

The **S**abbath
News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists
Recorder
March 1991

Called to obedience

A closer look
at our Conference theme.



"I realized that I was stepping out in faith; however, I didn't know how large the step was, nor where the steps would lead."

—Althea Rood, Conference president

Videos available from the SDB Center, Janesville, WI

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The AudioVisual Committee suggests these videos that deal with a past Conference, and this year's Conference theme: "Called to Obedience"

The Journey to Spiritual Maturity—Ten Bible People Like Me—
Tapes by Jamie Buckingham include guides for in-depth Bible study.

The Challenge to the Church—
by Charles Colson (30 min. each)
1) **Challenge to Die.** Committed believers must die to sin and self.
2) **Challenge to Do Justice.** Colson describes the prison crisis and presents a biblical solution.
3) **Challenge to God's People.** Reject cultural false values and minister to those outside Church.
4) **Responding to Challenge.** Audience questions and answers.



The Challenge of the Disciplined Life— by Richard Foster
Topics: Money, Sex, Power
13-week adult course
Enter the Joy—1988 Conference

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 submitted as soon as possible. If readers know of an individual who could fill this position, suggestions would be welcomed.

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

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Battle Creek, Michigan

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Featuring Dr. Sidney Draayer of Paraklesis Ministries

Registration form in February *Lead-Line*

The Sabbath Recorder



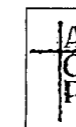
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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

Stepping out in obedience

by Althea Rood

Thus far this Conference year, God has been teaching me much of His faithfulness!

On several occasions, I have felt very inadequate, yet He has provided in many different ways.

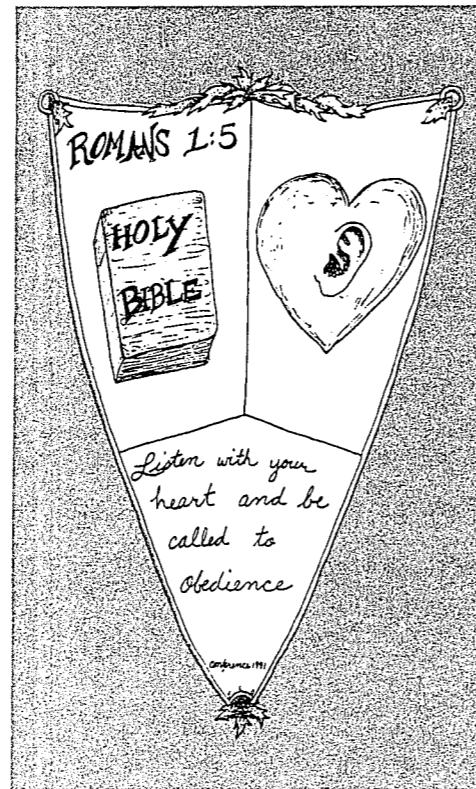
One way God recently provided for me was through a Scripture verse that a friend shared with me: "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work...of the Lord is finished" (1 Chronicles 28:20, NIV). This verse is a real source of strength to me and serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness. As I desire to obey Him more and more, I realize in greater depth God's faithfulness to me.

My desire in this issue highlighting our Conference theme, "Called to Obedience," is to share with you some of my own faith journey this year as your president.

As I became Conference president, I realized that I was stepping

have a job, I began wondering how God would provide the "perfect job" that would allow me to help provide our family's needs and also give the freedom I desired to visit churches and Associations.

Last June, I had applied for a part-time teaching specialist position at the University of Minnesota. Having heard nothing, I thought that door had been closed. However, a letter came near the end of August asking me to interview for the position. After the interview, I had very mixed emotions. I was excited about the possibility of being offered the job; however, I felt very inadequate—unsure of my ability to do it. A week later, I was offered the job. I earnestly



I realized that I was stepping out in faith; however, I didn't know how large the step was, nor where the step(s) would lead.

out in faith; however, I didn't know how large the step was, nor where the step(s) would lead.

Part of the "adventure" began as soon as I returned home from Conference. Knowing that I didn't

prayed that God would not allow me to have the position unless I could do it, in His strength. (I knew it couldn't be mine!)

On receiving my contract, I discovered that there were a few required meetings on Sabbath. I

called to let them know that I would not be able to attend any meetings on Sabbath—almost hoping that this would prevent me from having the position. Instead, I received the reply, "That's no problem as long as you're willing to come up here (to Minneapolis) during the week and meet with us. You don't have to come to any Saturday meetings." God had "spoken," and I had a part-time job. The job also pays far better than any other part-time job that I've ever had.

The job continually reminds me of two things: 1) God's faithfulness to provide for our needs, and 2) God's provision of strength and wisdom as I rely on Him.

Another part of the "adventure" has been to travel and share with God's people—you! The opportunity to meet and share with many of you has been a real blessing and challenge. God has been teaching me to depend on Him in this area as well. He has confirmed that "apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). He has especially impressed on me the need to be "plugged in" to Him, to "abide in Him," and to listen to Him for each day's and each moment's "marching orders."

Perhaps more than anything else, God has emphasized to me the importance of faith for obedience. In our Conference theme text, we are reminded that our call to obedience "comes from faith" (Romans 1:5b).

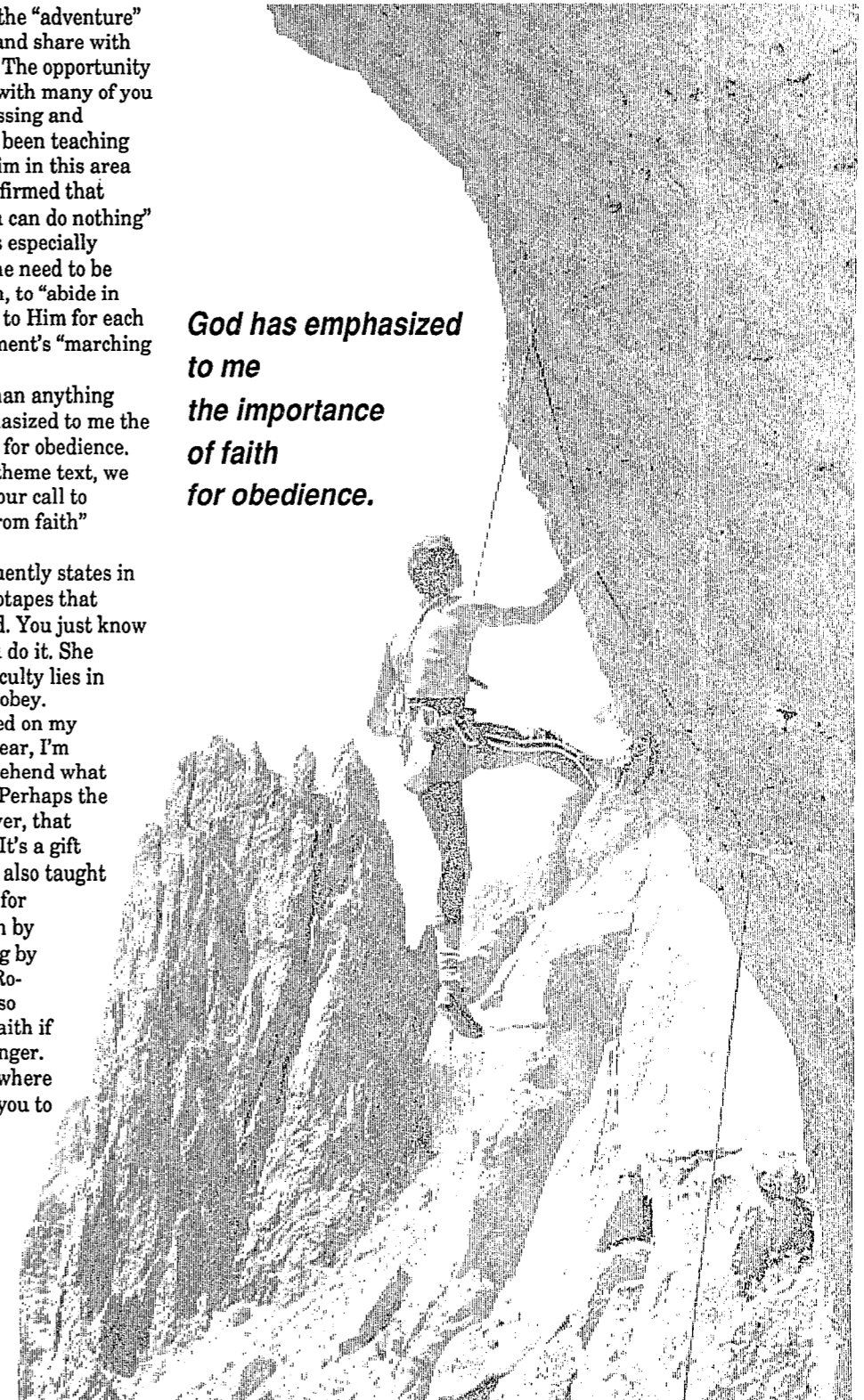
Jill Briscoe frequently states in her books and videotapes that obedience isn't hard. You just know what to do, and you do it. She states that the difficulty lies in having the faith to obey.

As I've progressed on my faith journey this year, I'm beginning to comprehend what Jill means by this. Perhaps the best news is, however, that God gives us faith. It's a gift from Him! God has also taught us how to "plug in" for faith. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). We also must exercise our faith if we are to grow stronger.

Are there areas where God is challenging you to believe Him for His provision—finances, physical strength, emotional health, wisdom, family, relationships...?

