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News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

November 1991

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### Report from Kirk Looper, Representative to the North American Baptist Men's Fellowship

I have attended three meetings, all held in Kansas City, Kan. These were executive meetings to plan for the next triennial meeting.

The next triennial meeting will be May 22-23, 1992, in Kansas City. We are looking forward to outstanding speakers and group activities beginning with the Friday evening service of worship and praise, and ending with a Saturday evening rally. Saturday afternoon plans include group discussions and activities, and possibly some street evangelism.

This promises to be a very spirit-filled and enjoyable weekend. Watch for more information about accommodations and registration. Contributions for funding this meeting may be sent to: Mr. Forestal Lawton, 2310 Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64109.

# The Sabbath Recorder



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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. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711

# Still a whole person

by Marilyn Discher

Having grown up in a Christian home, my commitment to marriage was for a lifetime.

Therefore, I was not prepared for the day when my husband announced to me that he did not love me anymore and wanted a divorce.

As my world came crashing down around me, I began to wonder if God was really there or if He cared about me. I found it hard to believe this was actually happening to me. I was afraid for myself and my children.

I sat on my couch one night, after the children were in bed, and cried out to God to show me He was

there and that He loved me. I felt a sense of peace within myself as I sat and waited. After awhile, I asked God to show me the areas in

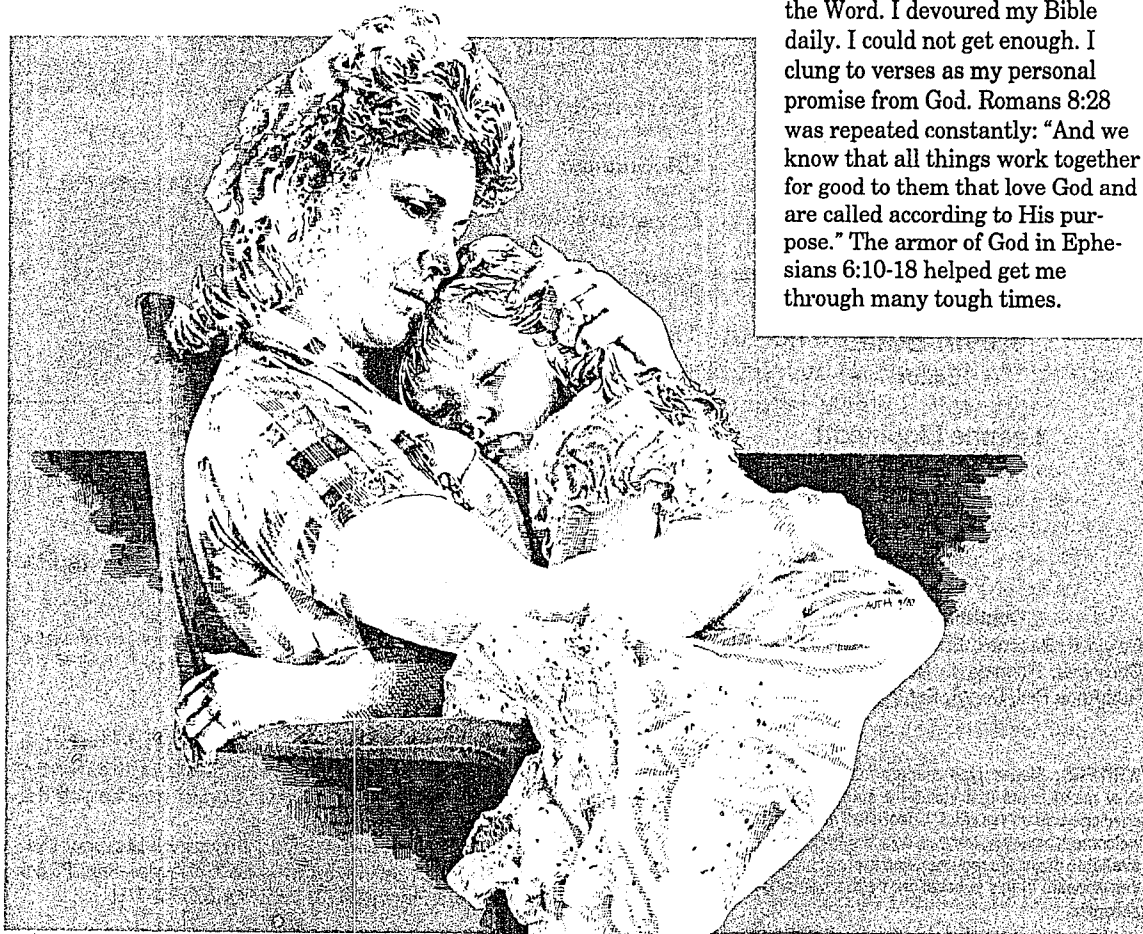
where I could take no more; the burden of my mistakes was too great. God graciously stopped showing me the mistakes for

## The church has a much needed and vital ministry to singles of any kind—divorced, widowed, never married.

my marriage where I was wrong or how I could have handled things differently. My mind was flooded with examples. I got to a point

awhile and started soothing me with His Holy Spirit.

For the first time in my life, I had a real "hunger and thirst" for the Word. I devoured my Bible daily. I could not get enough. I clung to verses as my personal promise from God. Romans 8:28 was repeated constantly: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose." The armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18 helped get me through many tough times.



Philippians 4:19 reminded me that "God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." This verse has been proven to me over and over. There were times when I wasn't sure if there would be money to buy food or pay the bills. God was faithful in providing for all my needs.

Through the urging of the Holy Spirit and looking ahead to my future as a Licensed Practical Nurse, I knew if I was going to support myself and my children I needed to go back to school. I most definitely did not want to do that. How could I go to work, take care of two small children, and go to school at the same time? I felt such a strong urging from God to do this, that I enrolled at Kellogg Community College.

Over the next two and a half years I saw God's hand at work in providing for our every need. With the help of my parents and my ex-husband, baby-sitting was taken care of, my work schedule was arranged around my classes, and the bills never fell behind. I was given a scholarship that paid all my expenses the last nine months. Thanks to the scholarship, I was

able to use the money I had saved for school and buy myself a new car for graduation! The Lord provides in wonderful ways!

My faith in God has grown during these last 10 years, but there are still times of anxiety, doubt, frustration, and especially loneliness.

The church has a much needed and vital ministry to singles of any kind—divorced, widowed, never married.

This quote from the *Singles Ministry Handbook* should help you to encourage the single people in your church: "When singles are welcomed and encouraged to become involved in fellowship with others, it offers them an opportunity to interact with others in a non-judgmental and accepting environment. This type of environment meets many of the needs singles have, and offers them an opportunity for growth that is unavailable anywhere else." *SR*

*Marilyn Discher is a member of the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church. Our special thanks for her help in addressing this important topic.*

### Some SDB singles were asked: "What can the church do to encourage single people?"

Families could invite singles to their house for meals or activities, or just to watch TV or talk—not just on Sabbath. Maybe just a call in the week.

*P.T., Divorced*

Dear church people: Please treat us singles in the same way that you treat those "doubles." Be friendly; be considerate. Life does go on for us singles. My church adequately fulfills these

suggestions. The Bible tells us to love one another. I am happy—no complaints. Praise the Lord!!

*E.J., Widower*

As a widowed senior citizen, I think it would be helpful to have a support group to help recently widowed people know that the church cares and is willing to help when needed. There are the usual cards, food, flowers, and

*cont. on page 7*

### Singular suggestions

*Marilyn Discher has struggled, and grown, as a single parent for the past 10 years. She speaks from first-hand experience, and wants the whole church to be sensitive to the needs of singles. Marilyn offers the following:*

It is important for the single person to be included in church activities—social and governmental. Here are some suggestions:

- Treat the single adult as a whole person, not as half a person.
- Invite singles to join in activities with couples.
- Invite singles and their children to your house to join in whatever activity your family is doing.
- Offer to take care of their children for a few hours.
- Give lots of encouragement to the single.
- For elderly singles, bring them to your house for dinner or take them to appointments.
- Start a Bible study that meets the needs of the singles in your church.
- Offer them positions of responsibility in the work of the church that utilizes their gifts and talents.
- Pray for singles and their specific needs.



## Count me in!

by Linda Greene

Most of us probably agree that it's much easier for large churches to develop and implement programs specifically for singles. But that does not mean that the small church cannot meet those needs as effectively.

My home church is in Dodge Center, Minn. I was born and raised in southeastern Minnesota and grew up in this church. After accepting Christ and being baptized at the age of 10, I participated enthusiastically (most of the time) in church activities.

Soon after finishing high school, I began to drift away from my relationship with the Lord. This "drift" soon grew, as they often do, and took control of my life. When I moved to Newark, N.J., to begin my third year of college, my separation from the church and my withdrawal from the Lord was, for the most part, complete.

In 1980, while living in Denver, Colo., I began to suffer from depression. Years of living by my own rules, rather than God's, had taken their toll, and I no longer felt confident of my ability to handle life and find happiness. My daughter Shani was kindergarten age, and I found the pressure of raising her by myself to be increasingly difficult.

I began to turn to the Lord in prayer during this difficult time. But I was still unwilling to turn my life back over to Him; I only wanted His help!

My mother's death in July 1986 was the biggest factor in my decision to move home—one example of how our God can turn something painful into a blessing. When I returned for the funeral, I had my first case of homesickness in the 17 years since I had left home. I finally admitted to myself that if

***I think we all need to remind ourselves to be sensitive to the needs of everyone who doesn't fit into the "traditional" Christian family format.***



I was going to recover, or even survive, I was going to have to make some serious changes.

Shani and I moved from Denver to Dodge Center that October. My depression continued to worsen, due to the stress involved in the move and my deteriorating financial condition.

