

The

S

abbath

News for and about
Seventh Day Baptists

February 1998

R

ecorder

Untapped
for Miracles
Tapped-Out
Christians



The 1998 50-Day
Spiritual Adventure



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

New Directory

The 1997 *Seventh Day Baptist Directory* is now available at the SDB Center in Janesville, Wis.

The cost is \$8.75 per directory, which includes postage. For those who pick up a *Directory*, the cost is \$7.50 each.

Pastors' Roundtable of Theological Discussion

May 18-20, 1998

Seventh Day Baptist Center
Janesville, Wis.

Do you have a paper to present for discussion?

Contact

Pastor Bernie Wethington,
White Cloud, Mich.
(616) 689-1191

Check
February's Lead-Line for
registration forms

Pastoral search in Missouri

The Faith Seventh Day Baptist Church in Doniphan, Mo., is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. The Faith church recently built a new Fellowship Hall and church building. The church is located in a rural setting in the Missouri Ozarks.

If God is calling you to a growing ministry with loving people, please contact the Pastoral Search Committee at P.O. Box 105, Fairdealing, MO 63939 or call (573) 857-2764 for additional information.

Robe of Achievement

The Women's Society is accepting nominations for the Robe of Achievement for 1998. Please be considering a woman in your church who meets these criteria for nomination:

- Must be a committed Christian
- Must be an active member of a local SDB church
- Was/is active as a volunteer in some phase of denominational effort
- Has shown evidence of special service with her family and/or community

A complete resumé must be submitted containing a life history including her achievements and activities. If an individual has been nominated before, and you still want that person considered, please re-submit the name as well as the resumé.

Send all nominations to:

Elizabeth Bidwell, P.O. Box 136, Shiloh, NJ 08353

Deadline: March 31, 1998

The Sabbath Recorder

Establ. 1844

February 1998
Volume 220, No. 2
Whole No. 6,826

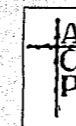


A Seventh Day Baptist publication

The Sabbath Recorder (ISSN 0036-214X) (USPS 474460) is published monthly (combined July & August) by the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference's Tract and Communication Council, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. This publication is distributed at no cost to members and friends of Seventh Day Baptist churches and is made possible by donations from its readers. Periodicals postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Sabbath Recorder*, 3120 Kennedy Road, PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678

This is the 153rd year of publication for *The Sabbath Recorder*. First issue published, June 13, 1844. Member of the Associated Church Press. *The Sabbath Recorder* does not necessarily endorse signed articles.



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.

WRITERS: Please type manuscripts double spaced. Only manuscripts that include a stamped, addressed envelope can be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed; however, they will be considered on a space available basis. No remuneration is given for any article that appears in this publication. Paid advertising is not accepted.

Features

Untapped miracles4
by Bill Richardson

What could a required course in prairie ecology teach a pastor about God's untapped miracles?

Tapping in to God's resources8
by Jack Nelson

It's time to evaluate how we avail ourselves of God's resources by using His Word—the Bible.

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation14-15

A world map with pictures of delegates to last July's World Federation gathering in Jamaica.

"Just As I Am"23
by Linda Bingham Hays

A familiar hymn convinces a college student to come to the Lord on His terms—a salvation testimony.

Departments

Women's Society 11	Seek spiritual maturity 19
<i>Mission-minded moms</i>	<i>"Saying grace" helps families</i>
Pearls from the Past 12	President's Page 20
<i>A "pardon" for Pardon Davis</i>	<i>A list of Conference seminars</i>
SR Almanac 13	Local news 21-22
<i>Looking back 5, 10, 25... years</i>	<i>Daytona Beach, FL</i> 21-22
	<i>Adams Center, NY</i> 22
Christian Education 16	Family flux 24-25
<i>Looking for nominations for Teacher of the Year</i>	<i>Accessions, marriage</i> 24
	<i>Obituaries</i> 25
Focus 17	SR Reaction 24
<i>Gambian leader imprisoned</i>	
The Beacon 18	Kevin's Korner 27
<i>Year-end retreat in Minnesota</i>	<i>Plug in and don't dry up</i>

Untapped miracles

by Bill Richardson

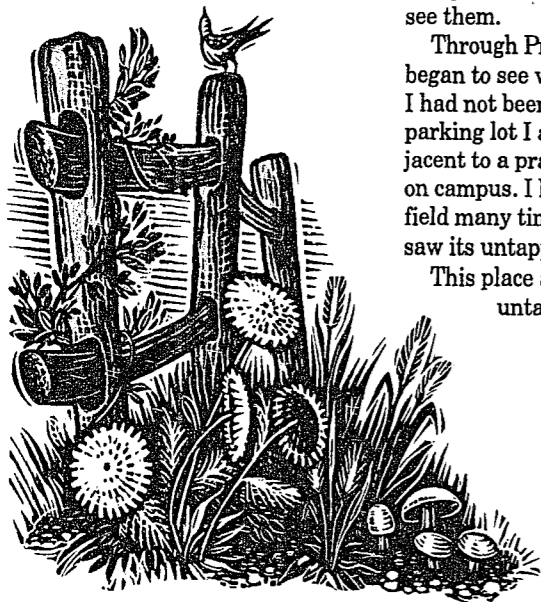
This year's 50-Day Spiritual Adventure is entitled "Untapped Miracles for Tapped-Out Christians." For most churches, the Adventure kicks off on the weekend of February 21-22 and runs through the Lenten season. See the back cover for more information.

Recently I enrolled in a botany class at our local community college. The course title was Botany 120: Prairie Ecology.

The particular emphasis of the class was studying the vegetational heritage of the tall grass prairie, especially in northern Illinois.

As part of the class curriculum, I was required to identify more than 100 prairie plant species. (I took the class to fulfill a requirement for a certification I was seeking with the state of Illinois.)

I approached the class with all the enthusiasm of a student needing to meet a requirement. In other words, I was not looking forward to it at all, but it turned out to be



*I had walked
by this field
many times before but
never saw its untapped beauty.*

one of the best classes I have ever taken.

Why was this so? It was a great class because the professor opened my eyes to a part of God's creation which was previously unseen.

Finding God in a prairie

Each class session began with an enthusiastic slide presentation of 12-15 species of plants that are native to the prairie. The professor's exclamations of praise concerning each individual plant was contagious.

Part of our class time each week was spent walking through this restored prairie site to examine and appreciate the plants in the field. Professor Kirt, with all the excitement of a kid in a candy store, would race ahead of us extolling the magnificence of every species he saw. He was totally energized by this visual display of God's glory, which he never seemed to take for granted.

The plants had been there all along, but I didn't see them—*really* see them.

Through Professor Kirt's eyes I began to see what was there—what I had not been able to see. The parking lot I always used was adjacent to a prairie-restoration site on campus. I had walked by this field many times before but never saw its untapped beauty.

This place and others remained untapped resources for

recreation and refreshment because, in the rush of life, I had been too busy to see what was there all along. I was blind to their exquisite beauty.

Now, thanks to Professor Kirt's knowledge and guidance, I am tapped into this new, yet everyday resource of God's splendor.

We need spiritual energy

Life can be like that at times. We lead such busy, cluttered lives that we fail to see what God has provided for our good. We miss experiencing those everyday miracles that God has for us.

This year's 50-Day Spiritual Adventure is entitled "Untapped Miracles For Tapped-Out Christians." As Christians, we want to be all that Christ intends us to be, but sometimes we get exhausted, run-down, tapped out. It's hard to admit, but if we're honest with ourselves and with God, what we need more than anything else these days is spiritual energy.

God wants to renew our strength and spiritual vitality. More often than not, He chooses to do this in some very ordinary ways but often with spectacular results. That is what the 50-Day Adventure is all about. It is designed to help us discover, or in many cases rediscover, those untapped, everyday miracles that God has provided to strengthen and sustain His followers in this hectic journey of life.

Our mentors in this year's Adventure are men and women whose life stories speak to us over the ages from the pages of the Bible. They include women like Ruth and Naomi, Esther, Mary and Martha, and men like David, Daniel, Joshua, Paul, and some less familiar like Diotrephes and Gaius. Their life stories can lead us to those untapped resources of God's grace that, if practiced, will cause us to live in the abundance that God intended all along.

What are the untapped miracles that await our discovery?

Adventure themes

Untapped Miracle 1: Finding Tension's Good Side

A phrase we often hear is "I felt like I was banging my head against a brick wall." Brick walls faced without God help lead to tension, discouragement, bitterness, hopelessness, and even despair.

But God wants to use the pressures in our lives to transform our pessimism into optimism. In the story of Naomi and Ruth, we see Naomi concentrating on the negative and becoming bitter. Ruth, trusting God, walks forward into an uncertain future and finds a life beyond her wildest dreams.

Untapped Miracle 2: The 24/7 Church

"Church morning religion" needs to be traded in for "moment by moment faith." A faith which is only active during the weekly worship service will fizzle when Monday arrives.

The Holy Spirit promises to empower and enable us to live lives which are energized as the church is scattered into every walk of life.

Just as Daniel insisted on openly praying three times a day, refusing to be restricted by ungodly laws and ending up in the lions' den, we are challenged to live out our faith 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



*We want to be
all that Christ
intends us to be, but
sometimes we get exhausted,
run-down, tapped out.*

Untapped Miracle 3: Christian Hospitality

"Open heart, open home" is a way of saying that only out of a truly open heart can genuine Christian hospitality be extended.

If we guard our hearts and our homes, we live closed and boarded up lives when God intends that we be people who gladly welcome others out of love.

A key is beginning to understand the difference between *entertaining* and *hospitality*. In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha was attempting to entertain, but Mary was truly welcoming Jesus and being hospitable. She is a wonderful model of one who exhibits a truly open heart and an open home.

