

The

S

abbath

*News for and about  
Seventh Day Baptists*

March 1998

R

ecorder

Seeking  
Spiritual  
Maturity  
through



Family Life



### 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.

#### 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

### 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

### Come to Conference in West Virginia!!

July 26–August 1

at West Virginia  
Wesleyan College  
Buckhannon, WV  
(registration info  
coming in the May SR)

### Get your church on the Web — FREE!

A message from John Conrod: The American Bible Society was given a grant to set up Web pages for every church in the U.S. and Canada. Some of the SDB churches were missed. The ABS can still make additions and corrections. The ABS Web sites have five pages each: a main page, a message from the pastor page, a schedule of services, a youth page, and a "Needs and Offers" page.

Please provide the following:  
 Our church has access to the WWW and we have posted to our ABS Web page.  
 Our church does not have access to the WWW. We will e-mail to you what we would like to have on our Web site.  
 Our church does not have e-mail. We will send by post what we would like to have on our Web site.  
 Send to: John Conrod  
 2269 Field St  
 Lakewood CO 80215  
 E-mail to:  
 be397@freenet.uchsc.edu  
 Or check the ABS Web site at:  
 www.hows.net

### 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.

### "Beacon" readers!

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Send your YF stuff to new "Beacon" editor:

Jeremy Bullinger  
PO Box 339  
BERLIN NY  
12022-0339

or e-mail to:  
bitman2000@juno.com

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# Families first

by Charlotte Chroniger

*"The family is like a book,  
the children are the leaves.  
The parents are the covers  
that protective beauty gives.  
At first the pages of the book  
are blank and purely fair,  
But time soon writes its memories  
and paints its pictures there.  
Love is the little golden clasp  
that bindeth up the truth.  
Oh break it not, lest all the leaves  
shall scatter and be lost."*

-Author Unknown



The family is the most important group to which most people ever belong.

It is through our family that we learn about loving and forgiving, caring and sharing, hoping and dreaming. It is the family that welcomes a new life into this world, and it is the family that says good-bye when a life passes away.

It is through our family that we develop an identity, that we learn and grow and experience life.

One of the goals of each of our Seventh Day Baptist churches should be to minister to the families in our congregations, as well as the families in our communities.

There are so many things that cause stress for the family, that cause some families to fall apart.

**One of the goals of each of our SDB churches should be to minister to the families in our congregations.**

As we are aware of those stresses, perhaps we can be more able to

help those families going through difficult times.

Have any of the following put stress on your family, or on a family in your congregation?

- 1) Alcohol or drug abuse
- 2) Finances
- 3) Work demands
- 4) Sickness, death
- 5) Values, morals becoming unclear or not encouraged
- 6) Peer pressure, worldly influences
- 7) Imperfect family members
- 8) Mobility, transient society; long distances
- 9) Size of family
- 10) Holidays
- 11) Lack of commitment

- 12) Straying from the Lord or never accepting the Lord in the first place

Often families who are struggling with the stresses of life do not have the time, energy, or desire to contribute to the ministry of the local church. They have enough to do, simply dealing with family stresses at home. How can they possibly reach out to other families in need?

What can we, as congregations, do to reach out to the families in our churches who are going through difficult or stressful times?

First off, we need to continually pray for the families in our congregations. All of our families need God's protection and guidance.

Secondly, we need to provide opportunities for the family to grow in the Lord. This might mean planning family-oriented activities or programs, providing a nursery during worship, recruiting committed Christians to teach children and young people during Sabbath School or in youth groups.

Thirdly, we need to reach out to our church families during the milestones of life. We can rejoice with our families when there is a marriage or a birth, and we can grieve with and support them during death, divorce, or financial crisis.

Lastly, we need to reach out to families in everyday life. Perhaps we can volunteer to baby-sit for a family with young children, or take

a turn sitting with an elderly person so a family member can run errands.

We can happily drive young people to an area retreat or camp, or take the church bulletin to someone who missed the worship service.

We can call someone, take them out to lunch, listen to them, pray with them, laugh and cry with them.

Each of our families has its share of challenges and stresses. We need to remember to "cast our burdens" on the Lord and let Him carry our heavy loads.

We also need to be available, as much as possible, to help the families in our congregations and communities. May all our efforts show the love of Christ, and draw many people to experience the salvation found only in Jesus. ✠



Charlotte Chroniger, a school teacher, pastor's wife, and mother of four, is a member of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church.

**It is the family that welcomes a new life into this world, and it is the family that says good-bye when a life passes away.**

# "Fathers: take responsibility!"

by Donald L. Chroniger

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV).*

Scripture clearly commands children to obey and honor their parents. It also clearly directs fathers to train and admonish their children in the Lord.

No one ever said it would be easy for children to obey and honor their parents. It's equally challenging for fathers to discipline their offspring and be an example.

In our society today, fathers are looked upon as second-rate people; men who are preoccupied and passive. But true manhood calls for individuals who are disciplined in character, strong in their determination and courage. We want fathers who are not afraid to show affection, release feelings, hug their children, cry when they are sad, admit when they are wrong, and ask for help when help is needed. It is a call for integrity. This is the kind of father to obey and honor.

Paul reminds fathers that, in the home, they are to provide discipline, training, and direction without provoking their children's wrath. Sometimes, discipline can get out of balance and be over-demanding because of unreasonable blame and unchecked temper.

The word for "provoke" in Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21 means "to exasperate." When we exasperate our children, we take

"the wind out of their sails." They become like dead-in-the-water sailboats, with no wind—positive, encouraging words—to propel them forward.

One day, a child was sitting at the kitchen table, drawing. His dad, who had all kinds of artistic ability, was looking over his shoulder and biting his lip. He wanted to jump right in and draw a pony for him. But the father held back and continued to watch as his son struggled to get the proportions

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## How will we be remembered? Was Dad a man of God who loved his children and their mother?

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right, *trying* to make the legs look like legs, and the ear like ears.

The child almost wore out his eraser before his father finally acted. Unable to restrain himself any longer, he took his son's paper and drew a beautiful colt running across a field. He included extra details, even adding leaves to the trees in the background. Then the father handed the paper back and said, "Here, son; here's your pony."

The boy looked down and frowned. "But Daddy," he said, "I wanted my pony."

It *does* matter how we approach our children. Dads, we need to keep our balance and not overdo, training and teaching our children while allowing for mistakes along the way.

We have to learn to be *positive* influences on our children. How

will we be remembered by our children or spouse? Will it be that Dad was a man of God who loved them and their mother?

Charlie Shedd wrote a series of letters to his son while he was in college (*Letters to Philip*, 1968), and even after his son was married, to help him grow in the Lord's instruction.

Dear Phil,

One day I came into my study through my private door to find a very attractive woman waiting for a visit. As I sat down in my chair, I looked across the desk and felt that something special was about to take place. It was.

"I heard you say," she began, "that you would welcome some stories about ideal husbands. So I thought you should know about Mark. I think he is perfectly wonderful and I came to tell you why.

"From the day I started to school" she continued, "clear up to college, everyone made fun of my legs. As you can see, they look like tree stumps." Then she stood up, and they did. You would think she might be embarrassed to talk about herself like this. Actually, I feel a little that way as I look back on the incident. But she did it all so naturally. I remember admiring her sense of composure and thinking to myself, "This is some woman."

"When I was a freshman in college I met Mark. I liked him right away. I felt so

comfortable with him. Then he asked me to go steady and I could hardly believe it. He never made one single reference to my legs. But I did. You know, looking for assurance. Then one night he took my hands in his and said, 'Frances, I want you to quit knocking yourself. I love you the way you are. The Lord gave you good, sturdy legs. They give me a solid feeling and I like it.' You know what I did?" she said. "I cried."

"Then one week," she continued, "he took me home, and when I met his mother I wanted to cry again. She was a cripple. She wore a shoe that was built-up and she walked with a limp. So I looked at him and he looked at me and I think I loved him right then like nobody ever loved a man before."

"That was thirteen years ago and now I can honestly laugh about my legs. Can you see why I say he's wonderful? There isn't one thing in the world I wouldn't do for Mark!"

If you put them at ease about their faults; build up their strong points; and reach that high level of kindness which seems to say "The blend is what I like. I love you for what you are in *toto!*" This is what the psychologists call "acceptance," and you'll find it a solid fixture in every solid marriage. Whether it is sturdy legs, a "family nose," or any other physical eccentricity makes no difference. If you are going to be safe as a "take charge" guy, you better educate yourself in the art of being kind.... Personally, I think it's tougher

for us males. But from what I have learned in my own marriage, and seen in others, there are not many questions more important than this: "Am I willing to train myself away from selfishness toward the point where I honestly care how the other person feels?" Here is one more sure thing you can count on about Marilyn--like all healthy women, she has in her makeup something which can't help responding to kindness.

Deal gently,  
Dad

Each day of our lives, we make deposits in the bank of memory. An investment today means good memories tomorrow. If we can focus on the things that are important with our children, our families, and the qualities that we want to see, that's a good investment.

When we "blow it" at times, we need our family to forgive us. Remember this, young people: *regardless of who or what your dad has been, he will always be your father.* Maybe there is a need for forgiveness on your part. Remember, also, that the best father you will ever have is your Heavenly Father—one who *never* blows it. He's per-

fect in every way a father can be.

If your father is prominent and you respect him, you can call him "Father."

If he sits in his shirt sleeves watching you at a ball game, you can call him "Pop."

