

The

S

abbath

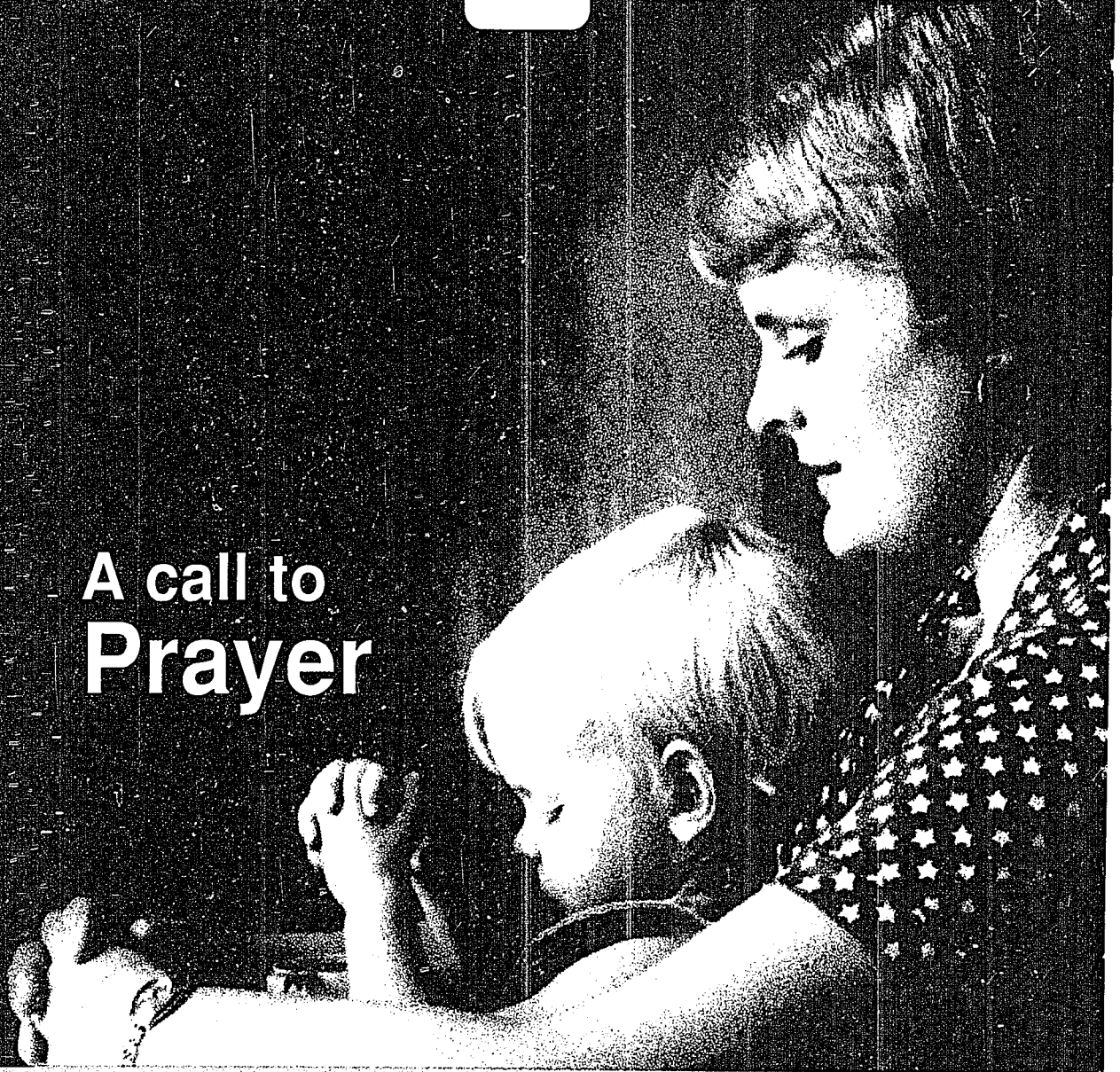
*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

November 1990

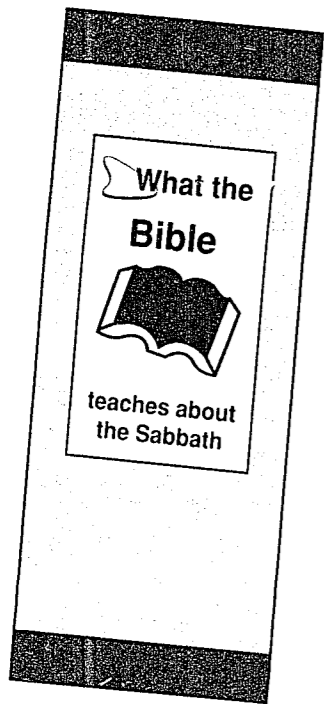
R

ecorder

A call to  
Prayer



**Our latest tract—**



This three-color glossy four-panel tract answers basic Sabbath questions right from the Scriptures. Order yours today. Just 10 cents each.

Write to:  
Seventh Day Baptist Center  
3120 Kennedy Rd.  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547

Ask for our new resource catalog!

**Lost address = lost money**

The Memorial Fund office cannot locate Richard L. Andrews Jr., former Office Manager, to deliver his accrued pension benefits. His last known address was Carlton Avenue, Piscataway, NJ. Any assistance will be appreciated.

**Ministry opening in Mississippi**

Sunshine Mountain is seeking a woman or a couple to serve as housemother or houseparents to the mentally retarded and handicapped residents there. This is an ideal situation for someone on a retirement income who could be helped by the benefits of having rent, utilities, and groceries provided. For an investment of love and time you will earn returned love in abundance, joy in serving the Lord, the fellowship of SDB Christians daily, and stars in your crown. Direct inquiries to Ralph Hays at (601) 783-3479 or write to him at P.O. Box 37, Chatawa, MS 39632. There is room for you and blessings await you at Sunshine Mountain.



Please give to the SDB

**United Relief Fund**

Make your Thanksgiving checks payable to Christian Social Action and designate it for SDBURF.

The **S**abbath **R**ecorder



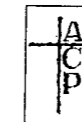
November 1990  
Volume 212, No. 11  
Whole No. 6,746

**A Seventh Day Baptist publication**

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 146th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

**Contributing Editors**  
Ernest K. Bee, Rodney L. Henry, Leon R. Lawton, RuthAnne Peil, Charlotte Chroniger, Althea Rood, Don A. Sanford.

**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a **space available** basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

**Features**

Getting intimate with God by William Shobe	4
A global movement of concerted prayer by David Bryant	6
MORE 2000 churches hard at work— and prayer	9
How should SDBs pray? by Dale E. Rood	10
David Bryant on MORE 2000	11

**Departments**

Pearls from the past	12	The Beacon	18
SR Almanac	13	Pastor Profile	19
Women's Society	14	Local News	20
The President's Page	15	SR Reaction	24
Christian Education	16	Family flux	25
Focus	17	Editorial	27

**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, we 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. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. 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 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—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, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

# Getting intimate with God

by William Shobe



The room is still and dark in the last hours before dawn. Peace reigns, until a sudden, obnoxious sound shatters the silence. Bzzzz...

Instantly my hand responds to mute the intruder. Time has come. Morning disciplines must begin. It is time for prayer, to converse with my God.

Two feet move toward the floor—some days they make it, many they do not. Even on my best days, conversation with the King does not come freely. Why does prayer seem such a chore?

Guilt has frequently told me that my struggle with prayer was unique. I was the only pastor who struggled. After all, the great saints were consumed with prayer. Martin Luther felt the day wasted unless two to three hours had been spent in prayer. John Wesley prayed from 4:00 till 6:00 each morning. One saint named Paxton even wore grooves in the hardwood floor where he prayed for hours each day. How frustrated I felt as I dozed again on the soft carpet.

Yet, I am not alone! Even the apostles, hungering for a deeper, more unwavering prayer life, cried out, "Lord, teach us to pray!" (Luke 11:1). They came to Jesus because they saw the strength and power of his prayers. His genuine contact with the Father was evident.

As I have sought the Lord over the past several months, I have gained some insight from Jesus' school of prayer. I have not discovered any new gimmicks or methods, but rather a problem much more fundamental. I am convinced that many others struggle for the same reason. Our conversation with God is weak and faltering primarily because *we do not know Him*, nor do we know His ways!

In reality, most of us have a mere acquaintance with God. Our crying need is not new methods, but greater depth of relationship with the Father. The shallowness is ours, not God's.

Honestly, how well do you know God? Oh, we have immediate answers about His omnipotence, His eternity, His wisdom. We are familiar with a whole list of His attributes. We know much *about* God, but few of us are familiar with Him.

Other languages explain more deeply the concept of knowledge by using different words. In French,

---

***Our crying need  
is not new methods,  
but greater depth  
of relationship  
with the Father.***

---

for example, there are two verbs for "to know": *savoir* and *connaître*. The first means "to know as fact or detail." The second implies "personal or intimate familiarity with a person." I came to realize that I have approached God as a fact to be studied and understood, rather than as a person with whom to relate. I have known God with the same depth of intimacy that I have known Abraham Lincoln and the artist Michelangelo.

How different the expression of the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 1:12: "I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have intrusted Him

until that day." The vitality of Paul's relationship with God bursts out of each prayer that he wrote! Paul knew God personally.

Indeed Jesus taught that *relationship* is the foundation and essence of eternal life. "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent" (John 17:3). Eternal life is not a doctrinal understanding about God, as valuable as that is. Eternal life is sharing a dynamic relationship with the Author of life, through Jesus Christ.

Jesus has opened the way for us to become God's intimate companions by removing our sin barrier. We are new creatures in Christ such that our record of rebellion is not held against us. Not only are we brought into God's Kingdom as servants, but also appointed as ambassadors, and adopted as sons. Jesus did not teach the disciples to address God in doctrinal terms: "Oh, omnipotent Creator, Lord of the universe and Judge of the living and the dead!" Rather, he taught them to approach God in terms of relational intimacy: "Abba, Father!" We can embrace the King of the universe with the intimacy of a child coming to the parent. In that depth of relationship is the fountain from which unwavering prayer flows.

It is also in the depth of that relationship that we will grow more aware of our Father's character and will. These become the guidelines for confidence in unwavering prayer. "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked Him" (1 John 5:14-15).

The key is to pray according to His will, believing He will accomplish His desire. As we seek to know His will, we can ask Him to reveal that to us. We will find that His will is featured in the life of Jesus, who is "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15) and who "has explained Him" to us (John 1:18).

