

The

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abbath

News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists

December 1998

R

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**“Let’s get to work!”**

**Living your faith  
in the workplace**



## 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 for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

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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.

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# The Sabbath Recorder

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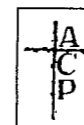


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# Living your faith in the workplace



*Church  
folks just  
like you share  
how they witness  
for Christ on the job*

## Meditations of faith in the workplace

by Norm Burdick

Dearest Lord,

What a whirlwind at the office today! All those people calling, demanding and needing our work product.

Call after call. File after file. Day after day. So much to do and sometimes so little time.

As I work through the day, I must admit that I rarely think about You or live my Christian faith in one of the most important areas of my life.

But You hit me between the eyes just a couple of weeks ago when the pastor preached on 2 Peter 1:5-11. In that sermon, I learned that You had done Your part and that now it was time to do mine.

2 Peter 1:5-11 says, "Because you have these blessings, do your best to add these things to your lives: to your faith, add goodness; and to your goodness, add knowledge; and to your knowledge, add self-control; and to your self-control, add patience; and to your patience, add service for God; and to your service for

God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love.

"If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowl-

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*I have discovered the  
wonderful blessings  
that come with living the  
2 Peter 1:5-11 example.*

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edge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins.

"My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall. And you will be given a very great welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (New Century Version).

Lord, I thought the pastor was talking directly to me. What have I done lately for You? Especially in the workplace? I really don't want to make waves there.

Is that because I lack the courage to tell my co-workers that I am a Christian? Do I just use the excuse that I am so busy that I don't have time for You at work?

Help me to find the best way to live my faith in the workplace.



cont. on next page

Dear Lord,

I took every opportunity to look around today at the people I work with, to see how they live their faith in the workplace.

It was a disappointing experience, I must admit. I am not sure that there are any Christians in my office. At least, they don't act like it.

Is that what people see in me? I hope not!

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**I don't have  
to beat anyone  
over the head with  
my Bible.  
Not when I have You  
wrapped around me  
and shining through me.  
It's incredible!**

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In the process, I watched Herb today. He is a new Christian, I think. I have noticed that he carries his Bible and keeps it in his work area and reads it at lunch time.

But he seems so distant and rude. I think he wears his Christianity on his sleeve, and it seems like he wants to thump us with his Bible.

I am sure that won't work for me. There has to be a better way to live my faith in the workplace.

Hi, Lord, it's Norm again.

I've done a great deal of thinking about You, and living for You in every way (even at work). After some experimenting, I have discovered the wonderful blessings that come with living the 2 Peter 1:5-11 example.

At a break in a recent meeting, a co-worker leaned over to me and told me that she knew I was different; that I was not like the other employees.

She had observed that I didn't swear or tell off-color or inappropriate jokes and stories; that I worked with great diligence; and that I didn't get involved in office politics or get angry at fellow workers. Wow! There was the opportunity to tell her of Christ and the difference He has made in my life!

Later that week, a co-worker I respect a great deal came into my office to confide in me about some personal problems he was experiencing.

I always knew there was a good reason why I brought that little New Testament to the office and kept it there. I was able to share the Scriptures with him.

---

**My Great Lord and Master!!**

What a discovery! Living life for You in the workplace is easy and beneficial.

When I set my mind on You, my spirit is full of knowledge, love, self-control, patience, kindness, goodness, and service. Not to mention the joy that fills the work hours spent with You.

I feel a smile on my face and a spring in my step when You are by my side.

There is definitely something to living my life for You even in the office. I don't have to beat anyone over the head with my Bible. Not when I have You wrapped around me and shining through me. It's incredible! The people I work with see You in me and come to me when they see Your light in my life.

Help me to be a witness for You always in the workplace. Amen.

From your loving servant, Norm

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*Norm Burdick is a member of the Riverside, Calif., SDB Church.*

## 'You're religious? You're kidding!'

by Lee Brittain

Black Monday. June 30, 1997, is called that by almost everyone affected by my company's restructuring.

It was late afternoon, and I was one of the last ones to get a call to come to the Human Resource office. After the official termination, I spoke with a counselor, brought in special for the day. Her job was to determine how we were handling our instant joblessness.

"What will you do when you leave today?" My response to her question caught her off guard. She seemed prepared for hysteria, anger, and even retaliation, but not for me to say, "Shoveling mulch." Why was I being so calm in the wake of my unexpected unemployment?

I trusted God and told her so. She told me that I was the only one she had talked with that day who was not distraught, and now she knew why. She, too, was a Christian.

Going back to my desk to retrieve my purse, I ended up han-

dling a call from one of my customers because my supervisor was uncertain as to what to do for them. Relieved that I would do it, and thankful that I promised not to mention what was happening, he left me on my own.

My co-workers were in shock, first at my situation, and then at my willingness to still help the customer.

When I gave one of them some notes regarding customer needs requiring immediate attention, he couldn't believe it. He wanted to know why I would even care. He told me that if he were in my shoes, he wouldn't do it. I told him that it was the right thing to do. The customer shouldn't be penalized because of my plight.

I took leave of my co-workers and promised to pray for them all. They couldn't comprehend my calm demeanor. "It is in God's hands," was my explanation.

It may have been Black Monday for the company as a whole, but I believe the clouds were not quite so ominous in my department. God's grace and peace were seen that day, and I am thankful that He was able to use me in that way.

It was a far cry from where I had been just a couple of years prior.

"You're kidding! You're religious? I never knew that!"

These are words that should send a shudder through any spiritual heart, and they were said to me.

Although a Christian for many years, my style was more subtle than overt. I thought that being touched by kindness and generosity, people would want to know where it came from. Christians don't have a monopoly on these virtues though, and few took the time to discern the source of mine.

I was so ashamed. I had worked with this person for a couple of years. We had even spent some time together outside of work. My Christianity was the most important aspect of my life, and she had never seen it!

God's lesson was quickly and heartily learned. People would know of God first, and then witness the result of His work in my life.

Are there visible signs that this is having an effect on people I now work with?

Oh, yes! Little things like co-workers teasing that I'm no fun to gossip with because I won't—and they know why!!

Remarks from my supervisor are even weightier. She says she admires me and finds me one of the most "balanced" people she knows. She even commented on the strength of my faith, noting that it bears out in my job and affects how I interact with people.

My Christian faith is especially poignant at this particular point in my current company's history. We are also restructuring. There are visible signs of anxiety, unrest, and distrust throughout the building. My supervisor seems to think that I will handle the pressure of all of the changes better than most, and she knows why.

People are watching, and they do take note of how our faith helps or hinders us.  $\text{\$}$





## Working for the real Supervisor

by Ralph Hays

I've always enjoyed my job as a computer graphics artist/designer, and have been with my present company for over nine years. The job has had its ups and downs, but I've consistently said one thing: "The people there are some of the finest people I've ever worked with."

When my job recently had a major managerial shake-up, I was in turmoil. My supervisor, whom I considered a friend and got along well with, would soon be working elsewhere in the company.

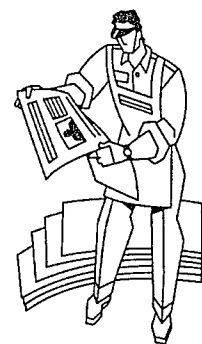
The person who was going to be my new supervisor had a reputation of being hard to get along with. She was a perfectionist with only one "right" way to do things—hers. Because of some work-related contacts I had already had with her, I knew the rumors were accurate.

The announcement was made, and within two weeks the change would be in place—a change I dreaded.

I prayed. I petitioned God. I hoped it wouldn't come to pass. My churning stomach was upset for the two weeks before the switch was implemented.

Finally, the day came. I praise the Lord for what happened next. My new supervisor gave her two weeks' notice and quit! She was no longer with the company.

I thank God that He took what I had *thought* to be a "mountain" and leveled it. He spared me from what could have been a most unpleasant situation.



