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State Hist Soc of Wisconsin
816 State St
Madison, WI 53706

The Seventh Day Baptist

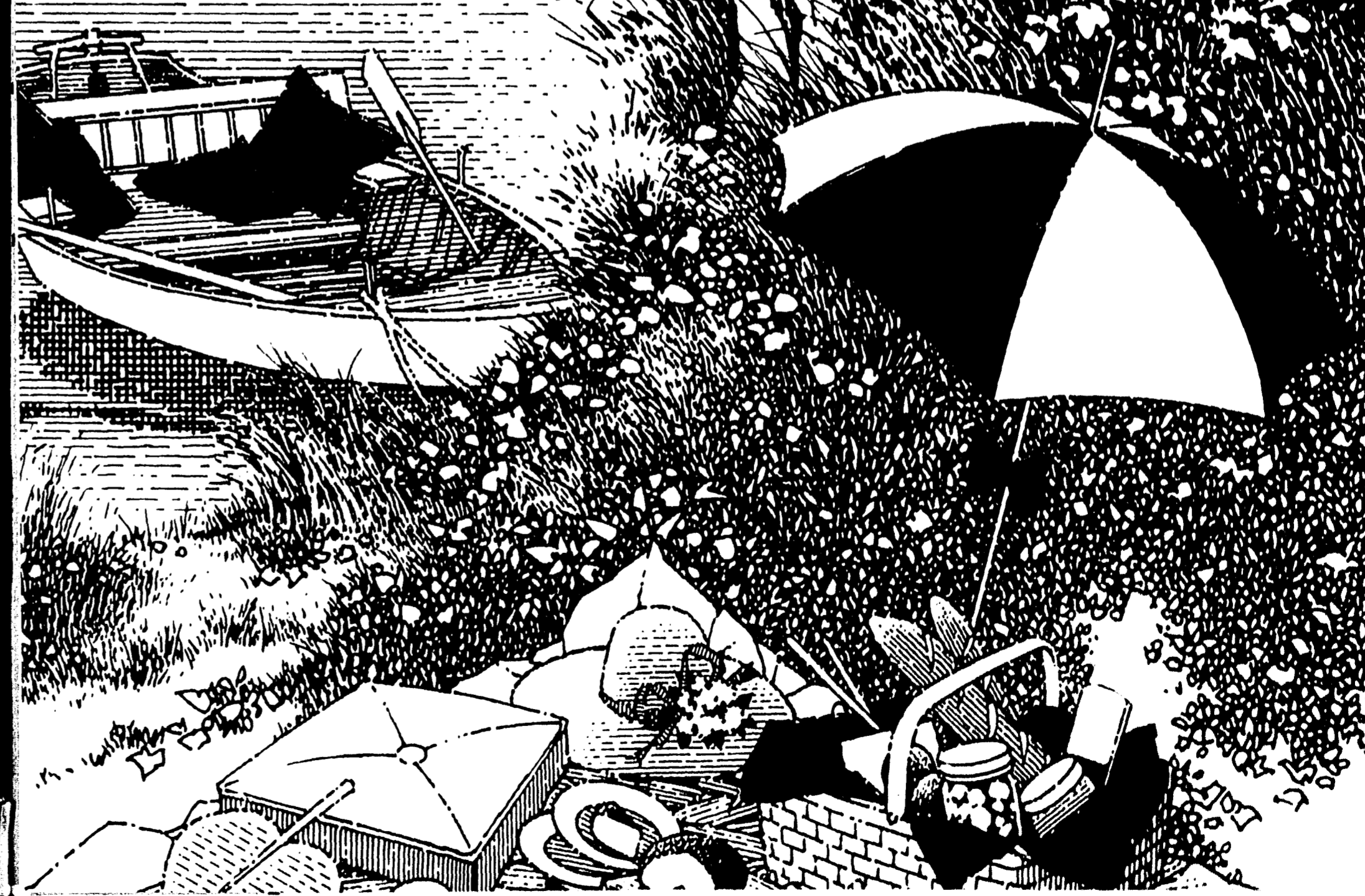
August 1987

Sabbath Recorder

Verdugo Canyon
U.S.S. ...
home ...
Seventh Day Baptists in
Finland

The Sabbath keeper's 30
year pilgrimage

Last of the remnant



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Vernon J. Morgan

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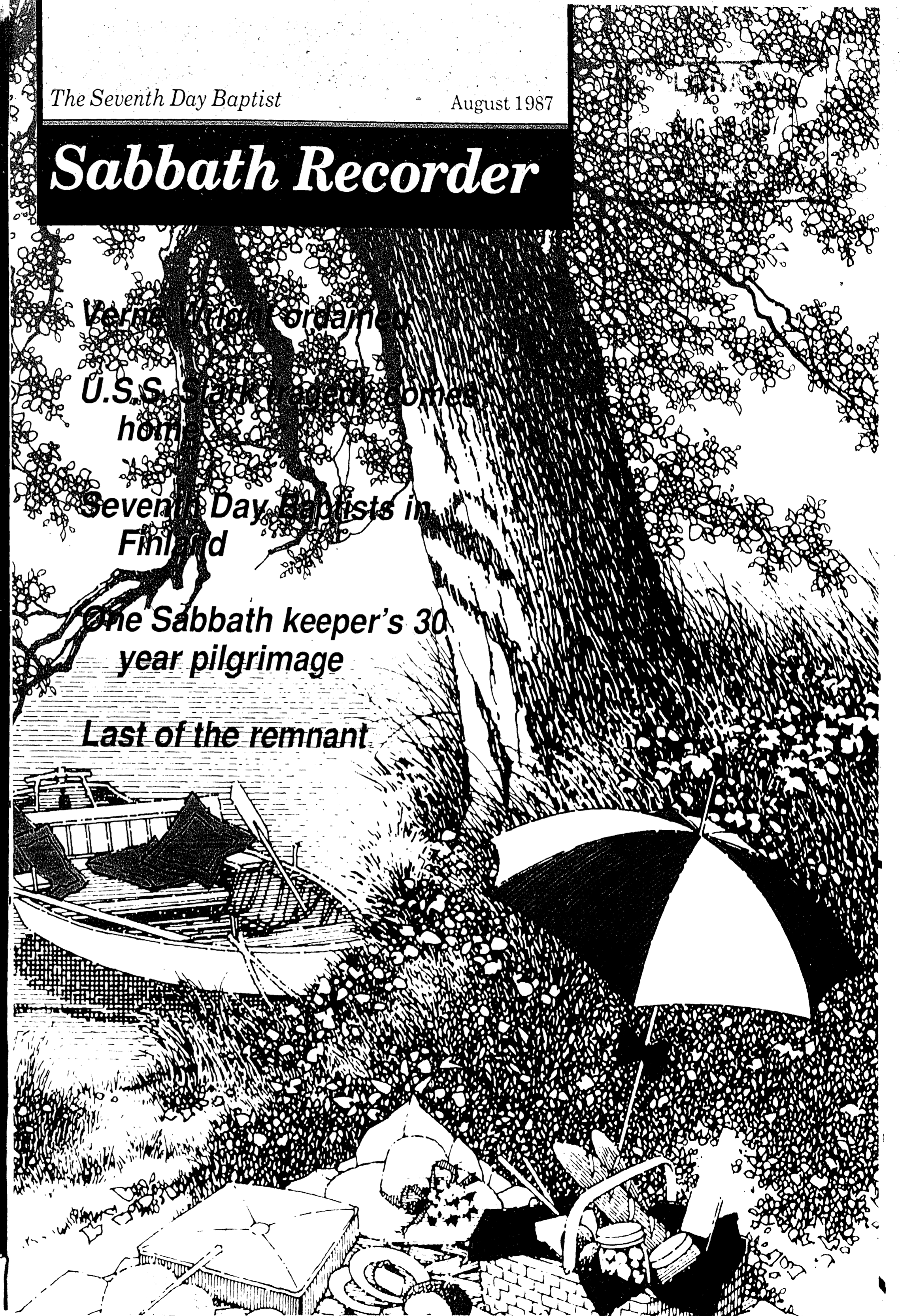
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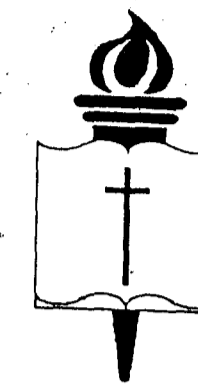
Let us press on

"Run in such a way as to get the prize."

1 Corinthians 9:24



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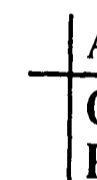
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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, Seventh Day Baptists believe in... the saving love of Jesus Christ...

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.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information about Seventh Day Baptists, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

Ordination of Pastor Verne Wright

The churches of the Central New York Association gathered with the Verona, New York, Seventh Day Baptist Church on April 4, 1987, to proceed with the ordination of Pastor Verne M. Wright to the gospel ministry.

The afternoon special worship was led by Pastor Gene Smith of Adam's Center, New York, and by Elder Helen Green from Verona. Rev. Donald E. Richards presented a message on the subject of "Mastery," and special music was provided by Tom and Joyce Goldthwaite of the Brookfield, New York, Baptist Church. Rev. Ernest K. Bee, representing the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, gave the *charge to the candidate*, and Pastor Emeritus Rex E. Burdick challenged the church to fulfill its duties to its pastors. Pastor Victor Skaggs then led out in the *laying on of hands* and

consecrating prayer with Pastor Verne and Betsy Wright. Pastor Russell Johnson extended a *welcome to the ministry* and presented the certificate of ordination to Pastor Wright.

The Verona church is delighted to have a small part in the life of a young pastor who will be of much service to the Lord. Undoubtedly, Pastor Verne will soon be called as the pastor of a church somewhere else in our conference, but it has been a joy to have him and his wife ministering and receiving ministry through this church family.

Note for churches searching for a pastor: Although the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church would be glad to continue to utilize Pastor Verne's capabilities, he desires to be used by the Lord as the pastor of his own flock. Thus this church commends this family for your consideration in your local ministries.

Statement of Christian experience



by Verne Wright

I view my life as a spiritual journey. The milestones of my spiritual journey are the people and experiences that I have had that have helped me to mature in the Christian faith.

My spiritual awakening, as I call it, started at age 17. I came to the awareness that there was something (really

Someone) more to be had in my life. During this time, the relationships and experiences I had in the Catholic church were key touchstones in the development of my faith-walk with God.

During college days and into my first employment situation, I was challenged into a closer relationship with God primarily through two different types of retreat experiences in West Virginia and Indiana. While in Indiana, I turned to the church for support and grounding, and it was through the church that God met my need. But I was also challenged in a far deeper way than I had expected: I realized that I was responsible for my relationship with God.

I was responsible for my relationship with God, both to grow in it and to seek to grow in it. From my high school days

and into my first job situation, I was discovering my very own personal relationship with God.

Betsy De and I courted, engaged and married while I was working in Indiana. I had known of Seventh Day Baptists before meeting Betsy De, but it was primarily through her influence that I became a Seventh Day Baptist.

