

Remembering the Sabbath

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We are looking forward to seeing you and helping to make your visit to Conference at Houghton, N.Y., enjoyable. Here are some things to think about when making your travel arrangements:

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Sabbath Emphasis Day



May 18 In your local church



World Federation will meet in New Zealand January 1992

Delegates of SDB Conferences from around the world are planning to gather in Auckland, New Zealand, early next year.

The SDB Conference of USA and Canada needs your support in sending some of our own delegates.

SDB World Federation Treasurer Leon Lawton 119 Main Street Westerly, RI 02891



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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

R Features

Adding "punch" to the Sabbath

by Shelley Warner

When my husband, Tom, first told me he would like our family to observe the Sabbath, I was worried.

Remembering my struggle as a young Christian to live by grace and not by a set of legalistic rules, I feared that this would be a new kind of bondage. Yet, as Tom shared with me the Scriptures that he'd been studying, it did seem that God had specified a day—the Sabbath—for rest and spiritual renewal. Timidly, I agreed to observe this day with him.

Now began a new dimension to our spiritual life as a family. Though Tom was a fine husband and father, and did a good job of modeling the Christian life to our children, I'd always secretly wished he would take a more active role in our family as a spiritual leader. Suddenly, he was doing just that.

It began with some special new traditions to prepare for the Sabbath. Tom started teaching us about the Jewish culture in Sabbath celebration, using crescent roll dough to make his own version of a braided loaf called Challah. Grape juice and Diet Sprite mixed together became our Sabbath wine.

Friday evenings were established as our special time together, a time of worship and fellowship around the dinner table. When dinner was ready and the bread out of the oven, it was time for our son, Andy, to light the candles while Tom read a Scripture. Then, as we began to eat, we'd all clink our glasses of Sabbath punch, wishing

a part of our family life, we have grown together as a family and in our appreciation of the Lord and His Sabbath. I got a glimpse of how much it means to little Corina one Friday afternoon when she saw the Diet Sprite and crescent roll dough

We have grown together as a family and in our appreciation of the Lord and His Sabbath.

each other a Shabbot shalome— Hebrew for "peaceful Sabbath." (Our daughter, Corina, used to get the wording a little confused. Her version was, "Shaboom!")

As we finished eating, Tom got out his Sabbath journal and asked us what we were thankful for that week—what God had done for us and taught us. Just as God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh to behold His very good creation, we take time to look at how God has worked in our lives through the week.

At first this was a little difficult for our active son, who would rather play than sit at the table too long. But now both of our children really get into the spirit of thanksgiving and come up with all kinds of blessings for Tom to record.

As these traditions have become

in the refrigerator. "Mom! Is it the Sabbath?" she asked happily.

And one Friday night not long ago, Andy mentioned quite a number of things he was thankful for. My heart welled up to see his gratefulness to the Lord. Then he said, "But most of all, I'm thankful that I asked the Lord into my heart."

I remembered the time about a year before when Andy told us he had accepted Jesus. You wonder sometimes if a child's conversion experience is real to them or possibly a desire to please others. I was thankful this Friday night for our celebration time that gave Andy the opportunity to let us know that his salvation was real. I thank God for the Sabbath and for a husband who has led us in our observance of it. §

Shelley Warner lives in Lakewood, Colo., where her husband, Tom, is the new pastor of the Denver SDB Church. This article was written before the Warners were part of a Sabbathkeeping group. They now enjoy worshiping with their

new church family. Reprinted by permission from the Bible Advocate, P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO, 80233.



All over the world, Christians of most denominations observe the Sabbath on Sunday. This has been the way for centuries.

I conducted a survey to find out how many people believe in Sunday as the day of worship and if anyone knew why this is the case. (The majority of the people I spoke to felt they followed the teachings of the Bible.) I asked three questions: "Which do you believe is the day of the week set aside for worship?" "Why do you believe that way?" And, finally, "What do you think the Bible teaches should be the day of rest?"

Sixty-seven percent of the people surveyed said Sunday was the proper day of worship, 13% said Saturday, 4% said Wednesday, 4% said Friday, and 12% said there wasn't one special day. Of those who said Sunday, 68% admitted their belief that the Bible teaches Saturday as the day of worship.

Christians who want to follow Christ should still worship on the seventh day of the week.

When asked why, then, did they worship on Sunday instead of following the teaching of the Bible, all of them stated that worshiping on Sunday was the tradition. They said things like, "That's the day my church meets." They didn't, however, know why their church met on Sunday. They depended solely upon their upbringing and the word of the church leaders to validate their Sunday worship.

One young man justified his worshiping on Sunday by saying that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead on Sunday and that, thereafter, Sunday became the day of worship. However, in Acts alone, there are many Saturday meetings recorded. This is after the death and resurrection of Christ, thereby negating the argument that the day of worship was changed when Jesus rose from the dead.

Since the Sabbath has never been changed by divine ruling from the seventh day of the week to the first, Christians who want to follow Christ should still worship on the seventh day of the week.

Most of the people participating in the survey agreed that the Bible teaches the seventh day of the week as the one set aside for worship, but no one could agree as to what day that would be on our calendar. Some believed Sunday used to be the seventh day.

History shows that in the time of Jesus Christ, the Julian Calendar was being used. This calendar had Saturday as the seventh day of the week, the same as our Gregorian Calendar of today. When the dates were changed in 1582 so the calendar year would coincide with the solar year, the order of the days of the week remained unaffected. Therefore when the seventh day was mentioned in the Bible, it can only mean that they were speaking of Saturday. None of the people in the survey could quote a Scripture or even a book of the Bible where the first day of the week is taught as the day of worship.

There are eight places in the New Testament where the first day of the week is mentioned, and these are commonly used to defend the practice of worshiping on Sunday. I invite you to get your Bible and examine these closely.

Matthew 28:1 and Mark 16:1-2 refer to the first day of the week as following the Sabbath (clearly indicating the Sabbath was not the first day of the week). Luke 24:1



and John 20:1 state that the women discovered an empty tomb on the first day of the week.

Luke 23:56 tells of the women preparing spices for the grave of Jesus. They waited until after the Sabbath to go to the tomb. John 20:19 depicts the disciples hiding behind locked doors on the first day of the week. This was certainly not a joyous Sabbath celebration. They were hiding because Christ had just been crucified and they had been associates of His. (I think I would have hidden, too.)

1 Corinthians 16:2 talks about setting aside, on the first day of the week, part of what you gather. (Would Christians actually be gathering and storing on the Sabbath Day?) Paul instructs them to do this so they won't have to when he comes.

One of the most popular texts to support Sunday observance is Acts 20:7. In this verse, Paul gave a farewell speech at supper on the first day of the week. It is said that he was thus giving a worship meeting on Sunday. However,

according to the Bible (Gen. 1:5), the evening comes first and the morning comes second to make one day. Therefore, he was holding this meeting on Saturday evening. The New English Bible translates this as. "On the Saturday Night..."

So when did the day of worship change from Saturday to Sunday?

Emperor Constantine, the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire, commanded the observance of Sunday as a Sabbath day. The 1989 edition of Collier's Encyclopedia states that, "The earliest known Sunday Law appeared in the edict of Constantine (AD 321) enacting that 'Magistrates, city people, and artisans' were to rest on the venerable day of the sun. This law probably bore no relation to Christianity." Not once did Constantine refer to the Lord's day.

At the Council of Laodicea in 364 AD, the effect of this law was beginning to be seen in the rulings of the Christian Church. "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday (original Sabbath), but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians. shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be cut out from Christ" (Rev. Charles Hefele, History of the Councils of the Church, II, 316).

Another example of the farreaching effect of this law is seen in the Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine.

Q: "Which is the Sabbath Day?" A: "Saturday is the Sabbath day."

Q: "Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?"

A: "We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday" (50).

There is an argument that God provided divine intervention with the Catholic Church and instructed them to change His day of worship. If that had been what God truly

wanted, then why didn't Jesus just change the commandment while He was here? By enforcing a Sunday worship, the Catholics were simply following the Sunday Law that Constantine had set forth, linking Christianity with Paganism and the "venerable day of the sun."

The Protestant churches, when they began to form, carried this Sunday worship into their religions base. The following quotes are from two of these leaders.

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scripture enforces the religious observance of Saturday" (James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers, p. 89).

"The observance of the Lord's

We should not be swayed simply by tradition or the word of others.

without studying to see where it had originated and how the church had gotten away from God's word.

So by what right does any church and her leaders have the power to change the laws of God and the fourth commandment? If the day that God set aside as a day of rest for His people was to be changed, wouldn't He have let us know? Wouldn't there be a Scripture somewhere that tells of such a momentous decision?

