

The

S

abbath

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

July-Aug. 1996

R

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In or out of the home?

President John Peil
invites you to come to
**General Conference at
St. Martin's College**

Lacey, Washington
August 4-10, 1996

**Important Reminder
for our hot weather friends:**
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In April, Pastor Jeanne Yurke attended MUSICalifornia in San Diego. Publishers of Christian music presented their latest works to church music directors, organists, and worship leaders. Jeanne *highly* recommends this gathering for our church folks. There may be a similar conference coming to your area.

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- the Smokies— July 8-11, 1996
- Los Angeles— January 2-3, 1997
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- Memphis— January 16-17, 1997
- Charlotte— January 20-23, 1997

The **S**abbath
Recorder



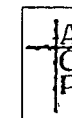
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New Sabbath study is now available!

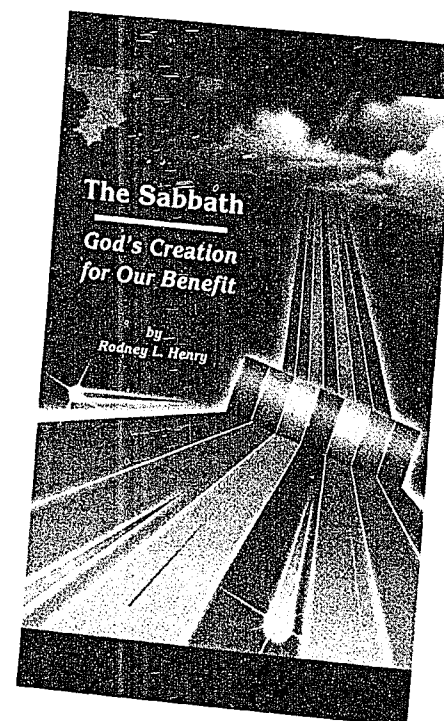
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A "working mother" wherever she's planted

by Leanne Lippincott

"Working mothers." I've always disliked that phrase. Today, it's used a lot—mainly to describe women who are raising children while working outside the home. But to me, "working mothers" seems silly and redundant. It's like saying, "Flying airplanes." Or "Cold ice."

Do many of us know a mother who *doesn't* work?! I also dislike the phrase because it erects barriers, promotes resentment, and fosters stereotyping. Not exactly Christ-like by-products.

Stay-at-home mothers who forgo salaried jobs can end up viewing their "working sisters" as selfish, career-crazed feminists who put *their* needs above the needs of family. And women who have jobs away from home can end up with equally warped views of stay-at-home moms. ("I'm sure Alice just sits in front of the 'tube' all day,

watching 'soaps' and stuffing her face with bonbons.")

Christ cautioned against judging others (Matthew 7:1-5). So we should be doubly careful not to condemn a mother for opting to stay home. ("You could be earning a paycheck!") And we should be just as careful not to condemn a mother for joining the work force. ("Strangers are raising your kids!")

The decision to work inside or outside the home should be a joint decision, prayerfully reached between a woman, her husband (if she has one), and her God. Once made, no "outsiders" should question that decision. And they certainly shouldn't add to the burden of guilt which often clouds the entire decision-making process. Most mothers have enough guilt already!

Some women work outside the home on a full-time basis, while others work part time. Some hold

down jobs because they want to, others because they have to. Over the years, I've found myself in all four of these circumstances.

Before my marriage to Dennis Lippincott in 1970, I worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper in southern Wisconsin. After the wedding, I moved to southern Minnesota, ready to begin my new life as a wife and homemaker. (Warning: Do not ask me what I think of the term, "housewife." Hint: *I did not marry a house.*)

In addition to homemaking tasks (which, in a few years, included childrearing), I slowly branched out into other areas. For instance, I compiled and typed the church bulletin. I also started a small craft business (wood and dried-mushroom centerpieces), and did in-home typing for the local school district.

While I was expecting our second

child, I started working a few hours a day at the City Administrator's office in Dodge Center. (The late William R. "Bob" Austin, SDB extraordinaire, was my boss.) Daughter Jennifer was 3 years old at the time.

Although I was pierced by the slings and arrows of motherly guilt, working outside the home did have its pluses. For one thing, it helped get my mind off of my marvelous 24-hour morning sickness. (I bet you didn't know that a woman could regurgitate eight times in one afternoon?)

The job also gave our daughter the opportunity to be away from mother's apron strings for a few hours a day. And since I was already crazed from spending too much time with Big Bird and Captain Kangaroo, I thoroughly enjoyed the little "mad money" that I earned.

After Jay was born, I went back to work, but still on a limited basis. Denny and I both felt it was important for me to be home while the kids were small.

When we moved to Iowa in June of '76, our daughter was 4, and our son was 6 months. During our stay in Swea City, my primary focus was homemaking and childrearing. But I did undertake a few new "in-home" jobs: In addition to my little craft business, I began raising and selling violets. And in the fall of '78, I began writing a weekly humor column for the *Swea City Herald*.

In 1979, we moved to Janesville, Wis. Denny became a pilot for Blackhawk Airways, and I became a humor columnist for the *Milton Courier*. Later, I began editing *The Sabbath Visitor*.

My work situation was ideal. I could be a columnist and editor, and still remain a stay-at-home mom.

In 1982, when Jay began attending school full time, I was offered the job of art director at our denominational headquarters.

In all honesty, I was never totally content with the important

but limited role of wife and mother. (I love to mow, but I hate to mop!) It was never a question of not loving my husband and children. I simply wanted, and needed, something more in my life. So when the job at the SDB Center "fell into my lap," I took it.

There's an old saying that declares, "God works in mysterious ways."

In a letter dated June 30, 1982, SR Editor/Historian D. Scott Smith officially offered me the job at the Center. A half-time job that I wanted, but didn't particularly need.

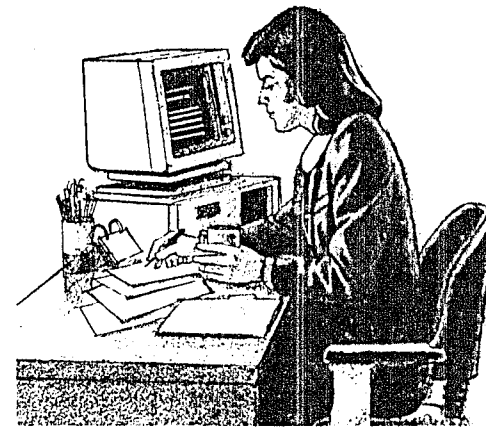
On June 30, 1983, my husband was killed in a plane crash. Suddenly, I was the single-parent head of a two-child household. I desperately needed a job. And I had one.

Since I was fortunate enough in those early days to have financial help from Workmen's Comp and Social Security, I was able to keep working limited hours. That allowed me more time to fill the shoes of both mother and father. I could take Jay target shooting and still attend Jennifer's track meets.

As my children grew and my finances changed, my job changed. During the past 14 years, I've gone from a part-time employee, to a three-quarter-time employee, to a full-time employee. With full benefits.

I have been very, very blessed. Whether a mother spends the majority of her time inside or outside the home, she can look to the "Wife of Noble Character" in Proverbs as a godly role model for *all* mothers.

This loving woman rose before dawn to get a good start on her "to-do" list. She busily sewed and shopped and prepared meals for



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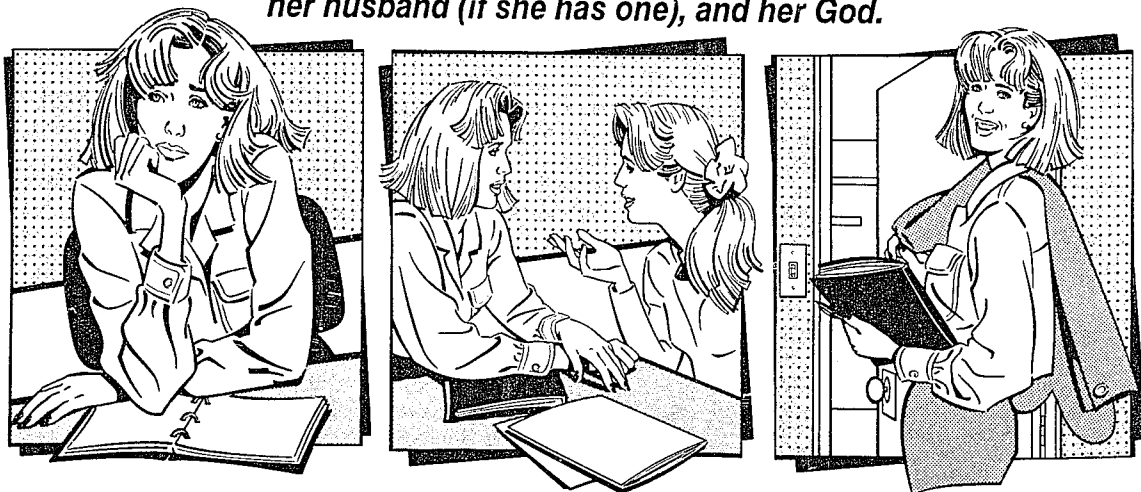
her family. But she was also an entrepreneur, active in the workaday world: "She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.... She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes" (Proverbs 31:16, 24 NIV).

Here was a woman—a mother—with many God-given talents. Through His grace and to His glory, she used every one of them.

The next time someone asks me if I'm a "stay-at-home mom" or a "working mom," I have a ready-made answer.

"I'm just a mom," I'll smile. "I stay and work wherever God puts me." ✠

The decision to work inside or outside the home should be a joint decision, prayerfully reached between a woman, her husband (if she has one), and her God.



