

The

S

abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

January 1998

R

ecorder

Don't forget...

FAITH -  
not Fear!

Important!

Work for and  
please God -  
not man!

Urgent!!

Priority One:  
OUTREACH!



## 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:

- salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. 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: The 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 and the SDB Web site: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

## Summer Christian Service Corps 1998

To apply to SCSC, write to:  
Charlotte Chroniger  
Box 145, Shiloh, NJ 08353  
Ph. (609) 455-0488

Worker training:

June 12-19

Director training:

June 11-15

Project dates:

June 20 – July 19

(Dates are tentative.)

**Application Deadline:  
February 1, 1998**

## Women's Society Robe of Achievement

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Nominations due  
by March 31

(see Dec. SR  
for guidelines)

## Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will be held at the Pawcatuck SDB Meeting House, 120 Main St., Westerly, R.I., on Sunday, March 15, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

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

To hear and act upon the reports of the Board of Managers and officers for the fiscal year January 1, 1997, to December 31, 1997.

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

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

The Board of Managers has fixed the close of business on February 28, 1998, as the time at which members entitled to notice thereof and to vote at the meeting and any adjournment thereof shall be determined.

—Cindy L. Nadeau, secretary

# The Sabbath Recorder

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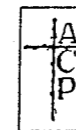


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**Kevin Butler**  
Editor

**Leanne Lippincott**  
Assistant Editor

### Contributing Editors

Calvin P. Babcock, Ernest K. Bee Jr., John D. Bevis, Donna Bond, Rodney L. Henry, G. Kirk Looper, Don A. Sanford.

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# Setting the priority of outreach

by Russell Johnson

Seventh Day Baptists emerged from the ferment of the English Reformation. They pursued complete conformity to the Word of God in faith and practical living.

Such a conformity is established by diligently searching for the best possible understandings of what God expects, and then applying those truths.

Even then, as the Scriptures declare, no matter how much we do for Him, it could never be more than what God should normally expect. We may rejoice at being His servant, but there is no room for boasting in personal accomplishment.

Christian discipleship portrayed in the Scriptures is not built around giving God the "leftovers" of time, or the time that the world might think is appropriate and reasonable. Discipleship is a commitment best expressed in the words: "Sold Out for Jesus."

God should receive the highest allegiance and commitment of a believer's time and resources. He is worthy of "our all," and nothing should come ahead of conforming to His Will and purpose.

Such a heart attitude might cost much of what this world claims to offer as pleasure, but eternal fellowship with God is the surpassing desire.

## How we view time

The quality of the faith and time commitment found in the apostles should be reflected in our priorities and labors as we use whatever time remains on this earth.



Christians might find themselves tempted to view their service and ministry to the Lord as just a "good job" involving 40-60 hours a week, and perhaps forty years of ministry. Any years beyond that are "theirs" to utilize for personal pleasure.

This does not seem to be the biblical view of the lifelong love and loyalty to Christ that characterizes a faithful Kingdom worker. Every person should consider, "Am I, as a Christian, as committed to His work as I should be?"

Such periodic introspection is important. The fleshly tendency

to let personal interests slip ahead of God's priorities is ever-present. God's mercy toward us is a debt of love and gratitude that should cause us to eagerly share in joyous word and deed.

This debt of gratitude will remain throughout our life on this earth. Even then, as depicted by Jesus' picture of the end of time (Matt. 24), when everything has been attempted or done, it will all seem completely inadequate in the presence of a perfect God. Those who most confidently boast in never failing to accomplish His will are told to depart from His presence.

## God expects success

Scripture teaches that God does not plan for His faithful workers to be failures or unfruitful in advancing the work of His kingdom.

Two basic problems seem to limit those who profess to be Christ's servants from seeing the fullest godly results from their efforts.

- seek to bring glory to God's name.
- Essentially then, Christians can be ineffective through:
  - developing a poor personal relationship with God
  - carrying an inaccurate godly message
  - establishing a poor vision of their place in God's kingdom work

## God's obedient people of the Bible were less concerned about survival than they were about living for God.

The first problem is lack of conformity to God's holiness (i.e., the disciple is not the follower and witness that God redeemed them to be).

The second is that the believer is not actively seeking opportunities to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our world. The Holy Spirit, therefore, cannot fully bless either the work or the words.

The first situation could result from misunderstandings developed from inadequate study, or from bending God's Word to say what the individual would like to think "God really tried to say."

The latter might come from lacking confidence that God's Spirit can actually lead the believer into all truth. Insecurities arise from how a person evaluates their effectiveness in witnessing for the Lord. Simply failing to seek or use available witnessing opportunities can also result in limited Kingdom effectiveness.

The Holy Spirit will always reveal truth through believers who are not ashamed of the testimony of Jesus. This is profoundly true even in the absence of personal skills in speaking or writing. The Spirit brings a fruitfulness and boldness through the simplest of willing believers, who genuinely

making only passive efforts rather than consistently pursuing the goals of the Great Commission, or

• a combination of the above factors which God will not honor.

God's purpose is to bring honor and glory to His name first, and He honors disciples who do that task faithfully.

## Faith, not fear

Faith is the driving force in a victorious Christian life. Fear is an opponent. Only the fear of the living God is commended in the Scriptures. Even that kind of fear is not as positive and powerful in shaping one's life in comparison to the motivation of love. ("For fear has to do with punishment, but perfect love casts out fear"—1 John 4:18.)

Fear can totally cripple a believer's effectiveness. Such fear is not based in the love and gratitude to God which leads to joyful obedience and self sacrifice. When fear of failure, or fear of inadequacy, or fear of "what people will think" become major decision factors in a church, people no longer employ the childlike desire to eagerly obey the Lord. They are guided by what "makes sense" to them.

But how many times did God ask His people to do that which did not

make sense? And after it was all over, they praised Him for the unexpected and extraordinary results!

One limiting factor is what could be called a "survivalist" or "fortress" mentality. This is where an individual, church, or national organization begins to believe that *survival* is all that God wants for them to accomplish.

God's obedient people of the Bible were less concerned about survival than they were about living for God. If a believer obeys and does not live to the expected fullness of years, then the Author and Finisher of our faith will explain why it was necessary as we stand before Him.

Should the Christian who holds back on doing what God asks—deciding to "survive" by doing what seems prudent and reasonable in their own eyes—expect His decree of "well done, good and faithful servant"?

Faith means seeking God's purpose with all eagerness, then moving in childlike faith and obedience to God's instruction without fear of provision for tomorrow. God holds our "tomorrow."

Positive sounding convictions can often be heard within God's family that "someone" ought to be doing this or that. The meaning of such remarks is that "someone else ought to be doing this or that."

Could it be that if God has shown you a need, then God may well have called, sensitized, and prepared you to effectively minister to that very need?

## Build the Kingdom, then the Church

The measure of a church is its genuine dependence on God. Do the members expect that God has specific things that they must be accomplishing for His Kingdom? And please note: this work may not always result in adding people to the local body of believers.

Philip rejoiced to see the Ethio-

pian eunuch come to Christ, but we have no record that their paths ever crossed again. Philip was less concerned about building the Jerusalem church than he was with building God's full Kingdom in the whole earth.

A church's effectiveness will be directly proportional to the number of new people that the individuals meet and befriend in the neighboring community. The long-term effectiveness of a church is also linked to this adopted philosophy of ministry: that any acquaintance having no other church commitment is our ministry opportunity and responsibility.

Effective churches that understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit recognize that there are both short-term and long-term results found in the harvest.

### Must work for harvest

The problem for many other churches is that they appear to be looking for "volunteer" crops instead of being willing to grow their own. The successful farmer understands that providing a crop starts with clearing a field of rocks. Rocks are incapable of producing a single grain of corn, but rocks can prevent much seed from growing.

The prudent farmer starts the process long before growth can dare hope to begin. He already "secs"



a field of corn as he clears the rocks. Then he must break up the fallow ground. The fallow ground, even when plowed and harrowed, will never by itself produce a single kernel of corn.

This farmer knows that seed is only good when it is placed at full risk. He puts the seed into the softened soil to provide the moist and warm environment which awakens the life in each kernel. As the exterior softens, the little seedling breaks open the old hardness, feeding on its remains to spring up to vital life.

A farmer does not abandon a field if the grain does not instantly spring up to full maturity. He adds nutrients to encourage life and to keep weeds from choking out the newly emerging life. He will break off the "sucker plants"—ones that would sap the energy of the stalk, causing only leaves and stunted ears that would soon wither and die.

The real farmer sees a crop when he surveys a bare field that is not being farmed. He knows the time of preparation must often be measured in years, from the beginning labors until the field produces a full yield. He knows he must systematically pursue each of the annual processes, disregarding the little results in the beginning, and then gradually the increase comes.

Successful farming only happens because the farmer is committed to the task and endures in those processes. At harvest time he reaps the reward of his own efforts with the Lord's blessings clearly added.

The man who simply visits his storage bins to see if the seed has multiplied, or hopes to find some new corn miracu-

**Successful farming only happens because the farmer is committed to the task and endures in those processes.**

lously appearing along the path or on the door step, is not a farmer. Such a person might be called little more than an "opportunist" or "merchandise."

### Reaching out to all

The priority of full discipleship is to bring the witness of Christ to as many as is possible.

