

The

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News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

June 1995

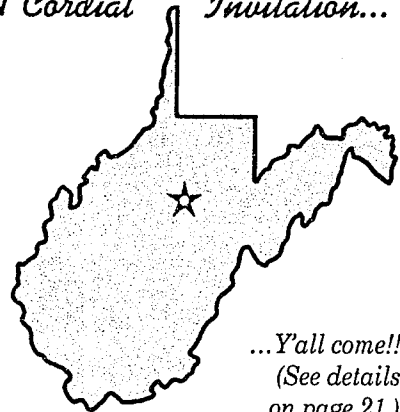
R

ecorder



*What The Sabbath
Recorder Means to Me*

A Cordial Invitation...



...Y'all come!!
(See details on page 21.)

Conference Update
West Virginia Wesleyan College
August 6-12, 1995

Still interested in joining other SDBs as we invade Buckhannon, W.Va., for General Conference meetings in August?

Contact us now for registration info, or dig up your May SR for the forms. And don't forget to take \$10 off your total for each person—yes, even the little ones under 3!

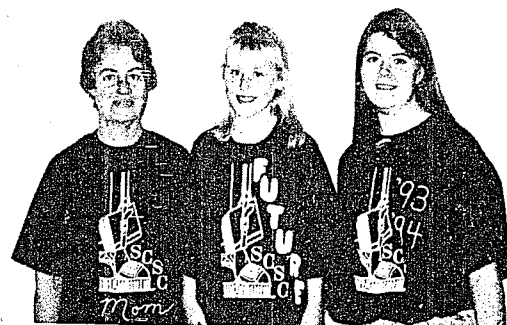
Deadline for pre-registration is July 15. Any questions, call Larry or Jan Graffius at (304) 745-4481.

Personalize your support for SCSC!

Are you looking for a special way to demonstrate your support for the Summer Christian Service Corps? The SCSC Committee now offers personalized black T-shirts with white lettering and logo, made to your order! Each shirt displays the SCSC logo and letters. Jan Bond, a shirt design specialist, will then add the additional message of your choice.

If you are an SCSC "veteran," you may want to add the years of service to your shirt; a parent of a worker may like to show support with a "Mom" or "Dad" message; or a younger sibling or friend may wish to announce "future" plans for SCSC. (See picture.)

If you don't wear T-shirts yourself, consider buying them for your grandchildren. Or consider making a donation of any amount for the Summer Christian Service Corps. The Committee has assigned 21 workers to eight projects for 1995—double the number of some of our more recent years. At an approximate



(L. to r.) Jeanne Dickinson, SCSC "Mom"; Jennifer Layton, "Future SCSC worker"; and Lora Dickinson, SCSC "Veteran."

cost of \$1,000 per worker, we need to sell a lot of T-shirts and receive other contributions to support the future of our denomination and God's children who are touched by His SCSC workers.

SCSC T-Shirt Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

Church _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please customize my T-shirt to read: SCSC...

- Mom Dad Alumnus/alumna 19 _____
- Project Director Supporter Grandparent
- Other _____

Please send orders for your shirts, along with \$10 plus \$3 for postage, to:

Marie Davis, Treasurer
SDB Women's Society
38 Cook Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Don't forget to specify size (L, XL, 2X) and your message (if any)!

The Sabbath Recorder



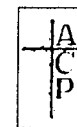
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Who are Seventh Day Baptists?

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

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

The seventh day

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

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

Our "kitchen table"

by Christian R. Mattison

Strong families live, talk, and share together. Many a strong family unconsciously centers its life around the kitchen table. Meals and lives are shared there.

The table is a level surface where all hands have equal space. When we quarrel, it becomes the fence that keeps us at a safe distance from one another, yet still allows for healthy exchange.

It holds the vase of flowers we receive in loving joy and mourning. The aromas and sounds of family life hover over its surface.

Where else do so many discussions take place? Where else do we sit around and dream, share a cup of coffee, or reminisce over ice cream? We settle family disputes, forge solutions, play our games, and deal with one another, eye-to-eye.

It's at the kitchen table where so much of our real living takes place. It is the "desk for family business."

A visitor can learn much about what a family is really like by joining them at their table. It soon becomes clear who the family authority is.

One learns much about the level of respect each family member has

for the others. You can quickly separate the "Marys" from the "Marthas" during your observations. You get a grasp of the level of love and commitment held by the family members. And you quickly learn whether visitors are welcome or merely tolerated in the home.

The table is where the family learns about itself. Many stories of the past generations are shared there. And isn't it often at the table where the future course of direction is hammered out?

When I think about *The Sabbath Recorder*, the kitchen table comes to mind. We laugh and cry together within its pages. We remember and honor our dead there, welcome our newborns, and rejoice over each adoption into the family.

The regular departments, like "Pearls from the Past," bless us with a glimpse of our heritage. The "President's Page" helps us to see ourselves and focus on the future, while the "Beacon" and "Women's Society," etc. keep us in touch with the present. We get well-rounded input from the feature articles.

The Sabbath Recorder provides a level surface where we all have

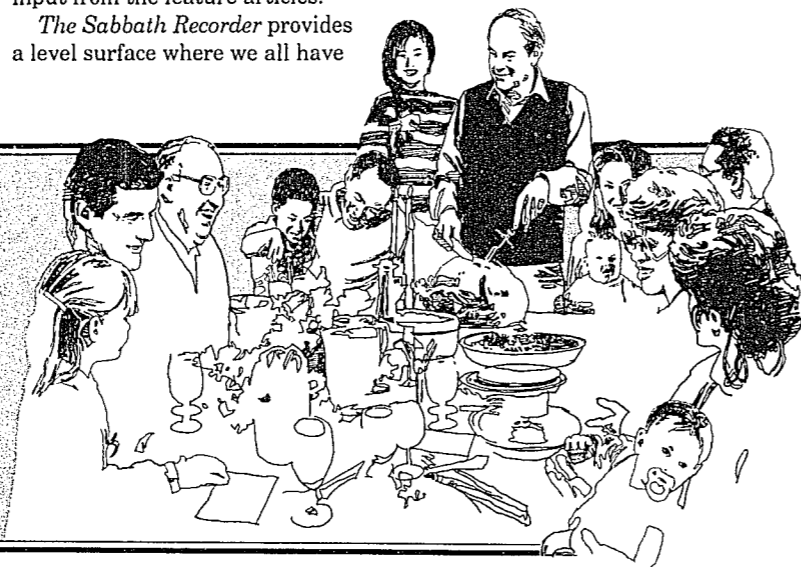
equal access. Sometimes we engage in impassioned, even explosive, family quarrels within its pages. And then there are the times the sharing waxes in tenderness and eloquence.

All are welcome to dine at this table and feast within its pages, and those who are unacquainted with SDBs get a pretty candid view within a few issues.

The *SR* serves as a vital vehicle of denominational life. It brings us together from across an entire continent to live together—to ponder our past, share our present, and to plan for the future.

As we sit at this table, we also get a feel for who we are as a people, devoted to our God. What a blessing we have been given with our kitchen table, "*The Sabbath Recorder*." ✠

Chris Mattison pastors both the Bell and German SDB Churches of Salemville, Pa.



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The main course on their reading diet

by Elmo Fitz Randolph

Reflecting on 150-plus years of *The Sabbath Recorder*, it is surprising to realize that this Seventh Day Baptist magazine has offered our family a "main course" in our "reading diet" for more than half a century. No other periodical to which we have subscribed—and the list is long—comes close to spanning the time period that *The Sabbath Recorder* has visited our home.

Oddly, perhaps, our Seventh Day Baptist organ is the only magazine we typically read from the back page first. We do this because "Kevin's Korner" editorializes interestingly on the theme of the issue.

From there, our reading appetite is whetted for moving through the articles and departmental offerings in that month's copy. (It is not unusual for us to peruse *The Sabbath Recorder* from cover to cover, sometimes at one sitting.)

The subtitle for the *Recorder*—"News for and about Seventh Day Baptists"—casts light on why this magazine means so much to us. We receive it as "a letter from home."

Obituaries, marriages, births, and accessions often bring word of church-family friends whom we have known and loved from past years and far away places.

How refreshing it is to be kept up-to-date on Seventh Day Baptist denominational "happenings" via the department offerings. It bonds us to the life and work of "our people." We learn regularly of missions, Christian education, women's work, youth activities, and more.

As we grow older, Don Sanford's "Pearls from the Past" thrill us as they stimulate our memories. Some

time ago, Don wrote a biographical sketch of Rev. Experience Fitz Randolph Burdick. She was my aunt, and I was pleased to learn much about her I had not known.

It is meaningful to me that the editors and many writers for *The Sabbath Recorder* have been my friends through the years. The content of our denominational magazine offers credibility and warmth because the personalities of the editors and writers are known and loved by us who read.

Our magazine takes on special meaning for me as the *Sabbath Recorder*. Month after month, issue by issue, this periodical comes as a reminder of our Sabbath truth and conviction. Sometimes this Sabbath emphasis is clear and direct. Other times, we sense it by implication. Always it is real.

I am glad for this opportunity to testify to the meaning and influence of *The Sabbath Recorder* in my life and ministry as a Seventh Day Baptist. How incomparable is our debt to the many, past and present, whose dedicated efforts bring us our "letter from home." ✠



Elmo Fitz Randolph, a retired SDB pastor, lives with his wife, Madeline, in Boulder, Colo.

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Systematically digested cover-to-cover

by Lannette Calhoun

The Sabbath Recorder is... therefore I read it!

Many have laughed and not taken me seriously when I've stated that I read the *SR* cover-to-cover. The truth is, I really do. I always have, and most likely always will.

My reasons may vary from month to month, depending on the topics covered, guest writers, etc. But my main purpose is to keep informed of what's happening—and what has happened!

I have my favorite pages like anyone else, yet I don't allow myself to flip to those first. I start at the cover and somewhat digest the theme. Then I turn to the inside and look over a few ads and upcoming events. A glance at the table of contents helps me continue my journey through the offerings that await me.