I have struggled with the circumstances behind my initial decision to become a Seventh Day Baptist because I believe it was my emotional attraction for my wife which motivated me to come into the denomination. God's grace has prevailed in that he has helped me to own and accept responsibility for my choice. I have chosen to remain a Seventh Day Baptist—to pitch my "tent" here, if you will—because of the freedom I have in the Scriptures and my acceptance of the Sabbath. God has been faithful to preserve for me a genuine spiritual heritage and prepare me for a challenging future.

Betsy De and I have been married almost seven years now. During that time, we have had our struggles as well as our joys. God's love for us has seen us through some trying times. Our love for God and for one another has enabled us to continue to renew our relationship and seek the best that God has in store for us.

Seminary followed our marriage. Seminary meant a move from Indiana to Philadelphia. Theological studies were stimulating, confusing and spiritually invigorating, all at the same time (and, sometimes, at no times). Looking back on that first year of studies, Betsy and I now joke about what "manner of heresy" I might come in the door with next. The greatest discovery I made during this period of my life was that my relationship with God did not depend on having all the "right" theological answers or the most

...it was my relationship with God that gave me the freedom to explore and discover who God was and how he deals with his universe without fear or anxiety.

consistent theological system. Rather, it was my relationship with God that gave me the freedom to explore and discover who God was and how he deals with his universe without fear or anxiety.

Following seminary, I served as the pastor of the First and Second Brookfield (New York) churches. Serving these churches was a profound spiritual challenge. My heart is genuinely touched as I see the need of God's people, yet I am anguished by the various problems and difficulties unique to the Brookfield situation. As a pastor, I agonized over how to lead the church and in what ways to be gentle or firm, tough or tender. Indeed, God showed me the depth to which his people—including myself—can be in need of his care and grace.

I left the Brookfield pastorate on May 31, 1986. I believe that, at this point in my life, the two central issues which face me are: What is my self-worth and self-identity before God? Shall I completely yield my life over to God's purposes for me?

Perhaps these sound like strange issues for someone contemplating ordination, yet for me they capture the essence of where God is working in my life right now. I have always struggled with feelings of self-worth and self-acceptance. The issue for me now is to put that struggle in a larger context,

where I can truly come to a better picture of who I am before God.

I am a pastor, yes; a husband, yes; a father, yes; but my sense is that now I must anchor firmly to God in a way that allows me a stability that will not be shaken no matter the outward circumstance or particular role I am filling. Yielding to God's purposes for me involves realizing who I am before God and then acknowledging the areas of my life that God has yet to be given freer reign in. This is a building process by which I expect to be continually challenged and grow through.

Call to ministry

I cannot state a definite time and place in which I experienced the call to the ministry. I can state that I do sense the call to minister in Christ's name and that, from my days in seminary to the present, I have had that call affirmed and reaffirmed over and over again. The prompting which led me to seek the formal pastoral ministry was my acceptance of the Sabbath. I accepted the Sabbath and felt that my employment should be such that I could be free to honor the Sabbath and keep it.

Yielding to God's purposes for me involves realizing who I am before God and then acknowledging the areas of my life that God has yet to be given freer reign in. This is a building process by which I expect to be continually challenged and grow through.

For me, the pastoral ministry was the "natural" outcome of that decision.

I have recently come to understand that I have a heart of compassion for people. I want to reach out and to minister to people in Christ's name. I want to soothe their hearts and offer them true spiritual freedom. I can speak God's truth decisively and forcefully, but only after much inward struggle and turmoil. I believe I am called to be a shepherd of the flock and to let the flock know that God cares for them and loves them.

I have found that I am most effective in ministering when I am not so concerned about being "the minister" or "the pastor," but when I am simply concerned about the person I am ministering to. My growing edge in ministry is to be less concerned about living for ministry (the role) and more concerned about living for Christ.

Theology and faith

The study of theology is very important for me. I understand theology to be the study of God. The very idea of studying God presents a problem in itself because God is larger than any human attempt to fully understand or comprehend him. However, to study what God has told us about himself is vital for daily living. Good theology expresses itself in action.

Faith is my relationship to God. My faith and trust in God's care for me frees me to study him and at times be wrong in my conclusions about who he is and what he expects of me. Faith is not an excuse for sloppy study but a freedom to explore the intricacies of a marvelous relationship between God and myself without anxiety.

Revelation and authority

God tells us who he is. Supremely, he has done so in his Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:14; 14:8). God also has revealed himself to us through the Bible. The Bible is inspired of God and is the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20). The Bible is authoritative for faith and practice. The interpretation of the Bible

must proceed cautiously and with humility under the guidance and reliance of the Holy Spirit.

God

God chooses to let us know who he is. He is a personal being, and yet he is beyond understanding of what the word "personal" generally means to us. God has sovereign authority over all creation and over all peoples. God has chosen to come to us in his Son, Jesus Christ, thus becoming a part of our humanity. Jesus Christ unites God's sovereign rule over us with the idea of "God with us" in a special type of love called holy love. Holy love characterizes God both ruling over us and deciding to become a part of us in his Son.

Creation and the Sabbath

God, out of his love and freedom, created the universe. Creation is an act of grace on God's part. The seventh day, the Sabbath, stands in the creation as the mark which symbolizes the perfection of God's creation. Today, the Sabbath stands as a perpetual commemoration of the original wholeness of the created order by God.

Humanity and sin

Humanity was created in the image of God for relationship with God. Sin has warped this relationship and has marred the creation, as well as our relationships with one another. The essence of human sin, I believe, is to want to place ourselves above God. Further human sin shows itself in unbelief or in unwillingness to "anchor" in God. Jesus Christ is God's example to us of what humanity is intended to be in relationship to God and thus models for us the type of life God intends us to have with him.

Jesus Christ and salvation

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity. Christ is both human and divine, each nature fully existing at one with the other at the same time. The work that Jesus Christ

came to do was to extricate us from our sins because we humans could not do it on our own. A restored relationship to God through Jesus Christ became possible for humanity because of Jesus' atoning death on the cross and his resurrection from the tomb. The restored relationship for us means eternal life, which is freely offered as a gift. Each person must decide to freely accept or reject the gift of God in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity and is one with God, the Father and God, and the Son. The Holy Spirit is active in leading individuals to faith in Jesus Christ. He also leads and assists believers, being the power of God in the believers' lives. The Spirit is active in the Church, empowering and giving gifts that build up the Body of Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit is God with us—present to us—in this day and age, both in the lives of individual believers and in the corporate life of the Church.

Cont. on page 22

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Adams Center man killed in U.S.S. Stark tragedy

Robert L. Shippee, a Senior Chief in Fire Technician Control, son of Richard L. and Alfreda Maltby Shippee of Adams Center, New York, gave his life while in the service of his country on May 17, 1987. Shippee was serving on the U.S.S. Stark in the Persian Gulf when a missile, fired from an Iraqi plane, struck the ship.

His remains were escorted from Dover, Delaware, to Adams, New York, by his older brother, Darwin Shippee, who is a Chief Petty Officer stationed at the naval base in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Approximately 400 people attended visitation hours on Thursday afternoon and evening to pay their respects.

The funeral services were held on Friday morning, May 29, at the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, of which Robert was a member. Pastor Gene Smith conducted the service, assisted by Rev. Kenneth Roadarmel who had served as supply pastor for three summers. Although the funeral was scheduled for 11 a.m., friends, family and reporters began gathering

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FTGC Robert L. Shippee

at the church soon after 10 a.m. The church was filled to capacity, including several uniformed personnel from both the Army and Navy.

Pastor Smith gave the invocation, read the Scripture and offered prayer. Captain Ted Edwards, U.S.N., led the congregation in singing the Navy Hymn. Rev. Roadarmel, in his eulogy, paid tribute to Robert by making the following remarks:

"Most of us remember with thankfulness, seeing a normal boy in a good small town, grow up and be an honor to the town, to his church, and to his family. You liked his belief in this country of his and yours and all of ours—and you were proud when he joined the Navy. I am sure in these last two weeks, and right now, you are remembering. Remembering things when he was your son. When he was your grandson. And remembering things when he was your buddy. And more, remembering him as a fine kid *around about town*. God must be pleased with such a normal, natural boy. Enough, no more words. We are silent as we celebrate this life of Robert Shippee and as we are aware of the Saviorhood of Jesus Christ right now. Amen."

The congregation sang *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. In a private moment, Rear Admiral Richard K. Chambers, commander of the naval base at Philadelphia, presented the widow, Carol Shippee, the Purple Heart.

The grave-side service was military. It was a touching scene when Darwin Shippee, along with other sailors, stood at attention and saluted while six sailors carried the casket to the grave.

Pastor Smith gave the committal service. There was a 21 gun salute, the folding of the American flag that draped the casket and the presentation of that flag to Carol by Rear Admiral Chambers. A second flag was presented

to Robert's mother. Two students from the South Jefferson Central School played *Taps*, one bugle echoing the other. The service closed with prayer by Rev. Roadarmel.

Robert was born on June 10, 1951, in Watertown, New York. He grew up in Adams Center and attended church camps, General Conference and retreats, all of which helped to prepare him for later life. He was baptized by Rev. Delmer Van Horn while attending camp at Camp Wabasso, Theresa, New York, and received the *Right Hand of Fellowship* the following Sabbath.

He loved the farm and spent much time as a boy at his grandparents farm, helping wherever he could. He attended South Jefferson Central School, graduating in June, 1969. He joined the Navy in 1970, following in his father's footsteps. While stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, he met his bride-to-be, Carol Maffucci, who was attending Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. They were married on April 20, 1974, at Katonah, New York. Three children are left to mourn their father's death—Patricia, 12; Timothy, 10; and Brian, 8.

Robert is survived by an older brother, Darwin; a sister, Sherry, of Adams Center; and a younger brother, David, of Waterford, New York. Also surviving is his maternal grandmother, Mildred P. Scriven of Adams Center, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

His hometown has lost a fine, upstanding citizen, a loving father and husband.

Tribute by his grandmother,
Mildred P. Scriven.

Dwelling Place

by Mabelle Wiard Willmarth

Some day we shall hear the longed
for call

And, burden free, shall rise,
Light as thistle down, to a realm
afar:

A realm where joy and love and
peace

Make glorious melody beyond
The shining of the farthest star.
There, through days that have no
ending,

We shall dwell where God the
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God the Son and God the Spirit are.

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And, burden free, shall rise,

Light as thistle down, to a realm
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A realm where joy and love and
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Make glorious melody beyond
The shining of the farthest star.

There, through days that have no
ending,

We shall dwell where God the
Father,

God the Son and God the Spirit are.

Missionary McElwain reports on Seventh Day Baptists in Finland

Attendance

In a new work, one starts with themselves and family. There are seven members of the group in Turku. Of these, there has been communication with six. Five of these have appeared in meetings at least once during the period. Four have appeared in meetings twice a month. Only two members, my wife and I, have been regular in attendance.

Attendance of non-members has been better. There are five non-members who attended at least twice a month, with two regular in attendance. In addition, we have had five visitors during the period who attended from one to three times each.