It struck me a few years ago that a Christian will never be able to recall a person who has not met Christ. In meeting a Christian, they have met Christ. The issue is how widely and openly have we brought His presence to those around us who desperately need His forgiveness and power?

The ironic task of the Christian is to proceed cautiously with people who come making great declarations and promises. (If they are genuine, they will also be patient; if they are not, a group should avoid hastily laying hands of approval on them.)

We must also be patient with the reluctant, because most have been serious enough to have counted the cost and know the price that they must pay if they decide to walk with us.

As we encourage people to do what God wants—not hindering them, and supporting them without any expectation—when they come to full commitment, we are the people that they will most easily desire to be their family.

### Must our new contacts stay in our church?

The most common non-Christian complaints about "other" churches is that the members are only interested in building up their own church membership and getting



**The major Kingdom priority is for those who are in Christ to seek to redeem those who are not in Christ.**

others to financially help them pay their bills.

Many churches want new people to change so that they will "fit in." Few groups carry the simple message of obedience to God, even if that means the new believers should go somewhere else in order to fully do that.

This thinking may sound strange, for although we would like to believe that people can best obey amongst us, God might have other plans for that person.

Should we, as God's people, resist the purpose and place God has prepared for others? Will we find His full blessing if we do not put His relationship to them and their relationship to Him ahead of any personal blessing that we might hope to derive?

Does not a relationship with new believers, built on God's sovereignty, require that whatever God desires comes before any hope of benefiting from them in our ministry? Our attitude is to seek the best for them, rather than what is best for us.

Defining this relationship frees people to appreciate those of us who have the confidence to say that God has grown our church, and that God will add those whom He will add. Will we really benefit from adding people to our churches that He has not called there?

### Advance His Kingdom, not our survival

We are to be about the Father's business—advocating allegiance and the advancement of Christ's

Kingdom in the hearts and lives of everyone who will receive it. Any thought of a local church "surviving" becomes insignificant and irrelevant when we realize that Christ did not commission believers to save churches, but to save whosoever would receive the message of redemption to eternal life.

Consistent modeling of faith wins those who are slow to respond, long after the ones who sprang up to enthusiasm and life withered from no deep rooting to sustain them. Consistent modeling takes time, patience, and love to accomplish.

Although every moment is important for change and greater obedience, we are approaching a landmark on our calendar. Across our country there is a great vacuum in the hearts of people who do not know Christ. How can we meet the challenge and face the task?

First, let us reaffirm that it is most important for others to find Christ through us, then to faithfully disciple as many as God will allow to continue with us. This priority is a choice that must be set by every individual, and then hopefully by the groups within which they minister.

Both individuals and groups need to look at the time committed to outreach mentoring (on the job training experiences) for every old and new believer in Christ. Every Christian is either a witness or a candidate to become such a witness for Christ's love.

How much time does the local group devote to encouraging people

to consider God's call to missions, church planting, witnessing, small group Bible study leadership, or other basics of Christian responsibility? How many people with spiritual gifting do not discover or develop their gifts because there is not an aggressive plan to do that?

In many small churches, if the pastor can function in speaking, outreach, and Bible study leadership, there is no vision to find or develop others with those gifts. Yet aren't those with abilities supposed to instruct those who are discovering theirs?

Doesn't "equipping the saints" require actively developing others with public speaking and ministry gifts that reflect the pastor's best leadership abilities, and perhaps transcend his abilities in one or more areas?

### The priority of outreach

Seventh Day Baptists will reach our greatest effectiveness when our commitment to accomplishing what God desires is highest. Harmony with God means seeking to fully let His will be done through us, and aggressively bringing the presence of His Kingdom into the life of everyone we can befriend.

The major Kingdom priority is for those who are in Christ to seek to redeem those who are not in Christ. Our greatest fruitfulness for Him will come when our highest priority is centered on fulfilling the complete commission given to His saints.  $\mathcal{R}$

Rev. Russell Johnson serves as National Extension Minister for the SDB Missionary Society.



# Roaming Romania—for God

by Heather Spaur

July 31, 1997—a day that would change my life forever.

As I boarded the plane with five other eager individuals, I had no idea what to expect. All I knew was that God had big plans for the following two weeks.

We were heading for Romania to work with Mission to Serve, a non-profit mission organization that reaches out to poor families, street children, and orphans. Through the help of sponsors and donors, those who are struggling to survive are being changed.

## Instant culture shock

When we touched down in Bucharest, the capital city, I knew that everything was going to be very different. We stepped off the plane and there stood armed security guards. I knew that I was no longer in my comfort zone.

As jet lag caught up with me, I realized I had taken a large step of faith. This experience was going to be unlike any other mission trip of my life.

Just getting out onto the main road increased my prayer life. I had never been so frightened riding in a van! I can honestly compare the experience to being in a demolition derby.

## Off the streets, into missions

We drove about five hours to the town of Sibiu where we were to live and work. We were introduced to six young women who came running excitedly out of the apartment building to help us with our baggage.

These girls were from the House of Hope, a ministry of Mission to Serve. They had grown up in an orphanage, and Mission to Serve had rescued them from a life of destitution and despair.



This little street girl got some love (and ice cream) from Heather's mission group.

All of these young women expressed a deep love and commitment to Jesus Christ and a desire to serve Him. Without Mission to Serve, they would be out on the streets. Once the orphans turn 18, they are evicted, and many have nowhere to go.

Americans Russell and Patricia Schinck were moved by the plight of these young people and founded Mission to Serve with their own money. The Mission teaches independent living and how to find gainful employment. Currently, the program ministers to about 20 young women and a few young men. A majority of them are going to Bible School and want to become missionaries.

## Still adjusting

The introductions were brief because we were so tired. We decided to get cleaned up and go to bed. The first attempt at a shower revealed that the water had been turned off at 10 o'clock—we were not to get

clean that night. Welcome to Romanian life!

Other adjustments: learning how to be patient in line; finding strange things in our soup; eating bread the texture of Styrofoam; and not watching the clock since no one would be on time.

We were busy for the entire two weeks. Surprisingly, many of the projects we had mapped out did not seem to be in God's plan. At first, we were disappointed. But, of course, His plans were best. We saw His hand moving throughout the country.

In a place so beautiful, everywhere we turned we saw poverty and hunger. Even several years after the revolution and the overturn of Communism, people are destitute in the orphanages and towns. Many wonderful improvements have been made, but progress is slow.

People were hungry for God—they wanted more of the Holy Spirit. It proved to me that the God we serve is so awesome.

## At the orphanages

We had the opportunity to work in two of the orphanages (or "houses of throwaway children," as many Romanian people call them). What an eye-opening experience! We went first to a boy's home and then to a girl's. These children were starving for attention and literally clung to us the minute we walked through the door.

Today, there are thousands of children in over 800 orphanages in Romania. These youngsters are going in circles because there is no one to help them. The people of Romania look down on them as castaways, and they are given no chance to make something of their lives. Many have had no help from

the West, and the Romanian government does less than ever to support the homeless and abandoned children who live in these state-run institutions.

In Dumbraveni, the girl's home, the orphans sleep 12 to a room on worn and soiled beds. But they are proud of what they have.

We barely skimmed the surface by being in just two orphanages. Even with the language barrier, the children had no trouble understanding the love that God gave us for them. A hug spoke louder than words ever could.

## The poor street people

Working with the street children and poor families was also challenging. We would perhaps see these people only once, and

then never again. A multitude of poor families try to stay together so they don't have to send their children to the orphanages.

Life is a daily struggle to provide just enough food to keep the family alive for one more day. Daily, parents are consumed with the burden of trying to find a job to buy food to ease hunger pains. It is not an easy existence.

Many families send their children out into the streets to beg for money. These little ones blessed me as I knew God smiled on them. We were able to buy them ice cream and other food. We even took some to the store and bought new shoes, socks, and clothes.

## Open arms and homes

Of course, we did some sight-seeing. I was amazed at what a beautiful country Romania is! We traveled to some of the smaller villages and had opportunities, through our translator, to share Jesus with the people. What a blessing it was to be somewhere that even though no one knew us, they took us in and fed us.

One weekend, we went into a village where our pastor was to speak, and we didn't know where

we would stay. God provided "above and beyond" what we could even imagine. He allowed us to stay with a wonderful Christian family, and we met many people I will never forget. Each person touched my life in a very special way.

## A different Heather

I am different now. I'm the same Heather on the outside, but I have gained a greater openness to God's leading in my life and a new sense of purpose.

I know that seeds have been planted in Romania, but fruit in my life will be borne for many years to come. My goal is to return sometime soon, to rekindle friendships and continue spreading the Gospel to the people there.

Sometimes, when I'm at the coast, I look over the vast Atlantic and remember that God is still working in Romania. Memories and faces of the precious people I met are indelibly etched in my heart.

I am sponsoring two teenage girls through Mission to Serve. I write to both of them, along with some of the others. What a blessing to know that even though I am here and can't be with them physically, I can still support them! I can also pray for them at any time of the day or night.

For more information, feel free to write Russell and Patricia Schinck at: Mission to Serve, 50 Mountain Top Drive, Blue Ridge, GA 30513. You may also call the Mission at (706) 838-4572. They always need sponsors for the girls and boys to whom they minister.

