

The

S

abbath

R

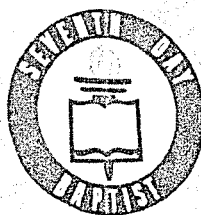
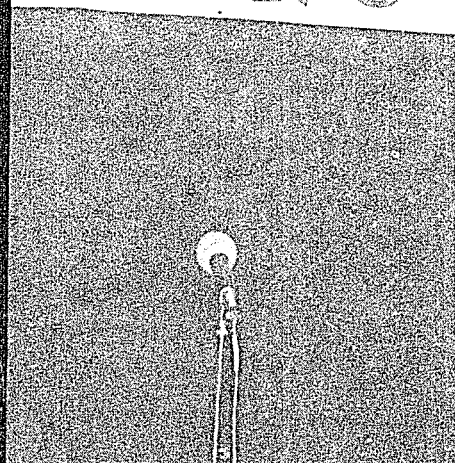
ecorder

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

September 1990

All One In Christ Jesus

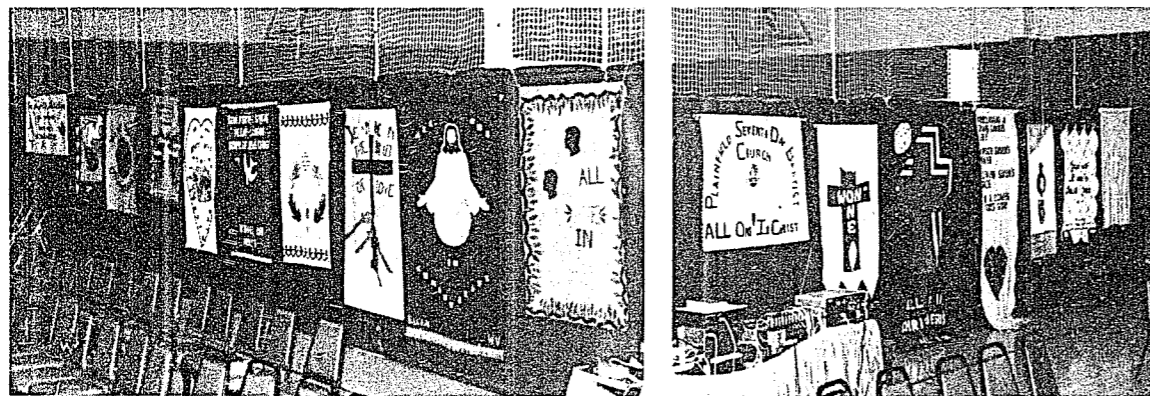
GALATIANS 3:28
LET'S PRACTICE IT



1990
General
Conference

Lindsborg,
Kansas

All one in Christ Jesus



Definitely a banner week!



This year's presidential family: Joe, Joyce, Myron and David Samuels.

Hats off to the Stillmans and Pierces. Great job!

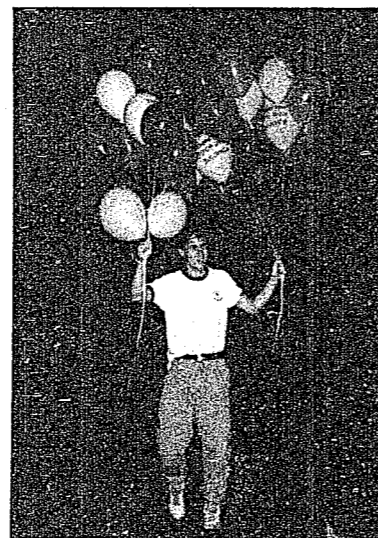
PROP hits the top!

Congratulations!

The campaign to help our retired clergy, widows and denominational workers exceeded the goal with months to spare.

These servants have already enjoyed a 25% increase in their monthly benefits—thanks to you and the Sue McMillan Fund.

Thank you for
"Giving to those who gave so much."



Celebrating the successful PROP drive with balloons at Conference.

The Sabbath Recorder



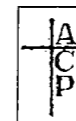
September 1990
Volume 212, No. 9
Whole No. 6,744

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 Road, Don A. Sanford, Dale D. Thorngate.

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

Conference highlights, 1990 by Larry Graffius and Janet Thorngate	4
Executive Secretary's final report by Dale D. Thorngate	8
Conference award pictures	12
Did kids come to Kansas? You bet!	16

Departments

Women's Society News and Ideas	10	The Beacon	18
Christian Education	13	Local News	20
Pearls from the past	14	SR Reaction	23
The President's Page	15	Family flux	24
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

Conference highlights, 1990

Special thanks to Larry Graffius and Janet Thorngate

President Joe Samuels brought General Conference the challenge of unity and growth with his keynote address, "Are You Ready?" During the week, those in attendance did not merely focus on the theme, "All One in Christ Jesus," but actually practiced a level of unity and close fellowship that surpassed even Pastor Joe's expectations!

Opening comments from Nicole Curling, on behalf of her father, the Honorable Alvin Curling, were especially appreciated. (Mr. Curling, unable to attend because of a back injury, is parliamentary assistant to the Premier of Ontario, Canada.)

MORE 2000 was presented with great expectations of growth in the coming decade. The challenge and the potential are before us!

SCSC Reunion Banquet—Some 60 previous SCSC workers reminisced. (Oh, the memories!)

Youth Pre-Con, directed by Mel and Yvonne Stephan, shared a dramatic presentation of "The Champion," recording by Carmen. (Awesome, dudes!)

The Tract and Communication Council presentation suggested



Don Chroniger leading the music Sunday night with (l. to r.) Joyce Samuels, Nicole Curling from Canada, and Prudence Robinson from Jamaica.

how you can better "market" your church to the community it serves.

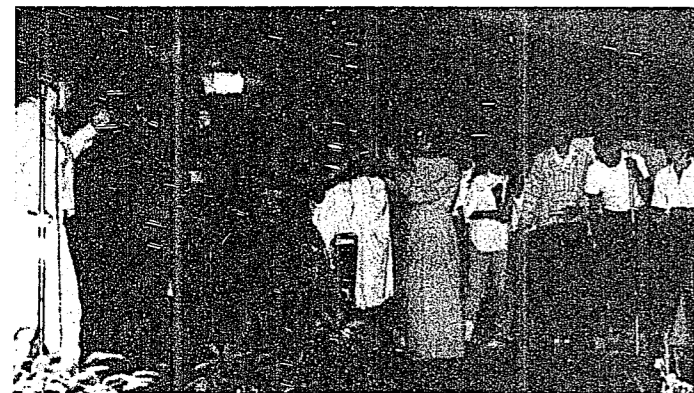
Wednesday night worship—Jamaican style! Singing, clapping, tambourines jingling, and everyone praising the Lord. Wonderful testimonies of God's saving grace.

Workshops on Financial Planning, Family Systems, Healing, Surviving in a Minister's Family, and Conflict Management.

Special Recognitions—June Johnson, Sabbath School Teacher of the Year; Linda Harris, six years as editor of *The Helping Hand*; Rev. Earl Cruzan, 50 years in the ministry (and still going strong!);

Lake Elsinore, California, Growing Church (1989), 62.5% growth; Seminary graduate: David Thorngate (now serving on staff at Riverside, California); Summer Institute Course on History and Polity, certificates: Eric Davis, MaryJo Johnson, Andy Samuels, Bernie Wethington, Gene Smith, Jim Galanaugh, and Ron Davis; and Gerry Van Dyke, Robe of Achievement.

Youth Bible Study (replaced Jr./Sr. High Assoc. Conf.) led by Jim Galanaugh, on the Christian's spiritual armor. (Well attended, well taught.)



"Satan" battling "Jesus" in the Youth Pre-Con production.



Enjoying the reminiscing at the SCSC Banquet.



SCSC Youth Rally—A special "no holds barred" program staged by the eight radically saved 1990 workers to promote the program to our young people. (Proving, once again, that you don't have to be crazy to join SCSC, but it helps!)

A special, urgent business session was called to order Tuesday night. In light of the growing tension in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (the Iraqi invasion), the General Conference unanimously voted to send a message by telegraph to the White House, informing President George Bush that we of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference are praying for him and for our nation.

Historical Society announced the completion of the new book, *Seventh Day Baptists: A Choosing People*, authored by Historian Rev. Don Sanford. Publication contract is still being negotiated; released in a year?

The "changing of the guard" at the Women's Banquet, as the Women's Board moves to New Jersey.

Hearing many nice comments on this year's "Crier" newspaper.

Hearing General Conference singing, "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

All kinds of music (top to bottom): Kory Geske; Debbie Smith; Larry Graffius; Camille Henry.

Beautiful blending—Jamaican style.



and "And Can It Be."

Sabbath afternoon the Children's Conferences presented an endearing musical, "We Like Sheep!" How reassuring to know that no matter how baa-a-a-d we are, the Good Shepherd loves us, and that He never falls asleep counting sheep!

Business Highlights

Who was there? 425 registered (as of Friday p.m.); about 550 in attendance Sabbath day; Conference offering and pledges \$25,800; 288 delegates from 53 churches; 54 ministers; Children's Conferences, 54; Youth Bible Study, 35; and Pre-Con Retreats, 25 youth and 10 young adults.