Woman as Mother

by Nancy Wilson

Motherhood is in a muddle. Christian women in the '90s would be hard pressed to find a pattern of godly motherhood to emulate in popular American culture. Although our modern world espouses several views of motherhood, each is, not surprisingly, seriously flawed.

Motherhood— "An inconvenience"

One widely held notion is that motherhood is an inconvenience: it interrupts career plans, ruins the figure; it is a royal and expensive nuisance. Obviously the abortion mill is fueled in part by this attitude.

But subtly, Christian women are not invulnerable to this viewpoint; they have heard it so much that many agree with the world that children are "not for everyone"—at least "not right now."

Pursuit of career, financial independence, and leisure are given the preeminence instead of children. Motherhood is seen as one of many options and is easily "put off." This is simplified by modern scientific technology, for babies can be arranged to fit in at a more convenient time. Thus women deny themselves.

Children— "An imposition"

The obvious extension of this view is the woman who has children, but continues to consider them an inconvenience. She dumps most of the burden of her children between school and day care and looks for ways to find her own space because, our culture tells her, she deserves it.

The result of this attitude can be seen from the aisles of our nation's supermarkets (e.g., public displays



The tender, sweet, emotional side of motherhood is precious, but only because hard-headed reason and biblical discipline, with lots and lots of hard work, are steering the process.

of annoyance), to our streets where lost and lonely adolescents are adrift with no sense or experience of what a family is.

Just another "experience"

Many of the same women who in their twenties pursued career, not children, find themselves in their thirties or forties with an emptiness, a dissatisfaction, a hollowness, a sense of unfulfillment. Despite their worldly successes, an indefinable "longing" sets in. They begin to see motherhood as an "ex-

perience" they want. This attitude perceives motherhood as simply a personal accomplishment. "I've been a successful lawyer (etc.), so now I'd like to experience motherhood."

Children, however, are not a prize to win, a goal to achieve, or a possession to own which will make our lives more meaningful or complete. "I've got the house, the car, the vacation home, the career... now all I need is a couple of kids."

Women who look at having children as a means of personal fulfill-

ment are mistaken at two points. First, because experience only temporarily satisfies, it can never bring a lasting sense of fulfillment and purpose. Each passing experience will reveal the need for another and better one.

Secondly, this view is just another manifestation of self-centeredness and undervalues the purpose and significance of motherhood as God designed it.

Romantic sentimentalism

A third view of motherhood stands in odd contrast to the "children-are-an-imposition" perspective, but isn't far removed from the experience-oriented outlook. This is the sentimental romantic view.

We see "cards for mother" by the truckload, decorated with hearts, bows, bunnies, and lots of glitter on the outside and trite verses commemorating motherhood on the inside. This reduces motherhood to an emotional state: babies are sweet and cute and adorable and always love you.

This sentimentalism is dangerous because any time our emotions are driving the car, we shortly end up in a ditch. Babies wake up in the night; babies get sick; sometimes babies even die.

The tender, sweet, emotional side of motherhood is precious, but only because hard-headed reason and biblical discipline, with lots and lots of hard work, are steering the process.

The Biblical perspective

Christian women need to have their perspective on mothering anchored to the Scriptures, not to our modern culture. It is imperative that they know how the Bible defines mothering, for this is a protection against the ungodly pressures to conform to the world. Christian women must learn to think like Christians about these things.

When a young woman marries, her identity changes radically: she is no longer a daughter, but a wife. Her name changes, she has a new

head, and new responsibilities as her husband's helper. Then when she becomes a mother, her body changes and with it often her emotions. A little person comes into the world who is completely dependent upon her.

All these changes require a biblical frame of reference to enable a woman to anticipate, understand, and appreciate who she is in God's world and what her duties and responsibilities are in her roles as wife and mother. The Scriptures

rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice" (Prov. 23:24-25).

The future impact

A wise mother realizes she can have a tremendous impact for good on future generations through her children. Knowing that God desires godly offspring (Mal 2:15), she faithfully teaches her children His ways. "My son, hear the instruc-

Christian women cannot learn mothering from talk-show hosts, from magazine articles at the check-out stand, or from classes on self-esteem. Mothering must be taught from the Scriptures.

illumine this for her and provide security in the midst of so much modern folly.

A learned skill

Good mothering is a learned skill. Titus 2:3-4 commissions older women to live holy lives so that they can be fit to teach younger women "to love their husbands, to love their children."

Christian women cannot learn mothering from talk-show hosts, from magazine articles at the check-out stand, or from classes on self-esteem. A healthy godly view of mothering must be taught from the Scriptures, and it must be learned.

Always a blessing?

Scripture teaches that it is not an automatic blessing to be a mother. Solomon says, "A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother" (Prov. 10:1). Being a mother can be, and often is, a grief. "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him" (Prov. 17:25).

However, raising children to righteousness is a blessing. "The father of the righteous will greatly

tions of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother..." (Prov. 1:8-9).

Proverbs 31 is the result of King Lemuel's mother's teaching, and her teaching continues to bless generations of believers. This kind of mother has her reward when "her children rise up and call her blessed" (Prov. 31:28). A Christian view of mothering calls for child rearing to the glory of God.

Look to the long term

Motherhood is not a romanticized ideal, but a God-given task suited to a woman's frame, and accomplished joyfully by hard work through His grace and provision.

Godly motherhood does not focus exclusively on infancy and childhood; rather it focuses on the long-term objective, which is mature godly sons and daughters who will live to bring honor and glory to God. This is the calling of scriptural motherhood. **SR**

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They've done it both ways From Sesame Street to the front of the class

by Lannette Calhoun

The decision to be a stay-at-home mom was an easy one. I had read that part of Proverbs 31 where it says "her children shall rise up and call her blessed."

I thought that sounded great and didn't want to miss a day of it, except that it never happened. My children would just rise up and call me!

Yes, there were those days in between diapers and feedings that I said things like, "What's it all about, Alfie?" But nap time would come, and I would look at those angelic sleeping children (all three

under the age of 4) and feel incredibly blessed.

My own mother worked outside of the home, and I remember her saying often that she wished she hadn't worked all of those years. She felt as though she had missed out on some things.

I don't think that my decision was based on that, however. Though I was taken care of by my grandmother, great-grandmother, and aunt, I didn't have the luxury of having relatives live close enough to care for my children.

To help make ends meet when

our children were small, I took care of other children, taught piano lessons, and held Sunday organist/choir director jobs. I never felt less of a person just because I was home with my children. I was there to see their first step and witness those magical moments that can't be programmed into a particular time slot.

We never had a lot of extras, but we always had enough, thanks to my parents and our church families. Adult conversation was certainly a little infrequent at times. Since George was in seminary or

From out-the-door to stay-at-home

by Jayne Lubke

Like most little girls, I loved playing house. I loved taking care of the "babies" and being the "mom."

As I grew older, I loved playing with the younger children wherever we were, and eventually did lots of baby-sitting. (I even missed dates to baby-sit on occasion!) There was something special to me about the little ones.

My plans for after high school included going off to college to prepare for a career in child care. However, what I really wanted, more than anything else, was to be a wife and mother. If I could stay at home to raise our children, all the better.

This became more important to me as time went on. I thought that with my love for children, perhaps I could run a day care center in my home. My interest in music, it seemed, would fit in nicely also. Such were my goals for the future.

Life does not always go the way we think it should.

Instead of going off to college, I found myself as a young, single mom, working to support my family of two.

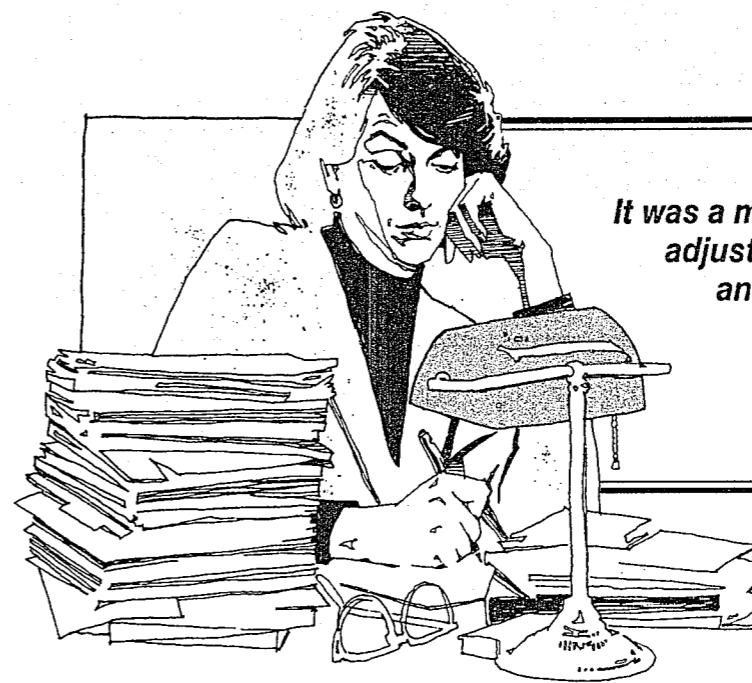
For awhile, I worked in a day care center. Matt was too young at the time to come with me, so I hired a baby sitter to take care of him while I worked full-time.

Eventually, I was hired at a clothing store and put Matt into a different day care center.

I liked my job and felt confident that he was in good hands, yet I yearned to be home with him myself. I felt like I was paying someone else to raise my child.

