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1844-1994

July-Aug. 1994



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Joyce Conrod a gift in recog-
nition of their past service, in
order to assist in their pur-
chase of a needed vehicle.

The Conrods served as SDB missionaries to Malawi, Af-
rica. After returning, John pastored the Denver, Colo., SDB
Church, until he was stricken with multiple sclerosis. For
years, John has been confined to a wheelchair. Recently, it
was determined that they needed a van with a wheelchair
lift. That vehicle, with necessary modifications, costs more
than \$38,000.

The Denver church is giving toward this purchase, and
we invite other SDBs to consider adding to our gift. If you
can help, please make your check payable to "Denver SDB
Church," designated for John Conrod. Thank you.

Tom Warner, pastor

Denver SDB Church
2301 Wadsworth Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80215

The **S**abbath
Recorder



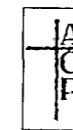
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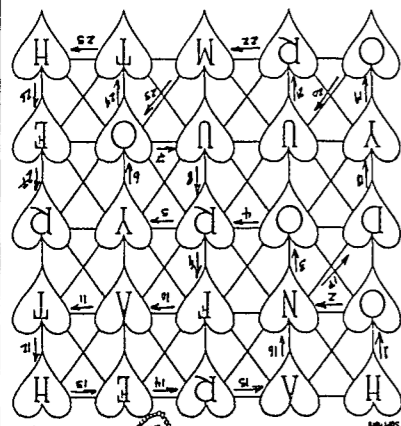
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(Answer to puzzle on page 22.)

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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh
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- 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
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Helping to build the Kingdom



These churches are changing to better present the Gospel and build God's Kingdom.

Shiloh completes link

Connecting ramp enhances physical and spiritual access

by Donna S. Bond

One evening a couple of years ago, I was in a neighboring Baptist church, enroute from their sanctuary to their fellowship hall. I commented on how nice it was not to have to go outside in the wind, and that "one of these days" we would be able to do the same thing at our church.

"Are you guys ever gonna get that thing built?" someone asked me. I groaned. After years of planning, debating, compromising, and budgeting, attempting to please everyone and meet building codes, it certainly didn't look like we would ever get "that thing" built.

In Daniel 12:12a, we read,

"Blessed is he who waits." After much prayer and hard work, the Shiloh, N.J., church has now been blessed with a beautiful and functional "connecting link" between the 1850 church building and the 1968 fellowship hall. The link features a long ramp connecting the main floors of the two buildings, and a second ramp to the outside making either building accessible from the ground level.

The facade of the new addition imitates the original front of the church building—a landmark in the community and recognized by many Seventh Day Baptists throughout the country. An abundance of glass, gleaming chandeliers, and the palest of cream-colored walls invite the visitor to "come and worship in the joy of the Lord."

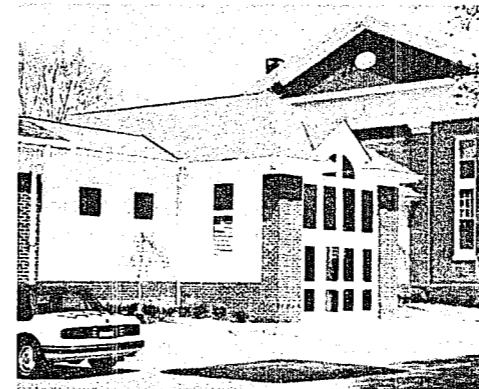
While the intent of the link is to make our facilities accessible to God's children with handicaps, all of us benefit. We no longer have to juggle winter coats and lighted candles at

the annual Christmas candle-lighting service; brides and grooms can greet their guests in comfort regardless of the weather; mothers can rest assured that their children will arrive in their Sabbath School

"Are you guys ever gonna get that thing built?" someone asked me. I groaned.

rooms without the distraction of the parking lot; and restrooms are available for those who find it difficult or too tiring to climb steps.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held last spring (1993) for the benefit of the SDB promotional video. (Have I betrayed a secret?) But alas! The real construction had to wait for the end of the wedding season in Shiloh. For three months, beginning at Conference time, we met the Lord in the fellowship hall



Top: A beautiful glass-filled entryway welcomes worshipers from the back parking lot.

Bottom: The long-awaited link connects the old and the new, making the facility accessible to all.



On dedication day, the congregation assembled inside the new link for special readings, prayers, and challenges.

and then celebrated the return to the "real" sanctuary at the end of October.

We lived with the inconvenience and mess inherent with any construction project until, just in the nick of time, finishing details were in place for the dedication of the new building.

A day of dedication and celebration was observed in Shiloh on Sabbath, April 16, 1994. During our semi-annual joint communion service with the Marlboro, N.J., congregation, we awarded plaques to four ordained members with long years of service: Pastor Emeritus Charles Bond (pastor, 1958-1980), Deacon Rex Ayars (ordained 1947), and Deaconesses Mary Ayars and

Ella Sheppard (also ordained 1947). We also recognized our oldest living member: Florence B. Bowden, member of 83 years and attendee since 1900.

After the worship service in the sanctuary, we "threw open the doors" and reassembled in the link itself. Our denominational Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock led us in prayer. Pastor Don Chroniger made a "Statement of Intent," and Tim Bond led us in an original responsive reading taken from 1 Kings 8 and selected passages from the Gospels and Acts.



Mark Sheppard and Steve Moncrief show off the cornerstone before setting it in place.

Secretary Babcock then read 1 Peter 2:4-10, and Kirk Looper of the SDB Missionary Society challenged the church to set high standards as the "Cornerstone of the Community," for the "community is the cornerstone of the nation."

Oliver Dickinson, chairman of the Easy Access Facilities Committee, summarized the history of the church. A sealed capsule containing pictures, a current membership list, and a listing of church actions leading up to the project was placed in a special niche and covered by the cornerstone.

The celebration continued as we enjoyed a covered-dish dinner in the fellowship hall, thereby completing the worship experience in all three portions of our newly connected facilities. Special guests were acknowledged—those for whom the link was designed (including representatives from the community's Senior Citizens group); those who burned the midnight oil of frustration to keep the dream alive; and those who tirelessly brought the dream to physical fruition.

Our church has been blessed by waiting on the Lord and by working for His glory. May we open our hearts to those with spiritual weakness, even as our new connecting link brings easy access to those with physical limitations. *SR*

Building to begin in Boulder

by Richard L. Steele

Sometimes, negotiating with city or county governments for necessary building permits could even test the patience of Job. Yet, with our faith ever before the Lord, the

tion has to do with coordinating the Senior Saints who will be helping us with our building program.

As you can see in the drawing (next page), the sanctuary will be

lowship and sanctuary level. The rest of the teaching space will be created in the basement in due time, but not right away.

With this anticipated building of our church, it is actually "number two" on our building agenda for 1994. The long ranch-style parsonage does come first!

The parsonage will be a four-bedroom structure with basement. The 10 percent slope on the property will simplify the construction of a basement with little additional cost. Entering this structure will be easy from the east side at ground level (as it will be for the church). Thus, those of us who have trouble negotiating stairs will not have to worry. It is anticipated that our pastor and family will be able to

"Kudos" to each member of the Building Committee for their many meetings and constant work to make certain that all details are accomplished!

members of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church are now able to begin our construction!

Our Building Committee should be upheld before the Lord for doing an incredible job; they are dealing with people who want every "t" crossed and every "i" dotted. They have dealt with those who do not want a church to be built on the five-plus acres next to Arapahoe Ave. It was discovered that most of these complaints came from people not living adjacent to the church property! We just praise the Lord there were not very many of these complaints, and that we deal with each one as He guides us.

The members of our Building Committee are as follows: Mary Wells (chair), Richard Armstead, Jim August, Gene Davis, Lewis Davis, Marilyn Davis, Phil Rood, Cletus Severance, and Pastor David Thorngate. "Kudos" to each member of this committee for their many meetings and constant work to make certain that all details are accomplished!

It must be mentioned that Jim August is the *Technical Coordinator* for those many technical details. Eleanor Rasmussen has also accepted the position of *Accommodations Coordinator*. The latter posi-

separate from our fellowship area. Thus, the sanctity of the sanctuary will be maintained. Several classrooms will be situated on the fel-



Mary Wells (left), chairman of the Boulder Building Committee, and Pastor David Thorngate at the ground-breaking ceremony for their new facilities.

move in by September 1994.

Our well was drilled on the property during April, only to find that—even at 500 feet—there was no water! The predominance of shale at that depth just would not relent, even with other drilling on the property. This necessitates changing our water plans. For immediate water usage, a cistern will be installed. Water drainage from the roof, plus what will be hauled to this receptacle, will be treated and used.

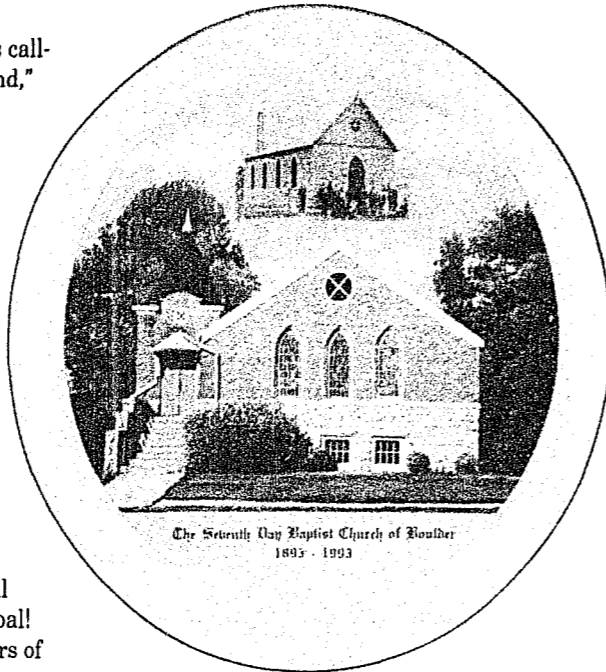
In due time, we will ask Boulder to let us use their water from the Hoover District. An obstacle? Yes, but this does not deter our faith in what God will have us to do to accomplish our goal on East Arapahoe!

