

The

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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

December 1992

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*Shepherd support:
Appreciating your
pastor*



Please consider these suggestions for "White Gifts for Christmas."

Bibles: Eastern Europe, Russia, and Africa. In Africa, Bibles are needed in many languages and dialects.

Seventh Day Baptist Orphanage in India (Andhra Pradesh): Our goal is at least \$5,000 by the end of the year.

Evangelism: Requests have come to make the NET training available in Nigeria, Australia, and Jamaica. Many fields request tracts, Bibles, and study materials for their camps and churches.

Home field projects: We have had requests for equipment and study materials from some of our new churches, and others needing help.

SDB United Relief Fund: For drought and storm victims.

Medical supplies: Africa, India, Mexico.

Mexico: Benches, pulpits, Bibles, and study materials for Kilometer 20 church

project; printing supplies to help produce study materials and tracts (\$500).

Summer Christian Service Corps.

Malawi: The *Bible College* needs Bibles, reference and study materials, and scholarships (\$500 per student per semester).

National Youth Camp (formed in 1992) needs Bibles, reference and study materials, recreational equipment, medicines, and prayer for a successful beginning.

Glasses for some of the ministers.

Medical supplies in clinics and hospitals for refugees and drought victims.

A list of specific items for pastors or churches in our fields, national as well as international, is available upon request. Many places request clothes (even used) which can be shipped directly to the locations. For the addresses, contact the Missionary Society. Our address is 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891. Or call, (401) 596-4326.

1993 Pastors' Conference
April 21-25

at the
Shiloh SDB Church
Shiloh, NJ

Great opportunity for education and renewal for your pastor and spouse. Child care will be provided for pre-schoolers.

Cabin available in Yosemite National Park

"Evergreen," a fully-equipped cabin that sleeps up to 12 persons, is available to Seventh Day Baptists traveling to or from the August 1993 General Conference in California. Reservations are on a "first-come, first-served" basis. (Dates available: July 23-August 7; after Conference, negotiable.)

There is no charge for using Evergreen; however, guests are required to sign a "gratis use" liability release. For more information or for reservations, write or call George Barber, 303-1 Vista Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107, telephone (213) 250-6532.

The **S**abbath
Recorder



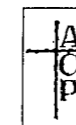
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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

Encouraging your pastor

by Richard Barany



There were a number of guests in the sanctuary that Sabbath morning. A few were from the community, visiting because of invitations by church members. A few of the visitors were from out of state.

One guest was the Rev. Ernest Bee, who was on a "secret" mission to present an award to one of our former pastors, the Rev. C. Rex Burdick. It was a touching moment in the life of the church.

Pastor Bee explained that Rex had been his pastor while he was in college. It was Ernest's pleasure and honor to present this award to him.

Pastor Rex must have felt a special sense of pride. This man he had pastored was now blessing him.

I began to reflect on my years as a pastor. I asked myself, "How did the people of my churches, and the people of God in general, minister to me? Were there moments of ministry that were inspired because others ministered to me in my time of need?" The answer was a most definite and resounding "yes!" These Christian friends did something for me at a time when I needed it most.

Like them, you can minister positively to your pastor.

One of my most memorable reflections of this kind of ministry took place on a summer vacation over 10 years ago. My family and I needed a break from a stressful church situation that was begin-

ning to affect us as individuals and as a unit. We were visiting friends and family in the New England area.

As we began the long drive home, we realized that we were going to run out of money before the trip was over. (In our rush to leave the church for the week, we improperly planned—we had about 10 dollars to our name for a 400-mile trip back!) We entered a large New England church that morning, and decided to worship and relax before God.

After the service, one of the greeters engaged me in a conversation. He took a special interest in us as a pastor's family. At the end of our talk, during which I never spoke of our immediate need, he shared that God was speaking to him about helping us. He wanted us to know that all would be better when we got home. Then he handed me an envelope with enough money to get home.

We are amazed at the many times God's people have provided seemingly little things that, in reality, were large gifts. Among the "little" things were volunteer babysitters, dinner at a friend's home or at the local family restaurant, and the use of a vehicle or vacation spot.

Seventh Day Baptist laity can have a very special ministry to pastors of other churches. It's a natural for seventh day Sabbathkeepers with a strong evangelical and grace orientation to offer a place of rest for the Sunday worshiping pastor. For instance, the Verona (N.Y.) SDB Church has welcomed a number of pastors from other evangelical traditions into their fellowship. Former pastor and current associate pastor Russ Johnson has

shared about how often the church was a "hospital" and "respite area" for other clergy.

The Lord has ministered to me through His people by their honesty in love. I was in my office one day, trying to prepare my next message. (Frankly, I had been trying not to think of how I had been hurt by someone in the church; someone who had made a decision that was hurting the church deeply.) At that moment, two godly laymen came in to bring correction to me in an area which was truly one of my blind spots.

They shared that they appreciated my ministry and wanted to continue to see God use me. They had, however, seen something in me that they believed would not help me in the ministry. They were concerned about me.

I knew this because they were men who shared genuine praise and approval of the God who was at work in me. When they came in correction, there was no doubt that, whether right or wrong, they loved me. I felt as if they regarded me as more important than themselves (Phil. 2:3-4).

I have also had parishioners who felt that they had the "gift" of criticism. By that, they believed that a member should feel free to criticize their pastor at any time. I don't deny for a minute that pastors should receive help in order to correct errors, or to put to death—through Christ—a sin problem. But remember, just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, he needs to know that same unwavering love and commitment from you.

Witnessing the Spirit's work in the lives of my parishioners has had a profound effect on my ministry. In other words, I love seeing people grow in Christ in tangible ways.

Pastors love to observe and rejoice in their people's growth in grace. We especially like to see that

God has used us to make a real difference in someone's life.

I have smiled many times when the traditional "Nice sermon, pastor" was handed out at the end of the service. I know that people are usually very sincere about that sentiment. I am also aware that we often cannot pinpoint what it is that

tor, until you came, we didn't know what sin was!" Seriously though, your pastor's greatest desire is summarized in the words of John the Apostle: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (3 John 4 NIV). There is no more encouraging word for the godly pastor than to

Just as it took some time for you to adjust to your pastor, and to know he loved you with the love of Christ, he needs to know that same unwavering love and commitment from you.

God is saying to us in the message. However, hearing Sabbath after Sabbath, "Nice sermon, pastor," can make the pastor wonder whether the Word is really making an impact.

When someone engages us on a point of our message, or says to us, "Pastor, do you remember last month when you talked about such and such?" we are more able to see the eternal effects of God's Word. Some of the most gratifying talks I've had with my parishioners were on the heels of applications they made from a point of my message. On other occasions, conversations, counseling appointments, or words I have spoken in a visit have come back from church members as a blessing to my life.

What ministers to your pastor the most? The "heart knowledge" that God is at work in your life. Pastors want the Word that is faithfully preached and taught to have a life-changing place in your heart.

I am reminded of the dear lady who expressed her appreciation to the pastor on his last day with that congregation. She exclaimed, "Pas-

hear that his people are following the Lord.

By the very nature of our call, God calls most pastors to be "plodders." We are the proverbial oxen who tread upon the grain (Deut. 25:4). Many of us wish we were race horses that realize instant success for their Master. We eventually realize that change takes place in our church, and among our people, at a pace much slower than we wish.

A long time can pass without hearing a good word about eternal things happening in the lives of our people. God often reminds us that our congregations are like us; slow to change, and slow to understand and respond to the work of God's grace in our lives. The most heartening words we can hear from our people is the specific fact that God is working victoriously in them—and us—to overcome sin and self.

Recently, I visited one of my former congregations. A young man with whom I had spent considerable time during my tenure there shared with me how he was called to ministry. He was in his last year of seminary and would soon receive

the call of a congregation and be ordained to the Gospel ministry. He told me that my words of encouragement began the process of his going into the ministry. It was

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humbling and exciting to hear his account of that event.

Others began to share how God used me in their lives while I was

their pastor. I had no idea that I had made such a difference. Many in the congregation had wanted me to be there that day, just to share those things with me.

Christian friend, while it is today, share with your pastor (or one of your former pastors) the special thing God has done for you because of his ministry. Be specific in your honor of that servant of God. Be sensitive to the little things that speak volumes concerning your love for him. Think on these words which Paul the Apostle addressed to the church at Thessalonica:

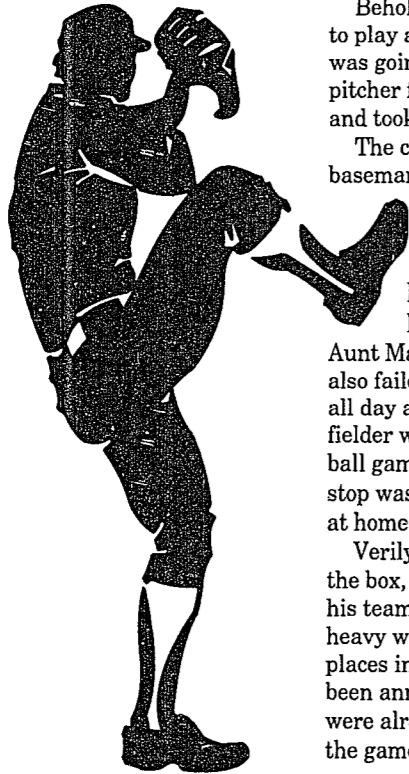
"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are

over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other" (1 Thess. 5:11-13 NIV). **SR**

Richard Mark Barany is an associate member of the Verona SDB Church. Dick has served in churches of the Evangelical Free Church and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. He and his wife, Linda, live in Sherrill, N.Y., along with their children—Mark, Christina, and Benjamin. They are currently mission candidates with Africa Inland Mission, where Dick hopes to serve as a Bible school teacher.

A new pitcher is needed

A modern parable (source unknown)



Behold, a ball team went forth to play a game. Just as the umpire was going to call "Play Ball," the pitcher for the home team arrived and took his place.

The center fielder and second baseman didn't arrive until the middle of the second inning. The first baseman didn't come at all, but later sent his regret that he had to go to dinner at Aunt Mary's. The third baseman also failed to show up, having spent all day at the golf links. The left fielder was away visiting another ball game across town. The short-stop was present, but left his glove at home.

Verily, when the pitcher entered the box, he looked around to see his teammates, and his heart was heavy when he saw many empty places in the lineup. The game had been announced and the spectators were already in the stands to see the game. There was nothing to do

but go ahead and pitch, and hope for the best.

So the pitcher tightened his belt, stepped into the box, and did his level best to put the ball over the plate. But for some reason, he just couldn't get "into the swing." Some of his teammates began to ride him for wild pitching. Loud "boos" began to come from the stands.