It didn't seem right that his caregivers had more contact with him than I did. He would ask me, "Mommy, when are you going to be able to stay at home with me?" The guilt were there, all right.

Doug and I were married when Matt was almost 6 years old. As we considered having more children of our own, we thought it would be nice if I could stay at home, as our moms had, at least while our kids were little. However, we were barely keeping our heads above water with two full-time incomes. It did not look very possible at the time.



It was a major adjustment for me and my family. I didn't realize how exhausted I'd be.

busy with church things, I began to feel like I had a Sesame Street mentality. I was always a little discouraged when Snuffy wasn't on the show that day. (Only mothers

or pre-schoolers will understand this!)

In some ways, I think I've had the best of both worlds. Being in music has allowed me to free-lance;

to take on jobs at times of the day or week when George would be available at home. When we moved to Battle Creek, Mich., I accepted a teaching position at a public high school for one hour per day. That got me out of the house long enough to make me want to go back home in a hurry!

As that job gradually increased in time, Joshua gradually increased

While I was pregnant with our second son, the company decided to close the store I was working in. It was a mixed blessing. I would be out of work, but it was also a chance, albeit by force, to see if we could make it on one income. It seemed a financial necessity that I be employed somehow, yet my heart was at home. We began to see it as an open door.

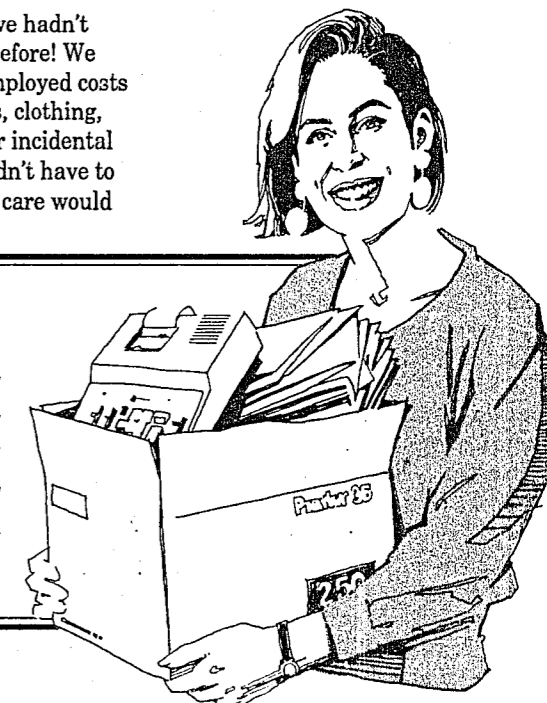
Two months before Neil was born, our adventure began.

We learned a lot during the first couple of years! Out of necessity (and because I had the time) I began to plan menus and shop with a set amount of money. Most impulse spending went out the door. We worked hard at keeping a budget.

Because we paid more attention to where our money was going, we were actually able to do more with it, such as purchasing land and

a newer car—things we hadn't thought we could do before! We realized that being employed costs a lot, too, between gas, clothing, lunches out, and other incidental expenses which we didn't have to make anymore. Child care would

To those moms who yearn to be at home, give it a chance! The Lord will supply your need.



From Sesame Street, cont. from page 9

in age and went to a pre-K program at the Christian school where Ben and Sarah were enrolled. I was able to teach music at that school part-time in exchange for tuition.

I didn't go to work full-time until three years ago. Our children were in school all day, and I felt that I was ready. I found, however, that it was a major adjustment for me and my family. I didn't realize how exhausted I'd be because I'd never taught all day before.

My husband came to the rescue and began to use a talent that we really didn't know he had. He's an excellent cook, and he's still at it Monday through Friday. We organized more intricate chore responsibilities for each child to help with the housework, including (yes!) the laundry.

Do I regret working full-time? Sometimes, but being on a school

schedule, like my children are, helps a great deal. I don't know if I'd be working if I weren't a teacher.

Do we need the money? We could make it on one salary, but the prospect of three college students at the

dren's needs are high, and I feel that I'm able to help meet some of them.

Whether they work in or out of the home, I'd recommend to any mom to stay at home as long as she can. It's a decision that she'll never

***Is this where God wants me to be right now?
Yes, I think so. I work in a school where
the children's needs are high, and I
feel that I'm able to help
meet some of them.***

same time in the not too distant future gives us reason to save a lot of what I make.

Is this where God wants me to be right now? Yes, I think so. I work in a school where the chil-

regret. The pay may seem low, and the hours seem endless, but the rewards and perks are far greater than any certificate of recognition for years of service in a company that will soon forget your name. **SR**

From out-the-door, cont. from page 9

have eaten up a big chunk of my income as well.

That's not to say there haven't been lean times. There have been plenty. To help ease financial pressures from time to time, I have provided child care for others, given piano lessons, or done other part-time jobs. But overall, I have been at home with our children.

When our third son, Phillip, was born, I really began to be thankful for our chosen path. I could not imagine getting Matt off to school, Neil and Phillip off to the sitter's, and myself off to work. I would be exhausted before I even got there!

Instead, I could use that energy to make breakfast and read to them. I could take the other eight hours to see the world through their eyes, help them learn, and do all the other things that moms need to do. Sometimes it's important just to be available to them. That time has been so precious!

Being a "stay-at-home mom" has its frustrations, too. There have been bad days when I wished I could go to a job just to get some peace! But for all of those times, there are so many more when I'm glad to have the opportunity to nurture our children's lives at home.

I have a strong belief that if one can stay at home while the children are growing up, they ought to give it a try. Yet I know this isn't for everyone. There are many things which are harder on the family than Mom's employment. We all have to do what we feel is best, and then give it our best.

To those moms who yearn to be at home, give it a chance! Trust in the Lord, for He will supply your need. You may find it not only to be possible, but to be the most rewarding thing you have ever done.

Everyone's lives seem to be so hectic these days, ours included. Not one of us, if given time to re-

flect toward the end of a long life, will wish he had spent more time at the office. So many wish they had taken more time with their families.

I don't want to live with regrets. I am here, hopefully, making a good home and life for my family; one they will be glad they had. Of all the things I do, I get the strongest sense of fulfillment from what I do as a "stay-at-home mom." I know it has lasting value beyond these four walls, and that there will be more time for "me" later, God willing.

Matt is now 17 and graduating from high school. For the last couple of years, he has been asking me, "When are you going to go out and get a job, Mom?"

Neil is going on 10; Phillip is 8. I am living the goals I dreamed of several years ago, and loving it. The world, and God, look so different through their eyes. I am glad to really see it their way! **SR**

Bright gems in His crown

by Vivian McNeme

"Children are poor men's riches," the English proverb goes.

If you are a Christian and have been blessed by God with children, then you surely know that your children are the riches of heaven, bestowed on you for a short while, the splendor of your marriage, and the only earthly treasure you may take to heaven with you.*

How then, do we live our lives with this spiritual "capital investment" of inestimable value? Many in the world squander it, bury it in the ground. Many Christians do, too. Let's face it, we've been fairly well indoctrinated in the ways of the world; we watch a lot more TV than we read the Truth of God's Word, and it is reflected in our parenting.

Now I do not claim to be a perfect mother, nor do I claim to have perfect offspring. But I share some of my observations in the hopes that you will find something of use to you here. May God receive the glory and eternal benefit (Mal. 2:14-15), and may you receive the reward (Prov. 17:6, 10:1; Psa. 127:3-5).

I propose that the issue is not really whether moms are working in or out of the home. (I think we all work wherever we are.) The question is whether our children are being parented in the home or out of the home. Until the day they leave the home, they are being parented by someone—whether it be you, the school, the Sabbath school, the neighbor, day care, relative, or some other substitute.

God has given us the responsibility of bringing up our children, and I hope we know what the final goal of this responsibility is (Mal.

2:15). It is not for our mere personal satisfaction, or for grandchildren to enjoy when our hair is grey. God's goal is for an unwaveringly stable, solid, true, mature, bold, fearless, strong, gracious, persevering, faithful witness for Himself; someone who would rather die than compromise His principles. To this end He will receive the glory which is due Him, and by this witness the world will know that there is indeed a God of gods to whom all men will be accountable. In this way, God turns the hearts of the unregenerate toward Him (Dan. 3).

Parents may delegate their responsibilities to others, and this is lawful. We will be held just as

accountable in this respect as for our very own parenting. However, God's ideal is for the child to receive instruction and training in the home, toward the ultimate goal of a life of service to God.

If parents sacrifice everything appropriate to the worth of their child and yet still must work outside of the home, they must count the cost. If your child will not be parented by his own mother or father, will the surrogate(s) you choose truly do that job for you? Will they be putting "salt" into him, or will they be actively washing the "salt" out of him?? (1 Cor. 15:33, Matt. 7:6).

Sometimes you have to fight the



*Psa. 127, 128; 1 Chron. 25:4-5, 26:4-5; Gen. 33:5; Isa. 29:23; Psa. 113:7-9.

world's view—in the world, in the church, and in your own heart—in order to value your child and your responsibility for him as God does. When you come to this realization, there is internal peace. You are fashioning a vessel fit for the Master to use.

What He has entrusted to you, you feel a great desire to maximize, to the best of your God-given ability. You find an abhorrence toward the worldly view that you might bury your treasure—until upon finally desiring to retrieve it, you find that it has rotted and moldered and maybe even stinks (Matt. 25:14-30, Prov. 15:20).

Is your husband's income insufficient? Ask yourself: is he too focused on income or material possessions, or too lazy to do what it really takes to meet his family's basic needs? Pray extensively for him every day, and as far as it lies with you, be more generous toward God. Encourage, but don't nag, your husband to do likewise.