There isn't anything like that in the Bible because it didn't happen. The day of worship was changed to Sunday by forces other than divine. Jesus did not change any of the commandments while He was here. In fact, He did just the opposite and enforced them many times during His stay here on earth. In Matthew 5:17-19 Jesus says, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law. till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven."

Even leaders of the denominations that teach men to practice a Sunday worship are unable to justify their belief through any biblical reference. Some attempt this using the above passages, but others readily admit that Sunday as a day of worship has no biblical

day (Sunday) is founded not on any command by God, but on the authority of the church" (Cox's Sabbath Manual, p. 287).

Although our religious leaders are often better trained in interpreting the word of God, their study should not be the only one we depend upon. We should study and interpret and learn for ourselves. We should not be swayed simply by tradition or the word of others.

I believe it is sad that the people participating in my survey could not give their own personal reasons for worshiping on Sunday, but could only quote their parents or their priests. Tradition should not dictate what we believe.

In studying God's word, we will discover that there was in the beginning, and still is, a day set aside by God Himself as the day to celebrate our personal relationship with our Creator. That day, as stated time and again in the Scriptures, is Saturday, Even Christ worshiped on Saturday. As followers of Christ, we should understand and obey His directives to us, and that includes the practice of worshiping on the day God intended us to worship, the seventh day, Sabbath. 🧞

Summer Holmes is a member of the First SDB Church of Columbus, Ohio.

Students take Sabbath stand

Living her commitment

by Kristin Rood

The first thing most people ask me when I tell them about my church is. "What makes Seventh Day Baptists different?" My answer is that we follow the fourth commandment-we keep the seventh day Sabbath. So what difference does that make if we don't stick to our convictions?

That's the question I ask myself when I consider my Sabbath commitment. I say that it does make a difference. This commitment is especially important to me, living in the Midwest. I can't speak for other towns, but here in Dodge Center, Minn., where there are nine churches, I have found that few people are actually committed to God. They may be committed to their churches, but few are committed to living the way God prescribes. That is why living my commitment is so important to me.

Living it out, though, is a little harder than making that decision. When I moved here, I found that many of the activities that I cared to be involved in were scheduled on Friday nights. My parents and I decided right away that I would not go out on Friday nights unless it was absolutely necessary. So I made a number of sacrifices.

For example, I wanted to be involved in cheerleading, but my options were limited. I could not consider basketball or football cheerleading because many of the games were scheduled for Friday nights. Volleyball, fortunately, was different. There were some Sabbath conflicts but not as many. I tried out and made the squad and was allowed to miss all games that were scheduled on Sabbath.

There are also conflicts in the areas of drama and music. Our school plays are performed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. At first, I thought this

meant I could not be involved in the plays, and decided not even to audition. However, at my parents' urging, I spoke to the director and he encouraged me to try out. He included me by double casting my part so that I do only the Thursday and Saturday night performances. I am now involved in the school musical, where the director has allow-

My commitment and my witness are eternally more important than a few basketball games or school plays.

ed me to be a rehearsal pianist, as well as part of a group on stage. In band, we play for home volleyball, football, and basketball games, almost half of which are on Friday nights. My band director does not require me to attend these games because he respects my Sabbath commitment.

Many of my peers wonder how I put up with my Sabbath stand.

They say, "What about dates and basketball games and parties?" I sometimes wish I could go out on Friday nights. Yet when I consider what I miss. I realize that my commitment and my witness are eternally more important than a few basketball games or school plays. The satisfaction I receive through following God's commands and reaching other people more than makes up for it.

Although many of my peers think it is odd to go to church on Sabbath, I am respected for my stand. Many people I talk to in school even realize that the seventh day Sabbath is prescribed by the Bible. The question is how to share with these people about our Sabbath commitment.

Lately, we have seen how God has brought many new Christians to our denomination through a Sabbath conviction. It is exciting for me to watch people being drawn to a Sabbath commitment. As long as we are faithful, we will continue to see our numbers increasing. So

Kristin Rood is the daughter of Pastor Dale and Althea Rood.

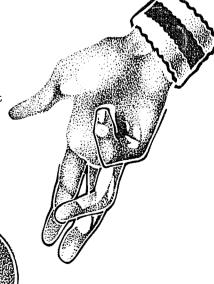
Dropping the ball for Christ

by Tim Johnson

I've loved sports for as long as I can remember. From keeping up with "my" Syracuse University basketball team, to playing varsity sports, I have made it an important part of my life. But at times, I realize that I had mistakenly put it ahead of everything that was important to me.

My family has always tried to make our Sabbath Day something special; a time when our own pleasures are put aside and we make it

the Lord's Day. This has included me



Dropping, cont.

putting away my sporting events. At times, I struggled with this. Was just playing a game of basketball at my school on a Sabbath afternoon so bad? I often questioned my parents' judgment when they would restrict me in this. How could I possibly make the basketball or volleyball team when many of the practices. games, and tournaments were

played on Sabbath days? I began reading various Christian sports tracts for any possible guidance or advice. I came upon

Even my teammates have respected me and my decision.

an article written by Orel Hershiser (an excellent baseball pitcher), called "Success that Counts." In it, Orel stated, "My greatest motivation for personal excellence is a willingness to submit myself to God and say, 'I am going to be the best I can be for you.' "Okay, God, I thought, I will put aside my athletics to devote more time to You and Your day.

I'm now pleased that I made this stand. Since then, I've been blessed in so many ways. God has allowed me to make the varsity volleyball and tennis teams, and one of my best friends, my coach of these two sports, has fully understood my situation and has given me Sabbath days off. Amazingly, even my teammates have respected me and my decision.

I've been a starter on both teams, won some awards, but even more importantly, come closer to Christ on His Sabbath.

"...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28). S.

Tim Johnson is the son of Pastor Russ and Jenny Johnson.

A new Sabbath study

by Rodney Henry

(This is the first in a series of new lessons which present the Sabbath message in a clear. simple way. We will run the entire series, then print a study booklet. You may reproduce each lesson as needed.—Editor)

These lessons were written in order to introduce the doctrine of the Sabbath to the pastors and leaders of the Native Baptist Church in Cameroon, West Africa. In writing these materials, I was asked by the president of the Native Baptist Church, Rev. Paul Kolle, to teach this doctrine only from the Bible. You will find that I use only the Bible to teach this wonderful doctrine.

Introduction

God created the Sabbath when He created the rest of the universe. For six days God created the heavens and the earth. But then, on the seventh day, God rested. God also blessed the seventh day, Sabbath, and made it holy.

The Sabbath was not created for the Jews only, Jesus said, "the Sabbath was made for man" (Mark 2:27). The Sabbath is a wonderful gift given to all mankind. The Sabbath was made for the good of man. It is a gift of time given to man so that he can focus his undivided attention on God.

After making the Sabbath at creation, we do not hear anything in Scripture about the Sabbath until the Children of Israel are in the wilderness. God sent manna on only six days and declared the seventh day, Sabbath, to be holy.

A short time later, God wrote the Ten Commandments on the tables of stone with His own finger. The fourth of the Ten

Commandments is to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." The commandment goes on to say that everyone is to rest on the seventh day, Sabbath, because that is what God did when He created the heavens and the earth.

Jesus came to earth to make a way for all people to come into a right relationship with God. Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood so that there might be forgiveness of sins. The first creed of the Christian church was the declaration, "Jesus is Lord." The Lord Jesus had something to say about the Sabbath. He said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Therefore. the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

The Bible tells us that it was Jesus' custom to worship on the Sabbath. (See Luke 4:16.) There are several times in the book of Acts where we are told that Paul worshiped on the Sabbath. (See Acts 18:4.) Regarding the Sabbath. we have the command of God in the Ten Commandments, and the examples of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul.

Determining which day is the Sabbath is easy. Israel is God's time piece. From the giving of the manna in the wilderness until today, Israel has never lost the seven day cycle for the week. Though calendars have changed. the weekly cycle has never changed. The seventh day of the week on the calendar is the same seventh day of the week begun at creation. The seventh day may be called by different names and be given different dates, but it has always been the seventh day of the

In this study material, we will examine all of the above issues and more. I pray that your hearts and minds will be open to hear God's truth from God's Word.

1. The Sabbath and creation

The essence of Christianity is man being brought into right relationship with God. In fact, God created man in order to enjoy a loving relationship with him. God created man (Genesis 1:27) and then created the Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-4) as that period of time in which God could have man's undivided attention. The Sabbath is God's gift of time for the benefit of mankind.

In the beginning—the very beginning-there was nothing except God. From this "nothingness" God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1 records that God spoke and there came into existence a beautiful universe full of living things. Among all the

There was one more thing to be created: the Sabbath.

things of beauty and all the living things, there was not an object or being that God loved until He created man.

