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*News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists*

April 1996

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SABBATH

SCHOOL

HOW-TO'S

Answers for the young and old

Summer Institute postponed

This year's Summer Institute on Seventh Day Baptist History and Polity has been postponed until 1997. The Dean of the School of Ministry, Rodney Henry, is working with the Guyana SDB Conference to do Summer Institute there instead.

SDB Train "derailed"

On February 16th, the travel agent gave Pastor Dave Taylor the bad news: Although the rail fare from New York and Chicago had not changed, the cost of sleeping arrangements had doubled or more. Pastor Dave has decided not to pursue this venture any further. He thanks those who contacted him and apologizes for any inconvenience.

Crandall family reunion

The CRANDALL FAMILY REUNION will be held at the Quonochontaug Grange in Charlestown, R.I., on Sabbath, July 20, 1996.

For further details, write to the Crandall Family Association: P.O. Box 1472, Westerly, RI 02891, or to Earl P. Crandall, P.O. Box 1234, Hudson, NY 12534-0308.

Internet address is: eperry@capital.net
And on the World Wide Web: <http://pages.prodigy.com/NY/cranfamassoc/index.html>

The Sabbath Recorder



April 1996
Volume 218, No. 4
Whole No. 6,806

A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Second-class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Sabbath Recorder, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 151st year of publication for The Sabbath Recorder. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



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WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

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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



General Conference 1996

Experience THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

August 4-10, Lacey, Washington (just south of Olympia)

State parks, campgrounds

Located in a minor "rain shadow" of the coastal mountains, Thurston County and the greater South Sound region enjoys a relatively mild climate which brings an abundance of outdoor recreation.

Local governments and private individuals have created more than 50 parks and recreation areas covering almost 50,000 acres to make your stay more pleasant.

Camping and RV facilities include:

- American Heritage Campground (360) 943-8778
- Olympia Campground (360) 352-2551
- Deep Lake Resort (360) 352-7388
- Lake Nahwatzel Resort (360) 426-8323
- ORV Sports Park (360) 786-5595
- Millersylvania State Park (360) 753-1519

Transportation

The church will provide transportation from Sea-Tac Airport, located 46 miles north of Olympia, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. For additional information, phone the airport ground transportation and visitor information service: (206) 431-5906.

Olympia

The Capitol Campus is the most frequently visited attraction in the state. Rising 267 feet from a plateau overlooking Capital Lake, is it the fifth-highest masonry dome

building in the world and considered to be one of the most beautiful capitols in the nation. Call State Capitol Visitor Services at (360) 586-3460.

Olympia offers its own **Farmer's Market**, with 58 permanent stalls displaying produce, plants, crafts, seafood, and meats. **Percival Landing**, a mile-long boardwalk along Budd Inlet, is lined with marinas, restaurants, and moorage facilities.

Outside the urban area there are a number of interesting sites, such as **Wolfhaven**, a nationally recognized private wolf sanctuary; the **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**; and the **Mima Mounds**, mysterious, evenly-spaced mounds.

Touch the glaciers of **Mt. Rainier** at Paradise Lodge, 80 miles from Olympia. This spectacular mountain is the highest in the continental United States and has been called the most perfectly-formed mountain in the world. To experience the rebirth of **Mt. St. Helens**, travel 120 miles south to the recently-built visitors center.

Within easy traveling distance of Olympia are the **Pacific Ocean** at Ocean Shores (74 miles away), the **Olympic National Park**, **Neah Bay**, and **White Pass** through the Cascade Mountains. Two hundred miles to the north is **Vancouver, B.C.**, with its Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain Skyride, and spectacular setting.

For more information, phone:

- Olympia/Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, (800) 753-8474
- Seattle/King County Visitors Bureau, (206) 461-5840

How to create a prize winning Sabbath School

by Margaret B. Allen

Do you remember receiving your school report card? And do you remember the feeling you had just before you got that dreadful document?

Even though I was generally a good student, report card time stirred up in me a healthy sense of anxiety.

I had been teaching Sabbath School for about 30 years and enjoyed working with the different age groups in both Sabbath School and Vacation Bible School every summer.

Then about eight years ago, I was asked to serve as superintendent of the Sabbath School. This brought back that feeling of "report card anxiety." Those who serve the Lord Jesus Christ with their teaching surely desire to please Him in their service, but this seemed an awesome task

to be responsible for a meaningful Sabbath School program.

God gives every believer a gift, and He expects us to use it to bring spiritual fruit to others. If we are put into a position of leadership, then we are to use our ability and, more importantly, our *availability* for the Holy Spirit to be seen and heard through us.

I knew that I could not do this job on my own, but with God, all things are possible. So I became the superintendent.

I would liken my program to baking a prize winning cake. To do this, we need basic quality ingredients, in the proper amount, blended thoroughly to provide a homogenized mixture, and then baked at the ideal temperature for the required time. The same is true for an effective and productive Sabbath School.

The ingredients for the Sabbath School are: a strong superintendent, devoted teachers, students, teaching materials,

suitable classrooms, and a library.

Superintendents, as well as the teachers, must be born-again Christians. The superintendent should possess a clear and positive commitment to the church, the Sabbath School, and the Lord. Each superintendent must have a love for teaching God's Word to all, but especially to the children. He or she needs to be able to devote the necessary time required to:

- 1) Review and select the proper teaching aids and student books.
- 2) Recruit the best teachers.
- 3) Provide for teacher's meetings and seminars.
- 4) Observe the teachers so constructive criticism can be provided. Exuding a special charisma that draws people together is like icing on the cake.

Sabbath School teachers need to work closely with the superintendent to recommend special items necessary for their class. Class attendance is essential. If for some reason they cannot be present, they should contact the assistant or alternate teacher to substitute.

Plan to spend adequate time to prepare the lesson, so the Word of God will come forth.

Students are necessary for a successful Sabbath School program. The superintendent and teachers should encourage everyone to attend Sabbath School. When teachers visit the students, send cards when they are absent, and perhaps send birthday cards, this lets the students know they are cared for. Do what you can to show your love.

Proper teaching materials and adequate classrooms are essential for effective teaching. Classroom furniture should be suitable for the age and size of the student. A chalkboard and posterboard should be placed in all classrooms, with a flannelboard in the younger students' classrooms. Rooms need proper lighting, heating, and wouldn't air conditioning be nice?

The classroom should be big enough to accommodate the number of students in the class. You may need to construct proper storage space for all the teaching aids and materials. The classrooms should be readily accessible to all students, especially those with physical problems.

Your library should have a good supply of Bibles, Bible reference books, Bible dictionary, concordance, and related books. Audio tapes and videos pertaining to the Bible, especially videos with programs designed for the youth, are a great resource.

Now that we have the ingredients, they must be properly mixed and thoroughly baked.

The superintendent (or others) should conduct an opening exercise before Sabbath School. I have found it is most effective to hold church first and, at the close of the worship



service, before the congregation is dismissed, to have the opening exercise. This informs everyone of what will be happening in Sabbath School and invites them to attend. It is important that all classes start and close on time.

I have discovered that it is desirable to have a co-teacher program where teaching is alternated each quarter. This helps prevent teacher burnout and also provides time for teachers to attend an adult Sabbath School class as a student. An added plus is that more people become involved with the Sabbath School program.

Another method is to have a permanent teacher and an assistant. The main advantage of this method is continuity.

Other activities help unite the Sabbath School, such as Sabbath School picnics, and special programs at

the opening of Sabbath School (memory verses, for example).

Another activity is to have the Scripture lesson read by different people in the form of a skit or play. Those reading can dress in costumes of the time. It is especially interesting to have the little ones read the Scriptures for the adult classes.

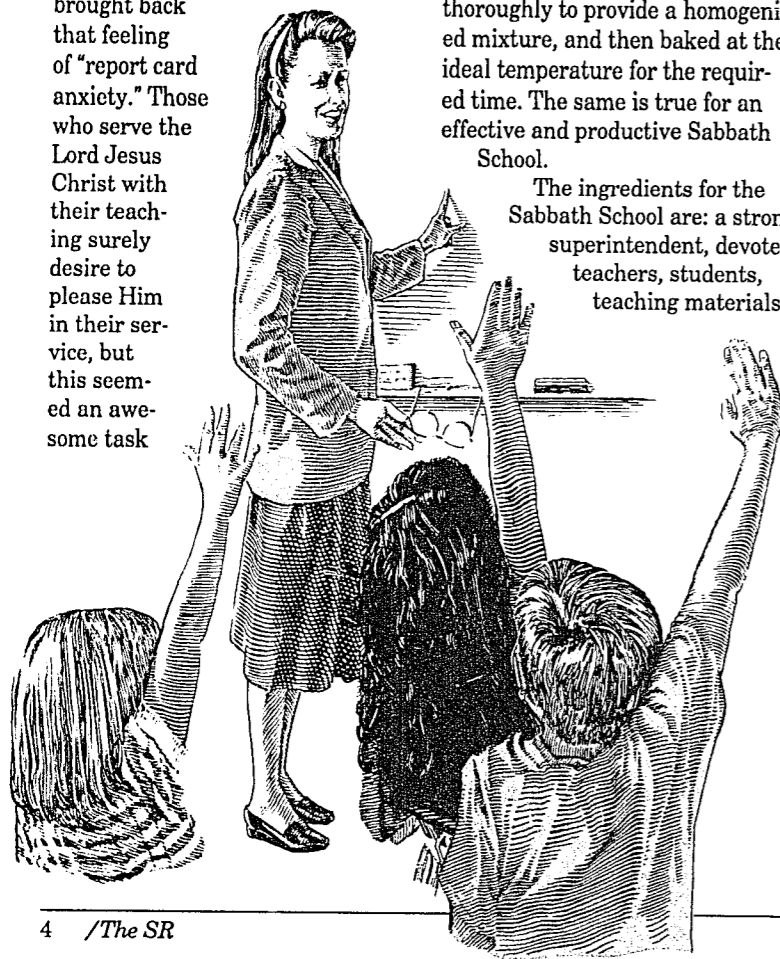
To mix the ingredients and bake, it is necessary that there be a close relationship among the pastor, the superintendent, teachers, and students. If this exists, you will have a prize winning Sabbath School.

Most importantly, your students will be learning the meaning of God's Word. If they are not believers, they will come to realize they need Jesus, and will ask God to receive them into His Kingdom. Those who are believers will continue to grow and mature in their spiritual life. *SR*

Margaret Allen, of the Lost Creek, W. Va., SDB Church, was the recipient of the Board of Christian Education's Crystal Apple award as Sabbath School Teacher of the Year in 1988.