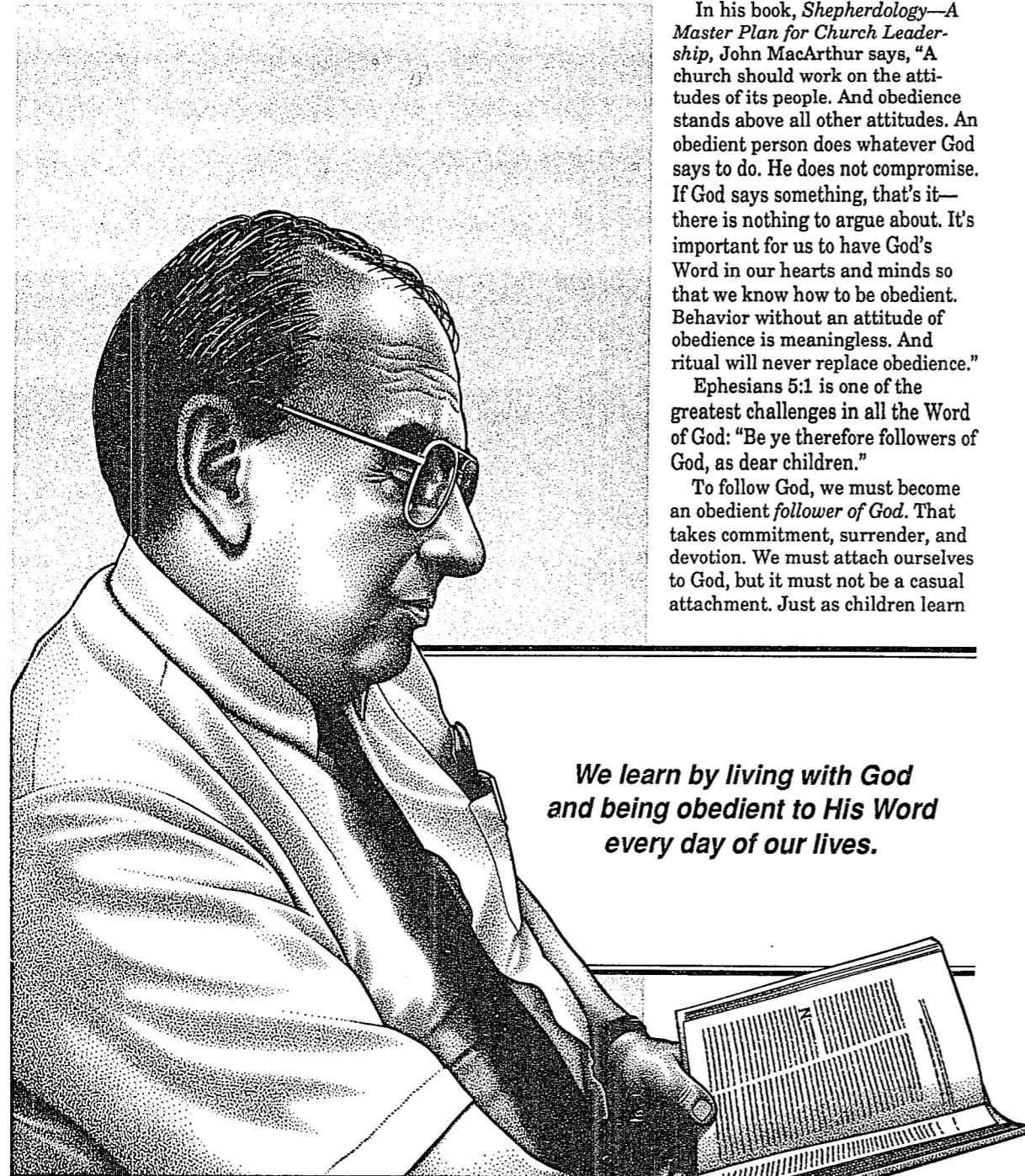
Remember, "God is faithful!" He will meet that need! **SR**

God has emphasized to me the importance of faith for obedience.



Obedience—a necessity

by David Taylor



We learn by living with God and being obedient to His Word every day of our lives.

In his book, *Shepherdology—A Master Plan for Church Leadership*, John MacArthur says, “A church should work on the attitudes of its people. And obedience stands above all other attitudes. An obedient person does whatever God says to do. He does not compromise. If God says something, that’s it—there is nothing to argue about. It’s important for us to have God’s Word in our hearts and minds so that we know how to be obedient. Behavior without an attitude of obedience is meaningless. And ritual will never replace obedience.”

Ephesians 5:1 is one of the greatest challenges in all the Word of God: “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.”

To follow God, we must become an obedient *follower of God*. That takes commitment, surrender, and devotion. We must attach ourselves to God, but it must not be a casual attachment. Just as children learn

by imitating their parents, so we are to learn by imitating God. We do not learn—we cannot learn—by allowing God into our lives only when it’s convenient or just on the Sabbath. We learn by living with God and being obedient to His Word every day of our lives.

As we follow God, we must also love as Christ loved; we must walk in love. We are to love God and each other so much that we give ourselves as an offering and a sacrifice. The passage in Ephesians continues: “Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

John said, “This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12). And, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (1 John 4:20).

We follow God by being morally pure and pure in speech. We are not only to refrain from immoral, filthy, or greedy acts, but such things are not even to be talked about. Uncleaness, either in word or deed, has no part whatsoever in the kingdom of God (see Galatians 5:19-21).

And not only are we to separate ourselves from these sins, but we are to separate ourselves from those who take part in them.

“Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14). “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

How we walk day by day is

crucial to the cause of Christ and to the ministry of the Church. We are here to bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, and we cannot do that accurately if we are not careful and exact about our daily walk. There are too many “Christians” walking as the world walks, and being careless about what they do and who they do it with. “He that

One thing is absolutely essential if a believer wants to receive the fullness of God’s Spirit: obedience.

saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6).

We cannot follow God, or walk as Christ walked, if we do not understand the will of God. “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

We understand His will by knowing the Word of God, knowing it so well that we can apply it to every situation that daily confronts us. Therefore, I believe we must do a better job of building Sabbath School and Bible study programs. The Sabbath School should not be an option, like a mid-week Bible study. It is an integral part of our Sabbath worship experience and should be seen by all as such. The early Church did not just meet for worship, but they steadfastly met to study the Scriptures (Acts 2:42). We should follow Paul’s admonition to Timothy: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”

(2 Timothy 2:15).

We understand the will of God when we are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

As we study the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit reveals God’s will for us. This does not mean He cannot, or will not, manifest Himself in other ways (visions, dreams, etc.). But I believe that if we are not actively studying the Bible, He cannot reveal Himself to us in those other ways. And corporate study opens us up to the Spirit’s insight from others in the class. As we learn more about God, we become more sensitive to the leading of His Spirit.

One thing is absolutely essential if a believer wants to receive the fullness of God’s Spirit: obedience. The believer must obey Christ and follow His instructions.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:15-17).

Jesus is not impressed with flowery expressions of love and devotion. He never has been. He is impressed with actions.

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

It’s as simple as that: to walk in the Spirit means to do what the Bible says, and to have an attitude of obedience. **SR**

The Rev. David Taylor pastors the Paucatuck SDB Church in Westerly, R.I.

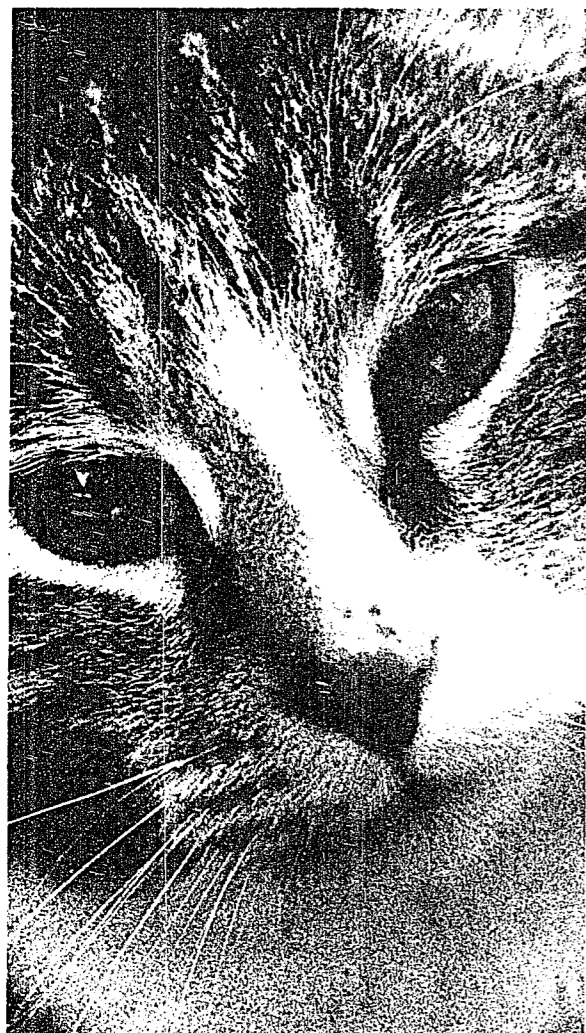
Opportunity + obedience = ?

by Mayola Warner

"Raindrops on roses, whiskers on kittens, bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens, brown paper packages tied up with strings; these are a few of my favorite things." Sound familiar?

It's good to think about that occasionally. What are some of *your* favorite things in life?

Just as that familiar song suggests, there are probably many things. May I share one of mine?



This one is made up of separate things, like desire, commitment, prioritizing, planning, travel, and money. The phrase that includes them all is: "SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE!"

Attending these annual meetings began as a teenager for me. I will never forget the fun, experience, and challenge of that first year.

Someone asked me to speak before the whole assembly on a given topic for about 10 minutes. Before getting up to go to the podium, my knees were literally shaking, and I wasn't sure if they would hold me up that long. I was certain my voice would be shaky; in fact, I might lose my breath and faint! So I did what I had been taught to do, and that was to depend on the Lord. "What time I am afraid, I put my trust in Thee" (Ps. 56:3). I asked Jesus, "Please take hold of

my hand, go up with me, and stand there until I'm finished." And He did. I know He did. To this day, some 45 years later, I recall those

There are many opportunities for obedience and growth because of this annual gathering.

four steps and 10 minutes as if it were yesterday. And I have since "held onto His hand" many times.

This one incident provided an excellent opportunity for my own spiritual growth, thanks to Conference. Of course, there are many opportunities for obedience and growth because of this annual gathering.

Each year the new Conference president selects a biblical theme which can be explored and studied in our home churches all year long. We can review the theme with personal or group Bible studies, related Christian books, and videos. Then, during the Conference week, the theme is continually lifted up through sermons, workshops, Bible studies, testimonies, music, and general sharing. I'm sure you can imagine how much life-changing growth is possible at these yearly meetings.

