

The

S

abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

July-Aug. 1991

R

ecorder

*Hanging on for  
God's next move!*



**A look at career  
changes in ministry**

## Videos available from the SDB Center, Janesville, WI

(FREE Loan! Just pay for return postage.)

Following this month's SR theme, a brand new video from InterVarsity:

### Called to the Marketplace—

Examples of Christians who live out their faith at work. (Two tapes with two 1/2 hour parts.)

1) **Being a Witness.** How to share faith with co-workers by building relationships and being bold in testimony.

2) **Making Right Choices.** Explore moral and ethical decisions in the marketplace.

3) **Building the Kingdom.** How God uses marketplace Christians to help build His kingdom.

4) **Following and Leading.** How to follow and lead by serving others.

Other new titles:

**The Search: New Age in a New Light.** (26 min.)

New Agers describe their personal beliefs. Christian experts analyze New Age claims. Our quest for spiritual reality is answered only in Jesus Christ.

**The God Makers.** (56 min.)

Accounts of families and lives destroyed by the Mormon church. Dramatizes temple rituals that even most Mormons have not seen.

**Jerusalem Throughout the Ages.** (Five-part series, 30-47 min. each)

- *Christians and Christianity in Jerusalem*
- *A Walk in Crusader Jerusalem*
- *"Within Thy Gates"—The City and the Temple*
- *Yearning: Jerusalem of the 19th Century*
- *Jerusalem Today*

## Help Wanted!!

Immediate opening in Blountville, Tenn. If you are energetic, compassionate, and willing to work with people for the glory of Christ, maybe God is calling YOU!

The Blountville SDB Church is prayerfully seeking a pastor. If you feel that God is calling you, please contact:

Rick Burdick  
52 Marshall Road  
Bristol, VA 24201  
(703) 466-3585

## For an upcoming Pacific Coast Association project:

Do you know a good book, speaker, video, etc., on the subject of Creation Science?

I would greatly appreciate your sending that information to me:

Linda Howard  
15900 Grand #605B  
Elsinore, CA 92330

(I'm already aware of the Institute for Creation Research. Anyone know of creationist information in Spanish?)

## 1991 Conference Speakers

Aug. 11-17

**Sunday: Joe Samuels**

*"Faith—A Prerequisite for Obedience"* (Luke 5:1-11)

**Monday: David Taylor**

*"Keeping in Step"* (Gal. 5:16, 24-25)

**Tuesday: Bill Shobe**

*"Be Reconciled"* (Gen. 50:15-21)

**Wednesday: Christine Wyrzten Concert**

**Thursday: Bernie Wethington**

*"The 'Secret' of a Happy Life"*  
(2 Cor. 5:11-15)

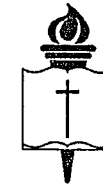
**Friday: Gene Smith**

Praise and testimony service

**Sabbath: George Calhoun**

*"Getting Back to Basics"*  
(Acts 2:41-47)

# The Sabbath Recorder



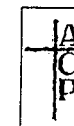
July-Aug. 1991  
Volume 213, No. 7/8  
Whole No. 6,754

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

*The Sabbath Recorder* (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 147th year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

### Contributing Editors

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

**WRITERS:** Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

## Features

<b>Me? Behind the pulpit?</b> by Gene Smith	4
<b>Another "bend in the road"</b> by Leland Bond	5
<b>Ready to pastor—again</b> by Robert Harris	6
<b>Serving a God of second chances</b> by Harold King	6
<b>Get that career moving!</b> by Jeff Trautman	8
<b>From editor to deacon</b> by D. Scott Smith	9
<b>The Sabbath and the Ten Commandments</b> by Rodney Henry	11

## Departments

<b>Pearls from the past</b>	12	<b>Pastor Profile</b>	19
<b>SR Almanac</b>	13	<b>Local news</b>	20
<b>Women's Society</b>	14	<b>SR Reaction</b>	22
<b>President's Page</b>	15	<b>Encouraging Words</b>	24
<b>Christian Education</b>	16	<b>Family flux</b>	25
<b>Focus</b>	17	<b>Editorial</b>	27
<b>The Beacon</b>	18		

### Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

- the saving love of Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God and a record of God's will for man. The Bible is our authority both for our faith and our daily conduct.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every member of the church has the right to participate in the decision making process of the church.

### The seventh day

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience—not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ.

It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes Seventh Day Baptists just a little bit different. If you would like more information, write: Seventh Day Baptist Center, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone (608) 752-5055; FAX (608) 752-7711

## Me? Behind the pulpit?

by Gene Smith

As I sat contemplating the topic for this month's *SR*, I remembered the theme of our Conference President Althea Rood, "Called to Obedience." Not too many years ago, that particular call came as a rather frightening event in my life.

Now, that may not seem very clear to you, so allow me to explain why a call to obedience could be unsettling, to say the least.

I was living in Clarksburg, W. Va., attending the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, working at a job that was the answer to prayer and, what I believed, the end of "job hunting" for the rest of my life.

Let me explain. Previously, I had enough experience in different jobs to make me a "jack-of-all-trades." But in Clarksburg, I had finally found a job that seemed to fit me to a tee. I was working in an outpatient mental health center, and felt it was the best job I'd ever had. Starting out as a bus driver, I carried children and adults to and from the center each day. After three years, my supervisor retired and left an opening in the supervisory capacity.

To make this story a little shorter, I was given the opportunity and took it. It was great. Good pay, excellent working conditions. I was "set for life."

Friend, never take such a situation for granted—not when you are putting your faith and life in the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord had different plans for my life, and this is where the "unsettling" came in.

I had been there seven years, loving my work and most everything about it, when the Lord called me to obedience to His will. He knew how much I liked what I was doing, and so, to get my attention, it was necessary for Him

to close a door in order to get me to go through the one he was opening. Little by little, I began to dislike what I was doing. After all those years of security, I was willing to listen to God's call to pastoral ministry—a vocation that I had only observed while sitting in the pew on Sabbath morning. Now I was called to change everything in my lifestyle, move 600 miles away from my comfortable situation, and take on a challenge to do something in an area where I had no experience.

Scary? You bet. But God seemed very sincere about this call, and so I obeyed. Let me tell you, I am very glad I did. Oh, I realized how inadequately I was prepared for such

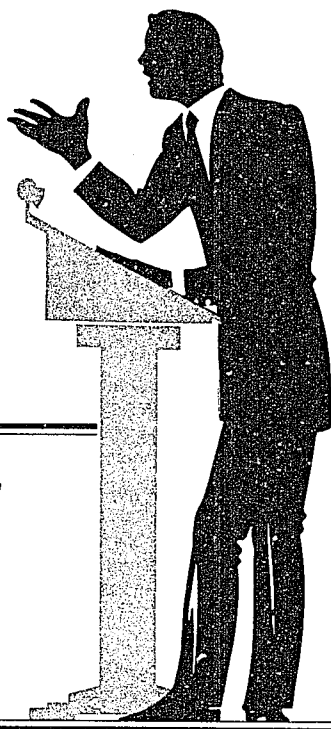
***I was called  
to change everything  
and do something  
in an area where  
I had no experience.***

a move. I had no formal education; no seminary, no special training. But I felt called. What was I to do?

At the time, I felt totally unprepared to accept a pastoral call. But I came to Adams Center on faith. I felt a little like Abram on his way to Ai. God went with me, just as He did with Abram, and though I came here unprepared education-wise, God's grace has been sufficient.

With the aid of T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) and time, with the encouragement of many experienced pastors and friends, with the council of those who had been my pastor in the past, and through the guidance of

the Holy Spirit, perhaps I have found my calling. My calling came much later in life than most, perhaps to my advantage. I had a few years of "hands on" experience in



life—the ups and the downs—and I realized the need to totally trust the Lord. I was certainly not "cocksure" of myself, and I am thankful for that.

Where will I go from here? I have found that it's best to follow God's leading as best I can, knowing that He has never led me astray when I really trusted Him. He is so very good. He has given me the best of Himself, His very life. I owe Him my everything. *SR*

*Pastor Gene Smith leads a grateful flock of SDB congregants in Adams Center, N.Y.*

## Another "bend in the road"

by Leland Bond

Life, for me, has been just like a winding country road. It was seldom paved and was full of ruts and mud holes, but just around each bend were exciting surprises waiting to be discovered. Perhaps this describes my career changes.

Family, church, and school provided the positive experiences I needed in later life. These experiences were provided by loving parents who raised four boys on a farm along a "country road" in West Virginia.

Church always had top priority. Before I graduated from high school, my church at Lost Creek called me "to improve my gifts for the ministry." They didn't know that my high school sweetheart, (and future wife), had told me that she would not marry me if I became a minister. However, a seed was planted that would finally germinate 40 years later.

Around the first curve in my "country road" were experiences in the U.S. Navy as a quartermaster

navigating the Pacific during World War II. This quickly matured an 18-year-old farm boy. I learned how to live with people who had different ideals and morals without compromising myself.

Following the war, I would experience the blessings and responsi-

for Lederle Laboratories. From this, I learned people skills.

While serving as President of General Conference during 1968-69, I experienced the filling of the Holy Spirit which was to ever change my life. It was no longer important to have bigger and better

***Our new "country roads"  
led us into some of the most  
rewarding experiences of our lives.***

bilities of marriage and the beginning of a family. At the time I was pursuing an education to become a vocational agriculture teacher. It seemed the right thing to do because that was what other family members had done for years.

My first teaching job took me around a huge bend in the road. I learned what it meant to teach agriculture, biology, supervise the school community cannery, as well

as supervise four veterans' "on-the-farm training" classes. I had to handle a large number of responsibilities at the same time. It took just five years to see that teaching was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Something I could have never predicted on my "road of life" were the 28 years of successful experiences in sales

houses and cars. I began looking for new ways to serve the Lord. Someone has written, "Just over the hill is a beautiful valley, but you must climb the hill to see it." I climbed that hill, and what I saw was a vision of early retirement where Lettie and I could use our airstream trailer and serve our pastorless churches.

