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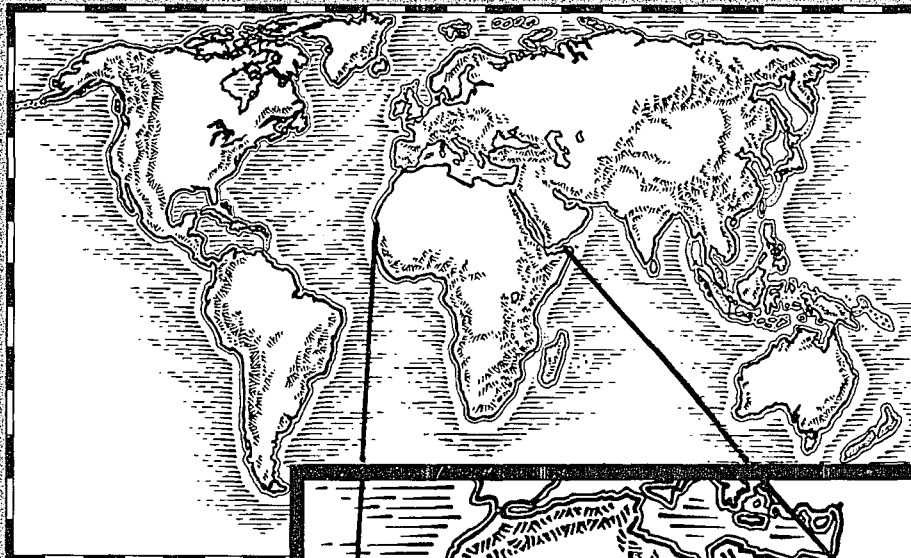
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January 1997

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

R

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SDBs
active in
AFRICA

**1997
Pastors' Conference**

**March 11-15
in Daytona Beach, FL**
Theme: "Pastoring in
a Kinship System"

**Robe of
Achievement**

**Nominations due
by March 31**
(guidelines in the
Dec. 1996 SR)

Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 16, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

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

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996.

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

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

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1997, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau, secretary

**Summer Christian Service Corps
1997**

Are you...

- 17 and a high school grad? (by June '97)
- a member of a local SDB church?
- wondering what to do this summer?
- wanting to serve God?

-or-

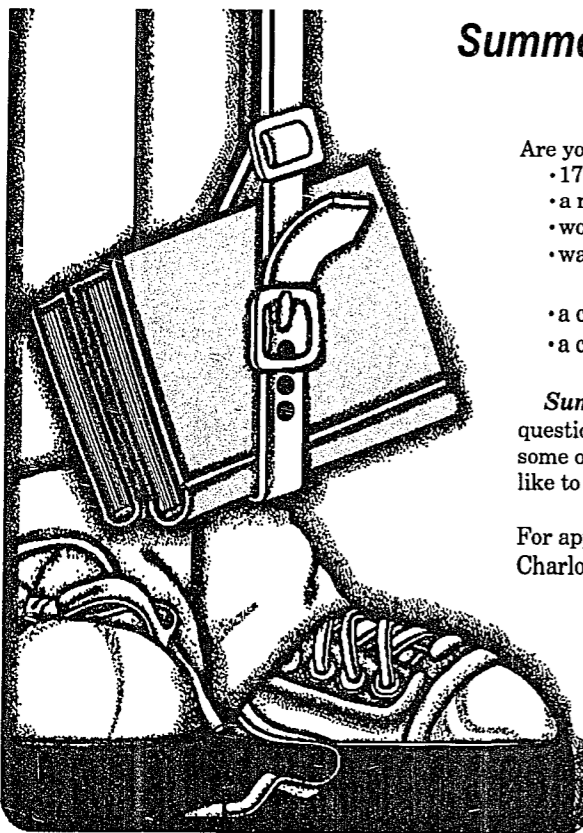
- a church member wanting an SCSC team?
- a church looking for a camp staff?

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

For applications, write to:
Charlotte Chroniger, Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353
Ph. (609) 455-0488

Worker training: June 19-27
Director training: June 18-23
Project dates: June 28 — July 27
(Dates are tentative.)

**Application Deadline (New!):
February 1, 1997**



The **S**abbath
Recorder



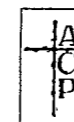
January 1997
Volume 219, No. 1
Whole No. 6,814

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. Periodicals 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 152nd 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 SDBs 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; E-mail: sdbgen@inwave.com



Many islands, groups in Indonesia

by Kirk Looper

Honoring Pastor Max

Usually, I begin the annual *Sabbath Recorder* missions issue with a brief resumé of the Conference and

were concerned that some of the Seventh Day Baptist churches would follow him over to the other group. We continue to pray for God

ter the churches and even denominational leadership to persuade them over to other doctrine. I hope that Seventh Day Baptists worldwide will join together to pray a hedge of protection around the SDB churches in Indonesia and their leaders.

New leadership

The present leader is Peter Pentury. He will assume the coordinator position until the Conference gets a better grasp of the work and ministries they have begun. Helping to sort out the financial responsibilities and organizing church development will be his main tasks. Mr. Pentury has mentioned to me the helpfulness of Dr. Ron Davis who is stationed there with a medical outreach program.

Dr. Davis is stationed at a hospital just outside Jakarta. He often visits with the church in Jakarta

The work on the Indonesian field is not going to be easy during this next year.

Many influences may enter the churches and even denominational leadership to persuade them over to other doctrine.

church activities from around the world. This time, I begin by paying honor to the coordinator of one of our Seventh Day Baptist Conferences.

Pastor Max Manangkalangi of Indonesia passed away to be with the Lord on August 25, 1996. He will be greatly missed by both his family and the Indonesia Seventh Day Baptist Conference. Let us all pray for God's continued guidance and mercy for the Conference churches in Indonesia and Pastor Max's family.

Much work done, challenges ahead

While in Indonesia during the spring of 1996, I was pleased with the work they had been doing. This was evidenced by the church members I met and the representatives from other islands where churches were being started.

Since Rev. Sahetapy had decided to join another denomination, we

to guide all those churches, especially the ones that have decided to stay with Seventh Day Baptists.

The work on the Indonesian field is not going to be easy during this next year. Many influences may en-



Indonesian church leaders meet after a Sabbath worship service in April 1996. Pastor Max is in the center, and Peter Pentury is third from the left.

and delivers the message. He is also valuable as a resource person to the Conference leaders. Our Missionary Society and the Indonesia Conference appreciate the time and valuable counsel given by Dr. Ron.

to pray that he is able to reach the island people who do not have Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Teaching others to cultivate

The Kubu Indians on Sumatra Island (southwest of Jambi) rely

to furnish tools and seed to encourage the Kubu to cultivate crops. Donations will help this work. Previous donations have gone toward food and clothing for the Kubu.

Travel costs time and money

Indonesia consists of a large number of islands of various sizes. It covers an immense area in the Pacific Ocean, south of The Philippines.

Visiting the Seventh Day Baptist churches and groups that have sprung up all over the island complex is a never-ending job, and travel is expensive. Communicating by mail is slow and ineffective. Therefore, much of the Indonesian Conference budget is used for travel. Let us pray for the leaders' safety as they travel from one island to another. *SR*

Translation projects underway

Presently, the Missionary Society office is entering Indonesian study booklets into our computer. They can then be copied and sent to Pastor Paul Mendur for distribution to churches on the island of Sulawesi (formerly called Celebes), around the city of Manado.

We have already sent Pastor Mendur copies of several tracts available through the Tract and Communication Council. He translates the materials and sends them to us to make copies. We continue

primarily on roots and jungle plants for food. The Seventh Day Baptist church in Jambi is trying

The church is trying to encourage the Kubu to cultivate crops.

Financing a new well for Chipho Clinic, Malawi

Drilling for clean water at Chipho

In 1996, a project was submitted to the Missionary Society and picked up by the Atlanta-Metro SDB Church in Georgia.

The SDB Chipho Clinic and compound in Malawi, Africa, needed to drill a new well to get water inside the buildings. This would ensure clean water—water that would not need to be carried for a distance, thus reducing the chance of more contamination.

This worthy fund raising project was completed in August, with the final \$300 arriving at the Missionary Society office.

Well details

The well is to be drilled on a ridge above the clinic, with the water collecting in a tank until it is

used in the buildings. The project will cost \$5,000.

Workers will drill the hole, encase it, and pipe the water to the

has begun since the last of the money was delivered during the visit of the Missionary Society Executive Director in September.

The few supplies are in very poor condition. Some of the supplies were there at the time the last medical missionaries left over 20 years ago.

holding tank. Various pipes will run the water to each of the 10 buildings on the compound.

More sinks and tubs are needed to complete the supply portion of the project. The project probably

Why help Chipho? Chipho continues to serve a large contingency of refugees. The clinic dispenses medicines but can only do limited operations, mostly obstetrics.



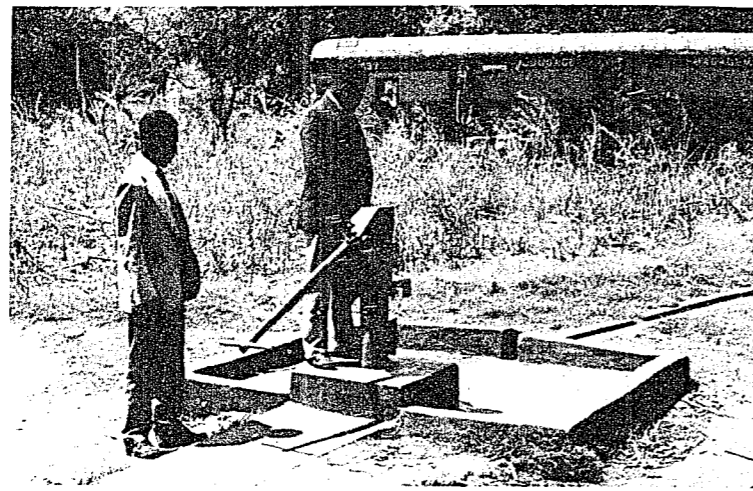
While visiting the clinic, the Executive Director talked with two patients—one suffering from dehydration, the other with a fever—and found the buildings and shelters quite adequate. However, the medical supplies and equipment were inadequate.

The medicines were almost completely gone, and the few supplies are in very poor condition. Some of the supplies were there at the time the last medical missionaries left over 20 years ago. The clinic has requested used equipment (new would be great), and bed clothing.