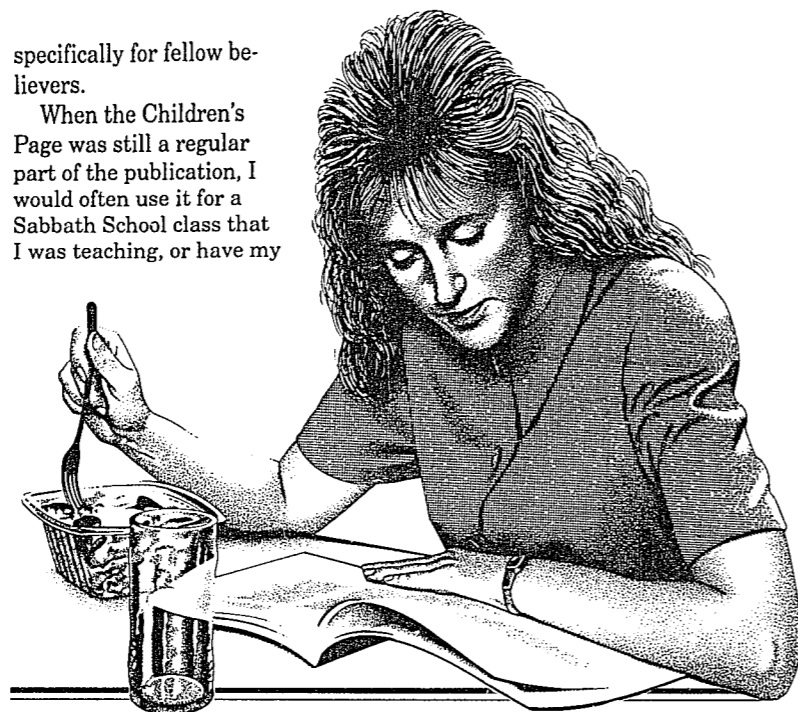
Even the accessions and obituaries page carries a systematic approach for me. I count each item and feel relieved when we have more accessions than obituaries! (Please tell me I'm not the only one who does that!)

I read the births and marriage columns with mixed emotion as I recognize names of former piano students, baby-sitters, and even ones that I babysat for! I love to read the "Almanac" column and reminisce about an event that I was at, or a name that I recognize. The interesting part is that George and I are starting to fit into the "10 years ago" column more often than not. Soon it will be 20, then 25...

It's fun to keep abreast on the activities of our churches and missions. I especially enjoy the writings from churches where we have served. Learning the needs of others through the missions page gives me wonderful opportunities to pray

specifically for fellow believers.

When the Children's Page was still a regular part of the publication, I would often use it for a Sabbath School class that I was teaching, or have my



I start at the cover and somewhat digest the theme. A glance at the table of contents helps me continue my journey through the offerings that await me.

own children enjoy it. I would tack the *Beacon* onto a bulletin board somewhere in the church, or pass it around at YF, just in case someone else wasn't the avid *SR* reader that I am.

I love history, and enjoy Pastor Don's page thoroughly. It's amazing what we can learn as "history repeats itself."

Last, but certainly not least, I can conclude my reading adventure with a stirring comment from "Rev. Kev." He always seems to know just how to sum everything up, bring it all back home, and challenge me to make a difference in

my little corner of the world—all in the same page.

A big "thank you" to the *SR* staff for providing timely reading material for me and many others. Have you passed your copy on to a friend lately? Better yet, make a donation and get them their own copy.

I think I'll change my opening statement by saying that *The Sabbath Recorder* is wonderful; therefore, I read it *all!* **SR**

Lannette Calhoun is a pastor's wife, public school music teacher, and gifted church musician in Milton, Wis.

Giving light and food for thought

by Cormeth G. Lawrence

The Sabbath Recorder is not just a magazine.

Most magazines get thrown out or stacked after they have been read. *The Sabbath Recorder* is a wholesome informational resource.

Yes, it serves as a link between fellow Seventh Day Baptists in the United States, Canada, and around the world where there are other SDB believers. But its pages also contain articles that motivate, provoke, and inspire its readers. It focuses on Christian values that, in practice, teach believers to live their lives the way God wants them to live.

To me, *The Sabbath Recorder* provides articles that stimulate Christian growth.

When we lived at our previous house, we had some of the most beautiful houseplants. Friends and family members would always remark about how healthy our

plants were. But after moving to our current home, we lost all our plants within just a few months. We discovered that the plants died because they were not getting enough sun due to their new location.

In the same way that plants are expected to grow—provided they

The Sabbath Recorder provides articles that stimulate Christian growth.

have adequate plant food, water, and sunlight—Christians are responsible for their spiritual growth. Having called us from darkness into His truth, the Lord desires us to grow as we yield to His divine

will. If He provides opportunities, it is our responsibility to seek them out.

I have enjoyed reading the recent *SRs*. I would not miss the Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger for anything, not to mention the editor's page. Kevin's sense of humor seems to beam through every time.

I am especially thankful for the February issue on prayer. The article entitled, "Lord, teach us how to pray," was very inspiring; a real eye-opener. Praise the Lord!

May the Lord help us to continue growing in His grace, and in the knowledge of His Word. *The Sabbath Recorder* aids us in this growth. **SR**

Cormeth Lawrence is associate pastor of Hope SDB Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

An enjoyable habit

by Ruth Ellyn Burdick

I confess that I am one of those SDBs who, after looking at the first three pages of *The Sabbath Recorder* to discover the contents, rushes to the back for "people news" under births, marriages, etc. I gain much satisfaction from reading personal accounts of what is happening in the lives of our church family.

It is also fun to see the pictures of church projects, celebrations, outreach activities, and conferences, which help me share in these events.

However nice all that is, the *SR* themes stimulate my mind and make me pause to consider issues and whether I am in agreement with the authors. I especially enjoy articles written by our fellow SDBs. They help us to identify with one

another and sometimes challenge us to see a different point of view.

Our participation in keeping the *SR* a vital part of communication

articles, and I think Don Sanford does a nice job in writing them.

In all my years, I have always lived in a home that has received

Our participation in keeping the SR a vital part of communication within our fellowship is important to us as a denominational family.

within our fellowship is important to us as a denominational family.

One of my great interests is history. We have such a rich heritage in both our recent past and our early days in this country. I appreciate the "Pearls from the Past" ar-

The Sabbath Recorder regularly. It has become an enjoyable habit to read its pages. **SR**

Ruth Burdick is a pastor's wife and busy mom in North Loup, Neb.

My treasure chest

by Thelma Tarbox

It was about 1953 when my grandparents gave me a gift subscription to *The Sabbath Recorder*. Each issue was eagerly received and read from cover-to-cover.

Thus began my nurturing in what it means to be in Christ's Seventh Day Baptist family—the uniqueness of being free to disagree; the challenge to investigate the beliefs of others.

Because I live almost an hour from a Seventh Day Baptist church, I have not always been able to attend services. When I did attend regularly, I was unable to fully participate in church functions as I would have liked.

This may have become a blessing, because my unfilled need for fellowship led me to pay more attention to the events and people featured in *The Sabbath Recorder*. My feeling of "aloneness" melted in the warmth of kinship with these wonderful Spirit-filled Seventh Day Baptists.

I have closely followed stories of new members who, after much searching, have discovered us. These "seekers and finders" undergird my conviction that ours is a doctrine that can be found through personal Bible study, rather than having to be taught person-to-person.

Maybe I went overboard when at our Ashaway, R.I., church I greeted Field Worker Ron Elston with, "You are my hero!" But doesn't it require heroic character to break from the Sunday tradition, to risk the ire of family and fellow Christians, to accept the difficulties inherent in an unpopular faith?

The Sabbath Recorder also makes me a world citizen. What would I know or care about South Africa, or Malawi, or Indonesia, or any faraway place, if it weren't for the fact that Seventh Day Baptists the world over are "family"? Anything that concerns my family, interests me.

The years have brought sad farewells to pastors who left to serve other churches. How good to find in *The Sabbath Recorder* updates on these pastors and their fami-

lies who have meant so much to me.

A kind of "full circle" happened with our present pastor. Over 20 years ago, he was one of four Summer Christian Service Corps workers who conducted VBS at my Second Hopkinton church.

He elected to stay beyond the scheduled week to continue visitation. We all liked him and hoped that he would enter the pastoral ministry.

It was through *The Sabbath Recorder* that I learned this hope was realized. I always felt elated to find him mentioned in the magazine.

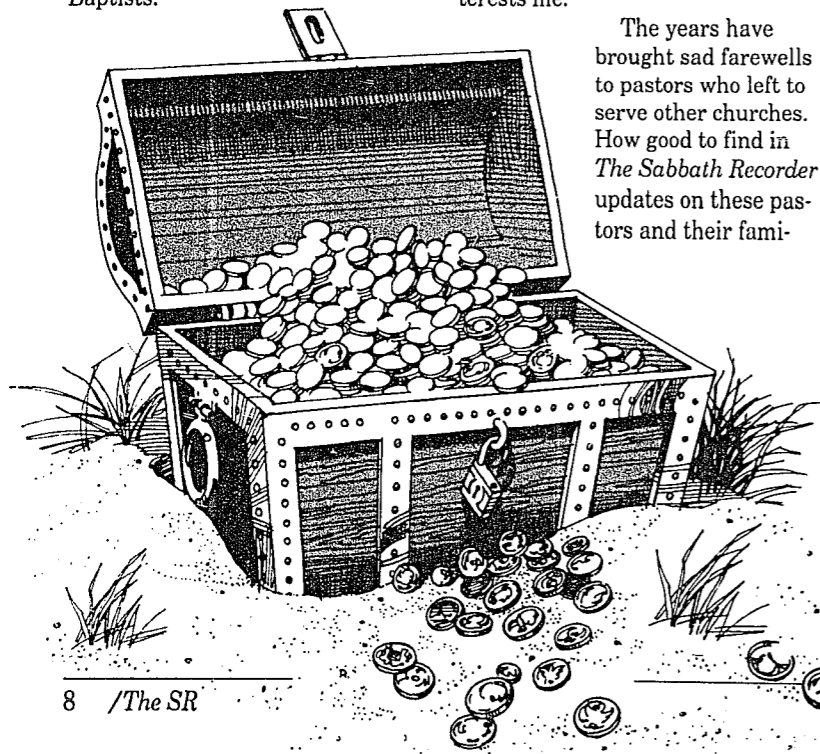
When the Rev. Harold King volunteered to pastor our Ashaway church, he came to us not as a stranger. But thanks to his youthful enthusiasm and the faithful reporting of *The Sabbath Recorder*, he came to us as a long-time dear friend.

While a teenager, I was impressed by Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People." I daydreamed of becoming somebody—a famous author and deliciously rich. And then I *did* become somebody—a child of *The King*.

Although my dream of earthly fame and fortune is a burst bubble, now and then a *Sabbath Recorder* editor has printed something that I have written. As gratifying as it is to share one's thoughts in print, the friendship of a busy editor is a lovely plus.

The Sabbath Recorder gives me an ever-growing family, it enlarges my vision, and it makes me deliciously rich. *SR*

Thelma Tarbox is a faithful member of the First Hopkinton SDB Church in Ashaway, R.I.