Untapped Miracle 4: Pulpit/Pew Mutual Support

"I didn't get anything out of that message." "I'm not being fed."

These are phrases used too often in today's churches. Part of the reason is the lack of communication between pastor and congregation.

Both need to be open to sharing and listening to one another so there can be genuine support.

There needs to be a working together: a) a heartfelt listening to the people on the part of the pastor, and b) a resistance to being critical but a willingness to give needed feedback on the part of the people.

The example of Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' hands in prayer is a beautiful picture of this kind of support.

Untapped Miracle 5: Prayer by Fasting

Fasting is not necessarily popular in a culture which says, "I want to get my needs met." We are not used to denying ourselves anything, and yet God presents a mysterious connection between fasting and the discipline of prayer.

We have the strong indication from Scripture that when we come up against a strong enemy, face a decision of significant proportions, or ache with a deepening desire to seek God, fasting is appropriate and even necessary. We see this in the story of Esther, who experienced a series of miracles following the prayer and fasting she and her people did.

cont. next page

**Untapped Miracle 6:
Telling Our Stories**

Air Force One. My Best Friend's Wedding. Ulee's Gold. These are stories which have captured the attention of recent moviegoers.

Good stories can be entertaining, to be sure, but real-life faith stories can energize and revitalize our walk with God. Listening to the stories of the Bible, stories of contemporary Christians (including friends and neighbors), and telling our own stories can be an important source of spiritual energy.

God said to Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you," and Joshua, looking back at Moses' journey, took courage to go forward into the Promised Land.

**Untapped Miracle 7:
The Wider Kingship**

"We are all one in Christ" is an important principle as we realize how disagreements and gossip in the body of Christ can result in defeated Christians.

Centering on things we have in common, loving in spite of our differences, and refusing to slander one another means that Christ's body will go forward to expand God's kingdom in a marvelous way. Third John contrasts Diotrephes and Gaius as negative and positive examples of how believers are to treat one another.

**Untapped Miracle 8:
The Living Christ**

"The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" This acclamation voices the truth that the ultimate energy source is the power which outflows from Jesus' resurrection.

This must become the most dynamic reality in our lives as we face the demands and pressures of a culture which thinks life ends at every funeral. We know this is not true, and that an endless supply of energy is available to us as we plug into this eternal energy source.

Actions steps

How do we work these themes into the everyday fabric of our lives? Five action steps have been designed to do just that.

• Be a 24/7 Believer

Each day during the Adventure, we're invited to play the "To, Through, and Talk About Game." We know that God talks to us regularly in a variety of ways—from Scripture, through people, through nature—and he also talks *through* us as we speak words of encouragement, witness, and counsel to those around us.

It's important to be sensitive to these significant moments and then talk about them together. You'll record one of these experiences in your journal every day of the Adventure.

• Open Your Home and Your Heart

At least one time during the 50 days of our Adventure, you'll be encouraged to invite someone into your home.

Pray and ask God who that might be—someone from work, a lonely person from church, a new family in the neighborhood—He'll show you. Then follow through and watch God do wonders and quiet miracles in their lives and yours.

• Connect with Your Pastor

You'll be encouraged to pray for your pastor regularly, both before and during the sermon each week. You're also asked to pray for yourself for a receptive and open heart to the teaching, and for the ability to better understand your pastor's message.

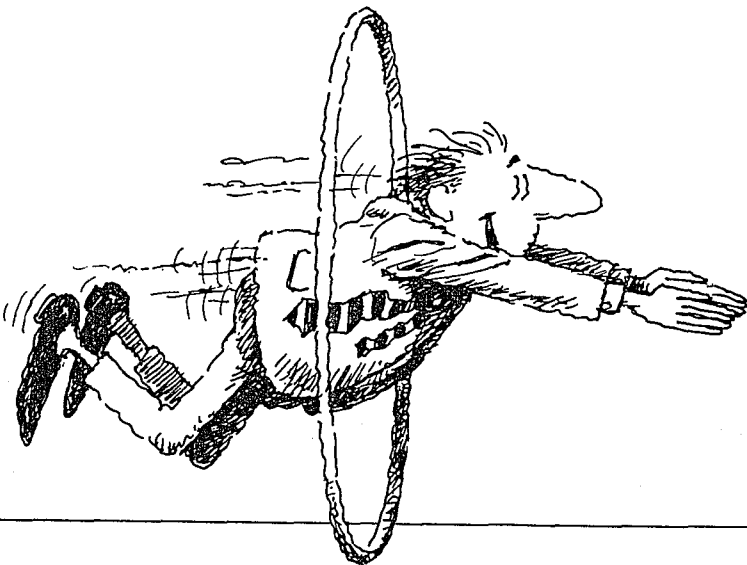
Sending an affirming note to your pastor about how God has spoken to you from the teaching can help the pastor better understand who you are and what your needs are.

• Get Serious About Prayer by Fasting

You'll be asked to take a risk during these 50 days—to at least once pray with fasting, following the simple guidelines provided in the journal (*and box right*). You may be very surprised at what you learn about yourself and God.

• Address Your Tension to God's Attention

God is waiting to redeem our tension-filled existences and turn them into abundant lives. The Adventure journals encourage us to meet God on a daily basis through prayer and Bible study. Each day through the 50 days a passage of Scripture is suggested



which reinforces the biblical theme for that week, and we are invited to pray a simple prayer of faith.

This year's prayer is called the "Tension's Good Side Prayer." It goes like this:

Lord,

One of the untapped miracles in this Adventure is to see how You bring good out of tensions. Right now, a tension I'm facing personally is

I turn this situation over to You, knowing You love me and are in control of my days. Help me to live believing You are constantly working on my behalf. And let me be on the lookout today for evidences of Your miracle touch.
Amen

My wife was recently given the book *Rebel With A Cause*, which recounts the story of Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son. By the time Franklin was a teenager, he was running from God and from what people thought he should be as "Billy Graham's son."

As a young adult he was involved in smoking, drinking, fighting, confrontations with the police, and eventually, expulsion from college. The book jacket states it this way: "Finally, one night in a Middle East hotel room, God caught up with Franklin, and Graham's daredevil, destructive life was from

that point forward transformed into a creative, God-glorifying adventure."

Can you imagine the prayers which went up for Franklin Graham? And God answered.

But God does not only answer the prayers of Billy and Ruth Graham as they turned their anxiety and their son over to the Lord. God desires to do the same for you and me as we journey with Him on this 50-Day Adventure that lies before us.

Like David, we shall discover anew that God's best comes to those who pray. It is, as David demonstrated over and over again, the key to unlocking the door to the treasure chest of God's everyday miracles.

Don't miss it!

An unforgettable Adventure with God is about to begin. You don't want to miss it.

My botany teacher, Professor Kirt, helped me to see the beauty of the prairie plants that I in my haste had been too busy to see. In the same way, the 50-Day Spiritual Adventure will cause us to see the beauty and bounty of our God with new eyes and new hope. *SR*

Rev. Bill Richardson, former pastor, is a Conference Presenter for Mainstay Church Resources, Wheaton, Ill.

God wants to renew our strength and spiritual vitality. More often than not, He chooses to do this in some very ordinary ways but often with spectacular results.

Get serious about prayer by fasting

At least once during the Adventure, practice a fast as part of your prayer life. Since fasting is a very personal thing and there are some cautions, Mainstay Resources offers the following options:

1) The lunch-to-lunch juice fast. This is the best entry-level option, recommended for those who have not fasted before.

2) The three-meal fast. If you've fasted before with good results, try a three-meal fast of about 30-36 hours—again drinking only fruit juice or water.

3) The weekly two-meal or three-meal fast. A number of Christians fast on a weekly basis.

4) Longer options. Most experts do not recommend any fast longer than two or three meals, *unless you're an experienced faster.* Make sure you consult your physician and a spiritual mentor or pastor.

5) The replacement "fast." Find some other habit that is nearly as central to your life as food; something you will choose to give up for a certain period of time so you can focus on God in a special way.

Tapping in to God's resources

by Jack Nelson

During the next few weeks we have the opportunity to do some evaluation by asking, "Am I running the way God wants me to? Am I availing myself of all the resources which He has available? Am I tapping into God's miracles for tapped-out Christians?"

How will we do that evaluation? By spending time daily in God's Word, the Bible.

For those who are not in the habit of investing some daily time in reading God's Word, now is the time to start! Let me give you six reasons why I've found reading, studying, and applying the Bible to be so important in my life.

Scripture leads us to know Jesus

First, it is the Scriptures that lead people to know Jesus.

When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he told Timothy that life was going to be very difficult, that all of the people in the province of Asia were going to turn away from Paul and away from the true God. Timothy needed to stand firm in his faith in time of confusion and of trouble.

Paul told Timothy, "But as for you, continue [stand firm in what you believe] in what you have learned... and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

Do we want to know the way through the fog to God, to a saving relationship with Jesus? It's through the Scriptures that we learn the way. You may be saying, "I've not yet come to the place of knowing that I have a relationship with Jesus Christ. I'm not certain I can say for sure that, if I were to



die tonight, I would be given free and whole entrance into heaven." The Scriptures can lead us to that knowledge, to the faith in Jesus Christ that brings salvation.

Scripture equips us to work for Jesus

Second, the Scriptures not only lead us to faith in Jesus, but also equip us to work for him. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Do we want to be equipped to work for God? Do we want to be able to do something of value in this world and for eternity? We're only going to be effective if we're prepared by being in the Scriptures.

Scripture arms us to fight for Jesus

Third, the Scriptures arm Christians to fight for Jesus. The confusion, darkness, and fog that we face is not simply some physical fight that we're going through.

In Ephesians 6, Paul says our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers in this dark world, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Because of the reality of this battle, Paul encourages us in verse 13 to "put on the full armor of God."