Who is helping get the medicines?

The Missionary Society has sent at least \$1,000 each year in the recent past. These funds were used immediately to replenish the medicinal stock needed for the patients. Presently, they are using about \$300 worth of medicines each week. The government has supplied much of this.

The Private Hospital Association



Rev. Mkwandire stands on one of the wells drilled earlier at Chipho.

Conversations with the Rev. R.J.B. Mkwandire, Executive Secretary of the Central African Conference (CAC), have revealed that most of the other Seventh Day Baptist clinics in Malawi are in a similar situation. We can pray that funding can be located to help.

A report given by Rev. Mkwandire indicates that the Conference

The plot of land under consideration would hold the college buildings, plus provide 75 acres for farming and gardening. All of this land lies closer to an improved road, below a volcanic dome. The dome has eroded to form a hill that is used for tourism. This would present an opportunity to increase the income of the school by using a building for a hotel or hostel. The plans sound great, and with proper management, would be a real asset to the CAC.

Specific needs and future plans

A meeting with the Executive Committee was held where participants aired their church's concerns. What they wanted generally was equipment to help them make a living and begin an industry or shop. They spoke of \$500 needed to stock and run a "stall" in one of the open-air markets within their towns. They requested hammer mills, generators, and vocational tools for both men and women.

Several churches requested funds to help construct guest houses for visiting church leaders. The buildings would also be rented out for income to help their church and Conference budgets. *SR*

Bible College for education and income

Plans have been made for a Bible College closer to Lilongwe.

The plot of land would hold the college buildings, plus provide 75 acres for farming and gardening.

of Malawi (PHAM) and the Christian Health Associations of Malawi (CHAM) also help through donations of funds as well as medicines. Without these influential organizations, it would be difficult to keep medicines and equipment available. The Ministry of Health also plays a vital role in operating the clinics in Malawi.

Even with these organizations, it is not always possible to have medicines available. Attempts are being made to locate additional funding.

consists of 270 churches with 45 branch groups. The total membership of the Conference is about 18,000.

He remarked that their greatest needs are buildings and transportation. For the buildings, they requested funds for sheet metal for roofing, and cement for the floors and pews. Some funds are also needed for pulpits and benches.

Conference in Zambia: open air, open Spirit

by Kirk Looper

The SDB Conference in Zambia, Africa, was held in a field about 20 miles east of Sulwazi. The meetings went from August 27-September 1, 1996.

Church members, along with the Executive Committee of the Conference, went to the site a week before Conference began and cut the grass. The cut grass was then used to build the walls of the compound where the meetings were held.

Within the compound, more walls set off small rooms for sleeping quarters. The larger part of the compound was divided in half. The side away from the sleeping quarters had one wall partially open. This allowed people who did not pay the registration (or who were not Seventh Day Baptists) to have a sheltered place to listen to the meetings. The compound also enclosed the well from which we got our water.

They came far, forward

It was exciting to see all those who attended the meetings. They came in from all directions and from great distances. When you consider that very few people have their own transportation, and must walk or use public transport, it is a wonder that so many attended. Some of the pastors rode bicycles that had been provided by American donations.

While at the Conference meetings, I was allowed to speak to the gathering each afternoon during the evangelistic thrust. It was so satisfying to see God working among those people. The Lord was good to bring so many in such a short period of time.

One day, as many as 100 came forward out of the small number that attended. I could not see how many came from the group gathered outside the central courtyard. However, I did notice that the

courtyard became much fuller than before the invitation.

Great group meetings

Attending the Conference meetings did not allow me to visit the churches, but I did meet the pastors as a group as well as the youth coordinators, Women's Board leaders, and the Ex-

ecutive Committee of the Conference. Each of these groups told me of their work, plans, and needs.

I was amazed at the work being done by these group members. Everyone appears to be doing something. Growth is evident, but even more growth would be possible if a few needs were met.

Land granted for buildings

Church buildings were discussed at length. Members are willing to mold the bricks if funds were made available for metal roofing sheets and cement for the floors.

Land has been given to them for three churches in the larger cities. This land is granted by the government with the requirement that a building be placed on each lot to retain possession. This requirement must be met in a six-month period.

They are approaching the end of the six months, and funds have not been raised. It would take about \$3,000 for each property. This would supply them with a small building and a fence.

Their plan is to purchase a tent for \$2,500. This would be an acceptable structure to save the land grant, plus give them more time to complete a permanent building.

Wells kept flowing

The well which was enclosed within the Conference compound is usually open to the community. It is used by close to 1,000 people during the year. As with all six wells drilled by the SDB Conference, it furnished water even through the drought season. Most other water sources dried up.

The water from these wells is clear and clean. Various depths range between 15 and 125 feet. As



Rev. Mukumbo and Evelyn, his wife, stand at one of the six wells drilled by the SDB Conference of Zambia.



the Conference grows, more wells will be needed.

Brother, can you spare a tool?

The needs of the youth are in the areas of evangelism and vocations. They need printed materials to hand out that would be on the level of ages 15-28. Also, they need tools for vocations—hand tools or power tools, used or new.

The Conference has many skilled people who are willing to train the youth. To do the training, the men and women would need to own their own tools.

Tools are not available at a reasonable cost in Zambia. They could use the tools that are just lying around our homes. They would treat them better than many of us treat new ones.

Tools mean jobs

You should see what they can do with simple hand tools such as saws, screwdrivers, brace and bits, planes, sewing machines, knitting machines and needles.

A craft is a vocation that can be taught to young people. Even 5-year-olds can contribute to the work of the family.

Hammer mills (grain and seed grinders) were requested by the Women's Board, as well as by the Executive Committee. The income from the hammer mills would enhance the work of both groups. For \$2,000, they could set up a profitable business.

I watched one of the hammer mills in action and was impressed with its efficiency. At least one for each of the three farms is planned for starters. This operation would provide jobs for about 10 people.

More information on the trip to Zambia may be obtained from the Missionary Society office. *SR*

Rwanda: SDBs struggling to begin

One of my jobs as Executive Director of the Missionary Society is to get acquainted with foreign leaders interested in starting Seventh Day Baptist churches. This was my purpose in going to Rwanda. I could also look at the projects for which funds have been sent.

The trip would also give me an opportunity to meet with government officials about the problems that SDBs are having in registering the denomination with the government.

More docile than hostile

It was exciting to enter a new country. However, it was not without some anxiety, with the rumors of unrest that had been passed around by the media.

I was pleasantly surprised to find a very docile city in Kigali, not that much different from the other large cities in Zambia and Malawi which I had just left. The landscape in Rwanda was beautiful. Volcanic mountains containing cauldron lakes and islands made the trip very relaxing and enjoyable. The farming done on the mountainsides

looked like patchwork quilts covering the land.

The history was equally exciting. Discussions about its history ranged from the Dutch through the French occupations; to liberation and freedom's effect on the Hutu and Tootsi, the two largest groups that occupy the country; and finally the genocide and resulting rebuilding of the country. Rwanda remains in a frustrated position as many of the people who left there desire to return.

SDBs can register, but...

In meeting with the government officials, we discovered that the denominational registration process has begun. The SDB coordinator, Rev. Elie Nduwayesu, can now begin organizing churches.

One condition still needs to be met. The Conference must rent or buy a place to house their office. They will need \$400 per month for rent.

The office will also need to have furniture, equipment, and staff that will cost more money. By the time this condition was detailed,

the cost had risen to about \$10,000. Pray that funds will be provided and we will finally be registered.

SDAs open, close, doors

Prior to my visit, Rev. Nduwayesu could hold meetings at the Seventh Day Adventist church buildings. Our groups could gather on Sabbath after the regular services. Rev. Nduwayesu would preach a sermon and then discuss the polity, history, and doctrine of Seventh Day Baptists. In fact, we met in one such building.

However, after a meeting held by SDA leaders the following Sunday, Rev. Nduwayesu was barred from using any of their churches. He was banned, but that did not deter the people from gathering elsewhere to discuss SDB distinctives.

One day, we met out on a hillside. Someone estimated that over 800 people were in attendance. We started at 10:00 a.m. and dismissed about 3:00 p.m., followed by a session on our polity, doctrine, and history. This portion of the meeting broke up because of darkness and cooler weather.

Interest in distinctives

Every free afternoon and evening, a different group would meet with us to discuss our beliefs and history. They would ask questions and look to Rev. Nduwayesu to answer them. Most of them did not speak English. Some spoke French, but most spoke Kinyarwanda. These meetings would last until past 10:00 p.m.

It was interesting to see so much excitement about what they heard.



Rev. Elie Nduwayesu, SDB Coordinator in Rwanda, with his wife and son.

Thank God for that opportunity to experience those people getting excited about the freedoms of autonomy and personal accountability, the blessings of our denomination; then to see their reaction when they realized the responsibilities that go along with those blessings. The responsibilities were awesome to them.

Concern for orphans

Projects carried out by the Seventh Day Baptist members are centered around the orphans. Rev. Nduwayesu had nieces and nephews in his home, along with his own son. Everyone appeared to

be interested in the welfare of the orphans.

I was able to visit a couple of orphanages. At one, I took some video footage and talked to the people in charge. They grow much of their own vegetables and eat very little meat.

Milk cows are expensive, about \$800 each. Most of the orphanages have none, but need them to provide milk for the babies and young children. The orphanages I visited housed approximately 500 children. Catholic churches distribute clothing sent from the United States, England, and France.

Muslims moving in

Highly visible was the movement of Muslims into the country. The Muslims will enter the country,

Ruhengeri, it was clear that the rural areas did not have adequate medical facilities.

I remarked about this, and Rev. Nduwayesu stated that they did not have enough medical treatment sites (called pharmacies). He spoke of plans to bring a pharmacy to the island. This would serve several thousand people who live in that vicinity.

It would cost \$2,500 to build, stock, and staff the pharmacy for one year. Since the island would require a boat, another \$500 is needed. Pharmacies are government subsidized because the inhabitants of the region do not have funds to pay for the medicines.

It was agreed that this is one project that I would be able to

Projects carried out by the Seventh Day Baptist members are centered around the orphans.

build a mosque, then evangelize. This is unlike Seventh Day Baptists who evangelize and, if they can gather enough people, may help with a building.

The Muslims are growing fast. Rwanda has a very unstable group of people who are anxious about their churches. Maybe we will make a difference.