Like a letter from home

by Glen Warner

The Verona, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church made a strong impression on me as I was growing up. Our family attended every Sabbath, and it formed the center of gravity for my life. Our friends and relatives were always there, too, and we often heard about other SDB churches and denominational programs.

When we were old enough, we young folks would attend General Conference. There we saw a much bigger congregation, lots of other young Seventh Day Baptists, different music, and the "big names." These were hopeful experiences as we thought about our own lives and destinies.

I still remember those thrilling times when we saw that our church was a part of something bigger.

Through those years, a slim magazine would arrive in the mail. It was *The Sabbath Recorder*. We always scanned it for news about the denomination and its relationship to the rest of the world.

The *Recorder* was the main source of information about the programs and leaders of our national organization. It was especially newsworthy when we learned of pastors moving to other churches.

It was a great day for me when the Rev. Leon Maltby, then editor of the *Recorder*, asked me to write an article. It was the first time anything I had written was actually published.

I could hardly believe that something I wrote was printed in the same magazine that my heroes' sermons were in! I still have it, 40 years later. (Attending Pre-Con about that time, I met one Hannah Burdick from Alfred, N.Y., who gave me a copy of *The Elements of Style, A Handbook for Writers*.)

So the *Recorder* has been a kind of tether for me—a connection to

the core values of life articulated by the church we all loved and believed in. It has been a continuing influence for me, more of a letter from home than anything else.

As the years have passed by, I have seen a bit of our history being made, and we are very much a part of the Family of God.

It is especially interesting that in a time when many denominations are in decline and our society is more and more fragmented, *The Sabbath Recorder* still sends out news about our churches and programs. This is a good thing, because in some church situations, denominational knowledge and loyalty are not emphasized.

What's it worth?

by Ethel D. Dickinson

Yes, I'm happy to find *The Sabbath Recorder* in my mailbox each month. It's like a letter from back home. But it's more than that.

The Sabbath Recorder, with its attractive, colorful cover and challenging theme, is great to put on my coffee table for visitors to see and possibly pick up. It's an easy way to tell people I'm a Seventh Day Baptist. But it's more than that.

A magazine that comes to me without charge, *The Sabbath Recorder* is free—unless, of course, I choose to make a contribution. But it's more than that.

What is it that makes *The Sabbath Recorder* valuable to me? It is a recurring reminder of who I am and what I profess to believe—a Seventh Day Baptist whose life is committed to God in Christ. In each issue, there is news of Seventh Day Baptist work. There are thought-provoking articles on a variety of subjects to help me clarify my be-

We desperately need a "constant" written account of who we are becoming. Dr. Ken Smith once described Seventh Day Baptists as a "people who really need to be together." The *Recorder* seems to be the principle way this can be done.

I have read it for many years—sometimes with exasperation—but I always read it. The family news of our denomination is great. It is an anchor in the swirling patterns of modern life. *SR*

Glen Warner is an executive with Molded Fiberglass Co. in Ashtabula, Ohio.

liefs and stimulate better discipleship.

As a "lone Sabbathkeeper" now, I find that *The Sabbath Recorder* becomes more valuable. I read each issue from cover-to-cover (but, hey—you at the Center—not just to find typos!). And yes, I do read the obituaries where more and more of my contemporaries are listed, but those pages are not the ones I turn to first.

What I want to know is how our churches are doing, what's going on in evangelism and Christian education, what's happening on the mission fields, how our heritage is being preserved, what's coming up at General Conference this year, etc., etc.

The Sabbath Recorder means a lot to me. I hope it keeps coming. *SR*

Ethel Dickinson is a former pastor's wife and SDB Conference secretary, now living in Fort Mill, S.C.

The tie that binds

by Jean Jorgensen

I reached into our narrow post office box and pulled out a handful of junk mail, a couple bills, not too exciting. But there in the middle was a letter from my college roommate, and wrapped around it all was *The Sabbath Recorder*. My face must have lit up because a woman smiled at me with a look of, "You're excited with your mail."

Yes, I am. Here is a letter from a dear friend, and this magazine is like a personal letter from my church family.

A quick glance through the pages catches my interest with at least one article, the obituaries, and other "quickie" informational reports. I don't readily sit down and read the *SR* until later. It rests on our coffee table until eventually read. (I have a whole month, right?)

It has been interesting to recognize how God has prepared my heart and circumstances for me to pick up the *SR* and read an article at precisely the right moment.

Sitting here now, pondering why *The Sabbath Recorder* is special for me, I think of the past, the present, and even the future, and the bonding that pulls it all together.

As a small child, I looked forward to the arrival of each *SR*. The place to turn to was the "Children's Page," where Mizpah Greene answered letters from children my age. I even wrote to her and was excited to see my letter in print.

For a time, the front cover featured photos of SDB churches. I cut these out and made a scrapbook of them. I also "scrapbooked" photos of pastors who were featured. I felt a sense of belonging to a wonderful

family, even back then.

As a teenager, I even co-authored a report from "Rocky Mountain Camp." It was fun to see it in the *SR*.

After marriage and our move away from the physical church family, I began "Lone Sabbathkeeping." The *SR* became an important tool reminding me of my Sabbath and Christian convictions, and the bonding with other Seventh Day Baptists across the country.

While attending Sunday-keeping churches, we were often pressured to become members. Because of Christian fellowship, I would be nearly ready to give in and join. Then the *SR* would arrive, and all the Sabbath convictions I had made earlier in my life flooded in, and I just couldn't do it.

For several years, I worked with the SDB Women's Board as a Lone Sabbathkeeper coordinator. We spent a good deal of money with monthly mailings to keep in touch with Lone Sabbathkeepers—a very vital mission. Now the *SR*, being sent to everyone free of charge, enables so much more than we could imagine back then.

Working in a public school setting, it becomes distressing to hear the attitudes and see the lifestyles of young people. Then an article in the *Beacon* reminds me that God is moving in our young people, and there is hope for the future. I would enjoy reading more about how our SDB young people cope with the pressures, and maybe see the return of a "Mizpah Greene."

All my life, I've known that my "ever-so-many great" grandparents

were SDBs. It is fun to envision these people who had the *SR* in their homes and undoubtedly read and talked about the features; some were even quoted or mentioned therein.

This became more real to me when I worked at the SDB Center and had access to the historical records and old *SR* issues. There they were—all the "greats" and "grands"—and here I am, in this long line of reading and appreciating the *SR*.

As I'm reading it, SDB friends come to mind, and I envision them also reading these same pages, and it pulls us together—a bonding beyond comprehension. My SDB family and the bonding tool, the *SR*, remain vital links to bringing encouragement, strength, and knowledge into my everyday living.

The *SR*, and all that it means to me, resembles the Christian walk using God's Scripture. We gain knowledge and strength from reading about the past, realize God's presence in the now, and gain hope in the future through our belief in Jesus Christ.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

"When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again." SR

Jean Jorgensen is a member of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church and lives in Syracuse, Kan.

Our lives entwined

by Mayola Warner

While preparing to write this article, I was reminded of the importance of the written word. To talk is one thing; it's been said that "talk is cheap" and that at least half of what we hear is forgotten. But to write down something in black and white is something else!

It is so very important to read and write the sort of material that will enhance our lives. *The Sabbath Recorder* has been just that source of a good and positive ingredient throughout my entire life.

When I was just a little girl (sound boringly familiar?), I remember looking forward to Mizpah Greene's "Children's Page." She not only had interesting stories, but she invited her young readers to write to her. Often these little letters were printed, much like the letters to the editor in our newspapers and magazines today. I remember writing to Mrs. Greene.

Fast forwarding to teenage years, I remember that the *Recorder* included a poem of mine. It shared my love for Jesus and how He held my hand during a speech that I had to make at our national Conference session in Milton, Wis. During that time, I eagerly read what other young people wrote, too! It was great.

Moving right along to the next season of life... This found me busy as a housewife, mother of three boys and one girl, being church organist in two places, teaching piano, etc.

It was during this time that Jesus became my Lord. I was truly blessed with such a thirst for Him! I experienced new purpose for liv-

ing, new understanding about the Holy Spirit, new freedoms and joys, and healings—both physical and emotional.

Some of these new insights and perspectives found their way onto the pages of *The Sabbath Recorder*. This became a meaningful outlet for me and, I trust, was helpful to the readers.

Now that my husband and I are retired, we still look forward to the information and inspiration we know we'll receive through reading our denominational periodical. We are so thankful that our four adult children—now all moved away from our area—still receive the *Recorder* and often refer to articles they've read and enjoyed.

By all this sharing of my life, I hasten to point out that testimonies are encouraged in the Bible. Hebrews 6:12 says, "then, knowing what lies ahead for you, you won't become bored with being a Christian, nor become spiritually dull and indifferent, but you will be anxious to follow the example of those who receive all that God has promised them because of their strong faith and patience" (LB).

And again, Paul says in Colossians 1:4 and Ephesians 1:15, "how glad he was to hear of their faith, and that by hearing of their faith in the Lord Jesus, he never stopped praying for them."

The Sabbath Recorder is a vehicle to share encouraging stories of missions, new churches springing up, baptisms, new members, weddings, births, and yes, for sharing the not-so-always-good news of a loved one's passing.

This publication is also used to inform and unite our people for greater vision and purpose, as with MORE 2000, our Mission of Revival and Evangelism.

Beyond personal reflections though, the *Recorder* can be counted on to share the truth on many pertinent issues of life. Timely articles by a variety of writers offer an interesting and informative menu for the readers. And we can always trust our editors to guard against printing anything that even smacks of New Age, Humanism, or other erroneous teaching. Praise God!

Last, but not least, is the statement that this paper continually makes to the entire body of Christ. In its uninterrupted longevity, God is pointing out to us: "Yes, even though Seventh Day

Baptists are a very small group of believers, I do have My hand on them! I will continue to work through them and fulfill My purpose in them."

How can we doubt our loving and sovereign God, when He has kept this remnant sharing their printed words continually for over 150 years? SR

Mayola Warner is a member of the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church.

An essential strand in the cord

by Norma Rudert

I always read *The Sabbath Recorder* from back to front. (Other than that, my behavior is at least semi-normal.) If you're going my way, "Kevin's Korner" provides a preview of coming attractions.

Next, I read the "family news"—who got married, who has a new

all connected and caring.

The family arguments (i.e., written debates) on current religious issues are thought-provoking. I enjoy well thought-out statements of opposing opinions because they challenge me to consider and clarify my own point of view. I hope we

could we feel any ties to our church family in other countries? When we become aware of their special needs, we can, and do, respond in appropriate ways. This opens a three-way channel of blessings. As James Russell Lowell wrote, "Who gives himself with his alms feeds three; Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me."

