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News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

July-Aug. 1997

R

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# NET Retreats

How  
Natural  
Evangelism  
Training works

*"I will make you fishers of men..."*

Going to Conference?  
Bring your golf clubs!

## Golf Tournament

during Friday afternoon  
free time.

Look for awards, prizes,  
lots of laughs.



### Conference Phone #

To reach us in Lindsborg, call  
Bethany College  
(913) 227-3311

### What?

No Pastors vs. Youth  
Basketball game? Nope.

Instead—

### Mud Volleyball!

Pastors and youth, Monday night  
Youth tournament, Tuesday afternoon

Get d  
o  
w  
n and dirty!

## “Go ye, teach all nations”

*Latest letter from our missionaries in Malawi*

When we left Malawi in April of 1988, we had no intention of ever returning. But in response to letters from Secretary R.J.B. Mkandawire and Pastor L.A. Manyamba, we agreed to return and teach at our Makapwa Bible College. Last January, we again took up residence in the same dwelling where Beth and Joan Severe provided us with hospitality when we first arrived in September, 1954.

Though we have no principal, the school is led by Pastor R.P. Mphande under a Board of Governors. Pastor Manyamba has taught most of this first term. Bettie Pearson has taught classes in Christian Education and English, and I have led in SDB history, polity, and Biblical studies. Bettie also serves the school in handling funds and procuring food.

By the time this is read, our first term will be over, with the examinations scheduled for the last two weeks of May. Our seven students—all married but one—will return home for their mid-year break. While home, they will carry out field work assignments under local leadership.

Second term is scheduled to begin on August 3, with exams slated for October 5-15. It is hoped that this may be followed by a seminar for student wives.

Bettie has also been asked to advise hospital administrators. We have become aware of tremendous problems unknown to us in all our previous experience in Malawi. These problems are not only here, but are felt nationwide, even in government.

The country is enjoying its freedom, no longer bound by the former one-party system. The relaxation, though appreciated, has ushered in new problems. In town, the people seem more numerous. During rush hours, driving is erratic, with pedestrians milling about on both sides of some streets, crossing only seconds in front of you. Certain sidewalks are narrowed with the spread of merchandise, where street sellers seek to eke out a living. Crime has greatly increased. I'm sure that if Christ were to walk our streets and visit our markets, He would see the people and be moved with compassion.

By comparison, life at the mission is serene. Though some face financial difficulties of major proportion, experience illness and loss of loved ones, life here is generally peaceful, helpful, and friendly.

We hope to return to the States early in November and resume fellowship with our Atlanta church.

—David Pearson

# The Sabbath Recorder



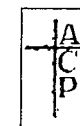
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*\*\* Our special THANKS to Ernest Bee for \*\*  
soliciting and organizing the feature articles this month.*

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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

# Your story—the heart of the matter

by Victor Burdick

Some of the first, and most powerful, witnesses for Jesus were those who simply said, "Come and see!"

Andrew found his brother, Simon, and told him of Jesus: "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41-42). Philip said to Nathaniel, "We have found the Messiah!... Come and see" (John 1:45-46). On meeting Jesus, Nathaniel became a devoted follower.

The Samaritan woman spoke to those in Sychar: "Come see a man who told me everything I did... Could this be the Messiah?" (John 4:29). They came and were convinced.

Who knows how many of the Samaritans who accepted Philip's message of the Gospel (Acts 8:5-7) were prepared for this by the wit-

ness of the Samaritan woman? Did not the witness of Andrew to his brother, Simon Peter, contribute to the winning of the thousands who came to Jesus following Peter's preaching at Pentecost, and later?

Likewise, what about Mordecai Ham who invited Billy Graham to Christ? Or John Warr, apprentice cobbler, who witnessed to William Carey? Isaac Milner to William Wilberforce? A Moravian pastor to John Wesley? A girl friend (later wife), to Charles Finney? Mr. Kimball to Dwight L. Moody? Harold Monroe to Billy Sunday? C.S. Lewis—through his books—to many, including Chuck Colson?

This is sometimes called the "Andrew Principle." As we share our faith experience with someone else, who knows how powerful a servant of the Lord that person may become?

One of the most powerful tools of evangelism is our own personal testimony, or faith story—a witness to what the Lord has done in our lives. This story, our story, is not debatable. No one can refute it. Whenever the opportunity presents,

guided by the Holy Spirit, this can be the key to opening hearts.

In the Lord's wisdom and plan, someone who is now struggling with the same issues that we have had may open their heart to Jesus as we unfold our experience. We are able to say, "See what the Lord has done in my life. Come and see Him. See what He can do for your life."

The "Andrew Principle" is strongly reinforced in our Natural Evangelism Training (NET) Retreats. All of us—NET presenters and participants alike—agree that one of the highlights of every retreat is when we share our "faith stories," or personal testimonies.

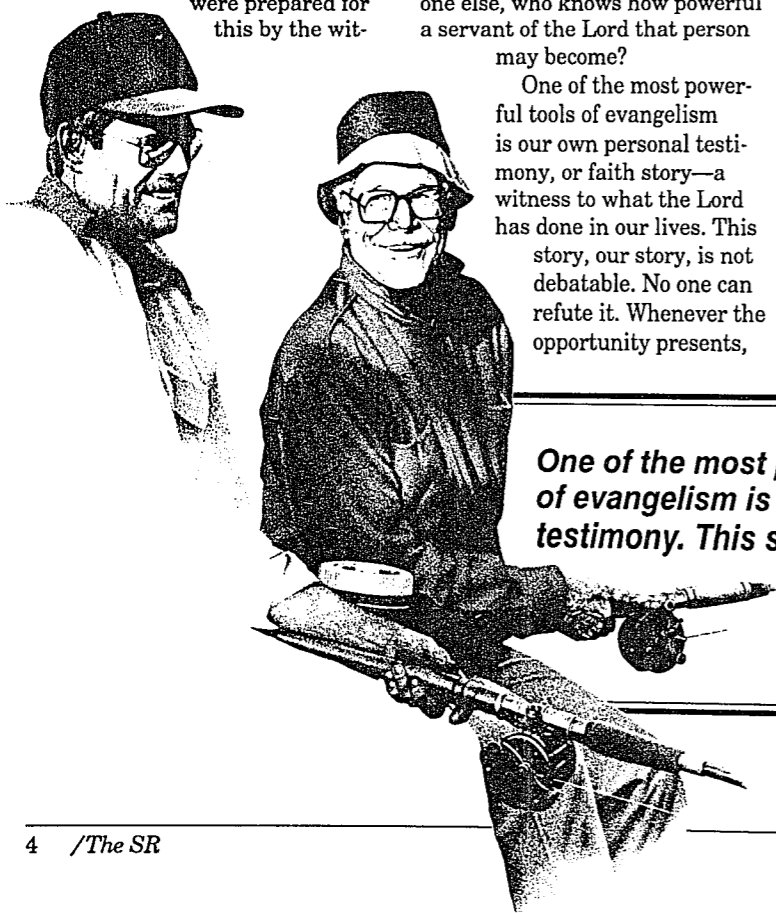
This never fails to make us rejoice in the marvelous way God has worked in the lives of the participants, and confirms to them that they have a "story to tell to the nations." No one can argue against it, because it is their story. These things really happened to them.

This can become a powerful tool for each individual, as we share what Christ means to us, and what He will do for others.

In this time of sharing, the shy often are able to open up and be vulnerable. Others, in empathy, even shed tears at the heart-wrenching

**One of the most powerful tools of evangelism is our own personal testimony. This story, our story,**

**is not debatable. No one can refute it.**



stories that some relate—of abuse, loneliness, wrecked marriages, loss, and grief—and then at the healing that came when Christ entered their lives.

All rejoice at the stories of those who have known and loved the Lord for years, having had many opportunities to serve Him. We identify with those who drifted from the Lord for years, but found that He was faithful to bring them back to Himself, with renewed and stronger faith.

We understand those who have struggled with the attractiveness of the wisdom of this world, and finally realize that the cross—foolishness to this world—is the power of God to save. We're amazed at how the Lord marvelously brings those who have never been exposed to the Gospel in earlier life, to a powerful, saving, sharing faith in Jesus.

At this point in the retreat, we have usually already been through a session that has helped people to identify their spiritual gifts. It often becomes obvious what each person's dominant spiritual gift might be as each shares his or her personal experience. We can often

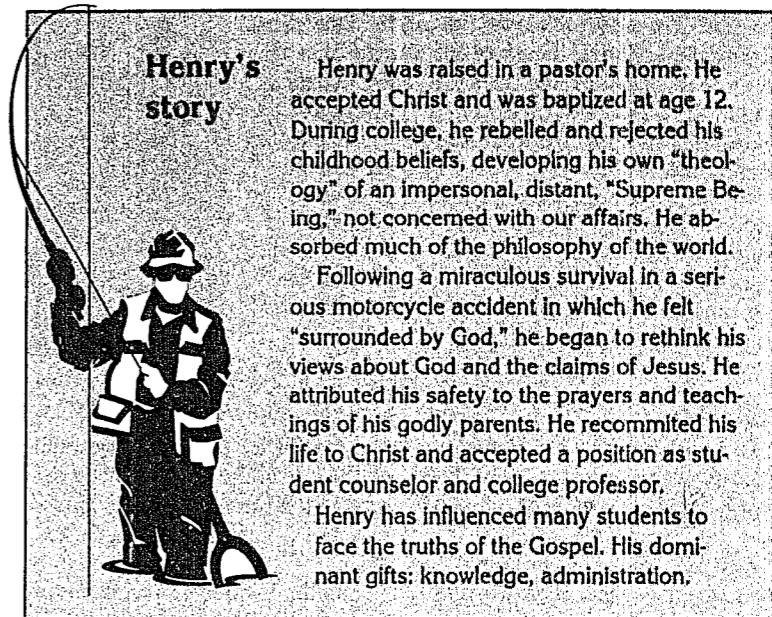
## NET's terrific tools

The NET Retreat brochure promised us a "lively, fast-paced weekend retreat designed for young and old alike." That promise was more than fulfilled at Foothill Community Church in Montrose, Calif., on the weekend of February 24-25, 1996.

We were blessed by Victor and Beth Burdick, and Myrna Cox, who presented a stimulating symposium on evangelism. Our congregation was strengthened by the teaching we received, the tools we used, and the togetherness we experienced.

### The teaching

The teaching we received actu-



Henry was raised in a pastor's home. He accepted Christ and was baptized at age 12. During college, he rebelled and rejected his childhood beliefs, developing his own "theology" of an impersonal, distant, "Supreme Being," not concerned with our affairs. He absorbed much of the philosophy of the world.

Following a miraculous survival in a serious motorcycle accident in which he felt "surrounded by God," he began to rethink his views about God and the claims of Jesus. He attributed his safety to the prayers and teachings of his godly parents. He recommitted his life to Christ and accepted a position as student counselor and college professor.

Henry has influenced many students to face the truths of the Gospel. His dominant gifts: knowledge, administration.

tell what that person's sphere of influence for Christ has been, or may become; that is, the kind of persons that they have been able to reach, or may be able to reach for Christ in the future.

