

The

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Celebrating 150 Years
1844-1994

January 1994

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*Seventh Day Baptists
in Africa and Indonesia*

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(both are 12-part teaching series from Christian Life Resources, with reproducible handouts)

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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

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Are you...

- 17 and a high school grad? (by June '94)
- a member of a local SDB church?
- wondering what to do this summer?
- wanting to serve God?

-or-

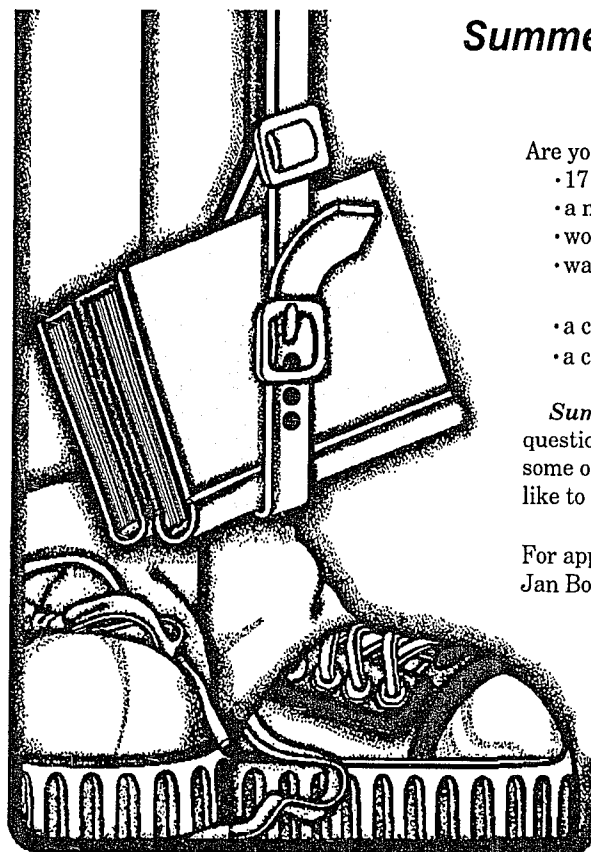
- a church member wanting an SCSC team?
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Summer Christian Service Corps can answer your questions. You can serve God and get acquainted with some of our fantastic youth. You will also see what it's like to commit yourself to a challenging experience.

For applications, write to:
Jan Bond, P.O. Box 94, Shiloh NJ 08353
Ph. (609) 451-7451

Worker training: June 17-26
Director training: June 16-20
Project dates: June 27—August 1

Application Deadline:
March 1, 1994



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Cover photo:

A young SDB family in Malawi. Photo taken by Kirk Looper.

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 men. 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

Visiting Zambia in 1993

by Kirk Looper, Executive Vice-President, SDB Missionary Society

Flying into Ndola Airport, Zambia, on October 1 allowed me a panoramic view of the country. I was pleased that the topography and climate were similar to Southern California; semi-arid, relatively flat, and sparse vegetation. But I was disappointed when I didn't see any animals in the vast areas between cities.

After landing, we walked to the small metal shed that served as the arrival and pickup area. Everyone cleared out, and I was left alone with only the guard, who was looking at me very suspiciously. I finally decided to take a taxi to the Hotel Edinburgh in Kitwe.

I had no trouble getting a room in the hotel since the Rev. Edwin Mukumbo had made a reservation for me. I settled into the room and then went out into the city of Kitwe to see what was happening. I visited the open air market as well as the supermarkets. The people were friendly and helpful. I was pleased to see that many types of food were available, since I was expecting the shelves to be bare. However, there was little variety. It's always interesting to see unfamiliar foods. The dried fish was especially different.

After browsing through the shops, it was time to return to the hotel. When I arrived, I was met by several people from the local Seventh Day Baptist churches, including Rev. Mukumbo, the coordinator of the Conference of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Zambia. After getting acquainted, we went upstairs to my room and knelt and prayed, thanking God for His protection and care. We made plans for the next day before my visitors and hosts left.

On October 2, we began visiting the churches in the Copper Belt. From 8:00 to 10:30 a.m., we met with the Ndeke SDB Church in Kitwe. Then we went to the Buntungwa SDB Church in Chimwewe township. In the afternoon, we visited Twashuka SDB Church.

The following day, we toured churches in the Northwestern Province. At the Kimakubi SDB Church, we met with 35 members. This is the church that Pastor Katanga founded. Pas-

tor Katanga was murdered one night while returning from one of the branch churches he organized. He was beaten and left to die, survived by his wife and ten children. While the family attended his funeral, their house was burned and they lost all of their belongings and food. They are presently at the mercy of the churches and what they can afford to give them.

Leaving Kimakubi, we visited the Mutenda SDB Church, which is new in this area. All 150 of the members met with us. At the Nakamwale SDB Church, 42 members met with us. While visiting Nakamwale, I accepted the invitation to visit Chief Kalilele. He offered us some land for a farm if we would improve it and work it very soon. We then photographed him and his family, and he honored us with the gift of a chicken.

At 3:30 p.m., we left for the

Pastor Katanga was murdered one night while returning from one of the branch churches he organized. He was beaten and left to die, survived by his wife and ten children.



The Rev. Edwin Mukumbo (l.) and wife, Evelyn (r.). In the center is the widow of slain Pastor Katanga. She has 10 children and no means of support.



Pastor Deelson Mubanga (foreground) leads this church in Zambia. The building, composed of poles and thatch, is very susceptible to fire.

Mumfukushi SDB Church and met with its 200 members. Later, we met with 350 members at the Kamyanga SDB Church. Before we left, I was given a bowl made of grass and a stirring stick. Later at the Lunga SDB Church, I was given a larger stirring stick and a wood stool. Kamyanga and Lunga were the first two churches in Zambia.

On October 4, I visited churches in the rural Ndola region. It was here that I met with the Mibenge SDB Church, with only 30 members present. After attending the church gathering, we were invited to meet with Chief Mukutuma. The SDB farm project is located in his chieftom. He got into the truck with us and took us to the farm. We toured the farm and were able to see the results of last year's crops. This farm is guaranteed to be the SDB farm. I am presently trying to find a way to get seed to them. Zambia has a shortage of seed. By the time it is allocated, the growing season is too far gone for a complete harvest.

What I saw in my travels around Zambia would melt the hearts of



Outdoor church meetings are common in Zambia. New groups are making their own bricks, and awaiting funds for cement and roofing material.

livestock drink. (This is less expensive than the available purification system.) This well water will only need to be boiled. And I have asked for \$2,000 to help set up hammer mills for grinding maize without walking 20 miles. This would also supply income to help them prepare for another drought.

In the churches I attended, I heard a real cry for help. They want what most other churches in Africa want—a building that will not burn. A grass or bush fire is devastating. The huts or houses are made of grass, or they have thatched roofs. If a fire burns uncontrolled in the bush, it destroys everything. The village at the farm was "torched," burning all of the buildings to the ground. Praise God that no one was there, so no one was injured.

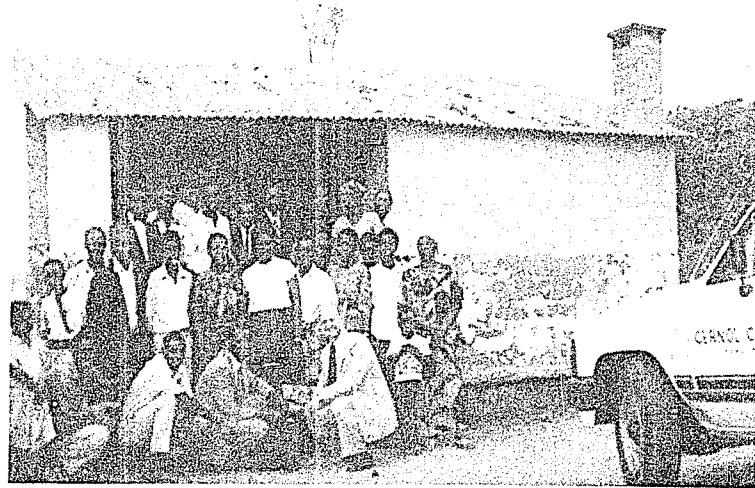
It is worse when people burn the thatched roofs of the churches, whether or not they're occupied. One of the requests of the Zambia Conference is for funds to supply metal roofs for their churches to prevent this from happening. As I listened to the troubles of the SDB members in Zambia, I realized how easy it is to be a Christian here in the United States.

Most of the churches are located far from the major population ar-

eas. Because of this, hospitals and clinics are few and far between. The Zambia Conference plans to establish a mobile clinic for these remote places. The cost of this project would be about \$70,000. Hospitals and clinics are also needed in the more populated areas. Many of our church members in Zambia cannot afford the cost of hospitalization. Many die because they do not even try to go to the hospital. They know they cannot afford the hospital or the medicine.

Schools are needed because of the same reasons. The less populated areas usually do not have schools. If they do, the expense is too great. Church or private schools look upon Seventh Day Baptists as apostate and not Christian, so they deny SDBs admission.

I enjoyed the visit with the churches in Zambia. I found the leaders very capable and eager to learn. They want to start their own Bible college to train pastors and others beyond their secondary education. They feel that a school of



Kirk Looper visits with a Zambian church. Members are proud to have a cement block building and metal roof.

this type would be self-supporting because of the demand for education in that part of Zambia. They have church members who are qualified to teach. However, they would like someone from the United States to teach Sabbath theology and polity.

Please continue to pray for the

Zambian churches. They are growing rapidly. Within the past year, they have grown from 30 to almost 1,000 members, from one to more than 25 churches. For more information, contact the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society of the United States and Canada, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891.

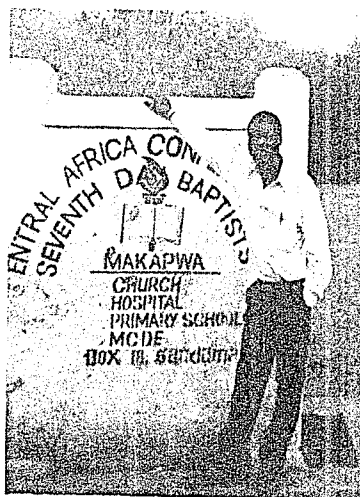
Off to Malawi...