Finally, I get serious and read the articles which address that issue's theme. I then feel a tug on the cord that draws me closer to a life of Christian commitment, the way that leads ultimately to Jesus and our true home.

In these ways, *The Sabbath Recorder* is an essential strand in the ties that bind us to pride in our past, to loving service in the present, and to blessed hope for the future. I appreciate the dedicated people who think, plan, and work hard to maintain those ties for us. We need *The Sabbath Recorder!* SR

Norma Rudert is a member of the White Cloud, Mich., SDB Church.

The SR binds us to pride in our past, to loving service in the present, and to blessed hope for the future.

baby, what churches are growing. Even the obituaries are good to read because they recognize the achievements of our own heroes of the faith. The accomplishments of these individuals are often quite amazing when viewed in retrospect. They can inspire us to live a life of faith as well.

So, the *Recorder* is like a round-robin newsletter, except that all members of the family receive it at once. It's a big "plus" in keeping us

never reach a point in time, short of the Lord's return, when every SDB agrees on every theological issue. Not much danger of that, I guess!

Don Sanford's "Pearls" are part of a long string that keeps us connected to our past. I feel we are very fortunate to have a historian who is willing to plow through many dusty pages in order to turn up the gems he shares with us.

And if it weren't for Kirk Looper's "Focus on Missions," how

My monthly "connection"

by Scott Hausrath

Whenever I have the privilege of describing my congregation to someone, I mention that it is a "family-oriented" group. It is composed of individual families which, gathered together, comprise our church family.

We are concerned for each other as brothers and sisters. Consequently, each Sabbath worship service is our weekly opportunity to bring the family together, to connect with one another.

This description fits not only my congregation, but also our denomination. It has only been three and

a half years since I first attended a Seventh Day Baptist church, but in this very short period I have been heartily welcomed into a strong family of Christian brothers and sisters.

We Seventh Day Baptists are a family. Consequently, each General Conference is our yearly opportunity to bring the family together, to connect with one another.

Unfortunately, though, there are eleven and three quarter months between each General Conference. How is our SDB family to remain connected during these long inter-

The Sabbath Recorder connects me with the only denomination that has ever been a true family for me.

ims? I believe the periodical you are reading is the perfect solution.

For me, the one word which best describes *The Sabbath Recorder* is
cont. on page 26



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

The diary of Seventh Day Baptists

"For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you... in every place your faith toward God has gone forth..." (1 Thessalonians 1:8 NASB).

Recently Don and I have been reading from our church's history book, compiled for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church. The pages are full of stories of how the character of our church was formed—sometimes through divisive conflicts, sometimes through the life and ministry of a particular pastor.

We can learn a lot about the past testimony and ministry of our church and use that knowledge as we plan and dream for the future. Even these days at our church business meetings, items entered into the clerk's books are written so as to give insights from the past for those who will read the minutes in future years.

It's interesting to read in *The Sabbath Recorder* about events from five, 10, and 25 years ago (*SR Almanac*). It reminds us of where we as a denomination have been, what ministries individual churches or pastors were committed to, and how we have changed or grown since a particular event in the past.

As we read, we can each reflect on our own personal history—have I grown in the Lord over the past year(s), or have I fallen away from my commitment to Him and the Sabbath?

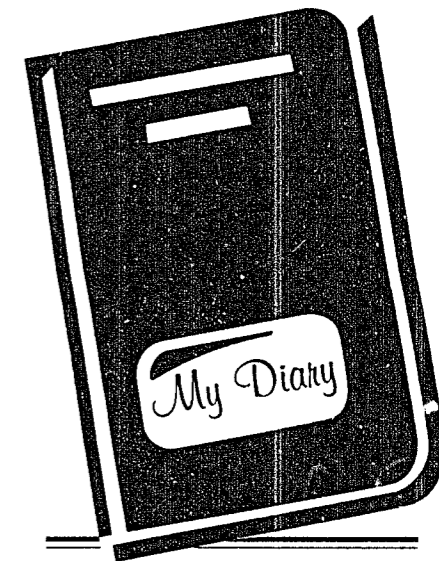
Seventh Day Baptists are not a "fly-by-night" group of Christian believers. We are people who have

weathered many storms, worked through many conflicts, and have striven to keep the name of Jesus alive and known throughout the world. The Lord has brought us through many years of history, and has helped us remain strong in our testimony for Him.

The Sabbath Recorder is the diary of Seventh Day Baptists—giving others a look at our ministry and mission for Christ in the world. It is one of the ways we can witness of God's love and care for us, as well as His discipline and forgiveness in our lives.

As we read the pages of *The Sabbath Recorder*, we can learn from each other, grieve or rejoice with each other, pray for one another, and become a little more involved in the lives of other Seventh Day Baptist believers.

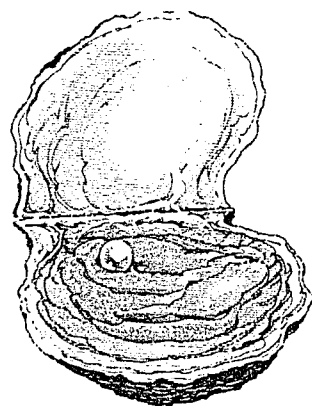
As we learn from and build on our past experiences, we are laying a foundation for the future. Many summer ministries are coming up—camp, Vacation Bible School, Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) projects, Conference, and others. We have the opportunity to invest in the future of our denomination by ministering to the children, youth, and members of our churches and communities.



The Sabbath Recorder is the diary of Seventh Day Baptists—giving others a look at our ministry and mission for Christ in the world.

How do you plan to be involved in your church's summer ministries? Give your time, give your talents, give your money.

Many of us will never have pages of history written about us, but we can be the person which God will use to bring a soul to Christ, or to aid a church in trying a new ministry. We may not receive earthly recognition for our deeds, but what we do for Christ will have eternal results. SR



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

SR: Integral part of family life

In the saga *Furrows of the Land*, Nellie Furrow Daland describes her life on the Western frontier near the end of the 19th century. The opening section describes her log home in Taney, Idaho, where she had a secret little chink in the logs where she could peer out at the rolling waves of flax blossoms.

"My secret window was exposed only on occasions when no one was about. These times were very rare in a two-room log cabin which served as home to five lively children and two adults. But it was a happy and well-ordered home. The pine logs burned brightly in the large fireplace. The clay hearth served as the meeting place of the family.

"It was here we gathered in the evening—whether to read *The Youth's Companion*, *The Sabbath Recorder*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Hoard's Dairyman*, or the exciting pages of *Barnes' History of the United States*. The latter was thrilling, indeed, for did we not feel a very real part of that dream?"¹

This scene was no doubt duplicated across the land as families shared in reading around the fireplace. *The Sabbath Recorder* was one of those few pieces of reading matter that Seventh Day Baptist families prized. It contained eyewitness accounts of the Mexican War, reports from Congress, and

many other items of secular as well as religious news. For many people, the *Recorder* was like that chink in the log cabin through which people of the frontier could catch a glimpse of what was going on in the world.

The Furrows' westward migration was made in part because of pleas printed in the denominational paper, urging settlers to come into the newly opened territory where Seventh Day Baptist colonies had been established. Nellie wrote:

"More and more, Father talked about California. To him it had always been the promised land. He could remember when but a lad of twenty-two, of hearing about the gold rush of '49. To him it was still a magic word. He was a diligent reader of *The Sabbath Recorder*. There he read of a new S.D.B. colony in Colony Heights, Calif., led by the Rev. J.T. Davis. It read with a glow."²

The Sabbath Recorder articles encouraged others to migrate to the West. Even after the frontier was closed, the *Recorder* continued to draw people to new locations. In the 1920s, Robert St. Clair of Detroit headed the Vocational Committee which tried, largely through the pages of the *SR*, to invite settlers to that city. A survey listed job opportunities and advantages which that city had for people who wanted the opportunity for corporate Sabbath worship.

Another aspect of the *Recorder's* coverage which attracted many readers was its family news. This served as a link between people on the frontier and the homes from which they had migrated.

A recent order for the *Choosing People* book contained the note, "Whenever *The Sabbath Recorder*

arrives, I read the obituary page, then turn to the 'Pearls from the Past' column." (No greater compliment could be given than to find that my writing ranks right up there with the obits!) Sometimes obituaries can be very helpful in uncovering hereditary traits. Such was the case of my great grandmother, Sylvia Barber. According to *The Sabbath Recorder*, she died in 1867 "of bilious affection of the liver terminating in lunacy."³ That explains a lot!

Many people are interested in the vital statistics of birth, marriages, and deaths, because they are a part of the extended family. But beyond the current interest is the use of these records for the genealogists. It is interesting to see the expressions of people who no longer identify with the covenant community of SDBs, but who find a link with an ancestor of a century ago on the pages of a *Recorder*.

The Sabbath Recorder has seen many changes through the years, both in frequency of publication and size of the magazine. It has contained news stories, sermons, Sabbath School lessons, editorials, theological articles and debates, mission notes, poetry, pictures, historical information denominational statistics, and even advertisements for things ranging from patent medicine to caskets.

But in all its diversity, the *Recorder* has retained that which can truly be called "the lifeblood" of Seventh Day Baptists which has flowed for 150 years from coast-to-coast and border-to-border. **SR**

¹Nellie Daland, *Furrows of the Land* (Milton, WI: Milton Printers 1976) p. 1

²ibid. p. 96

³*The Sabbath Recorder*, Jan. 31, 1867, p. 19.



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—June 1994

The 150th anniversary commemorative issue contains a brief historical overview, highlighting the many changes and personalities behind the *SR*. Leanne Lippincott reviews her 12 years of assistant editing, while Kevin Butler and Rodney Henry look to the future of the magazine and denomination.

Five years ago—June 1990

Long-time pastors and campers, Elmo Fitz Randolph and David Clarke, reflect on the theme "SDB Camping."

Ernest Bee Jr. remembers the "father" of SDB camping, A.J.C. Bond.

Connie Coon shares her camping memories in the "From the Heart" column.

Pre-Con camp celebrates its 50th anniversary. Riverside, Calif., church holds opening services in their new facility.

10 years ago—June 1985

Pastor Don and Charlotte Chroniger ordained in New Auburn, Wis.

Battle Creek, Mich., church moves from a committee structure to a task force approach.

SDB Historical Society holds first annual meeting in Wisconsin.

Photos accompany story of new building project in Burma.

New seminary graduate Kevin Butler begins service at Madison, Wis., church.

25 years ago—June 1970

Summer Christian Service Corps training held in North Loup, Neb. Directors are Leon Lawton, Rex Zwiebel, Mynor Soper, and Florence Bowden.