For your husband to work a second job is not a viable option. God has made him the head of his home, and entrusted him with the charge of his children's spiritual welfare. This can hardly be fulfilled when he is gone all the time. Ask yourself if there are habits you should change or sacrifices you can make that will help. A household budget will help with finances in ways you can't imagine.

Are you a single mother (or father)? If you are widowed or are Biblically divorced, consider remarriage (1 Tim. 5:14). Pray that God will provide you with a truly godly mate. If you are not Biblically divorced and your spouse has not remarried, seek reconciliation (Mal. 2:13-16). God will help you do what's right to mend your marriage.

Seek out one, or if possible, several (Prov. 15:22) mature Christian women to point you to the Bible for the answers to your questions and problems (Tit. 2:3-5). It's hard to find truly mature Christian

women, but don't settle for less. You'll know you have found her if you admire her family and have high respect for her in the Lord. You are better off looking for her than paying someone you hardly know to fill your head with psychobabble, rather than the pure milk

The issue is not really whether moms are working in or out of the home. The question is whether our children are being parented in the home or out of the home.

of God's sufficient Word (2 Cor. 12:9-10, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:1-4).

If these options are unavailable, I would suggest to a single mom to look first to your relatives for help (1 Tim. 5:16 & 8). If they cannot assist you with your true needs, look in your church for a mature Christian family. Ask if they can provide room and board for you in return for help around the house and yard, and/or some sort of help in the church's ministry, or some worthy cause of righteousness.

You might find someone very grateful for the help at home, or glad to help you help others in a way they cannot. I suggest that whatever is expected of either party be written out in a fair amount of detail, to be sure everyone understands exactly what the other said and to head off problems from garbled communication.

You will need to be willing to accommodate yourself to the home, compromise easily, adapt and be agreeable in any area that does not go against God's laws. Let this mature Christian family help you with

your budgeting so that you may begin to provide for your family through some sort of home business, or work out of the home, and eventually get out on your own.

In this situation, your children can remain with you under your godly influence. If your children are not well-behaved or respectful of other people's property, read a book such as Richard Fugate's *What the Bible Says about Child Training* (indispensable for any parent), so that your children will not be a disruption and a curse in the home. The children should learn household responsibilities and chores, and if old enough, earn income to help provide for your family.

Strive to live at peace, and do not abuse the kindness of your host family in any way. They do not owe you anything, whether it be lodging, transportation, or child care. All they owe you is Christian love, and in that, looking out for you and your best welfare as unto God.

Don't hesitate to go to the family of God for genuine needs which you or your host family simply can't provide. But be willing to give back in return, even if it is future return, so that others may also be helped.

Now a question for the family of God: Are you willing to open your hearts and homes to the mother who needs this kind of help—especially if she is your relative? Are you willing to help her through the long haul and hold her accountable for her finances and lifestyle? Will you support her if she desires to educate her children herself rather than thrust them into a godless education just so she can be elsewhere earning money which will never go into eternity with her? Will you give her advice from the Word of God, or evade this sometimes difficult task?

Do we believe that her children, and our children, are the choicest investments in righteousness, meant to be "bright gems in His crown"? How we answer this question will determine many of the secondary issues in our lives. **SR**



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

How to pack for Conference

"Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity, and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called into one body, and be thankful" (Col. 3:14-15 NASB).

As many of us prepare to attend the General Conference meetings next month, may love and the peace of Christ rule in our individual lives, so that those qualities will be very evident at our gathering in Washington state. During that week, our Seventh Day Baptist women will have opportunities to share with one another and with the whole body of Christ.

All of you are encouraged to attend the Women's Board Business Meeting Luncheon on Tuesday, August 6. During this time, we will consider the 1997 proposed budget, elect new officers, and discuss items of concern.

Our Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) Craft Table will need volunteers to sell the items many of you will be bringing to Conference. Our SCSC/dedicated service workers will be taking a turn as well, so plan to visit the table and get acquainted with them, and with the Women's Board officers.

The Conference Nursery will appreciate your willingness to take a turn ministering to the children who attend Conference. Sign up when you arrive.

Check the week's schedule so you don't miss the SCSC program

on Thursday afternoon. This will give you a chance to meet our young leaders and see how God is using them for His kingdom.

Gertrude Davis will be leading the Women's Interest Committee. All SDB women are encouraged to participate in this committee, for it's here that the major

Mrs. Wooten, a widowed mother of five, will share how the Lord has brought her through poverty, family alcoholism, polio, prejudice, divorce, various religions, surgery, remarriage, and widowhood—all with prayer. She comes to us as a highly-recommended motivational speaker and workshop leader who uses her personal experiences and

Mrs. Wooten comes to us as a highly-recommended motivational speaker and workshop leader who uses her personal experiences and humor to minister to her audience.

issues of the Women's Board ministry are dealt with. It's here that some of our policies are discussed and changed or amended.

At the Women's Interest Committee meetings, you will decide where the Love Gift will go. (The Love Gift offering will be collected at the Women's Banquet.)

You won't want to miss the presentation of the Robe of Achievement to one of our dear SDB women who has served her Lord in an exemplary way.

The big event for our women is the Women's Banquet, set for Wednesday, August 7. Our guest speaker will be Debra Wooten of Tacoma, Wash.

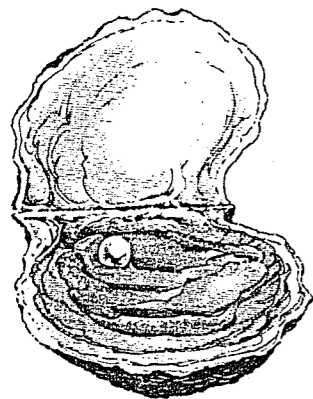
humor to minister to her audience.

The banquet will also include special music, an SCSC testimony, and a chance to enjoy a lovely dinner in lovely company.

As you pack for Conference, don't forget to bring:

- your love gift or the love gift from your women's group
- your craft items for the SCSC table
- ideas for possible love gift recipients
- suggestions, concerns, or dreams for the Women's Board to consider

We're looking forward to seeing you all in Washington! **SR**



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

Offenbarung 14 12

man-English Dictionary and discovered that the word had a number of different English translations: "manifestation; publication; disclosure; unfolding; revelation."

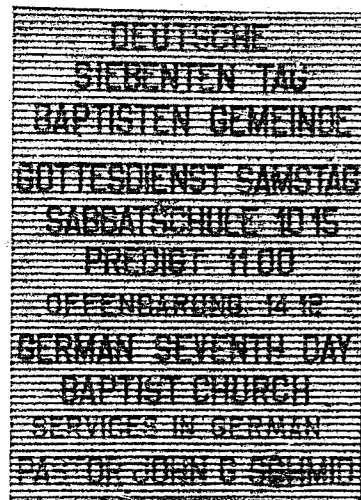
The word "revelation" was the clue for which I was looking. I verified it by bringing out from the Historical Society vault the old German Bible from the Irvington church. It was a Martin Luther translation printed in 1591 in Wittenberg, Germany, and purchased

that verse from Revelation. The minutes of the Piscataway Church begin with the words:

"The Church of Christ keeping the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ living in Piscataway & Hopewell in the Province of New Jersey being assembled with one accord..."

The covenant of the Newport, R.I., church, founded in 1671, did not use the exact wording of that

In my office at the Seventh Day Baptist Center hangs a sign which at one time was on a wall of the SDB Church of Irvington, N.J., a German speaking congregation which was a part of our General Conference:



With my limited knowledge of German—remembered from a college course of 48 years ago—I was able to decipher most of the content. It identified the church as being a German Seventh Day Baptist Community with Worship Service on Saturday, Sabbath School at 10:15 and Sermon at 11:00.

But "Offenbarung 14 12" drew a complete blank in my mind. The nearest I could come was some sort of offering announcement, but that would not be posted on a permanent sign. So I consulted our Ger-

"Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" was a key phrase in a number of our early churches.

by Pastor Schmid around 1943 for the equivalent of \$6.00.

As I had hoped, the last book in the Bible, The Revelation of John, was labeled Offenbarung. As best I could decipher, the old German text of chapter 14 and verse 12: "Hei ist gedult der Heiligen. Hie sing die Halten Hie Gebot und den Glauben on Jesu."

The verbs, articles, and conjunctions I easily recognized, but I found it much easier to go to the English translation: "Here is the patience of the saints. Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (KJV). Or an alternate translation for the first phrase: "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints..." (RSV).

"Keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" was a key phrase in a number of our early churches. The title page of the earliest existing record book of the Mill Yard Church in England, ends with

verse, but carried much of the intent. Members promised "to walk together in all God's Holy Commandments and Holy Ordinances according to what the Lord has Discovered to us and Should Discover to be his mind for us to be obedient unto."

As evangelical Christians, Seventh Day Baptists believe that "salvation is the gift of God by redeeming love accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection." If it is a gift, it is not something that we earn by works. We do not gain salvation by keeping the Law.

Nonetheless, as we enter into a covenant relationship with God and one another, there are certain responsibilities expected as a response. Among these expectations is the keeping of the Law of God. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

A little over a year ago, some of the leadership of the Worldwide
cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

Where we have been...

One year ago—July-Aug. 1995

Rodney Henry and Don Sanford write on the theme, "Interim Pastors."

Pastor (Gary Hemminger) and church member (Doreen Davis) share their perspectives on an interim pastor situation in Seattle, Wash.