At age 58, that vision became a reality. Our new "country roads" led us to places in Florida (like St. Petersburg, Okeechobee, and Bradenton), into some of the most rewarding experiences of our lives. Armed with Proverbs 3:5-6 and Isaiah 41:10, Lettie and I joined together in forging new careers in service to the Lord.

The transfer from the pew to the pulpit has been easier because of past career experiences, on-the-job training, and early financial planning. The T.I.M.E. program has proven to be invaluable in our present ministry.

I look at these retirement years as a joyful time, and I believe that opportunities just like these are waiting for others who choose to serve the Lord. Even now, God may be preparing you as he did us. *SR*

*Pastor Leland Bond serves our branch church in Bradenton, Fla.*

## Ready to pastor—again

by Robert Harris

*After ministering in SDB churches for over 10 years, Bob Harris left the pastorate. It was a time for healing, and a chance to experience secular employment. Answering our questions, Bob shared his journey back to pastoring in the Nortonville, Kan., SDB Church.*

**SR: What advantages do you feel you have over a pastor fresh out of school? Any disadvantages?**

Bob: My experience in secular employment taught me that even though I as a pastor have no "boss" to whom I report, I need to keep very close tabs on what I do with my time in ministry. The church employs me to serve the congregation other than on Sabbath morning. That puts pastoral visitation high on my priority list.

The disadvantage I have is that the strength of youth has left me, and I don't have as much energy to expend on my ministry.

**What strengths could you draw from your real-life experiences?**

Often a pastor's world revolves around the "churched" people in his or her congregation. My secular employment gave me an opportunity to rub shoulders with jail inmates, victims of Alzheimer's disease and the suffering their families went through, and the mentally handicapped and some of their struggles in trying to adjust to the real world. These real-life experiences helped me better see that Christ died for all, and that "the least of these," in the eyes of the world, really need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**What kind of ministry situations did you find in secular employment?**

As an adult foster care provider, I led a person to Christ, and he was

baptized and joined a SDB church. Modeling the teachings of Christ by helping people improve their quality of life is a real blessing.

In being a drug/alcohol counselor in a jail setting, I was able to teach a group in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. This talks directly about giving your life over to the complete control of God. A few of the inmates I worked with did pray to receive Christ as Savior.

**Was it hard to adjust from being the minister to being a church attender?**

No, worship in Madison was a real delight. Having Kevin Butler as my pastor was a benefit given from God.

**Were there specific items you**

**needed to work out before returning to the pastorate?**

Coming to a church as warm, friendly, and loving as the Nortonville congregation helped me bridge a lot of gaps that didn't get bridged when I lived in Janesville. Gaps like feeling all alone, wondering if the SDB leadership really cared what happened to me, feeling inferior among my colleagues in ministry.

**And how about switching back to behind the pulpit again?**

When the call came from Nortonville, I was ready for all the challenges being a pastor brings. This is where I am the happiest—serving the Lord and His people. The prayer support of many people helped me in adjusting.  $\mathcal{R}$

## Serving a God of second chances

by Harold King

It felt like the end of the world on that cloudy, cold day in February 1973. Angry and confused, my world seemed to be tumbling down all around me as I walked out of a church business meeting, vowing to leave the pastorate. Pride, lack of patience, and a gradual drifting from the Lord's leading had culminated in my downfall after only five years in the pastorate.

It would be eight long, lonely years before God worked it out for me to return to school and start on the road back.

I had become a pastor at a very young age, with only two years of college education and few "real life" experiences to draw from. When things went well, I let pride control me. I dropped out of college feeling that it was a waste of time. Because there was no

T.I.M.E. program back then for guidance, much of what I was doing was by trial and error. When things went poorly, I would become very depressed and start to doubt my calling. Was I in the pastorate because I couldn't do anything else?

I became impatient and wanted everything to happen right away. Was there a change needing to be made? Then let's do it right now! Why weren't we growing at a faster pace? Instead of waiting for the leading of the Lord, I was trying to do everything at my pace and in my way! It led to a great deal of frustration and anger; finally, it boiled over, and I walked out.

It was very difficult at first. What would I do? Would God punish me for running away from my calling? Why didn't anyone seem to care? At the time, I didn't understand, but now it is easy to

see that God had a plan and a reason for all that was going to happen.

I was surprised to find a job, and it wasn't long before I was advancing up the corporate ladder. With each move—and there were many during those years—there came

when I was in the pastorate. Several times, I had to take moral and ethical stands that went against company practice and was surprised to find that I was respected for my honesty and courage in standing up for what I believed. Through it all, God was teaching

There were no takers. We felt hurt and unwanted; nobody seemed to care.

We felt there was no way that God would let me become a pastor again, so we gave up and realized that God calls all of us to minister in whatever we do, where we are. It was at that point—when I humbled myself and came to accept the fact that I couldn't force the issue—that God began to open up doors and work in ways that enabled me to get that much-needed education and return to my calling as a pastor.

Having been out of school for so long, I found that I had to learn how to study all over again. I also came to find out that although the Gospel message never changes, and that the love of Christ is still desperately needed by so very many, the methods of presenting it do change in our rapidly moving world.

Yes, God taught me a lot of lessons during those years out of the pastorate. He showed me the need to be humble and let Him be in control. He helped me understand the need for a good education and allowed me to gain some necessary "real life" experiences.

He has taught me to allow things to happen at His pace and in His way.

He has also helped us to understand that people did care for us, and that while they might not have known what to say or do to help, they uplifted us in prayer. That was—and still is—so very, very important.

Maybe most importantly of all, He has helped me to realize that He is a God of second chances. We may stumble and fail, but He still loves and cares and guides us through it all.  $\mathcal{R}$

*Rev. Harold King ministers at the First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I.*



**We gave up and realized  
that God calls all of us to minister  
in whatever we do,  
where we are.**

more prestige and worldly success. (Most of the time, we weren't in areas which had Seventh Day Baptist churches, so we did a lot of "church hopping," trying to find a comfortable place to worship.)

Thankfully, it became apparent that God wasn't going to zap me dead. Before long, I started to realize that ministry could—and did—take place outside the pastorate. People came and shared their problems and concerns; more than

me some very valuable lessons.

Many times during that lonely period, we thought of my returning to the pastorate. I wrote to the denomination several times, but the reply was usually the same: go back to college, get your education, and then we'll get serious about you. Toward the end of those eight years, we were even silly enough to place a notice in *The Sabbath Recorder* stating that we were interested in serving a church again.

## Get that career moving!

by Jeff Trautman

Since over 50% of your waking hours will be spent in work-related activity, the employment and career choices you make are significant. Unfortunately, many of us spend more time working out our vacations than working on our career.

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul exhorts us to "...offer our bodies as living sacrifices... do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world." Matthew 25:14-28 reminds us of our responsibility to be good stewards of our time and talents.

What does responsible career stewardship involve? Here are five basic career building blocks you should know and incorporate into your career activity.

### Get God's perspective on work

Work is not a curse. God invented work. It's a good idea!

The Bible portrays a three dimensional view of work. In Genesis, work is portrayed as creativity, toil, and reconciliation. The story of Noah expresses each of these dimensions of work. God gave Noah the creative task of building an ark. The project would require much toil in gathering and preparing materials. Yet in the midst of this activity, Noah was involved in a reconciling work, preparing a vessel God would use to give humanity a fresh start.

This side of heaven, work is to be a blend of creating, toil, and reconciliation. Aligning your career expectations with biblical truth is the first step in career building.

### Know yourself

The world tells us that with the right knowledge and experience, we can excel in anything. Scripture reveals that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

God has created us with unique talents and abilities. Knowledge and experience can enhance these

God-given abilities, but can never replace them. Do you think that your unique talents and abilities played a central role in your career thinking? Knowing, affirming, and then pursuing career opportunities in line with these strengths is the second step in career building.

### Exploring the marketplace

How many times have you asked the question, "What else could I do?" only to draw a blank? The world of work is a vast, unexplored territory for most of us. With so little exposure to industries, fields, companies, and specific job titles, it's natural to feel closed in and skeptical about your options.

Taking the time to explore the marketplace can make your next job search more of a treasure hunt than a wild goose chase.

The more you learn about today's marketplace, the more possibilities you'll see.

### Marketing yourself

The hardest job you'll ever have is looking for a job! The most qualified individual is rarely hired for an opening. The job seeker who best markets his or her qualifications is usually the one hired.

Marketing involves targeting companies, networking, writing effective resumes and letters, interviewing, and responding to job offers. Since few of us enjoy these activities, we don't exert the effort required to build effective marketing skills. So, we spend more time waiting for a job to come our way than we spend actively pursuing opportunities.

Career stewardship means doing our part in initiating activity and trusting God to work through these efforts in directing our steps.

### Conducting check-ups

Career transition is a reality of life. You should anticipate that the

job you currently hold may not last forever.

Conducting regular career check-ups can keep you more tuned in to the winds of change that will inevitably blow through your work life. Signs that a change could be coming can be as obvious as a recent merger or buy out. Or the signs may be subtle—like long-term dissatisfaction, problems at home that get traced back to work, or a nagging sense that there is something more for you to pursue. A healthy work life demands periodic check-ups. This is the fifth and final step in career building.

In a convenience-centered culture, it's common to look for a quick fix to all of life's tensions and frustrations. There are many Christians who, when faced with career transition or unemployment, wait patiently for a "burning bush" or "Damascus road experience" to provide motivation, direction, or confidence in God's leading. There are times when God's involvement in our lives takes on a clear and specific expression. However, these times seem to be the exception and not the rule.

To passively wait for the Lord to answer your career questions is more convenient than biblical. God told Abraham to leave the comfort and convenience of Ur and Haran and get moving! Abraham didn't have all the answers, but he did get moving.

