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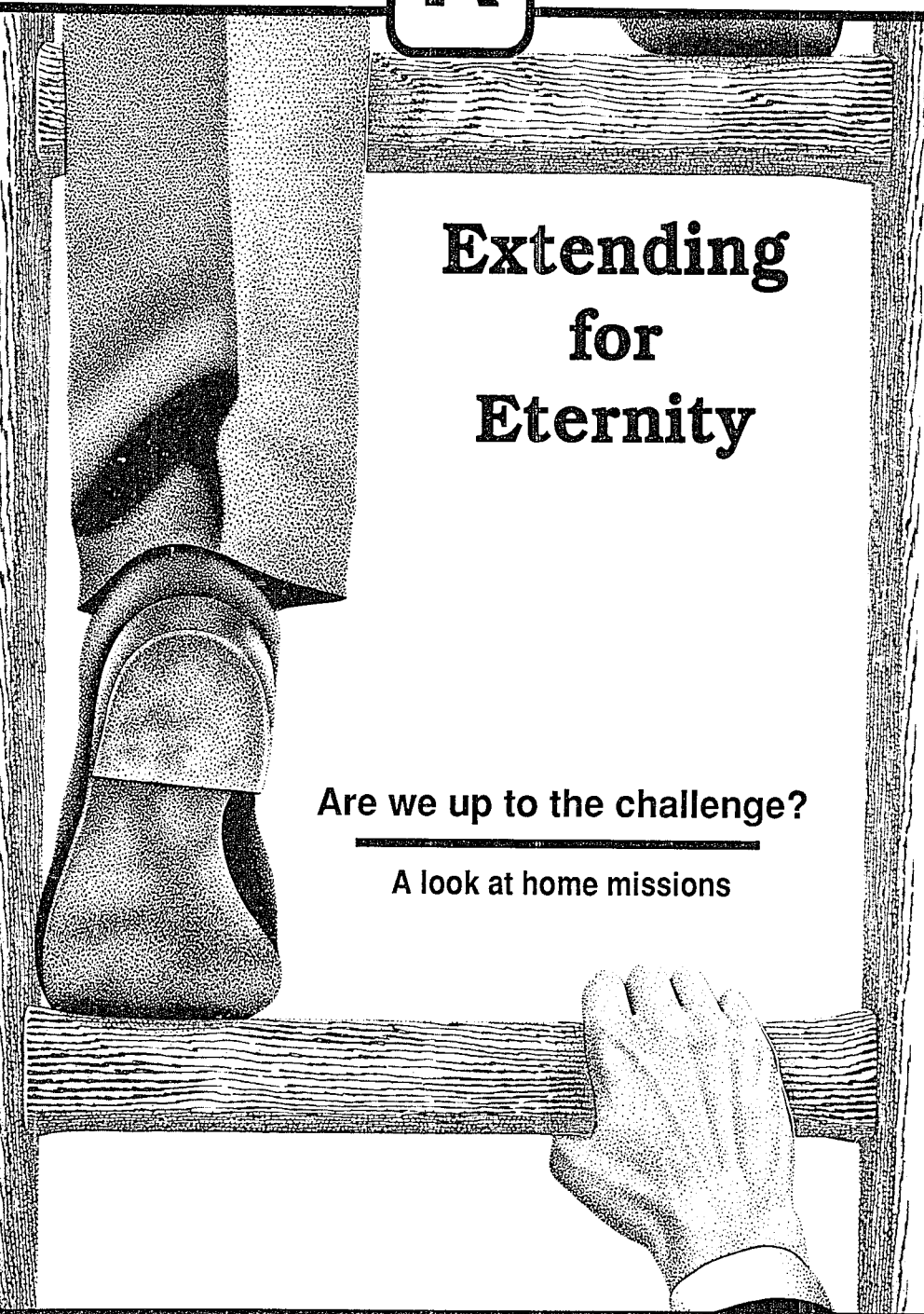
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*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

January 1991

**R**

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## Extending for Eternity

**Are we up to the challenge?**

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A look at home missions

**Missions videos available from the  
SDB Center, Janesville, WI**  
(FREE LOAN!! Just pay for return postage.)

From Malawi and former missionaries, the Pearsons:  
**SDBs in Africa**  
**Into the City**  
**Moments with Malawi Mothers**  
**The Secret** (for children)

**The Ingoes in Malawi**—  
A look at Malawi: Its people and country through the eyes of new missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe.

**SDB European Ministry in Finland**—Dr. Thomas McElwain  
**Free Eye Clinic Camp in India**—  
Gives highlights of the eye clinic held in India which was sponsored by the SDB Conference of India.

World Relief videos:  
**Mozambique**  
**West Africa**



Evangelism film:  
**Out of the Salt Shaker Into the World**—Rebekah Pippert  
Two videos each with two presentations.

**Missionary Society seeks  
new Executive Vice President**

With the upcoming retirement of Rev. Leon Lawton, the Missionary Society is prayerfully seeking someone to fill the position of Executive Vice President beginning in January of 1992.

Those who feel led to serve in this position should contact the Board office, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891, for a proposed job description. Applications should be received as soon as possible. If readers have an individual they believe could best fill this position, their suggestions would also be welcomed.

We seek every reader's prayer support in this need.

**New Helping Hand prices**  
(first increase since 1976)

Single copy, single issue	\$2.00
Single annual subscription	7.50
Group annual (5 or more)	5.00
Foreign group orders (per copy)	1.50

**"Sanctity of Human  
Life Sabbath"**

**January 19, 1991**

For more information and help in planning your celebration contact:

Dr. Ron Davis  
(714) 927-4239  
or  
Susan Bond  
(304) 884-8897

**1991 Pastors' Conference**

**April 10-14, 1991**  
**Battle Creek, Michigan**

**"Strengthening the Pastorate at its  
Foundations"**

**Featuring Dr. Sidney Draayer**

More information to come in *Lead-Line*

The **S**abbath  
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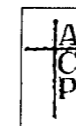
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**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

**Contributing Editors**

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

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**Who are Seventh Day Baptists?**

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are. Like other Baptists, 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

# Risking failure—so we don't fail God

by Russell Johnson

One of the paralyzing fears that people often face is the fear of failure. Questions about personal worth and worrying about the perceptions of others can severely limit our willingness to risk new ventures.

Seventh Day Baptists are facing many exciting and frightening new

**God never calls us to do that which He does not provide the means to accomplish.**

challenges. God is clearly awakening and calling a multitude of people to the Sabbath truth and into the presence of this family of God built on His Word.

Some of these challenges are found in established churches. There are issues of willingness to change to meet the needs of new people in our congregations. And there are issues of willingness to give responsibility and authority to those people—new to us, but mature in the Lord. Other issues involve reaching out to the poor, the hungry, the hurting, and yet never neglecting active evangelism. Who will be the ones in the congregation to do it, how will we do it, and what if there is criticism from the community?

There are concerns about what the pastor is called by God to do, and what the church should be doing that the pastor is presently doing for us. There is also the constant concern for each church's

stewardship of time, talents and finances; gifts that never seem to be perfect, but when applied carefully in faith can re-enact the multiplied loaves and fishes in our personal and group experiences.

There are other challenges that seem to stretch us even further. How will we reach a continent of our size when we have only about 100 identified points of ministry? This is compounded when we see that we are not even reaching our own communities. Yet the Great Commission was given to a group of perhaps 500 believers who had not yet been empowered. Their challenge was to reach not only Jerusalem, but Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. They did a pretty credible job in that first century.

We can do it again with 5,000 in the United States, and with 50,000 around the world. And who knows how many other "prophets" of our faith God has already prepared around the world to stand with the voice of Elijah in our day? God has truly raised up some new and exciting leaders and called them into ministry with us. These leaders bring a clear message of the Gospel and a call to Holiness and zealous commitment.

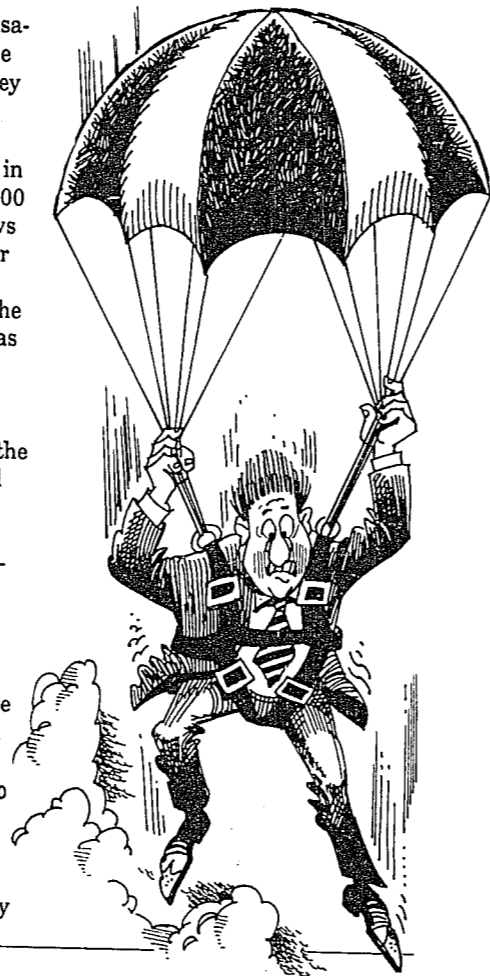
Even as the excitement and challenge grows, so does the pressure to say "we cannot do more." But God never calls us to do that which He does not provide the means to accomplish.

The feelings of impossibility are given so that we lean on Him and not on ourselves. The "stretched" feeling is a feeling that can lead to joy as we lean on God, and not on our own understanding. We must learn to live in the truth, "God is my provider," and live dynamically

that way day to day.

In these challenging days it is important that we put things into perspective. If we are not to fail God, we must remember to whom we will give answer with our very lives for all that we have done or failed to have attempted.

We are called by the Holy Spirit to accept the Word and enter into the Joy of Salvation. We are called to be aggressive, but compassionate. We are called to be advocates of the King and Kingdom alone. We are called to give, and discover that we receive; to obey and then rejoice;



and to serve without thought of deserving anything more than what Christ has already done to purchase us from destruction.

We enter the world with nothing, and we leave the world with nothing except what is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. Everything that God's people "control" is either eagerly acknowledged to be the Lord's and under His control, or else we do not understand what it means for Him to be our Lord.

We have come from the midst of selfishness and personal lordship. The end of that former way is ultimate separation from God, and a final destruction with the rest of those who refuse to accept Him as Creator, Redeemer, and Reigning Lord. We say, as God's joyfully submitted people: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and all they that dwell therein."