The various stories—beginning above, and scattered throughout the NET features—though fictitious, accurately represent a cross-

section of real life experiences of those who have attended our retreats. SR

*Dr. Victor Burdick is a NET Retreat trainer and a member of the Denver, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church.*

*How NET got started: page 16.*

by Scott Hausrath

ally began a few weeks before the retreat. In early January, the SDB Board of Christian Education sent us all the NET materials. Included was an assignment for each participant to complete before our February meeting, so that our time during the retreat would be optimized.

One of the pre-retreat items was a survey of our role in the congregation. It gave us the opportunity to record how we, as individuals, had been involved in serving our church. We also were encouraged to think about how we would like to serve in the future. This helped each of us to clarify our unique church role.

Another assignment was a questionnaire on Sabbath observance. Just what did we feel were appropriate activities for Sabbath day?

For example, would we attend a sporting event, or pay bills, or eat at a restaurant during the Sabbath? This survey helped us grasp how each expresses his or her own Sabbath convictions.

As we reviewed our answers during the actual retreat, we saw the diversity of Sabbath observance in our congregation. Such insight encouraged us to welcome the differences we see among ourselves.

The teaching shifted into high gear during our weekend together.

The *NET Retreat Manual* was filled with more information than our group could digest during the time scheduled. We were therefore encouraged to continue the learning process into the future.

We discussed such topics as fear during evangelism, Seventh Day Baptist individualism, the Gospel message, and the unique community that each of us possesses. After our full weekend, we were definitely "high on learning."

### The tools

In addition to the wonderful teaching we received, we were thoroughly blessed by the tools provided during the NET Retreat.

One of the most encouraging tools was the spiritual gifts inventory. As each of us analyzed our individual gifts, we were pleased to see how we could focus on our strengths instead of being frustrated by our weaknesses.

This was quite an empowering lesson. It was also exciting to see the richness of spiritual gifts that our church possesses. God is so wise as He fashions each for the service to which He calls us.

Another helpful tool was the three-minute testimony that we each prepared. Actually, the retreat leaders preferred to call it a "faith experience" instead of a testimony. This is a more appropriate name for the story of our own Christian life.

A main tenet of Natural Evangelism Training is that our own life is one of the most powerful witnessing tools we possess. Furthermore, it is quite a freeing notion to realize that we do not have to be someone we are not as we seek to share our faith in Christ. Developing and presenting our own three-minute faith experiences showed us that each is a unique messenger for God. God can use each one of us, as we tell our own story, to impact others for eternity.

Yet another useful tool was a very clear Gospel tract. *Steps to Peace with God* teaches an easy-

to-follow presentation of the Gospel message.

During our retreat, we took turns on both sides of the equation. We had the opportunity to play the role of someone presenting this tract

to a pre-Christian, and also assumed the role of the pre-Christian receiving the Gospel message. This was quite a practical lesson for all of us.

Finally, I will mention one more fantastic tool that we received during the NET Retreat: a booklet, *Love Your Neighbor to Life*, published by the International Bible Society. This gem contains 119 different methods of using the Scriptures in evangelism.

Certainly one of the most insightful ideas is to use Romans 6:23 in what is known as "one-verse evangelism." This is a simple way for someone to communicate the Gospel in almost any setting without the need for reference materials.

The tools we used during our weekend meetings were powerful and practical. The combination of these tools and the rich teaching we received from Victor, Beth, and Myrna helped to sharpen our evangelism skills. However, there was one more ingredient that made the weekend such a blessing for us—the togetherness we experienced.

### The togetherness

We are a regional congregation, with some of our members traveling almost an hour to attend church on Sabbath. Therefore, we do not spend much time together as a large group.

Some of us gather during the week for different events, but our corporate times are very limited.



NET retreats bring churches together to learn and grow, as in this 1992 gathering in Verona, N.Y.

Consequently, the time spent together during our NET Retreat was special for us. It enabled us to further strengthen our family bonds as we learned together, worshiped together, laughed together, and shared meals together.

This togetherness also reinforced the notion that evangelism is a group effort. It is in the context of a covenant community that the Christian message is best communicated to people. Thus we were encouraged to continue strengthening our ties to one another, and also to invite people into this wonderful community that we share.

I must note that it was the extended Seventh Day Baptist community that empowered the NET Retreat for us. The retreat leaders came from the Denver SDB Church, the materials came from the SDB Board of Christian Education, and the funding came from the SDB Memorial Fund, through the generosity of the Schenectady, N.Y., church.

In the final analysis, the NET Retreat we experienced was a living example of the incredibly rich heritage we Seventh Day Baptists share with each other. It was consequently a powerful reminder of the awesome privilege we have of inviting others into this wonderful community. *SR*

*Scott Hausrath is pastor of Foothill Community Church, Montrose, Calif.*

## Reflections of a NET trainer

by Myrna Cox

There is a story making the rounds about an airline passenger waiting in one of those long lines at the ticket counter. His patience exhausted, he moves to the front of the line and demands a first class ticket on the next available flight.

The ticket agent says she would be very happy to accommodate him, but he must take his place in line like everyone else.

With that the man pounds his fist on the counter and says, "Young woman, do you have any idea who I am?"

The agent steps up on the baggage deck, cups her hands to her mouth, and shouts, "Attention please! There is a gentleman at the ticket counter who doesn't know who he is. If there is anyone in the terminal who can identify him, please come to the counter!"

My reflections as a NET trainer remind me of this story. I have been privileged to share the teaching responsibilities at NET Retreats in

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Jamaica, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Washington, and West Virginia. The training material is designed to teach who we are as witnesses.

We have discovered that participants do not always fully understand their identities as Christian witnesses. Evaluation forms at the end of every retreat reveal that many discovered their spiritual gifts for the first time.

Voicing personal faith stories is always a highlight. This is an opportunity for us to become better acquainted with one another as we share details of our lives and the role faith plays in them.

Natural Evangelism Training has been a positive program for our denomination. The Church is here so that future generations will hear about the LORD. Religion is personal. Why did God choose the Church to be the vessel to tell the story of Christ? We don't know, but our commission is to tell this

story, and we tell it by sharing what Jesus Christ has done for us.

We learn about Jesus from someone who knows Him. That is why it is so natural! It is so human and natural to talk about ourselves. The Church is the only institution and the Christian is the only person that tells the 2,000-year-old story.

The Church is the vessel God chose. NET has helped me, and hopefully others, to not only see the vessel, but to see the treasure in the vessel, whether it be the Church or our personal lives.

I am grateful to Ernest Bee and the Board of Christian Education for their vision in making Natural Evangelism Training materials available. I cherish the memories I share with other NET trainers. We have been richly blessed!

If I could express what NET has done for me personally, it might be through the following story.

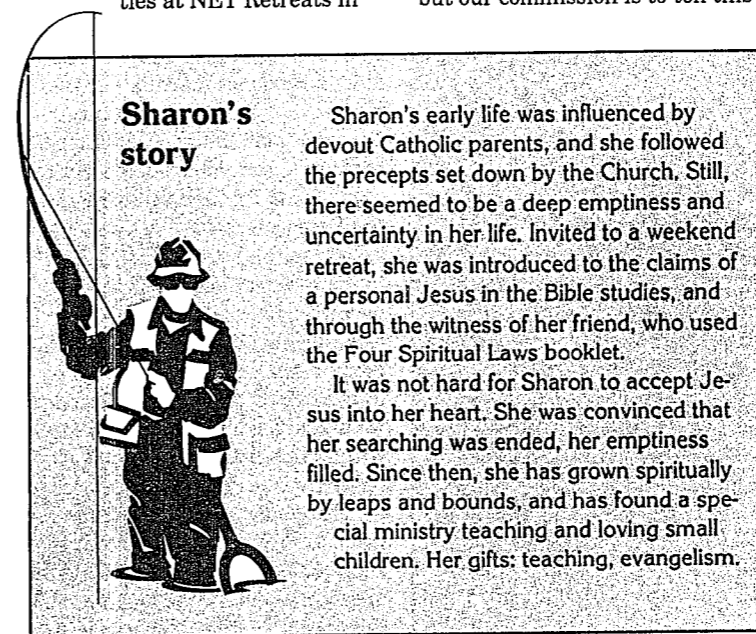
There was a young man who was out to change the world. He would pray to God every day, "Lord, help me to change the world!"

As he grew older and the experiences of life mellowed him, he would pray to God every day, "Lord, help me to change my corner of the world."

Eventually, the young man became old. As he entered his twilight years, he was heard praying to God every day, "Lord, change me! If I had prayed that to You when I was young, I might not have wasted my whole life!"

Natural Evangelism Training... a wonderful experience! *SR*

*Myrna Cox, co-originator of NET Retreats and a NET trainer, was president of the Seventh Day Baptist Church.*



### Sharon's story

Sharon's early life was influenced by devout Catholic parents, and she followed the precepts set down by the Church. Still, there seemed to be a deep emptiness and uncertainty in her life. Invited to a weekend retreat, she was introduced to the claims of a personal Jesus in the Bible studies, and through the witness of her friend, who used the Four Spiritual Laws booklet.

It was not hard for Sharon to accept Jesus into her heart. She was convinced that her searching was ended, her emptiness filled. Since then, she has grown spiritually by leaps and bounds, and has found a special ministry teaching and loving small children. Her gifts: teaching, evangelism.

# A memorable witnessing experience

by Daryl and Barbara White

When our plane landed at Guadalajara, Mexico, all passengers disembarked to make connections for the next leg of the flight. Settling into a seating area in the terminal, Barbara and I found ourselves facing a distinguished-looking gentleman, who immediately began a conversation with us.

"Where have you been visiting in Mexico?" he asked.

We responded that we had been visiting a pastor friend, Rosalio Camacho, and some of the churches in the Tampico area. Somehow in our conversation, we told this stranger that along with our interest in mission work in Mexico, we were trainers of evangelism for Seventh Day Baptist churches in the United States.

This gentleman shared that he lived part-time on his ranch near Mexico City, but spent a good deal

of his time at the University of Wyoming as a sociology professor. He was on his way back to Laramie to teach summer classes.

Then he asked us a very provocative question: "How do you measure what you are doing and know that you are effective?"

Before we had time to formulate our response, he changed the subject somewhat.

"There is a small church in the village near my ranch," he said, "and they often have what they call 'Revival Services.' I don't believe in this 'Bible stuff.' However, I have some Mexican women working for me at the ranch, and they go to this small church. What is amazing to me is the joy and contentment they have in their lives."

(Wow! What an opening! My heart leaped.)

"Sir," I said, "in all probability

the reason that these women have such joy and contentment in their lives is because at some point they have believed and received the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives. The Spirit of Christ has given them this joy and contentment that you see."

Our conversation was interrupted with the announcement that all Denver passengers should board the plane immediately. So we gathered our carry-on baggage, proceeded down a flight of stairs, and walked onto the tarmac.

Following us, the professor came closer and asked, "But how does a person receive this Jesus and get such a change in their life?"

We were now climbing the stairway into the plane. At the doorway, the professor said, "It must be a conscious, deliberate decision of the will."

This time I stopped. Turning to him, I said, "Sir, you are absolutely correct."

Struggling down the aisle, we found our seats in the center portion of the plane. The professor made his way to the very back, so we had no opportunity to continue the conversation. We did, however, manage to exchange business cards while going through Customs at the Denver airport.