Evangelism is an important task for the new churches in Rwanda. They need microphones, amplifiers, and electrical generators to help them in this step. The cost of each setup runs a little over \$1,000. They are presently looking at five evangelistic teams.

Need for 'pharmacies'

While visiting an island in Lake

share with the members of our Conference.

A hard-working people

It is impressive to see the work ethic of the Rwandan people. Men and women could be seen working, carrying their produce to market, or standing at their shops and booths. I admired the desire of the people to establish a solid government and economy, considering the prevailing risks and mistrust that continue to haunt the citizens.

We need to pray for the people and work in Rwanda. It would also be good to keep an ear and eye open to possible funds that could be channeled to them. *SR*



Doniphan holds evangelistic outreach by Ron Elston

In September, the Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church of Doniphan, Mo., held a revival as an outreach tool. Pastor Joe Samuels from Plainfield, N.J., served as evange-

and Rev. Don Sanford, SDB Historian, presented a look at Seventh Day Baptist history.

Much effort had gone into the outreach project with advertisements on 11 radio stations in two states. Three newspapers, flyers, and cable TV also promoted the event. There was personal evangelism from the local church, as well as from those who came to support the revival from five states. The meetings were well attended.

From the outreach project, we have gained new members through baptism and profession of faith. We were all blessed by the special ministry done by those who

list. Gordon and Beverly Kilts, members of the National Field Development Team from Schenectady, N.Y., assisted.

Jerry and Joyce West of Battle Creek, Mich., presented their clown ministry, while Pastor and Mrs. Bill Burks from Little Rock, Ark., assisted with ministry and music. Pastor Tom Harp conducted music,

(Right) Pastor Joe Samuels served as the revival's evangelist. (Below) Part of the congregation at Doniphan. Bill Burks, and Gordon and Beverly Kilts are in the foreground.



came to take part in the outreach effort. *SR*

New group in southern Illinois

The Royalton Seventh Day Baptist Fellowship is a new work in southern Illinois. Royalton is located about 25 miles west of Old Stonefort, site of a long-time SDB church presence.

During the first part of the year, Regional Minister Ron Elston was informed of some interest in Royalton and began working with the new group. Their leader is Arthur Burkhamer, a former Southern Baptist minister who discovered the Sabbath through Bible study. Pastor Burkhamer is a public school teacher. His wife, Jane, is a nursing student.

As the group began to meet and

develop, they requested branch church status from the Faith SDB Church in Doniphan, Mo. The group started meeting with five

The group, with an active youth fellowship, has good relations in the area as Pastor Burkhamer worked with the youth of the com-

The group has good relations in the area as Pastor Burkhamer worked with the youth of the community for a number of years.

people and have now grown to 20. They meet in the Burkhamer home near Royalton for Bible study and worship, and are looking for a larger facility in which to meet.

munity for a number of years. The group is working hard for the Lord, seeking to reach the lost in their community with the Good News of Jesus. *SR*

"Come over into Macedonia..." (or Rome)

by Russell Johnson

John Wimber once stated that three years after a person becomes a new Christian, he has few friends left who are open to being won to Christ. This is because of our natural desire to be with people who are living in Christ.

This gap widens when those former friends—unwilling to follow Jesus—find their own new friends. While solid Christian friends strengthen a believer's faith, non-Christian acquaintances provide doors to establish new faith.

Count on visitors only?

Fifty-year-old churches may speak of winning people to Christ, but notice few decisions beyond their members' children. Most visitors to churches already consider themselves Christian. These may be people who have recently moved into the community, or are changing churches.

Some visitors come because of changing convictions. Others may come because a restlessness exists in their souls that is not being addressed in their current church.

These motivations are a valid part of any ministry. However, the main commission that Christ gave His followers must take them into other areas of ministry.

Look for new openings

Believers eager to obey Christ by sharing the Gospel will constantly look for God to provide openings. Such contacts with new acquaintances will help uncover those in need of Christ.

SDBs who have done traditional door-to-door evangelism often have little enthusiasm for it. The same goes for telephone witnessing strategies. Both techniques can cause more experiences of rejection than

build new relationships in Christ.

Is there another way? What can an older church do to make a difference? When is a church ready to start another one?

Look for lost sheep

Jesus, by example, went into public places. The people flocked to hear what He had to say. As He continued to go to the "lost sheep of Israel," the lost sheep gathered to Him, instead of fleeing. What made the difference?

Jesus understood the power and love that was at work in Him

Believers eager to obey Christ by sharing the Gospel will constantly look for God to provide openings.

through the Holy Spirit. And He brought that power and love to the people who needed to receive it.

Seventh Day Baptists have a strong love for God, and a love and respect for each other as a family of like faith. The success of being fruitful for Christ will be determined by the number of people who are willing to "go out" into their communities in the power of the Spirit.

Bold new effort

As the 21st century nears, the Verona, N.Y., SDB Church has chosen a bold pilot effort to reach more people in central New York. During its 175 years of existence, the church has attempted to establish only one daughter church.

The church has approved a plan to aggressively provide evangelism and start new churches in surrounding communities. This has the potential to strengthen not only the witness of the Verona church and the Central New York SDB Association, but hopefully the witness of SDBs in the whole northeastern region.

Rome is the target

The neighboring community of Rome, N.Y., with 40,000 people, emerged as the place for the initial evangelism effort. Two or three couples were to be freed from other church responsibilities so they could concentrate on the new work for three years.

At the end of two to three years, the couples would have a choice: return to the work in Verona, or continue in the new work in Rome.

One diaconate couple, Jim and Anne Zell, felt called by God the night the plan was presented to the church. In September, they were commissioned to help establish a new SDB ministry in the city of Rome. As members of the Verona church, National Extension Minister Russ Johnson and wife, Jennifer, are participants as well.

Planning begins

Worker prayer meetings, and training and planning sessions were held in the first months. The initial step was to organize the work to keep it flexible. Provision was also made for a regular audit and review of the plans and actions of the leadership.

A Planting Oversight Board, operating under the name "Abiding Love Ministries," was chosen by the team. This will provide a clear due process for decision making. Com-



plete minutes and financial records are being kept, and are open to public review. The Board meets regularly to consider the plans and progress of the work.

Workers hit the street with fliers

After more prayer and discussion, the northwest section of Rome emerged as the focal point of the outreach. These four people, with help from one other woman, prepared, produced, and delivered a flier for two weeks in July. With 1,635 addresses in that one section of the city, fliers were simply left on each doorstep.

The first flier told how God was leading the Verona congregation to start a new church in their area. The second flier spoke about the values that SDBs prize, and briefly mentioned the long heritage that SDBs have as a people of God. Third and fourth "information letters" were mailed first class to each address. These led into the survey that was planned for late August.

Follow-up survey

About 100 homes indicated that they did not want to be contacted further. Of the 1,533 homes the team attempted to contact during the three-week survey, about 500 had people at home. The surveys are still being compiled, but it appears that over two-thirds of the people who came to the door answered the survey.

Bible studies begin

The second phase in establishing a new church is devoted to ministry and Bible study. The team had planned to take six months trying to locate people interested in studying the Bible. However, spontaneously during the survey, several respondents asked when the church would start meeting. They also

wanted to know where it was planning to meet, or if Bible studies could be provided for them in their homes.

Immediately after the survey's completion, the team began conducting in-home Bible studies, and provided ministry wherever doors

most indicate that they want to help start the new branch church in Rome.

Public worship planned for June

By June of 1997, we hope to meet for public worship. The group

Spontaneously during the survey, several respondents asked when the church would start meeting. They also wanted to know where it was planning to meet, or if Bible studies could be provided for them in their homes.

opened. When individual students were comfortable in joining with others in the community, some of these studies were merged into larger Bible studies.

Who attends?

Most of the people participating in the studies were not actively involved in any church, but they were hungry to understand more of the Gospel message. During the first two weeks, one lady accepted Christ, and her home has become the focal point of one of the growing small groups. Another couple had been "turned off" on churches in general, but they've shown real interest in helping to start this church.

Currently, four Bible studies involving nine families are being conducted in the community. Two more studies are in the development stages.

Some families may eventually choose to attend the larger church fellowship in nearby Verona. But

is committed to seeking God's guidance in starting other new church plantings—through this effort, as well as through the Verona church.

The group's goal is to focus its efforts on sponsoring missions and ministries. Thus, they voted to give a tenth of every offering in support of national and world outreach through the denominational budget.

Please pray that God is glorified, and that people will be genuinely touched through this ministry effort of the Verona SDB Church.

Back to basics

In the sports world, a team seldom excels if it doesn't practice "the basics." In Christian life, the term should also be "basics." The decision of the Verona church was to go back to doing the basics, seeking aggressively to provide another community with the same Gospel message that has blessed Verona through the years.

Could God do the same through your church?



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

Uniforms vital to Zambian women

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

During a recent visit to Shiloh, N.J., for a missions emphasis weekend, SDB Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper told of the many needs of the people of Zambia, Malawi, and Rwanda.

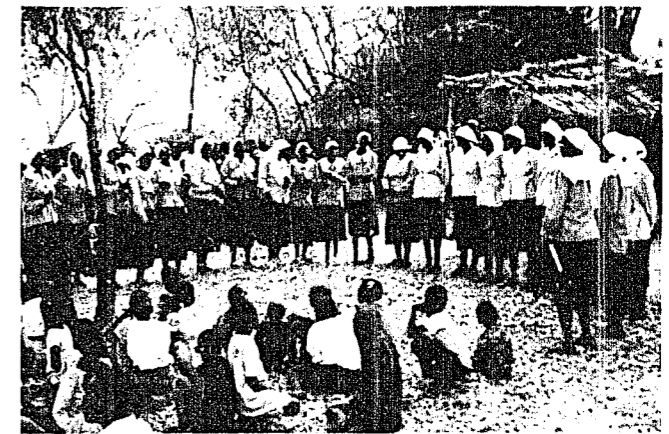
Kirk shared one particular request with the Women's Board. This request came from the Executive Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Board of Zambia.

One of the symbols of leadership and godliness for a woman in Zambia is her uniform. A uniform can be earned after a woman fulfills some requirements, which may take one to two years to complete.

In order to earn the right to wear the uniform, the woman must:

- 1) Be a member of a Seventh Day Baptist church.
- 2) Be active in Bible teaching.
- 3) Practice hospitality in the church and at home.
- 4) Know the Bible and memorize selected verses.