Career stewardship involves moving when all the answers are not clear. It's in the movement, the journeying, that direction and guidance are discovered. Don't miss your journey in the marketplace by seeking the safe, convenient, or comfortable. Use these five career building steps to get you moving. **SR**

*Jeff Trautman is director of the Interchristo Placement Network.*

## From editor to deacon

A statement of Christian experience

by D. Scott Smith



*Scott Smith served as the executive for the American Sabbath Tract Society (which became a Council under his tenure), and edited the SR from 1982 to 1989.*

*Scott is now director of the Centennial Fund for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. At the request of Pastor Bob Harris, Scott sent us his statement of Christian experience, presented before his ordination to the diaconate—another big ministry move.*

It was a cool, early summer night with sweet-smelling pine tree air and a clarity to the sky that only a mountain-top can bring. Sandwiched between the distant light of the Milky Way and the panorama of little boys lounged restlessly on the lichen-covered stones of Lee Hill.

For most of us, it was our first time on the mountain. It was the first time we had witnessed what I thought was a Godly extravagance in the night sky. I do not remember the boyhood stories or jokes, I only remember how small I felt. Surely the God I had been told of, the God I had sung about in Sabbath School was unfathomably powerful and wonderful. My teachers told me that he loved *me*.

I have never been able to look up into a clear night sky without wondering at the power of God. A creative and loving power. I have believed from those formative days that *God is in charge*.

What is it that makes up our Christian experience? Those experiences that are to be expected may happen in church or in a Christian Education setting. For me, many Christian experiences have been unexpected. They have been simple events of daily life that have somehow been enriched, shaped and filled to overflowing with the presence of God.

In those turbulent days of the early '70s, I was groping through high school. A skinny 17-year-old with shoulder length hair and a first attempt at a mustache—I must have been a sight.

Most Sunday mornings would find me at Margorie's house mowing lawns, pruning apple trees, or putting up storm windows—depending upon the season. Margorie was probably about 80 years of age at the time. She was a single woman who had spent all of her life caring for her home, her orchard, and nurturing generations of children in Sabbath School classes. She taught me how to find my way through the Bible, how to find the Psalms or the Gospels. She taught me very practical lessons and much more.

I distinctly remember opening her squeaking screen door on a steaming July morning. I had just finished mowing the orchard and my hair was wet with perspiration. She had been working alongside

*cont. next page*

*I have believed from those formative days that God is in charge.*

me, but had come in before I finished. Her kitchen was dark and cool and seemed to me to come from another antique time.

She had made lemonade. Her shaking, arthritic hands poured two glasses and we shared them. I do not remember how the conversation started, but somehow we were talking of the radical changes that society was struggling through. Conscious of my long, damp hair, I asked her what she thought of long hair for men.

With a look in her eyes that I now remember as Christlike, she said, "Jesus loves you for what you are on the inside. I don't think he cares what your outside is like."

I have never forgotten that—I believe that God loves me so much that he was willing to pay the ultimate price to establish a relationship with me. I also believe that the same is true for you. The realization of that, can be radically life changing.

The way I view life has been shaped by my parents. My early years were spent as the pastor's son (a blond-haired whirling dervish that could disturb a church service at any moment—or so I am told). Second only to my parents, my life view has been shaped by caring church families. I believe that God intends for us to join together in groups for mutual support.

Not all the experiences that have shaped my spiritual life have been positive. At one point in high school, a teacher convinced me that I should participate in theatrics. I agreed and enjoyed the experience until we were invited to take the play we were performing to state theatrical competition—on a Sabbath morning. I had explained before I took the part that I would not perform in the play on a Saturday.

Classmates wanted to know what I had done when I was called out of class and told to report to the principal's office. I was charged

with letting all my fellow "thespians" down by not going to the state competition. There in the pressurized atmosphere of the principal's office, the Sabbath did not seem "a delight." I declined the invitation and was sent back to class.

The question of the Sabbath, the law and legalism is one that I have struggled with many times. Questions from neighbors have caused me to re-evaluate and re-think my Sabbath commitment. I believe even more strongly today that God intends for me to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

***"I hope that all of our Seventh Day Baptist churches can begin to rediscover the full spiritual leadership role of the diaconate."***

In 1 Timothy 3:8-10, Paul writes words of advice on the qualifications of a deacon. In verse 9 he says, "They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience."

I believe that God is in control of what sometimes seems to us to be an upside-down world.

I believe that Jesus had to die and overcome death so that God could re-establish a spiritual relationship with men.

I believe that God intends for us to worship as a congregation.

I believe that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath.

I believe these things and "keep hold of these deep truths of the faith." I have studied the Seventh Day Baptist Statement of Beliefs and embrace them with "a clear conscience."

But as you ask me to take up a role of spiritual leadership in this church, I want you to know that I do not understand all spiritual

truth. I do not understand why Christ's sacrifice had to be made... but I have the faith that that sacrifice overcame death for all of us. I do not understand God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit... but I sense the love of God around me and have faith that the day will come when I will "see face to face."

In things I do not totally understand, I find myself flexing for the "leap of faith."

I believe that the role of the deacon is not one to be entered lightly. Since the early organizational days of our Christian fathers, the body has selected individuals that the apostle Paul describes as being "worthy of respect."

For the first 200 years of Seventh Day Baptist churches, we relied heavily on the diaconate for spiritual, pastoral and missionary leadership. As we were able to call forward and support full-time pastors who were trained to lead, the diaconate's role has changed until some of our churches know their diaconate only by seeing them at communion services.

I hope that all of our Seventh Day Baptist churches can begin to rediscover the full spiritual leadership role of the diaconate.

From that first hot summer 14 years ago when I began worshiping with you, I have viewed this congregation as "a gathering of saints." I see you all fitting the biblical description of the proper deacon.

...worthy of respect  
...not overindulgent  
...not pursuers of dishonest gain  
...holding to the truths of faith  
...not malicious  
...trustworthy in everything.

To be asked to take a leadership role among the saints is a humbling experience. Though I view my years in denominational service with satisfaction and a certain pride, the trust that you show me today by calling me to this service has surpassed all, in my continuing Christian experience. ❧

# The Sabbath and the Ten Commandments

by Rodney Henry

*(Lesson 3 of Rod Henry's study, "The Sabbath: God's Creation for Man's Benefit.")*

God had delivered the Children of Israel from the slavery of Egypt. But they were a people who did not know God. Though they had seen God work many miracles in delivering them from Egypt, they did not know the character of their God.

God so desired that His people know Him that He revealed part of His character in the Ten Commandments. These ten words of law were God's desire for the Children of Israel and for all mankind.

This law showed the people what kind of a God they served by revealing the desires of God's heart. God desires that His children should love only Him, worship only Him, not use His name in vain, and keep His Sabbath holy (Exodus 20:3-11). God's other desires are that people should live in harmony with others by not murdering, committing adultery, stealing, bearing false witness, or coveting (Exodus 20:12-17).

God, in love, gave the law to mankind to show the way to spiritual health. Medical doctors give prescriptions which are designed to bring physical health, if they are followed. God intended the law to be a prescription for spiritual health—a prescription signed by the finger of the Great Physician, God Himself. God designed it so that it was necessary to have faith in its writer.

This prescription for spiritual health, called the Ten Commandments, was to be taken as a whole with all ten of its parts. Though God's prescription regarding the Sabbath was rather specific, most Christians have thought they could improve it by changing it.

## The Sabbath has its origin in creation

The Fourth Commandment points back to creation as the origin of the Sabbath. The reason that God can command us to keep the Sabbath is that He, Himself, kept the Sabbath at creation. God blessed the Sabbath and made it holy by setting the example for all mankind to rest on that day.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11).

God's prescription regarding the Sabbath is rather specific. God said that people should rest and remember; not one day a week, but a specific day of the week—the seventh day. God specifically said that the "seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:10). The seventh day Sabbath belongs to God. One may do what one wishes on the first day of the week, or Sunday, but it is the seventh day Sabbath which is the Lord's day, according to Exodus 20:10.

Many in the Christian Church today make a distinction between what they call the "Jewish Sabbath" (Saturday) and the "Christian Sabbath" (Sunday). But according to Scripture, the Sabbath does not belong to either the Christians or the Jews; the Sabbath belongs to God. "The seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:10).

## The Sabbath created for all mankind

God did not create the Sabbath specifically for the Jews. God created the Sabbath for all mankind. "The Sabbath was made for man," Jesus said (Mark 2:27). It was created when God blessed and sanctified the day by resting on the final day of creation week. "And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:3).

We see from Exodus 20:11 that the foundation of the Fourth Commandment is God's act of creation, "in the beginning." The Sabbath is not based just on God's relationship to the Jews. The Sabbath is based on His relationship to all creation.

There are three things to emphasize in the Fourth Commandment.

First, God commands us to keep the Sabbath holy. We are to keep the Sabbath holy because God created the Sabbath to be holy (Genesis 2:3). Since the Sabbath is sacred time, we are to make the day special by turning away from the routine of our everyday life and focusing our attention on Him.

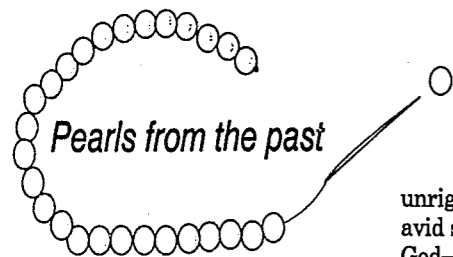
Second, God commands us to rest on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is set apart as a holy and special day in which we are not to do work. The other six days of the week are for our work.

Third, a "Sabbath to the Lord" is a day dedicated to Him. Not just any day is to be dedicated to Him, but the seventh day is the Sabbath.