As we pondered this great experience, we wondered why God would bring us into contact with a learned man who does not believe in all that "Bible stuff." We wished we had had the time to sit and talk with him, but that opportunity never came.

The memory of this encounter lived on in the days ahead. We realized that we never responded to his question about measuring our effectiveness as trainers, and never had



The early NET training staff. Front: Myrna Cox, Barbara and Daryl White. Back: Beth and Victor Burdick.

the chance to discuss his view of the Bible.

Several weeks later we found ourselves on a NET Retreat with some time on our hands. We wrote the professor a letter to explain the effectiveness of NET (Natural Evangelism Training), plus a simple presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ as the source of the "joy and contentment" in the lives of those who believe in Him.

We thanked the professor first for his interest in what we were doing and, secondly, for his recognition that something was different about the Mexican women who worked so hard and willingly on his ranch. We noted that changed lives were the evidence of the effectiveness of the NET Retreats. We cited three examples:

- 1) A lady in California attended a NET Retreat. In the months that followed, she helped five members of her family find this new relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 2) Another person who attended a NET Retreat found this same joy and contentment by studying the Bible references on assurance, giving this person the secure knowledge of Heaven.
- 3) A 10-year-old boy at a church youth camp where NET was taught received Christ as his

Lord and Savior. With signing help from his cousin, and many hand-written notes exchanged between us, he lip-read the prayer that gave him the understand-

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**We wondered  
why God  
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believe in all that  
"Bible stuff."**

---

ing of who Jesus is, and how receiving Jesus brings that joy and contentment.

Later the same day, this young boy wrote a testimony of his experience. In part, he said that he was so happy. He could now be the good boy he wanted to be, and he loved God so much! "Now Jesus is in my heart," he said.

Our letter to the professor became a two-page document with a short presentation of the Gospel on the second page.

It is still hard for us to believe what happened next.

The letter was completed and the envelope addressed, but we wanted to make a copy before we mailed it. Our nephew offered us the use of his copy machine. We hurried because things were being rearranged in his office, and the copier needed to be moved.

Picking up our copy, we hurriedly put the original in the envelope, went to the post office, and mailed it to the professor.

That evening, our nephew brought us page two of the original letter. We had left it in the copier and had mailed only the first page! Realizing what we had done, and after a good laugh, we proceeded to write a brief note to the professor explaining what had happened. We titled the note, "Now here is page two."

We hoped that our two letters were received and that the seed which was sown will someday bear fruit to the glory of God.


So far, we have not received any response from the gentleman. However, we learned from this incident that our Christian witness is important, and that we should always be ready to give the reasons we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Having had the privilege of seeing people experience the changed life, we could substantiate for the professor the joy and contentment about which he talked.

This experience deepened our appreciation for the value of Natural Evangelism Training. We are grateful for those churches that have held NET Retreats, and know that still others could benefit from the rich blessings of NET. *SR*

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*Daryl White, co-ordinator of NET Retreats, was a NET Retreat coordinator and trainer from 1991-1995. His wife, Barbara, editor of "NET Meditations," was also a NET trainer from 1991-95.*



**Craig's story**

Craig had no church background whatsoever. A feeling of emptiness led him to partying, drinking, even academic excellence—without finding any real meaning in life. Strangely, he became an effective counselor in a small college, and gave the appearance that he "had it all together." But inwardly he often felt like a sham, finding no real solution to his own problems.

When first approached with the claims of Christ, he rejected it. Some time later, overwhelmed by feelings that he was a fake, he knelt on a park bench. He called out to Jesus for forgiveness and meaning in life, and accepted Him into his heart.

Craig has since had an insatiable hunger for God's Word and has become an effective business executive, a strong proponent of just relations between management and labor. Gifts: administration, exhortation.

# Casting the NET down under

by Charles and Lorna Graffius

We left Los Angeles by air on Thursday, January 11, 1996. Crossing eight time zones, our giant 747 glided down the runway 14 hours later in Auckland, New Zealand.

It was 6:40 a.m. Sabbath day, New Zealand time, when we found our way through customs and out into a mass of smiling, hugging people eager to meet the arriving passengers.

Pastor Ian Ingoe of the Auckland, SDB Church spotted us right away. We were soon at the church where Pastor Chuck was the Sabbath morning worship speaker.

Following Sabbath School, Pastor Ingoe hosted us for a quick lunch. Then we were off to Helensville—twenty kilometers from Auckland—for another wonderful time in the Lord with His people. Chuck had the privilege of bringing the afternoon message, followed by another time of fellowship.

We were guests of Dorothy Goulding for dinner and overnight. Sunday morning, Pastor Ingoe presented us with a car so that we could travel to the Conference site, several hundred kilometers to the south.

During the three days we had to get there, we enjoyed two days at Rotorua. This is an area of volcanic mud and steam spouting from the ground, which is utilized by an electric generating station. We observed a large "boiling" lake. The hot water in our motel and in the motel swimming pool came from that boiling lake.

We had a wonderful experience seeing this beautiful country; a country with proud people who plant flowers everywhere. In the midst of all this beauty, we found it easy to forgive them for driving

on the wrong side of the road. We made an occasional mistake, but no accidents. Praise the Lord!

Arriving at Camp Akatarwa for the Australasian Conference, we greeted about 80 participants representing seven churches. The next afternoon, Wednesday, we began the Natural Evangelism Training (NET) sessions.

We were scheduled for one or more sessions each day. This was new to us since we usually have all the NET sessions during one short weekend. Having brought the usual 18 hours of material, we tried to squeeze it into the time allotted to us by the Conference.

Our goal in NET Retreats is to remind the students that God wants us to be examples of Christian living before He wants us to do anything. In other words, we cannot do Natural Evangelism until we are Christian examples.

The sessions averaged about 32 participants. In order to continue to teach Natural Evangelism after our departure, the Conference appointed Pastor Ingoe to continue to teach evangelism and NET in all the churches upon invitation.

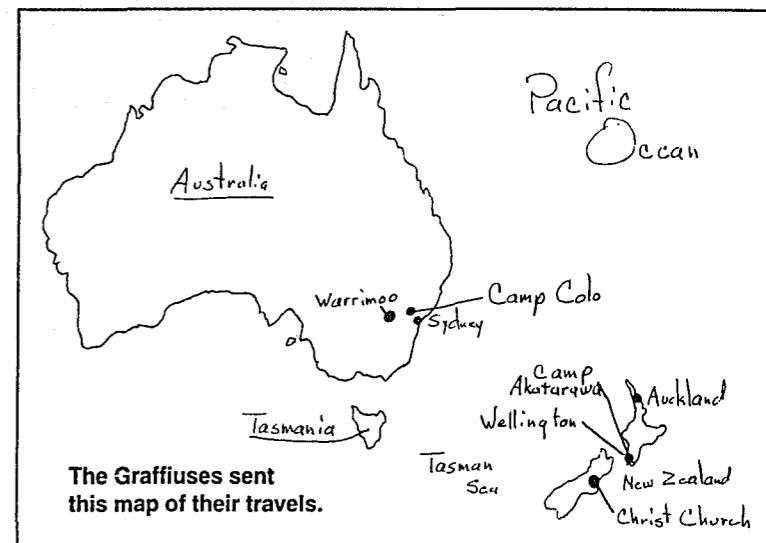
We praise the Lord for the dedication and commitment of the warm-hearted, loving people who opened their hearts, lives, and

homes to us. We also praise Him because they are receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ with open, eager hearts.

When the Australasian Conference adjourned, we were off to Wellington, New Zealand. We flew to the South Island and the city of Christchurch.

Pastor Daniel Barrar took us to his home and sheep ranch. We learned much about sheep as we watched the trained dogs round up the flock with just a word from the shepherd.

The harbor area of Christchurch is beautiful. Pastor Dan and wife Joan took us sightseeing into coves, inlets, cliffs, and beaches covered with volcanic rock, where we witnessed a gorgeous sunset inviting us to our Sabbath rest. Pastor Chuck had the privilege of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Christchurch congregation on Sabbath morning.



night, with all the lights of harbor and downtown.

Warm, beautiful weather—unlike January in the U.S.—permitted us to enjoy the city and country. And for our next NET Retreat, we

and is now blessing and using us to spread the Gospel. We have discovered from experience that the weekend NET sessions are the most profitable for this type of sharing, and a camp situation is even better.

All NET settings are beneficial—like "good, better, best." Whatever is available in time, space, and people, we are eager to be there to share with you.

For NET training in your church or camp, call the SDB Board of Christian Education at (607) 587-8527 to make your appointment. It will be a life-changing experience for you.

At the Sydney airport, we said our "good-byes" to old and new friends. We wish to thank the people, the churches, and the pastors who each made sacrifices to make our trip "down under" a memorable and blessed experience. *SR*

*Charles Graffius, a NET trainer, is the founding coordinator of Senior Saints and was president of the SDB General Conference in 1981. His wife, Lorna, also a NET trainer, is a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Council on Ministry.*

Sharing a NET Retreat at Camp Colo, northwest of Sydney. Pastor Chuck Graffius is seated, with Lorna behind him and Pastor Ian Ingoe behind her. Dorotha Shettel stands third from the right, next to the Kubes, far right.



The 1996 Australasian Conference at Camp Akatarawa, New Zealand.

**We praise the Lord for the dedication and commitment of the warm-hearted, loving people who opened their hearts, lives, and homes to us.**

Soon we were on a plane for Sydney, Australia. There we saw the captivating city with the Opera House, the Space Needle, the boats in the harbor, and the amazing transportation system by train, bus, and ferry.

We attended church that Sabbath at Warrimoo, 70 kilometers west of Sydney, where we met our friends, Stephan and Vicki Kube and family. Again, we shared Jesus during the Sabbath worship time.

Our stay in and around Sydney was made pleasant by our hostess, Dorotha Shettel (Lorna's sister), and her son and family. The view of the city from Dorotha's balcony was spectacular, especially at

were escorted to a campsite northwest of Sydney on the Colo River, named "The Ark."

Twenty-five teens, young marrieds, mature adults, and senior saints came to the camp to share NET. We were blessed by the attentive, interested persons who were there to learn to share naturally the Way, the Truth, and their new exciting Life in Christ. Since this NET Retreat was sponsored by the Warrimoo SDB Church, we had already met most of the participants.

One of the most rewarding sessions at each NET Retreat is the sharing with each other how God found us, convicted us, saved us,

# Come Go A Evangelist Retreat

by Kenneth Higgins—April 4, 1994

(Composed in the native dialect in honor of the NET trainers' visit to Jamaica.)

Bredren put on yuh carsett and shoes pon you feet;  
For wi a go a Diamond Ridge, fi wi evangelistic retreat;  
Mek sure carry yu Bible, pen an' pencil too;  
Cause whole heap a writing and meditation yu gwine  
have fi do.

Yu gwine have visiting bredren, wid evangelistic facts;  
Dr. Burdick, Bro. Ernest, Sis. Arlene, Mi almost figot  
Sis. Cox;  
Ah no only four a dem did deh deh; mek mi see, right,  
Pastor Ferguson;  
Did go a airport fi Bro. and Sis. White.

