

The

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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

December 1993

R

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Robe of Achievement

The Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 1994. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local Seventh Day Baptist church
- Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community

A complete resumé must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities. Without a resumé in hand, the committee cannot make a competent choice among many nominees. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please re-submit the name as well as the resumé.

Send all nominations to:
Elizabeth Bidwell, P.O. Box 136, Shiloh, NJ 08353

Deadline: March 31, 1994

The Sabbath Recorder



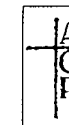
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Summer Christian Service Corps 1994

Are you...

- 17 and a high school grad? (by June '94)
- a member of a local SDB church?
- wondering what to do this summer?
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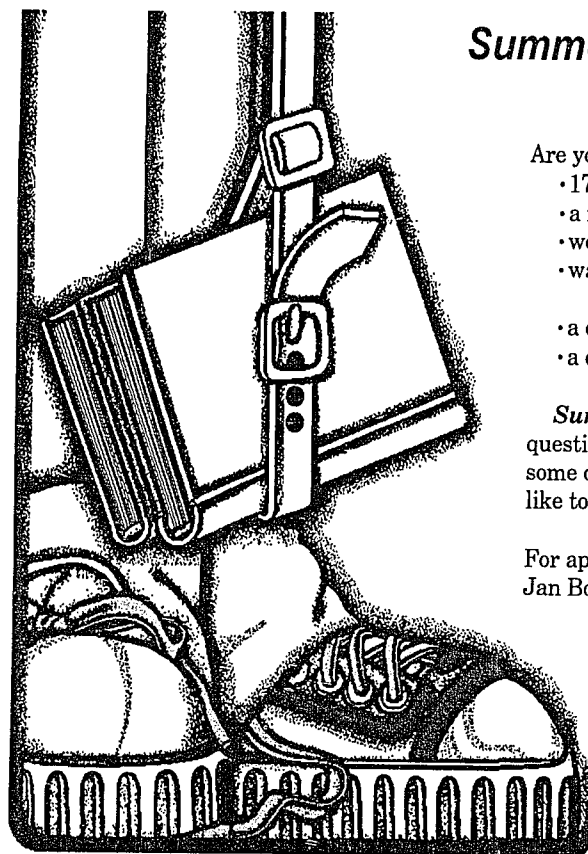
- a church member wanting an SCSC team?
- a church looking for a camp staff?

Summer Christian Service Corps can answer your questions. You can serve God and get acquainted with some of our fantastic youth. You will also see what it's like to commit yourself to a challenging experience.

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Ph. (609) 451-7451

Worker training: June 17-26
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Application Deadline:
March 1, 1994



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

Experience the New Life

by Dennis L. Palmer

The atomic bomb that dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, was due to an error in communication, according to Coughlin's report.

An even greater miscarriage in communication occurs when one is asked a very simple question: "How can you become a Christian?"

- I became a Christian—that is, born again—when I was baptized.

- You become a Christian and can go to heaven when you keep all the commandments of God, go to church every Sabbath, and work real hard at being good.

- You are a Christian if you are sincere in what you believe.

- A Christian is one who is a member of a church.

- You become a Christian by loving Jesus.

None of the above answers are correct; yet these are the common answers that people give to the question of how one can receive eternal life. What is *your* answer?

Man is a sinner

Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We are all guilty of sin. We have all done something that does not please God. We have all spoken an unkind word or stored up bitterness or lustful thoughts in our minds (Proverbs 4:22; Matthew 15:19-20).

The bad news about our sin is that it separates us from God. Isaiah 59:2 says, "Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God."

The result of separation between God and man is spiritual death, according to Romans 6:23—"The wages of sin is death."

There was a famous smith who

lived during the Middle Ages. One day, he was taken prisoner and thrown into a dungeon. He thought that maybe he could find a weak spot in the chain and escape. However, as he looked at his chains, the smith noticed some marks which indicated that he himself was the maker of that chain. Thus, he knew he could not escape; the boast of the town was that no one could break a chain he had forged.

This is the way it is with sin. Our own hands have forged the chain of sin that binds us. No human hand can break the chain that our own hands have forged (Spiros Zodhiates, *The Epistle of James and the Life of Faith*, vol. 2, p. 281).

The natural man is headed for hell

The natural man has an inclination which is sinful and hostile to God (Romans 3:10-18). God will punish sin ("I will by no means leave the guilty unpunished," Exodus 34:7).

The consequence of those who continue in their sins is that they will be thrown into the "lake of fire and brimstone" (Revelation 20:10,15; 21:8). This is the outpouring of God's wrath which will be inflicted without any pity (see Isaiah 66:15 and Revelation 19:15). The furnace of hell is prepared.

Consider the danger you are in if you are at odds with God. As Jonathan Edwards preached in his sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," you are like a man hanging "by a slender thread, with flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it" and to drop you off into a spitfire that far exceeds the unmerciful disaster in Hiroshima.

The Christian is going to heaven

In this life, we do not have much to show in terms of material gain. No matter how rich you may be, your wealth is small in comparison to heaven itself and the New Jerusalem—that city of gold with its pearly gates, its streets of gold, and its jasper walls (Revelation 21:18,21).

God's promise to those who are Christians is that He is going to give them an "inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).

The good news is that God loves you, dear friend, and He wants to give you eternal life. The door of heaven is open to you. The problem is that many people try to obtain eternal life by their own efforts.

Man cannot work his way to heaven

Eternal life cannot be earned or deserved. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Wages are what we earn and rightly deserve, but eternal life is a gift which cannot be earned because it is priceless.

Imagine that you were given a priceless piece of art—the Mona Lisa. Just think how much you would offend the wealthy donor if afterwards you tried to pay for the Mona Lisa by giving him a dime. Trying to pay God for eternal life by your works is an insult to God. It is like offering God one cent for all the heavenly mansions and streets of pure gold.

Man simply cannot work his way to heaven. That is why Titus 3:5 says that God "saved us, not on the

basis of deeds... but according to His mercy." Ephesians 2:8-9 also calls salvation a "gift of God," and this gift is "not as a result of works" so that no one will have anything to brag about.

Heaven is a free gift from God, but you must receive this gift.

Man needs to know something about God

Salvation is of the Lord. Since it is from God, we need to understand something about God. The Bible says that God is One, yet He manifests Himself in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

This unity of three persons within the Godhead is called the Trinity. Christians express their belief in the Trinity in their hymns. One old hymn declares that God is "Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!"

Man needs to know something about Jesus Christ

In order to receive the free gift of eternal life, we need to under-

stand more fully about the nature of Jesus.

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. John 1 speaks of Jesus as the divine "Word" who coexisted with the Father from eternity: "In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word [Jesus Christ] became flesh and dwelt among us." As God, He was equal with the Father: "For unless you believe that I am He [God], you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

On the human side, Jesus was born into this world. He had a mother whose name was Mary. But His birth was supernatural. He did not have a natural father; He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

Jesus lived a perfect life. He did not sin. 1 Peter 2:22 says that no "deceit was found in His mouth." Hebrews 4:15 explains that Jesus "has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and thus bridged the gap between God and man (*see below*).

Romans 5:8 says that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Before we manifested our love towards Christ, He died for us because He freely loves us.

This type of unselfish love was demonstrated when an airplane plunged into the icy Potomac River. Five times the line from the rescue helicopter was lowered within the man's reach, and five times he passed the line to a struggling fellow passenger. When the line was dropped for the sixth time, the man was gone. He, like Christ, died for others so that they might live.

Jesus Christ, in His death, blotted out all of our sins. Colossians 2:14 says that Christ made you alive with Him "having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt... and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

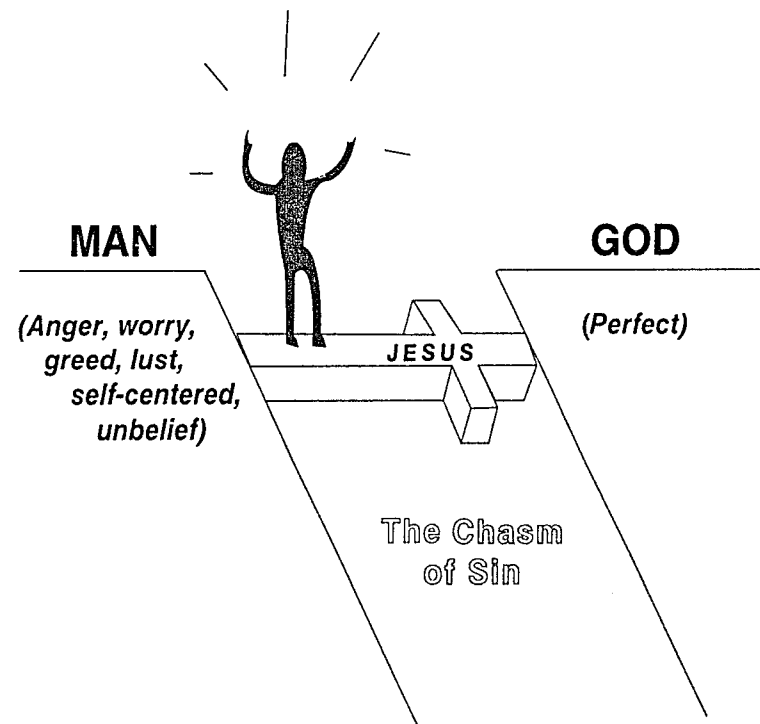
Jesus has written across the long list of our sins, "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us have turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him [Christ]." When Jesus died, God laid on Him all our sin and guilt. Jesus canceled our sin debt on the cross.

Jesus also arose from the dead to give us eternal life. Romans 4:25 says that Jesus "was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification." He has ascended into heaven where He is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

His sure promise is that He will "come again and receive you," so that "where I [Christ] am, there you may be also" (John 14:3). However, if you are going to heaven, you must receive Christ.

Man needs to receive Christ

We receive the gift of eternal life by faith. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith." No works can save



you, dear friend, but repentance is included in the act of believing.

1. The necessity of repentance

Repentance is the first step to receiving Christ. Luke 13:3,5 says, "I tell you... unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." Repentance is a change of mind; it is looking at your own sin as God views it.

You repent by turning from your sin and turning to Christ. You repent by confessing your sins before God and acknowledging before Him that you are a sinner and in need of His forgiveness. You say, "I am sorry for all my wrong-doing," and then you turn from your sins to Christ.

Repentance is making a U-turn in your life. You were once headed on the highway of sin leading to destruction, and now you make a U-turn onto the highway of heaven leading to eternal life.

2. Saving faith

We receive the gift of eternal life by faith. Ephesians 2:8,9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast." Faith opens the channel through which grace becomes operative. Eternal life becomes ours through faith.

Acts 16:31 clearly indicates that we become a Christian by placing our trust in Jesus Christ: "Believe [trust, have faith] in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved." The same message is in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." One becomes a Christian by trusting Jesus Christ alone for his salvation.