A second runner-up to spiritual growth is "Encouragement." Have you ever felt quite alone as a Seventh Day Baptist? I have. Attending Conference might be compared to a Jewish remnant coming back to Jerusalem for the annual feast days. When several

hundred people of like faith are gathered for a whole week praising God—praying, singing, learning, and sharing. That spells encouragement.

Every five years, a "World Federation Conference" is held. That is exciting! At the last one, held in Worcester, Mass., in 1986, we sat down with brethren from Brazil, Australia, India, Africa, and other countries. What a privilege, opportunity, and great encouragement.

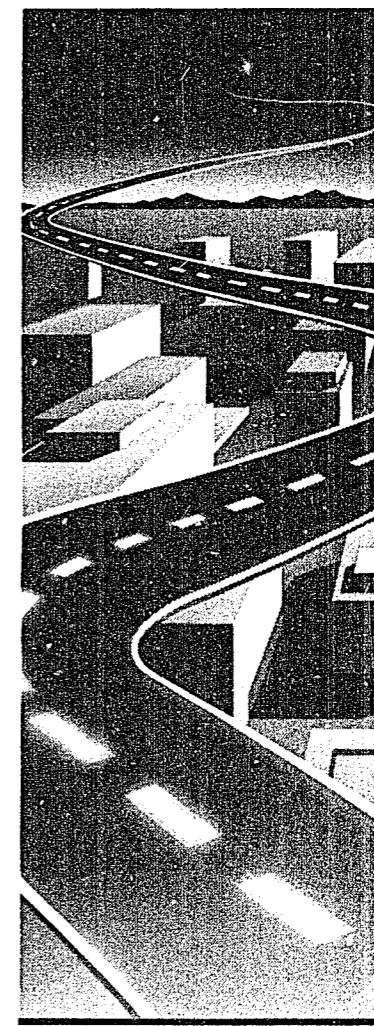
A third opportunity (if done with obedience, of course) is service. Didn't Jesus Himself say (in John 13:16-17) that the pathway for blessing is to be a servant?

There are countless jobs that need to be done before, during, and after the actual Conference week. As both my husband and myself have been able, we agreed to do our part. This has involved leading a workshop on prayer, directing youth retreats, serving on General Council, the Memorial Board, and more. Again, opportunity plus obedience has equaled joy.

Our own lives have been enriched in so many ways: attending a writers' conference in Philadelphia, a prayer conference in Columbus, creative camping in Denver, and the unique experience of cooking for 50 SDB campers above the timber line.

Another whole area that lends itself to service (with added growth and encouragement as well) is being involved in the business aspects of Conference. Each attendee is urged to work on one committee in their particular interest area. Then, specific suggestions and concerns are brought back to the assembled body for consideration and implementation. Certainly Conference and denominational works carried out through the year offer many choices for service to our Lord.

And *friends*. Who needs them? We all do! What a joy to renew old



Because General Conference is held in a different area of the country each year, our family has taken the opportunity to travel to all but four of our United States.

friendships and make new ones. We are inspired by "newcomers" to our group—both laity and clergy—as we listen to their testimonies of how Christ and the Sabbath have come alive for them. Then, quite possibly, we can join them at meal times to chat, share, and laugh. How delightful this can be! And, there are always the saints of God to share and pray with. These are people who have walked with Him for years and served Him faithfully; folks who share their ups and downs and are available to enhance our own spiritual strengthening.

Another very interesting part of this friendship opportunity is the "match-making" that goes on! What better place can one find a mate with similar values and convictions than at Conference? Many who are reading this now are probably smiling and saying, "Yes, that's me," or "I know that's the way it was for so-and-so."

The chance to *travel* is another bonus. Because General Conference is held in a different area of the country each year, our family (as a family) has taken the opportunity to travel to all but four of our United States. In fact, one year a caravan of several cars left the East Coast headed for Conference in Colorado. We were able to stick together, sleep at SDB camps along the way, and thoroughly enjoy the companionship.

Yes, it takes money. That's where prioritizing and planning come in. God promises to help us—"My God shall supply all your need..." (Phil. 4:19). His resources are available to the committed, obedient Christian.

So, "When the dog bites, when the bee stings, when I'm feeling sad; I simply remember my favorite things, and then I don't feel so bad!" ✠

Mayola Warner is a member of the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Obedience has its rewards

"For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil" (Romans 16:19 NASB).

As parents of four young children, we are trying to teach our children obedience. One of the concepts we want to get across is "disobedience never pays off—disobedience must be punished; obedience always pays off—obedience has its rewards."

Learning obedience does not come automatically. It takes time, it takes patience, it takes love.

Sometimes I get very frustrated with my children when they seem to forget our teaching (and their learning). We have to go over family rules again and again. Hopefully, by the time they reach adulthood (and hopefully sooner), they will understand how important obedience is—obedience to their teachers, their parents, the laws of the land, and to God. Disobedience will always have its consequences, while obedience will make life go more smoothly.

As I reflect on my relationship to the Lord, I realize that I have to learn obedience to God. It will not come automatically because I am, by my sinful nature, disobedient and rebellious. Through time, patience, love, and God's hand on my life, He is trying to teach me obedience to His will and His Word.

There are times when I don't want to learn. I want to do things my way. At those times, God must remind me that He demands obedience from me—and if I don't obey Him, I will suffer the consequences.

How do I learn what God expects of me? By reading His Word. The Bible teaches me what God expects of me, and the Bible warns me

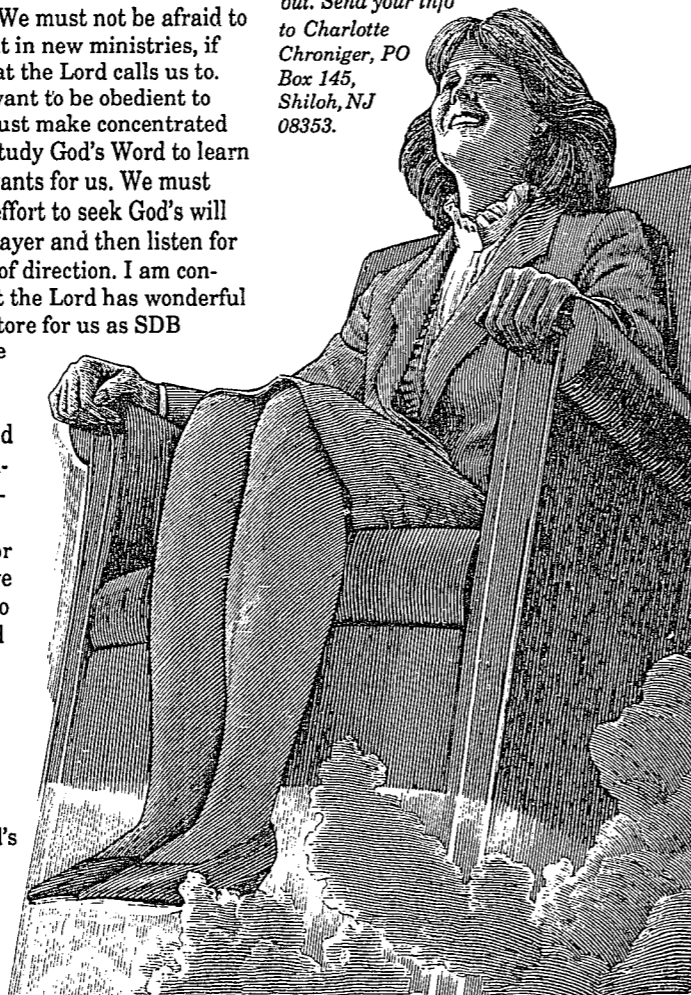
what will happen if I disobey Him. There are times when God is rejoicing over my obedience to His will and Word, but there are also many times (I'm sorry to say) that He is saddened by my disobedience. I am so thankful that the Lord is patient with me, and He keeps trying to teach me. He doesn't give up on me, but still loves me and forgives me when I repent.

As women of God, we must learn obedience. We must obey God's Word even if it causes us struggles or persecution. We must take steps of faith when the Lord reveals His will to us. We must not be afraid to venture out in new ministries, if that is what the Lord calls us to. We must want to be obedient to God; we must make concentrated efforts to study God's Word to learn what He wants for us. We must make the effort to seek God's will through prayer and then listen for His words of direction. I am convinced that the Lord has wonderful things in store for us as SDB women. We haven't begun to comprehend the tremendous ministries the Lord has for us, nor have we begun to understand the sacrifices that many of us will be called to experience so that God's perfect will can be accomplished in our families, our

churches, our communities, and our denomination.

Paul (and the Lord) rejoiced over the report of the obedience of the Christians in Rome. Is the Lord rejoicing over the obedience of the Christian women in Shiloh? In Riverside? In Boulder? In Dodge Center? In Daytona Beach? In (your church name)? **SR**

P.S. I still need to hear from many of you regarding your church's women—their ministries, activities, etc. Each Association will be featured in the newsletter. We don't want to leave you out. Send your info to Charlotte Chroniger, PO Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353.



Looking ahead to Conference 1991— It's not too early to plan!

Come to Houghton College in August! Located in the Southern Tier of New York, just off state highway 17, you'll find yourself in the midst of lush farmland and lovely hills full of deer and other creatures. Houghton is within an hour's drive of several shopping malls and fast-food restaurants. It is a place of peaceful beauty. Come "retreat" to Houghton with us!

If you have been here before, you will be in for some pleasant changes. Here are some things to look for:



Houghton

- a new four-story academic building for committee sessions
- a newly-decorated dining hall
- a new dormitory
- a brick building that has been moved across the street
- two brick buildings that have been razed

Be sure to visit nearby Letchworth State Park—the "Grand Canyon of the East." Darien Lake Amusement Park is only one and one-half hours away.

Come worship the Lord in Wesley Chapel as the magnificent Holtkamp pipe organ plays and many musical specials are offered.

It's not too early to plan for Conference 1991. Let's all pray that God prepares our hearts and lives for blessings and instruction for us all at this special time, August 11-17! **SR**

The joy of obedience—and Conference

by Trevah Sutton

Seventh Day Baptists cherish freedom of thought without dictation from a central authority, other than the Holy Spirit and the Bible. We may differ in our understanding of the Scriptures and in our

Another high point in our worship experience is the Conference Communion. Here, we come together in one level experience regardless of any rank of life or ethnic culture. In the Communion, we are one.