In December 1987, I finally recommitted my life to the Lord. Although the improvement has been gradual, with many ups and downs, God has truly performed

a miracle in my life and Shani's since that time.

Returning to my home church as an unmarried mother in serious emotional trouble was not an easy adjustment. But I have to say that I was accepted unconditionally from the time I walked in the door and through many difficult changes. The support and love was evident and continual.

The words "unconditional" and "evident" are very important. Not every single mother has the advan-

tage of being "family" as I did, and the love and acceptance of the church must be genuine and demonstrated openly on a continuing basis.

I would like to share two experiences as examples of how any church can be sensitive to the needs of single parents and singles.

Our church has held a Sweetheart Banquet for Valentine's Day for the last several years, and I have been included! People were specifically encouraged to bring someone they love, even if it was not a husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend. I brought my two sisters to one of these banquets and had a wonderful time. I could have very easily been left sitting home, feeling lonely and left out. Something that small can mean a great deal.

The other experience happened at Conference this year. There was a family Sabbath welcoming service on Sabbath eve in the cafeteria. Shani was at Conference, but I had not arranged to meet her before the meal began, so I went on with a

friend and expected to see Shani there.

I was graciously invited to sit with my friend and her family. But as I sat there looking for my daughter, I felt increasingly isolated and abandoned. I have never felt those emotions as strongly as I did at that time, surrounded by loving Christians. The feelings became so overwhelming that I left abruptly as the service was about to begin and ran downstairs to the restroom, bursting into tears as soon as I got there.

It happened that Shani was arriving just as I disappeared, and she followed me to see what was wrong. After I had calmed down, we went upstairs, were invited to join another group of friends, and had a great time.

When I later returned to my room, I wondered how many other people experienced emotions similar to mine that evening—especially those who did not have a daughter there to rescue them, or friends to invite them to join in.

I think we all need to remind ourselves to be sensitive to the needs of everyone who doesn't fit into the "traditional" Christian family format. This includes singles, single parents, widowed and divorced, childless couples, the emotionally ill, mentally handicapped, and many more.

Very small adjustments in our programs and activities can make a great difference to someone who is feeling out of place or very much alone. These emotions may not always make sense, or may seem all out of proportion to the situation, but they are still very real and can be overwhelming.

I praise the Lord for the restoration and healing He has brought about in my life. With Jonah, I can say He brought me up out of the pit and gave me back my life. I hope to spend the rest of my life sharing His love with others the way it was shared with me. *SR*

*Linda Greene is a member of the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church.*

### "What can the church do..." (cont. from page 5)

calls at the time of a funeral, but too often after that, the person is ignored. I'm not sure if a singles club would help, since I've never joined one. But I would think it would be helpful to attend some concerts, restaurants, movies, or other outings with several others, instead of always alone. Also, have a group of men willing to be "fix-it" men for widows and other single women.

*A.D., Widowed*

First, recognize that in many congregations there is a large group of singles of all ages with unique needs—unmarried young adults just out of school, divorced

singles of all ages, and widows and widowers. Then, be sensitive to these unique needs in providing counseling, support groups, and social activities. Singles should be made to feel that they, too, have a special ministry and place in the life of the church.

*K.T., Divorced*

Remember that we are important individuals and have needs as well as others. We need to be included—not excluded—in all groups. I would not want just a singles group; I enjoy the whole picture.

*R.B., Widowed*

Speaking as an older single (widow), I want to say I'm thankful for my church family. I have my own family and circle of friends, but I appreciate the fellowship I have with members in the church. I believe it is important for those in the church to show their love for me even when I'm wrong. I believe the church should teach me to love others, even when I think they are wrong. I need Bible study with others (Sabbath School and other times); I need social fellowship, too. Sometimes it is lonely being a single woman.

*D.P., Widowed*

# Single!

by Cynthia Lines

I am through apologizing for being single. Oh, I don't verbally say, "I'm sorry," but many people give the impression that older single adults should be ashamed; that there must be something wrong with us.

It's bad enough to endure such nonsense from people who are *not* Christians, but when such behavior is exhibited by Christians... well, it grates on my very last nerve.

The people you think would give you their support act like you are defective in some way. They seem to think that marriage should be the number one priority for every single female from age 18 on up.

I have a news flash for them: Doing God's will is number one in my life. If His will includes a mate, wonderful. If His will doesn't include a mate, wonderful. Other Christians are supposed to want God's will in *your* life as well as their own, but it seems that only applies if His will coincides with the norm when it comes to marriage.

I am 29 and single. (I hate that word. Are you "double" when you're married?) I was saved when I was 10 years old. I have had my arguments with God just like everyone else. However, on this issue, we do not argue. If God wants me to marry someone, He will have to bring us together.

I refuse to marry just to make other people happy. I admit that I would love to have a special someone in my life. Someone to be happy, sad, and just together with. Someone to give me a hug when I need it most. Someone to help me make decisions.

My point is, as much as I would like that, I want what God wants more. I find it incredibly insensitive to be treated like I haven't any

brains because I don't have a husband. Some women have a lot of nerve treating me like *I'm* lacking in grey matter with the husbands *they* chose.

The Bible speaks about single women. In 1 Corinthians 7:8, Paul says it would be good for single women and widows to abide as he did.

There isn't anything to debate on this verse. I know that the verse advises if they cannot control themselves, to marry rather than

imagine going into it with the haphazard attitude, "If it doesn't work, we'll just get a divorce!" I am a responsible person. I pay bills on time. I have a full-time job and work part-time also. I am active in my church.

It bothers me when the unsaved people where I work understand my viewpoint on marriage better than my Christian brothers and

**All single people aren't irresponsible and afraid of commitment. To my way of thinking, it's more irresponsible to get married just because everyone else does.**



burn. But taking in the entire picture, to me, it says Jesus allows people to remain single. It isn't that I don't think *anyone* should get married. I don't think *everyone* should get married. I think that should be God's leading, not people's prodding.

All single people aren't irresponsible and afraid of commitment. To my way of thinking, it's more irresponsible to get married just because everyone else does. Marriage is such a big step that I can't

sisters. Maybe I expect too much. I know I am close to the subject. I live it. SR

*Cynthia Lines is a member of First Bible Free Will Baptist Church, New Castle, Ind. This article first appeared in Contact magazine, Antioch, Tenn. Used with permission.*

# Being sensitive to singles

by Kevin Butler

With over 67 million single adults in the United States, and many of them in churches, we need to be more aware and sensitive to the needs of singles.

Earlier this year, the Chapel of the Air radio ministry devoted a week of programming to this topic. Guests included singles in the work force, ministry, and other experts. Host Steve Bell uncovered many misconceptions and mistakes that church folks make when dealing with singles.

One strong myth was that all singles want to be in a separate singles group. "It felt like being in a youth group," an interviewee responded. "Other people were always programming for us."

Another guest left one church with their "high-powered" singles ministry program to find a greater family connection in a smaller church. "We want integration and a sense of belonging."

How can churches reach out and be more inclusive?

"Get the marrieds and singles together in mixed activities—classes and groups," one guest offered. "When you mix, you'll find you have more things in common than you have differences."

"And be aware of certain lonely times for singles," someone else advised. "Birthdays, holidays, and church days can be real down times when you're alone."

One youth pastor felt that many church people see singles as "irresponsible." At a church retreat, he saw married couples named as sponsors who were several years younger than some single adults they were "sponsoring."

"Because they were married, it was just assumed that they were more mature—that's not always the case."

Harold Ivan Smith, a Christian authority on understanding singles' concerns, is the author of 22 books. His latest is titled *Fortysomething and Single*. Smith was a guest on the Chapel program and offered great insight.

"The Church needs to watch its images and assumptions," Smith cautioned. "We should make singles feel welcome."

"Be careful with words like, 'Come and bring your *whole family!*' We need to open up our social events to everyone."

"Have you noticed that the tables in the fellowship hall are always set in *even* numbers?"

## Watch your language!

Some of the common "goofs" (stated or implied) poured out on singles:  
 "What does your husband do?"  
 "Well, when you get married..."  
 Greeting a young couple and assuming they're married  
 Feature in newsletter: "Family of the Month." (How about "Church Members of the Month"?)

Ever since we unloaded the ark, we've been thinking in even numbers!! How about setting the table for five or seven?"

Smith sees many married people feeling threatened by singles.

"They don't participate with those who have lost a mate through death or divorce. They sometimes say, 'This could happen to me—I don't want to be reminded of that potential reality, and therefore, I'm not going to interact with them.'

"Then when it does happen, and they become widowed, the shock is even greater because they haven't reached out to those whose experience could help them the most."

When asked for the one thing people should say to a single adult, Smith replied, "I would say, 'My prayer, my dream for you is to become everything God wants you to be. And, sometime, I'd like the chance to talk with you about what being single means.' It is through listening that we best know how to pray for someone, to encourage them, and literally be a cheerleader in their lives."

"The ministry of listening is a gift that almost anyone in the church can give." SR

## When finding out someone is single,

### DO NOT:

- Act like someone in the family just died: "Oh, I'm so sorry..."
- See them as incomplete.
- Play "cupid" without forewarning the person.
- Question their maturity, responsibility, or sexuality.
- Think: "You could be married if you wanted to be." It should be left up to the Lord.

### Please DO:

- Make them feel welcome.
- Get to know their name.
- Sit with them at church; they don't always want to be alone.
- Include them in family times, and accept *their* invitations.
- See them as a whole person; someone who *could* and *should* be a dynamic force for God's Kingdom.

## This single ministers to many

*Rev. Helen Green has never married, yet one would be hard pressed to label her "single."*

*Helen answered God's call to reach out to some very lonely people—both single and married—in prison. This report was presented to the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church, her ministry base.*

So many people are helping in a variety of ways! If I named even the ones I know about, it would make a very long list. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, financial support, and volunteer service in reaching prisoners for Christ.