"Faith" is an old and threadbare term. Faith, for many of us, may mean that we will trust the Lord with our finances, or for good health. Some would understand this term to mean trusting in the Lord's guidance while traveling or

making family decisions. But all these types of faith are temporal because they are placed in temporal objects.

Saving faith is trusting Jesus for your salvation. In other words, saving faith is relying upon Christ's complete work on the cross to give you eternal life.

John G. Paton, a missionary who was translating the New Testament, was having a difficult time finding a native word with the meaning of "faith." One of the native evangelists came in and sat down on one chair, resting his weary feet upon another. As the evangelist said in the vernacular, "I am resting my whole weight upon these chairs," the missionary found the right native word for "faith." Faith is "resting one's whole weight upon Jesus."

In order for you to have eternal life, you must transfer your trust from yourself to Jesus. No longer do you need to be trusting in what you have done (your good works), but what Christ has done for you. He paid the sin debt and set you free. All you need to do is to trust Christ alone for your salvation.

3. Deciding to follow Jesus

You may wonder what role good works play in the Christian life. When you repent, you turn away from your sin and turn to God. Consequently, repentance involves the acceptance of Jesus as Lord of your life. You desire to put Him first in your life and obey His commandments.

Good works are thus the result of a saved relationship with Christ, and not the means by which one receives eternal life. My willingness to follow Christ is simply like one big "thank you" for the love that Christ has shown me in dying on the cross for my sins and giving me eternal life.

4. Pray to receive Christ

Perhaps you, dear friend, have always depended upon your good

works to save you. But now God is reaching out in love, through Jesus, that you might have eternal life and be saved from hell.

In receiving Christ, you must repent of your sins and turn to God. You must transfer your trust from yourself to Christ who died for you.

All your sins are to be laid upon Jesus. He has already paid your sin debt. Now let Him take charge of your life. Place yourself in the hands of Christ. Let Him be your Ruler and King.

Accept God's gift of eternal life. Lay hold of eternal life by trusting in Christ alone for your salvation. Take a few moments to repent of your sins and pray for Christ to come into your life:

Father, I pray for the gift of eternal life. Dear Lord, you know all the secret sins of the heart. Grant me repentance, faith, and the gift of eternal life.

Lord Jesus, take over my life. I am a sinner. I renounce my sinful ways. I repent of my sins. I transfer my trust from myself to Jesus. I now place my trust in you.

I accept you as my personal Savior who died for me, and it is my desire to serve you for the rest of my life. I thank you for giving me eternal life. Amen.

If this prayer was the sincere desire of your heart, then you can know that you have received eternal life. John 6:47 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life." Take time to share the new life you have received with someone you know.

The results of receiving Christ is that you will follow Him, and your local Seventh Day Baptist church can guide you in your new life. **SR**

Dennis Palmer is pastor of the Evangelical SDB Church of Lake Elsinore, Calif.

Spreading seeds of faith

A mini-missions trip to Jamaica

by Sue Cartwright

As some of you know, I traveled to Jamaica again this year. Before I tell you about my trip, I would like to send a big "thank you" to all those who supported me with donations. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to do the Lord's work that I believe He has asked me to do. The Lord bless you richly.

I had traveled to Jamaica in the summer of 1992, and spent three weeks with Pastor Joe and Sister Joyce Samuels. I helped with Conference reports and VBS at the Jamaican Conference. It was an experience that I will never forget.

The first year, everything was so new—people, food, climate, conditions, you name it! And when I was taking off in the plane to return home, all I could do was cry, and say to myself that I probably would never get back that way again. I was going to miss it all!

"Oh ye of little faith." Little did I realize that I would be doing the same thing this year—only more so! (That is, taking off from the airport to fly home and cry and cry. I did not want to leave again.) There is so much work to be done, and I felt that I did such a small part.

Have you heard of the Jamaican "Maiden Hill" project? The project is to plant coffee and banana tree seedlings to earn money for the Jamaican SDB Conference, Inc. Then they would be more self-sufficient and rely less on others. Small cash crops, such as Irish potatoes and other vegetables, are to be planted, and when harvested, sold for cash to purchase the tree seedlings.

I believed then, and even today, that the Lord wants me involved with this project. So, I set out to do something about it. I knew that I

didn't have the money to flat out give to the Missionary Society for this purpose, so I checked into the possibility of obtaining seeds to send, or take with me, for use in that project.

Well, I found a seed company that was more than willing to donate seed to this cause. They are called ECHO, out of Ft. Meyers, Fla. They are a non-profit missions oriented company that will donate seed for projects such as this, as long as the person is willing to pay the postage.

I couldn't pass this up! They sent me over 400 packages of various vegetable and herb seed, along with about eight pounds of pea and bean seed. You should have seen my suitcase!

Besides all the seed packets, the Toronto (Canada) SDB Church donated office and school supplies. Thank you, Toronto. That was one suitcase; the other held music and my clothes. You never think you are taking very much, until you have to carry it from one terminal to another...

Even at this point, I had not left yet and was not sure that it was worth all the hassles of preparing to leave my home and job for a month. I said to myself, "Well, I have the plane tickets so I must go, but this will be my last year."

The plan was to meet Sister Joyce Samuels at the Miami, Fla., airport and fly the rest of the way to Kingston, Jamaica.

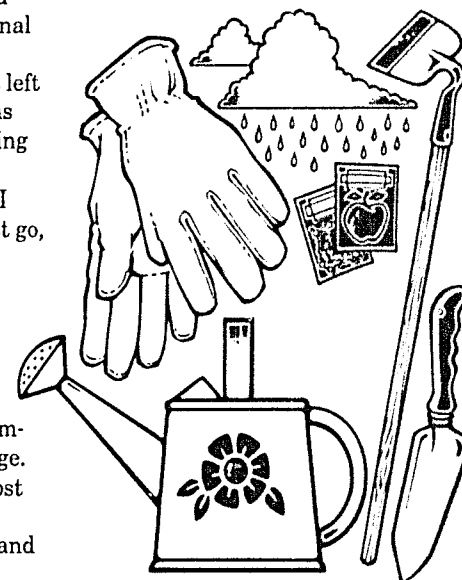
We arrived in Kingston on time, and had no problems in Immigration or getting our baggage. Next was Customs—not my most favorite place to have to go through. We got up to the line and

were waiting for our turn. I started to look in my purse for my keys to the suitcases, just in case they wanted to open them. (Last year, they didn't.) I was getting frantic: I could not find the keys!

Then it dawned on me that they were back in New York on my key chain, which my husband, Bob, had in his possession. "Great!" I thought. "Now they will have to break the locks, and one of the suitcases is my sister-in-law's. Everything went just fine today until now. Why, Lord?"

It was our turn to go through. They asked the usual questions, "What is in your luggage? etc." I told them church supplies and music, plus clothes, and that I had just discovered that my keys were left at home in New York State. I asked that they not break the locks, especially on my sister-in-law's suitcase.

Well, they didn't open anything except my basket with canned food



and paper products. It wasn't until later that I thought if they saw the seeds, they might take them—you never know what they will take.

Then came Joyce's stuff. She kept on telling me not to let the box fall. I wondered why. Come to find out, she had a computer, monitor, and keyboard in with her luggage. Joyce told them about the computer, and on we went. I am still amazed we managed to get through Customs without any real hassles.

We went to the Conference Center at 29 Charles St., Kingston, each morning to organize materials for Conference '93. We spent the first week setting up the computer and installing Word Perfect 5.1, thanks to Deacon Clarke of the Kingston SDB Church. [Does anyone out there have a Word Perfect 5.1 manual (DOS) that they would like to part with soon? Maybe you have decided to upgrade to version 6 that is now out. I would appreciate it if you could send it to me, and I will make sure that the Jamaican Conference office receives it.]

Once the computer was up and running, there were many pre-Conference reports to type up—17 at my last count. I knew how to use the computer program, so I typed them in. The second week I was there, I finished up the reports and helped sort the 11 barrels of items that came from the States. You should have seen the office! With that job completed, it was time to pack the boxes of reports and food for Conference.

Conference started officially on Tuesday evening. The Conference theme this year was, "We Shall Be Like Him." Tuesday opened with a day of fasting and prayer. I knew right then that the Lord was there and ever present. I wish you could have experienced that day.

When evening came, the fasting was over and a large meal was served—Jamaican food. Those of you who know me, know how I feel about Jamaican food. It's great—except the "Chicken Foot Soup."

The opening service commenced with Pastor Joe giving the message, "A Blessed Hope." "If this was the start of Conference," I was saying, "we are in for a great week."

On Wednesday, daily Vacation Bible School started. Though a smaller number of children partici-

tism, followed by a Women's Board program. An "Installation Service" was held in the afternoon, along with a "Recognition Service" of the newly elected officers and committee members for the 1993-94 year.

The evening finished with a "Rally." This is a type of variety

***We sat back in amazement.
It was almost word-for-word an exact
duplicate of the other's outline!***

pated this year because of summer school, there were still about 25 children in attendance. Sister Chambers was the director.

I helped with the music this year. It was special. We learned new songs for worship that the children sang for the Conference at the end of the week. Hopefully, they will return to their churches and teach others the songs. There are so many talented children with really good voices.

During each day, Wednesday through Friday, Pastor Joe Samuels gave a morning Bible Study on Revelation 13, "The Beauty and the Beast." What an eye opener! Then Friday evening came, and just when I thought that we all had been blessed richly, the Kingston Young People's group put on a drama, written by a Brother Karl. As if the Revelation 13 Bible Study wasn't enough, the drama made me nearly speechless. All I can say is, if those who were unsaved, or even those who were and really hadn't been able to understand the book of Revelation, they would have had to know what this drama was about. Remarkable, to say the least!

Sabbath Day was a special day of worship, music, and fellowship, with the message titled, "We Shall Be Like Him," given by Pastor C. Ferguson.

Sunday, the last official day of Conference, started out with a bap-

show in which money is raised by everyone's admission fee, plus in other fun ways, such as paying a singer to either stop or repeat their performance. All the money raised is used to help with the expenses of the Jamaica SDB Conference.

I was certainly blessed! The week had been so fulfilling. I sang in the Conference choir and did special music with the help of Brother Tony Higgins and Pastor Ben McLean throughout the week. Listening to the messages, hearing the music, and seeing the growth of "groups" into official churches, I felt, "Yes, the Lord is working mightily in Jamaica."

There were strong thoughts going through my head all the week as I listened to the groups of singers and the other musicians. I even mentioned to Brother Tony an idea that was on my mind.

So many of the people that are involved with music do not know how to read the music they play. Don't get me wrong, they really can play and sing wonderfully. But music lessons are not affordable to most people in Jamaica, and the schools do not have good music programs like the schools here in the states. So Tony and I talked about the possibility of a project or a workshop involving the lead musicians and choir directors from the SDB churches on the island. He said it sounded like something that was needed.