What does this have to do with our efforts to reach this continent? It affects us in every way. Our use of personnel, money, time, and new or uncertain ventures are all affected by the realities of fear or faith in our Lord.

Something or someone will reign in our lives; it is to be Christ who reigns in the church. It is to Him, and not to our budgets or our denomination that we bestow gifts, tithes, love offerings, and first fruit offerings of our personal stewardship. Money once given to God is then under the stewardship and accountability of the church or Conference to be used wisely for the expanding of the Kingdom, and the meeting of every godly need. It was given to the Lord, and it is the Lord's money, as even we are the Lord's. It is not ours to control, nor are any other of His resources that we control. It is only ours to see utilized for Him.

The purchase of our lives means our very time is His. It is His to set restrictions, and to establish the proper use of life itself, even before



**We must risk failures in the eyes of man, lest we truly fail in the eyes of God.**

we may understand the reasons. Memorial funds, regular giving, special giving, dedicated service, selling of property to move to a "new and better land" (to a new location), giving of "unreasonable amounts of time" as God directs can only bring us greater blessing and fruitfulness on the Lord's terms.

We as a people are being called to give all without "reserving for tomorrow." For if we obey God today, God will take care of tomorrow. And if we do not obey God today, we have little to look forward to, except God's revelation of our failure to love Him enough to obey.

Salvation begins with our obedience of believing in Christ, and proceeds to obeying in all things, even to the point of physical death. It ends with the wiping away of all tears, in the renewal of all things, and the blessing "well done, good and faithful servant."

As we are being asked to give personnel to start new works, we are finding some who have filled our pulpits being called of God to do new and different ministries.

The pastors were called by God, as the people in the pews were. Each is to obey God, and God will provide the needs of the church.

As our churches are asked to let go of people to start new works for God, we may be reluctant, but also joyous in our desire to see God's will fulfilled. By hindering such obedience we will not strengthen any local church, but rather may well lose God's blessing and favor. Every church that freely gives of itself to the Lord will find itself abounding, and every church that is self protective and unwilling to respond to larger ministries will struggle for its very existence, and may well die (return to its first love, or be removed or replaced).

Many works are emerging which will challenge us all with giving of time and even people to the ministry. The ministries will need money and other resources. Will all of them be guaranteed successes? Probably not, but using godly wisdom we cannot fail to respond to every viable opportunity, lest we fail to discover our full dependence on God and His full provision and blessing. For it is in the giving of

our churches' lives that we keep it, and it is in the attempting to save our churches' lives that we can lose it.

What a tragedy when churches have closed and left large endowments behind unexpended in the effort to see His Kingdom come. What a waste when endowments

needs, according to His riches and wisdom.

What if the work fails? What if it is like this other one in which we hoped and invested, but it collapsed? We must ask, "Did you do it for Christ, or yourself?" If you did it for Christ, you have not truly failed. Learn from the experience

have taken from God; but as for you, may you not be found guilty by God of having withheld from Him what is to be used for His glory.

We will see many new attempts at church planting in the next few years. It is new to us. Some will fail. Others will prosper. But God is the author and judge of the motives and results of each. Many will look like those that have gone before, but we as a people cannot withhold attempts for success because of the failures of the past.

We must walk by faith, in Wisdom, and in the direction and obedience of our God. The time draws on, and God's will shall be done, if not by those who call themselves Seventh Day Baptists, then by those called by some other name who will freely and obediently do what God is asking us to do in this generation.

How is that for a missions adventure? We must risk failures in the eyes of man, lest we truly fail in the eyes of God to whom all will answer with greater consequences. If we must fear, fear God, and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come. *SR*

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### ***We as a people cannot withhold attempts for success because of the failures of the past.***

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are given with restrictions that keep God or man from using them to meet the needs that God has for them in that day? What an accountability awaits those who try to control God or man with money. Money is neither our God, nor our salvation, and it cannot assure our success or prove our obedience to God. Only committed and responsive *people* can fulfill God's will, and He will provide all our

and eagerly look for the next opportunity to advance Christ's work.

Listen to me, churches of God: lay down your lives for Christ. Do not neglect the Samaritans lying in the ditches of our times. Do not withhold compassion or mercy. Give freely, and hold all accountable to God, even as you hold yourself accountable to God. If you have given in His name, and others fail to use your gifts wisely, they



*Russell Johnson  
Director of Extension  
Missionary Society  
branch office:  
RD 1 Box 125B  
Durhamville, NY 13054  
(315) 361-1507*

### **Ministry of Director of Extension**

Building from the work of a part-time Director of Extension, a full-time Director has been employed. The Missionary Society has called him to several key tasks in assisting Seventh Day Baptist ministry:

1. Assist New Church Development churches to become securely established in growth and in ministry.
2. Evaluate prospective areas for new churches to be planted.
3. Counsel with churches seeking to reach out in this decade.
4. Develop effective ways to present people of this generation with the Gospel including the Sabbath.
5. Seek solutions, as requested, for specific needs in churches.
6. Labor in extended "on the field" projects with churches who request such work.
7. Assist in coupling skilled extension field worker personnel with local groups needing short term help.

## **Home Missions**

### **Time is running out!**

by Leon R. Lawton

"The world is stirring as never before. God apparently decided Americans needed an education on the Middle East, not just Eastern Europe.

"And, He wanted the U.N. Security Council to agree on something for a change. And, what do you know, India, after all these years of being nasty to missionaries has decided to allow any former missionary to return for five years at a time!

"Mozambique, whose coastline laid alongside the U.S. would run twice as far as from Seattle to Los Angeles, is now inviting missionaries to return to that world's most torn country. They can't do without the missionaries!

"These events are as hard to believe as the relaxations in Nepal, Albania, and the handshaking between North and South Korea. Can you visualize that huge Soviet naval vessel being welcomed in San Diego—for the first time in a hundred years? This is a different world!" (Dr. Ralph D. Winter, director of the U.S. Center for World Mission, Pasadena, CA, in his editorial in October, *Mission Frontiers*).

As we enter the last decade of the second millennium A.D. (in the year of our Lord) there is much thinking and planning as we approach the year 2000. In the last 50 years the striking new concepts on church growth and unreached people, started by the late Donald McGavran, have brought new vitality to missions.

In this same period the rapid growth of the Christian church in some areas of the world has raised a new base for mission outreach. Most American Christians are actually shocked to learn that in Taiwan, Republic of China, between 1946 and 1947, the population of believers exploded from

about 43,000 to 500,000 Christians. National mission agencies in Asia, Latin America, and Africa are more numerous than those in the so-called western world of North America and Europe.

Since 1965 when the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation came into being, the growth of SDBs has been greater in many of the 17 member groups than in North America. We are still only a



small people. But God is opening new doors!

One new door is the Republic of Cameroon, West Africa. Individual SDBs have not been able to study together, witness or worship for decades. But now they have been received by the Native Baptist Church and, under this recognized body, can now worship on the Sabbath and share their faith.

A study booklet for Native Baptist Church pastors, *The Sabbath: God's Creation for Man's*

*Benefit*, has been written by Rodney L. Henry and published in three languages and English. Perhaps in February, following completion of the study, Pastor Henry will lead in a Pastor's Conference in the Cameroon where these lessons will be discussed. Then he will help them set up an ongoing Pastor's Training Class following the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) guidelines using other study booklets already available.

Unreached peoples are being identified, prayed for, and witnessed to. In Nigeria, Seventh Day Baptist Pastor G.A. Harrison has reported openness to the Gospel by Muslims. He has written, "This year 70 Muslims have been converted, baptized and Christianed. I am using one of their Mosques as a church building in Western Nigeria. Two pastors have been posted to Muslim areas of the west and four pastors to Muslim areas of the north."

Dr. Winter spoke on "We're Running Out of Time" recently and concluded his message: "Do you agree with me that time is running out? What are you doing in your life that doesn't have to be done? Are you busy at something that you will truly regret someday when you look back and realize the cruciality of these days? Do you believe God has given you free license to do whatever you want to do, so long as you can keep up a good enough front so that people in church don't become suspicious? Is it good enough to be able to give some kind of an alibi—'Well, I'm studying this, or I'm looking, or I'm praying about...' when actually you're not really that serious? You know, I'm not the one asking these questions; God is asking these questions. We're simply the ones who have to answer. *Time is running out!*" *SR*

## Extending for eternity

Christians have received the best Gift ever given. The sharing of that gift can only increase. How can Seventh Day Baptists meet the opportunities and needs of sharing the great news in the 1990s?

There are about 100 places in the United States and Canada where Seventh Day Baptists gather for worship and go out to serve in Christ's name.

The population of Canada is said to be 26 million; the United States is set at 250.8 million. A sizeable segment of citizens are between 26 and 44 years of age.

The challenge before us is best seen when we realize that there is a ratio of one Seventh Day Baptist in every 55,400 people. One SDB church is provided for every 2.8 million people in this North American continent. And there is only one SDB church to minister to 26 million people in Canada. Currently we have no known church ministering in Hawaii or Alaska.

Numbers become overwhelming when we see that 73.7% of the population is urban, while only

about one third of our churches are urban churches, and perhaps 15% are suburban. An additional 25% serve semi-rural or rural church communities. In other words, 33 groups are ministering to 203.8 million people, and more than 60 groups are ministering to 73 million. Extending the Kingdom for Christ's sake is less well distributed through SDBs than could be hoped.

The challenge would be disheartening if numbers are the only consideration. But God is faithful. In former times He used 500 disciples with a dozen leaders to reach a country and world with the good news of Jesus. God has given Seventh Day Baptists 5,000 committed people and tremendous leadership potential in response to the Double In A Decade project of the 1980s. He has also given us a unique message that we are responsible to spread around the whole world.

The Missionary Society is aggressively seeking to respond and pursue God's Will in all these areas in the 1990s. *SR*

## Your partnership in this ministry

### Personnel—

People are the only source of God's ministry to this world. Are you one of the committed disciples that God will use to meet these ministry needs in the 1990s? Are you willing, but uncertain of how to start a neighborhood outreach? Are you willing to go anywhere God wants you to go? Are you now ready to do anything God wants you to do? If God is speaking to your heart, let the Director of Extension know through a phone call or letter. Please take the time to do this even if you may have offered in the past.