This Fourth Commandment about keeping the Sabbath holy is a commandment that has a reason attached to it. Why should we keep the Sabbath holy? The Fourth Commandment goes on to tell us why:

"For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he

cont. on page 25



## When God said "No"

by Don A. Sanford, historian

His great-grandfather was a captain in the Revolutionary War; his grandfather died in the War of 1812; and his early dream was to go to West Point and become an officer in the army. He was an avid student of logic and next wanted to become a lawyer, enter politics and serve in Congress.

About midpoint in the 19th century, he came under the influence of a brilliant skeptic and dabbled in spiritualism, even to the point of asking that his name be dropped from the membership of the church. But his church refused his request and nurtured him with Christian love and concern. At age 19 before he had any college education, he was certified to teach and saved a few dollars for preparatory school.

But God had other plans for young Abram Herbert Lewis.

In the fall of 1856, Rev. William C. Whitford, the new pastor at Milton, Wis., was visiting a church and community about 60 miles north. He found A.H. Lewis working with a threshing crew. He crowded in the narrow space where Herbert was measuring the grain from the thresher, and "amid the din and clatter of machinery" he made an earnest plea for him to go to Milton Academy to continue his studies. While a student, he settled upon his life work in the Seventh Day Baptist ministry.

In answering that call, A.H. Lewis thus fulfilled many of his earlier dreams and leanings. He became an officer in the army—the army of the Lord—and led others into the battle against sin and


unrighteousness. He became an avid student of the law—the law of God—and interpreted that law to a generation which had neglected its meaning. He made his presence felt in both state and national legislative bodies as he vigorously opposed any law which threatened the free observance of God's law.

He became a teacher—not only as a student-teacher in Milton

served four churches as pastor and conducted revivals in countless others. For many years he represented Seventh Day Baptists in both denominational and interdenominational assemblies throughout the land.

Thus at the funeral service for Dr. Lewis, his pastor said of him:

Although he took so eminent a place in so many fields of activity, yet that which most distinguishes him was the recognized fact that he was "the representative Seventh Day Baptist of his age." Did some stranger wish to learn about our people, he was told to write to A.H. Lewis. Were we invited to present our views and positions as a denomination before a body or organization of men, why, we sent A.H. Lewis. Were we asked, "Who is at the head of your denomination?" we answered, "We have no head but Jesus Christ. But very likely A.H. Lewis is the leading man among us..."

But a farmer boy, the son of a farmer, like David of old, God took him from the sheep-cote, from following the sheep, to become the leader among his people. He wanted to go to West Point; but God said, "No," and sent him to Milton Academy. He wanted to go to Congress, but God said, "No," and sent him to theological seminary and to the work of the gospel ministry. Thus early in life he learned when God said "No," to be content and follow in the way God led, step by step, and in his contented following God led him to his work and to his place, the representative Seventh Day Baptist of this generation. 



When God said, "No," to this man, it turned out for our good.

Academy, but later as a professor in the Alfred School of Theology. He was invited to lecture at the famous Summer Assembly at Chautauqua, N.Y., where he taught on the subject "Sunday Laws, Past, and Present." His Sabbath School classes at Plainfield were so popular that teachers from other churches in the city attended to gather insight and information from a master teacher. And through the years he continued as a thresher, sifting out the truth of the Sabbath from the chaff of tradition and worldly practice.

From 1870 until his death in 1908, Dr. A.H. Lewis had written 11 books, 25 pamphlets and tracts, was editor of five periodicals. He



# SR Almanac

Where we  
have been...

### One year ago—July-Aug. 1990

Features by Don Graffius, Manfred Holck, and Don Sanford highlight theme of stewardship.

Details of Hurricane Hugo's damage in South Carolina, and ensuing help from the United Relief Fund.

Jean Albion displays her banner to represent SDBs at the Baptist World Alliance in Seoul, Korea.

Russell Johnson begins as Director of Extension.

Board of Christian Education prints resolution of appreciation to Linda Harris for her years of service as *Helping Hand* editor.

More details of emotional move to new church facility in Riverside, Calif.

### Five years ago—July-Aug. 1986

Residents of Westerly, R.I., gearing up for SDB World Federation meetings in August. Conferences featured in the *SR* include England, Jamaica, Mexico, USA and Canada.

Matt Olson, from Milton, Wis., appointed as Director of Youth Ministry.

Miami Herald carries feature article "SDBs take root in Miami": an interview with Pastor William Vis. Pastoral moves: Harold King to Nortonville, Kan.; George Calhoun to Battle Creek, Mich.

Observing the many behind-the-scenes workers at a ministers' workshop, Edgar Wheeler has readers consider, "Who are the ministers?"

### 10 years ago—July-Aug. 1981

Jan and Ruth Lek, SDBs from the Netherlands, visit Sabbatarian brethren in Czechoslovakia.

Nortonville members purchase house just north of the church for their parsonage.

Herbert Saunders shares, "Reaching a Pluralistic Society with the Sabbath Truth."

Baptist World Alliance announces theme for next five years: "Jesus Christ... for the Healing of All Peoples."

Summer Institute students include Janet Thorngate, Verne Wright, Leon Wheeler, Don Chroniger, Worth Wilson, and Jerry Vaught.

Sites considered for new SDB Center: Denver, Colo.; Milton, Wis.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Columbus, Ohio.

### 25 years ago—July-Aug. 1966

Tract Board calls for all denominational representatives to consult on a more centralized ministry of printing and mailing.

Kansas City, Mo., church calls Philip and Harriet Burrows to diaconate.

Surprise party honors Harmon and Ethel Dickinson on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Mid-July issue focuses on Summer Institute and ministerial education.

New arts and crafts building completed just in time for Lewis Camp sessions.

Marion Van Horn called to pastor in Daytona Beach, Fla.

### 50 years ago—July-Aug. 1941

Devotional time at Conference anticipated "with two of our outstanding young pastors, Rev. Albert N. Rogers and Rev. Everett T. Harris, teaming up each day to lead us in praise, preachment and prayer."

Dr. J. Nelson Norwood, president of Alfred University, and Rev. Samuel McCrea Cavert, featured in "Who's Who."

Wayne Crandall presents talk at Western Association, "Keeping the Young Men on the Farm." He states, "The farm is more than a place to make a living; it is a way of living."

Rev. O.S. Mills passes away at the home of his son, Rev. Neal Mills, in DeRuyter, N.Y.

Denver church prepares to host General Conference. Those planning to attend asked to state type of housing desired—a private home, tourist cabin, or hotel.

...where are we headed?

### Pray...

- for committed stewardship toward denominational concerns
- for our churches' building programs
- for Russell Johnson's ministry of extension
- that each SDB discover God's calling
- for our brethren in Eastern Europe and Russia
- that our Summer Institutes continue to train strong leaders
- for a successful Conference gathering in Houghton



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

## Obeying the call to move on

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalm 23:1-3 NASB).*

It was a hot summer day in June. Our family had been on the road for two days. We had left our friends and church family in Wisconsin to begin a new ministry in New Jersey. With all of our worldly belongings in the back of a rental truck, we were tired and hot and weary of traveling.

That night in the motel room (which seemed so small even after

leading us to different waters. But to a hot and tired little boy who had left the security of his home and friends and church, my explanations didn't make too much sense.

Once we got settled into our new home with our new church family and new neighbors, Jordan, Tyler, and Bethany stopped talking about "going back home" to Wisconsin. They became comfortable and secure in their new surroundings, made friends, and adjusted to the move.

Every pastor and family has experienced the difficulties and joys of moving to a new pastor-

ries, we now have another loving and caring congregation with which to share. Our children have new friends, new experiences, new places to enjoy. Don and I have no doubts that Shiloh is where we are supposed to be. The Lord has confirmed the fact often for us. He continues to lead us to quiet waters, restoring our souls as we seek His guidance and direction.

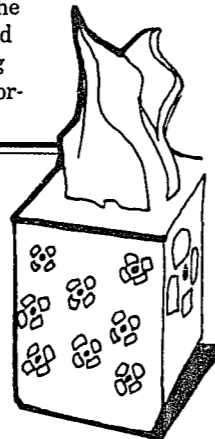
Members and officers of the Women's Board are seeking the Shepherd's leading and guiding as we undertake new responsibilities and challenges after the Board's move from California to New Jersey. We are learning, we are experimenting, we are seeking ways to serve you.

We're very excited about all the blessings you women can experience as you come to Conference in Houghton, N.Y., in August. You will have a chance to fellowship with others, share joys and concerns, and make decisions that reflect our corporate decision to serve the Lord.

Plan now to participate in the Women's Interest Committee, chaired by Linda Camenga; Women's Luncheon on Monday; Women's Banquet on Wednesday; Conference Nursery (donate some time to help); Craft Sale (bring your items to sell for SCSC); and Women's Love Gift Offering (bring your ideas of possible recipients).

Please support the SCSC teams and programs. We really need your financial support as the bills begin coming in—send your check to Treasurer Marie Davis. Plan to witness the presentation of the Robe of Achievement—thanks for your nominations. We hope to see many of you in Houghton! *SR*

**Jordan started crying and said, "Mommy, I want to go home." Between my tears, I tried to explain to him that we were moving to a new home.**



being in the station wagon for two days), our two young sons started fighting over who would get which bed. Jordan (then 3 and a half) started crying and said, "Mommy, I want to go home." Between my tears, I tried to explain to him that we were moving to a new home. We felt God had called us to a new place where his daddy would be the minister.

While we were a bit anxious about the new challenges and the new congregation, we firmly believed that our Shepherd was

ate after leaving another. It is extremely difficult to say good-bye to people you have grown to love and care for—people who have shared their lives with you. And yet, when servants feel the call of God to move on, they must obey.

Don and I felt that the doors for ministry in New Auburn were closing for us, and the Lord opened up other doors for our family, one of which led to Shiloh, N.J. He was guiding us down a new path.

While the New Auburn congregation gave us wonderful memo-

The President's Page

## Reflecting His image—a testimony

by Althea Rood



Althea Rood

Himself to me through the life of Delmer Van Horn. Suddenly, I realized that I knew God was real!