If your father is your friend, and he doesn't let you "pull the wool over his eyes" and disciplines in love—and you are sure no other person has such a father as you—you can call him "Daddy."

There are too many people today missing their dads. But they don't want substitutes—things to play with, cars to run with, money to spend. They want their dad's *presence*.

Dads, remember you aren't supermen. You're dads, called to be dads to your children. You're the only ones that your children can truly call "Daddy." Take this God-given responsibility seriously. **SR**

Don Chroniger is pastor of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church.



# A family in transition: that's life!

by Mary Jane McPherson

I grew up in Shiloh, N.J., where almost everyone knew everyone, and where most of us were related. My school friends also went to my church or church camp. Most of my mother's family still lives within a 10-mile radius of one another, which is so different from the world most of us know today.

Those early years helped me develop a strong, stable faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I knew from a very young age that nothing in this world was as important as an intimate relationship with my Savior. It was with simple faith that before my summer in Summer Christian Service Corps, I asked the Lord to help me to meet a life partner, which He did in an unexpected way.

There was nothing coincidental about our marriage, jobs, or where we would eventually settle down. God knows our hearts, and His timing and provision for us were a blessing beyond words! Our families were always very supportive and continue to be a great source of strength for us.

## Natural transitions

When Myron and I bought our starter house, 100 miles away from Shiloh, little did we know that we would still be living in it 20 years

later. Our church in Raritan Valley was composed of many other SDB transplants, which brought a certain familiarity to the area.

For the past two decades, we planted our family roots deep, raised our three kids, had good jobs, good friends, a good church, and enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle.

Natural transitions took place during those years with the coming and going of maturing children: Bryan left for college to pursue his computer degree, Karen became increasingly independent and in-

involved in many activities in high school, and Steve completed junior high. We accepted the changes that our kids were going through, because we believed the timing was right.

## Earthquake transitions

Then our family life changed dramatically. Myron suddenly and unexpectedly lost his job of 15 years.

It was painful to tell our children what had happened, and telling our families and friends at church was



**God always wants us to be dependent on Him, but sometimes we're just too self-sufficient to reach out to Him.**

just as difficult. Doors closed on us that drastically altered the life of our family. In addition to the emotional turmoil of losing his job, Myron began the grueling task of finding a new position.

Until it happened to us and we shared our pain with others, we never realized how many have gone through the heartache of losing jobs and having to start all over again. We never doubted that God would provide for us in ways we couldn't even fathom at the time.

Although it took two months, Myron was able to connect with some long-time friends to find a new position—over a thousand miles away, in Florida!

## Transitional separation

The pain of losing a job and the joy of finding a new one was overshadowed by the grief of having to live apart for five months. I stayed behind to sell the house, finish the school year, and to sort through years of accumulated stuff!

What we found out during our time of separation was how totally dependent we are on God. God always wants us to be dependent on Him, but sometimes we're just too self-sufficient to reach out to Him.

What a dynamic time of spiritual growth in our lives! We cherished the few times we could see each other, and cried alligator tears, realizing that it wasn't working out for us to be together as soon as we would have liked.

## Painful transitions

Without a doubt, a move is a traumatic experience for a family. It is also hard on those left behind who continue to deal with the memories of times past.

Bryan shared, "I visit places and feel that something is missing. I travel by things I've known—and they are meaningless. Suddenly my life has changed, but not from anything I have done.

## What have we learned?

1) Myron says: "In tough times, remember God's promise to never allow us to be tempted beyond what we can endure (1 Cor. 10:13). I've witnessed God's provision of friends, both believers and non-believers, who were sent to carry me forward, when moving ahead seemed humanly impossible."

2) Karen adds: "Trust God, wait for His timing, lean on Him for strength; and don't resist His sometimes forceful shove."

God really does want the best for His children. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to "Trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

3) Don't save everything! As I sorted the attic and basement, I was reminded of the

verse, "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy" (Matt. 6:19-20). How much better to be secure in the salvation we have through Jesus Christ!

4) We are still a family no matter how far apart we live.

Phone calls and e-mails are vital in keeping us more closely tied to one another.

5) It is important for us to spend quality time together when we get the chance.

Where we live now is just as much home to us because of the bonds we previously built.

6) We recognize that we aren't totally through this present transition. But we all agree that God is seeing us through, He loves us very much, and He will continue to direct us. "He will never leave us nor forsake us" (Deut. 31:6).

"I realize the places I have come to know with my parents are those that seem empty. My home church meant so much to me, yet now when I attend, there is always something missing. To attend means I must remember."

Many know the heartache of having children leave home. Many articles have been written about dealing with the "empty nest." In our case, we moved away from our kids! That added a whole new dimension to our transitions.

If you are going through a transition of your own, remember to

seek God's direction for your life. He wants us to come to Him with our problems and struggles. Sometimes it takes a forceful shove to get our attention.

Remember, God already has the answers, and anxiously waits for us to listen for them. **SR**

*Myron, Mary Jane, and Steve McPherson live in Boca Raton, Fla. Bryan is in New Jersey and Karen is in Pennsylvania, both attending college.*

## Blest be the family tie

by Floy Owen

Reprinted from the August 1984 SR.

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds" is one of my favorite hymns. It is sure to bring "the warm fuzzies" to your heart, especially when sung in a group as a closing song with everyone joining hands.

The essence of the song, plus the emotional response it brings, best describes my reflections on my term as president of the Seventh Day Baptist Women's Society.

### Bound by family, not just gender

One would think that, as a Women's Society, we would be bound by our gender.

That is true, in part. But what I found was that we are even more bound together as family. No, I

household and in my local church family. My *family* concept became considerably enlarged and enrich-

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**There were those who hosted me more than once and always made me feel like family—especially when their beautiful children included me in their warm and loving goodnight kisses.**

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don't mean aunts, uncles, cousins, and such, but as brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters. It was within the various aspects of the framework of family that I observed a uniqueness as a denomination and a fellowship, nationally and internationally.

I experienced the value of family mostly through the personal relationships in my own

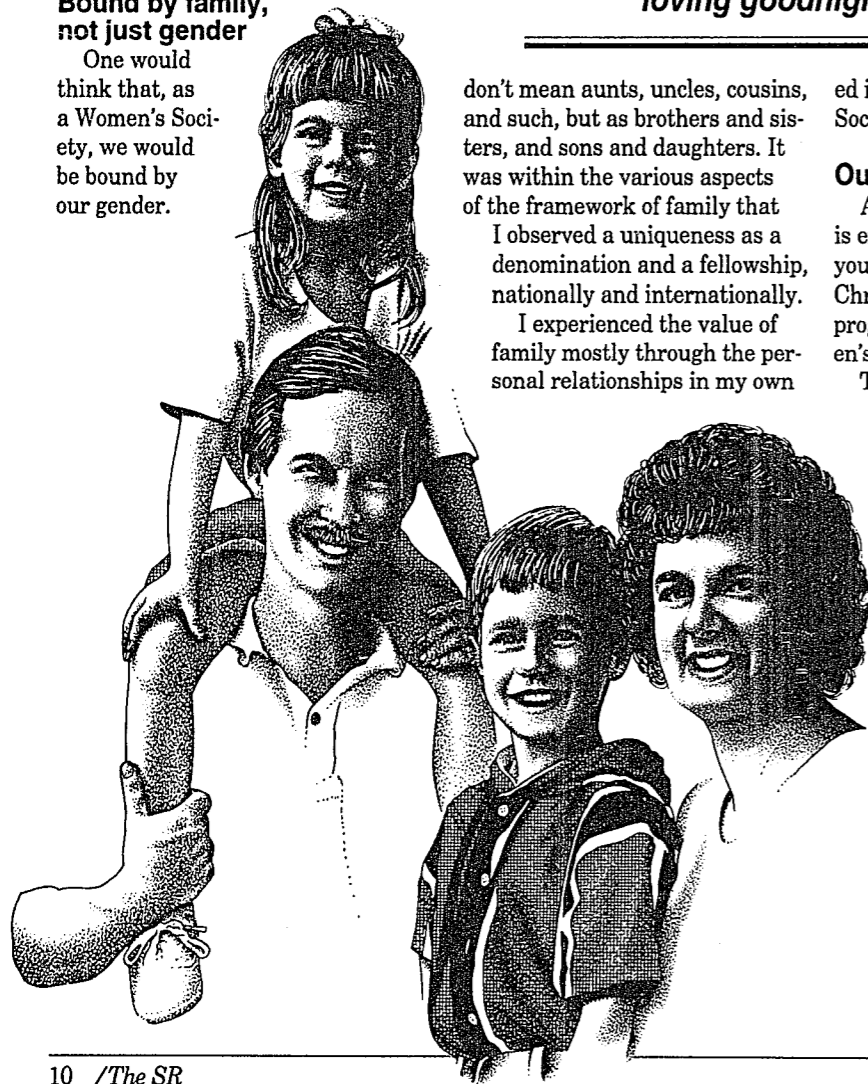
ed in my three years as Women's Society president.

### Our young people (SCSC)

An important aspect of family is expressed in nurturing our young people in the Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) program, sponsored by the Women's Society.

The young people identify themselves as brothers and sisters as they work in teams. They have concern for one another while working toward common goals in the family setting of the churches in their projects. They live with local families, sharing in the worship, work, and social life of the church.

Because of the growth in their witness and attitudes regarding service to God and man, they come home changed in their values and directions. They eagerly apply what they have learned, through training and experience, to their own families and churches.