The primary purpose of my visit to Malawi in October was to assess needs. The trip also gave me an opportunity to visit some of the churches there.

On the morning of October 8, I presented a message in the Blantyre church. The afternoon was spent talking with the church leaders, and with women and youth groups. During these meetings, I explained the operation of the Missionary Society and the role it played in sister Conferences throughout the world. My listeners then told me how the United States could help them. This was the pattern in all of the 14 churches we visited in Malawi.

On Sunday, October 10, we spent most of the day at Makapwa Station. I addressed the church and visited the hospital, school, Bible

college, agriculture projects, and the future location for the adult education building. All of the areas appeared to be busy, but a few



The large church sign at Makapwa, Malawi.

needs were brought to my attention. Along with Makapwa, we visited Makoka and Mitchizu before returning to Blantyre.

On October 11, we visited five churches. Our goal had been to visit seven, but it took longer in some churches than we had planned, and the distances between churches were great. We visited Mphangalas, Thomas, Chipho, Luchenza, and Thembe. We then traveled to Nola and spent the night in the home of one of the members.

On October 12, we ate breakfast with our host and then met with the Nola church. By 10:00 a.m., we were at Matawa, and at Zomba in the afternoon. We arrived at Lilongwe at 10:30 p.m. After meeting with some of the members of that village's SDB church, we lo-

cated a motel and went to bed.

On Wednesday morning, we returned to the Lilongwe SDB Church for pictures. Then we met with the officers of various civic

Church reports

Most of the churches I visited want steel sheets for their buildings. Again, as in Zambia, I found that members of other churches

**Everywhere I went,
I was asked about the SDB missionaries
who had been in Malawi.
Many wanted to know their addresses
and what they were doing.**

and ecumenical organizations. Two of the organizations help the clinics by providing medicine as well as structures for employee housing and storage. At noon, I went to the airport to prepare for my flight.

have burned the roofs of the SDB churches. A few SDBs have even lost their homes. They requested that I convey this concern to SDBs in the United States.

While many churches need ce-

ment for their floors, mortar, and walls, others have bricks ready for building. As soon as they receive money for cement and sheet metal, they can begin construction.

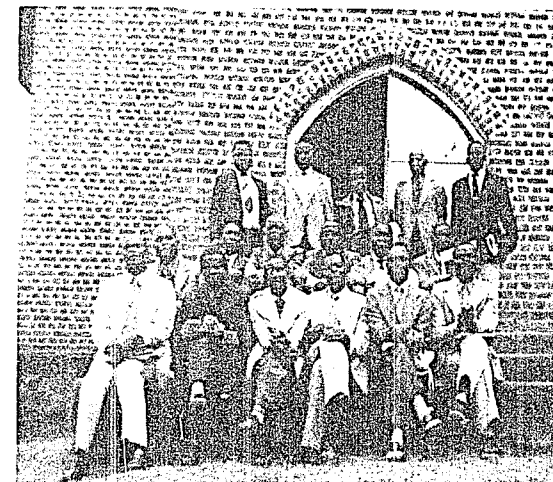
The church growth program is moving ahead

very rapidly. Total membership in Malawi is well over 10,000. They need funds to educate their pastors and children. Most of their money is used to support programs that are already in effect, thus limiting their growth.

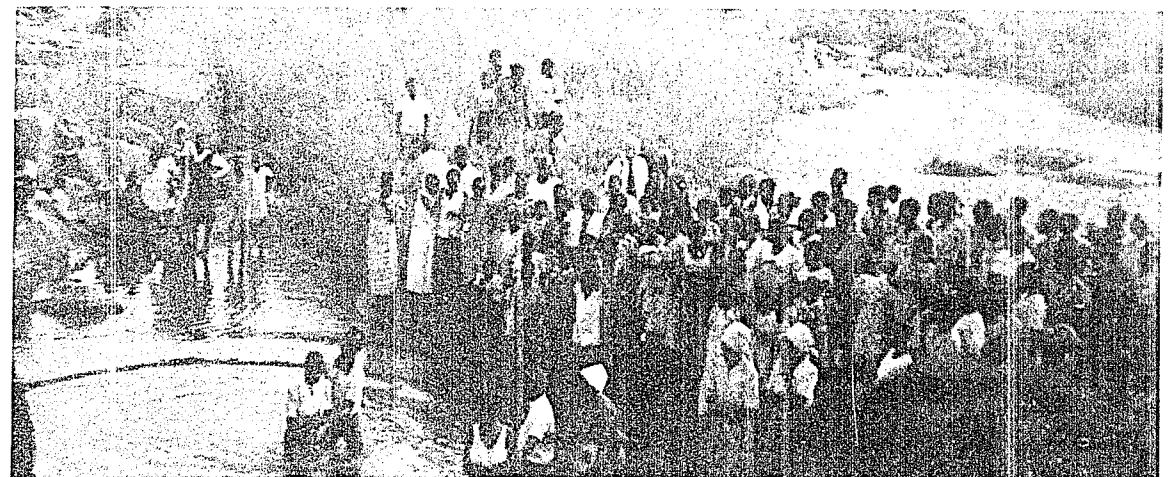
A few of the churches have enough bricks to build a parsonage. Members believe that the evangelism program will be more successful if the pastor lives near the church. The church at Lilongwe built a parsonage when Ian Ingoo was there. It remains unfinished, with no windows or electricity. (They ran short of funds and had to stop construction.) While I was there, that project remained idle.

Everywhere I went, I was asked about the SDB missionaries who had been in Malawi. Many wanted to know their addresses and what they were doing. Fond memories were related to me about several of them, with many asking about Miss Sarah Becker. She was a missionary nurse at Makapwa in the 1960s and '70s.

In the hospitals, many of the workers remembered Dr. and Mrs. Victor Burdick (missionaries from 1957-70). They told me how the Burdicks took care of them and what they donated to the hospitals or clinics. It was very interesting. The people of Malawi miss the mis-



(Left) Church leaders meeting at Makapwa.
(Below) New believers are baptized at the baptismal pool at Makapwa.



sionaries. As far as they are concerned, they are still needed.

The hospitals and clinics I visited—including Makapwa, Thomas, and Chipho—were running smoothly, even though they need medicine, equipment, beds, and bedding. (A more detailed list will be in my report to the Missionary Keyworkers in local churches.)

In all of the church groups I visited, there was evidence of growing

to public or private schools, and the church-owned schools will not allow them to attend because they do not consider them Christians. They would like church schools for their own members.

The women would appreciate sewing materials and supplies that would allow them to teach their daughters to sew, knit, darn, etc. They would like to have needles, pins, scissors, and sewing ma-

the refugees go there when they are sick. This results in less medicine and less time for regular services. Some of the refugees are unable to pay for the medicines and office calls.

As I traveled along the road between Chipho clinic toward Nola, it was pointed out to me that one side of the road is Malawi, the other side is Mozambique. Periodically, we would pass villages with one half of their settlement on one side of the road, in Malawi, and the other half on the other side of the road, in Mozambique. I also noticed that there were many deserted houses or huts.

This was a very meaningful trip for me, and it increased my knowledge about the ministries in Malawi. I am impressed with the work of Pastor Mkandawire and the plans for the Central Africa Conference. Their goals are clearly stated. They have achieved some of them already, and they are well on their way to completing others.

Pastor Mkandawire, who is a member of several organizations, works well with others in planning and executing nondenominational programs within Malawi. I pray that we can find ways to continue the support of all of these ministries.

The women would appreciate sewing materials and supplies that would allow them to teach their daughters to sew, knit, darn, etc.

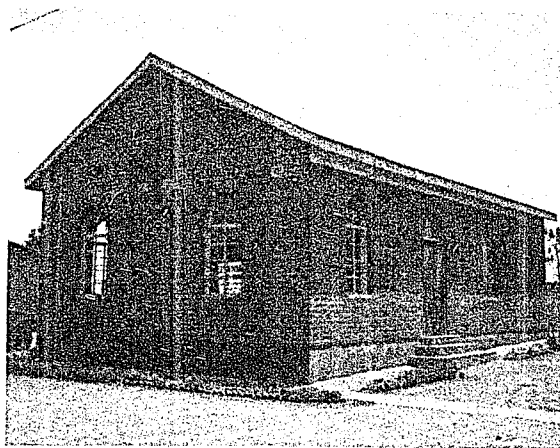
youth groups. The youth are taught Scripture and methods of witnessing. They have some very good ideas for outreach, but they do need equipment: footballs, soccer balls, basketballs, table tennis supplies, volleyball equipment, etc. Anyone interested in sending one or more of these items can mail them directly to Malawi.

When I was in the church meetings, the women were always ready to express their concerns, most of which involved the family and the education of their children. They cannot afford to send their children

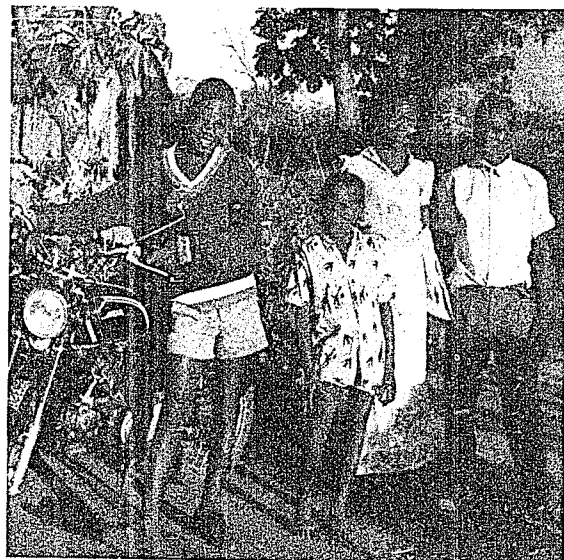
chines. Cloth and yarn would be appreciated, too.