Interviewing project

I have not proceeded to interview only former exchange students, as planned, but those I have interviewed so far give evidence of *openness* to approach but very little interest in spiritual matters. At this point, I have the impression that the age group of 35-55 is most susceptible to making a commitment to Christ. The idea of approaching former exchange students may turn out to be most useful in the context of short-term witnessing



Missionary Thomas McElwain (left) conducted a baptism for Raija Roshinen.

programs by young people with no knowledge of European languages.

On the other hand, incidental, unplanned contacts have taken a good deal of time, so that interviewing has not been prominent in my activities. A number of recent interests have arisen, and I am hopeful of these.

Baptism

We had a baptism on May 30, on the morning of a bright, windy day at 40°F at 8:45 a.m. This took place in a fairly sheltered bay of the Baltic Sea. Since all of our previous members, although never having been members of other churches, were baptized elsewhere before coming to our meeting, this is the first occasion of a Seventh Day Baptist baptism in Finland.

God's leading

The events leading up to this baptism are, in fact, almost unbelievable, and can be explained only by the lengths to which fear can drive human beings. A brilliant young man whom I knew incidentally at the university some

years ago appeared unexpectedly at our door less than a month ago. He had with him a woman reporter known for articles in popular women's magazines as well as some yellow-tinted journals. They said she wanted to interview me for an article. I was skeptical, considering the papers she worked for, but agreed to talk with her.

I first of all explained what I was doing here and something of what Seventh Day Baptists are and believe. She immediately responded, "I want to join your church. That is what I have been looking for all my life." She has been in every meeting since then and was baptized three weeks later.

The day following our first contact, she returned with the photographer of "Step" magazine, a good quality and varied religious publication. She was able to sell them an interview of me as a believing scientist, in which I spoke about the harmony between the Bible and modern scientific method. I was able to speak about the Sabbath as well, as the focus of the Genesis creation story. It will be the cover story of the August issue.

A few days later, the woman suddenly appeared again, fearful because of threats against her life. I took her to a special shelter for women and she has been busy there in sharing. She has started a Bible study group and has invited many people for Sabbath worship in her room. There will not be enough places for them to sit if all attend. As I am away from Turku this week, the service will consist of prayer, Scripture reading and songs, and my written sermon which she will read.

Poems and songs

I have made a practice in recent years to write a poem to go with the sermon or Bible study. Our newest member has sent a collection of these to a reputable publisher in Finland.

Yesterday I learned that they have accepted these, and a book of these religious poems will appear at the end of this year or the beginning of next. I am to sign a contract for them this month.

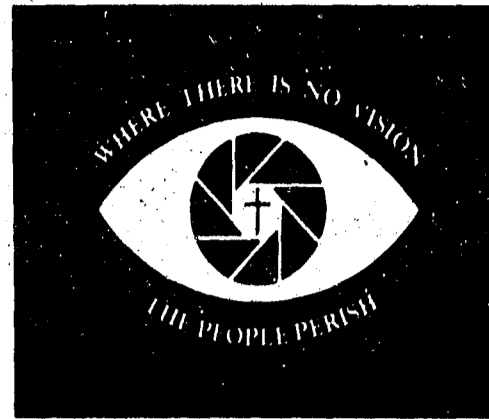
Besides holding two meetings a week and being active in interviewing and sharing situations, I have been carrying on our project to produce Scripture songs for use in Sabbath worship and private devotions. During the month of February, I completed the collection of Psalms we had planned, bringing the number up to 41; that is, the whole first book of Psalms, Nos. 1-41. Since then, portions from the New Testament have been in the works. We have been able to use the collection of hymns from the Book of Revelation during Sabbath services during the month of May. Songs from the Gospels and Epistles are not yet ready. They are, of course, in Finnish. I have been happy to note that our Scripture songs appeal to a broad spectrum of people, though not all.

Although plans have not materialized in precisely the ways we had envisioned, I believe we have evidence of God's blessing in this area and the harbinger of better things to come.

Yours in love of Christ,
Thomas McElwain

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Focus on missions today

by Leon R. Lawton

Fire destroys village in India

Andhra Pradesh, India, Asia: A fire swept through Chapalapalle village on the first of June. G. Peter Sundar Rao, SDB field officer for the Venkatagiri Field, sent word that, "The houses of our Seventh Day Baptists have been destroyed by fire. Our Christians have been rendered homeless. As such, you (Rev. B. John V. Rao, executive secretary of the SDB Conference of India) have been requested to visit and extend your help for the relief of the said victims." This need was also extended to Baptist World Aid of the Baptist World Alliance. Dr. Archie Goldie has reported that BWaid has sent \$3,000 to help meet this need. It is also being considered by the SDB United Relief Fund.

Call for prayer for Miami

Miami, Florida, U.S.A.: Extension Director Rodney L. Henry was with this church the first Sabbath in June, bringing the Sabbath morning message and counselling with church officers, pastor and members. At a special church meeting that day, Pastor Tom Whitney and several other members withdrew their membership from the church. Pray that the Lord will lead and give wisdom to the remaining congregation and those who still remain SDBs in the greater Miami-South Florida area.

Paper transported to Poland

Europe—Netherlands and Poland: Brother Jan Lek recently reported that a good friend had lent his van for the purpose of transporting paper and supplies from the Netherlands to Poland by mid-June. Several special gifts, including some "white gifts" last Christmas, were shared with him to make possible this ministry. The SDB World Federation has provided help toward the travel costs. Brother Lek will also consult on computer needs for preparing copy for publications and the remodeling of office space of the Polish Conference. Their annual conference session was held in Zory, July 4-5. It was hoped that Missionary Thomas McElwain of Turku, Finland, would be able to be present with them on this occasion.

Milwaukee branch meeting

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.: The branch church, sponsored by the Milton, Wisconsin, SDB Church and led by their Extension Pastor Earl Cruzan, continues to reach out to new people in that area. They meet in a Sunday School room of the Baptist church in West Allis, Wisconsin, and will soon outgrow this. Sabbath School classes for children and adults are held prior to the worship service. **SR**

A prayer reminder for each day

September 1987

Verse for the Month: *O God in Zion, we wait before you in silent praise, and thus fulfill our vow. And because you answer prayer, all mankind will come to you with their requests. Though sins fill our hearts, you forgive them all. ... O God who saves us. You are the only hope of all mankind throughout the world and far away upon the sea. —Psalm 65:1-3, 5b TLB*

Pray for...

1. local churches seeking pastoral leadership
2. Missionaries David and Bettie Pearson, Malawi, Africa
3. Central Maryland church retreat, Rev. Ernest K. Bee, resource leader
4. Sabbath School promotion and fall class beginnings
5. praise the Lord for his Sabbath
6. an acceptance of God's will for our lives
7. Central Africa Conference meetings (8-12)
8. Conference President Herbert Saunders
9. Rev. Eleazar C. Paypa and Philippine Convention
10. sister church in South Africa & Rev. James Siwane
11. Training in Ministry & Extension students
12. Sabbath School mission offerings
13. Helping Hand editor Linda Harris
14. Extension Pastor Kevin Butler, Madison, WI
15. youth camps in Malawi, Africa (16-19)
16. the T.I.M.E. project
17. Director of Extension Rodney L. Henry
18. New England Yearly Meeting, Rev. Ernest K. Bee, speaker
19. a prevailing attitude of love for all people
20. pastors and others facing difficult decisions
21. Extension Pastor Oscar Godoy, Los Angeles, CA
22. youth camps in Malawi, Africa (23-26)
23. special meetings at Chipho, Malawi
24. association officers as they serve our churches
25. Missionary Pastor Bobby Wright, Blountville, TN
26. your Sabbath School teacher
27. Tract and Communication Council, Janesville, WI
28. new outreach in Finland
29. Missionaries Thomas & Ritva McElwain
30. peace that passes understanding
31. sound minds and healthy bodies

MOVING?

Please clip this change of address form and mail it to:

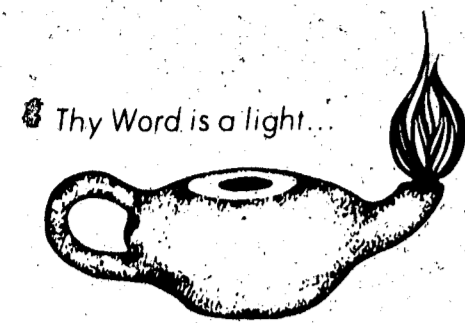
Circulation Department
The Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

New Address: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Thy Word is a light...

Board of Christian Education

Revised Junior Nurture Series preview

The Seventh Day Baptist Nurture Series, Junior Level, which was written by Linda Camenga and introduced in 1979, has been revised by RuthAnne Peil, Rialto, California, writer and artist. Bright colors, vivid artwork and a variety of activities present the Sabbath distinctive to our juniors (grades four through six).

The lessons are created to guide students through 13 weeks of Biblical teaching concerning the Sabbath. The new design, with additional color, adds excitement to learning the truths of God's will.

The Student's Book reinforces Scripture learning through Bible

readings, memory verses, puzzles, quizzes, drama and a history chart.

Prayers and praise History marches on

Sabbath Afternoon is a weekly take-home-paper for students. It is filled with stories, Bible readings and games, memory verses, puzzles, and Seventh Day Baptist history lessons to correlate with the weekly student's lesson. All are colorfully illustrated with variety to keep junior students interested.

The Teacher's Guide provides 48 pages of step-by-step session plans. The suggested format will help the teacher present the Sabbath in an effective lesson. Colorful teaching posters supplement the lesson presentation.

The Junior Unit on the Sabbath was edited under the supervision of the Children's Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education. Preparation for printing and publication is being directed by the Tract and Communication Council. Funding for the printing of the Junior Sabbath Nurture materials is made possible by a grant from the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund. This is *Partnership in Ministry*.

You may order *Sabbath Nurture* units (Primary revised, Junior, Junior High and Senior High revised) now from the Seventh Day Baptist Center or the Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, New York, 14803. The revised Junior Nurture materials will be available in late September.

Junior Nurture Lesson Topics

The Longest Week
God's People Rest
What's Your O.Q.?
Rules, Rules, Rules
Lend a Hand
Made for Us
Sabbath Joys
He is God's Son
New Life
Following Paul
We Follow, Too

The Children's Page

Uncle Ralph's Bible name puzzle

Welcome to Uncle Ralph's back porch. The back porch is a quiet place where I like to go to just sit and think. But it's also a fun place because that is where I keep all my stories, games and puzzles. When I'm sitting on my porch on a warm summer evening, one of the things I like to do is to think up new puzzles for my young friends to solve. When I was growing up, solving puzzles was one of my favorite activities. Bible puzzles were some of my very favorites, and many a Sabbath afternoon was spent figuring out a puzzle or playing a Bible game.

This month, I've come up with a puzzle which can be fun for children of all ages. In fact, I'm going to make it into a contest to add to the fun. There will be a prize of a Bible Trivia game for the winner in each of the following groups: Children under 12, youth 12-18,

adults (since I know some of you sneak a look at this page, too), and families.

Here are the rules:

1) Contained in the letter grid are the names of 29 Bible characters (at least 29).

