

The

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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

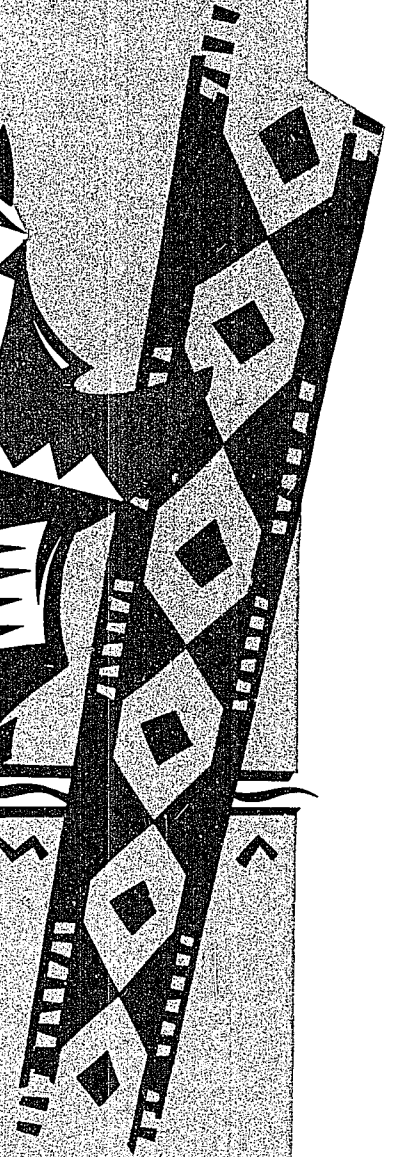
January 1993

R

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AFRICA

Discovering
and meeting
needs—
the 1992
trip



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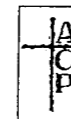
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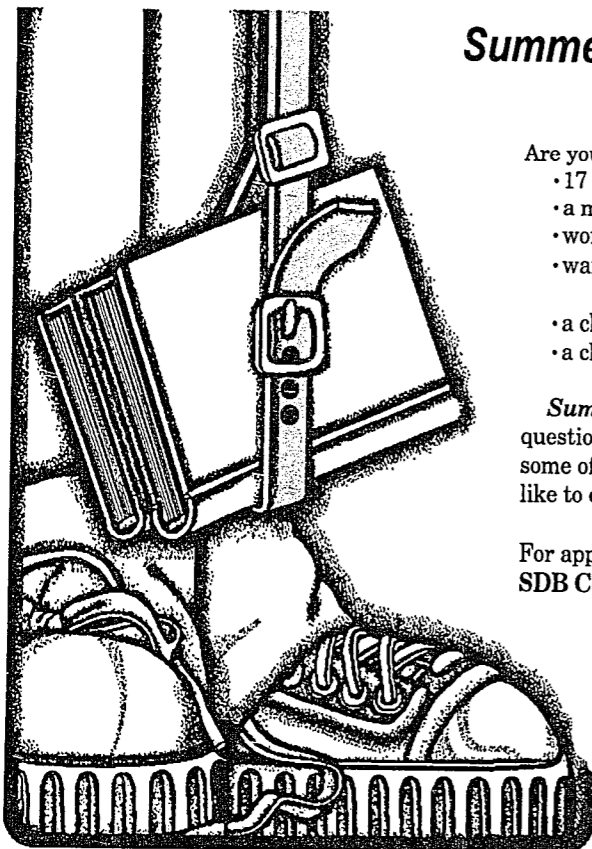
Features

SDBs ministering in Africa by Kirk Looper	4
Why did the 1800s explode with missions? by Paul E. Pierson	9
New national outreach by Ronald J. Elston Sr.	11
Missions hymn of yesteryear	16

Departments

Pearls from the past	13	Women's Society	20
SR Almanac	15	Testimonies	22
Focus	17	SR Reaction	22
Christian Education	18	Family flux	25
President's Page	19	Editorial	27

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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

SDBs ministering in Africa

by Kirk Looper

When we think of world missions, we most often think of Africa. However, Seventh Day Baptists have many world missions.

In this issue, we will focus on Africa, but in no way does this mean that it is the only, or even the most important, of our missions. In future articles, I hope to bring you up-to-date on some of our other world missions.

South Africa

South Africa communicates with us very little. They are quite busy with their church growth programs, and have seen some growth. I am anxious to get in better contact with them this year.

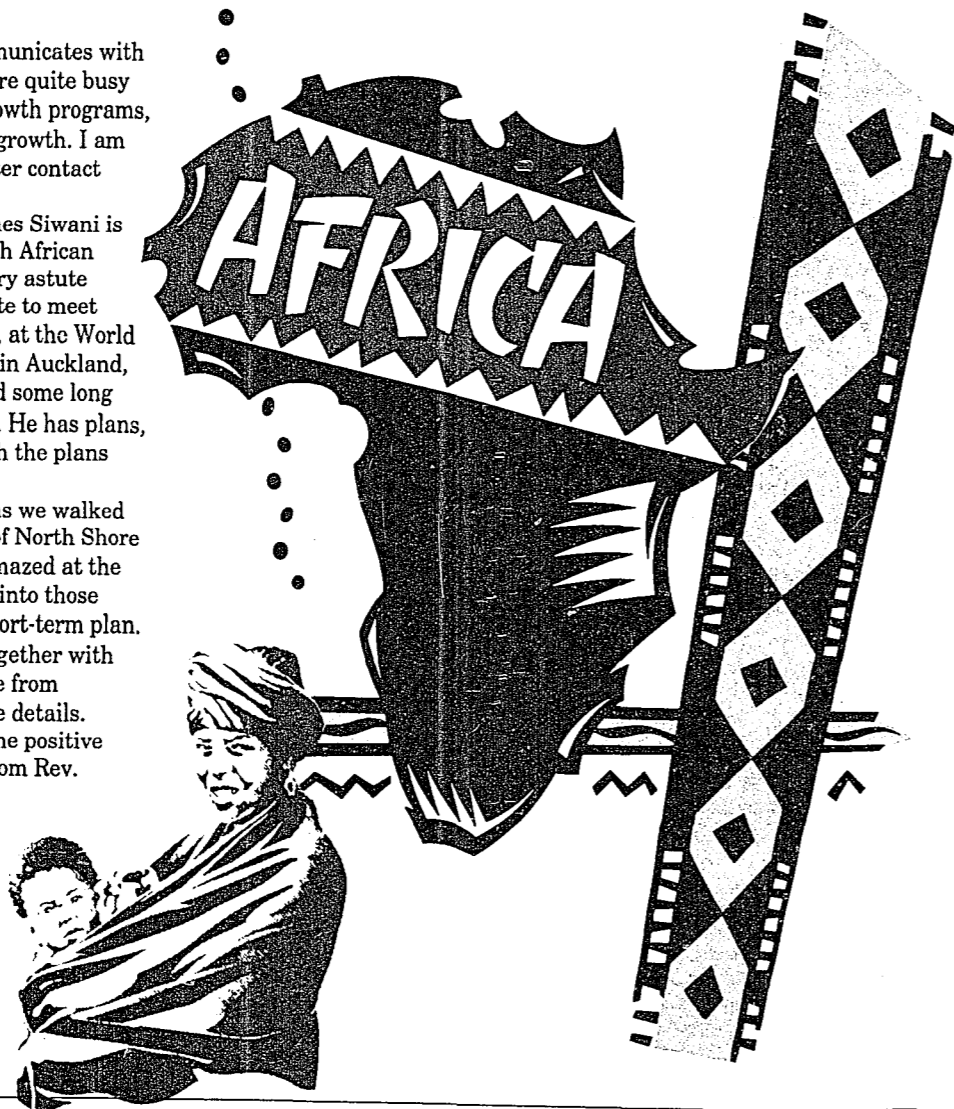
Rev. Njyaniso James Siwani is President of the South African Conference, and a very astute leader. I was fortunate to meet him in January 1992, at the World Federation meetings in Auckland, New Zealand. We had some long and interesting talks. He has plans, and a means by which the plans are to be completed.

Talking to James as we walked the hills and streets of North Shore in Auckland, I was amazed at the deep thinking he put into those plans. This was no short-term plan. Later, when he got together with Rev. R.J. Mkandawire from Malawi, he shared the details. I was pleased to see the positive response that came from Rev. Mkandawire.

Rev. Siwani saw a need to reach out beyond the area which is presently covered by the churches. He also knew that it would take money. Instead of asking the Missionary Society for the money to reach out, he requested funds to obtain a taxi cab, thereby earning the money to continue the program. It would be an investment in the

future, not just a payoff. This "business" plan would be a connection with the future, not only a gift for the present. It would mean a meaningful lifetime experience, not just a Christmas gift.

Before the meetings were over, Rev. Siwani submitted the plan to the World Federation as a project proposal. This is sent out to all the Conferences for their assistance.



The other need in South Africa is the training of their ministers. They are seeking a T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) program.

Malawi

The Rev. Royal Mkandawire, Corresponding Secretary of the Central African Conference, keeps us up-to-date on the work done in Malawi. His quarterly correspondence is usually full of news of needs and changes. This past year, they have been very busy reaching out and organizing.

This was the first year for the National Youth Camp, held at Makapwa. They organized and operated the camp in September, and it was considered successful. The camp's purpose was to unite the youth from all over Africa, teach them various lessons from Scripture, and train them in practical activities. The main emphasis was preparing for the future, not just fun for the present.

In 1992, the first meeting of the "African General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists" was held. The purpose of this organization is to help the SDB African Conferences in areas of spiritual development and growth, as well as encouragement.

At our World Federation meetings, I was pleased to see the leaders desiring to get together to help one another. It was a success, with South Africa, Mozam-

bique, Zimbabwe, and Zambia attending. Representatives from Nigeria, Kenya, the Cameroons, Zaire, and Burundi were not able to come—not only because of funding, but because the governments would not allow them to attend. We pray that recent elections will make a difference in the governments' attitudes, and

The "African General Conference of Seventh Day Baptists" is to help the SDB African Conferences in areas of spiritual development and growth, as well as encouragement.

that they will issue visitation visas for 1993 meetings.

These are but a few of the activities in Malawi. We do have more information on the day-to-day activities there. If concerned, please contact us.