Man was created in such a way that he was enough like God that God could love him. This likeness is called the "image of God" (Genesis 1:27). Man was created perfect and in harmony with the rest of God's perfect creation. After God had created the universe, he "saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Though the creation of the heavens and the earth was complete on the sixth day of the creation week, there was one more thing to be created; the Sabbath.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast

array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating he had done" (Genesis 2:1-3).

The Bible does not tell us what man was doing on the seventh day of creation; but, that day would

day holy. God declared and made the seventh day to be sacred or holy

God did more than merely rest on that first Sabbath. "God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" (Genesis 2:3). This was God's final act in His creation week. He took the last day (seventh day) of the creation week and set it apart as a special day. God made the seventh day Sabbath special by blessing it

God's rest on the seventh day would be His first example to man that He would later expect his people to follow.

have been man's first full day on earth. On that day there was a perfect man in relationship with the perfect God who was keeping the first Sabbath, the seventh day. Man's first awareness of God would see Him as the Lord of the Sabbath. On this first Sabbath of creation week, God was at rest to enjoy His creation and His relationship with

The story of God's creation of the Sabbath (Genesis 2:2-3) tells us three things that God did with the seventh day, Sabbath.

First. God rested on the seventh day, Sabbath. The all-powerful God was not tired from creating the heavens and the earth, and yet the Bible shows that God rested on the seventh day, Sabbath. Keeping the Sabbath holy by resting was God's first example to man. Here "rest" simply means that God stopped His work of creation.

Second, God blessed the seventh day, Sabbath. This means that God gave the seventh day a special quality of goodness. Notice that none of the other days of the week were blessed, only the seventh day.

Third, God sanctified or made holy the seventh day, Sabbath. By sanctifying or making the seventh

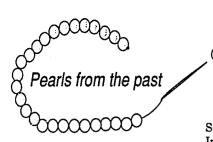
and setting it apart from the other

The Sabbath is a part of the creation order, and it has its origins there. In the beginning, God created the heavens, the earth, man, and the seventh day Sabbath.

The seventh day, Sabbath, was the only part of creation that had a human witness. God's rest on the seventh day would be His first example to man that He would later expect His people to follow. Sp

Questions

- 1. What three things did God do in the creation of the seventh day Sabbath?
 - a.
 - b.
- 2. What does it mean that God "blessed" the seventh day?
- 3. What is important about the fact that God "sanctified" or made the seventh day holy?
- 4. At creation, did God make any other days special?
- 5. Write down any questions you have for further discussion.



American Baptist historian William Henry Brackney, in his 1988 book, *The Baptists*, begins with an overview of Baptist history. He describes the beginnings of the General Baptists and the Particular Baptists in England, then adds:

"A third stream of the Baptist persuasion also demands attention. Smaller in numbers, more heavily persecuted, and no less adamant about their faith were the Seventh Day Baptists. In the biblicism of the age when the Scriptures were being constantly reexamined as a standard of Free Church doctrine and practice, it is not surprising that a person or church should conclude that keeping the Sabbath was an inescapable requirement of biblical Christianity."

Yes, this third stream of the Baptist persuasion demands attention. Brackney is just one of a growing number of historians who are finding a fascinating history among Seventh Day Baptists.

H. Leon McBeth has two recent books giving attention to Seventh Day Baptists. In Baptist Heritage (Broadman, 1987), SDBs appear throughout the account.

Like Brackney, he considers
Seventh Day Baptists as one of the
three divisions of Baptists. "Considerable variety marks Baptist
beginnings in this country. The
categories familiar in England also
appeared in America, such as
Particular, General and Seventh
Day Baptists..." He recognizes
SDBs as a part of the Baptist
movement in England. "Baptist
worship was usually conducted on
Sunday, although there were a few

SDBs demand attention—and get it by Don A. Sanford, historian

Seventh Day Baptists in England."
In mentioning the persecution of
Baptists in England, he writes,
"Few suffered the fate of John

Baptists in England, he writes,
"Few suffered the fate of John
James, a Seventh Day Baptist who
was executed in 1661."

In listing some of the persistent problems among Baptist beginnings in early America, McBeth lists the fourth as, "Should Christians meet for worship on the first day of the week, Sunday, or on the seventh day, the sabbath? This question troubles Baptists on both sides of the Atlantic...In Colonial America, Sabbatarianism was strongest among Baptists in Rhode Island, where they had their first church by 1671." He also lists the founding of Seventh Day Baptist churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and even a short-lived church in Georgia. Besides the mention of SDBs in the mainstream of Baptist history, McBeth devotes six pages to their history in the section under the chapter entitled, "The Larger Baptist Family."

McBeth's most recent book, A Sourcebook For Baptist Heritage, published in 1990, contains the essence of the "Seventh Day Baptist Address to Baptists in America" which was sent by the 1843 session of General Conference. In his introduction of this address McBeth writes:

"Directed to the Baptists of America, this address spelled out in detail the sabbatarian convictions and conduct. One would be hard put to find a better defense of the sabbath; the address is calmly stated, biblical in emphasis, and fraternal in tone. The authors included an appeal for the first day Baptists to adopt seventh day views and, failing that, to show

more understanding for their sabbatarian brethren."

Another recent book from
Broadman Press is Baptist Church
Covenants by Charles Deweese,
published in 1990. He includes
Seventh Day Baptists in the
development of covenant theology
among Baptists, and includes five
covenants from SDB churches.

T.L. Underwood's introduction to volume IV of the Miscellaneous Works of John Bunyon includes about eight pages of Seventh Day Baptist English history. This section of the 1989 book relies heavily upon Oscar Burdick's English research.

"Given the nature of the Sabbatarians' arguments for Sabbath observance, it is not surprising that some persons also concluded that it was to be observed on the seventh day of the week... However, it was not until mid-century that a continuous movement was in evidence. Notable among these Seventh Day Baptists were Peter Chamberlen, Thomas Tillam, Edward Stennett and Francis Bampfield."

Cathy Luchetti's book, Under God's Spell, Frontier Evangelists 1772-1915, includes a narrative account of a Seventh Day Baptist evangelist, James Leander Scott, drawn from his 1842 Missionary Journal. Included also are seven pictures furnished by the SDB Historical Society.

Seventh Day Baptists are receiving deserved attention in these and other publications. Credit for contributions from the Historical Society and SDB historians are freely acknowledged in all of these books.



SRAIMANAC Where we have been...

One year ago-May 1990

A variety of church members "rally 'round" the Sabbath theme, and convey what is special about the day.

Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate reviews new book, *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly*.

New Summer Youth Director, MaryJo Johnson, announced.

Responses from Conference survey on women in ministry listed in article by Ernest Bee.

Five years ago—May 1986

SR lauds both Sabbath Emphasis Day in May and Religious Liberty Day in June.

Pastor Robert Babcock prepares for move to new ministry in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Young people's group in Auckland, New Zealand, inspired for a new year of witnessing and evangelizing.

World Federation Conferences in the Philippines and Australasia noted.

Extended report on Conference in India submitted by Rev. B. John V. Rao.

10 years ago—May 1981

Alfred, N.Y., church hears testimony of a local "Sabbath-keeping Episcopalian."

Bill Shobe to become extension pastor of new Atlanta, Ga., group in July.

Milton, Wis., church sponsors its retiring pastor, Earl Cruzan, in extension ministries in southern Wisconsin.

Story shared of theft and subsequent return of 1549 Cranmer edition Bible from the SDB building in Plainfield, N.J.

Other pastoral changes—Dale Rood to Westerly, R.I., and Perry Cain to Columbus, Ohio.

25 years ago-May 1966

Group of 62 youth and counselors meet in Denver for a Mid-Continent Association spring retreat.

Happy 50th anniversary wishes to $\tilde{O}.B.$ and Lucille Bond.

Farina, Ill., church celebrates 100th year.
Linda Bingham Hays guest edits evangelistic issue.
Francis Saunders preaches ordination sermon for his son, Herbert.

Twelve pastors and leaders meet in North Loup, Neb., for Area Spiritual Retreat.

Pastor Neal Mills to become principal at Crandall High School in Jamaica.

50 years ago—May 1941

One weekly issue, dedicated to "Sabbath Rally Week," includes eight-page supplement of hymns and readings.

New series begins autobiographical sketch of SDB missionary, evangelist, and pastor, Samuel D. Davis.

Manual for study of the Statement of Beliefs goes to press.

L. Harrison North, manager of the SDB publishing house, featured in "Who's Who."

Fund growing for a "Rocky Mountain Young Folks' Camp," as reported by P.H. Hummel.

75 years ago-May 1916

Work begun on new hospital building at the China mission.

Missionary Rally Day added to Sabbath Rally Day in effort to erase heavy missionary debt.

"Skim the Cream for This Page" is the plea for good material to place in the Sabbath School column.