### Results of this young family

Some have chosen to go into the ministry as a result. Having experienced God's grace in answered prayers, all of them carry forward, into whatever they do, the personal practice of trusting God for each day's needs.

The privilege of seeing and hearing these young people at evaluation sessions during Pre-Con was one of the most heart-stirring experiences I have ever had. Testimony of changed lives, and the power of God manifesting Himself to them daily, left many of my handkerchiefs damp. I especially remember their keen desire to share this new joy-filled, satisfying, Christ-centered life with their own families and church families.

### "Family" travels

My sense of family continued to be with me throughout my travels for the Women's Society. Attending the North American Baptist Women's meeting and the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Canada not only allowed me to visit our Toronto church; it introduced me to the larger family of Baptists, nationally and internationally. During those 10 days of meetings, as we shared food and housing, we laughed and cried together, sang and prayed, and learned that the love and message of Jesus Christ transcends languages, color, and distance.

I had taken some things for granted in my life, like food and education. I now see them as basic needs for other people in our world family. But the most sought after need they spoke of was the desire to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in their daily lives. They wanted opportunities to testify. What an inspiration they were!

My belief in family values, reinforced by SCSC and enlarged by

national and international experience, was further enriched by our denominational family.

### Such hospitality!

The loving hospitality I received will forever symbolize the kinds of families that I'm sure will make up the heavenly family. From Waterford, Conn., to Daytona Beach, Fla.... from Seattle, Wash., to Plainfield, N.J.... from Bay Area, Calif., to Toronto, Canada... from

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**The loving hospitality I received will forever symbolize the kinds of families that I'm sure will make up the heavenly family.**

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Riverside, Calif., to Denver, Colo.... from Los Angeles, Calif., to Milton, Wis.—people gave up their own beds so I could have privacy and rest. There were those who cooked special breakfasts because it is one of my three favorite meals. (They even made biscuits from scratch!) There were flowers in my room or beside my bed; borrowed, best, warm nightgowns when my packing didn't include the practical; ears that listened patiently when the homesick wife and mother in me talked about husband and children in tedious detail.

There were those who hosted me more than once and always made me feel like family—especially when their beautiful children included me in their warm and loving goodnight kisses.

I remember those who enriched my life with history, recounting

tales of interesting church forefathers and their families. And those who sat with me on warm, quiet nights, looking up into the sky at stars that looked so vastly different, breathtaking and beautiful, away from city lights.

### Family love on the run

Hospitality was shown by those who graciously shuttled me to and from meetings, and by those who responded so enthusiastically to my curiosity about the local flora and fauna.

Then there were those kindly, sweet souls who met my plane after waiting hours because of weather delays. (Only to wait *more* hours for my luggage to catch up to my rerouted flight.) With me sleeping exhausted but snug in the back seat, my hosts then faced driving several hours in the black of night, in a pouring rain, to deliver me to my destination.

There were those who encouraged me with letters, prayers, and inquiries. They also shared my anxieties and supported my ideas, all the while carrying heavy loads of responsibility themselves.

### Thank you, family

Finally, members of my immediate family "stood in the gap" for me. They supported me in every way, and greeted me with open arms when I returned. I'll never forget those who fed and housed me, shared and cared for me, cried and laughed. They made my three years as Women Society president special—like precious jewels in unique and rare settings.

Blest be the tie that binds this family in love. *SR*

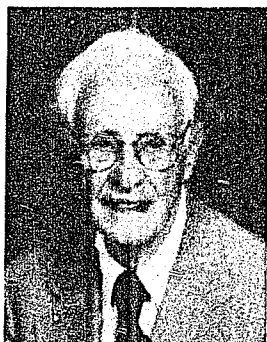
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*Floy Owen currently lives in Agua Dulce, Calif., and is a member of Foothill Community (SDB) Church, Montrose, Calif.*

# Ninety so soon?

## Pastor remembers his family

by Trevah R. Sutton



Trevah Sutton

On December 15, 1997, I observed my 90th birthday. Ninety so soon?

My birth certificate, issued by the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, shows I was born on December 15, 1907, in Rockville to Erlo Everett and Blanch (Randolph) Sutton. So, I have reached my 90th year. That's nine decades; ten years short of 100.

Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States when I was born, and Charles Fairbanks was Vice President. The first President I remember was Woodrow Wilson, during his second term.

When I was 2, my brother, Okey, was born. I don't remember him because he died four months later.

When I was 4, my sister, Gladys was born—on November 13, 1911. The doctor came with a large bag, and sometime later left with it. I was then called in and shown my baby sister. After that, no one could convince me that babies were brought by storks.

As a toddler, I crawled under a fence one day. A search began when I couldn't be found in the neighborhood. I was finally located on a woods trail not far from home, near a mill flume with racing water. Had I tried to cross a narrow

foot bridge, I might have fallen in. And I wouldn't be here!

Over the years, I survived other dangers—chicken pox, measles, whooping cough, and the 1917-18 flu epidemic. I escaped diphtheria and scarlet fever during other epidemics, and I never came down with the mumps until my daughter got them.

During my 90 years, I've seen a lot of changes. The automobile developed from a motorized buggy to a computerized vehicle. Electrical power has grown to a vast network throughout the country and much of the world. The telephone progressed from a box on the wall (with a turn crank to summon the operator) to an automatic, push-button marvel. And now we have

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**There have been problems, but it's been a good and happy life.**

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cordless phones and devices for indicating the source of the calls.

My life has been in phases: starting school in a two-room school house in New York State; the rest of my grade school days spent in New Jersey; high school and college in Wisconsin. Theological training came in New York and Kentucky. I later attended night and summer school in Texas to obtain my teacher's certificate.

My adult professional years can be divided into two phases: filling pastorates of churches for 18 years, and serving public schools for 15 years (four of those years in teaching).

In 1939, I married Mary Burdick

of Milton, Wis. We had a glorious life together. There were illnesses and concerns, but we met them together. We shared the joys and challenges of raising a daughter. We were married 49 years and six months when "death doth us part" became a reality on February 12, 1989.

On my 50th birthday, I was teaching. The students knew it was my birthday, but I didn't give out my age until the end of the day, when I told my homeroom. "That's as old as my grandma," a girl blurted, "and she can scarcely walk!" That was 40 years ago, and that girl is now in her 50s.

I retired at 65, as expected, but have been busy with many interests since. At 80, I joined a group of 80-and-older men at our Senior Center for Father's Day. There were 14 of us.

When I was 88, two middle school boys stopped me after church and asked if I was the oldest man present.

"No," I said. "I'm only 88. Over there is a man in his 90s."

As the boys turned to walk away, one remarked, "He said he was only 88."

I now live in New Mexico, the 11th state of my residence. I've lived in 18 houses (nine of which were church parsonages), and two apartments. I'm now in my second mobile home.

It has been said that "variety is the spice of life." If that's true, my life must have been well spiced!

Now, I've reached the 90 mark. There have been problems, sickness, and disappointments, but it's been a good and happy life. I press on, the best I can.

When "the roll is called up yonder," I hope—and in faith, expect—to be there. *SR*



Women's Society page by Donna Bond

## Help available for families

Like other bodies of Christians, we often share prayer concerns at our Friday evening Bible studies here in Shiloh, N.J.

A few years ago, we were concerned about a family from another church whose son had attempted suicide. The one sharing this information added that the family was "now getting family counseling." My reaction was, "What a shame it takes a crisis for families to get help. Why not get counseling before a problem escalates to this magnitude?"

As we close out the century, our denomination's Coordinating Leadership Team (CLT) has decided to emphasize Family Living in 1998 as part of its promotion of "Seeking Spiritual Maturity." There is much to be said about Christian family living. The one suggestion I would offer is *know when your family needs help, then get it.*

The first step in problem solving is to acknowledge there is a problem. We often realize things aren't quite right in our families, or in our own thought patterns, but we deny that "it's really that bad."

Pastors (or other trained Christian counselors) can help us see more clearly such things as:

- 1) what the problem really is
- 2) what I perceive the problem to be
- 3) what my role is
- 4) what my emotional needs are
- 5) what I can change, and
- 6) what I cannot change.

It's unfortunate that there's a stigma among Christians against seeking this kind of help. "Don't you have faith God can change the situation, you, or the other person?"

Yes, God can change anyone or anything. God can miraculously

heal a broken leg or cancer, but most of us seek His healing through medical intervention. Why should the mind, or a broken relationship, be treated with any less respect?

Affordable help may be more readily available than you think. Most pastors are trained in counseling. Your family doctor or school professionals may be able to recommend a counselor. Your county or state may provide mental health care, with fees based on ability to pay. Some insurance companies provide financial assistance for this type of service.