## Helping with all kinds of adjustments

by Brandon Crandall

If I had a personalized license plate, it would read ENCORAGE. Encouragement is a gift which we all have to some degree, and I have come to realize that it is my primary spiritual gift.

As a chiropractor, I talk to people who are experiencing a life-disrupting pain. Some have a serious injury which doesn't allow them to work and threatens their income and lifestyle. Others may have stress in their lives which causes tension buildup and manifests itself in spinal problems.

These physical and emotional ills often cause people to lose hope. They need encouragement to make it through the hard times. Often, encouragement is simply listening, and understanding, as they talk about their fears and anxieties.

Sometimes encouragement involves "tough love"—making people face a change they may not *want* to make. Other times, encouragement involves helping them get their chins up enough to dream again; albeit a new dream, if their limitations are permanent.

Most importantly, people need to know that someone cares and *expects* improvement in their lives. When they're facing trials, I often say, "I'm a Christian, and I'll pray for you."

People need to know that we care, that we feel prayer is important, and that we go to the Lord with the expectation that there is Hope in Him.

## Health care for body and soul

by Barb Green

As a factory nurse, I treat employees for various injuries and illnesses. In addition to physical symptoms, these people have many problems: substance abuse, chronic diseases, and family conflicts that complicate the work issues.

I spend hours talking with workers whose stories are heartbreaking and must remain confidential. Although their problems are often the direct result of poor attitudes and choices, some of these people have no clue that they need to change or how to do it.

My job is to listen, not judge, and offer options. If I feel the employees may be receptive, I ask them about their faith. Often I tell them I'll pray for them.

It has taken a long time to cultivate trust. I've been helped by the realization that even if I don't fully understand the whole situation, God does.

Last year we started a noon prayer group in response to some serious problems. The group has dwindled to just a few, and I find myself in the leadership role. This experience has lifted all our spirits and helped us encourage one another.

I am blessed to work in a department where everyone is a Christian. We admonish as well as support each other. When



I'm feeling down about the work, one of my co-workers always reminds me that I am not the one in control—God is. If it weren't for this group of Christians, my work life would sometimes be unbearable.

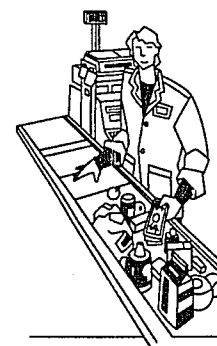
When I started this job five years ago, I could sense the presence of evil as I walked through the door

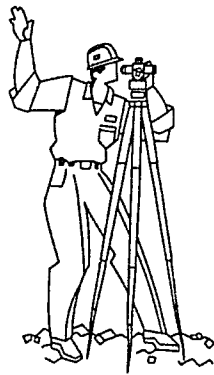
each morning. There were days I hated to go to work. Yet when I had the opportunity to leave, I felt that God wanted me to stay.

After I gave up trying to fit everyone into my mold, and finally let Him take over, conditions began to improve. The evil, profanity, and bad attitudes still exist, but the atmosphere is different. This encourages me to speak to others about Jesus and the way He can change their lives.

Working in a secular environment will never be easy for a Christian, but I know it's where He wants me to be. I will probably never know if I've made a difference in my fellow employees' lives. Gratitude from them is rare. But on the occasions when it *is* expressed, it makes me feel it is all worthwhile.

Lee (p. 7), Ralph, Brandon, and Barb are members of the Milton, Wis., SDB Church.





## Walking the walk even (especially) at work

by Mary Jane McPherson

*"...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31b).*

Living my faith is one way I share my faith at work. I have always put my whole self into my work and wouldn't feel I'd done my best otherwise.

To me, living my faith means that I do my best to meet deadlines, that I give full attention to my work while I'm at my job, that I'm a team player, and if I tell someone I'll do something, I do it.

It didn't take me long to discover a group of fellow employees who meet weekly for Bible study and prayer.

As a former teacher in a Christian school, it was my practice to get together daily to pray for our students and administration. I must say it was different to join in a prayer time for the CEO of our bio-pharmaceutical company. What a joy to take to the Lord the cares and concerns of my company!

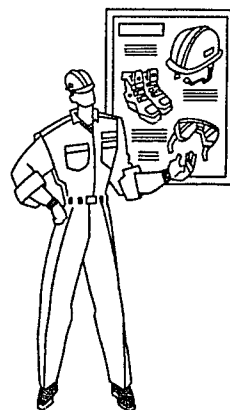
By joining this weekly group, I identified myself as a believer and have relationships at work that are based not only on our working together, but also on our love for God.

By talking to fellow employees, I learned that one man grew up in the town where our daughter, Karen, is attending college. As we talked more, I found that he also attended Messiah College and is now very active in his church.

Recently, the new director of my department met with each of us to "get to know us better." During our discussion, we discovered a mutual enjoyment of music—Christian music!

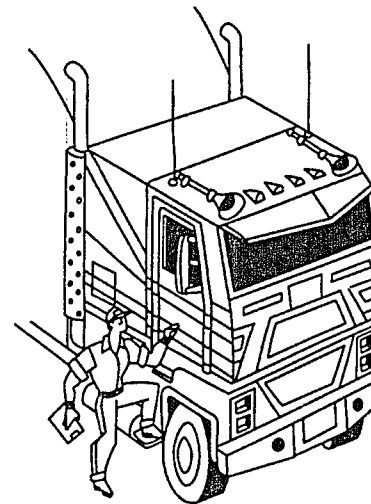
We are witnesses for God without even opening our mouths. Since we have to "walk the walk" as well as "talk the talk," we must guard against talk that erases our walk. Natural evangelism begins as I do the job I've been hired to do, treat people as I'd want to be treated (the Golden Rule), and do it joyfully for the glory of God.

*Mary Jane McPherson is a member of the Miami, Fla., SDB Church.*



## Truckin' for Jesus— A peculiar way to witness

by David Davis



Several years ago, I worked for a construction company owned by a Seventh Day Baptist. Quite often customers would ask for us to do work on Saturday. The owner's reply was that we would not be able to as it was our "church day."

What a great response to a question that had followed me through all of my work years!

I had often pondered different responses to the "work on Sabbath" question, but here it was, two simple words that any person, whether a Christian or not, could understand and not fear that some religious nut was trying to shove his beliefs on him.

### "Fellowshipping" instead of working

My first job in the real world was for a steel company, working side by side with mostly Christian men who "fellowshipped" during the work day. Months later, I was transferred to the swing shift and a non-Christian crew.

I was surprised to find their dis-

dain for some of my Christian buddies, as well as most Christians in general. Yes, my intent to witness to these guys was doused quickly, and I had lots of time to ponder why they disliked Christians so much.

I watched and listened over the next few months and discovered that the "fellowshipping" Christians on day shift would often not get their work done, thus leaving extra work for the night shift. Also, many people I've known over the years have a story about how a Christian got the best of them in some money transaction, or how a church couldn't part with its building fund to feed a hungry family.

### Establish a good work ethic

A common "actions are louder than words" witness seems to follow lots of us Christians around. Therefore, it quickly became clear that I needed to establish a good work ethic to prove to my co-work-

ers and supervisor that I could be a hard worker as well as a Christian. I would not let my beliefs inconvenience them!!

Of course, it was not that easy. When one sets out to prove something, quite often we lose sight of the goal and fall into common patterns of the work world. Yep, here I was, a "silent Christian" workaholic. Some of those people were surprised to find out years later that I was a Christian!

Thanks to the grace of God, we can learn from our mistakes, ask His forgiveness, and grow to be faithful witnesses. I set my sights on Him and once again was determined to have a good, moral work ethic for the Lord.

### Embarrassed by being peculiar?

In the past several years I have analyzed my reluctance to witness and to share my "weekend plans." I would ask myself, "Are you ashamed



*I discovered that the "fellowshipping" Christians on day shift would often not get their work done, thus leaving extra work for the night shift.*

ed to let people know: 1) you're a Christian, and 2) you go to church on Saturday?" The answer was always "No... I'm proud to be a Christian and a Seventh Day Baptist! So what am I going to do about it?"