Among Seventh Day Baptists

the cup until all are served. Together, we partake of the cup. We meditate, pray, and sing a hymn. Often we sing in departing, "Bless be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

We go out. To what? To return to our old ways? Or, resolved to follow closer to our Lord in obedience to His commands, example, and teaching? We Seventh Day Baptists should live as one in Christ Jesus, lovingly listening and sharing our experiences and views.

We observe the Sabbath of the Bible rather than the Sunday of Rome. That alone does not make us better Christians, unless we also strengthen—within the Sabbath experience—our relationship with God and our fellowship with each other. Let us be "All one in Christ Jesus" and strive to live in "The joy of obedience" in a world hungry for Love. **SR**

Trevah Sutton is a retired SDB pastor living in Aztec, N.M.

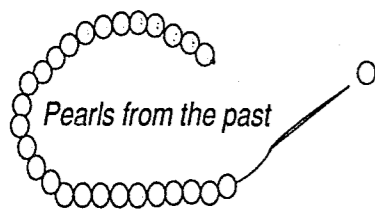
Another high point in our worship experience is the Conference Communion.

practices. But if we seek to be *One in Christ Jesus*, we can differ and share our views in the spirit of love.

We come to General Conference sharing many types of worship, and ideas for business consideration throughout the week. (I have been unable to attend for 10 years because of finances, and I miss Conference very much.) Through these various experiences of the week, we come to the Sabbath in a majestic time of praise and thanksgiving.

the communion is one of congregational participation with minister, diaconate, and the people united. The bread is broken, and the plates are passed through the congregation. Each person receives, takes, and serves the next person. Holding the bread until all are served, all partake as one, with meditation and prayer.

"In like manner," the cup is served. Again we receive, take, and serve the next person, then hold



Pearls from the past

Taking a stand in obedience

by Don A. Sanford, historian

Most people give the date 1517 for the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. It was at that time that Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses, or arguments, on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. He challenged the authority of the pope and his emissaries to sell indulgences as a means of gaining entrance into heaven. Yet Luther had no intention of leaving the Roman Church; he merely wanted to reform it—to abolish some of those practices which seemed contrary to the teachings of Christ.

The real break came nearly four years later, on April 18, 1571, when Luther was summoned before an ecclesiastical council and was asked to recant his writings. Luther responded:

"Here it is, plain and unvarnished. Unless I am convicted of error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of Pope or of councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning I stand convicted by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us.

On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

This reliance on Scriptures gave rise to Protestantism. Yet, as Pilgrim Pastor John Robinson of Holland observed in 1620, "The Lord had more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy word....It is not possible the Chris-

tian world should come so lately out of such thick Antichristian darkness and that full perfection of knowledge should break forth at once." Thus, in the years following Luther's "captivity to the word of God," others extended obedience to further revealed truths.

Baptists trace their history to John Smyth, who came to the decision that "infants ought not be baptized" for two Scriptural reasons: first, there was no example in the New Testament that any babies were baptized by either Jesus or the disciples; and, secondly, Christ commanded that the disciples were to teach and then baptize. Thomas Helwys saw in the Great Commission the duty to "Go and make disciples," thus adding missionary zeal to the Baptist witness.

With reliance upon Scripture for both faith and practice, it was inevitable that some people would begin to question the observance of Sunday, rather than the Sabbath of the Bible. Obedience to the Scriptures led to the founding of some Sabbathkeeping churches in England in the decade of the 1650s, when men like William Sallers, Dr. Peter Chamberlen, Henry Jessey, and Edward Stennett came to believe that all of the Ten Commandments were to be obeyed.

In America, it was the acceptance of the biblical teachings concerning the Sabbath that led to the founding of the first Seventh Day Baptist church in Newport, R.I. Samuel Hubbard, in his journal, recalled:

My wife took up the keeping of the Lord's holy 7th day Sabbath the 10 day March 1665. I took it up 1 day April 1665. Our daughter Ruth 25 Oct. 1666—Rachel—Jan. 15 day 1666. Bethuiah—Feb. 1666. Our son Joseph Clarke 23 Feb. 1666.

Their acceptance and obedience to this enlightened discovery from the Bible led Tacy, Samuel, and Rachel Hubbard to sign a Covenant in December of 1671 which read in part:

...We, Vis. William Hiscox, Samuel Hubbard, Stephen Mumford, Roger Baster, males; Tacy Hubbard, Rachel Langworthy, Sister Mumford, females; Entered into Covenant with ye Lord and with one another, and gave up ourselves to God and one another, to walk together in all God's Holy Commandments and Holy Ordinances according to what the Lord had Discovered to us or should Discover to be his mind fore us to be obedient unto...

About 1700, Abel Noble and a few others from the Quakers in Pennsylvania, also had their conscience taken captive by the Word and established Sabbathkeeping churches in the Philadelphia area. In Piscataway, N.J., Edmund Dunham was challenged to find Scriptural proof why it was wrong for one to work on Sunday. When he studied and took the matter to fellow members of his church, they were obedient to the Word and formed a Seventh Day Baptist church in 1705.

When one's conscience is taken captive by God's Word, and a person takes a stand in obedience, things happen. They have happened in the past, and they can happen in the present.

God is still calling His followers to have their consciences taken captive by the Word. To paraphrase Luther, "To act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us. On this we must take our stand; we can do no other. God help us. Amen." **SR**



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—March 1990

Pastors Richard Evans and George Calhoun, and pastor's wife, Shelley Shobe, comment on "healing." More information unveiled on MORE 2000. Bibles sent to Russia from SDB mission in Finland. Report of three new churches in Shanghai. Coverage of exciting basketball ministry at the New Life church in Durham, Conn.

Five years ago—March 1986

Leon Lawton reports on his visit to Australasian churches. African Conferences (South Africa, Nigeria, and Malawi) highlighted in World Federation's "Getting Acquainted" column. Long list marks improvements during 1985 for ministry in Burma. Board of Christian Education recognizes 16 retiring board members for 165 years of service. TV evangelist Pat Robertson considers run for U.S. presidency in 1988.

10 years ago—March 1981

Pastor Larry Graffius guest edits the theme section of personal testimonies. Dale Thorngate selected as new executive secretary, as Herb Saunders steps down as dean to accept the call to pastorate in Milton, Wis. Part two of Charles Graffius' trip to Australasia. Church members rejoice over completion of new Christian Education building in Waterford, Conn. Larry Graffius accepts call to North Loup, Neb.; Paul Osborn heads to Dodge Center, Minn. Editor John Bevis comments on all the yellow ribbons (following hostage ordeal with Iran).

25 years ago—March 1966

Pastor Trevah Sutton writes on unity in the faith. S. Kenneth Davis accepts call to Westerly, R.I. Publicity Committee looks ahead to Conference in Redlands, Calif. Impressive list shows SDBs overseas serving in military or missions. Continued coverage of trip to Mexico by Marion Van Horn and Leon Lawton.

50 years ago—March 1941

Milton College grad, Louis Wang, recently deceased in Shanghai, remembered. Antique (and unique) bells and bottles on display in Westerly for a "bell and bottle tea" sponsored by the Women's Aid society. Recorder Editor Herbert C. Van Horn attends Associated Church Press meetings in Boston. Pastor Everett T. Harris, Alfred, N.Y., featured in "Who's Who." Young new pastor, Wayne Rood, impresses editor at weekend Preaching Mission and consents to have messages published.

75 years ago—March 1916

Sabbath School Board continues to solicit survey reports, and many churches respond. A suggestion to devote a Recorder department to the Boy Scout movement is welcomed. Board of Finance presents "How to Make Systematic Finance a Success in the Church." Rev. Erlo Sutton conducts revival services in Salemville, Pa. George B. Shaw accepts call to Ashaway, R.I. Contents of a nearly 100-year-old diary containing accounts of two trips to Conference are printed. The following week, a reader seems to prove that the diary's author was Maxson Greene of Rhode Island.

...where are we headed?

Pray...

- for our new groups involved in MORE 2000
- that the witness of Christ extends throughout the world
- for our brethren in Australasia
- for the ministry of Christian Education
- that more young folks receive a call to vocational ministry
- that the Lord protects our loved ones overseas
- for smooth transitions during pastoral moves



Between the Sabbaths: Our story in God's story

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

The stranger was surprised to find only seven senior adults scattered throughout the large sanctuary.

He had noticed the church's sign while driving aimlessly over the deserted country road. Impulsively, he had stopped. Hearing the church bell, he glanced at his watch. He realized it was 11 o'clock. With nowhere to go and time on his hands, he had walked into the old church's sanctuary.

Sliding into a back pew, he heard the pastor talking quietly about an individual who had died during the past week. The stranger was first astonished—and then warmed—as he listened to the pastor tell of this person's life and last days. He spoke as if the deceased were merely in another building and could be expected to return at any moment.

The pastor finished speaking and invited the congregation to join him in prayer for their beloved friend in Christ. The stranger lost the pastor's words, thinking of his past week. If he were to die, who

would speak kindly of his life? Would seven others, or even just one, remember him?

The sound of the organ brought his attention back to the little group. Reflecting upon other Sabbaths when he had stood in a sanctuary much like this one, he

The Sabbath brings us back to Scripture, God's story, and invites us to tell our stories to each other in the light of God's story.

remembered the familiar words, "God of the Sabbath, unto Thee we raise our grateful hearts in songs of love and praise. Maker, Preserver, all to Thee we owe: Smile on Thy children, waiting here below."

He slumped into the pew, face in his hands, overwhelmed by memo-

ries of other Sabbaths with God. How long had it been between Sabbaths? How far had he traveled since the last Sabbath he spent with God? "I now understand the importance of the Sabbath," he thought as he left the worship service.

The Sabbath is an extraordinary opportunity for reflecting upon our stories, our weekly lives, within the context of God's story. We come to worship and Bible study each Sabbath to see if what we have done and are and hope is congruent with God's command and grace and vision for us. The Sabbath brings us back to Scripture, God's story, and invites us to tell our stories to each other in the light of God's story.