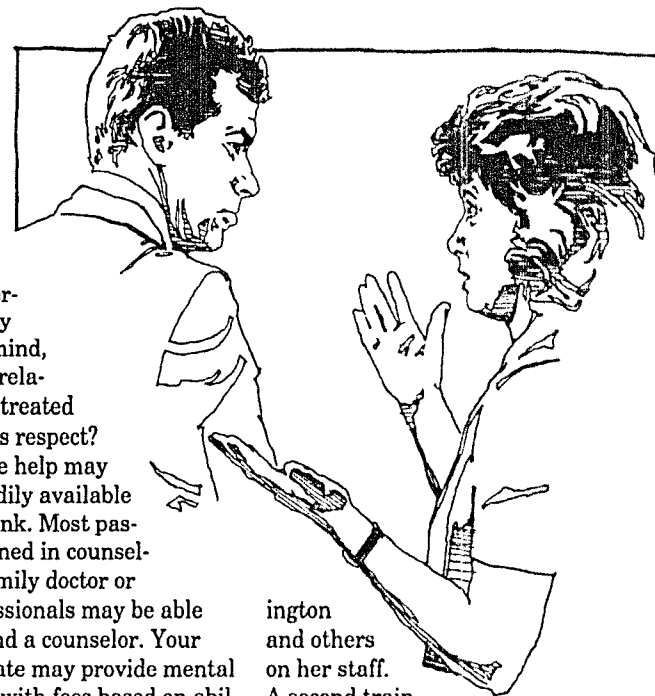
Pray that God will direct you to the person who can best meet your needs. If you get less than 100 percent cooperation from your family ("There's nothing wrong with ME!"), at least make an effort to learn how you can react differently to bring about the desired change.

### SCSC and other Women's Board news

The Summer Christian Service Corps (SCSC) Committee announces the following for the 1998 SCSC program:

Jersey Oaks Camp (Shiloh) has again been chosen as the most economical location for training, which will be held (barring unforeseen circumstances) June 11-14 for project directors, and 12-19 for volunteers.

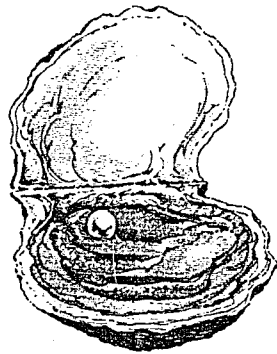
Althea Rood has agreed to direct training, with Pastor Bernie Weth-



ington and others on her staff. A second training session will be held for New York and Canadian youth if needed. Teams will be on site from June 19 to July 19.

Pray for President Ruth Probasco as she represents SDB women at the North American Baptist Women's Union Executive Board meetings in Canada, March 25-29. Ruth will also present the Board's 1999 proposed budget and other matters to the SDB General Council meetings in Shiloh on April 17-20.

Plan now to bring your favorite craft items to the annual SCSC Craft Sale during General Conference at Buckhannon, W.Va. Our 1997 sale in Lindsborg, Kan., broke all records—\$1,211.60. (An additional \$15.15 sold since Conference.) Best-selling items include children's clothing, afghans, and practical gifts. Men's handicrafts and contributions from our youth are also welcome. *SR*



## Conductor on the Orphan Train

When I wrote the "Pearls" column for December '95, I had no idea of the story that would unfold concerning the ministry of Rev. Herman D. Clarke and his work with orphans nearly a century ago.

I quoted from his obituary: "Rev. Herman D. Clarke, a Seventh Day Baptist pastor, became an agent for the New York Children's Aid Society in 1900. He traveled thousands of miles placing and visiting orphans to whom he became counselor and guide."

Shortly after this appeared, Peg Sayre of Milton, Wis., the widow of Herman's grandson, Walter Sayre, informed me that she had a scrapbook. It contained biographical sketches of Clarke's ministry, work with Lone Sabbathkeepers in the Midwest, and his work with orphans. Another scrapbook, entitled "My Orphan Family," carried pictures and accounts of some of the more than 1,000 orphans that Rev. Clarke had helped place. And sometimes, replace. In his biographical sketch, he wrote:

"What I could write would fill volumes. This chapter... is but an outline of all the experiences and education I myself got out of it, and what 87% of the children got out of it. It shows that while heredity is a great thing and all have hereditary traits of character, *environment* does the greatest part for us in life."<sup>1</sup>

After describing some of the history and philosophy of the New York Children's Aid Society in a million-dollar-a-year enterprise, he

mentioned that in one year alone, he had traveled over 36,000 miles by rail and livery.

"Of the NY children, I have had over 1,000 to look after and many others in other societies in Ohio and Michigan. Some years my correspondence has reached as high as 2,200 letters. I have placed children in every state from New York to Nebraska, and from Minnesota to Texas. I have sent others as far as Washington and Oregon states."<sup>2</sup>

"Those who take a child that is homeless and keep him or her until the new conditions have a chance to make a change in them for the better, will have sometime a great reward. It is the rearing of a monument far greater than made from marble or granite.

"I visited a girl in Waverly, Iowa, whose foster parents were several times deciding to give up. She was intelligent and good looking and in health, but quite ungovernable at times. Had a disposition to 'try saints.' A hopeless case, they thought. I must remove her. At the last minute they relented and again she stayed.

"This Waverly girl stayed on and on until 18 years of age and then began a change. She became a teacher, was loving and appreciative. I received a letter from the foster parents saying they were well paid for all they had endured and done for the girl. She was their comfort and they were very proud of her. They simply 'held on'

as though she were their own. Had she been tottered about from place to place as some had to be, what might have been the result? Possibly a ruined girl.

"Take this boy away and don't impose him on any other people, as he is fit for the Reform School,' said a man to me as I had to come and remove him. I put my arms about him and said, 'There's lots of good things about you, my boy. You have done wrong to lie and steal, but you are not going to do that any more. I see nice things you were made for. I'm going to get you another home and will come and see you and be proud of you. You will not go back

*cont. on page 26*



Rev. Herman Clarke spent 15 years placing orphan children, like these, in homes across America.



# SR Almanac

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

### One year ago—March 1997

Rodney Henry kicks off the 1997 Seeking Spiritual Maturity theme of "Covenant Building" with articles on biblical covenants and using covenants for future growth.

Pastor Matthew Olson covers a "covenantal theology for a covenantal people."

World Federation Executive Secretary Dale Thorngate, and wife Janet, visit African SDB Conferences in Zimbabwe and South Africa.

"Focus" page tells of flood damage in India.

Rev. Eleazar Paypa, president of the SDB Philippine Convention, is killed in a January automobile accident.

### Five years ago—March 1993

Director of Pastoral Services Rodney Henry explains the SDB pastoral search process and local church pastoral options.

Pastor Bill Shobe shares his perspective on matching church and leader.

"Focus" lists overseas projects in need of help.

Don Sanford's book, *A Choosing People*, receives favorable review in the Southern Baptist Historical Commission quarterly, "Baptist History and Heritage."

Memorial Fund trustees vote to give \$5,000 to each of the major SDB boards.

Central Missouri church holds Sabbath Rally Day.

### 10 years ago—March 1988

Pastor Bill Shobe shares fictional article of Jesus healing a leper.

SDB Conference of South Africa holds first Women's Convention.

Baptist World Aid issues grant to provide irrigation wells to SDB Conference of India.

Rod Henry named to new position, Director of Pastoral Services.

Students begin Training in Ministry by Extension (T.I.M.E.) program in Australasia.

Retirement reception held at the Janesville Center for secretary Ethel Dickinson.

### 25 years ago—March 1973

Pastor Ed Sutton guest edits special youth emphasis issue. Articles and photos review the work of the Youth Program Committee and dedicated service workers.

North Loup, Neb., church celebrates its centennial. Missionary Board releases new filmstrip on Guyana, South America.

Battle Creek, Mich., church is headquarters for one of the biggest Bible distribution programs for a city of its size in the nationwide "Key '73" evangelistic thrust. A truckload of New Testaments (30,000 copies) is delivered to the church.

Berea, W.Va., church welcomes new pastor, Charles Swing, in late December.

### 50 years ago—March 1948

"Testimonies for Christ and the Sabbath" shared by the deacons of the Alfred, N.Y., SDB Church.

Editorial sends out challenge for "a thousand new SDB tithers between now and September 30." This was in conjunction with Denominational Stewardship Sabbath on March 13.

Article lists the origin of the "real Saint Patrick."

Rev. Paul Maxson recovering from injuries to his face and knees, sustained in recent auto accident.

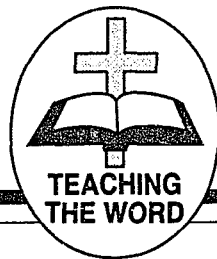
Plans are made to hold Ministers' Conference at Jackson's Mill, a camp and assembly ground near Lost Creek, W.Va., in mid-May.

*...where are we headed?*

### Pray—

- that we truly live as a Covenant People
- for our World Federation Conferences
- for our churches in the pastoral search process
- with thanksgiving for our financial advisors
- for our youth and dedicated workers
- that the Word would be powerful and effective
- for a strong spirit of tithing in our churches





## Christian Education

by Ernest K. Bee Jr.

### "Stained Glass" will tour this summer

*Stained Glass*, a music ministry of Seventh Day Baptist young people, is preparing for their fifth year of summer tours. You will want to experience the power of their personal testimonies and original vocal and instrumental music.

If you wish to schedule a concert in your church or community, or purchase a cassette tape or CD of *Stained Glass* music, contact Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Mackintosh by phone at (714) 721-5762, or by letter at 3626 Catamaran Drive, Corona del Mar, CA 92625.

The 1998 team will be Dustin Mackintosh, Newport Beach, Calif.; Lara Jo Packard, Riverside, Calif.; Anna and Rachel Parker, Thornton, Colo.; Dustin Riley, Riverside; Jeff Rood, Dodge Center, Minn.; and David Stall, Berlin, N.Y.

Ralph and Denise (Dede) Mackintosh had the vision for a young adult musical ministry. In the summer of 1994, *Stained Glass* was on the road throughout the West and Midwest with Dede serving as the

tour director and van driver. Ralph fulfilled the business manager responsibilities from home.