Some of the men would like tools to help the younger men set up businesses: woodworking, mechanics, carpentry, etc. They are interested in having businesses so they can increase their incomes, and thereby increase their ability to help others.

The clinic at Chipho remains one of the prayer items from Malawi. Since it is close to the refugee camps from Mozambique,



The brick church at Lilongwe, Malawi.



Children play an important role in the church in Malawi.

... and on to Indonesia



The SDB church group in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Excitement and beauty awaited me as I landed in Indonesia. The entourage that met me at the airport in Jakarta soon swept me away to my hotel. When we entered my room, we sat down and excitedly discussed what our plans were for the next few days. Pastor W.A. Sahetapy introduced himself and those who were with him.

The next day, I met with the church in Jakarta. Some representatives from other churches also met with us. We had a service and lunch in the church building in Jakarta. This building was donated by Paul Mendur, the church treasurer.

Those who attended were very excited and made me feel at home. Everything seemed to be moving very well, and I enjoyed the entire time.

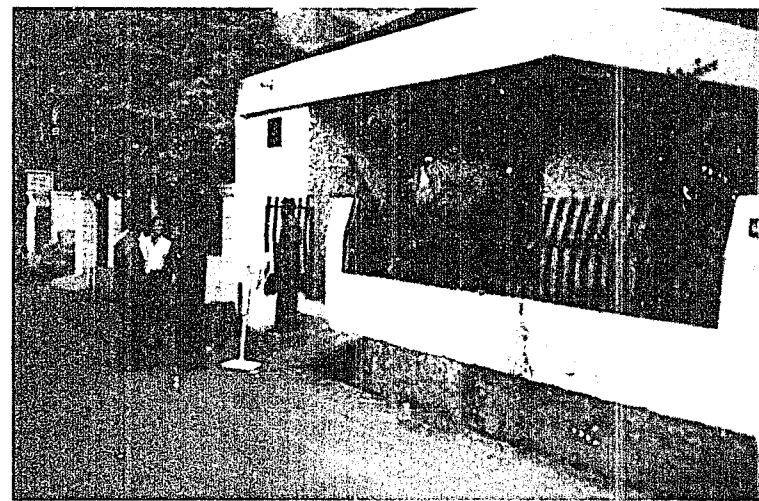
During our days together, Pastor Sahetapy and Pastor Max Manangkalangi taught me about the Seventh Day Christian Baptist Indonesia Conference. Indonesia consists of many islands which are separated into regions. Of these regions, seven have organized churches. Membership ranges from just a few people to several hundred.

Other churches are awaiting registration with the government. (Some people did not want to join

the churches until they were sure they could register.)

In total, the Conference is made up of 22 churches located on Java, Nusa Tenggara, Moluccas, North Sulawesi, and Sumatra islands. With the population as dense as it is on the Java Island (40,000,000), I can imagine church growth being even greater in their second year.

In only one year (as of October 17), the Conference grew to almost 900 members. This growth occurred when the Conference was not registered. Now that it is registered, we can count on more growth. Some of that growth will depend upon how much we are ready to help them.



The church building in Jakarta.

This will include financial help.

On October 20, we traveled to Bandung, just a little east of Jakarta. There we visited Johnny Elkens. He provides medical assistance for the poor. His clinic is situated in a lovely portion of the Java Island, in the mountains. It was a lovely spot, and cool at night.

Most of Elkens' patients are poor and are not accepted by other doctors and hospitals. His clinic consists of an infirmary, examination room, inoculation room, medical supply/dispensary, and waiting room; not large, but adequate for the work he does.

Since most of his patients have meager incomes, he usually charges for only the medicine and what he thinks they can afford for the office call. For some, there is no charge. He is definitely not making a fortune at this work! He can carry on, however, because people want this ministry to succeed. He could use more help with the purchase of medicine and equipment.

If I could have spent another day in Indonesia, Pastor Sahetapy wanted me to travel to Jambi, in central Sumatra. Brother Sarimin Sitompul is there working with the unreached people group known as the Kubu. He has been successful

in baptizing about 300, and they are worshipping as Seventh Day Christian Baptists.

I thought of all the money that our members send to work with

ditions where they find themselves now. Yet, somehow, they appear very pleasant, with few complaints.

Actually, the people in Indonesia requested very little in the area of

such items, but it costs much more to buy them.

Working in Indonesia requires a great deal of travel. They journey mainly by boat and bus. They request that we think of this when we need some place to donate funds.

I really enjoyed visiting, worshipping, and fellowshiping with our brothers in Indonesia, and I hope that you will consider visiting them if you get a chance to travel in that direction.

I know that they can use our prayers and any help that we can send their way. They have a very difficult job ahead of them. However, because we believed in them for some initial support, they were able to get a good start. *SR*

Now that the Conference is registered, we can count on more growth. Some of that growth will depend upon how much we are ready to help them.

the unreached peoples, and how it could help Brother Sarimin Sitompul with his clinic and outreach. We all need to pray for this brother as he tries to bring Christ to these tribes.

I saw so much sacrifice by the leaders and professionals in the churches in Indonesia. The two administrators of the Conference had quit jobs of good standing to take on the responsibilities of the Conference. Just as in Zambia, the family and church members support the work.

One does not go into the ministry to get rich; some cannot even make it to the top of the poverty level. I can only imagine what the children of these families would have thought if they were in the United States! They left good paying jobs and housing to live under the con-

ditions where they find themselves now. Yet, somehow, they appear very pleasant, with few complaints. Actually, the people in Indonesia requested very little in the area of materials. Most of what they need is manufactured right there in Indonesia. But unlike Zambia, they will be required to pay heavy duty on clothing for the poor. It would be better to send money to buy clothes.

However, they do need a couple of electric typewriters for their translating and correspondence. If you would like to send a typewriter, photocopier, or mimeograph machine, I would be happy to supply the address. It may cost a lot to send



Serving communion at the church.



Leading the communion service (left to right): Brother Bruce Kolondam, Pastor Max Manangkalangi, and Pastor W.A. Sahetapy.



Some of the members celebrating the church's first birthday on October 17, 1993.

The importance of faith

by Russell Johnson

Pastor Ed and Marietta Sutton were happy and pleased with the ministry that they were doing in Little Genesee, N.Y. The people were warm and supportive, and the community as a whole seemed receptive and interested in the church's ministry.

But then God began to convict the Suttons to leave this very comfortable and secure situation. They

quickly realized that they would need a level of faith they had never exercised before when the Lord repeatedly directed their attention to Blountville, Tenn.

Ed and Marietta began having doubts. Had they really heard from God? Fear arose that they might have made the worst mistake of their lives.

Several years ago, the Brookfield/Leonardsville, N.Y., SDB Church commissioned a group of people to start a church in Blountville. The church began with high hopes and a vision of outreach. The SDB Memorial Fund supplied money to purchase a meeting place, and pastoral leadership was found. The future was filled with promise. However, job transfers and economic realities recently forced the church to disband.

Ed and Marietta's awareness that God wanted them to minister in Blountville was like the call to Abraham to leave Haran. They were to leave a position where they had income, and go to a place that they didn't really know. Their preliminary visit and phone calls only reinforced their decision to move to the community. The absence of an existing church was not a concern. They felt that if property was purchased, it would be the final confir-

mation that the move was God's desire for them. When they were notified of the purchase, they moved to Blountville. The first year was difficult. God provided, but it wasn't easy. The couple's faith was stretched in ways that neither foresaw. Repairs to the church property and seeking ways to pay the bills often caused stress and despair. Scripture says that

the temptations faced by believers are "common." But many hope that these temptations will be more common to *others* than themselves.

Ed and Marietta began having doubts. Had they really heard from God? Fear arose that they might have made the worst mistake of their lives.

Nevertheless, God has been revealing how to fulfill their vision, one step at a time. The financial pressures on the Suttons have lessened. Although it is unsatisfying, Ed has found work that provides income. Marietta has been working to open a shop in the house which was previously used as the church.

Actual ministry to the community has begun. It is called, "Shepherd's Fold Ministries." A group of people from the previous church are meeting for worship with Ed and Marietta in the building behind the old church building. It is a small barn with unique lattice work arching under the eaves. This arch will eventually be covered with hard blue transparent plastic for a stained glass look. Other modifications are underway

to convert the facility for better usage, classrooms, and the winter weather.

Weekly Sabbath worship has begun, with five or six adults regularly attending. Six or more children and youth also attend. A community outreach is being tested, focusing on how best to use available people. Talking to the Suttons clearly illustrates that God has asked them to make sacrifices. Our faithful God is now revealing His purposes for them in Blountville.

The Scriptures teach that without faith, it is impossible to please God. The author of Hebrews also says that the notable people of ancient times obtained blessings from God by faith. Real blessings come through faith and faithful obedience to God's leading.

Please keep all of the people in Blountville in prayer. Pray especially for physical and spiritual strength, so that the vision of many may be fully established in the months ahead. Also seek God's blessing for the Suttons in financial provision. And earnestly join me in praying for God's name to be truly glorified through the witness developed in Blountville.

Could God be tugging at your heart to obey Him in ways the world would think foolish? Unusual faith is the means God uses for unusual results. Unusual but righteous results please God, and bring glory to Him, along with the hosts of heaven and earth.

Men and women of faith are the answer to this world of cynicism and moral bankruptcy. Rise up, O people of God, and demonstrate your faith! *SR*

Russ Johnson is Director of Extension for the SDB Missionary Society.

Reaching out in historic Portage

by Ronald J. Elston Sr.

The historical distinction of Portage, Wis., lies in its unique geographical location between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. Here the two rivers—one flowing north, the other south to the Mississippi—are separated by a narrow neck of land.