I said that we would have to talk with Pastor Ben, who is more or less in charge of Conference music. Pastor Ben arrived on Friday, and we only briefly mentioned the idea. Without any details, we just thought that we three should get together back in Kingston, after Conference, and have a meeting to discuss the subject further.

On the last Wednesday I was there, we had our meeting at Pastor Joe's house. Brother Tony could not attend as he had to be elsewhere. Pastor Ben and I started the meeting with a time of prayer. Then we discussed the possibility of a "workshop" for those in the music ministry at SDB churches. But I wasn't even planning on coming back next year! The Lord was tell-

ing me, "You are not done working down here yet."

As we showed each other the outlines of what the workshop should include, and a tentative four-day schedule, we sat back in amazement. It was almost word-for-word an exact duplicate of the other's outline! We hadn't discussed it or seen each other's written ideas until that time. We now believe this is truly what the Lord would have us do and are actively working toward that goal.

I was asked to write a syllabus for the intensive, 48-hour training program, to be held most likely in August 1994. This will include the basics of reading music, the different keys, sharps, flats, vocal music, etc. The workshop would start out

with a day spent in the Bible, studying on why music is in the church.

Training would include hands-on participation with piano or keyboard, and any other instrument used in church. Also vocal training will be given to choir directors or vocal groups. We would accept 30-35 participants for this first year (1994) into the program.

We plan to have the workshop either at the Kingston SDB Church or at Maiden Hall, if accommodations will be suitable. Also, we know there is a need for a van to transport the musicians and sound equipment. (See box.)

I will also be trying to raise funds for the trip to Jamaica and next year's project. Sure, I wasn't going next year, but the Lord said, "GO!"

Transportation costs will most likely go up again next year. It cost me \$611 for round-trip airfare this year, plus about \$300 for costs while in Jamaica (bus fare, food, money towards gas for those who transported us, etc). I believe that I would need around \$700 for airfare and \$300 again for expenses while I am there for three or four weeks. If any of you are interested in making a donation for next year's Jamaican mini-mission project, or the Jamaican "van" project, you may write or phone me at: Jamaican Mini-Missions Project '94, c/o Susan W. Cartwright, 605 Streeter Brook Rd., Little Gene-see, NY 14754. (For tax deductible purposes, make checks out to the Richburg SDB Church, with the memo area stating the "Jamaican Mini-Missions Project '94.")

The ultimate goal through this project for 1994, as in everything else I try to do, is to glorify God, and hopefully bring others to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank you for all the help that will be received. Please keep this project in your prayers. ✠

"One van to go, please."

This will sound crazy to some, I know, because it certainly seems way out of my reach financially. But there is the need of a van for the Jamaicans' musical ministry. Nothing fancy, a Ford Econoline or a cargo type, with or without windows, standard or automatic. It wouldn't need extra seats, since my husband and I have two bench seats which are in excellent shape that could be installed. The van must be at least a 1988 model, as Jamaica will not let you bring a vehicle down there if it is older than seven years. A light color would be better because of the hot climate.

The van doesn't need any fancy "stuff," like air conditioning or carpeting; the less the better. (If anything like that is wanted by the Conference, they can install it when they receive the van.) The only "extra" that would be nice is a radio/tape player, so the musicians could listen/practice their music while traveling.

Pastor Ben would be responsible for the vehicle, allowing the Conference to use the van when needed to transport people or cargo. I do not know if anyone out there knows of such a van, or would be willing to donate one of this type to the Jamaican SDB Conference, or would be willing to donate the money to purchase a van of this type.

This is a big request, but there is a need, and I know the Lord wants me involved in this some way. I'm not sure why He does, but I will obey. I know that nothing is impossible for God.



Pray around the world

To help you pray around the world, the following is a suggested guide, taken from the book, *Operation World*.

• **Afghanistan**—(652,000 sq. km.) War's devastation has brought immense suffering to the nation. An estimated 800,000 people have lost their lives. It will take decades to clear the 10-40 million mines and rebuild homes, schools, farms, and shattered lives. Pray for peace and deliverance from further tyrannies.

• **Bahamas**—(An archipelago of 700 coral islands between Florida and Cuba.) Under a religious veneer, society is sick. It has the highest rate of drug addiction in the world. Among Christians, commitment is low. Pray for revival.

• **Cameroon**—(Population: 11,245,000 in 1990.) Praise God for present religious freedom, church growth, and localized touches of revival.

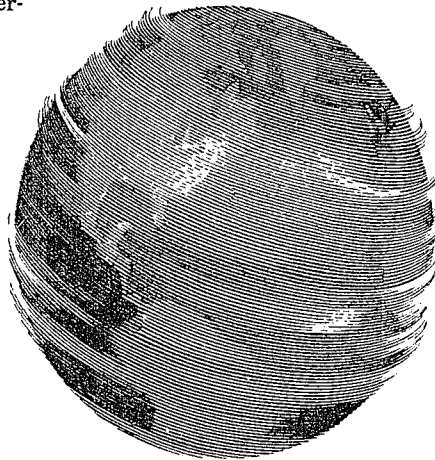
• **Ecuador**—(Spanish-speaking 56.9%; Amerindian 42%; Other 1.1%) Pray for government leaders courageous enough to confront the entrenched privileged elite. May the leaders bring meaningful progress and stability to every level of society.

• **France**—(Literacy 99%.) Barriers to the Gospel are many—intellectualism, rationalism, widespread involvement in the occult, individualism, and a nodding acquaintance with institutional Catholicism.

• **Guadeloupe**—(Official language: French.) Breakdown in family

life, widespread occultism, marked growth of sects.

• **Hong Kong**—(Major cities: Victoria, Kowloon.) The countdown to 1997 when it reverts to China dominates the thinking of all. Pray that politicians on both sides may act with wisdom and integrity before and after the hand-over.



• **India**—(Capital: New Delhi.) Caste is one of the biggest issues facing the nation. Pray that Christians may both preach and live by biblical standards.

• **Jordan**—(Unemployment over 20%.) The Gulf War worsened Jordan's economic crisis and destabilized political life. Pray for the maintenance of religious freedom in the face of rising extremism among some Muslims.

• **Kyrgyzstan**—(Economy: based on wool, tobacco, cotton, and agricultural machinery.) The first Central Asian republic to break free from the USSR. Pray for spiritual freedom.

• **Laos**—(Politics: Communist control despite economic liberalizations.) Pray that soon there may be permission to build a Bible school in the country.

• **Malawi**—(Religion: Christian 81.1%; Muslim 14.5%.) Praise God for the relative peace and freedom for preaching the Gospel.

• **Netherlands**—(Over 30% is below sea level.) Pray for unity among Dutch Christians.

• **Oman**—(About 15% of the population and 70% of the work force are foreign.) Almost the entire Christian community is expatriate. Pray for a pure lifestyle.

• **Paraguay**—(Immigrant minorities: German 72,000; Italian 26,000; Ukrainian 26,000.) Pray for the government as it seeks to build the nation's institutions and infrastructure on the basis of democracy.

• **Qatar**—(Petroleum products are 82% of exports.) There were no Qatari Christians before 1985. Pray for the new believers' unity.

• **Russia**—(The world's largest country, extending across 11 time zones between the Baltic and the Pacific.) Russia is still threatened by the possibility of a new tyranny. Pray that leaders may have the courage and unity to give the nation stability as well as freedom. SR

Source: *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone (Zondervan, 1993). Available at your local bookstore, or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

The gates of Hell will not prevail...

by Joel K. Osborn

"He [Jesus] asked, 'Who do you say I am?'"

"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

"Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.'" (Matthew 16:15-18 NIV).

When things get rough, that last phrase above has always given me comfort. I could picture Christians sitting safely in the fortress of the Church, safe in the knowledge that Hell would not overcome their gates. All of them sitting comfortably around the fire swapping stories and drinking hot chocolate...

But wait! That's not what the verse says. The verse says nothing about the gates of the Church standing up to attacks from Hell. Rather, it says that the gates of Hell will not overcome the Church.

I heard a radio preacher on my way home from work one day. He helped to shatter my safe, peaceful picture, and made me rethink this passage.

What sort of offensive weapon is a gate? Why would Christians have to worry about being overcome by the gates of Hell, if we are sitting, safe and secure, inside the gates of the Church?

That's the point. Gates are

defensive. If the gates of Hell are not going to prevail, then they must be attacked. Christians must put on their full armor (Ephesians 6:10-

So what do we do with this newfound vision of this Scripture? That's up to each of us to settle with the Holy Spirit. Maybe we

Christians must put on their full armor, put down their hot chocolate, and go out from behind the safe gates of the Church.

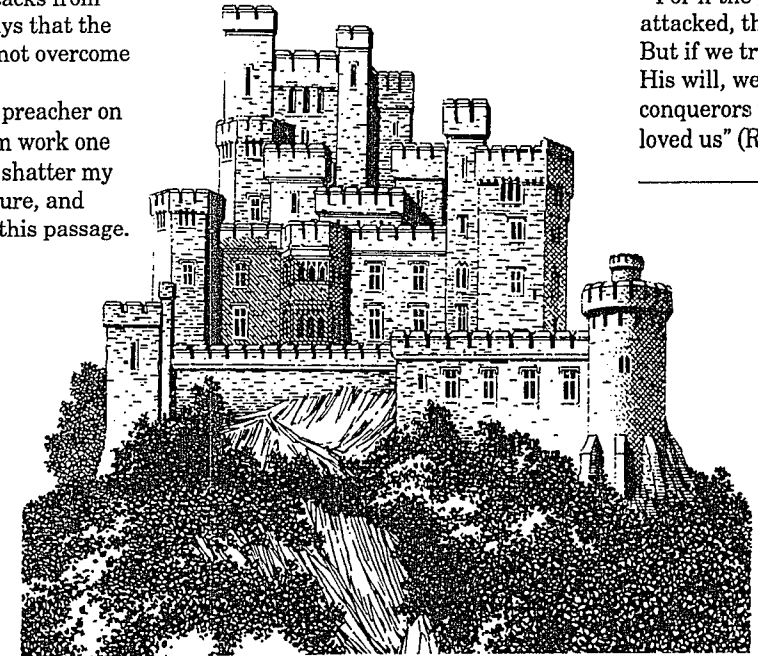
18), put down their hot chocolate, and go out from behind the safe gates of the Church. They must take their only offensive weapon, the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12) and "attack."

And when the Christians do attack, the gates of Hell will crumble and fall. For if the gates will not overcome the Church (as Jesus promised), the Church will overcome the gates!

need to get more active politically, or socially, and attack the evils and wrongs that exist in those arenas. Maybe we need to get involved in our schools and make sure our children are not getting their minds poisoned.

We all need to be more aware of the spiritual warfare that exists around us. Instead of simply defending against it, we must move to drive the evil forces away.