*Stained Glass* has presented concerts in many churches, camps, and parks across the United States, before denominational national conventions, and on radio and television. In 1997, the group was featured on Colorado television KRMT

The Memorial Fund provided a grant for sound equipment when *Stained Glass* was first formed and now has agreed to purchase a trailer for sound equipment transportation, and to provide a loan to a local church for the purchase of a 15-passenger van that will be used during the summer tour. For the first two tours, *Stained Glass*

**Please pray for the musical tour—  
each member, their leadership,  
and the people who will hear  
the love of God and His  
Son, Jesus, through  
their ministry.**

"Rocky Mountain Celebration," where they were interviewed as well as being guest performers.

The purpose of *Stained Glass* is to provide musical and spiritual training, support, and opportunity to enable Seventh Day Baptist young people to share their faith through their gift of music. Supported primarily through CD/tape sales and concert offerings, *Stained Glass* is sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, which provides a loan advance and a grant each year.

used a van owned by the Douglas Mackintosh family. The last two years, the group leased a van from the Fred First Ford Agency in Richmond, Ind., at the agency's cost.

Please pray for the musical tour—each member, their leadership, and the people who will hear the love of God and His Son, Jesus, through their ministry. If you wish to support the group financially, you may mail your contributions to: Seventh Day Baptist Board of Christian Education, Inc., P.O. Box 115, Alfred Station, NY 14803-0115. **SR**



... letting the LIGHT shine through



## FOCUS on Missions

### India more than one Conference

by Kirk Looper

#### India update

When we speak of India, our thoughts usually turn to Rev. B. Kishor Kumar. We tend to forget (or maybe did not know) that there are three centers of action in India—Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Mizoram.

These separate groups were established because of distance and cultural differences. The work being done there is valuable, and trying to meet the needs of each region is equally difficult.

#### Andhra Pradesh

The Seventh Day Baptist Conference of India is based in Nellore, on the eastern coast of the peninsula. It is probably the best known of the three regions and is supported by many. A children's home operates there, plus there are plans for future expansion and development.

Rev. B. Kishor Kumar coordinates the Conference. Rev. Kumar is the son of the late Rev. John Rao, who organized and developed many of the projects of the Conference.

The work includes, but is not limited to: eye and health clinics, mobile health camps, orphan and widow support, community Bible studies, provision of drinking water through wells and pumps, and women's concerns.

Rev. Kumar currently works with 48 churches in 15 fields.

#### Kerala

Malankara SDB Conference of Kerala, located on the west coast of the peninsula, was the second Conference formed in India. It has three churches and several branches.

Conference projects include clinics, a school (elementary through high school equivalency), Bible studies, orphan and widow support, and women's concerns.

Evangelism is a high priority as they reach out into the hill country, planning regular excursions for evangelistic meetings.

Recently, a tragedy occurred when an automobile struck the autorickshaw of one of the church members. He was not seriously hurt, but his passenger (a fellow congregant) was hospitalized with multiple wounds and broken bones.

Because the autorickshaw was the driver's sole form of income, the church is trying to raise funds to replace the vehicle, as well as help pay the hospital bills. It has turned into a costly endeavor.

Please pray that the autorickshaw will be repaired soon, and that the hospital bills will be paid in full. Any church or individual desiring to help may do so through the Missionary Society Office, 119 Main Street, Westerly, RI 02891.

#### Mizoram

Mizoram is a state in the extreme north-east portion of India, almost cut off from the main country by Bhutan and Bangladesh. The country is very hilly, with villages and farms located

on steep and rough mountains. Consequently, both physical and spiritual cultivation is difficult.

The coordinator of this area is B.K. Thanga, who has been leading SDBs there for three years now. He is extremely poor and depends upon the church people for his livelihood.

Projects supported in this region include Bible studies and church organization, orphan and widow support, evangelism, poultry raising, and pig farms. They are thankful for our prayers and any support we can provide.

We need to pray for these three groups, that they will be able to continue to work under adverse conditions. Prayers for evangelistic work and growth are always appreciated.

The world is made of many diverse groups and churches. Let us never forget that we all depend upon one another. **SR**





# the BEACON

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

March 1998

## Join us in the jungle

by Elizabeth Goetschius, Little Genesee, N.Y.

Check our  
ad — inside  
front cover!

Conference 1997 was definitely the "Seventh Day Baptist Jungle," and definitely an unforgettable experience.

One of the things that made Pre-Con and Conference '97 truly special was the fact that our whole youth group from Little Genesee, N.Y., was able to attend this special meeting.

**Come to Conference.  
You'll be amazed at how  
much fun you'll have  
and what a spiritual  
experience it is.**

It was uplifting to know that I could fellowship with my friends. It also made it easier to be away from home knowing a few people.

This year, make every effort to come to Conference in West Virginia. You'll be amazed at how much fun you'll have and what a spiritual experience it is. Bring your whole youth group.

This may seem to be a daunting task, but I believe that last year's General Conference in Lindsborg, Kan., was worth all of the hard work we put into it. I pray that Conference in West Virginia will be the same way.

The youth group in the Little Genesee church raised money by holding various fund-raisers: bake sales, car washes, a walkathon, and yard sales. A generous donation from the church, as well as contributions to our fund by members, went a long way to help send us all to Lindsborg.

Working together, we managed to scrape up enough money for five young people to attend Pre-Con and Conference.

Through hard work, determination, and prayer, anything is possible. I hope to see all of you in the "SDB Jungle" this year!



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

## Events of motherhood equal reminders of God's love

There's nothing quite like motherhood to help women grasp the reality of God's love for them—His treasured children. In fact, moms can see small pictures of God's love all day long through their day-to-day experiences with their children.

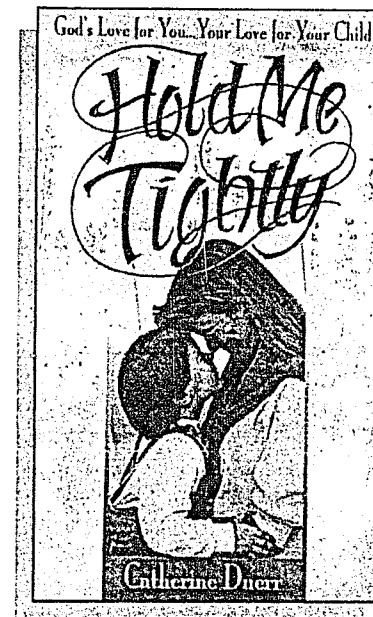
*Hold Me Tightly*, a devotional from Concordia Publishing House (CPH), gives mothers a clear pic-

**New mothers  
and moms with  
young children will  
find themselves  
nodding in  
recognition as they  
read these simple  
reflections.**

ture of their relationship with God by helping them draw from their own experiences raising small children. Written by Catherine Duerr, a mother of two, this devotional turns the everyday occurrences of motherhood into constant reminders of God's love.

New mothers and moms with young children will find themselves nodding in recognition as they read these simple reflections on baby's first steps, growing up, making messes, toddler vocabulary, security blankets, and more.

They'll see how God sticks by them through good times and bad, and holds them up as they take steps of faith. And they'll find comfort realizing that God never loses His patience, always desires the



best for His children, always provides—and most of all that His love for His children is greater than we can imagine.

The devotions are well-suited for moms to enjoy during a child's nap time, while holding a baby and a bottle, or any time she can find a few quiet moments for herself.

### About the author

Catherine Duerr is wife and mother of two young boys, Mark and Nicholas. She is a former elementary school teacher and a graduate of Christ College, Irvine, Calif. Catherine and her family live in Bakersfield, Calif. For more information, contact Doris Engstrom, 800-774-0274. SR

## Bible Study series gives direction to Christian men

Christian men need guidance to fulfill their social and spiritual roles. The *Godly Man* series from CPH gives men direction from God's Word in all areas of their lives. The first two studies in the series are titled *Men and Work* and *Men and Relationships*.

Among other issues, *Men and Work* explores the meaning and purpose of work, time management, accountability, and ethics. *Men and Relationships* explores a man's relationship with God, women, work, family, and possessions. Each book contains

six study sessions.

Through engaging anecdotes, scriptural insights, and discussion questions, each study helps Christian men grow in faith and knowledge of God's will for their lives. Life application makes this series a source of encouragement for men of all ages.

This timely series is excellent for men's ministry groups or for a men's Bible study class in any congregation. Scripturally sound treatment of each topic ensures that the substance of God's Word is clear, and the Gospel shines through each session. SR



## The President's Page

by John D. Bevis

Our 1998 Conference theme reminds us that we are chosen heirs of all God's promises as found in His Word. We were chosen in a special and wonderful way:

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last: then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: love each other" (John 15:16-17).*

Can we be identified as people belonging to God, a chosen group, even a holy nation?

In 1982, "Gandhi" won the Academy Award as Best Picture of the Year. This film told the true story of the people of India and their struggle for independence from British rule. Mahatma Gandhi, the inspiration for the movement, seemed an unlikely leader.

Gandhi, a small, thin man, won independence for his country through a new method of revolution—nonviolence and self-sacrifice. His life is an inspiration to many. A reporter once asked him to summarize his beliefs, and he responded, "My life is my message."

Though Hindu and not Christian, Gandhi was deeply moved by our Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. "If you want to have power in your life," Gandhi said, "go straight to the Sermon on the Mount. Live and practice it and give yourself to it, then expect your life to change."