New church accepted—Black Hills SDB Church, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Revised ordination guidelines—Association establish an Ordination Preparation Committee which, once a church has identified a candidate for ordination, would review the candidate's credentials to see if they are in order for the Ordination Council, and vote on whether to recommend that the church proceed with examination and ordination. Membership of this committee would represent the Association, Council on Ministry, and ordaining church.

cont. on next page

Reduced budget cuts positions—Conference adopted General Council's proposed 1991 budget of \$708,785 (a 6% decrease), \$352,988 of it to come from current giving (an 11% decrease). This budget does not fund the position of Executive Secretary or Director of Youth Ministries, and represents a cutback in foreign missions. Revenue shortfalls (16% of the 1989 budget not raised and similar pattern in 1990) were cited as reason for the cuts with indication that "further cuts will mean elimination of either services or whole boards or agencies. Increased per capita giving is needed to reverse the trend." (The Council indicates plans to hire a part-time acting executive secretary "to communicate denominational ministries to the churches through visits. Other essential functions are being distributed among the new General Services Administrator and other boards and agencies.")

Denominational archives—Conference designated the SDB Historical Society as the official archives of the General Conference, its related agencies and its member churches. Guidelines for its use will be forthcoming.

Christian Social Action concerns—Conference recommends



Pastors Ken Chroniger, Ken Burdick, and Don Chroniger leading worship on Monday night.



1990 SCSC team "FIRE."



Mel Stephan, Alfred Station, New York.



Jeanne Yurke, Raritan Valley, New Jersey.



Andy Samuels, Miami, Florida.



S. Kenneth Davis, Salem, West Virginia.



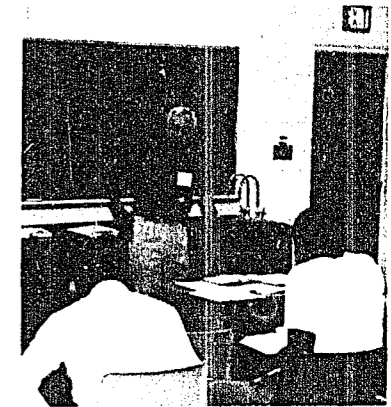
Praising the Lord—barbershop style.



Jim Gardiner fine-tuning his "characters" for the next Family Workshop role play.



Above: Errol and Flo Spells at their workshop on healing. Right: Leon Wheeler's workshop helped youths resolve conflict.



Richard Shepard offered solid and biblical financial advice during his workshop.



Pastors' spouses answering questions before RuthAnne Peil's workshop discussion.




Dads (and Grand-dads) on their own with the kids during the Women's Banquet time.

that individual SDBs be encouraged to boycott K-Mart and its subsidiaries (including Waldenbooks, Kohl's bookstores, Pay Less Drugs, PACE Memberships Warehouses) "until Waldenbooks discontinue selling publications such as Playboy and Penthouse, which undermine the fabric of the family." Other resolutions were passed encouraging education regarding the New Age movement and encouraging appropriate protest of religious discrimination in Finland.

New officers—Rev. Mynor Soper, Texarkana, Arkansas, president-elect and member of General Council; Cormeth Lawrence, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, General Council; Donna Bond, Shiloh, New Jersey, president, Women's Board; Calvin Babcock, Milton, Wisconsin, denominational treasurer; Lorna Austin, Dodge Center, Minnesota, Council on Ministry; Philip Burrows, Milton, Communication Council; and Dale Green, Milton, Memorial Board.

Conference sites—1991, Houghton College, Houghton, New York; 1992, Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin; and 1993, West Coast.

See the following report for more news and challenges. 

Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate's final annual report July 1989-June 1990

As I come to the end of my tenure as the Executive Secretary for Seventh Day Baptists, it is with mixed emotions that I prepare this ninth annual report.

I truly consider it an honor to have been chosen nine years ago to serve you as your executive. There have been good days and bad days. Fortunately, more of the good ones. There have been accomplishments and failures. I am happy about the accomplishments, sad about the failures. I have learned a lot in the past nine years. I have learned a lot about this organization, its history, how it functions, and how it makes decisions. I have learned a lot about people, how they function, what is important to them, and how different we all are. I have also learned a lot about myself, what I can do well, and what I shouldn't try to do at all.

Year's highlights

A review of the year from last Conference to this one reveals the following measurable results of our efforts:

- Annual net increase in total church membership of 110, the largest net increase since 1985. Increase by baptism (82) was the largest since 1983; increase by testimony (99) the largest since 1985.
- The Denominational Budget (raised in full the previous year) realized a shortfall of 16%. Total receipts were the lowest since 1982.
- Three new groups meeting for worship, fellowship and outreach: Anniston, Alabama; Kalispell, Montana; Vancouver, Washington; and new possibilities in Chicago, Illinois, and with a Spanish-speaking group in Tucson, Arizona.
- Five pastors ordained: Ronald Elston, Doniphan, Missouri; James Galanaugh, Hartford, Connecticut; James Taylor, Beth-El Church,

Houston, Texas; Jon Warren, Elston, Missouri; W.H. Winborne, Charleston, South Carolina.

- New pastor: Bernie Wethington, San Diego, California.
- Seminary graduate, David M. Thorngate, and new seminary student, MaryJo Johnson.
- T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) Program sends off its sixth graduate, Ronald Elston, with 11 continuing in the program, including new student Steven McNeme of Kalispell, Montana.
- New missionaries: Ian and Trudy Ingoe, from New Zealand to Malawi, Africa.
- New Director of Extension employed, Rev. Russell Johnson, to work in new church development.
- United Relief Fund contributions (second highest ever): \$16,693.
- PROP (Pastors' Offering Retirement Project) fund drive raised \$48,000 toward its \$50,000 goal; with matching funds, has already allowed a 25% increase in benefits.
- Retirees receiving benefits: 44 (26 pastors, 14 pastors' widows, four unordained workers).
- SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) completes its 26th season: 1989—14 workers in seven projects; 1990—eight workers in four projects.
- Senior Saints dedicated service program kicked off with spring renovation project at Camp Joy, Berea, West Virginia.
- Scholarships for higher education awarded to 29 young people based on their dedicated service work in church and denominational programs.
- Our heritage highlighted: Pawcattuck, Rhode Island, and Milton, Wisconsin, churches celebrating their sesquicentennials; pre-publication copies of Don Sanford's new one-volume SDB history already in use as summer institute textbook.

• New publications produced to articulate and teach our distinctives: Pre-school set of Sabbath Nurture materials published, with new Junior High set in process; "Seventh Day Baptist Beliefs," a special issue of *The Helping Hand*; "Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives," October special outreach issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*.

- More churches expanding their ministry through building or remodeling: Riverside, California, new building dedicated; church renovation projects supported in Centertown and Doniphan, Missouri; White Cloud, Michigan; Daytona Beach, Florida; Lost Creek, West Virginia; Verona, New York; Salemville, Pennsylvania; and Camp Joy, West Virginia.
- Pastoral Internship Pilot Program initiated in Riverside, California, where David Thorngate serves as assistant pastor.
- MORE 2000 pilot project is progressing with four churches in California: Bay Area, Santa Barbara, Foothills, and Carson (All Nations)—25 attended Phase 3 seminar. Project Coordinator Rod Henry says, "I do not believe that pastors and churches are going to be patiently waiting four or five years to get their turn at MORE 2000." Let us work and pray that this program can be developed to respond to as many churches as can use its design to draw together the resources of the denomination for the health and growth of local churches.
- World Federation conferences have accepted the invitation of the Australasian Conference to hold the fourth session in New Zealand in 1992. The Executive Committee is planning for the January 1992 event to be held in conjunction with the Australasian Conference—hoping that all 17 member groups may be represented.

Office management

On May 15, Jeremy Howard's contract was reviewed, and he is now employed full-time as an accountant/computer operator by the General Conference office.

On May 6, Jill FitzRandolph Groelle resigned as financial secretary, effective June 7.

On July 1, Camille Henry began working in the General Conference office full-time, replacing Jill Groelle as financial secretary.

Calvin Babcock, newly appointed General Services Administrator, began his duties on June 20. He reports directly to the General Council.

Douglas Derby moved from full-time to part-time work, effective July 1.

Communications and public relations

During this Conference year, Janet Thorngate continued to edit the *Lead-Line* as a volunteer. Many people over the years have indicated their support for the monthly newsletter. I believe it has contributed a great deal to the many-faceted coordinating and communicating role of the executive secretary. I am concerned that funds for its printing and mailing have been removed from the budget. (*Editor's note: This was the case, but funds have been secured. Lead-Line will continue.*)

My *Sabbath Recorder* articles have been written on the theme chosen by the editor for the respective issue. That has been a challenge but an opportunity I have appreciated and enjoyed.

Meetings and church visits

During the year I attended 20 meetings of denominational boards and agencies, three ecumenical organizations, and one leadership seminar by Lyle Schaller.

I visited in 16 churches, making presentations, preaching, and listening.

Reflections

I am leaving this position with many mixed emotions. I feel, on the one hand, that we have made a great deal of progress toward my original vision of unity, effectiveness, and cooperation. However, in the last few years, I have been unable to help us generate renewed energy for the next decade as I spent many days maintaining the administrative machinery.

As I leave, several people have asked me to offer some words of wisdom for the future. I have few. I am still too close to the day-to-day crisis management situations that have drained my personal ego resources. I do have a concern about our future as I see no denominational leader emerging or being sought by our current General Council.

Challenge of the 21st century

In their recent book, *Megatrends 2000*, Naisbett and Aburdine make an interesting prediction: "The most exciting breakthrough of the 21st century will occur not because of technology but because of an expanding concept of what it means to be human." It seems to me that "what it means to be human" is what the church is all about. The 21st century will be calling for what the church has to offer—the bringing of humans into a loving relationship with God, and thus with each other, through Jesus Christ.

We have got better organized and more efficient with our computer systems, new publishing technology, sophisticated mailing lists, and video communication techniques. However, I feel that our main responsibility of communicating the "good news" goes along at about the same pace as it always has.