2) The names may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal, and written forward or backwards.

3) The first person in each group to find all 29, or the person with the most correct answers before the deadline, will receive the prize. (Enter even if you do not find all 29, as some of them are real "toughies.")

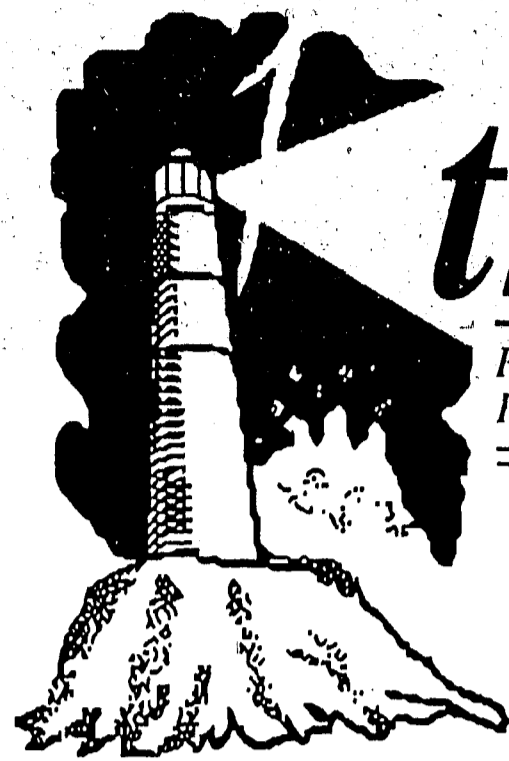
4) A family may work together or help the kids, but please then enter under the family category.

5) Submit your list of names before September 15, 1987, to: Uncle Ralph, 5259 Vista Miquel Dr., La Canada, CA 91011.

E	S	A	M	O	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E
T	U	S	I	M	O	N	N	H	O	J	E	S	B
A	Q	U	I	L	A	S	A	U	L	U	J	U	A
W	E	R	D	N	A	U	L	P	T	D	O	H	R
E	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	H	M	A	S	C	T
P	A	Z	A	C	H	A	R	I	A	S	E	Y	H
E	T	A	A	L	O	D	E	L	U	A	P	T	O
T	T	L	Y	C	W	D	M	I	U	S	H	U	L
E	H	D	M	A	C	A	I	P	Y	K	A	E	O
R	I	M	A	R	T	H	A	J	A	M	E	S	M
A	A	P	R	N	S	T	E	P	H	E	N	F	E
N	S	O	K	E	V	E	S	U	M	A	R	Y	W
P	E	B	A	R	N	A	B	A	S	A	L	I	S

Hint: All the names are in the four Gospels, plus the book of Acts.





the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship

August 1987

Boredom

by Ryan Cruzan

Boredom
IS
.....

Living on a farm, I am often too busy to be bored. During the winter, however, there is not a whole lot of work to do, and then boredom sets in. I've learned that when I'm bored, it is best to keep my mouth shut. If I tell my parents, they sometimes surprise me and find something for me to do, and then boredom doesn't seem so bad.

Boredom is not something we are forced into; it is something we bring on ourselves. Boredom comes from lack of enthusiasm.

One type of boredom that I'm sure we've all felt at sometime is boredom with church. We feel like there is nothing our church is doing that interests us. Instead of blaming the church, we should face the fact that it may be our attitude that is causing trouble. We begin to lose interest in something when we stop working at it.



Buying season tickets to the Wayne Newton concert tour...

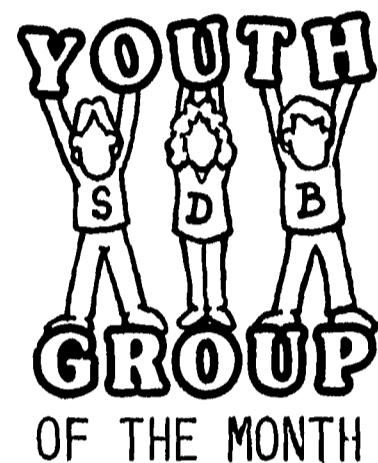
When we're working, we may not always enjoy the job we're doing, but we won't be bored. We all stop, at times, from doing the jobs Christ has for us. Church stops having anything for us when we stop giving anything to it.

I know what boredom with church is because I've felt a lack of enthusiasm many times. It always happens when I temporarily avoid getting involved. The boredom ends when I start participating.

Being involved in what our churches are doing may not always be fun, and we don't have to be part of every activity if they don't interest us. But if we get involved in some areas, church will be much more enjoyable and interesting.

This even applies to sermons. I was always bored during sermons at church because, instead of listening, I kept checking my watch or doodling on my bulletin. Now I'm starting to pay attention to what is being said, and church isn't boring; I even get something out of it.

Boredom is not something of which we are helpless victims. We can beat the boredom. SR



Santa Barbara, California

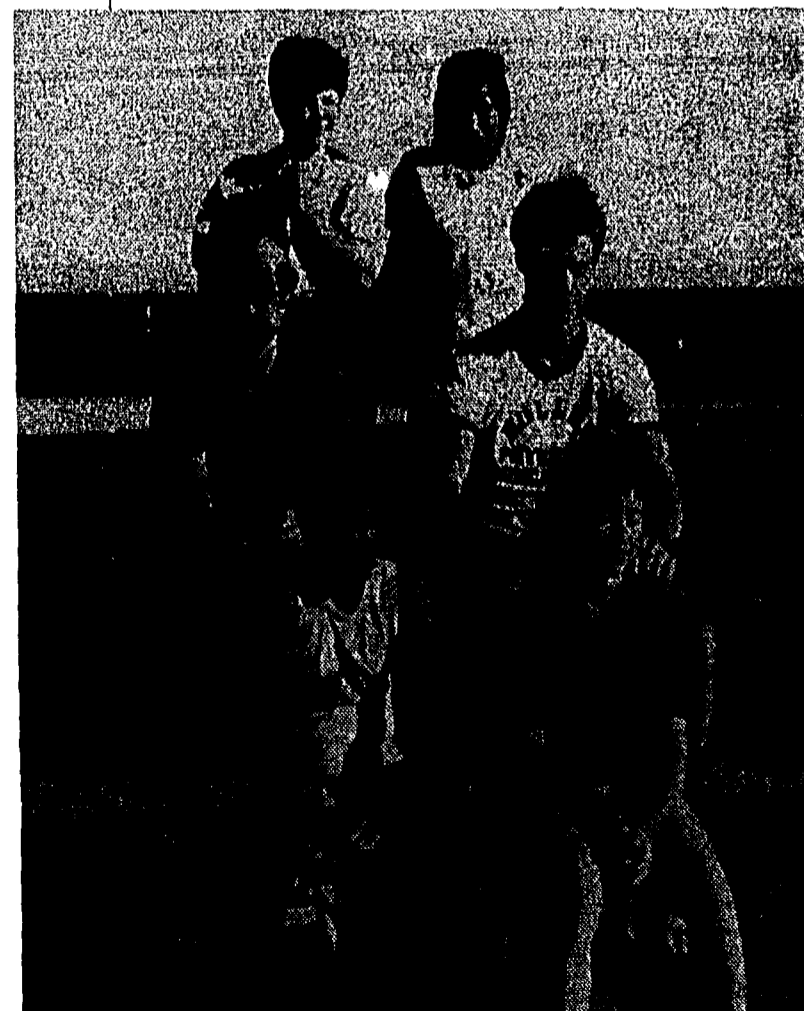
Our Youth Fellowship group has been meeting on a regular basis for almost one year. YF usually meets twice a month for special activities, such as the beach, bowling, ice cream and pizza feeds, scavenger hunts and games. Each meeting includes a spiritual time with singing, prayer and sharing.

All the youth at one YF meeting volunteered to help Pastor Bob during the church service. Assignments included announcing and leading songs, Scripture reading, and observations about the Scripture read from Matthew 24 regarding events preceding Christ's return.

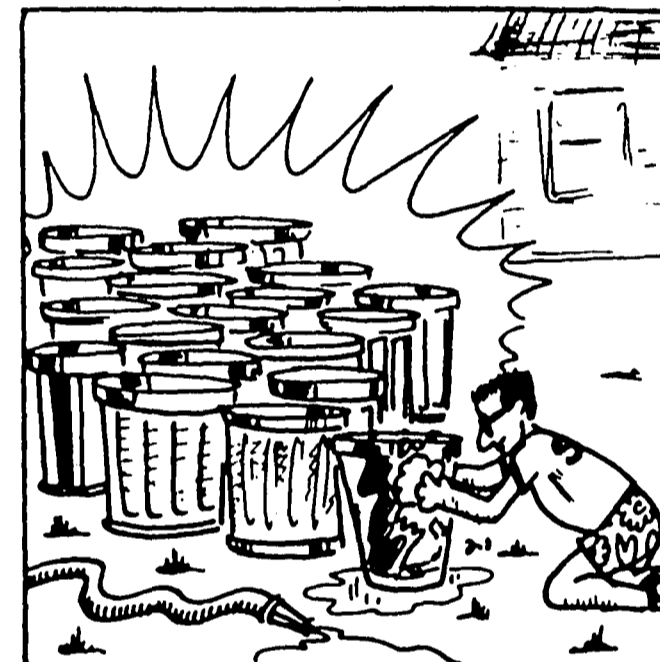
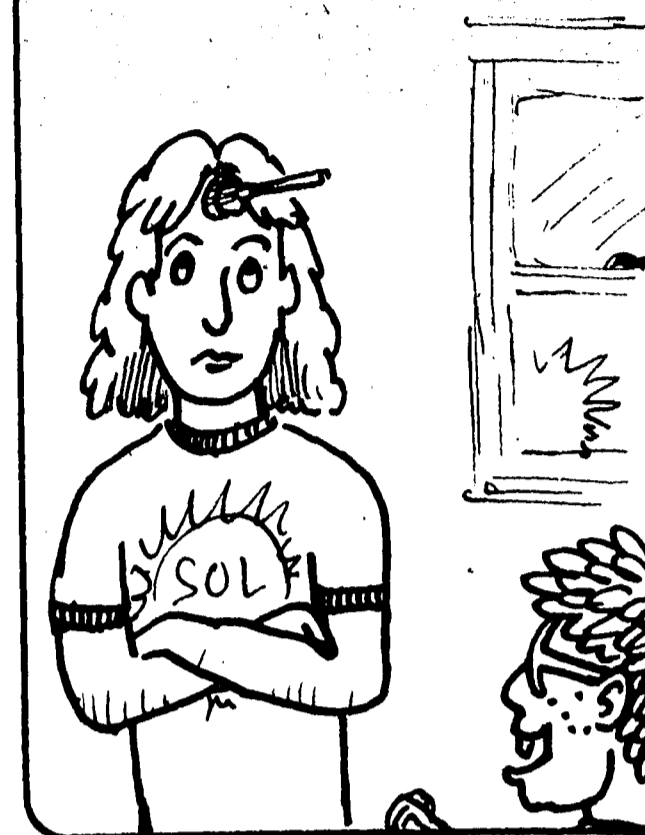
Remember us in your prayers and pray for young people everywhere, that God's Spirit will lead them into fellowship with him.