If you were to visit my living room, you would notice an oil painting of my grandfather as a young man. Some say they see a resemblance between us.

We all have characteristics of our ancestors. But the question is, "Do I resemble my Lord? Do you?" Can others identify us as a people belonging to God? Is my life His message?

As Christians, we are called to live a separated lifestyle. In John 15:19, we find: "You are not of the world." The Phillips translation of Romans 12:2 reads, "Don't let the world squeeze you into its own mold."

British theologian John R.W. Stott challenges us with these words:

"The followers of Jesus are to be different—different from both the nominal church and the secular world, different from the religious and the irreligious... Here is a Christian value system, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, lifestyle, and network of relationships—all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world."

Gandhi was not the first to try and live in accordance with his beliefs. Can it be said of us that our life is *our* message?

In John 13:34, Jesus says, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

Chosen people live a different lifestyle. As the song says, "They'll know we are Christians by our love." And, we might add, by our vocabulary, goals, and values.

We're even known by those with whom we associate.

Chosen people are available to the Lord for service, as He leads them. Their lives are marked by obedience. Jonah was reluctant to be chosen. But in the end, he obeyed and went to Ninevah where he was used by God in a mighty way, leading the city to repentance. God often uses the most unlikely.

Saul of Tarsus was "bad news" to the early Church—until he was chosen by God to serve in ministry. In Acts 9, God first got Saul's attention, then He humbled him. Finally, God made Saul dependent on Him. Saul—now known as "Paul"—became a "chosen vessel."

Like Paul, we are chosen and equipped by the Holy Spirit for service. Gandhi was weak, and so are we. But Paul discovered that "when I am weak, then I am strong." God's strength is still made perfect in our weakness, and He can use us to His glory.

We are chosen as pastors, deacons, teachers, laity. Let God give direction to *your* life. At times, we are like Tevye in the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. "It's true we are a chosen people," he said, "but once in awhile, can't you choose someone else?!"

In this generation, chosen people are called to be willing servants, obedient servants, loving servants. "It is for you now to demonstrate the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into his amazing light" (1 Peter 2:9b, Phillips).

May we be challenged to demonstrate in our lives that we are truly His. May our lives be our message and reveal Jesus, the Christ. ✠

## Marlboro church annual update

by Diane Cruzan and Benjamin Cruzan

The Marlboro SDB Church, located near Bridgeton, N.J., volleyed into 1997 with the first season of Saturday Night Volleyball, held in a local high school gym.

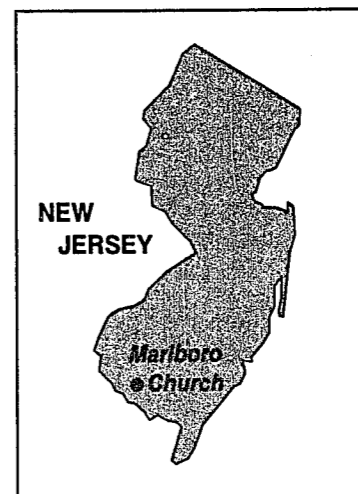
Several area churches participated in the "league" that lasted during the winter months. Some of Marlboro's finest, ages 15 to 50, helped our team rank fairly well. Most importantly, we had a great time in the fun-oriented tournament.

Last February, when not playing volleyball, we joyfully welcomed eight new members into our congregation. Helene Miller, Kate Bennette, Heath Miller, and Joanne Davis were received after baptism. Carlos Taylor Sr., Sandy Taylor, Cala Taylor, and Carlos Taylor III joined after giving their testimonies.

These members have already proven their importance by providing music, bringing their families, teaching Sabbath School classes, serving on committees, helping with dinners, and in many other ways. The Marlboro church is truly blessed to have these new members added to its congregation.

Back in 1996, our church hosted a Methodist church on Sundays while they constructed a new church building. As a result, a good relationship developed between the two churches.

In late April, 1997, the Marlboro congregation was invited to a wonderful dinner prepared in the Methodist church's new kitchen. We ate in their new dining room, toured their beautiful new church building, and were treated to a program of music from the youth choir and a men's quartet. We felt very appreciated. The dinner immediately followed our Sabbath worship ser-



vice, and most of the congregation attended.

Early in the year, a Bible study, held on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, focused on our spiritual gifts. By the end of the series, everyone had discovered their spiritual gift.

**Not only did we learn more about ourselves, but we learned what others' gifts are. As a result, we can now better understand and work with each other.**

The lessons were interesting, personal, and revealing. Not only did we learn more about ourselves, but we learned what others' gifts are. As a result, we can now better understand and work with each other. It was truly an important study.

Since then, we have used a video series, "That the World May Know," narrated by Ray Vander-

Laan. He "takes us" to the Holy Land and shows us where various biblical events occurred. Then he tells us the appropriate Bible story, and makes the connections to our lives today. Regardless of one's biblical knowledge or familiarity with Jerusalem, each of us learned something new from this series.

During the summer, the Marlboro church hosted a Summer Christian Service Corps team. Members Cindy Dickinson and Steve Graffius joined their team leader, Pastor Larry Graffius, in serving the church at Jersey Oaks Camp, Bible School, and through community visitation.

The visitation was a new project. For several steamy, South Jersey days, team members visited homes near the church. They were able to talk to a few people and learn some of the needs of the area. We have since been able to better serve our community by meeting those needs.

The community visitation program was such a success that we undertook it again this year. Two laypersons from our church, along with Pastor Larry, visit homes one night each week. Prayer partners support each team as well, providing an indispensable link in the project.

The project is called "The Marl-

cont. on next page

boro Fishing Expedition." Goals include learning ways we can serve the families in our community; tell about Jesus, if given the opportunity; and extend an invitation to attend our church. We face the challenge with mixed emotions—a little fear, a little nervousness, a lot of excitement, and a lot of faith!

The fall youth retreat at Jersey Oaks Camp was hosted by the Shiloh SDB Church. Pastor Larry directed, and two other Marlboro members—Dan Cruzan and Scott Graffius—led study sessions. Several other "Marlboroites" also attended, either as counselors or

campers. Young people from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast areas heard messages on the topic, "True Lives," and filled the barracks with good Christian fun.

Early in December, our church hosted a "Parents' Night Out." This gave parents in the community a chance to do some shopping, go out to dinner, or simply spend some time alone. The children were kept busy at the church with videos, games, snacks, and stories. Everyone seemed to have a great evening.

The Marlboro youth planned our December 20, Sabbath morn-

ing Christmas program. Several weeks before, we asked the congregation to think about expressing what Jesus means to them. The response was wonderful! All the stories, poems, musical numbers, and personal testimonies spanned two hours, but no one minded. The regular attendees and many guests were part of one of the best Christmas services Marlboro has ever seen.

1997 was a good year for Marlboro. As one year spills into the next, we look forward to continued blessings and opportunities in 1998. **SR**

## Lake Elsinore celebrates decade of service, new pastor

by Leland E. Davis



Lee Goode became pastor of the Evangelical Seventh Day Baptist Church of Lake Elsinore, Calif., on November 15, 1997. Previously, he served as co-pastor of the church.

Lee and his wife, Sue, have four children—Kim, Katrina, Kenne, and Kyle. He is currently employ-

ed as a bi-vocational pastor, working as a carpenter.

On December 13, 1997, the Lake Elsinore church celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding and the dedication of its building. The congregation shares its facilities with the Southern Baptists, which includes a Spanish group. On Christmas Eve, we hosted a candlelight service with all three congregations.

The new year began with the Week of Prayer (January 4-10), sharing in the theme of "Christian Certainty," based on 1 John.

The Food Ministry, held each Wednesday, is now in its second year. Gospel and denominational literature is placed in each food box. When requested, prayer is offered and counseling provided. A Bible study, led by Rev. Leland Davis, precedes the food distribution.

A Monday evening Youth Group has been organized by Pastor and

Mrs. Goode, with an average of 10 participating.

We are committed to exalt Jesus Christ, to equip His saints, and evangelize His world! **SR**

### Other recent pastoral changes:

- Ken Burdick to Seattle, Wash. (8/97)
- Rod Henry (interim) to Albion, Wis. (10/97)
- Harold King to Battle Creek, Mich. (1/98)
- Alvin Bernard to West Palm Beach, Fla. (2/98)
- Chris Mattison to North Loup, Neb. (6/98)

## From feeling to understanding

by Adella Brooks Botticelli Latus

I was saved and didn't know it! Years ago, whenever we visited my grandmother (Adelle Carpenter Randolph), I attended the Alfred, N.Y., Seventh Day Baptist Church with my mother, Ruth Randolph Brooks. I loved those Sabbath days and the wonderful people I knew in church.

One day when I was 12 years old, Pastor Hurley Warren asked me if I would like to be baptized and join the church, even though I lived in Rochester, N.Y. I was thrilled to be asked and immediately said yes.

Following some study classes, the big day came. Those who were joining were asked to give statements of faith in front of the congregation. I remember writing mine and memorizing it. When it came my turn, I felt confident and happy to express my love for Jesus and my faith in Him.

Back in the parish house kitchen, I sat on a table while my mother dried me off. She quietly told me how proud she was and how she wished my daddy could have been there. (He had died the previous year.)

I distinctly remember saying, "Mother, I felt it."

"Felt what, dear?" she asked.

"I don't know," I answered. "I just felt it!"