For if the gates of Hell are not attacked, then they will prevail. But if we trust God and follow His will, we can be "more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37 NIV). SR



Joel Osborn is a computer programmer for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He and his wife, Doneta (members at the Madison, Wis., SDB Church), are parents of two young boys.

A musical Christmas in the Holy Land

by Lili Eylon

Bethlehem's Manger Square will once more resound with music from many lands this Christmas. Under the patronage of the vice president of the Fiji Islands, 100 singers of the Moa Choir from the island of Lau will come to the Holy Land to bring musical holiday greetings from their country.

So will some 100 Korean singers accompanied by a Korean television team. Their repertoire for the December 24th concert in Manger Square includes Christmas songs in Korean and English.

The United States will be represented by two choirs: the True Light Hyde Park Choir, with members from churches in the Chicago area, and the Sonlight Choir of the First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla.

The Jerusalem Community Christian Choir represents temporary and permanent Christian residents of Jerusalem, originally from some 40 countries. This special choir, created only for Christmas, will also sing this year in Bethlehem.

"Each group is warmly welcomed," says Ohio-born Adina Hano, director of the Events Unit

Singers visit Israel year after year to perform in Manger Square on Christmas Eve.

of the Israel Ministry of Tourism. The Unit has brought two dozen orchestral, choral, and folk-dance



The Moa Choir from the Fiji Islands participate in Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem.

groups to entertain audiences in the Holy Land so far this year.

For many singers, the highlight event in Israel is the International Christmas Choir Assembly, which takes place each year in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Singers from Scandinavia, England, Switzerland, the United States, Spain, Iceland, and Germany visit Israel year after year to perform in Manger Square on Christmas Eve.

While expenses incurred—flights, sightseeing, transportation, and other land arrangements—are borne by members of each group, the Israel Ministry of Tourism arranges a maximum of three performances in venues such as auditoriums, universities, churches, and academies of music throughout the country, and also provides for publicity through its regular channels.

Choirs from abroad who wish to perform in Israel are advised to apply to the nearest Israel Government Tourist Office at least six months ahead of time. They should

provide information concerning the size, repertoire, and composition of the choir, technical requirements, and preferred venues. They are also requested to furnish an audio-cassette recording of the choir.

Israel's musical tradition traces its beginnings to the Bible, to Jubal, father of all musicians, who played the lyre and pipe. King David, associated with the harp and the lyre, has been dubbed "the sweet singer of Israel." Musicians were highly honored in biblical times, ranking in prestige after kings and priests. They were exempt from labor and payment of tribute, and were maintained by the state.

The Israel of today is known for its many-faceted and much-appreciated musical life. Indeed, the "Land of Milk and Honey" can also be called the "Land of Music." ❧

(Story and photo provided by the Consulate General of Israel, Chicago, Ill.)



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Meeting not just for ourselves

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17 NASB).

This past March, I sent out questionnaires to our Seventh Day Baptist women's groups. It was exciting to receive their answers and learn about the various ministries our Seventh Day Baptist women are involved in.

Many of our women provide services for their local church. They paint, clean, make curtains and drapes, serve or host fellowship meals, teach Sabbath School, sing in the choir, and contribute in other ways to keep the local church vital and active.

It's especially exciting to hear how Seventh Day Baptist women are ministering in their communities and reaching out to others. The Adams Center, N.Y., SDB women entertain the Ladies Aid groups from other area churches. They

give a large portion of their funds to charities. In New Auburn, Wis., our church ladies have a booth at the local fair and contribute financially to a local Christian radio station, which in turn reaches out to thousands of people each day through the broadcasts.

The women of several of our churches have hosted retreats and invited local women to participate. The Portland, Ore., group planned a women's retreat in June, and Dodge Center, Minn., and Verona, N.Y., hosted retreats led by Mary Jane McPherson and Althea Rood. What a wonderful way to reach out to the women of your community by inviting them to a special weekend of blessing and sharing!

The Richburg, N.Y., women participate in a community World Day of Prayer service, and they help support the distribution of the *Upper Room* magazine to all women in their church. The women from the First SDB Church of Houston, Texas, help with the monthly USDA Food Surplus distribution. Our women in Riverside, Calif.,

sew and stuff toy bears for the Riverside Police Department to give to small children in times of crisis. They've also made scrapbooks and

It's exciting to hear how Seventh Day Baptist women are ministering in their communities and reaching out to others.

lap robes for a community convalescent center.

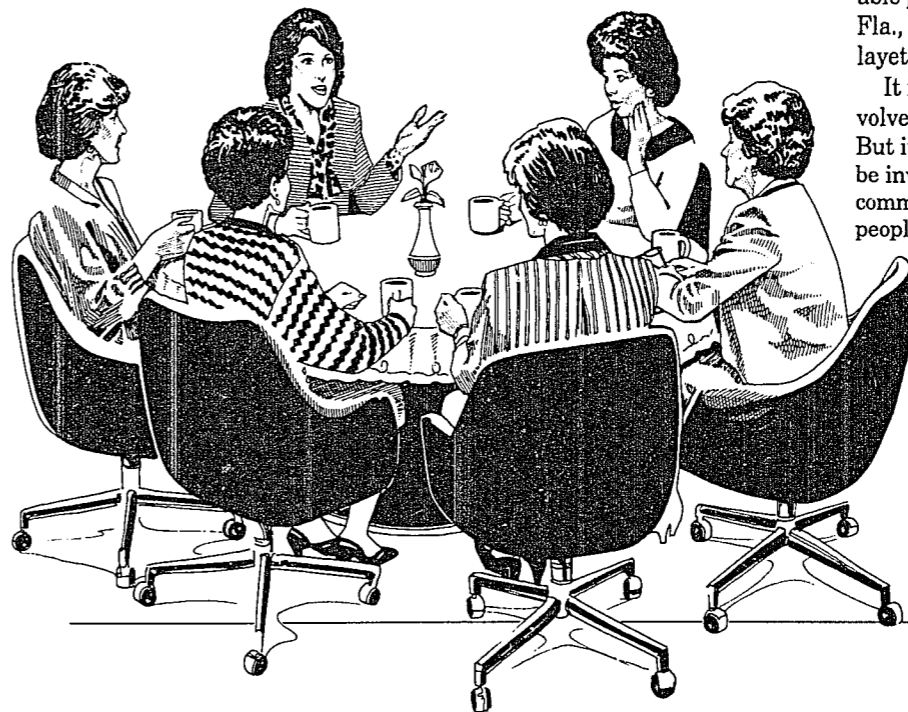
The women from the Bell SDB Church of Salemville, Pa., reach out to a small African child by contributing to World Vision. West Palm Beach, Fla., reports that they were blessed to reach out to the victims of Hurricane Andrew.

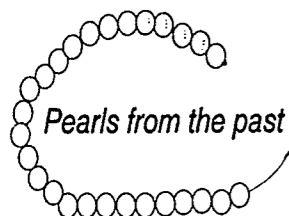
Alfred, N.Y., women are involved with Our Opportunity Shop, a place where good used clothing and other items can be bought for a reasonable price. The Daytona Beach, Fla., women make school bags and layettes for Church Women United.

It is important for us to be involved in our local congregations. But it is just as important for us to be involved in some way in a larger community or world mission to people. How is your church involved in reaching out?

Drop me a line and let me know: Charlotte Chroniger, P.O. Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353.

If your local women haven't done so, consider a special reach-out project for 1994. You will be tremendously blessed, and the Lord will use your efforts for His Kingdom. ❧





Faith: Give more, have more

by Don A. Sanford, historian

William Carey published a book in 1792 entitled, *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*.

Carey refuted many of the commonly held objections to foreign missions, pointing out that "if we had as much love for the souls of others as the merchants have for the profits arising from a few otter skins, then all difficulties would be surmounted." This book is credited with the beginning of Baptist missionary efforts.

Fifty years later, Thomas B. Brown raised a question at the 1842 session of the SDB General Conference as to whether Conference "as presently organized was a suitable vehicle for the diffusion of the benevolence of the denomination, or whether an entirely new organization was necessary." Delegates proposed to promote missions on an Associational principle, with each church in the denomination considering itself a missionary society, while a general society would coordinate the local societies, appoint missionaries, select fields, and disburse funds. This action is considered the birth of our current Missionary Society.

In 1892, to celebrate these two pivotal events, the denomination published a 163-page book entitled, *Jubilee Papers*, a name taken from Leviticus 25:10, "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you."

Over 20 short articles were printed "to present a bird's eye view of denominational efforts in evangelism and mission." Included were brief descriptions of the work of each Association, foreign and

home missions, education, publications, women and youth work. Arthur E. Main introduced the work:

While Christian character and righteous conduct must always be the best witness for Bible religion, it is the clear and strong voice of history and experience that the true and best aggressive means of building up the Sabbath cause, and any truth, doctrinal or practical, is gospel preaching and teaching, in all the world, supported by the essential auxiliaries of denominational schools and denominational literature. And the closer Seventh Day Baptists keep to this way, the more successful will we be in winning men to Christ and the Bible truth.

In a general reflection on Foreign Missions, Dr. E.M. Dunn wrote:

The reflex influence of Missions upon the Home field during the past century is most worthy of note... The awakening and spirituality that have come to the home churches by reason of their enlisting in Foreign Missions have been worth more to these churches than all that the Foreign Missions have cost. It was objected a hundred years ago to sending Christianity abroad that we have none at home to spare; whereas it has been found that religion is such a commodity that the more we give the more we have.

Those churches which are not missionary churches wane and die; and the same is true of the piety of individual members. So that it is no longer a debatable question whether the heathen can be saved without the gospel; the practical question is, "Can

we be saved and not give the gospel to the heathen?"

Another century has now passed. Many achievements have been made. Yet there remains an unfulfilled vision. Those *Jubilee Papers* were written at the time our China Mission was in full force, and doors were opening in other parts of the world.

The Home Missions report at Conference that year showed 34 home missionaries in 18 states and territories reporting: 897 weeks of field work with 2,449 discourses; 525 prayer meetings; 4,378 visits; the distribution of 58,780 pages of tracts and 1,082 papers; 260 additions (195 by baptism); and the organization of one church, four Sabbath Schools, and seven Christian Endeavor societies. Total reported members that year in American Seventh Day Baptist churches was 8,242. (Over a thousand were added during the next decade.)

Conditions have changed. New methods of communicating the Gospel have opened new avenues of work. Yet the concluding words as they looked to the future still ring in our ears:

The present is a kind of crisis in our history, a turning point, the nick of time. And by the manifested infinite love of God in offering redemption to men, we need to be made to realize more and more man's low estate, and to know that our highest appointed mission is to publish far and wide the great salvation...

And down through a hundred years, across ocean and continent, from that ever-memorable discourse of William Carey in June 1792, there rings out the mighty appeal: "Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God." **SR**



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—December 1992

Five features focus on "Appreciating Your Pastor." SDB writers include Richard Barany (former pastor) and Lannette Calhoun (pastor's wife).