For two centuries, natives, missionaries, trappers, traders, adventurers, and settlers traveling the waterway used this narrow land to portage their canoes and heavy packs from one river to another. The settlement, which grew because of the resulting traffic, was first known as "Wau-wau-onah," Winnebago for "carry on the shoulder." During the French occupation, it was simply known as "le portage" (from *porter*: to carry). This was eventually anglicized to "Portage."

According to history, the first white men to visit Portage were the explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. They portaged there in June 1673 enroute to exploring and mapping the upper Mississippi. The fur business was growing, and in 1792, a trading post was built and carried on the first transport activity.

With the American occupation of the Northwest Territory, the government began to protect its interests by building a string of forts along the now famous Fox-Wisconsin water route.

With the end of the Blackhawk War, European immigration brought a flood of settlers to Wisconsin, all eager for cheap land. The Portage point continued to be important for trade and transportation. The lumber industry also brought a tide of hardy woodsmen and rivermen to the area.

Agriculture took over after the lumbering days faded, but Portage has also enjoyed its share of indus-

try. The city of Portage, incorporated in 1854, is the third oldest city in Wisconsin.

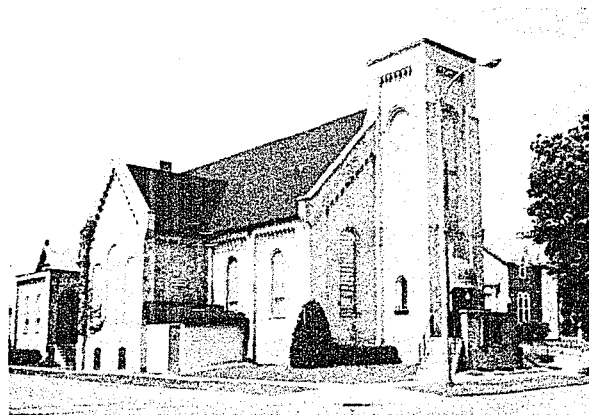
With this in mind, history is still being made in Portage, but this time by a new Seventh Day Baptist Church. I first learned of the group while talking with Pastor Dale Smalley. He informed me that several members of his family were interested in planting a church in the Portage area.

Just prior to General Conference in 1992, the Director of Extension Russ Johnson and I visited with the group for the first time. What we found was exciting—a talented group of people with a fire and vision for church planting.

Other meetings were held with Pastor Paul Osborn and Calvin Babcock from the Albion (Wis.) SDB Church. The Portage fellowship eventually became a branch church of Albion, and the task of planting began.

The group, numbering between 35-40, had been meeting in various family member homes. When larger facilities were needed, the group began seeking a meeting place, and they were blessed with a building: the Zona Gale Center of the Arts. This is a beautiful facility with ample parking and seating for 275.

In October, the Portage church (now the Outreach Bible Church) hosted their first in a series of Evangelistic Seminars, with Pastor Smalley as the special speaker. In



The Zona Gale Center in Portage, Wis., where the Outreach Bible Church (SDB) meets.

preparation for the meetings, the group advertised on local radio and in newspapers. They also conducted a door-to-door campaign, passing out tracts and other information about the church, and visiting with people. Special guests during this first meeting were Acting Executive Secretary Calvin P. Babcock and Conference President Leon Lawton.

From this outreach and evangelistic meeting, four decisions were made for the Lord and 10 baptisms are scheduled. We praise the Lord for His goodness!

The group is now planning a Gospel concert. Plans are also being made for an SDB display and video at next year's county fair. The church will continue to reach out to the community with advertisements and evangelism.

Much prayer and hard work has gone into the planning of the Outreach Bible Church, and we give God the glory for producing this Sabbathkeeping witness for His Kingdom. *SR*

Ron Elston is Regional Field Worker for the SDB Missionary Society.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Time to pitch in for missions

"Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB).

I read with interest the report of Missionary Society Executive Kirk Looper regarding his recent trip to Zambia. He told us about the lack of water and food for our Seventh Day Baptist Christians. The children and the elderly are especially affected by this situation.

Thankfully, the situation is not without hope. If money would be provided for these people, they could buy some maize for their families, and they could dig new wells for water.

Kirk quoted some prices for these projects, together totaling \$4,500. That may seem like a lot of money, but consider this:

- If 45 churches or individuals would give \$100 each, the goal would be met.

- If 90 churches or individuals would each give \$50, the goal would be met.

- If 180 churches or individuals would each give \$25, the goal would be met.

- If 450 Seventh Day Baptists in the USA and Canada would each give \$10, the goal would be met.

We can manage to reach Kirk's goals if we would choose to do so.

Perhaps every other month you could make a financial gift to the Missionary Society for use overseas.

You could sponsor a special Missionary Emphasis Dinner, focusing on one particular country. Invite a guest speaker, serve food from that

The overall picture may be overwhelming, but each of our women's groups, or each of us individually, can make a difference.

Zambia is just one country with many needs. I'm sure Kirk could fill us in with other facts and figures regarding other countries. The overall picture may be overwhelming, but each of our women's groups, or each of us individually, can make a difference.

As we begin this new year, I would challenge all of us to consider some additional involvement with our SDB missionary effort.

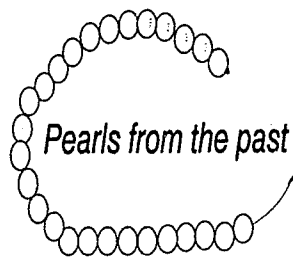
country, include a geography lesson. And pray that God would speak to the hearts of those in attendance, teaching them that they can make a difference. God wants us to be involved in foreign missions.

God also wants us to be involved here at home. One way is to give generously to the SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) program. Because of increased costs and decreased giving, our SCSC financial picture is not too good at the moment.

The time has come for us to make some sacrificial gifts—as churches, women's groups, and individuals. All of us are feeling the economic crunch; our wages and salaries are not keeping up with rising costs. I'm sure that our churches will have to make some budgetary adjustments this year.

But God will provide for us, and He will take care of us—if we commit everything to Him and His kingdom first. May God give all of us a renewed spirit of missionary concern and cheerful giving. *SR*





Pearls from the past

For many years a marble plaque was affixed in the front wall above the communion table of the Little Genesee, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church. It read:

Thomas B. Brown
23 years

Pastor of this church
Died May 16, 1879

He Being Dead Yet Speaketh

As a youth growing up in that church, the name of Thomas B. Brown was indelibly etched in my mind. It was not until years later that I understood the meaning of the phrase, "He Being Dead Yet Speaketh." Few men of his time had the impact which he had in the denominational life of SDBs in the mid-nineteenth century.

Thomas B. Brown was born in Scotch Plains, N.J., in 1810, the eldest of 11 children of a Baptist pastor. He initially trained for the medical profession, but because of ill health he was forced to return home to Chester County, Pa., where his father was then pastor of the Great Valley Baptist Church.

It was from this church that many of the members of the French Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church had held membership a century before. Here, young Thomas made his profession of religion which led him into the ministry.

He served as a missionary pastor in a Baptist Church in Milton, Pa., a town which, according to some traditions, gave Milton, Wis., its name. In 1839, he began a pastorate at Cussewago, in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania near Meadville. Here he began to read a book from his father's library entitled, *Remarks on the Different*

"He Being Dead Yet Speaketh"

by Don A. Sanford, historian

Sentiments Entertained in Christendom Relative to the Weekly Sabbath. The author was Robert Burnside, pastor of the Pinners' Hall Seventh Day Baptist Church in London, England.

Acceptance of the Sabbath

Of this encounter, Varnum Hall recalled, "The question of the Sabbath entered into his mind and he found himself without answer. He read everything within reach on the subject, but the conviction upon his mind only deepened. But he had trained himself to accept truth at whatever cost."

Thus, in August 1839, he embraced the Sabbath and worked the remainder of his life in Sabbath promotion. He became pastor of the Hayfield Seventh Day Baptist Church located in Crawford County near his former parish.

Tract and Sabbath Promotion

His talents were quickly recognized by General Conference. Just two years after his acceptance of the Sabbath, he was elected to the Publishing Committee of the General Sabbath Tract Society. When the American Sabbath Tract Society was organized in 1843, he was one of its five Directors.

In 1843, Conference voted to make an appeal to other Christians in reference to the Sabbath of the Bible, urging them to a "thorough examination of the subject." Thomas B. Brown was the principal author of this letter which was sent specifically to the Baptists.

In April of 1844 he moved to New York City where he worked with the group of Sabbathkeepers who were at the center of denominational activity. They had estab-

lished the New York City Sabbath Tract Society in 1842. Its object was "to publish and circulate tracts or other publications, devoted to the support of the claims of the seventh day as the Sabbath of the Lord, and also to collect and maintain a library of Sabbath books and publications." These books formed the foundation for one of the most comprehensive Sabbath libraries in the world, now a part of the archives of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society.

In October 1845, a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a church in the city. Thomas B. Brown was the chairman of the meeting and did much of the groundwork in the organization. When the covenant was signed and the organization completed, the church called Brown to serve as pastor.

The first issue of *The Sabbath Recorder* was published in New York in June 1844, shortly after Thomas Brown became a member of the Society. In 1849 he was selected as joint editor of the *Recorder*, a position he held for nine years.

During those years in New York City he was a member of a committee to prepare a new hymn book. The record shows that "by request of the other members of the committee Thomas B. Brown took upon himself most of the labor involved in the preparation for the press of a hymn book published in 1847 under the title *Christian Psalmody*."

Brown wrote several more books and tracts concerning the Sabbath.

Missionary Society Activity

At the 1842 session of General Conference, Thomas B. Brown pre-

cont. on page 25



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—January 1993

Missionary Society Executive Vice President Kirk Looper reports on his trip to Africa. Looper was accompanied by Rev. Leon Lawton and Dr. Ron Davis.

Ron Elston, Regional Field Worker, looks at new outreach opportunities in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

"Pearls" page remembers Rev. James L. Scott's missionary tour of America's Midwest.

Church members Valerie Heath and Linda Greene share testimonies of faith.

Christian Education page lists new teaching resources available.