Evangelist W.E. Biederwolf stirs up Plainfield with powerful "anti-booze sermons." Campaign ends with large "civico-religious parade," originally planned for Friday night, but switched to Wednesday out of respect for SDBs.

Many readers notice the weekly SR was a day late. Lucius Burch, manager, explains that a job had tied up the press, and states, "You know there are times when the most methodical of us miss our regular schedule."

...where are we headed?

Pray...

- •that we see the Sabbath as a true delight
- •for those upholding religious liberty
- •for renewed zeal in evangelism and missions
- •for the ministry of our summer youth director
- •that our camping efforts please the Lord
- •for General Conference preparations
- •that our pastors receive God's vision and strength

Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Making choices for the Sabbath

"Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8 NASB).

I did not grow up as a Seventh Day Baptist. In fact, I never heard of Seventh Day Baptists until 1980, when I met Don Chroniger at Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. Through his faithful and consistent testimony, through my own personal study of the Bible, and through the faithful witness of the Nortonville people (including then Pastor Paul and Muriel Osborn), I came to a personal belief in the Sabbath.

As Don and I married, and as our children were born and began to grow up, we had to make decisions about our Sabbath convictions.

The Bible taught us that the Sabbath was to be kept holy. It was a special day to be set apart for religious or holy activities. It was to be a day of rest and a day to focus in on the Lord through worship and Bible study. It was to be a

day different from the other six days of the week. And the Sabbath day didn't begin at 8:00 Saturday morning; it began at sunset on Friday evening.

We, as a family, made choices. Our Sabbath eve meal was a special meal, with a candlelighting and a Sabbath cup to share around the table with family and friends who might join us. Rather than participate in any school activities, such as basketball or football games, we chose to observe the beginning of the Sabbath either in someone's home for prayer and Bible study, or at home with special Sabbath stories or games, or at church with youth group meetings and choir rehearsal.

Our children learned that Friday evening was a special time. The house had been cleaned by then. The cinnamon rolls for Sabbath morning breakfast had been baked by then. There was a sense of anticipation of the coming day, with worship and Sabbath School our focus.

Not everyone chooses to observe

the Sabbath Day like our family has chosen. Even though our children are young, we have already had to deal with some issues that will reflect our intent to "keep the Sabbath holy." Tyler (age 7 and in first grade) has already been approached about joining a soccer league or a T-ball league.

Because he enjoys sports very much, he is interested in playing on a team. Unfortunately, many practices or games are on Friday evening or Sabbath Day. We've

We have already had to deal with some issues that will reflect our intent to "keep the Sabbath holy."

talked with Tyler about this, and he knows that as long as games or practices are on the Sabbath, he won't be able to participate. Perhaps when he is older, we will talk to the coaches to see if practices and games can be moved from Sabbath Day.

He's young and has plenty of time to get into the league scene. But our family's commitment to the Lord and the Sabbath must come before a commitment to a school activity, a sport, or anything that will keep us from worshiping the Lord and enjoying the Sabbath as God intended.

We realize that this Sabbath conviction will not always be easy. We may face difficult situations (criticism, harassment, etc.) because of our belief. Our children may rebel against our wish to be Sabbathkeepers, But Don and I believe strongly that if we are going to be listed as members of a Seventh Day Baptist congregation, we had better be Sabbathkeeping Christians—not in name alone but also in practice. We, as a family, choose to make the seventh day of the week a day different from the other six-a holy day set apart for us and the Lord. S.





Althea Roos

"The Sabbath has kept the Jews more than the Jews have kept the Sabbath." I heard this statement several years ago. Unfortunately, I believe that we could also state that, "More than Seventh Day Baptists have kept the Sabbath, God has used it to keep them!"

While most of our distinctives are Baptist, the one distinctive which is peculiar to us is the Sabbath. In my traveling this year, I have found it interesting to discuss with several of you your concerns about and use of the Sabbath.

I see the Sabbath as just one of many areas of obedience for us as Christians. However, since so few Christians are observing the seventh day Sabbath, it is an area where we stand out as "different." Obedience is costly—especially in our Sabbath observance.

I have observed how our youth are dealing with this issue, particularly as it relates to school activities. Those who are willing to take a stand face a lot of pressure from peers and even teachers.

As a parent, it's more difficult to deal with seeing what it costs my children to keep the Sabbath from sundown Friday night to sundown on Sabbath, than in how it affects me. Being excluded from various school activities—sports, cheerleading, plays, musical events—

because of keeping the Sabbath is difficult.

I believe that it is time to stand up as parents and support our children. We should strive to make our schools aware of our Sabbath convictions, and perhaps even suggest alternatives. I fear that too often we are willing to be the silent minority! In our own community, some of us are serving on Parents Advisory Councils in an effort to be in on the ground floor in scheduling activities. Sometimes, Sabbath conflicts still occur; at other times, changes are made.

Our youth can also have an impact. By excelling in their particular activity, students can sometimes cause teachers and administrators to rethink when events are

The Sabbath frees me to say "no" to the world and its pressures.

scheduled. In some communities, plays are scheduled for Thursday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoons, to allow Sabbathkeeping students to participate.

As adults, we need to be just as creative in considering job options. Do we take a stand based on our Sabbath convictions? Do we demonstrate such excellence that employers will make allowances for our Sabbath convictions?

I believe that it is time to take a stand and not settle for compromise! We need to be willing to pay the price for obedience. However, we also need to be more aggressive in providing opportunities for those who have Sabbath convictions.

The *cost* of obedience, however, is insignificant when we consider the

blessings of obedience. The freedom which we have in Sabbathkeeping has become more evident to me this year. I have realized in a new way that the Sabbath frees me to say "no" to the world and its pressures in a way that others do not seem to

by Althea Rood

be experiencing.

I view Sabbath as a day free for the Lord and me. No one has "rights" to my time on Sabbath; it's free for God and me to decide how that time is used. I don't feel the slightest urge to prepare for school or do housework, nor do I feel guilty catching up on some sleep. It's a time that I look forward to worshiping and studying with others. It's also a time to develop and deepen relationships within the family (both biological and church).

With this in mind, I've developed plans for Sabbath at Conference. We will begin with a brief Sabbath welcoming service around the dining room tables on Sabbath eve. I encourage you to form "family groups" (biological or otherwise) for this meal together.

Following dinner, there will be a praise and testimony service led by Pastor Gene Smith. This will lead to sharing in communion. My hope is that this will allow for a fairly early bedtime for those who need it, and for more time to share informally on Sabbath afternoon.

Sabbath morning will feature the children's musical, "Gr-r-owing Up In God," directed by Mary Jane McPherson. During our Sabbath worship celebration, Pastor George Calhoun will bring the message, encouraging us to be obedient to carry the Good News to others. Sabbath afternoon will be a real treat as we have a Sabbath School class for the whole family, led by Ralph and Dede Mackintosh. I trust that you are planning for this "High Sabbath" together! SR



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Registration Instructions for General Conference

Houghton College Houghton, NY 14744 August 11-17, 1991

Mail form to: D. Wesley McCrea 201 Stevens St. Wellsville, NY 14895

•Deadline for pre-registration: June 30, 1991

All those with any special requests (transportation, ground floor rooms, special diet, or other needs) must register by June 30. Pre-registration is recommended for all, in order to provide you with the best possible accommodations.

•On-campus registration:

Will be held in the Reinhold Campus Center. Look for signs directing you to the proper line.

•Registration Hours:

Sunday, August 11, 10:00 a.m. to late evening. Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and after the evening service.

(If you are coming for Sabbath only, please preregister and stop at the registration desk to pick up your name tag from the table.)

"Sweeter Greeters" (youth from the area) will be available to aid anyone in locating dorms and facilities, helping with luggage, or any other assistance that may be needed as you arrive at the campus.

•Registration form:

*Please list names as you want them to appear on the name tags.

Age must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June, 1991.

Please indicate if you are a first-time Conference attendee.

*The registration fee must be paid for all in attendance, whether all week or one day. This fee covers the use of the college facilities, the materials that are produced and circulated, and insurance on each individual. It also gives us an accurate count of Conference attendance. The fee schedule is on the registration form.

*Linens are provided in the rooms and include: sheets, pillows and cases, blankets, towels, and washcloths. Linen changes (towels and washcloths) will be available from dorm proctors mid-week. Fee schedules for dorm rooms are on the registration form.

*Meal tickets are available for the week. The weekly package is at a reduced rate for all meals. Individual meals may be purchased at the following rates:

Meal	Adults (12 and over)	Children (age 4-11)
Breakfast	\$3.50	\$2.25
Lunch	\$4.75	\$3.25
Dinner	\$6.50	\$4.25

*Tickets for the Women's and Youth Banquets are discounted with the weekly meal ticket. We need to know how many plan to attend. Prices are on the registration form.