At the close of the game, the home team (what there was of it) was mercilessly beaten. The game produced a considerable amount of discussion, and when the rest of the team (those who weren't there at the game) heard about the disgraceful defeat, they decided something ought to be done about it.

They finally came to a unanimous decision. A new pitcher was hired. It must have been the old pitcher's poor pitching that had lost the game.

Behold, a preacher went forth to preach...

Keeping the pastor (happy)!

by Lannette Calhoun

"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 12:7,17).

I did not plan to marry a pastor. It was not one of my "lifelong dreams that hung in the rafters of my mind" as I sought a mate. I didn't have anything against clergy mind you, but being the wife of one so revered and looked up to (or down upon) scared me just a little.

Well, the big day finally came. My husband of little more than a year, the man who was planning to be a lawyer some day, broke the news to me that God was calling him into the ministry. My first thought was Africa...

When I realized that he—He—was serious, I began the slow process of becoming someone that



suggestions into practice. Books and conferences can show the pastor how to deal with the congregation, but not much is out there for the people who really need to un-

portantly, these parishioners made it known to us that they spent time on their knees for the church and my husband. Let me share a few specifics to pray for:

Books and conferences can show the pastor how to deal with the congregation, but not much is out there for the people who really need to understand and love this servant of God.

people can love, hate, need, care for, envy, despise, and look up to, all in the same day. The pastor's spouse.

The following thoughts are designed to help you take care of your parsonage family. I pray that you will take this seriously, and put the

stand and love this servant of God. Here's to you, and the journey of loving your pastor.

As a pastor's wife, I know the importance of being prayed for. There have been true prayer warriors on our behalf. And most im-

Pray for his own prayer life to be productive

Find out when his devotional time is and commit to praying for your pastor during that time. Even if you can do this only once a week, it will benefit him more than you'll know. Find others who will commit to the other days. Can you imagine the change in pastors and their ministries when this kind of prayer support happens on a daily basis?!

Pray for his family

The pastor's wife and children aren't perfect (contrary to popular belief), and they need your prayers. Pray that she will be supportive and loving. Pray that their mar-

riage will endure and grow stronger. Pray for the spiritual well-being of their children. Many times, Satan will try to get at the family members before he gets to the pastor. Pray that Satan will be bound from their home—and pray this often!

Pray for his sermon

Ask for direction, God's words, and for the message to penetrate the hearts of the listeners. Many churches have prayer warriors who do this during the service every week. What a difference! Does your pastor have a specific time during the week that becomes his "sermon day"? If so, commit to pray during that time. Encourage others to join you.

Pray for him on his day off

Ask God to give him the rest he needs (and deserves) and the time to spend with family. Pray that other church members will be sensitive to the pastor's need for time alone, and to respect this area of his life.

Pray for him to be encouraged

Maybe you will be the answer to your own prayer. Giving the pastor a word of love when least expected is a great boost to any day. Even the simplest of phrases can mean so much when the week has been long and hard. Didn't get to shake his hand on Sabbath? Call and let him know that his message was appreciated, or that the Scripture passage spoke to you.

Pray for his secretary

The working relationship between this very important person and the pastor is crucial. The secretarial job is not just for anyone, and the candidate should be prayerfully selected. This worker needs to be kind, efficient, prompt, eager, pleasant, and a miracle worker at times! (God forbid they should ever get sick and leave the church hanging!)

Pray for all of the lay staff as well—musicians, etc. The prayers that you lift up for the church itself will be most beneficial. Pray for hearts to be open as Christ is shared. Pray for your town, or specific members of your congregation each day.

Need help with some ways to show appreciation? Here are a few of my favorites:

- Have a Pastor Appreciation Night. Surprise him with a potluck supper, a few jokes, his favorite dessert, and a card shower from the

into? Leave a list of what has been cleaned and what hasn't. Ask before replacing things. Some items may not be desired and that might save you money. If you're buying new carpet, drapes, etc., let them have a voice in the selection process, if possible. You might love the idea of a tangerine kitchen, but tastes vary.

- Is a new child on the way? Plan a shower! Especially if the pastor and his family haven't been in town very long, or family is far away.

One thing that has always been special to me is the way that some

Giving the pastor a word of love when least expected is a great boost to any day. Even the simplest of phrases can mean so much when the week has been long and hard.

congregation. He'll smile for weeks after!

- Do you use your church sign for the sermon topic only? Be creative and use it to welcome your pastor and his family home after their vacation. Let the whole town know that you missed them and appreciate their service to you. Don't have a sign? Make a banner and string it from one side of the house to the other. Do this for birthdays and anniversaries, too. I guarantee that the smiles will last for a long time!

- How do you celebrate the years that the pastor has served your church? Or can't you remember? Many churches use the five and 10-year marks as special gift times. Something special (that he doesn't know about!) done during the service can be effective. How about a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or store? Keep listening for creative possibilities. And don't forget your youth when you plan special occasions.

- Are you waiting for the pastor and family to move in? Consider filling the pantry or freezer.

- Is the parsonage ready to move

people have "adopted" us. We have always been in churches that are long distances from parents and grandparents, so the church has become our extended family. What a blessing to know that we "belong" in one way or another.

One final thing. Respect your pastor's decisions. You won't always agree with him, but deal with differences in an appropriate manner. "Roasting the pastor" for Sabbath lunch isn't good for anyone. Pray, then act. And act accordingly.

Pastors don't have a corner on the market of perfection. They make mistakes, like all of us do. Don't put them on a pedestal, only to be knocked off later. Pray for them, encourage them, and respect them. Be diligent in seeking God before you call a pastor, then continue to be as diligent in thanking God for him when he arrives to begin his ministry. *SR*

Lannette Calhoun is a music teacher, mother of three, and wife of Pastor George Calhoun at the Milton, Wis., SDB Church.

Pastors at risk

How to support your pastor through prayer, affirmation, and accountability

by H.B. London Jr., with Dean Merrill

In churches large and small, a delightful topic of conversation is always the pastoral family: what they wear, what they drive, where they go on vacation, how the kids behave, what their house looks like, etc. Though many church folks may not stop to view this from the other side, ministers have a common phrase for it: "Life in the fishbowl."

Pastors start to feel that the congregation not only holds a set of expectations but, in addition, intends to help the pastor and family live up to them. Now, that's pressure!

In more than a few churches, of course, the pastoral household never measures up. The inability to be "perfect goldfish" causes them to leave a church prematurely, or even to throw up their hands, crying "What's the use?" and leave the ministry altogether.

What can church members do to prevent this?

The first step is to realize that a pastor is not a goldfish.

Have you ever taken time to watch those beautiful creatures swimming gracefully in their confines? They seem so serene, safe, and well-fed as they cruise from one side of the bowl to the other...

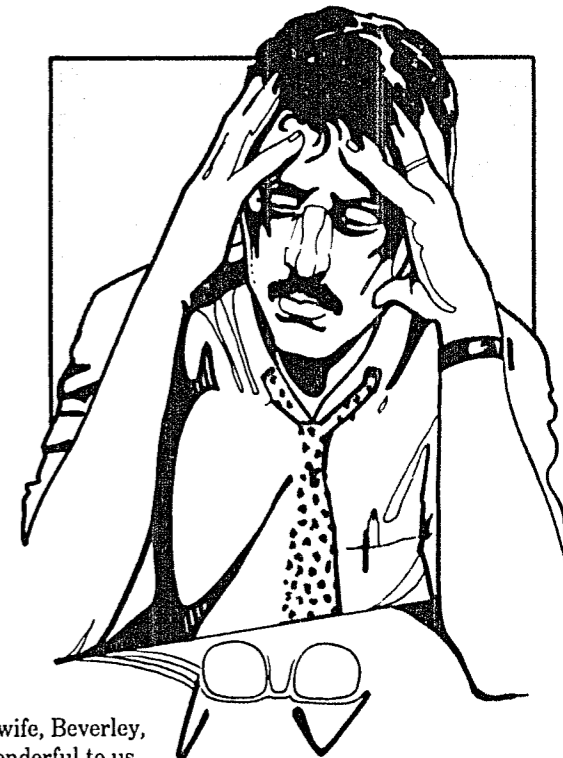
But do they enjoy being on display 24 hours a day? What do they think of those piercing eyes of the outside world that stare at them?

I was a "preacher's kid" in a family filled with preachers, and I've been a pastor myself for 31 years. My parents never lived next door to the church we served, but I had grandparents and uncles and aunts who did. Even as a young boy, I could not understand why church people did not respect my relatives' privacy.

It was almost as though the pastor was just the caretaker of the parsonage, and when folks needed to use the phone, get a drink of water, use the restroom—or just pop in for a chat—they did. In fact, I scarcely remember my grandfather without a tie and suit coat. He knew what the church expected of him, and so, from early morning until late in the evening, he wore a coat and tie.

The churches my wife, Beverley, and I served were wonderful to us and our two boys. They afforded us special opportunities and marvelous kindness—but I did notice that smaller congregations seemed to scrutinize their pastors more than larger ones. In my first pastorate, I remember having to get the board's permission not only to paint the parsonage, but even what color to use. Needless to say, as soon as we (with the help of my mom and dad) could scrape up the funds for a down payment on our own home, we did. Unfortunately, that was not until our fourth year in ministry.

The care and emotional feeding of the pastor and family is often complex and confusing. Here are some suggestions that can make a big difference in the lives of ministers, and their long-term ability to guide you.



Salary and retirement benefits

The Bible says, "The worker deserves his wages" (Luke 10:7). A pastor should be compensated on par with the people being served, and with other ministers in the same community. The old philosophy of a pastor "suffering for Jesus' sake" does not hold water, especially if the people are able to provide for the pastoral needs.

Salaries do vary from one section of the country to another, but I talk to pastors all the time who are living below the poverty level. They usually aren't complaining, but they're barely existing. Leadership in every church should be more concerned about the physical and fiscal well-being of the pastor and

family than about any other area, with the exception of the pastor's level of spirituality. If merit raises cannot be given every year, at least a cost-of-living increase should be granted.

One of the saddest commentaries on the church is the way some pastors are treated upon retirement. The horror stories that come from many of our retired elders are dreadful. If your pastor does not understand the importance of retirement benefits, please provide some reputable counsel. It is not the pastor's responsibility alone to plan for the future—the congregation has a role to play as well.

In all these areas, the point is not to make anyone rich. It is to give a pastor the freedom to minister instead of worry.

Time for restoration and relaxation

In a pastor's life, the "light" is always on. There's always another phone call to make, another parishioner to visit, a sermon to prepare, a talk to give, a funeral to conduct, a wedding to perform—not to mention a family to manage.

All pastors need time away with their families, as well as time alone with their God. One very popular minister compares many pastors to "wagons with their wheels coming off, heading for the ditch." If your pastor is to do better than this, free time is a must. Specifically:

A day off! Let pastors pick the best day for them, and then respect their privacy. Don't call... don't stop by... don't interrupt... unless, of course, there's a true emergency.