Di session dem was lively and discussions very grand;  
And every second comment weh mek, yu coulda see  
smaddy a put up dem hand;  
Many who did go deh, wid all dem fright and fear;  
Bwoy a dem do things, when dem turn up fi testify  
and share.

Di cooks and caterers, di deh pon farm fi true;  
Everything dat dem prepare, carry you way beyond  
di blue;  
Other people did inna kitchen too, a hope dem nuh tek  
offence for dem  
Look out fi me and demself, sweet man, right Sis.  
Prudence.

Yesterday before we leave Satan mek one start;  
Bro. Steer transport get inna accident wi;  
Wi feel it to wi heart;  
One a wi chauffeur grab hole a fi her car switch and  
belief say she;  
a go forward, but dida end up inna one ditch.

So wi want fi tank yu all dear bredren;  
Fi you presence, insight and fellowship sweet;  
And rest secure in Jesus' name;  
That it was a memorable evangelistic retreat.

Kenneth Higgins is pastor of Bath, Bowensville, and Orange Bay churches in Jamaica, and is treasurer of the Jamaica SDB Conference.



## Michelle's story

Michelle suffered the abuse of a stepfather and an alcoholic mother. A grandmother had occasionally read Bible stories to her and prayed for her.

Removed from her home by Social Services, Michelle went through a succession of foster homes—and later a succession of abusive male relationships. As life became intolerable, she even considered suicide.

Then one day, as she passed the open door of a church, she went in and began to pray to the "God" of her grandmother. An overwhelming peace enfolded her.

A person at the church was able to witness to her of a loving, compassionate Jesus, and Michelle committed her life to Him. This new friend helped her find a way out of the "mess" in her life and get her "on track." Her gifts: mercy and evangelism. Her sphere of influence: troubled young women.

## NET Retreats so far...

From San Diego to Rhode Island, Daytona Beach to Seattle, and many spots in between (plus Jamaica and Australia), NET Retreats have been held in over three dozen locations, touching many churches and lives for Christ. See our next issue for the complete listing.



Women's Society page by Charlotte Chroniger

## Shine, even in summer

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 NASB).*

Two interesting experiences from my past made Jesus' command for us to shine before men take on added meaning and emphasis.

On one occasion, someone asked me if a certain individual was a member of our church. A disagreement had occurred between two neighbors, with harsh words exchanged. The church member's witness was damaged because of the language used. The non-Christian neighbor found it hard to believe that a Christian would act in such an unkind way.

The second experience occurred when a community member told me about how someone from our church had come to them to apologize for saying some unkind words. What a blessing and testimony for

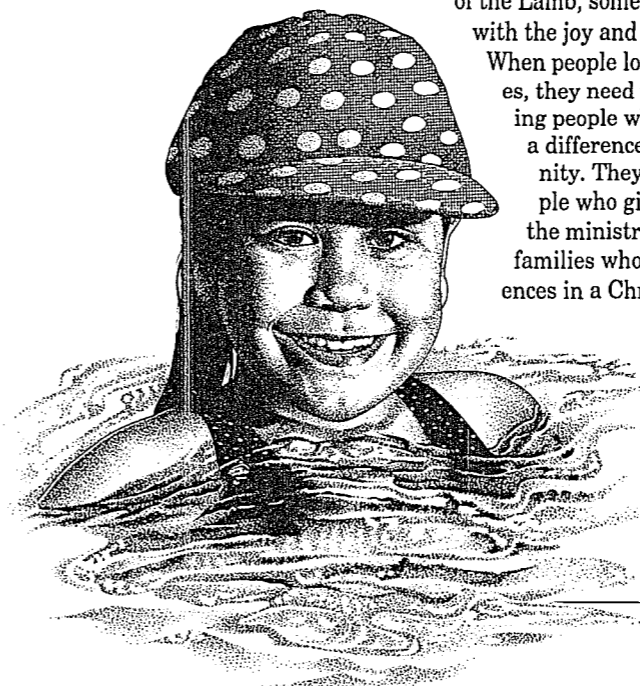
the Lord that request of forgiveness was!

As Christians, we are commanded to live in such a way that those around us see Christ present in our lives, or that they themselves

**As Christians, we are commanded to live in such a way that those around us see Christ present in our lives.**

are drawn to the Savior. Sometimes my Christian light may be a little dim so that others can't see the image of Christ reflected from me. Maybe they see people from our church who do and say things that are unbecoming for a believer in Christ.

When people look at me, they need to see someone with a faith and trust in the Lord, someone who has experienced forgiveness and cleansing through the blood of the Lamb, someone who is filled with the joy and love of the Lord. When people look at our churches, they need to see loving, caring people who want to make a difference in the community. They should see people who give generously to the ministries of the church, families who resolve differences in a Christ-like way, a



congregation on fire with excitement for the Lord and His work.

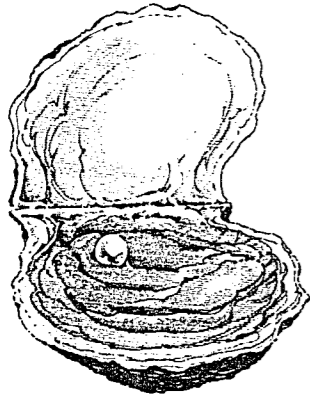
Sometimes during the summer months it's difficult to keep the light of the Lord shining in our churches and in our lives. Sometimes we get lax with our church and Sabbath School attendance. Perhaps we don't give as we should. Maybe we forget to pray for the summer ministries or people with special needs.

In the hustle and bustle of summer, do we change our priorities away from things of the Lord? We need to remember that what we do or don't do this summer is speaking volumes to our friends and neighbors about our commitment to the Lord.

The poet Edgar Guest says it so well:

*"I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day.  
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely show the way.  
The eye's a better pupil, and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing but example's always clear.  
And best of all the preachers, are the ones who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.  
I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done.  
I can see your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very fine and true;  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may not understand you and the high advice you give.  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live."*

May someone come to know Christ in a deeper way through our example. ✠



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## Conference 1829— two months of kinship

An old, limp, leather-covered diary in the archives of the Historical Society at Janesville, Wis., records the trips of Maxson Greene from Alfred, N.Y., to Hopkinton, R.I., in 1829 and again in 1835.

Maxson, the son of Edward and Susanna (Crandall) Greene, was a charter member of the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. He was deeply devoted to education and denominational affairs.

His wife, Lydia, the daughter of Luke and Lydia (Babcock) Maxson, was also a charter member of the Alfred church. Lydia's sister was Nancy Goodrich who, with her husband Joseph, moved to the Wisconsin Territory in 1839 and started the church and school in Milton.

On a visit to Wisconsin in 1850, Maxson and Lydia contracted cholera. They died just one day apart, and were buried in the Milton cemetery.

The Alfred church appointed Maxson Greene and Daniel Babcock as delegates to the 1829 SDB General Conference. Sessions were to begin on October 1. But their journey from Alfred and back extended nearly two and a half months.

As the men traveled, they visited relatives and other Seventh Day Baptists throughout New York and southern New England, retracing the migration patterns of previous generations of SDBs from Rhode Island.

*September 2—Started from Alfred for Rhode Island for the*

*purpose of visiting our friends and attending General Conference. Proceeded through Almond to Hornellsville. Stopped at Bostwick's, 11 miles. The weather was warm. Proceeded on through Canisteo, to Cameron and stopped at D. Ames', 16 miles. Took dinner. From thence to Baldwin's tavern at Atica, 16 miles. Stayed the night. The weather cool.*

His next entries were very similar except he reported, "Broke the wagon; stayed the night at a private home. Proceeded 6 miles and had the wagon mended by a blacksmith."

On Sabbath, September 5, he went on to Uncle Luke Crandall's on Truxton Hill, but added, "The mare very lame, the meeting was out before we arrived. Found friends well." On September 6 he wrote: "Traded horses with James Burdick; visited Elias Irish's; stayed the night with Elder A. Campbell, and had a very good visit; the weather rainy."

The remainder of the week, he traveled through such places as DeRuyter, Edmeston, Middleton and on to Albany, Troy, Grafton, and finally to "Father Maxson's in Petersburg." In this segment, he reported distances of 36, 41, 41, and 32 miles. Greene reported that the friends and relatives with whom he visited were in "tolerable health." The diary continues:

*Sabbath, Sept. 12—Went to meeting in Petersburg and heard Eld. Joel Green preach from 2 Kings 5:13, "Wash and be clean." Eight persons came forward and told their experience, and Eld. John Green baptized them and received them into the church, after which he administered the communion of the Lord's Supper.*

*Sept. 13—Attended church meeting at Petersburg. The people seemed to be in good union.*

*Sept. 14—Went with Eld. John Green and visited five families, and conversed on religion and took great satisfaction in the same.*

*Sept. 15—This day went with Eld. Green to Stillman Settlement and visited five families. Had the satisfaction to find many of them enjoying religion and otherwise serious. Oh, that I might improve by these opportunities.*

*Sept. 16—This day remained at Father Maxson's.*

*Sept. 17—Went to Arnold Davis' in Berlin. Stayed the night. 8 miles.*

*Sept. 18—Visited a number of our friends. Stayed the night at Uncle Joseph Crandall's in Berlin.*

*Sabbath, Sept. 19—This day went to meeting in Berlin and heard Eld. Joel Green preach from John 1:2. Four persons came forward and told their experiences, and Eld. Wm. Satterlee baptized them. After meeting went to Dea. Asa Coon's. Then went with Eld. Joel Green and visited three families, then back and stayed the night with Dea. Coon.*

*Sept. 20—Started for Rhode Island. Proceeded to Stephenstown to Joshua Maxson's. The weather so rainy, I put up for the night.*

After traveling some 128 miles through Connecticut, he wrote on September 24 that he arrived at Hopkinton, the place called Yaw Goo, and found his friends well.

*cont. on page 26*



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—July/Aug. 1996

Features on the theme, "Working Mothers," come from SDBs Leanne Lippincott, Lannette Calhoun, Jayne Lubke, and Vivian McNeme.

"Focus" page promotes brochure on a new mission to Mexico.

Board of Christian Education honors Daryl and Barbara White for their five years of service as originators and coordinators of NET Retreats.

Old Stonefort, Ill., church celebrates 125th anniversary in May.

Members of the Plainfield, N.J., church dedicate a new parsonage.

### Five years ago—July/Aug. 1992

Writers Maurice Smith (Southern Baptist) and James Ayars (SDB) address the growing Islamic movement. Smith presents a "primer" on witnessing to Muslims; Ayars points out the references to Christ in the Koran.

Christian Education pages lifts up the heritage and current importance of the SDB quarterly, *The Helping Hand*.

Nortonville, Kan., and Riverside, Calif., churches list many recent activities.

News shared of Mexican SDB leader Elias Camacho's passing in February.

### 10 years ago—July/Aug. 1987

Three Center on Ministry participants receive Master of Divinity degrees: George Calhoun, Arthur Rowe, and Sharon Wauls.

Highlights from Pastors' Conference in Battle Creek, Mich., include the ordination of George Calhoun. Other ordinations in local churches include Oscar Godoy and Verne Wright.

Rev. Kenneth Van Horn retires after 40 years of pastoral service.

Bits of history shared for Shiloh, N.J., church's 250th anniversary.