Verse 17 says, "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." It's knowing and being able to use the Word of God that prepares us to stand against the awesome evil in this world and the darkness and confusion that we face.

The Word of God is our "defen-

sive" weapon. In Matthew 4 and Luke 4 we read that Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Satan wanted to sweep Jesus off the course where the Father had placed him. But how does Jesus respond each time Satan hurls a temptation? He says, "It is written."

Since Jesus knew and was able to apply the Scriptures, he was, at the point of temptation, able to thwart Satan. Now, in our lives, it's the same. Knowing and applying the Word is a defensive weapon, which enables us to resist temptation.

But the Bible is also our "offensive" weapon. When Jesus said, in Matthew 16, that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church, he pictures us on the offensive. Satan, at the gates of hell, is struggling to keep those gates closed so we, as God's army, don't breach his security and rescue those held captive. But we're able to burst through with the Word of God, to reach those who have been held captive in darkness.

Scripture guides us to live for Jesus

Fourth, the Scriptures guide us to live for Jesus. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." The Scriptures light our direction in the darkness that we face, and in the confusing times in which we live.

Several years ago, I went on a one-day hike with some friends in the Tennessee mountains. It was an autumn day, a little bit crisp, and the changing colors of the trees made the mountains a splendid mosaic.

We arrived at a spot where an enormous rock jutted out from the top of a cliff. In order to get out onto that rock, we had to jump over a four-foot-wide crevice that was about 50 feet deep.

We all jumped the crevice and

got out onto the solid, flat-topped rock that was about 20 or 30 feet in diameter. Over the far end of the rock was a drastic drop into a valley, hundreds of feet down. A few miles away the opposite side of the valley swept up to meet the horizon.

We sat down on the rock and enjoyed our time together. It was a

sensed that I'm going into the spiritual woods and, though I have an idea of where I want to go, the darkness obscures the way. I know, too, that there are dangers out there: trees of temptation, rocks of harm, and a snake.

At times like that, I would give anything for a spiritual flashlight. Well, God has provided me with

**For those who are
not in the habit
of investing some daily
time in reading God's Word,
now is the time
to start!**

marvelous view. After the sun disappeared behind the opposite rim of the valley, we decided we ought to head home.

When we turned to walk back, we found, to our surprise, that it was pitch-black in the woods. I got to the edge of the rock and could barely make out the outline of the ground from which we'd jumped only hours earlier.

Mustering my deepest courage, I let everybody else jump first. Then I followed them over the crevice and onto the path. We literally had to find our way down the mountain hand-by-hand, feeling our way in the darkness, hoping that we didn't take a wrong path and miss the route that would take us to our goal.

What I wouldn't have given for a light, a lamp, or a penlight, just to give me enough light to know that my next step wasn't going to be on a rock, on a snake, over a cliff, or into a tree. I needed to know the safe path on which I should be walking.

At times in the past I have felt that very same way about life. I've

that light. He has given us all His Scriptures, a lamp for our feet, and a light for our path.

Scripture purifies us to glorify Jesus

Fifth, the Word of God also purifies us to glorify Jesus. We know that a life which is pure, holy, and lived without hypocrisy or duplicity is attractive to people.

Jesus instructs us in Matthew 5 to live such good lives before people "that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Peter echoes those same thoughts in 1 Peter 2:12 when he says, "Live such good lives among the pagans that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

But how do we live a life that's full of that kind of purity? Psalm 119 says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word, I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (vv. 9, 11).

Reading, understanding, memorizing, and most importantly, ap-

plying God's Word to my life allows me to have the resources to stand up, as Jesus did, against the temptations of sin and to live a life of positive goodness. As I do that and live a more pure and holy life, I glorify God, not only in the view of the people around me, but also in the sight of the great cloud of angels who are always witnessing my actions.

Scripture encourages us to hope in Jesus

Sixth, the Scriptures encourage people to hope in Jesus.

We live in a society that is full of hopelessness. Our society, especially to young people, is saying, "There is no meaning to life, there is no value to life. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you'll die."

A rampant hopelessness has invaded our culture, and so many of the popular entertainers have become gurus of the "gospel of hopelessness."

Ronald Marris is a sociologist, the former head of the Sociology Department at the University of South Carolina. He edited a journal called *The Journal of Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

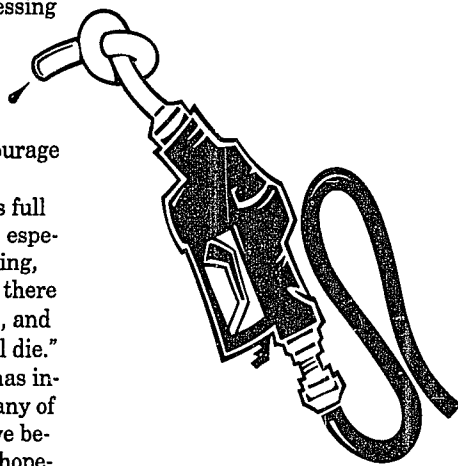
He wrote an article in that journal which said, "The root cause for all suicide is a sense of hopelessness, a belief that things are bad and they're not going to get any better." That root is planted deep in so many of our communities.

All around us this gospel of hopelessness is being preached, but the Word of God contains the gospel of hope. Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

The Scriptures will bring us the hope we need to face the dark and confusing times that will surely come into our lives.

Tapping in when we hurt

Six years ago my father died. Four years ago my mother died. Two years ago my mother-in-law died. Each of those occasions was a time of deep loss and considerable pain. But God, through His



"Am I tapping into God's miracles for tapped-out Christians?"

Word, gave tremendous comfort, hope, and direction during those times.

At my mother-in-law's memorial I shared a passage from Lamentations. The Book of Lamentations chronicles one man's deep loss. At some time we all experience that sense of looking around and saying, "God, what are you doing? Why are you allowing this to happen?"

In chapter 3 Jeremiah says, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord. I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me." He remembers the wandering around as he

sought answers in his confusion and loss.

For Jeremiah, the loss was of his great city and country, destroyed by the opposing armies. Tapped-out, he's saying, "God, where are you? I don't know what to do."

Then, in the next verse, it's as if he turns a corner from the shadows of the alleyways into the bright light of the street. And he says, "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Look at God's new mercies in His Word and be renewed in hope. Jeremiah said, "This I call to mind and therefore I have hope." Let's call to mind the encouragement of the Scriptures and, in the times of confusion, let's have hope. In this Adventure, we can learn who God is and learn that we can trust Him to provide us with His "spectacular energy sources."

But you might say, "This Bible is huge. How am I going to get to know this thing?"

Let me ask you a question that I often ask children: "How did the ant eat the elephant?" The kids all raise their hands, and eventually they come up with the right answer, which is, "One bite at a time!"

That's the same way that we're going to get to know this "elephant" of a book. As we eat from this book, we'll grow and be strengthened, get stronger, and become more able to trust Christ and to know what to do when we don't know what to do.

The 50-Day Adventure helps us take the Scriptures "one bite at a time." *SR*

Rev. Jack Nelson is Vice President of Field Ministries for Scripture Union, Wayne, Pa.



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

Mission-minded moms

A quick review of 1997 highlights—submitted by six of our active Ladies Aids—reveals a multitude of mission-related projects. The following is a brief summary of those activities which reach beyond the local church family and

N.J., receive personal visits each November and cards throughout the year, while the Alfred Station ladies send notes and small gifts.

Those in nursing homes are remembered with wheelchair/walker bags and two holiday tray favors in Alfred Station, cookie trays in North Loup, and Thanksgiving

and blankets through the SDB Missionary Society (Alfred Station); and layettes and school bags for Church Women United (Daytona Beach).

For many of us, mission work may consist of monetary donations so that someone else can meet the physical and spiritual needs of our "ministerees."

"Common threads" in our six reports included Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC), local and denominational budgets, our annual Conference Women's Love Gift, and the uniforms for our sisters in Zambia.

which were not mentioned in December's *Sabbath Recorder*.

Half of the groups reported using the gift of hospitality to serve funeral luncheons, Lenten breakfast, baccalaureate refreshments, and other community meals (Alfred Station, N.Y.; Milton, Wis.; and North Loup, Neb.)

The Daytona Beach, Fla., Church Aid (which includes men) "takes the cake," however, for hosting.

First, they hosted the Senior Saints, working with them to complete a beautiful Fellowship Hall addition to their church. Then, in two months' time, they hosted the SDB Memorial Board, General Council, Pastors' Conference, the SDB World Federation Executive Committee, the Faith and Order Committee, Council on Ministry, and the South Atlantic Coast Churches Steering Committee for Camp Planning. Not a bad season's work!

Community friends who are not able to come to church in Shiloh,

fruit in Shiloh. The Riverside, Calif., ladies provide 60 tray favors five times a year.

North Loup and Shiloh bless their college students and military personnel with boxes of "goodies," which may include homemade cookies, other snacks, and non-edibles.

Other outreach activities among our women include: hand-tied quilts (North Loup); baby kimonos

"Common threads" in our six reports included Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC), local and denominational budgets, our annual Conference Women's Love Gift, and the uniforms for our sisters in Zambia.

Milton also supported Church World Service in a blanket drive, UNICEF, Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, and *The Sabbath Recorder*.

North Loup donated to the fund to send the Luis Lovelace family to Mexico, and to their own Lord's Acre Project.

Alfred Station contributed to the Heifer Project, Shiloh made an annual donation to the New Jersey Council on Alcohol Problems, and Riverside collected small change at each meeting for Sunshine Mountain Children's Home in Mississippi. *SR*

Women's Board/SCSC news

The SCSC Committee has set tentative dates for training as June 12-19, with the understanding that a second training session will be held later for any New York or Canadian youth who apply and are accepted for SCSC. Althea Rood has again consented to serve as Training Director and is contacting potential staff members to assist her.