Pastor Thorngate and Mary Wells turned over that first spadeful of dirt to begin our building

program. This was called "breaking ground," and was a time of prayer and fellowship on Sabbath afternoon, February 26, 1994.

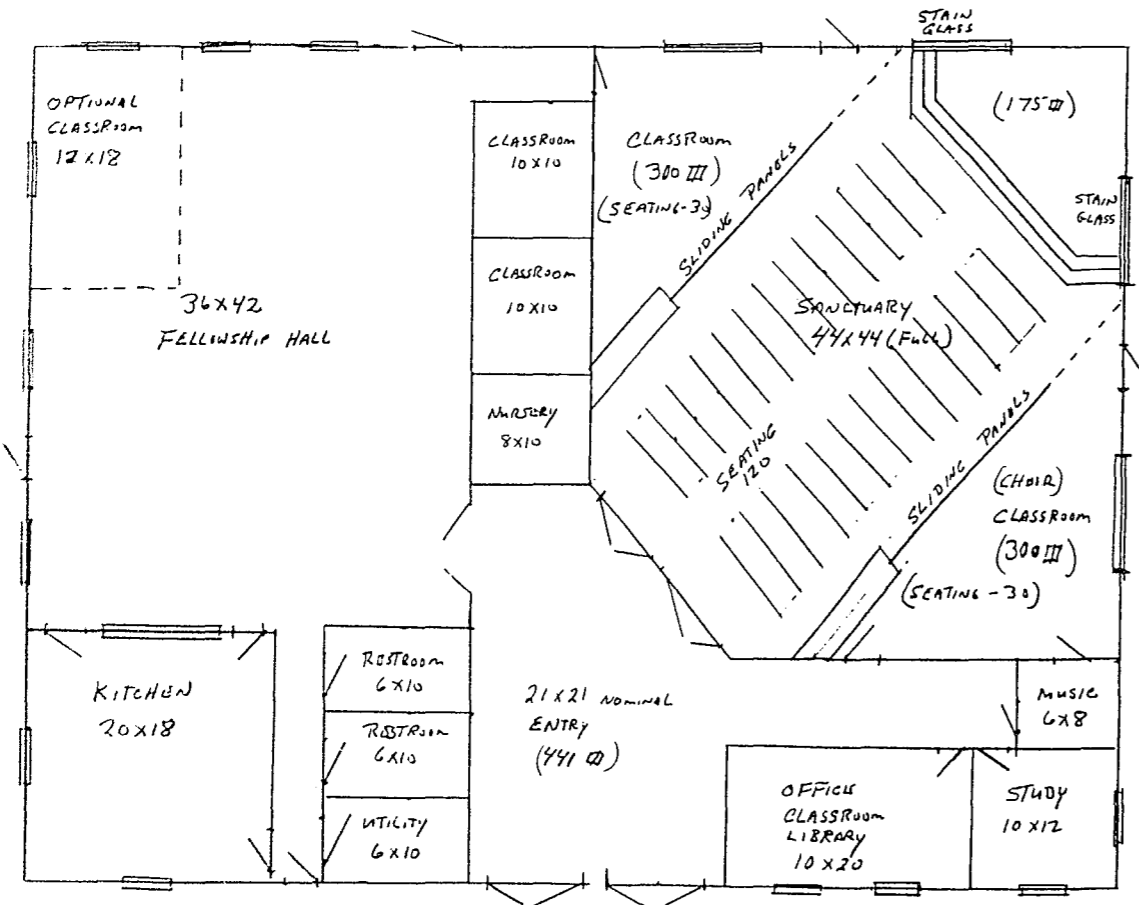
This is like a promise, isn't it? The very first working of the soil spells out the promise to accomplish more!

Indeed, we just praise the Lord as plans are made, and that hardy Seventh Day Baptists of Boulder will accomplish their goal! We ask your prayers of support to make this all happen. *SR*



The Seventh Day Baptist Church of Boulder
1893 - 1993

Above: Plate commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Boulder SDB Church (1893-1993). Below: Blueprint of the church's construction plans.



Bradenton welcomed with open arms—and a big sign

by S. Kenneth Davis

Southern hospitality is legendary, but the welcome we at the Bradenton, Fla., church received when we moved into our new (rented) church home set a record, I am sure.

Not only were we welcomed with open arms, but with open signboard as well—at their suggestion, not ours. Imagine our surprise when we first noticed that the signs we used to hang at our previous location on Sabbath mornings were no

longer necessary. Not only were we on the signboard, we had been given top billing! We, however, were not the only ones surprised. And after their pastor received the fourth inquiry asking when they had sold their church, he opted for the wording giving us second place on the sign.

In addition to the week-long publicity provided by the signboard, we also enjoy:

- A larger, more worshipful sanctuary

- Our own office (transformed from a classroom by Dr. Keith Davis)

- A fellowship hall that will seat more than 100 at tables

- An adequate kitchen (a sign indicates it is a self-cleaning kitchen—clean up after yourself)
- Restrooms adjoining the sanctuary, with additional ones in the fellowship hall

- Picnic tables under shade trees in the large area beyond the parking lot

- A more than adequate parking lot


- Use of a two-sided copier and all other office equipment

- An elaborate sound system
- A baptistry
- A nursery
- Sabbath School rooms galore

The pastor of the host church prays for us each Sunday during their worship services. In addition, he has suggested that his members attend our services when they can, especially if they are unable to attend their own church's worship on Sunday.

He has agreed to preach for us any Sabbath when both our pastor and pastor emeritus are unavailable, with the understanding that our pastor will preach for them whenever their pastor and pastor emeritus are both away.

What a welcome! *SR*

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	
MEETS SAT. 10 AM	
KEN DAVIS - PASTOR	
	U B C MEETS SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9-30	
WORSHIP 10-30	
TIMOTHY F HALL PASTOR	

CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST	
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9-30	
WORSHIP 10-30	
PASTORS TIMOTHY HALL & BOB XAVIER	

SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	
SHARE BLDG SAT. 10 AM	
KEN DAVIS - PASTOR	

Top: Top billing for the SDB church attracted many questions for the hosts. Bottom: "Second place" for the smaller group explained the situation more clearly.

A decade later, Milton's education wing is complete

The education wing of the Milton (Wis.) Seventh Day Baptist Church was dedicated in 1984 with classrooms for children, the Ellis Memorial Chapel, Library and Board Room, and handicapped restroom. A new elevator gave access to the whole building.

The basement remained one large room for several years, being used for recreation. When the Milton elementary schools needed

additional classroom space, the church divided the room and rented to the school district for three years.

This spring it has taken on a new look.

From the main entrance you are greeted by a shelf of old books, above which is a vine with the inscription, "I am the vine, you are the branches." As you come down the stairs (or off the elevator), you

enter the north sitting room, comfortably equipped with chairs and a sofa.

To the north of the sitting room, you enter the recently dedicated "Ribbon Room." On the east wall, murals depict the cradle, cross, and

crown: the birth of Jesus, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension. On the opposite wall, a lovely pink ribbon flowing from one end to the other depicts—in Scripture quotations—the love and care of God and the message of salvation. This room is set up for group meetings during the week.

The west side of the basement has been divided into three adult classrooms. The decorating committee of Elise Walker, Virginia Fitzrandolph, and Sue Cruzan used a historical theme with a series of framed pictures depicting the significant events in

the life of the church. Several artifacts have also been taken out of storage and are arranged in these rooms.

Also in the north sitting room is a replica of the church which burned in 1932. It was made as a birdhouse and given to the Milton Historical Society, which in turn gave it to the church. The replica has been restored, along with the background of its day, and is enclosed in a lighted glass case.