Naval officer Robert Shippee, an SDB from Adams Center, N.Y., killed in an Iraqi attack on the U.S.S. Stark.

### 25 years ago—July/Aug. 1972

Our SCSC workers are among 85,000 who attend "Explo '72," a Campus Crusade training conference held at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

Program and facilities highlighted for General Conference at Loretto Heights College in Denver. President Paul Osborn's theme is "To God Be the Glory!" SR Editor Leon Maltby requests retirement after nearly 20 years of service.

Summer Institute class includes John Camenga, Robert Harris, Harold King, Elaine Kuehn, Gordon Oliver, John Pettway, and Melvin Stephan.

David and Bettie Pearson return safely to Malawi, Africa, for a fourth term of missionary service.

### 50 years ago—July/Aug. 1947

New SR editor, Hurley Warren, pays tribute to his predecessor, K.D. Hurley. Both men attend the Associated Church Press meetings in New York City.

General Conference held in Westerly, R.I., with Everett Harris presiding.

Don Sanford, student at Milton (Wis.) College, is regional winner in the "Youth Week" contest sponsored by the United Christian Youth Movement. Sanford received \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to a youth conference.

Dr. Grace Crandall, long-time SDB missionary to China, dies on July 16.

Riverside church dedicates new organ.

*...where are we headed?*

### Pray for—

- all working moms, in or out of the home
- doors to open for the Mexico mission
- continued success with NET Retreats
- our SDB publication ministries
- families of war victims
- this year's Conference in Lindsborg, Kan.
- local church revival





## Christian Education

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

### NET Training Retreats: How they began

The first NET (Natural Evangelism Training) Retreat was held for the Denver and Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist churches at Camp Paul Hummel in September 1990.

This experiment by the Denver church's Evangelism Department explored the feasibility of conducting intense evangelism training in a weekend retreat setting.

The experiment proved to be a valuable experience for the nine participants and five staff who attended. Myrna Cox and Daryl White shared the training leadership.

Natural Evangelism Training was developed by the Rev. Ernest K. Bee Jr. and the Rev. Kenneth Chroniger for the Central Maryland church. They wrote the NET manual, published by the SDB Board of Christian Education in three phases from 1986-1988.

This original training course

#### NET Trainers:

Arlene Bee  
Ernest Bee  
Beth Burdick  
Dr. Victor Burdick  
Myrna Cox  
Charles Graffius  
Lorna Graffius  
Barbara White, emeritus  
Daryl White, emeritus

was designed primarily for the use of Seventh Day Baptist pastors who wanted to guide their people in becoming witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ.

retreats verified that learning how to share the message of Christ, and their experience of knowing Him personally, is the greatest adventure of a lifetime.

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**Pastors speak of the retreats as a catalyst for revival and renewal. Lay people say that they have become more aware of "people needs," as well as the functioning of the Body of Christ.**

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In the spring of 1990, the Denver SDB Church found that NET was a valuable training program. One of the teachers, Myrna Cox, suggested that the training be modified for a weekend retreat. Myrna and Daryl White converted the original NET handbook into a student retreat manual.

The Sabbath School Committee of the Board of Christian Education contracted in 1991 with the Whites and Myrna Cox to conduct NET Retreats among Seventh Day Baptist churches. Dr. Victor and Beth Burdick, and Ernest and Arlene Bee joined the training staff in 1992.

Pastor Charles and Lorna Graffius became trainers in the fall of 1995. Daryl and Barbara White, who were the NET coordinators until the end of 1995, moved to emeritus trainer status in 1996.

What has come to pass is exciting. Persons who attended these

Pastors speak of the retreats as a catalyst for revival and renewal. Lay people say that they have become more aware of "people needs," as well as the functioning of the Body of Christ. Others have found that sharing Christ with another person is exciting and rewarding, especially when that person receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Natural Evangelism Training Retreats are the type of program that can launch a church into a renewed sense of purpose and ministry. Promoted by the SDB Board of Christian Education and supported by the Schenectady Church Fund of the SDB Memorial Fund, a NET Retreat in your church may be the experience and adventure in ministry you have been looking for.

For more information, contact the SDB Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115. *SR*



## FOCUS on Missions

### Thorngates re-visit China mission

by Kirk Looper

Emphasizing the history of SDBs in China has elicited many memories from the families most directly related to our mission field there.

The following was in the *Monterey Peninsula Herald* on February 20, 1994, written by Helen Thorngate, daughter-in-law of Dr. George III and Helen Thorngate:

Forty-four years had passed since we had been on the streets of Shanghai. We had anticipated changes; sanitary streets were laudable. At the same time, we felt a tug of nostalgia for the sour odor of drippings from the honey-carts and the pungent smell of vegetables frying in hot fat. Of ragged pedi-cab drivers vying for business and for the squeal of pigs being carried to market in rickety wheelbarrows.

We were flowing along with busy bicycle and auto traffic, our driver anxious in the crowded, wet streets. Following a futile morning search in the countryside for the hospital compound which had been my husband's boyhood home, we were now being guided by James Chang, a former student of mine, to the missionary compound where he had grown up, and where we had lived with my husband's parents in 1947 and 1948.

Warm summer rains had begun. Water rushed over the brick streets and sidewalks as we jumped from the car, passed through a small door in the gate-house, and through another door to the driveway of the compound.

At a glance, we could see that the former church was gone, but the residence, now accommodating many families, was intact.

We walked toward the large school yard. My mind's eye recalled a sea of blue-clad students

standing in the morning light being led by James, father, and the principal, in the hearty singing of their lilting national anthem.

Now, much of the yard was littered with chunks of cement, wood, and junk. My heart sank a bit, fearing that the school buildings, like the church, would be rubble. A look to the right, however, revealed the old classroom building where I was initiated into the teaching profession. It was not only sturdy, but also had increased in size and height.

In my mind, I could see the teachers, both Chinese and American, including my mother-in-law, who encouraged me in my efforts. They would be pleased to know that the school was still a school.

As I turned to look straight ahead where the Boys' School had been, I saw, above the rubble, many scaffoldings of bamboo. This could only mean rebuilding. Good!

Just then James said, "Here is the old tree." With affection, we touched that venerable sycamore; the only tree, the only source of shade on that huge expanse of brick. It had been the play spot for our daughter and her Chinese friends in late afternoon, after the pupils had departed. At that time, there had been a "round and round" and a slide to bring out their shrieks of delight.

As a Chinese gentleman approached, James explained to us that this was the foreman in charge of the construction of the new school building.



Another piece of nostalgia shared with us is this photograph, taken in the "dispensary" of the old hospital, probably in the 1920s. Dr. George Thorngate is pictured seeing a Liuho farmer. The girl is Miss Sung, one of the nurses. H. Eugene Davis is in the background.

"A man from Hong Kong is building the new school," he said.

"A former student?" I thought, as we expressed pleasure in learning about the new construction.

The man then pulled out of his clipboard the plan of the entire compound which he was using as a guide.

"That sketch was drawn by my mother!" exclaimed my husband. Sure enough, the sketch, not an architect's plan, was one we recognized! It was a copy of a simple drawing of the entire compound which my husband's mother had made in 1946.

It had been made to send home to the Missionary Board, so all interested persons could imagine the site. The man was very excited, James was very pleased, and we were stunned!

More rain poured, and we had to leave. As I looked back at the wet leaves of the sycamore, I thought of what tempests and turmoils it had experienced, just as the people had. But it had survived, just as our Chinese friends had. *SR*



# Tuned in to Conference week

by Owen Probasco

*"For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood" (Acts 20:27-28 NIV).*

### News flash!

Following are insights into this year's General Conference to be held at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan. By now, I hope that all of you are familiar with the theme: "Tuned in (to God), Turned on (by the Spirit), and Triumphant (in Christ)."

Major aspects of this theme will permeate Conference sessions and our worship experiences. Through the week, we will explore ways of being Tuned in and Turned on—by God, by Christ, by the Spirit, by the Trinity, by the Word, by the Commission, and by His Triumph! Come and help us as we share insights from God's Word and the high challenges for Seventh Day Baptists in these days and times.

A new venture at this year's Conference will be the special blessing of having our youth challenge and guide us as they conduct the entire evening's presentation on Tuesday. They will share their usual excellent music from their

Youth and Pre-Con programs, and they will also lead us throughout the entire evening's worship experience.

Think of it! Their enthusiasm, the glow from their Pre-Con experiences, their freshly fanned, Christ-centered exuberance all focused to "light your fire!"

Our workshops/seminars are outstanding, and include the following areas of Christian interest for Seventh Day Baptists:

- SDB History: Refreshing Reviews—presented by Janet Thorngate
- Youth Program Planning/Leadership—directed by Matt Olson
- Single Parents: Coping and Winning—insights by John Peil
- Finance: Gifts, Giving, and Planning—arranged by Richard Shepard, in two major areas of concern:
  - Gifts, Annuities, Options
  - Personal Planning Possibilities

Our usual Interest Committees are being arranged for, and all committees have willing capable chairpersons in place. BUT we need your help, your participation, and your love as we move towards Kansas for this year's Conference.

Remember that you are the Conference; the movers and shakers. These folks are chairing your com-

mittees with the express challenge of assuring that your interests, needs, and wishes are—with God's approval—implemented for our denomination.

For those who may be interested in the strange and unusual, there is the challenge of a Pastors/Youth MUD Volleyball match on Monday (Mud-day) evening. (If you ever suspected your pastor of "mud-slinging," this may provide the proof you've been looking for!)

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
## Through the week, we will explore ways of being Tuned in and Turned on—by God, by Christ, by the Spirit, by the Trinity, by the Word, by the Commission, and by His Triumph!

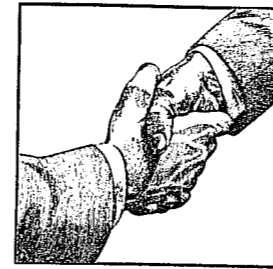
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As usual, there are many activities scheduled for the youth as well as many needs and much planning for the adult Conference.

With a slight change of pace, there are also certain challenges relative to the "Free Time" scheduled on Friday afternoon. Among other things, there is to be a "competitive" golf outing arranged by Pastor Jim Galanaugh. There will also be an opportunity to visit (by bus or private auto) a buffalo farm. Although you may not see a stampee, you may see the buffalo roam in their "pasturized" home as you absorb this new experience.

So, I look forward to sharing our experiences. Thank you for your attention and hoped-for presence in Lindsborg.

"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." 



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

## More on church discipline

From Don Sanford's historical study, "Establishing a Church Covenant."

The temperance question became such an issue in many churches during the 19th century that several covenants included this as a part of their covenant expression.

In 1866 the church at Alfred, N.Y., felt that one aspect of trespass needed to be more sharply defined so that a third article was added: "We covenant together to abstain from the use as a beverage, of all drinks that tend to intoxication or traffic in the same."

The North Loup, Neb., SDB Church in its Covenant of 1873 included the promise to "refrain from the use of spirituous liquor as a beverage."

The church in North Hampton, Ohio, split over the temperance issue, not so much over its use but its manufacture. Many of the farmers in the area found it more profitable to export their corn in liquid form, although a few overindulged in their "quality check" of the fermented squeezings.