"Pearls" column lists many early SDB pastors who served bivocationally.

President Myrna Cox presents the Conference lineup of speakers, worship and seminar leaders, and musicians.

Verona, N.Y., church plans for 175th anniversary in August.

Preparations finalized for General Conference in Amherst, Mass., presided over by Dr. Stephen Thorngate. Special presentations honor the 300th anniversary of the first SDB church in America in Newport, R.I.

Leon Lawton reports on his trip to Malawi.

Longtime Memorial Fund worker, Adelbert Whitford, passes away in June.

Elizabeth Maddox and Steve Crouch report on their Daytona Beach, Fla., evangelism ministry (done with Peter Morrison and Carol Soper).

50 years ago—July-Aug. 1946

Thirty pastors attend Ministers' Conference in Alfred, N.Y.

Rev. Earl Cruzan accepts call to Dodge Center, Minn.; Luther Crichlow installed at Washington, D.C., church.

Milton, Wis., prepares to convene General Conference on August 20.

Changes announced within the faculty of the School of Theology in Alfred.

Guest editorial by D.G. Decherd warns readers of "summeritis"—failing to support the work of the church over the summer. "Morbus Sabbaticus" (Sabbath sickness) also diagnosed.

"Gremlins" set small fires in the basement during morning worship at Westerly church. No serious damage occurred.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- churches in interim pastor status
- this year's Conference in Lacey, Wash.
- pastors and leaders facing ministry moves
- a strengthening of our kinship system
- our board and agency leaders and workers
- summer ministries to bless all involved
- the protection of all churches from arson

Five years ago—July-Aug. 1991

Pastors Gene Smith, Leland Bond, Robert Harris, and Harold King bear witness to their career changes in ministry.

Ordination statement for the diaconate presented by former SR editor Scott Smith.

Royal Mkandawire reports on flood disaster in the Phalombe Plains, Malawi, Africa.

Rev. A.H. Lewis profiled in "Pearls" column.

Good meetings reported from the Eastern Association and the Wisconsin/Minnesota Semi-Annual.

10 years ago—July-Aug. 1986

World Federation Conferences highlighted: England, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States and Canada.

Local church news comes from Plainfield, N.J.; Westerly, R.I.; Washington, D.C.; Salemville, Pa.; Miami, Fla.; and Texarkana, Ark.

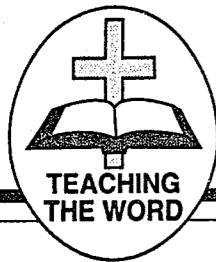
Matthew Olson named new Director of Youth Ministry.

Harmon Dickinson honored at his ministerial retirement.

New pastorates: Harold King in Nortonville, Kan., and George Calhoun in Battle Creek, Mich.

25 years ago—July-Aug. 1971

Emphasis issue (in blue ink) highlights the Women's Society.



Christian Education

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Resolution of Appreciation

The Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., is grateful to Daryl D. and Barbara J. White for over five years of service as originators and coordinators of Natural Evangelism Training (NET) Retreats, 1990-95.

We deeply appreciate their commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, their enthusiasm for the work of teaching others to be witnesses for Christ, and their love for all God's children.

Resolved this twenty-eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred ninety-six, that we, the directors of the Board of Christian Education, and on behalf of all Seventh Day Baptists, express our admiration and love to Daryl and Barbara.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ and of the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven (Col. 1:3-4, RSV).

*Amanda S. Snyder, President
Mae L. Bottoms, Secretary
Ernest K. Bee, Jr., Executive Director*



FOCUS on Missions

New missionaries getting ready

by Kirk Looper

Have you seen the new brochure about our latest missionary effort? These brochures are being sent to every SDB church, fellowship, branch, and group in the United States. Some are also being sent to our sister Conferences and churches.

If you have not yet seen the brochure, contact your pastor, missionary keyworker, or a member of the Missionary Society. (For additional information, you can check the February '96 Sabbath Recorder.)

We are excited as we see how God is putting this new missionary project together. Where are we going? Mexico!

A lot of work goes into preparing for a trip to a mission field. Pastor Luis Lovelace and his wife, Joanna, have been called to this particular field. Presently, Luis pastors the Metro-Atlanta Seventh Day Baptist Church in Georgia. He also works in the graphic department of Arco Ideas and Design, Inc.

Joanna is a busy housewife and mother who has her hands full raising four boys. (Another child is on the way.) She home-schools her children, and plans to continue this work while in Mexico.

In my travels around the United States, I've been asked over and over, "When are we going to have missionaries on the field again?" This is an area of outreach that we previously felt we couldn't afford.

Now we have a reason to place a missionary on the field. Pastor Rosalio Camacho has requested that we send a missionary to the Mexico Conference to help bring the churches together, recognizing them as our contact in Mexico.

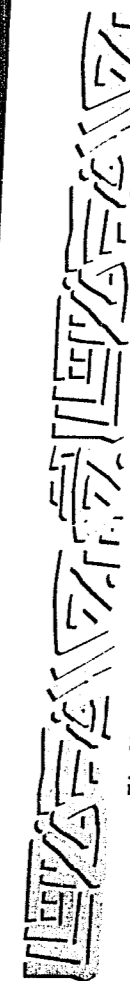
Individual SDBs are urged to place the brochures in prominent

places in their home churches to inform people of the plan to send the Lovelaces to Tampico, Mexico, in October. The success of this project will be determined by the amount of supporting funds received during their initial 12-month stay. This time limit was set by the Mexico Conference. Another year of service will be considered near the end of the term.

If you need additional information or have questions, feel free to call the Missionary Society office in Westerly, R.I. That number is: (401) 596-4326.

Right now, we need to ensure that everyone knows the "good news" of this missionary project. However, it is also necessary to spread the word that it takes a great deal of money to place missionaries on the field. It will cost \$45,000 to complete one year of the Mexico project. This sum takes into consideration all that Pastor Lovelace needs to complete the goals of his trip.

The Missionary Society needs donations to help defray these costs. We have set aside \$10,000, but we are depending upon the members of our Conference to help with the rest of the expenses.



Mission To Mexico

An Opportunity for
Seventh Day Baptists,
USA and Canada,
To Minister to our
Sister Churches
in Mexico

Let us all keep this young family in our prayers as we prepare them for their new adventure. We hope that they will be able to attend General Conference in Washington state this August. Hope to see you there, too. ✠



the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship July-Aug. 1996

Association Youth Retreat held at Little Genesee

by Barb Welch

Allegheny Association senior high youth gathered April 19-21, 1996, at the Little Genesee, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Community Center for a retreat. Twelve youth and three adults came from Toronto, Canada; two youth came from Hebron, Pa.; and one was from

Little Genesee. There also was one guest.

The weekend included a wide variety of activities: a campfire, treasure hunt, video, singing, a study of the Psalms, and lots of recreation and food.

For spiritual emphasis, the

youth studied several Psalms to identify a pattern practiced by David in coping with difficult circumstances. The youth discovered an effective tool to help them deal with unpleasant circumstances in their lives by "dumping," focusing on the character of God, and gaining faith and trust. This was followed by praise and thanksgiving for God's comfort and strength.

Another study identified steps for finding God's will and answers to some of life's difficult questions. The seven steps include:

- personal assessment of the problem (Is it good for you? Your family? Friends? Community? God?)
- seek God's view
- identify the real problem
- search the Scriptures
- continual prayer, and sometimes fasting
- seek input from the pastor, parents/friends, elders, mentors, and professionals
- wait patiently, accept God's answer, and act on it

Association youth leader Barb Welch was assisted by three adults: Charlene Lyons and Natasha from Toronto, and Kevin Kenyon from Hebron.

Everyone had a great time on a beautiful weekend. We are looking forward to another retreat in the fall.

The Waterwheel

by Kellie Mazza, Shiloh, N.J.

The waterwheel keeps on turning,
Pushing and shoving in the right direction.
I'm anxiously awaiting the journeys it will bring,
As I prepare for the next splash of the paddle.

It's the waterwheel that has brought me here,
Through the swift currents and roaring rapids.
I have conquered the waves with laughter and tears,
I'll take these memories with me as the wheel keeps on turning.

The waterwheel will lead me to my destiny,
Each rotation brings a new adventure.
My prayer is that I do what's best for me,
The life I lead is the one led by my waterwheel.

My waterwheel is my Lord and Savior,
I am the water He turns and protects.
We are all in an ocean with rapids and waves,
May He take you in and make the water behave.

May God be the waterwheel that keeps your life turning.



Seeking Spiritual Maturity: BIBLE STUDY

Study explores God's gifts to women throughout history

Throughout the Bible, God used women to carry out His plan, giving them His special gifts to do His work. Today, God continues to give these gifts to women in order to help them carry His Gospel message throughout the world.

Servants of the Lord, a six-session Bible study from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), helps women focus on how they can serve God using the gifts He has given them.

Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, and Esther are just a few of the women who demonstrate the gifts God gives today, such as faithfulness, patient and persistent prayer, courage, boldness, zeal, and humble service.

Each 60-minute session includes the following:

- Opening worship
- Objectives
- Theme
- Scripture reading
- Questions
- Prayer

Each chapter encourages women to apply what they've learned to their life for growth of the heart, mind, and soul. *SR*

Paperback, \$3.30, 64 pages, Stock #20-2601. Available directly from CPH (1-800-325-3040) or through your local Christian bookstore.