Between the Sabbaths, we live our individual stories, frequently strangers to each other. Then, each Sabbath we come together to review our lives, measuring them by the teaching of God. We also are apt to come to the Sabbath a stranger to God. Hopefully, through our Sabbath experience, we come to know God, our fellow covenanters, and ourselves.

It is through our Sabbath activities that we redeem our covenant life. We observe the "touching" rituals with others in the body of Christ. We experience the excitement of a new birth, a new job, or a new accomplishment. We absorb the pain and distress of the illness or accident or death in another's life.

We join in acknowledging that we live by God's grace. Between the Sabbaths, we experience our Sabbath hopes and live out our Sabbath vision. *S.R.*

Nominations for Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Each Seventh Day Baptist church is invited to nominate one Sabbath School teacher for the 1991 "Crystal Apple Award." Pastors and superintendents have received nomination forms.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is June 1, 1991. Send your form or letter to the Sabbath School Committee, Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803.



by Leon R. Lawton

Nigeria, West Africa

Pastor Gershen A. Harrison, General Overseer of the Nigeria General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists, died on November 13, 1990. While word has come of the election of new leadership, we are awaiting further word on the status of the churches and their continued ministries. We are also corresponding with other Nigerian church leaders who are seeking information and affiliation with Seventh Day Baptists.

Adams Center, NY, USA

A special "Friend's Day" brought an attendance of 57! (The 1990 Directory listed average attendance as 28.) Four new people have joined, with several others attending regularly and studying with Pastor Q. Eugene Smith. The clerk wrote, "Lives were touched by the Lord because of their association with God's very friendly people here in our church."

Helsinki, Finland

The European Free Street Mission-Seventh Day Baptist (EFSM-SDB), under the leadership of Pastor Risto Sorsa, was sent a year-end gift of over \$600 for publication and provision of Scriptures in Estonian and Russian. This makes possible the printing of 20,000 copies of the Gospel of John. The truckload of relief goods, clothing, and literature to Romania in January was successful, with distribution being done through local churches.

Brooklyn, NY, USA

The New York City SDB Church, meeting in their own building, started special Sunday night services last November with the theme, "More About Jesus." Pastor Evans wrote, "The attendance has been very encouraging, with excellent teamwork by members of the church. The services are held to win more souls for Christ and to spiritually strengthen our church members. New visitors are being attracted to our (Sabbath) worship services as a result of the increased visibility of our congregation at our own worship hall."

Pastor Richard A. Evans completed his role as an Extension Pastor in the Missionary Society plan at the end of 1990.

Medical ministries, Malawi, Africa

The economic situation in Malawi has caused vital government support through the Private Hospital Association of Malawi (PHAM) to be cut off for the last several months. Staff cutbacks and use of any available funds has kept clinics open but operating far below the needs. At Chipho, which never received such help, refugees have increased to over 14,000.

Special year-end evangelistic services brought many decisions for Christ. One service, when the Rev. Ronald Barrar was speaking, was broken up by aircraft dropping paratroopers across the river in nearby Mozambique. Leadership needs in the Central Africa Conference of SDBs also calls for our specific prayers.

Doniphan, MO, USA

The Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church entered the "Adopt a Highway Program" with their name on a new sign on highway US 160 near Doniphan. The church members completed one cleanup project and were given an award by the Missouri highway transportation department.

Pastor Ronald J. Elston also shared, "It is rewarding working with a support group helping the families of service people who are overseas. They have many needs and it is a blessing to be of service. Our support group was the first in the nation and now several others are being started. PTL!"

Planning a Missions Program?

Why not borrow a Missions video from our Center in Janesville?

Watch highlights from works in Malawi, India, and Finland.

Check the inside front cover of your January SR for all the details.



the BEACON

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

March 1991

The challenge of devotional living

by Eileen Kagarise

In these modern days of rushing here and rushing there, the family seems to have become a rather loosely associated group of individuals living together. Families used to spend their evenings gathered about the table to talk and read. If the children had problems or something bothering them, this was a time that they could discuss it and find an answer. For the parents, this evening discussion helped them to better understand their children's problems and how to help them.

Nowadays, things are quite different. We don't any more than get seated for our evening meal before we're up and off somewhere else. Bill is off to his club meeting, and Sue to her play practice. All Dad and Mother can do is wonder what happened to those evening discussions. Before we know it, our home feels empty as no home should. We have lost the close family ties. What can we do about it?

In answering this question, we find that devotional living is indeed a challenge. Oh yes, some people go to church once a week and then forget about devotions the other six days, and yet they exclaim that they live a devotional life. This is not the right way.

Families should have a definite time each day to turn their hearts to God. One family accomplished this by having a short devotional service before each evening meal. In doing so, members of the family

found themselves drawn closer together. They found that their interests were becoming related and that they could help one another to better understand the message of the Bible. Meditation and prayer should accompany Bible study.

Jesus said: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." Not only is this the definition of a church; it's a very good description of a home.

Prayers should not be long and dull, but short and lively with meaning. Sentence prayers are a good beginning for younger children. As we have a devotional life at home and become associated with it, this life is carried with us wherever we may go. We can prove the good it does for us by helping others; visiting the sick, and giving to the needy.

Our devotional life will help us choose our life's occupation. The rewards we receive from devotional life are many: We keep close to God; our faith in Christ is kept strong; our courage is increased by knowing that God is with us; and we have more strength to overcome the temptations that we may meet along life's pathway.

These are just a few of the many ways that devotional life can help us. With all these helps, I believe that devotional life is a challenge worth meeting.

(Reprinted from *The Beacon*, Commencement and Pre-Con Issue, 1957.)

A very important message!!

Hey!!! Anybody out there!!!! Well, we know you are just waiting for summer to come along. Summer? That means CONFERENCE!!! Wow, that may seem so far away, but really it isn't. All of us out here in little ol' western New York have been scheming and plotting to have a righteous hoe-down. Yes, sir...tons-o-fun!

Now as all of you know, thrills and frills do not go without funds. Ack!! You may be saying, "NO, not that again," but the fact of the matter is that we do need help with the money situation. Houghton is located a bit "outback," and transportation to any other place for an evening activity will cost quite a pretty penny for a large group.

Here is what all the YFs can do to pitch in. Start fund raising now, doing such things as: a work auction (have an auction to sell your time working for other members of your church and community); go old-fashioned and have a box social; have a bake sale, spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast; have a yard sale, or just be creative in your thinking and you'll be able to raise lots-o-\$\$\$\$. Look in your church's YF handbook for more suggestions.

We basically have no money, so what you are able to send us will enable you to join in all the fun without having to pay extra when you get here. It's up to you and your pocketbooks!!

Sincerely,
The Conference '91
Youth Activities Committee

The Children's Page

Are you thankful?

Are you thankful for what God has given you?
Move the mixed-up letters to make words that show things we should thank God for.

MOHE _____ OFOD _____
EDB _____ LIBBE _____

Color.
We
need
to
_____.



Wounded by shame, healed by Grace

by Jean Steir

The lush splendor of the changing leaves strewn amid the well-manicured pine trees, signaled the wonderful approach of autumn. It served to remind us that "no human could create these things."

Amidst this breathtaking beauty and serenity of the cool hills of Ashford, 32 ladies met for our annual New Life SDB Women's Fall Refresher. At the Baptist

The theme of this well-deserved refresher, "Wounded by Shame... Healed by Grace," opened the way for in-depth searching. All avenues were explored, shedding tremendous light on what it means to love unconditionally. Debbie Somody—wife, mother, and pioneer church leader with her husband—led the group through the agonies of being wounded by shame, into the glori-

Fall Refresher has been:

Jenny Johnson, Verona, NY—"The Verona gals came for different reasons; we never even discussed them, but God knew. I am refreshed and renewed, and I am ready once again to carry on."

Barbara LaFrance, RI—"One blessed thing in the gathering of these women is that you can sure learn a lot about yourself. I enjoyed the fellowship, and sharing food which I didn't have to cook."

Dee Galanaugh, New Life, CT—"I see this retreat as drawing us closer together toward that one goal—that is to walk closer with Christ and having deeper relationships with each other. Basically, we love each other and spur one another on to good works. Come, join the fun! We love you."

Others spoke of how wonderful it was to meet new people who were one, though far away.

We would certainly run out of space if we were to include all the remarks, but take the advice of our Host Staff leader Dee Galanaugh: "Come, join the fun!"

May God continue to bless the ministry of Pastor James Galanaugh, whose efforts oil the wheels of this great outreach. May the vision which he has received be envisioned fully by those around him as he succumbs to the will of God and follows His guidance.

GOOD NEWS: Pastor Jim's efforts will be rewarded as we announce the tentative dates for the first Men's Spring Refresher, April 26-28, 1991. Don't forget to be there, guys. It promises lots of spiritual awakening and delirious fun. Trust me on that.

God bless you richly and give you more abundant life as you seek for "a more excellent way." **SR**



Some of the participants at the first New Life Women's Fall Refresher.

Evangelical Center, one of Connecticut's scenic hideaways, these ladies experienced the "spiritual aloneness with God while being together." This memorable retreat was sponsored by the New Life SDB Church of Durham, Conn.

With its inception in October 1989, these very enthusiastic sisters gathered for the second year to reflect on the power and strength available when we come apart to be together with God. It is a time of re-evaluation, of setting aside the many cares and responsibilities placed upon women in their roles as wives, mothers, homemakers, career seekers, and many other titles that could describe the roles and places of our women.

It is also a time to intimately share with sisters who come from so many different backgrounds.

ous realization that we can be healed by grace.

Tears and sniffles echoed throughout the studies as each person realized that even though they came with different needs, there were solutions to every single problem. Laughter, warm embraces, heartfelt sympathies, and tons of needed encouragement bonded that group—forever one in Christ. Distance makes no difference with Christ, and this annual event will be eagerly anticipated.

New Life is committed to excelling in Christ. As we pursue excellence, we are able to rectify our failures and make room for improvements. In Christ there is new life, and New Life means being in Christ. The following excerpts from letters prove what a wonderful and tremendous reality the Women's

Pastor Profile

Name: Steven Crouch

Birthdate and place:

July 5, 1947, Edgerton, Wis.