The work of the church, and consequently the collective work of the churches through the denominational agencies, is the "human"

business. If we are to be better at our main responsibilities, it is important for us to focus our resources on more effective communication of the "good news."

Tasks for the 90s

I believe that God has called Seventh Day Baptists to two specific tasks for the next decade. (1) The first is to train and provide creative, dynamic, enthusiastic, ethical and thinking leadership, not just for our churches, but for our communities and our world. (2) The second task is to the defining of the Sabbath for the 21st century—true to its original purpose—and the sharing of Sabbath with the rest of the world.

God's promise for the future

As I close this, my last report to you, I pass on to you God's promise that was shared with me by a dear friend two years ago. It was originally given to the Israelites by the prophet Jeremiah as they went into exile. I have claimed it for myself, and I offer it to you for your vision-making plans for the future.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11-14a.)

May God grant us His wisdom, love and strength for this new decade as we continue to serve Him with determination and the desire to bring people into a loving relationship with Him through Christ. I love you all and will continue to pray for us as we seek God's wisdom, guidance, and love.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale D. Thorngate



Women all one in Christ

"Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." Prov. 31:30 (NASB)

Many women of God from across our denomination gathered at the General Conference meetings in Lindsborg, Kansas. We came to enjoy Bible studies, prayer, worship, workshops, and fellowship, and to discuss SDB women's ministries through the Women's Board.

The Women's Interest Committee, attended by approximately 25-35 women, was chaired by Jean Davis, a pastor's wife from Salem, West Virginia. Shireen Hurley, also of Salem, served as secretary. We met several times and reviewed the SDB Women's Annual Report and Six-Month Update. Through our discussions, we were able to understand a little better the workings of the Women's Board, as well as the various projects the Women's Board supports. We enthusiastically agreed that the current projects (including Tuition Fund, Summer Christian Service Corps, Pen & Prayer Partners, and Conference nursery) should be continued. (We'll give more details of these projects in future columns.)

It was exciting to meet some of the women from our newer churches. We noted with interest that the Women's Board not only represents Women's Societies/Ladies Aids/Benevolent Societies/etc. from old, established churches, but also needs to minister to the women of our newer fellowships who do not have an organized women's group.

A committee of Marjorie Jacob, Ruth Burdick, and Joyce Burdick presented considerations for the Love Gift (special offerings received

from local societies and from women attending the Women's Banquet). The following recipients were approved: Bibles for Russia, \$100; women's work in India, \$200; Ian Ingoe family (our missionaries in Malawi, Africa), \$100; hosting MORE 2000 in California churches, \$400; Ron Elston family (medical needs), \$200; Helen Green's prison ministry, \$300; Verne Wright family (medical needs), \$500; SCSC promotion fund, \$200; and 25% of balance to each: Jefferson City, Missouri, church for remodeling; Junction City, Kansas, church for remodeling; Sunshine Mountain; and Imalone, Wisconsin, children's camp.

Two people gave special presentations to the Interest Committee. George Calhoun, SCSC coordinator,

shared his vision and goals for the program. Debbie James reported on the new work she and her pastor, husband Steve, have begun in the Junction City area.

Approximately 40 women attended the Women's Luncheon on Tuesday. The main item of business was to elect officers as presented in the Nominating Report. For 1990-91, the Women's Board officers will be from our New Jersey churches. You'll get to meet them in the next month's Women's Page.

Approximately 130 women attended the Women's Banquet held in the college cafeteria on Wednesday evening. (We were grateful to the dads and grandpas who took the children on a picnic.) Following a delicious meal, Dorothea Shettel, retiring Women's Board

Right: New Women's Board President Donna Bond honoring workers on the California Board (l. to r.): Gertrude Davis, Jane Mackintosh, Jean Lewis, Irene Bond, Jackie Payne, Ruby Hambleton, Jean Jorgensen, and Dorothea Shettel.



Below: Enjoying the popular banquet.



president, introduced the program, which included musical selections from Anna Maria McElwain and Raakeli Watt, and a slide show about Tacy Hubbard (the first Sabbath convert in America) by Yvonne Stephan. The Love Gift

the Board was in California.

The SDB women were proud when several of our sisters in Christ received special recognition during the week of Conference.

June Johnson of Nortonville, Kansas, received the SDB Board of

The SDB women were proud when several of our sisters in Christ received special recognition.

offering was taken, and Dorothea reported later that over \$2,500 had been received.

Donna Bond, newly elected Women's Board president, presented certificates and corsages to those women in attendance who had served in some capacity while

Christian Education's Sabbath School Teacher of the Year Award. Gerry Van Dyke of the Denver, Colorado, church received the Robe of Achievement, presented by retiring Women's Board Vice President Jean Lewis. Linda Harris of Nortonville, Kansas, was pre-

sented a plaque in recognition of her six years as *Helping Hand* editor.

The Bible is full of stories of women who put their faith in the Lord and were willing to be used by Him for the furtherance of God's Kingdom on earth. As we begin a new decade and a new chapter in the denomination, let us be in earnest prayer for:

—Althea Rood of Dodge Center, Minnesota, as she leads our denomination as president.

—Donna Bond of Shiloh, New Jersey, as she leads the Women's Board in service to all SDB women.

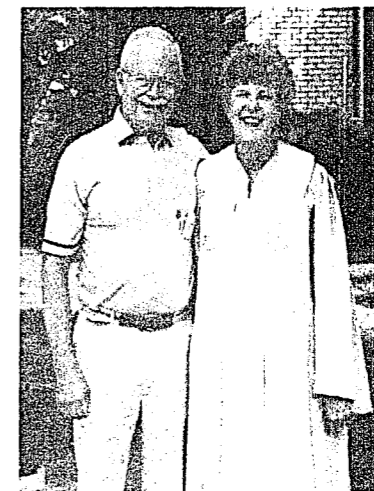
—Ourselves as we seek God's leading and guiding so that we might each reflect the love of our Savior to those around us, and that we would use our God-given abilities to bring praise and glory to Jesus Christ who has called us to obedience to Him. *SR*

1990 Robe of Achievement

The nominee for the 1990 Robe of Achievement award has a background similar to that of many of us. She grew up in a Christian home, married, had two daughters and a son, all of whom married, and has several grandchildren. She and her husband cared for her parents in their home for a time.

At an early age she joined her church choir and began to share her musical talent with those around her. She is an active deaconess in her church, has taught Sabbath School classes, and has worked in parent-teacher organizations. She has been active in Bible Study Fellowship, and has held Bible studies in her home. She and her husband have served their church camp both on staff and in maintenance. She served on the executive board of the Women's Society when it was in her area.

At this point, the similarities become fewer for most of us. About 20 years ago, she saw a need for workshops and seminars on family-



Geraldine Van Dyke with husband, "Van."

related subjects. She prepared and presented many in her community (for which she has been honored), in her own church and other churches, in Associations, and at General Conference. She has also served as president of General Conference.

After serving on the Women's

Board Summer Christian Service Corps Committee, she began to teach classes during training, and then became training director and coordinator for the program for several years.

Two former workers expressed her abilities and achievements in letters to our committee. The first wrote that she "has a vision of what motivated, dedicated, and enabled young people can do if given a chance, and she has the ability to share that vision with them and with other people it affects."

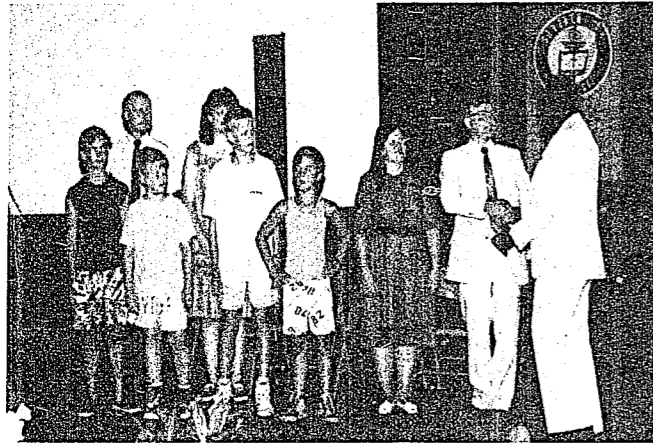
Another expressed it in this way: "She was a spiritual guide and counselor for many SCSC workers even when the summer program was over. When teaching she revealed herself to us, which made it easier for each of us to be transparent with one another, and honest with God."

This year, the Women's Society would like to honor Geraldine Thorngate Van Dyke. *SR*

Awards and rewards

Right: Leland and Gertrude Davis opened and closed the decade with the growingest churches.

Below: The right hand of fellowship welcomed Pastor Larry Graffius and the Black Hills SDB Church (Rapid City, South Dakota) into the Conference.



Dorothea Shettel (left) honored for her service on the General Council by chairman Luan Ellis.

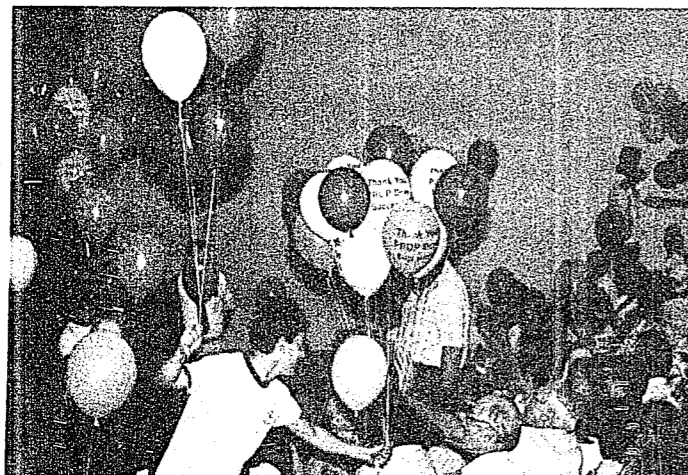


Earl Cruzan (left) surprised by Rodney Henry for recognition of 50 years of ministry.