Debby Remick
Youth Fellowship leader

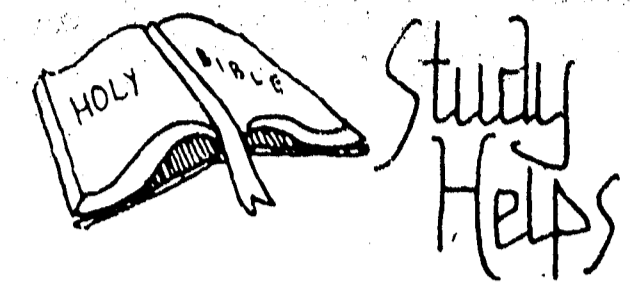
Santa Barbara YF



Babysitting your bratty nephew for FREE...



Washing and waxing the entire neighborhood's metal trash cans...



Study Helps

Read: Psalm 139: 1-4, 7-10, 13-18, 23-24

Memory Verses: Psalm 139:23, 24

by Marty Pederson

Youth pastor for the Riverside, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church, and a full-time student at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Young David (Leviticus 17) undoubtedly knew what it was like to sit around watching dumb sheep all day while his brothers fought in Saul's army against the Philistines (I Samuel 17:12-15). It was probably like living in the middle of South Dakota on a wheat farm. Yet David knew God quite well. It seems that he spent lots of time talking to God and listening to God. (Read Psalms.) God is a great mystery, but he wants us to know him as well as we can. Read the passages listed and consider these questions: Is this God real? How can he know everything about everyone everywhere? Does this concept frighten you? How do I feel about it? Is God ever bored by me? Do I hide my boredom of him and his church? Is my attitude damaging my relationship with him or with his people?

Director's Ditty

This is the month we all wait for. Pre-Con and conference will soon be upon us, and the best part of summer will have started! I hope that a lot of you will be able to come this year. Don't forget your light-colored sneakers!

This month, the topic at hand is *boredom*. I'm sure we all know what boredom is and feels like, but we probably haven't spent a lot of time thinking about what causes it. The article and Bible Study take a close look at what causes boredom, and what we can do about it. If you're still bored after these articles, cheer up; school is on its way!



WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS & IDEAS

Packing up and moving on

by Marilyn Merchant

Dear Ones All,

Don't put it down, put it away. So reads a sign at Pacific Pines Camp in California.

For me, this has been a month of shuffling papers, possessions and attitudes, so I can certainly relate to that sign. How much time would be saved if this saying was always practiced?

As I contemplated this month's page, I thought again about this concept. I had another period of moving between mobile home and apartment, with clippings I had saved to share in both places. As I gathered them up and sat down to try to come to some semblance of order, the phone rang, and the caller related a tale of prejudice and downright meanness.

How did this incident and the saying on the Pacific Pines sign tie together?

I stopped sorting clippings and prayed that the injured caller could put away the hurt—not just lay the hurt down, to be picked up another time. Then I wondered how many things, attitudes and activities I need to put away in order to make more time and room in my life for the things of God. How about you?

Somehow, this all reminded me of some boxes in my office closet. When I moved from Michigan, there were some

boxes packed that have never been unpacked in the two-plus years that I have lived out here in California. I just knew I could never get along without those things, and yet they have not become necessary, so far.

All of us pack a lot of excess baggage in our lives that somehow becomes superfluous as we progress in experiences. Maybe you have better sense than I do, recognizing that the pens (minus ink) that your kids used in Junior High School are no longer necessary, even if they were their favorite pens and colors. I never claimed to be in my right mind when that packing was done. I found I packed some memories that were better left behind, too. So, one of these days, out go the boxes and the memories, and in comes some space to fill up with new and exciting ideas.

A copy of a church covenant accompanied one of your newsletters recently, and I was particularly impressed with two articles which may or may not be in yours but certainly speak to a need. These two are taken from the Salem, West Virginia, covenant and are numbers five and six: "We do promise to bear one another's burdens, to cleave to one another, and to have fellowship with one another in all conditions, both outward and inward, that God in His providence shall cast any of us into." "We do promise to bear with one another's weaknesses, failings, and infirmities, with tenderness; not revealing them to any without the church, nor to any within, unless according to Christ's rule and the order of the Gospel provided in that case." God give each of us the strength to live up to those concepts.

Here are some books that have been recommended that might make some good summer reading: *Peculiar Treasures—A Biblical Who's Who*, Frederick Buechner, Harper & Row;

Beginning with Mary—Women of the Gospels in Portrait, Thomas John Carlisle, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; *Company of Strangers*, Parker J. Palmer, Crossroads; and *Dear God I Have This Terrible Problem—A Housewife's Secret Letters*, Bernadette McCarver Snyder, Liguori Publications. In a different vein is a book of poems, *The Conduit*, by Micki Schiller, a Rhode Island woman. I am sorry, but I do not have the publisher's name.

By the time your *Recorder* reaches you, the SCSC members will be in their evaluation session or at one of the Pre-Con camps. Do not forget to continue in prayer for these young people, that the concepts learned and the Christian growth they have experienced this summer may continue with them, enriching their lives and the lives of all those who come into contact with them. For many of them, it has been a mountaintop experience which, hopefully, will continue on into the conference sessions and to their homes. However, life is not entirely lived on the mountaintops; we have to come down into the valleys. It is how our mountaintop experiences enrich and enhance our valley life that determines the success of the venture. We, of the Women's Board, are so thankful for all of your contributions to help with SCSC—our major project. We can still use more funds to clear up the expenses of this year and start a nucleus for next year.

It will be most interesting to see how many groups followed the urging of last year's Women's Interest Committee to assist their pastor's wife in attending conference this year. I know that many of you have done this for many years, and I am sure that the pastors' wives have been very grateful.

We also want to remind you of the Love Gift offering to be received at

conference.

A special committee, made up of board members, is investigating the possibility of an innovative idea of interest to women during conference in 1988. Although the idea was suggested too late for inclusion this year, we hope to at least have it ready for discussion by the Interest Committee. The board also informs us that the North American Baptist Women's meeting, which will be held October 1-4 in Niagara Falls, Canada, is open to any of our women. The program sounds exciting. Anyone who can attend should contact President Dorothea Shettel for more information.

Room for just a few Mighty Mites: Pay two cents for each piece of watermelon you eat this month. Pay 25 cents if you attend conference and do not attend any of the special women's programs. Pray for safe travel, to and from conference, for all those attending and pay 10 cents if you are not one of them. Pay one cent for each zucchini you let get too big in the garden. Pay one cent for each can of food you preserve this month and praise God for his bounty.

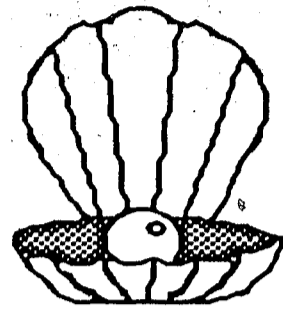
See you at conference. I hope to meet as many of you as possible and hear what you would like to read about in these pages. Here are a few lines from an anonymous poem entitled, *Journey*:

Journey with me Lord, make firm the pathway. Let me not stumble as I journey on the Way. Journey with me Lord, take away my selfishness. Take away my pride and my sins. Cleanse me of my arrogance. Show me the pathway to Righteousness and wholeness. Journey with me Lord, bring me from darkness into light.

Agape,

Marilyn

Do not forget to continue in prayer for these young people, that the concepts learned and the Christian growth they have experienced this summer may continue with them.



On hosting conference

"Our General Conference was not the child of a day or a year, but the product of many years of deepening and extending life," wrote A.E. Main at the time of the centennial celebration in 1902. That deepening and extending continues with each new session. As a covenant fellowship in Rhode Island, general or yearly meetings were held as early as 1696. For 105 years, these meetings continued without written constitution or formal organization. Letters and greetings were extended to both Sabbath keepers in England and new groups which were being

The following year, 1802, 70 brethren and eight sisters representing seven churches assembled in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, and constituted the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

established in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Assistance was given in ordinations, in sending messengers for mission work and in mutual encouragement.

In 1762, it was voted to discontinue these meetings, but the following year, it was agreed that

these meetings were necessary "to commune together, to provoke one another to Christian love and unity, that the weak may be strong, and that God may have glory and our souls peace." In 1801, it was proposed by Rev. Henry Clarke and others to unite in "an institution for propagating our religion in the different parts of the United States by sending out from the different churches in said Union missionaries,

at the expense of the several churches which may fall in with the proposition."

The following year, 1802, 70 brethren and eight sisters representing seven churches assembled in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, and constituted the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference. They agreed that (1) missionaries be sent out, instructed and supported by the General Conference, (2) conference circulate, year by year, to Hopkinton; Petersburg, New York; and Piscataway, New Jersey, and (3) copies of the reports be sent to each church of the Union.

In 1804, the powers and duties of the General Conference were spelled out in four basic principles which have not been greatly altered over the ensuing 183 years. These principles as stated were:

1. The Conference shall be composed of as many messengers as the churches see fit to send; but voting shall be by churches, each church having from one to four votes according to membership.

2. The Conference, in itself, shall be self-governing, but its relation to the churches shall be advisory and helpful, and to the world, missionary.

3. The financial relations of the churches to Conference are voluntary; but the church where Conference sits will be expected to see "that members of said Conference are provided with places to lodge and victuals," whilst there.

4. The public proceedings shall be printed for the inspection of all; and this bill or constitution is subject to alteration by the Conference. But when any material change is thought necessary, previous notice must be given by Conference to the churches, or by the churches to Conference.

Considerable change was made in the matter of hosting, as the rotation among the three churches—Hopkinton, Petersburg (Berlin) and Piscataway—was expanded to include

other churches as the frontier was pushed westward and southward. Cohansey (Shiloh), New Jersey, was added to the hosting churches in 1807; Brookfield, New York, in 1809; Alfred, New York, in 1830; DeRuyter, New York, in 1834; Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1843; Verona, New York, in 1844; Leonardsville, New York, in 1855; Little Genesee, New York, in 1862; and Adams Center, New York, in 1863. The first church to host conference west of the Appalachian region was Milton, Wisconsin, in 1864, followed by Albion, Wisconsin, in 1868; West Hallock, Illinois, in 1872; Walworth, Wisconsin, in 1876; and Farina, Illinois, in 1881. In 1884, the first conference was held in West Virginia at Lost Creek, followed by Salem in 1890. Other churches to host were Nortonville, Kansas; North Loup, Nebraska; Boulder and Denver, Colorado; Westerly, Rhode Island; Riverside, California; and Battle Creek, Michigan.

The Battle Creek church, in 1953, was the last church to attempt to host conference without the benefit of college facilities for housing and feeding delegates. Alfred, Milton and Salem continued to host conference for a time on a rotating basis, as long as the facilities of the university or colleges were available. In 1955, when conference was held in Fayetteville, Arkansas, tradition was broken as facilities were rented from other colleges and universities which had no Seventh Day Baptist connections.