The Zambian SDB Women's Executive Committee provides men-



These Zambian Christians earned the right to wear special uniforms of service.

tors for women who wish to work toward their uniform.

Once a woman earns her uniform, she wears it with distinct pride, for it gives her access into hospitals, nursing homes, jails, and orphanages, where she can share the Good News of Christ. She must continue to be active in Bible teaching and leading. One can lose her uniform through failure to live up to the high standards set forth by the Committee.

Kirk told us that one uniform costs around \$7.00. This includes the blue and white fabrics needed

to make the uniform. The Zambian women requested that, if possible, we could help them with money to purchase the fabric. It would be better for them to buy all one shade of blue fabric than to ask for the fabric and get several shades of blue that couldn't be matched.

We are asking that each Seventh Day Baptist woman in the USA and Canada donate \$7.00 toward the cost of one uniform. If the Lord leads you to participate in this project, please send your financial contribution to Women's Board Treasurer Jeanne Dickinson. Her address is: 1256 Roadstown Rd., Bridgeton, NJ 08302. Designate your gift "Zambia Women's Uniforms." Or, instead of buying yourself a new dress, set aside that money for a contribution toward the uniforms.

Kirk also asked us to continue sending sewing supplies to Malawi and Zambia. The hospital in Malawi could also use baby blankets.

Many of our Women's Societies were formed for missionary outreach and service. May the Lord use our generous spirits to help the women in Zambia.

Please send your supplies* to:

The Christian Council of Malawi Relief and Development Department
P.O. Box 2733
Blantyre, Malawi, Central Africa
(Packages must not weigh over 22 lbs.)

Rev. Edwin Mukumbo: Coordinator
P.O. Box 20631
Kitwe, Zambia, Central Africa
(Mark packages "For Mission Work")

**In many countries, taxes are lowered or removed when sending items for missionary purposes. However, some taxes are required in most places. It would be helpful to send \$15 to \$25 to the pastor/coordinator of any of the fields. Usually, it is the coordinator who takes money out of his pocket to pay the duty charges.*



the BEACON

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

January 1997

"Me like it in Jamaica, Mon"

One young man's short-term mission trip

by Jeffrey Hazen

Since many of my friends and brethren here in the United States have asked me about my short-term mission trip to Jamaica last summer, I decided to tell a little about my "adventure."

First impressions

When I left the U.S. on the 9th of July, I had little idea what to expect. I had tasted some Jamaican food and had heard some Jamaican dialect, but I had to ask myself if I could really make an eternal difference in the lives of some of these people.

My arrival in Jamaica was marked by a slight increase in the temperature, a miraculous dodging of cars through the streets of Kingston, and seeing many needs among poor people who lived along the side of the road in roofing tin shacks.

I never met most of those people who lived on the streets, but I learned that the best thing I could do was to get them into the Body of Christ.

A people of music

During my first evening in Jamaica, I took out my guitar and started playing. In a matter of minutes, I attracted an audience of about four or five neighbors.

I asked Mrs. Samuels (my director/"mother"/interpreter/friend) if this instant audience was because the people never saw a real guitar before. Mrs. Samuels responded with an amused, "No, not at all. It's simply because we love music and are attracted to it!"

I saw this sincere love of music and the God who created it in the way the Jamaican people worshiped the King with singing, clapping, dancing, and playing the tambourine.

Since I didn't know most of the songs (and SDB churches in Ja-

maica don't use "overheads"), I learned how to "sing to the Lord a new song" and "praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with tambourine" as it says in Psalm 149. After learning many new songs, I was up front singing my heart out to God with the rest of them.

Working for the Jamaican Conference

The first week, I spent most of my time typing reports for the many church delegates who would be attending the Jamaican SDB Conference in Kingston.

During the second week, I led Vacation Bible School for the young people at Conference. Having to lead a group of ten 4 to 12-year-olds without assistance, I learned more about trusting God and receiving my strength from Him. We learned various truths about Jesus, and also sang fun songs (like the #1 hit, "Singing in the Rain") and played games.

Camp counselor at Ocho Rios

The third week, I helped counsel camp in the city of Ocho Rios, one of 10 counselors for about 100 campers. We went to the beach on Thursday and enjoyed swimming in

the blue-green water of the Caribbean Sea.

Though extremely challenging, I had a great time meeting the young people on a different level, helping with music and drama, and getting people to stay awake during class. Games of basketball (with no backboard) and of "football" (soccer) with the youth added to my experience—as did Midnight Dominoes and waking up with toothpaste on my pillow.

Sabbath evening, I was asked to speak for the Formal Dinner. This followed an enjoyable dinner with toasts to both the men and the ladies (with juice, of course).

A month-long crusade

The final four weeks of my project were spent at the city of Greater Portmore, a developing community just west of the capital, Kingston.

Throughout the Mass Crusade, I attended prayer and fasting meetings during the mornings. We then did visitation and invited people to the crusade during the afternoon, and had service meetings at the big tent in the evening.

During the month of August, I was given many chances to share my testimonies, teach a Sabbath

School class, sing a song, give a children's message, or counsel someone to know Christ.

My main responsibilities included a "Youth Time" for the five-ten minutes every evening before the crusade services. I also helped to lead a week of Daily Vacation Bible School, which was an incredible chance to witness to the children of the Greater Portmore community.

I learned how to play cricket, how to hand-wash my clothes, how to build a house in Jamaica (well, a little bit as I helped with the Maiden Hall SDB Conference building), and how to freely share with someone my love for Jesus.

The hard work was worth it

Though the month-long crusade was tiring, my heart and spirit were enriched daily by the Spirit of God, who brought people forward almost every evening to accept Jesus. I was also enriched by my brothers and sisters in Christ, who encouraged me with their joy and faithful dedication. Seventy people accepted Jesus, and about 20 of those were baptized during that month-long crusade.

Pastor Rod Henry and his son, Erik, arrived during my last week

in Jamaica. It was wonderful to see two old friends, get to know them better, and hear good news about General Conference in Lacey, Wash.

Having the chance to walk through a craft market in Kingston, I found myself buying a homemade conga drum. (I've started playing the drum for my campus Inter- varsity Christian Fellowship!)

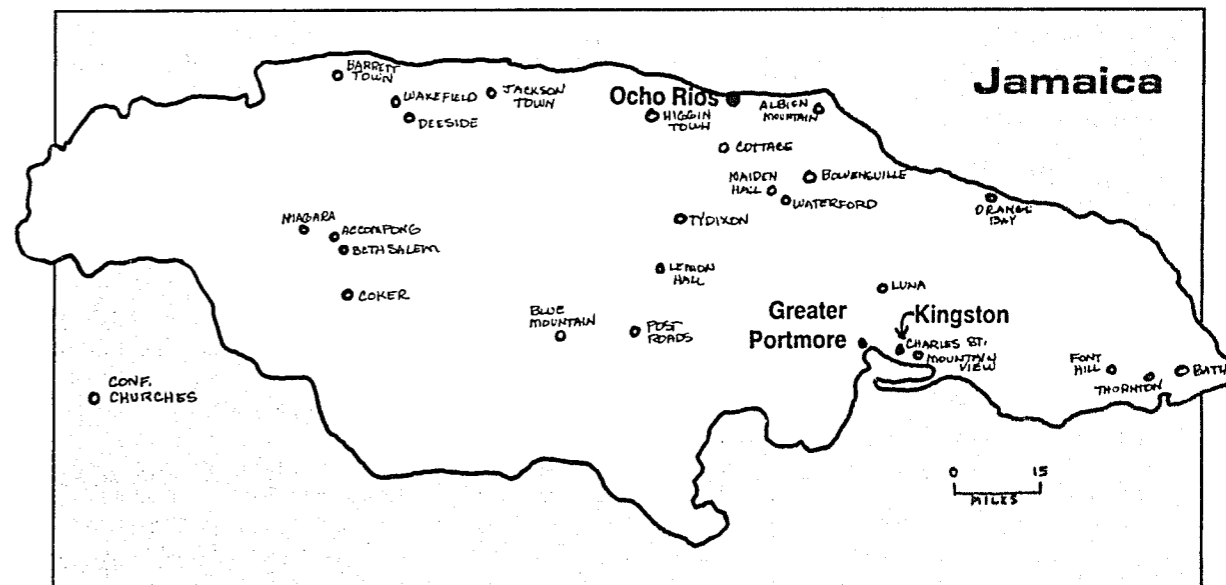
Over so soon?

With many relationships made and memories formed, it was hard to imagine the end of my service project in Jamaica. Probably the most emotional moment was my final evening in Jamaica, when I was showered with gifts.

Surrounded by pastors who prayed for me and laid hands on me, I led one final rendition of "Singing in the Rain." I've never been so honored in all my life!

I thank all of you who prayed for me, counseled me (especially Pastor and Mrs. Joe Samuels), and who supported me financially (including the Women's Board).

Your prayers truly started a new Seventh Day Baptist church in Greater Portmore, and led me to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



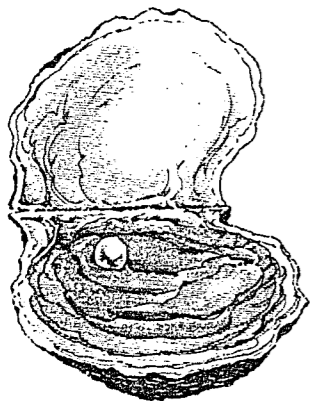
Hey!!!

Youth guys, Youth gals,
Youth groups—

Send us articles!

The Sabbath Recorder
PO Box 1678
Janesville WI 53547

Or e-mail us:
sdbgen@inwave.com



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

100 pearls and counting

would take the synthetic when the real is readily available.

It is possible that one reason this pearl has been so often neglected is in the fact that we have kept it "clammed up" within the hard shell instead of exposing it to all to see and enjoy.

As I begin the work of historian-writer for the Historical Society, I would invite you to contribute some of the precious gems which may be in your memories or experiences so

Ministry and sketches of individuals have been featured in 14 issues, whereas historical sketches from our churches in England, Colonial America, and the 19th century pioneer churches have accounted for another 17. The rest fall mainly in a broad category of promotion, theology, and general topics.

In addition to the hundred prepared by the historian, three were written by Ilou Sanford from her personal research, and two by Janet Thorngate as librarian.

This month marks the 100th "Pearls from the Past" prepared by your historian and included in *The Sabbath Recorder* over the past ten years.