One of the divisions in the church formed the Temperance Church which later moved to Jackson Center, Ohio, and its Covenant included a promise to "pray for each other and to admonish one another in love and strive together for the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace in honor preferring one another, to bear with and forgive each other as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us."

The First Genesee SDB Church in Little Genesee, N.Y. (then known as Cuba), began its regis-

ter with the simple statement:

*We agree that a breach of covenant is sufficient cause of labor and if persisted in, of rejection, or withholding the hand of fellowship. In witness whereof we the undersigned have caused our names to be inserted. Done in Cuba July 9, 1827.*

The Sciota church in Pickaway County, Ohio, in its Covenant of 1842, addressed the question of discipline with the statement:

*And believing that the Church hath a right and an obligation to discipline its members, we do pledge ourselves to be in subjection to its reasonable requirements and scriptural decisions, and we will ever pray for her peace and prosperity.*


Several churches enumerated some of the specific actions which they considered to be a breach of the Covenant. The Independence, N.Y., SDB Church in 1889 stated:

*And we do covenant with each other that we will endeavor by the grace of God, to maintain the profession we have made by a holy walk and godly conversation, and regulate our lives in all things by the Holy Scripture as a rule of faith and practice on the principles described and acknowledged in our general declaration of faith, according at all times all manner of communication or whatever nature contrary to the law of love such as evil speaking, railing, tattling, envying, and strife. But should any grievance take place, we agree to follow the directions of our Saviour recorded in the 18th chapter of Matthew.*

It may be one thing to state that discipline is needed, but discipline to be effective needs some alternative or punishment. In other words, what happens when a person does break the Covenant? The Plainfield, N.J., SDB Church in its 1838 Covenant included this as its tenth and final article:

*10th. We promise that if any person or persons in communion with us shall become negligent or scandalous in practice or erroneous in principles, and continue so after due pains taken by us to reclaim such person or persons, that then and in that case, we will use the power given to us by Christ, the great head of the church to disown, cut off, and exclude such disorderly person or persons, from our communion, for the necessary vindication of the honour of this church and the declarative glory of God.*

Another consequence of discipline may possibly be found in a case recorded in the minutes of the Salem, W.Va., church in the early 19th century. In 1826 a member was brought before the church for having made slanderous remarks concerning his wife. For several years, a committee labored with him declaring that "in the opinion of the church he had done wrong."

Four years after the initial charge, the committee reported that it was their duty to excommunicate the offending brother from the connection. It is open to question what the final result was, but it is a fact that the wife was buried in the church cemetery, while the husband's grave is in a cemetery several miles from the church. 

Come to  
General Conference!

August 3-9  
Lindsborg, Kansas

## Most Valuable Pastor

by Rick Crouch

Whoever thought John Camenga would be the MVP of a sports team? Certainly not his son-in-law (me).

But if you compare the building project at the Daytona Beach (Fla.) Seventh Day Baptist Church to sports, then you can say "Pastor John and Michael Jordan" in the same breath without even cracking a smile. Well, almost.

You see, we old, burned-out retirees (not me) down in Florida had been dreaming for years of increasing our space. We'd gradually acquired several pieces of property surrounding our church, brainstormed ideas for an addition, knocked down one old house, and with the taste of dust and rubble still fresh in our mouths, we were ready for more.

Finally, Colonel Sedgley Thornbury, in an act reminiscent of what a Vince Lombardi might have done, brought our enthusiasm to a head. He challenged his "team" to reach deep down inside and come up with \$25,000 in seed money for a new building. If we did, he would

match it with money out of his own pocket.

We did. He did. And the season began.

Pastor John quickly emerged as the team's leading scorer, rebounder, shot-blocker, and play-maker. He dealt with architects, contractors, construction companies, and

**Pastor John rallied his teammates around him and made them all better players.**

city officials with tenacity and skill.

He rallied his teammates around him and made them all better players. Members accustomed to watching from the pews loosened their ties, hiked up their dresses, and jumped into the fray. From 12-

year-old rookie Andrew Hambleton, to savvy veterans in their 80s and 90s like Leon Maltby, everyone got involved.

Coach Chuck Graffius made some key mid-season acquisitions in the form of legendary Senior Saints. Milburn and Beth Jones came from Battle Creek, Mich.; Wesley and Susanne McCrea from Richburg, N.Y.; Phil and Lois Watson from Milton, Wis.; Calvin Babcock from Albion, Wis.; George and Joyce Stillman from Houston, Texas; Leland and Lettie Bond and Dave Charles from Bradenton, Fla. And hometown favorites, Marion Miller and Dale Hull, from Daytona Beach. Even visiting family members like David and Justin Camenga, and Wanda Hughes pitched in.

Like any championship team, we were loaded with all-stars. Audrey and Menzo Fuller, Ray and June Kenyon, Marguerite Heinig, Alfreda Shippee, Everaldo Kelly, Clayton Pinder, his brother Carl, and Carl's son Steve would be on that list, just to name a few.

"Game 7" of the championship series was Pastors' Conference. After a mad dash to complete the building and make the playoffs, we cruised by early-round contenders like the World Federation Planning Committee and General Council.

Then, Pastors' Conference gave us all we could handle. They invaded our homes, harassed our neighbors, and ate all of our food. But in the end, the Lord's will was done.

Our church has a beautiful new addition, and our lives have been touched by friends made, friendships strengthened, and a hope for the future that rests on a firmer foundation. *SR*



The left side of the Daytona Beach church is brand new.

## Paint Rock holds special services

The Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church was blessed by special evangelistic meetings in May, led by Rev. Mynor and Marian Soper of Texarkana, Ark. Sabbath attendance was 44, and we welcomed a new member into the church.

On May 24, we met "down by the riverside" for the fourth annual Yearly Meeting of the Paint Rock and Tupelo, Miss., churches.

Both the service and picnic were held at Joe Wheeler State Park, overlooking the beautiful Tennessee River. We were joined this year by the Memphis, Tenn., church, with Pastor Tom Harp bringing the message. The Newsom family of Tupelo provided the music, and Pastor John Bevis served as worship leader.

June marked Pastor Bevis' 10th year of service at Paint Rock. He and Pastor Harp assist with services in Tupelo.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Stefan and Vicki Kube from Australia in July. They are to spend several days in Alabama, leading services in Paint Rock, en route to the World Federation meetings in Jamaica. *SR*

## Salemville gets face-lift

by Edna L. Kagarise

Here's some news from our church in Salemville, Pa., which we are very proud of.

In the past four years, we have put in new pews with help from the SDB Memorial Board. We are very happy about that. We have also installed new siding and windows. Just last summer, we had a new roof put on the church.

We are a small group, but we are here for one another—helping each other during illness, death, a tornado last fall, or whatever the need may be. Pastor Chris Mattison has been a good influence on us.

Just wanted you to know a little of what we're doing to serve the Lord, Who has been so good to us. *SR*



The "Bell" Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, Pa.

## Salem soundings

### Church votes for new addition

At a special business meeting on April 6, the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church voted to build a three-story addition onto the east end of the church, and to renovate the present building. A Building Finance Committee will begin raising funds while the Facilities Committee refines the plans and secures an architect to do the final drawings.

The new three-story addition is to include classrooms, offices, nursery, restrooms (two levels), expanded fellowship hall, new kitchen, and improved handicapped access. Renovation would include new electrical and heating systems, zoned climate control, roof, etc. The Trainer Building would be removed to create more parking space. The sanctuary could be remodeled

to provide some additional worship space.

A tentative date for groundbreaking is in the spring of 1998.

### Four women now deacons

Vicky Barnes, Christina Cain, Venita Zinn, and Marie Zwiebel were ordained to the Salem church diaconate on May 17. Over 135 people attended the afternoon service.

Rev. Dr. Ernest Bee, Executive Director of the SDB Board of Christian Education, preached for the morning service. Afternoon special guests included Rev. Leland Bond, who gave the charge to the church; Rev. Lillian Simmons and Rev. Dr. Melvin Nida, who read Scripture; and Susie Fox, a deacon in the Columbus, Ohio, church, who gave the

charge to the candidates. Chairman of the Salem diaconate, Richard Brissey, conducted the service, and Pastor Dale Thorngate led in the laying-on-of-hands and dedication prayer. Mary Hulin and Dr. K. Duane Hurley welcomed the new deacons to the diaconate.

Special greetings were read from Rev. Paul Green, who had known all the candidates during his pastorate in Salem. Music of the choir and women's chorus helped make the occasion memorable, as did the presence of many family members and friends from the community who shared in this affirmation of faith and service. *SR*

Reprinted from the "Salem Sentinel" church newsletter.

# Marlboro hosts '97 Eastern Association

by Diane Cruzan

"The Age of Self-fulfillment" was the theme for the 159th meeting of the Eastern Association of Seventh Day Baptists held May 9-11 at the Marlboro SDB Church near Bridgeton, N.J.

After a rainy Friday, the clouds left just in time to give us a beautiful evening for the Sabbath eve service. In fact, Association President Melvin R. Dickinson Jr. (Randy) welcomed us with the words, "Today God washed the world clean, then let the sun come out so we could see what He did."

After a hymn and prayer, a piano duet was performed by Cindy Dickinson of the Marlboro church and Carl Greene of the Berlin, N.Y., church.

Jeanne Yurke, pastor of the Raritan Valley, N.J., church gave an inspiring message on the weekend theme. She explained that "the lowly" feel they can do nothing, and that "the proud" believe they can do anything on their own, and that these two views are equally wrong. Real fulfillment is only found in a relationship with God. His purpose is fulfilled when we walk with Him.

Following the worship, refreshments were served in the church basement where acquaintances and re-acquaintances were made. Guests then left with their hosts, while the teens and young adults left to spend two nights at Jersey Oaks Camp, under the direction of Steve and Dodi Moncrief of the Shiloh, N.J., church.

Sabbath morning saw the church full to overflowing. What a joy! Besides the choir, special music included a men's quartet: Rev. Larry Graffius, Steven Graffius, Thomas Davis, and Randy Dickinson. Their music brought several much deserved amens!

The children's message, given by Virginia Ayars, was about a camel that slowly worked his way into a

tent until finally his master found himself outside. The message was shortened a bit by a 3-year-old girl who walked to Virginia, and told her something that sounded like, "Your time is up." After the laughter died down, Virginia quickly made her point about not letting little sins get a start, and then dismissed the children.

The morning sermon was given by Rev. David Taylor of the West-erly, R.I., church. He told us that

was heart-warming to see what God is doing in others' lives.

Conference President Owen Probasco then told us what Conference will be about this year.

He explained his theme, "Tuned In, Turned On, and Triumphant." We need to get the message from God, be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and be triumphant in Jesus Christ.

After a light supper, we all met once again in the sanctuary for "Wheel of the Bible," emceed by

## Church reports revealed the different and exciting ways Seventh Day Baptists are following Jesus.

self-fulfillment does not give peace. True peace comes from a right relationship with God, and from being where God wants us to be and doing what God wants us to be doing.

Following a study of Ephesians 4 and 5, Rev. Taylor also gave an example from his own life on following where God leads.

A wonderful dinner was then served in the church basement by some of the best cooks in the world, who just happen to be ladies of the Marlboro congregation. Then, at 2:30, while Charlotte Chroniger of the Shiloh church kept the young children entertained, the afternoon service of praise and testimony was directed by Lora Dickinson of the Marlboro church.