The 1992 trip to Africa

After a couple of setbacks, it was September 17, and we were finally on our way. We were ready to get started!

Pastor Leon Lawton, Dr. Ron Davis and I met at the Kennedy Air Terminal in New York City, to begin this adventure. I believe we were all a little anxious.

This was a fact-finding trip. We wanted to determine where we had churches, see how well they were organized, and evaluate their needs. The agenda also included investigating the availability of possible medical missions.

God blessed us with the opportunity to visit the Netherlands SDB Conference on our way to Africa. Frits Nieuwstraten, in Haarlem, Holland, hosted us. We participated

in the Conference meetings, traveled to Germany, and visited various places in Holland (also meeting Pastor Jacob Nieuwstraten and his family).

We enjoyed this time getting to know the people in Haarlem. But, all too soon, it was time to depart to Kenya, the first of the three countries we were to visit.

Kenya

In Kenya, we found a well-organized church with two branches. They had no medical facilities, but land is available. They plan to build a permanent medical building, and use the current temporary facility for a nursery or pre-school. Since they have their own means of making and firing their bricks, the

biggest expense will be the metal roof.

We attended a Sabbath service there with 200 people worshipping. At least half of them were youth. Pastor Sorota said that about 20 in the group were Seventh-day Adventists.

The branch church we visited met under the trees. It was made up of young people, 10 to 20 years of age—a good beginning.

Dr. Ron Davis had the opportunity to conduct clinics on the previous two days. He worked primarily with nursing mothers and pregnant women, working with others as time allowed.

I was not surprised to find the presence of malaria, and to note that about 90 percent of the popula-

tion was infected. It is not a disease that is easily cast aside. It stays in the blood stream for a long period of time after you are "cured." (We had to take malaria medicine for four weeks after we returned to the States.)

I pray daily for the people in Africa, that they will soon find a workable remedy for malaria.

The Cameroons

In the Cameroons, we were able to meet the leaders of the Native Baptist Church Conference. (Our SDBs there are registered under this Conference.) The Native Baptist leaders appear to be very dedicated people in their own way; however, I do not feel their real interest is in the SDB denomination.

Presently, I am waiting to see which way our churches will choose to go. Some SDBs feel they could register under their own name. We will need to wait and see.

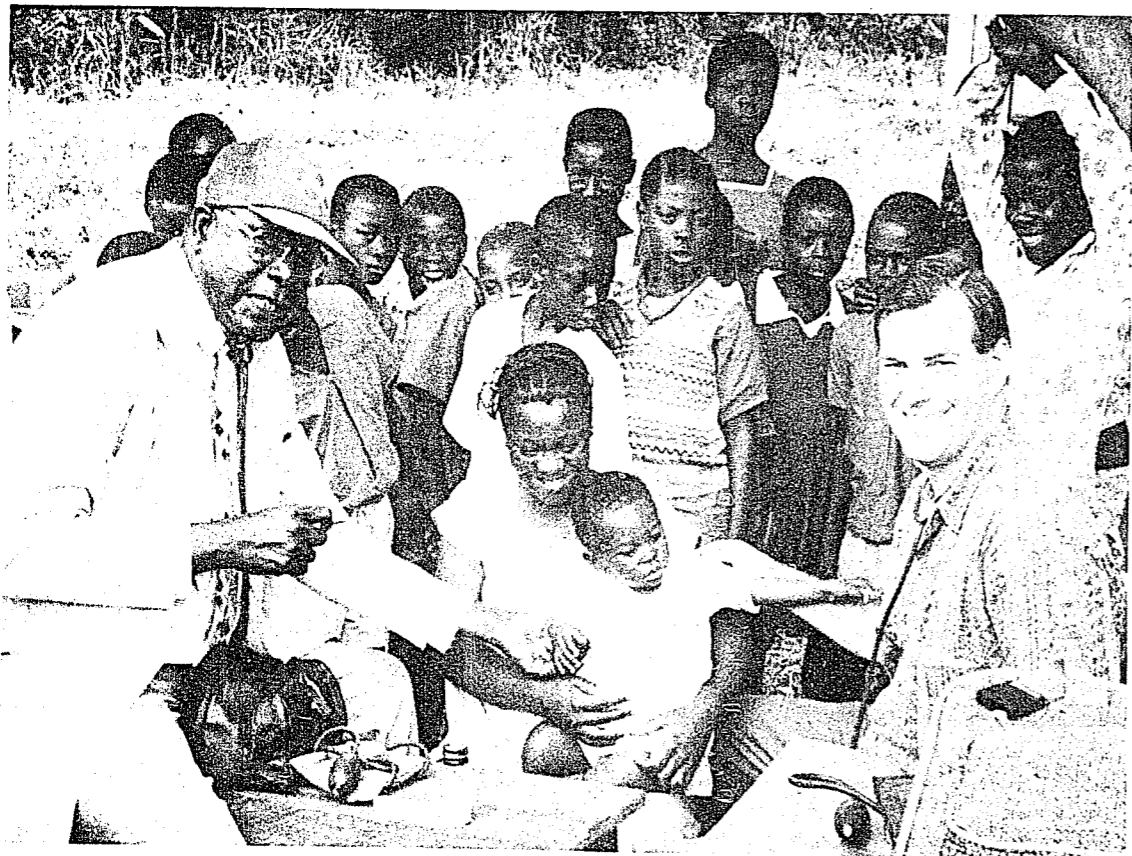
We visited two places. In Lysoka, we were taken to the Native Baptist Church to meet their leaders, then toured their clinic, which had been abandoned years ago. All buildings were in disrepair.

The larger building, however, was being used for class rooms by the government-operated school just down the road. The church leaders proposed that we help renovate the buildings and set up a clinic/hospital.

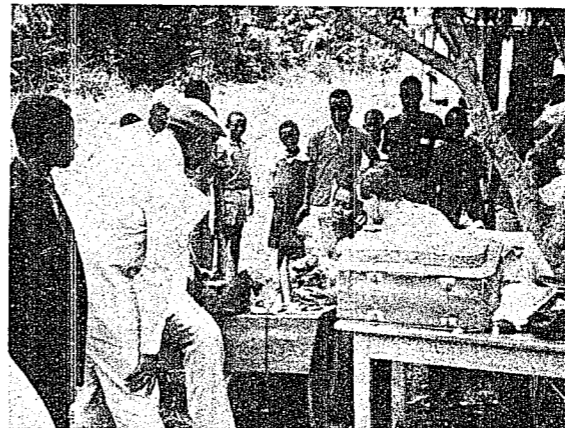
In Kumba, we visited the office of Pastor John Mpako, the Sev-

(cont. on page 8)

Dr. Ron Davis worked primarily with nursing mothers and pregnant women, working with others as time allowed.



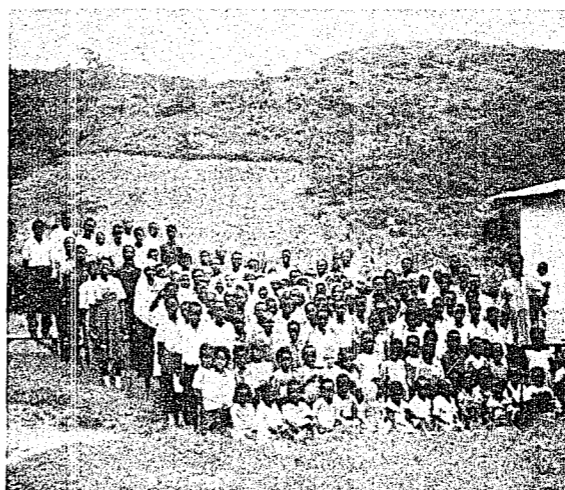
Dr. Ron Davis (right) conducted many health clinics while in Africa. This young mother and child receive his attention with the assistance of a local doctor. The clinic was held in Lysoka, Cameroon.



Another child is examined at the clinic in Lysoka, Cameroon.



Deacons for the "Church of Theocracy," located at "Sabbath Village" outside Accra, Ghana.



Church members at the "Church of Theocracy," Ghana.



Offices and shops in Kumba, Cameroon.



People flocked toward another health clinic led by Dr. Davis at Rocongo, in Kisii, Kenya.

enth Day Baptist leader. We saw the building they rent for worship services, and a Baptist clinic supported by American Baptists.

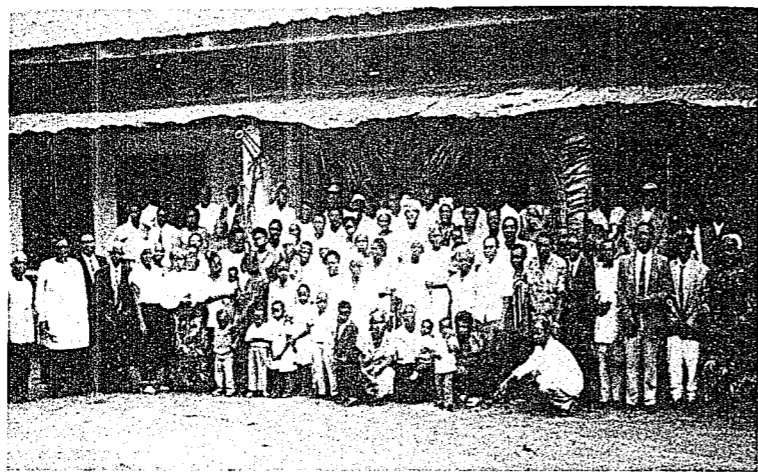
On Wednesday morning, the church gathered to worship. This allowed us to meet the church leaders. However, I am not sure if they were Seventh Day Baptists or Native Baptists.

Dr. Ron Davis held clinics at Ly-soka and Kumba. Once again, he was primarily interested in pregnant women and nursing mothers. (I'm sure he looked forward to each night when he could rest, since he was working most of the time.

Ghana

Our visit in Ghana was shortened after the cancellation of our flight into that country by Ghana Air Lines. However, we were still able to visit with two of the three major contacts there.

Both leaders live in Accra. I had requested that the three men meet ahead of time to decide on the



The SDB church congregation in Kumba, Cameroon.

several hours to find him, since his village is out in the "bush.")