Current pastorate:

Bay Area, Calif.

Family:

Wife--Becky
Daughters--Heidi and Sarah

Education:

Milton College, Milton, Wis.
B.A.--1969
North American Baptist Seminary,
Sioux Falls, S.D.
M.Div.--1979

Former pastorates/employment:

Dedicated service at the SDB Building,
Plainfield, N.J.
Light Bearers for Christ
J.C. Penney Co.
Pastor, Little Genesee, N.Y., and
Hebron, Pa. 1979-1983

My first job was:

Mowing lawns in Milton.

Personal hero:

Paul, the Apostle

Favorite childhood memory:

Family trips every summer to visit relatives in Nortonville, Kan.

Favorite Bible passage:

Deut. 29:29

Favorite author:

Jay Adams



If given an all-expense paid vacation:

We would see the USA on Amtrak.

A great answer to prayer was:

God is now answering this prayer for our church: Whether we should stay where we now meet, or look for another meeting place. By the time you read this, we should know.

A church project I'm excited about:

We have a Day of Prayer occasionally-- everyone signs up to spend an hour or two in prayer. We pray for the church in general, and for a specific need each time.

My vision for SDBs:

To see our churches properly balanced between internal and external ministries (in most cases, more external ministry is needed).

Salem seeks to serve

Perceiving a great need to bolster its ministry to children, youth, and international students, and to promote nutritional and senior citizens' programs, the Salem, W.Va., church has proposed a new Family Life Center project.

After many meetings and a great deal of investigation, the church's vision includes erecting a multiple-purpose building which would—

- be as inexpensive as possible
- meet all required building codes and people needs
- serve spiritual, physical, and social needs
- be dedicated to the saints who have persevered there against countless odds

- be a tribute to those who struggled and sacrificed to bring about the vision
- be a challenge to future generations

Encouraged by one gift of \$10,000 toward a project that may run as high as \$150,000 by the time of completion, the church is challenging others to help cover the cost of the building and equip the four proposed Sabbath School rooms. Each room would be dedicated to the memory of one of the church saints.

The plans include a multi-purpose gym area with carpeting marked for basketball, volleyball, handball, and even shuffleboard. Friends could send gifts for furnish-

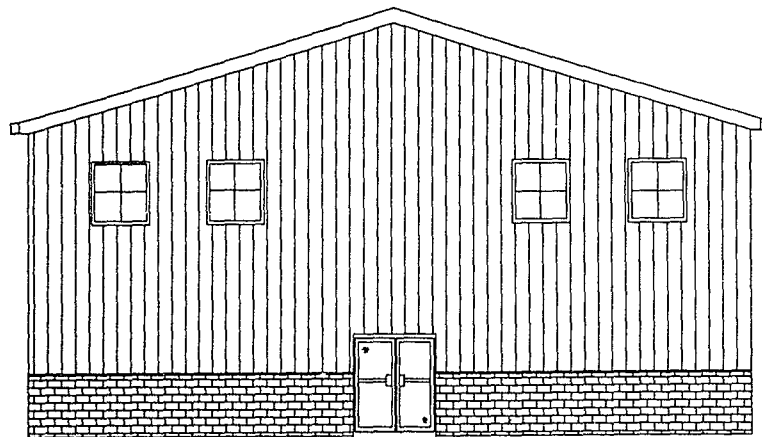
ings, the kitchen, or appliances.

The building site is on one of the very few nearly-level pieces of ground in Salem. Across from Church Street and the church, the

**Each room
would be dedicated
to the
memory of one
of the
church saints.**

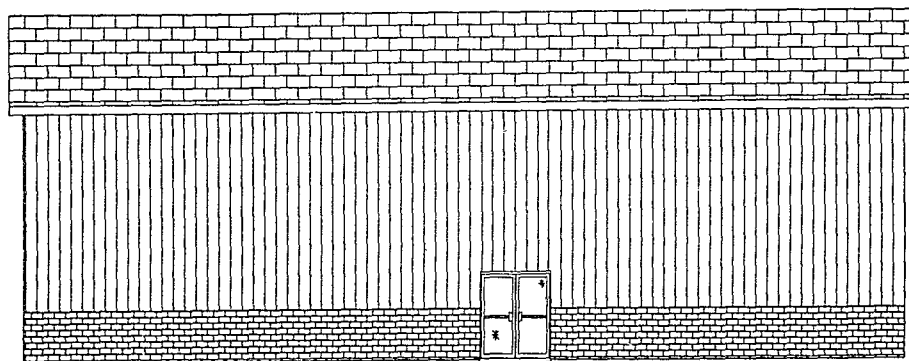
plot is now occupied by the Trainer Building. With its location across the street, it will not detract from the church building nor necessarily need to conform in style or building material.

Be in prayer and lend your support for this barrier-free, handicap-access facility. Christ's witness through Seventh Day Baptists can be enhanced in this and future generations. *SR*



Front Elevation View

External plans of Salem's proposed Family Life Center, designed by Larry England and Scott Hammond.



Side Elevation View

K mart boycott response

In response to interest shown at Conference, the Christian Social Action Committee asked Leon Lawton to write a letter to K mart expressing Conference action, "that individual Seventh Day Baptists boycott K mart and its subsidiaries (Waldenbooks stores, Pay Less Drug stores, PACE Membership Warehouses and Builder's Square home supply stores) until Waldenbooks stores discontinue selling publications such as Playboy and Penthouse, which undermine the fabric of the family, and that this be promoted through *The Sabbath Recorder*."

Rev. Lawton wrote a letter to the Chief Executive Officer of K mart Corporation. That letter was forwarded to Harry Hoffman, president of Waldenbooks. President Hoffman responded: "We do

not sell pornography. All (that) we sell is legally protected by the Constitution. In addition, we make every attempt to comply with local community standards and practices related to the sale and display of all the merchandise which we carry."

The Christian Social Action Committee wishes to encourage individuals to continue to let K mart know that your community has higher standards than K mart apparently realizes. *SR*

Here's where to write:
K mart Corporation
3100 W. Big Beaver Rd.
Troy, MI 48084

Waldenbooks, Pres. Harry Hoffman
201 High Ridge Rd.
P.O. Box 10218
Stamford, CT 06904

End of year and pastorate

The Christian Education Committee of the Alfred Station, N.Y., church sponsored the Annual Community Christmas Program. Dinner was planned by the Union Industrial Society. The Young Adult Sabbath School class led the Christmas program coordinated by Melissa Noel.

All women of the community were invited to an afternoon Christmas Tea at the home of Jean Pierce on December 15. We enjoyed special music provided by Yvonne Stephan and Amanda Snyder.

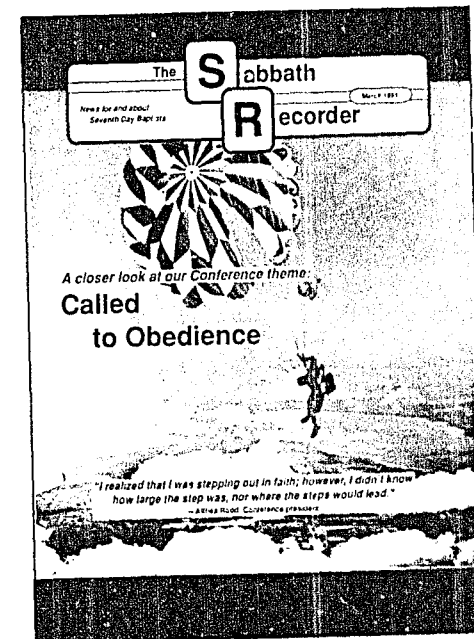
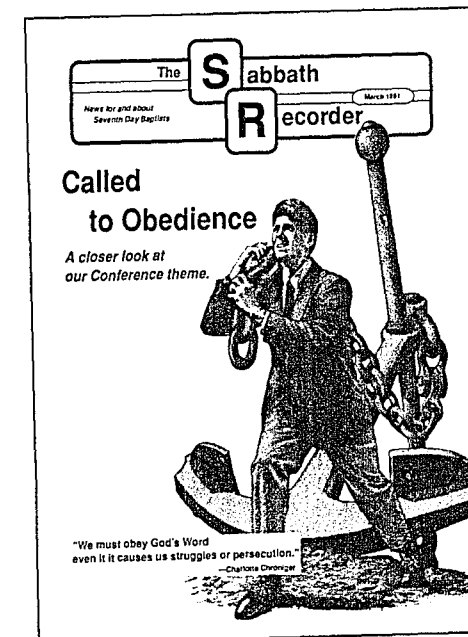
On the next night, the church held a farewell reception for Pastor Mel and Yvonne, who moved to Marlboro, N.J., after Christmas. There was special music, readings, and other entertainment. Many from the area who knew the Stephans were in attendance to bid them Godspeed and farewell. *SR*

Which cover would you choose?

With the boss out of the office one day, Assistant Editor Leanne Lippincott decided to present the editor some options for this month's cover.

He went with the mountain climber. The rough drafts of the other two possibilities are displayed here.

Which one would you have chosen? *SR*



SR Reaction

I have been receiving *The Recorder* for years now. It is a blessing—thank you. I know this isn't much but please accept it as an encouragement to continue serving Him.

Thank you,
Kay Miller, Cortland, NY

Dear Mr. Butler,

Will you please help me keep one of my New Year's resolutions: "Save on stamps," by giving this check to the right person? Thank you.

The December issue of *The Recorder* was excellent and so timely and needed. The other editions have been wonderful, too. Keep printing for God!
Mabelle Willmarth, Meadville, PA

Dear Sir,

I just moved from sunny California into the harshness of NY snow to attend Houghton College.

While I realize it wouldn't be reasonable to request that you send me the comforts of home—my cat, waterbed, or my father—there is one thing you can do. I would love to receive *The SR*.

I'm awfully sorry I can't afford to give a donation to cover the costs of this fine magazine, but my mother promised she would do so for me when she sent her donation.

Thank you very much. You produce a fine magazine; definitely one of the best around.

Love in Christian Unity,
Michael A. Peters, Houghton, NY

Dear Editor,

After hearing several reactions to your December cover, I decided to look at it again. (Yes, I still had it!) Perhaps it wasn't a good representation of SDBs, but it wasn't supposed to be. The image suggested inner turmoil, distortion, and a bevy of other qualities that the New Age DOES represent.