With Cindy Dickinson at the organ, Steve Graffius on guitar, Carlos Taylor III with his saxophone, Justin Hibbard at the piano, Lora with her guitar, and Chris Bond with a tambourine, the music was enthusiastic, the feeling of joy contagious. Voices and hands were raised to heaven that afternoon. Several gave testimonies, and it

Ben Cruzan and his lovely assistant, Holly Miller. Based on television's "Wheel of Fortune," the game's puzzles contained Bible verses. With nine teams, everyone had a chance to play. The winning team received candy kisses.

Pastor Larry Graffius then led us in the game, "To Tell the Truth." Earlier in the day, he had several people write down something about themselves that only they knew. During the game, one of these people and two imposters were called to the stage and were questioned about their secret. Some of the imposters' answers were quite funny, and some of the "real" people's secrets were a great surprise. Then it was time for pizza and fellowship.

The business meeting was held on Sunday morning. Church reports revealed the different and exciting ways Seventh Day Baptists are following Jesus. After all the business was completed, another delicious meal was served. We each then went our way—renewed, encouraged, and ready to face the world once again. ✠

# All flights lead to Jamaica for World Fed

Jamaica is ready to greet delegates and observers from around the world for the sixth quinquennial session of the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation. Thirty-two official delegates and 50 observers have preregistered for the conference to be held July 14-20 at Passley Gardens College near Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Federation President, Rev. Gabriel Bejjani, has asked Rev. Joe Samuels to coordinate the week-long program using the theme, "Christian Certainty," based on the book of 1 John.

Besides giving reports of the work in their various conferences,

delegates will lead in worship, preaching, and prayer. Topical sessions, including one on youth ministry led by Rev. Eric Davis, will promote understanding of common beliefs and goals met through a variety of activities in the different countries.

In committees, delegates will review progress since the 1992 sessions in New Zealand. They will examine proposals for new projects which could benefit from international cooperation in the next five years. As always, they will share in rich music and fellowship.

Not everyone who has preregistered will be able to attend the ses-

sions. But Host Committee Chairman Prudence Robinson still hopes that for the traditional Parade of Flags, someone from each of the 20 Federation nations will be present to carry their flag. Delegates are listed below.

Daily topics for worship and Bible study on "Christian Certainty" include: certainty of our fellowship, of our status as God's children, of Christ's return, of who God's children are, of how to identify false prophets, and of our salvation—now and future. ✠

Reprinted from the Seventh Day Baptist WORLD, June 1997.

## Who is going to Jamaica?

<b>Australasia</b>	<b>Central Africa</b>	<b>Susamma Koshi</b>	<b>Kevin N. Onuoha</b>	<b>USA &amp; Canada</b>
Andrew Goulding	Royal J.B. Mkanda-	<b>Jamaica</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	Calvin Babcock
Ronald Barrar	wire	Prudence Robinson	Al B. Paypa	Dale Thorngate
<b>Brazil</b>	E. Elias Ngalande	Naval W. Harley	Manuel Salera	J. Paul Green
Jose Dirceu de	Alefa Lozani	H.G. McLean	<b>Poland</b>	Leon R. Lawton
Andrade Cruz	<b>Guyana</b>	<b>Mexico ?</b>	Pawel Bujok	Jean Lewis
Salvador Caetano	Jacob N. Tyrrell	<b>Myanmar ?</b>	Andrez Bujok	Joe Samuels
Silva	Elnora Andries	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>South Africa</b>	<b>Ex-Officio</b>
<b>Britain</b>	<b>India (A.P.)</b>	Frits Nieuwstraten	N. James Siwani	Gabriel Bejjani,
Owen Lunch	B. Kishor Kumar	<b>Nigeria</b>	N. Elspeth	President
Jossett Lynch	<b>India (Kerala)</b>	Lawrence O. Uch-	Mazomba	Kirk Looper, Exec.
	Sosamma Philip	egbuonu		Committee

## 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 Kevin:

I was surprised and felt honored when I saw the biographical article about me in the May issue.

The statement that "Keith moved to Colorado to get his advanced education" is an error. In 1925 my parents, then living in North Loup, Neb., packed up some of their personal belongings and their three sons—Will, James, and me—and moved to Denver in order to place Jim in a special school for the deaf. He was born deaf and never heard a pleasant sound.

Another false statement [due to our editing—Ed.] is, "He practiced general medicine in Denver until he retired." I was in general practice from

1947 until 1962, at which time I returned to the University of Colorado Medical Center to enroll in the Anesthesiology Resident Training Program. From 1964 until 1975, I practiced anesthesiology in most of the Denver hospitals, including part-time teaching at the Medical Center with the rank of Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery (Anesthesiology).

I would be amiss if I did not give Margaret credit for her part in my medical education. Initially, she encouraged me to enter this long and expensive educational program. She was a Registered Nurse and worked as a private duty nurse in many of the Denver hospitals. Her income,

plus what I earned from working with my father during vacations and Sundays, allowed us to finish my medical education without being over our heads in debt.

When I started my anesthesiology residency, my salary was \$100 a month. Margaret took off her aprons, put on her nursing uniform, cap, and pin, and started working general-nursing duty at Lutheran Hospital in Wheatridge, Colo.

A partnership has been the *modus operandi* between us for 63 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
E. Keith Davis, M.D.  
Bradenton, FL

## Accessions

**Doniphan, MO**  
*Ronald Elston, interim pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Donnie Johnson Jr.  
 Joined after testimony  
 Joyce Kinsey  
 C.H. "Bud" Wealand

**Milton, WI**  
*George Calhoun, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Doris Hogan  
 Jennifer Hogan  
 Joined after testimony  
 Ben Calhoun  
 Randy Kersten  
 Becky Leitel  
 Jessica Olson  
 Miriam Randall  
 Nathan Walker

**North Loup, NE**  
*Kenneth Burdick, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 Edward Bloom  
 Angie Cargill  
 Jordan Ryschon  
 Levi Williams

**Paint Rock, AL**  
*John Bevis, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Jane A. Montgomery

**Salemville, PA**  
*Christian Mattison, pastor*  
 Joined after testimony  
 Jerry Patterson

**Westerly, RI**  
*David Taylor, pastor*  
 Joined after baptism  
 David Boutin  
 Ruth Boutin  
 Anne Mills

## Births

**Frankford.**—A son, Joel Isaac Frankford, was born to Phillip and Kristal Frankford of Kirkwood, MO, on April 7, 1997.

**Looper.**—A daughter, Sydney Ruth Looper, was born to Jody and Heather (Van Horn) Looper of Lincoln, NE, on May 6, 1997.

## Marriages

**Bloom - Roberts.**—Lee Bloom and Brenda Roberts were united in marriage on August 24, 1996, in Leesburg, VA.

**Schawang - Williams.**—Jeffrey Michael Schawang and Audra Angelo Williams were united in marriage on April 12, 1997, at the North Loup, NE, Seventh Day Baptist Church. Rev. Kenneth Burdick officiated.

## Obituaries

**Baker.**—Robert S. Baker, 70, of Woodbury, Pa., died on June 7, 1996, at Homewood Retirement Center in Martinsburg, Pa., following an extended, disabling illness.

He was born on July 23, 1925, in Waterside, Pa., the son of David S. and Elizabeth L. (Kurtz) Baker. He married Esther LaVerne Smith on April 5, 1947, in Roaring Spring, Pa.

Mr. Baker farmed land passed down from his grandparents, and was born in the house which was his only residence throughout his life. He was employed at Nason Hospital for 13 years, retiring in 1977 because of health problems.

He attended the Bell Seventh Day Baptist Church in Salemville, Pa., where he and his wife made a substantial contribution toward new pews. When he still had his vision, he enjoyed reading the Bible, current news, and history. He also enjoyed mechanical work, his dogs, music, and spending time with visitors.

In addition to his wife, survivors include one son, Wayne of Woodbury; two daughters, Sara J. Hayashi of Fresno, Calif., and Anita G. Jubas of Duncansville, Pa.; one sister, Cora Albright of Woodbury; five grandchildren, and nine nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a 5-year-old son, Roger, in 1959.

Funeral services were held on June 11, 1996, at the J. Gary Thompson Funeral Home, Roaring Spring. Pastor Christian R. Mattison officiated. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Martinsburg.

**Portwood.**—Carla Raie (Stratton) Portwood, 30, of Doniphan, Mo., died on March 4, 1997, at the St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo. She suffered a ruptured aneurysm.

She was born on November 28, 1966, in Poplar Bluff, Mo., and lived most of her life in Ripley County. On September 28, 1985, she married Scott Portwood.

Carla was a member of the Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church of Doniphan, where she served on the Advisory Board and was the Activities Director. She faithfully served her Lord through the church and her family, which she loved dearly.

In addition to her husband, survivors [all in Doniphan] include two sons, Bryan ("Scooter") and Joshua, both at home; her parents, Ray and Ruby Stratton; three sisters, Sandy Johnson, Tonya Dale, and Jeanna Laray Stratton; one brother, Jimmy; and her grandparents, Wilma and Ralph Elliott.

Funeral services were held on March 7, 1997, at the Edwards Funeral Chapel in Doniphan, with Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr. officiating. Interment was in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Rowe.**—Nellie (Lingle) Rowe, 92, of Litchfield, Mich., died on April 13, 1997, in the Hillsdale County Medical Care Facility.

She was born on April 4, 1905, in Cairo, Ill., to Rufus and Nellie (Barrenger) Lingle. She married Merle D. Rowe on August 28, 1930. He died on November 8, 1986.

Nellie was a homemaker most of her life. She was a faithful member of the Battle Creek, Mich., Seventh Day Baptist Church for 49 years, and remained active in the church until moving to Litchfield to live with her daughter. She was a member of the Ladies Aid and is remembered for her beautiful quilts and delicious rolls.

Her survivors include one son, Charles, of Orlando, Fla.; three daughters, Dorothy Barker of Litchfield, Bonnie Lindsay of Jack-

sonville, Fla., and Helen M. Spieler of Lutz, Fla.; one stepson, Merle Rowe Jr.; two sisters, Catherine Woodruff of Kissimmee, Fla., and Olive Stroup of Kell, Ill.; 15 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by nine brothers, two sisters, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on April 17, 1997, in the Litchfield United Methodist Church, with Rev. Kathy Brown officiating. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek.

**Savy.**—Louis B. Savy, 75, died on April 17, 1997, at the Westerly (R.I.) Health Center.

He was born on February 28, 1922, in Stafford Springs, Conn., and lived in Ashaway, R.I. Before retiring, he was employed at Electric Boat, Groton, Conn. An avid antique collector, he was well-known throughout New England as an antique dealer.

Mr. Savy was a member of the First Seventh Day Baptist Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway, and was a former member of the Ashaway Grange. His many friends were most important in his life.