Dumnezeu sa te binecuvinteze. (God bless you.) *HS*

Heather Spaur lives in Greensboro, N.C., and attends Hunter Hills Friends Church. She's a member of the Columbus, Ohio, SDB Church and works as a nurse on a Chemical Dependency Unit.



André (right) clung to Heather the whole time she visited the boy's home at Boritza.



Playing with a parachute at the Boritza Boy's Home.



# Colorado Springs holds community crusade

by Ron Elston

1997 was a busy year of ministry for the new Colorado Springs, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

This branch church, under the leadership of Pastor L.B. Lee Jr., conducted youth retreats, maintained a fair booth, and attended General Conference and Promise Keepers meetings. The group also hosted a *Stained Glass* concert and conducted a door-to-door ministry and Community Crusade.

What started out as a vision has now become a reality in Colorado Springs. While serving as members of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church, L.B. and Angie Lee had a vision of a new work in Colorado Springs. During this time, they sold their business and moved to Colorado.

After several years and much prayer, they stepped out on faith and began contacting others who they felt God had brought to this new ministry. The group really came together, and has already obtained a facility for meetings and worship. This dynamic new group is sponsored as a branch

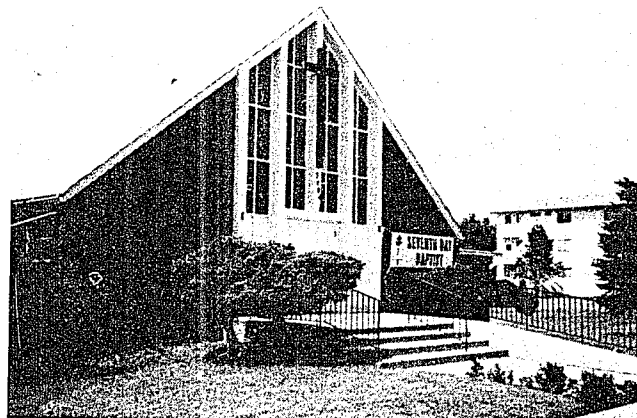
of the Denver, Colo., SDB Church.

Understanding the urgency of the Lord's work, they began holding public meetings, inviting others in the community to join with them. Truly, the Lord has blessed their efforts, sending those with much ministry experience to assist in all areas.

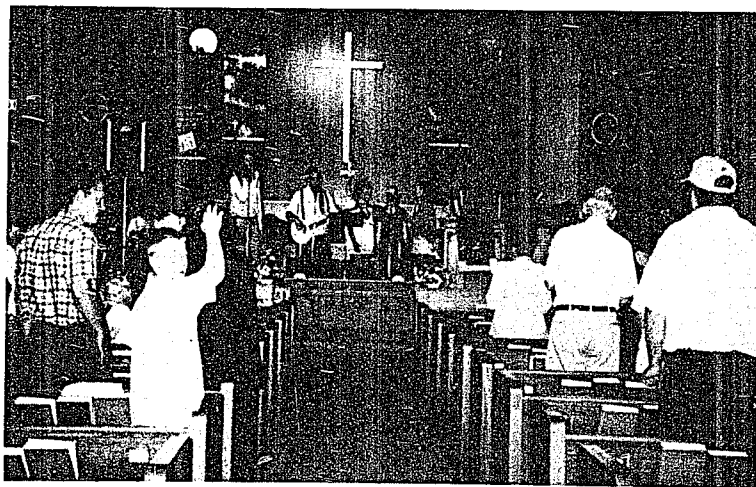
In late August, following General Conference in Kansas, the Colorado Springs church conducted a Community Crusade with members of S.W.A.T. Ministries

from Battle Creek, Mich., including the Christian Clown Ministry of Jerry and Joyce West (a.k.a. "Speedy" and "Queenie.") Joyce also provided special music with selections from her new CD, "It's My Desire."

Missionary Society Field Evangelist Ron Elston presented evangelistic messages each evening. Also assisting with special music were Pastor David and Christina Thorngate, along with members of the Boulder, Colo., SDB Church. *SR*



The meeting place for Colorado Springs SDBs.



Members of the Boulder, Colo., Praise Band provided special music during the Colorado Springs Crusade.



Pastor L.B. Lee conducts his first baptism at the Crusade.

# SW Association well attended

by Ron Elston

The Faith SDB Church of Doniphan, Mo., hosted its first Association meeting since the church began in 1984. The Southwestern Association was well attended with seven states represented.

Missionary Society Executive G. Kirk Looper presented a program on International Missions, displaying clothing from various countries. It went well, considering the number of models available.

Volunteer models included Pastor Tom Harp and his wife, Pat, from Calvary Covenant Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Pastor Mynor and Marian Soper from Texarkana, Ark.; and others from various Southwest churches.

Conference President Rev. John Bevis also brought a delegation from Alabama to fellowship during the fine Association meetings. *SR*



Pat and Pastor Tom Harp volunteered to model clothing from abroad.



These lovely girls from the Southwestern Association posed for this picture wearing international outfits.



Pastor Doug Burkhamer conducting a baptism last summer.



Pastor Burkhamer with his family at the Old Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church.

# Old Stonefort has new pastor

by Ron Elston

Pastor Arthur D. Burkhamer and his family are a welcome addition to the Stonefort, Ill., SDB Church family. After discovering the Sabbath, Pastor Burkhamer contacted the Seventh Day Baptist Center which in turn contacted Regional Field Minister Rev. Ronald J. Elston Sr.

After several visits, a branch fellowship of the Faith church in Doniphan, Mo., was established in Royalton, Ill. Friday evening services with Bible study and worship were well attended at the Burkhamer home in Royalton.

During this time, the Burkhamer family maintained fellowship with the church in Stonefort. As a result of this relationship, Stonefort called Bro. Burkhamer when they began to seek a pastor.

Pastor Doug has brought strong leadership to the group, and outreach efforts have proved successful. Rev. Elston recently attended services at Stonefort and was blessed as Pastor Burkhamer conducted two baptisms.

Friday evening services continue to be held at the Burkhamer home as the Lord blesses the work in Southern Illinois. *SR*



## Poland needs new books

by Kirk Looper

While visiting Jamaica in July for the Seventh Day Baptist World Federation meetings, we talked to the representative of Polish SDB churches, Pawel Bujok. His son, Andrzej, translated for us.

The Bujoks spoke of their desire to develop new churches and move into new areas in Poland where churches have not been.

One of their biggest concerns was a Bible correspondence course to mail to people across Poland. If they are to reach the entire country, the current books need to be revised and then printed. They will need to publish several tens of thousands of these books.

The expense for the revision and publication is about \$4,000. This is one way in which we can help our Polish brethren and encourage them to further works.



Pawel Bujok (left) and his son, Andrzej, represented Poland at the World Federation meetings in Jamaica.

For more information please contact: SDB Missionary Society, 119 Main Street, Westerly RI 02891, or phone (401) 596-4326. SR

## Argentina faces huge tax assessment

by Kirk Looper

The Missionary Society office recently received a fax from Pastor Jose Alegre of Argentina. He expressed discouragement about the lack of funds to help in the work there.

Pastor Alegre returned to Argentina several years ago to promote and encourage the outreach work.

Workers reconstructed the facility, updating the water, sewer, and other essentials to match the village codes and meet needs to use the building as a church.

Although this work is not completed, enough of it has been done to allow the government to assess them taxes for almost \$6,000. A

help, but it is not enough to pay the total bill. Brazil is also helping with these needs.

Pastor Alegre is a dedicated worker in this area. As a missionary from the Australasia Conference, Australia and New Zealand are also helping him. For a time, Brazil also sent him funds to help meet his personal needs.

We hope that individuals will commit themselves to regularly contribute to enable the work in Argentina to continue. Without funds, Pastor Alegre will need to return to Australia, and work to earn enough money that can be used in Argentina.

Please pray fervently for this work as Pastor Alegre reaches out to many in Argentina. SR

**Enough of the work on the building has been done to allow the government to assess them taxes for almost \$6,000.**

They acquired a building in Moran, a small village not far from Buenos Aires.

call was sent to some of the larger churches to help raise the needed funds, and the Missionary Society was able to send \$1,000. This will



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

## Baptist Women's Union news: An SDB perspective

October in San Diego—a perfect choice for the 10th quinquennial assembly of the North American Baptist Women's Union!

NABWU is an organization which began in 1952 and has grown to include 21 different Baptist denominations from the Caribbean to Canada. Since this assembly meets only once every five years, it was indeed a great opportunity that Jackie Payne and Jean Lewis could attend and represent Seventh Day Baptists. The following is their report.

About 400 sisters came from the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean and were joined by guests from further away. The fellowship was warm and loving among ladies who had never met before.

The opening program included a parade of banners created by many of the member groups. The logo of a woman's hands "reaching up, reaching in, reaching out" surrounded us.

During each meeting, a dramatic theme presentation was given by Ruth Bell, a local Christian performer and teacher. Her roles ranged from contemporary homemakers to biblical personalities, and from the ridiculous to the spiritually moving.

Daily chapel, led by Joyann Goddard of Barbados, prepared us for the morning's work. "Let's Talk" had the format of a TV talk show, with seven women and NABWU President Jennifer Sudderth sharing a microphone. Jean represented our president, Ruth Probasco, men-

tioning the projects of our national Women's Society.