Bible Q & A:

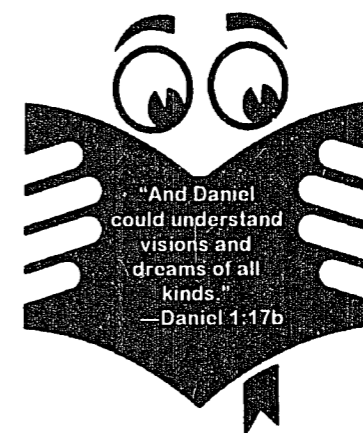
Does God speak through visions and dreams?

God used visions and dreams to communicate with many throughout the Bible, from Abraham (Gen. 15:1) to John (Rev. 1:9-11). But there was no regularity to these events. Apparently God communicated through whatever means served His purposes—including visions, angels, prophets, the written Word, and even a talking animal (Num. 22:21-31).

God still can communicate in any way He chooses. Some believe He continues to send special revelations, especially to those with the gift of prophecy and that these must be interpreted within strict guidelines (1 Cor. 14:26-33). Others believe that the need for such revelations stopped after the early days of the Church, when every Christian began to be guided personally by

16; 8:15-16).

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



"And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds."
—Daniel 1:17b

the Holy Spirit and the written Scriptures (John 16:13).

Evaluating people's claims that they have had dreams or visions from God must be done carefully. The Law of Moses demanded the death penalty for false interpreters of dreams who tried to mislead God's people (Deut. 13:1-5). Even Daniel knew his abilities were limited; he had to ask God for the meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:18-19) and needed help to interpret his own visions (7:15-

Revival stirs up Ashaway

by Virginia Crandall

April 10-13, 1996—What a wonderful four days we had at the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton, Ashaway, R.I.

We wanted to hold revival services in order to get people into the church—to “stir things up,” so to speak. Pastor Harold King got in touch with Don and Charlotte Chroniger of the Shiloh, N.J., church, and they agreed to conduct the services.

Things at the church began moving immediately.

Vivian Looper rounded up the congregation for a vote of approval. Prayer sessions followed, and the schedule drawn up was followed to a “T.” (Pretty much!) “At the Crossroads” served as the revival theme.

We distributed fliers around town, along with posters, ads, postcards galore, church inserts, and



Jessica and Bethany Chroniger sang their hearts out at a revival in Ashaway, R.I.

personal invites. Whew! And the excitement never dulled.

Each session conducted by Pastors Harold and Don was attended

by people from nearby towns. The congregation was thrilled with the messages and the music, which kept us jumping. Jessica and Bethany Chroniger sang like little angels, holding microphones and keeping time to Charlotte’s lively piano accompaniment. Cookies and punch were offered each night and after church on Sabbath.

A pizza party in the parish house was part of the “round-up” Sabbath night. Salads and sweets were also served.

The result of our revival was perhaps not exactly like the revivals of the “old days.” But it has opened our doors to hope for future sessions where everyone can meet and sing and pray together to the Joy of the Lord. *SR*

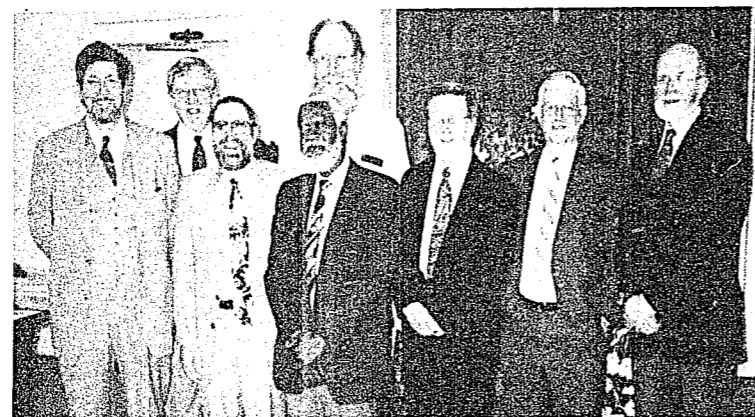
Alfred Station hosts Association

by Mae L. Bottoms

Conference President John Peil delivered the sermon during the Sabbath morning worship service as the Allegheny Association of SDB Churches met at Alfred Station, N.Y., on May 3-5, 1996.

Using the parable of the lost coin from Luke 15:1-10, President Peil reminded the worshippers that life is a series of choices—we should choose and then focus. We were created for a relationship with God; He sent His son to search for us.

Several musical selections added inspiration as 165 people from the six Association churches joined in worship. The Alfred Station chime choir, directed by Luan Ellis and accompanied by the Association



Ministers and leaders at Allegheny Association: (L to R) Gordon Lawton, John Peil, Robert Harris, Herlitz Condison, Michael Burns, Kenneth Chroniger, Calvin Babcock, Ernest Bee.

choir, opened the worship service with “Surely, the Lord Is in this Place.” The Association choir, di-

rected by Amanda Snyder, presented the anthem, “Heavenly Father, Wonderful Savior.” Amanda

Snyder and David Hauber, Association moderator, sang, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is.”

On Sabbath afternoon, President Peil led a discussion on issues and challenges facing Seventh Day Baptists. This all related to his Conference theme, “At the Crossroads.” He emphasized the need for lots of communication within the SDB kinship system.

As he raised several questions, he divided the congregation into small groups to brainstorm possibilities, emphasizing the need to take very small steps as we intro-

duce changes. Two of the questions discussed were: How do we communicate love and respect? How do we make Association meetings meaningful and rejuvenating events again?

Members of the Richburg, N.Y., church opened the meetings with vespers on Sabbath eve. Young adults, directed by Susie Butts, led the vesper service at the close of the Sabbath.

The second annual Youth Bible Quiz followed, with competition among youth of the Association

churches. This year the quiz focused on Acts 1-14, with Ernest K. Bee Jr. serving as quiz master. Following this event, the young adults gathered for a gym night at Alfred Almond Central School, and junior and senior high youth enjoyed an overnight at Camp Harley Sutton.

Delegates from Central New York Association, Michael and Leona Burdick of the Leonardsville-Brookfield church, led the devotions on Sunday morning prior to the Association business meeting. *SR*

New parsonage in Plainfield

On April 14, 1996, members and friends of the Plainfield, N.J., Seventh Day Baptist Church joined Pastor Joe and Joyce Samuels for the dedication and housewarming of the church’s new parsonage at 222 Marsh Place in Plainfield.

Attendees gathered on the front lawn of the parsonage for a welcome and prayer by Pastor Joe. This was followed by a reading from Matthew 7:24-27. The president of the Board of Trustees “officially” presented the house keys to Pastor Joe, who gratefully accepted them on behalf of himself and his wife.

The doors to the parsonage were then opened, and all went inside to sing “Bless This House.” A prayer and the act of dedication followed. Pastor Jeanne Yurke offered the closing prayer.

The Samuels opened the many gifts that they received, and both expressed thanks to all for coming and sharing. Guests were then invited to tour the house and enjoy refreshments.

Everyone seemed to share the same sentiments: “A very nice house.” “This is beautiful!” “I’m impressed!” “Simple but tasteful.” “Cozy.” “Joyce has done a super

job.” Yes, indeed; this new parsonage will really make you feel at home.

To top it all off, the new parsonage comes with a huge office and study for the pastor, plus a finished basement for those who just want to relax. Then came the delightful “discoveries”—a strawberry bed in the back yard, and a horseshoe pit!

Praise the Lord! The new parsonage is just another indication that the Plainfield church loves its pastor.

The next time you’re in the area, stop in and see us. You’ll be glad you did! *SR*



“Beautiful” and “cozy” were words used to describe the new parsonage.



Members and visitors of the Plainfield church gathered on the front lawn to dedicate and celebrate the Samuels’ new home at 222 Marsh Place.

Music, memories shared at Old Stonefort's 125th

by Jeanette Appel

The 125th anniversary celebration of the Old Stonefort (Ill.) SDB Church began on Friday evening, May 17, with a light supper at church, in anticipation of weary travelers.

Our evening worship schedule was changed drastically when we got word on May 15 that Deacon Leland Lewis, our speaker for the evening, had fallen, breaking his hip. Bill Bethel led us in congregational singing and a testimonial service.

Ron Brooks played two trombone solos, accompanied by Marla Agin. Beulah DeVard, age 97, shared some early church history, and Editor Kevin Butler brought us greetings from the Milton, Wis., church and SDB Conference.

Sabbath morning worship began with a medley of familiar hymns on the organ and piano. We then sang several hymns, including our theme song, "Church in the Wildwood." Jeanette Appel, clerk, welcomed everyone, then read the Covenant of the March 1871 meeting.

Special music came from the

Steve McCormick trio, Marilyn Thomas, and Janice McCormick. Bernice Admave joined our church, and Marilyn Carpenter presented the children's message. Pastor John Carpenter's sermon was entitled, "That I May Know Him."

Pastor Doug Burkhammer, of the new Royalton-Sesser, Ill., fellowship, assisted with communion, after which we sang one verse of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." It was a deeply spiritual time.

We adjourned to the newly decorated church basement for a bountiful lunch and visiting. Special bookmarks commemorating the day were placed at each setting. Chris Bowers and her helpers deserve much credit for the excellent job getting the meal ready.