Women's Society page editor, Charlotte Chroniger, offers practical ideas to support a pastor.

Missionary Society executive Kirk Looper reflects on his recent trip to Europe and Africa.

The Beacon suggests good ideas for YF Christmas projects.

New York City church ordains more diaconate members and dedicates their church building.

Mid-Continent Association meets in Nortonville, Kan.

Five years ago—December 1988

Firsthand report lists the devastation done to SDB churches in Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert.

Margaret Bond Allen honored as Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

Beacon lists rules for the National YF logo contest.

Battle Creek, Mich., members vote to renovate church building and parish house.

Plainfield, N.J., church celebrates 150th anniversary.

Jane, Adam, Eric, and Alicia Mackintosh named as new editors of *The Sabbath Visitor*.

10 years ago—December 1983

Editor Scott Smith interviews SDB missionaries at a Missionary Conference in Milton, Wis.

Pastoral news: Jerry Vaught ordained; Steven Crouch accepts call to Bay Area, Calif.; Arthur Rowe accepts pastorate in Paint Rock, Ala.; and Leland Bond moves to Florida to help with new church groups.

New SDB church formed in Sydney, Australia. Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate reports on his visit to the West Coast churches.

Beacon prepared by Washington, D.C., youth group. Nortonville celebrates a Lord's Acre Sabbath.

25 years ago—December 1968

Florence Bowden leads a Christian Education Weekend in Plainfield, N.J.

Courtland Davis remembered by American and Jamaican denominational officials.

Shiloh, N.J., church begins "Sabbath School Attendance Contest." J. Stanley Bond, superintendent of the world's largest church school in Akron, Ohio (and brother of Pastor Charles Bond), brought the messages.

Marian Hargis, widow of Rev. Gerald Hargis, passes away in Los Angeles; Abbie Van Horn, widow of Rev. H.C. Van Horn, passes away in Westerly, R.I.

Ordination statement of Jack Hays, Metarie, La., presented.

Youth Field Worker, Esther Burdick, visits 10 churches during November.

50 years ago—December 1943

Missionaries Dr. George Thorngate, and Rev. and Mrs. H. Eugene Davis, arrive safely back to the states after their imprisonment in war-torn China. Dr. Thorngate begins tour of SDB churches. "He has a thrilling and inspiring message, and the [Missionary] Board wishes to share it with as many churches as possible."

Featured in the column, "Who's Who Among SDB Young People?": Ethel Davis Dickinson, wife of seminarian C. Harmon Dickinson; and David Clarke, student at Alfred (N.Y.) School of Theology.

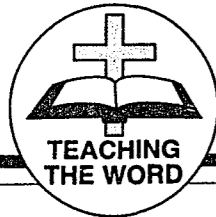
American Bible Society pleads for "Bibles as well as bombers" for soldiers.

Rev. Harley Sutton agrees to become the first executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education.

...where are we headed?

Pray—

- that churches appreciate their leaders
- for safety during times of disaster
- for our many precious young people
- for our missions—home and abroad
- for your Sabbath School staff
- for those facing the holidays alone
- for the far-reaching effect of the Word



Resources for teaching *The Helping Hand*

On the eve of *The Helping Hand's* 110th year of publication, our new editor, Pastor John Camenga, Daytona, Fla., begins his first quarter lessons with studies from the Gospel of Luke. The Board hopes you will like Editor Camenga's new format and typeface, and that the Adult-Youth Sabbath School lessons, written by and for Seventh Day Baptists, will assist you in your biblical studies and spiritual growth.

The Helping Hand lessons are based on the International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching, a six-year cycle outline which began in 1872. The lessons attempt to cover the entire Bible in six years, and also avoid duplicating the previous six-year cycle Scripture passages.

The themes include biographical, topical, and book studies. This fall quarter, September through November, we studied the book of

Standard Lesson Commentary for 1993-94, edited by James Fehl, has been used for 40 years by International Bible Lesson teach-

Teachers should consider using the excellent commentaries and teacher's annuals produced by a variety of publishing houses.

Genesis. During our new quarter, we will study Luke's Gospel.

Twenty-four different denominations are members of the Committee on the Uniform Series. Groups as diverse in organization and theology as Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Disciples, Mennonites, Brethren, Lutherans, and Quakers join in developing the lesson outlines and suggestions for writers. Pastor Camenga represents Seventh Day Baptists on the Committee, but isn't alone. Mary Clare, former Executive of the Board of Christian Education, is a staff-appointed consultant to the Children's Section.

Over the years, the question is frequently asked, "Why doesn't the Board publish a teacher's guide for *The Helping Hand*?" The Sabbath School Committee of the Board suggests that teachers consider using the excellent commentaries and teacher's annuals produced by a variety of publishing houses. Check your local Bible bookstore for assistance.

You may wish to consider two which have proven helpful to many of our teachers:

Each lesson has eight pages of teaching materials. From the printed lesson text in the King James Version, to a verse-by-verse explanation of the Bible text, to practical applications of the major lesson truths, the *Standard Lesson Commentary* is designed to suggest teaching activities for the teacher.

A full-year packet of teaching visuals (posters, maps, and overheads) is also available. The lesson commentary, September 1993 through August 1994, is published by Standard Publishing Company, 8121 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45231 (phone: 1-800-543-1353).

The International Lesson Annual, 1993-94, edited by William H. Willimon, has been used for 38 years by teachers of the International Bible Lessons. The *Annual* features detailed explanations of the Bible text, the King James Version and New Revised Standard Version texts in parallel columns, lesson analysis, and creative teaching suggestions. *The International Lesson Annual* is available through your favorite Bible bookstore, or Cokesbury, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202-0801 (phone: 1-800-672-1789). *SR*



Adult/Youth Sabbath School Lessons



by Russell Johnson
Director of Extension

Virginia

Abundant Life SDB Fellowship is the name of a new group in Portsmouth, Va. The fellowship is seeking a place among Seventh Day Baptists. David Alexander, the bivocational pastor of the group, is

tion at worship on Sabbaths, and David has started the orientation process that is used with new group contacts.

An additional indication of God's involvement in that area is that Nathan Crandall is now attending

Mississippi

David Clevenger, who is from a Baptist background, leads a group in Biloxi, Miss. They hold a Bible study and have a children's ministry. His wife, Bambi, takes care of children during the day, in addition to their own children. David has been a licensed Southern Baptist preacher, and currently works with the presses during the night shift at a local newspaper.

Where next?

These are just three of the blessings that God has given me and Ron Elston, Regional Field Worker, through our work with "new" SDBs. The freedom to continue to meet and determine potential, to advise, develop new tools, and mentor and assist new people in new locations

The group continues to have strong participation at worship on Sabbaths, and David has started the orientation process that is used with new group contacts.

aided in the ministry by his wife, Gloreen, and their children.

The Abundant Life church has been meeting for about two years. Although it was a Sunday observing group at first, several people had strong Sabbath convictions. Then David and Gloreen became convinced of the truth of the biblical Sabbath, and the group began celebrating Sabbath.

The church is already well known in the community for its caring attitude and ministry to people. The group made arrangements with a large Baptist church to use its chapel for worship services, and a larger area is available as the group grows.

Eighteen adults, plus several children and youth, recently met to discuss forming a Seventh Day Baptist church. (One family decided that they didn't agree enough with SDB beliefs and could no longer attend.)

Gloreen reports that the group continues to have strong participa-

seminary in Virginia Beach. Nathan had no previous knowledge of the new group before he moved.

Minnesota

Terry and Vickie Hamilton are both enrolled in Oak Ridge Bible College, located outside Bemidji, Minn. Along with their two boys, they were led by the Lord to leave their home and go back to school. Terry has experienced God using him to lead Jews to Jesus. He had previously worked with Underground Evangelism, and with Jews for Jesus.

God has convinced Terry that our premises of faith are correct, and he is preparing to start an SDB church. In the process, he has been discipling a classmate, Steve Hamilton (no relation to Terry). Steve is currently serving a Sunday Baptist group but is very open to the Sabbath. He is considering starting an SDB church in a community at some distance from Bemidji.

Pray for greater resources to expand the fieldwork, as the volume of promising contacts increases, and expenses continue to grow.

are some things that your steady financial support provides.

Please continue to give to the missions portion of the denominational budget. Pray for greater resources to expand the fieldwork, as the volume of promising contacts increases, and expenses continue to grow. *SR*



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship December 1993

A weekend in the woods

by Ben Cruzan

This year's Youth Retreat, hosted by the Shiloh-Marlboro (N.J.) Youth Group, was held at Jersey Oaks Camp, as usual.

As the weekend came to a close, the campers and staff pulled their tired but happy selves to the closing circle on the beach of the camp's lake.

Twenty-seven native South Jersey youths were joined by four from Maryland and one from Raritan Valley.

The staff members included: Steve and Dodi Moncrief (Shiloh-Marlboro YF leaders), Jere and Ruthanne Davis, Lois Mazza, Bill Probasco, and daytime help by Pastor Mel Stephan. The focus of this year's retreat was the book of Revelation.

The first encounter with this topic was on Sabbath morning. The Sabbath service, held at camp, was planned by volunteer campers. In his sermon, Robert Gramp laid a foundation of Revelation's overall purpose.

Later that day, Dan Cruzan came down to camp and led a Bible study on the book. The Bible study continued later that day and again Sunday morning. Dan gave insight into some of the major symbols and signs seen by John that everyone should be aware of and understand.

was one of the focal points of this weekend—ice cream to be specific.

We piled two rain gutters full of ice cream and toppings. Everyone headed for a perfect spot and then began devouring his or her share. You should have seen four gallons of ice cream being slurped up within 20 minutes!

Of course, Jersey Oaks' tradition of the Saturday night hike was continued and enjoyed (regardless of the pain it caused for the next morning). Jersey Oaks' second most famous tradition, the Saturday night capture the flag game, was also continued and led by "Mr. Capture the Flag" himself—Bill Probasco.

As the weekend came to a close, the campers and staff pulled their tired but happy selves to the closing circle on the beach of the camp's lake. They thanked God for the

beautiful autumn weather and colors, the fun, the chance to see friends they hadn't seen for some time, new friends they met, and the new wisdom that the lessons had brought to them. They prayed for a safe return to their hometowns, strength for when they got there, and that they might be able to see each other again soon.

On behalf of the youth who attended the 1993 Fall Retreat, I would like to thank the staff, those who provided transportation, those who donated food, Mr. Gramp, Dan Cruzan, and mostly God, for making it a great experience.



More Beacon...

His son—our time

by Susie Butts

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

This is the season when Christians all over the world will be celebrating the birth of Jesus. We will prepare for the Christmas program at our church, buy or make gifts for

the ones we love, sing carols, decorate our homes, and most of all, remember how God gave the gift of His only son, Jesus.

But the reason the Christmas season is so special is not only because Jesus was born, but because He gave His life for those lost in

sin—you and me. How we are affected by this event depends on what we do with it.