Study the life and works of Jesus. He came to do the will of the Father (John 5:30; 6:38) and perfectly expresses the character of our heavenly Father. In fact, because the Father and the Son are so intimately connected, when we deepen our fellowship with one, we also deepen our fellowship with the other (1 John 1:3; 2:23-24). Again, this is the essence of eternal life (John 17:3).

For too long my prayer life remained shallow. When I talked with God, I was spending time with a stranger whom I studied, admired, and feared. How wonderfully different it is now to spend time with my heavenly Father and with my Savior, with whom my relationship is growing.

Ask the Father to reveal Himself to you, in a personal way, so that you can begin to experience His love and grace. While we need to continually learn more about God, it will all be in vain if we have no relationship of depth with our Redeemer.

Our life of prayer grows out of the fellowship God has desired with us since our conversion. An intimate relationship is vital to a life of unwavering and power-filled prayer. *SR*

---

*Bill Shobe is pastor of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Houston, Texas.*



# A global movement of concerted prayer

by David Bryant

Wherever I travel, people frequently ask me this question: "What is the most hopeful sign that you see in the great cause of world evangelization?" Without exception my response is the same: "The most hopeful sign on the horizon is the emerging movement of concerted prayer for spiritual awakening worldwide." There are good reasons for such hope.

Take a look at the repeating pattern of movements of united prayer which have occurred prior to major times of spiritual awakening.

For instance, the second Great Awakening of the late 1700s was characterized by a prayer movement, often called "concerts of prayer." This resulted in revival in the church and a worldwide missionary advance that continues to this hour.

In fact, from the beginning the secret of the Kingdom of God is movements of *seekers*. Because ultimately the seekers become the *receivers*. And when they receive, they never do so for their sakes alone, but for the sake of many, many others. This is at the heart of the covenant with Abraham; this is the scope of the Great Commission.

Today, God is accelerating another prayer movement throughout the world. Perhaps you are sensing the tremors where you live.

And how do we explain a movement like this? Clearly the answer is: Just as faith is a gift of God, so prayer is a gift of God. And praying people are a gift of God. And a movement of prayer is also a gift of God. And when God raises up a movement of prayer for spiritual awakening, He intends to answer it. That's why, at an hour of history when the church is rightfully filled

with a sense of holy desperation, we can also be filled with holy anticipation. Christ is on the move.

What characterizes this prayer movement? As I have visited with prayer thrusts around the world, I would mark these four major characteristics currently emerging in most expressions of the movement. I also see them emerging in

*It is a movement that overflows with the spirit of hope.*

local congregations that are taking their calling as "World Christians" seriously:

## 1. The Atmosphere—A growing sense of hope

Not only is the prayer movement the most hopeful sign of our times, it is a movement that overflows with the spirit of hope as well.

Knowing biblically the character of God, praying people have hope that God can and will change our present world and bring about a lasting spiritual awakening today. That's the hope they pray toward. And this hope ignites and sustains the growing Concert of Prayer movement at this hour. As praying people probe God's plan in Christ for the nations, the Spirit of God ignites in them the hope that He places before them, a vision so compelling that they could do nothing else but pray, and call

others to come with them into the work.

We might define this hope-filled focus in prayer concerts by three words based on the word "full":

(1) *Fuller*—We're seeking a fuller revelation of the glory, power and Lordship of Jesus Christ to those united in prayer. (2) *Fullness*—We are praying for the fullness of Christ as Lord to be restored in the midst of his church corporately, in what is called revival or spiritual awakening. (3) *Fulfillment*—We are praying for the resulting fulfillment of Christ's global cause through a revived church, as we enter into his mission within our own situation, as well as among all the peoples of the earth.

In many prayer rallies we pray through what I call the 7 R's of corporate prayer. These can help form the prayer meetings you organize in your local church, as well. They are:

- *Rejoice*—in the Hope that God has set before us and before the world.
- *Repent*—of everything in the church and in us that might hinder the fulfillment of that Hope.
- *Resist*—at every point where the Enemy is seeking to thwart the unfolding of what God has promised to His church and to its mission in the world.
- *Restore*—praying for God to again fill the church with the fullness of the life of Christ.
- *Release*—asking God to release many new works of His Kingdom both locally and worldwide, in compassion, justice and salvation to fulfill Christ's mission.
- *Receive*—taking time to hear and confirm whatever new words of promise and mission God may be speaking to us while we pray.

• *Recommit*—offering ourselves back to the Lord, in view of the great Hope toward which we've prayed, to be used in any way He chooses in answer to our prayers.

Once people have spent time working through the flow of these seven R's, beginning with Rejoicing and ending with Recommitment, many have entered into a profound encounter with Hope in Christ that might even be called a type of "conversion."

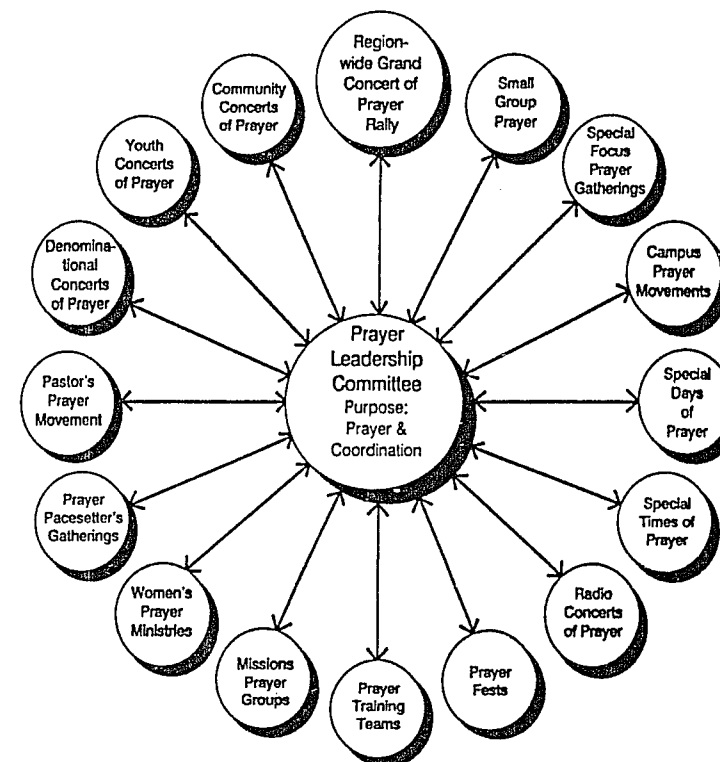
And "conversion" is what we see happening among Christians in the prayer movement. It is not conversion for salvation, but rather conversion as World Christians. The more they pray for citywide and worldwide concerns, the more they can envision what it would look like for God's Kingdom to break through in power. In turn, this generates a deeper hunger for

God's glory. The more people pray for true awakening, the more convinced they become that it must happen! Hunger begets hunger.

## 2. The Shape—A multifaceted movement

Over the past 10 years as I have served the global prayer movement I've been thrilled to observe a second trend: It is maturing from the basic annual prayer rally event, to an actual *movement* that has many exciting facets. Although we have seen tens of thousands gathered in united prayer this past year alone, the thing that excites me far more is to see how the prayer thrust is working its way back into every other dimension of the life of Christians within the city, and within their own churches.

We might diagram this trend with the graphic below:



The vision, in one long sentence, would be:

A multi-faceted prayer movement uniting large numbers of people together in concerted prayer for spiritual awakening and world evangelization, so that God would be pleased to answer their prayers and revive His Church for the world-wide advancement of His Kingdom.

At all levels, where Christians are united in prayer—even if it's only two or three businessmen in their office over the lunch hour—every prayer gathering can be like a "concert of prayer" as long as they focus their prayers on the need for spiritual awakening, and pray for the results to impact the evangelization of the world.

## 3. The Impact—God's way to mobilize for mission

At the heart of the strategy for the emerging prayer movements is a commitment to *mobilization*. First of all, as a community prayer movement grows, it often sets in motion a cycle of prayer that looks something like this:

• *Concert*—A core of participants from a broad spectrum of the body of Christ meeting in regular interdenominational gatherings. In the beginning they are made up primarily of initiators or "prayer pacesetters."

• *Closest*—People carry the vision and spirit of hope from the Concert back into their own times of daily prayer and devotions. They seek God in new ways and with larger vision.

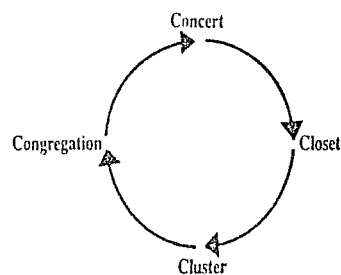
• *Clusters*—The prayer agenda for spiritual awakening and world evangelization then begins to surface in various smaller groups. Here the revitalized pray-ers are able to share themselves in praise and prayer with their families, in Bible study groups, growth groups, prayer bands or prayer triplets.

continued on next page



•**Congregation**—Gradually, the thrust of the concert of prayer movement works its way into times of local church corporate prayer—through the efforts of spiritual leaders and pacesetters within each local body. The entire congregation has times of united prayer for spiritual awakening and world evangelization which may occur, for example, during 10 minutes in each morning worship hour.

•**Concert**—The initial pacesetters continue to return to each citywide concert of prayer, not only to renew their own vision and faith, but also to bring others with them from their own small groups and congregations in order to mobilize more people into the movement of prayer where they live. The “conversion” process continues to spread.



However, the prayer movement not only mobilizes prayer within the life of the local church; it not only “converts” people into World Christians; but as it gathers Christians together in united prayer, God uses it to network and expand ministry and mission activities that flow directly out of the prayer movement itself.

**4. The Compass—Leaders leading the way**

The key to sustaining the work of prayer rests primarily on God-ordained leadership—within both churches and cities. I call them “prayer pacesetters.” And God is giving them to the church in increasing numbers.

They set the pace by (1) faithfully attending prayer gatherings,

(2) spreading the vision for a prayer movement and spiritual awakening back in their local congregation or ministry, and (3) bringing others with them to the next united prayer event, or into other types of united prayer efforts within their homes, schools, work and churches.

Often the initial pacesetters are those already moving with a mis-

people to be clear on the Hope they are praying toward. The next most strategic principle however, is: “That the leaders lead the way.” And that’s exactly what’s happening across the land!

Here then are some of the emerging trends in a global movement of concerted prayer: (1) The

**God is bringing the Church to the threshold of spiritual awakening.**

sion vision. Because they are living for the advance of Christ’s global cause, both locally and worldwide, they are already aware of the desperate need to get God’s people praying. Like the Levites assigned to the tabernacle of old, their job is to get all of the people of God praying as “priests,” so that they become a kingdom of priests.