David Clarke (right) congratulates June Johnson, Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, as Ernest Bee applauds.

The pie chart was filled, and so were the balloons as Conference celebrated the successful completion of the PROP campaign.



Shawn Goodrich receives his Sabbath Visitor award Bible from Pastor Ken Burdick.



Christian Education

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Deaconess June Johnson, from the Nortonville, Kansas, Seventh Day Baptist Church, was honored as the 1990 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year at the annual ses-

sions of General Conference, Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas.

The Reverend David S. Clarke, Sabbath School Committee chairman, presented Mrs. Johnson with

the crystal apple and certificate during the Conference Awards Ceremony, August 10.

June serves the Nortonville church as Sabbath School teacher, deaconess, Women's Society president, and choir member, and is involved with the church clothing bank. She has been a church member for 66 years, and has been a Sabbath School teacher for 51 of those years.

Her current teaching assignment is third through sixth grade. When asked what she felt was most important as a Sabbath School teacher, she replied, "Making the students aware of the presence of God and the need for a Savior."

Previous honorees include George Parrish, Battle Creek, Michigan; Shirley Cargill, North Loup, Nebraska; Margaret Allen, Lost Creek, West Virginia; and Helen Bond, Columbus, Ohio. *SR*



June Johnson (left) accepts the crystal apple award as Teacher of the Year. Linda Harris (right) was also recognized for her six years as editor of *The Helping Hand*.

New Helping Hand Editor

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education has announced the appointment of the Reverend C. Rex Burdick as the new editor of *The Helping Hand* effective July 31, 1990. Committee Chairman David S. Clarke introduced Editor Burdick to the General Conference participants on Monday, August 6. He will begin with the winter quarter 1991-92.

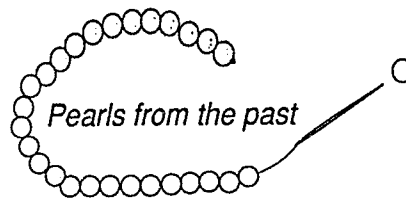
Editor Rex Burdick is a retired Seventh Day Baptist pastor who lives with his wife, Joyce, in Sherrill, New York. Pastor Rex was educated at Salem College, Salem,



New Helping Hand Editor Rex Burdick being introduced at Conference.

West Virginia (BA degree); Alfred University School of Theology, Alfred, New York; Faith Theological Seminary, Wilmington, Delaware (BD and STM degrees); and Syracuse University.

Burdick has served as pastor of SDB churches in Marlboro, New Jersey; Verona, New York; Salem; Riverside, California; and Berlin, New York. He has served on the American Sabbath Tract Society, Council on Ministry, and Commission, and as president of General Conference. *SR*



A 1917 look at the denomination

Rev. George B. Shaw, president

from Don A. Sanford, historian

The year 1917 was one of considerable turmoil in the United States. War had been formally declared in April; the first conscription law was passed in May; and, by the end of June, the first U.S. troops had arrived in Europe. The 18th—Prohibition—Amendment was submitted to the states for ratification.

The president of General Conference that year saw 1917 as a time for facing serious problems within the denomination. Thus in his president's address, George B. Shaw said:

"The Seventh Day Baptist denomination is facing very many and very serious problems, problems that have to do with its own inward thought and life, and problems of its relation to the religious and secular world. For us to deny, ignore or belittle these problems is little less than suicide. On the other hand, it is impossible not to believe in God, and difficult not to believe in the success of goodness and the triumph of truth.

"But overconfidence is as dangerous as underconfidence. Seventh Day Baptists have most of the problems that other denominations have, and many that are peculiar to ourselves."

Among problems which Shaw mentioned were: How far should we go in cooperating with other Christians? How do we educate our leaders? How can we properly keep the Sabbath in a changing society? He also had questions concerning church polity, which have persisted, commenting:

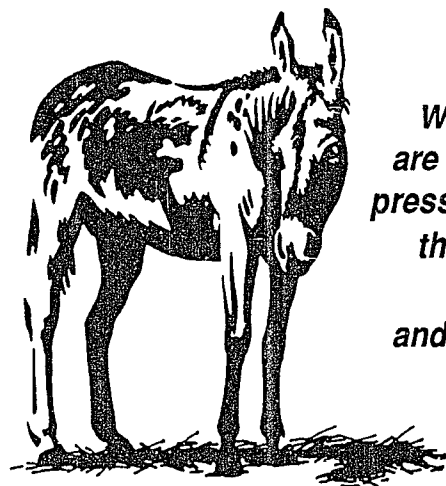
"The experience and observation of this year confirm me in the view held for some time that, while our polity may be theoretically correct,

it is practically wrong. That method of administration of the affairs of the Kingdom can not be right which is inherently weak and inefficient. The president of Conference is always without experience, without money, and without authority. Quite generally, he has the moral support of the people, but support that is dominated by conscientious independence. ...

"What this denomination needs more than organization and more than money is unity and consecration. We must have charity in a

form a compact circle getting their heads together and showing their heels to their foes. Bryan says that, on the contrary, when reformers are surrounded and pressed by the enemy, they will bravely face the foe and vigorously kick each other.

"But, most of all, we need personal piety and consecration. The world must know when it meets us that we have met Jesus. Unless the world sees Jesus Christ in us, it will not believe us or follow us. Our only hope of winning the world is to live above the world; not to be



**When reformers
are surrounded and
pressed by the enemy,
they will bravely
face the foe
and vigorously kick
each other.**

high degree. In a small group of people where everyone knows everyone else, it is very easy for our likes and dislikes to outweigh our better judgment. It is next to impossible for these personal matters not to interfere with the wisest distribution of our workers and our money. Sometimes one is reminded of an illustration used by William J. Bryan about the wild donkeys of South America, which, when attacked by enemies, will

taken out of the world, but to be kept from the evil. This position of power will come to the denomination in proportion as it comes to the individuals who make up our churches. This power and blessing will come to individuals in proportion to the degree in which we accept the Master with the heart and life, as well as with the lips and the mind." **SR**

(President's Address, *Seventh Day Baptist Yearbook*, 1917, pages 4-5.)

The President's Page

Called to obedience

by Althea Rood



Althea Rood

"to call people...to the obedience that comes from faith."
—Romans 1:5b

As your new Conference president, I would like to share with you an adventure in obedience that I've experienced this year and some of my discoveries.

In July, 1989, as my son and I pulled out of the driveway of the Westerly, Rhode Island, parsonage, Jeff asked a question that really touched my heart. "Why do we have to move?" he asked.

I responded (through tears), "If we don't move, we won't be obedient to God. And if we're not obedient to God, then we just won't be happy." In my mind, I knew that as a fact—and I believed it—but my heart seemed far removed.

The problem wasn't that I was unsure of God's will for our lives; I'd never been as sure of anything. I knew that God had called my husband, Dale, to the pastorate of the Dodge Center, Minnesota, SDB Church, and I was excited about that. Yet I wasn't emotionally prepared for the experiences that would accompany obedience. It would include many firsts for me.

We had spent nearly 20 years in ministry in New England, and the people there had truly become my spiritual family. God had given me

many deep relationships and a Bible study ministry that was still very meaningful. (It was meeting my needs as well.) I also was leaving a math teaching job that provided financial security and a sense of personal value (reputation). All of my life, I had lived within three hours of my parents, and we were always together on holidays.

I soon discovered that God had much to teach me. I had become very comfortable in my familiar surroundings; consequently, when stripped of so much, I became very vulnerable. However, I also became more teachable.

No longer financially secure, I began relying on God for our provision in a new way. During September, I substitute taught very regularly. However, in October, God provided a miracle: I was hired as a 6/10 math teacher for one year.

**Obedience can be costly,
but its rewards
in growth in the Lord
are well worth it.**

Amazingly, it was the only position to open, and it required the only certification that I had. God really did supply our needs!

God also challenged me to rely on Him in the area of our children. Kristin and Jeffrey soon discovered that moving to a small town and having their picture on the front page of the local newspaper made them prime targets for "hazing." Not only were they the "new kids,"

but they were PKs (Preacher's Kids). They had difficulty being accepted. There was ridicule and physical harrassment, such as having one's locker plastered with food or being beaten up on the way home from school.

For the first time, I realized that I couldn't do anything to protect our children. Once again, I was forced to rely on God for His protection, and His love and acceptance.

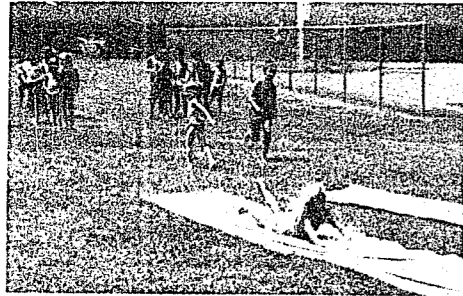
One day, there was much jubilation when Jeff came home and reported on the kid who had been beating up on him. Not only had he quit harassing Jeff, he had become his friend. What a pleasure it was this summer to see them hold a car wash together!

In some ways, the distance between family and friends is still difficult; however, God has already shown me that He wants to be my very best friend. He has revealed so much more of Himself to me because I have been spending more time with Him. He has been teaching me to listen, and I believe He is preparing me to minister in new ways. God is also blessing our ministry in Dodge Center, and I praise God for the wonderful new church family He has given us.