Pastor Lamptey has about 30 people attending his church. It is located in Akosombo, and is presently a Sunday Baptist church. New buildings for a church and clinic appear to be their main needs.

tional building, also requesting a few other less expensive needs.

Although I found both gentlemen to be capable leaders and organizers, there may be a lack of trust and desire to interact and cooperate. This was indicated in their letters before we arrived, and was somewhat confirmed by their actions. Also, their letters to us following our trip have indicated an inability to accept outside groups. Please pray for our friends there.

I feel the visit to Africa was very successful. We obtained useful information to encourage the proper interaction between groups. It also allowed us to meet the leaders of each country, and learn how to better approach them.

The visit has changed my thoughts about each of these mission areas. In some, I see readily available mission fields. In others, I see that some time needs to be taken to answer more questions and solidify some basics in faith and order.

We must pray for the African leaders, as well as for those at the Missionary Society who will be making decisions about these exciting areas. **SR**

We obtained useful information to encourage the proper interaction between groups. It also allowed us to meet the leaders of each country, and learn how to better approach them.

meeting's details; they had not done it. And only one of them had made an effort to meet the plane.

All three contacts have established churches. Elder Emmanuel Acquah, of Nsawam, did not meet with us. I contacted Pastor James Lamptey by phone shortly after we got settled, and he set up a meeting later that morning. Dr. Davis had to venture out and look for Pastor Kadmiel Agbalenyoh. (It took Ron

We did visit the village managed by Pastor Agbalenyoh. The community of about 30 families looked well organized, with their own school and clinic. Pastor Agbalenyoh is a licensed "Naturalopathy"—a person who heals with herbs and natural ways.

His village exists in a sort of communal form. They raise pineapples, coconuts, and vegetables, and appear to be very successful. They desire a new clinic and educa-

Why did the 1800s explode with missions?

by Paul E. Pierson

At the time of William Carey (early 1800s), there were probably only a few hundred Protestant missionaries in the world. They never numbered more than a few thousand during the following decades.

By 1900, even after a second burst of Protestant missions, there were only 15,000 European and American Protestant missionaries throughout the world. Those who went had short careers; many died within the first two years on the field. Thus the numbers remained quite small.

But the magnitude of the modern missions movement must not be measured by the number of missionaries. It must be measured by the growth of the Church.

In 1800, perhaps one percent of Protestant Christians lived in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. By 1900, this number had grown to 10 percent. Today, at least 67 percent of all active Protestant Christians live in countries once considered foreign mission fields. And the Church is still growing rapidly, even explosively, in many areas—Korea, sub-Saharan Africa,

Singapore, and the People's Republic of China.

Consider this remarkable turnaround: Only 200 years ago, Protestant Christianity was almost exclusively Western. Now, Protestants are strongest in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. From a Christian standpoint, the modern missionary movement has turned the world upside down.

What caused this movement? Why did it start?

Powerful Pietists

The first European Protestant missionaries to Asia landed in India almost a century before Carey. Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Heinrich Plutschau were Pietists from the University of Halle (Germany) who went to the Danish colony of Tranquebar, India, in 1706. More than 50 Pietist missionaries from Germany followed them to India during that century.

Pietism also influenced the young Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, who became the leader of the Moravian movement. In 1732, the Moravian believers began to send missionaries all over the world—to 28 different countries in 28 years.

Susannah Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, was greatly influenced by reading the memoirs of Ziegenbalg and Plutschau. Her sons deeply felt the spiritual

impact of the Moravians, and their Methodist movement birthed many missionaries in the 1800s.

Astounding awakenings

Evangelical revivals in the 1700s were a second major factor in the explosion of missionary activity. Jonathan Edwards, a leader of the first Great Awakening in North America, had a deep concern for missions. He encouraged concern for missions.

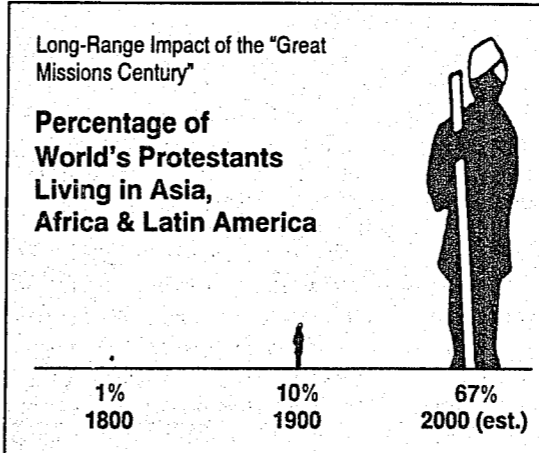
Edwards encouraged concerts of prayer, which were organized in Scotland and North America. Perhaps most important, he published the journal of David Brainerd, who died after a brief but intense ministry with native Americans in central New Jersey. Carey later was inspired by Brainerd's journal.

The evangelical awakening in England was led primarily by John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. The movement led to renewal in various churches, and Carey was awakened in his faith by that movement. It is significant that Carey wrote his *Enquiry* missions manifesto only one year after John Wesley died.

Colonial commerce

The political and commercial context was a third factor. During the 1500s and 1600s, missions from Europe were carried on almost exclusively by Roman Catholics. The mission efforts were supported by the major Roman Catholic maritime powers—Spain, Portugal, and later, France.

But by the early 1600s, the British East India Company was trading in India. Great Britain gradually began to control land there,



and a century later nearly all of India was incorporated into the British Empire. England, with its growing commercial interests, had become the dominant maritime power of the world.

News of Captain Cook's explorations in the South Pacific came back to England, expanding people's understanding of the world. When Carey read *The Last Voyage of Captain Cook*, it stirred his interest in missions.

Successive societies

Thus, Carey arrived on the scene at a time of commercial and political expansion, and religious revival. He insisted the Great Commission was binding on the church. He traced the historical roots of Protestant missions. And he recognized the changing historical context that made a missionary movement possible.

Carey's call to mission launched a movement. More than any other individual, he moved European and North American churches to focus on the world beyond. For this reason, he deserves to be called the "Father of Protestant Missions."

In 1792, Carey sparked the creation of the Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Heathen. There soon followed an explosion of mission agencies: London Missionary Society (1795), Scottish and Glasgow Missionary Societies (1796), Church Missionary Society (1799), Religious Tract Society (1799), and the British and Foreign Bible Society (1804).

(SR note: Seventh Day Baptists' concern for missions prompted the establishment of General Conference in 1802. Various missionary boards, publications, and societies began in 1818, 1821, and 1828; our



Our first Seventh Day Baptist overseas missionaries. Top: Solomon and Lucy Carpenter. Left: Nathan and Olive Wardner. The couples set sail for China in 1847.

current SDB Missionary Society was founded in 1842.)

Similar groups formed in continental Europe and America, including the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (1810) and, among Baptists, the General Convention for Foreign Missions (1814).

Carey continued

The missionary movement has not stopped growing since 1792. There are now approximately 40,000 career Protestant missionaries who have gone from the United States to other parts of the world. Ten percent are from older "mainline" churches; 90 percent come from newer evangelical or charismatic groups.

However, the missionary movement launched by Carey has changed radically. In the 1800s, with rare exceptions, cross-cultural missionaries came from the West.

Even until 40 years ago, "missionary" generally meant a Westerner going to Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

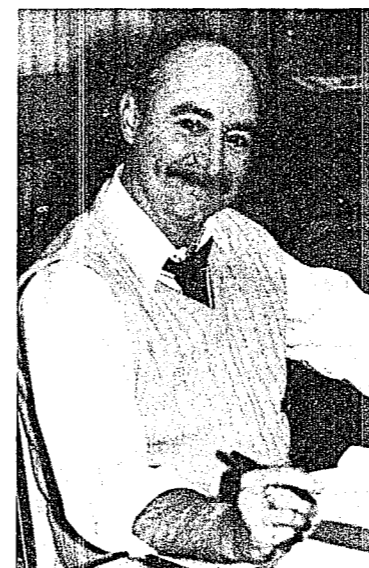
Today, though, the number of cross-cultural missionaries is growing most rapidly among believers from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Research indicates there were 3,400 such missionaries in 1972. Today, there are at least 48,000.

This is a new phenomenon in history. No message has been communicated so widely by so many people of so many races, languages, and cultures as the Christian message today. **SR**

Dr. Paul E. Pierson is dean emeritus and professor of history of mission in the School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif. Reprinted with permission from Christian History (Vol. XI, No. 4, 1992).

New national outreach

by Ronald J. Elston Sr.
Regional Field Worker



Ronald Elston

The night sky suddenly lit up as the plane prepared for its final approach to Lambert St. Louis International Airport. Jon Warren and I were returning from a T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) seminar in Boulder, Colo.

As the aircraft descended over the St. Louis area, and we observed thousands of lights, our hearts grew heavy as we thought of the lost souls in that city. What could we do to bring about evangelism and outreach to that area?

Looking down at the tiny lights, we were certain that some of those people on the ground shared the knowledge of the Sabbath, and were looking for direction in their walk with the Lord.

Our conversation during the flight had centered on reaching out to a lost and dying world. This reality was brought home as we gazed at those lights. There, thousands of feet above the city, a vision was born that would take several years to put into place. But, with God's help and direction, that vision is becoming clear.

An outreach to the St. Louis area is happening! In August, the Kirkwood, Mo., church rented a facility just off I-270 and began after-

noon meetings. Pastor Jon Warren leads the worship service two weeks per month.

For some background, the Kirkwood church had been meeting in the home of Leigh and Thelma Stewart. However, following Leigh's death last December, and Thelma moving into an apartment, the group decided to find a new meeting place.