I recall several events that stick in my mind that have helped me witness to those around me. Sev-

### Sabbath becomes an open door

Being in the trucking industry, I am often asked to work on Sabbath day. My standard response to my employer is, "Saturday is my church day, and I avoid working that day." They also know that if there is an emergency situation,

People in the workplace are a bit gun-shy about "preachy" people. But letting them know that you go to church on Saturday (even though it's a bit out of the ordinary); that you believe in Jesus Christ, alone, for salvation; and that you believe in the Bible, gets the message across, and co-workers don't even know you're invading their comfort zone.

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### I needed to establish a good work ethic to prove to my co-workers and supervisor that I could be a hard worker as well as a Christian.

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eral years ago our new neighbor introduced himself as "Bob, and my wife's name is a little different—it's Myrna."

Hmmm... haven't I seen a tract about a Baptist church that's a little different? And didn't our Conference theme verse last year talk about being "a peculiar people"? I've adopted that approach of letting people know I go to church on Sabbath.

A person might ask, "What are you doing this weekend?" My response is something like, "Well, Saturday is my church day. 'Well, I know it's a little different (weird, isn't it)?" That sure beats hanging my head, kicking the dirt and saying, "Oh, nothing special." Sabbath day is special to me, and I want people to know it.

even on Sabbath morning, I'll be there in an instant.

People often want to know what church I go to. When I tell them, they want to know either how it's different from other Baptist churches, or how it differs from Seventh-day Adventists.

I quickly explain that basically we believe in Jesus Christ—alone—for salvation, believe in the Bible as our only resource, and go to church on Saturday.

### Another foot in the door

I've found that another good "foot in the door" approach to announce that you're a Christian is to tell them you're praying for them.

(And, yes, you *do* actually need to pray for them.)

### Others may stand up for you

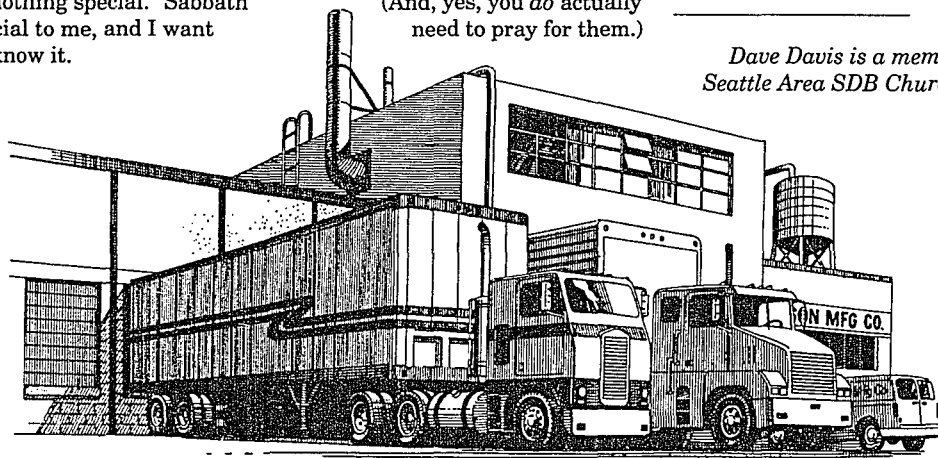
Another man I worked for responded to a customer's request that I be available on Sabbath with, "He's a Christian and he means it, so he's not going to be available. Besides, he does more than any of the other drivers Monday through Friday."

While I was quite embarrassed when the customer later told me the story, it reminded me how closely people watch my actions.

As I memorized the new Conference theme verse this fall, I realized how Scriptural it is to make sure our actions are as loud as our words, and that we reflect The One who calls us to be holy, because He is holy.

"But just as He who called you is holy, be holy in all you do. For it is written 'Be holy, because I am holy'" 1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV).  $\text{SR}$

*Dave Davis is a member of the Seattle Area SDB Church.*



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

## Stress-ing the holiday

Shortly before I was married, I read a list in the *Reader's Digest* of comparative "stress quotients" assigned to various life situations and potential changes.

The highest-ranking events were "death of spouse" and "divorce," rating 100 points and 50 points, respectively. Other stressful situations included: marriage, job changes, birth of a baby, child leaving home, mom quitting a job, mom going back to work, etc.

With all the impending changes in my life at that point, I felt doomed! What impressed me most, however, was that merely "celebrating Christmas" rated 12 points.

The Christmas season gives us the ultimate opportunity to witness for our Savior. After all, it is His birth that we celebrate, and the occasion is at least acknowledged by most of our daily contacts. Why not see how many conversations about gift-giving, decorations, and special holiday events leave an open door to express your faith in that Holy Child of Bethlehem?

### Special events in December

Several of our local women's societies and Ladies Aids have special holiday activities during December.

Here in Shiloh, N.J., our best-attended monthly meeting is the Secret Sisters' Revealing Party held the second Wednesday in December. We also take poinsettias to church friends and serve refreshments after the annual Candlelight Cantata at the church.

In Riverside, Calif., each lady brings her special Christmas dessert to a Christmas Tea. The desserts are then shared and traded so each participant takes a variety of treats home.

A special Christmas dinner/party is hosted by the Alfred, N.Y., Women's Society. Their nearby sisters in Alfred Station provide meat and dessert for a community dinner following the church Christmas program.

### How do we come across?

As we plan our church and family activities and do our shopping, what attitudes do we project to those around us? Are we under pressure to second-guess what the other person is going to give us so we will not be embarrassed by

Think of the impact on our associates if we could abandon the tendency to complain about the season's obligations and the pressure to meet everyone's expectations! Instead, why not think of the holiday (i.e. "holy day") season as Jesus' birthday party with expressions of God's love in sending the ultimate Gift?

### Give to "the least of these"

During the past couple of years, our family has found new ways to share with those less fortunate.

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### See how many conversations about gift-giving, decorations, and special holiday events leave an open door to express your faith in that Holy Child of Bethlehem.

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giving less? To be sure not to spend any more than we "have to"? To make sure our children's gifts "keep up with the Joneses"?

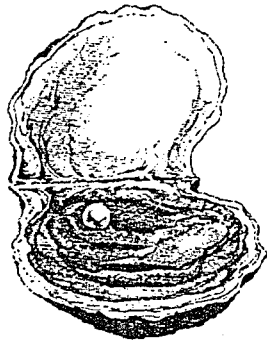
Do we grumble about spending time with relatives? Or are we depressed because we have no family around us? Do we suffer the effects of seasonal gluttony? Do we complain if our child is not chosen to portray Mary or Joseph?

Do we dread the demands of the season and heave a sigh of relief when it is over? Do our actions match our words? (I am reminded of a college classmate who sent a Christmas card to *literally* every student on campus, yet derided those of us who went to "Messiah" practice, asking, "Are you going to sing your songs to Jesus?")

Some national chain stores feature Christmas trees with names of children (with their sizes) on the ornaments. If your children have everything they need, why not purchase an item for someone named on the tree?

Another possibility for your family or for your Ladies Aid is "Operation Christmas Child," a project of Samaritan's Purse headed by Franklin Graham. Shoeboxes are filled with practical items and small toys to be delivered to children in a war-torn or otherwise needy country. For more information, call (800) 353-5949 or check the Web at [www.samaritan.org](http://www.samaritan.org).

Remember: "...as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it unto Me" (Matt. 25:40 RSV).  $\text{SR}$



Pearls from the Past by Don A. Sanford, historian

## A soldier of many wars

1787, swept slavery from all the territory then owned by it and saved the mighty North-west from its blight. He was two years old when Benjamin Franklin was chosen first President of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the first society of the kind organized in America. He was a relative of Franklin on his mother's side.