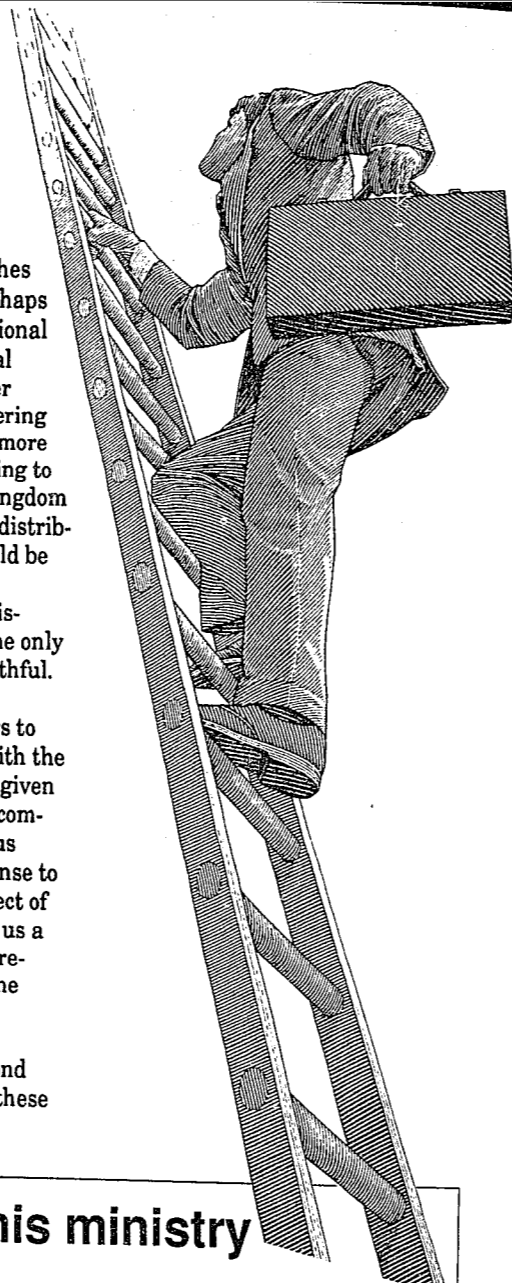
### Prayer—

The second area of support is in prayer for the specific works and the workers. "The prayer of a

righteous man avails much" the Scriptures say, and your prayers of support and intercession for the work and workers are important. If you are willing to be committed to be a prayer warrior in the "911 Prayer Net" for new outreach needs, please let us know.

### Provision—

The third avenue of assistance is in praying that God will raise up the financial resources through denominational giving, and through special provision, for meeting the needs that are currently beyond reach. Only by miraculous provision will the enormous challenge be met in the '90s. We believe God has prepared an answer for all these needs.



## How you can help

by Russell Johnson

What's happening on the home field? Allow me to share some truly exciting things!

Since General Conference, there has been contact with people starting or willing to start churches in 17 new locations. If even half turn out to be successes, our Conference could be seeing a 10-20% growth in 1991. It seems that new contacts have been springing up almost monthly. I am confident that we will have a continuing stream of possibilities throughout the year.

It is possible that we cannot conceive of the growth that we could experience in 1991 with God's blessing. MORE 2000 is bringing challenge and blessing to churches in several parts of the country, and its impact will probably not be fully felt for another year. Individual Associations and churches are pioneering efforts to reach out for Christ. Can there ever be too many of us reaching out for Him?

Some of the current efforts have come from Seventh Day Baptists who find themselves at a distance from a Seventh Day Baptist church, and who now feel a calling from God to explore the setting up of a witness in their communities.

Other efforts are arising from new leaders, several of whom come as trained and dedicated pastors. Others are excellent students of the Word who come simply committed to the cause of Christ. They arrive believing that their opportunities to express that commitment are best found amongst Seventh Day Baptists. They come with enthusiasm and a drive to move forward for His name's sake. Overall, there is a tremendous feeling of great things about to unfold.

What can you do to support the cause of Christ, and to make a difference in a brand-new ministry?

In addition to prayer and regular support of our denominational stewardship, a local church can give special gifts or do special projects to support the beginning of a specific new church. Even the smallest of churches can do things that make a big difference.

Giving a needed piece of new office equipment can free a church planter from hunting for a photo-

**You can make  
the new ministry  
sense the care  
and fellowship  
from our established  
churches.**

copier, or doing everything in hand-written form. Refurbished and quality office equipment can be extremely beneficial. Some churches could donate good condition or rebound hymnbooks. Providing the annual copyright license coverage for songs and choruses for the new church can pick up the burden of complying with the laws of our land. Sometimes even excess quality food and clothing can be of special help. The commissioning of talented church people to go and work in a church planting effort for a period of time; offering reliable and economical used vehicles; adopting the church as a sister church to provide prayer support; even a one-time financial gift or regular giving for a time—all these can make the new ministry sense the care and fellowship from our established churches. You could make a tremendous difference for

Christ to a worker struggling to put more effort into the Lord's work and less into personal provision.

For example, I have been to Des Moines, Iowa, and have been in contact with a man whom God has called into service to Him. Tom Carlson finds that Seventh Day Baptists are a people of joy to him. He is a member of the Dodge Center, Minnesota, church, has been licensed to preach, and seeks to start a branch church in his area. Two specific needs were surrendered to God for His provision.

The first is some possible support from God's people for setting up an office/meeting room in the front of Tom's appliance repair business. This could either be in the labor of fixing it up, or in the partial provision of some of the materials. The second need has recently been met by the provision of an economical car. It is important to say that he is not looking so much to Seventh Day Baptists as the answer to his needs, as he is looking to God. However, I feel that Seventh Day Baptists may very well have the perfect provision from God for this need.

There are other needs in other places that emerge regularly. If you or your church have a burden to make a difference for Christ, and want to respond to a published need, or seek to provide for a yet unknown need, please keep your eye on the *Lead-Line*, or contact the Director of Extension.

Christ counts on His servants, and what you do does count. You may discover that what might seem little to you is someone else's greatest blessing, and could bring untold fruitfulness to both parties through the "widow's mite" given for Jesus. *SR*

# Affecting the message

by Dwight Gradin

On an extremely full and cramped flight to Costa Rica last year, we were scheduled to land in Nicaragua enroute. Every available seat was taken. People coming from Miami to Managua had extra carry-ons. There was no space anywhere. Airline attendants could hardly get up and down the aisles to serve passengers.

As we landed in Managua, I chuckled as the Latin airline hostess, speaking with an accent, misspoke over the PA system, "It has been a real *pressure* (she meant *pleasure*) having you on board today." How true, I thought!

Her slip of the tongue set me to thinking. My presence can result in pressure or pleasure. I can create stress for people or set them at ease. I influence the mood of my environment in one way or the other.

A reading of 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2 shows how much attention Paul gave to his conduct among people he went to serve:

"You know what kind of men we were among you for your sake" (1:5).

"We never came with flattering speech...nor with a pretext for

greed...nor did we seek glory...But we were gentle among you...we were willing to impart to you not only the gospel but also our own lives...How devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you..." (2:5-10).

"You also became followers of us and of the Lord" (1:6).

It's interesting that he didn't say, "You became followers of the Lord," but rather "followers of *us* and of the Lord," with the *us* first.

The Gospel messenger strongly influences how the Gospel comes across to people and how they will respond to the Lord.

Put another way: Not only do people get the *Gospel*, they get the *Gospel messenger*.

Reflect back, and see if you can relate to this. In school, not only did you go out for *sports*, you also got the *coach*. Not only did you take a particular *course*, you also got the *teacher* who taught it.

I recall when I took physics, the teacher turned me off on the subject; but in geometry, the teacher made the course exciting for me. The *person* strongly influences the *experience*.

A study was done on how receptive tribal people have been to the Scriptures after they were translated. They found that there

was a high correlation between the relationship the translator had with the people and their

level of receptivity to the Scriptures. Those missionaries who saw Bible translation only as a task to be completed found the people less receptive than those who took the time to identify and build strong, positive relationships with the people.

The people not only got the *Scriptures*, they got the *translator*. People were drawn to the Book because they were first drawn to the translator.

"You also became followers of *us* (i.e., you were attracted first to us) and of the Lord."

The major focus of Missionary Internship's programs is on the *person* who is moving cross-culturally—on the *style*, the *posture*, the *skills* that are strategic to effective involvement with people as a servant of Christ in a new cultural environment.

If people are going to be turned off to the Gospel, then let it be because of the "offense of the Gospel" and not because of the bungling or insensitivity of the Gospel messenger. We must not merely preach the Gospel; we must properly adorn the Gospel. Not only do people get the *Gospel*, they get the *missionary*.

"You became followers of us and of the Lord."

What a responsibility! *SR*

*Dwight Gradin is Director of Programs, Missionary Internship. (This article first appeared in MI Focus, fall 1989. Used by permission.)*

Note: Seventh Day Baptist missionaries who have benefited from orientation courses at MI include David and Bettie Pearson, Rodney and Camille Henry, and Ian and Trudy Ingoe.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

# Missions start at home

"Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation" (Romans 10:1).

Back in 1977, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime that changed the direction of my life completely. I was asked to be a part of a summer missionary team to Japan.

Those of us who went would teach English in one of the American Baptist missionary schools in Himeji and would be sharing our Christian testimony with hundreds of students there, most of whom were Buddhist. Through several miracles of love from my family and my church family, I was able to come up with the money to go.

Among the many different experiences, sights, and people I witnessed was the sense of lostness in the families I lived with (except for the missionary family) and the void in the lives of the many people who did not know about Jesus. That experience along with the return trip the next summer revealed God's will for me to go into the full-time professional Christian ministry. (All Christians are in full-time Christian ministry; some get paid for doing what they are called to do, while for most Christians, there is no financial payment involved.)

I went on to seminary to prepare myself for the Lord's work (not to mention the fact that God wanted me in a place where I could meet and eventually marry Don Chroniger). As Don and I seek to minister for the Lord in our community and for Seventh Day Baptists, I am again struck by the hopelessness and emptiness that many people in a so-called Christian nation are daily experiencing.

There are many people all

around us who need to hear about and experience for themselves the good news of Jesus Christ. While there are those who are called to serve on a foreign mission field (and praise God for their willingness to go), many of us are called to minister right where we live. Some people are called to door-to-door evangelism, while others, through their consistent Christian witness and lifestyle, will win the trust of their neighbors and friends and eventually will have the opportunity to talk to them about their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sometimes the Lord provides supernatural meetings and circumstances to allow people to cross our paths at the right time so we might

have an opportunity to talk with them about the Lord, but hopefully a seed can be planted to start them thinking about spiritual things.