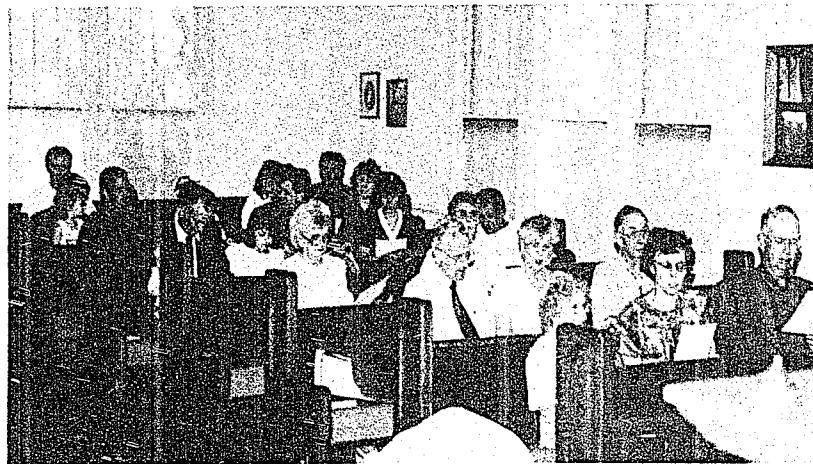
The afternoon service began with a Singspiration. The Brooks-Bethel-Buchanan family sang "Jesus is Coming Soon." Brent Winter, candidate for Congress, and Editor Kevin Butler each gave short inspirational messages.

A local group, the Echoes of Calvary quartet, brought inspiring mu-

sic. Our new member received the right hand of fellowship. Greetings were read from former members Mrs. Robert (Ruth Wells) Wilson; Mae (Randolph Lewis) Bottoms; and Dr. Ford Lewis, Sacramento, Calif. Ford took us back to his early childhood memories and shared a lot of history. (Thank you, Ford!) Several shared their joy at being present for the occasion and were thankful that God has brought us this far.

After the quartet and dismissal, we again met in the basement to share in a special 125th anniversary cake provided by Sue Bethel. Several pictures were taken of Pastor John and Marilyn with our oldest member, Beulah, and youngest attendee, Blake Jordan Buchanan. Pastor says Blake (nearly 3 months) can already say "Amen."

May 18 was a very high Sabbath for Old Stonefort. We are grateful to those dear saints who planted the seed for the church and thankful we are part of the harvest. May God continue to guide and direct us for many more years. *SR*



Part of the congregation of 68 who attended the annual "Third Sabbath in May" church gathering at Old Stonefort.



Church clerk Jeanette Appel brought greetings from afar.



Sharing their love for Jesus and the Old Stonefort church in song (l. to r.): Bill Bethel, Carolyn Bethel, Ron and Alice Brooks, Sue Bethel, and Kim Buchanan.



Bill Bethel (left) and Pastor John Carpenter extend the right hand of fellowship to new member Bernice Admave.

SR Reaction

Opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the SR or all SDBs. Letters may be edited according to space and editorial style.

Dear Editor Kevin:

I'm in complete agreement with Edward Hansen ["A Sabbath Romance," May '96 SR] about church business meetings. We never have those on the Sabbath and concur with the author that they should be held at other times. We hold our annual business meeting on a Sunday afternoon in January. Our quarterly business meetings are on Sunday nights.

However, I disagree with Mr. Hansen about fellowship meals on the Sabbath. A small group of us have a fellowship dinner-potluck-after Sabbath School. It's entirely optional. Some of us who do eat at the church are single, as I am, and would have to eat alone on the Sabbath otherwise. I don't like to eat alone on Sabbath day, and thoroughly enjoy our time

together. I applaud those who take time to bake hot dishes for us. I always cooperate by taking brownies.

Once a month there's a Meal of Sharing for the whole church, but that, too, is optional. The offering goes often for denominational causes. Those who do not wish to stay usually cooperate, though, by putting money in the collection. There's usually plenty of time to relax at home later.

As far as being with God at McDonald's or anywhere else, I would be remiss not to think we all need to spend more time with God, but frankly, I would rather pray with others than alone. Single people are alone a lot of the time as it is.

Very Sincerely,
Betty Daland
Milton, WI

I think that you should request that anyone who is interested in receiving *The Sabbath Recorder* should write to you. You could have an article in one or two issues and maybe a page to return if they are interested in being on the mailing list. They should not be required to make a donation to the SR.

Anyone who is really interested in receiving it would gladly respond to this request. Many of our churches have people on their membership lists who have become inactive or not interested. I think that many of your magazines are mailed to people who never read them or care if they even receive it. (Donation enclosed.)

Kent Kenyon
Coudersport, PA

Accessions

Doniphan, MO
Ronald Elston, interim pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Elizabeth Bridges
 Joey Bridges
 Shawn Bridges
 Mary Lou Brown
 Amanda Butler
 Nick Butler
 Daniel Colter

Chris Gray
 Don Owen
 Stephen Vincent
 Steve Whaley
 Joined after baptism
 Beckey Elder

Paint Rock, AL
John Bevis, pastor
 Joined after testimony
 Lorraine Rieber

Marriages

Yoneda - VanHorn.—Theodore Ken Yoneda and Cheryl Colleen VanHorn were united in marriage on March 17, 1996, in Hilo, Hawaii. Rev. Dale Thorngate of the Salem, WV, SDB Church officiated.

Steele - Balash.—Richard L. Steele and Gwen A. Balash were united in marriage on April 7, 1996, at the Woodburn (OR) Seventh Day Adventist Church. Jerry Vaught, pastor of the Portland, OR, SDB Church, officiated.

Obituaries

Davis.—Bernice Mae (Maltby) Davis, 91, died on March 14, 1996, in Middletown, R.I. She was born on April 18, 1904, in Adams Center, N.Y. She was one of six children and the only daughter of Norris Lee and Clarissa (Saunders) Maltby.

Bernice graduated from Milton (Wis.) College, and taught English and French in New York State schools for eight years. Upon her marriage to David S. Davis in 1935, she moved to Shiloh, N.J. She later taught third grade in Alloway, N.J., retiring in 1965.

In 1966, Bernice and her husband moved to Daytona Beach, Fla. He died in 1982. In August 1995, she moved to Forest Farm Health Care Center in Middletown to be near her daughter, Christine.

Bernice was a lifelong, active member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and held several church offices. She was also a dedicated worker for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for many years, serving on the local, state, and national level. For 21 years, she was a director of the Loyal Temperance Legion, the children's group of the WCTU.

She was honored for her many years of service to the Rose Marie Bryon Children's Center in Daytona Beach, and for her 17 years as president of the Daytona Beach WCTU.

Survivors include three daughters, Nathalie Wagner of New York City, Christine Ayars of Portsmouth, R.I., and Virginia Vaughan of Arvada, Colo.; one brother, the Rev. Leon M. Maltby of Daytona Beach; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on March 30, 1996, at the Shiloh SDB Church. Her ashes were interred in the Shiloh Cemetery.

Crandall.—William Denison Crandall Sr., 82, of Ashaway, R.I., died on April 5, 1996, at the Westerly (R.I.) Hospital. He was born on July 1, 1913, in Hopkinton, R.I., the son of Ellsworth and Minnie (Thompson) Crandall.

William worked at Bradford Dyeing Association for 35 years as a chemical technician. He also worked as a custodian at Chariho Vocational School, prior to retiring in 1981.

He was an avid ham radio operator, and also enjoyed feeding and watching birds, and working in his vegetable garden. He was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway.

In addition to his wife, Hazel (Champlin) Crandall, he is survived by one daughter, Mary Burton, of Westerly; two sons, William Jr. of North Stonington, Conn., and Terry of Westerly; two sisters, Elva Larkin and Doris Debigare, both of Ashaway; two brothers, Linton and Delmar Crandall, both of Ashaway; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held on April 8, 1996, at First Hopkinton Cemetery, Ashaway.

Davis.—Ruth (Sholtz) Davis, 91, of Verona, N.Y., was called home to be with the Lord on April 5, 1996.

She was born on May 26, 1904, in Des Moines, Iowa, the daughter of Joseph and Effie Sholtz. She came to the Verona area in 1918, where she married LaVerne W. Davis in 1925. He died in 1977.

Ruth had been a teacher in Verona schools, a director of the Maple Park Home, a member of the Sconondoah Kings Daughters, and (along with her husband) an active participant in many farm organiza-

tions. She was also an active member of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church. Over the years, she served the church in many capacities, including church clerk, pianist, deaconess, and Sabbath School teacher.

Survivors include two sons, Roger and Olin; one brother, Floyd Sholtz; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by four sons: Donald, Willis, Kenneth, and the Rev. Duane Davis.

Funeral services were held on April 8, 1996. Interment was in the New Union Cemetery, Verona Mills, N.Y.

Fox.—Dean Stanley Fox, 97, died at his home in Milton, Wis., on May 1, 1996.

He was born on August 8, 1898, in Dodge County, Minn., the son of Frank and Ella (Franklin) Fox. He married Belva Severance on June 23, 1922. She died in 1984.

"Stan" was employed by the Burdick Corporation in Milton for 43 years, and was on the volunteer fire department for many years. He was a member of the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include two daughters, LuVerna North of New Auburn, Wis., and Barbara Johnson of Milton; one son, Dean, of Sacramento, Calif.; 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandsons. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a sister and brother, two daughters, one granddaughter, and one great-granddaughter.