One of the most exciting developments is the emergence of pastors in concerted prayer. For over a year in Los Angeles, nearly 1,000 pastors have gathered together every three months to seek God’s face for spiritual awakening and global mission. This began when only a few pastors, who had been praying together in secret, extended an invitation for others to join them. The response was overwhelming.

The same has happened recently in New York City, where 350 pastors came to a Pastor’s Concert of Prayer. The only attraction was the call to prayer, not a personality or a famous singing group. And after spending three hours in such prayer, they stated that they wanted to unite like this again at least two or three times a year. One person remarked that this was the most significant gathering of pastors in New York City since the great prayer revival of 1858.

Two important principles ignite and sustain prayer movements: The first, as we’ve seen is: Help

atmosphere—a growing sense of hope. (2) **The shape**—a multifaceted movement. (3) **The impact**—God’s way to mobilize for mission. (4) **The compass**—leaders leading the way.

What we are seeing at citywide and nationwide levels of united prayer is *equally applicable and practical to every local church* concerned for becoming God’s base of operations for the advance of His Kingdom. God wants every local church to be swelling with the spirit of hope, multifaceted in all of the ways it prays, mobilized out of prayer for mission, and directed where God wants them to go by the leaders who first led them into the work of prayer.

Dr. Paul Cedar, formerly senior pastor at Lake Avenue Congregational Church and now president of the Evangelical Free Church in America, has said: “I believe the concert of prayer movement is the most significant of any spiritual movement in my lifetime.”

Truly, today’s prayer movement is a miracle from God. And why is it happening? Because God is bringing the Church to the threshold of spiritual awakening and worldwide evangelization. The time for such a united prayer effort where *you* live has come. **SR**

*David Bryant is president of Concerts of Prayer International, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

**MORE 2000 churches hard at work—and prayer**

A vital part of our new Mission of Revival and Evangelism (MORE 2000) has been prayer. Each of the area group meetings begins with a concert of prayer, Conference delegates in Kansas prayed for our pilot program churches, and we continue to pray for those brothers and sisters at our weekly Center chapel services.

Prayer took on an active and transforming role during one of the plan’s recent “phases.” Phase five calls for the pastor to seek God’s vision for that local church. Talk about something that calls for serious prayer!

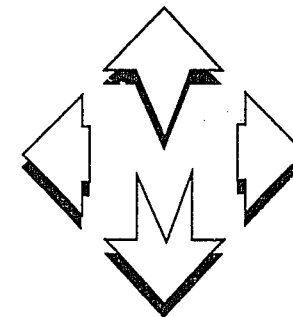
To help facilitate this, the church allows the pastor to seek the Lord during a three-day personal retreat. The goal for this time is to ask the Lord to reveal His vision for that church, to that church’s leader.

Two of the California churches rallied behind their pastors by praying for them during the whole retreat. Two-hour blocks of time were chosen by the members to pray for God’s vision to be revealed. And things happened.

Not only did God reveal a clear (and different) vision to each of the pilot churches, but He also moved among the membership as they prayed.

Michelle Griffin, part of the Bay Area leadership team, felt that the prayer time “really unified the church” as members concentrated on Pastor Steven Crouch and the mission of the Bay Area church. “I felt a special peace during that time.”

Pastor Bob Babcock of the Santa Barbara church “felt” the prayers of his people. “When God really spoke to me during the quiet times, I



knew that one of our church members was praying for me right at that moment.”

Even the children got involved. Jane Mackintosh, team member of the Bay Area group, saw three young girls march out of the house, with Bible in hand, determined to pray for their pastor.

“They decided to do it together,” Jane explained. She suggested that they be with God in nature, up on the hill behind the house which

the MORE 2000 process with the members, answering questions like: “Why was the church involved in the program?” “Why did the pastor need to go on a retreat?” And she was able to stress the main reason for the prayer time: To find out what more God wants for the Bay Area church.

Answers to prayer came to others than just the pastors. Rick, a young Christian in the Bay Area group, had finished his prayer time about two hours before he was to go to his job as janitor in a very rough area of the city. Everything seemed to be against him—he felt physically ill and had many excuses to stay at home. But off to work he went.

Still quite sick, he was amazed to hear a co-worker ask, “What are you so happy about?” And he was serious! Rick was able to share

**Prayer took on an active and transforming role during one of the plan’s recent phases.**

overlooks the harbor. “There was no real talking during the time. They studied the Word and prayed individually. Then they each memorized a passage and wrote out what that passage meant to them.” Not bad for two sixth-graders and a fourth-grader.

“They came back glowing!”

Jane helped to organize the prayer time segments for the church members. In explaining the responsibilities, she suggested they take time to study the Bible and pray. Jane was also able to recap

about his faith in Jesus, and the curious friend wanted to hear more. If that wasn’t enough, Rick met with someone else later that same week who also asked to hear more about Rick’s faith. Time in prayer led to these divine appointments.

It meant a lot to the pastors knowing that their church was behind them, actively, through prayer. Please take some time to pray for your pastor and church, that God would reveal His desire and vision to you. **SR**

## How should SDBs pray?

by Dale E. Rood

As I have grown in the Lord, I have come to see prayer as a matter of waging spiritual war. Ephesians 6:12 points to the nature of this battle: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

In this war, guns and atom bombs are mere toys. The armies of the world are mere pawns in the hands of the spiritual rulers who oppose the Lord of Hosts. The way to fight this war is not with mighty weapons of warfare, but down on our knees appealing to our God who controls the war.

This is not the sort of thing we see with our eyes or hear with our ears. We need an eternal perspective, what songwriter Twila Paris has called, "Forever Eyes."

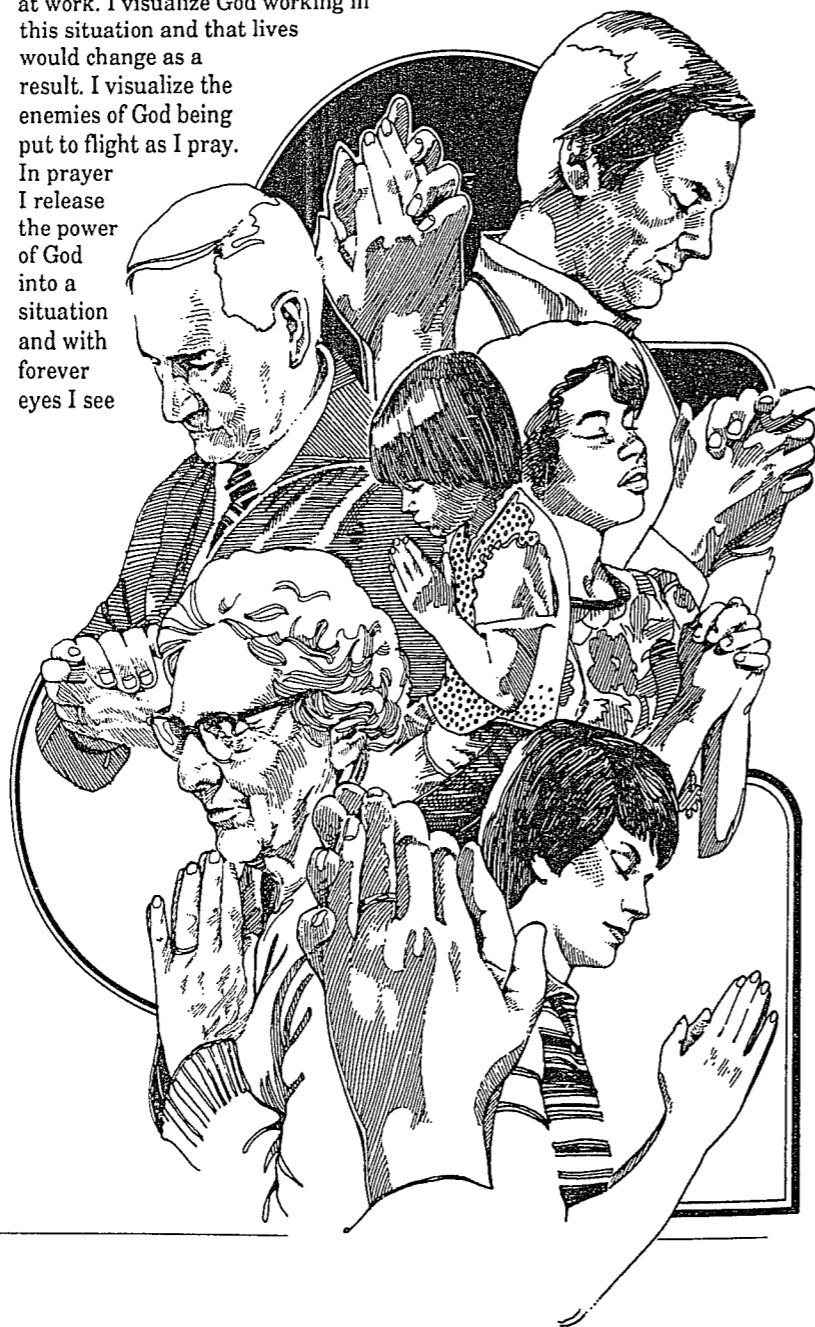
This is what the disciples had when they prayed in Acts 4:23-30. They were seeing what God was doing, and moving with Him in prayer. God responded by a new filling of the Holy Spirit that shook the place where they were and prompted them to be bold in proclaiming the Word of God. This is what Peter had in Acts 10:9 when he was praying on the rooftop. In a vision, the Lord revealed to Peter His plan for including the Gentiles in the people of God.

Oh, that we might have forever eyes in praying for Seventh Day Baptists; that we might see the gigantic spiritual battles being waged over Seventh Day Baptists even as we read this article; that in response to our prayer the places where we are might be shaken and the Word of God proclaimed boldly.

One thing we can always pray for is that God be glorified. In praying for the sick, I can always pray that God be glorified and His power displayed in such a way that the sick person and those around him or her would see that it is God at work. I visualize God working in this situation and that lives would change as a result. I visualize the enemies of God being put to flight as I pray. In prayer I release the power of God into a situation and with forever eyes I see

Him working in the way He chooses, defeating the enemy and moving ahead to victory.

In healing, if God heals physically I rejoice that His power is displayed in the situation. But if healing does not happen in a way



that can be measured by observation, I expect God's power and love to be displayed in some other way which we will be able to recognize. In praying for God to be glorified, always pray that His glory will be seen by the key people involved (John 9:3).