Classroom addition enjoyed for seven years

The Lost Creek church felt the need to provide better facilities for a growing Sabbath School, so plans for an educational wing were set in motion. The building, completed in April 1989, houses a library, seven classrooms, two restrooms, and has central heating and air conditioning. This facility adds greatly to the growth and enjoyment of the Lost Creek Sabbath School.



SABBATH SCHOOL

RECIPES

An open circle

A recipe for a perfect Sabbath School class

by Madeline Fitz Randolph

Gather together a class... (don't forget Matt. 18:20)

It takes a careful balance of giving and receiving to make a wholesome and satisfying "feast of the Spirit" that is possible to have in Sabbath School.

Some merely come to listen and refresh their souls; some are troubled and are looking for answers to their questions; some express an opinion. There are those who are willing to share their experiences, and those who are thankful for the Sabbath and the time with friends.

The perfect class will naturally be an open circle, sensitive to the needs of others, and drawing others in who might be blessed by the experience. The perfect class will naturally be a widening circle, seeking those who might be blessed by joining in this fellowship.

One important part of leading a group such as this is to keep a positive outlook. It is sad to see those who have given up on life, who do not have hope. It is easy to see how one could begin to be discouraged, forgetting that "God is still keeping watch above His own." Some need the assurance that we do have the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. With this promise, we can give encouragement and hope.

When I think of our *Helping Hand* class, I smile. We do quite a bit of smiling—even laughing—on Sabbath morning. It is a wonderful thing to be with others who have a sense of humor. And for

those who do not, well, it is their loss.

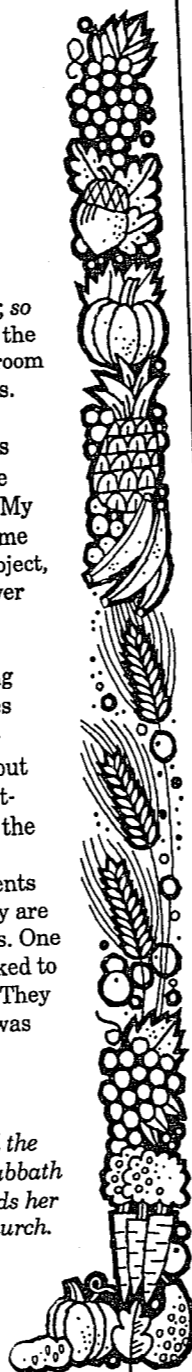
I believe that good humor is contagious. We have some real good laughs; so good that the Building Committee for the new church has designated a special room away from the other classes just for us. (No kidding!)

It is a thrill to be the teacher of this class, and I realize that they teach me a great deal more than I teach them. My husband, Elmo, is right there beside me (sometimes getting us way off the subject, but also bringing in ideas we had never thought of).

I think of us studying the book of Jonah or the story of Ruth, and trying to compute how many dozens of times we had studied them during our lifetimes. And here we are still finding out new things, loving to go over the written words, and discovering who was the mother of Boaz.

All of these people are Bible students as well as students of life itself. They are Christians who really care for others. One visitor who came to the class remarked to me as we were leaving the church, "They show so much love in your class, it was a great experience to be there." SR

Madeline Fitz Randolph received the Crystal Apple award as the 1995 Sabbath School Teacher of the Year. She leads her class at the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church.



Steady growth at Alfred Station

by Phyllis Mattison

In January, 1991, the Alfred Station, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church was at the crossroads regarding our future. We entered the MORE 2000 (Mission of Revival and Evangelism) program and embarked on an analysis of our church.

Our goal was to determine what "kind" of a church we were, decide what we wanted to accomplish, and whom we should call to be our pastor. At the conclusion of our in-depth study, the Rev. Kenneth D. Chroniger accepted our call, arriving in August, 1991.

Together, we charted a course which has been exciting and rewarding. Our primary goal was to become more mature spiritually, both as individuals and as an active church. If we grew in number, it would only be as a side effect (which would be great, of course). But first we needed to be closer to the Lord.

We adopted 1 Corinthians 12 as our model. Our joy in working toward the same goal of building up the "body" of the church for our Lord, Jesus Christ, has led us to deeper spirituality and a fine side effect of numerical growth.

Pastor Ken started vigorously calling on non-attending church members. The diaconate and other interested couples developed a systematic calling program.

The pastor's discipleship classes have resulted in many people being baptized, joining the church, and becoming active members of the church and Sabbath School. Several young families who were once members moved "back home" with-in driving distance of the church. All of these impacted our attendance growth.

At that time, we had four Sabbath School classes—adult, high school, junior, and primary—with

an enrollment of 31 and an average attendance of 23. It was plain to see our Sabbath School needed to accommodate these young families.

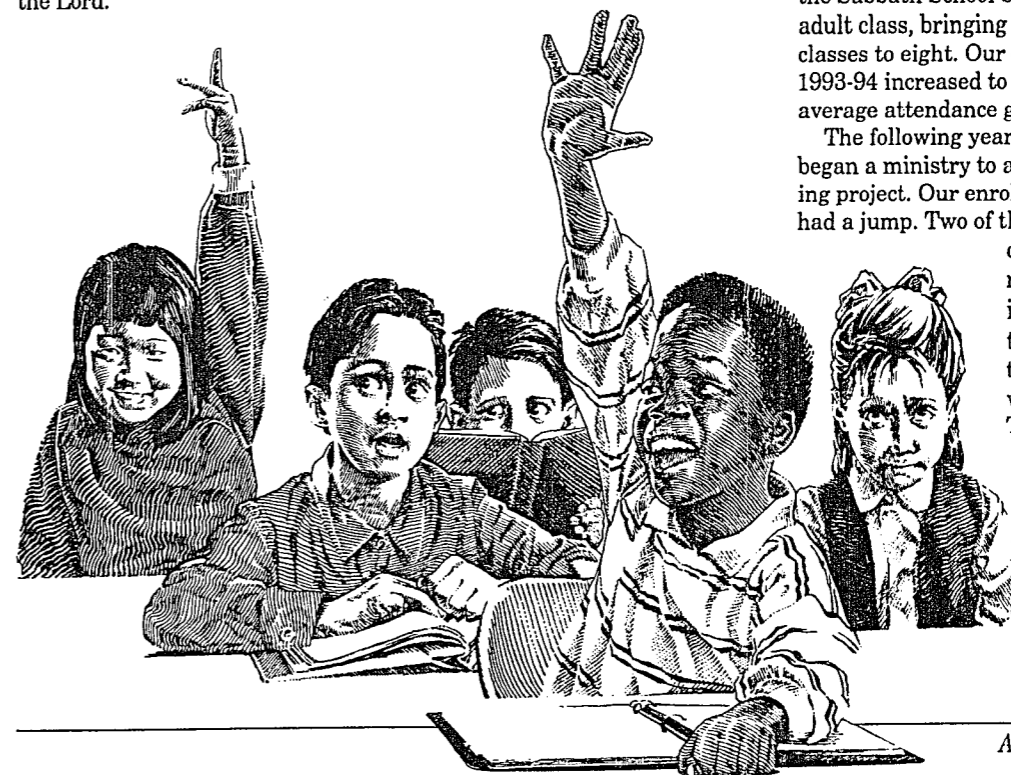
In September of 1993, we set up a nursery and a beginners class was established. A letter sent to every active family in the church and Sabbath School notified them of these new classes.

Our adult class had become quite large. The younger adults were very respectful of their elders, allowing the seniors to carry on most of the lesson discussion. These senior adults had enjoyed the best teachers available for many years. A core group of these people began a second class to allow the younger adults to enjoy greater participation on their own.

With these new classes—nursery, beginners, and seniors—our enrollment increased again. By the middle of the year, a member of the Sabbath School began a third adult class, bringing our number of classes to eight. Our enrollment in 1993-94 increased to 49, and our average attendance grew to 39.

The following year, the pastor began a ministry to a nearby housing project. Our enrollment again had a jump. Two of the nursery

children were ready to move into a class of their own, so the ninth class was formed. The enrollment



increased to 61, with our average up to 41 (1994-95).

The 10th class was born when the post-high schoolers developed a class. Some members are students at Houghton College, others at Alfred State, and still others have been baptized and recently joined the church. Another is teaching school. The attendance over all the classes increased in 1995-96 and has reached an enrollment of 98, with an average attendance at the present time of 62.

We have not yet reached our vision's numerical goal of 75, but only our Lord knows how and when that will be realized. The important things at the present are:

1) We are united in purpose in the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Covenant and Mission

Statement: "We will watch over each other for good, build up together in Christ, grow in grace and a further knowledge of truth, and be instrumental in bringing persons to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

2) We have learned just how precious each and every member is. It takes everyone's special gifts, working together with others, to accomplish the tasks of the body of the church, and to appreciate our church family.

3) We have to pray earnestly, listen for His voice intently, and wait patiently for the Holy Spirit's directives for the next steps.

4) We need to think about the good of the whole of the church, not just one segment of our special interests.

Our teachers have become a close, cooperative, common-purpose working team, making each class a part of a whole. They have even coordinated lessons and initiated a teacher's handbook.

They do not work under ideal conditions. The Bereans (grades 4-6), the Worker Bees (grades 1-3), and the Honey Bees (toddlers, ages 2-3) share the dining room with the Food For Thought (adult) class. Movable partitions separate the physical floor space but not the noise volume space.

The Baby Bees are in the nursery, an individual room, and the Busy Bees (beginners, ages 4-5) are in a connecting room divided by a movable partition.

The Upper Room Class (young adults) meets in the balcony of the

church, and the Sanctuary Much Class meets in the pulpit area of the sanctuary. The other two classes, the Seekers (Jr.-Sr. high) and the Gleaners (senior adults) meet in the parsonage, thanks to the pastor and his dear wife, Peggy. Peggy even has coffee ready for us every Sabbath.

Each class has issued invitations to prospective members, hoping those who decide to come will enjoy the class as much as we do.

All of our classes have been formed through a natural process of need response. The trustees, the Christian Education Committee, the church president, and every person in the church has been very supportive of this part of our mission. An ad hoc committee was formed to study availability of

space, and we even have space for one more class if we should need it in the future.