Because of its early predominance and leadership, Hopkinton leads the list of host churches, entertaining 17 times. This is closely followed by the three "college towns," Alfred, 16; Milton, 15; and Salem, 15. Others with multiple hostings were Brookfield and Shiloh, 10; Berlin, 9; Piscataway, 7; Plainfield, 6; Adams Center and Westerly, 5; Leonardsville, 4; and Little Genesee, Nortonville, North Loup and Battle Creek, 3.

Many tales could be told of the trials and tribulations of hosting conference

If anyone this year has complaints about the accommodations in air-conditioned dorms, an occasional wait in a cafeteria line, a delay in airline schedules, or long stretches of multi-lane highways, let him turn back the pages of history and remember what it was like for our forefathers.

when it was literally expected that the host church provide, without charge, "lodging and victuals." Often, a huge tent was set up and a temporary kitchen installed where women labored to cook meals for all the delegates. I recall people in Alfred telling of the number with no connection to the church who would come down from the hills for the free meals served at conference time. Other stories involve the minister who, I was told, attended conference with one shirt and one dollar and did not change either while there. Times have changed, even if the minister in question had not.

If anyone this year has complaints about the accommodations in air-conditioned dorms, an occasional wait in a cafeteria line, a delay in airline schedules, or long stretches of multi-lane highways, let him turn back the pages of history and remember what it was like for our forefathers. Step out of your horse-drawn carriage after days of weary travel. Dig deep in your pocket to provide food for all your guests. Crowd 10 or more extra people into your guest rooms. Then recommend to your church that, next year, you would like to entertain conference like they used to.

SR

Wright ordination

Cont. from page 7

The Church and its mission

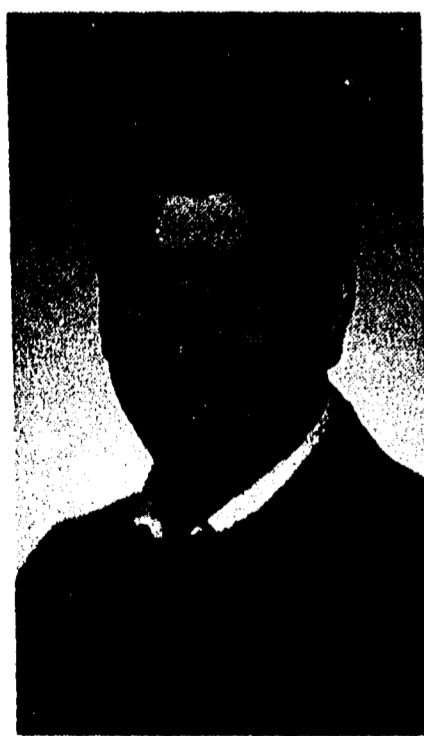
The Church is the community of believers worshipping and serving God which owes its origin to the activity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church is united and held together by being the Body of Christ intimately linked to the Savior. The Church has a concrete existence in this world in order to serve God and to fulfill its mission to humanity. The Church's mission to humanity is to call unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ and to alleviate human suffering wherever it is found, in the name of its Lord and Savior.

Last things

All history is ultimately in God's control. God, himself, shall bring about his kingdom. Christians stand in the place of calling others to faith in the

Lord Jesus Christ and in the place of making the world more just. Ultimately, we shall stand before God to give account of our stewardship and gifts. The reality of God bringing in his kingdom is one of victory and joy over the forces of evil and darkness. We who are secure in God's hands are moving toward a renewal of our beings. This has tremendous implications for our own personal end-times as we all move towards them. Jesus Christ and the Sabbath are two guides by which we can confidently move forward to our destiny in God. Essentially, as we progress in our lives and become more godly by the work of the Holy Spirit, we are ever more ready to be closer to God until that time when we see "face to face" and "shall fully know just as I also have been fully known" (see I Corinthians 13:12). SR

Davis to minister in Hong Kong



Eric Davis

Adapted from *Response*, May 1987
Seattle Pacific University publication

Seattle, Washington: Eric R. Davis, a June graduate of Seattle Pacific University, is part of SPU's summer mission team to Hong Kong for the months of July and August.

Each summer teams of SPU students act on Christ's mandate to take the gospel to all nations. This year, students will minister in Ecuador, West Africa, Taiwan, Mississippi, South Africa and Singapore, as well as Hong Kong.

The missions program, called SPRINT (Seattle Pacific Reach-out

International), is coordinated by SPU students and faculty. SPRINT offers participants an opportunity to tailor missions programs to their particular interests and talents.

The Hong Kong team, made up of 10 students and graduates this year, will teach conversational English, give dramatic and musical performances, and work with Youth for Christ.

Eric is a member of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church and graduated in June from SPU's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences with a bachelor of arts, cum laude. He has served three summers in the Seventh Day Baptist Summer Christian Service Corps and was SCSC project director for the Seattle church in 1986. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Duane L. Davis of Los Angeles, California. SR



Religion in the news...

Religious groups may hire their own

By a 9-0 vote, the Supreme Court has ruled that religious groups engaged in non-profit activities may restrict their hiring to their own faith. The ruling clearly exempts religious groups from provisions of federal law which bar employment policies based on religious preference. The action by the court was sought by a number of religious organizations and was based on an appeal by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A number of the justices made clear in separate opinions that the exemption applies to non-profit activities and does not apply when church-sponsored, for-profit businesses are involved.

Baby boomers going back to church

According to a study conducted at the Hartford Seminary Center for Social and Religious Research, a growing number of persons born between 1945 and 1954 are returning to church.

While church participation by older age groups has remained relatively constant, the church attendance factor increased significantly among the so-called "baby boomer" group.

Wayne Thompson, a research sociologist, points out that this group dropped out in significant numbers during the 60s, and their return now is of special interest. No one denomination seems to show this trend more than others, according to Thompson. "This is an across-the-board return," he said.

Funds sought for Papal visit

Commemorative books, special events, and face-to-face appeals are being utilized to raise funds for the September visit to the United States of Pope John Paul II. The cost of the visit is set at \$20 million.

The American visit comes when the Vatican has been hit by a \$63 million deficit, and Catholics are already being urged to help deal with the "financial crisis."

Much of the cost will be incurred by huge crowds, stadium leases, equipment rentals, insurance, and construction requirements. A number of large gifts have been announced by Protestant and Jewish members of steering committees in several cities.

United Church of Christ statement on Jews

The 16th Annual Synod of the United Church of Christ approved a resolution which has been declared a breakthrough in the church's relationship with Jews. According to the Associated Press, the resolution calls for the church to "examine and evaluate the image of Jews and Judaism presented in curriculum in its local churches, seminary teachings and other literature."

The resolution admits that the Christian church has often denied God's continuing covenant relationship with the Jewish people. "This historical denial by the church has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and to frequent violence," the resolution stated.

Supreme Court rules on Creationism

By a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court ruled that it is not constitutional to require the teaching of creationism in public schools where evolution is taught. The decision was rendered in striking down such a Louisiana law, and the Court called that law a thinly veiled attempt to promote religion in violation of the separation of church and state.

Educators have predicted that the decision will have an immediate affect on textbook publishing, and a return to more thorough treatment of evolution. SR

Wright ordination

Cont. from page 7

The Church and its mission

The Church is the community of believers worshipping and serving God which owes its origin to the activity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Church is united and held together by being the Body of Christ intimately linked to the Savior. The Church has a concrete existence in this world in order to serve God and to fulfill its mission to humanity. The Church's mission to humanity is to call unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ and to alleviate human suffering wherever it is found, in the name of its Lord and Savior.

Last things

All history is ultimately in God's control. God, himself, shall bring about his kingdom. Christians stand in the place of calling others to faith in the

Lord Jesus Christ and in the place of making the world more just. Ultimately, we shall stand before God to give account of our stewardship and gifts. The reality of God bringing in his kingdom is one of victory and joy over the forces of evil and darkness. We who are secure in God's hands are moving toward a renewal of our beings. This has tremendous implications for our own personal end-times as we all move towards them. Jesus Christ and the Sabbath are two guides by which we can confidently move forward to our destiny in God. Essentially, as we progress in our lives and become more godly by the work of the Holy Spirit, we are ever more ready to be closer to God until that time when we see "face to face" and "shall fully know just as I also have been fully known" (see I Corinthians 13:12). **SR**

Davis to minister in Hong Kong



Eric Davis

Adapted from *Response*, May 1987
Seattle Pacific University publication

Seattle, Washington: Eric R. Davis, a June graduate of Seattle Pacific University, is part of SPU's summer mission team to Hong Kong for the months of July and August.

Each summer teams of SPU students act on Christ's mandate to take the gospel to all nations. This year, students will minister in Ecuador, West Africa, Taiwan, Mississippi, South Africa and Singapore, as well as Hong Kong.

The missions program, called SPRINT (Seattle Pacific Reach-out

International), is coordinated by SPU students and faculty. SPRINT offers participants an opportunity to tailor missions programs to their particular interests and talents.

The Hong Kong team, made up of 10 students and graduates this year, will teach conversational English, give dramatic and musical performances, and work with Youth for Christ.

Eric is a member of the Seattle Area Seventh Day Baptist Church and graduated in June from SPU's School of Social and Behavioral Sciences with a bachelor of arts, cum laude. He has served three summers in the Seventh Day Baptist Summer Christian Service Corps and was SCSC project director for the Seattle church in 1986. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Duane L. Davis of Los Angeles, California. **SR**



Religion in the news...

Religious groups may hire their own

By a 9-0 vote, the Supreme Court has ruled that religious groups engaged in non-profit activities may restrict their hiring to their own faith.

The ruling clearly exempts religious groups from provisions of federal law which bar employment policies based on religious preference. The action by the court was sought by a number of religious organizations and was based on an appeal by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

A number of the justices made clear in separate opinions that the exemption applies to non-profit activities and does not apply when church-sponsored, for-profit businesses are involved.

Baby boomers going back to church

According to a study conducted at the Hartford Seminary Center for Social and Religious Research, a growing number of persons born between 1945 and 1954 are returning to church.

While church participation by older age groups has remained relatively constant, the church attendance factor increased significantly among the so-called "baby boomer" group.

Wayne Thompson, a research sociologist, points out that this group dropped out in significant numbers during the 60s, and their return now is of special interest.

No one denomination seems to show this trend more than others, according to Thompson. "This is an across-the-board return," he said.

Funds sought for Papal visit

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One Sabbath keeper's 30 year pilgrimage

by Becky Dee

Editor's Note: The following testimony was given by Becky Dee on June 20, 1987, in the Dodge Center, Minnesota, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The past few weeks I have been in Dodge Center, I feel like the Israelites must have felt when they entered the Promised Land after 40 years in the wilderness, following the years of bondage in Egypt. I would like to share with you the testimony of my physical, as well as spiritual, journeys.

I am a fourth generation Sabbath keeper. I was reared in a Sabbath-keeping home. Nevertheless, it has been a real struggle for me.

As a young child, I traveled with my family from place to place—in 26 different states—while they searched for peace and the right church to join. My mom was a third generation

Seventh Day Adventist, and my dad became a Seventh Day Adventist before their marriage. They studied the Bible intensely and broke away from that church, as well as the Church of God Seventh Day, while I was under the age of 10.