Thank you for being bold enough to discuss a topic that all too many Christians aren't even aware of, and are too quick to "cover" up! You are, as always, to be commended on your service to the denomination and to our one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,
Lannette Calhoun, Milton, WI

A man called "Thorn"

When the Seventh Day Baptist missionaries in China were interned during the Japanese invasion, they were brought to New York City by the neutral Swedish liner, Gripsholm. Dr. George Thorngate III, known to his friends and colleagues as "Thorn," supervised as they disembarked.

I saw him near the pier where the ship had come in, reassuring his older colleagues, the Rev. and Mrs. H. Eugene Davis, and checking the scant baggage they had been permitted to bring with them.

With war breaking out around the mission at Liuho, Mr. Davis had suffered a stroke and partial loss of speech. Somewhat earlier, Anna West, head of the mission Girl's School, died of cancer after 31 years of service. Her mother, Mrs. Nettie West, had supervised the mission housekeeping. Theodore M.



Dr. George Thorngate III
1893-1991

Chang took over the administration of the mission.

Doctor Thorngate, a native of North Loup, Neb., studied at Milton College and Western Reserve University, and served in the U.S. Infantry during World War I. From 1924 to 1932, he served in Grace Hospital at the mission in Liuho. On furlough, he specialized in treating chest diseases and

by Rev. Albert N. Rogers

returned to China in 1939.

When war broke out with the Japanese invasion, the rest of the Thorngate family were able to come home, spending some time in Alfred, N.Y., with relatives. "Dr. George" remained, coming home with the internees. Later, he was able to serve under the U.S. State Department in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In 1952, he established the Thorngate Medical Clinic in Monterey, Calif., where each of his four sons, who are medical doctors, later joined him.

Early on as a farm boy, "Thorn" had distinguished himself on the football field and at Milton College. His death at Monterey marks the end of many years of distinguished service. May we never forget his compassion, and his unfailing sense of humor. *SR*

(Dr. Thorngate's obituary appears on page 26.)

In memory of Doyle K. Zwiebel

Given by the Rev. Dr. Melvin G. Nida at the memorial service for Doyle Zwiebel.

Friends, we are here today to celebrate the life and death of our friend and loved one, Doyle K. Zwiebel. In the sorrow and pain of our loss, it is never easy to cele-

brate as he grew and went to school, and as a young man in college. Some, like myself, will find memories of him as a student at Alfred University School of Theology in training for the ministry. We will remember a serious young man searching for his place in life but always with the joy of living.

Other memories will come of his fulfilling his place in life: of his marriage, of his assuming his life's work as Registrar at Salem College, of the birth and nurturing of his own children. Others will remember, as it must come to all, the sorrow and grief that came into his life.

But truly all of us shall remember his quick wit and way of lightening up a serious situation.

Those who knew of his work will continue to marvel at his ability to organize and simplify academic chaos.

Even when the college had 1,800 students, he was on top of the problem and able to make all the complexities of schedules, hours, and records work out smoothly. There probably is not one student who passed through those halls of learning that Doyle Zwiebel did not in some way help. None of us who were there can forget his ability to pronounce unpronounceable names at commencements, nor the thousands of diplomas he handed out, and hoods he helped place on eminent recipients.

Not everyone will know that Doyle also fulfilled his training as a

minister and, throughout his career at Salem College, faithfully served as pastor of the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church. He likewise filled numerous positions of service to the denomination and in youth work. His ability to publish clear and interesting newsletters was called upon by Fort New Salem, Camp Joy, and other organizations.

All will remember that Doyle was a consummate gentleman; unassuming, patient, and kind. He appreciated the arts, particularly music, and loved to collect the beautiful.

None of us who remember will be able to count all the blessings for which we have to be thankful because of his touch upon our lives.

In an act of remembrance of a daughter who died 20 years earlier, a father published a poem that she had written as a little girl:

*There once was a little star,
Small and tiny to see.
He tried and tried his hardest
As bright as the moon to be
Never knowing that a sun was he.*

That daughter wrote a remembrance in celebration of Doyle Zwiebel.

The astounding message of Christmas is "Emmanuel, God is with us!" Let us thank God that He has been with us in the presence of loved ones gone Home. Let us remember that God is with us in our present grief and sorrow. Let us praise God that He will be with us in the future regardless of what is there, and that finally we, too, shall return to Him.

Thank God for Doyle Zwiebel! *SR*



Doyle K. Zwiebel
1932-1990

brate. But let each of us bring to remembrance—from the myriad touches of his life—that which brings joy to our hearts, for he would have had it that way.

Here before God, the Author of life and love, let us celebrate with joy and a vow that we shall never forget his life. Neither five years, nor 50 years, nor 50,000 years from now, we shall not forget. There is no limit of time to the dimension of love.

Some will be fortunate enough to remember his youth as a child when he walked the hills of Ohio,

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

SHOULD BE HERE

January Giving
Investment Income (est)

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

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI Joined after baptism Suzann Momenee Nancy Cook Debra Rootes Miranda Mackey	Milton, WI <i>George Calhoun, pastor</i> Joined by letter Verne Wright Betsy De Wright Marian Marteny Nelson Marteny
Bay Area, CA <i>Steven Crouch, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Felecia Richmond Rick Alexander	Nortonville, KS <i>Robert Harris, pastor</i> Joined by letter Dale Wheeler Wendy Wheeler
Philadelphia, PA <i>Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Oliver Dunn Joined after testimony Louise Dunn	Paint Rock, AL <i>John Bevis, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Darlene Hendrix Lonnie Hendrix

Births

Keown. —A son, Tyler Patrick Maclean Keown, was born on November 14, 1990, and adopted by Dr. Bernard and Debbie (Barber) Keown of Ord, NE.	Malinda (Severance) Hayes of North Platte, NE, on December 31, 1990.
Hayes. —A son, David George Hayes, was born to George and	Deaton. —A daughter, Christina Marie Deaton, was born to Mark and Brooke (Soper) Deaton of Ord, NE, on January 8, 1991.

Encouraging Words

Let's repeat last month's call for some encouraging words:

"Our church has a time for 'sharing' various joys and concerns during Sabbath morning worship. But some members seem to feel free to share for an extended time, and do so every week. Instead of edifying the Lord, it seems to detract from our worship.

What can we do about handling this time better?"

Please send your Encouraging Words (100 words or less) to:
SDB Center
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547

Or call, (608) 752-5055

Obituaries

Cooper.—Grace (Price) Cooper was born on August 2, 1900, and died on June 27, 1990. She was the widow of Asa Cooper.

Grace was a former member of the DeRuyter, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church. She moved to Florida and came to Daytona Beach in 1961. She was an active and faithful member of the SDB church there, contributing much to its various activities. She is remembered for her smile and her concern for others. Grace enjoyed teaching children and wrote original scripts for Christmas observances. You could always depend upon her to help in times of need.

Because of failing health, Grace spent her last few years with her daughter, Reda Lynch, in Homer, N.Y. Her strong faith sustained her through her illness.

In addition to her daughter, Reda, survivors include another daughter, Virginia Weeks of Dade City, Fla.; and one son, Richard A. of Daytona Beach.

A farewell service was held in Homer, conducted by the Rev. Glenn K. Gunderson Jr., pastor of a foster son who was taken into the Cooper home.

Piccolo.—Achille V. Piccolo, 81, died on December 16, 1990, at the Westerly (R.I.) Hospital. He was the husband of Edna (Coon) Piccolo of Westerly.

He was born in Westerly on June 19, 1909, the son of the late Achille and Margherita (Ambrozini) Piccolo. He was a 1928 graduate of Westerly High School and a 1932 graduate of Northeastern University.

Achille, who was an accountant, opened his first office in the Industrial Trust Building in Providence, R.I. He later moved the office to Westerly, where he worked for

more than 50 years.

In addition to his wife, Edna, he is survived by one son, Adrian Achille Piccolo of Burlington, Mass.; and one grandson.

Burial was in First Hopkinton Cemetery, Ashaway, R.I.

Kenyon.—Arling A. Kenyon, 83, of Ashaway, R.I., died in the Westerly Hospital on December 24, 1990. He was the husband of Alice (Miner) Kenyon.

Born in Hopkinton, R.I., on February 4, 1907, he was the son of the late Walter D. and Evangeline (Canfield) Kenyon. He had been employed for over 25 years at Kenyon Piece and Dye (now Kenyon Industries), Kenyon, R.I.

Arling was a member of the First Hopkinton Seventh Day Baptist Church in Ashaway. He was also a member of the Ashaway Grange.

Besides his wife, Alice, he leaves two daughters, Shirley L. Burridge of Herndon, Va., and Phyllis K. Konop of Harvard, Mass.; one sister, Ruth Tate of White Plains, N.Y.; three brothers, Reginald of Ashaway, Alexander of St. Paul, Minn., and Kenneth of Alfred, N.Y.; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was in First Hopkinton Cemetery, Ashaway.

Dangerfield.—Roger Dangerfield, 78, died on December 24, 1990, of a heart attack.

He was born on February 22, 1912, in Walworth, Wis., the son of Eugene and Eda (Clark) Dangerfield. He married Mary McGee in Tennessee in 1946.

Roger was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Walworth and was an active supporter of SDB Quarterly Meet-

ings, Association, and General Conference. He was a veteran of World War II and an active member of the D.A.V.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of Delavan, Wis.; one daughter, Karen Barber of Memphis, Tenn.; one son, Russell of Chipewewa Falls, Wis.; one sister, Helen Robinson of Genoa City, Wis.; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted on December 27, 1990, at Monroe Funeral Home in Delavan by Pastor Paul B. Osborn of Albion, Wis., and Pastor Earl Cruzan of Milton, Wis. Burial was in Roselawn Memory Gardens.

Johanson.—Mary L. (Clarke) Johanson, 82, of Battle Creek, Mich., died on December 31, 1990, in Battle Creek Health System/Leila Site, where she had been a patient for two weeks.

She was born in Friendship, N.Y., and came to Battle Creek in 1928 to attend the Battle Creek Sanitarium School of Nursing, where she graduated in 1932. She was supervisor of the surgical floor at the Battle Creek Sanitarium Hospital for several years.