I can't make anyone believe in Jesus Christ, nor can I make them accept Him as their personal Savior. I'm not perfect and I make mistakes. But hopefully God can still use me in some way to bring hope to the hopeless and to bring good news to those who have empty or struggling lives.

I have to realize that there will be people who will reject me, or reject the message I want to share with them. It may hurt, it may cause me deep distress, but I am not responsible for their actions or reactions.

I must continue to lovingly

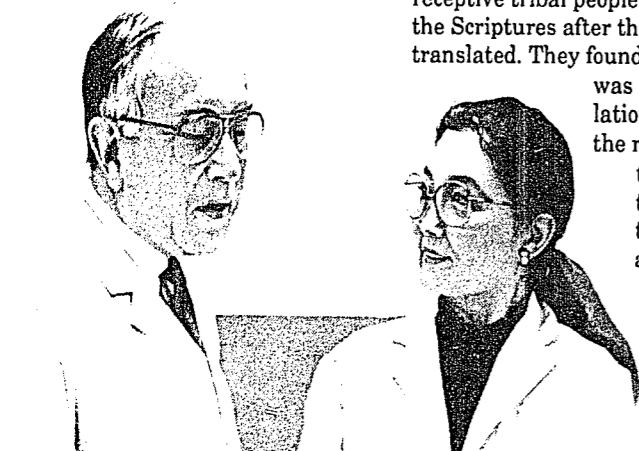
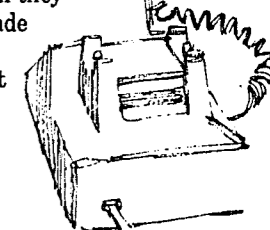
*I pray for that person,  
or send them a note  
or give them  
a phone call.*

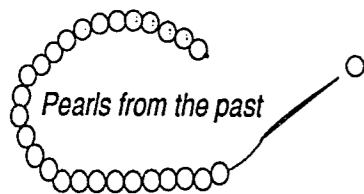
be of help to them or might encourage them. I have been amazed at how many times the Lord has put us at the right place at the right time to meet someone or talk with someone. Often we don't talk about spiritual things such as forgiveness, sin, or salvation, but we are able to share with that individual or family through our love and concern and humor.

Sometimes the Lord will bring someone to my mind, often someone I haven't thought about for a long time. I pray for that person, or send them a note or give them a phone call. Perhaps I will never



share the good news of Jesus Christ and His love with those around me, so that if they have not made a personal commitment to Christ, they will before it is too late. *SR*





## Which door to choose??

by Don A. Sanford, historian

In a later letter written on shipboard Daland wrote:

"I truly believe that the coming out of the Sabbath-keepers at Ayan Maim and all the events and circumstances in connection with their becoming one of our churches constitutes a sign from God that he has a work for us to do among them. I hesitate to affirm this because the task of maintaining a mission there will be an enormous one, and yet I give this as my opinion. It seems to me that God has spoken. If we hear and heed his call, he will surely bless us. If he has spoken and we do not heed, he may work his will without us, but we shall lose the blessing."


Interest in this mission opening remained high for a number of years, but question of support remained a major issue. This door opened at the same time effort and resources were being spent in China, and in a newly opened Industrial mission in Nyasaaland under the direction of Joseph Booth and the Evangelizing and Industrial Association. The Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, O.U. Whitford, in 1901 reported the Society's willingness to take up the Gold Coast Mission if people would support it, "but it would require something more than enthusiasm to carry it on.... The Board had in years past taken up special work under the enthusiasm generated by General Conference, and after a little the interest died out, and they were left without support for that particular interest."

A student at Alfred, Peter Velthuysen, the son of Pastor Gerard Velthuysen of the Netherlands, volunteered to go as a missionary if the General Confer-

ence indicated its desire. Funds were raised and Peter arrived in the Gold Coast in November of 1901. Severe seasickness and the equatorial climate left him weak and exhausted. His strength was not equal to the task and he died on October 20, 1902, of tropical fever.

A decade later, Joseph Ammokoo's son, Ebenezer, was brought to America where he enrolled in Tuskegee Industrial Institute in Alabama and then pursued academic studies at Milton College. He returned to Africa in 1912, but without the presence of a missionary on the field, the work failed to grow. By 1913 it was reported that no religious services or Sabbath Schools were held, and so money was no longer sent.

Fifty years later some Sabbath-keeping churches were reported in Ghana, and periodic communications with the Tract Society and the Missionary Board are recorded. In 1958 Roger Cassiol, a Sabbath convert from Turin, Italy, visited Ghana with some support from the Mill Yard Church in England where he held his membership. He reminded people of the efforts of Peter Velthuysen, who was buried in Ghana, and concluded, "It would be an everlasting memorial to the sacrifice of this missionary if I could establish a Seventh Day Baptist work here."

The door to Ghana has remained open for well over half of the 20th century, but in general Seventh Day Baptists have chosen not to enter with sufficient support. There are many "Macedonian calls" which continue to challenge those who would take the Gospel "to all the world." Which place should be entered and which should be left to others is a continual challenge in the wise stewardship of limited resources. 

About the turn of the 20th century Joseph Ammokoo of Ayan Maim, Gold Coast (now known as Ghana) learned through *Watson's Theological Dictionary* that there was a denomination who kept Saturday as the Sabbath. His study of the Bible convinced him that he also ought to keep the Sabbath.

In some way, possibly through that same dictionary, he learned the address of our publishing house and also the address of an SDB church in Richburg, New York. Assuming that Richburg was a wealthy church, he wrote requesting aid to bring two young men to America to be educated in the Sabbath-keeping faith. He also indicated that he had purchased land for a mission farm and was anxious for a Sabbath-keeping school for their children.

The letter was printed in the February 1899 issue of *The Sabbath Recorder* where it generated considerable interest. Many saw this as a door which God had opened for a Seventh Day Baptist mission. Rev. William C. Daland, then the American missionary pastor of the Mill Yard SDB Church in England, visited the Gold Coast and verified that a group did exist there. His first letter from the field was encouraging as he wrote:

"So in this village in savage Africa, on the Sabbath, I came before a king bearing the name of the Seventh-day, in the midst of a people whose original thought of God is connected with that day. To the king I told my story, and he told me I was welcome to live here as he was glad to see those who teach the people to be good."



# SR Almanac

Where we have been...

### One year ago—January 1990

Testimonies and reports from Malawi, with new missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe.

Dr. Pete and Nancy May enjoy loving welcome and stirring meetings in South Africa.

Missionary Society Executive Leon Lawton focuses on the theme of missions.

*The Beacon* offers choices for the national YF's new name and logo.

Outreach news from the Middletown, Connecticut, and Miami churches.

### Five years ago—January 1986

Janet Thorngate reviews the SDB World Federation's first 20 years.

A new translation of the "Guide to Bible Understanding" lessons to be used in the Philippines.

Gene Smith installed at Adams Center, New York. Ministry of "Ambassadors for Christ" shared.

Fair booth ministry guidelines listed.

### 10 years ago—January 1981

Joni Burdick shares her SCSC experience.

Executive Secretary K.D. Hurley challenges readers to make the new year one of new growth.

Personality profile highlights Karl Stillman.

Missionary vision presented by L.S. Thanga, Burma.

Pastor Ken and Jean Davis honored for 10 years of service in Battle Creek.

### 25 years ago—January 1966

Impressive list of "Notable Church People" sent from Milton Junction, Wisconsin.

Rev. Lester Osborn passes away in New York. Schenectady, New York, church burns mortgage.

Rev. Joseph Tyrrell laid to rest in Guyana.

Dr. Stanley I. Stuber, American Baptist ecumenical leader, evaluates Vatican Council II.

The *SR* and *Crusader* (American Baptist) magazines share an article exchange on respective distinctives.

### 50 years ago—January 1941

Federal Council of Churches marks 19th annual Interracial Brotherhood Month.

Ahva J.C. Bond foresees a future training camp in Colorado.

New tract reprints ordered. Estimated cost for a run of 5,000 is \$90.

Pastor Earl Cruzan, Waterford, Connecticut, featured in "Who's Who" column.

Federal Council, meeting in Atlantic City, calls all Christians to "maintain spiritual unity and to banish hatred and hypocrisy."

New book comes to the editor's desk: *The First Hundred Years*. Contains the history of the Pawcatuck SDB Church in Westerly, Rhode Island.

### 75 years ago—January 1916

Rev. T.J. Van Horn answers some "fallacious arguments" concerning the Sabbath.

Editorial decries the current craze for short sermons and "the possible decadence of the pulpit."

Financial woes continue to hit the Tract and Missionary Boards.

In spite of "the prevailing epidemic of la grippe," 300 people partake of the annual dinner in Milton.

Quote from *The Christian Herald* deploring decadent hymnody: "Some of these hymns that are shouted and drummed... are a reproach to the whole world of music."

Christian Endeavor coined "the West Point of the church"—where young Christian soldiers are trained for spiritual warfare.

### ...where are we headed?

#### Pray...

- for all of our mission ventures—old and new
- that more young people answer the call to serve in SCSC
- for strong youth fellowships
- that we can experience His peace and hope during times of turmoil
- that we build—and not dwell—on our rich heritage
- for our sister Conferences worldwide
- that our times of worship and learning this Sabbath will glorify the Lord and edify each other

# "That you may know..."

by Althea Rood



Althea Rood

known not only to the Israelites but to the Egyptians as well, in spite of the fact that they had persecuted His chosen people. God even sent this message to Pharaoh: "But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my

As we consider God's mission for us as Seventh Day Baptists, I encourage you to contemplate: What has God done in your life this past year? How is He changing you as He lives His life through you? Who has been brought into your life

**What has God done in your life this past year?  
How is He changing you as He lives  
His life through you?**

As we enter the New Year, I believe it gives us another opportunity to evaluate our growth in relationship with the Lord. Can we "see" the victories that the Lord has brought to pass in our lives? Are we experiencing a greater depth of fellowship with Him? Is He convicting us of areas in which we need to trust Him; even to trust Him to a greater depth?

I am convinced that God has called out Seventh Day Baptists as a people to represent Him in our world. In studying the Israelites and how God called them out of Egypt, I have always been amazed at the number of times the phrase "that you may know that I am the Lord your God" is used. Just as God spoke to the Israelites, I believe He is saying to us, "...I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God."

However, what amazes me most is the Lord's economy. The Lord was not interested in being the God of Israel only. He wanted to reveal Himself to the Egyptians through the Israelites.