The music was inspiring and entertaining. A local church choir performed for us one evening. Solos, duets, and quartets were interspersed each day. The congregational singing brought to mind our SDB Conferences. Jackie especially enjoyed Carol McClure on the harp.

to see the beautiful native costumes from so many countries in North America, as well as each of the continents in the Baptist World Alliance. Even the menu reflected our diversity, from "tortilla chips and salsa" through "assorted French pastries"!

As women from diverse cultural, social, and denominational backgrounds, we need to unite to reach

**The fellowship was warm and loving among ladies who had never met before.**

Thursday afternoon was filled with workshops. How does one choose two from the 13 offered? Jean received many fresh ideas and confirmation of ideas already in use from "Revitalizing Your Women's Ministry."

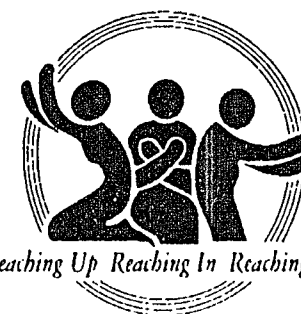
Jackie's favorite workshop, "Designing a Personalized Quiet Time," was led by a former missionary wife and featured six keynote addresses. What a blessing to hear Elisabeth Elliott after reading her book *Through Gates of Splendor*, an account of her husband's missionary service and death in Ecuador.

Business matters included the adoption of by-laws and a reminder of the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer offering. Participants were asked to bring items to share for a battered women's shelter.

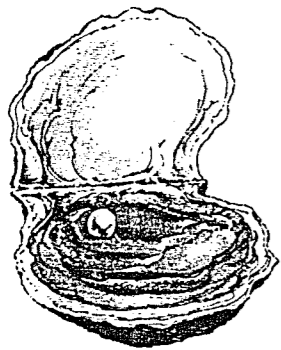
Friday offered a free afternoon for touring, followed by the International Banquet. It was exciting

up to the Lord in worship and song; reach in with honesty and humility; and reach out in understanding and love. SR

*How thankful we are that Jean Lewis and Jackie Payne were able to represent SDB women at this assembly and send us their reports. I regret that it was necessary to consolidate two fine reports due to space limitations.—Donna S. Bond*



Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## Sabbath part of our kinship

For the past two years, Seventh Day Baptists have seriously considered our covenant relationship within a kinship system. This system carries a sense of kinship which extends beyond that of any genealogical family ties.

We have attempted to reach out to others in our communities to get back to the basics of accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior. That old hymn written by Edward Mote in 1834 could well be our theme song for today's church:

*"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness;*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame,*

*But wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand."*

Although a solid foundation is essential, its main function is for building. Who wants to live on the foundation alone, no matter how firm it might be? How many people would congregate week after week to worship God if there were no superstructure built upon the foundation, no matter how deep it went to reach the solid rock?

To carry the analogy one step further, how many people would choose to live in homes that were all alike? Even in housing developments where one basic architecture is used, personal preferences are expressed by interior arrangements and decor. The same is true with churches which may range from storefront to cathedrals.

As a historian, I must look not

only at the foundations of our denomination, but also at the structures providing the distinctive shelter within which we develop community and family.

Believer's baptism and the Sabbath have been vital elements in our spiritual homes. Some have viewed these as walls of separation, while others as supportive walls where loving relationships are fostered.

Whether these walls are in a home or a church, they have doors which open to invite and windows through which light can shine. To the homeless or wanderers, these walls may provide the very sanctuary they long for.

Our first church in America was founded upon the sure foundation of Christ, building upon it what God, the Master Architect, had revealed to the first members as His plan.

All indications show that Samuel and Tacy Hubbard had covenant relationships within the church in Massachusetts and were instrumental in organizing a church in Springfield. In 1647, they felt God's leading in "the holy ordinance of baptizing only of visible believers," as Samuel expressed it in his journal. Thus they moved to Newport, R.I., where they found covenant relationship in the Baptist Church.

Even after they were led to accept the seventh day Sabbath, they continued in that covenant relationship until two other couples who had come to the Sabbath, gave it up and even spoke against it. Thus the covenant was broken, and the remaining Sabbathkeepers joined in covenant with the Stephen Mumfords who had been Sabbath observers in England.

In 1671, they signed a covenant which recognized God's direction for themselves and their children, and continued with the words:

*...We entered into Covenant with the Lord and with one another, and gave ourselves to God and each other, to walk together in all God's Holy Commandments and the Ordinances according to What the Lord had Discovered & Should Discover to us to be his mind for us to be obedient unto; with Sence upon our Hearts of great need to be watchful over one another, Did promise so to do, and in Building and Edyfyng each other in our Most Holy faith.*

In 1705, Edmund Dunham, a deacon in the Piscataway, N.J., Baptist Church, came to the Sabbath along with 17 others of his Bible study group who failed to find biblical support for observance of Sunday as the Sabbath. With this common bond of the Sabbath, they established their own covenant community.

The kinship of the Sabbath drew them to close fellowship with the Sabbathkeepers in Rhode Island where Pastor Dunham was ordained. As members moved, they tended to migrate as families and establish other covenant communities, or settle where there were already churches of like faith.

Following the Revolutionary War, a number of families from Piscataway joined the migration from a sister church in Shrewsbury as they migrated to western Pennsylvania and hence to western Virginia where their covenant faith established such churches as New Salem and Lost Creek. The process continued across New York State and west into Wisconsin, the Great Plains, and on to the Pacific.

As early as 1846, *The Sabbath Recorder* carried articles urging people who were contemplating a move to consider various locations

*cont. on page 26*



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—January 1997

Missionary Society Executive Kirk Looper updates readers on situations in Indonesia (new leaders), and African countries of Malawi (new wells), Zambia (Conference meetings), and Rwanda (registering SDBs with government).

Women's Society page shows urgency of uniforms for Christian women in Zambia.

Jeffrey Hazen reports on his summer missions trip to Jamaica.

"Pearls" page marks its 100th installment.

"Pastor Jus Start" promotes a Tither's Covenant on the Board of Christian Education page.

Russ Johnson reviews steps in planting a new work in Rome, N.Y.

### Five years ago—January 1993

Kirk Looper reports on his trip to Africa. Looper was accompanied by Rev. Leon Lawton and Dr. Ron Davis.

Ron Elston, Regional Field Worker, looks at new outreach opportunities in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

"Pearls" page remembers Rev. James L. Scott's missionary tour of America's Midwest.

Church members Valerie Heath and Linda Greene share testimonies of faith.

Christian Education page lists new teaching resources available.

### 10 years ago—January 1988

With the theme, "Our Nearby Mission," Director of Extension Rodney Henry presents many practical opportunities to reach unbelieving neighbors.

Matthew and Ellen Olson make plans for a short-term missions project in the Philippines.

Group in Charleston, S.C., seeks meeting place.

Board of Christian Education lists their many training workshops and seminars available to the local church.

Historian Don Sanford and wife, Ilou, make their own "missionary journey" through central Ohio.

Jamaica's SDB Bible Institute signs up 15 new students.

### 25 years ago—January 1973

Missions emphasis issue features testimonies from SDB missionaries Elizabeth Maddox, Leroy Bass, Sarah Becker, David Pearson, and Wayne Crandall.

Outreach group "Light Bearers for Christ" is granted tax-deductible donation status.

Lay training sessions offered for interdenominational evangelistic thrust, "Key '73."

Special vocations issue, compiled by the Board of Christian Education, is edited by Mary Clare. Writers come from the Alfred Station, N.Y., church.

Washington, D.C., church holds a Spiritual Life Conference during New Year's break. The conference includes special speakers and actual witnessing on streets of Georgetown.

### 50 years ago—January 1948

Ten different people share "My Testimony for Christ and His Sabbath." All are from the new SDB church of Indianapolis, Ind.

"Light to the Hills" features mission and makeup of Salem (W.Va.) College.

Long-time SDB pastor, the Rev. Walter L. Greene, announces his retirement. He served his last church (Andover, N.Y.) for 27 years.

Dates for General Conference pushed ahead one week to August 17-22.

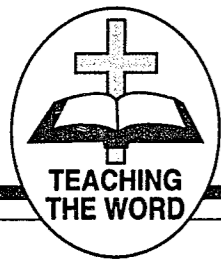
China missionary Miss Sarah Becker relates about the seed planted by former missionary Mrs. H. Eugene Davis: "You go right ahead and study for nursing; some day we may need you in China."

*...where are we headed?*

### Pray for—

- our SDB Conferences around the world
- extension pastors Russ Johnson and Ron Elston
- our local outreach efforts
- new members of outreach group "Stained Glass"
- your positive witness in the workplace
- renewed vision for your church and leadership
- a blessed and peaceful new year





## Young adults in the church

Pastor Jus Start had just started his opening comments of *The Helping Hand* Sabbath School class when Mrs. I.N. Decision suddenly exclaimed: "I heard some of our young adults talking about our worship service. One young man said that our church's worship services don't please God!"

Deacon Faithful responded, "Who can say what kind of worship pleases God? I've attended a lot of different churches with a variety of worship practices. They all believe they're worshipping God. How can this young man know the mind of God?"