During these few years, we've had a workshop for Allegheny Association superintendents and teachers (led by Ernest K. Bee, Executive Director of the Board of Christian Education) and two workshops led by Pastor Chroniger. The first one was "145 Ways to Improve Your Church Schools," for our Sabbath School teachers. The second workshop, for all interested church members, identified our strengths and weaknesses, and set some goals for future directions of the church. We used the book, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, by Kennon Callahan.

Our Sabbath School is indeed blessed with gifted, dedicated

teachers and substitutes. They are dedicated to the Lord, their church, their classes, and their families.

We honor them for their sacrifice of time and for their commitment. Thank you, teachers.

We are always challenged to find equally dedicated substitutes. At the present time, we have a full roster, but we are always in need of a reserve list. We like our teachers to have some time off to be refreshed by attending another class or team teaching at another level.

If you would like to give your teachers a rest to come back rejuvenated, see your Sabbath School superintendent, the chairman of the Christian Education Committee, or your pastor to donate your services. Try it. You may wonder why you didn't volunteer before. *SR*

Driving out of the "Sabbath School Rut"

by Steve Osborn

Oh how easily we fall victim to "Rut Syndrome." Ruts generally don't come with warning signs. A subtle, "Hey Dummy, You're Falling into a Rut" in flashing neon would send us scurrying back to the road to vitality.

Instead we plow ahead, helplessly and unknowingly, ever deeper until we find ourselves right in the thick of the rut. By the time we have the good fortune of realizing what has happened, we are up to our necks, and any attempt to escape seems futile at best.

Ruts may even begin with doing something good. We just do that good thing over and over until it loses its meaning and becomes a struggle to maintain status quo. We simply go through the motions.

Such was the case with Sabbath School here at the Milton (Wis.) SDB Church. Or so I am told.

Coming in as the new Pastor of Christian Education, I discovered a church with a dynamic Sabbath School program and few indications that things had ever been otherwise. But according to my sources, not too many years have passed since our church was mired in a "Sabbath School Rut."

How tragic. When we allow our opportunity to study God's Word and to grow in Christian character to become mundane, then we have lost our zest for the Christian life, our "saltiness" as it were. Check out what Matthew 5:13 says about that situation.

Apparently the root of the problem was in the adult department. The attendance of our one adult class had

dwindled down to "the Remnant." You know who they are. Every church has these faithful few.

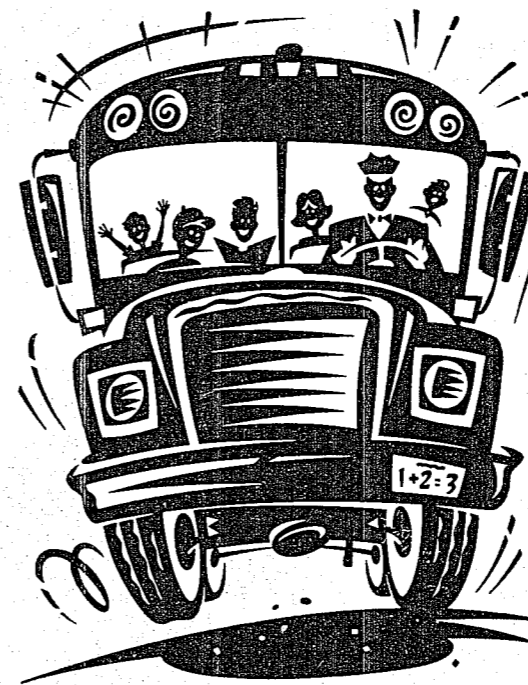
Praise the Lord for those who stuck with the program through thick and thin, or Sabbath School might have been thought obsolete and done away with altogether. But even some of these folks tell me that they were simply going through the motions, doing it because it was expected. After all, doesn't one of the Ten Commandments say something about Sabbath School attendance?

Others found more and more convenient excuses for cutting class, eventually dropping out. Or they just never started attending in the first place. The majority of attendees were in the middle age group, with our senior saints and young married couples not finding much to draw them to the class.

I do not mean to place the blame on the class itself. But in this day and age of having so many different things competing for our time, people tend to invest their time in the things that are meaningful to them.

This slump in the adult program had its impact on our children's Sabbath School as well. After a while, the parents got tired of leaving their young ones and returning in an hour to pick them up. So the attendance of our children's programs went down, too.

When I was learning how to drive, my dad taught me two important points for getting out of an icy rut. The first is, don't panic. If you gun the engine, you will



simply spin your wheels and end up digging yourself in deeper.

Any chance of escape requires a patient, slow and steady approach. If you put the car in a lower gear and can find a firm spot to start from, you can often drive yourself right out of the rut. Sometimes you may even

have to go backwards to find that firm spot.

The other point is that sometimes you will need an impulse of energy from outside your own vehicle (i.e., "Get out and push, Steve!").

I believe that these two strategies were applied in the recent revitalization of our adult Sabbath School program. Once the church realized that it was mired in a "Sabbath School Rut," we did not panic but rather looked for the best way out.

This was not an overnight revolution. We all know that bad habits take a short time to form and the rest of our lives to break. The same might be said for the bad habit of not attending Sabbath School. Over a period of years, though, we have been able to overcome some of the negative attitudes and apathy that had developed towards Sabbath School. You might say that we took a slow and steady approach and worked to change the momentum.

The impulse of energy that helped us came in the form of diversity. By splitting up our adult classes and offering a variety of topics and types of studies, we can meet a much larger range of needs.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Pastor Herb and Barbara Saunders for getting the ball rolling, and to Pastor George and Lannette Calhoun, who are largely responsible for the current structure of our adult Sabbath School program. They provided the large dose

cont. on page 12

Our Sabbath-school

A doorway, educator of the church

Reprinted from The Helping Hand, Oct.-Dec. 1887, L.A. Platts, editor



The Sabbath-school is a part—an important part—of the church. It is both a doorway into the church and an educator of the church.

Its instruction supplements the instruction given by the pulpit. It deals with the young and impressionable mind more directly than the pulpit can, hence it exerts a more powerful influence in laying the foundations of character.

It has a mission not only to the children and youth, but to the middle-aged and aged as well. The disciple of Christ does not graduate this side of the grave. There is always something new to be learned from that marvelous Book whose study comprises the chief work of the Sabbath-school.

There are two principal reasons why older people should attend the Sabbath-school:

1st. For their own edification and spiritual growth. They need the stimulus to study and the help obtainable in the Bible-class.

2d. For the sake of their example before the young. Older people, especially parents, are patterns for the children. What parents do the children will do, or wish to do.

Hence if parents stay away from Sabbath-school the children will do the same, if they be allowed; and if they are *sent*, they will go with their minds made up to stay away, as father and mother do, when they are old enough to do as they please.

Parents, if you wish your children to grow up to love the house of God and its appointments, show them an example of faithfulness; go with them to the Bible school as well as to the preaching service, and thus get good to your own souls and set them a good example.

The Sabbath-school instruction should not supplant the religious training of the children in the home. It is a sad mistake for parents to resign the religious tutelage of their children to those who know them slightly, and see them, it may be, but once a week.

Teachers and parents should cooperate, consulting often regarding the progress of the children, and praying over the unconverted. Such a state of things would soon bring all of our children into the fold of Christ.

The Sabbath-school lesson

should be studied in the home during the week. The older members of the family can interest and help the younger members by making the lesson topics the subjects of conversation at meals, or at other times when the family may be together. In this way all will become interested both in the lesson and in the school.

Finally, let me appeal to the young men and young women—those who are just beginning to decide for themselves. Don't abandon the Sabbath-school. If you do you will be very apt to abandon the study—and even the *reading*—of the Bible; and there is no telling to what depths of sin you may fall when these holy influences and restraints are removed.

If you formed the habit of attending Sabbath-school in childhood, keep it up all through life. If you have never formed the habit, form it at once.—E.P.S., in *Good Words*. SR



Lewis A. Platts served as editor of The Helping Hand when this article appeared. Platts' testimony from his own Sabbath School days is featured in this month's "Pearls" on page 16.

Discussion in the Sabbath School

by Herbert Crouch

Reprinted from the The Helping Hand, Oct.-Dec. 1955

In many of our adult Sabbath School classes, the teacher is selected (or volunteers) because he is probably a better informed Bible scholar than most of the class members, or is more competent in speaking to a group.

His opinion is generally respected. He explains the lesson and answers questions about it. He does most of the talking.

Under such competent instruction, one may learn much. However, there is reason to believe that people may learn more and find the class more interesting when its members spend at least part of the time freely discussing the lesson materials. At the request of the editor, this article is written to suggest a few ways in which group discussion may be made a more interesting and vital part of our Sabbath School class meetings.

Good discussion has as its aim the development of a better understanding of the topic being discussed. It works through people thinking and conversing together.

Its organization is usually based on two factors: a leader, to stimulate the process and guide it along a given path; and participants, willingly contributing from their own thought and knowledge and, as willingly, listening to the contributions of others. It is a free exchange of ideas and opinions guided—but not dominated—by a leader.

The leader

Let us consider the leader first. A good discussion leader is prepared to lead, not lecture.

His preparation differs from that of the lecturer, because his stock in trade is questions, not answers. Indeed, the questions he asks, and the way he handles the questions

asked by members of the group, largely determine the success of the discussion process.

Accordingly, as he reads the lesson and studies its background materials, he looks for questions which open up the important topics in the lesson. He should have some idea where his questions might lead, to avoid getting too far afield, but he should generally not come to class intending to lead the group to certain conclusions, or else!

After preliminaries are over, the leader usually points out the scope of the lesson and brings class attention onto some phase of the lesson by asking a question about it. When the class begins to exchange views, the leader's function becomes one of listening and encouraging everyone to speak.

He should do his best to see that timid souls in the group are not forced into the background by more aggressive personalities. It is sometimes advisable to ask someone who has not contributed, what he thinks about the question.

The leader should be ready to steer the conversation back onto the main point if it wanders. When



People may learn more and find the class more interesting when its members spend at least part of the time freely discussing the lesson materials.

the group seems to have exhausted one phase of a topic, he may summarize what has been said and redirect the discussion into another phase of the lesson with another question.

Two errors sometimes made by discussion leaders should be avoided.

First, the leader generally should avoid expressing his own opinions. He can serve the group best by remaining neutral. His inspirational function is frequently reduced if the class is put in the position of arguing with him.

Second, the leader should not answer a question asked by a member of the class except, possibly, as a last resort. He will stimulate far more exchange of ideas if he turns these questions back into the group. Usually he will conclude a discussion period by summarizing the main points.