The first of these columns appeared in the March 1987 issue. It provided the format and purpose for others which followed. That first column is repeated, for its purpose has not changed during the decade.

A grain of sand in the eye causes great irritation and discomfort. It can cause one to close the eye, or try to flush it with tears. A grain of sand in an oyster may serve as the irritation which stimulates the formation of a lustrous pearl. Even the pearl of great price which Jesus mentioned in His parable in Matthew 13 was once but a grain of sand cultured within the least of God's creatures.

It is the purpose of this column from the Historical Society to bring into view some of the events and ideas of history which may have caused irritation for some, may be pearls to others.

Even the Sabbath, which is one of our distinctions as a people, has been an irritation to those who have allowed it to cloud their vision. But properly nurtured within a body, it becomes a pearl of great beauty and luster. So beautiful can it be that others have tried to copy it with a synthetic, man-made substitute, but the true connoisseur can tell the difference. Few

that, strung together, a beautiful necklace may emerge which may be worn proclaiming God's patient love through a very special people. Some may be used in this column; other anecdotal material may find its way into pages of a book being prepared to document and highlight our history; still other contributions may be filed for some future reference.

Let us break open the shells and show the world the brilliance of what God has done in our past, what He is doing in the present, and what He intends to do in the future.


A considerable range of topics has been included in these "Pearls." Ten have related specifically to the Sabbath, although this has been an underlying principle in many others. Sixteen have centered around missions, with about half foreign and half home missions.

Subjects related to General Conference have accounted for 11 articles; those dealing with the work of Boards and Agencies have received about an equal number.

How I wish that more had been written and preserved during the past three or more centuries.

The invitation for contributions given in that first "Pearl" still stands, and reactions are appreciated. In 1993, the Communications Interest Committee of General Conference suggested that a collection of "Pearls" be published as a book, but sales of recent historical material have not been encouraging to fulfill that suggestion.

Yet from the vantage point of a historian, how I wish that more had been written and preserved during the past three or more centuries. The *Journal of Samuel Hubbard* in the late 17th century, the publication of the *Memorials of 1852-54*, the short-lived *Seventh Day Baptist Quarterly* edited in 1884, and the three volumes of *Seventh Day Baptists in Europe and America* published in 1910 and 1972 were attempts in this area and have served to give insight into some of our fascinating history.

What "pearls" can our generation leave to those coming in the next century to help them understand some of their past heritage of faith? 



SR Almanac

A look at where we have been from the pages of The Sabbath Recorder

One year ago—January 1996

Missionary Society Executive Director Kirk Looper reports on his trip to Guyana, South America. Other updates come from SDB Conferences in Africa.

Stateside mission reports received from Portsmouth, Va.; Bowling Green, Ky.; Plainfield, N.J.; and Tupelo, Miss.

Joseph Alegre moves from Australia to Argentina to pastor a new SDB work there.

Tom Harp installed as pastor in Memphis, Tenn. Scott Goins named ministry assistant in Doniphan, Mo.

The standing Christian Social Action Committee's operating procedure presented for information.

Five years ago—January 1992

Features look at SDB outreach into Africa. Special focus placed on missionaries to Malawi, Ian and Trudy Ingoe.

Director of Extension Russell Johnson urges readers to consider the "spiritual harvest" on the local and national scene.

"Beacon" page lets youth know what General Conference sessions are all about.

Background given on new Missionary Society executive Kirk Looper.

Pastor Henry Davis, Michigan, killed in November plane crash.

10 years ago—January 1987

Updates shared on T.I.M.E. (Training in Ministry and Extension) participants.

Shiloh, N.J., church makes plans to celebrate 250th anniversary.

Missionary prayer letter comes from David and Bettie Pearson as they return to Malawi.

Allegheny Association (N.Y.) wins blue ribbon for best "non-commercial booth" at their county fair.

National Youth Fellowship announces photo contest. Winning photos to be placed in calendar for fund raiser.

Church retreats held in Battle Creek, Mich., and Bay Area, Calif.

25 years ago—January 1972

"A Forward Look into '72" lists denominational activities including: area spiritual retreats, new audiovisual aids, lay training for evangelism, Summer Christian Service Corps, and other dedicated service projects.

Randolph Terrace, a low-income housing project sponsored by the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church, dedicated in December.

Articles react to White House Conference on Aging. Little Rock, Ark., church dedicates new building in October.

Reports come from newer church groups in Phoenix, Ariz., and Seattle, Wash.

The David Pearsons make extensive missionary church tours in Northeast.

50 years ago—January 1947

First issue of the year focuses on the Bible.

Newly-ordained Ronald Barrar, from New Zealand, heads to Nyasaland (now Malawi) as missionary.

Rev. Claude Hill called unanimously for the 21st time to serve the Farina, Ill., church; Rev. Zack White begins pastorate in DeRuyter, N.Y.; Pastor Francis Saunders accepts new pastorate in Denver, Colo.

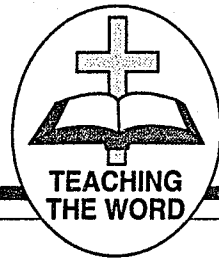
Marlboro, N.J., church reflects on 135 years of service in Bridgeton area.

Evangelist L.O. Greene reports of experiences on way to new field of service in Mississippi.

...where are we headed?

Pray for—

- our SDB Conferences around the world
- Kirk Looper as he plans and makes visits
- national extension ministers Johnson and Elston
- our local outreach efforts
- renewed vision for the new year
- the Randolph Terrace ministry in Salem
- strength for our younger and smaller churches



The Tither's Covenant

"The LORD shall be my God and of all that Thou givest me I will give the tenth to Thee."

Pastor Jus Start noticed that the congregation was unusually silent and distant as they greeted him following the Sabbath morning sermon. He moved quickly to the Fellowship Hall to bless the monthly fellowship luncheon.

For a couple of seconds, he wondered if preaching about money had been the right decision.

Superintendent Ed Christian, seated with a plate of food opposite Pastor Start, commented, "I liked your sermon this morning. I sensed that many did not understand the spiritual simplicity of tithing. I think they focused on their unhappiness with what some may feel is another spiritual discipline which they can't meet.

"All you asked was that we join with you in signing the Tither's Covenant printed in the bulletin and putting the signed covenant with our checkbooks or family budgets. I thought it was a great reminder for me when I sit down to write my check for the church. It's like remembering God's provision for me while I pay my bills."

Mrs. N. Decision stopped eating and joined the conversation. "I know why everyone in the church is so uptight about your sermon. My mother always said that money is the root of all evil, and that's why Jesus didn't carry any with him.

"I believe that talking about money isn't proper in a worship service. Tell me why I should give

10 percent of my income to the church?"

Superintendent Christian suggested that the pastor finish his meal and explained to Mrs. N. Decision, "Each church member should sign the Tither's Covenant just like Pastor Start said because God has given each of us everything. God gave us all of our opportunities, and our abilities to use those opportunities. We are merely returning to Him a small portion of what is really His. In a restaurant, most waiters or waitresses expect to receive a 15 percent tip. I remember when the custom was 10 percent."

"I work hard for my money!" Mrs. N. Decision interrupted excitedly. "Besides, who said giving 10 percent to God means giving it to the church? My mother always said the church doesn't take care of all the needy people. My gifts to charities and my taxes are part of that 10 percent. It's my money, and I'll do with it how I wish!"

Pastor Jus Start, who had finished his dessert, answered, "The Holy Scriptures tell us that Abram gave Melchizedek, priest of God Most High—maker of heaven and earth—a tenth of everything from the victory over the kings who opposed him. In Genesis 28:20-22, Jacob recognizes the LORD, the God of his fathers, as the sovereign deity and pledges 'of all that thou givest me I will give the tenth to thee.'

"Moses taught the people that the tithe is a reminder that they are God's and shall be a people

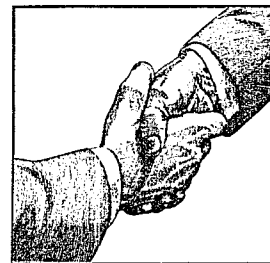
holy to the LORD. One of those obligations to the LORD is to pay their tithes to maintain the sanctuary, those who minister to the LORD and the visitors, widows and orphans.

"The church is our symbol of God to ourselves and to the community. Jesus instructed Peter to pay their temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27). I believe Jesus was acknowledging the obligation to support the religious institution—the Church. I believe Jesus clearly supported both obligations to the LORD and governmental taxes (Matthew 22:15-22).

"As I tried to tell everyone this morning, Jesus taught that tithing will not justify us with God (Luke 18:9-14). Nevertheless, I believe Jesus did *not* do away with tithing but taught first things first—justice and the love of God (Luke 11:42). Being a Christian isn't only about *faith, hope, and love*. Being a Christian is also about tithing so the Church can express its *faith, hope, and love* to others."

"I really would like to tithe," Mrs. N. Decision said sadly, "but I don't know if I would have enough money left to pay my rent, my grocery bills, my heating bill, or my auto insurance. I don't know how to begin to tithe. If someone will help me, I'll sign the Tither's Covenant."

Our Seventh Day Baptist program, *Seeking Spiritual Maturity 1995-2000*, is emphasizing "Covenant Building" in 1997. Will you make a vow to the LORD our God this new year to live by the Tither's Covenant? **SR**



Seeking Spiritual Maturity: COVENANT BUILDING
An annual emphasis of the SDB General Council

Establishing a church Covenant

Editor's note: In 1997, Seventh Day Baptists will focus on the spiritual discipline of "Covenant Building." To help us mature in this area, the SR will present excerpts from Don Sanford's historical study, "Establishing a Church Covenant." May our present-day Covenants grow stronger as we learn from the covenants and principles of our forefathers.

The Faith and Order Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference compiled a *Guide for Preparing or Revising Church Covenants* which was adopted by Conference in 1979. It included statements concerning the Importance, Purpose, Form, Precautions, and Use. This study augments that statement with historical background drawn from SDB records.

Importance

Seventh Day Baptists are a Covenant People. They have chosen to be bound together by Covenant rather than by creed.

Christ taught that we should have a oneness—(John 13:35 and 17:20-21).

The *Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedure* states, "To be without a Covenant is to be without a Church."

God has made a Covenant with us; we need to extend the Covenant relationship to each other.

Purpose

To have a fellowship, church, or group that plays, works, prays, and stays together, there must be a common cause or binding agent.