The training location will be decided and announced later. SCSC applicants will be expected to raise \$200 of their own support again this year.



A "pardon" for Pardon

Davis appear on that same list.

Other records reveal that Mariam was the public school teacher for A.H. Lewis and his wife. Jeremiah Davis Jr. remained in Milton where he married Jane Goodrich, the daughter of Joseph and Nancy Goodrich.

A letter dated September 22, 1854, written from a prison in Louisiana and addressed to the Berlin church, was published in *The Sabbath Recorder* May 24, 1855.

In the letter, Pardon Davis told of his intent to settle his business in Louisiana and return North to offer himself to God, and the remainder of his days to His service. But as he left the house of a friend to go for his horse in the pasture, he was met by a slave-hunter and his dogs. Davis continued the account in these words:

He immediately drew a revolver, threatening to fire at me if I stirred or made a noise. Others came, and I was marched off to a constable's office. The whole town was soon assembled, and the procession

bling my hand-writing—ink and paper like mine. With this kind of evidence I was committed to jail, no one daring to speak on my behalf but a petty lawyer from Mississippi. The citizens of Waterproof, fearing the evidence not sufficient to condemn me, formed themselves into a mob, threatening if I got clear that Lynch law should be called upon. Some said, Hang him; others Shoot him; and some said, Give him a thousand lashes on the bare back.

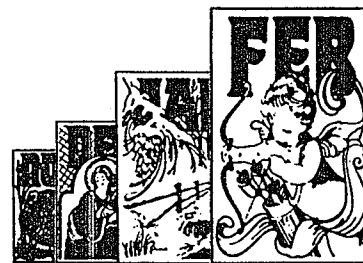
The cause of my being arrested, as stated by Mr. Perkins, the negro hunter, is: A man in Mississippi having discovered a trail of run-aways, sent for him to come with his dogs and catch them. He went, and caught them, after running them thirty or forty miles. Upon overtaking them, they all ran up the fence to get away from the dogs. He asked them who they belonged to. They gave him a fictitious name, at the same time, presenting passes which he read; but being a villain at heart, Perkins took them down one at a time and set his dogs on

"I am well persuaded, that if the truth of the case should be found out, it would be called a real Yankee trick."

marched to the school-house, where I was informed by the magistrate, that I had been charged with aiding slaves to escape from their masters. After a brief examination, in which many witnesses were sworn, all of whom had seen me talking with, or known of hiring negroes on Sundays or evenings, though this is a common practice for the people of this country; but the difference is, I am from the North. Written passes were found in my possession resem-

them. The negroes, after being torn in a shocking manner, promised if he would desist they would tell the truth. The dogs being taken off, the negroes confessed: "We belong to Mr. Dunkin of Louisiana, and the overseer, Huggins, whipped us nearly every night, because, being new hands, we could not pick cotton enough. We stood this as long as we could and ran away. We went to Mr. Davis's wood yard, and told

cont. on page 26



SR Almanac

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

One year ago—February 1997

50-Day Spiritual Adventure theme is "The Church You've Always Longed For." Testimony of a "welcoming church" is shared by Desiree Taylor of Westerly, R.I.

"From kinship to Kingship," by Rick Perez, finishes its three-part series.

"Beacon" page shares the Riverside, Calif., YF missions trip to Mexico.

Randolph Terrace, a low-rent housing complex founded by the Salem, W.Va., SDB Church, celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Hope SDB Church in Philadelphia ordains Pastor Kenroy Cruickshank in October.

Five years ago—February 1993

Issue is devoted to the history and future of the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC). Testimonies shared by the first directors and workers of the 1964 project, including Persus DeLand, Linda Hays, and Russ Johnson.

Other SCSC memories related by Florence Bowden, Althea Rood, Keith and Jennifer Bond, Rodney and Camille Henry, Kim Baker, and Ruth Ryschon.

Christian Education department notes the retirement of Onnalee Saunders, and the appointment of Mae Bottoms as the new assistant to the Executive Director.

"Pearls from the Past" page remembers the early student evangelists and musical quartets of the late 1800s.

10 years ago—February 1988

Conference President Herbert Saunders and "Pearls" writer Don Sanford focus on covenants.

Christian Education page emphasizes the teaching function of the church.

Several seventh-day Christian groups sponsor a booth at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham.

German SDBs send funds to Central Africa Conference for new buildings in Malawi.

The Verona, N.Y., church's prison ministry, led by Helen Green, is highlighted on the Women's Page.

25 years ago—February 1973

Herb Saunders guest-edits special issue, "Joy Is Like the Rain." Cynthia Rudolph provides the colorful artwork, and writers include Alan Crouch, Marian Soper, Francis Saunders, John Harris, Ernest Bee Jr., and Peg Van Horn.

John Bevis named as Publishing Director for the American Sabbath Tract Society, to begin August 1.

The American Bible Society surpasses the one billion mark in Scripture distribution.

Many photos accompany report of the first Spiritual Retreat in Guyana, South America, held in January.

Two separate Dedicated Service Teams plan to work in Daytona Beach, Fla., over spring break.

50 years ago—February 1948

Restoration work of the German SDB Cloister in Ephrata, Pa., nearly completed.

"Drastic Measures" article lists cost-cutting moves for the SR—reducing pages of special issues, reverting to cheaper linotype over hand-set heads, and narrowing the type column to allow using regular paper stock.

Dr. Ben Crandall prepares for special SDB mission trip to Guyana and Jamaica.

Rev. Royal R. Thorngate, SDB pastor and missionary, passes away in January.

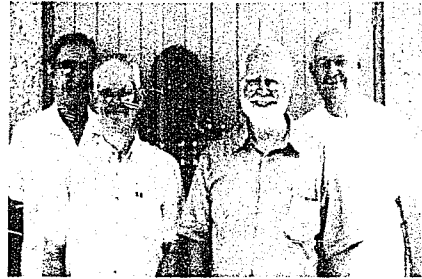
After serving 25 years as Corresponding Secretary for the Missionary Society, Dr. William L. Burdick retires. George B. Utter also retires as Recording Secretary following 26 years of service.

...where are we headed?

Pray—

- that we remain strong in our beliefs
- for students/churches involved with SCSC
- for our local and worldwide covenants
- God's blessing on former Conference workers
- that we remember those imprisoned
- that we would catch God's vision anew
- that the Sabbath remains a special delight

USA & Canada



J. Paul Green, Calvin Babcock, Joe A. Samuels, Dale D. Thorngate, Leon R. Lawton. (not pictured: Jean Lewis)

Seventh Day Baptist World Federation

Delegates to the 1997 Sessions

Passley Gardens, Jamaica
July 14-20

Jamaica



Naval W. Harley, Prudence E. Robinson, Herbert (Ben) McLean

Haiti



*Fraternal Delegate
Jean Lucas Julien*

Federation President



Gabriel E. Bejjani

Guyana



Jacob N. Tyrrell and Elnora Andries (top left) with observers Amy Damon, Inez Peters and Sherlock Caesar

Brazil



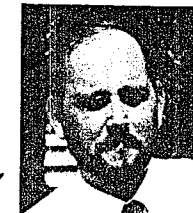
João Maria Alves Correia and José Dirceu de Andrade Cruz

England



Owen and Jossett Lynch

Netherlands



Frits Nieuwstraten

Poland/Czech Republic



Pavel and Andrzej Bujok

India: Kerala



Sosamma Phillip and Susamma Koshy

Philippines



Al B. Paypa and Fraternal Delegate Manuel Salera

**Central Africa:
Malawi**



Royal J.B. Mkandawire

South Africa



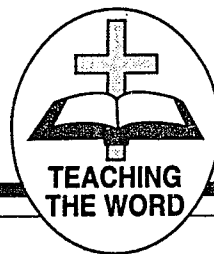
Elsbeth Mazomba and James Siwani

Australia/New Zealand



Delegates Barbara Eldred (bottom left) and Rev. Ronald Barrar (top right).

With observers Stefan and Vicky Kube, Ian Ingoe, Dorothy Goulding, Dorothy d'Alpuget, Maria Barrar and Dorothea Shettel.



Christian Education

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

Taking nominations for Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

The Sabbath School Committee of the Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education invites each member church of the General Conference to nominate one Sabbath School teacher for the 13th annual *Crystal Apple Award*. The 1998 Teacher of the Year will be selected from the nominees using the following criteria:

- Is a member in good standing of the nominating church
- Exhibits the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teachings of Christ
- Currently serves as a Sabbath School teacher

The local church pastor and superintendent are asked to complete, sign, and return the form certifying the nominee's church membership, present teaching position, previous teaching experience, unique teaching skills or practices, and other Christian Education service. The postmarked deadline is June 30, 1998.

The Board is seeking nominees whose teaching skills have contributed to the Christian conversion and nurture of our people. The Board understands that it is not possible to recognize and honor every worthy teacher. Nevertheless, we wish to honor one such teacher on behalf of all our Sabbath School teachers. We urge the local church to annually recognize all of their teachers.