The class member

Now let us consider the function of the class member who is to participate in this discussion process.

He needs essentially the same preparation. Like the leader, he will probably develop questions about the lesson. But, unlike the leader, he should also develop answers or opinions.

The attitude with which he enters into the discussion is important to its success. If he comes to class prepared to express his opinions as though he simply could not be wrong; if he listens to other people with a will, not to understand them, but to find flaws in their thinking or information; or, in short, if he comes to class only to defend his point of view and beat down all opposition, he will probably not make any very useful contribution to the class, nor will he profit much by the experience.

If, on the other hand, he willingly and humbly expresses his ideas; or, though he feels strongly on the topic, if he can still listen to the opinions of others and try to understand them, he will probably make a significant contribution and profit from the process.

Much of the value in group dis-

cussion lies partly in the meeting of several minds as they work toward common understanding, and partly in the clarifying process one's thinking undergoes as he attempts to express himself to others. Good group discussion seems to be an appropriate tool for Sabbath Schools, for it cannot succeed unless carried out in the spirit of Christian love and co-operation.

One might observe further that if discussion is the main method of learning used in adult Sabbath School classes, finding teachers might be easier, since being a discussion leader does not mean one must be an authority on the Bible, or a skilled lecturer. Through discussion, people may learn together rather than be taught by one individual. *SR*

Herb Crouch wrote this article when he was professor of speech and dramatics at Milton (Wis.) College. His son, Alan, must have learned from his father—Alan was Sabbath School Teacher of the Year in 1994.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Let's go to Sabbath School!

"Teach me Thy statutes. Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, so I will meditate on Thy wonders" (Psalm 119:26-27 NASB).

As I was growing up, it never occurred to me that going to church and Sunday School were two different events, that you could go to one without going to the other. I always went to both each week.

Now that I am a Sabbathkeeper and have a family, Don and I are teaching our children the same thing—going to church and Sabbath School is part of our commitment to the Lord. It is not an "either" church "or" Sabbath School situation, but it is a "both" church "and" Sabbath School commitment.

We need what church can give us, a time to worship and praise the Lord. And we need what Sabbath School can give us, a time to study God's Word with others.

As I look at statistics for church and Sabbath School attendance throughout the denomination, and as I observe Sabbathkeeping families I know, I see that not everyone feels the same way about Sabbath School as I do.

For many, Sabbath School is an option. For others, Sabbath School is for children and youth, but not adults. For some, attending Sabbath School is a waste of time, and not nearly as important as attending the worship service.

We can have the best teachers, the best materials, the best audio-visual equipment, the most lovely facilities, but unless we have students willing to attend Sabbath School, people won't be touched for the Lord through a Sabbath School experience.

Are you and your family faithful in your attendance to Sabbath School? If not, why not?

Have you gotten out of the habit of attending Sabbath School? We can't neglect the study of God's Word and expect a well-guided life. We need more Bible study as we face the challenges of every day life, and we need the fellowship of other Christians to help us in our spiritual growth.

Begin a habit of going to Sabbath School this week. If you are a regular attender, make a point

chairs, or provide a fellowship time between church and Sabbath School to give people a time to stretch and relax.

Speak with your Sabbath School superintendent or church trustees about your concerns. Offer to help provide the best physical surroundings for the classes, or volunteer to provide coffee and donuts for your congregation.

The Sabbath School can provide Bible study for the believer, and also can introduce nonbelievers to the wonderful truths of God. Pray

**Going to church and Sabbath School
is part of our
commitment to the Lord.
It is not an "either" church
"or" Sabbath School situation.**

"Sabbath School Rut," cont. from page 9

of patience and additional energy we needed to drive ourselves right out of the rut.

Today we average over 100 in our total Sabbath School program, with half of that being our adult programs. Enthusiasm is up. People who never even thought of attending Sabbath School have found themselves getting drawn in. The program is now more family oriented, with whole families staying for Sabbath School instead of just the children. And all age groups are getting involved, from the toddlers up to our oldest active members (an age span of over 90 years).

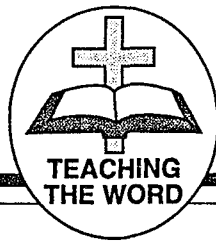
Each quarter, we offer at least four adult Sabbath School electives: *The Helping Hand* class, another Bible study, and two classes on various topics. We have studied everything from parenting, to understanding God's grace, to the religion of Islam. Some of our more popular classes have explored the topics of marriage, prayer, and spiritual warfare. We have also been able to take advantage of nearby denominational programs, using Rod Henry's seminar on conflict resolution as a mini-quarter, and having Don Sanford teach a class on SDB History and Distinctives.

You may be saying to yourself, "But we don't have that many teachers in our congregation." The beautiful thing about most of our classes lies in their discussion format. All you really need is for someone to commit to thoroughly reading the book to be studied, and lead a discussion on the important issues in each chapter.

Being able to discuss your opinions is an attractive draw to many of our classes. Some couples even benefit from two classes in one quarter. They attend different classes and then share with each other what they learned.

A crazy thing has happened in the midst of all this. People in Milton are excited about Sabbath School! We have escaped from the rut of drudgery and are once again applying ourselves as students of the Christian life and of God's Word.

All this makes our church more attractive in the community as people find out that they can come here to be fed. This means that we are taking greater strides in fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. And boy, are we having a great time doing it! *SR*



A Golden Rule superintendent

The Nominating Committee had already approached three individuals who had declined their invitation to serve as Sabbath School superintendent. The despondent chairman suggested to the Committee that they approach the new pastor's wife, who as yet held no position in the church.

Having no previous experience with the superintendent's position, the pastor's wife pleaded ignorance. The Committee offered that the pastor was a readily available source of help. (Pastors know about these things—educating Christians.) The Nominating Committee assured her that she would only have to select a couple of hymns and call on the pastor or a deacon for a prayer for the weekly opening exercise, supervise the recruitment of teachers and substitutes, and order the curriculum resources for the classes.

Though feeling inadequate to the task, the pastor's wife agreed only if no one else wanted the position. The Committee was ecstatic.

Golden rule superintendent

The Sabbath School is the heart of the local church, and the Sabbath School superintendent is the pacemaker for that heart. The Sabbath School, with its many small groups, fulfills the church's mission of reaching others to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, bringing them into close fellowship with other Christians, assisting them to learn a Christian lifestyle, and preparing them to bring yet others to Christ and His Church.

The superintendent is the catalyst for this holistic learning experi-

ence. He/she constantly works in the background, helping teachers and students. The *golden rule* superintendent fulfills the role of the servant minister. Jesus described the Sabbath School superintendent when He said, "...whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all" (Mark 10:43-44, RSV).

We know that the single most important role in any church is the pastor's. The pastor leads the congregation in the worship of God. He/she is the leader most responsible for establishing the worship atmosphere and determining the style of the worship service.

Most of us also recognize that the teacher is the key to the educational ministry of the local church. Each Sabbath, the class teacher leads a small group of students through Bible study to experience a deeper understanding of God and His relationship with His people. Yet, many fail to understand the importance of the superintendent to the church's mission.

The superintendents I remember best are those who filled a significant role in creating a climate of enthusiasm and commitment within the church. They were committed Christians who felt the importance of their ministry role and took their responsibilities seriously.

I have asked in workshops who influenced the participants' religious experience the most. They tell me their parents, grandparents, pastors, and Sabbath School teachers. (This order will vary according to the respondent.) I don't recall a single person mentioning

their Sabbath School superintendent. Do you remember who was the superintendent when you were baptized and first joined the church? Is it any wonder that finding a candidate for this position is frequently so difficult?

I remember the Sabbath School superintendent in 1965 in my pastorate in Alfred Station, N.Y.—Rena Clarke. Rena lived and believed that the Sabbath School was important to the church. And it was. I remember another superintendent whose main strength was support and training of teachers. An outstanding teaching superintendent in one of our churches who has retired from many years of service wrote me, "I'm going to miss doing the work—I loved it. My Sabbaths especially don't seem complete."

The *golden rule* superintendents are filled with the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit, the love of God for His children, and the teachings of Christ.

I remember a superintendent in the early 1980s who was also a deacon of the Central Maryland church. Each Sabbath morning, Pratt J. Chroniger greeted everyone with such love that anyone knew this church was the right place to be.

Pratt (Jim) was the first person visitors would meet. His warm welcome and personal attention dispelled the awkwardness of being a stranger. If you were new, Jim would guide you to your class and introduce you to your teacher and other members. Many a visitor mistakenly identified this *golden rule* superintendent as the church's pas-

tor—a dedicated salesman for Christ and His Church.

The superintendent is the administrator of the Sabbath School. He/she is frequently the educational vision-bearer for the church, helping to preserve and advance the beliefs and goals of the church's membership. After the pastor, the superintendent has the potential to influence the growth of the local church. The superintendent greatly influences the relationships and the learning styles for the Sabbath School. The *golden rule* superintendent approaches her/his responsibilities with great enthusiasm and expectation, soliciting the church's teachers to reach their students for Christ.

Mission, objectives, tasks

The superintendent participates with other members of the church's educational supervisory committee—the Christian Education Committee in many of our churches—in forming objectives to accomplish the church's mission (goals). This planning group will identify the needs of the congregation considering the church's mission statement. Having established a priority list, the superintendent and others will form possible objectives for the Sabbath School: knowing the Bible, developing a Christian lifestyle and relationships, and providing for teacher development.

A superintendent with sufficient history in the local church is equipped to recommend structural changes, curriculum resources, and leaders for the Sabbath School. For this reason, it is important that the superintendent be an experienced member of the local church. A church member once commented, following the election of a superintendent who was relatively new to the church, that the new superintendent didn't know what was going on because he hadn't been there long enough to find out.

Sabbath School structure

Superintendents will recognize

that the old saying among architects, "*form follows function*," applies to the Sabbath School. When the church has clarified its mission and formed objectives to fulfill that mission, the Sabbath School may then structure itself to help achieve those objectives. If the superintendent is a gifted teacher who understands that persons learn best through a variety of teaching techniques, he/she will recommend appropriate class groupings and the selection of informed teachers.

Golden rule superintendents will participate in the evaluation of the church's class meeting space and arrange for each class an attractive, uncluttered area for learning. The devoted superintendent will arrange for the purchase and availability of Bibles, curriculum resource materials, markerboards, and audio-visual aids. He/she will supervise special events and celebrations important to the Sabbath School and its staff and students.