Five years ago—January 1989

The new Director of Pastoral Services, Rodney Henry, analyzes America's shift from rural to urban areas, and how SDBs can address this "new frontier."

Ideas presented for Sabbath School dramas, children's sermons, YF games, and book resources.

Alfred, N.Y., church reports on church and parsonage changes.

More pictures show the devastation of Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica.

Miami, Fla., church hosts many special events.

10 years ago—January 1984

Former missionary John Conrod shares encouraging testimony of the Holy Spirit's leading.

First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I., celebrates 275th anniversary. Historian and SR Editor D. Scott Smith recounts its grand heritage.

Article relates events of the new church organized in San Gabriel, Calif.

Thirty-four workers, directors, and trainers pictured as the 1983 Summer Christian Service Corps projects are reviewed.

Story and photos feature the SDB medical ministry in Malawi, Africa.

Youth in Seattle, Wash., work toward going to Conference.

25 years ago—January 1969

Special issue emphasizes the American Sabbath Tract Society, and its president, Charles North. Other

stories focus on tracts, board members, and workers.

Christians mourn the loss of noted church historian Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette.

The SDB Commission meets at the denominational building in Plainfield, N.J. Participants include Leland Bond, Warren Brannon, David Clarke, Don Gray, Paul Osborn, Edgar Wheeler, and General Secretary Alton Wheeler.

Washington, D.C., church and pastor (Delmer Van Horn) occupy new residence on Sixteenth Street.

Christmas family letter received from the Victor Burdicks, missionaries in Malawi.

50 years ago—January 1944

Featured in "Who's Who Among SDB Young People": Melvin Nida.

Dean A.J.C. Bond notified by the Abingdon Cokesbury Press that "more than two-thirds of a million copies" of his devotional booklet, *Strength for Service to God and Country*, were "being used by soldiers, sailors, and marines."

"Young People's" column suggests several service project ideas from Christian Endeavor and the United Christian Youth Movement.

Photos appear from a service in North Loup, Neb. SDBs dedicated a monument marking the first religious service held there in 1872.

Promoter of Evangelism, Leslie O. Greene, reports on his trip to the West.

Year-end activities reported from the Milton and Albion, Wis., churches.

...where are we headed?

Pray—

- for God's hand in new outreach areas
- for the solid, biblical teaching of our children
- for a growing Sabbath School program
- for our openness to the Spirit's leading
- that God directs our tracts for the greatest good
- for our denominational leaders and workers
- with thanksgiving for our pioneering forefathers

CELEBRATE!

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

DAY OF PRAYER

Suggested date: FEBRUARY 6, 1994

HOW TO CELEBRATE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE DAY OF PRAYER SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1994

We would greatly appreciate it if you would use the prayer printed to the right in your church liturgy or order of service on the day you choose to celebrate as the Baptist World Alliance Day of Prayer. You may reproduce this prayer, or contact the BWA for other reproduction art.

Translations of this prayer are available in several languages. Ask the BWA for a copy.

See back cover for where to write or call.



Leader:

Heavenly Father. I praise you for your creation. Prince of Peace, you promised to give us peace but it is elusive, we are at war, at war Lord, with one another. Peoples of the world are broken like china ware because of hatred. There is rampant killing. It is repugnant.

You are Love, you are merciful, Help us to be like you. To love like you. Help us to see others with your eyes. Though our languages are many and diverse our cultures and mores.

Give us the peace you promised. Lord, when shall "the wolf and lamb feed together?" Lord, you are the Way, help us to follow you faithfully. Help us to lead others to you, for you are also the Truth.

Lord of unlimited resources. Your storehouse is permanently open but many cannot enjoy your riches — poverty is the way of their life. But Lord, physical and spiritual poverty are departures from your will.

Prayer by Aduke Akinola, Nigeria, secretary/treasurer of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance.

A Prayer

People:

Lord, fragmentation, ethnicity, segregation, discrimination are thebane of our life. Religion also causes hostility. Father, help us before we destroy your creation.

You also make us male and female. Lord, you surely like diversities. This is your divine pattern. But Lord, please unite us with The blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Flow through us. Holy Spirit and burn away the chaff in us.

Lord, you are also the Life. We need life, abundant life. Many are just "partly living" — physically famished, and spiritually hungry. Inject us with your Life.

May there be no more poverty and want. May we be rich in love and your Spirit. Father, may — your — kingdom — come! Now! Through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.



FOCUS
on Missions

Helping our sister Conferences

by Kirk Looper

Looking back over 1993, I was pleased with the activity of Seventh Day Baptists in many ways. We at the Missionary Society were able to send much-needed funds out into our mission fields.

Because you were willing to sacrifice and send donations to help our sister Conferences, the following countries received funds or services:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Australia | Malawi |
| England | Mozambique |
| Finland | Nigeria |
| The Gambia | Philippines |
| Germany | Russia |
| Ghana | South Africa |
| India | Uganda |
| Indonesia | Zambia |
| Jamaica | |

Some of the Conferences received literature, with shipping costs paid; others were helped in larger ways. We were grateful to play a part in distributing donations where you wanted them. Some of these coun-

tries received funds from within the society budget.

In doing God's work, the needs of these mission fields are many and varied, and can never be completely covered. This is because the work does not stand still. The leaders in these countries continue to go out and reach the people who are in need of Christ. In some of the countries, the growth is greater than the ability to supply finances, materials, and leaders. Because of this, more funds could be used.

In Jamaica, we fell short of our goal of \$2,000 for the agriculture project. However, they did manage to plant one acre of coffee trees. The Maiden Hall Project in Jamaica got a good start but is behind by almost 50 percent.

In Andhra Pradesh, India, we were short of funds for the orphanage. They were able to complete the main lodge before funds ran out. In Kerala, India, the clinic/hospital project hardly got off the ground.

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 20, 1994, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

To elect voting members, a Board of Managers and officers to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993.

To ratify the appointment of independent public accountants for the current fiscal year.

To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly come before said meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1994, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy Nadeau, secretary

The Kenya agricultural project received no funds. The Malawi agricultural projects have a good start with one chicken house completed and another one started. The fish ponds are starting to get attention, and the vegetable gardens have done fair. Zambia lost one farm, and the buildings on the other farm were burned, but they are ready for planting when the seed money arrives.

As you can see, some projects are doing fairly well. I am in prayer that more people will get involved in mission projects this year. I would again like to thank the German Conference and the Netherlands Conference for their contributions to the projects.

We have a lot of work to do this year. In the *Missions* articles, I have suggested ways for your church to obtain and donate the much-needed funds for our mission outreach.

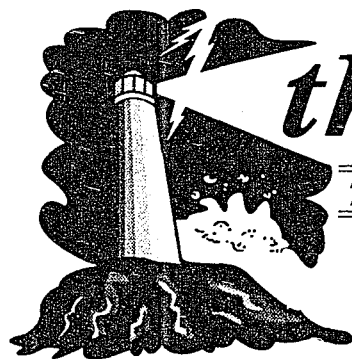
We are thankful and praise God for the added Conferences from Zambia and Indonesia. We can definitely use more help. Funds will be needed to help these young "beginning" Conferences, which tend to grow so quickly.

The national fields also have concerns, as you can read about in this issue. Many times we are required to go to the Memorial Board for funds for the national projects. You, your church, or Association are welcome to assist in these projects.

Just contact Russ Johnson or Ron Elston if you want to be included in the plans for church planting and growth. You may phone these workers at:

Russ Johnson:
(315) 361-1507 or (700) 614-2786

Ron Elston:
(314) 857-2764



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship January 1994

Long road to retreat

by John Mark Camenga

On October 28, I hopped on a bus in Florida and began a 20-hour trek to Salemville, Pa. The miles seemed endless as I sat in eager anticipation of the weekend youth retreat. I arrived tired, but ready to have a great time with friends that I hadn't seen in a while.

As Sabbath eve arrived, so did 32 "retreaters." There were youth from SDB churches in Lost Creek and Salem, W.Va.; Central Maryland; Salemville, Pa.; and Daytona Beach, Fla.

Pastor Chris Mattison, who had to keep track of all of us energetic SDB youth, led Sabbath morning worship (with our help).

After a scrumptious noon meal, it was off to the Fix's house. There we played pool, ping-pong, and air hockey until our fingers swelled. Then, off to the bowling alley. After knocking down a few pins, we returned to the church for a midnight hike in (what seemed to me) the cold evening air.

We were greeted on Sunday morning by something that I hadn't seen in nearly six years—snow! Following a spirited snowball fight, we had a nice large lunch and then our closing circle.

The 20 hours on the way home seemed to last forever. It gave me a lot of time to think about the fun-filled events, and the fun that I will have at the next retreat.

Proud of his "family"

by Dan Richards

I'm the youth director at the Texarkana, Ark., SDB Church. Initially, I was going to ask some of the youth to write this. But then I decided to write it myself because I'm so proud of these young people and the family that they have become to each other and to me.

This group is together all day every Sabbath, even though we have organized meetings only twice a month. They want to be together, and look to each other for support and strength.

Through our Bible studies, we know that God has set up the church body with all members having different strengths and weaknesses. Here in this youth group, we are learning this, and draw upon each other the way I think God intended.

For me, it also has been a real growing experience. It's always a challenge to get lessons together that will help the youth apply biblical truth to their everyday lives at home and school. (I also teach the youth Sabbath School class, so I try to do different types of things for our YF meetings.)

We start out with good old-fashioned "Sword Drills." All of the Scriptures used in these drills will be on one specific subject, such as forgiveness, jealousy, salvation, obedience, etc. Then we have an open forum type of meeting, with one of the youth bringing up a subject that he or she is having a hard time handling. We have our Bibles and a Concordance handy, and we try to find some answers together. This is great for them *and* me.

After this, we play some games.

We just finished our "October of Memory." We set up a memorization schedule for the month, and church members made pledges to the youth for each series of verses memorized. We gave an award to the ones who memorized the most. The prize? A "Now and Later" package of candy. The work put into this "Now" will benefit them "Later."