Seventh Day Baptists have chosen the "Covenant" as that binding agent, in which they state their common cause.

Covenant as used in our Church states the concern we have and the commitments we are willing to make, under God's Grace, in our interrelationship with each other.

The *Seventh Day Baptist Manual of Procedures* states, "The Covenant is a carefully worded document which states the responsibilities of members and their purpose for joining together as a congregation."

Prepare the Covenant prayerfully, lovingly, that we may have a closer and more meaningful relationship with God and with each other.

Form

Forms change with changing thought, language, and understanding, but it is very important that the Covenant be a meaningful expression of individual and group responsibility to which every member does willingly subscribe.

It is essential that it be written in language and form that every member can understand and have available for frequent reference and use.

There are generally four areas that need to be covered to make the Covenant complete:

- 1) Commitment to God
- 2) Commitment to the Word of God (Holy Scriptures)
- 3) Commitment to the Church as a whole; and
- 4) Commitment to the individual members of the Church.

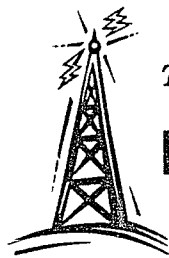
Baptist principles in Covenant preparation

In his book, *Baptist Church Covenants* (Broadman, 1990), Charles Deweese set forth four basic premises upon which Baptist churches based their membership and practices. He cited:

- 1) Admission standards for membership should be high;
- 2) Believer's baptism is essential for membership and helps safeguard the regenerate nature of church life;
- 3) Church members should consistently meet biblical requirements for doctrinal soundness, moral purity, spiritual growth, Covenant relationship, and active ministry;
- 4) Discipline should be administered for serious failures to meet the covenantal expectations of church membership.

There has been a tendency among many churches to merely adopt a Covenant which was written for another church. These are readily available and easy to present to a church for adoption. But the very process of writing one's own Covenant can make it more personal and give greater expression of its meaning to the specific congregation.

Nonetheless, in the process of developing a Covenant, the experience of others can be helpful. Thus, numerous examples will be drawn from an array of SDB church Covenants of the past and the present. **SR**



It keeps going and going...

by Owen Probasco

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

"Where do you get the energy?" Have you ever asked, or been asked, that question?

Does a Christian get "down in the dumps?" Maybe a more realistic question might be, "Does a chicken have legs?"

If you're a part of the human race, you are bound to have your ups and downs! How far up and how far down, in many ways, depends upon your "energizer," your energy source.

We are all in this human "race." It is a demanding activity that calls for much preparation, a great deal of training, and a lot of energy. And one day, each of us will reach the finish line. Some will be winners and some losers. The energy you have, or the energy you use, will help determine your success in this race.

Of course, the race is extremely crowded. Folks are apt to "step on your toes" now and then. But, press on; the finish line is just ahead.

Note this, however: if you are using all the energy that you "think" you have to "just run the race" or to "stay the course," maybe you need to open the sluice gates of your heart. Or unlock the chain to the rusty recesses that are waiting to be energized and "rarin' to go."

In other words, let yourself be turned on by that heavenly, capable, powerful (but idling) energizer, the Holy Ghost!

The "energizer" that you see advertised on TV—as great as it must be—will soon run out of "zap." However, there is an energizer with a continuous source of power. One

who has been "beating the drums" steadily for thousands of years.

That source of power has been available since before mankind was in existence, and will be "traveling on" long after we depart these mortal bodies. That power, that energy, is the Holy Spirit. He is always on the job, has limitless energy, and

**Let yourself
be turned on by
that heavenly,
capable, powerful
(but idling)
energizer,
the Holy Ghost!**

loves to do the work you "allow" Him to do.

His one big problem, though, is that you and He are partners. We are co-workers, *co-owners* of abilities far beyond our understanding and, unfortunately, beyond our use.

An alkaline battery is powerless as an entity within itself. However, with a flashlight or some other usable device, it activates or ener-

gizes, providing the power so necessary to "shed the light" or to get things done.

God gives us the privilege of using the power of the Holy Spirit in a similar manner. The power is there, it is available, but we need to be the instrument that uses, that shares, that illuminates that great power and great Love.

Down in the dumps? Sure, sometimes. But the Holy Spirit knows the way out.

Will you always be floating on Cloud Nine? Not likely. But the Holy Spirit can turn you on to the sunshine.

Make yourself available to accept His love, His direction, and His energy. It's available. *He's* available! Tune in to God, and let yourself be turned on by His Holy Spirit.

God bless you. And I ask that you pray for me as I look forward to seeing many of you at Lindsborg, and all of you at our triumphant reunion in heavenly places.

*Tuned in to God, turned on by the Spirit,
Triumphant in Christ, my Lord!
I face each tomorrow, without fear
or sorrow;
My future has been secured! SR*

**"Tuned in,
Turned on,
and Triumphant"**

SDB General Conference
August 3-9, 1997
Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas

Wisconsin gals keep in touch

Do you remember those summer days at Church Camp and Pre-Con? Remember packing up and going off to the great outdoors with your Christian friends?

Ah, the fond memories of silly dorm antics, Christian fellowship around the camp fire and, of course, the moonlight hikes!

Does it seem like a lifetime ago... or just yesterday?

To a group of women in Wisconsin, the memories are old and new. For the past several summers, Annmarie (Johnson) Bennett, Sharon Aiken-Bruha, Deirdre (Sanford) Camenga, Lori (Loofboro) Curry, and Jayne (Geske) Lubke have reunited for a day of catching up and reliving happy memories.

The idea for an annual reunion resulted from conversations at a shower for Deirdre. They wondered, "Why don't we get together more often than just for weddings or showers?"

So, at least once a year, calls are made and letters are exchanged to bring the group together for dining out, shopping, or a barbecue. Sharon drives down from Wisconsin Rapids, Deirdre drives over from West Allis, and they meet up with Lori, Jayne, and Annmarie, who still live in the Milton/Edgerton area. This is where they all became friends at the Milton YF and Camp Wakonda back in the late 1970s.

It's nice to know that in a fast-

paced, mobile world, they can maintain such a friendship. They have a common bond that is deeper than where they live or what they do. Such a bond can only come through a foundation of shared memories, anew experiences, and a covering of a lifelong faith. A Christian friendship is a treasure.

So, do you know the address of an old camp or Pre-con friend? We suggest that you drop them a line. It does a body (and a soul) good! SR



Seated (left to right) are Annmarie Bennett, Deirdre Camenga, Sharon Aiken-Bruha, Lori Curry, and Jayne Lubke.

Florence Bowden accepts award

A large group of people traveled to the Meridian Nursing Home in Millville, N.J., to honor Florence Bowden as she received the Gold Headed Cane Award from the SDB Historical Society.

Florence, who was born in 1900, was pleasantly surprised when family after family from her home church, Shiloh SDB, entered the meeting room at the nursing home, joining the residents who had already gathered.

Pastor Don Chroniger read the citation and presented the plaque from the Historical Society. Conference President Owen Probasco presented Florence with the Golden Cane, and several hymns were sung. Florence displayed her wonderful humor and eloquence as she

thanked the group for the celebration.

The nursing staff served refreshments, and everyone enjoyed a time of visiting. SR



Florence Bowden receives the Gold Headed Cane from Owen Probasco.



Miss Bowden thanked everyone for attending the celebration.

Outreach Bible Church files paperwork

by Ron Elston

In December of 1992, a church planting effort began in Portage, Wis. The group, choosing "Outreach Bible Church Baptists of the Seventh Day" as its name, held an organizational meeting in early 1993 and then began holding regular meetings.

The new group was sponsored as a branch church by the Albion, Wis., SDB Church. In the spring, they rented the Zona Gale Center for the Arts as a meeting place.

To reach the community for Christ, the church has sponsored two revivals, including a *Stained Glass* concert. They have also hosted a Natural Evangelism Training (NET) Retreat, and sponsored a booth at the Columbia County Fair featuring Harry the Hobo as a "drawing card" for the children.

The pastor of Outreach Bible Church is Brother Keith Julson. Keith is enrolled in the New Worker Training program headed by

group with the final draft of their paperwork and application for membership into General Conference. These papers were filed with

The people of Portage are very talented and have many spiritual gifts. They are on fire for the Lord as they reach out into their community for Him.

Rev. Rodney L. Henry, Director of Pastoral Services.

The people of Portage are very talented and have many spiritual gifts. They are on fire for the Lord as they reach out into their community for Him.

In September, I assisted the

Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock and will be reviewed by the denomination's Faith and Order Committee.

Presently, the Outreach Bible Church has 28 members. Thirty-five to 40 people attend each Sabbath. *SR*

Family Camp at Wakonda

The Outreach Bible Church of Portage, Wis., recently held a Family Weekend Retreat at Camp Wakonda, a Seventh Day Baptist camp on the outskirts of Milton, Wis.

Pastor Ron Elston, Field Minister for the SDB Missionary Society,

useful information for parents and grandparents to help protect children from Satanism, New Age influences, and the occult.

Pastor Elston assembled much of the information from his years of working in law enforcement and for the Department of Public Safety. He is a graduate of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy, and has served law enforcement agencies in several states.

Many other activities were held during Family Camp. Pastor Keith Julson and Daron Smalley preached and led worship.

Everyone seemed to have a great time, and a spirit of fellowship prevailed throughout the weekend. *SR*



Pastor Keith Julson preached at the family retreat held in the Elmo Fitz Randolph Lodge at Camp Wakonda.

Ron Elston presented useful information to help protect children from Satanism, New Age influences, and the occult.

presented a seminar entitled, "Does Satan Own Your Children?" During the seminar, Pastor Ron presented

Shepherd's Fold remembers "old days"

Shepherd's Fold Ministry of Blountville, Tenn., celebrated its third year of worship in their church building on September 21, 1996. During the worship service, people reflected on the evolution of the church from its inception. Comments came from members, those who were not yet members, and guests, sometimes with tears.

Some recalled the early Sabbaths, when the meeting place was primitive and barn-like. Some spoke of the ongoing battle with wasps, bats, and other "critters" to

gain possession of the building, chosen as a place to worship. Some remembered the daylight streaming through wide cracks in the wall.

Still others spoke of the affectionate name given to the sanctuary (pre-heater): "the Chill Church." People wrapped themselves in jackets, warm blankets, and each other—and teeth still chattered! One member recalled playing a saxophone solo and seeing his breath coming from the bell of his instrument.