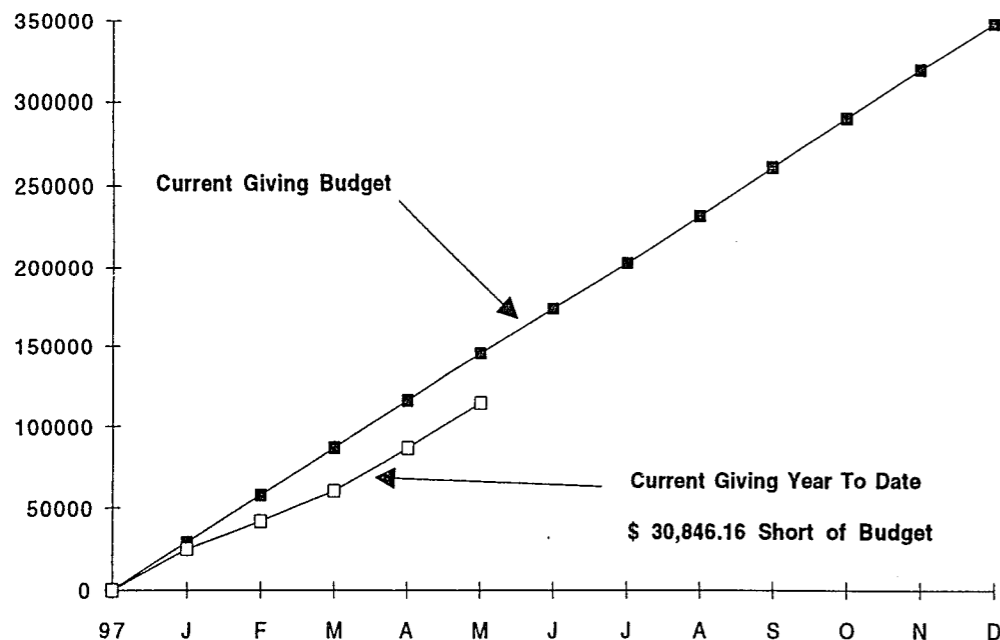
Survivors include one sister, retired Lt. Col. Eva S. LaRae of El Paso, Texas; a nephew, Maurice J. Murphy of Ashaway, with whom he made his home; and several other nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on April 19, 1997, in the Rushlow-Iacoi Funeral Home, Westerly. Interment was in First Hopkinton Cemetery, Ashaway.

**Davis.**—Emily Richards Davis, 97, of Twin Falls, Idaho, passed away on May 11, 1997, at the Twin Falls Care Center.

She was born on May 18, 1899, in Shiloh, N.J., the daughter of

## Current Giving 1997



Samuel and Annie (Richards) Davis. She attended Trenton State Normal School, taught in Idaho for five years, and then in East Hanover, N.J., for 34 years. She retired in 1965. In 1983, she moved back to Idaho.

Emily traveled extensively in Europe and Africa during her summers away from teaching. She also hiked through the Pacific Northwest, and rode a freight car across the Great Divide.

Survivors include one nephew, Walter Burdick of Twin Falls; three nieces, Ann Kluckhohn of Kuna, Idaho, Janie Madera of Cherry Hill, N.J., and Ellen Burdick of Boise, Idaho; and 10 grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded

in death by one brother and two sisters.

A memorial graveside service was held in Shiloh on June 6, 1997.

**Goodrich.**—Robert Charles Goodrich, 21, of Lincoln, Neb., died on May 12, 1997, in Lincoln. He was born on October 11, 1975, in Omaha, Neb. On June 16, 1980, he was adopted by Jim and Helen (Hyde) Goodrich and grew up in North Loup, Neb. He graduated from North Loup-Scotia High School in 1994, where he was active in football, track, and FFA. After high school, Robert worked in construction in the North Loup area. He later moved to Homer, Neb., and worked at different jobs

before relocating in Lincoln and working in construction there. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping, and was a member of the North Loup Seventh Day Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, survivors include three brothers, Shawn and Brian of North Loup, and Mike Krejci of Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; two sisters, Amy and Katrina, both of North Loup; several grandparents; his birth parents and birth grandparents. He was preceded in death by a grandfather, Herbert H. Hyde.

Funeral services were held on May 15, 1997, at the North Loup SDB Church, with Rev. Kenneth Burdick officiating. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, North Loup.

## Conference 1829, cont. from page 14

He spent the night with Uncle Burdick. He then continued:

*Sept. 25—Attended church meeting, then returned to Uncle Burdick's.*

*Sabbath, Sept. 26—Went to meeting and heard Elder Russell Wells preach from Rev. 3:14, after which he ministered the Lord's Supper. After meeting went home with Cousin Samuel Crandall for the night.*

During the following week, he reported visiting many of his friends and relatives, attending to some missionary business, going to the shore to wade in the surf, and gathering mussels and oysters. Sessions of General Conference began on Thursday, October 1, and continued through the Missionary Society meeting on October 5.

He remained in the area visiting the Crandalls, Burdicks, Clarkes, Maxsons, Greenes, Baileys, Wells, Saunders, Greenmans, and Langworthys. On the day after the Sabbath, October 11, they started back, retracing some of their jour-

ney through Berlin and Petersburg, but followed the Mohawk Valley until his last entry was made on November 13:

*Proceeded to Cohocton, South Dansville, Hornellsville, and to Weavers' in Almond. Through the tender mercy of our all gracious God we arrived at Alfred in tolerable health and safety, about nine o'clock in the evening. Traveled in all not far from 1000 miles. When I take a review of this long journey and consider how many accidents might have befallen us, it should fill me with praises and thanksgiving to God. May I daily devote myself to Him from whom I receive so many mercies.*

Maxson Greene's second trip recorded in the same leather-covered diary began on August 31, 1835, and ended on October 10. His visits among family and friends were not as extensive, in part because he often traveled by public transportation.

Instead of recording the miles,

his entries included expenses. Yet wherever possible, he used the trip to Conference as one way in which he could fulfill his role as an agent of the Missionary Society and maintain the kinship through personal visitation and corporate worship.

One hundred sixty-eight years have passed since Maxson Greene made his first recorded trip to sessions of General Conference. Even as his mode of travel changed from horse and buggy to stagecoaches, boats, and railroad, so has our method changed to automobile and airplanes.

I don't know of anyone who would wish to go back to the rigors of pioneer travel, but there remains some of the same opportunities for those attending Conference in our generation. Many plan their trip to visit families and friends en route as well as at Conference. Some include stops at churches and renew acquaintances from previous years.

The kinship experience of General Conference often includes the trip to and from. *SR*

# KEVIN'S CORNER

I realize that there might be fewer eyes perusing these pages this month, and even fewer come September.

Last month, we took a bold step. We asked that all interested readers send back a post card in order to remain on the mailing list. We have already received hundreds of cards (thank you for your quick response), along with several questions concerning the procedure.

Some have asked "Why?" Others have asked, "Why haven't you done this sooner?"

As we prepared the June issue, I had those parental feelings of "letting go."

Funny how this name removal tactic appeared with our "empty nest" theme. And it wasn't until we got the proof copy that I saw how the card's "last issue" warning would cover up the title of Donna Bond's feature, "Letting go..."

We purposely made it quite easy for everyone to respond. With a tear-out, postpaid reply card and a peel-off mailing label, there was no cutting, filling out an address, finding an envelope, finding a stamp. We tried to alleviate any obstacle, and keep the SR coming to those who want it.

### •So, why did we do it?

In a word, stewardship. Technically a "free" magazine, the *Recorder* went through a time when we were adding new names at the drop of a hat (or even a hint of interest in SDBs). When postage and printing was cheaper, executives and pastors would pile names on to the mailing list with great freedom and joy. An increase in readership is generally the goal for most magazines.

Well, noticing that only one-fourth of our readers respond with a gift, we're not convinced that everyone on the mailing list is really that interested in supporting the SR.

If a person is not really interested, would they necessarily take the time to tell us to remove their name? It would probably be easier for them NOT to respond to have their name taken off the list. This move will reduce the number of copies, thereby cutting printing and postage costs.

### •Weren't there other options?

This was just one option arising from a list of cost-cutting suggestions from our 1995 Conference interest committee. We are trying to respond to Conference's wishes to save money.

In the recent past, we made stronger pleas for funds along with more blatant requests for non-readers to remove their names from the mailing list. The latter plea is tough to respond to if the magazine and/or the every member mailing is never opened. Thus, we reversed the strategy and asked true readers to respond.

### •What if I'm helping to pay for others' copies and they don't send back their cards?

Please let us know if you want your friends or relatives to keep getting the *Recorder*. But if they don't take the time to send the card, I must ask the question: do they really want the SR in their home?

### •What if a person doesn't read the June issue right away, and gets cut off the list?

We know that this may happen. The actual cut-off will start with the September issue.

Our computerized mailing list is ready, at the stroke of a key, to put readers back on the list. They need only contact us with that request.

### •If a person forgets to send in their card, will they really be cut off the list?

I've seen other magazines make similar threats, and it's rarely carried out. This move on our part will actually take place.

For those who sent in a donation this year, we plan to keep you on the mailing list, regardless of the post card return. And since institutions and libraries receive so many periodicals and could miss the reply card, they will remain on the list automatically.

### •So, I have to pay for the SR to stay on the list?

No, you need only send back the card. Our desire is to get the *Recorder* into the hands of those who want to read it. A donation from everyone would be fantastic, but not expected.

June's reply card also gives readers another opportunity to give us their address changes. Every time a magazine is returned to us, it costs us 50 cents. With half a dozen or more coming back every week, that adds up over a period of a year.

This cutting move may cost us more postage in the short term, but save much in paper and mailing costs in the long term.

We do our best to make the *Recorder* readable, interesting, and inspiring. We don't want to print it just to fill somebody's mailbox, then have it go instantly to the trash can (or—at least—recycling bin). Let's be good stewards of the Lord's resources.

Rev. Earl Cruzan of Milton, Wis., died on June 2, 1997, at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, Wis. He was 83.

He was born on September 12, 1913, in North Loup, Neb., the son of Roy and Stella (Clement) Cruzan. He married Mabel E. Davis on June 30, 1936, in Marlboro, N.J.

He graduated from North Loup High School in 1933, and from Salem (W.Va.) College in 1938. In 1940, he received a degree from Alfred (N.Y.) University School of Theology, and in 1941 from Yale Divinity School.

Pastor Earl was ordained to the ministry in 1941 while serving the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Waterford, Conn. He also served SDB pastorates in Boulder, Colo.; Dodge Center, Minn.; Adams Center, N.Y.; Westerly, R.I.; Milton, Wis.; and Milwaukee, Wis.

His other ministries included the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Board; Home Field Committee, chairman; SDB Commission, 1953-



**Earl Cruzan**  
1913 - 1997

1959; General Conference President, 1958; Council on Ministry, 1962-1974; and the American Sabbath Tract Society. His love of young people was demonstrated in his involvement with camping programs throughout the denomination.

Pastor Earl was a member of the Milton SDB Church and the Milton Historical Society. His special interests included gardening, photography, biking, travel, and nature.

In addition to his wife, survivors include two sons, E. Wayne of Monterey, Calif., and Jonathan of Milton; two daughters, Barbara Green of Janesville and Nancy Lippert of Lansing, N.Y.; two brothers, Frank and Bert, and one sister, Emma Werkheiser, all of Bridgeton, N.J.; ten grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on June 7, 1997, at the Milton SDB Church, with Pastor George Calhoun officiating. Burial was in the Milton Cemetery.