Nomination forms will be mailed this month to pastors and Sabbath School superintendents. If you need a replacement form or further in-

formation, please contact the Board of Christian Education, P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115, or telephone (607) 587-8527. *SR*

• **George Parrish**
Battle Creek, Mich.
1986

• **Shirley Cargill**
North Loup, Neb.
1987

• **Margaret Allen**
Lost Creek, W.Va.
1988

• **Helen Bond**
Columbus, Ohio
1989

• **June Johnson**
Nortonville, Kan.
1990

• **Ruth Bennett**
Battle Creek, Mich.
1991

• **Dan Richards**
Texarkana, Ark.
1992

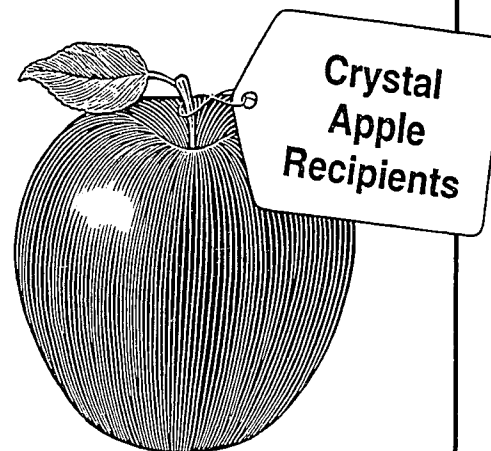
• **Lewis H.V. May**
Riverside, Calif.
1993

• **Alan R. Crouch**
Daytona Beach, Fla.
1994

• **Madeline Fitz Randolph**
Boulder, Colo.
1995

• **Karen S. Payne**
Dodge Center, Minn.
1996

• **Janis M. Bond**
Shiloh, N.J.
1997



FOCUS on Missions

Gambian leader imprisoned for Lord

by Kirk Looper

Recently, I visited our SDB church in The Gambia in north-west Africa. It was exciting to see the work being done there, even though they are not yet registered with the government.

The church has about 80 members and meets in an upstairs

room measuring 25 feet by 30 feet, with a stairwell toward one end. It is crowded, but they feel that the time spent there is worth the discomfort.

They hope that they will be able to construct a building in the near future that will house a church,

central office, and school. The Gambians pray that the sister Conferences and churches will help with this project.

While there, I was able to learn more about Mr. Opoku and the time he spent in prison. I would like to share his story with you:

Sacrifice

by Kwabena Opoku (Mustapha)

The Gambia Conference was not pursued as it was done to Steven, Paul, and the early missionaries. We in the Gambia Conference see it as sacrifice which one has to render to our Lord Christ as He, Christ, also died for us on the cross for our salvation. This sacrifice is to show the love for the Conference and Christ.

Since the beginning of our Conference, we have been encountering a number of internal problems, such as exercising authority that was not democratic or not consulting elders and members of the Conference, and personal ambition which leads to division—on this note the Conference nearly collapsed. But with His grace, what Satan was planning could not materialize. Thanks be to God!

The Gambia Conference embarked on projects which would expand our outreach by spreading the Good News. In so doing, we felt we should look for funds through setting up some business. The Conference initiated a business for which a loan was given. The loan was to be used to import agricultural equipment, especially food processing machines.

Finally, we had problems where the customs were about to send the Conference to court. It was going to be a serious case as far as our Conference is concerned. Meanwhile, the Conference had not registered. With such a problem coming, one decided to save the Conference and the church.

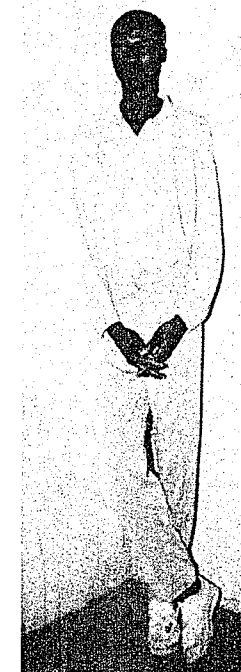
Personally, I asked myself, "Presently in my life, what have I done to show my love for the Almighty? Why can't I shoulder the situation rather than having the Conference do it?" It would help the Conference not lose credibility.

I was sent to court, and every court day there should have been someone to sign a bail bond. Finally, I was sent to prison for two months—from the 11th of February to the 10th of April, 1997. I never expected to be a prisoner for our Conference. Even though I presently have no steady work or job, I am eating every day.

While in prison, I had a Bible and started Bible studies. I held discussions with inmates, and two accepted Christ as their Savior while I was there. One became a strong member of our Conference, but the other could not because of the distance he lives from the church.

I know the Seventh Day Baptist Conference of Gambia will achieve our aim. We want to start a primary school and, if possible, proceed on in the 1998 academic year to a middle school and a junior secondary boarding school. Later, we plan to add a senior secondary boarding school with a skill center, and a technological school.

The Gambia Conference needs prayers for their physical and spiritual well-being. *SR*





the BEACON

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

Mission Impossible?!? 30 attend year-end YF retreat

by Jennifer Butler, Milton, Wisconsin

Do you know your mission?
This was one of the first questions posed to the 30 or so strong souls who braved the cold right before the New Year for some fun fellowship and teaching at Woodland Camp near Dodge Center, Minn. Each day, there was praying, soul searching, and heated discussions as we asked the Lord to reveal His mission for us as individuals. I mean, everyone has always heard that "God has a plan for you." But, what in the world is it?

A majority of us didn't have a clue. We were taught how to put together a mission statement and also took a good look at an example of what *not* to do. This bad example was provided by Jonah, the crazy prophet who thought he could run away from the Omnipresent. We also learned ways to witness, and lessons on looking for the right future mate. Along with all the teaching and learning, we had plenty of time for fun. There was laughter galore when the small groups presented skits on a famous "oops" of the

Bible, such as the Fall of man, and Moses not being allowed to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Other fun games included racing to unwrap a series of boxes, and traditional winners like "Wink-em" and "If you love me, smile." Even though the weather outside never reached above the freezing point, we started our new year surrounded with the warmth of God and good friends. We left on January 1st energized (as much as we could on four hours sleep) to pursue God's mission for each of us. Do you know yours?



Part of the Minnesota-Nebraska-Wisconsin youth fellowships ringing in 1998 at a year-end retreat near Dodge Center, Minn.

Helloooo!!

Any other youth groups out there??
Let's hear from you guys!

Write soon or e-mail us at sdbgen@inwave.com



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

Saying grace

by Debbie Moncrief

When you and your family sit down for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or everyday dinner, do you invite Jesus too? Do you allow Him to

Well, you guessed it—Jesus showed up! Soon, the behavior changed as Jesus stopped some things from being said, and chang-

"Saying grace" is when we turn our actions and words over to Christ and let Him control what we do.

When you sit down to eat, do you invite Jesus? Do you give Him control of the things you say and do?

Next time, try it and see what's in store. ✠

Debbie Moncrief is a member of the Shiloh SDB Church.

"Saying grace" is when we turn our actions and words over to Christ and let Him control what we do.

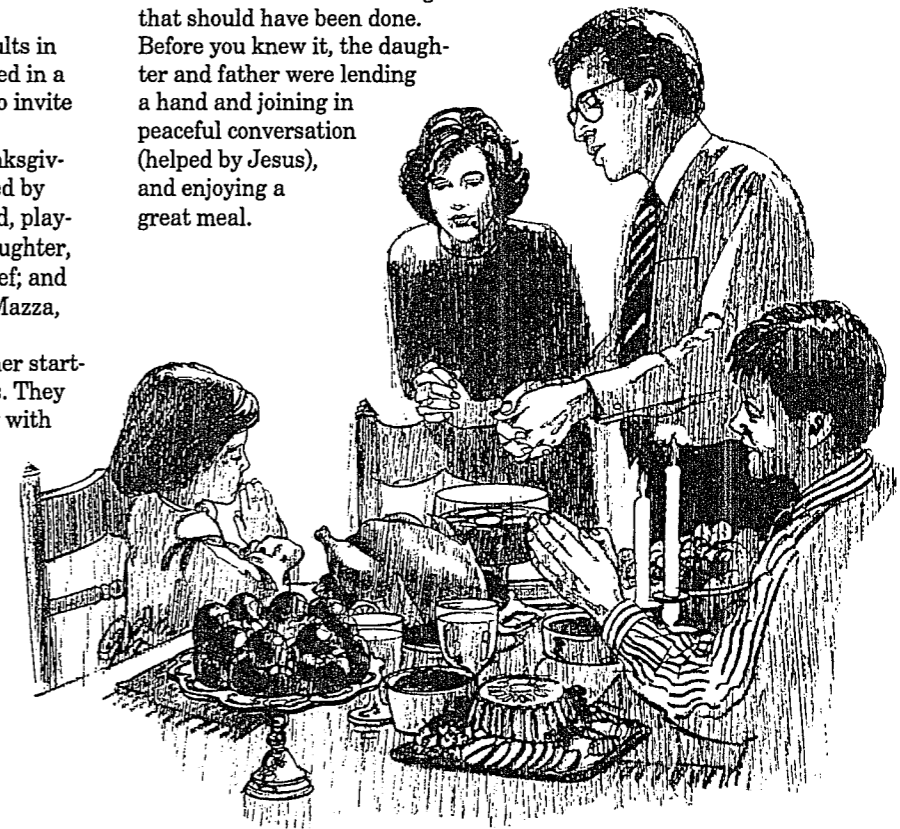
guide your words and your actions at the table?

Some of the young adults in Shiloh, N.J., demonstrated in a skit just what it means to invite Jesus to dinner.

It all started one Thanksgiving when the mom, played by Stephanie Sholtz; the dad, played by Chris Bond; the daughter, played by Debbie Moncrief; and Jesus, played by Frank Mazza, sat down for dinner.

The daughter and father started out with bad attitudes. They were yelling and arguing with each other. Things were not going well at all until mom said grace. Included in her prayer was, "We ask, Jesus, that You be present with us during this meal. We invite You to be with us as we eat and as we speak."

ed some actions toward things that should have been done. Before you knew it, the daughter and father were lending a hand and joining in peaceful conversation (helped by Jesus), and enjoying a great meal.





The President's Page

by John D. Bevis

I encourage you to make plans now to attend General Conference this year in Buckhannon, W.Va., July 26-August 1.

One important part of Conference is the workshops and seminars. I know many look forward to these learning sessions. This year, we are blessed to have several choices—all interesting and helpful.

The seminars will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00, with most offered twice. I guess everyone likes choices, and I want to share with you the choices for Conference next July. Hopefully, as you read over what is available, you will want to be at two or more of these sessions.