"During his most impressive years, Jefferson, Washington, Franklin, Marshall, Story, Jay, Madison, and all the best men of the nation were thundering at the gates of slavery. Religious bodies were discarding it, religious teachers were denouncing it, by which it was made a stench in the nostrils of Christendom."<sup>1</sup>

Pastor Maxson further stated that Newcomb was raised as a Presbyterian, as was his wife. But at about the age of 40, "by a careful study of the Bible, he became convinced the Seventh Day was the only divinely appointed Sabbath for man. He at once accepted the teaching, and has ever since honored the Lord's Sabbath-day, though opposed to all his prejudices and early teachings, to the wishes of his friends, and the practices of the Christian world. It is enough to be an honest man, to find what is the divine will. It indeed is a high attainment, to rise above all personal prejudice and preference and all desire for popularity and stand alone for truth. It requires a degree and kind of courage to stand unflinching in the blaze of battle and storm of bullets; but it requires a stronger and nobler courage to stand by truth, which is discarded by friend and foes, and for persistence to that unpopular truth which is denounced as fanatical, and a disturber of the peace."<sup>2</sup>

As Pastor Maxson pointed out, it was this same resolute courage

which marked Newcomb's opposition to slavery:

"When this great nation, and the leading churches of this nation, went down on their knees at the feet of slavery, as they certainly did in 1850, and so in 1860, among the noble few who did not bow the knee was Father Newcomb. He preferred being called a fanatical, by a fanatical multitude of slavery worshippers, to getting down and worshipping with them.... He had read the third [chapter] of Matthew, that Christ's gospel laid the axe unto the root of the tree that brought not forth good fruit, and hewed it down. This seemed to him to be not only the divine plan of procedure, but the only successful plan. In becoming a radical abolitionist, he preferred the truth to the multitude, and trusted to God's good time to dig out the upas by the roots..."<sup>3</sup>

Daniel Newcomb lived long enough to see the conclusion of the war to preserve the nation and outlaw slavery, but was spared the tragedy of seeing how long the effects have continued. His tombstone in the Milton Cemetery only records that he fought in the War of 1812. It does not reflect the greater struggle that he faced in the prejudice and injustice of his time.

As people visit the Historical Landmark of the Milton House, perhaps they can be reminded of the countless other people who helped create the climate in which the work of the Underground Railroad could be effective. **SR**

<sup>1</sup>Rev. D.E. Maxson, "The Hoary Head A Crown of Glory" (Westerly, RI, *The Sabbath Recorder*, vol. 21, no. 52, December 21, 1865), p. 201.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., "The upas was an Asiatic tree of the mulberry family, with a latex that contained poisonous glucosides used as an arrow poison" (Webster).

The October "Pearls from the Past" column highlighted the designation of the Milton House as a National Historical Landmark. This southern Wisconsin inn served as a station in the Underground Railroad, helping runaway slaves escape to freedom in Canada. Seventh Day Baptists were credited with providing some of the documentation which authenticated what was, by nature, secret.

About three weeks after the recognition celebration, a man who was involved in mapping out the Milton Cemetery came to the Historical Society in search of information about Daniel Newcomb, whose tombstone carried the note that he was a veteran of the War of 1812.

Our surname index to *The Sabbath Recorder* indicated that Newcomb's obituary was in the issue for December 21, 1865. Instead of finding the usual short notice in the obituary column on the third page, I found a copy of the funeral sermon on the front page. It had been preached in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The pastor, Darwin E. Maxson, had served as a chaplain with the 85th New York Infantry in the Civil War, so it came as no surprise that Newcomb's abolitionist sentiments were highlighted.

Newcomb was born in 1782 and thus lived through some of the early history of the United States. Pastor Maxson noted this fact:

"He [Newcomb] was a witness of events when the first Congress under the Constitution, by the memorable ordinance of



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—December 1997

Feature articles look at the Biblical view of angels. Writers include Paul Manuel, Gretchen Zwiebel, and Jeanne Yurke.

Changes to the contents page include descriptive blurbs for the features and departments.

Christian Education page solicits funds to support sending *The Helping Hand* to Jamaica.

Home for orphans opens in Nellore, India.

Executive Secretary Calvin Babcock resigns to become Office Manager for the SDB Memorial Board.

Leonardsville, N.Y., church celebrates 200th anniversary.

### Five years ago—December 1993

Issue looks at different ways to share the Gospel. Writers include Dennis Palmer, Sue Cartwright, and Joel Osborn.

Christian Education page lists resources to aid in teaching from *The Helping Hand*.

Director of Extension Russell Johnson highlights new groups in Virginia, Minnesota, and Mississippi.

"Beacon" page reports on annual Shiloh-Marlboro, N.J., Youth Retreat.

President Bill Clinton signs Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

### 10 years ago—December 1988

Firsthand reports relate the devastation done to SDB churches in Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert.

Margaret Bond Allen honored as Sabbath School Teacher of the Year.

"Beacon" lists rules for National YF logo contest.

Battle Creek, Mich., members vote to renovate church building and parish house.

Plainfield, N.J., church celebrates 150th anniversary.

Jane, Adam, Eric, and Alicia Mackintosh named as new editors of *The Sabbath Visitor*.

### 25 years ago—December 1973

Only two December issues printed, the last of the weekly variety. The Recorder Press busily prepares for the first-ever monthly issue to appear in January.

The first PCA Association Pastor-Key Layman Retreat is held just south of Seattle. Duane Davis is the host pastor.

Work permits approved for Menzo and Audrey Fuller to serve as missionaries to Malawi, Africa. This resolution is sent to Miss Sarah Becker: "The members of the SDB Missionary Society express their heartfelt appreciation for your devoted ministry at Makapwa Station, Malawi, during the course of your regular term of service and especially for your labor of love beyond the terms of your call. We find ourselves inspired to deeper commitment to our Lord through your example."

Rev. Harold Crandall, SDB pastor and long-time president of the Missionary Society, dies in early November.

### 50 years ago—December 1948

Rev. Elizabeth F. Randolph shares article, "Preparation for Evangelism."

SDB mission in Jamaica celebrates 25th anniversary.

Rev. Leslie Greene begins pastorate in Indianapolis, Ind.

Rev. Gerald Hargis and family accept a call to perform evangelistic work in New Zealand for 18 months.

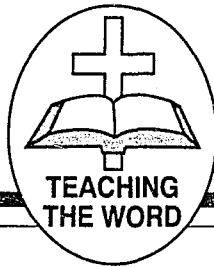
The communist threat in China forces missionaries Nettie West, Mabel West, Sarah Becker, and Philip Thorngate to head home to the United States. Dr. George Thorngate expects to stay for an indefinite time.

...where are we headed?

### Pray for—

- Biblical understanding on current trends
- the ministry of *The Helping Hand*
- churches planning big anniversaries
- the ministry of *The Sabbath Visitor*
- a new zeal to share the Gospel
- the ministry of *The Sabbath Recorder*
- a missionary's heart within us all





# Witnessing without hang-ups

Get straight talk on evangelism (book reviews from CPH)

It's not as difficult to share the Gospel with friends and family as some Christians may think. In fact, evangelism can be a very natural part of our lives.

Now, *Out of the Bleachers and onto the Field*, a new release from Concordia Publishing House (CPH),

Gospel. He deals honestly with uneasy feelings about witnessing and shows readers how they can: clearly share their faith; pray for their friends and family; be "real" with non-Christians, and more.

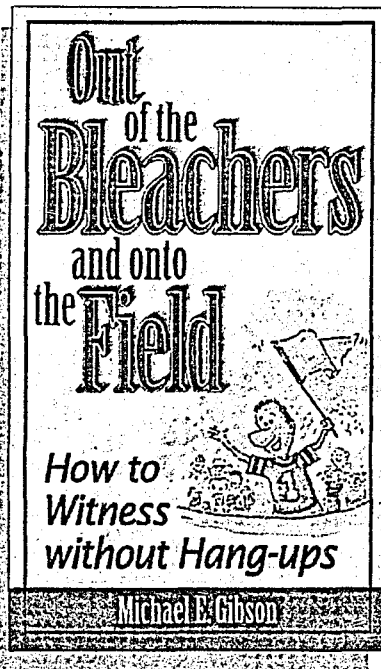
Gibson shares from years of firsthand experience reaching out to non-Christians and helping others share their faith. His real-life examples featured throughout the book help readers become more prepared and confident to be Christ's witnesses wherever they are.