Obedience can be costly, but its rewards in growth in the Lord are well worth it. Each of us has areas in our lives that God desires to transform. I believe that, as Seventh Day Baptist Christians, God is calling us to radical obedience to Him and His Word. I am excited at the opportunities He has set before us as His people. Will you take the challenge with me to seek and obey Him? I know that God will honor our obedience.

My prayer is that each of us will experience God in new ways this year and that we will find how *His ways* really satisfy us. **SR**

Did kids come to Kansas? You bet!



The welcome mats were sure slippery!

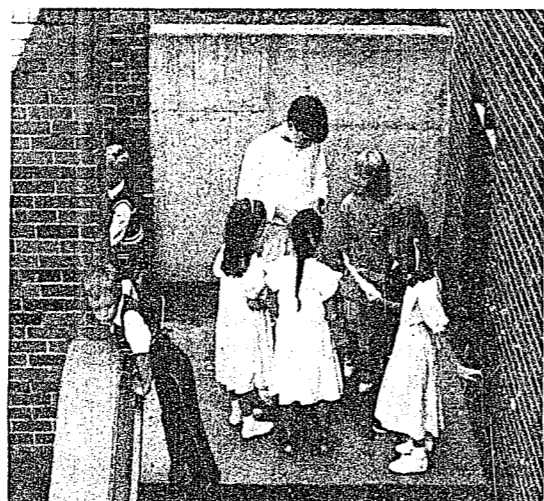


And the natives (inset) were strange...

but they gave a good children's message!



Hunting for treasure was neat!



And the musical couldn't be beat!

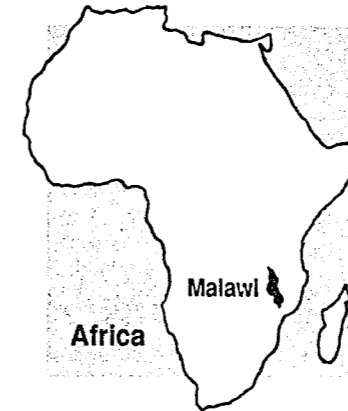


FOCUS on Missions

by Leon R. Lawton

Medical Ministries, Malawi, Africa

Medical Administrator Royal J.B. Mkwandire wrote, "Since we opened the Chipho Clinic there has been a very high attendance every day for both Malawians and refugees. We are now working on the water supply in the form of a borehole pump to reticulate the water into the clinic and staff houses. Water at Makapwa is no longer a problem. We have two pumps pumping water now. We are now fighting



for electricity for which we have applied through the Christian Service Committee (CSC) and other donors. Please pray in union with us for this big project for God's provision. We hope that by the end of this year we shall have electricity, if God wills."

He also reports their relief activities are expanding with three workers: at Chipho, Jolly Maleta; at Bangula Chikwawa refugee camp, G. Kachingwe; and at Dedza Ntcheu refugee camp, S. Chisale.

At Makapwa, an oven has been built and a baker refugee is making bread, which is in great demand in that area. Hopefully, this will employ workers and bring some profit for the mission station. Funds are needed to replace the old jeep-type ambulance which is now off the road.

Statistics show there is at least one refugee from Mozambique for every 11 Malawians—one of the highest ratios in the world—and they continue to pour in by the thousands every month. As one of Africa's poorest nations, the gross national product for the Malawi population was equivalent to only \$160 in 1989.

Faith SDB Church, Doniphan, MO, USA

Bonnie J. Elston, clerk, has written (in early July), "We have had an exciting three months. Our branch

church, Central, Missouri, has shown an increase and so have we. Our Wednesday night Bible studies have been exciting. Plans are in the making to start Friday evening vesper services, and everyone is excited about it. Missouri hosted the Southwestern Association meeting in June, and it was a blessed time. Many of our local members couldn't go because of jobs, but Pastor Ron and I—and Mrs. McClure—were there, and we came home uplifted. Our membership increase is three locally, four in our Central branch, and three non-resident. Continue to pray for us as our pastor has been ill for over a month. God continues to bless."

Miami, FL, USA

A congregation of Haitian ex-SDAs has requested branch affiliation with the Miami SDB Church. Pastor Andrew Samuels has visited them and asks for prayer as this new relationship develops.

Guyana, South America

About 1,000 people leave this northern South American nation each month "despairing of fair elections, frustrated by economic decline, and fearing new racial confrontation," writes Hugh O'Shaughnessy in the *Observer of London*.





the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship
September 1990

Miami Youth Fellowship enjoys busy year

(Contributed by Alrich Lynch, Kerry-Ann Dixon, Brian Johnson, Stacy Harding, and Michelle Harding)

The Miami, Florida, Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship, which was organized in August of 1988, is still very young. After getting off to a relatively slow start, the fellowship has gained in momentum, holding regular meetings twice per month and a social activity once per month. Below is a summary of some of the activities we have had so far:

Youth Day—The last one was held in May. On Youth Day, the young people are in charge of the worship service. Craig Miller gave the children's message, and special music was provided by the Youth Ensemble. A guest speaker, Pastor Julio Dasilva—a chaplain with the Dade County Corrections and

Rehabilitation Department—brought the sermon, which was entitled, "Whom Do You Serve?"

In the afternoon, we viewed a very interesting and well-presented videotape by Rich Wilkerson entitled, "The 4 Ds of Dating." They are Design, Desire, Decline, and Delight.

Trip to Disney World—Approximately 28 persons representing our fellowship arrived in Orlando, Florida, at 10 p.m. on a Saturday in March. Our hostess for the night was the mother of one of our members. Her house proved to be just big enough to sleep 28 additional energetic young people. The next morning, we set off for the Magic Kingdom and spent the

entire day enjoying the different attractions: 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Haunted House, It's a Small World, Space Mountain, Grand Prix, etc. To sum it up, it was an excellent trip.

Video Night/Coconut Party—All the food and drink consumed at

Crowd Breaker Nights—We have had two of these fun-filled events so far. Many games were played, and interesting tricks were played on some of the attendees. (All were good sports.) The activities included Initiation, Gorilla, Hypnotism, Straw Mumble,

activities.

Most of our indoor events are held at the Millers' home. We are especially grateful to them for always allowing us to mess up their house. A special word of appreciation also goes to our vice president, Craig Miller, who never fails to do a fantastic job of preparing refreshments for us.

Baccalaureate service

In June, we held a Baccalaureate Service to honor five members of our Youth Fellowship who had graduated. There were two elementary school graduates—Kerry-Ann Dixon and Shaun Watson; two middle school graduates—Claudine Adewusi and Sharon Thompson; and one high school graduate—Alrich Lynch.

Our pastor, Andrew Samuels, preached the Baccalaureate message, which was entitled, "The Needs of Youth." The graduates all received gifts from the church.

Meet our YF officers

President: Alrich Lynch

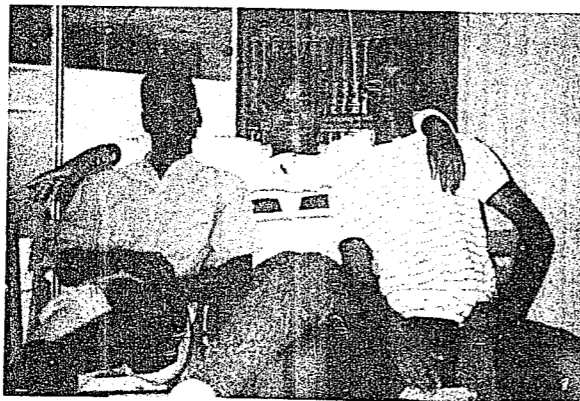
Alrich graduated from high school this past school year. In September, he will be attending the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he will pursue a career in engineering or architecture. He was baptized in 1988 and is the first president of our Youth Fellowship group.

Vice President: Craig Miller

Craig is a high school junior who accepted the Lord in 1985. He hopes to pursue a career in law.

Secretary/Treasurer: Tanya Rochester

Tanya is a new Christian who is enthusiastic about serving the Lord. She is currently pursuing a career in nursing.



Officers of the Miami, Florida, Youth Fellowship are (left to right): Alrich Lynch, president; Tanya Rochester, secretary/treasurer; and Craig Miller, vice president.



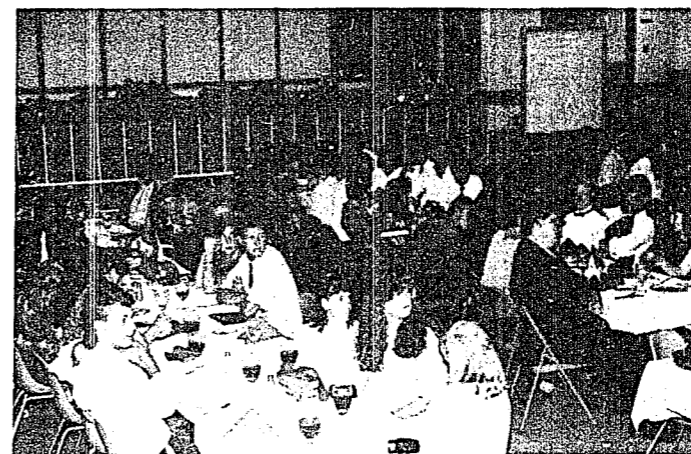
Members of the Miami, Florida, Seventh Day Baptist Youth Fellowship taking part in a fun-filled outing to Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

this event either contained coconut or was made from coconut. Some very adventurous recipes were attempted, but all were delicious. For entertainment, the group watched the movie, "The Gods Must Be Crazy." (It was hilarious.)

Rhythm, Pass the Lifesaver, Open or Closed Scissors, Wink, Nose Washing, Fruitbasket Upset, Remove the Shaving Cream, and Chocolate Donut Feed.