During our first pastorate, I had a tremendous desire for "more" in my Christian life. God sent Alton Wheeler. Alton shared how to color code a Bible. The Scriptures came alive to me, and in six months I literally "wore out a Bible." It was like a gift from God saying, "I want you to know that you're really mine!"

Soon after that time, I remember telling God that I didn't want to know any more about Him but that I wanted to *experience* Him. I wanted to know how to apply His Word in my life. God started me on the adventure of small group Bible study—an experience which has continued to spur my growth.

At the same time, God used one of my greatest joys—softball—to bring me to the end of my self-sufficiency. I played on a women's fast-pitch softball team, with and against several semi-pro women. However, I still batted "clean-up"; I guess due to my farm-girl strength.

God blessed my life by giving me Christian parents. As a matter of fact, I received nearly double the Christian training because I frequently went to church on both Sabbath and Sunday. It was a special joy to have my mom join the SDB church along with me.

As a teenager, I had the ability to do many things well. Although I received many athletic and academic awards, they didn't satisfy. I felt appreciated for what I could *do* and not for *who I was*.

God was faithful, and He sent Linda Bingham (Hays) to me at

me to do what He's called me to do. What I have been experiencing repeatedly is God's faithfulness. "If we are faithless, He will remain faithful" (2 Tim. 2:13).

A verse which means a lot to me is Philippians 2:13—"For God is at work within you, helping you do what He wants" (TLB). I am so grateful for such a wonderful God, one who not only gives us the desire but the power to do what He asks.

I've especially been amazed at God's timing. This past year, just when I have desperately needed a day home to prepare, God has allowed me to stay home rather than substitute teach. "The steps of a good man (woman) are ordered by the Lord!" God is in control!

He has been challenging me recently to be aware of His presence in all areas of my life and to be available for Him to use. I haven't arrived, but I am confident that "He who began a good work in [me] will carry it on to completion" (Philippians 1:6). *SR*

**God used one of my greatest joys—softball—to bring me to the end of my self-sufficiency.**

that time, and I started on a personal faith journey—no longer "riding the coattails" of my parents' faith. Soon, I discovered a meaning and purpose for my life. I also discovered His love for me and His companionship.

As a college student, I experienced some doubts. While not openly rebellious, I remember challenging Dale (my husband-to-be) to prove mathematically or scientifically that God existed. In a couple of years, God revealed

One night, I didn't get a hit in any time at bat and struck out three times in the process. I felt worthless. And for the first time in my life, I knew that without Him, I could literally do nothing!

For the past two years, I feel that I have been in God's "boot camp" of faith. I have been learning to trust Him in a new way for His provision—for not only physical needs but relationships as well. I have also been experiencing in a new way His power poured through







## Christian Education

### Resources for teaching *The Helping Hand*

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

*The Helping Hand in Bible Study*, Seventh Day Baptist Adult/Youth Sabbath School lessons, are based on the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching. Produced by the Committee on Uniform Series, the International

Lesson commentaries. Your local Bible bookstore will be able to assist you. You may wish to consider two which are available now and will be helpful as you prepare to teach *The Helping Hand* this coming school year.

*The International Lesson Annual*, 1991-1992, edited by Horace Weaver, has been used for 36 years by International Bible Lesson Teachers. The *Annual* features detailed explanations of the Bible text, parallel columns of the King James Version and New Revised Standard Version texts, lesson analysis, and creative teaching suggestions. The entire year's lesson commentary (9/1/91 through 8/31/92) is available in paper cover from your favorite bookstore or Cokesbury, 201 Eighth Ave. South, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202-0801 (Phone: 1-800-672-1789). **SR**

**We join 44 million Bible students around the world who study the same Scripture lesson.**

Bible Lessons began in 1872. They are arranged in a six-year cycle outline which attempts to cover the entire Bible during those six years. Each new six-year cycle attempts to avoid duplication of the previous cycle's Scripture passages. The themes include biographical, topical, and book studies.

The Committee on Uniform Series develops lesson suggestions from the outlines. *The Helping Hand* editor, who is a member of the Committee, utilizes this material during the writing of the student lessons. When Seventh Day Baptists study *The Helping Hand* each weekend, we join 44 million Bible students around the world who study the same Scripture lesson.

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education suggests that teachers using *The Helping Hand* consider using lesson preparation resources. Many publishers offer International Bible

*Standard Lesson Commentary* for 1991-1992, edited by James Fehl, has been used for 38 years by International Bible Lesson teachers. Each lesson has eight pages of teaching aids. From the printed lesson text in the King James Version, to a verse-by-verse explanation of the Bible text, to practical applications of the major lesson truths, the *Standard Lesson Commentary* is designed to assist the teacher. A full year packet of teaching visuals (posters, maps, and overheads) is also available. The entire year's lesson commentary (9/1/91 through 8/31/92) is available in hardcover or kivar cover from your favorite bookstore or Standard Publishing Company, 8121 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45231 (Phone: 1-800-543-1353).



Adult/Youth Sabbath School Lessons



## FOCUS on Missions

### Philippines, Asia

A seminar and rally was held at the San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur, SDB Church with the report, "We praise and thank the Lord for the result of our evange-



Rally participants at the San Miguel SDB Church in the Philippines.

listic meeting and Bible study. Many accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and soon they will have baptism there. Another accomplishment is the ordination of three pastors—Vicente S. Ongkiang of Kalawit, Ernesto O. Estender of San Miguel, and Rufino G. Timagos of Itayay."

### Central New York, USA

A special invitation was extended to several new contacts in this area to the annual Association meeting at Verona, N.Y. These contacts have been followed up to see if a group could be formed.

### Guyana, South America

Good News Clubs are functioning at the Parika, Kitty, and Uitvlugt SDB churches where Pastor D. Thomas serves. Camp this year was divided into Junior and Senior levels. The young people hosted concerts at Pomeroun and Charity to raise funds for the next Convention. The annual retreat was held at the Dartmouth SDB church on Resurrection weekend with the theme, "Steadfastly Abounding in Good Works" (1 Cor. 15:58).



The ordination of Pastors Ongkiang, Estender, and Timagos.

### Rapid City, SD, USA

Extension Pastor Larry Graffius led the seminar, "Under New Management—Biblical Principles of Time/Life Management," the four Thursday nights in May. The seminar was held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. While attendance was not as high as expected there were many who called expressing interest but could not come at this time. At least one first-time decision for Christ came, two rededications, and a positive response from one person to the Sabbath. It may be that a second session will be held in the fall.

### Phalombe Plains, Malawi, Africa

The disaster area has now been visited. R.J.B. Mkandawire, Executive Secretary of the Central Africa Conference of SDBs, has written: "More than 1,000 were killed (but no SDBs, PTL); about 90,000 adults and children (300 SDBs) were affected by the floods; 18 SDB Christians had damaged houses, and 282 lost gardens and food crops. We are very thankful to our overseas brothers for coming to our rescue on this major and tragic disaster. We pray that God may continue to bless you all. We see God's provision to our needs through you our beloved brothers."



# the BEACON

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

July-Aug. 1991

## Washington, D.C. youth fellowship report

Praise the Lord!  
How are all the youth groups getting along out there? Last time I talked to you was at Conference last year. That was really fun, and I cannot wait until August.

Last Conference, some of the youth, with the help of MaryJo Johnson and Pastor Andrew Samuels, talked about all the youth keeping in touch through *The Beacon*. We really haven't fulfilled that goal, but it's not too late to start. The youth were going to keep in touch about how we are doing and things that the YF's were

doing. Well, here's a *start!*

**YF Leader:** Diane Andries  
**YF Assistant:** Zulema Wilson (Zu)  
**Number of members:** Four

**Topics of Interest:**  
How to handle peer pressure  
Friends  
Who we are in Christ  
God's promises  
Where we gain our strength

**Recent activities:**

YF meeting on "Friends"  
Began *YF Highlights* with April edition  
Roller-skating—4/21/91

**Upcoming events:**

Guest speaker—Janice Wilson  
Garage clean-out to make YF headquarters  
YF Retreat in July  
Establish YF for guys

We only have a few youth, but we will bring more youth in during Vacation Bible School sessions. If you have any suggestions or would

like to recommend some of your YF's past activities, write through *The Beacon*. Hear from you soon!

In Christ,  
Zu



### Notice!

#### National YF Officers Ballot Change

- \*President—Tanya Henry
- \*Vice President—Kory Geske
- Secretary—Lisa Call
- Treasurer—Erik Henry
- Members at large—Jay Lippincott, Tanya Bonser

\*changes

# Pastor Profile

**Name:** Leland Warren Bond

**Birthdate and place:**

May 1, 1925, Clarksburg, W.Va.

**Current pastorate:**

Bradenton, Fla.

**Family:**

Wife--Lettie  
Daughters--Laura and Linda  
Six grandchildren

**Education:**

Salem College, Salem, W.Va.  
B.S.--West Virginia University  
M.S.--West Virginia University  
Training in Ministry and Extension  
(T.I.M.E. program)--1989

**Former pastorates/employment:**

**Pastorates:**

St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Okeechobee, Fla.

**Employment:**

Vo-Ag teacher, Weston, W.Va., five years  
Sales representative, Lederle Labs, Ind. and W.Va., 28 years

**My first job was:**

With the U.S. Navy (1943-1946). Teacher of Vocational Agriculture (1949).

**Personal hero:**

My father, O.B. Bond

**Favorite childhood memory:**

Purchasing and training a team of sorrel horses. I plowed gardens to help pay for them. I was proud that I could control them by voice command. My father kept them for me until I returned from WWII and entered college.



**Favorite Bible passage:**

Isaiah 41:10

**Favorite author:**

Charles Swindoll

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

We would go back and visit the islands of the South Pacific where I spent my World War II years.

**A great answer to prayer was:**

When the war in the Persian Gulf ended in 100 hours.