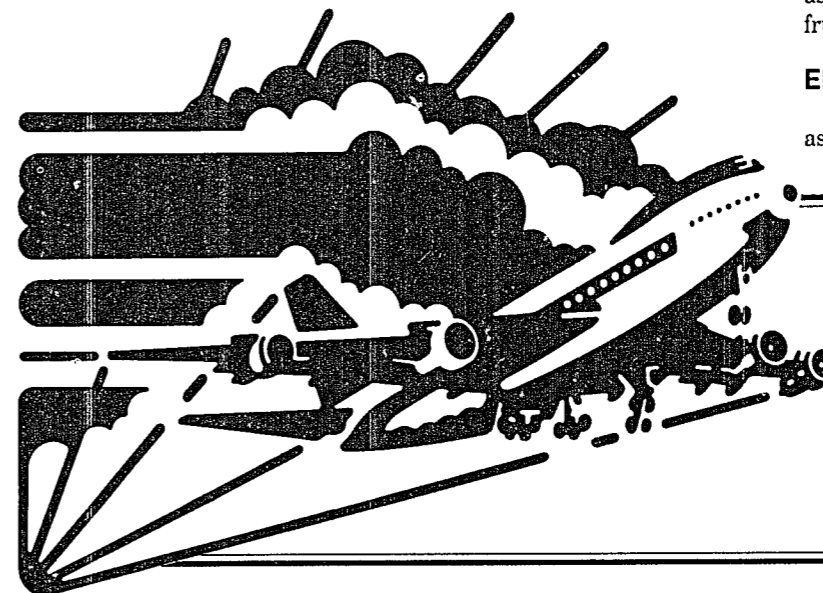
In July, I traveled to St. Louis to assist the group in their search, and the Lord blessed. They were able to hold their first meeting in the new facility in mid-August.

As for outreach, they have advertised in local newspapers, "shoppers," and the Yellow Pages. Along with personal follow-up ministry, Pastor Warren reports that Kirkwood now has three new families attending on a regular basis, and new visitors almost every Sabbath. Praise the Lord!

We do praise Him for His direction with this outreach into a major metro area. We desire your prayers as this is only the beginning of this fruitful labor for the Lord.

Elston, Mo.

Jon Warren continues to lead out as the pastor of the Sabbath Day



What could we do to bring about evangelism and outreach to that area?



Jon Warren

Baptist Church of Central Missouri, located in Elston (just west of Jefferson City.) The Lord has been blessing this branch of the Doniphan, Mo., church with slow but steady growth.

Pastor Jon reports that following the Senior Saints project last spring, the church now has adequate facilities to disciple the new interests in that area.

The church at Elston hosted a Sabbath "rally day" on December 12, with various Sabbathkeeping churches from across the state joining in fellowship.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

New leadership has emerged in the Oklahoma City church as Andrew Woods became their new pastor. Andy is a young man with much energy and a heart for ministry. During the past several months, I have met with the church and leadership to work with them on their vision for outreach in the Midwest City area. The church is actively involved with other churches in fellowship and evangelism for the Oklahoma City area.

I praise God for raising up new people who are eager to serve the

Lord and willing to accept the responsibility for the Kingdom's work. Pastor Woods has recently enrolled in the T.I.M.E. program. Under the direction of Rodney Henry, this training will be valuable to him and the church as they seek God's will in the ministry.

seek a meeting place and direction in starting the new witness in that area.

I have been blessed by the commitment of both groups as they step out in faith and seek God's will. At the present time, leadership comes from Pastor Osborn and

These are exciting times for Seventh Day Baptists as new contacts are being made from all over the world. However, not every contact will become a Seventh Day Baptist, nor will each contact become a church.

We ask for prayers for Andrew and his family, and the Oklahoma City church.

Albion/Portage, Wis.

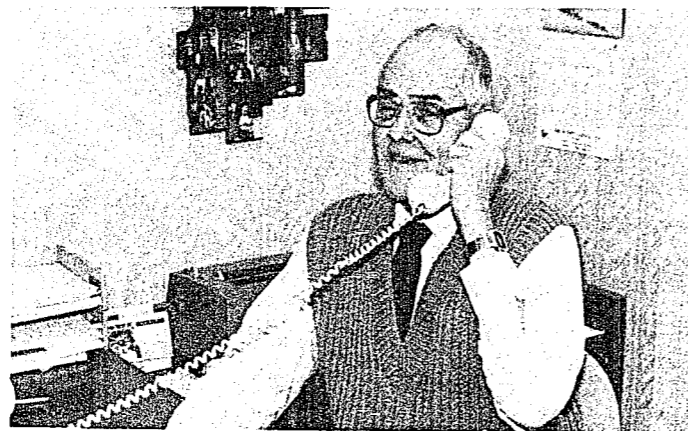
The folks in Albion are excited! Not only because Pastor Paul Osborn has regained his sight and has his driver's license again, but they also have a new addition—a branch in Portage!

With 32 people in the Portage group (north of Madison), they are off to a running start. It is an exciting time for both groups. I have enjoyed working with them as they

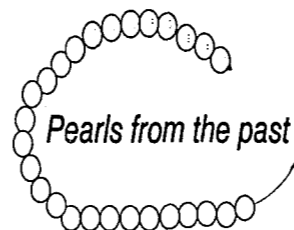
Calvin Babcock. Please keep this new work on your prayer list.

These are exciting times for Seventh Day Baptists as new contacts are being made from all over the world. However, not every contact will become a Seventh Day Baptist, nor will each contact become a church.

I feel that we, as a people, have a great desire to grow, but we must not run ahead of the Lord; we must wait upon His leading. We must build upon that firm foundation—Jesus Christ, the Rock. *SR*



Paul Osborn



Great Scott—what a tour!

by Don A. Sanford, historian

In the foreword prepared by University Microfilms (not a part of the original publication), the editors wrote:

A Journal of a Missionary Tour, by the Reverend James Leander Scott, printed in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1843, records a journey to the Middle Western frontier in 1842. Scott, pastor of a Seventh Day Baptist church in Richburg, New York, had been asked by the Executive of the [Seventh Day] Baptist Home Missionary Society to undertake a trip to distribute tracts, convert unbelievers, and establish churches where possible, in the new settlements.

In the intervals between lengthy evangelical meetings, baptisms,

conversions of drunkards, and formation of churches, Scott noted with a sharp practical eye the state of civilization in the new cities such as Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Iowa City, and took particular note of the fertility of the soil, the healthfulness of the climate, and the availability of good building material in specific areas. His motive in writing the *Journal* was not only to urge other ministers to succor the Macedonians crying in the wilderness, "Come over and help us," but to provide guidance for prospective settlers. The vivid detail of frontier conditions in his narrative should have proved useful to settlers seeking a new home, and Scott also bequeathed to posterity a valuable picture of life in the Middle West during the years of settlement, as well as a self-portrait that provides insight into the religious spirit of nineteenth century America.

Scott's travels with his wife and a 6-year-old son were made in an open buggy, beginning in January 1842. They went along Lake Erie to Cleveland, then southwest across the marshy Ohio territory to places such as Jackson Center, North Hampton, and southern Ohio.

He very graphically described the corduroy roads "made by throwing trunks of trees into a marsh and leaving them to settle there. The jolts, as the carriage fell from log to log, were uncomfortable in the extreme."

But there were high points as well as hardship. At Port Jefferson, Ohio, he found Brother B.C. Church laboring, and saw 12 baptized and others with renewed heart. (Bethuel Church had been the first teacher at Alfred Academy, and two years later, was recruited by Joseph Goodrich to teach

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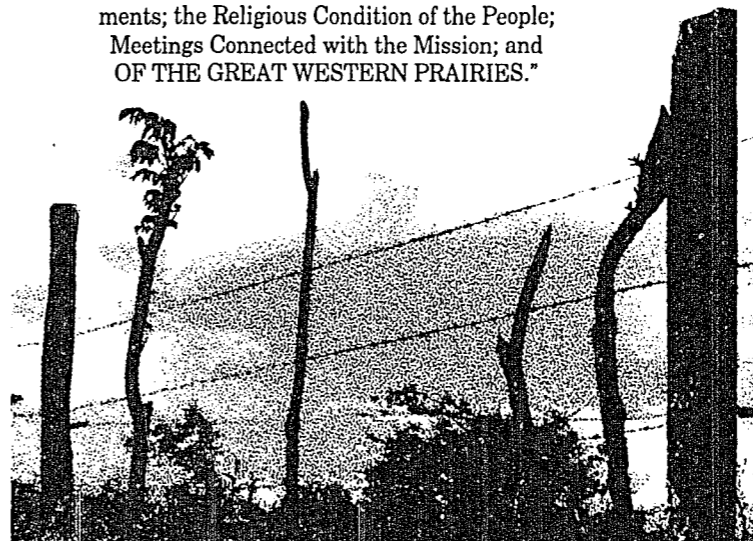
The year 1993 marks the 150th anniversary of James Leander Scott's book describing his missionary tour through the Midwest on behalf of Seventh Day Baptists.

So historically important was this book that in 1966, University Microfilms at Ann Arbor, Mich., republished Scott's journal in its *March of America Facsimile Series*. This series was designed to offer a cross section of writings, giving a flavor of American history.

In 1989, Cathy Luchetti included 13 pages of excerpts from Scott's journal in her illustrated book entitled, *Under God's Spell: Frontier Evangelists 1772-1915*.

The full title of Scott's book is a mouthful:

"A JOURNAL
of a
MISSIONARY TOUR
Through
Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois,
Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan
Comprising
A Concise Description of
Different Sections of Country; Health of Climate;
Inducements for Emigration with the Embarrassments;
the Religious Condition of the People;
Meetings Connected with the Mission; and
OF THE GREAT WESTERN PRAIRIES."



at Milton Academy.)

At Jackson Township, he described the people cheerfully making their two to five mile journey through the woods, aided by their torches, to worship God. Concerning the 29th of January, he wrote:

This day being Sabbath, the people assembled for divine worship, filling the house to overflowing. As it was the evening before, so it was on the Sabbath — they came flocking from all parts, boiling forth

from the forest in every direction. The worship of God was attended with deep solemnity. While Christians were made to rejoice, sinners evidently saw the need of a Saviour.

Scott's journey took him across Indiana, Illinois, and into Iowa, where he met with scattered settlers from churches in the East, as well as those with no religious background.

His return took him into southern Wisconsin, where he met with

the church at Milton. On that Sabbath, the 18th of July, he rejoiced as he had "the happiness of seeing and preaching to a congregation of friends, with whom I had often worshipped in my native state."

He returned back to New York State in time to attend the September sessions of General Conference at Berlin, New York. Following Conference, he went on to West-erly, R.I., to report to the Missionary Society. While there, he conducted a revival service which, at first, had few hearers. But after about two weeks, interest picked up as he described it:

...the holy fire began to burn, saints to weep between the porch and the altar, back-sliders to return, sinners to cry for mercy. Then the wheels of salvation rolled on, soon the sceptic, infidel, universalist, rich and poor, and all, of all complexions and conditions began to cry out, "Men and brethren, what shall I do?"