Several times, particularly during the time of the plagues, God said, "the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord" (Ex. 7:5a; 14:4b). God wanted to make Himself

power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth" (Ex. 9:16).

God's purposes always seem to be much larger than our own! God desires that all come to know Him—even those "Egyptians" in our lives who torment or trouble us. Maybe it's those who just aren't "our kind of people."



that God wants to reveal Himself to? Are you willing for God to reveal Himself through your life, both in deed and word? Are you willing to share with others what God is doing in your life?

My prayer for us is that we may accept the challenge of living out

His life in our world so that others may come to know Him. "Then we will learn from [our] own experience how His ways will really satisfy [us]" (Rom. 12:2b, The Living Bible).

Will you join me in this adventure? Let's be obedient to Him! *SR*

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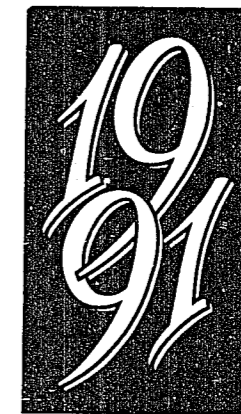
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Seventh Day Baptists  
EXTENDING...



**UNTIL THE  
WHOLE WORLD KNOWS**

And now, through Christ, all the kindness of God has been poured out upon us undeserving sinners; and now he is sending us out around the world to tell all people everywhere the great things God has done for them, so that they, too, will believe and obey him.  
*Romans 1:5 (The Living Bible)*



**Seventh Day Baptist  
Missionary Society**  
119 Main Street  
Westerly, RI 02891  
(401) 596-4326

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## FOCUS on Missions

by Leon R. Lawton

### Estonia, U.S.S.R.

Missionary Tom McElwain writes, "The paper (shortage) problem has been resolved and ten thousand gospels (of John) have been released for distribution by the Estonians in both Estonian and Russian (languages). Many thanks to the Americans for making this possible financially."

This was a first publication in Estonia where costs were less. Now, additional thousands can be published as funds are made available. Year-end White Gifts and other designated contributions for Bibles in the Soviet Union are forwarded by the Missionary Society each month, as received from SDB individuals and churches. The need continues to be great and millions of scriptures are requested in Eastern Europe! Because of this, it is very difficult to find available Bibles through normal channels. We praise the Lord for such an opportunity and the European Free Street Mission (Seventh Day Baptist) in Helsinki, Finland, as they continue this ministry!

### Extension, USA

Director of Extension Russell Johnson, reporting to the Missionary Board for the third quarter 1990, said, "The quarter has been taxing and exciting. It has been a time of trying to 'get up to speed,' and to keep up with all the possibilities, requests, and responsibilities. The months ahead promise to be exciting ones, if the Lord continues to open as many opportunities as He has in the past few months."

Conference President Althea Rood listed new groups and churches in the last five years—25! These, and other older churches, are served by 35 individuals who are new lay leaders or pastors who have begun new ministries in these areas in the last five years.

### Philippines, Asia

Former missionary Rodney Henry and president of the SDB World Federation, Gabriel Bejjani, visited sister churches and leaders in the Philippines in late November and early December. They were responding to an invitation to "come over and help us" in their unique problems and opportunities. We look forward to hearing about answers to prayer, pictures, and a positive report of their ministry.

### Blountville, TN, USA

The First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Upper East Tennessee was visited in November by Director of

Extension Russell Johnson. Though it has been 12 years since organization, there have been adjustments because of members moving and jobs in the area being cut back, and now pastoral leadership is faithfully borne by the members. Their new newsletter, *The Exhorter*, published its second issue (Nov/Dec 1990) and is edited by Bob Wright.

### Chipho Clinic, Malawi, Africa

Missionary Ian Ingoe wrote on October 20: "We have 8,000 plus refugees from Mozambique, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is helping equip the maternity at a cost of about \$4,000 (U.S.). The Z.O.A., the Dutch refugee care people, may give us additional help to build two needed staff houses. This same organization has asked me to organize a team and construct a cholera camp nearby, so we are seeing a full-fledged refugee camp at Chipho. The clinic has been a very good witness for Christ and Seventh Day Baptists!"

### Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, RI 02891, on Sunday, March 17, 1991, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1990, to December 31, 1990.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1991, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

Cindy Nadeau, Secretary



## Christian Education

### The ministry of teaching

by Ernest K. Bee, Jr.

Pastor Jus Start parked his car in Deacon Willing's driveway. He wondered why Ed Christian's car was parked at the curb in front of Deacon Willing's house on a work day. Perhaps the snow storm had delayed the opening of the local school where Sabbath School Superintendent Ed Christian worked.

Invited inside, Pastor Start joined them and listened as Superintendent Christian and Deacon Willing excitedly discussed the Sabbath School's reaction to the MORE 2000 study book, *The Emerging Seventh Day Baptist Church*. Ed Christian commented that if half of those in the MORE 2000 study became seriously involved in the "priesthood" idea, then the church wouldn't have problems recruiting teachers and leaders.

Superintendent Christian proposed that the church organize a "Christian Life Nurture Group" which might meet one evening each week for prayer, Bible study and reflection on their efforts to live a

Christian life during the past week. Pastor Start began to feel very weary. "Not another task to do. How will I fit another preparation into my schedule?" thought Pastor Start. He heard Deacon Willing saying, "We might have a problem. Who would lead the group?"

Building a ministry of teaching in the local church requires vision. Each church leader, following Christ's example, will seek out others within the church membership to share the leadership and teaching ministry. Shared leadership is necessary for church growth. Each church leader realizes the unlimited potential for sharing and teaching Christ's commandments by nurturing an ever-growing leadership team within the local church.

MORE 2000, Mission of Revival and Evangelism 2000, is designed to help our churches explore the shared ministry responsibilities of each member. It seeks to call out and recognize the leadership team of the local church. The local leadership team is the core of the

church's teaching ministry.

Teaching involves both *content*, the message that Christ is Lord, and the *context*, the medium that is communication and community living. Context is both verbal (our words) and nonverbal (our actions). The teaching ministry goal of the church is to complete the church's disciple making goal: sharing the faith, conversion, teaching Christ's commandments, baptism, nurturing the new convert in "knowing God" and Christian living, preparing and then participating in witnessing to others and teaching them.

The way to learn and to live the Christian faith is through participation. This is not an option. It is necessary that each of us who teaches must know the content of the Christian faith and internalize it so that like the Apostle Paul we may confess that it is not ourselves but Christ living in us. When we teach, we teach our faith—the Way to God—to someone else. ✠

### NET now in retreat setting

The year 1991 promises to be a time when we have more opportunity to promote our faith than ever before.

In response to this opportunity, the SDB Board of Christian Education is pleased to announce a new promotional emphasis on Natural Evangelism Training (NET). The modified materials

have been brought up-to-date with current publications. They are also being made available in formats suitable for both youth and adult Sabbath School classes, for summer camp programs, and for special "NET Evangelism Retreats."

A team of volunteer service workers can help you plan, pro-

mote, and teach a special NET Evangelism Retreat.

For further information and retreat scheduling, please contact the SDB Board of Christian Education, or Daryl White at 2032 So. Yank Way, Lakewood, CO 80228. Phone (303) 988-0927.



# the BEACON

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

January 1991

## 1991 Pre-Con Camps ready to go!

The Youth Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education has announced the selection of the 1991 Pre-Conference camp sites and the appointment of directors for the Youth and Young Adult Camps.

Youth Pre-Con Camp for teens aged 15-18, or completed grade nine, will be held at Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, New York, on August 7-11, 1991. Camp Harley Sutton honors the name of the Board of Christian Education's first executive secretary and co-director of the first Pre-Con Camp.

Camp Harley Sutton is owned by the churches of the Allegheny Association. The camp is located about two miles west of Alfred Station and about 30 miles from Houghton College, our 1991 Conference site.

The first camp on the present site, which was a gift of Dr. Harold and Hannah Shaw Burdick, was directed in 1952 by our current SDB Historian Don Sanford. Burdick Lodge is the main building which has the kitchen, bathing facilities, and a large meeting room which doubles as a dining area. Dormitories are named in memory of Dr. Ben Crandall, Don Stearns, and Mark Sanford. The camp has a baseball field and a new volleyball/basketball court.

Pastor David and Margaret Taylor, Pawcatuck Seventh Day

Baptist Church, Westerly, Rhode Island, will direct Youth Pre-Con.

Young Adult Pre-Con Camp for 18-35-year-olds will be held at Camp Vick, Sandusky, New York, an American Baptist Camp which is located off State Route 98. The 220 acre camp is located about 23 miles from Houghton College.

Two large cabins have been reserved for our camp. Meals are served in the main lodge. Recreation fields for volleyball and soccer and a lake for swimming and boating are at the camp site.

Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger, Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church, will direct Young Adult Pre-Con Camp.

Youth and Young Adult Camps will open with dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, and close after lunch at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 11. The 1991 Pre-Con

Camp fee for both camps will be \$65. Plan now to attend!



Above:  
MaryJo  
Johnson at the  
entrance to  
Camp Vick.



Left:  
Camp Vick's  
main lodge.

## Pastor Profile

**Name:** Donald L. Chroniger

**Birthdate and place:**

November 23, 1952, Tampa, Florida

**Current pastorate:**

Shiloh, New Jersey, Seventh Day Baptist Church

**Family:**

Wife--Charlotte

Sons--Tyler, 7; Jordan, 5

Daughters--Bethany, 3; Jessica, 1

**Education:**

Washington Bible College, 1976--B.A. in Biblical Education with music emphasis  
Central Baptist Theological Seminary, 1983--Pastoral Theology major

**Former pastorates/employment:**

New Auburn, Wisconsin, SDB Church (six and one-half years)

Youth minister at Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church

Minister of music at Hazelwood Baptist in Maryland (SBC)

**My first job was:**

Sweeping the floor at a laundromat.

**Personal hero:**

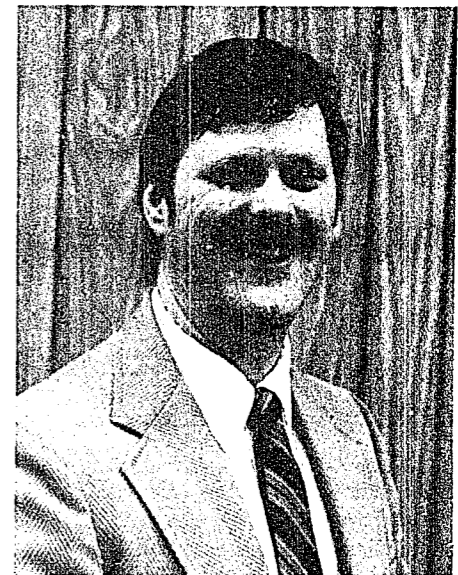
Delmer Van Horn

**Favorite childhood memory:**

Climbing Sugar Loaf Mountain and gazing over the valley.