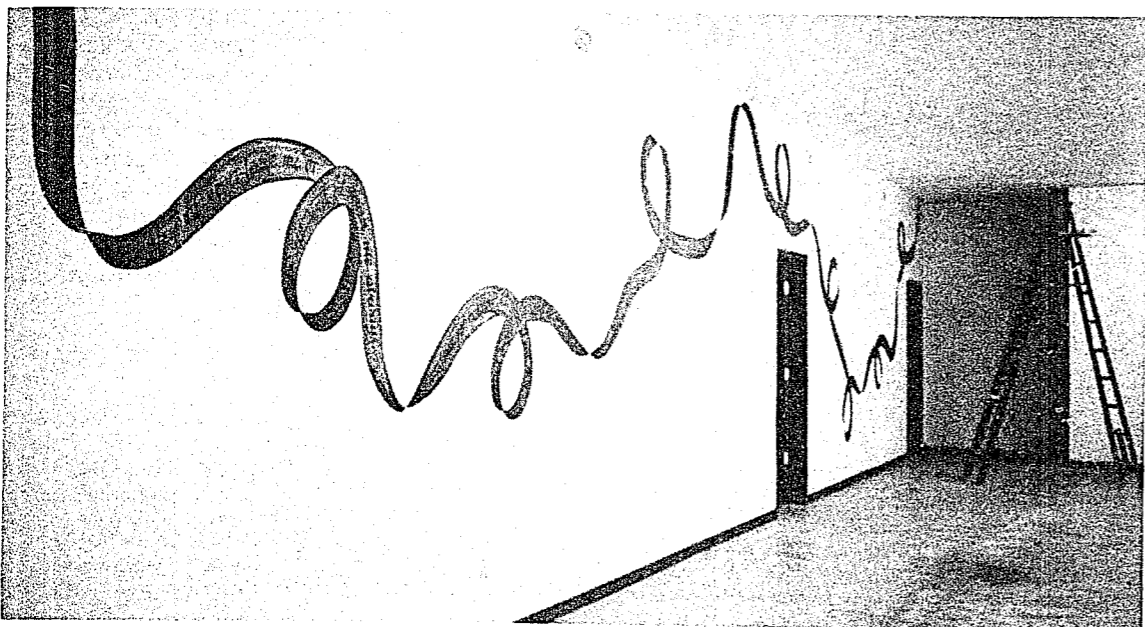
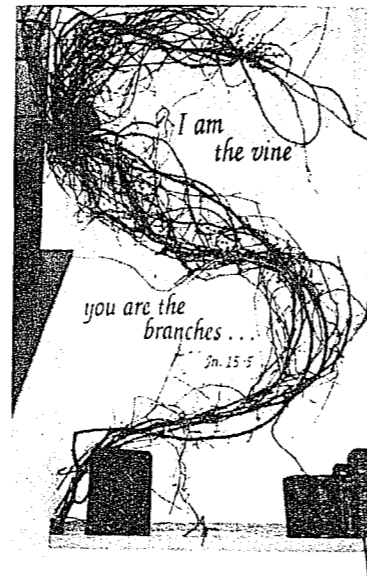
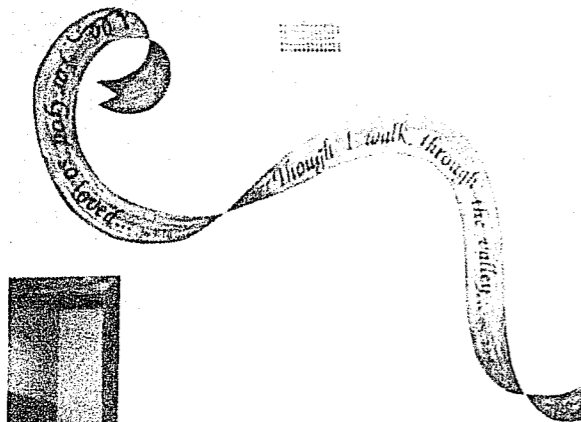
The new rooms and decorating provide more space and a pleasant atmosphere for the increasing ministries of the church. *SR*

(This article first appeared in the Milton Courier.)

Right: The ribbon begins with John 3:16 and Psalm 23.

Far right: Vine, Scripture, and books greet people in the entryway.

Below: The "Ribbon Room" under construction.

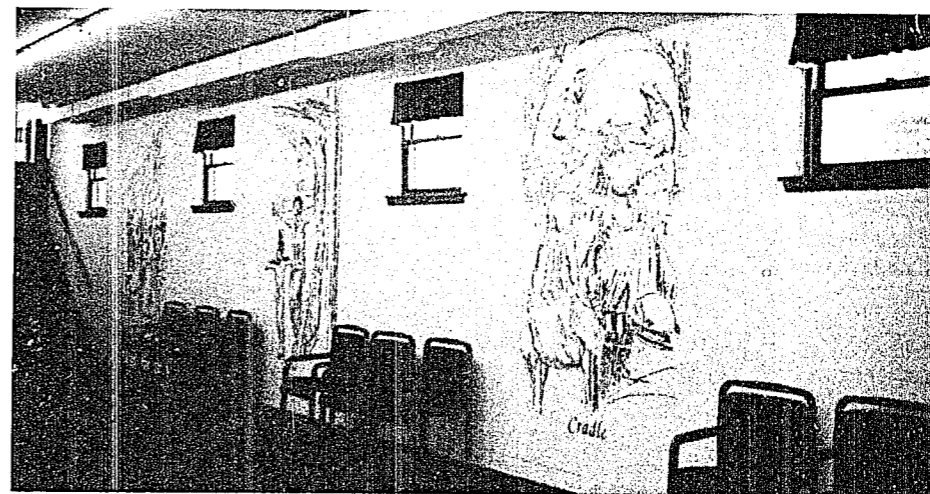
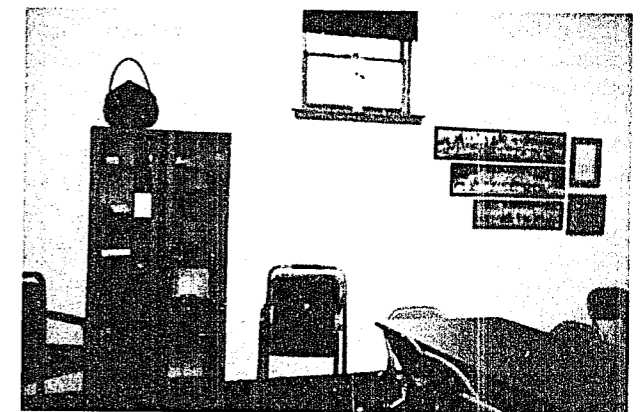
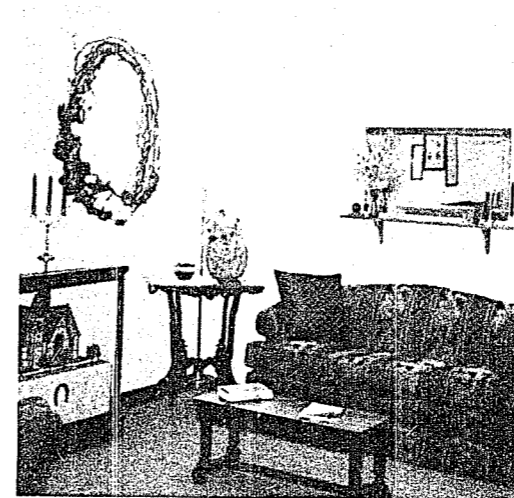


Mid-week services utilize basement

The recent remodeling of the Milton church basement added some much-needed Sabbath School class space.

It also opened the door to a new ministry: Wednesday night services. Called "Home Improvement," the program features "Kids on the Move" for the younger set. Services offer a time of praise choruses and prayer, followed by adult Bible study. The children's program includes Bible stories and puppets.

Left: The new north parlor includes a replica of the former church and some beautiful antiques.
Below: One of the three new classrooms separated by sliding partitions.



Large murals dramatically depict the birth, crucifixion, and ascension of the Lord Jesus.

Preacher turns contractor

by Albert N. Rogers

(When Rev. Al Rogers noticed this personal event mentioned in the "SR Almanac," he thought our readers would like to know the details. It certainly fits with this month's theme.)

As a minister of the Gospel, I have taken chances with the usual life experiences, but my winning a drawing for a house 10 years ago was a once-in-a-lifetime thing.

Clara Nelson, a retired art teacher, had willed her house to Alfred (N.Y.) University, and they were loathe to tear it down to make way for a new gymnasium while she was still living.

The university announced that a drawing would be held for the house, conditional on moving it to a new site and restoring it. I submitted a proposal by which I won the house.

A contractor moved the house in three sections up our hill road, about one and a half miles from the Alfred campus. Meanwhile, our son

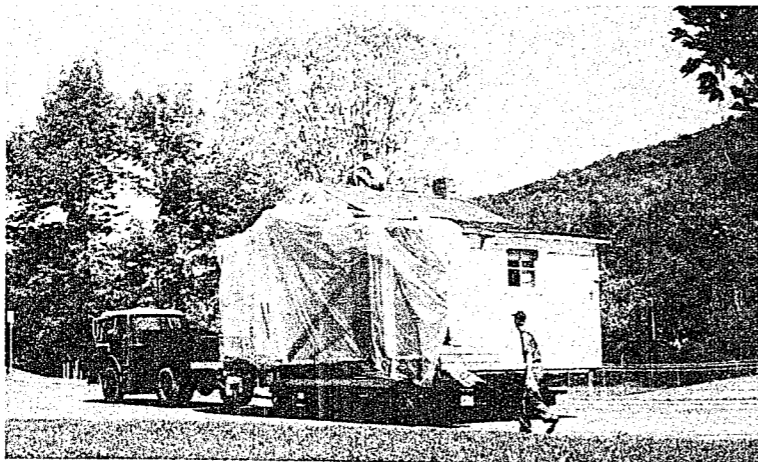
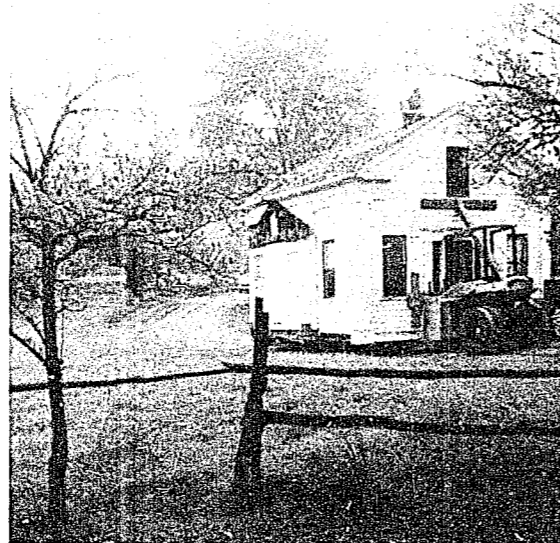
First, the movers brought the bedroom-kitchen-bathroom wing, which required some inside bracing to prevent its collapse. Next came the living room section, and third came the two-story parlor and bedroom section. The Greek Revival facade deserved the police escort it got as it came up our hill.

Heavy duty jacks eased the sections of the house together on their new site. Much of the plaster was cracked, but it could be replaced with drywall. New plumbing fixtures in the bathrooms were to be expected, as well as those in the kitchen. Friends and neighbors helped. Best of all, our son and his family spent Christmas in their new house-home.

Ten years later, the Nel-

son-Rogers house looks happily from the hill toward its former site in Alfred, where a huge gym now stands. One could almost hear the house laugh to be in a more quiet location where it is appreciated.

Our grandchildren quickly learned to call the house their home. Their parents are busy with their lives in the house that was given a new life. *SR*



The Rogers' old/new house was moved up an Alfred hill 10 years ago.