I still go to Camp Georgetown on Sunday nights to counsel and lead a Bible study class for prisoners.

Alden Vierow, Garth and Mayola Warner, and I take turns as volunteer Bible study leaders on Wednesday nights at Mid-State Prison. Greg DeVito attended once and

**Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, financial support, and volunteer service in reaching prisoners for Christ.**

plans on more involvement. Pastor Steven James has come and is doing county jail inmate visitation. I'm also part of a team of volunteers (from other churches) teaching a Bible class on Monday nights at Mid-State Prison for Prison Fellowship (Charles Colson's ministry). We have exciting times.

Brief stories about two prisoners:

1. Chuck is at Mid-State Prison. His lifestyle estranged him from his wife and children. Becoming a Christian in prison has changed

him into a cheerful, positive person. He tried to tell his family—through letters—that he is a new man, but they did not believe him. He asked us and others to pray for reconciliation with his family.

Eventually a daughter wrote, then visited and saw that he is different! One Sunday, after substitute preaching for the chaplain, I found Chuck and his 19-year-old daughter having a friendly visit in the visiting room. His 17-year-old daughter recently tried to commit suicide, but now is doing "Mailbox Bible Club" lessons and has received Christ as her Savior. Her father is her teacher!

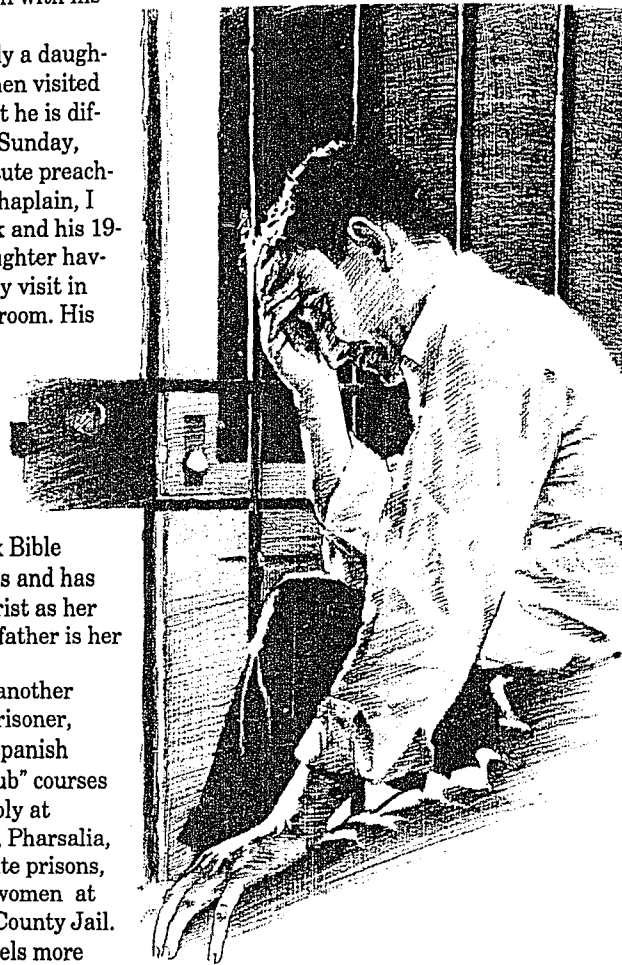
2. Floyd, another Mid-State prisoner, checks the Spanish "Mailbox Club" courses which I supply at Georgetown, Pharsalia, and Mid-State prisons, and for the women at the Oneida County Jail. I think he feels more useful and happier.

When able, Mallie Petrie and Mabel Stamp have assisted and substituted for me at the Oneida County Jail women's unit. These prisoners are ages 16 to about 55 or 60, as are the men at the prisons. Several are doing "Mailbox Club" lessons and more advanced lessons, attend Sunday church service, and come to one-on-one counseling on Tuesday nights. I am praying for two more women to volunteer.

Prisoners want Christian pen

pals (hint, hint); some need a Christian to visit them. Thanks to you who are writing!

What a privilege to have a part in this ministry of love that God



has called us to do, whether it be money for Bibles, lessons, tracts, books, transportation (including the gift of a wonderful car given to me), videos, greeting cards, book markers, yarn for crocheting, etc.; a music ministry; leading a Bible class; writing to prisoners; praying.

I am impressed with Romans 5:19— "For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." As we share Christ, God is changing people so that they may be "righteous." SR



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

## God needs YOU—single or plural

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58 NASB).*

When I was teaching school in southern Iowa, I was single. Even though I enjoyed my singleness, some dear people in the church felt I needed to be married. They were

**I had to get beyond the "poor-me-I'm-single" thinking and focus on God's perfect will for me.**

very happy to introduce me to their grandsons, nephews, and business associates.

Some of the men were very nice, while others I'd rather have never met. At the time I got a little frustrated with all these good intentions, but eventually it became a big joke. I came to the understanding that there are worse things than not being married—one is being married to the wrong person.

Because I had some great friends in the church, I was able to enjoy many wonderful experiences, even though I was single. I was included in family gatherings, I was called upon to use my time and talents in the church's ministry, I was encouraged to develop my gifts and be used of the Lord in the context of being single.

Because I was single, I was able to do things that I wouldn't have done if I had been married (including two trips to Japan as a summer missionary with American Baptist Churches).

Once I decided to let the Lord use me as I was, and not fret about my singleness, the Lord blessed me in so many wonderful ways. I think the Lord was also able to use me to show others that being single isn't always a terrible thing. God needs and can use in marvelous ways those people who are single and have no responsibility to a spouse or children.

Rather than concentrating on being single and not married, I focused my efforts on serving the

to find their niche in the church. The church can only do so much in reaching out to them (providing programs and activities geared to those without spouses or families). Each single person must make an effort to find his or her niche in the church's ministry.

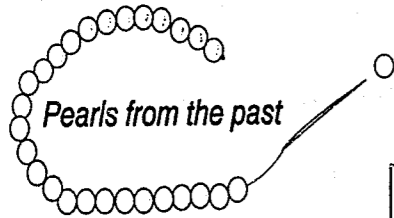
There is always a place of ministry for anyone—married or single—who is willing to be used of the Lord and willing to give time or talents in some way. Rather than focusing on marital status, we need to focus on availability, willingness to serve, and God-given gifts for service. God needs singles in the church. SR

At our recent board meeting, we evaluated the financial status of our, and your, SCSC program. Expenses for this training ran over \$10,000, while gifts designated for SCSC only totaled about \$3,000. We need your help!!!! Please send your gifts designated for SCSC (you don't need to wait until next summer) to Treasurer Marie Davis, RD 3, Box 291, Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Lord and being the best I could be for Him and His people. Those years I taught school were very rewarding for me, emotionally and spiritually. While the church was willing to reach out to me as a single person, I still had to come to grips with my singleness. I had to make some concentrated efforts to get beyond the "poor-me-I'm-single" thinking and focus on God's perfect will for me.

Many single people are trying





## How about a date?

by Don A. Sanford, historian

Seventh Day Baptists are recognized as a part of Baptist heritage from four different centuries.

The Baptist Joint Committee, in conjunction with the Brooks Hays Historical and Educational Foundation, has recently published the 1992 Baptist Heritage Calendar which includes 16 dates of Seventh Day Baptist events.

Each of the 366 days has some significant event which happened on that day in history. Our Historical Society provided a list of 49 events drawn from its files. Seven months contain at least one date from Seventh Day Baptists.

The dates and text relating to Seventh Day Baptists are:

**January— 6, (1842):** Seventh Day Baptist missionary James L. Scott began a tour of the old Northwest Territory.

— 31, (1843): Seventh Day Baptist school at Alfred, N.Y., incorporated as Alfred University (Note: The original text sent stated that Alfred was incorporated as an Academy and later became Alfred University.)

**February— 2, (1659):** Seventh Day Sabbath debated in London between Jeremiah Ives and Seventh Day Baptists.

— 12, (1679): Francis Bampfield proposed meeting of Seventh Day Baptists in England, R. I., and Holland.

**March— 8, (1649):** British Parliament banned book, *Doctrine of Fourth Commandment*, by James Oakeford (SDB).

— 27, (1737): Covenant signed for Shiloh (N.J.) Seventh Day Baptist Church.

September 1992				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
	1 1803: First issue of precursor to <i>American Baptist Magazine</i> published, oldest extant religious magazine	2 1938: John Walter Phillips, author, lecturer, philanthropist and pastor, died in Mobile, Ala.	3 1843: Seventh Day Baptists addressed a letter to all Baptists regarding the Sabbath	4 1944: Classes first time at C Baptist Theo Seminary in Calif.
8 Labor Day Christopher H. Black Baptist lawyer and lawyer, in Red Sulpher Springs, W.Va.	9 1900: Claude Pepper, Florida congressman and senior citizen advocate, born in Dudleyville, Ala.	10 1832: 3 blacks, 1 Creek Indian and 2 whites organized the first Baptist church in Oklahoma	11 1802: Seventh Day Baptist General Conference organized in Hopkinton, R.I.	11 1900: Joseph National Barvention, U.S. president, born in Jamestown, N.Y.

**June— 14, (1844):** First Issue of *The Sabbath Recorder* published by Seventh Day Baptists.

— 25, (1885): The first Seventh Day Baptist woman ordained: Mrs. Experience Randolph Burdick.

— 28, (1916): Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society incorporated in New Jersey.

**July— 16, (1913):** Seventh Day Baptist missionary work began in British Guyana.

**August— 16, (1890):** Salem Academy chartered as Salem College (SDB) in Salem, W.Va.

— 21, (1964): Doris Fetherston elected president of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

**September— 3, (1843):** Seventh Day Baptists addressed a letter to all Baptists regarding the Sabbath.

— 10, (1802): Seventh Day Baptist General Conference organized in Hopkinton, R.I.