One frustrated pastor wrote to me, "The issue I believe that church people—pastors and laymen—need to hear about is *boundaries*. The pastor and the people need to realize that the pastor does not solve their problems. We are not God, and we are not omniscient."

Vacation. Pastors should have at least two weeks each year, and because they are asked to serve on so many holidays, they should also re-

ceive replacement days for those occasions. The lay leaders should not only insist on the pastor and family taking the vacation, but should assist in finding and funding pulpit supply when necessary.

One of the saddest stories I ever heard concerned a church board that docked the pastor for vacation time while he attended his daughter's funeral. (She had been killed in an automobile accident.) A church like that does not even deserve a pastor. All pastors should have personal and bereavement days, just like you do on your job.

It is my feeling that vacation time should be determined by the number of years the pastor *has served in full-time ministry*—not the tenure at a particular church. For instance, someone who has been a pastor for 15 years should receive at least four weeks vacation, despite the fact that he or she may have been in the present post only two years.

Conferences and Retreats. So often, pastors go dry from giving and giving without any spiritual nurturing of their own. Who pastors the pastor?

When possible, the church should provide at least one opportunity a year for its pastor to be fed. This might be a conference, a spiritual retreat, or a denominational function. Every church will be better served if its leader is filled with new motivation.

"Dates." Spending time alone with your spouse is essential to a healthy union. Married pastors need that, too. I must confess that in the early years of my ministry, Beverley and I did not set aside much free time to be together. I am excited to hear that more pastors and their spouses are dating again—as least once each month.

Caring parishioners can offer themselves for baby-sitting duty. It is a proven fact that when a pastor and spouse are communicating and happy in their relationship, their effectiveness in the church is greatly enhanced.

Prayer, love, and encouragement

These three words form an unbeatable combination!

As a very young pastor, I had folks who stood beside me when I really didn't deserve their loyalty. I was inexperienced, prone to error, and frightened by the magnitude of my assignment. But people believed in me and saw the potential I could not see.

Pray for your pastor! This is, in fact, the very best thing you can do (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Not only is prayer the greatest show of support, but it is very difficult to pray for someone and be critical at the same time. I personally believe a great degree of discord in the church today results from inadequate prayer. People have allowed differences to divide them.

Prayer not only changes things, but it empowers pastors to be the persons God called them to be. Of all the phrases that thrilled me, the greatest was when someone in my congregation would say, "Pastor, I'm praying for you."

In addition, *love and encourage* your pastor. Don't let little things get blown out of proportion. Sometimes this happens to the point of dividing a church and even triggering the pastor's dismissal. This results in a kind of pain that never goes away.

As a church body, we need to show the world—and one another—that good conquers evil, and that love is the greatest force in the world. Jesus said that it is easy to say, "I love you," but love needs to be exhibited. How? Show it! Send a note of encouragement. Remember your pastor's birthday and anniversary. Recognize your pastor's employment anniversary each year in some tangible way (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Launch a "Pastor Appreciation Day" each year.

I can almost guarantee you that, in return, your pastor will give the very best to you and the congregation. Encouragement begets faithful service.

In many ways, the laity can make or break a pastor. You have an awesome responsibility to see that your pastor can stand before you, with heart and soul prepared to open the Word of God, and deliver a message that is anointed truth. Your pastor's mind should be free of distraction and controversy.

Willingness to dream

In nearly every letter I read from pastors who describe their dreams for their congregations, I hear a cry for people committed to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Many pastors are liter-

ally at their wits' end because so many people are simply not involved in the major assignment of the body of Christ—spiritual reproduction. "Tell me how," they say, "to get my people to realize that spiritual reproduction is not an option; it is expected of every person who is known by the name of Christ."

The great mission we face cannot be clergy-driven. The clergy must teach and lead, but the laity must respond out of love for God and people. The battle against abortion, pornography, immorality, and the ever-increasing demise of tradi-

tional family values must be fought by convinced believers—not simply by committed clergy. For this to happen, there must be a renewal within the church. The church must repent, and feel sorrow for its unwillingness to be "salt and light" (Matthew 5:13-16).

In a magazine editorial called "America's Toughest Job," Moody Bible Institute president Joseph M. Stowell writes,

"Pastoring is tougher because of our culture's consumer mindset. Once, the work ethic prevailed in America. People went to church

cont. on page 22

How to appreciate your pastor

by Mark H. Braisher

I asked over 100 pastors from across the denomination (Free Will Baptist) what made them feel appreciated. Here are their top responses:

1. For the church to *show stronger commitment to service.*
2. To have the church *honor my weekly schedule and time.*
3. The third highest response was a tie between *increased vacation time and a love offering.*
4. Others included *a gift, and a raise in salary.*

Consider a sabbatical

Other things can not only keep the pastor happy, but also benefit the church by having a more qualified pastor. One idea is to provide the pastor with a sabbatical.

For years, and still in some places, a pastor was expected to fill the pulpit from September through May. A radical idea? Perhaps, but imagine the impact such a schedule would have on a pastor's preaching if he spent most of his time through the summer preparing sermons for the coming year. The power of such preparation may produce results unfathomed in your church.

So, you can't give up your pastor every summer? Try giving him up once every five to seven years for two to three months. Encourage him to spend that time in renewal and personal revival.

It will probably lengthen his tenure at your church. It will allow him the refreshment and renewal to carry on with greater zeal and diligence. It would allow and encourage greater depth in his preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

A sabbatical will also help members of the church grow spiritually by expanding their per-

sonal ministries while the pastor is away.

Continuing education

Another idea that will assist the church is continuing education. George Barna of the Barna Research Group reports that, "Many pastors are among the 'most occupationally frustrated people in America,' partly because 'the old strategies for ministry growth, and the usual assumptions about people's motivations, are no longer valid.'"

Your pastor needs to continually grow with the changes in the ministry. Allow him to do that by instructing him to take the time and energies needed to attend quality classes, seminars, and conferences that will instruct him how to better minister. The church must assure him that it will assist by paying for educational events, and by teaming with him in ministry to give him the necessary time to be part of these equipping events.

A learning pastor will be more creative, possess more depth, and will be more competent to handle the situations that your church may face.

Make a choice

What will you and your church do? Whatever you do, make an intentional choice, and remember that what you invest in your pastor will probably allow you to reap dividends in the success of your church. Your pastor will be happier, you will be happier, and God will receive the glory! **SR**

The Rev. Mark Braisher pastors Victory Free Will Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo. Reprinted with permission from Contact, August 1992.



Your pastor called me last night

by Joseph Ange

Sometimes people seem to think that the pastor is free from problems and troubles. They act as if the pastor is always on cloud nine. When I was young in the ministry, I thought that if I could keep the finances coming in and the church growing, that my troubles would be non-existent. I thought that most folks would love me and my family, and show their appreciation for us.

I had a rude awakening. While being a pastor and building churches is one of the most rewarding and exciting things anyone can do, I soon learned that trials and problems come to pastors. This is true of your pastor.

Opposition

Your pastor called me last night. He was concerned about the opposition that had arisen in the church. Since he is young and inexperienced, he didn't know how to cope with the problem. He was finding it easy to look for "greener pastures."

After counsel, he decided to be more faithful, keep winning souls, and turn the matter over to God. Will you encourage your pastor? Will you be more patient and faithful? Most of the time, opposition



turns out to be temporary irritations that are usually overcome.

Disappointment

Your pastor called me last night. He was crushed by disappointment. Some of those he trusted the most had backslidden. They forgot the promises they made to God and their pastor. Your pastor's dreams were shattered and his plans drastically changed. He felt alone because key people had failed.

I told him that Abraham had his Lot. Paul had his Demas. Jeremiah had his dungeon. I pray that your pastor will not let backsliders and those who disappoint him rob him of his joy and effectiveness in the work. Perhaps your pastor needs a call from you today. I know he needs your prayers and faithful support. Can he depend on you?

Discouragement

Your pastor called me last night. He shared with me his discouragement and his wife's discouragement. He said even his children were discouraged.

I found out that he had worked hard. He had been faithful to his pastoral duties. Nevertheless, the people's lack of response, their coldness, and the failure of the church to grow were troubling him. His family also was troubled. Quite frankly, he was at the point of resigning.

He needs to seek out the real needs of the people and address those needs. Like

Elijah and David, he needs to encourage himself in the Lord. And I think, like Elijah, he may just need some sleep, food, and a new vision from God.

A good worry-free, all-expenses-paid vacation may be all your pastor needs to dispel the discouragement and depression. You see, your pastor has no pastor to go to when he is burdened. God may want you to meet that need today.

Financial neglect

Your pastor called me last night. He was deeply hurt. He felt neglected by the people he loves the best—his own church. He and his growing family are in an unreal financial crunch. Medical bills have piled up. He is not able to pay his bills when they come due. No one seems to care.

Unreasonable demands in the face of financial difficulties, the rising cost of living, and unexpected bills with an inadequate salary have almost driven him and his family to despair. The board and church need to carefully review your pastor's financial needs. This worthy man of God could be greatly helped by a timely raise in salary.

Also, a well-planned Pastor Appreciation Day with bountiful food, glowing fellowship, generous funds, and extra love would go a long way to alleviate the burden and financial stress. He just might be able to get the car repaired, buy some needed clothes, and even take a vacation if adequate attention was given to his financial needs.

Forgiveness

Your pastor called me last night. He was concerned that some of the members had been offended and their feelings hurt. He sincerely

cont. on page 23

Helping you help the pastor

"It is a true saying that if a man wants to be a pastor, he has a good ambition" (1 Timothy 3:1, Living Bible).

Our churches are truly blessed with some wonderful pastors. Seventh Day Baptists are ministered to by many caring, loving, Bible-believing and Bible-preaching men and women who have responded to God's call in their lives to shepherd a flock of God's people.

Being a pastor is not a "9 to 5" job. Sometimes pastors are called up quite early, and often late into the evening, to minister to a family or person in crisis. Sabbath days are spent preaching and teaching, and fellowshiping with our church families. There are hospital visits, Bible studies, meetings, counseling, sermon preparation, home visits, community activities, church activities, family activities and responsibilities... The list goes on.

Sometimes my pastor husband Don needs me to keep his spirits up and hold the family together while he is involved with his God-given responsibilities. But sometimes I need help in that support. Don also needs the church people to provide some encouragement and support, just as he tries to encourage and support them.