A contractor moved the house in three sections... The Greek Revival facade deserved the police escort it got as it came up our hill.

Keith had retired from the U.S. Coast Guard and was ready to come home. He had the cellar excavated and built the basement walls. Materials from a barn on the old site were useful in forming the concrete walls of the basement.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

"Stressed, or Blessed?"

"Jesus said, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are ill.'" (Matthew 9:12 NASB).

The Shiloh, N.J., church recently hosted Eastern Association, using the theme, "Stressed, or Blessed?" The featured speakers talked about stress in the workplace, the church, and the family.

Pastor Bill and Shelley Shobe of the Washington, D.C., SDB Church led the session on "Stress in the Family." The following thoughts come directly from their session and are used with permission.

The question is not whether stress is a reality, but rather how we can deal with stress in order to minimize its impact, and even profit from its manifestations in our families. Our families

are under attack by secular society and our over-booked calendars. We need to recognize the leverage points our enemy uses to increase the stress levels in our families, and learn to protect them from his manipulation.

Stress comes from communication breakdowns; differing and unrealistic relational expectations; the impact of fatigue, sickness, or financial problems; cultural differences; and family traditions. These manifestations of stress say to us that our relationships need attention, especially our relationship to God. We need to slow down and re-evaluate our commitments.

How can we minimize the impact of stress in our family life?

1. Make prayer a priority for and



with your family members (Job 1, John 10:10, Matthew 24:42-43).

2. Develop healthy family relationships (Ephesians 5:21-6:4, Deuteronomy 6:4-7). We need to

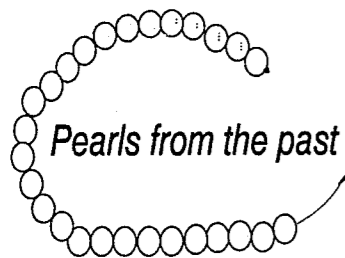
Our families are under attack by secular society and our over-booked calendars.

be motivated by love for our family, follow the biblical idea for lines of authority, and give our family our time.

3. Develop and maintain healthy communication patterns (Ephesians 4:25-32, Colossians 4:6). We need to talk out problems, practice forgiveness, and develop family rules based on the Bible's principles for living.
4. Establish the practice of evaluating the issue (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Is it a moral or ethical issue, or someone's personal preference? Is rebellion or maturity entering the picture?
5. Develop and maintain a consistent personal intimacy with God.

Our families are so important, and we want them to be healthy, not dysfunctional.

By applying the above principles which Bill and Shelley shared with us, our families can become more Christ-like and be more of a testimony of what Jesus can do as we yield our families and our stress-filled lives to His care. *SR*



Building for the glory of God

by Don A. Sanford, historian

As the Senior Saints are assisting the people of Boulder in the building of a new parsonage, many thoughts went through my mind as I recalled my own experiences in parsonage construction and repair.

During my first year in seminary, and before life in a parsonage—before putting thick blocks of wood under the foot of the bed to level it up, before firing an old potbellied stove in a kitchen, and before turning an unfinished attic into bedrooms for a growing family—one of my fellow students did a parsonage survey for the class in Rural Sociology taught by Dr. Ben R. Crandall. He wrote:

The parsonage is not just a place where the preacher and his family live. It is much more. It is one expression of the congregation's relation to the pastor as well as the pastor's relation to the congregation. It is here that the members often express their appreciation to their spiritual leader by their care in providing the same comforts and pleasant surroundings that they themselves enjoy. The parsonage is more than a home to the pastor. Here he studies, here he meets God, and here he prepares the words of comfort, exhortation, and challenge for his people.

The parsonage is also an expression to the community as to what the Church thinks of its religion as well as its pastor. If the parsonage is shabby—we have to face it—the expression to the community is one of a shabby religion. If the parsonage is outdated and inconvenient, how

can we expect people to be attracted to it, the pastor, or the Church?

Are we as Seventh Day Baptists serving the Lord acceptably in the provision of the parsonage? This is the question that we considered in conducting this survey. We have not answered it, although we have come to some general conclusions. Each of us

There is a sense of justifiable pride in being able to point to the works of our hands done for the glory of God.

must answer the question himself; and conceivably, do something about it as individuals and groups if the answer is not in the affirmative.

That survey, taken in 1950 by Melvin Nida, revealed many items that were good, and many that were not so good. Of the answers received, 84.5% revealed that the church owned its parsonage, while others rented; or, as in one case, a member of the church supplied a place for the pastor to live.


Eighty-five percent responded that the physical appearance was about average for the community. But when it came to specifics of an adequate place for study or counseling, the percentage dropped noticeably. Only about 62% passed the standard for convenience for the

pastor's wife in the kitchen or the laundry. Only a third were adequately insured, and there was a noticeable deficiency in terms of storage, screens on the windows, storm doors, garages, or garden space.

Since that survey of 44 years ago, many of those churches have built new parsonages and updated old ones. New churches have also been constructed or remodeled. Nearly every Association has engaged in some form of a camping building program for young and old alike. In many of these cases, much of the work has been done by members of the parish, including the pastor and his family.

There is considerable satisfaction in being able to participate in such changes. There is a sense of justifiable pride in being able to point to the works of our hands done for the glory of God. The Senior Saints are to be commended—along with some of the "Junior Saints" who have participated in building for the glory of God.

When Nehemiah organized the former captives to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, he called the people, saying, "Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem that we may no longer suffer disgrace." The people responded, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work. Later Nehemiah was able to say, "So we built the wall; and the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work." (Nehemiah 2:17-18; 4:6).

May this be said of each generation of Seventh Day Baptists as the Lord strengthens our hands; that we catch the vision and "have a mind to work." 



SR Almanac

Where we have been...

One year ago—July/August 1993

SDB writers Susan Bond and Kenneth Chroniger present debate on Church/State issues.

J. Brent Walker, associate general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, shares article, "God and Country."

"Focus" missions column relates problems that some overseas nationals have in "becoming SDB."

Words and pictures cover the fellowship enjoyed at Pastors' Conference in Shiloh, N.J.

Historic and architectural analysis of the SDB Meeting House in Newport, R.I., calls the house's direct line to Seventh Day Baptists "indisputable."

Five years ago—July/August 1989

Education is discussed by RuthAnne Peil and Dwight Chappell (Christian schools), Jim Skaggs and Lannette Calhoun (Christians in public schools), and Jane Mackintosh (home schooling).

Dr. Wayne Rood's inaugural address for the "Rex Zwiebel Lecture on Christian Education" presented.

Board of Christian Education presents Resolution of Appreciation to E. Donald Van Horn for his many years of service to the Board, and his donation of the Board office facility, now known as the Van Horn Building.

Page highlights the life and recent passing of Rev. Francis Saunders.

10 years ago—July/August 1984

Anniversaries: Fouke, Ark., church and the SDB Women's Board mark their centennials; Texarkana, Ark., church celebrates its 25th.

Missionary Society extends a Resolution of Appreciation to Mynor Soper for his 15 years of service as evangelist and director of extension.

World Federation Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate and his wife, Janet, head to Europe to visit SDBs and Conferences there.

Article notes the passing of longtime pastor and peacemaker, Rev. Paul Burdick.

Madison, Wis., church organized on May 26.

25 years ago—July/August 1969

Special issue emphasizes the upcoming General Conference at Nyack, N.Y. The theme is "Sensitive in His Service," with Leland Bond as president. Readers invited to visit the SDB Building in Plainfield, N.J.

Early August issue commemorates the SR's 125th anniversary. The cover is a heavier glossy-gold paper, with 28 total pages rather than the usual 16.

Rev. Ed Sutton called to pastorate in Alfred Station, N.Y.; Richard Wheeler chosen as summer assistant pastor in Ashaway, R.I.

Editorial reflects on man's first lunar landing.

50 years ago—July/August 1944

"Woman's Work" column lists names of 580 service men and women according to their SDB church membership.

Rev. Hurley Warren takes a leave of absence from Plainfield and enrolls in Chaplain School at Harvard University.

Pastor David Clarke ordained in Jackson Center, Ohio.

Menus and prices are listed for Conference meals (held in Alfred, N.Y.; Albert Rogers, president). Breakfast is 25-40 cents; lunch, 30-40 cents; supper is 45-65 cents.

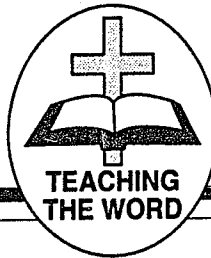
Letters congratulate Editor H.C. Van Horn and the Recorder staff on the centennial issue.

Missionary E. Stanley Jones' recent book, *The Christ of the American Road*, reviewed.

...where are we headed?

Pray—

- that loyalty to God and country remain strong
- that our message be clear to all people
- with thanksgiving for our beloved forbears
- for SDBs around the world
- for those in the armed services
- for more to be called into ministry
- for this year's Conference in Lindsborg, Kan.



Reflections on NET in Jamaica

by Daryl D. White

The Natural Evangelism Training (NET) team—Myrna Cox, Dr. Victor Burdick, the Rev. Ernest and Arlene Bee, and Daryl and Barbara White—was privileged to lead a NET Retreat for 47 pastors and church leaders of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference. We met at the Diamond Ridge Christian Retreat Center in Portland, Jamaica, March 31-April 3, 1994.

It was the first time that an event of this nature was held in a place other than a local church. It is difficult to know who received the greater blessing—the retreat training team or our Jamaican brethren. The joy and love in the bond of Jesus Christ continues to live in our hearts. This retreat was such a highlight experience for us.

As with all NET Retreats, the seeds of becoming effective witnesses for Jesus Christ were sown. Our brethren in Jamaica vowed to take the training back to their churches, where the seed can be planted in other hearts, growing productive lives for our Lord. It has been reported that the week following the retreat, as many as 14 baptisms occurred at the Charles Street

Church in Kingston, and four more at the church in Luna.