The Dr. Victor Burdick family returns to the states following years of service in Malawi, Africa.

Rev. Glen Warner welcomed to Denver, Colo., in May; Rev. Don Richards moves from Verona, N.Y., to Marlboro, N.J.

Abingdon Press releases new book, *Understanding Christian Education*, by Dr. Wayne Rood.

50 years ago—June 1945

Revs. Marion Van Horn and Trevah Sutton write the guest editorials.

Alfred (N.Y.) School of Theology graduates three: Harmon Dickinson, Zack White, and Rex Zwiebel.

Supplemental section carries Corliss Fitz Randolph's biographical sketch of the Rev. Boothe Colwell Davis (1863-1942), president of Alfred University for 38 years.

Zack White ordained to the ministry during Western Association meetings in Independence, N.Y.

(And, sent in from Rev. Trevah Sutton, Aztec, N.M.):

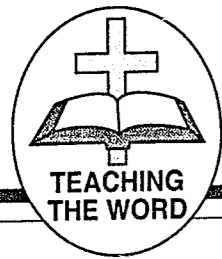
75 years ago—April 1920

On April 24, 1920, the following were baptized by immersion at the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church by Pastor Erlo E. Sutton—Edward Harris, Percy Davis, John Hoffman Jr., Daniel Davis, Harriet Johnson, Trevah Sutton*, Gladys Sutton*, Jean Sheppard, Mary Sheppard, Grace Horner, Martie Harris, Emma Glaspey. (*Child of Erlo and Blanch Sutton.)

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- the ministry of *The Sabbath Recorder*
- our many summer camps
- seminary graduates Andrew Camenga, Nathan Crandall, and Steve Osborn
- the SCSC projects
- our sister Conferences overseas
- a new missionary spirit
- our dedicated Sabbath School teachers



Are you CALLED to be a church lay leader?

You have been CALLED by God to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. You have been commissioned through your faith in Christ and the testimony of your baptism to witness to the power of God. The Holy Spirit has endowed you as a Christian with special gifts to be used to build the body of Christ to the glory of God.

The CALLED program provides educational modules to prepare you, under the guidance of your pastor, to become a lay leader in your church.

Program

The CALLED program (Church Administered Lay Leadership Education) is available to assist

pastors with lay leadership development in the churches. It provides educational opportunities for Sabbath School teachers and officers, camp staffs, youth advisors, Bible study leaders, deacons, church officers, and worship leaders.

We urge that the modules be completed in the suggested sequence. Each module is composed of six weeks of home study, a weekly review meeting with the pastor, and a final two-hour seminar.

The modules focus upon home study guided by a workbook which contains daily learning goals, reading assignments from the textbooks, and questions for the student's written assignments. The

cost of the textbooks will be billed to the local church. Workbooks, evaluation forms, and certificates will be provided by the SDB Board of Christian Education.

The student is asked to spend five hours each week in home



study. The pastor will arrange to meet weekly with the student to discuss the student's written work and reading assignments. After completion of the home study, the pastor will arrange a seminar to review the student's new knowledge and to plan for ministry. *SR*

CALLED is an adaptation by Ernest K. Bee Jr. of *Training for Church Staff Workers* by Rodney L. Henry, Dean, Seventh Day Baptist School of Ministry. The program title, *Church Administered Lay Leadership Education*, was suggested by Rebecca (Mrs. Christian) Mattison.

For a brochure and enrollment form, please contact the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115. Phone: (607) 587-8527.

Eligibility & Application

The applicant must:

- Be a member in good standing of a recognized Seventh Day Baptist Church.
- Be at least 19 years old.
- Complete the Enrollment Form obtained from his/her pastor.
- Complete the 6 six-week modules.

The local pastor must:

- Sign and mail the Enrollment Form to the Board of Christian Education.
- Serve as the training administrator and module teacher.

- Certify the student's completion of each module to the Board of Christian Education.

Curriculum includes:

- Introduction to Seventh Day Baptist Church Life
- Seventh Day Baptist Distinctives
- Practical Theology and Ministry
- Biblical Interpretation
- Teaching the Bible
- The Teaching Leader
- Optional Module: Public Speaking and Leading Worship

When the Missionary Society receives inquiries about Seventh Day Baptists, many of those requesting information obtained our address from *The Sabbath Recorder*. And more times than not, the issue of the magazine was several years old.

The *Recorder* is one of the most effective outreach tools that SDBs have. In fact, it is one of the first pieces of literature that new contacts request. Here at the Missionary Society, we include the *Recorder* in our "introduction package."

Allow me to share some of the ways *The Sabbath Recorder* is used in our sister Conferences:

During the past three years, the Missionary Society has received 87 inquiries from foreign countries. Fifty of those came about through contact with *The Sabbath Recorder*.

At first, this may not seem significant. But consider the fact that these requests came from The Gambia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Ghana. Four of these countries now have active churches. The *Recorder*—a magazine familiar to SDBs in the United States and Canada—has become a prime method to introduce Seventh Day Baptists to people in other countries.

Recorder articles provide educational material for many of our sister Conferences. The editorials and other writings are used to foster understanding of our traditions, polity, and history. They are also used to keep track of changes in SDB polity and programs, as well as providing information about available educational and ministerial materials.

An outreach technique which was discussed in the *Recorder* has been successfully adapted as a

model by one of our sister Conferences. They often obtain ideas from our magazine and eventually use them to spring-board into useful programs.

It has been suggested that the *Recorder* be increased in size to incorporate a monthly Bible study. This would be used by our foreign brethren to study specific topics—such as baptism, communion, marriage, divorce, salvation, and sin.

Our readers in the United States are able to keep up-to-date with the same information. It helps them to understand the direction in which our Conference is heading, and what changes are to be made.

One young lady sent a check to the Missionary Society after reading about a project need. "I read the article on the need for seeds in *The Sabbath Recorder*," she wrote, "and felt led to send [a donation] to help with the project."

The success of the projects offered by the Missionary Society depends a great deal upon the *Focus* articles, and on the January issue of the *Recorder*.

Following the published appeal for clothing, sewing machines and tools for Zambia, the amount of packages received by Rev. Mukumbo tripled. Through *SR* articles informing our Conference members of needs, the Holy Spirit led many to increase their donations. Others were prompted to begin giving. Our Missionary Society membership has also increased.

What joy comes to our hearts when we allow the Spirit to move us, and follow His direction! Only by knowing that a need exists can we be convinced to help.

There are many other mission efforts, outside of our denomination, to which SDBs can donate. However, our mission needs are

significant because we are a relatively small group. *The Sabbath Recorder* favors the needs of our denomination, and keeps our members informed. How else would we know of the needs of other SDBs?

By reading *SR* articles, members of the U.S. and Canada Conference can keep abreast of the changes and needs within their own Conference, and learn about new groups and new churches that have entered the denomination. They can see the difficulties and successes of groups trying to evangelize.

The Sabbath Recorder is not readily discarded by our international brethren. In truth, hardly any printed material is discarded. In many foreign countries, anyone who possesses a magazine is blessed—even when it is written in English and very few people can read it. They may keep the magazine, but take it to someone else to read it to them. When the magazine is read aloud, everyone who is near will stop and listen for as long as they can.

Presently, the *SR* has only 158 international subscriptions. Although some of these magazines are paid for by the recipients, the majority of the cost is carried by the Tract and Communication Council (T&CC).

The expense is great. We need to find a way to enable T&CC to continue publishing these outreach issues without straining their budget. After all, the Council does much more than publish the *Recorder*. And those other printing activities are also an important part of their ministry.

In light of increased mailing and production costs, any contributions towards this expense would be appreciated. *SR*



the BEACON

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

June 1995

Spring break brings lessons of life and faith

by Lora Dickinson

If you can face whatever life may hand you
and from it try to fashion something good,
Others may not understand you but you keep right on doing what you should
If you watch a friend go off without you and know that you can take such things in stride,
If you are kind and just to all about you and let the Golden Rule be your guide
If you are wronged and still can be forgiving
believing it is better to forget,
If you think there is too much joy in living
to waste your time on anger or regret
If you accept a failure and not mind it but stop to learn the lesson it can teach,
If you resist temptation when you find it, remembering the goal you want to reach
If you can hold your own when you're not winning
and know you can't achieve the things you plan,
If you can proudly make a new beginning,
and never lose your faith in God and man
You'll find success is waiting if you're willing,
that happiness is there for all who try—
Your life will be rewarding and fulfilling,
and nothing good will ever pass you by.

—Author Unknown

Submitted by Leeann Rogers
Belpre, Ohio

Last summer, I made a promise that I would experience different types of worship this year. Well, I experienced that and more while in Chester, S.C., during spring break.

When I first volunteered to join a college group doing a service project for Habitat for Humanity, I expected to have a fun week working for the Lord. I didn't expect all that God would teach me during that week, but I'll be forever grateful for the experience.

We stayed in a Pentecostal church during the week. I learned a lot during their services, which lasted two to three hours. They are not afraid to sing, dance, or even run during their worship. The strength of their faith really amazed me. I wondered what this country would be like if all Christians were even half as "on fire for God" as the people I met there.

I also learned just from the work experience. We helped to rebuild a house that will become a women's shelter. Not only did I learn about construction; I learned about myself. I learned about my gifts and my limits while working on frustrating tasks.

Most of the time I was off painting some corner of the house by myself. I really enjoyed that time to think. You see, college schedules don't allow one to just sit back and think about life. I caught up on

some much-needed time to myself and with God.

However, I didn't spend all of the time alone. I learned a lot from talking to the people I met in South Carolina. I learned about their culture and about what the South is really like, not just what you see from the highway. The people's kindness and genuine appreciation really touched me.

One man in particular made a definite impression on me. "Randall" was our main contact between Habitat for Humanity and the group sponsoring the shelter. Basically, he was our boss.

He had been leading "the good life" in New Hampshire when God called him. Randall gave up all of his possessions and moved to South Carolina to help the people there. He came to an area that had a very different culture, different attitudes, and different beliefs. He has a very strong faith and is dedicated to serving God wholeheartedly.

I could see the amazing impact Randall has had on that community, despite many obstacles. I learned that truly anything is possible if we listen to God.

I thank God for the experience, and I hope that He will use it to impact the lives around me.