We've been blessed with two caring congregations that have helped us. One dear young mother from our current church shared some thoughts about caring for the pastor. She is a real blessing to us. Maybe some of these ideas will help you to help your pastor:

1. Be sensitive to his difficult schedule (Eph. 4:32).

If you wave to him on the street and he doesn't even seem to see you, or if he appears preoccupied or

even grouchy, give him the benefit of the doubt. Maybe he was out until 1:00 in the morning, comforting a grieving family or counseling a married couple in crisis. This may not be the time to bring up the peeling paint in a Sabbath School room!

2. Try to avoid criticism (James 1:19-20).

If you feel you've been snubbed, or he's missed your appointment two weeks in a row, go to him with your complaint before telling one or two other people. Let him know if you are hurt, disappointed, or an-

5. Tell him he is appreciated (1 Thess. 5:11).

Nothing lifts a pastor like a verbal "pat on the back," or a sincere "well done." Was this week's sermon especially meaningful? Tell him on the way out of church. If words fail you at the door, write a note.

6. Realize he can't do it alone (Eph. 4:11-13,16).

His job is to equip us to do the work of the church. Too often the ministry is viewed as being "his job," while the rest of us are spectators. Christ never planned for a

**Volunteer to help in small ways.
Be creative. Find out how your skills
and gifts can be used.**

gry. There will most often be a good explanation for his behavior. Too many people have left churches over small conflicts, real or imagined, with their pastors. Clear the air by being honest and by giving him a chance to do the same.

3. Volunteer to help in small ways (2 Cor. 9:12).

Maybe you can do an hour or two of office work that has been piling up. If there are children (especially small ones) in the parsonage, a few hours of free babysitting might be appreciated. Be creative. Find out how your skills and gifts can be used.

4. Pray for him (2 Thess. 3:1).

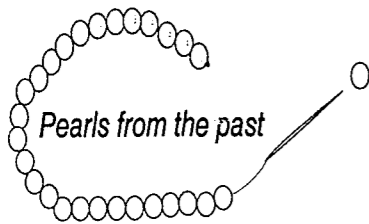
Make it a habit to lift him up in prayer. He faces situations daily in which he has to make important decisions. Pray that God will give him wisdom. Tell him you're praying for him.

church to be constructed around its pastor. Rather, the pastor is just one of the building blocks, as is each member. Christ Himself is the strength of your church.

7. Remember, he's human!

If you don't believe that, ask his wife (or her husband). Jesus chose 12 disciples who had many shortcomings. At various times they displayed lack of faith, lack of courage, and even lack of common sense. But Jesus used them in spite of their frailties. Your pastor is no different from the rest of us; he has strong points and weak points, but God uses him anyway.

God commissions the pastor to serve Christ and His Church. He also calls lay people to fill important roles. One of these jobs is to encourage your pastor as he fulfills his calling.



"The Good Parson"

by Don A. Sanford, historian

The *Seventh Day Baptist Pulpit* began as a monthly publication of the Missionary Society in February 1903. It was published "for all who want it, but more especially for the benefit of the small and pastorless churches for them to use in Sab-

bath service, and also for lone Sabbath-keepers." An order of worship with readings and a sermon was provided for each week. The last Missionary Board issue was published in January 1911.

The American Sabbath Tract Society took up the publication in 1915 with a shortened title, *The*

Pulpit. The final issue was dated June 1917.

A total of 111 different authors contributed over 560 sermons. These have recently been indexed to make them more accessible to those interested in the thinking of those denominational leaders.

From *The Pulpit*, June 1916:



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

The Good Parson

A parish priest was of the pilgrim train;
An awful, reverend, and religious man.
His eyes diffused a venerable grace,
And charity itself was in his face.
Rich was his soul, though his attire was poor
(As God had clothed his own ambassador);
For such, on earth, his bless'd Redeemer bore.
Of sixty years he seem'd; and well might last
To sixty more, but that he lived too fast;
Refined himself to soul, to curb the sense;
And made almost a sin of abstinence.
Yet, had his aspect nothing of severe,
But such a face as promised him sincere.
Nothing reserved or sullen was to see:
Mild was his accent, and his action free.
With eloquence innate his tongue was arm'd;
Though harsh the precept, yet the people charm'd;
For, letting down the golden chain from high,
He drew his audience upward to the sky:
And oft with holy hymns he charm'd their ears
(A music more melodious than the spheres):
For David left him when he went to rest,
His lyre; and after him he sung the best.
He bore his great commission in his look:
But sweetly temper'd awe; and soften'd all he spoke.
He preached the joys of heaven, and pains of hell,
And warn'd the sinner with becoming zeal;
But, on eternal mercy loved to dwell.
He taught the gospel rather than the law;
And forced himself to drive; but loved to draw.
For fear but freezes minds; but love, like heat,
Exhales the soul sublime to seek her native seat.

Wide was his parish: not contracted close
In streets, but here and there a straggling house;
Yet he was at hand, without request,

To serve the sick, to succor the distress'd;
Tempting, on foot, alone without affright,
The dangers of a dark, tempestuous night.

The proud he tamed, the penitent he cheer'd;
Nor to rebuke the rich offender fear'd.
His preaching much, but more his practice wrought
(A living sermon of the truths he taught;)
For this by rules severe his life he squared:
That all might see the doctrine which they heard:
For priests, he said, are patterns for the rest.
(The gold of heaven, who bear the God impress'd):
For, when the precious coin is kept unclean,
The sovereign's image is no longer seen.
If they be foul on whom the people trust,
Well may the baser brass contract a rust.

Now, through the land, his care of souls he stretch'd,
And like a primitive apostle preach'd.
Still cheerful; ever constant to his call;
By many follow'd; loved by most, admired by all,
With what he begg'd, his brethren he relieved,
And gave the charities himself received.
Gave, while he taught; and edified the more,
Because he show'd, by proof, 'twas easy to be poor.

He went not with the crowd to see a shrine;
But fed us with the food divine.

In deference to his virtues, I forbear
To show you what the rest in orders were:
This brilliant is so spotless, and so bright,
He needs no foil, but shines by his own proper light.

—John Dryden

One year ago—December 1991

Authors share about mixed-race or foreign adoptions. Writers include Glen and Nancy Warner, Eddie Henry, Shelley Warner, and Jane Mackintosh.

Rod Henry's Sabbath study looks at "Sunday" in the New Testament.

President Mynor Soper reflects on his first major church visitation trip of the Conference year.

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year profiled: Ruth Bennett from Battle Creek, Mich.

Another SDB Health Camp held in Andhra Pradesh, India.

Central SDB Church in Upper Marlboro, Md., celebrates a "Religious Liberty" Sabbath.

Five years ago—December 1987

Special reprint of a 1944 Charles Bond article, "God Stepped Out."

Three-part series begins from Rev. George Calhoun's statement of faith.

Biography shared of Sabbath School Teacher of the Year, Shirley Cargill.

Report of annual conference in Poland lists 12 baptisms and 17 new members.

Nellie Jo Brissey, newly ordained deaconess in Salem, W.Va., shares her testimony.

Conference President Herbert Saunders calls readers to "Enter the Joy" of the Bible.

Bay Area, Calif., church celebrates 25th year.

10 years ago—December 1982

The Janesville (Wis.) Gazette highlights the historic Bible display at the SDB Center.

Pastor Everett Dickinson welcomed to the Marlboro, N.J., church.

Beloit College, Wis., chosen as the 1984 Conference site.

North Loup, Neb., church hosts Mid-Continent Association meetings.

Milton, Wis., youth group raises over \$2,000 for missions during planned fast.

"Off Center" column, by Leanne Lippincott, focuses on pre-wedding celebrations for Center employees Joel Osborn and Doneta Richards.

25 years ago—December 1967

The first in a series of first-of-the-month emphasis issues is on missions.

Background given on Robe of Achievement recipient, Evalois St. John.

Coverage of the new Shaw Memorial Library dedication at Milton College.

Rev. Herbert Saunders and family welcomed to the Plainfield, N.J., church.

The first successful human heart transplant takes place in South Africa.

The Shiloh, N.J., church's educational building and fellowship hall nears completion.

50 years ago—December 1942

Universal Bible Day promoted for Sabbath, December 12.

Rev. William L. Burdick writes in the Missions column, "A Sermon Is Like a Meal."

Naval Lt. Dighton Lewis Polan, only son of Rev. Herbert and Ira Shaw Polan, "recently lost at sea while engaging the enemy in air combat." Polan is the first SDB to give up his life in the war.

The editors add red and green ink to the usual black for the Christmas edition.

Okey Davis, in the Woman's Work column, relates the story of the stars in house windows (signifying sons dying in the war) being compared to God giving His Son to die.

...where are we headed?

Pray...

- for our many SDB adoptive families
- for your Sabbath School program and teachers
- that we can celebrate true religious liberty
- for our overseas Conferences and missions
- that we truly appreciate our pastors
- for a deeper love of God's Word
- for lasting peace in war-torn areas

Faith in a rock-solid God

by James Skaggs

The metaphor of "the Rock" for God has always been a powerful one for me. It conveys a sense of absolute security: immovable, unchanging, permanent, secure shelter against the elements. (It probably helps that I didn't grow up in California.)

But *this* Rock is immovable and certain.

Moses used that image in his song to Israel before his death. He said:

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD.

Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

He is the Rock, His works are perfect,

and all His ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He."

Hannah, after the Lord gave her Samuel:

"There is no one holy like the LORD;

there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God."

And David, again and again:

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation."

"As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.

For who is God besides the LORD? and who is the Rock except our God?"

"The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!"

Isaiah said:

"Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal."

Faith is trust, and reliance on God. Faith in God is faith in Someone Who is utterly reliable—Someone Who can be trusted absolutely. A firm foundation is one built on the Rock: "Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD is the Rock eternal."

Think about someone you trust, or someone you don't. What are the qualities that make someone trustworthy? We tend to trust people who we think care for us; people who are

reliable, who keep their promises. No human is absolutely trustworthy ("put not your trust in princes"), but God is.