There were also the times when the electronic foot pedals on the organ refused to play.

Another member recalled watching a young lad lean forward in his folding chair and spit through a crack in the floor next to his foot.

"Work bees" brought improvements to the building, and also brought us together as a family. The name (Chill Church) was dropped, and the organ became more cooperative when a heater was donated.

There was a unanimous feeling that, from the very beginning, God could be experienced by anyone who came into our little church.

With 34 members and an aver-

age attendance of 21, an exciting tape ministry, our newly-licensed student intern pastor, and a growing awareness of our presence within the community, we are well on our way to becoming a dynamic witness for Christ and SDBs. This area is an open mission frontier!

We thank everyone who has encouraged us over the past three years. Many have been prayer warriors—some openly, and others from their personal "prayer closets." Phone calls, letters, post cards, and visits came at the very moment they were needed. Financial contributions have come from every corner of our country. (Even from New Zealand!)

Pastor Ed and Marietta Sutton now understand and appreciate what missionaries experience. And we, as a church, have come to realize that there *must* be a great trusting relationship with God, and a strong prayer support group, for any mission endeavor to succeed.

This three-year process of "becoming" has been an important learning experience for Shepherd's Fold Ministry. Pray for us as we continue to develop a vital witness for our Lord. *SR*

Alma reaches century mark



Alma Davis with the bouquet of flowers presented to her by the Nortonville SDB Church.

Alma Davis, the oldest member of the Nortonville, Kan., Seventh Day Baptist Church, celebrated her 100th birthday on November 16 with a reception at Village Villa where she has resided the past several years.

The occasion was hosted by her family: Edwin and Lavern Davis of Nortonville; Allen and Gladys Neuhaus of Tecumseh, Kan.; seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. *SR*

SR Reaction

Dear Editor,

Responding to the "kinship system" which has been introduced to SDBs:

If it takes seven to ten years to incorporate a new member into the Seventh Day Baptist family of believers, then we have a major problem which needs to be addressed.

I believe that the unity and growth which we seek can only be found in allowing the Holy Spirit full control to move in our midst as He sees fit. We will never achieve the

goals that our Lord desires for His Church, or be a part of the great end-time move of God happening today, if we resist the flow of God's Spirit.

We must effectively use the limited time we have left for God's glory, bringing light to the nations of the earth.

The choice is ours. We can be in that life-giving stream, or we can be left behind on the bank.

Walter Loofboro
New Auburn, WI

Accessions

Blountville, TN
Edward Sutton, pastor
Joined after baptism
Brandon Fullen
Joined after testimony
Debbie Kay Dingus
Thomas Taylor
Christine Taylor
Russell W. Woodard
Joined by letter
Linda B. Hays

Houston, TX (First)
Joined after baptism
Paula Chaffin
Rosemary Coma
Tony Coma

Riverside, CA
Gabriel Bejjani, pastor
Joined after baptism
Donna Packard

Nicole Nichols
Kristina Kauffman
Nathan Roy
Jimmy Jennings

Elie Bejjani
Dustin Riley
Joined after testimony
Les Hangyas

Joined by letter
Jennifer Ryschon
Margaret Natoni

Births

Minear.—A son, Jacob Edward Minear, was born to Jack and Cyndi Minear of Battle Creek, MI, on November 29, 1995.

Thorngate.—A son, Nicholas Ryan Thorngate, was born to Jeffery and Terri Thorngate of Kalamazoo, MI, on May 9, 1996.

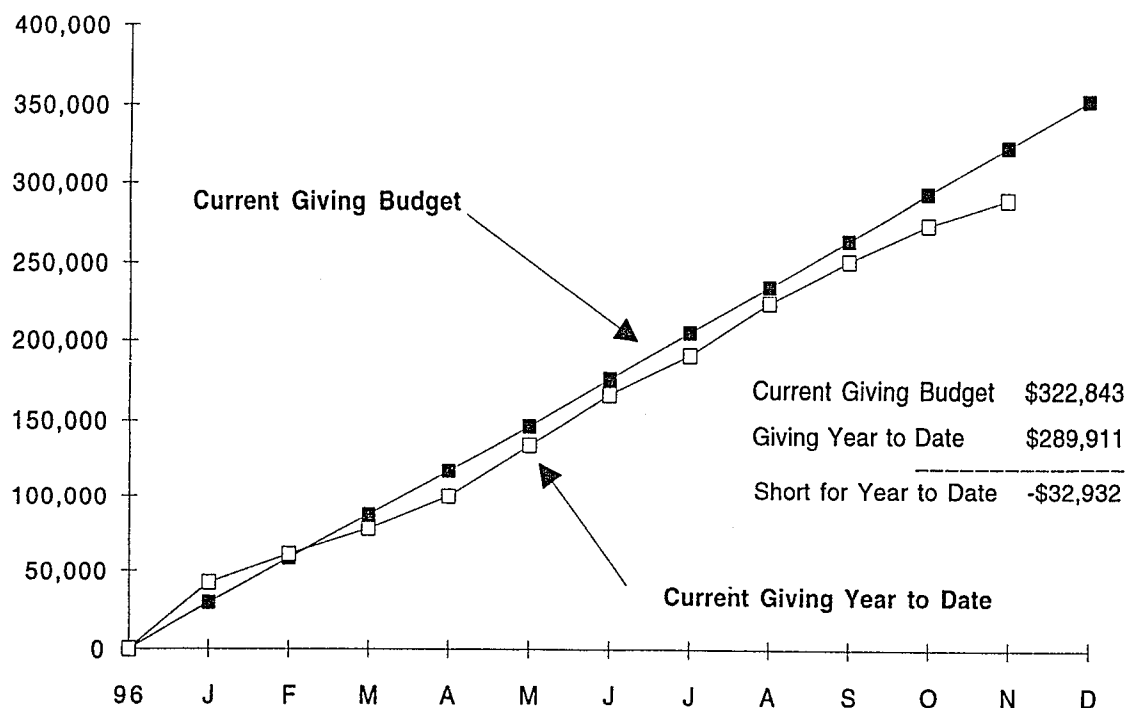
Carmichael.—A son, Benjamin Floyd Carmichael, was born to

Robert Carmichael and Ronda Faulkner of Battle Creek, MI, on June 14, 1996.

Fech.—A son, Harrison Lee Fech, was born to John and Jennifer (Davis) Fech of Lincoln, NE, on September 19, 1996.

Fatato.—A son, Alexander Escobedo Fatato, was born to Pastor Nick and Gina Fatato of Battle Creek, MI, on November 1, 1996.

Denominational Budget 1996



Obituaries

Barber.—Lillian Babcock Barber, 74, formerly of Kenesaw, Neb., died on October 15, 1996, at the Madonna Home in Lincoln, Neb.

She was born on November 21, 1921, in Hays, Kan., the daughter of Clarence and Martha (Jacky) Babcock. The family moved to North Loup, Neb., and she graduated from North Loup High School.

On December 21, 1940, Lillian married Russell Barber, who died on July 16, 1991. She lived most of her married life in Kenesaw, but also lived in Milton, Wis.; Gibbon, Neb.; and North Loup.

Although afflicted with multiple sclerosis, she worked for more than 20 years as a secretary for the Adams County Extension Office. She was always optimistic and never complained in spite of being handicapped and in pain. She was a wonderful example of patience to all who knew and loved her.

Survivors include three daughters, Marilyn Leubke of Saint Libory, Neb., Kathy Babel of Glendive, Mont., and Patty Vorderstrasse of Upland, Neb.; two sons, David of Lincoln and Richard of Douglas, Neb.; three sisters, Marguerite Scott and Bonnie Severance, both of North Loup, and Ida Babcock of Dodge Center, Minn.; six brothers, Chester of Arcadia, Neb., Gilbert and Iradell ("Ike"), both of North Loup, Merwin ("Bab") of Chico, Calif., Carroll of Kenesaw, and Donald of Hickman, Neb.; 17 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on October 19, 1996, at the Kenesaw United Methodist Church. Richard Barber officiated, with Pastor

Beverly Minor assisting. Burial was in the Kenesaw Cemetery.

Lippincott.—(Clara) Mae (Wood) Lippincott, 98, of Battle Creek, Mich., died on October 17, 1996, in Springhill Manor, where she had lived since April.

She was born on December 19, 1897, in Jasper, Mo., the daughter of William D. and Carrie (Schott) Wood. She moved to Battle Creek in 1917 after graduating from high school. She married Herbert Lippincott on October 14, 1920. He died on July 17, 1977.

In 1920, Mae graduated from Battle Creek Sanitarium as a registered nurse, and was employed for several years in the office of Dr. Elmer Eggleton. She retired from nursing in 1922 and was a homemaker the remainder of her life.

Mae lived on Bowen Street for 58 years before moving to Springview Tower in 1978.

She was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church for 62 years, and a deaconess for over 50 years—the last few as deaconess emeritus.

Always active in the Ladies Aid, Mae served as the flower and greeting chairman. She visited the sick and infirmed for many years, always arriving with a special note of cheer. She was a longtime Sabbath School teacher and was especially interested in the youth, writing to many of "her boys" in the military over the years.

Mae faithfully served her Lord through the church and her family, which she loved dearly.

Mae was also a member of the Nurses Alumni Association.

Survivors include one son, Rev. Robert P. Lippincott of Glendale, Ariz.; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Bette

Burdick, in 1968; and by her brother, Dr. George Wood, in 1981.

Funeral services were held on October 21, 1996, in the Bachman Funeral Chapel. Pastor Nick W. Fatato of the Battle Creek SDB Church officiated. Interment was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Casselman.—Lois N. Casselman, 70, of Adams Center, N.Y., died on November 17, 1996, at the Samaritan-Keep Home in Watertown, N.Y.

She was born on June 23, 1926, in Sulphur Springs, N.Y., the daughter of Gilbert and Bertha (Palms) Horton. She graduated from Adams Central High School.

On September 12, 1946, she married Frank C. Casselman at the Adams Center Seventh Day Baptist Church. They lived in Adams Center all of their married lives. The couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a party at the Madonna Home in Watertown, where she lived until just before her death.

Lois worked as a clerk at the former Agricultural Insurance Co., Watertown, and later operated a beauty shop in her home. She recently worked as a court clerk for the town of Adams.

