L. Davis, Pastor

Joined after Baptism Carol Lynch Donna Lynch

Joined after Testimony James A. Ayars B'Wayne Cox Roberts

Madison, Wisconsin Kevin Butler, Pastor

Joined by Letter Douglas Sanford Renee Sanford

Joined after Testimony Paul Manuel Linda Manuel Richburg, New York Stephan Saunders, Pastor

Joined after Testimony
Elaine Brundage
John Brundage

Salem, West Virginia
S. Kenneth Davis, Pastor

Joined by Letter Lois Goodson Thomas Goodson

Marriages

Welch-Jacobson.—Robert Lowell Welch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Welch of Cassville, New York, and Ronda Jean Jacobson, daughter of Kenneth Jacobson, Sr., of Exeter, Rhode Island, and Mrs. Edith Jacobson of Westerly, Rhode Island, were united in marriage on June 7, 1986, at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly by the bride's pastor, Rev. Dale E. Rood.

Spencer-McCullough.—Frederick A. Spencer Ill, son of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Spencer of Salem, West Virginia, and Dixie Lee McCullough, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCullough of Pennsboro, West Virginia, were united in marriage on June 28, 1986, at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church by the Rev. Dr. Melvin G. Nida, former pastor of the groom.

Watt-Goodson.—The Rev. Lawrence O. Watt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Watt of Valparaiso, Indiana, and Rochale Ann Goodson, daughter of Lois Goodson of Salem, West Virginia, and the late Rev. Dr. Floyd L. Goodson, were united in marriage on July 5, 1986, at the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church by the Revs. Kenneth D. Chroniger and S. Kenneth Davis.

The Sabbath Recorder

1986 Conference video tape available

Gordon Kilts, who video taped many parts of General Conference activities at Worcester, has generously consented to allow the Tract & Communication Council to duplicate and distribute them to churches and individuals.

This Conference video tape will be loaned to churches at no charge, in the same manner as the rest of the Audio Visual library.

Individuals or churches who wish to purchase the video cassette may do so at a cost of \$12.

Copies going out to a church on loan may be copied by the church if desired, but please do not keep this tape more than 10 days.

The tape does not include business sessions or worship services because of the time involved, but much of the music, associated conference programs, SCSC presentation, Missionary Society program with the international delegates, scenes around the campus, and lots of people are included in the nearly four hours of unedited tape.

Send requests for loan or purchase of the tape to:

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October 1986 The Seventh Day Baptist Recorder Sabbath In this issue By means of his power Cities of dust, rivers of life Sabbath and the Supreme Court