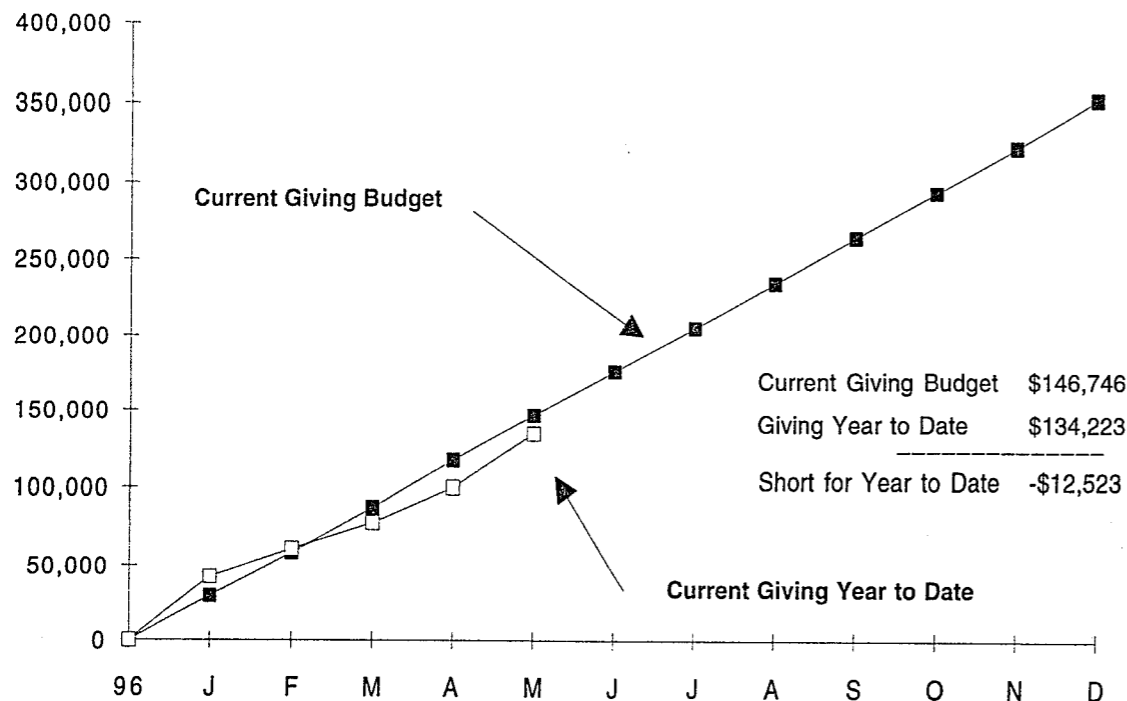
Funeral services were held on May 3, 1996, at the Milton SDB Church, with Rev. George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.

Obituaries cont. next page

Churches, Members and Friends

Please remember the needs of your General Conference over the summer. Send your August Conference offering gift soon!
 Thank you for helping us so that we can help all of our churches.

Denominational Budget 1996



Westcott.—Edith (Thomas) Westcott, 92, of Pittsgrove, N.J., died on May 7, 1996, at her home, following an extended illness.

She was born in Shiloh, N.J., and lived there most of her adult life. Since 1994, she had lived with her daughter, Florence. She also had lived three years in Vineland, N.J., with another daughter, Marion. She was the wife of Winfield Brooks Westcott, who died in 1965.

Edith was a licensed practical nurse who worked for many years at the former Cumberland County Hospital in Hopewell Township. She also worked several years for Dr. John Gould in Shiloh. She was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh.

Survivors include three daughters, Florence Kincaid of Pitts-

grove, Marion Crescitelli of Vineland, and Frances Walton of Morris Plains, N.J.; 14 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by three brothers, Roland, Edward, and Newton Thomas; and by two sisters, Reba Crane and Abbie Gordon.

Funeral services were held on May 10, 1996, at the Shiloh SDB Church, with Rev. Donald L. Chroniger officiating. Interment was at Laurel Lawn Cemetery in Upper Deerfield Township.

Harris.—Clora S. (Stanley) Harris, 85, of Westerly, R.I., died on May 14, 1996, at the Watch Hill Manor Nursing Home in Westerly. She was the widow of Rev. Everett T. Harris.

She was born on November 5, 1910, in Jackson County, W.Va., the daughter of Thurmon C. and

Lucretia (Mullinex) Stanley. She had been a bookkeeper at the Thermos Credit Union in Norwich, Conn., and the Cottrell Employee Credit Union, Westerly.

Clora was a member of the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly, and had been a volunteer at the Westerly Hospital.

Survivors include three sons, Dr. Lawrence Harris of Greenville, N.C., James of Cranston, R.I., and Everett Jr. of Wakefield, R.I.; one daughter, Ruth Rossi of Kent, Wash.; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by one brother, James Stanley, and a sister, Edna Tidd.

A memorial service was held on May 17, 1996, at the Pawcatuck SDB Church, with Rev. David Taylor officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to the church, or to the SDB Missionary Society.

Offenbarung 14 12, cont. from page 14

Church of God made a major shift in its teachings. It declared that the statements of Jesus concerning the commandments did not refer to "the" commandments, but to "these" or "my" commandments; that is, the commandments given in the Sermon on the Mount, not those given to Moses. John, in his first letter, did not make such a distinction when he said:


"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And these commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:2-3).

Part of the Worldwide Church's reason for this shift is found in the passages in Matthew 5 where Jesus quoted from several of the Ten Commandments and added, "But I say to you..." as though he was replacing action by attitude. Yet in that same passage Jesus also said,

"Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill them. For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth

the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Perhaps we, as Seventh Day Baptists, may be accused of being too legalistic in the matter of the Sabbath. But historically one of our most important distinctives has been the acceptance of all of the Ten Commandments as a loving response to God's great gift of salvation in Christ. Many of our early churches came into existence when they saw the inconsistency in those who affirmed a biblical faith, but made an exception concerning the Fourth Commandment.

Perhaps it would be well to again affirm Offenbarung 14:12—"Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus," for the two affirmations are complementary, not contradictory. 

Historically one of our most important distinctives has been the acceptance of all of the Ten Commandments as a loving response to God's great gift of salvation in Christ.

pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in

KEVIN'S CORNER

"Are you *sure* you need me to pick you up?" I ask (fill in Butler child's name of your choice). "Your tummy feels like what?... Do you think you have a fever?..."

How many parents can relate to that despairing phone call from your own miniature flesh and blood? Up against yet another tight deadline, you cast a mournful glance at your watch or calendar, and you're out the door.

Thankfully, I haven't had to field many of those calls, because my children can phone home first. Janet is (usually) a stay-at-home mom.

I say "usually" because she doesn't sit home idly biding her time. Errands, car pooling, and volunteering at school keep her hopping. And when she is home, she is certainly a working mother. In addition to homemaking, her own cottage industry, "Sew Affordable," keeps many clients happy with her quick alterations and sewing creations.

As with this month's authors, Jan has had a taste of full-time work. But now she enjoys her opportunity to be available for the kids—and to join me for lunch every once in a while!

My thanks go to this issue's SDB writers: Leanne, Lannette, and Jayne are all members of the Milton, Wis., church; Vivian, and husband Steve, are lone-Sabbathkeepers in Somers, Mont. I admire each of them and appreciate learning about their unique home and work situations.

For those moms who try to balance a full-time job and parenting, I found a great resource book—*Working Women, Workable Lives: Creative Solutions for Managing Home and Career*, written by Karen Scalf Linamen and Linda Holland (Harold Shaw Publishers, 1993). The book is filled with real-life stories of success and tribulation.

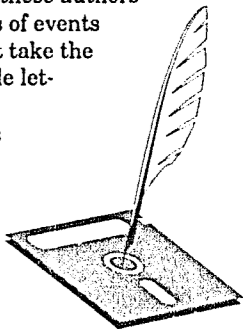
You can catch their openness and humor right in the introduction:

"Any similarity between the authors and the stressed-out, over-worked, and harried examples with which they are connected in this book is, let's face it, totally accurate. In other cases, the names are changed to protect the guilty, not the innocent—the actual situations are far too real!"

Drawing from a wealth of documented research (along with good-old honest confessions from friends), Karen and Linda tackle issues of stress, boundaries, compatibility, sharing the housework, priorities, and—gulp—balance.

How often have I counseled others (and myself) to strive for a life of balance? Yet these authors wisely contend that life is a series of events that demand imbalance. We must take the time to handle certain issues while letting others go for awhile.

The women close their book, as I close my page, with a wonderful paraphrase they wrote of Ecclesiastes 3. Hang it on your fridge—if you can find a balanced, empty spot!



There is an appointed time for everything.
And there is a time for every event under heaven—
A time to plant, and a time to reap.
A time to strive, and a time to rest.
A time to cook, and a time to create jobs for the fast-food industry.
A time to clean the house, and a time to shrug and look the other way.
A time to help, and a time to be helped.
A time to give, and a time to take.
A time to seek the praises of a boss, and a time to cultivate the love of a child.
A time to strive to meet a deadline, and a time to strive to build a family.

A time to go to work, and a time to turn your heart toward home.
A time to confront, and a time to give in.
A time to network with your peers, and a time to rekindle the fires of a marriage.
A time to earn, and a time to spend.
A time to accumulate, and a time to give away.
A time to minister to friends, and a time to evaluate the state of your own heart.
A time to say yes, and a time to say no.
A time for material wealth, and a time to pursue the greater riches of the soul.

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Important Memo:

TO: FRIENDS OF
THE SABBATH RECORDER
FROM: EDITOR KEVIN BUTLER

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SABBATH RECORDER IS FUNDED BY YOUR GIFTS? YOUR DONATION TO THE SABBATH RECORDER IS PART OF THE TOTAL SDB DENOMINATIONAL BUDGET.

I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENJOYING THE MAGAZINE DURING THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THIS PART OF OUR SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST CONNECTION AND OUTREACH. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU.

GRACE AND PEACE,

Kevin

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