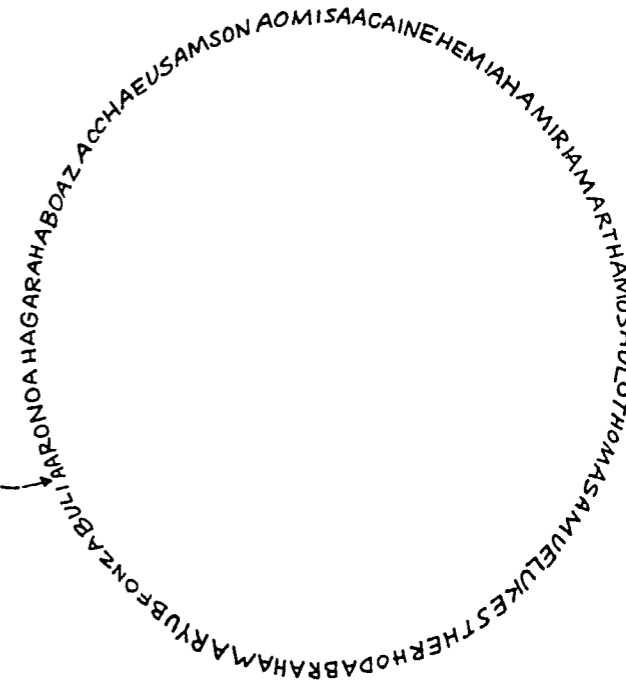
Lora Dickinson is a sophomore at Messiah College and a member of the Marlboro, N.J., SDB Church.

CIRCLE SEEK

A circle is a good shape in which to hide messages, since messages aren't usually written in circles. In this circle are hidden the names of 25 men and women of the Bible. See how many you can find. List the names below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____

BEGIN →



- How many men? _____
 How many women? _____
 How many Old Testament people? _____
 How many New Testament people? _____

Source: *Solving Bible Mysteries* by Joy Mackenzie (Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

Answers

1. Aaron 2. Noah 3. Hagar 4. Rahab 5. Boaz 6. Zaccarius 7. Samson 8. Naomi 9. Isaac 10. Cain
 11. Nehemiah 12. Ham 13. Miriam 14. Martha 15. Amos 16. Saul 17. Lot 18. Thomas
 19. Samuel 20. Luke 21. Eve 22. Esther 23. Rhoda 24. Abraham 25. Mary
 16 Men, 9 Women / 19 O.T., 6 N.T.

"Joyfully Serve..."

The SR doesn't "just happen"

by Myrna Cox

I have divided my thoughts of what *The Sabbath Recorder* means to me into three categories: my impressions as a child, my impressions as a young adult, and my impressions now.

As a child, I remember that *The Sabbath Recorder* came every week. There was a Children's Page edited by Mizpah Greene. I looked forward to seeing letters written by other young people and her responses to them.

As a young adult, I enjoyed reading who had gotten married, who had new babies, and the local church "news" across the denomination. I recall that I did not read many of the other articles unless they appeared to be short.

Looking back, I can see that my perception of what I wanted to read matched my perception of Christian maturity. I was not yet concerned about spiritual growth or

my responsibility for it.

Through the years, as I have grown spiritually and begun to mature in my faith, I look forward to *The Sabbath Recorder* as one source for my learning. The sections that seemed so appealing when I was younger are still important, but I now enjoy more reading articles written by other Seventh Day Baptists.

The Sabbath Recorder was a magazine that I took for granted in earlier years. It would arrive in the mail without any thought on my part as to how that was accomplished. Instead of being "oblivious" with me, it was more "oblivious."

Now that I have been the chairperson of the *Sabbath Recorder* Committee for the last three and one-half years, I have a new understanding that *The Sabbath Recorder* does not just happen! Our denomination has been blessed

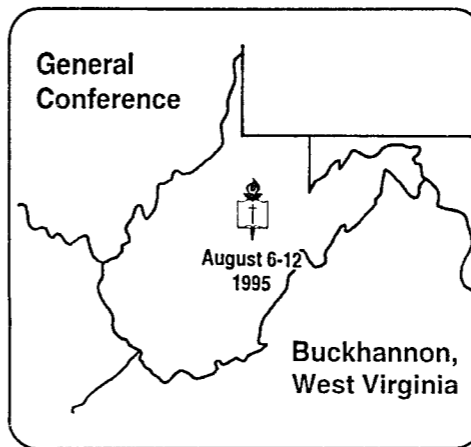
with the talent, dedication, and commitment of many editors. If this were not so, *The Sabbath Recorder* would not be one of the oldest continuing publications in America today. I also have a new appreciation for the thought and work that goes into selecting themes and writers, layout, color, and the constant frustration of funding.

The Sabbath Recorder is currently sent to every Seventh Day Baptist and many of our friends and contacts. Perhaps many of our readers are oblivious—just as I was for a long time—believing that *The Sabbath Recorder* just happens! It doesn't, and its life is dependent upon you and me and our willingness to help pay for it!

My impressions now are that each one of us can be proud to share a copy with someone outside our denomination. I see *The Sabbath Recorder* as a real witnessing tool as well as a vehicle to communicate among Seventh Day Baptists.

Don't be oblivious, but do the obvious! Please *joyfully* join me in supporting this important aspect of our denominational ministry. ✠

*Looking back,
I can see that
my perception of
what I wanted to read
matched my perception
of Christian maturity.*



*Fill "free time"
with pleasure
and profit*

from the Publicity Committee

Conference '95 "countdown" continues. And there's only one month left for you to finalize your plans, pack your bags, and get to Wesleyan College at Buckhannon, W.Va., for the week of August 6-12.

Of course, the top priority for all of us will be to participate fully in Conference:

- enjoy the fellowship
- be inspired by the Gospel messages
- attend business sessions
- learn more about the boards and agencies
- engage in Bible study and prayer
- thrill to the music
- catch the spirit of revival and recommitment to Joyful Service.

In addition to staying close to Conference, there will undoubtedly be some "stray" free-time moments when you can have a chance to witness the beauties of God's creation in the West Virginia Hills—and you won't have to "stray" far to do it!

In the words of one of the Host Committee members who is obviously in love with the state, here are some personal descriptions of places close to Buckhannon:

For those planning to combine Conference in West Virginia with a little vacationing, there are many possibilities for short enjoyable sidetrips from the Buckhannon area.

Just a few miles down Route 20 is the West Virginia Wildlife

Center at French Creek. You can walk wide, paved paths through wooded hillsides to view native animals such as black bear, wildcats, and buffalo inside large fenced enclosures.

About 13 miles in the other direction, you might take a short break from meetings to walk along the boulder-strewn river at **Audra State Park**. Other equally beautiful state parks within an hour or so are **Holly River and Waters Smith State Park**, which features a restored 19th century farmstead and museum.

Another interesting historical display can be found at **Burnsville Lake**. There, the sites of an ancient Indian village, pioneer homestead, and Civil War battlefield are all interpreted at an Army Corps of Engineer-maintained museum on the shores of one of the state's many man-made lakes.

One of the newest and largest of these man-made lakes is also very close by: **Stonewall Jackson Lake**. Among the small towns flooded by the lake was Roanoke, W.Va., once home to a Seventh Day Baptist congregation. Facilities at Stonewall Jackson Lake include picnic areas, campgrounds, and a visitor's lodge.

If you can find several hours to spare on a slightly longer drive, you'll want to make a trip through Elkins (now connected to Buckhannon by a four-lane highway) into the more rugged area of the state.

Loop up through the beautiful Canaan Valley (pronounced Can-NANE) to breathtaking **Blackwater Falls State Park**. Or keep going east from Elkins down Rt. 55 to **Seneca Rocks**. And bring your camera!

With the exception of the Stonewall Jackson Lake facilities and perhaps the Wildlife Center, all these attractions are free of an admission charge. West Virginians are proud of the natural beauty of their state and anxious to share it with visitors. If you can stay a little longer, or travel just a few miles farther, there are many more scenic attractions we'd love to tell you about. Remember—free information, maps, and brochures can be had by calling 1-800-CALL WVA.

Naturally, there will be some who won't want to travel at all, except getting to and from Conference. Others may not be able to come to Conference for more than just an extended weekend. So, Conference President Myrna Cox has designed special programs for those "free" hours. They will relate to the Conference theme in such a way that the full-week delegates who choose to stay on campus, plus those who can be there only for the extended weekend, will have opportunity to get the feel of the Conference theme, "Joyfully serve..." (1 Peter 1:8), in a capsulized fashion.

Conference '95 will be an inspiring experience in a delightful setting. Don't miss it! ✠

Riverside's men on the move

by Marilyn L. Merchant

If ever you wonder what one man can do to change things, it only took one busy doctor to start a revived men's movement in the Riverside, Calif., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

His wife made arrangements for him to attend "Promise Keepers" some three years ago. The following year, he was joined by another father in search of a new approach to his commitment to his young sons. Thoroughly excited by his new-found commitment to family and church, he spearheaded a Men's Retreat at Pacific Pines Camp in Crestline, Calif., that same year.

On the Sabbath following the retreat, with another busy doctor as worship leader, the entire church platform was filled with men and their sons singing their hearts out during the Singspiration portion of the service. It was so exciting

to observe their delight as they sang praises to their God.

Autumn of 1994 found a large number of young and older men of our congregation joining with thousands more from across the country at the Promise Keepers' convention in Anaheim, Calif. They returned with renewed vigor for the task of being leaders, fathers, grandfathers, and lay workers in the church.

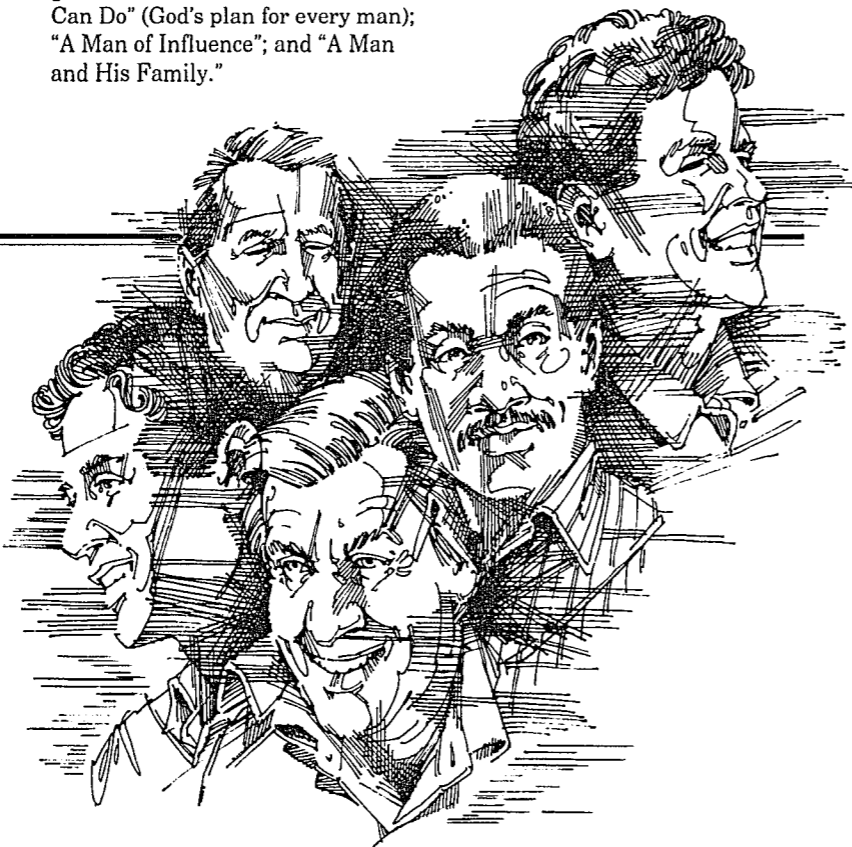
Our church's second annual Men's Retreat began after morning worship on April 1, and ran through the following day. Once again, it was held at the beautiful Pacific Pines Camp. Special programs included: "What One Man Can Do" (God's plan for every man); "A Man of Influence"; and "A Man and His Family."