Although his health suffered from the rigors of the journey, and he did not feel up to a series of meetings, he continued for about two months.

During those meetings, it was my lot to preach forty-nine evenings in uninterrupted succession, besides frequently in the day time. I was enabled to continue in the meetings about eight weeks, when my health entirely failed, and I was compelled to leave the spiritual walls of Zion.

Included in the appendix of Scott's journal is an original song (see page 16, this SR). The words were written for and sung "at the close of a Missionary Discourse" during the last session of the 1842 General Conference.

Perhaps the effects of Scott's work led to the increased efforts of the newly organized Missionary Society, which soon ventured into the uncharted waters of foreign missions in China. SR



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—January 1992

"Missions" features look at SDB outreach into Africa. Special focus placed on missionaries to Malawi, Ian and Trudy Ingoo.

Director of Extension Russell Johnson urges readers to consider the spiritual "harvest" on the local and national scene.

Rodney Henry's Sabbath series presents common objections to the seventh-day Sabbath.

"Beacon" page lets youth know what General Conference sessions are all about.

Background given on new Missionary Society Executive Vice-President Kirk Looper.

Pastor Henry Davis, of Michigan, killed in airplane crash.

Five years ago—January 1988

With the theme, "Our Near-by Mission," Director of Extension Rod Henry presents many practical opportunities to reach unbelieving neighbors.

Matthew and Ellen Olson make plans for a short-term missions project in the Philippines.

Group in Charleston, S.C., seeks meeting place.

Board of Christian Education lists their many workshops and seminars available to the local church.

Historian Don Sanford and wife, Ilou, make their own "missionary journey" through central Ohio.

Jamaica's SDB Bible Institute signs up 15 students.

10 years ago—January 1983

Leon Lawton analyzes the recent growth of our active churches in, "Churches Need Children, Too."

Director of Evangelism Mynor Soper lays out the steps for starting a branch church.

Missionary to Malawi from 1953-1970, Beth Burdick describes a typical day in that country.

Christian Education page urges churches to plan ahead for Vacation Bible School.

Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate asks readers about "Soul-winning, Soul-grabbing, or Soul-caring?" SR Youth Writing Contest announced.

25 years ago—January 1968

Rev. James L. Skaggs dies in Wisconsin at age 89.

Special edition focuses on the publishing work of the American Sabbath Tract Society. Victor Skaggs explains "The Birth of a Tract."

Reports from "Home Field Pastors" in Kansas, Louisiana, New York, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

B. Colwell Davis Jr., president of the SDB Memorial Board, dies four days after the January quarterly meeting.

Denver, Colo., church kicks off campaign to build a sanctuary adjoining its fellowship hall.

After studying SDB beliefs during the fall quarter, the Washington, D.C., youth group makes a pilgrimage to the SDB Building in Plainfield, N.J.

50 years ago—January 1943

Excerpts printed from a Loyal Hurley sermon, "Preparing the Worker." The four steps are: Knowing God's Will, Wishing God's Will, Seeking God's Will, and Doing God's Will.

Special supplement highlights the SDB School of Theology—"Its Relationship to Alfred [N.Y.] University and the Seventh Day Baptist Denomination." Students include Kenneth Van Horn, Victor Skaggs, David Clarke, Harmon Dickinson, Rex Zwiebel, and Alton Wheeler.

Pastor J.W. Crofoot writes letter to a New York newspaper protesting the new governor's proposal that public schools hold sessions on the seventh day.

Article chronicles the personal sacrifices made by SDB Commission members to attend the year-end meeting.

New Year's sermon on "Prayer" presented by Earl Cruzan.

Doctor Grace Crandall, at the SDB China Mission, writes of the high cost of living and the black market in prescription drugs.

...where are we headed?

Pray...

- for our Conferences and new contacts in Africa
- that we stand for God's truth
- for awareness of our neighbors' needs
- that we tap into SDB educational resources
- for our seminary and extension students
- with thanksgiving for our dear saints
- for mid-year General Council meetings

Missions hymn of yesteryear

This hymn was included in Rev. James Leander Scott's *Journal of a Missionary Tour*, written in 1843. (See "Pearls," page 13.)

It is not hard to imagine the plight of some of those lonesome souls who were converted by the itinerant preachers, but who were often left without any pastor or leader to nurture them in their newfound faith. Such was the case during many of those early missions.

Macedonian Cry
(Metric pattern 8.8.6 D)
Might be sung to tune "Ariel," as in
"O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth"

<p>Hark! hark! what cry arrests my ear? It is a distant plaintive prayer: O friends of Jesus hear! "Behold us in these western wilds, Where vice the youthful heart beguiles, And rolls its dark career.</p> <p>"Our souls cry out in deep distress, Where is the road from wretchedness? We die in deep despair. A gleam of light has pass'd our brow; To seek its source we know not how; For help we now appear.</p> <p>"A man of God just pass'd us by In haste, he said, 'prepare to die, To meet your final doom.' In melting strains he loudly cried, 'In Christ's pavilion quickly hide, Secure from wrath to come.'</p> <p>"We flew, the joyful news to grasp; He cried, 'improve, for I'm in haste, But little can I stay.' He look'd on us, and as he went 'Prepare,' he said, 'for the event Of time—for endless day.'</p> <p>"We sought his feet, but he was gone; His message left, his moments flown, To other fields he fled.</p>	<p>On him we gaz'd—from us he flew, His visage died upon our view— We grasp'd what light he shed.</p> <p>"Half wak'd. We struggle here in night, O, Christians! where's the perfect light That leads the soul to God? Shall we in moral darkness dwell, And crowd the road that leads to hell, Nor flee the fiends' abode?"</p> <p>O, Christians! hear their bitter cry, That rolls the Mississippi by, And mounts to God above, O, will you let them plead in vain Since Christ the Lord for all was slain, That all might know his love?</p> <p>Haste, then, the messengers prepare, And quickly send them, send them there, To teach the road to heaven. May God on high prepare their way, And as they point to endless day, Salvation will be given.</p> <p>When here we fail, in realms above We'll bathe eternal in that love That sends this message round. With angel's blest, on seraph's lyre Our harps well tuned with holy fire, Shall joyful praise resound.</p>
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FOCUS on Missions SDB leaders in Africa

by Kirk Looper

Kenya



Pastor Moses Sorota and Pastor Joseph Okero

Pastors Moses Sorota and Joseph Okero are the main leaders at our churches in Kenya's Kisii District. They share in the work of the church and its outreach. Pastor Okero remembers vividly Pastors Leon Lawton and Alton Wheeler when they visited in 1976.

Ghana

Pastor Lamptey and Pastor Aghalenyoh lead churches that are considering changing to Seventh Day Baptist. Pastor Lamptey has a Sunday church. Pastor Aghalenyoh has a Sabbathkeeping church, but has not yet decided to fellowship with us.

The Cameroons



Rev. John Mpacko

Rev. John Mpacko heads the leadership in the Kumba area of The Cameroons. About 15 "evangelists" (circuit pastors) work



Pastor Michael Elango

in the larger area around Kumba. Pastor Michael Elango is his assistant.

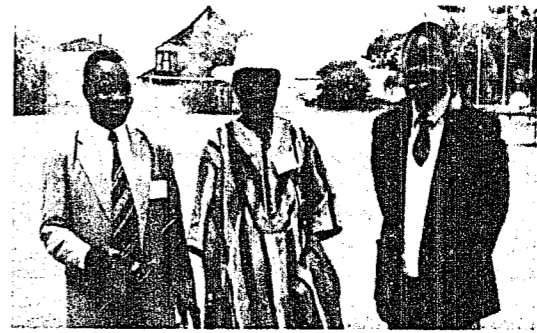
Established Conferences

Pastor Royal Mkandawire is the Corresponding Secretary for the Central Africa Conference. He works primarily out of Blantyre, Malawi. Pastor Mkandawire oversees programs in Malawi, and is instrumental in organizing groups in neighboring countries.

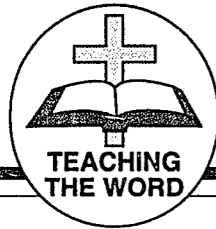
Elder Lawrence Ucheguonu is Vice President of the Nigerian Seventh Day Baptist Conference. Pastor Ucheguonu is very active in taking the Gospel to the northern Nigerian Chris-

tians and Muslims. He has had some very close encounters with death—the latest, a fire bomb in one of the villages he visits.

Pastor James Siwani is President of the South Africa Conference. Pastor Siwani has applied for funds to purchase a minibus to help transport the people to church, and to use as a business, transporting people around town. He has begun reaching out into the area surrounding Port Elizabeth.



Pastor Royal Mkandawire, Elder Lawrence Ucheguonu, and Pastor James Siwani.



New resources for Christian education

Christian education makes a vital contribution to the faith development of our families. Where Christian education is weak, so is maturing faith and loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ, our local church, and our General Conference. Where Christian education is strong and active, our members and their families are also growing in faith and loyalty.

"We need help! Where can we find new materials that will enhance our Christian education programs?"

New resources for Christian education have arrived during the past months at the Board of Christian Education Office, Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803. Included are some materials well suited for use by Seventh Day Baptists.

Group, the Loveland, Colo., publisher of the popular youth ministry

time, Bible stories, crafts, flannel-graph, flash cards, and "photocopiable" coloring pages. (This permission to photocopy the activity sheets for use in the local church is a consistent, cost-saving characteristic of Group materials.)

Preschool Program provides two and one-half hours of program ideas and classroom management tips for the 10 lessons. A Preschool Newsletter is provided for each lesson. Photocopy the master (yes, permission is given for local church use) and send the newsletter home for family information and follow-up on each lesson. The teacher's manual is expensive (\$29.99) but complete—with a cassette of Ten Commandment songs.

You may be almost convinced, but you would like to know how the fourth commandment is developed. Lesson four is titled, "One Special

outs. Each age level has 30 different topics available to use with your Youth Fellowship. Each book, with four 35 to 60-minute lessons, is \$7.99.