Mr. Newmember, anxious because of the direction the Sabbath School conversation had taken, raised the question, "Don't we need new blood and new ideas? If we don't give our young people what they want, they'll just start going to some other church. Pastor, why don't you let the young people plan and lead a worship service?"

Pastor Jus Start gently suggested that discussing the needs of the church's young adults was appropriate to the day's *Helping Hand* lesson, which focused on preserving the faith.

Pastor Start acknowledged that *dropping out* of church seemed to be a characteristic of many young adults. "Some older high school youth begin to declare their adult decision-making status through dropping out of church."

Mrs. I.N. Decision asked Pastor Start, "The church I used to attend had the same problem getting young people in church. Why don't

young adults attend church? Why don't they just say what they want from the church?"

At that moment Superintendent Ed Christian joined the class and volunteered an explanation. "It's not just wanting something from the church. Young adults are in a transition mode in their college-age years and into their late twenties. They are moving from *their* pre-adult world into *their* adult world.

"Some young adults object to being labeled as *young* adults and feel they are in some ways just less experienced adults. They want to be free to explore possibilities, make preliminary choices, and become one's own person.

"Young adults don't necessarily find in many of our churches opportunities to explore different roles and religious experiences. It's their parent's church and their parent's worship service.

"They don't know why their parents and grandparents worship that way, and they don't feel their parents know why either. That's where we're missing out on our opportunity to teach our faith."

Listening to Mr. Christian's comments, Pastor Start observed, "In his book, *Seasons of a Man's Life*, Daniel Levinson suggests that adults in their middle twenties are *pioneers*. They are exploring territory or experiences new to them. Young adults are doing many things for the first time and establishing a new world—including a relationship with God and His People—for themselves.

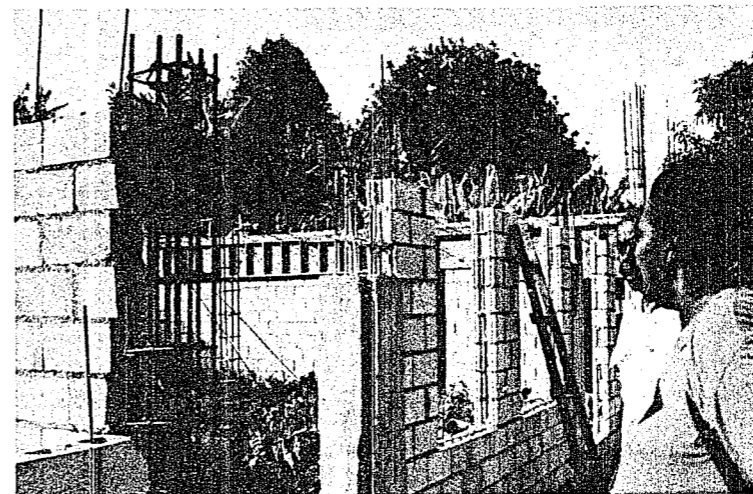
"A Gallup Poll found that people

who have dropped out of church during or after high school are likely to return to church during their thirties. The poll found that one-third reported a significant faith change between 16 and 30. The survey noted that the average age of faith change was 28."

Superintendent Christian, thinking out loud, said, "I was remembering that I didn't attend church when I went away to college. When I got my first job after graduating, I didn't have time for church. It wasn't until I met Grace and we decided to get married that church became important to me. Loving God and Jesus Christ was important to Grace, and I 'caught it' from her. I really miss Grace in my life."

Pastor Start summarized for the class: "Our young adults need opportunities to be *faith pioneers*. We who are older need to teach our faith in order to provide helpful boundaries for the new pioneers. We need to teach why we worship in *our* way. We must be open to change, and yet 'be there' for the hard transitions of life—finding God in moving away from home, going to college, getting a job, building a marriage, and living through the death of a family member or friend."

Mrs. I.N. Decision reacted as she left the class. "Anything we can do to encourage our *pioneers* to preserve the faith, I'm for," she said. "I'll even try to put up with guitar songs at the beginning of worship, if it will keep them in church. I'm for doing new things, but not all at once!" SR



The Maiden Hall conference building is proceeding in Jamaica.

It was wonderful returning to Jamaica last July for the World Federation meetings. The country's beauty is breathtaking, and the welcome and fellowship with the people in our churches there is great.

The Jamaicans really know how to spoil a visitor, so one wants to return again soon. The beautiful singing and happy praise and worship times bring tears of joy.

One of the highlights of this visit came when we visited the Maiden Hall property. There, the Jamaica Conference is building a conference center. The property already has a church, a small building used for classrooms, and a large house where the caretaker lives.

The grounds are large enough to contain some coffee, cocoa, banana, and nutmeg trees, and gardens that grow many kinds of vegetables.

As we walked the grounds, it was easy to see why they had picked this particular area to place their conference center. With lush vegetation covering the surround-

ing hills, the houses and businesses appear to be placed strategically to enhance a rustic appearance.

These are not fancy houses that boast of financial excellence, but common homes that assure us of the stability of the owners who have a love for the country in which they live. They are proud people

As you can tell by the picture, the building is taking shape as the project moves along. The building consists of cement blocks and will contain two floors.

The bottom floor will have a mess hall and meeting rooms, with an upper floor for dormitory facilities. This building will be large enough to handle their own camp as well as renting it out to groups to hold meetings and conferences.

The building project could result in a means of income for the Jamaica Conference. This, in turn, will aid them to become more self-sufficient. Any time we can do things to help a Conference help itself, we are heading in the right direction.

We have seen the Jamaicans try several agricultural projects at Maiden Hall which have not developed into what was planned. This project should be much more successful since the temperature or insects will not have much effect on it. Let us pray that storms will

### The building project could result in a means of income for the Jamaica Conference.

who worked hard for their homes, land, and produce.

The Maiden Hall conference project presses forward depending upon the funds available. The project has had several starts and stops due to lack of finances to purchase building materials. Much of the labor is volunteer, which means that they can only work during specific times of the week or year. The weather also plays a vital part in the speed of the project.

not damage the buildings as seen in the past.

Achieving success in any project like this depends upon the workers and the commitment that each has in their relationship with God. We continue to pray for success for the Maiden Hall project and look forward to the time when we can participate in a conference which they will host in their new building. God bless them for continuing to persevere. SR



## The President's Page

by John D. Bevis

I just returned from heaven—well, almost.

Many will recall the song, "Country Roads," made famous by the late singer John Denver. "Country roads, take me home, to the place I belong... Almost heaven, West Virginia."

### Heavenly homecoming

I was happy to spend a recent weekend in Salem, W.Va. In a real way, it was a homecoming for me.

In 1968, I moved from Alabama to West Virginia to teach history at Salem College and remained there until 1973. That's when I became editor of *The Sabbath Recorder* and moved to Plainfield, N.J.

It was a privilege to bring the Sabbath message on the Conference theme. The Middle Island congregation also joined us in the service. The Salem church was established in 1792 and has had a tremendous witness over the years, especially to several generations of Seventh Day Baptist college students.

### Host Committee at work

The Conference Host Committee is ably chaired by Pastor Dale Thorngate. His years of serving as Executive Secretary for the denomination is a great asset to those of us planning for Conference 1998.

The committee, composed of Salem and Lost Creek folk, met twice while I was there. Together, we toured the facilities at West Virginia Wesleyan College in nearby Buckhannon. I appreciate the volunteer work of the Host Committee, and know that the

plans being made will result in a successful and meaningful Conference.

### Fort New Salem

As the early Seventh Day Baptist settlers arrived in Salem, they built a fort for protection. Today, Fort New Salem, located near the campus of Salem-Teikyo University, is a reminder of those early years.

We have made arrangements for those attending Conference to visit the Fort. On Friday afternoon of Conference week, the Fort, as well as the historic Salem church, will be open. The free tour at the Fort will include demonstrations of the early mountaineers' crafts.

Hopefully, you are making plans to be at Conference. West Virginia is "almost heaven," and we pray that heavenly blessings will fall on us as we meet for worship, business, workshops, music, and great fellowship.

### Visit in Riverside

In October, I was invited to Riverside, Calif., for the Pacific Coast Association meetings. This was my first visit to the beautiful new Riverside church. Some 300 people gathered for the Sabbath service.

Again, we had time to work on Conference plans with several from the West Coast. I am thankful to Pastor Gabriel Bejjani for this opportunity to visit and to share the Conference theme with so many.

### Eyeglasses for Africa

Last year, the Paint Rock, Ala., SDB Church sent 50 pairs of used eyeglasses to Malawi. At the 1997 Conference in Lindsborg, Kan., Pastor Royal Mkandawire expressed to me great appreciation for the eyeglasses. He related that many of our pastors and family members in Malawi are without eyeglasses of any kind, and he asked for our help.

I hope each church will respond to this call for assistance. Most of us have a pair or two of eyeglasses we can no longer wear, and so do many of our friends.

Will you help collect eyeglasses for Africa?

I invite you to bring them to Conference, where a box will be available to receive these gifts. Even usable sunglasses or magnifying glasses would be welcome.

"Eyeglasses for Africa" is a special missions project for Conference 1998. *SR*



Seeking Spiritual Maturity: *FAMILY LIFE*  
An annual emphasis of the SDB General Council

## Help kids make decisions based on biblical truth

Christian parents know they can't keep their children tucked safely behind the walls of a loving home forever. But before children grow up and head out to face today's "anything goes" world, parents can prepare them to make wise decisions based on biblical truth.