Retreat participants also enjoyed recreation times and great food. We look forward to their growing excitement and enhanced participation in church programs.

Two other "for men only" programs have continued—a "cottage" Bible Study at the home of the original Promise Keepers attendee, and a Thursday morning Prayer Breakfast held at the International House of Pancakes. The breakfast is held *early* so that the men can get to work on time, and the younger ones can go on to school.

With such an interest, we feel the vital spark God has implanted in their hearts. *SR*

The entire church platform was filled with men and their sons singing their hearts out during the Singspiration portion of the service. It was so exciting to observe their delight as they sang praises to their God.



Dialogue and ministry blossoms in Battle Creek

by Judy Parrish

In April, the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church was privileged to host a Church Conflict Management seminar delivered by Rod Henry of the Council on Ministry.

There was very good participation in the Sabbath School and afternoon sessions, both in number and dialogue. We learned not to be afraid of conflict, but to handle it rightly, speaking God's truth in love. The message was surprisingly positive and encouraging, even while talking about a seemingly unpleasant subject. "Turtles" of the churches, we have a mission! (You need to attend the seminar to find out what that means!)

On the same weekend, Battle Creek hosted White Cloud for our annual Michigan Churches fellowship gathering. After morning worship, the noon meal-of-sharing, and the afternoon seminar, we gathered

again for supper, vespers, and the business meeting. Our Sabbath experience was truly enriching.

The Ladies Aid and Sabbath School departments are leading out in two mission projects. Dolls—either store-bought, handmade, or donated by our children—are being collected and given to Jamaican girls who have never had dolls of their own. Money and various supplies are being collected for Zambia to fill needs outlined in the SDB Missionary Society newsletter.

Locally, our Loaves and Fishes program, headed by Joyce and Jerry West, continues to help feed those in need. We adopted a family, providing food and necessities at Christmas time. The children who participated were especially struck by how blessed it was to give in the face of such apparent need.

The Gym Blast program, led by

Pastor Barry Baugh, recently had its season finale—a trophy night. This continues to be a real neighborhood outreach to youngsters. Our own teens have been revitalized by joining with another church youth group on Wednesday nights.

The teens' Sabbath School class, led by Kory Geske, is really getting exciting, based on attendance and their own comments when they shared with the congregation what they had been learning. In addition, Wednesday night programming at our church has expanded for adults and younger children.

We are looking forward to summer ministries at Camp Holston and with our Summer Christian Service Corps team. We continue to be blessed each Sabbath with Spirit-filled worship so wonderfully led by Pastor Jim Galanaugh. God is good!! *SR*

"Gilligan" and crew land in Shiloh

by Donna Bond

"Coffee over here, Little Buddy!" "Get your cake from Mary Ann and Ginger!"

"Surely, Luvvy, you don't expect me to put mah hands in *dishwater!*"

Scenes from a familiar '60s sitcom? Maybe. Maybe not. On March 26, Gilligan and his crew visited Shiloh, N.J., and served a delicious "island luau" to friends and families of the Shiloh-Marlboro YF. Here's how it happened, and how God uses us in unexpected ways for His Kingdom.

When a family illness took Steve and Dodi Moncrief from our midst each weekend for four months, there was a noticeable gap in Shiloh. One of Steve and Dodi's many ministries is their willingness to help our youth to raise funds for Pre-Con and Conference. (That

is why Shiloh and Marlboro have been so well represented at these events in recent years.) Tim Bond, father of two Pre-Conners, realized the need and volunteered to head up "some kind of dinner" with "the kids."

During weekly planning sessions over a period of weeks, the idea grew from a ham dinner, to a Hawaiian luau, to a Gilligan's Island theme dinner.

As the day approached, they painted palm trees, collected tropical table decorations, made and sold tickets, solicited cakes and Jellos, created costumes, and assembled a kitchen crew (Tim Bond, Sharon Campbell, and Frank and Lois Mazza). One week before the dinner, only eight tickets had been sold—but our seasoned veteran dinner-planner (Dodi) advised

planning on 150 anyway.

One hundred and fifty-one island visitors were treated to ham with raisin sauce, rice, green beans, Jello featuring pineapple and coconut, buttered rolls, beverage and cake served by Gilligan's crew: Gilligan (Chris Bond), the Skipper (Levi Bond), Thurston Howell III (Frankie Mazza), Mrs. Howell (Sylvia Bond), Mary Ann (Cindy Dickinson), Ginger (Kellie Mazza), and the Professor (Debbie Moncrief), assisted by Holly Miller, Allison Williams, and Jesse Halter.

The luau was a lot of fun and a huge success, netting \$684.19 for the YF treasury. The Youth Fellowship members thank those who took the lead, as well as those who helped behind the scenes and our generous ticket-buyers. *SR*

The Three Little P's

Once upon a time, there lived Three Little P's. These Little P's were very, very competitive. They would always try to outdo each other, to see who could go the highest.

The Three Little P's were a major part of the big, bad world of business—especially in publishing. One P's desire to go higher would make another P try to go higher, too. They were very competitive.

Pity the big, bad publisher. Because the Three P's tried to go higher, the publisher would have

to pay lots and lots of money for the Three P's. They were very competitive.

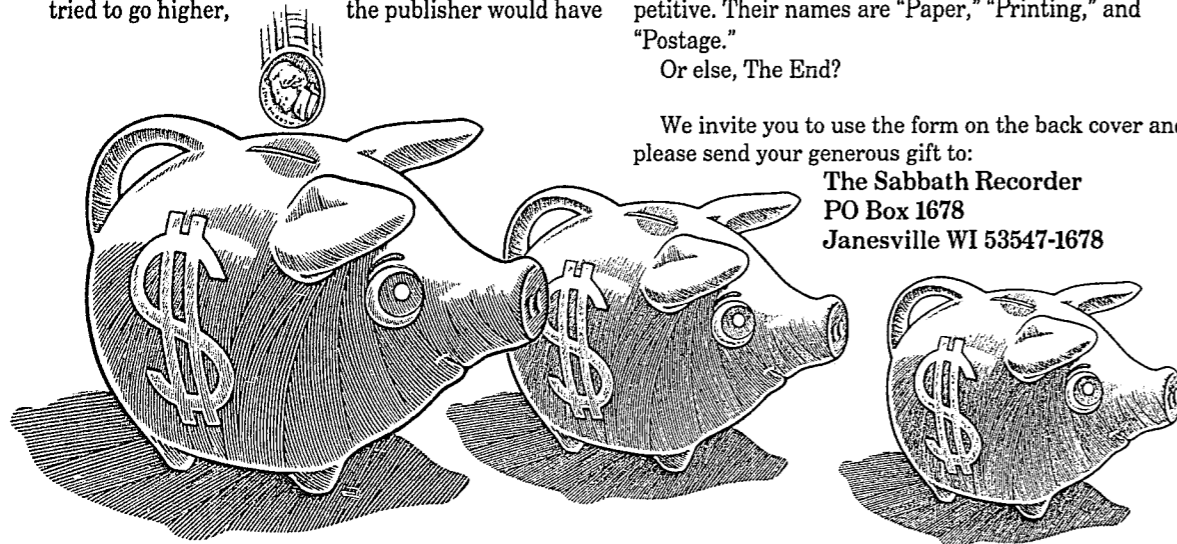
One year, the Three Little P's decided to gang up on the big, bad publisher and try to go as high as they could. Poor, poor publisher! He might have to stop his business.

Dear friend, could you please, please help this publisher pay for the Three Little P's? (We're really not that bad—or big.) The Three Little P's are very competitive. Their names are "Paper," "Printing," and "Postage."

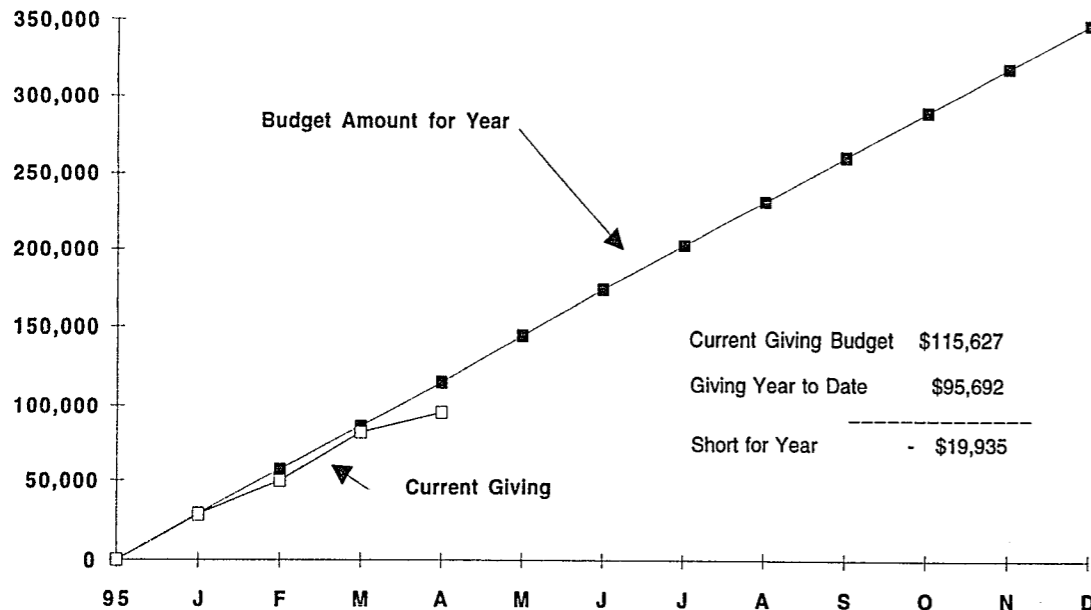
Or else, The End?