At Conference last year, the report of the National Missions Interests Committee included this suggestion: "The committee suggests that a seminar be presented next year at Conference on how we can minister to those who have come out of other denominations, including members of the Worldwide Church of God, Seventh-day Adventists, Mormons, and others..."

"*Relating to Those Who Come to Us*" will be a seminar led by Bill Burks of the Little Rock, Ark., SDB Church, and Pastor Ron Elston of the SDB Missionary Society. They will especially relate to those coming from Seventh-Day Adventism and the Worldwide Church of God.

Many enjoyed the music of the chimes last year in Kansas. In fact, several expressed interest in learning how to play them. "*Chimes*" will be a workshop led by former Conference President Luan Ellis of Alfred Station, N.Y. Hopefully, the group will learn so quickly (she is a good teacher!) that they will be able to play for us before the week is over.

"*Sleuthing Church Records*." Learn how to research historical documents in the local church where no doubt there is a wealth of undiscovered information. This will be led by Historian Don Sanford of Milton, Wis. He will also share insights into geneological research and writing.

"*A History of the Trinity*." This seminar will be jointly led by Pastor Jack Morgan of the Putnam County SDB Church in Florida and Pastor John Camenga of the Daytona Beach, Fla., church. This seminar also comes because of a suggestion made last year during Conference.


"*Chosen for Mission*." Two sessions will be led by a former missionary, Pastor Leroy Bass of Washington Island, Wis. His focus will be to encourage others, especially youth, to consider the challenge and opportunity of mission service. The discussion will include opportunities for full or part-time service. "Youth" of all ages are needed in overseas missions work today.

"*Children Are Chosen Too*." This is a hands-on workshop to teach children and lead them to Christ. Many helpful teaching methods and materials will be shared. Linda Graffius of the Salemville (Pa.) German SDB Church will lead these sessions.

"*Chosen to Bear Fruit That Will Remain*." "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16). This seminar will be led by Pastor Andy Samuels, who shepherds the New York City and Miami, Fla., churches. How do we produce lasting fruit? How do we "close the back door of the church," retaining our youth and new converts?

"*How Christians Can Plan and Spend*." This seminar will be led by another former Conference President, Richard Shepard. Dick currently serves as a Memorial Fund Trustee and is a member of the Houston, Texas, church. This seminar will discuss Christian finance and planning, including how to set up a budget and being a good steward of God's blessings.

These workshops and seminars will be part of the special blessing awaiting those at Conference.

See you in West Virginia! 

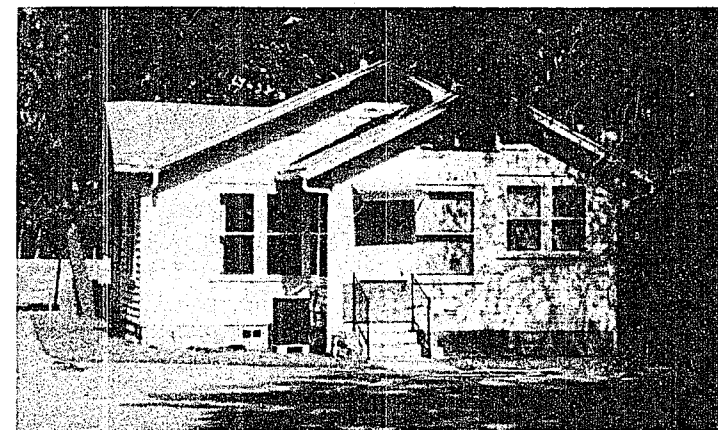
Workshops - Seminars for Conference 1998

- Relating to Those Who Come to Us
- Chimes
- Sleuthing Church Records
- A History of the Trinity
- Chosen for Mission
- Children Are Chosen Too
- Chosen to Bear Fruit That Will Remain
- How Christians Can Plan and Spend

Daytona Beach parish house fire dampens the holidays

Damages now estimated at \$47,000

by Leanne Lippincott



(Above) Back view of the fire-ravaged Daytona Beach parish house. (Left) Charred rafters and "wide open spaces" greet on-lookers.

The Daytona Beach, Fla., Seventh Day Baptist Church received an unwelcomed surprise on Sunday evening, December 21. A fire broke out in the church parish house, causing extensive damage.

A neighbor spotted flames about 8:00 p.m. and immediately dialed 911. Damage to the seven-room building, which houses the church's office and Christian Education space, was set at \$47,000. Fire inspectors determined that the cause of the fire was electrical.

The parish house was an older residence that had been converted for the church's use, Pastor John Camenga explained. As the fire-

ravaged house is rebuilt, it will have to be "brought up to current code requirements."

Since the Daytona church recently completed a major renovation project, doubling its space with a new addition, the "out of pocket" expenses incurred by the fire present an added burden.

"Those funds will be tough to come by," Pastor Camenga stated.

"We have a lot to be thankful for," he added. "Most of the interior damage was smoke damage."

Construction crews will have to remove the roof down to the ceiling and replace all of the rafters

with new trusses. Duct work for the heating and air-conditioning systems will also have to be replaced. Since power has not been restored to the building, no one knows if the air conditioner still works.

As he talked about the damage, Pastor Camenga pointed out that there probably will be "some hidden expenses we don't know about yet." The parish house was insured, but deductibles will come into play.

"Insurance coverage on the building's contents began when we still used a manual typewriter. Now we have a computer, copier, electric typewriter, and a fax machine."

Even though the fire inspection has been completed, Pastor Camenga has so far been unable to get at the church's books, files, and elec-

"You sometimes wonder if you're reaching and touching people," Pastor Camenga noted. "And yet in times like this, people reach back."

tronic equipment housed in the burnt building.

"Acid builds up in smoke," he explained. "Everything that was in the fire has to undergo an ozone treatment, followed by a chemical fog. That neutralizes both the odor and the acid."

The Daytona Beach church has already signed a contract with a

construction company, and work was scheduled to begin in mid-January. An engineer came on January 15 to measure for proper hurricane straps. The project will take about 30 days.

Because the fire occurred during the holidays, steps towards rebuilding the church were slowed.

"We lost a couple of weeks," Pastor Camenga said. "I'll have to plan our next fire at a more convenient time," he noted wryly.

As so often happens, good has already come from the tragedy.

"When I was waiting in line to pick up some photos of the fire," Pastor Camenga related, "another customer noticed that I was 'at

loose ends.' She asked what was wrong, and I told her about the fire. 'Do you have a building fund?' she inquired. When I told her we didn't, she handed me \$10.00 and said, 'Let me start it.'"

Others have also offered financial help. Pastor Camenga's auto mechanic wrote out a check for \$50.00, while a neighbor not connected with the church in any way donated \$25.00. A woman who was helped by the church a year and a half ago sent \$100.00.

"You sometimes wonder if you're reaching and touching people," Pastor Camenga noted. "And yet in times like this, people reach back."

Quoting from Romans 8, Pastor

John proclaimed, "We are further convinced that 'in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'"

"We plan to upgrade the exterior with vinyl siding, and will eventually have a more attractive and useable building—to His glory."

Those who would like to help the Daytona Beach church rebuild its parish house may send their donations to:

Daytona Beach SDB Church

139-145 First Ave.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Gifts may be large or small. "Any contributions will be greatly appreciated," Pastor Camenga said. **SR**

Adams Center freezes over

From fire in Florida (see above) to ice in New York.

From southeast to northeast.

From one Pastor Camenga to another.

The massive January ice storm that hit the northeastern United States and Canada did not leave Seventh Day Baptists unaffected.

Members of our Adams Center, N.Y., church were without power for one week following all the ice that hit the area on January 7. Situated on the eastern edge of Lake Ontario, about ten miles south of Watertown, the town is accustomed to plenty of snow. But

this long icy blast was devastating.

"Everybody weathered it pretty well," reports Pastor Andrew Camenga. "Most of the members had generators to keep their gas furnaces going. They are used to rough winters."

Two of the church women, Bea Maltby and Mildred Scriven, needed to spend several days at the town's Community Center. One day was quite eventful for Mildred. It was her 95th birthday.

"When they heard it was my birthday, they opened up a brand new bed and mattress for me to use," Mildred shared. "That made

it pretty special."

A few days before the storm, Bea already had her share of misfortune. She slipped on some ice and broke her arm near the shoulder. Things have been quite uncomfortable since.

Bea said they had to revert to the old days. "We

got out our kerosene lanterns, but found that the candles put out more light—so we went through lots of candles.

"One day at the Community Center, we were tired of being in the same clothes, so we came home to take a shower. It was only about 40° in the house—you should have seen the steam!"

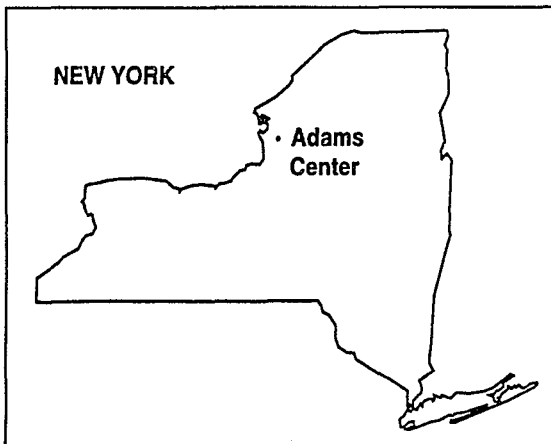
As temperatures inside his mobile home dipped into the 40s, Pastor Andrew decided to get his own generator. He headed south to Syracuse.

He was not alone.

"By the time I got to the store, the truck shipment had not arrived, so I got my name on a list; I believe I was number 14. Later that morning, they unloaded the 25 generators. I'm sure they were all gone within a half an hour."