Years later, I joined Eastman Kodak's trucking division and became a semi driver and instructor. One year, a Vietnam veteran (and former Army Green Beret) joined our ranks. This complete stranger and I were dropping off trailers at the same building one day when he said to me, "You're a Christian, aren't you?"



Adella Latus now understands her salvation.

*As soon as I had cleared the water, I felt a rush of a very strange energy surge through my body, from head to toe.*

I remember the beautiful baptismal pool and the white robes we wore. I was relieved that I knew how to conduct myself underwater so that I could concentrate on the experience.

Pastor Warren gently but firmly lowered me under the water and then raised me to a standing position. As soon as I had cleared the water, I felt a rush of a very strange energy surge through my body, from head to toe. It was the most wonderful feeling! The only way I can explain it now is that I felt "accepted."

I smiled and said, "Yes, I am." "Do you think you're saved?" he countered.

I was a little stunned but smiled and said, "I hope I am!"

"There's no hoping about it," he replied. "You either are or you aren't."

"How do you know that?" I asked.

He stared me straight in the eyes. "Do you believe in the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?"

"Yes," I said.

"Have you publicly accepted

Christ and asked Him to forgive your sins?"

"Yes," I answered.

Then he asked yet another question. "Do you believe you have salvation by God's free gift of grace through Christ?"

Once again, I replied, "Yes!"

"Then you're saved!" he thundered. "There are no 'ifs, ands, or buts' about it!" He smiled gently, got into his tractor, and drove off.

I stood there, bolted to the ground, totally astounded. Thanks to this man who made me understand God's grace, I know I am saved! **SR**

Adella Latus lives in Palm Coast, Fla.

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

## Births

**Burdick.**—A son, Lucas Allen Burdick, was born to Richard and Denise (Thomas) Burdick of Bristol, VA, on November 22, 1996.

**Fansler.**—A son, Jordan Michael Fansler, was born to Michael and Amy (Hirsth) Fansler of Blountville, TN, on January 7, 1997.

**Abel.**—A daughter, Myranda Lynn Abel, was born to Scott and Joey Abel of Rome, NY, on March 20, 1997.

**Bledsoe.**—A daughter, Desirée Renée Bledsoe, was born to Fred and Renée Bledsoe of Rome, NY, on May 31, 1997.

**Stamp.**—A son, William David Stamp, was born to Donald and Marie Stamp of Rome, NY, on November 3, 1997.

**Worden.**—A daughter, Caitlyn Elizabeth Worden, was born to Chris and Crystal (Williams) Worden of Burwell, NE, on December 16, 1997, in Kearney, NE.

**Hair.**—A son, Daniel Dale Hair, was born to Melvin and Loretta (Cargill) Hair of Brownell, KS, on January 6, 1998, in Hayes, KS.

**Borer.**—A son, Cody Alexander Borer, was born to Keith and Nora (Dutcher) Borer of Kearney, NE, on January 14, 1998.

## Accessions

**Blountville, TN**  
*Edward Sutton, pastor*  
Joined after testimony

Denise Burdick  
Rick Burdick  
Debbie Dingus  
Gigi Fansler  
Kenneth Fansler  
Josh Malone  
Brian Thomas  
Charles Thomas  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Matthew Thomas  
Nikki Thomas  
Joined by letter  
Toni Thomas

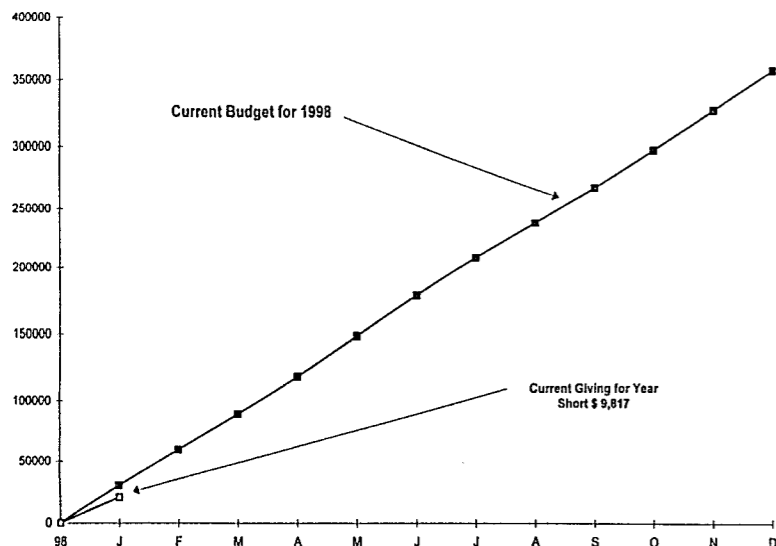
**Kirkwood, MO**  
*Henry Thomas, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Kathy Hicks

**Miami, FL**  
*Andrew Samuels, pastor*  
Joined after baptism  
April Mann  
Catherine Mann  
Jessica Molina  
Tsahai Samuels  
Raphael Vernon  
Nellie Williams  
Joined after testimony  
Hugh Bando  
Willie Mae Mann  
Eunice Moore

**Riverside, CA**  
*Gabriel Bejjani, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Mike Haston  
Sandra Haston  
Jeremy Pimple  
Thomas Ray  
Geneva Rich  
Signe Wattenford

**White Cloud, MI**  
*Bernie Wethington, pastor*  
Joined after testimony  
Sharon Altman  
William Altman

## Current Giving 1998



## Obituaries

**Davis.**—Marilyn Lois Osborn Davis passed to her heavenly reward on her 65th birthday, October 23, 1997, in Oneida, N.Y.

She was born in Troy, Kan., on October 23, 1932, and at the age of 6 months was adopted by Rev. Lester G. and Grace (Muncy) Osborn. She grew up in the Nortonville, Kan.; Shiloh, N.J.; and Ashaway, R.I., churches where her father ministered.

On July 27, 1958, she married Olin C. Davis in Verona, N.Y.

Marilyn graduated from Salem (W.Va.) College in 1956 and began her teaching career. After her children were grown, she earned a master's degree in Library Science from Syracuse (N.Y.) University. She retired in 1996 as a library media specialist.

She was a member of the Verona Seventh Day Baptist Church, a director of the national SDB Board of Christian Education, an officer of the church's Ladies Aid Society, a member of the NYS Retired Teacher's Association, the Central New York Library Association, and the Oneida Area Civic Chorale.

She had a special love and concern for covered bridges, and was an active member and contributor to the New York State Covered Bridge Society for the preservation of such bridges.

After the death of her parents, Marilyn fulfilled a longing to search for her "roots." At age 60, she returned to Kansas to meet some of her biological family. She discovered three half-brothers and their families, and formed a great new relationship with them. She was able to visit them in their homes last summer.

Just days before she was stricken at home, Marilyn received a letter from a young mother concern-

ing the loving care her daughter had received in the church nursery. "I hope you realize the blessing you are," she wrote, "for when you teach, you have a chance to change a child. When you teach a child about Christ, you have a chance to change a child's eternity."

In addition to her husband, Olin, survivors include one son, Dwight of Durhamville, N.Y.; two daughters, Lois Davis of Rome, N.Y., and Joan Davis of Alexandria, Va.; and two grandsons. She was predeceased by three brothers—Loren and Kent Osborn, and Rev. Paul Osborn.

Services were held on October 26, 1997, at the Verona SDB Church, with her nephew, Pastor Stephen Osborn, officiating. Rev. C. Rex Burdick and Dr. Ernest K. Bee assisted. Burial was at the New Union Cemetery in Verona Mills, N.Y.

**Ling.**—Iola M. Ling, 80, of New Auburn, Wis., died on December 4, 1997, at the Maplewood in Bloomer, Wis.

She was born on August 16, 1917, in Chippewa County to Leo and Hazel (Lane) Loofboro. She married Alvin E. Ling on June 22, 1938, in New Auburn.

Iola was a waitress for 25 years, and also worked at ABC Box Company in Chetek, Wis., and Jerome Foods. She was a member of the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church and Duncan Creek Women's Club. She loved gardening (especially flowers) and crocheting, and was famous for her pies.

Survivors include three daughters, Rena Gravunder and Wanda Cutsforth, both of New Auburn, and Corinne Cutsforth of Chetek; three brothers, John of Richland, Mich., Rodger of New Auburn, and Norman of Portage, Ind.; two

sisters, Rowena Edwards of Rockford, Ill., and Winifred Martinsen of Loves Park, Ill.; nine grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin; two brothers, Elmer and Wynan; and one sister, Leila.

Funeral services were held on December 6, 1997, at the New Auburn SDB Church, with Pastor Dale Smalley officiating. Interment was in the New Auburn Cemetery.

**Crandall.**—Edward W. Crandall, 85, died on December 30, 1997.

He was born on May 15, 1912, the son of C. Milford and Euphemia (Greene) Crandall. He was a lifelong resident of the Andover, Alfred, and Canisteo, N.Y., area.

Ed established Crandall's Jewelry and the College Book Store in Alfred, and served as mayor of Canisteo. He was Scout Master in Alfred for several years, and was awarded the "Silver Beaver Award" by the Steuben Area Council Boy Scouts. Ed was a member of the Alfred SDB Church and served as a deacon for many years. He was also a member of Gideons International for 48 years, and was a former member of the Alfred Lions Club, Canisteo Rotary Club, and University Lodge #944 F&AM.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Ruth, in 1992, and in 1993 married Katherine, who survives. Other survivors include one daughter, Marsha Andrews of Canisteo; one son, Richard, of San Francisco, Calif.; one sister, Maxine Remaly of East Hampton, Mass; two grandchildren; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service was held on January 4, 1998, at the Alfred SDB Church, with Rev. Leon A. Wheeler officiating. Burial will be in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

on me, will you?' 'NO SIR.'