* Sixteen RV sites are available on campus, 10 with water, sewer and electricity, six with electricity only. Early registration will increase your chance of obtaining one of these sites. All sites are \$6.50 per day per unit. Other campsites are available nearby.

•Lost Kev charge:

There will be a \$20.00 charge for lost dorm keys.

•Exhibits:

Exhibits will be in the Reinhold Campus Center main lounge.

Nursery Services:

Nursery services will be provided throughout the Conference week. Parents with children are asked to help for one-half day at sometime during the week.

•Transportation:

Attendees traveling by air will come to either Buffalo or Rochester airports. Both airports are about one and a half hours from Houghton. If you require travel from the airport, please notify the committee of arrival and departure times, either by pre-registration, or by contacting the transportation chairman.

Requests for transportation must be made by the June 30 deadline.

1991 Seventh Day Baptist General Conference Registration-

		•	•)					
1. NAME	LAST		FIRST	INITIAL	Child's School Grade Completed	SEX AGE	Mark X if 1st Conference	Mark D if Delegate	-		СНИВСН	
											-	-
											-	
												-
Address			Fo	For additional children, use extra paper.	hildren, use e	extra pape	ដ	-				-
Special Requests												
Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18)	ll youth under 18										-	
Fees: Adults (Age 12 and over); Youth (Ages 4-11); Children (Ages 0-3)	2 and over); Yout	h (Ages 4-1	11); Children ((Ages 0-3)								
2. Full Week Plan	# ber	# persons	rate	amount		3. Per Day Plan		# persons	#days		rate	amonn
Registration:	Adults	×	\$51.75 =		_ Reg	Registration: Adults	Adults _	*		×	\$ 7.75 =	
	Youth	×	\$22.75 =		ı		Youth _	×		×	\$ 3.25 =	
	Children	×	\$22.75 =		ı		Children _	×		×	\$ 3.25 =	
Lodging:	Adults	×	\$70.00 =		Lod	Lodging:	Adults	×		×	\$10.00 =	
	Youth	×	\$46.70 =		1		Youth (Bod & lines)	×		×	\$ 6.75 =	
	Youth	×	\$14.00 =		ı		Youth -	x i		×	\$ 2.00 =	
Meals	Adults	x ×	\$84.05 =		Meals	als	Adults x	x x		×	\$14.75 =	
	Youth	×	\$56.00 =		ı		Youth _	× 		×	\$ 9.75 =	

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6. RV/Trailer/Camper: With electric, water,

without meal tickets x \$8.50 4)

4. Women's Banquet: # with meal tickets / x \$3.00 /

Date:

Make checks payable to SDB PRE-CON (please do not send Pre-Con fee with Conference registra-Make checks payable to SDB PRE-CON (please do not send Pre-Con fee with Conference registration). Send fee (or pay on arrival), along with this registration form to: Late Registration Fee \$10.00 July 10, 1991 Late Registration Fee Registration Shut-off Registration Shut-off Please bring—sleeping bag, personal items, bathing suit, warm jacket, Bible, notebook. *Do not bring*—hair driers or radios (not attending Conference) I will make certain I am in good health before leaving for Pre-Con (and Conference) and will not take unnecessary 🖂 I have a medical condition that requires special care. I will bring the appropriate medicines and will inform the tion). Send fee (or pay on arrival), along with this registration form to: SDB Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803 SDB Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803 July 10, 1991 **YOUNG ADULT PRE-CON REGISTRATION** Date: Date: YOUTH PRE-CON REGISTRATION time: Address: Youth, ages 15-18 (or completed grade 9) staff of possible special needs. Describe if you wish: **Camper's Medical Information Form (page 19) Pastor Donald and Charlotte Chroniger Home Church: chances in risking the welfare of others or myself to General Conference Camp Harley Sutton, Alfred Station, NY 5:00 p.m. August 7—1:00 p.m. August 11 5:00 p.m. August 7—1:00 p.m. August 11 required; Please send with registration** Pastor David and Margaret Taylor Will pay at camp Young Adults, ages 18-35 Camp Vick, Sandusky, NY I need transportation: Parent's Signature: Transportation by: Home phone: Signature: Director-Director-Where-Where-When-When-Cost Cost

Piease bring—sleeping bag, personal items, bathing suit, warm jacket, Bible, notebook. *Do not bring*—hair driers or radios. \$65 fee enclosed Will pay at camp I need transportation: to General Conference to (not attending Conference) will make certain I am in good health before leaving for Pre-Con (and Conference) and will not take unnecessary have a medical condition that requires special care. I will bring the appropriate medicines and will inform the staff of possible special needs. Describe if you wish: chances in risking the welfare of others or myself. Home Church: Transportation by: private car S65 fee enclosed Ineed transport Home phone: Signature: Name: Total Registration, Housing, Meals

Address:

time:

Guidelines for Christian Conduct at General Conference

__(a.m.) (p.m.) Carrier_

__(a.m.) (p.m.) Carrier

(city)

8. Transportation assistance is needed between _

7. If housing off-campus,

and the Houghton campus.

please indicate:

Arrival: Flight # .

Depart: Flight # _

SDB General Conference Regulations and Rules:

Date ___

_ Date ___

___ Time ___

___Time ____

Send form to: Wesley McCrea, 201 Stevens Street, Wellsville, NY 14895

Location:

Phone:

Bus#

General Conference Regulations and Rules:

Generally, wherever Seventh Day Baptists have held their sessions of General Conference, they have left behind a strong witness for the Christ whom they serve and a spirit of good will because of their high level of morality and attitude of cooperation. In order to maintain our witness for Christ, in order that our people may be spared from social pressures that might otherwise involve them in unapproved activity, and in order to help conscientious parents and sponsors of young people at Conference to give proper supervision, and out of respect for those who need a good night's sleep in order to fulfill their Conference responsibilities, the following regulations have been drawn up by the Youth Ministries Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education and approved by General Council.

1. All unmarried young people under 18 years of age in attendance will have their own

- parents or a sponsor over 25 years of age who are also in attendance at Conference. All young people will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors. It is the responsibility of the youth to be certain that if dorm rates are different, the sponsor and youth will cooperatively choose the dorm selected, (i.e. non air-conditioned vs. air-conditioned, etc.).

 Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility at all times for the conduct and
- discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled

Conference activity. But the sponsor's responsibility does cover necessary transportation to and from any activity if not provided. This responsibility includes actions day and night in the dorms.

Less amount prepaid =

Checks payable to:

Balance Due =

SDB Host Committee '91

- Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all Conference attenders unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.
- Curfew hours will be established for the consideration of others, for health reasons, and will mean that each individual will be in his own assigned room and quiet at that time. Such consideration should be the sign of a maturing Christian.
- Socializing between boys and girls is to be limited to public areas so that no one may have reason to question even the most innocent of intentions.
- A Disciplinary Council composed of two National Youth Ministries Committee members, two Host Committee members and a member of the General Council shall be established before Conference convenes. The General Council member shall be chairman.
- The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of the Guidlelines for Christian Conduct. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved (and their adult sponsors in the case of youth). Action requiring discipline may result in the person(s) being required to leave the Conference facility (under the supervision of the adult sponsor) at their own expense.

	Atten	tion toutn:	
We, the undersigned, have read the General Conference.	e General Conference rules and rep	gulations and agree to comply wit	h them during the 1991 Seventh Day Baptist
As the parent of signed sponsor, and that said spon	nsor may also make any necessary	, I further agree that decisions regarding medical ser	my child is legally responsible to the under- vices.
Parent	Date	Youth	Date
Sponsor_	Date		



The Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew J. Camenga. Houghton, N.Y., to the position of Summer Director of Youth Ministry. Camenga, completing his third year as a Physics and Mathematics major at Houghton College, will assume his new responsibilities in late May and will work through Conference, Andrew anticipates entering seminary in 1992 to prepare for the pastoral ministry. The Youth Committee's goal in

1991 Youth Pre-Con Camp

Location:

Camp Harley Sutton Alfred Station, N.Y.

Dates:

August 7-11

Theme:

"God Has a Good Future for You" Jeremiah 29:11

Directors: Pastor David & Margaret Taylor Westerly, R.I.

Staff:

Pastor David & Christina Thorngate

Pastor Charles Graffius

James & Loranna Plane

Jill Martin

Andrew Camenga

1991 Summer Youth Director

employing the summer youth director is to provide our youth with a model of commitment to the Christian life as understood and practiced by a dedicated Seventh Day Baptist. The summer youth director will assist pastoral and lay leadership with summer Association senior camps, Conference youth activities. Pre-Con camps. and The Beacon.