We can pray for these things on the authority of God's Word:

- Laborers for the harvest (Matthew 9:37-38)
- The rule of God to prevail (Matthew 6:10)
- Needs to be supplied—our own, our friends and loved ones, our church (Matthew 6:11, Philippians 4:19)
- Wisdom (James 1:5)
- Boldness to proclaim God's Word (Luke 1:74; Acts 4:29, 18:9)
- The peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6, Isaiah 62:6-7)

What are some situations which we can pray for among Seventh Day Baptists? Some key areas to

mention specifically are:

- 1) The Philippines, for Eli Paypa of our Philippine SDB Convention, and for Corizon Aquino and the Philippine government for peace and stability in which to proclaim God's Word.
- 2) Myanmar (Burma), for stability in that country, and for L. Sawi Thanga and the Myanmar SDB Conference to boldly declare God's Word.
- 3) Our extension churches and pastors in the United States and Canada, for laborers for the harvest, and for health and growth.
- 4) Missionary Tom McElwain and Pastor Risto Sorsa in Finland, for fruit for the harvest in Finland and also in the Soviet Union.
- 5) The South African SDB Conference, for protection from the turmoil in that land and for boldness in proclaiming God's Word of peace and Good News.

6) Brazil, Mexico, Guyana, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, the Cameroons, Malawi (and our missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe), Poland, Great Britain, Germany, Nigeria, and India, for a zeal to work toward the fruitfulness of the Kingdom.

7) Those particular areas of concern among Seventh Day Baptists where you want to see God's power and love released and obstacles overcome.

Finally, I have been asked to serve as the personal prayer warrior for my wife, Althea, our Conference president. Pray that, in being "Called to Obedience" this year, God's power and love will be displayed in our midst so that people will see God and be drawn to Him. SR

Dale Rood is pastor of the Dodge Center, Minnesota, SDB Church.

## David Bryant on MORE 2000

*Editor's note: David Bryant, president of Concerts of Prayer International (see article page 6), visited the SDB Center in Janesville to discuss prayer and the denomination's new Mission of Revival and Evangelism (MORE 2000). I was glad to catch this busy traveler as he was in between two denominational gatherings who had asked him to teach on prayer.*

*The following is excerpted from my interview with David and contains his positive evaluation of our new plan.*

In looking at MORE 2000, I like it because the word **more** is a key characteristic in the thinking and perspective of people who have been catalysts for revival.

In Martyn Lloyd-Jones' book on revival, one of the major emphases he makes is that there is something **more**; that we've got to believe that there's something far **more** that

God wants to do in His church.

When I'm at the meeting this evening, I'm going to be asking these three **more** questions. They all work with this idea of **more**.

The first one is this: "Is there **more** of Christ to be revealed to us as His people—**more** of His power, His presence, His person, and His purpose than we have yet seen?" Second, "In light of the desperate needs and the great challenges inside the church, do we need to be seeking that revelation of Christ far **more** than we do?" And third, "In light of the desperate needs and great challenges that we face in the outward mission of the church, can we ever seek that greater revelation of Christ too **much**?"

You can't fight those three questions.

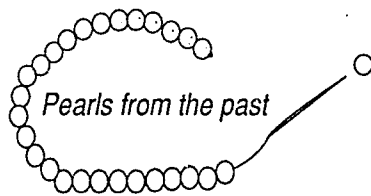
That brings us to the whole

principle of seekers.

I often say that the secret of God's Kingdom is *seekers*, because it is the seekers who become the *receivers*. And when they receive, they never receive just for themselves alone, but for the sake of many, many others. There's the idea of **more**.

There's a lot going on in the church that's calling us to **do more**, but what God's calling us to do is to **seek more**.

In fact, you could almost say that if a seeking process has begun in a local church or denomination, in a sense, then, the first phase of revival has begun, because the only reason people start getting serious about seeking God again is because God is already beginning to awaken them to the fact that there's something **more**. SR



# A prayer meeting under a haystack

by Don A. Sanford, historian

troubling him, i.e.: Was Jesus' word "Go" meant for him? And if he was to go, who would "send" him?

A wonderful thing happened as Sam talked to his four friends. Every one of them said he had thought of these things, too. Why didn't the people of the churches organize so that they could send out those who felt the urge of Jesus' words to go?

Just then there was a streak of lightning and a clap of thunder and it began to rain a torrent of rain. They had been so engrossed in Sam's words that they had not noticed a big, black cloud in the sky right over them. "Come on," one of the young men yelled, "Here's a haystack; let's get in out of the rain!" So they dashed to the haystack and packed in close together to get out of the rain.

As they huddled together, so close they could hear each other breathing, one of them said, "Why don't we pray while we wait for it to stop raining?" So, the five young men prayed about the idea of encouraging the churches to organize so as to send out those who felt God's leading to go into all the world and tell the story of His love. And before they were through praying every one of them had pledged God that they would go if God wanted them to do so and if the people in the churches would send them out.

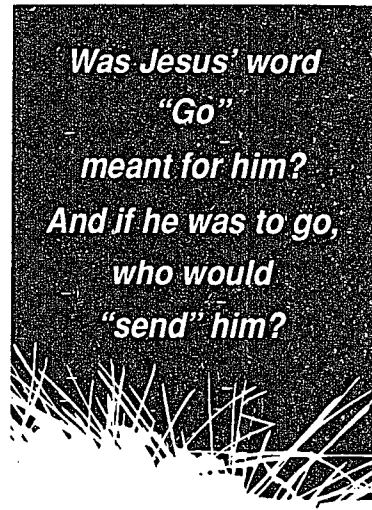
Right then and there was the birthplace of the modern foreign missionary movement that has spread over the world. God broke into the world with a big, new idea in such a humble place as a haystack. This was in 1806. A few years later the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society was organized—1818—and reorganized in 1840.

At Williams College today there

is a marble shaft to mark the place where the haystack stood. On top of the shaft there is a globe, representing the world, and on the globe are these words:

*The field is the world—the birthplace of American Foreign Missions—1806:*

*Samuel J. Mills, James Richards, Francis Robbins, Harvey Loomis, and Byram Greene. SR*



# SR Almanac

Where we have been...

## One year ago—November 1989

Pastor Leon Wheeler, Alfred, New York, recruits local members to write features about the environment. Regular columns follow the same theme.

Conference President Joe Samuels begins to lay out his vision for SDBs.

Malankara Conference in India joins the SDB World Federation.

Report of new missionaries, Ian and Trudy Ingoe, arriving safely in Malawi.

San Diego church welcomes new pastor, Bernie Wethington.

## Five years ago—November 1985

New Training In Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) project explained.

SDB Bible study leader wounded by gunmen in the Philippines.

New York State Assembly of SDB Churches votes to disband, but churches plan for future ministry opportunities.

United Relief Fund responds to severe earthquake in Mexico.

Christian Education page encourages personal devotional life.

## 10 years ago—November 1980

Conference President Charles Graffius promotes January 4 as Day of Fasting and Prayer.

James Chang's letter from China to General Conference shared.

Over 600 people request Bible correspondence courses from SDB fair booth in Memphis, Tennessee.

Women's Board moves from Colorado to California.

Verona, New York, reports on new discipleship classes, growth, and 16 baptisms (including this editor).

## 25 years ago—November 1965

1965 noted as the "parsonage year" as many churches built or bought new parsonages.

"Contemporary Conflict," a special issue edited by Ruth Ellis, features writing from young people.

Literature booth in Kansas City attracts many.

Mrs. George Thorngate retires as office manager for her doctor husband and four sons (all doctors).

Salem College President K. Duane Hurley on European college and church tour.

## 50 years ago—November 1940

Historic church building at Newport, Rhode Island, houses another yearly meeting. The first was held in 1696.

A new "Who's Who" column highlights SDB pastors.

Editorial calls for courage to give thanks to God during "the misery about us"—poverty, cold, hunger, and the horrors of war.

New certificate for conscientious objectors made available from the corresponding secretary of Conference, Courtland V. Davis.

Long-awaited biographical sketch of Stephan Babcock appears as special supplement.

## 75 years ago—November 1915

Our first "denominational school," DeRuyter (New York) Institute, founded in 1837, remembered.

Detailed notes relate happenings at various Associations.

New "Lone Sabbath Keepers' Directory" lists over 1,000 names and addresses.

Death of Rev. Darwin Lippincott listed.

"The Sabbath for Man," Conference address by Rev. James L. Skaggs, presented.

Pastor C.B. Loufbourrow installed at Walworth, Wisconsin.

...where are we headed?

## Pray...

- for the preservation of our environment
- that we all seek God's vision
- for our missionaries at home and abroad
- for our denominational budget situation
- that we could always find reasons to give thanks
- for peace in the troubled Middle East
- for our United Relief Fund ministries



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

## Women, we need to pray

*"The effective prayer of a righteous man (or woman) can accomplish much" (James 5:16, NASB; parentheses mine).*

I came away from Conference with the need to pray more: more for my children, more for my pastor husband Don and his ministry, more for my unsaved neighbors, more for my church family, more for our work with the Women's Board, more for our denomination. I am fooling myself if I think that I can accomplish things for the Lord


seek the Lord and His direction. There are unbelievable results, but there are right ways and wrong ways of praying that need to be remembered. The Psalmist says, "If I regard wickedness (iniquity) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." I cannot expect results from my prayers if I have unconfessed sins in my life.

Perhaps I don't blatantly sin or deliberately go against God's will,

clearly revealed to us as we minister on behalf of the denomination's women. Our new churches and fellowships desperately need our prayers as they seek to grow and minister to their communities. Those of us in established churches may not understand the frustrations that come with beginning a new work (unless we have gone through that with our own church family).

We need to pray for all of our pastors and leaders and their spouses. Sometimes the cost of leadership takes a toll on the family and on oneself. We need to pray for our denomination as a body. We have some difficult and yet exciting days ahead of us. The Lord is waiting for us to cry out to Him for wisdom and direction.

Does your church have an intercessory prayer group which meets regularly to lift before the Lord people and programs, dreams and goals? If not, why not organize one? Perhaps you and a friend or neighbor can meet often to pray together. Get a copy of *What Happens When Women Pray* and use it for your personal growth or Bible study group. Let's see how much we can accomplish for the Lord as we all pray earnestly together in His name for each other.