Readers learn seven easy-to-remember points to cover when sharing the Gospel. And they see how to follow up with new believers and encourage involvement in a church.

Most of all, Gibson assures Christians that they can share their faith and trust God with the results!

### About the author

Michael Gibson is a pastor in the fast-growing San Francisco Bay area. Through his church's innovative and expanding outreach ministry, many people in this highly-unchurched community have come to know Christ. He is also past Chairman of the Evangelism Board of the California-Nevada-Hawaii district of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



presents a clear, step-by-step plan for witnessing that any Christian can use to help overcome fears about sharing the Gospel.

Michael Gibson gives straight talk on building honest, loving relationships with non-Christians in order to bring them the hope of the

## Help young adults seek Scripture for life answers

Adults in their 20s and early 30s are looking for answers to their spiritual and moral questions, yet they frequently feel that traditional Bible studies simply aren't relevant to their lives.

*Twenty-Something: Forward in Faith* is an important way to help younger adults approach new challenges in life from a position of faith.

*Forward in Faith* addresses the specific needs of these maturing adults. The 20 reproducible lessons in each book can be used in any sequence, and are designed to be completed in a single session.

The interactive format encourages group discussions—the learning style young adults prefer. And the studies deal with the issues they are interested in, from work and family life to spirituality and sexual relationships.

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For more information on these books, contact Doris Engstrom at (800) 774-0274. Her e-mail address is: [dorise@cphnet.org](mailto:dorise@cphnet.org).



*Siblings Alicia and Eric Mackintosh from Half Moon Bay, Calif., accompanied missionary Luis Lovelace on a short trip to Mexico this past summer. Here, they reflect on their experience.*

### What are some of the ways God used you in Mexico?

*Alicia:* To us, it seemed like God didn't waste any time in revealing His awesome plan for our time in Mexico.

The first day we were there was a Sabbath. We had brought Sabbath School supplies without any idea how they would be used. During the service, we understood that they were having a "spur of the moment" business meeting about starting a children's program. Sabbath School teachers were assigned and other details were worked out.

We were blessed to be in the midst of this decision-making and were asked to help a teacher create a lesson plan. It was awesome to be able to return three Sabbaths later and assist with the class and see how God was working through that program.

*Eric:* Thank God for music, the universal language!

Neither Alicia nor I spoke Spanish very well, even after 21 college credits of it. Yet both of us wanted to share the love we had for our Savior

As we headed out the door that first Sabbath, our host, Pastor Rosalio Camacho, asked me where my violin was. I turned and retrieved it from our room.

When we arrived at the church, I asked Luis [Lovelace] when I was supposed to play. He told me to get ready because it probably would

happen randomly. Sure enough, about an hour into Sabbath School, Pastor Camacho said, "Eric, violin, play." At least, that's what I understood!

So I got up, played a song, and sat back down. Then later during the service, I heard the command again: "Eric, violin, play."

As I played this time, I looked at the faces of the people in the church to see if what I was trying to say through my music was being understood. The smiles and comments after church assured me that my love for Jesus was seen. We were communicating!

The last day in Mexico, we were back in Madero, at Pastor Camacho's church. By now, both Alicia and I were speaking—and comprehending—Spanish much better. A lady from the church mentioned that I had played "How Great Thou Art" on my violin three weeks before, and was disappointed that she missed it.

So, between Sabbath School and the service, I performed that song for her, and for a few others who were still gathered. As I played, tears poured down her face. We were communicating. "Gracias a Dios por musica."

*Alicia:* I'll always remember the children in Mexico that God placed in my path to touch my life. And He gave me the opportunity to make a difference in their lives, too.

One girl I think about was from Mira Mar. Eric, Luis, and I had just walked onto the Jimenez family ranch when this little girl, Susana, ran up to me and grabbed my hand. She hardly left my side the entire time we were there.

In Buena Vista, another little

girl captured my heart the moment she sat in a door well and motioned for me to come sit outside with her. I was able to give her the love and attention she craved. Hopefully, I also showed her how special she was in my eyes and, more importantly, in our Father's eyes. She taught me how a little love poured out is returned in a much larger measure.

### How did God bless you in Mexico?

*Eric:* If a blessing was a cup of water, we would have drowned. God showered us with blessings, like He promised in Romans 10:12.

The first blessing that comes to mind is Luis. I can go on and on about this man of God, but I have to keep it short: Luis is a fun, godly, prayer partner and friend who taught us, translated for us, and led, supported, baby-sat, and encouraged us. His love, help, insight, sense of humor, drive, and unconditional love for God were at the top of my list of blessings from above.

*Alicia:* Amen!

*Eric:* Luis answered every one of our questions without complaint. This may not seem like such a big deal until you realize how many questions we bombarded him with!

*Alicia:* The Camachos were a blessing right from the beginning. Their house became our "home away from home." Their open arms were a great blessing to us and gave us the strength to head back out into the sometimes primitive (by our standards) world to visit the churches. The running water

cont. on page 23



# the BEACON

Produced by the Youth Committee of the Board of Christian Education  
For and by members of the SDB Youth Fellowship December 1998

*Just a little something to get you into the Christmas spirit (taken from Matthew, Chapter 2).*

Yeah, we're mentioned in the New Testament once or twice. We're the ones people call wise men, magi, wise guys. We started our journey centuries ago, it seems, but of course it's only been a few years.

We were so excited at the beginning of our great adventure; could hardly wait to get started. So excited to tell our friends about our discovery and how it would change our lives.

I remember when I first told my wife and children about the unusually large star in the East. How it meant that a king was to be born. A king like no other, perhaps the greatest leader of his people... ever.

The star was like nothing my colleagues and I had ever seen, it was so brilliant. We peered at it cautiously at first, almost as if we had some kind of fear of becoming attached to the celestial body. But we soon caught ourselves staring endlessly, marveling at the unearthly beauty.

We would blindly step out in faith. Oh sure, we knew we would be gone for years, but it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. There was no question if we should chase after the star and the King.

I can't remember who said it first, who actually verbalized the

## Running to the King

by Aubrey Appel

idea that was floating in all our minds—to leave our “comfort zone” and find this Messiah and know Him. It was definitely worth it. I mean, sure, we risked our temporal lives. But I wouldn't trade it for anything else.

There were four of us, I think. Yeah, four of us, traveling in an old Cadillac. I remember one night we almost lost the star. We panicked and started accusing each other of not doing his job. It was an awful time.

Then, it was like... like a miracle. We were fighting and screaming when someone yelled, “Look!”

The sky seemed to open up, like someone was taking tremendous hands and pushing away a cover of blackness. The star appeared once again, and we found our-

selves running towards the prize.

We found the infant King and rejoiced for God's goodness. His omnipotent hand had led us to everlasting life for ourselves and to take back to our families.

The journey was long and hard. It took courage and faith to follow that star. Sure, we made a few friends along the way, but we also got some new enemies. Stepping out of our “comfort zones” was probably the hardest thing I ever did. But in the end we found the Savior, an everlasting peace, and the unconditional love of Jesus.

Have you left your “comfort zone” and set out to find your Savior?

I ran to the King. What are you running to?