Over the past year, we have gone to a number of concerts, had a fall retreat on Lake Degrey, gone skiing, went hiking in the Ozarks, put on skits for special church services, performed musical dramas for the congregation, and, oh yes, how could I forget? We also played "Capture the Flag" in the city park.

The hardest thing about being a youth director is that the youth grow up and move on. I already know the feeling that Dawn and I will have when our own kids leave home. These young people hold a deep place in my heart, and I miss them when they move on.

But the other side of the coin is that I'm also very proud of them. This year they started a college age class in the church. It is good to see that they still have the hunger for spiritual growth. And they are having an impact in their home church when there is so much worldly pressure applied in the areas of career, dating, marriage, and family. They know that if you put God first, the rest falls into place.

Like I said earlier, I learn right along with the Youth Fellowship of Texarkana.

The President's Page

A prayer for the new year

by Leon Lawton

His Will for His Way—Knowing and Doing

The Psalmist offers so much for our devotional life and daily perspective. As we begin the New Year—1994—the words in Psalm 143 offer guidance for those who seek to know and do the will of God. He makes seven requests!

1. "Hear my prayer, O Lord..." (v.1)
Speaking with God was a regu-

seek, and *know*, the path we should follow each day. The world puts so many pressures on us to conform with the crowd, to please those with whom we work, study, or play. It is so



It is not right to hold back and do nothing until, somehow, we become fully aware of His will. We learn as we move forward.

lar experience for the Psalmist. And so it must be for the true Christian. Yet we come in our humanity, and can ask, "Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous" (v.2).

2. "Answer me speedily, O Lord..." (v.7)

We come to Him with expectation and hope. Our experience as believers has been one of knowing His response many times—even when it is "wait," or "no."

3. "Cause me to hear your lovingkindness in the morning..." (v.8a)

As we begin the day, or any period of time, how refreshing it is to be aware of His presence, the truth of His word, the wonder of His promises. It is important that we have such refreshment and assurance. He brings it to us!

4. "Cause me to know the way in which I should walk..." (v.8b)
Again, it is important that we

helpful to understand that God wants us to be aware of His leading and the fulfillment that comes from walking in His way.

5. "Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies..." (v.9)

An awareness of His holiness helps us recognize those who would seek to destroy our faith or cause His way to be foolish in the eyes of the world. The enemies of God are our enemies, too. What joy and wonder comes as we see His deliverance, time after time.

6. "Teach me to do your will..." (v.10a)

This teaching will bring freedom from sin, which is "anything outside of God's will for my life." We are to be learners. It is not right to hold back and do nothing until, somehow, we become fully aware of His will. We learn as we move forward. Knowing His will comes as we seek to walk in His way and find His leading.

Paul, the great missionary, is an example. He felt a strong need to minister the Gospel to those in Bithynia, but God directed otherwise by giving him the vision of the call to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10).

We have clear teaching through His word for the manner of life we should live as Christians. Paul shows this so clearly in Colossians 3:1-17, where we are to "put off" certain things and to "put on" others.

7. "Lead me..." (v.10b)

We are taught as we walk in His way! It is not just at dangerous times, or in periods of frustration, but in every day and every hour we will find His presence to be with us and help us.

As we begin each day, let us join with the Psalmist to pray and to know God's blessings. His Will for His Way: *Knowing and Doing!*

Meetings, memories in Marlboro

by Diane Cruzan

What a perfect way to celebrate a beautiful fall Sabbath in New Jersey! On October 2, we at the Marlboro SDB Church welcomed the Shiloh congregation for our semi-annual Joint Communion Service. (We are invited to the Shiloh church in the spring.)

The choir's selection, "Within These Walls" by Peter Choplin, definitely put us in the mood for worship. The morning message, given by the Rev. Don Chroniger, pastor of the Shiloh church, was entitled, "It's Time to Grow Up." He encouraged us to use the lessons God teaches us.

Many hymns were sung, and the full house made the music especially enjoyable. After the service, much socializing transpired. Finally, with a bit of persuasion, Sabbath School began. We do enjoy these times to come together to worship, receive communion, and visit.

The high school/college Sabbath School class has been busy the last several months. One of our young people, Lora Dickinson, was involved with SCSC (Summer Christian Service Corps) last summer. Two other members of the class, Ben Cruzan and Cindy Dickinson, went with another family on a

month-long camping trip to California for Pre-Con and Conference.

Memoirs of their summer are included in the most recent issue of the *Marlboro Voice*, our church newsletter. In fact, this issue was totally the responsibility of this class—from the planning to the writing, to the layout and finally the assembly. Also included were articles by Tanya Miller, Lora Dickinson, and Holly Miller on the subject of "Friends," the newsletter's theme.

A cartoon of the story of David and Jonathan, created by Tobey Miller, was included for the children's page, and Anna Cruzan prepared the cover art. The class

did an impressive job from start to finish.

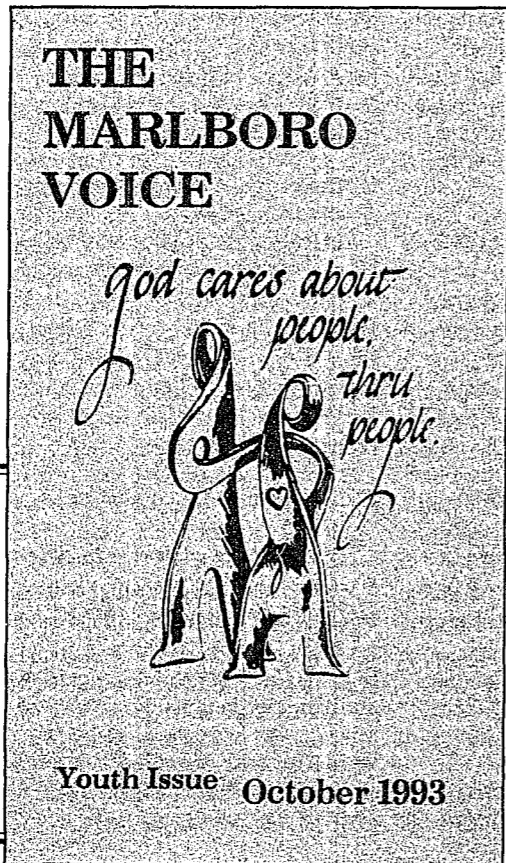
On November 4, a day off of school in New Jersey, the high school/college class went on a day trip to the Pennsylvania Dutch area of Pennsylvania. The main object of the trip was to visit Ephrata Cloister, a German Seventh Day Baptist colony which was organized in Ephrata, Penn., in the 1700s.

The members of this colony were devoted to God and believed in a humble and simple existence. Their strict lifestyle could be seen in their daily routine: rise at 5:00 a.m., work and study during the day, eat one meal in the evening, retire at 9:00 p.m. They slept on wooden

benches with just a block of wood as a pillow, only to rise again at midnight to pray for two hours.

They are known for their architecture, printing, calligraphy, and music. The colony played an important part in history. A visit to the Ephrata Cloister is highly recommended.

The Sabbath School class' interest in history continued as they left the Cloister and passed many Amish and Mennonite farms, along with many horse-and-buggies on the road. After a delicious lunch at a famous area restaurant, they did some shopping before heading back to New Jersey. It was an altogether pleasant day spent with good friends. **SR**



This issue was totally the responsibility of this class—from the planning to the writing, to the layout and finally the assembly.

Let your light shine

by Ronald J. Elston Sr.

I am always amazed at how the Lord works in bringing people together for His Kingdom. In working on the National Field, I am privileged to meet people who, through the leading of the Lord, have been able to locate Seventh Day Baptists.

I myself was one who did not know of their existence. I was a Sabbathkeeper without a place to worship.

I had a Baptist background, serving as a General Baptist pastor for a number of years before discovering the Sabbath. One evening, as my wife, Bonnie, and I were dis-

**"Are you a
Seventh Day Baptist?"
I asked.
There was a slight
pause, and then
the man said,
"Sure, isn't everyone?"**

cussing our situation and trying to determine what to do about it, I thought she had come up with a new name for a denomination.

I said we were Baptists, and Bonnie said we were Sabbathkeepers. "So that would make us *Seventh Day Baptists!*" she exclaimed. Boy, did I like that name!

The more that I thought about it, the more real the name became. So much so that I decided to call information and check into this "new" concept. I telephoned several major cities, only to be given the number of another Sabbathkeeping denomination. I even began to spell out the word "Baptist" to the operator.

Perhaps Seventh Day Baptists didn't exist! Then I decided to make one more phone call, telling my wife that this would be my last. She said, "You've called most of the larger cities. Where are you going to call this time?" "Little Rock, Arkansas," I replied.

As I picked up the phone, I sent up a quick prayer. The operator answered, and I told her my request. After a brief pause, she told me to hold for the number. I couldn't believe it!

"Now, was that Baptist?" I asked. "Isn't that what you wanted?" the operator replied. I could hardly contain my excitement as I dialed, expecting another wrong number.

"Hello," the voice answered. "Are you a Seventh Day Baptist?" I asked.

There was a slight pause, and then the man said, "Sure, isn't everyone?"

The voice was that of Irving Seager. We talked for quite some time as I shared about my search for a group of Sabbathkeeping Baptists.

From that conversation came our family's affiliation with Seventh Day Baptists. It has continued to be an exciting experience—meeting new people, planting churches, and working with new groups, such as the one in Tupelo, Miss. They were also seeking.

The New Cornerstone SDB Church of Tupelo came about through a contact at the local library. In July, I was invited to help dedicate their building. They are reaching out in northeast Mississippi with a Sabbathkeeping witness for the Lord.