The new Women's Board will be praying for guidance. One goal we have is to get ourselves organized and acquainted with the tasks before us. We also want to be effective communicators with all of you. We need to hear from you about your ministries, your goals, your dreams, your women. Please send your information to me: Mrs. Charlotte Chroniger, P.O. Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353 

but maybe I have a wrong attitude toward someone. Maybe I've never forgiven someone for something said or done against me. Perhaps I spoke harshly to my husband, my children, or my neighbor. I need to confess bad attitudes, unforgiveness, or angry words to God before I can expect Him to hear and answer my prayers.

The new Women's Board officers and committee members need your prayers of intercession. We need to have God's will and direction



**Let's see how much we can accomplish for the Lord as we all pray earnestly together.**

without prayer. We are deceiving ourselves if we think our churches can be true witnesses for the Lord and have successes and growth without bathing the ministry with prayer.

Many of you may have used Evelyn Christenson's book, *What Happens When Women Pray* (Victor Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1977), for a Bible study group or prayer group. As I reflected on the issue of prayer, I pulled this book off of the shelf and began to reread it.

Mrs. Christenson gives many true-life examples of what happens when God-fearing women earnestly

## The President's Page

### Called to pray—and listen

by Althea Rood



Althea Rood

Prayer is an integral part of developing a relationship with God. In fact, our initial relationship with God is dependent upon sharing our need for Him and our desire to have Him live in and through us.

Viewing prayer in this way, we can learn much about cultivating a

**Listening is an art that needs to be practiced.**

relationship with God as we look at our other cherished relationships.

Let me share some qualities that I value in my friends. A true friend is: faithful, compassionate, trustworthy, committed to God, forgiving, encouraging, honest, a listener, someone who accepts me as I am and encourages me to become all that I can be through Jesus Christ. These same qualities are applicable in our relationship with God.

If I were to choose one quality that I value and desire to show to others, it would be the art of listening. In our hurried society,

***In our hurried society, there is a tremendous need for someone who listens!***


there is a tremendous need for someone who listens! In surveys of parents and children, listening is often listed as the greatest need. If listening is so important in our human relationships, it is much more important in our relationship with God.

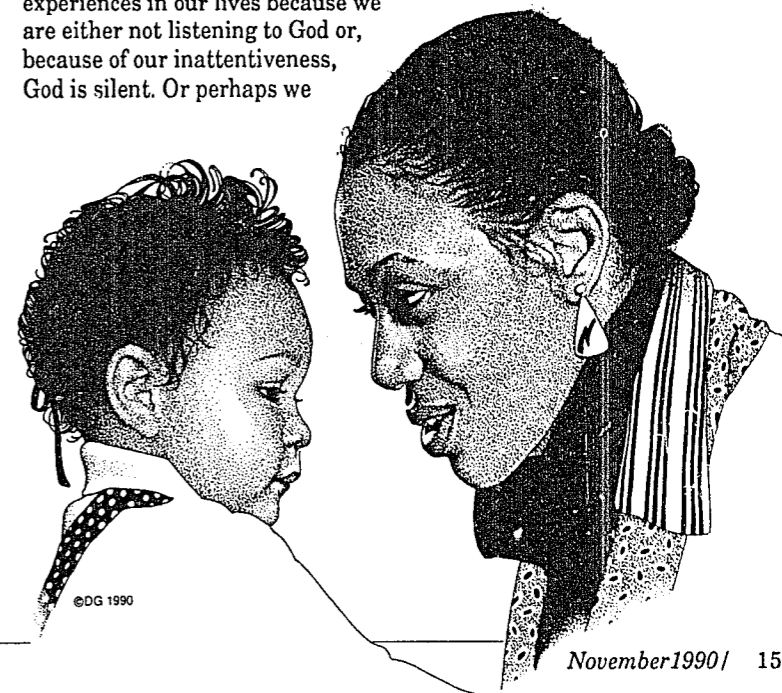
God has been challenging me recently in the area of prayer and listening. In the Gospel of John, Jesus talks about the sheep listening to the voice of the shepherd. The Word really speaks to me when Jesus says, "...and his sheep follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:4).

I believe that many times we miss out on exciting and powerful experiences in our lives because we are either not listening to God or, because of our inattentiveness, God is silent. Or perhaps we

haven't listened enough to know His voice. Listening is an art that needs to be practiced.

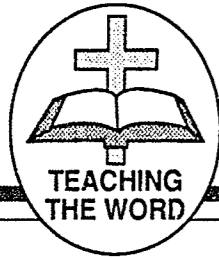
God may speak to us and encourage us to go visit someone. The blessing may come when you discover that the other person had been lonely and had prayed that God would send someone—and that someone was you! The Christian life is not meant to be dull or mechanical; it is meant to be abundant!

How about you? Are you missing out on the adventure by failing to listen or by failing to do what He shows you? May each of us learn to listen more carefully to His voice and to act on it in obedience. 



©DG 1990





## Christian Education

# New Pre-school Sabbath Nurture Series

The *Sabbath Nurture Series* has all new materials for pre-schoolers. If your 4 and 5-year-olds are a top priority for your Sabbath School, you will want to order these special Sabbath-oriented lessons.

Ruth Anne Peil, Rialto, California, is the editor/writer and artist. Beautiful two-color artwork, lesson pullout, finger puppets, and a variety of pupil activities present the Sabbath to pre-schoolers.

The Student Activity Books include lesson cut-outs for each of the 13 lessons. They are created to assist the teacher in guiding the children through one quarter's biblical lessons concerning the Sabbath.

The Teacher's Book provides 36 pages of step-by-step lesson plans. The suggested format includes stories and rhymes which will involve the pre-schoolers in an exciting learning experience of God's Sabbath Day. Action songs supplement the presentation.

The Children's Songs book includes guitar chords and hand movements. You may use the accompanying cassette tape which contains a music only section and music with voices section. You do not have to be a musician to teach the lessons.

The pre-school 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 was supervised by the American Sabbath Tract and Communication Council.

*Sabbath Nurture Series* materials (all new Pre-school, Primary revised, Junior revised and Senior High) are on the shelves and ready for your order now from the Seventh Day Baptist Center, P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.



### Pre-school Nurture Lesson Topics

#### Unit 1—God Shows Us the Way

God Made Me  
God Makes the Rules  
In God's House—Jesus  
I Will Obey—Jesus  
Samuel Serves the Lord

#### Unit 2—Jesus Our Teacher

Jesus Loves Me  
Lord of the Sabbath  
Jesus Heals

#### Unit 3—Little Ones Help

Giving  
Thanking  
Asking  
Paul Takes a Trip  
Paul Tells Everyone



## FOCUS on Missions

by Leon R. Lawton

### Malawi, Africa

Throughout September, violence and fighting increased in Mozambique, just across the river from Chipho where the new clinic was opened in May. Nearly 5,000 new refugees left Mozambique for the safety of the Chipho area of Malawi. This is adding to the growing number of patients! At the same time the Malawi government that helps fund private medical work through the Private Hospital Association of Malawi (PHAM) has not been able to meet the needs. Such support, which has been up to three months late in coming, is now threatened altogether.

Pastor Ronald H.F. Barrar, a former missionary in Malawi, retired as pastor of the Auckland, New Zealand SDB Church this fall and is now at Makapwa Station. One of his ministries is giving further education to Theological Education by Extension (T.E.E.) graduates that will enable them to assume teaching/leadership roles.

Rev. A.K. Harawa, corresponding secretary of the Central Africa Conference of SDBs, Blantyre, Malawi, has resigned and retired to his home in the northern region. The pressure of work has been heavy, and he has considered this action for over a year.

### Finland; Estonia; USSR

Pastor Risto Sorsa of Helsinki, Finland, president of the European Free Street Mission (Seventh Day Baptist), spent from May to mid-July in Estonia in evangelistic outreach. "The Gospel is moving ahead there. During our last series of meetings dozens made decisions for Christ, among them a police officer. The sick were healed and all of the marks of the apostolic times appeared."

"We thank you for the gifts ... on behalf of Estonians and Russians. We are now printing the Gospel of John in Russian. We have ordered 10,000 copies to start with and hope to continue with hundreds of thousands. The situation in Estonia is quite good so I am working Russia based from Estonia. Time is short and we must hasten to work while we can."

The churches in Finland and Estonia have joined together in the Baltic Seventh Day Baptist Conference (literally Yearly Meeting). Since printing is less expensive in Estonia, periodic church publications in both languages have been started, in addition to tracts and gospels. The churches are working closely together and Missionary Tom McElwain is spending time in special meetings in Estonia this fall.

### Reaching out—USA and Canada

Reaching out for Christ is a growing desire of God's people gathered under the name of Seventh Day Baptist. God continues to bring new individuals and groups into contact with Conference leaders. Members of existing SDB churches are being convicted of the need to personally become involved in starting new groups in various parts of the United States and Canada.

Since General Conference at least three locations have emerged where God may be calling new SDB churches into being. Extension of the Kingdom of God cannot cease as we obey the Lord Jesus Christ and the Great Commission which He gave us. Please pray with us that the Lord will supply both the leadership and other resources to fully honor Him in these places.

Since July, Director of Extension Russell Johnson has been working full-time to aid our churches, new contacts, and possible groups. Thus we are better meeting the growing needs that Rodney Henry, in only a part-time ministry in this role, could not fully meet.

### Turku, Finland

Missionary Tom McElwain and daughter, Anna Maria, were able to be present at the General Conference sessions in Lindsborg, Kansas, in August. After over three years service in this new field, basic goals have been met—the establishment of a growing new SDB witness having local leadership. As noted above, this joins new SDB churches in both Finland and Estonia into a new Conference, and extends their ministries into Russia as well. Thus Tom will be able to close his ministry at the end of 1990. Pray that the Lord will direct Tom into a new and vital place for continued ministry!

### Miami, Florida, USA

The Miami SDB congregation had a special Missions Sabbath on October 20 with Leon R. Lawton speaking. It is easy for any Christian to become "nearsighted" with their interest, and minister only in their community or area. But there are millions of unreached peoples around the world that have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel. He shared how the work and witness of Seventh Day Baptists is growing in the USA and Canada and in over 20 countries around the world.



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship

November 1990

## National YF news

Youth Fellowship members voted at the 1990 General Conference to officially adopt a new name: Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.

The Conference Youth Interest Committee under the leadership of Pastor Andrew Samuels, chairman, and Kristin Rood, secretary, worked on amending the Youth Fellowship Constitution. It is presented to the members of the SDBYF of U.S.A. and Canada for study. Absentee ballots will be printed in the March *Beacon* for those who will be unable to attend the 1991 annual YF business meeting at Houghton College.

## Youth Fellowship Constitution

### Article I—Name

*Section 1.* The name of this organization is the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.