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

## My Neighbor's Bible

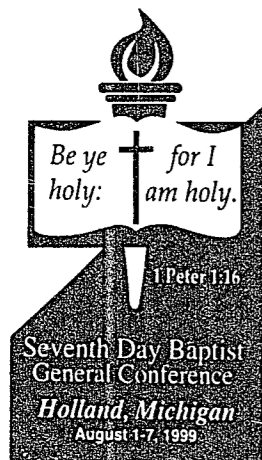


*I am my neighbor's Bible  
He reads me when we meet;  
Today he reads me in my home—  
Tomorrow on the street.  
He may be relative or friend  
Or slight acquaintance be;  
He may not even know my name,  
Yet he is reading me.*

*And pray, who is this neighbor  
Who reads me day by day,  
To learn if I am living right  
And walking as I pray?  
Oh, he is with me always  
To criticize or blame;  
So worldly-wise in his own eyes,  
And “sinner” is his name.*

*Dear Christian friends and brothers  
If we could only know  
How faithfully the world records  
Just what we say and do,  
Oh, we would write our record plain  
and come in time to see  
Our worldly neighbor won to Christ  
While reading you and me.*

—Joseph Wilson Barron



## The President's Page Someone's watching

by Norma Rudert

Don't look now, but someone is watching you, and I don't mean Big Brother. It could be little sister.

While you may be unaware of the impression you are making, someone is observing and learning from your behavior.

To illustrate this, I'd like to share one of the nicest compliments I ever received. Not too long ago, our daughter, Sandy, told me about taking a meal to an elderly neighbor. I said, "That's a good thing to do; I'm sure he enjoys both your food and your visit."

"Well," she replied, "I got that from you, Mom."

I remembered then how I used to take or send hot meals to an old bachelor who lived near us, as I suspected he was not eating properly. (When you're cooking for seven, it's not hard to plan for one more.) Sandy's comment made me realize anew that our works speak louder than our words, and that all too often our life's walkway is littered with missed opportunities.

When I began thinking about God's call to holiness in our everyday living, I reflected on people in my past whom I would regard as "holy."

I recall a young woman named Alma Bond who came to be a counselor at one of the first Bible camps we had in White Cloud, Mich. She had such a gentle sweetness about her that even at age 10 or 11, I de-

cidated that this was what a "real" Christian must be like. (I never saw her again, and I wonder if that is a familiar name to anyone.)

Two of our pastors told me about the holy qualities they observed in their own father-in-law. One refused to retaliate or become bitter when he went through a period of harsh criticism by his parishioners. The other father-in-law gained self-control over a hot temper, and became a model of calm equanimity in his later years.

In our Michigan Sabbath School class, Don Cruzan mentioned someone he knew while growing up in North Loup, Neb. This man (the father of our Pastor Emeritus, Orville Babcock) is remembered for his gentle, quiet goodness. Even though he has been dead for nearly 50 years, his spiritual influence is still felt.

The fact that we can and do affect the character of young people simply by our ordinary, day-to-day actions is a sobering thought. Each



one of us has the power to enhance the faith of others, an awesome responsibility to which all Christians have been called.

When we are in Daytona Beach, Fla., we enjoy walking along the ocean, and I always go barefoot, close enough to the water's edge to leave footprints. Anyone within earshot is obliged to listen to this stanza from Longfellow's "Psalm of Life":

*Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time.*

We may not achieve the status of "great men," but we are still leaving impressions. What about my footprints? What about yours?

1 Peter 1:15 instructs us to "be holy in all you do." Christians are to be the demonstration models of citizens of a holy nation, partly because other people are watching us.

And Proverbs 15:3 reminds us that Someone else is watching, too: "The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." *SR*

***We may not achieve the status of "great men," but we are still leaving impressions. What about my footprints? What about yours?***

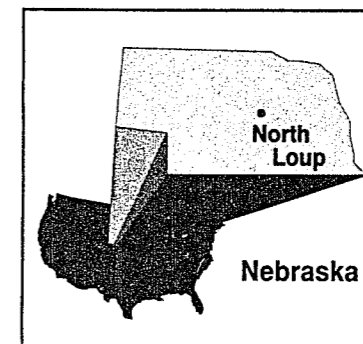
## Association urges: "Give of your best"

by Marjorie Goodrich

The North Loup, Neb., Seventh Day Baptist Church hosted the annual meeting of the Mid-Continent Association on Oct. 9-11, 1998, with Jim Goodrich presiding.

Friday vespers were led by Scott Smith and Rev. Steve Saunders of Nortonville, Kan. President Goodrich led the Sabbath service, with Pastor Christian Mattison as speaker. The choir presented two numbers.

While the youth took time to climb Happy Jack's Peak, the adults got involved in a seminar on "What Is Your Best?" This extended the theme, "Give of your



best to the Master," selected by the president.

The Lonny Carpenter family of Ord, Neb., presented an inspira-

tional concert Saturday evening.

The young adults had overnight activities at Camp Riverview, while some of the younger people went to the Merlyn Williams home in Taylor, Neb.

A business meeting was held at the Community Center, where most of the meals were served. On Sunday morning, following dismissal, guests enjoyed a lunch and prepared to return to their homes.

In addition to North Loup and Nortonville, Association attendees represented SDB churches from Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs, Colo. *SR*

## Battle Creek church appreciates pastor

by Judy Parrish

On October 17, 1998, the Battle Creek, Mich., SDB Church honored Pastor Harold King as part of its Pastor Appreciation Day celebration.

We have been blessed to have Pastor Harold and Kathi with us since January 1, 1998, and appreciate their love and care for our church and community.

Pastor Harold was surprised when he entered the church Sabbath morning and saw the Pastor Appreciation banners throughout the church. Some of them were made by the children and Youth Fellowship. He was presented a boutonniere, and there was a corsage for Kathi.

During our praise time, songs were chosen that related to memo-

rable messages Pastor Harold has given since he has been with us (with topics such as marriage and true worship).

An article in the local paper's "Roses" column that Sabbath allowed us to publicly acknowledge this special couple's ministry.

***Pastor Harold was surprised when he entered the church Sabbath morning and saw the Pastor Appreciation banners throughout the church.***

This was followed by a presentation time. Pastor Harold and Kathi received cards from the congregation and children's Sabbath School, and personal thank-you notes and gifts from the church and YF.

Following worship, we held a reception to celebrate our pastor's spiritual gifts and fruit—in cake!

We in Battle Creek hope to bear much true fruit for the Lord in His vineyard with the Kings. *SR*

## Worship unites Baptists at Berlin conference

BERLIN, GERMANY (BWA)—Sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, more than 600 Baptists from 58 countries and each of the six continents met in Berlin, Germany, from October 15-18 at the Schoenberg Baptist Church for the first-ever International Baptist Conference on Worship. Delegates found themselves united around an issue that is often divisive, not only for Baptists but the entire Christian community.

Constructed around five different styles of worship, a concluding conference "declaration" stated that each style, whether traditional, contemporary, Holy Spirit-renewal, seeker-sensitive, reflective-meditative, Asian, African-American, African, Caribbean, Latin-American, or European-American, has "relevance, meaning, and power" and "all forms of worship are 'windows' through which we see God."

"Integral to Baptist worship," the statement said, "is belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church, is the focus of worship and praise." Each style or form must be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While no one need accept all styles, we should celebrate how others worship.

There are, however, many things about worship that Baptists need to recognize. These include:

- Music sometimes is performance and does not glorify God or engage people in worship.

- The great importance of the Lord's Supper and baptism is not always understood.

- Our prayers are unbalanced between talking and listening to God.

- Our worship preparation is often left to those who lead instead of being the responsibility of all who come to seek an encounter with the living God.

- We have not always adequately taught people in our churches the meaning of worship and how to worship.

- We have often been guilty of believing our style or form is the best and only way to worship.

While the statement did not require a vote, it reflected the consensus of spirit that permeated the meeting.

At the start, Tony Cupit, BWA director for Study and Research

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### **Delegates found themselves united around an issue that is often divisive.**

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who led the conference, laid a foundation for understanding that defused partisan passion on the subject.

"We are here to worship God, to follow the leading of God's Holy Spirit," he said to the participants, the overwhelming majority of whom had some involvement in worship planning and leading. "We are here to pray, listen, learn, celebrate our unity in Christ, fellowship, and worship."