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

The establishment of a growing church in Bradenton.

**My vision for SDBs:**

That we will grow and have churches in every part of the country. Then, when people ask us what church we belong to, they will not be surprised when we say, "Seventh Day Baptist."

## Families in focus at Semi-Annual

by Seili Bond

The Semi-Annual meetings between the Dodge Center, Minn., and New Auburn, Wis., SDB churches were held at Dodge Center on April 19-21. President Doug Payne chose the theme, "Take Time for Families." Scriptures for the theme were taken from Deut. 6:4-7; 31:13, and Eph. 5:22-23; 6:1-4.

On Sabbath eve, Pastor Dale Smalley gave a very challenging message on "The Husband-Wife Relationship: Key for a Stable Marriage." Beth Wallstrom and Karen Payne shared their own family histories. Both women were raised in Christian homes and related their joy and acceptance in their homes. Beth shared a very special album her mother made for her.

On Sabbath day, we enjoyed a duet by Ruthie and John Ryschon. Pastor Dale Rood's sermon, "Take Time to be Family," emphasized

the importance of taking time to teach God's Word and to impart our faith, to honor our parents, to discipline our children, and—most important of all—to take time for love.

After a noon meal served to over 80, we met in small groups to discuss topics relating to families. Topics included: Family and Sabbath Day, Vacations, Family Celebrations, Devotions, Activities, and Handling Family Schedules. After interesting discussions, we shared our thoughts with the other groups.

The Ryschon family presented a family concert on Saturday night. The singing was interspersed with John's comments on how the Lord Jesus Christ influenced all areas of their family life. The message in song and the spoken word was an inspiration to all who heard it.

Following the concert, the Dodge

Center Youth Fellowship hosted a skit and game night for everyone.

Prior to the Sunday morning business meeting, Larry Green had a challenging message on "Family Responsibilities." He talked about the responsibility of the head of the household to provide for his relatives, and especially the immediate family. If he doesn't, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever—as stated in 1 Tim. 5:8. Also, we are not to worry about our provision, as Matt. 6:25-34 states. He emphasized the importance of training a child in the way he should go, as in Prov. 22.

Doug Payne led the business meeting. Following the Sunday noon meal, our New Auburn friends headed for home.

We thank God for all who took part in the Semi-Annual meetings.

We were blessed! ✠

## Eastern Association reflects His image

by Irene B. Greene

Eastern Association was held in Berlin, N.Y., under the leadership of Gerri Greene. The theme, "Reflecting God's Image," had as its key verse, "As water reflects a face,

Sabbath morning worship was led by Rev. Harold King. Rev. David Taylor brought the message, "Living in the Image of God." Central Association delegate, William

Following a rousing hymn and chorus sing on Sabbath night, Mary Jane McPherson led in a discussion of Christian education. Each church in the Association shared concepts or materials that have been useful in their local Sabbath School. Althea Rood then shared slides, Conference plans, information about new churches/leadership, and updates from each denominational board or agency.

Sunday morning, Howard Ellis (First Vice President) led the business meeting. The closing worship service was led by Rev. and Mrs. Melvin Stephan.

The meals were great, the fellowship superb, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was evident throughout the weekend. ✠

### The presence of the Holy Spirit was evident throughout the weekend.

so a man's heart reflects the man" (Proverbs 27:19).

On Sabbath eve, Conference President Althea Rood led in hymns and in Bible study on the theme "Reflecting God's Image Through Obedience," with examples from the life of Moses.

Wiley, shared the children's message. Over 100 were present, including nearly 70 from other churches in the Association.

Sabbath afternoon, a deaf ministry group, "The Tenth Coin," shared through drama, sign language, music, and testimony. All were blessed by their ministry!

## Snippets from the Southeast

### Lost Creek, WV

Jerry Garrett makes tape of 10 songs with Shooting Star Studio.... Donations (cash or books) needed for church library.

### Columbus, OH

\$200 gift given to a high school graduate.... Sabbath tapes aired on television.... Spring Retreat held May 3-5 to kick off National Family week, and provide renewal.

### Paint Rock, AL

Pastor John Bevis conducted revival services at Texarkana, Ark., church and reports having received a special blessing there. He also continues in physical therapy (following a handgun accident). Even though he can move the fingers and has some use of the hand, it is still weak and at times painful.

### Salem, WV

Ad for church published in Salem-Teikyo University year-book.... Seeking pledges and making plans for the proposed Christian Life Center.... Pastor Ken and Jean Davis attended Norman Vincent Peale's School for Pastors.... 200th year of covenanting together begun.... Bicentennial plans progressing—much community involvement.

### Middle Island, WV

Contributing funds monthly to Camp Joy and the Doddridge County Ecumenical Outlet.... Contributed to expenses of Gareth J. Sutton for a summer's training sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ.... Contributed to Doddridge County Youth Camp Fund. ✠

## Key careers targeted for Christians

Most young Christians today choose their careers for the money, security, or emotional satisfaction they hope to receive.

Counselors have long known that few choose an occupation merely because it gives them the greatest possible opportunity to impact the world for Christ. In fact, Christians shy away from most highly influential jobs, often leaving them to be filled by militant non-Christians.

All that may begin to change within two years.

Early this year, a representative task force of a dozen leaders from evangelical, charismatic, and fundamental churches and groups met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for a major effort to encourage believers to enter secular fields that sorely need more Christians.

Examples included journalism, university teaching, government/foreign service, the arts, and numerous types of "tentmaking."

Temporarily dubbed the "Strategic Careers Project," the group plans to unite nearly all major denominations and para-church ministries in a call to urge their own young people to enter fields with high "kingdom value," but perhaps less hedonistic appeal.

The task force of 12 was drawn from such diverse groups as InterVarsity, Campus Crusade, the Christian College Coalition, the Southern Baptist Convention, and Regent University, plus individual leaders in industry, banking, arts/entertainment, and communications. It included several with long experience in counseling students, and thus recognized the need to fit careers with skills and temperament. But the group plans to go far beyond the psychological dimension, urging both youth and mid-life career changers to "fit into God's priorities rather than asking Him to bless your priorities." ✠

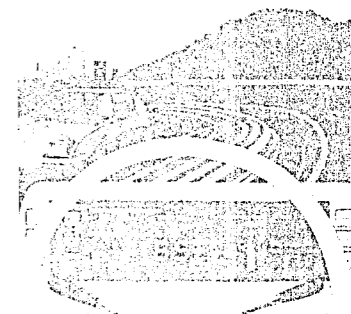
## ABS celebrates 175 years with new translation

In celebrating its 175th anniversary in May, the American Bible Society formally introduced its new "user friendly" Contemporary English Version (CEV) translation.

"It will be known as the CEV," announced Dr. Bryant Kirkland, American Bible Society (ABS) President and Chief Executive Officer. "It offers the reader, whether child or adult, a new clarity for the sacred content of Scripture. At the same time, it communicates with integrity the Word of God in words and phrases that are simple, direct and always 'user friendly.'"

The 775 guests attending the anniversary dinner at the New York Hilton Hotel applauded the fresh new translation. The celebration served as the official publication date for *The Bible for Today's Family*, the CEV New Testament portion of the Bible. The full Bible is scheduled for publication in 1996. ✠

## Adoption news



Ed and Cathy Cruzan of White Cloud, Mich., are *cruisin'* on their way to a larger family with the adoption of two girls: Anna, age 3, and Jeannie, age 2.

Big sister Jackie, 4, is also very excited! ✠

## SR Reaction

Letters may be edited  
for length and clarity

Dear Kevin,

I have just completed reading the April SR (on war and peace) and felt compelled to write. This is a hard subject for many of us to reconcile ourselves with, but having just returned from the Persian Gulf, where I served, it was a timely issue.

I am glad you presented many approaches to the way Christians respond to war. I truly believe Seventh Day Baptists are very well represented in their beliefs about the needs for a strong and respected military force. I am also glad the military is strongly supported by the citizens of our country.

I hope the many who feel a powerful military is unimportant or unnecessary stop to consider the results we could expect with anything less. I live in the former East Germany, where I witnessed the withdrawal of the Communist forces and the new freedom many Germans had never experienced. The Germans, Czechoslovakians, Romanians, and others will have much to learn about freedom, but they are now free to learn.

When Hussein invaded Kuwait, I prayed for a peaceful resolution. When the air campaign began, I was still praying for a peaceful resolution. And when the ground campaign began, only after we had been attacked repeatedly, we all continued to pray for a quick cease-fire.

The many Christians who serve in the military prayed incessantly for peace. If anyone thinks we wanted to go to war, they are gravely mistaken. We wanted peace. The atrocities committed against the people of Kuwait were so severe only an uncivilized

country could have continued to stand by and ignore Iraq.

Before leaving Saudi Arabia, I had the opportunity to attend an outdoor Easter Sunrise Service, with close to 150 in attendance. This was probably one of the few Christian services to be openly held in this country, if not the first in recent history.

In Christ,  
Jeffery S. Crandall  
Staff Sergeant, USA  
SDB Licentiate

Dear Sir:

Since the "Neville Chamberlains" of the SDB church have been heard from, I thought that a reply was in order.

Those people sit firmly ensconced on their Bibles and preach something which seems to say, "Nothing is worth fighting for."

Saddam Hussein was gassing the Kurds and marching murderously into Kuwait long before we ever came on the scene. Were the Kurds and Kuwaitis fleeing from our troops? I think *not!* We did not cause the refugee problem--Saddam did; we did not cause the oil wells to be set on fire--Saddam did; we did not cause the starvation--Saddam did. He sat safe in his German-built bunker and ate well while plotting who he'd take over next. Kuwait was easy!

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf was unknown to most of us but was given command of the Allied forces fighting to free Kuwait. I have not forgotten that God gave us the technology which produced the Patriot missiles, the Stealth fighters, and so on. All of these things, plus the men and women of the combined forces, saved the lives of thousands of people, including my son's.