— 27, (1657): Proposal made in London to unite several sects including Baptists. (Note: Original text read "...to unite Presbyterians, Independents, Baptists, Sabbatarians, Seekers, and others that are saints by calling.)

— 28, (1708): First Hopkinton SDB Church established in Ashaway, R. I., oldest extant SDB church in America.

The SDB Historical Society has a limited supply of these calendars which may be purchased for \$2.50 plus \$1.00 for mailing. (The postage is actually \$1.21.)

Seventh Day Baptists have been on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for close to 30 years, and have been well represented and respected. After several years of informal participation, the Joint Committee invited General Conference to become a constituent member in 1962.

The Joint Committee has spoken forcibly for Baptists on many issues such as the separation of church and state. It has repeatedly opposed legislation which would seek to give advantage of one day over another as a day of rest or worship.

The publication of this Baptist Heritage Calendar is just one more way in which Seventh Day Baptists can emphasize our Baptist heritage and increase our visibility as a denomination with a long and treasured history. *SR*



# SR Almanac

Where we have been...

### One year ago—November 1990

Pastors Bill Shobe and Dale Rood focus on theme of prayer.

President of Concerts of Prayer International, David Bryant, speaks to the global movement of concerted prayer, and adds his favorable comments toward our MORE 2000 plan.

Church news: Four churches host SCSC teams; Denver holds Natural Evangelism Training weekend retreat; new groups growing in Missouri area; Milton, Wis., church celebrates 150th anniversary and hosts North Central Association.

Missionary Tom McElwain closes his ministry in Finland.

### Five years ago—November 1986

Monthly *SR* issue replaced by a 16-page giveaway piece, "You can thank God it's Friday... the Sabbath is Coming!" Information on the Sabbath, our beliefs, history, and church group locations is shared.

### 10 years ago—November 1981

Jennifer Lewis guest edits special theme section on music. Many talented SDBs involved in music ministries contribute with articles.

Diary excerpts from Miriam Shaw give insight into her faith and ministry as director of nursing at Grace Hospital in Shanghai, China.

New Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate stresses importance of communication in church and life.

Pastor John Camenga accepts call to Shiloh, N.J.; Pastor Herb Saunders installed at Milton.

Three members ordained to Berlin, N.Y., diaconate.

### 25 years ago—November 1966

Ministers' Spiritual Retreat held in Shiloh. Twenty leaders study gospel of John and *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.

Pastor Fran Saunders guest edits special issue, "Good Tidings! For Today?" Writers include Doris Rood, Stanley Allen, Bennie Peil, and Helen Bond.

Insert invites participants to dedicated service

projects or Summer Christian Service Corps (fourth year).

Obituary lists passing of Rev. Oliver Lewis, Stone Fort, Ill.

Twelve hundred delegates from 100 countries gather in Berlin, Germany, for World Congress on Evangelism, sponsored by *Christianity Today*.

### 50 years ago—November 1941

Supplement presents a Sabbath sermon first delivered by Rev. Leslie Greene at Conference in August.

Theological students—Charles Bond, Alton Wheeler, Victor Skaggs, Kenneth Van Horn, and Donald Phillips—attend a conference at Princeton Seminary.

Letter and picture from Pastor Makwinja describe new SDB mission church in Nyasaland (now Malawi).

Mrs. George Thorngate makes available "movie reel" of our schools in Shanghai. "Those having a moving picture machine and desiring to use the pictures can secure them by addressing..."

WSNJ radio in Shiloh carries program for SDB church. "Subscriptions have been received for a ten weeks' program, and the hope... is for a much longer period." (It has continued to this day.)

...where are we headed?

### Pray...

- for a closer walk with God through prayer
- that MORE 2000 is a true "Mission of Revival and Evangelism"
- that new efforts for visibility succeed
- for your church's music ministry
- that our pastors are renewed through continuing education
- for our seminary students
- for our churches and missions worldwide



# The Sabbath in the New Testament

by Rodney Henry

(Lesson 5 of a continuing study.)

## Any day or the Seventh Day?

Is it enough to remember one day of the week to keep it holy? Certainly it is not our task here to sit in judgment as if we were God. But let us see what the Scriptures and especially the Ten Commandments say. "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:10). Within the Fourth Commandment, God has given specific instruction as to the precise day of the week for the Sabbath.

Knowing which day of the week is the seventh day of the week is quite simple. It has been thousands of years since creation and thousands of years since the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Yet the weekly cycle has never changed. You need to simply look at any calendar. Sunday is the first day of the week and Saturday is the seventh.

Another way to discover which day of the week is the seventh day Sabbath is to look to God's "timepiece" and "calendar." Israel is God's timepiece. Before God gave the law on Mount Sinai, He established a weekly cycle with the Children of Israel by sending manna for six days and not sending the manna on the seventh day. It was here that He re-established, for all the world to follow, a seven-day weekly cycle. God forever established this cycle by making the seven-day week a part of His law, the Ten Commandments.

For 40 years the Children of Israel were taught the lesson of the Sabbath through their stomachs and the giving of manna from God. It was a Sabbath cycle that the nation of Israel never lost. Though the calendars have been changed, the weekly cycle of seven days has never changed.

When the nation of Israel was dispersed over all the world, God's timepiece was also sent all over the world so that men would know God's weekly Sabbath. To know which day of the week is the seventh day Sabbath, we need only look to the Jews in our community. This is not difficult because most nations of the world have a Jewish community. As Israel is God's timepiece for prophecy, so is Israel God's timepiece for knowing the weekly Sabbath that God instituted at creation.

Besides using Israel to know which is the seventh day, look to the majority of the Christian Church. Most of the Christian Church celebrates Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, the first day of the week. Therefore, that would logically make Saturday the seventh day of the week (and the Sabbath). You cannot have Sunday the first day of the week for Easter, and then Sunday again as the seventh day of the week for Sabbath.

## Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath

In every area of life, we look to Christ as our supreme example. We believe in baptism because of the example of Christ and the apostles, and the command of God. And so it is with the Sabbath. We have the example of Christ and the apostles, and the Ten Commandments of God written on the tables of stone and on our hearts. And yet, the majority of Christianity has chosen the tradition of man.

"And he (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read" (Luke 4:16). The word of God tells that Jesus was a Sabbathkeeper. It was the Son of God who blessed and sanctified the Sabbath at creation by resting. This was the first ex-

ample that Adam and Eve had in the Garden. When the Son of God became flesh, He once again set the example for Sabbathkeeping.

## Luke and the Sabbath

Luke's gospel was written to a gentile (Theophilus) no earlier than 60 A.D., which is many years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Luke 23:56, we read that the women "...prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment."

Some would say that the women simply had not yet been told by Jesus that the Sabbath was abolished. But remember, Luke is writing this several decades after the resurrection of Christ. He in no way qualifies the Fourth Commandment being kept by the women as something that was "done away with," or something that is "Jewish" or "passed away." Luke simply describes their Sabbathkeeping as something "in obedience to the commandment." Apparently Luke, the writer of the gospel, felt that the Sabbath was still one of God's commandments.

## Paul kept the Sabbath

When the Apostle Paul was in Corinth, he went to the synagogue every Sabbath. This was in spite of the fact that he was trying to reach both Jews and Greeks. "And he (Paul) was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4). We have the clear example of Christ and of Paul.

## Law fulfilled in the Believer

Christ's death on the cross brought fulfillment to a great deal of Old Testament prophecy, the whole ceremonial law of sacrifices, and the clean and unclean. This means that He brought these

things to completion and fullness. For example, in the Old Testament, the people of God had to sacrifice animals for the forgiveness of sins. Christ became the final sacrifice for sins so that it is no longer necessary to sacrifice animals for this purpose. The sacrificial law was

mandment is holy and righteous and good." In verse 14 he continues by saying, "for we know that the Law is spiritual." But Romans 8:3 says that the law has a very important weakness. The weakness in the law is through what Paul calls the "flesh."

The weakness of the law is in man's sinfulness and lack of power to keep the law. The problem and weakness of the law is not in the law itself—which is holy, righteous, good, and spiritual. The problem with the law is in man.

The problem and weakness of the law was that it could not, and cannot, provide power for obedience. This problem is solved by the death of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:4 says that it is the Holy Spirit who gives power to the believer to fulfill the law. By Christ's death on the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit, "the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

The fulfillment of the law is not merely an empty idea or words. The fulfillment of the law is in the life of the believer, and it is shown by obedience to all of the Ten Commandments, including the fourth regarding Sabbathkeeping. The power for this obedience comes only to those who "walk according to spirit" (Romans 8:4), by trusting him to give victory over sin.

## Sabbath and the Second Coming

If the Sabbath was to be changed, why is Jesus concerned with the Sabbath and Sabbathkeeping people in the days just before His second coming?

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives some of the signs of His second coming. In Matthew 24:6ff, we are told to expect wars, famines, earthquakes, tribulation, a falling away, false prophets, and lawlessness. In Matthew 24:15-21, the persecution will be so great that many will flee their homes.

fulfilled, or completed, with the death of Christ on the cross.

Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." The relationship between Christ and the law hinges on the word "fulfill." Christ came to fulfill the Law. How Christ fulfilled and fulfills the law is very significant to the role of the law in the believer. Romans 8:3 and 4 tells about the fulfillment of the law in the life of the believer:

*"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."*

The requirements of the Ten Commandment law were not fulfilled in Christ. The Bible says that the law is to be "fulfilled in us" (Romans 8:4). Jesus said that He came to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17). Paul is more specific about the fulfillment of the law when he says that the law is to be fulfilled in the life of every believer who depends on the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Romans 7:12 Paul says that the "Law is holy, and the com-

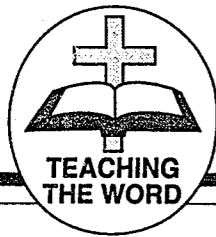
Then in Matthew 24:20, Jesus says, "Pray that your flight may not be in the winter or on a Sabbath." The Sunday-keeping church of today needs to inform Jesus Christ that He no longer needs to worry about the Sabbath in the last days, because they have changed it to Sunday. Either that, or the Sunday-keeping church should realize that Jesus intends His people, in the last days, to be concerned about not having to take flight on the Sabbath.

Jesus intends the Sabbath to exist until He comes again. SR

## Questions

1. Who is God's "timepiece" for biblical prophecy and the Sabbath?
2. Have the Jews ever lost the seven-day weekly cycle, or the Sabbath, since the giving of manna and the Ten Commandments?
3. On your calendar, which day is the seventh day of the week?
4. The Bible says that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Which day of the week is the Sabbath according to your calendar?
5. It was the custom of Jesus to worship on which day? (See Luke 4:16.)
6. According to the example of the Apostle Paul, on which day did he worship in the synagogue? (See Acts 18:4.)
7. Some Christians say that the law and the Sabbath are fulfilled in Christ. According to Romans 8:4, where is the law fulfilled?
8. Jesus was concerned that in the last days, people might have to run away from persecution on the Sabbath. (See Matthew 24:20.) Do you think Jesus would be concerned with this if He was planning to change the seventh day, Sabbath, to the first day, "Lord's Day"?





## Spiritual education of God's people: Scripture

Pastor Jus Start was standing at the church door greeting the congregation after the Sabbath worship service when Mrs. N. Decision approached him. She seemed a little upset. Perhaps she wished to comment on his sermon about the significance of Scripture.

Mrs. N. Decision asked, "Which translation of the Bible is the best? My daughter likes the *New International Version*, my neighbor says it's the *New Revised Standard Version*, and Deacon Faithful uses the *King James Version*. Pastor, you said you read the morning Scripture from the *New American Standard Version*. I have a New Testament. Isn't that all a Christian needs?"

Pastor Start explained, "The selection of a Bible is quite personal. It is important for a Christian's spiritual development to select a version which is a scholarly translation of the Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew manuscripts. Select a Bible which has the enduring literary value to be meaningful over many decades of your life."

Deacon Faithful joined the conversation and commented, "That's why I continue to read Scripture from my *King James Version*. It's my favorite. But I do have a *New American Standard* and a *New King James* for studying my Sabbath School lesson."

The three moved their conversation to the sanctuary where Mrs. N. Decision questioned the pastor and the deacon, "Why does this church emphasize Bible study so much? Isn't it enough just to come to the

worship service each Sabbath day? My family hardly ever reads the Bible, and I think we're pretty good people!"

Pastor Jus Start leaned against a pew and replied, "The spiritual education of God's people begins with our study of Holy Scripture and our living of its message. Regular Bible study is necessary if we wish to know God."

Deacon Faithful shifted his feet and exclaimed, "I want to go back to something Mrs. Decision said

Pastor Start moved toward the sanctuary door and asked, "Do you both remember the *Natural Evangelism Training Retreat* which was held here last month? Do you remember how we were all reminded of the influence which the Bible has had on the lives of God's people? When Christians have sought to know God, they have turned to Holy Scripture. Augustine was converted to Christianity by biblical preaching and reading Paul's letter to the Romans. Francis of

**"The spiritual education of God's people begins with our study of Holy Scripture and our living of its message."**

about a Christian needing only a New Testament. With all the excitement about the release of the Dead Sea Scrolls, I looked up the Qumran Community in a Bible Dictionary and learned that there are about 250 direct quotations from the Old Testament in the New Testament. If you accept partial quotations and allusions, there are over 1,000 from the Old Testament in the New. There are 93 references from the Psalms in the New Testament. Jesus said the first and second commandments—love for God and love for our neighbor (Mark 12:28-34)—are from the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18). How can we understand the New Testament unless we study the Old?"

Assisi turned to Scripture as he sought God through the imitation of the life of Christ.

"Martin Luther noted the difference between the church practices of his time and what he read in Holy Scripture. His faith was changed and the Christian church was changed by the power of God's Spirit speaking to him through Scripture. Our Seventh Day Baptist spiritual ancestors measured their lives and beliefs by Holy Scripture. Sometimes it cost them their lives."

Pastor Start paused and continued, "We must study Scripture if we wish to develop spiritually. That's why our church places a priority on Bible study. Our spiritual education depends upon our faithful study of Holy Scripture." ✠



## Ingoes visit USA churches

Missionaries Ian and Trudy Ingoe, who have served in Malawi, Africa, since 1989, will spend a month in the United States visiting local churches before leaving Los Angeles for their home in Auckland, New Zealand, on December 10. Most will be visited on weeknights as they travel by car.

Sabbaths will be: Nov. 16—Shiloh, N.J.; Nov. 23—Battle Creek, Mich.; Nov. 30—Denver, Colo.; Dec. 7—Riverside, Calif. They will meet with the Missionary Board in Westerly, R.I., on Monday, November 11.

## Umuahia, Imo State, Nigeria, W. Africa

Additional information from Elder Lawrence O. Uchegbuonu (see September *SR*) shares that Bro. Ahmadu, the Muslim who became a Christian under the ministry of Rev. G. Harrison, was killed in a clash in northern Nigeria. More information came in *The Sunday Magazine* whose May 5th cover story was headlined, "Bloodbath, Christians vs. Muslims in Bauchi."

Uchegbuonu also wrote, "I am out to do God's work! I will go back to Bauchi to see if I can trace the other converted Muslim brothers. I will be interested to see Muslims who will know the real Almighty God and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ."

## National Ministries

A proposal for a National Field Development Team was presented to the General Conference by Director of Extension Russell Johnson. It would be a tool for strengthening and coordinating many of our individual, church, Associational, and Missionary Society efforts at church planting and church development.

The concept involves more fully utilizing General Conference personnel, volunteers, and other resources for maximum effect, while avoiding overlap or neglected opportunities for the sake of the Kingdom.

We visualize some volunteers as being trained and talented retired folk, willing to go to an area and spend anywhere from two days to six months helping a church begin to reach Godly goals. Or it may be a special SCSC team of proven workers who can go into an area and impact the community for Christ. Or it could involve a church releasing a pastor for a specific amount of time to assist the Director of Extension in "checking out" new contacts or the planting potential of a location near them. Or, an effort may develop around a person willing to take their trade to any new community, and willing to be the nucleus for the new

church. Seminary students seeking church planting experience may be utilized in several ways to sharpen their skills and assist the Lord's work.

See the October *Missions*, or contact Russell Johnson, RD 1, Box 125B, Durhamville, NY 13054.

## Malawi, Africa

The Ingoe's Newsletter for August begins, "This month started with us saying goodbye to Pastor Ronald and Maria Barrar early on the morning of the 3rd and finished with a baptism at Makapwa Youth Camp on the last day of August just before the close of Sabbath."

In the year the Barrars served at Makapwa in dedicated service, much was done to assist the ongoing work. Ronald taught pastors and had a special training session for deacons. Maria, an RN, also assisted in the medical work and worked with the women.

Mr. Jimmy Banda has been elected as the new Central Africa Conference treasurer. He has been serving in the office of World Vision-Malawi and is experienced in bookkeeping.

During the month the Ingoes visited the following churches: Chiridzula, Thomas, Chipho, Domasi for Association, Thembe, and Makapwa for Youth Camp. At Sabbath School the youth sang a song they had composed from the words of Ecclesiastes 12:1. Ian shares: "It was really a moving song and was heartwarming to think all these young people were there because of Jesus Christ. The singing for the Worship Service was especially good. I preached on Isaiah 53:4-6 and Rom. 5:1-11 that man needs salvation and shared some of my personal experiences. I was hard pushed to prevent tears from rolling down my face when over 70 stood to the call. After lunch we counselled all the people, and one young man felt he should be baptized.

"We then all went to the river where Christopher Salima gave his testimony, and I baptized him and then laid hands on another 20 youth who felt they wanted this.

"Last year, the Sabbath of Youth Camp had boosted us and made us see that Jesus Christ is alive. So it was this year! Trudy had received great encouragement from the Lord during the week, and on the Sabbath all the frustrations, all the heartaches of the past year just disappeared hearing and seeing the youth remembering their Creator in the day of their Youth. Pastor Manyamba preached, asking how can any of us doubt when we see a young man like Christopher stand to the call of the Gospel and then to the water in FAITH. How can any of us doubt?!"



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship November 1991

## Intermediate Camp at Wakonda

by Heidi Gilmore

During the week of June 23-30, about 27 young people attended the Milton (Wis.) church's annual Intermediate Camp at Camp Wakonda. Rev. Dale Rood of Dodge Center, Minn., was the director of the week's activities.

The theme for the week was "I'm Accepted." Pastor Dale was assisted by Katrina Saunders of New York, Andrew Camenga of Florida, and Joy Wallstrom and Madelyn Neher, both from Minnesota.

Some of our daily activities were: vespers, campfire, recreation, swimming, and three classes. The classes were "Just two—God and you," "I'm accepted," and "God

didn't make you junk." During these 45-minute sessions, campers learned how they could always turn to God for help, and that God doesn't care what's on the outside—you'll always be loved by Him.