Mary was past president of the Battle Creek Sanitarium Auxiliary and the Battle Creek Hospital Nurses Auxiliary, and she was an advisor to the Volunteers and Junior Red Cross. She also served several years as chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church. Mary was a member of the Battle Creek Exchange Club and enjoyed researching the genealogy of family members.

Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Dr. Ellis C. Johanson, a

cont. on next page

Obituaries, cont.

longtime Battle Creek dentist; one daughter, Ruth Davis of Des Plaines, Ill.; one sister, Christine Bailey of Westborough, Mass.; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held on January 3, 1991, at Bachman Hebble Funeral Service, and were conducted by the Rev. Delmer Case, one of her interim pastors. Interment was in the Battle Creek Memorial Park Cemetery.

Zeek.—(Nancy) Ruth Zeek, 86, of Nortonville, Kan., died on January 4, 1991, at Village Villa Nursing Home.

She was born on November 4, 1904, in Nortonville, the daughter of Daniel and Mary (Hatfield) Stephan. On January 4, 1925, she married Eldred Zeek in Greenleaf, Kan. He died on July 2, 1969. She was a member of the Nortonville Seventh Day Baptist Church; a 50-year member of Atchison County Extension Services, Farmington Unit; and a former member of the VFW Auxiliary, Farmington Kitchen Band, and Rebekah Lodge.

Ruth spread much joy by sharing her piano playing talents, and she will be greatly missed. She played at church functions and social gatherings, was pianist for the Nortonville Centennial Band in 1973, and played weekly in nursing homes. She did not need printed music. If she did not know a song, the person requesting it would simply hum the tune, and Ruth would then play it. Her cheerful manner brought sunshine into the lives of those around her. Even after she entered Village Villa because of ill health, she played the piano to entertain the other residents.

Survivors include one son, E.R. (Bud) Zeek of El Paso, Texas; three

daughters, Francys Nolting of Leavenworth, Kan., Doreen Halacy of Hooper, Utah, and Billie McClure of Valley Falls, Kan.; 13 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren.

Chaplain Clifford Bond and the Rev. Robert Harris officiated at Ruth's funeral, which was held at the Nortonville SDB Church on January 9, 1991. Burial was in the Nortonville Cemetery.

Thorngate.—George Thorngate, 97, Seventh Day Baptist medical missionary, died on January 5, 1991, in Monterey, Calif.

He was born in North Loup, Neb., on October 14, 1893, the first child of the Rev. Charles W. Thorngate and Ethel (Babcock) Thorngate. He married Helen Shaw in Milton, Wis., on August 10, 1920. She died on March 29, 1975. On June 10, 1976, he married Sam Kih Min, an instructor in Korean at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

Dr. George served the SDB Missionary Society in Liuho, China, and then in Shanghai from 1924-1932 and from 1938-1943. He was interned by the Japanese for over a year during World War II, returning to Shanghai in 1946. In 1950—a year after the Communist takeover—he returned to the States.

"Thorn" was a highly decorated infantry officer in the American Expeditionary Force, 1917-1918, and in the Army of Occupation in Germany. From 1943 to 1945, he was a medical officer in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater. During 1950 to 1952, he organized and supervised hospitals in Southeast Asia for an international public health agency.

He graduated from Milton College in 1916 and was a recipient of the school's "Pillar of Milton"

award. In 1923, he received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was later honored as "Distinguished Alumnus." When living in the United States, he practiced medicine in several locations. In 1952, he founded the Thorngate Medical Clinic in Monterey, where he was joined by his four physician sons.

Survivors include his wife, Sam Kih Min Thorngate of Pebble Beach, Calif.; four sons, George IV of Pebble Beach, David and Philip of Monterey, and Stephen of Park Falls, Wis.; one sister, Katherine Baldrige of Albuquerque, N.M.; 14 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on January 7, 1991, at the Little Chapel by the Sea in Pacific Grove, Calif., conducted by Dr. George's cousin, the Rev. Wayne R. Rood. Interment was in the Monterey City Cemetery, within sight of the ocean beaches he loved.

Zwiebel.—Michael W. Zwiebel, 51, died on January 5, 1991, at United Hospital Center in Clarksburg, W.Va., following a lengthy illness.

He was born on November 17, 1939, son of the Rev. Rex E. and Juanita (Stutler) Zwiebel. "Mike" had taught at Weston Junior High and Lewis County High School before retiring because of ill health.

In addition to his parents, survivors include two sisters, Marcia of Rochester, N.Y., and Gretchen of Lafayette, Colo.

Memorial services were conducted at the Lost Creek (W.Va.) Seventh Day Baptist Church by the Rev. Clifford W.P. Hansen and the Rev. Edgar Wheeler. Memorial services were also held at the Alfred Station (N.Y.) SDB Church. EFW

KEVIN'S

CORNER

It was around 2:30, Friday afternoon. June 4, 1982.

We were on our way to the Radio Shack store I was managing. After months of putting up with my fidgeting, fussing, and fuming, my wife finally blurted out the words I never expected to hear: "Well, let's just go to school!!!"

This was not night school. This was not correspondence school. This was packing up and picking up everything for a three-year stay at a seminary a few states away.

How did I know that this was a true answer to a "call to obedience"? How did I know that Jan was called and not coerced?

The answer came all too quickly. "Surprise! Child number two is on the way!"

My joy was somewhat subdued by the thoughts of putting school on hold and facing another year of helping customers find the correct capacitor, or asking them if they wanted a free battery-of-the-month club card. Ugh.

My joy was complete when Jan shocked me by saying that seminary plans were still a "go."

"Hey," she explained. "I would want to have kids sometime during seminary! Why not do it right away?"

We both answered a call to obedience. I'll discuss more details when we cover the "Career changes/Ministry moves" Recorder theme later this year...

For now, I want to express my gratitude to the Lord and to Seventh Day Baptists.

We were called to obedience. Did that mean that we were doomed to a destiny of dry devoutness and drudgery? Hardly.

"You want to send us where? To Conference—in California?!" Dean Paul Green's ear has never been the same.

We obeyed the call and seemed to get an immediate reward: a trip to California. The trip itself was fantastic, but the reason made it more so. Conference. Meet-

ing with other SDB pastors, leaders, and fellow students was quite an exciting time.

The old saying might be true: "Become a Seventh Day Baptist and see the country!" My non-SDB family has been impressed with all the traveling we've done over the years. That's due to Conference.

You don't have to go to seminary and become a pastor to reap the same benefits.

Our Conference system gives all of us the same opportunity to represent our own church, and have input to Conference action. We can all have a "say" in what the denomination does.

Sometimes that can get interesting. Perhaps another old saying might be true: "The human brain starts working the moment you are born, and never stops—until you get up to speak in public."

We have witnessed people forgetting who they are, where they come from, why they are standing in front of the microphone. It gets pretty funny. But the audience snickers *with* the speakers, not *at* them. We have all "been there" and goofed up. And the love amidst the group allows the speakers to feel at ease and laugh at themselves.

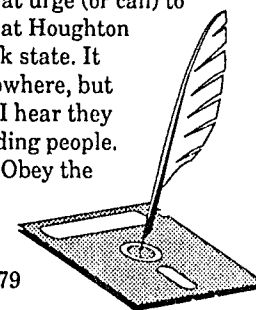
Being called to the obedience of attending Conference has always contained rewards and joy for us. Sure, it takes a lot out of you, especially when you have little ones. But loving childcare is provided during meeting times, much effort is spent toward everyone's comfort, and the fellowship cannot be compared.

I have to agree with Mayola Warner in her article. Conference is one of my favorite things.

I pray that you will obey that urge (or call) to attend the meetings this year at Houghton College in southwest New York state. It may be out in the middle of nowhere, but that's what sets it apart. And I hear they have graduated some outstanding people.

Obey the call to obedience! Obey the call to Conference!

Sincerely, Kevin Butler
Houghton College class of '79



In the next SR:

Reacting to the war—

What does the Bible mean by "peace?"
Believers in the military
An open letter to the President

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460)
3120 Kennedy Road
PO Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

Second Class postage paid at
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Called to Obedience—and SINGING!

Children's Conference:

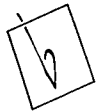
"Gr-r-owing Up in God"

One of Psalty's mighty mini-musicals.

If you want to audition for a major part, please send a tape of you reading and singing to:

Mary Jane McPherson
142 Route 31
Lebanon, NJ 08833

Deadline is June 1.



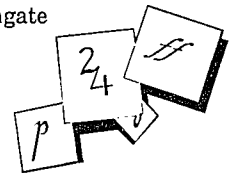
Youth Pre-Con:

"The Pledge"

Created by Kathie Hill and arranged by John Lee. Features songs of DeGarmo and Key.

Send your audition tape—audio or video—if you would like a major part. The music is available at Christian bookstores. Send your tape by July 15 to:

David and Christina Thorngate
5901 Chicago Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506

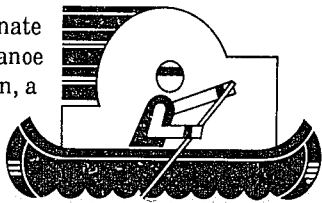


Help our youth

Wanted: Canoes for Camp Joy
Southeastern Association

If you can donate a new or used canoe in good condition, a gift-in-kind receipt will be furnished for a tax deduction. Contact:

Walter Bond,
Mt. Clare, WV 26408, (304) 745-3460 or
Richard Brissey, 126 Liberty St., Salem,
WV 26426, (304) 782-2039.



Historical Society Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society will be held at the Center in Janesville, Wis., on Sunday, April 7, 1991, at 2:00 p.m.

The Historical Society serves the denomination in the collection, preservation, and communication of SDB history. As a membership corporation, it does not share directly in the denominational budget and relies on support from membership fees, contributions, and endowment.

Any member of a Seventh Day Baptist church may become a Contributing Member for a \$10 annual fee, or a Life Member for \$100, payable to the treasurer, Muriel Osborn, at the Center, Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547.

Semi-Annual Meetings

Dodge Center, Minn.—New Auburn, Wis.

in
Dodge Center, April 19-21.

More details next month.