As Christians, we have taken God's gift and internalized it. We have asked Jesus into our hearts and now have a personal relationship with Him.

But then what? Jesus gave His life for us, and once we accept that, we're done, right? Well, not exactly.

As we begin our walk with God, there are many things we start to bring into our lives. We read our Bibles each day, pray, attend church regularly, and often start tithing our income to God. Besides Bible study, tithing is probably the easiest responsibility to keep track of. We simply take a percentage (usually 10 percent) of our income and give it to God. But have we ever thought of doing the same thing with our time?

When I was a senior in college, I attended a weekly Bible study entitled, "Christian Disciplines." One week, to prepare for the "Managing Times and Gifts" session, I was required to keep track of how I spent my time. I was amazed at how much time I wasted, and was curious to see if I could utilize that time better by tithing it to God.

I began to figure out exactly how much time I was dealing with: taking 10 percent of each day would be two and one-half hours, or approximately 17 hours a week. After a little thought, prayer, and sacrifice, I managed to find a God-centered activity for all 17 hours.

I'm not trying to encourage all of us to be that legalistic, but it is something to think about. So as we enter this season of giving, and remember God's gift to us, let's give Him gifts in return—our talents, our time, but most of all, our lives.

Art Contest!

sponsored by
the Sabbath
Promotion Committee

We are soliciting artwork to use in the 1994 Sabbath Emphasis Day materials. Winning entries will be used for bulletin covers and/or promotional posters.



The theme: "The Sabbath: His Will, His Way"

Deadline: January 30, 1994

Age Divisions: a.) Under 12 Submit entries on
 b.) 12-17 8 1/2 x 11" paper
 c.) 18 plus (or larger if you wish).

Entries will be judged on:

- Depiction of theme 50%
- Originality 20%
- Creativity 20%
- Neatness and artistic/aesthetic appeal 10%

(Notice that your ideas and originality are more important than your artistic ability.)

Prizes for each division:

- 1st place—Your choice of SDB T-Shirt or Tote Bag and full color poster depicting your prize winning artwork!
- 2nd place—Full-color poster!

Send your artwork to:

Sabbath Promotion Committee
c/o Box 241
Lost Creek, WV 26385

The Advent message

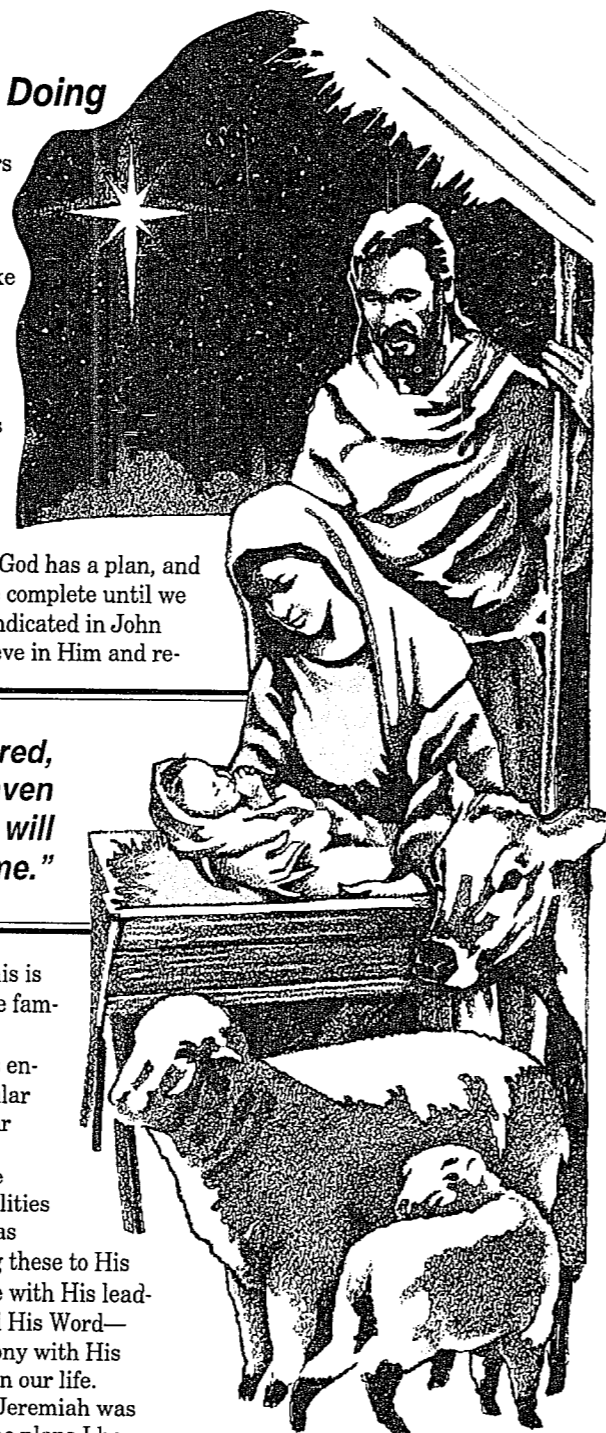
His Will for His Way—Knowing and Doing

The coming of the Babe in Bethlehem nearly 2,000 years ago remarkably illustrates God's perfect will in the life of His world. Planned from the time mankind sinned, and prophesied through the centuries, Jesus declared, "For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent me" (John 6:38 NIV).

Throughout His ministry, Jesus' every awareness and direction took Him toward God's Will. To His disciples who returned to the well in Samaria, He stated, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34 NKJ).

As His brief years of ministry closed, He prayed in the garden, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42 NIV). He completed God's plan for His life!

Each individual today needs to recognize that we are here for a purpose. God has a plan, and our lives will not be complete until we recognize this. As indicated in John 6:40, we are to believe in Him and re-



**Jesus declared,
"For I have come down from heaven
not to do My will but to do the will
of Him who sent me."**

Later, when called to task by the Jewish leaders, He humbly said, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:30 NKJ).


As we come to the time of year when focus is given to His birth, let us not forget why He came: "For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son, and believes in Him, shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40 NIV).

Jesus came to fulfill God's plan for the salvation of all who believe. As He began His ministry by being baptized in the Jordan river, John the Baptist testified, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29b NIV).

ceive eternal life. This is the entrance into the family of God.

But following this entrance is His particular will for each life—our education, vocation, spouse, ministry. We are given certain abilities and talents, as well as spiritual gifts. Using these to His glory—in accordance with His leading by the Spirit and His Word—brings us into harmony with His will and fulfillment in our life.

God's message to Jeremiah was sure: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (29:11 NIV). And such a message is sure for us, too!

Jesus set the example. God's plan for us begins at birth and continues until His will is accomplished. Let us follow our Savior by seeking and doing God's will! 

Where were the evangelicals?

by Judy Waggoner

(ZPS)—Following over five years of preparation, the second centennial Parliament of World Religions was held in Chicago recently. Over 8,600 people, representing at least 300 different religions, registered to attend. Many eastern, non-Christian religions point to the first Parliament in 1893 as their genesis in the western world. In the intervening 100 years, the percentage of Americans who claim to be in the "other religion" category has risen to 10 percent, according to a recent Gallup poll.

Religious pluralism is a fact of life in America, as it is worldwide. "Whether we live in the United States, Britain, Canada, Holland, or other 'Reformation countries,' it really does not matter. The historic Christian faith is in the minority," wrote the late theologian, Francis A. Schaeffer, in *The Church at the End of the 20th Century*. "Most Christians, especially those of us who remember what the United States was like 45 or 50 years ago, go on as if we were in the majority, as though the status quo belongs to us. It does not."

The relatively small representation of evangelical Christianity at the Parliament of World Religions is symptomatic of a fear of religious pluralism. Christian institutions reflect the fears of individual Christians as they see the growing number of people from other religions in their neighborhoods.

"We as Christians fear that we will lose our place of majority," says Terry Muck, associate professor of comparative religions at Austin (Texas) Presbyterian Theological Seminary. "The founders of our country were Christian, the governmental structures are all based on Christian principles, and the vast


majority of people in this country have always been at least nominally Christian." Many Christians fear that religious pluralism will challenge the comfortable advantages of that heritage.

Christians dread more than just census statistics. "The deeper fear is that all of the work we have done as Christians to 'Christianize' our culture is liable to go up in smoke if people of other religions gain influence here," writes Muck in his book, *Those Other Religions in Your Neighborhood*.

Voices exist to calm these fears. In a speech at the Religion News-writers Association convention, which ran concurrently with the conclusion of the Parliament, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin revealed why he signed the *Global Ethic*, a statement of principles composed

by 100 international religious leaders.

"Signing the *Global Ethic* means that one agrees with the fundamental values articulated in the document even though implementation might be different. And the *Global Ethic* can be used as a framework for greater collaboration and communication."

Fear of religious pluralism can be overcome. In his book, Muck concludes, "When we look at the growth of the non-Christian religions in our culture, we should be anything but afraid. In fact, we should be pleased that we are in the midst of an environment where the Good News can be so effectively invested." 

(This news analysis provided by Zondervan Press Syndicate.)

Fire destroys two SDB homes

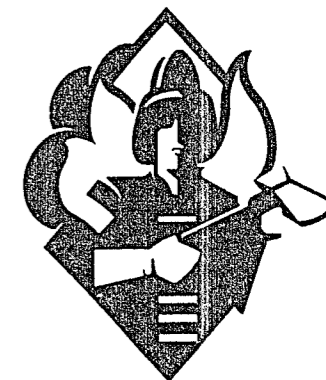
Lightning is blamed for the October 6 fire that destroyed Alice Crosby's home in Holly Hill, Fla.

Alice, 69, a member of the Daytona Beach, Fla., SDB Church, had lived in that house for 50 years. Since the fire, Mrs. Crosby has received room and board in exchange for taking care of a 94-year-old friend.


Unfortunately, Alice's insurance policy was dropped last February. The house has been demolished.

If you wish to help, please contact the church at 145 First Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Phone (904) 255-4775.

Harlan and Donna Smalley, part of the Portage, Wis., SDB Fellowship, lost their home in Cambria, Wis., by fire on November 7.



The Smalleys were buying the farm house on a "contract for deed" and had no insurance for their personal property.

A "Harlan Smalley Fund" for rebuilding has been set up at: Bank ONE of Beaver Dam, Cambria, WI 53923. Or call Debbie Smalley at (414) 992-5006. 

Religious freedom restored

WASHINGTON (Baptist News Service)—After three years, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act has become law.

On October 27, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill, regarded as one of the most important measures affecting religious liberty since the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791. The vote was 97-3.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously approved the bill on voice vote in May. President Bill Clinton endorsed the bill and signed it into law November 16.

The bill (S. 578, H.R. 1308) restores a high level of protection the Supreme Court formerly required government to meet before it could restrict a citizen's religious practice. Previously, government had to demonstrate a compelling interest, such as public health or safety, and

use the least restrictive means of safeguarding that interest before it could limit religious exercise. But the high court virtually abandoned that test in its *Oregon v. Smith* decision in 1990.