Andrew is the eldest son of Pastor John and Linda Camenga. Daytona Beach, Fla. Andrew was baptized in 1980 and joined the Blountville, Tenn., church, While a member of the Shiloh, N.J., church, he was National YF treasurer, 1985-86; and the Shiloh-Marlboro YF vice-president, 1986-87, and president, 1987-88.

Andrew served as a dedicated service worker in the summer of 1988 for the Allegheny Association and the Board of Christian Education. In 1989 he performed dedicated service for the Richburg, N.Y., church, which he had joined in 1988 upon moving to Houghton College. He spent last summer working in New England with SCSC "Team Illuminate."

The summer youth director has taught in Vacation Bible Schools, 1985-90, in New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island; as counselor. 1985-90, at camps Jersey Oaks. Harley Sutton, and Lewis. Trained as an emergency medical technician, Andrew has also served as a camp first-aid specialist.

When asked to provide a ministry goal statement, Andrew wrote the following: "In physics, theories that would unify the field have



May 1991

been proposed. No single theory has gained widespread acceptance. However, there exists one unifying theme not given in the form of scientific explanation. This is not testable by scientific methods. The theme is: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. It unifies everything into one grand scheme but cannot be tested in the laboratory, nor does it allow a law explaining the actions of any given particle at a specific time. This statement calls for faith.

"Hebrews 11:1 says, 'Faith is the essence of things not seen, the presence of things hoped for.' I see the world as unified under one God. and this is unification: the world and man were created for a purpose by God, and they will work together. That is, they will work together in as much harmony as is possible after the fall of man. Man's fall brought a curse, and that curse must be dealt with. My goal is to help people see the effects of sin, and to help them see the power of the God who created an organized universe. Ministry and physics are compatible. Accepting the mercy of God is essential."

1991 YOUTH PRE-CON MEDICAL FORM

CAMP HARLEY SUTTON This is a State Requirement.

Form to be returned with registration by July 10, 1991.

Camper's Name	Date of Birth	
Address		
City	State Zip Code	
Emergency Phone Number		
(D	and the second state of the second	
(Parent	s must fill out and sign this form.)	
Date Camper was immunized agains	st:Rubella Diptheria Last Tetanus Toxoid . Is the Camper under a	
Small PoxPolio	Last Tetanus Toxoid	-
Does the Camper wear eyeglasses?	Is the Camper under a	
doctor's care for any illness? now being taken? Will th	What medication, if any, is	
now being taken? Will th	is medication be sent to camp?	
PLEASE TO NOT SEND MEDICATIO	INS OTHER THAN THOSE ORDERED BY YO	OUR DOCTOR
Is Camper allergic to: Bee or insect b	oites?; Poison Ivy,	
Sumac, or Oak?; Per	nicillin? ; Other	
Medications? . Specify		
Are there any dietary restrictions?		•
Are there any dietary restrictions? Is Camper physically permitted to sw	vim? . Any physical	
limitations?		
Name of Family Doctor	Ph.#	_
Has the Camper had: Chicken Pox_	; Measles	
Measles Vaccine · Mump	s · Mumps Vaccine	
Has the Camper had or been subject	t to: Heart trouble? ;	
Convulsions or fainting spells?	; Rheumatic fever?;	
Sleepwalker? ; Bladder	r or kidney trouble? ;	
Asthma or wheezing? ;	Frequent stomach upsets? ;	
Asthma or wheezing?; Serious illness (specify);	;	
Serious operations (specify)		

EMERGENCY TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION

In case of emergency I hereby give permission to the Physican selected by the camp director to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and order injections, mediations, anesthesia or surgery for my child as named above.

Signed		Dated	
	~	,	

Pastor Proofile

Name: David L. Taylor

Birthdate and place:

January 28, 1945, Franklinville, N.Y.

Current pastorate:

Pawcatuck/Westerly, R.I.

Family:

Wife--Margaret
Daughter--Dina
Sons--Dana and Duane

Education:

Richburg (N.Y.) Central School Bachelor and Master of Theology--Andersonville Baptist College, Ga.

Former pastorates/employment:

Pastorates:

Schenectady, N.Y. New Auburn, Wis. Lost Creek, W.Va.

My first job was:

Washing dishes in a Rochester, N.Y., motor lodge.

Personal hero:

Elijah

Favorite childhood memory:

Life on the family farm near Richburg.

Favorite Bible passage:

1 Kings 18:36b--"Let it be known this
day that thou art God in Israel, and
that I am thy servant, and that I have
done all these things at thy word."

Favorite author:

John MacArthur



If given an all-expense paid vacation:

We would visit the Holy Land.

A great answer to prayer was:

For God to use me for His glory. I have seen Him at work in the lives of those I have had the privilege to minister to. It is my on-going prayer.

A church project I'm excited about:

Building a strong, Bible-oriented Sabbath School.

My vision for SDBs:

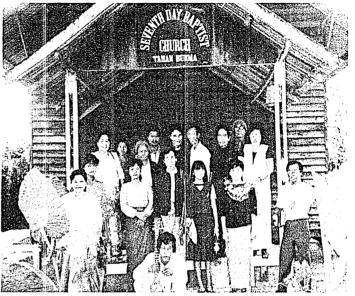
John 17:20-21--"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."



FOCUS on Missions

church, March 23-25, and led by Director of Extension Russell Johnson. T.I.M.E. continues to offer leadership training for new bi-vocational pastors in areas of new outreach: Kirk Looper at Lawrence, Kan.; Romulus Honore, Miami, Fla.; Steve McNeme, Somers, Mont.; and Luis Lovelace, Atlanta, Ga.

by Leon R. Lawton



Myanmar SDB Conference Executive Committee at the Sanmyo SDB Church. The two girls in the front row were attendants.

Myanmar SDB Conference, Asia

Rev. L.S. Thanga writes: "The 25th annual session was held in Tahan, February 13-16. It was the most successful session ever held. Giving for the Conference was improved by 20% over last year."

A few of their Conference highlights:

- 1. Rev. Zalianzawna at Tahan, Rev. Kapmanga at Zonuam, and Elder Sangthanga (part-time assistant in Yangon) will continue their ministries with a 25% raise to help offset inflation.
- 2. A wooden house for the pastor at the Sanmyo SDB Church was to be started in March and, hopefully, completed in four months.
- 3. It was decided to construct a fine brick church building at Tahan for the SDB permanent headquarters, with a seating capacity of 150-250. This project depends on an initial support from abroad of \$15,000 to match a like amount raised locally, and is a three to four-year, \$60,000 project.
- 4. The 1992 annual session will be held in Yangon, tentatively January 22-25.

Nortonville, Kansas, USA

The latest T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) module on evangelism was hosted by this

Kenya, East Africa

Recent correspondence from church leaders tells of continued witness and growth. Bro. Masagege wrote: "We have been able, through our meager resources, to erect a house for the Lord where we gather every Sabbath to meet Christ. About 120-160 church members attend." Another person from the same district wrote seeking information on Seventh Day Baptists and he was referred to the existing congregation.

Columbus, Ohio, USA

Pastor Robert Van Horn and the church have put together, with help from the local cable television company, an outreach video presenting the Sabbath to the community. Director of Extension Russell Johnson and Director of Communications Kevin Butler worked with a committee of the church on its production. It has been shown several times by the cable outlet at no charge, and is available to members of the church to use in homes or community presentations.

Chipho Clinic, Malawi, Africa

This area has over 14,000 Mozambique refugees. With the Malawi government unable to honor commitment to support medical ministries, and with over 1,000 outpatients needing attention daily, the SDB United Relief Fund has furnished another \$5,000 sent in March. Thus the ministry of Seventh Day Baptists grows and gives support to the Gospel proclaimed in the new Chipho congregational meetings. Many refugees have come to Christ, are being discipled and baptized. When they are able to return to their country, we pray that they will be new witnesses for Christ there.

R

News

History remembered and made

by Jasmine J. Lynch

February marked the 10th anniversary of the Miami, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

The first Sabbath, Pastor Andrew Samuels preached on the topic, "We Dare Not Forget." A slide-tape presentation re-creating the history of the church was followed by a live interview with those who established the church.

The second Sabbath, Pastor Julio DaSilva, a great help to us in the early years of the church, preached on "The Ministry of Intercession." That afternoon we relived the history of the church through a dramatic presentation. The play was written by Louise Miller after hours of reading church minutes, correspondence, and documents. Louise co-directed the play with Jennifer Dixon.

The climax of the anniversary celebration came on the third weekend as the church called Pastor Andrew Samuels to ordination.

Twenty-five delegates assembled at the church on February 15 to form the Ordination Council. They came from Canada, Jamaica, the Southeastern Association, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. There were 35 people present for the examination. After more than an hour of questioning, the delegates voted unanimously to ordain our pastor.

Sabbath Day was historymaking as over 250 people attended the ordination service. Pastor Joseph Samuels, past president of the General Conference (and uncle to Andrew), delivered the message, "Dare to Be Different."