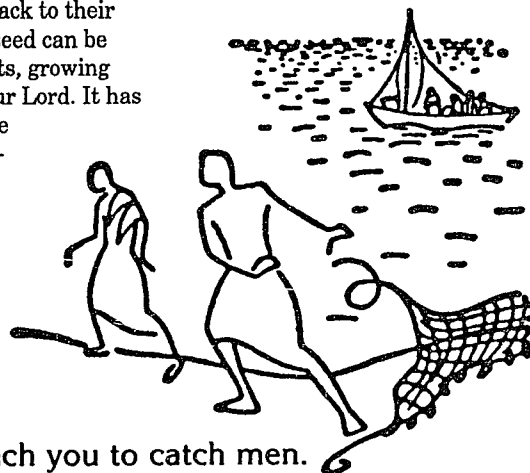
The Diamond Ridge Christian Retreat Center is located approximately two miles from the northeast shore of Portland Parish. The view of the Caribbean Sea is fantastic. Add to the beautiful view the warm (80-90 degree) moist breeze, the lush green foliage, and the songs of the birds, and you will understand what a welcome break from winter it was for the trainers from Colorado and New York.

Most memorable was the blessed presence of the Holy Spirit. Through His special work of spiritual magnetism, He bonded our lives together as we sang, worshiped, and studied from Thursday through Sunday of that special week. The group was large enough so that we divided into two groups and held simultaneous training sessions.

Our mountaintop experience carried into the Charles Street church in Kingston on Monday night. There, the Training Team was honored beyond all expectations. We were encouraged to "Keep on doing what we are doing," to "Never give up," and to "Please come back."

Hospitality is a gracious Jamaican gift. We experienced it again on Tuesday when we visited the churches of Waterford, Bowensville, Maiden Hall, Albion Mountain, Port Maria, and Higgintown. Members of these congregations waited long hours to exchange greetings with the trainers and share with us typical Jamaican food and music. We visited the Mountain View Church on our way to the airport on Wednesday.

We pray that our NET Retreat experience will be a catalyst to launch the dynamics of growth in the body of Christ of the Jamaica Seventh Day Baptist Conference. We are confident that God will bless our special four days, a time when we remembered our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus. We claim His promise to produce fruit in the hearts and lives of our precious friends in Jamaica. *SR*



I will teach you to catch men.

Illustration with the accompanying text is from the Good News Bible, the Bible in Today's English Version. Copyright © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976. Used by permission.



We seldom sit in our homes and entertain thoughts of persecution because of our religious beliefs. At least, we don't spend time worrying about it!

We know that we will be able to go to church next Sabbath and return home unharmed in spite of our Sabbath convictions. We also know that our children will not be barred from school because of our religious beliefs. This is *not* the case in some of our churches around the world.

In past Focus articles, two problems involving our overseas churches have been brought to the attention of our Conference members in the U.S. and Canada: 1) church roofs and houses are being set ablaze and burned, and 2) the children of SDBs are not being allowed to attend school.

These two problems stem from the fact that Seventh Day Baptists are not always accepted as Christians, especially in some African countries. We propose the following solutions.

Roofs

We would encourage anyone—felt "called" to do so—to help buy metal roofing sheets, especially for the churches in Malawi and Zambia. These are the two countries where we have visited the churches. Kenya also needs metal sheets for roofs.

The average cost of a sheet of steel in these countries is \$23, and a typical church will require 80 sheets. Therefore, a roof will cost about \$1,800. Since one church or one individual could not be expected to purchase an entire roof, we suggest that donations be made "by the sheet."

These donations will be collected and sent to the coordinators in

Malawi, Zambia, and Kenya. If you would like to designate your gift to a specific country, please feel free to do so. Because of the rate of outreach in these three countries, new churches are being developed monthly. Consequently, many roofs are needed. Any donations would be welcomed and appreciated.

Education

Home schooling is nothing new to many families in the United

The outstanding characteristic of these materials is that all are reusable except the workbooks. This means that they could be passed from one family member to another, or from family to family. It is believed that the adults could use them as well.

We already have a volunteer who will help order and mail these materials, which will greatly expedite the work. As soon as we obtain enough money to fund this project,

The home schooling materials could be passed from one family member to another, or from family to family. It is believed that the adults could use them as well.

States, and it is becoming increasingly popular. However, in the U.S., public education remains a *choice* which is open to everyone. In other countries, home schooling is not necessarily a choice.

In many SDB families, the children—and in some cases, the adults—are not allowed to attend the available "Christian" schools because those in authority do not view Seventh Day Baptists as Christians.

At its last Board meeting, the Missionary Society decided to promote the education of SDBs in foreign countries by raising money to fund teaching materials. This education could be done through a program of home schooling using materials purchased through a Christian publisher in the United States.

The materials being considered would cost \$20 per student annually, kindergarten through the eighth grade.

we will begin sending these educational supplies. It is important that we start as soon as possible since many of our SDB children are already several years behind their peers.

Obviously, this "home schooling project" is an area in which many could benefit. However, we realize that it is an ongoing process. We would be working primarily with the English-speaking countries in Africa, but we would expand into other countries as interest and funds are made available.

If you want to help with either the roofing or the education project, you may send your donations to the SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891. Please indicate which project you wish to help fund. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Missionary Society office at (401) 596-4326. *SR*



the BEACON

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

July-Aug. 1994

HOT NEWS

Schedule of youth activities for this year's Conference

Sunday President's Reception Gym Night	Thursday Youth Banquet Game Night (Movie Night if bad weather)
Monday Bowling in Salina (Games and shoes provided, refreshments extra)	Friday Praise, Testimony, Sharing Time (Coronado Heights possible trip)
Tuesday Concert by "Stained Glass"	Sabbath Sock Hop (50s, 60s & Christian Music. Dress appropriately)
Wednesday Basketball Game, Youth vs. Pastors (\$1.00 donation over the age of 5)	

If you've ever been to Conference, you know that the Youth Activities are the definite highlights of the week.

- We play different, fun, and exciting games at Gym Night, and it's fun to watch even if you don't feel like joining the action.
- Bowling is a must, and the annual "wave" makes the evening a blast.
- The annual (well, for the past two years) Youth vs. Pastors Basketball Game is a "can't miss" event, and hardly anyone does!

• The Youth Banquet is a spectacular evening where everyone "spiffs up" and looks their best.

In the past, the best part of Youth Activities was always the cost: so low, you could go even if you forgot your wallet!

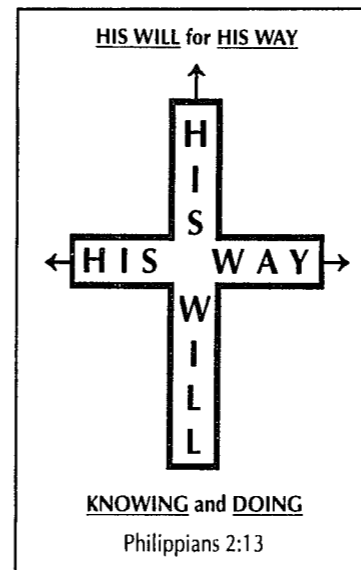
But times are changing. National YF is receiving less and less money each year. That makes the activities much harder to arrange, and the prices not so low.

If you're planning to go to Conference this year, please encourage your Youth Fellowship and church to support our National YF. You and your wallet will enjoy Conference even more!

Take the next step

Included in God's will for your life is the freedom to explore and pursue the desires of your heart

by Leon Lawton



(At Christmas time, Conference President Leon Lawton read the following article by Charles Stanley and felt that it fit perfectly with the 1994 Conference theme: "His Will for His Way." We present Dr. Stanley's article with his permission.)

"And when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them" (Acts 16:7).

One of the most common questions I am asked is, "How can I know God's will for my life?"

Many times there is a great deal of anxiety in the voice of the one asking. Understandably so. It is discouraging when we don't know what direction God wants us to take.

It is unfortunate that so many Christians are paralyzed by the question of God's will. Many feel that until they know absolutely,

beyond a shadow of a doubt, exactly what God wants them to do, they don't dare to make a move. But that is not the model we find in Scripture. In fact, just the opposite is true.

Paul is a good example. He knew God's general will for his life—that he should preach the Gospel. So he took off to do just that.

The implication of what happened in Acts 16 is that Paul did not always get specific direction from the Lord. And when he didn't, he simply did what he thought was best for him to do. Apparently, Paul heard that Bithynia needed the Gospel; so he headed out in that direction. But God had another plan for Paul and blocked the way.

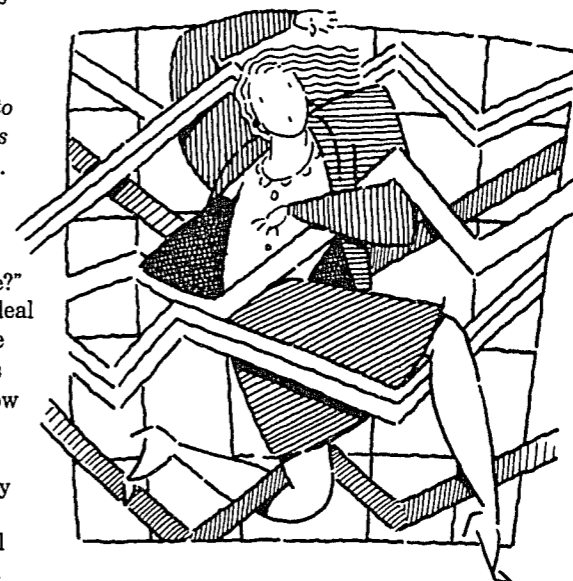
If you don't know God's specific will for your life, chances are it is because He has not revealed it to you. In the meantime you are free to begin moving in whatever direction you feel is appropriate. If you make a wrong choice, God will stop

you just as He stopped the apostle Paul.