Other reports mentioned stores holding lotteries for the dwindling inventory of generators.

The church did not hold services on January 10. Fortunately, there were no burst water pipes or damage to the building, and folks were back to church on the 17th. The clean-up effort for downed trees will take some time. **SR**



"Just As I Am"

My salvation story

by Linda Bingham Hays

Thanks to a loving aunt and uncle, I grew up attending church and Sabbath School regularly.

At an early age, I joined the church choir. As a teenager, I taught younger children in Sabbath School. I attended summer camp.

I learned to love the Lord. I earnestly desired to be a Christian and to live what people call "a Christian life."

No matter how hard I tried, though, I kept messing up, doing things that I was sure displeased God—thinking impure thoughts and generally failing at being a Christian. Many times I wanted to give it up and just be "like everybody else." But something kept tugging at me.

More than anything, it was the music that kept me in church. I played the piano, sometimes in a duet with Aunt Vera at the organ.

When I was a college student,

I was named choir director and threw myself into the job with enthusiasm, sometimes writing my own arrangements to fit our small choir that was short on male voices.

But "what I was" certainly didn't measure up very well to my idea of Christian standards. How could I ever hope to be good enough to please the Lord and go to Heaven?

He bade me come to Him just the way I was, with no pretense, no false righteousness of my own—just me.

One evening in my bedroom, I was working out an arrangement for a three-part choir and a soprano or tenor soloist. (Sometimes we were lucky and had a choice!) The words of the anthem were from a familiar hymn, "Just As I Am."

As I ran the music through my mind, the words seemed to have been written just for me.

"Just as I am..."

"...without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me..."

So that was it! The light came on, and I suddenly realized that neither I nor anyone else could ever be good enough.

Jesus' blood shed on the cross of Calvary was the thing, the key I'd been missing. His blood, shed for me, makes it possible for me to be clothed in His righteousness, with His goodness.

"...And that Thou biddest me come to Thee..."

Really, Lord? You wanted me with all my doubts and faults and failures?

Yes, He bade me come to Him just the way I was, with no pretense, no false righteousness of my own—just me. Well, then...

"Oh, Lamb of God, I come!"

And that night I acknowledged Jesus as my Savior, my only hope of salvation, my only hope of Heaven.

That was nearly 40 years ago. Jesus has never asked me for anything but me.

He gave me all of Himself. And day by day, little by little, He's getting more and more of me as I continue to surrender self to my Savior. **SR**

JUST AS I AM William B Bradbury

Charlotte Elliott

1. Just as I am, with-out one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me.
 2. Just as I am, and wait-ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a-bout With many a con-flict, many a doubt.
 4. Just as I am poor, wretch-ed, blind; Sight, rich-es, heal-ing of the mind.
 5. Just as I am Thou wilt re-ceive, Wilt wel-come, par-don, cleanse, re-lieve.

And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God I come! I come!
 To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God I come! I come!
 Fight-ings and fears with-in, with-out, O Lamb of God I come! I come!
 Yea, all I need in Thee to find, O Lamb of God I come! I come!
 Be-cause Thy prom-ise I be-lieve, O Lamb of God I come! I come!



Valentine's Day tributes

Many of you said, "Oh, I was going to send one..." Looks like this will be our last attempt at printing these. Just don't forget your Valentine at home! Thanks to you all!

To Bob (88) from Gladys (86):
At age 14 (magic #), I fell for you
Now you are "Old's 88"
And after 65 married years
I still say "I Do" (Love You)

—Gladys Sutton Randolph

Message: To my sweet Ruthanne,
No matter what you say,
no matter what you do,
forever and much longer,
I'll be loving you.

—Love you forever, Chris

You...

A Gift from God

Me...

The Happy Recipient

—AHAW

Accessions

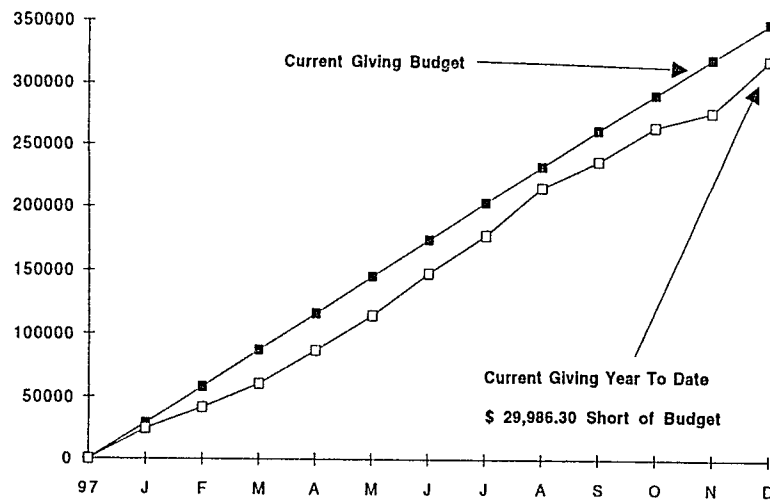
Philadelphia, PA
Kenroy Cruickshank, pastor
Joined after baptism
Simone M. Cruickshank
Athena Cummings

Sodette Pendley
Geoffrey Bennett Jr.
Crystal Ayers
Joined after testimony
Coville S. Farguharson
Lloyd McKnight

Marriages

Griffin - Matos.—John Griffin and Ellen Matos were united in marriage on December 1, 1997, at the Paint Rock, AL, Seventh Day Baptist Church by their pastor, Rev. John D. Bevis.

Current Giving 1997



SR Reaction

Dear SR:

Probably due to a combination of a Canadian postal strike and Canada's normal slow mail service, I received the October, November, and December issues of the SR the same week.

Trying to survive more than two months without the Recorder is worse than surviving 8:30 a.m. church services without coffee! The only thing that kept me going was The Fisherman's Net (John Conrod's e-mail ministry).

We appreciate all of the work you put into the SR each month!

Gary Simpson
Barrhead, Alberta

Obituaries

Sheriff.—Dowager Irene Sheriff, 87, died on June 22, 1997, at the home of her son, Val Bennett, in Philadelphia, Pa.

She was born in St. Ann Parish, Jamaica, West Indies, on February 5, 1910.

"Mother Sheriff," as she was affectionately called, attended church wherever she lived. In 1971, she migrated to Brooklyn, N.Y., and later to Philadelphia, where she joined the Hope Seventh Day Baptist Church. Until her health failed, she faithfully attended and often gave an inspiring testimony or sang a solo. She was the first member to be "called home" since the founding of the church in 1982.

Survivors include four sons, Trevor, Clem, and Val Bennett, and Cormeth Lawrence; two daughters, Shirley Sheriff and Zadia Ayers; one sister, Gertrude Grace; 23 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and a host of relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husbands, four siblings, and seven children.

A "home-going" celebration was held on July 26, 1997, at the Kirk and Nice Funeral Home in Philadelphia.

Davis.—Daniel "Ted" Davis, 91, of Shiloh, N.J., died on December 9, 1997, at home. He had been in failing health for the past year.

The son of Auley C. and Estella Davis, he was a lifelong resident of Shiloh. He retired in 1971 after 29 years of service at the DuPont Chambers Works in Pennville Township, New Jersey.

Ted was an active member of the Shiloh Seventh Day Baptist Church, where he served in several capacities. He was a member and past master of the F&AM Evening Star Lodge 97, a former municipal

tax assessor for the borough, and an avid gardener, hunter, and fisherman.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth E. Davis; four sons, Marvin D. of Sandy, Utah; Norman ("Shorty") of Bridgeton, N.J.; Fred of Shiloh; and Maurice of Guam; one daughter, Naomi Hertlein of Penbrook Pines, Fla.; two brothers, Isaac of Hialeah, Fla., and Marvin of Punta Gorda, Fla.; one sister, Martha Scull of Bradenton, Fla.; 12 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by two brothers, Otto and Belford, and one sister, Theresa Parvin.

Thorngate.—Leona Grace (Davis) Thorngate, 93, of Battle Creek, Mich., died on December 11, 1997, in Battle Creek Health System.

She was born on October 14, 1904, in Lincoln County, Neb., the daughter of Ruben J. and Hannah F. (Van Horn) Davis. She was a 1922 graduate of North Loup (Neb.) High School. On December 22, 1924, she married Ernest Thorngate, and the couple moved to Battle Creek in 1928. Ernest died in 1967.

Leona taught in a one-room school in Sherman County, Neb. She also worked for the Battle Creek Food Co. for five years, and was house manager at the Altrusa Day Nursery for eight years.

She was a member of the Battle Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church since 1938, where she taught Sabbath School and Vacation Bible School. She also served several years on the Board of Deacons and was church historian. She was a member of the Ladies Aid Society for more than 50 years.

In addition to her church activities, Leona enjoyed ceramics, poetry, crocheting, embroidery, and crossword puzzles.

Survivors include two sons, Wendell of Battle Creek, and Dr. Dale Thorngate of Salem, W.Va.; one sister, Lucille Swanson of Ord, Neb.; eight grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, A. Keith, in 1993; two sisters, and three brothers.

Funeral services were held on December 16, 1997, at the Royal Funeral Home. Officiating were Rev. Delmer Case, SDB interim pastor, and her son, Rev. Dr. Dale Thorngate. Burial was in Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens, Battle Creek.

Lewis.—Harold Maxson "Mac" Lewis Jr., 78, of Ashaway, R.I., died on December 18, 1997, at his home.

He was born in Hopkinton, R.I., on November 13, 1919, the son of Harold M. and Lena B. (LaFlash) Lewis Sr. He was the husband of Lena D. (Hayes) Lewis.

An Air Force veteran of World War II serving in England, France, and Germany, he retired as a Chief Master Sergeant after 27 years. He was a life member of the Harley P. Chase Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Pawcatuck, Conn.