In addition to her husband, survivors include two sons, Michael of Central Square, N.Y., and David of Rodman, N.Y.; one daughter, Melinda Worthington of Adams Center; two sisters, Barbara Gilmore of Saratoga, N.Y., and Marjorlyn Gilmore of Adams Center; seven grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held on November 20, 1996, in the Adams Center SDB Church, with Pastor Andrew Camenga officiating. Burial was in the Sulphur Springs Cemetery.

World Federation to meet in July

In July the Jamaica Conference will host the sixth major international meeting of the SDB World Federation since its founding in 1964. The Australasian Conference hosted the last session in New Zealand in 1992.

Prudence Robinson, Vice President (Caribbean Region) of the Federation and Corresponding Secretary of the Jamaica Conference, chairs the host committee. They are finalizing arrangements for the meetings which will be held in Kingston from July 14-20, followed by sessions of the Jamaica Conference, July 21-28.

Rev. Dale Thorngate, executive secretary of the Federation, and Rev. Joe Samuels, secretary, met with the host committee and the Jamaica Conference executive committee in November to review plans. Delegates will fly into Kingston.

The Kingston church, 29 Charles Street, will host a welcoming session on Sunday afternoon. Sessions will be held at a conference center in Portland, Jamaica, about a three-hour drive from Kingston.

Official letters of invitation have been mailed to delegates chosen by their respective conferences. Each conference is entitled to one delegate plus an additional delegate for each 1,000 members (or fraction thereof).

Recently compiled statistics show that the biggest growth since the 1992 sessions is in the Central Africa Conference and in the Guyana Conference. Brazil also reports churches and groups in many new areas.

Now that delegates have been selected by the member conferences, Federation President, Rev. Gabriel Bejjani, will prepare the week's program. He has selected "Christian Certainty" for the theme based on the book of 1 John.

Financial limitations do not make it possible for each group to

send their full delegation, but efforts will be made to raise enough funds that each member group may be represented by at least one delegate.

Those named so far are as follows:

Australasia—Andrew Goulding and Ronald Barrar

Brazil—Jose Dirceu de Andrade Cruz and Salvador Caetano Silva

Britain—Owen and Jossett Lynch

Central Africa—Royal J. B. Mkan-dawire, E. Elias Ngalande, and Alefa Lozani

Guyana—Jacob N. Tyrrell and Elnora Andries

India (Andhra Pradesh)—B. Kishor Kumar

India (Kerala)—Sosamma Philip and Susamma Koshy
Jamaica—Prudence Robinson and Naval W. Harley

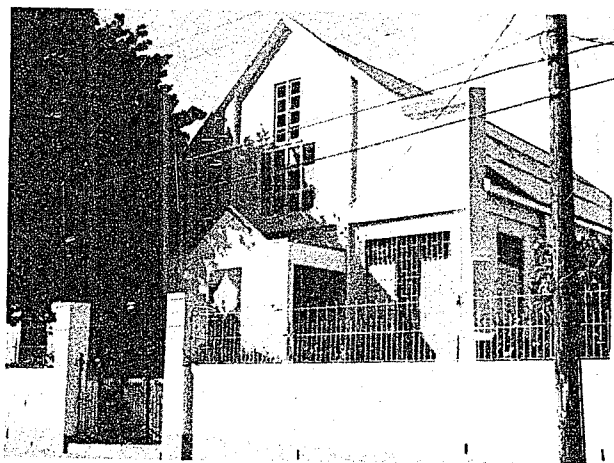
Netherlands—Frits Nieuwstraten
Nigeria—Lawrence O. Uchugbuonu and Kevin N. Onuoha

Philippines—Eleazar C. Paypa and one other

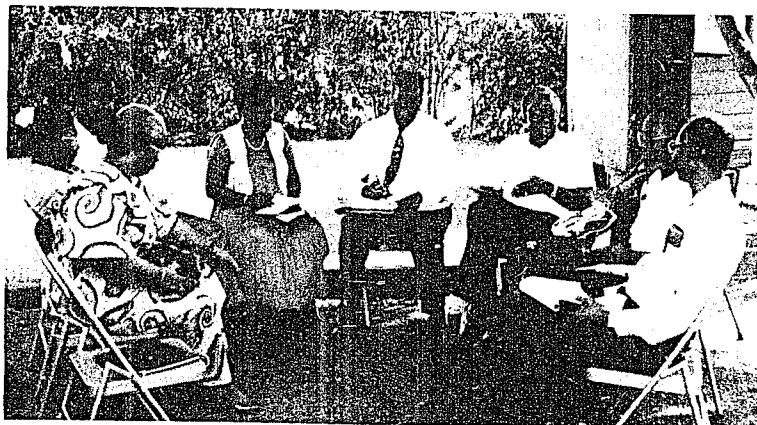
South Africa—N. James Siwani and Elspeth Mazomba

USA & Canada—Calvin Babcock, Dale D. Thorngate, J. Paul Green, Leon R. Lawton, Jean Lewis, and Joe Samuels

The Polish Conference still expects to appoint delegates and it is hoped that Germany, Mexico, and Myanmar may also be represented. *SR*



Delegates will be welcomed at the Kingston SDB Church facilities, 20 Charles Street.



Jamaica Conference Executive Committee works with the Host Committee to arrange for next summer's sessions.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

For this quarter's Sabbath School, the Milton church has combined all four of our adult classes to study the topic of the Sabbath. Winter is a great time to have all of us huddled into one room—helps insulate us against nasty arctic blasts from the north.

We are privileged to use a new Seventh Day Baptist book on the subject, *The Sabbath: God's Creation for Our Benefit*. (Don't you just love the vibrant cover design?) We are even more privileged to have its author, Rod Henry, serving as our instructor.

But all of this intensive Sabbath-stuff is not wasted on the adults only. Our children's classes are also highly involved with the SDB Board of Christian Education's "Sabbath Nurture Series."

The Children Committee of the Board, under the editorship of RuthAnne Peil, has compiled a colorful set of posters, and student and teacher books that are geared for Seventh Day Baptist young people.

Ruthie collaborated with many friends and professionals, the main core coming from the West Coast. She edited the pre-school, primary, and junior graded lessons. Matthew Olson ran the show for the junior high set. It's great material.

And the Board didn't stop their work with the Sabbath. Another Nurture Series focuses on this month's SR theme: "Missions and Ministry." Curriculum is available for primary, junior, and junior high ages. Thirteen lessons focus on witnessing at home, in the community, and in the world.

Thanks again go to RuthAnne Peil and the "West Coast gang" for the younger groups, and to Matt Olson for the pre-teens' package.

The primaries and juniors have an extra-special bonus in their learning kits. It's a creative and energetic musical production from a creative and energetic SDB lady, Milton's own Lannette Calhoun.

This talented musician applied her love of the Gospel message—and the talents of her own children—to compose and produce a memorable musical. Many of

us got to hear "Mission: Accomplished" at Conference a few years back.

Listening to the tape again brought back to life the songs and story line (along with memories of my own children taking part on the Conference stage).

The lead character feels that the only way to be a missionary is "to go off to Zanzibar, or exotic places that are oh so far..." He feels kind of stuck in plain old Wisconsin.

But during the course of the musical, he comes to understand that even in Wisconsin, he can do "Something Great for God":

He can use me as He wishes, I'll try not to complain; Whether here at home or off alone, I'll share His precious name.

The time is short for many, who've never heard the Word; So I'll do my best to love Him, and I'll do my best to serve.

Whether church or home or at my school, I'll try to be the kind of Christian that God wants me to, but I need to know His mind.

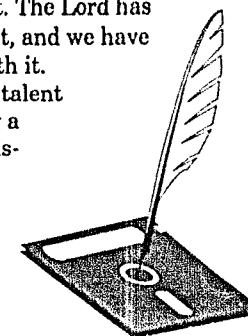
The people I meet every day all need to know His love; 'cause He wants no one to perish, but to share His home above.

If you'd like to order any of this material for your Sabbath School classes, contact us here at the Center.

My thanks go to the Board of Christian Education for its vision and encouragement; the Memorial Fund trustees for much of the financial support; and the editors, composers, and "staff" of these series for all of their time and talent.

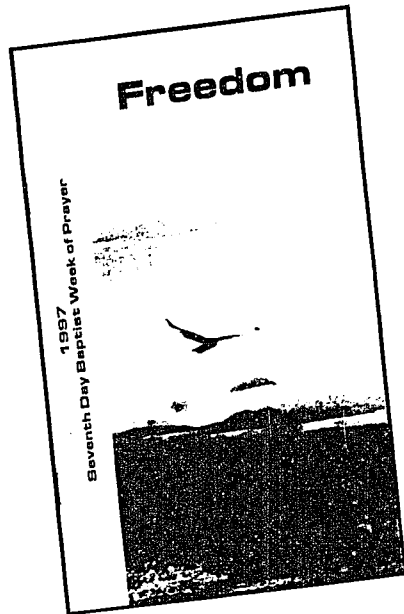
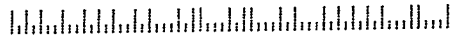
Hmm... Time and talent. The Lord has given us all time and talent, and we have the choice of what to do with it.

Spending that time and talent in serving others can bring a whole different kind of satisfaction. Spread that into your own mission field this new year.



*****ALL FOR ADC
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SDBs around the world join in a Week of Prayer



"Freedom!" Boys play soccer on the lot where a new SDB church is to be built in Kwanobuhle township, Uitenhage, South Africa.

Seventh Day Baptists around the world will once again begin the new year with prayer. "Freedom!" is the theme selected by Rev. N. James Siwani, author of the 1997 prayer-week booklet which includes Scripture, meditations and prayer thoughts for each day of the week, January 5-11.

"Real freedom," Pastor Siwani says in his introduction, "is not found in political or economic achievements, but in Lordship over oneself."

His own country, South Africa, is experiencing an exciting, and sometimes frightening, political freedom, but the freedom he is most concerned with is spiritual. His basic theme Scripture comes

from Galatians 5:1—"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free...."

Siwani is President of the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of South Africa, which recently celebrated 90 years of SDB activity in that country. He also serves as General Secretary of the General Conference of Africa, which met in Zimbabwe in October. [News from those conference meetings will appear soon in *The SR*.]

Copies of the Week of Prayer booklet have been distributed to conferences and churches around the world. Translators in other countries prepared the booklet for publication in their languages so that people in all 17 conferences of the World Federation may participate together.