God never intended for us to be paralyzed by His silence. There is enough general guidance in His Word to get us on our way. As long as we are unsure of the specifics in life, we are free to make what we consider the best decision to be—again, knowing that He can step in at any time and change our direction.

Has your search for the "perfect" will of God left you in a holding pattern? Maybe it's time to make a move. Don't be afraid to do what you feel is best. For within the plan that God has designed for each of us, He has included a measure of freedom as well. **SR**

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Has your search for the "perfect" will of God left you in a holding pattern? Maybe it's time to make a move.

Florida church strengthens neighborhood, school grades

The West Palm Beach (Fla.) Baptist-Seventh Day Church has been active in improving its community.

With the aid of a volunteer team of five individuals from the Missionary Board, led by Russell Johnson as Project Director, church members conducted a door-to-door survey to determine the needs and concerns of the community.

Before the team left, it cleaned up the property of a vacant house that was an eyesore to the neigh-

bors, demonstrating what team effort and caring can do to keep the neighborhood looking good.

Utilizing community involvement, we put on a holiday program in December dramatizing the birth of Christ.

In response to our survey, several individuals volunteered to assist us in our Tutoring Program, which helps students who are having academic problems.

We received requests from six students for assistance, and our

volunteer tutors went into their homes—one hour per week for eight weeks—and helped them with their school work. During that time, their parents attended a Parent Support Group at the church. They were instructed in effective parenting skills using the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting Skills (STEPS) guide.

All the students who participated saw a dramatic improvement in their grades. Parents were delighted to learn new behavior management techniques to relieve them of some of the frustrations they have in raising a child in this changing society. If it is requested, we will offer this service again when the new school year begins in September.

We contacted County Commissioner Carol Roberts who was happy to meet with her constituents. We then sponsored the formation of the Gramercy Park Neighborhood Association. Individuals from the neighborhood responded to our invitation to come out and meet their County Commissioner on April 8.

At that meeting, an Executive Steering Committee was selected. This committee, with the assistance of the West Palm Beach Baptist-Seventh Day Church, distributed fliers inviting the community to help organize the Association.

The number of individuals who turned out for the second meeting was double the number who came to the first. They were enthusiastic about starting.

The West Palm Beach Baptist-Seventh Day Church will continue to assist the new Association until it becomes incorporated. **SR**

(From the church's newsletter.)

Joint gathering a first

On a beautiful Sabbath day in May, the old favorite hymn, "Shall We Gather at the River," rang out from Wheeler Park beside the Tennessee River in north Alabama. Gathered by the river were members of the Paint Rock, Ala., and Tupelo, Miss., churches for their first joint meeting.

The service was one of praise with hymns, testimonies, scriptures, and much special music. Following the service, we found tables laden with delicious food to share, and much time for visiting and fellowship.

Cornerstone SDB Church, near Tupelo, is a branch of the Paint Rock church and has been meeting now for a year. The church recently relocated to 1412 Longview Road near Pontotoc—a few miles from its former meeting place.

A house has been provided by church members and is being renovated into a nice chapel with rooms for Sabbath School, a kitchen and dining area, and overnight accommodations for visiting pastors. We are happy to report new people in

attendance since moving to the new location.

The Tupelo and Paint Rock churches seek ways to continue to work together. Pastor John Bevis lives near the college where he teaches, which is about mid-point between the two churches. Thus he is able to give leadership to both. Cornerstone is fortunate to also have assistance from Pastor David and Bettie Pearson of the Memphis church.

Paint Rock has initiated a special missions offering each quarter. Last quarter, the offering was divided between the Tupelo church and the farm project in Jamaica. This quarter, the funds will go to the Tupelo church and the new work in Indonesia.

The Paint Rock church also has several new people in attendance. In recent months, the church was redecorated with new carpet, fresh paint, and pew cushions.

Anyone traveling in the area of these churches is invited to join us for worship. Paint Rock is near Huntsville, Ala., and Tupelo is in northwest Mississippi. **SR**

Dear SR and fellow SDBs,

First of all, I'd like to thank the SR for printing the letter from Pastor Leon Wheeler in the April '94 issue. Many denominations have magazines that would not dare print a letter from anyone that goes against the grain of the denominational statement of beliefs.

Secondly, I'd like to share my views.

Our lens to God is our Savior, Jesus Christ; Christ, the Word that in the beginning was with God, and became flesh to save us. It seems to me that the Bible itself, the written expression of our eternal God, should be used as the lens through which we can catch a glimpse of God, not the Bible as viewed through the distorted lens of the world, a world full of sin and corruption, a world that is going to pass away (Rev. 21:1).

Leon indicates that when Scripture opposes what he has come to know is true, Scripture is not right concerning that point. I believe the Scripture, being a written document inspired by God, is true at all points. However, it was written by the hands of men, and evidence of some corruption over the years is not deniable.

On the other hand, the God I serve is an Awesome God, and while certain minor details may have discrepancies, the God I serve is most certainly capable of insuring that the intent and principles of His written word are preserved for all generations.

A child has eyes to see, ears to hear, and a mind to reason. Yet unless that child receives guidance from an adult, often unwanted guidance that the child disagrees with, the child will never make it. Similarly, we are like children. What we see, what we hear, what we reason, has def-

inite limits because we are human. Only God is perfect, and the word He gave us is exactly what we need to guide our lives, whether we like it or not. Our own imperfect judgments will get us nowhere.

Basically, it comes down to foundations. Do we set our foundation on God, or do we set our foundation on our own experiences? This is a question we must think about.

I invite your feedback.

Michael A. Peters
5147 Hilltop Dr.
El Sobrante, CA 94803

Dear Editor Butler,

It seemed your quoting from the SDB Statement of Beliefs in response to Leon Wheeler's letter (April SR) was meant to argue with and discount his letter. I think this is an abuse of both editorial privilege and the SDB Statement of Beliefs.

If our letters section is to reflect free expression and conversation among SDBs, editorial comment should be used very sparingly, perhaps only to answer questions posed directly to the editor.

The Statement of Belief is a democratically chosen document. It was not written by consensus, requiring every SDB to agree for its adoption. It is not a creed that Pastor Leon, or any of us, have promised to agree with or sworn to uphold.

Kim McKay
Berlin, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Butler,

I read the May issue of the SR from cover to cover in one sitting. It was excellent. It gave me a feeling of peacefulness about the Sabbath, rather than one of guilt because I don't keep the Sabbath as some others may. People have different ways of keeping the Sabbath—some very restrictive, some not very restrictive at

all. But I think "rest" to one is not "rest" to another. Keeping the Sabbath is very important or it wouldn't be one of the Ten Commandments. However, it is ONE of the Ten Commandments and as Seventh Day Baptists we sometimes get hung up on the Sabbath and can scare others away with our "enthusiasm." We are Christians first and all of God's commands and Jesus' teachings are important. Thank you for a great issue... and Happy Sabbath!

Diane F. Cruzan
Bridgeton, N.J.

Dear Kevin:

The May SR "Pearls from the Past" quotes from the 1892 Roman Catholic pamphlet that contains editorials reprinted from the *Catholic Mirror*. Their editor chides Protestants for making much of Sunday sacredness, while at the same time claiming to accept only teachings from the Bible.

Some 20th century Catholic writers continue to agree that not the Bible, but the Roman Catholic Church, changed the Christian Holy Day from Saturday to Sunday. This is what John A. O'Brien, Ph.D., says in *Finding Christ's Church*. "This (Sunday observance) is a matter upon which our Protestant neighbors have for many years laid great emphasis; yet nowhere in the Bible is the Sunday designated as the Lord's day; the day mentioned is the Sabbath, the last day of the week. The early church, conscious of her authority to teach in the name of Christ, deliberately changed the day to Sunday."

But other Catholic leaders have abandoned their traditional view that it was the Catholic Church that changed the day. These Catholics now side with Sunday Protestants and claim that the New Testa-

cont. next page

ment church observed Sunday. The attempt to justify Sunday causes contradictions among Catholics as it does among Protestants. The tragic Sunday error weakens the Christian witness, and only God knows how many people are so appalled that they refuse to accept Christ because of doctrinal contradictions that are rooted in Sunday.

How fortunate we Seventh Day Baptists are in knowing that the One whom we worship is revealed in the Bible as being consistent from Genesis to Revelation. He blessed and set

apart for our benefit the Seventh Day, which Jesus kept perfectly. Through the Holy Spirit we, too, can follow Christ in keeping Saturday—the seventh day-holy.

Thelma Tarbox
Saunderstown, RI

To Kevin Butler, Editor:

My brain says, "There is no God." My heart says, "Yes, there is a God!" My mind argues, "If there were a God, He wouldn't take the form of a man by being born of a virgin, growing up for 30 years to

reach maturity, and then letting other men put Him to death on a cross." My heart replies, "He would and He did, in the person of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but also on the third day He rose from the grave, and one day soon He's coming back for me." My brain says, "There is no God." But that is all right because I have given my heart authority over my mind.

My heart says, "Yes, there is a God." And that is good because the Scripture says, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1 NIV).

John A. Conrod
Denver, CO

To the SR Editor and Staff:

We congratulate you on your fine work and faithfulness to God. At a time when so many other religious publications are being trimmed to bare bones or abandoned altogether, we especially appreciate the sacrificial ministries of so many who have made this 150th anniversary possible. We are grateful to you for your continuing service. Because of your dedication we look forward to many more years of *The Sabbath Recorder*, published to the glory of God!

Bernie & Jeanne Yurke
Plainfield, NJ

Dear Mr. Butler:

Congratulations on your colorful, interesting 150th anniversary issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*. The four-color cover invited me to read what was inside, and when I did, I wasn't disappointed. I read the whole issue in one sitting. I'll be keeping this issue, for it has so much valuable SDB history in it.