Bowling and roller-skating have also been two of our favorite

Youth at Conference



Super banquet. Super friends.



Young adult Pre-Con singers.



Lunch time IS fun time!

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

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

New pastor in Hebron

The Rev. Michael L. Burns, from the Seventh Day Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., accepted the pastorate of the First Hebron SDB Church at Hebron, Pennsylvania. He was installed at the Sabbath worship service on May 26. Installing pastor was the Rev. Ernest K. Bee, executive director of the SDB Board of Christian Education. Sara Burns, nine-month-old daughter, was dedicated by her father, mother, Jill, and brother Desmond.

A reception in their honor was held at the Community Building. Besides local church members, New Yorkers welcoming the family came

from Little Genesee, Alfred Station, and Alfred.

One of Pastor Burns' first duties included leading a Vacation Bible School, June 11-15. There were six classes, with 22 in attendance. Teachers and helpers included: Jill Burns, Edna Gaines, Pearl Brock, Georgeiana Snyder, Rachel Kenyon, Evelyn Hauber, Kathryn Thompson, Sandra Carey, Kevin Kenyon, William Thompson, and Pastor Burns. Refreshments were served by Dana Kenyon and music by Pearl Brock. A skating party for children, parents, and friends climaxed VBS on June 18. **SR**

Shiloh folks honored

Several members of the Shiloh, New Jersey, congregation have been recognized recently for outstanding service to others.

Howard Scull received the Emergency Medical Volunteer of the Year Award.

Each year, New Jersey's governor honors outstanding teachers, who are selected for their effective instructional techniques, establishment of productive classroom climate, rapport with students, and instilling students with a love of learning and feelings of self-worth. Each teacher receives a cash award to be used for an educational purpose of his or her choice.

This year, three of our members received this Governor's Teacher Recognition Award: Delores Moncrief, Stow Creek Township; Jane Jernoske, Shiloh Elementary; and Ron Bond, Hopewell Township. They were honored at a ceremony at Princeton University in May.

Children's Day was held on June 9. Graduates were honored and "AmazinGrace," written by Karen Dean and arranged by Greg Nelson, was presented. The children enjoyed this musical very much, and the adults received a real blessing. The group was invited to share this message during a Sunday service at a church nearby. **SR**

Brookfield celebrates family-style

Over the weekend of June 16-17, the Brookfield, New York, SDB Church held its Mother-Daughter and Father-Son banquets. The Mother-Daughter banquet was held Sabbath afternoon at the Parish House in Brookfield with 29 attending. There was one four-generation family: (Frances Palmer, great-grandmother; Jeannette White, grandmother; Vicky Gaff, mother; and Shantel Gaff, daughter) and

one three-generation attending: (Pearl Twiss, grandmother; Patricia Welch, mother; and Heather Welch, daughter).

The father's banquet was held Sunday night. Twenty-five men and boys enjoyed a spaghetti supper cooked by the church ladies. There was one three-generation attending: Earl Twiss, grandfather; Randy Twiss, father; and Robert Twiss, son. All had a good time. **SR**

Revival to jubilee

by Diane R. Andries

The Washington D.C. Seventh Day Baptist Church held a great revival, March 14-17, 1990.

The theme of the revival, "Are You Going to the Promised Land?" was given to us through prayer by the Holy Spirit to pose questions in the minds of passersby.

Our main focus during this revival was to glorify our Creator. This was achieved by allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through the manifestation of His gifts. This heightened fellowship and created a sweet communion and unity among all present.

Each evening, the services opened with praise and adoration of the Lord. The songs of praise and worship were beautifully blended together in melodious tones, as a sweet fragrance unto God. We felt His mighty presence, and realized that He truly inhabits the praises of His people.

Pastor Joe Samuels of the Plainfield, New Jersey, SDB Church was the speaker for the first two nights.

His first message, "The Goal of the Mature Believer," was taken from Philippians 3:1-14. The message left no doubt in our minds that the real goal of each must be to reach the promised land.

Pastor Samuels offered a series of practical suggestions for reaching the promised land. First, we must learn to leave the past behind and not allow it to influence our present goal; second, we should forge ahead into the future, not on our strength but on the strength of Jesus Christ; and thirdly, we must discipline ourselves to keep on course and not deviate, but fight for the prize which, if attained, will one day enable us to hear "well done my good and faithful servant" from God Himself.

On his second night with us, Pastor Samuels continued to feed us with wisdom received from the Holy Spirit by bringing the message, "What to Take for the Journey," taken from Luke 11:1-10.

He reminded us that only prayer is the indispensable equipment for the journey, because only prayer provides us the privilege to touch the throne room of heaven. The message was well received.

On March 16 and 17, Pastor Dave Taylor from the Lost Creek, West Virginia, SDB Church shared the Word of God with continued zeal from the days before.

His first message, "Behold the Lamb of God," reminded us that the Lamb of God came and will-

ingly died as a sacrifice, to pay the price for the sins of the world; therefore, sin has no control over those of us who are in Him. Our aim then should be to please God by being obedient to His word and by serving Him.

Pastor Taylor brought the revival to a close on the Sabbath with his message on "Discipleship."

A disciple, he said, is one who learns the things of Jesus Christ and puts them into practice in his own life and then teaches what he has practiced to others.

A disciple is also one who walks in agreement with Jesus Christ. This message called for a re-examination of oneself and challenged us to move forward daily in conformity to God's will.

The Holy Spirit ministered to the hearts of people through the various talents that were shared in special music, testimonies and inspirational poems. This was a time of exhortation and edification for our church body.

Revival continues in our church and, as we continue to put Jesus where He belongs—at the head of the church—we will move forward, and grow stronger. We are on fire for the Lord, and we look forward to next year's revival. **SR**

More on MORE 2000

The plan is for Seventh Day Baptists and God's Kingdom. The plan is to develop our vision and direct our resources. The plan is MORE 2000: our Mission of Revival and Evangelism toward the year 2000 and beyond.

MORE 2000 was "unveiled" by the Coordinating Leadership Team at General Conference sessions in Lindsborg, Kansas. The slide pre-

sentation carried a taped endorsement of the proposal from David Bryant, president of Concerts of Prayer International, a ministry planting prayer movements and revival around the world.

The 10 phases of this plan include: the local presentation, education for leaders and church, seeking God's vision, church evaluation/storyboarding, discover-

ing God's vision, planning and goal setting, exploring strategy options, continued planning, training and communication, and pastoral continuing education.

Our four pilot churches in California are gearing up for phase seven, while two other church clusters will be introduced to the plan this fall. Please pray for the success of MORE 2000. **SR**

Pacific Coast hosts women's retreat

by Katherine Davis

Thirty-eight women arrived on Sabbath afternoon, May 19, 1990, at the Pacific Pines Camp at Crestline, California, to attend a two-day retreat sponsored by the Pacific Coast Association Camp Committee. They were greeted by hundreds of white Dogwood trees in bloom against tall pine trees.

Evelyn Haskell served as director of the retreat. Five California churches were represented—Foothills, Lake Elsinore, Riverside, San Diego, and San Gabriel—and Myrna Cox and Katherine Davis attended from Denver, Colorado. Brightly colored butterfly favors, lovingly crocheted by Floy Owen, were given to each one present.

Guest speaker Myrna Cox spoke on the theme, "Where Do I Go from

Women's retreat guest speaker, Myrna Cox.

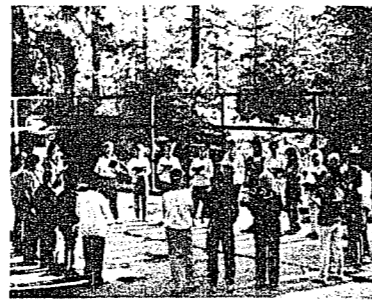


Here, God?," using Jeremiah 29:11-12 as the basic Scripture. She used small group sessions, with a leader for each group. We were led in exercises on "how to get out of our holding patterns," and singing was led by women from the churches. Saturday night, we had a fun time with each small group responsible for leading a charade. Linda Dickinson led the closing commitment service on Sunday.

During the retreat, the women were blessed with three men from the Riverside church who served as cooks. Paul Walling, Ken Whitlock, and Earl Soper prepared the food, cooked, served, and cleaned up. All their work was greatly appreciated and provided a real treat for the women.

George Barber, who served as handyman, provided firewood, installed light bulbs, and moved furniture. He was an active person and kept us going, facility-wise.

There was plenty of time for fellowship and getting acquainted



Above: Sunday morning devotions at Pacific Pines Camp. Below: (left to right) Myrna Cox, Linda Dickinson, Dede Mackintosh, Katherine Davis, and Nancy May.



with new friends, and everyone left feeling refreshed—mentally, physically, and spiritually. Many participants suggested that future retreats be held twice a year and that more time be allowed on the weekend itself. *SR*

Boulder church buys land

by John Rasmussen

Greetings in Christ's love from the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder, Colorado. We are rejoicing over the purchase of a parcel of land as a site for our new church building.

Some will remember that we sold the old church building and parsonage on Ninth and Arapahoe Avenue in July, 1988, because, lovely though it was, it did not meet the needs of our expanding and aging congregation. Since then we have enjoyed the use of Mesa Memorial Baptist Church in south

Boulder, and we thank the brethren there for allowing us to rent their sanctuary.

But now the Lord has enabled

...and as a bonus, a spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains.

us to buy a parcel of land just east of town, with plenty of room for any kind of church building or parsonage, and as a bonus, a spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains. We completed purchase in February,

1990. The land is completely undeveloped, so any construction will have to include water, electricity, and other utilities. Incidentally, this land is also on Arapahoe, as was the previous building, but also the original SDB Church building!