*How to Risk-Proof Your Kids*, from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), helps parents give their

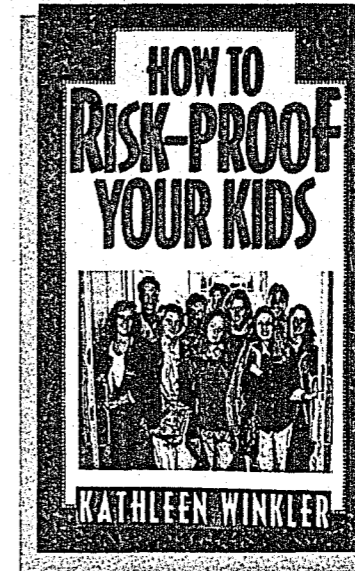
**Each chapter gives parents practical ways to guide their children to live by Christian values even when their peers oppose their beliefs.**

children the foundation they need to safely navigate the waters of adolescence.

Packed with advice from doctors, educators, ministers, and parents, this book shows how to help kids build a solid core of values they can cling to for life.

Each chapter gives parents practical ways to guide their children to live by Christian values even when their peers oppose their beliefs; understand the dangers of the temptations they'll face; resist drugs, alcohol, and sex; say "no" to valueless TV, music, and movies; and more.

*How To Risk-Proof Your Kids* offers a wealth of real-life examples



and information parents will be able to use right away. Parents can utilize this guidance and encouragement again and again to help their children make the right choices during their teen years and for the rest of their lives.

### About the author

Kathleen Winkler is a wife, mother, and journalist. She has written hundreds of articles on education, the arts, health and science, as well as books and educational material on current issues. Kathleen and her family live in Brookfield, Wis.

For more information, contact Doris Engstrom, 800-774-0274. *SR*

## Parents can build better relationship with adult children

As adult children grow and change, so does the parenting role. When children become adults, the relationship with their parents is redefined. It grows and changes. Strengthens and prospers. Breaks and reconnects.

*Share Life's Defining Moments: Relating to Your Grown Children* by Eldon Weisheit is an anecdotal look at "parenting an adult" from a Christian perspective. This book from CPH (Concordia Publishing House) helps parents learn, grow, and enjoy a good relationship with their adult children.

Each chapter helps parents learn to better communicate with their adult children. They'll discover when to draw closer to them and when to step back. The book also covers how to respond to family issues such as children moving back home, divorce, and more.

Eldon Weisheit also wrote *Ways to Grow: 101 Virtue-Building Devotions*, *I Take Out the Garbage Because I Love You*, *Psalms for Teens 1 and 2*, *Between the Rock and Hard Places*, and *This Is the Baby* picture book. *SR*

# Barn-bustin' Barnabas Weekend

by Marietta Sutton

Back in 1993, we sat in our Blountville, Tenn., living room with Rev. Russell Johnson and heard about the new contacts being made by Seventh Day Baptists in our area. We suddenly had an urge to meet these people and get to know them.

We asked Pastor Johnson to give us a mailing list of all contacts within a 400-mile radius of our group, Shepherd's Fold. We then sent out invitations for these people to come to our church at the end of September.

The goal was to gather together and share ideas about ways to start new churches, to encourage each other, and to pray for God's work in this area of the country.

Since Barnabas was the Apostle Paul's encourager, and was used by Paul to help new churches sort out problems and move in positive ways, we decided to name the occasion "Barnabas Gathering."

The first meeting was a scaled down version of the "Old West." Meals were prepared out of a chuck wagon and eaten at tables in the

and besides its regular duties, our Advisory Committee became the Ordination Preparation Committee and Host Committee, planning the programs and meals for the occasion.

All the credentials of our candidate were collected, and the Committee advised the church that Pastor Malone's credentials were in order.

It recommended that the church invite delegates from the sister churches in our Association and General Conference to come and form an Ordination Council.

As a new congregation with some 25-30 people, many had to do "double duty." Everyone car-



Shepherd's Fold Pastor Ed Sutton was honored for his 30 years of pastoral ministry.

crafts for the kids.

Sabbath began with a Tennessee breakfast outside in the warm morning sun. As we ate, we were accompanied by an incredible bird-song chorus. Did you know that coffee and hot chocolate taste better when you drink it outside?

We fed about 60 at 8:30 a.m. Later, we gathered for a good old-fashioned hymn sing and praise time in the sanctuary—upstairs in the barn's hayloft. David Russell was at the piano, which is always a blessing.

At 10:30, we began the worship service. A special presentation was given by the newly-formed "Y.F. Connection." The "Connection" represents their relationship to Jesus Christ, to each other in loyalty and support, and to their church (which is very proud of them). It was an impressive drama that effectively used music and pantomime.

The official list of delegates represented 10 churches, two officials

from the denomination, and the chairman of the Associational Executive Committee. Four letters of recommendation were read prior to Pastor Tony presenting his statement of faith and beliefs.

Immediately after his presentation, the Ordination Council appointed Rev. John Camenga as the council moderator, and Marie Zwiebel as recording secretary. (Pastor John ministers at our sponsor church in Daytona Beach, Fla.; Marie is a member of the Salem, W.Va., church.)

At the conclusion of the question/answer session, the candidate was found to be in agreement with the SDB Statement of Beliefs. By unanimous vote, the council recommended to the Shepherd's Fold Ministry Church that Pastor Tony Malone be ordained.

Our church was prepared to hold a special business meeting, and did so. We unanimously voted to proceed with the ordination after lunch, and all present were invited to attend the 3:00 p.m. service.

The ordination service included special music by Jan Maiden (Tony's friend), the Russell family, a solo by Ben Russell, and a saxophone solo by Michael Fansler.

Pastor Camenga read the Scripture, and Dr. Clay Austin of the First Baptist Church of Blountville delivered the ordination sermon.

Pastor Clay was the one who encouraged Pastor Tony to follow his call to the ministry five years ago, and helped him to begin his education toward that end. Tony was a member of the First Baptist Church until 1995, when he needed "field work" experience and requested that our pastor, Ed Sutton, mentor him at our church.

The Charge to the Candidate was presented by Pastor Sutton, and the Charge to the Church was given by Pastor Dale Thorngate of the Salem SDB Church. The Prayer of Consecration and the calling for the Laying on of Hands was given by Pastor Ray Winborne, pastor of the Low Country SDB Ministry in Charleston, S.C.

Pastor Mike Burns of the Hebron, Pa., SDB Church gave the Welcome to the Ministry, and Rev. Malone gave the Benediction.

What a time of celebration came following this service! It felt like a small version of what Pentecost must have been like.

George Blackburn, a very special friend of Pastor Ed, his wife,

Marietta, and the Shepherd's Fold family, stopped by with reminiscences of "days gone by" in rural America. He has often brought his draft horses and a wagon to provide rides for all. This year, he brought small engines from his collection. These engines (one was a corn grinder) were used in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

After the catered supper, we

all gathered in the sanctuary for another typical Barnabas weekend activity: a variety show.

This was not your usual variety show. There were the Methodist Clowns, the Adagio gymnastics, sax and harmonica solos, voice solos, guitars, and all. However, one special moment was "Grandpa" Larry Bledsoe singing "Greensleeves," with Pastor Tony playing the guitar. They received a standing ovation.

"Grandpa" is our most distant (in miles only) non-resident member. We think he is 83, but who's counting? He flew into Blountville in 1994 to sign the first Covenant, and again this year for Pastor Tony's ordination. Larry is from Almagordo, N.M., and a great blessing to our church family.

The evening continued with a surprise from Pastor Tony. He sang an original song for Lelia Blevins (our church secretary/clerk), and then got down on his knee and *proposed*. We were flabbergasted! (We all had waited for that moment, and there was quite a joyous uproar when it happened!)

But wait—there's more! Pastor Tony and others had secretly organized a recognition of Pastor Ed's 30 years of ministry. He was called to ordination by his first church (the New Auburn, Wis., SDB Church) after graduating from seminary.

A mild "roasting" of Pastor Sutton was enjoyed by all. Pastor Tony and Michael Fansler sang a wonderful song they wrote in honor of Pastor Ed, and the youth presented a beautiful banner. He also received a plaque denoting the anniversary. And, of course, there were hugs all around!

What an incredible weekend! We at Shepherd's Fold Ministry invite you to add this special event to your calendar, September 25-27, 1998, and let us know you're coming. It would be good to have you join us in bringing glory to God by way of Barnabas Weekend! **SR**

## By unanimous vote, the council recommended to the Shepherd's Fold Ministry Church that Pastor Tony Malone be ordained.