On Friday evening, we participated in a consecration ceremony to welcome the Sabbath. This followed the traditional Sabbath evening banquet. The whole camp then attended the Sabbath morning worship service at the Milton SDB Church. The campers invited the parents and congregation to an open house on Sabbath afternoon and then departed Sunday morning. Campers came from Wisconsin (New Auburn, Madison, Janesville, and Milton), and from Iowa and Dodge Center.

by Michelle Merchant

Intermediate camp was the best! It was like, So-o cool! In the morning we had three classes. The first one was alone time with God. Joy Wallstrom was in charge of that, and she had some neat material. In the beginning of class, she usually gave us a story to read about someone our age who shared the same interests. Then she gave us some Bible verses to read and let us on our own. It was really nice because we could read more about God and get closer to Him.

The second class was Pastor Dale Rood's. It was fun because we got to sing a lot, and we learned new things about our Lord and Savior. Well, at least I did.

The third class we had was Andrew Camenga's. I will always remember his favorite phrase, "And remember, God made you, and you are a very special person." Andrew also performed a one-man skit for us. He reenacted the role of Peter and how he walked on water with God. The counselors were great. They really listened to you and made you feel better. Thanks guys!

The last night, we had a moonlight hike. After some "fun" time, we were forced into our dorms for the night. We had bedtime devotions and then fell asleep; well, at least we tried.

Towards the end of camp, we all realized we'd be leaving our old and new friends, and that we might not see them for a long time. The crying and sniffing and the hugs began. Most of us exchanged addresses so that we could stay in touch. All in all, I feel that this year, Intermediate Camp ruled!

## Junior Camp at Jersey Oaks

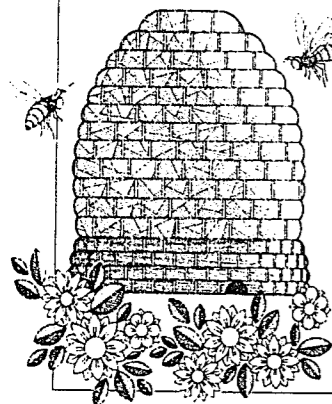
by Ronnie Campbell Jr.



My week at Jersey Oaks was an interesting experience. There were Bible studies and games, and swimming, and bees! The Bible study theme was, "God is More Than Enough." Pastor Don Chroniger helped us to trust in the Lord and not to worry about tomorrow.

There were two recreation times when we played many games, including my favorite, baseball. The wonderful cooking staff provided excellent food!

There was a special meal on Sabbath Eve. After dinner, we were going back to the dorm to change, when bees came charging at us and started to attack. I was stung eight times and so was my buddy. As the end of the week drew near, we all said good-bye as our fun week was finished.



# Pastor Profile

**Name:** Kenroy Cruickshank

**Birthdate and place:**

December 9, 1947

**Current pastorate:**

Hope SDB Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Family:**

Wife--Maureen  
Son--Omar  
Daughter--Simone

**Education:**

Theological training at Crandall School in Jamaica.

**Former pastorates/employment:**

**Pastorates:**  
Maiden Hall SDB Church, Jamaica  
Waterford SDB Church, Jamaica  
Thornton SDB Church, Jamaica  
Lemon Hall SDB Church, Jamaica  
Barrett Town SDB Church, Jamaica

**My first job was:**

When I worked as a tailor in Kingston, Jamaica.

**Personal hero:**

My parents

**Favorite childhood memory:**

Playing cricket with my brothers and friends.

**Favorite Bible passage:**

St. Luke 21:19--"In your patience possess ye your souls."

**Favorite author:**

Billy Graham



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

I would visit Israel.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

The establishment of an SDB church in Philadelphia.

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

Expanding our present church building.

**My vision for SDBs:**

That as SDBs we will seek out every possible opportunity to establish new churches in this country and other countries as well.

## Clean advertising

by Reba Wheeler



Pastor Bob Harris and Ira Bond prepare to pick up debris along their "adopted" highway.

The Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church has found a good way to advertise.

Early this spring, several church members met with the Highway

**It proved to be a very hot job.**

Department in Topeka, and agreed to keep clean of debris the two and a half miles of highway leading into Nortonville. The Department agreed to install signs telling that the SDB Church had adopted a highway for litter control.

As soon as the four signs were up, Edwin and June Johnson, Charles Wheeler, Rev. Bob Harris, and Ira Bond put on the bright colored vests provided by the department and picked up debris. They were required to pick up all articles along the right of way of the highway, place what they could in blue sacks (which the department furnished), tie up the sacks and leave them along the area for the state trucks to pick up later.

It proved to be a very hot job this summer because of high temperatures and being in the drought area. However, workers agree, "It is not only good to have clean highways, it's a way to get plenty of exercise!" ✠

## Riverside learning to grow

by Marilyn Merchant

The Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church has been busy growing and learning since we moved into the new building. Many seminars have helped us grow in knowledge and spirituality.

In February we had an afternoon talk and discussion period with Pastor Gabriel Bejjani and his brother, Renod, concerning the Middle East, where both were raised. This helped us put Desert Storm in perspective and better know how to pray for our church friends who were serving there.

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, Ph.D., a world renown author and first Protestant graduate of the Vatican University, led us in a two-day seminar on the Sabbath truths he had unearthed. A most dynamic speaker, Dr. Bacchiocchi proved an able salesman for church members and visitors alike.

A series of three Sabbath afternoon workshops on Communication

and Family relationships were held during the spring with Dr. Clarence Schilt. One-on-one communication was a big exercise as we learned to really listen to each other. A wild and exciting Family Fun weekend was held at the same

with Dr. Mary Ruth Swope on "Listening Prayer." Mrs. Swope is a nutritionist who had led a week-long nutrition seminar in one of our member's health food store. She had a powerful message on learning to "turn your ears on" to hear

**Many seminars have helped us grow in knowledge and spirituality.**

time with tents and RVs forming a mobile city on our beautiful patio.

The Good News Conference with Dr. Desmond Ford and Roy Gee filled the church with many visitors as well as our own members. We always receive a few new members from one of these exciting weekends. The theme, "The Love of God in the Gospel," was thoroughly explored.

The last of our seminars was

the Lord when He speaks to us, not just talk to Him.

Our annual fall Family Camp weekend was held September 17-18 for the Pacific Coast Association. Pastor Bernie Wethington led the camp with the theme "Family Together Again."

So, we entered a busy fall and holiday season, always aware of our tremendous blessings and responsibility to pass them on. ✠

## Alfred Station welcomes new pastor

by Louise Woodruff



Welcoming Pastor Kenneth Chroniger (center) to the Alfred Station church (l. to r.): Rev. Larry Dunn, Rev. Ernest Bee Jr., Pres. Ronald Ellis, and Deacon Nelson Snyder.

Sabbath, September 7, was a day of special celebration at the Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church as our new pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Chroniger, was installed during the morning service.

The Rev. Larry Dunn, interim pastor, led the worship and presented a three-point challenge to the congregation: "Continue your tithing. Show your new pastor the same love you have shown to Barbara and me. Forget these seven words: 'We've never done it this way before,' and instead be ready with the words, 'I'd love to.'"

The Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr. presented a ministerial robe to Pastor Ken—a gift from our retired pastor, the Rev. Rex E. Zwiebel. He had this challenge: "Wear this robe as the one who wore it before you. He was a teacher, a pastor of distinction, a denominational executive; and above all, he was a gentle friend. Wear this robe as an emblem of your teaching responsibilities." Following some thoughts on ministry, the Rev. Bee led in a prayer of installation.

As he presented some thoughts on service from 1 Peter 5:2-3, the Rev. Chroniger stated that he be-

lieves this Scripture is what God wants him to do at Alfred Station: "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God

wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

During the morning service, greetings were expressed to the Rev. Chroniger from Dr. John Hunter, president of State University of New York College of Technology at Alfred, and from the Rev. Laurie DeMott, pastor of the Union University Church in Alfred, representing the Alfred Ministerium.

Many people from the congregation and area churches welcomed the Chronigers at the afternoon reception. Following an anthem by the choir, greetings were presented by Allegany County Legislature Chairman Delores Cross, and by Joanne Droppers, representing the Alfred Almond Central School Board of Education.

Ministers and friends from area churches brought greetings, while letters were read from state politicians and local churches. ✠

## Of auctions and missions

by Anna Cruzan

In August, the Marlboro, N.J., congregation met at the church for our annual Sabbath School picnic. This is always a time of fellowship, games, and good food.

This year we added a new attraction—an auction. Each person was asked to bring an item to be auctioned to the highest bidder. Proceeds were sent to the SDB United Relief Fund.

Some of the items were unusual, such as a camping trip, a bed pan, a basket of tomatoes, and a very old bottle of mange medicine which has been moving to different Marlboro homes over the years in just this manner. A few items went to the highest bidders who promised to give just so they wouldn't have to take the items home! It was a lot of fun for a good cause.

September 14 was Marlboro's

"Mission Sabbath." Rev. Leon Lawton of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society gave the morning sermon. After the worship service, the church enjoyed a fellowship dinner.

Following dinner, several from the Shiloh SDB Church joined us as Rev. Lawton spoke on the subject of missions. He focused his lesson on missionaries and their work, telling about many Seventh Day Baptist missionary success stories. He pointed out that a missionary should try to "work himself out of a job," training others to do his work. We formed smaller groups to discuss how the local church can support missionaries, then came back together to analyze what was discussed.

We all shared a day of learning and inspiration. ✠



# 1991 Robe of Achievement

Through the dedicated work and unique services of Gertrude Dickinson Davis, many individuals have come to know Christ and His Salvation.

Gertrude is endowed with qualities that make her a most worthy recipient of the Robe of Achievement. Her family, church, community, and denomination have all benefited from her obedience in serving the Lord.

Gertrude was born on November 27, 1921, in Shiloh, N.J., to Charles and Edna Dickinson. She is sister to Rachel (Bonham), Oliver, Everett, and Anna Mary (Richardson). She joined the Shiloh church at a young age and was always willing to do her part in all areas of church work. During her growing-up years, she sang in church choirs and in a quartet for church and other organizations.