Until I reached the age of 26, my parents were isolated Sabbath keepers, with no fellowship whatsoever with other believers. Sabbath was a day to sleep, stay home and study the Bible. We had very strict standards of religious beliefs, and my parents supported Herbert Armstrong's Radio Church of God after I was 10 years old.

When I was seven years old, my little sister died. At this point, I accepted Jesus into my heart and life. The

spectacular northern lights over the western skies of the United States were unusually vivid that year. They were especially bright over the skies of California and the state of Washington, where we lived that year. This encouraged my father's and my belief that Jesus' Second Coming was imminent, and I wanted so much to be worthy to be with Jesus and little Ruthie forever.

My entire growing up years were full of desire to live for Jesus and learn all I could from his word, the Bible. At the age of 11, I began going with my aunt to the local Baptist church for Sunday School and worship services. I was determined to have weekly fellowship with other believers, and still keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

About this time, I learned about Seventh Day Baptists and Rachel Preston. I also was told that my local Sunday Baptist church had once taken a vote, during its beginning organization process, to see if it would become a Seventh Day Baptist organization or a Sunday-keeping Baptist General Conference Church. It chose the latter.

From that moment on, I compromised while I searched for a Seventh Day Baptist church to attend in the United States. Because I was under my parent's authority while growing up, I had to wait to search via travel. When I was 15 years of age, I was baptized by immersion in Mille Lacs Lake near my hometown Baptist church. I wished to show—by this witness—my love and dedication to Jesus and determination to live for him.

While at Brainerd Vo-Tech, I went to the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Sabbath and to the Temple Baptist Church on Sunday for fellowship and learning all I could from God's word. Eighteen years ago, I married my husband at the local Sunday Baptist church and, through the years, continued my search for Christian fellowship.

When I was 26 years old, my parents, sister and I joined the Brainerd branch of the Worldwide Church of God so we could worship together on the Sabbath. My husband was baptized by immersion and joined this church a year later. We subsequently did much searching and studying of Scriptures and left Herbert Armstrong's church because of doctrinal disagreements. After traveling to St. Paul for a number of months to fellowship with the Church of God Seventh Day, we then joined the local Seventh Day Adventist church for fellowship closer to home. My son was baptized in that church seven years ago.

I then became aware of the location of Seventh Day Baptist congregations in the United States from my affiliation with the Bible Sabbath Association in Oklahoma, and learned of our churches in New Auburn and Dodge Center.

Because of my husband's background, I was able to persuade Jerry to go to New Auburn with me about three years ago. Due to a series of events out of my control—and inspired by depression, defeat and tricks of Satan—my husband and older son, Joel, abandoned the Sabbath, abandoned God, and abandoned me and my younger son, Jay.

Since then, I have been in touch—off and on—with Pastor Osborne, and renewed my determination to someday move to Dodge Center and get as close to this church as possible. Slowly, God has used events and circumstances to make this possible. With much determination and faith, I made the trip to Dodge Center to be with you for Sabbath services on May 30th.

God has answered over and above my desires. I live across the street from the church, two houses down from the pastor. God has provided all my needs and answered even unspoken prayers.

I feel my 30 years of searching for fellowship with like-minded believers is over, and I wish to become a bona fide member of your congregation here. I am tired of compromising my beliefs in order to have Christian fellowship. I

have studied your statement of beliefs very thoroughly, over a long period of time, and we agree 100 percent. This is the only organization I have been in complete agreement with regarding doctrines and beliefs, and I can finally be a complete witness to others. I promise to use all the talents I possess to further this congregation's walk with God.

It is my prayer that some day Jerry and Joel will remember their former relationship with God and the Sabbath, that they will end their rebellion and join my commitment. I entrust their future and care to God.

I hope that, by my example, my children will all be fifth generation Sabbath keepers and devout Christians.

In closing, I would like to share the words of Psalm 126. This is the psalm that the Jews recited as they returned to their homeland following World War II, and again as the 1967 Israeli-Arab war ended, and whenever Jews have migrated to Israel:

"When the Lord brought us back to Jerusalem it was like a dream! How we laughed, how we sang for joy! Then the other nations said about us, 'The Lord did great things for them.' Indeed He did great things for us; how happy we were! Lord make us prosperous again, just as the rain brings water back to dry riverbeds. Let those who wept as they planted their crops gather the harvest with joy! Those who wept as they went out carrying the seed will come back singing for joy, as they bring in the harvest!" (Good News Translation), SR.

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Accessions

Ashaway, Rhode Island

Joined after Baptism:
Joseph T. Roberts III

Daytona Beach, Florida

Kenneth B. Van Horn, pastor

Joined after Baptism:
James Jacob

Joined after Testimony:
Alice Crosby

Marlboro, New Jersey

Everett C. Dickinson, pastor

Joined after Baptism:
Ryan Cruzan
Anna Cruzan
Tanya Miller
Lora Dickinson
Keith Dickinson
Gregory Dickinson

Births

Smith.—A son, Justin Grant Smith, was born to Grant and Tracy Smith of Clarksburg, West Virginia, on May 19, 1987.

McNeme.—A daughter, Adriana Lynn McNeme, was born to Steve and Vivian McNeme of Odessa, Texas, on May 20, 1987.

Marriage

Hayth-Norton.—Charles Hamilton Hayth and Gwen Aletha Norton were united in marriage on March 14, 1987, at the home of Billy and Easter Hayth, Antioch, Georgia. The Rev. Heslip Lee officiated.

Employment Notice Business Manager Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

Duties include: Management of accounting and bookkeeping, printing and duplicating, payroll and benefit administration, building maintenance, and denominational treasurer functions, including computerized accounting and fund distribution system.

Salary range: \$18,000-\$21,000, depending upon education and experience, plus benefits package.

For more information or detailed job description, please contact:

Executive Secretary Dale D. Thorngate
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678
Telephone (608) 752-5055
Send resumé to the above address, ATTN: Dale D. Thorngate.

Reader Reaction

Letters to *The Sabbath Recorder*

On China revisited:

Dear Recorder,

The feature article in the June *Sabbath Recorder* brought me many happy memories as I was born in Shanghai and lived there off and on from 1901-1926. I was baptized in 1913 in the new church (1910).

However, I would like to point out a mistake in the caption on the picture on page eight: "The old Grace School Auditorium and Boy's School at about 1920." When I left China in 1926, the old Boys' School, a two-story building was still used, parallel with the Crofoot home (Chang home on the chart). The buildings in the picture were not yet in existence.

When the home for the Crofoot family was built in 1904 (page 6), my father Jay W. Crofoot stuck a sapling in the front yard which became "the sycamore." The picture of the house on the chart is very much as I remember it except that there is an addition to the front.

Like Carol Crandall, I would have been eager to hear about Paul Campagna's trip to the land of my birth and home for many years.

Anna Crofoot North
Plainfield, New Jersey

On opportunities for reader reaction:

Dear Recorder,

I'm pleased at the prospect of reading editorials and letters from readers, in future issues of *The Sabbath Recorder*.

The editor's choice of articles for publication conveys but a faint image of his own insights. An editorial keynotes the magazine, and to a lesser degree, our denominational visibility.

As to letters from readers, our denomination has no other common media by which "grass-roots Rhode Island" can feel the pulse of "Midwest Joe."

Thank you for this development.

Ira Bond
Nortonville, Kansas

Policy on letters to the editor:

The *Sabbath Recorder* welcomes letters to the editor. Although not all correspondence can be published, reader's opinions are appreciated. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all letters for brevity and clarity. Only signed letters can be printed.

POST-CONFERENCE RETREAT

CANCELLED

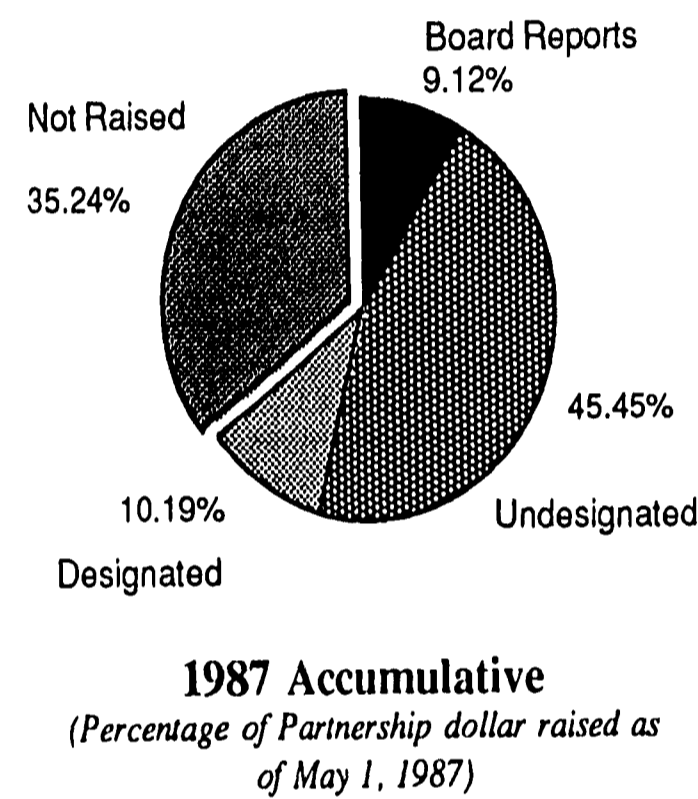
The Post-Conference Retreat for theological students and pastors, which was planned for August 16-20 in Nortonville, Kansas, has been cancelled. It will be replaced by a year-end meeting for students at Janesville, Wisconsin. Watch for further information.