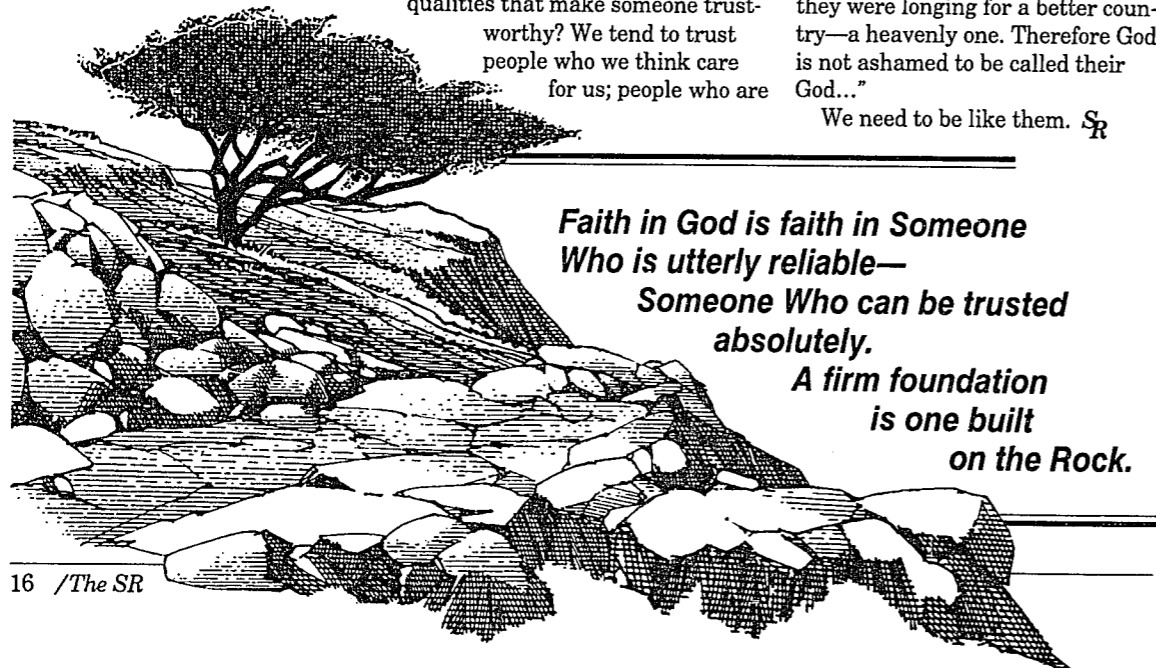
How do we develop trust, or how do we lose it? Usually, I think it is based on experience. In the case of God, we have the history of His relationship with His people since the beginning of time. This history reveals that, although His people have often been unfaithful, He has always been faithful. This history tells us that He loves His people, each one of us.

It should not be difficult to have faith in a God like that. It should not be difficult to trust a God who has always been trustworthy; to have confidence in His promises, to obey His instructions, to do His will. And yet the history of His relationship with His people is the history of *our unfaithfulness*, not His. We have always wanted Him to do things *our* way, to give us what *we* want, to let *us* decide what is right and what is wrong, to decide what is good in *our* eyes.

The heroes of faith discussed in Hebrews 11 were not like that. They admitted that "they were aliens and strangers on earth... they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God..."

We need to be like them. SR

Faith in God is faith in Someone Who is utterly reliable— Someone Who can be trusted absolutely. A firm foundation is one built on the Rock.



FOCUS on Missions

Meeting needs, near and far

by Kirk Looper

While traveling across Africa this fall, I was pleased at the way we were welcomed. Even in the hotels and businesses, the people were warm and friendly. They appeared to go out of their way to help and advise me. I thank God for His presence and protection throughout the journey.

I was also pleased that we were able to communicate with the people. God always supplied us with an interpreter, or the people spoke English. In many of the places, the people between the ages of 10 and 30 knew several languages. Thankfully, English was one; it is taught in school.

In the Netherlands, we stayed with Pastor Frits Nieuwstraten. His children spoke Spanish and German, as well as English and Dutch. It was quite an eye-opener to see what young people can do when expected. (I wonder why we expect so little of our children in the United States?)

In every country we visited, we found tremendous needs for any amount of finances that we could part with. I could have spent the total budget of the Missionary Society in Kisii, Kenya. The church and its buildings needed a lot of help. That was the way it was all over. However, I did notice that the people attending our churches were no worse or no better off than those around them. In fact, if you looked at their smiles, you might say they were better off in their attitude, if not materialistically.

The land was beautiful, even in the arid area of Kenya. If you have

ever lived in that type of climate, you will understand. God placed beauty in every area of His creation. The people care for their land and preserve most of its natural beauty. They are proud of their

and books, and clothing to send to the pastors. I will be glad to make a list of names and addresses available to anyone wanting to help. I would recommend you work as a church group, since pooled funds go so much farther.

Tools were another need. But, the nationals can usually purchase their tools more economically in their country. Some of them have very specialized tools for their particular area and crop. Again, we would be happy to transfer funds to these churches.

Most of the churches are meeting in what they call "temporary houses." The walls are made of inside and outside frames composed of bamboo or other sticks. The space between the frames is about 3 or 4 inches. This is then filled with mud and allowed to dry. Water proofing (if done at all) is a white-wash painted on.

I believe all of the churches we visited planned to have permanent buildings. These were mostly made of fire-baked blocks. The blocks are made by hand, employing the same process used in Malawi. The metal roof is the largest expense.

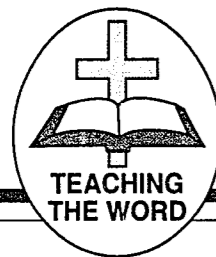
Is it not interesting that everywhere we go the needs are the same? Maybe, if we just looked around at our own neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens, we could see what is needed in other countries. Maybe, just maybe, we could see our way to help those close to us. Let's reach out to those less fortunate, and help—not support—but help them. SR



land and thankful for what it provides them.

I had the opportunity to talk with many of the pastors and lay preachers. Most of them did not ask for money. Most of them asked for study materials, tracts, or clothing for their churches and family (even used clothing we throw away).

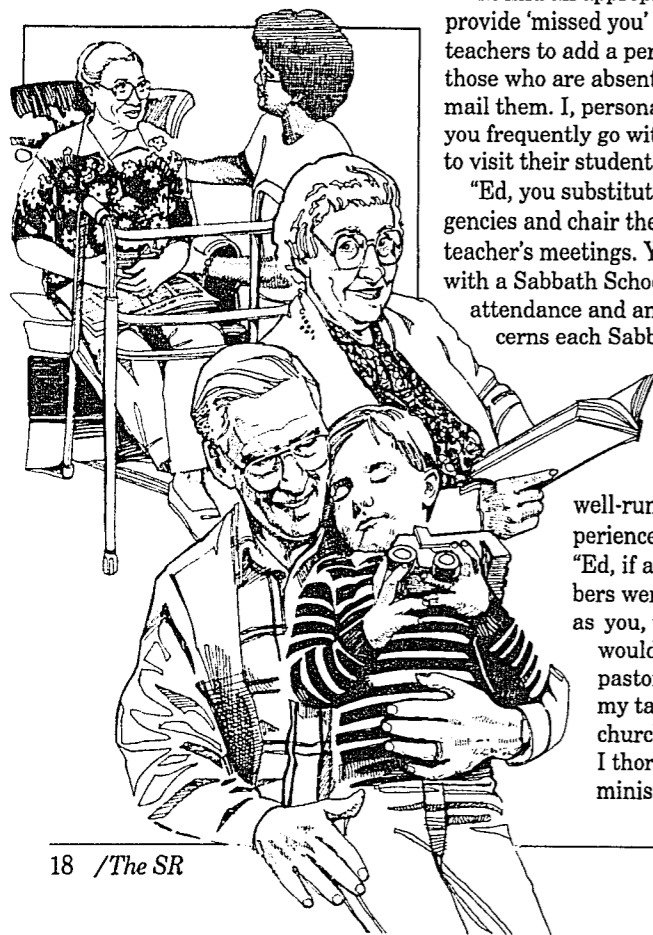
So, if you need a ministry, just use your funds to purchase study materials, Bibles, counseling guides



A pastor's dream: Christian service

Sabbath School Superintendent Ed Christian settled comfortably into the large lounge chair in the parsonage living room and asked Pastor Jus Start, "Would I be able to join the Caregivers group? Do I have to be a member of the diaconate to be eligible?"

Pastor Start replied, "Ed, the Caregivers are those who wish to join in a special ministry of support, prayer, and friendship for other members of the church. Caregivers include others in addition to the deacons and deaconesses.



"We would love to have you join the group, but do you think you would have the available time? You're doing such a terrific job with the Sabbath School!

"You are always at the church 30 minutes before Sabbath School begins. You adjust the heat, turn on the lights, and check the rooms for sufficient supplies, like marker-board pens or chalk. You check with the Sabbath School teachers when they arrive concerning their special needs for the day.

"You greet the visitors and help them find an appropriate class. You provide 'missed you' cards for the teachers to add a personal note to those who are absent, and then you mail them. I, personally, know that you frequently go with the teachers to visit their students' homes.

"Ed, you substitute during emergencies and chair the bi-monthly teacher's meetings. You provide me with a Sabbath School report on attendance and any special concerns each Sabbath afternoon.

Under your supervision the Sabbath School is a growing, well-run, exciting experience.

"Ed, if all our members were as dedicated as you, this church wouldn't need a pastor. You make my tasks in the church a real joy. I thoroughly enjoy ministering with

you. But, I feel that the extra responsibilities as a Caregiver would be too much. We need you to continue as Sabbath School Superintendent."


Superintendent Christian looked at Pastor Start and explained,

"Ed, if all our members were as dedicated as you, this church wouldn't need a pastor. You make my tasks in the church a real joy."

"Ever since my wife, Grace, died last year, I've tried to keep busy. I don't know what I would do if the folks at work, at Sabbath School; Deacon Willing; and you, Pastor, weren't here for me. I like to keep busy.

"It's lonely, you know. I just thought I could help out. You give your time and energy to our needs, and I know some of us don't really help all we should. We let you carry too much of the ministry load of the church."

"I remember the night Grace died. Pastor, you and Deacon and Faith Willing stayed through the night. You all stayed and cried and prayed with me.

"I'll never forget what you did for me, and for Grace, too. I wanted to help you in return." 



Christmas service projects

by Matthew Olson (reprinted from *The Beacon*, 1986)

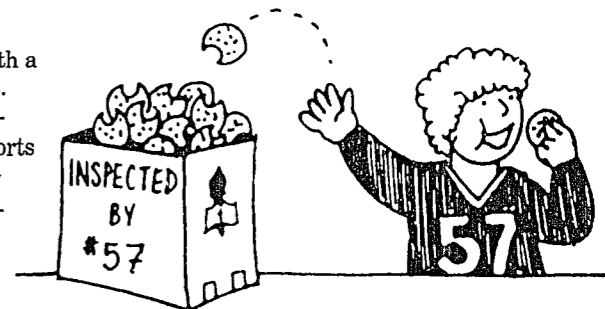
Christmas is the time of year that is known the world over for its spirit of peace and goodwill. We hope that local Youth Fellowships would have a desire to promote such feelings in their community.

Here are some ideas that will help our YFs from "Cali to Rhodi" to accomplish this. By using one or more of these ideas, any YF can share the real message of Christmas: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (NIV).

Christmas cookie giveaway

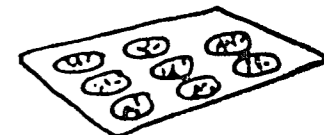
Get your YF together for an evening of baking. As a group, make several dozen Christmas cookies. Box the cookies and wrap them in Christmas paper. Take them with you when your YF goes caroling. Instead of simply singing at each house you visit, surprise

the people with a box of cookies. Try to concentrate your efforts on the elderly and disadvantaged of your community.