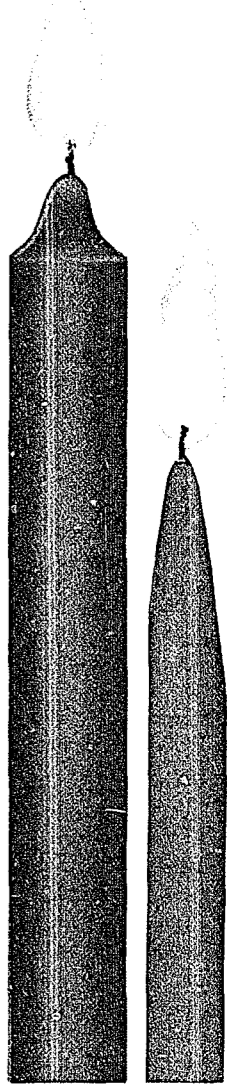
I am sure that there are many others out there who are seeking

Seventh Day Baptists. We must do all that we can to help them with their search.

One of the most effective outreach tools that we now have available is the new video, "A Choosing People." Pray that it will be viewed by many.

I feel that we, as a people of God, should try to make ourselves more visible so that others may share in the joy. I am reminded of the light in Luke 11:33—"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light." **SR**

Ron Elston is Regional Field Worker for the SDB Missionary Society.



Sabbath Essay winners

True to the Sabbath, True to Our God

The Sabbath Promotion Committee sponsored an essay contest at last year's General Conference meetings in Redlands, Calif. The two winners (adult and youth) received T-shirts imprinted with the essay theme, "True to the Sabbath, True to Our God." These were the winning essays.

Cynthia Burks (Adult winner)
Little Rock, Ark.

If you come to Arkansas, you'll find a pleasant surprise in the Mountain View community. We have a folk center where we keep alive the old ways of life found before World War II. Crafts, country music, and displays are everywhere.

Amidst the sound of fiddles in the air (which smells of wood smoke, lye soap, and peach butter), a country tune can be heard. Likely as not, it's a gospel one, such as the Irvines' "Matthew 24":

"We are living, truly living, in the

Youth winner

Aubrey Appel (age 11)
Mankato, Minn.

Being true to God's Sabbath means going to church, resting, trying not to do any work, telling other people about it, and keeping the Sabbath holy.

And being true to God means: trusting Him, believing in Him, praising Him, accepting Him, not going off and worshiping someone else, having faith in Him, reading the Bible, knowing He is the Savior, knowing that He is coming again, loving Him, standing up for Him, telling about Him, and seeking Him.

*days it speaks about
all these things are happenin'
every day.*

*Let's be ready for His comin'.
Let us greet Him with a shout
For He told us in His Word to
watch and pray."*

Just as crafts preserve a lifestyle, God's Word preserves Christ's message for our time. As His return approaches, we must

to witness a wedding and share the joy of uniting two lives—the beginning of a new family in our community of believers. We all thank God for the joy, hope, and happiness such an occasion brings. It's as if we were given a snapshot for a moment of the joy to come in heaven.

On Wednesday evening, Tom Warner shared that "God will dwell with us in the New Jerusalem."

**We hold the truth about the Sabbath
closely as we meet week by week.
We stand in our convictions
with confidence.**

pray and stay close to Him. Our Sabbath observance helps us to do this.

Our Lord referred specifically to those who would be keeping the Sabbath in the days before His return. In Matthew 24, He had this recorded for us.

The time we spend in fellowship with each other and worship of God on the Sabbath brings us closer.

I had a close friend with whom I regularly shared most Thursday evenings. I'd go to her house where we would view the "Mystery" series on public television. We had tea, served English style—with biscuits (cookies)—and watch the show, commenting on English scenery, decor, or the story's plot or characters who were usually embroiled in an impossible situation.

For an hour, time seemed to stand still as we shared the weekly ritual.

God the Father tells us of an even greater mystery than the series on PBS—that of Christ and His Church.

We were blessed this Conference

This heavenly hope is why we want to be "True to the Sabbath and True to Our God."

We hold the truth about the Sabbath closely as we meet week by week. We stand in our convictions with confidence. In Hebrews 13:5-6, Jesus tells us: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Romans 3:4 tells us, "Let God be true, but every man a liar." We work out our own salvation, confident that the Holy Spirit will ultimately lead into all truth all believers in the Messiah.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah redeemed us to God by His blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation (Rev. 5:5,9).

We are new creatures in Christ.

We are covenant people—Hebrews 10:16—who walk in a new and living way which He consecrated for us (v.20).

We are Seventh Day Baptists, true to the Sabbath and true to our God. $\text{\$}$

SR Reaction

The Editor,

I have been reading *The Sabbath Recorder* for a period of over three years, since I became part of this large family of Seventh Day Baptists in Kumba, Cameroon. My interest and admiration for this news magazine has since been on the increase, year after year. Thank God it comes every month.

To also think that this bulletin for and about the Seventh Day Baptists has seen the light of day since 1844 is clear demonstration of God's work in action in this ministry.

Your coverage on a variety of religious topics is wonderful. I mostly enjoyed your corner on pastors. I appreciate the various groups that exist in the church, and the attention given them (the SCSC, Women Society, Youth, etc.). Even most important is the emphasis laid on the Sabbath.

My family and I constantly pray that the Almighty abundantly add His blessings to your work and that of Seventh

Day Baptists the world over. I look forward to such a time when this doctrine will reach out to most African countries, to drive home the awareness that the traditional worship day of Sunday was an error by the first Sunday missionaries who arrived in Africa.

Lift up the Sabbath and challenge the rest of God's body to full obedience.

Pende Eddie Nelson
Kumba, Southwest Province
Republic of Cameroon

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in Jesus' name. I am a pastor of Seventh Day Baptists here in Zambia. I write to introduce to you our church, the Union of Seventh Day Baptists in Zambia. This was started here on 25th January 1992.

The aim and objective of this church is to carry out the Great Mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Go ye therefore and preach the Gospel." Zambia is a large country with 752,660 square kilometers and has a population of more than 8.6 million inhabitants.

Our mission and ministry is to the people in scattered urban and rural areas. As a new church, we are asking you to pray for us, that we may be able to reach the unreached.

Please, if there is anything that you would like to know about our plans for church and ministry, let me know. The project proposal and the budget would be sent to you on request.

Rev. Edwin D. Mukumbo
P.O. Box 20631
Kitwe, Zambia
Central Africa

Gentlemen:

A recent issue devoted a page to comparing SDBs and Seventh-day Adventists. I would like to disclaim that there is any comparison of SDBs and Seventh Day Adventists, other than keeping the biblical Sabbath.

I do not think that it is worthy to expend time and space to compare. When one compares, the connotation of equals is expressed. There is little here that would express equals. One believes in the word of God, the other is bound by an imaginary interpretation of a self-styled prophet, similar to the Golden Tablets of Joseph Smith.

Catholics now have the celebration of mass on the Sabbath. Do we call them Seventh Day Catholics?

Our SDB church and faith have an irradiance of their own. We do not dispute the right of others to claim what they might regarding their church and tenets. Let us not waste time, effort, and thought on what others hold as faith. Let us fulfill what God has proposed and asked us to do. Our salvation depends on our life with Christ and the commandments, not on statutes and human rules.

Murray P. Zealor
Ormond Beach, FL

The Riverside, Calif., SDB Church is seeking to fill two half-time positions. They can be combined into one full-time position if a qualified applicant is found.

Youth Pastor

This position would involve "traditional" youth pastor duties, including working with the church's youth group (junior high and high school ages) in spiritual and recreational activities, and possible involvement in a camping program. The job description also includes counseling parents and teens.

Minister of Programs

This individual would act as a liaison between the pastor and church committees. As a "special projects person," he or she would act as a consultant for the church's special programs, and would also design and implement new programs. This position also includes some office manager duties.

Anyone interested in either position (or both!), should contact Tony Maddox at 4681 Texas Ave., Riverside, CA 92504. You can also phone or write the church: Riverside SDB Church, 5901 Chicago Ave., Riverside, CA 92506. (909) 686-0545. Written job descriptions are available upon request.

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

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

Statement of editorial policy for *The Sabbath Recorder* Revised by The Sabbath Recorder Committee and approved by the Tract and Communication Council November 7, 1993

(Old policy in parentheses.)

• *The Sabbath Recorder* will always attempt to present the views of Seventh Day Baptists, as guided by our Statement of Belief. (The *Sabbath Recorder* will always attempt to present the majority point of view among Seventh Day Baptists, guided by the actions of the General Conference. Any sizeable minority point of view of Seventh Day Baptists shall be presented with due regard to space limitations and balance of material.)

• Presentation of one's own beliefs can be, and in the columns of *The Sabbath Recorder* should be, unaccompanied by attack upon the beliefs of those who have arrived at different conclusions. Articles containing attacks upon the beliefs or points of view of others shall not be accepted until the offending words, sentences, or paragraphs are deleted or rewritten to meet the requirements of this policy. The Editor may consult the Sabbath Recorder Committee. (Positive statements of the beliefs of minority groups will be accepted under the condition of policy #2. When the editor is confronted with difficult decisions regarding publication of minority viewpoints and attacks on the beliefs of others, the editor may consult The Sabbath Recorder Committee.)

• Long and elaborately involved articles cannot be accepted.

• Materials addressed primarily to ministers or other specialized groups shall be avoided.

• No payment is authorized for submitted articles published. (No payment is authorized for contributions.)

• Selection of articles to go in any issue of *The Sabbath Recorder* must be made for reasonable balance of material presented.

• The content of any issue shall be the sole responsibility of the Editor.

• Should a question be raised by the author or other responsible person regarding the rejection of an article by the Editor, the Sabbath Recorder Committee may be consulted.

• Advertising that is not in accordance with the Purpose Statement of *The Sabbath Recorder* will not be published.

"He Being Dead..." cont. from page 14

sented the following resolution:

Resolved, that a Committee of seven be appointed to devise and submit for the consideration of this body, some plan for concentrating and carrying in execution the various benevolent enterprises of the denomination with the greatest possible efficiency.

Resolved, further, that the Committee report whether, in their judgment, the General Conference, under its present organization is a suitable vehicle for the diffusion of the benevolence of the denomination, or whether an entirely new organization is necessary for this purpose.