The senior high topics range from 1 & 2 Corinthians: Christian Discipleship, to money, movies/music/TV, school, sex, depression, marriage, health hazards, forgiveness, discipleship, Jesus, and God. The 1 & 2 Corinthians: Christian Discipleship curriculum objectives are to help senior high youth discover ways to overcome division and disorder; understand biblical guidelines for worship; determine ways to live out the ministry of Christ; and set goals for generous giving. The emphasis is on action and reflection in the context of our biblical faith.

"What is God's Purpose for Me?" is one of the 30 junior high/middle school courses for Youth Fellowship meetings, camps, YF retreats, or Sabbath School. Each of the four lessons is well outlined, has "photocopiable" student pages, and extra activities which are called "bonus ideas."

The lessons are structured to help junior high students recognize how their character traits can be used to serve God; to discover meaning for their lives by helping others; to discover God's will for their lives; and to set priorities and goals that will be pleasing to God and fulfilling to themselves.

These are excellent, inexpensive, leader-modifiable materials to put youth concerns in a biblical perspective. Order from Group Publishing, Box 485, Loveland, CO 80539. SR

Where Christian education is strong and active, our members and their families are also growing in faith and loyalty.

magazine, has developed Bible-based materials. Preschool Program: Loving God, Loving Others, by Nancy Paulson, will interest those searching for a complete program for their children's church or Sabbath School.

Preschoolers are encouraged to learn the Ten Commandments through activities geared to their shorter attention spans—free play, worship, songs, prayer time, rest

Day." The Sabbath is mentioned, and observance of one day of the week is stressed. Sunday is not mentioned. Each teacher will need to supply the seventh-day Sabbath emphasis.

Group's Active Bible Curriculum materials for senior high and junior high/middle school youth also uses the "all-in-one" concept. They combine, in one book, all the teacher and student materials including the "photocopiable" student hand-

Faith is remembering

God's kingdom cannot be shaken. Because of His love for us in Christ, we are subjects of His kingdom and joint heirs with His Son. It is important that we remember who He is, and that we are His.

When we face difficult circumstances, frustrations, or weaknesses, our confidence comes from remembering who He is. We must remember that He does not change, and that He does not forsake His people. The firmness of our foundation on Him depends on remembering.

In recent years, I have been helped in my remembering by the words of a hymn. Like many of the best hymns, its words paraphrase Scripture; mostly from Isaiah, but with parallels in other places. I want to use the hymn, "How Firm a Foundation," as an outline for examining some of the things we need to remember about God.

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

What more can He say than to you He has said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"

(Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6)

Our foundation is God's Word. We are told by Scripture that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The Word is Christ Jesus, His Son, in whom we have life. But the Word is also every expression of His nature, intention, and will. In the Scriptures, we find the record of His actions toward mankind, and His self-revelation in the Law and the Prophets, in His Incarnation, and in the Church. We can find all we need to know in His revelation of Himself (see Heb. 4:14-16).

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed; For I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my gracious omnipotent hand."

(Isaiah 41:10)

When we are confronted with hardship, uncertainty, or persecution, we cannot prevail by our own strength. And we do not need to— if our god is the Lord. He is strong,

When we are confronted with hardship, uncertainty, or persecution, we cannot prevail by our own strength.

and His strength is sufficient to uphold us. (See Habak. 3:17-19; Romans 8:31,37.)

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow.

For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

(Isaiah 43:2)

Christians are not promised lives of ease; we are promised that we will not be overwhelmed. If we let Him, He will use even those things which seem most tragic and unfair to serve His purposes. Moreover, we have the assurance of His presence with us, whether we feel it or not. (See Rom. 8:18,28; James 1:2-4.)

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient shall be thy supply.

The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy cross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

(Isaiah 43:2)

Each of us suffers. Some suffering is simply an aspect of living in the world; some is self-inflicted. Some is the result of the actions of others, some is Satanic, some is apparently sent by God. Believers are hardly immune, but we do know that suffering is not purposeless. God will use it to our benefit. His purposes will be accomplished whether those purposes are apparent or not. (See 2 Corin. 3-4; Heb. 12:7a,11-12; James 1:12.)

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes.

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no never forsake!"

If we have placed our faith in God, we have nothing to fear. He will never desert His people. He has proven His love and reliability again and again. (See Deut. 31:6,8; Heb. 13:5b-6.)

Our citizenship is in the kingdom of God, a kingdom which is not subject to the uncertainties of this world. We must always remember where our allegiance lies. If our foundation is the Lord, we will have the strength to serve Him in this world. If our foundation is the Lord, we will permit Him to use us and make us as He wills (Col. 1:10-14; Heb. 12:22-24,28-29). SR



The time is now!

"Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth" (Eph. 4:24 NASB).

A familiar phrase that I've heard lately is, "Where did the year go?" Many conversations have focused on how time passes by so quickly.

I think back on the programs and activities our Shiloh, N.J., congregation had planned with much enthusiasm and anticipation these past months: our community Family Fun Fall Festival, our annual Thanksgiving service (with baptism) and the festive turkey dinner, the community tree-lighting, the Christmas caroling, the Christmas cantata and candlelight service, the children's musical. And all of a sudden, it seems, these activities were experienced and soon past. Where did the time go?

And now the Lord has given us another year to enjoy, after bringing us through the past year—a year filled with joys and sorrows, successes and failures, births and deaths, old and new experiences.

We cannot relive the past year, but we can pledge ourselves to make better use of time in this new year.

Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the Lord, to promise to do more in the name of our Savior. We can increase our giving to our local church's ministry and to the ministry of our denomination.

Now is the time to make plans to do one more thing for your family this year, show one more expression of love to a neighbor or friend, offer one more prayer for a special need. Now is the time to make that special trip to see the grandchildren. Now is the time to take that college course you've always wanted to take. Now is the time to take the family on a well-deserved outing. Now is the time to tell your pastor you want to offer several

hours a week to some church ministry.

Gertrude Laura Gast wrote: *The New Year like a book lies before me; On its cover two words, "My Life," I see.*

I open the covers and look between—each page is empty, no words can be seen.

For I am the writer, I hold the pen that'll fill these pages to be read by men.

Just what kind of book will my book be, my life written there for others to see?

Each day a page written, one by one—will it be worthwhile when finished and done?

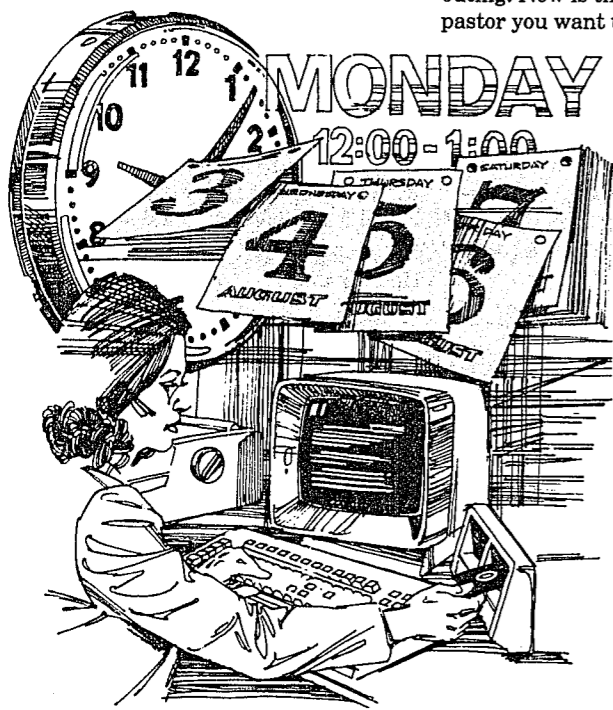
Lord, help me keep these pages clean and fair by living the life I'd have written there.

The Women's Board is looking forward to this year of service for our Lord and for you, His family. We are excited that Barbara Johnson of LaHabra, Calif., (the founder of Spatula Ministries) will be our Women's Banquet speaker during Conference at Redlands, Calif.

We are excited about the leadership team of Althea Rood, Mary Jane McPherson, Pastor Chuck Graffius, and seminary student Steve Osborn, and what they will offer to the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) program this year. We are thankful that so many of you are enjoying the SCSC cookbook (which sold out quickly and netted an additional \$1,800).

We look forward to increased giving from our women so that the various ministries of the Women's Board can continue. Please pray with us for quality young men and women to be called to serve as SCSC workers this summer.

We appreciate your cards and letters and prayers. Please let us know how we can better serve you. Call or write us: President Donna Bond, Route 1, Box 426, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 (609-455-7326); Treasurer Marie Davis, RD 3, Box 291, Bridgeton, NJ 08302; Women's Page Editor Charlotte Chroniger, P.O. Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08302 (609-455-0488).



Baptist World Alliance Day of Prayer February 7, 1993

Eternal God, our Heavenly Father,

Creator, Provider, Sustainer, Saviour – we worship and adore Your Holy Name. We thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died at Calvary so that life, joy, and peace may come to those who call on Him.

On this day we pray together with Baptist sisters and brothers all over the world, mindful of the bonds that unite us, the love that enfolds us, and our faith that enriches us.

We Pray

for Baptist people and congregations everywhere who provide us a focus for fellowship, worship, and service.

May we endeavor – as individuals and congregations – to be Christ's people, bringing light and strength to anyone in need.

We Pray

for Baptist individuals and congregations who suffer the horror of war, the pain of isolation, the terror of hunger, or the anguish of persecution.

In their weakness, may they find strength and hope in You. In their need, may they find a response from us.

We Pray

for Baptist people and congregations whose light has dimmed, whose joy has ebbed, whose zeal has waned.

Bring new life, new power, and purpose to those who need a fresh touch of Your Spirit.

We Pray

for people and congregations encouraged by success. Thank You for the sense of confidence Your presence brings.

Thank You for churches filled, programs effective, fellowship strong, and worship rich. Thank You for those previously blind who are enabled to see, those walking in darkness coming into the light, those spiritually poor finding riches in Christ.

And, oh Lord, may the good experiences and bountiful blessings not blind us to the plight of our brothers or the cry of our sisters.

Give Us

a global vision, oh Lord, that helps us see that all people, created in Your image, are worthy.