Since I would be 120 years old when your bicentennial issue appears, circumstances may prevent my commenting on it; hence this letter.

May the Lord be close to you and your staff.

Eugene Lincoln, president
Bible Sabbath Association

In memory of a true servant

by Bill Linton

John Thompson, minister of the Berean Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hendersonville, N.C., died on April 2, 1994, at the age of 79. (See obituary, page 26.)

Those of us who had the opportunity to get to know John, fellowship with him, and study the Scriptures with him, feel a great loss. I personally was privileged to know John for almost 10 years. My spiritual life was greatly enriched by his influence.

John became a Christian at an early age. He often spoke of the influence of his mother who, after the death of his father, had to raise her family with the help of God.

At about 20 years of age, he said the Lord told him to quit his office job. He knew that he had to, but had no idea of what he was to do next. A few days later, his brother, a successful businessman, said, "John, have you ever considered going to college?" He offered to send him to college with expenses paid, anywhere he wanted to go. John chose Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. At Asbury he also went to seminary where he studied for ministry in the Methodist church.

On several occasions, John told me of his experiences in meeting his wife. He once prayed, "Lord, who should I marry?" John said the Lord told him, "If you will leave that to me, I will take care of it." Some time later, John tells of encountering a young lady on the Asbury College campus. The still small voice of the Lord spoke up inside of him and said, "John, remember I told you I would let you know who you should marry? Here is the one." Within a year, John and Irene Whitney were married.

After graduation from Asbury Seminary, he ministered in a variety of Methodist churches. Later, he would go on to minister in



John S. Thompson
1914-1994

churches of different denominations. After some years, John and Irene both taught elementary school in Michigan. John continued in this career for about 15 years, until retirement in 1974.

Over his life, he became a master of the Scriptures. In college, he had been challenged by a teacher to learn the content of every chapter of the Bible. This became a life-long pursuit. You could ask him about the location of any Scripture, and he could call out chapter and verse, or he could find it in moments with his Bible.

Retirement was a time to which John greatly looked forward. He determined to make his profession the full-time study of the Bible. He continually held Bible studies in his home, and with others who were interested. No distance was too great to travel for Bible study.

About 1982, John encountered a woman who saw him carrying a Bible. She asked him if he was a Bible teacher. When he affirmed that he was, she invited him to come and speak to a small group connected with the Seventh Day

Baptists. The group was looking for a teacher, and John was invited to help on a more permanent basis.

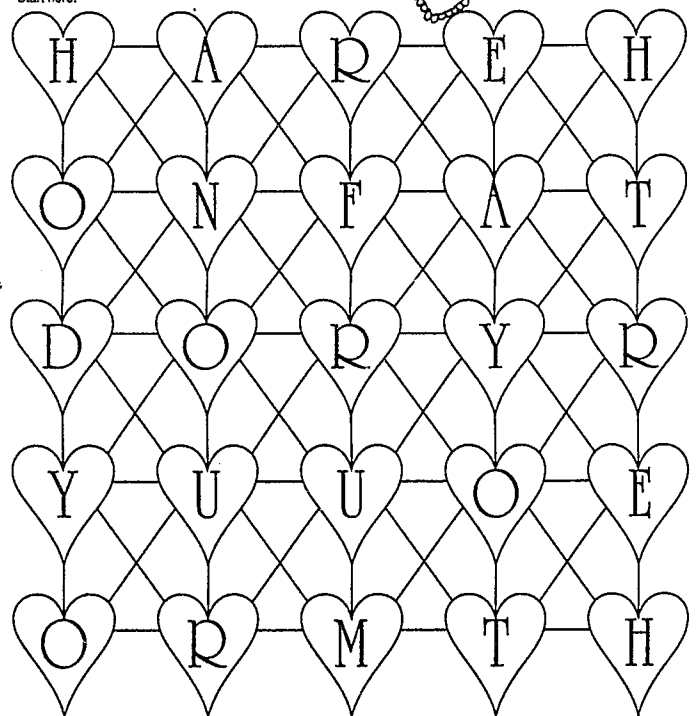
While John and Irene Thompson had been previously acquainted with the seventh day Sabbath, they had not determined that God wanted us to keep it today. After study, they began to keep the Sabbath. As they explored the doctrines and background of the Seventh Day Baptists, they became more and more interested. John told me of asking a Seventh Day Baptist minister once, "How are the Seventh Day Baptists different than other Baptists? Is it only in keeping Saturday?" The answer was, "No, the Seventh Day Baptists allow much more freedom."

Impressed by the freedom of thought allowed in doctrines and study, John and Irene determined to become Seventh Day Baptists. Later their "little group," as John frequently referred to it, became the Berean Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hendersonville. The term, "Berean," was attached to the church to emphasize the commitment to study. John constantly encouraged the group to study and "search the Scriptures daily whether these things were so," as the Bereans did in the book of Acts.

John Thompson, like Moses, must have been one of the world's meekest men. I have never known a person so willing to help or serve, and so willing to put himself in the background to cater to others' needs. I use the term "meek" to mean yielded to God and not self-willed. What others wanted or needed always took precedence in John's choices. He was truly a servant of his fellow man. Jesus said, "Let him that would be great become a servant." John modeled this virtue. May we all learn it, if we would also be great. *SL*

Hey, Kids! Follow the verse below in the puzzle, all the way to the end. You can move from one heart to any other heart that is connected by a line. Letters can be used more than once. Have fun!

Start here:



Honor your father and your mother.

Source: *Ten to Grow On: Teaching the Ten Commandments to Today's Child* by Sandra Klaus (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992). Available at your local bookstore or call 800-727-3480. Answer inside front cover.

December	\$785,904
November	\$720,412
October	\$654,920
September	\$589,428
August	\$523,936
July	\$458,444
June	\$392,952
MONTHLY GOAL	\$327,460
May	\$261,968
April	\$196,476
March	\$130,984
February	\$65,492
January	

1994 income needed—\$785,904.
Per month gift income needed—\$28,372.
Total needed each month—\$65,492

Accessions

Battle Creek, MI <i>James Galanaugh, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Donna DeMond Laura DeMond Kathy Carmichael Melanie Badger	Miami, FL <i>Andrew Samuels, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Paulette Sweeney Leroy Hart Gina Gant Eurickah Coote	Joined by letter Johnnie Charles
Bay Area, CA Sacramento Branch <i>Eric Davis, pastor</i> Joined by letter Ralph Carter	Joined after testimony Joyce Harley Lucy Griffiths Reneé Paul Luan Ross	Riverside, CA <i>Gabriel Bejjani, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Bill Clark Ana Clark Matthew Berg Leona Wheeler
Ft. Worth, TX (Grated) <i>Harley Harkins, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Daniel M. Jones Billie Jones	Pine Street, CT <i>William Bowyer, pastor</i> Joined after baptism Irene Butler	Westerly, RI <i>David Taylor, pastor</i> Joined after testimony Nadine Lawton Gary Chester

Births

Mills.—A son, Nathaniel Levi Mills, was born to Walter and Dina Mills of Westerly, RI, on November 11, 1993.

Graham.—A son, Kyle Scott Graham, was born to Scott and Alicia (Van Horn) Graham on December 22, 1993.

Warren.—A daughter, Jaye Shaw Warren, was born to the Rev. Richard and Connie (Hays) Warren on April 1, 1994.

Marriages

Hart - Johnson.—Leroy Hart and Veronica Johnson were united in marriage on March 19, 1994, at the Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church in Hollywood, FL. Pastor Andrew Samuels officiated.

Gayle - Roberts.—Clarence Gayle and Avis Roberts were united in marriage on April 10, 1994, at the New York City Seventh Day Baptist Church. Pastor Andrew Samuels officiated.

Conference Offering

Churches, we ask that you please do your part in supporting the Conference's many ministries. Local Conference offering totals (collected on August 6) may be phoned in to Lindsborg, Kan., at (913) 227-3311.

Thank you!

Obituaries

Moore.—Sylvester Moore, 91, died on December 2, 1993, at Chisago Lakes Hospital, Chisago City, Minn., after a brief illness. He was born on February 4, 1902, in Twin Inlets, Minn., the son of Henry and Alice (Gridley) Moore. He married Sarah Keacher on March 17, 1926, in Washington, D.C. She died on December 12, 1987.

Shortly after their marriage, Sylvester and Sarah moved to Stacy, Minn., where they owned and operated a dairy farm. In 1946, they moved to Harris, Minn., where they bought a peppermint farm. Sylvester distilled peppermint oil and sold it to Wrigley's for gum flavoring. Later, he worked at creameries in Harris, Rush City, and Greeley, Minn.

Sylvester and his wife joined the New Auburn, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist Church by confession of faith on December 20, 1947. They attended as regularly as distance would allow.

In 1958, they became charter members when the Minneapolis-St. Paul church was formed. However, in June of 1960, they rejoined the New Auburn church and shortly thereafter became a deacon and deaconess. Sylvester faithfully held that position until failing health and distance kept him from attending church as often as he would have liked. He loved the Lord, and enjoyed reading his Bible and speaking of biblical truths. In later years, Sylvester attended a local church in Harris.

Survivors include one son, Robert of Hoffman, Minn.; two daughters, Elaine Carlson of Harris and Linda Hunstad of Waterloo, Iowa; 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and a number of foster children. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah, and an infant daughter, Sylvia.

Funeral services were held on December 7, 1993, at the Mission Covenant Church in Harris. Pastor Dale Smalley of the New Auburn SDB Church officiated at the graveside service. Burial was in Stacy, Minn.

Kenyon.—Walter A. Kenyon, 96, of Sandstone, Minn., died on March 1, 1994, at the Sandstone Nursing Home. He was the husband of Dessie Kenyon, who died in 1984.

He was born in Alfred, N.Y., the son of Walter D. and Evangeline Kenyon. He was a biology professor at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., for 37 years before retiring in 1962. He joined Hamline in 1924 as an assistant professor of biology. In 1927, he was named the department chair, a position he held until his retirement.