As Sabbath School administrator, the superintendent will direct the keeping of the class attendance, offering, and membership records. By arranging for a secretary for each class, the superintendent will relieve the teacher from recording-keeping duties.

Relationships with teachers

The superintendent is the administrative teacher of the Sabbath School. As such, he/she will wish to provide support for his/her teachers. In the small church, the superintendent may also serve as a regular class teacher, team teacher, or the emergency substitute teacher. It is a fortunate church whose superintendent is a master teacher as well as a gifted administrator.

If the Sabbath School teacher is relaxed, the class will be. If the teacher is focused upon God, the class will be. If the teacher feels important and appreciated by the church's leadership, the students will catch that feeling. The superintendent, in cooperation with the

pastor, has the responsibility to encourage, support, guide, counsel, and train the teachers.

In those rare instances when a Christian teacher requires discipline, or a personal difference arises between the superintendent and a teacher, the superintendent may more profitably offer his/her observations or questions in private or in the presence of the pastor.

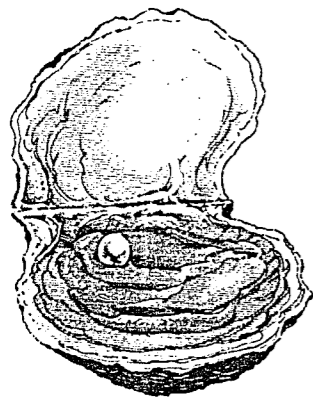
The *golden rule* superintendent will curb the impulse to challenge the integrity of the teacher in public. If the superintendent disagrees with a practice or comment of the teacher, he/she is advised to preserve his/her comments for the earliest convenient opportunity outside the presence of the class members.

The *golden rule* superintendent prays for all the church's teachers and recognizes that changes in practice or perspective by the class teacher are best achieved through private negotiations.

A prayer relationship will provide a more compassionate approach to differences. A prayer list will provide superintendents with a convenient way to organize their prayer life in support of their teachers. The superintendents may wish to list the teachers' names on a note card to carry with them. Daily prayer for their life and ministry will significantly improve working relationships.

If you are a new superintendent, or perhaps wish to explore the possibilities for increased service that your position provides, you may wish to contact an experienced *golden rule* superintendent and seek permission to "shadow" that person while she/he serves.

If you desire to become a *golden rule* superintendent, you will find endless demands on your time and energy. But you will also find a life that is being lived for Christ. Being a Sabbath School superintendent is a life-filling ministry of love to God's children. SP



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

One of God's vineyards

1864. Prof. Albert Whitford was the teacher and we occupied the back seats in the north-east corner of the old church.

In those days, the school was organized about the first of May and suspended for the winter sometime in November. Each season we chose some portion of one of the gospels for our study and pursued it consecutively using seven verses per week. Many of the classes, especially those composed of younger children, committed the verses to memory. While this system was, in many respects crude and imperfect, and while our modern methods are, in most respects, far in advance of those of that early time, I cannot but regret the discontinuance of the habit of consecutive study and of committing to memory definite portions of the Word.

While still but a youth in the teens, I was chosen teacher of a class of boys. One of the regular exercises of the school at that time was the calling of the roll by classes where each member responded with a quotation of scripture.

In 1863, I was chosen superintendent. I kept my class of boys, being, if I remember correctly, the only male teacher in the school. There were twelve classes, averaging five or six members to the class.

There were at that time several families living in the vicinity of Milton Junction, who could not get to the church in time for Sabbath School, nor to the prayer meeting in the afternoon. To meet both these conditions a Sabbath School was organized at the school house near the Junction to be held on Sabbath afternoons and followed by a prayer and conference meeting. Preaching was had when a preacher could be secured. I was chosen superintendent of the school and the leader of the meeting which followed.


These afternoon services are impressed ever more vividly on my mind than those of the school at the church in the morning, for it was then that I began more directly to assume some of those duties and responsibilities which belong to the work I had chosen for my life work, and in which I have found great joy for a quarter of a century.

From my 14th to my 24th years, it was my privilege to work in the Sabbath School in its various departments from high-private to chief figure head.

Those were days of many mistakes and failures on my part, but they were days of precious beginnings. Other days and other scenes have come with riper experience and larger opportunities in the service of our blessed Lord; but none will find a more welcome place in memory's storehouse of precious things than those connected with those ten years work in the Milton Sabbath School.

May the next fifty years of the Milton Sabbath School be marked by the same spirit of earnest, aggressive, and progressive work which has characterized it in the past; and may it become more and more the place in which souls shall find the truth as it is in Jesus, and which young lives may find the joy of life in him.

At that same Jubilee Celebration of the Milton Sabbath School, a teacher of over 20 years, Mrs. R.H. Whitford, responded:

For the work that has come to me these past years, I feel the deepest sense of gratitude. A greater benefit cannot have come to the pupils than to myself. The Sabbath School is one of God's vineyards, and blessed is that teacher who at his Lord's coming can render an abundant harvest. 

One of the most prominent Seventh Day Baptist leaders of a century ago was Rev. Lewis Alexander Platts. He was born in 1840 and died in 1915.

During his half century of service, Platts pastored churches in Nile, Andover, and Hornellsville, N.Y.; Piscataway, N.J.; Pawcatuck, R.I.; and Milton, Wis. He also organized the church in Los Angeles, Calif.

During these years, Rev. Platts also served as president of General Conference (in 1888), and secretary of the Memorial, Missionary, and Sabbath School Boards. He taught English literature at Alfred (N.Y.) University, and church history and homiletics at the Theological School.

His writing ministry included 10 years as editor of *The Sabbath Recorder*, and 12 years as the editor and principal writer of *The Helping Hand*. And where did he get his start? Where many other leaders began their apprenticeship—in the Sabbath School!

At the Jubilee Celebration of the Sabbath School in Milton in 1889, Rev. W.C. Whitford invited L.A. Platts to share some memories from his decade of educational study at Milton Academy and Milton College. Platts wrote:

I entered the Sabbath School at Milton in the summer of 1854—35 years ago—as a scholar and remained in it until the autumn of



SR Almanac

Where we
have been...

One year ago—April 1995

One of the original "Senior Saints," Gordon Kilts, provides overview of the outreach volunteer group headed by Chuck Graffius. Other worker testimonies come from Marie Zwiebel ("Champer Camp Mouse"), Chet and Noreen Miller, George Bottoms, Milburn and Beth Jones, Mary Wells, and Matthew Berg.

Richard Steele outlines building plans for new church facility in Boulder, Colo.

"Pearls" column spotlights Jesse Babcock and his work in helping to build the New Auburn, Wis., church.

Ron Elston reports on evangelistic efforts in Portage, Wis.; Plainfield, N.J.; and Kirkwood, Mo.

Longtime pastor Paul Osborn remembered following his March passing.

Five years ago—April 1991

Authors wrestle with issue of "War and Peace" in response to Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf. Writers include Jeanne Yurke, Paul Manuel, Leon Wheeler, and John Camenga.

"Pearls" page looks at how Army Chaplain Leon Maltby crafted unspent ammunition into communion cups in 1945.

Ordination service for Extension Pastor Andrew Samuels, Miami, Fla., held in February.

Ed Sutton featured in "Pastor Profile."

Local church news updates come from Washington, D.C., and Richburg, N.Y.

SDB United Relief Funds provide typhoon relief to people in the Philippines.

10 years ago—April 1986

Just-retired Pastor Edgar Wheeler shares, "Some things I have learned."

World Federation Conferences in Burma and India highlighted.

Registration forms appear for General Conference meetings in Worcester, Mass.

Board of Christian Education moves to new location in Alfred Station, N.Y.

"Beacon" page put together by Bay Area, Calif., youth group.

The first T.I.M.E. (Training In Ministry and Extension) seminar debuts in Salemville, Pa. That church also celebrates 100th anniversary in April.

25 years ago—April 1971

"Mission Notes" substitutes for a regular weekly issue. News comes from Guyana, Malawi, Jamaica, and the Pacific Northwest.

Pastor Vincent Smith ordained in Jamaica.

Ministers' Conference held in Battle Creek, Mich.

Daytona Beach, Fla., church burns mortgage on March 13. Successful fund drive oversubscribes the remaining debt and even covers an unbudgeted termite control bill.

Record member participation noted at Missionary Society annual meeting.

50 years ago—April 1946

Eight SDB denominational representatives attend postwar united church activities meeting of the Federal Council of Churches in Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Victor Skaggs called to become corresponding secretary of the American Sabbath Tract Society. Skaggs to leave his New Market, N.J., pastorate in August.

Rev. Erlo Sutton resigns from Denver, Colo., pastorate.

Easter series of articles on "guidance" presented by Rev. Loyal Hurley.

Quote from Charles Spurgeon: "A sermon that gets only as far as the ear is like dinner eaten in a dream."

...where are we headed?

Pray—

- for our Senior Saints' projects
- with thanks for skilled craftsmen and workers
- for those recovering from natural disasters
- that we see fruit from outreach efforts
- for this summer's Conference preparations
- for our SDB Missionary Society
- with thanks for our General Services staff



Seeking Spiritual Maturity: BIBLE STUDY

Imaginative short stories help expand Bible study

Two new Bible studies from Concordia Publishing House (CPH) generate group discussion and individual reflection through thought-provoking and imaginative stories. *The Unlocked Door and Other Stories*, and *The Secret Admirer and Other Stories*, draw readers through issue-oriented, poignant storytelling by Donald L. Deffner.

Each of the six sessions refer to God's Word for insight on the story theme and practical life application. Each session is based on one to three stories and discussion

questions that help group participants—through the Holy Spirit—share and build their faith.

The Unlocked Door offers 11 stories on issues such as forgiveness, servanthood, loneliness, love, and more. *The Secret Admirer* includes 10 stories on topics of morality, trust, pride, parenting, life and death, and others. The studies are appropriate for group or personal study settings.

The series can be used for small-group gatherings using the traditional church morning Bible class or in homes. Special leader's notes

assist even first-time teachers.

These two new studies expand the selection of creative stories and studies found in CPH's *The Bright Red Sportscar and Other Stories* and *The Perfect Couple and Other Stories*, also by Deffner.