The *Smith* decision evoked a strong reaction from the religious community, as well as many constitutional scholars, that resulted in the formation of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion. The coalition of 68 religious and civil liberties groups represented nearly every point on the political and theological spectrum.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a chief co-sponsor of the bill, acknowledged the diversity of supporting groups, "including the National Association of Evangelicals, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the American Civil

Liberties Union, Concerned Women for America, People for the American Way, the American Jewish Committee, and the U.S. Catholic Conference.

"These organizations don't agree on much," Kennedy said, "but they do agree on the need to pass the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, another chief co-sponsor, described the measure as "one of the most significant pieces of legislation in support of religious freedom to ever come before Congress."

"This bill is important to our country because it restores to every American the precious balance conceived by our Founding Fathers between the interests of our government and the religious liberties of our citizens. **SR**

Outreach tools still available

In print:

Our full-color special issue *Sabbath Recorder*, "Seventh Day Baptists." This introduces the reader to SDBs through our distinctives, history, and statement of belief.

—Order today! Only 75¢ each

Contact the SDB Center
at (608) 752-5055

On VHS videotape:

"A Choosing People: The Seventh Day Baptist Story." Produced for television broadcast, this half-hour film captures the loving flavor of this special people. A dramatized look at Sabbathkeeping, church work, and our history will enlighten your viewers.

—Only \$7.00 each plus S&H

A time of giving...

Acting Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock conveys this important reminder:

Please take a look at our Denominational Budget thermometer on page 24. It's close, folks. Some special year-end gifts will really help to put us over the top again. Please, give as the Lord leads, so we can continue to "share God's greatest gift" with others. Make your checks payable to "SDB Denominational Budget." Thank you!

Newest SDB author

Timothy Bond, of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church, says that he has seen "one of the dreams of my life become a reality."

Bond has published *More Than Oxymoron*, a book containing about 50 original poems. The work also includes chapters on rhyme, rhythm, and figures of speech—"a must for those who enjoy poetry, and for teachers and students of poetry."

The poetry chapters are entitled, "Romance and Family," "Nature," "Social Comment," and "Religion." Four of the book's poems were originally published in *The Sabbath Recorder*.

For more information:

BLT Publishing
RD 1, Box 426
Cohansey Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302-8544
(609) 455-7326

SR Reaction

Dear Kevin,

The article about the Nortonville, Kan., church in the September SR was just what I needed to bring back some wonderful times I had at my grandparents' house in Nortonville in the late 40s and 50s.

That town and those people were what life is about. I just wish that today could be as good.

James Todd
Myakka City, FL

Editor, SR:

In the October SR, I see a male basketball player dressed as a woman. That's in very poor taste in this age of brazen transvestites and other perverts.

Also shame on the SR for the "cute" remarks, "closer

to Earl 'the Pearl'-or Marilyn-Monroe?"

Purity and snickers are a poor mix.

Ira Bond
Eldorado Springs, MO

Dear SR,

"A thank you unsaid is a day misspent."

Thank you for "Kevin's Korner" in the October SR. Oh, that teachers could learn early about "spiritual dust" and the need for a Firm Foundation for "first timers," as RuthAnne Peil does.

Thanks for "the SR Needs Your Help" box to remind me there is no free lunch. A delightful publication without the "hype" of Hollywood.

Harold F. Gilbert
San Francisco, CA

(Other items of interest):

Dear Sirs,
Please send me three *Sabbath Recorders* which have the obituary of... I would also like to start receiving the SR.

New Jersey

Dear Kevin,

I would like for you to send the SR to my son and his wife. They were members of the church...

New Jersey

To Whom It May Concern:

Would you please send me *The Sabbath Recorder*? I'm a direct descendant of Elder... and I'm interested in learning about his religion.

Thanks very much!

New York

Obituaries

Young.—E. Essie Young, 87, of Scio, N.Y., died on March 26, 1993, in Concord, Calif., following a long illness.

She was born on March 30, 1905, in the Town of Willing, the daughter of Samuel and Emma Mae (Farnum) Jenison. On April 18, 1926, she married Willard M. Young in Wellsville, N.Y. He died in 1952.

Essie attended school in Shongo and was employed for many years as manager of the Scio Central School cafeteria. She was a member of the Richburg (N.Y.) Seventh Day Baptist Church and attended the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Wellsville. She was also a member of the Senior Citizens Club and the Genesee Valley


Grange, both in Scio.

A lifelong resident of Scio, Essie recently began spending winters in California, living in her daughter's home.

Survivors include one son, Charles, of Scio; one daughter, Mary J. Ehmke, of Concord; one brother, Clarence Jenison, of Springville, N.Y.; one sister, Mary Lauser, of Allegany, N.Y.; nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by three sisters—Carrie Allen, Marian Robbins, and Faye Clark—and by one brother, Charles.

A memorial service was held on March 28, 1993, in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church,

cont. on page 25

December	\$760,698
November	\$697,306
MONTHLY GOAL 	\$633,915
October	\$570,523
September	\$507,132
August	\$443,740
July	\$380,349
June	\$316,957
May	\$253,566
April	\$190,174
March	\$126,783
February	\$63,391
January	

1993 income needed—\$760,698.
 Per month gift income needed—\$27,783.
 Total needed each month—\$63,391.50

Accessions

Bay Area, CA Steven Crouch, pastor Joined by testimony Bruce Morris	Jean Davis Stella Gauch	Risa Clapper Dana Taylor Sally Taylor
Daytona Beach, FL John Camenga, pastor Joined by testimony Murray Zealor Elizabeth Zealor	Kirkwood, MO Jon Warren, pastor Joined by testimony Beverly Clark Judy Mora	Westerly, RI David Taylor, pastor Joined by testimony Paul Gressly Jr. Donald Gressly Steven Haggerty
Joined by letter Donald Rudert S. Kenneth Davis	Washington, DC William Shobe, pastor Joined by letter Barry Clapper	Joined by letter Deborah Gressly Paul Gressly

Births

Bowman.—A daughter, Domanique Dolores Bowman, was born to Steve and Alaiki (Harris) Bowman of Silver Spring, MD, on August 7, 1993.

Andries.—A son, Joshua Joel Andries, was born to Paul and Diane Andries of Gaithersburg, MD, on September 9, 1993.

Olson.—A daughter, Emily Kathryn Olson, was born to Matthew and Ellen Olson on September 19, 1993, at Southern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, VT.

Marriages

Bond - Bonser.—Chet Bond and Tanya Bonser were united in marriage on August 10, 1993, at the Redlands University Chapel, Redlands, CA. The Rev. Dale Rood of the Dodge Center, MN, Seventh Day Baptist Church officiated.

Williams - FitzRandolph.—Ronald Williams and Deborah FitzRandolph were united in marriage on September 26, 1993, in the First Baptist Church of Boulder, CO. Deborah's father, the Rev. Elmo FitzRandolph, and the Rev. Schuttenberg officiated.

Mackenzie - Koester.—James Mackenzie and Cindy (Graffius) Koester were united in marriage on August 28, 1993, at the Baptist Temple, Mandan, ND. The Rev. Larry Graffius of the Lost Creek, WV, SDB Church officiated.

Smith - Zilker.—Ronald Smith and Cindy McCrea Zilker were united in marriage on October 16, 1993, at the Richburg (NY) Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Stephan F. Saunders officiated.

Obituaries, cont. from page 23

Wellsville, with the Rev. Homer Henkel officiating. Burial was in Fairlawn Cemetery, Scio.

Watson.—Dorothy B. Watson, 89, of Belmont, N.Y., died on April 25, 1993, in Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville, N.Y. She was born on September 6, 1903, in the town of Amity, N.Y., the daughter of Edwin and Jennie (Canfield) Baker. On October 29, 1928, she married Lynn L. Watson in Nile, N.Y. He died in 1978.

A graduate of Belmont High School, Dorothy had been employed by New York Telephone Co. as a switchboard operator for 26 years, retiring in 1963. She was a former member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Alfred, N.Y., and in later years joined the Richburg (N.Y.) SDB Church.

Survivors include two sons, Lewis of Pulaski, N.Y., and Leonard of Belmont; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on April 27, 1993, at the Embser Sons Funeral Home, Belmont, with the Rev. Albert Rogers of Alfred officiating. Burial was in Forest Hills Cemetery, Belmont.

Sutton.—Clive Brooks "Pat" Sutton, 87, of Parkersburg, W.Va., died on May 1, 1993, at his residence.

He was born in Berea, W.Va., the son of Corliss and Orma (Jett) Sutton. He attended school in Berea and was a 1927 graduate of Pullam (W.Va.) High School.

Pat served 25 years in the U.S. military in Panama, Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1953, and from the Internal Revenue Service in 1971. He was a charter member of Winding Grange 525, and a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He was also a member of the Ritchie Seventh Day Baptist Church in Berea, and was an asso-

ciate member of the Red Hill United Methodist Church in Parkersburg. He was active in Scouting for 30 years.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Winona (Bennett) Sutton; one son, Cullen, and one daughter, Nancy, both of Parkersburg; two sisters, Virgie Wyer of Keyser, W.Va., and Lenora Brissey of Berea; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, William Earl and F. Orland Sutton.

Burial was in Pine Grove Cemetery, Berea.

Saunders.—Onnalee G.

Saunders, 72, of Richburg, N.Y., died on May 3, 1993, shortly after admission to Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, N.Y.

She was born on October 18, 1920, in Richburg, the daughter of Charles W. and Eva (Cartwright) Saunders. She was employed as a bookkeeper by the former Main Service Station in Bolivar, N.Y., and was later employed by the former Bolivar Refining Company. She also served as office manager of the Otis Eastern Corporation in Wellsville, retiring in 1985. After her retirement, she was employed by Otis Eastern on a part-time basis, also serving as secretary of the corporation.

Onnalee was a member of the Richburg Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she served as organist and Sabbath School teacher. She also was a deaconess and treasurer of the Ladies Aid Society. She served as a director of the SDB Board of Christian Education and was corresponding secretary of the Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches, Inc.

She was a member of the Richburg Literary Club, the Roena Ames Music Club, and the 4 C's Senior Citizens Club in Bolivar.

Survivors include three nephews, two great-nieces, one great-great-niece, and three great-great-

nephews. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Winifred McCrea and Genevieve Stohr.

Funeral services were held on May 6, 1993, in the Richburg SDB Church, with Pastor Stephan Saunders officiating. He was assisted by the Rev. Dr. Ernest K. Bee Jr. of Wellsville. Burial was in Richburg Cemetery.

Davis.—Mervin E. Davis, 87, of Shiloh, N.J., died on July 29, 1993, at the South Jersey Hospital, Bridgeton, N.J.