She attended Shiloh and Bridgeton schools, after which she graduated from Salem College majoring in Home Economics. At Salem, she sang in the Mixed Chorus and in the Girls' Glee Club. She was also an active member of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Gertrude has been married to the Rev. Leland Davis for 46 years. They have three children—Kenneth, Ronald, and Mary Sue—and 14 grandchildren.

Gertrude's most significant service for the denomination was her term as missionary with her husband in Guyana, South America, from 1961 to 1966. She started a children's library and directed a Bible Club in the Kitty Mission. On occasion, she held Bible Clubs in other churches, setting her easel on a small footbridge or on the dirt road. She saw a real need for children's Sabbath School classes and youth programs. With the enthusiastic help of her children, Gertrude concentrated on these areas of min-

istry. She gave of herself to the women, encouraging them to strengthen their families and to commit themselves to the Lord's work.

Other denominational activities have included: co-editing a theme



Gertrude Dickinson Davis

issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*; participating in the Baptist Prayer Conference; co-authoring *Sabbath Recorder* article, "The Christian's Authority"; and writing (with Leland) the 1990 prayer booklet for the SDB World Federation. She served on the Women's Board when it was in Riverside, Calif., and in Battle Creek, Mich.

During Leland's pastorates in Indianapolis, Ind.; Boulder, Colo.; Battle Creek; Schenectady, N.Y.; Los Angeles and Lake Elsinore, Calif., Gertrude has been right beside him, active in the various church events. She has served as

Christian Endeavor leader, Bible study leader, seminar leader, deaconess, Sabbath School teacher/superintendent, Vacation Bible School teacher/director, Board of Christian Education member, camp teacher/counselor, church clerk, church treasurer, gracious hostess, and pianist.

Gertrude was especially active in the Washington, D.C., church. In addition to the various church program events in which she participated, she was church office secretary for over three years. When the church celebrated its 40th year, she wrote the history for its first 30 years.

Gertrude has served her community as a Home Economics teacher and substitute teacher in public schools. Most of her teaching was in elementary Christian schools in Los Angeles and Silver Spring, Md. She has taught adults to read through the Literacy program in Lake Elsinore and has been a Bible studies leader in the Stonecroft Ministries.

Gertrude, along with Leland, has always been active in church planting and growth. In Lake Elsinore, she continues to give of her talents even though they had planned to retire. She teaches the K-Primary Sabbath School class and takes her turn with Junior Church.

From her letter of nomination we read, "Among other God-given talents is her sweet spirit and willingness to help anywhere she's needed. She possesses a strong family bond, giving spiritual advice to young women as the Lord leads her. She is an excellent leader, but also a good listener, which for over 40 years had made her a superb pastor's wife."

The Women's Board agrees, and is therefore very proud to confer the Robe of Achievement upon Gertrude Dickinson Davis. *SR*

# The making of a logo



Sizing things up.



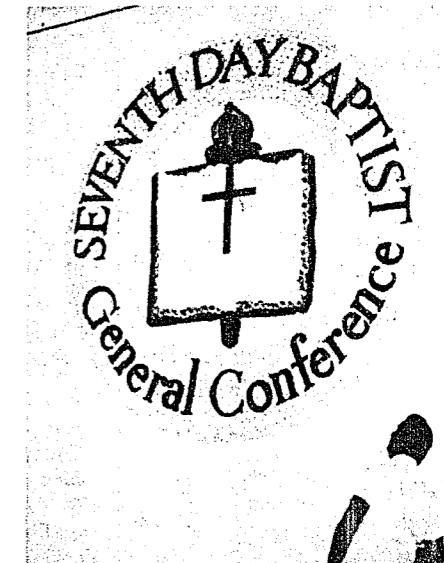
Getting into the Word.



How many more to go?



Who would think flowers could be so heavy?



Is it straight? Bring on the Conference!

## SR Reaction

Dear SR staff,

Keep up the great work! May the Lord continue to bless you with each issue that you assemble.

With loving appreciation,  
Bernie and Jeanne Yurke  
Raritan Valley, NJ

Dear Kevin,

Thank you so much for the pages you gave in the SR

for the articles concerning our Nortonville people.

You did a beautiful job publishing the article about Wheeler Hardware in Larkinburg. Winston Wheeler was very pleased. I wish you could have shared in seeing his joyous smile when I showed it to him.

We appreciate you as editor and your great staff. Thanks.

Reba Wheeler  
Nortonville, KS


Dear Recorder,

Unfortunately, I am a lone Sabbathkeeper again, but there is still the SR.

I look forward to the Recorder, which I read "back-to-front" or "front-to-back," but not in one gulp (because of the small print).

I don't need to tell you all the good "stuff" the Recorder brings. Thank you.

Velma Maxson  
Weirsdale, FL

December		\$708,785
November		\$649,715
October		\$590,650
September	SHOULD BE HERE 	\$531,585
August	September Giving	\$472,520
July	Investment Income (est)	\$413,455
June	August Giving	\$354,390
May	Investment Income (est)	\$295,325
April	July Giving	\$236,260
March	Investment Income (est)	\$177,195
February	June Giving	\$118,130
January	Investment Income (est)	\$59,065

1991 income needed—\$708,785.  
Per month gift income needed—\$29,415.  
Total needed each month—\$59,065.

## What goes on at the Center?

Besides housing the offices for General Services, Tract and Communication Council, Council on Ministry, Historical Society, Memorial Fund, and World Federation, the Center plays host to the meetings for these agencies.

Every year, church leaders are challenged to learn more about either Seventh Day Baptist history and polity, or about God's Sabbath. The Center facility gives each student a place to study, and offers computer support in the preparation of their papers.

Summer Institute is a vital ministry in instructing our current and future leaders. It is just one of the many services provided by your denominational Center.

Your gift to the General Conference helps to insure an adequate meeting facility for our students and agencies.



1991 Summer Institute students: (front row, left to right) Matthew Olson, Chris Mattison, Henry Davis, Chuck Davis; (back) Rod Henry, Dale Smalley, Jim Galanaugh, Steven James, Bernie Wethington, Tom Warner.

### Next year's dates for the Summer Institute on SDB History and Polity: June 15 to July 1, 1992

For more information, contact:  
Rodney L. Henry, Director of Pastoral Services  
P.O. Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

## Marriages

**Hays-Lavin.**—James John Hays Jr. and Elinor Rose Lavin were united in marriage on June 1, 1991, at St. John Chrysostom Church in Wallingford, PA. Msgr. Frederick L. Stevenson officiated.

**Thompson-Wheeler.**—Mark Robert Thompson and Kelli Jo Wheeler were married on June 28, 1991, at the Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Topeka, KS. The Rev. Frank Krische and Chaplain Clifford Bond officiated.

## Births

**Cota.**—A son, Brandon Matthew Cota, was born to Albert and Linda (Burdick) Cota on December 27, 1987.

**Hull.**—A daughter, Ashley Breana Hull, was born to Roger and Serena (Bowie) Hull of Cassville, NY, on July 3, 1990.

**Wheeler.**—A son, Steven Luis Wheeler, who was born on October 4, 1982, was adopted on February 2, 1991, by Douglas and Melody Wheeler of Highbridge, NJ.

**Elwood.**—A daughter, Jewel Ann Elwood, was born to Katy Elwood and Charles LaGrew of Denver, CO, on April 30, 1991.

**Stewart.**—A son, Levaughn Hugh Stewart, was born to Delroy and Karen Stewart of Orlando, FL, on May 18, 1991.

**Sutton.**—A daughter, Jessica Frances Sutton, was born to Eric and Lisa Sutton of McDonough, NY, on June 10, 1991.

**Medina.**—A daughter, Erica Elizabeth Medina, was born to Marc and Sheryl Medina of Denver, CO, on June 18, 1991.

**Robles.**—A daughter, Jordan Lee Robles, was born to Damian and Paula Robles of Broomfield, CO, on June 21, 1991.

**Fallon.**—A daughter, Megan Nicole Fallon, was born to Eric and Deanna Fallon of Westerly, RI, on July 24, 1991.

## Accessions

**Alfred Station, NY**  
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor  
Joined by letter  
Melissa Noel  
Roderick Noel

**Centertown, MO**  
Jon Warren, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Jerry Keisling  
Carla Keisling

**Lake Elsinore, CA**  
Dennis Palmer, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Kelly Gobbli

**Nortonville, KS**  
Robert Harris, pastor  
Joined by letter  
Vivian Wells Harris

**Oklahoma City, OK**  
Joined after testimony  
Karen Lee

**Riverside, CA**  
Gabriel Bejjani, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Linford (Sonny) Richardson  
Annalisa Snyder  
Jason Nichols  
Lara Jo. Packard  
Joined after testimony  
Nancy Richardson  
Joined by letter  
Cheryl Peil  
David Eberhardt  
Warren Eberhardt

**Texarkana, AR**  
Mynor Soper, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Shawn M. Wagner

**Westerly, RI**  
David Taylor, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Diana Rathbun  
Joined after testimony  
Elaine Fallon  
Joined by letter  
Honor Owens

## Obituaries

**Woodruff.**—William Woodruff, 69, of Alfred Station, N.Y., died on May 4, 1991, at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa.

He was born on June 6, 1921, in Canisteo, N.Y., the son of William P. and Mildred (Wentworth) Woodruff. He spent most of his life in the Alfred Station area and was a graduate of Alfred (N.Y.) High School, and Alfred Agricultural and Technical College. He retired in 1984 after 16 years as a groundsman for Alfred University.

William was a member of the Alfred Station SDB Church, Lodge 944 Masons, and Alfred American Legion. He was also a former member of the Alfred Station Volunteer Fire Department.