Additional information: *The Unlocked Door and Other Short Stories*, *The Secret Admirer and Other Short Stories*. Paperback, 96 pages, six sessions each, 5 3/8" x 8 3/8", \$4.99 each. Available directly from CPH (1-800-325-3040) or your local Christian bookstore. SR

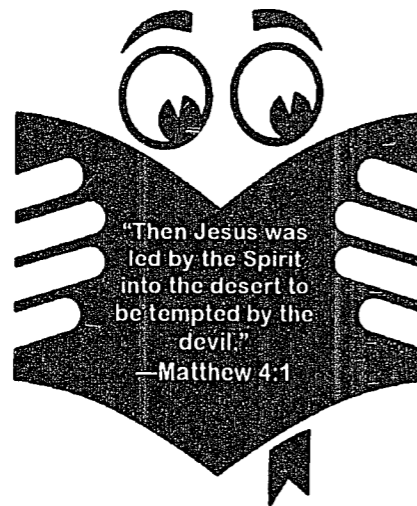
Bible Q & A:

Does the Spirit lead us into temptation?

God does not tempt us to sin—that's Satan's specialty. But God does test us at times, though the difference might seem subtle. On occasion God may test us by putting us directly into the line of Satan's fire.

The Spirit put Jesus to the test by allowing Satan to tempt him to sin. Before his divine mission on earth could succeed, Jesus had to first overcome this encounter with the enemy.

Similarly, we will have to win numerous small battles over temptation if we're to fulfill the purpose or call God has given us. God may allow our faith to be tested so that,



as He helps us, initial skirmishes can bring us small victories and prepare us to fight and win even bigger battles.

God tests us, not that we might fall into sin, but that we might become victorious. (Also see "How does the Lord discipline?" [Heb. 12:5] and "Why does God allow our faith to be tested?" [1 Peter 1:7] in *The Quest Study Bible*.)

Taken from *The Quest Study Bible, NIV* (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.



FOCUS
on Missions

No building, new building

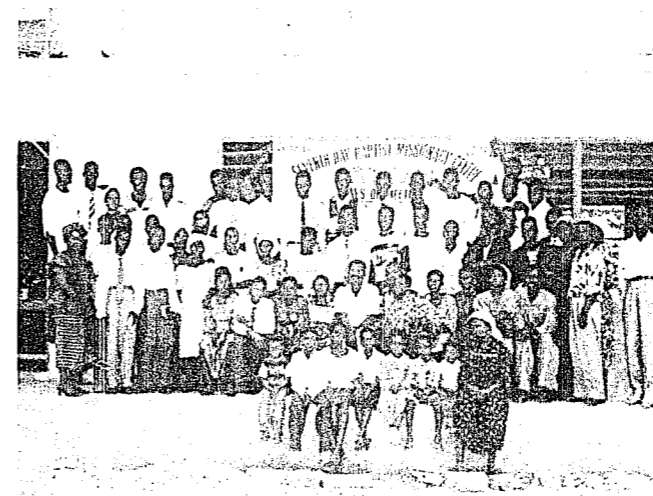
by Kirk Looper

Surveying the work being done in our Conferences around the world gives us an opportunity to share the wonderful activities going on. Evangelism is in full swing and very effective. Some building of churches is evident.

Activity in the areas of health and welfare helps to reach out to those in need of human contact. Every

month, letters come into the Missionary Society office which tell of this exciting work.

It would be difficult to relate all the activity to you. It would also be impossible to relate the appreciation expressed by the people involved. Here are some examples of the work being done and some of the results.



Grateful appreciation comes from Ghana for the funds that supplied tracts, study books, and Bibles for evangelistic outreach. The group pictured was forced out of their meeting place. The government owned the building and a school used it during the week. The government decided they would work in some of the offices on Saturday, while the school also decided to meet on Saturday. The congregation moved out, but was soon forced to vacate the second building after the roof was removed to use on another facility. Church members never really know when they will need to move again. This is bad for those looking for their meeting place. Let us pray that they will be able to purchase their own facility. They will need funds to do this.



A new building constructed in the Philippine Conference houses the congregation in Cebu City. Much of the funds were generated from church members. However, about \$8,000 is needed to complete payment for the structure. As you can see in the picture, the building is large enough to seat 200 to 300. What a blessing to see one of our Conferences able to support themselves to this degree. Praise God for the blessings He has shown. SR

Historic celebration a success

What a glorious Sabbath! Cool weather early in the week gave way to warm sunshine, bringing sunny dispositions to scores of happy faces. It was time to celebrate the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church's 100th anniversary.

On January 27, 1996, about one-third of the congregation came to church attired in turn of the century clothing. This certainly added authenticity to the already festive atmosphere. And parking at the neighboring Masonic Lodge provided an absence of any modern vehicles.

Following a grand entrance of Pastor Gabriel Bejjani's family (by horse, carriage, and bicycle), the worship service followed a late 19th-century format. The program included "Singing" (all period numbers, led by chorister Tony Maddox), "Reciting the Ten Commandments," "Collection," and "Dismissal." Associate Pastor Eric Davis held the over two dozen children spellbound with the children's story. Rev. Bejjani used a sermon by Eli Loofboro, one of Riverside's earliest pastors, as the basis for his morning message.

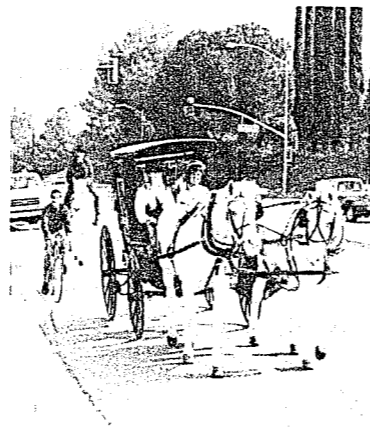
A busy kitchen crew served tasty fried chicken and much more for the noon meal. An even busier youth fellowship waited on the tables. After-dinner opera music, arranged by Jeanne Kentfield, was a superb dessert. Following an afternoon rest, we gathered again for a rousing celebration of patriotic and show tunes from the Riverside 1876 Centennial Band, the nation's oldest year-round volunteer band. Outstanding!

Soup and sandwiches squeezed in, it was back to the sanctuary for the evening program. If you came

not knowing the church's history, the excellent vignettes got you up to speed. Talented church members provided musical numbers matching each story's time period.

Reflecting on the grand event, Pastor Bejjani wrote in the church newsletter: "We praised the Lord for helping us continue our witness in His name for 100 years in Riverside. The day was a wonderful celebration of God's power and presence in our lives.

"I want to thank you all for your participation in making this his-



(Above)
A sight not unusual 100 years ago, but a rarity today. Pastor Gabe Bejjani (on horse) and family arrive in style.



(Right)
Pastors Eric Davis, Gabe Bejjani, and choir director Tony Maddox leading worship.



Members and visitors (attendance of 285) packed the Riverside sanctuary.



Pastor Bejjani paid tribute to the oldest and newest church members, Ethel Karstens and Darwin Ross.

toric day a success. The music with Anthony Maddox and Jennifer Lewis Berg was wonderful. The food and decorations by Rosalie Curtis and Pam Nichols along with many others were fantastic. The overall hard work and direction of Dr. Pete and Nancy May was so much appreciated. The publicity, with the help of Jean Lewis, was excellent.

"I pray the Lord will direct our efforts to strengthen our ministry for Him in Riverside and the surrounding areas. May this historic celebration give us the incentive and momentum to move ahead, looking to a marvelous future of continued service to the Lord." SR



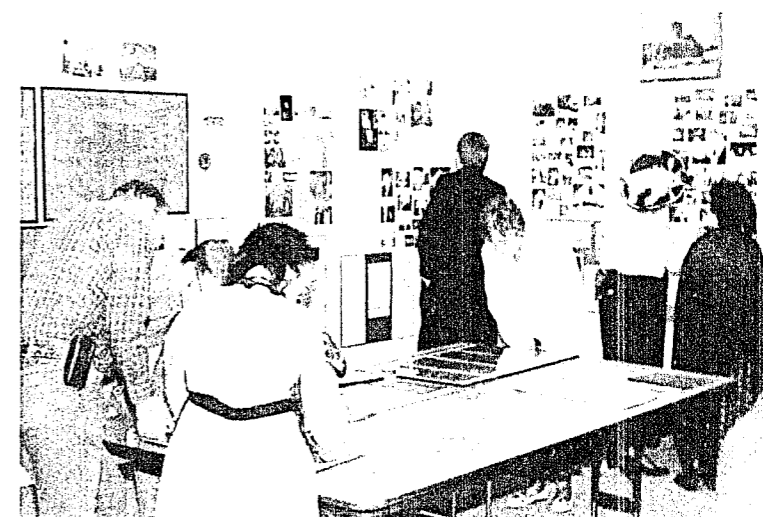
Tom Davis provided an inspiring classical piece with piano accompaniment by Ruth Koch.



Yes, Norm Burdick could stand again after singing "Bicycle Built for Two" to his wife Vicki.



The Riverside Centennial Band was a hit with both young and old.



Studying the myriad of photos and stories in the "Memory Room."

Dedicated pastor, Charles Bond, with the Lord

Pastor, husband, father, friend! The Rev. Charles H. Bond, 80, beloved husband of Margaret (Skaggs) Bond and Pastor Emeritus of the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church, passed into Glory on February 19, 1996.

He has left a legacy of active, involved family members in the Shiloh church. His wife of 56 years, Margaret S.; three sons, Ronald R., Philip S., and Timothy L. Bond; daughters-in-law, and five grandchildren attest to his guiding influence and abundant love. A sister, Mary (Bond) Skaggs of Milton, Wis., also survives Charles and, along with his immediate family, shares in the joys of his life and the sorrow of his passing.

Charles was born on July 22, 1915, on Canoe Run, Lewis County, near Roanoke, W. Va. A pleasant interlude for Pastor Bond during 1995 was the opportunity to revisit his beloved West Virginia. He was able to attend part of the 1995 General Conference proceedings and to visit the area of his birth.

His sense of humor was well known and in many ways was used as supportive encouragement to others in difficult times. For example, he was one of eight children born to Charles A. and Maud H. Bond. The siblings consisted of six boys and two girls; however, his introductory comments about his family would often include the statement that, "There were six boys, and each boy had two sisters."

Charles' active pursuit of knowledge and support of education continued all his life. He graduated from Salem College in Salem, W. Va., and from the Alfred University School of Theology in Alfred, N.Y. Although these studies were important in his preparation for the ministry, they were but building blocks to his solid foundation and lifetime of study and growth for his Lord.