Give Us

a global vision, oh Lord, that propels us to reach out with the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.

Give Us

a global vision, oh Lord, that moves our preoccupation away from ourselves, so we may concentrate on You, and express prayerful and practical concern for all Your children.

Our prayer is in the strong name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

–Amen

A nurturing kind of people

Testimony by Valerie Heath

When I was small, a sad and tragic thing occurred in my family. As a result, my brother and sisters and I spent a big part of our growing up years without the influence of a mother.

It's a sad story and, unfortunately, a common one. But what

our tonsils out the same summer my mother left us. Gerry Van Dyke invited us to her home regularly. She treated us very much as if we were her own children. (Yes, when necessary, she punished us, too!)

Mildred Jeffery—dear Aunt Mildred—not only provided disci-

Bill and Dorothy Saunders, Elna and Ada Davis, Mary Waterbury, Madeline and Randy Fitz Randolph... They all—and many others too numerous to mention—influenced my life profoundly, and always in a positive direction toward a more real and close relationship with Jesus Christ.

These people nurtured me. They loved my family when it should have been easier for them to turn their backs and pretend that everything was okay.

You see, these people, my wonderful church family, not only prayed for us; they took *action* to see that we were *really* all right! That is the most fundamental kind of evangelism.

Jesus' command to "love one another" wasn't just a *suggestion* to follow so that we could live happier lives. Loving each other doesn't always mean that everything is going to turn out just the way we want it to. No; it is a *command*. And I think He made it as such because He knew that the surest way of spreading His Gospel was not by preaching it, but by *living* it. The only way to live the Gospel (by Jesus' standards) is to *love*.

My family is living proof of the power of that kind of love. I often wonder what would have happened to us if we hadn't been exposed to it during our formative years. I'm sure my father could tell you his own stories of raising four children alone. Yet he was not truly alone, because the church folks did their part in loving us.

As a church, we are a nurturing people. We have to, because Jesus didn't give us a choice. *We must love—because He first loved us!* **SR**

Valerie Heath is a grateful member of the Boulder SDB Church.

My wonderful church family not only prayed for us; they took action to see that we were really all right!

made my life bearable, in spite of the absence of my mother, was this: the nurturing of some very loving people in the Denver and Boulder, Colo., churches.

Let me give you some examples. Al and Janette Rogers cared for me and my sister, Fay, when we had

plined, but wonderful meals in her home. And she was the one who promoted my interest in reading, by always leaving out the *Reader's Digest* whenever we went to her house.

I could go on and on. I have fond memories of Mynor and Marian Soper, Mary and Willard Wells,

period of 48 hours in which it can be said truthfully, "It is Sabbath somewhere at this moment."

Interesting, isn't it?

Ira Bond
Nortonville, KS

Dear Sir:

Greetings to you and staff. I have certainly enjoyed reading the *SR*, and believe that the article on "Christ in the Qur'an," by James Ayars (July/Aug.), was most informative and to the point.

In The Messiah's love,
A. Ross Fowler, pastor
Walnut Park Church
St. Louis, MO

SR Reaction

Dear Kevin,

"When is Sabbath?"

The earth is a sphere. Time is measured in hours and days.

By international agreement, there is a date line from pole to pole, halfway round the earth from Greenwich, England, as I understand.

Crossing the date line east to west, or west to east, causes one to be in a different day of the week-count, by a space of 24 hours.

We Seventh Day Baptists worship on the seventh day of the week. In that frame of thought, there occurs each week a single uninterrupted

You are what you eat

by Linda Greene

"You are what you eat!"

We've all heard that phrase at one time or another. I have found this to be more true spiritually than in any other area of life.

I am in my third year of reading through the Bible in a year, and I have grown in so many areas since making this a regular part of my day.

I began in March 1990 (being late seems to be a way of life for me!) with the "One Year Bible." It was a real struggle that first year to keep up with the readings. I repeatedly fell behind (one time, two months behind) and had to catch up. Yet I noticed such a difference in my spiritual life when I read the Word daily, that I struggled on.

In 1991, I tried the "Daily Bible" chronological readings. Things

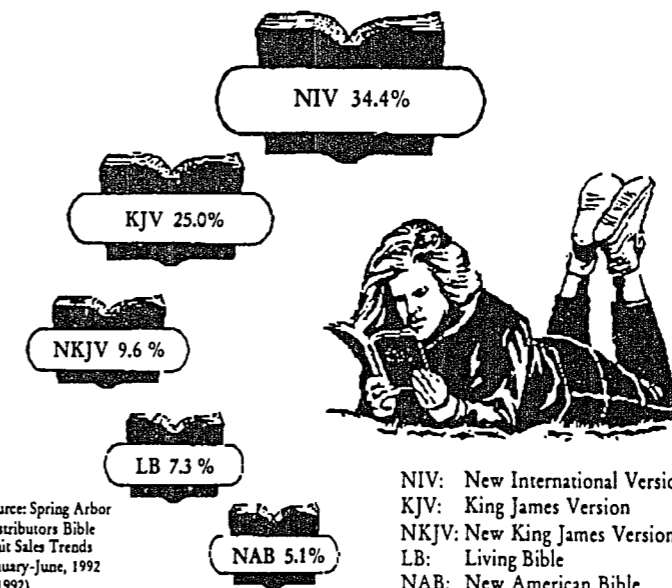
went a lot better. I still tended to fall behind occasionally, but never for very long. This version seemed more readable to

My hunger for more of the Lord has been enhanced as a direct result of reading the Word daily.

me, because the readings and subject matter flow along smoothly,



Which Bible translation do we read?



rather than being chopped up in three pieces every day. This year (1992), I have stayed with the "Daily Bible," and think I will continue with it indefinitely.

I have noticed a gradual, steady improvement in my energy level. My overall emotional state of mind, my ability to be patient with my daughter and co-workers, and my hunger for more of the Lord has been enhanced as a direct result of reading the Word daily.

I consider it a devotional reading, not to take the place of in-depth Bible study. I read right before falling asleep, and the last few months I have tried to read aloud, so I know I am paying attention to what I am reading, and am actually "hearing the Word," too.

It really does build your faith! Feed on the Word of God, and you will be blessed! **SR**

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

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

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

For Spouse's Day: January 24

Exposing marriage myths

On a bitter cold December night in 1971, Lynne Barry did what no girl had done to me before. She blasted the foundation right out from under me.

Months earlier, we had decided to get married. We had set the date, reserved the church, and begun attending to the myriad of details that go into a wedding.

Then out of the blue, while we sat in my car in her parents' driveway, she dropped the bomb: "I don't have the peace of God regarding our marriage. I think we need to break up and part ways." She stepped out of my car—and out of my life.

After that broken engagement, I had to put my life back together, which involved refocusing my confidence in my relationship with Jesus Christ. God offers His promises of joy and peace and satisfaction to anyone—married or unmarried—who has a relationship with Him.

From a biblical standpoint, those words cannot be denied. But how many single people really, deep down inside, believe them? Observation indicates that very few people actually consider singleness as an acceptable op-

tion, let alone an example of abundant living.

Unfortunately, there are several *wrong* reasons to marry. At least four of these are often touted as inevitable benefits of marriage; in reality, they are nothing more than myths: Marriage—

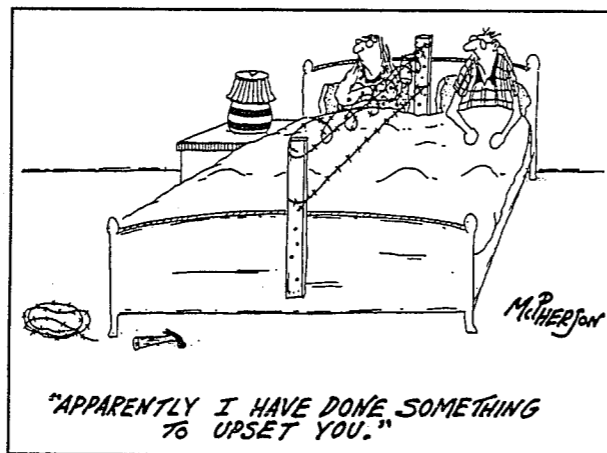
1. Will end my aloneness.
2. Will heal my brokenness.
3. Will ensure my happiness.
4. Is God's plan for everyone.

A year and a half after that cold night in 1971, Lynne and I got back together. A year after that we were married, with the clear and mutual understanding that nothing would ever be more important to either of us than our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Though focusing our attention on Him did not resolve all our differences, or solve all our relational problems, it did give us a firm foundation upon which to build a marriage. *SP*

Taken from Fit to Be Tied by Bill and Lynne Hybels, Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.

Bill Hybels pastors the Willow Creek Community Church, the second largest congregation in America.



From McPherson's Marriage Album by John McPherson (Zondervan Publishing House © 1991). This and other McPherson books are available at your local Christian bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Births

McLaughlin.—A son, Kyle Gareth McLaughlin, was born to Jack and Susan (Hemminger) McLaughlin of Seattle, WA, on August 16, 1991.

Owen.—A daughter, Kaylena Owen, was born to Karyl and Kim Owen of Bellevue, WA, on November 26, 1991.

Williams.—A son, Zackery Dean Williams, was born to Daryl and Debra (Sanford) Williams of Kent, WA, on January 7, 1992.

Browning.—A son, Arik Joshua Browning, was born to Steve and Becky (Saunders) Browning of DeKalb, IL, on February 3, 1992.

Miller.—A daughter, Megan Elizabeth Miller, was born to Mark and Nancy Miller of Lakewood, CO, on September 7, 1992.

Foster.—A son, Jeremy Michael Foster, was born to Jeff and Cynthia Foster of Denver, CO, on September 28, 1992.

Williams.—A son, Dalton Jeremiah Williams, was born to Kevin and Ann (Lonowski) Williams on October 5, 1992.

Looper.—A daughter, Ashley Renee Looper, was born to Steve and Laura (Gradwahl) Looper of Leavenworth, KS, on October 19, 1992.

Grissom.—A son, Nathaniel Robert Grissom, was born to Tracy and Denise (Gibson) Grissom of Crestline, CA, on October 22, 1992.

Vincent.—A son, Bradley Aaron Vincent, was born to Steven and Joellen (Brock) Vincent of Shinglehouse, PA, on November 1, 1992.