**Favorite Bible passage:**

Philippians 2:13



**Favorite author:**

A.W. Tozer

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

We would visit the Holy Land.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

My wife Charlotte.

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

The possibility of a building project connecting the church and fellowship hall for easy access for all.

**My vision for SDBs:**

That we learn to multiply--a mother church births a branch church, and then both mother and branch churches birth two more churches, etc.

## Hope finds a house in Philly

by Rolleesa Thurman

Sabbath, June 16, 1990, was an important milestone in the history of Seventh Day Baptists in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. The dedication of the building purchased by the Hope SDB Church was the culmination of the congregation's dream since its organization as the Ambler SDB

A light lunch was served after the morning service. This was followed by the highlight of the day, the Dedication Service. Representatives came from New Jersey (Shiloh, Marlboro, and Plainfield), Westerly, Rhode Island, and New York City, as well as several local churches, while letters were read

of the Shiloh church brought greetings from the Memorial Board, which was instrumental in financing the purchase. He also sang a beautiful solo. Musical selections were also rendered by members of the Remnant Church of God Seventh Day, the Philadelphia Seventh Day Church of God, and Hope choir. Our own Marie Campbell played a lovely selection on the violin.

Special greetings from the Marlboro church were brought by Frank Cruzan. Plainfield's Pastor Joe Samuels brought greetings as president of General Conference, and as a relative and long-time friend to many members of Hope.

Pastor Leon Lawton brought the afternoon message as a representative of the denomination and the Missionary Society.

The Act of Dedication responsive reading was followed by the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by Sister Rolleesa Thurman, who also gave a vote of thanks to all those instrumental in making the day so memorable.

After the benediction by Pastor Selvin Findlater, everyone was treated to cake and punch. A photograph album sharing the pictorial history of Hope's progress from Ambler in 1982, through North Hills, Chestnut Hill, until the present, was on display.

We are practicing the Golden Rule by renting our building on Sundays and Tuesday evenings to a Mennonite congregation who were looking for a place to worship. We remember how frustrating that search can be.

Pray for us that we may continue to grow in grace as well as numbers, and that Hope SDB Church will be a blessing to our community. *SR*

### *We are practicing the Golden Rule by renting our building.*

Church in a rented storefront on July 10, 1982. There is again, after nearly a century, a Seventh Day Baptist church building in Philadelphia.

The well-attended morning service included a flute solo by Cindy Dickinson of the Marlboro, New Jersey, SDB Church and an inspiring message by Hope's own Brother Bill Brooks. We received three new members, bringing the membership to 44.

from many other SDB churches and well-wishers who were not able to be present.

The Scripture reading was from Nehemiah 4:1-6, focusing on the last verse. Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank introduced the chairperson for the afternoon, Pastor Cormeth Lawrence. Deaconess Virginia Ayars welcomed everyone and Deacon Fred Ayars gave a historical sketch of SDBs and Hope in particular. Deacon Owen Probasco

## Pastoring church and campus

On September 24, 1990, Jon F. Warren, pastor of the Sabbath Day Baptist Church of Central Missouri, was employed by Inter-Church Ministry to Lincoln University (ICM-LU). Pastor Warren was appointed Campus Minister. He was chosen from a field of six candidates.

Inter-Church Ministry is operated by a board of directors representing seven area churches. Denominations included in ICM-LU are, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ,

Lutheran, Episcopal, and now, Seventh Day Baptist.

Lincoln University is a state land grant institution 125 years old. Approximately 3,600 students are enrolled for the 1990-91 school year.

The University is a fertile field for the Lord's work. Please pray for guidance and strength for Pastor Warren. He continues regular full-time employment with the State Department of Education and is pastor of a growing local Seventh Day Baptist Church. *SR*

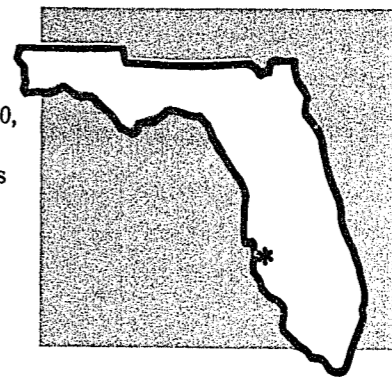
## Bradenton alive and well!

Located on the west coast of Florida where the sun shines nearly every day is one of the newest Seventh Day Baptist churches. The Bradenton, Florida, SDB church is maintaining an active program which includes a very lively Sabbath School. In 1990, 75 different visitors have worshiped with us and attendance has increased by 150 over the same period a year ago. Covered dish dinners are a favorite with the group. Home Bible studies have also been well attended.

We are proud of our denominational involvement in helping to raise the budget, participation in PROP, as well as the needs of Christian Social Action.

In order to make ourselves known and to participate in our community, we are contributing members of the Manatee County Religious Services which helps the

needy. Some of our members are hospice volunteers and our pastor, Leland Bond, is active in the Min-



isterial Association. We have assisted the Abundant Life Church in remodeling a house next to their church where we meet. This has provided a place for us to have covered dish dinners and other meetings. Our church has joined with some 80 others in Manatee

County in evangelistic efforts by participating in "Outreach 91."

The welcome mat is out for all those who might come our way. Bradenton is a small town located

*The welcome mat is out for all those who might come our way.*

just south of Tampa and St. Petersburg, a booming business center and retirement haven.

The church meets at the Abundant Life Church, 804 22nd Avenue West in Bradenton, and Pastor Bond has maps and directions for those who might need them. Write to: 93-570 57th Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34207. *SR*

## News from Nortonville

by Reba Wheeler

Robert and Linda Harris, Joanna, and Ben arrived in Nortonville, Kansas, on June 4, 1990, and Rev. Harris took up his duties as minister of the church. Linda became a member of the choir and Ladies Missionary Society.

Rev. Harris became active in the area ministerial association and has taken part in community services. He gave the first sermon from the newly dedicated bandstand recently built and placed in the city park during the "Fall Festival." He gave the message for the Community Thanksgiving service on November 19. Besides his pastoral duties he has led the worship services in several Sunday churches in the area. We are

grateful for the work and love of this fine family.

The Women's Missionary Society held a Food and Plant Sale on November 8 in the church basement. Orlene Mitchell was in charge of the food sale assisted by Ruby August. Zella Babcock was in charge of the plant sale. Over \$600 was cleared in spite of a rainy, chilly day.

November 10-11, the Nortonville church hosted the Training in Ministry and Extension (T.I.M.E.) students for the weekend, with the women of the church providing food for meals. The six men in the training program under the leadership of Rod Henry were Steve McNeme of Montana, James Gala-

naugh of Connecticut, Jon Warren of Missouri, Steven James of Kansas, Michael Burns of Pennsylvania, and Lou Acker of Texas.

November 17 was Lord's Acre Sabbath. The table was beautifully decorated by Orlene Mitchell and Kathryn Niemann, choosing the theme "Building Stronger Families." Pastor Harris' sermon centered around family life and Thanksgiving. He gave "Three Ways to be More Thankful." In the absence of Zella Babcock (who was in the hospital following a car accident) Linda Harris and Billie McClure played for the services. Linda sang a solo as the congregation brought their offerings. Collections were \$2,376.55. *SR*

## High time on the plains

by Marjorie Goodrich

With the theme "Being Called to Holiness," President Ruth (John) Ryschon began the 1990 Mid-Continent Association in North Loup, Nebraska. The host church welcomed guests from six states, including Conference President Althea (Dale) Rood, and Pastor and Mrs. George Calhoun. Even in the plains we found many mountain top experiences during times of praise and worship.

Our Sabbath eve service was highlighted by inspirational choir music and Pastor Ken Burdick's talk on "Live the Life I Gave You." Sharing of the Lord's supper followed with meaningful words shared by Pastors Gordon Lawton and Robert Harris.

Sabbath service was a delight, starting with a song and praise time led by the Calhouns. George also gave the morning message on "How Motivated Are You?" Again the choir shared its part in uplift-

ing the name and holiness of God.

Following dinner served to over 200, President Althea Rood led a Bible study on the Conference theme, "Called to Obedience," using Moses and his trials with the

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*Even in the plains  
we found many  
mountain top  
experiences.*

---

children of Israel. How many times do we do things our way, then find God's way was right—after we suffer the consequences? President Rood also gave an exciting update on new churches and pastors.

While the adults met, there were activities for all age children and youth, thanks to much thoughtful planning and many willing volun-

teers. It was a blessing to have so many young people attending.

Following evening vespers by Dr. Bernard Keown, Lanette Calhoun presented a concert of inspirational music, with the spirit of the Lord very real and encircling all who were present.

The business meeting Sunday followed devotions by Pastor Steven James. Pastor Larry Graffius presented the study workbook he has prepared on Time Management, challenging groups to pursue it. All too soon the meeting was over and President Ruthie turned the gavel over to Patrick Skaggs of the Boulder, Colorado, church, who challenged us to keep striving to be "Holy as He is Holy." He shared that we will be "Overcomers" because he who overcomes will inherit eternal life, and, "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus."

Yes, many attended Mid-Continent Association, were blessed—"and it was good." ✠

## Shiloh shares super summer and fall

by RuthAnn Davis

Now that we are into the new year, we can look back and reflect on our many summer and fall activities at the Shiloh, New Jersey, SDB Church.

Bible School was held for one week at the end of June with many of the students and staff from neighboring churches and communities.

A Chicken Barbecue was held at Jersey Oaks Camp with lots of good fun, games, and fellowship.

Midget, Junior and Senior Camps were held during the month of July. Midget Day Camp was under the direction of Mrs. Clara Mulford, and Junior and Senior

Camps had Pastor Donald Chroniger as director.

Another Chicken Barbecue was held for the church and community with the proceeds going to help a family in need.

In October our Junior and Senior High age young people gathered for a retreat. Some came from neighboring communities and many traveled from other SDB churches. There were 54 young people altogether with many adults helping out with cooking and counseling. The group held sessions with speakers from our local churches as well as guest speakers from Faith Farm, a nearby organization that works with young men

with drug problems. The group also heard from a minister who now works with AIDS related programs.