His many years of pastoring in-



Charles H. Bond
1915 - 1996

cluded pastorates in Hebron, Pa.; Little Genesee, N.Y.; Westerly, R.I., and Shiloh. In addition to these "primary" roles, he assisted in many areas of service throughout the denomination with a vigorous and productive ministry. He was an early participant in the radio ministry with programs in New York State, Rhode Island, and New Jersey. Pastor Bond was sought out for many preaching missions across the United States. He was also part of a mission team that spent three weeks in Jamaica for a series of special meetings and support.

An outstanding speaker and a responsive servant of the Lord, he was continually in demand by many of our Sunday-keeping brothers. Churches of various denominations invited him to supply pulpit and to provide other related duties for their parishes. In this regard, he served several as "interim" pastor and was a repeat-performer for many who loved him for his Christian service. He was president of the Bridgeton, N.J., Ministerial Association and served the local hospital as chaplain.

Charles initiated the "lighting of candles" during the Advent season and thereby gained additional renown as "Candle Charlie." His sin-

cerity and insight into the beauty and deep meaning associated with this practice have added to a richer understanding for many. His legacy continues to provide positive dividends for those churches and communities where he served.

The local West District churches, largely through his influence, hold combined Hymn-Sings and jointly sponsor a Basketball League for our youth. This includes Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Nazarenes, and other independent church groups who share their love of the Lord while providing a needed release for the competitive spirit of our youth through basketball. Pastor Bond's grandchildren are actively involved with the league, both as players and as coaches.

Charles' own athletic ability was an asset throughout his ministry. He played tennis—most specifically with the late Roger Burdick, with whom he played many times during the weeks of General Conference. He bowled with the youth and in a local church bowling league, and his healthy approach to life inspired many young people to participate in similar wholesome sports.

His ministry was enhanced by his drive and enthusiasm for youth and the need for camping programs. Through his 40-some years of camping experience, he was instrumental in enhancing—and in some cases inaugurating—camping programs in Camp Potato, Lewis Camp, and Jersey Oaks. Because of his special influence and direct involvement, the main lodge at Jersey Oaks Camp has been dedicated to his memory in honor of his love and devotion to camping.

His wisdom and understanding led him to champion building projects in each of his areas of pastoring. A community center in Little Genesee, as well as Jersey Oaks Camp and a beautiful Fellowship Hall for the Shiloh church, attest to his ability to dream and to im-

plement those dreams to reality.

Pastor Bond always loved music. Although not known for his solo work, he did not hesitate to sing out with his vigorous baritone voice. His more recent melodies were shared with his wife, Margaret, and often took this course of refrain: "Oh, what a beautiful morning; oh, what a wonderful day—where are we going for breakfast?" Obviously, music and eating were both areas of interest close to his heart!

Other areas of active ministry that help define the character of this Christian warrior relate to his open friendliness, again influenced by his enjoyable sense of humor. With such an outlook, he helped

provide an igniting spark for several young persons who eventually responded to a call to the ministry.

An encourager, a mentor, a teacher, but always a friend. Yes, he served his denomination well! He served as pastor, evangelist, missionary, leader, Conference president, example, and friend; however, his most accomplished service was as God's loving and obedient servant.

Pastor Bond, we salute you! We will long remember you! Your love and example will continue to live on in our hearts and minds.

Now, as God welcomes you to your new responsibilities, rest assured that you have made a difference! You have lived the service-

filled life of a Christian, and you have exemplified for us the love of Christ! Farewell, and God's blessings upon you and your family.

To further help each of us remember this servant of God, the family has established the Charles H. Bond Seminary Scholarship Fund. Donations to the fund can be so designated and forwarded to the SDB Memorial Board Office. What an excellent path forward for a life of service! It will become a method by which our denomination and young persons entering the ministry can continue to benefit from Pastor Bond's mentoring, encouragement, and on-going love. ✠

Paint Rock reaches out

by Rev. John Bevis

This year the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church celebrates 70 years as a congregation. The first SDB church in Alabama was the Flat Woods church, organized near Attalla in the northeast part of the state on February 12, 1883. In time, this church reorganized as the Attalla SDB Church.

Workers from the Attalla church helped to organize at least one SDB congregation in Cullman County to the west; in turn, members of the Cullman County group organized a church at Oakdale, near Athens.

In March of 1953, the Oakdale church reorganized as the James Edward Butler Memorial SDB Church of Paint Rock. Butler was a member of the church who lost his life in World War II. Largely financed by his insurance, the present house of worship was begun in April and dedicated on July 5, 1953. May our God, who has led us so faithfully in the past, continue to lead and guide us as we remain faithful to Him and to His Word.

Our support of missions—foreign

and local—was great in 1995. In January, we mailed 36 pairs of eyeglasses to our Conference in Malawi, Africa. Our designated giving for missions is now \$370. This goes to the current project of a "Well in Malawi." We continue to aid our branch church in Tupelo, Miss., with our prayers, finances, and attendance at the Yearly Meeting of the two churches scheduled again for May 25.

No doubt we shall need to make some repairs and do some painting on our buildings this year as we maintain them to the glory of God.

Hopefully, this will be a year of outreach for us. We plan to invite others to our services, reach out with advertising to the area we serve, and pray for new faces in our congregation. ✠

From the Sea Tidings, newsletter of the Southeastern Association.

Hurley runner up

The Ms. WV Senior America Pageant, an annual event since 1988, is the world's first and foremost pageant to honor women who have reached the "Age of Elegance" (60-plus). It is a search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of all senior Americans. The Ms. WV Senior America is based on the philosophy that senior citizens are the foundation of America and our most valuable treasure. It is upon their knowledge, experience, and resources that the younger generation has the opportunity to build a better society.

The contestants are adjudicated on an interview with judges, talent, evening gown, and philosophy of life. Shireen Hurley of Salem came through the ranks and won the first runner up position. Mrs. Hurley was sponsored by the Salem Senior Citizens Satellite. While wearing a Japanese costume, Shireen sang the "Lament of Katisha" from the comic opera, "Mikado," by Gilbert Sullivan. ✠

Accessions

Little Rock, AR
Joined after baptism
Carl Burks
Joined after testimony
Robert Sullivan
Greg Hovanic

Marriages

Sloan - Lupton.—Gary Sloan and Karen Lupton were united in marriage on December 30, 1995, at the Shiloh, NJ, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiated.

Births

Spencer.—A son, Joseph Burton Spencer, was born to Fred and Dixie Spencer of Salem, WV, on December 31, 1995.

Hair.—A daughter, Ruth Ann Hair, was born to Melvin and Loretta (Cargill) Hair of Brownell, KS, on January 24, 1996.

Wilcox.—A daughter, Christa Lynn Wilcox, was born to Ray and Teresa Wilcox of Glendale, CA, on January 29, 1996.

Lowe.—A daughter, Megan Marie Lowe, was born to Jr. and Janet Lowe of Bridgeton, NJ, on October 2, 1995.

Osborn.—A son, Seth Gregory Osborn, was born to Stephen and Angie (Butts) Osborn of Milton, WI, on January 5, 1996.

England.—A daughter, Michaela Justice England, was born to Larry and Julie (Bond) England of San Angelo, TX, on February 13, 1996.

Obituaries

Crane.—Reba T. Crane, 97, of Hancocks Bridge, N.J., died on February 20, 1995, in The Memorial Hospital of Salem County, Mannington Township, where she had been a patient for two weeks.

She was born in Shiloh, N.J., the daughter of Edward A. and Mary (Rainear) Thomas, and had lived in Hancocks Bridge for the past 64 years. A graduate of Shiloh High School and the former Glassboro State Teachers' College, she taught at Franklin School in Hancocks Bridge until her retirement.

Reba was a member of the Retired Teachers Association of Salem, N.J., and was the oldest living member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Salem. Her husband, Harry W. Crane, died in 1985.

Survivors include one daughter, Lois Gant of Elsinboro; one sister, Edith Wescott; six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Reba was preceded in death by two sons, Russel and Jesse.

Services were held on February 24, 1995, at the Shiloh SDB Church. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Kuyper.—Marie Kuyper, 96, of Shiloh, N.J., passed away on July 6, 1995, at the South Jersey Hospital System, Bridgeton Division.

She was born in Holland, the daughter of Derk and Alice VanderKolk. She was the widow of William Kuyper, who died in 1976.

Marie lived in Shiloh for 75 years, and operated Kuyper's Bake Shop there with her husband from 1919 to 1943. She was an active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

Survivors include two sons,

William H. of Port St. Jo, Fla., and D.R. Kuyper of Orlando, Fla.; two daughters, Alice Weaver of Salem, N.J., and Nellie Randolph of Bridgeton; one brother, Jo VanderKolk of Holland; eight grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on July 10, 1995, in the Shiloh SDB Church. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Sheppard.—David T. Sheppard Sr., 79, of Cedarville, N.J., died on July 20, 1995, at his home. He had been in failing health for a few months.

A lifetime resident of Cedarville, he was born in Sayres Neck, N.J., where he had lived the past two years. He was the son of Gilbert W. and Mary (Claypoole) Sheppard, and the husband of the late Margaret Lawrence Sheppard.

A graduate of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., he was president of Sheppard Farms in Cedarville. He graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and had farmed all of his working life.

David was a member of the Shiloh, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church, past president of the Cedarville Co-Operative Marketing Association for 34 years, past president of the New Jersey Vegetable Growers Association, past president of the Cumberland County Board of Agriculture, and former director of the Glassboro (N.J.) Service Association Board. He also served on the Board of Managers of Cook College, Rutgers University, and was a former member of the Lawrence Township Planning Board.

A veteran of World War II, David served with the U.S. Army 743rd Tank Battalion in the European Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart.

In addition to his wife, Margaret, he was predeceased by one brother, Selwyn.

Memorial services were held on July 22, 1995, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger and Rev. Francis E. Champion officiating. Private interment services were held at the Cedar Hill Cemetery, Cedarville.

Stillman.—Merlyn Stillman, 76, of North Loup, Neb., died on September 15, 1995, at the Veterans Hospital in Omaha, Neb.

He was born on November 1, 1918, south of North Loup in Valley County, the son of Arthur and Mattie (Williams) Stillman. He graduated from North Loup High School in 1936, and farmed with his parents until entering the U.S. Army in 1942. After serving primarily in Europe, he was discharged in 1945 and returned to North Loup to work the family farm. In 1981, he sold the farm and moved into North Loup.