We invite you to use the form on the back cover and please send your generous gift to:

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Current Giving 1995



Obituaries

Mares.—Judith I. Mares, 64, of Chetek, Wis., passed away on April 6, 1995, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

She was born on July 24, 1930, in Sampson Township, rural New Auburn, Wis., the daughter of Elmer E. and Helen M. (Loof-bourrow) Nelson. She married William J. Mares on May 29, 1952, in New Auburn.

Judith worked at Vocational Rehabilitation in Eau Claire, Wis., farmed the family farm for many years, worked at the Bank of New Auburn, raised a family, and was a homemaker. She lived in Chetek Township.

Judith was a member of the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church, and the Western Fraternal Life Association. She also was a former church treasurer.

Survivors include her husband, William ("Bill") of Chetek; three sons, Darrell of Chetek, David of Oregon, Wis., and John of Savage, Minn.; three daughters, Susan Clark of Minnetonka, Minn., Lori of Madison, Wis., and Jane Curavo of New Auburn; one brother, Jerry Nelson of New Auburn; seven sis-

ters, Arlys Mullen and Donna Kellen, both of Bloomer, Wis., Joan Erickson of New Auburn, Beth Mares of Amery, Wis., Faye ("Dickie") of Minneapolis, Minn., Mary Anne Gravunder of Stillwater, Minn., and Carolyn Martinson of Chetek; six grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by one son, Joseph; two brothers, John and Sandy (Elmer Jr.); and one infant sister, Gail.

Funeral services were held on April 9, 1995, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Pastor Dale Smalley officiating. Burial was at Lake View Cemetery, Chetek.

Raiford.—Juanita (Crandall) Raiford, 86, of Ponchatoula, La., died on April 8, 1995, at her home.

She was a native of Illinois, and was a member of the former Hammond, La., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Phillip, of Ponchatoula; two sons, Robert and Darrell, both of Ponchatoula; four daughters, Aileen Larpenter of Avon Park, Fla.,

Annette Taylor of Hammond, Linda Lloyd of Springfield, La., and Patricia Ricks of Roseland, La.; one brother, Ned Crandall of Oak Lawn, Ill.; 15 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Leslie Crandall.

Funeral services were held at the Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Home in Ponchatoula, with the Rev. Leo Miller officiating. Burial was in Collins Cemetery, Lee's Landing, La.

Births

Ellis.—A son, Tyler Sean Ellis, was born to Timothy and Joy Ellis of Glendale, CA, on September 3, 1994.

Cargill.—A daughter, Nicole Rea Cargill, was born to Gale and Angie (Bremerman) Cargill of Scotia, NE, on January 17, 1995.

Accessions

Old Stonefort, IL
Joined
Don Furman
Chris Furman
Don Furman Jr.

Raritan Valley, NJ
Jeanne Yurke, pastor
Joined
Bryan McPherson

Marriages

Barber - Ellis.—Brian Barber and Debi S. Ellis were united in marriage on July 29, 1994, at the Alfred Station, NY, Seventh Day Baptist Church. The Revs. David Taylor and Kenneth Chroniger officiated.

1994, at Burwell, NE. The groom's pastor officiated.

Worden - Williams.—Christopher Worden and Crystal Williams were united in marriage on October 28,

Dutcher - Rowe.—Kyle Jay Dutcher and Kylee Marie Rowe were united in marriage on March 18, 1995, at the First United Methodist Church in Hershey, NE. The Rev. Thomas Hyde officiated.

"connection." The SR is a monthly connection between me and my denominational family.

The feature articles are always a blessing for me. In addition to being well written, they serve constantly to educate, validate, and stimulate this "Young Turk from California."

I must confess, though, that the first thing I usually do with a fresh issue is to look in the back for the latest family news. Being a recent "adoptee" into the SDB family, I am unfamiliar with many of our churches. The "Family Flux" and "Local News" sections help to enlighten me in this area. They connect me with the congregations and individuals which comprise our family.

The editorial page is usually my next destination. "Kevin's Korner"

gives me the editor's personal slant on each issue's main topic. I rarely come away from this column without having been encouraged, challenged, informed, or otherwise built up in my Christian experience.

The privilege was all mine when "Rev. Kev" spent some time in my neighborhood earlier this year, and this page serves to reconnect the two of us on a monthly basis.

I worked with our outstanding SDB youth at last year's Pre-Con in Kansas. This year, I am excitedly anticipating Youth Pre-Con in West Virginia. The more I get to know our denomination's budding leaders, the more hopeful I am about our future. Another important connection which *The Sabbath Recorder* affords me is with these leaders of tomorrow.

Every month "The Beacon" fo-

cus my attention on the incredible potential embodied by our youth. This column, produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education, is a blessing for every Seventh Day Baptist—whether young, old, or in-between.

I have to admit that many of the periodicals which appear in my mailbox go unread and unappreciated. This one, however, is definitely not in this category.

The Sabbath Recorder is not just another magazine. *The Sabbath Recorder* is a vital connection for me; it connects me with the only denomination that has ever been a true family for me. ✠

Scott Hausrath pastors the Foot-hill Community Church, an SDB congregation in Montrose, Calif.

Like having Conference all year long

by Beth Wallstrom

For me, *The Sabbath Recorder* has been like having General Conference come to our home every month.

We became Seventh Day Baptists in 1990, after over 40 years in other churches. What prompted us to join the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church was not an overpowering conviction of the Sabbath, but the love of Christ which was so evident in the lives of the people there.

We began attending the Dodge Center church in April, and enjoyed it so much that we wanted to become immersed in the Seventh Day Baptist experience. Within a year, we visited SDB churches in Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., Washington State, and New York. But the most broadening time of all was at General Conference in Lindsborg, Kan.

We were treated like family. Folks saw the stars on our name tags (indicating we were newcom-

ers) and made a special effort to help us feel welcome.

We enjoyed the fellowship, making new friends and learning more about who these Seventh Day Baptists were. We met pastors, leaders, and just plain folks. We learned from daily Bible studies and were inspired by evening services.

Back at home, we began receiving the *Recorder*. There on its pages were names of people we had met or heard at Conference. The articles challenged us to examine our beliefs: Were they truly based on God's Word, or just on tradition?

Not only were we taught why the Sabbath is God's day of rest, we also heard different ways other SDBs keep the Sabbath special.

Monthly themes have been life-changing. As a Seventh Day Baptist, I've learned to search the Bible to seek the truth about God, about life, and about myself. One issue dealt with the grief of losing a

child. The articles helped me understand how to help others who are grieving.

The special sections let me enjoy our rich history, news about women's and youth activities, and even births, deaths, and marriages. The letters to the editor reveal even more about our individual personalities and opinions.

The Sabbath Recorder gives me the feeling of being part of a large, extended family—one in which the members truly care about one another.

We are grateful that the *Recorder* keeps us in touch with SDBs all over the world, challenges us to live the Christian life, reveals what it means to be a Seventh Day Baptist—in short, it keeps General Conference going all year long! ✠

Beth Wallstrom is a member of the Dodge Center, Minn., SDB Church.

KEVIN'S

KORNER

If you're anything like Norma Rudert or the Fitz Randolphs (see features), I'd like to be the first to welcome you to this month's issue. (Hi Norma, Randy, Madeline and others!)

For this month's theme, I unashamedly pleaded for some glowing testimonials from faithful readers. We were blessed beyond hope!

One reply even came from north of the border: "Several Seventh Day Baptist congregations are remembered in my prayers. *The Sabbath Recorder* helps me understand how to pray for the needs of those congregations. Yours truly, Gary Simpson. Barrhead, Alberta, Canada."

Wasn't it interesting—"coincidental"?

—how we could group the articles into categories? And without any prompting on my part!

The *Recorder* was compared to a kitchen table with many food-related and eating analogies, a letter from home, and a tie that binds and really connects us all.

I mentioned to Leanne Lippincott, our fearless assistant, how I wanted to include all the feature categories in my Korner. She quickly devised, "You could bind up all the people from the kitchen table, squeeze them into a treasure chest, toss in some food—" and I added, "Yeah, and ship it off like a letter from home!"

It's never dull here.

But what does *The Sabbath Recorder* really mean to me?

Ladies, pardon my ignorance, but to me, putting together the *Recorder* is akin to giving birth. Please, hush those primal screams and see if this doesn't sound similar.

We conceive of the idea. We anticipate its gestation. Okay, so we don't have the "pleasure" of a nine-month interim. We give birth every month. (Although my premier issue did take the bulk of my first three months here at the Center.)

We decide on a name (theme, titles), feed the computer, burp the stupid computer... And our "birthing room" gets pretty messy before the due date.

After its arrival, we celebrate the birth (lunch out!), then get to show off the newborn to all our friends and relatives.

As in some families, "unplanned" babies may be the most precious. One recent birth (March) covered the theme, "Taming our Fears." I thought we would simply reprint several sermons provided by the Chapel of the Air ministries.

Then my pastor preached a great message that zeroed in on the same topic. "Okay," I thought, "now we'll only need two of the Chapel articles."

This was followed by these unsolicited articles already titled by their authors: "Witnessing without fear," "Fear's progeny," and "What is there to be afraid of?"

We only needed one Chapel article.

The Lord certainly put that one together.

He puts them all together, as He gives life to all His creation. Yet the March offering seemed to show His touch in a more memorable way.

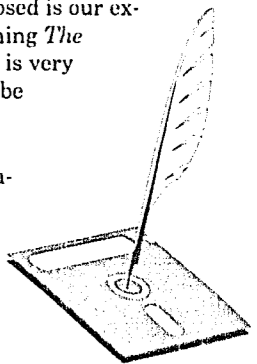
With my real children, I want to give them over completely to the Lord. But isn't that hard to do, parents? We have so much invested, so much at stake. We put so much of ourselves into our offspring.

As the *Recorder* gets ready to "go to bed" (to the press), I pray over it, wish it well.

I'm not quite like Leanne who, every month (quoting now) says, "Well, another one bites the dust!!" At least she's stopped playing the Hallelujah Chorus tape. Perhaps it's because she's been at this thing twice as long. Perhaps it's because I'm still the sentimental young parent. Perhaps it's because I'm still young. (Happy 50th, Leanne!)

A recent letter stated: "Enclosed is our extra contribution toward publishing *The SR*. As lone Sabbathkeepers, it is very important to us, and we would be unhappy to have it decrease in either quality or regularity."

After giving birth to these babies every month for six years, I would have to agree, and fight—as any loving parent would—to help my "kids" be all they can be.



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