The charge to the candidate was given by Rev. Robert Beatty, professor and advisor to Pastor Samuels at Miami Christian College. He challenged our pastor to renew his relationship daily with

the Lord, present himself to God as a workman that need not be ashamed, and to preach the truth clearly and in love so people can follow. He was also challenged to: be a servant, not a master; lead by example: refrain from

jealousy; take disappointments to God; take time for family; take time to rest; be ready in season and out; be watchful in all things; be an evangelist; and fulfill the ministry.

Pastor Naval Harley from the Mountain View Church in Jamaica. Pastor Samuels' home church, gave the charge to the church. The church needs the pastor as the pastor needs the church. The church should show interest and moral support, be good company, send him a card sometimes, improve and assist the pastor through commitment, commit to respect, and not undermine him nor blame him. The members should be involved in the planning and in the working of the plan; criticize constructively, not destructively; counsel and encourage; respond to good teaching by being a good person in and out of church; and make a commitment toward prayer.

The Act of Ordination was performed by Rev. Leon Lawton, executive vice-president of the Missionary Society and the person who blessed Andrew when he was four months old. The candidate was asked two questions: Are you moved to be a minister with no



Pastors lay hands on Kay and Andrew Samuels during his ordination.

regard for earthly gain? Will you faithfully perform the work of the Gospel as revealed in His Holy Word? The candidate answered yes to both questions.

Following the Ordination Council's recommendation, Pastor John Camenga from the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church, prayed as 14 pastors laid hands on Andrew. Pastor Leland Bond from the Bradenton, Fla., SDB Church, represented the Council on Ministry. He welcomed Pastor Samuels to the ministry as he presented him with the certificate of ordination.

The service was followed by a banquet and recognition dinner. Individuals recognized for the part they played in establishing the church were: Deacon Alcott Lynch, Jasmine, Alrich, and Lionel Lynch, Velma Edwards, Gladys Hamilton, Pastor William and Roselyn Vis, Rev. Leon Lawton, Pastor Kenneth Van Horn, Pastor Julio DaSilva, Lydia Forbes, Lorna Sukie, Isolyn and Peter Caroo.

Hats off to the Anniversary Committee: Heather Muschette, Jennifer Dixon, and Louise Miller as we look forward to serving others in this new decade. Sp

Big happenings in Little Genesee

Greetings from Little Genesee where love definitely lives and God is at work!! Our church in western New York is busy with many activities, since our new pastor, Ed Sutton, came.

We started right away with the hosting of the Associational meetings in our church. There was a close spirit, and many attended. There was also a Christmas Eve service at our church. It was open to the public and well attended.

On February 9, we advertised in the area newspapers and invited people to come in and pray for peace. Our beautiful Christmas tree, with the white chrismon ornaments on it, was still at the front of the church. People were invited to write the name of a loved one on a provided yellow bow, hang the bow on the tree, and tell about the person on the ribbon. It was such a touching service, and almost everyone there waited in a long line to hang a bow and ask for prayer for someone. The spirit of our Lord was very present. Each week. Pastor Ed took three of the bows off of the tree, and we held a special prayer for those names listed. One such person was "the female prisoner of war"; another bow listed "the mothers... on both sides."

We were involved in the area Lenten observance and had one of the services in our church.

We have a brand new youth group, and are considering a "Junior Church" for the new group of very young people.

Pastor Ed is involved with the area's Ministers Association. He was asked, by them, to preach at the Episcopal church in Bolivar, N.Y., for the Week of Prayer service. He and Marietta enjoy the rich fellowship of the Seventh Day Baptist pastors and spouses, who meet once a month.

August will come soon, and there are already plans in our Association to put together a Conference



Pastor Ed Sutton removing a prayer bow from the tree.

that will long be remembered. We, at Little Genesee, are looking forward to doing our part. While you are in the area, do stop in at our church and enjoy God's presence with us! Sp

Merging for new life

December 22, 1990, was a special Sabbath at the Texarkana, Ark., Seventh Day Baptist Church, evoking both joy and sadness. On this day, the Fouke SDB Church and the Texarkana church officially merged together.

The joy came in knowing that, as brothers and sisters in Christ

The service of merger included the lighting of a unity candle.

Jesus, we had each other to depend upon. The sadness was realizing that a church of long standing had closed its doors. Joy also came in realizing that instead of a church dying, Fouke members had simply chosen to merge their life with another and, therefore, breathe new life into the witness at Texarkana.

The service of merger included the lighting of a unity candle by a

representative of each congregation, and the signing of a legal merger document by the officers of each group.

The newly merged church will continue, at this time, to operate under the name of the Texarkana SDB Church. When all the details are worked out, we are planning a great homecoming event commemorating the years of witness and service of both churches, and marking the beginning of an all new church, probably with a new name.

Several special activities were planned for this newly merged church. On April 5-9, we had the "Natural Evangelism Training" with Daryl and Barbara White of Denver, Colo., as the trainers. April 18-20 revival services were held with Pastor John Bevis as speaker. We will host the Southwestern Association on June 14-16. Camp Miles will be in our area with several of our people involved. There will also be a Vacation Bible School in July, and somewhere in there it is hoped to have a homecoming! Then, oh my, it's time for Conference, which several of our people plan to attend.

God is active in Texarkana! Sp

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

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

Heading toward Hebron?

Members of the First Hebron Seventh Day Baptist Church of Coudersport, Pa., are pleased to let everyone know that we have erected new directional signs. The SDB logo makes the signs easily spotted.

These signs are placed at the intersection of the roads leading from Mill-

port, Pa., coming from the direction



of Little Genesee or Alfred, N.Y. A sign is also at the intersection coming from Coudersport or Port Allegany, Pa. Coincidentally, coming from either direction it is six miles.

Pastor Michael Burns and all members are looking forward to seeing many of you at the May Associa-

Encouraging Words

From our appeal for Encouraging Words on "sharing," came a reply from a dear saint who prefers to remain anonymous:

I did have some experiences in larger churches in other denominations when I served as organist for 55 years.

People "popping up" in the congregation were taking up the preaching time and also making it necessary to omit hymn verses, or omitting the last hymn entirely, or

the pastor saying, "Due to the lateness of the hour, I will finish my sermon next week!"

The solution was to print in the bulletin:

"Anyone wishing to say anything beyond what is in the bulletin, please come to the pulpit or lectern mike, or have an usher bring a 'roving' mike. Also, if you have remarks, ask the pastor ahead of time for a 'moment,' and then keep it to that."

Both worked exceedingly well!

Thank you, friend.
Repeating our last request for Encouraging Words:

"Does anyone NOT have this problem: How do we recruit and maintain our Sabbath School teachers?

"It seems like the same folks get 'stuck' doing it. Of course, most of them enjoy it, but some are facing (or are in) real burnout. Help!"

Please send your Encouraging Words (100 words or less) to: SDB Center

P.O. Box 1678

Janesville, WI 53547

Or call: (608) 752-5055

Your Council in session



The General Council (l. to r.): Althea Rood, Rodney Henry, Leon Lawton, Ernest Bee Jr., Don Rudert, Joe Samuels, Mynor Soper, Ralph Mackintosh, Cormeth Lawrence, Donna Bond, Owen Probasco, and Kevin Butler.

The SDB General Council gathered recently in Janesville for the mid-year Conference meetings.

Council members were brought up-to-date through various board reports and also heard from Direc-

tor of Extension Russell Johnson. Calvin Babcock, General Services Administrator, reported that the work at the Center is running smoothly, and financial reports are being made on time.

Regarding finances, funding was approved for local NET retreats and workshops, and a Summer Youth Director. An additional \$6,000 was added for MORE 2000 expenses, and an income reserve account was set up to provide funds for Conference site deposits.

Calvin Babcock was appointed Acting Executive Secretary, with an interim job description accepted.

Updates for Conference plans were presented for 1991 and 1992.

Subcommittees were appointed to review Conference Membership Guidelines and Conference worship service procedures. Sp.

Accessions

Atlanta (Metro), GA
Luis Lovelace Jr., pastor
Joined after testimony
John Stachowiak
Sandi Stachowiak

Bradenton, FL Leland Bond, pastor Joined after testimony Lillian Campbell

Joined by letter Evelyn Mendenhall Walter Mendenhall

Verona, NY
Steven James r

Steven James, pastor Joined after testimony Susan (Kathy) Delp Rodney Fink Dale Fink

Joined by letter Steven James Debbie James

Births

Warner.—A daughter, Olivia Rose Warner, was born to James and Sharon Warner of Oneida, NY, on December 18, 1990. Cunningham.—A daughter,
Desera Mae Cunningham, was
born to Don and Cathy (White)
Cunningham of Grand Junction,
CO, on February 9, 1991.