Walter received a bachelor's degree from Milton (Wis.) College, and a master's and doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He did further graduate work at the Puget Sound Biological Station in Washington. He also taught agriculture, mathematics, biology, and zoology, and was an investigator for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Interested in poetry and art, Walter had taken classes in those subjects for the last 30 years. Some of his poetry has been published, and his paintings have been exhibited in galleries and shows.

Survivors include one daughter, Martha Jean Oldfield of Sequim, Wash.; one son, William Davis Kenyon of Willow River, Minn.; one brother, Reginald, of Ashaway, R.I.; one sister, Ruth Tate of White Plains, N.Y.; and five grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Dessie, he was predeceased by five brothers, George, Lawrence, Simon, Kenneth, and Arling; and by one

sister, Hazel Greene.

Private burial services were held in St. Paul.

Baldrige.—Kathryn Thorngate Baldrige, 91, died on March 16, 1994, at her home in Albuquerque, N.M.

She was born in North Loup, Neb., on October 5, 1902, the fifth child of the Rev. Charles W. Thorngate and Ethel (Babcock) Thorngate.

Survivors include two daughters, Mary B. Henderson (who cared for her mother the past 14 years) and Peggy B. Meeker, both of Albuquerque; one son, Jack W. Baldrige of Minot, N.D.; and five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held in Minot and in Minneapolis, Minn. Her death was also announced by Pastor Charles Swing during a meeting of the Albuquerque Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship.

Hurley.—Robert Emil Hurley, 88, of Yucaipa, Calif., died on March 18, 1994, in Long Beach, Calif.

He was born on April 23, 1905, in Kansas, and lived in Yucaipa for 23 years. He also lived in Redlands, Calif., for 30 years.

Robert was a printer for 30 years, and was the founder and owner of Beacon Printery in Redlands. He was a member of the Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Carrie; one son, James R. of Long Beach; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held on March 23, 1994, at Emmerson-Bartlett Memorial Chapel in Yucaipa, with the Rev. Leland Davis officiating. Private interment was held at Hillside Memorial Park, Redlands.

cont. next page

Davis.—Jennings Bond Davis, 81, of Salem, W.Va., died on March 31, 1994, at his residence following an extended illness.

He was born on August 21, 1912, in Berea, Ritchie County, W.Va., the son of Festus Kelley and Emma (Bond) Kelley. After his mother died at the time of his birth, he was adopted by Dr. Edward Davis and Goldie (Bond) Davis of Salem. On June 17, 1936, he married Dorothy Upton Davis.

Bond graduated from Salem College in 1934 and earned a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1951. He taught Distributive Education in Harrison County for 35 years.

He was a member of the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church, Salem Lodge 84, AF&AM, the Salem Lions Club, and the Lake Floyd Golf Club. Bond was also a veteran of World War II.

In addition to his wife, Dorothy, survivors include one son, Edward, of Allentown Pa.; one sister, Harriet (Kelley) Rodgers of Atlanta, Ga.; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Dale D. Thorngate on April 4, 1994, at the Harbert Funeral Chapel in Salem.

Thompson.—John Sampson Thompson, 79, of Landrum, S.C., died on April 2, 1994, at his home.

A native of Missouri, he was the son of Oscar Francis Thompson and Laura Ann (Noblet) Thompson. He lived most of his life in Indiana and Michigan, and was a retired minister and teacher.

John received his degrees from Asbury College and Seminary, and served as pastor of churches in Indiana and Michigan. He also taught elementary school in Michigan. At the time of his death, he was pastor of the Berean Seventh Day Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C.

In addition to his wife, Irene Elida Thompson, survivors include one brother, Carl, of North Vernon, Ind.; two sisters, Ruth Plummer and Mary Gillen, both of Indianapolis, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on April 5, 1994, in the chapel of the Petty Funeral Home in Landrum, with the Rev. Bill Linton officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hendersonville.

Schmid.—Elisabeth F. Schmid, 95, died on April 5, 1994, at the Fritz Reuter Altenheim in North Bergen, N.J.

She was born Elisabeth Furst on May 26, 1898, in Germany. In 1922, she was married to John Schmid, and they moved from Germany to the United States in 1927. Together, they served the Lord, first with Seventh-day Adventists, and then with Seventh Day Baptists after helping to organize the German SDB Church in Irvington, N.J., in 1933.

Elisabeth played a leading role in keeping a steady stream of care packages going to Germany following World War II. God's gift of hospitality was beautifully demonstrated through her, and many still recall the wonderful meals she so lovingly prepared for them. Summer vacations were timed to coincide with SDB General Conference sessions, and she delighted in traveling all over the U.S. to fellowship with church friends, old and new.

Outliving both her husband and her daughter (Hildegard Unland) brought sadness, yet it did not end her acts of Christian charity. She remained a faithful deaconess, first with the Irvington congregation, and later with the Raritan Valley SDB Church in Bridgewater, N.J. Even after moving to a retirement home, she took great joy in providing a welcoming place for visitors. Her warmth and genuine caring endeared her to all who knew her.

Survivors include one grandson,

Mark Unland; her former son-in-law, Gerhard Unland; and a close family friend, Rudolph Schober.

A funeral service was held on April 8, 1994, in the Gethsemane Chapel of the Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery in Union, N.J., with Pastor Jeanne Yurke officiating. A committal service was then held at the nearby grave.

Martin.—Charlotte Marie (Stillman) Martin, 73, of Athens, Mich., and formerly of Battle Creek, Mich., died on April 5, 1994, in the Battle Creek Health System/Community Site.

She was born on September 1, 1920, in Battle Creek, the daughter of George W. and Ruby E. (Babcock) Stillman. She was raised in Battle Creek and attended Lakeview Schools. On August 21, 1936, she married Ervin L. Martin. He died on February 24, 1973.

Charlotte worked 15 years for Bill Knapp's Commissary prior to retiring in 1988. She was a lifelong member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church and a very active member of the Ladies Aid Society. She enjoyed crafts, needlepoint, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Survivors include two sons, Robert J. and Raymond E., both of Climax, Mich.; two daughters, Shirley M. Bradstreet of Sears, Mich., and Sharon E. Keck of Battle Creek; one sister, Marguerite Stevens of Athens; one half-sister, Carol Fisher of Fort Wayne, Ind.; two half-brothers, George Stillman of Fort Wayne and Richard Stillman of Columbia City, Ind.; 23 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Ervin, she was preceded in death by one son, Marvin L., and a half-sister, Alice Byerley.

Services were held on April 8, 1994, at the Farley-Estes Funeral Home, with the Rev. James E. Galanaugh officiating. Burial was in Burr Oak Cemetery, Athens.

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

As often happens when I need more biblical information on a specific topic, I found myself scouring the pages of my *Thompson Chain-Reference Bible* index.

The topic of my search?: "Builders of God's Kingdom." The result of my search? Not one entry (with that kind of label).

I soon realized that true "Builders of God's Kingdom" were not ones to go around saying, "Hey, look at me! I'm a Kingdom Builder!"

So I looked up the term, "builder." The chain-reference only noted "builders, worldly."

Some biblical builders came to mind, like Nehemiah. Then my eyes "happened" to land on a familiar word (for familial reasons): "butlers."

Since my search for Kingdom builders was running dry, I took the detour for fun and looked up "butlers." (I didn't realize that "we" were in the Good Book.)

When I located the entry in the main index, I soon discovered that it was talking about cupbearers. All the references were in the Old Testament, with the last one found in—of all places—Nehemiah.

"Oh, yeah," I remembered, "Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king before he was a builder."

Hmm... He was a servant before he became a building leader.

As one who is quite un-handly with tools (power or otherwise), I greatly admire those who can build.

When I reflect on all the worthy projects our Senior Saints have been involved with, I can't remember any of them saying, "Hey, look at me! I'm a Kingdom Builder!"

They might say, "You can look at what we *did*—but look at *Who* it all points to!"

We need to be servants before we can build.

If we start lifting up ourselves and our churches instead of the One who truly builds the Kingdom, we will sadly disappoint everyone involved.

Karl Barth, writing in *Dogmatics in Outline*, said, "Where the life of the Church is exhausted in self-serving, it smacks of death; the decisive thing has been forgotten, that this whole life is lived only in the exercise of the Church's service as ambassador..."

"Where the Church is living, it must ask itself whether it is serving this commission or whether it is a purpose in itself. If the second is the case, then as a rule it begins to smack of the 'sacred,' to affect piety, to play the priest and to mumble. Anyone with a keen nose will smell it and find it dreadful!

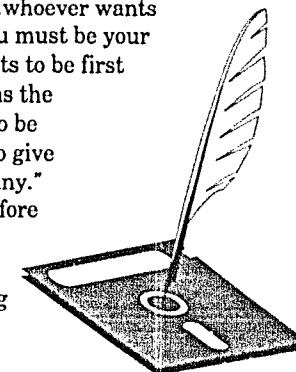
"Christianity is not 'sacred'; rather there breathes in it the fresh air of the Spirit. Otherwise it is not Christianity. For it is an out-and-out 'worldly' thing open to all humanity: 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.'"

Do we storm out "into all the world" as instant builders and leaders? No. We learn to lead others by serving.

We find the greatest model from Jesus' words in Matthew 20:26-28— "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

I had to be a "butler" before becoming editor. And I'm still learning how to serve.

May He build something good out of me.



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TOMMY G. THOMPSON

Governor
State of Wisconsin

June 1, 1994

GREETINGS:

On behalf of the people of the State of Wisconsin, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to all involved with The Sabbath Recorder magazine.

One of the oldest continuous religious publications in America, the Recorder has served Seventh Day Baptists for 150 years. As you celebrate this milestone and reflect on the lives you have touched over the years, please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tommy G. Thompson".

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

TGT/td