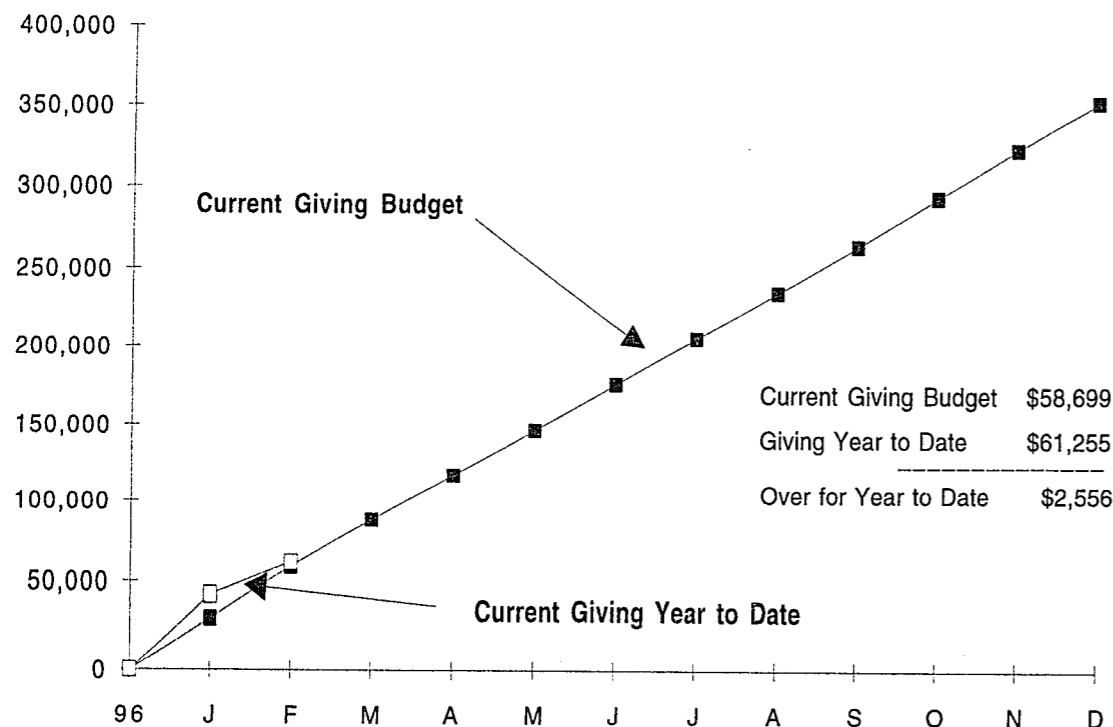
Merlyn was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church, and the Ralph Rich American Legion Post #285.

Survivors include two sisters, Ada King and Iva King, both of North Loup. He was preceded in death by three brothers—Edgar, Almond, and Leland.

Funeral services were held on September 18, 1995, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Rev. Kenneth Burdick officiating. Burial, with military rites, was in the Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

obituaries cont. next page

Denominational
Budget 1996



Sheppard.—Ella (Kirby) Sheppard, 95, of Bridgeton, N.J., died on November 1, 1995, at the home of her daughter, Florence Dickinson, in Shiloh, N.J. Born in Greenwich, N.J., the daughter of Mark and Annie (Opdyke) Kirby, she was the wife of Bert B. Sheppard, who died in 1980. A lifelong area resident, she lived in Bridgeton for over 60 years before moving in with her daughter.

Ella was a 1918 graduate of the former Hopewell High School, and was a 1920 graduate of the Trenton Normal School. She was a music teacher in several area schools for many years, and later taught 4th grade at Stow Creek Township School for seven years before retiring.

An active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, she was a church deaconess, Sabbath School teacher, and a member and director of the church choir for more than 25 years.

Ella was also a member and past president of the Shiloh Women's Christian Temperance Union; held memberships in the Shiloh Grange, the Shiloh Senior Citizens, the Bridgeton Matinee Musical, and the Cumberland County Historical Society; was a life and charter member of the N.J. Parent Teacher Association; and for many years was in charge of the West District Church Hymn Sings.

In addition to her daughter, survivors include one son, Mark, of Stow Creek Township; seven grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by one sister, Mary Tomlinson, and two brothers, Stanford and Harry Kirby.

Funeral services were held on November 4, 1995, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L.

Chroniger officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Cox.—Erlo Cox, 84, of North Loup, Neb., died on January 19, 1996, at the Valley County Nursing Home in Ord, Neb.

He was born on July 3, 1911, to Roy and Sadie (Williams) Cox at the family farm two miles north of North Loup. At an early age, his family moved to North Loup. On October 8, 1933, he married Elsie Hain. She died in 1991.

Erlo graduated from North Loup High School in 1930 and attended Kearney State Teachers College for one year. He then returned to North Loup, where he joined his father in a well drilling business until ill health forced him to retire in 1990. In May of 1995, he entered the Valley County Nursing Home.

As a young boy, Erlo was baptized in the Seventh Day Baptist Church of North Loup, where he remained a member until his death. He was a charter member of the North Loup Lions Club, the Ord Elks Lodge #2371, and the North Loup Volunteer Fire Department. He served on the North Loup Village Board, and was a past president and lifetime member of the Nebraska Water Well Association. He enjoyed traveling.

Survivors include one daughter, Dolores Bennett of Oxford, Neb.; two sons, Darrel of North Loup and Gary of Denver, Colo.; two sisters, Velma Horner of Winner, S.D., and Mary Mackey of McCook, Neb.; eight grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Vicki; two brothers, George and Lyle; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on January 22, 1996, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Rev. Kenneth Burdick officiating. Burial site was in Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

Poulin.—Henry A. Poulin, 89, of Daytona Beach, Fla., died on January 19, 1996, at home. He was born in Quebec, Canada, and moved to Volusia County from Warren, N.J., in 1980. He served as a civilian aircraft mechanic during World War II and was a volunteer fireman in Warren. He enjoyed traveling and foreign languages.

For over 40 years, Henry served in the print shop at the SDB Denominational Building in Plainfield, N.J. In a tribute to him at the time of his retirement in 1974, Al Rogers wrote of his contribution:

"Although reared a Roman Catholic in an immigrant family in Massachusetts, Henry had the good judgment to marry a (on March 24, 1932) Seventh Day Baptist girl—Gladys Wooden, office manager of the Memorial Fund...

"Through the years, Henry learned most of the jobs of commercial printing. When the work force was sharply reduced in 1966, he was indispensable, becoming pressman and foreman of the shop. Ordering stock and supplies, and meeting deadlines now became his added responsibility. Time after time, he trained apprentices and offered valuable suggestions. Nights and Sundays often found him repairing equipment and pushing lagging jobs wanted for denominational programs."

Survivors include three daughters, Marlene Thomas of Ormond Beach, Fla., Sylvia Brenn of New Providence, N.J., and Joanne Wheeler of Orlando, Fla.; one sister, Germaine Slipkowsky of North Andover, Mass.; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His wife, Gladys, preceded him in death in 1992.

A memorial service was held on January 25, 1996, at Volusia Memorial Cemetery. Rev. John Camenga, pastor of the Daytona Beach Seventh Day Baptist Church, officiated.

KEVIN'S CORNER

In his campaign stump speeches, a certain presidential candidate is getting mileage out of the phrase, "Let's make this country better for your children, and your children's children!"

This candidate is also being criticized for having no new ideas. Well, stressing the importance of our children and children's children sure isn't original.

The Lord inspired Moses to write, "...be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them" (Deut. 4:9).

Janet and I hearken back often to those formative years of church school and Vacation Bible School. We remember fondly those dear teachers who took the time to nurture the young lives entrusted to them.

I can picture my much smaller and more agile body bounding up the narrow staircase to get to my class. The teachers would inevitably have to "Shhh!" us several times so as not to disturb the adults settling in for the sermon. (I'm not sure if we were more excited about our class or in escaping the minister's message!)

Thinking back, while the "old folks" had their sanctuary with pews and stained glass, we had our own "sanctuary" of tiny chairs and colorful craft paper in cramped quarters on the third floor. (The room became a lot more appealing with the addition of a new outdoor fire escape. My buddies and I craved the warmer weather just to test it out.)

As we got older, we graduated to the room just off the big sanctuary. My class might have moved down

physically, but it moved up in the teaching material. We started to tackle teen and social issues, hoping to connect church with real life. It must have worked for me; I'm still connected.

What teachers do I remember? My father had my class for a while. Then a high school social studies teacher took us on for a time. They were good classes, full of affirmation and growth.

But I guess the teacher I remember the most was a lanky, slow talking, soft spoken, gentle man named Ivan Becker. "Ike" was about the same age as my Dad, and his son was a classmate of mine.

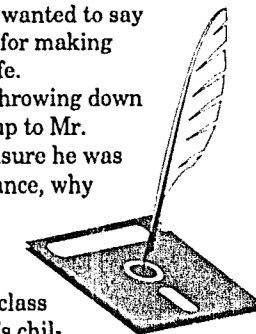
There wasn't any flashy style or glitzy presentation. I kept coming back because Mr. Becker kept coming back. I took the time to go to his class because he took the time to teach it for me. It was a constant, caring presence that got through to me.

Not too many years ago, our family was back in New York for a Christmas visit. While at a department store picking up some post-holiday bargains, I glanced up to see Mr. Becker heading out the door.

My hands were full of merchandise, and by the time I figured where I could put it down to catch up to him, he was gone. I just wanted to say hello, and to say "Thank you" for making a lasting impact on a young life.

I have since regretted not throwing down those treasures and running up to Mr. Becker to tell him what a treasure he was to me. If you still have the chance, why don't you thank your Sabbath School teacher for being there when you needed him or her.

Better yet, why not take on a class and make an impact on today's children—and "their children's children."



Thanx!

I would like to express to my friends near and far how much I appreciate the love and concern you had for me following my recent heart attack. Thanks so much for all your prayers—they really helped. God bless each one of you.

—Mabel Cruzan
Milton, Wis.

Senior Saints hard at work

- Project at Daytona Beach, Fla., through April.
- Project at Camp Wakonda, Milton, Wis., starts Tuesday, May 14, 1996.
- Project at Dodge Center, Minn., starts Monday, July 1, 1996.

Ding-Dong!

The Shepherd's Fold Ministry of Blountville, Tenn., is searching for a used church bell (16-20") to place on their building. Contact Pastor Ed Sutton at (615) 323-9322 if you can add a bell to their fold.

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460)

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