Youssef.—A son, Stephen Andrew Youssef, was born to Robert and Barbara Youssef of Kennewick, WA, on November 2, 1992.

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI
James Galanaugh, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Kimberly Baker

Boulder, CO
Gordon Lawton, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Brian Widhalm

Denver, CO
Tom Warner, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Ron Vertrees
 Heidi Vertrees
 Thomas Vertrees

Raritan Valley, NJ
Jeanne Yurke, pastor
 Joined after baptism
 Karen McPherson

Salem, WV
Dale Thorngate, pastor
 Joined by letter
 Mary R. Hulin
 Marie B. Zwiebel
 Lillian B. Bee
 Dale D. Thorngate
 Janet M. Thorngate

Seattle, WA
Gareth Hemminger, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 David Aldredge
 Debbie Aldredge
 Kathy Nash
 Tiffany Conrod

Joined by letter
 Phil Conrod
 Morgan Shepard
 Doreen Davis

Marriages

Clark - Hodge.—John Andrew Clark Jr. and Jennifer Denise Hodge were united in marriage on April 18, 1992, at the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salemville, PA. Pastor Christian R. Mattison officiated.

Nesbitt - Howell.—John William Nesbitt and Lauren Rebecca Howell were united in marriage on October 11, 1992, at the Salem, WV, Seventh Day Baptist

Church. The Rev. S. Kenneth Davis officiated. (A second ceremony, 18th century style, was enacted at Fort New Salem later in the afternoon.)

Griffin - Jones.—John Griffin and Peggy Jones were united in marriage on November 21, 1992, at the Paint Rock, AL, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor John D. Bevis officiated.

Obituaries

Wells.—John D. Wells, 87, died on November 20, 1991, at the Manor Care Nursing Center in Tucson, Ariz.

He was born on August 3, 1904, in Hopkinton, R.I., the son of Warren and Mary (Perrin) Wells. He was a longtime member of the First SDB Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I.

John is survived by his wife, the former Dorothy Barber.

Funeral services were held at South Lawn Mortuary in Tucson.

Murachanian.—Sandra Mae (Hemminger) Murachanian, 33, died on December 29, 1991, after struggling for more than a year with a rare disease.

She was born on January 11, 1958, in Hemet, Calif., the daughter of Glen and Evelyn (Wilkinson) Hemminger. She grew up in Newhall, Calif., and was baptized in the Riverside SDB Church.

Sandra married Charles Murachanian in 1984. In 1988, they moved to Tigard, Ore., where she lived until her death.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; her mother, Evelyn Haskell; three brothers, Glen and Gareth Hemminger, and Mark Haskell; one sister, Susan McLaughlin; and seven nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on January 5, 1992, at the Burien, Wash., Free Methodist Church (the meeting place of the Seattle Area SDB Church). Sandra's brother, Pastor Gareth Hemminger of the SDB Church, officiated.

Davis.—Howard E. Davis Sr., 78, of Baltimore, Md., died on September 28, 1992, at Key Medical Center, following a lengthy illness.

He was born in Salem, W.Va., on January 3, 1914, the son of Earl L. and Faye Davis. He was a lifelong member of the Salem SDB Church.

Howard is survived by his wife of 45 years, Evelyn (Poling) Davis of Baltimore; one daughter, Eugenia Furman of West Milford, N.J.; two sons, Howard Jr. of Baltimore and Donald Sr. of Jarrettsville, Md.; 10 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother, Lyle.

Services were held at the Connelly Funeral Home in Essex, Md. Interment was at Holly Hills Memorial Cemetery in White Marsh, Md.

Maxson.—Glenn I. Maxson, 84, of Bedford Township (Mich.), died on September 29, 1992, at home. He had been in poor health for three years.

He was born in Gentry, Ark., on July 3, 1908, the son of Edwin and Grace (Eaglesfield) Maxson. He attended high school in Milton, Wis., and welding school in Kalamazoo, Mich. On November 10, 1930, he married the former Dorothy M. Hill in South Bend, Ind.

Glenn was a painter, doing interior and exterior work for Johnson Painting Company before retiring in 1970. He was a dairy farmer when he and his family lived in Mesick, Mich. He helped his son, Richard, farm after retirement.

He was a member of the Battle Creek (Mich.) SDB Church, a life-member of Painters Local 759, and a member of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; two sons, Richard I. of Augusta, Mich., and John R. of Battle Creek; one daughter, Jean K. Kyser of Battle Creek; two brothers, Earl E. of Battle Creek and Milton of Coldwater, Mich.; six grandchildren, several stepgrandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter.

Services were held on October 1, 1992, at Bachman Hebble Funeral

Chapel, with the Rev. James F. Galanaugh officiating. Burial was in Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens.

Lowther.—Mary Ann (Sheets) Lowther, 87, of Salem, W.Va., died on October 24, 1992, in the Clarksburg, W.Va., Continuous Care Center.

She was born on July 12, 1905, in Lost Creek, W.Va., the daughter of Arthur and Annie (Woodell) Sheets. On September 23, 1933, she married E. Jean Lowther, who survives.

Mary Ann was retired from the West Virginia Industrial Home for Girls in Salem, where she was director of education for 31 years. Earlier, she had taught in Putnam and Harrison County (W.Va.) public schools, and in the Home Economics Department at Salem College. She was a member of the Salem SDB Church, the Colonel William Lowther Chapter of the DAR, the Salem Business and Professional Women's Club, Salem Teikyo University Auxiliary, West Virginia Retired Teachers Association, and the Friends of Fort New Salem.

She was preceded in death by one sister and two brothers.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Melvin G. Nida, assisted by the Rev. Dale Thorngate. Internment was in the IOOF Cemetery, West Milford, W.Va.

Wells.—Donald Carson Wells, 73, died on November 12, 1992, at Rubidoux (Calif.) Convalescent Hospital of heart and lung failure, and cancer.

He was born in Battle Creek, Mich. He lived in Riverside, Calif., for 50 years, and in Rubidoux for eight years.

Donald is survived by one brother, Willard, of Boulder, Colo.

Graveside services were held on November 16, 1992, at Olivewood Cemetery in Riverside.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

I had to pause as I read the article's headline in our local paper—"Somalis need more than food, experts say."

"Operation Restore Hope" is now in full swing in that East African nation. Nearly 30,000 U.S. troops are there to end the internal bloodshed and get food to desperate people.

The article mentioned how the feeding must be done carefully, monitoring the digestion, and watching for disease and dehydration complications.

The people of Somalia certainly need more than food. And they need more than someone monitoring their digestion.

They need hope.

The Bible says that we are to live in hope; or, at least, we should.

I found a good definition for hope. Hope is "the desire for future good."

Hope is different from "expectation." Expectation can be based on a natural process or progression. (When we do well, we expect a reward; when we disobey, we expect punishment.)

So, "expectation" can be good or evil, lacking the element of desire.

Hope is the desire for a future good.

Hope is a necessity for real living. Hope is like food and water for life—but even more. In hope, there is the belief that life has meaning; that there is something beyond just eating and drinking and having more kids to produce the next generation.

The Bible tells us that, ultimately, God is in control. That should fill us with hope. Knowing He is in control encourages us to see beyond the present. We should desire the future good. We need that kind of hope, because there really is no today without a tomorrow to hope for.

A concentration camp survivor, writing of his experiences, said that the prisoner who lost hope in the future was doomed.

Knowing that God is in control gives us hope for the future.

We get that hope from the Scripture. Or do we?

How many times do you think the word "hope" (noun form) appears in the four Gospels? In the hundreds of verses, and thousands of words, the noun for "hope" appears ZERO times.

Check your concordance! "Hope" jumps from Zechariah all the way to Acts. (The verb for "hope" does occur, but only five times.)

So, how can we place our hope in the Gospels when the word *isn't even mentioned*?

Amidst all those words from and about Jesus, I believe that *Jesus Himself* is presented as the reason for our hope.

Jesus was the noun "Hope" in the Gospels. Judaism is a religion of hope, with all that joyful anticipation of the Messiah. Jesus' disciples and followers knew that the "Hope of Israel" was realized in Him.

In Christ, there is hope.

Hope doesn't just gloss over our hurts and disappointments; it inspires us to rise above them. Charles Spurgeon said, "Faith goes up the stairs that Love has made, and looks out the windows which Hope has opened."

Although Jesus didn't talk much about the present hope when He was on earth, He did talk about coming back. He was the center of both the present and future hopes.

He also talked about a future Comforter and Counselor—a person of hope. We have a God of hope. A Father, Son, and Spirit of hope.

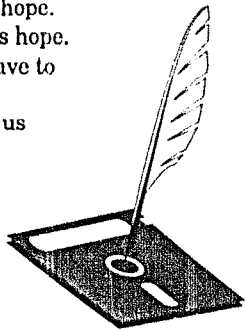
That Spirit of hope is to overflow from us to help others.

I am writing this during Advent, a season of hope. We remember that:

- He came as a babe to give us hope.
- He lived and taught to give us hope.
- He died and rose from the grave to give us hope.

And He's coming again to give us the best future we could ever desire—the hope of everlasting life in the presence of God.

Jesus Christ is our real hope. For all military operations; for all of our missions work, near and far. He is our *true hope*.



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Celebrate!

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

DAY OF PRAYER

FEBRUARY 7, 1993

Join Baptists around the world in a prayer celebration! On this day we will pray together, mindful of the bonds that unite us, the love that enfolds us and our faith that encircles us. A special prayer has been written as part of this worldwide celebration. Call or write for more information.

(See the prayer on page 21.)

Contact:
Baptist World Alliance/Communications
6733 Curran Street
McLean, VA 22101-6005

Phone: (703) 790-8980
Fax: (703) 893-5160



World Federation Offering

On the heels of this year's SDB Week of Prayer, we are asking each church to remember our World Federation of Seventh Day Baptist churches and Conferences.

Please collect a special World Federation offering. The offering may go toward the general work, or may be designated toward an approved Federation project. (Projects were listed in the *SDB World* newsletter, sent in the December *Lead-Line*.)

Send your gifts to:

Mrs. Jean Lewis, SDBWF Treasurer
5060 Sierra St.
Riverside CA 92504
USA