He was born in Hopewell Township on October 15, 1905, the son of Benjamin C. and Anna (Bowden) Davis. He was a farmer and a lifelong resident of the Shiloh area. He was baptized at an early age and became a member of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist church.

On May 12, 1934, Mervin married Edna M. Barracliff. She died in 1975.

Survivors include one daughter, Betty M. Davis of Shiloh; one sister, Ethel D. Dickinson of Milton, Wis.; and several nieces and nephews. Another sister, Esther D. Swing, died earlier this year.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Everett C. Dickinson on August 3, 1993 at the Shiloh SDB Church. Burial was in the family plot in the church cemetery.

Canfield.—Ruth B. Canfield, 95, of Green Hollow Road, died on August 31, 1993, at Mary McClellan Hospital in Cambridge, N.Y.

She was born on August 20, 1898, in Berlin, N.Y., the daughter of Elmer and Jane (Bentley) Hull. She married William Canfield in 1916. He died in 1958.

Ruth, who was educated in Berlin, lived there her whole life except for the past four years when she lived at Danforth House in Hoosick Falls, N.Y. At the age of 12, she joined the Berlin Seventh Day Bap-

tist Church, and was a faithful member for 83 years.

A funeral service was held on September 3, 1993, at the Berlin SDB Church. Her pastor, Matthew Olson, officiated.

Bond.—Walter Lee Bond, 60, of Mt. Clare, W.Va., died on September 18, 1993, at the United Hospital Center, Clarksburg, W.Va., following an extended illness.

He was born on November 3, 1932, the son of L. Main Bond and Gertrude Anna (Bosley) Bond of Mineral Wells, W.Va. He was a 1950 graduate of Weston (W.Va.) High School and attended Salem College in Salem, W.Va. He married Betty Connolly on May 17, 1952.

Walter was a member of the Lost Creek, W.Va., Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and trustee for several years. He also served as Facilities Chairman for Camp Joy. Raised in the Roanoke, W.Va., area, he was formerly a member of that congregation.

He was a cattleman for several years and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He belonged to the Lost Creek Lions Club, Communications Workers of America Local #2011, and the Telephone Pioneers. Walter was also a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the South Harrison High School Band Boosters.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; his mother, Gertrude Bond; three sons, Dennis and James, both of Clarksburg, and Glenn of Hagerstown, Md.; one daughter, Melanie Meck, of Ft. Ashby, W.Va.; one brother, Edwin, of Parkersburg; one sister, Anna Margaret Spaur, of Mineral Wells; and 8 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one brother, James.

Funeral services were held on September 21, 1993. The Rev. Larry Graffius conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. Dale

Thorngate. Interment was in the Forest Hills Cemetery, Quiet Dell, W.Va.

Langworthy.—Clifford A. Langworthy, 90, of Westerly, R.I., and St. Petersburg, Fla., died on October 13, 1993, in St. Petersburg.

He was born on June 2, 1903, the son of Howard C. and Isabelle (Syme) Langworthy. He ran Langworthy Dairy for many years and helped his mother operate a large inn at their home on Langworthy Road in Westerly.

Clifford was a member of the Dunn's Corner Fire Department and was a lifelong member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church, Westerly.

Survivors include his wife, Ann; one stepdaughter, Sandra, of St. Petersburg; and one stepson, William Gamel, of Hudson, Fla.

Services were held on October 19, 1993, at the Pawcatuck SDB Church, with the Rev. David Taylor officiating. Interment was in Riverbend Cemetery, Westerly.

Davis.—Candace C. Davis, 76, of Salem, W.Va., died on October 13, 1993, at her home following an extended illness.

She was born on June 29, 1917, in Salem, the daughter of Earl W. and Candace (Lowther) Davis. She was a graduate of Salem College, and taught art and history at Victory High School in Clarksburg, W.Va., for many years.

Candace was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, Friends of Fort New Salem, the Salem-Teikyo University Auxiliary, Harrison County Retired Teachers, and the Harrison County Historical Society.

Survivors include one sister, Eleanor Horner, of Lakewood, N.J.; one niece, and two nephews. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Leah Virginia Davis and Miriam D. Hess.

A memorial service was con-

ducted on October 19, 1993, by the Rev. Dale Thorngate at the SDB Cemetery in Lost Creek, W.Va.

Stearns.—Thelma C. Stearns, 82, of Shinglehouse, Pa., died on October 21, 1993, in the Sweden Valley Nursing Home, Coudersport, Pa., following a brief illness.

She was born on November 25, 1910, in Richburg, N.Y., the daughter of Floyd and Blanche (Saunders) Clarke. In 1950, she married Elmer B. Cowles in Richburg. He died in 1961. In 1962, she married Don Stearns in Coudersport. He died in 1977.

Thelma was a graduate of Richburg Central School and received a bachelor's degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University. She also earned a bachelor's degree in library science from Geneseo (N.Y.) State Teachers College, and a master's in education from St. Bonaventure University. She taught for two years in the former Allentown (N.Y.) Union School, and for 23 years in the Richburg Central School, retiring in 1966.

She was a member of the Richburg Seventh Day Baptist Church and was treasurer of the Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches, Inc. for 25 years. Thelma was also a member of the Roena Ames Music Club in Richburg, the Richburg Literary Club, and the Allegany County Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include three stepdaughters, Reva Bond of Greeley, Colo., Ellamay Campbell of Coudersport, and Maralee Chaffee of Wysox, Pa.; two stepsons, Clayton Stearns of Seattle, Wash., and David Stearns of Denver, Colo.; one sister, Aileen Linza, of Wellsville; 19 stepgrandchildren, and several stepgreat-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 24, 1993, in the Schaffner Funeral Home, Inc., Bolivar, with the Rev. Stephan Saunders officiating. Burial was in the Richburg Cemetery.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

How do we reach out?
"Let me count the ways..."

In this issue, we've simply scratched the surface as to the many ways we can reach out to others and share the Good News of Christ.

We can use the direct "Plan of Salvation" approach like Dennis Palmer (page 4). Some of us are able to perform short-term mission work like Sue Cartwright (page 7). Many parents get involved with their children's schools and lives as Joel Osborn proposes (page 11).

The source from which Don Sanford drew his "Pearls" (page 14) is a fascinating collection of more ideas. The *Jubilee*

Papers, written in 1892, mention Home Missions, the China Mission, the Holland Mission, Work for Jews, Education among SDBs, the Witness of History, SDB Publications, Women's Executive Board, Young People's Organized Work, and Sabbath Reform. (Sounds like a recent gathering of our SDB Coordinating Leadership Team.)

And the list of outreach ideas has kept on growing.

Could the contributors to the *Jubilee Papers* ever have envisioned the technical advances in promoting the Gospel?

Just peek into a modern Christian bookstore and you'll see hundreds of tools to strengthen and share your faith. Card packets and giant catalogs of ministry ideas flood church offices every month. New strategies using the telephone, television, computers, and other media promise great results for your church.

How do we get plugged in?

"Simple. Just order the material and take off," you say? Don't forget that you'll need the time, money, and commitment to see those programs through.

So even before you dial that "800" number for your packet of goodies, back up and take a good look at yourself.

Are you jumping on the church growth bandwagon without clear discernment and direction? You can foresee all the tremendous results; you've heard the glowing testimonies from the successful church leaders...

Have you heard from the Lord?

Have you or the church sought His guidance? Have you peeked into His storehouse of boundless material and resources?

Our MORE 2000 process (Mission of Revival and Evangelism) has helped churches to step back, take an honest look at themselves, seek the Lord's desire, and make definite plans to direct resources toward the primary vision of the church.

The churches' visions have been about as individualistic as Seventh Day Baptists. No two were the same. (In an upcoming issue, you'll hear one pastor's experience of seeking the Lord's vision for the church, through a powerful time of fasting and prayer.)

Up to this point, MORE 2000 has only been offered to clusters of local churches. The Coordinating Leadership Team has agreed to modify the process, and offer it to individual churches. Each church, in this modified plan, can discover God's vision for their situation, and learn how to share God's greatest gift with others.

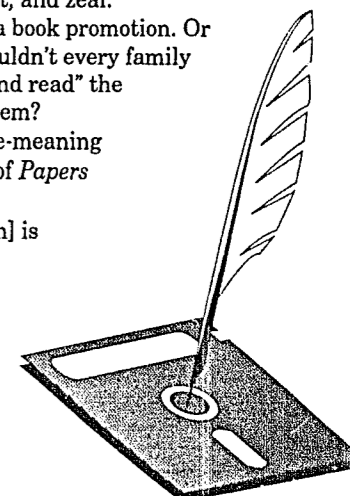
The *Jubilee Papers* were heavily promoted ahead of the printing. The May 5, 1892, *Sabbath Recorder* stated, "It is believed that this will be a most valuable work on denominational history; one that ought to be owned and read in every Seventh-day Baptist family, for the sake of a needed increase of knowledge, interest, and zeal."

Good words for a book promotion. Or a godly vision. Shouldn't every family and church "own and read" the Lord's desire for them?

The same double-meaning goes for this piece of *Papers* publicity:

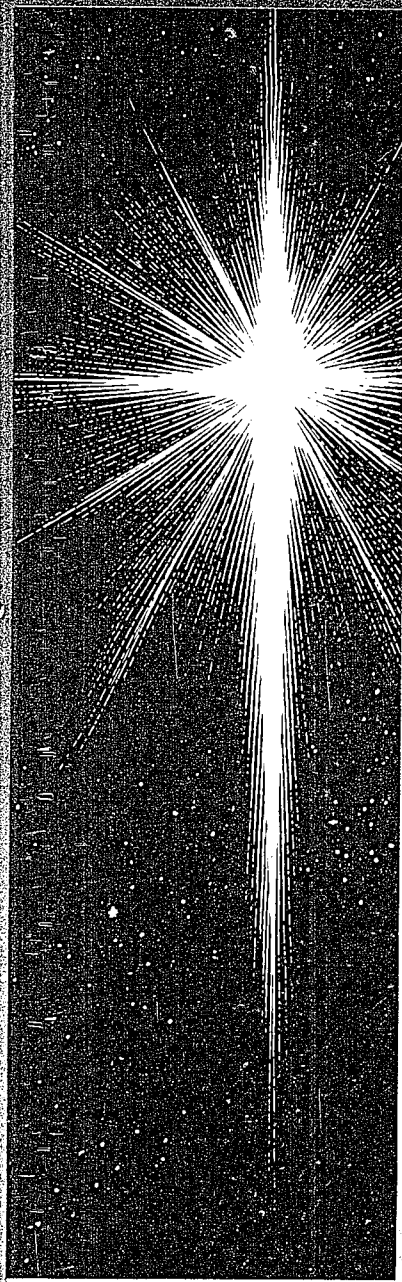
"The book [vision] is not to be published for the sake of financial profit, but for the good it will do."

May we all be in one accord on that note.



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Wishing all
of our readers
a very
Merry Christmas