The entire weekend was a rich experience for the young people as well as the adults. These folks are reaching out for our love and guidance. With all the problems they have to face, they need Christian parents and adults to be there.

Again this year we had a Harvest Meal. The emphasis during the worship service was "Friendship" with the choir anthems, Junior Message, and sermon all dealing with this topic. Many friends and families shared together a good old-fashioned turkey dinner with all the trimmings. ✠

## A visit to Pine Street

Pine Street Gospel Chapel is located on the edge of the Wesleyan University campus in Middletown, Connecticut. Because of our location we are starting a program of making Bibles available by our front door for students to pick up free of any cost or obligation.

Pine Street is a small congregation in membership and attendance, yet numerical growth has

prayer and other church-related activities has increased. A number of adults actively take part in the services so that it is no longer the pastor and his wife's "show."

Pastor Bill Bowyer and his helpmate, Gwen, continued their ministry in the Middletown area twice a week only, largely because of family responsibilities with aged parents and granddaughter. The

Chapel still allows them to be absent one Sabbath bi-monthly to lead worship at the Schenectady, New York, SDB Church. They are both involved on the denominational level as officers of the Missionary Society. Gwen continues as organist, child care provider for evening Bible studies,

and she provides floral arrangements for most services.

Monthly fellowship meals and special programs on Sabbath

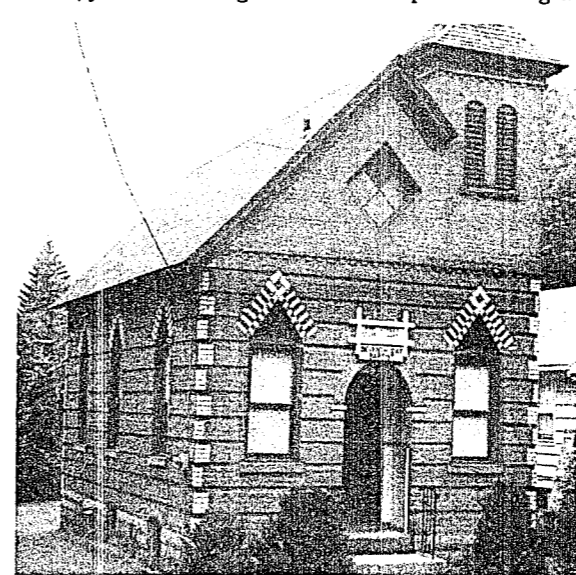
sharing and prayer.

A highlight of the year was the baptism which took place on September 1. The entire worship service that day concentrated on baptism and gave the candidates an opportunity to speak. Then the baptism was held shortly thereafter in a member's pool nearby.

At the Annual Business Meeting at the end of October, new people were elected for two of the three officers. Moderator Howard McAuliffe and Clerk Charles Lyman who had served for many years were succeeded by Kim Short and Joann Cordova. Along with Treasurer Jeff Hill all of the officers are now under 40 years of age. The outgoing officers were elected trustees. By unanimous vote, William Bowyer will continue as pastor.

An outreach fund was established to provide funds monthly for spreading God's Word with the first recipient being the local Christian radio station WIHS. During the past year the pastor gave away Bibles and Scripture portions, and the Chapel sent funds (through Finland) to provide Bibles for Russia.

The pastor proposed new programs for the upcoming year such as Operation Quiet Time, a coordinated, church-wide Bible study and prayer program from Scripture



The Pine Street Gospel Chapel.

occurred in the 20s age-group and their young children.

A more pronounced increase has been noted in the quality of spiritual life of the Chapel among all age levels. There has been a heightened interest in the Bible and the Lord among many of the young adults. Attendance at weekday Bible study has increased so that over one half of the adults who attend worship services are at the study. This Fall we have used the *Helping Hand* lessons on SDB Beliefs at both the evening and Sabbath morning Bible studies.

One of our main goals for this year has been realized. Lay participation in the worship service, individual and group Bible study,


afternoon have been held regularly at the Grange Hall. Vacation Bible School sessions were held once a week for five weeks during July and August. Special "Good Wednesday" and Thanksgiving services included Harold King, pastor of the First Hopkinton Church, as guest speaker. Harold and Bill continue to meet every Friday afternoon for

Union; a Prayer Partners program for partners to pray together at least weekly about their concerns and requests mentioned at Sabbath worship; Bible Memorization using the Christian Education Board program supplemented by other passages; and laity planning the worship service regularly. ✠

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*There has been a heightened interest  
in the Bible and the Lord.*

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December	\$754,485
SHOULD BE HERE 	
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

Dear Kevin,  
The November issue came today. I found it excellent.  
It has inspired me to give a series of sermons next year on prayer. Our prayers are with you and the Madison church.  
Pastor Bob Harris  
Nortonville, KS

Dear Editor,  
I am a Seventh Day Baptist young person, and I have had the pleasure of meeting Anna Maria McElwain, a very talented and intelligent person. However, I feel I cannot let her protest go unprotested (SR Reaction, Nov).  
As a youth called to ministry, and from what I've seen of other SDBs, I can guarantee we will not forget the words of Paul in 1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God..." in this next generation.  
I agree that there are those, young and old alike, in our denomination who are conforming to worldly standards, and it grieves me. People as a whole notice change, and when we don't show the world the change Jesus has made in us, we cannot expect to grow in numbers. It is a serious issue that needs denominational prayer and immediate correction. I am afraid that I too am sometimes guilty of this.

I strongly disagree with parents who don't care enough to explain and to enforce biblical dating concepts; they are conforming to worldly standards.  
I say, "Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous...sing to him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy" (Psalm 3:1,3). Psalm 40:3 also suggests that singing new songs of praise to our Lord can draw others to our Lord and Messiah.

The statements of faith through which I claim the crown of eternal life happen to be the same statements of faith outlined in the current SDB statement of beliefs, all sufficiently backed by Scripture. It is the day the Seventh Day Baptist denomination discontinues its belief in the trinity (and I hope it never does!) that I recommend my church secede from the denomination. I will find fellowship with a Sunday church before I am willing to fellowship with those who do not believe the basic fundamental truth of the trinity.

I don't like to think of the faith of Abraham or David as old-fashioned; it is the Holy Spirit that guided them, the same Holy Spirit that Jesus was kind enough to give us, so that if we follow its promptings and listen to it as the voice of God (for indeed it is) we too will grow spiritually and radically as New Creations, and there is nothing old-fashioned about that.  
In Christian Love,  
Michael A. Peters  
Bay Area, CA

Dear Kevin,  
I want to commend you on the December SR!  
In Matthew 24:24 Jesus says that if possible even God's chosen ones will be deceived. We need such straight teaching and warnings as you have shared. Many Christians are not even aware of the cunning strategies that the New Agers and Humanists have been saturating America with for the past 45 years.  
I believe that only a solid foundation in God's Word can equip us to perceive the errors and distortions in such false teaching.

Thanks again,  
Mayola Warner  
Oneida, NY

Next month, we'll begin our new feature:

## Encouraging Words

## Births

**Kuzma.**—A son, Charles J. Kuzma, was born to Mark and Joni (Goodrich) Kuzma on September 6, 1990, in Grand Island, NE.

**Abel.**—A daughter, Kayla Ann Abel, was born to Chuck and Christy (Teter) Abel on October 10, 1990, in Grand Island, NE.

## Accessions

**Adams Center, NY**  
Quintin E. (Gene) Smith, pastor

Joined after testimony  
Ronald Lewis  
Patricia Lewis

**Pine Street Gospel Chapel  
Middletown, CT**  
William Bowyer, pastor

Joined after baptism  
Michael Cordova  
Denise Toth

Joined by letter  
Gwendolyn Bowyer  
William B. Bowyer

**Plainfield, NJ**  
Joe A. Samuels, pastor

Joined after testimony  
Robert Embrey  
Shirley Embrey

## Marriages

**Searcy-Ramos.**—David Searcy and Marcella Ramos were united in marriage on October 20, 1990, at the Wichita Falls, TX, First Seventh Day Baptist Church, with Bill Sharon officiating.

**Bond-Fast.**—Ira Bond and Barbara Fast were united in marriage on November 10, 1990, at the Holiness Missionary Church in El Dorado Springs, MO, with Pastor James Colvin officiating.

## Obituaries

**Todd.**—Deaconess Evelyn L. Todd, 85, died on September 2, 1990, at Harrisburg (Illinois) Medical Center. She had suffered with cancer and heart problems for several years.

Evelyn was born on March 13, 1905, in Stonefort, Illinois, to the late Albert and Mary Lou (Jones) Lewis. She joined the Old Stonefort Seventh Day Baptist Church on May 21, 1921, and was organist/pianist for many years, as well as teacher of the adult Sabbath School class. She was ordained a deaconess on February 17, 1973.

Evelyn married Romeo Todd on October 2, 1926. He preceded her in death on June 1, 1983.

Survivors include one daughter Janice Lindle of Carrier Mills, Illinois; two sons, Mike of Carrier Mills and William L. of Twentynine

Palms, California; one brother, Leland Lewis of St. Louis, Missouri; one brother-in-law, Logan Todd of Carrier Mills; six grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. She was mother to many foster children. Evelyn was preceded in death by four brothers—Joseph, Benjamin, Hugh and Franklin; and by three sisters—Ruth Lewis, Florence Hancock, and Mildred Ritter.

Services were held on September 5, 1990, at Thornton-Felty Funeral Home in Carrier Mills and at the Old Stonefort SDB Church. Rev. Lacey Joiner officiated at both of the services. Burial was in Joyner Cemetery, near the church.

**Moreno.**—Sally Navarette Moreno, 49, died on October 4, 1990, in New London, Connecticut.

## Pastoral Moves in 1990/1991

1990—May  
Michael Burns to Hebron, PA

June  
Bob Harris to Nortonville, KS  
Russell Johnson to  
Director of Extension  
David Taylor to Westerly, RI

July  
Edward Sutton to  
Little Genesee, NY

September  
Robert Van Horn to  
Columbus, OH

October  
Dale Smalley to  
New Auburn, WI

November  
Chris Mattison to  
Salemville, PA

Interims  
Edgar Wheeler at  
Lost Creek, WV  
Jerry Vaught at Portland, OR

1991—January  
George Calhoun to Milton, WI  
Steven James to Verona, NY  
Mel Stephan to Marlboro, NJ  
Tom Warner to Denver, CO

cont. on next page

## Obituaries, cont.

She was born on November 9, 1940, in Rochester, New Hampshire, and was diagnosed with sugar diabetes at the age of 7. A member of the Waterford (Connecticut) Seventh Day Baptist Church, Sally was often hospitalized in recent years with complications—a weak heart, and ulcers on her feet that refused to heal. These health problems, added to financial woes, would have been enough to discourage most people, but she maintained a cheerful composure, buoyed up by her strong faith.