We praise the Lord that He has enabled us to use this land, but much work remains. Planning, drawing, finding or hiring labor, and even fund-raising are all part of the process of constructing a church building. Please pray for us as we do our part in building not only a facility, but the Kingdom of God, in Boulder. *SR*

SR Reaction

Letters may be edited for clarity and length

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to express my thoughts on some of the things Rev. Hansen wrote of in his article on the Sabbath (SR, May '90).

My opinion concerning evolution, and also the Sabbath in relationship to it, is as follows: Although from my early years I have been indoctrinated with evolution, including its relegation to the realm of fact in a 6th grade religion class, I have found that it simply is not the way, the truth, or the life (literally).

The phrase "Ye must be born again" is far more poetic than the phrase "And the evening and the morning were the third day." Yet the fact is, I am born again! Thus to relegate a phrase, or more, to poetic language (whether it actually is poetic or not) does not necessarily change the truth of the statement.

I have come to exactly the same conclusion Rev. Hansen brought out in his article, though from a slightly different perspective. That is, that it is true one cannot keep the Sabbath in the sense of obeying the Decalogue while one also believes in evolution. For the Decalogue, which is not poetry, reiterates the facts of Genesis concerning the Creation. One may either believe that the entire Fourth Commandment is true and literal and that we are to rest on one particular day precisely because God rested on and hallowed that particular portion of time, or we must keep the Sabbath for "poetic" reasons, which are the type of reasons Rev. Hansen gave. That is, the reasons God has given us for the Sabbath commandment are not actually true, and we must substitute them with "true" reasons.

Along the vein of truth, I would reject Rev. Hansen's admonition that we must avoid "faulty reading of the Bible" by "accept[ing] all truth from

whatever source it may come." The Jehovah's Witnesses say the very same thing and they, in all sincerity, accept a New Testament (Greever's) which was written under the direction of "spirit messengers" and through the aid of a "spirit medium." Rev. Hansen's phrase is also a tenet of the New Age cult and its many tie-ins. (I am not implying that he is New Age.) Thus the New Age accepts all religions as being valid, including the Gospel (if it has first been sufficiently perverted). Eve accepted truth from the serpent, and because it was cleverly woven with lies, we live with her mistake every day of our lives. Jesus did not accept truth from any source.

When the devil tempted him in the desert he rejected the devil's accurately quoted scripture, though it was the divine word of God himself. For the devil was mishandling the word of God and his intent was to bring down the Righteous. This is still the devil's technique and intent. I put a lot of stake in Christ's words to us that we must "be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." We are truly like sheep among wolves (Mt. 10:16).

I believe that Rev. Hansen's statement that the earth is so polluted that all life on it is threatened is an overstatement of planetary proportion. First, the amount of the earth that is actually polluted in a significant manner is very small. Most of the scare talk we read about comes from folks who simply haven't done any real travelling. If you look hard enough, and if your definition of pollution is broad enough, you will surely find a speck of it wherever you look. But the fact is the earth is really relatively unpolluted. Second, planetary life is threatened by sin, not by pollution, and it is God who will Himself destroy the earth.

Last of all, I'm not sure what greed of mine Rev. Hansen re-

ferred to that is fostering crime, and corruption in government. As far as I know, neither I nor my husband nor my family, and probably no one that I know, is fostering crime or corruption in government. Indeed many of us are doing the exact opposite, as I suspect the majority of people in this great country are doing, in ways small, large, and outright heroic.

I do respect my brother in Christ and pray that God will grant each of us wisdom, understanding and discernment, especially in those things that are closest to His heart.

With love in Christ,
Mrs. Vivian McNeme
Somers, MT

Dear Editor:

In response to Mrs. Lynch's letter in which she responded almost vehemently against the writer of "An Open Door to Heaven," I would like to submit the following:

I believe with all my heart that God created the heavens and the earth in six days and six nights, then rested on the seventh day. After all, isn't this what our Scriptures tell us? Even so, this always brings up the age-old "argument" about the earth's longer term history than Biblical history. Some of us will use our intellect to try and discredit God in his creation, but why should intellect interfere with God's will? Intellect will bring up the idea of carbon dating, dinosaurs and other ancient archaeological data to try and refute God in our literal 24 hour day as we know it.

If the above is true, then some of us as Christians are limiting God, too, to the time period of the day. However, in 2 Peter 3:8, it says, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."

cont. on next page

In this passage, we may focus on the idea that God's day is not like our day. If his creation day took much longer than our 24 hour day as we know it, why is it so hard to believe? In other words, why should we limit God in the use of his time?

In retrospect, the mere mention of dinosaurs makes some Christians boil. They will tell you that they did not exist or that man is mistaken in his own dating system of such. Yet, as we really think about the dinosaur, that animal really did exist, and it was a long time ago. Considering what has happened to the earth before and after, this all belongs to God, for he created the dinosaur, too.

Considering that God's creation-day took one million years or more, this does not bother me one bit. His time (his day) is important, for we see it in Scripture in many ways. Should this idea not find favor in most of our Christian community, it is because of tradition. Man wants to believe his 24 hour day existed during Creation. Yet, as one looks at this objectively, this does not fit!

Your Servant In Christ,
Richard L. Steele
Loveland, CO

Dear Editor:

I re-read Rev. Hansen's article that has caused such a

furor among some Seventh Day Baptists and found it to be a well-written, spirit-filled article. It is unfortunate that two or three sentences caused such a storm. This seems incomprehensible to me since I have always been told that within the bounds of basic 7th Day Baptist beliefs we cherished freedom of thought. Nowhere in those stated beliefs do I find a mandate to take every word in the Bible literally, particularly those in the Old Testament, none of which are the words of Jesus.

An agnostic most of my life, I became a Christian through a personal experience that brought me to a belief in God that could not be denied. Although my training through college, grad school, and medical school was scientific, study of the Bible convinced me that it was not necessary to choose between the facts of science and the reality of God as Creator. We "see through a glass darkly" about many things in the Bible, and until God chooses to reveal them, there will be differences of opinion among Christians.

I firmly believe in God as Creator, not only of the world but of man, but I also believe the world is much, much older than 6,000 years and that God did not limit creation to one of our 24 hour days.

Science has not proven that

man descended from an ape, or from an amoeba (the ultimate progenitor of life, according to scientific theory). There are too many gaps in the evolutionary chain that many scientists accept as fact. But evolutionary changes have taken place and man-like creatures did exist.

I can even believe that, dissatisfied with what was evolving, God created Adam and Eve in the Garden and breathed both life and a soul into them, thus separating them from any other creature.

Many scientists take the unscientific approach that nothing supernatural is possible, and that this statement alone proves the nonexistence of God.

Fundamentalists feel that nothing in science can be true if it seems to conflict in any way with the six 24 hour days of Genesis.

Many believing scientists—and many Christians, including Seventh Day Baptists—feel that the truth lies somewhere between these two polarized viewpoints.

It would be better if both sides would allow the possibility that they might not be 100% correct; and, if so, there might even be fewer acrimonious letters to the editor.

Larry Burdick, MD
Milton, WI

Heidi Seibel
Holly Seibel
Honey Jo Randolph

Joined by letter
Lauren Rebecca "Becky"
Howell

Santa Barbara, CA
Robert Babcock, pastor

Joined after testimony
Mary K. Thompson
Dicksie Thompson
Tom Thompson

Joined by letter
Steve Osborn

Texarkana, AR
Mynor G. Soper, pastor

Joined after baptism
Charles A. Crow

Joined by letter
Joey Whitehead
Anette Marie Harris

Births

Patterson.—A daughter, Jasmine Elizabeth Patterson, was born to Jerry and Joan (Boyd) Patterson of Kissimmee, FL, on June 15, 1988.

Patterson.—A daughter, Jessica Dawn Patterson, was born to Jerry and Joan (Boyd) Patterson in Roaring Springs, PA, on September 11, 1989.

Olson.—A daughter, Juliet Olson, was adopted by Matt and Ellen Olson and arrived in February 1990 to live with them in Grand Rapids, MI. She was born on October 26, 1984, in the Philippines.

Cutsforth.—A son, Luke Richard Cutsforth, was born to Brian and Karena (Crawford) Cutsforth of Dillon, MT, on February 20, 1990.

Kandel.—A daughter, Martha Burdick Kandel, was born to Mark and JoAnne (Burdick) Kandel of East Concord, NY, on March 30, 1990.

Osborn.—A son, Randall Eugene Osborn, was born to Clark and Nyla (Palmiter) Osborn in Flint, MI, on March 31, 1990.

Samuels.—A daughter, Tsafiq Andrene Dominiq, was born to Pastor Andrew and Kay Samuels of Miami, FL, on May 14, 1990.

Coombs.—A son, Kevin Matthew Coombs, was born to John and Donna (Cruzan) Coombs of Elmer, NJ, on May 17, 1990.

Smith.—A daughter, Carlie Marie Smith, was born to Scott and Jeannie (Fetrow) Smith of Shawnee, KS, on May 24, 1990.

Oswald.—A son, Matthew Jacob Oswald, was born to Eric and

Shelly (Lingg) Oswald at Loring Air Force Base, ME, on June 5, 1990.

Burdick.—A daughter, Samantha Renee Burdick, was born to Richard and Denise Burdick of Bristol, VA, on June 18, 1990.

Brown.—A daughter, Catherine Diane Brown, was born to Clint and Beth (Basile) Brown of Ft. Worth, TX, on June 28, 1990.

Marriages

Sukie-Caroo.—Desmond Sukie and Lorna Carroo were united in marriage on December 23, 1989, at the Miami (FL) Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Pastor Andrew Samuels officiating.