Partnership in Ministry

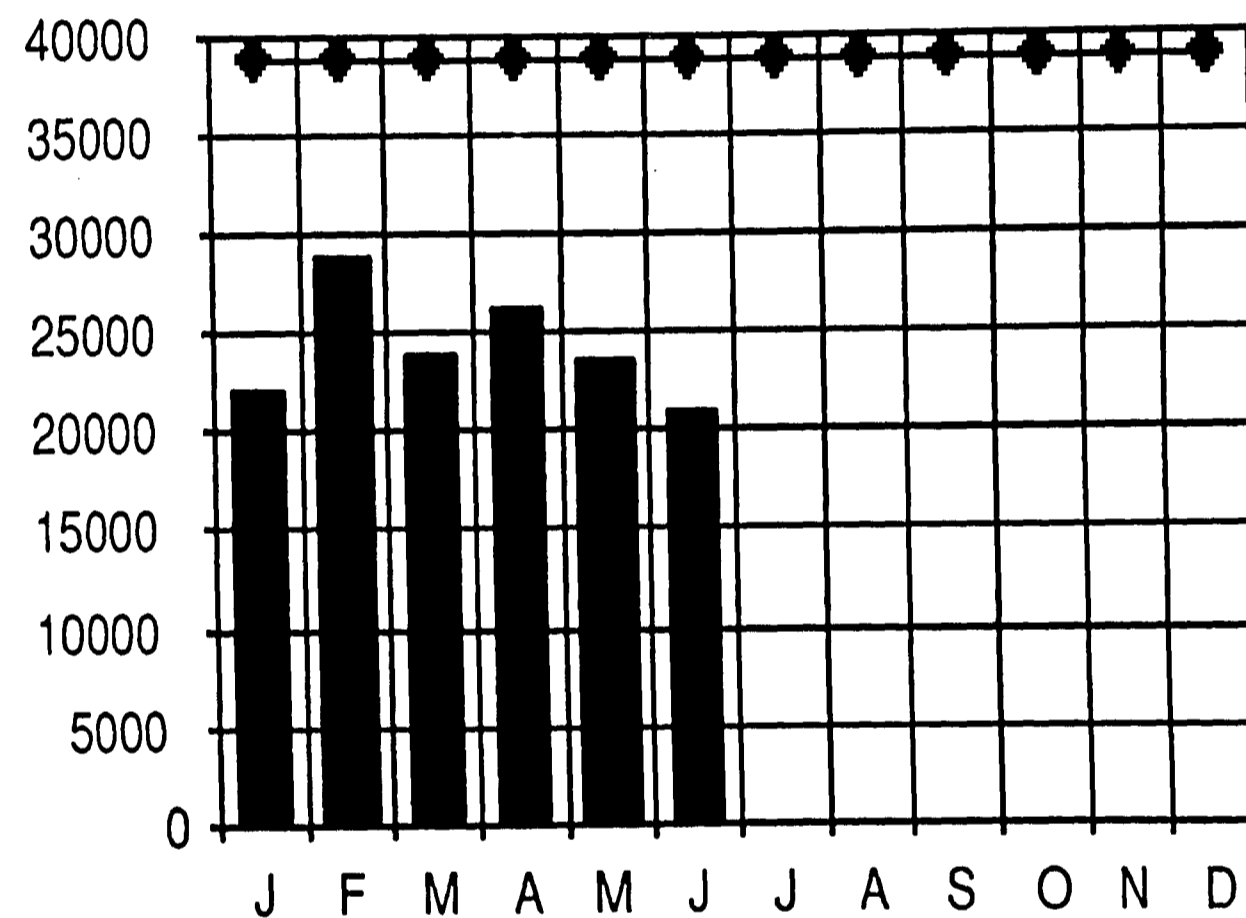
Our World Mission budget update

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 sum of its parts."



Partnership in Ministry—Actual VS Budget
Needed each month to raise budget: \$38,762



Count me in...
on the partnership

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Church: _____

This contribution is for:

- undesignated giving
- designated for:
 - Evangelism and Missions
 - Christian Education (Sabbath School, camps, youth materials etc.)
 - Publishing (Sabbath Recorder, Leadline, tracts)
 - Leadership training (ministerial or lay training)
 - Hunger relief (SDB United Relief Fund)
 - Summer Christian Service Corps
 - SDB World Federation

Partnership in Ministry

Please make checks payable to Our World Mission

Last of the remnant

by Jeanne Yurke

Editor's Note: Jeanne Yurke is a member of the Raritan Valley, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church.

As I walked home on the evening of June 10, 1987, I realized that it was the end of an era.

For three years, I had represented Church Women United in the Plainfield, New Jersey, area on the Board of Directors of Plainfield Action Services (PAS), my city's community action program. PAS, like many other city agencies, is housed in what was once our denominational headquarters at 510 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield.

Along with other area Seventh Day Baptists, I had helped with the moving process when our denominational offices were relocated in Janesville, Wisconsin. I had been part of the final "sweeping out," when all that was left was an echo in an empty building.

Imagine, then, what it had been like to return to "the building" after the city had finished its renovations—to see the publishing house printing area filled with partitioned offices of city employees, to find social workers with their clients in the executive secretary's office, to have meetings of city groups in the Historical Society library. The changes at 510 Watchung Avenue, now known as "City Hall Annex," are real.

Yet, with all the changes, I brought with myself a reminder of the past. As I worked with the PAS staff on different community projects, I discovered that most of the people there—whether they worked at City Hall Annex daily or had just come in for a dog license—did not know *where* they were or anything about Seventh Day Baptists. I enjoyed each opportunity to point out the stone engraving over the front door which still clearly reads, "The Seventh Day Baptist Building" and to let



Porch lift installed
A porch lift was recently installed at the Plainfield Station Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pictured are Kam Grier and his controls with Kathryn Crandall and Francis Grier. Photo by George Bottoms.

Plainfielders know about Seventh Day Baptists who had built up the city and established public school in New Jersey.

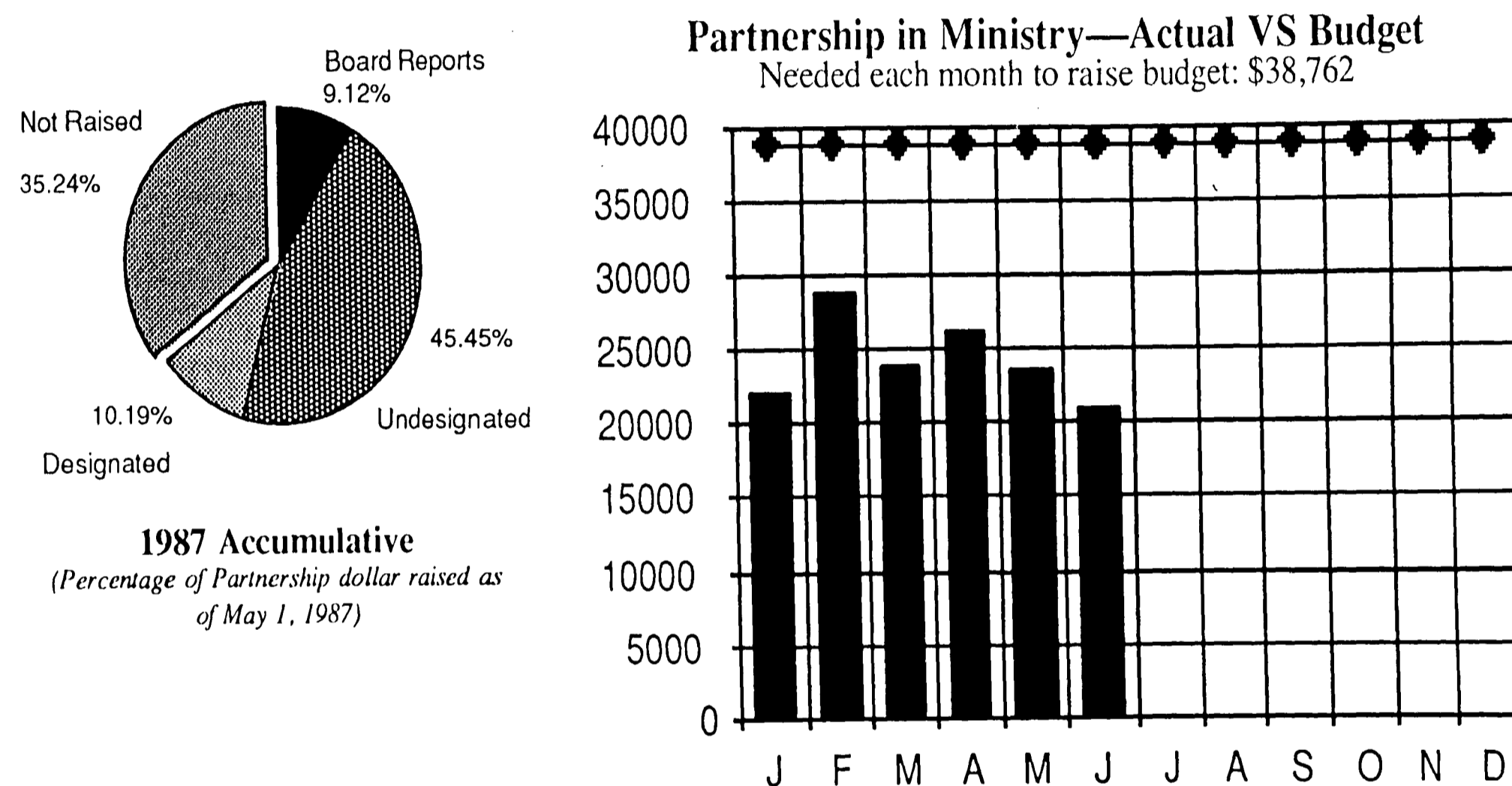
All these things were on my mind on that particular June evening as I left my final PAS Board meeting. It was then that I realized that, unless a local SDB is employed by the city at 510 Watchung Avenue or does volunteer work there as I did, the end of an era had been reached. The last Seventh Day Baptist had left "the building" that night. SR

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Porch-lift installed

Alfred Station, New York—A porch-lift was recently installed at the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pictured are Kem Gesner at the controls with Kathryn Crandall and Francis Weaver as passengers. Photo by George Bottome.

Plainfielders know about Seventh Day Baptists who had built up the city and established public school in New Jersey.

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Reminiscences... Available Again

Reminiscences of Early Days in the Seventh Day Baptist Southwestern Association

by Clifford A. Beebe

An illustrated booklet of sketches on early church and leaders in Arkansas and Texas—includes Col. Robert Crockett's significant 1885 speech on religious liberty

Reprinted by the SDB Historical Society as a memorial to Clifford Beebe, first published by his Bible Witness Press in 1975
\$1.00 per copy—order from the SDB Center, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547



Baptist World Alliance and United Bible Societies to work together in Bibles-for-USSR project

WASHINGTON, STUTTGART—Church-State authorities in the Soviet Union (USSR) have now confirmed earlier unofficial reports granting permission to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) to donate 100,000 Bibles to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB). The confirmation was communicated recently by BWA General Secretary-Treasurer Gerhard Claas. At the same time, the United Bible Societies (UBS) in Stuttgart, Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), announced the cost for this largest-ever shipment of Bibles into the USSR will be divided between the BWA and the UBS. It is estimated that between \$400,000 and \$500,000 will be required for the total project.

According to a UBS press release, the 98,000 Russian and 2,000 Ukrainian language Bibles will be sent to the AUCECB Moscow headquarters in four

shipments, beginning in January, 1988.

The AUCECB obtained the import permit following several months of negotiations with the state. Alexei Bichkov, General Secretary of the AUCECB, expressed his joy over the development, stating the permit was "a sign of growing openness in the situation in Russia."

The offer of the 100,000 Bibles was prompted by the 1988 celebration of 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia and of the founding of the Orthodox Church. The negotiations began with a letter of request last February from BWA's Claas to the Chairman of the Council of Religious Affairs of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Konstantin M. Kharchev. The significance of this *millennium* anniversary is further seen in the granting of permission to the Orthodox Church to print an additional 100,000 Bibles within the Soviet Union itself.

Claas and Ulrich Fick, general secretary of the UBS in Stuttgart, met together recently to discuss the arrangements for the joint project. (EBPS) SR



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The Seventh Day Baptist

Sabbath Recorder



The Sabbath Recorder is a part of The Partnership in Ministry.

The Seventh Day Baptist

September 1987

Sabbath Recorder