### Article II—Aims

- Section 1.*
- To share the necessity of knowing Jesus Christ as a personal Savior.
  - To enhance the knowledge of God's Word and apply it to our daily lives.
  - To increase the understanding of the Biblical Sabbath and share its true joy.
  - To help develop the skills and wisdom necessary to share our belief with others.
  - To encourage communication throughout the year amongst all SDB youth.
  - To support and promote an exciting youth program during the week of General Conference.
  - To follow Jesus' example of putting others first.

### Article III—Membership

*Section 1.* All members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowships or Seventh Day Baptist Youth shall be members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada. Voting members shall be of ages 12-22.

### Article IV—Business

- Section 1.* An annual business session of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada shall be held Wednesday evening at General Conference.
- Section 2.* Business shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Section 3.* Between business sessions, business will be conducted by the Commission.

### Article V—Officer's Duties

- Section 1.* The Commission shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada, the communications officer, the youth advisor, and the Youth Committee Chairman of the Board of Christian Education ex-officio.
- Section 2.* The officers shall promote attendance at Pre-Con and aid the directors when such aid is called for. They shall assume responsibility for planning Conference youth activities. They shall conduct all elections of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada officers.
- Section 3.* The President shall preside over meetings of the Commission and be responsible for delegations of duties to the members.
- Section 4.* Should the President be absent, the Vice President shall be prepared to act on his/her behalf.
- Section 5.* The Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings of the Commission and carry out all correspondence relating to Conference activities.
- Section 6.* The Treasurer shall keep a record of Youth Fellowships, and take charge of all financial records.

*Section 7.* The communications officer shall encourage communication among the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada, and work with the Board of Christian Education to secure articles for the *Beacon*.

### Article VI—Elections

- Section 1.* Nomination of the officers, with the exception of the communications officer, from the SDBYF membership shall be made by Association youth prior to the Conference at which they will be elected.
- Section 2.* The election shall be held during Conference week, with those members absent applying for absentee ballots two months prior to Conference, all members having been notified.
- Section 3.* The officers shall serve a one-year term.
- Section 4.* The communications officer shall be appointed by the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada Commission.

### Article VII—Vacancies

- Section 1.* If the office of President falls vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of that Office.
- Section 2.* All other vacancies shall be filled by action of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada Commission.

### Article VIII—Amendments

- Section 1.* This Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote cast at the annual meeting at General Conference provided three months notice has been given.
- Section 2.* For those unable to attend Conference, an absentee ballot will be provided in order to vote on any amendment.

### Article IX—Ratification

*Section 1.* This Constitution shall take effect with a two-thirds vote at the annual meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship of U.S.A. and Canada.

# Pastor Profile

**Name:** Rev. John M. Peil

### Birthdate and place:

September 24, 1944, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

### Current pastorate:

San Gabriel, California

### Family:

Wife--Ruthie  
Daughter--Suzannah, 15  
Son--John, 12

### Education:

B.A. in History, 1973, Point Loma College  
M.Div., 1975, AB Seminary of the West  
M.S. Marriage & Family Therapy, 1985  
License in Marriage & Family Therapy, 1987

### Former pastorates/employment:

Pastor: Verona, New York  
Church planter:  
Blountville, Tennessee  
San Diego, California

### My first job was:

Working on my grandfather's farm from ages 8 to 16. Roofing for Paul Owen at ages 18 and 19, after I graduated from high school.

### Personal hero:

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

### Favorite childhood memory:

I remember walking in my father's footsteps as a child in the field he plowed by night. The moon was full. As I followed him I sang, "Jesus Loves Me." Suddenly I was intensely aware of the Lord and He spoke to me in my spirit, saying, "This is not just a song. I do love you." I knew He was real and I knew I wanted to serve Him.



### Favorite Bible passage:

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, oh man..."

### Favorite author:

Fyodor Dostoevsky

### If given an all-expense paid vacation:

I'd go where my wife wanted me to go. (She says, "Anywhere together! Maybe Alaska on a cruise.")

### A great answer to prayer was:

- 1) Finding a beautiful wife
- 2) Becoming bi-professional in order to support the ministry

### A church project I'm excited about:

My church continuing to be at peace.

### My vision for SDBs:

That we might be able to find our place in modern society without destroying our pastors.

## SDB churches set on "FIRE"

What comes to mind when you think of fire? A devastating situation, the color red, marshmallows? Actually, fire was one of the most exciting things that happened to Seventh Day Baptists this summer. It came in the form of eight exceptionally bright and talented young people that brought their desire to serve the Lord to Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC).

Team "FIRE" consisted of DeLynne Jorgensen and Faith Camenga who made up team Fathom in Battle Creek, Michigan. Jim Plane was their project director. Andrew Camenga and Michael Peters were team Illuminate at the Westerly/New Life project in Rhode

Island and Connecticut. Brenda Palmer was their director. Jeff Roberts and Duane Taylor served as team Refuge at Camp Paul

of training in Battle Creek, each team set out for their projects until July 30. It was then that they all arrived in Kansas for evaluation

**Keep this ministry in your prayers,  
and consider how the Lord can use you in SCSC.**

Hummel, Colorado, with Pastor Gordon Lawton as their director. Connie Hays and Mary Scott made up team Eagle in Salem, West Virginia. Charles Randolph served as their project director.

After 10 adventure-packed days

and some well deserved rest before Conference.

Staff for training included Pastor George Calhoun, Pastor Bill Shobe, Althea Rood, and Camille Henry. Providing incredible meals were Vivian Looper and Shari Severance.

In the book of Matthew, chapter 28:19-20, we read, "Go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Team FIRE did just that—sharing the love and saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ wherever they went. Many lives were changed as a result of the SCSC staff and workers, and we praise God for their dedication.

Keep this ministry in your prayers, and consider how the Lord can use you in SCSC. Perhaps you could open your home to a worker next summer, or prayerfully consider the job of project director. You could encourage a young person in your church to become part of an SCSC team, and then pray for them throughout their project.

Summer Christian Service Corps is making an impact for Christ. Won't you consider what you can do to continue this vital ministry? Remember: "It only takes a spark to get a FIRE going..."

## Denver spreading the NETs

by Myrna Cox


September 14, 15, and 16 found nine campers and five staff from the Denver SDB Church retreating to Camp Paul Hummel for a week-end of Natural Evangelism Training (NET). The weekend proved to be enjoyable and fruitful for all.

Training (12 hours) was interspersed with vespers, alone time, recreation, fellowship, and great meals prepared by Barbara White and Pat Williams. Gretchen Zwiebel led us Friday evening in vespers, and Pastor Ralph Grosser led us Sabbath night. Daryl White and Myrna Cox shared in the teaching.

This is the second time this training has been offered to our church, and a retreat setting was initiated instead of our previous 13-week course. Evaluation of the weekend indicates that a retreat setting is a great way to go, but we

may need to expand it to three days in order to have more study time. This was not only a good way for us to study together our beliefs, our spiritual gifts and how to witness (keeping always in focus that our real message is Jesus Christ), but was also a fantastic way to become acquainted with one another and have true fellowship.

The NET course was also offered in a mini-adaption to the Junior/Senior High Sabbath School classes during the month of September. A potluck dinner was held Sunday evening, September 30, for all who had completed the course. Rev. Ernest Bee, executive director of the Board of Christian Education, was able to meet with us. It was a time for us to share our "ins and outs" of joy.

To date, 28 adults and 10 youth in our church have completed the Natural Evangelism Training. 

## God is moving in Missouri

by Leigh Stewart

The Kirkwood, Missouri, Seventh Day Baptist Church is one of the newer churches in our denomination. It came into being after dissolving the old Farina, Illinois, SDB Church, that had survived some 120 years.

Many years ago Missouri had Sabbathkeepers scattered across the "Show-Me State," but history tells us that the first SDB church was at Naylor in the 1980s. This growing group was named the Faith SDB Church when it moved to Doniphan, Missouri. Pastor Ron Elston has done a remarkable job.

Recently ordained Pastor Jon Warren, along with his wife Jeanie and daughter Sheri, have started a new group just outside of Jefferson City, in the village of


Elston (no relation to Ron). It, too, is growing.

These three groups form a huge triangle that covers nearly a quarter of the state. It was these three that hosted the Southwestern Association in June. It was well attended and we are sure that it was a spiritual uplift to all who were there.

We praise God that Pastor Ron and Pastor Jon are so very helpful at Kirkwood. Then we got the good news that Pastor Wayne Colflesh has once again agreed to be back with us once a month. He helped when we struggled as a "fellowship," but as a busy teacher in a parochial school, driving 185 miles one way on Sabbath morning

became quite a burden. Just recently, one couple that was with us so faithfully has moved back to Virginia.

Some of you who know Senator Jennings Randolph may be aware that his residence is close to the Kirkwood Church. He never misses a service. His political history goes from 1932-1985. He reminded all of us recently that it was a West Virginia woman that promoted "Mother's Day"; a West Virginia gentleman that got the Congress to set aside a holiday for fathers; and it was the Honorable Jennings Randolph that gave us "Grandparents' Day."

He is truly an inspiration to all of us. 

## Relief Fund meeting many needs

A letter of thanksgiving from your Christian Social Action Committee to the supporters of the Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund:

Thanks to your faithfulness and caring response to crises as they occur, the SDB United Relief Fund has been able to respond to various situations in the last year.

Charleston SC (hurricane relief)	\$8,000
SDB minister's family (illness and stress)	\$1,000
SDB minister's family (fire)	\$1,250
Baptist World Aid (starvation)	\$5,000
SDB minister's family (illness)	\$1,700
Province of Uyyalawasr, India (cyclone)	\$3,000
Province of Uyyalawasr, India (cyclone)	\$2,000
SDB minister's family (illness)	\$1,398
World Relief (refugees in Jordan)	\$7,500
	\$30,848


Early in our experience as the new core committee, we voted to maintain a balance of \$5,000 in case of emergency. There are many organizations which might receive the balance above the \$5,000; we're in the process of investigating which ones need it most and would use it most wisely.

Your gifts to those affected by Hurricane Hugo had far-reaching results, spiritually as well as physically. People thanked God for the relief and were drawn to

Him because of what was done in Christ's name.

Hear how your gifts sent to India after major cyclones were direct answers to prayer: "I shirked from writing to Rev. Lawton since we received help only last January for the previous cyclone damage... I could only pray in silence. But it was a god-send when I received RS 40,000 nearly, from the Christian Social Action Committee through our Rev. Lawton even before I dared to write the true 'picture' of the calamity. They did send the help after hearing it from Dr. Goldie and by wireless. And they sent the relief amount immediately. How it could have happened if it were not by God's grace. Dear brothers, prayer pays." (Taken from the quarterly report of Executive Secretary B. Kishor Kumar, SDB Conference of India.)