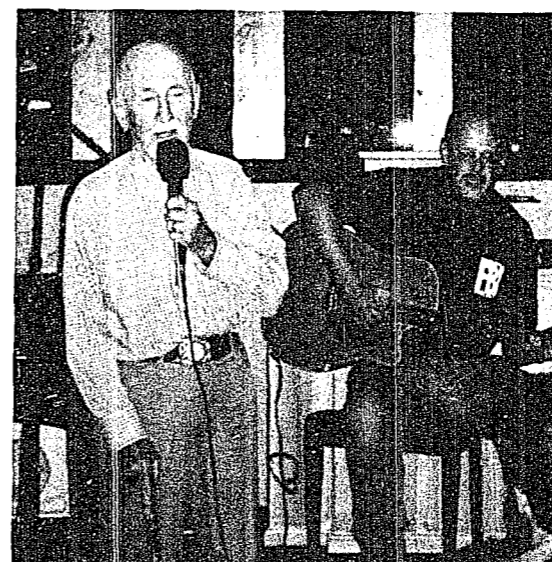
open air. The weekend was such a great experience that we were asked to do it again in 1994. Barnabas Gathering became a much anticipated annual experience.

This year, the fourth annual Barnabas Gathering on September 20-21 was an historic milestone event. The focal point of the entire weekend was the ordination of our assistant pastor, Tony Malone.

Months before the actual dates

ried out their responsibilities wonderfully. Guests stayed in members' homes and in nearby motels, with the church providing Sabbath and Sunday breakfast. The noon meal and supper on Sabbath were catered out in back of the church, "on the green."

Thanks to steady improvements in renovating a barn into our church, a third major space was available for displays and



Larry "Grandpa" Bledsoe singing his rendition of "Greensleeves." Accompanying on guitar is newly ordained Assistant Pastor Tony Malone.

## White Cloud celebrates 80th

by Margaret Stevens

October 18, 1997, was a high day at the SDB Church in White Cloud, Mich. Members and friends of the church gathered to celebrate 80 years of faithful service to the community and to the worship of God.

The church began as a Sabbath-keeping group consisting of five Branch brothers. They had been members of the Church of God in Hartford, Mich., before moving into the wilderness of White Cloud. The brothers, their families, and a father-in-law, Gilbert Cranmer, met in log cabins and sometimes in a logging mill until they were able to build a small church in the country.

The membership grew to include many more families in the area. Then, through an association with the Battle Creek (Mich.) SDB Church, and especially through the efforts of Rev. M.B. Kelley and Dr. B.F. Johanson, the White Cloud SDB Church was born.

On our birthday Sabbath in October, the sanctuary was especially festive, with fresh flowers and hanging banners made by the Banner Committee.

The service was divided into

three parts: *The Past*, during which Norma Rudert told of the church's beginnings; *The Present*, as Ed Cruzan related current programs and works in progress; and *The Future*, envisioned by Pastor Bernie Wethington.

Following each of these, blessings were offered upon the servants of the church. Bill Altman, a new member, blessed the past; Ed Cruzan blessed the present; and our Pastor Emeritus, Orville Babcock, blessed the future.

Greetings were read from several who now live away but had grown up in the church. They recounted their memories of what the church had meant to them.

Gigi (Rudert) Hines sang "Find Us Faithful." During Communion, she sang "How Beautiful" while our seminarian intern, Nello Carmichael, blessed the cup.

After the service, we enjoyed dinner in the newly-paneled dining room.



Pastors Bernie Wethington (l.) and Orville Babcock.

Altogether, it was a very special day—a day in which we honored the past and renewed our faith in the future of our church.

Pastor Bernie, his wife, Patti, and their children (Sean, 16; Leanne, 12; and Jenna, 9) have become a significant part of not only our church family but our entire community. Their enthusiasm and devotion to God have enlivened and inspired us all. *SR*

## Allegheny Association at Canadian Exhibition

by Hugh Fyffe

Who are Seventh Day Baptists? What is the difference between Seventh Day Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists?

These were the two most frequently asked questions by visitors to the Allegheny SDB Association booth at the recently concluded Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Canadian National Exhibition is the largest cultural, agricultural, and commercial fair of its kind in Canada, with attendance

of over half a million during its 16-day duration. The booth was staffed daily by four members of the Toronto church, this year's host church. They worked two shifts of two, attracting a large number of visitors, Christian and non-Christian.

An 18-foot white banner at the front of the booth proclaimed in large black letters, "Allegheny Association of Seventh Day Baptist Churches, Host Church Toronto." Inside, two long tables displayed

a wide assortment of SDB literature.

The walls were adorned with pictures of the Association's churches, and an SDB video played, along with an electronic sign—"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."

At the end of the exhibition, many people had learned of Seventh Day Baptists for the very first time, while those staffing the booth had a meaningful spiritual experience. *SR*

## Richburg reaching out

by Ruth Bottoms

I was reminded at our annual meeting recently that we at the Richburg, N.Y., church had not sent any correspondence to *The Sabbath Recorder* for quite some time. Well, here's the latest.

We had a Christian contractor give us a very generous quote for fixing the front steps and installing a new ramp. He and his wife painted the triple railing at no extra charge.

We surmise that the contractor (and a few times his college-age daughter) may have donated their time to the main project as well. Praise the Lord for this provision,

and the donors who gave generously to fund it.

As it is with many small, struggling Seventh Day Baptist churches, our coffers are being stretched to the limit and beyond. We try to cope with ever-rising costs of insurance, utilities, and upkeep, which has included some kitchen improvements and a new ceiling in one of the parsonage bedrooms. We are now facing what may be a major garage floor replacement.

Believing that "with God all things are possible," we continue our outreach to the community and surrounding area. Special mailings are sent out prior to Resurrection Sabbath and Advent that contain both a Sabbath and a seasonal tract, a pocket calendar, and a letter from Pastor Bob Harris inviting them to our services.

We held weekly Religious Release Time classes for six weeks last spring, followed by a Community Revival with Ron Elston and the Wests (Speedy and Queenie). Many had attended VBS the year before.

Ron Elston reports that three young ladies gave their lives to



The Richburg church now enjoys new steps and accessible ramp.



Pastor Robert Harris (right) with a happy attendee at the church-sponsored Community Revival.

Jesus. We praise God for His faithfulness.

As a result of those activities, we have seven children attending church on a fairly regular basis. Transportation is provided by the

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**Believing that  
"with God all things  
are possible," we continue  
our outreach to  
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surrounding area.**

---

pastor and volunteers, with an approximate 25-30 miles of extra driving time.

The eldest of the children was baptized in October, along with Pastor Bob's son (thanks to the use of Alfred Station's baptistry) and both have since joined the church. It is hopeful the parents of these new attendees can also be reached through this ministry.

Other special church events include: a sack lunch and Bible Study, using Rod Henry's book, *The Sabbath, God's Creation for Our Benefit*; our annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner on November 22nd; and a Sabbath pre-Christmas breakfast on December 20.

We all continue to enjoy *The Sabbath Recorder* with its diverse and interesting articles, including, of course, the wit and humor of Kevin's Korner.

P.S. Bob Stohr, one of our most faithful members, is home again after several months of hospital and rehab. Our ramp was done just in time for his new electric wheelchair. Bob still has a long way to go before he can be completely on his own again. Prayers for his recovery will be appreciated. *SR*

# Outreach Bible Church new member of Conference

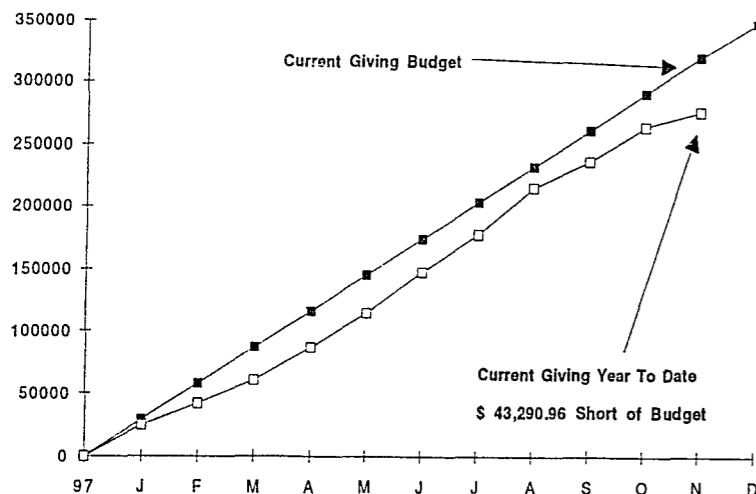


The congregation of the Outreach Bible Church of Portage, Wis., stands in front of the Zona Gale Center for the Arts. The group continues to meet in this building but members are seeking to purchase or build their own facility.

This dynamic new church is under the leadership of Pastor Keith Julson. Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock welcomed the group as a member church of the SDB Conference at meetings in August.

Your gifts to the Denominational Budget help to support the mechanics of outreach and church growth. Please give generously during this new year.

## Current Giving 1997



## 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.*

Kevin Butler, Editor:

In the November 1997 issue of *The Sabbath Recorder*, Stephen Osborn's "I dunno" essay, "Tuned in to the Trinity," provides a unique study in sophism where polytheism becomes veiled in a mantle of monotheism and antinomianism in a mantle of Gospel unity. "I dunno" what SDBs will think of next.

William Vis  
West Palm Beach, FL

## Is God's dollar growing toward Conference '98?



Last August, Calvin Babcock challenged all of us at General Conference. Everyone there received a "talent" from God—a dollar bill. We were instructed to take that talent and decide how it would be used for the Lord's kingdom and work.

Is your talent yielding interest? A special offering at Conference in Buckhannon will demonstrate God's faithfulness and our resourcefulness.