Sorenson-Saunders.—Karl Sorenson and Peggy Saunders were united in marriage on May 19, 1990, at the Milton, WI, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Herbert E. Saunders, father of the bride, and the Rev. Kevin Butler officiated.

Bond-Hays.—Keith Carlton Bond and Jennifer Linda Hays were joined in marriage on June 9, 1990, at the Interdenominational Chapel on the campus of Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit, MS. The groom's grandfather, Pastor S. Kenneth Davis, officiated.

Wirrick-Curtis.—David Wirrick and Tara Curtis were united in marriage on June 16, 1990, in a garden wedding at the bride's home in Whitehouse Station, NJ, with Rev. John D. Bevis officiating.

Moore-Keibler.—Daniel Moore and Jacqueline Keibler were united in marriage on June 23, 1990, at the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Paint Rock, AL, with Rev. John D. Bevis officiating.

Givens-Merriam.—Norman L. Givens and Dorothea Mae Merriam were united in marriage on July 7, 1990, at the Alfred Station, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Melvin F. Stephan and Pastor Bruce A. Crossley, Andover (NY) Alliance Church, officiated.

Accessions

Alfred Station, NY
Melvin F. Stephan, pastor

Joined by letter
Donna R. Rogers

Battle Creek, MI
George Calhoun, pastor

Joined after baptism
Richard P. Adams
Dian Cantrell

Joined after testimony
Thomas R. Reed Jr.

Christine Reed
Mary Brown
Rose Jacobus
Sidney Rootes

Black Hills, SD
(branch church of Denver,
CO)
Larry Graffius, pastor

Joined after testimony
Jan Kelly
Marcele Simon
Delorse Kelly

Blountville, TN

Joined by letter
Chuck Thomas
Faye Thomas
Leigh Anne Thomas

Brookfield, NY
Ernest Clemens, pastor

Joined after testimony
David Bly
Linda Lou Bly
Linda Lou Rachele Bly

Dodge Center, MN
Dale E. Rood, pastor

Joined after baptism
Tom Carlson

Joined by letter
L. Wayne Babcock
Ida Babcock

Salem, WV
S. Kenneth Davis, pastor

Joined after baptism
Cathy Rogers

Obituaries

Davis.—Alfred J. Davis of Nortonville, Kansas, died on May 6, 1990, at Village Villa Nursing Home in Nortonville.

Alfred was born on December 9, 1920, the son of Carroll and Alma (Maris) Davis. Blind most of his life, he attended the Kansas City "School for the Blind" for four years. He had a keen memory and listened to the radio, discussing with others what he had heard. He had many books and the complete Bible printed in Braille, which he shared with visitors as he read portions from them.

Alfred is survived by his mother, Alma, who devotedly cared for him up until the last few weeks of his life when he entered a nursing home because of illness. He is also survived by one brother, Edwin, of Nortonville; one sister, Gladys Neuhaus of Tecumseh, Kansas; and nieces and nephews.

Chaplain Clifford Bond officiated at the funeral, which was held on May 8, 1990, at the O'Trimble Funeral Home. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Wyles.—Rosella B. Wyles, 86, of Lake Elsinore, California, died on May 17, 1990, after a brief illness.

She was born on November 4, 1903, in Salemville, Pennsylvania, the daughter of John H. and Mary Baker. She married Paul I. Wyles on June 25, 1921. They lived in Altoona, Pennsylvania, before moving to California in 1943.

Rosella continued to keep in touch with her friends in Morrison Cove.

Rosella's love and good works touched countless lives. She was an active and devoted member of the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Lake Elsinore and served as deaconess and a member of the Sunshine Committee.

Survivors include one daughter,

Alice Scott of Perris, California; two sons, Philip of Perris and Paul of Stockton, California; one sister, Mareda DeJaiffe of Toledo, Ohio; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Rosella's husband, Paul, preceded her in death on January 22, 1976.

A memorial service was held on June 2, 1990, in the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Lake Elsinore with her pastor, Rev. Leland E. Davis, officiating. LED

Lukens.—Lloyd C. Lukens, 84, of Marietta, Ohio, died on May 31, 1990, in Selby General Hospital following an extended illness.

Lloyd was born on March 21, 1906, near Kent, Ohio, to William and Margaret (Chandler) Lukens. He attended a one-room school on Good Hope Ridge and then attended Sand High School, near Reno, Ohio, his freshman and sophomore years. He worked in Battle Creek, Michigan, for a number of years as a cabinetmaker.

On May 24, 1937, Lloyd married Emma Leo Greene in Haigler, Nebraska. Following their marriage, they lived in Battle Creek where Lloyd worked for the United States Lumber Company. After serving two years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in England and Germany during World War II, he and Leo moved to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked as a cabinetmaker for the Wasserstrom Company. In 1959, they moved to Marietta.

Though not a member, Lloyd regularly supported the fellowship and program of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Columbus. He expressed his Christian faith by the programs he supported and by his daily witness.

Survivors include his wife, Leo; one sister, Shirley Witner of Akron, Ohio; and five nieces.

Funeral services were held on June 3, 1990, at the McClure-Schafer Funeral Home, with Rev. Don Richards officiating. Interment was in the Good Hope Cemetery.

Nelson.—Mabel Nelson died on June 12, 1990, at Rock Haven, Janesville, Wisconsin, at the age of 101.

Mabel was born on August 25, 1888, in Moody County, South Dakota, the daughter of Hector and Emma (Ellis) Severance. She married Charles A. Nelson on August 19, 1909, in Elcho, Wisconsin. To this union were born four children who survive her: two sons, Erlo of Milton, Wisconsin, and Nolan of Austin, Texas; and two daughters, Verna Klein of Elgin, Illinois, and Reva Stump of St. Paul, Minnesota. She is also survived by one sister, one brother, seven grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Mabel was a longtime resident of Milton and a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Milton.

Funeral services were held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church on June 15, 1990, with Rev. Earl Cruzan officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery. EC

*...we have a building
from God,
an eternal house
in heaven,
not built by human
hands.*

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

Someone shared with me that if all the emotions, goosebumps, and movings of God's Spirit at Conference were lumped together into a short span of time, we wouldn't be able to handle it. It would overwhelm us!

Conference 1990, "All One in Christ Jesus," carried an appropriate theme. The Lord visited Lindsborg, Kansas, along with 500 Seventh Day Baptists. Year-long prayers for good weather, brotherly cooperation, and unity came to fruition.

Good old Pastor Joe. (I should say, "President Joe.") It all came together—the Host Committee, the college (meals, facilities, friendly staff), the business, the programs. My hat is off to all those involved in an excellent gathering. It even—oh,

no—caused me to wax poetic. And you may want more wax in your ears if someone is reading this to you.

An Ode to Joe -or-
Somewhere Over the Rainbow Connection -or-
A Great Pause in the Land of Ahs

"It'll never come off," I was convinced. Looking back at the calendar, I winced. There are too many holes—too many gaps. This whole Conference will crash in our laps.

Doesn't Joe know we can't do it his way—
Waiting for God and what He has to say?
I'll keep heading west and never come back
(Is there a touch of faith that I lack?)

Well, here we are. "Little Sweden" by name; Lord, remember to carry us through the flame?... Huh—people are smiling. They're having some fun! Maybe it's true: we'll be one in the Son!

We're well underway, the singing is grand,
Testimony and messages led by His hand.
Catching up with old friends (and not with your sleep)
The Spirit of love running heavy and deep.

There's President Joe watching over it all;
Maybe this wasn't a job—more like a call...
"All One in Christ Jesus" was more than a theme,
And to the man with the gavel, more than a dream.

With carrot-and-stick he prodded us on
Warning, "Friday's free time will soon be gone!"
The clock raced by; dread filled the air
But business was closed with three minutes to spare.

It surely was a mountain-top time
The love of the Father felt mighty sublime.
Too soon down the mountain (in Kansas?) we came
Knowing our lives would not be the same.

Deadlines loomed—"To do" lists grew long
But my spirit was filled with story and song.
Next year as we gather
and are called to obey
I pray that the Lord
once again has *His* way!

Thank you, Joe.
Thank you, God.



In the next SR:

Special submissions from
our readers—

Ruminations concerning an
endangered species
Singing aids the worshiper
Developing a church library
Row, row, row your boat

North Central Association to celebrate Milton Sesquicentennial September 28-30, 1990

The annual meeting of the North Central Association will be held with the Milton, Wisconsin, SDB Church as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the signing of Milton's Covenant and Articles of Faith and Practice.

The theme for the weekend celebration will be "Refresh Thy People." Former pastor, Rev. Elmo FitzRandolph, will be the featured speaker Sabbath morning.

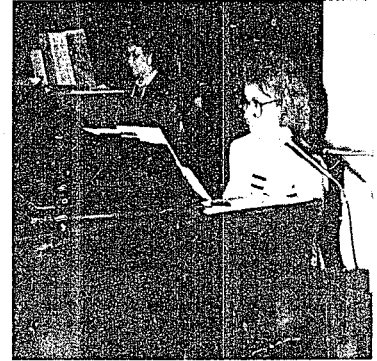
Kansas kinship

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



Thank you, Lord, for making us all one in Christ Jesus.



Thank you Charlotte Chroniger and Lannette Calhoun. You're not helping to break the myth that all pastors' wives are also great keyboardists!



Our new "first family": Pastor Dale, Kristin, Jeffrey, and President Althea Road.



"Folks, I'm telling you for the last time—I am NOT running for re-election!"



"Mommy, when are we going ho...?"



These banquets get better every year!