After her children were grown, Sally earned her high school equivalency diploma after two and one-half years of study—a victory she treasured. She worked outside the home when physically able: at Lawrence Hospital, N.L. Convalescent Hospital, and Dunkin' Donuts. Sally was interested in a prison ministry, so she volunteered for a time at Niantic Women's Prison.

Survivors include one son, Mark Navarette of Orlando, Florida; two daughters, Kimberly N. Harris of Orlando and Darlene N. Bennett of Mather Air Force Base in California; one sister, and a step-father. She never ceased to mourn the baby, Gem, who died in infancy.

A memorial service was held on October 13, 1990, in the Waterford SDB Church.

**Meathrell.**—Conza Meathrell, 104, of Berea, West Virginia, died on October 22, 1990, at Americare of Salem (West Virginia) Rehabilitation Center. Conza was born in Berea on June 17, 1886, the daughter of the late John and Callie (Randolph) Meathrell. She was a lifelong member of the Ritchie Seventh Day Baptist Church and was one of the most faithful attenders at the Salem SDB Church, even when well past her 100th birthday.

"Conzie" was a constant inspiration to her pastor and an example to all who believe they are getting too old to attend church regularly.

She received her normal diploma from Salem College in 1910 and her bachelor's degree from Salem in 1913. She taught high school math and science for 36 years, including 15 years at Harrisville (West Virginia) High School.

Surviving are one sister, Draxie Brissey of Berea; and two nephews, Ruben Brissey of Granger, Indiana, and George Brissey of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Her farewell service was held at the Salem SDB Church on October 25, 1990, conducted by her pastor, S. Kenneth Davis. Interment was in the Pine Grove Cemetery at Berea.

**Armstrong.**—Lucie I. Armstrong, 79, of Rockville, Rhode Island, died on November 14, 1990, at the Westerly hospital. She was the wife of the late Clinton L. Armstrong.

Lucie was born in Rockville on May 2, 1911, the daughter of the late George C. and Lyra (Babcock) Irish. She was an organist for the First Baptist Church of Hope Valley, Rhode Island, and the Rockville SDB Church for more than 25 years. She was a member at Rockville, where she served as clerk. Lucie was also a member of the Loyal Workers, and a life member of Hope Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Kenyon, Rhode Island.

She is survived by a daughter, Jean L. Armstrong, and a sister, Julia C. Kenney, both of Rockville.

A graveside service was held on November 19, 1990, at the Rockville Cemetery.

**Hudson.**—Nida Hudson, 93, died on November 22, 1990, in the

Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, New York, following a period of declining health.

She was born on August 21, 1897, in Dodge Center, Minnesota, to Giles and Nellie (Orcutt) Ellis, and joined the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church as a youth. Following her father's death, her mother took the family to Battle Creek, Michigan. There, Nida completed her high school education and had some preparation for being a nurse, which she used in different jobs where she lived.

Nida was married in Battle Creek to Clark Siedhoff, and they began their family there. They later moved to Salem, West Virginia, where Clark became head of the music department at Salem College. In 1941, she returned to Battle Creek. In 1947, Nida married John Hudson, who died in 1968. Nida then moved to Little Genesee, New York, to live near her daughter. She had her membership transferred to the church there, remaining active until her death. She was an active participant in the work of the Woman's Board, both in Battle Creek and Salem, and was also active in the local church ladies groups in each of the churches she attended.

Survivors include one son, John Siedhoff of Bonita Springs, Florida; one daughter, Wilma Sanford of Little Genesee; one step-daughter, Mrs. Raymond Ludwa of Battle Creek; eight grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at the Little Genesee SDB Church on November 24, 1990, conducted by her pastor, the Rev. Edward Sutton. Interment was at the Reese Cemetery in Battle Creek, with the Rev. George Calhoun of the Battle Creek SDB Church officiating. ES

# K E V I N ' S O R N E R

## A mission to communicate

I just attended another one-day seminar. You know, one of those learn-everything-under-the-sun-in-six-hours marathon sessions.

The time was well spent, but the timing stunk. It came two days before *Recorder* deadline, between my two sons' birthdays, started two hours before one daughter's school program, ended two hours before the other's, and was one week before Christmas.

I knew it would be a hectic time of year, but the title was too enticing: "How to Solve Communication Problems." Wow. All my problems solved in one day!

We certainly discussed how to overcome communication barriers. However, much of the time was focused on understanding our behavioral patterns.

We learned about the four behavioral types of people. Personal testing then placed us into one of those groups. Finally we moved into separate corners of the room to be with our "behavior" groupings. Not that we behaved...

With the splitting, we could see graphically who had come to the seminar. Seems like a lot of take-charge "Director" types showed up. The other large group were the "Socializers," who came for a good time to talk and have the day off. The next group had the "Relaters," there for the good of the office team and to work out all the crises they had left. The (by far) smallest group had my company. We were the "Thinkers," the analysts, the perfectionists, the ones who need all the facts and go by the book.

I felt strange being in the clear minority. (Actually I was only one point away from being a "Relater.") But from that position it seemed that the whole seminar became a missions school for me. Here's why:

We were trained on how to relate to people in the other categories. We were reminded to keep referring back to our company's mission statement. We were drilled on the "covenant" agreement of communicating vs. a "contract" idea.

Am I not, as a Christian, a minority in the world? Am I not, as a Sabbathkeeper, a minority within the Church?

Shouldn't I know how best to relate to those in other "categories?" Must I not keep Christ's Mission Statement—and the Conference's—in the forefront? Don't I owe others at least my 100% part of a loving, covenantal relationship?

Communicating correctly is like a mission. And communicating Christ is a mission that we dare not fail to accomplish.

## Resolutions

While researching for this month's Almanac, I ran across many new year's resolutions, but only in the much older issues. Did the practice of making resolutions fall through the hole of an old hula hoop?

Well, with that recent seminar in mind, I decided to make some resolutions.

I resolve:

- to be a better communicator
- to express my feelings rather than suppressing them
- to think about relationships, not just deadlines and tasks
- to keep my desk clean(er)  
(How did that one get in there?)
- to pray for my church
- to set more concrete goals
- to remember our mission statement

And I resolve to stop making resolutions just at the beginning of the year. If I recognize something needs changing, I won't shove it in the back of my Daytimer under late December.

As Leon Lawton's article states: Time is running out! Our kids are growing up before our very eyes. Another deadline comes up and whizzes by.

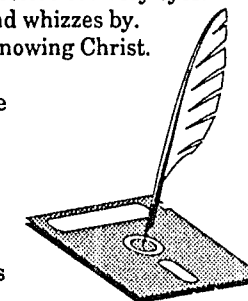
People are dying without knowing Christ.

What can I do to change that? How about living out the slogan on one of our Madison church banners:

*"Extending our arms—because He did."*

Think about it.

Have a blessed new year as we extend for eternity.



## In the next SR:

### Death in the family—

On accepting death  
If you and I were to change places  
Help from the church

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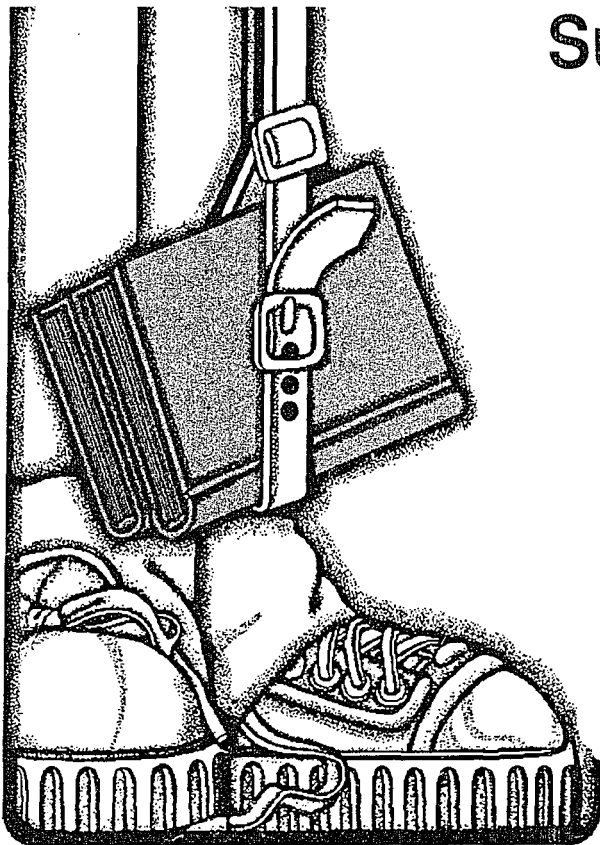
## World Federation prepares for New Zealand sessions

With sessions of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation coming up a year from now in New Zealand, 1991 will be a year of preparation and anticipation for people in the 17 Conferences. Federation President Rev. Gabriel Bejjani will be working with the executive committee throughout the year on program plans. Australasian Conference President Dorothy Goulding reports that they have named Andrew Peters hosting chairman for the sessions. They will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in early January, 1992.

Preparation begins this year with the 24th annual World Federation Week of Prayer, January 6-12. "Understanding the Winds of Adversity" is the theme selected by Prudence Robinson, corresponding secretary of the Jamaica Conference, who wrote

this year's Week of Prayer booklet. Sister Robinson is one of the vice presidents of the Federation, a member of the Kingston church, and principal of an elementary school in St. Andrew.

Throughout the year members of churches and Conferences throughout the world will be encouraged to send contributions that will help fund the 1992 sessions. World Federation Executive Secretary, Rev. Dale Thorngate, says *Sabbath Recorder* readers will again have opportunity to sponsor delegates from a specific country. At least one representative from each Conference attended the last Federation session held in Rhode Island in 1986. It is hoped that delegates from each of the 17 member Conferences may also attend the meetings in New Zealand.



## Summer Christian Service Corps 1991

Don't just spend your  
summer! Invest your summer  
with lifetime returns.

Application deadlines:

Workers—March 1, 1991

Projects—March 1, 1991

For applications, write:

Camille Henry  
Seventh Day Baptist Center  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547-1678