## Accessions

**Atlanta, GA**  
*Luis Lovelace, pastor*  
Joined by letter  
David Pearson  
Bettie Pearson

**Bay Area, CA**  
*Steven Crouch, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Rafael Velasquez  
Joined after testimony  
Matilda Perez

**Berlin, NY**  
*Matthew Olson, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
Emilie Hempstead  
Don Hempstead  
Patty Hempstead  
Joined after testimony  
Jeremy Bullinger  
Joined by letter  
Faith Michaels

**Denver, CO**  
*Jim Galanaugh, pastor*  
Joined by testimony  
Tracy Conrod

**Stonefort, IL**  
*Doug Burkhamer, pastor*  
Joined by letter  
Tim Parsley

## Obituaries

**Hunt.**—Jack Hunt, 74, died on June 22, 1997, at his home in Lakewood, Colo.

He was born in Long Branch, N.J., on November 20, 1922. On December 16, 1951, he married Neva C. Brannon in Temple City, Calif.

Jack served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. After his discharge, he became an electrical engineer for American Metal Climax, both in Riverside, Calif., and Denver, Colo.

He was baptized into the Christian Faith on August 2, 1980. From that time on, he actively served and witnessed, attesting to his faith.

Survivors include his wife, Neva; two daughters, Michele Wheeler of Wake Forest, N.C., and Shelley Shobe of Washington, D.C.; one brother, Albert, of Bethel, Conn.; and five grandchildren.

A private memorial service was held at the family home with all children and grandchildren attending. Pastor Ralph Grosser officiated.

**Lindhahl.**—Charlotte Zalia Lindahl, 91, died on October

19, 1997, at Fairview Nursing Home in Dodge Center, Minn. She was born on October 8, 1906, in Ashland Township of Dodge County, Minn., the daughter of Ulysses and Charlotte (Langford) Langworthy. On October 31, 1926, she was united in marriage to Marvin N. Lindahl in Dodge Center. He died on February 24, 1979.

Charlotte was a 70-year resident of Dodge Center, serving for 15 years as secretary for Farm Bureau Insurance in Dodge Center. She also served as secretary of Riverbend Cemetery for many years. She was a member of the Dodge Center Seventh Day Baptist Church, where she was active in the Ladies' Aid.

Survivors include two sons, Merwin of Dodge Center and Robert of Pine Island, Minn.; one daughter, Irene Conrad of Santa Barbara, Calif.; one sister, Edith Kramer of Dodge Center; eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded

in death by two brothers, two sisters, and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held on October 23, 1997, at the Dodge Center SDB Church, with Pastor Dale E. Rood officiating. Interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Dodge Center.

**Hibbard.**—Ida Mae Hibbard, 93, died of a stroke on November 11, 1997, at Villa Rehabilitation and Continuing Care in Riverside, Calif.

Born in Pinebluff, Ark., Ida lived in Riverside for 67 years. She was a homemaker and a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. She enjoyed fishing, camping, and crocheting.

Survivors include seven sons, four daughters, 32 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held on November 19, 1997, at the Riverside SDB Church. Burial was in Pierce Brothers Crestlawn Memorial Park, Riverside.

# Never alone—a testimony

by Faith Michaels



*"During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

—From the reading "Footprints"

There were many times in my life I had felt alone. Not just lonely but *alone*, as if no one knew my thoughts, desires, or needs. But

---

**... I now know  
that God loves me,  
that I am His  
precious child,  
and that He will  
never leave  
me alone.**

---

never had I felt more alone than when I was pregnant.

During that time, though, I did a great deal of soul-searching. I knew I had fallen away from everything God wanted for me; I just didn't know how to get back to where I

should be. There were too many unanswered questions.

But God knew my despair and brought me home, literally. And being home again gave me the chance to work things out and find answers to my questions, to end my confusion.

He also brought me to this church through a conversation with a very dear, sweet friend. I have been welcomed here with such love, so different than what I remember church to be when I was growing up.

And, most importantly, God has carried me home spiritually! I no longer wonder and worry about raising Cassie, as I did when I was pregnant. I know that although I am a single parent, I am never alone in raising Cassie or in any other area of my life. I know, now, that God loves me, that I *am* His precious child, and that He will never leave me alone. **SR**

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*Faith Michaels is a new member of the Berlin, N.Y., SDB Church. Her daughter Cassandra is 2.*

## Sabbath part of, *cont. from page 14*

which gave the advantage of Sabbath worship among other SDBs.

In more recent years, the Sabbath has continued to be a part of the kinship equation in deciding where to live, where to go to school, and where to worship. In my own experience, it was the presence of the Seventh Day Baptist church and its connection with the college which drew me to Milton, Wis., over 50 years ago.

Twenty years later, when a move seemed necessary, there was little question where we wished to make our home as we came back to the

covenant family at Milton. Nor were we alone in this desire. In 1990, I found 34 different Seventh Day Baptist churches represented in the Milton membership. I do not know all of the reasons for these transfers, but I do know that the Sabbath was the deciding factor in many of these moves.

Over the past few years, I have become increasingly aware of many individuals across the country and in Canada who have been longing for a covenant relationship in a Sabbathkeeping church. A relationship which is based upon the solid

rock foundation of God's Commandments and the promise of salvation through an acceptance of Jesus Christ, but unencumbered by a multitude of doctrines or works of human origin.

We cannot adequately minister in a covenant relationship to all those who long for what has been entrusted to us as a people for over three centuries. However, I believe that we will be held accountable if we do not include the Sabbath as a part of that structure built upon "Christ the solid Rock on which we stand." **SR**

# K E V I N ' S

## O R N E R

I just got the greatest gadget!  
It's called a "clock."

*What's so great about that?* you think as you look at your own clock on the wall.

Well, this is not just any old clock. You see, my clock is quite likely more accurate than yours.

*How can he be so confident?* you ask.

It's because my little desk clock is linked, via radio signals, to the U.S. government's atomic clock in Boulder, Colorado.

*Oh, like the government is always on time...*

Would you give me a chance here? Seriously, this clock checks the continuous

signal from station WWV several times a day, resets itself, and is accurate to within 1/10th of a second of this "official" time. The atomic clock governs time for all broadcast stations and space flights, and it's accurate to one second in 1.8 million years!!

*Uh-huh... So?*

SO?!! So now—besides basically begging people to ask me what time it is—I can know exactly when the news will come on at the top of the hour, when sporting events should start, plus let my kids know exactly how late they are for their next appointment!

Every New Year's Eve, I will know whether or not the big lighted ball in Times Square is really square on time!

*Speaking of time, I've really got to go...*

But don't you want hear more about my clock?

*No time right now!*

Okay, maybe some other time.

Speaking of time, isn't this a fun time of year for calendars?

Don't you feel renewed when you get to take out your old, wrinkled, messily-marked up date book and replace it with a shiny new one with blank pages?

When I pull the old one out of my nice, maroon

leather binder, and tuck in twelve brand new months—it's like getting a new lease on life.

Pastor and writer Greg Asimakopoulos (say that three times fast; or even one time slow) shares that when we handle a new calendar, and flip though all those crisp, unblemished pages of days to come, we can grip more than just a calendar.

Those unmarked pages show the message of God's grace, and we can grip the Father's hand. Greg says, "He is a God for whom our yesterdays are a cancelled check and our tomorrows are a promissory note."

What we failed to accomplish last year is passed. We don't need to be held hostage by the regrets and mistakes of 1997.

Each sunrise announces a new opportunity to make up for wasted moments. We can simply start over.

The blank squares on your calendar aren't just opportunities to start over; they are opportunities to trust God for the appointments that we can't write down in advance. Events, opportunities, sorrows, blessings.

God will write in some divine appointments in our datebooks—ink from His pen that may pre-empt some of the plans we want to scribble down. Like my little atomic clock, God may need to periodically reset our priorities and schedules.

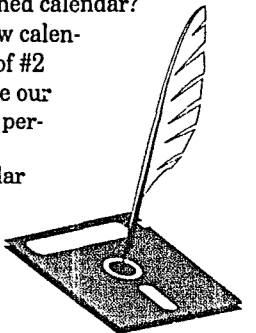
When those divine appointments show up unexpectedly, let's lay our calendars before the Lord, and pass Him our pen, too.

You know what it is you fear about the coming year. Maybe it relates to your marriage or job or parents or choices your kids will make.

Why not give those fears to the Lord as he gives you the gift of a blank, unblemished calendar?

And maybe as we open our new calendars, we should break out a box of #2 pencils (with full erasers) to write our appointments, and let God use a permanent marker.

Let God give you a new calendar today.



## Web Site Contest!

Help us design a new home page for the Tract Council and SR. Send us your "sdbmedia" ideas by March 1st and your design could get world-wide exposure. (Plus get you some logo goodies!!)

## If you're saved and you know it...

...send us your salvation testimony and share the greatest news known to mankind. We want your brief (500 words or less) story and photo to spread God's life-changing love to others. (Address on p. 3)

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WORLD ALLIANCE DAY

Sunday, February 1, 1998



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Christ!

The LORD  
of the Nations

Revelation 7:9-10

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6733 Curran Street

Fax: +1-703-893-5160

McLean VA 22101-6005 USA E-mail: [BWA@bwanet.org](mailto:BWA@bwanet.org)

Tel: +1-703-790-8980

Website: [www.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.org)