Holiday fund raiser

Plan a fund raiser of your choice to be held just before the holiday season. Instead of depositing the proceeds into your YF treasury, donate the money to a local organization like the Lions Club, or your town's food bank. The Lions Club, Rotary Club, and Kiwanis all collect money for various projects, such as food baskets, "Toys for Tots," etc. Food banks often have an increased demand for food during the holiday season, and extra donations are needed.



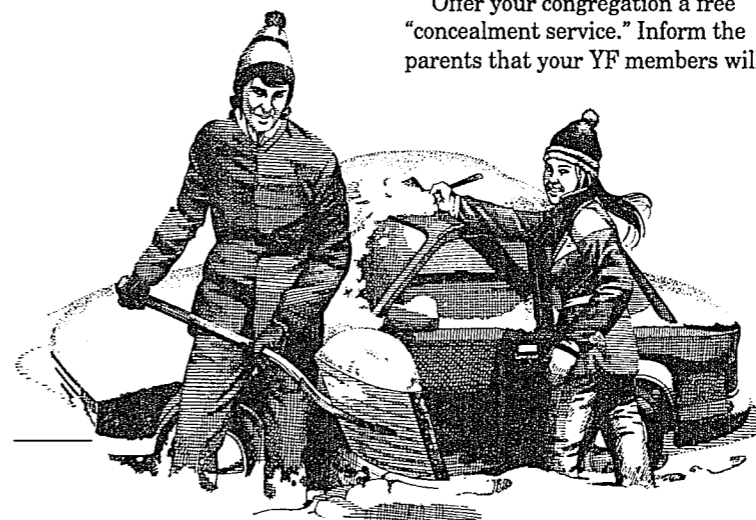
hide the children's gifts in different YF members' homes. Have a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, and assign each member of your YF a family that he or she will hide gifts for. Be sure to keep the hiding place and gifts strictly confidential!

Community snowplow

Organize your YF ahead of time to meet at the church right after a heavy snowfall. Have each member bring a snow shovel.

First, clear the church's walks. Then spread out around your town in teams (two to a team). Shovel walks that belong to the elderly, or any walk that might need it. Meet back at the church a couple of hours later for hot chocolate and cookies.

This is especially nice to do when your YF is enjoying Christmas vacation—you can surprise the adults of your community by clearing their walks while they're at work.



Riverside sings praises

by Marilyn Merchant

Greetings from Riverside, Calif., the "Shake and Bake" capital of the country this past summer. It has been a strange year for us, but our blessings have so outweighed our disappointments that we can only praise our Lord for them.

With Christmas fast approaching, our choir director decided to

New deacons, new building in New York

by Linda Anderson

Sabbath and Sunday, May 29-30, 1992, were two special days for Pastor Richard Evans and members and friends of the New York City SDB Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

On Sabbath, the Ordination Service for our deacons and deaconesses took place. They are: Brother Leonard Stewart, Brother Harold Smith, Sister Vera Stewart, Sister Rose Henry (now residing in Atlanta, Ga.), Sister Wilhelmena Powell (now living in Florida). May God continue to guide them as they minister in His holy name.

On Sunday, May 30, we celebrated the Dedication Service for our church building. Kirk Looper, Executive Vice President of the SDB Missionary Society, delivered the dedicatory address taken from Haggai 2:1-9, in which he admonished us to continue building "the temple."

Refreshments were served at the end of the service, thus concluding two historic days for the New York City SDB Church. *SR*

present excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." Also planned is the children's Christmas play, "Three Wee Kings."

We elected Dr. Steven Packard as president of our congregation during our annual business meeting. George Tichy, M.S., was appointed Minister of Missions, a new position resulting from our many planning sessions. Cheryl Peil and Tami Royer were commissioned as deaconesses at a Sabbath morning worship service.

Poor economic conditions have hit us, like the rest of the country. Our attendance fluctuated some, but with the coming of fall, many of the vacationers returned. Because of the need for financial responsibility, we have again decided to share our facility with another

sive brain surgery on one of our young fathers, the physicians were sure that he was not going to make it. This was a prognosis our church just wouldn't accept—unless it was God's will. We really pulled together in prayer, fasting, anointing with oil, all of which the Bible tells us is the proper pattern to follow.

God won! Charles "Chip" May has been back for Sabbath morning services. He has much therapy yet to go through, but on the morning he returned for the first time, there were few dry eyes as the members rose to their feet and sang the doxology—"Praise God from Whom all blessings flow..." We joyfully acknowledge it.

We are on our knees, literally, each week seeking the Father's will for us as a church and as a family.

***There were few dry eyes
as the members rose to their feet
and sang the doxology—
"Praise God from Whom
all blessings flow..."***

church. They will use the building on Sunday, with separate offices on the premises.

Twice this year, we have been blessed with special father/son happenings. The Rev. Dale Thorngate was present to participate in the ordination of his son, the Rev. David Thorngate. It was a most moving experience to witness the blessing of this beautiful family in our Lord's service.

Our second occurrence was in the form of a miracle. After exten-

Chip's father, Dr. Lewis May, also had surgery at this same time. He, too, is well on the road to recovery. As chairman of our Diaconate, he had a very great double stake in our miracle.

We have adopted a new Mission Statement; numerous planning sessions lead us toward accomplishing our purpose, not only in our church, but in our outreach to the community. Pray for, and with us, that our light will shine brightly for our Savior and Lord. *SR*



Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund, Inc.

3120 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 1678
Janesville, WI 53547-1678

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

October 24, 1992

Mr. W. Garth Warner
4124 Sholtz Road
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Garth,

At their October meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Seventh Day Baptist Memorial Fund asked that I extend to you our deep appreciation for your twelve years service as a member of the Board. We have been mindful during that time, that your participation was performed at considerable personal sacrifice.

Of special benefit has been your deep interest in education and unique qualifications which made your leadership on the scholarship committee invaluable.

The Board will miss your valued and thoughtful contribution and fellowship. We wish you and Mayola many continuing and happy years of service to the Lord in your church and your community.

Sincerely,
Stephen J. Pierce
Stephen J. Pierce
For the Board

cc: Owen Probasco

SJP/rds

Mid-Continent meets in Kansas

by Beth Burdick

The Mid-Continent Association meetings in Nortonville, Kan., were well attended. Meetings (October 9-11) were directed by President Scott Smith and Host Pastor, Bob Harris. The theme was, "Add to Your Faith, Joy!" Over 100 worshipers attended church on Sabbath morning.

On Friday evening, the Sabbath welcoming service focused upon the joy and delight we expect in the Sabbath experience. Rod Henry, Director of Pastoral Services at

the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis., led the first of three Bible studies from Philippians—a letter in which Paul repeats often the concept of joy and rejoicing.

The Sabbath morning service included a report from Kirk Looper, Executive Vice President of the Missionary Society. On his recent trip to Africa, Kirk, along with Leon Lawton and Ron Davis, visited SDBs in Ghana, Kenya, and the Cameroons.

Scott Smith's father, Ken Smith, gave the Sabbath sermon, "The Ultimate Discovery." Reminding us of the discoveries of Columbus, and the discoveries of modern astronomers, Ken emphasized the importance of adequate preparations, and the need for optimum conditions. To "discover" or "encounter" Christ in a more meaningful way in our lives, there are important steps of preparation: leaving our "comfort zones" and preoccupation with things; taking deliberate actions of the will to draw near to Him; clearing away the "pollutants" that obscure our vision; and tuning our ears to the "messages" God sends to us through Jesus Christ.

The Nortonville women served a literal smorgasbord of delicacies for our Sabbath noon meal. In the afternoon, Rod Henry gave two more Bible studies. A communion service followed.

A gospel mixed quartet from Topeka, Kan., brought us an evening of beautiful music, ranging from country gospel to contemporary. After that, the youth were just coming to life, and spent several hours on a hayride and in campfire activities.

The business meeting on Sunday morning featured committee reports, budget matters, and election of officers. Of great interest was Daryl White's report of the Mexico Missions Committee, in which he outlined a plan for "Senior Saints" to travel to Mexico in April 1993, to assist in constructing a church. This will be sponsored by the Missionary Society, the Memorial Board, and the Mid-Continent Association churches.

President for 1992-93, Dr. Vic Burdick, was recognized, and gave an invitation to the churches to attend next year's meetings in Denver, Colo., October 8-10. Dr. Vic presented his theme, "Give Me This Mountain," from Joshua 14:12. *SR*

(Taken from the Denver church newsletter, *The Messenger*.)

asking, "What can I do?" Today we ask, "Do I like this preacher? Is the youth program good for my children? Do I like the feel of this place?" Few people enter church saying, "How can I contribute to the work of Christ here?"

As a pastor, my most exhilarating moments did not come from large crowds, great sermons, or successful finance campaigns. Rather, they came from laypeople who had been touched by the power of God, saying, "Pastor, I really want to make a difference in my world. I don't want to remain stagnant and removed. I want to put on the armor of God and enter the fray. Pas-

dreams and hopes seem far-fetched and unreachable.

How sad it is when the power structure within a congregation will not allow the Spirit to bring renewal, break out of the mold, realize new truth. It's hard for human control to entertain the thought that God may be wanting to "do a new thing" where you worship (Isaiah 43:18-19). But let your pastor lead. Let your minister be the shepherd, as God ordained.

Realistic expectations

The above is not meant to portray a one-way street. Giving is an important word for your pastor as

swers lie with another pastor (Proverbs 4:10-12).

• Your pastor needs to be a person of faith and prayer. A prayerless pastor is a powerless pastor (Matthew 17:20-22).

• Your pastor should be a person of courage, willing to confront evil and injustice. A cowardly pastor is not in close fellowship with the Lord. Pastoring is not for the faint of heart (2 Timothy 1:7; Joshua 1:9).

• Your pastor and family should be an example to the congregation. No, they *do not need to be perfect!* The kids need not be the best behaved in the church. The spouse need not head every committee. But they do need to be a family, totally committed to the principles of the Word of God regarding the family unit (Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9).

• Your pastor should spend time training and equipping others to assist in the ministry of pastoral care. We are not all called to be evangelists, but we are expected to know how to share our faith. Your pastor must prepare you for the responsibilities of lay ministry by helping you find your gifts (2 Timothy 2:2).

• Your pastor should teach the value of Christian stewardship. If you grasp the significance of tithing your time, talent, and treasure, it will not only open up God's special resources for you and your family, but it will also ensure the blessing of God upon your congregation. He promised to pour His blessings upon you (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 9:6-8) in response to your stewardship.