Marriages

Stamp-Trowbridge.—David
Stamp and Sue Trowbridge were
united in marriage on June 10,
1989, at the Syracuse, NY,
Trenton Memorial Presbyterian
Church. The Rev. Raddin officiated.

Davis-Durr.—Dwight Davis and Monika Durr were united in marriage on June 10, 1989, at the Utica, NY, historic old St. John's Church. The Rev. John Groghan officiated. Jones-Fikes.—Gerald Jones and Cindy Fikes were united in marriage on August 25, 1990, at the Verona, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church, by Pastor Russell Johnson.

Johnson-Watson.—Robert Johnson and Joanne Watson were united in marriage on March 1, 1991, at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, RI. The Rev. Harold King officiated.

Obituaries

Bugh.—Melinda M. Bugh, 48, of Cortland, N.Y., died on November 11, 1990, at home after an extended illness.

She was born on October 13, 1942, in Watertown, N.Y., the daughter of William H. and Marjorie (Burdick) Mallison. (She was the granddaughter of Rev. Leon and Nellie Burdick.) A 1960 graduate of Rome (N.Y.) Free Academy, she received a bachelor's degree in 1965 and a master's degree in French Education in 1967 from Cortland College. She also studied in Neufchatel, Switzerland, and Angers, France.

Melinda married Dr. James Bugh in 1971 in Churchville, N.Y., and was a French teacher at the McGraw Central School for 24 years. She was a member of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, Churchville; the Association of the Teachers of French; the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages; and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Survivors include her mother, Marjorie; her husband, James; and one sister, N. Mallison Petrie of Greenway, N.Y.

Services were held at the Wright-Beard Funeral Home, Cortland, with Pastors Rex Burdick and Russ Johnson officiating.

Gatanis.—Bessie H. "Betty"
(Husted) Gatanis, 86, of
Bridgeton, N.J., died on March 9,
1991, in the South Jersey Hospital System. She had been in
failing health and a resident of
Cumberland County Medical
Center Manor for six weeks.

Betty was the wife of the late Harry Gatanis, who died in 1977. She was born in Shiloh, N.J., and was a lifelong area resident. The last seven years, she lived in the mobile home community of Tullertown Trailer Park. For many years, she was employed part-time as a nurse's aide at the Cumberland County Medical Center Manor, and she was an active member of the Marlboro, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Betty is survived by one daughter, Jean McClure of Maro, Ga.; one son, William Ballinger of Georgia; 15 grandchildren, and seven greatgrandchildren. She is also survived by 12 stepchildren, including Katherine James and Florence Blyler of Pennsville, N.J., and Thomas Gatanis of Mantua, N.J.; stepgrandchildren, and great stepgrandchildren. She was predeceased by one son, Joseph Ballinger, and two sisters, Arabelle Cook and Ethel Dunn.

Graveside services were held on March 12, 1991, at the Salem County Veterans Cemetery, Mannington Township, with the Rev. Melvin F. Stephan officiating.

Ford.—Lowell Seager Ford, who had been confined to the Marion County Home and Convalescent Center in Indianapolis, Ind., for many years, went home to claim his new spiritual, glorified body on March 18, 1991. He was 65.

He was born on August 29, 1925, in West Union, W.Va., the son of the late Glenn L. and Susie (Seager) Ford. He retained his membership in the Salem (W.Va.) Seventh Day Baptist Church until his transfer to the church triumphant.

Surviors include two brothers, Carroll L. of Indianapolis and Samuel L. of Louisville, Ky.; three sisters, Doris R. Holpp of Wilkesboro, N.C., Laura Morrison of Grantsville, W.Va., and Gleneva Murray of Buckhannon, W.Va.; and several nieces and nephews.

Farewell services were held at the Poling-St. Clair Funeral Home in Buckhannon on March 21, 1991. Burial was in the Heavener Cemetery, Buckhannon.

Davis.—Frankie A. Davis, 92, of Salem, W.Va., died at home on March 18, 1991. She was the widow of Courtland V. Davis.

She was born on April 30, 1898, in a log cabin in Blandville, W.Va., the daughter of the late Edwin L. and Nellie (Bland) Lowther. At the age of 6, upon the death of her mother, she and her brother were adopted by an uncle, Lucian and Lillie (Ford) Lowther of Salem. She married Courtland on September 3, 1919, and received her degree from Salem College in 1920.

They lived most of their married life in Plainfield, N.J., where Courtland was an elementary school principal and served the SDB denomination in a number of capacities. After her children were grown. Frankie served in the denominational printing plant, the Recorder Press, as proofreader and as a worker in the bindery. When Courtland retired, they moved to Kingston, Jamaica, where he served as head-master of our mission high school. Frankie served as school librarian, pianist for the church, and piano teacher for future church pianists.

After the death of her husband, she moved to Battle Creek, Mich., where she served as secretary to the pastor—her son, Kenneth. When Rev. Davis accepted the call of the Salem church in 1985, Frankie continued to assist him, as health permitted, until her death.

Survivors include two sons, Courtland V. Davis Jr. of Madison, Ind., and the Rev. S. Kenneth Davis of Salem; one daughter, Jean McAllister of South Plainfield, N.J; one brother, E. Jean Lowther of Salem; one half-sister, Pauline Myers of Newport News, Va.; 12 grandchildren, and 27 greatgrandchildren. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by a granddaughter and a half-sister, Zelma Connelly.

A memorial service was held on Resurrection Sabbath, March 30, 1991. Interment of her ashes was in the Davis family plot in the Lost Creek (W.Va.) SDB Cemetery.

KEVIN'S

O R N E

The studio lights were not very kind. Not only did they reveal my face too clearly(!), but they made keeping cool a distant memory.

Yet there we were, all rookies in front of the cameras.

"Are you nervous?" Summer asked. "Yeah, kind of..."

It was not the time to lie, on film and all.

Here was a communicator's dream—and nightmare—all in one. It was our chance to present the biblical Sabbath to those watching cable television and to those who would come to the Columbus church's public meetings. The excitement

of that soon turned into the big mystery. Who would be watching? Who would come to the church? Where were they in their faith journey? Would they be Believers at all?

Not being able to interact with an audience, being unable to "read" their responses, seemed to unnerve me. Then I remembered my many hours behind a radio station microphone. I couldn't see my listeners, but would picture someone sitting at the kitchen table or driving along as I ministered with music and words.

That helped a little. But something here was different. Radio listeners had to imagine what I was doing as I talked, or what I looked like. On video, the secret is gone. My expressions, my gestures, my body language—all on display before God and everybody.

"Are you nervous?"

"Yeah, kind of... Um, why don't we pray?" (Why didn't I think of that earlier?)

I had been praying earlier, and that helped to build the foundation for the filming session. The moment of truth had finally come, and stress was trying to move in.

After our prayer, I remember the Spirit prompting me to say (as my own reminder), "Lord, this is your Day; this is your time." What a difference!

The afternoon was totally in His hands. It was there to begin with until I had yanked it away.

We recorded both sessions straight through with no stops for editing. I actually enjoyed it, and saw the time as a great opportunity for me to be a spokesperson for the Sabbath truth.

I don't know if anyone was "swayed" by our presentation. That's not my deepest concern. The greater lesson the Lord taught me in front of those cameras couldn't have come from any classroom or human argument or presentation. It came straight from His Word:

"...but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God" (Ex. 20:10).

It is His Day, His gift given to us, revealed in His Word and blessed to our understanding by His Spirit.

All I had to do was allow that same Spirit to work through me, to prayerfully present that Word in an understandable manner, and do the best that I could—but leave the results to Him!

It is His Day. The Lord will use whatever means He chooses to reveal this biblical and practical truth to other people. I cannot force anyone to be a Sabbathkeeper. Didn't the Pharisees have a losing record at that game?

It is His Day and our Day. We should be faithful in sharing the Sabbath with others; let's also allow God to be God, and let His will be done.

To complete the chorus on the cover:

Now we light our Sabbath candles, Bless Thy children with their light. Thankful we surround this table, Sabbath peace bring us tonight. God be praised—Thy name we honor, Christ, be Thou our beacon bright. Amen.

(Tune: "Vesper Hymn"; words by Elmo Fitz Randolph)

In the next S_R :

The sanctity of life-

A scriptural profile Biblical stand against abortion The moral imperative What has Conference said?

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Children's Conference Musical

Hey kids!!

If you or your folks are looking for the musical "Gr-r-owing Up in God," and having trouble finding it, that's because it's part of "Psalty's Mighty Mini-Musicals."

Don't forget, if you want to audition for a big part, please send a tape of you reading and singing to:

Mary Jane McPherson 142 Route 31 Lebanon, NJ 08833

Deadline is June 1.