Harold worked at the former United Nuclear in Charlestown, R.I., for 17 years, and was a member of the First SDB Church of Hopkinton in Ashaway.

In addition to his wife, he leaves two sons, Roger and Richard; two daughters, Sandra Lewis and Mary Julian; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held on December 22, 1997, at the Avery Funeral Home in Hope Valley, R.I. Burial was in the Oak Grove Cemetery, Ashaway.

him our complaint. He let us hide in the wood, and carried us bread and water until last Saturday night. He baked us some bread, gave one of us a pair of shoes, another a hat, another a shirt, a quilt for us to sleep under, some money, these passes, set us across the river in a canoe, one at a time, and told us to go towards sunrise." But getting entangled in the swamp, they were overtaken. Each negro, after being torn by the dogs the same way, confessed the same.

I was conducted on the 20th to this place, through a heavy rain, where I was loaded with irons, my feet being put in iron stocks, my hands coupled together with iron handcuffs, closely fitted, with chain about three inches long....

And now, after hearing what I have written, I ask my brethren and sisters, in the fear of God, if a man should come to you, presenting a lacerated back, exposed to the rays of a southern summers' sun for want of a shirt, feet bleeding from having been torn by snags and briars, hungry and faint, whose crime was that he failed, after straining every nerve, to perform the labor appointed him—I ask, would you—could you—turn him away without assisting him? No brethren, I think I know you too well—I think you would hand him a loaf of bread, part of some of your surplus clothing, or if you had no surplus, buy some, as I did—help them across the river, point them to the star of Liberty, and bid them Godspeed. But either of these—even to give a piece of bread—subjects you to prosecution, the penalty of which is not less than four nor more than seven years in the State Prison....

—Pardon Davis²

The Sabbath Recorder for September 25, 1856, carried a letter to the editor from the father of Pardon Davis, who told the circumstances which brought about the release of

his son from prison. From Berlin, Wis., Sept. 10, 1856, he wrote:

I noticed in your paper of July 17th an inquiry for Pardon Davis, and by what means he was liberated.... Pardon Davis is now in the Wisconsin pinery; and as I am the man who pro-

**"Would you—
could you—
turn him away
without
assisting him?"**

cured his liberation, I would say, that I was under the necessity of using as much deception as Jacob did to obtain Esau's birth-right, and this is the reason why we have deferred publishing it. I left home last December for the South, with a firm determination that my son must be liberated, and that if fair means could not procure it, some other means must....

He then detailed some of the steps that he took to get his son released. It included a great deal of investigation, arm-twisting, and politicking. When he presented his petitions and affidavits to the Governor, who replied that Pardon's case was a very doubtful one; that aiding slaves to escape from their masters, they considered the most heinous of all crimes; said he, "Were it for murder, I could give you some encouragement, but as it is, I can give you none."

The elder Davis was told to leave the petition, and when the governor had leisure he would look it over, and might call again in three days, and he would give me an answer.

"After eight days, he informed me that there was some hope: Said he, Mr. Davis, will you please inform me how you go to work to gain so many friends in so short a time,

for since I last saw you, more than half of both Houses have been before me, pleading your case.'

"He said that he had promised them, and would promise me, that he would do something, but I must be patient. To cut my letter short, I would say, that after spending five weeks in the city, I succeeded. As to the fraudulent plea, I never have published it, and never shall. Without it, I have no doubt my son would have remained in prison his twenty years, had he lived that length of time. I am well persuaded, that if the truth of the case should be found out, it would be called a real Yankee trick.

—J.R.D.³

Following his release and a short time in Wisconsin, Pardon Davis moved to Kansas, perhaps as part of the anti-slavery migration to make Kansas a free territory.

In 1859, a church was organized at Pardon's home in Manhattan, Kansas,⁴ but severe drought and economic factors caused an abandonment of the project. His final days were spent in Atlantic City, Wyoming Territory, where he was murdered, presumably by a party who was desirous of his mining claims.

The citizens of that settlement passed resolutions which in part stated: "That in the death of Mr. Davis, our community has lost an enterprising man, a worthy citizen, and a true Christian."⁵ SR

¹Minutes of the 1855 General Conference SDB Yearbook 1855, p. 7.

²Letter to the Berlin Church, Sabbath Recorder, vol 11, #48, May 10, 1855, p. 189.

³Letter to the Editor, Sabbath Recorder, vol. 13, #16, September 25, 1856, p. 62.

⁴Organization of a Church in Kansas, Sabbath Recorder, vol. 16, #18, October 20, 1859, p. 70.

⁵"Murder of Pardon Davis," written by D.E. Maxson, Sabbath Recorder, vol. 26, # 28, July 7, 1870, p. 110.

KEVIN'S

CORNER

Pastor Roger Haber of Carol Stream, Ill., admits that he is not the most mechanical of people. He says he's not even sure what a "Phillips head" screwdriver is.

A few years ago, Pastor Haber was having problems with his refrigerator. It wasn't working.

He checked the manual. No help. The pastor called the store and said, "If I spend hundreds of dollars on a refrigerator, I expect it to work..."

"Sir," the other person interrupted. "Wait a minute," Pastor Haber shot back, "I'm not finished. I have food that is getting ruined! I can't believe in this day and age—"

"Sir," the customer service rep attempted again. "Do you have the refrigerator plugged in?"

Short pause.

"Oh."

So many of us are like that refrigerator. We're ready to go. We're ready to function, but we're just not connected to the proper energy source.

Or maybe we are like the "city slicker" who moved to the country and bought a cow. One day, he complained to the feed store owner that his cow had run dry.

"Aren't you feeding her right?" asked the store owner.

"I'm feeding her what you've been selling me," the man replied.

"Are you milking her every day?" the owner further queried, and the man assured him that the cow was milked nearly every day.

"If I need six or eight ounces of milk for breakfast, I go out and get it," the novice dairy farmer said. "If I don't need any, I don't get it—I just let her save up."

That, of course, was the problem. The feed store owner explained that if you don't take all the cow's milk, she will stop producing; the source will dry up.

This year's 50-Day Spiritual Adventure is entitled "Untapped Miracles for Tapped-Out Christians: Spectacular Energy Sources for the Body of Christ." Material provided by Mainstay Resources (formerly Chapel

of the Air) targets a seven-week period, filled with eight worship celebrations and preaching themes, five action steps, and daily challenges as you follow along in the Adventure journal.

The church I'm shepherding has gone on the Adventure for the past several years, and I've always been amazed and pleased that the annual theme has "fit" us perfectly. I encourage you to check it out.

Speaking of refrigerators and food and milk, one of the spiritual disciplines to be explored during this year's Adventure is fasting.

Why consider fasting as an untapped resource? Because it's Biblical.

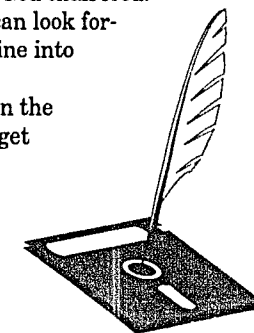
In his book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald Whitney provides a helpful survey, from Scripture, of why we should fast:

- 1) To strengthen prayer
- 2) To seek God's guidance
- 3) To express grief
- 4) To seek deliverance and protection
- 5) To express repentance and a return to God
- 6) To humble ourselves before the Lord
- 7) To express concern for the work of God
- 8) To minister to the needs of others
- 9) To overcome temptation and be dedicated to God
- 10) To express love and worship to God.

Whitney also gets quite practical. He says, "We think about missing a meal or two for the sake of becoming more like Jesus, and we get anxious. And yet we willingly miss meals sometimes while shopping, working, recreating, or otherwise occupied. Whenever we believe another activity is at that moment more important, we will go without food fearlessly and without complaint. We need to learn that there are times when it can be not only more important, but much more rewarding to feast on God than food."

With this perspective, I can look forward to putting this discipline into practice.

Whether or not you join in the Adventure, I pray that you get plugged in to the source of Ultimate Power and rest assured that it will never dry up.



Use the Adventure to Encourage Your Small Groups



An outstanding resource for new or existing small groups, the Small Group Starter Kit contains *everything* your small group leader needs to lead a successful eight-week study!

Pastors around the country have been thrilled with the way the 50-Day Adventure has enhanced and enlarged their small group outreach. Designed to stand on its own or to complement the sermons of participating pastors, this small group material more fully involves your people in the 50-Day Adventure. Your small groups will benefit from shared insights, support, accountability, and the sense of community this Adventure seeks to build.

This comprehensive Small Group Starter Kit contains all the basic tools a leader needs, including:

- **Small Group Leader's Guide.** This leader's guide has session plans for eight small group meetings—one for each theme of the Adventure. The guide includes insightful discussion questions and easy-to-follow instructions for group facilitators and members. Created by Pam Campbell, an experienced small group leader and writer, this resource is virtually "foolproof."

- **Adult Journal and Adventure Guidebook.** Your small group leader will receive samples of the daily journal for adults along with *When the Troops Are Tired* by Dr. David Mains. The Adventure Guidebook provides deeper insights into each of the eight Adventure themes, along with practical suggestions.

- **Adventure Drama Video.** This video is a great resource for your small groups. It includes dramas that relate to each of the eight Adventure themes. Discussion questions for the dramas are provided in the Small Group Leader's Guide.

- **The Tapped Out-Christian's Energy Pack.** This handy pack gives adventurers a way to keep God's Word at their fingertips everywhere they go. It includes the Adventure Prayer and 23 verses related to the Adventure themes.

Whether your church has a well-established small group ministry or would like to begin one, the Adventure materials will perfectly meet your needs. The variety of materials allow your leaders to adapt to any situation.

To order these resources, call 1-800-224-2735 (U.S.) or 1-800-461-4114 (Canada).