• Your pastor must be a person of integrity. There should be no hint of immorality (Ephesians 5:3-5).

• You should expect your pastor to be vulnerable and transparent, willing to admit when mistakes have been made, and committed to continued growth in every aspect (Psalms 139:23-24).

• Most important of all, your pastor must be committed to personal holiness. So many clergy are successful by the world's standards, but woefully lacking when it comes to a relationship with God (Psalms 51:10-12; Romans 3:22).

Strength for the swim

"Life in the fishbowl." For your pastor and family, it is *reality*. It is not an easy assignment. Satan's task is to hinder and undermine those who have been called by God to represent Him as shepherds of the sheep. Pastors can survive life in the fishbowl, but not without your tender love, prayer, encouragement, and affirmation.

When I look into the pastoral aquarium these days, I'm seeing more and more of my colleagues

floating slowly to the top—just like a goldfish that has lived out its life. Many of my colleagues tell me they are burned out, worn out, frustrated, and fatigued.

If ever there was a time when pastors needed to know they are viewed not with a critical spirit but with encouragement and affirmation, it is *now*. As Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses when he grew weary, every pastor should have the stabilizing forces of a family and an extended church family—colleagues who will stand alongside in understanding and camaraderie.

As I look back at my life in the pastoral ministry, I have few regrets. I do wish I had studied more, traveled less, and given my family more time, but I can't do much

about that now. I can, however, try to help churches, pastors, and their families realize their hopes and dreams. Please join me in this very worthy calling. *SR*

H.B. London Jr. is an ordained minister with 31 years of pastoral experience. He is presently assistant to the president at Focus on the Family. His assignment is ministry to pastors and their families. He and his wife, Beverley, have two sons and three grandchildren.

Dean Merrill has been vice president of periodicals at Focus on the Family since 1989. He is the author of nine books.

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The old philosophy of a pastor "suffering for Jesus' sake" does not hold water, especially if the people are able to provide for the pastoral needs.

tor, will you help me? Will you train me? Will you pray for me?"

Wow! If you want to take your pastor to a new plateau in effectiveness, offer yourself in this way. Be open to new ideas. More than ever before, your pastor has access to resources and new concepts from the world's greatest religious leaders. That means your pastor will probably come to you and your church leaders with ideas and dreams that might seem a bit grandiose and unrealistic. But stay open. Work to keep your pastor dreaming and alive. Please don't let the creative juices dry up.

Phrases like, "That won't work," "It costs too much," and "We've done it before," are deadly. The Holy Spirit is the author of dreams. If your pastor is in touch with God's Spirit, allow the opportunity to witness God's touch on the life of your church. Don't be guilty of squelching the Spirit simply because the

well as for you. If you are taking the above steps, here is what you can rightly expect from your pastor:

• A full-time effort (if your pastor is employed full time). It seems unlikely to me that any pastor could do justice to the position in less than 50 hours a week. For me, it took longer; for some, it might take less. But to cover the long list of a minister's duties takes time, and lots of it (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

• Your pastor need not be the best preacher in the world, but he or she should never step before an audience unprepared. That takes reading, Bible study, prayer, and practice (2 Timothy 4:2).

• A shepherd should know the sheep and their needs. In other words, the pastor should care for you, be a good listener, be compassionate, and seek after wisdom (John 10:14).

• Your pastor need not "know it all," but must be secure enough to search for answers—even if the an-

Your pastor called, cont. from page 12

wanted to know what to do. According to God's Word, I said that the pastor and people need to learn how to say, "I am sorry. Please forgive me."

The pastor and the people, I said, must realize that offenses will come. These offenses must be settled by the Scriptures. This means that loving, personal contact must be made between your pastor and the offended church member. Love and forgiveness will prevail when applied.

As I said to the pastor, "Problems will come. Expect them. Please don't create them. By God's grace, solve them."

The other side

Your pastor called me last night. His exuberance, joy, and excitement blessed me. The church had surprised him and his family with a Pastor Appreciation Day, honoring his faithfulness to God and his leadership to the church. He told me about all the wonderful things the church had planned for that day.

These included a "This is Your Life" presentation, and heart-

warming testimonies from many friends, old and new. They also presented gifts from various departments of the church, including the keys to a new automobile and a trip to the Holy Land. They flooded him with cards, letters, and personal gifts. Your pastor and your church will profit from such an outpouring of gratitude and love.

The pastor went on to extol the church for their spirit of cooperation, faithfulness, and steadfastness. He emphasized the great help that the second-milers, the prayer warriors, and the soul winners had been to him. The conversation didn't end without him sharing the ministry of two faithful deacons who had held high his hands during his entire ministry there. They were his Aaron and Hur.

Four principles

Your pastor called me last night. He is your pastor; you are his people.

There are four outstanding aspects that make the pastoral ministry effective. These four apply to both pastor and people.

First, the pastor must love his

people. The people must love their pastor.

Second, the pastor must respect the congregation. The people must respect their pastor.

Third, the pastor must be a responsible man in word and deed. The church members must respond to the pastor's leadership lovingly and faithfully.

Fourth, there is the matter of faithfulness. A faithful pastor will stay true, and will not desert his people when hard times come. Faithful members, likewise, will stand the test and be loyal to God, their church, and their pastor at all seasons.

Your pastor called me last night. Think seriously about what he had to say. You can help make him a better pastor, and your church a better church, through prayer and your loving response to the needs of your pastor and his family. *SR*

The Rev. Joseph Ange is a full-time evangelist who lives in Knightdale, N.C. Reprinted with permission from Contact magazine (Free Will Baptist), Antioch, Tenn., August 1992.

December	\$710,634
November	\$651,414
October	\$592,195
September	\$532,975
August	\$473,756
July	\$414,536
June	\$355,317
May	\$296,097
April	\$236,878
March	\$177,658
February	\$118,439
January	\$59,219

1992 income needed—\$710,634.
Per month gift income needed—\$28,003.
Total needed each month—\$59,219.50

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI <i>James Galanaugh, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Sean Demerse Rodney Glave	Daytona Beach, FL <i>John Camenga, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Paul Crandall Carla Jacob	Phyllis Thompson Christine Francis Joined after testimony Thelma Stevens
Chatawa, MS <i>Ralph Hays, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Stephanie Lee Danny Miller Joined after testimony Jackie Miller Emmerl Rackley Dennis Walker	Little Genesee, NY <i>Edward Sutton, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Amanda Heymach Melissa Kinnicutt Nathan Kinnicutt Patricia Simard Wilfred Simard Sherrri Swift Joined after testimony Dean Gleason Mary Keister (assoc.)	New York City, NY <i>Richard Evans, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Lorraine Calame Maureen Rickards Kathrine Venner Joined after testimony Grace Dinnall Ann Granville Lorna Smith Carmi Smith Mary Smith
Ft. Worth, TX (Grated) <i>Harley Harkins, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Clayton Corman Paula Corman Karen Petrie	Miami, FL <i>Andrew Samuels, pastor</i> Joined after baptism	Westerly, RI <i>David Taylor, pastor</i> Joined by letter Elsie White

Births

Holmes. —A son, Elliott Donald Holmes, was born to Daryle and Summer Holmes of Grove City, OH, on June 23, 1992.	Ross. —A daughter, Chantelle Patrice Ross, was born to William and Luan Ross of Fort Lauderdale, FL, on September 5, 1992.
Perez. —A daughter, Manuela Darlene Perez, was born to Ray and Jamie Perez of Columbus, OH, on August 4, 1992.	Worm. —A daughter, Abigail Worm, was born to Kurt and Debra Worm of Battle Creek, MI, on September 24, 1992.
Shavers. —A son, Darron Shavers II, was born to Darron and Brandi Shavers of Battle Creek, MI, on August 13, 1992.	McNeme. —A son, Jeremy Riordan McNeme, was born to Steve and Vivian (Bass) McNeme of Somers, MT, on October 6, 1992.

Marriages

Williams - Lonowski. —Kevin Williams and Ann Lonowski were united in marriage on July 10, 1992, at Fort Hartsuff, NE. The Honorable Judge Pauline Grooms officiated.	Borer - Dutcher. —Keith Borer and Nora Kay Dutcher were united in marriage on August 15, 1992, at the North Loup (NE) SDB Church. The Rev. Don Gillette officiated.
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Obituaries

Robinson.—Susan E. ("Susie") Robinson, 86, of Friendship, N.Y., died on May 4, 1991, in St. Francis Hospital, Olean, N.Y., after a lingering illness.

She was born on July 10, 1904, in the town of Amity, N.Y., the daughter of George and Lucinda (Wescott) Robinson. She was a graduate of Scio (N.Y.) High School, and received bachelor and master degrees from Genesee (N.Y.) State College. She also attended Alfred University, Oswego State College, and Buffalo State College.

Susie was an elementary reading specialist teacher, and taught in public schools for 42 years. She also tutored children in remedial reading, retiring in 1959.

She was a member of the Richburg (N.Y.) Seventh Day Baptist Church, the New York State Retired Teachers Association and its Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter, the Allegany County Retired Teachers Association, the Friendship Order of Eastern Star, DAR, and Rebekah Lodges.

Survivors include one daughter, Mary Lou Snyder of Scio; and one granddaughter, Barbara Jo Snyder of New York City. Susie was predeceased by one sister.

A memorial service was held in the United Church of Friendship, with the Rev. Cornelius DeGroat and her pastor, the Rev. Stephan Saunders, officiating. Burial was in the Fairlawn Cemetery, Scio.

Baker.—Paul C. Baker, 97, of Hamden, N.Y., died on July 18, 1991, in his home.

He was born on August 7, 1893, in Kings Run, Ceres, Pa., the son of Chester H. and Barbara (Schroll) Baker. On December 31, 1918, he married the former Hannah E. Perkins in Little Genesee, N.Y. She died in 1969.

Paul was a dairy farmer all of his life, and owned and operated

a farm in Friendship, N.Y., until 1960. He had lived in Friendship for 72 years before moving to Hamden in 1980 to live with his son.

He was a 70-year active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Friendship (Nile). After it disbanded, he became a member of the Richburg (N.Y.) SDB Church. He served as church moderator, trustee, adult Sabbath School teacher, and was a member of the choir in Nile. Paul was a longtime political figure in Allegany County and the Town of Wirt.

Survivors include one son, R. Rogers Baker of Hamden; one sister, Evelyn Derr of Lucerne, Calif.; seven granddaughters, five great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Richburg SDB Church on July 20, 1991, with the Rev. Stephan F. Saunders officiating. Burial was in Wells Cemetery, Little Genesee.

Stohr.—Earl E. Stohr, 84, of Richburg, N.Y., died on August 25, 1991, in Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y., after a lengthy illness.