My son, Chief Petty Officer

Alfred Bruce Hill Jr., was called to the Gulf on December 1. He has served nearly 20 years as a Navy Seabee. He left home, wife, family, and a new grandson to help in that sand-filled area of the world.

While those "Jane Fondas" were praying for the Iraqi soldiers, those same soldiers were *destroying* Kuwait. From one of my son's letters:

"You wouldn't believe what the Iraqis did to the Kuwaitis... some of them unspeakable; the soldiers raped and murdered the women and left them hanging naked by their ankles in the city streets... burned their homes and did some even worse things to the men. When our troops pushed out the last of the Iraqi soldiers, the townsfolk came out and swarmed the Americans just to hug and kiss them. This was *not* a war about oil, it was for *freedom!* Their faces said it clearly.

"As I was walking down the side of the highway, every civilian that drove by honked a horn, waved an American flag, or just hollered and waved to me. I've never been so proud to be an American."

The above-mentioned "Janess" should get down on their knees and thank God for the thousands of people whose blood was shed so that they would have the right to be able to write such articles, and to write them in English and not *German!*

Jesus is the "Prince of Peace," and he warned us in Matthew 24:6 that in the last days there will be wars and rumors of wars, and that these things *must* come to pass.

I echo my son's statement: "I've never been so proud to be an American." God bless America!

Sincerely,  
Harriet Spencer Hill  
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Dear Mr. Butler:

Let's set the record straight. The article, "Remember the Sabbath Day" by Summer Holmes, published in the May SR, promulgates a common myth relative to the Sabbath-Sunday transition. The question is asked: "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) enacted 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." [Italics mine.]

Over 150 years before Constantine, Justin Martyr, in his First Apology wrote, "And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country, gather together in one place and the memories of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read as long as the time permits, then when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of those good things." [There follows a narration of religious activities that took place during those Sunday meetings. In the same passage, he continues.] "But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world: And Jesus Christ our Saviour the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which

is the day of the Sun; having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them those things which we have submitted to you for your consideration."\*

The change was not a sudden phenomenon pontificated by an individual or church. It was apparently a gradual transition that started early after the Scriptural period. It may be said that Constantine endorsed the change from Sabbath to Sunday that was in place at the time of his edict, but he did not create it.

An erudite presentation of those events and the motives responsible for the change from Sabbath to Sunday is well presented by Samuele Bacchiocchi in his book, *From Sabbath to Sunday*.

\*The First Apology of Justin, *The Anti-Nicene Father*, Charles Scribner Sons, 1908 Vol. I, p. 186.

Respectfully Submitted,  
E. Keith Davis, M.D.  
St. James City, FL

Dear Kevin,

The following are some thoughts upon reading the Pro-Life Resolution of the 1990 Conference, and the June SR.

"And the Lord formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

Many people believe that a fetus becomes a living soul with his first breath, and until capable of independent life, is part of the body which sustains it. This is one religious view of life.

A woman's decision to end a pregnancy is a religious one, and therefore her right to make that decision is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Baptists, especially Seventh Day Baptists, have histori-

cally supported individual choice in religion and conscience, which is Biblical as well as Constitutional. An SDB request for governmental enforcement of religious views is strange indeed!

If we advocate the Golden Rule, Matt. 7:12, we cannot insist that humans be born who will be AIDS-infected or drug dependent.

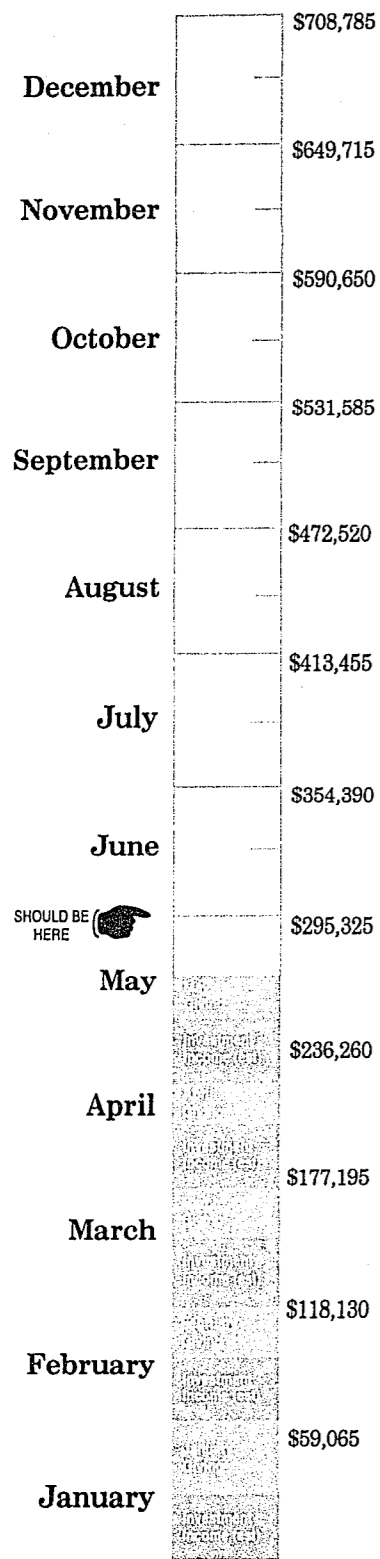
Human overpopulation is a major threat to humanity and the very earth. Go to Cairo, Egypt's "City of the Dead," or the slums of other major population centers, and then tell us about the "Sanctity of Life." The U.S. is one nation presently absorbing much of the world's excess population, but cannot continue to do so indefinitely.

When you give a child for adoption, you may be committing him to terror or abuse. Current news substantiates this. A woman faced with the decision is the person most likely to have the facts to assess her capability of providing an acceptable, nurturing, abuse-free environment. Not all people should be parents.

The opposition in the Nancy Cruzan case probably had convinced themselves that they were supporting human life; while actually making a general nuisance of themselves and creating problems for those really burdened with the tough decisions.

If we feel we must do something, wouldn't we be more Christian to help those around us who are walking the edge, rather than petitioning government to enforce our religious views, making life more difficult for those besieged by circumstance?

Audrey Tanner  
Rossiter, PA



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

## Encouraging Words

To repeat last month's call:

**"Our church has a monthly fellowship dinner. No matter what you call it—potluck, dish-to-pass, meal of sharing—it brings a tableful of surprises and good eatin'.**

**"How about printing some of those sure-fire winning recipes that have people asking for more?"**

We received these two mouth-watering entries:

### Sabbath Rest Salad

No cooking; just layers

Gladys S. Randolph  
Englewood, CO

In a large bowl which can be covered, put—

- 1) Head lettuce, broken into bite-size pieces
- 2) Green peas, 10 oz. frozen pkg., cooked and cooled
- 3) Bermuda onion, small, sliced thin
- 4) Hellman's or Best Foods mayo, 1 cup
- 5) Sugar, 2 tbsp. sprinkled over first four layers
- 6) Parmesan cheese, 1 cup sprinkled over first five
- 7) Bacon flavored bits, 4 oz., crumbled over first six

Do not stir until ready to serve some 24 hours later. It has "rested," and its seven layers are seasoned to renew our strength and spirits.

### Peanut Slaw

Vivian Looper  
Leavenworth, KS

Dressing:

- 1/2 cup Miracle Whip
- 2 tbsp. vinegar
- 2 tbsp. sugar

Mix together and let stand two hours

Pour over:

- 4 cups chopped or shredded cabbage
- 1 cup chopped Spanish peanuts

Please send your dish-to-pass recipe (limit one) to:

SDB Center  
P.O. Box 1678  
Janesville, WI 53547

Or give us a call:  
(608) 752-5055

You can even FAX your recipe!!:  
(608) 752-7711

## Sabbath and Commandments, (cont. from page 11)

rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Ex. 20:11).

Mankind is to keep the Sabbath holy, and rest, because God kept the Sabbath holy and rested on that day. The Sabbath is holy because God "made it holy" at creation. Mankind is to rest on the Sabbath because God set the example for Sabbath rest at creation.

Can we keep any day holy and rest, and still be keeping the Fourth Commandment? It says that there is only one day per week that is holy to the Lord. The only day that is holy to the Lord is the one that *He* made holy, the seventh day Sabbath.

God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger as a prescription for spiritual health.

The Fourth Commandment is part of that law.

We see from this commandment that the focus is once again on God. We are told that the "seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God" (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath belongs to God because He created it. In verse 11, we see that the Sabbath is a call to remember God as the Creator.

The Fourth Commandment is also a call to rest from the work of the world. But, even this prohibition on work becomes a focus on God. We are called to stop our work in order that we can give to God our undivided attention.

### Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandment law?

2. What are the three things emphasized in the Fourth Commandment?

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. Why does God want mankind to keep the Sabbath holy?

4. Which day of the week did God make holy? (See Exodus 20:11.)

5. When did God make the seventh day, Sabbath, holy? (See Genesis 2:3 and Exodus 20:11.)

6. Which day of the week did God bless? (See same.)

7. Which day of the week should we keep holy and rest?

## Births

**Wasil.**—A daughter, Leah Michelle Wasil, was born to Gregory and Kathy Wasil of Englewood, CO, on March 26, 1991.

**Carpenter.**—A son, Trevor Douglas Carpenter, was born to Richard and Angi (Smith) Carpenter at Loring Air Force Base, ME, on April 15, 1991.

**Ayars.**—A daughter, Lindsay Nicole Ayars, was born to David and Kerry Ayars of Bensalem, PA, on May 9, 1991.

**Centertown, MO**  
Jon Warren, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Deborah J. Thomas

**Denver, CO**  
Tom Warner, pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Paula Robles

Joined after testimony  
Laura Burt  
Gary Van Norden  
Lori Van Norden

**Oklahoma City, OK**  
L.B. Lee Sr., Pastor  
Joined after baptism  
Donald H. Coats  
Kerri Moon

Joined after testimony  
Kathleen Moon  
Kimberly Kay Moon  
Billy L. Van Fleet  
Norma H. Van Fleet

## Obituaries

**Severe.**—Luella B. Severe, 96, of Littleton, Colo., died at home on March 26, 1991.

She was born on March 23, 1895, in Milton, Wis., the daughter of David and Effie (Maxson) Baker. On June 21, 1922, she married

Claude Milton Severe in Riverside, Calif. He died in 1970.