We have received information that starvation, as of last year, claimed 40,000 lives a day. This doesn't regularly make the news; perhaps it would if the headlines read, "100 Jetliners, Carrying 400 Persons Each, Crashed Today—No Survivors." Hunger is just one area of need that your gifts help alleviate.

The CSA keyworker in your church has been encouraged to designate a Sabbath (often Thanksgiving Sabbath is chosen) as a time for special offering for the Seventh Day Baptist United Relief Fund. These funds will continue to be used in Christ's name to spread his love in a tangible way. 

## Milton shares 150th anniversary

The Milton, Wisconsin, SDB Church celebrated its sesquicentennial September 28-30 while hosting annual sessions of the North Central Association. Former pastors and ministerial sons of the church shared in the celebration along with over 100 guests from other churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Rev. Don Sanford, president of the Association and an elder in the church, opened the celebration

### Milton dates the founding of the church as November 12, 1840, when 52 people signed the covenant.

weekend with a historical program on Friday. Dramatic readings by Sanford and Tom Merchant, and special music highlighted the church's 150-year history in relationship to the weekend theme, Refresh Thy People, based on the hymn "God of Our Fathers."

Rev. Elmo Fitz Randolph of Boulder, Colorado, pastor of the church from 1944-1966, was the featured speaker at the Sabbath morning worship attended by over 300. Leading worship was Rev. Herbert Saunders, pastor from 1981-1990. Two ministers who grew up in the congregation also participated, Rev. Paul Green of Milton and Rev. Dale Rood of Dodge Center, Minnesota. Others unable to attend were: Rev. Kenneth Burdick of North Loup, Nebraska; Rev. John Camenga of Daytona Beach, Florida; Rev. Justin Camenga of Portland, Oregon; Rev. Steven Crouch of El Cerrito, California; and Rev. Helen Green of Clinton, New York.

The afternoon program began

with a concert of sacred music by the Sanborn Singers, including songs by classical and area composers. It was followed by a Communion service conducted by Rev. Earl Cruzan, pastor from 1966-1981, and Rev. Saunders.

The program for the anniversary banquet featured dramatic presentations by Covenant Players and music by a men's chorus. Kevin Butler served as master of ceremonies. Special activities were planned for children and youth during the afternoon and evening.

President of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Althea Rood of Dodge Center, gave an address Sunday morning, followed by the annual business session of the North Central Association.

"It is especially appropriate for the Association to share in Milton's celebration," said Don Sanford. "The Milton church is the oldest in the Association, several of the

others in Wisconsin and Minnesota having grown from it as members moved out to other areas. We think of it more as a sister than a mother-daughter relationship, however, for through the years Milton has also received much from the others in return."

The Milton church traces its history to home meetings in early 1839, but dates the founding of the church as November 12, 1840, when 52 people signed the covenant and called Elder Stillman Coon to serve as pastor. He was the first of 16 who have served the church throughout the 150 years.

A special anniversary directory is now available from the church. It includes an historical sketch, pictures of the three church buildings and 16 pastors, and color photos of current members. Cost is \$3. The address is Milton SDB Church, 720 E. Madison Avenue, Milton, WI 53563. *SR*

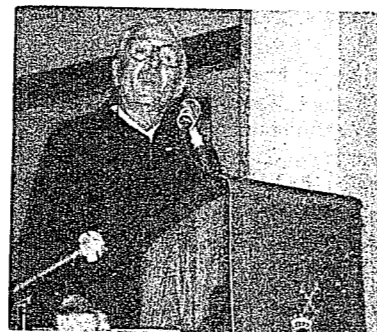


Left: Over 300 worshippers packed the Milton sanctuary.

Below: Elmo Fitz Randolph offered the Sabbath morning message.



A special sign invited and greeted many visitors.



## A miracle

A testimony by Beth Wallstrom

Have you ever seen a miracle? I have! I am alive today only because the Lord intervened to save my life at a time when I wanted to end it.

I grew up in a Christian home, and accepted Jesus as my Savior when I was 6 years old. I attended a Christian college and was engaged to marry a Christian young man. Through various circumstances, including the pressures of

glad they were that I was alive. What a wonderful demonstration of Christ's infinite love and forgiveness! "What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record" (Psalm 32:1-2).

Later that same year, I married



Beth Wallstrom

Lord by her mother. I felt overwhelmed that God had used me even when I wasn't in fellowship with Him.

That Sabbath Eve Joy was baptized. In my heart, I promised the Lord that this would be a new beginning for me, too. Since then, Joy and I have joined the Dodge Center, Minnesota, Seventh Day

### I decided to take a lot of pills and end it all.

final exams and uncertainty about whether I was really loved, I decided to take a lot of pills and end it all.

The doctor who saw me later said I should have died. But God saved me. "What a glorious Lord! He who daily bears our burdens also gives us our salvation. He frees us! He rescues us from death" (Psalm 68:19-20).

While I was recovering from the overdose of pills, my parents came to see me. I was afraid to face them; I thought they would be angry, disappointed, and ashamed. When Mom and Dad walked into the room I cried and said, "I'm so sorry!" They both hugged me, told me they loved me, and said how

the Christian young man I was engaged to. God blessed our marriage with a son, Peter, and a daughter, Joy. Although I was aware of God's blessings, I mostly ignored Him and went my own way. For many years, I attended church once a week and did as I pleased the rest of the time.

Recently, my daughter expressed her desire to be baptized at the local Seventh Day Baptist church. She had been visiting the church for some time, enjoying the fellowship and growing in the Lord. (She had also been praying for me.)

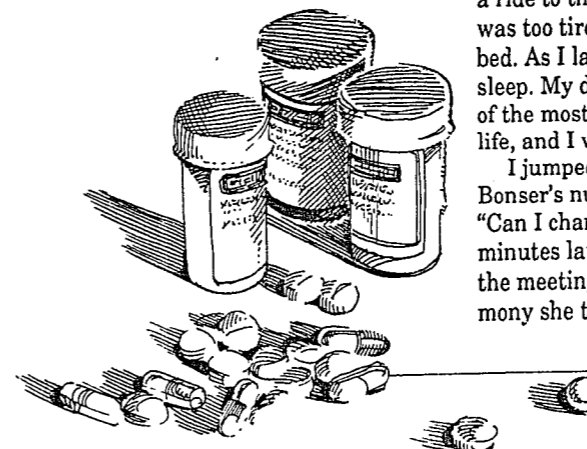
On the evening Joy and the other baptism candidates were to give their testimonies to the deaconate, Bob Bonser called to offer me a ride to the meeting. I told him I was too tired to go, and went to bed. As I lay there, I was unable to sleep. My daughter was taking one of the most important steps of her life, and I was going to miss it!

I jumped out of bed, dialed the Bonser's number, and asked Bob, "Can I change my mind?" Five minutes later, we were driving to the meeting. During Joy's testimony she told of being led to the

### We have seen God working in our family and have experienced His love in our church.

Baptist Church, and have enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters here. We have seen God working in our family and have experienced His love in our church.

Each day with the Lord is a new adventure. I'm so thankful for His love, patience, and mercy. He has a perfect plan for my life, and yours, too! "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). *SR*





December	\$754,485
November	\$691,611
October	\$628,738
September	\$565,864
August	\$502,990
July	\$440,116
June	\$377,243
May	\$314,364
April	\$251,495
March	\$188,621
February	\$125,748
January	\$62,873

1990 income needed—\$754,485.  
 Per month gift income needed—\$33,351.  
 Total needed each month—\$62,873.

## SR Reaction

Letters may be edited  
for length and clarity

Dear editor,

As a Seventh Day Baptist young person I protest. I protest vehemently.

I protest that older and old-fashioned pastors with a rational outlook, such as Dr. Hansen, get so much criticism that they dare not squeak.

I protest that old-fashioned MillYard SDB unitarian Bible faith in the one true God is likely to disappear from among us in the next generation.

I protest that young and old alike are so ready to conform to worldly ways that you can hardly tell the difference between them and heathen idolators.

I protest circuses instead of worship.

I protest a system of dating that relieves parents of their responsibility to find suitable spouses for their children and encourages questionable public behavior among young

people at Conference.

I protest the light and frivolous music that has taken the place of the old SDB practice of Psalm singing.

I protest all statements of faith, especially trinitarian ones.

I protest that nobody protests anymore.

I say up with the old-fashioned faith of Abraham, David, Jesus, Elwall, and Bampffield!

Vehemently yours,  
 Anna Maria McElwain  
 Turku, Finland

Dear sir,

Thanks to you and Don Gray for his refreshing "Ruminations" in the October SR. More such thoughtful, practical and pleasant reading will be welcome in our home anytime.

Yours,  
 Clifford W.P. Hansen  
 Jane Lew, WV

### Budget cuts mean ministry cuts

The approved budget for 1991 is 6% below this year's budget. Although the amount is lower, the need for increased giving is still there, as expressed by the Conference Interest Committee on Budget and Finance.

Funding has been cut for ministry positions such as a full-time Executive Secretary, Director of Youth Ministries, and foreign missionaries. The final statement in the report to Conference said, "Further cuts will mean elimination of either services or whole boards or agencies."

Will you help to support our denominational work? We all benefit—our tract ministry, our missionaries, our Sabbath School material, new outreach programs, extension pastors for new churches in new fields.

Even after a large Conference offering in August, we are still behind a whole month's worth of giving. Let's heed the challenge and accept the responsibility of raising our budget this year!

## Marriages

**Robb-Davis.**—Kevin James Robb and Sheri Davis were united in marriage on April 21, 1990, in Tucson, AZ.

**Culpepper-Carter.**—Allen Scott Culpepper and Cynthia Dee Carter were united in marriage on August 25, 1990, at the Bay Area Seventh Day Baptist Church, El Cerrito, CA. Pastor Steven Crouch officiated.

**Cunningham-White.**—Donald Cunningham and Cathy White were united in marriage on September 1, 1990, in Grand Junction, CO.

**Shaffer-Thomas.**—Melvin W. Shaffer and Susan June Thomas were united in marriage on September 22, 1990, at

the Alfred Station (NY) Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Melvin F. Stephan officiated.