From the opening notes of the famous German hymn of Martin Luther, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," to the grand benediction of George Frederick Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," the musical part of worship was a kaleidoscope of changing patterns and styles that reflected the creativity of God, the Creator of us all.

Structure walked together with spontaneity, and liturgy embraced drama and dance. Songs and cries of African joy and suffering, serene Asian melody, Latin American beat and Caribbean calypso rhythms

joined rich Russian and Romanian choir music to praise God. In silence and with applause, in stillness and with movement, participants worshiped God.

"Worship is deeply linked with the power and the reality of the Holy Spirit," said Karl Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. He sees the rationalism that influences much of modern thinking about God as a challenge, especially as "truth and worship have become subjective and each individual requires their taste to be satisfied."

"One of the greatest models of unity is worship," said Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA who spoke of the effect of worship on fellowship. "Worship has to be individual, but it must also be corporate," he said. "All over the world there is a revolution of worship, and we are here to learn from Baptists all over the world."

For many, this was the first time such a panorama of options was presented. From the testimonies around the church and in the services, these different ways of worship were accepted and celebrated.

"I came here with the feeling that we African-Americans knew how to worship, and I came here to see what you do," said Nathaniel Tyler-Lloyd, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Bronx, N.Y. "I leave here affirmed that we *do* know how to worship, and informed that there is something for all of us to learn from each other and end this separation."

"We can have lots of attitudes about worship styles," said Paul Basden, pastor of Brookwood Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. "But the least helpful attitude is to judge others. Our modern day variety of worship is a gift of Pentecost, not Babel." ❧

## Mackintoshes, cont. from page 17

and flushing toilets came to be greatly appreciated after using outhouses and the "anything but private" bucket-baths.

Norma's cooking was also greatly enjoyed, especially the dishes with non-spicy ingredients! (I could have skipped the chicken livers, but Luis would disagree with me on that one.)

*Eric:* The Camacho children were a blessing as well. I learned more Spanish from them—especially from the older one, Normita—than I did during a whole semester in college. They should be getting "big bucks" to teach Spanish!

*Alicia:* As Eric said, the blessings that God poured on us during this trip were measureless.

Another person who comes to mind is "Pa" (otherwise known as Alejandro Jimenez). He taught us so much in the short time we were in his home in Mira Mar.

His love and relationship with God were so evident that, despite the language barrier, it was clear where he stood. We glimpsed this when he talked about his family.

"We are poor as far as the world thinks," he said, "but we are rich in spirit." He's content with his life, and with all that God has given him. I just hope I'll be able to thank God in all circumstances, the way Pa does.

*Eric:* During the three and a half weeks we were in Mexico, we ate and drank what was given to us, and trusted God that the water and food wasn't contaminated. Now that I see what God had for us to do, I understand why He kept us from getting sick.

We traveled mostly by bus. (I didn't know so many people could fit into one bus!) Long walks under the hot Mexican sun would have

been impossible, and running to an outhouse every five minutes doesn't sound fun, either. If we hadn't been feeling well, there's no way we could have done the traveling and ministry that we did.

*Alicia:* Another blessing that comes to mind is the old, poor cowboy from Buena Vista.

We had just finished church, and Eric and I were standing in front of the building talking with him and some other people. Out of the blue, he handed each of us 20 pesos, about the equivalent of \$2.20. He said that he was a poor man and knew it wasn't much, but he wanted us to have it. After trying to explain that we had our own money, we accepted it with great thanks.

My heart was broken for this man, who would probably have to go without in order for us to have that money. I was reminded of the widow in the Bible who gave her last pennies. Jesus said she gave more than the rich man who gave greatly. I'll always carry the memory of that cowboy, and how he gave from his heart.

### **What did you learn, and how did you grow?**

*Alicia:* One thing that constantly amazed us was how God could use even us "gringitos." The first major hurdle to clear was the language and cultural barrier.

I gave a brief speech at the Buena Vista church. When I finished, I tried to say "Es todo" (which means, "That's all"). But it came out as "Es torro," which translates, "It's bull." There were quite a few laughs when the "truth" finally came out.

Another time I was trying to explain to our hostess that I didn't want to eat because I wasn't hungry. "No tengo hambre." But it came out, "No tengo hombre."

Which means I didn't want to eat because I didn't have a man!

*Eric:* I have grown in numerous ways in Christ. One thing God was really laying on my heart was: "Here you are, my son, in a place you are not familiar with, in a culture you have never been in, with people you don't know, speaking a language you cannot speak—and still I can use you." How much more can God use me at home?

God is capable of anything and everything. When my pride shrinks and I rely solely on God for everything, including communication, He takes over and works in ways that I can only dream of. God is good!

*Alicia:* How have I grown? I've asked myself that question more than once since returning home. I think the answer is that I've learned just a little bit more about who I am in Christ. I'm able to see how I look to the spiritual world with His light shining out of me. And that light enables me to do awesome things in His name. Just by belonging to the Father, I am made a child of God.

It says in Galatians 4:6, "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out Abba, Father." So with that Spirit living inside me, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). That promise is an incredible reminder of just who I am in Him.

If I could say just one thing about what God taught me in Mexico, it would be that He is good to me and can use me anywhere, anytime. He will shine through me if I let Him. ❧

## Accessions

### Boulder, CO

David Thorngate, pastor  
Joined by letter

Beth S. Burdick  
Victor H. Burdick  
Benjamin Harris  
Linda D. Harris  
Pastor Robert Harris  
Jean Jorgensen  
Angie Lee  
Pastor L.B. Lee

### North Loup, NE

Christian Mattison, pastor  
Joined by letter

Jody Looper  
Beverly Soper  
Earl Soper

### Marlboro, NJ

Larry Graffius, pastor  
Joined after baptism

Daniel Bennette  
Kim Cruzan  
Tracey Morgan  
Joined after testimony  
Joanna Halter

## Obituaries

**Meyer.**—Herbert K. Meyer, 79, of Arvada, Colo., died on September 18, 1998, at home after a long illness.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on December 3, 1918. In 1979, he retired from the Bell Telephone Laboratory after 43 years as a Service Coordinator. He and his wife later moved to Colorado to be near their three daughters. After her death, he married Jane Bottoms in 1985.

Herbert enjoyed traveling, and he and Jane took many trips throughout the United States and Canada. He served on four Lutheran church councils. At the time of

his death, he was a member of the Boulder, Colo., Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jane; one son, Robert, of Galena, Ohio; twin daughters, Lynn Lynch and Lois Taylor, both of Denver, Colo.; three stepchildren, Roger Bottoms of Parker, Colo., Donna Browning of Westminster, Colo., and Ann Little of Oceanside, Calif.; 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held on September 21, 1998, with the Revs. Ralph Grosser and David Thorngate officiating.

**Davidson.**—Keith Davidson, 85, of Cleburne, Texas, died on October 10, 1998.

He was born on January 13, 1913, and was a member of the Remembrance Seventh Day Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Texas.

Although Keith was a member of Remembrance for only a short time, he was a great blessing, driving almost 70 miles round-trip each Sabbath. He was re-baptized last spring, and was a witty student of history and the Bible. The church's Bible study on Sabbath mornings was blessed by his presence, and he will be greatly missed.

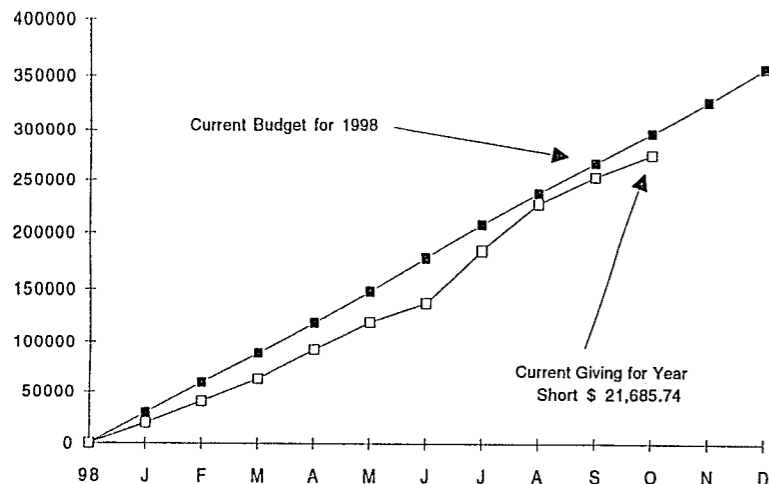
At a young age, Keith was a cowboy in northern Nevada and a construction worker on the Hoover Dam. He spent a large portion of his career in real estate in New Mexico and Arizona, selling land to the Indians. During that time, he piloted his own plane.