From the committee, formed and chaired by Brown, came the Constitution which established the current Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. Thomas B. Brown was chairman of the organizational meeting and the first President of the Society, serving until 1847 when he became its Corresponding Secretary.

It was under his presidency and promotion that Seventh Day Baptists opened the mission in China in 1847. He continued to serve on the Board of Managers of the Society and was listed as one of its vice-presidents until the year of his death.

Education Society

The Seventh Day Baptist Education Society was organized as a result of the 1852 General Conference which appointed a committee "to take such measures as it may deem proper in regard to educational interests." At that time, General Conference met triennially, so it was not until 1855 that the Society was officially constituted. The existing Societies, however, met together during the intervening years. When those Societies met at Little Genee in 1854, it was just four months after Thomas Brown became its pastor. He became one of the members of the Board of Trustees of the new Education Society.

Brown was also one of the trustees of the school in Alfred, N.Y., at the time of its incorporation as a University in 1857. He was also active in the establishment of Alfred's School of Theology. A sizeable portion of his personal library was given to the School of Theology, and some of those books are even now used by students of the Sabbath.

I recall in my seminary days of reading that someone asked Thomas B. Brown why, as he grew older, he preached more from manuscript notes than he used to. His answer was, "The older I get the more important I realize it is to say just what I want to say, no more and no less."

When he died in May 1879, the

Missionary Board resolution in his honor stated:

Mr. Brown was a thorough student, a terse writer, an exact theologian, a logical and convincing preacher, and a devout man. In all of the stations which he occupied, he commanded the respect and confidence of those among whom he labored. It is given to but few men to leave behind them a record so free from blemish, and an influence so unmistakably hallowed. By words fitly spoken, by sentences carefully written, and by a consistent and exemplary life, though dead, he yet speaketh.

What is Thomas B. Brown "yet speaking" to us over a century later?

• You need not descend from old line Seventh Day Baptists to make your contribution to the denomination.

• When once convinced of the biblical truth, act upon it—even though it may cost in changed relationships or discarding traditions.

• Get involved with the wider mission around you. If you see a need, speak out and do what you can to make the changes needed.

• Do not be hesitant about putting into writing your sermons or other thoughts, so that later generations can say, "He being dead, yet speaketh." $\$$

Births

Rootes.—A son, Clifford Errol Rootes, was born to Sidney and Debra Rootes of Richland, MI, on September 24, 1993.

Browning.—A daughter, Kira Kay Browning, was born to Steve and Becky (Saunders) Browning of DeKalb, IL, on November 12, 1993.

Adams Center, NY
Gene Smith, pastor
Joined after testimony
Marion Brannon

Alfred Station, NY
Kenneth Chroniger, pastor
Joined after baptism
Ronald Johnson
Patricia Palmiter

Accessions

Paint Rock, AL
John D. Bevis, pastor
Joined after testimony
Carolyn Dubrow
Phillip Dubrow

West Palm Beach, FL
William Vis, pastor
Joined after baptism
Robert Paul Bos

Perrin.—Glendon D. Perrin, 72, of Mystic, Conn., died on October 25, 1993, at home after a long illness.

He was born on September 24, 1921, in Ashaway, R.I., the son of Clifford and Annie (McNab) Perrin. He married Virginia Trelli in Farmington, Conn., on July 14, 1948.

Glendon operated the Perrin Real Estate Co. in the Mystic-Groton area for many years. He was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, and was a Navy veteran of World War II.

In addition to his wife, Virginia, survivors include one brother, Clifford, of Ashaway; and one sister, Alexine Bradshaw, of Maine.

A private graveside service was

held at Union Cemetery in North Stonington, Conn.

Herres.—Margaret Ronayne Herres, 86, died on October 28, 1993, at Edison, N.J.

She was born in Dunellen, N.J., and moved back to that city 14 years ago after living in Plainfield, N.J., for 50 years.

Margaret and her husband, Herman W. Herres, were both employed by the Recorder Press for many years. After his death in 1979, she continued to work for the SDB Publishing House, and was responsible for binding and mailing the *Helping Hand* and *The Sabbath Recorder*. She also maintained the mailing list, and continued to work until *The Sabbath Recorder* was relocated to Janesville, Wis.

Margaret, who was loved and respected by all who knew and worked with her, was honored at a retirement reception in 1982. She was recognized for serving Seventh Day Baptists for more than 30 years.

She was a member of St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Dunellen, its Rosary Society, and the Catholic Daughters Court Regina Coeli.

Survivors include two daughters, Peggy Ulmes of Dunellen, and Jeanne Dunne of Mantoloking, N.J.; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Sheenan Funeral Home on October 30, 1993. Interment was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield, N.J.

Thorngate.—Dorothy (Maxson)

Thorngate, 94, of Orangeburg, S.C., died on November 23, 1993.

She was born on July 30, 1899, at Milton, Wis., the daughter of William Benjamin Maxson and Myrtle (Bolser) Maxson. Her early life was spent in Milton. She graduated from Milton College in 1922, the same year that she married John Harold Thorngate. Their married life was spent in Eau Claire, Wis., where John was a teacher and principal in the public schools.

Following her husband's death in 1964, Dorothy moved to Aiken, S.C. In 1976, she moved to The Methodist Home in Orangeburg, where she spent her remaining years.

Survivors include two sons, Charles of Aiken, and John of Livermore, Calif.; one daughter, Sally Wells of Kalamazoo, Mich.; 11 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Eau Claire.

Marriages

Allen - Lockwood.—Shawn Allen and Michelle Lockwood were united in marriage on June 19, 1993, at the Alfred Station, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Kenneth Chroniger officiated.

Rogers - LaCourse.—Jason Keith Rogers and Elisa May LaCourse were united in marriage on July 3, 1993, at St. Jude's Chapel in Alfred, NY, with the Rev. Art Smith officiating.

Osborn - Butts.—Stephen Osborn and Angeline Butts were united in marriage on July 10, 1993, at

the Alfred (NY) Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Rev. Kenneth Chroniger and the Rev. Paul Osborn officiated.

Barlow - Lewis.—Paul Barlow and Jane Lewis were united in marriage on August 29, 1993, at the home of the bride's parents in Belmont, NY, with the Rev. Leon Wheeler officiating.

Mills - Taylor.—Walter F. Mills IV and Dina Beth Taylor were united in marriage on October 16, 1993, at the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, RI. The Rev. David Taylor officiated.

K E V I N ' S

O R N E R

I learned the word "sesquicentennial" at a young age.

(No, I didn't hear it on "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood.")

My little Presbyterian church back in New York State celebrated its 150th anniversary when I was just a boy. Familiar voices returned to the pulpit as former pastors revisited their flock.

Our Milton and Albion, Wis., SDB churches have put on their big 150th "birthday parties" since I've been in this area.

They all had these things in common: looking back at the "glory days" (and some hard times), and looking ahead to what the future may hold.

Now it's our chance to do the same. This year, 1994, is the 150th year of publishing *The Sabbath Recorder*.

We've planned a number of things to commemorate the year:

- Sesquicentennial momentos
- Reprinting excerpts from the earliest *Recorders*
- "A Sabbath to Record"—visiting a number of our churches with a special presentation
- Voices (or words) from the past—former editors sharing their memories. (We already have in hand some stories from the editor of nearly 50 years ago; no, it's not Leon Maltby...)
- A special collector's issue during our actual anniversary month in June

The *Recorder* has undergone a myriad of changes in editors, style, format, technology, and more. As one of the five living editors—and the one closest to my heart—I have the first chance at looking back. Happily looking back.

To begin with, I am amazed that it's already been five years! We've covered many topics, many miles, and many churches. What an enjoyable time with enjoyable people!

When I became editor, I instituted some new columns and features, set up a standard format for the department and family news pages, and reintroduced a regular editorial page to give the *SR* a more personal touch (warped as it may be). I also wanted to focus on a definite "theme" for each issue. Here are some of the topics covered during my tenure—

Church issues: Worship, Covenant, Polity, Stewardship, the Trinity, Islam Influx, Pastor Support, Pastoral Search, the Sabbath.

Life issues: Death in the Family, Singles, Adoption, Healing, the Sabbath.

Social issues: the Environment, Education, Sanctity of Life, War and Peace, New Age, Church/State, the Sabbath.

SDB concerns: Camping, SCSC, Boards and Agencies, Missions, Conference coverage, the Sabbath.

Notice how "the Sabbath" kept popping up on those lists? Well, we *are* Seventh Day Baptists, and this is the *Sabbath Recorder*. I believe the Lord has blessed our faithfulness to His Word, and kept this group and magazine going for these many years.

While numerous journals have ceased their circulation, the *SR* remains one of the oldest continuing religious publications in the country. We can take pride in our longevity, but not become complacent.

Part of my dream for the magazine includes continuing to enhance the visual impact, without sacrificing the "meat"—the printed words. I want to keep offering you material that will inform, challenge, and inspire.

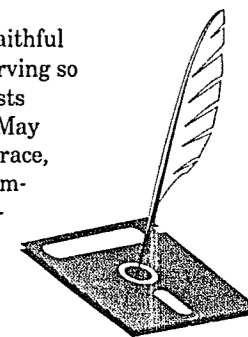
Desktop publishing was in place before I came on board, but we now regularly receive articles on computer disks. And I'm sure that I'm the first *SR* editor to have articles submitted via a FAX machine.

We are in the process of (once again) upgrading some of our computer tools. New software and scanning packages will *almost* put us up-to-date. With computers, you're behind the times before you plug them in...

It's interesting that this is my 52nd issue after almost five years. They used to do 52 issues in ONE year—as recently as 20 years ago! And without computers!!

My hat is off to those faithful journalists of the past, serving so many Seventh Day Baptists down through the years. May we continue, with God's grace, to keep the Good News coming your way. It is a privilege to carry on this tremendous heritage.

"Happy Birthday," old friend.



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