## Accessions

**Denver, CO**  
 Ralph Grosser, pastor

Joined after baptism  
 Donnie Laxson  
 Daryl Lister  
 Carmen Lister  
 Jason Lister

Joined after testimony  
 David Tiffany  
 Cynthia Tiffany

**Salem, WV**  
 S. Kenneth Davis, pastor

Joined after baptism  
 Duane Martin

**Texarkana, AR**  
 Mynor Soper, pastor

Joined after baptism  
 Eric Walz  
 Heather Webb

## Births

**Mennelle.**—A son, Nicholas Lyndon Mennelle, was born to Michael and Beth (Goodridge) Mennelle of Manhattan, KS, on July 1, 1990.

**Burdick.**—A daughter, Alisa Meredith Burdick, was born to Victor and Darcy Burdick of Denver, CO, on July 3, 1990.

**VanHorn.**—A son, Patrick Eugene VanHorn, was born to Eric and Kathi VanHorn of Seven Hills, OH, on August 7, 1990.

**Snyder.**—A daughter, Kristine Lacey Snyder, was born to Curtis and Jeanette (Bazo) Snyder of Fort Ord, CA, on August 8, 1990.

## Obituaries

**Baker.**—Ralph J. Baker died on June 20, 1990, and was laid to rest on June 25, 1990, in Beverly National Cemetery, New Jersey. Rev. Graham from The Fountain of Life Center in Florence, New Jersey, officiated. Survivors include his wife, Katherine, of Burlington, New Jersey.

**Pickard.**—William Harvey Pickard, 62, died on August 10, 1990, in Kingman, Arizona, where he had moved just two weeks before from Santa Ysabel, California. He had been seriously ill for several years. "Bill" was born on August 6, 1928, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Harry and Cecile (Parrish) Pickard. He attended school in Battle Creek until he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for over 20 years. He also worked for the National

Park Service as a park ranger on Palomar Mountain, California, before retiring for health reasons. He was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; two daughters, Laura and Arah; and three half-brothers, Jack Parrish of Sykesville, Maryland, and Ralph and George Parrish of Battle Creek. He was preceded in death by his son, Gerald; one brother, James; and a half-brother, Clare Parrish.

**Campbell.**—Anna A. Campbell, 90, formerly of Alfred, New York, died on August 21, 1990, in Bethany Manor, Horseheads, New York, where she had resided for the past two years. She was born on April 25, 1900, in Albany, New York, the daughter of John and Leona (Burdick)

Merrill. She was married to Robert M. Campbell in Alfred on April 6, 1926; he died in 1975. She spent most of her life in Alfred, where her husband taught at Alfred University.

Anna was a graduate of the Albany (New York) Academy for Girls and Alfred University, class of 1923, with a major in ceramic design. Earlier, she had taught art in public schools in Troy, New York. She was a student of the late Katherine Nelson and studied under her for over 60 years.

She was a member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church and was active for many years in its Ladies Aid Society. She was also a member of the Allen Civic Amandine Club and Forceythe Willson Club of Alfred.

Survivors include one daughter, Merrilyn Barney of Endwell, New York; one son, Robert, of Clover,

South Carolina; five grandchildren, three nieces, one nephew, and several great-nieces and nephews.

Anna's memorial service was held on August 24, 1990, at the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church, with the Rev. Leon Wheeler and the Rev. David Clarke officiating. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

**Sayre.**—Albert (Gerry) Sayre, 92, of Milton, Wisconsin, died on September 6, 1990, at Community Memorial Hospital, Edgerton, Wisconsin.

He was born on November 18, 1897, in Nortonville, Kansas, the son of George Oliver and Florence (Barnhardt) Sayre. He graduated from Milton College in 1923, and taught school and coached in Illinois and at Cook Academy and Storm Krieg Schools in New York.

During World War I, Gerry enlisted in the Navy and served as a radio operator aboard warships and submarines. He also enlisted in World War II, rising to the rank of commander. He had been active as an amateur radio operator since 1919. He joined the McGregor Arctic Expedition in 1936, serving as their radio operator, and later worked for the Rock County Sheriff's Department, where he installed their first radio system in cars. He also worked as an electronic engineer at Arlington Hall Station and the National Security Agency, retiring in 1960 after 20 years of accumulative Federal Reserve dating back to World War I. He served as commanding officer of a Naval Reserve Group in the Washington, D.C., area.

Gerry was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church, the American Legion, Retired Officers Association, Society of Wireless Pioneers, the American Radio Relay League, I.O.O.F., and Masonic Lodge. He also served as president of the Milton Historical Society. He loved all sports and had been inducted into the Milton College Hall of Fame.

In 1940, he married Iva Schrader Lippincott; she preceded him in death in 1987.

Survivors include one brother, G. Merton Sayre of Rosewell, New Mexico; one sister, Ethlyn Shadel of Milton; one grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held September 10, 1990, in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

**Bennett.**—Charles H. Bennett, 67, of Battle Creek, Michigan, died on September 14, 1990, at Battle Creek Health System/Community Site, after he was stricken at home.

He was born in Alma, Michigan, and was a 1941 graduate of Alma High School. He was awarded the Purple Heart after he was injured during World War II while serving in the U.S. Army in Germany and moved to Battle Creek in 1945 as a patient at the old Percy Jones Army Hospital. He was employed as a warehouse supervisor at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center for 30 years, retiring in 1971.

"Herb" was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, serving as a trustee, former moderator, and camp manager at Camp Holston at Cotton Lake. He was a former assistant Cub Master of Pack 333 at Post School, and Scout Master of Troop 57 at Washington School, Troop 18 at Southwestern Junior High, and Troop 312 of VFW Post 565. He was also a member of the District Commissioner's staff of the (Scout) Nottawa Trails District. He was serving as commander of the Lt. Harold J. Payette VFW Post 565 and received the All State Commander's Hat in 1988-1989.

Surviving are his wife, the former A. Ruth Bird; two daughters, Lorrie J. Plane and Marilyn K. Discher, both of Battle Creek; two sons, Alton D. and James L., both of Battle Creek; one brother, Elmer L. of Vestaburg, Michigan; two sisters, Lucy M. Freed of Elwell, Michigan, and Ida M. Epler of Charlotte, Michigan; and four

grandchildren.

Services were held on September 18, 1990, at Bachman Hebble Funeral Service and were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. George D. Calhoun.

**Graffius.**—Anne M. Graffius, 58, of New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, died on September 26, 1990, at home after an extended illness.

Anne was born on December 3, 1931, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, to Joseph and Margaret (McElroy) Bedi Sr. She married the Rev. Charles Graffius on December 24, 1947, in East Earl, Pennsylvania. She was a member of the Salemville, Pennsylvania, German Seventh Day Baptist Church and the Los Angeles, California, Seventh Day Baptist Church. She was deeply involved in the ministry of the church in her community.

Anne will be remembered for her undying faith and genuine love and concern for other people. She was always available whenever anyone needed her, and her kitchen was a favorite spot for her ministry to many. Of all those who benefited from her ministry, children had a special place in her heart.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; two sons, Donald M. of New Enterprise and Larry E. of Rapid City, South Dakota; one daughter, Cindi Koester of Bismark, North Dakota; three brothers, Steve W. Bedi of Silver Spring, Maryland, William Bedi of Lititz, Pennsylvania, and Robert Bedi of Pottstown; four sisters, Jenny Fessler of East Earl, Pennsylvania, Mary Sellers of Pottstown, and Eva Duncan and June Crowe of Memphis, Tennessee; and five grandchildren. A brother, Joseph Bedi Jr., and a sister, Martha Witmer, preceded her in death.

A memorial service was held on September 30, 1990, at the German Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville with the Rev. Rodney Henry officiating. Burial was in the Salemville Cemetery, New Enterprise.

# KEVIN'S

## CORNER

### Seventh Day Baptists: Choosing to pray

Seventh Day Baptists are a choosing people. One recent slogan rang out: "Seventh Day Baptists—A Matter of Choice."

We revel in our freedom of choice. We are free to choose what we believe as the Holy Spirit guides and reveals. We choose to be set apart in the world as followers of Christ. We choose to be set apart within the Church as we choose to keep the biblical Sabbath. We choose to join in a covenant of loving accountability with others who have made the same choice.

Do we choose to pray?

How many choices have you made today? Think about how many choices you had to make just to read these words. Did you dig right into the first feature? Or did you first examine the cover, check the publisher, read about all the family news, scan the index—so many choices just to read about a crucial choice.

Do we choose to pray?

As I review all the church bulletins and newsletters that come to the Center, I really perk up when I notice the special prayer groups or meetings. Sadly, I get "perked up" all too infrequently. Very few churches set aside specific times to pray.

It was my privilege to be on the local leadership team for the Concert of Prayer movement in Madison,

Wisconsin. With God's vision for spiritual renewal being articulated by David Bryant and others, many of us couldn't help but be caught up in this exciting thrust.

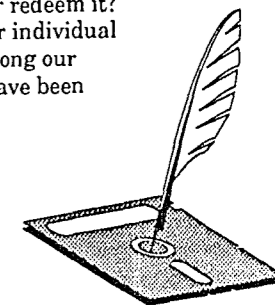
Concerts of prayer focus on two desires: awakening and missions. Fullness (of God's Spirit) and fulfillment (of God's desires). Or revival and evangelism. Sound familiar?

When the Lord revealed His vision of MORE 2000 to the SDB Coordinating Leadership Team, it's no wonder I felt so good about it! Our Mission of Revival and Evangelism calls us to the same concerns as the worldwide prayer movement: 1) That we wake up to what more God wants for us as His people—individually, as churches, and as a denomination; and 2) That we offer ourselves and our resources to bring about God's desires in this world.

What will we Seventh Day Baptists—a choosing people—choose to do next for His Kingdom? Shall we choose to bide the time or redeem it?

Please pray with me for individual and corporate revival among our people. Too many of us have been lukewarm for too long. We have a message of hope to proclaim to a desperate world.

Prayer changes things.  
And people.  
And choices.



### In the next SR:

They say it's a "New Age"—

The New Age movement  
New Age: Same old lie  
Conflicting spirits and world views

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

## Time is not a healer

by Glenn Williamson

Time is not a healer!  
Don't depend upon it  
For it compounds no drugs,  
Provides no therapy,  
Binds no wounds.

Time is a clinic  
Where faith and love,  
Doctors and nurses,  
God and prayer  
Are mending busily.

Time is a hospital  
Where broken hearts,  
Afflicted bodies,  
Lost souls,  
Are miraculously restored.

Time is a sanatorium—  
And you may depend upon it—  
Where in tiny rooms  
Along its endless corridors,  
Healing for body, soul and spirit  
Is available every hour.