"A year later I visited him and his foster father. He is an honest boy, as honest as the day is long. I trust him with anything," said the man.

"What made that boy change for the better? LOVE. He did not have that in his first home. Boys and girls are just hungry for love. But so often men and women seem not to make any demonstration of it if they have it. These are but illustrations of so many cases I had."

The placing of these children in new homes took a lot of preparation, which Clarke described in his sketches.

"In selecting a town for distribution, I found that it was best to go to no city, but to a place of between one and three thousand people, mostly a Protestant town and farming country.... Then I visited all the Protestant clergymen in the town and obtained the names of the principal businessmen who supported or attended their churches. From these I obtained a committee for references, etc. of about eight men who would be acquainted with the people there-a-bouts... Seldom any women and seldom a minister, for I wanted it to appear that this was no special church or denominational affair.

"Then I would engage the Opera House or a large hall if there was one in a town, not a church, for a forenoon and afternoon meeting. I then went to some local printing office and had about a thousand bills (dodgers) struck off for distribution in the place and rural mailboxes, and put notices in the local papers. These dodgers and notices contained the terms of taking a child, a statement concerning the Aid Society, the names of the local committee, and the time and place of meeting.

"Then I selected a hotel as headquarters when I arrived to acquaint all the surrounding country of the coming of the homeless children. People would be telling about it to everybody, and it would be a topic for conversation beyond all expectations. It would be a great novelty, for such a meeting usually never was in a town before. People who never had a thought of taking a child would want to come from curiosity and interest, and many such took children at the last.

"Between that and the time of getting the wards, I would make my annual visits as far as the time permitted. Then I would return to N.Y. City where usually all the children would have been selected for placing, in number from about a dozen to thirty, babies up to as old as sixteen. When I had a baby or two in the company, the applications were more numerous, for a baby created greatest interest and sympathy....

"The afternoon before starting, I went to some restaurant or bakery and made a selection of bread, butter, cakes, cookies, cheese, raspberry and strawberry jam, cans of condensed milk, etc. for there was to be a two-days journey and six meals to have on the train. Each child would have a new suit of clothes, dresses, and a few keepsakes, come out of a bath and dressed for the journey."

Rev. Clarke then went into more detail about the trip itself and the occasion of the placement. The children would be led to the platform, seated in a semi-circle. After a prayer and explanation, each child would be led forward and introduced with what background as might be helpful.

"Here is Sarah. She is German, her father is living but does not

provide for her; her mother died recently. She has an older brother or sister somewhere. She would like to be on a farm, and she likes chickens...."

"Here is a baby, plump and handsome as you see. She knows nothing of this big world. Will never know a mother. She is in good health and no diseases have been known in the family that are as far as we can find to be inherited. The family that takes this baby must have a fairly good home and be able to give her the advantages a child should have. If the home proves as recommended, she can be legally adopted in a year."<sup>3</sup>

There were many heart-wrenching experiences as several people might want the same child. And there were cases where *no one* wanted a certain child, and he or she had to be taken back to an orphanage, or possibly moved from place to place. There were also cases where a home was unsuited for taking a child, or where the prospective foster parents were merely looking for cheap labor and subjected a child to conditions of virtual slavery. Yet the successes made it rewarding, particularly when one considered the alternatives.

Rev. Clarke noted that "quite a number of children I placed among Seventh day Sabbath keepers united with the church and became useful members. But the vast majority went to Sunday keepers, and many united with their churches. A great many, especially boys, never united with any church.

"It is a great thing to grow up what is considered a 'good citizen.' But it is far better to become a good Christian. Good citizens are not saved."<sup>4</sup> SR

<sup>1</sup>Herman Clarke, *manuscript Biographical Sketches*, p. 259.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid*, p. 240.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid*, pp. 234f.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid*, pp. 246f.

# KEVIN'S

## CORNER

Mary, a blond, 40-ish Long Island native, volunteered to babysit for a friend in Rhode Island last October. The friend, Lori, needed to attend a funeral for her aunt in upstate New York.

Lori mentioned that this aunt was a Seventh Day Baptist. "Hmm," replied Mary, now residing in the Ocean State, "I had a roommate in college who was a Seventh Day Baptist."

"Are you sure? There aren't that many of them..."

"Oh, I'm sure," Mary insisted. "I even went to her church once. Her name was Janet Davis."

"Davis?? My aunt's name is Marilyn Davis."

They soon discovered that Lori's Aunt Marilyn was also Janet's aunt, and that the destination for the funeral was that same church in rural Verona.

All this came in an unexpected Christmas letter, with a family photo and personal note from Mary, my wife's college roommate of two decades past.

After a long search for her own family roots, Aunt Marilyn would have been pleased to know she had a part in this overdue re-connection between Janet and her college friend.

I saw Marilyn the day of her soon-to-be fatal seizure. The Leonardsville, N.Y., church was celebrating their 200th anniversary, so I was in the area, connecting with them, with my in-laws, and my own folks.

Those hospital visits and moments with the Davises were not easy times. As we connected, we tried, through tears, to connect with the Author of Life. I had to leave for home the next day.

Marilyn's body hung on for nearly two more weeks.

We got news of Marilyn's passing just 20 minutes before the airport bus was to leave for Chicago. Janet and I were heading for important meetings in Seattle for the *Recorder*, and to connect with, and stay with, yet another relative of Marilyn's, nephew David.

As we shared about Marilyn, the Seattle church members recalled the woman who dutifully and painfully made her way around the college campus in Lacey the previous year during Conference. They, too, had connected with Marilyn.

Why? Because Seventh Day Baptists are in a family system. And with that family system comes various joys and losses.

I have never regretted being "grafted into" the Davis family, or the SDB family tree. Grafting allows an inclusion with the nutrients and strength of the trunk; it also means sharing the pains and hurts during the lean times.

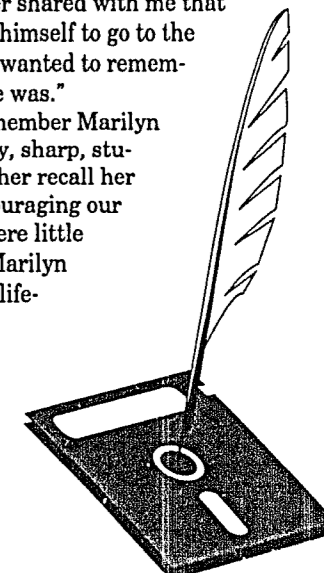
Unless you go to Conference, you might not share this family feeling on the denominational level, but don't you sense it in your local church? We are part of the same body, the same family.

At the Sunday church where I serve, we recently laid to rest the patriarch of a strong farm and church family. Right before the following worship service, a member shared with me that he just couldn't bring himself to go to the visitation. He said, "I wanted to remember Harold the way he was."

Sure, I'd rather remember Marilyn the way she was: witty, sharp, studious, and fun. I'd rather recall her playing with and encouraging our children when they were little tykes. I'd rather see Marilyn full of life than full of life-support tubes.

But I happened to be there near the end. I was family. And family means you get the whole package.

Let's be there for each other. Let's be a family.



Rev. Charles D. Swing, 88, a Seventh Day Baptist pastor for many years, died in Albuquerque, N.M., on January 16, 1998. He was Pastor Emeritus of the Albuquerque church at the time of his death.

Pastor Swing was born in Friesburg, N.J., on December 29, 1909, the firstborn son of Charles B. and Mabel (Dancer) Swing. On June 1, 1931, he was united in marriage to Esther B. Davis in the parsonage of the Shiloh, N.J., SDB Church, with Rev. Eli F. Loofboro officiating.

After his marriage, Charles was baptized and joined the Shiloh church. A few years later, he rededicated his life to Christ. Although employed in a well-paying job during the Great Depression, he gave that up so he would not have to work on the Sabbath. He persisted in finding work, always supporting his family.

The Shiloh church ordained Charles as deacon and granted him a license to preach. Responding to God's call to lay ministry, he served at various times in Shiloh; Philadelphia, Pa.; Daytona Beach, Fla.; and Syracuse, N.Y. In 1956, Charles accepted the call to be full-time pastor of the DeRuyter (N.Y.) SDB Church, remaining there until the end of 1969. He was ordained in DeRuyter in 1960.



**Charles Swing**

1909 - 1998

Although lacking formal education for the ministry, Pastor Swing availed himself of opportunities offered for study by the Council on Ministerial Education. After serving as a pastor for 10 years as required by the denomination, he was accredited as a Seventh Day Baptist minister in 1966. He was a dedicated student of the Word of God to the end of his days.

Pastor and Mrs. Swing moved their family from DeRuyter to White Cloud, Mich., and served there two and one-half years. Subsequent ministries included a time at Berea, W.Va., a second term at DeRuyter, and

organizing and pastoring the SDB group in Albuquerque.

Surviving are three daughters, Arline Burdick of Albuquerque, Charlotte Anderson of White Cloud, and Gretchen Brown of Missouri; one son, Carl C. Swing of Albuquerque; one brother, Linwood Swing of Palm Bay, Fla; 14 grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in Albuquerque on January 18, 1998, with Rev. Michael McHugh officiating. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Park, Albuquerque, beside his beloved wife Esther, who passed away in 1993.