He was born on February 18, 1907, in Bolivar, N.Y., the son of Robert A. and Winona (Mapes) Stohr. On February 24, 1926, he married the former Genevieve Saunders in Little Genesee, N.Y. She died in 1980.

Earl was employed in the local oil fields for 40 years, and was a bus driver for the Richburg Central School for 12 years. He served as a trustee on the Richburg Village Board, as a town councilman, and as supervisor of the Town of Wirt.

He attended the Richburg SDB Church, and served as adult Sabbath School teacher for several years.

Survivors include one son, C. Robert Stohr of Richburg; one sis-

ter, Mabel Mortimer of Cuba, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one brother, Maynard, in 1974.

A prayer service was held at his home, with the Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr. officiating. Funeral services were held in the Richburg SDB Church on August 28, 1991, with the Rev. Stephan F. Saunders officiating. Burial was in the Richburg Cemetery.

Lukens.—Emma Leo Lukens, 89, died on May 12, 1992.

The youngest of five children, she was born on April 5, 1903, to Herbert and Emma Greene of North Loup, Neb. She married Lloyd C. Lukens on May 23, 1937.

Leo was a charter member of the First SDB Church of Columbus, Ohio. Baptized at North Loup, she was first a member of that church; then the Battle Creek church; and, finally, the Columbus church. She was Woman's Board treasurer during its tenure in Battle Creek.

Services were held on May 14, 1992, with Pastor Robert Van Horn officiating. Interment was at the Good Hope Cemetery, Salem Township, near Marietta, Ohio.

Austin.—Elizabeth P. "Bessie" Austin, 102, died on July 11, 1992, at the Wellsville (N.Y.) Highland Nursing Home, where she had lived for seven years.

She was born on September 6, 1889, in Rushville, Neb., the daughter of Samuel and Fannie (Purdy) Pettibone. She moved to Alfred Station, N.Y., in 1894, and lived there most of her life. On June 26, 1912, she married Harry Austin. He died in 1971.

Bessie was a member of the Alfred Station SDB Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Ethelyn Aldrich of Alfred Station and Louise Woodruff of Canisteo,

N.Y.; one son, Leighton Austin, of Alfred Station; two sisters, Agnes Bulwan of Wymore, Neb., and Dora Bird of Almond, N.Y.; nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

O'Dell.—Mida A. O'Dell, 96, of Andover, N.Y., died on August 23, 1992, in the Wellsville (N.Y.) Highland Nursing Home.

She was born on November 28, 1895, in Alfred, N.Y., the daughter of Fred and Jennie (Goodwin) Palmiter. In 1916, she married Lewis O'Dell of Alfred. He died in 1965.

Mida was a member of the Alfred Station (N.Y.) SDB Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Alice Nevol of Andover; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two sons, Clifford and Kenneth.

Judy.—Phyllis (Zwiebel) Judy, 74, of Jackson Center, Ohio, died on September 8, 1992, in Sidney, Ohio.

She was born in Battle Creek, Mich., on September 10, 1917, and was a member of the Jackson Center SDB Church.

Phyllis is survived by one son, Larry Judy of Jackson Center; two daughters, Karen Frymyer of Lima, Ohio, and Brenda Mullins of Sidney; one brother, Rex E. Zwiebel of Rochester, N.Y.; two sisters, Nadine Horvath of Agra, Okla., and Sandra Mintchell of Jackson Center; and several grandchildren.

Interment was in the Glen Cemetery of Port Jefferson, Ohio.

Winch.—Mary Elizabeth (Johnson) Winch, 85, died of a heart attack on September 14, 1992, at her home in Williamstown, Mass.

She was born in 1907 in Ord, Neb., the daughter of Ava Bell Clement and William Glenn Johnson. She attended school in Mira Valley and taught in a one-room

school house. Mary graduated from Milton (Wis.) College in 1930 where she studied English literature and music. She married Ralph Winch of Milton Junction, Wis., on June 8, 1930, and then joined him in Madison, Wis., where he was a graduate student.

The Winches moved to Williamstown in 1931. Mary taught piano and was active in the First Congregational Church, serving as a deaconess and in the Sunday School. She served on the Williamstown School Committee, and on the Williamstown Housing Authority. Mary was a volunteer at Recording for the Blind, the Girl Scouts, and the Women's Exchange.

Survivors include one son, Roger Winch of Stanton, Calif.; two daughters, Martha Asher of Williamstown and Katherine Wrigley of Tustin, Calif.; two brothers, Roger Johnson of Tucson, Ariz., and Edwin Johnson of Nortonville, Kan.; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Her husband, Ralph, died in 1990.

A memorial service was held on September 17, 1992, at the First Congregational Church, Williamstown.

Shaw.—Leland C. Shaw, 95, died on October 5, 1992, at Memorial Community Hospital, Edgerton, Wis.

He was born on March 3, 1897, in Milton, Wis., the son of Dr. Edwin and Nellie (Campbell) Shaw. He attended schools in Milton and Plainfield, N.J., graduating from Milton College in 1919. On September 3, 1921, he married Vera Coon. She passed away in 1981.

After graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, Leland taught at Salem (W.Va.) College and Elwood, Ind. In 1924, he joined the teaching staff at Milton College where he was a professor of English for 48 years. He served on the Athletic Board and was the first recipient of the college's Pillar of Milton

Award. The school's Shaw Memorial Library building was named after Leland and his father.

"Prof Shaw" was a long-time member of the Milton Junction SDB Church and a charter member of the Southern Wisconsin-Northern Illinois Gladiola Society. He was a well-known grower and gladiola judge, and judged the flower shows at the Wisconsin State Fair for many years. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. and was a charter member of the Republican Presidential Task Force.

Survivors include one sister, Stephana Shaw of Milton; nieces, nephews, and many good friends. He was preceded in death by one sister, one brother, and his wife.

Private services were officiated by the Rev. Herbert Saunders. Burial was in Milton Cemetery.

Fassbender.—Marie (Hertle) Fassbender, 88, of Livingston, N.J., died at St. Barnabas Hospital, Livingston, on October 8, 1992.

She was born on December 19, 1903, in Germany, and grew up in the town of Memmingen. At the age of 19, she emigrated to the United States where she later met and married Ernest Fassbender. The couple made their home in New Jersey, and had one son, Robert.

Marie joined the SDB Church in Irvington, N.J., and served as a deaconess. After Irvington members joined the Raritan Valley SDB Church in Bridgewater, N.J., Marie became a deaconess there. For close to a decade, she prepared the unleavened bread for communion celebrations at Raritan Valley.

Survivors include relatives in Germany, and in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida, and Ohio.

A graveside service was held on October 10, 1992, at the Hollywood Memorial Park in Union, N.J., with Pastor Jeanne Yurke officiating. A memorial service with the church family was held on November 21, 1992, at the Raritan Valley SDB Church.

KEVIN'S

ORNER

Say, pastor. Does the following describe you and your church?

• If the pastor is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is gray, he's too old for the young people.

• If he has five or six children, he has too many; if he has none, he's setting a bad example.

• If he preaches from notes, he has "canned" sermons and is dry; if his messages are extemporaneous, he isn't deep enough.

• If he caters to the poor in the church, he's playing to the grandstand; if he pays attention to the wealthy, he's trying to be an aristocrat.

• If he uses too many illustrations, he's neglecting the Bible; if he doesn't include stories, he isn't clear.

• If he condemns wrong, he's cranky; if he doesn't preach against sin, they claim he's a compromiser.

• If he preaches the truth, he's too offensive; if he doesn't present the "whole counsel of God," he's a hypocrite.

• If he fails to please everybody, he's hurting the church and should leave; if he does make them all happy, he has no convictions.

• If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he buys a new one, he's setting his affection on earthly things.

• If he preaches all the time, the congregation gets tired of hearing just one man; if he invites guest ministers, he's shirking his responsibility.

• If he receives a large salary, he's mercenary; if he gets a small one, they say it proves he isn't worth much anyway.

Wow. Sometimes you just can't do anything right!

This list from Richard DeHaan's study, "Your Pastor and You," may exaggerate things a bit, but pastors can feel hemmed in like this at times.

Time for an inclusive word.

You may notice that in most of this month's articles, the pastor is referred to as "he," "him," "his," and so on. Since the majority of our churches are served by male pastors, this fits. And to be more inclusive would take some heavier editing. My apologies. Let's just make sure we encourage *all* our pastors! (Check out the article, "Pastors at risk." Definitely inclusive.)

Christian singer Ray Boltz has written and sung one of the more popular songs in recent years: "Thank You."

The song pictures a Christian (Sunday School teacher and generous giver to missions) going to heaven and receiving thanks for all the teaching, praying, and giving. The chorus says,

*"Thank you for giving to the Lord.
I am a life that was changed.
Thank you for giving to the Lord;
I am so glad you gave."*

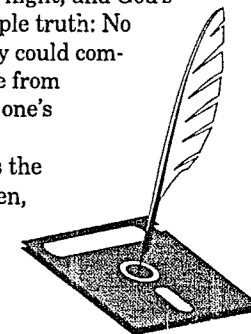
It's a great, memorable song.

But I never knew, until recently hearing Boltz in a radio interview before a local concert, that he was inspired to write the song for a special event.

Ray was asked to write a new song for his church's "Pastor Appreciation Day." For many days, nothing would "come." Soon, the celebration was just one day away.

The songwriter prayed that night, and God's Spirit impressed on him a simple truth: No single Pastor Appreciation Day could compare with the *eternal* gratitude from those led closer to the Lord by one's ministry.

And the Lord's pleasure? As the song has Jesus saying in heaven, "...my child, look around you. Great is your reward!"



In the next SR:

World missions—
Spotlight on Africa
Missionary Society
trip to Kenya, the
Cameroons, and Ghana

The Cross Road

From the manger and the straw,
In that simple barnyard stall,
Where the shepherds stood in awe;
My Lord Jesus came!

Gently moved by light of day
To a home along the way,
Where the Magi knelt to pray,
My Lord Jesus came!

Forced to flee to Egypt land,
To avoid an iron hand,
Knowing God was in command;
My Lord Jesus came!

Early training as a lad,
Living, learning with his dad,
Sometimes laughing, sometimes sad;
My Lord Jesus came!

Visiting the priests and seers
Clarifying for their ears

Wisdom far beyond His years;
My Lord Jesus came!

Miracles along the line;
Changing water into wine.
Caring, sharing—love divine;
My Lord Jesus came!

Teaching, healing, doing good
Demonstrating brotherhood
Doing what His Father would;
My Lord Jesus came!

Traveling the cross-bound lane
Never flinching from the pain
Knowing He must rise again;
My Lord Jesus came!

From the manger to the tree,
Down the path of life for me,
Jesus came and set me free;
Praise His holy name!!!

—Owen H. Probasco