Survivors include two sons, Sammy of Staples, Minn., and David of Albuquerque, N.M.; two daughters, Nancy Kanode of Dayton, Ohio, and Louella Farrell of Glendale, Calif.; 14 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

## Marriages

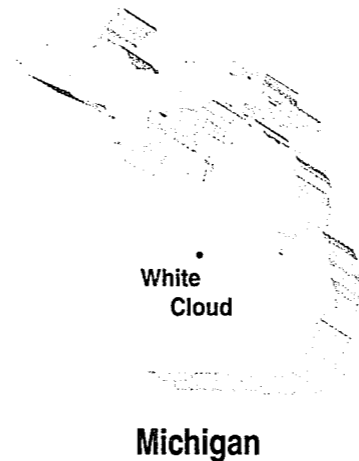
**Rood - Ketterman.**—Timothy Rood and Kelly Ketterman were married on August 9, 1998, at the First Christian Church of Boulder, CO. Pastor Ray Lincoln officiated.

## Current Giving 1998



## North Central gathering includes a "Preach-On"

by Margaret Stevens



The North Central Association of Seventh Day Baptists met in White Cloud, Mich., on October 10, 1998, with about 135 in attendance. Representatives came from Albion, Madison, Milton, New Auburn, and Portage, Wis.; Dodge Center, Minn.; Champaign, Ill.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Battle Creek, Mich., and White Cloud.

Highlights of the meeting included a "Preach-On," in which Pastors Mike Burns, Keith Julson, Harold King, Dale Rood, Dale Smalley, and Bernie Wethington spoke on their interpretation of John 14:12. Each pastor was limited to 15 minutes.

Norma Rudert, 1999 Conference President, brought the Sabbath evening message. Speaking in her home church, she dealt in an inspiring way with the theme for next year's Conference; "Be ye holy, for I am holy," 1 Peter 1:16.

Her talk, and that of Rod Henry's, was followed by an exciting concert by Erik and Mandy Henry.

The Teen Center next door, and the pool at Woods and Waters Resort, added much to the enjoyment of our youth.

Next October's meeting will be held in Albion, with Association President Calvin Babcock presiding. *SR*

## Supreme Court refuses to review voucher ruling

by Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court sidestepped a major church-state dispute Nov. 9, leaving in place taxpayer funding for religious schools in Milwaukee, Wis.

The court's action put off for another day a ruling on whether the use of vouchers to pay for parochial school tuition violates the separation of church and state.

Left intact was a ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court that upheld the inclusion of religious schools in Milwaukee's voucher program.

Up to 15,000 lower-income students can use vouchers to attend more than 100 private schools, most of which are sectarian. This permits the shifting of up to \$70 million from public to private schools during the current school term, voucher opponents say.

Two lower courts ruled that the

program violated church-state provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution, but the state's top court disagreed, holding that the program offended neither the state nor federal constitutions.

In a 4-2 ruling, the Wisconsin Supreme Court said the voucher program does not have the primary effect of advancing religion because it "places on equal footing options of public and private school choice, and vests in the hands of parents to choose where to direct the funds allocated for their children's benefit."

Voucher supporters found more to cheer about in the U.S. Court's rejection of the case.

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel at Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, said the high court sent a "clear signal to other school districts and communities who want to put educational choice

back in the hands of parents."

Voucher opponents saw the high court's refusal to review the case as disappointing but insisted it set no nationwide precedent.

"This action by the court means only that Milwaukee's program may proceed," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. "It does not amount to a high court blessing of tax aid to religious schools."

Brent Walker, general counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee, noted that the high court is "as cautious as it is conservative" in avoiding constitutional issues until forced to decide them.

Walker said, "The Supreme Court's refusal to review does not mean it agrees with the decision or creates any legal precedent beyond the borders of Wisconsin." *SR*

# Department Index for 1998

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Blountville, TN ..... Jan.	Miami, FL ..... June	Salemville, PA ..... Sept.
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# KEVIN'S

## ORNER

Have you ever seen the book entitled, "What They Didn't Teach You in Seminary"?

If your church expects the pastor to stand in the back of the sanctuary to greet the congregation as they leave, this book left out one extremely important chapter:

"Hugging."

And I think I could help write it.

After hugging the same church folks for years, one gets to know their hugging "style." Tilting heads to the left, most go for the straightforward quick embrace. Of course, one guy insists on a right-headed tilt.

Many prefer just a half-hug, my left arm over their shoulders (while they can rest their head on my shoulder; or the shorter ones get buried in my chest). Some extend a handshake-only-thank-you-very-much. And that's fine; it's something the pastor has to learn.

Other hug variations take some practice. Like one older woman thrusts her left arm high, forcing me to dip my right arm around her waist (see how complicated this gets?) or else I wind up with missing teeth as I try to counter her arm move.

Two shorter ladies want me to lean forward for a cheek-to-cheek experience (right ones only), which can get uncomfortable for them if I'm growing a beard. Another tall, solid, outgoing, nearing-retirement motherly maternity nurse expects (and gets) nothing but a full-body squeeze.

Pastor Steve James of the Verona, N.Y., church used to carry a briefcase that you just couldn't miss. Emblazoned on one side—thanks to a colorful bumper sticker—was the question, "Have you hugged your pastor today?"

Truth is, all of us could use a hug this time of year. The holidays can accentuate some unmet needs of the recent past, or of days long gone.

The end of the year can also magnify the mistakes and misgivings of the previous 11 months. We may feel lonely, unworthy, longing to be accepted. We yearn to be loved.

We need a hug.

Mainstay Resources, the originators of the 50-Day Spiritual Adventure, have also created material for an Advent celebration. This timely tidbit on hugging comes from this year's celebration packet:

Hundreds of years ago, the early Church came up with a plan for extending friendship in the middle of the worship service. They called it "Passing the Peace." Some offered a "Holy Kiss." Others embraced.

They were on to something. Hugging is one of the best gifts you can give—

•Hugging is Healthy.

It helps the body's immune system. It cures depression, it reduces stress, it aids sound sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects...

Hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

•Hugging is All Natural.

It is organic, naturally sweet, has no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients, and is 100% wholesome.

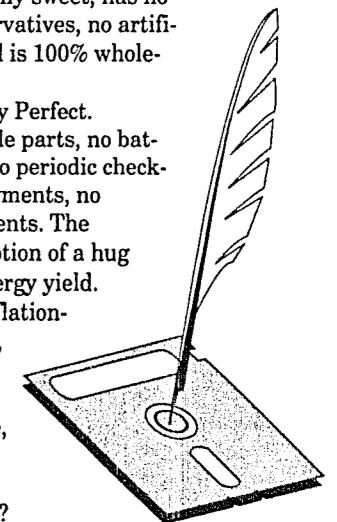
•Hugging is Practically Perfect.

There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic check-ups, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements. The low-energy consumption of a hug results in a high-energy yield.

Finally, hugs are inflation-

proof, non-fattening, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting, and of course, fully returnable!

So, how about a hug?



Jeanette Appel of Stonefort, Ill., widow of the Rev. A. Addison Appel, passed away on November 8. Her obituary will appear next month. This Christmas will not be the same without my hug from Jeanette.

—Editor

## Feature Index for 1998

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