In addition to being a homemaker, Ella taught grammar schools in California for 38 years. She received Christ as her Savior and Lord as a teenager and became

a member of the Riverside Seventh Day Baptist Church. Although she was a charter member of the San Gabriel (Calif.) SDB Church and later became a member of the Denver (Colo.) SDB Church, she retained an associate membership in the Riverside church.

In January 1973, Ella moved to South Pasadena, Calif., to live with

**Obituaries, cont.**

her daughter, Beth Burdick, and family. In September 1989, she moved with Victor and Beth to Littleton.

Survivors include two daughters, Dorothy Whitlock of Riverside and Beth Burdick of Littleton; one son, David, of Boulevard, Calif.; eight grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Claude Milton Jr., in 1978.

Funeral services were held on April 1, 1991, in the Riverside SDB Church, with the Rev. John Peil and the Rev. Gabriel Bejjani officiating. Interment was in Olive-wood Cemetery.

**Gray.**—Don Vincent Gray, 78, of rural Clayton, Del., died on March 28, 1991, at Kent General Hospital, Dover, Del., following a heart attack.

He was born on April 6, 1912, the son of Carl B. and Anna Belle V. Gray. He married Caroline Estella Fitz Randolph on June 16, 1933, in Milton Junction, Wis. He was a member of the Milton (Wis.)



Don Vincent Gray

Seventh Day Baptist Church at the time of his death.

A graduate of Milton Union High School, Don was also a graduate of the Milton College School of Music and attended the Alfred School of Theology at Alfred, N.Y. He was

licensed to preach and served at least one church of the SDB denomination as pastor. For several years, he was a member of the diaconate of the Milton church. He had several opportunities to preach and render service as Field Coordinator of the North Central Association, a position he held for seven years. He also served on the Commission of General Conference.

Don was a retiree of the Parker Pen Company of Janesville, Wis., where he supervised the tool room Inspection Department. His love of music was fulfilled in part there when he organized and directed the Parker Pen Chorus. While employed at Parker, he and Caroline operated a printing business in Milton, the Mighty Oak Print Shop.

Anyone who knew Don, knew of his love of the English language. Out of that love came a book of poetry and word sketches in 1945 entitled, "With Eyes Half Closed." More recent writings are known to the family as the "Pegasus Collection." He also had an insatiable craving for information in a wide variety of fields. Books were a constant companion, and he accumulated a significant library. Don was an incurable punster, had a ready wit, and enjoyed the art of "playing on words."

Survivors include four daughters, Donna Monen of Marysville, Calif., Nola Clavio of Downs Chapel, Del., Lucy Harris of Pennsville, N.J., and Marietta Sutton of Little Genesee, N.Y.; one sister, Leora Hartman of Milton; 15 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Caroline, and two sisters, Lillian Tucker and Evelyn Rabiola.

Services were held in the Milton SDB Church on April 2, 1991, conducted by the Rev. George Calhoun and the Rev. Edward Sutton. Burial was in the Milton Junction Cemetery, Milton.

**Norstog.**—Marguerite Jean Norstog, 67, of Lakewood, Colo., died

at home on April 15, 1991, after a long illness.

She was born on July 31, 1923, to Presbyterian missionary parents in Cameroon, French Equatorial Africa. She was married to Rolf Norstog in 1947.

"Peg" had a great love for music and attended Berea College, graduating in 1944 as a music major, with the violin as her primary instrument. As an accomplished violinist, she played with symphony orchestras in Topeka, Kan., and Lakewood.

She attended the Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, graduating with her R.N. in 1947. She worked as a nurse in Des Moines, Iowa; Topeka and Wichita, Kan.; and Norman, Okla. In 1963, the Norstogs moved to Colorado, where Peg continued her nursing career. She was an outstanding caregiver, putting the patients' needs above the petty politics of the nursing staff, and always pushing for higher standards and levels of competence. She eventually became a shift supervisor and was instrumental in setting up the first G.I. Lab at Lutheran Hospital in Wheat Ridge, Colo. She retired from nursing in 1985.

Peg adopted an orphan in Mexico through a Christian care organization, patiently taught illiterate adults to read, and refurbished old dolls and toys for children of poor families. She was uncommonly patient, caring, and tolerant, and somehow was able to see the potential good in others. She was a big help in establishing the present Denver church library. Peg loved the Bible and rejoiced in its teachings.

Survivors include her husband, Rolf; two daughters, Kari Norstog of Silverthorne, Colo., and Tracey Fulton of Germany; and one very devoted sister, Betty.

Services were held at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Lakewood, with the Rev. Tom Warner and Pastor Ralph Grosser officiating.

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

My Korner in March jumped right into the middle of a story.

The topic was our Conference theme, "Called to Obedience." Jan and I had just said "yes" to our call to seminary. Two important cycles had come to an end; two other cycles would soon begin.

### A cycle of cycles

After breezing through most of my first year at a community college, I said "yes" to a call to attend a private and more challenging Christian college, to pursue vocational ministry. I transferred from comfortable commuting to an oasis of learning and isolation at Houghton.

Many things needed adjusting—especially my grade point average. Good-bye 3.9—hello 2.1!! *Much* more challenging.

Three-year cycle #1 had begun.

My desire to enter the pastorate faded with each college year, so the business world would have to succumb to my wishes. Three-year cycle #2. Definitely the longest. Three different "careers," a taste of unemployment (an education in itself), a new baby, lots of rewards and frustrations.

Soon, it was "good-bye" gainful employment, and "hello" seminary training and three-year cycle #3.

Accepting the new pastorate in Madison, Wis., began three-year cycle #4. Do you see a pattern? Maybe that's the reason for the roller coaster and briefcase on the cover...

Each cycle was there for a reason. I'm positive that the Lord "called" me to every one of those situations.

At each stage, I gained experience and wisdom for the next, along with lifelong friends and great memories.

Each cycle was not void of some costs: quick successes preceded tough failures (hard on the pride); paying rent at seminary, along with a mortgage back home; the struggle to capture a vision and help lead a new church.

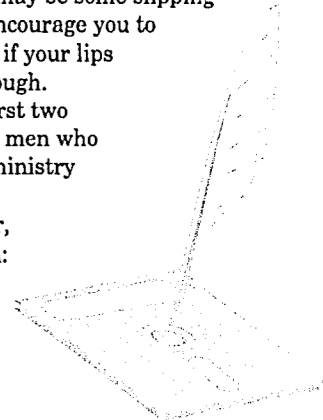
I thank God for His calling and leading. It wasn't an easy "yes" each time. Many choices presented themselves, yet an inner tugging would help point the way. There might be fleeting moments of doubt and questioning, but a quick trip back over all those three-year cycles proves to me that He has both me and His kingdom at heart.

It's a joy when you know that you are where God wants you—a joy reserved *not* just for those in vocational ministry.

If the Lord has been calling you to a different path of obedience, I challenge you to answer that call. Take that step. There may be some slipping and stumbling, but I encourage you to say "yes" to your heart if your lips have said "no" long enough.

Look again at our first two articles—stories of two men who answered that call to ministry later in life.

Sometimes I wonder, along with Gene Smith: "What's next?" Then I get real nervous. I've been here for two and a half years...



### In the next SR:

With this year's Conference sessions starting a week later than usual, that makes our September issue deadline just *one day* after we return.

To do justice to our Conference coverage, we'll make that the theme for October. September will feature a variety of topics.

Enjoy your summer, and I hope to see many of you at Houghton.

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474-600)  
 3120 Kennedy Road  
 P.O. Box 1678  
 Janesville, WI 53547-1678  
 Second-Class postage paid at  
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590

# Thank you for responding!!

Good issues—good editorial work. *W.Va.*

We love it! We're so thankful it goes to our four "offspring," even though they're no longer SDBs. *N.Y.*

Keeps me in touch with SDB churches. *Calif.*

I like to read letters that show and encourage Baptist independence of thought and diversity. *N.Y.*

Great job! Love your format. *Wis.*

I am pleased with the progressive development of the *SR* over the years and the quality of its articles. *Fla.*

Interesting variety of news and issues. *Mich.*

Thanks for the issue on death; came just when I needed it. *W.Va.*

Continue to face the issues "head on" that SDBs tend to want to push aside. 'We don't talk about them!' *Colo.*

I really enjoy the *Recorder*. I would miss not getting it! *N.J.*

I really enjoy each issue. *Calif.*

Look forward to each publication. *W.Va.*

A publication we can be proud to show or give to anyone. Keep up the good work. *W.Va.*

Appreciated warnings of New Age. Thanks, too, for some identification of contributors whose names are new or unfamiliar. Always love Kevin's Korner! *N.Y.*

Really enjoy the letters from readers. Keep up the excellent work! *Minn.*

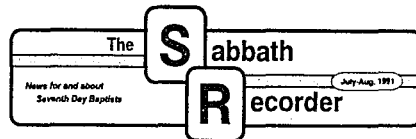
It's good to see that we have articles on issues that are current, even if controversial. *Mich.*

Keep up the great work! I know you guys work hard!! *Calif.*

You are doing a fantastic job. God bless you as you serve Him, and us! *Kan.*

And thank you for your suggestions and gifts. *The Sabbath Recorder*, now in its 147th year, is one of the oldest continuous magazines in the country. Our ministry is supported by the donations of our readers. Can we count on your support today?

## Yes! I would like to help



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please report any change of address.

*The Sabbath Recorder* is a part of our denominational budget.