Survivors include his wife, Gladys Burnette Woodruff; three sons, John of Pollock, La., James of Muncy, Pa., and Richard of Alfred Station; two brothers, Philip of Spokane, Wash., and Dale of

Muncy; one sister, Fannie Palmer of Largo, Fla.; and one aunt, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral and committal services were held in Hornell, N.Y., with his brother-in-law, the Rev. Joseph Petrie, officiating. Burial was in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

**Saeger.**—Russell Ruben Saeger, 71, of Alfred Station, N.Y., died on June 21, 1991, at his home.

Born on June 23, 1919, he was the son of Lee and Eva (Warren) Saeger of Waterloo, N.Y. In 1942, he married the former Winifred Davis of Alfred Station. She died in 1953. In 1956, he married Mary Frances Saunders of Alfred Station.

Russell was a graduate of Waterloo High School and Central City Business School, Syracuse, N.Y., and was an Army veteran of World War II. He was employed as a

cont. next page

## Obituaries, cont.

machinist for Sunstrand Corp. in Liverpool, N.Y., for 37 years. After retiring in 1981, he moved to Alfred Station.

He was a member and trustee of the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was also business manager for the SDB Allegheny Association camping program at Camp Harley Sutton for nine years. Russell was active in the Alfred Station Volunteer Fire Department, the Allegheny County Fire Police Association, and the Alfred American Legion, and was "Volunteer of the Year" for the Allegheny County Mental Health Association.

Besides his wife, survivors include one daughter, Sharlene Quintiloni of Buffalo, N.Y.; two grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Memorial services were held on June 24, 1991, in the Alfred Station SDB Church, with the Rev. Lawrence Dunn and the Rev. David Clarke officiating. Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

**Leon.**—Mildred E. Leon, 98, of Andover, N.Y., died on July 11, 1991.

She was born on December 28, 1892, the daughter of Harry and Anna (Taylor) Preece. In 1918, she married Frank Leon, who died in 1960.

Mildred was a member of the Alfred Station (N.Y.) SDB Church, joining in 1975 when the Independence SDB Church disbanded and members of that church joined with Alfred Station.

Surviving are two sons, Harry Leon of Andover and Earl Leon of Alfred; three grandchildren, four stepgrandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at the Boyds Corners Cemetery, Jasper, N.Y., with the Rev. Albert Rogers officiating.

**Van Horn.**—Madge (Wilson) Sutton Van Horn, 86, of Alfred Station, N.Y., died at home on July 24, 1991, after a long illness.

She was born on April 30, 1905, in Pennsboro, W.Va., the daughter of Ben and Lola (Nutter) Wilson. On June 19, 1929, she married Harley Sutton, who died on May 2, 1956. On December 30, 1978, she was married to E. Donald Van Horn, who died on January 7, 1990.

A graduate of Salem College, W.Va., Madge taught high school mathematics in West Virginia.

Madge and Harley served Seventh Day Baptist churches in Nile, N.Y., 1929-32; Little Genesee, N.Y., 1932-42; and Lost Creek, W.Va., 1942-44. They moved to Alfred Station in 1944 when Harley became the first Executive Secretary of the SDB Board of Christian Education.

Madge was a director of the Board from 1954-84 and was active in the Allegheny County Council of Churches. She was a member of the Alfred Station SDB Church and had a lifelong involvement in Christian education. She is remembered for her interest in and support of students at the Alfred University School of Theology, where she taught one semester. For many years, Madge housed students from the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred.

Survivors include two daughters, Lola Webster of Kingston, R.I., and Luan Ellis of Alfred Station; one son, Lyle Sutton of Albany, N.Y.; one stepdaughter, Barbara Armstrong of St. Petersburg, Fla.; one sister, Mary Weekley of Pennsboro, W.Va.; 11 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held in the Alfred Station SDB Church on July 27, 1991, with the Rev. Dr. Albert N. Rogers and the Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr. officiating.

**Kenyon.**—Kenneth E. Kenyon, 86, of Alfred, N.Y., died on August 22, 1991, at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, N.Y.

He was born on September 8, 1904, in Hopkinton, R.I., to Walter and Evangeline (Canfield) Kenyon. He was married on June 29, 1931, in Alfred to the former Margaret Livermore, who died in 1990.

After graduating from Westerly (R.I.) High School, Kenneth attended Alfred University, graduating in 1928. He taught Industrial Arts and Vocational Education at Plattsburgh, N.Y., for 30 years.

Following his retirement in 1961, he moved to Alfred, where he was engaged in clock and cabinet making and was well known for his stained-glass creations. He designed and built the stained-glass windows for the Daytona Beach (Fla.) Seventh Day Baptist Church. He spent many winters in Daytona during his retirement years.

Kenneth had been a trustee and deacon in the Alfred SDB Church, and was very active in the restoration of the church organ and building. He was also a past member of the SDB Board of Christian Education and was on the board of Camp Harley Sutton in Alfred for several years.

Survivors include one daughter, Mary Lou Wood of Burnt Hills, N.Y.; three sons, Russell of Pittsfield, Mass., James of Waldorf, Md., and John of Stafford, Va.; one sister, Ruth Tate of White Plains, N.Y.; two brothers, W. Alexander of St. Paul, Minn., and Reginald of Ashaway, R.I.; 16 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on August 24, 1991, at the Alfred SDB Church, with Pastors Leon Wheeler and David Clarke officiating. A committal service was led by Albert Rogers at the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

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

Dear reader: I'd like to yield my Korner to one who lives this month's topic, Assistant Editor Leanne Lippincott.

When I was a little girl, I spent a lot of time playing cards with my younger sister and older brother. One of the games featured a picture of a very ugly, very cranky looking woman. Her lips were smeared with bright red lipstick, her hair was a mass of tangled ringlets, and her face looked like Mt. Rushmore—creased and cracked, and stone cold. Printed on the card, in large black letters, were two words: "Old Maid."

That card always sent a shudder down my spine as I contemplated its crystal clear message: If a woman went through life unmarried, it was a fate worse than death. (Where was the "Old Geezer Bachelor" card?)

Obviously, a lot has changed since the 1950s, but some notions die hard. Today, many people—including many Christians—still think of "singleness" as a 10-letter word synonymous with loneliness, unfulfillment, and great personal unhappiness. Is this an apt description of the apostle Paul? And what about the most famous "single" of all, Jesus?

If you look up the word "single" in a dictionary, you'll find that it has many *positive* connotations: "distinct from others," "individual," "uniform," "unique," "seeing justly," "being whole, or unbroken."

I was single for almost 25 years, then widowed after 13 years of marriage. Now, at age 46, I've been single again for over eight years. Although I categorize myself as a single, I also have the perspective of a wife and mother. Consequently, my outlook regarding loneliness, fulfillment, and happiness is bound to be different—and perhaps a shade brighter—than those who

have never been clothed in that many faceted, multi-colored garment known as Christian matrimony. (Have you ever *tried* to be alone with two teenagers in the house?!)

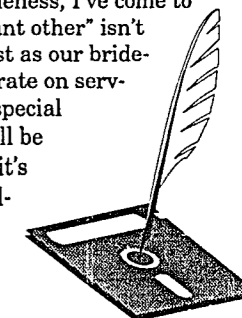
Being single isn't easy, especially in today's society where "oneness" is barely tolerated and about as welcome as a mass murderer with leprosy. (So, I exaggerate a little!) I have a book at home entitled, "Cooking for Two." The best buys at the supermarket are often large amounts of meat prepackaged as "Family Meal Deals." Restaurants promote coupling with "Buy One Get One Free" and "Dinner for Two" coupons. Greeting cards read, "From Both of Us." An old song proclaims, "Tea for two, and two for tea."

Those of us without spouses have to guard against self-pity and look for the positive in our situations. We also have to be careful not to succumb to the false belief that even a bad marriage is better than no marriage.

I'd be less than honest if I said I wouldn't mind staying single the rest of my life. Frankly, I don't want to grow old alone. I'd love to have someone in my life again; someone to share my joys and disappointments, someone to help ease my financial burdens, someone to hug, someone to change the oil in my car.

There still are times when I feel like a "third wheel," but I've been blessed with many Christian friends of varying ages and marital status. As I've become more comfortable with my own singleness, I've come to realize that having "a significant other" isn't all that significant. With Christ as our bridegroom, we singles can concentrate on serving Him. And if or when that special someone enters our lives, it will be because God has decided that it's time to add even more love, fulfillment, and happiness to our lives.

Thy will be done.



### Correction notice

Last month, I identified the presenter of the Crystal Apple Award as Marilyn Osborn. Well, Marilyn has been a *Davis* longer than an Osborn. In fact, Olin and Marilyn were married when I was only a year old.

The editor regrets any inconvenience caused by this mistake to *his own aunt*. (Can't wait 'til the next reunion...)

### In the next *SR*:

#### Adoption

What it means to parents—and the children

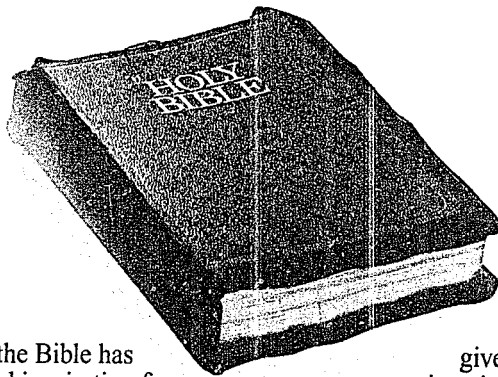
Henry study: The first day (Sunday) in the NT



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# If the world came with an owner's manual, this would be it.



For thousands of years, the Bible has been a source of wisdom and inspiration for people all over the world. In times of darkness, it has provided light. In times of distress, it has

given us comfort. In times of uncertainty, it has given us direction. Rediscover the Bible during National Bible Week. It's the one book that has helped shape the world.  
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